

BLEADON



VILLAGE NEWS 74

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_{am}-12.30_{pm}

Dates: 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 15th November 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

Chairman's Report



All is quiet on the Bleadon front! My short report is written during the stand-down month of August – holidays are in the air, families away and visitors visiting, all here on the edge of the Mendips. By September, the busy life of the Parish Council will again resume as an effective working team providing good services and quality of life to our community.

On 13th October, the Bleadon Parish Council will host a Training and Information Day for our Council and four other local parishes. The main speaker will be Mr. Peter Lacey of SALC, who will lead a session on the new code of conduct. This will give us all a further insight of working Councils and their remits.

The same month, we are also launching a Village Historical Society. At the inauguration on 29th October, the guest speaker will be Mrs. Elisabeth Skinner, a principal lecturer of the University of Gloucester, and we hope many of you will attend. On this evening, a village calendar containing old photographs of village life will go on sale.

A draft paper on the all important Village Plan will be published by the Steering Group at the end of October. This mammoth task is almost complete. The "Sparkplug" project is finished and everyone is in agreement that the enhancement of the Coronation Hall, Jubilee Room and Youth Club area, with all the refurbishment and planting up, is splendid and worthy of Bleadon. The old slide in the children's playground area needs to be replaced and the intention is that the new one will also incorporate a larger piece of play equipment.

Recently, the Clerk and I along with our North Somerset District Councillor met with John Carson, North Somerset's Officer for Streets and Open Spaces and we went 'walk-about' in Bleadon. We discussed many issues including drainage, gully cleaning, cutting of grass verges and road patchwork, which proved very worthwhile and much of the work has since been carried out.

The Parish Council meets on the second Monday of each month and you are most welcome to attend. Thank you for your support.

Penny Skelley, Chairman.



John our hard working Village Ranger



“YOUR VILLAGE NEEDS YOU”
ON
MONDAY 29TH OCTOBER 2007
IN
THE CORONATION HALL
AT 7.30 PM

**THE PARISH COUNCIL IS INTENDING TO INAUGURATE A
VILLAGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY IN ORDER TO PRESERVE
BLEADON’S PAST FOR BLEADON’S FUTURE.**

GUEST SPEAKER
MRS ELISABETH SKINNER B.A., CERT. ED., ILTM
PRINCIPLE LECTURER – LOCAL POLICY LEADER
UNIVERSITY OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE

AUTHOR OF
“SHEEPSCOMBE”
ONE THOUSAND YEARS IN THIS GLOUCESTERSHIRE
VALLEY

ALL ARE WELCOME

Friends of Bleadon Church



Although we are still without a regular Rector we are very pleased that all the Clergy who are helping us out during the interregnum are doing such a wonderful job. The Friends are still very active and although we do not do a great deal during the summer(?) we meet regularly to plan future events. If anyone would like to join our very active committee please give me a ring on 01934 813636. We are always looking for fresh ideas. In fact we are now looking towards 2008 with the May Day Fayre in our sights.

Our next meeting is in the Church Room at 10.00am on 3rd September.

However, still much to do 'til the end of the year.

Our **Harvest Supper** will be held in the Coronation Hall on Saturday, 29th September 7.00pm for 7.30pm. . Good food, licensed bar and after dinner speaker. You will not be disappointed. Always popular so get your ticket early.

Tickets on sale for this wonderful evening only £7.50 each.

On Saturday, 13th October at 7.30pm the **Pontnewydd Male Choir** will be performing in the Church as part of the Weston Arts Festival. Tickets on sale now at £5.00 each. Snap one up now from Graham Rogers on 01934 811571 or 01934 813636 (Brian Drinkwater).

The acoustics in the Church are well suited to the rich voices of this Welsh Choir. See Graham's article elsewhere in this magazine for more details. You cannot afford to miss them.

Before Christmas we will be having our annual **Punch and Pie** party at the home of John and Lorna Hickley. Date not yet fixed so look out for posters on the Village notice boards and in the Church magazine.

All our events are published in the Church magazine and posters are placed on the Village notice boards (Thanks Leoni).

Or you can call me.....**Brian Drinkwater on 01934 813636**

A REASSURING FOOTNOTE - From David Elliot Chairman of the PCC

There is a risk of some misunderstanding of the future of priestly cover for our parish.

What will happen, probably in the New Year, is that we will have the continuing services of a Priest in Charge. This means a new incumbent will have responsibility for Bleadon, in addition to another parish, which subject to approval of the PCC will probably be that of Bournville.

It must be stressed that our parish will retain its individual identity with its own style of services, its own PCC and control of finance. Events such as the May Day Fayre will continue to be a Bleadon parish feature.

This not a merger of two parishes as some have assumed – it is a case of one priest being responsible for two parishes.

We hope that this information clarifies the situation for all those who have expressed concern for the future.)

Friends of Bleadon Church cont.

As part of the Weston Arts Festival we will be holding a concert on October 13th by the **Pontnewydd Male Choir** who come from south east Wales.

The Choir have visited us on several occasions over recent years and on each occasion the concert has been a sell out. There will also be solos by choir members and their latest CD will be on sale at the interval.

