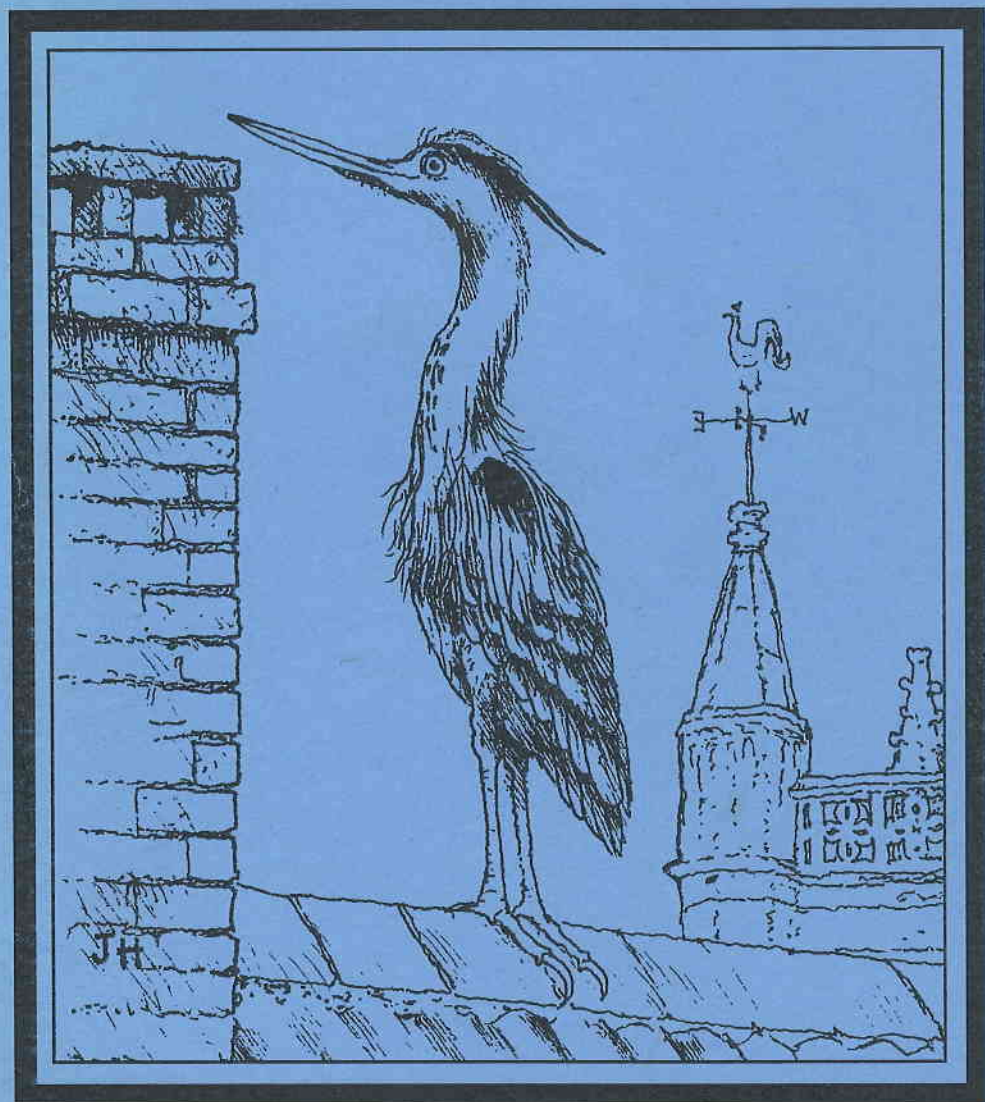


# BLEADON



VILLAGE NEWS 56

# CATHERINE'S INN



## a "Hungry Horse" Restaurant

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~  
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Children's Menu and Indoor Play Area

## YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

Penny Skelley (Chairman)	'Mendip Croft', Celtic Way, Bleadon.	Tel. 815331
Ray Hicks (Vice-Chairman)	Fiddler's View, Hillcote Bleadon Hill.	Tel. 811993
Len Chamberlain	Newbay Cottage, 21 Coronation Rd. Bleadon.	Tel. 814517
Malcolm Perry	'Westfield', 1 The Barton, Bleadon.	Tel. 813940
Penny Robinson	1 The Veale, Shiplate Rd. Bleadon.	Tel. 814142
Mary Sheppard	'Littlewood' Bridgwater Rd., Lymphsham.	Tel. 812921
Keith Pyke	8, Whitegate Close, Bleadon.	Tel. 813127
Clive Morris	20, Bleadon Mill, Bleadon.	Tel. 811591
Justin Harvey-Bennett	The Beeches, Celtic Way, Bleadon	Tel. 811373

**THE PARISH CLERK TO WHOM ALL CORRESPONDENCE SHOULD BE ADDRESSED IS:-** BRUCE POOLE, 'The Chippings', 21 Stoneleigh Close, Burnham-on-Sea Somerset TA8 3EE TEL. 01278 787555 or e-mail:bruce.poole@ntlworld.com

The Council meets on the 2nd 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 who would like to, may attend these meetings, and raise any issue of interest at the end of business.

WE AIM TO PUBLISH THIS VILLAGE MAGAZINE FOUR TIMES A YEAR -  
MARCH, JUNE, SEPTEMBER AND DECEMBER

HOWEVER WE MUST POINT OUT THAT ANY DATE SENSITIVE MATERIAL  
SHOULD BE SENT TO THE EDITORS FOR INCLUSION WELL IN ADVANCE AS WE  
CANNOT GUARANTEE A DEFINITE PUBLICATION DATE.

**\* The deadline for the next issue will be  
Friday 6th June 2003 \***

I should like to thank all those of you who help with the distribution of the magazine, and I do hope that I can count on your future support. If there are any others out there who would like to help with deliveries, please let me know. (Tel. 814142). Our aim is to provide a copy free to every household in the Village, if you don't get one delivered to your door, then there are usually some spares available from the Post Office.

**UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED THE OPINIONS AND COMMENTS EXPRESSED IN THIS NEWSLETTER ARE THOSE OF THE CONTRIBUTOR AND NOT OF THE BLEADON PARISH COUNCIL. ANYONE WHO HAS ANY COMMENT TO MAKE ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION SHOULD CONTACT THE EDITOR - WE AIM TO FOLLOW 'AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES' POLICY - SO IF YOU DISAGREE WITH ANY OF THE VIEWS EXPRESSED YOU HAVE THE RIGHT OF REPLY!**

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## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

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The Parish Council looks ahead to 2003 as a year of good housekeeping for the village. The Coronation Hall, the Playground and the Churchyard, all play a key role in enhancing our village and as such are always considered to be priorities for the Council.

