

# BLEADON



VILLAGE NEWS 81

Monthly indoor

# Saturday MARKET

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 RD. 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
BRIAN GAMBLE	'ASHDENE' BLEADON RD., BLEADON.	TEL. 811709
I.D. CLARKE	'THE GRANARY' MULBERRY LANE, BLEADON.	TEL. 815182
ROBERT HOUSE	LAKE FARM COTTAGES, SHIPLATE ROAD, BLEADON.	TEL. 815588

The Council meets on the 2nd Monday of the month at 7.30pm, in the Coronation Hall. An agenda is published on the Parish notice board, and any Parishioner who wishes to, may attend these meetings. If there is a particular issue you would like to raise, could you please let the Parish Clerk know in advance and at the latest by the Friday immediately preceding the meeting. This will give him the chance to collect the most up to date information available.

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

BRUCE POOLE, 'THE CHIPPINGS', 21 STONELEIGH CLOSE,  
BURNHAM-ON-SEA, SOMERSET TA8 3EE  
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**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 August 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](mailto: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](http://www.bleadonparishcouncil.gov.uk)**

## Chairman's Report 2008-9

I feel lucky to be able, once again, to begin my report by saying it has been a good year for Bleadon as we still progress and prosper: two of Bleadon's greatest assets are the Coronation Hall and Jubilee room; these valuable function areas have continuous hirings and events, which bring many visitors into our village, plus the now well established Monthly Markets.

We as a Council have many compliments on the overall appearance of the village. This is due to the diligent work of our Village Ranger, John Hurcombe. The tubs and garden areas will be planted up in summer colour before the May Fayre on 4th May. The dry stone wall on Roman road was being repaired by the Mendip rangers and hopefully with grants will now be completed by volunteers by the end of the year.

The play park with the wonderful new piece of equipment, not one but three slides, is constantly used and enjoyed by the little ones. As you will realise, for safety, this area is constantly monitored and maintained by the Parish Council.

This year we dealt with 31 planning applications, one more than the previous year even with the new planning regulations that came in last October. North Somerset upheld the decisions of the Parish Council in all but one application. Our target of the road improvement on the A370 is, apart from the signage, completed. The revised bus service is running smoothly with no reported problems. The Patch-work Gang for remedial repair on our roads will soon visit the village again.

The Youth Club continues to thrive maintaining a steady 50 membership, 27 of whom live in the village and 10 from Lympham. Our volunteer youth leaders, which include the guides and brownies, must be thanked for their work and the endless support which they give in caring for our young people.

I know you all appreciate the work and effort that has gone into making our open spaces look well maintained and tidy, every nook and cranny in fact. The allotments are all taken and there is a waiting list – I think they look even better than the ones on Television. In the last year, we have also completed the land registry of Parish land.

Our beat police officer PC Church and PSO Emma Wright have deservedly won an award for their policing, which includes Bleadon. Their conscientious work has been recognised. The Neighbourhood watch scheme now covers 100% of the village and thanks to the volunteers helps to keep the Bleadon relatively crime free. I take this opportunity to thank David Jones for his enthusiasm for this scheme.

This is a brief report only. Much more information may be found on the new Parish web-site, where fuller reports by the Councillors will be available. We have again applied for Quality Council status and await the outcome. As a tier of local Government, we as a Parish Council are closest to the people that it serves. I hope you feel that this council does its best to serve you well and works hard on your behalf.

**Penny Skelley**, Chairman

## Chairman's postscript

Since completion of this report, the Quality Council status has been reaccredited.

## Open Spaces Report

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

The summer floral displays around the village were up to the usual standard and I have to thank all those volunteers who planted them and also the good folk who tended them during the summer. (In spite of some unwanted attention from a vandal determined to spoil them). The winter tubs have been equally well maintained and the spring bulb display both in the tubs and along the roadside look very welcoming as you drive into the Village.

We have to thank our Village Ranger John Hurcombe for his constant attention to these as well as other aspects of village tidiness, e.g. the old quarry, the lay-bys, the pathways, the play area and the Hall car park – not to mention the outer boundaries of Accommodation Rd. and Roman Road.. Never have so many leaves been swept up! During the February snow he and others also helped to keep the paths etc. open and safe.

There still appears to be the perennial problem of ‘dog mess’ on the footpaths and verges, in spite of the bins which were strategically placed around the village for this purpose. I really am at a loss to know what more we can do unless the offenders are caught in the act, when perhaps ‘naming and shaming’ would prove an effective deterrent.

Mark Howe has continued to keep the grass cut around the play area and the churchyard and for this we thank him and his team.

The Churchyard will soon have a new look, as plugs of spring flowers will be planted in the grass amongst the gravestones and along the path. This is due to take place at the time of the annual ‘plant-up’ at the end of April.

Probably the full benefit will be seen next spring, rather than this one.

The car park and area around the youth club have both been upgraded during the past year and I know that you will all agree what an improvement there has been. CCTV installed last year has been invaluable in controlling some of the vandalism, and is set to be upgraded as well.

As ever the more outlying rural parts of the Village have been kept in good order by Andy Eddy and the Mendip Rangers. In addition to the usual maintenance of the gates and stiles, the band of willing ‘stone-wallers have done a great job on the boundary walls along part of Roman Road.

My thanks to Councilors Mary Shepherd and Keith Pyke who respectively look after the allotments and the children’s play area; their reports will contain details of the past year’s activities on these fronts.

**Penny Robinson**

## Play Area

The biggest improvement to the play area for years came with the installation in the summer of a new triple-slide multi-play tower.

After decades of providing fun for the children of Bleadon, our old steel slide was succumbing to rust and corrosion. It was rapidly approaching the end of its safe life. We were fortunate to be able to draw on some of the windfall funding that the parish council had generated in the previous year.

A budget of £8000 was set aside to install new play equipment to replace the slide.

We looked at a variety of options and consulted with the park users. Finally settling on a Monster Play Systems "Escapade" as the best-value option within our budget.

Installed on three very wet days in August, the multi-play tower quickly proved to be a very popular addition to the play area. Surrounded with 12 cubic metres of play bark for safety in the event of falls and tumbles the new kit has established itself as a focal attraction in the park. Children can scale the curly climber or the mountain climb or choose to socialise with friends on the play seats below the platform. With three parallel slides, even sliding has become a more sociable activity.

Throughout the year John the Bleadon Ranger continues to clear up litter, rake the play bark and sand, and regularly check that the play area is safe for our children. Mark Howe ensures that the grassed areas are maintained throughout the growing season.

The popularity of the park has meant that some areas of grass are suffering from a little baldness. We plan to reseed these areas in the Spring, so it may be necessary to keep ball players off these areas for a while. How lovely it is to report that our only problem is created by over-use!

