

# Bleadon News

Spring 2019

[www.bleadonparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.bleadonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Issue 111



## BLEADON

Many contributions  
make up our local  
news—get involved!

## Bleadon working together in 2019



# Lifeline

Here when you need us...

**Sedgemoor Lifeline provides 24 hour assistance to vulnerable people living in communities across Somerset. Our fully trained staff are available 365 days a year, giving families peace of mind.**

**We are the only 24 hour lifeline service in Sedgemoor that can attend your home to lift you if you have a fall.**

We also offer other Telecare services such as smoke, carbon monoxide, fall and epilepsy sensors, which, if activated, will wirelessly connect to us immediately.

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***TWO MONTHS FREE - limited offer.***

*Set up a Direct Debit and receive up to eight weeks free!*

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**For more information on how Sedgemoor Lifeline can help you or a family member feel safe in their own home, please call Sedgemoor District Council on: 01278 435776  
or e-mail: [lifeline@sedgemoor.gov.uk](mailto:lifeline@sedgemoor.gov.uk)**

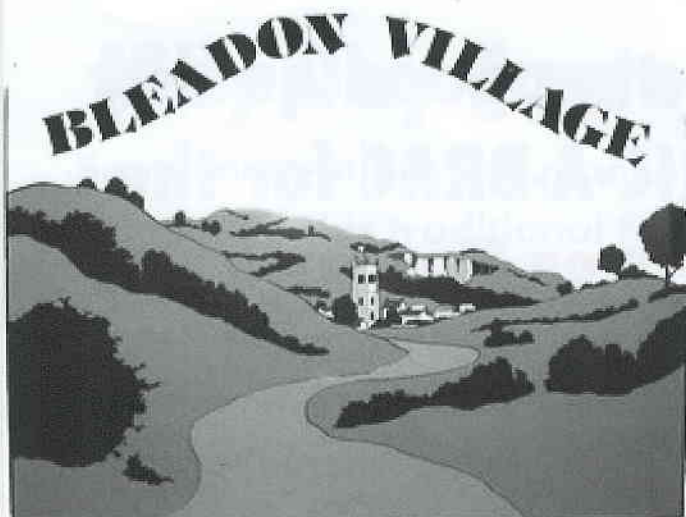
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**[www.sedgemoor.gov.uk/lifeline](http://www.sedgemoor.gov.uk/lifeline)**

Lifeline is a service provided by Sedgemoor District Council

**Sedgemoor**  
IN SOMERSET

February 2019



### **Message from the Chairman**

A new year brings new challenges for all, not least the Parish Councillors who strive to ensure smooth continuity of existing services, standards and facilities throughout the Parish, also to encourage and support new ventures and endeavours to improve the fabric of our community. Examples of these are the Neighbourhood Development Plan and Bleadon in Bloom, both in their infancy but gathering pace as you will no doubt read in the following pages. I imagine the biggest question on most Parishioners' minds is the proposed development of 200+ houses at Bleadon Road. Feedback from public meetings and the very large number of public objections suggest the overwhelming opinion of the Parish is against the development. At the time of writing the Parish Council is about to have a Planning Meeting to explore what more it can do to respond to the application. Please visit the Parish website for more information. I would also draw your attention to the up and coming Parish Council elections due in May. This is your opportunity not only to vote for who you want to look after the needs of the Parish but indeed to step forward and stand for election. I'm sure there are many in the Parish with enthusiasm and skills which would benefit the community. Let's face it if I can do it then most of you can! In closing you may not be aware that we have a new Editor of this magazine, Kirsten Hemingway-Arnold, not only a Councillor but an expert in many of the new style media innovations that most of us rely on our grandchildren to explain! This entails content to be at the discretion of the Editor and may not reflect the opinions/decisions of the Parish Council. I think this a good thing thus allowing the opinions of all to be aired not just the opinions/decisions of us Councillors. I wish you all a belated but happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Jim Baines Chairman Bleadon Parish Council

### **Parking**

Parking near the Queens Arms at the junction of Shiplate Road, Coronation Road and Celtic Way is causing considerable danger to road users and pedestrians. The Parish Council is liaising with North Somerset Council to review options for enforcement such as double yellow lines on all sides around that junction. However, we would rather see drivers using their better judgement and not parking there at all, without the need for unsightly lines and associated signage.

### **Neighbourhood Plan**

A very big THANK YOU to everyone who took the time to complete the survey in January – 281 were returned in total (online or on paper). By the time you read this we will have analysed the results and comments and will be publishing them as soon as possible. Keep an eye on the noticeboards and the website ([www.bleadonneighbourhoodplan.co.uk/](http://www.bleadonneighbourhoodplan.co.uk/)) for updates. As always, any resident who would like to help develop the Neighbourhood Plan is welcome to join the group – it is about YOUR neighbourhood! Contact Gill (01934 813255) or Marian (07453 358318).

### **The Annual Parish Meeting**

The APM is an informal meeting convened and chaired by the Chairman of the Parish Council in order to report to its electorate on what it has accomplished in the preceding year. Electors, public and press are invited to hear reports from the Chairman community groups and any organisation that the parish council has funded during the year.

The meeting must be held between 1st March and 1st June (inclusive) each year. As usual for Bleadon, this year it is scheduled for 8th April, the second Monday of the month.

Legislation can be found here: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1972/70/schedule/12/part/III>

### **Allotments**

Nearly all the plots are now taken - only one full and one half plot available. The allotment holders have done a lot of work to clear rubbish from the hedgeline by the footpath. As well as derelict sheds and undergrowth they found glass, plastic, netting – and a very old portable toilet! New plot markers and a noticeboard will be installed in the next couple of months.

### **Bleadon in Bloom Big Plant Up**

Join us and our volunteers from Thatchers on the 19th of March to do that big wild flower plant up for Bleadon in Bloom! At the hall 10.00am—contact Kirsten for more.

# We are **NOW** collecting good quality or nearly new **BRIC-A-BRAC** for the **Bleadon May Day Fayre on Monday 6 May**

Now's your chance to give a home to all those unwanted (but treasured) items that have been cluttering up your home, loft, shed or garage. We hope to find them a home where they will be appreciated and loved. Plus you will be helping to raise funds to support our lovely parish church and Bleadon youth club.

**Friends of Bleadon Church are collecting now donations of BRIC-A-BRAC until 27 April.**

If you can deliver to us we shall be even **more** grateful  
Call Mary Clements 623 476 or Cathy Heycock 813 314  
to make arrangements

## **YES PLEASE** to good quality or nearly new:

- China
- Books
- Electricals in good working order
- Household
- Kitchen tools and equipment
- Small furniture items
- Gardening tools and equipment
- Collectables
- Jewellery
- Toys in clean working condition
- Clean household linen



## **NO THANKS** to :

- Glassware
- Picture frames
- Soft furnishings
- Lamp-shades
- Adult or children's clothes
- Video tapes, DVDs and CDs
- TVs (Cathode tube type)
- Anything **incomplete** or broken
- Poor quality **junk** and jumble you wouldn't buy yourself



Put your unwanted treasures to good use and help us

make this **May Day Fayre**

**BRIC-A-BRAC SALE** a **HUGE SUCCESS**

Call Mary on 623 476 or Cathy on 813 314

# May Day Fayre Monday 6 May

Some innovations are planned for our May Day celebrations to make this traditional family event more fun than ever

**Admission to include FREE goes on many of the stall games in the play area.**

Admission on the gate will be £2 for all over 2 years. Visitors will be issued with a wristband which will entitle holders to free goes on many of the traditional play area stalls such as the coconut shy, hoopla, hook-a-duck, toilet dump, splat the rat and more.

