

Bleadon village

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news

Summer 2013 - Issue 96

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May Day Fayre success

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May Day Fayre - a great day of fun

and together we raised over £5000 towards our church and our youth club



More May Day photos
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Annual report 2012-13

Chairman's report

We are very lucky here in Bleadon that we have so much to report about at the end of the Parish Council's year. Top of our list the Precept was our main concern plus the financial constraints budgets and cut-backs. Details are reported in these pages.

The main spoke in Bleadon's wheel is the Coronation Hall and Jubilee Room, well managed by the Hall Committee and the team of volunteers. Visitors come from far and wide to the monthly markets. A summary and update of the Hall improvements are detailed in this magazine.

The Youth Club is active and intact with around 36 attending each week. Newly painted with "splatters". I thank Miles and Keith for the hours they have devoted to this mecca for our young. Sadly the Guides folded last summer but the Brownies are at full strength and will be one of the star attractions at the May Fayre.

In the Play Area the new equipment is well used and a great asset. All the equipment and surrounds are constantly checked to ensure it remains a place that is a safe and happy environment for our little ones. We are trying to source an affordable and appropriate solution that guides footballs in the right areas perhaps goal PILLARS are the answer?

A major project over the last year for the Parish Council was the church-yard wall. This is now complete. Recently large amounts of soil have been removed from the church-yard side abutting the old garage. None of this work has interrupted the integrity of the church-yard nor the graves.

The Parish Council has dedicated Planning Meetings and monthly at the start of each Parish Council Meetings. Site meetings which are my favourite when needed followed by a summary to North Somerset. These may be attended and plans

At the Annual Parish Meeting in April Bleadon Parish Council Chairman Penny Skelley gave this report to Bleadon residents

seen by the public so that all details are known. The Marshalls' site being upmost in our minds last year, currently seems to be in abeyance. The Parish Council is kept in the picture by North Somerset and we will alert you as promised to any change.

North Somerset announced its intention to close its Public Lavatories by April 2013 as part of a major reduction in budget. The Parish Council was determined to save this valued community asset and negotiated with North Somerset to take over the delivery of this service. An independent survey proved it was well used!! In readiness for the handover the lavatories have been painted inside and out, new roofing a hand wash basin installed - in total £2,500 spent. We secured a grant of £7,700 from North Somerset towards future maintenance plus £500 towards legal costs. The PCC offered the Parish Council a £100 grant towards maintenance. The challenge now facing the Parish Council is to ensure the future sustainability of this village asset. Roads and Transport are always a talking point but North Somerset have mostly responded quickly to repairs to pot holes some are outstanding but will be completed in the new financial year. We understand there is to be a Flood Action team set up by North Somerset for immediate action and response to a problem. Here in Bleadon, after recent pumping out and jetting, we may rest a little easier.

The bus route is a continuing concern in spite of the Parish Council's efforts the new bus provider is not serving The Veale we will continue try to rectify this. The Allotments have had a difficult year weather wise but are now in good

order. It is hoped to upgrade the footpath during the coming year. There is a waiting list of two.

Our Community Police Officer PC Steve Church is retiring. We wish him well and thank him for his unstinting service to Bleadon. Thank you too PCSO Emma Wright. The police priorities are regularly updated and the police surgery continues each Tuesday afternoon.

The Village Ranger Tony Derrick has kept the village ship-shape and we thank his wife Jane who has stood in for him occasionally. Andy Eddy although retired has implemented a volunteer working party for path clearing etc we leave this in his capable hands.

The summer plant up will take place on Saturday 4th May at 10am in the car park. Anyone who owns a trowel please come and help. We have sourced a new supplier and we have accepted an offer from North Somerset of 150 free plants so we shall be well within our new budget.

At this time there are three vacancies on the Parish Council as three councillors have recently stood down. Here I must mention Bryan Gamble the longest serving of the three and I thank him for his sterling work and commitment to Bleadon Parish Council. We shall be at full strength by May so the Council's work in progress will continue to be covered.

My report is based on the areas of the Parish Council's responsibility and the areas of work covered by your volunteer Councillors. We shall continue to serve this community to the best of our ability. Thank you for your support.

Penny Skelley

*Chairman
Bleadon Parish
Council*



Annual report 2012-13

Parish councillors report on the year's ups and downs affecting their individual portfolios of responsibility

Roads and Transport

North Somerset has responded reasonably quickly to requests for repairs to potholes although their efforts have not been helped by the weather. An impromptu publicity campaign by residents even managed to get repairs to the worst potholes in Chestnut Lane!



There are some repairs still outstanding but I have been assured that these will be repaired in the new financial year starting in April.

In spite of efforts by your Parish Council we were unable to persuade the bus company to service the Veale. The current bus provider has lost the Bleadon contract as a result of poor service and April will see a new contractor provide the bus service. Unfortunately they are also unable to service the Veale, however, the Parish Council will continue to search for ways to rectify this.

Cllr Brian Gamble

Planning

The planning committee has had an interesting and diverse year. Along with a selection of the normal extensions and conversions it has also had to ponder on a few more interesting applications. There have been roughly 50 notices this year and a big proportion the committee has decided that they were worth a site visit. On the whole North Somerset and Bleadon Parish Council have been in accord, there have been a couple of exceptions, but on the whole not a bad strike rate.

A couple of the larger developments are still trying to find their way. The golf course has started to implement the conditions of its planning application and now has until April

30th 2015 to become fully functional.

Marshalls Quarry seems to have put all negotiations on hold for the time being, awaiting an upturn in the housing market? It might be a long wait! The House Brothers are also very busy at present with a proposed development of a water sports facility on Accommodation Road. They already have permission for two lakes for the purpose of irrigation but they are in the process of applying for planning permission for change of use to tourism. The lakes will specialize in water skiing and wake boarding with the use of a cable tow system, but many other water sports will be hosted from sailing to the swimming element of a triathlon. The House Brothers hope to make a presentation to the village shortly.

There have been a couple of mysterious appearances around the village the most notable being a caravan on land that has been cleared at the top of the Barton.

I am happy to say that the planning committee is a dedicated and enthusiastic team and we are looking forward to another challenging year and please be minded that we all have the best interest of the village at heart.

If any parishioners have any questions or concerns please feel free to get in touch.

Cllr. Miles Orme

Allotments

After a very difficult year weather-wise the allotments are in good order. It is hoped to upgrade the footpath during the coming year. Currently there is a waiting list of two.

Cllr. Mary Sheppard



Footpaths and bridleways

This year has been quite a different one as far as footpaths are concerned. What with the wettest year on record and not much improvement into 2013 a little disruption has been caused to our paths. Let's hope a fully decent summer will dry every thing up and paths will recover. The new owner at Southhill Farm has overseen a lot of much needed fencing installed. This has caused a few concerns in respect to the access to paths or parts of the hill once walked upon. I can confirm that every thing that has been done to date is fine.

The Parish Council extends a very warm welcome return of Andy Eddy. His experience and enthusiasm on and for the village footpaths is very welcome. Very few villages have someone like Andy and he is also saving our community a small fortune.

I don't really want to comment on the 'blogs' in the village re: footpaths at the moment other than to state the obvious that they are not linked to Bleadon Parish Council in any way and are not totally accurate.

Anybody with questions on footpaths and open spaces can always contact me directly or via the Parish Clerk.

