

# BLEADON



VILLAGE NEWS  
SIXTY

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RAY HICKS ..... 'FIDDLER'S VIEW', HILLCOTE BLEADON HILL. TEL. 811993  
MALCOLM PERRY ..... 'WESTFIELD', I THE BARTON, BLEADON. TEL. 813940  
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**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@bopenworld.com](mailto:bruce.poole2@bopenworld.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  
May 28th 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

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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.

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# CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

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My report in early spring is full of optimism for the future of the village. Although the Post Office and shop are now closed, we look forward to Alistair House's plans for a Farm Shop and Post Office being passed by N. Somerset Council for a grand opening in the early summer. In the meantime, we have the benefit of a weekly shopping bus to a large retail store. I hope that we will all support the new village shop and I for one am very grateful that we will again have this amenity for our expanding village. We shall rely on the Village Retail Services Association (VIRSA) for their guidance and also perhaps assistance to gain small grants for the launch of the Farm Shop.

The Parish Clerk and I have recently attended a meeting on "The Quality Parish Council Scheme" at which Alun Michael, Minister for Rural Affairs, spoke on rural matters. We have also attended a seminar for all Parish Councils entitled "Affordable Village Housing - Partnership with Parish Councils", at which much information was presented for countryside communities. Both of these events kept us up with National plans for rural issues. In addition, the new Primary Care Trust wish to come and speak to us and this is being arranged, with time allocated before a Parish Council meeting.

Turning to a number of ongoing topics, the house numbering scheme is at the moment being reviewed, but until a suitable permutation is found which suits the majority of the villagers that it will effect, this is being held in abeyance. We have commissioned new fencing to encompass the Village Play Area; this will be erected later in the year. We hope to have two free standing notice boards to fill the gap of no shop window in which to advertise. The Police Community Van has requested an hour a month of parking in the centre of the village to promote police coverage; this should not affect the police surgery. We are all very pleased with the ongoing refurbishment of the Coronation Hall and Jubilee Room; much has been achieved over the last few months by the Hall Committee- well done.

You should be aware that when new building plans are submitted, Parish Council policy is that any project larger than a Porch requires a site visit. The local car boot sale is constantly being monitored for us by North Somerset Council, so too are the traffic calming laws and requests for dropped pavements. Overall, the Parish Council is being kept very busy.

Finally, I have been informed by the Landlord of the Queen's Arms that the premises are for sale as a going concern. For a moment my heart sank, but I am reassured that the premises will definitely remain a Village Pub.

The annual Parish Meeting is on 5th April 2004; do please attend if you should so wish. May I personally thank all the Councillors for the hard work they perform for the Council - we are a good working team.

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

# HEARING SERVICES

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# FROM YOUR DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

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No doubt most local residents are keen to know the future for the Post Office in the village, not least whether the proposal to relocate it to the edge of the settlement will receive a favourable response from North Somerset.

We have been careful up to now not to indicate any bias for or against the proposal, primarily because it could put us in a difficult position vis a vis the code of conduct if we had not fully considered the pros and cons (in both a local and district wide context) before coming to a conclusion.

Suffice to say therefore that we have been keeping ourselves fully informed with the planning officer concerned and are optimistic that the situation be resolved soon in a way that can benefit village residents but without setting a precedent for inappropriate development outside the village boundary.

Meanwhile, further to the statement from North Somerset Education Officers published in this issue of Bleadon News, the Local Government Ombudsman has now dismissed a complaint by a local resident, suggesting that the Council was at fault in their process of allocating primary school places to Bleadon children. The Ombudsman has confirmed that, even if any special arrangement had existed under previous authorities, it would be unreasonable for North Somerset to be bound by such a decision - which is what we said several months ago.

The Council has however agreed to try and allay local residents fears about the future allocation of places at Uphill, which the Ombudsman sees as a reasonable approach to take. Hopefully this will draw a line under the issue, but copies of the full report can be made available to any local residents wishing to see it.

**Elfan ap Rees**  
**824758**

**Ian Peddlesden**  
**812015**



**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.**

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# North Somerset's School Admission Arrangements

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There has been much interest recently, in the village of Bleadon, in how we allocate school places. The law is very specific about how we must act, it insists that ...

- parents have a right to 'express a preference' for the school they would like their child to attend;
- admission authorities must have, and must advertise, arrangements to enable parents' preferences to be met to the maximum extent possible; and
- places are only refused if the admission of a child would, in legal terms 'prejudice the provision of effective education to other children at the school or not be an efficient use of the admission authorities resources'

Since Bleadon Primary School closed in 1964, children from Bleadon have attended a number of schools both in Somerset County and within North Somerset. Currently children from the village are attending Wedmore First School, Lymsham C of E First School, Uphill Primary School, Hutton C of E Primary School, Corpus Christi RC VA School and Walliscote Primary School. Of the 25 children who started school in September 2002, 11 are educated in North Somerset schools, whilst the remaining 14 attend Somerset County Council schools.

