

# BLEADON



VILLAGE NEWS 84

Monthly indoor

# Saturday MARKET

DATES for 2010

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

# Bleadon Parish Council

## Your Parish Councillors

Penny Skelley (Chairman)	Mendip Croft, Celtic Way, Bleadon	Tel: 815 331
Brian Gamble (Vice Chair)	Ashdene, Bleadon Road, Bleadon	Tel: 811 709
I.D. Clarke	The Granary, Mulberry Lane, Bleadon	Tel: 815 182
Robert House	Purn House Villa, Purn Lane, Bleadon	Tel: 815 588
Graham Lockyer	Highcroft, Roman Road, Bleadon	Tel: 812 050
Trevor Marshall	15 Bleadon Mill, Bleadon	Tel: 811 548
Clive Morris	20 Bleadon Mill, Bleadon	Tel: 811 591
Keith Pyke	8 Whitegate Close, Bleadon	Tel: 813 127
Mary Sheppard	Littlewood, Bridgwater Road, Lympsham	Tel: 812 921

**The Council meets** on the second Monday of the month at 7.30pm in the Coronation Hall. We are currently looking at having an earlier start, with an informal half hour before the Parish Council meeting for you to chat with councillors, discuss any issues and have a cup of tea.

**An Agenda** is published on the Parish notice boards and the website. We welcome parishioners to attend meetings and see what we do.

**Parishioners' Voice** is a formal opportunity at the start of each meeting for you to talk briefly to the Council about any issues you have. If there is a particular issue you would like to raise please let the Parish Clerk know by the Friday before the meeting. This will give him the chance to collect the most up-to-date information available.

### **All correspondence to the Parish Clerk:**

Bruce Poole, 21 Stoneleigh Close,  
Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset TA8 3EE

Tel: 07887 802 922

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**Bleadon Village News** is published quarterly in mid March, July, September and December. Contributions to the newsletter are very welcome so long as they are about Bleadon or can directly benefit its residents. Please ensure that your editorial or advertising material reaches the editor at least three weeks before publication. **The deadline for the summer edition is 12 June.**

We aim to provide a copy of this newsletter free to every household in Bleadon. Additional copies are usually available from the village shop and the church porch. We are eternally grateful to the band of volunteers who deliver this newsletter to households. If you can lend a helping hand four times a year please let me know - Tel: 813 127.

*Unless otherwise stated the opinions and comments expressed in this publication are those of the contributor and not of Bleadon Parish Council.*

### **Send your contributions to:**

**Keith Pyke**, Village News Editor

**8 Whitegate Close, Bleadon BS24 0PW**

**Email:** [bleadon.editor@btinternet.com](mailto:bleadon.editor@btinternet.com)

## Chairman's Report

At the beginning of the year, the Parish Council with its usual enthusiasm will be meeting the targets and aspirations that the community has set. As we look to the coming months, we will do our utmost to deal with the issues that concern us all. The way to help the Council to **hear and know your views** is to **attend the Annual Parish Meeting in the Coronation Hall on 12 April 2010**. This is your meeting, we will cover the precept, the village plan, the recycling revolution and propose a new format for this Village magazine. Parishioners, local organisations and clubs are welcome; please come along and enjoy the evening and a glass of wine.

The Parish Council recently welcomed a **new Councillor** to the team. **Trevor Marshall** will broaden our knowledge and insight of the work we undertake on your behalf and we will once again be up to full strength. We also welcome the new Chairman and Treasurer of the Youth Club. We thank them and their Committee for all that they do to help our young people.

The North Somerset boundary review will soon be published and we shall then know if **Hillcote** will be included within the Bleadon boundary, enabling them to enjoy the facilities and services that we value here. Much other work is ongoing with North Somerset on planning issues and the draft Core Strategy. The Parish Council apologises for the **new bus shelter** not being erected in December 2009 as expected. North Somerset were unable to undertake the necessary groundwork,

which will now be completed in the Spring. Until then, the bus shelter remains in storage.

We have had many complaints on the problems of **litter and dog fouling**. Bins are available for both; please use them and help us to keep our village as clean and tidy as we would all wish it to be. We understand that new Dog Control Orders will be issued shortly. We have also received many complaints of cars **speeding** and inconsiderate and **unsafe parking** on our village roads. We have passed the complaints to our Community Police Team, who intend to make these issues a "Police Priority".

The **Scarecrow Festival** will be held again in August. This two day event entitled "Weird and Wonderful" will begin on **Saturday 28 August**, with a pork roast lunch and Live music. Cream teas will be available on Sunday 29 August. Hopefully, all parts of the village, including the allotments, will have Scarecrows - just maybe even a Maize Maze to enjoy. A Contactus Party will be held in the Village Hall on 16 June to **welcome all new villagers** who have arrived over the last year. The **History Group** will meet on the last day of June, when archived material will be on view. All these events are sponsored by the Parish Council.

Due to the long cold winter, the **Spring Plant Up** of the tubs will be later than usual on **Saturday 8 May**. The colour scheme is still a secret!! Thank you for your continuing encouragement and support of your Parish Council.

*Penny Skelley, Chairman*



## Notes from the Editor's mouse

What kind of insanity crept through the minds of your good parish councillors when they handed me responsibility for putting together your Village News?

After years in the safe editorial hands of Penny Robinson this delightful little quarterly has been sacrificed to the whims of Pykey and his Apple Mac. Let's hope the "stupid boy" doesn't make a mess of it all!

You can bet that in the future there are going to be some changes made. Well you wouldn't expect anything else, would you? For this edition, however, all is safe and cuddly in the traditional format that you have grown to expect.

We've got all the usual news from the village clubs and societies, a delightful review of the Bleadon panto from Royston, an up-date on what's happening with the new Waste Recycling collections later in the year and the parish council's response to North Somerset's Core Planning Strategy proposals. Plus lots more.... read on.

