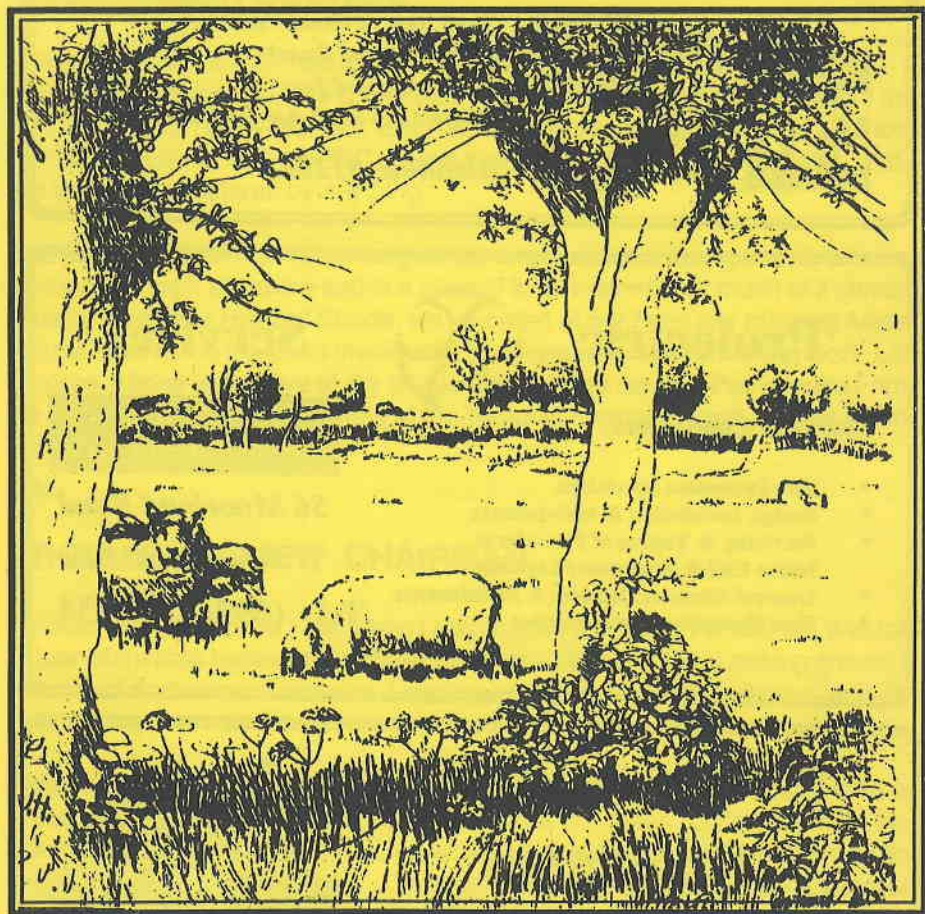


BLEADON



Village News

NUMBER TWENTY-ONE

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BLEADON VILLAGE NEWS

No: 21

March '94

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

In the December issue I had to report the resignations - quite unconnected - of both our Chairman and Vice Chairman. I am now pleased to inform readers that Eric Benn is our new Chairman. Eric has been a councillor since 1991 and a long managerial career with the BBC means he is no stranger to responsibility. I have yet to see him flustered by anything.

The new Vice Chairman is our longest serving councillor, George Wall, who has of course done it all before and is a mine of local information, much of it correct. Finally, to replace Richard Strode, we co-opted at our February meeting Alistair House, who will be the junior member by some years (and a good thing too!). Like George, Alistair is a native of the village and besides running Purn House Farm, he is active in the local branches of the National Farmers Union and the Round Table.

L M

FROM YOUR NEW CHAIRMAN

I moved into Bleadon in 1983 when I retired from the BBC. I chose the Weston-Super-Mare area because I had lived here from 1961 to 1974. Looking around in search of somewhere to settle I visited all the surrounding villages and the outstanding one was Bleadon.

I have taken on the role of Parish Council Chairman because I would like to keep it that way or, if possible, improve it. This does not mean no development and being static but it does mean doing what is necessary to remove some of the problem spots when we can. This is one of the reasons I am extremely disappointed that the South Area Planning Committee of Woodspring has turned down the application for a car park at Catherine's Inn. We all know the problems caused by car parking in Bleadon Road towards the junction of Bridgwater Road.

