

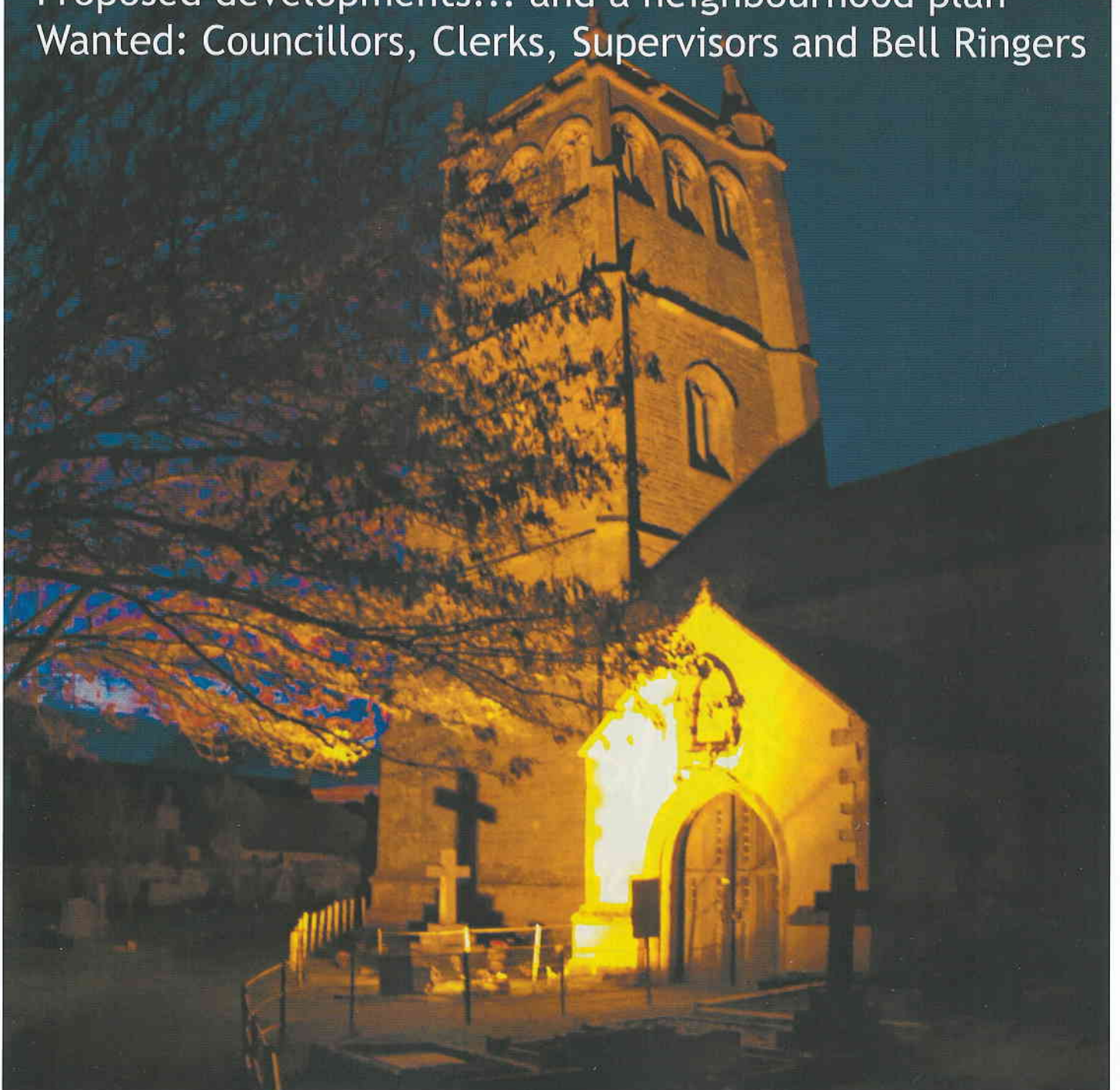
Bleadon News

WINTER 2017

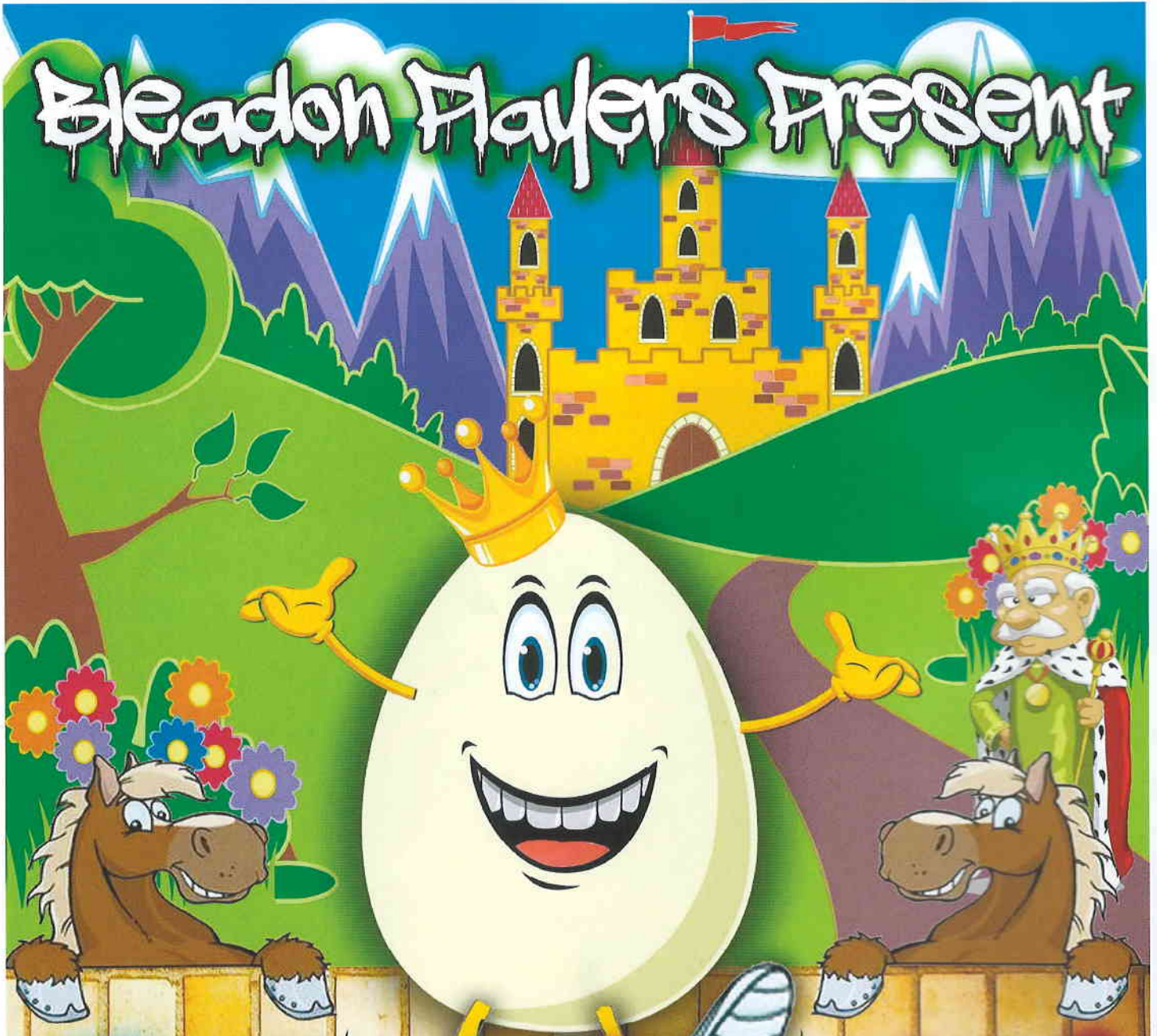
ISSUE 108

bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk

All the Christmas dates you'll need!
Bleadon people: farewells and welcomes
Proposed developments... and a neighbourhood plan
Wanted: Councillors, Clerks, Supervisors and Bell Ringers



Bleadon Players Present



Humpty Dumpty

11 - 13 January 2018

Coronation Hall Bleadon



Tickets available at Bleadon Post Office
or on the night



Welcome to the Winter edition of Bleadon News

Bleadon News is published by Bleadon Parish Council.

We will consider any articles for publication, so long as they are about Bleadon, or can directly benefit its residents.

Unless otherwise stated the opinions and comments expressed in this publication are those of the editor or contributor and may not be those of Bleadon Parish Council.

Christmas Dates

- 1 Dec Christmas Trees on sale, Purn House Farm, everyday.
- 2 Dec Bleadon Christmas Market
- 8 Dec WI Carol Service in the Church followed by Queens
- 10 Dec Deliver trees to the Church
- 10 - 23 Dec View trees in the Church
- 10 Dec Christingle in the Youth Club
- 11 Dec Parish Council Meeting
- 17 Dec Carol Service in the Church
- 17 Dec Queens Arms Pantomime
- 18 Dec Carol singing Bleadon Hill
- 19 Dec Horticultural Society Beetle Drive
- 20 Dec Carol singing Bleadon village
- 24 Dec Cribb service
- 24 Dec Midnight Mass
- 25 Dec Worship for all 10.15
- 25 Dec Drinks Queens 11 - 2pm
- 11-13 Jan Pantomime

In this edition, we're breaking with tradition as we don't have an introduction from the Parish Council Chairman. The reason is that Steve Hartree has resigned as Chairman, although he will remain as a councillor, and his successor has not yet been appointed. Please join us in thanking Steve for his service to the community both as Chairman and during his many years as a Councillor.

As you'll see, there have been many comings and goings in the village, with Steve, Jo Jones and Chris Cudlipp standing down from roles and others, such as Manny, the new landlord of the Queens Arms, joining our community. We've tried to feature as many of those changes as we can in this edition, so please read on to find out more.

Editor

Carol singers needed!

Bleadon church is once again organising two nights of carol singing around the village. The idea is bring a bit of Christmas to those who are housebound or don't get out so easily.

