

BABCARY NEWS AND VIEWS

After our much-loved Harvest celebration in September, we now head into a quieter October. Having endured the rigours of heatwaves and drought, it is a pleasure to see the grass growing greener and the sun shining more softly in these shortening autumnal days.

Don't forget the 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.

Deadline for the November edition; 26th October
Email: carolehartnell@googlemail.com.

The Babcary Poppy Appeal 2026

As your new official Poppy Appeal Organiser, I'm delighted to share details of this year's Babcary Poppy Appeal, supporting the Royal British Legion and helping us remember the fallen of Babcary, as well as all those who have served and sacrificed in conflicts past and present. See details inside. TE

HARVEST LUNCH

Many thanks to Rosie and Dave and their team on an outstandingly successful Harvest Lunch! 103 people sat down in the beautifully decorated barn for an afternoon of fun entertainment and excellent food. There was a great atmosphere and a huge sense of community spirit. It was good to see so many children who had a whale of a time playing in the farmyard with the wheelbarrows and straw bales.

The proceedings began with Emily Roberti's thought-provoking Harvest Words read by Peter Sparkes. They are published below so that you can all enjoy them either again or for the first time. Judy Herten then delivered a highly appropriate Grace in praise of our farmers and that too is here for you to read.

We were then more than ready for the hog roast, which was producing a wonderful aroma. To go with it there was an amazing array of colourful, delicious looking salads – far more choice than you could fit on to your plate. When it came to the pudding, the children were delighted by the ice cream bar – not just individual tubs, but also toppings of marshmallows and all kinds of sweets. The adults were equally well-catered for with a choice of four different flavoured cheesecakes, sticky toffee pudding or apple crumble. The chefs had clearly worked very hard indeed.

The Scarecrow competition was also a way of bringing the community together and 25 had popped up around the village during the preceding days. They were all beautifully captured by Carole Bohanan, our resident photographer, on an expertly created video. She pulled off the same trick with the Harvest Lunch, capturing some great moments and the essence of the occasion. So now it was the turn of the judging. You couldn't help but feel sorry for Dorothy Pout having to choose between all that lot, but she carried out her task with great aplomb and sound reasoning. The winners were:

1st Rod Cary by Peter Sparkes

2nd Dolly Parton by Daisy Legg

3rd Babcary Joy by Rhoda Rose

The children's competition was to make a Vegetable Animal and there were some brilliant creations. Rita Kingston was given the unenviable task of judging these, but she quickly and decisively chose her favourite – the Aubergine Mouse made by Wilfred Legg.

Finally we came to the Auction of Promises and what an auction that was. There were some fantastic and much coveted promises on offer. Bids were flying, Dave could hardly keep up, and there were some astonishingly generous sums generated. The grand total raised was an unbelievable £2,680!

Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make the day a success and to everyone who came and supported the event. It was a truly memorable occasion!

Harvest Words - by Emily Roberti

As we gather together at harvest time, we find ourselves at a turning point in the year.
The abundance of summer is beginning to soften. The fields have given what they have to give.
The evenings are drawing in, the mornings are cooler, and the leaves are beginning to change.
There is something particularly beautiful about this time of year because nature doesn't resist the turning.

The trees don't cling to their leaves. They simply know when it is time to let go.
And I wonder if there is something we can learn from that.
The leaves don't fall because they have failed.
They fall because their work for this season is complete.
They let go, making space for what comes next.
Perhaps we too can ask ourselves: What am I ready to let go of?
What have I been carrying that I no longer need to carry?
What habits, expectations, worries or ways of being have served me at one time, but perhaps don't serve me anymore?

And perhaps, rather than seeing letting go as something we have to force, we can trust that sometimes, when the time is right, we simply know.

The Autumn Equinox also brings us to a moment of balance
- a brief point in the year when day and night are held equally.

And it offers us another gentle invitation:
To notice what feels in balance in our own lives, and what doesn't.

Where are we giving too much and receiving too little?
Where might we be rushing, when we need to slow down?

Where might there be something asking for more of our attention, our energy, or our care?

