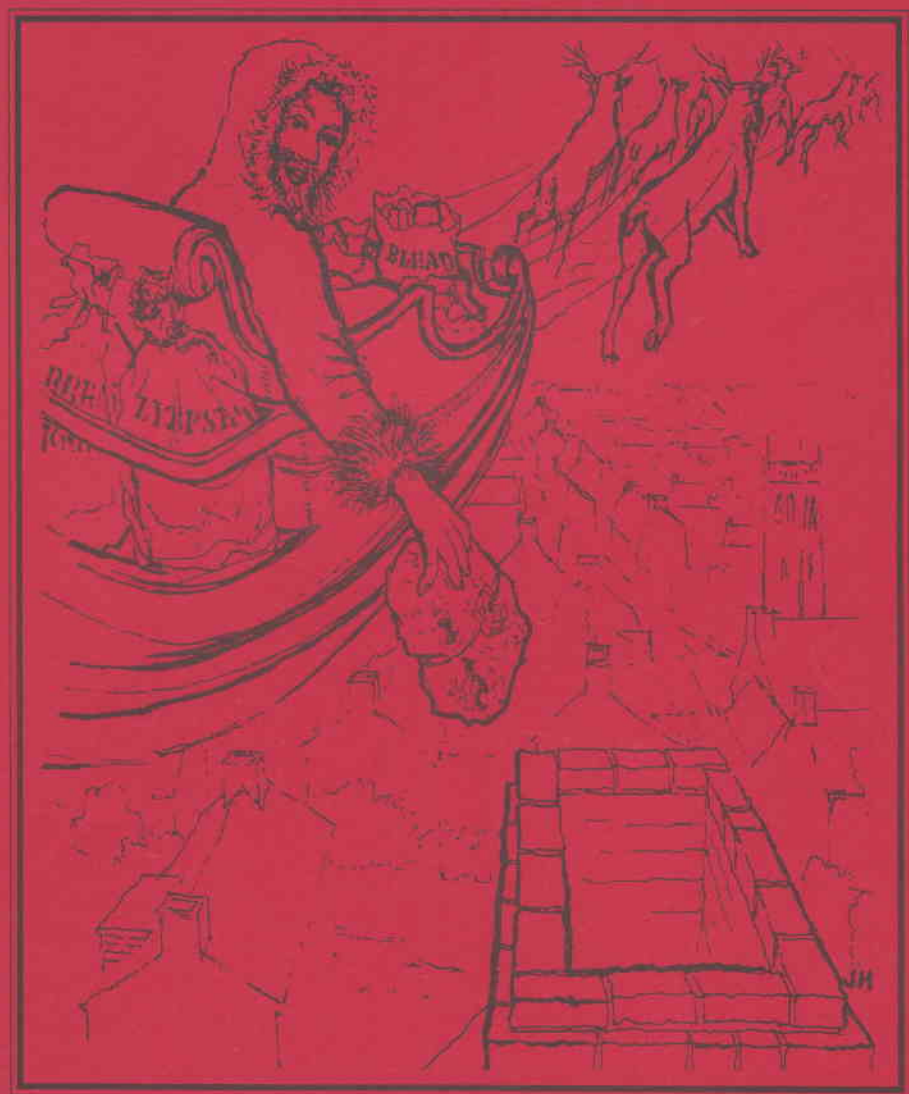


# BLEADON



VILLAGE NEWS 51

# CATHERINE'S INN



a "Hungry Horse" Restaurant

Bleadon Road, Bleadon  
Tel: 01934 812275

Open for Food and Drink  
7 Days a Week  
12pm to 10pm

Extensive Menu  
and Homemade Specials

Children's Menu and Indoor Play Area

## YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

Peter Smart (Chairman)	Hillside Cottage, Shiplate Rd, Bleadon	☎ 812849
Ray Hicks (Vice Chairman)	Fiddler's View, Hillcote, Bleadon Hill	☎ 811993
Len Chamberlain	Newbay Cottage, 21 Coronation Rd, Bleadon	☎ 814517
Malcolm Perry	"Westfield", 1 The Barton, Bleadon	☎ 813940
Penny Robinson	1 The Veale, Shiplate Rd, Bleadon	☎ 814142
Penny Skelley	"Mendip Croft", Celtic Way, Bleadon	☎ 815331
Mary Sheppard	"Littlewood". Bridgwater Rd., Lympsham	☎ 812921
Keith Pike	8 Whitegate Close, Bleadon	☎ 813127
Nick Wall		

THE PARISH CLERK TO WHOM ALL CORRESPONDENCE SHOULD BE ADDRESSED IS:

BRUCE POOLE

21 Stoneleigh Close, Burnham-on-Sea, Som TA8 3EE

☎ 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 of interest at the end of business.

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mindless vandalism continues to plague the centre of the Village, despite the Parish Council's efforts to persuade the perpetrators to cease their anti-social behaviour. We are certain that it is a small number of teenagers who are responsible and we need to find them. (See the notice elsewhere in this Magazine.)

Following our "Village Plant-Up" in the Autumn, pansies and daffodils have been placed in the tubs around Bleadon and together with the bulbs we planted in the verges last season, these will produce colourful displays in the coming months.

North Somerset has completed the works on Accommodation Road, making a great improvement to verges. The stile on South Hill, which has proved such an obstacle to some of our walkers, is to be replaced by a gate. New chains and seats have been fitted to the swings in the Children's Playground. We had a skip placed in the Allotments so that rubbish could be cleared away and a generally tidier area should result. Anyone wishing to rent one of the vacant plots should contact either Mary Sheppard on 812921 or Penny Robinson on 814142. Grit bins have been ordered for Roman Road and Shiplate Road and will be in place sometime in December.