Everybody is welcome to join in on the following evenings:

Monday 18 December at 6.30pm. Meet at the junction of Bleadon Hill and Purn Lane for carol singing on Bleadon Hill.

Wednesday 20 December at 6.30pm. Meet at the Rectory for carol singing in Bleadon village.

If you know of anybody who would like the carol singers to visit, please let Tim know on 01934 815 404

This edition's cover photo

Thank you to the Bleadon Photographic Group, whose members provided the cover photo for this edition of Bleadon News. We asked members to submit photographs and chose a picture by Mark Frisby to grace the cover, from the many excellent entries.

Bleadon Photographic Group started in 1948 and has continually moved with the times and embraced new developments. The group meets on the first, second and fourth Tuesday evenings in the Coronation Hall. New members of all standards are always welcome.

BLEADON PEOPLE

Jo Jones' leaving party

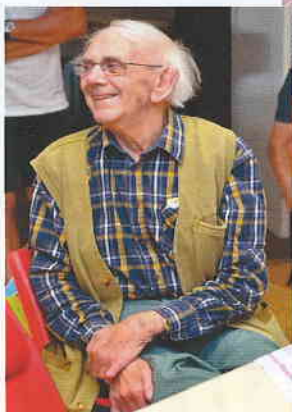
Jo Jones' thank you party on 2 Sept (incorporating a celebration of Len Chamberlain's 90th birthday the following day) was without doubt one of the most pleasant occasions I have attended at the Coronation Hall. It was well attended by representatives of many of the groups that use the halls and numerous local well-wishers, including Ruth James, who recruited Joanne in 1982.

I confined my efforts to making sure the bar was organised and left the arrangements in the hall entirely to the ladies, who did a superb job in every way. Take a bow (or curtsy) Rachel Collard, Jane Derrick, Pam Lamb and Betty Paterson - a truly awesome foursome.

By that date we had agreed that Kate James would take over the bookings management role and there followed a period of transition while Jo handed over the files and acquainted Kate with the sometimes quite complex procedures. Kate is now firmly in charge of this function and after a few teething problems things are running very smoothly, so this part of our reorganisation is complete.

The other part requires further work, namely creating and filling a new role which we might term caretaker or perhaps premises supervisor. This will be on a contract basis, not voluntary, so we have to consider very carefully how much we can expect this person to do, given that we do not have an unlimited budget. We give provisional details in this issue so that anyone wishing to know more or register an interest can contact our secretary.

Les Masters



... and a thank you from Jo Jones

I would like to thank the Hall Committee for the wonderful surprise retirement party, flowers and gift, they gave me at the beginning of September. This was to mark my retirement as booking officer for the halls after 35 years in harness.

It was wonderful to see so many friends who are/were also hall users, as well as past and present Committee Members. I was particularly pleased to see Ruth James, who was the first hall chair who talked me into the job all those years ago. Also Len Chamberlain, just retired as hall chair, who celebrated his 90th birthday the next day!

I'd like to thank my family for sharing me with the village hall for so many years. Also, a big thank you to the ladies who "did" and organised the decorations and wonderful food (Jane, Pam, Betty and Rachel). A good time was had by all. Particularly me!

I wish the new booking officer Kate James all the best in the job. She will be great.

Jo Jones

BLEADON PEOPLE

Introducing Kate James, our new Halls Booking Officer

My name is Kate James, I am married to Tony, have three children and I have lived in Bleadon for about 15 years, firstly on Shiplate Road and then after about six years we moved to another house closer to the village.



We love living in this village and I have been involved in organising a number of village events such as the Royal Wedding Party and the Queen's Golden Jubilee Party. I was also the first president of Bleadon WI, a post which I held for two years (I am still an active member) and I was on the committee for the Youth Club for a while.

Alongside my new role as Bookings Officer I also work part-time at Uphill Primary School where I have been for 15 years.

Jo has done an amazing job over the last 35 years and I hope I can continue to do as good a job as she has.

Farewell to Maria Bird, Parish Clerk

Maria Bird, Bleadon Parish Council's Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer has resigned and will leave her post on 1 December. The Councillors thank Maria for her service to the Parish Council and wish her well for the future.

Ray Blezard joins the Parish Council

The Parish Council has welcomed Ray Blezard as a new Parish Councillor. Ray will bring a fresh outlook to the Parish Council, as well as enthusiasm and knowledge of Bleadon.

A very welcome Man(ny)



Andy (Manny) Mannion has arrived to look after the Queens following the departure of Nick and Emma. A huge thank you goes to Lorna Roman for keeping the pub open prior to Manny's arrival. See the article in this edition to catch up on all the latest Queens news.

Chris Cudlipp steps down as Horticultural Society Secretary

Chris has been involved with The Horticultural Society for nearly 45 years and he has decided to retire from being the secretary at the end of December. The annual Beetle Drive will be his last event in charge.

He wishes to thank all the people who have helped him over the years. A big thank you must go to Maggie Pettitt (and Tony) who have both been a tremendous help to him.



