

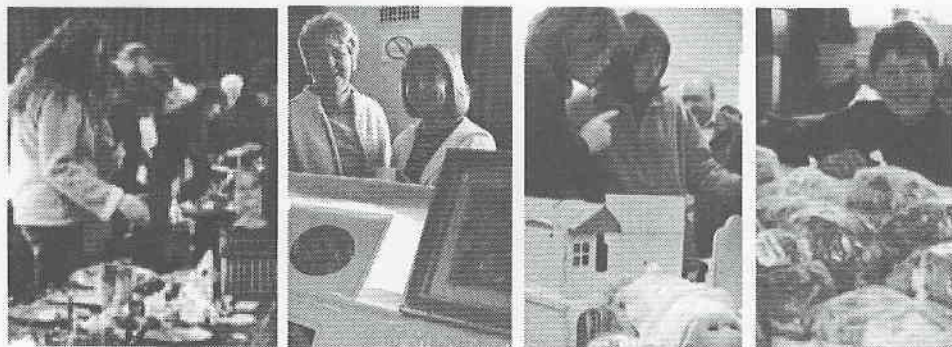
BLERADO



VILLAGE NEWS 63

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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 THE 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 EDITOR FOR INCLUSION WELL IN ADVANCE AS WE
CANNOT GUARANTEE A DEFINITE PUBLICATION DATE.

**The deadline for the next issue will be
February 26th 2005**

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, you may be able to pick up a copy from the village shop.

UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED THE OPINIONS AND COMMENTS EXPRESSED IN THIS NEWSLETTER ARE THOSE OF THE CONTRIBUTOR AND NOT OF BLEADON PARISH COUNCIL. ANYONE WHO HAS ANY COMMENT TO MAKE ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION SHOULD CONTACT THE EDITOR. IF YOU DISAGREE WITH ANY OF THE VIEWS EXPRESSED YOU HAVE THE RIGHT OF REPLY!

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



As always at the end of the year, we consider what has been achieved and look to further our care of the Parish in the coming year. The most exciting project for the future is the Village Plan. The intended Public Meeting was postponed and this gives us more time for the vital groundwork on the future of our village. The revised date for the meeting in the Coronation Hall is Saturday, 15th January 2005 at 3.00 pm. This will be well publicised and the Council hopes that many members of the public will attend. This plan will be based on YOUR ideas and aspirations for our community. The "voice" of 8700 Parishes nationwide will be heard!

Before the start of the recent third round of road works on the A370, the Parish Council wrote to the North Somerset Council informing them of past problems, when the road was closed, and warning that yet again the village would become a "rat run". They have offered, when the work on the A370 is completed, to repair any damage caused by the increased traffic. During this time, the hand held Radar Gun has been in action and it is hoped that this will be extended to cover all of the main roads in the village in the New Year; volunteers will be needed to achieve this.

Recently, two members of the North Somerset Care Connect gave a brief presentation to the Council. They explained their title does exactly that! More information and the telephone number may be obtained from North Somerset Council.

The Jubilee Garden has been refurbished during the autumn, the two stolen tubs securely replaced and all tubs have been replanted for winter.

I thank the Councillors for all their input, support and hard work during 2004. My very best wishes to you all for Christmas and the New Year and I look forward to seeing you at the Public Meeting in January.

Penny Skelley, Chairman, Parish Council

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.

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A Christmas Saint

With a spine-jarring lurch the coach passed from the relative smoothness of the palace courtyard into the rutted street. The town was grim, squalid; the principle buildings such as they were mean and uncared for. Capital of a minor fiefdom of the Holy Roman Empire, slowly recovering after two score years of Pagan rule, it lacked the space and grace of even the smallest Italian town. Cesare was sure the inhabitants would be much more familiar with witches than with saints.

It was cold still for April, the cruel winds lingering. Vapour shed from the horses trailed them like a cloud and steam spiralled from manure heaped in the wretched farmyards they passed. Peasants, rag-wrapped head-to-foot against the chill, stared in sullen disinterest. Cesare drew his sable cloak tightly about him as the coach trundled through uninspiring landscape, creaking and rattling toward the foothills.

Cesare was the Papal Advocate. People thought he hunted witches and this often hampered his real enquiries; folk were either wary or suspiciously over-helpful, depending on their Pagan involvement. His present case was a cruel death that had taken place over twenty years before. Prince Vaclav, Duke of Bohemia, had been attempting to Christianise these people and had been murdered for his pains. Now the new German Emperor had decreed that a saint be found here to promote Godliness again. The Pope had readily obliged, hence Cesare's visit. What better subject for Canonisation than a martyred Prince?

Vaclav's demise had been dramatic, publicly stabbed to death on the church steps by his brother, and this would go down well with the Congregation for the Causes of Saints when the report was presented. The route to sainthood seemed straightforward though there was the question of a miracle; the Pope was keen on miracles. Also the Prince and the Page connection was worrying; they had been close it seemed, out together all night on at least one occasion but after the murder the lad had disappeared. Yes, Cesare mused, he would have liked to question the Page if only because the Devil's Advocate was bound to make a meal of it. However, a witness to this nocturnal outing on the day after Christmas still lived, just a league or two away, and that's where he was heading.

