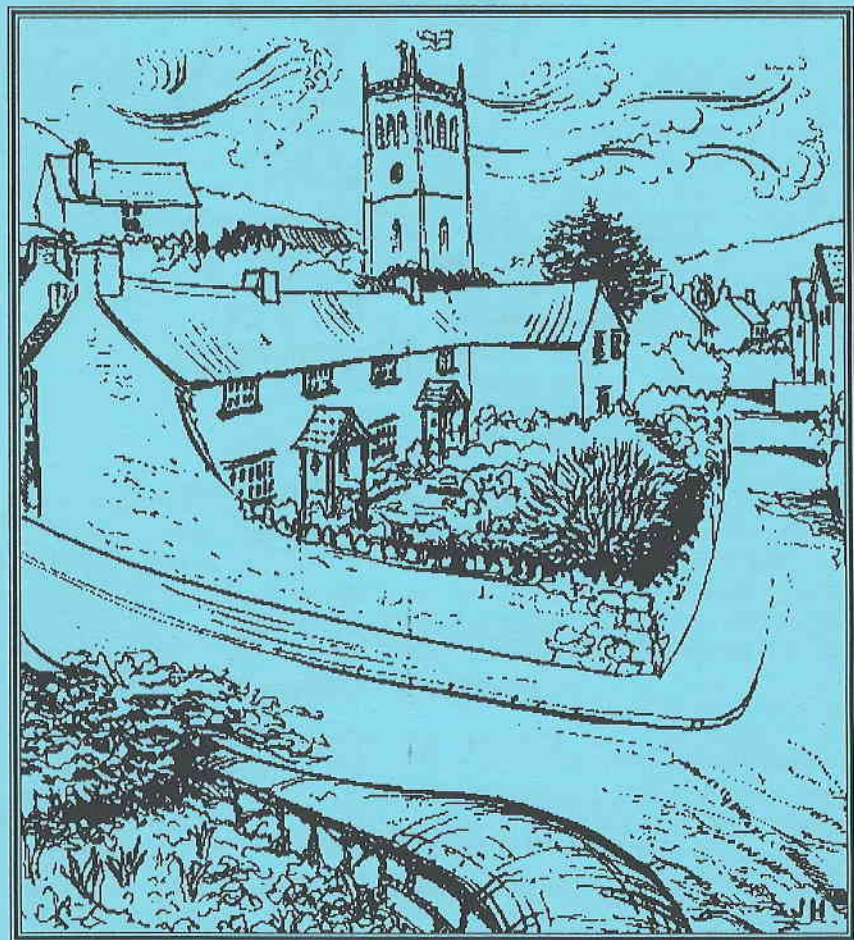
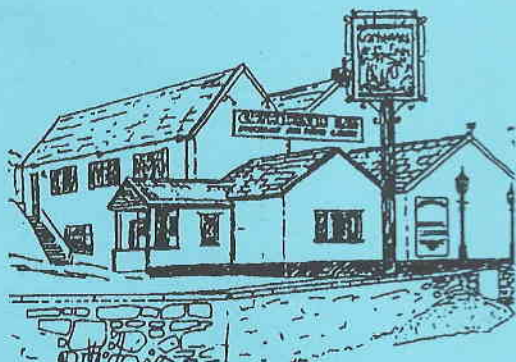


BLEADON



VILLAGE NEWS 36

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BLEADON VILLAGE NEWS

No: 36

February '98

From The Coronation Council Chamber

1. As expected, Penny Robinson has been co-opted to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Chris Carter. I am sure she will play an active part in the work of the Council.
2. Circumstances alter cases. The village is no longer wholly at the mercy of the District Council when it comes to road safety improvements. Firstly a new ruling allows Parish Councils to contribute funds towards such measures. Secondly, it seems that Wessex Water, whose construction project has caused so many problems on some of our roads, are now considering giving money for the same purpose. The future may not be orange, but it certainly seems brighter than at the time of the last newsletter.
3. The completion of work on the Coronation Hall can go ahead without the need for borrowing or fund raising. A review of the finances has shown that the Parish Council has sufficient funds for the task.

