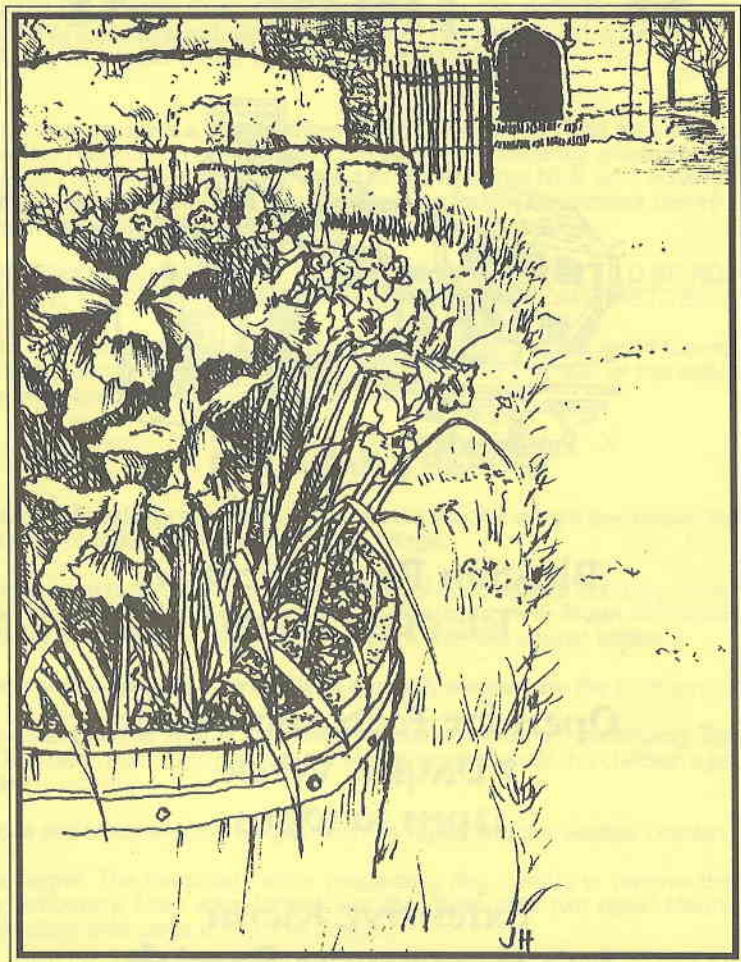
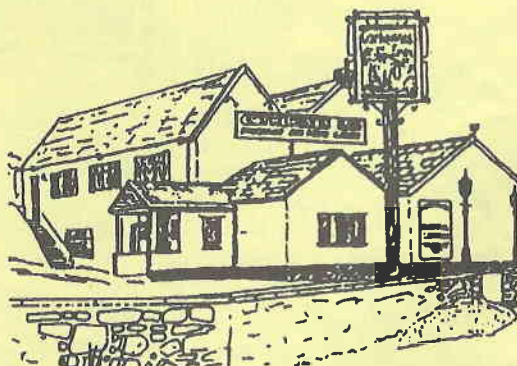


# BLEADON



VILLAGE NEWS 44

# CATHERINE'S INN



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7 Days a Week  
12pm to 10pm

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## YOUR NEW 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, Lymphsham. Tel. 812921  
KEITH PIKE, 8 Whitegate Close, Bleadon. Tel. 813127  
NICK WALL

As you will notice, we have a new member of the Council. Nick Wall was elected unopposed when an election was called in December 1999, filling the vacancy created by the resignation of Ivan Cottrell. I'm sure that everyone would like to welcome Nick, who is carrying on a great family tradition, as both father and grandfather were Parish Councillors before him. We wish him well as the new representative on the Youth Club Committee.

THE PARISH CLERK TO WHOM ALL CORRESPONDENCE SHOULD BE ADDRESSED IS BRUCE POOLE, 10 SOUTH STREET, BURNHAM-ON-SEA, SOMERSET. TEL: 01278 787555

The Council meets on the second Monday of the month at 7.30pm, in the Coronation Hall. An agenda is published on the Parish notice board, and any member of the public may attend these meetings, and raise any issue at the end of business.

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

By the time this Newsletter goes to print we should see the weight and coach restriction signs and the 30mph roundels erected around our village.

You may have seen reports in the local press about flooding and dumping of raw sewage into the surface water ditches. We are currently in discussion with North Somerset Council and Wessex Water in an effort to resolve the problem with the utmost urgency.

Any building of new property in the village can only exacerbate the problem.

Our improvements in the area of the village hall and car park are continuing. The land around the toilets has been tidied and painting of the play equipment in the children's playground has commenced.

The daffodils are blooming and we will soon be replanting the Jubilee Garden.

