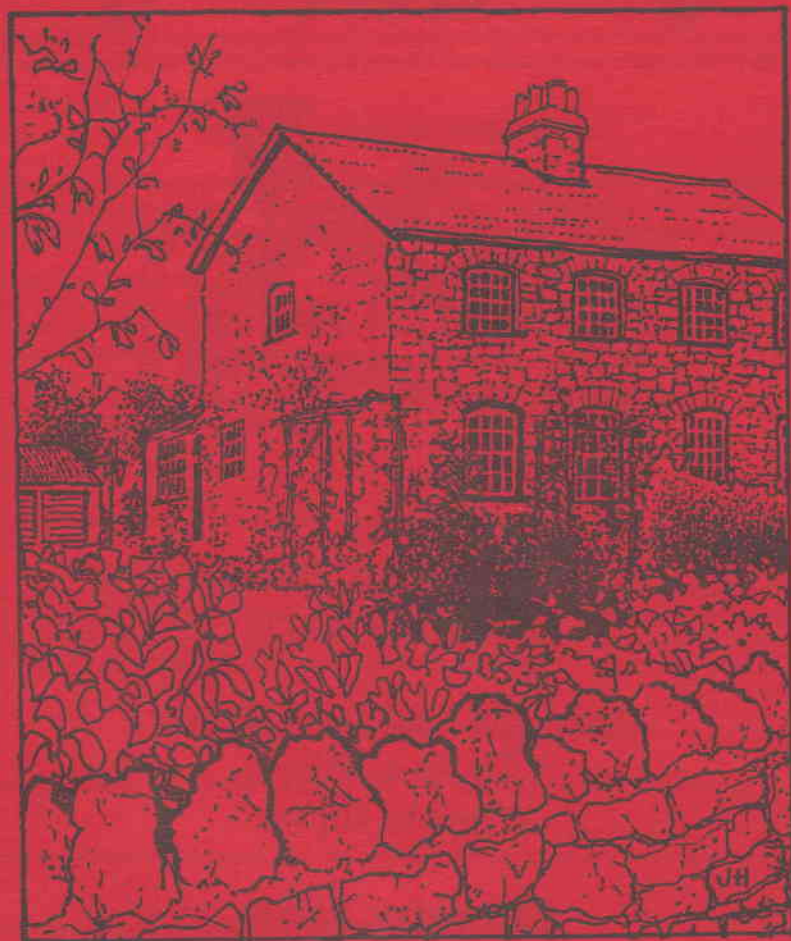


BLEADON



VILLAGE NEWS 41

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BLEADON VILLAGE NEWS

NO. 41

MAY 1999

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The Annual Parish Meeting of Bleadon Parish Council was held on 12th April 1999. The reports of a successful year's activities were presented by the Chairman and the Councillors responsible.

These proceedings were followed by the usual meeting of the Bleadon Parish Council, at which time many councillors, including the Chairman, announced their intention not to stand for re-election on 6th May 1999.

SO IT'S GOODBYE FROM THEM:

Brenig Evans, a long time member and a valued Chairman for seven years. We thank him for dealing with many thorny issues such as street lighting and working tirelessly for the introduction of speed limits and weight restrictions through the village. I am glad to say that both these problems will soon be solved.

Les Masters, a familiar face to all, and a mine of information. His input with regard to footpaths in and around the village will be missed. I wonder how many miles he has covered over the years? Luckily for us, he will still be in the P.O. for the moment, selling the maps telling us where to go ... in the nicest possible way of course!

Mary Sheppard, another well-known villager who has been looking after the planning so completely for the past couple of years.

Eric Wilkinson, a former County Councillor. His experience will be missed.

Alistair House was hoping to stand again, but was a few hours late with his nomination, so he is waiting in the wings.

There is one very eminent personage I've yet to mention: I refer, of course, to **George Wall** who has served on Bleadon Parish Council for 23 years or so. His presence at the meetings, his valued knowledge of the area and his wealth of experience on all matters relating to 'open spaces', all these things we shall miss. We wish him improving good health in his well deserved retirement.

AND NOW IT'S 'HELLO' FROM US

Peter Smart. He is to be our new Chairman. He will, no doubt, also be encouraging us all to 'Keep Bleadon Tidy'.

Ivan Cottrell is the Vice-Chairman, and will probably still be keeping a close eye on the youth club activities.

Penny Robinson will be attempting to look after the open spaces.

Malcolm Perry will be dealing with planning issues.

Ray Hicks is going to worry about the footpaths and all their related problems.

Len Chamberlain, who is Chairman of the Coronation Hall Committee, will continue dealing with matters concerning both Halls.

Penny Skelley will be the Parish Council's representative on the Hall Committee.

As you can see from this list, only seven people came forward to stand for election to the Council, so in time-honoured tradition, there was no need for a vote on 6th May. In due course, it will become necessary to co-opt two others to join, in order to restore the Parish Council to its full complement of nine!

P.R.

The Parish Clerk, to whom all correspondence should be addressed is:
BRUCE POOLE, 10 SOUTH STREET, BURNHAM-ON-SEA
Tel: 01278 787555

Council meetings are usually held on the second Monday of the month, at 7.30pm in the Coronation Hall. Anyone who wishes may attend these meetings and there is always an opportunity at the end of business for comments or questions from the public.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - 1999

This is the last opportunity I shall have as Chairman of your Parish Council to report on the past year, and to make some necessary comments.

The past year was fairly uneventful. The 'RUCK CHARITY' was wound up, and the balance of the funds was donated to the Council. These funds were used to build a permanent shelter, adjacent to the bus stop, on Bleadon Road.

The extension to the Coronation Hall was finally completed, and is now in use. This will prove to be a major benefit to our community over the coming years; witness its use as an Art Gallery for the May Day Fayre.