The Choir was formed on 28th August, 1904 and was initially known as Upper Cwmbran United Male Voice Party. The first public performance took place in 1905 and choir numbers continued to grow despite the intervening world war and in 1924 they were invited to sing at the Royal Albert Hall for the first time. During the recession of the 1920's the choir's strength reduced dramatically when the local colliery closed and many choir members had to leave the area in search of work. By 1930 however, choir numbers had improved and the Choir's name was changed to Pontnewydd Male Voice Party which continued through the second world war and then won the choir competition at the Welsh National Eisteddfod at Caerleon shortly afterwards. The existing conductor was a winner in the 'boy solo under 16' competition.

1972 saw another name change for the choir to Pontnewydd Male Choir and the 1980's saw them at the peak of membership (around 85) and they undertook their first overseas venture - to the Netherlands. This was followed in 1988 by the first of many exchange visits with a male choir from Germany and within the last decade they have toured France, Canada, Spain & Poland.

Recently they were invited to sing at the local Mayor's Civic Service and they have participated at the Festival of Massed Male Voices at the Albert Hall and at a celebration to remember the end of the Second World War at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff.

In 2008 they are looking forward to taking part at a Male Voice Festival in Torquay and will be performing in both Pizen and Prague in the Czech Republic.

Tickets will be available at the Post Office or contact Graham Rogers on 811571

Bleadon Coronation Hall

Reg. Charity No. 14602

The dishwasher recently installed in the main kitchen has been welcomed by many hall users. However it is not suitable for just small amounts of crockery as it is an industrial machine designed to deal with full loads quickly and efficiently. This it does if operated strictly according to instructions, which are clearly displayed.



The hot water dispenser in the Jubilee Room kitchen continues to be mis-used by someone on a regular basis. The instructions clearly state, '**Switch off after use**'.

Not only is it being left on, but also damp tea towels have been placed over the top thereby blocking the vents and constituting a possible fire risk. This could be particularly dangerous in view of the fact that the kitchen might not be used again for some days.

Having dispensed with the 'moans', there is not much else to report as most organisations are on their August break at the time of writing.

Len Chamberlain (chairman)

Bleadon Beat

My name is PC Steve Church I am your new Beat manager and together with PCSO Emma Wright form the Neighbourhood Policing Team for Bleadon. Adrian has moved over to Banwell but we all work out of the same office so all of his local knowledge will not be lost.



Local issues

I've checked the crime for the village over the last 4 months and I've picked on two types of crime to talk about,

The first is 'Theft from motor vehicle' Where 6 cars on or near Shiplate road have been attacked.

I know that a lot of cars by necessity are parked a distance from the houses but any car left insecure or with property on show is asking for problems. Think about a car alarm.

The other crime I've picked on is ' Burglary' not because we have so many but because of the upset they cause. In the summer, when we get hot weather, everybody needs to cool down and the way most of us do it is to open doors and windows in our homes. In some areas up to 66% of our house burglaries do not involve any type of forced entry – they simply use that open door or usually a window. Many people leave a window open thinking a burglar can't get through it – especially if it's a small transom type window – but they can, and they do. Downstairs windows, bungalows or upstairs windows with flat roof access are their favourites. They either reach through and open the main unlocked window or they can actually fit through it. Many burglars are young, fit and agile so you can see it is a real possibility. The other main reason for leaving doors and windows open is the fact that you're working in the garden, or even sunbathing - if you're lucky! A burglar is usually careful but they will take risks that you and I wouldn't, hence they will walk into your home when you're out in the garden. In almost all cases, in our experience, burglars don't wait for you to leave the house or watch your movements, they will simply choose your road in your town by chance and take the opportunities you leave them. Again House alarms work and reduce the chance of becoming a victim of a burglary significantly.

Lastly please remember Bleadon is still a safe place to live and crime is relatively low, with your help we can drive it even lower.

PC Steve Church
Neighbourhood Beat Team
Bleadon

Bleadon Sunday Club

We broke up for our well-deserved summer break at our last meeting, and had a party to celebrate.

We played 'Sunday Club Charades' (normal charades with a strange twist!), pass the parcel and 'flour mountain'. The latter was suggested and organised by the children themselves - and they made one big mess! We all enjoyed ourselves and had a great laugh, as usual.

We start back on Sunday September 30th, meeting in the Church at 10.15am and then wandering over to the Church Room for an hour of lighthearted 'work'. We would love to see some new faces; if you are interested, just turn up or call Chris (622504) or Tracey (814123) for more information.

Bleadon Friendship Club



Meetings for the coming season.

October	5th	Accordion and Drums - Paul Cummings
	12th	Quiz
	19th	Chris Sperring – well known naturalist broadcaster
	26th	Bring and Share – talk by Helen
November	2nd	Catchphrases
	3rd	Coffee Morning (Everyone is welcome)
	9th	Dogs for the Disabled – Dorothy Close, (with guide aka Lady)
	16th	Concert Party
	23rd	Bingo
	30th	Quiz
December	7th	Yatton Singers
	14th	Poems for Christmas
Club re-starts	January 11th	2008

Bleadon Friendship Club- Days out we have enjoyed this season with Dial a Ride

May 23rd took us to Banwell Caves- followed by a Caveman Lunch
June 20th Enjoyed lunch at New Manor Farm Restaurant, followed by shopping.
July 18th Swindon GWR Outlet Centre and Loco Museum (Something for the Boys)

We are lucky to be so well served by D A R who is expecting to merge with Community transport. Dial a ride and Community transport already share office accommodation at the new site in shop 3 ,Weston Euro Park, Winterstoke Road.
The merger will give scope for bigger better service whilst having added back up with pooled vehicles and drivers. There is also a limited Saturday service.