L.M.

District Councillor Report

Bronze Age Excavation Site

Vince Russett, North Somerset Archaeological Officer, has informed me that a television programme 'Meet the Ancestors' detailing the story of the excavation is scheduled for 5 February at 9pm (BBC 2). He also told me that although the pottery found on the site was definitely late Bronze Age (800 B.C.), the burials have been radiocarbon dated at late Iron Age (100 B.C.). It is beginning to look as if there is a history of ritual on the site spanning nearly a thousand years.

Bus Services

I have been approached about the current bus timetable between Bleadon and Weston and the early termination of services to Weston in particular. Obviously, North Somerset can not direct Badgerline to provided services; however, we do have officers who supervise the operation of bus services in North Somerset and are in contact with Badgerline on a regular basis. They provide 'feedback' to the company and any comments made to me, I pass on to them. Incidentally, the 83 service (Bleadon - Weston - Hutton Moor) Mondays to Saturdays and the 807 service (Bleadon - Worle) Sundays & Bank Holidays are supported financially by North Somerset.

Periodic Electoral Review

The Local Government Commission for England delivered their draft recommendations in December. For Bleadon they will result in a major change in that the Commission

propose to merge Hutton Ward, which consists of the parishes of Hutton and Bleadon, with Winscombe and Sandford, which consists of the parishes of Winscombe and Sandford (a single parish) and additionally the parish of Loxton. The proposed ward will return THREE councillors instead of the one currently returned by Hutton Ward. Although I remain in favour of retaining a single member ward, it is obvious that the Local Government Commission place great importance on balancing the number of electors per councillor. The review states:

“Taking all the evidence available to us into account we have decided, at this stage, that we should recommend the creation of a new two-member Banwell & Locking ward covering the parishes of those names and a new three-member Hutton & Winscombe ward comprising the parishes of Bleadon, Hutton, Loxton and Winscombe & Sandford. We would welcome views during Stage Three (Public Consultation), particularly in relation to ward names. “

So it appears that in reality only the name of the new ward remains to be decided. I will be writing to the Local Government Commission suggesting that the new ward should be named Mendip Hills: since each of the parishes contains elements of the Mendip Hills Area Of Outstanding Natural Beauty (A.O.N.B.). I think it is important to find a common element to link the various parishes in the new ward.

B. McGrath

Bleadon Church Clock Restoration Appeal

We are now so used to looking up at our Church clock again that we have almost forgotten the high-speed fund-raising effort mounted by Margaret Cullen and Ruth James that made possible its restoration. The figures below are a final statement of the financial situation. The appeal is over and the surplus £518.02 has been handed over to the Church Clock Fund, helping to provide for future maintenance and repairs. The village is indebted to all involved.

Income and Expenditure

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
Mrs. Diment.	315.00	Overhaul and repair of clock and automation	
50/50 Auction	920.00	of winding mechanism	3406.98
Parish Council	600.00	Cabinet	165.00
Donations from Public	2242.73	Brass Plaque	35.43
Bank Interest	47.70	Church Clock Fund	518.02
	4125.43		4125.43

Peter Hore (Treasurer)

Church of St. Peter and St. Paul

BLEADON
700

Bleadon 700 Celebrations began on 9th January 1997 with an Epiphany Carol Service attended by Clergy and Members from various Churches in Weston and was brought to a conclusion by means of a very successful and enjoyable New Year's Eve Party in the Coronation Hall. In

between these dates, many wonderful events took place, not least the Celebration Week in September (see Village News 35). To all who contributed in any way throughout our special year of celebration - my very grateful thanks.

FRIENDS OF BLEADON CHURCH

Events arranged for 1998

PANCAKE PARTY Shrove Tuesday, 24th February in the Church Room at 7.30pm. Tickets £1.50

offers of Pancakes to Reyn Badger, please.

