

# BLEADON



VILLAGE NEWS 68

# Bleadon Village Monthly Market

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April 15th, May 20th & June 17th

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QUALITY  
PARISH  
COUNCIL

# BLEADON VILLAGE NEWS

No 68

## YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

PENNY SKELLEY [CHAIRMAN] ..... 'MENDIP CROFT', CELTIC WAY, BLEADON. TEL.815331  
 PENNY ROBINSON [VICE CHAIRMAN] ..1, THE VEALE, SHIPLATE RD BLEADON. TEL. 814142  
 RAY HICKS ..... 'FIDDLER'S VIEW, HILLCOTE BLEADON HILL TEL. 811993  
 MALCOLM PERRY ..... 'WESTFIELD', 1 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  
 May 20th 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](http://www.bleadonparishcouncil.gov.uk)**

# Houndsounds Karaoke

**Karaoke**

**Discos**

**Parties (inc.children's)**

**Quizzes**



**For a fun event contact George - your local presenter.**

**Tel: 01934 814232**

**Mobile: 0785 132 8596**

**e-mail: [enigmasounds@aol.com](mailto:enigmasounds@aol.com).**

## BEFORE BLEADON

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

THESE DISCS MAY BE ORDERED FROM PENNY ROBINSON TEL: 01934 814142

A CD-ROM (for PCs only, not Mac) ..... £5.00p

A DVD (plays on most DVD players) ..... £8.50p

A PROPORTION OF THE PROFITS FROM THE SALE OF THESE DISCS WILL BE DONATED TO THE CORONATION HALL FUND.

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



### Lympsham Pre-School mission statement.

**To prepare children for school life; academically and socially in an environment that allows children to grow in confidence and ability. Dealing with the whole child and creating a safe and warm atmosphere.**

- ❖ Opened in 1992
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- ❖ Government funded for over 3's
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- ❖ Warm and welcoming environment
- ❖ Holiday club available during school holidays 9am-5.15pm
- ❖ We accept children for between one and five sessions per week

Our Ofsted inspection report of 2004 said "The children are confident to try new experiences showing a positive approach to their learning. They show curiosity and are excellent at exploring the wealth of relevant and stimulating activities that are provided for them."

**Please contact us to arrange your free trial morning!**

Contact Deborah Smith supervisor for more details and a prospectus on 07743 188865 or email: [debra@hemingwaycorp.com](mailto:debra@hemingwaycorp.com) . Alternatively leave a message on 01934 812131.

Manor Hall, Rectory Way, Lympsham, Somerset, BS24 0EW Registered Charity No. 1024967

**What's the Parish Council  
up to now then?**

What do they spend  
our money on?

Why don't they..?

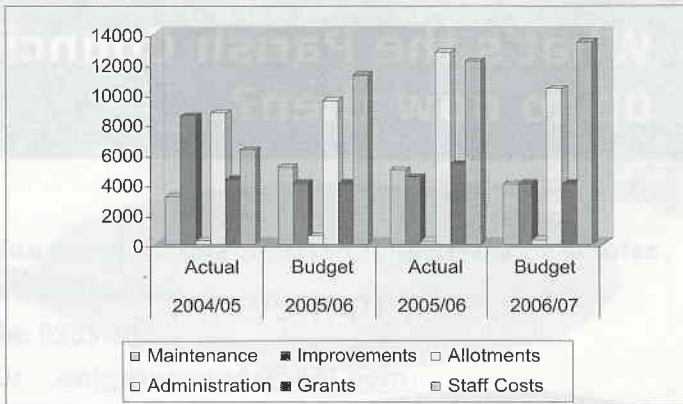
**Find out**  
**Monday 10 April**

at 7.30pm in Coronation Hall

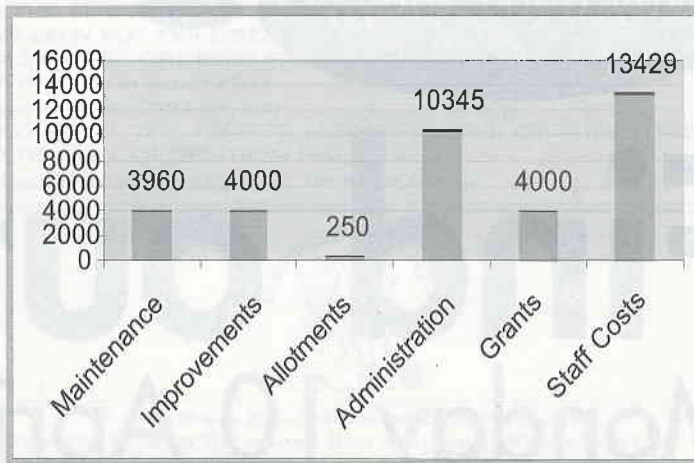
**Bleaddon**

Annual Parish Council Meeting

## The Precept



Gross requirements for 2006/07 is £35,984



PRECEPT 2006/07 £33,720

This represents an increase over last year of just **2.9%**  
i.e the rate of inflation!!!

- How much is it going to cost a D Band House in the Village?

**£69:99** pa

- What does that mean to an average household per week?

**£1:35** total contribution

- An increase of just 5 pence per week

# CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This report will hopefully not read to be too gloomy, grey or wintry. The primary New Year resolution of the Parish Council remains the well being of our community. The Precept is set to rise only with inflation and, with careful budgeting, our plans for improvements will continue. Where and how the money is spent will be laid out at the Annual Parish Meeting on 10th April 2006, and the initial outcome of the Village Plan will also be unveiled; the completed plan will be published later this year. We also hope that on this evening, short presentations will be given by all the clubs and societies presently running for the benefit and interest of all villagers. So do please come and join us and make the Annual Parish Meeting a get together for us all.