I with the help of your council, and I hope that of the whole village, will do everything possible to tackle problems of this kind.

Eric Benn

PHONE: (0934) 620106

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CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE

We read and hear more than enough bad news. Just for a change, here are some successes achieved by local residents:

Betty Berry (The Veale) has won a cup and a certificate from Woodspring for her much admired garden.

Kylie Baxter (Bridgwater Road), **Caroline Dance** (Celtic Way) and **James Elliott** (Celtic Way) all made it to Wembley for the National Aerobics Championships. James came away with a silver medal to follow his gold of the previous year.

Charlotte House (Purn Way) will be sharing the lead in "Barnum" at the Playhouse in June. We believe **Guy Morrils** (Rectory Lane) is due to show his juggling and unicycling skills in the same production.

Matthew Gower (Coronation Road) won the National Tennis Championship for his age group,

Finally, may we say a public "Thank you" to **Jack Green**, who, witnessing a lorry damage the wall of the Jubilee Garden, obtained the details of the driver and owner so that the Parish Council can claim for the repairs (now completed).

L. M.

WHOSE CHURCH IS IT ANYWAY?

When I was a young National Service soldier, some forty years ago, the Army insisted that I had a religion recorded on my documents. "Agnostic" was not a permitted category, so not being a Catholic, a Methodist or anything else specific, I was classed, like the majority, as C of E. Of course, the Army was not the least bit interested in my spiritual welfare; it just wanted to know the kind of funeral to arrange if I were killed.

The situation in Bleadon is rather similar. Most residents do not attend any church, yet equally most residents look to our parish church when a wedding, a christening or a funeral is to be arranged. Now our Rector does not mind this. He takes the traditional view that as a Church of England priest he is bound to minister to all residents of his parish, and I know full well he visits the afflicted at home or in hospital irrespective of their religion or lack of it. It strikes me then that we non-attenders might pause to consider who pays this man who is available to all.

Rightly or wrongly, as has been well publicised recently, the Church Commissioners (having lost £800m in bad investments) have decided to reduce their contribution to the pay of parish priests. The difference will have to be found by the parishes, i.e. the churchgoers, and it would seem fair enough that those who want a church should pay for it, but what about the non-attending majority? Unbeliever though I am, I know that when the time comes for my funeral (or my wife's) I want someone like our Rector there to comfort and officiate, so I think it behoves me to put my hand in my pocket at least occasionally when the church is trying to raise funds. Am I the only one who thinks thus?

Les Masters

OH ! WHAT A LOVELY PANTO !

"Sing a Song of Sixpence" was Bleadon Players fourth pantomime, and I hope there will be many more. This one was noteworthy for the good audiences, in both number and enthusiasm, and it was a treat to see the pleasure it gave local children - on stage and in the audience.

Morag Edwards was an extremely convincing witch - too much so for some of the smaller children - but of course was eventually defeated by valiant principal boy Jane Jay. Plenty of comedy was also provided, mainly by Huw Boyce, Guy Morris and Pat Davies. Altogether the show was a welcome tonic in the dark depths of winter.

Les Masters

BLEADON LADIES CLUB

January was the inaugural meeting of the Bleadon Ladies Club. There were 38 present all of whom expressed enthusiasm and agreed to meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 2.00pm in the Coronation Hall. Mrs. June Wilkes agreed to organise speakers and a committee was formed. The meeting concluded with a demonstration of flower arranging by Miss Mablethorpe of Sanders-superstore. February again saw a well attended meeting at which Mrs. Pat Dain and the Gentle Exercise Group gave a most enjoyable demonstration of gentle exercises to music.

The March meeting was attended by Mrs. Kaushik dressed in Indian dress. She brought along a very large collection of her saris. Many were beautifully embroidered and all were extremely colourful. Members who wished to, tackled the job of winding the 6 yards of material into the correct style and very attractive they looked parading around the hall. Mrs. Kaushik answered questions on Indian culture and time passed all too quickly.

