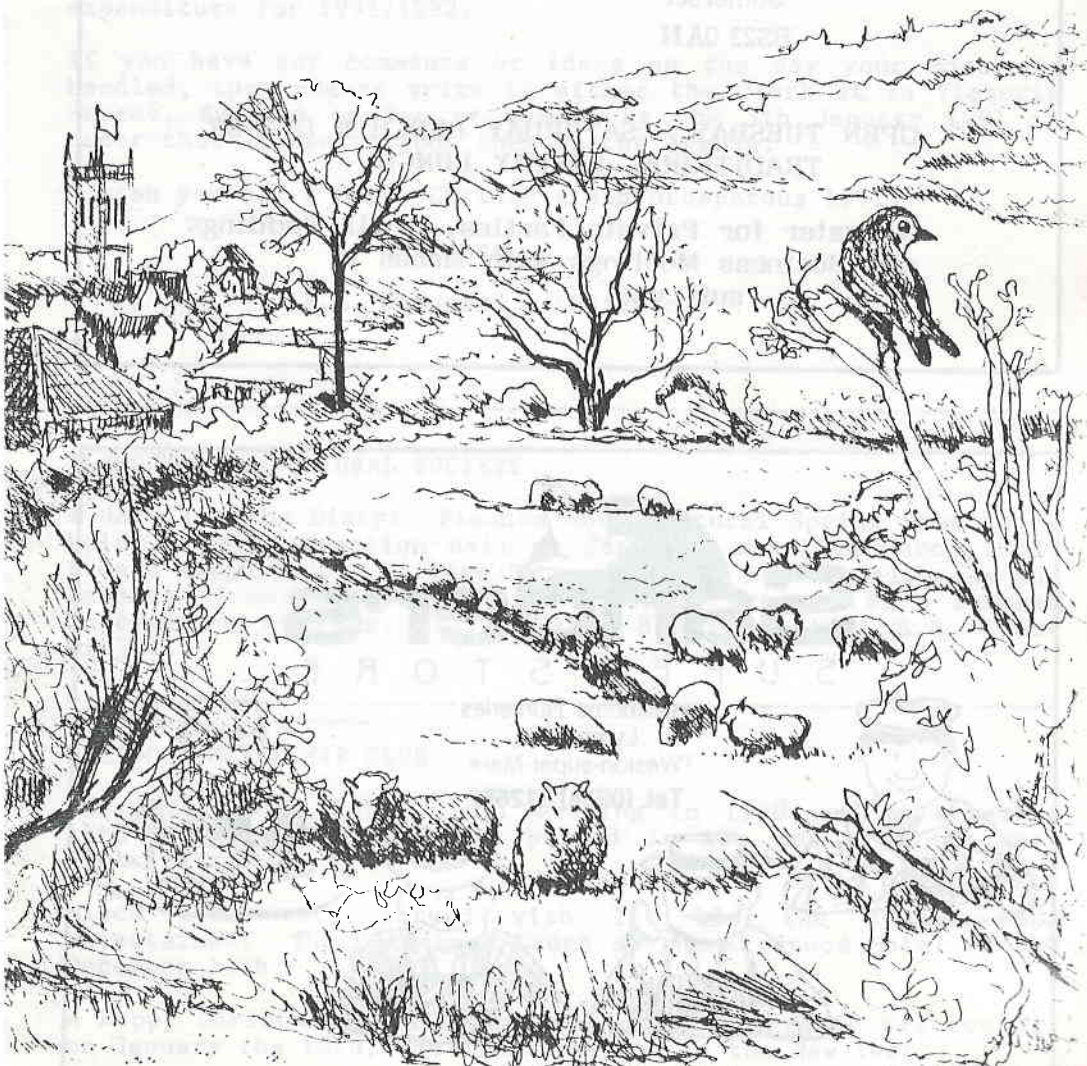


# BLEADON VILLAGE NEWS

8



JOHN HICKLEY

# *The White Cottage Restaurant*

Bridgewater Road Bleadon  
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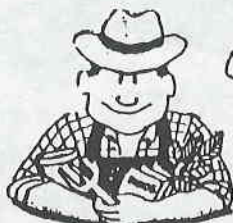
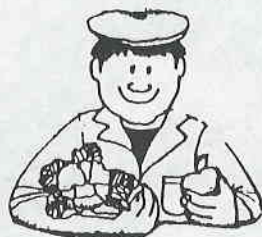
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**A STORE FOR THAT LITTLE BIT MORE**

