

Bleadon village

FREE to Bleadon homes

news

Winter 2011 - Issue 91

www.bleadonparishcouncil.gov.uk



*Season's
greetings
to all our
readers*



Harry chats



Clock work - involves some hanging about on the job



Calendar girls uncovered

PLUS lots more inside this bumper Winter issue

Clock work

Fixing our church clock might look like quite a challenge to most of us. For Tim Reynolds it's just another day at the office. But then, his company has been doing it since 1690.



A man's life depends on James getting everything secured right.

It's a tight fit squeezing up the stone staircase when you're carrying a pack full of rope and abseiling gear.



After a 9am start all seemed fixed and sorted by noon. Running like clockwork again. However, there is a postscript. At the time of writing it seems that the hour hand has a mind of its own, and has stubbornly stuck still again! Hopefully, by the time you read this Tim will have returned and fixed it.

The cost of repair of the church clock is being shared between the Parish Council and the Parochial Church Council

I quote: "Localism and the Big Society will give communities the power to work together and create the changes they would want". I assure you Bleadon Parish Council will continue to work on your behalf and proactively seek a balance of the wishes and needs in our village to this aim.

North Somerset Council have published an update of the Government Spending Review to 2015. The fact is that there will be £1 less to spend for every £3 spent in 2010/11. We will see draft and medium plans, scrutiny panels, working parties and budget proposals all resounding around the parishes. With the increased pressures of public finance enough to make us all reel.

As the parishes move to become 'paperless' Bleadon Parish Council have applied to North Somerset Council to take up the offer of IT equipment in order that we may continue to project Planning applications and reports to councillors and public at our meetings. This is part of North Somerset's move towards paperless working and will help them reduce costs.

Myself and councillors have recently attended regional and local Council conferences to help us debate and understand some of the new government policies directed at town and parish level. These 'training' days are a learning curve for us all.

A footnote. The Marshalls development seems to be progressing a little slower than they had first envisaged. However, you can be reassured that all it entails will be published in this village thesaurus over the coming months.

May I wish you and your families a very happy Christmas and peaceful new year. Once again the village Christmas Tree will be up and sparkling in front of the Coronation Hall by the 3rd December

Penny Skelley

Chairman Bleadon Parish Council



Editor's view

It never ceases to amaze me just how much we have going on in our lovely village. Every three months, when I settle down to start putting the Village News together, I wonder if I'm going to have enough to fill the 20 or so pages. I needn't worry. It always ends up that I have more than enough and some material always ends up in the editor's bin.

This issue is testament to the caring attitude of our community and the active social life of Bleadon. Inside these pages you'll discover just how much there is going on around us this Christmas time.

For families in December we've got **Punch & Pie** on Saturday the 10th - which usually involves some robust carol singing. The next day it's **Christingle** in the church, which I always find brings a tear of warm joy. If you've got any spare new toys please take them along to be shared with children elsewhere who aren't as lucky as ours.

On the evening of Wednesday 14th the WI are hosting **carols at the Queens Arms**. It's a good family singalong session that gets more enthusiastic as the hot toddy and evening progresses! All in a good cause too, raising funds for local charities.

On January 12 to 14th the Bleadon Players take to the Cory Hall boards with **Rumplestiltskin**. Bleadon pantos are always a very sociable fun night out (and a Sat Mat) which should not be missed by anyone who enjoys a bit of barracking and communal fun. The kids will love it too.

Later in 2012 we can look forward to celebrating Her Majesty the **Queen's Diamond Jubilee**. Hopefully, we shall see a Bleadon **street party** on Sunday 3rd June, and maybe much more if a band of like-minded, fun-loving people come forward to organise things.

As part of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations the parish council would like to give a **commemorative gift to Bleadon's children**. The nature of the gift has not been decided yet, but you can be sure that it will be a quality gift that your children will cherish in years to come. If you are a Bleadon resident and would like your child to receive this gift please **register your interest now** using the special form that appears inside this Village News.

Then return the completed form to me before March. The sooner the parish council learns how many residents are interested the better. Then we can be sure of ordering and receiving the gifts in time for the celebrations.

So, read on for all the Bleadon news that fits.

A very merry Christmas and healthy new year to you all.

(Excellent! - that saved me a few cards)

Editor



Bleadon Village News is published quarterly by Bleadon Parish Council in March, June, 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 Spring edition is a bit earlier than usual - Friday 3 February 2012.

We aim to provide a copy of this newsletter 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.

Send contributions to:

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

NEWS



Bus service 83

It looks like our village bus service to and from Weston via the hospital may be safe for now from the budget cuts being undertaken by North Somerset.

True to his promise District Councillor Ap Rees has fought to retain the funding support for this vital community service. Whilst there are likely to be cuts to evening and weekend services and even some routes elsewhere it is hoped that, for now at least, our essential rural services will continue to be supported by North Somerset.

Churchyard wall repairs

The churchyard wall that retains the high burial ground alongside Mulberry Lane is showing signs of its age. Like many of us it's beginning to bulge and sag in places!

As the parish council is responsible for the up-keep and safety of the churchyard it has taken the necessary steps to ensure that the stone wall is made safe. Work will begin soon on rebuilding areas of the wall that are threatening to collapse and installing improved drainage. It may also mean the removal of more trees along the churchyard perimeter because of the damage their roots are doing.



Bus shelter plans at Purn

Now that we have had some reassurances about the continuation of our village bus service the parish council has met with North Somerset Council staff to progress installation of a bus shelter and raised kerb at the Purn Way/Bleadon Road bus stop.

It has long been the ambition of the parish council to see a shelter and improved bus access at this rather exposed and rudimentary bus stop. Until last year we didn't even have a bus stop sign and timetable!

Now we are hopeful that we will see improvements on the site within the next six months. Groundworks will be undertaken by North Somerset contractors and the shelter will be provided by the parish council.



Play area repairs and maintenance

Tony our Village Ranger has been busy with maintaining our much loved village play area. Following villagers' concerns about the muddy puddle that regularly forms in front of the climbing frame Tony has re-turfed the offending spot to restore the ground level. This now means that this small area is fenced off and out of bounds until the Spring, or until the new grass has securely taken. In the meantime youngsters are having to find an alternative goalie spot.

The benches and timber multi-play unit have received a coat of preservative which should shrug off the worst of our winter weather for a couple more years at least.



NEWS

Bleadon Youth Club faces threat of closure...

Despite being one of the most successful clubs in the District our youth club is one of many clubs

In the Autumn issue of Bleadon Village News I reported on the threats and challenges facing our youth club in the face of swingeing budget cuts by North Somerset Council. I'm pleased to report this time that, despite the likely long-term withdrawal of funding, it looks like there is a really positive outlook for the club, at least in the short term.