The residents of School Lane and Mulberry Lane will be pleased to hear that Wessex Water have now cleared the blockage that was causing the drainage problems.

MAY I, ON BEHALF OF THE PARISH COUNCIL, WISH YOU ALL A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A HEALTHY AND PEACEFUL NEW YEAR!

*Peter Smart*

---

## **BLEADON CORONATION HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Over the past eighteen months I have been reporting on the preparation of our bid to obtain a substantial grant from the National Lotteries Board in order to improve the Hall and pay for a new roof.

The fact that it has taken so long indicates the amount of work involved, not to mention the initial financial outlay in the engagement of a firm of Chartered Surveyors to cover the necessary technical side - drawings, planning and discussions with contractors etc. Having had telephone contact with an official of the Board, we were given to understand that our application passed the first test (a stage at which many bids are rejected), and that we had a good chance of ultimate success.

In September, however, we were advised that due to falling revenue and so many other worthy applications, ours had been rejected.

We are at liberty to try again and at our last meeting decided that we would proceed with a new application although we are aware that our chances of success are not good.

L.J. Chamberlain (Chairman)

**IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED THAT THE  
VILLAGE MAGAZINE MIGHT HAVE A**

---

**'FOR SALE' and 'WANTED' PAGE**

If you feel that this would be a good idea and you would like to start the ball rolling, please let me have your 'ad' before the next issue.

Please include a contact address or telephone number.

Initially, there will be no charge for this service.

Contact Penny at 1, The Veale, Bleadon, 814142.

---

# Help us stop the mindless vandalism that is spoiling our village

**Bleadon needs your help to stamp out a spate of vandalism that is creating a costly nuisance in the village play area.**

Over recent weeks we have experienced a number of wilful acts of vandalism and anti-social behaviour in the park and adjoining area:

- ◆ Rowan tree sawn down - this was only planted in the Spring replacement £50.00
- ◆ No dogs sign removed from gate replacement £10.00
- ◆ Disabled parking sign removed replacement £30.00
- ◆ 30mph signs grafitti - kindly removed by a village volunteer
- ◆ Rain water down-pipe damaged on Coronation Hall replacement estimated at £40.00
- ◆ Fireworks exploded in a wine bottle on Friday 16 Nov. Resulting in glass fragments over a wide area of the children's play area. Including broken glass on the children's slide. This particularly mindnessl act of stupidity could have resulted in serious injury to an innocent child.

Unfortunately the cost of putting right the damage is becoming an unnecessary burden on the Parish Rate (which you pay) and costly in terms of time spent by the volunteers who help to maintain our beautiful village.

If you know for sure who is responsible for any of these acts of anti-social and dangerous behaviour please let any Bleadon Parish Councillor know.

**You can help by keeping an eye and ear out for activities in the village that are clearly against the good of the community.**

**You can report it in confidence.**

Phone any of these numbers if you have evidence of anti-social behaviour.

Peter Smart - Parish Chairman on 812849  
Keith Pyke - Parish Councillor on 813127  
Malcolm Perry - Parish Councillor on 813940

**If you see it happening, you can help stop it.**

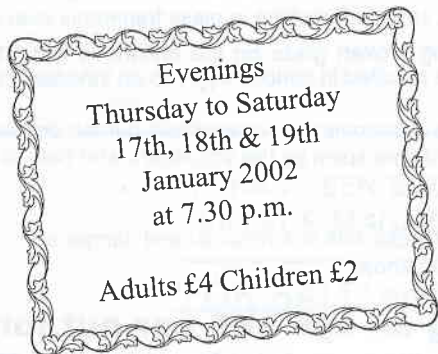
**The Bleadon Players**  
present

# **HICKERY DICKERY DOCK**

A Pantomime by Norman Robbins  
with reference to Samuel French Ltd

at

**The Coronation Hall, Bleadon**



## **Licensed Bar**

Tickets available from Bleadon Post Office now  
or Sandie Kelly Tel. 01934 812419

Visit our website: [bleadon-players.supanet.com](http://bleadon-players.supanet.com)

## A LIST OF ORGANISATIONS WHICH REGULARLY USE THE HALLS

### Mondays

2-5pm	Bleadon Bridge Club	Mr. D. Munden	812771
7-9pm**	Exercise Class	Miss M. Bridgman	750997
7.30pm 1st Monday	British Sargarcraft Guild W.S.M. Branch	Mrs. E. Lambert	01278-786586
7.30pm 2nd Monday	Parish Council		

### Tuesdays

10-12noon Sept-March	Art: oil & acrylics ** 2nd Tuesday in New Hall**	Weston College	01275 810659
10-12noon 2nd Tuesday	Bleadon Short Mat Bowling Club	Mr. J. Ward	812136
2-4pm 2nd Tuesday	Bleadon Ladies Group	Mrs. B. Pugh	814362
2-4pm 1st, 3rd, 4th	Bleadon Short Mat Bowling Club	Mr. J. Ward	812136
6-7.30pm	Brownies**	Mrs. R. Lang	750827
7.30pm 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th	Bleadon Photographic Club	Mrs. G. Taylor	812475
7.30pm 3rd Oct/May	Bleadon Horticultural Society	Mr. C. Cudlipp	813152

### Wednesdays

10am-noon 2nd & 4th	Infant Welfare Clinic & Toddler Group	The Health Visitor at the Clinic	
10am-12noon 1st, 3rd & 5th	Toddler Group	Mrs. N. Frewin	811046
5.30-6.30pm	Bleadon Beavers**	Paul Morris Jane Steel	751083 629903
7.30pm	Bleadon Players Rehearsals	Mrs. S. Kelly	812419

