

BABCARY NEWS AND VIEWS

BABCARY ROAD RACE

SUNDAY 22ND FEBRUARY 11am.



7.5 miles of fun, starting from the Playing Field.

Children's races, refreshments. See full details inside.



Deadline for the March edition; 23rd February.

Email: carolehartnell@googlemail.com.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PARISH COUNCIL

**Draft minutes from
Babcary Parish Council
Monday 12th January 2026 8pm at The Hut**

December 2025 Minutes agreed & signed.

Present: Mr Simon Hoar, Mr Philip Sketchley, Mrs Jane Diamond, Mr Kevin Messenger (County Councillor) & Mrs Jasmine Tucker (Parish Clerk).

Apologies: Mr Steve Street, Mrs Glynis Kingston, Mr Damien Pick, Mrs Vee Vyner

1) Matters Arising

- i) Local Government Boundary Commission update, no further updates.
- ii) River Cary & Environment Agency Watercourse, ongoing, disputed maintenance regarding responsibilities & affiliated costs, no further updates.
- iii) General village maintenance, SH in consultation with Andy Baron (Somerset Council Highways) suggested reflector posts instead of commonly used stones or cones along roadsides, currently in consideration.
The drainage outside Grey Stones was noted as a flood point AB aware and looking into.
Telegraph pole outside Percy House has sustained damage, again a reflector has been suggested to stop this reoccurring, referred to BT, BT declined to make necessary changes unless their equipment is damaged.
Pot holes & gully outside Broadacre Dilkes Lane have been rectified.
- iv) Payment for Dog Bins & bags, BPC or PFC, revised costs from council received, £338 plus vat per year, querying increased amount (JT to look into) messaging Jonathan Stevens, as per Somersetbinproject@somerset communication.
- v) Babcary.gov.uk email address required for parish clerk - no other parish members a statutory requirement.
PS to attend Assertion 10, training on 12/02/2026 giving further information on website requirements.
- vi) Village Bonfire and the Playing Field Committee update, meeting held 09/12/25 Annual Playing Field Committee Minutes supplied, key points Annual Bonfire to be more carefully monitored, fencing off car park area to prevent access to the bonfire itself whilst allowing normal access to community facilities.
Controlled access for depositing garden waste into a trailer near The Hut during Saturday Shops during October only, allowing supervision on hand to check EA guidelines are adhered to. Existing spoil heap to be removed when weather improves.
Aim to stop unsanctioned waste disposal.
- vii) Clerks & Officer Training, Jasmine Tucker to attend The Annual Governance Statement, including The New Assertion No 10, on 12th January, notable comments no more cheque book payments, PC should be moving on to online payments.
- viii) Village Crime concerns, Alison Loker, Neighbourhood Sergeant, agreed Police to visit Babcary Hut on 24th of January (PCSO Melanie Cherrington-Ferkins to attend) 11am at The Hut.
- ix) Restart a Heart, Charlotte Humber, Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance, proposed training, at The Hut 17th of January 2026 at 11am.
22 parishioners to attend.
Defib box is situated in the old telephone box next to the village bus stop maintained by SH on a monthly basis, discussion re purchasing a second Defib & placing in Foddington to be discussed next meeting.
PS suggested a Stop a Bleed kit to be purchased for the Hut, to be discussed.

2) Finance

- i. Capital Reserve Account stands at £16,063.60 Current Account balance £50.
- ii. ICO change in costs £52.00

- iii. Precept deadline 30/01/26. As there was not full attendance of parish councillors it was decided to hold a further meeting on 26th Jan to agree any precept increment.
- iv. Discussed Parish Clerk laptop, along with Clerk parish email, JT to source laptop.
- v. Annual grass cutting reimbursement to Playing Field £798, cheque raised.

3) Planning

- i) Red Lion, Babcary

The appeal against the Asset of Community Value was rejected by Somerset Council. The Red Lion Inn, Babcary, TA11 7ED shall remain on the Council's List of Assets of Community Value.

4) Correspondence

- i) none

5) AOB

- i) Horse sign on Babcary Lane needs fixing again, PS to attend.
- ii) KM Somerset CC have spent £5mil on new computer system.

Date of next meeting: 8pm on Monday 9th Feb in the Hut

Draft minutes will appear in the Village newsletter. Once approved at the subsequent month's meeting they then will be posted, with any updates/amendments and posted on the Babcary Parish Council website under 'Parish Council Minutes' section.

www.babcaryparishcouncil.org.uk

RESTART A HEART

22 people attended the Restart a Heart training session on 17th Jan on how to administer CPR and how to use a defibrillator – well done. Remember - if someone collapses:

1. Dial 999
2. Send someone to the old phone box to pick up the orange box with the defibrillator (it's not locked) and bring it to the casualty whilst you or someone else does CPR
3. Put a message on the resident's WhatsApp group and someone will come to assist with CPR

In our location we must expect to wait 20-30mins for an ambulance. Despite the excellent training course you don't actually need to be trained to use the defib – turn it on and it will talk you through everything and remember, you've nothing to lose - as technically the patient is already dead.