## More planting

We've bought native mixed wildflower seeds to sow in the Combe Quarry this Spring. Hopefully, we'll begin to see a swathe of colour appear across this little nature reserve over the coming years.

This Spring in the churchyard we'll be planting 300 Cowslip plugs. So look out for these sunny additions to your walk through the churchyard in future Springs. If this proves to be successful we hope to extend future planting with bulbs and native plants to other areas.

## Youth Club

Membership of the Youth Club remains at a steady 50+ throughout the year. There's a regular Thursday night attendance of around 20 youngsters. Lately there has been a predominance of boys, but no doubt the gender ratio will shift back to redress the balance as members come and go.

There is a misconception amongst some residents that the youth club is of benefit mostly to youngsters from outside the village. In reality the membership details show that 52% say they live in Bleadon (27 members), 10 come from Lympsham (19%) and some from as far away as Mark and Highbridge. So, whilst it is true that many young people from outside the parish boundary do benefit, it's our local children who benefit the most.

There has been a bit of a shift round in the leadership provided and funded by North Somerset Council. Mike has now taken over the regular leader's role with support from Patrick and Ann. Their enthusiasm and energy for their work is inspiring and boundless. Under their watchful and caring eyes you can be sure that our young people are getting the best possible support.

The young people themselves suggested that the weekly subs should increase from 50p to £1. This was welcomed by the leaders and the management committee who struggle with the cost of running activities and maintaining the building.

We've seen and heard lots of activity with the musical instruments that the club purchased last year. There's no sign of any new Madonna or Robbie Williams yet though! The new table tennis table and Wii games have added a competitive edge and are always popular. There have been the usual trips and activities, including ice skating in Bristol, a trip to Thorpe Park and Churchill dry ski slope, BBQs, healthy cooking, sexual advice and much more.

A grant of £500 from the parish council helped enormously towards the purchase of ten folding tables for use at markets and other events in the club. The Christmas and Easter market overspill from the Coronation Halls has become a regular and welcome feature of our events calendar. It gives the whole village the chance to have a nose around the club and see what a delightful asset we have.

**Keith Pyke**

## Village News Magazine

Most of you do not realize is that each copy costs at least £1.20p to produce. Other villages charge a subscription, - we deliver it free, however the charges for advertising will remain the same as last year. Last June we introduced a new system of asking advertisers to pay in advance for their entries, thus avoiding the need to send out too many repeat invoices. Several new advertisers have come on-stream during the year and I'm pleased to say that most of them are staying with us. Already the pages for 2009-2010 are filling up.

The photo-centrefold is still a feature much enjoyed and I am again most grateful to Marshall's, who have generously sponsored us to the tune of £250.00p in the coming year, to cover the additional cost of printing these extra pages.

As always I have to thank John Hickley who every quarter comes up with original drawings for the cover, and he always manages to find a topical theme. Regular contributors also send in short stories and interesting articles so making our quarterly newsletter more than just a series of club and Parish Council reports.

My thanks all those who regularly distribute the magazine, thus ensuring that all the households in the Parish receive a copy. I am pleased to report that 'Bleadon Village News' still reaches a much wider audience as copies are regularly posted to Canada, Australia and the USA, to ex-pats who still want to know what goes on in our lovely Somerset Village. Via the website there is even a 'Facebook' entry!

The magazine was entered into the 'Village Newsletter of the Year' competition, unfortunately we didn't win but did get a good report. We may well be trying again this coming year.

## The Parish Council Website

As of this month, regular 'web surfers' will notice that our site ([www.bleadonparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.bleadonparishcouncil.gov.uk)) has a 'new look'; we have changed to a company called 'Customers Really Matter' and they have designed us a really interesting and dynamic site. The new version will be more user friendly and colourful; parishioners will be able to contact the BPC directly via e-mail, receive up to date news flashes of events around the village and be able to sign up to receive the 'Village News' electronically. There will also be links to local businesses, hostelrys and much, much more! The village clubs and societies will all be represented as before and I hope that they will keep Keith, Bruce or me informed of their events so that we can make the site as current and interesting as possible.

If for any reason you do not receive a copy of the magazine it is possible to access it via the website as before.

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

Councillor Pyke, the Clerk and I thank the staff at CRM for their efforts on our behalf, and their patience with us during the training period.

**Penny Robinson**, Editor

## Bleadon Village Roads and Transport

I had hoped that by the time I was preparing this report the improvements to the A370 at Purn Way would be complete. The Parish council were advised by North Somerset last year about the improvements that should have been completed by the end of 2008. This date slipped until early 2009 and the works have not yet been completed.

The early plans proposed moving the lighting columns back to the wall in order to improve the sight line when emerging from Bleadon Road on to the A370. However, once the work commenced it became apparent that, due to the various services running along the verge, moving the lighting columns was not possible. However, the pavement has been laid, new road markings are in place and a raised bus stop formed.

New vehicle activated signs are in place and set to illuminate if a vehicle approaches the junction at a speed in excess of 55MPH. It seems that there is a problem with the sign supplier and this is delaying completion of the project.

On the whole, the improvements have helped make the area safer, tidier and made waiting for, boarding and alighting from busses, a much improved experience.

North Somerset highway maintenance department have been very responsive to our requests for pot-hole repairs.

The orange bus continues to operate on a regular basis without any reported problems.

**Brian Gamble**



## Allotments

The Parish Council has 16 fully occupied allotments all of which have been well maintained. There is a waiting list of 8 and the Parish Council is trying to negotiate renting a small piece of neighbouring land in order to accommodate our anxious gardeners.

**Mary Sheppard**

## Planning

The Parish Council has dealt with 31 applications including 3 Tree Preservation Orders (TPO's). Site meetings were held and with two exceptions North Somerset has upheld the Parish Council decisions. One of the refusals went to appeal but was subsequently dismissed by the Planning Inspectorate. Thanks are due to the Councillors who turn up for the site meetings sometimes at short notice. Also to Councillor Graham Lockyer Planning Vice Chairman whose help has been of great help

**Mary Sheppard**

## Bleadon Coronation Hall Management Committee

I am pleased to report that the Independent Examiner, Shirley Campbell, has examined the accounts for the year ended 28 February 2009 and she has confirmed that these have been correctly maintained and there is no matter which gives her cause for concern.

The Coronation Hall and Jubilee Room continue to be popular village venues that are now used by a wide range of people in the community for family events, group meetings, craft meetings, exercise classes, dancing and so on.