The problems of flooding are being tackled with the Wessex Water Authority and North Somerset Highways. After a recent site meeting in Chestnut Lane, the solution offered was the installation of a larger pipe in the existing drainage in order to alleviate the surface water problem. The silt would also be removed from the drainage further up the system. This work may result in a short road closure, which will be notified in good time. More General Purpose work is promised, and I am now told that potholes are re-titled "patch-work"!

In considering the topic of planning applications, we have decided to hold site meetings whenever extensions and alterations are under consideration. This will avoid plans being passed without the full knowledge of all concerned. You will wish to be aware that we are also liaising closely with the Brean Parish Council over the Wind Turbine Trials. We are very conscious of the need to look after our immediate environment with great care.

You should be aware that speed checks are being carried out in the village – please set an example by keeping to the speed limit! Finally, the village tubs will be replanted with summer bedding plants early in the season

Thank you to all who help in our Community in any way and for your continuing support to the Council.

***Penny Skelley***  
***Chairman, Parish Council***

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## **BLEADON CORONATION REPORT**

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The re-roofing of the Hall was completed ahead of schedule by the contractors Holyday and Son, who have done an excellent job.

We have had compliments on the general finish and of the improvement inside the hall due to the insulation now in place, meaning less heat loss and noise. We also intend to make improvements to the two side ceiling areas by fitting insulation and better lighting. We have been fortunate to have a grant of £1415 promised by North Somerset Council in order to re-fit the kitchen with new units and work surfaces. Some of the units will be fitted with locks so that village organisations can store items safely.

The AGM will be held on Thursday April 10th at 7.30pm. This meeting is open to all village residents who if they wish can come and comment on the general running of the Hall.

***Len Chamberlain (Chairman)***

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# FROM YOUR DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

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Firstly we are delighted to see the work on Coronation Hall progressing to a conclusion... one of us can almost remember it being built and we were pleased to be able to secure some funding towards the work from the North Somerset Area Committee grant budget.



On that subject, we can confirm that North Somerset Council intends to continue this grant scheme into next year, which will give Bleadon fresh opportunities. Thus far, we have had a 100% success rate with applications from the village, gaining some £7,000 to be spent locally. It may be worth reminding you that we can consider requests from any voluntary or non-profit group in Bleadon seeking some partnership funding. All you have to do is send your application to one of us for vetting and submission. The final decision is made by the Leader of Council, based on a recommendation from the Area Committee (of which we are both members).

Elsewhere, those of you who enjoy walks across the levels, may be pleased to learn that additional land has been purchased adjacent to the Uphill Hill Nature Reserve, with the intention of using it for new education and recreational opportunities. We have also recently supported the Parish Council in its endeavours to protect the village against inappropriate development at Whitegate Farm and in the Area of Outstanding Beauty along Roman Road.

Finally, we have enjoyed representing you over the past four years and want to thank the Parish Council for the way in which the members have worked with us to achieve benefits for the village. Meanwhile, if you have any problems we can help with, give us a call - but not during Coronation Street or Songs of Praise ~ we do like to relax sometimes!

*Elfan Ap Rees - 822524*  
*Ian Peddlesden - 812015*

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## ADVERTISING IN THE VILLAGE NEWS

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These are the current advertising tariffs for our Village News Magazine:

<b>FULL PAGE</b>	<b>£50</b>	<b>HALF PAGE</b>	<b>£30</b>
<b>THIRD of PAGE</b>	<b>£25</b>	<b>QUARTER PAGE</b>	<b>£20</b>

This is an annual fee and covers the cost of advertising in all of the four issues. We aim to publish the Magazine in June, September, December and March. For further information contact Penny on 814142.

**NB** at the moment there is no charge for small personal ads.

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## **BLEADON VILLAGE MARKET** - at the Coronation Halls

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The first and second Bleadon Village Markets on 15th February and 22nd March were a great success and very well supported. After a quiet opening at 9 am, the halls were really humming at coffee time and as one visitor said "I've met people I haven't seen for years!"

Many thanks to all those helpers who gave up their Saturday morning for their Village Hall.

There will be **new stalls** at the **next Market on 19th**

**April:** Wick Farm Nurseries, will be there with garden plants and farm eggs, Sara will be back with her cakes, and the popular craft stalls will be there.

We are hoping for more produce stalls as gardens and allotments start producing.

Do you have something to sell? Share a table with a friend, or group.

**Contact Joanne on 812370.**



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## **BLEADON CUBS APPEAL**

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**BLEADON CUBS** are desperately in need of a new leader. Their current leader is giving up Cubs at Easter to spend more time with her family, and if we don't manage to find someone to replace her the pack will have to close, which would be a shame.



They are a keen group of boys aged between eight and ten, and a large and willing parent rota will actively support the new leader, with two parents helping every cub night.

The Cubs meet every Thursday between 6pm and 7.30pm, in their own hut adjoining the Coronation Hall in Bleadon. Anyone interested in finding out more can phone the existing leader, Stevie Rhodes on 01934 813497 for more information about training etc.

**Carole Findlay Chair of the Trustees**

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### **North Somerset Citizens Advice Bureau**

We are pleased to announce the launch of our official website. Visit:

**[www.northsomersetcab.org](http://www.northsomersetcab.org)**

*for information on our sites, services, opening times, types of advice offered, how to contact us and links to our national advice guide.*

A circular logo for the Citizens Advice Bureau. The text "citizens advice bureau" is written in a sans-serif font, with "citizens" on the top line, "advice" on the middle line, and "bureau" on the bottom line. The logo is dark with light text.

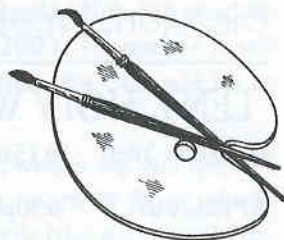
**citizens  
advice  
bureau**

# IS CHRISTIAN ART STILL RELEVANT TODAY?

Why not visit this art exhibition in the Quarry Gallery, (a venue created by Weston Civic Society) at the top of Queen's Road, Weston-s-Mare, to find out.

