

BLEADON



Monthly indoor

Saturday MARKET

17th January, 21st February, 21st March, 18h April,
16th May, 20th June, 18th July, 15th August,
19th September, 17th October, 21st November
5th December Christmas Market

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
GRAHAM LOCKYER	'HIGHCROFT', ROMAN ROAD, BLEADON.	TEL. 812050
MARY SHEPPARD	'LITTLEWOOD' BRIDGWATER RD., LYMPSHAM.	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
I. D. CLARKE	'THE GRANARY' MULBERRY LANE, BLEADON	TEL. 815182

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 21st February 2009**

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@bleadonvillage.co.uk

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

www.bleadonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Chairman's Report



I start with an apology as, once again, the Village Plan has been delayed and the new target is early in 2009. I know you will understand that this plan has been a mammoth task, with the need for very careful study of the vision for the future and the wishes of the villagers. Also, our endeavours to have the safety of the crossroad on the A370 improved have been slipped by North Somerset, but the work remains in the planning stage.

The Parish Council is now up to full strength again and able to move forward with our application for Quality Status Re-accreditation; this will be our second initiative in 2009.

The Historical Society held its second meeting recently and, for those who attended, it was interesting to learn more local history and to hear the many stories that abound. The television programme "Who Do You Think You Are" caused much excitement for the "historians". Please do come forward if you have local family history or projects you would like to complete of a historical nature.

The "Contactus" organisation, which welcomes all newcomers to the village, has been re-launched with a new welcome pack. We hope that all Bleadon residents will be good neighbours and welcome new arrivals.

The Parish Council sends best wishes for the return to good health of our District Councillor, Ian Peddesden, who has been a loyal friend to Bleadon. I also feel sure that this Village News will reach you before Christmas, and I send many greetings for the celebration and the New Year to follow. You may have noticed that the winter tubs have been planted in Christmas colours!

The Council meets every second Monday of the month and you are always welcome to attend, thus ensuring that we have contact and direct feedback from the community. The next Annual Parish Meeting will be held on 20th April 2009.

Penny Skelley, Chairman

Bleadon Coronation Hall Report



Christmas will soon be upon us and having spent £200 on new decorations both Halls should look really good, ready for all the usual seasonal festivities. The Hall Management Committee wishes all its users 'A Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year'.

Instead of my usual report on hall activities I would like to take this opportunity to write a few words about a very good friend, not just to me but to many people in this village.

John Riding was not a member of our Committee but that was no barrier to him helping out whenever he could, especially when there was a function in the Hall. He regularly served behind the bar staying well after midnight, and as recently as August he was there with the volunteers redecorating the Jubilee Room.

It was an awful shock when he passed away just a few weeks ago after a short illness. He will be sadly missed.

Len Chamberlain, Chairman.



Never let it be said that there is an absence of news from us as fresh developments in what seems to be an ever-lasting saga of the interregnum continue to test us and create new opportunities.

(Incidentally I have become so used to the use of the word "interregnum" in church articles since March 2007 that I can virtually spell it out in my sleep!).

Regular readers of P.C.C. news in this magazine will recall our efforts to have a priest (in conjunction with the parish of St Andrews at Bournville) appointed. We had reached the stage where the Rev'd Bethan Gutteridge of Bournville was — subject to certain approval by our patrons, due to fill the existing vacancy. However time has passed with our patrons, The Guild of All Souls, continuing to object to Bethan's appointment. Nevertheless negotiations continued between all the interested parties.

That was the position in early September. At that time and during our morning service Bethan informed us of her intention to transfer to a new post at Watchet. This came as a complete surprise to all of us (and I believe, to the parishioners at Bournville). Bethan will commence her new duties in January, 2009.

Naturally we all wish her well in her new post and express our thanks for her presence with us during a quite lengthy period. But equally the news has created a likelihood of a further lengthy period whilst her replacement is nominated.

So what is the current position? Well our Churchwardens on hearing the news authorised an early meeting with the Archdeacon of Bath who has an overall responsibility for overseeing future arrangements. This took place in October at Bleadon when P.C.C. members all contributed to a good discussion on our future. The archdeacon has undertaken to raise the matter of the vacancy with the Bishop and we have some hopes of forward progress.

We shall also discuss the matter with the Bishop of Taunton (the "other" Bishop Peter!) when he attends our Remembrance Service at Bleadon on the 9th November.

So there we have it — I conclude by the oft quoted remark "watch this space"! Apologies for all the exclamation marks but on this occasion they did seem necessary.

David Elliot Chair of PCC

Sunday Sounds

Teacher and schoolgirl; civil servant and small businessman; engineer and language student; old and young; male and female; catholic and protestant. What can all these people have in common? Well – they all know their ‘tail-ends’ from their ‘sallies’.

They are all bell ringers.



The sound of bells ringing out to call the faithful to worship epitomizes Sunday for many people. But how many of you give a thought as to what, or rather, who is at the other end of the rope?

Bell ringing is a peculiarly British activity that has been developed over the past three to four hundred years. It can take from two to six months to learn to handle a bell rope competently and a lifetime to master the intricacies of the mathematical patterns which make up the sound of a peal of bells. A ringer will normally attend an evening practice once a week and ring for Sunday Services, special feasts and weddings etc. It requires a certain degree of commitment to the tower, but this is insignificant when compared with the enjoyment and friendship to be found there.