The Parish Council has now employed a Village Ranger, who will start work in March. The Ranger will be a great asset to the village in maintaining the cleanliness of Bleadon's open spaces, making regular inspections and safety checks of Council assets and will also act as a contact for residents, when problems are within his remit. Our environment continues to be more important each year so now Bleadon now has an "angel" of its own. Watch out 'Best Kept Village' Competition!

Another resolution was to banish the plague of litter and waste and at January's Parish Council meeting, the managers of "Streets and Open Spaces Areas" from North Somerset Council gave us a short talk. We already have the green boxes and a green bag for garden waste and cardboard. The plan is that these will be followed by a container for plastic bottles and perhaps bins on wheels later. May I please remind all villagers again to respect highways and byways and, in particular, for car owners to park with consideration. Our valued bus service has constantly to weave in and out on some of our roads in the village!

The Coronation Hall Car Park has been resurfaced and marked - this has certainly smartened the area for the Play Park, the new look Youth club and the Hall. The tubs will be planted up again in Spring. I wonder what is a good colour scheme for this season? Finally, two more dropped pavements are to be installed shortly and work on the Bleadon Road/Purn Way corner is under consideration by North Somerset Council.

We look forward to your support, interest and input for another good year for Bleadon.

*Penny Skelley, Chairman, Parish Council*

## 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

# BLEADON PARISH COUNCIL

www.bleadonparishcouncil.gov.uk



Parish Clerk:  
**Bruce Poole MCMI**

8th February 2006

Dear Editor

Re: Website for Bleadon Young People

**Can I refer to the article published in the last issue (No 67) entitled Website for Young People.**

**Whilst Bleadon Parish Council genuinely appreciates any additional facilities that are and can be provided for the residents of Bleadon, on this occasion the young people. It should be stressed that the views expressed on the website in question are clearly those of the author and may not truly represent all the facts allegedly stated as being those of the Parish Council. We are somewhat disturbed that some of the statements made are to say the least incorrect and at best inaccurate.**

**If the results of the village plan show a need for any specific project including that of a village school then rest assured the Parish Council and the Village Plan Steering Committee will do all it can to address the issue in the coming months. Meanwhile for the sake of fairness it would be helpful if the author of the website could show those facilities that are provided by and supported by the Parish Council are recorded as such. I refer to amongst many to the use of the link to the village web site and the community computer which incidentally will provide free internet use for the foreseeable future.**

Yours sincerely

**Bruce Poole**  
Parish Clerk



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## QUALIFIED ELECTRICIAN

(EST. 1995)

**Steve Insley**

WSM 812709

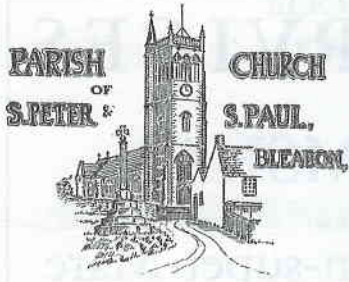
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## HOLY WEEK AND EASTER - special Services

Sunday April 9th **PALM SUNDAY** - 10.15am Sung Eucharist with blessing of Palm Crosses, 6.30pm Passiontide Service of Hymns, Anthems and Readings led by our Augmented Choir. Always a special musical and devotional event.

Thursday 13th **MAUNDY THURSDAY** - 7.30pm Eucharist of the Last Supper. We celebrate the Institution of Holy Communion and reflect on the arrest of Jesus.

Friday 14th **GOOD FRIDAY** - 10.15am Family Service, 1.00pm A time for silent prayer, 2.00pm The Last Hour as we think about Our Lord's journey to the Cross.

Saturday 15th **EASTER EVE** - 8.00pm The Easter Vigil. We begin our Easter celebrations with a short, dramatic Act of Worship which includes a renewal of our Baptism promises.

Sunday 16th **EASTER DAY** - 10.15am The Easter Eucharist (thanksgiving) as we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus, 6.30pm Easter Evensong.

Other important dates- Monday April 24th, 7.30pm in the Church Room, The Annual Parochial Church Meeting. Sunday April 30th and Monday May 1st May Fayre Weekend with flower displays in Church. Sunday May 14th-10.15am Sung Eucharist with the Archdeacon of Bath, The Venerable Andrew Piggott. Thursday May 25th **ASCENSION DAY** -7.30pm Sung Eucharist. **WHIT SUNDAY** is 4th June, **TRINITY SUNDAY** is 11th June and our **PATRONAL FESTIVAL** (Church Anniversary) will be celebrated on July 2nd with the usual Songs and Hymns of Praise accompanied by the Salvation Army Band in the Rectory Garden at 3.00pm.

Please remember that the Church is usually open Monday to Friday between 9.00am and 5.00pm.

*Best wishes,  
Yours sincerely,  
David Parkinson, Rector*

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



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

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Ruskin, Moorcroft  
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Chests of Drawers  
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Round Tables  
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Sculpture, Bronzes  
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WILL BE PLEASED TO CALL ON YOU

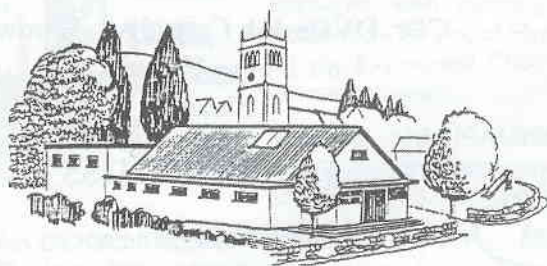


**IF YOU OWN A DOG PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW IT TO FOUL THE  
FOOTPATHS AND VERGES OF OUR VILLAGE. THE RESULTING  
MESS IS UNSIGHTLY AND A SOURCE OF INFECTION.  
BE A GOOD CITIZEN AND CARRY A POOP-SCOOP OR A  
PLASTIC BAG AND TAKE THE MESS HOME.  
PLEASE DON'T LEAVE IT FOR OTHERS TO CLEAN UP.**

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# BLEADON CORONATION HALL COMMITTEE REPORT

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Bleadon Coronation Hall  
Reg. Charity No.1042602

We have had many complimentary comments concerning the new padded chairs recently purchased for the Main Hall. It's nice to know that our efforts to constantly improve the two halls are appreciated.