## Changes to come

This newsletter is the voice of the people of Bleadon. I want to ensure that this newsletter brings you all up-to-date on what is happening in the parish and what services your parish council is delivering. If you've got a story to tell or a point of view to express I'll be delighted to hear from you.

Email: [bleadon.editor@btinternet.com](mailto:bleadon.editor@btinternet.com)

Since this newsletter was first published under the guiding hand of Councillor Mary Sheppard in late 1988 it has retained its familiar format. There have been improvements along the way and additions - having grown from 16 pages to over 40 today. Now I feel it's time to bring it into the 21st century, without losing any of the good features that have made it welcome in your homes over the last 21 years. I'd like to show you what I have in mind at the **Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 12 April**. If you are interested please come along.

It's not a parish council meeting. It's your meeting.

### Anti-social behaviour

I am appalled that some dog owners continue to allow their dogs to foul our footpaths and verges without cleaning up after them.

I wonder how any of them would feel if we did our business on their drive every day?

Now there's an idea!

#### **No excuses.**

If you can remember to take the dog for a walk, **you** can also remember a bag for the crap!

**Then put it in the dog bin.**

## What happened to the promised bus shelter?

In the last Village News I promised that a new bus shelter would be installed in Coronation Road by early 2010. Fear not! The bus shelter is made and awaits delivery. Unfortunately, changing budget priorities at North Somerset Council mean that they have had to delay the pavement improvements until the new financial year after April 1st.

Whilst we wait for the widening and raising of the pavement outside the Church Rooms I'm afraid that bus passengers will have to brave the elements on that narrow pavement outside Newbay Cottage. Sorry about that.

## And what about our new Bleadon history panel?

I also promised the installation of a Bleadon history interpretation panel on the little green in front of the toilets. That too has been delayed by the hold on delivering the bus shelter. As both oak structures are coming from the same craftsman in Hampshire it makes sense to keep delivery costs down by having both delivered together. So Bleadon's history is having to wait a little I'm afraid.

## Here's a scary thought or two

If you are one in a million in China... there are 1,300 people just like you.

In India the top 7% of the population with the highest IQs is greater than the total population of the UK. That means that they have more gifted and talented students than we have students.

China will soon become the **number one** English speaking country in the world.

## Welcome to our new Bleadon Parish Councillor

After the resignation of Penny Robinson from the parish council in December we are pleased to welcome Trevor Marshall onto the council.

Trevor and his family have lived in Bleadon Mill since it was first built. In fact, he was involved in the building of the development and he liked Bleadon so much he decided to stay.

With his surveying and project management background we are hoping that Trevor can bring additional professional skills to our already well-rounded council.

## Parish Precept for 2010-11

The Parish Council has managed to hold down its portion of the Council Tax to a small **1% increase** for the coming year. After last year's zero increase it was agreed that the average £1.30 per household increase on the Bleadon Precept was necessary if we are to continue delivering quality services.

We will be drawing £15,800 from our parish reserves to pay for various major village improvements. These include a bus shelter and improvements at the junction of Bleadon Road and Purn Way, tree planting on the A370, more interpretation panels, completion of the dry-stone walling on Roman Road and making safe the low stone wall by the Play Area.

## Housing Development for North Somerset through to 2026

North Somerset Council has been working on their new **Core Strategy** which, when adopted in 2012, will inform the Local Development Framework and planning policies for the district through to 2026.

The process started with the publication of the Regional Spatial Strategy by central government that prescribes the size and key locations of future housing and associated developments. **Many authorities have been unhappy with this top down approach and the lack of local democratic involvement.** Some authorities have felt so strongly that they have challenged the process through legal review and indeed a number have won their case. North Somerset has taken a non-compliant approach by removing a 9000 housing development in countryside southwest of Bristol from the 26,750 new homes identified in the North Somerset Regional Spatial Strategy.

Of the remaining 17,750 new homes for North Somerset, 9000 new homes and an associated 42 hectares of employment land is identified for the Weston-super-Mare Urban Extension. Much of that development is located in the triangle formed by the M5, the A370 and the A371 and abuts Locking.

The strategic approach taken by North Somerset Council is to establish **three different types of development areas, Urban, Service Villages and Minor Settlements.** The Urban areas are Weston-super-Mare, Clevedon, Nailsea and Portishead and quite obviously

represent areas with substantial populations.. The **Service Villages** are Backwell, Banwell, Congesbury, Churchill, Hutton, Locking, Long Ashton, Pill/Easton-in-Gordano, Uphill, Winscombe, Wrington and Yatton and have populations in the 2000 to 5000 range. **Other villages, including Bleadon, are categorised as Minor Settlements.**

Service Villages will have planning policies that will be focussed on the vision of development for self containment in housing and employment. **Minor Settlements will focus any development on agriculture and associated activities.**

The process is now at a key consultation stage and accordingly your council has reviewed the draft Core Strategy document in detail and has submitted it's comments to North Somerset District Council. **Your council's primary concern is that the step between Service Village and Minor Settlement and the associated planning policy is too large.** Even though Bleadon, with approximately 1000 inhabitants, is significantly smaller than the 2000 to 5000 for the service villages and even though this is reflected in the parish's infrastructure your council does not believe that a "farming hamlet" approach will suffice for the future well-being of the parish.

Your council has suggested to the North Somerset Council that they either include an additional category to cover villages of a similar size to Bleadon or

take an alternative approach that gives a roadmap for the sustainable future of Bleadon. Your Council's comments to the North Somerset Council are shown below.

### **Bleadon Parish Council comments**

The council's detailed comments will predominately be reserved to those areas of the Core Strategy Consultation Draft that have direct or indirect effects or implications on our parish.

