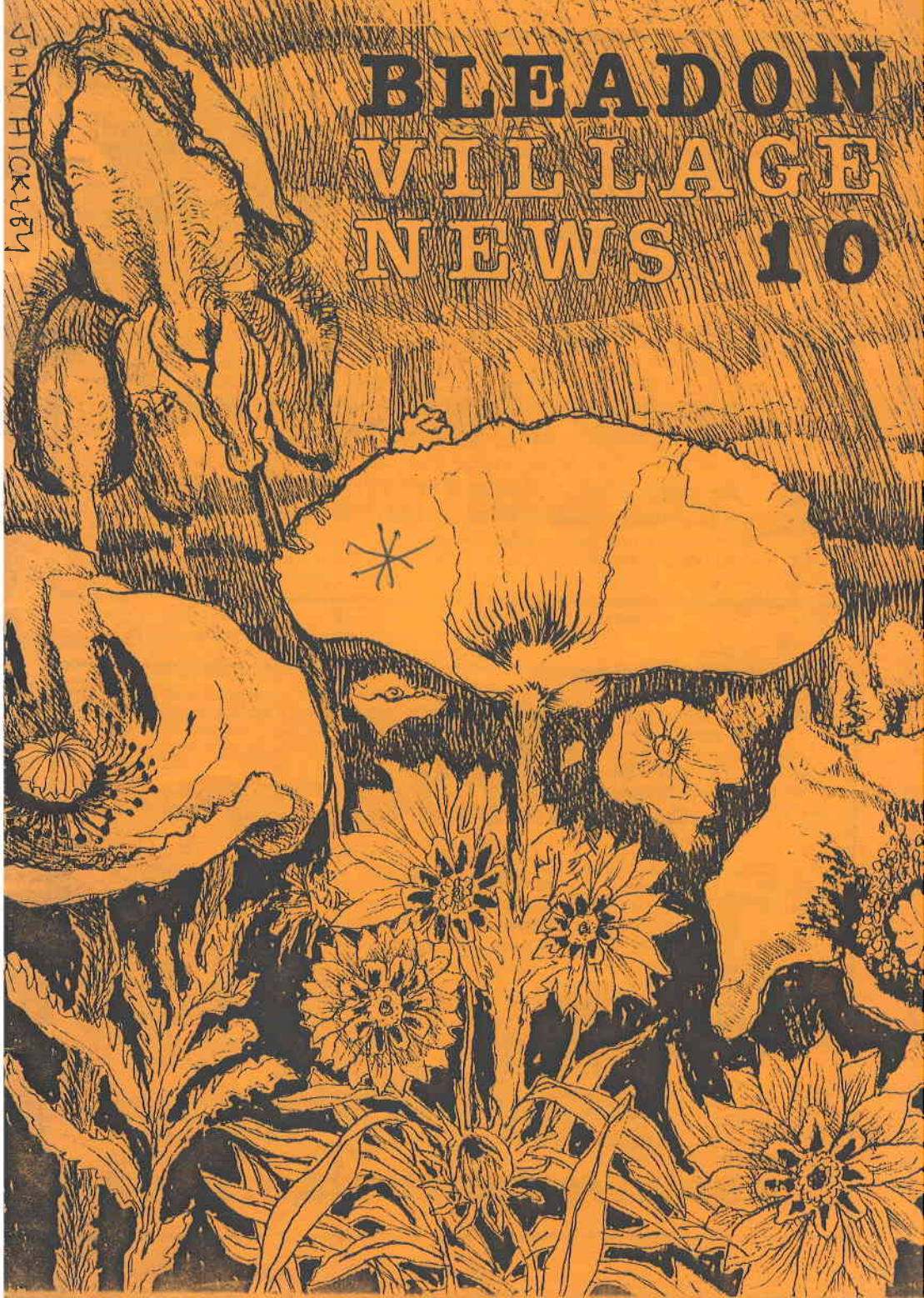


JOHN HICKLEY

BLEADON VILLAGE NEWS 10



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A STORE FOR THAT LITTLE BIT MORE

Dear Parishioners,

This as you may know is my first letter as Chairman of the Parish Council. I am fully aware of my responsibilities and I assure you that I am very proud to serve this community.

I offer my sincere thanks to all recent members of the Parish Council who retired, or withdrew their nominations, at the last election. They were all dedicated to our community and worked very hard in its service. Special mention must be made of Mrs. Shepperd and Mrs. Corder. Their diligence and efforts should be held as a lesson to us all.