From April 16th - 23rd. Open daily from 10.30am - 4.30pm. Refreshments available.

An opportunity to enjoy a walk through the Old Town Quarry during the Easter holidays.



**Brigitte Whittingham.**



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The British Chiropody  
Association*

## PAULINE M. FRY

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# THE CHURCH OF ST PETER & ST PAUL

Bleadon, Weston-super-Mare

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## LENT, HOLY WEEK, AND EASTER SPECIAL SERVICES

<b>MARCH 30th</b>	10.15am	MOTHERING SUNDAY FAMILY SERVICE
<b>APRIL 6th</b>	6.30pm	OUR AUGMENTED CHOIR WILL BE LEADING A TRADITIONAL PASSIONTIDE SERVICE OF HYMNS, ANTHEMS AND READINGS
<b>APRIL 13th</b>	10.10am	<b>PALM SUNDAY</b> THE BLESSING OF THE PALM CROSSES IN THE CHURCH ROOM. PROCESSION TO THE CHURCH.
	10.15am	PALM SUNDAY SUNG EUCHARIST.
<b>APRIL 17th</b>	7.30pm	<b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b> EUCHARIST OF THE LAST SUPPER
<b>APRIL 18th</b>	10.15am	<b>GOOD FRIDAY</b> FAMILY SERVICE
	2.00pm	THE LAST HOUR - THE CRUCIFIXION REMEMBERED.
<b>APRIL 19th</b>	8.00pm	<b>EASTER EVE</b> THE EASTER VIGIL A SHORT, DRAMATIC ACT OF WORSHIP BEGINNING IN DARKNESS.
<b>APRIL 20th</b>	8.00am	<b>EASTER DAY</b> HOLY COMMUNION 1662
	10.15am	THE EASTER SUNG EUCHARIST
	6.30pm	EASTER EVENSONG

## LOOKING FURTHER AHEAD

<b>MAY 29th</b>	<b>ASCENSION DAY</b>	7.30pm	HOLY COMMUNION 1662
<b>JUNE 8th</b>	WHIT SUNDAY	10.15am AND 6.30pm	
<b>JUNE 15th</b>	TRINITY SUNDAY	10.15am AND 6.30pm	

**OUR ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE CHURCH ROOM AT 7.30pm ON MONDAY 7th APRIL.**

*David Parkinson - Rector Tel: 812297*



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## SUNDAY CLUB FOR CHILDREN

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We are delighted to announce that our eagerly awaited Sunday club for children aged 3 – 9 yrs. of age will begin on **Sunday 27th April 2003**. Thereafter it will take place on the last Sunday of every month. We hope that the club will be an informal and fun place for the children.

Bring your children to the 10.15am service at the Church, where we will spend a few minutes together before going over to the Church room in front of the Rectory. The children may be collected from there, afterwards (the entrance in the Rectory drive reached via Rectory Lane).

**For further information speak to Tracey Harrington, tel.814123 or to Chris Bevan.**

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## CALLING ALL BLEADON ARTISTS - To the May Fayre Art Exhibition

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### Monday 5th May

Please bring your paintings, ready for hanging with hooks and cord attached, to the Coronation Hall on Sunday May 4th between the hours of 1 Oam and 12 noon.

On the back of each work please print name, address, title and price and in addition a tie-on label with duplicate details should be attached to hang over the front.

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 church funds.

Paintings exhibited at owner's risk      **Any enquiries to: Valli James Tel:814555**

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## WEATHER UPDATE FOR 2002

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December proved to be a very wet month following a wet October and November so that the final total precipitation (rain,hail,sleet and snow), for 2002 totalled 1184.3mm or 46.6ins. The average yearly rainfall for 1981-2001 was 976.9mm or 38.5ins.

So 2002 was one of the wettest on record, (actually 2000 was slightly wetter, believe it or not!).



**Chris Cudlipp.**

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# PENSIONS AND ALLOWANCES

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Many Post-Office customers have already asked about the changes that will happen this year, regarding payment of their benefits and pensions.

Starting in April 2003, the Government is phasing out 'Benefits' order books and giro cheques. **However, you will still have the right to draw your benefit from the Post-Office.** To do this, you will need a new 'card account' at the Post-Office. This account is specifically designed to receive Benefits, State Pensions and Tax Credit payments, and withdrawals can be made in cash from any Post-Office. You will get a plastic card instead of an Order Book or Giro Cheque and you will be given a Personal Identification Number (PIN) which you will need to use when you collect your cash at the Post-Office Counter. If you already collect your benefits from the Post-Office, the benefits agency will contact you by letter sometime before April 2003. They will also ask for your bank details, but if you give your bank details you will automatically get your money paid into your bank account and you will NOT be given a 'Post Office Card'. Therefore when you fill in your form, if you want your money paid to you in cash at the Post-Office, then do not give them your bank account details.

**Other changes happening at the Post Office in April.** The Post-Office already accepts personal banking from customers of Lloyds, Barclays, Alliance and Leicester, Co-op, Smile, First Direct and Cahoot banks. This means you can cash cheques up to your cheque guarantee card limit, and pay in cheque and cash deposits for these banks at your Post-Office.

From April 2003, you can use the Post-Office for your personal banking if you bank with any of the following, in addition to those listed above: Abbey National, HBOS, HSBC Yorkshire Bank, Clydesdale Bank, Northern Bank, Royal Bank of Scotland, Nat- West, Ulster Bank, Nationwide Building Society, First Trust Bank and Bank of Ireland.

If you are still confused, or you want help completing your forms when they arrive, please ask at your local Post-Office. Lesley and Sue will be only too pleased to answer any of your questions and deal with any problems as and if they arise.

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## BLEADON LADIES CLUB

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Since the beginning of the year we have enjoyed a selection of talks and in the Coronation Hall with a watery theme, Channel Steamers, Bristol Water and lifeboats. In the months to come a variety of events are planned on an unusual and informative range of subjects.

On April 8th Mrs. Susan Marshfield will present a talk entitled, "Barefoot To Buckingham Palace," and in the following month on the 13th you can come along to see a unique collection of jugs and here all about their history from Mr. W. Jackson. June 1 10th see Mr. Creeves provide us with information on community Safety and CCTV.

All events take place on the second Tuesday of the month between 2.30 and 4.30pm. If you would like to join please contact Barbara Pugh on 814362.

