

BLEADON



VILLAGE NEWS 76

Monthly indoor

Saturday MARKET

19 April, 17 May,
21 June, 19 July

Bleadon Village
Coronation Hall 9-12.30



Local produce.
Somerset beef and lamb.
Local bread. Fairtrade.
Home-made cakes.
Cheeses. Cider. Honey.
Preserves. Plants. Books.
Crafts. Jewellery. Gifts.
Cards. Bric-a-brac.

Please bring a bag
Meet friends and chat
over coffee and snacks



01934 812 370 for stalls info

THE PARISH COUNCIL

PENNY SKELLEY [CHAIRMAN]	'MENDIP CROFT', CELTIC WAY, BLEADON.	TEL. 815331
PENNY ROBINSON [VICE CHAIRMAN]	1, THE VEALE, BLEADON.	TEL. 814142
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
ROBERT HOUSE	PURN VILLA, PURN HOUSE FARM, BLEADON.	TEL. 815588
BRIAN GAMBLE	'ASHDENE', BLEADON ROAD, BLEADON.	TEL. 811709

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 24th May 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



A proverb – “if you want to go far, go together”. A good start for the New Year, a challenge too, but the Parish Council will continue to be ambitious and public spirited in 2008.

The environment is a highly topical subject and involves positive action by everyone. As an innovative Council, we will embrace new initiatives to reduce our carbon footprint. As a first step, a new recycling calendar will be issued and launched in April. This calendar will be delivered to all households and combines all three services for refuse, recycling and green waste; so we start here.

In January, the Bleadon Historical Society enjoyed a very successful first meeting with 38 villagers attending. For the “newcomers” it was very rewarding and interesting. Many old photographs of Bleadon’s past were brought to the meeting, which encouraged much conversation about years gone by. You will see a full report by the Editor in this edition of the magazine. On this subject, the Parish Council has decided that the “old” Parish Council papers will be archived in Taunton.

The Village Police Officer has rescheduled the Police Surgeries to once a week on a Tuesday afternoon in the Church Rooms. Do please use this service to convey any worries you may have on Police matters.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Monday, 14th April 2008 in the Coronation Hall. The format will be similar to last year. The draft Village Plan will be presented and Village Societies, Clubs and Organisations will be represented. All are most welcome – remember this is to help and benefit you and the community we live in.

I feel sure you will agree our Village is looking as good as ever as we wait to “spring forward” into Spring. You will find a great deal of information on the Parish Council web-site.

A line on Bleadon life from a delightful small book, “Echo of Mendip”, issued by the Mendip Hills AONB: “Life’s path carries you from here, through echoes and whispers of times past”.

Penny Skelley, Chairman

www.bleadonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Visit this site to see:-

- details of the Parish Council meetings, minutes etc.
- notices dealing with North Somerset events and issues
- diary of events in the village, Church and Coronation Hall
- the Village newsletter online
- ----- and much more!

Please note that the church has a new website address:-

www.bleadonchurch.co.uk

Here you can find out all about the Church of St, Peter and St Paul its fabric and its history, as well as details of service times

Friends of Bleadon Church



The **May Day Fayre** will soon be here. Don't miss it. Bank Holiday Monday, 5th May from 10.30 am 'til 3.30pm. See our ad. in this magazine for all the details. See you there!

On Saturday, 14th June at 7.00 for 7.30pm we have a very special **Sandra Supper** in the Church Room. Yes, Sandra Lowton is preparing one of her suppers for us all to enjoy. Tickets are on sale at £7.50 each. Bring your own drinks!

On Sunday, 27th July at 1.00pm we have another mouth-watering treat when Glo Smith arranges a **Barbecue** in her garden. Again tickets will be on sale at £7.50 per person.

Provisionally scheduled for Saturday, 9th August is a **Skittles Evening and Supper** at the Red Cow. Full details later so keep looking at the Village Notice Boards or in the Church Magazine.

Our **Harvest Supper** has been arranged for Saturday, 27th September in the Coronation Hall. Full details no yet available.

As part of the Weston Arts Festival we hope to have a **Jazz Concert** in the Church on Saturday, 11th October.

In case of any changes and additions to the year programme, please check with the Notice Boards, the Church Magazine or call me on 01934 813636.

As you will see from the above programme, although our main aim is to raise funds for the Church we like doing it in a very enjoyable way. If you would like to join us with new ideas and suggestions give me a call on 813636. We would be pleased to see you.

Thank you all for your continued support.

Brian Drinkwater 01934 813636

Dog Fouling

Once again this 'messy' problem is causing concern amongst the residents of Bleadon. I had reason to mention at the last Parish Council meeting that an area of the Churchyard has been fouled, - this I find appalling and cannot understand the mentality of anyone who allows their dog to do this in the first place, and then goes on to ignore it! I'm a dog owner and like most of my fellow dog owners, always carry a mandatory bag; we on the Parish Council have gone to a lot of trouble to have 'dog waste' bins situated around the village and I implore people to use them.

Just before this newsletter went to print I received this e-mail:-

Dear Editor,

I am writing about something I feel strongly about – namely dogs mess!!