Since its inception in April 1996, North Somerset has not had specific provisions nor commitments in regard to giving priority to parents from Bleadon (nor any other village etc), for places at specific North Somerset schools. Nor, as far as we are aware, did the preceding admissions authority, Avon County Council, operate such an arrangement. The Code of Practice on School Admissions places requirements on admission authorities to consult annually on their admission arrangements. North Somerset Council has fully complied with the requirements of the Code. As no special arrangements have been written into policies, similarly no special arrangements have been removed.

No admission authority can ever guarantee a resident a place at a specific school. School allocations are based on many factors such as ...

- the number of vacancies and the number of applications;
- how many applicants have children who are already in attendance at the school;,
- where applicants live; and
- when the applicant applies for the school place.

Happily, for September 2003 school starters, over 94% of parents applying on-time for North Somerset Primary school were offered the school of their choice. Sadly, this also means that just under 6% were not.

Normally provided an application is received in time and relates to the initial intake (i.e. reception Class) Bleadon village parents' preferences have been met.

For the residents of Bleadon, all of the 2003 Reception Class applications received on time, received a place at the school of their choice. We hope that this will continue, however the only guarantee we can offer is that we will fairly apply our published criteria.



In response to concerns raised by local residents, Peter Kehoe, the Executive Member for Learning has asked officers to look more closely at future admission arrangements and to explore whether any formal agreement can be reached with Somerset County Council in respect of schools for which they are responsible. He has also asked us to explore giving preference of "Village schools for Village children". Work and discussions continues on these issues and we will keep you informed.

Peter added, "We will do what we can to meet local residents' needs and I ask parents to please help by getting their applications in as early as possible."

Cont.

#### **Further information**

- i) To know more about applying for school places please contact the Admissions & Student Funding Team on 01275 888327.
- ii) To know more Information about the values, teaching, learning opportunities and daily life of a particular school please contact the school itself.

**Sally Varley**

**Admissions & Student Funding Manager**

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## **May Fayre - Bric-a-brac stall**

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I am now earnestly collecting for the bric-a-brac stall on 3rd May. Anything clean and saleable is acceptable, though I cannot take large items of furniture. Knick-knacks, kitchen utensils, garage and garden tools, toys, china, linen, as new clothes (especially children's), books and games etc will all make for a wonderful stall. Last year's was a great success thanks to everyone's generosity.



Please ring WSM 413034 for collection, or things may be left in the carport at 5 Pine Lea for storage in the garage.

Thank you in anticipation.

**Sandra Lowton - Churchwarden**

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## **NEWSPAPERS.**

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Although the shop has now closed let me remind you that your daily, weekly and Sunday papers can still be bought from the Coronation Hall. A small but resolute band of volunteers has made sure that this one service is still available in the village for a couple of hours every morning.

I'm sure all who need their daily dose of news, and of course those who regularly do the crosswords are very grateful to you all for you being there.

.. and to Alistair for agreeing to maintain the supply.



*This letter was received by the Editor concerning the ongoing issue of the closure of Bleadon Village School.*

Dear Editor,

### **'Bleadon Village School'**

It is a great pity that your correspondent sought not to pursue her quest for accuracy throughout her letter that appeared in the last issue of The Village News. To accuse the Parish Council of a "fudge" is neither fair nor indeed accurate.

At no time has the Parish Council been formally requested by any resident of Bleadon to discuss the subject of Schools Admission Policy in respect to the children of the village. What has actually happened is that one concerned resident asked a question in the public forum of the April Parish Council Meeting of the District Councillor present. His subsequent answers were made available at the May Parish Council Meeting. Furthermore that same concerned resident has kept the Council aware of his correspondence and actions with North Somerset District Council. On reflecting on the content of this copy correspondence the Council decided to ask North Somerset to clarify their current policy which was subsequently received at the Council meeting in July.

As a result of this presentation the Parish Council were then made aware by the original correspondent that there was a divergence of views between himself and North Somerset in respect of the current policy and past practice since the closure of the school in 1964.

The quotation that some have been dismissed as rude arrogant troublemakers is a travesty of the truth. The only time that the words "rude and offensive" were used was by me when it was necessary to explain to one correspondent that if he required continued assistance from the Parish Council he would need to withdraw his remarks that were indeed rude and offensive. This he subsequently did.

The Parish Council continue to take interest in this subject and this sentiment has been relayed to the concerned villager on several occasions. It might be of interest to note that the Parish Council has not to my knowledge as yet been made aware of the contents of the petition referred elsewhere in the last issue despite it being presented on behalf of the residents of Bleadon (56). This highlights what happens on many occasions that there seems to be a readiness to criticise the Parish Council when very often the Parish Council is the last group to be kept informed of action that is being taken. Maybe if the format of the petition had been made available to the Parish Council it could have also added its support?