A rough track followed the forest fence to St Agnes; a collection of hovels crouched before dark lifeless trees moaning in the wind. One wooden shack was larger than the rest and there, he'd been told, lived Capek the charcoal burner. The coach finally heaved to a stop, dwarfing its surroundings, and he gathered himself. He hated these enquiries though he'd had the foresight to send some Papal guards ahead in case Capek had got word and thought to leave prematurely.

The Sergeant saluted, "Inside awaiting your pleasure My Lord," a second guard unrolled a strip of sacking linking coach and doorway. He was ushered across. A sword hilt beat back the rough-hewn door, "Make way there for My Lord Cardinal!"

Cesare stooped to enter the charcoal burners dwelling.

Capek was a tall man, lean and bony, with a pallid winter-bitten face. His hair, streaked black - evidence of his trade perhaps, hung down lankly to his shoulders. He bobbed his head, brief and uncertain, as Cesare made the sign of the cross. It was a small room the heat and smell overpowering; a board table was pushed to one end and lit by a single rush lamp, the extremities masked in gloom and the fog of wood smoke. His soldiers had rearranged the burner's sticks of furniture so that a Cardinal's gilded and crested chair incongruously occupied the centre.

"God be with you my son." Cesare unwound his cloak, motioning the guard forward. Placing a haunch of venison and a bottle of wine on the table and collecting Cesare's cloak the guard retired to the doorway.

Capek stood watching with red-rimmed eyes, "You brought no logs then My Lord?" He gave a cracked laugh, "T'other gentleman brought logs as I recall."

Cesare unhurriedly eased himself into the chair. "Sit down my friend," he said deliberately, "these gifts are brought with good will as I'm sure those others were long ago. However you do need to tell me about this matter, either here or - elsewhere." Behind him the guard stirred affirmatively. Capek dragged a bench to the table and sat down. Hunched in the flickering lamplight, regarding the Papal gifts, he suddenly seemed happy enough to talk.

"Mind I was only a young un at the time. Father was the burner then, just him and me since mother died in childbed - just him and me and Viktor. It were Viktor that warned us, half wolf he was, go for your throat as soon as look at you. Father had been out earlier, sealing up the burning stacks and picking up a few kindling sticks and just after he got back Viktor starts to howl. 'That's strangers,' father says and goes to the door. It'd turned nasty outside, proper blizzard got up, the trees were really dancing that night, and sure enough there's someone down in the valley waving a lamp and shoutin' for 'elp. He tells me to bide where I am while him and Viktor goes out to see what's about. Well he comes back carrying a boy and there's a fellow as well, a gentleman such as yerself sir - perhaps not so big, and younger." Cesare smiled briefly.

"The boy was in a bad way, feet frozen, and I hotted up some water to soak 'em in. I remember the gentleman watching me particular when I did that, came over all humble like. Anyway they stayed most of the night, 'till the storm died down and the boy's feet were better. They had some stew and a glass or two of plum brandy; the gentleman seemed surprised we had brandy. He got a bit restless in the early hours and asked father if he had a log-sled; ever heard of a charcoal burner without a log-sled? So he orders father to take him and the boy back to town. Just before they left he fetches this parcel from underneath his cloak. 'I was bringing you some seasonal gifts but the Page lost them in the snow,' he says, 'all I've got left is this,' and he drops three pine logs on the floor. Then off they went, the snow was deep and even father couldn't get back 'till afternoon. Ha! But we'd found the food they'd brought, yes, Viktor and me, found it and lived well on't for a week or more."

"Did your father tell you who the man was?" enquired Cesare.

"Not right away, he was upset 'bout the way we'd been treated, but he told me later."

"Did you notice any ah...?...familiarity between the boy and the gentleman?"

"No, he didn't regard him at all, just as a servant I reckon."

"Did you or your father witness any unusual or unexplained event, a miracle even, whilst they were with you?"

"Oh yes. It's a miracle the wolves didn't get 'em. Lugging meat about at the forest edge. Viktor had set them off and they were howling fit to turn yer blood cold."

"Anything about him, the gentleman, that struck you as particularly praiseworthy or good?"

"Father told me it was him that made us build the fountain, great useless thing, dry in summer frozen in winter. I thought him a fool too, bringing logs to a charcoal burner."

Capek paused, reflectively, "He were a Saint though, compared to the rest of the family. His brother Boleslaw, savin' yer Grace, now he was a right bastard."

Re-entering the courtyard Cesare saw that another Papal vehicle had arrived, his secretary he hoped, some welcome company at last and news from the real world. And so it was, dispatches were handed over and they gossiped pleasantly for an hour. On taking the letters to his chamber Cesare soon discovered that he was no longer an active Cardinal, no longer the Papal Advocate and that this was his last inquiry. Praise be! He had been appointed Captain-General to His Catholic Majesty of Spain and his attendance at court there brooked of no delay. Secretary Machiavelli had known of this he was sure and he summoned him immediately. Handing over his findings on Prince Vaclav, Cesare knew they would be transformed into a persuasive case, even without a miracle. Machiavelli could make a compelling plea for admitting the Devil to the Calendar of Saints and within two hours the Vaclav submission and its attached authorisation was ready for Cesare to sign.