Total Income for the year amounted to £21,124 down by 4% on last year but Expenditure was also down by 3% to £15,908. As a result, £5,216 was transferred to the General Fund which now stands at £34,258. Expenditure covers all aspects of maintaining and running the Coronation Hall and Jubilee Room which includes heating and lighting, water and sewerage, insurance, licences, cleaning, general repairs and improvements. Energy costs continue to be a problem and steps are being taken to attempt a reduction of consumption.

The main income has been from hiring the Hall with fees down by some 6% compared to last year. This reduction is in spite of increasing the hire charges on 1 January 2008 and is a reflection of the current financial climate. We have seen another year of successful Village Markets and a new innovation, a Silent Auction, was another successful event enjoyed by the community. These functions generate valuable funds for the Coronation Hall and credit for the success of them must go to the many volunteers who assist on these occasions. The Hall Management Committee would also like to thank the various people and organisations who have kindly made donations or offered their services.

The Hall Management Committee has continued to invest in the Coronation Hall and Jubilee Room with the following improvements made during the past year:

- Installation of new upvc windows in the Coronation Hall kitchen which have considerably reduced the problem of condensation
- Complete redecoration of the Jubilee Room which now has a much brighter and acceptable ambiance.
- Additional trestle tables purchased for the Jubilee Room

In addition, £1,592 was spent on general maintenance which includes £512 to seal and by-pass the leaking water pipes buried in the concrete floor of the Coronation Hall kitchen.

The issue of Custodian Trustee and the associated matter of whose name should appear on the Hall insurance policy have both been resolved. By rescinding its earlier Resolution, the Parish Council accepted that the asset value of the Hall Buildings should not be included in the accounts of the Hall Committee. One matter remains to be addressed and that is to redraft the Governing Document (the Trust Deed of 14 January 1938) to remove the ambiguities contain in that document. This matter is being discussed with the Charity Commission.

This has been another successful year for the Coronation Hall and Jubilee Room. The Hall Management Committee would like to thank everyone who has used the Halls for their continuing support, in particular the various organisations who regularly hire the facilities and, of course, supporters of the monthly Village Market.

**Clive Morris** Treasurer

## Community Safety Report

Over the past year, and through the efforts of David Jones, the Bleadon Village Co-ordinator, and Emma Wright, our Police Community Support Officer, we now have full Neighbourhood Watch coverage for the village. 23 street co-ordinators are in place and over 400 properties have shown interest in the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme and are now formally registered with the scheme.

Crime statistics clearly show that, on average, crime is one third lower in Neighbourhood Watch areas. In addition some insurance companies give premium discounts to properties within the scheme. The police welcome the scheme and already a number of timely telephone calls to co-ordinators and the police have resulted in crime prevention and even arrests.

The village police surgery continues to run every Tuesday between 2pm and 4pm in the Church Rooms. A member of your Village Beat Team is there to listen to any concerns regarding policing issues and give advice. The village is fortunate in having a relatively low crime rate but, nonetheless, the surgery gives a very welcome and visible service to support parishioners.

The Village Beat Team respond to normal policing priorities but, also, to those identified by the local population. Currently the two local priorities are to keep a high profile in the parish and to monitor speeding on Bleadon Road / Celtic Way.

Parish crime numbers for the past year are very similar to the previous year, although the second half of this year has shown higher numbers than the previous year. It is not clear whether this is a trend upwards or is the result of more Neighbourhood Watch and police surgery reporting. All of these crime statistics need to be viewed against the backdrop that the parish is still a low crime

area and that more than half of the recorded crime in the parish is associated with the holiday and entertainment areas of the parish.

Every year the Avon and Somerset Police Authority run an award scheme to recognise "The best of the best". This year our Village Policing Team won the North Somerset Village Beat Team award. Steve Church, our Beat Manager, and Emma Wright, our Police Community Support Officer, were presented with the award on 5 March. Well done.

## Bleadon Parish Council

### Income & Expenditure

For the year ended 31 March 2009

Year ended 31 March 2008		Year ended 31 March 2009
	<b>INCOME</b>	
34000	Precept	34875
1210	Bank Interest	1423
50	Youth Club	50
152	Orderly Grant	156
186	Allotments	368
2603	Advertising	1488
-	Grants	-
55654	Other Income	682
<u>93855</u>	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<u>39041</u>
=====		=====
	<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	
5691	General Maintenance	4787
1272	Village Improvements	8480
165	Allotments	73
25710	Administration	28852
908	Grants	900
150	S.137 Expenditure	317
<u>33896</u>	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<u>43407</u>
	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	
10697	General Fund O/B	70566
93855	Total Income	39041
104551	Sub Total	109607
33896	Total Expenditure	43407
70565	Sub Total	66200
-	Transfers to/from General Account	-
<u>70565</u>	<b>General Fund at 31 March</b>	<u>66200</u>
=====		=====

### Balance Sheet

For the year ended 31 March 2009

Year ended 31 March 2008		Year ended 31 March 2009
	<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>	
85204	Cash at Bank	750004
586	Debtors	16
500	Prepayments	500
1009	VAT to be claimed	2450
<u>87208</u>	<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u>77971</u>
	<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	
235	Creditors	386
8	Receipts in advance	8
-	Accruals	-
243		393
<u>86966</u>	<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<u>77578</u>
	Represented by	
1500	Recreation	1500
1000	Staff Contingencies	1000
600	Election Expenses	600
2000	Street Lighting	2000
11300	Wonderstone	11300
<u>70566</u>		<u>66200</u>
=====		=====
86966		82600



The Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and  
Families Association - Forces Help  
[www.ssafa.org.uk](http://www.ssafa.org.uk)

## SSAFA FORCES HELP – “COFFEE & DANISH”

The annual “Coffee & Danish” morning in support of SSAFA Forces Help will be held in the Coronation Hall on Friday, 4th September 2009 from 10.30 a.m. to noon.

### “One Day’s Service – a Lifetime of Support”

The national charity helping serving and  
ex-Service men, women and their families, in need  
Registered Charity No. 210760. Est 1885

#### Patrons

HM The Queen

President of the Council

HRH Prince Michael of Kent GCVO

Chairman

Lieutenant General Sir Robin Ross KCB OBE

## Scarecrow Festival 2009

The Scarecrow Festival is coming to Bleadon for the first time!

This summer event under the banner of the Weston Arts Festival, with sponsorship from the Fire Brigade and Bleadon Parish Council, will take place on 22nd/23rd August from noon to 6.00p.m.

So please join the fun and make a Scarecrow sited either in your garden or on Parish Land, “Music” is the theme, prizes to be won. Look out for the posters, and entry forms will be available from the Village Post Office. Teas will be provided in the Coronation Hall and ‘Tracker Maps’ to locate Scarecrows will be sold on the day.

