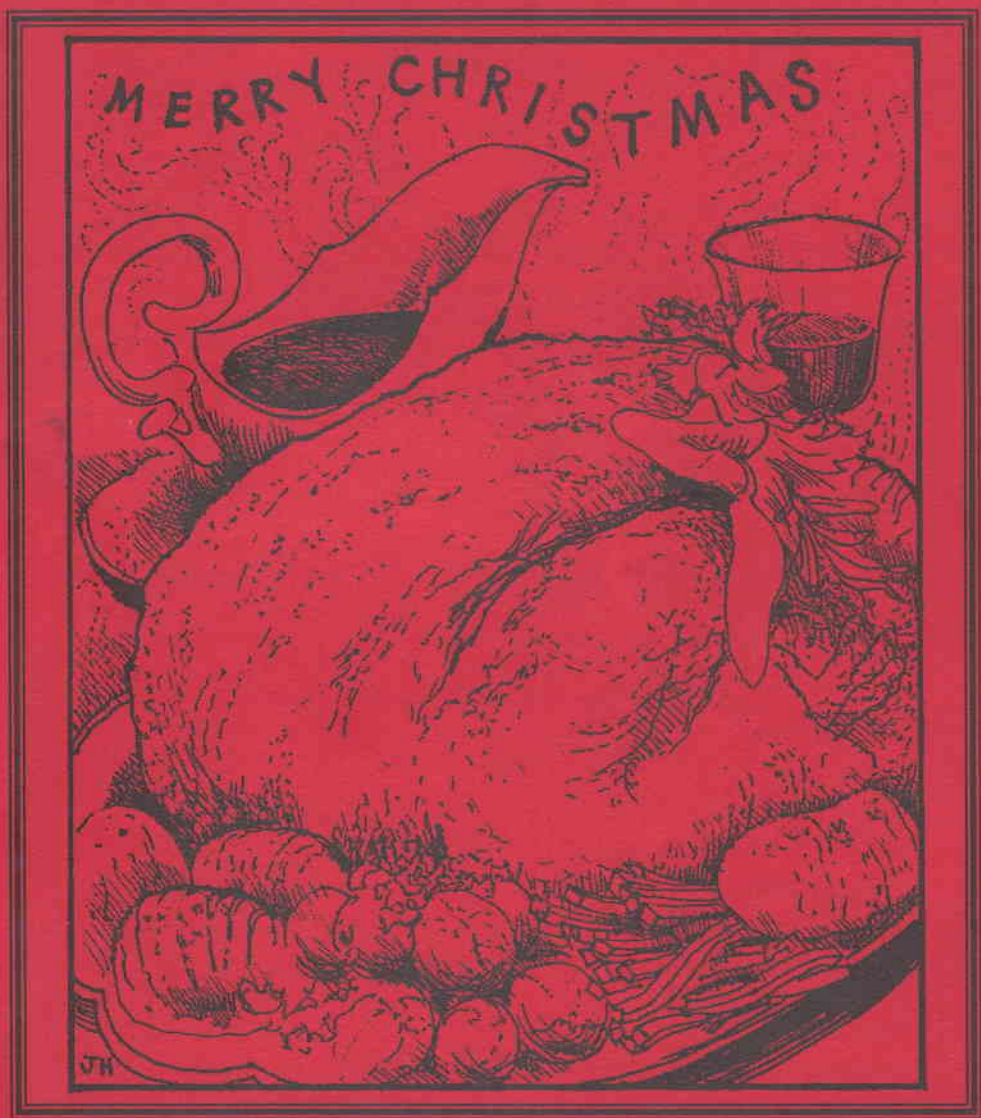


BLEADON



VILLAGE NEWS 59

CATHERINE'S INN



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YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

PENNY SKELLEY [CHAIRMAN] 'MENDIP CROFT', CELTIC WAY, BLEADON. TEL. 815331
PENNY ROBINSON [VICE CHAIRMAN]... I, THE VEALE, SHIPLATE RD. BLEADON. TEL. 814142
RAY HICKS 'FIDDLER'S VIEW', HILLCOTE BLEADON HILL. TEL. 811993
MALCOLM PERRY 'WESTFIELD', I THE BARTON, BLEADON. TEL. 813940
MARY SHEPPARD 'LITTLEWOOD' BRIDGWATER RD., LYMPSHAM. 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
ROBERT HOUSE LAKE FARM COTTAGES, SHIPLATE ROAD, BLEADON. TEL. 815588

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.poole2@btopenworld.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 wishes 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 Monday 29th February 2004

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, perhaps you could let me know and I will try to arrange to get one to you.

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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ADVERTISING IN THE VILLAGE NEWS

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

- **FULL PAGE = £50**
- **HALF PAGE = £30**
- **THIRD of PAGE = £25**
- **QUARTER PAGE = £20**

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.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



My report begins with the dilemma that confronts us and is uppermost in our minds; the closure of the Village Post Office and Shop by the end of December. Within a relatively short period of time, the owner of the premises has decided to close the business and, we understand, intends to convert the building to a residential property. This decision has caused much sadness to us all, as this vital amenity, which has been the centre of our village for many years, is one of the "cornerstones" of village life. Thus, the Parish Council is determined to re-establish this important facility in another location. That said, I must emphasise that the transition will not be seamless, as a new location will inevitably take time to prepare. Nevertheless please be optimistic as we look to the future. A Village Association has been suggested and we hope to present a structure for this very soon; this work is already underway. Should we proceed in this direction, your support of the project would be essential to success, so rally to the cause.

Turning to more minor matters, I am advised by North Somerset Council that bonfires should only be lit during the day and not when the wind is blowing the smoke in the direction of neighbours.

The "Jetta" for gutter cleaning will hopefully be with us again in January 2004; we are fortunate that the Weston-super-Mare final effluent pipeline will not affect Bleadon! The local bus service contract is under review; they would appreciate any comments or suggestions, but any improvements will depend on the availability of funding. Due to complaints, may I please request that the residents of the village, who live along arterial roads, park with courtesy.

Finally, as you will have seen, the village tubs have been planted up for winter and bulbs will appear, as if by magic, in the early spring.