**Bruce Poole**  
**PARISH CLERK**

## **North Somerset Citizens Advice Bureau**

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

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

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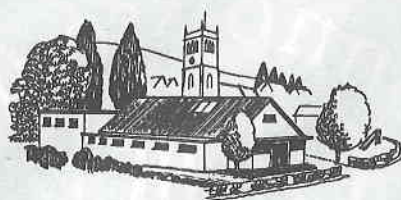
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# A LIST OF ORGANISATIONS WHICH REGULARLY USE THE CORONATION HALL



## 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 Pat Bissell  
01278 785282

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

1st & 3rd & 5th

TODDLER GROUP

Mrs Elise Knight  
625089

1.30\*\*

7:30pm

Yoga Class

BLEADON PLAYERS/REHEARSALS

Denise Marsh 750438  
Mrs S Kelly 645135

## THURSDAY'S

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

## 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**

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# FORTHCOMING EVENTS IN THE CORONATION HALLS

- PLEASE MAKE A NOTE IN YOUR 2004 DIARY!

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<b>27th March</b>	7.30 pm	BASS BAND CONCERT	Church Friends
<b>3rd April</b>	10.30	COFFEE MORNING - Friendship Club	
	10.30		
<b>5th April</b>	7.30 pm	PARISH COUNCIL - in Jubilee Room	
<b>17th April</b>	9-1 pm	VILLAGE MARKET	Jo Jones 812370
<b>24th April</b>	10.30	COFFEE MORNING - in aid of Colon	Cancer Care
<b>3rd May</b>		MAY FAYRE including Art Exhibition in the Jubilee Room and Grand Bric a Brac in the Youth Club	Church Friends
<b>10th May</b>		PARISH COUNCIL - 7.30 pm	
<b>15th May</b>		VILLAGE MARKET - 9am-1pm	
<b>10th June</b>		EUROPEAN ELECTION polling in Jubilee Room	
<b>14th June</b>		PARISH COUNCIL - 7.30 pm	
<b>19th June</b>		VILLAGE MARKET - 9am -1pm	

### YOU CAN NOW CONTACT THE EDITOR BY E-MAIL

[pennyrob@btopenworld.com](mailto:pennyrob@btopenworld.com)

and for those who are interested

### THE BLEADON WEBSITE ADDRESS IS

[www.bleadon.org.uk](http://www.bleadon.org.uk)

### AND FOR THE CHURCH

[www.bleadonchurch.info](http://www.bleadonchurch.info)

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# ANCHOR MEMORIES

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When I was nine, my parents took over the licence of a small country Inn from my Grandfather.

This was a magical place with no modern innovations. In the 'Spit and Sawdust' (public bar) were three-legged tables with wooden tops. Over the open fire was an old chiming clock (always 5 minutes fast) in which my Grandfather used to hide sweets and apples among lead weights to comfort or reward a child. Around the room were various games table skittles, darts, draughts, dominoes and shove halfpenny. There was a stable door from this room into the serving area where the spirits and glasses were kept and several barrels of beer and cider on tap. Through a further doorway was the cellar, here on either side the spare barrels rested on wooden struts, each accompanied by a 'slop tray' and near by a wooden mallet to loosen the bung or tap the barrel ready for use. The ceiling held huge hooks which at times were hung with a brace of pheasants or more likely a rabbit or a string of onions. The window ledge littered with perhaps a basket of medlers or russets, a rat-trap or half a candle in a bottle.

A flight of steps (wooden and steep like a ladder) lead upwards from the corner of the cellar to the old cheese-room, a large room with sloping floor called the 'Back Chimner'. This room was a delight, every conceivable piece of junk was stored here, a family bible, old pictures, bits of furniture, onions and apples in store for the winter.

A flagstone passage lead from front to back with a heavy latched door halfway which made an echoey sound when opened. There was a tiny semi-circular salon bar off this passage, and in one corner a stone shelf on which rested a vinegar barrel which dripped across the flags and made the area smell sour and musty. The back door gave way to a cobbled yard, sheds and toilets, with piles of garden tools in corners, pigeons roosting, and sometimes in the shed a litter of cocker spaniels.

At the side of the house was a long strip of garden bordered by a main rhyne. A flight of steps lead down to the water for watering plants and these were known as the Dippers!" At the top of the stairs was a curved passage with a deep step up into a long narrow bathroom with a large cast-iron bath on legs, and at one end an enormous green wicker laundry basket (good for hide and seek). There were 4 steps up to the two front bedrooms and tiny box room. In one of these rooms there was a cupboard built into the wall, a tiny side window with shutter, and an iron fire-place with a kettle stand which swung in and out of the grate. The passage bent towards the older back of the house and a bench type seat was incorporated into the side wall.

A tiny bedroom with curving walls and high window, and a larger back room with small window panes looked out into the cobbled yard. It was only in later years that a doorway was knocked into the 'Back Chimner' to make two extra bedrooms. The house had been in my mother's family for 200 years the licence being transferred to make it an Inn when the main A370 was cut through the hamlet in the early 1930s.

