

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: January 19th, February 16th, March 22nd,
April 19th, May 17th, June 21st, July 19th,
August 16th, Sept. 20th, Oct. 18th, Nov. 15th,
Dec. 6th Christmas Fayre

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	PURN VILLA, PURN HOUSE FARM, BLEADON.	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. 07887 802922 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 16th February 2008

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



As Chairman, I am always pleased to write a short report for the Village News to update you with the Council's work, although I must confess it does seem to come round very quickly!

The Bleadon Historical Society inauguration was well attended and a great success. As a result, we have decided to initiate a formal society in the New Year to collate photos, artifacts and anecdotes from Bleadon's history. A Bleadon Snapshot 2008 calendar of old local photographs is now on sale, a wonderful keepsake and surely on everyone's Christmas gift list.

A draft of the Village Plan's final report will be discussed at a Steering Committee meeting in December and thereafter will be presented to the Parish Council. Many of the issues in the early "wish list" have been completed or are being responded to by the Council. We are pleased the village is running well and I personally believe that we will be as proud of the future as we are of Bleadon's past. Please support your village in the New Year so all the milestones reached may be celebrated.

The Training and Information Seminar for Councillors, mentioned in my last report, had to be cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances. This will be rescheduled in the spring and will enable Bleadon Councillors, plus local councillors from four other Parishes, to be briefed on new legislation. In the interim, the Parish Clerk and I will attend the South West Regional SLCC Conference in Bristol.

Our Village Policeman, PC Church, intends to restart village surgeries once a week in the afternoon in the New Year; dates will be published.

The Parish Council meets every second Monday of the month and you are always welcome to attend so we may have contact and direct feedback from the community. May I wish you a happy Christmas and very best wishes for the New Year.

Penny Skelley, Chairman

Bleadon Snapshot 2008



THE CALENDAR IS AVAILABLE FROM THE POST OFFICE,
FROM THE VILLAGE MARKETS AND FROM THE QUEEN'S ARMS

PRICE £5.00

PROCEEDS FROM THE SALE WILL GO TOWARDS THE SETTING UP
OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Friends of Bleadon Church



Many thanks to all those who supported us throughout 2007. It has been quite a good year. Starting with the May Day Fayre, which was a great success after a wet start. Due to the weather we could not have the Bouncy Castle which was a disappointment for the children. At the end of May we had the Hermitage Ensemble, a quartet from St Petersburg, Russia, sing in the Church. A sell-out success.

The Harvest Supper in September is always a popular event and this year was no exception. A brilliant after-supper speaker.

As part of the Weston Arts Festival, in October we had the Pontnewydd Male Choir sing in the Church. Again, we sold all tickets and it was a great entertaining evening.

So, once again, thank you for your support and we look forward to 2008 when we have some great events lined up. Next years May Day Fayre will be on Monday, 5th May. We hope to have some new attractions so make a note in your diary!

Look out for future events that will be advertised in the Church and Village Magazines and posters will be placed on the Village notice boards.

It takes an awful lot of money to keep the Church open. The Friends work very hard to raise funds in a very enjoyable way. Frankly if it was not for the money raised by the Friends, the Church would close. And then where would you go for your Baptisms, Marriages and Funerals? If you are interested in joining our working, friendly group, please give me a call on 01934 813636.

May we wish everyone a Merry and Blessed Christmas together with a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Brian Drinkwater

Bleadon Baby and Toddler Group

The baby and toddler group continues to thrive with many new members joining this year. This is a busy time for us in the run up to Christmas, we have fund raising events taking place for Children In Need, we have a photographer visiting one session to photograph all of the children, there is a morning when we bring along a relative so that they can join in and see what we get up to, and of course a Christmas party!

We have a Health Visitor who is available on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month to weigh babies and discuss any issues you may have.

New members are always welcome, we meet each Wednesday 10 a.m. -12 a.m. in the Coronation Hall. If you look after a grandchild on a Wednesday why not come along?

Parochial Church Council News



The September meeting of the Parochial Church Council was one of the most important gatherings of recent times. We met to discuss the future churchmanship of the parish and in particular, concentrated on the recommendation to the Bishop of a successor to our former Rector, David Parkinson.

The P.C.C. following a full debate, unanimously agreed we recommend that the Rev'd Bethan Gutteridge assume responsibility for our parish at Bleadon. Our reasons for the decision included our good working relationship with the parish of Bournville now extending over the last two years; that Bethan's relatively close geographical location to our parish boundary (unlike some other possible candidates residing much further away from Bleadon.) made her more immediately available; also that unlike some of the other candidates considered, Bethan would only have responsibility for two parishes whereas others in this area had we considered too heavy a burden of responsibility already.

Clearly we all would have wished it possible for a single occupancy, in the role of Rector of Bleadon, to have continued the tradition which has existed over several centuries, but sadly this is no longer possible.

However change will take some time and in all probability well not occur until the New Year. Arrangements have been made for the continuing provision of services throughout the following months including the usual Christmas services and then up to Easter. We are fortunate to be able to rely on the good services of the retired clergy resident in this area.

