

BABCARY NEWS AND VIEWS

September 2026

Issue No 457

Deadline for the October edition; 21st September Email: carolehartnell@googlemail.com.



VILLAGE HARVEST LUNCH

SUNDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER at 12.30pm.

at Overton Farm TA11 7EJ



There will be meat and vegetarian options, salads, homemade puddings, complimentary Pimms or fruit punch on arrival. Children's Vegetable Animal Competition, Scarecrow Competition and an Auction of Promises. Bring your own drinks. Many thanks to Rosie and Dave Paull for organising and hosting. Adults £10 children £4.

Please contact Shirley Hoar on 07845 226478 by 5th Sept to reserve your tickets; Rosie on 07850 986352 for your promises and Dorothy on 07494 850212 when your scarecrow is ready!



Babcary Village Calendar 2027



Photos needed! If you have any good photos of Babcary, Foddington or Steart please email them, with the suggested month, to Jazz Tucker at babcaryparishclerk@icloud.com.

NEWS VIEWS AND COMMENTS

Congratulations to David and Sarah Arathoon who celebrated their Ruby Wedding on 11th July.

Well done to Izzy Tucker who secured the right A level grades to gain a place to study Medicine at Bristol University.

Congratulations to Kate Hoar and Callum Illott who were married in France on 18th July.

Best wishes to Jo and Dixie Mattock at Riverside Farm who were married on 11th July.

Congratulations to Judy Herten who celebrates her 90th Birthday on 5th September. Judy also became a great grandmother on 19th July thanks to the birth of Solal – a son for Aura.

BABCARY IN 1851

When the census was taken in 1851, the village population was found to have fallen from 465 in 1841 to 429 in 105 dwellings of which 5 were uninhabitable – including the schoolroom! Compare that to today's population which is almost half that, with only one uninhabited house.

In 1841 everyone said that they were born in Somerset: by 1851 they had to be specific about their birthplace, and 276 were born in the village. 'Incomers' came from counties other than Somerset and some spellings make it hard to discover where. They had also to state their relationship to the head of the household: in 1841 it was possible to have had 3 generations in one house and the relationships could be unclear. Families were larger than those today: in the village 2 families had 10 children – Caleb and Martha Payne had 6 sons and 4 daughters ranging in age from 19-1, while Henry and Sarah Dyer also had 10 children – 4 sons and 6 daughters aged from 22-2months. The distinction for the Dyers was that all of them, parents too, were born in Babcary.

As in the earlier census, the main occupation was farming; some farmers said how many acres they held and how many labourers they employed – Henry Wightman had 220 acres and 6 labourers, while Samuel Bartlett had 200 acres and 6 labourers. What we can't know is how many of the village who gave Ag. Lab. as their occupation were counted in the various farmer's returns. In all 76 inhabitants gave this as their work with ages ranging from 72 to 9!

Despite the schoolroom being uninhabited (or not lived in by a schoolteacher) there were 55 children being educated at the Old School in Church Street. The schoolmistress, Mary Cumming aged 20 presumably had all 55 to teach! She lived in the curate's house which was most probably the Old Rectory, quite newly built and occupied by Edward Cusack the curate, from Kildare, Ireland and 2 servants, of whom Mary was classified as one. On census night there was also a visiting Wesleyan minister, Henry Alver from North Brewham, visiting his sister who was the wife of one of the farmers.

Andrew Franks from Hardington was the Innkeeper (no name for the Inn) and Samuel Porter was a Beer House Keeper, and village shops were run by Ann Walter and Mary Hockey though we cannot tell if these were separate shops. In this census all the houses were numbered from 1- 105 with no indication of which dwelling was no.1. The curate lived in no. 3 which was surely the Old Rectory? As Hester Bartlett was Head of the household at

Underhill Farm in 1841 and is still Head 10 years later in dwelling no.88, we can assume that this was Underhill farm too.

‘Relief’ was commonly used as an ‘occupation’ beside a resident’s name. These were usually elderly, widowed or disabled people who received state backed welfare in their own home and helped them to avoid the workhouse. The nearest workhouse was at High Ham, the Langport Union workhouse, formed when many small workhouses amalgamated. Old documents show that there was a small workhouse for 10 people in our village in 1837 in the corner of the churchyard near the war memorial. In 1851 there were 3 men and 13 women in Babcary receiving outdoor relief, which meant that they were living in their own homes, receiving a small weekly cash allowance.