If you have ever thought you would like to find out more about bell ringing, - this is your chance. Anyone of any age can learn provided they can reach the rope. Don't be put off because you think you are too old; if you can scale the short spiral staircase to the ringing chamber you will certainly be able to ring.

At Bleadon we have lost several of our nine ringers in the last few months. If the bells are to continue to ring in Bleadon we urgently need new recruits. Many villages have already lost their bells, please don't let this happen here- don't allow our church to become a silent one!

Come along to a practice night (Tuesday) or phone Bleadon 813285 for more information

Peter Maffey.

Friends of Bleadon Church

Thank you to all of you who gave and helped so generously over the last year. We enjoyed a very successful May Day Fayre when we raised over £6000. Our best ever.



Our contribution to the Weston Arts Festival was a visit from the New Society Jazz Band and the social year finished with a skittles evening at the Red Cow.

Looking forward to 2009, our major event is, again, the May Day Fayre. So make a note in your diaries for Monday, 4th May when we will be looking for you support to make this the best Fayre ever.

A word about the “Friends”. The group was formed over 20 years ago and its aim was to encourage social activity within the village, to have fun and undertake projects to raise funds. All other village organisations were invited to join in and the majority of those involved agreed to give the monies raised to the Church which was badly in need of repair at that time. This was the start of the May Day Fayre and several other events followed.

Friends of Bleadon Church



With the realisation that the running costs of the Church were escalating, the "Friends" became a major source of income to keep the Church on a financial footing. This remains the case today. Overheads to keep the Church functioning are now currently in the region of £34,000 per annum. Of this the "Friends" contribute £6/8,000 per annum.

That is why we need your help. We all believe that the Church is a major part of Village life as well as our own lives! We do not want to lose it.

We sincerely thank you all for your support in the past and we do thank you in advance for the help that we know you will always give in the future.

If you would like to join our group of Friends, you will be welcomed with open arms and a nice cup of tea! We are looking for new ideas and a fresh outlook would be appreciated. So if you feel that you would like to help, give me a call on 01934 813636.

May we take this opportunity of wishing you all a Blessed Christmas and a Safe and Healthy New Year.

Brian Drinkwater

District Councillor's Report

As usual Bleadon manages to solve many of its local problems without needing the hand of your District Councillors, but that doesn't mean we don't watch what is happening and remain poised to act! Currently we are looking at the 2009 road maintenance programme having previously authorised some patching work in Burnham Drive and safety improvements on the A370.

We seem to have some ongoing problems with fly tipping and would welcome car registrations or any other evidence if residents see something happening along Roman Road, Accommodation road or Facum lane which seem to be the favourite tipping spots.

On a broader front we have been monitoring the schools situation, and will continue to encourage some sort of priority system for Bleadon residents that fits their needs rather than the government mantra. We are also working on the 2009 Council Budget where we are identifying more savings in order to keep the council tax below inflation. This is increasingly difficult when people want to retain their favourite services but we will get there.

Meanwhile a Merry Christmas to one and all and, whilst Cllr Peddlesden is off sick at present, please feel free to e-mail me with any Bleadon /North Somerset Council issuesI think I can take it!!

Councillor Elfan ap Rees Deputy Leader

Remembrance Sunday Service 2008



The annual Remembrance Sunday service was the second to take place during the current Interregnum, (an indication in itself of the passage of time since we last enjoyed the services of a resident priest)

In 2007 the Rev'd Keith Dimoline presided at this particular service. He was able in his sermon to draw on his experiences on entering Belsen Concentration camp shortly after the entry by the Allied Forces in 1945. That description was in all probability the last occasion when we were likely to have a priest conducting the service of Remembrance, who was able to draw from his own personal knowledge, some of the horrors of the Second World War.

This year we were fortunate enough to have the Bishop of Taunton, the Right Rev'd Peter Maurice, with us to take the service. Bishop Peter on this, his first visit to Bleadon, ably led us through the intricacies of timing so that we were well prepared for the church clock sounding the eleventh hour and the subsequent two minute silence.

In his sermon Bishop Peter referred to the 110 year old survivor from the first World War, Mr. Harry Patch, resident at Wells. He told us that Harry while recently reminding his listeners of the terrors of Passchendale in 1917 and the need not to forget the past, also told his listeners to look to the future. Bishop Peter also reminded us of the need for churches to adapt to change as time passes. This occasion is always full of significance and we are grateful to the Bishop for attending and conducting the Remembrance Day service.

Subsequently, the Bishop met the Churchwardens, Sara and Brian, our Reader Jill and myself to discuss the recent (and past!) problems raised by the Interregnum. Bishop Peter was able to explain in some detail the difficulties the Diocese had experienced in filling the vacancy of a priest for this area. He confirmed that his colleague, Andy Piggott, Archdeacon of Bath, was energetically working to overcome the various problems raised by the Interregnum. These remarks confirmed the comments made by the Archdeacon when he met the P.C.C. at Bleadon earlier this week.

All of this may seem somewhat inconclusive, even vague, but the P.C.C. would like to assure all parishioners that a great deal of time and effort is being spent, not only here in this parish, but at Wells by the Diocesan hierarchy on our behalf. We are hopeful of some useful initiatives emerging from these contacts with all concerned.

