

BLEADON



VILLAGE NEWS 77

Monthly indoor

Saturday MARKET

19th July, 16th August
20th September, 18th October

Bleadon Village Coronation Hall 9-12.30



Local produce.

Somerset beef and lamb.

Local bread. Fairtrade.

Home-made cakes.

Cheeses. Cider. Honey.

Preserves. Plants. Books.

Crafts. Jewellery. Gifts.

Cards. Bric-a-brac.

Please bring a bag

Meet friends and chat
over coffee and snacks



01934 812 370 for stalls info

THE PARISH COUNCIL

PENNY SKELLEY [CHAIRMAN]	'MENDIP CROFT', CELTIC WAY, BLEADON.	TEL. 815331
PENNY ROBINSON [VICE CHAIRMAN]	1, THE VEALE, BLEADON.	TEL. 814142
GRAHAM LOCKYER	'HIGHCROFT', ROMAN ROAD, BLEADON.	TEL. 812050
MARY SHEPPARD	'LITTLEWOOD' BRIDGWATER RD., LYMPSHAM.	TEL. 812921
KEITH PYKE	8, WHITEGATE CLOSE, BLEADON.	TEL. 813127
CLIVE MORRIS	20, BLEADON MILL, BLEADON.	TEL. 811591
ROBERT HOUSE	PURN VILLA, PURN HOUSE FARM, BLEADON.	TEL. 815588
BRIAN GAMBLE	'ASHDENE', BLEADON ROAD, BLEADON.	TEL. 811709

The Council meets on the 2nd Monday of the month at 7.30pm, in the Coronation Hall.

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

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

BRUCE POOLE, 'THE CHIPPINGS', 21 STONELEIGH CLOSE,
BURNHAM-ON-SEA, SOMERSET TA8 3EE
TEL. 07887 802922 or e-mail: bruce.poole2@btopenworld.com

**This Village Newsletter is published four times a year, March, June, September and December. Date sensitive material and publicity notices should reach the Editor well in advance of the event as a definite publishing date cannot be guaranteed.
The Deadline for the next issue is 24th August 2008**

Our aim is to provide a copy of this magazine free to every household within the Parish of Bleadon. Those who live outside the Parish may be able to obtain a copy from the Village shop or the Church porch. I should like to thank all those who help with the distribution of the magazine and I hope I can count on your future support. If there are others out there who would like to help please let me know (01934 814142).

Unless otherwise stated the opinions and comments expressed in this magazine are those of the contributor and not of Bleadon Parish Council. Anyone who has a comment to make on the content of this publication or has a contribution for inclusion, should send it to :-

Mrs. Penny Robinson, 1, The Veale, Bleadon. BS24 0NP
Tel. 01934 814142 | e-mail : penny.rob@btopenworld.com

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

www.bleadonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Chairman's Report

As always I am able to begin my report by saying it has been another good year for the Parish of Bleadon and that the Parish Council has been able to contribute to the quality of life of our Parish.

One of our greatest assets is the Coronation Hall and its "West Wing". These are flourishing with continuous hiring's events and functions. The market is now part of the village fabric and it is hard to remember a time when there wasn't a monthly Market.

I feel sure that you appreciate the work carried out on the overall appearance of the Village. The Open Spaces are constantly being checked and improvements made each season the Churchyard footpaths and the four new kissing gates all look very good. The allotments have a waiting list and the tubs will be summer planted by the May Fayre. The area around the Hall has been transformed by the "Sparkplug" project with just a small area behind the Jubilee Hall still to be completed. I must also mention the new Cycle Racks in the Car Park.

Our Village Ranger and the Mendip Rangers are to be praised for the work they do in keeping our small part of the Mendips so beautifully.

The Youth Club goes from strength to strength with refurbishing inside and upgraded CCTV outside. The Youth Club Leaders are to be congratulated and we thank them for their focus on our young people. Our Guides and Brownies blossom growing in numbers and as always a heartfelt thank you to their committed leaders.

