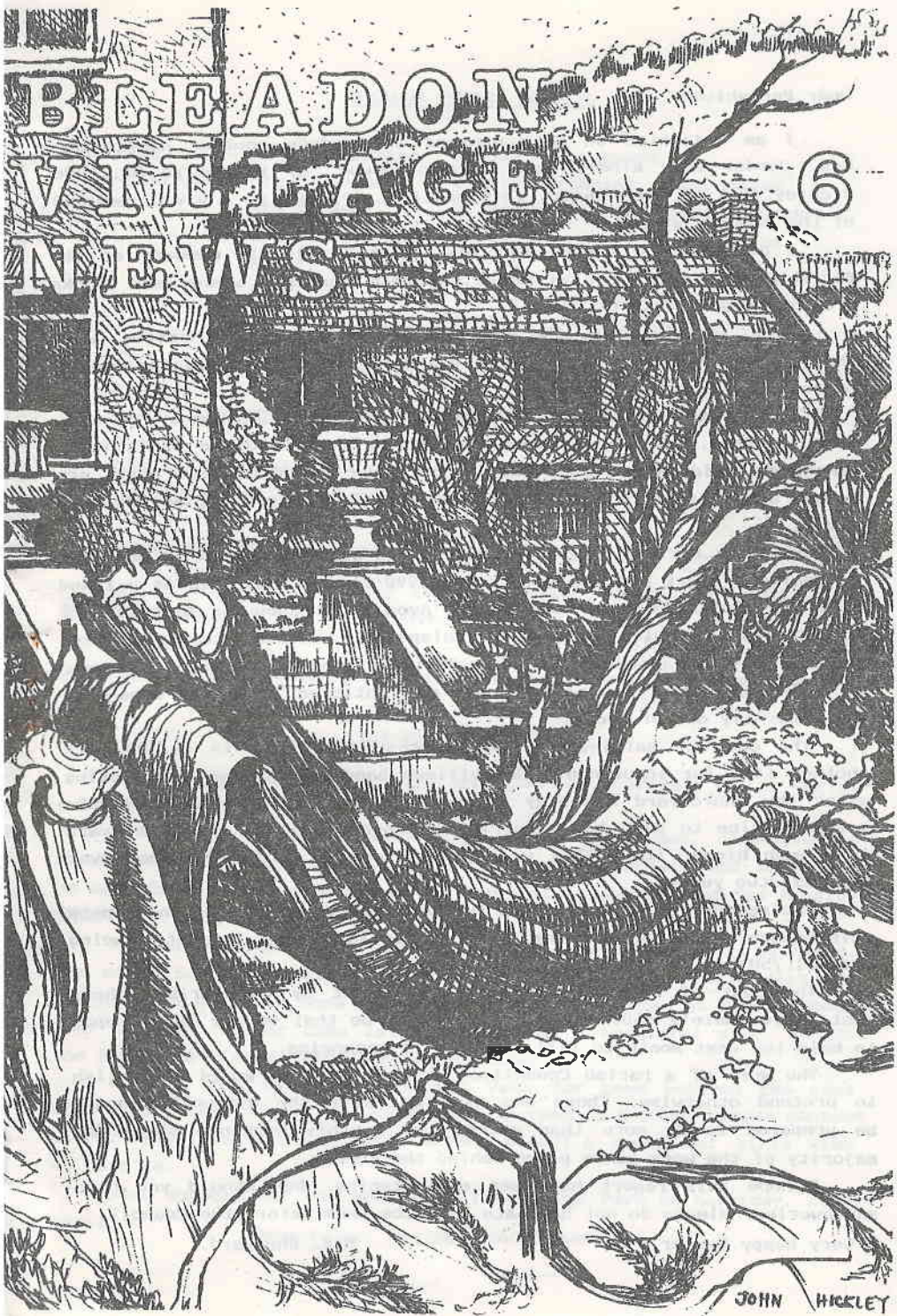


BLEADON VILLAGE NEWS

6



JOHN HICKEY

Dear Parishioner,

I am delighted we have managed to produce another newsletter. Mrs. Corder very kindly came to our rescue. My thanks to Mr. John Hickley for the front page. This explicit drawing is a vivid reminder of the January storms.