Cllr Rob House

Coronation Halls

The Coronation Hall is 75 years old – Happy Birthday!

Another event celebrated during the year was, of course, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee when the Hall hosted the RAFA Band which was a great success enjoyed by many people near and far.

Annual report

Parish councillors report on the year's ups and downs affecting their individual portfolios of responsibility

The monthly Village Market continues to be a key social event for the village as well as being a major source of income for the Halls. As always, the Committee is grateful for all the support from the many stallholders and voluntary helpers who ensure that the market continues to be a major success.



A building such as this needs a lot of TLC so the past year has seen a number of projects which correct maintenance issues or enhance the facility for users. Amongst these are the new boiler, a replacement gas heater and new double-glazed windows which are all in addition to the regular on going maintenance.

This has been another successful year for the Coronation Hall and Jubilee Room. The Hall Management Committee wishes to thank the many volunteers who give so much of their time and commitment to this valued community facility.

Cllr. Clive Morris

Youth Club

Bleadon Youth club has had to weather quite a turbulent 12 months.

North Somerset has completely removed all funding from youth services and now Bleadon Youth club must pay its way.

Not one to shy from a challenge the management committee has stepped up to the mark and has not only kept the youth club running but also greatly improved what the service and also the building has to offer.

The Youth club now runs two nights a week Tuesday and Thursday at a cost of £1.50 per session. We also have started a holiday club to help

entertain the youths during the school holidays.

Thursdays are still very popular with an average of over 30 children attending, a number many other clubs can only dream of. Tuesday nights are less popular however we hope to implement an exciting new sports theme to Tuesday nights with the help of Marc Molloy and the South West Rural Network.

The building itself has also had a major make over, thanks to Keith Pyke. The building has been newly painted inside and out. We managed to secure a donation of paint from Dulux through its Let's Colour project, and with the help of some volunteers the club has been transformed. Keith stepped down as chairman this year but has stayed with the management committee and still works tirelessly on its behalf.



The building has also had 12 new windows installed thanks to kind donations from local businesses, some very generous parishioners and with the help of our treasurer Andy Zanelli who managed to secure a fantastic deal on the supply and installation.

We have had new lights fitted and also new carpets throughout the club partly paid for with the proceeds of a raffle organized and held at the Queens Arms pub. We think the Youth Club in Bleadon has a bright future, with the continued dedication of Mike Jordan and his Youthworkz team we hope to increase our membership and put on even more exciting things for all the local youngsters.

The latest challenge for our committee is helping to organize the Village May Fayre. To this end we

now have a very willing fundraising committee and we are all looking forward the best May Fayre yet.

I would also like to thank all the members of both committees who work so hard to make everything work. Without their continued support we would be unable to continue providing our young people with somewhere to go and something to do. Should any villagers have an interest in getting involved please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Cllr. Miles Orme

Play area

In April 2012 we installed the new timber climbing frame and swings as replacements for the corroded steel equipment that had passed its best-before date. This gave us the opportunity to relocate the climbing frame and sand pit to create a larger separate area for other games.

Keeping the toddler activities within the sand pit area was not without its critics at first, but I'm pleased to say that parents and carers seem to have adjusted to the change. We've had no grumblings from the children, just smiles and laughter. The new layout now means that the older children have a bit more space for their ball games away from the toddlers. We have yet to finalise our plans for providing a more structured facility for our budding footballers. When we find an appropriate and affordable solution it should, hopefully, reduce noise and damage from footballs hitting the fencing.

Public conveniences

North Somerset Council announced its intention to close all its public toilets from April 2013 as part of a major reduction in Budget. The parish council was determined to save this valued community asset and negotiated with North Somerset to take over delivery of the service. Any of you who have visited the

Continues overleaf

Annual report and the figures

toilets isince March 2013 will see that they have been painted inside and out, a wash-hand basin fitted in the gents (at last!), new roofing felt fitted, broken tiles replaced and gutters cleared. All in all over £2500 worth of repairs and improvements carried out before the hand-over. We have also secured a £7700 grant from North Somerset Council towards future maintenance of the toilets plus £500 towards legal costs. The Parochial Church Council have been quick to appreciate the value of the convenience for church-goers and have offered the parish council a £100 grant towards maintaining the asset.

The challenge now facing the parish council is ensuring the future financial sustainability of this village asset.

Village tubs

Thanks to the stalwart band of volunteers who regularly turn out to plant up our village flower tubs twice yearly. We hope that the rest of the villagers enjoy the seasonal colour that their social enterprise brings.

Guides and Brownies

Brownies are still thriving every Tuesday evening under their new leadership, with a waiting list for those wanting to join. At the time of writing this report they were busy practicing their Maypole dancing in readiness for the May Day Fayre. Unfortunately, the Guides folded in the summer of 2012 because of falling attendance. The group had become too small to be sustainable. It seems that young ladies these days are looking for alternative activities. Let's hope that the youth club can help fill the gap.

Cllr Keith Pyke

Summary Receipts and Payments for the Year Ended 31 March 2013

Last Year Ended 31st March 2012		Current Year Ended 31st March 2013
	Receipts	
35.87	Interest Received	33.04
<u>35.87</u>	Sub Total	<u>33.04</u>
	Operating Income	
37,500.00	General Income	40,000.00
1,666.12	Other Income	645.00
333.26	Rents	288.95
1,092.46	VAT Data	1,681.53
<u>40,627.71</u>	Total Receipts	<u>42,648.52</u>
	Running Costs	
15,899.01	Staff Costs	15,494.64
12,497.69	Administration	10,312.83
700.00	Grants	600.00
9,655.08	Open Spaces	6,070.07
0.00	Special Projects	15,872.74
1,681.53	VAT Data	4,436.04
<u>40,433.31</u>	Total Payments	<u>52,786.32</u>
	Receipts and Payments Summary	
84,286.21	Opening Balance	84,480.61
40,627.71	Add Total Receipts(As Above)	42,648.52
124,913.92		127,129.13
40,433.31	Less Total Payments(As Above)	52,786.32
<u>84,480.61</u>	Closing Balance	<u>74,342.81</u>
	These cumulative funds are represented by :	
8,767.81	Current Account	8,253.02
70,667.17	Business Account	60,699.62
5,025.63	Nationwide	5,026.13
0.00	Current Account - Unity	364.04
<u>84,480.61</u>		<u>74,342.81</u>
	Reserve Balances are represented by :	
194.40	Current Year Fund	-10,137.80
27,064.92	General Reserves	42,132.12
3,000.00	EMR - Staff Contingencies	3,500.00
5,000.00	EMR - Pensions	5,000.00
600.00	EMR - Election	1,100.00
48,621.29	EMR - Special	32,748.49

EMR = Ear-marked Reserves ring-fenced for special purposes

NEWS

Parish Council Election results

In the Spring issue of Village News I expressed some reservations and doubts about the cost and value of the Parish Council By-election that had been called for. I'm pleased to say that democracy and not tight pockets ruled the day. An election for the vacant councillor seats was held in May and a goodly proportion of Bleadon's voters turned out on a windy Thursday to express their preferences at the Coronation Hall polling station.

We had four candidates stand for the three vacant parish seats. Of the 946 electors registered to vote 306 of you made the effort. A 32% turnout at a parish council election is considered quite respectable. There was just one spoilt ballot paper.