High hopes despite the gloom

Much has been reported in the media since I told Village News readers in September about the threat to our youth club.

Whilst North Somerset Council have deferred a decision on Youth Service budget cuts they look very likely to adopt their Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP). As the budget cutting recommendations of the scrutinising panel have already been accepted to be incorporated into the MTFP it is highly likely that we will see the expected cuts adopted in February.

So, we expect that from 1st April 2012 the Youth Club will have to find ways of funding the youth club and commissioning youth workers without the long established support of North Somerset.

Ensuring continued success

With this in mind the youth club management committee have been working hard to ensure that the youth club continues to thrive.

Miles Orme (Vice Chairman Youth Club Management Committee) and myself have attended the briefing sessions given by North Somerset Council staff. From the start of this review we've been in regular discussions with NSC staff and councillors to help ensure that Bleadon gets the best for its young people. Here's a summary of the current state of play and some of the issues that the management committee will have to address:

- The established Youth Service with it's social care culture is no longer delivering what NSC believes is appropriate in most communities.
- NSC is now turning towards a culture of positive activity to meet the needs of young people.
- 11 of the existing 13 youth clubs in North Somerset are expected (encouraged) to set up Local

Youth Club facts

- We have 24 females and 39 males registered as young members.
- Current attendance runs at average 30 young people per Thursday evening session.
- A survey of members' postcodes in July revealed 73% lived in Bleadon, 15% in Lympsham, 11% Weston South (within 2 miles radius of BYC).

Commissioning Groups. These local groups will define what is needed, use funding and secure services for their young people.

- To help ensure that youth clubs continue over the next 12 months of transition there will be some £50,000 funding available from NSC to pump prime the process. We should know how much we can get by end of November. With funds possibly being available from December onwards.
- Then Innovation Funding of £250,000 may be available from NSC to help deliver youth activities over the next 12 months throughout the whole of North Somerset.
- By December NSC has promised to tell us what the criteria will be for youth clubs to apply for a proportion of this Innovation Funding.
- They will be looking for community support, innovative ideas on delivering the new service, business planning and sustainability beyond March 2013.
- They will also offer staff support to help us through the transition period until March 2013 to provide advice on business planning, legal models and funding.

The bottom line

- The Youth Centre just about breaks even on its running cost but that currently includes a £830 grant from NSC. This grant will cease.
- Bleadon Parish Council will be asked to help fill the gap left by the withdrawal of the NSC £830 funding.
- We probably need to find the estimated £4,000 + cost of employing three youth workers to run the weekly club session. It is estimated to cost around £100 per 2.5 hour session.
- We are very much hoping that the three youth workers who have run the club up until now will want to continue working with our youngsters. We are looking to them to come up with business proposals on how they might deliver the services that the management committee will be looking to commission.
- We will apply for some of the NSC funding to keep us operating through the first 12 months. Beyond that we need to find other ways of funding the club.

Funding options to be considered by the management committee:

- Increase weekly membership subs to more sustainable levels.
- Use of appropriate volunteers to reduce some staffing costs.
- Increase use of the building through lettings. This needs a change of Lease Agreement with the parish council which currently restricts use of the Youth Centre.
- We will seek funding and support from other local partner parishes (Hutton/Lympsham/Weston).
- We will seek grant funding from national agencies - but everyone else will be applying too!

Keith Pyke, Chair BYC Management Committee

a special offer & NEWS



Queen's Diamond Jubilee commemorative gift for the children of Bleadon

In celebration of Her Majesty the Queen's Diamond Jubilee on June 3rd 2012 the parish council is hoping to provide a commemorative gift to all children* living in the parish.

We hope that the gift will be something to cherish in the years ahead. A future reminder of happy childhood days spent growing up in Bleadon and a lasting celebration of 60 years of our glorious Queen.

We're not yet sure what the gift will be. It has to be affordable and yet of a quality that will ensure it is cherished by our children in the future. I suspect that much will depend on how many **parents** take up this offer and **register their interest**. The parish council is looking at the options available and will hopefully, come back with some detail in the next Village News.

Register your child/children for the Jubilee gift NOW

If you would like your child/children to receive this special Diamond Jubilee gift you need to **register your interest before 1st March 2012 using the form below.**

**To qualify for this gift children must be under 16 years of age on 3 June 2012.*

They must also be resident in the administrative parish of Bleadon.

Name of adult registering:

.....

Home address:

.....

.....

Post code:

.....

Tel:

.....

Email:

.....

Name of child 1:

.....

Date of birth:

.....

Name of child 2:

.....

Date of birth:

.....

Name of child 3::

.....

Date of birth:

.....

If you are a resident of Bleadon and wish to register to **purchase** this special commemorative gift **for a child living outside the parish** (such as grandchildren or Godchild) please contact the Editor.

Return this completed form to the Editor at: 8 Whitegate Close (off Amesbury Drive), Bleadon BS24 0PW by 1st March 2012

or Email the required information to: bleadon.editor@btinternet.com



Nat West & RBS banking now at the Village Post Office

I hear that the Post Office now handles Nat West and RBS banking services. They join most other leading banks in bringing cash withdrawals to your local village store. So now if you need cash from your bank you just need to pop down to Purn with your pin and card.



Bus times at the Veale

It's not exactly a frequent service, but it may be useful to residents in

Shiplate Road and the Veale who can organise their weekly trip to Weston on a Wednesday. It should allow you over three hours in Weston for shopping and refreshment.

Coombs service 831 on Wednesdays only, from the Veale at 09.46. Goes to Asda and Weston High Street via the Queens Arms.

The Coombs bus returns at **13.30 from Weston High Street.**

Bleadon Hill Road closure

A 50 metre length of Bleadon Hill Road between its A370 (Bridgwater Road) junction and Devil's Bridge will be closed to traffic from **Monday 5 December for an anticipated 12 days.**

Access to Bleadon Hill from Weston will be diverted via Totterdown Lane and Channel Heights. This closure is to allow installation of replacement gas mains.

NEWS 'n VIEWS

From your District Councillors

No doubt most residents in the village are awaiting news on the necessary budget cuts coming from North Somerset Council.

Unfortunately, we can't tell you much beyond the fact that the scrutiny panels are currently looking at all the proposals and will be making final recommendations to the Executive in the New Year. The final decision will then go to the Full Council in February.