Please join in the merriment and make our Scarecrow Festival a special Bleadon event to remember all year.

### Penny Skelley



## Friends of Bleadon Church



What can I say! You have done it again! You have again made the annual May Day Fayre an outstanding success. Many thanks to all the helpers and supporters who came along on the 4th May and withstood the cold and spent your money. Hard work from 7.00am to 7.00pm.

And many of us started weeks and months earlier to make the day a success. In all we raised in the region of £6000. An excellent result considering the weather and the current economic climate. I would like to personally thank the Friends secretary, Reyn Badger. He starts the week after one Fayre organising the events for the following year. He rounds up the "volunteers" to man the games and stalls and this year he had to cope with an trip to A & E with a piece of wire embedded in his finger.

It has been asked: Where does this money go? Our general running costs of the Church are about £40,000 per year. Most of this is met from donations by our regular congregation and the rest is from fund raising events organised by the Friends, such as the May Day Fayre. We have to pay the diocese our Parish Share and you can look at this as our "rent". If we did not pay our "rent" it would not go down well with our "landlords", the Diocese, and eventually we would have to be "evicted" i.e. "closed down". Imagine Bleadon without a Church. No weddings, no Christenings, no funerals!

This year we will have some extra expense as the Church room roof needs to be repaired (£5000), the guttering around the Church is deteriorating (£1500), the flagpole needs updating (this is why you did not see St George's flag on 23rd April) with new strapping plus new Union and St George's flags are needed (£500). This is in addition to the normal running costs such as lighting, heating and insurance premium (which has just gone up) etc.

Remember the Church room is there for your use as well as for the Church. If you would like to use the Church room for any small event just contact Reyn on 811490. A nominal charge is made.

Reluctantly we must say goodbye to our Treasurer, Graham Rogers who has been doing the job for many years now and I would personally like to thank him for the hard work and support that he has given the Friends during his period in office. We are very fortunate that Mary Hollis has agreed to take over the post of Treasurer. Mary has been a valued member of the Friends for many years. Thank you Mary.

It is now over five years that I have been Chairman of the Friends and I feel that it is now time to hand over to someone fresh. I am very pleased that Graham Rogers has changed hats and has agreed to take the reins as chairman. As Graham has been our treasurer, he knows all the ropes and has been our Chairman in the past. Thank you Graham. I will, of course, stay on the committee and continue to help as much as I can.

If you would like to know more about the Friends of Bleadon Church and/or would like to come on the committee (new ideas are always welcome) just contact Graham on 811571 or me on 813636.

Thanks for all your support over the past five+ years.

**Brian Drinkwater**

## Bleadon Country Sports

Bleadon Country Sports is celebrating its 70th Anniversary on Saturday August 22nd at Appledore Farm, Lympham, with Dog show, Horse Events and Fun Sports. Plenty to do for the whole family.

All proceeds to local charities. Details 01934 815407

In 1931 hunting on Bleadon Hill was taken over by Mr Arthur Wilmot from Mr Herman Tiarks, and to celebrate, it was decided to hold an event which was to be like no other. A committee was formed of local personalities who began to search for competitions, mainly on horseback, which resembled everyday country activities.

Originally the sports were known as The Bleadon, Christon and Loxton Preserving Association, and although the title was later changed to The Bleadon Hill Sports, and then to The Bleadon Country Sports, the sports have taken place annually since their inception, except for a break during the war years.

The first sports were held on Mr Poole's land at Caterpillar Hill, but later transferred to Mr Tucker's land on Windmill Hill. It was said that on Hill Sports days, laughter from the hill could be heard in the village below.

Competitions were restricted to those residing within the Weston Harriers Hunt area, however, the radius limit was abolished in 1960.

A different theme for each year was the original intention and there were novelty events such as Delivering the Milk With Horses- competitors to dress in milking smocks and caps and to roll churns to a stand while leading their horses. A popular event was a race over the hill with the final obstacle of jumping a wall back into the show field at the finish. The wall often had to be rebuilt the following day.

Racing carthorses was a regular event, the horses being ridden bareback. The Fattest Pair was a novelty event one year – horse and rider were both measured round the girth and the two figures added. According to press cuttings, the winners together measured 11feet 4 inches.

Tossing the sheaf of corn has continued to the present day. This involves propelling a sack of straw by means of a two-pronged pitchfork over a high bar. Heights of over twenty feet are reached.

Another event that has survived over the years is the dog race. Dogs and their owners chase across the field after a "hare." The hare is actually a very old piece of rabbit skin on a rope that is wound in on a bicycle wheel with dogs and handlers in hot pursuit. .

In 1986 the sports moved from Bleadon Hill to Mrs Goodall's Whitegates Farm and there was a display by the beautiful black horse that was used in the Lloyds Bank advertisements. In 1988, Grand National winner Aldiniti, made a guest appearance. Proceeds from the show that year went to the Bob Champion Cancer Trust.

In 1994 the sports moved once again to Mr and Mrs John Frost's Appledore Farm at Lympham. The event now includes a very popular dog show, classes for native breed ponies, carriage driving, dressage, show jumping and gymkhana as well as the traditional sports.

All proceeds from the show go to two different local charities, chosen each year, and many thousands of pounds have been donated over recent years

The show organisers are indebted to local businesses that regularly support the event by advertising in the schedule.



**Alison Hillyer**



Ken Durston and siblings 1937 by old church gate 2



Ladies outside village hall



Bleadon 1978 Mr Bird Sylvia's father milkman



Mr Edwin Gilson undertaker and his sister Hettie





Sunday service at the Veale 1



Sunday Service at The Veale 2



Scripture group with trophy 1934



Royal wedding 1981

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

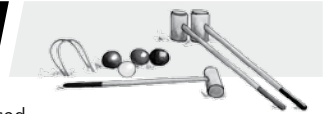
## Granny Trek

The fourth Annual Granny Trek for Children's Hospice South West was held at Charlton Farm on 26th April and was a resounding success. Six hundred walkers took advantage of the fine weather to tramp through the bluebell woods and those tackling the six miles found the new route through the Tyntesfield Estate most enjoyable and far less taxing than previous years.

It is hoped that last year's total of £38,000 will be surpassed and huge thanks are due to the Rotarians of Bristol Severnside who do so much to help with the organisation and manning of the walks and car parks. However, even more gratitude goes to all those who took part and gave generously of their time and money.

Next year's date for your diary: Sunday, 25th April 2010. [www.grannytrek.co.uk](http://www.grannytrek.co.uk)

## The Weston Croquet Club



This new club continues to prosper where we have introduced seven new members to the game.

A great deal of work was undertaken on the ground during the winter period and the lawns are vastly improved and are in very good condition, considering this is our first full season here.