I thank you for your continuing support and may I wish you a joyous Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Penny Skelley, Chairman, Parish Council



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North Somerset BS24 9LU

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CHURCH OF ST. PETER & ST. PAUL

I wish to thank all those in our community and Parish who, especially if you are not members of our Church, have been so supportive in so many ways during 2003. Thank you for your interest in, and support for, our ancient Parish Church and its work.

Christmas cards offering greetings from the Churchwardens and myself should, by now, have been delivered to every home in Bleadon (and indeed Bleadon Hill). If you have been missed, please accept our apologies. Very best wishes to you and everybody else for Christmas and the New Year.

These cards give information about our special Christmas Services, together with general information about Sunday worship. Further information may be obtained via our website ... www.bleadonchurch.info

Our Annual Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols will be at **6.30pm on Sunday 21st December.**

On **Christmas Eve at 5.00pm** there will be a **Crib Service**, especially for children, then at **11.00pm Midnight Mass of Christmas.** A further opportunity to sing **Christmas Carols** will be at **10.15am on Christmas Day**, within a simplified Service of Holy Communion.

Epiphany will be celebrated at **10.15 on Sunday 4th January**, with an **Epiphany Carol Service.**

Eucharist for the Epiphany will be at **9.30am on Tuesday 6th January.**

My very best wishes to you all at this special time.

God Bless,

Yours sincerely

David Parkinson (Rector) Tel. 812297

A PERSONAL NOTE - Our District Councillors' negative and unhelpful comments concerning Bleadon Village School in Village News (58) made sad reading. I hope that, by now, they have realised how wrong they were.

David Parkinson

ELECTRICIAN **Steve Insley**

WSM 812709 OFFICE
07971 413603 MOBILE



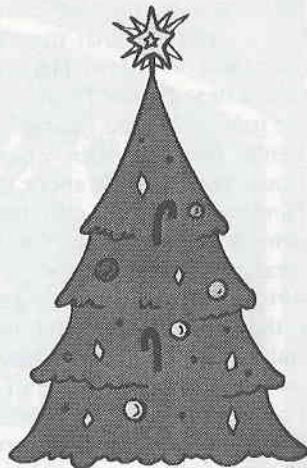
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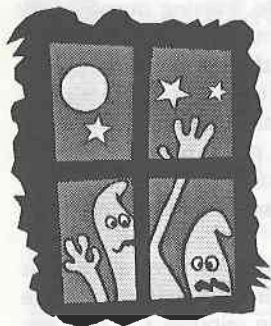
CRYPTIC CHRISTMAS QUIZ

1. Was she the first lady the night before Christmas?
2. Somewhat borin' this colourful bird.
3. Did the shepherds wonder at these UFO's?
4. Present man!
5. Decoration made from tins - elementary.
6. Large gathering for the late service.
7. Got all the presents tied up with this headband.
8. Full house!
9. A firm place to house the mounts.
10. Are we all mad for these at Christmas?
11. Find the berries in alcohol. Lying down.
12. It's magic without end for the three wise men.
13. This log won't burn.
14. Sounds like the sleigh pullers need an umbrella!



Answer all the clues then re-arrange the letters. My greeting to you all!

Moorland Marshal ..A ghost story for Christmas



'Unlucky for some,' the senior marshal greeted Tom cheerfully, handing him the thirteenth clipboard.

'Hope you can you manage on your own.'

Not having the fearless disregard for other road users that makes a good rally driver and unable to navigate a speeding car without being sick, Tom was natural candidate for that 'Cinderella' of motor rallying, the route marshal. Cursed by impatient drivers, maligned by inaccurate navigators and the organiser's scapegoat if the event falls to pieces along the way. On his map Tom carefully marked the grid reference given for checkpoint thirteen. Dotted symbols showed it to be a

moorland area with nearby buildings and the legend 'Kemps Farm'. About five miles distant a village with, praise be, a pub. Checkpoint checked, watches synchronised, starters confirmed; the North Devon Car Club's annual Night Owl rally was away - first cars were due his position at 1.00am.

It was off-season at the Royal Oak. One of the two bars was shut and the landlord seemed surprised at Tom's call for custom from the other, promptly retreating through a curtained doorway after serving him.

The single oil lamp only lit the immediate bar area, the stillness accentuating sounds of ticking clock and creaking woodwork. The sudden scrape of a chair broke the silence and from the gloom a figure crossed to the counter. 'Evening,' Tom said, slightly startled. 'Sorry, didn't see you there.' The man nodded and rested an empty glass at Tom's elbow. He was quick to take the hint. 'Have one with me,' he offered.

The man accepted and so did the landlord appearing unsummoned from behind his curtain.

They were friendly in the reserved country manner and Tom spent a pleasant hour or so listening to local gossip and eventually he told them of his night time rendezvous with the motor rally.

'Noisy buggers they be,' observed the landlord.

Tom assured him that they would hear little here, down in the village. 'Going across the moor, over Winsford Hill and Dunkery,' he explained. 'I'm meeting them about one o'clock near Kemp's Farm.'

The pair exchanged glances.

'Kemp's Farm,' the man repeated, thoughtfully scratching a bristly chin.

'I 'udnt want to bide about there by meself.' He turned to leave.

'Mind,' he continued over his shoulder, 'I doan reckon thee'll be on thee own fer long.'

Giving a short laugh the Landlord pointedly began to collect the glasses.

It was a sharp February night; strings of cloud scudding across a three-quarter moon and a brisk wind rising, already stirring the hedgerows. His checkpoint was in a Council layby at the moor's edge and from the car a substantial building was visible beyond a tumbledown wall, Kemp's Farm he assumed. Tom read and listened to the radio until after midnight, snug in the warmth. Then, wearily, he got out to find he was very near the group of buildings, fronted by a three-stored farmhouse and a stand of bare-branched trees. His eyes slowly became accustomed to the darkness, the house was derelict, the door was gone and frameless window openings gaped darkly in moonlit walls. Well, he thought, no trouble there from irate farmers when the rally cars came storming through.