Throughout the year there were the regulars, farm workers and roadmen who ate their bread, cheese and onion at dinner time with a pint of rough cider. An old tramp called

'Frenchie' came once a year pushing a pram, and the 'Johnnie Onion Men' from France, with their bicycles laden with onion strings. A knife grinder came with a contraption like a stationary bicycle which he peddled to turn his grindstone to sharpen up the knives and scissors.

In September an Agent for a well known jam company would come round and buy blackberries at about 6d. per pound from the village children, and on Saturday afternoons anglers from the nearby River Axe would bring their catch to be weighed in the yard of the pub, huge bream and roach gasping and slithery.

At Michaelmas two geese were carved on the counter, and slices put between rolls for the regulars, but of all times Christmas was the best. Then all trimmed up with a huge bunch of mistletoe in the passage and a large Christmas tree at the far end it was magical. The local characters would sing and dance and my brother and I would sit on the stairs and watch the amorous steal out for a kiss under the mistletoe. Extensions to the licensing hours were allowed over the holiday period and on Christmas morning the first drink was 'on the house.' The village postman always delivered on Christmas day and we would lie in wait to ask him in for a drink.

Unfortunately the atmosphere has gone with modern decor, fast food, and breathalyser, but the memories linger as we look back sadly at the passing of the village pub.

*Mrs S.Frost  
Appledore Farm - Lymsham*

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## **1st Bleadon Brownies**

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After a long Christmas break, Brownies returned on the 13th January and many were able to receive their Writer's Badge that they had worked hard for over the Christmas holiday. Already this term, we have had a talk on Prague by our Duke of Edinburgh helper, Emily Blake, made Valentine cards and picture frames for the one's we love (in most cases our mum's and dad's!), had a display of semaphore and learnt a song and dance from New Zealand which we performed at a District World Thinking Day Service, which was held at St. Paul's Church Hall.

"What is there left to do?" I hear you ask, well there is never a dull moment on a Tuesday between 6.00pm and 7.30pm and our schedule for the coming weeks reflect that. We are having a Parents Evening on 9th March when a number of our new Brownies will be enrolled. We have yet to make Mother's Day Cards, attend the Mother's Day Service at Church and that's all before we attend a Craft Day at Kewstoke Village Hall and have an Easter Egg Hunt!

If you would like to join our happy band either as a Brownie or as a Leader, please get in touch. Leaders of the pack need to have a creative flare and have the ability to keep the girls interested in activities. This does require personal time to help plan and prepare activities, which we do at a planning meeting once per term. New Brownies need to be 7 years old, but as we have a waiting list you are never too young to get your name down.

**Please contact (Brown Owl) Bella Ware, on 01934 811545 for further information.**



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# IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN

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Harsh winds force trees to dance,  
Budless branches clashing,  
Sleet and rain cold slashing,  
Leaden skies cloak rounded peaks,  
That wait dread winters coming.

But like storm and gale months pass,  
Weary of weathers anger,  
Fierce winds howl no longer,  
Darkness ebbs and sunlight seeks,  
To shine through clouds less sombre.

Winter tamed hard earth to sleep,  
But trickling brook does life bring,  
With sounds to make the heart sing,  
Now whispers from the dancing grass,  
Foretell lawnmowers of spring.

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## CHARITY COFFEE MORNING

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**SATURDAY 24TH APRIL 2004**  
**10.30 am - 12 noon.**

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stall and a raffle  
Admission 50p

I am organising this coffee morning in aid of a charity called Colon Cancer Concern. This charity was founded in 1987 and is the UK's leading national charity dedicated solely to colorectal (bowel) cancer. In addition to providing information and support, CCC is working to increase survival rates and to improve the quality of life of people affected by this disease. This is done through information, education and campaigning to raise awareness, as well as population screening programmes.

Colorectal cancer is the second most common cause of cancer death in the UK, but if caught in the early stages of development there is up to a 90% chance of successful treatment.

Please come along on the 24th April to support this worthy cause and enjoy a coffee and a chat into the bargain.

**VAL SMART.**

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## **Weston-super-Mare Lifeboat Station**

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Weston's lifeboat station was first established in 1882 when, on 5th November, a 25ft eight-oared self-righting boat was hung from davits on Birnbeck Pier. This boat remained on service at Weston for 7 years but was only launched on service twice.

In 1887 the first boathouse, with its 100 ft slipway, was built on Birnbeck Island to house a new boat. This second boat was only called out three times during its 14-year career.

In 1902 a new boathouse was built to house a new lifeboat and that is the boathouse that you see today with its long slipway stretching down into the sea.

The first of the two current lifeboats on station is a fully inflatable D-Class called "Faith", which was brought in to service at Weston in 1998. This boat is crewed by two or three people and is only used in moderate conditions. It is powered by a single 40hp engine and has a maximum speed of 20 knots. It is 4.95m long and 2m wide.