### Thursdays

10-12noon	Art Watercolour Painting	Weston College	01275 810659
6-7.30pm	Bleadon Cubs**	Mrs. S. Rhodes	813497
8.00pm 1st & 3rd Thurs. Sept.-June	Bleadon Folk Dancing Group	Mrs. J. Thorne	814007

### Fridays

2-4pm	Bleadon Friendship Club	Mrs. J. Diment	812217
7.00pm Sept.-May	Short Mat Bowling Club	Mr. J. Ward	812136
7.30pm	Bleadon Scouts**	Mr. H. Boyce	

### 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.**

---

## BLEADON LADIES CLUB

We are nearly at the end of a very enjoyable year for the club. We have been entertained by many interesting speakers, dealing with a variety of subjects. If you have not joined us this year, make a New Year's resolution and come along. You will not regret it, as we welcome all new members. We meet in the Coronation Hall: Winter months 2 o'clock until March, Summer time 2.30. The meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month.

We would like to take this opportunity of wishing all our friends and members a very Happy Christmas and a very good New Year.

So why not come along in 2002?

Barbara Pugh 814362

---

## BLEADON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The winter programme of talks and events has to date been highly successful. Ken Lees from Bristol "kicked off" in October with a superb display of slides set to appropriate classical and popular music.

In November David Smale from Uphill gave an excellent presentation on Norfolk Lavender by way of a video and a vast array of products, which were purchased during the evening.



At the time of writing we are anticipating a good time at our Social Beetle Drive - and so we look to 2002 for some exciting forthcoming events.

Tuesday January 19th - our own Steve Hartree will be giving an illustrated talk called 'Around the Shows'. Steve is a great exhibitor and a National Judge so he will be giving us the benefit of his vast experience.

Tuesday February 19th - will provide an opportunity for those of you who may have missed the Bleadon Open Gardens of 2000 and 2001 to see my slides as well as slides of our visits to other gardens over the past 2 years.

28th Annual Spring Show on Saturday March 16th at 2.30 p.m. - The schedules should be available in mid January (we hope) but in the meantime there are a few changes from last year's schedule. A loaf of bread will replace the savoury flan in the cooking class; the large floral exhibits have a Royal connection, with one class being a table centrepiece for a Golden Jubilee celebration and the other called "Long Live The Queen". In the Junior's section all classes are as for last year but the title for the painting or drawing is "The World Cup" (15in x 10in max.) and the title for Class 65 Band C is "An Easter Card".

Tuesday April 16th - a demonstration of making hanging baskets given by a representative from Sander's Garden World.

Tuesday May 21st - a short quiz followed by a plant sale.



---

## Summer Visits Programme

Tuesday June 18th (evening trip) - we will be going to see Sally Gregson's garden at Wookey. With the longest day approaching we should have plenty of daylight to see everything.

Dates for the trips to Hestercombe Gardens and Monkton Elm Garden Centre still have to be arranged.

Evening meetings in the Coronation Hall are open to anyone at a cost of £1 per meeting. Thank you to everyone who has supported us throughout the year as we look forward to a successful 2002.

Chris Cudlipp

---

### **NOTES ON A SMALL VILLAGE**

**RESEARCHED  
BY  
LES MASTERS**

"There aren't many of us left" is a refrain I have heard many a time from old (-ish) people who have spent their whole lives in Bleadon. They are undeniably right and their numbers are bound to diminish further - but if you want a world of enterprise and opportunity you cannot expect everlasting continuity. There is only a limited supply of fame and fortune in Bleadon; so most people in search of them have to move elsewhere. It is easier, however, in a village context to trace lines of continuity and a trawl through old directories in Weston library provides much helpful information about people, places and economic activity.

One fact that emerges very clearly is that many family names that were widespread in the village for generations have almost completely disappeared. The most glaring example is that of the 'Banwells'. The 1952 electoral register contains nineteen of that name,

but now there are none - though Joyce Goodwin and Ruth James are of that family. Similarly the 'Durstons' numbered fifteen in 1952 but there is now only one (Ken) plus Jackie Henley.

The key to ensuring that the family name survives is of course the production of sons. Thus, although the 1861 directory lists Henry Amesbury at Whitegate Farm, the name remains as only that of a road. Three generations ago Arthur Amesbury fathered only a daughter, so his descendants (Mary Sheppard, Ann Watts, Jeremy Goodall etc.) all bear different names.

The old directories are very illuminating, showing both change and continuity. The Parish Church is an obvious example of the latter, whereas the Methodist Chapel built in 1846 was demolished in the 1960's to make way for houses (see the stones set in the wall of 'Springfield' in Shiplate Road) and The National School opened in 1854 became a house in the 1960's (Three Kays). Three other 1861 institutions apart from the Church are still going strong however. The Post Office, The Queen's Arms (then listed as a hotel) and The New Inn (renamed The Anchor in the 1870's).

Nothing illustrates the economic and social changes better, however, than the list of businesses that the village supported in those days: butcher, blacksmith, coal-merchant, shoemaker, tailor, wheelwright, mason and limeburner, later augmented in 1889 by baker and quarry owner. The coal merchant was based in the yard behind what is now Bridge Garage, the coal being transported up the River Axe as far as Compton Bishop. The Riverside cottage on the far side of Bleadon Bridge was the Lock Keeper's. The bakery was in the upper part of Mulbery Lane whilst the smith ran his enterprise at the bottom, hard against the churchyard. As for the Quarry, this was the largest ever development in Bleadon and as a

---

source of employment it was second only to agriculture. It supplied stone for local houses (presumably including 'Rockville' which was the quarry owner's house), and the blasting from there regularly shook the village - in fact nearby residents were quite accustomed to stray lumps of stone crashing through their roofs! Look down into it now and you realise what a huge chunk it took out of South Hill before it ceased working in the late 1950's. During its working life it removed a cottage, located high above the present quarry floor, which had belonged to an aunt of Betty Burrows.