Hopefully, the future looks good for the society. The general feedback is that village folk want the society to continue and the two Shows. At most meetings we have between 30 and 40 attending and 100 people visit each of the two shows in September and March.

Nesta Cudlipp



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Wells

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 Wells,
 BA5 2AW

01749 670966

Woolavington

Martlands Farm
 Woolavington
 TA7 8ED

01278 686971

Bleadon Parish Council is pleased to announce that the 'Bear with No Name' Competition Winners are...

Finton Harper, aged 8 and Oscar Harper, aged 6

... with their entries 'Grizzly' and 'Cruncher'

Councillors Dave Chinn and Kathy Strong who organised the competition liked their entries so much, they decided to award joint first prize to both boys.

The tidy bear in the playground will now be known as 'The Grizzly Cruncher' in honour of their double entry.

The proud young boys are shown here holding their prize bears. Mum, Michelle Harper said they were so excited to have won. We think it really shows, don't you?

Well done Oscar and Finton!



Bleadon Village Crafting Club

Would you like to learn a new craft, or, share a craft you already know? Everyone is welcome to join Bleadon's new crafting club. Meetings are held at the Church Rooms on a Thursday between 2 and 4pm.

If you're interested in getting involved please call Kathy Strong on 01934 253625



Whitehouse

Kennels & Cattery, Somerset

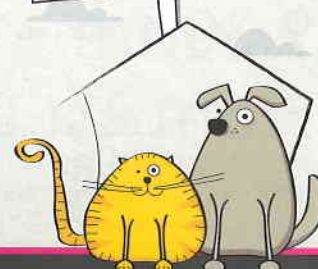
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Remembering the Fallen

With less than twelve months until the anniversary of the signing of the Armistice which ended The First World War, North Somerset Council is working towards compiling a comprehensive list of all The Fallen of the Great War. The first part of the project is to get a comprehensive list of War Memorials, and the names of those listed upon them.

A photograph of our Memorial in our Parish Church of St. Peter and St. Paul has been provided to the Council, together with a list of those named upon it.

Next year, North Somerset Council is looking to organise a number of events to commemorate the anniversary; and will be looking at providing further information on a number of individuals, to show how their death affected the region, and families.

Are there still families living in the Parish who have links with our Fallen? The Parish Council would be grateful for any information that could be provided, that may assist in building a more complete picture of those who gave their lives for their village, and their country.

If you have information that you would be willing to share; please contact Ray Blezard at rayblezard@hotmail.co.uk or on 07734384470.

Thank you to Pat White on behalf of all our residents for his Remembrance Day display, which honoured villagers who gave their lives in the first and second world wars.



Christmas Trees For Sale

Unit 7, Purn House Farm
 Behind Bleadon Post Office
 Open Every Day
 9.30am ~ 5.30pm
 From 1st December

Live Christmas Trees, traditional and non drop
 Cut and potted
 3ft to 10ft

Christmas Tree Stands

A selection of christmas decorations, lights and more



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St Peter and St Paul Church

“Light and life to all he brings”

Celebrating Christmas at Bleadon Church

A Decoration for Christmas: on display in the church, 10th to 23rd December during daylight hours. Decorations will be by many different people in our community. Come and look and wonder!

We invite you to join us for all or any of our services

- Sun Dec 10 4pm Sunday Teatime Together: “Christingle”
- Sun Dec 17 3pm Carol Service: Carols and Christmas Readings
- Christmas Eve 4.30pm Crib Service: “Happy Birthday Jesus”
- Christmas Eve 11.30pm Midnight Mass: “Welcome the Light”
- Christmas Day 10.15am Worship for all on Christmas Day: a simple service with Carols



Happy Christmas Bleadon, from all at Bleadon Church.

(All events are in the church except “Christingle” which is in the Youth Club)

See more at: www.bleadonchurch.co.uk

Help keep a village tradition alive

To anyone who would like a new and rewarding hobby.
Do you ever wonder what is going on in your church tower when you hear the bells ringing on a Sunday morning?



There are six bells to be rung and at present we only have five parishioners, so only kind help from three outsiders is keeping our bells ringing! It will be a great shame if we could not ring for a morning service, a wedding, or the New Year.

We desperately need a few more willing ringers; it’s a great hobby once you get the hang of it. Our bells date back to 1711 and are hung anti clockwise which makes them very unique. We practise from 7.30pm to 9.00pm every Tuesday evening. Call in, you will be most welcome, or ring Peter or Jill on 01934 813285

P.S. You do not have to go to church to ring - we do our bit in the tower!

Philip Kerton

Bleadon’s Advent Star is back!

An Advent Star will be shining over Bleadon again this year, in celebration of Christmas. Advent Sunday is 3 December and the star will be illuminated during the evenings throughout the festive period.

The Star can be seen from some parts of Bleadon Road and adjoining roads, when looking up onto Bleadon Hill.

This is the second year of display, from Hillside Road. If you would like to find out about the real meaning of Christmas, please visit the Parish church.