Dear Parishioner,

Christmas is upon us and another Newsletter is here. I am pleased to tell you that the three street lights as agreed at our Public Meeting have been installed in time for Christmas. We thought that regrettably the Church Tower would not be illuminated because thieves have taken the special lights which are used, but Mr. Mervyn Sanders has very kindly provided alternative lights.

I would like to remind you that at our January meeting the Parish Council will be discussing and adopting the precept for expenditure for 1991/1992.

If you have any comments or ideas on the way your money is handled, then please write to either the Clerk at 1a Victoria Street, Burnham on Sea or myself by the 5th January 1991 in order that we can include them on the Agenda.

I wish you all a Happy Christmas and prosperous 1991.

Yours

M.E. Sheppard - Chairman

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#### BLEADON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

A date for the Diary! Bleadon Horticultural Spring Show to be held in the Coronation Hall on Saturday the 16th March 1991. Please support your Village Show. Classes to suit all ages and talents from Handicrafts to Floral Art. For further information ring Mr. C.J. Cudlipp 813159 or Mrs. S.E. Court 813343.

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#### BLEADON FRIENDSHIP CLUB

The Friendship Club's final meeting in 1990 was on December 14th when cards previously posted in the Box provided were distributed.

Mince Pies were served with Tea and the Avalon Band entertained. The Christmas Lunch at the Kirkwood Hotel was on December 13th.

A Happy Christmas to all our Members. We hope to see you all on January the 18th, the first meeting in the New Year.

E.M.T.

## BLEADON PLAYERS

A veritable kaleidoscope of colourful costumes and an enthusiastic cast, supported by Joan Worts, at the piano, combined to make "Cinderella" a most enjoyable production. The chorus line of small dancers was especially appealing. Of course there is always an added piquancy, when the members of the cast are well known, to the audience off stage. All credit to Frank Davies and Huw Boyce, for their energetic performances, as the suitably ghastly ugly sisters, backed up by a truly formidable "Mamma" and an appropriately seedy baron. Cinders, the Prince, Buttons and Dandini, all looked charming and gave very sound performances. The Broker's Men did their bits of business with great enjoyment and the Fairy Godmother, in both guises, was in truly fairy tale tradition. Thank you, Bleadon Players, for an evening of fun and laughter. We look forward to your next production in the Spring.

Margaret Cullen

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## ST. PETER & ST. PAUL WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The annual Christmas coffee morning and mini bazaar proved to be a very enjoyable occasion and resulted in a profit of £130. Thank you to all who came, gave and bought so generously.

Mrs. Hilda Treise will be our speaker at the meeting on Tuesday 22nd. January. Her subject is "Reflexology". Older members will remember when Ray and Hilda kept the shop. in Bridge Road and Ray was churchwarden here. Sadly he died a little while ago.

In February, Revd. and Mrs. George Williams will be sharing their experiences in Nigeria with us.

Friday March 1st. will be the Women's World Day of Prayer which this time will be at St. Mary's, East Brent, at 10.30 a.m. The service with the theme "On the Journey Together" has been prepared by the women of Kenya.

We are always glad to welcome new members. Just come along to the Church Room on the 4th. Tuesday of the month at 2.15 p.m.

A blessed and peaceful new year to you all.

