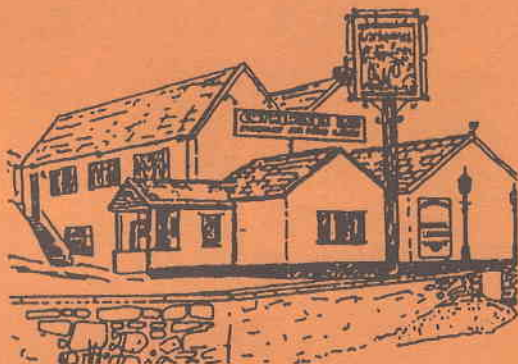


# BLEADON



VILLAGE NEWS 43

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# BLEADON VILLAGE NEWS

NO. 43

December 1999-January 2000

Welcome to the New Millennium!!!!

ON BEHALF OF THE PARISH COUNCIL OF BLEADON, I SHOULD LIKE TO WISH ALL  
OUR VILLAGE READERS THE HAPPIEST OF NEW YEARS

---

## BLEADON PARISH COUNCIL

PETER SMART (Chairman) Hillside Cottage, Shiplate Road, Bleadon. Tel. 812849  
RAY HICKS (Vice-Chairman) Fiddler's View, Hillcote, Bleadon Hill. Tel. 811993  
LEN CHAMBERLAIN, Newbay Cottage, 21 Coronation Road, Bleadon. Tel. 814517  
MALCOLM PERRY, Westfield, 1 The Barton, Bleadon. Tel. 813940  
PENNY ROBINSON, 1 The Veale, Shiplate Road, Bleadon. Tel. 814142  
PENNY SKELLEY, Mendip Croft, Celtic Way, Bleadon. Tel. 815331  
MARY SHEPPARD, Littlewood, Bridgwater Road, Lympham. Tel. 812921  
KEITH PIKE, 8 Whitegate Close, Bleadon. Tel. 813127

**The PARISH CLERK to whom all correspondence should be addressed is:  
BRUCE POOLE, 10 SOUTH STREET, BURNHAM ON SEA. Tel. 01278 787555**

The Council meets on the 2nd Monday of the month at 7.30 p.m. in the Coronation Hall. Members of the public are welcome to attend these meetings and may express their views at the end of the business.

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

We have a vacancy, once again, on the Parish Council, following the resignation of our Vice Chairman, Ivan Cottrell. We thank him for his contribution and wish him well in the future.

The new Vice-Chairman is Ray Hicks and we welcome him in his new role.

You will have noticed posters around the village regarding the implementation of the 30mph speed limits, weight restrictions etc. There have been no objections from the coach companies. North Somerset Council has received an objection from the Road Haulage Association with reference to the 7.5 tonne weight restriction. This will unfortunately delay the start of the scheme which now has to go before a committee for discussion. However, I have been informed that work should commence in January 2000. Wonderstone Quarry on Shiplate Road has at last been sold by the Parish Council; closed tendered bids were invited, and the highest bid of £15,300 was accepted.

The weeds along the footpaths and roads throughout the village have been treated, and, in addition, members of the BPC spent a happy Saturday morning planting 500 daffodils in the verge by the children's playground. We look forward to their emergence in the spring, the first phase of our 'tidy village campaign!'

Finally on behalf of the Parish Council, may I wish you all a Happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

*Peter Smart, Chairman*  
Bleadon Parish Council

---

## YOUR DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

What a fortunate village Bleadon is. I had forgotten until I began to attend your Parish Council meetings what a difference a hill makes. You have such nicer problems to solve compared to the huge developments threatening Hutton and Locking, but let's not be complacent. Developers aren't choosy and we need to be on guard everywhere. Meanwhile, there are road and drainage maintenance issues, speeding motorists and HGVs, controversial planning applications .... Cllr. Peddlesden and myself have been involved in all of these over our first six months, with the usual frustrations of trying to drive wedges through bureaucracy and funding shortages. We - and the new Council - are making progress.

One subject we are currently reviewing is the A370/Bridge Road junction, which could be included in a future safety scheme, as well as the Anchor Inn/A370 junction which at the very least seems to feature an inordinate amount of reading material on myriad signs for drivers to study ... and I thought the idea was to keep your eyes on the road!