A CD player and amplifier have now been installed in the Jubilee Room, which should be of benefit to users when music or the use of a microphone is required.

Work will soon commence to upgrade the toilets in the Main Hall, with new basins, taps and melamine tops to be fitted.

At this time Village organisations will be nominating their representatives to serve on the Hall Committee for the coming year. The AGM will be held on Thursday April 13th commencing at 7.30pm  
Village residents are welcome to attend.

**Len Chamberlain (Chairman) 01934 814517**

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## THE CORONATION HALL NEEDS YOU!!

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The Coronation Hall Management Committee is looking for a secretary to join our enthusiastic team. You'll be required to take minutes of meetings (we like to keep ours short and to the point!), reply to letters and generally support the work of the Management Committee. This should normally take about 3-4 hours a month including attending the monthly meeting which is held on the second Thursday of each month. This is a voluntary position but you'd get the satisfaction of being at the heart of developments in what has become one of Bleadon's most valued amenities. For further information please contact **Len Chamberlain (01934 814517) or Clive Morris (01934 811591)**

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## BOOKS WANTED

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We would appreciate any unwanted books for sale at our regular stall at the May Fayre, Village Market and other Charity events in the coming year.

**For collection please ring Pete Williams on Bleadon 812020.**

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# YOUR FULLY LICENSED HALL

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Twenty-four hour drinking was the subject of many a headline last year, obscuring the fact that such unsensational places as village halls, had to obtain fresh licenses under the terms of the 2003 Act, not just to sell alcohol but for every activity classed as licensable.

For the Coronation Hall this entailed a good deal of research, lengthy form-filling, detailed plans of the buildings (very professionally drawn by Peter Lindsay for his customary fee of £0.00p), and a few hundred pounds expenditure. As a result North Somerset has granted us a Premises License which includes the following:

- Public entertainment such as concerts, dances, films etc.
- Theatre (for some reason not included in the above).
- Sale of alcohol.

Len Chamberlain now rejoices in the title of Premises Licence Holder and has nominated me (Les Masters) as Designated Premises Supervisor. To make an analogy, at the Catherine's Inn, Greene King are the PLH and Steve Hughes hitherto thought of as the Licensee or Landlord is the DPS.

Under the new system, alcohol maybe sold at the Halls more or less all day but only by or through the DPS. Thus on the morning of the Christmas Market, with the DPS present, sherry was on offer with the mince pies. On the other hand the bar at the CLIC quiz (an event open to the public), was run by Reyn Badger authorised by the DPS, and that at the Inner Wheel Christmas Party (a private event) by John Taylor, likewise authorised.

These examples demonstrate that anyone hiring one of the Halls (or both), whether for a private or a public event, can arrange a bar without recourse to the magistrates or the need for a hefty outlay. The arrangements are a matter of negotiation with the DPS (and very simple for long-standing hirers such as Friends of the Church or The Bleadon Players), but the aim is that hirers are helped to enjoy the facility created as a result of the new rules.

**Les Masters.**

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## BLEADON BEAT

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A number of residents have recently raised concerns over vehicle use within the village. Complaints have been received about bad driving and inconsiderate parking. With a culture of increasing vehicle use the situation is unlikely to improve therefore I would encourage all drivers to take particular care whilst travelling through the village. For the well being of all residents I shall be carrying out speed checks within the village. To avoid embarrassment or possible prosecution, I ask that motorists be mindful of their speed.

There is also a plea from residents for motorists to use consideration when parking their vehicles. Particular areas of concern are in Shiplate Road and Celtic Way in the area of 'The Queens'. Please respect the access of others and park carefully.

### **Beat Surgeries.**

I shall be holding beat surgeries at the Church Room, from 12.30pm to 2pm, on the following Fridays; - 31st March, 21st April, 26th May and 16th June. Free confidential advice available. Useful Nos. Police HQ 0845 4567000. Village Beat Office 638123.

**Pc 2307 Adrian Woolcott**



# WEATHER REPORT BLEADON HILL 2005

I have been recording and measuring precipitation from the skies in a rain gauge in my back garden since 1981. Technically this includes rain, sleet, hail, drizzle, and melted snow. To qualify for a 'rain day' there must be a minimum of 0.2mm in the gauge. I usually measure twice daily 8.00am and 8.00pm.

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
Rainfall													
2005	71.3	47.6	60.7	66.0	69.7	72.7	68.8	73.6	50.5	151.2	96.6	130.7	958.4
Average													
'81-04	110.3	65.1	70.3	66.6	65.8	66.0	64.7	81.1	87.1	112.6	95.7	103.0	988.3
Dry days													
2005	12	16	18	13	17	18	19	19	18	12	14	16	192
Average													
'81-04	13	14	14	15	17	18	19	18	15	12	12	13	180

These recordings are in mm. As a guide 25.4mm = 1inch  
Therefore 958.4 mm = 37.7ins (just over 3ft of water!)

As contrast to last January only 31.5mm (1.2in) of rain were recorded this January along with 19 dry days. At the start of the year the sun didn't put in an appearance through the clouds until January 11th. There has only been one drier January between 1981 and now, that was in 1997 when only 10.6mm of rain were recorded.

The overnight temperatures dipped below freezing on 13 occasions in January (10 on the trot!)