On a separate note you may note that the Rectory is once again occupied. This is a temporary provision lasting some six months. Due to some administrative difficulties in permanently disposing of the building, a tenancy involving the Chaplin at Murfield School, Street, has been arranged whilst the Chaplin's own house at Murfield is renovated.

The P.C.C. wishes all readers and the parish generally a happy and joyful Christmas and a prosperous New Year!

David Elliott

Christingle

The first Christingle service was held in Marienborn in Moravia in 1747, when the pastor, John de Wattville, wanting to find a new way of telling the Christmas story to children, gave each child a lighted candle tied with a red ribbon. He asked them to relight them at home and place them in their windows to show the Light of Christ to passers by. The tradition was kept alive by the Moravian church and in the United Kingdom was adopted by the Children's Society in the 1950s as a way of raising awareness of their work.

Many churches and schools now hold Christingle services any time from Advent to the end of the Epiphany season. Each child is helped to take an orange (representing the World) and insert four cocktail sticks into it (representing the four seasons). Fruit, nuts and sweets can then be attached to the cocktail sticks to represent the fruits of the Earth. A red ribbon is then tied around the centre of the orange as a reminder that Christ died for us all. Finally, a small lighted candle is placed on top to symbolise Jesus Christ, Light of the World.

First Bleadon Sunday Club

Christmas preparations have to start early when we only meet once a month. We have drawn and submitted our entries for this year's Church Christmas card competition; we should know who won as you read this.

We were delighted to find out that our work in preparation for the Christingle service includes making all the Christingles this year. We have arranged to meet the Saturday before and expect a busy afternoon. We hope we will be allowed to distribute the oranges in Church, where we will be able to show off our new sweatshirts and logo - all chosen and designed by the children, of course. Our new design emphasises that fact that we have changed our name to First Bleadon Sunday Club - simply because we intend to meet on the first Sunday from next year. This will stop our meetings from coinciding quite as much with school holidays.

At the Harvest Festival we welcomed churchgoers out of service with biscuits we cooked while they were in Church. They appreciated our efforts so much that we will be cooking cakes and taking them along to our next meeting so that we can hold a mini-cake stall at the end of service again. All proceeds will go towards the cost of our new sweatshirts.

If your child wants to join us, we currently meet on the last Sunday of each month at 10.15am at Church.

Who do you think you are?

As churchwarden I recently received a letter via David Parkinson dated 13th June reading

"My name is Jamie Broome and I'm contacting you from Wall to Wall television where we are currently making a programme called "Who Do You Think You Are" for BBC 1. The programme looks into the ancestry of famous people and takes them on a journey to find out more about their ancestors.

"One of the people I am currently working on has a family line called the Yeo's. The Yeo family was a wealthy family from the Bleadon area." I have been told that the Yeo's have a family vault between the choir stalls in the Church of St Peter and St Paul in Bleadon. I am hoping I will be able to talk to you about this and hopefully you will be able to locate the vault."

So after a long and in depth telephone call with Jamie he asked if we could locate the tomb and give him details so that he could come to Bleadon and look for himself. "Who is this famous person?" I enquired. "Sorry, not allowed to say!" said Jamie. But we were happy to help. Reyn and I met in the Church and rolled back the carpet from the Altar to the Chancel steps. And there we saw it. The tomb Jamie wanted:

"Here
Lies Interd the Body
John, Son of John Whipp
July 20, 1658
Etc, etc....

Then, further down was what we were looking for:

"Here lies the Body of George Yeo
Died 1748"

Who do you think you are? cont.

Much of the inscription on the tomb is very indistinct. But we could interpret enough for Jamie to be interested. A phone call from Sarah at Wall to Wall confirmed that they were very interested and she would be coming down with Tom McCarthy, the programme's producer to look at the tomb for themselves. Back up came the carpet again. Up the Tower! Round the Church YardAll OK. They would like to film the Bleadon sequence on Tuesday 28th August. Be there about 11.00am.. Reyn and I were fully prepared for what we had to do. Roll back the carpet for the celebrity to look at and examine the tomb. On Monday, 27th August there was an urgent call from Sarah saying they were on the M5 and as their schedule was running early, was it possible to film the inside of the Church at 6.00 p.m. that evening and do the outside shots and possibly up the Tower the next morning? Yes, it was OK with Reyn, so we had it all ready when the film crew arrived. Cameraman, soundman, driver, Sarah and Tom and the TV personality.

Reyn and I were fully rehearsed. We had to greet the celebrity when he walked into the Church, take him up the aisle to the Chancel, roll back the carpet and then for the first time the famous TV star would know about and see his ancestors tomb! ! What a surprise it would be for him.

After about 4 or 5 attempts to get him to shake our hands correctly and for me to get the words right, we managed to get him up the aisle. On our hands and knees, roll back the carpet to the Chancel steps to reveal the tomb. How many times did we have to do this? How many times did he have to read the words on the tomb? How many times did Reyn and I get on our knees? All for a brief moment in a one hour show.

A few days after the filming I received the following letter from Sarah:

"Dear Brian,

Thank you so much for all your help with arranging our filming at St Peter & St Paul's Church last week and for taking part in the film yourself. Tom and I were so grateful to you, and Laurence genuinely enjoyed seeing the tombstone inscription of his ancestor George Yeo.