Bleadon Parish Council's primary issue of concern and comment is the proposed categorisation of the villages in the District. Bleadon Parish Council concurs with the Core Strategy Consultation Draft in that it does not consider itself to be a "service village". However, **the extreme jump in associated planning policy from "service village" to "smaller settlement" is considered to be too big a step to deal properly with the future needs of Bleadon.** The council requests a mechanism is found to address this issue. Some suggestions are made later in this document.

On the areas of the Core Strategy Consultation Draft that specifically impact on other areas of North Somerset, the council would like to offer its support to the stand taken by North Somerset relative to the Regional Spatial Strategy development proposals for a major development south west of Bristol. More broadly, the stand made to protect the countryside is absolutely key to the protection of one of the most important assets of North Somerset

which contributes so much to the character of the District.

### **Bleadon Parish**

Bleadon Parish stretches from the Bleadon Levels, close to the coast, to the Mendip Hills and enjoys outstanding countryside, including an AONB. Bleadon parish and in particular Bleadon village is adjacent to the Somerset border.

The parish has a population of approximately 1000 inhabitants living in just under 500 dwellings. The demographic distribution is significantly older than average.

Whilst there has been some historical development away from the centre of the village, the bulk of the dwellings in the parish are clustered in one area just off the A370. The village is very much concentrated here together with all of the key facilities and services. The sense of community is very much "alive and well" and is strongly focussed on the village hall. Over twenty social, educational, fitness and general interest organisations utilise the facility and help to support its viability through a very high level of usage.

**The Bleadon Village Plan calls for the protection of the character of the village** and hence implies tightly controlled development.

### **History and Vision**

Under the current planning policies the Settlement Boundary has given residents, the council and developers a clear framework for development. This



## Housing Development for North Somerset through to 2026 (cont.)

has worked very well for Bleadon with some well controlled small developments and infill adding to sustainability whilst protecting the character of the village.

One specific potential project that has been part of a possible future vision for the council has been the development of a non operational Quarry close to the centre of the village. Whilst no specific proposal has been made in the past, a general vision that would see some housing and employment development of the quarry at the end of its current use has existed and, indeed, may explain why the quarry is included within the settlement boundary.

As part of the vision for a potential quarry development the council has linked a redevelopment of the parish's community centre as well as other recreation facility improvements. These, together with an associated redesign and construction of the link road to the A370, are all focussed on improving the facilities and services available to the community and its parishioners.

### Possible solutions

Bleadon Parish Council would strongly suggest that the deep step between "service village" and "smaller settlement" categories be addressed to

ensure that villages similar to Bleadon who are not appropriate for service village designation but are too large to be just an agricultural hamlet **have enough development room to keep the village fresh and progressive within the constraint of protecting the character of the village and the expectations of the parishioners.** For Bleadon a continuation of the settlement boundary and tight controlling policies may offer the best solution.

If, however, the view is that another category of village is not deemed possible, then the council would request a mechanism that protects its vision either by specific inclusion or an enabling definition. As far as the council is concerned, the potential quarry development is very much linked to the facilities and infrastructure within the parish and hence may afford the opportunity for a tight but generic definition such as a community led project.

Under either policy **the Parish Council would require that any future development be balanced to meet local needs such as affordable and sheltered housing, small scale employment opportunities for local people and very importantly improvements to community facilities and infrastructure.**



## WHO ARE MY FRIENDS? WE ARE YOUR FRIENDS!

Now I know why Cecil Rhodes wrote in his famous poem that "To be born an Englishman is to win first prize in the lottery of life". It is because nowhere else in the world can you witness the extravagant theatrical event we know as Pantomime, as Dr Spock might say "It's theatre Jim, but not as we know it".

The vitality with which the BLEADON PLAYERS staged their latest seasonal treat **Red Riding Hood** was total joy from start to finish and bore all the hallmarks of a labour lovingly born.

There were the usual fare of characters; a none-so-pretty maiden fair who falls in love at first sight with the thigh slapping 'Prince of Entertania'. A glittering fairy princess attended by fireflies to ward off the noxious intent of a wolf who speaks in rhyming couplets. An evil squire, Sir Jasper de Vyle (made all the more piquant by being played by a retired vicar) gloriously assisted in his spite and gall by an amiable pair of clots plus, of course, a Grand Dame (Malaria Merry) who in this production just happens to be the supreme example of her kind.

Every company needs its 'voice' and here it belongs to Boy Blue who sings with fair maid Belinda "I'll take care of you". Poor old Boy Blue, a desperate case of unrequited love if ever I saw one.

Added to this lively and magical mix is the Prince's right hand man, a sorry fellow who tells us he was beaten as a child and is friendless now. Full of pathos he cries "I'd like to live with the



Bleadon Short Mat Bowls Club - they never beat anyone!". He bids us answer his plaintive cry "Who are my friends?" With lusty relish the audience scream back at him "We are your friends!" and knowing he has so many friends helps him make the laugh-out- loud link between scenes.

As if this is not enough, there is another heavenly invention to add to the story of the devilish beast intent on devouring little girls in cloaks. Little Bo-Peep makes her entrance, whomever thought of this, please stand and take a bow for she is the most enchanting creation who speaks with a lisp, or more properly, 'Thpkeath with a lithp and hath lotht her theep', when upset she lifts her pretty blue dress and boo-hoos into it, she obviously has no idea that in doing so she exposes her knee length knickers!

The final scene sees the cast thank us for joining in the fun and singing "The Best Of Times Is Now" who could disagree? This delightfully dotty entertainment was met with thunderous applause by an appreciative Friday evening audience and I am struck, between curtain calls, by just how lucky we are to have Bleadon Players now that the Pantomime season is here. This is England in January and yes, we really have won first prize.