The upkeep of the play area is under review and we intend to have a complete new slide complex in place this summer so we will again be the envy of other villages.

Planning – we have had many planning applications throughout the year and these take up a great deal of our time. We have site meetings thorough discussions and deliberation and consider each application in detail. You must appreciate though that we are not the final arbiter and that North Somerset planning committee has the final word.

Our Beat Officer and the PSO have served us now for a year. The weekly surgeries work well and with your support the village will stay relatively crime free.

The Bleadon Historical Society has had its first meeting and was well attended. With all the artifacts and photos that arrived on the night it was more like an Antiques Road Show. The future plans of the Society will be announced later in the year.

I should say here that you will find a great deal more information on all of the topics I have only covered broadly on the Parish Council Web-site. The full reports of Parish Councillors on their specialist areas will be made available on the web site and will be repeated in the next issue of the "Bleadon Village News".

In closing forward planning is essential for a Parish Council as it is the tier of local government closest to the people it serves. I hope you agree that your Parish Council endeavours to serve you well.

I thank you for attending this Annual Parish Meeting. Your help and support are keeping this village as we all wish it to be. I personally thank your volunteer team of Parish Councillors.

Penny Skelley - Chairman

Open Spaces

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

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

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

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

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

The car park and area around the youth club have benefited during the past year from a grant and I know that you will all agree what an improvement there has been. CCTV installed at this time has been invaluable in controlling some of the vandalism.

The Churchyard railings are in the process of being painted by Brian Thorne and his son Mark and there is to be some welding done by Peter Briffet at Bridge Garage in order to make them safe. Mr. Briffet has offered to do this free of charge. We thank him for this kind gesture.

As ever the more outlying rural parts of the Village have been kept in good order by Andy Eddy and the Mendip Rangers. In addition to the usual maintenance of the gates and stiles there is a band of willing 'stone-wallers, busy repairing the wall along part of Roman Road. This will look splendid when finally completed.

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

Penny Robinson

Play Area and Car Park

We continue to see improvements at the heart of the village following on from last year's Sparkplug Project, which enabled the revitalisation of the area around the youth club and Coronation Hall. In the early summer we planted up the bed between the car park and Jubilee Room. The shrubs and low maintenance plants should soon develop into a bank of green to help soften the landscape. Behind the Jubilee Room we have terraced the ground to help create a safe and accessible area for the Brownies and Guides. The intention is that over the summer they will turn it into a garden area and work towards their Gardening Badges. We've ordered six hand carved toadstool seats for the area from a Somerset woodcarver. These will form a seating circle for story-telling and ceremonies. The little green in front

of the public toilet was enhanced early last summer with trellis and timber planters. These provide a welcome splash of colour throughout the year and help screen the toilets. In the play area we are looking to soon replace the slide, which is reaching the end of its life. The thought is to provide a small piece of equipment for young children that will offer more social activities than just a slide. It's always a delight to see how well used our play area is. From toddlers and teens on swings to young lads playing footy.

Thanks to a grant from Life Cycle UK, Bleadon now benefits from four new cycle parking stands alongside the public toilets. The Youth Club and the Coronation Hall each applied for two free cycle parking stands under the Take a Stand scheme from the Life Cycle charity. Each of the stands is worth £150, and was supplied free providing the community installed them within four months. The parish council welcomed the initiative to get villagers on their bikes and agreed to pay for the installation. We are hoping that this will encourage more of you to get around the village by bicycle.

The CCTV cameras continue to record day and night activity around the car park and community area. Proving their worth last summer when the recorded images helped the police pursue a persistent adult male vandal who kept pulling up our plants at 4am in the morning. During one school break a small band of reckless and over excited youngsters were quickly identified on cameras. I'm pleased to say that some very responsible parents soon put their houses in order.