Margaret Cullen

## OUR CHEAPEST RECREATION

I owe this title to John Henshaw, one of Bleadon's regular dog-walkers for many years. At a time when vast sums are spent on recreations that involve massive facilities and expensive equipment the cheapest form of recreational exercise is to walk our footpaths, and it was John who made this point to me very forcibly last summer.

One of the many benefits of living in Bleadon is that it has potentially a superb network of footpaths, and bridleways, many of which are used by an impressive number of people. I say potentially because some paths are not marked by any signs and some have virtually fallen into disuse. Did you realise that officially there is a path from South Hill Farm through to Meercombe Lane and thence to the crest of the Mendips, with a return route via Roman Road, giving a choice of three descents into the village? Have you tried the walks on Bleadon Levels, going right over to the tidal section of the Axe? Do you know that there is a footpath on to Purn Hill starting at the junction of Bleadon Road and Purn Way? There is a long task ahead to make sure all routes are clearly established and marked, and if you are willing to help in this your offer will be eagerly taken up.

Keeping paths clear is another problem, especially during the season of rapid plant growth. This is far too great a task for any one person, particularly in spare time. Theoretically the Parish Council could pay people to do the job, but this has not been done so far and extra expenditure in this direction would be bound to meet with resistance. Again, I think, help from the public would be welcome. If a few people carried secateurs with them occasionally those awkward brambles could be kept under control. Judicious trampling with heavy boots would help check the growth of nettles and other plants, especially if done in the early stages. Even walking slightly to the side of the path, instead of straight along the middle, helps to maintain the width.

Finally let me repeat Michael Doolan's offer made in a previous issue. The definitive map of Bleadon's footpaths is kept at the Post Office and you are welcome to inspect it.

Les Masters

## PROPOSED RECREATION AREA

As you may already know, the field between Bridge Road and Bleadon Road is set aside in the Woodspring District plan as being designated for recreational purposes. At this time, the only recreation facility that exists within the village is the small park adjacent to the Coronation Hall, and I am taking the opportunity to update you through the Parish magazine of the developments that have taken place in the last year.

The Parish Council has already confirmed its support of the Woodspring local plan and during the year, appointed two representatives including myself to form a committee to steer forward this long-awaited facility. Representatives of many of the youth and activity groups within the village are also represented on this committee, which principally continues the initial work done by the Recreation Area Steering Committee that commenced in 1986.

The area set aside for recreational purposes covers over nine acres and the current owner of the land has offered to the Parish Council a lease on four acres of land at a rental of £1,000 per annum for a period of twenty-one years with a seven yearly rent review. Whilst this is an encouraging move in the right direction, the current owner of the land is also insisting that this four acre area be fenced to a height of twelve feet at the north and west sides and initial estimates for such fencing are at a cost in excess of £40,000. There is also concern on the visual aspect within the village of a twelve feet high fence surrounding such an area. The land that has been offered for lease is at the far end of the village in the south east corner adjacent to the A370 main road, and the sub-committee would much prefer to obtain a lease or purchase of the parcel of land on the corner of Bridge Road and Bleadon Road opposite the bus shelter. A recent survey of the area by the District Valuer and Valuation Officer valued four acres of the land in question at the sum of £8,000 and therefore the committee feels unable to recommend to the Parish Council that this land is leased for a sum several times greater than its open market value. It may be necessary, in the light of the above, for us to ask the Parish Council to consider compulsory purchase of this plot.

The Recreation Committee has applied for grants to such organisations as the National Playing Fields Association and Sports Foundation and whilst their responses are also encouraging, the major stumbling block remains both the rent being asked in the proposed lease and the owner's insistence on the twelve feet high fencing.

Access across the rhyne has been agreed in principle with both Woodspring District Council, and the River Axe Drainage Board and the committee will be recommending to the Parish Council at its next meeting on 14th January that it applies for planning permission for access to the proposed site as a first step forward and visible support of the need for a recreation area within the village. A public meeting held during 1987 confirmed wholehearted support for the need for this facility, and you may rest assured that the Recreation Committee is doing all within its power to persuade and lobby the Parish Council towards fulfilling the undoubted need within the village for a recreation area.