POLICE VISIT

Profuse apologies from Avon & Somerset Constabulary to all those who turned up to talk to the police on 24th Jan. The session has been rescheduled for 10.30am on Sat 21st Feb in the Hut (after the shop) – to answer your questions on home security.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Midweek Pilgrims Prayers

Fr Pip now holds short midweek prayers in each of the six churches. A 20 minute or so service with time to reflect, pray for others and ourselves. Please feel free to join Pip at Babcary church at: **5.15pm on Tues 10th Feb and 5.15pm on Tues 24th Feb.**

Services

Sunday	1 st Feb	10.30	Lovington	Communion	
Sunday	8 th Feb	10.30	S.Barrow	Communion	
Sunday	15th Feb	10.30	Babcary	Matins	
Ash Wednesday	18 th Feb	6.30pm	S.Barrow	Said Communion	
Sunday	22 nd Feb	10.30	Hornblotton	Communion	
Sunday	1 st March	10.30	Alford	communion	St David's Day

Cleaning	Flowers	Coffee	Sidesmen
----------	---------	--------	----------

1 st February	Nikki and Karen	Teresa		
8 th February	Rita and Jenny	Susan		
15 th February	Simon and Shirley	Elisabeth	Sally & Shirley	Simon & Robin
22 nd February	Jan and Lucy	Lent - no flowers		
1 st March	Sarah and Sarah	Lent – no flowers		

Babcary Christmas

It was a fairly hectic Christmas in Babcary. Our thanks to the children who made Christingles on 7th Dec and raised £86 for the Children's Society. Thanks to the Community Committee for the village Christmas tree, the children who decorated it and to Paul and Irene for the power supply. Thanks as well to Paul Cuff for the "Holy Cross" on top of the church – invaluable if you were lost in the fog. Thanks also to the Community Committee and Holly Norman for organising the village children's trip to see the panto in Yeovil. Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Children's Hospice South West collection, whether from carol singing or the village Christmas card or the Christmas Eve Carol service collection. We raised an amazing £1,228 and the CHSW were really appreciative - see overleaf.

Thanks to the church decoration team who excelled themselves this year – the church looked amazing and this was appreciated by the record 237 people who squeezed in for the Candlelight Carol service on Christmas Eve. The pop-up choir was in good voice, the readers excellent.... and the juggler didn't drop a thing. And finally on Boxing Day some hardy souls played some fast and furious pop lacrosse on the tennis court – our thanks to Judy Herten as always.

... BROWN

Babcare PCC
Percy House
Babcare
Somerton
TA11 7ED

12 January 2026

A-259635

Dear Friends

As we bid farewell to the festive season, we express a heartfelt thanks for your wonderful donation of £1,228, raised through your carol singing around the village and candle lit Christmas Eve carol service. It is because of generosity and kindness such as yours that we can continue to support babies, children and young people living with life-limiting conditions and their families across the South West.

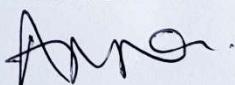
Meg, Millie's mum, shared her thoughts "It was just really sweet; everyone was lovely and friendly. They were very excited to meet us. Everyone came over and made a fuss and wanted to speak to her, it was just so lovely, almost like settling into a family."

Over the festive period, we had many activities at each of our three hospices for our families, allowing them a calm space to make treasured memories.

We warmly invite you to attend an open day at either Little Bridge House, Charlton Farm or Little Harbour. Please visit www.chsw.org.uk/hospicetours for more information.

Thank you for continuing to raise smiles for babies, children, young people and their families across the South West.

With sincere thanks



Anna Ross – Head of Fundraising, Charlton Farm
Children's Hospice South West

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

We were thrilled that so many people came to the Christmas Bazaar on 29th November. It was a truly festive occasion, and we raised an astonishing £1002.78! Many thanks to Lucy and her Christmas Elves for the superb Christmas Craft stall, to Helen for all the beautiful pots of bulbs, to Judy for another entertaining sideshow and to Julie for the Children's Tombola. Thank you also to everyone who contributed to the Raffle and cake stall and to all our invaluable helpers.

The Raffle prize winners were Brian Hartnell, Iona White, Sarah Stuckey, Simon Hoar, Jane Brock, Father Pip, Solomon and Zachary (Jane Burnett's grandsons), Fred Boothby, Keith Robson, Gary Tubridy, Lesley Morland, Maureen Everard, Carole Hartnell, Judy Herten, Sam Stobart, Su Berry and Jane Burnett.

PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEE

Babcary Road Race

Sunday 22nd Feb at 11am. It's a delightful 7.5 mile run from the playing field to S.Barrow, on to N.Barrow crossroads and back via Foddington. Concessionary rate for Babcary residents but runners must register before the race day by emailing gary@avalonsciences.com. All ages (over 16) and ability levels. Prizes for all AND age graded results for the, er, more mature runners. Best time to start training – now.

