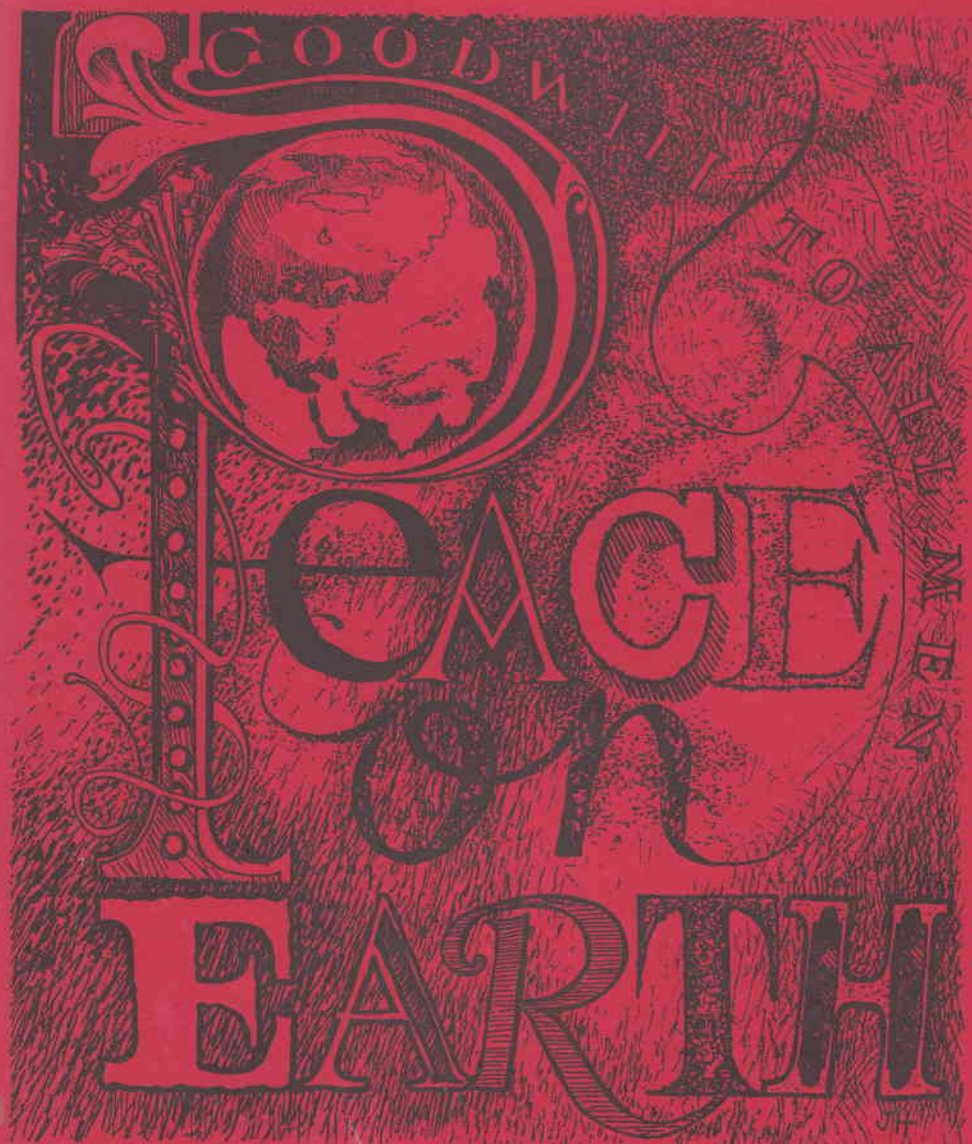


# BLEADON



VILLAGE NEWS 67

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# BLEADON VILLAGE NEWS

No 67

## YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

- PENNY SKELLEY [CHAIRMAN] ..... 'MENDIP CROFT', CELTIC WAY, BLEADON. TEL.815331  
 PENNY ROBINSON [VICE CHAIRMAN] .. I, THE VEALE, SHIPLATE RD BLEADON. TEL. 814142  
 RAY HICKS ..... 'FIDDLER'S VIEW, HILLCOTE BLEADON HILL TEL. 811993  
 MALCOLM PERRY ..... 'WESTFIELD', I THE BARTON, BLEADON. TEL. 813940  
 MARY SHEPPARD ..... 'LITTLEWOOD' BRIDGWATER RD., LYMPSHAM. TEL. 812921  
 KEITH PYKE .....8, WHITEGATE CLOSE, BLEADON. TEL. 813127  
 CLIVE MORRIS .....20, BLEADON MILL, BLEADON. TEL. 811591  
 JUSTIN HARVEY-BENNETT .....THE BEECHES, CELTIC WAY, BLEADON. TEL. 811373  
 ROBERT HOUSE .....LAKE FARM COTTAGES, SHIPLATE ROAD, BLEADON. TEL. 815588

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

BRUCE POOLE, 'THE CHIPPINGS', 21 STONELEIGH CLOSE,  
 BURNHAM-ON-SEA, SOMERSET TA8 3EE  
 TEL, 01278 787555 or e-mail:bruce.poole2@btopenworld.com

**The Council meets on the 2nd Monday of the month at 7.30pm, in the Coronation Hall. An agenda is published on the Parish notice board, and any member of the public who wishes to, may attend these meetings and raise any issue of interest at the end of business.**

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

DATE SENSITIVE MATERIAL AND ADVANCE PUBLICITY SHOULD REACH THE  
 EDITOR WELL IN ADVANCE OF THE EVENT, AS A DEFINITE PUBLISHING DATE  
 CANNOT BE GUARANTEED.

**The deadline for the next issue will be  
 February 18th 2006**

I SHOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL THOSE OF YOU WHO HELP WITH THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE  
 MAGAZINE, AND I DO HOPE THAT I MAY 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 WITHIN THE PARISH OF  
 BLEADON. THOSE LIVING OUTSIDE THE PARISH MAY BE ABLE TO OBTAIN A COPY FROM THE VILLAGE  
 POST OFFICE AND STORES.