For interested parties who would like to join in this service application forms are available, ring for further details from John, Co-ordinator on 0791868487 or Beryl 813363

Bleadon Folk Dance Club



The club is now at the beginning of its 24th year and we would like to see some new dancers join our group this season. A warm welcome awaits you especially if you like barn dancing.

We are pleased to welcome back John Tomlinson after his heart operation. John and Ian Hall are our caller.

We also hope to see many 'old faces' returning to enjoy themselves on Thursday evenings from 8pm -10pm in the Coronation Hall. Light refreshments are available.

There is a £2 membership fee and the charge is £1-50p per session.

There is no charge for the first evening, so why not come and have a good evening of fun and exercise.

Phone Jean on 01934 814007

Bleadon Ladies Club



As the summer comes to a close we look back on to a very successful season with the club. We have had some good speakers and a very enjoyable summer outing to Dartmouth. The venue for the outing had to be changed at the last minute as we were going to Evesham but owing to the recent floods could not go there. I am sure everyone enjoyed themselves.

The weather has not been very good for the summer, but let us hope we have a nice Autumn and a not so cold winter.

October 9th "The History of Dance Bands in New Orleans to St Louis" Mr Terry Merrott-Smith"

November 13th Annual General Meeting Collecting Beads Around the World"

December 11th Christmas Lunch, which will be at Batch Hotel

The club meets at 2.30pm in Coronation Hall the second Tuesday of the Month For more information ring Barbara on 814362

Do come along and join us

Bleadon Village Bridge Club



The club was founded in 1992 by Den Gardner and his wife Betty, who are still regular members at our sessions, and since that date the Club has met regularly at 2pm on Monday afternoons in the Coronation Hall. (For those who like statistics that's approx. 750 meetings).

Although we adopt the name and format of a Bridge Club we are really a social club whose members enjoy a friendly but competitive game of Contract Bridge for their entertainment. About 20% of our members come from the village or on the hill, but there are others who travel from Clevedon, Nailsea, Hutton and Burnham and all points in between.

We possess all the paraphernalia of an effective Bridge Club and use the kitchen facilities to provide necessary light refreshments to survive the afternoon's grueling activities. The purist players might find the buzz of conversation a bit disturbing but we all like to think that it adds to the friendly atmosphere and informality of our meetings. Uniquely, in this area we encourage Bridge players of all abilities, by having a handicap system, so whether good, experienced or a learner, every member on a 'good day' can expect to post a reasonable 'handicap' score.

We welcome visitors to our club, but we suggest that if you come alone and require a partner, it would be advisable to contact me a day or so before the meeting

Dennis Munden 01934 812772



3 Eastfield 1950's



Bleadon Railway Old Booking Hall



Celtic Way and Queen's Arms 1969



Shiplate Hill Farm 1950



Fork Service Station 1950



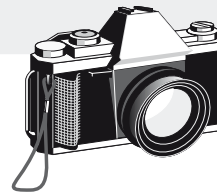
Mulberry Farm Guest House 1920's



Cottages at Purn

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

Bleadon Photographic Group



You have probably never heard of this man but he certainly was a man with vision. His name was Albert Khan, a Frenchman born in Alsace in 1860 and died in Paris in 1940. He was one of 5 children born into a Jewish family. At the age of 19 he took a job as bank clerk in a Paris bank and studied in the evenings for a degree under the tutorship of Henri Bergson who remained his friend for life. He graduated in 1881 having amassed a circle of friends which included Auguste Rodin. His talents as a banker were soon recognised and in 1892 he became principal associate at one of the most important financial houses in Europe. The following year he bought a very large property in Boulogne-Billancourt where he established a magnificent garden which became a meeting place for the intelligentsia of Europe right up until 1930. In 1909 he travelled to Japan on business and returned with a great collection of photographs. This was the catalyst for encouraging him to commence a project collecting a photographic record of the people of the entire earth. He appointed Jean Brunhes as project director and sent photographers to every corner of the planet. He used his own personal fortune to finance this vast undertaking, which is now recognised as the most important collection of early colour photographs ever assembled. Between 1909 and 1931 they produced 72,000 colour photographs and 183,000 meters of cine film which now form a unique and historical record of over 50 countries. At the time Khan started his mammoth task, colour photography was in its early stage of development, but in 1908 the French inventors Aguste and Louis Lumiere had invented the worlds first true colour system called Autochrome and Khan acquired one. The Autochrome system produced images of enormous beauty and in true colour. It was then that he spent a small fortune of his own money for over 20 years in sending photographers around the world, including places such as Mongolia, Vietnam and countries in South America and central Africa, places which were simply names to the vast majority of people. The Autochrome process was the first commercially successful colour system, although it was very slow, requiring an exposure of 1/25th of a second at f/1.9 in full summer sunlight. Present day film, exposed under similar conditions, would require an average exposure of around 1/250th of a second at f/ 16. The Autochrome emulsion was made by dividing a quantity of dried potato starch grains into three equal parts and each portion was dyed respectively red, green and blue-violet. The dyed grains were then mixed together and dusted onto a glass plate, which had previously been coated with a sticky layer. The surplus gains were then dusted off and those adhering to the glass were subjected to great pressure, producing a mosaic, which was called a reseau, onto which a panchromatic (sensitive to all colours) emulsion was coated. The resulting plate was exposed in the now conventional way, to produce a beautiful, full colour transparency. At the time flexible film base was not available, hence the need to use glass and usually the plates used were large in size very often halfplate (61/2x 4 3/4). The process

Bleadon Photographic Group

was withdrawn from the market in 1937 and replaced by a flexible film version but still using the same coating technique.

