

Bleadon village

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news

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Summer 2011 - **Celebration** Issue 89



Special celebration issue

**Bleadon Royal Do pull-out
colour supplement**

May Day Fayre photos

Annual Report



Welcome to our special celebration edition of Bleadon Village News.

Bigger and brighter than ever before, thanks to the many sponsors who supported the Bleadon Royal Do. We hope that you will now support them with your custom.

Thanks too, to the parish council who publish this magazine and have supported the printing of additional colour pages so that all our readers can enjoy the memories of a great couple of days earlier this summer.

In this issue

- Annual report of the Bleadon Parish Council

News

- Veale bus service cuts
- Road closures
- Sanders Field public consultation results

Features

- Sociable Bleadon
- 300 years of church bells
- Meet your new parish councillors
- New village ranger

Photo features

- Bleadon Royal Do
- May Day Fayre



Bleadon's next big event is on August Bank Holiday

Scarecrow Festival

Saturday 27 & Sunday 28 August

This year's scarecrow theme is

NAUTICAL

So come on shipmates - get busy making those scarecrows.

They can be anything to do with the sea and seafaring.

From Nemo to Nelson, Blackbeard to barnacles...

...just let your imagination sail away!

Entry forms from Penny Skelley on 815 331

**Pork Roast & Cider
Cream Teas**



This WI Weird & Wonderful entry from last year could fit the bill again!

Chairman's Report – 2010/11

At the Annual Parish Meeting held in the Coronation Hall on 11 April the Parish Council Chairman gave this report to the assembled parishioners.



My report is fairly brief – more in depth information may be found on the Village website (and the following pages). All Parish Councils go through peaks and troughs. Luckily Bleadon Parish Council seems to be permanently on a small peak. As you will have realised, we have regained **Quality Council** status – a great asset in the scheme of things, especially a smaller Parish Council like ours.

We have kept the **precept** as low as possible with only minor adjustments. We must allow that in the future, in the current climate, there will be more for us to fund.

The **Coronation Hall**, one of the stars of the show, is a very successful, well managed and vibrant village hall. Although the buildings are held in trust by the Parish Council on behalf of us all, the daily management and running of the facility is entrusted to the Hall Management Committee, and is separate from the Parish Council itself.

The **play park** has an excellent reputation with all the families who constantly use it. If finances allow, there will be new equipment in this area over the coming year.

A new **Ranger** is to be appointed; one of the main duties of a Ranger is keeping the village to the high standard that we have all come to accept. We too must be diligent with litter picking and not walk past that dropped crisp packet! The dog bins are now being emptied weekly.

Turning to **Planning**, reforms are ongoing and regulations being

revised. The Parish Council has had 29 site visits, more than ever over the past 12 months. All our recommendations have been endorsed by North Somerset; there were two appeals. The **allotment** holders after a long hard winter are to be congratulated as the whole area is bursting with new growth. We have a waiting list of six.

Our community policeman has a surgery every Tuesday afternoon in the Church Rooms. We shall continue to recommend the **policing priorities** that we have set out. We thank Steve Church and Emma Wright for their services to the village.

Potholes are the bane of everybody's life. However, our potholes are marked up and North Somerset advise us that both Shiplate Road and Bleadon Road will be resurfaced in the new financial year. The road markings at Bleadon Mill will be repainted and "keep clear" markings introduced on the bend of Shiplate and Bleadon Road.

The **Youth Club** has a new Chairman, Keith Pyke. We are very grateful for the continuing support and commitment from North Somerset for this essential service for the youth of our village. The Parish Council will continue to help with funding for this thriving club, which is amongst the best attended in North Somerset.

The new waste collections have caused some problems, largely due to the winter weather, but the Parish Council has been aware of this and has constantly informed North Somerset of any difficulties.

Wessex Water are upgrading and developing the existing sewage treatment works on the levels just within our boundary. We have a written undertaking that they will carry out any remedial repairs to the surface of Accommodation Road during this construction work. We have asked North Somerset Highways to consider a traffic control system at the A370 junction during this work.

Two **plant-ups** are planned this season, in red white and blue of course, just before Easter and for the grand village Royal Wedding party on 29th April. Many villagers talk fondly of past village celebrations. This I know will equal any from the past and be enjoyable and memorable for us all. The second plant up is Saturday, 14th May – volunteers are always welcome.

A huge heart felt welcome to **Hillcote**. After the boundary review, Hillcote is now included within the Bleadon Parish Council boundary. A later review will renew the ward **Hutton and Locking** to **Bleadon, Hutton and Locking**.

The Parish Council embraces progress and will continue the democratic process and decision making for our community. We are glad of your support and encouragement and will continue to work hard on your behalf.

Remember, I care as much as you do – Thank you.

*Penny Skelley
Chairman Bleadon Parish Council*

Bleadon Village News is published quarterly by Bleadon Parish Council in mid March, June, September and December.

Contributions to the newsletter are very welcome, so long as they are about Bleadon or can directly benefit its residents. Please ensure that your editorial or advertising material reaches the editor at least three weeks before publication.

The deadline for the Autumn edition is Friday 19 August 2011.

We aim to provide a copy of this newsletter free to every household and business in Bleadon. Additional copies are usually available from the editor and the Village Store. We are eternally grateful to the band of 19 volunteers who deliver this newsletter to households.

Send contributions to:

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

Annual report

Democracy

Successive governments have expressed their wishes to involve the public in the democratic process and decision making. They also have recognised that parish councillors usually live and / or work within the communities they serve and so are highly visible and in touch with the wants, needs and aspirations of the people they represent. As a Quality Status Parish Council we felt it would be both helpful and responsible to appoint a 'Democracy Champion'.

In representing people's wants, needs and aspirations, the Council has participated in relevant consultation, so hopefully reflecting the wishes of residents. In this past year we have submitted comments and suggestions on the following:

- North Somerset Council – Core Strategy of the Local Development Framework
- North Somerset Council – Housing Settlement Strategy
- North Somerset Partnership – Older People's Strategy 2011 – 2016
- North Somerset Council – Draft Housing Strategy

Last year we made a submission to the Community Governance Review in response to the request by the residents of Hillcote to be included in the parish boundaries of Bleadon. We were successful and so as from April 2011 Hillcote residents are 'Villagers'.

Another Review is planned and we will endeavour to pursue our proposal for the District Council ward to be renamed 'Bleadon, Hutton and Locking', a change from the present 'Hutton and Locking'.

We were encouraged that several villagers asked to address our monthly parish meeting – some of the areas of concerns they raised were the need of pruning/pollarding overgrown trees, duties of the Village Ranger, parking problems and the need for more grit bins.

As parish councillors, we try to make ourselves freely accessible to all residents by being around the village and posting our contact details in the quarterly Village News. These details are also available on the Council's website including access by e-mail. The Parish Council meets monthly and details are posted on local notice boards and the public are both invited and welcome to attend.

Bleadon Parish Council welcomes your views, complaints, and compliments. We actively seek to hear your suggestions, ideas, wishes and wants.