There is still the never ending problem of dogs mess on our streets and grass verges. If you can't or won't clear up after your dog, perhaps you shouldn't have one!

Come on, take a pride on OUR Village – pick it up!!

Jackie Henley – owner of 4 dogs that I clean up after!

Parochial Church Council News



By the time this article is read the Church of St Peter & St Paul will have experienced a year's interregnum following the retirement of the former Rector, David Parkinson. (The term interregnum is used to describe the period between the departure of one priest and the appointment of a successor).

During this time our Church is governed by the Parochial Church Council under the leadership of our two Churchwardens, Sara Osborne and Brian Drinkwater.

We also have the support given by our Treasurer, Graham Rogers, and our Secretary Gill Williams. All have given a great deal of time and energy in ensuring the church continues to function effectively. Our Reader, Jill Smith, takes some of the church services and is available to bring the Communion to those unable to attend the church. Should you wish this for yourselves or those you know would appreciate this offering please contact Jill at Bleadon 812163.

Our P.C.C. members have been most supportive and have presented a united front in confirming the decision to recommend the appointment of the Rev'd Bethan Gutteridge to undertake (in conjunction with her existing role as Vicar of St Andrews, Bournville) the vacancy at Bleadon. However while accepting our proposal, the Diocese authorities have experienced some difficulty in confirming our recommendation. This because our patrons, The Guild of All Souls, have some reservations concerning the future direction of our Church. In the meantime the P.C.C. is grateful to those retired members of the clergy, especially Nigel Venning and Peter Tullet, who have undertaken many of the church services during the last year. We have also, with Diocesan approval, invited the Rev'd Bethan Gutteridge to take some of the services at Bleadon thus providing an opportunity for our church members to meet Bethan.

Recently we lost two of our long-serving church members in the passing of Jack Sommerfield and John Thomlinson. Both men rendered sterling service to the church over the years and will be long remembered by those fortunate enough to have known them. A former member of the choir, Gwen Bailey died at the great age of 100 years and fittingly her memorial service was held at our church.

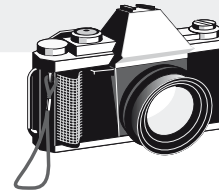
The Sunday Club for the young people continues to flourish and an enterprising programme has been agreed for 2008.

So, we have experienced a busy year and learnt just what the commitment of a priestly ministry entails!

David Elliott

Chairman of the PCC

A Decisive Moment



A man who "suddenly understood that a photograph could forever fix eternity in an instant" became the father of modern photojournalism and the founder of "street photography". He was of course Henri Cartier-Bresson, a Frenchman and master of candid photography and an early user of the 35mm Leica camera for professional work. His Leica was a rangefinder model fitted with a standard 50mm lens, the sort that any amateur would use, and he described this as an extension of his eyes.

His working life went in a circle, starting as an artist, then a photographer and then in the early 1970's, back to being an artist. He claimed that photography had been a way of developing his artistic vision and that all he really cared about was painting. It is interesting to note that currently his photographs are recognised internationally more so than his paintings. As an illustration of this vision you need to be aware of the images he created and the way in which he could capture a split second in time. A particular illustration of the ability is demonstrated in his photograph entitled "Behind the Gare St.Lazare" where a man crossing a patch of wet ground is shown with both feet off the ground and the heel of one foot is millimetres above the ground and the whole action is reflected in the wet surface. He would never crop a picture, always composing the final image within the viewfinder, furthermore, he would never allow any publisher to reproduce his work other than full frame.

As a boy, Cartier-Bresson used a box camera for his holiday photos and later he experimented with a 3x4 inch view camera but with interest in street photography growing, he needed a less conspicuous model and so turned to his beloved Leica. Often he would cover it with black tape in order to make it less obvious as he prowled the streets of the world to enable him to "trap life" as it happened. An other example of this genre is a picture entitled "Sunday on the banks of the Marne" which shows picnickers on the bank of the river enjoying their meal. The shot is actually taken showing the backs of the subjects.

He was born in 1908 into a wealthy family, the eldest of five children, whose father was a prominent textile manufacturer. His father had hoped that Henri would follow him into the business but he preferred to study art having been inspired by his uncle Louis, himself a gifted artist. At the age of 19 in 1927, he enrolled at a private art school and the Lhote Academy which was the studio of Lhote a cubist sculptor and painter whom Henri regarded as his photography teacher without a camera. He soon became uncomfortable with all the rules attached to art and decided to stop painting and apply artistic form and composition to photography. 1920 saw the emergence of photo realism and the photography revolution had begun. "Away with tradition. Photograph things as they are" became his maxim.

In 1934 Cartier-Bresson shared a studio with two other photographers, a Polish intellectual named David Szymin who later changed his name to Seymour, and a Hungarian named Andre Friedman who also changed his name to Robert Cappa. Both were later killed in war zones. It was these three along with Bill Vandivert and George Rodger who founded the notorious picture agency called Magnum. Between them they covered the world as photojournalists providing some of the greatest graphic images that have become the by-word for the genre.

