



Monthly indoor

Saturday MARKET

DATES for 2010

16 January, 20 February, 20 March, 17 April, 15 May,
19 June, 17 July, 21 August, 18 September, 16 October,
20 November, 4 December

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
GRAHAM LOCKYER	'HIGHCROFT' ROMAN RD. BLEADON.	TEL. 812050
MARY SHEPPARD	'LITTLEWOOD' BRIDGWATER RD., LYMPHAM.	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
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 20th 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 813127).

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 :-

Mr Keith Pyke, 8, Whitegate Close, Bleadon
E-mail : keith.pyke@btopenworld.com

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

www.bleadonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Chairman's Report



My last report on what has been a successful and productive year for the Parish Council! We have achieved and implemented over the last twelve months much from the village plan and additional requests from the community. Some of the priorities of the Council's work can be found in this magazine and on our village web-site, which has been expanded and updated. You will have seen the web-site address on the first page of the magazine.

A new Bus Shelter of oak will be erected in Coronation Road before Christmas. The original bus stop will be moved from the dangerous corner and narrow pavement at the junction of Shiplate Road and Celtic Way to outside the Church rooms. North Somerset Council will then install a raised curb and a no parking zone in the near future.

I should remind you that in the New Year, North Somerset will implement new recycling and collection of our waste. We should all support the environmental benefits of this scheme, details of which will be posted on the North Somerset web-site and which were recently publicised in North Somerset "Life".

North Somerset Council is currently undertaking a district wide review of all village and town boundaries. Bleadon Parish Council contributed by proposing an extension of our boundary to encompass Hillcote. We await the final decision, but have informed the Hillcote residents that we are a proactive Council providing services and facilities that our villagers value. Among the current services are the new web-site, a police surgery, the Coronation Hall and Youth Club, and the playground. All newcomers are welcomed by Contactus. We employ a part time Ranger and also provide five notice boards for general information and detail of social events; and, last but not least, this magazine is issued quarterly.

Lastly, I must inform you that Councillor Penny Robinson has decided to retire in December after 12 years as a loyal and invaluable member of the Council. She has been a diligent and hard working editor in chief of this village magazine and, under her guidance, it has reached the standard it is today. She has been a conscientious Vice-Chairman and has given me constant support. We have between us heard every Penny joke there is! We all thank her for her service to Bleadon village as a Councillor.

You will have seen that the winter plant-up of the Village tubs has been completed. This year, we are to have a traditional Parish Christmas Tree and lights erected adjacent to the Coronation Hall. May I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and joyful New Year.

Penny Skelley, Chairman



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

The advertisement features a black and white illustration of a woman with her hair in a bun, sitting at a desk and looking at a computer monitor. The text is positioned to the right of the illustration.

From the Editor

After 12 years as a member of the Bleadon Parish Council it is with regret that I have decided to step down. I have enjoyed my time serving this village community and made some really good friends in the process, it is a fulfilling position but a very demanding one, and with my many other commitments I know that I cannot give to the council the time it deserves. I do hope that there is someone who will see this as their opportunity to be part of a good village team and will put their name forward to fill this vacancy on the BPC. There is an exciting time ahead for the right person! I shall also relinquish the editorship of the Village News, a role which I have filled for 10 of those years and this is the saddest part for me as I have really enjoyed the challenge of producing this quarterly magazine, copies of which get posted worldwide to former 'Bleadonites' and family friends. The magazine now finds itself in the capable hands of Keith Pyke so all articles and reports to go to him as from January.

I shall continue to look after the BPC website - so shall still have a finger on the village pulse, so to speak, - and of course I shall continue to help the History group by collecting and keeping the archives safe. So please keep your memories and photos coming in, there are far too few original residents left and we don't want to lose all that valuable knowledge.

Thanks to all of you who have rallied round and supported my efforts over the years I hope that you will support Keith in the same way.

Penny Robinson

Spitfire Crash in Bleadon

Below is a short account of an event, which has recently been brought to my notice. The son of this pilot, one Mr. Frank Barton got in touch with me via the website and I've been able to put him into contact with at least one resident who remembers the event well. Frank now has photos of the hillside as it is today, but wonders if there is anyone else who has memories of the incident or even a picture.

"At 19.57 hrs on June 6th 1941 two Spitfires of a patrol protecting a convoy in the Bristol Channel passed over the barrage area operated by No.955 Squadron at Weston super Mare. The rearmost aircraft, P8143 of 501 Squadron operating from Colerne, hit the cable of the balloon at Site 55/19. The Double Parachute Link fired and the balloon broke away, but the aircraft crashed at Shiplate Court Farm, Hutton. (Editors note - now known to be in Bleadon). The pilot, Sgt. C.J.Barton was killed and the aircraft burnt out."

What it doesn't say in this report is that the pilot was already injured from his encounter with German guns over the Bristol Channel and was doing his best to get back to base when he flew into barrage balloon cable. The balloon was situated near to the Devil's Bridge, Uphill.

Mr. Frank Barton lives in Cambridge.
Tel. 01223 350650
E-mail montecristo@talktalk.net
website ref of the above report
www.fishponds.freeuk.com/puckle.htm

Penny Robinson

Change is on its way - with recycling your waste

You will have read in your *North Somerset Life* magazine about changes that are happening in March to the way your rubbish and recycling will be collected.