No doubt Albert Kahn, expected to be able to continue financing his project indefinitely, since he was one of the richest men in Europe, but world events took a turn for the worse, and in 1929 came the Wall Street crash and his financial empire was reduced to rubble. The depression ruined Khan and put an end to his work, yet by then, the great philanthropist Khan, had amassed the greatest photographic collections in the world and it remains so to this day. The collection can be viewed today at a museum situated at 14, Rue du Port, Boulogne-Billancourt, Paris, at the site of his garden. This great man was surely a man of vision.

A documentary on Albert Khan and his photographs has recently been a subject in the series "The Edwardian", on BBC4.

Ken Tapley.

Chairman

Bleadon Photographic Group..

The club meets on the 1st 2nd 4th and 5th Tuesdays in the month (Sept.-May) at 7.30pm in the Coronation Hall. The club embraces both conventional and digital photographic disciplines and no matter what your level of expertise you will be made most welcome.

Ring Ken on 01934 623877

Lympsham Manor Livery

**Rectory Way, Lympsham
Nr Weston-super-Mare, Somerset BS24 0EN**

Livery yard in the heart of Lympsham providing a safe, comfortable and friendly environment for your horse or pony.

Facilities include:

- Optional use of an outdoor arena 60m x 20m
- DIY, part or full livery, plus full range of livery services
- All year round turnout in individual paddocks
- Hay and straw included
- Prices from £25 inclusive per week

**Please call Sally to view or book a place on
07788 531996 / 07840 862405**

Bleadon Horticultural Society



'Summer Colour in the Garden' was Don Everitt's illustrated talk in June and he and his wife brought along many colourful plants for sale to accompany the varied range of slides.

On a glorious sunny day in early July, a full coach left Bleadon for a trip to Kew Gardens. After a break at Reading services we finally arrived at Kew and spent a lovely day exploring the various greenhouse and garden displays, before returning to the village in the early evening

Tuesday October 16th at 8.00pm in the Coronation Hall.

Richard Angwin, the BBC Points West weatherman will be giving us an illustrated talk entitled "5000 years of Weather Forecasting".

For this night only the charge will be £2.00 instead of the usual £1.00.

Tuesday November 20th.

It has been said by some people that the Christmas season starts in Bleadon when Paul Gilmore from Sander's Garden World comes to entertain us. This year his topic is 'Designing to enhance your Garden'. This is open to all at a charge of £1.00.

Tuesday December 18th.

This is our usual social get-together with an American-style supper following the fun filled beetle Drive. Tickets will be available from the usual sources later in the year.

There's ??? in them thar hills.

Earlier this year many of you will have acquired a glossy book called 'Mendip from the Air'. As it is published by Somerset Heritage Service one would expect it to be pretty authoritative, so it is rather disconcerting to be informed on page two that there exists a fund dedicated to improving public access to various assets in the quarrying areas. Perhaps SHS should consider employing a proof reader!

Name that coat

Q: What do you call a man in a raincoat?

A: Mac

Q: What do you call a man in two raincoats?

A: Max

Q: What do you call a man in two raincoats in a cemetery?

A: Max Bygraves

Extract from Kelly's Directory of Somerset - 1935

"Bleadon is a parish and village on the road from Weston-super-Mare to Bridgwater, 1 ¼ miles east from Bleadon and Uphill Station on the Great Western Railway main line, 4 from Weston-super-Mare and 139 from London, in the Weston-super-Mare division of the County, hundred of Winterstoke Petty Sessional Division and Rural District of Axbridge, county court district of Weston-super-Mare, rural deanery of Axbridge (Burnham District) archdeaconry of Wells and Diocese of Bath and Wells.



The River Axe, which is navigable up to this place bounds the parish on the south and west.

The Church of St. Peter and St. Paul is a building of stone in the Decorated and Perpendicular styles, consisting of chancel (dedicated in 1317), nave, south porch and an embattled western tower, with pinnacles, containing 6 bells; there are several memorial windows and a font of Transition Norman date; on the south side of the chancel is a canopied tomb; the pulpit of stone is octagonal and has 5 disengaged sides, ornamented with Perpendicular carving; on one side of the porch within a sunk panel, is a group in relief, of the Virgin and Child, with kneeling figures of a Nun and an Ecclesiastic; it may once have formed the head of a cross.

In 1832 the tower was struck by lightning and injured; the interior of the building was restored in 1859 and 1901 and the tower in 1924; in 1897 a new organ was provided at a cost of £200; there are sittings for 250 persons. The register dates from the year 1706. The living is a rectory, net yearly value £500, with residence in the gift of the Guild of All Souls, and held since 1911 by the Rev. Lionel Thomas Powys-David B.A. of St. David's College, Lampeter.