In 1952 Cartier-Bresson published a book of 126 of his photographs whose English edition was entitled "The Decisive Moment". This was part of a quotation from the 17th century Cardinal de Retz the full quote is "There is nothing in this world that does not have a decisive moment". His first published photojournalist photographs were taken in 1937 at the coronation of King George VI. The photographs were not of the King but of his admiring subjects lining the streets of London. He acquired international recognition with his coverage of Ghandi's funeral and the last months of imperialist China and the beginning of the Maoist People's Republic.

Henri Cartier-Bresson died in Cereste, France at the age of 95 in 2004 and left a legacy of honesty and sensitivity in all the thousands of images still distributed by Magnum to this day.

Ken Tapley, Chairman Bleadon Photographic Group.

Bleadon Friendship Club



The Friendship Club New Year lunch was enjoyed at Sidcot Arms Hotel on January 9th.

On the 25th January the Club hosted a party for past member Mr Harold Dobson to celebrate his 100th birthday. He was joined by many of his friends who had taken holidays with him and the late Mrs Dobson on the popular club holiday, in those days. Memories were flowing and everyone had a jolly time.

April	4th	Sylvia's Quiz
	5th	Coffee Morning (Everyone Welcome)
	11th	Susan Marshfield – You can choose your friends
	18th	Bring and share
	25th	Mike and his Music.

Club Days Out with W.D.C.T.G

Our Club days out are flourishing and popular these ladies do know how to enjoy the shopping. Our less able members also catered for with our newly acquired two folding wheel chairs which were purchased thanks to a grant from Quartet Community Foundation (Sponsored by the Millar Trust).

Dial-a-Ride now merging with Community Transport became Weston and District Community Transport Group

24 Members and friends were taken to our New Year Luncheon by two mini buses, each member picked up and taken home. This was with Group Hire, at very reasonable cost .

At the time of compiling this report I am negotiating with hope for a Friday service to enable members to be picked up and taken home from Club meetings- this is not impossible to achieve and would solve the problem of getting to meetings

Beryl Davis

SSAFA



The Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association (SSAFA) Forces Help is committed to helping and supporting those who serve in our Armed Forces, those who used to serve, reservists, National Servicemen and the families of all these people. We provide a reliable, caring service to more than 50,000 people each year. Our network of 7,000 volunteers provides practical and financial assistance, emotional support and a wide range of services to ensure that SSAFA Forces Help makes a real difference whenever anybody turns to us for help.

All enquiries from those needing help will be dealt with confidentially. Volunteers may direct veterans to other organizations, while offering low-level emotional support, such as a friendship visit when the need for support is specialized. There is also a great need for volunteer help – whether that may be as a fully trained caseworker, treasurer or fund raiser. Please think ... another year and the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan continue to demonstrate on a daily basis the need to care for the soldiers, sailors and airmen who are serving us and serving their country. Furthermore, the lives of many of those who are returning from these theatres of war, having sustained physical injury, emotional trauma or both may be altered for ever, and so too the lives of their families.

Further details on the work of SSAFA Forces Help and how to volunteer to assist can be seen at our national website www.ssafa.org.uk.

★ Bleadon Village ★

**Annual
May Day
Fayre**



Bank Holiday Monday
5th May 2008
10.30am—3.30pm

**Licensed bar and refreshments all day
Fun and games for all the family
Lots of stalls—home produce, gifts, bric-a-brac, asnu clothes, plants and so much more
Entertainment by Morris Men, RAF cadets,
music by jazz band, sax band and in church
*Entry by programme 25p each including lucky
programme draw—prize £50***

Bleadon Beat



Our new beat surgery is up and running every Tuesday 2-4pm at the church room on Coronation Road, we would like to encourage anyone who would like to discuss a Policing issue or even if they would just like to meet us, to call in, there is no appointment system, please just turn up. We really would like to see the village making the most of this facility.

There have recently been complaints regarding inconsiderate parking in the village. We are aware that some of the properties in the village have no off road parking. But we would ask you to please consider carefully where you are parking on the street and make sure you will not be causing an obstruction to other road users.

Parking patrols have started in the village to firstly advise drivers of their inconsiderate parking and give them a chance to move their vehicle. If this advice is not taken then fixed penalty tickets will be issued or in extreme or dangerous cases Police will remove the vehicle.

We are also looking at the speed of traffic through the village, and have been conducting some speed checks in various positions around the village. Bleadon used to have a 'speedwatch' that assisted us to monitor traffic through the village. We are looking for volunteers to help us restart this scheme in the summer. If you're interested in joining the speedwatch team please come to a beat surgery on a Tuesday afternoon or phone our office.

PC Steve Church

PCSO Emma Wright.

Tel .01934 638123

Bleadon Coronation Hall

Reg. Charity No. 104602



The Annual General Meeting of the Hall Management Committee will be held on Thursday 10th April at 7.30pm.

This meeting is open to all Village residents and gives an ideal opportunity to air views on the general running of the Halls. All constructive comments (and praise) will be welcome.