'I, Cesare Borgia, Cardinal and Papal Advocate, do submit to the Congregation for the causes of Saints the attached deposition for consideration in regard to the late excellent *Prince Vaclav, Duke of Bohemia, sometime known as 'Good King Wenceslas'* that he may be declared to have part and companionship with them.

Nobis quoque peccatoribus

He signed his name with a flourish. Tomorrow, Cesare thought, I shall be on my way to Spain.



Statue of King Wenceslas in Prague today.



THE PHOTOGRAPHIC ARTIST

A photographer, like a painter is endeavouring to do the same thing, -- present an image in order to evoke an emotion. Because photography is inexpensive compared with an artist's materials (and becoming more so with the rapid expansion of digital photography) the resulting image sometimes lacks vibrancy due to the lack of a few minutes thought prior to releasing the shutter. Club photographers are no exception because it has become quick and easy to capture an image, many photographs lack that extra "bight". Many of the basic ingredients of a good image are lost due to lack of thought in setting up a picture. A painter may take a lot of time to get into the right position before starting to paint. They will endeavour to capture the quality of light (alright they can cheat by painting what is not always there), but the thought process begins before the first line is put onto paper or canvas. Many photographers walk up to a scene and click with no regard for the resulting image and it is because insufficient thought is given to the "resonance" of the image.

In creating an image either photographically or using paint it has to begin with a resonance within the viewer through the structure of the image, its lighting, its juxtaposition of the elements within the frame, its dimensions -- in fact its impact. Impact is the most important component of any image, the "WOW" factor, or its first impression. The image should be a visual delight and not an exercise in the merits of one process over another or in the case of a painter, oil over watercolour. In art generally the intellectual content of an image is generally perceived to be more important than the visual delight, and I maintain that this is not the way to perceive an image. An image, whether painting or photograph has greater value in its sensual content than in its intellectual meaning or technique. The only element in an image which is lasting, is the visual impact, everything else will change with the passing of time. An image to be worthy of the artist has to appeal to the senses or it is not a work of art and this applies to both photographers and artists.

Members of Bleadon Photographic Group strive continually to fulfil these criteria by discussion, workshops and having work appraised by external photographers. So if you feel you would gain something by improving your photography, then why not join a group of like minded people. We meet in the Coronation Hall at 7.30 pm. on the 1st, 2nd, 4th & 5th Tuesday of each month from September to May.

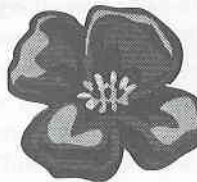
Ken Tapley, AR.P.S. Chairman, Bleadon Photographic Group.

NEAR-RECORD POPPY COLLECTION

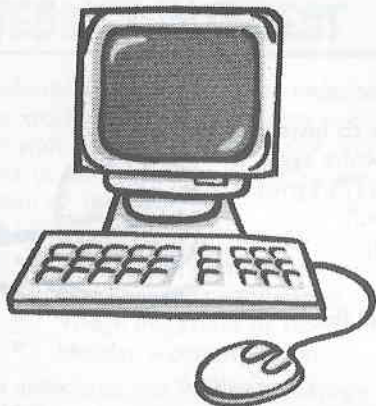
I am delighted to report that despite the weather being much worse this year the Poppy Appeal in Bleadon raised £701.23p, only £10 short of last year's record total.

House-to-house collectors Betty Elliot, Sarah Ripley, Jack Summerfield and Pete Williams all did an excellent job, and the collecting tins at Catherine's Inn, the Church, The Queen's Arms and the Village shop were all well filled. As always, our greatest thanks are due to the public, who gave so generously.

Thank you and well done everyone.



Les Masters



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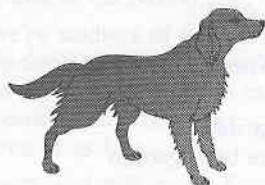
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ALLOW IT TO FOUL THE FOOTPATHS
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RESULTING MESS IS UNSIGHTLY AND
A SOURCE OF INFECTION.**

Dad's Christmas Cake

Ingredients:

Water (50ml).

Flour (bag)

One tsp baking soda. One tsp salt.

White sugar (300gm).

Brown sugar (301gm).

Butter (125gm).

Lemon juice to taste.

Four large white eggs.

Dried fruit (375.5gm).

Nuts (handful).

Vodka (75cl).



Method Take a large bowl and throw in butter and flour,

Turn on mixer and beat butter and flour,

Mix until fluffy.

Sample vodka to check quality. Repeat to confirm.

Take mixed fluffy. Add tablespoon sugar and beat again. Turn off mixer.

Try another sample of vodka.

Break eggs and add to fluffy in bowl. Throw in fruit, pick fruit up off floor. Mix on the turner.

Check on vodka.

Beat mixture in bowl: **Tip** if fruit gets stuck in beaters pry goose with drewscraver.

Confirm consistency of vodka.

Sift salt or something sinister and put inside. Shift the lemon juice and peer over your nuts:

Tip don't forget to beat off the turner. Add table and search for vodka: **Tip** don't confuse with water. Add sugar white or brown who cares.

Greash oven. Burn cake tin 360 degrees (directions wary) and try not to fall over.

Serving suggestion Throw fluffy bowl through window. Finish off remaining vodka.

Kick cat.

Cherry Mistmas!