Youth Centre

The **Youth Club leaders** report that attendance at the Thursday Club is regularly a healthy 23 or so youngsters. That's good news for a thriving club and puts us amongst the best attended in North Somerset. Overall registered membership at the club is 21 females and 33 males (on 13 January).

The young people now run the tuck shop themselves, allowing the three leaders to concentrate on working with the young people. Organised activities have included multi-sport coaching, ice skating, street dancing and lots of cooking. Made possible by the regular funding for programmed activities now provided by the Management Committee.

North Somerset Council Youth Service provides the funding for the three Youth Leaders who regularly attend the Thursday evening club session. The **forthcoming budget cuts may well mean a reduction in the service and funding currently provided by NSC.**

Whilst the club is, thankfully, assured of NSC funding for the current financial year there is little doubt that over the next few years we will experience robust repositioning and targeting of the Youth Service provided by NSC.

Bleadon Parish Council continues to support the Youth Centre and has granted £500 towards new

equipment and £150 towards electricity.

The building is approaching 50 years old and is showing signs of its age. The Management Committee is investigating the possibility of **replacing the dilapidated suspended ceiling** in the main hall with a new plasterboard ceiling. This would also allow them to install modern efficient lighting and insulation. With an estimated cost of £8000+ the Management Committee are looking at grant funding opportunities.

I take this opportunity to thank the volunteers on the management committee for the time and work they put into helping to ensure that the Youth Centre remains a thriving and welcoming space for our young people.

Open Spaces

The **Play Area** continues to be well used and remains a popular and safe place for youngsters and families.

The regular safety checks by the Ranger and RoSPA have identified some corrosion on the climbing frame and the swings which may give us cause for concern in the future. We are looking at replacing this equipment in the near future and maybe linking it to the climbing and slide equipment we installed 20 months ago.

This may also help to alleviate the recurring problem of ground erosion from young footballers using the climbing frame as goalposts.

Unfortunately, we've lost two of our trees in the Play Area over the last 12 months. An Oak which has been in for ten years, and the more recently planted Whitebeam. Once we know where the new replacement play equipment is to be located we will look to replace the two trees in a more suitable location.

We replaced several of the old **oak tubs** around the village last May. Thanks to all the volunteers who turn up twice a year to **help plant up** our village tubs.

Annual report

The little green beside the Youth Centre is proving to be a useful space for community events like the May Fayre and Scarecrow Fest. Now blessed with the added bonus of our first **History interpretation panel**. Fully illustrated and packed with historical tit-bits about our parish.

Churchyard

As usual there has been the need for the routine remedial work around the churchyard, the cutting back of the undergrowth and the general trimming and tidying.

The Parish Council continues to receive an annual grant from the War Graves Commission towards the upkeep of the military graves within our churchyard. We feel it is our privileged to carry out this work.

Pruning and pollarding has been carried on the lime trees along the south wall and steps are presently being undertaken to investigate the crack that has appeared on the Mulberry Lane side of the South wall.

Marshalls kindly donated a large amount of gravel chippings which John Hurcombe and our Village Ranger distributed across many of the older graves where the gravel had long disappeared. It certainly improved the look of the churchyard and we hope pleased surviving relatives.

We continue to give the Parochial Church Council the sum of £100 towards the maintenance of the church clock and £150 towards the cost of the external lighting.

'The Case of the Dripping Tap' – over the past year Wessex Water, local tradesmen and the Village Ranger have pitted their wits in solving the mystery of the dripping tap. We are now pleased to say that it appears to have been solved, so fingers crossed.

We offer our thanks to Mark Howe and his team for their work in maintaining the grassy areas.

Our sincere thanks to those who when walking through the churchyard take the trouble to pick up the litter, remove dead flowers,

stand up overturned pots and vases and other general tidying up tasks. It is both noticed and appreciated.

Transport

We have been fortunate that our bus service has not been hit by the North Somerset funding cuts. The little green bus ploughs back and forth to Weston hourly and the operators should be congratulated for the service they provided during the year end bad weather and in spite of the un-gritted roads!

The service is convenient and easy to use for shopping trips to Weston and it saddens me to see it being under used and empty buses travelling along the road. If you haven't tried the bus please do...if we don't use it we may lose it!

Roads

After a harsh winter our roads like others across the country are quite badly potholed. Fortunately help is at hand! Residents will see that North Somerset has now numbered all our potholes. This is a good sign and we have been told that Shiplate Road and the A370 Bridgwater Road are in line for significant patching repair and surface dressing hopefully, soon. We have also been advised that Bleadon Road will be patched and surface dressed as part of the ongoing road repair programme.

Coronation Hall



The Independent Examiner, Shirley Campbell, has examined the accounts for the year ended 28 February 2011 and she has confirmed that these have been correctly maintained and there is no matter which gives her cause for concern.

The salient points from the Hall accounts are as follows:

(Figures in brackets are those of the previous year for comparative purposes)

2010/2011

Income **£16,205** (20,544)

Expenditure **£13,870** (16,768)

Net Surplus **£2,335** (3,744)

Net Assets **£40,337** (38,002)

Total Income comprises Hall and Table Hire £14,226 (£14,956), Fund Raising Events £1754 (£2,159), Guides and Brownies Contribution £120 (£120), Deposit Interest £85 (£85) and Donations £20 (£3,224).

The main income has been from hiring the Hall with income some 9% down compared with last year although this was offset by an increase of 14% in market table hire. We have seen another year of successful Village Markets for which credit must again go to the many volunteers who assist on these occasions.

I would now like to explain the reason for the significant drop in donations during the past year and hence the apparent drop of around 10% in our Total Income. The sale of Peter Lindsay's Village Maps continues and we are grateful to him for his continued support. However, the major reduction in donations is because Hall insurance is being managed in a different way.

Previously, one insurance policy covered Buildings and Contents and this was written in the name of the Hall Committee. The Parish Council then contributed an amount equivalent to the Buildings element of the policy by way of donation. Following professional advice, that arrangement was cancelled and two separate policies created – one for the Buildings in the name of the Parish Council as legal owner and the other for the Contents in the name of the Hall Committee. As a result, the donation from the Parish Council for this item, which last year amounted to £2,464, has ceased.

Annual report (cont)

The Total Expenditure of £13,870 (£16,800) covers all aspects of maintaining and running the Coronation Hall and Jubilee Room which includes heating and lighting, water and sewerage, insurance, licences, cleaning, general repairs and improvements. Energy costs remain a concern but steps have been taken to reduce these as much as possible.

Major items of expenditure were:

Gas/Electricity £2,037 (£2,848)

Cleaning £2,576 (£2,743)

Insurance £434 (£2,898)*

*see explanation above

General Maintenance £428 (£679)

Hall Improvements £5,106 (£3,868)

The following Hall improvements were completed during the year to address rising energy costs:

- Replacement of two unreliable gas heaters with two new Drugasar gas units in the Coronation Hall
- Installation of cavity wall insulation in both Halls

- Additional loft insulation in the Jubilee Room

The Coronation Hall and Jubilee Room continue to be popular village venues that are now used by a wide range of people in the community for family events, group meetings, craft meetings, exercise classes, dancing and so on. This all demands continuing investment and I am pleased to report that we have again been able to increase our overall assets to £42,110 (£40,335) which includes deposits of £658 (£658) at the Nationwide Building Society and £36,353 (£33,768) at the Coventry Building Society. After taking into account our current liabilities, the Net Current Assets amount to £40,337 (£38,002).