NB. Residents in the village may have been puzzled by the absence of the Union Flag flying at the top of the church tower on the 9th November. This was due to a malfunction with the flag assembly which could not be remedied over the weekend

David Elliot (Chair PCC)

Record Poppy Appeal Again!

Bleadon's contribution to this year's Poppy Appeal totalled £920.28p, over £130 above last year's record. The greatest increase came from the 'House to House' collectors: I.D.Clarke, Gill Hobbs, Susan Oldfield, Sarah Ripley, Adam Stafford, Jill Walford and Pete Williams.

There was also an increase in the boxes located at Catherine's Inn Escape, The Post Office, and The Queen's Arms, to whose management we are very grateful. The national total increases every year, so it is good to see that Bleadon is keeping pace.

L.M

Bleadon Police Report



Safer, Stronger Neighbourhoods are all about finding local solutions to local problems through closer partnership working and community involvement. Now I know Bleadon hasn't got too many problems and on the whole is a very safe place to live just to prove that the below is the crime stats for the year so far:-

Crime category	Number of crimes for financial year 2008/2009	Change on same period last year 2007/2008
Homicide	0	0
Grievous Bodily Harm	0	-1
Actual Bodily Harm	2	0
Common Assault	1	-1
Harassment	1	-3
Other Violence against the Person	0	-2
Robbery	0	0
Sexual Offences	2	+2
Domestic Burglary	1	-4
Non-domestic Burglary	3	+4
Theft of Motor Vehicles	1	-1
Theft from Motor Vehicles	5	0
Criminal Damage	6	-4
Fraud / Forgery	1	+1
Other Crimes	6	+1
Total Crime	29	-11

As you can see were down from 40 crimes to 29 this represents a substantial decrease in crime in your area. I believe one of the reasons for this reduction is the increasing interest in Neighbourhood Watch, PCSO Emma Wright and local residents David Jones and Graham Lockier have been working hard towards filling the gaps in the village that are not covered. If you're not in a watch you really should think about joining one, to find out how give Emma a ring on 01934 638123.

Please remember, with Christmas comes the increase in dwelling burglaries. Undoubtedly fuelled by all those lovely presents being on show under the Christmas tree and after the big day by all the empty boxes outside showing exactly what's inside to steal. Please be careful.

Lastly, please remember that Bleadon is still one of the safest places in Avon and Somerset to live and with your help it will remain so.

From Emma and myself have a Happy Christmas and a crime free New Year.

PC Steve Church

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Christmas 2008

Refuse, Recycling and Green Waste Revised Collection Days

Due to operational reasons we have had to change the published collection days over the Christmas and New Year holiday period. Please ignore the collection dates (shown in red and with brackets) on your collection calendar and use the new dates listed below.

These changes apply to your refuse, green waste and recycling box collections.

Normal day

Monday 22 December
 Tuesday 23 December
 Wednesday 24 December
 Thursday 25 December
 Friday 26 December

Monday 29 December
 Tuesday 30 December
 Wednesday 31 December
 Thursday 1 January
 Friday 2 January

Monday 5 January
 Tuesday 6 January
 Wednesday 7 January
 Thursday 8 January
 Friday 9 January

Monday 12 January
 Tuesday 13 January
 Wednesday 14 January
 Thursday 15 January
 Friday 16 January

Revised day

Monday 22 December
 Tuesday 23 December
 Wednesday 24 December
 Monday 29 December
 Tuesday 30 December

Wednesday 31 December
 Friday 2 January
 Saturday 3 January
 Monday 5 January
 Tuesday 6 January

Wednesday 7 January
 Thursday 8 January
 Friday 9 January
 Saturday 10 January
 Monday 12 January

Tuesday 13 January
 Wednesday 14 January
 Thursday 15 January
 Friday 16 January
 Saturday 17 January

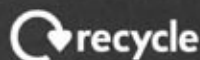


Normal collection days resume on Monday 19 January.

Please make sure that your bins, bags and boxes are on the kerbside by 7.30am on the day of collection.

Don't forget that the green garden waste collection service goes monthly during the winter months of December, January and February. Fortnightly collections will resume in March 2009.
www.n-somerset.gov.uk/greenwaste

For further information call the Streets and Open Spaces helpline on 01934 888 802
www.n-somerset.gov.uk/waste



17133 10/08

Neighbourhood Watch Scheme



Good news, with three new areas about to be added to the village coverage, we are well on the way to achieving our goal of 100% coverage for Bleadon. In addition, some existing street coordinators have extended their schemes to cover extra properties.

There are still however, a few areas yet to be included in the scheme and volunteers for these areas are urgently needed. Not only would this additional coverage add to the safety and security of the entire village, but will often qualify members of the scheme to discounts on their home insurance premiums.

If you wish to know whether you are covered by the scheme, or would be willing to act as a coordinator for your street, please contact PCSO Emma Wright on 01934-638123 or come along to the Beat Surgery on any Tuesday from 2-4pm in the Church Rooms.

David Jones

Bleadon Village NHW Coordinator

Bleadon Ladies Club



Here we are again all rushing around getting ready for Christmas, it seems to come around more quickly every year. The committee of the Ladies Club would like to wish all members and their families a 'Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year'.