I have one regret. The temporary signs requesting dog owners to remove their pets' mess were very temporary. They were thrown into the rhyne after two days! Meanwhile the dog owners still allow their dogs to foul the village.

Surely it is to everyone's benefit to keep the village tidy.

*Peter Smart, Chairman*

**The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Monday 10th April at 7.00pm.  
All villagers are most welcome to attend**

~~~~~  
**Deadline for next issue: Friday 2nd June - make a note in your diaries now!**



## FROM THE TOWN HALL

With the weight and speed limit schemes now approved for Bleadon, we're afraid you're going to see a few signs popping up around the village in the near future. We've tried to keep them to a sensible number, but legal requirements drive the issue. We hope the result pleases everyone (except the speed merchants!).

Trying to find out just who is responsible for the flooded drains is not easy, yet when it's your garden - or worse - it's usually the District Councillor that people complain to. That's not an issue, as usually it's possible to find out whose responsibility the problem is. Solving it can take a bit longer! Currently, there is the matter of overflowing drains in Bridge Road, which is a Wessex Water responsibility. Even though the evidence is that the pollution has been going on for some time, the company hasn't seemed to fully recognise it. Now the matter has been revived, we hope they will.

Finally, some good news and bad news on the roads front. The good news is that resurfacing of some roads in this parish is scheduled for this year, plus possible works on the A370. The bad news is that Uphill Railway Bridge has to be closed next winter for several weeks for a structural rebuild. More of that in a future issue - but you've been warned. Sounds like a good time to go away on holiday.

*Cllrs Eifan ap Rees and Ian Peddlesden*

## BLEADON CHURCH - PARISH MAGAZINE

Monthly 30p

News, views, reports,  
times of and information about  
Services and special events.

*To get your copy, phone  
Pete Williams on 812020.*

*Also obtainable from Bleadon Post Office*



## BRIDGE GARAGE

(Prop: Peter Briffitt)

BLEADON VILLAGE

**AT YOUR SERVICE**

**TELEPHONE: 01934 - 812206**

## ON THE BUSES!

North Somerset Council subsidises a number of rural bus services and Bleadon is lucky to benefit from this scheme. It is an excellent service, particularly for morning shoppers. It stops at ASDA, Tesco, the town centre and the hospital.

The return fare from Bleadon to Weston-super-Mare is £1.50. If you purchase a TRAVELSAVER for £6 per year the return fare is £1. Give it a try. Regular usage will ensure that we retain this valuable subsidised service.

P. Smart, Chairman

### LOCKING CASTLE WEST - BLEADON

Via Town Centre, Pioneer, Hospital

# 83/83A

| Service Number Code                               | 83 NS | 83   | 83   | 83   | 83   | 83   | 83A @ | 83 SSH | 83   | 83   |
|---------------------------------------------------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|--------|------|------|
| <b>Mondays to Saturdays (Not public holidays)</b> |       |      |      |      |      |      |       |        |      |      |
| Locking Castle West <i>Bailey Close</i>           | ....  | .... | 1000 | 1115 | 1230 | 1345 | 1500  | 1500   | 1615 | .... |
| Hutton Moor <i>Leisure Centre</i>                 | ....  | .... | 1005 | 1120 | 1235 | 1350 | 1505  | 1505   | 1620 | .... |
| High Street <i>Stop T arr.</i>                    | ....  | .... | 1011 | 1126 | 1241 | 1356 | 1511  | 1511   | 1626 | .... |
| High Street <i>Stop T dep.</i>                    | 0758  | 0859 | 1014 | 1129 | 1244 | 1359 | 1512  | 1514   | 1640 | 1740 |
| Pioneer Store <i>Searle Crescent</i>              | 0803  | 0904 | 1019 | 1134 | 1249 | 1404 | 1517  | 1519   | 1645 | 1745 |
| Oldmixon <i>Oldmixon Road</i>                     | 0808  | 0909 | 1024 | 1139 | 1254 | 1409 | A     | 1524   | 1650 | 1750 |
| Uphill <i>Hospital</i>                            | 0811  | 0912 | 1027 | 1142 | 1257 | 1412 | 1524  | 1527   | 1653 | 1753 |
| Uphill <i>School</i>                              | ....  | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1526  | ....   | .... | .... |
| Bleadon <i>The Veale</i>                          | ....  | 0920 | 1035 | 1150 | 1305 | 1420 | 1535  | 1535   | 1701 | 1801 |
| Bleadon <i>Whitegate Farm</i>                     | 0819  | 0922 | 1037 | 1152 | 1307 | 1422 | 1537  | 1537   | 1703 | 1803 |
| Bleadon <i>Purn Way</i>                           | 0820  | 0923 | 1038 | 1153 | 1308 | 1423 | 1538  | 1538   | 1704 | 1804 |

| Service Number Code                               | 83 NS | 83A @ | 83 SSH | 83   | 83   | 83   | 83   | 83   | 83   | 83   |
|---------------------------------------------------|-------|-------|--------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| <b>Mondays to Saturdays (Not public holidays)</b> |       |       |        |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| Bleadon <i>The Veale</i>                          | ....  | ....  | ....   | 0920 | 1035 | 1150 | 1305 | 1420 | 1535 | 1705 |