Keith Pyke

Youth Club

The investment of time, money and effort in making physical improvements to the youth club in recent years is paying off. We now have a popular and suitable venue for our young people. The Tuesday Boys Nights and Young Women's Nights have proved to be very popular and successful. These special projects evenings have introduced the members to healthy cooking and eating, physical challenges like climbing and canoeing, advice on sexual matters, music and dance, performing arts and much more. A £900 grant from the Youth Opportunities Fund helped us buy a range of musical instruments. Now additional funding will allow us to provide musical tuition and inspiration. We would like to see more young people coming along to the Thursday evening sessions. So if you want to help some young people to change our world please send them along. Thanks to overspill of stalls from the monthly village market we've had hundreds of visitors to the club at the Christmas and Easter markets. For some villagers it was the first time they had been in the club since their youth. Now they were tugging their children in behind them. The club has also successfully hosted a christening, a wake and a children's party (complete with bouncy castle and ball-pond). We look forward to increasing use of this valuable asset by the whole community.

Keith Pyke

Bleadon Village News

Most of you do not realize is that each copy costs at least £1.20p to produce. Other villages charge a subscription, - we deliver it free. The charges for advertising have gone up considerably, (although by modern standards our rate are still pretty modest), but by doing this we hope to recoup some of those printing costs.

The photo-centrefold is still a feature much enjoyed and I am again most grateful to Marshall's, who have generously sponsored us to the tune of £250.00p in the coming year, to cover the additional cost of printing these extra pages. Due to the great interest generated by the photos, we have started up a Historical Society in the village and after two meetings I am pleased to say that the response has been

overwhelming.

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

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

I am pleased to report that the magazine has been entered into the 'Village Newsletter of the Year' competition

The Parish Council Website (www.bleadonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

If for any reason you do not receive a copy of the magazine it is possible to access it via the website. This site also carries the up to date agenda and minutes of the Parish Council meetings, a diary of village events as well as details of the markets etc. I am also in the process of putting more photos onto the site. Other useful links include those to the Church, N.Somerset and the Mendip Society. More to come as the site develops.

Penny Robinson - editor

Coronation Hall

I am pleased to report that the Independent Examiner Shirley Campbell has examined the accounts for the year ended 29 February 2008 and she has confirmed that these have been correctly maintained and there is no matter which gives her cause for concern.

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

Total Income for the year amounted to £22,047 up by 37% on last year but Expenditure also rose by 57% to £16,458. Expenditure covers all aspects of maintaining and running the Coronation Hall and Jubilee Room which includes heating and lighting water and sewerage insurance licences cleaning general repairs and improvements. I would like to point out that energy costs rose by a staggering 54% over the previous year. This was inevitable but hall users must be encouraged to conserve heat as much as possible by not leaving doors open or tampering with the controls and by not switching the heaters on before they are needed.

The main income has been from hiring the Hall with income up by some 18% compared to last year. This increase is due mainly to additional bookings as we did not raise our Hall Hire charges until 1 January 2008. We have seen another year of successful Village Markets and a new innovation, the Harvest Home family fun day, was another successful event enjoyed by the community. Credit for the success of these functions must go to the many volunteers who assist on these occasions. The Hall Management Committee would also like to thank the various people and organisations who have kindly made donations or offered their services, in particular Mr Les Masters.

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

- Installation of a commercial dishwasher in the main kitchen
- Installation of a Lincat automatic water boiler in the Jubilee Room kitchen
- Installation of a fire alarm system in both Halls activated by break-glass points
- Installation of a wireless roving microphone system in the Coronation Hall

Annual Parish Meeting – 14 April 2008

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

Clive Morris

Bleadon Coronation Hall

Tel. 01934 814517 | Reg. Charity No. 104602



At the AGM held on April 10th the following were appointed as committee members:-

Len Chamberlain Chairman and Licence Holder
Tony Pettitt..... Vice Chairman and village representative
RoystonWalters Secretary and village representative
Clive Morris Treasurer and Parish Council representative
Keith Pyke Parish Council representative
Nina Chance Ladies Club
Mike Welch Horticultural Society
Mary Henley..... Bridge Club
Anne Northey-Baker Bleadon Players
Lynn Riding Short Mat Bowls
Betty Paterson Parochial Church Council
Beryl Davis Friendship Club
Jo Gower-Crane Toddler Group
Rachel Hemmings Brownies