There are also three short, age banded, runs for children which take place during the big race. Refreshments afterwards.

Shout out to all **cakemakers** for contributions please! Your amazing cakes are now famous and we have a reputation to maintain...

For the last 27 years Gary Tubridy, ably assisted by Sarah, has been organising the Babcary Road Race. It was founded in 1985 by Ian Teesdale and then restarted by Ian, Brian Hartnell and Gary in 1998. From a faltering start it has become an annual village institution. It has been sponsored by Avalon Sciences Ltd throughout and has raised a great deal of money for the playing field. Now, at last, Gary is able to actually run the race this year as Damien Pick has nobly agreed to take on the organising (assisted by his Sarah). A huge thank you to both couples.

100 Club Draw

In the big Christmas Draw the winner (of £50) was James Pout, Phil Sketchley won second prize and Helen Hughes third. The following won a consolation prize: Charlie Gillespie, Tina Hutchins, Jane Brock, Shirley Hoar, Mehmet Aric, Dorothy Pout, Mark Hewson, Judy Herten, Sarah Tubridy and Jan Street.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Shop Rota

7 th February	Rita and Carole	7 th March	Gilli and Shirley
14 th February	Judy and Lesley	14 th March	Vee and Sally
21 st February	Jan and Karen	21 st March	Jules and Caroline
28 th February	Caroline and Tracyanne	28 th March	Helen and Teresa
		4 th April	NO SHOP - EASTER

Mobile Library

Visits the bus shelter on 12th February from 12.55 – 1.15pm.

POP LACROSSE: BOXING DAY

Well, the ‘tradition’ continues, thanks to the stalwarts who appear each year, and various ‘extras’ who are staying in the village for the holiday.

What would we do without our noble band of spectators (more this year than usual) who spend their time rescuing lost balls from gardens and fields? Or the Tubridys and Hoars who have appeared practically every year since we began? It’s always great to see you again...and you too Jenny Paul and Lizzie Gilbert. One of my French visitors made a second appearance this year: he speaks no English but has definitely got the gist of what goes on, and smiling gets you a long way!

Hopefully the same again this year. We look forward to seeing even more participants this time..... a hangover is not an excuse!

JAH

New! Babcary Art & Craft Social Group

This is a new group which will meet in Babcary Hut, fortnightly on a Thursday evening between 7 and 8.30 pm, starting on 19 February. All welcome, although under 8's will need to be accompanied by a parent/guardian.

Bring your latest project and enjoy some social time with fellow creators, share ideas and get inspiration.

Hot drinks available and we look forward to welcoming you to the group.

Judy Herten and Gilli Salmons

Singing Workshops



Monday 23rd Feb 7-8.15 in the Hut – everyone welcome.

Nikki Hewson 07812 441143 | 01458 224044 tuneplayer@hotmail.co.uk

NEWS VIEWS AND COMMENTS

Congratulations to Johnnie & Victoria Moriniere on the birth of Olive on 9th January; a sister for Poppy.

BABCARY & FODDINGTON LITTER PICK

SATURDAY 7TH MARCH 2026 MEETING @ 10AM @ THE HUT

The Babcary and Foddington Litter Pick will start with coffee at the Hut on Saturday 7th March. Litter grab sticks and high viz vests will be available at the Hut as well as well as bin/compost bags to avoid using too many new plastic bags for gathering old rubbish (they are also more robust) Feel free to bring your own! We'll aim to have a car/trailer collecting bags of rubbish throughout the morning.

WEATHER REPORT

November

Thanks to Storm Claudia we received over 60mm of rain during the second week of November. The month ended with a total of 102mm. This was 130% of our long-term average. Reservoir stocks had started to recover and for Wessex were at 69% of capacity although this was lower than at the same time last year.

December

In December Babcary received 111mm of rain (132% of LTA) mostly falling during the first three weeks of the month. From Christmas until the new year we saw no rain at all. Reservoir stocks had recovered to almost 100% capacity.

Despite the period from March-August being regionally the second driest on record since 1871 the year finished with a total annual rainfall of 680mm compared to our LTA of 792mm. This was the driest year since 2011. For comparison we received 1033mm in 2024.

Steve Street

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday 9 th February	PC Meeting	Hut 8pm
Tuesday 10th February	Pilgrims Prayers	Babcary church 5.15pm
Thursday 12 th February	Mobile Library	Bus shelter 12.55 1.15pm
Sunday 15 th February	Matins	Babcary church 10.30am
Thursday 19 th February	Art and craft social group	Hut 7 – 8.30pm
Saturday 21 st February	Police visit	Hut 10.30am
Sunday 22 nd February	Road Race	Playing field 11am
Monday 23 rd February	Singing workshop	Hut 7-8.15pm
Thursday 24th February	Pilgrims prayers	Babcary church 5.15pm
Every Tuesday	Bell Ringing	6pm in the church
Every Saturday	Community Shop	9.30 – 11am in the hut