

# BABCARY NEWS AND VIEWS

Would anyone like to revamp the Newsletter and bring it into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century?

It is now 44 years old and was born in very different times. The Community Committee spends approximately £500 per year on its production. In this day and age of instant communication through WhatsApp, Facebook and the village website, do people still enjoy receiving it?

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Deadline for the April edition; 23<sup>rd</sup> March

Email: [carolehartnell@googlemail.com](mailto:carolehartnell@googlemail.com).

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### PARISH COUNCIL

**Draft minutes from  
Babcary Parish Council  
Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2026 8.00pm at The Hut**

Present: Mr Philip Sketchley, Mr Steve Street, Mr Damien Pick, Mrs Vee Vyner, Mrs Glynis Kingston, Mr Kevin Messenger (County Councillor) & Mrs Jasmine Tucker (Parish Clerk).

Apologies: Mr Simon Hoar & Mrs Jane Diamond.

January 2026 Exceptional Minutes agreed & signed.

#### **1) Matters Arising**

- i) Potholes! Pothole ref-858385 (Langdon Farm) reported, repaired in December but now already needs to be repaired again! Substandard repair, concerns that Keir are subcontracting out works.

Somerset County Council funds are all allocated, Parish Council advises registering pot holes to.....

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/potholes-and-road-damage/> if possible please give details of pothole i.e. photo and location (What Three Words) to [philsketchley8@gmail.com](mailto:philsketchley8@gmail.com) so we can keep a reference log. Many other potholes have been registered, the above is just an example of an ongoing enquiry.

- ii) Placing of suggested new defibrillator discussed, BPC needs a location for an additional defib, is anyone happy to take on a defibrillator? The equipment requires constant electricity source to maintain heat to equipment. But VERY LOW power consumption  
Suggestions of either The Hut or a personal address, please contact Mr Simon Hoar, [sihoar@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sihoar@yahoo.co.uk)  
if you think you could help be a home for a defibrillator.
- iii) New laptop & printer discussed for Parish Clerk, SS going ahead with refurbished laptop, software package to be confirmed.
- iv) River Cary & Environment Agency Watercourse, ongoing, disputed maintenance of vegetation in the river, letter received by Glynis Kingston, same sent to other local owners of properties along the river.  
In essence the EA are declaring that they have no legal responsibility to carry out this maintenance in 'low risk' areas due to insufficient funding.  
Paperwork confirms watercourse maintenance is the duty of owners but payments to Environment Agency still due, still contentious.  
Full details to be posted on Babcary WhatsApp.
- v) Village Crime concerns, Alison Loker, Neighbourhood Sergeant, revised police visit date 21/02/26.  
Application to Parish Council Community Safety Grant from Crimestoppers South West Karen Macdonalds, discussed, forwarding details to Alison Loker PCSO, for further input on Crimestoppers validity.
- vi) Assertion 10, and Accessibility training on 12/02/2026 giving further info on website PS to feed back in March 2026 meeting.

## 2) Finance

- i) Capital Reserve Account stands at £16,090.44 Current Account balance £50.
- ii) Dog Refuse & bin removal quote £1,216.80 (Dec 2024), reviewed, purchase of new bin for all waste discussed, removing the 3 bin clearance cost, revisit in March 2026 meeting. Somerset Council subsequently offered a lockable bin container, which can take all types of waste including dog bags, f.o.c. which just needs to be refurbished so a saving of c. £500
- iii) Clerk training SALC £25 inv.2596
- iv) PATA £60.20 ref 0541PPS
- v) CAB £50

## 3) Planning Consultation -

- i) None

## 4) Correspondence

- i) 2nd air ambulance 05/02/26, discussed charitable donation, to conclude next meeting.
- ii) Support for community warmer greener homes received via Somerset County Council, details published for advice on Babcary Whats App & Babcary Facebook, met with mixed responses, BPC are not promoting Thermly.
- iii) CAB (Citizens Advice Bureau) update on where they are this year & charitable donation request £50 cheque raised.
- iv) Have your say on Social Care in Somerset, have you used social care? How can it be improved [www.somerset.gov.uk/ascstrategy26-29](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/ascstrategy26-29)  
Survey closes 27/03/26.
- v) Every Life Matters, suicide Prevention is Everyone's Business (free online training)  
Contact Every Life Matters on Somerset Events Training  
<https://www.mindsomerset.org.uk/training/orange-button/>

## 5) AOB

- i) Date and Time of Next Meeting: 8pm Monday 9th of March 2026 in the Hut.