SILENT AUCTION Saturday 28th March, Coronation Hall, 7.30pm

bangers and mash, beans and onions - bar
Tickets on sale in March, Please look out those unwanted quality goods for sale on behalf of our Church.

MAY FAYRE

Monday 4th May, with the City of Bristol Band, Flower Festival and other attractions for all the family as usual.

WORSHIP

To all those who are hard of hearing, a Loop and Sound system has been installed in Church. Those who wear hearing aids may tune into this system and it is hoped that others with hearing difficulties will be better able to join in worship.

Lent begins with two Masses as usual on Ash Wednesday 25th February - 9.30am (said) Eucharist and 7.30pm Sung Eucharist. Mothering Sunday Family Service 10.15am on 22nd March. Our Choir plus Friends will be presenting a Passiontide Service on Sunday 29th March at 6.30pm.

David Parkinson, Rector, Tel 812297



BRIDGE GARAGE

(Prop: Peter Briffitt)

BLEADON VILLAGE

AT YOUR SERVICE

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“The Cure of Souls”

The presentation of this one - act play on the evenings of 14th and 15th October was an occasion not to be missed. The action set within the Church, with the clever scenery devised by John Hickley achieved a wonderfully evocative atmosphere. This was enhanced by the medieval music and helpers in costume as well as cast. Some members of the audience also entered into the spirit of the evening by dressing up. The Players excelled themselves by their speedy changes of costume and roles. The various Priests and village worthies were well portrayed and ably supported by the groups of villagers of assorted ages. The dramas of the “Black Death”, the “Great Storm” of 1484, the murder of William Norman and the arrest of Edward Powell were chillingly realistic. There was a welcome touch of humour as well. The Revd. David Parkinson and his “Wife” wondering about their predecessors in the year of thanks-giving for 700 years of Priestly Ministry, neatly linked the scenes together. Hearty congratulations to all involved in this very ambitious and successful production. The Medieval Banquet after the Saturday performance was “the icing on the cake”.

Margaret Cullen

A Participant’s Viewpoint

Recreating the past in a way that will grip an audience is more difficult than might appear. Thus many pageants and so forth are long on costume and scenery but short on character and dialogue. Such reservations do not apply to “The Cure of Souls”. Using the research material supplied by Margaret Cullen, Charlotte House and her friend Amanda Salisbury created a script that gave the cast words worth saying and characters worth playing. I certainly found it stimulating portraying half-a-dozen widely different people (though, had I not been in Church, I would have cursed all the costume changes in the semi - darkness of the Chancel), but this gave me little chance to take in the overall effect. Having watched the video, however, I can only pay tribute to the extremely high quality of the production. Those who did not see it really missed something.

L.M.

Credit Where Credit Is Due

As our Editor was a participant in this wonderful play, one feels that, from us other nonparticipants, full credit should be paid to all those people who gave their time, effort, skills and devotion to such a worthwhile cause. I feel sure that all the following people should be proud of their achievement in writing yet another chapter in the history of this village-. Revd. David Parkinson, Margaret Cullen, Charlotte House, Amanda Salisbury, John Hickley, Huw Boyce, Ken Chappell, Simon Court, Frank Davies, Hayden Durant, Alistair House, William Lane, Los Masters, Daniel Ward, Gerald White, Brenda White, Kayleigh Andrew, Sarah Andrew, Rebecca Boyce, Elizabeth Chappell, Pat Davies, Morag Edwards, Erica House, Jane Jay, Hannah Lewin, Isabel Lillico, Glenise Masters, Elizabeth Toogood, Katie Ward, Lynn Riding, Julie Ward, Howard Clements, Sarah Gibbons, Maisie North, Winn Barrett, Sharon Prior, Mary Edbrooke, Mary Churchill, Harry Chatterley, Susan Dewdney, Louise Hall, all the other helpers, providers, the audience, but above all, belated thanks to **Richard Pay** for coming to Bleadon in 1297.