This is such a fundamental sea-change in the way that we must all deal with our rubbish, that it is worth repeating.

From March the new kerbside waste and recycling service will include:

a **weekly recycling service** using your existing green boxes collecting paper, all types of cardboard including corrugated, plastics, food and drink cartons, tins and cans, glass, textiles, shoes, batteries, mobile phones and spectacles. You will be provided with a free additional green box

a **weekly food waste collection** using containers. One for your kitchen and a larger lockable one for outside

the **green bag waste collection** will continue **fortnightly**. It will NOT now include corrugated cardboard

a **wheeled bin** for any **non-recyclable waste** collected **fortnightly**

Collections on bank holidays throughout the year apart from Christmas and New Year will also be introduced, and collections will start at 7am.

Although the new contracts will take effect from 1 March 2010 more work needs to be done to plan when the changes to collections arrangements will be introduced.

Before the services change in late Spring 2010, **you will be written to with details of your specific collection solution**, and if this is unsuitable there will be an opportunity for you to contact North Somerset Council to demonstrate that the solution is not suitable for your needs before the collections change.

The good news is that North Somerset Council will be supplying all the necessary new containers.

Plus we will be able to **recycle most plastics** from our own kerbside.

The recycling collection teams will be sorting the green box materials at the kerbside. So be prepared for some delays if you're stuck behind the lorry!

Every week



food waste

recycling

Every other week



green waste

non-recyclable waste

Food waste

Probably the most contentious issue in these changes is the recycling of food waste. Older residents may remember the *pig* or *swill bin*. It looks like it's made a come-back!

Here is what North Somerset have to say on the subject:

Over a third of what's in the average household bin is food waste. By collecting it separately we will significantly reduce the amount of recyclable waste going to landfill, and avoid huge financial penalties.

Food waste is biodegradable and when it rots down releases the major climate change gas methane if it isn't exposed to oxygen. By collecting food waste separately we will significantly reduce the amount of this highly potent greenhouse gas being released.

All food waste, including meat and fish, **will be composted** at a specialist treatment facility in Gloucestershire. It will be heat-treated to kill any bacteria and ensure compliance with the 2005 Animal By-Products legislation. Once it's ready, the compost will be available to buy from the three Recycling Centres in North Somerset.

Residents will receive a five litre caddy to keep in the kitchen to collect scraps and a 25 litre bin to place the waste outside for collection. The larger food waste bin will have a sealable lid and can be stored indoors or outdoors without risk of it being broken into by pests such as foxes, cats or rats, unlike black sacks that can be easily torn.

Food waste will be collected every week and the council will be providing more information and hints and tips about storing and putting out food waste closer to the introduction of the new scheme.



Remember to compost too!

Most kitchen scraps can be composted. You can purchase a **compost bin for just £15** from North Somerset Council. The

bins include a free kitchen caddy and delivery to your home.

The special discounted bins are only available to North Somerset residents. You can buy one with a debit or credit card by calling the Streets and Open Spaces team on 01934 888 802 .

It may take a couple of weeks for your compost bin to arrive.

The economic facts behind this change

This year it costs each household in Bleadon an average £48 in Council Tax to put our rubbish into landfill. Each year the government tax on our landfill increases by 8%. Within five years it will be costing us around £73 in Landfill Tax - unless we change now.

Add to that the prospect of huge fines if we fail to meet the reducing annual landfill targets. North Somerset Council estimates that unless we reduce our rubbish going to landfill dramatically it will cost each Bleadon household around £181 in additional taxes within five years.

None of us wants to pay the government more for the escalating cost of landfill, so we are going to have to change the way we deal with our rubbish.

Over the coming months there will be lots more information and guidance coming from North Somerset Council.

Keep up-to-date on the North Somerset website:

www.n-somerset.gov.uk/revolution

More improvements around Bleadon

Notice Board Celtic Way

Residents in Hillside and Roman Road asked the parish council for more convenient access to information about events in the village. Bleadon Parish Council has responded with a new notice board at the top of Celtic Way.

Sited alongside the bus shelter and the welcome to Bleadon sign the new oak structure will provide an additional information focal point for our hilltop villagers and visitors.

Play Area signs

Families and children may have seen that we have replaced the rather tired old signs on the gate into the Play Area. Our bright new signs should make it clear to all users of this child-friendly area that dogs and alcohol are prohibited in the park. The new notice also draws attention to the obvious fact that the little spring rides are for toddlers and young children. So dads and lumpy youths - please stay off!

Mike's tree outside the Youth Club

Antoinette Welch wished to celebrate her dear late husband Mike's contribution to village life with a tree in the heart of the village. In a family ceremony early on a Saturday in September the weeping birch was planted on the green alongside the Youth Club. Now we can all benefit from its beauty and remember Mike with a smile as we pass by.

If you would like to celebrate someone or something and contribute to the

village's amenities please contact the parish council - like Antoinette did.

Bus shelter on Coronation Road

Around the time that you receive this Village News we should be seeing the erection of a new bus shelter on Coronation Road.

In partnership with North Somerset Council we are moving the bus stop down from the dangerous corner at the Shiplate and Celtic Way junction.