All our new members have bonded well with the original people and there are up to twenty people playing on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons thanks to the enthusiasm of Joan and Dennis Munden.

In addition, we are introducing extra competitions which will be held during the current season and nearly all members seem to want to be involved which is great.

The Club enters our Federation Leagues for both Golf and Association Croquet and as the standard of our players is improving we are very hopeful to have a successful season in both forms of the croquet game.

We are always pleased to host any visiting organisation who wishes to try the game of croquet and we will be visited shortly by the East Brent Church group and Birnbeck Probus Club together with annual visits from the Rotary Club of Weston and West Woodspring.

Anyone interested in knowing more should contact Roger Buckley of 9 Manor Grange and you will always be sure of a very warm welcome



## NEW TO COMPUTING?

STRUGGLING WITH THE INTERNET?  
NOT SURE ABOUT E-MAILING?  
CAN'T GET THE HANG OF ATTACHMENTS?  
NEED HELP WITH ENHANCING PHOTOS?

RING PENNY ON 814142

## Bleadon Short Mat Bowls Club

Our 2008-2009 Season is due to finish on the 29th May when we hold our Annual General Meeting. At this meeting Officers will be selected for the next year and the opening meeting will take place on the 18th September.

The Club Team finished mid table in the league and there were some excellent performances against those at the top of the table. During the visit to the Isle of Wight (details later) Celia & Peter Williams reached the final of the pairs competition and were unlucky not to have won and Kath & Aidan Reynolds reached the semi final stage. Three members also took place in a charity fund raising event for Weston Hospice at Mark and the sum of £200 was raised.

Although the season ends on the 29th May, social activity continues throughout the close season with full outdoor bowls at Clarence Park, a canal boat trip from Saltford Lock and our annual skittles night which will take place on the 18th September.

Our trip to the Isle of Wight. — It was mid March when thirteen club members, twelve bowlers and a supporters club of one went to Sandown. Travelling on a Monday we were staying at the excellently situated Trouville Hotel on the sea front, (all the adjacent parking meters seasonally suspended), to take part in the hotel's Short Mat Bowls Spring Challenge. Two other Clubs had made the journey, one from East Anglia and the other from the Home Counties. The fact that a 'bowls holiday' doesn't mean a holiday from bowls was made evident immediately we assembled to register with the bowling organizers. They had a fours knockout competition already planned for that evening but thankfully cancelled it and so after dinner we satisfied ourselves with a friendly roll-up instead. The venue turned out to be very good and the mats not too troublesome, Tuesday, however, was a busy day — the day of the doubles — twenty or so teams competing from 9.30 a.m. Of Bleadon's six teams, two reached the semi finals and one the final. After dinner that evening, following our attempt to disrupt the sequence dancers and being dismissed from the ballroom for Elf & Safety reasons, we all gathered to 'chase the ace' in the bar.

Wednesday was a free day (so we imagined). Most of us used our North Somerset bus passes to good effect venturing around the island and taking advantage of a glorious spell of weather. Nevertheless, when we drifted back it was a shock to find the fours knockout was on again that evening! Though one of the other Clubs opted out, Bleadon's three teams gallantly took part but without success. Thursday was another full day of bowling, the fours competition continued and Bleadon were playing well with some close fought games against strong opposition. That evening after the presentation of trophies, a couple coming our way, and in the modern fashion, everyone, including our supporter received a medal and we concluded with an entertaining disco/dance.

Since our last visit, the Trouville seems in need of refurbishment, some rooms evidently showing wear and tear but the food and service generally is still excellent. Finally the party made a presentation to thank our organizers Malcolm (up at five every morning for a round the island run), and Grace, (she painfully colliding with a fence on her day out), for their efforts in organizing a rewarding experience and most enjoyable holiday

## Bleadon Police Report



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

We would ask at this time of year that the villagers look at their security to avoid opportunist thefts or burglaries. Please remember if you are out in the garden to lock the doors and close large windows to your property. Also we are having increasing bogus callers throughout the district so remember to always ask to see identification and check it thoroughly before letting anyone enter your property. If you are still unsure phone the company direct by looking up the number in the phone book, ask them to book an appointment or set up a secure password system. If anyone comes to your door requesting a drink or water or any other excuse to enter your home our advice is to always say no unless you know or trust them.

We are currently looking at the speed of traffic through the village, and will continue to do many speed gun sessions in various locations after complaints from villagers about this issue. If you have any other Policing issues that you think we should make a priority for the village please let us or the Parish Council know.

Please remember Bleadon is one of the safest places in North Somerset to live and together we can keep it that way.

**PC Steve Church PCSO Emma Wright**

## War Photographers

These are a breed of Photojournalists who have, over the years, recorded the many images of war from the human emotions to the front line action and very often with scant regard for their own safety. They are different from the majority of people in so far as they tend to get their adrenalin rush from the close proximity of the danger and some loosing their lives in the pursuance of their trade. Of the many over the years there are some one hundred or so who stand out from the rest as they were the ones who recorded some of the most vivid images of the intimacy of war. This is not a recent genre as one of the first war photographers was an English man called Roger Fenton who, only 15 or so years after the invention of reproducible photography, went to the Crimean War with his donkey drawn dark room van and the year was 1855. He was the first of the official war photographers sent at the insistence of Prince Albert for propaganda purposes in order to offset the British publics' aversion to this very unpopular war. Despite the many problems encountered in the taking and processing of the images, he had to overcome illness and injury having broken several ribs and suffering Cholera. Nevertheless and in spite of all the obstacles he managed to produce over 350 large format negatives from which an exhibition was shown in London which turned out to be a flop as the war had ended by the time the exhibition opened. He is famous for two photographs taken in the Valley of the Shadow of Death, one showing the road covered with canon balls and the other from the same viewpoint with none visible. This of course was the same valley where the now infamous "Charge of the Light Brigade" took place.

It would not be possible for me to mention all of the war photographers but some stand out above

the rest because of the evocative pictures that they produced and which are now recorded in the annals of history and are worthy of a few words, people like Robert Capa, Hubert van Es and Don Mc Cullin.

Robert Capa an Hungarian whose real name was Endre Friedman but changed his name to Capa, secured his fame with his photographs taken during the Spanish Civil War and his images of the Normandy landings of the Second World War. I am sure that most people will have seen his very emotional image of a militiaman at the moment of death taken at Cerro Muriano in 1936 at the height of the Spanish Civil War. The militiaman, still holding his rifle, is seen with his arms in the air about to collapse. In World War Two he swam ashore with the Second Assault Group on Omaha Beach with two 35m1m Contax cameras and in the first two hours ashore recorded over a hundred photographs of the troops landing. Of these, only eight shots survived, destroyed not by enemy action but by a 15 year old dark room assistant who was processing his films back in London for Life magazine and set the temperature in the drying cabinet too high and melted the films. Three rolls were, completely destroyed along with most of the fourth. Life magazine published 10 of the remaining frames which were described as "slightly out of focus" due to the accident. In spite of the problems these photographs became some of the most seen of the D-Day landings. Capa was a founder member of the legendary group of photojournalists known as Magnum.

