

# BLEADON



MEMORIES OF CHILDREN'S GAMES

## VILLAGE NEWS 73

# Bleadon Village Monthly Market

Locally Produced Beef and Lamb. Seasonal Veg.  
Bread. Cakes. Cheese. Eggs. Preserves.  
Fair Trade. Garden Plants. Books. Crafts. Antiques.  
Bric-a-Brac. Refreshments and Much More.  
Always Something New.



**Saturday** 9<sub>am</sub>-12.30<sub>pm</sub>

*Dates:* July 21st, August 18th, September 15th, October 20th,  
November 17th, December 1st, January 19th,  
February 16th, March 22nd, April 19th, May 17th, June 21st

**Coronation Hall, Bleadon**

**01934 812370** to book a stall  
at this popular monthly market

### THE PARISH COUNCIL

PENNY SKELLEY [CHAIRMAN]	'MENDIP CROFT', CELTIC WAY, BLEADON.	TEL. 815331
PENNY ROBINSON [VICE CHAIRMAN]	1, THE VEALE, BLEADON.	TEL. 814142
RAY HICKS	'FIDDLER'S VIEW, HILLCOTE BLEADON HILL.	TEL. 811993
MALCOLM PERRY	'WESTFIELD', 1 THE BARTON, BLEADON.	TEL. 813940
MARY SHEPPARD	'LITTLEWOOD' BRIDGWATER RD., LYMPHAM.	TEL. 812921
KEITH PYKE	8, WHITEGATE CLOSE, BLEADON.	TEL. 813127
CLIVE MORRIS	20, BLEADON MILL, BLEADON.	TEL. 811591
JUSTIN HARVEY-BENNETT	THE BEECHES, CELTIC WAY, BLEADON.	TEL. 811373
ROBERT HOUSE		TEL. 815588

The Council meets on the 2nd Monday of the month at 7.30pm, in the Coronation Hall.

An agenda is published on the Parish notice board, and any Parishioner who wishes to, may attend these meetings. If there is a particular issue you would like to raise, could you please let the Parish Clerk know in advance and at the latest by the Friday immediately preceding the meeting. This will give him the chance to collect the most up to date information available.

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

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

**This Village Newsletter is published four times a year, March, June, September and December. Date sensitive material and publicity notices should reach the Editor well in advance of the event as a definite publishing date cannot be guaranteed.**

**The Deadline for the next issue is 18th August 2007**

Our aim is to provide a copy of this magazine free to every household within the Parish of Bleadon. Those who live outside the Parish may be able to obtain a copy from the Village shop or the Church porch. I should like to thank all those who help with the distribution of the magazine and I hope I can count on your future support. If there are others out there who would like to help please let me know (01934 814142).

Unless otherwise stated the opinions and comments expressed in this magazine are those of the contributor and not of Bleadon Parish Council. Anyone who has a comment to make on the content of this publication or has a contribution for inclusion, should send it to :-

Mrs. Penny Robinson, 1, The Veale, Bleadon. BS24 0NP  
Tel. 01934 814142 | e-mail : penny.rob@btopenworld.com

Keep up to date with the Parish Council news and to see this magazine online go to...

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

## Annual Parish Meeting

### Annual Parish Meeting – 2 April 2007

#### Report as presented on the evening by Penny Skelley Chairman of Bleadon Parish Council

Again I am able to begin my report by saying, it has been a good year for the Parish of Bleadon and all that the Parish Council has achieved. By being a proactive Council, we have been fortunate to obtain several grants. Our Village Plan has slowly and steadily progressed to the final stage. This important document for our future has filled our hearts and minds for a long time now. The update on the Village Plan and the "Sparkplug" Project, which you will have seen all about us, embracing the Halls, Youth Club and Children's' play ground, will be given by Councillor Keith Pyke at Item 5 of the Agenda.

Not only do I welcome you, I extend the welcome to our District Councillor, Ian Peddlesden, and the Village Representatives of the Clubs, Societies and Organisations here amongst us this evening. I also welcome the small business representatives, the entrepreneurs of the local area, and I hope you will all network this evening. Combined success, I feel sure, will help us all as a village to progress and prosper.

My report is mostly based on the areas of responsibility of your Councillors. I start with the Coronation and Jubilee Halls, where most of the events in Bleadon are held. These continue to thrive. I once called it a multi faceted entertainment complex – this still stands. The Hall Management Committee is to be congratulated on being the focus and hub of all events and functions. The Monthly Market, especially, goes from strength to strength.

I emphasize the youth of the village and heap praise on the Youth Club and its leaders for all the ideas and forward thinking for future plans. The Club has had a new heating system installed and insulation, five new notice boards and North Somerset has installed a computer with broadband. Tony Morgan, the Treasurer of the Youth Club has retired and the Club is in urgent need of a replacement. The Village and the Youth Club said goodbye to the Rector, David Parkinson, who served the Youth Club for 18 years, mostly in the post of Chairman. Speaking of the children of our village, I include the Guides, who were only formed here last autumn, and they will receive a grant cheque later. The Brownies have added to their numbers, and I welcome all the 'fun' things that they intend to achieve this coming year.

**The Avon Local Councils Association**, ALCA for short – one of the most valuable functions of this organisation is to monitor all Government legislation which effects local authorities and provides advice for Parish Councils. The Government is currently carrying out a wide ranging review of the structure of local government. This will eventually filter down to Parish level. The aim is to bring Government closer to the community and increase the role and responsibility of Parish and Town Councils. This is called "Empowering Neighbourhoods".

**Footpaths and Open Spaces** – path clearance of vegetation and fallen trees has continued throughout the year, although some footpaths are slippery, but this will be rectified in the coming months. Improvements to the paths near Rectory Lane and beyond are to have remedial work at no cost to the Parish. Lastly, four old stiles have been replaced by kissing-gates. I feel sure

## Annual Parish Meeting

that you appreciate the overall work and effort needed to keep and maintain the village to a high standard. The tubs always seem to be in flower – come summer and winter. They will be planted up again before the May Fayre on Saturday 28th April at 10.30am; we can always use help so please come with your gardening tools! We thank our Village Ranger for his vigilance and upkeep of our open spaces. This includes the Play park, which is very well used and as a happy Grandmother said to me recently, it is the most loved and safe facility in the local area. John Hurcombe has repainted the swing seats and keeps the area very much up to standard, so the park passed the ROSPA inspection with flying colours. The Churchyard has had a makeover, the footpath has been resurfaced, brambles and tree suckers all recently cleared; also the willow trees in Bridge Road have been pollarded. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Andy Eddy and the other Mendip Rangers for maintaining the rural outlying areas of the village in this part of the Mendips. As an aside, I recently attended the AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) Partnership Annual Forum, which this year was held in the Coronation Hall. This meeting restored my faith to know just how many people care about our countryside. I should add here that all our allotments are occupied and well tended and we have a waiting list of three.