Tom will begin putting the programme together and editing it into a one hour episode next week - although unfortunately the film will not be aired until Autumn 2008! I have asked Wall to Wall to notify you of the transmission date next year and send a copy.

Hope you and Reyn don't have to roll back the carpet again too soon!!

Thanks and best wishes Sarah Mould and the Team"

The programme is scheduled to be shown in September 2008.

And who is this famous television celebrity?

None other than Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen.

As churchwarden I would like to thank Wall to Wall for their generous donation which has been used to relay the carpet!!

Brian Drinkwater

Let's do it again!

Bleadon's first Harvest Home was considered such a success that the Coronation Hall Management Committee has had no hesitation in agreeing to repeat the venture on the equivalent Saturday next year – 13th September.

The lunch was rated excellent for both quality and quantity with a really cheerful, friendly atmosphere throughout the hall. Meanwhile the youth Club was open for light refreshments, (which later included a post-prandial cuppa for some of the elderly lunchers) and laid on a barbecue with musical accompaniment, while families picnicked in the park. There were races and games afterwards, and I closed the hall door on the last drinker at about 5.00pm.

The evening entertainment by the 'Steam Band' gave enjoyment to an age range from mid-teens to mid-eighties so we must be doing something right, but the attendance was lower than hoped for.

Many thanks to all who helped in so many ways – see you next September.

L.M.



The 'Steam Band' in action

Harold's Century

Harold Dobson who lives in The Veale will celebrate his 100th birthday on January 19th 2008. His friends in the Village and Weston are hoping to organize a party for him in The Coronation Hall on that afternoon. All who know him and would like to be a part of these celebrations please contact:-

Jean Thorne on 01934 814007.

NB. Harold knows about this, so no need for secrecy on this occasion!

Bleadon Youth Club

The Club has continued to thrive this year, membership has stabilised at around 40 young people. The programme of Youth Work has developed and as a result members have enjoyed many trips e.g. surfing, mountain biking, karting, Sedgemoor Splash and horse riding.

The club is currently open every Tuesday and Thursday evening 7pm-9pm for Year 7+ and is run by a friendly team of qualified and experienced youth workers.

Our Tuesday Lifeskills Project - These sessions offer members the opportunity of working towards a North Somerset Award and/or ASDAN Award. This year the young people have enjoyed badminton and trampolining; a music project run by Kayto Sound where they produced their own CD; outdoor cookery/BBQ skills and they are currently planning and learning to cook a three course meal.

Please note that from 15th January 2008 Tuesday sessions will be open for a 6-8 week dance and drama group delivered by "Creative Flow". The session time will change to 6.00pm-7.30pm for this project.

Thursday nights are open from 7pm – 9pm (50p). The programme includes a "graffiti" arts project, badminton, table tennis, pool, volleyball, arts & crafts, photo-stories, posters, Christmas crafts & food, nail art and discos.

We also have a "Boyz Night". A schedule of dates, times and activities will be displayed on the notice board outside the club.

We will be having a 'table-top' sale on 20 Jan 2008 (£5.00 per table). This will be a good opportunity for an early spring clear-out!. We also plan to organise a 'car wash' session later in the Spring. Details will be on the notice board.

We have recently appointed two new committee members; Maz Stuart (Treasurer) and Julie Alhinai, our thanks go to them for volunteering.

The modernisation continues and the area outside of the Club has seen the installation of CCTV, a great block paved patio area, with sturdy wooden tables and benches and a purpose built flowerbed to disguise the Telegraph Pole! Our thanks go to Marshall's for donating the block pavers, this has transformed the area into a welcoming communal place to meet. I'm sure we would have had many more BBQ's if the sun had shone more this summer!!

We are proud of our Youth Club and its loyal members, I am sure they are also proud to have such a great place to 'chill'.

Kim Herivel
Chair

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY COLLECTION 2007

This year's Poppy collection in Bleadon totalled £783.74p, beating the previous best by over £70. Obviously some sterling work was put in by the house-to-house collectors I.D.Clarke, Clive Morris, Sarah Ripley Jill Walford and Pete Williams.

Takings were also higher at the static collection points in Catherine's Inn, the Church, the Post Office and the Queen's Arms, so all in all members of the public have been very generous this year.
L.M.



Bleadon Beat



My name is PC Steve Church I am your Beat manager and together with PCSO Emma Wright, form the Neighbourhood Policing Team for Bleadon.

Local issues

As reluctant as I am to use the, 'Q' word, things have been very quiet on the crime front as far as Bleadon is concerned. The level of crime can best be described as very low at this moment in time, long may it last. I know that will be little comfort for those few households that have been victims of crime recently. Some crime is difficult to foresee and harder to eliminate however with a few simple measures the risks can be significantly reduced.

I am pleased to offer households within the Parish a free home security survey, which will include the most up to date advice on crime prevention relevant to your home. To book your survey please phone 01934 638123.