**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 BY  
 RINGING 01934 814142 OR BY E-MAIL: penny.rob@btopenworld.com**

**KEEP UP TO DATE WITH THE PARISH COUNCIL NEWS ON  
 www.bleadonparishcouncil.gov.uk**

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## BLEADON

MANY OF THE PHOTOS THAT WERE DISPLAYED IN LAST YEAR'S EXHIBITION HAVE NOW BEEN PUT ON DISC.

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See [www.bleadonparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.bleadonparishcouncil.gov.uk) for more details



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## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

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As we bid farewell to 2005, Bleadon continues with optimism and enthusiasm for the future. The New Year will bring changes, but I wish to assure you that the well being of the community will remain paramount.

The Bleadon Youth Club, with its new leaders and volunteers, has the full support of the Parish Council for the invaluable and worthwhile service which they are providing for our young. Their commitment, plans and forward thinking over the last year, and the changes they have made, are to be commended.

Roman Road fly-tipping has been a major problem, and although the Council is not apportioning blame, we must all value this part of the Mendip Hills. The AONB services look to enhance the 'view point' area at the end of Roman Road by working with the Wild Life Trust and the Council to rebuild a few metres of the dry stone walling. Enhancement of the area will hopefully encourage all users to take better care of our local environment. In addition, difficult planning issues have arisen recently; these have been tackled with vigour by the Council and our part within the overall planning process has been completed.

The Village Plan is approaching fruition and almost within our own tight timetable. In the New Year, the four Action Groups will present the main points from the analysis to the Steering Group. Thereafter, the Steering Group will present the plan to the Parish Council. At this stage, the opportunity will be given for further comment from village residents. By early spring, the Parish Council hopes to adopt the Village Plan and, at the Parish Council Annual Meeting in May, the Plan will be launched.

Finally, may I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a joyful New Year?

*Penny Skelley, Chairman, Parish Council*

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## A WEBSITE FOR BLEADON YOUNG PEOPLE

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We will not only keep you up to date about education matters that affect children in Bleadon, we will also bring you positive stories. A 'What's On' guide for young people in Bleadon, and a comments page where you as a young person of Bleadon can have your say. So please send us your stories and send us your photos of Bleadon and its young people. Let's show everyone what is great about Bleadon and the children of Bleadon on [www.bleadonchildren.co.uk](http://www.bleadonchildren.co.uk)

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## JOAN DIMENT *my FRIEND,*

---

It is with sadness we report the passing of Joan Diment, who lived in Bleadon at Shiplate all her life. Her interests in village life included WI, Folk Club, Bowls Club, Garden Club, Whist Club and Friendship Club. She was also the Poppy Organiser for several years.

Although she enjoyed all these activities, she was happiest in her garden where she regularly hosted summer parties: she was the most hospitable of villagers and will be greatly missed by her family and many friends.

Jean would like to thank Rev. Parkinson for conducting the service, and all who attended, and also everybody who sent letters of sympathy.



**CHRISTMAS CARDS**, with a picture drawn by one of our young people, giving information about special Services in December, should have been delivered to every house in the Parish. If you were missed, we apologise and wish you a very happy Christmas.

Special Christmas Services were also listed in Village News 66 and include The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at 6.30pm on Sunday December 18th, The Crib Service (5.00pm) and Midnight Mass (11.30pm) on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Communion at 10.15am.

The Christmas story continues on January 8th, at 10.15am, in our Family Service for **EPIPHANY** which will take the form of an Epiphany Carol Service as we sing about the Star of Bethlehem and the visit of the Wise Men.. Continuing with the subject of the baby Jesus, the Family Service on Sunday February 5th at 10.15am will have The Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas) as its theme. Candles will be blessed and held by everybody as we celebrate the Light of Christ.

**MOTHERING SUNDAY** in 2006 will be 26th March with a Family Service at 10.15am. As usual, children will be given a gift for their mothers. As in recent years, those of us whose mothers have died will be invited to light candles in their memory.

Our links with other Churches continue to be developed and there will be visiting clergy from St. Andrew's, Bournville (15th January at 10.15am and 19th February at 6.30pm), St. Mary's, Hutton (22nd January at 10.15am) and The Salvation Army (12th February at 10.15am and 19th March at 10.15am).

Finally, **PARENTS** of young children, a reminder that our **SUNDAY CLUB** for children meets on the last Sunday of the month at 10.15am, beginning in Church then going into the Church Room. Children 3 years and above are welcomed. Information from Tracey Harrington (814123) or Chris Bevan (622504).

**Best wishes,**  
**The Rev'd David Parkinson**  
**Rector**

**Tel: 01934 812297 (email: [Dtparkinson@aol.com](mailto:Dtparkinson@aol.com))**

---

## **BLEADON SUNDAY CLUB**

---

Sunday Club meets at Church on the last Sunday of every month. We concentrate on have fun: playing games and working on projects and activities which have a Christian theme.

Last month we started to make a crib scene, which will be used at Church during the Christmas season if it comes up to the high quality expected. We have already made the models and next we will decorate them and make sure no legs or crowns drop off. Keep a look out for our amazing creation if you are coming to Church over the season.

We have lots of exciting plans for next year, too. If you would like to come along and see if you want to join us, meet us at 10.15am at the Church. Our session in the Church Rooms lasts for an hour.

**We'd love to see some new faces!**

# HEARING SERVICES

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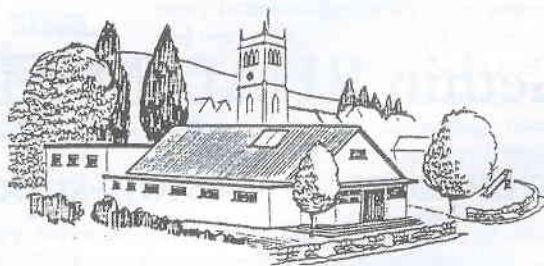
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# THE CORONATION HALL

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At the time of writing, we are awaiting the delivery of 150 new chairs for the Main Hall. In response to many views put forward, these will have padded seats and backs, whilst still being easy to stack.

This upgrading has, of course, more than doubled the price per chair, but we are confident that Hall users will agree that the extra expenditure was justified.

The Main Hall has, in the last few months been re-decorated, and the floor has been sanded and received two coats of stain. I hope that you will all agree that this has greatly enhanced its internal appearance.