The planning recommendations on your behalf were generally very successful, as we were defeated in very few instances.

Our fight to see a 30mph speed limit in Bleadon and a weight and length restriction, has finally proved a success. Both of these restrictions will become law this year. Having seen the car which was recently abandoned after smashing into the children's play area, and the car which was driven into the village cross, I feel sure that all will agree these restrictions are not just a necessity, but will be a major benefit to our Parish.

Your Parish Council has the same status as a Town Council, so Bleadon Parish Council has the same powers as, for example, Clevedon or Portishead Town Councils. The Chairman of your Council would be classified as Mayor of a Town Council. There is a good reason for saying this. Recently I was told that Parish Councils are a waste of time, that they can do nothing. This, of course, is pure rubbish.

Parish Councils have a number of Statutory Powers and Obligations but most of their effectiveness comes through persuasion. Nine years ago I was elected onto Bleadon Parish Council. For almost seven years I have served as Chairman. Just some of the successful achievements of your Council over those years are:

1. Fighting claims of illegality.
2. Stopping a permanent gypsy site at Accommodation Road.
3. Stopping 'Windmill Generators' on Hellenge Hill.
4. Stopping a large house from becoming a nursing home.
5. Environmental building considerations at Wessex Water site.
6. Improving drainage at The Veale.
7. Improving road surfaces at The Veale.
8. Installing street lighting.
9. Speed and weight/length restrictions.

Parish Councils can be very effective, but it does take a lot of time, patience, perseverance and logical argument to persuade the higher authority.

Six or seven months ago I decided that I would not be putting myself forward for re-election this year, after nine years of service I really have had enough. It's time for fresh blood, and for others to take on the responsibility of caring for our Parish.

George Wall made the same decision and this is a real blow to Bleadon. George has been a Councillor, and past Chairman for 23 years. He has probably done more for our Parish than every other Councillor put together, we will miss George. Please join me in wishing George a long and happy retirement, and our gratitude for a job so very well done.

Seven Councillors have been elected and they assume responsibility on the 10th of this month. I wish them every success and good luck. Remember before you criticise, they have accepted a very difficult task on our behalf without any financial reward.

Finally, may I thank all past members of Bleadon Parish Council, Bruce Poole (the Clerk), District Councillor Bryan McGrath, Martyn Edwards and all the residents of Bleadon for their kindness and support over the past nine years.

Best wishes

Brenig Evans (Chairman)

THANK YOU BLEADON

I wish to thank Bleadon Parish Council and the people of Bleadon in general for their support during the four years I was your District Councillor. I appreciated the strong support given by the village in signing a petition requesting a speed and weight limit on vehicles. Subsequently, the past and present chairman of the Parish Council spoke at the meeting of Highways and Transport Sub-Committee that decided to advertise the traffic orders.

The period started with the change over from Woodspring to North Somerset. At that time I served on five committees and was Vice-Chairman of South Area Planning Committee. After the change from three to two area planning committees, I restricted to three the number of committees I served on, due to the effect my council workload was having on my business.

Some 'confusion' seems to have developed over the level of payments I received as District Councillor. I received £1750 in 97/98 and £1500 in 98/99. This was the basic allowance available in both years. I never claimed any meal or travel expenses whilst on the District Council.

Bryan McGrath

THANK YOU BRYAN!

Over the past four years we have had a hard working District Councillor, in the person of Bryan McGrath, but such are the ups and downs of politics that he was not re-elected in the recent local election. Much of what we on the Parish Council have achieved has in no small part been due to Bryan's effort and we are sorry to see him go; however, I'm sure that as a good 'village person' he will continue to support us in our future endeavours.

WELCOME ELFAN AND IAN

Congratulations on your election victory. We here in Bleadon know that you have three villages to look after but we are confident that you will give us the attention that we have become accustomed to. The Parish Council will look forward to your attendance at their monthly meetings. There is always so much to deal with, and without your input we do not always know what is happening in the Town Hall, so we look forward to making your acquaintance in the very near future.

ELECTRICIAN

Steve Insley

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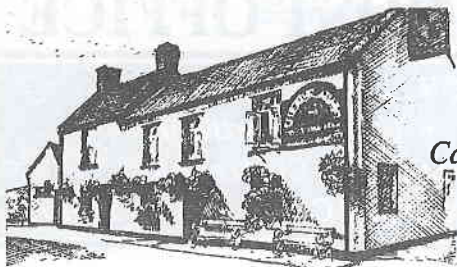
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GOODBYE TO LES



This edition of the Village Journal marks the end of an era, for **this is** the first for many years not to be edited by Les Masters.

Les is, of course, one of the first people all newcomers to Bleadon come into contact with and through his careful and competent toil, this Journal has helped considerably to foster the Community spirit that Bleadon enjoys. His contribution to the Parish Council is recorded elsewhere and I'm sure that I speak for everyone when I wish him a happy retirement from these village affairs.

Penny and I will attempt to keep that Journal's finger on the pulse of village life, so if you have a sporting or social event to publicise, a local issue to discuss, or just a poem or puzzle you'd like to share, please do drop it in to us. The next edition will come out in the late Summer.

Steve Miles 814123

CORONATION HALL

The AGM was held on April 8th, following which John Ward announced his retirement from the committee. Appreciation was expressed for his four years as Chairman.

The Management Committee for the year 1999/2000:

Officers

Chairman	L J Chamberlain
Vice Chairman	Keith Pike
Treasurer	Ivan Cottrell
Secretary	Peter Williams
Booking Officer	Joanne Jones

Representatives of Village Organisation

Penny Skelley	Parochial Church Council
Lynn Fliding	Short Matt Bowls Club
Charlotte House	Bleadon Players
Mary Henley	Bridge Club
Stella Cory	Ladies Club
Robin Henderson	Friendship Club
Jill Walford	Toddler Group
Howard Clements	Village Representative

The hall has recently been much improved, with new noticeboards, newly artexed ceilings, a new foyer and toilets. New uPVC double-glazed windows will be fitted to replace existing rotting frames on the west side of the old hall.