There is a Methodist Chapel, built in 1846 and seating 110 persons and a preaching room for the Plymouth Brethren.

Near the Church stands an ancient stone Cross, rising from a stepped base and restored in 1899 by private subscription.

On the side of Bleadon Hill, which is 438 feet in height are the traces of an encampment.

The Ecclesiastical Commissioners are Lords of the Manor and principal landowners.

The soil is loam and clay and the subsoil clay and limestone. The land is chiefly in pasture. The area is 2952 acres of land, 10 of water, 3 of tidal water and 26 of foreshore; the population in 1931 was 792.

By the Somerset Review Order 1933, part of this parish was transferred to Weston-super-Mare for civil purposes.

Oldmixon, a Hamlet lying to the north, is partly in this parish and partly in that of Hutton.

Shiplett, 1 mile east, is a Hamlet in this parish."

Thanks to Sylvia Bird for researching this article.

A list of organisations which regularly use the Coronation Halls

Mondays		Contact	
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
Tuesdays			
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
Wednesdays			
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	Painting Class	Mr M Colgan	621207
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

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

Monday 29th October	Historical Society Launch	Parish Council
Saturday 3rd November	Coffee Morning	Friendship Club
Saturday 24th November	QUIZ	CLIC
Sunday 16th December	Christingle Party	Church Friends
10th, 11th, 12th January	PANTOMIME	Bleadon Players

What's New - In the Coronation Halls

Due to the success of the new Pilates Class, Emma Duffill is now running an extra class - from 5-6pm on Fridays – in addition to the current class, from 6-7pm. There are a limited number of places in both classes – beginners welcome. Contact Emma on: 01934 623653

We now have a head microphone available for you to use at your meetings and functions. Please ask your club representative, Hall Committee member or Booking Officer for a demonstration.

The New Prince of Wails - Short Story

"McBride!" Editor Frank Harper's summons cuts across the chattering chaos of the newsroom. "Taffy's left," he announces, "so you're now the Welsh Desk." He hands me a couple of marked up copy pages, "A religious revival in the valleys story I want you to cover." He thumbs his spectacles onto his forehead. "Remember: Who? What? Where? When? Why? and How? Get the bloody Welsh names right, watch the expenses, deadline Wednesday."

With this firm editorial direction I begin my first assignment. Studying the copy he'd given me I find it's a piece from the previous days Bridgend Echo reporting the 'wild cavorting' of one Dr John (loan) Rees who is busily proclaiming himself the new 'Elijah'. The local press was mocking him mercilessly but he'd turned the tables recently by denouncing the reporters present and having them ejected into the street. Crossing on the Aust ferry and arriving at Beachley I optimistically point my ancient Morris Eight along the A48 to Cardiff. Croeso i Gymru, Welcome to Wales, the sign reads, under which some wag has painted No Thanks, You can keep It!



I'd spent eighteen months in South Wales at the sprawling East and West Camps of RAF St Athan where, through the mysterious alchemy known as National Service, I'd become a man who'd been places and done things. Still having friends

at St Athan I know Friday evening they'll be in one of the seven pubs lining the narrow streets of nearby Llantwit Major, known to us as 'Twit'. Ron Duff, a companion during my Service days, had married a Druid's daughter, gone native, and now lived there. I discover him, as expected, in the White Hart.

"Look who's here! 'Scoop' McBride!" Ron's cheerful greeting causing a familiar group to gather. They are intrigued that I'd come from Bristol in pursuit of a story and keen to tell me about Dr Rees. Opinions vary from Charlatan to Saint but all agree Rees has a soul-stirring command of religious rhetoric. He'd passed this way recently, with chapel meetings at Ogmores-by-Sea, St Brides Major and nearby Llandow. But, despite pleas from the local bible clutches, he'd refused to appear at Twit.

"A 'sink of Bacchanalia and prostitution' he calls it," Ron laughs, "says it's been 'contaminated by generations of Pagan English servicemen'."

Barman Sid pauses his glass collecting, "Good for trade that was see, got a coach load from Swansea last weekend."

Rees is now heading north they tell me, to Powys in the wild Welsh hinterland, fervent enough already without benefit of a new Prophet. I'm busy making notes when Ron leans across, lowering his voice.

"You off after him tomorrow?"

"Sure. Thanks to your help"

Short Story cont.

“Mind if I come along? I’m interested in what you’ll make of ‘Dr Rees’.”

Driving north next day, winding through slate-stacked valleys, we arrive at Aberdare the centre for Rees’ next crusade. ‘Free the Welsh!’ exhorts the roadside graffiti, ‘but charge the English double’ observes Ron and I certainly pay over the odds putting up at a pub in the town ready for our night at the chapel. The venue, a small back-street bethel, is packed to the doors with at least a hundred people outside preparing to indulge their emotions in the road. We force our way in and the meagre illumination reveals a mass of people kneeling in silence whilst we stand pressed against the back wall awaiting the promised outbursts. Within a few minutes a man rises in the midst of the congregation, extending his arms, thrusting a straggly white beard into the air as he looks to the dimly seen roof.

He wears a pantomime wig, badger-grey and showing a bright pink line of glue across his forehead and his eyebrows are thick and bushy with devilish turned up points at the side.