If you have any questions, comments or specific interest in the above, then please do not hesitate to contact me.

**RICHARD STRODE**

**Tel: 815141**

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#### **PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS**

The second Monday in each month (except August) is the regular date for Parish Council Meetings, normally starting at 7.30p.m. You, the public, are not only permitted but invited to attend, and at the end of each meeting you have the opportunity to ask questions and voice your own opinions. The more of you that participate in this way, the healthier the democratic life of the Parish. With the whole council coming up for re-election in May and the poll tax such a contentious issue, this is a very important time for greater public involvement so we hope to see good numbers of you in the Coronation Hall on January 14th.

Les Masters

## WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The members of the Bleadon W.I. are extremely grateful to Mrs. Pat Brent who has undertaken the office of President for the forthcoming year. A full and varied programme has been arranged.

Sincere thanks were expressed to Mrs. Barbara Hillier who kept the "flag flying" for the past three years.

Present membership is approximately 30. New members will be assured of a warm welcome and an increase in numbers would enable activities to be extended. We used to enjoy classes in many subjects - drama, choir, patchwork, pewter work, flower arranging, basketry, to mention but a few. Come and join us! The annual subscription, payable in January, will be £7.50. Everyone is entitled to attend two meetings as a visitor, to see whether it is to her taste. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month.

The speaker at the meeting on January 8th. will be Mr. Philip Noble, proprietor of Edwards Butchers of Yatton, who will demonstrate different cuts of pork. His last visit was a very popular occasion, as members were able to buy some choice pieces of meat at the end of the meeting.

Bleadon W.I. wishes you all a Happy and Prosperous New Year

Margaret Cullen

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### THE BLEADON PLAYERS NEED YOU

If you have enjoyed our previous performances, please consider the need to ensure the survival of the group.

The Bleadon Players was formed in 1987, and we are now in urgent need of more members. Men and women are required, preferably to perform on stage, but also we need help with the many off stage activities, e.g. costumes, sets, prompters, understudies and general administration.

Come and join us. No previous experience is necessary.

Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings. You will receive a warm welcome, enjoy a friendly atmosphere and give pleasure to others. Please contact the Honorary Secretary, Sandra, telephone 812419.