Also starting in the New Year, Tuesday, January 8th 2008 we will be commencing a weekly Police Surgery in Bleadon. From that date we will be in the village every Tuesday from 2pm till 4pm, this facility is for you to speak to us in person regarding local Policing issues, to receive crime prevention/personal security advice or just to put a face to our names. Use it, as a 'drop in' centre no appointment required. The Bleadon Police surgery will be held at the Church room near the old rectory. Lastly please have a safe and crime free Christmas and New Year and remember,

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

CONTACT DETAILS

Emergency - 999

For urgent Police response,

Crime in progress, Life in danger etc

Non-Emergency - 0845 456 7000

Historic crime, Lost and found property, etc

Non-urgent - 01934 638123

This one's direct to our office, you may have to leave a message on an answer phone -
But we will get back to you. So please leave a contact telephone number

Our E-mail addresses are; -

steven.church@avonandsomerset.police.uk

emma.wright@avonandsomerset.police.uk

Bleadon Coronation Hall

Reg. Charity No. 104602



Here is very little to report at the time of writing, as I have unfortunately had to miss the last two monthly meetings due to my careless handling of a kettle of boiling water, back in September! After a spell in Frenchay burns unit and subsequent treatment, I'm now making a slow recovery.

However the Hall Management Committee is a team, and a very good one at that, so we are fortunate to have such a dedicated band running the Halls.

There have been a number of improvements in the past year, (especially the added facility of a dishwasher in the main kitchen) and there are more under discussion for 2008.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all Hall users and my many friends in this lovely village a very Happy Christmas and Peaceful, Healthy New Year.

Len Chamberlain (Chairman)

The Bleadon Village Market

This has proved a really popular and successful enterprise and provides a good source of income for the Halls. It has come a long way in such a short time, from a few tables in one hall at Christmas, to now, when both halls bustle with much activity on the third Saturday of each month. I know that those who come regularly enjoy the atmosphere and 'see you at the market' has become a regular greeting. A get-together over a cup of coffee and a teacake means that people from different ends of the village meet again like they once did in the 'old shop', and it is great to see 'community in action'.



LONG MAY IT CONTINUE!

Dates for your 2008 diary

January 19th, February 16th, March 22nd, April 19th, May 17th, June 21st,
July 19th, August 16th, Sept. 20th, Oct. 18th, Nov. 15th,
Dec. 6th Christmas Fayre



Nativity 1958



Panto – Snow White



Methodist Sunday School 1937-38



School 1910



Rectory Party 1910



Preparing for a dinner in the garden



School Group Play



Tea party with evacuees

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

See you on New Year's Eve



As has been the case for some years now, admission to the Queen's Arms and Catherine's Inn on New Year's Eve will be strictly by ticket only.



Therefore to cater for those who fancy a casual drink in a less crowded environment -

**THE BAR at the CORONATION HALL
will be open from 8pm
Please note there will be no admissions after 10pm
and the bar will close at 12.30am**

There will be music for atmosphere and dancing,
and customers are welcome to bring along their own CDs.
They will also be welcome to bring food,
as long as they clear up and wash up!
The aim is to have a convivial but not deafening evening,
as was demonstrated
by a recent birthday party in the Hall.

Bleadon Folk Dance Club

Sadly this club may have to fold, due to the fall in numbers during the last season.

John Thomlinson our caller has not been well and also our supply caller Ian Hall has been in hospital.

Thank you to all those who have supported us in the past and you never know we may get lucky and entice some new members to join us in the New Year!

If you are interested in partaking of some fun exercise to jolly music then contact Jean on 814007



From Len Chamberlain

This is to say a big 'Thank You' to my many friends and family who gave me a wonderful 80th birthday celebration on September 1st. How so many people kept this long planned event a secret from me, is still a mystery. I couldn't have wished for a better surprise, particularly as it was in the Coronation Hall, a 'Home from Home' for me, - as my involvement with it has now reached 22 years.

Bleadon Ladies Club



As 2007 draws to a close we can all look back on a successful year, having been entertained by some very interesting speakers. Because of the summer floods in Evesham our annual outing had to be rescheduled and but we enjoyed a good day in Dartmouth instead.

2008 promises to be just as varied and interesting.

January 8th
'Passions and Values of the Company'
by Brenda Johnson from the 'Body Shop'

February 12th
'Travels in South India'
An illustrated talk by
Mrs. Ann Miller

March 11th
'My Life in Canada as an Evacuee'
by Mrs. Pat Bennett

The Club meets in the Coronation Hall at 2.30pm on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, so why not come and join us in the New Year - you will be assured of a very warm welcome.

The Committee would like to wish all members, their families and friends
A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

For more information ring Barbara on 814362.

Bleadon Short Mat Bowls

Another season has started, so as usual, we are meeting three times a week in the Coronation Hall.

Sunday and Tuesday afternoons and Friday evenings. This season we have only one team in the league, which means that we are able to have social bowling during every session.

Although we are only running one league team, we try to give everyone, who wishes, a chance to experience the cut and thrust of competitive bowls. If you would like to experience the fun of our social bowls, just turn up at one of our regular sessions with a pair of slippers or flat bottomed shoes. We will provide the bowls and get you started.

We are looking forward to our New Year Dinner and in a couple of months and our bowls holiday when we stay at Torquay.

I am pleased to report that we are currently fourth in the league, while still maintaining our policy giving a lot of our members a chance to play in this type of game.

Fred James, Chair.

New DVD – The Wildlife of Somerset Levels



For sale now – a brand new DVD that includes moments of wildlife never seen before.