## High flying Ted - zzzzipp

Launch your favourite Teddy (or other soft toy) from the Church Tower. A 40m zip-wire will provide a thrilling ride for your cuddly hero. You won't miss out if you don't bring your own teddy, you can buy one on site.

## Church tower open

Climb the winding stone steps inside the 20m tower for an exciting view of Bleadon and beyond. It's well worth the climb but it's not for the faint of heart or legs.

## Trains inside the church!

For the first time ever our parish church will be hosting a model railway layout. Laid out over the pews it's sure to bring a nostalgic thrill to the child in all of us.

## Climbing wall

The YMCA team that run the youth club will be bringing along a mobile climbing wall. Challenging but safe, this will strain muscles and confidence.

## Wood turning demonstrations

Be inspired by the skills of our resident wood turners (yes, there are a number of enthusiastic amateurs living in Bleadon). There will be the opportunity to buy the product too.

**Gates open at 11am**  
**Admission £2 for all over 2yrs**  
**5 hours of entertainment**

## Road closure planned

We hope to be able to close the road between Mulberry Lane and the Church Cottages to vehicle traffic between 9:30 and 4:00 on the day. An application for the road closure is with North Somerset Council

This will allow the Fayre to extend into the road between the car park east entrance and the church. At the same time improving safety for visitors.

The proposed closure will prevent through traffic, except for emergency vehicles and residents within the closed strip. Through traffic will re-directed over Bleadon Hill.

## Temporary car park opposite Catherine's Inn

The House brothers have kindly offered their field opposite the Catherine's Inn as a temporary car park. Naturally, this is dependent upon ground conditions being suitable.

## Live music from The Dark Horses

This year we welcome a local trio of guitars and bass to keep us entertained throughout the day with some laid-back rock.

## Secret World's feathered friends

We are hoping to have Secret World bring along some of their owls and falcons for you to get up close to. These proved a popular hit at the Christmas market, so we are hoping they can return for May Day.

## All the traditional May Fayre attractions and entertainments

**Bric-a-brac** in the youth club. Pick up a bargain and give a second home to a previously loved item.

If you've got any unwanted treasures at home that you wish to donate please contact Cathy on 813314 or Mary on 623476.

**Art on show** Bleadon Art Group will be exhibiting their creative talents in the Coronation Hall.

**Flowers and music** in the church.

**Family games at 3pm.** The YMCA team will be organising all the usual races and competitions for youngsters and parents.

**Licensed bar** open throughout the event. You can expect Butcombe on tap and local Thatchers cider.

**Refreshments** in the Coronation Hall. Sandwiches, cakes, tea and coffee.

**Bacon baps and hot dogs** at the outside stalls.

**Home made cakes and preserves** on the WI stall

**Tombola** with hundreds of prizes to be won.

## Could you help at the May Day Fayre?

The Bleadon May Day Fayre raises over £4000 each year shared between the parish church and the youth club. We always need more volunteers on the day. If you can spare the time and energy to run a stall, put up or take down gazebos or manage traffic please contact Keith on **01934 813 127**

# Bleadon Village

**MONTHLY**

# MARKET

# Saturday

**16<sup>th</sup>**

**Feb**

**16<sup>th</sup>**

**March**

**20<sup>th</sup>**

**April**

**18<sup>th</sup>**

**May**

**Coronation Hall and Jubilee Hall**

**BS24 0PG**

**9.30am – 12 noon**

**30+ stalls with:**

**Fresh local produce. Old Spot Pork & Sausages.  
Goats Milk & Cheese. Bakery. Eggs. Pies. Savouries.**

**Preserves. Cakes. In season Veg. Plants.**

**Books. Crafts. Jewellery. Collectables. Gifts. Toys.**

**Bric-a-Brac.**

**Something new every month.**

**Delicious refreshments.**

**Find us on Facebook and [www.bleadon.org.uk/market](http://www.bleadon.org.uk/market)**











# Whitehouse

Kennels & Cattery, Somerset

Whitehouse Kennels & Cattery are a family run pet boarding home. Having been in the animal care business for over 25 years we know the importance of your family friend and will provide a truly caring service.

Whether you are looking for pet boarding, relocating abroad, dog grooming, or buying a bed for your cat, Whitehouse Kennels & Cattery is the place for you!

### Services include:

-  Pet Boarding
-  Day Boarding
-  Pet Export & Travel
-  Pet Shop
-  Cuddle Buddies
-  Collection & Delivery Service
-  Grooming Service
-  Wedding Doggie Services



Find us on Facebook



The Pet Boarding and Travel Experts



**OPEN EVERY DAY**  
10am - 1pm & 2pm - 6pm

### For more information & prices contact us on:

T: 01934 750352 E: enquiries@p-e-t-s.co.uk or visit [www.whitehouse-kennels.co.uk](http://www.whitehouse-kennels.co.uk)  
Whitehouse Kennels & Cattery, North Rd, Eastertown, Lympsham, Somerset BS24 0HS

### News from Whitehouse

Happy Easter to the residents of Bleadon and what an exciting time of year it is. The village looks very spring-like with its lovely displays of daffodils. The number of stray dogs has started to decrease although we do have the odd hiccup in the trend. Over Christmas we had several stray dogs that were never collected by their former owners. Many of the stray dogs either don't have microchips or the microchip details held on the database are incorrect or out of date. Just a little reminder that all dogs should be microchipped and if you change address or telephone number you must update the details! If you need any help please come and see us as we have microchip scanners and can help you ensure your dog's details are up to date. We have had some sad cases like the little poodle cross abandoned on the A370 in a very bad way. She was very nervous and she has gone to a specialist rescue centre who will work with her and get her ready for a lovely new home.

Our Cuddle Buddy crew are still very busy visiting two new Care homes along with the ones they already visit. The team currently include Daisy the Labrador, Flossie the Retriever, Pugly the Pug, Nelly the Pug (in training) and Pumpkin Pug. We are particularly proud of Pugly. She has been going into Westhaven School in Uphill and recently at the assembly was awarded honorary membership of the school. Our cuddle buddy team really are magic and to say a little thank you for what they do we arrange for them to have pet massages. Just seeing how our Pugly reacts when she spots Becky arriving says it all. She wiggles all over with excitement. Becky is also able to now offer specially tailored pet massage sessions

in your home or here at the kennels.

A date for the diary, we are helping organise the Weston Rotary Dog Day Saturday 11 May on Beach Lawns, Weston super Mare. Registration from 09:00 and lots and lots of charity stalls. We are helping on the stall run by the girls from Weston Breasts Cancer Support Group who are famous locally for their homemade dog treats and hand knitted dog coats. We have been busy making some quirky vintage teapot bird feeders for them to sell on their stall so please come and say hello.

Happy Easter from Family and Staff @ Whitehouse



## TOP TIPS FOR INJURY-FREE GARDENING!

As we are heading towards the summer months, the time has come to start getting the garden ready! Having had a break over the autumn & winter it is really tempting to hit the gardening hard which your body won't be used to. I have put together some top tips to ensure that getting your garden ship-shape will not lead to pain or injury!

1. **Warm up** - Doing the garden can feel like a full on workout so you should treat it as one! A few mobility & dynamic stretching exercises should do the trick.
2. **Wear comfortable clothing** - Make sure you are suitably dressed for the activities that you are going to carry out in the garden. It is a good idea to wear clothing that is non-restrictive so you are able to move freely.
3. **Keep moving** - make sure that you don't stay in the same position for too long & take regular breaks.
4. **Stay hydrated** - as with any other exercise, & especially if it is warm & sunny, make sure you drink plenty of fluid & take regular breaks to do this.
5. **Use padding under your knees** - if you are weeding or tending to flower beds & kneeling, make sure that you have a cushion or something similar under your knees.
6. **Choose the right tools** - try & use a long-handled tool where possible to stop you having to bend over or over-stretch.
7. **Lift sensibly** - Bend your knees, keep your back straight & hug the weight close to your body. Get help if the item is too heavy or awkward to lift on your own. Don't try & do everything in one go & know your own limits!