# BLEADON MAY DAY FAYRE

## 5th May 2003

*Don't forget the May Day Fayre.*

*As usual it will take place around the Coronation & Jubilee Halls and will include Games, Childrens' Fancy Dress, a Jazz Band, Morris Men, Clown Jacky, Childrens' Sports, Flowers in the Church with music and stalls selling Bric a Brac, Books, Cakes, Plants and many others.*

**Entry by programme which will be on sale from early April.**

**HELPERS are always welcome,  
contact Graham Rogers (Tel 01934 811571)**

## Friends of Bleadon Church

Planned events over the next few months include the following;

May 5th -Bleadon May Day Fayre starting at 1 1.a.m.

June 14th - Wine & Cheese Party at Birchwood, Bleadon Road,

July 27th - Cream Teas & Open Garden at Old School Lane,

August 16th - Garden Party at the Rectory,

Sept 27th - Harvest Supper at the Coronation Hall.

Oct 11th - Evening of Traditional JAZZ at the Church.

Nov 15th - Concert by Winscombe Light Orchestra at the Church

**EVERYONE IS INVITED, BRING YOUR FAMILY & FRIENDS**

**Tickets will be available at the Post Office or  
from Graham Rogers (Tel 811571)**

# HELPLINES

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**Advice and Counselling on Alcohol and Drugs:**

55a Oxford Street, W-s-M (01934)415376.

**Age Concern:** 23 Boulevard, W-s-M - (01934) 629192.

**Alzheimer's Disease Society:** (01934) 514977.

**Arthritis Care:** (01934) 622808.

**Young People With Arthritis:** (01934)525037.

**Axe District Scouts:** Mrs Ann Coombes - (01934) 513699.

**Business Link West:** (0345) 678100.

**Cancer Information Service:** (0207) 608 1661 or (01 934) 510230 and (0468) 525525.

**Cancer Information and Support Centre:** (0117)928 3369.

**Carers Centre:** 1 Graham Road, W-s-M (01934) 644223. Information and advice for people caring for elderly and disabled relatives at home.

**Childline:** Freephone (0800) 1111.

**Citizens Advice Bureau:** Roselawn, Walliscote Grove Road, W-s-M (01934) 621908.

**CLIC W-s-M:** (01934) 812859.

**Community Health Council (Bristol & District):** Manulife House, 10 Marlborough Street, Bristol BS1 3NU. Also at Crossroads, Graham Road, W-s-M on Fridays from 9.30am-12.30pm. Ring (0117) 987 3800 out of hours.

**Council for Voluntary Services:** (01934) 631169.

**CRUSE (bereavement help):** (01934)628233.

**Disability Information Service North Somerset:** 3 Manor Court, Locking, W-s-M (01934) 820104.

**Disabled Sociability Network:** (01934)623752.

**Dementia Care Trust:** (01934) 522300.

**Friends Across North Somerset:** The Potteries Community Centre, Langford Road, W-s-M, BS23 3PQ. (01934) 613238. F.A.N.S@ecosse.net

**FRIEND (mental health centre):** (01934)622292.

**Heart, Chest and Stroke Social Club:** (01934) 412391.

**HIV, AIDS and Sexual Health:** (0117) 955 1000.

**Horizon Club for the Hard of Hearing:** (01934) 629412.

**James Macdonald Cancer Trust:** (01 934) 510230 or (0468) 525525.

**Leukaemia Care Society:** (01761) 453703.

**Multiple Sclerosis Society (North Somerset and West Mendip Branch):** Local information/helpline (01 934) 814499. National helpline: 0808 800 8000.

**Myasthenia Gravis Association:** (01934) 413371.

**North Somerset Gateopener Family Advice and Advocacy Service:** (01934) 644452 or 513726.

**NSPCC:** (0117) 966 4283.

**Osteoporosis Group:** (01934) 415096 or (01934) 844138.

**Rape Helpline:** (0117) 935 1707.

**Red Cross:** (01934) 622844.

**RELATE:** (marriage guidance) (01934) 627206.

**R.S.P.C.A.** 172 Locking Road, W-s-M (01934) 627000 or (08705)555999.

**St John Ambulance:** (01934)629905.

**Samaritans:** 137 High Street, W-s-M (01934) 632555. SSAFA

**Forces Help:** (01934) 644024 (11 am-12noon Wednesdays).

**Sunshine Radio:** Weston General Hospital - (01934) 619252.

**Voluntary Agency:** (01934) 410190.

**Weston and District Muscular Dystrophy Support Group:** (01934)419853.

**Weston and District Victim Support:** (01934) 638179.

**WRVS:** (0117) 907 7700.

**Woodspring Talking News:** (01934)622054.

## **EMERGENCIES** In an emergency, dial 999 for police, fire & ambulance

**Electricity:** (0345) 651651.

**Bristol Water:** (0845) 702 3797.

**Gas:** (0800) 111 999.

**Police:** North Somerset area - (01934) 635252; Sedgemoor area - (01823) 337911.

**Ambulance, Fire, Police, Coastguard:** Emergencies: 999.

## **CHEMISTS**

**A dispensing service is provided by chemists in Weston after closing hours at the following times:**

Monday to Wednesday and Saturday - 5.30pm-8.45pm,

Thursday and Friday to 9.45pm, Sunday 3.45pm

**TESCO STORES LTD,** Station Road, W-s-M

**SAFWAY STORES LTD,** Somerset Way.

**R. H. LTD, MENDIP PHARMACY** 331 Locking Road.

Sundays and Bank Holidays 12.00noon - 1.00pm, 6.00pm-8.00pm:

**R. H. LTD, MENDIP PHARMACY** 331 Locking Road.

**For details, including telephone numbers, of pharmacies in your area that are open after 5.30pm on weekdays and open on Sundays, please call NHS Direct on 0845 4647.**

## **LOCAL AUTHORITIES**

**North Somerset Council:** (01934) 888888.

**Sedgemoor District Council:** (01 278) 435435.

**Somerset County Council:** (01823) 333451.

## **HOSPITAL**

**Weston General Hospital:** Switchboard - (01934) 636363.

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## GARDENING TRIVIA

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For Christmas I received a book entitled 'The Origin of Plants', which deals with the people and plants that have shaped Britain's Garden History since the year 1000 AD. So far I have only 'dipped into it' but already I have found it most interesting and absorbing, with lots of little known facts and some folklore concerning some of what we call our best-loved plants.

