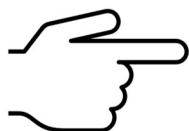


BABCARY NEWS AND VIEWS

The daffodils on the verges have been a delight this spring and everywhere is nice and tidy thanks to Lucy and the litter pickers! This month we have a fascinating article by Judy Herten – see inside.

Deadline for the May edition; 21st April

Email: carolehartnell@googlemail.com.



Your village needs you!

Village life is what we make it. If you enjoy any of the communal events that make up the annual round and would like to see changes and improvements to what we do, could you help by joining a committee or volunteering to help with specific events? It's doesn't have to be a big commitment but it's time for a new generation of residents to pick up the baton.

Community Committee – edits, prints and delivers this newsletter, runs the Saturday shop (more baristas needed please), raises money for the village good causes and puts on the Summer Fete, Harvest Supper and the Christmas Bazaar. Meets three times a year. AGM on Fri 17th April at 6pm in the Hut – everyone welcome.

PCC – the PCC looks after our beautiful Grade2* medieval church, the bells and everything that goes on inside - and the churchyard outside where many of us expect to end up! Flowers, coffee, mowing, cleaning, sidesmen, ringers, music. Over a thousand years of continuity. Meets quarterly. AGM Weds 15th April at 7pm in the church – all welcome.

Playing Field Committee – runs the Hut, the cricket pitch and playing field, tennis court and children's play area and puts on Sports Day, Bonfire Night and the Road Race. Meets quarterly. AGM Tues 14th April at 7pm in the Hut – open to everyone

Parish Council – elected every five years to consider civil parish matters across Bab Cary, Foddington and Steart, from potholes to planning. Meets at 8pm on the second Monday of each month. The parish council currently has a full complement of members (unlike many small parishes) but it would be good to see fresh faces when the next election comes round in May 2028.

BABCARY in 1841

I have been transcribing the Census returns for the village from the first one in 1841 to that of 1911, which had been copied from the originals by an unnamed villager at an unknown date.

In this Census, inhabitants were asked for their name, age, occupation and if they were born in Somerset (not necessarily in Babcary.) All of them were! Ages were rounded down to the nearest 5 years i.e. if you were 28, you would be recorded as 25. Children under 15 had their correct age recorded. Census papers were delivered to every house before the evening of June 7th 1841 and collected the following day. If the householder was illiterate the enumerator would fill in the form for them. This accounts for some 'different' spellings.

Farm names were recorded; otherwise only street names were used, making it more difficult to decide which way the enumerator had gone through the village. Dwellings had no number or name - this is the order in which the census was recorded; can anyone make sense of it?

The streets in order: Foddington Stretch – 10 dwellings: Green Street – 10: Underhill Farm – 3: Gaston Street – 22: Bush Farm – 1: Church Street – 19: Frog Lane – 4: Cannons Row – 6: Chapel Street – 16+1 uninhabited : Ham Street – 8: Little Steart – 5: Overton Farm – 1: Olive Farm – 3: Foddington – 13: Steart Street – 8.

There is no mention of a Rectory or vicar: a school or teacher, though there is a Governess in a private house. The school (now the Old School) was built in 1841 but there had been rudimentary education earlier. If there were a school and the teacher called for Elizabeth or any derivation of the name – Eliza/Lizzie; 24 girls would have answered! There is a record in 1839 of a Rector's house close to the church, in the area of Church Farm where also the Poor House and the Pound are documented.

Babcary reached its peak population of 465 in 1841. Families were larger than those today and far more villagers worked on the land. 9 families had more than 4 children and the largest had 8 according to the census.

Although we can't tell relationships from the record, the Wagland family group occupied 11 houses in the village; the Cannons 10; and Applebee and Walters 7 each. There were many small cottages along the lane from the A37 junction, and along the various lanes, many of which were pulled down in the 1920s.

60 men and boys described their occupation as Agricultural Labourers, which would have included varied kinds of work on the farms: there were also 2 cattle dealers and a dealer of no named product. 15 said that they were farmers and there were 16 servants – male and female – the youngest being 13.