The four candidates polled the following votes:

ID Clarke 178 elected

Ian Findlay 204 elected

Ian Gibson 134

Steve Hartree 223 elected

Within four days the three elected candidates were being sworn in and attending their first Parish Council meeting.

Commiserations to Ian Gibson. Hopefully, we shall see him standing at the next scheduled parish council elections in two year's time.



Your three new councillors

ID Clarke is not new to the parish council.

We welcome her back after a two-year break.

Already involved in the Bleadon community as Secretary of the Coronation Hall Management Committee ID now takes on the role of Chairman of Open Spaces.

Ian Findlay will be familiar to many of you for his involvement in the May Day Fayre, the Bleadon Party and work on our footpaths with Andy Eddie's team of volunteers.

Ian has taken on parish responsibilities for Roads and Transport, Neighbourhood Watch & Community Safety.

I doubt that he envisaged that within days of being elected he would be cleaning out our public toilets and up to his elbows in!! Thanks for bailing us out Ian.

Steve Hartree. A familiar face for many years Steve now extends his interest and influence from pulpit to politics. With many years of experience in local government finance and as a previous Hutton parish clerk Steve is sure to bring some welcome expertise to the council.

He has already taken on the role of Chairman of Finance & Personnel.

"Many thanks to all of you who voted for me in the recent bye-election, your support is greatly appreciated. I will do my very best to represent and serve the residents of Bleadon, and will be interested always to hear your views on matters under consideration by the Parish Council". Steve Hartree



Don't lose your vote

In October all Bleadon households will be receiving **Election Registration forms** from North Somerset Council. Please ensure that you complete and return the form. If you fail to do so you cannot vote.

You can choose to **vote by post**. If you find it difficult to get to the polling station on election day a postal vote allows you to vote from your sofa. Any voter can select to have a postal vote. It couldn't be easier.

Around 15% of Bleadon's voters have already registered to vote this way.

Parish Council attendance by councillors in 2012-13

Cllr Brian Gamble

attended 9 out of a possible 10 Council meetings

Cllr Rob House

attended 7 out of a possible 10 Council meetings

Cllr Trevor Marshall

attended 7 out of a possible 8 Council meetings

Cllr Clive Morris

attended 8 out of a possible 10 Council meetings

Cllr Miles Orme

attended 10 out of a possible 10 Council meetings

Cllr Keith Pyke

attended 8 out of a possible 10 Council meetings

Cllr Mary Sheppard

attended 10 out of a possible 10 Council meetings

Cllr Penny Skelley

attended 10 out of a possible 10 Council meetings

Cllr Pete Trevitt

attended 8 out of a possible 10 Council meetings

NEWS

Bleadon's summer of fun for youngsters

Youngsters (and hair-pulling parents) who were looking for some fun activities without breaking the bank found them right here in Bleadon this summer holidays.

Under the skilled leadership of Youthworkz, for three weeks over the summer holidays, Bleadon Youth Centre has been the base for supervised activities for young people aged 10 to 19. Youngsters enjoyed full and challenging days, and parents could be sure that their children were in safe, experienced hands.

If you are looking for some youth club fun call or text Mike on 07816 410 955 or email: youthworkz@hotmail.com. Booking well in advance for holiday sessions is essential.

May Day thank you

Very many thanks to everyone whose contribution to the refreshments at the May Fayre made it such a success.

To all those who made and donated the beautiful, tasty cakes, thank you!

To those of you who turned up early on the Monday morning and sliced cakes, made sandwiches, laid tables, got the tea and coffee going, thank you!

To all who served and worked throughout the day, dealing with the queues, clearing tables and taking money, thank you!

To the team on the hot food stall, slaving over a hot frying pan and barbeque and taking lots of money, thank you!

For all those who came and bought the refreshments, thank you.

The hot food made about £700 and the Coronation Hall refreshments took nearly £1100. All down to the hard work that everyone put in to make this one of the best and most successful May Fayres ever.

Patricia Drinkwater



Hold the front page!

In January 2014 the Weston Mercury will be publishing a feature on Bleadon.

Over the coming months we can expect to see Mercurial reporters and photographers round and about the village looking for stories and interesting people to interview. Could this be your opportunity for 15 minutes of fame?

Civic Service

The Parish Council joined other church-goers for the annual Civic Service in April. Parish councillors came with their families and friends to celebrate the work of the community we all share.

It was a delightful morning service of hymns, praise and prayer, cakes and flowers.

Thanks go to Philip for suggesting this, to the ladies who arranged the flowers so beautifully, and Sarah Osborne who provided the scrummy refreshments.

Marshall's Quarry redevelopment - consultation with villagers

Marshall's will be hosting a public exhibition event at the **Bleadon Youth Centre on Wednesday 18 and Thursday 19 September 2013.**

Two sessions are currently planned for each day; the first between the hours of **10am and 2pm** followed by an evening session from **5pm to 7.30pm.**

Local residents are encouraged to attend whichever session is most convenient for them in order to take this opportunity to consider the potential redevelopment scheme and talk to Marshall's and their representatives.

Marshall's currently intend to submit an outline planning application to North Somerset Council by the end of 2013, but not before they have engaged with the community and sought their views.

Refreshments will be served and members of their project team will be present at each event to answer any questions and listen to feedback from Bleadon's parishioners in respect of the proposals which will be on display.

A comments box will also be made available for those attendees who wish to remain anonymous.



NEWS

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

Good-bye to a couple of the Good Guys

Sadly, we are losing both of our community coppers. PC Steve Church took well-deserved retirement in June, after 30 years in uniform.



As if that were not enough we learn that PCSO Emma Wright is also moving on. As part of the recent shake-up in police staffing she has been given a rather more challenging beat that includes Banwell. In the meantime she is also trying to cover Bleadon until the new PCSO can take up the Bleadon/Villages role.



The good news is that **PC Dave Eastham** has taken over Steve's role and we hope to see him regularly at the Tuesday afternoon Police Surgeries in the Church Rooms and up-dating us at parish council meetings.

and good-bye to another Good Guy

We are extremely sorry to hear that our parish Priest, Philip Stevens, is moving on. His wife has been made redundant and the only post being advertised nationally in her field was in Grimsby. So Philip will be moving to join her in October. His last service will be on Sunday 6 October at 3pm.

Philip will be greatly missed. He has brought a down-to-earth freshness to village life. His support for the youth club has been invaluable.



Bleadon - a NO COLD CALLING ZONE

Following an initiative by our local community Police (Emma and Steve) a poll was conducted by the village Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators seeking a consensus view on whether you wanted Bleadon to become a no go area for cold callers.

These are areas where cold callers are discouraged from knocking on doors uninvited. The scheme is designed to reduce the number of incidents of distraction burglary and rogue trading.

Rogue traders are people who tell householders that work needs doing and then charge really high prices, sell poor quality items at high prices or pressure sell.

The overwhelming feedback from co-ordinators was that people would welcome NO COLD CALLING throughout the village.

With support from Avon & Somerset Police and North Somerset Council Trading Standards the parish council agreed to support the proposal and fund the erection of the necessary signs at the village boundary.

Households will also be issued with stickers to be displayed on or near front doors to discourage cold callers. The sticker will include a contact number at Trading Standards where you can report unwanted callers.

Because of the legalities involved the Police have to order the signs for us and agree suitable locations for signs with landowners. So it may be a few months before we see anything in place.