Shirley Campbell Independent Examiner
Joanne Jones..... booking Officer
Les Masters Designated Premises Supervisor



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SOMETHING
DIFFERENT
TONIGHT

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Balance Sheet

For the year ended 31 March 2008

Year ended 31 March 2007		Year Ended 31 March 2008
	CURRENT ASSETS	
24077	Cash at Bank	85024
299	Debtors	586
500	Prepayments	500
2307	VAT to be claimed	1099
	<hr/>	<hr/>
27183	TOTAL ASSETS	87208
	CURRENT LIABILITIES	
78	Creditors	235
8	Receipts in advance	8
-	Accruals	-
86		243
	<hr/>	<hr/>
27097	NET ASSETS	86966
	Represented by	
1500	Recreation	1500
1000	Staff Contingencies	1000
600	Election Expenses	600
2000	Street Lighting	2000
11300	Wonderstone	11300
	<hr/>	<hr/>
10845	General Fund at 31 March	70566
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
27245		86966

The above statement represents fairly the financial position of the authority and reflects its income and expenditure during the year.

Signed:

Chairman

RFO

Income & Expenditure

For the year ended 31 March 2008

Year ended 31 March 2007		Year Ended 31 March 2008
INCOME		
33720	Precept	34000
648	Bank Interest	1210
50	Youth Club	50
148	Orderly Grant	152
264	Allotment	186
1513	Advertising	2603
148	Grants	-
8570	Other Income	55654
<hr/>		
45061	TOTAL INCOME	93855
<hr/> <hr/>		
EXPENDITURE		
4585	General Maintenance	5691
9957	Village Improvement	1272
210	Allotments	165
25195	Administration	25800
3013	Grants	908
360	S.137 Expenditure	150
<hr/>		
43320	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	33986
<hr/> <hr/>		
GENERAL FUND		
9104	General Fund O/B	10697
45061	Total Income	93855
54165	Sub Total	104551
43320	Total Expenditure	33986
10845	Sub Total	70565
-	Transfers to/from General Fund	-
<hr/>		
10845	General Fund at 31 March	70565
<hr/> <hr/>		

Bleadon Youth Club

The club is currently open every Thursday evening 7pm-9pm for Year 7+ and is run by a friendly team of qualified and experienced youth workers. Our programmes include arts and crafts, badminton, table tennis, pool, volleyball, bbqs and cookery, Nintendo Wii, nail art and discos and more. We also have a "Boyz Night" for Year 8+.

We completed our Lifeskills Project in March. We ran a Healthy Outdoor Eating Project from September to October which involved bbqs all made with fresh produce. During November and December members planned and chose recipes for a three course meal. The final session involved them planning, preparing and cooking the courses, served on tables they had set up and decorated. A very successful event and good fun too!

January to March was a Dance, Drama and Music Project delivered by Creative Flow run by two young people Lydia and Josh. Member and they put together a live Showcase at the end of the project where they acted a play they had written; performed songs, individually and as a group and put together their own dance routine – inspired performances.

Members have applied for and received funding from the Youth Opportunity Fund and we have just bought guitars, amps, drum kit, keyboard etc. We are now looking for young people who are interested in starting a band. We are also in the process of submitting an application for funding for another music project.

A schedule of dates, times, programmes and activities will be displayed on the notice board outside the club. Please ring Bleadon Youth Club on 01934 812603 for more details on any of the club's activities and events or call in on a Thursday evening for a chat.

Anne Fortune

Senior Youth Support Worker
Bleadon Youth Club

Bleadon Ladies Club



The time has come for another report from the Ladies Club, how the year seems to be flying! We are having a very successful year with some interesting speakers. One of the best was given by Sanders Garden World and many of us went home with some beautiful plants.

July 8th is our homespun meeting, a social afternoon with a cream tea.