The second boat is larger and is a RIB - rigid inflatable boat. This means that the hull is rigid and the sponson is inflatable. This boat is crewed by three people and is one of the fastest boats in the fleet. It is powered by twin 70hp engines and has a maximum speed of 32 knots. The boat is 7.3m long, 2.64m wide and has the capability to be righted if it capsizes.

In contrast to the early boats at the station, the two lifeboats now at Weston respond to 40 - 50 calls each year. These incidents are things like people stuck in the mud, boats that have lost engine or sail power, missing children from the beach, vessels that become lost, people cut off by the tide etc.

The crew are all volunteers and go about their normal daily business, but when their pagers go off they leave their work, home, bed etc and go straight to the boathouse to launch the boats. All the equipment and training used and provided by the Royal National Lifeboat Institution is funded by the generosity of the public. This work would not be possible without such donations.

For more information about how you can help Weston Lifeboat Station you can contact Michael Buckland on 07811 285470.

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## **AT WELLS CATHEDRAL.**

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A local artist Brigitte Whittingham has a painting on display in Wells Cathedral from April 7th-13th (over Easter week). It depicts the story of Salvation and is called 'A Pilgrim's Progress.' It can be seen hanging opposite the astronomical clock. Last year it was displayed in an exhibition in Weston Quarry called 'Is Christian Art still relevant today'.

Why not pay a visit to our lovely local Cathedral and appreciate the art as well?

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## FROM THE HEART.

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I would like to thank so very much the volunteers, (you know who you are), who took me to Bristol every weekday for four weeks in February for my radio therapy treatment. Far from dragging, the time seemed to fly by and I have enjoyed all the interesting chats I have had and have learned all the different routes into Bristol!

Without this marvellous support Bill would have had to drive every day and he joins me in sending his thanks to a great bunch of people

I suppose we should not have been surprised at receiving all this help and kindness, because this is the reason we so much enjoy living in Bleadon. There are so many clubs and organisations in the village where people give of their spare time to enhance our enjoyment of life. From the Parish Council, who look after our interests, Friends of the Church, Coronation Hall committee, not to forget all the Clubs for all sorts of pastimes and events - and (a personal plug here) - the flower ladies, who keep the Church looking splendid every week, and on special occasions like weddings and organise the Church flower festival at the May Fayre.

To everyone in the Village who contributes in some way to our enjoyment we say "Thanks a Million" and keep up the good work.

**SHEILA and BILL ARDLEY.**

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## BLEADON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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The 2004 year of events kicked off with a wonderful 'Tour of New Zealand' via Singapore, with travel guides Pete and Celia Williams. Both North and South Islands with glaciers, geysers and hot springs and the occasional bungee jump kept the appreciative audience entertained. Everyone present also enjoyed Pete's wit and humour.

Don Everitt's talk on summer flowering bulbs was well attended and many people took the opportunity of purchasing specimens for their own gardens.

The 30th Spring Flower Show will have come and gone by the time you read this, so the next talk will be given by Peter Burks from Sanders Garden World. This will feature 'New and Unusual Plants'. This talk will be on Tuesday April 20th at 7.30pm.

Our Plant Sale and Social will be on Tuesday May 18th

Tuesday June 15th I will be sharing slides under the title of 'A Wisley Wonder', in preparation for our proposed trip in 2005.

This year we are organising one trip only and this will be on Saturday July 10th when we will be visiting Ottery Nursery and then Forde Abbey.

With no meeting in August we then look forward to our 31st Summer Flower Show on Saturday September 4th

***After the recent snow we can all look forward to a good gardening year!***  
***Chris Cudlipp.***

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# CONTACTUS REPORT TO FEBRUARY 29TH 2004

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Since our last welcome party, we in Contactus seem to have had rather a quiet time. As far as we are aware only seven or eight families have arrived in our Village in that time. These we have visited and provided with "Welcome Packs", but we are worried that despite our best intentions we may have missed somebody, especially if they live in a no-through road.

In the Bleadon Hill area of the village there are numerous 'For sale' boards up at present; but it is difficult, without the help of adjacent neighbours, to pin-point the day when newcomers actually move in. This brings me to the point of my appeal which I cannot reiterate too often or too strongly - Please, please, please do let us know if a new family has moved in quite close to you! You can inform Mary or Philip Ashley on Bleadon 812667 or me, John Thomlinson, on Bleadon 812436.

If you are a newcomer who has somehow been missed then we should be delighted to hear from you as above and provide you with a "Welcome Pack" and an invitation to our next welcome evening, which will take place as soon as we have enough new families to make it viable. When you see someone coming up your drive carrying a small file and a friendly smile, please don't hide behind a closed door. It is much more likely to be one of us than the tax man trying to catch up with you from your last place of abode! I can assure you that we are all amiably harmless.