'INN JOKES' FOR CHRISTMAS

A seasonal spelling adjustment requires certain words to be redefined, as follows:-

Innactive	They're open!
Inntact	'Sorry Mrs - He hasn't been in all day'
Innovation	Somebody's won the raffle.
Innhospitable	Depends on the landlord's mood
Innexpensive	Too much so
Innspector	The ghost of the pub
Innoffensive	Upsets other customers
Innsect.....	Cult of devout regulars
Inntemperance	'No thanks, I'm driving'.
Inncompetent	The beer's OK.
Inncoherent	'I shaid, I'm perfectly shober!'
Inncapable.....	'Who shays so?'
Inncontinent.....	Can hold his liquor
Innstability	Ditto
Inntent.....	Marquee in the beer garden
Inntensity	Lots of marquees in the beer garden
Innadmissible	Old enough to drink
Innhabit.....	Worth acquiring

WEBSITE INTEREST

While reviewing some of the websites I have responsibility for it seemed a good time to take stock of the original village website which I set up in 2001.

The wide spread of 'hits' the site gets indicates a World wide interest in the Village for all sorts of reason and I am able to see exactly what people are looking for via the search option on the home page. Enquiries fall into five distinct categories:

- Family history research
- Walks and ramblers information
- Local business information
- Village magazines or news sheets
- Holiday accommodation

The associated site 'McKay homepage' generates a large number of visits (currently around 40,000), predominantly through the 'New Zealand' and 'MOT' pages. Daniel's travels around the World on his various ships are also popular (he is currently toughing it out in the Bahamas on his way to Barbados aboard the Cunard Seabourn Pride).

From a history point of view, the Village has much to offer. Certainly the archaeological features surrounding us (notably the Bronze Age barrow and field system on South Hill) and the Rev. David Williams collection of prehistoric animal bones (now in Taunton Museum) and of course the Meet the Ancestors project 'Bleaton Man'. We also have the site of the first recorded wind powered water pump from the sixteenth century down on the levels.

Under the guidance of Vince Russet (Somerset County Archaeologist) we are setting up BLERT (Bleaton and Lymsham Research Team) to record the archaeology of the immediate area, so if you see a bunch of people with surveying poles and fifty metre tape measures working around the Village, come and join in! I've done a presentation about all this on the Bert link on www.chert.org.uk website. I've already found seventeenth century pottery and clay pipe stems in the excavations going on behind Purn Farm House

A recent search of the 1800 Bleaton tithe map uncovered another 'pub in the village, called the Ship and Castle, situated in Bridge Road opposite the garage!

The advent of Broadband in the Village gives greater scope for including sound and video files in the websites so if you have old videos of Village activities I would be interested to see them. Any records of the Steam Fairs back in the early eighties would be particularly interesting to include.

Bob McKay

THE BLEATON PLAYERS

Our next production will be the pantomime!

This year we travel north to meet 'The Grand Old Duke of York', written by our favourite author Norman Robbins.

As one of his 10,000 men says:-

"We're soldiers of the Duke of York,

We don't run and we don't walk,

We march up and down the hill,

Because we do not like to KILL!"

Some of us knit

Come and join us in Coronation Hall -York on **Thursday 20th, Friday 21st, and Saturday 22nd January at 7.30pm (and 2.30pm Sat.Matinee).**



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1ST BLEADON BROWNIES



Brown Owl : Bella Ware
24 Bleadon Mill,
Bleadon ,WSM BS24 0BE
TEL: 01934 811545

Tawny Owl: Naomi Dunn
Assistant Leaders: Karen Kelson and Tracey Harrington
Young Leaders: Katie/Danny/Emily

1st Bleadon Brownies returned after the summer holidays with a very full programme of activities. All the Brownies have achieved their agility badge which included a visit from Marie (Monday nights Fitness) who helped them to devise some fitness routines. The World Guider badge has been obtained through learning about Brownies around the world ending in a wonderful and enjoyable Indian night (Dressing up and tried Indian food).

1st Bleadon Brownies always take their community responsibilities seriously. They have attended the Church of St Peter and St Paul on several special occasions the most recent being Remembrance Sunday. A good turnout that morning to lay a wreath showed how much the girls have learned about wars long ago and those going on now.

Harvest festival was well attended with the Brownies joining together with the Sunday Club to inform the congregation about Water Aid. The Brownies had visited Blagdon Lakes the week before and learned about the 3rd World water shortages. The girls had rehearsed their presentation the night before during a Brownie sleepover in our hall. Yes we all camped out for the whole night (the girls slept well after midnight - the leaders didn't!!)

We were also invited to attend a service at St Nicholas's Church, Uphill last month. This was as a thank you for all the Christmas boxes the local community and Uphill and Bleadon Brownie packs had made and filled.

The next service will of course be Christingle followed by the enjoyable tea party and Santa visit. We will see you all there.

1st Bleadon Brownies continues to raise funds by having a stall at the Bleadon market each month. Small cakes and biscuits are made by the Brownies themselves (we try not to compete with Astills and other cake stalls, but our cakes are always sold out!!!!). The Brownies are expected to attend in full uniform which gives them the opportunity to talk to local residents and inform them of what they do. It is as important for them to integrate with the village as raising pack funds.