David Andrew



CLIC FUN QUIZ, 1997

Once again it is the time of the year when pencils are sharpened and brains are racked. This year was rather special, as CLIC had its 21st birthday and the Weston Branch of CLIC was formed ten years ago. Such an occasion had to be a bit special.

As usual we were over-subscribed and had a very full house, but it did not quite work out like that as one member of a party of eight had her foot run over by a car in the car park so it did rather put a temporary blight on the proceedings. Knowing that Liz Freeman (a past Secretary to the Weston Branch) would have been very upset to think that the evening was spoiled, we buckled to and it really was a great success, and I have to report that Liz is nipping around smartly on her zimmer, and hopes to be back to normal in about eight weeks. People were very generous and supported the main CLIC raffle, so I thought it would be nice to give them another raffle free. This I did by using Bingo cards and the winner of the star prize of a beautiful Christmas Cake, made by Mrs. Joyce Garrard, of Sugarcraft, was won by Mrs. Joan Brown who lives on the Bridgwater Road. Variety is the name of the game and if people had difficulties with one category there was always the next one to look forward to. The overall winners were Mr & Mrs. Philip Cox of the Mendip Branch of CLIC, and more than half the people got to within twenty of the winners so they are all a lot of clever clogs. However, that is not the object of the exercise as we aim to have a happy evening all together and perhaps do our bit for CLIC. Put the date in your diary for next year - it is 21st November, 1998 and the tickets go quickly, I am happy to say, so see you all again next November!!!

P.S. The amount raised for CLIC was £501.58. Many, many thanks!!

Pat Dain

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TRIBUTE TO A VERY GREAT DAIN

Ten years of gentle exercise have come to a - perhaps temporary - end. Pat Dain has sensibly decided to quit while she is ahead, so the Monday morning exercises now have a lost leader. Apart from the £4000 raised for C.L.I.C. out of the antics, much enjoyment and satisfaction have been generated, witness these quotations from members of the group (whose anonymity I shall protect to my dying breath !!!).

"Monday mornings will never be the same again, Pat Dain took away the "Washday" blues and gave to so many a morning of lively exercise, laughter, chatter, chatter and companionship..... not to mention well-honed bodies!!" (*Eh?! - Ed.*)

"Never ask about the Greek sequence. Suffice it to say, none of us bears any resemblance to Telly Savalas" (*Eh ?!! - Ed.*)

"Then for our efforts, Roy (*Pats husband - Ed.*) was always there - maker of tea, coffee and elder flower wine - a great pick-me up at the end of each session".

If that is the end of it, at least there have been ten good years. On the other hand, could there possibly be someone in or near the village who would be willing to take on Pats mantle? It would be nice to think so and certainly a warm welcome would await.

L.M.

BLEADON , SCOUTS

Another year gone by so quickly. It has been a busy one for us and what with camping competitions and sport competitions, our boys and girls have done us proud. We had a very enjoyable weeks holiday in Bruges. We left Bleadon at 6am and eleven hours later arrived at Merkenveld station, the village where our scout camp was situated. The scouts tired by this time, were upset when they realised they had a mile to hike with all their kit. However the next day they were on full form. During the week we did lots and saw lots, some of us even had a go at water skiing me included. Bruges is a very beautiful city and if you ever get a chance to go I highly recommend it

Lesley who got us up and running as a scout troop, has gone onto pastures new. She is now our Assistant District Commissioner and her presence will be much missed.

No doubt many will have seen Father Christmas on our Christmas float going through the village. Many little ones came out to see him with their parents. Thankyou all for the support you gave us and help especially Mike Barton, David Boley and Richard Strode. Without them it could not take place. Your support and generosity throughout the year are much appreciated and will help us kit out our lovely new headquarters. May I wish you all a very happy new year on behalf of the scouts.