The Management Committee operates within a trust deed dating back to 1937, giving each village organisation, as regular users, the right to nominate a representative to serve for the ensuing. They are duly elected at the AGM together with two persons as village representatives, and with the election of officers, constitutes the committee which meets eleven times a year.

In 1995 we applied for Charity status, and this was duly granted by the Charities Commission, and each elected committee member becomes a trustee.

Len Chamberlain (Chairman)

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

Saturday 15th March 2-5 pm	Spring Flower Show	Horticultural Society
Saturday 5th April 10am-noon	Coffee Morning	Friendship Club
Monday 14th April 7.30 pm	Annual Parish Meeting	
Monday 5th May 10am – 4pm	May Fayre	Bleadon Church
Saturday 10th May 7.30 pm	Celebratory Concert	Bleadon Players
Tuesday 3rd June 7.00 pm	CONTACTUS Welcome Meeting	

A list of organisations which regularly use the Coronation Halls

Mondays		Contact	
2.00 -5.00 pm	Bleadon Bridge Club	Mr D Munden	812772
11.00 am - 12.00	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	British Sugarcraft Guild	Mrs F Hatcher	620784
1st Monday	W.S.M. Branch		
7.30 pm	Bleadon Parish Council	Mr B Poole, Clerk	07887 802922
2nd Monday			
Tuesdays			
2.00 - 4.00 pm	Bleadon Ladies Group	Mrs B Pugh	814362
2nd Tuesday			
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	Bleadon Guides** (term time)	Mrs B Ware	811545
7.30 pm	Bleadon Photographic Group Sept-May	Mr K Tapley	623877
1st,2nd,4th,5th			
7.30 pm	Bleadon Horticultural Society	Mr C Cudlipp	813152
3rd – Oct-June			

A list of organisations which regularly use the Coronation Halls

Wednesdays

10.00 am - noon	Infant Welfare Clinic	The Health Visitor at the Clinic	
2nd & 4th	& Toddler Group		
10.00 am - noon	Toddler Group	Mrs E Knight	625089
1st,3rd & 5th			
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	Bleadon Folk Dancing Group	Mrs J Thorne	814007
1st & 3rd Thurs	Sept-June		
7.30pm	Bleadon Sugarcraft Club	Mrs C Peters	843754/626587
	4th Thursday		

Fridays

2-4pm	Bleadon Friendship Club	Mrs B Davies	813363
7.00pm	Short Mat Bowling Club**	Mrs J Tiney	813893
	Sept-May		
5.30 - 6.30 pm	Pilates Classes	Mrs E Duffill	623653

Sundays

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

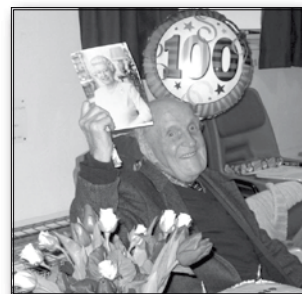
**in the Jubilee Room

The Halls are available for hire by private individuals or organisations. There is a reduced rate for Bleadon residents. ENQUIRIES: 812370

Many Happy Returns Harold!

Harold Dobson Celebrated his 100th birthday on January 19th with friends and neighbours at a party in the Coronation Hall. Everyone brought food for a buffet lunch and a local professional singer Marion Dare provided the entertainment. Apple Central Cabs, who regularly take Harold to town sent a generous gift, and the man from the 'Mercury' made it official.

A week later the Friendship Club had a celebratory afternoon when Harold had a chance to meet up with some old friends with whom he and his late wife used to go on holiday.





WI Ladies



Bleadon Infant Clinic 1969



Group at the Hobb's Boat 1957



Cam Parker's Wedding



Bleadon Women's Bright Hour circa 1950



Royal Wedding 1981



Coronation Hall



W.I. Tree Planting

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

Bleadon Horticultural Society



Paul Gilmore from Sanders Garden World almost filled the Coronation Hall for his entertaining and informative talk entitled 'Designing to Enhance your Garden'. He emphasised that each one of us in the audience was in fact a garden designer simply by positioning our plants or containers in the garden or on the patio etc. The various tips that were passed on involving the use of space and making our plots look larger, smaller or more interesting were well received.

The Beetle Drive and social American style supper was enjoyed by everyone who attended, with Don Orme eventually winning the 'drive'. The Garden Gnome was awarded to Pete Williams (a previous overall winner), as he encountered so many low rolling partners during the evening. Our thanks are extended to everyone who contributed in any way.

In January RSPB speaker Derek Briggs gave a thought provoking illustrated talk on the Somerset wetlands titled 'Life on the Edge'. Derek explained how the peat moors were formed and he covered the inter relationship of the many and varied animals and plants found in this unique habitat which is right on our doorstep.

Up and coming dates for your diary.

Tuesday 15th April – we welcome again Dr. George Hargreaves when he will give us his illustrated talk on 'Westonbirt through the seasons'

Tuesday 13th May – we will be holding a plant sale and social evening at 7.30pm in the Coronation Hall. If you bring plants please be sure to have them labelled.

Tuesday 17th June – Dave Wallace will be the speaker with a talk called ' Steepholm and the Shirkers'.