## PLANNING

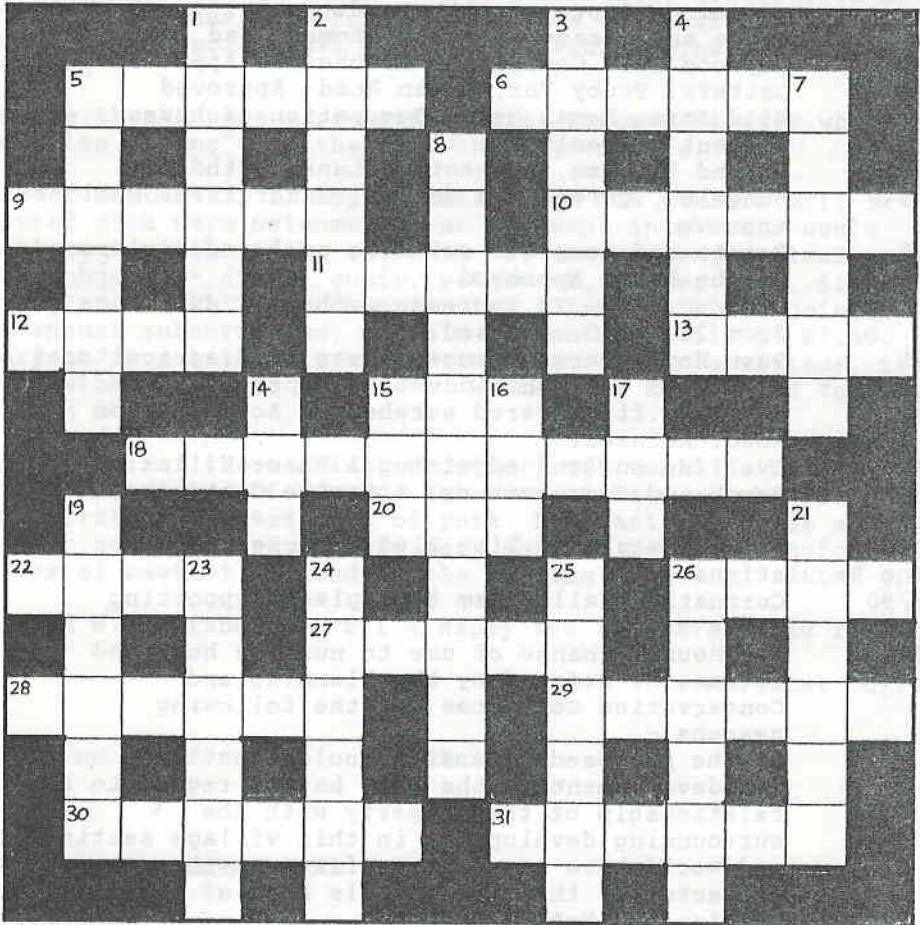
- 1171/90 5 Pine Lea : Garage and store to replace existing. Approved with conditions.
- 1322/90 House and garage. Outlook, Roman Road. Refused.
- 1307/90 Haywood Golf Course and Clubhouse. Approved.
- 0266/90 Cattery. Truby Tor, Roman Road. Approved
- 1848/90 Wild Acre, Roman Road. Occupation of house without agricultural tie.
- 1418/90 Extend kitchen, 3 Chestnut Lane. Withdrawn.
- 2039/90 Bungalow, garage and access, Manor Farm. Outline approved.
- 1729/90 Retain and complete swimming pool and enclosure. Coombe Farm. Approved
- 2002/90 Bleadon Mill. To increase number of dwellings from 20 to 30. Refused.
- 2046/90 Purn House Farm. Change of use from agricultural buildings to light industry. Approved.
- 2142/90 5,000 sq.ft. covered warehouse. Accomodation Road. Refused.
- 2161/90 Dwelling on land adjoining 1 Manor Villas.
- 2182/90 Porch and conservatory, 2 Coombe Cottages. Approved.
- 2434/90 Erect 6 stables. Plot 3169 Wayacre Drove.
- Building Regulations :-
- BN2367/90 Coronation Hall. Beam to replace supporting gable wall.
- 1000/90 The Mount. Change of use to nursing home and extension. Refused by the Planning and Conservation Committee for the following reasons:-
- 1) The proposed extension would constitute an overdevelopment of the plot having regard to the relationship of the property with the surrounding development in this village setting and would have an adverse effect on the character of the Mendip Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
  - 2) The development would have an overbearing effect on neighbouring properties by virtue of the scale of the development.

## APPEAL

- 1322/90 Dwelling and garage. Outlook, Roman Road.

There have been many fears and complaints expressed about the current activities and development in Facum Lane. As planning permission has not been sought or granted, Bleadon Parish Council has notified Woodspring D.C. of this breach. Action is now being taken by the appropriate departments and it is hoped Facum Lane will be cleared quickly of the unsightly problems.

# A CROSSWORD FOR BRAINS WITH A BLEADON BIAS



Crossword compiled by Dr. Nerysa Moses A.R.A.

A prize of £5 will be awarded to the sender of the first correct solution, to be drawn at random, from entries submitted to Bleadon Post Office no later than 31st. January 1991.