“Hallelujah, Hallelujah!” He screams, glancing around, lips pursed, eyes darting.

People begin to make deep purring sounds as the speaker, Dr Rees presumably, begins to frantically let off steam by shouting exhortations to Jehovah in hysterical Welsh. For ten minutes he continues, agonisingly accompanied by regular ‘Hallelujahs’ from the congregation. There must have been some more reporters present because suddenly with a wide sweep of his arms Rees indicates an upper gallery and starts to bellow in English. “Look! Look you! Can you see with me the steam and stench rising from this double-distilled essence of damnation?”

Someone in the darkness of the gallery laughs, unwisely, because a fervent outburst begins, the audience standing with cries of ‘Shame! Shame! Turn them out!’

I glance at Ron; perhaps throwing the press and other dissenters into the street has become part of the ritual.

Rees stretches his arms commanding silence. “No,” he shouts, “let them stay. Let them stay and rot in their own stink. Let them rot - let us sing!”

An ill-tuned harmonium starts on cue: “This will be the glory, the glory for me,” they chorus and for the next half hour the wheezy dirge and bedraggled hymns combine to make even me feel all hope is gone. Then Rees starts his sermon, a high-pressure sales pitch for glory through pain: insinuating, insulting, denouncing and damning, a fevered parody of religion particularly aimed at their suspicious Welsh natures. He is bawling in frenzy, flecks of foam flying from the corners of his mouth whilst from all around comes a dreadful rising concert of wails. Hysteria grips the congregation now. People sway in the pews, the rhythmic monotony of their mumbling developing into a sound like distant drums. The half-lit figures of worshippers assume dramatic shapes, pointing upwards and waving arms to accompany their individual outpourings. Suddenly Rees collapses, exhausted, tears streaming and the bethel is filled with choking sobs. Fatigue is also causing several to push their way out and I follow Ron into the night.

He turns, “Well, did you recognise him?”

“Rees? Should I have?”

“‘Course, I clocked him straight away.”

Short Story cont.

I shake my head. "It was dark in there, and what with that carpet tile on his head."
Ron grins, "Never mind we'll see 'im in daylight tomorrow. Sunday's his busy day."

Sundays are 'dry' in Wales and, unlike the decadent south, in the valleys the rules are strictly observed, the highways thronged with bible-carrying folk travelling to-and-from chapel. During Sunday we see and hear four repetitions of our first experience. The congregations here don't need much to set them alight and the chapels are open and full day and night. Ron tells me that in the wake of Dr Rees' travels it is the same during the week, with scant regard being paid to normal household duties or obligations. We retire to our pub for a meal and a drink but I still can't place Rees.

Ron looks glum. "Forget the thatch, the beard, the eyebrows, it's the voice: St Athan, Instrument Trade Training Instructor, bellowing Welsh git, covering the class with spit.

"God! You're right! 'Dung Breath' Davies!"

"Yes, and its time to have a word with Mr Bloody Davies."

Following training, Ron and I had been posted to the Maintenance Unit at West Camp so we knew the eventual disgrace that befell Corporal Davies. He'd been caught drinking alcohol from aviation compasses, court marshalled and dismissed the Service.

"There's no way he'd become a Doctor of anything," reasons Ron, "he was as thick as a NAAFI sandwich. The slimy toad's in it for the money and what ever else he can lay his hands on."

Our landlord realises our visit is connected with Dr Rees' revival. He confides that its temperance aspect is affecting his business and yes he could get a message to Rees, for a consideration. So we send him a note from Messrs. McBride and Duff asking for a meeting.

"Can we trust him Ron?" I'm concerned our host might warn off Rees, also that his 'consideration' would be an unallowable expense.

"He's a crafty git, he knows we've got something on Rees, he'll be happy to help."

Ron was right and next morning I find a message pushed under the door: This evening Red Dragon, Gwmgwrach signed IR. Ron has a Monday afternoon shift at Aberthaw cement works and after accompanying him to his train I begin writing my story, lots of descriptive prose but as yet little of Editor Harper's desired Whats Whys and Wherefores.

Gwmgwrach crouches in forested shadows, a hamlet set where road rail and river funnel through the Vale of Neath. The Red Dragon is deserted save for a couple sat fronting the bar. One, a middle-aged woman with legs crossed and exposing several inches of sheer-stockinged thigh, retreats behind the counter as I make towards her companion. He is shorter than I recall but bereft of hair and extravagant eyebrows even the beard can't disguise that sharp-featured knowing face.

"Good evening Mr McBride," extending his hand, "loan Rees."

He is well informed, knows my expected arrival time and that Ron did not accompany me. The valley drums have been busy.

"A drink for Mr McBride, Gwladus."

A good start anyway, I'm thinking, crossing to a corner alcove, I've been buying the beer since Friday.

Short Story cont.

"Dr Rees? Doctor of what exactly?"

Rees smiles, holding up his hands in mock surrender, "A necessary ornament in my business I'm afraid, a PhD in human weaknesses from the University of Life shall we say."

Gladys arrives with my drink and a refill for Rees, bending to give a view of her generous cleavage.

"I realise you're after a story," Rees says, "but what does Mr Duff want?"