## POLICE VISIT

Our thanks to PCSO Mel Cherrington-Firkin and her colleague Ali who came to the Hut on 21<sup>st</sup> and fielded our questions on home security. See the parish council website for more information on what steps you can take.

## 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: TBA

### Services

Sunday	1 <sup>st</sup> March	10.30	Alford	communion	St David's Day
Sunday	8 <sup>th</sup> March	10.30	N.Barrow	Communion	
Sunday	15 <sup>th</sup> March	10.30	Lovington	Communion	Mothering Sunday
Sunday	22 <sup>nd</sup> March	10.30	S.Barrow	Matins	
<b>Palm Sunday</b>	<b>29<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>10.30</b>	<b>Babcary</b>	<b>Communion</b>	<b>Meet at the Hut</b>
Maundy Thursday	2 <sup>nd</sup> April	6pm	Lovington	Said communion	
Good Friday	3 <sup>rd</sup> April	10.30	Hornblotton	Walk of the Cross	Start/Meet at the end of the lane
<b>Easter Day</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>6am.</b>	<b>Babcary</b>	<b>Easter Vigil</b>	
Easter Day	5 <sup>th</sup> April	10.30	Alford	Communion	

	<b>Cleaning</b>	<b>Flowers</b>	<b>Coffee</b>	<b>Sidesmen</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> February	Nikki and Karen	Teresa		
8 <sup>th</sup> February	Rita and Jenny	Susan		
15 <sup>th</sup> February	Simon and Shirley	Elisabeth	Sally & Shirley	Simon & Robin
22 <sup>nd</sup> February	Jan and Lucy	Lent - no flowers		
1 <sup>st</sup> March	Sarah and Sarah	Lent – no flowers		

## **PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEE**

### **Babcary Road Race**

Blessed are the cakemakers, and so too are the race marshals, the scorers, the water station team and everyone who helped make the Road Race another great success. In particular, thank you to Damien (& Sarah) Pick for taking over the running of the event from Gary (& Sarah) Tubridy after 27 years. A capacity entry of 150 runners made very good times this year.

#### **Age Graded Results – local highlights:**

Position		Time	
1 <sup>st</sup>	Anne Dockery	65.28	
4 <sup>th</sup>	Lee McMeekin	45.39	first Babcary man
7 <sup>th</sup>	Alexander Coombs	41.05	first man on unadjusted time
16	Lizzie Ingram	45.44	first lady on unadjusted time
29	James Hoar	45.24	
52	Simon Hoar	63.36	
83	Karen Sparkes	73.17	first Babcary lady
85	Gary Tubridy	71.58	first time in 28 years!
96	Richard Canterbury	64.04	
120	Eddie Robertie	71.14	
122	Martin Quartermain	82.31	

Children's Races

To follow

## **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

### **Shop Rota**

7 <sup>th</sup> March	Gilli and Shirley	4 <sup>th</sup> April	NO SHOP - EASTER
14 <sup>th</sup> March	Vee and Sally	11 <sup>th</sup> April	Lucy and Jenny
21 <sup>st</sup> March	Jules and Caroline	18 <sup>th</sup> April	Rita and Carole
28 <sup>th</sup> March	Helen and Teresa	25 <sup>th</sup> April	Judy and Lesley
		2 <sup>nd</sup> May	Jan and Karen

### **Mobile Library**

Visits the bus shelter on 12<sup>th</sup> February from 12.55 – 1.15pm.

### **Babcary Art & Craft Social Group**

Dates to follow

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**



Next meeting xxxxxxxx 7-8.15 in the Hut – everyone welcome.

Nikki Hewson 07812 441143 | 01458 224044 [tuneplayer@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:tuneplayer@hotmail.co.uk)

## **NEWS VIEWS AND COMMENTS**

A warm welcome to Kel Sharma and daughter Sanya and their dog Remy who've from Rutland to No.2 Turner's Cottages.

And a warm welcome as well to Dave & Tania Eveleigh at No.8 Baker Street. They haven't moved in properly yet as they're redecorating the house – but they've been to the shop to say hello.

## BABCARY & FODDINGTON LITTER PICK

**SATURDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> 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

For comparison we received 1033mm in 2024.

Steve Street

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	PC Meeting	Hut 8pm
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> February	Pilgrims Prayers	Babcary church 5.15pm
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> February	Mobile Library	Bus shelter 12.55 1.15pm
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> February	Matins	Babcary church 10.30am
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> February	Art and craft social group	Hut 7 – 8.30pm
Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> February	Police visit	Hut 10.30am
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February	Road Race	Playing field 11am
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	Singing workshop	Hut 7-8.15pm
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> 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