Whilst we know decisions will be tough there is a desire to not disadvantage rural communities and to continue to help to provide local services, some times in conjunction with the parish councils and local volunteer groups. Carp we may but there are bitter pills for all of us to swallow, for society has been living beyond its means for too long.

Like a number of villagers we have watched with concern the development on Roman Road around the golf course. Fine sport it

may be but in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty the alien advertising notices, tracks, parking and buildings that have appeared are highly questionable and lack planning permission, as well as good taste and neighbourliness. At present Council officers are taking enforcement action where they can and we will continue to press for the removal of these various structures and the proper opening of the permanent Club House, which looks so nearly finished.

In your last issue it was noted that the bus service between Bleadon and Weston would not be scrapped, as some had feared, but restoring the service to the Veale is, we're afraid beyond our influence. We have tried to reach a compromise but the bus company and its drivers are adamant that it is unsafe to reverse buses at this point, especially with passengers aboard without an attendant to check safety and clearance behind. "Why not disembark the passengers first" we

asked...". Just as dangerous as they might get in the way" was the answer.

We didn't bother to ask if a volunteer could see the bus back as the likely reply was obvious! Of course older residents in particular will see all this as 'ealth'n'safety gone mad but this is the 21st Century and madness rules.

All we can suggest is that residents in the Veale area who find walking to the main bus stop difficult use the Weston and District local community transport or perhaps neighbours with cars in the village could help? Again not the answer you are looking for but we just don't have a magic wand, even if one of us is an Elf and Christmas is coming!

Anyway despite the gloom, try and have a Merry Christmas and we'll see you in the New Year.

Elfan Ap Rees and Terry Porter...your District Councillors.

Improving our community facilities

Working with Coronation Hall/Youth Centre representatives the parish council is looking carefully at how the village might make the most of any community/leisure funding contribution following the possible development of the Marshalls quarry.

If, in the future, we do have substantial new housing in the village it is likely to bring with it many young families. We must ensure that the village can provide suitable recreation and social facilities for our new residents.

In anticipation of greater demands on the social and recreation facilities in Bleadon the parish council is preparing for the future by looking at what affordable improvements can be made to our existing facilities.

A working group has been set up to look at possibilities for improvements to the existing Coronation Hall, Youth Centre, play area and car park site.

Editor

Inconsiderate parking on hazardous bends around the village continues to vex both the parish council and police. It never fails to astound us villagers that some drivers park their vehicles without any consideration for the danger they cause to other drivers. We are still waiting for North Somerset Council to mark out the road at the Coronation/Shiplate corner, as promised. In the meantime we urge drivers to please park always with consideration for other road users. Better still - use the free village car park.



Great Expectations

Do we sometimes expect too much of Christmas? Swept along on a media tide of over indulgence it's easy to forget the real meaning of this special time. Local hypnotherapist Lynn Ward offers some timely advice.

Watching T.V last night, I couldn't help but notice the idealized way Christmas was being depicted in the commercials. Laughing children cavorted in the snow, happy families gathered around exquisite tables laden with delectable delicacies, and pure delight was expressed at the opening of each perfectly wrapped present beneath trees festooned with baubles and twinkling lights. And it wasn't just the adverts. The usual array of celebrity chefs were urging me to be inventive with my brussel sprouts, whilst another so called 'expert' assured me that the trick to successful entertaining was planning ahead – bit late now I thought!

Any alien tuning in would assume that December was a universally magical time of snow, happy families and goodwill, all made possible by excessive spending, overindulgence and holly. I couldn't help but contrast the media portrayal of Christmas with the reality of shops bulging with overheated bodies fighting over must have goodies, whilst Christmas medleys drown out the sound of tills ringing and nerves shattering.

Don't get me wrong, I love Christmas, or rather I am keen to

rekindle our romance. When I was a child, Christmas really was an exciting and magical time. Money was in short supply, but not love and laughter. The smell of roasting Turkey still transports me back to my mother's kitchen, filling me with a sense of longing for Christmas past. I'm reminded of a quote I once read that **'Christmas is a time when you get homesick - even when you're home'**

Perhaps it's this nostalgic desire to recreate that sense of enchantment which drives us through exhaustion and the threat of financial ruin to strive to make Christmas perfect?

No matter how hard we try though, Christmas will never live up to our great expectations if it's based on tinsel tinted memories and Hollywood depictions.

But Christmas can be a time to celebrate and have fun if we are realistic. The moment we let go of the idea that everyone has to undergo a festive transformation to rival Dickens' Scrooge; we can release the pressure we place on ourselves and our families and relax. If you find yourself being

brainwashed into believing that everybody else out there is enjoying peace, goodwill and joy, then tune into the soaps for a reality check!

So what if our home bears no resemblance to those immaculate, garland adorned creations in the glossy magazines, and the nearest we get to festive spirit is an encounter with the Bristol Cream. The Perfect Christmas can't be bought with a credit card or cooked up in the kitchen.

This December take a moment to ponder on the real meaning of Christmas...

"And the Grinch, with his Grinch-feet ice cold in the snow, stood puzzling and puzzling, how could it be so? It came without ribbons. It came without tags. It came without packages, boxes or bags. And he puzzled and puzzled 'till his puzzler was sore. Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before. What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store? What if Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more." ~Dr Seuss

*Submitted by
lynnwardhypnotherapy @lynnward1*

Our very own Calendar Girls

Our fun loving WI gals have been baring all to the camera and raising goosebumps all over Bleadon to raise funds for

One Friday evening after a couple of glasses of wine at The Queens Arms, it came to our attention that it was the 10 year anniversary of the first naked calendar done by Skipton WI to raise money for a charity close to their hearts. Their story soon became a box office hit film and a successful stage play in London.

After another couple of glasses of wine, it was suggested that Bleadon WI could produce a naked calendar too. We then had a meeting on the following Monday and started the ball rolling. The following Thursday at our October meeting we mentioned our idea to the ladies and asked for a show of hands from those who might like to take part. Much to our amazement, almost all of the members were keen to be involved.

A few days later we set up some photo shoots in the Coronation Hall, had a few bottles of bubbly, and in turn all started to take our dressing gowns off. Sharon Taylor, who is a member of the W.I and a great photographer, soon put us all at ease. We all began to feel a little braver and were soon throwing our bras across the room and having so much fun, our inhibitions were disappearing.

We continued over the next couple of weeks to take the remaining photos at various locations in the village. The ladies of our walking group were stripping off on Bleadon hill on one of the coldest days of the year so far, but still managed an infectious smile and continued to laugh throughout, in fact I don't think any of us have stopped laughing since we came up with the idea in October.