One issue of concern is the continuing very poor rate of interest we are receiving on our bank deposits which is currently a miserly 0.25%. However, we have to bear in mind the restrictions that are placed upon us regarding the security of investments which is limiting our

flexibility. Nevertheless, it is something which we should keep under constant review to enable us to maximise the interest whenever possible.

Following legal advice obtained last year from Hall, Ward & Fox, I can confirm that the recommended Protocol was agreed with the Parish Council and signed on their behalf on 12 April 2010 by Penny Skelley (Chairman of the Parish Council) and by Len Chamberlain (Chairman of Bleadon Coronation Hall Management Committee). This legal document now supplements our Governing Document, the Trust Deed of 14 January 1938, to which it should be attached and read in conjunction with it.

This has been another successful year for the Coronation Hall and I would like to thank all members of the Management Committee for their help and support.

*Coronation Hall Treasurer
Clive Morris*

Council NEWS

Three new grit bins

Following the icy conditions last winter, and requests from residents, the parish council has ordered three additional grit bins for Bleadon.

These will be located at:

- Purn/Bleadon Road corner,
- near Hillcote entrance
- the church grounds.

Watch out - thieves about!

Despite Bleadon having a very low crime rate our community police team warn us of several burglaries in the area recently. Keep your property secure by ensuring that doors are locked even when you are at home and that open windows not left unattended.

We also need to keep an eye out for lead thieves. There's still plenty of money being made by rogues from stolen metals.

New Village Ranger

Following the resignation of Peter our village ranger in April the parish council is pleased to have been able to quickly appoint Tony Derrick to fill the role.

Tony is already well known in the village and I'm sure that you will all soon see the benefit of his work around the parish.

Read more about our new ranger on the final page of this Village News.

Police surgery hours

Reorganisation of the Village Community Police schedules means that the weekly Police Surgery on Tuesday afternoons in the Church Meeting Room has been reduced. You can now see Steve or Emma on **Tuesdays from 2 - 3.30pm** to seek advice or report problems in absolute confidence.

A great sadness

As this issue of Village News is going to press we learn with shock and great sadness of the death of Dick Skelley.



In his familiar role as escort and constant support for Penny in her chairman's role we know that Dick will be very greatly missed around Bleadon. Our thoughts are with Penny and her family at this difficult time.

Annual report (cont)

Bleadon Parish Council Income & Expenditure to March 2011

	Last Year	Budget	Actual
INCOME			
Precept	34875	35500	35500
Bank Interest	41	1000	36
Reserves	-	15800	(15800)
Youth Club	50	50	-
Orderly Grant	-	160	160
Allotments	302	250	233
Advertising	2310	2250	884
Grants	-	-	-
Other income	1141	20	341
Total Income	38719	55030	37152
EXPENDITURE			
General			
Maintenance	3894	4800	6131
Village			
Improvements	682	19650	895
Allotments	145	245	170
Administration	27875	28570	24185
Grants	600	1500	500
S.137 Expenditure	350	-	300
Events & Promotions	373	-	-
Mispostings	22	-	-
Total Expenditure	33940	54765	32182
GENERAL FUND			
General Fund O/B	23687	-	23687
Total income	38719	55030	37152
Sub total	62406	55030	60840
Total Expenditure	33919	54765	32182
Sub Total	28488	265	28658
Transfers to/from			
General Fund	47341	-	-
General fund at 31 March	(18853)	265	28658

The above statement represents fairly the financial position of the authority and reflects its income and expenditure during the year.

NEWS

Tree warden wanted for Bleadon

The tree warden scheme helps people to look after their local trees and woods. It is run nationally by the Tree Council charity and co-ordinated locally in North Somerset by a management committee, which includes North Somerset Council's tree officers.

Tree wardens are volunteers who are passionate about trees, their local environment and local community. Tree wardens are supported by the committee, and will be provided with advice and guidance, information and training.

The tree warden will:

- be the eyes and ears for Bleadon's trees;
- play an active role in protecting and improving our local trees;
- report to the parish council;
- provide a link with North Somerset Council tree officers;
- engage their local community, neighbours, and other groups to plant and care for trees;
- work in whatever way they choose, and fit the work they do within their abilities and around their other commitments;
- not need to be an expert as they will be provided with support and training;
- need to be passionate about trees, their local environment and local community.

Trees are a precious part of Bleadon's natural heritage and landscape. If future generations are to enjoy their beauty and variety we must care for those we have and find ways to plant more. Bleadon has everything to gain from protecting and improving our surroundings, and a tree warden can help make this happen.

You can find out more about being a tree warden on the North Somerset Council website at:

www.n-somerset.gov.uk/Environment/treesandhedges/treewardens

If you would like to be the Bleadon Tree Warden please contact Bruce Poole, Clerk to Bleadon Council on 07887 802 922

Our Big Society

The success of our many village activities depend on people who are willing to go the extra mile to make things work. If you've got something to give - please DO.



Council NEWS

Our Big Society

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Work starts on Roman Road dry-stone walling

The parish council set aside funds last year to enable the rebuilding of the collapsed dry-stone wall opposite the lay-bye on Roman Road.

Until recently the work of restoring our Mendip walls has been undertaken by the West Mendip AONB and much of the work had been done. Sadly, severe cutbacks in funding of the AONB means that there remains a 60metre length of unrestored wall opposite the lower (George Wall) lay-bye/viewpoint on Roman Road.

Tina Bath kindly offered the council her help in completing the work which she had started when employed by the AONB. With help from Avon Wildlife Trust volunteers, ex Mendip Ranger Andy Eddy and the services of stonewalling professional Phil Smith it is hoped that the work can be completed over the next six weeks. Our thanks to all the volunteers involved, and to local Roman Road resident Terry Vincent for his assistance in moving the piles of stone needed.



A Weston Mercury photographer was there to capture the start of clearing the site ready for building



Road closures planned for pot hole repairs and road resurfacing

Drivers and cyclists have spent the first half of this year trying to avoid the many potholes on Shiplate Road and throughout the village marked up earlier this year by North Somerset Council.

We welcome the good news that these are scheduled to be repaired in July. We have received notification of road closures with effect from 6 July.

We don't have specific dates but it looks like Bleadon Road and Coronation Road will be closed for three days followed by Shiplate Road for four days. Traffic diversions will be put in place.



Thanks to those villagers who helped plant up our village tubs with right royal colour in April and May.

In preparation for the Bleadon Royal Do a team from the Bleadon WI turned out in April to help plant up the tubs around the Coronation car park and youth centre. Despite having many other things to do in preparation for the big party they still found time to help plant our flowers.