Set in one of Britain's most valuable and exciting wetlands – the Somerset Levels, filmed over 8 years by an independent film-maker, this film shows over an hour of fascinating wildlife, ecology and people living in this wetland paradise.

Life on the Levels is always changing and this DVD will show how and what may happen next to this aquatic paradise. Fauna, flora, flooding and the future – its all there in this special mix.

Our "guides" are the beautiful mute swan and the popular otter. From the air, from the water surface to underwater, we share their lives across the seasons with a fascinating diversity of neighbours. Herons, frogs, moles, butterflies, owls, geese, ducks, fish, water voles, snakes, field mice, and a spectacular starling roost all feature. In particular though, we focus on three otter cubs who became national celebrities – "Splish", "Splash" and "Splosh" at the Secret World Wildlife Centre. We ask what happened to their mother and what has happened to them 18 months later? Young otter cubs and baby swans are truly appealing!

The film-maker is Richard Brock of Living Planet Productions and The Brock Initiative, who has spent over 35 years working at the BBC Natural History Unit in Bristol with David Attenborough on the series', *"Life on Earth"* and *"The Living Planet"*, and many other BBC productions.

Whatever your interest, your age, or your background, there's something to intrigue and surprise you in this new DVD. Farming, fishing, walking, cycling, photography, bird-watching – and all sorts of other wildlife are revealed in detail. More broadly, the current challenges of flooding, land-use, and sea level rise provide a wide perspective on a truly remarkable "water paradise".

Also, included inside the DVD box is a special bonus – an exciting leaflet full of information and interesting facts on the Somerset Levels and local nature reserves.

The DVD is available from the beginning of December.

'Somerset's Water Paradise – Wildlife on the Levels', RRP £14.99, but this special offer you can receive not only this DVD, but another production and interesting facts for only **£9.99!**

For your copy, please contact **Claire Allen** on one of the following:

- **'Almond Leigh', Undertown Lane, Compton Martin, Bristol, BS40 6ND** (address)
- **01761 221 147** (landline) **mark@clairea.wanadoo.co.uk** (email)

Please supply us with your contact details, including your name, address, (telephone number and email are optional). Please note that postage and packaging will be **£2.50**. Please make cheques for **£12.49** payable to – Richard Brock.

And, for every copy you buy, you will receive a free wildlife film from Richard Brock's previous productions (please note that the free one maybe on VHS format). Previous productions include:

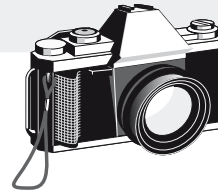
- Little egrets in the estuaries of South Devon
- The extraordinary life of moorhens on the River Chew near Bristol
- The nature of Chew Valley Lake, filmed as a diary over ten years.
- And, the River Thames in London..."the famous river you don't know".

To confirm, for just **£12.49**, you will receive:

- 1 DVD of 'Somerset's Water Paradise – Wildlife on the Levels'
- 1 other FREE wildlife production
- An exciting leaflet with interested facts about the Somerset Levels.

Please note we are a non-profit wildlife and conservation film company and that a donation, per copy sold, will go to local charities – details to be confirmed later in the month.

**All at Sea -
Ken Tapley - Chairman Bleadon Photographic Group.**



I wonder how many readers of this article had the good fortune to visit Cowes last August at the height of "Cowes Week", the premier event in the sailing calendar? If you were, you must have taken some photos of some of the competing boats and wondered whether yours would be the "picture of a lifetime". You may have rubbed shoulders with some of the professional photographers trying to capture theirs. But there is a family of professional photographers going back to 1888 who between them have taken 75,000 glass plate negatives, goodness knows how many film negatives and now digital images, they are the Bekens. Most of the glass plates were taken by Frank Beken but all of them are "pictures of a lifetime".

The company, Beken of Cowes Ltd., have been taking maritime pictures since 1888 when the family moved to Cowes from Canterbury where the founder of the photographic company, Frank was born. His father Alfred, already a chemist and photographer started his pharmacy business, Beken & Son Ltd., and this was where Frank and his son Keith worked as chemists. Very soon, Frank could be seen in a 14ft. dinghy pursuing his hobby of photography by photographing some of the fine vessels which plied Southampton Water and the Solent. Very quickly he realised that the bellows cameras of the day were not conducive to a life at sea and so decided to construct his own. Made of Mahogany it was essentially a box camera with a difference. It used 8"x6" glass plates, had a ground glass viewfinder at the top and a rubber tube connected to a rubber bulb. The bulb was held firmly between his teeth and was the means of firing the shutter by biting the bulb and causing air pressure to activate it. This method enabled him to have both hands free to hold this cumbersome camera whilst standing up in a small launch. The camera was the size of an old bread bin and the weight of an early 20th century typewriter. Focusing was achieved by having a screw thread on the lens mount with settings, "dinghies", "yachts" and "liners".

Frank was a familiar sight in the Solent to the marine fraternity and was known to the Master of "Titanic", and so it was that on leaving Southampton on her disastrous maiden voyage in 1912, he recognised Frank and sounded the ship's horn. Frank took a picture and that was the final professional photograph taken of the ill fated liner.