The new stop and shelter will be outside the Church Rooms. As well as a fine, hand-crafted oak shelter we will have a raised kerb to allow easier access to the bus. I'm sure that for all those bus passengers who have had to stand in all weathers the new shelter will be very welcome.

The shelter itself will be completed by 16 December but it is unclear whether North Somerset's groundworks to the pavement will be ready by then.

New road-markings will indicate the bus stop no parking zone and prohibit parking on the dangerous corner outside Newbay Cottage.

New bus stop signs

After months of lobbying of North Somerset by the parish council it's great to see that we now have bus stop flags at Purn/Bleadon Rd and on the A370 near Bridge Garage.

Let's all now help towards retaining the bus service by using it!

KP

Parish Boundary and Electoral Review

Bleadon may see a change to its parish boundary and possible cuts in the number of its parish councillors as a result of a review now being carried out in North Somerset.

The review by North Somerset Council has looked at parish boundaries and parish council electoral arrangements, as well as the provision of any parish council wards, and allocated numbers of parish councillors. The district council has invited submissions for any changes to, or in support of the retention of, the existing arrangements.

Make Hillcote part of Bleadon

Bleadon Parish Council has asked that its boundary be extended to include Hillcote.

This follows several requests from residents in Hillcote who feel that they are really part of Bleadon, not Weston. Many feel that Hillcote exists in a kind of no-man's-land between the two. Certainly, most Hillcote residents enjoy our facilities and feel strong attachment to our village.

The parish chairman has written personally to all Hillcote residents urging them to **vote to transfer to Bleadon** in the current consultation period. We hope they do.

Cutting the size of your parish council

One of the recommendations that has come from your District Councillor Ap Rees is that the number of Bleadon Parish councillors be reduced from nine to seven.

Your parish council is very strongly opposed to this **reduction in your democratic representation**. Already your nine councillors work very many hours for free on your behalf. Any reduction in numbers would put considerable strain on your grass-roots councillors who are working unpaid to deliver the services Bleadon wants and deserves. Any cut would certainly reduce the council's effectiveness.

If you are happy with the status quo and do not want to see any reduction in your local representation we urge you to tell North Somerset Council so.

Write to the officer who's heading this consultation at the Town Hall telling him how you feel.

Mike Jones, Democratic Services, North Somerset Council, Town Hall, Weston-super-Mare BS23 1UJ

Email: mike.jones@n-somerset.gov.uk



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

Change is on its way - our mobile library under threat

North Somerset Council is reviewing its mobile library service to save £70,000 per annum on operational costs.

A recommendation has been made to the Executive which will have enormous effects on the service that Bleadon will, or will not receive. *An extract from the report published on the North Somerset Council website is transcribed below.*



*“This report recommends that the Council procures a new library vehicle either by lease or purchase and **restructures the mobile library routes to ensure that a more cost effective service is provided, which gives priority to households not within 2 miles of a static library and focuses on communities in greatest need.** Whilst detailed work will need to be carried out to complete the **route rationalisation**, the general principles proposed to be adopted are follows:-*

- *Longer stops (minimum 30 minutes)*
- *Minimum frequency once every three weeks, but more often where appropriate / possible*
- *More central, safe and accessible stops and, where possible, associated with other community meeting places / services*
- *Free reservations*
- *Significant reduction in stops within 2 miles of a static library*
- *No multiple stops in one community*
- *Introduction of a range of new “gateway to council information and services” where practicable”*

In effect, the new slim-line mobile library is **unlikely to visit communities who live within two miles of a library.**

Will that be “crow flying miles”?

We sincerely hope not, because that puts the new library on the Bournville just two miles away from the village cross - as the crow flies! And whilst we have a surfeit of crows in the village none of them uses the mobile library as far as I’m aware!

Note also the limiting of stops within a village. So if we do retain a mobile library it’s **likely to stop in just one central spot.** That does little to help the large proportion of elderly and infirm who are the real beneficiaries of this service.

If you wish to retain the mobile library in Bleadon you are urged to WRITE NOW to Councillor Felicity Baker, who is the Executive Member pushing forward these changes at North Somerset.

And copy in Nigel Ashton the Leader of the Council too.

felicity.baker@n-somerset.gov.uk

nigel.ashton@n-somerset.gov.uk

Keep yourself warm with Countrywide

For competitive LP Gas and
Heating Oil prices and first class
customer service call us now!



LP Gas:

0800 1691735



Heating Oil:

0800 626348

www.countrywidefarmers.co.uk

countrywide

Supplying the rural community

Change is on its way - the digital TV switchover



TV across the UK and the rest of the world is going digital. In Bleadon that changeover will happen in March and April 2010.

If you are not already receiving digital TV you need to be prepared before the **Mendip transmitter** switches BBC1 and BBC2 programmes exclusively to digital on 24 March. All other programmes will switch to digital on 7 April.

Why is it happening?

Switchover is happening so that Freeview services (digital TV through an aerial) can be extended to people who can't currently get them.

How will you be affected?

How the digital TV switchover affects you will depend on what equipment you currently have, or what you are planning to get.

If you have Freeview, BT Vision or Top Up TV you will just need to **retune your digital TV or set-top box**.

If you have Sky TV, Freesat, Virgin Media or Tiscali on all your TVs you need **do nothing**.

If you have Analogue TV (five channels or fewer) you will need to **convert your TV** to continue viewing after switchover.