**Planning.** In the past year we received 30 planning applications, one of the more unusual being for a Croquet Club. You have heard me say before we have a site meeting for anything bigger than a porch. Out of the 30 applications, three decisions made by the Parish Council were over-ruled by North Somerset. I wish to emphasise that the Parish Council monitor enforcement orders, but rely on North Somerset to post enforcement notices and to impose closure. Planning law states that local concerns and traditions must be taken into account when planning permission is sought. I promise you we do, but you will see that we are “damned if we do, and damned if we don’t”!

**Roads and Transport.** Bridge Road and the Veale have both seen resurfacing during the year. We hear from you about potholes which we immediately pass on to North Somerset, and if finances allow, the patchwork gang duly appear and do the remedial work. You will understand the difficulties of this following the recent National press coverage of this problem, which revealed potholes throughout the country – some seemingly the size of a pond! North Somerset are also very responsive to fly-tipping, for example four lorry loads of hard core dumped in Facum Lane were removed very quickly – so please advise the Parish Council if you become aware of any illegal dumping.

**Bleadon Beat.** Hot off the press, our Beat Officer, PC Adrian Woolacott, has advised me that we are to have a new Beat Officer, PC Church and, also, the help of a PSO to cover Bleadon. I was assured that the Police Surgeries would continue in the Church Rooms and the regular ‘driving through’ the village. The village has been relatively crime free in the past year, apart from the annoyance of some “tear ways” throwing fruit and stones at windows and breaking the odd pane of glass, so we are low on the local police crime graph. We are aware that the village notice boards require attention, as a result of vandalism, and this will be actioned.

The Parish Council has had two presentations already this year. In January, at the request of the Parish Council, Mrs. Sally Varley, Schools Administration Manager, North Somerset Council, and Mr. Tim Pollack, Schools Manager Somerset County Council, gave an informative presentation on the Admissions Policy for local schools. Many parents attended and they were encouraged to contact

## Annual Parish Meeting

both administrations. I understand that many of the problems are now resolved. May I thank our District Councillors for their help and support with this. Here I must explain that the Parish Council has no powers on school matters.

In February, Mrs. Cheryl Cavannagh from the community meals service gave a short presentation on "the meals on wheels service" in North Somerset. North Somerset has extended this service to the outlying rural communities. "Dial a Ride" has operated in the village for over a year now; the Friendship Club has used the service a dozen times for trips out. "Help the Aged", who are represented here tonight, will receive a grant cheque later.

**Dog Bins.** These were requested by the villagers and four were purchased. After much deliberation, they were sited and installed, and contracted for regular emptying. I am sorry for any upset and annoyance the initial delay in emptying caused, but we all wish that dog fouling will be less of an issue and the health hazard diminished.

Our largest local business is Marshall's, with whom continue to liaise. We monitor noise levels, traffic problems caused by the large lorries and take any village complaints to them. They are always prepared to listen. Moreover, they support us when requested from tons of stones to paying for the centre pages in the Village News.

**The Bus Pull-In** - about which some of you are concerned; I confirm that no further progress has been made on this bus lay-by on the West side of the village. Although this is the "gateway" to Bleadon, with the Post Office and Shop situated there, as yet we have received no further plans or quotes from North Somerset. We assume that financial restraints have caused this major scheme to be deferred. I am also aware that there has been much concern over the recently issued bus time table and this is being addressed by the Parish Council.

Finally, we are all proud of the village history. Perhaps from the Village Plan questionnaire, and if there are any requests, we may form a History Society, although not going back as far as Bleadon Man!

I close by thanking you for your help and support of your volunteer Parish Councillors, who are a good working team.

### **OPEN SPACES REPORT 2006-2007**

I am pleased to report yet another good year for Bleadon and its open spaces; I hope that the residents have appreciated the work and effort that has gone into making the village look good the whole year round.

The summer floral displays around the village were up to the usual standard and I have to thank all those volunteers who planted them and also the good folk who tended them during the drought period. I don't think we lost any through neglect. The winter tubs have been equally well maintained and still look good as the wallflowers come into their own. We have to thank our Village Ranger John Hurcombe for his constant attention to these as well as other aspects of village tidiness, e.g. the old quarry, the lay-bys, the pathways, the play area and the Hall car park – not to mention the outer boundaries of Accommodation Rd. and Roman Road..

## Annual Parish Meeting

At last we have four dog waste bins in place around the village, and after a tricky week or two when emptying was a problem, now all seems to be well. It is good to note that most of the regular dog walkers are being responsible, but there are still one or two out there who think that it isn't their place to 'pick it up', but they should be aware that from now on there could be a hefty fine imposed on those caught offending.

Mark Howe has continued to keep the grass cut around the play area and the churchyard and for this we thank him and his team. The churchyard itself has had a bit of a 'make-over' with the resurfacing of the footpath and the apron in front of the West Door. This was achieved with the help of a grant from North Somerset. The offending tree whose roots had caused the upheaval of the path has now been removed, so we hope that there will not be a need to deal with this pathway again for some time. The churchyard wall nearest Mulberry Lane required some tidying up, as it, along with some of the graves in that area had become overgrown with brambles and other perennial weeds; there was also a need for the regular removal of the basal suckers from the lime trees. The Parish Council employed Mr. Bob Link to carry out this remedial work and we thank him for his services.

As ever the more outlying rural parts of the Village have been kept in good order by Andy Eddy and the Mendip Rangers. In addition to the usual maintenance of the gates and stiles there is at present a band of willing 'stone-wallers, busy repairing the wall along part of Roman Road. This will look splendid when finally completed.

There has been an overall improvement at The Veale where the service road has now been formally taken over by N.Somerset and was widened to accommodate the emergency services. It was resurfaced along with the car park area and the pavements, something for which the older residents are truly grateful. Here as well as elsewhere in the village dropped curbs have also made life easier for those who wheel prams as well as those who use wheelchairs.

After much discussion with N.Somerset the willow trees along Bridge Road were pollarded, and we hope to continue to look after these trees and so preserve this traditional Somerset feature.

### **Penny Robinson (Chairman of Open Spaces)**



**IF YOU OWN A DOG PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW IT TO FOUL THE FOOTPATHS AND VERGES OF OUR VILLAGE. THE RESULTING MESS IS UNSIGHTLY AND A SOURCE OF INFECTION. BE A GOOD CITIZEN AND CARRY A POOP-SCOOP OR A PLASTIC BAG AND USE THE NEW DOG LITTER BINS NOW PROVIDED AT VARIOUS POINTS IN THE VILLAGE. PLEASE DON'T LEAVE IT FOR OTHERS TO CLEAN UP!**

## Village News Magazine

Since last September a new printer has taken over and this has meant a new look to our quarterly newsletter. It is hoped that you like the new lay-out.

Probably what many of you do not realize is that each copy costs £1.00p to produce. Other villages charge a subscription, - we deliver it free. The charges for advertising have gone up considerably, (although by modern standards our rate are still pretty modest), but by doing this we hope to recoup some of those printing costs.

The photo-centrefold is still a feature much enjoyed and I am again most grateful to Marshall's, who have generously sponsored us to the tune of £200.00p in the coming year, to cover the additional cost of printing these extra pages.