The April meeting will be addressed by a member of the "Well Women's Clinic". The competition will be an action photograph. Plans are in hand for outings in the summer. There is a trading stall at each meeting and a magazine exchange. The meetings are relaxed and the company pleasant. Do come along. **You will be very welcome.**

M. W. C.

WHIST DRIVES

Once again I am happy to thank members of our club (now numbering 20) for their continued support. As a result of sixty one drives, we have now been able to donate £851-62 to the building fund for the new Guide and Scout Headquarters. We are aiming to raise £1,000! Why not'. New members are welcome - 2pm - 4pm on Wednesdays in the Church Room - £1 including tea and biscuits - raffle.

Barbara Snelgrove

CORONATION HALL

Quite a lot of behind-the-scenes activity during this period in the Hall's affairs, which included the busy Christmas period (Christmas???) . For the splendid numbers of villagers who supported the Christmas Fair and Coffee Morning, you swelled the funds by almost £300, which was very welcome indeed - a good browse, good chinwag and good time appeared to be had by all.

The joint venture with the Guides and Scouts to enlarge and improve Hall facilities whilst providing them with a new headquarters continues through the lengthy pre-building process. Planning consent has now been received, the Guides Lease is in course of agreement, quotations have been received, a joint Building Fund Account established and applications for grants instigated.

The Committee has decided to proceed with renewing the kitchen floor with a Polysafe vinyl non-slip covering and this should be completed within the next month or two. It is also planned to shortly replace the stacking chairs.

Hiring fees were increased by a modest 5% from January and happily, bookings continue to be good - even some into 1995.

The Hall's Annual General Meeting will be at 7-30pm on Thursday 14th April and all are welcome. At the AGM, two "Village Representatives" are elected, so if anyone fancies joining our enthusiastic team of Committee members, now's the time to volunteer.

Finally, our thanks to Glo Smith who is retiring from representing the Parochial Church Council on the Hall Committee after some ten or eleven years service.

Peter Lindsay
Chairman

IAN DANCE

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FROM THE RECTOR, THE REV'D DAVID PARKINSON

I am most grateful to all who have contributed to the income of our Church during the past year. So far, the repairs to the roof and porch have cost £56,000 of which £21,000 has been recovered from English Heritage and other grant aid bodies. We will soon begin work on repairs to the tower, which are estimated to cost at least £16,000, following which some £6,000 or so will be required for repairs to the windows. Apart from these capital works, the cost of running the Church during 1993 was £23,500 of which £7,000 was raised by 'the Friends of the Church and the remainder largely by means of regular giving by users of the Church, principally the Sunday congregations. To all who have the good of the Church in this Parish at heart, my very grateful thanks.

Worship in the building continues, of course, though it is interesting to note that more use is made of the building by people from Bleadon Hill and beyond than from the village itself. We are now approaching the greatest and oldest Festival of the Church - Easter - and I hope that you will take the opportunity Easter gives of worshipping in our beautiful and ancient Parish Church.

BLEADON YOUTH CLUB EASTER TREASURE HUNT

Further to a successful Christmas Treasure Hunt on foot, the Youth Club invites you to join yet another exploit on SATURDAY 9th APRIL '94. Competitors should arrive at 10-30am at the club building where commencement will be phased at intervals. Completion of the walk should be made by 12noon approximately and, on returning to the club building, refreshments will be served prior to presentation of prizes and draw for a raffle.

Entries are permitted from individuals, couples and family groups. Tickets can be obtained from members of the committee & BLEADON POST OFFICE.

For further information please call either the Rector - 912297, H DURANT - 812493 or COLIN SANDFORD - 812505

Please support the youth of your village.

Haydn Durant

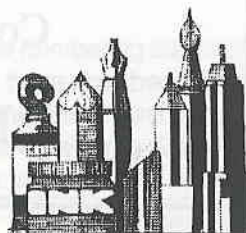
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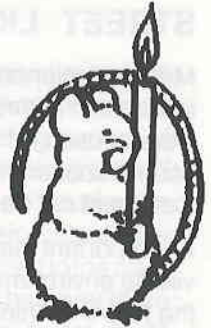
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FRIENDS OF THE CHURCH NEWS

Our New Year began with the climax of the New Year's Eve Dinner Dance in the Coronation Hall. Since then we held a snowbound Pancake Party in the Hall on the evening of 15th February and a follow-up Pancake Morning at Ruth James' house which was a real treat for those attending. The Silent Auction took place on Saturday 12th March on a cold and wet evening, but the Hall was full of good cheer and lots of splendid bargains.