We have had a few changes to leaders recently. Paula Guess left due to new work commitments but thanks go to Karen Kelson and Tracey Harrington who have committed their time to prevent the pack from folding. Naomi Dunn has taken on the role of Tawny Owl supporting Bella in her Brown Owl duties.

We also have three wonderful young leaders in their early teens who help as much as they can and act as 'big sister' to the girls.

If you know of any other adults who would like to help run the pack we would be pleased to hear from you as we would then be able to increase the places and reduce our waiting list somewhat!. For further details please contact Bella on 811545.

1st Bleadon Brownies wish you Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year for 2005.

		C	C
		L	L
		U	U
CRAB	CRAB	CRAB	SCRABBLE
	L	L	L
	U	U	U
	B	B	B

Spot the deliberate mistake!

If you can (or can't but think you should), you are the sort of person we are looking for. The suspicion is that there quite a number of us 'scrabblers' in Bleadon but for the most part we don't know who the others are. So why don't we get together at the Coronation Hall and play in a sociable atmosphere with drinks and nibbles to hand? If you are interested (or can't spot the mistake) ring me on 811976.

Les Masters.

JANUARY

A ^{SEASONAL}S ^{AFFECTED}A ^{ISORDER}D MONTH

JANUARY 29TH 2005

A ^{ONG}S ^{AND}A ^{ANCE}D OCCASION

WHOOPEE!

Banish those midwinter blues at the Coronation Hall Winter Disco

At ENORMOUS expense we have engaged Steve Powers, a mature understanding D.J. who actually plays what the customers like to dance to. In addition, kindly Uncle Reyn will be running his usual lo-cost bar, so let your hair down and drink and dance the night away! (or at least from 8.00pm - Midnight)

Tickets £5.00p from Les Masters (811976) or the Village Shop.

CORONATION HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT



There is very little new to report this quarter as our programme of improvements for this year has now been completed.

We are awaiting delivery of some new tables for the Jubilee Room and these will be light and easy to stack.

Early in the New Year we intend to enlarge the storage area where the trestle tables and other items are kept. This will entail the removal of a small section of block wall, which at present separates a store for cleaning materials. This will provide a larger floor area, and with the doorway widened it will make it much easier to move the large trestle tables to and from the Hall.

As from January, there will be an increase in hire charges; these have been unchanged for 3 years, but now with a substantial rise in costs for gas and electricity we have no alternative.

Len Chamberlain, Chairman

Memories of Bleadon Village School

Living behind Bridge garage my nearest playmates were members of the Say Family, who went to school - and I couldn't wait to join them.

The big day finally came and dressed in all new clothes - liberty bodice with rubber buttons, navy blue knickers with pocket for hanky, gymslip and white blouse and a bow in my hair ... I was ready!

We had transport! We travelled four on a BIKE - girls on the seat, bar and carrier with Len riding the pedals and what is more we never had an accident!

Arriving at school we found the cloakroom on the right, where we each had our own peg. An archway led into the room on the right and opposite the door was a big window and to the left was our teacher's desk, a blackboard and a round black stove. - We all sat at small tables. My teacher was Mrs Bennett whose husband was a local farmer at Shiplate. Every morning the register was called and we learned any 'news' - had someone had a new baby brother or sister, or who was poorly - that sort of thing. Then it was down to work. We learned our alphabet and how to write it by copying from the blackboard. We all had pencils and if you were lucky you got an indelible one, which made your tongue and lips go purple if you licked it, but no matter how far you stuck out your tongue and squinted ... you could never see it. After our letters we progressed to writing our names and later short words.

Next we copied numbers and recited our tables 'sing-song' fashion (I still remember them) and we learned to add. We also learned about nature and heard stories from the Bible. We played outside games with bean bags and hoops and very morning we were given a free bottle of milk.

Sometimes our teacher would show us her knitting and then one morning she wasn't at school and we heard that she had had a baby girl to be called Mona.. (she later became a Parish Councillor).

Once we were older we moved into the 'big room' and here our teacher was to be Mrs.(Cam) Parker wife the village blacksmith. We now had desks with lift up lids and inkwells, pens and pink blotting paper. We only used these on special occasions and usually ended up with ink everywhere.

Things became more complicated, with spelling, punctuation, taking away, multiplying and dividing, history (I could never remember dates) and geography.

We still did nature study learning about trees and flowers and animals - I remember Mr. Maunsell (Snr) bringing a badger and laying it on a sack in the playground, the first live (DEAD) badger I had seen.

Eventually we 'moved up' to the top class with Mrs Bell, the headmistress as our teacher. Now life was much more complicated, with longer words, grammar, 'big' numbers, long multiplication and division, fractions and decimals, (I never could remember where to put the point!), - and there was more history and geography.

All through school we did tests and exams, but now we had to take our 'I I-plus' - if you passed that you moved to the Grammar School, if not then you moved to St. John's School - both in Weston.

As it was a Church School we had regular visits from the Rector.

We had a yearly visit from a photographer (and I've some photographs to prove it). Then there was the school doctor and the nurse who came from Uphill to check our heads for nits. We also had to visit the dentist, we walked through the churchyard to see him, - into what is now Mrs. Cullen's front room!!