| Bleadon <i>Purn Way</i>                           | 0730  | 0821  | 0823   | 0923 | 1038 | 1153 | 1308 | 1423 | 1538 | 1708 |
| Bleadon <i>Whitegate Farm</i>                     | 0731  | 0822  | 0824   | 0926 | 1041 | 1156 | 1311 | 1426 | 1541 | 1711 |
| Bleadon <i>The Veale</i>                          | 0733  | 0824  | 0826   | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Uphill <i>School</i>                              | ....  | 0832  | ....   | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Uphill <i>Hospital</i>                            | 0739  | ....  | 0832   | 0932 | 1047 | 1202 | 1317 | 1432 | 1547 | 1717 |
| Oldmixon <i>Oldmixon Road</i>                     | 0742  | A     | 0835   | 0935 | 1050 | 1205 | 1320 | 1435 | 1550 | 1720 |
| Pioneer Store <i>Searle Crescent</i>              | 0748  | 0841  | 0841   | 0941 | 1056 | 1211 | 1326 | 1441 | 1556 | 1726 |
| Town Hall <i>Stop V</i>                           | 0754  | 0847  | 0847   | 0947 | 1102 | 1217 | 1332 | 1447 | 1602 | 1732 |
| Locking Moor Road <i>Borough Arms</i>             | ....  | ....  | ....   | 0954 | 1109 | 1224 | 1339 | 1454 | 1609 | .... |
| Locking Castle West <i>Bailey Close</i>           | ....  | ....  | ....   | 0958 | 1113 | 1228 | 1343 | 1458 | 1613 | .... |
| Hutton Moor <i>Leisure Centre</i>                 | ....  | ....  | ....   | 1005 | 1120 | 1235 | 1350 | 1505 | 1620 | .... |

**Code:** @ Schooldays only    A - Operates directly via Broadway instead of via Oldmixon Road  
 NS - Not Saturdays    SSH - Saturdays and Mondays to Fridays during school holidays



### Sunday April 30th - Monday May 1st

Artists wishing to submit work should bring their paintings to the Coronation Hall on Saturday April 29th between 10am and 12 noon.

The back of each work must have the name, address, title and price. In addition a tie-on label with duplicate details should be attached to hang over the front of the painting.

Paintings should be submitted ready for hanging with hooks and cord attached.

A fee of 50p will be charged for each painting submitted.

The above fees plus a 10% commission on work sold will be donated to the church restoration fund.

Paintings exhibited are at owners own risk.

Enquiries to Val James, Tel: 814555

## A LIST OF ORGANISATIONS WHICH REGULARLY USE THE HALLS

### Mondays

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

### Tuesdays

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

### Wednesdays

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

### Thursdays

|                                          |                                       |                |                           |
|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| 2-4pm<br>Sept-June                       | Watercolour Painting<br>(Experienced) | Mrs. K. Panes  | WSMTech College<br>411411 |
| 6-7.30pm                                 | Bleadon Cubs**                        |                |                           |
| 8.00pm<br>1st & 4th Thurs.<br>Sept.-June | Bleadon Folk Dancing Group            | Mrs. J. Thorne | 814007                    |

### Fridays

|                     |                        |                |        |
|---------------------|------------------------|----------------|--------|
| 2-4pm               | Friendship Club        | Mrs. J. Diment | 812217 |
| 7.30pm<br>Sept.-May | Short Mat Bowling Club | Mr. J. Ward    | 812136 |
| 7.30pm              | Bleadon Scouts**       |                |        |

### Sundays

|                    |                        |             |        |
|--------------------|------------------------|-------------|--------|
| 3-5pm<br>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.

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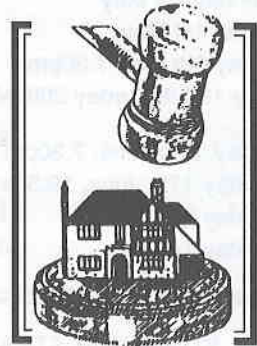
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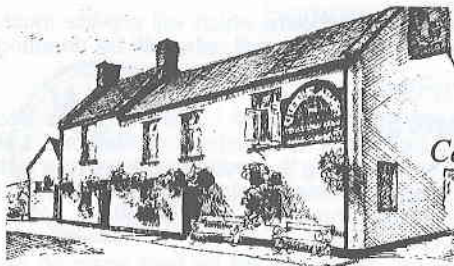
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## THE QUEEN'S ARMS

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*Lunches and Evening Meals*

*Menu and Specials Board*

*Catering for Private Functions*

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*Open All Day*

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS IN THE CORONATION HALLS

Please make a note in your diary!

|                                       |                                             |                                     |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Monday 13th March, 7.30pm             | Parish Council Meeting                      |                                     |
| Tuesday 14th March, 7.30 pm           | Public Meeting                              | Police & Community                  |
| Saturday 18th March                   | Spring Show                                 | Horticultural Society               |
| Wednesday 5th April                   | Fashion Show                                | Bleadon Church Friends              |
| Monday 10th April, 7.30pm             | Parish Council Meeting                      |                                     |