Submitted by \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

### Clues Across

5. Is a royal licence needed for these arms ? (6)
6. Ancient race having its own way (6)
9. A call for help for our fayre (6)
10. and whole and perfect (6)
11. Did this farm belong to the local squire ? (5)
12. Cut short the hunting whip (4)
13. Bamboo, sugar or raspberry ? (4)
15. Unite when the morning damp returns (3)
18. My true story is confused with a secret journey (7,4)
20. Cattle disease initially (1,1,1)
22. 5 and 19 (4)
26. Hard or Brighton (4)
27. Criminal name for a hilltop ! (5)
28. Where the bride in song waited in vain (6)
29. Within the house (6)
30. Did legions of them use the long straight road to Christon ? (6)
31. The second good man of our parish (2,4)

### Clues Down

1. Hills found among the women diplomats (6)
2. Just myself (4,2)
3. Upset nerves run into a channel (6)
4. Stable (6)
5. Pursue it in Bridge Road (6)
7. Take it on from our village hall to earn yourself a halo (6)
8. Reconstructed tower ends on wonderful rock on Shiplate Road (11)
14. Now the fire is out it's a common tree (3)
15. Gossamer (3)
16. The handy envelope contains a tinge of colour (3)
17. The cunning fellow can discolour the paper (3)
19. Must be weighed to sail to local premises (6)
21. One learns this lane doesn't lead there anymore (6)
23. One of the little things found in Weston bay (6)
24. Feature in silver is painful (6)
25. Runs along the edge of minis, maybe (6)
26. Goldfinch (6)

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## CORONATION HALL

The Coronation Hall Management Committee are still beavering away to raise funds and provide entertainment. On the 1st. December we held our Christmas coffee morning. It was a real success, thanks to all who came along and gave their support. There were thirteen stalls, all selling superb goodies, and all who paid the 50p. entry fee enjoyed a cup of coffee and a mince pie. The raffle was a great success and we owe a vote of thanks to all Parish Councillors, each of whom donated a prize. The Pudsey Bear stall also held a charity raffle, which raised £82.00 for "Children in Need". In all we had a most enjoyable morning and increased the hall funds by £158.00. Our thanks to you all once again.

By the time you read this we will have held our Christmas Dance, with a buffet, bar, carol singing and dancing to the Atlantis Band. I beg you to support all such functions; the Hall Management Committee works very hard to ensure their success. All profits go towards the hall funds to help maintain, repair and improve our village hall. However, success can only be achieved if you give us your full support.

Over the past months a number of justifiable complaints have been received about the cramped conditions behind the stage. Access to the rear fire doors was also a problem. The Hall Committee has just completed improvements, in this area. The cost of the work was minimal, as the members of the hall committee gave their time freely to carry out this work. Special thanks are due to Mr. Tony Morgan, who gave his time and expertise, free of charge, to complete the demolition and construction work. Thanks also to Mr. Harold Clements for completing the electrical alterations. The Bleadon Players have expressed their appreciation for the alterations. Further improvements are under consideration for the near future.

I will end by briefly mentioning three items not related to the Coronation Hall, in which I feel sure you will be interested. Your Parish Council has finalised a new lease for the Bleadon Youth Club. This has been given to the trustees for their approval. Hopefully the lease will be signed and completed very soon, enabling the Youth Club Management Committee to apply for a grant. This grant could be used to help with repairs and decoration. Plans for the proposed new Scout and Guide hut are progressing slowly. I believe that this will accelerate over the coming months. Finally, in January, your Parish Council will set the Precept for 1991. I fell sure that every attempt will made to ensure that next year's precept is as low as possible

Judith and I wish you all a very lovely an enjoyable Christmas. We hope that you will have a happy, prosperous and healthy New Year.

Brenig Evans

## BLEADON CORONATION HALL

NEW PRICE LIST FOR 1991 - The hire charges for the hall went up in September, but don't let this put you off. The fees are still very reasonable and competitive with other village halls.

The Coronation Hall is your hall. You help to pay for it's upkeep with some of the parish portion of your community charge. If you live in Bleadon you pay a lower hire charge for the hall.