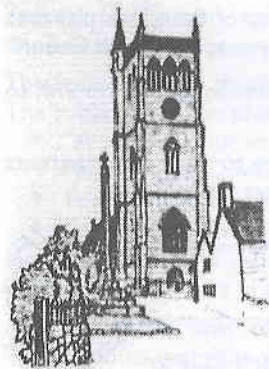
At Christmas time we had to take a brown paper carrier bag to school and we were given oranges by Mr Ruck who then lived at Wonderstone and had plantations abroad. Then I remember 'ludo' and a mirror and various items advertising local shops.

Best of all there was Mr Over who visited us throughout the year. We lined up in School Lane and Mr Over and sometimes Mr Clogg would hand out perhaps an apple, a punnet of strawberries, cherry plums, lettuce - whatever was available.

I don't think we appreciated how lucky we were. I thought everyone had what we did. I have very happy memories of those years and I still use my 'tables' when shopping - so I must have learned something!!

Sylvia Bird

THE CHURCH OF ST.PETER AND ST. PAUL



I am so grateful, as always, for the goodwill that is shown our Church and for all the help that is given by so many residents of Bleadon and Bleadon Hill as we seek to maintain our special place in the community. Very many thanks to those who, although not members of the Church, or who do not worship here regularly, have been so supportive during 2004. Thank you for your interest 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 on Bleadon Hill. If you have been missed, please accept my apologies. As usual the design on the front

of the card is as a result of a competition with, this year the Sunday Club and the Brownies taking part.

All the usual pre-Christmas events will have taken place when you read this but there will be a Crib service especially for children at 5.30pm on Christmas Eve, then at 11.30pm, the Midnight Mass of Christmas. A further opportunity to sing Carols will be at 10.15am on Christmas Day within a simplified service of Holy Communion.

Epiphany, commemorating the Visit of the Wise Men will be celebrated at 10.15am on Sunday January 2nd, with a carol service. Eucharist for The Epiphany will be at 9.30am on Thursday 6th January.

Lent starts early in 2005 and will be preceded by a Pancake Party in the Church Room at 7.30pm on Tuesday 8th February.

Tickets will be on sale nearer the date.

Mothering Sunday is on the 6th March and there will be the usual family Service at 10.15am.

My very best wishes to you all for Christmas and the New Year.

God Bless.

David Parkinson (Rector) Tel: 812297

Bleadon Baby and Toddler Group



We have had a very enjoyable term with lots of new members joining the group. The group has continued to update the toys to cater for both the babies and toddlers. Two new painting and chalking easels were kindly donated and we received a grant for some small tables and chairs.

Each Wednesday morning the group offers a craft activity, a free-play area with large toys, a book and puzzle corner and a baby soft play area with lots of toys. We end each session with everyone joining in well-known songs.

Our recent activities have included raising over £60 for Children In Need and a 'Bring a Relative' morning, where dads and grandparents came along to join in the fun.

Members of the group have appreciated the new fencing and upkeep of the village play area outside the village hall, which is enjoyed by all of our children. Thank you to the Parish Council.

We also have a Health Visitor attending on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month to give parents advice and reassurance.

Please come along and try out the toddler group. It's a great place to meet other parents and for your child to make new friends. New members are always welcome!

BLEADON LADIES CLUB



As the year draws to a close we at the Ladies Club have enjoyed a year of interesting and varied speakers. This year we have also welcomed many new members. There is a really good programme for 2005.

JANUARY 11th

Mr and Mrs Rendal
"Talking about Steep Holm"

FEBUARY 8th

"Television Tales"
By Mr Tim Hooper

MARCH 8th

"The Trans-Siberian Railway"
By Mr Bernard Tapp.

The Committee of the club would like to take this opportunity to wish all members and friends and their families a very Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year. We meet every Second Tuesday of the Month at 2.30pm in Coronation Hall. So why not pay us a visit in the New Year. You will be assured of a very warm welcome. **For more details call Barbara on 814362.**

BLEADON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



The Summer Flower Show is now a distant memory for all those who either took part as exhibitors or who visited through the afternoon to admire the magnificent fruit, flowers vegetables and mouth watering home crafts. Also the ingenuity of the children's exhibits never ceases to amaze me.

Since then we have been privileged to welcome Mr Richard Horswood who talked about alpines. Most of the plants illustrated were grown in his Weston-s-Mare garden (before he moved to Honiton) and this talk was very well received by all who attended.

Paul Gilmore from Sander's Garden World made a welcome return with "Preparing for Christmas" part 2 and has now been booked for November 2005 to give us part 3!

At the time of writing we are busy preparing for our beetle drive and social with American style supper, and after that we look forward to early 2005 when Howard Burnett's talk on Tuesday 18th January at 7.30pm, will be called "Orchids of the World".

On Tuesday 15th February, Dr. George Hargreaves will be talking about "Gardens of Somerset".

The Spring Flower Show will be held on Saturday 19th March.

The subjects for the photographers this year are as follows:-

- "A Sunset" with an ordinary camera.
- "Holiday Snap" with a digital camera.
- For children 6-11yr old - the subject is "An animal or Pet".
- For children 11-15yr.old - the subject is "A Holiday Photograph"

Hopefully schedules should be available from the Church Porch, the Village Shop or from committee members in the New Year.

All meetings are open to anyone at £1 admission.

Thank you to everyone who has supported us throughout the year and we wish everyone a "Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year".