Thank you planters

It was nice to see some new faces amongst the regular team of village volunteers who turned up on 4 May to plant out the village flower tubs. Thanks to everyone who helped bring some added colour to Bleadon, and to our new plant suppliers South Bank Nurseries.

NEWS



Building works

Bleadon Parish Church has stood at the heart of the village for over 700 years. The building is space set apart for worship, quiet reflection, celebration, music and community activities seven days a week.

This ancient building has needed constant maintenance over the years and now needs major electrical works, repointing, an up-grade of the sound system and other repairs to make it safe

and keep it standing for future generations.

These works are likely to cost in the region of £100,000. Already there is around £25,000 in hand, it is hoped to raise another £60,000 from grants and trusts. That leaves a further £15,000 to be raised locally.

Over the coming months a gift day and special fund-raising events are being planned. Keep an eye out for more information and details of events.

1+1+1 beancounters needed

It never rains, but it pours. We have three village organisations looking for volunteers to take on the roles of Treasurer.

The **Coronation Hall** are looking for someone to join their happy band and do their bit for the community as Treasurer to replace Clive Morris who's been doing the job for many years.

The **Youth Club** need to replace Andy Zanelli who steps down in September.

The **Horticultural Society** too are looking for someone to manage their finances.

None of these jobs is too onerous. There are responsibilities, yes, but the job isn't difficult or too time consuming. All three groups meet on average just once a month. You'll need an eye for figures and a sense of attention to detail.

If you can spare a few hours a month for any (or even all!) of these three village organisations, to keep the books, bank the income, issue cheques to suppliers and so on then they would love to hear from you.

To volunteer or find out more:

Coronation Hall call Clive Morris on 811 591

Youth Club call Miles Orme on 07989 410 767

Horticultural Soc call Chris on 813 152

If you value the social activities that any of these three village organisations provide please step forward now and help them out.



Bleadon bag travels

Bleadon's unique bags continue to show up in some unlikely places

Flag waving in Athens

With the Acropolis as an impressive backdrop Mrs Editor flashes her Bleadon bag in Monastiraki Square. Big mistake. Before you could say "Georgios Papandreo" we had a boisterous band of placard waving Athenians around us, keen to join any protest group, no matter how obscure.

NEWS

Arts Week 2013



Lorna and I have been showing our work at home, part of the bi-annual North Somerset Arts week. We had visitors from far and wide – Canada, Washington, and New South Wales, not to mention Old South Wales, and other places less far away. There were also some loyal locals whose support we greatly appreciate.

It was a successful and enjoyable ten days, rewarding, if sometimes a little tiring. There is a particular skill in choosing when to hover around our visitors, when to initiate small-talk, and when to simply leave them alone to decide whether they would like to buy or not, - a skill which we are slowly acquiring after our fourth show. It is after all the only time we exhibit our work. Our friends are always welcome, but it is a pleasure to meet new people and if they seem interested in the house, as many do, we show them some of that as well. It is a house with history, and we consider ourselves partly to be its custodians.

Apart from the pictures on display, we sold several of my Illustrated History Books, now less than ten remain. I have really appreciated the support from the village in this project.

John Hickley



Alison Procter showed her creative painting skills at a colourful Coronation Hall preview in late April. Then went on to display her work at her Hillside home during the North Somerset Arts Week in May.

Photo: Pete Williams

Bleadon Jungle Party

After months of planning and preparation the Bleadon Party this year was a huge success. With the 500 tickets selling out well before the June event.

This (sometimes) annual party has become the “must do” social event in the Bleadon diary. The Village News editor was fortunately able to get tickets this year and the photo spread on the next pages testifies to the good time that was had by all. Mrs Editor and I hobbled from the party scene at 12.30 when the DJ announced to the thrashing crowd, “Now let’s get the party started”. Enough already!

Here Miles Orme gives our readers a bit of a low-down on the event

“It was a really good sell-out bash.

Although we do give to charity I think the main reason we do it is for a bit of fun.

Cystic Fibrosis is our charity and we hope to donate £2000 this year!

A few facts on the booze front.

They sure are a thirsty bunch

- 248 bottles of Prosecco
- 500 pints Butcombe
- 1000 cans of Thatchers
- 1300 cans of lager
- 160 bottles white wine
- 48 bottles of red wine
- 75 litres jungle juice slush
- And an amazing 175 litres of the magic Fountain of Youth cocktail. It's recipe a strict secret, but the more you drink the younger you feel, however, like Dorian Grey there is always a price to pay.



The event is run by a small committee of Rob House, Miles Orme, Ian Findlay, Ian Heppenstall and Jonny Giles.

However, needless to say without all those other helpers that also give up their time we couldn't do it. Especially Andy Harper, John Stokes, Ian Hall-Scott, Mike Barton, Charlie and the rest of the Tuesday gay night crew.

It really is a fantastic village event that helps to keep a really good community feel within the village.

The live acts on stage this year were the Stanleys, Marc Ely, Harrison Maine, Sarah and of course DeeJay Towaz.

We also had a firm called Jigsaw in to help with the theming and Tom and his gang always do great work.

The Jungle Airways bar was built by us all, as was the crashed plane under strict guidance of Andy Harper.

Hopefully, we'll do it all again next year. And a BIG THANK YOU to Alistair House for the use of the barn.”

Miles Orme

Turn over for the story in pictures >

LET'S PARTY



This year's Bleadon Party at Lake Farm brought out the animal in a lot of us. The jumpin' **Jungle** themed night in June gave 500 fun-loving guests the opportunity to dig out their animal prints, dust off an old pith helmet or don the gorilla outfit.



Royston Walters continues his revelations about Bleadon villagers. Here we meet Jane Platt

Village people



She lives in Bleadon on a hill overlooking neat rows of prettily planted cider apple orchards, where, after a day tending her garden, she can sip wine and watch the golden light of a setting sun wash over the miles of Somerset landscape laid out before her. It sounds impossibly romantic but this peace and tranquillity has been a long time coming.

Tears and laughter. If it wasn't one, it was the other, that's how Jane Platt sums up the extremes of a wondrous and exotic life.

One of four children, she was born in wartime Birmingham, her father worked making Massey Ferguson tractors. Jane remembers her childhood as extremely happy and carefree, this little tribe spent most of their spare time with another family who lived close by. They bought a very modest holiday home between them in the middle of a wood which, for the children, became an otherworldly, enchanted forest. Summer holidays were eagerly anticipated and the two families dovetailed beautifully, one of the children of the other family was David and of similar age to Jane. She had known him since the beginning of time and they were braided together, one day when Jane was about 15 she can remember the exact moment when, it was as if a firecracker had exploded in her heart, she knew in one instant she was going to marry him, he was the love of her life.

Happy they were, ambitious they were not, as she grew older her parents expected little more of her than, perhaps, to work in a grocery store. For herself, the height of her ambition extended to becoming an office junior. Jane achieved her ambition and...

David, the love of her life? She married him in 1961, they were 19 years old. David had joined the Royal Navy and soon after their wedding he was posted to the 'Ark Royal' and was away for eighteen months at a time. It was during his time away that Jane became 'Akela' to a pack of Cubs in Uphill.

By the time David finished his enlistment in the Royal Navy he was a specialist in refrigeration, they were parents to two boys and had set up home in the bungalow in which she still lives. Up to this point Jane had never been outside the UK when David was offered a job in Brunei, then a British protectorate, on the island of Borneo in Southeast Asia. The boys stayed here to finish their education and Jane and David exchanged rural Somerset for a jungle just north of the equator.