Early in the New Year both toilets will be renovated with new wash basins, taps and surfaces.

*Len Chamberlain (Chairman)*

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## STEPS IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

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It is pleasing to note another improvement in the Parish network of footpaths. At the bend in Celtic Way where the old route from Purn to Hutton crosses the road our friend Andy has installed a splendid flight of steps complete with handrail, leading to the field below. This makes the route accessible not only to less athletic walkers but also to dogs of all sizes, making a pleasant short-cut to the Post Office.

*L.M*

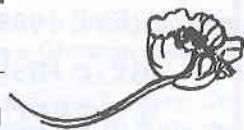
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## NEAR-RECORD POPPY COLLECTION

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For the third year in a row Bleadon's Poppy Collection has topped the £700 mark, totaling £706.57p, a few pounds short of the record set two years ago.

As ever, the public are the main people to thank, but collectors Elizabeth Chappell, Doug Norfolk, Sarah Ripley and Pete Williams did the door knocking, while the church, Catherine's Inn, the Post Office and the Queen's Arms provided static collection points. Long may their efforts continue.



*Les Masters*



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# BLEADON YOUTH

---

Bleadon Youth Club meets every Thursday evening 7pm - 9:30pm. This is for all young people from 11 to 19 years old. This group provides young people of Bleadon and the surrounding areas with a place to meet their friends, make new friends, enjoy a variety of activities and trips and learn new skills. We are a team of friendly youth workers who are trained to support and listen.

There is also a Girls & Young Women's Group which meets every Tuesday evening 7pm - 9pm. Many varied activities and trips. These sessions are run by female youth workers who can guarantee a safe and welcoming atmosphere.

**For further information please contact Weston Youth Centre on 01934 625167.**

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## BLEADON YOUTH CLUB MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

---

Membership of the Youth Club continues to increase and the excellent programme arranged by Anne Fortune continues.

The repairs and restoration work to the building goes on with new window frames and, hopefully by the time this Magazine is published, both inside and outside will have been repainted. External lighting is also being improved.

We continue our plea for parents and other interested adults to serve on the Management Committee. Please discuss this with me.

**Best wishes,**

**The Rev'd David Parkinson,**

**Chairman of the Committee, Tel:01934 812297 (email: Dtparkinson@aol.com)**

### ADVERTISING IN THE VILLAGE NEWS (A5 Page)

Full page.....Village £50.....Non Village £75  
1/2 page.....Village £30.....Non Village £45  
1/3 page.....Village £25.....Non Village £37.50p

THESE RATES ARE FOR 4 INSERTIONS STARTING WITH  
THE JUNE ISSUE. PLEASE CONTACT THE EDITOR FOR FURTHER DETAILS



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# BLEADON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

---

The first of our Autumn/Winter evening sessions saw Maureen and John Hudson from Cannington give a joint presentation on Clematis. Many of the slides were taken of specimens from their own extensive selection of more than 130 cultivars. At the time of writing we are anticipating a large audience for the return of Paul Gilmore from Sander's Garden World with his third presentation of ideas as we "Prepare for Christmas". The December meeting will take the form of a social beetle drive and American style supper.

Looking forward to the New Year our First meeting will be on **Tuesday January 17th** at 7.30pm when Tony Gray from Sander's Garden World will be talking about "Caring for Houseplants".

Our very own Pete Williams is the guest speaker on **Tuesday February 21st** at 7.30pm and his illustrated talk will be entitled "Flowers on Stamps".

The 32nd Annual Spring Flower Show will be held on **Saturday March 18th**.

The photographic classes are as follows:-

- A photograph of trees in the non-digital class.
- A photograph of local interest for the digital photographer.

Schedules should be available early in the New Year.

A peaceful Christmas to all gardeners and a successful growing season in 2006.

**Chris Cudlipp**



**SUE JAMES BSc(Hons) Dip.Couns. Dip.Org.Couns.**

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**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.  
BE A GOOD CITIZEN AND CARRY A POOP-SCOOP OR A  
PLASTIC BAG AND TAKE THE MESS HOME.  
PLEASE DON'T LEAVE IT FOR OTHERS TO CLEAN UP.**

# BLEADON BEAT



A local resident, living in sheltered accommodation within the village, has recently had a male walk into her home via the unlocked rear door. The lady was not harmed in any way and no offences appear to have been committed, however the man has not been identified therefore his reasons for calling on the lady are unclear. This is a timely reminder to keep doors locked and to call the Police immediately if you have any worries about unknown callers.

If you have any concerns about security or other issues then please call me on 638123 or visit me at one of the surgeries held at the Church Room.

*Pc 2307 Adrian Woolcott*



## BLEADON PLAYERS STOP PRESS!

***The date of our Pantomime, "Puss in Boots " has changed!***

Tickets are available from  
**Bleadon Post Office from 1st December.**

You cannot afford to miss this "purrfect" Puss, Peter the Miller's Son, Caspar and Hector the Miller's other two Sons, Gruesome the Villain, Princess Miranda, Freckles the Page and - oh yes! - Queen Fanny V of Bleadon, plus a cast of thousands!

**Coronation Hall, 12th, 13th, 14th January, 2006 at 7.30 p.m.**

**Saturday Matinee, 2.30 p.m.**

***Oh No! Not Another Friday the 13th***

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# BLEADON SHORT MAT BOWLING CLUB

---

This new season has seen major changes for the club. Founder members, John and Doreen Ward, who have been chairman and secretary for the last sixteen years, have retired from their committee posts. Arthur Greaves has also given up the duties of treasurer. All three were presented with tokens of appreciation for the outstanding service they have given to the club.

We are fortunate to have found enthusiastic successors in Joyce Tiney who has taken over as secretary and Peter Williams has taken the treasurer's job.

This is also the first year we have entered two teams in the league. The demands of the league raise the standard of most players and we are already noticing an improvement in the level of play in our social games.