What do viewers need to do?

Viewers must ensure that their TVs are capable of receiving a digital signal in order to continue receiving television services after March 24th. Virtually any TV, even black and white ones, can be converted with a digital box. Anyone buying new TV equipment should look for the 'digital tick' logo (below) which identifies equipment designed to work before, during and after switchover.

What are the different ways to get digital TV?

There are three main options available to Bleadon residents:

Through an aerial (eg Freeview, Top Up TV, BT Vision), either through a digital box or a television with an integrated digital tuner (an iDTV)

By satellite (eg Sky, or non-subscription freesat from Sky)

Over broadband (eg Tiscali TV)



How much does digital television cost?

Most homes already have digital television on the main set. For those getting digital for the first time or who are converting secondary sets around the home, the cost will vary according to the number of TVs and method of conversion.

Some homes (5-10%) in poor reception areas may also require a new aerial to receive digital signals. **Don't accept any doorstep traders telling you that you have to change your aerial.** You probably don't need to change your aerial. A standard new roof aerial normally costs £60-180.

Freeview digital boxes start from less than £25

Integrated digital televisions start from around £100, and seem to be getting cheaper all the time.
Subscription (eg Sky, Virgin, Top Up TV) start from approximately £10 per month

Digital television recorders start from approx £100

What about recorders?

Analogue recorders will still be able to play tapes and discs but will need to be connected to either a digital box or digital television in order to record programmes after switchover. They will only be able to record the digital channel being watched.

Many viewers are swapping their old analogue equipment for a digital TV recorder (DTR) or a digital DVD recorder. These devices can also pause or rewind live TV, and some models

feature two tuners allowing you to record one digital channel while watching another.

What channels will viewers get?

Switchover will make Freeview television channels available throughout Bleadon. Viewers choosing to get digital television this way will be able to receive BBC One, BBC Two, ITV1, C4 and Five plus a range of digital channels and services **free via an aerial.** Bleadon households will be able to receive over 40 Freeview channels plus digital radio channels via their aerial.

The Digital Switchover **Help Scheme** has been established by the BBC to offer practical assistance at the time of switchover to **cover households in which one person or more:**

is aged **75 years** or over; or

has a **significant disability** – ie claims disability living allowance, attendance allowance, constant attendance allowance or pensioners' mobility supplement; or


is registered **blind or partially sighted**

Eligible households may receive the following support:

- equipment to convert one TV set
- help with installation
- an aerial replacement (if required)
- follow-up support

There will be a subsidised **fee of £40** for the help.

For eligible claimants who also receive income support, job seeker's allowance or pension credit, the help will be provided free.

get set for digital 



Uphill and Bleadon Station



Bleadon Station as a museum in the 1960's



Church choir - 1950's. Young Elfan Ap Rees



The Motor Company outing



Cutting the A370 in 1934 - Fred Durston (tea boy)



Cottages opposite Anchor - these were demolished to make way for A370.



The Fields (with girls)



Village memorial cross

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

Bleadon Youth Club news

Bleadon Youth Club has had a busy autumn programme. We have satisfied our taste buds by making cakes and pumpkin soup, braved the approaching cold weather by holding a barbeque, designed posters as part of anti-bullying week and even had a face painting evening.

All of these activities provide a stepping stone to allow us Youth Workers to involve our members in learning about key issues facing young people today.

Over the last year our membership has continued to increase. More young people between the ages of 11 and 18 visit us every week. The Youth Club is situated in the car-park by the Coronation Hall and opens on **Thursday nights from 7pm until 9:30pm.**

We normally take a break for the Christmas holidays. So our last session will be on Thursday 17 December, but we will **open again on Thursday 7 January 2010.**

Our current members are arranging a fantastic eight week programme of activities for our winter programme (Jan-Mar) which will include visiting Hutton Moor Leisure Centre for a sports project. As we raise money through the Youth Opportunity Fund we can subsidise most sessions to just £1. **BARGAIN!**

If you wish to find out more (**we always welcome new members**) contact 01934 644075 or email me at

mike.jordan2@n-somerset.gov.uk

Mike Jordan, Senior Youth Support

During 2009 Bleadon Youth Club has continued to play its vital part in village life, providing a safe and nurturing leisure facility for our younger villagers. Our Youth Workers, Michael, Anne and Patrick, have worked dedicatedly to provide our young people with entertainment, guidance and support as they journey towards becoming responsible young people who can make a positive contribution.

As with many services these days, funding is limited and we are able to currently operate just one youth evening a week. We'd like to improve on that.

The management committee has welcomed some new bodies to contribute to the efforts of the hardworking and longer serving members and we hope this will breathe fresh enthusiasm into the club. We are more than pleased to have three young members stepping up to a committee role.

The most important task of the committee is to raise the necessary

funds to operate a second night for our young people. £4500 is required to fund a weekly second night but smaller amounts could see us being able to offer some short term project related second sessions.

In an effort to raise money we have made the club available for private functions or activities (details from Keith Pyke on 813127) and have committed to greater fundraising activities in 2010. We would welcome any support from the village in our endeavors to get a second night going, be it ideas for sponsorship or indeed a direct financial contribution.

Please feel free to contact Julie on 07769 900900 or Lesley Stokes (secretary) on 812587 with any ideas, suggestions or comments.