I am sorry to report the loss of two valuable members of the Parish Council - Mr. Doolan and Mr. Goodman. Our best wishes and thanks are extended to both of them.

March is of course, the month of our Annual Parish Meeting, when the electorate have their voices heard and can challenge the Parish Council on its activities.

The precept was fixed in January as laid down by Woodspring District Council, and we are endeavouring in this issue to explain the responsibilities which face the Parish Council and how the costs are spread across them. The actual figure is £ 8.22 - not £15 as has been quoted.

In order for the Parish Council to run efficiently, it is necessary to employ a Clerk and the salary for 1990/91 is £850. This is a fixed rate per capita as laid down by the Avon Local Councils Association. Administration costs fluctuate - telephone, postage, stationery and travelling - add another £500. The Chairman receives an annual allowance of £60, but other Councillors who are entitled to claim expenses, are generally out of pocket.

The cost of helping maintain your village hall is £1,200 with another £400 for insurance. Our village handyman's wages for looking after the Churchyard and play area so well will increase to £1,000, a small price to pay, but repairing the north wall in the Churchyard is a much bigger item. This is likely to cost £3 - 4,000 spread over the next two years.

The recreation area will add further expense in fencing and general maintenance. To give you some idea of outlays, the present fencing cost £1,750!

The cost of by-elections have to be met by the Parish. These cost approximately £500 a time, and it may be that we are called upon to hold two next month to fill our Council vacancies.

The work of a Parish Councillor is not easy. It would be foolish to pretend otherwise. Those who wish to serve the community should be prepared to do more than attend the monthly meetings since the majority of the work takes place behind the scenes.

I hope this report has been enlightening, but should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to place them before the Council.

A very happy Easter.

M.E. Sheppard.

BLEADON PARISH COUNCIL

| | | | |
|---------------|-------------------|--------|------------------------------|
| Chairman | - Mrs M. Sheppard | 812921 | Churchyard |
| Vice-Chairman | - Mrs M. Corder | 814719 | Planning, Open spaces. |
| | Mrs R. Ham | 813444 | Hall Management, Churchyard. |
| | Mrs J. Wilkinson | 812427 | A.L.C.A., Open spaces. |
| | Mrs R. Sanders | 814395 | Youth Club |
| | Mr G. Wall | 812203 | Open spaces, Churchyard. |
| | Mr R. Strode | 815141 | Open spaces, Youth Club. |

SITES OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST (SSSI)

1. Purn Hill, Bleadon.
2. Anchor Inn Section, Bleadon.

PLANNING AND Conservation Meeting held on 30th January, 1990

No objection was raised to the deletion of the area adjoining Purn Hill opposite the Anchor Inn, Bleadon.

M. Corder.

1ST BLEADON SCOUTS

A very big 'thank you' to all who gave so generously to our Christmas Float Appeal.

The troop enjoyed a very busy winter programme, competing in many district events ranging from a quiz to handball and swimming. We have been learning Photography, First Aid, Woodwork and Map Reading which will help towards badge work.

As summer approaches, our plans for camps are well advanced. The older Scouts compete in an overnight exercise on the Mendips and ending in a camp. We hope to attend a Jamboree in May at Hewish Woods near Taunton. Summer Camp is being held on a beautiful site, beside the River Barle near Tarr Steppes on Exmoor.

We are keen to start a Beaver Pack for boys between the ages of 6 to 8 years. If you are interested in running a pack, please contact either myself on 750666 or Helen Bowmer 814801. A number of girls wish to join us.

Please support our Car Boot Sale in the Car Park on Saturday, 21st April.

Dave Boley, Acting Scout Leader.