It has been one of the most amazing, liberating things we have ever done, and in true Bleadon WI style, all our ladies have embraced the challenge. We have all formed great friendships during this experience and a lot of our ladies have found a new confidence within themselves.

Let's not forget the real reason we have made this naked calendar, The

South West Children's Hospice is a very special place, and we are hoping to raise over £5000 for their much needed funds.

You can purchase the calendars from Bleadon Post Office, Escape Salon on Bridge Rd, Sanders Garden World on the weekend of 3/4 December and the christmas village market on 3 December. They are priced at just £10 of which £8.60 will go direct to the charity.

I would like to say a massive thank you to all our sponsors who have kindly helped us to cover the majority of the printing costs of the calendars, and a special thank you to all the ladies who agreed to take part in the making of the calendar including those who helped behind the scenes.

Lesley Stokes

If you want to see more than these photo out-takes of our Bleadon belles you're going to have to buy the calendar. You'll also be contributing to a very worthwhile local charity.

Two new phone numbers to remember....

101 for police

NOW OPERATIONAL

If you want to contact the police when it's less urgent than 999, you can now call them on 101.

Part of a national programme to make it easier for you to contact your local police, 101 should be used for non-emergencies such as:

- reporting a crime
 - contacting local officers
 - getting crime prevention advice
 - making police aware of policing issues in Bleadon
 - making an appointment with a police officer
 - for any other non-emergency
-
- **101 does not replace 999**, which will continue to be used for emergencies.
 - It replaces the existing 0845 456 7000 number, although there will be a period when both numbers will be available.
 - If you are deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired, you can textphone on **18001 101**
 - Calls to **101** from landlines and mobiles cost 15 pence per call, no matter what time of day you call or how long your call lasts.

Remember...

999 should be used for an emergency, when a crime is happening, someone suspected of a crime is nearby, someone is injured, being threatened or in danger.

111 for NHS

COMING IN 2013

NHS 111 aims to make it easier for people to access healthcare services when they need medical help fast, but it's not a life-threatening situation. After 1 April 2013 if you need to contact the NHS for urgent care there will only be three numbers: 999 for life-threatening emergencies; your GP surgery; or 111.

How the NHS 111 service will work

Calls to the NHS 111 service from landlines and mobile phones are free and the service is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to respond to people's healthcare needs, when:

- you need medical help fast, but it's not a 999 emergency;
- you don't know who to call for medical help or you don't have a GP to call;
- you think you need to go to A&E or another NHS urgent care service; or
- you require health information or reassurance about what to do next.

Calls to 111 will be handled by a team of highly trained call advisers, supported by experienced clinicians. Using an appropriate clinical assessment system, questions are asked to assess callers' needs and determine the most appropriate course of action without the need for re-triage.

This includes ambulance dispatch, referral to a service within the NHS, referral to an alternative service, and information advice and reassurance.

Marshalls quarry update

Marshalls continue to market the Quarry site for continued commercial/industrial use in accordance with planning regulations. If no buyers are found before the end of the prescribed marketing campaign the site will then be looked at for housing development.

A Housing Needs survey will go out to all Bleadon households in the new year. Marshalls are working in conjunction with Leeds University and their findings will give the Local Planning Authority an idea of what housing is needed in Bleadon.

Experts continue to survey the quarry site to evaluate the various technical aspects of any future development.

Stress less this Christmas

Christmas has the potential to be one of the most stressful events in the calendar. New contributor Lynn Ward offers some seasonal advice.

According to a recent survey, the average preparation time is 13 full days- if you are a woman (considerably less if you're a man!) This involves 288 hours of shopping, four hours wrapping, three hours decorating the house (though I reckon it takes that long just de-tangling the lights), nine hours cooking and 11 hours cleaning up the mess.

Then of course there are the vast sums of money you feel you really must spend if you are to create that mythical, much sought after 'perfect Christmas' as depicted by Marks and Spencer. In the midst of this assault course on body and wallet, amid an atmosphere of unrealistic expectations inspired by Hollywood and the media, is it any wonder that so many of us feel anxious and stressed at the mere mention of jingle bells.

Stress happens when the demands placed upon us become overwhelming. It's our bodies' response to events that make us feel threatened in some way. When you sense danger –

whether it's from the thought of all your relatives descending, or from the fear that the last bag of brussel sprouts are about to be snatched from your grasp, the body's defences kick into high gear in a rapid, automatic process known as the "fight-or-flight" reaction, or the *stress response*.

Unfortunately fighting or fleeing is not really a viable option - though I have witnessed a few scuffles in Tesco's recently, and they do say Barbados is particularly delightful at this time of year! Stress leaves us feeling agitated, bad tempered and even depressed. It also affects our ability to fight off infection, have you ever noticed how

many people spend Christmas in bed with Flu?

So what is the best way to deal with Christmas stress? It's simple really, change the way you think. Striving for perfection can only ever result in anxiety and disappointment, because nobody has the kind of Christmas you are struggling so hard to create. All families argue, trees shed, children fight, Turkey *is* dry, gifts disappoint and hangovers happen. Once you accept this and lower those unrealistic expectations you can relax and begin to enjoy yourself.

It is Christmas in the heart that puts Christmas in the air. ~W.T. Ellis.

Put things in perspective. Is it really worth fighting through the crowds on Christmas Eve when your time could be better spent celebrating with family and friends? Will anybody notice your short crust pastry or just your short temper? It's easy to get carried away in the moment, but stop and ask yourself whose expectations you are trying to live

up to and why?

Do things differently this year. Prioritise what is important to you and your family and forget about the rest. What is the point of having a picture perfect Christmas if you are too stressed out and exhausted to enjoy it? **What really matters is creating an environment where peace, love and goodwill can flourish, and where the true meaning of Christmas can be remembered.**

So sit back, relax and have a very merry stress-free Christmas!

Submitted by:
lynnwardhypnotherapy@lynnward1



Bus Service to The Veale

We all know that the bus service to The Veale has been a lifeline for many people living in that area of Bleadon. We are told that its withdrawal is because it's illegal to reverse a bus with passengers on board on a public road. But is that true?

I've spoken to a senior executive of WebberBus who says 'No, that's an old wives tale!' Would the manoeuvre be in contravention of the company's insurance? No, definitely not!

Perhaps its withdrawal is because the bus cannot keep to its published timetable so could the timetable be changed? Yes, although the licensing authority would require a fee of about £60.

It's not WebberBus who want to sever the service so who is and for what reason? The Parish Council is battling to have the service reinstated so let's hope that these new factors help the case.