*Chris Cudlipp*

## BLEADON FOLK DANCE CLUB

1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month 8pm-10pm in the Coronation Hall.

Callers: - John Tomlinson, John Price and Ian Hall.

An evening of fun and dance for only £1.50p per person.

Light refreshments available.

**GRAND EASTER DANCE ON APRIL 6TH AT 7.30. ALL WELCOME £1.50p**

**Enquiries. JEAN THORNE 814007**

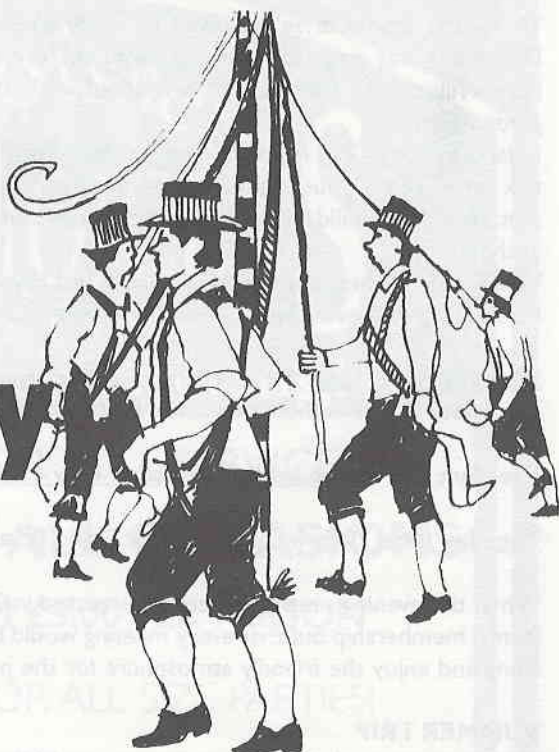
## MAY FAYRE -MAY 1ST

Hoping for a bumper stall as always, I am collecting bric-a-brac for this year's May Fayre. As usual anything saleable is welcome provided it is clean and unbroken. China, pictures, ornaments, kitchen ware, linen/curtains, toys/games/jigsaws, books, small electricals, garage/garden tools and as new clothes will be very welcome. I am happy to collect but please don't be offended if I judge something to be un-saleable. I know what will sell. Neither Gill Williams nor I are offering her car port as a central collecting point this year, so please don't leave anything there. Please ring me on WSM 413034 for collection. This stall is always a great crowd-puller and makes a fantastic amount towards the upkeep of our lovely village church, so please be as generous as you can.

Thank you **Sandra Lowton, Churchwarden**

★ Bleadon Village ★

# Annual May Day Fayre



Bank Holiday Monday  
1st May 2006  
11.00am - 4.00pm

Bar, Refreshments, Stalls and Sideshows all day  
Morris Men, Jazz Band and Children's events  
*Entry 25p INCLUDES Lucky Programme Draw*  
**First Prize: £50**

# BLEADON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



The social 'beetle drive' followed by an American style supper in December was great fun yet again, with the eventual winner being Pete Williams. Jo Reeves was presented with the now 'coveted' garden gnome.

In January, Tony Gray from Sanders Garden World gave a very interesting and informative talk on 'Care of Houseplants through the Year'. We all decided that we needed to buy a plot of land and build a house with each room having different conditions to suit the plants in them!

When this reaches you the Spring Show will have come and gone and hopefully we shall be enjoying the spring weather with longer evenings.

**Tuesday April 18th** Mr Chris Tripp will be giving an illustrated talk on '**Vegetables**'. This is at 7.30pm in the Coronation Hall and is open to anyone for £1 admission.

The Plant Sale will be held on **Tuesday May 16th** at 7.30pm.

**Tuesday June 20th** we shall hear Mr David Bryant giving a talk on '**Roses**'

When the evening meetings were resurrected in 2000 it was decided that we not have a formal membership but that every meeting would be open to anyone who wished to come along and enjoy the friendly atmosphere for the princely sum of £1 per evening.

## SUMMER TRIP

This year we will be visiting Rosemoor RHS Gardens, near Torrington, Devon on **Saturday July 8th**

Details will be finalised later so look out for these in various publications in the not too distant future.

*Happy Gardening!*

*Chris Cudlipp*

I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SAY A BIG

**'THANK YOU'**

TO ALL WHO SENT CARDS, FLOWERS AND MESSAGES WISHING ME A  
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**RUTH JAMES**



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## Bleadon Ladies Club

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The club has started 2006 with some very good speakers. We have heard from the Coastguards about their work and also the National Trust who explained all about their Tyntesfield property.

The year continues with talks by Mrs. Merrett- Smith on 'The World of TV. Make Up', on March 14th, 'The Outback With Five Ladies' by Mr. Brian Allinson on April 11th and 'British Peers' on May 9th with Mr. Bob Tinker.

We are a very friendly club who always welcome new members. We meet at Coronation Hall at 2.30p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month.

For more information call Barbara on 814362. I will be delighted to have a chat and tell you all about the group.

We are currently planning our annual outing for August for members and their families, so why not take the time to join and enjoy the range of events and opportunities we put on. Don't be shy, give me a ring and we'll see you soon.



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## BLEADON SHORT MAT BOWLING CLUB

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It is non stop action at the Bowls Club.

We have had our New Year's meal at the Worlebury Golf Club. The organizers, Ann Hurcombe and Celia Williams, were a little apprehensive as we had not previously used this venue, but they need not have worried as the 37 members present declared it a resounding success. We are now looking forward to our, annual, 'forget the calories', fish and chip supper in March.

Between times we seem to find opportunities to play bowls, both in the local league and socially. This is the first time we have entered two teams in the league. Our more experienced team, the Owls, is well up near the top and our learners and improvers team, the Buzzards, is enjoying visiting other local clubs and meeting other local players.