We can look back on a successful year with some really good speakers, and our homespun evening was particularly memorable when we all tried to make greeting cards. Following our AGM in November, Mr Thatcher from the cider company gave us a talk and brought samples, - some members were a little merry when they went home!

Programme for 2009.

January 13th 'Harrods in Edwardian Times' by Mrs. Y.Bell

February 10th 'Talking about Queen Alexandra' by Mrs. J. Routley

March 10th 'Members painting boxes' with Mrs. D Griffiths (sounds great fun).

Our club meets the second Tuesday of the month in the Coronation Hall at 2.30pm.

We are always looking for new members so why not make a New Year resolution to come and join us, have some fun into the bargain and make some new friends.

For more information call Barbara on 814362 and she will be very happy to have a chat.

Bleadon Friendship Club



Our trips each month has taken us to several venues, one very enjoyable with wonderful weather was Sidmouth. We travelled in comfort on Wednesday 25th of June with our ever faithful W.D.C.T.G. who make all things possible for us.

Also worth mentioning was our trip to the Isle of Wight, having been invited to join Hutton Club eight of us took a 5 day break and again had the best of the summer. Sunday May 11th saw the intrepid travellers assembled at 9am and picked up very promptly from the bus stop in Bleadon. Had a good hotel and very friendly company. Thanks again Hutton.

Several of us enjoyed the Bleadon Sports and Country Show at Lympsham; after being rained off in August, September saw somewhat drier weather for the show to take place. You will be pleased to know that the class for which we had donated a cup. 'The Veteran Cup'. resulted in two club members' dogs gaining rosettes; also in the class for Rescue dogs again two Rosettes, Mr.Maurice Chapman with Sally, and Mr Gordon Brown with Hughie. Well done to 'Sally and Hughie'!

New Year Lunch will be at the Webbington Country Club on Wednesday January 7th 2009
The usual transport has already been arranged. Cannot risk this adventurous lot getting lost after a jolly lunch!

CLUB REOPENS JANUARY 9th 2009

January	9th	Thanks for the memories - Terry Merrett-Smith
	16th	Films from - Graham Wiltshire
	30th	Music from Chris Rainbow
February	20th	U 3 A Concert Party
March	6th	Chris Cudlipp
	13th	Work of the British Legion a talk by Mrs D Smith

BEST WISHES FOR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR 2009

Beryl 813363 Club Sec.



Happy days on the Isle of Wight

Bleadon Horticultural Society



This year's summer flower show attracted 240 entries from 40 exhibitors, ranging in age from 2yrs. to over 80 yrs.! This was the largest show of the last five years in spite of the recent poor weather. Once again the Coronation Hall felt like Covent Garden (of the old days), with colourful flowers, pot plants, fruit and beautifully presented vegetables. The mouth watering home craft exhibits and imaginative children's entries completed the scene.

And the winners were:-

Penny Skelley won 3 trophies for floral exhibits including the best in show.

Amanda Du-Rose won 5 trophies

Reg Davis won 2 cups and the RHS Banksian Medal.

Beryl Davis won the cup for most points in the home craft classes

In the junior section:-

Pete Durston won the cup for his age group

Breeze Pheasant won the cup in her section as well as a cup for the best overall exhibit.

The winter programme kicked off in October with a talk by Mark Walker 'Walker's Garden Retreats'. This was an illustrated talk with a difference as it highlighted RHS gardens for charity. Mark explained the planning and execution of his specially designed garden for the Children's Hospice South West, which he unveiled at the Hampton Court Flower Show in 2007. This was featured widely on BBC Gardener's World with Joe Swift being full of praise for the Hobbit based garden.

The countdown to Christmas is now underway and Paul Gilmore educated and entertained us royally with his beautiful arrangements for the festive season. He really has a superb eye for the simple yet spectacular approach.

The gardening year was rounded off with the usual Beetle Drive and American Supper evening.

Dates for 2009 diary:-

Tuesday January 20th - Dr Hamish Batten will give an illustrated talk 'Penstemons in all their Glory'

Tuesday February 17th – RHS Judge Jackie Petherbridge will give us the benefit of her experience with an illustrated talk on 'Daffodils'. (Ideal timing for the spring show).

Saturday March 14th – The 35th Spring Flower Show at 2.30pm in the Coronation Hall.

We hope to see the Hall bursting at the seams with flowers, pot plants, photographs and handicrafts as well as children's exhibits. Schedules will be available in the New Year from the usual sources.

All the talks are open to anyone on payment of £1 admission and take place in the Coronation Hall starting at 8.30pm.

HAPPY NEW YEAR and KEEP GARDENING

Chris Cudlipp



Baby and Toddler 1971



Bleadon and Lymsham Children



Children Pageant



School 1910



Rectory Party



Rectory Party 1910



Fancy Dress, Whitegate Farm 1951-52



School Children, Old Rectory circa 1956

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

Ratty's Back in Bleadon

Mole's dear friend Rat was in fact a water vole, and they have been having a hard time over the past century. A survey in 2004 shows the UK's population as falling 90-95% over the last 50 years; a pretty drastic decline. This was largely due to habitat destruction, pollution and mink. Since then they have been adopted under the Government's Biodiversity Action Plan, and in April 2008 were given greater protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Water voles and their habitats must now be considered in planning applications, and it is a legal offence to damage, destroy or obstruct access to any structure or place which water voles use for shelter or protection, or to disturb water voles while they are using such a place.