Redecoration of the exterior of the old hall will commence in June and Mr. John Hickley has very kindly offered to paint a mural depicting a village scene on the walls of the new foyer.

So, as you can see, many improvements have and will continue to be made to **your** village hall.

L J Chamberlain, Chairman

Glenise and Les Masters

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS IN THE CORONATION HALLS

Please make a note in your diary!

Friday 21st May	7.30pm	Play	Bleadon Players
Saturday 22nd May	7.30pm	Play	Bleadon Players
Thursday 10th June	7am-9pm	European Elections	
Monday 14th June	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	
Saturday 19th June	7.30pm	Summer Concert	Bleadon Players
Saturday July	10am-12	Strawberry Fair	Coronation Hall
<i>Date to be confirmed, depending upon availability of strawberries</i>			
Monday 12th July	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	
Saturday 4th September	2-4pm	Autumn Show	Horticultural Society
Monday 13th September	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	
Sunday 3rd October		Harvest Lunch	Bleadon PCC
Monday 11th October	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	
Saturday 16th October	7.30pm	Dance	Bleadon PCC
Monday 8th November	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	
Saturday 20th November	10.30am	Coffee Morning	Friendship Club
Saturday 20th November	7.30pm	Quiz in aid of CLIC	Mrs. Pat Dain
Saturday 4th December	10am-12	Christmas Fair	Coronation Hall
Sunday 12th December		Christingle Party	Bleadon PCC
Monday 13th December	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	
Monday 20th December	7.30pm	Christmas Concert	Bleadon Players
Friday 31st December	7.30pm	Bleadon Millennium Party	Bleadon Cubs, Scouts & others

ORGANISATIONS WHICH REGULARLY USE THE HALLS

MONDAYS

2-5pm	Bleadon Bridge Club
7.30pm (1st Monday)	British Sugarcraft Guild (W.S.M. Branch)
7.30pm (2nd Monday)	Parish Council

Contact:

Mr. D. Gardner 812041
Mrs. E. Lambert 01278-786586

TUESDAYS

2-4pm (2nd Tuesday)	Bleadon Ladies Group
5.30-7pm	Brownies**
7.30pm (1, 2, 4 & 5)	Weston-super-Mare Camera Club

Mrs. J. Wilkes 812783

Mrs. G. Taylor 812475

WEDNESDAYS

10am-12noon (2 & 4)	Infant Welfare Clinic and Toddler Group
10am-12noon (1, 3 & 5)	Toddler Group
2-4pm (Sept.-June)	Watercolour Painting (Post beginners)
5.30-6.30pm	Beavers**
7.30pm	Bleadon Players rehearsals

The Health Visitor at the Clinic

Mrs. J. Walford 811718

Mrs. K. Panes, WSM Tech College 411411

Mrs. S. Kelly 812419

THURSDAYS

2-4pm (Sept-June)	Watercolour Painting (Experienced)
6-7.30pm	Cubs**
7.30-9.30pm	Scouts**
8.00pm (1 & 4) (Sept-June)	Folk Dancing

Mrs. K. Panes, WSM Tech College 411411

Mrs. J. Thorne 814007

FRIDAYS

2-4pm	Friendship Club
7.30pm (Sept. - May)	Short Mat Bowling Club

Mrs. J. Diment 812217

Mr. J. Ward 812136

SUNDAYS

3-5pm (Sept.-May)	Short Mat Bowling Club
-------------------	------------------------

Mr. J. Ward 812136

** in the New Hall

The Halls are available for hire by any private individual or organisation, ENQUIRIES TO: Mrs. J. Jones, 812370.

PILGRIMAGE TO NORMANDY

To some people Bleadon may seem rather like Ambridge, only quieter and with different accents. There are, however, many people in our village with fascinating stories to tell, and two stories that I recently came across particularly struck me, both concerning young men who died abroad during World War Two.

It is hard to imagine how you would feel if you opened the local paper to find an article about a war veteran trying to contact the family of your late father, killed in action in 1944 before he ever had the chance to see you. This was the experience last year of Mike Wilmot (Roman Road) and resulted in Mike and his wife Gill visiting the scene of the battle. Her accounts follows:

Last year we attended a commemoration service in a small picturesque village to the north of Caen in Normandy. We had been invited by the Mayor and the people of Perrier sur la Dan who had erected a monument commemorating Mike's father and 16 of his comrades who fell in defence of the village in June 1944. The Mayor had contacted us through the Reverend Wisewell of Hastings, who had been a Medical Orderly at the field hospital at Perrier.

We visited the farm where the field hospital had been situated which is still occupied by the same family. Things have changed very little. The old artillery shell cases were still in evidence, some being used to repair broken drainpipes. We were even able to see the trenches where Mike's father and his men were dug in. The Reverend Wisewell was able to describe the scene, as it would have been at the time in great detail. He had kept a journal of events and time did not seem to have dimmed his memory.

That evening we stayed in a hotel at Hermansville overlooking Sword Beach where Mike's father had landed on the morning of June 6th 1944. At sunset the last post was sounded, flags were lowered and a short Commemoration Service was held for those who fell. Veterans, many in their eighties, marched proudly from the beach to the War Cemetery two miles inland. A lone piper played a lament as local school children laid armfuls of flowers on the graves of the fallen soldiers.