The yellow flare of a lamp at a downstairs window shocked him fully awake. He rubbed his eyes but the light remained, first bright and then fading as its position changed within. The light dimmed and then vanished, only to reappear at an adjacent window. Rooted, he watched the lamp's progress, clearly ascending through the house, moving purposefully from room to room and from floor to floor. Finally it reached a small window set high in the gabled roof. The light became sharper now, as if held close to the opening and beside a pale face stared down to where Tom stood. Suddenly it was very cold. Turning he walked quickly up the road onto the moor and stood in the middle of a small hump-backed bridge. The wind blew more keenly here, biting through his parka, and he could hear the tumble of stormwater on the rocks beneath. Distant now, the house raised a moonlit shape against the overcast. It was just before one and the first cars would soon be due. He prayed they wouldn't be late.

First the headlight beams arcing across the sky then rising engine sounds; several vehicles were climbing out of the Exe valley and travelling towards him at a tremendous rate. He sprinted back to the layby to organise the check procedure. Within minutes the first car, a familiar red Mini Cooper, sped in from the moor, thundering across a cattle grid and over the bridge, its steel-cased sump emitting sparks as it struck the surface. Earsplitting blasts from the exhaust accompanied rapid change-downs into lower gears and with wheels locked it slid to a halt beside him. A helmeted figure thrust a clipboard and Tom scrawled the arrival time and his signature. Gear was engaged as the board was snatched away.

'Go! Go! Go!' screamed the helmet.

The car shot away, its rear snaking violently and spraying Tom with grit. Bedlam ensued for the next thirty minutes, making the silence that followed the last dying exhaust note all the more intense. He looked at the farmhouse; the light was gone, and swiftly so was he. Tom slept late that morning, so avoiding an immediate revisit in daylight, but he's been there several times since. The farmstead is indeed deserted, the unequal task of cultivating barren moorland given up years ago. The house is in the final stages of decay. The interior is empty, a structural void with only the walls and roof remaining; a heaped jumble of weed-covered beams and debris evidence of long collapsed floors and stairways.

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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

SAFeway 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.

North Somerset Citizens Advice Bureau

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

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.



**citizens
advice
bureau**

BLEADON HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT



We are now making good progress in our hall improvement plan. The new floor surface has been laid in the Jubilee Room, at long last removing the old carpet tiles that were a stop gap covering when the extension was completed.

A new heating system has been installed, that will be much more efficient than the previous over head

type, (that was never satisfactory), and we gratefully thank the Parish Council for a contribution of £3000 towards the cost.

In the first week of January next, work will commence to remove the present side ceilings in the main Hall, enabling insulation and improved lighting to be installed.

There may be some disruption caused to regular Hall users, who may be required to use the Jubilee Room on occasions.

However we hope that this work can be completed quickly and the consequent improvement will benefit all.

We are grateful that North Somerset Council is making a grant to cover the cost of this work.

Len Chamberlain (Chairman)

BLEADON VILLAGE - Results of house numbering referendum

A total of 75 valid voting papers were returned

Plus: One void paper - unclear and failed to identify address

One from Birch Avenue, which is already numbered

One from Whitegate Close, which is already numbered

One letter from Coronation Road, which seems to suggest that numbering makes little difference

Road name	For	Against	% split
Bleadon	1	1	50/50
Bridge Road	5	5	50/50
Bridgwater Road	1	0	100/0
Celtic Way	7	9	44/56
Mulberry Lane	4	2	67/33
Old School Lane	0	2	0/100
Purn Way (inc. Chestnut)	6	3	66/33
Roman Road	2	1	66/33
Shiplate Road	15	11	58/42
Total votes:	for 41 (%4.6%)	against 34 (45.3%)	

182 leaflet/ballot papers were distributed. Most by hand delivery directly to households in un-numbered roads.

Leaflets were also available at the Bleadon post office.

The valid response was 41%

57% of recipients chose not to express a view

2% were invalid but expressed a view

A LIST OF ORGANISATIONS WHICH REGULARLY USE THE CORONATION HALL



MONDAY'S

2pm-5pm

BLEADON BRIDGE CLUB

CONTACT

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

Amanda Smallwood
01278 760090

1.30**

Yoga Class

Denise Marsh 750438

7:30pm

BLEADON PLAYERS/REHEARSALS

Mrs S Kelly 645135

THURSDAY'S

10am-12 noon

ART: WATERCOLOUR PAINTING

Weston College
01275 8106598:00pm Sept - June
1st & 3rd Thursday's

BLEADON FOLK DANCING GROUP

Mrs J Thorne 814007

FRIDAY'S

2pm-4pm

BLEADON FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Mrs J Diment 812217

7:00pm Sept - May

SHORT MAT BOWLING CLUB

Mr J Ward 812136

SUNDAY'S

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**FORTHCOMING EVENTS IN THE CORONATION HALLS** - PLEASE MAKE A NOTE IN YOUR 2004 DIARY!**12th January**

7.30

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

8

17th January

9 - 1

BLEADON VILLAGE MARKET

24th & 25th January

PANTOMIME!! -

Bleadon Players

29th January

7.30

CORONATION QUIZ -

Les Masters 811976

30th January

7.30

PARISH COUNCIL -

PUBLIC MEETING

9th February

7.30

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

21st February

9 - 1

BLEADON VILLAGE MARKET

26th February

7.30

CORONATION QUIZ -

Les Masters 811976

8th March

7.30

PARISH COUNCIL

20th March

9 - 1

BLEADON VILLAGE MARKET

3rd April

10.30

COFFEE MORNING -

Friendship Club

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or
07773 272003**

POPPY SUCCESS

I am delighted to record that this year's Poppy Appeal in the Village has been the best ever, raising **£711.54p**. All credit to the house-to-house collectors Betty Elliot, Clive Morris, Sarah Ripley, Penny Robinson and Jack Sommerfield, plus the Church, the Post Office and the pubs, but most of all, of course, to the people who put the money in the boxes. Thank you all very much: be even more generous next year.

Les Masters

The Editor received this anonymous letter in response to Nick Evans verse.