Save your carpets, spread out and enjoy more room for your family parties and meetings. Below are some examples of charges for the hire of the hall. If you have any queries, please contact the Booking Officer - Mrs. J. Jones, Tel:812370

These charges are for residents of Bleadon:-

Parties & dances	7 p.m. to midnight	-	£33.00
Concerts (incl. use of kitchen)	7 p.m. to midnight	-	£33.00
Concerts (excl. use of kitchen)	7 p.m. to midnight	-	£20.00
Lunch	Noon to 5 p.m.	-	£20.00
Children's party - private	( 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.	-	£11.00
* (NOT Saturdays)	( 2 p.m. to 9 p.m.*	-	£16.50

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## BLEADON INFANT WELFARE CLINIC

Use it or lose it !!

Held in the Coronation Hall once a month, the Infant Welfare, or Baby, Clinic badly needs your support. It is important to check the health and progress of your baby and to get the expert advice of your Health Visitor. Come along to the Bleadon Clinic, you don't have to live in Bleadon. All children from 0 to school age are welcome. A health visitor is present and milk and vitamins are on sale. There are cups of tea for the parents and toys and company for the children.

The clinic is held on the 4th. Tuesday of the month from 2.25 to 4.00 p.m.

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP ?** We are looking for a volunteer to help with the running of the clinic. Not very difficult, the duties include some record keeping and helping with the weighing of the babies. If interested please contact the Health Visitor at the clinic.

The 1991 clinics will be held on the following dates :-

22 January	26 February	26 March	23 April
28 May	25 June	23 July	

## THE BLEADON SHORT MAT BOWLING CLUB

The club is essentially a village amenity and functions every Friday evening from 7 pm. onwards in the village hall.

If you are wondering what short mat bowling, involves; it uses the same full size bowls as for lawn bowls and full length indoor rinks. It is played on a special six foot wide carpet mat which has a length between 40 and 45 feet. There are a few rules special to the short mat game but in essence it is played in much the same way as lawn bowls. The club has two mats, each being 40 feet long; the maximum length we can accommodate in the village hall.

We have had a few new members this year, which started in September. We still have a few vacancies for additional members. It is not necessary to have any previous experience. Most of our members had never bowled before joining us. If you are interested, please drop in any Friday evening, watch us play, have a chat, enjoy a cup of coffee and, if you wish, try your hand at the game. We are a very sociable bunch and, while most of us like to be in a winning team, we don't take ourselves too seriously when playing. You don't, therefore need to be shy and it is great fun.

We are pleased to report that the club received a "Highly Commended" certificate and a small donation to club funds, in the Village Ventures Competition 1990. This competition is run every two years by the Avon Community Council. It aims to identify and encourage projects of lasting or significant social, economic or environmental benefit to a rural community. The judges commented particularly on the overall social atmosphere of the club.

For further information on the club, please call the chairman, John Ward, on 812136, or drop in to the village hall any Friday evening.

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### BACK TO SOMERSET

Why has Avon proved to be so unpopular despite having been in existence for over sixteen years? Chris Patten himself answered that question when speaking to the Association of County Councils in November 1990, he thought it "extremely important that people should be able to identify with the local Government structure. It is something which we perhaps accidentally lost sight of when the last re-organisations were made."

Too true! In the early '70's local people voted overwhelmingly to stay in Somerset but that wish was ignored. In 1984 over 50% of the Electoral Roll in Weston super Mare voted 98.2% in favour of a return to Somerset and the figures were even more impressive in many of the surrounding villages. In 1989 the Boundary Commission's draft report, whilst recommending No Change! commented "if the wish of the people was the only criterion you would have won hands down!"

In 1974, when the Act creating Avon came into force, the Government stated that "The new County Boundaries are administrative areas, and will not alter the traditional boundaries of counties, nor is it intended that the loyalties of people living in them will change" - and last July Michael Portillo, Minister for local Government at the Department of the Environment confirmed that the Government still stands by that statement. So Avon is not a County in the traditional 'shire' sense of the word. It is purely an administrative, not a geographical area. The Somerset boundaries are where they have been for centuries - even if the northern part of the county is administered from Bristol by Avon County Council. There need not be any confusion here; administration and traditional boundaries need not coincide e.g. Basle Airport is in France yet is administered by the Swiss.