PLANNING

Several years ago, pressure was brought to bear on the Parish Council to endeavour to limit development within the village fence. Pursuing all matters related to planning involves costs. Structure plans, drafts and updates all have to be purchased. In other words, to hold on to our status as a village, we must be prepared to meet the costs of so doing.

| | | |
|---------|--|----------|
| 2911/89 | Garage. New House, Hillside Road. | Approved |
| 2381/89 | Residential Development, Willetts Mill. | Approved |
| 2980/89 | Extended use to 11 months, Purn Caravan Park. | Approved |
| 0010/90 | Change of land use, Rear of Stokesay. | Approved |
| 0040/90 | 2 Storey Extension, Edgehill. | Approved |
| 0252/90 | Dwelling. Rear of Hoveland, Shiplate Road. | |
| 0359/90 | Dwelling. Rear of Hope Cottage, Purn Way. | |
| 0295/90 | Farmhouse & Garage. Whitehouse Farm, Loxton. | |
| 0413/90 | Porch & Kitchen Extension, Shiplate Manor Cottage. | |

APPEAL

| | | |
|---------|----------------------|-----------|
| 0907/89 | 10 Houses, Purn Way. | Dismissed |
|---------|----------------------|-----------|

T.V. SATELLITE DISHES

No planning permission is required providing the following conditions are applied:-

1. One per house.
2. The dish is not more than 90cm in diameter.
3. It is not placed above ridge height of the roof.

M. Corder.

Contactus

Our members are faithfully continuing to effect our policy of welcoming newcomers and visiting the sick and housebound. We would appreciate more recruits for this purpose. Those prepared to help, please contact P. Ashley 812667 or myself 812436.

Last year we offered a grant of £50 towards improvements in the children's playground. Recently, the Committee agreed to increase this to £100 to be made available when required.

Our funds are raised mainly by an annual Barn Dancu, to be held this year on March 24th in the Coronation Hall.

John Tomlinson.
Vice-Chairman and P.R.O.

BLEADON CORONATION HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Our Spring Coffee Morning will be held on SATURDAY 7th APRIL. There will be various stalls, Bring & Buy, raffle etc. Admission 45p. 10.30 a.m. to noon. Tickets are available from the Post Office, Committee members, or at the door. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

L.J. Chamberlain. 814517
Chairman.

BLEADON CORONATION HALL

Spread out and enjoy yourselves! Save your carpets and have plenty of room in pleasant surroundings - use YOUR village hall for family parties, anniversaries, wedding receptions etc., etc. Special cheaper rates for residents. There is a large kitchen complete with oven, hot cupboard, fridge/freezer, cutlery and crockery. Heat and light plus two hours preparation time is included.

The following is a sample of the 1990 charges if you live in Bleadon or on Bleadon Hill:-

| | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|--------|
| Parties, dances etc. | 7p.m. - midnight | £30.00 |
| Wedding receptions | 11a.m. - 7p.m. | £30.00 |
| " " | 11a.m. - midnight | £42.50 |
| Luncheons | Noon - 5p.m. | £18.00 |
| Children's Party | 2-5p.m. | £10.00 |
| " " | (or 3-6 by arrangement) | |
| " " | 6-9p.m. (Sundays only) | £15.00 |
| Coffee morning | 10a.m. -noon | £12.00 |

For further information, please contact the Booking Officer Mrs. Jones. Bleadon 812370

DON'T FORGET THE BLEADON BABY CLINIC!

This is held on the fourth Tuesday in the month 2.15 - 4p.m. in the Coronation Hall. Check your child's progress from birth to school age. A Health Visitor is there to give advice. Vitamins and milk! Toys for the children and a cup of tea for the parents.

Tuesdays:-

March 27th

July 24th

April 24th.

No clinic in August

May 22nd

September 25th

June 26th

OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

This committee is responsible for maintaining wide areas of our village, and I am sure you would all like to know where the hidden costs lie in keeping Bleadon looking neat and tidy.

Mr. Brown, our faithful handyman, earns less than £2 per hour keeping the grass cut in the children's playground, the pump area and the challenging work in the Churchyard. He also keeps the car park free from litter and copes with numerous annual jobs. The Parish Council has to purchase and maintain the equipment used i.e. lawn mower, strimmer petrol etc.