| Saturday 15th April                   | Coffee Morning                              | Friendship Club                     |
| Sunday 30th April -<br>Monday 1st May | Art Exhibition in New Hall                  | Bleadon Church Friends              |
| Monday 1st May                        | MAY FAYRE                                   | Bleadon Church Friends              |
| Monday 8th May, 7.30pm                | Parish Council Meeting                      |                                     |
| Friday 19th/Saturday 20th May         | 'An Ideal Husband'<br>a play by Oscar Wilde | Bleadon Players                     |
| Monday 12th June, 7.30pm              | Parish Council Meeting                      |                                     |
| Saturday 17th June, 10.30am-12        | STRAWBERRY FAYRE                            | Hall Management                     |
| Saturday 24th June                    | Summer Show                                 | Bleadon Players                     |
| Saturday 1st July                     | Midsummer Madness!                          | Bleadon Village Events<br>Committee |
| Monday 10th July, 7.30pm              | Parish Council Meeting                      |                                     |

**LOST, STOLEN OR STRAYED!** - One of our tables is missing. Does anyone know the whereabouts of our missing melamine topped, 8-seater, folding table? It is rather large to go missing, but its loss was noticed early in December. Did you borrow it and forget to put it back? No questions asked if it's replaced. Information leading to its discovery will be accepted with gratitude. Tip-offs to the Booking Office or any Committee Member please!

## BLEADON CORONATION HALL

The painting of the village scene on the walls of the entrance lobby is now complete (see below) and, at a later date, softer lighting to enhance the effect will be fitted. We extend our thanks to Mr & Mrs Hickley for their painstaking work.

New carpet has now been fitted in the inner hall and passage to the new hall which is a big improvement over the old uneven floor tiles.

We are waiting for the fitting of a new external noticeboard which will provide much more display space for village organisations and the Parish Council, who will be donating £200 towards the cost.

The Management Committee intends to apply to the National Lottery Charities Board for money in order to replace the old corrugated roof with a new pitched and tiled one. Last year we had a feasibility report from a firm of Chartered Building Surveyors and have now instructed them to act for us. They will commence by producing detailed plans for contractors to tender and, if our application is successful, see the project through to its completion.

Following last year's popular 'Strawberry Fayre', this event will be held again on Saturday June 17th. Another date for your diary, is notice of our AGM. This will be on Thursday April 13th, a chance for residents of Bleadon to come along and air views on the running of YOUR village hall.

*L. J. Chamberlain, Chairman*





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---

## MILLENNIUM MAKEOVER

The Village Hall has received a unique Millennium make-over, Lorna and John Hickley who have created a detailed mural in the entrance to the hall forming a panoramic view of the whole village.

After the initial planning and research, the project took about three months to complete. Almost all the houses in the village are featured and their work was completed just in time for the special village celebrations on New Year's Eve. Partygoers and other visitors to the Hall now enjoy identifying their houses amongst the surrounding landscape.

The hall is about to be enhanced further in the very near future by the addition of material from Bleadon's historic past.

John Hickley is also responsible for designing a project at Uphill Village Hall. A Millennium collage measuring ten metres in width is 'work in progress' for sixteen groups of Uphill Villagers.

*Pete Williams*

---

## NORTH SOMERSET PARISH WILDLIFE WARDENS



We have been informed that EMMA THORNE of LEIGHTON CRESCENT, BLEADON HILL has volunteered to act as a wildlife warden in this area.

It is hoped that you will all support her efforts and those of all the other volunteers in promoting the conservation of our local environmental issues.

I shall be writing to her so that we may be kept in touch with any activities that concern us and our immediate locality. All information will be published in your *Bleadon News*.

*PR*

---

## LOST ORCHARDS OF SOMERSET

Recently a letter fell on my doormat from North Somerset Council informing me of the sad demise of many of our historic orchards; these sites and their associated culture have been lost either through neglect, grubbing up or just plain unthinking development.