As Chairman of Planning & Transport I have already made it clear that I want the scarce cash spent on road mending and not red paint, fancy signs and projects that ruin the countryside and benefit only the few. It may take time to change the message into reality, but we should see the first fruits of our labours soon.

Happy New Millennium.

Cllr. Elfan ap. Rees (also on behalf of Cllr. Ian Peddlesden)  
Tel: 822524 Tel: 812015

## BLEADON CORONATION HALL

A new catering cooker has now been fitted in the kitchen to replace the old one, which had given over 20 years use. A generous donation of £500 from the Shortmat Bowls Club covered a large part of the cost.

We are considering replacing the existing notice board with one much larger that can be used by all village organisations. This would have to be custom made, so we are now looking for someone who could undertake this task. Can anyone help?

The committee has agreed to offer free use of both halls to the organisers of the Millennium Party, and it's to be hoped that this will be a great success.

At the time of writing we are preparing for our Christmas Fayre to be held on Saturday 4th December, but possibly this popular event will have come and gone by the time of the publication.

*L.J. Chamberlain (Chairman)*

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The Christmas Fayre proved to be an excellent event, with a variety of interesting and value-for-money stalls and a particularly heavy-laden cake stall: How the Toddler Group found the time to cook so well with their little families will remain a mystery forever!

Sitting down quietly with a lovely cuppa and a mince pie for an hour in a packed but friendly hall was a great way to pass a pre-Christmas morning, and does great credit to the hard work of all involved.



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## CHURCH OF ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL, BLEADON

### FROM THE RECTOR

Certain numbers are important to us. We make much of 18th or 21st birthdays as well as 40th, 50th and so on. Likewise, we respect the achievement of wedding anniversaries, with special significance being attached by means of precious stones or materials.

In themselves, these numbers are quite unimportant - one more has been added to the total - but we do tend to invest certain ones with special meaning.

So with the change of millennium. A single number changes, but because this causes the whole to have three noughts, it seems, as well as looks, very different.

Like our 40th, 50th and 80th birthdays or 25th and 60th wedding anniversaries, there is a different multiple at work which says more to us than a single number does. In the case of the millennium, it has not just increased by multiples of 10, 25 or 100 but by 1000 - to make two of them.

What has increased? The lifetime of the Christian Era has increased - Anno Domini. The 2000th Anniversary of the birth of Jesus Christ is to be celebrated this New Year - not just on 1st January or 25th December - but throughout the year.

Think about it. How many things endure for 2000 years? Even more, how many things are considered to be of such importance that they become the standard for marking time - in this case the passing of the years?

It is not known exactly when Jesus was born - that doesn't matter. What is important is that he was and that all these centuries later, we still have full Churches at Christmas celebrating his birth. The Year 2000 is an extended Christmas - a year-long Christmas.

May it be a year in which, if only for once, the special joys of Christmas last until the next one.

A Happy Christmas and New Year to all.

.....

There will be a special Sung Eucharist at 12.00 noon on New Year's Eve as we say goodbye to the old millennium and look forward to the new one. Our 10.15 a.m. Sung Eucharist on Sunday 2nd January will include a Renewal of Baptismal Vows. All who have been baptised in our Church are invited to take part, together with those of us who were baptised elsewhere.

*David Parkinson (Tel: 812297)*

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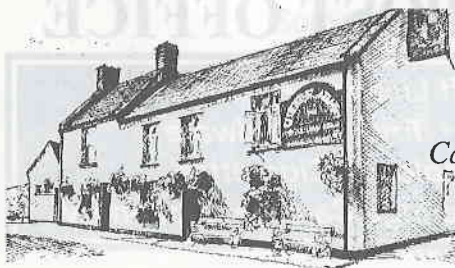
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**ALL THINGS BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL:  
COUNCIL FOR THE PROTECTION OF RURAL ENGLAND**

Many of you will have seen the plaques on the wall of the Village Hall, which were awarded to Bleadon for being the best kept village of the year. It's a few years since Bleadon won the competition so how about celebrating the Millennium by winning the competition in the year 2000? The annual competition for the best kept village is only one of the many activities of the CPRE.

The countryside is a tapestry of such individual experiences - a tapestry which took thousands of years to create and a loved landscape in which we all have a shared interest. The CPRE is a charity which exists to protect and nurture this landscape.