As far our other neighbourly activities are concerned we have not been called upon for help for some considerable time. We can only be glad and assume that the spirit of friendly neighbourliness is so prevalent in our village that no serious problem has arisen - I do really believe this to be the case. - BUT - if you are in need of help that cannot be provided by Social or Medical services, then do get in touch and we will do all we can, within our competence, to give assistance.

*Our warm greetings to you all - ohn Thomlinson (CHAIRMAN)*

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## YOGA

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If you are interested in fitness and fun for the New Year, there are a few spaces left on the Wednesday afternoon class at the Coronation Hall.  
Starts at 1.30pm and finishes at 3.00pm.

*For further details ring: Denise Marsh - 01934 750438*

### **LYMPSHAM C. OF E.V.C. FIRST SCHOOL**

**Head Teacher - Mrs Lesley Wilsher Telephone 01934 750473**

COME AND JOIN an enthusiastic team of Lunchtime Supervisors for one hour 15 minutes per day. This is a paid position and you can enjoy the company of our happy team. Job share considered.

If you are interested please call the above number and make an appointment to speak to Mrs Wilsher.

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## I'M FINE, THANK YOU.

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There is nothing the matter with me  
I'm as healthy as can be,  
I have arthritis in both my knees  
And when I talk, I talk with a wheeze.  
My pulse is weak and my blood is thin  
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.

Arch supports I have for my feet,  
Or I wouldn't be able to be on the street,  
Sleep is denied me night after night ,  
But every morning I find I'm alright.  
My memory is failing, my head's in a spin,  
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.

The moral is this as my tale unfolds-  
That for you and me who are growing old,  
It's better to say "I'm fine" with a grin  
Than to let folks know the shape we are in!

How do I know that my youth is all spent?  
Well, my 'get up and go' has got up and went.  
But I really don't mind when I think with a grin  
Of all the grand places my 'get up' has bin!

*Reprinted courtesy of 'The Pensioner'*

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## BLEADON CORONATION HALL.

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Improvements in the Jubilee Room are now nearing completion, these being, a new strip-flooring surface and heating system. The latter consists of four storage heaters to give constant warmth, together with sensors that activate fans on each unit to ensure maximum heat when the Hall is in use.

The walls have been re-painted and curtains will be fitted to all the windows.

Following other improvements made over the last few years, we can now offer an attractive alternative to the Main Hall that will benefit all users.

**Len Chamberlain ( Chairman)**



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## BLEADON TODDLER GROUP

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The toddler group has been busy again over the last few months. We provided a Santa at the Christmas Market - the children loved him and the stage made a perfect Grotto. Thanks to the Players for lending the lights and to Santa for making the time to give out presents and take requests in his book at this very busy time of year.

We had a successful Christmas Party and a delicious party tea provided by all the parents. We were all entertained - adults too - by a great puppet show returning for a second year. Then Santa visited and the children were happy to receive their gifts from him and his helpful elf! The children really enjoy seeing Santa and this was a relaxed and friendly way of introducing some of the little ones who can get very scared.

The mums are delighted that Christine is back with us to make the tea and coffee, this makes a real difference to us and we really missed her when she was not here.

Once again some of the children have moved on to playgroups and we bid them a fond farewell and hope that they enjoyed toddlers. At the same time we welcome the many new members we have had recently - some of them have joined our Committee and we thank them. It is great to see new people and we hope everyone enjoys our friendly atmosphere and becomes a regular face. It is especially good to see the Dads joining in and taking their turn to bring the children down.

We have also been replacing some of our old toys and making sure we have enough baby toys for all our new younger members to play with - and they are being well used!

This is a reminder that 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 between 10 and 12 noon to 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 and you can expect a warm welcome from us all.

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## BLEADON PLAYERS

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Our pantomime 'Aladdin' was a huge success, and all our audiences were full of praise. We are especially proud of the technical developments, which have moved the Players on. We have finally worked out how to use our new lighting, and incorporated sound effects, pyrotechnics and electronic keyboard.

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# CHURCH OF ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL

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Our Lenten programme continues with Lent Lunches in the Church room every Thursday at 12 noon (£1.25p), study and discussion groups on Tuesdays at 10.30am and 7.30pm (details from me) and special services leading to Easter as follows:

<b>Sunday March 28th</b>	6.30pm	Hymns, Anthems and Readings for Passiontide, led by our augmented choir.
<b>Thursday April 8th</b> <b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b>	7.30pm	Eucharist of the Last Supper from the 1662 Prayer Book, followed by a time of silent prayer until 9.00pm.
<b>Friday April 9th</b> <b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>	10.15am 1.00pm 2.00pm	Family Service Church open for silent prayer The Last Hour.
<b>Saturday April 10th</b> <b>EASTER EVE</b>	8.00pm	The beginning of our Easter Celebrations with a short and dramatic service (The Easter Vigil).
<b>Sunday April 11th</b> <b>EASTER DAY</b>	8.00am 10.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion 1662 The Easter Eucharist. Easter Evensong.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be on **Monday 19th April at 7.30pm** in the Church Room.