George Wall is one of the unsung heroes of the Bleadon Parish Council. George spends a great deal of his time keeping our village tidy. You will often find George cutting the grass verges and lay-byes, spreading weedkiller and rotovating the allotments. He cuts hedges, prepares the tubs and helps to plant flowers. All of this work is done for no financial gain. Thank you George; you set an example which is hard to follow.

Nine applications were received for the four vacancies on the Parish Council. Choosing the candidates was both time consuming and extremely difficult. The four vacancies have now been filled and we have a team which offers a very broad base of expertise in both commerce and industry. I take this opportunity to welcome all the new Councillors and to wish them an enjoyable and happy term of office. I can certainly promise them that it will be memorable.

We are a relatively new and, with the exception of George Wall, a fairly inexperienced team. We are going to make some mistakes, so please be patient with us. We will try not to make the same mistake twice. As Chairman, I have two major ambitions. The first of these is to see all Councillors working with and for each other, in the best interest of our community. I also hope that the new council will be more open to, and approachable by, the public. Should these two ambitions be fulfilled, I would be happy to leave the Chair.

There are a number of problems facing us, some inherited from the last administration. Wonderstone Quarry ranks top of these difficulties. We will try to reach a satisfactory solution as quickly as possible. Others include the proposed Recreation Area, the proposed Gypsy Site, Facum Lane and the Honda sign. All these matters will receive our urgent attention. This urgency will also include the ongoing problem of The Veale and we will not forget the "Referendum" on street lighting. However, I have quickly learned that nothing happens overnight when dealing with County and District Councils. So please be patient, I promise we will persevere.

Some justified complaints have been received about the appearance of our village. I must agree that it has looked better. Most of the Parish Councillors are in full time employment, so that they are unable to do everything. Volunteers from the public, to help tidy up Bleadon, would be welcomed. If you can spare some time please contact me. If enough volunteers

come forward, we can get organised and soon have our lovely village sprung up again.

Finally, please remember that your Parish Council exists to help and represent you. Should you have any suggestions or complaints, feel free to contact any one of us. We welcome your ideas. Council meetings are held on the second Monday of each month, commencing at 7.30 p.m. Please come along and show an interest in your community. We will make you very welcome.

Brenig Evans

I wonder what you think about local government in the district of Woodspring? Perhaps this is not a subject which occupies too much of your time, and that would be quite understandable, but I expect there have been some occasions at least, when you have been moved to comment about your local council. You may have been affected by new houses being built nearby, or by your dustbins not being emptied on time, or by litter in the streets and, of course, nearly everyone will have been affected by the introduction of the poll tax. Whatever our views on this, it has certainly brought the whole question of local government and local taxation into a sharper focus than ever before.

I am not altogether clear in my own mind as to the role of local government, either its present role or that of the future. I once heard a talk on the theme "love local government" and that seemed a little too romantic for my taste. However such a theme should remind us that council employees, those in the streets and those at their desks and, indeed, many elected councillors, work hard and conscientiously, often with little thanks, for the benefit of the local community.

It is likely that there will be more changes in local government in the near future but, for the moment, I have to work within the existing system to represent everyone in Bleadon or Hutton in ways which will benefit our two communities. I look forward to working with individuals, voluntary organisations and the two parish councils in this endeavour.

Thank you for your support at the election and may I also take this opportunity of thanking my predecessor, Ian Peddlesdon, for his service to our villages over the past four years.

Alan Kerr
8 The Barton,
Bleadon.

Tel: 812084

YOUR NEW PARISH COUNCIL

On 2nd May five councillors were elected unopposed, forming the new council at the meeting on 13th May. They are:-

Brenig Evans (Chairman), The Granary, Mulberry Lane - (815352)
Leslie Masters (Vice-Chairman), Bleadon Post Office - (812200)
Richard Strode, Hellenge Rise, Shiplate Road - (815141)
George Wall, Purn Farm - (812203)
John Ward, 4 Shiplate Road - (812136)

These five were then obliged to co-opt a further four members, and the letter distributed round the parish resulted in a very gratifying nine offers, all from very capable people. The choice of four was made at a private meeting, as it was most strongly felt that a public discussion of the strengths and weaknesses of fellow villagers was quite out of the question. After lengthy discussion the following four were chosen, and duly co-opted at the Council meeting on 10th June.