As always I have to thank John Hickley who every quarter comes up with original drawings for the cover, he never ceases to amaze.

My thanks all those who regularly distribute the magazine, thus ensuring that all the households in the Parish receive a copy.

I am pleased to report that our little magazine does however reach a much wider audience as copies are regularly posted to Canada, Australia and the USA to ex-pats who still want to know what goes on in our small corner of the UK.

### **The Parish Council Website ([www.bleadonparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.bleadonparishcouncil.gov.uk))**

If you know of any one who doesn't receive a copy of the magazine it is possible for them to access it via the website if they are internet enabled.

This site also carries the up to date agenda and minutes of the Parish Council meetings, a diary of village events as well as details of the markets etc. Other useful links include those to the Church, N.Somerset and the Mendip Society. More to come as the site develops.

**Penny Robinson**  
**Editor**

### **CONTACT US ON THE INTERNET**

Editor ..... penny.rob@btopenworld.com

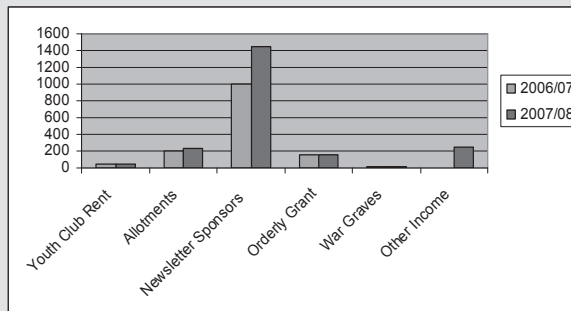
Parish Council ..... [www.bleadonparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.bleadonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Church ..... [www.bleadonchurch.info](http://www.bleadonchurch.info)



## Precept 2007/08

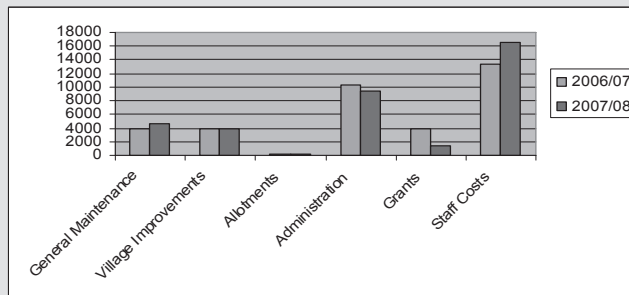
Comparison of the Anticipated Income for 2006/07 & 2007/08



£1,920 - 06/07

£2,145 - 07/08

Comparison of the Anticipated Expenditure for 2006/07 & 2007/08



£35,984 - 06/07

£35,695 - 07/08

How much does this mean in real cash terms to a band D house in the village?

£69.99 p.a in 2006/07 = £1.35 per week

£70.60 p.a. in 2007/08 = £1.36 per week

This represents an increase over last year of just 0.83%, well below the rate of inflation!

**Bruce Poole Parish Clerk**

## From Your District Councillors

First off , may we please thank everyone who voted for us to represent Bleadon's interests at district council level for another four years. We were overwhelmed at the level of support. Winning almost 70 percent of the votes is a real boost to our morale, despite the responsibilities you are entrusting us with.

Even better news for the village is that we have both been elected to the Executive, the most senior decision making level in the new council ,which means we are in the best possible position to bring forward improvement. Elfan will include Planning,Highways,Economic development and Tourism in his Portfolio. Ian will have Leisure ,Community, Housing and Social Services in his brief. It does mean we shall be busy bees but- hey -we did volunteer.

Meanwhile you can contact us with any issues you need to raise by e mail or by telephone (before 6.30 at night please) or arrange to come and see us.

**elfan.ap.rees@n-somerset.gov.uk tel. 824758**

**ian.peddlesden@n-somerset.gov.uk tel. 812015**

## Bleadon Players

Greetings from the winners of the Avon Association of Drama One Act Festival. We went to Clevedon to take part in the divisional final but did not get through to the next round. We were quite relieved really as trying to keep the Festival play going as well as preparing for our spring production was proving quite stressful. However we keep our big silver cup for a whole year.



'Fish out of Water' was good fun to rehearse and went well as a production. Thank you to our audiences who came to laugh with us.

Our Autumn production will be 'Ten Times Table' by Alan Ayckbourn. It is a play set in a village hall! The leading lights of the Village have decided to hold a pageant of local history based on some vague event but th committee appointed to organize this end up creating an 'event' themselves.

See you in September?

**Ann Northey-Baker**

## **Bleadon Coronation Hall**

**Reg. Charity No. 14602**

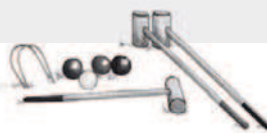


### **BLEADON CORONATION HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Len Chamberlain ..... Chairman and Licence holder  
Tony Pettitt ..... Vice- chairman and Village Representative  
Clive Morris ..... Treasurer and Parish Council Representative  
Royston Walters ..... Secretary and Village Representative  
Keith Pyke ..... Parish Council  
Nina Chance ..... Ladies Club  
Mike Welch ..... Horticultural Society  
Mary Henley ..... Bridge Club  
Ann Northey-Baker ..... Bleadon Players  
Lynn Riding ..... Short Mat Bowls  
Betty Patterson ..... Parochial Church Council  
Beryl Davies ..... Friendship Club  
Ms J. Gower-Crane ..... Toddler Group  
Bella Ware ..... Bleadon Brownies

The booking Officer is Joanne Jones  
D.P.S is Les Masters  
Independent examiner is Shirley Campbell

## **Weston-Super-Mare Croquet Club**



As I am sure you have read in previous editions of the Parish Magazine, the Parish Council have been very supportive in helping the Weston super Mare Croquet Club to relocate to Bleadon.

Planning permission has now been granted, and it is hoped that work will commence on the ground in August 2007 with a view to play beginning in the summer of 2008 . The development which will include a small car park, is to be situated opposite the Post Office, and will enhance the area around the shop. We are hoping that we shall encourage people in the village to come and try the game of croquet with a view to becoming members of our Club.

This is a big step for the Club and village members will be very important to us and will be made very welcome .

If anyone is interested to know more about croquet, please contact :

**Roger Buckley at 9 Manor Grange, Bleadon.**

## The Parish Church of St. Peter and St. Paul, Bleadon



### The Interregnum

We have understandably received enquiries regarding the arrangements which will apply in the parish following the retirement of the Rector.

The following information may be useful.

The Parochial Church Council will have responsibility for church activities throughout the interregnum period however long that may be. In particular, the following named elected officers of the P.C.C. will be responsible for certain specific roles and duties as shown hereunder.

**Churchwardens:** both Sara Osborne and Brian Drinkwater have a primary responsibility overall; they will be arranging priestly cover at the church services. (We are fortunate to have four retired priest, living locally, who are willing to assist at various times.) Sara and Brian will act as contact points for personal calls and telephone messages. Brian will deal with web enquiries. He has details of key holders for both the church and church room.

**Treasurer:** All enquiries regarding finance should be referred to Graham Rogers. Reader: Jill Smith will from time to time, conduct services and is available regarding procedures of church services and other doctrinal matters.

