



## BLEADON IN BLOOM

2020 – 2021 Britain in Bloom entry by the  
Parish of Bleadon in North Somerset

**Kirsten Hemingway-Arnold and Robin  
Flavell**

For Bleadon Parish Council

# BLEADON IN BLOOM

Bleadon Britain in Bloom Entry

# Bleadon in Bloom

Award Entry 2021

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## Introduction

Bleadon is a rural village on the border between Somerset and North Somerset. We are set along a river and criss-crossed by a network of rhynes, footpaths and country roads. The village is small with some 1080 residents and a local holiday business which almost doubles our size in the summer. We have many footpaths and bridleways and country roads which encourage visitors either walking, cycling or on horseback.



Bleadon is situated between the coast and the Mendip Hills, in an area of outstanding natural beauty (AONB) and consequently can boast a wealth of flora and fauna. Purn Hill on our West boundary is an SSI and has a rare Rock Rose found only on Purn Hill and Brean Down.

Our community is vibrant and friendly, although it is said anecdotally that in the last few years we have not networked as well as we could have done, and we do not meet often as a community but rather in our groups such as the WI or the Horticultural Society. Since we started getting involved with Bleadon in Bloom in 2019 it has helped us to come together as a community and to work across our local groups and businesses. This in turn has led to greater understanding and co-operation.

As part of our project, we have an eye on social isolation for some members of our community and seek to ensure that all parts of the Parish feel connected to the project and to the wide variety of resources that our parish has to offer. Of course, this has been even more important during 2020 and 2021 when our village organisations have been unable to meet face to face. We know that everybody feels better when they are valued and sometimes the smallest contribution takes the most effort and gives the greatest pleasure

We have many rare and endangered plants and animals in our community. Part of our project has been about raising awareness of our environment for these animals and plants. We want to find ways to bring them to our attention and help them to thrive – or at least to raise awareness of not creating conditions that make it difficult for them to thrive.

Our parish is naturally beautiful, and we have chosen placements of flowers and trees that enhance that natural beauty and add to the biodiversity and habitats. Our judges tour will include a visit to a high point on the Mendip Hills within our Parish so that the judges can see all of Bleaddon.

## Planning for 2021

Following a successful 2020 the team were beginning to gel well and we have got used to managing the process of gardening at a distance. Dividing up the jobs seems to be how Bleaddon in Bloom gets things done and we communicate effectively using social media and WhatsApp. We strive to make sure people feel involved and connected even at a distance and this has been a real strength during the pandemic. We have represented the village well to all the visitors by making sure it looked well cared for and by creating a welcoming atmosphere. We have also done a lot for our wildlife.

In September 2020 we ran a call for suggestions for a theme for 2021. We had 17 responses 20% were about various interesting topics, 31% of them were about “Cheering ourselves up”, and 49% wanted to find a way to thank Key Workers. Being a rural community, we also count our farmers in those key workers, and we know how vital they have been to the UK during the pandemic.

## Our projects

This year we have concentrated on projects we could achieve while socially distancing, some of our community projects involving teams coming together have been put on hold until restrictions have been fully lifted and it’s safe to meet again.

Our projects this year have been:

1. Refurbishment and expansion of our floral displays
2. Wildflower planting
3. Native tree planting
4. Apple tree planting
5. South Hill signage
6. Scented walk around the village
7. New benches
8. Water vole conservation
9. Supporting our businesses
10. Providing places to connect
11. Reducing risk on our dangerous road

## Horticultural Achievements

### Autumn Planting

The horticultural preparations started in the autumn of 2020 with a clear out of our summer bedding displays. During summer 2020 we had assigned 'Tub parents' to each area of the village which allowed us to carry on caring for the tubs in a socially distanced way. So the tub parents were mobilised to clear out the summer plants. At the same time, we took the opportunity to plant daffodils, tulip & hyacinth bulbs which we had bought with the proceeds from our plant sale. To leave some winter colour we replanted polyanthus which had been stored over the summer in a shady spot. We also bought a new stock of polyanthus for our memorial cross as this is one of the main features of the village planting.

### Our Planters

We had ambitious plans to expand the number of displays in the village again this year.

We had money set aside in the budget for 15 new tubs. We actually managed to source some cheaper barrels from a local business so purchased 20. Added to this we had donations from various sources including local residents and the Bleadon golf course making a total of 34 new planters.

Our plans included a representation of a tractor to thank farmers during the pandemic. We already had a tractor tyre so added a tub to represent the other tyre & two square planters for the tractor cab. The two new square planters were made by Dave Sharman, one of our Bloomers.

We added a new planter under the Bleadon sign at the entrance to the village. This planter was made by another Bloomer, Dennis Perrett.

We carried out a survey of our existing barrels, some of which are very old and beyond repair and decided to replace 10 of them. So in the end there was a huge team effort to empty & replace 10 barrels and install 24 new planters.

Once again, we split the work between volunteers to maintain social distancing rules and to divide up the heavy work of moving barrels, horse manure and compost around the village.



## Planting Theme

Our theme for 2021 is a thank you to key workers for everything they did for us during the pandemic.

We decided to follow the NHS colours of the rainbow for the planting. This made life more straightforward as we weren't sure what the coming months would bring and what the supply of plants would be like in spring 2021.

Our plans also included a representation of a tractor and our memorial cross in white for the NHS.

## Annual Planting

Petunias	For long lasting flowers and visual impact, especially in areas where they need to be seen from far away e.g. on roads.  Bright coloured flowers to attract pollinators
Verbena	
Dwarf Nicotiana	
Zinnias	
Blue ageratum	
Upright lobelia	
Nemesia	
Tagetes	Long lasting flowers bright coloured flowers, easy to grow from our own seed
Marigolds, French and African	
Small Fuchsias	Long lasting flowers, shade tolerant
Begonia semperflorens	For dry areas, shade tolerant
Upright pelargoniums (geraniums)	For dry, sunny areas
Portulaca	
Trailing lobelia	Trailing habit
Ivy leaf pelargoniums (geraniums)	
Nasturtiums	

## Perennial planting

We have started to increase the number of perennial plants in our displays with a view to making our displays more sustainable in the long run. We still want to keep our tubs colourful so have used the following plants, some of which will need to be protected over winter.

Scented pelargoniums	Fragrant foliage
Lavender	Fragrance & attractive for bees
Hardy fuchsias	Long flowering, easy to keep over winter
Canna lilies	Height & impact
Lupins	We have a few lupins in this year's display but have more growing to be ready in time for next year

## Growing the plants

We set up a growing team of volunteers and agreed which plants we would grow ourselves. The village gardeners have donated use of their polytunnel and greenhouses for the Bleadon in Bloom plants.

We have grown well over 1,500 plants ourselves from seeds, seedlings or tiny plug plants. These include Marigolds, Tagetes, Blue ageratum, Petunias, Begonia semperflorens, Pelargoniums, Lobelia, Hardy Fuchsias and Nemesia.

We started growing some of the tiny plants in February to give them a good chance of being big enough by May. They started off in the warmth of our houses, as none of us have the luxury of a heated greenhouse. When the seedlings were a bit bigger, they were planted into larger cells, except the ageratum, begonias & marigolds which were kept in seed trays. They were transferred to the greenhouse/ polytunnel.



We had plenty of sunshine in April but the nights were very cold. There was a lot of running out to the greenhouse in the evening to tuck the baby plants up under fleece to keep out any frost. The plants were gradually moved up into larger pots as they grew until it was time to harden them off outside. More running back and to, moving the plants out of the greenhouse and back in again if the weather was bad. We had quite a lot of cold wind and rain in May so we had to take this stage slowly.