We are always keen to welcome new members, experienced or complete novices, for bowling either competitive or fun. We provide the bowls to get you started just bring a pair of slippers and enjoy a gentle introduction to our friendly game. Our meeting times are shown elsewhere in the magazine

This will be the last edition of the Bleadon Village News before Christmas, so on behalf of the club members I wish you all a **MERRY CHRISTMAS** and please come along to see us in order that we can wish you a **PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR** personally.

*Fred James, Chairman*

---

## Bleadon Ladies Club

---

As we approach the end of another year we can look back over 2005 and remember some very happy hours spent at the Ladies club. We have had some wonderful speakers and a very enjoyable Annual outing. The club has had a very successful year and welcomed many new members.

The program for 2006 is just as interesting starting with a talk in January by The Coastguards, followed in February by a talk about Tyntesfield, the National Trust Property.

The Committee would like to wish all our members and families a very Happy Christmas and a good New Year.

Why not make a New Year's resolution to come along to the club where you will be made very welcome.



**For more information call Barbara on 814362**

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# CONTACTUS REPORT --- NOVEMBER, 2005

---

At the time of writing our last report we were looking forward to entertaining, the newcomers to our village to our annual "Welcome Party" to meet fellow newcomers as well as representatives of our village organizations. That gathering, on 27th. April took the form of a "Wine and Cheese Party" which was well attended both by new residents and invited representatives who between them gave a clear and detailed picture of our village activities. We are very pleased to note that many of our newcomers have joined one or more of our clubs and societies and are playing an active part in village life.

Since the inception of "Contactus" we have sadly lost over half of our original committee members through ill health, death or movement away from our village. So far we have had three or four excellent new recruits, but we could do with another four in order to carry out visiting in all areas of the parish. In addition it would be most helpful if people in all parts, both in the village and on the hill, would give us a ring to let us know that someone new to the village had moved in close to you. To the two or three. friends who do this we express our sincere thanks; but in these days with "Sale" signs going up and down frequently and rarely being followed by "Sold" signs, it is difficult for those of us who do not live nearby to keep close tabs on this movement. If you would be willing to help in either of the above respects then please be kind enough to ring Mary or Philip Ashley (Tel. 812667) or me, John Thomlinson, (812436).

Although this "Welcoming" activity now seems to have become. our main function, we would remind you that if you have a problem that is outside the remit of social or medical services we would be willing to give whatever help lies within our competence.

We wish you all a peaceful and joyous Christmas -

*John*

---

## FRIENDS OF BLEADON CHURCH

---

If you missed our last two events you certainly missed a treat. **The Liantrisant Male Choir** sang in the Church on 24th September as part of the Weston arts Festival. They performed to a very enthusiastic audience and their soloists got a standing ovation. We followed this on 29th October with the **New Society Jazz Band** led by Bob Reynolds. If you like jazz you would have had a wonderful evening.

Look out for posters advertising all our events on the Village Notice Board and in our notes in the Church and Village magazines. Tickets for all our events are available from **Friends of Bleadon Church** on 813636 and in most instances from the **Village Shop**. As the Christmas period approaches we are now looking to 2006. Our usual perennials (Pancake Party, May Day Fare, etc.) are already in place but we do welcome any new ideas for our constant need for fund raising.

Finally I would like to say a very sincere **Thank You** to everyone who has given us their support over the past year and we hope that 2006 will fruitful as 2005.

I, and everyone on the Friends Committee, would like to wish you all a Very Happy Christmas and a Safe and Blessed New Year.

**Brian Drinkwater. Tel:01934 813636 email: [bleadonchurch@aol.com](mailto:bleadonchurch@aol.com)**

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# EXPAND YOUR WORLD THROUGH PHOTOGRAPHY

---



All most all of us these days, possess a camera of one sort or another. In recent years the trend has been towards digital and I guess 80% of all cameras are used for social recording. That is picture of family events such as birthdays, days out, Christmas gatherings, Weddings and christenings. And did you know that 85% of all pictures taken never get printed and that 70% -75% of those printed are looked at once, put away and never seen again. But photography is more than a means of recording social history, important though it is, it is an art form and a means of looking at the world in a totally different way. To give an obvious example. How many of us are overawed by a spectacular sunset and it is the colour and quality of light that inspire our emotions, yet we never give a thought to the fact that the same light and colour is all around us most of the time. I have been a photographer for the past 60 odd years and I look at things in a very different way because of it. I see sunlight passing through high clouds and falling onto a landscape and producing a dapple effect or rain falling and forming globules of water on a beautiful flower. I see a difference in the quality of sunlight during a hot period when the air is full of dust particles compared with that same sunlight after rain and wind when our vision is less impaired due to the absence of dust in the atmosphere. Subjects are then clearer and more defined as a result. I see the effect of sunlight falling from different angles onto a subject. Front lighting will give a flat effect, side lighting will produce more defined texture and back lighting will bring about a halo around the subject. Yet how many people using a camera actually see and use the prevailing lighting conditions to their advantage and so improve the ultimate image. You don't have to be an artist or photographer to appreciate these things, you need to look at the world around us in a different way and admire and enjoy the elements which go to make the whole. Too many things in life are taken for granted but nature is an ever changing phenomenon that should never be brushed aside. When next you are out for a walk, try looking at things in this different way and then apply it to your photography and you will not only improve the images you produce but you will expand your understanding and appreciation of our world. So I recommend you "Expand your World through Photography"

*Ken Tapley A.R.P.S., Chairman. Bleadon Photographic Group.*

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## November 4th - what a lovely time we had

---

Thanks must go to the Catherine's Inn for providing a wonderful evening of entertainment on 4th November.

Hundreds of us crowded the pub and its garden to watch a spectacular free firework display and bonfire. Despite the rain we all had a wonderful time. It was nice to see lots of villagers enjoying the opportunity to get together. Cheery children's faces were soon smeared with ketchup from the BBQ burgers and hot dogs.

As if that wasn't enough, we then enjoyed an evening with Elvis!

More again next year please Catherine's Inn.

But NO THANKS to the anti-social dog walker who failed to clean up after their pet fouled in Bleadon Road. Arriving home with stinking shoes and trousers spoiled an otherwise lovely evening.