In May the usual green-fingered band of volunteers planted out the remaining tubs throughout the rest of the village.

Thanks too, to the merry band of community-minded folk who cleared the rubbish and weeds from around the Coronation Hall.

Parking problems persist

Inconsiderate parking continues to be a problem on roads through the village. The police treat this as one of the parish council's policing priorities and are taking action against offenders.

In the meantime we ask all road users to park considerately. Please make use of the FREE parking provided in the Coronation car park.



This driver seems quite oblivious to the fact that this is the main road through the village and he or she is parking on a blind corner. They did leave some lights on, so I guess it's OK!

NEWS & gossip

Bus service 83 to the Veale to stop on 25 July

We are saddened and disappointed to hear that the already limited bus service to the Veale is to be stopped entirely in late July.

This means that villagers in Shiplate Road and the Veale will need to walk down to the new Coronation Road bus shelter to catch the hourly bus to and from Weston.

Since the 83 bus service is heavily reliant on funding support from the District Council we sought clarification of what is happening.

Village News has obtained the following explanation from North Somerset Council.

"I regret that the route of the bus service 83 has been revised in Bleadon village and will no longer serve The Veale, the remainder of the route remains unchanged in the village. The change takes place from 25th July, and I apologise that you have been contacted by residents regarding this before we discussed the details with you (*Bleadon Parish Council*). I believe that some bus drivers have passed information on to passengers rather sooner than we had intended.

There are several reasons why the route has been revised which are as follows, the bus **service 83 has not been keeping to time** and has often been running late which could result in the bus operator being fined by the Traffic Commissioner. This is something we cannot allow to happen on a supported bus service, as the operator is running the timetable supplied to them with the Council contract. It takes time serving The Veale and surveys have shown low usage on this part of the route. The most important factor however is the need for the bus to

undertake the **reversing and turning manoeuvre** at the end of the village. This is something which **should not be undertaken when operating a public service vehicle with passengers on board** in service.

Drivers being instructed in public service vehicle operation are instructed not to do this.

The bus operator has complained on many occasions that with the size of vehicles this is dangerous and they should not be undertaking this, and with speeding traffic there is an accident waiting to happen. In light of this we felt we had no real options other than to make this route change.

I appreciate that the bus has served this area for many years, but prior to the Webber Bus contract the vehicle sizes were smaller, and regulations and safety concerns have tightened in recent years. I understand that First Bus would no longer entertain this (reversing procedure) on any scheduled bus services they operate."

Editor's note

For many years bus drivers and NSC staff have expressed concerns about buses turning around on the Veale route. We used to have a similar problem at the Purn stop when the bus used to turn round there. Indeed, I saw one of our residents knocked down by a reversing bus there a few years ago.

In the past NSC has chosen to overlook these safety issues in order to maintain the service. Webber Bus are no longer allowing North Somerset to ignore the issue.

Parish council not giving up

One of the aims of the Bleadon Parish Plan is to see an improved bus service to the Veale. The parish council will be talking to North Somerset Council to try and find a solution that will allow a service to the Veale to continue. We will try to find alternative solutions to the problems of caused by the timetable and turning the bus.

Wednesday bus service continues from the Veale to Weston and back

It can't make up for the regular week-day bus service we have enjoyed from the Veale, but this once weekly service into Weston on a Wednesday morning may help those who can't make it down to the Coronation Road bus stop.

Wednesdays only (Coombs Travel)

09.46 from the Veale - arrives Weston, High Street at 10.01

Returns at:

13.28 from Regent Street Tesco, Stop EE

13.30 from High Street, Weston arrives back at The Veale, Bleadon at 13.45

This offers the opportunity for villagers to enjoy over three hours in Weston for shopping and refreshment. With the added bonus of a pick up right outside Tesco.

Clock work

It won't have gone un-noticed that the church tower clock has recently stopped working.

Attempts to get it ticking along properly have had only temporary

success. It seems that only a radical dismantling of the clock will reveal the cause of the problem.

This will require removal of the clockface from the outside of the tower and extraction of the clock works. At the moment the most economic solution appears to be for technicians to absail down the tower to remove the clockface. Other options include scaffolding or a cherry-picker, but these look to be more expensive.

The Parochial Church Council and the Parish Council will be working together to raise the very considerable funds for the repairs. In the meantime we are stuck at a perpetual 6.27.



NEWS & VIEWS

Villagers say NO to development on Sanders' field

Village Consultation May 28th 2011

Following discussion last year with the Parish Council to consider how the Sanders land in the centre of Bleadon might be best developed, Chris and Mike Sanders invited everyone who lives in Bleadon to give them their views on a scheme to create a village green along with new leisure facilities funded by housing built towards the Bridgwater Road end of the field.

Participants were asked to indicate their views on the statements below:

Bleadon would benefit from:	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree
A village green for local activities	119	8	156
New sports facilities/Playing fields	103	5	175
A new multi-purpose village hall	71	6	206
Starter Homes	62	6	215
Doctor's surgery	93	12	178
Sheltered housing	68	7	208
Improved employment	62	13	208

If the proposed scheme is built, the multi-purpose village hall, sports field and facilities would be gifted to the villagers of Bleadon for their use and for the use of future generations.

In principle do you support this scheme?

In principle **support** scheme 58 (20.5%)

Do **not support** scheme 225 (79.5%)

Chris and Mike would like to thank everyone that came to the Coronation Hall for the Consultation.

In all a total of 283 consultation forms were filled in.

Whilst there is a clear element of support for a village green and new sports facilities/playing fields for the village, it is clear that the scheme presented has not won popular support, so Chris and Mike will pursue it no further.



NEWS & VIEWS

Big turn-out to view Sanders' Field plans

Around 300 villagers visited the Coronation Hall to view Mike and Chris Sanders' proposals for development of their field alongside Bridge Road.

Stirred up by some mischievous and misleading flyposting and leaflet drops throughout the village it was clear before the event that feelings over the proposed new homes and recreation facilities were running high.

Sadly, most visitors seemed to have made up their minds before seeing what was on offer. Despite the temptations of new recreation, health and community facilities those opinions couldn't be swayed.



Some tough challenges ahead

There will be some difficult and expensive decisions ahead for the volunteers that manage our village halls and youth centre.

Both the Coronation Halls and the Youth Centre need some serious up-grading and improvement if they are to continue to offer quality facilities.

The rejection by many residents of the Sanders' proposals for new

community facilities will mean that the management committees of these village assets now need to focus on a viable way forward.

Both organisations are clear about what they want and need to achieve. The challenge is in finding the funding to pay for the badly needed improvements to the structure of all three buildings.

Whilst the Coronation Halls have the benefit of substantial funds in reserve, the cost of improvements is likely to be many times more than is currently available.

The Youth Centre is in a far less comfortable position and will have to work very hard to raise the necessary funds. No doubt a lot of grant application forms lie ahead!