These meetings all take place in the Coronation Hall at 7.30pm at £1.00 admission. Everyone is welcome to attend, as we don't have a formal membership. We just ask that you sign and print your name in the attendance book.

The summer coach outing this year is on Tuesday 8th July, when we will be going to the Welsh Botanic Garden in Carmarthenshire. To book a seat for this trip please phone me on 01934 813152.

Chris Cudlipp

Charlie Rose



It is a measure of the man that we think of him as a friend.

Someone we looked forward to seeing around the village.

A man with a ready smile and a sense of humour that was always ready to bubble to the surface.

A good companion, whose company we welcomed.

A real character with a tale to tell and time to tell it.

A real friend to the village.

Thank you Charlie for blessing Bleadon with your company, friendship, laughter and community spirit.

You have set us all high standards to follow.

Weather watch for Bleadon Hill

Regular readers of the village news are quite familiar with the report on the rainfall data for the past year. For any new readers I'll give you a potted history. I have been recording precipitation i.e. rain, sleet, melted hail and melted snow in my rain gauge situated in my open back garden on Totterdown Lane since 1981. I measure the amounts twice daily and if we are away my neighbour does the honours for me.

Rainfall figures are in millimetres, where 25.4 mm = 1 inch.

A rainy day is one where at least 0.2mm precipitation is recorded.

MONTH	JAN	FEB.	MAR	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
Rain etc 2007	82.2	113.3	49.0	27.0	136.5	99.8	170.0	43.7	49.7	64.3	59.6	108.9	960.5
Average rain '81-'06	93.4	64.0	70.2	65.1	69.1	65.4	64.7	83.8	83.4	114.3	96.2	103.1	972.7
Dry days 2007	11	12	19	27	15	14	7	22	18	23	17	16	201
Average dry days '81-'06	13	14	15	15	16	18	19	17	15	13	12	14	181

Overall the year was only slightly drier than average with about half inch less rain, but on the other hand we actually had 20 more dry days!

Chris Cudlipp

May Day Fayre

I am collecting anything saleable for Bleadon Church's May Fayre, to be held on Bank Holiday Monday 5th May. This is an annual event and helps to fund this beautiful 13th century building at the heart of the village.

So, if you are having a clear out I will willingly collect:

Kitchen equipment, China, Garage tools and car bits, Garden tools, Soft furnishings - linen, curtains, cushions Toys and games Bric-a-brac Lamps, Books, unwanted presents, Good, clean clothes, Small furniture, and CDs, DVDs, videos.

In fact anything you would normally take to a charity shop
Every penny raised goes to the church

Please call Sandra Lowton on WSM 413034 to arrange collection as soon as possible

BOOKS WANTED for the book stall ring Pete Williams on 812020 he is also able to collect.

If

you have any interest in what's
happening in Bleadon

you want to have a say in it's future

you want to know what the parish
council has been up to

you wonder where the money gets
spent

you want to know what the Parish
Plan has in store

be at the **Coronation Hall**
at **7.30pm on Monday 14th April**
for the **Annual Parish Meeting.**

Bleadon Youth Club

Our thanks go to all who helped us raise £150 at the Christmas Fayre. I'm sure that for some it was the first time they had been inside the youth club for many years. It was a pleasure to welcome so many visitors.

With the help of our three regular youth leaders the club is successfully running activities for young people on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 7 – 9 pm.

Tuesdays

We've just finished an eight-week Dance, Drama and Music project thanks to funding from North Somerset Council. Such has been the enthusiasm for music that we are delighted to announce that the club has also been awarded a £900 grant towards a whole bunch of musical instruments. With a top-up of £100 from the youth club we have been able to purchase two electric guitars, amplifier and keyboard. Plus two acoustic guitars and a complete drum kit. Perhaps soon we'll have our very own Bleadon Band.....keep listening.

Boyz Night returns on Tuesdays during March and early April. Watch the notice board for future Tuesday and Thursday programmes.

Well done!

Paige McCarthy won the Gordon Howe Trophy for her outstanding contribution to the club. Beau Elsmore is now a member of the Youth Opportunity Fund Panel and has a say in how North Somerset youth funding is allocated throughout the district. Beau is also hoping to get involved in the Youth Parliament – clearly a politician in the making! More of our young members attended the North Somerset Youth Awards at the Winter Gardens to collect their Awards.

New

Our very own table-tennis table and a Wii (whatever that is!) – thanks again to the youngsters' vigorous applications for funding. Sadly, we've had to say goodbye to the air-hockey table. Despite the best Westland's technological expertise of Malcolm Herival he was unable to repair the ancient beast, which has languished in the Sports Room for some years.

If you've got youngsters (Yr 7+) who are looking for something constructive and sociable to do on Tuesdays or Thursdays bring them along. We'd love to see them.

KP- on behalf of Bleadon Youth Club

ADVERTISING IN THE VILLAGE NEWS (A5 Page)

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

These rates are for 4 insertions starting with the June Issue.
Please note - new rates will apply as from June 2007.
Please contact the editor for more details

Get the most from your bike!