JAH

NEWS VIEWS AND COMMENTS

Love is in the air this spring!

Congratulations to Emily Kingston and Ellen who were married in Salisbury on 21st February.

Congratulations to Glynis and George who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on 1st March.

Congratulations to Ann Cannon and David who were married in Castle Cary also on 21st February.

Well done to Paul Cuff for his performance in Fiddler on the Roof at Westlands. Despite a three hour performance every night from Tuesday to Saturday there he was first thing on Sunday rolling the cricket square!

Well done to Steve Street on completing the Bath Half Marathon and raising funds for Remind UK, a charity conducting research into dementia. Not bad for someone who hasn't done much running since 2011!

The Babcary and Foddington Litter Pick

Thanks Lucy & the Litter Pickers and the Foddington taskforce, everyone who helped with the annual litter pick on 7th March. Overall the litter was slightly less than previous years – maybe due to the closure of McDonalds - and the infamous Blossom Hill drinker has finally moved on.....

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Shop Rota

4 th April	Easter Shop	2 nd May	Jan and Karen
11 th April	Lucy and Jenny	9 th May	Caroline and Tracyanne
18 th April	Rita and Carole	16 th May	Gilli and Shirley
25 th April	Judy and Lesley	23 rd May	Sally and Vee
		30 th May	Jules and Caroline

By popular demand there will be a Shop on Easter Saturday. Amongst other things there will be Rita's cauliflowers and Glynis's Easter biscuits for sale!

Pop up choir singing session – open to all – 7pm Thurs 23rd April in the Hut

Mobile Library

Visits the bus shelter on 9th April from 12.55 – 1.15pm.

THE RED LION BABCARY

There's a real hint of spring in the air at last. Brighter mornings, longer evenings and a welcome bit of sunshine make it the perfect time to get out and enjoy the pub again.

As the new season begins, we're looking forward to plenty of good times at The Red Lion over the coming months — from relaxed lunches and after-work pints to family gatherings and special occasions,

Music nights will be resuming on the last Friday of the month from April, and a couple of bigger events in the summer, so do check for updates on our socials.

And there's something new on the way too. From April, we'll be opening for breakfast on Saturdays and Sundays, giving you the perfect excuse to start the weekend in the pub.

PIZZAS ARE BACK

From 20th MARCH

Join us for our freshly made pizzas:

Friday Nights

Saturday Lunch

Saturday Evenings

TAKEAWAY AVAILABLE

From Friday 20th March

Enjoy your favourites at home:

Burgers and Fish & Chips

Available all week

Pizzas

Friday Night, Saturday Lunch and Saturday Evening

We look forward to welcoming you all very soon

Great food, Great atmosphere, Great fun.

Why not Follow us at:

<https://www.instagram.com/redlionbab Cary/>

https://www.facebook.com/redlionbab Cary

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

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. See magazine for dates.

Churchyard Clear Up

Saturday 11th April, 10.30 onwards. Please turn up with assorted gardening implements/machinery to give the churchyard a spring clean. List of tasks on the church door – pick up sticks/leaves, strim, weed etc. Coffee & cake at half time.

Services

Palm Sunday	29th March	10.30	Babcary	Communion	Meet at the Hut
Maundy Thursday	2 nd April	6pm	Lovington	Said communion	
Good Friday	3 rd April	10.30	Hornblotton	Walk of the Cross	Start/Meet at the end of the lane
Easter Day	5th April	6am.	Babcary	Easter Vigil	
Easter Day	5 th April	10.30	Alford	Communion	
Sunday	12 th April	10.30	N.Barrow	Communion	
Sunday	19 th April	10.30	Lovington	Matins	
Sunday	26 th April	10.30	S.Barrow	communion	
Sunday	3rd May	10.30	Babcary	communion	

Cleaning

Flowers

Coffee

Sidesmen

April 5th	Nikki and Karen	Easter All hands		
April 12th	Rita and Jenny	Lucy		
April 19th	Simon & Shirley	Maureen		
April 26th	Jan and Lucy	Karen		
May 3rd	Sarah and Sarah	Rita	TBA	Rory & Simon

PARISH COUNCIL

Babcary Parish Council

Draft minutes from Monday 9th March 2026 8.00pm at The Hut

Present: Mr Simon Hoar, Mr Phillip Sketchley, Mrs Vee Vyner, Mr Steve Street, Mrs Jane Diamond, Mr Kevin Messenger (County Councillor) & Mrs Jasmine Tucker (Parish Clerk).