On the demise of Frank, his son Keith took over the business which then spanned both the glass plate and film era but now using more conventional cameras. Because of his prowess with small boats he served in Air Sea Rescue during the 1939/45 war, skippering a high speed 60ft. launch. He died in February 2007 having been active in the business until taking his last professional photograph at the age of 82, of "Silk 11" taking a crash dive at Cowes in 1996.

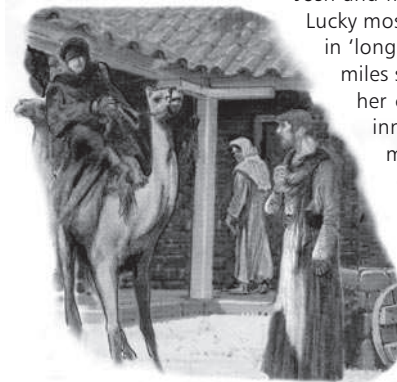
His son Ken continues the family tradition but now using digital imaging and still producing beautiful records of competitors and events in the Solent.

The name of Beken is inexorably linked to the great and the good of sailing in international circles. Most having been photographed by one or other of the family at sometime during the last 120 years. Names like King George V, the Duke of Edinburgh, Sir Thomas Lipton the tea tycoon and Americas Cup challenger, Sir Max Aitken MY the media mogul who later became Lord Beaverbrook, Sir Thomas Sopwith aviation Pioneer and William Stephenson who was at that time, the owner of Woolworths. The list goes on and includes some of the captains of industry, heads of governments and some of the royalty of Europe of the time. Keith's link with the Duke of Edinburgh it came about after the war when Keith was attending the Sailing Club in Cowes in the 1950's and was wearing the Air Sea Rescue tie. It was recognised by a man called Horsley, an ex airman, and during their conversation they discovered that Keith had picked him up off the French coast during the war. Horsley was then equerry to the Duke and introduced each to the other. Their association lasted up until the Duke gave up sailing in the late 80's and during these years the Duke was photographed many times including him sailing his yacht "Cowslip" with the renowned designer Uffa Fox, and later on his famous yacht, "Bluebottle". The style of photography produced by the family is quite unique and has been described as yacht portraiture, but what ever it is called it has never been surpassed and probably never will be. They have been, and still are, truly dedicated practitioners of the art of marine photography.

No room at the Inn - A story at Christmas

Oh yes, I remember them all right. Right fuss they've caused, at the time and after. We'd been busy all week, the place packed with people coming for the census. No sooner had one lot come and gone than there was another. Josh and me was working day and night 'till God knows what time. It was noisy too, the town was heaving, and that evening in particular and I could hear a commotion down stairs, an argument with some soldiers about taking more people in for the night and I knew we didn't have any room. I blame the soddin' Romans, getting these people to come here from all over; they should have built a camp or something. But no, couldn't be bothered, and now they was only worried about getting people off the streets. We ended up with this lot spending the night in the stable!

I didn't like 'im much, the Joseph bloke, older than her he was and they didn't act like they were espoused. Promised perhaps the way he fussed over her but not married. Yet here she was havin' a baby. Perhaps it weren't his; he had a family anyway so they said. All a bit funny I thought but Josh and me made them as comfortable as we could in the stable.



Lucky most of our animals were still out in the fields so they settled in 'long with a pair of our milking cows and their donkey. Ninety miles she'd rode that donkey, all the way from Nazareth and in her condition. Mary her name was. She was all right, a real innocent, didn't know if she was coming or going. But I must admit he doted on her, that Joseph. Oh yes, couldn't do too much for her I must say.

She gave birth about midnight. Josh and me was still up and I remember going over to see if I could do anything and crossing the yard it was quite light, never seen such bright stars 'fore or since. She'd put the baby in a manger and he looked quite cosy really. Next thing there was these three bloody great camels trying to get inside the yard. Josh soon sorted them out, made 'em wait outside but the riders all got off and crowded in. Must 'ave been relatives I suppose though once they got their travelling clothes off they looked a bit swanky for the likes of that lot in the stable. The quality folks had brought some fancy stuff, gifts like, and stayed for about an hour and then in the morning they all left. Joseph offered but we never took no money, didn't seem right really. Later on some blokes came round asking questions. 'You can trust us,' they said, 'we've come from the King,' likely story I thought. But we didn't know anything anyway, other than they didn't head back to Nazareth, and we kept quiet about that.

Josh died a year or so after and our Daniel took over running the place. One of the first things he did was to clear out the old stable. It was inside a cave at the end of the yard and he started to fill it in and level off the ground for a proper building. I was a bit sorry to see it go, 'ad a spooky feeling about it but the local Scribes and 'God botherers' really got upset and was going to make him dig it all out again. Daniel went up to the palace and complained and the people there soon put a stop to that. They sent some soldiers down to help 'im as well, made Daniel burn the old stable bits then gave him the money to build a new one.

Makes you wonder though now, now it's got all confused; some believing in 'im and some not, people getting killed right and left.

He, poor soul, as you know, ended up getting crucified. It was so simple back then what with 'im bein' so tiny; all this trouble over something so small, small enough to be put in a cattle trough.