Balance doesn't mean everything is perfectly even. Nature itself is never static. It is constantly moving, changing and finding its way into a new rhythm.
Perhaps balance is simply about noticing. Listening.
And making small adjustments when we need to.
As we celebrate harvest, we can also begin to turn our attention towards the season ahead. The days will become darker and colder. The earth will retreat. The trees will become bare.
And nature will ask us to slow down. Perhaps we can allow ourselves to do the same.
To gather in. To rest more. To nourish ourselves.
To spend time with the people and things that give us warmth.
Winter isn't something to rush through or resist. It has its own purpose.
And so, as we stand together at this turning of the seasons, perhaps we can take a little wisdom from the natural world around us.
We can celebrate what has grown. Give thanks for what has been gathered.
Let go of what is ready to fall. Notice where we need a little more balance.
And begin, gently, to prepare ourselves for the darker season ahead.
Not with fear, but with care. Knowing that just as the earth has its seasons, so do we.
And that there is wisdom in knowing when to grow, when to gather, when to let go
- and when to rest.
Happy harvest!

GRACE FOR THE HARVEST LUNCH

Will you please join me in giving thanks for the farming families of Babcary and Foddington: for their commitment to this village; their skilled husbandry and hard work which provide food and improve the appearance and health of the countryside around us and for which we should always be grateful.

We are indeed fortunate to live in Babcary: a true community of friendship and help for others. Long may it remain so.

JH

THE BABCARY POPPY APPEAL 2026

Wartime Dance – Saturday 14 November from 19:30 – The Hut!

Get your dancing shoes on... and step back in time! For one night only.... The Hut (and the verandah) will be transformed into wartime Britain for an evening of dancing and good times!

- Entertainment from Shepton Mallet Big Band & Babcary's very own pop-up band...
- Bring your own tipple / Tea and Coffee will be available
- Nibbles / Rations provided!
- **Dress code: "Of the era!"**
- Don't forget your gas mask!

Tickets are very limited, so please book early! £12.50 each. Message Tania – 07775 038355 to book.

If anyone has any memorabilia they would be happy to display, please do let me know.

All funds raised, after essential event expenses (Shepton Big Band fee), will be donated to the Royal British Legion (Charity No. 219279).

Poppies & Wreaths

- Poppies will be available from The Red Lion and The Hut from Saturday 24 October.
- Wreaths – please message directly to order ASAP!
- There may also be a little house-to-house Poppy Appeal activity later in the autumn – TBC.

Your support for the Poppy Appeal helps the Royal British Legion provide lifelong support to serving and ex-serving personnel and their families – from financial and employment advice to physical and mental wellbeing support, housing, care, rehabilitation and help in times of crisis.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.

Thanks so much everyone and see you on the dance floor!

Tania.

NEWS VIEWS AND COMMENTS

A warm welcome Adrian & Claire Hoffman (& their son Huw, just started at Millfield) at Little Bushes, Bush Farm. They've just moved here from Australia.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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.

Dates TBA

Questions for Father Pip – Pilgrim's Pause

On Thursday 8th October at 7pm in the church there is a chance for anyone who does or might attend church to enjoy a time of informal fellowship and raise questions or make suggestions about the Six Pilgrims. On this occasion Fr Pip will be outlining some minor changes to the Pilgrims Sunday communion service but everyone and anything is welcome. Refreshments available.

Services

Sunday	4th Oct	10.30	Lovington	Family	Pet Service
Sunday	11 th Oct	10.30	S.Barrow	communion	
Sunday	18th Oct	10.30	Babcary	matins	
Sunday	25 th Oct	<u>10.30</u>	Hornblotton	communion	
Sunday	1 st Nov	10.30	Alford	communion	All Saints day

Cleaning

Flowers

Coffee

Sidesmen

4 th October	Tom and Bridget	Lucy		
11th October	Nikki and Karen	Maureen		
18 th October	Rita and Jenny	Karen	TBA	TBA
25 th October	Simon & Shirley	Rita		
1 st November	Jan and Lucy	Iona		

Shanty Night



Friday 23rd October @ North Barrow Hall

Doors open at 6, anchors aweigh 6.30pm - time and tide wait for no man

A night of shanty singing for all the family. Rant and roar!

Soup & cheese victuals included. Cash bar

Dress code: a nautical theme is optional; stripes? a flag or two?