We play bowls Sunday and Tuesday afternoons, as well as Friday evenings. Please drop in to watch, or to have a go. We can provide the bowls. **NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED.**

Join now and be in time for our summer outings.

Contrary to certain rumours, we still find time for bowls.

*Fred James. Chairman*

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## BLEADON BABY AND TODDLER GROUP

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We meet on a Wednesday morning between 10 am and 12 am, in the Coronation Hall. All parents or carers are welcome to bring their baby or toddler along to join in the activities. Each week we have a craft activity, a book and jig saw puzzle area, large indoor play items e.g. slide, trampoline, and ride on toys. There is a separate area for babies with appropriate toys. We finish each session with song time which everyone enjoys. On the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays in the month a health visitor is available to weigh babies and answer any questions.

We have lots of activities planned for the spring term including the Easter Bonnet parade. We have raised over £50 for the Blue Peter Childline Appeal. Thank you to everyone who donated old coins and mobile phones at the collection point in the Post Office.



# READY FOR SPRING?

I'm sure that by now all of you keen gardeners out there have cleaned and sharpened your mowers, hedge clippers and secateurs ready for the new growing season. It seems to start earlier each year doesn't it?

The process of preparing the equipment is relatively easy, some of us will simply go to B&Q and purchase a new blade for the rotary or hover while others will have honed their existing blades, but whichever it is I've no doubt that most of us rely upon electricity to help us with actual chore of mowing the grass or clipping the hedge.

Not so a few decades ago ...

..... I am grateful to Jack Somerfield for finding this article in an old magazine, I think you'll agree that if we all had to follow this regime these days, except for perhaps the most dedicated 'green-keepers' amongst you, we would probably all opt for hard landscaping!

## GO HANG YOUR SCYTHE

*Mowing with a scythe can be carried on efficiently for long stretches without getting unduly tired or suffering aches and pains - but only if you go about it the right way and may sure the scythe is adjusted to suit your particular stature. This is called hanging it. A tall man using a short man's scythe would have to bend awkwardly and would soon have an aching back.*

*The two handles, called tacks, can be moved up or down the wooden shaft (or snaith) of the scythe and fixed in the best position. First (1) hold the scythe upside-down with the heel of the blade under your left armpit, and fix the first tack at arm's length; then (2) turn the scythe up the right way, place your right elbow on the first tack and with your right fist clenched, fix the second tack so that it meets your knuckles. To check that this is right, hold the scythe across you as in (3) and swing your left foot forward; it should just meet the point of the blade. Similarly, with the scythe across your shoulders (4) and the first tack against your cheek, the point should meet your outstretched hand.*



1. Set the first tack



2. Set the second tack

*Once the tacks are properly set it should be easy to keep up a steady mowing rhythm, with the whole scythe blade sweeping parallel to the ground throughout each swing. This is the key to efficient mowing; too many mowers make a swipe which ends with the point hooking skywards.*



3. Check for leg length



4. Check for arm length

Sounds to me like it's all in the action and the follow through! I'm sure that in Bleadon there are still many of you who used scythes on the land in your youth and will remember the experience well, but to the youngsters who may read this I think my advice has to be 'don't try this at home'!

**PR**

## ENTERTAINMENT FOR ALL AGES

### THE DEVONIANS



Brilliant, versatile guitar duo, plus support from local talent.

Drink, munch and listen in the

### CORONATION HALL



**SATURDAY 22ND APRIL AT 7.30pm**

**FULL BAR, RAFFLE and LIGHT REFRESHMENTS.**

**TICKETS £5 ADULTS, £2.50 CHILDREN**

**FROM**

**BLEADON POST OFFICE (815584)**

**IN AID OF HALL FUNDS**

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# FLOWER COMMITTEE

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Mrs Penny Skelley (Weddings) 815331  
Mrs Sheila Ardley 813591  
Mrs Margaret Owen 814121  
Mrs Patricia Drinkwater 813636  
Mrs Maisie North 750470



The Flower Committee have decided that for the year 2006 they will only be able to do two arrangements in the church each week, apart from weddings and Church festivals such as Easter, Whitsun, Harvest and Christmas. We have been attempting to follow the pattern (which was established when there were many more arrangers to call on), of doing four or five arrangements each week but with weddings (we had eleven last year) and festivals, not forgetting the May Fayre, we have all had to be in the church every week.

We have also undertaken to arrange the flowers to commemorate anniversaries of loved ones for those ladies who are no longer able to do this themselves. This we will be happy to continue but we will only be doing two arrangements .

These new arrangements will mean that it should be possible for only two members of the committee to be needed in the church each week.

We should naturally welcome any ladies who would like to come along on Thursday afternoons and join our merry band. We would emphasise that you do not have to be a flower arranger to come. We will soon make you one! And we promise you will enjoy yourself.



## CALLING ALL BLEADON ARTISTS TO THE MAY FAYRE ART EXHIBITION



**MONDAY 1st MAY**

Please bring your paintings, ready for hanging with hooks and cord attached, to the Coronation Hall on Sunday April 30th between the hours of 10am and 12 noon.

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

A fee of 50p will be charged for each painting submitted.

The above fees plus a 10% commission on work sold will be donated to church funds.

Paintings exhibited at owner's risk

**Any enquiries to: Valli James Tel:814555**

## ANNUAL REPORT JANUARY 2005 - JANUARY 2006

### **BROWNIE NUMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS**

At the beginning of 2005, 1st Bleadon Brownies had 12 Brownies with 2 leaders. The beginning of 2006 welcomed 24 Brownies with 6 leaders. Two of these new leaders will soon commence leadership training. It is hoped that the current Brown Owl will be able to form a Guide Pack when the new leaders are trained. ***Could you please let Bella know if you have any girls aged 10-14 who would be interested in joining Guides in Bleadon on: 01934 811545.***

### **JAN - JUN 2005**

1st Bleadon Brownies obtained their Friend to Animals Badge and Star Gazer Badge, with visits from a Guide Dog Puppy and a parent with some knowledge of how to use a telescope!