Jane easily took to life in this Moslem state where the atmosphere was calm, the people polite and fastidious. Brunei was a developing country and the demands for air conditioning apparently insatiable. There were a number of 'ex pats' with close links and Jane enjoyed the community. She learned to play golf, started and formally affiliated cub scout groups for the local children. They entertained extensively for business and social gatherings and were closely stitched into the fabric of life in Brunei, this as well as the duties of a mother. Jane was returning to the UK every couple of months.

Some people like to use the 'life is a like a bowling alley' metaphor..you never know when you're going to get knocked over. They had been in Asia for six and half years when David had a heart attack. His employers were sympathetic for a while but eventually he was laid off.

During his convalescence they decided to start their own business.

Where? Iraq! When? It was 1986. The middle of the Iran/Iraq war!

David had secured a contract with an Argentine company who were supplying oven ready chickens to Saddam Hussein's regime. From an office in Baghdad they were to organise a refrigerated supply line. The



chickens were trucked through Turkey and it was David & Jane's job to ensure (in temperatures exceeding 46c) they arrived fresh. Jane took the responsibility for the planning and administration, there were no computers and a telephone line which only worked intermittently, her most effective tool was a telex machine. As an introduction to international trade it was a peck of trials.

The difference between Brunei and Iraq couldn't have been greater. State oppression reached every level of life where people were even afraid to mention the leader's name. Food was scarce, Saddam saw to it that his army was fed first. At a 'supermarket' Jane was often kicked by local people if she was able to purchase a can of peas, very often the only thing for sale. But for Brits, the worst was the unavailability of loo rolls and tea bags.

As foreigners they encountered suspicion everywhere and the conflict with Iran entered the 'War of the cities' phase. Iraq's forces were losing the land battle and a missile offensive against Tehran had failed, Iran retaliated with its own missile offensive. Jane counted 23 missile strikes at Baghdad while they were there. One landed in the middle of a busy roundabout but failed to explode. It remained there, armed, for several days, its tail 30 feet in the air, all the while the traffic circled. "Why are we

here?" was Jane's constant refrain. The answer had something to do with a Swiss bank account.

By mid 1988 the contract ended and they made a formal application to the authorities for exit visas. These were refused on the basis that the contract had not been fulfilled but in reality it was the regime's fear that the supply of fresh chickens would no longer be guaranteed. Jane and David were desperate. Then, they heard on the 'expat' grapevine that the British government were sending a plane to Baghdad to rescue any British passport holders remaining. They mounted a clandestine operation to get to the airport at the appointed time but encountered gunfire all the way there. After establishing their credentials with embassy staff Jane was so frightened she could hardly climb the stairs to the plane and even when safely inside a squad of soldiers charged the plane and removed some hapless Iraqi national and shot him on the tarmac. They kissed the ground when the plane reached Heathrow.

Remember the bowling alley? This time Jane didn't even see the ball coming. She began to feel like a plaything of fate as David announced he no longer wanted to be married. Broken, we often return to where we were once safe, for Jane it was Birmingham and her family.

Financial imperatives returned to the fore and it was a chance remark by someone about 'The Lady' magazine that led her to apply for a post as governess/teacher for the two children of a 'prominent' family. She attended an interview near Marble Arch, on a Tuesday where she found herself being questioned closely by a Princess from the House of Saud. After discussions with her she met the children with whom she had an almost instant rapport. Later she met some government officials during which time a secretary informed her that she was 'liked'. The job was in the Saudi Arabian city of Jeddah, her employer a Prince, a brother of the King. The salary and conditions were non negotiable. If she accepted they would be leaving Thursday, passport to be tendered immediately.

Her brief is both simple and extremely difficult. She is to augment the children's Saudi education with tuition

of the English language plus customs and conventions characteristic of a Western community. In addition she must organise and ensure the smooth running of all routines pertaining to the children wherever in the world they may travel.

She Accepted. Jane rang her mother to tell her she is going to work in Jeddah: "That'll be nice dear, they make very good cheese there".

At fifty years of age Jane embarks on a whole new adventure but this time unpaired, unwedded. Lost in a strange land, unfamiliar faces everywhere, peculiar tastes and smells, strange manners in a culture diametrically opposed to your own. New clothing too, an 'Abaya' (cloak) to be worn at all times, a 'Tahe' (scarf) to be worn most times and a face veil some times.

Dear reader, would you?

Jane travels with the Royal Family as one of the entourage on a plane of The Kings Flight to Saudi Arabia.....and so it begins.

Jane feels an intense pressure from the outset. She no longer feels she is her own person, she is in effect owned. All decisions are made for her, women aren't even allowed to drive. As a foreigner, everything is controlled; who she meets, where she eats, where she sleeps, added to which is the pressure to perform, to produce results in a job for which she has received no formal training. Her first night in Jeddah she hardly sleeps as she reflects on the events which bring a working class girl from Birmingham to a palace in Saudi Arabia.

Her daily work begins soon after 1pm when the children return from school, her duties rarely end before midnight. Every day is a new test of her abilities. The children like her, she likes them but every day they test the boundaries, how much discipline dare she use? Initially, Jane is viewed with suspicion by other members of staff, some are envious some are imperious. It is a very, very difficult time, stressful, debilitating and exhausting with no one there to share her fear and misgivings, no one on her side.

But. She survives!

Not quickly but gradually Jane regains her poise and the capable sturdiness of her character shows through. She

becomes comfortable in her surroundings and politically adept, principally by the application of some sound common sense and treating people as she would like to be treated. More, she says, the children become part of her until "They are within me, I love them". She gains the respect of her employers and with that the respect of everyone else. She is granted two nights off per week and visits the British Embassy for film nights. She travels the world extensively in some luxury and it begins to dawn on her that her very survival is not at stake.

In the hurry-scurry of everyday life she has forgotten her fragile emotions, her loneliness and pain, only to find on closer investigation that they have not been forgotten but have been completely eradicated, leached away into the new territories of her life. Her whole existence has taken on a new stability, debts have been repaid and a future secured. Her five year contract matures and with demands met for even better conditions she extends her term by three years.

In the eight years she has been in the middle east Jane has become a grandmother three times over, one of the children she has never seen and decides her family must now take precedence. As she leaves Arabia there are many tears and while they plead with her to stay there is understanding too of Jane's needs.

After a lengthy holiday on her return to the UK Jane did a three year course in computing and still works, part time, at "a lovely family firm" near Highbridge, she says it keeps her mind and her bank balance in rude health. Her family and her garden are her joy and the wine she sips is 'very good' - she makes it herself, a skill honed over many years.

Recently she returned to Saudi Arabia when she was invited to the wedding of the elder of her wards, now a young lady of twenty. There are two days of celebrations and ample time for the exchange of stories, memories and experiences, there are happy tears, hugs, laughter and lifelong friendships reinforced.

"Life shrinks or expands in proportion to one's courage" Was there ever a better example of this than the life of Jane Platt.

Quarry footpath recollections

In the last issue of BVN we asked if anyone could remember the ancient footpath (recently extinguished) that ran through Bleadon Quarry. I'm delighted to say that two residents have written to the editor with some recollections of the quarry footpath from their childhood.