An interesting slant on class attitudes in the Nineteenth Century is indicated by the habit of these directories to list people in categories: a) Clergy and Gentry or b) Commercial. Everyone else seems to have been ignored.

In the beginning the Gentry were not listed, but as more 'posh' houses were built their number increased. In 1872 there was only Manor House, Shiplett, but by 1889 'The Copse', 'Rockville', and Quantock Villa (now House) had been added, and in 1902 there was 'Sunnyside' (now Bleadon House). Between the wars came 'Highcroft', 'Kia Ora', 'Mendip Croft', 'Fairview', 'Catherine House', 'Wonderstone House', 'Southleigh', 'Rivermead', 'Neuralia' and 'The Beeches'. The only one still occupied by the same family is 'Quantock House' (Mr. Maunsel).

The commercial folk always outnumbered the gentry, however, and in the 1906 directory there are two very interesting entries: G. Wall of Manor Farm and William Vinson, assistant overseer (could this be something to do with the workhouse system?) By 1910 Mr. Vinson was Parish Clerk, an office he still held at the time of the Coronation, as can be seen from the plaque affixed to the gate of the village play area. His son, also William, lived in Shiplate Road, until about ten years ago but he died childless so this name too is gone from Bleadon.

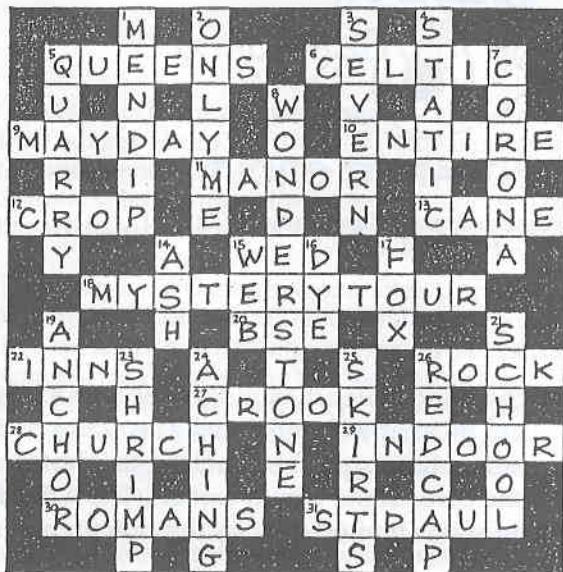
In contrast, the name Nipper is still very much with us. In 1910 we find listed Gilfred Nipper, a market gardener, who lived on the corner of Shiplate Road and owned the land on which six bungalows now stand. His daughter, Maud, founded a shop in about 1920 in what is now 'New Bay Cottage', which lasted with various owners until the 1970's. A son, Sidney, worked at one of the two new garages with Roy Goodall (who married Doreen Amesbury). Sidney died young, but the garage still stands in the garden of the house now occupied by his brother Stan (Wallflower House), the business having moved to larger premises in 1952 (now Hutton's). As Stan has a son Jim, and a grandson Richard, the Nippers should easily clock up a century in the village!

Two other interesting names crop up in the 1923 directory: Metford Frost at Shiplett Farm and Fred Wall at Purn Dairy. The Frost name moved across the river to Lympham where Metford's son still farms, and Metford's daughter, Joan, married the next door farmer named Diment, but again an only daughter, Jean, from that union means no more Diments in Bleadon! The Wall name still lives on, however, as Fred's grandson Adrian, son of George, still lives in the cottage next to the site of the dairy.

Metford seems to have been a popular given name in this area (indeed in a large part of Somerset), and in 1931 we find Metford House recorded as living at Shiplett House Farm. His grandsons Alistair and Rob now run what is easily Bleadon's largest farming business, as can be seen from the numerous giant machines trundling to-and-fro through the village. Again, however, the name may disappear for so far there are no sons.

Of the other once-numerous families we are now down to the last Bailey (Win), the last Crandon (Jim) and the last Gould (Doris). Perhaps the human race is a kind of great relay. We, or our families, each run our allotted stage then pass the baton to another name. So far it has not been dropped.

## A CROSSWORD FOR BRAINS WITH A BLEADON BIAS



Answers  
for  
last  
issue's  
crossword

We are most grateful to compiler Rosemary A. Sanders, alias Dr. Nerysa Moses A.R.A.



## PERSONAL ESTATE PLANNING

*Sandra Kelly*

Licensed Will Consultant

*It costs you to make a will. It costs your estate much more if you don't*

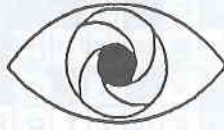
Consultations in your own home

Telephone 812419

PEP Legal Services, Crown House, 1 Stafford Place, Weston-super-Mare

---

BLEADON



## PHOTOGRAPHIC GROUP

Formerly Weston-Super-Mare Camera Club.  
Founded 1948

### **FOXTALBOT, EATYOUR HEART OUT!**

With the world of technology changing faster than most people can keep up, Bleadon Photographic Group are moving with the times. The world of digital imaging and image manipulation has brought changes to photography probably not witnessed since the birth of the 35mm camera. It is a discipline which seems to have no bounds and is limited only by the practitioner's own imagination and artistic ability.