Eric Benn, 2 Pine Lea - (812763).

Eric has lived in the village eight years after retiring (early) from a senior managerial position with the BBC. He had previously lived thirteen years in Weston, and is a governor of Broadoak School.

Jill Bowmer, 2 Manor Grange - (814801).

Jill has lived nine years in Bleadon, her family setting her a good example of community involvement. Husband Mike earned great respect as chairman of the working party on the proposed recreation area, while daughter Helen ran the Cub-Scout group for six years. Jill has a particular interest in the environment of the village.

Chris Carter, The Dell, Celtic Way.

Apparently a former member of the now dormant Bleadon Useless Club, Chris has lived in Bleadon for twelve years. He and his wife Janet are partners in Hall, Ward & Fox (solicitors) in Weston.

Len Chamberlain, New Bay Cottage, Coronation Road - (814517).

Len's sterling work on the Committee, and behind the bar of the Coronation Hall, have earned him many friends and much respect in his six year residence. As the saying goes, he needs no introduction from me.

The Chairman immediately wrote to the five unsuccessful candidates, thanking them for their offer, and explaining the difficulty of selecting from such a strong field. We hope that all five will be able to make a contribution towards the welfare of the village, despite there being no place for them on the Council at this stage.

A WORD OF THANKS

In keeping residents informed of their new Council, we must not lose sight of those who retired from the old one. The two native members, Ruth Ham and Mary Sheppard, combined immense local knowledge with a capacity for hard work. Both Chaired the Council, and filled other roles for more years than they might care to be reminded of, and there is no denying the village's debt to them.

Besides being Vice-Chairman, Sue Corder won universal respect for her work on planning, and the village is further obliged to her for suggesting and founding this magazine, which she edited for six issues. My task as editor has been so much the easier in that I took over a "going concern"!

Rosemary Sanders and Joy Wilkinson cannot claim such long service, but their common sense and hard work made them very welcome colleagues.

WOMENS FELLOWSHIP

The Women's Fellowship completed a happy and successful year at the Annual General Meeting on June 25th. Mrs. Hillier, Treasurer, gave the financial report which showed our finances to be very satisfactory. She was pleased to announce that Mrs. Joyce Thom would be taking over as Treasurer in September. The committee provided an enjoyable home made tea.

The first meeting of the new season will be a service in church, followed by tea and biscuits in the Church Room. This will be on the fourth Tuesday in the month, September 23rd. We hope to see all our members and lots of new faces at the meeting.

B.J.H.

BLEADON SHORT MAT BOWLING CLUB

The club closed its 1990-91 season, with a friendly home match against Banwell club, on Friday 24th. May. We shall be opening our new 1991-92 season, commencing with our **Annual General Meeting, on Friday 20th. September at 7.00 p.m.** We have to elect a new committee on this date. Please think about nominations for places on this committee. Why not put yourself forward? - its not a very demanding role to play.

Some of our proposed summer social events have had to be cancelled due to insufficient support. We still have the following things firmly in our sights :-

Saturday 13th. July - Wine tasting evening with buffet supper. We can look forward to sampling a range of eight different types of German wines and learning something about understanding the labelling. We can still accommodate a few of club members' friends.

Friday 16th. August - Car treasure hunt starting from the Bleadon village halls car park at 7 p.m. The event will finish at a suitable hostelry where a buffet supper will be provided. We can also accommodate a few member's friends on this event.

Members or their friends wishing to join us on either of the above, and who have not yet paid for tickets, should please contact our club treasurer - Mrs. D. Ward Tel.812136

John Ward

A TARGET WORTH AIMING FOR

Bleadon village is in dire need of a new Scout and Guide hut. The existing building has been there for very many years, and is now gradually falling to pieces despite all the best efforts of the Scout and Guide leaders.

We feel it worth carrying on the long tradition of Scout and Guide packs in Bleadon as the local children need activities in their own village, rather than having to go to Weston. So it has been decided to form a Fund Raising Committee, which was put together in January of this year, to raise funds to rebuild the Scout and Guide hut.

We hope to raise approximately £35,000 over the next five years, for a completely new building on the existing site complete with all mod cons for the children to enjoy.

We held our first social event on 11th May which was a Family Disco in the Coronation Hall, and proved extremely popular. We were very lucky in having the Runn Runn Disco donated free for the evening and many raffle prizes were also donated. We also auctioned a very large bottle of spirits kindly donated by the Queens Arms, and the posters and tickets were given by Mr. Peter Lindsay. Our sincere thanks to all of them. The event raised over £300.