The next day we attended the Commemoration Service at the memorial at Perrier sur la Dan. Alongside the families of other soldiers, Veterans and the villagers, we laid wreathes and exchanged speeches in French and English. The Service was followed by a reception and lunch in the Mairie. Mike was presented with a medal by the Mayor on behalf of the French Government in recognition of Mike's father's sacrifice. The most emotional moment followed lunch, as we stood in the grounds of the Mairie, overlooking the site of the temporary graves in the corner of a beautiful orchard. Poppy petals drifted on the wind and scattered beneath the trees.

Mike's father, aged 26, had been a Lieutenant in the 33rd Field Artillery Regiment, in command of a forward survey party. He was killed by a sniper on the morning of 23rd June 1944 when Mike was only 3 weeks old.

Although we had previously visited the grave at the War Cemetery at Ranville where Mike's father now lies, we were grateful for the opportunity to visit the place where he fell.

We still have the letters Mike's father sent back from Normandy. Before the war he had been a Commercial artist. His descriptions of Perrier sur la Dan and the surrounding countryside were vivid and must have reminded him of the Somerset countryside and home.

*Les Masters
Mike and Gill Wilmot*

Sue Court (Ash Tree Close) had a much longer journey to make. Her Uncle, Gordon Hill, from Cheddar, died in Burma in 1943 aged 23, one of the thousands of victims of the notorious Death Railway.

Sue had long felt the need to visit his grave on behalf of her father, who could not face such a harrowing experience, when a chance discovery set things in motion.

While looking through her father's attic for family photographs, she and her husband Dave came across an official register of the War Dead of the Commonwealth, showing the precise location of her Uncle's grave.

Now, apart from being several thousand miles away, Burma has a political regime which ensures that it is not on any tourist routes. The Royal British Legion, however, organises group Remembrance Visits all over the world and Pete Williams suggested to Sue that she should apply for one. In due course Sue went on only the third such pilgrimage to Burma.

The eleven day trip included sight-seeing in Rangoon and Mandalay, but obviously the focal point was the group's pilgrimage to the War Cemetery in the jungle two hundred miles south of Rangoon. The mourners were each given a spray of poppies to lay on the grave of their relation, after which an open air service was conducted by the Bishop of Rangoon. Two Burmese buglers sounded the last post while the flag was carried by a Royal British Legion standard bearer. The group then visited the nearby memorial at the start of the Death Railway.

As was to be expected, it was an intensely moving, tear-filled occasion, but Sue felt it was tremendously worthwhile and her father was proud of her for going. She emphasised the wonderful group atmosphere throughout the trip, having made firm friends with the eighty-eight year old widow with whom she shared rooms.

Thus in our 'sleepy' village have historic events left their mark.

Les Masters, on behalf of Sue Court

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION, LYMPSHAM & BLEADON - MEN'S BRANCH

Forthcoming Events

Men's Branch Committee Meeting to be held on Monday May 24th at the Lympsham Pavilion commencing at 7.45pm. Everybody welcome.

Annual Flower and Vegetable Show, Manor Hall, Lympsham. This event will be held on Saturday August 21st 1999. Your support will be very welcome.

Colin Poole, Hon. Secretary

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION, LYMPSHAM & BLEADON - WOMEN'S SECTION

Christmas Bingo, December 12th 1998. This event was very successful and a profit of £165.50 was added to Branch Funds. We thank those who attended and to all those who gave so generously towards Bingo and raffle prizes.

Mrs. Clarke attended the Women's Section National Conference at Bournemouth in April and found this event most enjoyable. There was a total of over 1,200 present and the parade of over 400 Standards was most impressive. Mrs. P. Whitehead entered the Standard Bearer's Competition and came first for the fifth time. Congratulations to her. We hope that we have helped as she has been training at our Manor Hall since January.

Seven members and our Standard Bearer attended the South Mendip Group Meeting at Brent Knoll Parish Hall on April 16th, and it can be reported that the Branch has won the Houlden Cup for General Progress. This will be presented at the Somerset County Conference at Weston later in the year.

We are still looking for new members, so if there is anyone interested, contact Mrs. Clarke.

The ladies are again providing teas at the Flower and Vegetable Show on August 21st. We hope for a fine day and increased entries.

Mrs. J. Clarke, Hon. Secretary 750351

VILLAGE VOICE: A Space for you to have your say

The Village Journal is an ideal forum for the discussion of village issues and two heartfelt contributions follow which coincidentally discuss the same theme. If you would like to reply to these articles or have a comment of your own, please write to the editors.

Walking through the village in recent months, I'm beginning to think the place must be visited nightly by a pack of incontinent hounds. Our wild canine visitors must have a degree of urban intelligence, though, because they keep mainly to the footpaths and verges and seem to gather at bus stops, telephone boxes and car parks. Yes, this must be the answer because faced with the daily evidence of dog fouling that is spoiling our village environment, no domestic dog owner will admit to allowing an animal in his or her charge to commit such an act. In fact, the sight of this mess makes them ashamed - and defensive?

The fact is that thousands of tons of this foul and potentially disease-carrying material is dumped on the British landscape every 24 hours, the majority on highways and byways. It's almost as if dog owners mean to cause maximum offence and by so doing encourage a lobby that will soon make dog ownership as anti-social as smoking. Pavements, lanes, beaches, fields, churchyards, playgrounds and footpaths are being assaulted by regiments of irresponsible people in self-satisfying twice-daily parades spreading the visible blessings of dog ownership around the neighbourhood. Sometimes you do see responsible efforts made to clean up the mess, but mainly a dog owner's serious responsibility seems to be a one-ended affair. Thus the results of generously feeding and watering the animal somehow become a problem for the community at large, as those who took part in the recent village clean up will testify.