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# POST OFFICES OLD AND NEW

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Having run the old Bleadon Post Office for thirteen years I fully endorse everything Ray Hicks wrote about the new one (Village News 66). Alistair deserves all our thanks for providing the idea, the premises, and crucially, the finance. The best ideas in the world are no use without the money to back them.

None of this would have happened, however without the cooperation of that much criticised organisation 'The Post Office'. They invested significant money setting up the new office (having already spent a fair amount clearing out the old one). On a hard-nosed, strictly commercial basis they would have concluded that after a gap of sixteen months all the post office business would have been taken up by other offices so there was no need for any action. Instead, they stuck to their policy of supporting rural communities, just as they did at Lymphsham in the late nineties.

Let us all remember that and be grateful.

L.M.

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## Progress with the Parish Plan

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Thanks go first to Andy Hickson's team of volunteers who distributed and collected the big Questionnaire in September. Over 450 questionnaires were distributed to households and businesses in the parish. From Canada Combe to Accommodation Road, residents throughout our parish were urged to complete the questionnaire and give their views on how they want the village and its environs to develop.

Second thanks go to all of you who completed the 56-page questionnaire. To-date 280 completed questionnaires have been collected or returned. If you still have your questionnaire it's not too late to participate in this largest ever census of opinion on the future of our parish. Simply drop your questionnaire into the Bleadon Village Shop. Or maybe complete it over a cup of cappuccino at Tiffins!

The completed questionnaires are being analysed by Vision ICT in Exeter. This secures the anonymity of people's responses. It also means that the database of answers being created can provide the three Action Groups and the Steering Committee with sound information for developing a parish plan.

We hope to have the data back from Exeter before Christmas. This will be passed to the three Action Groups for them to formulate their draft ideas on the future of the parish. These ideas will become the basis of the Draft Parish Plan.

In February we hope to present these Draft ideas to the residents of the parish. We expect to hold another meeting in the Coronation Hall and perhaps hold some workshops to look at particular themes. This will be your opportunity to express your views and contribute further to the Parish Plan. In May the finished Plan will be published and made available to all.

**Keith Pyke - on behalf of the Bleadon Parish Plan Steering Committee.**



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# **Fresh lease of life for Bleadon Youth Club**

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Thanks to the efforts of the new leadership we have seen a remarkable transformation in Bleadon's youth club. Thursday nights regularly attract over 20 local young people. This is a five-fold increase over the past year. Overall membership now exceeds 40 made up of around 40% boys and 60% girls.

## **Quality leadership**

Clearly, the leaders are doing something right to attract such enthusiastic support from our youngsters. Anne Fortune and Stephen Down are the permanent members of the youth work team. Stephen's energy and enthusiasm has been key in the support of Anne's experience and creative skills. Sara Matty has been enhancing the work of the team since April. With so many youngsters now attending the club the team will need the support of additional skilled leaders over the coming months. Let's hope that North Somerset Council continues to provide that support.

## **Girls and Young Women's Group**

Sara and Anne ran a special project for girls and young women over the summer holiday. Working within a themed curriculum specifically covering "Be healthy" and "Stay safe". There were activities and workshops to explore wellbeing, exercise and sport. North Somerset Council were so impressed with the achievements of the Group's six week summer project that they have agreed funding for a further six months. The Tuesday evening sessions run exclusively for girls and young women and are proving to be very popular.

## **Improvements to the building**

The Youth Club Management Team is determined to support this new-found enthusiasm at the youth club in every way. We have poured considerable resources into physical improvements to the building. You may have noticed the new UPVC windows and kitchen door. Kim and Malcolm Herival have worked really hard with other family members to fit a brand new kitchen.

Soon you will see additional exterior lighting to brighten the car park. The fascias, bargeboards and gutters are being replaced.

We are grateful to the Community and Probation Service who are helping us to decorate the club inside and out. So look out soon for a much brighter and more welcoming youth club.

## **You can help too**

If you would like to help the young people of our village, you will be very welcome to join the management committee. Simply contact Rev. David Parkinson Tel: 812297. We need all the help we can get, and you can make a difference.

***Keith Pyke - on behalf of the Bleadon Youth Club Management Committee***

## SYLVIA REMEMBERS WHEN .....

The only drinking water available to the Villagers came from the many wells and was obtained either by pump or a bucket on a rope. There were bucket toilets and septic tanks but when in the 1950's main drainage and water came to Bleadon, better utilities meant more houses and life changed forever.

In those pre-war days there were many businesses in Bleadon; as well as the village Post Office run by Mr Carter, there were two other grocery shops managed by Mrs Luscombe and Mrs Francis and ironmongery run by Mr Vinson, and there was another shop at Hillcote on Bleadon Hill. The postman Mr Ling delivered mail twice a day on his bike and there were regular deliveries of milk and bread from 'Birds Bakery' of Winscombe; several butchers delivered meat in the area and wet fish was supplied by Mr Dommet. There was a village policeman, who knew everyone by name, an insurance man collected his payments weekly on his bike and there was even a village undertaker by the name of Edwin Gilson. We have heard previously that there was also a blacksmith, so the farming community of Bleadon was well served by its trade's people. Of course we already know about the thriving school which looked after the educational needs of the children until they were eleven years old.

The souls of Bleadon were also well catered for, as well as the Church of St Peter and St Paul there was a Methodist Chapel which was run by the Misses Poole and Taylor, and John Bathe was in charge of the Mission.

Another vital enterprise was the Quarry, owned by the Young family; this was a valuable source of local stone, and is now the site of Marshall's concrete works. (We shall talk of the quarry at length in a forthcoming issue).

Alas now most of these old businesses are gone ... but we do have a new Post Office and farm shop. Hopefully it will thrive.

We used to walk a lot ... sometimes as far as the Station where we could get on a train to Weston; then Burn ells' Motors started to run their brown and cream coaches and later the Bristol Tramways provided bus services through the Village, the number 42 via Bleadon Hill to Burnham -on -Sea, the 91 to Brean, the 151 to Bridgwater via Bleadon Road and Bridge Road and the 94 via Bleadon Road and Shiplate Road to Glastonbury. All the buses had conductors and the fare was 6d for adults and 3d for children.

What we have now is the number 83 a heavily subsidised service that doesn't run evenings!