Sylvia Bird now lives in The Veale and recalls her childhood days:

I well remember the footpath over the Quarry and in the past used it many times going to school.

I was born in a bungalow at the bottom of the lane behind Bridge Garage and as children we would go through the gate onto the road leading to South Hill Farm. Then through a small swing gate, over the hill and down the other side. Through another swing gate into the alley that comes out in the churchyard and then we were in School Lane.

I still have an old postcard showing a view from the Firs on Celtic Way clearly showing a house on top of the Quarry.



BLEADON, FROM THE FIRS.

Philip Kerton emailed his recollections:

I was just reading the village news and the item about the footpath on South Hill.

I would imagine that the dotted line was in fact the line of the footpath which ran on the hill side of the quarry fencing before it extended further into the hill during the 1940s.

I was at the Bleadon school from 1944 to 1950 and a highlight of the morning was to watch the blasting which took place most mornings at toilet break. The school's boys toilets had a great view of the quarry!!!.

I recall spending many hours running down School Lane and up and straight over the top of South Hill and down the other side and out onto the lane to South Hill farm.

People by the name of Chilcott lived there at one time. When I was little I remember it only as a pile of stones. I do know that several times the fencing over the top of the Quarry was moved to make the area safe. In those days they were blasting in the Quarry (owned by Mr Young). The hooter would blow and everyone in the area took cover because of the flying stones and dust.

As children we would walk for miles. If we did not go to school over the hill we went by bike. Four of us - two on the back carrier, one on the seat and one on the handle bars. We never had an accident, but there wasn't much traffic on the road in those days. *Sylvia Bird*



Above: Quarry workers.
Left: the house on top of South Hill is clearly visible in this old postcard.
Below: the toilets at the back of the old school



We also used to have sports days at the top of the hill. And in an area which was quite flat by the quarry fence we had a cycle speedway track, cycle speedway was quite the thing in those days.

I was born in Bleadon, now on Bleadon Hill. *Philip Kerton*

Sociable Bleadon

Check the village notice boards for regular updates on the dozens of activities and events in the village.



Regular Coronation Hall events

Mondays

Bleadon Bridge Club 2-5pm
Exercise Classes** 7-8pm + 8-9pm
British Sugarcraft Guild 1st Mon 7.30pm
Bleadon Parish Council 2nd Mon 7.30pm

Tuesdays

Bleadon Ladies Club 2nd Tues 2.30-4pm
Short Mat Bowls 2.30-4.30pm Sept-May
Bleadon Brownies** 6-7.30 pm
Bleadon Photographic Group 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th Tues 7.30 pm (Sept-May)
Bleadon Horticultural Soc 3rd Tues 7.30 pm (Oct-June)

Wednesdays

Toddler Group 9.30-11.30
Yoga Class** 9.30-10.30
Bleadon Players/Rehearsals 7.30pm
Bleadon Pilates** 7pm

Thursdays

Bleadon Art Group** 10-noon
Bleadon WI 7.30 2nd Thurs
Bleadon Folk Dancing Group 8pm 3rd Thurs (Sept-June)
Bleadon Sugarcraft Club 7.30pm 4th Thurs

Fridays

Bleadon Friendship Club 2-4pm
Short Mat Bowls Club** 7pm (Sept-May)

Saturdays

Village Market 9-12.30 3rd Saturday

Sundays

Short Mat Bowls Club** 2.30 (Sept-May)

**in the Jubilee Room

See notice board for contact details

The Halls are available for hire by private individuals or organisations.

There's a reduced rate for Bleadon residents. Call Joanne Jones on **812370**.

Sunday Club

On the first Sunday of the month youngsters of any age can come along to the Church Rooms for fun and games. Starts in the church at 10.15 before we pop across the road to the Church Rooms. Usually goes through until about 11.30.

Bleadon Ladies Club

Meets the **second Tuesday of the month** in the Coronation Hall at 2.30pm.

We're looking for more new members, so come and join us for an afternoon and see what you think. I'm sure you will enjoy it. We're very friendly and have some fascinating speakers.

September 11

Childhood Reflections of a Farmer

Peter Tinney

October 9

Diaries of Passengers on SS Great Britain

Do come and give us a try, you will not be disappointed. For only £1. A speaker a free raffle tea and biscuits or cake, a quiz and good company.

For information call Barbara on 814362

Friendship Club

We welcome some very interesting speakers coming to the club during the coming months. Plus various musical items, quizzes, raffles and more. So do come along, we are just a small group of people waiting to welcome new Friends.

Friday afternoons 2.15 – 4pm. £1

Audrey Lee

Monthly Village Market

In the Coronation Halls on **the third Saturday of every month** From 9am - 12.30pm.

Dozens of stalls packed with delights. The usual refreshments and a chance to catch up with friends.



Baby & Toddler Group

In the Coronation Hall **Wednesday mornings** from 9.30 - 11.30 during term time. Open to all pre-school children in the village and the surrounding area.

Bleadon Youth Club

Open to young people aged 10 to 18yrs from 6.30 -9.30pm. on **Tuesdays** and **Thursdays**. Just £1.50 per session.

See the BYC notice board for full programme details.



Nature Kids

New Nature

Kids outdoor fun for the Under 5's is coming to Bleadon.

Nature themed activities for 2-4 year olds and their parents.

Contact Sarah Trevitt at:
naturekids@hotmail.co.uk

Tel: 07884 203 766

or see www.nature-kids.co.uk

Fresh Local Produce. Aberdeen Angus Beef. Old Spot Pork. Cheese. Bakery. Bread. Cakes. Pies. Veg. Plants. Fairtrade. Pet Supplies. Books. Crafts. Jewellery. Collectables. Gifts. Bric-a-Brac. Something new every month **and** refreshments. www.bleadon.org.uk/market

Bleadon Village Monthly Market & community cafe

in the Coronation Halls
from 9 to 12.30

Call Joanne on 01934 812 370 for more info

SAT
17
AUG

SAT
21
SEPT

SAT
19
OCT

SAT
16
NOV

Sociable Bleadon

Lot's going on

We are well blessed with over 20 clubs and social groups here in our little village. If you would like to join in the fun just pop along and introduce yourself. You will always be welcomed with a smile and a warm handshake. Many groups meet in the Coronation Hall. Check notice-boards.

Flower-Power Workshop

Following up on the success of the Spring workshop Penny Skelley is planning another **flower arranging workshop this Autumn**. For more information and to book your place please call Penny on 815331



New croquet pavilion opened

Weston super Mare Croquet Club opened their lawns at Purn Way for the summer season in April and it was with great pleasure that they unveiled their new pavilion with Councillor Mr T Porter performing the opening ceremony and Penny Skelley, Chairman of Bleadon Parish Council in attendance. The new pavilion is a big step forward for the club which was purchased through generous donations by members who covered 40% of the overall cost.

Successful open days mean that the club now has 66 members, the highest number in its history, 18 of which are Bleadon residents and continuing activity will hopefully grow this further.

New members are always welcomed whether they are experienced croquet players or absolute beginners. Those people wishing to try can attend with their first time free of charge then the subsequent 3 attendance's at £5 per session by which time a decision has to be made to join or otherwise, if membership is taken up then the £15 fees paid are deducted from the annual membership fee.