Bleadon Horticultural Society



The 34th Annual Summer Flower Show transformed the Coronation Hall into a riot of colour, due to the vases of flowers and floral decorations as well as the many pot plants on display. Judges commented on the high standard of entries in the vegetable classes and in the home crafts, - from adults and children alike.

The number of exhibits at the end of what has been a difficult growing season was well over 200, thanks largely to an increase in entries from children. How good to know that the next generation takes an interest in both gardening and village life.

Winners.

Amanda Du-Rose won seven cups and trophies as well as the RHS Banksian Medal for the most points in the horticultural classes.

Gill Wilmot won the Vaux Cup for the most outstanding exhibit in the show with her vase of mixed garden flowers.

Harry Hanse won 'The Year of the Child Cup' for his imaginative miniature garden.

Penny Skelley was awarded the Edna Murphy Plate for her 'Summertime' floral exhibit.

In the junior section Peter Durston, Gabrielle House, and Chelsie Bailey were successful in their respective age groups.

In October Richard Angwin of BBC Points West fame, spoke to a packed Coronation Hall on the subject of '5000 years of Weather Forecasting'. He started with the biblical account of Joseph's interpretation of Pharaoh's dreams of seven years of plenty followed by seven years of famine, and then continued with detailing the use of accurate forecasting during the Second World War which helped our pilots in their various sorties. The launch of Sputnik 1 in the 1950's led to weather satellites, which in turn led to increased computer power to help with more accurate forecasts for people such as civil airline pilots, supermarket bosses, pheasant shoot managers and the farming community at large. During the question time at the end of Richard's highly entertaining talk he explained the great storm of 1987 to appreciative members and friends.

Our thanks are extended to Hutton Garden Centre and Greenhouse Florists of West Street who generously supplied gifts for the raffle.

At the time of writing we are looking forward to the annual visit from Paul Gilmore of Sanders Garden World, and the Christmas beetle drive with American style supper to round off the year.

2008 will 'kick off' on Tuesday January 15th with an illustrated talk on 'The Somerset Wetlands' by Derek Briggs.

Roy Cheek, the senior advisor for RHS holidays is the guest speaker on Tuesday February 19th, when he will be presenting the 'Gardens and Plants of Madeira'.

Dr. George Hargreaves will talk about 'Westonbirt Through the Seasons' on Tuesday April 15th.

All our talks are open to anyone for £1 admission, and take place in the Coronation Hall at 7.30pm.

The 34th Spring Flower Show will take place on Saturday March 15th.

Schedules will be available from the usual places, nearer the time.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the club over this past year, as every year.

Merry Christmas to one and all, and look forward to a prosperous new year

And don't forget 'Keep Gardening!'

Chris Cudlipp

Bleadon Historical Society



Some 38 people attended the inaugural meeting of the proposed village Historical Society that was held in the Coronation Hall on Monday 29th October. An inspirational talk was given by Mrs. Elisabeth Skinner a senior lecturer at the University of Gloucestershire on her personal experiences being involved with Sheepscombe Historical Society for the last 25 years. She also gave an insight to her recently published book entitled 'Sheepscombe - One Thousand Years in this Gloucestershire Valley'

We all agreed with Mrs. Skinner when she told us that the way forward was 'to collect and preserve any archives and artifacts that we have' and that 'we should do our best to encourage study and promote as much interest as possible in the history of the village'.

I would like to take these ideas forward and to that end I'm asking as many of you who were either born in Bleadon or who have lived here for many years to share with me your memories, in much the same way as you did with the photos a few years back. If you know of people who have moved away who would be willing to help then please let me have a contact address, I know there is a wealth of historical knowledge out there and it needs to be tapped into while there is still time.

The sorts of thing that we are interested in are:-

- Letters
- Photos
- Old postcards
- Maps
- Pamphlets or leaflets of village events
- Diaries of the time etc

But most of all it is your personal memories I want to hear about --- of school, church or chapel, the quarry, farming, transport, commerce ,- anything in fact that paints a picture of bygone Bleadon.

I know from the response I get from publishing the old photos in this magazine that there is a great interest in Bleadon's past; I should like to turn that into something positive so that the children living in Bleadon today have a permanent record of how it used to be. Please be assured that any precious documents will be taken great care of and personal artifacts will only need to be scanned and/or copied; most of the archive material will only need to be kept on computer at this stage, so as to preserve the information on disc.

I hope that a second meeting can be arranged for some time in January to which many more of you will come so please check village notice boards for details nearer the time.

Meanwhile I hope that many of you will purchase 'Bleadon Snapshot 2008' calendar – the profits from which will go towards getting the Bleadon Historical Society off the ground.

So if you are interested please get in touch!

Penny Robinson
Tel. 01934 814142
e-mail penny.rob@btopenworld.com

Bleadon Players

Our September production of Alan Ayckbourn's 'Ten Times Table' was very successful. It was our first attempt at performing in the round (i.e. not using the stage). Thanks to our audiences for their support, and for allowing us actors to get 'up close and personal'



In November we were asked to join the Rainbow Singers- a popular choir, to provide an amusing sketch in their concert for 'Children in Need', in the Blakehay Theatre. We gave them a piece from 'Just William' by Richmal Crompton. To see six Bleadon Players dressed as wartime children demanding that 'William' get them 'vacuated', was quite a show stopper.