The survival of the English countryside can never be taken for granted, as the toll of precious landscape features and wildlife habitats shows. It is not by chance that it survives with all its intricacy, variety and magic but because people have cared enough to defend it time and time again.

Since 1926 CPRE has campaigned successfully on behalf of present and future generations for firm planning laws, Green Belts, National Parks, stronger woodland and hedgerow protection, more benign agricultural, forestry and water policies and much else besides that benefit city and country dweller alike.

A beautiful and living countryside requires thriving local communities. It is a place of work as well as pleasure. A delightful meadow rich in flowers should also provide an economic crop for the farmer.

The CPRE is the only independent environmental group working for the whole countryside, using the expertise of its Westminster office and local branches. The CPRE has a strong impact wherever decisions shaping the countryside are made - from the town hall, Parliament and Whitehall and Brussels.

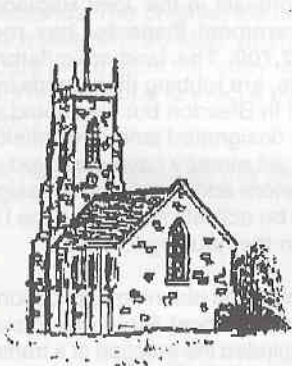
**Glenise and Les Masters**

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The biggest threat to the rural environment in North Somerset is the unjustified increase in the forecast for new housing up until 2011. The original forecast in the Joint Replacement Structure Plan was **13,800** new dwellings but the Government Inspector has recently recommended that this figure should be increased to **17,700**. The land speculators and developers, who have little or no respect for the countryside, are rubbing their hands in glee! At the present there are no plans for a major development in Bleadon but we should not be complacent. The new figure of 17,700 cannot be met from designated land, brownfield sites and increased density. There is no doubt that developers will already have surveyed all the open spaces in the village and it is only a question of time before additional land is designated for development by the planning authorities. The CPRE will be actively supporting the District Council and the Parish Council in opposing the increase in the housing forecast.

The North Somerset District Committee of the CPRE examines all planning applications and formally objects to them when they do not comply with the Local Structure Plans and Government Planning Guidance. Recent local cases have included the erection of a transmitter mast in the Area of Natural Beauty on Bleadon Hill, Housing Developments in Winscombe and Worle and encroachment into the Green Belt in Uphill.

Other issues that are currently being dealt with by the CPRE are:-

- Traffic speeds through country lanes, villages and residential areas
- Use of village and country lanes by large vehicles
- Proliferation of microwave masts
- Light pollution
- Destruction of Hedgerows
- Stonewall preservation
- Saving village shops and post offices
- Extension of quarrying and waste disposal schemes
- Transport policy



The effectiveness of the local committees of the CPRE in safeguarding the interests of everyone who lives in the country depends on the number of its active members. Being a member of the CPRE is a worthwhile, interesting and satisfying activity. If you would like to join us please give me a ring on 01934 811993.

*Cllr. Ray Hicks  
Chairman, North Somerset District CPRE*

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## **BLEADON MAN**

Just a short update on the Bleadon Coronation Hall Millennium Project. After an archaeological dig in Bleadon and the subsequent removal of all the artefacts, I realised that the village had done nothing to commemorate "Bleadon Man". Following a great deal of 'homework', and with much help from Andrew Young, the archaeologist who supervised the dig, the Science Museum in London, the BBC and the Science Museum in Manchester, we now have a facsimile of the head returning to Bleadon to be placed in the Hall.

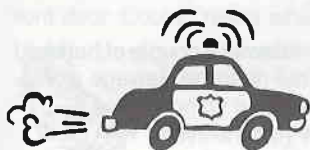
Marshalls have kindly agreed to sponsor a bronze replica, which is presently being cast in the Midlands. The original, also in bronze, will be housed in the new Wellcome Wing of the Science Museum, London, when it opens next year. A further stage of the project is to obtain a secure plinth, plus the 'story' of the "Bleadon Man" told in pictures as a backdrop for the head. We also hope to erect a plaque in the village as a permanent reminder of our famous 'villager'.

I shall report at length as this exciting project unfolds over the coming months.