Let's remember today's Bleadon youngsters are tomorrow's village elders.

Season's greetings to you all,

Julie Al-Hinai, Chair

**Bleadon Coronation Hall
Management Committee** Reg. Charity No.1042602



We are all aware of the rising cost of gas electricity and water in our homes.

The committee has to absorb these increases in order that the hire charges do not have to be raised until it becomes absolutely necessary to do so.

It would be of great help therefore if hall users could ensure that there is always a nominated person to check that all the heaters, taps and lights (especially in the toilets), have been switched off before closing up.

I mention this because only recently it was found that a hot water tap had been left running in the ladies' toilet and as this was not discovered for several days, you can imagine the waste of metered water and gas this represented. I will say that most Hall users do already make the checks, which only take a few minutes at the end of the session and we are most appreciative of this, - it's the ones who don't that cost us dear.

Season's greetings to you all!

Len Chamberlain (Chairman)

Friends of Bleadon Church



The concert by "Brass Attack" in November was very successful and an audience of over 60 thoroughly enjoyed their evening. Approximately £290 was raised. As a result of the enjoyment provided by this group they were approached to provide musical support for the carol singing at the Punch & Pie party on the 12th December.

Late news received today is that the Parish Council will be providing a Christmas tree at the front of the Coronation Hall.

Planning of events for the New Year is in hand and events will include a pudding and quiz evening, the May Fayre, a Male Voice Choir Concert, Strawberry Tea, Open Church Tower and several other items to which everyone is welcome.

Talking of the May Fayre, we are always in need of helpers, on the day and in preparation and the running of the stalls. If you can help please telephone Graham Rogers, Chairman, on 811571.

The success of the Bric a Brac stall has meant that it is difficult to manage and we will next year be limiting the number of stalls. Our appeal for items will therefore be limited to the following items. - china, children's toys, books, jewelry and small items of furniture. Further information from Sandra Lowton tel. 413034

Bleadon WI



Bleadon WI is like Topsy, it just grows and grows! We've had a great autumn with new members joining at each meeting. We've set up a walking group, taken part in a skittles competition and a group of 13 members caught the train to London and took in 'The Calendar Girls', even seeing some of the stars at the Stage Door and being photographed by the press with Arabella Weir and Helen Lederer!

We've had our first Annual Meeting with all Officers and Committee Members re-elected and are now looking forward to our 'Christmas Party' on 10 December (can't divulge the entertainment at this time!). We're also hoping to sing carols outside The Queen's Arms in the run-up to Christmas.



Our meeting on Thursday, 14 January is a 'Ladies' Pamper Evening' - so relax and enjoy - in time for the celebration of our first year as Bleadon WI on Thursday, 11 February, when we're also celebrating the Chinese New Year (Year of the Tiger). The pace doesn't stop there, as we're going to try 'Bollywood Dancing' at our 11 March meeting!

We're a lively group of ladies - of ALL ages. Come along to any of our meetings - we'd love to meet you and let you know what we have planned for 2010. We meet the 2nd Thursday each month - watch out for our posters.

If you need to know more, call Libby on 812050.

"Happy New Year!"

Poppy Appeal 2009



The **Annual Poppy Appeal** in Bleadon produced a record total of **£986.37**.

Static collections at Catherine's Inn, Queen's Arms Post Office, Church and 'Escape' held up well, while the increase came from the house-to-house collection. I.D. Clarke, Jill Hobbs, Susan Oldfield, Sarah Ripley, Adam and Becky Stafford, Jill Walford and Pete Williams brought in over £600, a very pleasing result. Many thanks to all the residents who contributed so generously.

Les Masters

Bleadon Short Mat Bowls Club

The season is progressing very successfully with attendance good and the league team second in the league after the first four matches.

There will be a Christmas break after the 18th December until the 3rd January, but on the 18th there will be celebratory evening which will conclude with wine and mince pies.

Looking ahead to the start again in January there will be the annual New Year's Dinner at the Captains Cabin on the 16th and other social events will include a visit to Torquay in March. There are still vacancies for both members and friends. Further information about this visit is available from Malcolm Gammon tel. 01934 813340.

The Club is a very friendly one and we would love to welcome new members. (open three days per week, Sunday and Fridays 2.30pm until 4.30. Fridays 7pm until 9.30)

W-s-M Croquet Club



2009 has been a very eventful and happy season for everyone involved with the Weston super Mare Croquet Club. Our membership has increased dramatically and many new friendships have been made as a result of the fun and many laughs that have taken place on our lawns during the past summer.

Many of our new members, some who live in Bleadon, have represented our Club in the Golf Croquet League matches and we have high hopes of good things for next season.

Our grounds have had a lot of work done in an effort to get them into better shape for 2010.

We are very happy to welcome any new members from the village of Bleadon and the surrounding districts. Please contact the Secretary at 9 Manor Grange, Bleadon.

We wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a successful New Year.

Bleadon Players



As the pantomime season approaches the Players are busily rehearsing 'Red Riding Hood'.

Once again we have chosen a script written by Norman Robbins, a professional writer who really understands traditional pantomime and amateur productions. Rumour has it that he lives locally- 'Oh yes he does!'