In your last issue Nick Evans made reference to an anonymous act of remembrance. The memorial stone in the wall in Shiplate Road came from The Methodist School Room which was part of a Methodist Chapel that stood on the site now occupied by a house whose wall is graced by three stones. One is the memorial stone itself, a second is the Sunday School stone and the third explains that the memorial stone was purchased and installed from public subscription. When I first moved to the village many years ago an elderly lady came each year and placed a poppy by the wall. I believed that she did so for a long lost loved one. One year she did not come. I went and put my poppy there and have done so each year. I regard it as a great honour to carry out this simple act of remembrance for a soldier of the Great War whose name I do not know. The stones are looking worn by time. Perhaps the good people of Bleadon will subscribe for their renovation, and perhaps someone will continue to remember the brave young men of this village after I am dead and gone.

NOSTALGIA NIGHT

As a fund-raising effort towards the cost of the new floor in the Main Hall, the Coronation Hall Committee has booked Somerset Film and Video to show a selection of old films of West Country life, covering a fascinating range of subjects. The specifically local one deals with the Railway museum at the old Bleadon and Uphill station, while other topics include the Bristol Channel steamers, Mendip snails at The Miners Arms at Priddy, cider making (naturally), coal mining in the Mendips, farming, eel catching, the first Glastonbury Festival, West Country Holidays and several more.

We shall also be mounting an exhibition of old photographs of Bleadon, which has proved very popular in the past, and as always the Badger Bar will provide indispensable refreshment.

This event will take place on Saturday 21st February and as space has to be allowed for projection the number of seats will be strictly limited, so to make sure of your place ring me on 811976 to put your name on the list.

Les Masters

NB. If you have any old photos that would be prepared to lend to us for this 'night of memories' please contact Les at the above number.

I am also in the process of putting as many pictures of Bleadon Past and Present on to a CD Rom so that there will be a permanent record of Village history. Old photos are getting faded and frail but it is possible to 'repair' them and reproduce copies with the aid of a scanner and computer, if you can help with this project, please ring me on 814142.

Penny Robinson

PLANTING UP DAY

Once again we were very lucky with the weather on our chosen Saturday, and the tubs around the Village were duly replenished with pansies, spring bulbs and small conifers. The Parish Council would like to thank Sanders Garden World for providing the plants and compost at a reduced rate, and also say 'thank you' the band of 'Hardy Annuals', (or should that be perennials?), who turned up to do the planting. We look forward to the spring display.

PR

ALLOTMENTS

At time of going to print there are still two vacant allotments for rent. If you are interested in 'Growing your own' then contact either:-

Mary Sheppard on 812921 or Penny Robinson on 814142



BLEADON TODDLER GROUP

The toddler group is thriving and thanks to the committed weekly support from Peter and Linda everyone is able to enjoy this busy Wednesday morning session even if they have more than one little darling!! The Mums, Dads, Nannies and others appreciate the chance to pass on wisdoms and swap ideas about dealing with their toddlers and babies. The children really enjoy the lively atmosphere, arts and crafts, songtime and of course the toys. We are also grateful to Beryl for lending an extra pair of hands when she can.

Since the end of last term there have been a few changes. We said goodbye to some of the committee when their children went to school and said hello to some new faces who are carrying on the friendly and welcoming feeling of the toddler group that has made it so popular. In fact the new committee spent a lot of time at toddlers before they became committee members so there will be no changes to the format and Christine will be back in the New Year to look after us all with a cup of tea and a biscuit - until then the new committee are perfecting their tea and coffee making skills.

We have a lot of toys and these are being made available to members for a small hire charge which helps us raise funds so if anyone is expecting a visit from the grandchildren, nephews or nieces please pop down on a Wednesday morning and stock up from our collection. We also have the Health Visitor, Hilary, every 2nd and 4th Wednesday to weigh babies and give advice. Please feel free to drop in to use this service and try out toddlers - the first week is free.

Our next fundraising event is at the Bleadon Christmas Fayre. We have asked Santa to visit and he will have his present request book with him and a small gift for every child in the run up to the big day - all for 75p - a bargain!! He looks forward to your visit - all proceeds to toddlers. We will tell you how much was raised in our next article and how the group celebrated Christmas.

Happy Christmas to you all

BLEADON PLAYERS



Our production of Noel Coward's "Easy Virtue" went well in the end, and thanks to all who supported us. A special mention for the 14 year old Danielle Carter, who joined the cast to play the youngest daughter. Danielle started with us six years ago as a 'rabbit'. If anyone is interested in joining the players either as a 'rabbit' or a member of the back-stage production team, then ring Sandie Kelly on 645135.

Confucius, say, 'He who does not see Pantomime will be forever cast out from the Fried Lice Inn'!

Confused? Don't worry all will be revealed when our production of 'Aladdin' complete with new Oriental-style scenery, luscious costumes and funky music comes to Bleadon on January 22nd-24th (two performances on the Saturday).

This promises to be a colourful extravaganza ...

. Oh yes it does!....

Be there!

PRESENTATION TO NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL November 18th 2003

The petition, which was signed by 56 people, reads as follows:

'The residents of Bleadon request North Somerset Council to reinstate the 'special arrangements', introduced when Bleadon School was closed in 1964. These gave priority admission to Uphill School to children from Bleadon and free transport to the school.'

These arrangements were last invoked in 1998 when North Somerset attempted to charge Bleadon families for 'home-to-school' transport to Uphill School for 8 to 11 year olds. The special arrangements prevented the introduction of these charges.

In February of this year, new residents of the village were denied a place at Uphill School for their child. At the School Appeal, North Somerset Council denied the existence of 'the special arrangements': this resulted in the case being referred to the Local Government Ombudsman (LGO) in June.

I believe North Somerset Council now accept that the special arrangements exist and should have been applied to this case, however, the final verdict of the LGO has not been published.

At one stage North Somerset argued: 'The decisions of this council must be in line with current legislation and cannot be fettered by any policy and/or informal arrangement emanating from a previous authority in the 1960s'. This defence is currently being investigated by Brian Cotter M.P: who has written to the Secretary of State for Education and Skills, Charles Clark, in order to determine if this is acceptable policy for a Local Education Authority (LEA). If accepted this would allow any LEA, anywhere in the country, to renege on any special agreements made as part of the settlement to a resisted school closure: just as North Somerset are attempting to do in this case.