*P. Skelley*

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### THE BLEADON BEAT



I have just taken over from PC White as your community Police Officer and would like to take this chance to introduce myself. I am PC 2307 ADRIAN WOOLACOTT and I have covered the villages of Locking, Hutton and Banwell for the last two years. Due to boundary changes I have swapped Banwell for Bleadon.

I live locally and have served in the North Somerset area for the last twenty years. I am, therefore, familiar with the area and have numerous local contacts. I have wide experience within the Police service including dealing with drugs and crime problems.

Crime within the Parish is low when compared with other areas of North Somerset. Whilst this is good news it can lead to an attitude of complacency. The village is sometimes targeted by opportunist thieves who wander through looking for easy pickings. They usually target motorcars and sheds but have recently broken into two homes and have stolen property of sentimental value. With this in mind I would encourage everyone to take a little more care. Fit the locks and alarms you've been thinking about for the last few months. 'AGE CONCERN' will fit locks free of charge to all pensioners.

If you wish to contact me, telephone 638181. If you have no reply you can leave a message for me on my voice mail number, 638224 followed by 72307. Please note these are NOT emergency numbers. If the situation is ongoing and requires an urgent response then telephone 999.

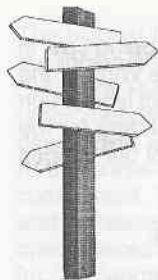
PC 2307 ADRIAN WOOLACOTT

### ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

I would like to thank all my collectors and those who gave so generously to the Poppy Appeal.

The final total was £550.48. Better than last year. We are grateful for your continued support which is much appreciated by those who need it now and the families of those who gave their all.

*Joan Diment*



## TRY THE TIDAL TRAIL!

The boundaries of our parish are much wider than many people realise, and the western one has now been made much more accessible by the creation of the Tidal Trail, which at present reaches the tidal sluice on the River Axe, about half a mile away from the T-junction at Brean. This is obviously further than most of us would want to go for a morning or afternoon stroll, so I advise that use of a car to eliminate the boring bits at the beginning. There are three legitimate possibilities:

1. Drive towards Uphill and stop either at the Toll Road or in the lay-by where the snack wagon parks. It is then about ten minutes walk along the West Mendip Way to its junction with the Tidal Trail.
2. Drive as far as the boatyard at Uphill, where the trail begins.
3. Follow Accommodation Road towards Brean and stop at the bridleway a couple of hundred yards short of the old wharf. The bridleway meets the Tidal Trail near the Sewage works.

These walks provide an excellent change of scenery - and there is no problem with mud!

*Les Masters*

## BLEADON HORTICULTURAL SHOW

This year's Bleadon Horticultural Society Summer Show was one of the most successful of the decade. The show saw 258 entries from 37 exhibitors, figures only beaten by the show in 1991.

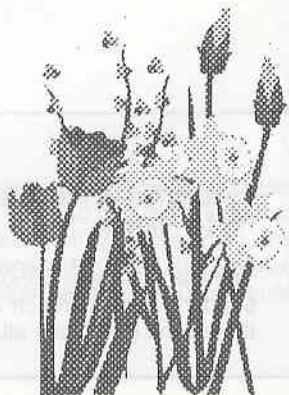
Judges yet again praised the high standard of entries in all categories including flowers, vegetables, pot plans and home-craft. Indeed, there was a wonderful feeling of 'Harvest Home', making it a truly successful village event.

Many thanks again to all those who took part and congratulations to Steve Hartree who stole the show with his many beautiful entries in both the vegetable and flower sections.

We now look forward to seeing everyone again at the Spring Show on March 18th.

### Cup Winners:-

Vaux Cup	Steve Hartree
Warwick Cup	Steve Hartree
Galpin Cup	Steve Hartree
Frank Thorne Memorial Plate	Steve Hartree
Committee Cup	Steve Hartree
Snelgrove, Newman-Phillips Cup	Steve Hartree
Chairman's Cup	Audrey Toogood
Society Cup	Barbara Butler
Edna Murphy Plate	Penny Skelley
Kenneth Ham Memorial Cup	Steve Hartree
Cudlipp Cup	Joanna Barwell
Year of the Child Cup	Joanna Barwell
Wiltshire Cup	Steve Hartree



## A CHANGE OF DIRECTION

During my career as a vet it has always been inevitable that a number of unwanted pets, particularly cats, would find their way to my doorstep. Being the sort that I am, I rarely turned them away, and so for many years now there have been at least six sharing the house with me (at one time there were even seven - would you believe?) The number stays constant more or less. It seems that as one P.C. (pussy cat) goes another comes to take his place. Recently, my old tabby, who was 16 years old, found the going too tough and finally succumbed to kidney failure; he was a hunter of the first order so at least the wildlife on South Hill will get some peace this winter: RIP Edgar! So here I am, reduced to only five and even Jack, my collie, has noticed that there is one less cat bowl to wash up!