Bleadon Art Group visit Hestercombe House

On August 10 our group boarded a coach outside Bleadon Coronation Hall to travel to Taunton's Hestercombe Gardens for the day. We all thoroughly enjoyed wandering around the woodland trail, a little sketching, some painting, the spectacular buffet lunch, the shop and the gallery. The photograph shows smiling faces and that's how much the whole experience meant to us all.

We are a great caring club, meeting every Thursday 10 am till 12 noon. If you wish to have more information give me a call,

Kathy Quinnell 01278 760031, Club Treasurer



Bleadon WI

We couldn't wait for 5 November to enjoy some 'bangers' and those we had at our September meeting were elegant and spicy - some very special (Somerset) Charcuterie. Unsurprisingly, members always enjoy meetings where we have 'tastings'!

After the slightly crazy 'Bee-tle' Drive at our Annual Meeting, we then featured 'Robins' at our November meeting, with some interesting masterpieces 'taking flight'!

Book, lunch, supper, walking and skittle groups continue to thrive and our WI choir, the Bleadon Belles, has been beavering away rehearsing for the festive season. Groups will be singing at various local nursing homes in the run-up to Christmas, as well as for Woodspring Ladies Probus and at a church service. They will then be practising for the Highbridge Festival in March and will also be hosting, together with other artistes, a charity musical concert in the Coronation Hall on 24 March, in support of the Weston Hospital Diamond Scanner Appeal.

In October, Members were delighted to present a cheque for £1,000 to the Scanner Appeal, raised from coffee mornings, an afternoon tea party, plant sales, quiz and pottery classes - a big 'thank you' to all who have supported our fundraising efforts. Coming next, the 'Bleadon Ball'!



Bowling club news

The summer season at the bowling club was concluded, as usual, with a coach trip. This year it was to the Royal Mint in South Wales followed by leisure time at Cardiff Bay for exploring. Besides a conducted tour & visit to the museum there were two unusual displays, of a Mini & Gromit who were covered in real £1 coins.



The 2017/2018 winter season commenced in September when members recommenced playing social bowls and sessions are available on three days per week, Sunday and Tuesday afternoons & Friday evenings. New members are always welcome (Tel. Leoni, Secretary, on 01934 811571).

Besides social bowling members have the chance to be included in club teams, which participate in the Woodspring League. This season we have two teams competing, The Celts and The Romans.

Social events are also part of the club's activities, and have included a bowling tour to Torquay, our annual dinner, a coach trip, skittles and such events as an end of year Christmas bash, a race night and jacket potato and fish 'n' chip evenings.

During the summer we play out door bowls at Clarence Park and several members have taken up Boules, playing at the Croquet Club ground. This took place on a Wednesday evening from June until November and took on a French flavour with players dressed accordingly.



Horticultural Club Beetle Drive

The Annual Beetle Drive and American style supper will take place in the hall at 7.30 on Tuesday December 19. The cost of a ticket is £1 and needs to be purchased beforehand. Ring 813152 to reserve a ticket.

Would you like an Allotment?

Do you enjoy growing fruit and vegetables, but do not have enough room?

The Parish Council has one full plot and three half plots available now in Bleadon.

If you are interested please contact the Parish Clerk on 07741461982

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Bleadon Village Christmas Market 2017

Don't miss Bleadon's bumper Christmas Market on 2nd December, 9.00am until 12.30pm. Held in the three halls in the heart of Bleadon, the Christmas Market is a popular start to the Christmas season. Father Christmas will be there and there is a bumper Christmas raffle with lots of prizes donated by local businesses, stallholders and hall users. Over 50 stalls will provide festive delights to eat and gifts to buy. Refreshments will include the usual delicious bacon and sausage rolls, as well as hot mince pies and mulled wine. Parking is limited so park on your way and walk if possible.



50 stalls

Local produce with that
Christmas flavour.

Old Spot Pork & Sausages. Cheese.

Bakery. Pies. Savouries.

Preserves. Cakes.

Gifts, Gifts, Gifts! Crafts. Jewellery.

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Bric-a-Brac.

RAFFLE! SANTA!

Refreshments including

Hot Mince Pies, Bacon & Sausage Baps,

Teacakes & More

Find us on Facebook and www.bleadon.org.uk/market

Aspects of Bleadon

It was wonderful to see so many people enjoying the Aspects of Bleadon photo show at the Coronation Hall on 18 November. The evening raised nearly £300 for the Coronation Halls' Fund.

Penny Robinson and Richard Cole deserve a huge vote of thanks for providing so many pictures and helping to run the event on the night. Thank you also to the various people who have helped at the bar on several occasions this year, thus making a contribution to our fund-raising on behalf of a very worth-while charity.

Stone stile at South Hill



A Neighbourhood Plan for Bleadon

The Parish Council has now received approval from North Somerset Council (NSC) to start work on a Neighbourhood Plan. This represents an excellent opportunity to create a community-led vision for the future development of Bleadon and formally establish specific local planning policies.

A Neighbourhood Plan offers a number of advantages over relying on the Local Plan produced by NSC or on an informal Parish Plan. The plan becomes part of the NSC statutory planning process and has to be considered by the local authority and planning inspectors when considering planning applications or appeals in the neighbourhood area. This effectively gives Bleadon more influence and control over future development. The plan can also guide the provision of infrastructure for example pedestrian links, improvement of junctions and open spaces.