Come along to the Coronation hall and sample the delights of the gorgeous Prince Edwin of Entertania, his faithful servant Bobby Shaftoe, Grandma Malaria Merry, evil Sir Jasper de Vyle, terrifying Lupus Rex- king of the wolves and of course the lovely Red riding Hood herself.

Performances on January 14th, 15th and 16th at 7.30pm plus a Saturday matinee at 2.30pm. Tickets £6 adult and £3 children from Bleadon Post Office or on the door.

Vacancy for a Clerk to the Governing Body Lympsham CofE VC First School

Lympsham CofE VC First School is seeking a Clerk to the Governing Body.

The governing body, through its appointed and elected governors, plays a distinctive and essential role in the continuing success and development of the school.

The clerk's job is to work with the headteacher, chair and other governors, dealing with administrative matters for the governing body and advising on legal issues of governance. Central to the role is preparing for, taking notes at and producing minutes for meetings.

The post involves some evening work and the successful candidate should be available at times during the day. Good keyboard skills and the ability to write agendas and produce accurate concise minutes are essential. Integrity and the ability to maintain confidentiality are essential.

New clerks receive support and training from the Somerset Governor Services Team and all clerks are encouraged to attend termly briefings in their locality to update themselves on the latest developments in governance.

The post will initially involve 10 - 12 hours work for each meeting and, typically, there will be two meetings each term. The clerk may be asked to take on additional work according to need.

The post of Clerk to the Governing Body has been evaluated using Somerset's Job Evaluation Scheme at Grade 13: £16,663 - £18,937 pro-rata.

Further information and an application form can be obtained by contacting:

Rob Kail-Dyke, Chair of Governors
Lympsham CofE VC First School
01934 750473
office@lympsham.somerset.sch.uk

Bleadon Country Sports

Bleadon Country Sports raised £2000 at their show in August at Appledore Farm. The sun shone and the show was well attended.

The Sports also celebrated their 70th anniversary by holding a harvest lunch in September for around 90 people. After lunch, cheques were presented to Weston Hospicecare (£900), Langford Trust (£900) and The Kennel Club Charity (£200).

Bleadon Country Sports are very grateful for the support and sponsorship from local businesses.

Bleadon Horticultural Society



Well over 200 spectacular exhibits filled the Coronation Hall for the 36th Annual Summer Flower Show. The number of vegetable and cut flower entries were slightly down on previous years due to damage from the high winds (aftermath of tropical storms and hurricanes).

The mouth watering homecraft exhibits were up on previous years and the imaginative creations of the children were as good as ever.

Chris Sperring MBE kicked off the winter season of talks with many fascinating insights into the behaviour of the various inhabitants of our gardens. The talk was illustrated with superb photographs of animals both large and small. The aim was to encourage people to create wild life habitats in their gardens with particular reference to thorny brambles for nesting birds, nettles for butterflies and teasels for goldfinches. I wonder how many gardens will have wild patches next year!

Paul Gilmour from Cadbury garden Centre came once again in November with various ideas for the festive season. He demonstrated different ways of lighting and decorating our Christmas Trees to great effect, using multicoloured LED lights and finished off with the 'must have' Gisella Graham decorations. He also brought along a superb array of plants including holly cultivars and explained why some hollies produce berries and some don't. All to do with male and female trees being close to each other, - and the birds and the bees!

Dates for your New Year diary.

- Tuesday January 19th. - George Alway will give an illustrated talk about 'Polyanthus and Primroses'.
- Tuesday February 16th – Sally Gregson will be welcomed back to give a talk entitled 'A Cottage Garden for a New Century'

Anyone is welcome to come along to these evenings in the Coronation Hall at 7.30pm all it costs is £1 each.

Thank you to everyone who has helped and supported us throughout the year –I wish you all a **'Happy Christmas and all the best for 2010'**.

Chris Cudlipp

Angel - a Christmas short story

Now, I do like Christmas, Christmas is cool, what with all the presents and stuff, and I get everything I want – usually. In fact Mummy goes a bit mad, a bit over the *top* with all the *shopping*. Dad says she's a shopaholic – *she* says he's an *alcoholic*.

But – yuk, I hate it when people get me cardigans and pyjamas and stuff. *Stupid!* So bo-o-oring. If they get me a present, it should be *toys* – well, toys or video games, and books too, I expect.

And the Nativity Play, that I could do without – it's so bo-o-oring – and quite *stupid* and babyish, really. Last year they made me be the ox, but, oh no, the horns wouldn't stay put – they kept slipping over my eyes.

This time Miss Gutteridge says I can be the Angel Gabriel, so that means a long white nightie and a pair of big glittery wings and I'll get to wear some sparkly eye-makeup and lipstick. *Cool!*

But anything is better than being an ox – I was so embarrassed and got teased about it for weeks, especially by that stupid Rosie Pettifer –
hmm!

Actually, she should be made the ox – better still, the *donkey!*

Last year, Rosie was Holy Mary, but kept dropping Baby Jesus on his head – it was only a doll, though. Everyone laughed behind their hands but nobody teased her about it later in case she told her big brother and his gang. They're *disgusting* – they smoke behind the bike sheds, you know –
Ummm!

This year Rosie's going to be one of the shepherds. She says she'd prefer to be the Angel Gabriel – *Hello-o-o – I don't think so!*
Luckily as a shepherd she'll be covered in a hood or a tea towel, probably.