Clive Morris

Keeping pathways clear of ice and snow

In winter it's really helpful if you can keep the pavements and public spaces around your home clear of snow. Some people are put off doing so because they fear being sued.

There is no law stopping you from clearing snow and ice on the pavement outside your property, pathways to your property or public spaces. If an accident did happen it's highly unlikely that you would be sued as long as you're careful and don't make the pathways more dangerous than before.

Be careful not to leave snow where it will block drains or other peoples' paths.

Our Big Society

The gritting lorries will primarily be trying to keep the A370 clear. We can all do our bit to keep other parts of Bleadon clear. The grit bins around the village are for public spirited residents to use on public paths and roads. Please do not use the grit for your own property.

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Plum award pickings

Bleadon-based Plum Communications & PR has collected a finalist award at the annual Chartered Institute of Public Relations (CIPR) PRide Awards ceremony held in Bristol.

Plum received the accolade at the West of England regional presentation dinner held at The Bristol Hotel on Friday 21 October for its internal communications work with client, Merlin Housing Society in Gloucestershire.

The local agency, which provides a range of marketing, communication and PR services for businesses and organisations, was shortlisted in the Internal Magazine or Publications category for its work earlier this year on reinvigorating Merlin's staff magazine, The Pulse.

Director of Plum Karen Morledge said: "The awards evening was a great celebration event and we were delighted with the recognition that our work for Merlin achieved, on this our first ever awards entry."

Photo: Bleadon Mill resident Karen Morledge, Director of Plum.

Business directory

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

Actionwork Film & Theatre

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What's on in Bleadon

Check the village notice boards for regular up-dates on the dozens of activities and events in the village.



Regular Coronation Hall events

Mondays

Bleadon Bridge Club 2-5pm
Marie's 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 Guides** 7.30-9.00 (term time)
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 10-noon
Yoga Class** 9.30-11.30
Bleadon Players/Rehearsals 7.30pm
Bleadon Pilates** 7.30pm

Thursdays

Bleadon Art Group** 10-noon
Croquet Club Whist/Quiz 2-4pm (Oct-Apr)
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**.



Punch and Pie

10th December in the Coronation Hall. 6.30pm to 8pm. A family do. Tickets on sale from Brian Drinkwater or the village stores. £3 adults; children under 8 years free.

Christingle

Children's smiles in the candle-light, the glow of childhood expectation and the twinkle of pride in a parent's eye - who can resist Christingle?

Take your children along to the church on **Sunday 11 December at 3pm**. and if you can please bring a gift for children less fortunate.



Panto magic 12 -14 January

This year the Bleadon Players are returning to the traditional pantomime and will be presenting the magical story of *Rumpelstiltskin*

Put together on stage a pretty girl, a handsome prince, an evil baron, a batty old woman with her village beau and mix them together with song and dance overseen by an evil

gnome, then you have a real Bleadon Village Pantomime.

Come along to Coronation Hall at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday 12, Friday 13 and Saturday 14 January.

Tickets from Bleadon Post Office or on the door.



Wednesday 14 December

Carols at the Queens from 7pm. The WI are once again hosting their popular evening of carols and merriment at the Queens Arms. Here's an opportunity to get well into the Christmas spirit - and you can walk home too!

Horticultural Society

Tuesday January 17 **Britain in Bloom** with Terry Porter

Tuesday February 21 **To Eden and Back** with our very own Pete Williams

Each of these meetings is open to anyone at £1 admission in the Coronation Hall at 7.30 pm.

Saturday March 10 - **38th Spring Flower Show**

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.



Friends of Bleadon Church

We have planned some events so make a note in your diaries:

11 February: **Pudding Evening** with Beetle Drive.



Monday, 7 May: Our big annual event, the **May Day Fayre**. We need helpers. Can you spare an hour or two to help on a stall or gate or man one of the games? Let me know and we will contact you early next year.



September: **Harvest Supper**

October: An **Evening of Nostalgia** with John Crockford-Hawley and Chris Manners.

Many other events are in the planning stage and they will be advertised in the village noticeboards, in the village and church magazines and on: www.bleadonchurch.co.uk.

For further information on the Friends, please contact me Brian Drinkwater on 813 636.

From Bleadon to the Caribbean and China

Our lucky Bleadon bags are certainly getting around around the globe.



Penny Skelley's bag kept her company on the silver sands and calypso shores of Barbados.



For Tony and Maggy Pettitt it was a grand China tour that included the Terracotta Army at Xian.

300th birthday bells

As reported earlier this year - the back **five church bells** were cast by Bilbies of Chewstoke in **1711**. As well as celebrating in July, we recently marked this historic occasion with a **Quarter Peal to celebrate the 300th anniversary**. On 19th November a sequence of 1260 Grandsire Doubles was rung by bellringers - Jill Maffey, Paul Ebsworth, Bryan Williams, John Boorman, Bernard Dodd and Peter Maffey.



Can you help bring our yesterdays to life?

If you've got any photos, or memories of Bleadon and its people, that you would like to share please contact Penny Robinson on 814142 or the Village News editor on 813127. Email: bleadon.editor@btopenworld.com

Photos and stories don't have to be very old. Many residents moved into the village during the house building boom of the 60s and 70s. You've probably got photos of the village and your family growing up here.

We don't need to keep your treasured photos. We'll scan them and archive them for future generations. You'll get your originals returned to you.

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Bleadon Village Monthly Market & community cafe

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JAN

SAT
18
FEB

SAT
17
MAR

SAT
21
APR

in the Coronation Halls
from 9 to 12.30

Call Joanne on 01934 812 370 for more info

So sociable Bleadon

Ladies that do so much more than jam and Jerusalem

Bleadon WI reconvened after the summer break with much merriment, enjoying a fabulous fashion show by the ladies from Marks & Spencer's.

The summer outing to Yeo Valley – a more serene occasion – introduced us to their beautiful kitchen gardens, followed by an organic salad supper.

We welcomed back our Chairwoman Karen Orme, as she was elected to serve for a 2nd term at the October AGM and have been inspired by local potter, Norma Atherton, to create our own designs on clay tiles – a WI meeting has never been so quiet, as 70 ladies concentrated on their etchings.

A busy Christmas lies ahead with the running of two stalls at the Xmas Market selling a selection of our wares, our annual Xmas party, Carol singing at the Queens Arms in aid of Bleadon's Youth Club and Friendship Club and the unveiling of our very own WI Calendar. With all this to look forward to, it's easy to understand why this WI's numbers are ever-increasing.

Calendars are available at the Post Office and Escape Hair salon, priced £10 – all profits to go to the South West Children's Hospice in Wraxall.