Tickets £10 (£5 for children)

The noted shanty band **Fore Sail** and the celebrated local band **Four Foot Four** will be there to lead the singing.

Tickets from the churchwardens or email Jacqueline.crill@gmail.com

This is a Six Pilgrims fund raising event

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Shop Rota

3 rd October	Caroline and Tracyanne	7 th November	No Shop – Bonfire Night
10 th October	Gilli and Shirley	14 th November	Lucy and Jenny
17 th October	Gilli and Shirley	21 st November	Rita and Carole
24 th October	Jules and Caroline	28 th November	No Shop – Christmas Bazaar
31 st October	Helen and Teresa	5 th December	Judy and Lesley

Mobile Library

Visits the bus shelter on 22nd October from 12.55 – 1.15pm

Art & Craft Group

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

1, 15 and 29 October

Post Exhibition Sale of Artwork

The Textile Set will hold a sale of artwork, cards, haberdashery and pre-loved craft books in the hut on Sunday 1 November between 10.30 and 3. Early Christmas shopping, unique gifts. Up to 25% reductions on artwork.

PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEE

Bonfire Site

It will open for deposition of garden waste and other untreated timber each Saturday morning, until further notice, between 9 and 11.30 *only* (i.e. whilst the shop is open).



Babcarv Bonfire Night



On **Saturday 7th November** this year. All the usual; the big bonfire, spectacular fireworks, a hog roast and bar from 6pm. See posters for details.

Weather Report

August began much the same as the month of July with almost no rain for the first three weeks however the month finished with 42.6mm. At the end of August Wessex region reservoir stocks were 41% capacity.

Steve Street

PARISH COUNCIL

BABCARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday 24th August 2026 Special Meeting 6.00pm at The Hut

Present: Mr Simon Hoar, Mr Philip Sketchley, Mr Steve Street, Mrs Glynis Kingston, Mrs Vee Vyner, Mrs Jasmine Tucker (Parish Clerk) & 2 Members of the public.

Apologies: Mr Damien Pick & Mrs Jane Diamond

1. Matters Arising

- i.To be taken forward in September 2026.

2. Finance

- i.Capital Reserve account stands at £18,565.48 Current Account balance £50.

3. Planning Consultation -

- i.App 26/01813/DPO to modify the S.106 agreement (that ties the Red Lion Inn outbuildings & carpark into one single use & occupation) to remove part of the car park, Ref 0/05151/FUL. Response required by 31st August 2026

Concerns were raised over this resulting in car parking on the street & potential impact on emergency access throughout Babcary Parish.

The Parish Council resolved not to object if the following preconditions are met mitigating the removal of parking space.

- i. The owners have kindly confirmed in writing that they will retain 30 customer parking spaces. This is helpful but we need to see a scale marked plan showing where the 30 spaces will be and there must be proper marked bays, whether by ropes & pins or split rails or other means, before the existing space is withdrawn. Customers currently fill up the existing space when about 35 cars are parked there because, without bays, they don't park closely enough.
 - ii. If the owners wish to remove part of the car parking provision whilst planning to expand the events of their business they must, in mitigation, make proper legal arrangements for overflow car parking on another site when holding big events. Nearby fields in Steart Lane or a redundant dog exercise compound further along Steart Lane might be a solution.

4. AOB. None.

Draft Minutes September 2026

Babcary Parish Council

Monday 14th September 2026 8.00pm at The Hut

Present: Mr Simon Hoar (SH), Mr Philip Sketchley (PS), Mr Steve Street (SS), Mrs Vee Vyner (VV), Mrs Glynis Kingston (GK), Mr Kevin Messenger (KM, County Councillor) & Mrs Jasmine Tucker (JT, Parish Clerk).

Apologies: Mrs Jane Diamond, Mr Damien Pick & Mr Henry Hobhouse (HH, County Councillor).

August 2026 Minutes agreed and signed.