So things are finally looking up for Ratty!

In fact, so much so that they have been regularly seen or heard 'plopping' in and out of the rhynes surrounding Bleadon's fields. Take a walk on a quiet Sunday afternoon and you may be lucky enough to see one cropping a neat lawn surrounding its burrow, or hear it 'plop' into the water and see one swimming – a short, brown, furry tail making it easily distinguishable in the water from a rat. Unlike a rat, the paws and ears are also covered in fur.

The best description I could find for a water vole goes thus: *"A water vole looks like rat that has been transfigured (in Professor McGonagall's class, presumably!) into a teddy bear, but got stuck halfway. The face is round and fat and charming...As champagne goes straight to the pleasure centres, so the sight of these little creatures goes straight to the endearment centres of the brain."*

In the absence of Ratty himself, a water vole's burrow can be identified by his living habits. Aside from the giveaway hole in the bank, water voles like a well stocked larder. That is, plenty of fresh vegetation growing nearby. If your eyes are good enough, they will nearly always have a neatly cropped patch of grass and reeds surrounding their burrow, and a well trodden path leading to their latrine (the contents of which, as I can tell you from numerous water vole surveys, is small, green and rather pleasant smelling!).

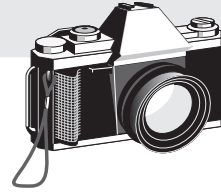
In conservation terms, over the past five years they have increased in numbers and moved out of the 'Endangered' category but are still 'Threatened'. We are very lucky to have these endearing creatures back in the village, and in making sure our rhynes are kept clean and well maintained we can ensure that they continue to breed here.

So, as Mole cried before setting off on the journey that took him to Ratty's place on the riverside; "Hang spring-cleaning!" Get out to the rhynes at the heart of our village and take a look.

Kate Jones

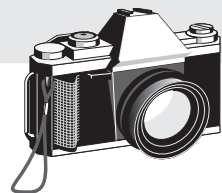


An Encounter With A Bricklayer



Back in 1953 I was working as chief photographer for a company who specialised in producing large display colour transparencies up to 60" x 40" and our main clients were from the motor industry. They included Ford Motor Co., Smith's Instruments, Austin Motor co., Ferodo, Rover Car Co., Jowett Cars and most of the other car and component manufacturers around at that time. One day we received a commission from Rover to photograph a special Land Rover, the details of which had to be kept confidential. So much so that I was only given the full details two weeks before the assignment, and it came about as follows. I was summoned to the London office of Rover to an audience with the head of Publicity (there were no marketing departments in those days). He explained to me that a special presentation had been made of a Land Rover to a special V.I.P. on the occasion of his 80th Birthday on 30th. November 1953 and I was required to photograph him with the vehicle at some future date to be agreed, once he had a window in his diary. The man was no other than Sir Winston Churchill. It wasn't until January 1954 that I received a telephone call giving me the date of the photoshoot. It was to be at Chartwell, Churchill's house in Kent, on Saturday 14th February at 2pm. The days before this had been exceptionally cold with a lot of snow and 2pm at this time of year was not the best time as far as the quality of the light was concerned, never mind the weather conditions prevailing at that moment. I got to Chartwell at just after 1.30pm and made my presence known through Churchill's butler. My then fiancée, Pauline, (now my wife) came with me and I gave her my Roliflex camera with instructions to take some candid photographs whilst I managed the large ½ plate camera (6 ½ ins. X 4½ ins negatives) I was using on that day. The day was bitter cold, and the sky looking as though it was about to dump another load of snow at any minute, which it did shortly after the session. I waited for the car and the great man to appear, then at five minutes to two the car arrived outside the front of Chartwell, being driven by the estate manager and on the dot of two o'clock the front door opened and there was Sir Winston dressed in his famous siren suit and overcoat and smoking a cigar and accompanied by his poodle "Rufus". I set up the car in the position I wanted for the first shot and got Churchill into the passenger seat and asked Pauline to start shooting. Churchill barked at her to cease as he would not allow candid photographs to be taken. I took one photograph and then made an adjustment to the exposure to accommodate the worsening light conditions and at the same time to persuade the estate manager to remove himself from the shot, but to no avail. For reasons of his own he wanted to be in the shots and to be quite honest he was a nuisance. All this time Clementine, Lady Churchill, was keeping a watchful eye on proceedings from a downstairs window. I took another shot and then had the car moved so that the front door of the house was providing a background for the vehicle and showing location details of the occasion. No sooner had I taken the shot than the door opened and Lady Churchill called out "enough" saying that it was too cold for Sir Winston to remain outside, bringing the session to a very abrupt finale. By this time I had only taken three shots and was beginning to have a good rapport with him and expecting to take at least 20, but it was not to be, and I had to be content with the ones I had got and sweat it out till the Monday after before I could process them to find out whether they were any good. They did turn out reasonably well, in spite of all the hazards encountered. At the conclusion of the session, Sir Winston invited me into the house for coffee and offered me a cigar. He produced a very large box containing a variety of size cigars from a cheroot size to his famous "Havana". Being a gentleman, I took one of the middle size ones, whereupon he snatched it from my hand and trumpeted, "I said a cigar", and took one of his "Havanas" from the box and thrust it into my hand. I still have that cigar suitably preserved. He then took me into his study to show me the original dioramas of the Aromanche beaches actually used in the planning of the Normandy landings on D-Day. These were huge, three dimensional models showing in the most detailed way, the beaches and the surrounding areas of all the invasion sites involved on that memorable day. He then took me into his studio where his