"Mr Duff's suffering severe domestic reactions," I tell him. "his wife Molly went to your meeting at Llandow and since then she's been very uncooperative with the wifely functions. She's threatening to leave home to become your acolyte or whatever."

"Ah yes! Mali, of course. She was taken, and I with her – she is very keen."

"Well that's what Ron's afraid of," opening my notebook, "were you in the Services Mr Rees? The RAF? At St Athan at all?"

We spend the next hour in fruitful discussion, me gaining the facts, he most anxious to provide them.

I admit that I'd been impressed, moved even, during our first encounter in Aberdare.

"I've a proposition for you Mr McBride," he says finally. "Events have recently occurred that will satisfy your requirements and the needs of Mr Duff."

I know he's using me. He's aware all I want is a decent story by Wednesday and to be scooped by an English paper with news that he is abandoning his Welsh Crusade because of an offer from America would be his sweet revenge on the Welsh press. Tonight, no surprise, he'll be staying at the Red Dragon and tomorrow taking the train to Bridgend. We plan to meet there late Tuesday when I'll take him on to Barry Docks for a sailing to the New World. Hot Gospelling is an industry over there; he stands to make a fortune."



His vessel at Barry is a rust-streaked remotely berthed cargo ship. I'd arranged for a photographer and he gets several atmospheric shots of Rees climbing the gangway, the pool of afterdeck lights, reflecting on oily water.

When he reaches the deck Rees pauses and looks down, "You meant it McBride? Meant it when you said you were moved?"

The arrangement is that I make no mention of Rees' former life and my story concentrates on his

power over people believing what they desperately want to believe; deep thought-provoking stuff. Serves me right. Gleefully the sub-Editors strip it bare, reducing it to the substance of a traffic report. My 'New Prince of Wails' header emerges as 'Preacher Quits in Dockside Drama' but it earns me my first byline.

"Just the facts McBride," advises Frank Harper, "save the creative writing for your expenses,"

END

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

The first poppies.

People first gave donations to wear a poppy in Britain on 11th November 1921.

The gesture had been inspired by a poem, 'In Flanders Fields'. The poem was written in 1915 by John McCrae, a Canadian Doctor who served during World War 1, and it was first published anonymously in 'Punch'. The act of observing a Two Minute Silence began in 1919 following the Armistice at 11am On 11th November 1918.



The Legion is hoping that amongst the younger generation it can find enthusiastic collectors to help boost the dwindling numbers of older ones, so making 2007 even more successful than 2006.

So is there someone in your family, or do you have a friend who could help out by giving a couple of hours as a collector? It is such a worthwhile cause.

Please contact our village coordinator Les Masters on 811976 if you think you can help.
Or log onto www.poppy.org.uk

Harvest Home

The day was a great success, both the lunch and the evening party were enjoyed by all who attended. Thanks to Les for organizing the whole thing, and also to the hall management committee for making it possible. And not forgetting the stalwart band of servers and the bar staff who made the whole day go without a hitch.

Let's hope that this is just the first of many such Autumn events!



More photos may be found on the web page for those who keep an eye on such things.
www.bleadonparishcouncil.org.uk

Memories of Sheila who died in July



The flowers in the Church not only looked lovely on those special days, May Fayre, Queen's Jubilee etc. but also on the everyday occasions when Sheila and her team had been to work with their inspirational displays. Latterly of course illness prevented Sheila from being so 'hands on' but her input was still much appreciated. Sheila and Bill have always been great supporters of the Parish Council turning up regularly on those Mondays, to hear about the current issues and joining in the debates. Remember the 'Speedwatch' campaign! Along with the Flower Team we too shall miss her cheery smile at our meetings.

I know that Bill and the family would like to thank everyone concerned for the help and support given to them at this very sad time.

PR

Back in 2003 Sheila asked me if I had room in the magazine for a piece on Flower arranging this is that article :-

THE. GENTLE ART OF FLOWER ARRANGING

This is the part in the Village News when our red blooded gentlemen readers will hastily turn the page. Flower arranging forsooth! But I do have to tell them that some of the best flower arrangers in the country are men.

NAFAS, or the National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies, is the national organisation for the art, and all the flower clubs in the country are affiliated to the Society. If on your travels, you ever see an event advertised which has been organised by NAFAS, do go because you will see outstanding flower arrangements, both traditional and the new modern ones. This year in Bleadon Church we called our theme "Bleadon Church Goes Continental when we attempted some modern arrangements in unusual containers and to our gratification we had some very complimentary comments on the results

Like every other art or craft there are tips of the trade and I will list some which may be helpful to ladies (and men of course) who would like to know more about flower arranging.

- Place floral foam in water and allow it to sink under its own weight until the top is level with the water surface roughly 60 seconds.
- You can put plant food in the water containing the foam and always store wet foam in a plastic bag, Once dry it will not re-soak
- Spray your finished arrangements to increase its life
- Do not buy freesias unless the lowest two flowers are showing good colour.
- Pluck the stamens from your lilies with your fingers – cutting them leaves a harsh tip.
- Do not use water when trying to remove pollen from clothes. Use sticky tape or a sponge.
- Add one drop of bleach to a vase containing Gerbera as they are sensitive to bacteria.
- If roses droop cut 1 inch off the end and place the stem end in very hot water. Wait until the bubbles stop appearing then top up with cooler water. When conditioning roses or carnations, cut between the nodes so that water will flow up the stem quickly. Always condition flowers and foliage by standing them in water, preferably 24 hours before you wish to arrange them. Remember to top up the water in your arrangement, particularly after the first 24 hours when most water is absorbed.