The Neighbourhood Plan will be prepared by a community-led Steering Group and will involve consulting with a whole range of people and organisations in Bleadon, providing an opportunity to update and expand on the existing Parish Plan. The previous work done on the Parish Plan will be invaluable and help to reduce the time required to prepare the first draft of the Neighbourhood Plan.

The final version of the plan will have to demonstrate that full community engagement has been achieved and it will be subject to a referendum before it can be approved. A vote in favour of more than 50% is required. Therefore, it is not something that can be imposed on the community.

The opportunity will also be taken to create a Community Action Plan, which will incorporate any remaining actions from the original Parish Plan to ensure that these ideas are valued and taken forward. The Steering Group will be formed during December, so if you are interested in taking part contact a member of the Parish Council team and please get involved. We will be at the Bleadon Saturday Market every month to provide further information and updates as the work progresses, and will also organise a series of public meetings.

There is a lot of useful information on the internet and here are few links to get you started:

Locality - www.locality.org.uk

Campaign for the Protection of Rural England - www.cpre.org.uk

Community Matters - www.communitymatters.org.uk

My Community - www.mycommunity.org.uk

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- BLOCK PAVING REPAIRS

Shiplate Road closure

Shiplate Road will be closed to allow BT to renew telephone lines between 9.30am and 3.30 pm for three days from 4 December 2017. Make sure you plan journeys in advance and check alternative routes to avoid getting stuck!

Your Parish Council

Bleadon Parish Council is looking for an additional three Councillors and a new Parish Clerk. You can find out all about what being a Councillor or Parish Clerk entails on the Council's website but, for those who are curious, Councillor David Chinn has written this piece exploring the Parish Council's role in our community.

Bleadon Parish Council

Bleadon has its own village based local authority, Bleadon Parish Council (BPC), to which parishioners can bring concerns or ideas and which makes decisions on behalf of the people of the parish. Parish Councils are a vital part of any community, being the level of government closest to the community.

BPC has limited powers to make decisions, but it can influence other organisations on matters affecting the local community and is often asked to review and comment upon national and local government consultation documents.

The most common examples of BPC's decision making are involvement with planning matters as 'statutory consultees', managing and maintaining open spaces and campaigning for and delivering better services and facilities for the village, with representations from residents and village organisations helping Councillors in the decision-making process.

Not all areas of concern are within the parish council's powers to deal with. Recent examples have included noise and nuisance, unauthorised earthworks, planning violations and footpaths being blocked or diverted. In such cases, the complainant has been directed with parish council support, to the relevant authority that has responsibility to act.

Meetings

- In the village hall on the second Monday of each month.
- Agendas are displayed in advance on the Council website, village noticeboards and via local media. Minutes of the meetings are available on the website and also via local media.
- Meetings are also attended by the local district councillor Terry Porter, the local police, and reports are invited local organisations.

Councillors, employees and finance

- Bleadon parish can have up to nine parish councillors - currently there are only six.
- BPC also employs a Parish Clerk and a Village Ranger. The Clerk ensures that the council conducts its business properly and provides independent, objective and professional advice and support.
- The council is responsible for setting a precept to raise money through Council Tax for the Parish. The Council is responsible for ensuring we have up to date and relevant public liability insurance for Council assets and other risk related areas.

What the Council does

Open spaces and facilities

- Maintenance of Well Green, Jubilee Garden, the village car park, Purn Quarry, the parish churchyard, laybys on Roman Road, numerous benches, seats, plant tubs, notice boards, along with some rights of way and bus shelters.
- Maintenance includes grass and tree cutting by contractors and the village ranger, emptying waste and dog waste bins in the village. The village ranger also monitors fly-tipping, reporting incidents to the district council and clearing affected areas.

Community facilities

- The parish council acts as the Custodial Trustee in the ownership of the Coronation and Jubilee Halls, the village youth club land and the children's playground.

- BPC also provides and maintains public toilets in the centre of the village and there is a public defibrillation device on the wall of the village hall which is maintained and paid for out of parish council funds.
- Allotments are available in Bleadon and are managed by the parish council.
- Each year the parish council and a team of volunteers arrange for flowers to be planted in the village's tubs and borders.
- The parish council was responsible for paying for the rebuilding of the churchyard wall this year and it also pays for the maintenance of the churchyard and church clock.
- The parish council, with support from residents, tries to monitor roads, footpaths, bridleways, street lighting and public transport and report problems relating to safety and maintenance to the highways and local authorities. A small number of street lights in the village are owned, maintained and funded by the parish council.

Communication

- Monthly public meetings, an annual parish meeting, the Village News publication, noticeboards and the BPC website (which we know needs improving). Parish councillors attend the monthly Village Market to hear your views and talk about ongoing projects.
- Councillors' contact details are publicised so that parishioners can contact them. The village noticeboards are used by a wide range of organisations to promote events in the village. We are working on developing the website in a similar way.