An Encounter With A Bricklayer



large collection of paintings were kept, some finished, some partly complete and several on easels in the process of completion. He then invited me to join him at the large window of his studio which overlooked the considerable back garden and pointed out to me the wall which he had built and was obviously very proud of. He told me that building it kept him sane and contented and he regarded it as an art form. I found him a man with enormous charisma along with a strong need to be in control, but with a very warm side when in his own environs. I shall never forget his penetrating ice blue eyes which seemed to stare right through you. I wonder where those photographs are now, probably in China with the rest of Rover. I know they are still around as they were published as recently as 2000 in the Daily Telegraph when the vehicle came up for auction, and printed again in 2006. This was not the first time they appeared in the press as they were published all over the world back in 1954 and at several other times since.

Ken Tapley.

Bleadon Photographic Group.

The Bleadon Players



After the success of our last production - a psychological thriller, we were hoping to offer a Harold Pinter play next. However we were somewhat crisply reminded that the village expects a seasonal show at this time of year.

So with all the usual comings and goings we will be on stage in the Coronation Hall on 8th, 9th and 10th January presenting 'Hansel and Gretel'- The Pantomime!



Tickets as usual from the Post Office or on the door.
Well you wanted a pantomime!

A Special Christmas Angel

Molly was a special baby. Not only being born on a bright Christmas morning but also arriving on a day when the first Christmas snow fell for many years. Entering into the world as a morning sun gleamed brightly on soft unaccustomed cloaks of white, changing the ordinary aspects of the small cottage hospital into something magical. Molly was Margaret and David's first child and they were so overjoyed that their baby had arrived on Christmas Day, all pink and rosy, with dark hair and big brown eyes. A true gift from God, a special baby. They thought looking after a baby would be harder than it was but Molly was such a placid child that they soon got to grips with parenthood. They had lots of help from relatives and friends but she really was a little angel, a great joy. David's job as a postman meant that he had to get up very early in the morning. He would often creep into the nursery before he went to work to look at Molly asleep in her cot, gazing lovingly at her and wondering how he could be so lucky with a beautiful daughter and a loving wife.

Time passed so quickly and soon Molly was coming up to her first birthday, this was going to be a special Christmas for them all. Margaret bought Molly a doll for her birthday and David made her a rocking horse for Christmas. Working on the rocking horse in his spare time he lovingly shaped the wood; mounting it on its two rockers adding a saddle and reins and painting it brown with white spots. Whilst David was busy Margaret had put up decorations and balloons all over the house but they decorated the tree together, with lights, tinsel and coloured balls. David then lifting Molly up and helping her put an angel on the top.

"Look Molly an angel just like you," he said, giving her a big kiss. Now everything was ready for Molly's special day and when Christmas Day dawned Molly awoke early as if she knew. Margaret and David went into her room, taking her from her cot and singing 'Happy Birthday'. It was an exciting time helping open her presents, Molly loving her doll and hugging it close.

"Let's give her a special name," Margaret said. "I know, we'll call her Betsy."

Then, with David helping, Molly tore the wrapping paper off the horse and her eyes lit up. Lifting his daughter onto the saddle and rocking her back and forth the look on his daughter's face was all that David wanted for Christmas.



Molly seemed to grow overnight and they soon had to move things out of her reach as she toddled around getting into mischief. She climbed onto the furniture and sometimes fell off but her tears were always short-lived as she was turning into quite a tomboy. It wasn't long before Molly was old enough for play-school and she always had a lovely time there painting and playing with the other children. Bringing her first painting home they proudly mounted it on the wall. Many more paintings and models followed which soon covered the wall and filled the shelves of her bedroom. As Molly was growing up fast, Margaret and David decided they would like another child. It would be nice to have a brother or sister for her so she wouldn't be an only child. Time went by but it wasn't to be but they didn't worry unduly as they were quite happy with their daughter and it would soon be Christmas again. This would be Molly's fifth birthday and she was going to school in the New Year. Together with her best friend Sarah she'd be going into Miss Smith's class and both girls were very excited.

Margaret had taken Molly to town to get new clothes for school. They also went to see Father Christmas in his grotto, a magical setting with snow and reindeer lit with lots of fairy lights. Molly's eyes were as wide as saucers as she sat by Santa and nervously whispered in his ear what she would like for

A Special Christmas Angel

Christmas and then, Molly happily clutching Santa's gift, they caught the bus home. Leaving the bus they had to cross a busy main road to where they lived, Molly as usual skipping ahead to press the crossing button and they waited until the green man appeared. Halfway across a car came roaring towards them, its horn shrieking, and Margaret instinctively scooped Molly up in her arms. As if in slow motion she saw the car leaping at them. She saw every detail of the radiator as it grew larger and larger then a smashing blow as the vehicle struck. Pain shot through her as she was catapulted across the road, then everything went black.