As an example of this the Group were recently privileged to secure a speaker who demonstrated the "art" of digital photography. The speaker was Glenys Taylor A.R.P.S. whose approach to the subject put photography on a collision course with pure art. Images were shown, some of which were astoundingly beautiful and every inch a work of art. Glenys Taylor hails from Taunton and is a regular and much in demand lecturer on the West Country club circuit. The evening was an encouragement to the 50%+ of Bleadon Photographic Group members currently actively pursuing the new technology, and created a strong desire from the majority of the others to get involved. The Group now boasts a commitment to all forms of image making from conventional darkroom techniques to the up to date use of computers.

To encourage new members, and in order to bring Club activities into the reach of the young, Bleadon Photographic Group have reduced the annual membership subscription to £15.00

Meetings of this club usually take place on the 1st/2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month. For further information concerning future events please contact Cliff Brown (Secretary) on 813320.

---

## Does life really begin at 40?

### CONTACTUS REPORT - DECEMBER 2001

Our function of visiting and welcoming newcomers to our village continues unabated, but since our last "Welcome Party" the number of new incomers is markedly lower than over a similar period in the last two or three years. We have been very pleased that many of our recent villagers have joined our various clubs, societies and our church community, but this seems to be the case almost exclusively with older folk.

The members of our Contactus committee are really very concerned about this state of almost non-participation in village affairs by people under the age of forty or thereabouts, and this applies as much to long-standing, if not native, villagers as it does to younger newcomers. We are quite sure that most of our organisations would warmly welcome younger blood. Although some of us may be rather ancient we are young at heart and we do not honestly believe that we could be regarded as "fuddy-duddies". We would, therefore, be delighted to receive suggestions as to ways of attracting the younger folk to our community affairs.

Perhaps it has been forgotten that Contactus exists not only as a "Welcoming Organisation" but as a contact point for people who may need the kind of advice or assistance that is outside the scope of social or medical services. It may well be, perhaps, that people with failing eyesight are having a problem in addressing the envelopes for Christmas cards or letters. Although we may live among good neighbours perhaps it may still be difficult for us to do Christmas shopping. If you are aware of folk who are having these kinds of difficulties do, please, let us know!

You can contact our joint secretaries, Phil and Mary Ashley, on 812667 or me on 812436.

May I conclude by wishing you, from all our members, a very joyful and blessed Christmas and a successful and happy New Year!

John Thomlinson (chairman)

**Jeremy W. Holyhead**

**CHARTERED SURVEYOR**

Genuinely independent professional property advice:  
commercial, residential and planning.

Phone: 01934 811899  
Mobile: 0771 4301788

e-mail:  
holysurveyor@yahoo.co.uk

---

## BLEADON BABY AND TODDLER GROUP

Bleadon Baby and Toddler Group meet every Wednesday  
in the Coronation Hall at 10 a.m.

Please come along. Both you and your children will be made very welcome.  
Contact Amanda Smallwood 01278 760090.

### A Quiet Day

Today I'll have a quiet day, a day of peace and calm,  
My ragged nerves deserve a rest, my soul deserves some calm.

But first I'll get the kids to school and pack their tasty lunches  
I'll get my son's clean football gear and do my daughter's bunches.

From school I'll go out to the shops and buy some fish for tea.  
Fingers for the little ones and cod for him and me.

And then I'll go home quietly, a coffee then perhaps.  
But oops! I've just remembered: I'm out of food for cats.

I hurry back to buy the stuff and meet my teenage niece  
She tells me of her problems but help! I need my peace!

Eventually I get back home, the garden looks a mess,  
But first I clean the windows and mend my daughter's dress.

I clean the loo and other things and time is slipping by,  
I do three loads of laundry and hang it out to dry.

The day has gone and now it's time to get the kids from school.  
I take them home and feed the dears: 'Fish fingers, Mum, *uncool!*'

"Why can't we have some pizza Mum, followed by ice cream?"  
I've got to grit my teeth and smile, otherwise I'd scream.

My darling husband comes home then and sits down in a heap,  
Puts on the telly, reads "The Times", and promptly falls asleep.

I wash the dishes, bath the kids, and tidy up the house,  
I feed the cats and - bless their hearts - they've bought me in a mouse.

---

The kids are now at last in bed and I am tired out,  
Then husband surfaces and says "Any tea about?"

Tomorrow is another day and I know I can cope,  
I'll have a quiet day soon. I live in constant hope.

---

## Church of St. Peter & St. Paul



### ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SERVICES

You will be welcome at all of these, which are as follows:

- Thursday 13th December 2.30 p.m. ROYAL BRITISH LEGION, BLEADON AND LYMPHAM BRANCH - CAROL SERVICE
- Sunday 16th December 3.30 p.m. CHRISTINGLE AND TOY SERVICE - followed by tea party in the Scout and Guide HQ. In addition to the collection for the Children's Society, children are asked to bring an old, but in good condition, toy or game which can be given to a needy child.
- Sunday 23rd December 6.30 p.m. FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS
- Monday 24th December  
CHRISTMAS EVE  
5.00 p.m. CRIB SERVICE - specially for children but adults welcome  
11.30 p.m. MIDNIGHT MASS OF CHRISTMAS
- Tuesday 25th December  
CHRISTMAS DAY  
10.15 a.m. CAROLS AND CHRISTMAS DAY COMMUNION
- EPIPHANY FAMILY SERVICE
- Sunday January 6th 10.15 a.m. The Christmas story continues as we remember and sing about the star of Bethlehem and the visit of the Wise Men.
- CANDLEMAS FAMILY SERVICE
- Sunday February 3rd 10.15 a.m. Again attention is on the baby Jesus as he is taken to the Temple at Jerusalem. Candles will be blessed and held by everybody as we celebrate the Light of Christ.