Mark Howe gardening services

9 Malvern Road, Weston-super-Mare

Phone 01934 413 594 or 0777 327 2003

- Regular grass-cutting
- Hedges & trees cut
- Shrubs pruned
- Block paving repairs
- Fence painting
- Turfing
- Patios & chippings laid
- Lawn treatments
- Decking erected
- Patios & paths pressure washed
- Fencing erected & repaired
- Shed erection & repair



Tree Services *a cut above*

- Hedge trimming, tree pruning, removal, reduction
- Dead or dangerous trees removed
- Stump grinding
- Tree planting
- All domestic and commercial work undertaken
- Logs and Woodchip sold

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To all the organisations who financially supported our day..all donations were greatly appreciated and we thank-you

To all Bleadon Royal Wedding Sponsors...On behalf of the village of Bleadon may we say many, many thanks for your most kind donations which were put to good use and most appreciated.

We all worked hard to ensure that the day was a great success and we hope that in a small way it will help to promote your businesses locally.

Also a big thank-you to Bleadon WI
Once again a great many thanks for your support.

Preparation and excitement on the day



Bleadon Royal Wedding Committee

David and Katrina Plaister
Miles and Karen Orme
Lesley Stokes
Tracy Heppenstall
Rob House
Emma Hanse
Michelle Harper
Kate James
Kirsten Hemmingway-Arnold
Kim Herivel





Let's party!









The Party's over..

...thanks for a great day



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Regular Coronation Hall events

Mondays

Bleadon Bridge Club 2-5pm
Exercise Classes** 7-8pm + 8-9pm
British Sugarcraft Guild 1st Mon 7.30pm
Bleadon Parish Council 2nd Mon 7.30pm

Tuesdays

Bleadon Ladies Club 2nd Tues 2.30-4pm
Short Mat Bowls 2.30-4.30pm Sept-May
Bleadon Brownies** 6-7.30 pm
Bleadon Guides** 7.30-9.00 (term time)
Bleadon Photographic Group 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th
Tues 7.30 pm (Sept-May)
Bleadon Horticultural Soc 3rd Tues 7.30
pm (Oct-June)

Wednesdays

Toddler Group 9.30-11.30
Yoga Class** 9.30-11.30
Bleadon Players/Rehearsals 7.30pm
Bleadon Pilates** 7.30pm

Thursdays

Bleadon Art Group** 10-noon
Bleadon WI 7.30 2nd Thurs
Bleadon Folk Dancing Group 8pm 3rd
Thurs (Sept-June)
Bleadon Sugarcraft Club 7.30pm 4th Thurs

Fridays

Bleadon Friendship Club 2-4pm
Short Mat Bowls Club** 7pm (Sept-May)

Saturdays

Village Market 9-12.30 3rd Saturday

Sundays

Short Mat Bowls Club** 2.30 (Sept-May)

**in the Jubilee Room

See notice board for contact details

The Halls are available for hire by private individuals or organisations. There's a reduced rate for Bleadon residents. Call Joanne Jones on **812370**.

Business Directory

If you want your Bleadon business to be included here contact: bleadon.editor@btinternet.com

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What's on

In the Coronation Hall

Sat/Sun 27 & 28 August,
SCARECROW FESTIVAL, Noon –
4pm, information from Penny Skelley

Friday 2 September, 10 – noon,
SSAFA COFFEE & DANISH, charity
fundraiser, information from Penny
Skelley

Saturday 3 September, 2-5pm,
BLEADON FLOWER SHOW, Bleadon
Horticultural Society

Friday 9 September, 7.30 **BLEADON
HISTORY GROUP**, information
Penny Skelley

Saturday 24 September, 7.30,
HARVEST SUPPER, Bleadon Church

Thurs/Fri/Sat 6/7/8 October, 7.30,
BLEADON PLAYERS' PRODUCTION

Sat 22 October, 7.30 **CHARITY
BINGO**, info Georgina Peacock
814237

Saturday 29 October, **CHURCH
SOCIAL**

Saturday 5 November, 10-12,
COFFEE MORNING, Friendship Club

Saturday 19 November, **PHOENIX
CHARITY QUIZ**, Les Masters

Celebrating ★★★★★

Marie's the biscuit.

Unbelievably, Marie Keele has been running an aerobics class in the Jubilee Room for 10 years this June. Some of us have been exercising to music with Marie since day one, and we all enjoy her classes which are friendly, unthreatening and make exercise available to all ages (and shapes).

"How we regret it if we have to miss one of her classes - they help to keep us supple and fit." (Jo)

"Marie not only helps to keep us fit she has joined in as part of the Bleadon community. She is always cheerful and even though she has a busy life she goes out of her way to put social events on for us." (Helen)



"Marie you are a teacher
With a pleasant attitude
You keep us fit all seasons
And you have our gratitude!"
(Maggy)

"The baby boomers are getting older - Marie's class prevents us from getting wider!" (Linda)

"Well run, handy and local – no need to get in a car!" (Amanda)

"You said we would get slim like you!" (Betty)

A big thank you Marie for keeping us in good shape for the past 10 years, from all your Bleadon Girls!

Marie's Exercise to Music – Jubilee Room – Mondays 7-8 and 8-9

Still light on their feet ★★

The Bleadon Folk Dancing Group is celebrating 30 years of dancing in the Coronation Hall on a Thursday evening. Still regularly tripping the light once a month, this wonderfully sociable group welcomes newcomers of all abilities to join them. If you fancy joining them for a bit of sociable exercise contact Jean Thorne on 814007.



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Bleadon Village Monthly Market & community cafe

**SAT
16
JUL**

**SAT
20
AUG**

**SAT
17
SEPT**

**SAT
15
OCT**

**in the Coronation Halls
from 9 to 12.30**

Call Joanne on 01934 812 370 for more info

Sociable Bleadon

We are well blessed with over 20 clubs and social groups here in our little village. If you would like to join in the fun just pop along and introduce yourself. You will always be welcomed with a smile and a warm handshake. Many groups meet in the Coronation Hall. Check notice-boards.

Croquet Club

The club held three open days at their Bleadon lawns in May. These were well supported over the three days and a number of new members joined the club.

The new members will be eligible to participate in the internal matches/competitions that are taking place each month between June and September. They will also be welcomed by existing members to join the organised croquet afternoons Monday/Fridays Association Croquet, Tuesdays/Thursdays Golf Croquet with Wednesday being a general club day.

The open days are three specific days geared to attracting new members but this does not mean the club restrict recruitment to these days only, indeed if anybody wishes to join our friendly club to learn and enjoy croquet either competitively or socially please come along you will be very welcome.

For further information you can ring Doug or Sue Norfolk on 812128.



Bleadon Short Mat Bowls

The season ended with the Annual General Meeting on the 20th May when a review of the past year took place and a new committee was elected for the season 2011-2012.

Normally we take a break until September but this year we have decided to continue **bowling through the summer on Friday nights** only.

Congratulations to John Hatfield, & Kath & Aidan Reynolds in reaching the final of the League Triples Competition when they reached the final but by a very small margin ended runners up.