**Secretary:** Gill Smith will have details of administrative matters, such as dates and venues of meetings and general correspondence.

**Chairman:** David Elliott will chair all meetings and with the Secretary, agree agendas. He will continue to represent the parish at both the Deanery and Diocesan Synods.

### P.C.C. Meeting 2nd April, 2007

The P.C.C. approved the formation of a Standing Committee. This body comprises the six above individuals and will deal with all matters requiring attention. This committee will report back to the P.C.C. who remains the governing body of the Church for the time being. So, please rest assured that Church affairs will be pursued with vigour!

P.C.C. as you would expect spent some time in discussing the question of and the identity of the successor to David Parkinson. What is clear is the Diocese is intent on Bleadon sharing a priest with another parish. Whosoever is chosen will not, sadly, reside in our village as the Diocese is in the process of sale of the Rectory.

P.C.C. have met with both the Archdeacon of Bath and the Rural Dean, Mike Slade concerning the future of the parish; more meetings are planned as there is much to discuss, particularly the style of worship, the service to the community, visitations to the sick and other aspects of priestly ministry.

The P.C.C. wishes to reassure parishioners that home visits will shortly commence for those who

## The Parish Church of St. Peter and St. Paul, Bleadon

wish them, and for those who desire the provision of Holy Communion this too can be provided following the normal Sunday Eucharist services. Please let a member of the Standing Committee know of your request.

The P.C.C. is in the process of taking over ownership of the Church Room, adjacent garages and the parking space next to the former rectory, so we do have the facility of a small meeting place and venue for the smaller social occasions retained.

**David Elliott**

## Friends of Bleadon Church

### Bleadon May Day Fayre

The "Friends of the Church" would like to thank everyone who assisted the running of the May Fayre on the 7th May; both helpers and those who came to support. This very special event would not be possible without you. Many thanks.

The day started slowly due to the poor early morning weather conditions and because of this we were unable to erect the usual Bouncy Castle. Nevertheless there were plenty of other activities to enjoy and as the day progressed the weather and the crowds improved. The end result was that approximately £5000 was raised towards the ongoing costs of the Church.

The Fayre is now a fixed part of the village calendar and with much hard work involved the Friends Committee is very grateful for any help and support villagers can provide. Now for 2008.....

The **Church Tower** will be open on Sunday, 15th July from 2.00pm to 4.00pm. For just £1.00 you can climb to the top of the Tower and enjoy the spectacular views across the Levels to Brean, Burnham and beyond.

In the Church on Saturday, 13th October we will have the **Pontnewydd Male Choir** as part of the Weston Arts Festival. Tickets will be on sale soon at only £5.00.

Our annual **Harvest Supper** will be on Saturday, 29th September in the Coronation Hall. We always look for something different. You will not be disappointed this year.

All our events are published in the Church magazine (monthly) and on the Village notice boards. Look out for additional events as your support is always very much appreciated.

We are a very friendly group of folk who want to see the Church active and on-going in the Village. If you are interested in joining us (you do not necessarily have to be a Church-goer!) with new ideas etc. you would be most welcome. Just give me a call on 01934 813636.

**Brian Drinkwater**



## Coronation Hall Management Committee



### Harvest Home - a family friendly lunch

We have now finalised the arrangements for the Harvest Lunch on 8th September, aiming to make the occasion as enjoyable as possible for families and groups of friends.

The tables will be separate, seating six or eight (larger parties can be arranged), so that a family atmosphere is created. The main course will be cold meat, salad and new potatoes, and will be in dishes on the tables so that people can help themselves straight away. This eliminates the all too familiar scenario, in which children grow ever more restless while waiting for food to arrive.

There will be no waiting for the second course either. Once people have finished their first course, they simply stack their plates on side tables and choose from a selection of three desserts. Restless children will then be free to 'do their own thing' in the play area or youth club, (with permission) while their parents have a leisurely drink.

This is a new venture for the Coronation Halls and we are making every effort to get it right, in the hope that it can become an annual festive event akin to the May Day Fayre.

#### HARVEST HOME LUNCH MENU

Cold beef, ham and pork plus a vegetarian option  
Salad and new potatoes  
Choice of dessert  
Fully Licensed bar

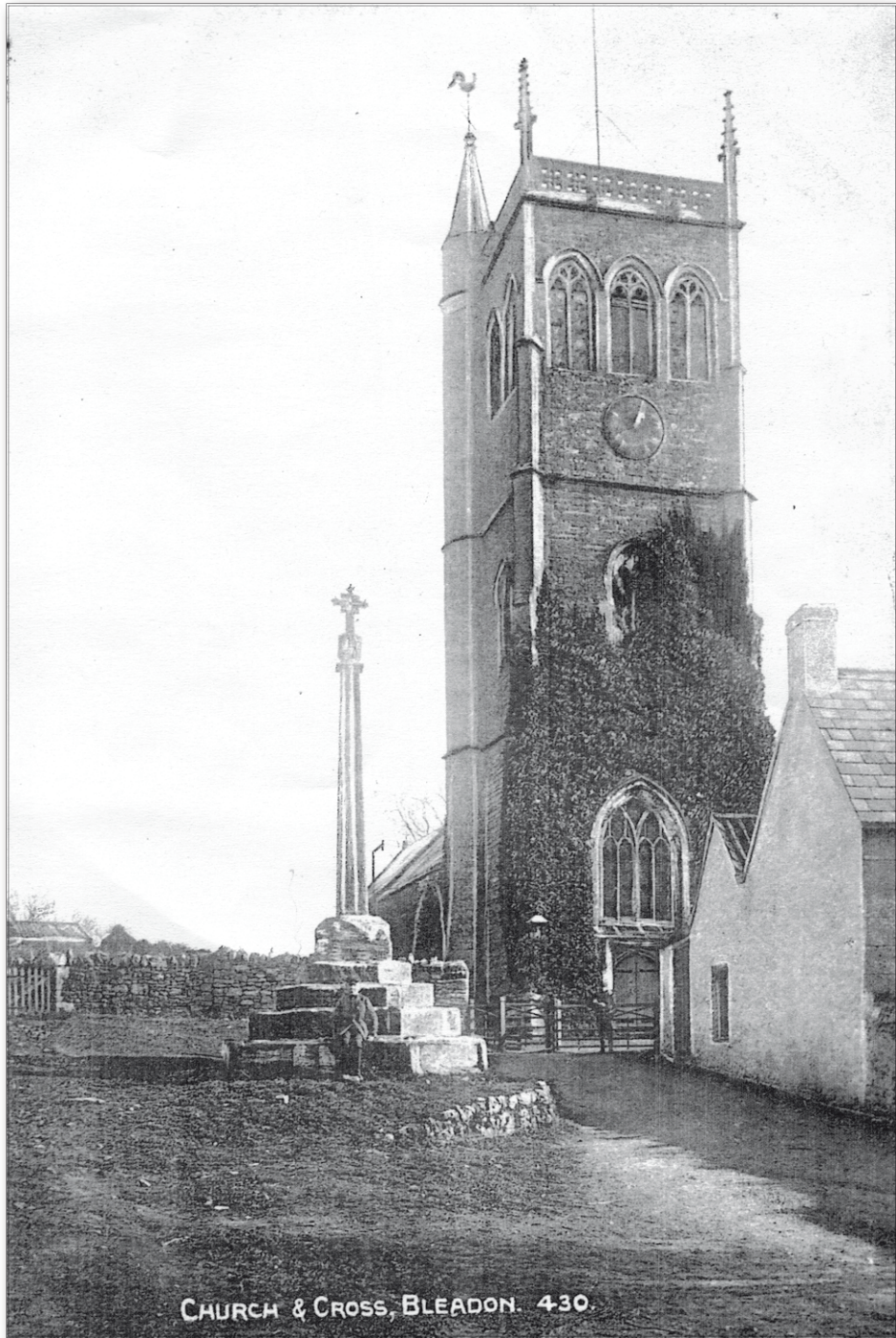
ADULTS ..... £7.50  
CHILDREN (under13) ..... £5.00