### MOTHERING SUNDAY FAMILY SERVICE

Sunday 10th March 10.15 a.m.

Very best wishes and every blessing for Christmas and the New Year.

David Parkinson,  
Rector. Tel. 812297

---

## FRIENDS OF BLEADON CHURCH

*The Friends organise the social and fund-raising side of the Church to which every villager and their friends are invited.*

*Graham Rogers (811571) has recently taken over as Chairman from Mrs. Barbara Hartree, to whom we owe a great deal for her efforts over the past two years. Special thanks to her, therefore, from the many friends who have been pleased to support her.*



*Whilst many of the yearly events appear with regularity we are always looking for good new ideas which might interest the village as a whole.*

*If you know of anyone who would be interested in joining us to help with the planning and organisation of future events, please telephone Graham for further information.*

"Friends" Calendar of Events for the year 2002:

The following events are planned during 2002, to which everyone is welcome. Further information can be obtained from Graham Rogers, 811571.

January	A skittles evening, with food, is to be arranged on a date yet to be set.
February 12th	Usual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Party.
March 9th	An evening of beauty advice - men welcome!
March 16th	Jumble Sale at Victoria Methodist Church - donated items welcome.
April	A visit by Keynsham Brass Band, concert in the Church, date to be confirmed.
May 6th	Annual May Day Fayre - helpers always welcomed with open arms.
June 1st-4th	Flower Festival linked to the Queen's Jubilee celebrations.
June 3rd	Church Open Tower Day - a further great opportunity to view the village from aloft.
July 13th	An Open Gardens event with cream teas included.
September 7th	A sponsored organ play in at the Church for twelve hours during which anybody and everybody will be invited to look in and listen for as long as they like. Sponsorship and requests will be welcome.
September 28th	Harvest Supper in the Coronation Hall with Bleadon Players providing the entertainment.
October 12th	Visit by Llantrisant Male Choir from South Wales as part of the Weston Arts Festival.
November	Barn Dance/Line Dance - date to be confirmed.
December	Punch & Pie Party.



## WEATHER NOTES FROM BLEADON HILL

Everyone seems to talk about the weather. It's too hot, too cold, too wet, too dry, too windy or, occasionally, absolutely beautiful! I've been keeping rain records (including melted snow etc.) here in my back garden since 1981 when we moved from The Crescent opposite the Hobbs Boat Inn.

I am often asked for my figures for various reasons e.g. insurance claims, solicitors requests and even research into the feasibility study for the barrage.

Month	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jn	Jy	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.
Average rain etc. 1981-2000	95.9	57.7	64.3	67.7	68.2	67.5	57.0	81.7	96.4	109.8
Rain etc. Bleadon Hill 2001	78.0	81.9	141.4	83.3	22.5	32.9	130.0	105.2	21.9	146.8

Figures quoted are in millimetres 1 inch = 25.4mm.

Total 20 year average rain etc. = 766.2mm (Jan. - Oct.)

Total rain etc. 2001 = 843.9mm (Jan. - Oct.)

At the time of writing (Nov. 21st) the weather is so mild that dahlias, fuchsias and geraniums are still in full bloom. I am sure there are many more flowers in sheltered Bleadon.

Chris Cudlipp

## BIKINIS IN DECEMBER?

As Chris Cudlipp's articles on gardening and rainfall remind us, these are times of unusually mild weather. It is glorious to see the flowers still in bloom even though the clocks have gone back, and to watch the golden leaves hanging gaily to the trees even though December approaches.

But it still came as a shock to see groups of people in bikinis and swimsuits outside petrol stations on December 1st. Maybe you saw them too, as the same thing apparently occurred right across the country.

Had these people lost their minds? Or were they Aussies yearning for Xmas down under?

I took the time to find out and found that far from losing their minds, these brave souls had something to say that makes the gloriously mild autumn a little bit more chilling.

The world is getting warmer due to the build up gases generated by human activities. One of the main gases causing global warning is carbon dioxide, which comes from the burning of fossil fuels - particularly oil, coal and gas. As the Earth becomes warmer there will be an increase in the number of extreme weather events such as flooding and storms.

---

From Mozambique to Sussex, we are experiencing extreme and erratic weather, with devastating impacts for people and the environment. Extreme weather events have killed 100,000 people in the last three years.

A series of reports from the world's top climate experts have now confirmed the urgency of the climate crisis.

The UN's 'Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change' (IPCC) studied all the available evidence and concluded that unless action is taken to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide and other climate-changing pollutants:

- we will experience more heat waves and floods
- glaciers and polar ice are set to continue melting
- sea levels could rise by up to six metres
- many plant and animal species will become extinct
- outbreaks of diseases will become more common
- millions of people will be forced to move

The ladies and gents in swimsuits on December 1st weren't celebrating the fact that the world is getting hotter; they were warning us that Somerset and North Somerset is first in line to go back under the sea unless the world wakes up to global warming pretty soon.

But it's a big problem: where do I start? And why stand outside petrol stations - I can hardly give up driving my car, can I?

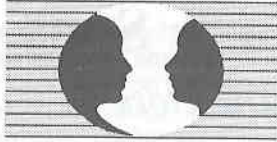
Again, I took the trouble to find out and discovered that no-one was asking me to throw away the car keys, simply to buy my petrol from somewhere other than Esso.

Seems unfair - why pick on Esso, I asked? The answers were stark:

While the rest of the world is trying to stop global warming and protect the planet for future generations, Esso is busy drilling for more oil and polluting the atmosphere. What's worse, Esso is doing its best to stop other countries' attempts to prevent the world from heating up.