Chris Cudlipp

Weather records for Bleadon Hill

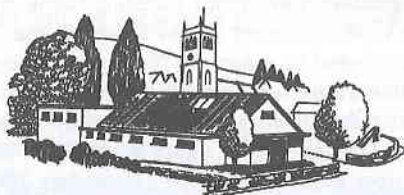
As has been mentioned before in previous editions of the Village News I have been keeping records of precipitation (rain, sleet, snow and hail), in my back garden since we moved up here early in 1981. I measure the rain etc. twice daily, i.e. morning and evening and whenever we are away my kind neighbours become weather watchers for me. A 'rain day' means that at least 0.2mm of rain is recorded in a 24hour period.

One inch = 25.4mm

I am not a forecaster or responsible for the weather, ---- I just record it!!

MONTH	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.
2004 precipitation (mm.)	110.7	54.9	61.6	58.5	30.1	58.6	49.3	115.6	66.2	137.7
Average Precipitation. 1981-2003 (mm)	101.2	65.6	70.7	67.0	67.6	66.3	65.4	76.6	88.0	111.5
2004 dry days	11	14	16	13	20	20	15	14	15	6
Average dry days 1981-2003	13	14	14	15	17	18	19	18	15	13

A LIST OF ORGANISATIONS WHICH REGULARLY USE THE CORONATION HALL



MONDAYS

		CONTACT
2pm-5pm	BLEADON BRIDGE CLUB	Mr D Munden 812772
7-9pm	EXERCISE CLASS**	Mrs Marie Keele 07939 038 071
7:30pm 1st Monday	BRITISH SUGARCRAFT GUILD W-S-M BRANCH	Mrs Pat Bissell 01278 785282
7:30pm 2nd Monday	BLEADON PARISH COUNCIL	Mr Bruce Poole, Clerk 01278 787555

TUESDAYS

2pm-4pm 2nd Tuesday	BLEADON LADIES GROUP	Mrs B Pugh 814362
2.30pm-4.30pm	BLEADON SHORT MAT BOWLING CLUB**	Mr J Ward 812136
1st, 3rd, 4th 6pm-7:30pm	Oct-May BROWNIES**	Mrs B Ware 811545

Bleadon Weightwatchers is closing from end December -
For details of other classes contact:

7:30pm Sept - May 1st, 2nd, 4th & 5th	BLEADON PHOTOGRAPHIC GROUP	Mrs D Neale 416803 Mr K Tapley 623877
7:30pm 3rd Tuesday Oct-May	BLEADON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY	Mr C Cudlipp 813152

WEDNESDAYS

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	Yoga Class	Mrs Denise Marsh 750438
7:30pm	BLEADON PLAYERS/REHEARSALS	Mrs S Kelly 812419

THURSDAYS

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

FRIDAYS

2pm-4pm

BLEADON FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Mrs J Diment 812217

7-00pm Sept - May

SHORT MAT BOWLING CLUB**

Mr J Ward 812136

SUNDAYS

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.

There is a reduced rate for Bleadon villagers.

ENQUIRIES to Mrs J Jones: 812370

WHAT'S ON - IN THE CORONATION HALLS -

MAKE A NOTE IN YOUR DIARY NOW!

Date	Time:	Event:	Contact:
10 th January	7.30 pm	Parish Council Meeting	Parish Clerk 01278 787555
15th January	9 - 1 3.00pm	VILLAGE MARKET PUBLIC MEETING	812370 Parish Council
20/21/22 January	7.30 & 2.30 pm (Sat only)	PANTOMIME!!	Bleadon Players 645135
27th January	7.30 pm	Coronation Quiz	
14th February	7.30 pm	Parish Council Meeting	
19th February	9-1	VILLAGE MARKET	812370
24th February	7.30 pm	Coronation Quiz	
14th March	7.30 pm	Parish Council Meeting	
19th March	2-4 pm	SPRING FLOWER SHOW	813152
24th March	7.30 pm	Coronation Quiz	
26th March	9-1 pm	VILLAGE MARKET	812370
11th April	7.30 pm	Parish Council Meeting	
16th April	9-1 pm	VILLAGE MARKET	812370
28th April	7.30 pm	Coronation Quiz	

Would you like to give an unusual Christmas or Birthday present and donate to charity at the same time? A book entitled 'Tree-Hunting and Walking in North Somerset' fits these criteria.

The cost of the book is £10.00 with all proceeds going to Bristol Children's Hospital. Please ring 01934 510604 to place an order.

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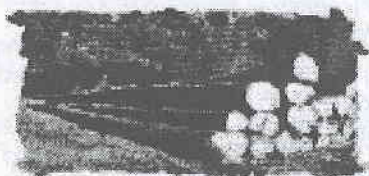
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CONTACT ADDRESSES

EDITOR.....penny.rob@btopenworld.com
PARISH COUNCILwww.bleadonparishcouncil.gov.uk
CHURCHwww.bleadonchurch.info
BLEADONwww.bleadon.org.uk

North Somerset Care Connect

North Somerset Care Connect is a new telephone service for older people and other adults that require information relating to a range of services including statutory, voluntary and private organisations.