Social activity does, however, continue through the summer months and we have arranged a **steam train ride from Paignton to Kingswear and a visit to Dartmouth in August**.

The **new season** will commence again on the **13th September** when we will be playing on Tuesdays, Fridays and Sundays as usual.

However, on the 23rd September we will hold an open evening for prospective new members and those without previous experience when tuition will be provided. All you need to start is flat soled shoes.

Further information available from Leoni Rogers, Tel 811571.

Bleadon Youth Club

In the youth club young people have participated in multi-sports coaching, arts and craft activities including tile painting, poster making and badge designing and cooking. We have recently begun a Gardening project to improve the garden behind the youth club. On 21 July we'll be **scarecrow making**. Then we break for the summer holidays.

All of these activities provide opportunity for young people to have fun, to meet new friends, to build positive relationships, take part in decision making, to learn new skills, to build confidence and to become

more aware of issues facing young people today.

The Youth Club will celebrate **re-opening** after the summer break on **1 September** with **fruit smoothies!**

The Youth Club is situated in the car-park by the Coronation Hall and opens on Thursday nights from 7pm until 9:30pm. We charge £1 per session and welcome all young people aged 11 upwards with a focus on 13 -19 year olds.

To find out more contact me on 07920 082935 or email me at: mike.jordan2@n-somerset.gov.uk

The Youth Club AGM is on Thursday 22 September at 6.30. Come and find out what good things are going on for young people in Bleadon.



Bleadon Horticultural Society

A packed Coronation Hall audience enjoyed BBC Points West weather man **Richard Angwin's** penultimate talk to any club before he goes off to Aljazeera in May to work on World Wide Weather. Richard told us he was employed by the meteorological office which was set up during the First World War. Aristotle in 350 BC was one of the first weather



forecasters but forecasting has really taken off since the launching of the first sputnik in the 1960's.

These days various agencies need accurate forecasts including the gas companies, racing pigeon breeders and super markets needing space on shelves for various products that have different demands in hot or cold spells. Incidentally cats eat less food in hot weather! Richard finished his very

interesting talk by saying that at the end of Points West he was just a gap filler!

The coach outing this year will take place on Tuesday 19 July when we will be visiting the **RHS gardens at Rosemoor** in Devon. We will be leaving the village at 9.15 a.m. and the total cost is £10. To book a seat should they still be available phone Chris Cudlipp on 813152.

The 38th **Summer Flower Show** will be held in the Coronation hall on Saturday 3 September at 2.30 p.m.



Gardeners' delight

The Spring Bring and Buy sale of plants at the Horticultural Society's May meeting helped raise a bountiful £100 plus for the society's funds. Around 40 gardeners joined in the melee for plants, raffle prizes and drinks from the bar. There was a brief respite from the unadulterated excess whilst the horticulturalists exercised their minds on the quiz.

72nd Annual Bleadon Country Sports

Horse Show, Fun Sports and Companion Dog Show
Saturday 20 August at Lympsham (on A370 by Jeff Brown's garage)

All proceeds to the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance and the Cinnamon Trust for Dogs

Schedules from Alison Hillyer
Tel: 01934 815407



Sunday Club

On the **first Sunday of the month** youngsters of any age can join Chris and Stevie for fun and games in the Church Meeting Room. Starts in the church at 10.15 and usually goes through until about 11.30.

Bleadon Baby & Toddler Group

In the Coronation Hall **Wednesday mornings** from 9.30 - 11.30 during term time. Open to all pre-school children in the village and the surrounding area. With a range of activities which take place each week including arts and crafts, singing and a soft play area for

babies. Visitors provide exciting fun events.

It's a great opportunity for your children to play. And for you to meet other mums, dads and grandparents, come along any Wednesday.

Bleadon Ladies Club

The club meets in the Coronation Hall on the second Tuesday of the month at 2.30 p.m. We always welcome new members. At many of our meetings we enjoy the entertainment and education of a good speaker. You will make new friends enjoy tea and biscuits a free raffle and much more. Do come and join us. We have a short break for the summer so there will be no meeting in August.

13 September - What to do in the garden now, Sanders Garden World with plants for sale.

11 October - History and art of narrow boats

For more information and details of the club call Barbara on 814362

Bleadon Brownies - new leaders needed NOW!

1st Bleadon Brownies has been up and running in Bleadon for about 10 years now. It is very popular at present and our numbers are almost maximum. The leaders at have been involved in the running of the brownie unit for several years and are looking to handover to new leaders to take on the running of brownies from September 2011. At present we have been unsuccessful in finding anyone that would be interested in taking on this venture, so we are appealing to anyone who may be interested or know anyone that could spare a couple of hours a week to carry on this role. **We would hate for Bleadon Brownies to close.**

It is a fun and rewarding role.

If anyone is interested in this and would like some more information please contact Emma Tucker (Brown Owl) on 07974592963

Or Lynette Blacklock on 07771907359.

Sociable Bleadon

Friends, cakes and coffee

The Friendship Club coffee and cakes morning in April proved to be a winning social event for villagers of all ages. Young Alex toddled off with a teddy bear much bigger than himself, both Len and Audrey toddled off with fine wines, Jean won a strawberry picker's basket of goodies and everyone else seemed to stagger off with plates full of delicious cakes. Importantly, the event also raised over £170.



Fine wines at the WI

Glasses were raised, swirled, sniffed and taste buds challenged when the WI ladies experienced a delicious wine tasting evening in May.

Your intrepid photographer arrived towards the end of the session when participants were well into the tasting. A warm feeling of bonhomie pervaded the Coronation Hall and it was clear that there were some experienced wine experts on tap.

It looked like a lot of fun...and a little bit educational too! Excuse the fuzzy pics...must have been something in the air!



Fancy giving Sally* a pull yourself?

The all too frequent silence of the bells on Sunday mornings this year, has been due to illness and injury to three of our six ringers. Prior to 1981 the bells had not been rung for many years and it is the present band's sincere hope this can be avoided again. Once the bells stop ringing it is very difficult to get them going again.

If you have ever thought you would like to find out more about bellringing – this is your chance.

Anyone of any age can learn provided they can reach the rope. Don't be put off because you think you are too old – if you can scale the spiral staircase to the ringing chamber, you will certainly be able to ring.

So on **17 July during the cream tea at Rookery Nook** the bells will be ringing to mark the 300th anniversary. The tower door will be open, and the **Ringers will be pleased to welcome anyone who wishes to see how we ring, and perhaps consider joining us**, so that this truly English Village sound can continue here in Bleadon.

If you would like to find out more about being a Bleadon bellringer call Peter Maffey on 813285

**The Sally is the fluffy striped part of the bell rope. Your reporter gave it a pull and created a bit of a ding dong. Loved it!*

Pulling Sally in the church tower

The bells of Bleadon's Parish Church are about to celebrate their 300th anniversary. In celebration of this historic event the Village News went to meet Peter Maffey, to discover some background and find out more about our bells and their ringers.

Peter was waiting for me at the bottom of the tower. We climbed the 39 stone steps as they spiralled tightly up to the ringing room and then paused to get our breath back.