- Esso pretends that global warming isn't happening even though it's a major cause of it. Esso spends millions of dollars on misleading propaganda every year.
- Esso has played a leading role in sabotaging international attempts to stop global warming. It would rather sell more petrol than protect future generations.
- Esso refuses to invest in clean, green energy and instead spends all its money on dirty oil and gas. Even Shell and BP will invest \$500 million each over the next three years in green energy products.
- Esso is the biggest oil company in the world - £12 billion in profits in 2000. If anyone can afford to help stop global warming it's Esso. They are set to spend \$7.9 billion this year on gas exploration and production - and not one dollar on renewable energy or green fuels.
- Esso is among the most important groups that paid for George Bush's election campaign. As soon as George Bush became president, he said that the United States would pull out of international agreements to stop global warming - exactly the policy that Esso was promoting.
- Esso is so powerful that even *The Economist* stated in December 2000 that "If the world's biggest purveyor of fossil fuels ever accepts openly that global warming is real, that may turn out to be more important to the planet than any Kyoto deal."

As the guys and gals with goosepimples said, "Esso can choose to wreck the climate. We can choose not to buy Esso's products."



*"The future doesn't have to  
be the same as the past"*

No matter what the problem is or how bad things may seem, sharing it with a professionally trained counsellor can make a difference and lead to a brighter future. Take the first step and telephone for a no charge, confidential, initial consultation.

**Alan Robinson 01934 744123**

*"You don't have to suffer in silence"*

## ***Qualified Chiropodist***

***Mrs. Victoria J. Jones***

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

*Registered member of the British Chiropody & Podiatry Association*

***VISITING PRACTICE, BY APPOINTMENT***

4 Whitegate Close  
Bleadon  
Weston-super-Mare

Tel: 01934 812134

Mobile: 0467 847331

**Ian and Leslie Sarginson**

## **BLEADON POST OFFICE**

***Newsagents • Off Licence • Groceries  
Bread • Milk • Toys • Hardware  
Fruit • Vegetables • Cigarettes  
Confectionary • Greetings Cards • Stationery***

**Tel: 812200**



## H. Pitman & Sons

*Funeral Directors*

- Our Experience is Your Assurance
- Offering a Personal and Sympathetic Service
- 24 Hour Service
- Prepaid Funeral Plans
- Private Chapel of Rest
- Home visits

**Funeral to Suit all Budgets**

*For Immediate Service*

**Telephone: 01934 622738**

40 Milton Road, Weston-super-Mare

**FOR NEWS AND SPORT, FROM  
THE BIGGEST STORY TO THE  
SMALLEST CLUB REPORT ...**

*Read about it in the*

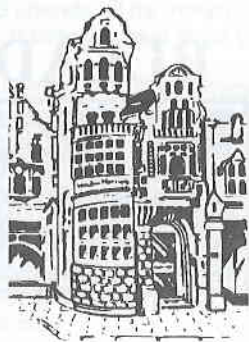
Weston & Somerset

**Mercury**

*Telephone us on*

*Weston 422500*

*with all your local news*



---

## BLEADON BEAT

We have recently had incidents of vandalism in the area of the children's play park. The area is an attractive amenity for all to use. Many of the facilities and plants have been provided by local donation with the work being carried out by village volunteers. It does not reflect well on the village when these facilities are the target of wilful damage. If you have any information concerning the damage then I would ask that you bring it to my attention.

In recent months we have had two burglaries in the village. This is perhaps a timely reminder to review your security. Burglars are looking for a house which has the appearance of being unoccupied. If you are going out then don't make it too obvious: leave lights on, pull your curtains and consider leaving the TV or radio turned on. If you are concerned about your security then feel free to contact me for free crime prevention advice. Remember, if you are over 60 you can have locks fitted free by Age Concern.

### Neighbourhood Watch

Much of the village is covered but there are several gaps. The scheme is not about spying on your neighbours but about looking out for each other. We can also pass relevant information to you quickly. This is particularly useful when we have bogus callers in the area. If you aren't in a scheme we can't let you know! Phone if you are interested.

If you see something suspicious then contact us. If it's an ongoing situation ring 999. We would sooner go to a well intentioned false alarm than have no call at all!

### Village Surgery Dates

I will be at the Church room from 12.30 to 2 p.m. on the following Fridays, 14th Dec., 18th Jan., 22nd Feb. and 22nd March.

P.C. 2307 Adrian Woolacott, 638181

---



Well, it's that time of year again and Pre-School life starts to get very busy, before the staff look forward to a well earned rest. There will be no holiday club over the Xmas holidays so I'm afraid you'll have to entertain your 'little darlings' yourself. Don't fret, however, as the following half term break will be jam-packed full of craft activities, toys and games for the younger ones and Playstation, snooker and table football for those aged up to 8 years.

We had a few new children start this term, but there are still spaces left - if you have a child aged 2.5 - 5 years and would like more information about the Pre-School then call Annette Foan on 01934 416453 or call in and visit (during term time!).

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Lymsham Pre-School

---

## GARDENING HELP REQUIRED!



Is there someone willing to help me manage my garden on a regular basis - say 2-3 hours per week? Work would involve general tidying, as well as seasonal jobs such as digging, grass cutting and hedge-trimming etc.

Must be reliable  
Good hourly rate paid  
814142

---

## POPPY APPEAL REMEMBERED

The total amount raised in Bleadon for this year's Poppy Appeal stands at £641.82. Thanks are due to the pubs, the Post Office, and the church, all of which displayed collecting boxes on their premises, and to the house-to-house collectors for whom the weather stayed fine. Final thanks, of course, go to the public who contributed so generously. Most of us were new to the job this year and we are looking forward to building our successes next year!