1) Matters Arising

- i) Potholes, (PS) written to Tracy Harris (TH) re Main Street to Red Lion continuing pot hole issues, PS notes Main Street could do with a complete resurface. Further to TH visit in June BPC wanted to thank TH for the various repairs to potholes in and around Babcary roads since then. A great improvement – but still a few more to complete
The sunken sides of the road at the bottom of the hill on Steart Road on the approach to the A303, has caused a significant raised hump in the centre of the road and the grooves and scrapes in that indicate a lot of vehicles are grounding on it.
PLEASE KEEP REPORTING THE POTHoles TO SOMERSET CC & PS.
- ii) Defibrillator, the Community Committee (CC) has applied for a free community Defib from the BHF to be located in Foddington.
- iii) Fingerposts, SH has repainted, only one still awaiting repair at time of meeting.
- iv) Reflector Posts outside Deer Park Farm, are currently assigned with a contractor to complete.

2) Finance

- i) Capital Reserve account stands at £17,599.72 Current Account balance £50.
Babcary Bin payment £70.20 (to be signed)

3) Planning Consultation -

- i) 26/0147/S73 Steart House Farm, Steart Lane, Babcary Approved.
- ii) 26/00530/FUL Land at end of Dilkes Lane, Babcary Approved (NB. must be main residence for 3 years).
- iii) The Red Lion Inn (see Special Meeting August 2026) Awaiting decision.
The Parish Council considered car parking plan submitted by the applicants and made the following observations:

1. The 30 customer parking spaces identified are very confined hence these bays need to be marked out physically on the ground if parking of this density is to be achieved.
2. There is no indication where the staff (up to 8 cars) will park.
3. There should be two disabled parking bays earmarked close to the main entrance
4. The footpath L2/21 currently runs diagonally across the car park from NW to SE. This will need to be diverted or some provision made for access through the proposed fence.
5. Parking bays 5 and 6, located outside the B&B rooms are a very tight squeeze, right on the edge of the road surface. This will cause a problem when customers park in the Wessex Water pumping station bay (clearly marked "No Parking") with insufficient width for farm or emergency vehicles.

4) Correspondence

- i) Parish Councils to keep formal record of breaches in local plan development by Somerset Council July 2026, KM enlightened PC stating other parishes have complained they are not receiving full planning information and still requested to give opinions prior to approval.
- ii) Applications re Community Flooding, SS made a full Parish walk around with Henry Hobhouse (County Councillor, HH) re Babcary/Foddington flood sites, Gassons Bridge only site of note for community help.
- iii) Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA) Annual Report 2025-2026
- iv) SRA Community Flood Action Fund, news & annual resilience day.

5) AOB

- i) PS Baker Street, mud & silt covering grid run offs, who is responsible for removal?
- ii) SH reported that rainwater drains in front of the new housing on Steart Lane, has been revealed to be 50% blocked by silt. Highways have denied that it is their drain but, as the pipe also takes the flow from North Street and Main Street, this is unreasonable. Somerset CC requiring £6000 to rectify blocked pipes.
- iii) GK raised concerns that Deer Park Farm pothole markings have been made but only some have been acted on.
- iv) VV noted repeated complaints about use of traffic cones unrelated to road closures being placed on road sides restricting road size and impacting on road erosion culminating in potholes.
- v) Further groups of hooded 'strangers' observed on home surveillance late at night at Foddington but disturbed by dog - overheard discussing revisiting previous properties before moving on, very concerning.
- vi) JT suggested new bollards in place in Babcary Playing Field, suggested putting both the removable bollards up as a deterrent for recent vandalism, including 'doughnuts' on the playing field.

- vii) Vandalism of The Hut toilet facilities has resulted need to lock the loo doors.
Graffiti on hut rail & alcopop litter.
CCTV suggested and currently under consideration.

Date and Time of Next Meeting: 8pm Monday 12th of October 2026 in the Hut.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday 1 st October	Art and craft group	Hut 7 – 8.30
Wednesday 7 th October	Playing Field Committee	Hut at 7pm
Thursday 8 th October	Questions for Father Pip	Babcary church 7pm
Monday 12 th October	Parish Council	8pm in the Hut
Thursday 15 th October	Art and craft group	Hut 7-8.30
Thursday 22 nd October	Mobile library	Bus shelter 12.55 – 1.15pm
Friday 23 rd October	Shanty Night	N.Barrow Hall 6.30pm
Thursday 29 th October	Art and craft group	Hut 7-8.30
Every Tuesday	Bell Ringing	6pm in the church
Every Saturday	Community Shop	9.30 – 11am in the hut