Hopefully you find these tips helpful but if you do end up with an injury or pain after gardening that is not getting better on its own, please see a health practitioner or your GP for further advice.

### About Me!

I have a First Class Honours degree in Sports Therapy from the University of Bath & have nine years of experience working within a clinic and with sports teams. I also have a degree in Exercise & Sports Sciences from the University of Exeter. Through personal experience of injury & the difficulties of returning to sport following this, I have a good understanding & empathy with anyone finding themselves in the same situation. My aim is to provide an optimum level of treatment & advice for those who are seeking a return to fitness.

In addition to my Sports Therapy work I am also a Pilates Instructor & I currently teach the Pilates class on a Friday morning at Bleadon Coronation Halls.

**Emma Hunter**





### News from your community policing team

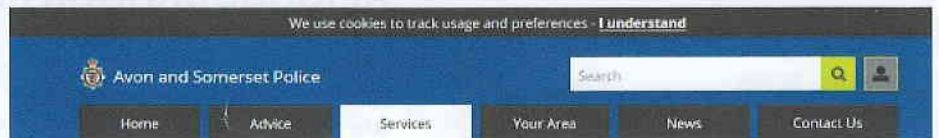
A friendly reminder that local PCSO's Aisha Mitchell and Kayley Anderson can be reached via 101 and the Avon and Somerset Website.

PCSO Anderson is continuing to encourage local residents to sign up to Horse Watch and Farm Watch. Contact Kayley if you have any queries or are interested in receiving property marking.

PCSO Mitchell is the current Unit Leader for WSM Police Cadets, a group of 14-17 yr. olds with a keen interest in the Police. If you have any village events or local clubs and groups that would like the Cadets to attend please contact Aisha.

If there are any local groups that you feel would benefit from an input from the police, whether this be on protecting property, fraud and scams or anything else you can think of, please contact us to arrange

**Aisha Mitchell**



Home > Services > Watch & Community Schemes >

### Horse Watch

We work closely with the equine community through its members and volunteers to help keep them informed of any horse or rural related incidents. This process is supported by the Horse Watch scheme.



### Watch & Community Schemes

- Neighbourhood Watch Scheme
- Community SpeedWatch
- Farm Watch
- Working Together - Police, Partners & Community
- Community Safety Accreditation Scheme

### The aims of the scheme

- To reduce local opportunities for rural crime.
- To reinforce the community spirit so that everyone can contribute towards the protection of their horses by mutual co-operation and communication.
- To introduce early warning systems in the equine community.
- To improve the intelligence flow between the equine communities and the police.

### How the aims are achieved

- Text, email and landline voicemail alerts for members of the community.
- Intelligence gathered by Police on all equine related crimes and suspicious incidents.
- Visits from local PCSOs.
- Crime Reduction Officer can visit you and give advice on securing your horses.

### Benefits of the scheme

- A reduction in crime and the fear of crime impacting on the community.
- Suspicious people and vehicles can quickly be reported to the police and other members of the equine communities.
- Information and advice can be quickly and efficiently circulated between the police and the community.
- A crime vigilant community in partnership with the police will create a safer environment.

## Eastern Spice

29 Orchard Street, BS23 1RQ

01934 645972

We sell Indian, Thai, Chinese Spices

Opening Times 10.30am to 6pm Monday-Saturday



## Indian Massala Restaurant



**Special 3 Courses**  
Wednesday & Thursday  
**Only £10.95**

At the Indian Massala Restaurant in Bleadon, we've given authentic Indian cuisine a contemporary twist. Traditional Indian food is served within a relaxed environment that exceeds people's expectations.

**Tel: 01934 814996**

Bridgwater Road, Bleadon  
Somerset BS24 0AN

## NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN



Thank you so much to everyone who responded to the recent village survey.

We received 281 replies which is over 50% return and with some of you sharing a form the percentage return was even higher. A really great result.

Thank you too to the volunteers who distribute the Village News who undertook to deliver the survey. We could not have done it without you.

What happens next is that all the results and comments will be analysed and then the committee will be able to identify what the real concerns of parishioners are.

A second survey will then be conducted and a whole series of reports commissioned such as environmental and planning so that we have a way forward for parishioners.

Thank you again and magazine distributors I do hope you will be able to help with the second survey!!!

**Gill Williams**



## Bleadon Big Breakfast

On Saturday 2 February, the Friends of Bleadon Church laid on a 'BIG Breakfast' in the Coronation Hall. About 65 villagers enjoyed a full English breakfast during the course of the morning, with plenty of opportunity to chat to friends.

We are especially grateful to chef Liz Scarisbrick and her team of helpers for making it a most enjoyable morning.

The Friends' next event is the St. David's Day Lunch on 3 March in the Coronation Hall. Tickets are available from Liz (813125), Mary Hollis (811165), Cathy Heycock (813314), and we hope to see you there.

**George Scott**

## Note from the Editor



*The views expressed in Bleadon News are not necessarily those of the Parish Council or the Editor*

Our thanks to the leaflet distributors as the Bleadon News is delivered to every house by a team of volunteers.

Bleadon News is your paper—please contribute you news and views and articles and contact us about Advertising. The anticipated copy deadline dates are 8th May, 8th August, 8th November 8th January.

Contact the Editor Kirsten Hemingway [writer@kirstenhemingway.co.uk](mailto:writer@kirstenhemingway.co.uk) for advertising rates and information.

*The Editor reserves the right to reject articles or adverts for any reason.*

**Kirsten Hemingway**



## **Saint David's Day Lunch**

**SUNDAY MARCH THE 3 RD**

**At the Coronation Hall**

**TIME 12.00 FOR 12.30 PM**

### **MENU**

**LAMB SHANK**

**OR**

**SHORTBREAD PASTRY POCKET FILLED  
WITH VEGETABLE LUSHNESS)**

**(WELSH ORANGE CHEESECAKE)**



**Ticket 12.50 pp**

<b>Tickets from</b>	<b>Mary Hollis</b>	<b>811 165</b>
	<b>Cathy Heycock</b>	<b>813 314</b>
	<b>Liz Scansbrick</b>	<b>813 125</b>



# Bleadon Wild

## Water vole

As the days lengthen, the chances of seeing water voles feeding in daylight increases. They are most commonly seen along the length of the rhyme on Bridge Road and Coronation Road. but may well exist along side other



bodies of water and are capable of forming colonies on open ground away from water.

As we move into spring you may even see courting and mating behaviour. Courting is quite a vigorous activity featuring frantic chasing along the bank and even 'hand to hand' combat. Latrines with tic tac like faeces mark out the breeding territories. We would like to know more about populations of voles in the area. The Facebook group "in and around Bleadon" is a good place to report sightings and share pictures.

## Woodpecker

We are lucky to have both Great Spotted and Green



Woodpeckers breeding in Bleadon. The red, black and

white Great Spotted Woodpeckers are the ones you are most likely to see on your garden feeders. They seem to go for peanuts and fat balls or blocks, particularly if the fat contains insects or mealworms. At this time of year listen out for the males "drumming". They pick a hollow sounding bit of wood, or even a metal cover on a man made structure to hammer on, in short bursts, to advertise their breeding territory.