Thanks to a grant from Life Cycle UK, Bleadon now benefits from four new cycle parking stands in the centre of the village.

The Youth Club and the Coronation Hall each applied for two free cycle parking stands under the Take a Stand scheme from the Life Cycle charity. Each of the stands is worth £150, but are supplied free providing the community installs them within four months.

The parish council welcomed the initiative to get villagers on their bikes and agreed to pay for the installation. Mark Howe cleared the small derelict patch alongside the public toilet and installed the four hoop-style stands.

You'll find the new bike park between the youth club and the toilets. Just off the car park. The central location means that cyclist users of the toilets, youth club, play area and Coronation Hall all benefit from the new stands. Bicycles can be secured to the steel stands and remain under the 24 hour surveillance of our CCTV cameras.

We are hoping that this will encourage more of you to get around the village by bicycle. So let's reduce our carbon footprint, enjoy our beautiful village and get fit at the same time.

In the Spring we hope to plant up the gravelled ground around the bike stands to make it a bit more attractive. So if any of you have spare rockery/Alpine plants that you wish to donate please contact me.

Keith Pyke

Bleadon Players

All is well in panto land for another year. Good triumphed over evil and the boy got the princess. Thank you to all who came to sing, cheer, hiss and boo with 'The Old Woman who lived in a Shoe'.

The Players have decided to enter the 'All Avon One Act Festival' again, in order to defend their title as regional winners last year. We have to give our big silver cup back, but hope to bring it home to Bleadon again. Watch this space!

In April the Players will have been going for twenty years, and there will be a big party to celebrate this anniversary on 10th May; this means that sadly there will be no spring production this time round.

The idea is to invite all members past and present in order to enjoy an evening down memory lane. With all those old and new 'luvvies' in the same place the Coronation Hall will probably go into orbit!!



Bleadon Ladies Club



With Christmas and New Year behind us we are all looking forward to the spring and Summer so what better time to join our Club. We have a very good programme for this coming season

April 8th

"Spring Interest in the Garden"
Sanders Garden World"

May 13th

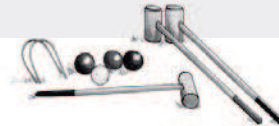
"Cheese making"with samples
By Mrs Pauline Aldus, Cheese maker

June 10th

"Musical Memories"
Played on the piano by Mrs Jean Routley

Do come and join us .The club meets the second Tuesday of the Month at 2.30pm in Coronation Hall. We always look forward to welcoming new members. For more information call **Barbara on 814362.**

Weston Croquet Club



Relocation to Bleadon

I am sure that all readers of the Parish Magazine will have seen the vast improvement on the field opposite the Post Office. A great deal of work has been undertaken to convert this field into the future home for the Weston super Mare Croquet Club. Our big investment will include hedging and planting of trees which are required by the Planners. In addition the Croquet Club will have its own car park on the raised portion of the field itself but well away from the Post Office.

The plan is for the Croquet Club to start playing from the middle of June onwards and to move all the equipment ready for all our members to play in July.

We very much hope to encourage members of the village to come and try the game for themselves. All equipment will be provided and coaching will also be available to people who feel they would like to take up the game.

We are looking forward to coming to Bleadon and hope that you will feel our presence will enhance the beauty of the village.

For further information please contact Roger Buckley, 9 Manor Grange, Bleadon.

John Thomlinson 1921 - 2007

Although tinged with deep sadness, the feeling of warmth, affection and respect was almost tangible amongst those of us in church who shared in the celebration of John Thomlinson's life. Without John at the helm it will be difficult for Contactus to carry on, though we are sure it would be his wish to do so. Together with John, Philip and I were involved in the launch of Contactus in 1985 and John became Chairman in 1991. Unselfishness, love and kindness shone out of him and he was always the first to offer help of every kind. Contactus was and is a way of reaching anyone in need of assistance and also making newcomers feel welcome in Bleadon.

John's devotion to his adored wife Joan was and always will be an inspiration to many. As her health deteriorated rapidly over the 20 years following a major and many minor strokes John ensured that her life was as full as possible. Yet he still remained an active life in the church and village community and adapted his home and car to enable Joan to always be within his sight. Any setback was just a challenge that he would overcome with a smile of satisfaction. (In fact he would rarely be seen without a smile!)

In Contactus we hope to do all we can to continue with the memory of John's example of caring for others as our inspiration. They say that when someone passes away a light goes out but I doubt that in John Thomlinson's case. Amongst those of us fortunate enough to have known him, his light will never go out.

M.E.A.

CONTACTUS

We apologise to those who thought they had been forgotten but after many months of health setbacks within our committee, coupled with an unusually slow arrival of newcomers, we have finally been able to organise the promised 'Welcome Party'. This will take place in June, and all those who have come to live in the village during the past 18 months or so will receive invitations nearer the time.



In the past the parties have always been very happy social occasions, and as we always invite representatives of village societies and clubs there is an opportunity to make new friends and perhaps develop new interests.

Unfortunately because of the many cul-de-sacs and 'tucked away' properties, new arrivals aren't always spotted. If you are someone who has moved in recently and has not received a 'Welcome Pack' please let me know and you will be invited to the party – with our sincere apologies for the omission.