Huw Boyce

1st Bleadon Brownies

Autumn has been an exciting time for us at Brownies. Our new headquarters is enormous and we have enjoyed playing games which have utilized every inch of it. We have also increased our pack size to 24 Brownies and are now full. Our big event of the term has been a Carribean evening. Uphill Brownies joined us and we had a really good evening. Brownies and leaders arrived in Carribean costume - a bit chilly in October! We enjoyed songs and games from the countries of the Carribean, ate fresh coconut, fruit kebabs and banana cake. We also made masks and had a go at limbo dancing. Everyone enjoyed themselves and we hope to have a similar evening when the weather is a little kinder. Inspector Hayley Lawrence visited us in November and gave the Brownies an insight into her work for the R.S.P.C.A. The children also learnt about the care of their pets. Our spring term will be equally busy, our first event being a sponsored knitting evening with our friends in the Cubs. It will be interesting to see how we all get on. Will there be more stitches than holes? I'll let you know in the next Bleadon news.

Ruth Lang 01934-750827

BLEADON SHORT MAT BOWLING CLUB

Our 1997/98 Season opened on Friday 3rd. October '97. We have a few new members which means that we now have just about the optimum numbers that we can accept without unduly restricting playing opportunities. We meet on Fridays at 7.00pm. and Sundays at 3.00pm in the Coronation Hall. At the time of writing we have already played four of our twelve matches of the new season within the slightly enlarged Woodspring Short Mat Bowling League. Unfortunately we were not able to maintain our previous level of success that won us the league title last season. We took 15 of a possible 16 points in our home matches but lost the two away matches.

May we remind all members that we have booked accommodation in Torquay for our Spring bowling weekend. We have the same excellent hotel as last year but it has even more improved facilities. There is still an opportunity for others to join us.

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BLEADON HILL SPORTS

Bleadon Hill Sports, originally known as The Bleadon, Christon, Hutton and Loxton Hill Preserving Association are sixty years old this year. The sports were first held in 1931, and apart from a break during the intervening war years, have been an annual event on and around Bleadon Hill since that year. Traditionally, the Bleadon Hill Sports are a horse show combining novelty and humorous events with a strong country influence. There seems to be no written record of events prior to the 1950 Minutes book, although, there will probably be people in the village who recall memories of earlier shows.

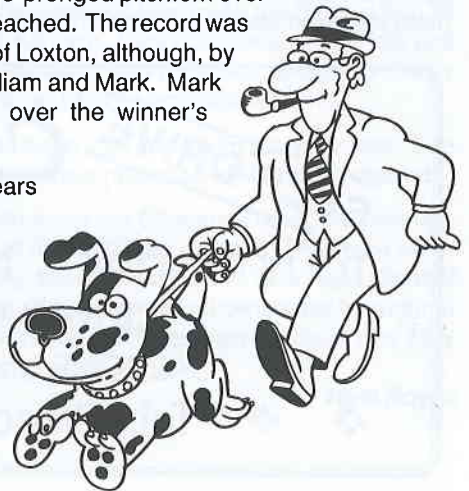
In 1950 the sports were held at The Caterpillar. Bleadon Hill on Mr Poole's land. The organisers all dressed up in smocks and straw hats and a bus service ran from the Beach Bus Station in Weston bringing spectators to the Showground. There was free entry for farm workers. Racing carhorses was a regular event, the horses being ridden bareback. The Fattest Pair - horse and rider - was a novelty event one year. According to press cuttings, horse and rider were both measured round the girth and the two figures added. The winners together measured 11 feet 4 inches.

In 1955 the new event of tractor racing for farmers and farm workers was introduced. In the same year the show was honoured by a visit from the Mayor of Weston, Cllr R Ivens accompanied by the Mayoress. The fancy dress class was a very popular event. Themes were often of a topical nature depicting events such as the Suez crisis but in a less than serious fashion. A team of Weston Young Farmers appeared to be regular winners and on one occasion depicted The Bleadon Channel Swimmers with among others, George Wall splashing in a pool on a trailer with Henry Amesbury in a ladies bathing costume clutching a tennis racket representing Gorgeous Gussie.