Tickets from Bleadon Post Office or Les Masters 811976

There are other details of the afternoon and evening events throughout this magazine, but for more information please ring Les.

## To the Library by Bus

Library users have recently been handed an extra facility – free, if they have bus passes. The new bus route not only provides a quick journey to the town centre but also continues to the traffic lights on the Boulevard, a stone's throw from the main library. In each direction there is a stop only a short distance from the lights, so it is an easy walk to the library. Besides a much wider choice of books the library has a large stock of tapes, videos and CDs, which all adds up to an excellent urban facility for us 'isolated' villagers.



Bleadon Church with Ivy



Bleadon Church with very few grave stones



Bleadon Church and tea rooms

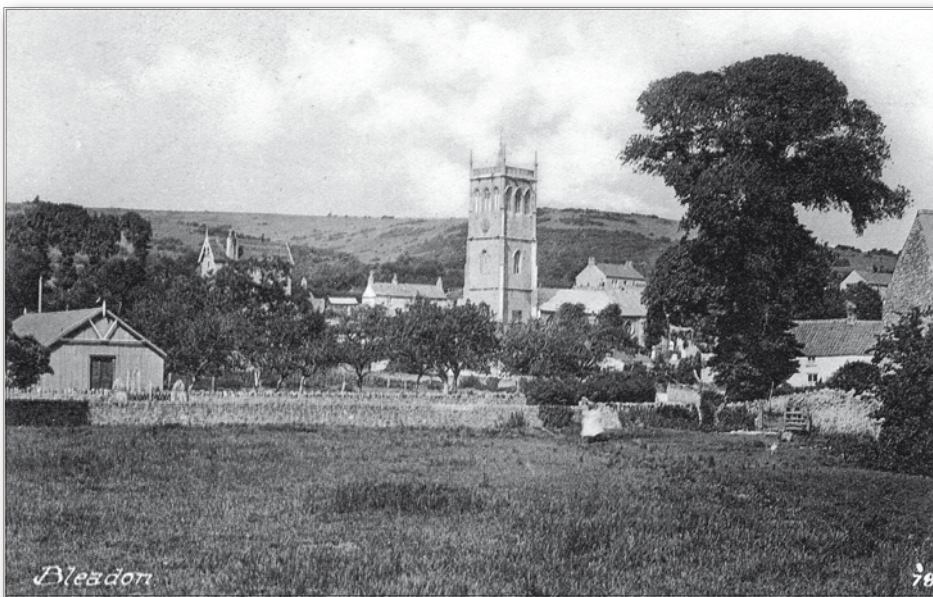




Bleadon Church with scaffolding



Bleadon and Church 1977



Church and Village 1930's

**The additional cost of reproducing these photos has been met by the generous sponsorship from Marshall's Quarry**

## **Bleadon Youth Club**

### **UPDATE - May 2007**

As you may have noticed we are progressing with the modernisation of the Youth Club building and adjacent area.

The outside of the Club has been painted and the walls have been insulated to keep in the heat in from the brand new boiler!

We would like to express of our grateful thanks to Marshall's for their support having very kindly donated the block paving for the lovely new patio area. Some attractive wooden planters and picnic tables have also been added; we hope this enhanced area will be very well used.

The Club membership is still good and the programme provided by the excellent North Somerset Youth Workers has included surfing at Woolacombe, trampolining, discos, barbeques and music workshops.

If your child is in year 7 – 11 at school why not come along and see what is on offer, we would also welcome young people from surrounding villages too!

The Management committee has seen some changes recently and we would like to ask for willing volunteers to help look after the youth club funds, and sit on the committee to help with decision making etc, this would only take a couple of hours every few months, if that.

We would also like to promote the use of the Club Building for private hire. If you would like to find out more about hiring the Club for your party or event, or about the Club in general, then please call us or pop in on any of the Club nights which are from 7.00 until 9.00 pm.

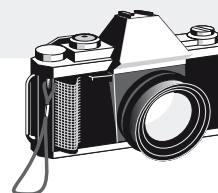
### **Weekly Timetable:**

Monday	Veterans Table Tennis Club
Tuesday	Boys & Girls mixed Music Workshop
Wednesday	Veterans Table Tennis Club
Thursday	Girls & Boys mixed club night
Friday	Boys Only club night

### **For more information please contact:**

Kim Herivel	Chair	Tel 01934 812931
Anne Fortune	Youth Worker	Tel 01934 625167

## Bleadon Photographic Group



### Armenian Boy Makes Good

Once upon a time, on a stormy New Years Eve in 1924, the passenger ship Versailles, docked in the port of Halifax, Nova Scotia, after a twenty nine day voyage from Beirut. On board 'was a sixteen year old Armenian boy who spoke no English or French and was travelling alone. The surrounding land was snow covered, a very different landscape from the one from which he had sailed to. He was born in Mardin in Turkey, the son of an illiterate father and educated Mother who was a very gentle soul and loved her Bible.