Grants and awards

- Small grants of money are available for parish events and projects. Applications can be made to the clerk. For example, an annual grant is made to the CONTACTUS team.
- The parish council hopes to introduce an award certificate to recognise outstanding contributions by individuals to the community of Bleadon.

Village Organisations

The parish council supports village organisations in varying ways, e.g. Halls committee, village youth club and parochial church council. The May Fayre is also supported by the parish council who provide the use of the car park and children's play area to the organisers.

Some current and recent projects

- A residents' working group, which includes parish council representatives, regularly meets with representatives from Marshalls, to discuss road safety and environmental issues.
- The parish council is embarking on a process of producing a Neighbourhood Plan. There is a separate article on this within the Village News.
- The recent building improvements at the village halls were supported by the parish council. A kitchen refurbishment will be undertaken by the Halls Committee soon.
- The community payback scheme worked hard clearing vegetation in and around the village halls, youth club and toilets. This project was organised and supported by the parish council.
- A new waste bin in the children's play area has been installed, replacing the rusty and unsightly one. It is in the shape of a bear and this encourages children to clear up waste and put it in the bin.
- The WI and council work together to try and improve road safety in certain parts of the village. The council has tried to set up a community speed watch group but due to cuts in general public services, this has not yet been achieved.
- The biggest project this year was the rebuilding of the churchyard wall as previously mentioned. This has been a major expenditure for the parish and taken up many hours of work by the parish clerk and councillors.

If you like a challenge, love your village and really want to do something different that contributes to a whole community, come and join the parish councillors or find out about being a volunteer in one of our ongoing projects

Development - the view from Bleadon

At the time of writing there has been no planning application for the proposed development on the fields between Bleadon Road and A370.

When the planning application is received and publicised on the District Council planning website, you are invited to view and comment on it. Whatever your views on the development, individual comments by members of the public are taken into consideration during the planning decision process. Reiterations of communal responses are quickly identified as duplicates and as such are less effective. Each person in a household can make their views known independently. Comments, which must not be anonymous, can be submitted on line or by post. The planning website will show a consultation closing date.

Correspondence sent to the parish council about any planning application is very welcome and assists local councillors at planning committee meetings. The parish council advises that any correspondence must also be submitted to the District Council planning website, in order to be taken into consideration by the District planning meeting.

It is important that publication of the planning application is brought to everyone's attention as soon as possible for them to take advantage of the consultation period. The parish council will advertise any such publication on the website, parish noticeboards and any other media outlet available for your attention. You can also monitor the planning website yourselves by accessing goo.gl/otZxek

Bleadon Parish Council is invited by the District Council Planning Department to comment on all planning applications that apply to the Parish. The Parish Council has no powers over planning decisions and comments made are not binding on the District Council.

Dave Chinn

Development - the view from North Somerset

Large scale development anywhere is always a contentious issue, except for the landowners. That is why the decision on these matters has to be made by the relevant authority with regard to the interests of the whole community within its boundaries, not those of any group or individual. This is made very clear in the latest issue of North Somerset Life. On pages 28 and 29 in the second paragraph it mentions "plans for housing, employment and infrastructure" over the region. Developers of course are interested in only the first of these, hoping that everything else is somebody else's problem, so it is good to see that our council takes a broader view.

For those who have not seen this article let me briefly explain that the council proposes large developments as follows.

- Nailsea 3,300 homes
- Churchill 2,800 homes
- Banwell 1,900 homes
- Backwell 700 homes

- all involving employment and infrastructure. This is their contribution to the regional plan, which includes South Gloucestershire, B.A.N.E.S. and Bristol. The article also says that smaller developments have to be progressed through each council's new local plan, that work is under way on North Somerset's new local plan and that a draft will be published for consultation in the spring.

Newer residents may not be aware of the local plan, which has been in existence for a good many years and is regularly reviewed and updated, for obvious reasons. For the thirty years I have been in the village there has been a strict development line round the centre of Bleadon and the area alongside the A370 has remained outside it. It follows that any proposals for that land would be automatically rejected unless the council is minded to change its local plan and it seems to me inconceivable that any application submitted now would be decided on before the new local plan is finalised. This plan will consider employment and infrastructure, not just houses. It therefore behoves us to relax and wait for this draft, which may well leave the situation in Bleadon as it is. At the moment our local authority is on our side. Let us hope it stays that way.

Les Masters

The Queens is Dead - Long Live The Queens!

In thirty years I have seen many comings and goings at the Queens Arms but none as surprising as the latest. Having gathered in their harvest on 30 September, Nick and Emma shut shop on 1 October and drove to an unknown destination on 2 October, leaving one of the staff to inform Butcombe that their pub no longer had a tenant. All credit to Butcombe, by the evening of 4 October the pub was open again, for drinks only, under the stewardship of Lorna Roman, who was running it as part of her operation at the Coach House, Locking.

Shortly after that a firm turned up to give the kitchen a three-day going over, leaving it all sparkling white but without a cooker, which explains the "Kitchen Closed" sign outside. Then Bruce Dance from IDS came to measure up for a cooker.