So what's the answer? Judging by the ineffectiveness of current dog control legislation, surely a reintroduction of dog licences is an essential first step. Set at a realistic and economic level (£50 say), with the normal concessions for working animals, pensioners and disabled, a proper start could then be made to regulate dog ownership. Enforcement and clean-up measures could be properly funded and modern identity measures made compulsory. By this latter means the sickening increase in dog cruelty and neglect could also be effectively addressed. As a result there might be a few less dogs about, but a reduction in irresponsible dog owners and the mess *they* cause would be a certainty.

Pete Williams

Isn't it a shame that we are unable to go for a walk in our lovely Somerset village without having to do the 'Poo challenge,' the slalom course of dog faeces left on our pavements each week.

I ask myself, why do their owners allow it? Do they have no sense of pride or is it just no sense of smell?

Perhaps it is ignorance of the more serious aspect of this problem, the threat to our children. Almost all puppies are born with a roundworm inside them called *Toxocara canis*. Its eggs are present in the faeces of infected animals and can remain in the soil for 2 years or more. This is why crawling babies and toddlers are most at risk as they tend to put dirty fingers and toys in their mouths. Once swallowed, larvae are released into the intestine which travel through the body causing pain, stomach upset, headache, sore throat, asthma and listlessness. If they reach the eyes they can cause sight problems, although permanent blindness is rare.

To the few, amongst the many responsible dog owners in Bleadon, can you be sure your pet will not infect our children? Please 'scoop the poop'!

Anon

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CHURCH OF ST. PETER & ST. PAUL, BLEADON

PATRONAL FESTIVAL

Our Patronal Festival, when we honour our Patron Saints and give thanks for our Parish Church, will be on Sunday 4th July. There will be the usual service of Holy Communion at 8.00am, then a Sung Eucharist at 10.15am preceded by a procession from the Church Room at 10.10am. Instead of Evensong at 6.30pm, there will be an opportunity to sing some of your favourite hymns in Hymns of Praise.

ORDINATION OF STEVEN HARTREE

Steve Hartree, of Celtic Way, formerly Reader (Lay Minister) in our Church, is to be ordained Deacon by the Bishop in Wells Cathedral on Sunday 27th June. There will be no Service here that morning to give us opportunity to go Wells in support. The Service there starts at 10.30am. Since Bleadon is too small to have two members of the clergy, Steve will serve at St. John the Evangelist, Highbridge whilst continuing to work locally in his secular occupation. We offer him our very best wishes and congratulations. All being well, Steve will be ordained Priest next year.

MAY FAYRE

Bleadon's May Fayre, and the accompanying Flower Festival and Art Exhibition, was a great success and, at the time of writing, a profit of approx. £3500 is anticipated.

The Friends of the Church, who organise the Fayre in support of our Parish Church, are most grateful to all who contributed to yet one more very enjoyable and successful event.

RECTORY GARDEN PARTY - SATURDAY 24th JULY 2pm - 5pm

The next big event organised by the Friends of the Church will be the Rectory Garden Party: stalls, games, refreshments and music by Keynsham Brass Band. Last year's Garden Party had to be held in Church and we were well entertained there by the Band. We look forward to considerably better weather this year.

MILLENNIUM

1997 and the wonderful Bleadon 700 celebrations took many of our best ideas but plans are being made to mark the official 2000th anniversary of the birth of Jesus. Announcements will be made in due course in both this and the Church Magazine. Interestingly, historians tell us that 1997 is nearer to the actual birth year of Jesus than 2000, but that need not worry us!

David Parkinson, Rector 812297

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ALL THE FUN OF THE FAYRE

It was Monday May 3rd, the sun was shining brightly and the church bells were ringing; what a wonderful start to the Bleadon May Day Fayre!

All the usual stalls were there, books, bottles and bric-a-brac, painting, pictures and plants, the Brownies and the Cubs all doing their bit to make the day go with a swing!

Talking of 'swing', the Axe Valley Jazzmen played traditionally, the Chestnut Cloggies danced as only they know how and the Morris Men entertained with great style.

All the while, the sun shone down on the day and inevitably the bar did a good trade - well it would wouldn't it - as did the ice cream van!

The Art Exhibition was a great success and of much interest, local talent revealing itself once again. And while all this was happening, across the road in the church, an altogether quieter event was taking place, the Flower Festival. With the organ playing from time to time, the visitors to St. Peter and St. Paul were treated to a display of unparalleled beauty, such was the sight of all those lovely blooms arranged so carefully and lovingly by the Ladies of the Church.

All in all, the May Fayre was a great success, blessed by brilliant sunshine and a happy crowd.

P.R.

SPRING CHEER: The Bleadon Horticultural Society

Judges praised the high standard of entries at the Bleadon Horticultural Spring Show this year, despite a drop in the total number of exhibits. Indeed, the wonderful colour from all the daffodils, tulips, hyacinths and other spring flowers was a cheering sight after the long, dreary winter.

Apart from all the excellent exhibits to see, Woody White was there demonstrating his amazing wood carving skills, the Bring-and-Buy stall offered many bargains, there were some great prizes to be won on the raffle and after all that there was still a cup of tea with home-made cakes to enjoy.

So, if you missed all that, make a note now that the Summer Show will be at the Coronation Hall on Saturday 4th September 1999 at 2.30pm.

We look forward to seeing you all there and would warmly welcome new exhibitors - especially children. Many thanks to all those who took part in the Spring Show and congratulations to the following cup winners:

Harold Banwell Cup	Mr. B. Thorne	King Cup	George Tyson
Jubilee Cup	Mrs. M. Pettitt	Davies Cup	Kieran McGrath
BHS Cup	Mrs. B. Butler	Junior Cup	Nicole McGrath
Victoria Sandwich Cup	Mr. Peter Langstone	Society Cup	Mrs. B. Butler
Irene Hebditch Cookie Plate	Mrs. B. Butler		

GREENFINGERED? - NO? WELL READ IT ANYWAY

I can't quite understand it: the TV schedules are full of gardening and cookery programmes and viewers generally seem to be fascinated by the likes of Alan Titchmarsh and Delia Smith, extolling the virtues of growing your own, then cooking it! But are we all couch potatoes when it comes to putting the growing bit into action? It would appear so here in Bleadon, where there are several vacant allotments just crying out to be cultivated. For a small rent you could have an extension to your garden which, with a little effort on your part, would provide you and your family with fresh vegetables and salad crops.