There is a move afoot, however, to document our orchards here in Somerset and to publish the information collected via public libraries and a North Somerset website. The project will collect information on old, new and abandoned orchards, even remnants of those remaining on new housing developments, where perhaps only an occasional tree has survived. Local residents are being asked to look at any apple trees they may have growing in their gardens, to see if they are of old varieties, there may also be anecdotes of the old orchards, house names that reflect past associations with orchards (or indeed apple varieties) anything that may give a clue to the existence of an old site.

Orchards are also valuable sites for wildlife such as woodpeckers, owls and hares.

They were, of course, of vital importance to the local cider industry and many varieties such as Morgan Sweet and Beauty of Bath still survive today, but are becoming rarer.

Recording the existence of such orchards in North Somerset is part of a greater scheme to make a register for the whole of the South West of England; details may be sent to the National Fruit Collection at Brogdale.



There is hope too that by raising interest, old traditions such as wassailing and Apple Days could be revived or a more modern approach may be to plant a community orchard for the enjoyment of future generations.

Any persons interested in this scheme should contact: Jay Butler at North Somerset Council on 01275 888554

*PR*

## NATIONAL SPRING CLEAN MONTH - APRIL 2000

Town and parish councils nationwide have chosen a day in April to be their 'clean-up' day. Here in Bleadon we have chosen Saturday April 15th.

We hope that as many of you as are able will turn out to give a hand in tidying up the village.

North Somerset Council is providing gloves and black bags for the occasion and the rubbish will be collected from the car park free of charge.

Even if you can't join in the main event, how about just tidying the bit outside your front gate? Every little helps!

I'm sure we would all like to be proud of Bleadon when the walkers and tourists come. So go out there on the 15th and pick some litter!

We thank you in anticipation of your support

*Penny Robinson*

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*Mrs. Victoria J. Jones*

*M.S.S.Ch. M.B.CH.A.*

*Registered member of the British Chiropody & Podiatry Association*

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**Glenise and Les Masters**

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---

## CHURCH OF ST PETER AND ST. PAUL

Here are a few special dates for the next few weeks:

**Mothering Sunday - 2nd April: FAMILY SERVICE** AT 10.15am

On **9th April** there will be a special **PASSIONTIDE SERVICE** of Hymns, Anthems and Readings, led by our choir plus friends. This is always a great musical as well as devotional occasion.

**Palm Sunday** is **16th April**. Palm crosses will be blessed in the church rooms at 10.10am and will then be processed across to church for a **SUNG EUCHARIST** at 10.15am. This begins **Holy Week** which will have special Services every day leading to our **Easter Celebrations** on Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd. See poster and church magazine for full details. There will be two new events/services this year, both arranged and led by Mrs Barbara Hartree and arranged especially for children: **Maundy Thursday (20th)** at 10.00am in the church room, Preparation of Easter Garden, then **Good Friday (21st)** FAMILY WORSHIP at 10.30am with hot cross buns and coffee.

The **ST. GEORGE'S DAY PARADE AND FAMILY SERVICE** has to be transferred from Easter Day to Sunday 30th April at 10.15am.

**Ascension Day (Thursday 1st June)** **SUNG EUCHARIST** at 7.30pm will be from the Book of Common Prayer 1662. **Whit Sunday** is **11th June** and **Trinity Sunday** **18th**.

Full information about all services is printed in the **church magazine** obtainable at Bleadon Post Office, price 30p.

*David Parkinson, Rector (Tel: 812297)*

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

## FRIENDS OF BLEADON CHURCH

Many thanks to all who supported the Beetle Drive and the Quiz. Both events were enjoyed by those taking part.

### LOOKING AHEAD

On Wednesday 5th April at 7.30pm in the Coronation Hall, there will be a 'Fashion Show' by Dorothy Howkins. Tickets are £5. This to include cheese and wine. There will also be a licenced bar and raffle. Tickets from members of the 'Friends' or from the Post Office.

Dorothy Howkins is well known for the garments she displays, the quality is good, the price fair and she caters for the 'normal' person; you don't have to look like a bean pole to wear the clothes that she provides; her models are size 12 to at least 24, so there should be something for everyone.

Please come along on the night and enjoy the informal atmosphere and if there is anything that catches your eye, you can call at her shop in Whitecross Road, and try them on at your leisure. Mrs Howkins is offering a generous discount to all customers who attend the Fashion Show.

---

On Saturday 15th April, 2-4.30pm there will be another opportunity to try your hand at a 'Beetle Game'. Tickets £1.50 to include tea and cake. Tickets from members of the 'Friends' or from the Post Office.