The growers worked as a team. Val, as our most experienced gardener, gave out advice to those of us who have less experience. In particular, she gave advice on how to grow the begonias, and reduce the risk of them damping off before they got established. Also, how to pinch out the petunias to help them become more bushy plants.

We did not have the greenhouse capacity or manpower to grow all the plants ourselves, so we used a local grower, Jane Wheatley, based near Chew Magna, to grow the other half of our plants. Jane supplied us with another 1,000 plants.

### Planting weekend

We had planned our main planting for the Whit Bank Holiday weekend, luckily the weather warmed up and we picked up the plants the week before from Jane Wheatley. We also had a delivery of compost in time for the planting. The final piece of the jigsaw was the organisation of the tub planters.

A core team of 'Bloomers' volunteered to do the planting. A schedule for picking up the plants was arranged by WhatsApp as we needed to make sure we were still socially distanced and didn't all arrive at once.

In preparation for the planting day, we drew up a list of every planter, its location, approximate size and who was assigned to plant it. Planters are divided into areas around the village to help us keep track of them. (see Appendix 1 and 2 for the full list)



We now have 125 planters to fill, including 66 barrels, 14 square planters, plus all the other stone and wooden troughs & assorted pots & planters around the village. Quite an undertaking!

We moved all the plants to Val's garden, and worked out how many plants to assign to each size of tub. We decided on 20 for a large tub, 16 for medium and 12 for small.



However, life isn't that straightforward as there are different areas of the village which need special attention. For example, there is a very dry sunny area by the village well, which is more suited to pelargoniums and the succulent portulacas. The planters on the main road needed bigger plants so they can be seen from further away, and this location is windy. We also had special plants set aside for the tractor and memorial cross display.

Luckily, Val helped us think all this through and organised the plants into groups ready for the planters to come and collect in their allotted time slot. The weather was kind to us, and we managed to get most of the planting done over the course of the weekend.

We have since received a final batch of 850 plants from North Somerset Council. We have used these plants to fill in any final gaps in our displays.

Any leftover plants were sold in June to raise funds for next year's Bleadon in Bloom. We raised over £300 for next year's special projects and to keep the village looking good all year round.

## Tub parents

During the pandemic last year we came up with the idea of giving each tub a 'parent' who tends the tub from when they are planted until all the plants are over. We have continued with this idea again as it's the best way of working in a socially distanced way.

We have a rota of volunteers to look after the plants at the Hall, as this is a big area to cover.

We have had a number of new volunteers join the team this year, our band of Bloomers is expanding!





### This Year's Learning

It is rewarding to grow as many of our own plants as possible, but it's also challenging to get them ready at the right time

- We had such a cold spring, it really slowed down the plants we grew from seed.
- Some plants grown from plugs were ready too early this year, we could afford to start them a little bit later.
- Now we have a proper list of all the planters it will be easier to estimate how many plants we need next year.
- We also have a record of exactly how many plants we used in each location, making next year's planning easier.
- If we had more greenhouse / polytunnel space we could grow more plants ourselves!

## Environmental Responsibility

Bleaddon in Bloom are proud of the impact the project has had on the wildlife and environment in our area. This is a brief overview of how we have considered the environment in our planting scheme and some of the projects we've been involved in this year.

### Flower displays

We try to minimise our impact while producing our floral displays:

- All our pots used for growing plants are reused. We have a stock of pots and trays donated by the village and have collected some extra second hand pots this year from the local garden centre.
- We bought plants from a local grower (Jane Wheatley), ensuring all our plants came from the UK, not shipped in from overseas.
- We saved all the plant pots and labels used by Jane Wheatley and returned them to her for re-use.
- We used wooden 'lolly stick' plant labels for our homegrown plants to avoid using plastic.
- We save the seed from our flowers wherever possible. All of our marigolds, tagetes, and ageratum were grown from seeds collected last year.
- We overwintered last year's geraniums, fuchsias, and canna lilies and reused them in our summer display.
- We saved last winter's polyanthus and will reuse them this winter.
- We've started increasing the number of perennial flowers in our displays for better sustainability.
- We use organic fertiliser (well-rotted horse manure donated locally plus pelleted chicken manure).
- We minimised the use of shop bought compost by using garden compost where possible.
- The compost we did buy was sourced locally from a nearby garden centre and made at a farm in Somerset.
- All of our own plants are grown in cool greenhouses / polytunnels using no extra heating and using collected rainwater.
- All our planters and pots are recycled from other materials. Old cider, wine & whisky barrels, old packing cases, recycled pallets.

### Rainwater Tank at the Village Hall

We are in the process of installing two new water tanks at village hall to collect rainwater from the roof of the hall. We have quite a few planters in this area, and it will allow us to reduce our dependence on tap water.

### Owl boxes

We installed two little owl boxes, two tawny owl boxes and a barn owl box in 2019 in key locations around the village. This year was particularly difficult for owls so the Hawk and Owl Trust team who came to check the boxes were delighted to find the only surviving Tawny Owlet in 18 boxes surveyed in the whole area, proving that our owl boxes have been used.

## Water voles

We are very fortunate to have a colony of water voles in the banks of the Ryhnes in the village and need to do everything we can to protect them. The Bloomers have been undertaking surveys of the water vole population with the Peoples Trust for Endangered Species (PTES) and contributing our time to monitoring in the local community.



We have gathered a working party to build a project around the water vole community. This team includes North Somerset Council, The IDB, Wessex Water, PTES, Avon and Somerset Wildlife and Natural England as well as our Parish Council. We have been offered the assistance of the Heritage Lottery Fund to help craft our project and work with the landowners to protect this endangered species.

## Water vole survey

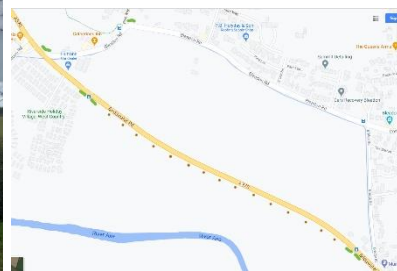
We have registered to participate in the National Water Vole Monitoring Programme (NWVMP) for the PTES. We'll be monitoring the Ryhnes in Bleadon, recording all sightings or signs of water voles which include signs of chopped vegetation, latrines, burrows or nests. We'll also be looking for signs of otter or mink. The survey takes place annually and helps to build up a picture of the species living in our local area.

## Our Ryhnes

We have an ongoing issue with the Ryhnes in the village as they are affected by invasive floating pennywort. Bleadon in Bloom has built up a good relationship with the Internal Drainage Board (IDB) who have a planned programme of work to eliminate the weed in the next 5 years. This will eventually allow us to support our water vole population with plants that are native rather than the floating pennywort.

## Wildflower planting

This year we have also planted wildflower seeds on the verges of the A370. As a Parish Council we invested £4600 on this project employing a professional company to prepare the ground and install soil already mixed with wildflower seeds. Unfortunately, this coincided with a very dry & cold spring. Although we kept the area watered it was disappointing to see that it did not grow as we planned. However, it is installed now, and we hope for a better year next year. The Bloomers have been removing any "weeds" such as bindweed and keeping the area tidy and watered.



### Native tree planting

We have planted 20 Field Maple trees on the A370 (*Acer campestre*). They have been remarked on by many people who are excited to see this addition to the road. The idea behind this project is to make the road feel more part of the village. This is in preparation for a survey by the Traffic Team in North Somerset who we hope will reduce the speed limit on the road. There have been many accidents including a recent fatality and the Bloomers are determined to support the community where we can in this case. The trees were donated by the contractor supplying the wildflowers.