Friends of Bleadon Church

Heading towards the end of 2011 our thoughts are now turning to next year when we have the Olympic Games, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and Bleadon May Day Fayre. So much to look forward to.

I must firstly thank all those who supported and helped us in our fund-raising efforts over the last 12 months. We could not have done without you. We started the year with a Valentines Pudding Party and this was followed by a very successful May Day Fayre. There was a cream tea afternoon at Rookery Nook with the celebration of 300 years of the Bells. We arranged the teas for the Scarecrow weekend

thanks to Penny and our Harvest Supper was one of the best. A very interesting evening was held in October when the Bath Aqua Glass company entertained us with a light-hearted talk and slide show with a bangers and mash supper. To complete 2011 we will have our **Christmas Punch and Pie Party in the Coronation Hall on Saturday, 10th December.** Starting at 6.30pm tickets are only £3 and children under 8 years are welcome for free. A good, happy evening with mulled wine (fruit juice for the children) mince pies, music and carols. Your Christmas really does start here.

I would like reiterate the aims of the Friends. We are a small, hard-working group who endeavour to raise funds to keep our village church alive and vibrant. Our church needs in the region of £30,000 a year just to survive. We are likely to need more money next year to meet the cost of vital electrical repairs. Most of this is raised by personal contributions and donations. We are not State funded nor do we have any grants. This is why the Friends of the Church are so important. Not only do they raise well needed funds, they also provide a vital link for many people whose only social outings are to the Friends events. We want our church to survive. Without a church where will you go for your Weddings, Christenings and Funerals? We are always looking for new ideas to raise money in a fun way. If you are interested in joining our group and if you have any ideas for events you will be made most welcome at our meetings. Give me a ring on 01934 813636. We are a friendly bunch!

For further information on the Friends, please contact me on 01934 813636.

May I take this opportunity of wishing everyone a very Happy Christmas and a Blessed and Healthy New Year. Again, very many thanks for all your help and support.

Brian Drinkwater (01934 813636)

Have you visited the Eden Project?

The Eden Project will be the subject of a presentation to the Horticultural Society early in 2012 and sight of any photos or other descriptive material that will enhance coverage would be appreciated. *Contact Pete Williams on 812020.*

The Friendship Club

We are nearly at the end of another year. It has been full of many interesting subjects, speakers, various kinds of music and singers, quizzes, bingo, raffles and so much more. It is just £1 including tea and biscuits, so 2-4pm. each Friday do come along, we welcome new friends male or female.

Audrey Lee



Coffee, cakes and good company were in plentiful supply at the recent Friendship Club coffee morning.

Raffle prizes and gift stalls added to the convivial atmosphere and helped raise funds for the club.

As usual Jeff and Mary's cakes and savories were a sell out.

So sociable Bleadon

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.

Sunday Club

On the first Sunday of the month youngsters of any age can join Chris and Stevie for fun and games in the Church Meeting Room. Starts in the church at 10.15 and usually goes through until about 11.30.



Bleadon Country Sports

Bleadon Country Sports have donated all the proceeds from their August show to the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance (£1000) and to The Cinnamon Trust for Dogs (£400).

The show was very successful and well attended. The organisers are most grateful for the local sponsorship and to the helpers on the day.

Secretary: Alison Hillyer



Bleadon Horticultural Society

Tony Gray from Sanders Garden World stepped in at short notice to talk to the society on winter stems and berries as our usual November speaker, Paul Gilmour was unable to attend. Don't worry Paul will be back next year to start our festive season in style.

Tony brought along several lovely plants to illustrate the many points that he raised and passed on during his very interesting presentation. Several varieties of cotoneasters were on view as well as spiky pyracanthas that could have a dual purpose in deterring would be burglars and feeding hungry birds in the winter months.

Jean Drew was the guest speaker at the October meeting of the society where her talk and practical demonstration of container gardening for the spring was extremely well received. Many tips were also passed on including ideas of

keeping pests out of flower pots with a fleece lining, helping slugs die happy in a beer bath and propagating cuttings so that they could talk to each other.

At the conclusion of the meeting long standing member Roy Tansley was presented with a gardening voucher to mark his recent retirement after many years of loyal service. He was also given a bouquet of flowers to take home to his wife Joyce, who couldn't be present, to say "thank you" for her efforts in the past. Eileen Roberts was also presented with a bouquet of flowers to mark her retirement.



Phoenix Quiz

This year's quiz, the third, was contested by sixteen teams of decidedly unruly, almost riotous, disposition and realised £531 for the charity Clic Sargent. Unfortunately Bleadon's finest could not match the intellectual firepower of some of the visiting teams so the title of Supreme Team again went outside the village. It's a bit like Wimbledon, I suppose, but we must be grateful for their money. The usual catering team of Dawn Mayo, Lynn Riding, Jean Stott and Doreen Ward performed capably as ever, as did Jeannette and Reyn Badger behind the bar. Louise was an excellent girl Friday for the quizmaster. It seemed a convivial time was had by all, so let us hope we can add a few more teams on the equivalent day next year.

Poppy Appeal

Bleadon's Poppy Appeal has once more surpassed previous totals by amassing £1045.77, thanks to the efforts of a number of collectors and the generosity of the public. The bulk of the money was brought in by the house-to-house team - Caroline Bayntun, ID Clarke, Jane Derrick, Jill Hobbs, Susan Oldfield, Sarah Ripley, Becky Stafford and Pete Williams - but there were significant amounts donated at all the local businesses and the church. Well done to all concerned.

Les Masters

Bleadon people

The Lord Chamberlain is commanded by Her Majesty to invite

Anyone who has received such an invitation within a Royal CIPHERED envelope will I am sure have been as excited as Ann and I were. We were to attend a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace on Tuesday 19th July 2011 from 4.00 to 6.00 pm.

I subsequently learned that the invitation came in my capacity as the President of the Society of Local Council Clerks. Together with Ann, myself and another colleague and his wife from the Society we presented ourselves at the Palace gates at the commanded time.

Because I was one of many wearing a chain of office it was like attending a photo shoot with the surrounding tourists snapping at anything and everything.

Eventually we walked through the Palace to the spacious gardens to the rear where one of two bands was playing and Lyons Corner House was serving tea accompanied by very dainty sandwiches and cakes. On the stroke of 4pm. the Royal Party arrived the National Anthem was played and then the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh, Duke & Duchess of Cornwall, Duke and Duchess of Wessex and the Duke of Kent descended the steps to meet as many loyal subjects as possible.