Even the pubs have changed, the Queen's Arms and the Anchor Inn are still in existence but the 'Victoria' has ceased to exist in Bridge Road, now in addition however we do have the 'Catherines' ... a 'Hungry Horse' where once there was a farm!

The Parish Room was enlarged and became the Coronation Hall, but the skittle alley which was behind is no more; now we have a Jubilee Room, a youth Club, a playground and a church room... all valuable village amenities.

There were many thriving farms and smallholdings many of which have been sold, amalgamated and/or developed. but the old family names such as Vowles, Wall, Amesbury, Boone, House, Poole, and Diment still come to mind and it is interesting to think of the connections through marriage - Caple/Banwell/Scotchmer/Tucker/Richards/ Purcell - then Wall/ Boley/Day/Hart/Gilson. *NIPPERS ALSO, THREE GENERATIONS*

The Village pump is still here as is the Cross by the Church. .... But the windmill is long gone.

What will the next 50years bring?

*Sylvia Bird*

# Bleadon Post Office and Country Stores Tiffin Coffee House

We have just completed our first 6 months in the new shop and café, and we are very glad to have received so many lovely comments- thank you all for those. We are now concentrating on widening our appeal in a few other directions. We are now stocking many more interesting lines and are now open 8-4.00 on Saturdays. If you have any favourite items which we haven't yet got in, do ask Andrew to see if we can find a supplier! 01934 815584

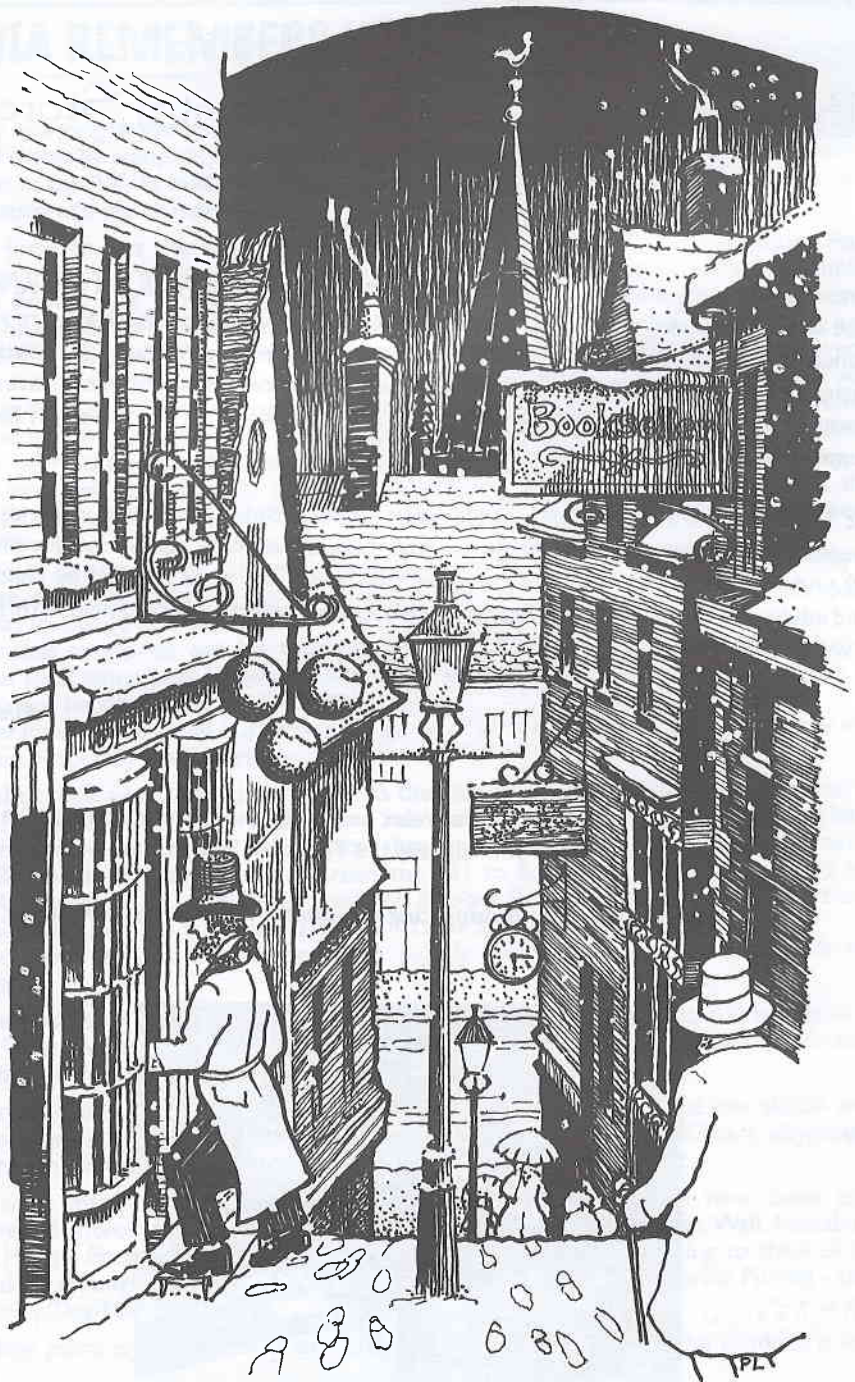
At Tiffin's we have just begun to hold small Craft birthday parties for children, on weekdays after school. For example we have hosted jewellery parties for around 6-10 under 10's and with wholesome party food which has been enjoyed by children and adults alike. In fact if you have any special occasion which we could help with, have a word with Mandy. 01934 815582

**Alistair**

For Breakfast, Lunch & Tea - Come, relax and enjoy the friendly atmosphere and don't forget you can use the PC at the same time.