### Wessex Water and the Bleadon Levels

We have been working with Wessex Water on the Bleadon Levels. The Nature Reserves in this space are a unique habitat for wildlife but are also very popular with walkers and cyclists which presents some challenges that have required our help. On behalf of the Parish Council our ecologists have been consulted in terms of new public rights of way that will divert people from some of the wildlife. We are going to be preparing signs to show where the footpaths are and to encourage walkers to keep their dogs under control by showing the extent of the wildlife in the vicinity. By raising the profile of the wildlife we can hopefully increase the awareness of people on their walks to help them make sensible decisions to preserve our precious wildlife.

We have also worked with Wessex Water to make the access routes for horse riders more useable. They have invested in a new gate as the previous one was difficult for riders to navigate.



### South Hill footpaths signage

In the village we have a number of footpaths that criss cross a farm with a significant and important population of local wildlife. It is a big hunting ground for owls and has importance to the bat community as it surrounds the quarry and sits between the river and the larger AONB. Because this is not a wildlife park and as it is privately owned it is difficult to raise funds to create signage and raise awareness.



The farmer is constantly frustrated by poor behaviour of people on the footpaths who fail to control their dogs and leave dog mess, particularly bagged dog mess, which can kill a calf.

We have allocated part of our budget and one of our team has created some fantastic tiled signs.

Then in came the brownies who have painted the tiles and made 3 splendid and informative signs for the entrances to the footpaths. The signs raise awareness of the need to clear up after dogs and at the same time raise the profile of the wildlife in the area. We did allocate a budget of £75 but in the end the materials were donated.



### Blue rewilding campaign

We have continued our blue campaign around the village, our blue hearts show the areas we are not cultivating, leaving native plants for the birds and other wildlife. We have dedicated time to keeping the Parish Council informed of threats to the nesting birds and local woods. We encouraged our local MP to write on our behalf to the head of the Forestry Commission about major tree felling that was happening in our village. The Bloomers have raised the profile of this particular scheme and gathered the will of the village to watch the ongoing changes, ensure that replanting takes place and hopefully mitigate the impact of the felling.





### The orchards and apple trees

Thatchers Cider Company has many of their main orchards in our village. We have been working with them since 2019 to raise the profile of the orchards as habitats for our wildlife. Thatchers have added beehives and wildflowers in amongst their trees. The bees help with the pollination of the trees and the wildflowers attract the bees and other pollinators to the orchards. This is an ongoing project with the Thatchers Foundation and we hope to be able to work with their apprentices again in the coming years when life returns to normal.

## Community Participation

Bleadon in Bloom has brought our community together and allowed us to interact with local businesses in a positive way.

### Thatchers Cider Apple Tree Planting

An opportunity arose in the spring to apply for some community apple trees from our local cider producer, Thatcher Cider.

We were fortunate to be awarded 10 trees, a mixture of cider, dessert, and cooking apples.

As we did not have any community space to establish an orchard, we set about finding places around the village which would be suitable for the trees. We checked the pollination groups of the trees we were given and matched them with others in the same group to maximise the chances of getting some apples.



It was a real team effort to get the trees planted. We have also found some new volunteers who had recently moved to the village who have helped to water the trees during dry spells and have been keeping the vegetation cut back to give them the best chance of getting established.

We were excited to see the first blossom this year and a few tiny apples are starting to form. I am sure the trees will continue to thrive in years to come and will provide a haven for insect and birds as they grow. Who knows, we might even get some cider from them in the future.

The apple tree planting has been a great way to meet people in the village. It has also helped us get closer to one of our main local businesses and given them some positive publicity in the local press, so everybody benefits!



## New Benches

Although it is small our village is spread out along two roads and it's quite a long walk from one end to the other, especially for our more elderly residents. During 2021 we have added 2 new benches to the village and restored the bus shelter at the location of another bench. These benches have been invaluable in our community during the pandemic as many elderly residents have been quite isolated, having a place outside to safely sit and chat for a few minutes has really made a difference.

- **WI friendship bench** – this bench is halfway along the Bleadon Road, in front of the Wessex Water pumping station who kindly gave permission to use their land. The bench is an ideal stopping off point for people walking to the village shop. The bench was donated by the Bleadon WI as part of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations.
- **Chat bench** – this bench has been donated by the SCLT (Senior Citizens Liaison Team Charity) who also focus on social isolation amongst older people. It can be found on the West Mendip Way just behind Purn Way in the village. This is another ideal place for everyone, young or old to stop for a rest and a chat.
- **Celtic Way bus stop** – this bench is at the top of the steep hill leading out of the village. It's a popular spot for walkers and cyclists to take a rest, so it's very welcome that the bus shelter has been replaced, making it a dry place to rest and eat your sandwiches.



### Queens Arms floral display

Despite a very difficult year for our local pub, they are now open again and have a lovely floral display. Once again Bleadon has chosen a local community supplier for their planting.

The beautiful hanging baskets at the Queens Arms were purchased from HMP Erlestoke farms & gardens unit.



The prisoners produce vegetables which are used in the prison kitchens and any surplus is sold in the prison farm shop. They also produce a wide range of ornamental plants for use around the prison grounds to improve the environment for everyone, some of these flowering plants are also sold to the public.

The prisoners learn a range of horticultural techniques while working in the farms & gardens unit which they can use in their life going forwards. Many prisoners go on to enjoy their own gardens or allotments using the practical skills and knowledge gained. The work in the garden unit also aids the prisoners' wellbeing, working in the fresh air and contributing in a hands-on way to the running of the prison.

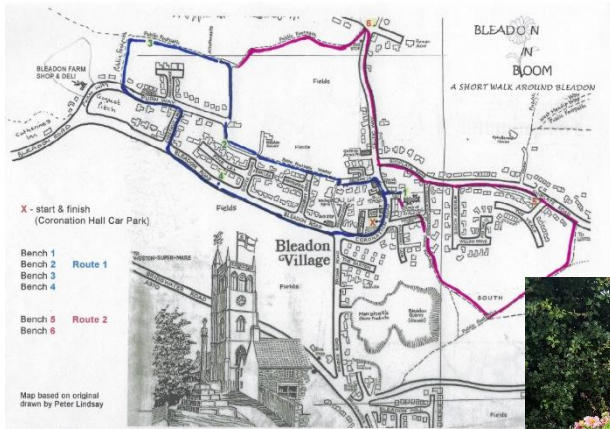


All of the hanging basket plants were grown from seed, apart from the geraniums which were grown from cuttings. Despite the challenges of the cold spring this year, the plants have turned out beautifully.

This is the first year we have collaborated with HMP Erlestoke but are hoping it could continue to be an ongoing relationship in future years.

## Walk around Bleadon

We are fortunate to have many footpaths around our village, as well as our floral displays, some lovely gardens, and interesting old buildings, so we decided to document a short walk around the village for Bleadon in Bloom. To highlight our many benches, which make our walks more accessible to everyone, we have placed a scented geranium at each of the benches featured on our walk for people to discover. See Appendix 4 for the walk & map. We are planning to sell copies of the walk in our village shop for charity.



## Bleadon Hill Golf Course

Bleadon Hill golf course has supplied 2 new barrels to add to the display by the bench on Roman road which is another popular spot for walkers. They also help with the watering of the 6 tubs beside the bench. Bleadon in Bloom continues to build great links with our local businesses.

## Bleadon Farm Shop and Deli

The farm shop has been an invaluable resource during the pandemic, allowing us to get the basics without having to visit large supermarkets. The new Deli has recently opened, which is another valuable meeting point for the Bleadon community. As a thank you for all their hard work Bleadon in Bloom has supplied all the plants for their floral displays, and they have been planted by our Bloomers.

## Britain in Bloom Painting Competition

We are delighted that our local school at Lympsham have agreed to enter some pictures for the painting competition. Our local competition reflects the national competition. The prize is usually a bird box or other wildlife habitat, and the winning competitors pictures go forward as the entry to the main competition from Bleadon.