But two weeks ago now, my doorbell rang, and there was a man with a box, standing at my front door. Could I resist what was in the box? I didn't think so.



The new P.C. (called 'Odysseus', by the way) resides in a room of its own, and one by one the other cats have come, looked and hissed at it. Jack, I think, is just bored by it, and over the time I've had it with me it has given more than one headache as it refuses to do my bidding. It has a mind of its own, this one!

I'm used to these sort of problems, however, and I shall soldier on regardless, with my new P.C. (personal computer). Ready to go with Windows 98 and the internet awaits me.

Of course my favourite site just has to be 'Le Chat Line'!!

*Penny Robinson*

## BLEADON CHURCH - PARISH MAGAZINE

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## The COURTS are splitting up yet again!

Yes, Dave and Sue Court of Ash Tree Close are splitting up again in 2000!

First it was Sue's turn, when she went off in March 1999 to Burma with a British Legion Pilgrimage, leaving Dave at home in sole charge of Simon and Tom.

Now it is Dave's turn to reverse the situation, when later this year he goes off to PERU, leaving Sue home in charge!

Dave is taking on the challenge of a trek to Machu Picchu on behalf of **The Children's Society**, and he is looking for local support in helping him to raise the necessary £2,500 for the trip. All money raised locally will go direct to the charity, as he will be paying all costs relating to the actual trip himself.

Those of you who know Dave will be aware of his medical history, and will appreciate how much of a personal challenge this will be to him. It will also be an opportunity to raise something in the region of £1,500 as a donation to a very worthwhile charity.

For further information and offers of sponsorship or donations - please contact Dave or Sue Court on Tel. 813343.

## BLEADON FRIENDSHIP CLUB

During the past four months we have had 15 meetings, with varied and enjoyable entertainment. The average attendance was 31 members.

On Sept. 4th we were invited to visit Marshall's Concrete Works in Bridge Road. The afternoon was most interesting and was much enjoyed.

On Oct. 8th we had our annual Harvest Festival; the Rector conducted a short service and the gifts donated by members were auctioned. The total raised was £74.00, and this was donated to Bleadon Contactus and the Weston Hospice jointly.

The Club celebrated its 22nd birthday on Oct. 22nd with a scone cream tea party.

Mr. & Mrs. John Taylor celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on Nov. 26th, an occasion that was enjoyed by all.

We had our annual Christmas coffee morning on Nov. 20th, when £137.00 was raised for club funds. The Christmas shopping trip was to Bridgend and Cardiff and our thanks go to Barbara for organising it. The Christmas Dinner will be in the Coronation Hall and will be the last meeting of the year indeed the last of this century; the Club re-opens on Jan. 14th 2000 and details of forthcoming meetings are listed below. New members are always welcome - for more details ring our Secretary on 01934 644672.

## EVENTS FOR JAN-APRIL 2000

Jan. 14th	Beetle Drive
Jan. 21st	Music with Russell Rogers and Friends
Jan. 28th	Age Concern - Mr. D. Martin
Feb. 4th	Another look at Bristol - Mr. R. Henderson
Feb. 11th	Video and Talk about 'Lavender' - Mr. D. Smale
Feb. 18th	A.G.M. and Bingo
Feb. 25th	Video about Romania - loaned by Mrs. Mitchell (and a letter)
Mar. 3rd	'Carnival' - Mr. J. Dando
Mar. 10th	Quiz - Sylvia
Mar. 17th	Devon and Cornwall - houses and gardens - Mr. A. Steel
Mar. 18th	Horticultural Show
Mar. 24th	Slides and Music - Mr. & Mrs. Tyler
Mar. 31st	Uphill Nature Reserve - Mrs. V. Bell
Apr. 7th	Cheese making - Mrs. P. Alvis
Apr. 14th	Bulb Fields of Holland - Mr. C. Cudlipp
Apr. 15th	Club coffee morning
Apr. 18th	Horticultural club - free evening - Dr. Hargreaves - 'Summer colour in the garden'
Apr. 21st	GOOD FRIDAY
Apr. 27th	OUTING - details to follow
Apr. 28th	Bingo