### **BLEADON MAY FAYRE - MONDAY 1st MAY 2000**

A fun day for all the family. There will be most of the usual stalls and games to attract your interest as well as a few others.

If you are able to help in any way on the day it would be appreciated. Offers of help for setting up and **DISMANTLING AT THE END OF THE DAY** and to run the side shows to Reyn Badger: 811490.

Offers of help for individual stalls to the persons listed below:

Bathroom and Fancy Goods  
Cakes and Home Produce  
Books  
Bric-a-Brac  
Plants  
Tombola

Mrs. M. Cullen  
Mrs. L. Rogers  
Mrs. S. Court  
Mrs. S. Lowton  
Mrs. P. Davies  
Mrs. J. Smith

Please give items for sale or for prizes to any member of the committee. They may be also be left in church with permission of the churchwardens.

### **NEW THIS YEAR!**

There will be a fancy dress competition for children. Please contact Charlotte House for details of entry. I hope to see you all there.

*Barbara Hartree 814812*

On Sunday 30th April and Monday 1st May there will be an Art Exhibition in the Scout Hall and a Flower Festival in Church. Both of these displays will be well worth a visit.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

### **BY YON BONNY BANKS ...**

No less than THREE banks have a branch in Bleadon, which may surprise many people. Furthermore although they are in competition with each other they happily share premises - in an old fashioned building cleverly disguised as a post office. These three: Lloyds/TSB, Girobank and Co-operative Bank, are likely to be joined in due course by Barclays, who are testing the same arrangements in Cornwall and personally I expect the other banks will follow sooner or later.

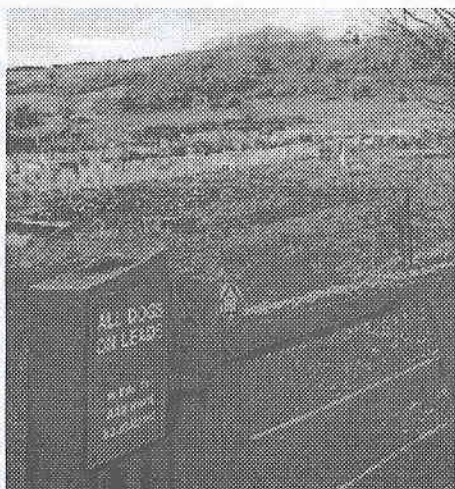
What this means is that personal customers will have much more convenient banking facilities than before, because there are far more post offices than bank branches and they generally are open longer hours. Besides this, it is quite possible that your local post office will acquire a cash machine, but that will be a matter for my successor. In the meantime, just keep those chequebooks coming!

*LM*

# "There's nothing to beat the taste..."

For just £10 or £20 per year (depending on size) you can rent an allotment and grow your own produce, right here in Bleadon. What you grow and how you grow it is up to you.

What you can be sure of is that you will never have tasted fresher fruit and vegetables, and you'll be a whole lot healthier for it. It involves effort, with more in early spring when you are busy digging the ground and sowing your crops. Say six hours a week on average. It's all good exercise though!



Every allotment is different. You can grow luxury fruit and vegetables - asparagus, artichokes, tasty tiny tomatoes, crisp mini-veg and strawberries - or you can grow the everyday foods to keep you in produce the whole year. And you'll know that it'll be as fresh as it can be.

Plus the exercise will certainly work off those excess pounds and fill your lungs with clear Mendip air.

Running an allotment has its social side too - from swapping ideas, and plants, to bigger social occasions - it's up to you.

**For more information on renting a Bleadon allotment call Penny Robinson on 814 142**

# **The Bleadon Players**

present



## **An Ideal Husband**



a satirical play by  
**Oscar Wilde**

at The Bleadon Coronation Hall

on Thursday to Saturday  
18th, 19th & 20th May 2000

**Tickets:**

**Adults: £4 Children: £2**

available after Easter from Bleadon Post Office  
or telephone Sandie Kelly on Bleadon 812419

## THROUGH JACK'S EYES



Last week, on one of those really clear, bright blue days, with frost hanging on the foliage, we were walking up on Hellenge and there was before us a truly brilliant example of nature's perfection: a spider's web of magnificent proportions, so wonderfully and carefully constructed that it was breathtaking. I'm sure that Blake, the poet, would have found it as awe-inspiringly symmetrical as his 'tyger'!

As we looked over to the Somerset coast, with Exmoor beyond, then to the East towards the Levels and of course the mysterious Glastonbury Tor, we turned again to take in the view across the estuary over towards Wales. It all seemed too vast a scene to comprehend.

The web or the vista?

How often do we only see the outstanding things in life, ignoring the more intimate closer-to-home issues?

So, next time you gaze longingly at far horizons, remember there is another aspect, and it's not far from you - just like the spider's web.

PR

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## THE BLEADON BEAT

I have been covering the village for the last six months and already met a number of villagers. In an effort to make myself more available to you I shall be holding a Police surgery once a month for the next three months. The surgery will be held at the Church Room on Rectory Way between 1pm and 2.30pm on the following Fridays: 24th March, 21st April and 26th May. Please feel free to come along; all advice is confidential.