### Support for the Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Award

We are very happy to have a new 'Bloomer' join our band of volunteers. Oli James has started by joining the team of volunteers who are watering the hall. We need someone we can rely on twice a week to help keep the flower displays in good shape. We're hoping that Oli will be able to help us out with some other activities in the coming months.

### Litter Picking

Some people think it's acceptable to throw your litter out of the window when you're driving down a country road, to leave used dog poo bags in a hedge or drop your water bottle when you're out for a walk. In Bleadon we take pride in our village, and we have a number of volunteers who help to keep our roads and footpaths tidy all year round. They include litter picking on their regular walks and some of our volunteers have joined the North Somerset Council's 'adopt-a-street' campaign.



### Taking pride in our village

Some areas of our village had started to look neglected with weeds in the road & pavements. The surroundings of the Coronation Hall had also become overgrown, and some of the flower beds hadn't been weeded for a while. Some of this has obviously been due to the pandemic, as it's been difficult for people to get together to sort things out.

So the Bloomers enlisted the help of the Parish Council to sort out the roads and the Coronation Hall gardens. The Bloomers chipped in and did some of the weeding and tidying too.

Everything is looking so much better.

Once we see that our village is looking better this leads to other people taking the initiative to start improving things themselves. One of our volunteers has tidied the area at the Celtic Way entrance to the village and another has started painting the village noticeboards. Our village is looking great!



## The Bloomers

And last but not least, we couldn't organise all of the Bleadon in Bloom activities without the commitment of all of our Bloomers. A large group of people have pulled together even under the restrictions of social distancing to make this happen. All ages in the community are involved, from youngsters in the Brownies, and children from the village helping us on the planting day, through to older members of our community helping with watering and advice and knowledge about the village's history. It is certainly a great way to meet new people, learn more about our village, it gives us all something in common to talk about and the flowers definitely get admired by everybody!

We use the 'Bleadon in Bloom' and 'In And Around Bleadon' Facebook pages to keep in touch, ask for help and report on progress. We also have a WhatsApp group which allows us to communicate and quickly take advantage of good weather or new donations.



## Bleadon's Blooming Businesses

Our local businesses and charities have supported our efforts this year and we would like to thank (in no particular order):

- Thatchers
- Wheatley's Plant Nursery
- Westcroft Nursery
- Bleadon Golf Club
- Taylor Thorne Printers
- The Queens arms
- Huttons
- Escape
- Bleadon Trees
- Down to Earth Gardening
- Wessex Water
- Bridge Garage
- Manor Farm Holiday Cottages
- The Senior Citizen Liaison Team Charity (SCLT) – chat bench



## Blooming Groups

We have brought together many of the groups in our community and they have all contributed to support our efforts.

1. Westhaven School
2. Lympsham School
3. Bleadow Brownies
4. Bleadow Horticultural Society
5. Bleadow Allotment Association
6. Bleadow Acting Together
7. Bleadow WI
8. The church
9. Bleadow Cadets
10. Weston Croquet Club
11. North Somerset Council

We have also been helped by some individuals:

1. Dave Sharman – Planters and Blue Hearts
2. Dennis Perret – Planters
3. Tom Hemingway-Arnold – Logo Design
4. Steve Smith – Owl Boxes, Signs and Children’s Blue Hearts
5. Local Councillor Terry Porter – our mentor
6. Terry Vincent for the wildflowers on Roman Road
7. Adrian – the Bleadow Ranger

## Future Plans

Next year we hope to be out of the Pandemic and able to mix more. Our work will be around social isolation and we will be hoping to engage more of our community and work closely with the Horticultural society to plan some big, beautiful displays. We are interested in starting a men’s group of volunteers who will help us with the infrastructure but also this group will support social prescribing. The group will be akin to a “man in a shed” group – supporting men’s mental health. At the same time this will help us to support our footpaths with a team of volunteers.

We will be delivering a celebration for the Jubilee which will include a refresh of the Jubilee Garden. This project will be delivered with other groups in the village and closely with the Parish Council. Whatever we create will be expected to last a good while for the village.

Using the great start on Wild Bleadow we will continue to develop our grass roots ecology strands and build a catalogue of the habitats and wild animals and plants in the Parish. Our owl boxes will continue to be monitored and we will develop other habitat requirements for hedgehogs and dormice. Working closely with our team of ecologists, we will be developing a hedgehog highway, creating longevity for the water voles and bats and developing more education among our community about the local wildlife.

## Conclusion

The Bloomers have learned a lot about our village and how it works and we are able to better understand the character. People are open to planting and lot of the residents have become involved. It has been an incredible year we have had much adversity to strive though and managed to build a credible entry that we are all proud of.

We feel proud of what we have achieved and continue to achieve with this project.



## Finances

			Parish Councils Agreed Budget - £10,727.00	
<b>BLEADON IN BLOOM</b>			<b>Totals</b>	
1	Competition Entry in IYN's	£ 20.00	£	20.00
18	Half round barrels	£ 25.00	£	450.00
100	Plugs and seeds to home grow	£ 1.00	£	100.00
1	Wheatley's Order	£ 1.00	£	400.00
1	West Croft Order	£ 2.00	£	50.00
1	Westhaven Order	£ 2.00	£	28.00
12	Bulbs for new planters	£ 6.00	£	-
5	Planter for George Walls Seat	£ 25.00	£	-
2	Wildflower seeds	£ 80.00	£	28.00
2	Troughs	£ 100.00	£	-
2	Bleadon Mill Tractor	£ 100.00	£	-
60	Compost	£ 6.00	£	360.00
5	Stones and gravel	£ 5.00	£	-
2	Benches	£ 200.00	£	-
3	Tools	£ 20.00	£	-
4	torches	£ 10.00	£	-
7	Wood and paint	£ 30.00	£	-
<b>Rewilding Bleadon</b>				
	Wildflower Turf A370 Path		£	4,600.00
	Wildflower Turf Rhyne Edge		£	-
	Trees and Tree Protection A370		£	-
	South Hill Nature Trail signs		£	-
	Tools		£	-
	Printing		£	-
	Volunteers expenses		£	-
	Dormouse and Swift boxes		£	-
	Bleadon Levels Contribution to WW plan		£	-
	<b>Grand total</b>		<b>£</b>	<b>6,036.00</b>
<b>2020 Plant Sale Spending</b>				
	Plants and Bulbs	£ 186.00		
	Gravel	£ 32.00		
	Trailing	£ 48.00		
	<b>Total</b>		<b>£</b>	<b>266.00</b>
<b>Donations</b>				
	Plants - own grown	£ 450.00		
	Plants and pots Donated	£ 65.00		
	Signs	£ 300.00		
	Planters inc Tractor	£ 400.00		
	Cider for Judge	£ 20.00		
	Tools	£ 18.00		
	Croquet Club	£ 30.00		
	Chat Bench and aggregates	£ 1,200.00		
	20 Field Maple Tress	£ 600.00		
	Printing	£ 70.00		
	Bulbs	£ 40.00		
	Wildflower Seeds	£ 168.00		
	Paint for notice boards	£ 21.00		
	Wood and paint for tubs	£ 40.00		
	<b>Total Donations</b>		<b>£</b>	<b>3,422.00</b>
<b>Volunteer Time @£12 per hour</b>				
	Bulb planting (5 x 8 hrs)	£ 480.00		
	Replacing Tubs (8 x 2hrs)	£ 192.00		
	New Tub siting (6 x 2hrs)	£ 144.00		
	Spring planting (2x2hrs)	£ 48.00		
	Tub preparing (5 x 10hrs)	£ 600.00		
	1st planting (5 x 12hrs)	£ 720.00		
	2nd planting (5 x 8hrs)	£ 480.00		
	Litter picking, painting and tidying (40 hr)	£ 480.00		
	Infill planting (3 x 8hrs)	£ 288.00		
	Watering (20 x 10hrs)	£ 3,600.00		
			<b>£</b>	<b>7,032.00</b>
	<i>Money from Parish Funds</i>	<i>£ 6,036.00</i>		
	<i>Total Gifts in Kind</i>	<i>£ 10,720.00</i>		
	<b>Total Project Value</b>		<b>£</b>	<b>16,756.00</b>