### **JUN - AUG 2005**

Brownies worked towards their Artist Badge, encompassing collage and mosaic, making a bookmark for Fathers' Day, and T-shirt decorating. We met with Uphill Brownies at the Beach for a tide race and had a lesson from a local Line Dancing Group at our American Independence Day themed disco. Our sleepover was held on 16th August with a guided trip to Weston Woods - huge fun!

### **SEP - OCT 2005**

Brownies worked towards their Collectors Badge, displaying their own collections including cataloguing their items and answering questions. This followed a very successful visit from Nick God Manager of Weston Museum who brought in some very interesting items for the Brownies to see. Brownies also attended the Harvest Festival at Bleadon Church.

### **OCT - DEC 2005**

We began working towards the Craft Badge with the main project to make a large Nativity Scene from junk modelling encompassing, woodworking, sewing, painting, collage. The Nativity Scene was displayed at Bleadon Church for the Christingle Service. Brownies also attended the Remembrance Service. We ended the year with a Christmas Party and lots of games.

### **JAN - MAR 2006**

This half-term we shall be continuing working towards the Craft Badge with lessons in Flower Arranging, Pottery and making entries for the Bleadon Horticultural Show as well as the obligatory Pancake Making and Racing on Shrove Tuesday.

### **FUTURE PLANNED EVENTS**

Lessons in Photography from a professional photographer (April); visit to Blagdon.

**FUNDRAISING** ..... every month Brownies attend the Village Market where they sell home-made cakes and biscuits. All proceeds go to the Brownies usually but last November the profits were donated to Children in Need (£15-71p). In future, Brownies will decide which charity benefits every other month.

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# FRIENDS OF BLEADON CHURCH

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We have now put in place most of our events for 2006. So get your diaries out and make a note of these events not to be missed.

## **MAY FAYRE Monday 1st May**

**This is our big event of the year. As always the Village car park, the Playground and the Village Halls will be alive with Stalls, Games and Side-shows.**

**This is a fun day for all the family. Church Bells will ring at 10.30am and the Fayre opens at 11.00am with Bob Reynolds & the New Society Jazz Band.**

**The Bric a Brac with many bargains, the Book stall, the Plant stall, Tombola and Home Produce are all there for you to enjoy. Fun for the children includes Bouncy Castle, Hoop La, Football, Golf, Skittles and much more.**

**The Children's Fancy Dress is at 11.30. In the meantime why not visit the Art Exhibition or enjoy a pint in the Refreshment Hall. At mid-day we will have the Chalice Morris Men and in the afternoon, Music in the Church, the Grand Draw and Children's Sports on the Rectory Lawn. The Fayre closes at 4.00pm.**

**Admission will be by Programme at 25p which includes Grand Draw.**

The May Fayre is a lot of hard work. Can you help? If so please ring Reyn Badger on 01934 811490 or me (Brian Drinkwater) on 01934 813636.

**Wednesday, 24th May.** David Lowton has booked a coach for a day trip to **Oxford**. The coach will leave the Village Car Park at about 10.00 am and will return early evening giving a full day to explore Oxford and, for those wishing, to attend Evensong in the Cathedral. Look in the Church Magazine for final details or keep in touch with the Friends.

**Sunday, 23rd July.** In the afternoon, the **Church Tower** (Entrance £1.00) will be open for those magnificent views across the Levels to Brean and beyond. **Cream Teas (£2.50)** will then be served in Old School Lane by kind permission of Brian & Glenys Robinson.

**Saturday, 23rd September** is the date for the **Harvest Supper**. In the Village Hall at 7.00pm. We hope to have something different this year so keep in touch.

**Saturday, 14th October** as part of the Weston Arts Festival, the **Avon and Somerset Police Choir** will be singing in the Church. This is always a very popular event and tickets will be on sale early as the demand is expected to be great. Details from Friends later.

We always welcome new ideas and if you feel that you would like to contribute in any way please contact me. Thanks.

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



# Bleadon Post Office and Country Stores Tiffin Coffee House

We have nearly completed our first year 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.***



## Dark of Moon

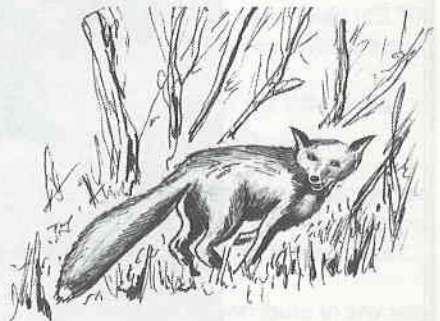
“**W**hat time d’you call this?” Mother greeted my arrival downstairs. She’d returned from her Sunday cleaning job at the Royal Oak wearing her ‘dangerous face’ as Dad used to call it.

“You’d better be pulling your horns in my boy, now your Dad’s gone,” she thought I’d just got up, not knowing I’d spent the day down at the station. Dad, an army reservist, had been called up for Korea and been killed there two months before. My secret premonition of his death had been overwhelming, made worse by my helplessness to prevent it. Mother’s grief had already hardened into resentment, most often directed at me. She was bristling for a row now so I left the house quietly and went back again to the railway.