The Green Woodpeckers can also be seen in gardens, but are shyer birds. They are most often seen feeding on the ground, for example eating ants on the lawn or on dead, rotting wood. Listen out for their distinctive "yaffle"

Both varieties breed in holes in trees. As they get bigger, the youngsters come to the entrance to be fed by the parents

## Short eared Owl

If you go out for a walk along the Axe from the Bleadon Levels nature reserve towards Uphill, there is a chance that you



will encounter short-eared owls. These owls breed further north, but come here in winter and can be seen any time between November and May. They roost low down in long grass or bushes and their streaked markings provide fantastic camouflage. Although short-eared owls can hunt at night, they can also be seen hunting in daylight (typically owls with yellow or orange eyes are more likely to hunt in daylight). From perches on driftwood or fence posts, they will make low flights, surveying the ground, turning on a sixpence to drop down after voles and small mammals (they will also take birds and insects)

## Experts in our Community

Property Expert David Plaister explains that clutter, lack of storage, pets, bad smells, over grown gardens and general mess are the top turn offs when buyers view a home. With prospective buyers forming opinions within the first few seconds of walking through the front door, the survey from sofa and carpet specialist ScS looked at the top turn offs and the top attractive features for viewers.

It found that 41 per cent listed clutter and an obvious lack of places for storage was the biggest turn off while 40 per cent said pets, bad smells and a general mess around the property.

Some 36 per cent said that they would be put off by old or damaged carpets, 35 per cent by an old or messy kitchen and 33 per cent if the property was affected by a nearby main road.

When it comes to the kind of attributes that attract buyers, some 57 per cent said the right number of bedrooms was necessary while 40 per cent said off-street parking. Then 32 per cent said it was a well-maintained garden, 31 per cent new windows and 30 per cent a new kitchen.

Over a third, some 39 per cent of males were put off by pets, bad smells and general untidiness, whereas clutter or obvious lack of storage came up as the biggest bugbear for women. Although people in most places in the UK voted clutter or lack of storage the biggest turn-off, in Manchester 41 per cent of house viewers said that old and damaged carpets would be the first thing to put them off putting in an offer. While 51 per cent of people in Liverpool said inconsiderate neighbours would be the biggest issue to deter them from buying a property.

Older buyers, those aged 45 and over, were more concerned with pets, bad smells and general untidiness. People in this age bracket are usually searching for their 'forever home' and lingering smells can be very off-putting when moving in to a new property.

David explains that buyers will look at the front of a house and immediately create perceptions of the entire home before viewing it: "If your front door needs a fresh lick of paint, get it done, those first impressions are all so important.

"Colours are key in the home for helping to sell the property. Red is scientifically proven to raise heartbeats and evoke an energetic atmosphere. Yellows and oranges are perfect for creative thinking and kick off trails of thought when seen. These colours can, therefore, be considered to be distracting to viewers. There is science behind sticking to simple tones and colour choices, so think first before picking up the paint roller. Decorating is a key part of presenting your property adequately," he explained.

"If your property doesn't offer broad appeal and has too many quirky design features and impractical pieces throughout the home, it's not going to be viewed positively," he added.



**BRIDGE GARAGE**  
Bridge Road, Bleadon, BS24 0AU 01934 812206  
[enquiries@bridgegarage.com](mailto:enquiries@bridgegarage.com)

Serviceing & MOT  
Car sales  
Repairs  
Computer diagnostics  
Air conditioning  
Attended Filling station

**Because we care**

# WHAT'S ON IN BLEADON?

<b>Mon 7-8pm &amp; 8-9pm Jubilee Room</b> Marie Keele	Aerobics	01934 270853 / 07939 038071	mariekeele@hotmail.co.uk
<b>Tues 10.30-12.30 Coronation Hall</b> Tina Dodd	Art Class	01934 843660	sandtdodd@btinternet.com
<b>Thurs 10-12noon Jubilee Room</b> Stevie Rhodes	Bleadon Art Group	01934 813497	
<b>Mon 2-5pm Coronation Hall</b> Doug Norfolk Judith Hutton	Bridge Club Bridge Club	01934 812128 / 07547 163862	dougn@btinternet.com judithhutton341@googlemail.com
<b>Tues 5.30-7pm Jubilee Room (Term time only)</b> Jacqui Hall-Scott	Brownies	07730 498371	j.hallscott@btinternet.com
<b>Thurs 3.30-5pm Jubilee Room Term time only</b> Linzi Furneaux	Dance School	07787 338003	linzi_furneaux@msn.com
<b>3rd Mondays 7-10pm Coronation Hall</b> Debbie Thorne	Holistic Therapy	07905 537118	debbiethorne37@hotmail.com
<b>Fridays 2-4pm Coronation Hall</b> Gordon Brown	Friendship	01934 811926	NO EMAILS
<b>3rd Thursdays 7.30pm Coronation Hall</b> Les Masters (Chair) Ian Gibson (Treasurer) Kevin Barrett (Secretary) Scott Morris (Players) Betty Patterson (Village) Dave Shephard (Village) Gill Williams Jane Derrick (WI) Pam Lamb Steve Hartree	Halls Management Committee Halls Management Committee Halls Management Committee Halls Management Committee Halls Management Committee Halls Management Committee Halls Management Committee Halls Management Committee Halls Management Committee Halls Management Committee	01934 811976 01934 814261 01934 811267 / 07855 225049 07963 747572 01934 812183 07884 270476 01934 813255 01934 811464 01934 812706 01934 811849	lesleymasters246@btinternet.com igibson6@sky.com kevinbarrett240@btinternet.com scott@dotphotographic.co.uk gilbet.paterson@btinternet.com carol51@tiscali.co.uk gwilliams28@btinternet.com jane.tony@talktalk.net pamlamb@btinternet.com stevenhartree194@btinternet.com
<b>3rd Tues (Oct-June) 7.30pm Coronation Hall</b> Libby Boucher Rose Benjamin	Horticultural Horticultural	07966 563495	libbyboucher2003@gmail.com
<b>3rd Sat (both halls) 9-12.30pm</b> Jo Jones	Market	01934 812370	jojonesbleadon@tiscali.co.uk
<b>2nd Monday 7.30 Coronation Hall</b> Steve Hartree Marian Barber	Parish Council Parish Council	01934 811849 07453 358318	stevenhartree194@btinternet.com parishclerk@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk
<b>1st, 2nd, 4th &amp; 5th Tues Sept-May. 7.30pm. Coronation Hall</b> Trevor Hartgroves Mark Frisby	Photographic Photographic	01934 239011 01934 812573 / 07796 693032	t.hartgroves@sky.com marknfrisby@yahoo.com
<b>Wed 7-8pm Jubilee room</b> Corinne Mutlow	Pilates	07919 532960	coz@cmutlow.com
<b>Fridays 9.30-10.30am Jubilee Room</b> Emma Hunter	Pilates	07787 563775	emma@ehsportstherapy.com
<b>Wed 7.30pm &amp; shows 4th weekend in Jan, May &amp; September</b> Peter Gibbon	Bleadon Players	0785 9001468	peter@mpgifa.co.uk
<b>Tues &amp; Sun 2.30-4.30pm (Sept-May) Fri 7-9pm (all year round) Jubilee room</b> Kevin Barrett Graham Rogers Paul Shand	Short Mat Bowls Short Mat Bowls Short Mat Bowls	01934 811267 / 07855 225049 01934 811571 01934 814445 / 07970 868163	kevinbarrett240@btinternet.com
<b>4th Thurs 7.30-9.30pm Jubilee Room</b> Sue Dennelly	Bleadon Sugarcraft Club	07891 996707	bleadonsugarcraftclub@gmail.com
<b>Thurs Coronation Hall 9.30-11.30am Term Time only</b> Rachel Booth Catherine Saunders	Toddlers Toddlers - Treasurer	07856 125163	boothr12@yahoo.co.uk catherine_saunders@hotmail.co.uk
<b>2nd Thurs Coronation Hall 7.30pm</b> Kate James - Secretary Michelle Harper - President Karen Grainger - Treasurer	Womens Institute Womens Institute Womens Institute	07775 795977 07780 688830 07795 546058	bleadonwi@hotmail.co.uk
<b>Tues 8-10pm Jubilee Rooms</b> Viv Kimber Jane Derrick	Womens Institute Choir Womens Institute Choir	01934 811464	v.kimber@btopenworld.com jane.tony@talktalk.net
<b>Oct-April Thurs Coronation Hall 2-4pm</b> Sue Norfolk	WSM Croquet/Whist	01934 812128 / 07484 233086	suenorfolk99@gmail.com
<b>Mon 9.30-10.30am Jubilee Room</b> Cheri	Yoga	07717 290708	info@uniquebalance.co.uk
<b>Thurs 7.15pm Jubilee Room</b> Claire McGrath	Iyengar Yoga	07871 167141	mooreclaire20@gmail.com
<b>Other Contacts</b> Kate James Jeanette Badger Anne Bird-Kellog Dave Hobbs Paul Williams Tony Derrick Keith Pyke Chris Butler Bill Blacklock	Bookings Officer Church Rooms Cleaner Dishwasher/Market Electrician/Kubix Security Youth Club Hall Bleadon Bob Caretaker	01934 814955 / 07775 795977 01934 811490 0776 5525296 01934 815090 07922 422312 01934 811464 01934 813127 01934 813031 / 07747 801753	bleadoncoronationhalls@gmail.com