We know that in this friendly village, newcomers will always be welcomed by their neighbours and therefore we would be most grateful if on spotting any new people moving in you could ring me. I don't mind duplicated calls as it is most important that all newcomers receive an information pack and its accompanying welcome letter.

Your help is most appreciated

Mary E. Ashley (secretary Contactus) Tel. 812667

Global Warning - A short story

I'm sorry now, now it's too late, that I never got to know Fred Boylan. We had been at school together, but in different forms. Gone to the same university, but read different subjects and together had experienced the preliminary 'square bashing' of National Service; on completion he being whisked away to some remote research station, me sent off to endure the heat and flies of Aden. He was a quiet person who in the small tight worlds we briefly shared doggedly clung to his privacy, invariably kind and polite, but always reserved. Whilst he concentrated totally on his studies we, his companions, regarded him with tolerant affection and with some pride in his intellect. He became a notable physicist but remained an enigma even among his scientific contemporaries.

We met once or twice during the intervening years. Working in the personnel department of Oldbury nuclear power station I'd noticed that Dr F Boylan PhD was listed as member of a visiting safety review team and as one of the welcoming committee I made a point of singling him out. He seemed genuinely pleased to see me and over lunch in the canteen we talked of times past. I learnt he'd spent the balance of his national service on Christmas Island witnessing the UK H-bomb trials, this leading to a post at Aldermaston on Weapons Research. He was working for the Atomic Energy Commission now, hence the visit to us.

As an administrator helping to run the public relations tours of the station, I often went into the reactor building. The fuel charge hall never failed to impress me, an acre or so of steel blocks forming a floor under a vast cathedral-like dome with the towering fuel charging machine statuesquely poised to serve the reactors below. Often visitors would peer down between the blocks for a glimpse of the red-hot nuclear turmoil they anticipated beneath their feet. But on the last day of Fred's visit I was alone, or thought so until I saw him standing out near the centre of the floor looking down intently. He glanced up at my approach.

"Looking for the fiery furnace Fred?" I asked. "Our visitors often do."

He smiled, "Be an idea to put some flashing red lights down there so's they'll not be disappointed."

I enquired about the inspection, "Went well I hope?" our footsteps echoing across the hall then pausing to as we said our goodbyes.

I saw him again briefly on television some years later, explaining the purpose of a vast underground structure in Belgium being used to accelerate atoms. He looked like the typical dotty scientist, hair untended, tie askew and sporting a wispy beard. Later I learnt he'd been appointed Professor of Nuclear Physics at London's Imperial College.



About seven years ago, and approaching retirement, I was seconded to Hinkley Point to manage the public enquiry into a new station there. Professor Fred Boylan FRS was listed as one of our technical experts. The enquiry lasted nearly two years. Fred would come from London to give advice, staying locally if needed, and during this time we had our only real social contact. He wasn't at all troubled by the limited delights of Bridgwater so I was surprised when he accepted my invitation to spend the weekend with Barbara and I at Weston. He was unmarried still and I gathered had no plans to be otherwise, but the 'mad scientist' image was gone and he looked his old self. Barbara coped well, booked a table at The Queens on Saturday night, inviting a couple of friends to join us and Fred certainly seemed to enjoy it. On Sunday, Barbara away at church, we sat in the garden, he politely asking about the children and my impending retirement. I'd particularly avoided talk of the enquiry and his work and he, not surprisingly, didn't mention it until he asked...

"Do you know anything about space travel George?"

I admitted I didn't. "I'm interested in the moon landing business of course but don't understand how rockets work in space."

"Physics not your strong point then?" We both laughed. "Well, crude as they are, rockets do work and sufficiently well to provide the means of travel around our own solar system but we need to be travelling near the speed of light to break free and reach any of the other 2000 stars we can see. To achieve that we'll need new power sources and I believe they will be nuclear."

Global Warning - A short story

"Each spaceship with its own nuclear reactor?"

"That'll come in time but to start with they'll be powered by earth stations."

I shook my head, "We've been eighteen months trying to get one built just to supply domestic power.

I can't see more being allowed just to drive spaceships."

"It's already here George," leaning forward Fred placed his hand on the lawn, "a couple of thousand miles below is the biggest nuclear reactor you and I could ever imagine."

My fears of delays due to objections and planning problems were proved unfounded because all eight Space Drive Installations (SDI) were constructed in the southern hemisphere. A pair located in Australia were the lead sites and got a lot of media interest, Fred often the spokesman. He explained that rather than using the heat generated by nuclear reaction to produce power, as in existing power stations, SDI obtained energy directly from the continuous nuclear activity at the earth's core; a kind of controlled volcano harnessed to power an array of lasers. Focussed light exerts pressure it seems and this would be aimed at the space vehicle and used to accelerate it off to the stars. Someone once asked how they intended to penetrate the iron mantle enclosing the earth's core. Amazingly they were going to use 'controlled' nuclear explosions! Then after a year or so – silence. The official story was that the production of space energy had overtaken development of the actual space vessel and the SDI had been put on hold but rumour said all was not well.