## Appendix 1 – Master List of Planters & Tub Parents

Zone	Location	Numb	Owned by	Type	Size	Tub Parents	Notes	New	
1	Bleadon Road junction with A370	1	PC	Square wooden A370	Large	Huttons Garage, Newlands, Val	Donated by Marshalls, Needs plants tolerant of wind		
1	Bleadon Road under Bleadon sign	1	PC	Square wooden	Medium	Lyn	New for 2021 Built by Dennis Perret	1	
1	Bleadon Road bus stop by croquet pitch	3	PC	Square wooden	Medium	Karen Orme	triple planter in shape of Purn Hill		
1	Bleadon Road bus stop by croquet pitch	2	PC	Round barrel	Medium		Donated by Croquet club		
2	Pedestrian entrance to croquet pitch	2	croquet club	Stone Trough	Large	Jennie & Laura Coleman & Shop team	Croquet club normally plant this		
2	By Bleadon café & farm shop	2	PC	Hanging baskets	Medium				
2	By Bleadon café & farm shop	3	?	Stone Trough	Large				
2	By Bleadon café & farm shop	1	?	Wooden Trough	Large				
2	By Bleadon café & farm shop	2	?	Square wooden	Medium				
3	Purn Way by Appletree Cottage	2	PC	Round barrel	Medium	Gina Hamilton			
3	Purn Way at start of footpath	1	PC	Square wooden	Medium	John Kattouris			
3	End of Purn Way at start of footpath	1	PC	Square wooden	Medium	Pauline @ Southwold			
3	Purn Way end of lane outside garden gate	1	Liz Scarisbrick	Round barrel	Medium	Marian & Nikki			
3	Purn Way end of lane by bench	2	PC	Round barrel	Medium				
3	Purn Way by Shalom	1	Shalom	Bank	Medium	Marion Dare			
3	Footpath behind Purn Way	2	Val & Roger Hart	Round barrel	Medium	Val Hart	New for 2021, next to Chat bench	2	
3	Bleadon Road outside Ambleaside	2	PC	Round barrel	Medium	Ian Ford	New for 2021	2	
3	Chestnut Lane outside stables	1	Val & Roger Hart	Round barrel	Medium	Val Hart			
3	Bleadon Road corner of Chestnut Lane	2	PC	Round barrel	Medium	Vera	Replaced 2021	2	
4	Bleadon Road corner of South Combe	4	PC	Round barrel	Medium	Rose Benjamin			
4	Bleadon Road corner of Amesbury Drive	2	PC	Round barrel	Medium	Betty Patterson			
4	Bleadon Road WI bench by pumping station	2	PC	Round barrel	Medium	Ellie & husband	New for 2021	2	
5	Bleadon Road corner of Tenterk Close	1	PC	Round barrel	Medium	Maggie Heath			
5	By Coronation Hall entrance	1	PC	Round barrel	Medium	Bev & Ben Marion & Jim Nattalie Cook Jim Adam & Alicja Jankowski			
5	By Coronation Hall entrance	6	PC	Small pot	Small				
5	By Coronation Hall entrance	1	PC	Stone Trough	Medium				
5	By Coronation Hall entrance	1	PC	Wooden Trough	Medium				
5	By Coronation Hall entrance	1	PC	Flower bed (at ha	Large				
5	By Coronation Hall entrance	2	PC	Wheelbarrow	Medium				
5	By Coronation Hall car park exit	3	PC	Round barrel	Medium				
5	By Coronation Hall front doors	1	PC	Planter / trellis	Large			New for 2021, donated by Betty Patterson, refurbished by Dave Sharman	1
5	By Coronation Hall car park exit	2	PC	Round barrel	Medium			Replaced 2021	2
5	By Coronation Hall youth club patio/lawn	2	PC	Stone trough	Small			Built into wall by entrance to toilets	
5	By Coronation Hall youth club patio/lawn	1	PC	Wooden L-shaped planter	Large				
5	By Coronation Hall car park entrance	1	PC	Round barrel	Large		Replaced 2021	1	
5	By Coronation Hall car park entrance	2	PC	Round barrel	Medium				
5	Outside 6 Coronation Road	1	PC	Stone bowl	Medium	Reg Cox	Flat stone bowl		
5	Outside 6 Coronation Road	2	Homeowner	Stone trough	Medium			Stone trough & wheelbarrow	
5	Outside 14 Coronation Road	2	PC	Small pot	Small			Stone pots	
5	Wishing Well area	4	PC	Stone trough	Medium	Annie and Steve Kellogg	Stone troughs		
5	Wishing Well area	1	PC	Stone trough	Medium			Stone sink	
5	Wishing Well area	1	PC	Small pot	Small			Stone pot	
6	Bridge Road junction with A370	1	PC	Square wooden A	Large	Escape & Bridge Garage	Donated by Marshalls		
6	Number 5 Bridgewater Road (house with stripey fence)	2	PC	Round barrel	Medium	Kate Spinks-Dean	New for 2021	2	
6	Bleadon Mill	2	?	Terracotta pots	Small	Lisa Smith, Jeremy & Bleadon Mill gardeners			
6	Bleadon Mill	1	PC	Round barrel	Medium			Currently filled with daisies	
6	Bleadon Mill	1	PC	Tractor Tyre	Large			Donated by Dave Luff, permission obtained for use of NSC land in 2020	
6	Bleadon Mill	2	PC	Square wooden	Medium			For tractor, made by Dave Sharman, New for 2021	2
6	Bleadon Mill	1	PC	Round barrel	Medium			For tractor wheel New for 2021	1
7	Market Cross	1	PC	Round barrel	Large	Graham & Marilyn @ number 24	Replaced 2021	1	
7	Market Cross	1	PC	Round barrel	Large				
7	Market Cross	1	PC	Round barrel	Medium			Replaced 2021	1
7	Market Cross	1	PC	Round barrel	Medium				
7	Market Cross - church gate	1	PC	Square wooden	Medium				
7	Market Cross	1	PC	Memorial Cross	Large			White Begonia sempervirens	
7	Bus stop by Church Rooms	2	PC	Round barrel	Medium		Dave Hobbs		

8	Shiplate road corner of Old School Lane	1	PC	Stone flower bed	Medium	Georgina & Di	New area for 2021	1
8	South hill cottage	2	PC	Concrete planter	Medium	Kevin & Janice	New for 2021, donated by Kevin & Janice	1
8	Shiplate road Ingleside	4	PC	Round barrel	Medium	Libby Boucher		
8	Shiplate road Underhill	1	PC	Stone planter	Medium			New for 2021, donated
8	Shiplate road top of the Veale by post box	3	PC	Round barrel	Medium	Jackie HS, Kevin & Janice, Catherine		
8	Shiplate road top of the Veale by bench	1	PC	Round barrel	Medium			New for 2021
8	Shiplate road, corner of Birch Avenue	2	House on corner	Round barrel	Medium	Homeowner		
8	Shiplate road, bottom of Birch Avenue	1	PC	Round barrel	Medium	Cathy & Phil Heycock	Replaced 2021	1
9	Celtic Way beside bench (The Dell)	2	PC	Round barrel	Medium	Georgina & Di	Replaced 2021	2
9	Bus stop half way up Celtic Way	2	PC	Stone trough	Small			Troughs built into bus stop
9	Bus stop corner of Celtic Way / Roman Road	1	PC	Round barrel	Medium	Nikki Clark	Shady under trees, hostas	
10	Roman road - turning circle	2	PC	Round barrel	Medium	Dennis Perrett & Bleadon Golf	New for 2021	2
10	Roman road - turning circle	2	golf club	Round barrel	Medium	Dennis Perrett & Bleadon Golf		
10	Roman road - viewpoint	2	golf club	Round barrel	Medium	Dennis Perrett & Bleadon Golf	New for 2021, donated by Bleadon golf club	2
10	Roman road, outside the Perretts' house	4	Dennis Perrett	Round barrel	Large	Dennis Perrett	New for 2021, owned by Perretts	4
11	Hillcote by bus stop at entrance	1	PC	Square wooden	Medium	Tina Watkins		
		125						35