This year we are holding a Coffee Morning each month with the aim of a different venue every time. Three have been held to date and the next one for your diary is in the Rectory on Thursday 14th April at 10.30am. Everyone is welcome to come along and enjoy themselves. There will be the usual good home-baking, raffle and bring & buy stall. If you would like to host a Coffee Morning with the help of the Friends please let Sylvia know on 814739.

Next month will be the May Day Fayre on Monday 2nd. New this year will be an all day Barbecue and a Children's Art Competition for ages 5-8, 9-13 and a category for Children with Special Needs. Details from Sylvia. As always, we are asking your help with stocking the following stalls: Bathroom, Books, Bric-a-Brac, Cakes and of course, the bottle Stall - all bottles and cans will be most gratefully received. Entertainment includes the Wolverhill Jazz Band, the Chestnut Cloggies, the Worleybird Majorettes, Guy the Jolly Juggler, Children's sports and all the usual sideshows, bouncy castles etc. There will be the Art Exhibition and a Flower Festival will be staged in the Church entitled "The seasons of the Church". The Church will be open on Sunday 2pm - 5pm and on the Monday 11am - 4pm.

We need as many helpers as possible to join us on the day, so if you can spare any part of the day please let Sylvia know what you would like to do. It's great if we can all be involved in what is Bleadon's **EVENT OF THE YEAR!**

Tony Ewin

ST PETER AND ST PAUL WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Our meetings as usual have proved to be friendly gatherings with interesting speakers. Our membership has increased this year and it is a pleasure to welcome new members. We have recently had our Spring Coffee Morning in the Church Room which was well supported - many thanks to all who helped in any way. On March 6th 'Women's World Day of Prayer' was hosted by our village church - the country on this occasion was Palestine. It was a beautiful service which I am sure benefited all who attended. Afterwards coffee was offered to everyone in the Coronation Hall. Our meetings take place in the Church Room at 2-p on the fourth Tuesday in each month - do come along and join us, perhaps, at first as a visitor. You would be made most welcome.

Madeline Blinkhorne

STREET LIGHTING

Most parishioners will be aware that your previous Parish Council arranged for the installation of three street lights about three years ago. These lantern type lights were chosen for their suitability to fit into our village environment. Your current council subsequently learned that, contrary to expectations, these were of a type that could not be adopted by Avon County Council.

It is important that any further street lights should be of a type that not only suit our village environment but are capable of adoption by Avon. Adoption ensures that the future running costs are met by Avon rather than be a direct charge on the village. After many exchanges and meetings with SWEB and Avon County's lighting personnel we secured agreement on a suitable type.

Three of the new type were installed, at the end of January, in the village hall area. One of these replaced the original lantern at the bus shelter which was then re-sited in School Lane. An old type lamp at the junction of Coronation Road and Shiplate Road, which burned out, was also replaced by one of the new lanterns. So far your council has received only favourable comments on these lights and are proposing to precept for at least three additional lights in the financial year 1994/5. The sites for these have yet to be agreed. However, we have to instal such lights with a view to adoption by Avon. To meet these criteria they have to be installed in groups of three or more with no more than 50 metres between adjacent lamps. One way of using these lamps effectively would be to fit them on the remaining three poles situated between Shiplate Road and the village hall childrens' play area. This would light the centre of the village completely from the bus shelter to the Queen's Arms". No decision has been made and we are aware that there are several other possible sites within the village. If you have any views on this matter please voice them to one of your parish councillors.

J. Ward

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WOODSPRING LOCAL PLAN

Woodspring District Council has been drawing up a new policy document which will be used to make planning decisions. It is called the Local Plan and covers almost every aspect of planning that can be thought of, including control of advertisements, noise nuisance, house extensions, sites of scientific interest and large scale housing and industrial development. It is an important document in that all new planning applications in the district are assessed on their compatibility with the policies which the council has agreed and which are contained in the plan. Not many people will read the Local Plan from cover to cover as it has over three hundred pages of detailed provisions but everyone should be aware of its existence and the main policies which are likely to affect us in Bleadon.