Hubert van Es was a Dutch photographer whom you may not know by name but you will, I am sure have seen some of his work as he was at the fall of Saigon in Vietnam in 1975 and recorded the civilians boarding the C.I.A. Huey helicopter from the top of a building incorrectly identified as the American Embassy and was in fact a building in downtown Saigon. There was no chance of all those waiting being able to board as the helicopter could only take eight people but in spite of this load restriction the pilot did manage to take off with 14 on board. Van Es later photographed the rebellion in the Philippines and the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

Talking of the Soviet, there is someone whom you are unlikely to have heard of, Dimitri Baltermants. He was born in Poland and his Father served in the Imperial Russian Army during the First World War and was killed. Baltermants junior was a graduate of Moscow University and became a maths teacher but he developed a love for photography which resulted in a career change and he became an official Kremlin photographer working for the daily paper "Izvestia". During the Second World War he became a war photographer and photographed the battle of Stalingrad and other battles in Poland, Ukraine and Germany during which time he was wounded twice. All his photographs were censored by the Soviet authorities and only those which showed the Army in a glowing light, were ever used in order to boost civilian morale. It wasn't until the 1960's that many of his images saw the light of day including one which is entitled "Grief" and shows the aftermath of the Nazi massacre of the civilians in the Crimean village of Kerch.

Coming closer to home is a man who covered the Vietnam war and the Northern Ireland conflict along with many other catastrophes of man's making and that man is Don Mc Cullin. Born in 1935 Don served in the Canal Zone in 1956 during his National Service in the R.A.F. at the time of the Suez Crisis, he served his time processing other photographers work in the darkroom. After demob he became a fully fledged photographer which was when he commenced his career as a war photographer. His work was so evocative that at the time of the Falklands war in 1982 the government refused him a Press Pass which would have enabled him to go to that theatre of war. In 1968 whilst in Vietnam he was fortunate to escape with his life when a bullet with his name on it, struck his Nikon camera and he survived. Don was awarded a Fellowship of the Royal Photographic Society and a C.B.E. for his contribution to photojournalism. In 1964 he was presented with the World Press Award for his coverage of the war in Cyprus and in the same year was awarded the Warsaw Gold Medal. He has an honorary Doctorate from the University of Bradford along with a similar one from the Open University. In 2006 he was awarded the Cornell Capa Award and last year the University of Gloucestershire conferred him with an Honorary Doctor of Letters for his lifetime contribution and achievement in photojournalism. He no longer covers wars but has become a brilliant landscape photographer. Don is the epitome of a 'local boy makes good' as he now resides in Somerset.

## Bleadon Horticultural Society



RHS daffodil judge Jackie Petherbridge was welcomed to a packed Coronation Hall for the February evening, talking about her favourite flower. Jackie explained the intricacies of the 13 different divisions of daffodils and narcissi, which have been developed and bred from the small handful of naturally occurring wild species. Some of these original blooms were as small as a five pence piece, while others were considerably larger. Over 27,000 named cultivars with flowers ranging from white to pink, red, orange and the familiar yellow have been bred by professional and amateur growers from this gene bank. In addition Jackie gave a very good demonstration of how to prepare daffodil blooms for the show bench.

The Spring Flower Show in March was very well attended throughout the afternoon, and despite the coldest winter for 18 years the blooms filled the Coronation hall with colour and scent. Trophy winners included Joe Thomas and Libby Lockyer (2 each), Lindsay Ireland, Edna Fuller, Maggie Pettit and Nina Chance; in the junior section Ellie Keele and Jasmine Morgan triumphed in their respective age groups.

Paul Hending was the guest speaker at the April meeting giving a very interesting and informative talk on organic gardening. Topics included the treatment of various soil types, compost making by conventional and other methods, pest and disease recognition and control. The talk was illustrated with many humorous tips including the control of the cabbage white butterfly while practicing various shots with a badminton racket!

Prior to the meeting a new plaque to the Jubilee garden was unveiled by Penny Skelley, Chairman of Bleadon Parish Council (the original stone from 1977 had become badly weathered). Our thanks to Brian Thorne for installing the plaque on our behalf.

Maggie Pettit and her able assistant Celia Williams smoothly manned the 'bring and buy' plant stall at the May meeting. The number of plants from our own members was boosted by some from Sanders Garden World and Hutton Garden Centre and we thank them for their donations. The winners of the quiz were Lynda Walters, Libby and Graham Lockyer.

There are still a few seats left on the coach, which will be bound for St Fagan's Castle and Gardens on Tuesday July 21st. To book one of the remaining seats please ring me on 01934 813152. The summer show will be held in the Coronation Hall on Saturday September 25th at 2.30pm.

Meanwhile happy Gardening!

**Chris Cudlipp**

## CONTACTUS

'CONTACTUS' is an organisation in Bleadon which exists to give help and local advice to all newcomers into the village. 'CONTACTUS' Committee Members would like feedback please when new arrivals move into our community. This enables us to deliver a 'Welcome to Bleadon' pack, which provides an introduction to all of the amenities which we enjoy here. In addition, an annual welcome party is held for new residents in the village, which provides an opportunity to meet neighbours and to learn about the clubs, societies and social events offered here.

This organisation is envied by other villages and has been much appreciated over the years

**Penny Skelley**, Chairman CONTACTUS Committee.

In 2008 our Annual Meeting concluded with the Chairman remarking “let us all hope that next year’s report is presented by our own resident priest in the chair”.

Sadly, this expectation has been frustrated by various hindrances and delays resulting in our parish, now two years into a suspended benefice, still devoid of a permanent spiritual ministry.

Our attempts to remedy the situation have included meetings with our Archdeacon and the Bishop of Taunton. These initiatives were made against the background of the unexpected announcement in September by Bethan Gutteridge, Vicar of Bournville, that she had applied for and had been appointed to the parish of Watchet. This presented a problem for us in that Bethan was due to assume the role of Priest in Charge at Bleadon, in addition to her duties at Bournville.

Not unnaturally, many in the parish questioned as to what on earth was happening. We sought to alleviate concerns by an editorial in the February edition of the Parish Magazine when a detailed account of events was given.