The club is open 7 days a week during the summer months with freedom of play every morning from 10am, afternoons are used for organized events for the both types of croquet played, Association Mondays and Fridays from 1.30pm. Golf croquet Tuesdays and Thursday again from 1.30pm. Wednesday afternoon is club afternoon where members arrange a game of their own choice particular to the type of croquet they prefer to play. Evenings and weekends are again freedom of play.

Croquet is both a social fun game and a strong competitive sport, dependent on how the individual wishes to approach the game of their own personal choosing, it is a game for all ages, the individual, a couple or indeed the family. It is one of the few games where women and men compete on equal terms and it is a game that has hidden joys that are only obvious once you are playing. Come along and have a go. Those wishing to try can ring Sue or Doug Norfolk on 01934 812128 or 07547 163862 to arrange a trial session.

Doug Norfolk

Bleadon Players

The Spring production of *Nightmare* by Norman Robbins turned out to be a real nightmare during production for the Bleadon Players. A medical scare for a leading member of the cast meant that the performance had to be postponed until July. However, it turned out **alright on the night** and another astonishing production thrilled Bleadon playgoers.

On October 3,4 and 5 the production is rather more light and fluffy, and very funny. **Drinking Habits** is set in a convent...

Dominus vobiscum people of Bleadon.

Bleadon Short Mat Bowling Club

In May the Club hosted a friendly six-game tournament against Berrow. The four-game session before the interval resulted in a three-to-one lead for Bleadon, but, seemingly invigorated by the refreshments, Berrow resumed to win the remaining two games. An honourable draw then? No. There has to be a winner in these events and after a count-back of shots it was calculated that Berrow had won 36 to 29. Naturally all of us are looking forward to the August rematch at their venue in Berrow; where, apparently, the playing surface is so volatile that it moves in concert with the tides!



Sociable Bleadon

Horticultural Society

As we are celebrating the 40th anniversary of the founding of the society this year we will be hosting a very special meeting on **Tuesday 15 October**. **TV and radio celebrity Anne Swithenbank** is coming to share her gardening experiences and expertise. Anne has written several gardening books and her talk at the Coronation Hall will be titled ***The laid back gardener***. Tickets on this occasion are £4 and only available in advance. We expect this to be a sell-out evening.



The **Summer Flower Show** will be held on **Saturday 7 September** at 2.30pm in the Coronation Hall. Programmes with entry forms are available free from the village stores, church porch and committee members. Everyone can take part, with plenty of opportunities to show off your skills with vegetables, fruit, flowers, pot plants, cakes, jams and loads more. You don't have to be an expert. Just enthusiastic.

Other future events include Paul Gilmore from Cadbury Garden Centre on November 19th, and rounding off the year with our usual fun-filled Beetle Drive and American Supper on December 17th. Admission for both these events is the usual £1 on the Coronation Hall door at 7.30pm.

Chris Cudlipp 01934 813 152

The pleasures of being a Dad

While setting up our Summer Show for the Saturday we always allow exhibitors to come and stage their entries for an hour or so on the Friday evening beforehand.

One family, Mum and three children usually come across from Cheddar to Bleadon on the Friday evening and stage their own exhibits. This year, however, other things clashed with the due date so Dad had to step in and help. He had his instructions in his hand when he approached me. I couldn't help but have a chuckle with the Dad. All family members have agreed that these instructions could be published. After all, other mums and dads may find them useful!

Instructions/Guidelines for an Exhibitor

1. Put all displays carefully in the car
2. Drive SLOWLY to Bleadon Village Hall
3. Take one display with you into the hall
4. Introduce yourself and collect envelope which will contain slips of card with category numbers on
5. Place each slip CORRECTLY just under each display
6. Do this carefully removing each display from the car ONE AT A TIME
7. DO NOT RUSH DISPLAY ASSEMBLY
8. TAKE YOUR TIME
9. ASK FOR HELP FROM THE ORGANISER
10.MAKING SURE YOU HAVE DISPLAYED EACH DISPLAY IN THE CORRECT AGE GROUP
11. FAILURE IN ALL THE ABOVE WILL RESULT IN THE CHILDREN BEING UPSET AND NOT HAVING A CHANCE TO WIN
12. RETURN TO THE CAR
13. DRIVE HOME
14. GET OUT OF THE CAR AND RING US

Welcome party

The annual Contactus party in June sent out an open invitation to welcome all new Bleadon residents to come and meet the movers and shakers who help make our village such a sociable place.

A few glasses of wine aided conviviality and helped wash down the delicious pastries and welcoming snacks at this very informative and sociable event.

If you are new to the village, would like to find out more about what goes on and how to get involved, please contact Penny Skelley on 815331.



Business directory

If you want your Bleadon business to be included here free of charge contact: bleadon.editor@btinternet.com

Actionwork Film & Theatre

PO Box 433, Weston-s-Mare BS24 0WY
Tel: 01934 815 163
www.actionwork.com
Film, theatre and anti-bullying solutions.
Local, national & international touring.

AMH Electrical Services

Tel: 07841 637 077
Email: andrew.hicks@btinternet.com
Covering all aspects of electrical work for domestic and commercial.

Anchor Inn

Bridgwater Road, Bleadon BS24 0AW
Tel: 01934 812 352
Traditional roadside local. Classic pub menu, fun nights, sociable atmosphere.

Bleadon Post Office & Country Store

Purn House Farm, Purn Way, Bleadon
Tel: 01934 815 584
Post Office services, fresh produce and everything expected from a village store. Plus Post House Coffee House

Bleadon Village Laundry

Hillside House, Bridgwater Road, Bleadon
Tel: 01934 814 133
Mob: 07979 794 478
Email: raggettchelsea@aol.com
Laundry, dry cleaning, ironing services on your doorstep. We collect and deliver.

Bridge Garage

Bridge Road, Bleadon
Tel: 01934 812 206
www.bridgegarage.com
Vehicle sales, full servicing all makes and models. MOT. Attended fuel station.

Catherines Inn

Bleadon Road, Bleadon BS24 0PZ
Tel: 01934 812 275
www.hungryhorse.co.uk
Friendly local with quality family food, sense of fun and affordable prices.

Chatterley Plumbing & Heating

The Croftings, Purn Way, Bleadon BS24 0QE
Tel: 01934 644 539
Mob: 07887 768 877
Gas appliances, safety checks & servicing, general plumbing. Gas Safe.

Dogzone

Accommodation Road, Bleadon
Tel: 01934 815 060
www.thedogplace.co.uk
Dog grooming, pet food supplied at discount prices and free delivery.

Drink Tea Eat Biscuits

Graphic design studio providing creative design and marketing solutions for local businesses.
Tel: 01934 707012
www.drinkteaeatbiscuits.co.uk
Email: franky@drinkteaeatbiscuits.co.uk

Escape Hair & Therapy Salon

Longwood House, Bridge Road, Bleadon
Tel: 01934 813 400
Escape to Bleadon for a new you.

Garden & Household Services

Sunnycove, Bridgwater Road, Bleadon
Tel: 01934 813 100
Mob: 07813 175 423
davebaxter25@sky.com
Gardening, landscapes & property maintenance services.

Andy Harper Joinery & Building Services

8 Coronation Road, Bleadon, BS24 0PQ
Tel: 01934 814962
Mobile: 07977 466 216
Email: Harper.A5@sky.com
Kitchens, Extensions, Wet Rooms

Huttons Fiat

Bridgwater Road, Bleadon BS24 0AW
Tel: 01934 813 700
www.huttons-fiat.co.uk
Fiat sales and servicing. New and used. Traditional values with customer care.