He left to find a new life in a free and prosperous country. On arrival he had no money and had received very little schooling, but an uncle, whom he had never seen before, had sponsored him and was there on the quayside to meet him. They embraced and made for the station to start a two day train journey to Sherbrooke, Quebec. He soon settled in with his uncle George who was a photographer and the young boy went to work with him during his summer holiday in 1925, although his ambition was to become a doctor. He soon became captivated with the artistic side of photography and began taking photographs in the countryside around Sherbrooke, with a small camera bought for him by his uncle. His interest grew, after a photograph he had taken and given to a school friend as a Christmas present, was entered in a competition unbeknown to him and won him \$50, 10 of which he gave to his friend, the remainder he sent to his parents in Aleppo, Armenia. His uncle recognised his growing talent in his new found interest and arranged for him to be apprenticed to his friend the great John H. Garo of Boston( a fellow Armenian). Who was this boy I hear you asking. Well it was the person who became the worlds greatest portrait photographer, Yousef Karsh whose talents have never been surpassed to this day. Yes, there have been great portraitists such as Angus McBean , Dorothy Wilding, Norman Parkinson and Lord Litchfield, but none have produced the tonal quality expressed in the work of Karsh. He travelled the world, even during the second world war, photographing people who had influence in leadership, music, the arts and medicine as well as Royalty. The greatest of his pictures is one of Winston Churchill, taken in 1941 in Ottawa shortly after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour. Churchill was visiting Ottawa where he had addressed the Canadian Parliament by invitation of its Prime Minister, Mackenzie King. Karsh took advantage of the situation and set up his studio lights in the Speaker's Chamber and then got the Prime Minister to lead him into the room. Churchill was not amused and asked what this was all about but no one had the courage to explain. Churchill was posed ready for the shot and as was normal, he was smoking a large cigar. Just as the shutter was about to be opened, Karsh leant across and took the cigar from Churchill's mouth. Churchill gave Karsh a look of thunder and the shutter clicked. The expression on Churchill's face epitomises his character, one of defiance, determination and courage and will remain a classic portrait for ever. This photograph is the most published one in the history of photography. Karsh photographed in colour as well as black and white, in fact he claimed that he alternated the two during sittings, although his monochrome studies are the most memorable.

Yousef Karsh was born on December 23rd 1908 and died on July 13th 2002 at the age of 94.

**Ken Tapley.**  
**Chairman Bleadon Photographic Group.**

## Bleadon Ladies Club



The year is flying by; and here we are looking toward our summer program. So do come and join us and see what we have on offer.

### **JULY 10th**

This is our Homespun meeting where we have a Beetle Drive, Cream Tea and what ever else the Committee decides to do to make it a very enjoyable afternoon.

### **AUGUST 14th**

This is our Annual outing. This year we are going to Evesham. We will have time to look around before we have a trip on the River Avon followed by a Cream Tea.

### **SEPTEMBER 11th**

"My Life upon the Wicked Stage"  
Mr Brian Saunders

So you can see we have lots to offer, so do come along.

**For more information call Barbara on 814362**

## Bleadon Short Mat Bowling Club

As I write this the club is about to close for the summer break. We are to have our fish and chip supper, which is the final event of the season.. This season has been one of steady progress, with both our league teams doing better than last year. More importantly players have enjoyed the cut and thrust of the competition against other clubs and visiting other mats. On the social bowling side we have gained new members who are gradually learning the skills required, while appreciating the companionship and the ubiquitous tea and biscuits.

We had a six day bowling holiday at Torquay in April. The hotel in which this was held was new to us and there was the usual apprehension, but there was no need to have worried, as every thing from the food to the weather was first class.

During the summer break there is a visit to the Houses of Parliament organised and a skittle match in August.

We shall start the next season on the 18th September, why not come alone and see what we do for your self?

### **PARK CONSIDERATELY PLEASE!**

The residents of Purn Way and Manor Grange are increasingly concerned about the parking of cars by customers visiting the shop and post-office. The congestion at the corner is becoming quite a problem and as there is now a very adequate car park it would seem that parking on the surrounding roads should not be necessary.

## Bleadon Horticultural Society



The Coronation Hall was full of colour and the air was heavy with the scent of the flowers on display for the 33rd Spring Flower Show. Yet again the children came up with imaginative creations, including a parsnip starfish and mouth watering cakes and sandwiches.

### TROPHY WINNERS.

Lindley Cup for best floral exhibit	Penny Skelley
Harold Banwell Cup for best pot culture	Roy Tansley
Jubilee Cup for most points in cut flower class	Joe Thomas
BHS Homecraft Cup	Dagmar Chatterley
BHS Handicraft Cup shared	Molly Lewis /Mike Welch
Victoria Sandwich Cup	Beryl Davies
Irene Hilditch 'Cookie'Plate	Lucy Stevens
King Cup most points junior 'A'	Tom Hemmingway-Arnold
Davies Cup most points junior 'B'	Izaak Bailey
Junior Cup most points junior 'C'	Chelsie Bailey
Society Spring Cup most points in show	Penny Skelley

Two Volumes of RHS books A-Z of Garden Plants were raffled and raised £75 for the Weston Hospice.

At the meeting in April Cindy Trant was the guest speaker on all aspects of the herbaceous border. She discussed colour co-ordination/clashes, shape of beds, foliage texture, and ways in which to make the garden look wider, longer or smaller.

The 'Bring and Buy' plant sale and social in May was very well attended with over 40 people signing in. Maggie and Wendy did a great job on the sales stall pricing and selling the plants brought in. Our thanks are extended to all those who brought plants as well as Sanders Garden World and Hutton Garden centre for supplying others.

At the time of writing we have a full coach for the trip to Kew Gardens in July and after that we shall be looking forward to the 34th Summer flower Show on Saturday September 1st. Schedules will be available as usual from the shop, the Church porch or from a committee member.

**Gardening tip:** When planting out or transplanting plants, water the planting hole well before inserting your plant.

**Chris Cudlipp**

## Bleadon Baby and Toddler Group

We continue to thrive as a group, with lots of new members from Bleadon and the surrounding villages. There are a number of new babies just arrived or about to arrive, which will guarantee lots more children to attend over the next few years.

Our activities each Wednesday morning include a free play area for babies with lots of age appropriate toys, a trampoline, slide and ride on toys for the toddlers, an art and craft activity and book/puzzle table. We also have song time at the end of every session.

A Health Visitor attends each second and fourth Wednesday in the month, when babies can be weighed and advice given.

New members always welcome, if you have a baby or toddler please come along and join in the fun. Wednesdays 10.00 – 12.00 in the Coronation Hall.

## 1st Bleadon Brownies Report



As always, we have been very busy. The Brownies invited their mums to a special Mothers Day evening on Tuesday 20th March. The girls each performed a piece of music, dance, poetry, circus skills or a sketch while their mums tucked into a delicious meal of quiche and salad, followed by gateaux! It was a lovely evening and was great to see how much effort the Brownies put into it just for their mums.

Also in March we had a sleepover in the Coronation Hall followed by a Jumble Sale the next day. This was a hugely successful event - the Brownies had such fun trying on outfits and sorting through jumble in their pyjamas! We were very proud to be able to present £150 to the Village Garden Fund and would like to thank everyone who attended our sale and supported this cause.

Our badge this term is Fire Safety so you may have noticed groups of Brownies in the telephone box on Tuesday evenings practising making an emergency call! In April we visited Weston Fire Station and had a marvellous time using the hoses on old burnt-out cars (and each other) and learnt everything necessary to complete the Fire Safety Badge.

But the fun doesn't stop there - we are now planning our FIRST EVER PACK HOLIDAY! which will be taking place in June. This involves two nights away and promises to be a weekend to remember. Details of how we got on will be in the next issue.

I would like to take this opportunity to reassure parents of girls on our waiting list that you haven't been forgotten - we are slowly getting through it. However Brownies do not tend to leave unless they move house or reach 10 years of age (and then can move on to Guides). I will be in touch as soon as a space becomes available.