Friends of the Church are preparing a full programme of events throughout the year. These will be publicised in the Church Magazine and on posters.

## EVENTS PLANNED FOR THE NEAR FUTURE ARE:-

- Supper in the Church Room on Saturday April 17th, 6.30pm for 7.00pm. Tickets £5.00p.
- Annual May Fayre - Monday May 3rd - in the centre of the village, together with flowers and music in the Church.
- Brunch at 'Birchwood', Bleadon Rd. to include Nursery Rhyme scarecrow competition, on Saturday June 26th at 11.00am - 1.00pm. Tickets £4.00p for adults and £2.00p for children under 10 years.

**TICKETS AND INFORMATION FROM REYN BADGER on 811490**  
**INFORMATION AND OFFERS OF HELP AT MAY FAYRE ring GRAHAM**  
**ROGERS on 811571**

*Very best wishes to you all - David Parkinson (Rector) tel. 812297*

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# BLEADON LADIES CLUB

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In January the club celebrated 10 years since it was started by the founder members. They were June Wilkes, June Cottrell and Doreen Woollen. These members were presented with a bouquet of flowers. We all enjoyed a piece of birthday cake and a glass of wine. The February meeting was a very interesting talk by Mrs Pat Atkinson "Gypsy Fortune Telling". She talked about reading our palms, and showed us how we could try for ourselves. The meeting was well attended and we all had a laugh.



## **April 13th .**

Mrs. Susan Marshfield will give a talk on  
*"Mini-Breaks"*

## **May 11th**

*"Life on my Farm"*  
A talk by Mr Peter Tinney

## **June 8th**

Mrs Sheila Burton, Beautician  
Will give a talk on  
*"Beauty Products"*

From our program you can see there is something of interest for everyone. We meet the second Tuesday of the month in Coronation Hall. At 2.30pm Please come along and join, make new friends; have a chat and enjoy our many interesting speakers

**For more information ring Barbara on 814362.**

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# BLEADON MAY DAY FAYRE.

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The annual May Day Fayre will take place in & around the Coronation & Jubilee Halls on the 3rd May this year when we will once again have the usual format including, Art Exhibition, Children's Fancy Dress, Games, Produce Stalls, Refreshments, Bar, Jazz Band, Flowers & Music in Church and much more.



As usual we are looking for helpers even if it is only for an hour or so. **Telephone Reyn Badger on 811490** if you feel able to help.

Information on the Children's Fancy Dress can be obtained from **Tracy Harrington Tel. 814123.**

Items for the "Bric a Brac" will be gratefully received. **Tel. Sandra Lowton on 413034**  
Last year was a record year and we were very lucky with the weather. Make a note to join us with your family and friends for an enjoyable day out.

**Graham Rogers. Chairman. Tel 811591.**



# OLD BLEADON NIGHT

Bleadon undoubtedly has its quota of nostalgia-lovers, as was amply illustrated by the packed Coronation Hall on 21st February. As soon as they entered the nostalgia seekers headed straight for the display of photographs, scrutinising them for remembered people and places, so absorbed they were that they had to be reminded over the public address system of the presence of a bar!

When the time came to see the films it took quite a bit of persuasion to get everyone seated, whereupon nostalgia kicked in again immediately at the sight of 1930's haymaking and harvesting on screen.

For those who organised the occasion it was immensely satisfying to see the hall full of people obviously enjoying both sides of the event. Booking the film show was very simple, but putting together the exhibition took a great deal of time and effort. I am greatly indebted to Brian Drinkwater, Bob McKay and Penny Robinson for enlarging and enhancing dozens of photographs, and to Peter Lindsay for displaying them and supplying the captions. Of course none of this would have been possible but for the cooperation of the many people who supplied pictures.

The result so far is a profit of over £600 for the Hall funds, and it does not end there. Firstly, A4 copies of the photographs are available to order (on glossy paper), at the bargain price of £2 each.

Secondly, as these photographs have been processed by computer, a CD-ROM will be prepared for sale later in the year. This will mean that the display can be shown on a lap-top computer at the homes of people whose health prevents them attending events in the Hall.

***For enquiries about any of these please ring LES MASTERS on 811976.***



## CALLING ALL BLEADON ARTISTS TO THE MAY FAYRE ART EXHIBITION MONDAY 3rd MAY

**Please bring your paintings, ready for hanging with hooks and cord attached, to the Coronation Hall on Sunday May 2nd between the hours of 10am 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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# BROADWAY LODGE

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Thirty years ago a group of businessmen were so concerned about the problem of alcoholism that they decided to take action. After discovering a model of treatment in America based on the twelve steps of Alcoholics Anonymous they set up a treatment centre in Weston-super-Mare, and so Broadway Lodge was born.