The purpose of North Somerset Care Connect is to become the first point of all Social Services Adult Care general enquiries. The team will provide information on a range of services including:

- Referrals to Social Services
- Referrals to organisations within the Supporting People initiatives
- Encourage access to voluntary sector and community organisations
- Security issues for older people
- Community meals
- Carelink
- Basic help and advice for housing enquiries
- Charging enquiries and benefits advice
- Search for Residential and Nursing Homes in the area (including current vacancies)
- Provide information on local transport schemes
- Information and advice on home care
- Information on Day Care
- Advice on home energy conservation
- Complaints, suggestions and compliments
- Recording incidents of general, racial & homophobic abuse

We are open Monday to Thursday between 8.30am and 5.00pm and Fridays 8.30am to 4.30pm

We can be contacted on (01934) 888 801.

Alternative methods of contact are: Minicom: (01275 888 805) Fax: (01275) 888407 or e-mail: care.connect@n-somerset.gov.uk

Bleadon Village Plan event

On Saturday 15 January everyone who lives or works in Bleadon is invited to say how they want Bleadon to evolve in the future.

The start of the preparation of the Bleadon Village Plan begins on **Saturday 15 January at 3pm in the Coronation Hall.**

We hope to explain what a Village Plan is, and why we need a Plan to secure the right future for Bleadon.

You'll have the chance to express your ideas for the village. Tell us about the things that you love and hate in Bleadon and have a bit of fun too. There will be refreshments and the event should last a couple of hours.

If you care about any of the following:

agriculture, allotments, building more houses, burial and memorial grounds, bus services, care of the vulnerable, car parking, children's play, the church, crime, dog fouling, drainage, education, employment, environment, flooding, footpaths, house numbering, housing, jobs, litter, planning and development, policing, post office, the pub, the quarry, recreation, road safety, social events, street lighting, traffic, transport, village shop, wildlife, youth club.....

.....this will be your chance to influence the decision-makers, to let them know what you hold dear and the things that you'd like changed.

Come along and begin to make a difference

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Old Picture Frames
Water Colours
Walking Sticks, Stick Stands
Blue & White Pottery
Silver Photo Frames
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Clarice Cliff Pottery
Ruskin, Moorcroft
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OLD

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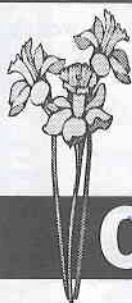
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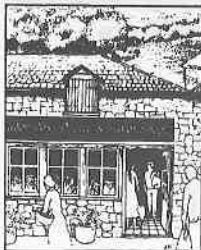
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Bleadon Post Office and Farm Shop

Now that the shop is open we have the chance to speak to you in person, but there are many things still in the pipeline, such as a wider range of fruit and vegetables, a supply of high quality ice cream, local strawberries and clotted cream of course.

And coming soon.... we are applying for an off-licence for wines and beers, which we shall be able to offer within a few weeks if all goes well.

The Post Office paperwork is progressing well, but is sure to be another couple of months, but in the overall scheme of things, I suppose a few more weeks is worth the wait(?).

For those connoisseurs, once the Farm Shop section is open, we shall have more fresh veg, fresh herbs, and, as many have asked, a place to just sit down and relax! We are investigating the idea of a tea/coffee machine and a couple of chairs.

We shall be able to offer local specials, such as a shelf for the brownies to show/sell their home made produce. If you have a surplus of garden produce, we will be happy to sell off any surplus. Although it is early in the life of this project, we hope that we are able to access foods as you require them- if there is anything which you would like to see, just let us know so that we can look into it. We hope that we will soon earn the reputation of stocking those rare items, value and quality.

Many thanks, and keep buying locally...

Alistair and Co.

Bleadon Post Office 01934 815584

PHILIP JAY

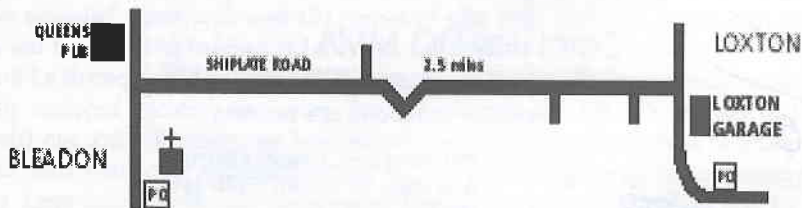
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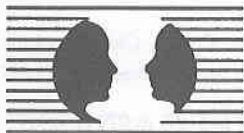
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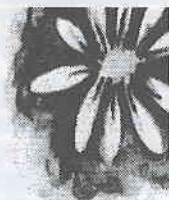
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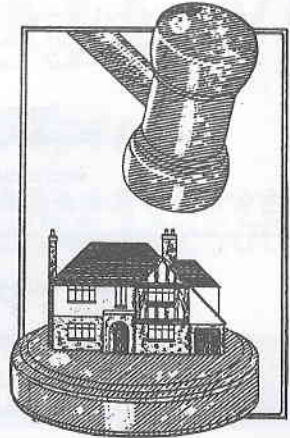
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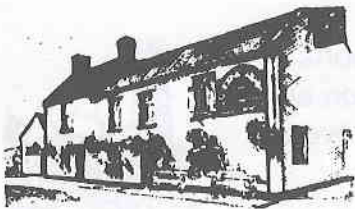


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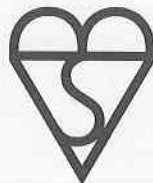


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