**Rachel Hemmings (Brown Owl) Tel. 811891**

## A list of organisations which regularly use the Coronation Halls

<b>Mondays</b>		<b>Contact</b>	
2-5pm	Bleadon Bridge Club	Mr D Munden	812772
10am-noon	Marie's Mini Movers**	Mrs M Keele	07939 038 071
7-9pm	Exercise Class **	Mrs M Keele	07939 038 071
7.30pm 1st Monday	British Sugarcraft Guild W.S.M. Branch	Mrs F Hatcher	620784
7.30pm 2nd Monday	Bleadon Parish Council	Mr B Poole, Clerk	01278 787555
<b>Tuesdays</b>			
10am-noon	Tatty Bumpkins**	Mrs S Hancock	815157
2-4pm 2nd Tuesday	Bleadon Ladies Group	Mrs B Pugh	814362
2.30-4.30pm	Bleadon Short Mat Bowling Club** Sept-June	Mrs J Tiney	813893
6-7.30 pm 7.45-9.00 (term time)	Bleadon Brownies** Bleadon Guides**	Mrs R Hemmings Mrs B Ware	811891 811545
7.30 pm 1st,2nd,4th,5th	Bleadon Photographic Group Sept-May	Mr K Tapley	623877
7.30 pm 3rd – Oct-June	Bleadon Horticultural Society	Mr C Cudlipp	813152
<b>Wednesdays</b>			
10am-noon 2nd & 4th	Infant Welfare Clinic & Toddler Group	The Health Visitor at the Clinic	
10am-noon 1st,3rd & 5th	Toddler Group	Mrs E Knight	625089
1.30pm	Yoga Class	Mrs D Marsh	750438
7.30pm	Bleadon Players/Rehearsals	Mrs S Gibbon	645135
7.45-10pm (term time)	Ballroom & Sequence Dancing	Mr L Masters	811976



## A list of organisations which regularly use the Coronation Halls

### Thursdays

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

### Fridays

2-4pm	Bleadon Friendship Club	Mrs B Davies	813363
7.00pm Sept-May	Short Mat Bowling Club**	Mrs J Tiney	813893

### Sundays

2.30 Sept-May	Short Mat Bowling Club**	Mrs J Tiney	813893
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\*\*in the Jubilee Room

The Halls are available for hire by private individuals or organisations.

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

## CORONATION HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

### FAMILY FUN

Where ----- Car park, playground, and Youth Club

When ----- Saturday 8th September at 2.00pm (approx)

Bring the kids for a picnic beforehand (in the Youth Club if wet)

Light refreshments available in the Youth Club.

Fully licensed bar in the Coronation Hall

Fun for children of all ages!

## **Bleadon Rubbish!**

### **FOXES, BADGERS, CATS, CROWS, GULLS, ALL LOVE BANK HOLIDAYS ....WHY? Well in a word RUBBISH!**

Particularly rubbish that is put out early - in some cases two days early over a recent holiday weekend. There is always a notice in the local paper about collection days so please take heed and don't leave your bags to be vandalized by the local wildlife.

Easter seemed to present a real problem especially to some residents in the Village and the resulting mess was an eyesore of massive proportions. What made things worse was that so much of the rubbish strewn across paths and verges could have been re-cycled. Amongst the ripped open bin bags were cans, glass jars and paper items, all of which could have been put into a green box!

In common with Local authorities across the country North Somerset is doing its best encourage us all to recycle as much as possible, a recent leaflet campaign highlighted all the things we could do and we now have the boxes and bags to do it, if only we have the will. Larger, bulkier things can be taken to the 'tip' where just about anything can be dealt with sympathetically and only the very worst goes into the 'landfill' skips.

**SO PLEASE REMEMBER DON'T FILL THE BAGS WITH MATERIALS THAT YOU CAN RECYCLE, AND PLEASE DON'T PUT THEM OUT BEFORE 7.30am ON THE DAY OF COLLECTION.**

Oh yes - and one other thing --- save electricity by turning out the lights that you don't need, it will decrease your power bills as well as conserving energy! All night intruder lights are particularly annoying and cause light pollution to boot!

Your grand-children may thank you one day for your efforts - and along with the foxes, badgers, cats, crows and gulls - may still have a planet to enjoy.

**PJR**

## **CORONATION HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HARVEST HOME EVENING ENTERTAINMENT**

**SATURDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER AT 8.00PM**

**Come along and Drink, Dance and Be Merry**

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**Tickets £6.00 from the Post Office or Les Masters 811976**

**What's On - In the Coronation Halls -  
Make a note in your Diary!**

Saturday 1st September	Autumn Flower Show	Horticultural Society - 813152
Friday 7th September	Coffee & Danish	SAAFA - 815331
Saturday 8th September	Harvest Home	811976
Saturday 29th September	Harvest Supper	Church Friends
Saturday 3rd November	Coffee Morning	Friendship Club
Saturday 24th November	QUIZ	CLIC
Sunday 16th December	Christingle Party	Church Friends

**BLEADON VILLAGE MARKETS in 2007**

21st July, 18th August, 15th September, 20th October, 17th November,  
And the Christmas Fayre on 1st December

**WHAT'S NEW IN THE CORONATION HALLS**

A pilates class is starting in June run by qualified instructor Emma Duffill on Friday evenings from 6-7 pm. There are a limited number of places on this course – beginners welcome. Contact Emma on 01934 623653

At last we have a dishwasher in the Main Hall kitchen! Fast, efficient and easy to use (full instructions provided). Give it a try at your next meeting or event.

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

<b>Full page</b>	Village £100	Non Village £120
<b>1/2 page</b>	Village £60	Non Village £80
<b>1/3 page</b>	Village £50	Non Village £60

These rates are for 4 insertions starting with the June Issue.

Please note - new rates will apply as from June 2007.

Please contact the editor for more details

## Short Story

### Field of Thunder

A large boomerang once hung behind the bar of the Sgts Mess at RAAF Edinburgh Field near Adelaide. Originally found on the Nullabor Plain during clean-up operations following Britain's nuclear testing in Australia, it was neither old nor of a type used by Aboriginal tribes of the southern continent.

No one could imagine how it got there – that is, until now.



The meeting was over and the two Air Officers stood, their aides usily collecting files.

"Well that's the test site settled," said one, "Bill Penny was getting anxious when he realised the closeness of Adelaide."

"Yes, but that Met chap was convincing," said the other, "all that upper strata stability and prevailing offshore winds stuff."

"Satisfied the Boffins, that's the main thing." Making for the door they passed the scientists, still huddled in conversation beneath a cloud of tobacco smoke.

"Good meeting Sir William," the Senior Officer called.

Looking up, Doctor Sir William Penny HMG's Senior Scientist (Nuclear) raised his pipe in greeting.

He knew the test site suited the Air Force. There was an airstrip there and short lines of supply but he was mindful of the consequences of winds carrying fall-out clouds near a centre of population. Their footsteps echoing along the marbled passage ways of the Old Admiralty Building the airmen paused on the steps overlooking Horse Guards Parade, hunched in their greatcoats, winter's gloom thickening.

"You staying in Town?" The Senior Officer asked.

"No, a visit from HRH tomorrow."