I welcome much of what is in the document as it does seem to be going in the right direction. There is a real concern to try to preserve what is best in our environment both in the countryside and in the towns. Many of us believe that demonstrating this concern positively and firmly is long overdue in an area which has been overdeveloped in the past three decades.

The Local Plan has not yet been adopted and consideration is currently being given to a number of representations about it from individuals and other parties. Proposals and ideas submitted to Woodspring to consider in the parish of Bleadon include the following:

1. The Church Commissioners would like three sites included in the village fence: land off Purn Way, half an acre of land to the east of Celtic Way, and one and a half acres of land at The Veale.
2. Agents for Whitegate Farm would like an alteration to the village fence to include a substantial area of land to the north of the farm which would be developed for housing, Land for a village green and recreation area would be donated to the village if planning permission for this development was approved.
3. ARC Properties Ltd would like their site at the quarry to be designated for residential development.

I have already indicated publicly at a meeting of the Parish Council that my initial response to these representations is not to support them. For many years the Parish Council has worked to limit development in the village in an attempt to preserve its rural character and I believe that policy has been right, We are privileged to live in an attractive part of the country and having generously opened up the district to huge housing developments in recent years it is now our duty to protect the special qualities of our village and its surrounding area by refusing more house building.

Alan Kerr
Woodspring District Councillor

FORTHCOMING EVENTS IN THE CORONATION HALL

PLEASE MAKE A NOTE IN YOUR DIARY!

Thursday	14th April	7.30pm	HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE A.G.M. - (Public Welcome)
Saturdays	23rd & 30th April		"THE DRUNKARD" A Melodrama in aid of C.L.I.C.
Monday	2nd May	9am - 5pm	MAY DAY FAYRE
Saturday	28th May	10.30 - noon	FRIENDSHIP CLUB COFFEE MORNING
Thursday	9th June	7am - 10pm	EUROPEAN ELECTIONS

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION - LYMPSHAM AND BLEADON MEN'S AND WOMEN'S BRANCHES

All arrangements are made concerning Mrs Clarke attending the Women's Section National Conference at Blackpool from April 26th to the 29th. The Prize Bingo held on October 29th was a great success and the proceeds of £82-38 was added to Earl Haig Poppy Appeal. The Christmas Bingo held at the Manor Hall on December 11th realised a total of £105-81. We thank all those who attended both the events. Part of the proceeds for this event was used for the following:-

Sick and Elderly of both Lympsham and Bleadon
Our two residents at Crosfield House, Powys, South Wales.
This is a home for ex service men and women.
Letters of thanks have been received.

The Women's Section will be represented at the South Mendip Group Meeting to be held at Brent Knoll on April 11th, commencing at 7-30pm. The ladies have been asked to organise the supper for the Men's Branch Social to be held at the Manor Hall on May 20th. Both branches are still welcoming new members. If you are interested, please contact:-

Mrs J Clarke, Secretary, Women's Section Royal British Legion, Becks Farm.
Mr G Pierce, Secretary, Men's Branch Welfare Committee, Royal British Legion Lympsham and Bleadon, Meadowedge, The Worthings 0934 750565

We are still kept busy with Legion work. If there are any problems concerning members or their dependants, please contact the following persons.

Mr W Stephens, 15 Worthy Crescent, Lympsham. Weston-Super-Mare.
Mrs J Clarke Tel: 0934 750351

REGULAR EVENTS IN THE CORONATION HALL

MONDAYS

10.30 - 12.00		Gentle Exercise Group	Mrs P Dain	812859
	<i>Sept - May</i>			
2.00 - 5.00pm		Bleadon Bridge Club	Mr R Gardiner	812041
7.30pm	<i>1st Monday</i>	British Sugarcraft Guild W.S.M. Branch	Mrs J Garrad	632632
7.30pm	<i>2nd Monday</i>	Parish Council		

TUESDAYS

2.00 -4.00pm	<i>2nd Tuesday</i>	Women's Club	Mrs J Cottrell	813665
7.30pm	<i>1st, 2nd & 4th</i>	Weston-super-Mare Camera Club	Mr K Tapley	623877