I do have the distinct privilege of saying that the Duke of Edinburgh spoke to me personally when he suggested "that I might put my brolly up otherwise my chain of office would go rusty". Unfortunately the weather was not very kind with the rain becoming so heavy at times that it was necessary to shelter. I do not suppose that John and Norma Major



and Seb Coe who shared our shelter will remember whom they were speaking to on that day.

Despite the rain it was a great occasion very much enjoyed by both Ann and I, as was our hotel stay and a visit to the theatre to see "Love never dies".

*Bruce Poole,
Clerk to Bleadon Parish Council*

So nearly a TV star...

At the recent Remembrance Sunday service in Bleadon's lovely church the Rev. Steve Hartree shared a delightful story of his father, two German prisoners of war and Dobbs the horse.

In early 1945 Steve's dad was based at Aldershot barracks working as a saddler. He had the help in his work of two German prisoners of war. When the two prisoners discovered that Steve's mum was expecting they got permission to make a present for the forthcoming newborn. The resulting present was a perfect model pony on wheels. Made from real pony hide and complete with leather saddle and bridle. All mounted on wheels with a pull-along handle. The perfect gift for the boy that was to be our Steve.

Steve still has Dobbs the pull-along horse and brought it to the Remembrance Service to share with the congregation.

He also added a post-script to this tale.

Earlier this year he heard that the Antiques Roadshow were planning a Remembrance Sunday Special. The BBC were asking for viewers to come forward with interesting items that related to *Unsung Heroes* from the wars. So Steve wrote to the BBC telling of the tale of Dobbs and the two German prisoners who had made this labour of love.

Amongst the thousands who applied he was selected for filming and on a sunny day in the summer went off to Staffordshire to be a TV star. With an early 8.30am start! After waiting around all day Steve finally made his



appearance in front of the cameras at 9pm alongside antiques expert Hilary Kay.

Sad to say Steve's three minutes of fame ended up on the cutting room floor. So the nation never got to see our new rising (but now humbled) star. But I believe that you can still view the clip on the BBC iplayer.

Go to: www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p001t3v2



Village people

Royston Walters discovers the story of a Bleadon villager who hardly needs any introduction to anyone who's lived in Bleadon a while



HARRY CHATTERLEY

It is 1926. Harry the eldest of two boys is born in the west midlands to parents he describes as "gentle". His Dad Bill is a grocery manager for the Co-op who fought in the great war, he plays the piano ("without soul") and keeps chickens. Nancy his Mum is musical and artistic, for work she is part of the fishing tackle industry for which Redditch was famed in those days. Nancy was a "fly dresser" and her trout and grayling flies are much admired and in demand, she too plays the piano, "beautifully". At the age of seven Harry is given a violin and soon shows promise. 76 years later he still entertains, with the same violin which he carries in its original box. Harry and his brother are not bad boys but his young brother gets caught playing jazz on the church organ and there is an incident with Harry, a brick, and a school caretaker which, on oath, I have promised not to reveal.

It is 1939, our hero is 14 and even from a young age it is apparent he has within him a deep love of aeronautics and a longing to fly. To Harry "War Declared" seems to be nothing more than extra opportunities to watch his beloved aeroplanes. Ten miles down the road the Austin car factory at Longbridge is mobilised and begins to manufacture aircraft and Harry is able to watch test flights of the latest warplanes. It wasn't until April of 1940 when school lessons were interrupted to tell the children of the fall of France that young Harry becomes fearful. The teacher's words "This is where it becomes serious" are a leaden echo of the tales his father told him about the first world war.

It is 1941 and Harry leaves school but his love of flying machines does not extend to the making of them, he cannot think of spending his days in the "noise and rattle" of a factory. It is



rural felicity that calls him and the other great battle Britain is fighting - to provide food in the face of the ever increasing threat to supplies from U-boats. He finds a place in Bristol's agricultural college, after he graduates he is then old enough sign up for the RAF. He passes the selection for aircrew but his study of agriculture dictates he works on a farm until his training can begin.

Harry is sent to Honeymead farm in Lymsham and waits for the call to serve. Each morning starts with milking and as he rounds up the herd he watches neat "V" formations of US airforce bombers fly over Bleadon on their way to bomb the U-boat

bunkers on the French Atlantic coast. He can set his clock by them, when he has finished the milking they are returning and the gaps in the formations are witness to unseen battles and sacrifice. For Harry the call to arms never comes. During this time of the war Britain is training more aircrew than we have planes to fly, farming is a reserved occupation and Harry's thirst for flying remains unslaked. Daily life in this corner of Somerset is shared with thousands of American servicemen, "overpaid, oversexed and overhere" they say but in Lymsham and Bleadon they integrate well, many are accomplished musicians and the twice weekly dances at the Coronation Hall are a highlight in a community where shortages are commonplace and joy is scarce.

It is 1944. D-Day! Harry awakes to a roar from the skies. In awesome wonder he looks up to see, from horizon to horizon, a galaxy of aircraft. It is difficult to imagine now and it sounds like exaggeration but Harry describes it "like a blanket, with holes, covering the whole earth". The sky was full for two days, then they were gone - and so were the Americans.



Harry by now, with long practice, has an all round capacity and versatility in his chosen profession, he is particularly skilful and dextrous with animals and rival farmers whose milk yields are poor compared with those at Honeymead Farm begin to court him with offers of more money, he receives an offer to double his wages. In the new regime Harry milks the cows, bottles the milk, dons a white coat and then delivers it - on a motorcycle and sidecar! During all this time Harry has been squirreling away small amounts and when he has amassed £100 he looks to buy a plot of land in the hope that one day he can build his own house, he finds a plot on Bleadon Hill and he's not yet 20.

It is 1946. Harry has been burgled. While out dancing, Dagmar Richards, creeps in and steals his heart, she still has it. Love sings its song for them and they marry in 1948. Soon, two become five and the wages from the farm are not enough to sustain the family. Dagmar gets a job in an ice cream parlour in Weston, Harry forsakes the land for higher wages in the building industry. Harry spends many years watching and learning the many disciplines of building. He and Dagmar are able to get a mortgage and have a bungalow built on his land. Harry is in the prime of his life and is indefatigable, he starts his own building business, he buys more land and builds more bungalows, the family take motoring holidays in Europe. One of the new bungalows he builds is for his own family, with a stroke of wit they name it *Wragby Hall* (The name of Lady Chatterley's house in D H Lawrence's famous novel). Harry has

burnished his life to a very high gloss.....what could possibly go wrong?