The next event was a Cow Pat Barbecue on Saturday 8th June at Batch End Farm, Lympsham; complete with a bar, plenty of food and many amusements.

We are in the process of arranging other events throughout the year in which we will need your help and support to make this a worthwhile and enjoyable cause.

Peter Castell

N.B. The Parish Council, which owns the site, last year gave its approval in principle to the Scouts' and Guides' enterprise and wishes them well in their fund-raising.

L. Masters

THE DOG OWNER'S LAMENT

Mrs. Sheppard I beseech, listen to my plea -
As a Doggie owner I have to disagree
With comments you have made in the Bleadon News,
Where you air your very personal Doggie views.

My dogs I take for walkies
For exercise to take -
I do not take them out
Poop and mess to make.

However if they're taken short
(As we humans also do)
They pull into the gutter
To do their 'little pooh'.

I do agree some owners
Have become a pain -
'Cos most of their dogs' poop
Is dropped in Old School Lane.

For years I've cleared it up,
From verge and from the Lane -
And believe me poop-picking
Is driving me insane!!

I have enough to clear up
Within my own surrounds,
Without going outside the gates
Where it all abounds.

So Doggie owners hear me well
And do your little bit,
Please don't walk your dogs about
Just to leave their S---!!!

Linda Parsons

To The Editor

In the light of recent articles in the Village News, I feel it important to update the Parishioners on the facts that arose from the original Bleadon Recreation Area Steering Committee (BRASC) Report which came to fruition in 1986.

Originally the Draft Weston Plan of 1980 designated the area, bounded by Bridge Road and Bleadon Road, for recreation purposes.

In 1985 the Parish Council debated the possibility of acquiring the land for this purpose and it was clear that there was considerable interest within the village.

As a result a public meeting was called early in 1986. It was decided that the Parish Council should call for volunteers to set up a sub-committee to consider the feasibility of such a project; so BRASC was formed. I was duly elected Chairman and the committee spent nine months researching and collating facts and figures. This enabled us to produce a report which was presented to the Parish Council on 24th. November 1986. It recommended that a recreational area would be beneficial to all age groups, was feasible and viable, and recommended the most appropriate way of pursuing the negotiations and financing of the project.

The Parish Council discussed the issue and unanimously voted to adopt the BRASC report and pursue the acquisition of the land.

Little progress has been made since 1987 until, more recently, a new impetus brought the matter to the fore.

The original concept of BRASC was to acquire a piece of land which would enhance village life, not detract from it. For instance a cricket pitch, bowling green, an area for inter-village activities, fêtes/fairs etc. and a safe area for children to play. It was not, as some would suggest, to encompass a multi-pitch sports field, which would require a vast budget. The committee also felt that the No. 1 priority should be to acquire the use of the land in order that future generations would be assured of an appropriate recreational area. They further suggested that a referendum be held to consider the views of all parishioners on the most appropriate use.

In 1986 the committee established that funds would be available. Whilst this evaluation is six years out of date and would need to be reviewed, the basic fund raising facility would still be relevant.

I feel quite sure that if the views and feelings of the land owner were taken into consideration an agreement could be reached.

M. J. Bowmer

CORONATION HALL

Following the AGM in April, the 1991-92 Hall Management Committee is :-

Chairman & Licence Holder - Mr. L.J. Chamberlain

Vice Chairman - Mr. P. Lindsay

Hon. Secretary - Mr. R. Goodman

Hon. Treasurer - Mrs. P. Simmons.

Representatives of Organisations :-

Parish Church Council - Mrs. G. Smith and Mrs. B. Davies

Friendship Club - Mr. H. Baker **W.I.** - Mrs. D. Woollan

Guides - Mrs. B. Snelgrove **Youth Club** - Mr. A. Morgan

Bleadon Players - Mrs. S. Kelly **Hort. Society** - Mrs. M. Dann

Short Mat Bowls Club - Mr. J. Ward

Village Representatives - Mr. H. Clements and Mrs. M. Henley

Co-opted - Mr. R. Woollan

Parish Council - There are two representatives but, as yet, their names are not to hand.