If you have never tasted fresh from the 'vine' then believe me you have never lived! If you have a competitive spirit, there is always the chance of winning a small prize in the Summer horticultural show. Now there's a challenge!

Working an allotment can provide healthy, outdoor exercise (beats jogging any day) and fresh food for the table, or flowers for the vase - who could want more?

For further information on how to rent an allotment, please contact any member of the Parish Council.
P. R.

VILLAGE SPRING CLEAN

Thank you to those villagers who helped with the village clean-up in March.

We concentrated our efforts on the centre of the village, clearing weeds from kerbs and tidying up the area following a long period of neglect. Judging by the comments we received the area benefited from our efforts.

It would be nice to think that villagers could tidy up the kerbs and walls outside their own properties over the next few weeks to make the village look tidy and well cared for.

Who knows, we may be able to enter the 'Best Kept Village' competition again!

Peter Smart

ALLSORTS OF CRICKET

Well, you can tell by the change in the weather that the cricket season is upon us again.

Bleadon Allsorts are taking on Lympsham Allsorts in a five match Sunday series which started on 9th May. The rest of the games are: Sunday 6th June, Sunday 27th June, Sunday 18th July, Sunday 15th August, Saturday 21st August.

You will remember that Bleadon narrowly beat Lympsham last year by three games to two in the Sunday Series, then went on to win the Saturday fund-raising game. The £600 raised after this game has been used to erect practice nets at Lympsham, which are available to Bleadon on a weekly basis.

Jim Nipper and I have entered a team in the third division of the Monday evening Midweek League. This team comprises both Bleadon and Lympsham players and will be reported each week in the sports pages of the Weston Mercury under the name 'Allsorts'.

Lympsham Cricket Club welcomes you all. If you want to go down and watch a leisurely afternoon's cricket and take advantage of their extensive, all-day bar facilities, just explain who you are and you will be signed in by a member, to enjoy a relaxing afternoon watching sporting and competitive cricket.

Steve Webber 814024

FIVE MILES OF SMILES

On a grey April 25th, many sponsored walkers enjoyed a good breakfast at the Queen's Arms and, after a short bus ride, joined others in a walk from Shute Shelve to Congresbury, a distance of about five miles along the old railway line. This walk was in aid of the Stacey Fowler Fund and all monies raised are to be handed over at a presentation evening in the Coronation Hall on June 12th.

In case you don't know, Stacey needs a Dynavoxze so that she may communicate with her world and these donations will go some way to achieve this goal. Any cheques or cash may be handed in at the Queen's Arms, addressed to Mark Poole. PLEASE HELP IF YOU CAN.

Grateful thanks to all participants in the walk. If you enjoyed the experience, or wish you hadn't missed it, there will be another opportunity soon. There will be beer, fun and maybe even sun across ten miles of the Mendip Way on Sunday June 6th, in aid of Weston Hospice.

CALLING ALL WALKERS - IT'S GOOD FOR THE SOLE!

For those who enjoy spectacular views and are prepared for a longish walk to obtain them, we now have a significant addition to our network of footpaths, courtesy of landowners Mervyn Saunders and Colin Sills.

The new MAFF-funded Conservation Walk leads from Mearecombe Lane straight up the ridge of Shiplate Slait, where you find yourself eyeball-to-eyeball with Crook Peak. Travel northwards along the ridge, and the views into Wales across the Channel are fantastic - on a clear day, it has to be said. Turn left along the field's edge where it rejoins the bridleway and that's it. Unless you are very fit, however, I have to say that it is better done in reverse, i.e. from the top, via Roman Road and Scratchy Lane.

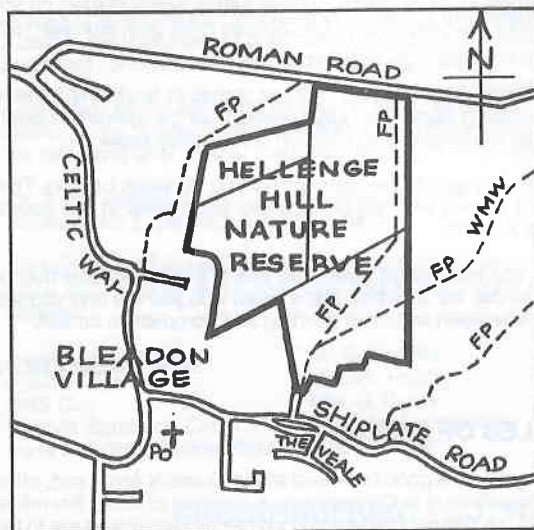
For those with more limited ambitions, it is hoped that the problem of mud on the steep slope of South Hill leading towards the Church will, before long, be solved.

Peter Lindsay's suggestion of a fence to keep cattle from this area of the hillside has been agreed to, and permission from the Church Commission is eagerly awaited. The work will be underway as soon as possible.

In the meantime enjoy your walking, at all times observe the Country Code and don't forget the local maps are for sale in the Post Office!

Les Masters

NATURE ON YOUR DOORSTEP HELLENGE HILL NATURE RESERVE



During 1998, a large area of the north-east hillside overlooking the village to the north of Shiplate Road, right up to Roman Road was acquired by the Wildlife Trust (based in Bristol). This is now designated as Hellenge Hill Nature Reserve.