During that time a "North of the hill" team battled it out against a "South of the hill" opposition in the Tug of War event.

Tossing the sheaf of corn has continued to the present day. This involves propelling a sack of straw by means of a two-pronged pitchfork over a high bar. Heights of over twenty feet are reached. The record was held for some years by the late Dick Tilley of Loxton, although, by 1965 he was being beaten by his sons, William and Mark. Mark remains a regular contestant and fights over the winner's rosette with Trevor Savage from Hutton.

Another event that has survived over the years is the dog race. Dogs and their owners chase across the field after a "hare." The hare is actually a very old piece of rabbit skin on a piece of rope that is wound in on a bicycle wheel with dogs and handlers in hot pursuit. David Luff and his collie dog have been champions on numerous occasions in recent years.



In 1986 the sports moved from Bleadon Hill to Mrs Goodall's Whitegates Farm and became the Bleadon Country Sports. There was a display that year by the beautiful black horse that was used in the Lloyds Bank advertisements. 1988 saw the fiftieth Hill Sports and to celebrate, Grand National winner Aldiniti, made a guest appearance. Proceeds from the show that year went to the Bob Champion Cancer Trust.

In 1994 the sports moved once again to Mr and Mrs John Frost's Appledore Farm, Lymsham. Recent changes to the show format have been to include classes for native breed ponies and, since 1996, carriage driving classes have proved to be a popular spectacle.

During the fifties and sixties proceeds from the sports were divided between The Pony Club, The British Field sports, The Animal Health Trust and the St John's Ambulance Brigade. However, in recent years, all proceeds have been donated to local charities. In 1996, £1500 was divided between The Weston Area Health Trust and the North Somerset branch of Hearing Dogs for the Deaf. In 1997, £750 was donated to The Langford Trust animal hospital and £750 to Make a Wish Foundation, a charity that fulfils the wishes of children with terminal illnesses. The show organisers are indebted to local businesses that regularly support the event by advertising in the schedule.

The 60th Bleadon Country Sports will be held on Saturday August 22nd at Appledore Farm. There will be plenty to see and do for the whole family and all proceeds will once again support local charities.

Alison Hillyer
Treasurer of The Bleadon Country Sports 1998

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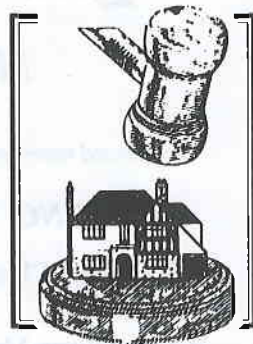
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**FORTHCOMING EVENTS IN THE CORONATION HALL
PLEASE MAKE A NOTE IN YOUR DIARY!**

Sat	14th	Feb	9.00am - 5.00pm	'Country / Rock Night' (Take Art)	Parish Council
Sat	28th	Feb	7.30pm	School Dinner Evening	Bleadon Scouts
Fri	6th	March	10.00am	Coffee Morning	Women's Fellowship
Sat	14th	March		Spring Show	Horticultural Society
Sat	21st	March	7.30pm	'Tribute to Flanders & Swann' (Take Art)	Parish Council
Sat	28th	March	7.30pm	Silent Auction	Church Friends
Thurs/Fri/Sat 16/17/18th April			7.30pm	"A Murder is Announced"	Bleadon Players
Mon	4	May	9.00am - 5.00pm	May Fair	Church Friends

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Planning Report

Since my co-option to the Parish Council, Cllr. A House has relinquished his position as Planning Leader. It was decided at the October meeting that the task of Planning Leader would be vested in me. I assure you that I will do my best on all Planning issues and keep you informed through your Village News.

97/1954. Replacement of field shelter and haybarn behind Hilltop House at Shiplate Road.

The Parish Council recommended refusal on the grounds that it was outside the village fence and we had to be consistent with planning policy. The material to be used did not comply with an AONB and the landowners were misleading the planners by wanting a haybarn as well as stables which they said previously existed.