## Neighbourhood Watch

*Here's a warning from Emma, our village Police Community Support Officer.*  
If you have information about any crime, phone the police on **0845 456 7000**.

### Visa and Mastercard phone scam

*This very convincing scam has been passed on via the Fraud Department In Wiltshire Constabulary.*

This scam is pretty slick since they provide YOU with all the information, except the one piece they want. **Note, the callers do not ask for your card number; they already have it.**

#### **The scam works like this:**

Person calling says, "This is (name), and I'm calling from the Security and Fraud Department at VISA. My badge number is 12460. Your card has been flagged for an unusual purchase pattern, and I'm calling to verify. This would be on your VISA card which was issued by (name of bank) did you purchase an Anti-Telemarketing Device for £497.99 from a Marketing company based in London?" When you say "No", the caller continues, "Then we will be issuing a credit to your account. This is a company we have been watching and the charges range just under the £500 purchase pattern that flags most cards.

Before your next statement, the credit will be sent to (gives you your address), is that correct?" You say "yes". The caller continues - "I will be starting a fraud investigation. If you have any questions, you should call the 0800 number listed on the back of your card (0800-VISA) and ask for Security. You will need to refer to this Control Number. The caller then gives you a 6 digit number. "Do you need me to read it again?"

Here's the IMPORTANT part the caller then says, "I need to verify you are in possession of your card." He'll ask you to "turn your card over and look for some numbers." There are 7 numbers; the first 4 are part of your card number, the next 3 are the security numbers that verify you are the possessor of the card.

These are the numbers you sometimes use to make Internet purchases to prove you have the card. The caller will ask you to read the 3 numbers to him. After you tell the caller the 3 numbers, he'll say, "That is correct, I just needed to verify that the card has not been lost or stolen, and that you still have your card. Do you have any other questions?" After you say, "No," the caller then thanks you and states, "Don't hesitate to call back if you do", and hangs up. You actually say very little, and they never ask for or tell you the Card number.

After we were called we called back within 20 minutes to ask a question. Are we glad we did! The REAL VISA Security Department told us it was a scam and in the last 15 minutes a new purchase of £497.99 was charged to our card. We made a real fraud report and closed the VISA account. **What the scammers want is the 3-digit PIN number on the back of the card. Don't give it to them.** Instead, tell them you'll call VISA or MasterCard directly for verification of their conversation.

**The real VISA told us that they will never ask for anything on the card as they already know the information since they issued the card!**

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## A recycling revolution for North Somerset



Over the next six months residents in Bleadon will see some major changes to their recycling and waste collections, as North Somerset Council introduces its recycling revolution.

The new services include a weekly recycling collection of a much wider range of materials including plastics, food and drink cartons and all types of cardboard.

### What's already happened?

#### March 2009: property survey

The council surveyed every property in North Somerset to assess the storage space available. Properties were divided into three categories:

**Type 1** enough space for a wheeled bin

**Type 2** not enough space for a wheeled bin

**Type 3** flats of four or more households - changes to collections will be introduced separately.

#### March 2010: new contracts began

The council's new recycling and waste collection contractors May Gurney took over the existing collection services on 1 March. Services continue as at present for now.

### What's going to happen?

#### March and April 2010: letter to type 1 and 2 properties

The letter outlines the council's proposed new service for that household. Residents will have up to three weeks to respond if this is not correct for their property type. A

council officer will visit these properties to reassess the storage space.

#### April 2010: new calendars

New collection calendars for Monday 3 May onwards will be delivered to all North Somerset homes as collection days will be changing in May. New services at Recycling Centres begin too.

#### May 2010: new collection days

From Monday 3 May collection days in North Somerset will change. Collection will begin at 7am from now on and recycling and waste will be collected on all Bank Holidays, apart from Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

**The council will be introducing the changes to recycling and waste collections for type 1 and 2 properties in two stages: half in July, the other half in September.** Everyone will find out which stage they are in well before any changes to collections begin.

**June 2010: new containers delivered to stage one areas** (bins or plastic sacks depending on whether you live in a type 1 or 2 property) to approximately half the households in North Somerset.

**July 2010: new services begin in stage one areas.** Households that got new bins in June will receive their new collections from mid-July.

**August 2010: new containers delivered to stage two areas** in the remaining half of the households in North Somerset.

**September 2010: new services begin in stage two areas.** Households that got new bins in August will receive their new recycling and waste collections from mid-September.

# digital

**The long awaited digital changeover to our TVs is happening in Bleadon on 24 March and 7 April. No doubt, by now all of you are prepared. But just in case, here's a gentle reminder.**

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.

## **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 (above) which identifies equipment designed to work before, during and after switchover.

## **Mobile library**

There has been no further news on the future of our mobile library service. The current timetable brings the library to Bleadon on alternate Mondays between 11am and 2.55pm. **In March** it's scheduled to call here on the **15th** and **29th**. I urge you to use it. Listen out for the distinctive "ice cream" chimes.

## **Bus services**

I hear that North Somerset Council has agreed a contract with Webber Bus for the **83 service between Bleadon and Weston, starting on 4 April**. It's excellent news for the many people who use this invaluable service. Thank you North Somerset for supporting our community in this way. Unfortunately, we are losing the early 07.26 service because of poor usage.



As a reminder, here are the **times of the new service from the Bleadon Road stop** at the top of Bridge Road:

Monday to Friday at: 07.56, 09.01, 10.06 and continues at 6 mins past the hour until 18.06.

On Saturdays the service starts at 09.01; then continues at 6 mins past the hour until 18.06.

No service on Sundays.

**Why are some dog walkers so disgusting?** I sometimes wonder if they deserve to live here.



## Bleadon WI

We started 2010 in a very relaxed manner, experiencing 'Indian Head Massage' and trying hand and arm massage, whilst some lucky members had hair 'make-overs'. A big 'thank you' to Tracey and her team for a splendid pampering evening.