In those days the Stogumber signal box closed on Sunday after the 4.13 local. When I arrived a fussily familiar 0-6-0 Prairie Tank drawing two carriages was leaving the cutting, belching smoke from its stack like a storm cloud, and Mr Rogers the signalman was already wheeling his bike up the roadway opposite. Return weekend excursions from the coast often came through in the evening and sat on the banking across from the deserted box I waited for some traffic. I was in luck; a King and a Grange came pounding through plus a couple of freight-hauling Black Fives. Time flew, in the twilight chill bats began wheeling about the bridge, but on the point of leaving I heard the throb of a distant diesel. A Deltic appeared drawing a long train of box wagons, its Napier engines thrusting twin columns of exhaust gasses into the dusk. *Nimbus 55020* I read carefully, a rare bird on this line. Entering the details then closing my notebook with satisfaction I started for home. At school on Monday my friend and mentor in the train spotting game listened to my tales from the embankment and enviously checked my sightings in his record books.

“King Edward the First? Lucky devil!” His pencil paused above *Nimbus 55020* and he deftly leafed through his guide. “Couldn’t have been - see, scrapped August last year, shunting accident at Temple Meads.” He grinned, “Wishful thinking there George.”

The man next door was a rabbit trapper. He had a dozen or more ferrets caged in his overgrown garden and they fascinated me. Pink-eyed and sinuous, giving off a pungently dangerous odour, they would clear a warren of rabbits in minutes; sending them terror-stricken headlong into his carefully staked nets. He also set gintraps in the runs that linked their fieldside burrows. I’d been bird watching along the wind-shaped trees that edged the moor when I came on a fox caught in one of his traps. As I drew near it cowered away, the trap jaws sawing at its foreleg. At a loss what to do, he’d appeared noiselessly at my elbow. Without a word he cut a forked stick from the hedge, pinned the creature to the ground by its neck and released the trap with his boot. Hurriedly limping away and out through a gap, the fox lay down to lick its wound and roll in the sun-dappled bracken.



"Why not kill it?" I asked.

"'Cause 'e deserves a better end," then looking up from cleaning his knife, "sorry about yer Dad son. Us ull miss 'e in cricket team."

"I knew he wouldn't be back." Something I could never tell Mother but had no difficulty in disclosing to the trapper.

He shook his head, "'Tis true some's able to see things," he said. "I knowed that fox 'ud be caught up yer with you, now 'e's goin' to be caught agin next wik by the 'ounds. I 'ad to decide see."

A year or so later Mother remarried, a widower, a teacher she met at a school parents' evening and we moved to his town house in Minehead. He was as different as could be from Dad, but he certainly sorted me out. I would have ended up farm labouring for sure but thanks to him I made Grammar School and got a university place. He had a daughter, Rachel, who was older than I and had taken up the Hippy lifestyle thus causing him and Mother much grief.

"Gets right on my nerves that girl," Mother would say; "and don't go taking notice of that rubbish she talks."

But like our former neighbour's ferrets, Rachel, with her strange dress and exaggerated gestures, fascinated me and it was she who explained the 'dark of moon'. There's a time, she told me, when the veils between past, present and future become transparent and those blessed can see beyond. That time, from moon wane until its first silver sliver of new light, was 'dark of moon'. She'd recognised my 'inner awareness', my 'positive Karma' as she described it, and was keen I go with her to Glastonbury to meet her friends. No need for any cosmic doors to open to reveal what Mother thought of that.

My 'gift' saved me twice from harm during National Service, soldiering on the rocky barren volcano that is Aden's Steamer Point. Once, an acute sense of danger in the lethal back streets of Crater town prevented me leading a patrol into a terrorist ambush, and once on the way home for demob. Due to sail on the troopship *Empire Windrush* but knowing the voyage was ill fated I feigned sickness and my passage was cancelled; the vessel subsequently caught fire and sank in the Mediterranean. During our honeymoon, spent in Paris during the mid-sixties student riots, Margaret and I were in a restaurant when I had the overwhelming desire to change tables. Quickly grabbing my plate and dragging her with me, I moved. Within half a minute a brick came through the window showering our previous table with shards of glass. A similar portent returning from a family holiday, purposely caused me to delay our arrival at Zeebrugge and miss a crossing booked aboard the doomed ferry *Herald of Free Enterprise*. These events were certainly good fortune but, paradoxically, I've never had any luck with lotteries, race winners, football results or like situations where a spark of foreknowledge would bring material benefit. Also, when coming to a crossroad on life's highway it would have been nice to know which way to turn. But my glimpses into the future during those 'dark of moon' periods, always carefully marked in my diary, are generally perverse. Even so, given my unease about this trip, why are we here? Perhaps the Fates will be satisfied with the puncture on the way to Heathrow and the fuss over Kate's passport when we eventually booked in. Like the trapper years ago, I've had to decide. Come what may, we *shall* go to our son's wedding in New Zealand.

Margaret brings the girls back from the toilet and flops down beside our bags.

"What you looking so worried about? We're here, problems over."

"That must be our 'plane," pointing, taking the children's hands and moving to the window. Kate's hand is hot and clammy and I squeeze it with a reassurance I don't feel. The umbilical-like gangway from our departure point is connected to the wide body of a Singapore Airlines 777-300. Kate can't believe anything so big can ever fly and young Sadie demands an explanation of the weird bird pictured on the tail.



A baggage train circles away from beneath the rear fuselage whilst the shirt-sleeved second pilot completes his external checks; absently kicking the tyres and peering into an engine nacelle. After a brief word with the brightly jacketed ground crew, now busily reeling in serpentine pipes and wires, he makes his way back to the terminal; he looks very young. I read recently that there's more chance being kicked to death by a racehorse or of dying of shock at the cinema than being killed in an air crash but I know that carefully chosen statistics can show very odd things. However, the sight of aircrew and groundcrew going about their business is reassuring. Everything so in control it appears that nothing can go wrong. And yet-and yet?