North Somerset decision is not yet known.

1935/91. New Sewage Treatment Works.

An open invitation to the Parish Council to tour the site at Bleadon Level was accepted by three councillors as well as our District Councillor. The tour was very informative. We were shown a short video and taken down shaft 3 to see how the tunnels were made. Although an impact on the levels is inevitable, it is bound to be an improvement on the environment in the long term. The Parish Council recommended approval since the end product will benefit farmers and growers and gardeners alike. The drying plant will be screened with trees and

the whole area will hopefully attract a wide variety of wildlife. The Parish Council did, however, ask that a 106 agreement be placed on Wessex Water to pay for road improvements from the A370 to Wayacre Drive. This was agreed in principle with Wessex Water.

Since December, planning issues have remained dormant, but for how long I ask myself?

Mary Sheppard.

(The above report should have appeared in Village News 36 but was omitted through the editor's mistake. Please file it with the rest of the magazine.)

REGULAR EVENTS IN THE CORONATION HALL

MONDAYS

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>	Bleadon Ladies Group	Mrs J Wilkes	812783
7.30pm	<i>1st, 2nd , 4th & 5th</i>	Weston-super-Mare Camera Club	Mrs G Taylor	812475

WEDNESDAYS

10.00 -noon	<i>2nd & 4th</i>	Infant Welfare Clinic and Toddler Group	The Health Visitor at the Clinic	
10.00 -noon	<i>1st, 3rd & 5th</i>	Toddler Group	Mrs J Hammond	513448
2.00 -4.00pm	<i>Sept - June</i>	Watercolour Painting (<i>Post Beginners</i>)	Mrs K Panes A.C.E.	621301
7.30pm		Bleadon Players <i>Rehearsals</i>	Mr F Davies	812858

THURSDAYS

2.00 -4.00pm	<i>Sept - June</i>	Watercolour Painting (<i>Experienced</i>)	Mrs K Panes A.C.E.	621301
8.00pm	<i>1st & 4th Sept-June</i>	Folk Dancing	Mrs J Thorne	814007

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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The Hall is available for hire by any private individual or organisation,

ENQUIRIES TO: Mrs J Jones - 812370

British Legion - Lympsham & Bleadon

Earl Haig Poppy Fund 1997

The total Money sent from the Villages of Bleadon and Lympsham is as follows:

Bleadon £536.00p

Lympsham £918.46p

Total £1454.46p.

Many thanks to Mrs. J. Diment of Bleadon and Lady Jean Galsworthy of Lympsham Poppy Fund Organisers for their hard work with the House to House Collections and the two days at Sanders super Store. Also many thanks to all who gave so generously for this most worthy cause.

Royal British Legion Men's Branch - Bleadon & Lympsham

The Annual General Meeting of the Men's Branch in October was a Meeting with a change of Treasurer, Mr. D. Hannah has relinquished his Post, and Mike Turner was elected in his place. Our Representative on the Manor Hall Committee is now Brian Poole taking the place of Reg Ford. Our next Meeting will take place in the Sports and Social Pavilion on Tuesday 27th January 1998 commencing at 7.30pm.

Royal British Legion Women's Section - Bleadon & Lympsham

The **Annual General Meeting** of the Women's Section was held on Friday Nov. 7th. All Officers and Committee were re-elected, and the Secretary and Treasurer reported a very successful Year.

Carol Service Bleadon Parish Church December 11th was held very successfully and many thanks go to Mr. & Mrs. Clarke our Standard Bearers and to the readers of the lessons. This event makes a brilliant start to the Christmas Festivities. The Christmas Bingo held on December 13th at the Manor Hall was also very successful, and a profit of £146 has been added to Branch Funds. Many thanks to all who attended especially those from Bleadon. We thank all those who gave items for the Raffle and Prizes.

To all in both Bleadon and Lympsham Best Wishes to you all for the New Year and may it fulfil all your wishes.