Finally, the child at the centre of this case is attending school in Lympsham, Somerset: this is an option many Bleadon parents have taken over the years for a variety of reasons, when faced with in the intransigence of a 'Producer Led' authority like North Somerset and Avon before it.

Bryan McGrath

TALES FROM THE RIVER BANK

Walking alongside water on a sunny day is a very relaxing and pleasant experience. (Walking on said water might be even more so, but I have never quite managed it). It is a pity therefore, that although the southern boundary of our parish for about three miles is formed by the River Axe, only two relatively short stretches of it are accessible to the public.

To the west of the A370 you can walk, high tide permitting, from Bleadon Bridge across two fields to the back of the Purn Caravan Park, then across one more field to the track that leads to the first bend in Accommodation Road (from which it is but a short step to the Anchor and Catherines Inn).

Also from Bleadon Bridge you can follow the river on the south side in the opposite direction as far as the bridge near South Hill Farm and then having crossed the Bridge, on the north side for a short distance before turning left to the farm. Both walks offer interesting perspectives of the village and the Mendips, but if you want further official access to the river you have to join an angling club.

To me the bridge by the farm, known to generations of local boys as the Cow Bridge and a favourite jumping-off point in summer, has a unique point of interest that brackets Bleadon with Newcastle-on-Tyne and Sydney, Australia. It was built in the 1930's by Dorman Long, the company that built the somewhat larger bridges in those world famous cities.

Unfortunately, there is also a very sad tale to tell about our local stretch of river. You can find the memorial to it in our Churchyard, just behind the Kathleen Beeby Memorial garden: the grave of Edwin Clogg, who died in July 1957 aged 71 years. At the head of the grave are the words "A life given for another".

Edwin's story was told me by Ken Durston, who was born in Bleadon 1927. From his earliest years Ken remembers him as an established resident, living alone in a small wooden building at the top of the land belonging to the Mount in Shiplate Road. It seems likely he had arrived there after World War One, when he had been a conscientious objector. The owner of The Mount, Bert Over, was a fellow objector and there appears to have been another idealistic strand to the story in that close to Edwin's hut was another in which courses in Esperanto were held.

In fine weather the local children spent most of their spare time in the grounds of The Mount and Edwin and Bert used to take them swimming in a shallow part of the Axe between the sluice and the Cow Bridge. They were joined in the summer holidays by underprivileged boys from Bristol, who were accommodated in a hutted camp at Barton (between Webbington and Winscombe). These boys were transported in a huge Studebaker owned by Bert's sister and garaged by Roy Goodall, who also provided a driver.

I suppose that nowadays we would say it was an accident waiting to happen. On that July day in 1957 a Bristol boy got into difficulties, Edwin tried to save him, and both drowned. There was evidently great sadness in the Village with local people collecting to provide a handsome gravestone.

Doesn't this story illustrate how times have changed? Apart from the idea of anyone living in a hut with no gas, electricity or running water (in his affluent friend's back garden!), imagine the shock, horror, scandal and so on that would burst forth if it emerged that school-age boys were under the supervision of an unqualified 71-year old (presumably a bachelor), to go swimming (of all things!) in a river (of all places!)

Eccentric though he undoubtedly was, Edwin strikes me as a man who did a great deal of good in his life. Probably he would not have wished to have survived his one disastrous failure.

Les Masters



Photo of Edwin's grave in Bleadon Churchyard

FROM YOUR DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Last month we added our voices to the campaign to maintain a post office facility in Bleadon and are working closely with the Parish Council on the issue. We share the widely-held view that a "village shop" is essential and will do all we can to help. In this respect, we have already written to the Post Office authorities, but believe that for the business to be profitable, the retention of the local retail facility is equally important, as it would be difficult for one to survive without the other. The fact is that, in any village, the loss of a local shop can be serious, especially for older members of the community and in the past we have successfully fought against such a closure in Locking. However in Bleadon, the lack of nearby alternatives makes the issue of particular concern.

Meanwhile, some good news. We were pleased to recommend and support a new grant from the District Council towards the continued improvements at Coronation Hall. This will obviously benefit all the residents who use this important community facility. There is more money in the Area Pot and any local group can apply for contributions towards projects - so long as they don't clash with other grant fund or budgeted items funded by North Somerset. Just write or e-mail one of us and we'll see what we can do!

Finally you may be surprised to learn that we get very few complaints or comments from Bleadon residents, which may mean that your Parish Council handles them well on your behalf, or that you don't have any, or that you think complaining is a waste of time!

Suffice to say that we're not looking for extra work but, if you do have concerns relating to Council, or other matters that we might be able to help with, try us out. Our contact details are below.

Cllr Efan Ap Rees
824758

elfan.ap.rees@n-somerset.gov.uk

Cllr Ian Peddlesden
812015

ian.peddlesden@n-somerset.gov.uk

BLEADON PHOTOGRAPHIC GROUP

Bleadon Photographic Group started life on 28th April 1948 as Weston-super-Mare & District, Cine & Camera Society. Although there was a camera club in Weston before 1939, very little is known of it. Over it's 55 years it has had 5 meeting venues in and around the town, the latest being The Coronation Hall at Bleadon, a move which prompted a change in its name. It is interesting to note that two members from those early days in 1948 are still members today with a third being an inactive member.

The Group have continually moved with changes in the art of image making until today, thanks to a grant from Awards For All, they are the proud possessors of state of the art digital equipment which is in regular use. As well as this, it has a library of software which members may borrow for evaluation purposes. At a dedicated digital meeting once a month, members bring along images on C.D.s which have been downloaded at home of techniques they wish to discuss or problems they require solving, and using the laptop computer & L.C.D. projector the images are manipulated "on screen". This all assists in our aims of participation and education in this new medium.

The Group has not lost sight of it's origins and there is still a considerable amount of "silver" photography practised amongst the members, witness the fact that at the meeting on 12th November, members were enthralled with a lecture on "Printing in Monochrome".

Over the years the group have achieved considerable awards in competitions most recently they represented the whole of the Western Counties Federation at a national competition in Deeside. The group meet every Tuesday at 7.30 except on the third Tuesday, from September until May. New members, especially those from Bleadon are always welcome and can receive more information from the secretary on 01934 813320.