And Rosie should not be going around telling everybody I'm the teacher's pet. I'm like –Hello-o-o – Rosie Pettifer – I think you're jealous!!!

Cuz' Miss Gutteridge says I look just right for the part as long as I remember to tell Mummy not to cut my hair before the actual day. It won't be difficult playing the Angel – all I have to do is stand there with my arms out, not speaking.

Actually, *nobody* will have to speak! Miss Gutteridge is going to be 'narrator', which means she'll do all the talking this time. This is because of last year when Joseph got mixed up and began his lines all over again, and then they were all going round and round in a loop.

It was funny but *really* annoying! Mr. Arbuthnot had to *shout out* the next line to that stupid Ben, I mean Joseph, and to get him back on track otherwise we'd have been there all afternoon.
Pathetic!

So I'm glad we have Miss Gutteridge this year. I just hope it's not too bo-o-oring being the Angel Gabriel! But anyway after that, we break up for the Christmas Holidays and I won't have to look at Rosie Pettifer's freckled face for three whole weeks! Oh – *Wicked!*



June Bastable

A list of organisations which regularly use the Coronation Halls

Mondays

		Contact	
11am-12	Mini Movers**	Mrs E Duffill	623653
2-5pm	Bleadon Bridge Club	Mr D Munden	812772
7-8pm 8-9pm	Exercise Classes**	Mrs M Keele	629261
7.30pm 1st Monday	British Sugarcraft Guild W.S.M. Branch	Mrs F Hatcher	620784
7.30pm 2nd Monday	Bleadon Parish Council	Mr B Poole, Clerk	01278 787555

Tuesdays

2-4pm 2nd Tuesday	Bleadon Ladies Group	Mrs B Pugh	814362
2.30-4.30pm Sept-May	Bleadon Short Mat Bowling Club**	Mrs L Rogers	811571
6-7.30 pm	Bleadon Brownies**	Mrs E Tucker	815396
7.30-9.00 (term time)	Bleadon Guides**	Mrs J Sear	522583
7.30 pm 1st,2nd,4th,5th Sept-May	Bleadon Photographic Group	Mr K Tapley	623877
7.30 pm 3rd – Oct-June	Bleadon Horticultural Society	Mr C Cudlipp	813152

Wednesdays

10am-noon 2nd & 4th	Infant Welfare Clinic & Toddler Group	The Health Visitor at the Clinic	
10am-noon 1st,3rd & 5th	Toddler Group	Katherine Bailey	519636
1.30pm	Yoga Class	Mrs D Marsh (booking officer)	
7.30pm	Bleadon Players/Rehearsals	Mrs S Gibbon	645135

Thursdays

10-12 noon	Art: Watercolour painting class**	Mrs B Davies	813363
7.30 2nd Thurs	Bleadon Womens' Institute	Mrs L Lockyer	812050

A list of organisations which regularly use the Coronation Halls

8.00pm 1st & 3rd Thurs Sept-June	Bleadon Folk Dancing Group	Mrs J Thorne	814007
7.30pm 4th Thursday	Bleadon Sugarcraft Club	Mrs C Peters	843754 626587
Fridays			
2-4pm	Bleadon Friendship Club	Mrs B Davies	813363
7.00pm Sept-May	Short Mat Bowling Club**	Mrs L Rogers	811571
5.30-6.30	Pilates Class	Mrs E Duffill	623653
Saturdays			
3rd Saturday 9-12.30	Village Market	Mrs J Jones	812370
Sundays			
2.30 Sept-May	Short Mat Bowling Club**	Mrs L Rogers	811571

**in the Jubilee Room

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

Bleadon Friendship Club



We have enjoyed some very interesting trips during 2009 courtesy of the Weston Community Transport group, which provides us with a door-to-door service. In April we had lunch at Puxton Park and in May we went on a day trip to Sidmouth; June saw us visiting golden Acres and in July it was to Bloom's garden centre. Recently we have been to the Cadbury/Fry factory in Bristol and indulged our collective weakness for chocolate!

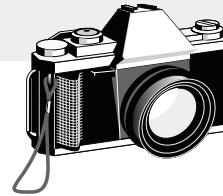
The talks on Fridays have been varied and interesting and we look forward to a good programme of events for next year, first of all however after our Christmas break we shall be having our Annual Lunch in January.

There's never a dull moment, - as well as all of this we have occasional fund raising coffee mornings in the Hall - we do like to have fun. So if you would like to visit us or join our club you would be very welcome - we are a mixed group and meet every Friday at 2pm - 3.30pm.

Happy Christmas and a Jolly Good New Year to you all!

Audrey Lee

Bleadon Photography Group



NORMAN PARKINSON C.B.E. 1913 - 1990

A few days ago I was recalling my days at college where I studied photography and in particular the friends I made whilst there. One was to become a medical photographer eventually gaining a professorship, one of only a very few to gain this position in photography. I am still in contact with him today after nearly 60 years. Another became assistant to the charming eccentric fashion photographer Norman Parkinson. He would go out on assignments with him and be responsible for the processing and printing of the images taken. N.P would discuss with David, my friend, how he would want the final result to appear and decide on any processing adjustments required to achieve this end. This could necessitate a change in processing time or a particular technique or the paper on which the image was finally printed. Many were the stories David could tell of times spent with this charming and eccentric man.