Tell us a little bit about you, Jill and bellringing.

When did you move to Bleadon? We moved to Bleadon from Hampshire in June 1972. We both have childhood connections with Somerset. So it was rather like coming home.

How long have you been involved with the bellringing here? Since 1981, then Tower Captain from 1984. The bells had been silent for around 20 years and a move was afoot to ring them again. Somebody got to know that Jill had been a bell ringer and she was keen to take it up again after a break of 10 years, so, if you can't beat them join them is what I did.

What's involved in being a bellringer?

Do you have to be musical? - No. But a good sense of rhythm can help.

Do you need to be strong and fit? - If you can mount the 39 steps of the spiral staircase and reach the rope you can ring.

How much time does it take up? - A ringer will normally attend an evening practice once a week and ring for Sunday Services, special feasts and weddings. It requires a certain amount of commitment to the tower, but this is insignificant compared with the enjoyment and friendship to be found.

How many people are in the team? - Six usually, but we need to recruit more ringers right now.



Do you get paid? - only for weddings

How long before a beginner reaches a suitable standard to participate? -

Campanology is a peculiarly British activity that has been developed over the past three to four hundred years. It can take anything from two to six months to learn to handle a bell rope competently and a lifetime to master the intricacies of the mathematical patterns which make up the sound of a peal of bells.

About the bells

How many? There are six bells

Presumably, each carries a different note - Normally tuned to the Tenor, here at Bleadon in G. Tuning each bell used to be done haphazardly at the casting stage by chipping a piece off the bell from the rim until the correct note was achieved. Now of course, tuning is done electronically and with precision machining equipment when the bell is cast.

What are they made of and how heavy is each bell? - 77% copper 23% tin. Tenor the (6th) heaviest at 10 cwt the others are lighter.

Are all six bells 300 years old? - only five bells are that old - the 2nd to 6th. The Treble was added in 1925

Would there have been bells when the tower first went up around 1400? - No. The

oakframe has a date of 1627 carved on a 'King' post. But there may have been four bells before 1711 as there are four old unused rope holes in the ringing room ceiling.

Have they rung regularly since they went in? - I don't know, but quite possibly because local farming and



quarrying would have provided the menfolk to ring and to have their barrel of cider. No Ladyringers in those days. Also, augmentation to six bells in 1925 indicates regular ringing then.

How do you maintain them? - Now the bells are on ball bearings. Just requiring routine checks and periodic checks by a Professional bellhanger.



The tower of SS. Peter and Paul is set against the backdrop of the Mendip Hills. Forming a highly visible landmark in the centre of the village. Built during the best and most magnificent period of English church architecture: it carries the stamp of the Perpendicular Gothic style. Although the oldest part of the church was dedicated in 1317, the tower was raised a little later - in about 1400.

Towers in Somerset tend to belong to geographical groups. Bleadon's tower is typical of the West Mendip group. Features include the quatre-foil parapet, the three window sound outlet and the turret staircase, surmounted by a spirelet.



Meet your parish councillors

The parish council elections in early May went uncontested because there were only nine candidates standing for the nine parish council seats. There are many familiar faces on the new council and some fresh ones too. Village News asked each councillor to write a few words about themselves.



Brian Gamble

Lived in the village for four years, background in science communication to people like you and me. My wife Christine and I socialise/board dogs for Hearing Dogs for Deaf People and Dogs for the Disabled so you might have seen us walking dogs and picking up other dogs' poo! I am a voluntary Advocate for Age UK Somerset, (was Age Concern) happy to help older people with difficulties dealing with

disability allowances, fights with energy or telecoms companies or others trying to take money from your bank account. Passionate about rural living and want to keep Bleadon alive but we all must support local facilities like the Post Office and the bus service into Weston. I would love to see more people coming to the monthly Parish Council meetings, not just when there is something contentious, but regularly to voice opinions and to support the Parish Council.



Robert House

I have lived in the village for 40 years, In June last year I married my wife Anna who is an equestrian teacher, I have two daughters aged 11 and 13. My family have farmed here in the village for the past couple of centuries. I with my brother still farm, based at Purn House Farm have expanded the farm from 400 acres to near 1000 acres in the past 15 years. Diversification has been important to the survival of the farm including the closing of the dairy and conversion to offices, the

croquet lawns and the Farm shop. Our latest project is the proposed construction of a water ski/leisure complex on the Bleadon levels. I've been on the parish council for a number of years now and I think the next few years will be very positive and with the addition of the latest councillors will be very proactive. I, like a lot of others, am very passionate about the village and would like to continue to give a youngish person's point of view to the steering of the future of Bleadon.



Trevor Marshall *MCIOB*

I moved to Bleadon in 1994 with my wife, Heather and my two children on the newly built McApine development at Bleadon Mill. As Commercial Manager of McApine Homes, I was attracted to the area for its natural beauty and location, and as result bought one of the Bleadon Mill homes. I have always been made welcome here and wish to repay your friendship by helping in the evolution and progression of Bleadon, whilst at the same time, respecting its traditions.

I left McApine to become Commercial Manager of Edward Ware Homes, who were instrumental in the discovery of the *Bleadon Man* on the site, that is now, Tenterk Close. So you can see, I have been instrumental in shaping the village in the most recent of Bleadon's developments. I am proud to represent Bleadon on the Parish Council and welcome any project to ensure that the village retains and preserves its current heritage, but at the same time needs to progressively adapt to create an environment enjoyable to all generations.



Clive Morris

Dinah and I moved from Wokingham with our family in 1986. We lived in Loxton for eight years and then moved to Bleadon in 1994 when Bleadon Mill was being completed. I was Clerk to Loxton Parish Council for five years and have been a Councillor on Bleadon Parish Council since

2002. I am also Treasurer to the Coronation Hall Management Committee. Now retired from my career in the computer and telecoms equipment industry, I am a member of Rotary International and a keen supporter of Shelterbox, the humanitarian aid charity.



Miles Orme

Born in the summer of 1966, educated both in Weston and Wellington. Been lucky to be self employed in a variety of jobs - from Care Bear to Christmas decorations. I am currently involved in the property sector. I have had long association with the Village of Bleadon. Playing with friends here as a child, enjoying skittles in the Queens Arms when she still had an alley. Now living in the village in one of the houses I used to visit as a child.

In my four years living here the whole family has become fully immersed in village life. My children are schooled locally my wife Karen is president of the WI. I too have become vice president of the youth club management committee, have helped organise our recent Royal Do, as well as being on the Bleadon Party committee.

I look forward to my new role as Parish councillor and the challenges ahead.



David Plaister

I have lived locally all of my life and I am delighted at the prospect of serving Bleadon Parish Council for the following term. I was first co-opted onto the Parish Council in 2010 and I currently serve on the Planning and Finance Committees as these committees best suit my professional skill base and therefore I feel that I can offer both experience and expertise in these sectors.