We are now working on the annual pantomime. This year it is another Norman Robbins tale based on 'The Old Woman who lived in a Shoe' Performances are on January 10th, 11th, 12th plus a Saturday matinee. Tickets available from the Post Office in December, or on the door.

**Footnote... Attention all Bleadon Players past and present!
It is our 20th Anniversary next April and there will be a celebration party on April 19th**

Bleadon Friendship Club



January	9th	NEW YEAR LUNCH at Sidcot Hotel	February	1st	Play by Wayfarers
	11th	Bingo/Beetle/or quiz		8th	Bingo/Beetle/Quiz
	18th	Heavens Gate Animal Rescue		15th	Mike and his Music
	25th	Bingo/Beetle etc		22nd	Bingo/Beetle etc
				29th	Graham Wiltshire - Films
			March	7th	A G M

Bleadon Friendship Club Days out with WDCT and Dial a Ride

September 26th Wednesday

Following our usual summer break we took a day out to Puxton Park Country Store and restaurant, we received a very warm welcome and specially laid up reserved table. Several of us took a conducted tour around the new facilities (and were very impressed)

October 31st Wednesday

A much requested visit to Clarks Village at Street (where to our surprise) we found the rest of Bleadon Village on mad spending sprees. The visit was made so much easier by having our own twin wheelchairs with us, it was first outing for them although in general use to and from the club. We are so indebted to the Quartet (Mellor Fund) for making it possible for us to purchase this much needed equipment

November 28th Wednesday

Again by popular demand a visit to Ottery St Mary Garden Centre for Christmas Shopping if we follow last years pattern will require a fleet of vans to ferry shopping back to Bleadon.

A Very Happy Christmas to all Beryl 813363

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**

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

Sunday 16th December	2-5 pm	Christingle Party	Bleadon Church
Monday 31st December	8-12.30 pm	Les's New Year's Eve Bar – Bring Your Own Music and Food!	
Thursday, Friday, Saturday 10th, 11th 12th January	PANTOMIME!	Bleadon Players	
Saturday 15th March	2-5 pm	Spring Flower Show	Horticultural Society
Saturday 5th April	10am-noon	Coffee Morning	Friendship Club

A list of organisations which regularly use the Coronation Halls

Mondays

		Contact	
2.00 -5.00 pm	Bleadon Bridge Club	Mr D Munden	812772
9.45 - 10.45 am	Marie's Mini Movers	Mrs M Keele	07939 038 071
7.00 - 9.00 pm	Exercise Classes **	Mrs M Keele	07939 038 071
7.30 pm 1st Monday	British Sugarcraft Guild W.S.M. Branch	Mrs F Hatcher	620784
7.30 pm 2nd Monday	Bleadon Parish Council	Mr B Poole, Clerk	07887 802922

Tuesdays

2.00 - 4.00 pm 2nd Tuesday	Bleadon Ladies Group	Mrs B Pugh	814362
-------------------------------	----------------------	------------	--------

A list of organisations which regularly use the Coronation Halls

2.30 - 4.30 pm	Bleadon Short Mat Bowling Club** Sept-May	Mrs J Tiney	813893
6.00 - 7.30 pm	Bleadon Brownies**	Mrs R Hemmings	811891
7.45-9.00 pm (term time)	Bleadon Guides**	Mrs B Ware	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

10.00 am - noon 2nd & 4th	Infant Welfare Clinic & Toddler Group	The Health Visitor at the Clinic	
10.00 am - noon 1st,3rd & 5th	Toddler Group	Mrs E Knight	625089
1.30pm	Yoga Class	Mrs D Marsh	
7.30pm	Bleadon Players/Rehearsals	Mrs S Gibbon	645135

Thursdays

10-12 noon	Art: Watercolour painting class**	Mrs B Davies	813363
8.00pm 1st & 3rd Thurs	Bleadon Folk Dancing Group Sept-June	Mrs J Thorne	814007
7.30pm 4th Thursday	Bleadon Sugarcraft Club	Mrs C Peters	843754/626587

Fridays

2-4pm	Bleadon Friendship Club	Mrs B Davies	813363
7.00pm Sept-May	Short Mat Bowling Club**	Mrs J Tiney	813893
5-7pm	Pilates Classes	Mrs E Duffill	623653

Sundays

2.30 Sept-May	Short Mat Bowling Club**	Mrs J Tiney	813893
------------------	--------------------------	-------------	--------

**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

Bleadon Post Office and Country Stores and Tiffin Coffee House



I imagine that by the time you get to read this, the Christmas rush will be almost over and we will all be trying to decide which New Year's resolution we are going to make and probably break by the end of January.

At the moment we are not planning too many changes in 2008 for the shop, Post Office and café, but one new addition will be the meeting room adjoining the café. This will be available daily for meetings and conferences or maybe as a venue for your club or association. You can book this by phoning the shop or call in to see if it meets your needs.

Something else we hope to introduce in the 2008 is a home delivery service, which may be particularly useful as the colder weather sets in.

May we take this opportunity to wish you all a 'Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year' and thank you for your custom and support during 2007.

Phil, Stuart, all the staff and of course Alistair and his family.