House burglary is the most serious crime that occurs in the village. Figures for the last six months show that there have been four house burglaries in the Parish. Although this is about average for North Somerset, I feel that it is too high for the village of Bleadon. While we concentrate our efforts on detection, prevention is far better for you, the potential victim. Most burglars are opportunist thieves looking for an unoccupied house. When you leave your home, glance back and ask whether it is obvious that you are away. Lights and radios on time switches are a simple and inexpensive way of making your home look occupied. Speak to your neighbours, let them know when you are likely to be out and encourage them to report anything that is suspicious. Again, I encourage you all to consider an alarm system, particularly if your home is isolated.

If you require any crime prevention advice then contact me on 638181 or come along to one of the surgeries.

PC 2307 Adrian Woolcott



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## BLEADON BABY AND TODDLER GROUP: ANGELS OR DEVILS?

How many of you with older children *really* remember what it was like to take your baby/toddler to the shops? For many parents such a trip can be a nightmare made worse by the frowns and whispered criticisms of passers-by. Their thoughts are obvious: 'My children never behaved like that, I just wouldn't have allowed it,' as they observe you with yours, screaming with rage, frustration or from sheer boredom: take your pick.

I heard a very good story - probably not untypical in essence - the other day. A woman was in town pushing her new baby and two-year-old in a double buggy. With unfortunate bad timing, it happened to be lunchtime. She needed some formula milk from Boots and on her way to the till happened to notice a particularly good 'three for the price of two' offer. She picked them up and headed off, pleased with herself for being thrifty.

They passed the toys and the toddler asked very politely to be allowed out to have a look. This wouldn't usually be a problem so out she popped for five minutes and was then told to get back in the buggy. And then it happened. The child refused to get back in and would not be persuaded by any means; the situation deteriorated as the woman had no option but to force the child back in. By now there was a growing queue at the till - should she forget it and just leave? Impossible. There was no formula milk at home, so she held her breath and took her place in the queue. As the child's protestations grew louder, the baby awoke and started to compete with her sister for attention. The screaming got louder and louder, and nothing could be done to placate them, so the mother looked ahead, daring not to glance at the people around her, hearing loud tuts and feeling the burning of dozens of eyes. After waiting an eternity, her turn at the till came at last. It was all over - until the cashier asked for £35 instead of the anticipated £15 for the goods. Should she just pay it to escape? No, she couldn't. In a weak voice she said: 'I don't think that's right' and heard sighs and groans from all around her - stupid woman, how could she get it all so wrong? Unable to bear it any longer, the cashier rang a bell to get someone to take this screaming troupe away - 'to somewhere where you can't upset all the customers' explained an irritated supervisor. The woman felt like a social reject.

Out of the limelight, she was able to release the toddler (who miraculously went back to behaving impeccably) and console the baby; a sudden silence descended. The supervisor returned to apologise for the fact that the information about the special offer had been displayed incorrectly - Boots would, of course, offer them to her at the cheaper, incorrect price displayed.

With confidence restored, the woman decided to attempt a visit to one final shop before going home. In this shop there were no demands for freedom; in fact, the toddler sang and chatted happily. In the queue she carried on conversations with other customers, proudly explaining that she had a new baby sister, and that she helped mummy to bath her. The baby sister co-operated by gurgling and giggling happily, complying with all requests for smiles. After much cooing, the cashier eventually turned to the mother and the transaction - no problem with incorrect pricing here. Shopping completed, the woman headed for the door. As she left she overheard one woman saying to another: 'What a lucky woman to have two such adorable, wonderfully behaved children.'

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## THE BRISTOL AIRPORT EXPERIENCE

'It's still a building site', they said, 'so you have to wear hard hats.' So we did! The 'we' were a few members of the Parish Council, the place was the new terminal at Bristol Airport, and the date was 3rd February, just a month before it was due to be opened by HRH The Princess Royal. To us there seemed so much still to do, and so little time in which to do it.



After a short welcome chat, it was into a flight simulator. This was the experience we had been waiting for. In an instant we were whisked into and out of the old building as if a piece of luggage and zoomed into the new, to enjoy a tour of its spacious and airy interior. We saw what it was going to be like when finished, and most impressive it was.