Large	20
Medium	90
Small	15
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>125</b>

<b>Large</b>	<b>20</b>
Flower bed (at hall)	1
Memorial Cross	1
Planter / trellis	1
Round barrel	7
Square wooden A370	2
Stone Trough	5
Tractor Tyre	1
Wooden L-shaped planter	1
Wooden Trough (shop)	1
<b>Medium</b>	<b>90</b>
Bank	1
Concrete planter	2
Hanging baskets	2
Round barrel	59
Square wooden	12
Stone bowl	1
Stone flower bed (old school lane)	1
Stone planter	1
Stone Trough	8
Wheelbarrow	2
Wooden Trough (at hall)	1
<b>Small</b>	<b>15</b>
Small pot	9
Stone Trough	4
Terracotta pots	2
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>125</b>

## Appendix 2 – Tree planting

Native trees	No	Cared for by	Description
Along verge of A370	20	Kirsten Hemingway	<b>Field maple</b> planted with permission of NSC
On Veale bank	3	Paul & Tracey Wilmott	<b>Newton wonder</b> - a delicious, late keeping cooking apple that's large and bright scarlet. It also makes a fruity eating apple later in the season <b>Tom Putt</b> - a traditional cooking apple with bright red crimson streaks and a shiny skin <b>Dabinett</b> - one of Thatcher's favourite cider apples that originates from Somerset
Beside Coronation Hall	2	Hall watering group	<b>Paradise gold</b> - a sweet, crisp dessert apple with attractive red skin <b>Little Pax</b> - a beautiful bright red, late season dessert apple with a sweet aromatic flavour
Roman Road by footpath	2	Dennis Perrett	<b>Redstreak</b> - a traditional cider apple that is a true West Country favourite producing a bittersweet juice <b>Harry Masters Jersey</b> - a bittersweet cider apple that was originally raised in Somerset and is a regular at Thatchers Myrtle
Purn Hill footpath by Catherine's Inn	2	Graham Getty	<b>Redstreak</b> - a traditional cider apple that is a true West Country favourite producing a bittersweet juice <b>Michelin</b> - a traditional bittersweet cider apple originally from France that's a favourite at Myrtle Farm.
Bleadon Mill	1	Bleadon Mill gardeners	<b>Dabinett</b> - one of Thatcher's favourite cider apples that originates from Somerset

## Appendix 3 – Floral display Planting Team

Planting	Location	Pots / Beds	Size
Val	Bleadon Road junction with A370 (large square)	1	Large
Val	Bleadon sign at entrance to village	1	Medium
Jo Jones	Bridge Road junction with A370 (large square)	1	Large
Val	Chestnut Lane outside stables	1	Medium
Val	Bleadon Road bus stop by croquet pitch	5	Medium
Val	Pedestrian entrance to croquet pitch	2	Large
Val	Bleadon farm shop & deli (outside shop)	1	Medium
Jennie Coleman & Shop team	Bleadon farm shop & deli	4	Large
Jennie Coleman & Shop team	Bleadon farm shop & deli	1	Medium
Jennie Coleman & Shop team	Bleadon farm shop & deli	2	Hanging baskets
Marion & Jim	Bank by Shalom	1	Medium
Gina and Kizzy	Purn Way by Appletree Cottage	2	Medium
Marion & Nikki	Purn Way at start of footpath	1	Medium
Marion & Nikki	Purn Way end of lane	3	Medium
Marion & Nikki	Market Cross barrels	2	Large
Marion & Nikki	Market Cross barrels	3	Medium
Robin	Memorial cross planter	1	100 begonias
Robin & Kirsten	Bus stop by Church Rooms	2	Medium
Marion & Nikki	End of Purn Way at start of footpath	1	Medium
Ian Ford	Bleadon Road outside Ambleside	2	Medium
Vera	Bleadon Road corner of Chestnut Lane	2	Medium
Rose	Bleadon Road corner of South Combe	4	Medium
Val & Kirsten	Bleadon Road corner of Amesbury Drive	2	Medium
Ellie and husband (Vals Daughter)	Bleadon Road WI bench by pumping station	2	Medium
Maggie Heath	Bleadon Road corner of Tenterk Close	1	Medium
Val, Robin & Kirsten	Coronation Hall (2 tubs, L-shaped planter, new planter)	4	Large
Val, Robin & Kirsten	Coronation Hall	12	Medium
Val, Robin & Kirsten	Coronation Hall (assorted pots)	8	Small
Val, Robin & Kirsten	Outside 6 Coronation Road (flat stone bowl, stone trough & wheelbarrow)	3	Small
Annie	Outside 14 Coronation Road (stone pots)	2	Small
Annie	Wishing Well area	6	Medium
Kate Spinks-Dean	Number 5 Bridgewater Road	2	Medium
Kirsten	Bleadon Mill barrel (with daisies)	1	already planted
Kirsten	Bleadon Mill terracotta pots	2	Small
Val	Bleadon Mill tractor tyre	1	Large
Val	Bleadon Mill tractor planters (1 round 2 square)	3	Medium
Val	Chat bench	2	Medium
Libby Boucher	Shiplate road & Veale - Libby's 'patch'	14	Medium
Georgina & Di	Celtic Way beside bench (The Dell)	2	Medium
Georgina & Di	Small stone planters set into bus stop	2	Small
Georgina & Di	Flower Bed top of old School Lane	1	Medium
Dennis Perrett & Golf Club	Roman road turning circle	6	Medium
Dennis Perrett	Roman road outside Dennis' house	4	Large
Tina Watkins	Hillcote by bus stop at entrance	1	Medium
Nikki	Bus stop at top of Celtic Way	1	Hostas & ferns
		125	

## Appendix 4 – A short walk around Bleadon



### A SHORT WALK AROUND BLEADON

**50p — All proceeds to  
The Hawk and Owl Trust**

Take a stroll around Bleadon village, rest your legs at one of our benches & see if you can find all of the different scented pelargoniums planted by Bleadon in Bloom.

#### Route 1 - Easy – 1.1 miles, about 25 minutes walking

**Bench 1:** Starting from the Coronation Hall car park on Coronation Road (BS24 0PG), turn left and head up the hill until you reach the ancient Market Cross in front of the church. You'll find the first bench behind the cross, by the entrance to the churchyard. If the church is open, it's well worth a look around while you are here.

**Bench 2:** Cross back over Coronation road, turn right up the hill until you reach the Church rooms where you turn left down Rectory Lane. At the end of the lane go through a gate onto a footpath along the back of the village houses. Go through the gate at the end of the footpath & follow the lane until you reach Bench 2 on the corner as the lane bends round to the right.