For instance did you know that the Peony was named by the Greeks to honour Paeon the Healer, and was grown for the healing abilities of its roots as well the beauty of its blooms? The Great Mullein was once known as Torches, for it was recorded that the Roman soldiers dipped the dried flowers into oil and ignited them, thus creating flares to light their way. A more modern record suggests that it was said to cure bronchitis and asthma if the leaves were smoked.

Another incomer, lemon balm is a dual-purpose plant, not only looking good but doing you good as well. (A bit like Guinness)!!! . An infusion of its leaves was supposed to help cure colic and it was written that 'it causeth heart and mind to become merry'.. quite a plant I should think, and I for one shall look at it in a different light from now on, – I have a garden full of it, so perhaps a merry summer could be in store!!

The Christmas Rose came with the Roman baggage trains and remained in one form or another down the centuries. It holds a dark secret however, for its black roots (hence its name Nigella) were known as a cure for mania, insanity and melancholy. Like garlic it also had the reputation for warding off 'evil spirits' and so was planted as near to the house as possible so that devils could not enter.

Now for something a lot brighter and more cheerful, - the sparkling blue Periwinkle is supposed to promote love and fertility for newly-weds and is the reason why a bride should wear something blue on her wedding day.

More to come ...

*Penny Robinson*

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## NEWS FROM CANADA

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### CANADIAN CONNECTION

Many Bleadon residents have relatives who live abroad and I had the pleasure of meeting one last autumn at the Coronation Hall. Addressing me with a pronounced Canadian accent, he told me he is the brother-in-law of Betty Burrows (nee Chilcott) and as a teenager during the second world war he often played double bass in a dance band at the Hall. He was delighted to have a nostalgic look round the hall, explaining that he worked a good deal in Bleadon after the war, before emigrating in the 1950's. I would have loved to have introduced him to Mervyn Sanders, who used to go to

those wartime dances also as a teenager, but unfortunately Mervyn had been stricken by illness. The sight of the Bleadon Man exhibit in the foyer, however, aroused such interest that I took him to meet Ruth and Derek James knowing they had a video of the Bleadon Man TV programme, and left him to continue his visit.

I heard no more about it until January when Derek passed me a copy of a letter from our visitor. It turned out that before going home he had gone to Sunday service, climbed the Church Tower and bought a copy of 'Meet the Ancestors', altogether thoroughly enjoying his stay.

He also enclosed a chapter of his 'personal journal', an account of his musical career, which started one afternoon on Weston beach during the war when he and some other bored youths decided to form a dance band, (No doubt a dozen or so years later it would have been a skiffle group!) I found it fascinating and at times hilarious, relating especially to the way the lads listened to, memorised (but rarely bought) the records in Milliers, then made a cup of coffee in 'Fellas' last as long as possible while they talked over the results.

There is not space here to tell the whole story (though anyone who would like to borrow it, is welcome), but suffice to say that the band in due course flourished and was much in demand all round the district. The author preferred the country venues however, particularly the Coronation Hall. On one memorable occasion they played for three hours by candlelight owing to a power failure, and on another turned up at an American army base at Brean to find their customers had left to invade Europe!

Our author's name by the way is Eric Trapp, and his brother Ron was also in the band, but when I suggested that it was a very appropriate for the Trapp family to have a musical career Eric disclaimed any connection with the Austrian bunch, obviously taking a dim view of them.

The band and some of its members are well remembered by George and Margaret Barwick, Margaret having played at the Hall several times with another band at about the same time. This other outfit known as Bellini's band (Bellini was a local bus driver), consisted of piano, bass, drums, saxophone and several accordions, one of which was played by Margaret, then aged fourteen. Her fee for each dance in 1945 was usually 5s. (25p for younger readers). George also remembers the regular taxi used by the band, a 1930 Essex, based in Hutton, which had wooden spoked wheels! Stan Nipper also recollects the band, having played with some of them, and also drumming for another group (which included the late Eric Goodwin) during the 1950's, often at the Coronation Hall.

When we compare those days with the present it seems a shame that our Hall is no longer a venue for live music. I see no help for it however, as musical tastes are now so age related that generally speaking you can only please one age group at a time. At least we can console ourselves with the thought that our Hall is much more used for other activities than ever before.

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# A LETTER FROM CANBERRA

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*Letter to Penny from Jane Craig who lives in Canberra, Australia.*

*Jane was born in Bleadon and still has ties with the area, .. but more of that later.....*

**28th January 2003**

It hasn't been too bad here in the north west of Canberra, but we were placed on high alert on the afternoon of the 18th January, which is when the big fire came. It was terrible to be in the car and hear on the radio that the residents of such and such suburbs (including our own) were advised to return home and prepare to defend their properties.

Our good friend Max came along and he and my husband Terry cleaned the gutters and filled them with water, then cleared the area around the house from leaves and debris. Max is 61 and Terry 56, and they did a good job up there in the horrible heat and smoke.

That night the fire came to within a mile and a half from our place, but by the grace of God we have been spared. Then on the Tuesday we had another high alert but the fire fighters were able to put out some spot fires that threatened our homes.

On Sunday 19th January after the major fire I went to one of the evacuation centres (I work for Centrelink, an arm of Government with Social responsibilities) .. and having no technical skills just tried to comfort and assist where I could.

We have heard so many sad stories, it will take this city of ours a long time to get over it. Even those of us who have remained safe are deeply disturbed. We all have friends who have been affected and it's dreadful.

So we have had a couple of cool days and the State of Emergency has been withdrawn. Most of the fire fighters from other States have gone home now and those who remain are confident of dealing with anything that is likely to happen. The problem in the Southern part of Canberra was the pine forests. The fire got into those and just grew and grew and grew and they say that at its height when it hit Duffy and Chapman the temperature reached 1000 degrees Centigrade!

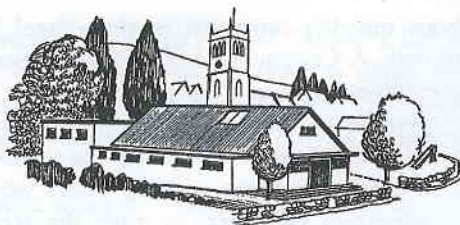
Terry went last Saturday to help work colleagues in Duffy and Chapman (two of the worst affected suburbs), clear up their burnt gardens and damaged homes and when I drove him there I was unable to take in the devastation of burnt cars in the street, the hedges, gardens and homes raised to the ground by the fire.