***Thank you for your continuing custom, please keep buying locally.***





Pausing his climb as he reached the pawnshop

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## FESTIVE FUSILIER - A Short Story

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Miss Markham brought the small stiff envelope to his desk exactly five minutes before leaving. Edward counted the coins carefully into his purse, seven shillings and tenpence, his visit to Mr George on the way home would take three shillings of that. It was Christmas Eve and Edward didn't relish the season; nothing made you miss money more than Christmas. Theirs a genteel poverty to be sure but poverty none the less; his clerk's wage just enough to support them but relying on sister Fanny's meagre earnings as a seamstress to buy the extras holidays demanded. Yesterday she had admitted how she'd afforded this year's weekly thruppance for the 'goose club'. It meant a decent dinner for tomorrow with a bottle of sherry and some chestnuts, but even so, bringing her down to this shamed him. Since elder brother Samuel had gone to the Crimea, there'd been no family to share Christmas with. He had died of cholera that first bleak winter of the war. That news had come at Christmas, admittedly with a kind letter of sympathy from a comrade, and Sam's medals now hung proudly in their humble parlour. Christmas for them would be a sad quiet affair and after the service at St Michaels, she and he would spend the day alone.

"Goodnight. Merry Christmas!" He called.

Miss Markham looked up with a brief glance at the clock, sniffing disapprovingly. "Another paid holiday, be the ruin of us," she muttered.

Edward thought the stories of Mr Dickens, lately doing much to promote the festival, conveyed more the romance of Christmas past than the reality of Christmas present but outside a Dickensian world greeted him. Stretched awnings and bright-lit windows backed the thronged pavements of Wine Street. Shop doorways bustled, bedecked with seasonal greenery, the aroma of pastry and pudding, the sniff of sweet and spice enlivening the sharp evening air. People cloaked and coated against the chill spilled into the carriageway, the cobbles busy with handcarts, horse buses and tradesmen's vans. Stout drivers muffled, whips aloft as they noisily urged steaming horses through the clattering crush. At the crossroads ragged crossing sweepers darted back and forth amid the melee, capped newsboys called on corners and beneath Dutch House balcony, a trio of well-dressed but poorly rehearsed musicians brassily rendered carols. Turning he threaded his way down Broad Street, a 'West End' atmosphere created by uniformed and evening dressed comings and goings from carriages outside the Grand Hotel. Head down and clutching his hat against the funnelled snow-flecked wind he obtained brief shelter passing through St Johns Gate then by Christmas Street to Christmas Steps. Smiling his way through the gathering outside the Sugar Loaves, cloth-capped-and-scarved here, he began the climb and pausing only when he reached the pawnshop.

The door jangled open, a flurry of flakes attending his entry.

Mr George looked up and seeing Edward smiled. "All ready for you," he pushed a neatly tied packet beneath the grill, "gave it a polish this afternoon."

Edward paid three shillings and redeemed the silver thimble - Fanny's thimble and once their Mother's. The need for his sister to pawn it grieved him but tomorrow he'd restore it to her.

The snow was gathering in gutters and misting the roadways as he continued his journey upwards and homeward to the villas of Redland. Passing a group of itinerant children singing their few verses from door to door, he paused, fumbling at his purse to give them a coin. In the streetlamps glimmer, light from their parlour splashed a surprising bright yellow oblong across the pavement, surprising that it shone at all. The garden gate creaked familiarly and before he could reach the step, the front door abruptly opened. Fanny stood in the hallway silhouetted against the flickering gas lamp.

"Edward my dear" she said, "we've a visitor."

Excitedly she helped remove his coat, brushing snowflakes from his beard as she ushered him into the parlour's unaccustomed warmth.

"Edward. This is Captain Ainslee of the Royal British Fusiliers. Remember? Sam's friend from the Crimea."

A tall figure had risen easily from the settee, smiling, thrusting a bronzed hand in greeting. Golden epaulettes graced broad shoulders, crimson jacket slashed with white strappings and carrying cuffs of royal blue.

"Your servant Sir," said the Captain bowing his head, "and most honoured to meet Samuel's brother."

"Captain Ainslee's come from Liverpool after a voyage from the West Indies," gushed Fanny.

"But why? Samuel? A common soldier," asked Edward.

"We were both such in the Crimea," replied the Captain, "there's the pity". He gestured toward Sam's medals, "If I'd been an Officer at Inkerman a Victoria Cross would be hanging there."

Fanny busied herself with refreshments, embarrassed at the plainness of the fare, whilst the good Captain reached a bottle of Madeira from his valise. In the warm cosy parlour, he explained to them the circumstances of Samuel's action. The battle of Inkerman was a fierce hand-to-hand 'soldiers' battle fought in a fog and consequently many brave actions had been hidden and unrewarded. Even so eighteen VCs were won that day in November 1854. Samuel had undoubtedly saved Fusilier Ainslee's life but lacking authoritative witness the deed had not been honoured, until now. Following Samuel's cruel death, he had written them offering his condolences.

"Most inadequately I'm afraid," he said shamefaced, but he'd remained determined to meet and thank Samuel's relatives. With the war's end the Regiment had sailed to Malta for garrison duties then on to Barbados and only this week was returned. Ainslee had won a lottery whilst in Malta, purchased a commission and invested the remainder in the Demerara sugar plantations. He was now a rich man.

Drawing a bulky purse from the bag, he passed it to Edward. "A belated token of my appreciation.

If you'd permit me Sir," he continued, "and you Miss Harris," smiling at Fanny, "I'd esteem the privilege of your company tomorrow evening at the Grand Hotel in Broad Street for a celebration dinner."

They raised their glasses in a Christmas toast to the memory and courage of Fusilier Samuel Harris.

The end.



# Bleadon Ranger

Average 10 hours per week

£7 per hour

We are looking for a fit community-minded person to maintain Bleadon's open spaces and leisure areas, with future responsibility for enforcing local bye-laws.

The parks, open spaces and community facilities of Bleadon have a significant role in the quality of life for local people and visitors. The Ranger will provide a new high profile service throughout the parish.