There are, of course, many, many more "tips of the trade", but I hope that these will inspire you to have a go when you are next given a bunch of flowers. Hint, hint, in case we still have any gentlemen readers.

I am sure you will surprise yourself and believe me, it is a very relaxing pastime.

Sheila Ardley

Bleadon Post Office and Country Stores and Tiffin Coffee House



As you are probably already aware over the past couple of months we have seen some changes taking place in both the shop and Tiffin's café. In April Andrew left us to further his career elsewhere, after being with us for 2 years, and being responsible for the initial set-up of both shop and Post Office. We wish Andrew all the best in the future and thank him for all his hard work.

Replacing Andrew as manager of the Post Office and shop is Phil Cooke from Berrow. Phil and his wife Sue previously owned Berrow News and Post Office for six and a half years so have considerable knowledge of running a village business.

Phil has already made a few changes in the shop and introduced some new lines, including a range of smoked foods from the Dartmouth Smokehouse, some organic soaps made from goat's milk and a small range of gifts. Other events planned for the future include wine tasting evenings with local cheeses available too, and late night Christmas gift shopping.


Stuart has recently taken over the running of Tiffin's coffee shop, which has now been extended to seat 20, making it an ideal meeting place for larger parties.

Stuart has spent many years in the catering industry as a Master Baker and is providing many different homemade cakes for both Tiffin's and the shop.

If you require a cake for that special occasion pop in and have a chat, Stuart will be only too pleased to provide it.

SO PLEASE REMEMBER TO SUPPORT OUR SHOP AND POST OFFICE
ESPECIALLY AS CHRISTMAS APPROACHES!

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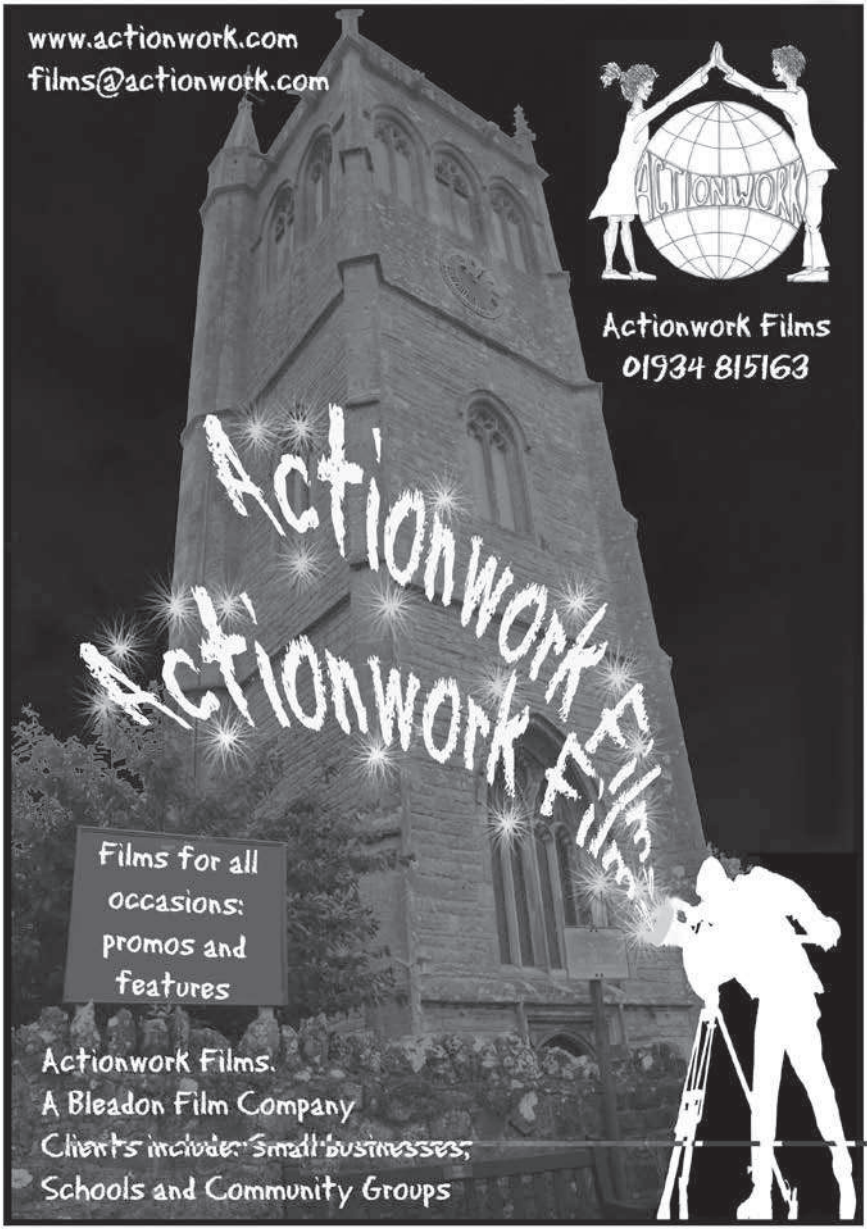


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