## BLEADON PARISH COUNCILLORS ATTENDING:

DATE	MEETING	PURPOSE
16 Feb 2019	Bleadon Market – 'meet your councillors' – time for a chat	Information
20 Feb	Neighbourhood Planning Group	NPG
11 March	Parish Council	Council
16 March	Bleadon Market – 'meet your councillors' – time for a chat	Information
20 March	Neighbourhood Planning Group	NPG
1 April	Planning Committee	Council
8 April	ANNUAL PARISH MEETING (APM) – this is convened and chaired by the Parish Council but is an informal meeting of the electorate to receive reports of the work of the PC during the past year. Also the opportunity for residents to raise issues of concern or interest.	Public meeting
15 April	Planning Committee	Council
17 April	Neighbourhood Planning Group	NPG
20 April	Bleadon Market – 'meet your councillors' – time for a chat	Information
2 May	Local Council Elections	NSC
13 May	Annual Meeting of the Parish Council (AMPC)	Council
6 June	Public Meeting regarding 200 homes appeal – discussion regarding the process; comments to inform the Parish Council's response at the Appeal.	Public meeting
10 June	Parish Council	Council

19th March 2019  
24th May 2019  
9th June 2019

Bleadon In Bloom Wildflower Planting and Litter Picking 10.00am Meet at Bleadon Village Hall  
Bleadon in Bloom Tub Preparation Meet 10.00am at Bleadon Village Hall  
Open Garden Day Village Hall 10.00am

**Bleadon Christmas Market** was buzzing at the beginning of December. The three village halls were filled with festive stalls. The Market Café was busy selling hot mince pies and other delicious snacks and drinks.

The Secret World owls were a big hit.

And the Christmas Raffle table was frantically selling tickets from the word go. As always it was a great atmosphere and a chance to meet friends and do some shopping. A great way to raise funds for

our village halls.

The Market is held every month on the third Saturday. We couldn't do it without all the wonderful helpers and volunteers who keep it going.



## **BLEADON GARDEN SERVICES** **Landscape Gardening**

**Fully Qualified Gardener and Landscape Designer**

- ✦ All forms of Garden Maintenance - no garden too small
- ✦ Correct shrub pruning techniques
- ✦ Landscape/Garden design
- ✦ Garden Overhauling / clearance

30 Years experience including Redesign and re-landscaping of numerous Public Parks

**CONTACT: Joe Souly, Hillcote,  
Bleadon Hill,  
07903 323885**



## Your Parish Council - come and meet us at the market

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE NUMBER
Jim Baines (Chairman)	Shalom", Purn Way	814243
Mary Sheppard (vice Chairman)	The Incas, Bleadon Road	812921
Steve Hartree	Chestnuts, Chestnut Lane	811849
Kirsten Hemingway	Southerly, Purn Way	814450
Jo Richardson	Selicks, Celtic Way	07859 066400
Andy Scarisbrick	Westdown Cottage, Purn Way	07747 626875
Anne Selway	Jackstones, Purn Way	07514 531530
Gill Williams	5 Pine Lea	813255

### TRAVEL TO WORK SURVEY

How do you get to work? Are you satisfied with your journey? Have your say and tell us about your commute in the Travel to Work Survey from 11-17<sup>th</sup> March.

It takes 5 minutes to complete the survey online and there are prizes to win! By participating you are helping us understand commuting behaviour and plan for future transport needs. To take part go to

[www.travelwest.info/survey](http://www.travelwest.info/survey) from 11th March. For more information please contact [sustainable.travel@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:sustainable.travel@n-somerset.gov.uk)



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T 01934 260 017  
M 07976 516 058  
E [darren.bishop.uk@gmail.com](mailto:darren.bishop.uk@gmail.com)



## The Bleadon WI Choir

### The End of an Era and a New Beginning for the Bleadon Belles

The Choir were sad to be saying goodbye to Andy King at the end of January. Andy joined the choir as Choirmaster in February 2014 when they had only been going for a few months. They immediately knew that Andy was just right for them, with his natural musical talent and cheerful personality. It was Andy who took the choir to the finals of the NFWI Centenary Singing for Joy competition in 2015 which in spite of their inexperience they actually won. The high point of their rapid rise to success was singing at the Royal Albert Hall in June that year.

At a farewell party at the end of January, the choir gave a stirring rendition of their winning song "Singing for Joy" and other favourites. Andy was presented with an album of his time with the Belles. They wish him well for the future, but he will be sadly missed.

Now the choir are determined to keep going, and are actively seeking a replacement. It will be hard, but not impossible. Watch this space!

Jo Jones



## BLEADON WI

Since Dr Amy Frost, from Bath University, gave her talk on 'The Creation of Georgian Bath', visits to Bath have been seen in a different light: not only is it worth looking up, above the shop fronts, but it is also very interesting to see the rear of the buildings, which more ably show the history of the architecture and a glimpse into Bath's intriguing past.

December was a busy month: despite a blustery and often wet night, it was good to see so many members and villagers at our carol service on 7 December. The carol singing afterwards, at The Queen's Arms, was enjoyed, as were the mincepies and hot mulled wine, kindly provided by the landlord. Collections were made for the Youth Club and the Mother & Toddlers Group. More carols were enjoyed when a group of members travelled to St Mary Redcliffe, Bristol later in the month to take part in the Federation's carol service.

Fantastic support was given to the local Gemini Project at our December meeting, with donations of toiletries, small gifts, books, etc and, as always, donations were also brought for the local Food Bank.

The New Year got off to a good start with a talk by Michael Eavis, of Worthy Farm, Pilton on how the first 'Pilton Pop Festival' started in 1970, with Marc Bolan of T.Rex headlining, through to its transformation into the 'Glastonbury Music Festival', looking to mark its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2020. And, yes, Michael did come wearing his trademark shorts and sandals!

We now looking forward to marking our 10th year as a WI – what a lot to look back on and going forward! We are now looking to set ourselves ten challenges and to celebrate a very special year. If you wondered why there were some unusual noises coming from the Coronation Hall in February, we were trying 'Flamenco' dancing - olé! Not that our March meeting will be quiet, if we're sampling local beers!

Libby Lockyer



## Bleadon Horticultural Society

Dr George Hargreaves brought a colourful start to the New Year with an illustrated talk on camellias. Flowering from autumn to late spring, some of the best collections of camellias in the UK can be found in the great gardens of Devon and Cornwall.