## **The successful applicant will have:**

- A practical approach to getting things done
- Excellent customer care and communication skills
- General maintenance and handy-work skills
- Experience of grounds maintenance
- Flexibility to meet the changing needs of the community
- Willingness to learn and develop appropriate knowledge and skills

## **The regular work will include:**

- Maintaining cleanliness of Bleadon's open spaces
- Regular inspections and safety checks of council assets and equipment
- Maintaining the council's assets and equipment
- Parish planting and maintenance
- Being a highly visible point of contact for residents
- Dealing with anti-social behaviour and enforcement of bye-laws
- Helping with local events and community activities
- Liaising with the council's contractors

## ***For more information and an application form please contact:***

Bruce Poole  
Bleadon Parish Council  
The Chippings  
21 Stoneleigh Close  
Burnham-on-Sea  
Somerset TA8 2EE

**Tel: 01278 787 555**

**Email: [bruce.poole2@btopenworld.com](mailto:bruce.poole2@btopenworld.com)**

**[www.bleadonparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.bleadonparishcouncil.gov.uk)**

# A LIST OF ORGANISATIONS WHICH REGULARLY USE THE CORONATION HALLS



## **Mondays**

		<b>Contact</b>	
2-5pm	Bleadon Bridge Club	Mr D Munden	812772
7-9pm	Exercise Class **	Mrs M Keele	07939 038 071
7.30pm	British Sugarcraft Guild	Mrs R Heath	627163
1st Monday	W.S.M. Branch		
7.30pm	Bleadon Parish Council	Mr B Poole, Clerk	01278 787555
2nd Monday			

## **Tuesdays**

2-4pm	Bleadon Ladies Group	Mrs B Pugh	814362
2nd Tuesday			
2.30-4.30pm	Bleadon Short Mat Bowling Club**	Mrs J Tiney	813893
1st,3rd,4th Oct-June			
6-7.30 pm	Brownies**	Mrs B Ware	811545
7.30 pm	Bleadon Photographic Group	Mr K Tapley	623877
1st,2nd,4th,5th Sept-May			
7.30 pm	Bleadon Horticultural Society	Mr C Cudlipp	813152
3rd - Oct-June			

## **Wednesdays**

10am-noon	Infant Welfare Clinic	The Health Visitor at the Clinic	
2nd & 4th	& Toddler Group		
10am-noon	Toddler Group	Mrs E Knight	625089
1st,3rd & 5th			
1.30pm	Yoga Class	Mrs D Marsh	750438
7.30pm	Bleadon Players/Rehearsals	Mrs S Kelly	645135
7.30pm	Come Dancing	Mr L Masters	811976
except school holidays			

## **Thursdays**

10-12 noon	Art:Watercolour painting class**	Weston College	01275 810659
8.00pm	Bleadon Folk Dancing Group	Mrs J Thorne	814007
1st & 3rd Thurs Sept-June			
7.30pm	Bleadon Sugarcraft Club	Mrs P Webb	01278 684484
4th Thursday			

## **Fridays**

2-4pm	Bleadon Friendship Club		
7.00pm	Short Mat Bowling Club**	Mrs J Tiney	813893
Sept-May			

## **Sundays**

2.30	Short Mat Bowling Club**	Mrs J Tiney	813893
Sept-May			

\*\*in the Jubilee Room - The Halls are available for hire by private individuals or organisations.

**There is a reduced rate for Bleadon residents. ENQUIRIES: 812370**



Betty and Ann serving refreshments at the Village Market.

The Brownies help too!



## WHAT'S ON - IN THE CORONATION HALLS -

MAKE A NOTE IN YOUR DIARY NOW!

Date	Time:	Event:	Organisation/Contact:
12th, 13th & 14th January		PANTOMIME! **Puss in Boots**	Bleadon Players 645135
21st January	9-12.30	VILLAGE MARKET	812370
28th January	7.30	CORONATION HALL DISCO	811976
18th February	9-12.30	VILLAGE MARKET	812370
18th March		SPRING FLOWER SHOW	Horticultural Society 813152
25th March	9-12.30	VILLAGE MARKET	812370
8th April	10-noon	COFFEE MORNING	Friendship Club
15th April	7.30	CORONATION HALL DISCO	811976
1st May		MAY FAYRE	Bleadon P.C.C.

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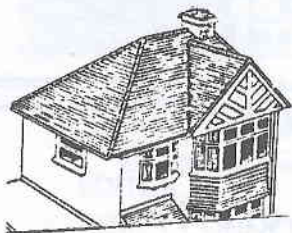
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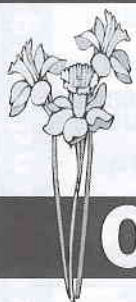
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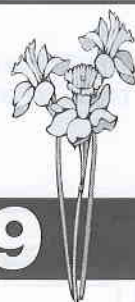
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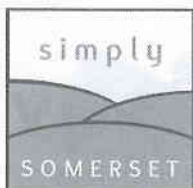
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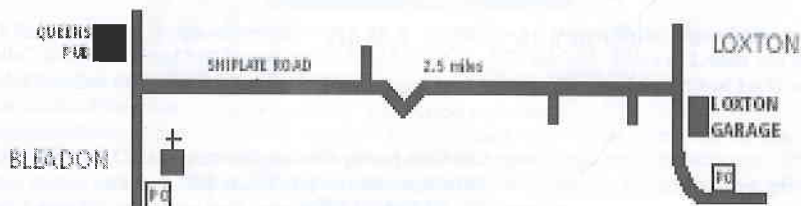
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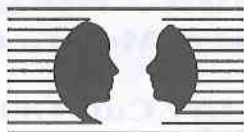
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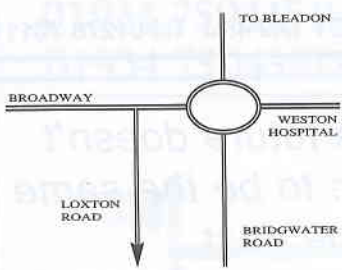
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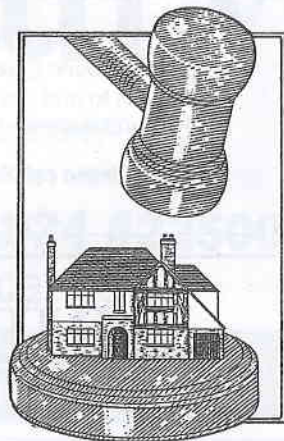
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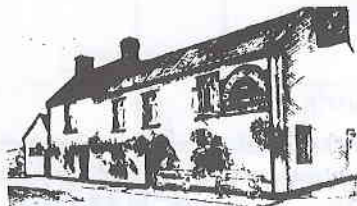
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