2008 had already seen an unprecedented succession of natural disasters: wide scale Australasian droughts, a Pacific tsunami overwhelming a complete island chain, earthquakes draining lakes in South America and here in England, as if to compensate for a woefully wet summer, autumn was presently lasting well into November. On retiring we'd got a dog, something we'd been reluctant to do whilst working, and bought a caravan in North Devon. We had been spending a lot of time there recently and only just got back late one afternoon when Fred rang.

"Trying to reach you all week. Must see you. Today! Can be with you in an hour." He arrived promptly. He was Professor greybeard now, wild-eyed and looking absolutely shattered, we sat him down and tried to calm him. "It's all gone wrong, stupidly didn't realise how finely balanced it all was, like a seesaw and we've tipped it. He grasped Barbara's hand, "Your family where are they? You must get...." choking on the words then shaking his head wearily... "too late now."

"If these SDI things of yours are going to blow up Fred," I asked abruptly, "what will happen?"

"We hoped and some of us even prayed but sadly it's not 'if' – but when!" He stood up. "The energy of all the earthquakes and volcanoes since the beginning of the world is about to be released. The oceans and continents will vaporise and what's left will be debris in space."

Fred's vision, his miracle of light energy powering us to the stars had become a nightmare.

"How long?" Barbara asked.

"Forty eight hours."

Fred left soon after. Typically he wanted to be on his own at the end.

Both our children have families now but aren't far away.

What was best to do - who could say?

We visited them today telling them nothing of impending events and then returned here, to Devon.

This evening Barbara is taking comfort in going to church and I'm taking Buster on our usual walk, down the track that leads to the beach; successive headlands wreathed in white reaching out into a grey blue sea, with a chill on-shore breeze carrying the converse of breaking waves.

Tomorrow? Well, I'm sure Professor Boylan is right.

There won't be a tomorrow.

END



Bleadon Short Mat Bowling Club

Since Christmas we have enjoyed our annual dinner. We held this at Worlebury Golf Club, which becoming our usual venue. As normal the ambience and the food were excellent, many thanks to Ann and Celia for making it so successful.

By the time you read this we shall be on our annual bowls holiday at Torquay.

We decided at the A.G.M., that this year we would give everyone who wished an experience of playing on the league. This we are doing, while maintaining a mid table position. Congratulations to all those taking part.

Anyone who would like to have a game, experienced or complete beginner, please drop in and see us. We can supply the bowls. Our meeting times are printed elsewhere in this magazine.

Fred James, Chairman.

Bleadon Historical Society

On Thursday 31st January there was a meeting of the newly formed Historical Society in the Coronation Hall. The evening was a great success as between 30-40 people all with Bleadon connections came together for an evening of unashamed nostalgia. There were displays of old photos and newspaper cuttings covering many aspects of life in Bleadon in the early and middle parts of the 20th century. More up to date stories included the 'Finding of Bleadon Man' the subsequent BBC TV programme, and how that led onto the acquisition of our own sculptured head now proudly displayed in the foyer of the Coronation Hall. As a follow up to this, a future project for the Parish Council is to erect a 'legend board' in the area of the car park outlining the historical background of Bleadon's famous resident. This will also include details of the DNA sampling and those in the village who have links with him.

John Hickley brought along his map of Bleadon in mediaeval times which indicated the various land owners and tenants and where they lived. This had been carefully put together by John from photocopies (obtained from Taunton archives) which he had then coloured to show who owned what. It is remarkable in its detail.

The book of photos which had been compiled back in 2004 was also of great interest; - it is from this book that the regular pictures contained within the 'Village News' are taken. I should like to remind everyone that a selection of these photos is available on a DVD - please ring me to obtain a copy. The book itself may also be borrowed for a small fee.

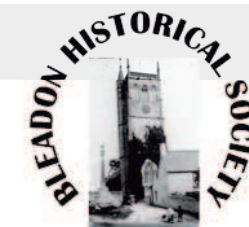
Many of those who came that evening simply enjoyed sitting and exchanging memories, looking at the old family photos and remembering the 'good old days'.

The next meeting will be later on in the year when we hope to put the Society on a more formal footing with the election of a secretary /treasurer etc. Anyone who is interested in helping in this way please let me know.

The Society would also like to invite those who have an interest in any aspect of Bleadon's history, to get out there and do a bit of detective work, it's amazing what you can find on your own doorstep! We would love to know what you come up with.

I should like to thank all those who brought material, and allowed me to scan their photos and cuttings, all of which I know are very precious. This information will be digitalized and will form the basis of the Bleadon Village archive.

Penny Robinson. Tel. 01934 814142
www.bleadonparishcouncil.gov.uk



Bleadon Post Office and Country Stores and Tiffin Coffee House



We are pleased to announce that our Post Office is remaining open!

In the pipeline is a home delivery service, some details for which are still to be finalized.

Look out for details sometime in the near future.

The meeting room adjoining the café is now ready, so why not come and see it for yourselves; available to book for your club or group if you need a small venue.

Thank you all for your continuing custom and support

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

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