In January at a specially convened meeting the P.C.C. again were obliged to confer with the Archdeacon at Bleadon. This followed our receipt of a letter from the Archdeacon asking, on behalf of the Bournville parish of St Andrews, our wishes and intentions for the future. (It was totally understandable that Bournville needed to know our intentions before they commenced their enquiries into a successor to Bethan.)

By now it was clear that the appointment to the dual vacancy at Bleadon and at Bournville was well and truly set in an ecclesiastical “holding pattern” with little likelihood of immediate solution. The P.C.C., confronted with these issues felt “enough was enough”. Or to put it more succinctly, “we were all just about fed-up with the various delays and obstructions experienced over so long a period”. We reviewed our options and while wishing to remain in good Christian fellowship with our colleagues at Bournville, felt unanimously, that a new approach was required.

Accordingly the P.C.C. took the unanimous decision to recommend the following actions to the Diocesan authorities:

- (a) that we discontinue the proposed official linkage with the parish of St Andrews; (but that we retain our friendly association with them in a Christian manner);
- (b) that we would continue, certainly until the end of 2009 and hopefully beyond that date, with the clerical services of Nigel Yenning , Peter Tullet and our Reader, Jill Smith;
- (c) that we would urge the Deanery Pastoral Committee to seek on our behalf, a partnership with another parish in this area:

Despite these setbacks we have, through the dedicated efforts of many persons, both clerical and lay individuals, retained a consistent pattern of priestly ministry in church services. I particularly mention our two stalwart, locally based priests, Nigel Yenning and Peter Tullet and our Reader Jill Smith. These three have given us so much commitment that the strain of the interim period with no regular minister able to perform the duties of an incumbent has been considerably eased.

In May we staged our annual May Day Fayre which owes so much to the organising energy over several months of The Friends of the Church. Their planning, under the chairmanship of Brian Drinkwater commenced in the winter period and continued through, virtually to the event itself. The Fayre is the main source of income for the Church and without this particular income we would be hard put to sustain the presence of the Church in our parish. In 2008 we raised nearly £6,300 for Church funds thus marking the 2008 event as one of our most successful entertainments. But funding is a yearly “tightrope walk” and our Treasurer’s briefing continually reminds us of the financial challenge we face.

No review could exclude the part played by the members of the P.C.C. during the year. In the parish magazine for April I drew attention to the heavy and continuous responsibility of such membership in 2008/09 when all of us were called upon to contribute fully in our various and usually quite



important decisions. In particular I render my thanks to Churchwardens Sarah and Brian, who are responsible for ensuring continuity of church services of all kinds and the continuing maintenance of church property, respectively. Also to our retiring Treasurer, Graham, who oversees the essential finances of the church which is a considerable commitment in itself, and to Gill our Secretary who has seen to the various and necessary administrative details. We are so fortunate to have such a dedicated and efficient grouping of Christians.

No report of this kind summarising the year's activities should ignore the continuing devoted services rendered by our Vergers Reyn Badger and Jeanette. The P.C.C. is most grateful for their continued and enthusiastic support.

In August we learnt with great sadness, of the death of Warren Storey, whilst on holiday in France. Both he and Lillian had contributed so much to the Church here in Bleadon. Warren, particularly in his role as a Reader of long standing and through the medium of his fine artistic gifts. He will be greatly missed, as indeed will be Lillian who has now departed from Weston-super-Mare to live with her daughter in France. We wish her well for the future.

The Sunday Club continues to thrive; once again a stimulating programme has involved the club members who we welcome to the commencement of the occasional Sunday morning service. In March the youngsters, (aided by the grownups!) hosted us in the Church room with a high degree of courtesy, excellent service and entertainment. We would wish to thank all those who over the last twelve months have done so much to further this and other very special initiatives.

So many other kind acts of voluntary help need to be recognised. Those responsible for the cleaning and maintenance of the church interior and arrangement of flowers are owed much in terms of gratitude. Our beautiful church showed up particularly well when the B.B.C team presenting the programme "Who Do You Think You Are?" visited Bleadon. The subject, Lawrence Llewellyn Bowen, expressed great pleasure in viewing the memorial of his distant ancestor, whose monument rests on the floor of the chancel. Incidentally, were you aware that Brian Drinkwater and Reyn Badger went through the motions of turning back the covering carpet six times?

The Choir, despite reduced numbers, continued to provide a presence on each Sunday morning service and was well supplemented on special occasions. Gill in addition to being the Choir mistress also, deputised on the organ when necessary. Graham, at a time when organists are few and far between, arranged suitable cover throughout the greater part of the year. (This was no mean feat).

Finally, the Church Bells still sound out over the parish mainly due to the ministrations of Peter Maffey - all our thanks to him and his team.

This is the last occasion on which I shall have the honour of presenting the year's review. I do feel, that 21 years uninterrupted service on the P.C.C. has entitled me to sufficient "Brownie" Points" to step down from my responsibilities. It really is a time for a fresh approach which hopefully will produce a solution to our problems. Thank you all for your support.

**David Elliott** - Retiring Chairman P.C.C.



**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**

# **Bleadon Ranger Wanted**

## **Average 10 hrs per week at £8 per hour**

After four busy and successful years on the job, our Parish Ranger is retiring. So we are looking for a replacement to fill John's boots in the Autumn.

We are looking for a fit, community-minded person to maintain Bleadon's open spaces and leisure areas, with future responsibility for enforcing local bye-laws.

The parks, open spaces and community facilities of Bleadon have a significant role in the quality of life for local people and visitors. The Ranger provides a high profile service throughout the parish.

### **The successful applicant will have:**

- A practical approach to getting things done
- Excellent customer care and communication skills
- General maintenance and handy-work skills
- Experience of grounds maintenance
- Flexibility to meet the changing needs of the community
- Willingness to learn and develop appropriate knowledge and skills

### **The regular work will include:**

- Maintaining cleanliness of Bleadon's open spaces
- Waste management
- Regular inspections and safety checks of council assets and equipment
- Maintaining the council's assets and equipment
- Parish planting and maintenance
- Being a highly visible point of contact for residents
- Dealing with anti-social behaviour and enforcement of bye-laws
- Helping with local events and community activities
- Liaising with the council's contractors

### **For more information and an application form please contact:**

Bruce Poole, Bleadon Parish Council, The Chippings  
21 Stoneleigh Close, Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset TA8 2EE

Tel: 07887 802922 Email: [bruce.poole2@btopenworld.com](mailto:bruce.poole2@btopenworld.com) [www.bleadonparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.bleadonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

## **Bleadon Friendship Club**



Days out and about with "W D C T incorporating Dial a Ride"

Since our New Year Luncheon the weather has not been enticing. Therefore we made our first trip of the season to Wyevale Nurseries which is one off our most popular trips. We continued on to Puxton Farm for lunch, for those of our number this is an opportunity to have a companionable meal with friends. Our first longer trip of the year on May 13th was to Sidmouth starting off as the least promising day weather-wise, ending up with a dry and later sunny day. I was lucky enough to have a fellow trustee as driver so went off with our wheelchair passenger with hope in our hearts and were not disappointed.