The horror of it can't be imagined and I find the film footage just as disturbing as you. It took a terrible toll on the animals- many domestic animals and pets lost. Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve, one of my most favourite places in the world has lost over 90% of its animals. The area towards the Snowy Mountains was threatened and the national park all but wiped out although the Alpine area has survived, that at least appeared to be fire -proof.

In spite of this we managed a bit of an Australia Day (Jan. 26th) but nobody had their heart in it. There was a concert in Commonwealth Park, but hardly anyone went.



# A LIST OF ORGANISATIONS WHICH REGULARLY USE THE CORONATION HALL



## MONDAY'S

2pm-5pm	BLEADON BRIDGE CLUB	<b>CONTACT</b> Mr D Munden 812772
7-9pm**	EXERCISE CLASS	Marie Keele 750997
7:30pm 1st Monday	BRITISH SUGARCRAFT GUILD W-S-M BRANCH	Mrs C Peters 843754
7:30pm 2nd Monday	PARISH COUNCIL	Mr Bruce Poole, Clerk 01278 787555

## TUESDAY'S

10am-12 noon 2nd Tuesday	BLEADON SHORT MAT BOWLING CLUB	Mr J Ward 812136
2pm-4pm 2nd Tuesday	BLEADON LADIES GROUP	Mrs B Pugh 814362
2.30pm-4.30pm 1st, 3rd & 4th Tuesdays	BLEADON SHORT MAT BOWLING CLUB	Mr J Ward 812136
6pm-7:30pm	BROWNIES**	
6pm-7pm	WEIGHT WATCHERS	Mrs D Neale 416803
7:30pm Sept - May 1st, 2nd, 4th & 5th	BLEADON PHOTOGRAPHIC GROUP	Mr K Tapley 623877
7:30pm 3rd Tuesday Oct-May	BLEADON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY	Mr C Cudlipp 813152

## WEDNESDAY'S

10am-12 noon 2nd & 4th Wed	INFANT WELFARE CLINIC & TODDLER GROUP	The Health Visitor at the Clinic
10am-12 noon	TODDLER GROUP	Mrs Lucy Hale 815175

5.30-6.30	BLEADON BEAVERS**	Paul Morris 751083 Jane Steel 629903
7:30pm	BLEADON PLAYERS/REHEARSALS	Mrs S Kelly 645135
<b>THURSDAY'S</b>		
10am-12 noon	ART: WATERCOLOUR PAINTING	Weston College 01275 810659
8:00pm Sept - June 1st & 3rd Thursday's	BLEADON FOLK DANCING GROUP	Mrs J Thorne 814007
<b>FRIDAY'S</b>		
2pm-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 D Biddalf 645906
<b>SUNDAY'S</b>		
2.30pm Sept - May	SHORT MAT BOWLING CLUB	Mr J Ward 812136

\*\* in the Jubilee Room

The Halls are available for hire by any private individual or organisation.

**ENQUIRIES to Mrs J Jones: 812370**

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## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS IN THE CORONATION HALLS** - PLEASE MAKE A NOTE IN YOUR DIARY!

---

<b>27 March</b> 8.00pm	BLEADON QUIZ	Les Masters 811976
<b>12 April</b> 10.30am	COFFEE MORNING	Friendship Club
<b>14 April</b> 7.30pm	Parish Council	
<b>19 April</b> 9am - 1pm	BLEADON VILLAGE MARKET	Jo Jones 812370
<b>19th April</b> 7.30pm	CONCERT	Bleadon Players
<b>24 April</b>	BLEADON QUIZ	Les Masters 811976
<b>1 May</b> 7pm - 9.30pm	District Council Elections	
<b>5 May</b>	MAY FAYRE	Church Friends

<b>12 May</b> 7.30pm	Parish Council	
<b>17 May</b> 9am – 1pm	BLEADON VILLAGE MARKET	Jo Jones 812370
<b>22 May</b> 8.00pm	BLEADON QUIZ	Les Masters 811976
<b>6 &amp; 7 June</b> 7.30pm	PLAYERS – SHOW	Bleadon Players
<b>9 June</b> 7.30pm	Parish Council	
<b>14 June</b> 7.30pm	SILENT AUCTION	Church Friends
<b>26 June</b>	BLEADON QUIZ	Les Masters 811976

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## BLEADON BABY AND TODDLER GROUP

---

Luckily for me I had arranged for a friend to take Tom to school the morning after the 'Mums' Christmas meal'...OUCH! The Queens served an excellent meal and a 'merry' time was had by all!

The Christmas raffle had been eagerly anticipated as Gail Crispin, formally of Bridge Road, had kindly donated some soft toys. Jonny Hale's ticket was picked out first and he chose the much coveted teddy bear rucksack, and Eddie Davies cleverly guessed the name of the big brown bear in the 'guess the name of the bear' competition, and left happily with 'Chuckles' in tow!

The Christmas party was a lively affair – the jury's still out on whether it is a good idea to try to organise 30 nought to three year olds to play musical bumps, but they seemed to enjoy the consolation prize sweets rather a lot. By then they were nicely over-excited to meet Father Christmas and there didn't seem to be too many tears this year. Mums and children alike appreciated the party food and the puppet show always has them mesmerised, leaving them happy to go home with their gift. Once again many thanks to Peter and Linda Aplin and also to Christine, our tea lady, for her help in the kitchen.

Finally, an ex toddler who is now six, recently confided in his mum that he knows its not the real father Christmas who he meets at the school fete, or the local superstore, but Father Christmas himself always goes to the Bleadon Baby and Toddler Group Christmas party!

The Bleadon Baby & Toddler Group meet every Wednesday throughout the year (except August and Christmas) between 10 and 12, with Hilary Teague joining us to hold her health visitor clinic on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month. We always welcome new members.

*Lucy Hale*

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## VILLAGE CLEAN UP DAY

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As part of the National Spring Clean Campaign 2003, we shall be organising our Bleadon Village Clean up on Saturday April 12th .

North Somerset Council offers support by providing litter picking tongs, gloves and rubbish bags as well as organising for the removal and disposal of all collected rubbish and litter.

So please come along on that morning and give the regular team of volunteers a helping hand. The old adage 'many hands make light work' is very appropriate in this case!!

We usually meet in the Car park at about 10-10.30am but you can tidy your bit of the village at any time.