Mark Perry, Chairman of the Hutton in Bloom volunteers is our speaker on 19 February, when we hope to pick up some useful tips on preparing for Bleadon in Bloom.

The 45th Annual Spring Show will be held in the Coronation Hall on Saturday 9 March. Show schedules detailing classes are available from Bleadon Post Office Shop, the Queens and the church porch. Entries should be submitted to Bleadon Post Office Shop by 4.30pm on Thursday 7 March. Doors open to the public on Saturday at 2.30pm. Entry is £1 for adults, under 16 free. Refreshments available.

We welcome speakers for the following dates:

- 16 April The importance of my garden to me - Sally James
- 21 May Bristol University Botanic Garden - A new garden for the 21st Century - Ann Brake
- 18 June Vegetable Growing - John Studley
- 17 July Coach trip - destination to be confirmed



We meet in the Coronation Hall at 7.30pm. Admission is £2. Refreshments are available and all are welcome.

**Rose Benjamin  
and Libby Boucher**

Healthy Weston is the programme to join up services for better care in Weston-super-Mare, Worle and surrounding areas. This includes the future for services at Weston General Hospital.

The public consultation runs until midday on Friday 24 May 2019 and copies of the consultation document will be available at local GP practices, pharmacies, libraries and community centres.

A number of public engagement events and roadshows will also be held providing further opportunities to hear more about the proposals and share views.

### **Have your say on Healthy Weston hospital proposals**

February 13, 2019

Local residents are being invited to have their say on NHS proposals to create a stronger and more focused Weston Hospital at the heart of the local community.

[READ MORE](#)

<https://bnssghealthiertogether.org.uk/have-your-say-on-healthy-weston-hospital-proposals/>





## Croquet in Bleadon

In the centre of Bleadon is a delightful spot opposite the local post office shop and cafe which is known as Weston-super-Mare Croquet Club, and we are members of the Croquet Association. Our club moved from Clarence Park to Bleadon in 2009 and we will celebrate our tenth year in Bleadon in 2019.

Many of our members live in Bleadon and take an active role in village life. We are always delighted to welcome new members of all abilities and age. Coaching and teaching is available to all new players. We can arrange a trial period before a prospective member is required to join the club.

Association Croquet and Golf Croquet At the club we play two forms of Croquet on six lawns, which convert into three large lawns for major competitions. Both forms of the game are played as singles or doubles using six hoops. Association Croquet is an interesting game which requires the player to play the ball through every hoop in a prescribed order. Probably if you have ever played garden croquet and had your ball hit into the shrubbery then you were trying to play Association! In fact it's a very well organised game with no foot on the ball or sending the opponents ball off the lawn! Games usually last about two hours. Then we have Golf

Croquet an alternative form of the game where it is the first player through the hoop that scores the point. All players then move on to the next hoop in a prescribed order. These games last about 40 to 50 minutes. This of course, is a very simplistic explanation but we recommend you come and have a try! Both forms of the game have organised afternoons for club members, which are well attended. Our season runs from approximately the beginning of April until October, weather permitting. Lawns are available from 10.00am until dusk. If passing our ground in winter you will notice on-going activity as our members are very keen to improve our lawns and grounds and keep them in good condition. The Club has a purpose built Boule court with an active group who play regularly. A Boule only membership is available whilst Croquet members have boule included in their membership. The Club has Croquet teams in the South West Federation Croquet Leagues. This year the Club has achieved very good results with many of our members taking part in these leagues matches. Members are required to wear whites when playing in league matches and club competitions whilst for other club activities players may wear casual clothes. A must have, however is flat shoes or sandals. The Club runs Social Events throughout the year, run at cost. At the end of the Season we hold our Fun(d) Raising Day; a social event to help our funds and give all our members a croquet fun day to remember. National Croquet Day will be held on Sunday 12th May 2019, a date to put in your diaries. Come in throughout the day and try your hand at Croquet. There will be members playing and members to introduce you to the delights of Croquet. The day is free to all visitors; equipment is provided and the club is open from 11.00am until 4.00pm. We look forward to welcoming you. Check us on our website <http://www.westoncroquet.co.uk/#> or [www.facebook.com/groups/1619544241658881/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1619544241658881/)

**Jeanette Stuchbery Chairman**  
**Weston Super Mare Croquet Club**



Take part in the **£5 FLOWER CHALLENGE**. Create an imaginative arrangement for less than £5, then display it in the Church over the holiday. Call Gill Williams 813255

# Bleadon

**MONDAY 6 MAY**

**11am - 4pm**

**Admission £2**

Wristband includes **FREE** goes on most games

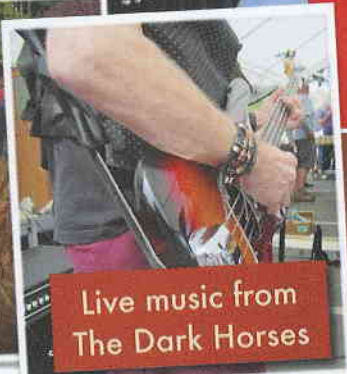
# MAY DAY FAYRE



**May Day Holiday Monday 6 May 11am - 4pm**  
Coronation car park, play area, Coronation Halls, Youth Club and Church



**Fun and entertainment all day for the whole family**  
Inflatable, Climbing wall, Teddy Zip-wire, Secret World animals, Wood turning



Live music from **The Dark Horses**

## MORRIS DANCERS

at 12:15 and 1:45pm

## FOOD

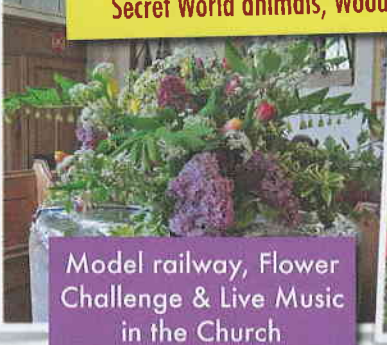
throughout the day  
in the Coronation Hall  
+ outside stalls

## Licensed BAR

Beers, cider, wines

## BRIC-A-BRAC BARGAINS GALORE

throughout the day  
in the youth club



Model railway, Flower Challenge & Live Music in the Church



Plant sales

**Admission £2** Wristband includes **FREE** goes on most games

**Free** admission for children under 2yrs

**FREE GAMES  
DEMONSTRATIONS + STALLS**

to challenge and entertain

## Bleadon Dark Skies

### Night Sky Delights throughout March

If one looks up to the heavens during March then a little bit of navigating around the stars will reveal some wonderful objects to enjoy.

The constellation of Orion The Hunter is very well placed in the southern sky from around 7pm onwards and if one takes a bit of time to look to the south of Orion's three main belt stars they should be able to make out a faint fuzzy patch of light. This area is known as Orion's Sword and contains the Great Orion Nebula, a vast area of gas and dust which is the birthplace of new stars.

The nebula (Latin for cloud) lies about 1600 light years away from Earth which means the nebula is seen by us as it was 1600 years in the past as the light takes this long to reach us. Amazing when you consider light travels at 186000 miles per second. Work out how many miles this is over 1600 years!!

If we then navigate from Orion to the north west we can see the famous open star cluster the Pleiades, or more often known as the Seven Sisters. This inhabits the constellation of Taurus the Bull. These stars are fairly young in astronomical terms and it always been a good test of the local skies to see how many stars can be counted. The darker the skies the more stars will become visible.

To the south east of Orion is Sirius, the brightest star in the night sky. This star is about 9 light years from Earth and resides in the constellation of Canis Major the Great Dog. It is a main sequence star and is around two times the size of our own Sun. It was a very influential object in ancient Egypt where it was known as the Dog Star.