As a Parish Councillor I believe that one should endeavour to maintain a balance between upholding the traditions of the village and to openly consider its development, progression and evolution. I believe that Bleadon has an experienced, knowledgeable and driven Parish Council, whose members are more than capable of dealing with any changes driven by central government which may in turn impact on local issues and village life.



Keith Pyke

Whilst I was born across the Severn in Newport, I always feel at heart a Somerset man because I was born 9 months after my parents celebrated their honeymoon in a Weston hotel as WW2 drew to a close! Lived in Bleadon with my wife Joanna and son Joshua for 20 years. We love our village and its sense of community. When Jo and I talk about where we want to spend our retirement we struggle to think of anywhere

we'd prefer to be. So, for now it looks like you're stuck with us!

I'm involved with management of the Coronation Hall and Youth Club and have been on the parish council for ten years. Having worked in local government for 37 years I hope that I bring a pragmatic approach to village governance. Embracing the changes that affect our community, whilst working to ensure that those changes are for the greater good.



Penny Skelley

Born Wales. Educated Convent School & College, Cardiff. Married 50 years to Dick, three children and seven grandchildren. Lived Germany, Belgium, Holland, Singapore and Australia twice. Twenty eighth home in Bleadon for last 20 years. Ten years Chairman of Bleadon Parish Council and Chairman Contactus and History Group. Member of the Friends of St

Peter and St Paul, Church Flower Power Team, Horticultural Society. Organiser Bleadon Scarecrow Festival. Member of Inner Wheel and President of Ladies Luncheon Club in Weston. Work for SSAFA Forces Help 'FOSS' Committee fund raising for the charity. Enjoy a peaceful hour in Church, beautiful flowers, good cooking, champagne and family/friends reunions. At home in Bleadon is my favourite place to be.



Mary Sheppard

I have lived in Bleadon most of my life. I am the third generation of my family to serve on Bleadon Parish Council and feel very strongly about preserving the character and environment of the village. As a farmer, I am saddened that our green fields are almost devoid of livestock, but progressive evolution should not be overtaken by a concrete jungle.

Bleadon Parish Council

meets most months on the **second Monday of the month** at 7.30pm in the Coronation Hall.

An **Agenda** is published on the Parish notice boards and the parish council website at least three days before the meeting.

We welcome Bleadon residents to attend meetings and get actively involved in things that matter to them in Bleadon.

You will be heard

Parishioners' Voice is your opportunity at the start of each meeting for you to talk briefly to the Parish 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 him the chance to collect the most up-to-date information available.

Please send all correspondence about Bleadon Parish Council matters to the Parish Clerk:

Bruce Poole,
Bleadon Parish Council
Rooftops, 10 South Street,
Burnham-on-Sea TA8 1BS

Tel: 07887 802 922

Email:
bruce.poole2@btopenworld.com

Or visit the website at:
www.bleadonparishcouncil.gov.uk



Bleadon Village News is published by Bleadon Parish Council and distributed free to households in Bleadon Parish. Views published are those of the contributor and may not be those of the parish council.

Introducing Tony - our new Village Ranger



The Parish Council is delighted to have recently appointed Tony Derrick to the role of Village Ranger. Tony and his wife Jane live in the heart of the village and will already be well known to those who take part in Bleadon's wide ranging social activities. **Village News went to find out more....**

Any surprises in the job so far?

It's only my second week, so things haven't settled down into a regular routine yet. I collected seven bags of litter in the first week! Hardly surprising as we've not had a ranger for about six weeks.

I think that it's going to be a bit of a challenge. The parish council has given me a pretty extensive "to do" list, to be carried out within the ten allotted hours each week.

Why did you take on the job?

I retired from my job as an electrician last year and I'm not one to twiddle my thumbs. I like to keep active. A community is what you make it, and this seems like a good way of putting something into our community. I'm a pretty sociable person and this allows me to meet people, work outdoors and earn a bit of pocket money too!

What brought you and Jane to live in Bleadon?

A bit of bad luck that turned into good luck. Eleven years ago we were looking to move from Weston seafront to Worlebury. We were all ready to move but the deal fell through. We already knew Bleadon from our frequent visits to meet friends in the pub, so when this house came on the

market we jumped at it. No regrets at all. We love it here.

Have you any advice or requests for our residents that will help you do a better job around the parish?

Yes. Remember that **pavements are for people**. Please keep your hedges and shrubs cut back from adjacent pavements and footpaths. Overgrown shrubs intruding on footpaths can be a real problem, especially for the disabled and those with pushchairs. It's the householder's responsibility to keep those hedges trim.

Please make the effort to **pick up the litter** from outside your house. Often it is the result of windblow on Recycling days. So, as often as not it could be your rubbish.

If you pass a bit of litter when you are out walking please stop, pick it up and bin it. That will help me get on with the many more constructive tasks that need doing around the parish.

Dog walkers, of course, already know what they must do with the poo!

Looks like Tony is going to be a breath of fresh air in his new role. His relaxed and friendly exterior masks a man who does not suffer fools or anti-social behaviour gladly!

Your Bleadon Parish Councillors

Penny Skelley (Chairman)	Mendip Croft, Celtic Way, Bleadon	Tel: 815 331
Brian Gamble	Ashdene, Bleadon Road, Bleadon	Tel: 811 709
Robert House	Purn House Villa, Purn Lane, Bleadon	Tel: 815 588
Trevor Marshall	15 Bleadon Mill, Bleadon	Tel: 811 548
Clive Morris (Vice Chair)	20 Bleadon Mill, Bleadon	Tel: 811 591
Miles Orme	Purn House, Bleadon Road, Bleadon	07989 410 767
David Plaister	Mulberry House, Roman Rd, Bleadon	Tel: 814 612
Keith Pyke	8 Whitegate Close, Bleadon	Tel: 813 127
Mary Sheppard	Littlewood, Bridgwater Road, Lympham	Tel: 812 921

Pics & pieces



Glam girls Bleadon Guides joined in the fun and glamour of the Royal Wedding by creating their own wedding dresses out of bin bags.



Ghost Train Dramatic events and special stage effects by the Bleadon Players had a packed Hall audience on the edge of their seats in May.



Very am. on June 3rd, Friends of Bleadon Church members and helpers Mary Hollis, Glenys Robinson, Mandy Herman and Maggie Pettit joined the boot sale brigade. Striving to clear May Fair bric-a-brac remainders, with help from a book table (Pete and Celia Williams), the enterprise raised a creditable £58. Takings were boosted by Maggie (aka Aunty Wainwright) relentlessly pursuing stallholders with her bargain boxes.

A big thank you from Friends of Bleadon Church

To all our helpers, supporters and friends who made our May Day Fayre such a success. In spite of all the events leading up to the Fayre (Easter, a Wedding, Holidays etc.) over 1000 of you came along and supported the church to the tune of about £4000. Thank you.

The May Day Fayre is the biggest contribution to the funds needed for the church to keep going. In all we need in the region of £40,000 a year just to keep the church open. We do not receive any grants nor are we subsidised in any way. We solely rely on voluntary giving and fund raising by the Friends of Bleadon Church. That is why your support is greatly appreciated.