The site comprises 55 acres of calcareous grassland and scrub on the south facing scarp of the Mendips overlooking Bleadon Village. It is within the Mendips Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and is designated a Site of Nature Conservation Importance.

Much of the grassland is of exceptional nature conservation value, being short sparse species-rich turf on shallow soils with frequent rocky outcrops of Carboniferous Limestone of the Lulsgate series. There are areas of grassland here which hold populations of two Red Data Book plants, Honewort and Somerset Hair-grass.

Our particular type is even more restricted and occurs only along the southern edge of the Mendips from Brean Down to Axbridge, making all remaining sites very important.

Typical plants include numerous county notable species such as Yellow-wort, Fern-grass, Carline Thistle, Common Calamint, Heath Grass, Wall Whitlow Grass, Common Stork's-bill, Long-stalked Cranesbill, Field Pepperwort, Pale Flax, Fiddle Dock, Wild Clary and Autumn Lady's Tresses. Wild Thyme, Stemless Thistle and Common Rock-rose are locally abundant.

There is extensive scrub and gorse which holds birds such as Linnets and Lesser Whitethroat. Dartford Warbler and the very scarce breeding species, Stonechat, could occur. The scrub also shelters good numbers of adders.

The large area of Hawthorn and young woodland species in the steep sided valley (previously used by the Gun Club) has not yet been surveyed.

The Public Footpath from opposite The Veale up to Roman Road (opposite Gracelands) passes through the Reserve, as does the part of the West Mendip Way which branches off to climb north-eastwards.

Voluntary Wardens. The Wildlife Trust currently has two wardens for the Reserve who do not live locally but state that the more people who can get involved with the site the better, particularly Bleadon residents who would obviously be able to keep a more regular eye on the Reserve and its flora and fauna. The role of the wardens is flexible, especially when there are more than one. Essentially they are expected to keep an eye on the reserve and to inform The Trust of any problems. Ideally they could also become involved with practical work and surveying, but it is understood that many wardens do not have the time to do these things.

Anyone interested in becoming a Voluntary Warden should contact Hugh Welford (Volunteering Co-ordinator) on 0117 926 8018 or 0117 926 5490.

Peter Lindsay

PS: BUTTERFLIES. All this wonderful grassland habitat is home to a large number of butterfly species, so while out walking, why not make a few notes on the ones you see? Then send any information to: Jerry Board, 62A West Street, Banwell BS29 6DB. From this it will be possible to compile a database to be used both locally and nationally. The British Butterfly Conservation Society is dedicated to saving wild butterflies and their habitats and is a registered charity.

PS: There is a great children's club too, so all the family could enjoy membership.

BLEADON LADIES CLUB

Why not join us? We meet every 2nd Tuesday of the month, 2.30-4.30pm in the Coronation Hall. Our programme for the next few months is as follows:

June	The story behind inn signs by Mr. Musgrove
July	Wildlife and nature of New Zealand by Mrs. Liz Green
August	To be arranged
September	Annual Outing to Dartmouth and River Dart

Come along and join us, have a chat and a cup of tea. Everyone is very welcome - bring a friend too!

Barbara Pugh 814362

BRIDGE GARAGE

(Prop: Peter Briffitt)

BLEADON VILLAGE

AT YOUR SERVICE

TELEPHONE: 01934 - 812206

BLEADON YOUTH CLUB'S MILLENNIUM EXPERIENCE

In our last report in Village News No. 40, we told of the change in fortunes putting an end to our paper and cardboard recycling project. You may also have noted a planning application to lift the main hall roof to cover the flat section which leaks.

The Management Committee is hoping to get this roof work completed by this time next year and our youth leader, Colin Sandford, has recently raised the £2,500 needed to carry out a feasibility study for the club to generate electricity from the newly proposed south facing roof. We are proposing to fit photovoltaic tiles/panels and generate three-phase electricity to sell to the grid. This is a very ambitious project and the Management Committee have given its blessing subject to being able to raise the funds to do the job. Colin Sandford has already prepared a four page handout covering the principles of the project. If anyone is interested in 'Green Electricity' they should telephone his home for a copy on 812505. As the Youth Club Management Committee Secretary, I now have the task of fund raising for the main project; any donation will be most welcome. The Club has raised £7,372 so far towards phase one, which is estimated to cost £30,000.

Ren Badger

BROWNIES GO GREEN!

Bleadon Brownies have had an active term as usual. They have been learning lots of new creative skills and managed to produce some very professional looking cards for Mothering Sunday. To celebrate St. Patrick's Day we had a special evening where everyone had to wear something green. The Brownies played games from Ireland and made flags and badges. The evening ended with a feast of green food!

Emily Blake and Michelle Kidner were in the Weston Super Mare Gang Show in March. Several of the Brownies went along to watch and had a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon.

We are very sad to report that Mandy Cox had decided that because of other commitments she will not be able to help us from September. Mandy has been coming to Brownies for a year and we will all be sorry to see her go. If you are interested in becoming a unit helper then come along to meet us at Brownies or give us a ring.

Victoria Daintree (Assistant Guider) 750313

1st BLEADON BEAVERS

1st Bleadon Beavers have just seen another group of Beavers swim up to Cubs and a new group being invested during May. We now meet on a Wednesday evening and although we have a full colony at the moment, we do have a waiting list.

This term we are looking forward to our Sports Night and our end of year trip. Last year we enjoyed an evening at the Sea Life Centre and the boys will be voting on this year's venue soon.

We have just planted two tubs of flowers outside Scout Hut which we purchased from some of the money donated to us at Christmas by the Wednesday Afternoon Club. We thought that by doing this, the boys would be able to appreciate the money donated for a long time to come, tending the pots throughout the year.