If you are wondering why the Churchyard is the Parish Council's responsibility, it is because it ceased to be a burial ground many years ago except for cremations and instances where provisions had already been made. This means that the crumbling boundary walls and gravestones require a great deal of funding. We can only afford to undertake the minimum repairs annually to prevent total collapse.

Equipment in the children's playground has to meet an inspector's standards. The Parish Council is obligated to carry out any work necessary to meet those standards.

There are five seats and two bus shelters which need preserving regularly, and to date, we have managed to provide (principally because the Parish Councillors undertook the work themselves), a floral display in twenty three tubs, twenty one hanging baskets, the Jubilee Garden and other small areas dotted round the village.

The Parish Council is obliged to provide allotments. We have 18, half of which lie idle. The income does not begin to meet the rent paid to the landlords, the Church Commissioners. Surrounding hedges require regular cutting. Annually, the allotments are rotavated. Due to the recent gales, extra expenditure was incurred in a clearing up operation.

Currently, Councillor Strode is looking into the possibilities of establishing a 4 acre playing field which has been offered to the Parish Council on a 20 year lease at an annual rate of £1,000. At present, provisional funds stand at £800.

It was decided this year to deploy Britain in Bloom funds to the installation of some lighting within the village with the intention of adding further lights at a later stage.

Parish Councillors act as custodians for the old quarry opposite the Anchor Inn, the village pond in Facum Lane, and Wonderstone Quarry given to the Parishioners in 1843. In the case of the latter, a boundary

dispute has arisen, and the Parish Council is pursuing the matter through legal channels.

Leases, agreements etc. are drawn up by a solicitor.

Incidents of vandalism are, fortunately rare in Bleadon, but damage still has to be rectified and paid for.

We are of course, indebted to Councillor Mrs. Sheppard and Councillor Wall for the use of their machinery on numerous occasions, and to the latter for providing spotlights which illuminate the Church tower at Christmas time. For this, Mr. Masters very kindly allows us access to his electricity supply.

Alas, the Parish Council's expenditure does not end with open spaces.

Church Clock

This was given by the people of Bleadon to commemorate Queen Victoria's jubilee in 1897.

For years, the Parish Council undertook responsibility for the winding and maintenance, but for insurance purposes, it was handed to the Parochial Church Council. The Parish Council however, is still duty bound to finance its maintenance.

Atmospheric pressure changes the valuable wooden mechanism, thus many steps are taken weekly for our benefit. If it were not for the punctilious services of Mr. Arthur Cullen, time would stand still.

We must add a note of thanks to Mr. Cullen who, for a miniscule fee, tends the Village Cross area, and uses the fee to provide those beautiful floral displays. He also provides the lighting for the Christmas tree.

M. Corder.

BLEADON FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Members have enjoyed some pleasant afternoons and lively entertainment over the past weeks.

The usual Easter Bonnet parade and a contest for the best small flower arrangement will be held on Friday, 6th April.

A coffee morning will be held on Saturday, 31 May at the Coronation Hall. There will be various stalls etc.

Anyone who wishes to join us, meetings are held at the Coronation Hall on Friday afternoons at 2.15p.m. Annual subscription £1.

E.M. Tucker.

AVON LOCAL COUNCILS ASSOCIATION

Readers of the 'Newsletter' already know that Bleadon belongs to the Woodspring branch of this organisation. Meeting quarterly, it provides a useful pressure group, bringing to the notice of the authorities, matters affecting people in villages like ours. For instance - local protests about night flights have resulted in a reduction of these at Bristol Airport, the Department of the Environment has been lobbied to take more notice of local opinion on planning matters and the battle to retain village Sub-Post offices is an on-going campaign of the A.L.C.A.

A.L.C.A. has also been in the forefront of the argument with Woodspring about reduced fares for pensioners and disabled people. Outside bodies, such as the Police and British Telecom have their monitoring committees - in short, A.L.C.A. keeps its beady eye on everything that concerns YOU, so if anyone has anything they would like to refer to the Parish Council, don't keep quiet about it. Let a Council member know. Our affiliation fee to this useful organisation only costs £70p.a.