"Ah yes, of course."

Their cars drew in below and soon they were being eased away into the rush hour traffic.

\*\*\*

The sun had climbed, shortening the shade beneath the hot windless canopy of the sacred mulgawood tree where the Old Ones met to consider the news. The message sticks told of a shining dragon shaking the earth, voicing monstrous noises and desecrating the land of their beginnings, the land they'd been forced to leave in dreamtime three lifetimes ago. Tribal honour demanded someone to go and do battle with the monster. They chose Kintana: young, wild natured, perhaps lacking in respect for his elders - but strong, fearless, and cunning in the ways of the bush. They drew him a dust map of the journey but Kintana would not be travelling unguided; every tree, rock, cave and waterhole on the route held the spirits of his ancestors. He set off, straight-backed, head high, his long flowing steps taking him southwards, bearing the wooden weapons of a former age. Crossing adjacent tribe lands he lived well on the wild flesh and fruit nature provided. Walking eighteen hours, day after day, with only the cackling cry of the kookaburra for company he came unerringly to the sandstone monolith of Uluru – Ayers Rock. Fading sunlight was turning the rock crimson in the evening's dusky chill as he passed and entered the Great Victoria Desert. In the desert he drank sparingly but ate sufficiently; there were reptiles, rabbits and rats in the sandy scrubbed hollows between the dunes. Sparring them, he lit wads of dried grass and saltbush twigs with his firesticks and broiled the meat. After five days the desert gave way to the massive

## Short Story cont.

rocky expanse that is the Nullarbor Plain and in five more days Kintana reached a high outcrop containing the cave of Koonaldo, a long disused flint mine that also conceals a lake of fresh water. In three weeks he had walked across the barren heart of Australia and for one day he rested. Next evening he came to where the white men camped in the red desert with their shining dragon – to Maralinga, Field of Thunder.

Awake before the first hint of dawn, Kintana gathered his boomerang, spear and throwing stick. Flat in the waist-high scrub grass he squirmed toward the monster until he lay concealed only 200ft from its lair. The rose-coloured sky slowly turning to spears of golden light revealed details that made his heart sink; it was not the lair of one dragon but of two. Servants of the dragons carrying the 'sticks-that-bark', already stood watch awaiting the creatures' bidding - and more were coming; he could see the dust clouds. The dragons, scaled in their silver armour, crouched in brooding silence. He wormed his way back to last night's resting-place pondering on the discovery. His boomerang, a large one-throw hunting weapon, would slay one beast but would not then return to hand. Attack the dragons and their servants now and he would perish before he could kill both. Perhaps if one dragon died the other might pine for its mate and also die as the great cassowary birds did. A distant low droning suddenly swelled into a snarling roar as a flying beast passed overhead, its rigid wings tilting as it turned. He lay back, frantically covering himself with sand and grass until only his face showed. The beast above was smaller and a different shape to his prey but undoubtedly the same kind. The dragons flew!

One-Tree and Kite were the other sacred places that Kintana was pledged to visit. Indeed he craved commune with the spirits there. As the noise of the flying creature slowly faded he rose carefully and with his weapons grasped close began the mile-consuming trot that he could sustain all day. Nearing One-Tree he found the area had been stripped bare of scrub, thorn and grass and several wheeled creatures lay crushed and discarded on the sand. The devastation astounded him. Metal and wooden fragments were heaped around a great pit containing a shaped stone platform with tall twisted metal uprights protruding, an altar he presumed. Standing amid the desolation he noticed the sand was melted into lumps of coarse red glass, mystifying proof of the magic performed here. His people lived in a permanent state of communion with the world about them, a state that transcended birth, life and even death. Here, despite the chaos, everything had meaning - but the spirits of One-Tree were strangely silent



He ran on over the barren scrub-strewn landscape the further ten miles to Kite, but here order reigned. Dragon sacrifices were laid in rows radiating from an altar of bright red and yellow coloured wood. As well as many lifeless wheeled creatures there were large open boxes containing the dismembered parts of flying beasts.

There were tin boxes of fluids including water, bags of cultivated wheat seed and netted containers of fruit, roots and leafed plants. Kintana drank deeply and filled his hide pouch with the food. But the problem of attacking both dragons still perplexed him. Somehow they must be separated, he must seize his chance and kill one whatever the outcome. He sought inspiration from his

## Short Story cont.

surroundings and, as if in answer, felt a tremor and heard a low rumble like distant thunder. Turning he saw a dragon rising steeply in the sky, gleaming silver-bright against the deep cloudless blue. Kintana was sure that the dragon would come here to Kite all the signs said so. He scanned the horizon for dust clouds, the carrier beasts bringing the dragon's servants, but there were none. The lone flying dragon had also vanished, lost in the sun's glare, though its ill-tempered grumbling persisted. No surprise these creatures needed so many servants, making such noise they could never live by hunting. Kintana squatted next to the altar in ambush. He would slay the dragon that comes, then return to Maralinga and kill the other.

\*\*\*

Valiant bomber WZ366 climbed to 30,000ft. Two flyovers were needed to check the equipment and then the aircraft began its final approach. The bombing computer, fed with figures for height, speeds of aircraft and wind and the ballistic qualities of the bomb itself began calculating the point of release. With two minutes to go bomb carrier and fuze arming circuits were selected and a scatter of confirming lights lit. In the lens of the bombsight the coloured target marker came creeping into view and the count down chant began.

"...-five-four-three-two-one ...bomb gone!"

The weapon dropped away from the aircraft on its 53-second fall to Kite.



Kintana instinctively knew he was threatened. Jumping up, his boomerang grasped in his right hand, he looked around him then upwards and for an instant saw a green shape arcing towards him from the blue vastness – the silver dragon had launched its weapon. He knew he must somehow avoid it then fight and kill the creature. But where? Gaining the strength of desperation he flung his boomerang at the incoming bomb. First spinning down to knee-level then sweeping upwards and outwards the boomerang climbed gracefully but uselessly to where the dragon's missile had briefly been.

Inside the bomb an explosive fuse detonated flinging together two pieces of plutonium to form a critical mass. An atom-splitting chain reaction began, causing a nuclear explosion that briefly outshone the sun. The down blow hit the ground in a tumultuous blast that shattered the desert stillness, turning the sand to glass. Cloaked by a boiling cloud column the white-hot fireball shot skywards, gleaming through with changing hues of orange and red; its mushroom-shaped cloudhead reaching 20,000ft before slowly bending away to the south. After several static tests and as planned in London months before, Britain's first air-dropped atomic bomb had exploded over location Kite on the Maralinga bombing range in South Australia. As forecast the offshore winds dutifully carried the radioactive dust-cloud out to sea.

Pilot and bomb aimer were honoured with medals and enlivened their departure to the UK with an ear-shattering fly past, the two Valiants flying so low that they whipped up a sandstorm across the airfield.

The dragons had gone the message sticks reported, wailing loudly as they fled and beating the desert in anguish.

Kintana is honoured in death, his spirit enshrined in the holy mulgawood tree and the village song maker has woven his victory into tribal memory.

**END**

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