*Penny Robinson*

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# CLIMBERS OF TREES

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**Fact One:** Boys climb. Put a boy in an environment where tall objects protrude from the ground be they natural or man made, a lamppost, a keep-out sign or a statue of King Billy on a horse, and he will try to climb them.

**Fact Two:** Of all tall objects the most appealing to young climbers are trees. Trees are irresistible to boys. So putting these facts together the obvious conclusion is that boys on meeting trees will climb them. Whether this is a result of some deep buried tribal memory and a desire to return to ancestral habitation, or the thrill of the challenge, or simply the self destructive urge boys possess, is not clear. It is reasonably safe to say that at any minute of the day somewhere in the world a boy is climbing a tree, or falling out of one. I would guess that many famous mountaineers cut their climbing teeth on the trees of their local woods and forests. Like those steeplejacks who used to repair factory chimneys when there were such things, they started small. Birches, beeches, oaks, elms and sycamores and especially horse chestnuts presented a challenge that had to be met. The world is a different place from the heights of a leafy tree. A world of enchantment and wonder, of excitement and adventure. The perspective is so completely different from that at ground level and the first birds eye view is hard to forget.

I would hazard a guess that in addition to mountaineers and steeplejacks, boys who went on to become pilots, astronauts, skydivers and builders of skyscrapers saw that first change of perspective from the branches of a tall tree and wondered what it would be like if they went even higher.

One can think lofty thoughts in a tree, the perspective of the mind changes too, one can see so much clearer the past, the present and the future. The problems of the schoolday can be resolved in a tree, the more difficult the problem the higher one needs to climb to resolve it.

Hippocrates had the right idea but he taught his students under a plane tree. Education could be carried out in trees. Trigonometry in the topmost branches of a redwood, history in a gnarled and ancient oak. Student doctors should learn their craft in plane trees, vets in a horse chestnut. Lawyers should train in a monkey puzzle tree, divinity students up a palm tree.

This is of course assuming there will be enough trees left in the world to accommodate them. Support your local trees, they may be your children's future.

May there always be trees and boys to climb them.

Robert Frost was right when he wrote: 'There are worse things to be than a climber of birches'.

**JVF**

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# POLLING DAY

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The four year term for the District and the Parish Councillors comes to an end in May. Please regard it as a chance to have your say as to how your interests are being looked after locally, if you don't like the way your representatives are doing things then tell them so.

**So don't forget to vote on 1st MAY!**

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# Comments, Compliments & Complaints

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Bleadon Parish Council invites you to Comment, Compliment and Complain:

## Your Comments:

- If you have any comments or suggestions you can contact us in a number of ways
- Speak to any of the Parish Councillors
- The Parish Clerk
- A response will be provided within 5 working days.

## Your Compliments:

- Please contact us in any of the above ways.

### What you can expect from us:

- The Council will record your Compliment and pass it on to the relevant person.

## Your Complaints:

If you have a Complaint regarding a service you have used or a service which is not provided or about a member of the Council you should

- Try to settle your complaint directly with the person concerned if this is not possible contact the Parish Clerk.
- If you are still not satisfied ask that your complaint be investigated by the Chairman/Parish Council

### What you can expect from us:

If the problem cannot be resolved immediately you will receive an acknowledgement within five working days. If we cannot give a full response within five working days we will acknowledge your comment or complaint and advise you how long it is likely to take.

If we have made errors you will receive an apology in writing. All comments Compliments and complaints will be monitored to ensure that the Parish Council teams from this feedback.

If you cannot settle the complaint with the Parish Council you may wish to take up the matter with:

**The Local Government Ombudsman**

**The Oaks**

**2 Westwood Way**

**Westwood Business Park**

**Coventry**

**CV4 8JB**

The Local Government Ombudsman will ask you if you have tried to resolve the problem with the Parish Council in the first instance.



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# TROUBLED WATERS

---

Until I arrived in Bleadon in 1987 I had never heard of rhyne, but it soon became obvious why we need them in this area and how effective they are, our village rhyne being a very good example. It starts at the garage end of Bridge Road, flowing north. Along Bridge Road it is constantly fed by several springs piped under the road, notably from the old quarry and the Barton. It then flows along side Bleadon Road to the A370, under the car park of the Anchor Inn and along the first section of Accommodation Road, from where it turns left and follows the cart track for a few hundred yards before discharging into the River Axe.

Like all rhyne, it is designed to drain the neighbouring fields, but it also receives the rainwater from the highway drains and it clearly has plenty of capacity to do both jobs. The heavy rainfall this winter and two years ago has highlighted two problems, however.

One is fairly straightforward, namely that the rainwater has to be transferred from the road to the rhyne, and unfortunately for the residents of Chestnut Lane that has not been happening properly, resulting in flooding. The residents consider that the pipe under Bleadon Road is too small, whereas an engineer from the highways department maintains that once it has been jetted to remove silt it will function satisfactorily. One can only hope he is right.

The other is much more complex. The main sewer follows much the same route as the rhyne, being joined on the corner of Bridge Road by the sewer from Shiplate Road and Coronation Road. In dry weather it can easily cope with all the household waste. The trouble is, however, that many older houses discharge their rainwater not into soakaways but into the drains, so prolonged heavy rain overloads the system.

Until last year Wessex Water's "solution" to this problem, by permission of the Environment Agency, (I said it was complex), was an automatic overflow into the rhyne at the corner of Bridge Road. Unsatisfactory as this was, Wessex Water proceeded to make it worse. Having carried out work at the pumping station in Bleadon Road they decided to re-site the overflow there and were told by the Environment Agency to seal off the old overflow. In the process they got things badly wrong, with the result that during heavy rain sewage was backing up in the low-lying properties near the corner.

At least Wessex Water acknowledge that there is a problem and they are trying to alleviate it by stopping leakage of ground water into the Bridge Road sewer via joints in the pipe. Whether these measures prove sufficient remains to be seen. There is no doubt that the company bears responsibility for provision of an adequate sewerage system. The difficult questions are - who ensures that it carries out that responsibility - and how?

*Les Masters*

## **FOR SALE**

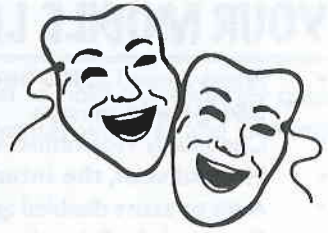
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# BLEADON PLAYERS

The autumn production of Norman Robbin's play, "Slaughterhouse" was well received by those who attended the performances. The intricate and confusing plot provided the audience and cast alike with an intriguing two hours, and a not considerable amount of laughter.