J. Wilkinson.

MAY DAY FAYRE

We are now looking forward to the 7th May and our fifth May Day Fayre. The programmes, which contain details of all the events planned to take place during the day, as well as your "lucky number" will be ready for circulation early this month. Please help us to distribute and sell these during the weeks leading up to May Day.

In previous years, the Fayre has been carefully planned to include something for all the family. This year is no exception. Along with all the village stalls and super refreshments, we shall once again be enjoying the tradition of Morris Dancing, the beauty of the Flower Display, and for the younger members of the family, the excitement of Fancy Dress and Children's Sports.

Please come along with your friends and family and support us on the day. If you feel able, contact a member of the Social Events Committee to find out how you can help us.

The Social Events Committee would like to thank all the village organisations as well as the many individuals who have always worked so hard to make our May Day Fayre so succesful.

Glo Smith

812591

1ST BLEADON CUBS

1st Bleadon cubs are thriving at the moment with 18 lads between the ages of 8 and 10½.

In the past 6 months, six of our boys have achieved their Gold Arrow Awards (the highest Cub Scout award in the progressive training scheme).

Over the past weeks, we have been working on our Communication Badge which involves learning how to make 999 emergency calls, Morse Code and inventing our own codes.

We now eagerly await the lighter evenings to begin outdoor activities such as tracking, cook-outs, campfires, walks, games etc.

Summer camp this year is to be held at Huish Woods near Taunton. The theme will evolve round World Conservation - studying wildlife and birds, learning how to preserve the countryside and planting a tree in the wood.

Our latest Group fund raising ventures are to be a car boot sale in Bleadon car park on the 21st April 10a.m. - 2p.m. (held jointly with the Brownies), a general knowledge quiz night on 12th May, and a sponsored Car Wash at Bookers Cash & Carry. (half the proceeds will go to the Telethon Appeal)

The Cub pack is always looking for new recruits, so if you think that your lad might be interested, we meet on Monday evenings 6.15 to 7.45p.m. Please give me a ring on Bleadon 814801.

Helen Bowner

Cub Scout Leader.

BLEADON CORONATION HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

As the Parish Council representative, I am pleased to say that this committee has continued to administer and maintain the hall with its customary efficiency.

Increased hirings and well supported money raising events do not alas, provide sufficient income to maintain such a building, and although the Parish Council precepted £1,000 for maintenance, this was swallowed up in roof repairs. The P.C. also provides the insurance cover for fire and public liability.

Many thanks are due to Mr. Chamberlain, Chairman, and Mr. Lindsay, Vice-Chairman, Mrs Kelly (Secretary), Mrs Simmons (Treasurer) and committee members for all they do on our behalf, and also to Mrs. Jones (Booking Officer), Mrs. Griffiths and Mrs. McKay (Caretakers) for their painstaking work.

The purchase of equipment for the short mat bowls has met with a resounding success.

R. Ham

PUBLIC FOOTPATHS

I am pleased to report that the diversion on footpath 6/14 (Bleadon Bridge travelling westwards past Riverside Cottages) has now been completed. There is a waymark arrow on the stylepost to the side of Bleadon Bridge which directs walkers towards the fishermen's ramp to the high water mark. At that point, steps to the right and a narrow tarmac path cut into the bank, lead to a new style. This is a lovely and well recommended walk.

There is no news as yet on the proposed diversion at Southill Farm 6/12.

The kissing gate on Purn Hill has been repaired. Other styles and gates are under review for repairs.

The Parish Council has taken note of the unhappiness expressed by many over the pathway leading from the Church to Southill, and is endeavouring to find a satisfactory solution.

Regrettably, this is my last contribution to the newsletter as a Parish Councillor. I wish to express my appreciation to all of you for the support you have given me. Enjoy your walks!