WEDNESDAYS

10.00 -noon	<i>2nd & 4th</i>	Infant Welfare Clinic and Toddler Group	Mrs J Morant at the Clinic	
7.30pm		Bleadon Players Rehearsals	Mr F Davies	812858

THURSDAYS

2.00 -4.00pm	<i>Sept - May</i>	Painting Class Painting to extend your abilities	Mrs K Panes A.C.E. WSM Tech College	621301
7.30pm	<i>1st & 4th Sept-June</i>	Folk Dancing	Miss B Snelgrove	812226

FRIDAYS

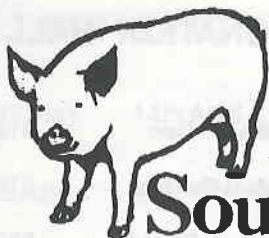
2.00 -4.00pm		Friendship Club	Mrs E M Tucker	813940
7.30pm	<i>Sept - May</i>	Short Mat Bowling Club	Mr J Ward	812136

SUNDAYS

3.00 -5.00pm	<i>Sept - May</i>	Short Mat Bowling Club	Mr J Ward	812136
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BLEADON FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Some committee changes were made at the recent AGM.

Mrs E Tucker was elected Chairman

Mrs M Wellum as Secretary with

Mrs J Diment as assistant

Mrs P Hoffman is now Social Secretary and she has obtained details of several outings, starting on May 12th.

The Annual Subscription remains as before at £1 - Treasurer Miss S Bird was thanked for her efficient handling of the Club's finances. It is hoped that the outings will be subsidised to members providing they are well supported.

There will be no meeting on April 1st - Good Friday. On the following Friday there will be a handicraft display. Full details and dates of outings will be available shortly.

Mr Peter Everett DO MRO

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1ST BLEADON BROWNIES

February 22nd is Thinking Day, which is when we think of Brownies and Guides in other countries. This year the Brownies learnt about Brownies in four distant countries. In their sixes they gave a presentation about their countries.

<i>Elves</i>	Gambia,	<i>Sprites</i>	Oman
<i>Gnomes</i>	Panama	<i>Kelpies</i>	Iceland

Afterwards, we tasted dishes from these countries.

On Sunday, 27th February, thirteen Brownies attended the Central and South Districts Thinking Day Service at St Paul's Church W.S.M. Michele, Cheryl and Nicole were the colour party and Kelly did a reading on Kenyan Brownies. In March, a team of six Brownies will be swimming in the Lions Club Swimathon. We hope they will be well sponsored as the money they raise will go towards the rebuilding of the Guide Hut. Other events the Brownies have to look forward to are the Gang Show at the Playhouse and their Brownie Disco.

In January I became Brown Owl, taking over from Carole Brown who has run the unit for many years. It is thanks to Carole's enthusiasm and commitment that I have taken over a thriving unit. We have not said goodbye to Carole as she is helping me until June. After that she will help the Brownies with their badges. She is also a very active member of the Guide and Scout Hut Rebuilding Committee. I know the Brownies and their parents will want me to say thank you and wish her the very best for the future.

Karen Wheeler - Brown Owl

1ST BLEADON CUB SCOUTS

Our pack has grown yet again, the membership having reached 21 boys. We have enjoyed a great three months. We had Xmas Capers and then our Xmas party plus a night out at the cinema to see Aladdin which was enjoyed by all.

The cubs have been working hard on their badgework, achieving 1st stage swimming, home help, artist, sportsman and many more. We are arranging a parents evening for the 31st March when the badges will be awarded and there will be a display of some of the work the boys have been doing during the past few months. During February we had a Sonic hedgehog evening with the boys inviting a friend or parent. We played games, built towers and generally had a great fun evening, and finished with hedgehog cakes. Thanks-to all who helped and to Stuart's mum and gran for kindly baking the cakes.

I am pleased to announce we have a new warranted leader at Bleadon, Mrs Steve Rhodes. Steve is a very experienced cub leader and will be joining us on the 10th March. At present moment I am struggling to fulfil my concept of a pack leader but with Steve's help I am sure the pack will grow from strength to strength.