The Players also entertained the guests at the Harvest Supper, with their popular Jubilee programme "Singing in the Reign", and this was much appreciated.

Our Pantomime this year was "Humpty Dumpty", also by Norman Robbins. Our younger actors did us proud as usual. We always write them a special scene, which is very popular with the audience. For four nights the rafters of the Coronation hall shook with shrieks of .. "behind you" ..and "oh yes you do"...various boos and hisses, and great audience participation. Thank goodness the roof of the Hall has been replaced!

Our Spring production is "An Evening of Lurve". This one -off production is our chance to spread love, save marriages, bring star-crossed lovers together and create lasting world peace! A collection of light-hearted sketches, poems and songs on the theme of love designed to tantalize and titillate the love bug.

For one night only, Coronation Hall will be transformed into a sumptuously decorated, glitzy experience.

SO .... dig out your feather boas and smoking jackets and join us on April 19th at 7.15pm. Tickets (available from the Post Office) cost £6 and will include a Cocktail and nibbles.

Finally we always welcome new members, so if you are interested in treading the boards please phone Sandie Kelly on 645135, or if you happen to passing the Hall on a Wednesday night and hear strange noises coming from within, come in and see us rehearsing.

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**Your comments** on the service are particularly welcome. Please tell the staff, or complete a Say it! form, available at all libraries.

**The Mobile Library visits here fortnightly on Mondays (not Bank Holidays), stopping at:**

**Hillside** 11.00am - 11.25am,

**South Combe** 11.30am - 11.55am,

**Church** 12.00 noon - 1.00pm,

**Birch Avenue** 2.05pm - 2.25pm

**The Veale** 2.30pm - 2.55pm

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## BLEADON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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By the time you read this the 29th Annual Spring Flower show will have come and gone. I'm sure that it will have been a great success, as usual.

The meeting in January on 'Ornamental Grasses' was very good, as was the talk and slides on 'Herbs' in February.

**On Tuesday April 15th**, Dr. David Cooke will be giving an illustrated talk on 'GM Crops' and then our May 20th meeting will take the form of a plant sale. Please would all those who bring plants along label them so that they may be identified by others.

With the approach of the long summer evenings comes our first visit. This will be on **Tuesday June 17th** when we will be visiting Barleywood, Wrington. We will meet in the Coronation Hall car park at 6.30pm then travel by own cars to the nursery.

We are hoping to take a coach to Lady Farm (not a real farm) near Bath on Saturday July 14th and also to Blackmore and Langdons nursery near Pensford. - more details will be published nearer the time.

With no meeting in August we are round to the 30th Annual Summer Flower Show on Saturday September 6th.

**Chris Cudlipp**

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## CORONATION QUIZ

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Since the last issue of the magazine we have continued to hold our monthly quiz. Each event has been enjoyable, profitable and, despite winter weather and ailments reasonably well attended.

**For your diary the dates for future quizzes are:**

- Thursday 24th April
- Thursday 22nd May
- Thursday 26th June

Don't miss the chance of a good evening out, it only costs £1 to enter and there is a bar with a variety of drinks and snacks, also a raffle, — and remember that there is no need to come as a team. Our esteemed editor will vouch for that.

**Editor.....**

**L.M.**

*The first Question is posed by the incomparable Les Masters as soon after 8pm as he can bring the house to order! ..(and incidentally he does a great job researching all the questions as well!).*

---

## BLEADON FOLK DANCE CLUB

---

*Do you enjoy dancing for fun?*

*Have you been to a barn dance or Ceilidh?*

*Do you tap your feet when you hear lively music?*

*Then folk dancing may just be the thing for you!*

Bleadon Folk Dance Club meets on the first and third Thursdays in the month at the Coronation Hall between 8-10pm and would welcome new members.

Previous experience is not essential, as our dancing is done to live callers who walk you through the dance first then call the moves to music. This gives those newcomers the opportunity to learn and be guided by others in their set.

Why not come along and join us and enjoy the friendliness and fun of Folk dancing.

The caller is usually John Thomlinson, whom many of you will know, and he has been doing it for 19 years. Another caller who comes occasionally is John Price from Weston.

In September our club will celebrate 20 years of dancing in Bleadon and if it is to continue we need new feet to tap along with ours!

***Please contact Jean Thorne 814007 for more details.***

**EDITORS E-MAIL:** pen\_rob@lineone.net

**BLEADON WEBSITE:** all those who are 'internet' minded can keep up to date by logging on to the village website:  
[www.bleadon.org.uk](http://www.bleadon.org.uk)

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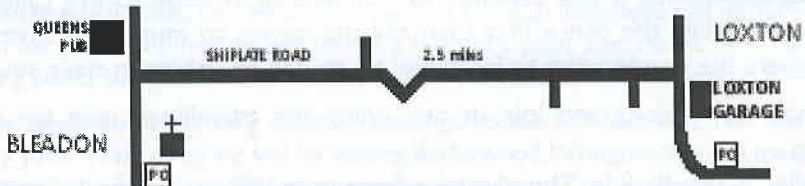
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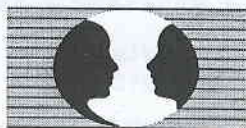
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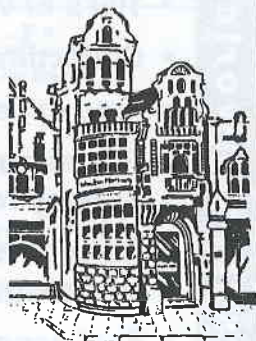
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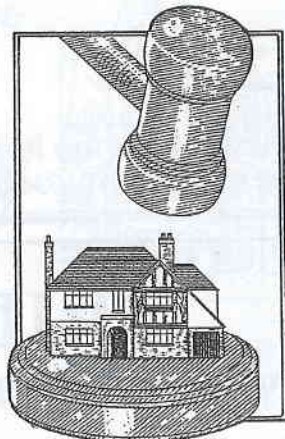
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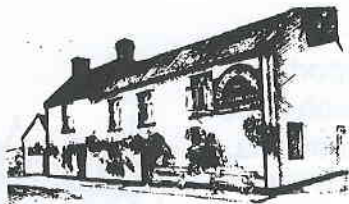


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**REFERENCES ON REQUEST**

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