Booking Officer - Mrs. J. Jones

Caretakers - Mrs. L. Griffiths and Mrs. M. McKay

The hall floor has recently been sanded and resealed. This work was carried out by members of the S.M. Bowls Club and we would be grateful if hall users would refrain from "dragging" tables and chairs across the floor. There is a trolley, normally stored to the left of the stage, which can be used for this purpose.

The inside of the hall is to be redecorated and this work will commence shortly. It is hoped that this will cause the minimum of inconvenience.

Regarding coming events, once again we will be holding a Skittles Week at the Queens. This will commence on **Tuesday 20th. August** and will be from 7.30 to 11 p.m. every evening, with the play-offs on **Sunday 25th. August**. Prize money will be £130, so it is really worth "having a go". You don't have to be an expert, there is such a thing as beginners luck and it's all in good fun anyway ! Our thanks to Mr. Sherman for the use of the skittle alley.

There will be a jumble sale on **Saturday 14th. September**. If you have any good jumble, bric-a-brac or the old master(or two) we will be pleased to accept them prior to the date.

This year we are forgoing our usual Christmas Dance for a **Grand New Year's Eve "Fun Party and Dance"**. There will be a buffet supper and I am sure tickets will be in great demand (we'll probably have ticket touts outside on the night). More details about this event later but please make a note in your diary - NOW !

THOSE WERE THE DAYS.....

Indeed they were, and they will be recalled, recollected and re-created in the Coronation Hall for two nights only, Friday 5th and Saturday 6th July, by that dedicated band of enterprising entertainers, the Bleadon Players. Patrons of this exotic, exciting, exquisite extravaganza will be regaled with a feast of frolicsome fun, full of scintillating songs, coruscating comedy, mesmerizing monologues and magnificent melodies. The cost of this concoction will be a mere £2.50 per person (children under 14, £1.50), tickets being available for purchase at the Post Office or from members of the Players. As usual, licensed libations will be on tap, but as an additional attraction patrons are cordially invited to bedeck themselves in comfortable costume as befits the occasion. (Including false facial fuzz). The curtain will rise at 7-30 each evening.

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

May has been a busy month for Club Members.

The Outing to Exmouth was most enjoyable in spite of cold winds, but within the shelter of the coach one could fully appreciate the beauty of the Rhododendrons and the Spring Blossom along the route of delightful country lanes.

On Thursday 30th the Coffee Morning was well supported, and members were thanked for making a variety of lovely cakes, and for other goods generously donated.

It is hoped to arrange a Strawberry and Cream Tea later in June, and our weekly meetings on Friday afternoon at 2-15 continue until the August break.

E.M.T.

*****O*****

CHEAP LAND TO RENT !

Although we all live in the country, we do not all have large, or large enough, gardens. The Parish has at present six vacant plots on its allotment, all recently rotovated and treated, hence ready for planting and sowing. Rents are very reasonable, so here is an excellent opportunity to become self-sufficient in fresh vegetables. Any residents who are interested should contact George Wall, Tel.812203.

In the last newsletter, my article on the proposed recreation area carried the wrong figure for the Parish Council's reserves, for which I apologise. In every other respect the facts were correct and I stand by them.

As a constant user of the junction of Bridge Road with A370, I am delighted to see that, at long last, Avon County Council has taken steps to improve the safety factor.

Thanks for the new layout are entirely due to Mr. Chris Stephens of Woodspring District Council for his year long battle to achieve this for us. We appreciate it !

M. Corder

BLEADON VILLAGE BRIDGE CLUB

After a brief burst of meetings, twice a week, the club has settled down to one meeting every Monday at 2 p.m. in the Coronation Hall. The new venue is much appreciated and around 24 - 32 players have been attending.

A committee has been formed and annual subscription of £3 agreed, in order to buy our own equipment. We are indebted to Worle Bridge Club and Mr. Nigel Page for the loan of their equipment so far.

Table fee is 50p. for members and 75p. for visitors, which includes a cup of coffee or tea and a biscuit. New members will receive a warm welcome to a relaxing afternoon's play.

Mr. Don Gardner - Tel.812041

COMING OF AGE - BLEADON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Following the very successful Spring flower show we are holding our 18th. Annual Summer Flower Show on Saturday September 7th. in the Coronation Hall.

This is our "coming of age" show and we would value the support of everyone who has supported us in the past as well as any "new" exhibitors. There will be the usual raffle, refreshments and bring-and-buy stall.

Schedules will be available in due course from the secretary, Chris Cudlipp or the treasurer, Sue Court. They will also be available from the Post Office.

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