

Adieu from our much loved Clerk

I joined the council at a time of great challenge – three clerks had started and finished within the previous four years and only two councillors had been in post for any length of time. There was an air of mistrust and anxiety about the business of the council both among councillors themselves and the community at large. I have to say that I consider the concerns to be misguided as the council and its finances appeared to have been administered correctly. I was fortunate in having the experience and wisdom of the Chairman, Steve Hartree, to draw on in the first few months.

The co-option of five new councillors in May 2018 brought new opportunities and I like to think that I also helped to bring stability to the council. The council, and new chairman Jim Baines, quickly established a good working relationship despite most of the councillors being new to the role of councillor. I really enjoyed working with each and every one of the councillors during my employment – they are a great bunch of people and all of them, past and present, are committed to the success of Bleadon as a vital and vibrant rural parish. I was delighted that all eight councillors stood again in May 2019 and were elected uncontested as it meant that the work of the council could continue without pause.

Bleadon is a delightful parish filled with delightful people and I am proud to have played a small part in the successful 'Bleadon in Bloom' campaign and the 'Neighbourhood Plan' project. Both of these schemes demonstrate residents' desire to celebrate, improve and protect Bleadon now and in the future. Lots of work still to be done – I shall be watching with interest.

Why am I leaving? As many of you know I was diagnosed with lung cancer just three months after starting as Clerk – a complete shock to me as I was (so I thought) completely fit and well. The councillors were, and continue to be, incredibly supportive during my treatment and I am eternally grateful to them for making my 'journey' more bearable. I am now on a regime of 3-monthly scans – the last one was, like the curate's egg, good in parts. It is with great sadness that I am resigning but I would rather make an orderly handover now rather than wait and find a disorderly handover becomes necessary later!

I know that your new Clerk, Naomi, will bring order and good fortune to the council and the parish of Bleadon. She is a qualified and experienced clerk – AND a very nice person!

Marian Barber

Weston-super-Mare Croquet Club



Following our very successful Open Day, the Club has received applications from over ten people to learn how to play Croquet; a few from Bleadon village.

Our teams are doing well in the South West Leagues and our Club sessions are well supported as are our social events incorporating croquet.

New members are made welcome at these by our existing regular members.

The trees on the road are now growing well and afford a great habitation for wild life as well as no longer being a danger to our

members or road users. Fortunately they were cut before Hurricane Hannah hit the village which could have caused considerable damage on the road.

Unfortunately our marquee was lifted out of the ground and hurled through the air landing on the roof of the adjacent bungalow. The fire brigade were extremely helpful and repairs were very quickly put in place by the owners to protect from the extreme stormy weather.

Our season started early this year, in March, although we lost a few weeks to rain in April. We hope to extend our season into Autumn, weather permitting.

New members welcome. After three sessions to learn the rudiments of play, new members can join in the club afternoons and use the lawns for practice.

Jeanette Stuchbery Chairman. 01934 750421