February saw us celebrating our first Birthday with a talk on 'Chocolate' by Lisa from The Chocolate Tart Co, Congresbury. With copious samples we learned how to 'taste' chocolate – delicious – as were the very large chocolate cake and 'fizz' with which we then celebrated our first year!

The fun continues at our meeting on 11 March: we're going to try 'Bollywood Dancing', which combines Indian classical and western styles. Time to dig out those scarves and shawls again!

At our meeting on 8 April, Mr Thatcher will be talking about his fine cider which has been made in Somerset for over 100 years. Our May meeting will take the form of a discussion on this year's 'Resolution' and, for our 10 June meeting we have something very special: Jane Means (the 'Gift Wrap Guru' of TV and Harrods' fame) will be demonstrating the art of gift wrapping – with style.

We meet every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday at 7.30 pm in the Coronation Hall, Bleadon.

We are a lively group of women - of all ages – with walking, skittle and now 'Pub Knitting' groups. We'd love you to come and join us – find out more about us and get a copy of our programme by e-mailing [bleadonwi@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:bleadonwi@hotmail.co.uk).

## Coronation Hall

Perhaps you will allow me to reminisce a little. I came to live in Bleadon in 1984, and a few months later attended the AGM of the Hall Committee.

Although I had been chairman of the Hutton Village Hall for four years up to 1982, I had no intention of getting involved again. However, I left the meeting having been co-opted on to the committee. I certainly have no regrets now, but I find it hard to believe that 25 years have now passed.

I can say that there has never been a dull period - with occasional crisis and serious challenge from time to time.

In 1992 we started planning for the hall extension, and thanks to the dedication of Harry Chatterley, it was completed in 1997.

A considerable amount has been spent in order to bring the Jubilee Hall up to its present high standard, and along with the main hall, is a great asset to the village.

We have a hard working, dedicated committee making all this possible and we are grateful for the continuing support of the parish council.

It is satisfying to know that my 25 years have been well spent.

**This year's Coronation Hall AGM will be held in the Jubilee Room on Thursday 8 April at 7.30pm.**

*Len Chamberlain*

*Chairman of Bleadon Coronation Hall Management Committee*

Registered Charity No 1042602

## Bleadon Village Monthly Market

Bleadon Village Market has now been running since December 2002? Over seven years! We are there **on the third Saturday of the month, between 9 and 12.30**. There are many regular stalls, and there's something new every month. So make it a monthly date.

**Something to eat.** Local Produce: cheese, bread, preserves, cakes, cider, local vegetables, and lots more; Fair Trade stalls offer food and gifts from around the world.

**A gift.** As well as modern and antique jewellery and collectables, we have a range of crafts and gifts; many of our stall holders can make to order for that special person. Also, cut flowers and garden plants.

**A bargain.** Bric-a-brac stalls are there every month.

**A good read.** You are bound to find something on Pete's Book Stall.

**Coffee and a chat.** This is a wonderful opportunity to meet your friends for morning coffee and a hot snack.

**Something to sell?** This is your opportunity to make some money out of all that clutter. What is junk to you is someone's treasure. Get together with some friends and share a table.

Bleadon Village Market is run by the Coronation Hall Management Committee and local volunteers. All proceeds from refreshments and table hire go towards the upkeep of the Coronation Halls.

If you are interested in having a stall at your village market, please **phone Jo Jones 812 370** for more information.

## Bleadon Ladies Club

The weather beat us, so we had to cancel our January meeting. I think we would all agree that the snow looked very pretty, but we soon got fed up with it! I am sure that we all hope that there is no more to come this Spring.

We have a very good programme the coming year, which I'm sure will be enjoyed by all:

9 March Dance bands of the 20s, 30s and 40s. Terry Merrett-Smith

13 April "Get a proper job". Barry North from the Playhouse.

11 May Old Movies. Graham Wiltshire.

We would love to welcome new members. So do come along and see what the Ladies Club is all about.

We meet at 2.30pm in the Coronation Hall on the second Tuesday of the month. We'd be delighted to see you.

**For more info call Barbara on 814 362.**

## Friendship Club

We intend to make up for our (snow) cancelled January meeting and cancelled Christmas lunch by having a Summer Day Out. We all look forward to the compensation of warmer, sunnier weather to come.

We continue with a variety of entertainment **each Friday afternoon**. We meet in the Coronation Hall from 2-4pm. Our **Coffee Morning is on 10 April**. Everyone is welcome at any time, so please come along.

We'll always be pleased to see you.

*Audrey Lee*



## Bleadon Players

Thank you to all who supported the village pantomime *Red Riding Hood*. After paying off our expenses we made a small profit and we were able to send a donation of £100 to the Haiti disaster fund.

Now, from a riding hood to a fan - Lady Windermere's to be exact. From panto to posh. The Players are embracing Oscar Wilde and will performing **Lady Windermere's Fan** at the Coronation Hall - sorry, I mean in Lady Windermere's drawing room - on **13, 14 and 15 May at 7.30pm**. Tickets from Bleadon Post Office or on the door. Ladies please bring your own fan!

Finally, the Players have leapt into the 21st century and now have their own website: [www.bleadonplayers.co.uk](http://www.bleadonplayers.co.uk)

## Bleadon Horticultural Society

The Christmas festive season began in earnest with the now regular beetle drive followed by an American style supper. Halfway leader in the drive was Lynne Riding. But during the second half she found herself moving round the table and not progressing from table to table as she was caught and overhauled by the eventual winner Graham Lockyer. Doreen Ward was presented with the prestigious gnome as so many of her playing partners let her down.