A wind of unwelcome change blows, Harry has a "funny turn". He thinks with his chin up but his optimism is dented by this deterioration in his health, a doctor warns him to slow down or the consequences could be dire. Nothing specific is diagnosed but even Harry, used as he is, to rude health realises his body is failing him. He enters a period of a sort of suspended animation but his frame fails to respond to his rest and inactivity. He is forced to close his business and lay off his workforce, a course of medication has the side effects of making him weak and cold, he takes to wearing an overcoat, even in summer and he is aware he has become an object of ridicule. It slowly dawns on Harry that his best years may be behind him.

As Harry tells me about this perplexing period I am reminded of Stan Holloway's monologue *My word you do look queer* where Black (the undertaker) with "crepe around his hat", says: "My business of late has been terribly flat But I'm telling my wife she can have that new hat!"

It is 1972. Harry's self esteem is at a very low ebb but the Good Lord isn't finished with him just yet. An old acquaintance offers him a job at Weston College in the building department, it's not of great consequence, undemanding and with a catchpenny wage but it's just what he needs to release him from his torpor.

Harry's health improves and his skills become recognised and well regarded. He takes on a bricklaying class, and it's not long before he is on the permanent teaching staff lecturing in his speciality, plumbing. In addition to this he begins to teach woodworking and the maths, science and physics of building. When he is not teaching he is playing his violin and somewhere along the way he has learned to play the mandolin. He and three friends join to create a group called *Homebrew* they play country music for barn dances and socials far and wide.

Harry sees an advertisement in the Mercury for "Anyone interested in forming a gliding club". This is the opportunity at last to fulfill his dreams of becoming a pilot and he becomes a founding member of the WSM Gliding Club, within two months he is flying solo over the Mendips and in negotiating a 10 knot thermal finds his own paradise gardens. This is Harry's life until he retires aged 66.

At this time in Bleadon there is a strong Guide and Scout movement with very poor facilities in a wooden hut next to the Coronation Hall. Miss Snelgrove, who looks after the guides approaches Harry to help with her ambition to build a suitable, permanent hall for the youngsters. She explains she has been saving money by holding whist drives in the village, has accumulated £7000 and plans for extra fundraising were at an advanced stage. Harry estimated the total cost to be around £40,000, but said he was reluctant to help with finances though would be glad to guide her through the pitfalls of commissioning a new building. It is a long, long story of how the Jubilee Hall, over a period of three years, came to be built but Harry played many roles, architect, builder, project manager and, politician...there are little rivalries, small disputes and everyday crises to cope with but it is safe to say that without him it is doubtful that the hall would ever have been built. All that expertise, time and effort freely given, his only regret is that the building isn't called the Snelgrove Hall in honour of the lady who initiated the project and who didn't live long enough to see it finished.

It is 2011. Harry and Dagmar have been married 63 years and the binding on the book of Harry's life is a bit cracked now, the pages are yellowing at the edges but his life is an epic tale with many luminous images. There isn't the space available here to do justice to this story of a clever, strong and vibrant man but it is a tribute to 'A man in full'.

Words and pictures by
Royston Walters



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.

You will be heard

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.

Please send all correspondence about Bleadon Parish Council matters to the Parish Clerk:

Bruce Poole,
Clerk to Bleadon Parish Council
Rooftops, 10 South Street,
Burnham-on-Sea TA8 1BS
Tel: 07887 802 922

Email:
bruce.poole2@bopenworld.com

Or visit the website at:
www.bleadonparishcouncil.gov.uk



Bleadon Village News is published quarterly by Bleadon Parish Council and distributed by volunteers free to households in Bleadon Parish.

Views published are those of the contributor or editor and may not be those of the parish council.

Thanks.....

Wedding thanks

Peter and I would like to thank everyone for their best wishes, the many many cards, gifts, flowers, and various tokens of congratulations, received on the occasion of their marriage at Bleadon Church on July 16th. We are quite overwhelmed with the many kind sentiments.



Thank you to all those who came just to sit and enjoy our wonderful marriage service and blessing which was officiated so warmly and sensitively by Rev. Philip Stevens; to Brian Drinkwater who assisted as Usher, with his familiar charm; and to all those guests who braved, what turned out to be, a chilly evening later at the reception at Banwell Castle.

Our Church looked quite beautiful ...the flower arrangements were gorgeous, the bells pealed magnificently, and Chris Manners our organist, was superb, not to mention his accompaniment to the wonderful singing of the Welsh Hymn - Calon Lan by the choir, expertly led by Gill Williams, during the signing of the register. Thank you to all,

Sue (formerly Southwell) and Peter Sanger

Editor's note: a hiccup in communications meant that this letter of thanks missed the last issue of BVN. Sorry for the delay Sue and Peter.



Catherine's fireworks

Once again the Catherine's Inn provided Bleadon with a wonderful display of fireworks to celebrate bonfire night. Despite a very wet and reluctant bonfire which did not want to ignite it was a dazzling evening of pyrotechnics.

Planters praise

Thanks to the gang of regulars and some new helping hands that turned out in October to plant up our 24 village tubs and troughs. Without you and the funding of the plants by the parish council our little world would be a duller place.

Sanders Garden World delivered the silver and blue plants bang on time to drop the plants off in the village car park. With quite a few helping hands we were able to get the job done in little over an hour or so.

Unfortunately, Sanders forgot to load the bulbs onto the van, but made up for it by coming back later with a planting gang to do the bulb planting for us.

If the weather isn't too unkind to us this winter we should see some welcoming colour in the village until the late Spring.

Your Bleadon Parish Councillors

Brian Gamble	Ashdene, Bleadon Road, Bleadon	Tel: 811 709
Robert House	Purn House Villa, Purn Lane, Bleadon	Tel: 815 588
Trevor Marshall	15 Bleadon Mill, Bleadon	Tel: 811 548
Clive Morris (Vice Chairman)	20 Bleadon Mill, Bleadon	Tel: 811 591
Miles Orme	Purn House, Bleadon Road, Bleadon	07989 410767
David Plaister	Mulberry House, Roman Rd, Bleadon	Tel: 814 612
Keith Pyke	8 Whitegate Close, Bleadon	Tel: 813 127
Mary Sheppard	Littlewood, Bridgwater Road, Lymphsham	Tel: 812 921
Penny Skelley (Chairman)	Mendip Croft, Celtic Way, Bleadon	Tel: 815 331

Harvest celebrations

A church full of provender and a special harvest supper in the Coronation Hall marked Bleadon's celebration of another year of Nature's bounty.



Friends of the Church organised a very successful Harvest Supper, had a fun evening and raised funds for the church
Supper photos by Pete Williams

Bleaddon



*Season's
greetings
to all our
readers*