Following this 'virtual reality trip' we were all invited on a tour of the actual site, but as so many areas were still 'no go' we had to take a different route from the one that future air passengers will take. However, in spite of all the hazards it became apparent that this building was going to more than live up to our expectations.

To quote the brochure: 'When Bristol International Airport opens in March 2000, the spacious 21st Century glass and steel design will bring a fresh dimension to air travel in this part of the world, and the three and a half million travellers that are expected to use it annually will do so in greater comfort and less stress.'

Just a few facts and figures: Better parking, automated doors, 31 check-in desks, modern pre-flight facilities, which include a shopping mall, the usual tax-free shops and fast-food eating areas. Young passengers have not been forgotten, baby care facilities, a play area and games zone are also available while waiting for your departure. Care has also been taken to make sure that the disabled traveller is well catered for.



For those of you who, like me, have suffered in the cramped and inadequate confines of the present building, this new terminal will make air travel from Bristol a much more pleasurable experience. Something we shall all be grateful for, I'm sure.

HAPPY LANDINGS!

*Penny Robinson*

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## BLEADON MAN

I promised you an update in the last magazine on the Bleadon Man Millennium Project. We now have the Bronze Head, which is one of only two; the original is now on display in the new Wellcome Wing of the Science Museum, London. The head was reconstructed by Caroline Wilkinson and our unique copy was cast from this. The head was sponsored by Marshalls, but before the display is established in the Coronation Hall, the next step is to raise funds for a secure show case. Spot lights have been donated and we await photos from the Bristol Museum archives to complete the story.

The Parish Council has kindly agreed to sponsor an outdoor plaque in a public place in the village as a permanent reminder of our famous villager. Finally, may I draw your attention to the BBC publication: 'Meet the Ancestors' by Julian Richards, which includes a chapter giving the facts, data and pictures of Bleadon Man.

*Penny Skelley*



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## BLEADON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



At the time of writing we seem to be in the grip of winter, with temperatures in my unheated greenhouse staying around zero and dipping to  $-4^{\circ}\text{C}$  and lower. However, Spring is just around the corner and that puts gardening events firmly back in the Millennium diary. Here are a couple to whet the appetite:

The 26th Annual Spring Show on Saturday March 18th was well attended and certainly blessed with sunshine to bring out the best in the blooms and exhibits, many of which showed the variety of talent in the village

The Show, in the Coronation Hall has the hardy perennial stalls and raffles along with refreshments. All are welcome, gardeners or not.

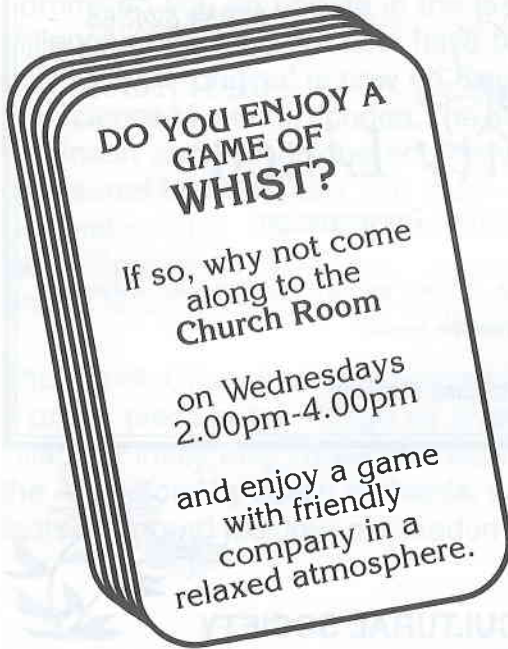
The next date in your diary is **Tuesday April 18th** when Dr George Hargreaves from Alveston in Bristol will be talking on 'Summer colour in the garden'. The meeting is open and free to all, at 7.30pm.

Following the refreshments and the raffle, there will be a discussion to assess if there is sufficient interest to resurrect regular evening meetings and/or trips.

We look forward to seeing you

Chris J. Cudlipp


# NOTICES



**WANTED URGENTLY**

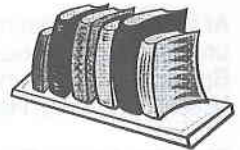
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for the Coronation Hall

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Pete Williams  
812020



## MAY FAYRE BOOK STALL

We would appreciate any unwanted books for sale at the May Fayre. Please ring Peter Williams (812020) or Sue Court (813343) for collection



## LOST PROPERTY

Some months ago during a public Folk Dance function in the Coronation Hall, I put down a book near my microphone on the edge of the stage. It was a modern reprint of several of the "Dancing Master" manuals published by John Playford in the early 18th Century bound in one volume.

At the end of the evening I could not find the book; but by then a lot of tidying up and putting away had been done. I am quite certain that this book was not deliberately removed but I think it likely that it may have found its way into some cupboard or drawer in the Hall among the property of one or other of the user organisations.

May I please appeal to members using storage space in the Hall to have a good look for this book among your equipment next time you have occasion to use it.

I really should be enormously grateful for the book to be found. Very many thanks.

John Thomlinson (Tel: 812436)

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