In January George Alway covered all aspects of the cultivation of primroses and polyanthus in his talk - from seed sowing to flowering. Many of the 200 cultivars were illustrated during the slide show.

In February Sally Gregson made a welcome return visit when she gave a wonderful insight into the development of the cottage garden. From Roman times to the present day. With the spectacle of tall showy flowers shielding the vegetable plot behind them. Sally illustrated her talk with slides covering gardens large and small. From Hestercombe to Sissinghurst with lots of interesting gardens and cottages in between.

### Dates for your diary

Tuesday **20 April** Don Everitt returns with his illustrated talk on the **rock and alpine garden**. Don usually has plants with him to sell at the end of the meeting.

Tuesday **18 May** our usual **Bring & Buy Plant Sale** and social.

Tuesday **15 June** Peter Burks from Sanders Garden World will talk and show some **New and Unusual Plants**.

All meetings take place in the Coronation Hall at 7.30pm. Open to all for just £1 admission.

The **annual Coach Trip** will take us to the RHS headquarters at **Wisley, Surrey** on Tuesday **20 July**. Leaving the village at 7.45am. To book a seat on the coach call me on 813 152.

*Chris Cudlipp*

**Spring Show  
Saturday 13 March  
Coronation Hall**



## Friends of Bleadon Church

2009 ended with a very successful village affair, the **Punch & Pie Party** at the Coronation Hall. Around 100 people of mixed ages enjoyed an evening of Christmas music by Brass Attack a small brass ensemble together with carol singing, seasonal refreshments and mulled wine. We have been asked to repeat this event in 2010 and the band will be happy to join us again in the Coronation Hall.

Our fund raising in 2009 produced £8000 towards keeping the Church open and in good repair.

We look forward to events in 2010 when we have a full calendar which will include as usual the **May Day Fayre** and **Harvest Supper** and also a concert during the Weston Arts Festival by the **Llantrisant Male Choir** from South Wales. They last performed for us in 2004 when we had a superb concert, a full church and a repeat at the Queens Arms afterwards. We've also included a Valentines Pudding evening on 13 February, a **Wine & Cheese** event, Cream Teas and **Open Tower** day in July and last but not least involvement in the **Scarecrow Festival** in August.

May I thank all those who have planned for and worked so successfully to arrange the events during the year (you are indispensable) as well as all those who have supported the committee and worked hard at events particularly those involved with the May Fayre; plans are already in hand and we will be glad of more helpers even if it is for a limited period during the day.

PLEASE contact either Graham Rogers (Tel 811571) or Reyn Badger (811490) for more information. If you are unable to help do come along and enjoy yourself and as usual we will have many stalls, games, refreshments, a bar and supporting displays and music which will include the Jazz Band, Morris Men, Childrens Fancy Dress, Air Cadets display and more.

*Graham Rogers Tel: 811 571*

## Bleadon Short Mat Bowls Club

Playing continues to go on with good attendance on Sunday and Tuesdays (afternoons) and Fridays (evenings).

New members are always welcome and guidance and training is available. Our league team has had its ups and downs but still remains in a respectable mid table position.

Besides the regular opportunities to play bowls we are a social group and in January we had our annual dinner at the Captains Cabin, well organised by Ann Hurcombe and to whom we owe our many thanks for other events she organises throughout the year.

Unfortunately this year our stalwart member Len Chamberlain was taken ill during the dinner (nothing he ate!) and we wish him a robust recovery.

At the time of writing we are looking forward to a holiday break in Torquay in March when we will have some morning bowls and the opportunity to explore the area. Bowling will continue until the end of May when we have a summer break until early September.

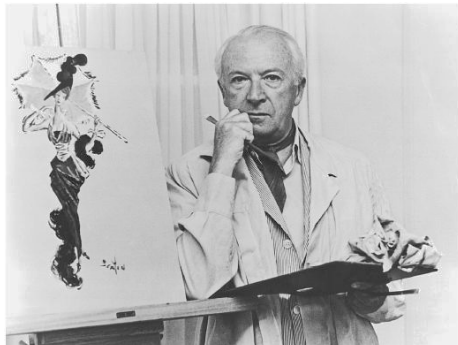
*Graham Rogers Tel: 811 571*

## Bleaton Photographic Group

Having made mentioned **Cecil Beaton** in my last article, I thought that I would extend give more details of this significantly talented precocious man. So here is some background to a 20<sup>th</sup> century master of the arts.

He was born in Hampstead in 1904 one of four siblings, to a prosperous timber merchant Ernest and his wife Etty. Early in his school days his artistic talents were recognised both for his art and his singing. His nanny fired his interest in photography by showing him how to use her Kodak box camera and develop and print a film. He perfected his abilities in it's use by using his two pretty sisters as models. Beaton was never au fait with the technicalities of photography and for years used a simple Kodak folding camera to produce many of his fashion shots until he eventually moved to using a Rollieflex or large format camera for his studio work.

He was educated at Harrow school and then at St. John's College Cambridge where he studied architecture art and history but he had no interest in academia and left Cambridge in 1925 without a degree. He maintained and fostered his growing interest in photography during his time at Cambridge and on leaving tried unsuccessfully to start his own fashion photographic company. His failure lead him to concentrate his artistic abilities on designing book jackets and stage sets whilst at the same time improving his photographic skills at the studio of Paul Tanquary until he was employed



on a regular basis by Vogue magazine in 1927.

He had an inbuilt appreciation of beauty and he was able to capitalise on this in the early 1920's and 30's with the emergence of magazine publishing and a craze for postcards. In 1926 he was invited to photograph the eccentric and talented Sitwell family and this started the career of this star struck bohemian.

Always immaculately dressed he was known as the "Dandy Photographer" and his audaciousness, determination and admiration of the socialites and stars of both theatre and screen propelled him into the world of fashion and glamour and was soon to be in demand by the top magazines of the day. His career took off in the 1930's and he remained at the top of the genre for the rest of his working life.