The wealth of different occupations gives an interesting picture of villages in the mid-1800s. Babcary was no exception: 4 carpenters - 3 masons – 3 cattle dealers & 3 dealers (goods unknown) - 3 shoemakers - 2 sawyers & 2 timber dealers - 2 blacksmiths and 2 butchers, but only 1 baker, thatcher and stone cutter. Female occupations, (apart from bringing up the large families with all the associated work!) were glovers (6) - dressmakers (4) – a laundress, a nurse and a dairymaid.

It would be interesting to enumerate the different occupations of the 2026 villagers for comparison!

JAH & SIH

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

Midweek Pilgrims Prayers

Fr Pip 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.

Saturday 12th Sept 9am
Tuesday 22nd Sept 5.15pm

Church Rotas

	Cleaning	Flowers	Coffee	Sidesmen
September 6th	Annie and Rosie	Jo	Shirley and Jenny	Michele & Simon
September 13th	Sarah and Sarah	Teresa		
September 20th	Judy and Sally	Susan		
September 27th	Karan and Vee	Dorothy		
October 4th	Tom and Bridget	Lucy		

CARY COTTAGE, NORTH STREET, BABCARY,
SOMERSET, TA11 7EA

August 2026

The PCC (Parochial Church Council) is central to village life and supports many of the village events, it is also responsible for the church and its upkeep.

We have a wonderful church, used not only for regular church services, including carol services, harvest festivals, christenings, weddings and funerals, but also for concerts, revues, bazaars, wine

tastings and other village events. Contrary to what you might imagine we receive no funding from the Church of England or the Government. The maintenance of this building is entirely dependent upon us, the people of Babcary.

Fortunately, our predecessors have kept up to date with the maintenance of the church and it is essentially in good condition, it would be such a shame to see it fall into disrepair during our lifetimes!

Some years ago, we had a major drive to ask people to set up covenants (mainly by monthly bankers order). Most of these have now lapsed and, whilst the church's finances have been ticking over satisfactorily, we are now asking people to renew them under the Gift Aid system through which we could reclaim the tax and thereby get another 25p for every £1 given. I will of course drop a form in to any who would like us to reclaim gift aid.

Sometimes people ask how much they should contribute; If every household gave just the price of a pint of beer a month (£5.40 at the Red Lion) - we would have sufficient funds not only for the essential repairs but enough to go on and continue to improve the church as a venue for events and to keep it safe for future generations.

It is this kind of fundraising, along with some major grants, which allowed us to install the loo /servery and disabled access as well as the recent projects to reinstate the West Gallery and renew the chancel roof. I do hope that you would wish to support the village and our lovely church and keep it safe for future generations, even if you are not a church goer.

If you have any questions about other ways in which you can help, please do contact me or one of the other PCC Committee members.

Rory Macdiarmid

Church Warden. Babcary Parochial Church Council

Tel: 07818035454 Email: rory@macdiarmid.co.uk

If you wish to support us on a regular basis details are below, a one off donation can be given in any form to any members of the Parochial church council, (my address is above)

If you wish to donate online (preferred) our bank is

National Westminster Bank plc, 25 High Street, Shepton Mallet, Somerset BA4 5AF

Account Name : **Babcary Parochial Church Council,**

sort code: **60-19-11**

account number **72387831**

The other PCC committee members are: Simon Hoar (churchwarden) 0790434453, Robin Brown 07884003654, Michele Sherren 07971926287 and Caroline Squire 07980726012.

Services

Sunday	30 th Aug	10.30	S.Barrow	Communion	
Sunday	6th Sept	10.30	Babcary	communion	Patronal Festival
Sunday	13 th Sept	10.30	Hornblotton	communion	
Sunday	20th Sept	<u>10.30</u>	Alford	matins	
Sunday	27 th Sept	10.30	N.Barrow	communion	

Sunday	4 th Oct	10.30	Lovington	Pet Service	
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PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEE

Sports Day



Sports Day on Saturday 11th July was well attended by the new wave of younger competitors. Amongst the village children competing for silverware, the Davies Cup was won by Sasha Canterbury with Riley Kingston in second place winning the Horticultural Cup and Jess Cuff third. The under five's sprint was won by Mawgan Kirk and the bean bag by Archie. The veteran's sprint was won by Grace Lyle for the ladies and James Hoar for the men whilst Richard Canterbury and Alistair Lyle won the three legged.

Our thanks to Lucy and the team for the refreshments and to George Kingston for presenting the prizes.

Bonfire Site

The car parking on the playing field has now been fenced off to prevent fly tipping on the bonfire site. This year we will open up for disposal of garden waste and other untreated timber each Saturday morning during September, between 9 and 11.30 only, (i.e. whilst the shop is open). There will be a trailer parked on the playing field just the other side of the rail into which you can place appropriate combustible material.