Waking in hospital the first thing Margaret saw was David leaning over her, his face white and tear stained.

"Where's Molly?" She cried in anguish.

David couldn't speak and she knew then that her little angel was gone. David hardly left Margaret's side in hospital while she recovered, later telling her that on the crossing they had both been hit by a drunk driver; Molly killed outright and Margaret left with broken limbs. Distraught as they both were they had to arrange Molly's funeral. Betsy was placed in her coffin and they wrapped Molly's arms around her doll and said their goodbyes. It was a very bad time for them after the funeral as they tried to cope, life for them it seemed would never be the same. They couldn't come to terms with losing a beautiful daughter and what made it worse was finding out that the driver of the car had been to a Christmas party and had decided to drive home. David had taken down the Christmas decorations while his wife was in hospital, wanting to obliterate the festivities from his mind. Standing at the door of Molly's bedroom, looking at her pictures and the models she had made at play school, he just couldn't bear it and he slowly closed the door.

The next year passed in a blur. The car driver was sent to prison but it didn't help to ease the pain. That Christmas instead of a time of joy it was one of deep sorrow, bringing back memories of their special little girl. Trying to recapture happier times David decided to decorate the living room, buying a tree and putting it in the corner where they always had. Margaret reluctantly helped him hang the trimmings and when it was finished they both stood back looking at it. An immense feeling of sadness came over them at a time when they should have been so happy. Then, slowly, a light began to shine above the angel on top the tree. Was that Molly they could see in the light? They thought they heard a childish laugh and then heard a small voice.

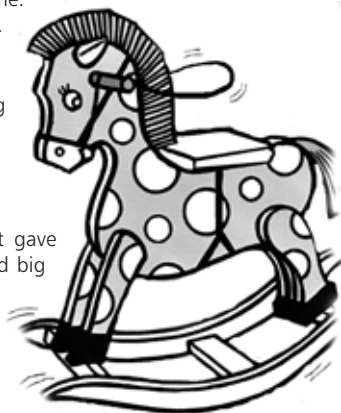
"Don't cry, I'm happy in heaven. One day I'll be with you both again. They heard Molly's distinctive giggle then, "Look after my baby brother for me."

They were stunned, but happier than they had been for a long time.

Their daughter was now in heaven, their 'Special Christmas Angel'. There came a noise from upstairs and they hurried to see what it was, astounded when they realised the sound was coming from Molly's bedroom. Pushing open the door they saw the rocking horse swaying as if someone was riding it. They weren't imagining it, they stood looking then turning to each other and knowing that for a precious moment Molly had come back to them.

Happiness arrived again later the following year when Margaret gave birth to a baby boy. They call him James and he has dark hair and big brown eyes just like his sister. One day they will tell him about his sister in heaven and that she will always be looking after him.

The End





NEW TO COMPUTING?

STRUGGLING WITH THE INTERNET?
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NEED HELP WITH ENHANCING PHOTOS?

RING PENNY ON 814142

ATTENTION ALL DOG OWNERS

I've no doubt that most of you who walk your dogs on South Hill are aware that cattle are grazing there these days. Sadly it has been brought to our notice that some less responsible dog owners have been exercising their pets off the lead near the stock and there have been some cases of chasing and worrying.

There is legislation in place (Animals Act 1971) which gives farmers /stockmen the right to safeguard their livestock. There are some strong penalties in place for the offending dog owners, viz. fines, imprisonment and the euthanasia of the dog or dogs. Some farmers will take the law to mean that they have the right to shoot dogs found out of control near their stock.

During my career as a vet I had to deal with both sides of this unpleasant problem. I have seen what damage even a small dog can do to a sheep or a calf, and I've seen the distress when a much loved family pet has had to be destroyed under a police order.

Dogs follow their basic instincts when it comes to chasing and killing, it is up to individual owners to make sure that those instincts don't come to the fore!

**PLEASE CONTROL YOUR DOG NEAR LIVESTOCK
KEEP IT ON A LEAD!**



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

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Sometime in early February 2009, the Coronation Hall Committee
will be holding a

Silent Auction.

Please save any unwanted Christmas presents or any other items
you would like to donate, we would be very pleased to receive them.

Tickets will be on sale in the New Year.

All proceeds will help with increasing running costs of the two halls.

Betty Paterson

Tel 812183.

Bleadon Country Sports

Bleadon Sports was originally scheduled for 16th August but was postponed because of wet ground and was rearranged for 21st September. Fortunately, the sun shone and the show was well supported.

For the horse world, there was showing, jumping, gymkhana, dressage and carriage driving.

93 dogs competed in a mixture of pedigree and novelty classes. Mrs Thelma Moore from Bleadon received a cup for Best Puppy in Show.

Children and grown-ups alike enjoyed the traditional fun events such as "bringing home the milk" and "musical mats in cars".

A total of £1,400 was raised and donated on November 18th at The Brent Knoll Inn.

Rachel Amesbury and Trevor Savage presented cheques to Becky Crump from Brainwave and Marion Williams from The Moorland Mousie Trust. A donation has also been sent to Dogs for the Disabled.