Beaton photographed society, theatre personalities, royalty, and the giants of the art world from Lilian Gish to Marilyn Monroe, from Winston Churchill to Jacqueline Kennedy and Princess Margaret to Queen Elizabeth. The list is endless, composers, pop stars, bankers and artists but always

*Cecil Beaton cont.*

people he admired for one reason or another.

He had a relationship with many women, amongst them Greta Garbo whom he adored but also with several men. He claimed to have had an affair with his very close friend Gary Cooper. Beaton was influenced by the work of Angus McBean a theatre and portrait photographer and friend who was arguably the finest portrait photographer of his day.

During the war he worked for the Ministry of Information producing images of war torn Britain mainly for propaganda purposes. After the war his career took a diversion when he began designing sets, costumes and lighting for the Broadway theatres beginning with "Lady Windermere's Fan" in which he took a part. This was in 1946 but his most renowned achievements were in the settings and costumes for "My Fair Lady" and "Gigi", both earning him Academy Awards. He went on designing many Broadway shows winning four Tony awards on the way.

Two years after suffering a stroke in 1970, he was knighted but the effects of the stroke left him permanently paralysed down his right side but this did not deter him and he learned to write and draw with his left hand and had his cameras modified for left hand use. Cecil Beaton's health deteriorated and aged him and he passed away during the night at his home in Broad Chalke, Wiltshire at the age of 76 in January 1980.

*Ken Tapley.*

*Bleadon Photographic Group.*

*All the fun of the*  
**Bleadon Village**  
**May Day**  
**Fayre**



**May Bank Holiday Monday**

**3 May 2010**

**10.30 - 3.30**

Licensed bar & refreshments

Fun and games for everyone

Lots of stalls

Morris Dancers

RAF Cadets

Live Jazz



Admission 25p  
with prize draw programme

## The year's rainfall on Bleadon Hill

Regular readers of the Village News will know that I have been keeping an eye on precipitation (rain, sleet, hail or melted snow) in my back garden here on Bleadon Hill since 1981 when we moved from the Crescent which is now in Lymsham parish.



I measure the rain etc. collected in a rain gauge twice a day at 8am and 8pm. A "rain day" is one when at least 0.2mm of precipitation is recorded in a 24 hour period. One inch of rain is equivalent to 25.4mm (for those who still measure in real money). I am indebted to my neighbour Rex who takes over when we are away.

I haven't got room here to publish all the monthly totals, but here's a taste of the **results from Bleadon Hill:**

2009 **Rainfall total** = 975mm

**Average rainfall** 1981-2008 = 973mm

2009 Number of **dry days** = 189

**Average dry days** 1981- 2008 = 183

**Best month** for dry days was **September**

**Wettest month** in 2009 was **November** with 194mm of rain.

**July** ran a very reasonable **2nd wettest** with 146mm.

**Driest month** was April.

As you can see 2009 turned out to be an average year with the distribution of rain being all over the place.

*Chris Cudlipp*

## Dates for your diary

### Annual Parish Meeting

**Monday 12 April at 7.30pm**

#### Coronation Hall

- Your chance to catch up on what the Parish Council has been doing and what improvements it plans to make in the next year.
- Exchange ideas about how this newsletter might be improved and give the new editor some feedback.
- Tell us what three practical and affordable improvements we can make to Bleadon.

### May Day Fayre

**Monday 3 May 10.30 - 3.30**

Coronation Halls + car park

### Volunteers wanted for village Plant-up

**Saturday 8 May 10am**

#### Coronation car park

Help plant up the village tubs and planters. It's fun and it rewards all summer. Bring a trowel and bin bag.

### Bleadon History Group meet

**Wednesday 30 June at 7pm**

#### Coronation Hall

See progress on the second history interpretation panel.

Bring along your memories and snapshots from yesteryear.

### Bleadon Scarecrow Festival 2010

**Saturday and Sunday 28/29 August**

#### Theme "Weird & Wonderful"

A great fun event which brings a smile to everyone's face. This year we plan to make it bigger and better than ever with food, Somerset cider and live music.

# Be Bleadon proud and happy to show it



Limited edition eco-friendly cotton bag  
Just £1.50

To purchase yours call Keith on 813127 or Penny on 815331

## A story of our times?

Llab the Impaler, King of Ellovera, is dead. He expires not in the way fervently wished by most of his subjects, that of being slowly drawn over one of his own surgically sharpened shafts, but by dying peacefully in bed. The event is not even prefaced by a decently severe illness.

His successor, Llab the Second, a supposedly sickly youth who owes his survival to spending much time abroad, is proclaimed 'King in Absence'. But the Barons of Ellovera are gathering in opposition, long suffering the murderous whimsies of Old Llab they are seeking this chance to seize power. King Llab the Second is thought to be travelling in the Far West, last heard of visiting the land of the Angry Saxons together with a bodyguard of Dwarvian archers and his personal physician Pirouette, known in court as the Spin Doctor. However, Pirouette is wise in the ways of Barons and has for some time secreted the sometime King nearby in an adjacent country. Within days, to the dismay and discomfort of the Barons, the new King arrives in the Capital of Ellovera. Surprisingly the new King is not sickly at all, but is tall, slim-hipped and heart-flutteringly handsome. He is followed everywhere by his tiny bodyguard and the faithful Pirouette and he soon gets to work

"Summon all the Barons in the land," says the King, and this is soon done because they are already gathered for reasons of their own. "Chose three among them so we may discuss matters and have them meet me atop the castle watchtower." And three are chosen.