M. Doolan.



SUNDAY SOUNDS



Teacher and schoolgirl; civil servant and small businessman; engineer and language student; old and young; male and female; Catholic and Protestant. What can all these people have in common? Well-they know their 'tail-ends' from their 'sallies'. They are bell-ringers.

Bells ringing out to call the faithful to worship is a sound that epitomizes Sunday for many people. But have you ever wondered what, or rather who is at the other end of the rope?

Bellringing is a peculiarly British activity developed over the past three to four hundred years. It can take anything from 2 to 6 months to learn to handle a bell rope competently and a lifetime to master the intricacies of the mathematical patterns which make up the sound of a peal of bells. A ringer will normally attend a weekly evening practice and ring for Sunday services, special feasts and weddings. It requires a degree of commitment to the tower, but this is insignificant compared with the enjoyment and friendship to be found.

If you have ever thought you would like to find out more about bellringing-this is your chance! Come along to a practice night or telephone Bleadon 813285. Everybody is welcome.

J.M.

SEE OUR NEWS!



Don't say
Avon
when you
mean...



LOYALTY TO TRADITIONAL BOUNDARIES

SOMERSET: 86% against 'Avon' in 70% poll pre- 74. 11,000 signed 'Back to Somerset' petition in Bath; 98% in 60+ poll vote same way in Weston. Similar results in many villages. All in 1982/3. 'If the wishes of the people had been the only criterion, you would have won hands down.'

Chairman.
Boundary Commission.

SOMERSET

BLEADON YOUTH CLUB PLAYGROUP

Bleadon playgroup is still running with approximately 18 children 3 mornings each week. It is run by Mrs. Cynthia Richardson with a team of 5 part-time helpers. Mrs. Richardson also helps to run the playgroups in Lympsham and East Brent. A busy lady!

At Christmas time, the children visited Father Christmas at Cadbury's Garden Centre. In January, a Road Safety Officer visited the children and showed them an R.S. video and gave a talk.

Over the next month or two, we plan a visit by a dental hygienist who will show the children how to look after their teeth; a return visit by the Fire Brigade with their fire engine which was VERY successful last year - all the flowerbeds were well watered!; a sponsored brick-stack to raise much needed funds, and a visit to a local farm to see the spring lambs.

The aim of the playgroups run through the Pre-School Playgroups Association, is to provide a happy atmosphere where, through play, pre-school children from the age of 3, can learn to care, share and co-operate; to provide an environment that encourages language development, imagination and concentration. When the children leave playgroup, they are well prepared for starting school.

J. Jones

NEWSLETTER COSTS

The costs of producing and printing one issue of a newsletter runs at approximately £160.

M. Corder



AVON COMMUNITY COUNCIL is a Voluntary Organisation that works in rural Avon. Its aim is to promote the wellbeing of rural people and the Communities they live in.



THE MOBILE INFORMATION SERVICE is one part of the work of Avon Community Council. It is a service to those people who live in Avon's villages who have no easy access to static information and advice centres such as the Citizens Advice Bureau, and District Council information points.

The van visits over 40 villages in the county of Avon. It keeps to a regular schedule, visiting most of the villages every two weeks.

TIMETABLES are normally displayed on parish notice boards and in the village shop but further copies of the timetables are available free from the address on the back of this leaflet.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
PLEASE CONTACT:

**THE INFORMATION OFFICER
AVON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
209 REDLAND RD
BRISTOL BS6 6YU
Tel. (0272) 736822**

We would like to thank Mr. John Hickley for yet another of his superb drawings on the front cover, and Mr. Peter Kelley for printing this issue. Their continued support is greatly appreciated.

M. Corder.

A very special 'thank you' to the 1st Bleadon Troop of Brownies for their recent hard work in clearing the litter from the car park area.

We wish them continued success in their project and hope their efforts will lead the way to a cleaner, tidier village.

Good luck in obtaining your conservation badges. You deserve them!

M. Sheppard.

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Unless stated otherwise, the opinions and comments are those of the contributor and not Bleadon Parish Council.