Mrs. J. Clarke

Glenise and Les Masters

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** We look forward to seeing you soon **

Joyce & Tony Fawcett - Purn International Holiday Park



Bleadon Friendship Club

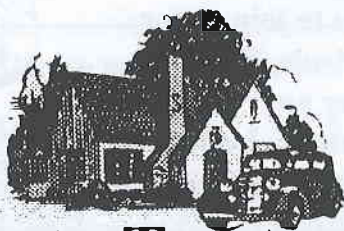
Attendance for the last 3 months has been well above average, and several new members have been welcomed. A very varied programme has been enjoyed :- History of Medicine, talks and slides on Switzerland and Old Weston, also Russell Rogers and friends, the usual games of bingo and Sylvia with a quiz. Closing on 19th December with a Christmas meal for 52 people which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone, the Club started again on January 16th - do come and join us on a Friday afternoon from 2.15pm to 4.00pm

J.D.

Programme of events for February, March and April 1998

Feb	6	Beetle - Sylvia
	13	Slides - Mr Eric Hendy
	20	"The Two of Us" - Music and Monologues - Mr & Mrs Cooper
	27	Bingo - Jack Thorn and helpers (AGM)
Mar	6	Slides and talk about Bath - Mrs. B. Porton
	13	"Gallopig Gourmet" - Rosie Don
	20	Beetle - Sylvia
	27	Russell Rogers & Friends
Apl	3	"Avalon" Band
	10	No meeting - Good Friday
	17	Community Policing - Fred White
	24	Bingo - Jack Thorn and Friends

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BLEADON CORONATION HALL

The new hall extension is now in regular use by the scouting groups. There are still finishing operations being done. These include fitting out the small kitchen and making and installing storage cupboards for the four current scout groups. The one remaining major item is the heating of this hall. We are currently discussing, with local suppliers, the most suitable form of electrical heating. It has to be an electrical application with minimal installation costs coupled with economic running expenses.

Since I last reported, the quarry tiling of the new main Coronation Hall foyer and toilet blocks has been done. Work has also commenced on the plumbing installations in the new toilet blocks for the main hall. We are, unfortunately, still limited by lack of the necessary funds to complete these. However, we understand that the Parish Council expects shortly to arrange sufficient bank loan facilities to complete this work.

Once these funds are available, one of the earliest changes will involve the removal of a substantial part of the rear end wall. This is to the immediate right of the kitchen as you face it. That will open a passage way through to the new entrance foyer and toilet facilities. The new entrance door will then be brought into regular use. The existing foyer walls will be removed and the old entrance converted to emergency exit doors. This work will make additional space available in the old hall while also creating a new storage room. We hope that this will enable us to free more space to the side and rear of the stage - a move that will be good news for the Bleadon Players.

I am pleased to report that the Christmas Coffee Morning, although not as well attended as usual, raised almost £200. Unfortunately this will not go far, as a number of maintenance costs need to be funded, with a strong possibility that we shall need to replace one of the hall heaters. If so this will probably take most of the cash raised. We were also facing expenditure of about £200 to replace "lost" crockery and cutlery. I say "lost" because we were some 40 cups short of the-120 sets of crockery which we try to keep available. I find it difficult to believe that occasional breakages account for this number! Fortunately a chance encounter has enabled me to obtain sufficient surplus chinaware free, from a local holiday organisation that is routinely replacing their current china design. With fingers crossed, I have high hopes that this year's May Fair will be the first major event to be able to use all of the new extensions.

John Ward

BLEADON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

As this is the time of year to fill in the new calendar and diaries, a timely reminder to note that the Bleadon Horticultural Society Spring Show will be held on March 14th. The high standards of entrants in the Homecraft and Handicraft sections along with the beautiful spring colours that greet everyone is always a great inspiration after a long dreary winter. We hope to welcome many new exhibitors in all sections-especially all the children. We look forward to seeing you all then and in the meantime wish everyone a very healthy and peaceful New Year.

M. P.

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