Finally, for those wishing to stay up to the early hours then the king of the planets Jupiter will be seen rising in the East. This massive planet is larger than all of the other Solar System planets combined and is made up of mainly hydrogen and helium with a likely small Earth sized rocky core.



It is a very active planet with huge storms raging with the most well known of these being the Great Red Spot. This storm is twice the size of our planet and has been active for at least the last three hundred years. To the naked eye the planet looks like a very bright star but with a small telescope it can easily be seen to be the planet it is with its four main Galilean moons circling Jupiter as well as its major cloud belts.

**Joanne Richardson**



### Bleadon Café

It feels like the summer is just around the corner and we are busy getting the Café ready for all the visitors to our village. The team here are keen to welcome groups that would like to set up regular meetings here and happy to host parties—come in and see us if you are passing.

We are planning a Mothers Day Lunch specials, treat those Special Mums and Grandmas we are taking bookings now ... Contact us by email on— [zo-esols82@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:zo-esols82@hotmail.co.uk) for more details also slimmer's the price and slimmer the menu 2 meals for £10 selected menu only .....

Don't forget out new our new telephone number 01934 814339



## CORONATION HALLS UPDATE

Universities offer an astonishing range of degree subjects nowadays but I don't think Village Hall Management is one of them -yet. It is left to a bunch of unqualified amateurs who have to learn (often by their mistakes) as they go along, and it is by no means an easy task. We do of course receive chunks of unsolicited advice from self-appointed experts, but it is rarely helpful.

To begin with, we have a large building to maintain, inside and out. When problems occur they often need to be dealt with as quickly as possible so that hirers can continue to use the facilities in the normal way. For example, last year we had to replace the water boiler in the main kitchen and have emergency work done on one of the heaters. At the time of writing we are replacing the electric cooker in the Jubilee Room and the insect trapper in the main kitchen (I bet you didn't know we had one of them).

Maintenance is not enough on its own. There has to be improvement as well. The major alterations a couple of years ago are basically a vast improvement but they brought numerous teething problems which were gradually overcome, often after hirers pointed out things that we had overlooked although they were obvious once we were shown. A recent relatively minor one which passed unnoticed by the majority of users was the need for a mirror. There was one in the gents' toilet and several in the ladies' toilet (imagine the outcry if they had not been provided!), but none in the disabled toilet. The contractor missed it and for two years the committee missed it. Once a user drew attention to it our hall supervisor, Bill Blacklock, got busy and installed one. A much bigger improvement of the "why didn't we think of that before?" variety is the recently created pedestrian access at the southern end of the building. The idea came from Steve Hartree and as the land belongs to the parish council their approval had to be obtained, the result being a jointly funded venture. Meanwhile we continue to build up funds for the refurbishment of the main kitchen, where some of the equipment has been in place longer than most of the committee can remember.

We also need to keep pace with change. An example is the provision of Wi-Fi, which was unheard of not so long ago. At the moment there has been a blip in our arrangements, leading to unfavourable comments, and we are in discussion with other parties. We have to accept that the cost of this has to become part of our budget. Another cost of which we have been given warning is that of rubbish collection. At present the collection is treated as domestic by North Somerset but this is likely to change, resulting in further cost to the halls. On these grounds alone we need to reduce the amount put out for collection, at the same time as we need to make our contribution to improving the environment. We therefore suggest to hirers, present and potential, that their activities should generate the smallest possible amount of waste. The ladies who provide the refreshments at the monthly market set an admirable example. Their kitchen is very busy but at the end of the morning the amount of rubbish does not even fill one black bag. There are weeks, however, when the number of black bags put out for collection at the car park exit is a very embarrassing advertisement for our community. We should like to see all events and activities organised with that consideration in mind.

**Les Masters**

### **Mark Howe**

#### **Gardening Services**

**9 Malvern Road, Weston-Super-Mare**

**Phone 01934 413594 or 07773272003**

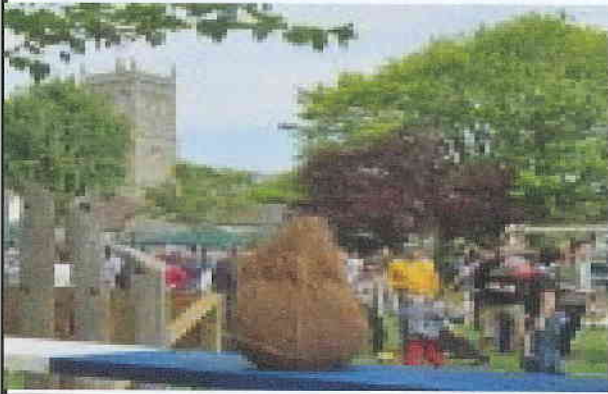
- **REGULAR GRASS CUTTING**
- **HEDGES AND TREES CUT**
- **SHRUBS PRUNED**
- **FENCE PAINTING**
- **TURFING**
- **PATIOS AND CHIPPINGS LAID**
- **LAWN TREATMENTS**
- **DECKING ERECTED**
- **PATIOS AND PATHS PRESSURE WASHED**
- **FENCING ERECTED AND REPAIRED**
- **SHED ERECTION & REPAIR**
- **BLOCK PAVING REPAIRS**

# Bleadon Open Gardens Day

We are busily preparing for the open garden afternoon on 9 June 2019. If you would like to open your garden, do please get in touch via [dandgpeacock@gmail.com](mailto:dandgpeacock@gmail.com) or 814237. To enable the programmes to be prepared, we do need a firm commitment by 31.3.19. All are encouraged to apply - it doesn't need to be a huge Capability Brown garden - you might have a small courtyard, or a work in progress, or a wildlife garden with little formal structure. It isn't a competition - just a chance to celebrate Bleadon's lovely gardens. We hope you would want to be involved in this community enterprise.

For those who don't feel able to do the whole open garden thing but who wish to support the community Bleadon in Bloom work, we would love it if you would 'garnish your gate' or 'decorate your front door' - in other words, do something extra special to the front of your house to make it look even better. For example, you might put a new pot outside, or a flower wreath on your front gate or door, or string some cheerful bunting to your front fence.

We know the Britain in Bloom judges will be visiting in July. And we feel that these little contributions that we can all make, relatively easily, will help with the competition. More than that though - they will show a community coming together to improve its environment and being glad for the privilege of living in such a lovely place.



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR OPENING YOUR GARDEN SUNDAY 9 JUNE 2019

NAME:

ADDRESS:

PHONE NUMBER:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF YOUR GARDEN:

IS IT SUITABLE FOR WHEELCHAIRS:

IS IT SUITABLE FOR LESS MOBILE VISITORS, FOR EXAMPLE PEOPLE USING WALKING STICKS?:

IS THERE SEATING AVAILABLE FOR VISITORS?:

IS THERE PARKING?:

ARE YOU WILLING FOR DOGS ON LEADS TO VISIT?:

PLEASE CONFIRM THAT YOU HAVE OBTAINED CONSENT FROM YOUR INSURANCE COMPANY TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS EVENT. (MOST INSURERS WILL BE FINE AND WILL NOT CHARGE YOU ANY EXTRA. BUT FOR YOUR PROTECTION PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU SPEAK TO YOUR INSURER BEFORE COMMITTING YOUR GARDEN.)

Bleadon on Bloom is well underway and there is a project plan available on the Parish Council Web site. We are keen to involve the community and would like a Bleadon in Bloom leader in every street. If you feel you could help please let us know.

We have a team of apprentices coming from Thatchers Cider to help with planting up the banks and creating the wildflower gardens but we will need help to plant up tubs, water tubs, make herb walls and help us to have a general tidy round.