The balance of the money will be used on our trip, so once again, a big thank you for the money and we hope you feel it has been put to good use.

If you require any details about 1st Bleadon Beavers, please call Jane on 629903.



1st BLEADON (ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL) CUB SCOUTS

We have 14 cubs at the moment and what a super bunch they are. The enthusiasm amongst them is fantastic and makes all our work worthwhile.

We had a swimming night at Beachlands Hotel in February where the Cubs attending achieved their stage 1, 2 and 3 swimming badges. Many thanks to the proprietors Mr. and Mrs. Porter. It was lovely having the pool to ourselves as we didn't have to head count every five minutes.

In April we did the Mendip Walk, 5 miles ... and counting! We had great fun on the way, looking at different wild flowers, hiding in the bushes, climbing stiles and we even managed to have a picnic. We were joined by one of the Beavers, Joshua Wilson, and after four and a half miles we really thought we would have to carry him, but he battled on and made it to the end. Well done Joshua, we are proud of you!

On 12/13th June we are having a 24 hour challenge with our Scout Troop. We are not sure what the troops have up their sleeve for us but I am sure we will all enjoy it whatever it is. More on this subject in the next report.

Our annual camp this year takes us to Huish Woods in Taunton on 9/11th July. This weekend is full of fun and enjoyment for the cubs and the leaders ... watch this space!

Betty Paterson (Akela) 812183 and Steve Rhodes (Baloo) 813497

BEAUTIFUL BONNETS: BLEADON BABY & TODDLER GROUP

Our new committee was very pleased with its first organised event - our Easter celebration on March 31st. We'd planned an action-packed morning: an Easter bonnet competition, a raffle, cake-making (children not mums), pass the parcel, singing and lots of cake and chocolate eating (children and mums). We were delighted with everyone's efforts in the bonnet competition - everyone turned up with one and seeing sixteen children parading proudly around the hall was a real treat. The competition was judged by our ex-treasurer Rachel Harrison, who eventually gave the prize to Jessica and her mother Lynette.

We are now in the process of planning our summer outing - possibly to Bristol Zoo - and hope to have many more grown-up outings to the Queen's over the summer too.

Hilary, our health visitor (who comes the second and fourth Wednesday of each month) is being kept busy with a stream of new babies coming along. Between March and September we will be giving birth to a child a month between us - something of a Bleadon baby boom. We hadn't realised just how intimidating a group of pregnant women can be until we all turned up at the pub recently. 10 out of 15 of us were in various stages of pregnancy and we soon emptied the room of all men. The look on some of their faces was a pleasure to behold!

So between us we will ensure that our numbers remain healthy, but new blood is always welcome and we could still use a hand with refreshments. If you are interested, come along!

Tracey Harrington 814123

BLEADON FRIENDSHIP CLUB

The club meets in the Coronation Hall every Friday between 2.15 - 4.00pm and this is a very valued venue for all our Senior Citizens.

During the past three months we have had talks and slides on a variety of subjects, bingo and quiz nights, not to mention much appreciated entertainment by Russell Rogers and his friends. The AGM was held in March and tributes were paid to the retiring President, Mr. Christian, and Chairperson, Mrs. Peggy Hoffman. Both are leaving due to ill health and we wish them well. They have been 'towers of strength' to the club for many years. The new President will be Mr. John Taylor and the new Chairperson

is Joan Diment. A successful coffee morning was held last month and made a good profit for Club funds. Attendance each week has averaged thirty two and new members are always welcome. If you are interested, ring 812217 or 644672.

Forthcoming Events

May 21st	'Malta' by Mr. & Mrs. Clarke
May 27th	Outing
May 28th	Out and About in Bristol - Robbie Henderson
June 4th	✓ Entertainment and Music - S. Kelly & Friends
June 11th	✓ Quiz - Sylvia
June 18th	✓ 'Cards and Crafts' - Jennifer Collins
June 24th	✓ Outing <i>WEXMOUTH</i>
June 25th	✓ The Rainbow Singers
July 2nd	✓ Bingo with Jack Thorne and Friends
July 9th	✓ Dolls from Around the World - Joan Goodman
July 16th	✓ The Two Of Us' - Mr. & Mrs. Cooper
July 22nd	✓ Outing <i>WALE 9</i>
July 23rd	✓ Quiz - Sylvia
July 30th	✓ 'Talking News' - Mr. J. Hess

BLEADON PLAYERS ON THE RUN WITH THE NUNS

Ever been to see a play in a convent? Well you could on Friday 21st or Saturday 22nd May with Bleadon Players next production, BONAVENTURE.

OK, its not in a convent, strictly speaking - it's in the Coronation Hall, but the ambience will be convent-style, and the atmosphere convincing.

Set in Norwich in 1947, Charlotte Hasting's play is part thriller, part murder mystery. As a freak storm finds a convicted murderess and her prison warders taking refuge in the convent. What happens next, whodunnit, where and when? You'll have to come and work it out for yourselves on 21st and 22nd May.

Incidentally, two of our cast, Brenda and Gerald White, acted in 'Bonaventure' in 1951, Brenda playing the same part of Sister Josephine! That's 38 years ago - sorry you two, I'm giving away your age!

Do come! There's a bar available, with tea and coffee included in the very reasonably priced £4.00 ticket.

Charlotte House, Producer

Forthcoming productions by the Players include:

A Summer Songwich - Saturday 19th June
a summer evening concert.

'They Don't Grow On Trees' - 17th & 18th September

Pantomime - January 2000: to be arranged.

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Published by Bleadon Parish Council, Bleadon, North Somerset

Unless otherwise stated, the opinions and comments expressed in this newsletter are those of the contributor and not Bleadon Parish Council. Cover by John Hickley.

Printed by Malthouse, Taunton (01823-331111)