"Boeing treble-seven," I report to Margaret, "just two engines - hell of a long way to go on two engines."

"I expect they'll cope," Margaret smiles, patting the seat, "come and sit down George, don't worry so. And don't fret the children, Kate's anxious enough as it is." Looking around I estimate about four hundred passengers are waiting to board.

Anxious Kate is also counting, "Can all these people can't get on Dad?". A bustle begins at the lounge exit, 'bing-bong, bing-bong' the announcement tones sound, a ground stewardess calmly starts calling passengers for boarding. No avoiding it now. No turning back.

Astride the tyre-scarred runway with throttles pushed fully open, the 777 surges forward, pressing us back into our seats. Margaret and I join hands with each other and the girls as the twin engines bellow accelerating the aircraft furiously in its headlong rush to be gone. The juddering rumble of speeding wheels on concrete fades and shortly the undercarriage thumps home, landing wheel doors groan shut, trim tabs and flaps magically disappear into wings; flight SA 390 to Singapore is positively airborne. At full power, climbing through the cloud base, the Boeing points its radomed nose optimistically Eastwards.



# BLEADON PLAYERS



Our pantomime 'Puss in Boots' was a great success so a big 'thank you' to those who came to support us. The photo shows Sandie, and Glenise, in their starring roles.

We have now moved on and are in rehearsal for our next production 'When We Are Married', by J.B.Priestley. This is a comedy about three married couples celebrating their twenty-fifth wedding anniversaries.....or not! Unfortunately this is set in Yorkshire, so we are all going round muttering 'ee ba gum'.

If you want to find out if we manage it, come along on Thursday May 4th, Friday May 5th, or Saturday May 6th at 7.30pm the Coronation Hall, Bleadon.

**Tickets £6 each**, available from the Post Office after Monday April 17th.

# A LIST OF ORGANISATIONS WHICH REGULARLY USE THE CORONATION HALLS



## **Mondays**

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 F Hatcher	620784
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 Sept-June			
6-7.30 pm	Bleadon 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	Mrs M Cullen	813284
7.00pm	Short Mat Bowling Club**	Mrs J Tiney	813893
Sept-June			

## **Sundays**

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

\*\*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**

# WHAT'S ON - IN THE CORONATION HALLS -

MAKE A NOTE IN YOUR DIARY NOW!

Date	Time:	Event:	Organisation/Contact:
18th March	X	SPRING FLOWER SHOW	Horticultural Society 813152
25th March	4/ 9-12.30	VILLAGE MARKET	812370
8th April	7/ 10-noon	COFFEE MORNING	Friendship Club
10th April	8/ 7.00	ANNUAL PARISH MEETING	
13th April	9/ 7.30	Coronation Hall Management Committee AGM Members of the public welcome to attend	
15th April	4/ 9-12.30	VILLAGE MARKET	812370
22nd April	7.30	THE DEVONIANS - guitar duo - musical entertainment for all ages - non-dancers and children welcome	811976
1st May	10/	MAY FAYRE - including Art Exhibition, Bumper Book Stall, Giant Bric-a-Brac and much more!	Church Friends 811490
4,5,6th May	11/	'When We Are Married' by Bleadon Players	64513

## VILLAGE MARKETS IN 2006



20th May  
17th June  
15th July  
19th August  
16th September  
21st October  
18th November  
2nd December



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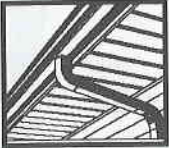
Accommodation Road, Bleadon

01934 811444

Email: [hazenaide@btconnect.com](mailto:hazenaide@btconnect.com)

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## ANIMAL PORTRAITS

in full colour Pastel

by Sheila Excell

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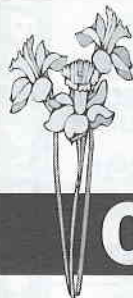
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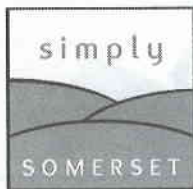
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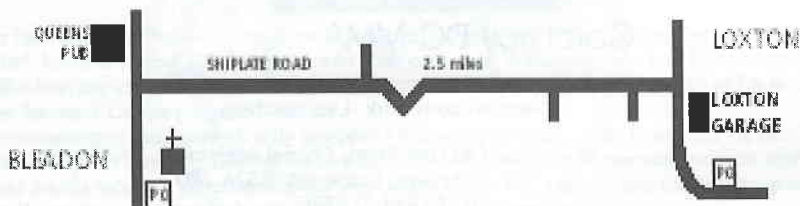
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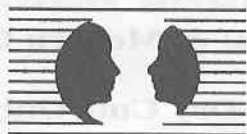
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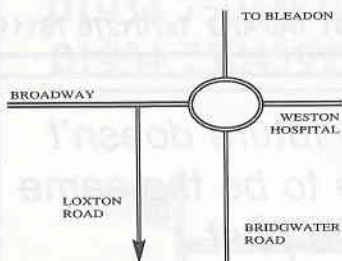
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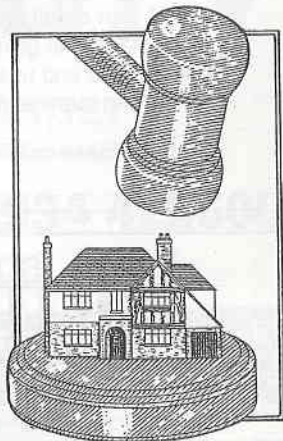
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This Newsletter is Edited by PENNY ROBINSON of 1, The Veale, Bleadon BS24 0NP

THE COVER DESIGN IS BY JOHN HICKLEY

Published by BLEADON PARISH COUNCIL, Bleadon, North Somerset.

Produced & Printed by GFS Print Telephone (01934) 622409 · Fax (01934) 622409