## JUMBLE SALE - SATURDAY 25th MARCH 2000

Last year we organised a Jumble Sale for Bleadon Church funds which, thanks to a very generous response from the people of Bleadon and Weston, was an enormous success. The best possible use was made of your donations with the better items going on the Bric-a-Brac stall at the May Fayre.

This year we are organising another, and hope for similar success. Please can you all have a good turn out of clothes, kitchen, garage, toys and knick-knacks - in fact anything. We are willing to collect as soon as possible - please telephone David or Sandra Lowton on WSM 413034. Offers of help for an hour or two on the day will be most welcome too. The Jumble Sale will be held in the Boulevard URC hall from 11.00 a.m.

Thank you.

*Sandra Lowton*  
*P.C.C. Secretary, St. Peter & St. Paul, Bleadon*

## VIDEO SURVEILLANCE IN BLEADON

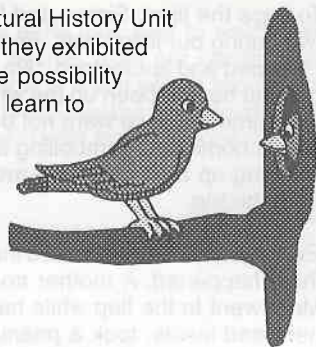
If you had heard that our home in Bleadon had been targeted for several days by TV cameras this summer, you would probably think we had had our garden transformed into a Japanese water feature by a frantic Garden Force team working against the clock or that we had been visited by a team of experts who had transformed our house to look like a pirate ship using only three pieces of chipboard and an old net curtain. Maybe you would even wonder if they secretly filming "Neighbours from Hell!" How many of you, innocently strolling past Hoveland on a sunny day in early summer this year could have guessed at the joys, despairs, drama and anguish that was happening just a few yards away.



---

It started with a phone call from a Doctor Simon Bell at the Natural History Unit in Bristol. He asked if I had any birds in my garden and whether they exhibited any unusual behaviour patterns. In passing he mentioned the possibility of setting up some experiments to see if my garden birds could learn to get to food put in a place that was difficult to reach.

Well, yes, I told him, getting up from the floor, "that's all very well, but my squirrels would probably vandalize anything we put out." (We'd got a family of them, which had systematically destroyed all but the most robust (and expensive) feeders I could buy).



"Great!" said Dr. Bell, "tell me more about your vandalizing squirrels"

"O they don't do it any more," I said. "We've given them their own feeder. It's bird proof.

The squirrels have to lift the lid and reach inside to get the peanuts. They don't bother with the bird food now."

"Oh dear", said Dr. Bell. "That's a shame".

"But now the jackdaws have learnt how to open the feeder and steal the nuts for themselves", I said.

"Oh!" said Dr. Bell. "May I come and video them for a documentary I'm making for the BBC to be shown next spring?"

"Yes, please!" I said, getting up from the floor again.

A few days later the great Doctor himself arrived. (He was a little late having got lost several times on his way here from Bristol.) He turned out to be a slip of a lad who appeared more like a sixth former on work experience than an important cog in the great organ of the BBC.

Dr. Simon Bell (or Simon as I was allowed to call him) proved himself to be a very clever and interesting young man. He was delighted to see that there was plenty of evidence of wildlife activity in our garden, and was enthusiastic about making a video of the birds, especially the clever jackdaws. Unfortunately, it was at this stage that I began to have doubts about what I had seen. Simon was so nice and trusting, he had driven all the way from Bristol on my say-so with all this expensive equipment, using the license-payers' money, and all on the off chance that I wasn't a publicity-seeking person with an overactive imagination.