NB. Bonfire Night is on Saturday 7th November this year.

Hut and Equipment Hire

To book the hut or hire the tables/chairs etc. please contact Gilli Salmons via the village WhatsApp - by email gillibethrose@outlook.com - by phone 07934250083.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Mobile Library

Visits the bus shelter on September 24th from 12.55 – 1.15pm.

Shop Rota

5 th September	Rita and Carole	3 rd October	Caroline and Tracyanne
12 th September	Vee and Sally	10 th October	Gilli and Shirley
19 th September	Judy and Lesley	17 th October	Shirley
26 th September	Jan and Karen	24 th October	Jules and Caroline
		31 st October	Helen and Teresa

CLOCK GOLF TOURNAMENT 2026

The grass may have been more like desert sand, and Robin's fiendishly difficult course caused many a blow to the pride of the intrepid competitors, but the fun and camaraderie was evident from the first match, when Jonathan and Pip gave a taste of things to come, needing an extra hole to find the winner. Spectators thrilled to the dramatic gestures and wild calls as yet another pothole or mound proved fatal to the unswerving path of the ball: Robin, and the weather, proved almost invincible!

Jen and Robin were marvellous hosts; there was shade, plenty of seats and a lovely tea alfresco, with delicious cakes provided by those taking part.

And we have a new champion! In a 3- way final between Elisabeth, Robin and Jonathan, which was close and well-fought, Elisabeth and Robin tied as runners-up but Jonathan, refusing to be deterred by the strange ability of the ball to run in an almost complete circle was a worthy winner.

Thank you so much to all who took part in whatever capacity. We look forward to a new venue in 2027. Watch this space.....

JH

Art & Craft Group

Dates for the next meetings in the Hut, 7 to 8.30 pm are:

3 & 17 September

1, 15 and 29 October

There will be an Indian woodblock printing workshop on

17 September in the hut. Alongside the regular members, 6 more places will be available. To book, please contact Gilli Salmons via the village WhatsApp - there will be a small charge of £2.50 to cover the cost of materials. Strictly first come, first served basis.

Exhibition and Extensive Gift Sale

The Textile Set will build upon the very successful exhibition at the Market House, Castle Cary in April this year by presenting some new and previously seen work at Lytes Cary Manor, a National Trust property - TA11 7HU from 28th Aug to Thurs 10th Sept 10am til 4pm. Start your Christmas shopping early as there'll be plenty of unique, handmade gifts available.

The Textile Set have been meeting in Babcary for 8 years and we very much appreciate your support.

Ring any Bells?



We're running "taster sessions" for anyone who would like to have a try at bell ringing, or who would just come along and see how it's done, on Tuesdays through September at 6pm. Anyone from 9 to 90 can do this. Guided tours up the tower are also available. No need to book – just turn up between 6 and 7. See articles in this month's Six Pilgrims magazine.

1st and 15th Sept at North Barrow church

8th and 22nd and 29th Sept at Babcary church

Weather Report

Babcary received 63.6mm of rainfall during June 2026 most of which fell during the first week. During the third week we had thunderstorms but little rain.

The dry spell continued into July 2026 with only 1.7mm of rainfall being received during the month. This was regionally the driest July since records began in 1871. July 2026 was also the fourth driest of any calendar month since records began in 1871 and the driest since February 1932.

Wessex water reservoir levels were at 58% capacity by the end of the month which is similar to last year.

Steve Street

Cricket Club Report

A Golden Finale: Babcary Close Out an Historic Season in Style

On a glorious evening at Castle Cary CC, Babcary Cricket Club brought the curtain down on their season with a performance to remember, beating the Newt by 108 runs in their final fixture.

Having won the toss and elected to bat, Babcary set about building what would become their highest ever T20 total. Patrick Legg led the charge with a superb 65 not out, finding an able partner in David Shardlow, who chipped in with 18 not out, while James Pout's brisk 31 added further impetus in the middle order. Between them, the trio powered Babcary to 222 for 2 — a total that will take some beating in the record books.

The Newt made their intentions clear from the off, their opening batsman clearing the rope for three enormous sixes that landed on the roofs of nearby houses. For a few overs it looked as though the game might slip away, but Babcary dug deep. Fine spells from Aldwyn Boscawan, David Shardlow and Patrick Legg turned the tide, chipping away at the Newt's batting line-up to bowl them out for just 114 off 19.3 overs and seal a 108-run victory.

It was a win worth savouring, played out as the sun set behind Glastonbury Tor — about as perfect a backdrop as English cricket can offer. Fittingly, Aldwyn Boscawan capped his season with a hat-trick from the last ball of the game, a feat that saw him crowned Most Valuable Player, narrowly edging out Patrick Legg for the honour.