Ian Dance Services

Purn House Farm, Purn Way, Bleadon
Tel: 01934 813 686
Mob: 07920 110 441
www.iandanceservices.co.uk
Gas heating and plumbing, heating installation, servicing, repairs. Gas Safe.

Mager's Fuels

4 Whitegate Close, Bleadon BS24 0PW
Tel: 01934 813 596
Mob: 07582 860 517
magersfuels@yahoo.co.uk
Pre-packed coal, solid fuels, logs, bottled gas, rock salt. Delivered to your door.

Plastech Windows & Conservatories

10 Coronation Road, Bleadon BS24 0PQ
Tel: 01934 814 500
Mob: 07774 475 736
Local installer of high quality windows, doors, conservatories, fascia, soffits & guttering.

Plum Communications & PR

28 Bleadon Mill, Bleadon BS24 0BE
Tel: 01934 812 972
Mob: 07717 756 644
Email: info@plum-communications.co.uk
www.plum-communications.co.uk
Marketing, communications and PR services for business and organisations.

Ritchie's The Sandwich Co

Units 3-7, Purn House Farm, Bleadon
Tel: 01934 814 899
Sandwiches, rolls and specialities. Catering for functions and commerce.

Queens Arms

Celtic Way, Bleadon
Tel: 01934 812 080
www.butcombe.co.uk
Traditional village pub. Good range of beers and wines. Freshly prepared food.

Somerset Windows

Longwood House, Bridge Road, Bleadon
Tel: 01934 815 518
Mob: 07970 630 118
Made to measure windows, doors and conservatories using the finest materials.

Tree Services

Purn House Farm, Purn Way, Bleadon
Tel: 01934 814 941
Mob: 07855 911 046
Email: rjdtreeservices@hotmail.co.uk
Tree surgery and garden services - a cut above. Call for free quote.

Waterhouse Electrical & Engineering Services

Lakeside Barns, Shiplate Road, Bleadon
Tel: 01934 813 803
Mob: 07860 597 463
Gas Safe., NICEIC Approve. Installation & maintenance of gas and electrical systems.

Wheels & Paint Repair

Mob: 07876 69 69 65
Mobile repair of paint chips and scratches, alloy wheel repairs, valeting.

XS Computer Supplies

Unit 8, Purn House Farm, Bleadon
Tel: 01934 811 155
www.xscomputersupplies.com
Virus removal, repair and upgrades, broadband setup, cartridges, CDR/DVD

To advertise your local business in Village News

contact the Editor on **01934 813 127**

bleadon.editor@btinternet.com

Advertising rates start at just £20

Mark Howe gardening services

9 Malvern Road, Weston-super-Mare

Phone 01934 413 594 or 0777 327 2003

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- Hedges & trees cut
- Shrubs pruned
- Block paving repairs
- Fence painting
- Turfing
- Patios & chippings laid
- Lawn treatments
- Decking erected
- Patios & paths pressure washed
- Fencing erected & repaired
- Shed erection & repair

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EMAIL: PHYSIO@MULBERRYPHYSIO.CO.UK

WWW.YARLINGTONBARN.CO.UK

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Email: andrew.hicks@btinternet.com

www.amh-electrical-services.co.uk



Bleadon Parish Council meets on the **second Monday of the month** at 7.30pm in the Coronation Hall.

An **Agenda** is published on the Parish notice boards and the website at least three days before the meeting.

We welcome parishioners to attend meetings and get actively involved in things that matter to Bleadon.



Email address for the Parish Clerk
parishclerk@bleadonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Parishioners' Voice is your 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. If it's a last minute issue you wish to raise you can still ask to address the Council but they may not immediately have the answers you require.

Send all correspondence about Bleadon Parish Council matters to the Parish Clerk:
Bruce Poole, Bleadon Parish Council,
Rooftops, 10 South Street,
Burnham-on-Sea TA8 1BS

Tel: 07887 802 922

parishclerk@bleadonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Visit the Bleadon parish website at:
www.bleadonparishcouncil.gov.uk

You will be heard

Parishioners' Voice is your opportunity at the start of each parish council 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.

Your Bleadon Parish Councillors

I D Clarke	The Granary, Mulberry Lane, Bleadon	Tel: 815182
Steve Hartree	Chestnuts, Chestnut Lane, Bleadon	Tel: 811849
Robert House	Purn House Villa, Purn Lane, Bleadon	Tel: 815 588
Ian Findlay	The Mount, Shiplate Road, Bleadon	Tel: 812 862
Clive Morris (Vice Chair)	20 Bleadon Mill, Bleadon	Tel: 811 591
Miles Orme	Purn House, Bleadon Road, Bleadon	07989 410767
Keith Pyke	8 Whitegate Close, Bleadon	Tel: 813 127
Mary Sheppard	Littlewood, Bridgwater Road, Lympsham	Tel: 812 921
Penny Skelley (Chairman)	Mendip Croft, Celtic Way, Bleadon	Tel: 815 331

Bleadon Village News is published quarterly by Bleadon Parish Council in March, June, September and December.

Contributions to this magazine 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.

Send your Village News contributions to:

Keith Pyke, *Village News Editor*

8 Whitegate Close, Bleadon BS24 0PW

bleadon.editor@btinternet.com Tel: 01934 813 127

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

We aim to provide a copy of this magazine free to every household and business in Bleadon. Additional copies are usually available from the editor. We are grateful to the band of volunteers who deliver this newsletter to households. If you can help let me know.

We do need more volunteer distributors. If you are able to help deliver this magazine to households in Purn Way/Chestnut Lane or around Bridge Garage please contact the editor on 01934 813 127

The copy deadline for your contributions to the Autumn edition of Bleadon Village News is Friday 30 August 2013.



Taking time out

The sun shone, all the bits came together just in time, and people poured into the Coronation car park to enjoy themselves in their hundreds. Young Ellin Miles charmed us as our May Queen, the Chalice Morris Men entertained, the musicians jazzed it up and the kids dressed up real fancy. The pasties sold out within an hour. All the cakes and BBQ were gone by lunchtime and the Butcombe ran dry. Thanks to everyone who came. Thanks to the many who worked so hard to make the day a success. Together we made over £5000 profit to be shared between our church and our youth club. Well done everyone.



May Day Queen



BBQ sellout!



We did it! A first time for us



Hot Jazz on a summer day



Happily, no accidents to repair



Bacon baps selling fast!



Just looking



John's toy stall was bursting with bargains



Cakes all gone!



It's a 7.30am start for the erection team



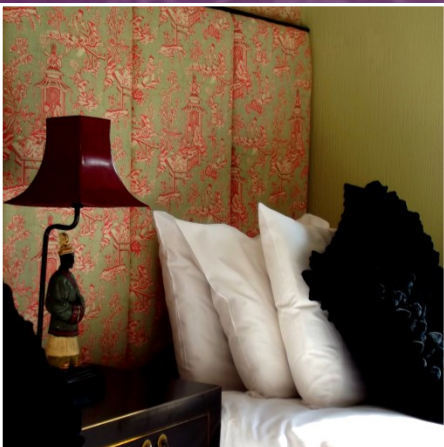
Everyone gets to join in



Everyone wins

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Weston super Mare



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