August 12th there will be no meeting.

September 9th - 'History of the Royal British Legion' a talk by Mrs. Doreen Smith

So Ladies do come and join us, you are assured of a very warm welcome.

We meet in the Coronation Hall at 2.30pm on the 2nd Tuesday of the month

For more information call Barbara on 814362.

Friends of Bleadon Church



A big “Thank You” to all the helpers and supporters who made the May Day Fayre such a wonderful success. It would not be right for me to name individuals as everyone made such a grand effort to make this year one of best. The downpour at the end of the day came just too early for us to do the final clear-up but those who battled in the rain to get the gazebos and tables down in the drenching deluge deserve a special pat-on-the-back. The Fayre is the main source of income for the Church and we need it dearly to keep the doors open and the Church well maintained. We raised nearly £6,500 for Church funds to make it one of our most successful Fayres.

Brian Drinkwater

Parochial Church Council

The period since our last report has been a quiet one. We continue to be served at Church services by members of the retired clergy and by our Reader, Jill Smith. We extend our grateful thanks for their flexibility and readiness to respond to unexpected emergencies, such as when a nominated minister has been unable, through illness, to fulfil their duties.

The Vicar of Bournville, the Rev'd Bethan Gutteridge, has now undertaken a more regular schedule of attendance by undertaking at least two of the main Sunday services each month and other weekday commitments when available. We welcome Bethan's appearance at village events, such as the recent May Day Fayre. All of us hope that the prolonged process of the Interregnum will be brought to a successful conclusion by Bethan's appointment as Priest at our parish (in conjunction with her existing commitments to Bournville).

The May Day Fayre exceeded our best hopes — once again two factors were responsible; firstly the really wonderful response by the people of Bleadon, and beyond, to act in various ways as volunteers wherever so requested. We extend all our gratitude to you all for what is a really serious involvement in a strenuous undertaking. The second factor was the excellent weather (with the exception of the last half hour when the heavens really opened!) This as you know dictates attendance figures and financial returns. Early indications are that we made an additional eight hundred pounds compared with 2007. The total received as a result of all our endeavours is estimated at around £6,500.

Our Sunday Club is developing so well and the youngsters took part in the opening part of a recent Sunday morning service. It was so encouraging and stimulating to hear and see them alongside us.

This is my last church commitment before fleeing on a fortnight's holiday further down in the West Country so to all of you also looking forward to your holidays, we wish you good weather and hopefully for those going abroad, an absence of Terminal 5 experiences!

David Elliot

RANGER SERVICE 2008 GUIDED WALKS.

The Landscape of Bleadon – Sunday 6th July

Caves with bones of Ice Age animals, prehistoric and Roman settlements, burials and field systems and a ruined Mediaeval Chapel add variety to the landscape of Bleadon.

Meet at the Medieval Cross outside the Church in the centre of Bleadon. NGR 3410 5690

Please note:

- There is a charge of £3 per person
- Wear appropriate clothing and footwear
- Dogs not allowed
- Walk starts at 2pm and will last from 2-3 hours

More details of this and other walks please contact;

Christopher Richards
Ranger /Museum Service
Tel. 01934 621028

e-mail: museum.service@n-somerset.gov.uk

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“Coffee and Danish”

The Coronation Hall, Bleadon
Friday, 5th September 2008 – 10.30 am to Noon

BLEADON CORONATION HALLS
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
2ND ANNUAL

HARVEST HOME

SATURDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER

TWO COURSE LUNCH £7.50 (under 12s £5.00)

or

PICNIC IN THE PARK

or

BBQ IN THE YOUTH CLUB

(plus soft drinks, table tennis, pool, pamper corner and Wii indoors)

CHILDREN'S GAMES IN THE PARK FROM 1.30 'TILL EXHAUSTED

HALL BAR OPEN THROUGHOUT

A Bleadon
'Harvest Home'
Event 2008

A series of black stick figures in various dynamic poses, representing dancers. Some are holding hands, some are in mid-air, and some are in more complex, expressive poses. They are scattered across the page, with a larger group at the top and a few more at the bottom right.