The next, which will be the 70th Annual Bleadon Country Sports will take place on Saturday 22nd August 2009



Allison Hillyer

CLIC Sargent Quiz 22nd Nov 2008

There was the usual gathering of 112 people at the Coronation Hall on Saturday night. It seemed to be a very successful evening, but I was dreading the end of the evening when I intended to announce that this was the last Quiz I would be doing. I have a disabled husband whose condition is getting steadily worse and at 92 he is not going to get any better. A series of strokes has left him with very slurred speech and very little mobility and as I am 86 in a month I feel I cannot continue to organise this event. However, the good news is that we made £1287.63 for CLIC — that can't be bad.

I would like to thank all the people from the village who have helped and supported me for the last 21 years. It would not have happened without you. Thank you and God bless.
Pat Dain.

If my Christmas Quiz is driving you mad just phone 01934 812 859 and all will be revealed.!!!

MASTERMIND.

Friday January 2nd 2009 at 8.00pm

**Robert Collard, grandson of the late Jack Sommerfield
will be taking part in this well known quiz programme.**

His specialist subject is 'The History of the Trans-Siberian Railway'

We wish him luck in the big black chair!

A list of organisations which regularly use the Coronation Halls

Mondays

11.00 am - 12.00	Marie's Mini Movers**	Mrs M Keele	07939 038 071
2.00 -5.00 pm	Bleadon Bridge Club	Mr D Munden	812772
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			

Contact

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 G Bonham	811630
6.00 - 7.30 pm	Bleadon Brownies**	Mrs R Hemmings	811891
7.30-9.00 pm	Bleadon Guides** (term time)	Mrs B Ware	811545
7.30 pm	Bleadon Photographic Group	Mr K Tapley	623877
1st,2nd,4th,5th	Sept-May		
7.30 pm	Bleadon Horticultural Society	Mr C Cudlipp	813152
3rd – Oct-June			

Wednesdays

10.00 am - noon	Infant Welfare Clinic & Toddler Group	The Health Visitor at the Clinic	
2nd & 4th			
10.00 am - noon	Toddler Group		
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
3rd Thurs	Sept-June		
7.30pm	Bleadon Sugarcraft Club	Mrs C Peters	843754/626587
	4th Thursday		

A list of organisations which regularly use the Coronation Halls

Fridays

2-4pm	Bleadon Friendship Club	Mrs B Davies	813363
7.00pm	Short Mat Bowling Club** Sept-May	Mrs G Bonham	811630
5.30 - 6.30 pm	Pilates Classes	Mrs E Duffill	623653

Saturdays

3rd Saturday	Village Market	Mrs J Jones	812370
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Sundays

2.30 Sept-May	Short Mat Bowling Club**	Mrs G Bonham	811630
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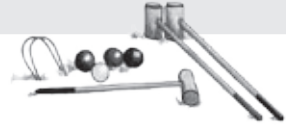
**in the Jubilee Room

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

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

Thurs,Fri,Sat 8,9,10 January	PANTOMIME! "Hansel & Gretel"	Bleadon Players
Tues 27th January 9.30-1.00 pm	Public Rights of Way Public Meeting	North Somerset c.c
Tuesday 3rd March	Public Meeting In the Youth Club	Mendip Hills AONB 6.30 - 9.00 pm
Saturday 14th March 2-4 pm	SPRING FLOWER SHOW and Art Exhibition	Horticultural Soc.
Saturday 4th April 10.30 – noon	COFFEE MORNING	Friendship Club
Monday 4th May	MAY FAYRE Art Exhibition, Stalls, Fun, Games and Bumper Bric-a-Brac	Bleadon Church

Weston Croquet Club



In July the Weston Croquet Club moved to its new home in Bleadon. We have had a magnificent reception from the village which enabled the Club membership to increase from 14 to 40.

We believe that over 50 people have tried the game, so we expect a further growth next season. The ground is having work undertaken over the winter period so three large lawns will be available in April 2009.

The Club encourages people to play both Association and Golf Croquet and anyone can try the game for themselves.

The village shop has been very supportive and we have enjoyed teas and drinks with visiting clubs from the West Country.

Club members will enjoy a social event in the meeting room on 3rd February to continue to socialise and get to know one another.

Thanks Bleadon for your welcome.

Bleadon Folk Dance Club



The club celebrated 25 years of honouring their partners with a party evening in the Hall.

There was much dancing, a great deal of food (American supper) and two cakes!

During the evening there were tributes to those who had been instrumental in setting up the group all those years before, and especially to John Tomlinson who died last year.

To remember him that night flowers were laid on his memorial tablet in the Churchyard.

The club meets regularly every month (3rd Thursday) and all are welcome, it's a fun way to keep fit and it keeps the mind agile too, trying to remember all the moves!

Hope to see you in the New Year.

For details ring Jean 814007

A note of thanks from Jean McCoubrey ...

I would like all the kind people of Bleadon for the lovely cards of sympathy following the death of my husband Bill.

.. and From Lyn Riding

I would like to say a big 'Thank you' for all the cards and messages of support I received during John's illness and on his subsequent death - and also to the many folk who were at his funeral.

To know there are so many lovely people in this wonderful village of ours really helps.

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This Newsletter is Edited by **PENNY ROBINSON** of 1, The Veale, Bleadon BS24 ONP

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