It was the perfect way to end a truly memorable campaign. Babcary were crowned champions of the ESPL in its inaugural season, a triumph that included some fantastic victories along the way.

Thank you to everyone for all your support this season. Here's to another great year ahead.

RC

PARISH COUNCIL

BABCARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DRAFT MINUTES

Monday 13th July 2026 8.00pm at The Hut

Present: Mr Simon Hoar (SH), Mr Phil Sketchley (PS), Mrs Vee Vyner (VV), Mrs Glynis Kingston (GK), Mr Henry Hobhouse (HH, County Councillor), Mr Steve Street (SS), Mrs Jane Diamond (JD) & Mrs Jasmine Tucker (JT, Parish Clerk).

Apologies: Mr Damien Pick and Mr Kevin Messenger (County Councillor)

June 2026 Minutes agreed & signed.

1) Matters Arising

- i) Potholes, pothole near Cecil & Rita Kingston's property reported.
PS & Tracy Harris (Somerset Highways) attended village review with KM.
PS requested updates for
South Barrow Road Sunny Hill Farm, resurfacing agreed.
Foddington Road Hill, pothole outside Cecil & Rita's, Arden House.
Dilkes Lane, land movement resulting in hump in road outside Broadacre.
Stear Lane, rough stretch of land esp outside Grain Stores.
Main Street, needs a complete resurface, reported.
Babcary Lane, gully outside Spring Farm partially rectified but still concerned it will degrade swiftly.
Passing Places, They are only responsible for the area 1 meter from the edge of the road.
We are permitted to fill in holes ourselves!
GK drew attention to pothole outside The Red Lion, along with proposed hedging outside of three new properties opposite.

PLEASE KEEP REPORTING THE POTHOLES TO SOUTH SOMERSET & cc PS.
- ii) Defibrillator, request for grant denied, Community Committee to try request.
- iii) Parish Clerk, Accessibility, ongoing.
- iv) Tim Marshwood, Heritage at Risk, Finger Posts, SH has responded and will be taking on repainting.
- v) Reflector Posts outside Deer Park Farm still to be completed, Andy Baron (Highways) aware.

2) Finance

- i) Capital Reserve account stands at £18,565.48 Current Account balance £50.
- ii) Parish Clerk Wages paid £432.
- iii) AGAR, signed & dated.
- iv) VV & JD signatory status to be requested, still in process.
- v) Jetpack invoice £114.48, paid.

3) Planning Consultation -

- i) 26/0147/S73 Steart House Farm, Steart Lane, Babcary Awaiting Decision.
- ii) 26/00530/FUL Land at end of Dilkes Lane, Babcary Awaiting Decision.

4) Correspondence

- i) Every Life Matters, Suicide Prevention, book free training, funded by South Somerset.
- ii) Changes to publication of Councillor's Home Addresses. Somerset Council.
- iii) Revenues & Welfare Systems Software Downtime. Somerset Council.
- iv) Register of Members Interests, General Notice of Registerable Interests.
- v) Somerset Local Plan consultation

5) AOB

- i) Collapsed stone wall on North Street noted, owner notified (SH).
- ii) Bonfire location has been significantly reduced, thank you DP for your input.
- iii) HH spoke about Sarah Dykes £65million input for flood defences, £50 million of which still needs to be allocated, parish council putting together information re points in the village most likely to flood in a bid to secure some of the funds for Babcary/Foddington. If you have any concerns please raise them with your local councillor, before September the 24th.

Date and Time of Next Meeting: 8pm Monday 14th of September 2026 in the Hut.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday 3 rd September	Art and Craft group	Hut 7 – 8.30 pm
Sunday 6 th September	Communion service	Babcary church 10.30am
Monday 14 th September	PC Meeting	Hut 8pm
Tuesday 8 th September	Taster bell ringing sessions	6 -7pm
Saturday 12 th September	Pilgrims prayers	Babcary church 9am
Sunday 13 th September	Village Harvest Lunch	Overton Farm 12.30am
Thursday 17 th September	Art and Craft group	Hut 7 – 8.30 pm
Tuesday 22 nd September	Pilgrims Prayers	Babcary church 5.15pm
Tuesday 22 nd September	Taster bell ringing sessions	6 – 7pm
Thursday 24 th September	Mobile Library	Bus shelter 12.55 – 1.15pm
Tuesday 29 th September	Taster bell ringing	6 -7pm
Every Tuesday	Bell Ringing	6pm in the church
Every Saturday	Community Shop	9.30 – 11am in the hut