Norman Parkinson concentrated his work on portrait and fashion photography and was the first to move his sitters out of the studio and into unfamiliar areas to take his shots. He might set a model wearing a glamorous Vogue creation against a background of industrial wasteland in order to emphasise the contrast of the two elements and this proved to be a winning genre. This was a method subsequently used by his contemporary, Cecil Beaton, who was at that time competing for the same commissions and changed the perception of fashion photography. N.P's work was featured in all the fashion magazines of the time such as Harper's Bazaar, Queen, Bystander and of course Vogue.

N.P would never take a photograph without wearing his Kashmiri wedding hat, in fact he would seldom be seen without it. The reason for this was never made clear, maybe it was part of his eccentricity but it did become his identity. His real name was Ronald William Parkinson Smith and received his education at Westminster School. He began his career in 1931 as an apprentice to the court photographers Speaight & Sons and in 1934 opened his own studio with his partner Norman Kibblewhite. During the Second World War he flew as a reconnaissance photographer with the R.A.F. After the war he married the actress and model Wenda Rogerson whilst working as fashion photographer at Vogue magazine. She is featured in many of his works. In 1960 he became Associate Editor of Queen magazine until, in 1963 he moved to Tobago returning frequently to London to honour commissions as a freelance photographer.

My friend David joined him as assistant and processing manager and travelled extensively with him. Throughout his entire working life he remained the foremost British fashion and portrait photographer having photographed all the top models of the day along with many in the arts world such as Vaughn Williams and Kathleen Ferrier. He was also known as unofficial royal photographer having taken many portraits of the Royal family and was invited to take some of the photographs of the wedding of the then Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip, outside Westminster Abbey.

He maintained that he was a craftsman not an artist though there are many who would question this, having seen his images. He once said that "The only thing to get in the way of a good photograph was a camera". He was a man with a great sense of humour which sometimes played a part in his photographs and he often appeared in them himself.

One of his legacies is typical of the man, for in order to preserve the traditional British banger, he produced his own brand of sausage in 1985 and called it the "Parkinson's Banger". It was the preferred sausage to be served on Concorde and was marketed as the first supersonic sausage. It is still available today in supermarkets.

Norman Parkinson died on 15th February 1990 having left this world more appreciative of real glamour.

Ken Tapley. Bleadon Photographic Group.

Bleadon Ladies Club



First and foremost let me take this opportunity to wish all members and their families a 'Happy Christmas and a Good New Year'

We have had a good 2009 with many interesting speakers and lots of laughs, as well as welcoming many new members. Looking forward to seeing you all again in January

2010 looks like it will have just as good a programme.

- Tuesday January 12th – Flanders and Swann musical afternoon
- Tuesday February 9th – there will be a talk about 'The Friendship Clinic' in Nepal
- Tuesday March 9th – dance bands of the 20s, 30s, and 40s with Mr. Terry Merrell-Smith

The Club meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month in the Coronation Hall at 2.30pm. We appreciate the continuing support of existing members and look forward to encouraging new ones to join our friendly group.

For more details ring Barbara on 814362

£500 for CLIC SARGENT

The Phoenix Quiz held in late November raised a very pleasing **£518** for Clic Sargent, at the same time providing what seemed to be an enjoyable evening for all the participants.

The number of clean plates showed how well the ploughman's supper went down with the usual lubrication from the bar.

Well done all who helped.

LM

What's On - in the Coronation Halls Make a note in your diary now!

14th/15th/16th January	PANTOMIME	Bleadon Players
12th March	SPRING SHOW	Horticultural Soc.
3rd April	COFFEE MORNING	Friendship Group
3rd May	MAY FAYRE	Bleadon Church

AGE
Concern

Somerset



We are seeking
people like you
to become.....



"VOLUNTEERS

Come and join
our exciting team of
interesting people



The experience will
be a very
rewarding one



Volunteers are our
life blood their
support is vital to
what we do

AGE Somerset
Concern

Would like to meet
you!



For further details and information on
how

to become a volunteer please contact:

Tel: 01823 423497

Email:

info@ageconcernsomerset.org.uk

Website: www.ageconcernsomerset.org.uk

Age Concern Somerset is a Registered Charity No. 1015900 and is a
Company Limited by Guarantee. Registered in Cardiff No. 2717676

Better™

Better Kitchens



Suppliers to Trade & DIY

**Rigid Kitchens - Worktops - Appliances
Sinks & Taps - Lighting - 3D Design Service**

Call us on: 01934 813201

See our kitchens online - www.betteronline.co.uk

Visit The Showroom

Unit A, Purn House Farm, Bleadon



We can make any film for you
The Bleadon Film Company
www.actionwork.com

Tel 01934 815163

Promotional

You Tube

Features

Educate

Videos

DVDs

Web

TV

This Newsletter is Edited by **PENNY ROBINSON** of 1, The Veale, Bleadon BS24 0NP

The cover design is by **JOHN HICKLEY**

Published by **BLEADON PARISH COUNCIL**, Bleadon, North Somerset.

Produced & Printed by **MAXWELL HOUSE PRINTERS**

Tel...01934 822 601 Fax...01934 822 418