Ken Tapley

Bleadon Village School



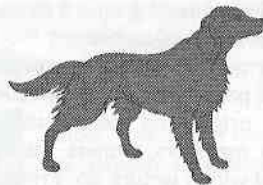
I feel it has become necessary to put the record straight regarding the thorny issue of schooling for the children of Bleadon. I am a local school governor and have been heavily involved in many local issues regarding education. This matter has been raised by Bleadon residents to the Parish Council and their support was requested. Bleadon Village School closed in 1964 it was on the understanding that space would be made available for the children of Bleadon Village to attend Uphill School, even in preference to Uphill children. This used to be printed in the prospectus of Uphill School and has been confirmed by the clerk to the governors. Upon closure of Bleadon School all school equipment was relocated to Uphill School, and an extra classroom was built to help with accommodation. This arrangement continued until sometime during the last two years. Children from Bleadon are now being refused places at Uphill School, because the school is oversubscribed. If too many children apply for places oversubscription criteria apply and distance is measured 'as the crow flies'. This often means that some Weston children will get into the school, while Bleadon children will not. The children of Bleadon no longer have a local school.

While I can understand the arrangements may have been distasteful to Uphill residents, there are laws and codes of practice put in place by the Government to prevent Education Authorities from changing admissions criteria without consultation. For instance, it is written in the Admissions Code of Practice that they should consult those involved and publish their plans prior to changes. This has not been done.

The District Councillor's item in the last village news implied that early applications to Uphill School would ensure success, this is not correct. Bleadon children will only be offered a place after children who live nearer have been awarded places, up to the annual admission number. Several people have raised this problem with Bleadon Parish Council in order that it may be addressed. Some have been dismissed as rude, arrogant troublemakers. It has been extremely frustrating watching the Parish Council fudge this issue, accepting the Education Authority's comments as fact, while not listening to evidence produced by the villagers they are elected to serve. Unfortunately Bleadon Parish Council have not seen this issue as a priority.

Through the determination of some local residents the local authority have acknowledged the problems of Bleadon residents and are now looking at ways to address the situation. Perhaps with the assistance of the Parish Council this may have been achieved earlier and with a more tangible result.

Carole Findlay



IF YOU OWN A DOG PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW IT TO FOUL THE FOOTPATHS AND VERGES OF OUR VILLAGE. THE RESULTING MESS IS UNSIGHTLY AND A SOURCE OF INFECTION.

CYBER BLEADON

I know that out in the heartland of Bleadon there already exists a small number of computer enthusiasts; there are those who use their PC (or Mac) as a work horse, to word process, create spreadsheets and databases, and all that Microsoft can offer in the way of office facilities - AND then there are those who see it as a fun machine. I personally use my PC to sort out the articles for this magazine, to indulge my hobby of digital photography and the mysteries thereof, to surf the net ..and I also keep in contact with friends the world over via e-mail.

But I imagine that with the approach of Christmas there may be some of you who will 'take the plunge' for the first time and buy a computer. Your children may already be minor 'cyber techies' as increasingly schools use computers as an aid to teaching, and I can tell you now that they will be streets ahead of you, so that by Boxing Day you will be numbed by what they know. Also there may be some older residents who want to embrace this new technology and to them I can recommend this as a great hobby and way of keeping in touch with far flung family, e-mail exchange is a wonderfully cheap way of 'talking' and quicker than writing. There will surely be someone locally who could help set up a system for you.

Once the computer, (complete with its name) is set up, and your connection established, off you can go into the wide blue yonder that is the internet. This is definitely the best bit, especially now with the arrival of broadband in Bleadon,- there are dozens of Encyclopaedias at the touch of a button ... want to find out almost anything by using one of several search engines (the kids will tell you about those), you can do it! Downloading information will soon be second nature to you.

Anyway the purpose of this piece is to recommend to you some websites that as a beginner you may like to visit, which I have personally found to be of great interest, maybe educational and perhaps even fun. If you are a regular 'surfer' these may be known to you already or not as the case may be.

www.bleadon.org.uk

this is our site - keep up to date with all things of a very local nature

www.bbc.co.uk

..from here you can explore all aspects of TV, Radio and some wonderful links will take you off into the world of natural history, archaeology, gardening or your favourite soap! Plenty for the children too, (but they will already know that)! Interactive sites are the thing of the moment.

www.somerset.gov.uk/archives

local historians may find this one useful.

www.mendiphillsaonb.org.uk

what's happening out there on the most beautiful hills local to us.

www.n-somerset.gov.uk

all the local goings on and how things are run plus a lot more.

As for the children..well there is a dedicated Harry Potter site, a Lord of the Rings siteone for Disney lovers, ..not to mention our very own Wallace and Gromitt.....need I go on.....AND

..... all the charities like National Trust, RSPB, RHS, RSPCA, etc have their own websites and just about any hobby or interest from crosswords to origami, sports to cinema, can be catered for,- if you know where to look,- and that is where search engines come in. Just type in one word or phrase and get the 'Engine' to do the rest, you will be amazed at what you can find out in a very short time. **-But** be warned you can get hooked, the links on some of these sites can take you on and on ...and before you know it you will be over the rainbow!!

Happy surfing!

PS. If you are a regular internet surfer and wish to share some of your favourite sites -please let me know - and we could make this a regular feature.

AND — if you more experienced PC users could help deal with problems for the newcomers then please let me know..... A Bleadon Helpline would be marvellous, I'm sure we could all benefit from that sort of interaction!.

e-mail :- penny.rob@btopenworld.com or follow the link on the Bleadon website

CALLING ALL CLUBS AND GROUP LEADERS - Local Channel



There will be a meeting on Friday 30th January 2004 at 7.30pm. in the Jubilee Room when a presentation will be given by Mr Hayden Selwyn-Jones, the Managing Director of Local Channel. This is an organisation which sponsors Parish Council and community based websites.

The purpose of this meeting is to attract as many of the village organisation representatives as possible in order for them to see how a dedicated village website would benefit their particular club or group.