We settled down with the video camera and began. I always knew that wildlife camera-persons need to have infinite patience and all that, but what I didn't realise until it happened to me was that you slowly begin to hate the subject of the video. My sweet and glossy jackdaws which had caused me so much pleasure with their funny little antics earlier in the week had become for me a source of anger and frustration, so much so that for weeks afterwards I could hardly bring myself to look them in the eye. As they approached the squirrel feeder we encouraged them with whispered orders which became increasingly frantic and abusive as time went on. "Go on! GO ON!" we would whisper. "Open the box! Open the box! OPEN THE \*\*\*\* BOX YOU STUPID \*\*\*\*!!!" Then it became "Oh no!" as the wretched creature once again remembered an important appointment at the top of a nearby tree and heartlessly flew away.

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To pass the time, Simon and I chatted. To begin with I noticed that he was stifling a yawn or two during our little chats. Fearing that I was perhaps boring the good doctor with my prattle, I stopped and apologized. "No, no, please go on", he urged, "it's keeping me awake". It turned out that he had been up the whole of the night before making a video of badgers for the same programme. These were not badgers frolicking on a moonlit hillside, peeping shyly from their secret homes, or gambolling along dusky woodland pathways. No, these badgers had been climbing up a six-foot rose arch outside someone's patio window and pinching the peanuts from the top.

Eventually, just as it seemed that I really had been suffering from delusions, the most wonderful thing happened. A mother and baby jackdaw (bless them!) alighted on the squirrel feeder. Mum went to the flap while baby sat on the ridge on top. Mum pushed open the lid, popped her head inside, took a peanut and posted it in the baby's mouth! The whole episode took only a few seconds, but we got it on camera and it caused great rejoicing all round. Dr. Simon Bell didn't exactly throw his arms around me and dance me round the room (shame!), but he did say "Thank you, thank you, Sandra" several times, as if I had done something clever. He then packed his equipment and left, a happy man.

A proper, professional camera-person arrived a few days later in the shape of Faye. Young and pretty, she arrived with a car-load of expensive high-tech equipment, which filled the whole of our dining room. With heavy blinds up at the windows and trailing cables everywhere we sat almost motionless together in a twilight world while the sun shone outside and various wild animals performed for our delight. We chatted and drank tea and focused on the action outside. Faye filmed for two days. She filmed our squirrels running up trees, running down trees, running round trees, feeding, fighting, chasing and doing all the squirrely things they could think of. Faye filmed great-tits, blue-tits, coal-tits, willow-tits, chaffinches and greenfinches. They were feeding, drinking, squabbling, flying up, flying down, and doing all the birdie things they could think of. She filmed in close-up, long shot, panning up and panning down, zooming in and zooming out, but still there was no sign of our jackdaw family and their little party-piece. (Bless them!)

Faye was disappointed and left after dark on the last day, taking the expensive equipment with her. The excitement was over and we could get back to normal. The next morning I sat quietly alone at the breakfast table staring out of the window while a happy little jackdaw stood on the squirrel feeder repeatedly pushing in his head and extracting a peanut. Bang, went the lid. How could he know that he had been twenty-fours too late?

Long experienced in these matters, Simon was philosophical when I told him. He offered to lend me a video camera to set up in the window in case it happened again when I could video it. For nearly a week I was in heaven, pretending to be a real BBC camera person. I did some zooming in and zooming out, panning, long shots out of focus, tripping over the tripod, forgetting to press the 'On' switch, shaking the camera, and thoroughly enjoying myself.

A copy of my efforts was sent to me a few days later and it was every bit as awful as I expected it would be. However, among the shaky and unfocussed bits were some little gems and a few surprises. Whilst we had all been concentrating on our jackdaws and their attempts at getting food from the feeder, there had been another bird watching and waiting in the wings, so to speak! Over the previous weeks some magpies had got the hang of it by watching the jackdaws and despite their natural reluctance to stick their heads in what to them is a big dark hole, they were quickly becoming experts on stealing the peanuts from the squirrel feeder. I had managed to get some excellent shots despite my lack of skills.

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My reward for all this effort will be a visit to the BBC in Bristol early next year to watch the whole lot being edited in Simon's studio. I don't know if the scenes from our garden will feature in a whole programme or just for a few minutes. All I know is that it will be broadcast nationally in the spring and will feature mine and other animals doing unusual and unexpected things. I hope lots of you will see it and enjoy the programme. Don't forget to look out for those badgers climbing that rose arch too!