Leading up to our August Break, hope to take at least two trips each month to local venues. Maybe to Oakham museum or places of member's choice.

**B Davis** Transport organiser

## Bleadon Ladies Club



The first part of 2009 has been very successful, with some really good interesting speakers. In March the members painted trinket boxes and in April we heard a good talk by Mr. Paul Temple about a Charity in Tanzania that he and many local Weston people are involved with. In May we were transported down memory lane with a talk by Mr. Terry Merrett-Smith entitled 'From Ration Books to Rock and Roll'

July 14th – 'Homespun' meeting.

This will start with a sing-song of all our favourite old tunes led by Grenville Jones, who is very well known for his 'Goldies sing for Life'. This will be followed by a 'bring and buy', a game of bingo and a cream tea! It should be a lovely meeting and in addition we are offering members the chance to bring along a friend for free – so let's take the roof off the Hall with our singing! (Hall Committee hope you have good insurance cover)

August 11th sees us going on our annual outing –and we are off to Evesham for a trip on the river and yet another cream tea! We hope this trip will be well supported –do come along and bring a friend with you.

September 8th - Mrs. Pat Hicks will give a talk called 'Holiday Diary 1836'

October 13th – Musicians will play with Mr. Harry Chatterley – 'A Musical Afternoon'.

So we have quite a varied programme in store - hope you can come and join us - we always give a warm welcome to new members. The club meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 2.30pm in the Coronation hall.

For more information call Barbara on 814362

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

<b>Saturday/Sunday 22nd/23rd August</b>		SCARECROW FESTIVAL
<b>Friday 4th September 10am-noon</b>	COFFEE & DANISH	SSAFA
<b>Saturday 5th September 2-4 pm</b>	AUTUMN FLOWER SHOW	Horticultural Soc
<b>Saturday 26th September</b>	HARVEST SUPPER	Bleadon Church
<b>Saturday 10th October</b>	CEILIDH	Weston Arts Fest.
<b>Saturday 7th November 10-noon</b>	COFFEE MORNING	Friendship Club
<b>Saturday 21st November</b>	CHARITY "PHOENIX" QUIZ	Les Masters
<b>Saturday 12th December</b>	PUNCH & PIE	Bleadon Church

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

### Mondays

11.00 am - 12.00	Marie's Mini Movers**	Mrs E Duffill	623653
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 E Tucker	815396
7.30-9.00 pm	Bleadon Guides** (term time)	Mrs J Sear	522583
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
7.30pm	Bleadon Womens' Institute	Mrs L. Lockyer	812050
2nd Thur			
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

## A Book For Village Lovers

"The Lost Village" by Richard Askwith, is a far from everyday story of country folk.

I read a favourable review in Saga magazine, borrowed a copy from the library and found it tremendously interesting and thought provoking (though at times infuriating)

The author visited numerous villages, ranging from Cornwall to Northumberland, and found an extraordinary collection of long-time rural characters each full of local skill and knowledge, both of which will largely die with them.

For a while I thought the book was going to be one long lament for the decline of villages but it then takes some much needed turns and ends on a positive note.

I took an unusually long time to read it because I kept stopping to reflect, feeling I would dearly love to meet the author and challenge him on so many points. Perhaps in due course a few local readers might gather for a fascinating discussion.

**Les Masters.**

## Church Tower

The Tower will be open on Sunday, 12th July from 2.00pm to 4.00pm. Come along and climb to the top for those magnificent views over the Levels to Burnham and beyond. Just £1.00 to climb to the top. No charge to come down! Then you can enjoy a nice cream tea!

## The Beach - Short Story

The beach had been pebbly in parts, the stones graded in size with a regularity she found surprising. Some of the larger stones, those most likely to conceal fossils, she had secretly loaded into the car, hidden from Dad's view. Before their picnic lunch, she and Andrew had explored the rock pools left by a receding tide. Typically, Andrew found the crab's claw but swapped it with her for a piece of driftwood shaped like a gun. Now, the pink boney fragment rests in front of her on the counterpane and she wonders how the crab will manage without its fighting claw. The seaweed they had gathered is tangled now and in so doing lost the mysterious liquid quality that that had attracted her. Sleepily she compares the shells taken from the pools with those shown in her seaside picture book; almost but never exactly the same as the bright-coloured illustrations.



During the afternoon they had walked the cliff path to the lighthouse, the warm grassy headland ribboned with the follow-my-leader tracks of sheep, a summer haze dissolving the horizon, melting with the faded blue sea. However, the nearer rocks are sharp wreathed in white and an on-shore breeze carries the chatter of breaking waves. They come to the lighthouse, passing through a huddle of grey buildings, the dwellings of long departed keepers; the house windows sightless and boarded now, gardens unloved. But the contrasting fresh whiteness of the lighthouse sparkles in the sunlight. Aloft in a bright-glassed cabin the sliver lens turns automatically, the light unnoticeable but confidently awaiting a revealing darkness. Returning across the headland she searches for spring flowers.

They are drying now by the window and later, after a time in the press, would be carefully mounted and identified in her spiky childish handwriting. A rescue helicopter had suddenly appeared; performing its obscure manoeuvres, hovering and darting to-and-fro like a yellow dragonfly and Andrew ran off for a closer view. Later, sausages and beans are cooked in a blaze of driftwood set on a hearth of pebbles, and a lone seagull comes side slipping in to land, cocking its head, beady questing eye searching for food. Afterwards the plates are scrubbed clean with sand as, Dad tells us, the people in desert countries do.

There is sand now, she notices, in the quilted valleys of the bedclothes and carefully gathering aside her treasures she sweeps it into a tissue and funnels it into the hamster's cage. He, sensing the vibrations, raises a whiskered nose and gives a toothy yawn. Strident calls from downstairs are answered by boyish assurances about washing and teeth cleaning. The hissing tap is accompanied by a sympathetic gurgle from the pipes in the corner cupboard. She listens drowsily as the sounds of bedtime rituals subside. Below, a familiar television theme is abruptly muted by a closing door. Heavy-eyed she switches off the bedside light.

The hamster chews hopefully at the cage bars, then, as if resigned to another night in captivity, begins his nocturnal exercises. The clicking of his revolving wheel becomes the pebbly murmur of receding waves as she drifts into sleep.

End

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