**Bench 3:** Continue through an open gateway, then keep straight ahead up a small lane with a large allotment garden to your right. When you reach the top of the lane, turn left, go through a gate into the Bleadon allotments. At the end of the allotments, go through another small gate. Go down the footpath through the next 2 gates across a private path-way, you'll then reach Bench 3, our Chat bench donated by SCLT (Senior Citizens Liaison Team Charity). Stop here for a rest and maybe a chat!

Continue along this path a little way until you reach a left turn down Purn Way between two houses. If you'd like to visit the shop and Deli for refreshments, turn right here and walk to the end of the lane past Manor House, then turn left onto Bleadon Road.

**Bench 4:** Walk along Bleadon Road back towards the start of the village. You might spot a water vole in the banks of the rhine or a heron fishing in the Wessex Water pumping station. It was kindly donated to the village as part of their 10 year anniversary celebrations and is a convenient stop along the road back to the car park. Take a look at the old village well opposite the car park entrance on your way back.

#### Route 2 – Some uphill sections – an extra 1.3 miles, about 35 minutes walking

Here's an extension to Route 1 if you want to find benches 5 and 6 and take in some great views. Enjoy the wildlife and flowers but **don't forget the countryside code** - keep to the marked footpaths, keep your dog under control where you can see it and always on a lead in fields with livestock. Dog poo - bag it and bin it, leave gates as you find them, care for nature, do not cause damage or disturbance, and take your litter home.

After stopping at Bench 1, carry on into the churchyard. Follow the path to the right of the church. As the path bends round to the left to exit the back of the churchyard, take a right turn in front of the cottage and follow the footpath between the fences/ walls. This path starts to head uphill through a small copse. Go through a metal gate at the top of some steps and continue to head uphill through the trees. At the top of the path you'll see a gate, then a further kissing gate out into a field.

Follow the footpath marker, keeping straight ahead on to the top of the slope in this field. You'll get a great view of Brent Knoll from this vantage point. Just before you reach the next footpath marker, turn left and follow the footpath back towards the village. You'll pass through two kissing gates, the first is next to some disused farm equipment and the second will bring you onto Shiplate road opposite Hill Top house. Turn left along Shiplate road and you'll soon reach the Veale, where you'll find **Bench 5** by the post box.



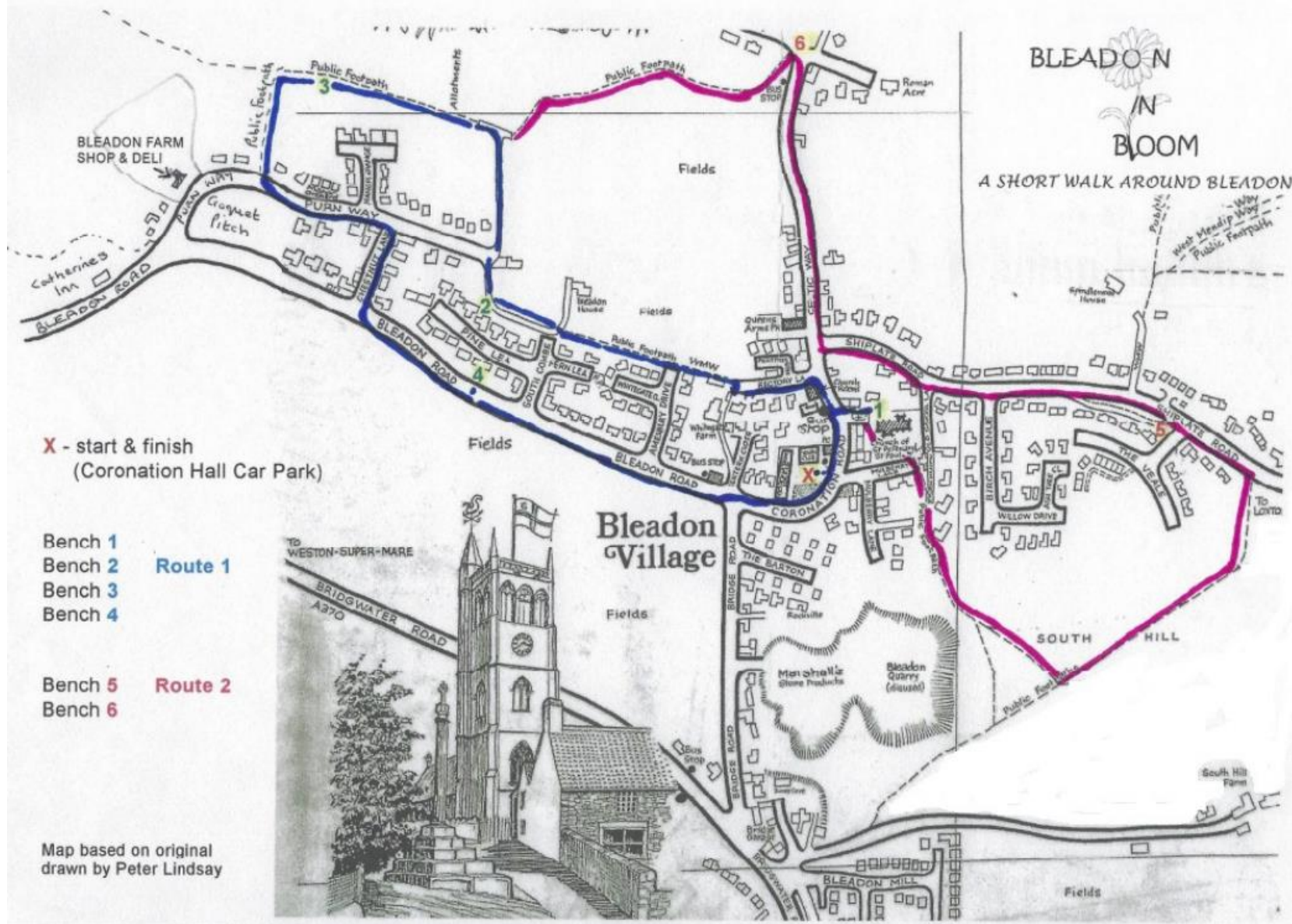
Carry on along Shiplate road until you reach the junction with Celtic Way, take a right turn by the Queens Arms, another possible refreshment stop? Continue uphill until you reach **Bench 6** by the bus stop. There are more spectacular views from here over the Bristol Channel. Cross over the road and take the steps down into the field where you might be lucky enough to see a family of Red Ruby Devon cattle. Go through a gate across this pathway, through a kissing gate in the corner of the field, across the corner of the next field, and finally through a pedestrian gate into a large field. Follow the footpath across this large field to the bottom corner. Go through another kissing gate, turn right, and you are now on the path which leads to the Bleadon allotments. You can continue from this point with Route 1 (Bench 3) to complete the whole walk or turn left to return along the footpath to the church and car park.

#### Bleadon in Bloom flower display

Your walk will take you past many of the floral displays planted and tended by the 'Bleadon Bloomers'. Can you find these six scented pelargoniums by our benches?