Les Masters

---

## THE NET WIDENS



I would be interested in knowing how many of you in Bleadon are on the internet: perhaps we could set up a small interactive group?

I would also be happy to receive articles for the Village News via e-mail if it is more convenient for some of you.

*E-mail: [pen-rob@lineone.net](mailto:pen-rob@lineone.net)*

---

## VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED



If you can spare a few hours to help in the distribution of this Village News magazine, your help will be greatly appreciated.

Please contact Penny on 814142

---

## NEED A HAND?



Do you need help with writing letters, cards or addressing envelopes?

If you are visually impaired or suffer from some other disability and you would appreciate help, then ring Mary Ashley (Contactus) on 812667. She will be only too pleased to assist you.

---

## THE QUEEN'S GOLDEN JUBILEE



As part of the celebrations in Golden Jubilee Year, there will be a quiz at the Coronation Hall on Saturday 16th February 2002 at 7.30 p.m.

The theme of the quiz will be 'Do You Know Your Somerset?'

There will be prizes and a raffle. All proceeds to village funds to finance the Jubilee celebrations later this year.

Admission £2.50 to include tea or coffee and a piece of cake.

Tickets will be available from Bill and Sheila Ardley on 813591 or from the Post Office from the 15th January.

# WATERHOUSE ELECTRICAL SERVICES

Commercial • Domestic • Industrial Installations  
Boiler Steam • Control Panel • E S H Specialists

Kozy-kot, Shiplate Road, Bleadon  
Somerset BS24 0NG



Tel/Fax  
**01934 813803**

Mobile  
**07860 597463**

National Inspection Council for  
Electrical Installation Contracting



## **ELECTRICIAN**

**Steve Insley**

WSM 812709 OFFICE  
07971 413603 MOBILE



*No Quotation Charge*

*No Call Out Charge*

*No Job Too Small*

*No Obligation - No VAT*

## **HOUSEHOLD ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION WORK**

**\* Security Lights - Extra Sockets - Shower Units - Telephone Extensions \***

**\* New Fittings - Fuse Boards - Door Bells - Fault Finding .. Etc .. Etc. \***



# MENDIP VALE LANDSCAPES

Established 1988

Fencing

Garden Design

Hard Landscaping

Fully Qualified Tree Surgeon

☎ Jon Kingcott 01934 814665

Tree Care

Tree Removal

Site Clearance

Mobile 07767 250215

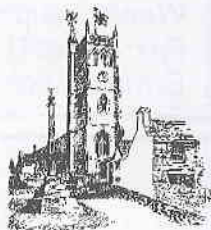
## BLEADON CHURCH - PARISH MAGAZINE

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

# STEPHEN & CO.

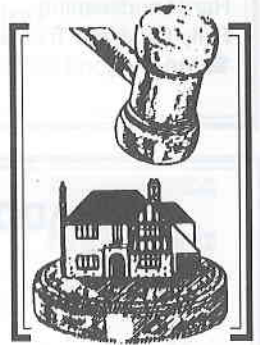
Chartered Surveyors

**01934 - 621101**

Buying, Selling & Professional Advice  
on all property matters

Chartered Valuation Surveyors  
Auctioneers  
Estate Agents

Next Town Hall  
Weston-super-Mare BS23 1UP  
Fax: (01934) 621519  
E-mail: [stephenandco@easynet.co.uk](mailto:stephenandco@easynet.co.uk)



## THE QUEEN'S ARMS

Anita and Chris

*welcome you to our traditional Village Pub*



In a warm and friendly atmosphere,  
relax and enjoy real ales from the cask,  
a good selection of wines and excellent  
food from our menus

**- Skittle Alley -**

**Tel/Fax: 01934 812080**

or visit our website at [www.queensarms.co.uk](http://www.queensarms.co.uk)

NOW IN  
GOOD  
BEER  
GUIDE

*Your Local Friendly Village Company*

# **Plastech Windows**

**Simon Bradbury**

**High Quality  
U. P. V. C. Windows  
Doors - Patios  
Conservatories  
Fascias - Cladding**

**Tel: Bleadon 814500  
Mobile: 0777 475736**



## SOMERSET FASCIAS

MAINTENANCE FREE UPVC

Tel: 01934 628783 - Mobile: 0410 727595

Tel: 01934 510117 - Mobile: 0411 919873

FASCIA BOARDS & SOFFITS • GUTTERS & DOWNPIPES • ALL TYPES OF CLADDING  
TIMBER REPLACEMENTS • ROOFING REPAIRS

*Prices on request - Competitive Prices - Quality Workmanship*

ALL INSTALLATIONS & MATERIALS FULLY GUARANTEED

Maintenance Free PVC with No VAT

## CGF ROOF/HOUSE CHECK

Tel: 01934 644430

Fax: 01934 643267

Weston Business Park, Unit 14b

The Airport

Weston-Super-Mare

North Somerset

BS24 8RA

ROOFING • PVC-U REPLACEMENT SPECIALIST  
HOUSE MAINTENANCE • ALTERATIONS • DECORATING

## Mark Howe

OFFERS

REGULAR GRASS CUTTING  
HEDGES & TREES CUT  
SHRUBS PRUNED  
FENCE ERECTION/REPAIR  
FENCE PAINTING  
TURFING  
PATIOS & CHIPPINGS LAID

SLIPPERY PATHS & PATIOS  
PRESSUREWASHED

mark howe  
gardening services

9 Malvern Road  
Weston Super Mare  
North Somerset  
BS23 4DE

Phone: 01934 413594  
Or  
0777 327 2003

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

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 Hickey.

Printed by Malthouse, Taunton (01823-331111)