First, and acknowledged leader of the Barons, is Earl Woodwedge Bendo, wild-eyed and insane but immensely rich. Then comes his young cousin the relatively poor Lord Downat Heeley and lastly the peoples' favourite the famous General de la Billionaire, an army leader and faithful servant of the late King. The General did long command the King's armies and has made much money since, writing of it. Llab the Second, fit and lightly dressed, soon makes it to the top of the tower followed slowly by the three heavily cloaked and armoured Barons. They find the King at the parapet alone and defenceless, his back to them, his arms raised to encompass a view across the city rooftops and out beyond the seemingly limitless steppes of central Ellovera. He starts to gush on about his plans for the future and how he wishes to take the Barons on board.

With a glance at his cousin, Earl Woodwedge quietly eases his sword from its scabbard and moves silently but swiftly forward, intent on doing the King a mischief. However, gravel has been scattered on the floor behind Llab and as soon he hears a step thereon he ducks aside. A portion of the parapet has also been removed and Woodwedge tumbles headfirst through it and soon rejoins the assembled Barons in the courtyard below. Downat

Healey now draws *his* sword, the King remains unarmed and doesn't look the warrior type anyway, but a volley of arrows from a small turret nearby immediately drops Downton. He'd forgotten the dwarfs.

Crafty old Pirouette is pleased with the results; two of the leading Barons gone and in a touching ceremony on the castle rooftop the old General has pledged allegiance.

"The people will be with us now," the physician assures Llab, "and more importantly the Army. We will also gain the riches of Earl Woodwedge Bendo and can lay claim to his estates."

Soon returning down in the courtyard the King addresses the assembly of Barons, outlining his plans – shortly to be published in a green paper - for the future of Ellovera. There is some muttering over the proposed ban on hunting, establishment of animal sanctuaries and the preservation of woodlands. The Vassal added Tax (VAT) on servants is also greeted glumly. In the back row one or two hands are reaching for weapons when an armed guard appears and surrounds the area. King Llab the Second prepares to take his leave.

"Just impale two or three of them," he says quietly to the guard Captain, "so that they get the point and no new shafts to be used either, sharpen some of the old ones."

The trees of Ellovera, at least, have found their saviour.

But soon there is going to be trouble in New Llab's Kingdom; the northern forest folk are suffering the financial consequences of new rules

safeguarding trees. Safe from the axe and the plough the forests flourish and the wild life gets wilder but the peasants are revolting. It's a cold inhospitable region at best but gathering timber to heat their hovels is now strictly controlled and to obtain warmth many peasants are forced to live with their animals causing them much discontent, the peasants also. The upper classes are cutting back on employees because of VAT and things are getting grim. The peasants' leader is one Artful Scarface, self-proclaimed King of the charcoal burners, who speaks loudly for them all.

"We knew where we were under Old Llab Brothers. Only the landowners and Barons got impaled then. Now, under New Llab, we're all being shafted."

New Llab is beset from all sides. Artful Scarface is threatening with weapons of mass disruption and rumour is that formidable Baroness Moggie Scratcher is about to leave the Abbey where she was forcibly confined by Old Llab. Given the chance, she will put some backbone into the Barons.

One of Pirouette's plans is to go and start a war somewhere. That will take people's mind off things. General de la Billionaire has been told to draw up a list. To improve things at home the migrant Dwarvian folk are being retrained as doctors and nurses and are going to staff a National Elf Service. Everyone out of work will be given a mobility allowance that will allow them to go and look for work elsewhere. Yes things are coming to a head in Ellovera, soon there will be a battle between Peasants and Barons. Watch this space.



## Organisations which regularly use the Coronation Halls

### **Mondays**

		<i>Contact</i>	
9.45-10.45	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 1 <sup>st</sup> Monday	British Sugarcraft Guild WsM Branch	Mrs F Hatcher	620784
7.30pm 2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday	Bleadon Parish Council	Mr B Poole, Clerk	07887 802922

### **Tuesdays**

2-4pm 2 <sup>nd</sup> 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 7.30-9.00 (term time)	Bleadon Brownies** Bleadon Guides**	Mrs E Tucker Mrs J Fear	815396 522583
7.30 pm 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup> Sept-May	Bleadon Photographic Group	Mr T Hartgroves	515033
7.30 pm 3 <sup>rd</sup> Oct-June	Bleadon Horticultural Society	Mr C Cudlipp	813152

### **Wednesdays**

10am-noon	Toddler Group	Mrs K Bailey	519636
9.30-10.30 7.30pm	Yoga Class** Bleadon Players/ Rehearsals	Mrs D Marsh (booking officer) Mrs S Gibbon	 645135

### **Thursdays**

10-12 noon	Bleadon Art Group**	Mrs B Mattick	813062
7.30 2 <sup>nd</sup> Thurs	Bleadon Womens' Institute	Mrs L Lockyer	812050
8.00pm 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thurs Sept-June	Bleadon Folk Dancing Group	Mrs J Thorne	814007
7.30pm 4 <sup>th</sup> Thurs	Bleadon Sugarcraft Club	Mrs S Dennelly	812840

### **Fridays**

2-4pm	Bleadon Friendship Club	Mr G Brown	811926
7.00pm Sept-May	Short Mat Bowls Club**	Mrs L Rogers	811571

### **Saturdays**

3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday 9-12.30	Village Market	Mrs J Jones	812370
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### **Sundays**

2.30 Sept-May	Short Mat Bowls Club**	Mrs L Rogers	811571
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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

## **Bleadon Youth Club is also available to hire**

With its large bright open space it's ideal for children and young people's parties, training seminars, workshops, christening celebrations, table-top sales and markets.

We have a compact kitchen with breakfast bar.

Enough large tables and chairs to accommodate 50.

Easy chair lounging area. Snooker. Table soccer.

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Email: [keith.pyke@btopenworld.com](mailto:keith.pyke@btopenworld.com)

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