Apologies: Mrs Glynis Kingston, Mr Damien Pick & Mr Henry Hobhouse (County Councillor).

February 2026 Minutes agreed & signed.

1) Matters Arising

- i) Potholes, Spring Gardens, a large pothole has been denoted by white circling but as yet no action has been seen.
- ii) Defibrillator, ideal location for secondary defib discussed as further up the village towards Foddington, as yet no viable site located, (details printed in March Babcary News appealing for another defib location by the roadside and requiring electricity). Red Lion offered their location, discussions still taking place re the perfect positioning. Parish Council still open to alternative locations, ideally in Foddington.
- iii) Parish Clerk.gov email, Jasmine to set up new email address in line with new "Assertion 10" Clerks computer to be set up.
- iv) River Cary & Environment Agency Watercourse, no further updates.
- v) Village Crime concerns, new Neighbourhood Watch team, Rory Macdairmid set up as Neighbourhood Watch controller.
- vi) Dog Refuse & bin removal quote £1216.80 (Dec 2024), free refuse bin to be refurbished. SH has negotiated fortnightly collections with Karen Barnes (Somerset Council) as opposed to the weekly removal of 3 bins. Cheque to be drawn up April 2026.
- vii) Assertion 10, PC suggested consideration of AI converting Babcary Website to ensure it is fully accessible.
Babcary Website Accessibility is currently falling short of 2018 requirements. Phil Sketchley attempting to change current website as current package is due for renewal.
An Accessibility Statement to be ready for April Parish meeting. (PS)
- viii) 2nd air ambulance 05/02/26, discussed charitable donation, parish agreed £50 cheque, to be written next meeting.

2) Finance

- i) Capital Reserve Account stands at £14,792.40 Current Account balance £50.

3) Planning Consultation -

- i) None

4) Correspondence

Spark & SALC Community Health Roadshow, funding opportunities beyond the precept.

5) AOB

- i) Kevin Messenger was keen to point out Parishioners need to continue sending their complaints re the pot holes to Somerset Council, hopefully things will change!
- ii) Following the Boundary Commission review of Somerset Council wards they have reversed their initial proposal to shift Babcary to the Ilchester ward and we will remain in the Castle Cary Ward.

Date and Time of **Next Meeting: 8pm Monday 13th of April 2026 in the Hut.**

Draft minutes appear in the Village news and Views. Once approved at the subsequent months meeting they then will be posted, with any updates/amendments on the BABCARY website under 'Parish Council Minutes' section. www.babcaryparishcouncil.org.uk

LITTER BINS on the playing field

Due to the excessive cost of having the three bins on the playing field emptied by Somerset Council we are switching to a single bin by the gate, for general litter *and* dog waste, that will be emptied fortnightly. The separate dog waste bin and the wheelie bin will be removed.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday 2 nd April	Art & Craft Group	Hut 7 – 8.30pm
Sunday 5 th April	Easter Vigil	6am in the church
Thursday 9 th April	Mobile Library	Bus shelter 12.55 – 1.15pm
Monday 13 th April	PC Meeting	Hut 8pm
Tuesday 14 th April	PF AGM	Hut 7pm
Wednesday 15 th April	PCC AGM	Church 7pm
Thursday 16 th April	Art and Craft Group	Hut 7 – 8.30pm
Friday 17 th April	CC AGM	Hut 6pm
Thursday 23 rd April	Pop up choir singing	7pm in the Hut
Thursday 30 th April	Art and Craft Group	Hut 7- 8.30pm
Sunday 3 rd May	Communion service	Babcary church 10.30
Every Tuesday	Bell Ringing	6pm in the church
Every Saturday	Community Shop	9.30 – 11am in the hut