We all still live in Somerset and should insist that our addresses reflect that. The Post Office had no remit to assign us 'Avon' addresses in '74 (it was only for their own convenience, after all) and we must all insist on being properly addressed in Somerset - with the Post Code to assist in ease of sorting.

And now it would appear that Avon's days are numbered (Hurray!) as both main political parties have announced that further reforms of local Government will take place during the next Parliament, when it seems likely that County Councils will be abolished. Even the Association of County Councils have expressed a willingness to 'sacrifice' Avon, Humberside and Cleveland if they can hang on to their layer of local Government in other areas. David Blunkett (Labour) has said that "any reform must bolster a sense of community, restore confidence in people's sense of identity." Again, I say, too true! (Somerset people, with a recorded history since 845 AD resent their loss of history and heritage, their sense of belonging. And that is why Avon has few friends in this part of the world!)

The Back to Somerset Campaign is not urging a return to the pre '74 administration from Taunton. That is only one option. Another is that Woodspring with a population of almost 200,000 could possibly go it alone. If Education and possibly the Police were taken out and funded from a 'higher' authority - whether regional or central this could be feasible. What we do say is that local Government should recognise and act within the traditional County Boundaries. It is important that local people have a say in what replaces Avon, that we do not allow the more northerly Parishes to be swallowed up by any proposed Greater Bristol Council. You can find out more about the "Back to Somerset Campaign" and how you may be able to help by telephoning

John Ley-Morgan

Chairman

Tel.No. 510041.

27 Burnham Drive,  
Bleadon Hill.

Dear Friends,

Although perhaps our Organisation has been a little less in the news lately, we are nevertheless very much in action in the Parish. At present we are trying to compile an up to date list of people who are sick or housebound with a view to visiting them, not only ourselves but in company with much younger members of our community. The Guides have expressed a strong interest in participating in such visits.

We did not hold a Welcome Party for newcomers this last Summer for the simple reason that up to the end of September we knew of only three families who had moved into our Parish this year. Subsequently several more families have arrived here and we plan to hold a welcoming function for all of them next Spring. This may be combined with our annual Barn Dance, but a final decision on this awaits our next committee meeting. Hopefully, all new arrivals have been personally welcomed and presented with our comprehensive "Welcome Packs" that are being faithfully prepared by Phil and Mary Ashley with the much valued help of Peter Lindsay.

Contactus continues to maintain its links with Avon Community Council and through their magazine Fieldfare we are kept very much aware of the good ideas and valuable work that abounds in rural communities throughout the region. We hope that some of our own ideas may prove helpful to other villages.

Perhaps we should conclude by restating our aim, which is to give whatever help that lies within our power wherever need arises in our Parish. In order to fulfil this aim more completely we need many more helpers and perhaps you may be able to spare time to this end. If you wish to get in touch with us, either as a giver or receiver of help, please ring Mary or Philip Ashley 812667 or me Bleadon 812436.

May we wish you a peaceful and joyous Christmas with good health and utmost fulfilment throughout 1991.

John Thomlinson.

P.R.O. Contactus Bleadon.



BLEADON YOUTH CLUB PLAY GROUP

Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays 9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.  
(Aged 3 to school)

Term starts Tuesday 8th January.  
Enquiries to Mrs. C. Richardson Tel. 812704

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ADVERTISING CHARGES

Per annum 7mm £10, 14mm £15, 21mm £30 (4 issues)

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Unless otherwise stated the opinions and comments  
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production of this Newsletter.

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(Prop: Peter Briffitt)

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## CARPENTRY & JOINERY



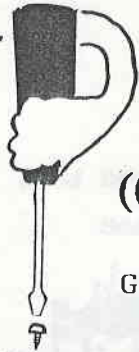
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