Get in touch if you can help.—07710098804 or 815540

# WANTED



**your previously loved Teddy Bears and cuddly toys for Bleadon May Day Fayre Zip-Wire challenge.**

Call Keith on 01934 813 127  
or drop your old cuddlies off before 1 May  
at 8 Willow Drive, Bleadon BS24 0PB

**Your donated bears are in for the ride of their life on Monday 6 May**



Please call us on 01934 712229 for more details!



Proud to be independent, vet owned and operated.

Still offering our clients our own 24hour Out of Hours Service.



<u>Blackford</u>	<u>Cheddar</u>	<u>Wells</u>	<u>Woolavington</u>	<u>Bleadon</u>
Redmans Hill,	Saxon Court,	23 St Cuthbert's	Marlands Farm	Pum House Farm
Blackford,	Cheddar,	Wells,	Woolavington	Bleadon
BS28 4NE	BS27 3NA	BA5 2AW	TA7 8ED	BS24 0QE
01934 712229	01934 741292	01749 670966	01278 686971	01934 614156

## Bleadon in Bloom

Calling all Litter Pickers, tidy uppers and Planters—we have a team from Thatchers coming to help prepare the banks for Bleadon in Bloom but we need you too—please join us at 10.00am on the 19th of March at Bleadon Village Hall—bring tools if you have them!!

Also—we need people to look after a planter or tub—could you care for a tub local to your house? We need tub parents to make sure they are weeded and watered once we have planted up for Bleadon in Bloom.

This year we are entering the Pennant award. This is a more “light Touch” award that will help us to get started and get involved.

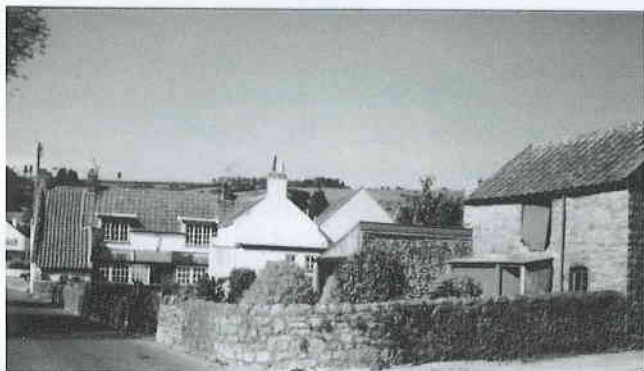
Talking of getting started and getting involved we would like to ask people if they would like to decorate their gates or entrances to provide some extra things to look at on the open garden day and to support Bleadon in Bloom.

Clearing Weeds from your own house fronts would be really useful. Judging for the competition is early June.





## Bleadon Cider Orchards



'The Victoria' in Bridge Rd

This was one of the other pubs in Bleadon, but unlike the others it only sold cider and beer - no spirits to be had here, nevertheless it was always busy! Regularly jugs of ale or cider were bought to be taken away for home consumption and local youngsters were often paid an old penny to carry jugs up the hill, not surprisingly some was quaffed along the way, and the stories go that many a jug of cider was topped up at the village pump before it got to its rightful consumer!

Between the wars 'The Victoria' was run by Miss Payne helped by Mrs. Lewis and later by Miss Mary Payne on her own.



Musicians outside 'The Victoria'.

After closing time it wasn't uncommon for the occasional drunken reveller to stagger across the road straight into the rhyme opposite. At best a soaking, at worst a near drowning!

Much of the cider drunk in 'The Victoria' came from other parts of Somerset, but Bleadon had its own orchards and at least one cider press, which was located at Manor Farm. Come autumn the fallen apples were gathered by village children and taken to the farm to be pressed in the time honoured way. The raw fruit was not always very palatable, so the youngsters didn't eat too many of these apples, if they did, they got quite a belly ache and not much sympathy!

Amongst the apple varieties were 'Morgan Sweets', 'Blenheims' and 'Tom Putts' - the former was renowned for being rather bland as an eating apple and so along with the others all went into the mix. It was the case then, and in some parts of the county still is, that if it was an apple, however old, bruised and musty, you could make cider with it! The resultant liquor was the good old-fashioned 'Scrumpy,' still much loved and widely available to this day.

The more refined ciders came later.

The orchards were located at Purn Farm along Purn Lane, Manor Farm, behind the allotments and along Bleadon Road up as far as Whitegate Farm -and there was one behind what is now the Coronation Hall. Remnants of some these old orchards can be seen today if you walk the footpath through the allotments towards the Post Office and Stores.

Apparently during the war there were a few caravans in one of the orchards; these were occupied a lot of the time by Bristol folk escaping the air raids, but some were just used as week-end retreats.

I'm sure there are plenty more of you who have memories of these 'happy cider days' -please let's hear from you - and if you have photos as well that would be even better!



*Postscript to this article first published a few years ago in Bleadon Village News.*

Over the past few years new orchards have been planted adjacent to Shiplate Road, just past Wonderstone, so there will be plenty of locally sourced cider for us all to enjoy for years to come.

**Penny Robinson** (Bleadon History Society)

*(Fond memories of the late Sylvia Bird who gave me the background for the original article).*

*This article is to be read with on update from Thatchers*

**Bleadon Orchards**

## Thatchers Bleadon Orchards

Back in 2010 Thatchers Cider acquired around 180 of orchards in Shiplate. These are stunning, south facing orchards which provide near perfect conditions for growing apples for Thatchers cidermaking.

With a light, loamy, free draining soil, the orchards are now home to 70,000 apple trees, which if you look closely, you'll see are planted in neat rows, in



the “hedgerow” style championed by Thatchers.

“By planting the trees in rows, tighter together and more like a hedge than traditional bush orchards, you can make the best use of light with the right pruning,” explains Chris Muntz-Torres, Thatchers orchard manager. “The trees are supported on wires, and planted 5 ft apart and grown to around 16 ft in height. Shaping of the young trees maximises the amount of light that reaches the fruit, giving us the great quality apples that our cidermakers need.”

In order to be able to supply the cider mill at Sandford with the range and quality of fruit required, Thatchers has been committed to research and innovation for many years, amongst other things developing and trialling new cider apple varieties with the National Association of Cider Makers.

At Shiplate Thatchers grows some of its favourite apple varieties – all bittersweet, such as Dabinett, Tremlett's and Somerset Redstreak, while also introducing some of the newer varieties such as Angela, Lizzie and Prince William.

As part of its extensive research, Thatchers maintains an exhibition orchard in Sandford, which

contains the largest collection of cider apple trees in the UK. Gathered by John Thatcher over the last 30 years, many of the 458 varieties homed in the orchard were brought across from Long Ashton Research Station in Bristol when it stopped fruit research back in the 1980s. This year Thatchers has produced a cider called Thatchers 458, that uses each of the apple varieties grown in the Exhibition orchard. A well-balanced, medium dry cider Thatchers 458 is a true showcase for the heritage of the apple, including the complete range of cider apple types - bittersweet, bittersharp, culinary sweet and culinary sharp. Lesser known and ancient varieties preserved in the Exhibition Orchard, are blended into Thatchers 458, including Vagon Archer, Wyken Pippin, Pigs Snout, Foxwhelp, Cider Ladies Finger, and Slack-ma-Girdle.

As we move through the year there's plenty to see at the Shiplate orchards. During the winter months there's ongoing “housekeeping” to be done, such as pruning and shaping of the trees, and in some orchards there'll be some planting. During spring you'll see the harvest team start mowing in between the rows of trees, and of course in May the blossom starts to appear. Shiplate is a sheltered, higher spot, so it is protected from late frosts but apple trees do need some winter chill to help their growth. Harvest starts at Shiplate mid-September, with the Somerset Redstreak apple the first to be ready. Prince William, Angela, Lizzie and Three Counties follow into October, with Dabinett often the last to be gathered in.

Finally, keep a look out for these stunning orchards in Thatchers new TV commercial that is aired from the beginning of February!





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