Betty Paterson - Akela - tel 812183

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CONTACTUS - BLEADON

The Contactus Committee wishes to thank sincerely all those who supported our Barn Dance on 5th. March. It was good to see so many recent "Bleadonites" among those present. Our sincere thanks too are also due to the members of Weston and Bleadon Folk Dance Clubs who once again gave us great support. In connection with Bleadon Folk Dance Club may we once more repeat our assurance of a very warm welcome to anyone who would like to come along to see what we get up to on the 1st. and 4th Thursdays of each month. (Profit from Barn Dance over £150.)

We have recently been asked "What does Contactus do apart from welcoming newcomers with appropriate literature and an eventual party?", so here are a few examples of recent activities:-

Until a week or two ago, when the elderly person died, two of our members went for a whole evening every week to sit with her to enable the two caring relatives who lived with her to attend a meeting.

A local partially-sighted lady had an appointment at the Bristol Eye Hospital. As no ambulance was available to take her up, one of our members drove her up to Bristol, waited with her and for her for a good part of the day then drove her home again.

Recently I had a call to drive a lady to her doctor's surgery for which she gave me rather less than five minutes' notice. Fortunately I was able to respond.

A lady became so incapacitated by heart problems that her husband was advised to apply for an attendance allowance for her. We contacted Social Services on his behalf and subsequently assisted him in filling in the requisite twelve page document for this end.

Frequently we are consulted about sources for obtaining a whole range of different items for D.I.Y. and for the home generally and we are usually able to recommend the best value-for-money sources. Although a parish survey taken a couple of years ago showed that the vast majority of old people in the parish were extremely well supported by caring neighbours, we are very well aware that those who are housebound are liable to be on their own for longish periods of time and are very pleased to see a friendly face. We try to visit when we can and if possible to take young folk along with us.

When we first started Contactus we had a membership of well over forty including the committee. Now, because of movement out of the village, the infirmity or the death of founder members or because of other commitments, we have eleven committee members, two very active non-committee members and some half dozen friends willing to inform us of newcomers. Clearly we need some new recruits, so, what about it? Please ring Phil & Mary, Tel: 812667 or me, Tel: 812436 if you can help! Best wishes.

John Thomlinson
(Chairman)

BLEADON SHORT MAT BOWLING CLUB

Our club unfortunately lost a few members at the start of this club year. I am pleased to say, however, that we have almost returned to our full strength since the New Year. The new members we have welcomed this year are Mrs. Beryl Bowen from Purn Road and, all from Burnham-on-Sea, Clive Pearce and Fred and Rita James.

The club has put up a strong performance in the Woodspring Short Mat Bowls League. We are currently positioned at the top of the league with only one match left to play this season. Our strong position is not entirely unassailable since some of the other five clubs have two or more matches to play. We have every hope of staying where we are, in sharp contrast to last year when we finished at the bottom of the league.

By the time the next village newsletter is due we shall have ceased play for the summer. We always try to arrange a few social occasions, during the summer break. This helps to keep the club active and maintain our friendly atmosphere. We would welcome suggestions from club members for suitable social occasions.

John Ward

<p>BLEADON BARNSTORMERS <i>present</i> THE DRUNKARD</p> <p>CORONATION HALL SATURDAY 23rd & SATURDAY 30th APRIL VICTORIAN COSTUME OPTIONAL ADULTS £3 CHILDREN £2 Tickets from Bleadon P.O.</p>	<p>A Suspenseful, Heartrending, Hilarious, Melodrama</p> <p>Raffle & Licensed Bar</p> <p><i>Proceeds in aid of:-</i></p> <p><i>elic</i> <i>South West</i></p>
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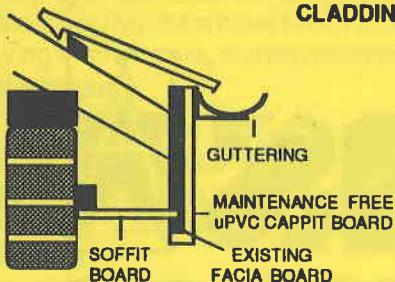


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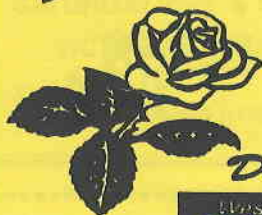
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