*Sandra Day*

### LITTLE DITTY

If you run a club or group  
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Penny lives at 1, The Veale  
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## **BRIDGE GARAGE**

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**NEXT ISSUE WILL BE IN MARCH 2000  
ALL REPORTS BY 29.02.2000  
PLEASE**

## A LIST OF ORGANISATIONS WHICH REGULARLY USE THE HALLS

### Mondays

2-5pm	Bleaddon Bridge Club	Mr. D. Gardner	812041
7.30pm 1st Monday	British Sugarcraft Guild W.S.M. Branch	Mrs. E. Lambert	01278-786586
7.30pm 2nd Monday	Parish Council		

### Tuesdays

2-4pm 2nd Tuesday	Bleaddon Ladies Group	Mrs. J. Wilkes	812783
2-4pm 1st, 3rd, 4th	Bleaddon Short Mat Bowling Club	Mr. J. Ward	812136
5.30-7pm	Brownies**		
7.30pm 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th	Bleaddon Photographic Club	Mrs. G. Taylor	812475
7.30pm	Bleaddon Players Rehearsals**	Mrs. S. Kelly	812419

### Wednesdays

10am-noon 2nd & 4th	Infant Welfare Clinic & Toddler Group	The Health Visitor at the Clinic	
10am-12noon 1st, 3rd & 5th	Toddler Group	Mrs. J. Walford	811718
2-4pm Sept-June	Watercolour Painting (Post Beginners)	Mrs. K. Panes	WSMTech College 411411
5.30-6.30pm	Bleaddon Beavers**		
7.30pm	Bleaddon Players Rehearsals	Mrs. S. Kelly	812419
<u>Thursdays</u> 2-4pm Sept-June	Watercolour Painting (Experienced)	Mrs. K. Panes	WSMTech College 411411
6-7.30pm	Bleaddon Cubs**		

8.00pm 1st & 4th Thurs. Sept.-June	Bleadon Folk Dancing Group	Mrs. J. Thorne	814007
<u>Fridays</u> 2-4pm	Friendship Club	Mrs. J. Diment	812217
7.30pm Sept.-May	Short Mat Bowling Club	Mr. J. Ward	812136
7.30pm	Bleadon Scouts**		
<u>Sundays</u> 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.

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS IN THE CORONATION HALLS

**Please make a note in your diary!**

Monday 20th December 7.30pm	<b>Christmas Concert</b>	Bleadon Players
Friday 31st December 7.30 - midnight	<b>Bleadon Millennium Party</b>	<b>Mrs. B. Patterson and others</b>
Friday 21st January & Saturday 22nd January 2000	Pantomime	<b>Bleadon Players</b>
Saturday 5th February 2000	Jumble Sale	Bleadon Scouts
Tuesday 15th February 2000 7.30 p.m.	Welcome Party	Contactus
Tuesday 14th March 2000 7.30 p.m.	Public Meeting	Police & Community
Saturday 18th March 2000	Spring Show	Horticultural Society
Saturday 25th March 2000 7.30 p.m.	Cheese & Wine Party	Bleadon Church Friends
Wednesday 5th April 2000	Fashion Show	Bleadon Church Friends
Saturday 15th April 2000	Coffee Morning	Friendship Club

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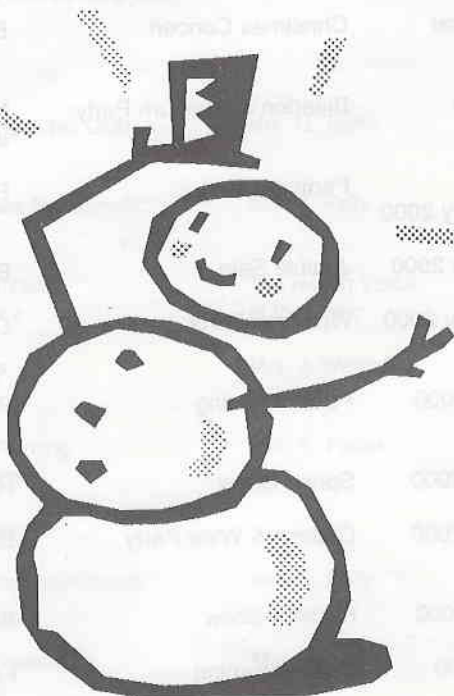


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Edited by Penny Robinson (1, The Veale) and Steve Miles (16, The Veale)

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

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