Thirty years on, Broadway Lodge continues to offer help to those with the disease of addiction. Today we treat people for both alcoholism and drug addiction. We also work with those who have eating disorders such as bulimia. Broadway has a staff of fifty eight. We have a team of doctors and nurses to offer detoxification and full medication as well as counsellors, admission staff, clerical and domestic teams.

Patients coming to Broadway Lodge would normally have an initial stay in our Primary Care Unit where they face a rigorous routine of group therapy, counselling, education and written work. They are challenged to look at how their addiction has affected themselves and others and helped to learn the skills that they need to remain in sobriety.

Many patients continue on into our Secondary Care Unit, where alongside the therapy they are helped to gain life skills such as cooking, shopping etc. They also have the opportunity to spread the message of the dangers of addiction by speaking in schools and other venues.

Broadway Lodge also offers help for family members and aftercare for patients who have moved on.

Overt the last thirty years Broadway Lodge has seen hundreds of lives transformed and many people given new hope when they thought they were hopeless. We look forward to the next thirty years as we continue to work to offer the best possible service to those with the terrible disease of addiction.

Broadway Lodge is a charity and part of its remit is to educate people about addiction.

**If you have a group that would like to know more, please contact us.**

**Rev. Peter Davis Secondary Care Co-ordinator Tel. 01934 812319**

**E-mail [mailbox@broadwaylodge.org.uk](mailto:mailbox@broadwaylodge.org.uk)**

**[www.broadwaylodge.org.uk](http://www.broadwaylodge.org.uk)**

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## UPDATE ON BLEADON HILL RAINFALL 2003.

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Following on from the last edition of the Village News here are the final figures for November and December 2003.

November saw 94.4mm of precipitation, while the average since 1981 was 97.4mm.

There were 9 dry days (average 13).

There were 16 dry days in December (average 12) but in those 15 days in which the rain fell a total of 110.7mm was recorded. The average from 1981-2002 was 103.7mm

The overall total precipitation for 2003 was 87.6mm or 32.6ins while the average total (1981-2002) was 986mm or 38.8 ins. This means that 2003 will go down as a very dry year with only 1991 and 1983 being drier!

*Chris Cudlipp*

# Bleadon Village Monthly Market

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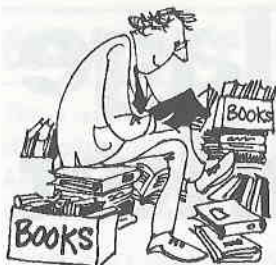


## Saturday 9am - 1pm

March 13, April 17, May 15, June 19, July 17,  
Aug 21, Sept 18, Oct 16, Nov 20, Dec 4

### Coronation Hall, Bleadon

**01934 812370** to book a stall  
at this popular monthly market



## May Fayre Book Stall

We would appreciate any unwanted books for sale at our bookstall at the May Fair. Please ring Pete Williams (812020) or Sue Court (813343) for collection.

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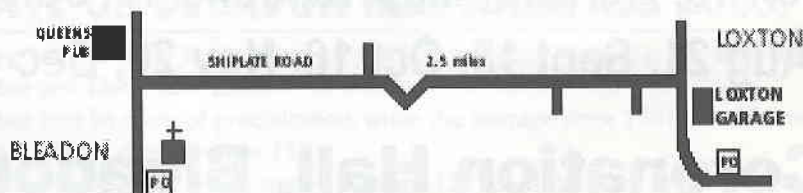
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# Bleadon Village Monthly Market

Bleadon Village Market has now been running for a whole year. The Hall Management Committee are very pleased with the success of this venture which has become an important social event in the village calendar.

Every thanks to the regular stall holders who form the backbone of the market and turn up every time; to the kitchen staff who provide welcome refreshments; to those who help set up the tables; to those who put up the posters; and to all the other stall holders who come maybe only once or twice but add variety and interest. As well as being a social and fun event, the market raises much needed income for the Coronation Halls - long may it continue!

**Want a stall? Phone Jo Jones 812370**

## MESSAGE OF THANKS FROM SARA OSBORNE ....

I would like to thank all of you who have supported my cake and card stall at the Village Market over the past year. Your generosity has enabled me to donate an extra £300 to charity.

## For Sale in the Church Room

A 1930s solid oak, draw leaf table, size 3' x 3', extending to 5' x 3'. Price £30.

This is a very sturdy table. For more information or to view ring WSM 413034 or 811490

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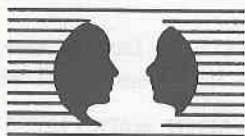
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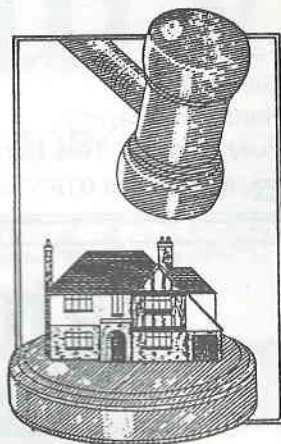
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**REFERENCES ON REQUEST**

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