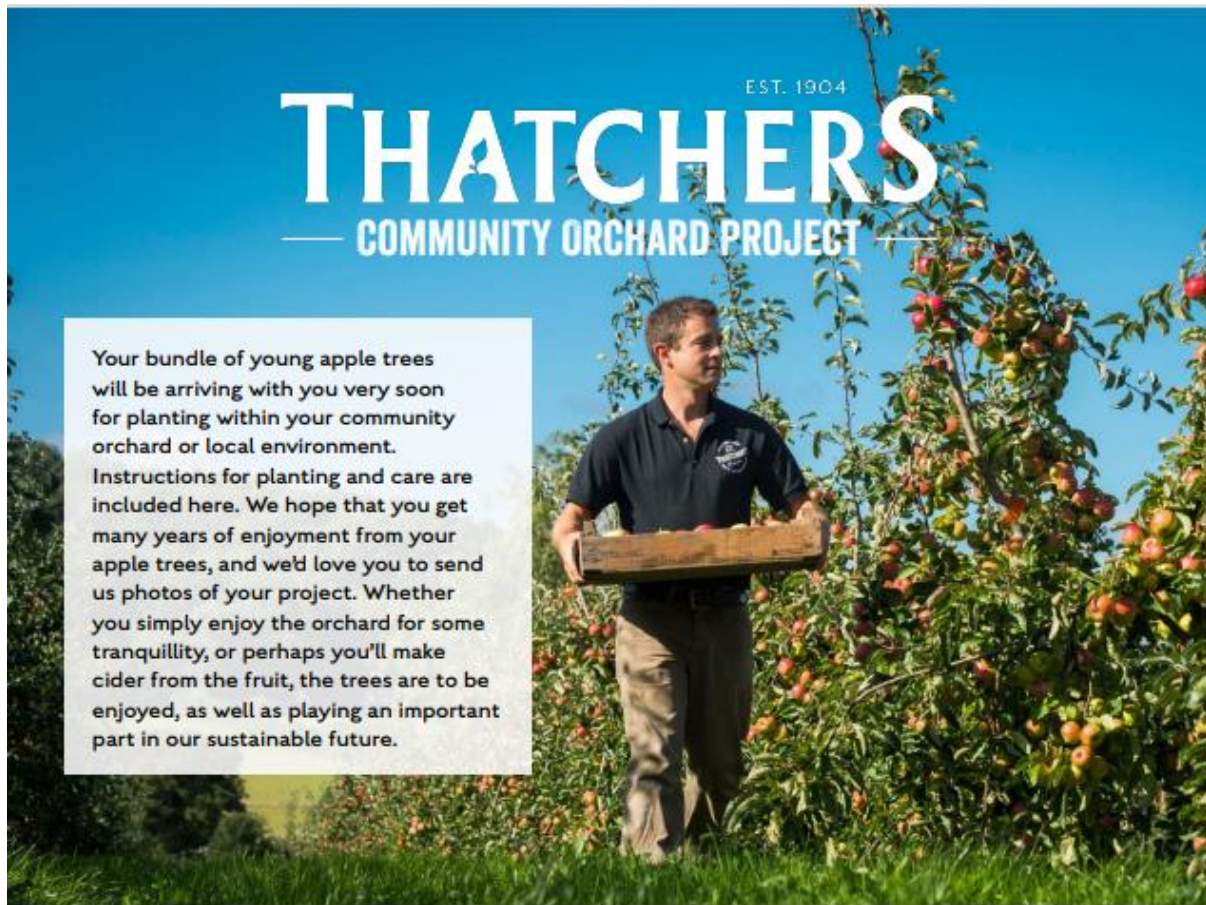
Rose      Nutmeg      Cola      Lemon      Orange      Pine





Kirsten Hemingway-Arnold for Bleadon Parish Council

## Appendix 5 – Thatchers Community Orchard award



Your bundle of young apple trees will be arriving with you very soon for planting within your community orchard or local environment. Instructions for planting and care are included here. We hope that you get many years of enjoyment from your apple trees, and we'd love you to send us photos of your project. Whether you simply enjoy the orchard for some tranquillity, or perhaps you'll make cider from the fruit, the trees are to be enjoyed, as well as playing an important part in our sustainable future.

### WE ARE SENDING A SELECTION OF APPLE VARIETIES FROM THE FOLLOWING:

- **Apple (Malus) Paradise Gold** – a sweet, crisp dessert apple with attractive red skin.
- **Apple (Malus) Dabinett (Cider)** – one of our favourite cider apples that originates from Somerset. In the spring the trees are covered with beautiful pink-white blossom.
- **Apple (Malus) Harry M Jersey (Cider)** – a bittersweet cider apple that was originally raised in Somerset and is a regular here at Myrtle Farm
- **Apple (Malus) Little Pax** – a beautiful bright red, late season dessert apple with a sweet aromatic flavour.
- **Apple (Malus) Newton Wonder** – a delicious, late keeping cooking apple that's large and bright scarlet. It also makes a fruity eating apple later in the season.
- **Apple (Malus) Somerset Redstreak (Cider)** – a traditional cider apple that is a true West Country favourite producing a bittersweet juice.
- **Apple (Malus) Tom Putt** – a traditional cooking apple with bright red crimson streaks and a shiny skin.
- **Apple (Malus) Michelin** – a traditional bittersweet cider apple originally from France that's a favourite at Myrtle Farm.



Please share news and progress of your new trees on social media, using the hashtag #ThatchersCommunityOrchard in your posts on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter. We're also sending you a suggested press release to share with your local media.



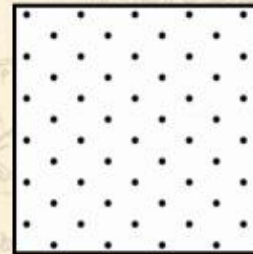
# PLANTING YOUR APPLE TREES.

## BEFORE YOU GET YOUR TREES, HAVE A THINK ABOUT THE NEW SITE.

- Is it clear of debris, weeds or anything else which needs removing before planting? Are there any other trees or plants which need pruning so they don't shade the new trees?
- How much space is there? Apple trees like to have their own space however the trees we are sending you won't get too big so it won't matter if you are limited on room. Think about if there is any machinery which will need to navigate the trees, such as a mower. Do you want there to be plenty of space for people to wander around investigating the different varieties or regimented rows? Ideally there would be a minimum 10ft between trees, 20ft if you need to get a vehicle through, although if over 30ft it may start to look a bit sparse.
- Hopefully the site isn't too wet; apple trees don't like waterlogged soil. Is there anything you can do to improve the drainage (for example clearing a ditch) or try to pick drier areas to plant in.
- Marking out (this can be done before or when the trees arrive). Plan where the trees are going and the planting pattern, mark where each tree will go so they are evenly spaced. Two common patterns are:



SQUARE



QUINCUNX

## WHEN THE TREES ARRIVE.

- The trees will arrive bare rooted (not in a pot). They will need planting as soon as possible so the roots don't dry out. Water the roots as soon as they arrive and keep them watered until they are planted.
- The trees shouldn't be planted when the soil is very wet, the soil should break up easily around the roots. If it is too wet it is better to 'heel' them in and keep them watered until conditions improve.
- Push the stakes in first, make sure they are firm, you may need a sledge hammer.
- Trees should be planted on the leeward side of the stake (away from the prevailing wind) so they don't blow into the stake, leave a gap of about 4 inches.
- Dig the hole immediately before planting, don't let it dry out. Try not to smear the sides of the hole as the roots won't be able to grow.
- Dig a hole which can easily accommodate all of the roots without being impeded.
- There will be a union easily visible between the rootstock and the variety, the union should remain 6 inches above the soil.
- Gently compress the soil around the roots as you add it back.
- Attach the tree to the stake straight after planting.
- Attach the rabbit guard to prevent damage to the bark.

## AFTER PLANTING.

- If possible, applying a mulch or compost around the base of the trees will prevent drying out and provide some nutrients
- Young trees in their first year may need watering during prolonged dry periods.

**CLICK BELOW OR  
USE THE QR CODE  
TO VIEW A USEFUL  
VIDEO ON HOW TO  
PLANT A TREE.**

**CLICK HERE >**

<https://youtu.be/vfCbNVyA3UU>



EST. 1904  
**THATCHERS**

Thatchers Cider Company LTD, Myrtle Farm, Sandford, Somerset, BS25 5RA  
Tel: 01934 822862 Visit: [www.thatcherscider.co.uk](http://www.thatcherscider.co.uk)