Dates and times of their meetings, the aims of the groups, news about their recent activities etc., could be put onto such a website, indeed all the sort of information that also goes into this magazine. The potential is endless.

So ... to all the groups out there, get at least one of your number to attend this meeting I'm sure you will find it useful, and to the residents who are familiar with PC usage and the 'dot com' business, this may be of value to you as well .. websites such as this have linked communities across the globe.

For more details look out for the posters nearer the time, or contact **Bruce Poole** 01278 787555

Bleadon Beat, Autumn 2003



Speeding Motorists.

Recent speed checks in the village have shown that there are an increasing number of motorists ignoring the 30mph limit. Disappointingly, the vast majority of those stopped have been local residents. The 30mph limit is there for the safety and wellbeing of road users and to ensure a more peaceable quality of life for all villagers. I would ask that all resident motorists pay more attention to their speed both in the village and elsewhere. So far I have only given warnings. In future errant motorist may be reported. That could mean a minimum £60 fine plus penalty points on their licence.

Burglary Warning.

With the festive season drawing near can I remind residents of the need to ensure that their home is secure, especially when going away. Last year's Christmas and New Year period saw three burglaries at vacant homes within the village. It is worth knowing that none of the homes attacked last year had an alarm system fitted. Thieves don't like alarms and will choose to go elsewhere rather than attack an alarmed property. Now is the time to have one fitted not after a break-in has happened.

If you would like more information about security or have any other concerns then please contact me on WsM 638181 or drop in at the monthly village surgery at the Church Room.

Pc 2307 Adrian Woolcott

YOUTH CLUB

The past few months have been an exciting time for Bleadon Youth Club. At the beginning of this year, we had very few members and were concerned about the long-term future of the club. The members of the club rose to the challenge and held an 'open evening' before the summer and as a result we have enough members to make the club worthwhile and have a varied programme.

We always try to make sure that we have a balanced programme with a good combination of 'fun' events and more serious issues. Towards the beginning of the year, some young people were concerned about the issues surrounding the war in Iraq, so we did some work looking at the coverage of the situation in the press as well as looking at some of the facts and figures about the people and the country of Iraq. Since the summer we have run a trip bowling, a drugs worker has come to talk to the group and to answer their questions, one of the young people has helped other members put together dance routines and the rector has been in to share his table tennis skills with the members.

One of the activities the members have been asking for is cooking. Unfortunately, we do not have a cooker at the youth centre and do not have room for a full size one. If anyone has or knows where we can get a small cooker (something like a Baby Belling), perhaps they could let us know.

Currently, the group are involved in a 'photo challenge' where they are out and about taking photos of the village to show what they think of where they live!

The club runs from 7.15pm until 9.45pm each Tuesday evening and is open to young people aged 11 to 19. If anyone would like any more information about the group, please ring Geoff Sharpe, Youth Development Worker, on 01934 625 427, e-mail geoff.sharpe@n-somerset.gov.uk

FROM THE WATERFRONT

Last winter's problems in the village with rainwater and sewage should at least be alleviated by work carried out by Wessex Water.

The flooding across Chestnut Lane has now been tackled by new drains from Purn Way the length of Chestnut Lane and into the rhyne (and a local resident gives ten out of ten for attitude, to the men who did the job).

The more unpleasant problem of sewage backing up in the area of The Barton and Coronation Road is not so simple. Wessex Water have constructed a new storage chamber at the Bleadon Road pumping station. This will obviously give more leeway in times of heavy rain, but whether it will be enough remains to be seen.

Our problems are small compared with those of Wessex Water and their prestigious sewage works located in our Parish. The multi-million pound tunnel through which some of our residents walked, has obviously caused major difficulties over the last three years, judging by the large numbers of men, vehicles, machines and portable buildings that have appeared several times at the different shaft heads.

Now a steel pipeline is being laid from the sewage works to Black Rock, following a more circuitous route, which accounts for the extensive earthworks alongside the A370 between the Toll Road and Broadoak School.

Brunel! Thou shouldst be living at this hour: Bleadon hath need of thee.

Les Masters

BLEADON LADIES CLUB



The Committee members would like to take this opportunity to wish all our members and families, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and to hope all your dreams come true in 2004.

We have had a very good year at the Ladies Club, with some very good speakers. Our summer outing to Tewkesbury was blessed with lovely weather. We enjoyed a look around the market, and found the Abbey of great interest and beauty. This was followed by a boat ride along the river.

We are looking forward to our Christmas lunch. This year we are going to Batch Country Hotel Lymsham. After lunch we will be entertained by Mr Rainbow, a guitarist, playing songs and carols, which will get us in the Christmas spirit.

Why not start the New Year by joining us at the Ladies Club. Every one is most welcome. The first meeting is on Tuesday 13th January in Coronation Hall at 2.30pm. The meeting will be a 10th year Anniversary Celebration. We will be entertained by "Reflections", members of the Weston Operatic Society who will sing songs from the shows. Come along and help us to celebrate our ten years as a club. Have a chat, and make new friends.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All.

For more information ring Barbara on 814362.

BLEADON VILLAGE MARKET

Bleadon Village Market has now been running for a year! Have you visited us yet? We are there on the third Saturday of the month, 9 am to 1 pm. There are many regular stalls, but there is something new every month, so it is always worth popping in. Make it a monthly date where you can buy your local cheese, honey, preserves, cakes, extra special plants, in season local vegetables, lots more;

- Need a card? You will find many hand made cards for that individual touch, and at very reasonable prices.
- Need a gift? We have a range of crafts and gifts for everyone, many of our stall holders can make to order for that special person.
- Need coffee and a chat? This is a wonderful opportunity for the villagers of Bleadon and the surrounding area to meet their friends regularly for morning coffee or lunchtime snack.

The Market is run by the Coronation Hall Management Committee and all the proceeds from refreshments and table hire go towards the upkeep of the Coronation Halls.