Meanwhile, Butcombe were advertising for new tenants via Humberstones in Bristol, Lorna having made it clear she would stay only until 16 November as she would need to give all her time to the Coach House.

Rumours abounded, of course, none of them preparing us for the arrival on 16 November. of Andy (Manny) Mannion, a landlord of considerable experience, who is stopping the gap and has positive intentions. Manny wishes it to be known that he is here as a result of a phone call from his friend Mark Walton, landlord of the Queen Victoria in Priddy (another Butcombe house), whose pub has just been voted pub-restaurant of the year on the Somerset Live website, as recently reported in the Mercury. I do hope you are following this.

By the time you read this the Queens should be serving food again, albeit with a limited menu. To check what is available and perhaps make a booking ring 812080.

There are also two special events to put in your diary. First, the WI choir will follow their carol service on 8 December by moving up to the Queens and leading the singing there before moving indoors for festive fare and drinks. Then, on 17 December the Queens Arms pantomime will be performed in the car park at about 6.30pm, this year's production being Peter Pan, again with festive drinks and fare to follow. More power to Manny's elbow!

Les Masters



Your Bleadon Youth Club

For all* young people aged 10 to 17 on Thursday evenings 7-9pm.

With fully qualified YMCA leadership providing activities, fun and somewhere for young people to chill out together.

Play table tennis, music, table football, pool, badminton, WiFi, tuck + drinks
Just £1.50 per session. *Registration conditions apply.

Fundraising events coming up

- Christmas market on Saturday 2 December. 9-12:30
- Panto + prize draw raffle at the Queens Arms on Sunday 17 Dec from 6pm
- May Day Fayre on Monday 7 May, 11am-4pm

The youth club building also provides a bright and practical venue for parties, activities and events for the young at heart. Hire rates start at just £11 per hour. Call Keith on 813127 to enquire, view or book.

Yoga with Tilly on Tuesday evenings 8 - 9.
Call Tilly Ferrari on 814040 or just turn up and try it.

**TO HIRE
THE YOUTH CENTRE
Call 01934 813127**

WANTED: A new Parish Clerk

Bleadon Parish Council meets on the second Monday in the month.

The next meeting will be on Monday 11th December at 7.30pm.

Please check on www.bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk for meeting dates, agendas and minutes.

Agendas can also be seen on the five village notice boards.

We welcome parishioners to attend meetings. At the start of each meeting you are able to talk briefly to the council about any issues you have.

If there is a particular issue you would like to raise please let the Parish Clerk know by the Friday before the meeting. This will give us the chance to collect the most up-to-date information. If it's a last minute issue you wish to raise, you can still ask to address the council but they may not have the answers immediately.

Bleadon News is produced by
 Claire Gutsell
 Editor Mike Gutsell
 Proof reader Les Masters
 Printed by Taylor Thorne Print



To contact the Parish Council please email:
parishclerk@bleadonparishcouncil.gov.uk

07741461982

If you would like to apply to be the new Parish Clerk, you can find details of the post are on the Council website at www.bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk. The Council is looking to recruit a new Clerk as soon as possible so please do tell friends or family about this opportunity as appropriate.

WANTED: Parish Councillors

There are still three vacancies on the Parish Council and with everything that is happening in, or is proposed for, Bleadon, there is an urgent need to fill them. You can find out more about what the Parish Council does and its plans for the future in this edition of Bleadon News.

Wanted: Coronation Halls supervisor

The vast increase in lettings at the Coronation Halls has reached the point where we can no longer expect the running of the building to be carried out entirely by willing volunteers. The cleaning has been contracted out for as long as I can remember, and we have recently contracted out at a commercial rate the function of bookings management. The next stage is to contract out the supervision of the premises on the same basis. This is new territory for the committee so we have not finalised all the details of what we would like and can afford, but at present the overall description is:

“To oversee the day to day use of the halls, to arrange repairs and maintenance, and to be the first point of contact for all enquiries from users other than bookings queries.”

Obviously the basic requirement is for somebody who lives locally and can therefore respond quickly to problems, with average common sense and fitness. No fixed hours are involved, as the number and type of lettings vary from month to month, payment being by cheque on submission of a monthly invoice, but the position is definitely part-time. Remuneration is negotiable but significantly above national living wage.

We are sorry we cannot be more specific at the moment but if you are at all interested and would like to have an informal chat about the position please ring our secretary, Kevin Barrett, on 811267.

Your Bleadon Parish Councillors

David Chinn	Four Winds, Hillside Road, Bleadon	221736
Ray Bleazard	Westfield, 1 The Barton, Bleadon	07734384470
Richard Dobson	Barley Cottage, Chestnut Lane, Bleadon	07503295782
Steve Hartree	Chestnuts, Chestnut Lane, Bleadon	811849
Mary Sheppard	The Incas, Bleadon Road, Bleadon	812921
Kathy Strong	28 The Veale, Bleadon	07867930112

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jjg.zumba@gmail.com

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FULLY INSURED, FIRST AID TRAINED , CRB CHECKED, ZIN MEMBER



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