- Something to sell? This is your opportunity to make some money out of all that clutter! Have a clear out. What is junk to you is someone's treasure! Get together with some friends and share a table.
- Like to raise money for your favourite charity? You could run a "Traidcraft - Fair Trade" stall. Traidcraft pay a fair price for their products to poor communities to help them work their way out of poverty. Many larger churches have a weekly Traidcraft stall as a fund raiser for the church, but in a village like Bleadon the Village Market would be a wonderful opportunity to sell the very attractive range of gifts, crafts, foods, from around the world. More information from Jo Jones.

If you are interested in having a stall at your village market, please phone Jo Jones (812370) for more information.

BLEADON SUNDAY CLUB

At the time of writing, we are in the throes of planning our November session at Sunday Club.

Because it is the last time we will meet before Christmas, we have decided to ring in the festive season with decorations, Christmas activities, party food and music.

As we end the year a party seems appropriate because, as far as everyone involved is concerned we have had a remarkably successful seven months.

Since we first met in April we have had great fun making (and sinking!) Noah's Ark, designing some wonderful coats for Joseph, making a huge collage for the Harvest Festival Service, constructing puppets and producing plays, conducting sing-a-longs in church and much, much more. It truly is amazing how much children can do in 45 minutes (though admittedly we never finish on time!).

Chris and I would like to thank Amy and Stevie for their help, support and great sense of fun; David Parkinson for his encouragement and the songs and actions he gets us doing before we leave Church; and last but not least the parents for bringing their children along and for getting stuck in if they stay. Thank you also, to the congregation at St. Peter and St. Paul's Church: they have welcomed us wholeheartedly into their community and accept Chris's singing lessons (and guitar playing), without complaint. We have enjoyed many happy moments together already.

The children who come along are such fun, so positive and enthusiastic that they make Sunday club a real pleasure. So, if you know anyone aged between 3 and 9yrs who enjoys a laugh and likes to be kept busy, they are welcome to join us. We meet on the last Sunday of each month.

Oh yes, -and in addition to the aforementioned 'Christmas do', at our next session we are producing a nativity play from scratch, (and I mean scratch!!). If you want to see what can be done with 12 children, in 20 minutes with a few props and buckets of enthusiasm, we have been promised a small slot in the Christingle service.

Chris Bevan and Tracey Harrington

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YOU CAN NOW CONTACT THE EDITOR BY E-MAIL

pennyrob@btopenworld.com

and for those who are interested

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AND FOR THE CHURCH

www.bleadonchurch.info

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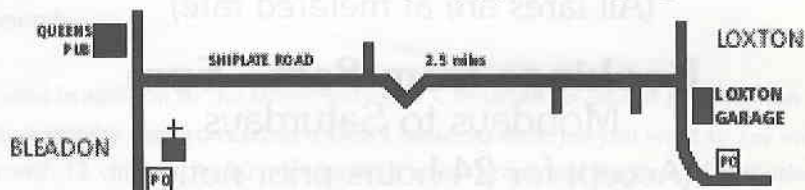
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THE BLEADON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The 30th Annual Summer Flower Show in September was very well supported both from the point of actual exhibitors and visitors to see the wonderful quality in all classes.

The October evening meeting saw a friendly general knowledge quiz against Lympham gardening club, in our neighbouring village. The overall winning team of four people came from Lympham but several of the Bleadon teams were very close to the winner's score of 56 out of 72. A very enjoyable evening was had by all.



Paul Gilmore from Sanders Garden World was the speaker at the November meeting where he gave a really interesting and stimulating demonstration of making various arrangements and decorations for Christmas. The wreaths and table decorations were particularly innovative and the very large audience appreciated the considerable effort put in by Paul.

At our meeting on **20th January 2004** Pete Williams will be giving an illustrated talk entitled "New Zealand Tour".

On 17th February

Don Everitt will be giving us the benefit of his great experience as a grower, with a talk on "Summer Flowering Bulbs". He usually brings along lots of plants from his nursery.

All talks are open to anyone and are held in the Coronation Hall at 7.30pm. Entry fee is £1.

30th Spring Flower Show

This will be held in the Coronation Hall on Saturday 20th March. Schedules will be available from committee members in the New Year.

We are increasing the photographic section in the show to 2 classes for adults. The wording of these classes is:-

1. "A non-digital photograph of my favourite flower(s)".
2. "A photograph of a landscape using a digital camera".

Happy Gardening to you all in 2004.

Chris Cudlipp.

WEATHER REPORT FROM BLEADON HILL

I have been recording precipitation of rain, sleet or snow in my rain gauge in my back garden since we moved from one side of Bleadon up to Bleadon Hill in 1981.

Recordings are taken at about 8.00am and 8.00pm and the rain is measured in millimetres, where 25.4mm = 1inch.

	2003	2003	1981-200	1981 -2002
MONTH	PRECIPITATION	DRY DAYS	AVE. PRECIPITATION	AVE DRY DAYS
January	95.5mm	15	96.4mm	13
February	46.3mm	15	66.5mm	14
March	45.0mm	23	71.9mm	14
April	45.3mm	20	67.9mm	15
May	66.4mm	12	67.7mm	17
June	61.1mm	18	66.5mm	17
July	151.4mm	16	61.5mm	19
August	33.9mm	25	81.7mm	17
September	17.8mm	22	91.2mm	16
October	59.8mm	18	113.9mm	13

As can be seen from the above figures the year has been much drier than the average - the main exception however was July which was extremely wet.

The late summer and early autumn months of August - October were very dry.

77% of the rain in August fell on 2 days namely the 1st and 29th

62% of the rain in September fell on one day, 11mm on Saturday 6th.

53% of the rain in October fell on 2 days namely the 29th and 30th.

By the law of averages we should be in for a lot more rain to fill our depleted reservoirs!

Chris Cudlipp

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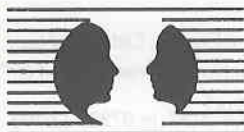
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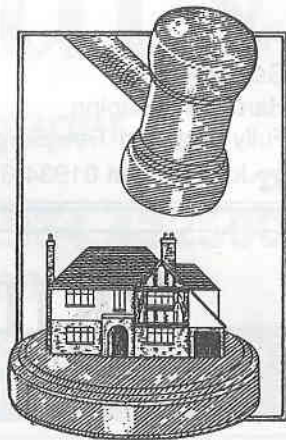
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