American Supper Barn Dance

Dance to the best folk
band and caller in the
South West!

Coronation Hall 7:30

Saturday September 13th

£4

* only 90 tickets available - get them at the Post Office or ring 812829



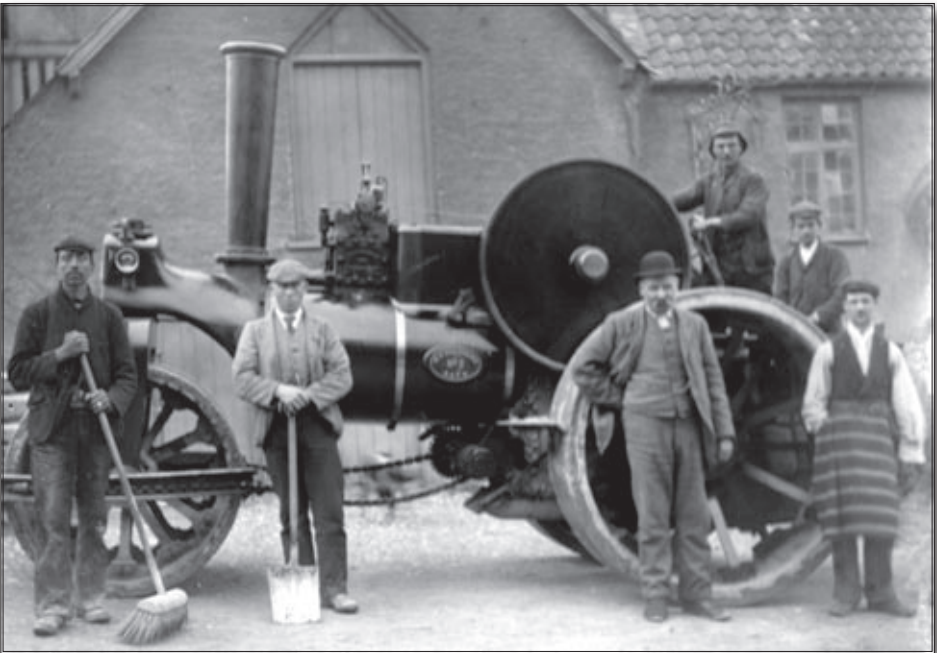
Gipsy Camp



Gypsies, Bleadon.



Quarry Workers



Quarry Workers



Ploughing Lake Fam



Grass Cutting, Lake Farm, 1920.



The Fields with Girls.



Milking

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

Yellow Platoon - a short story

Five weeks is the time reckoned before an ex-civilian can be seen in uniform without causing the Army serious embarrassment. Our torment had begun four weeks ago, streaming onto the railway station forecourt and being greeted by the sight and sound of Non-Commissioned Officers; officious and overbearing and with hair so shorn that necks went straight up into hats.

"Get fell in, get fell in!" They bellowed, "Come on move yourselves! Put your bloody knitting away and move!"

We gathered in ragged groups, the NCOs regarding us with the contempt of farmers examining a particularly poor herd. First stop the stores, where a bizarre and seemingly endless assortment of kit was collected: boots and button sticks, mugs and mess tins, towels and trousers, hats and 'housewives', greatcoats and groundsheets. You stuffed what could into a kitbag, helpful storemen festooned the rest about you. Looking like the 'retreat from Moscow', I thought, as we straggled toward the billets.

There a Lance Corporal monotonously checked names, directing individuals to one of six huts.

"Allbright -Red Platoon, Rogers -Blue Platoon, Smith -Blue Platoon, Randle -Yellow Platoon.... Find yourself a bed. Stick your kit in the locker. Outside in ten minutes."

Inside, amid the clang of metal locker doors, scrape of beds, exclamations of astonishment and laughter, I moved towards a vacant space.

"Outside in five minutes, move yourselves!" Came the shouted reminder.

Disasters befell everyone, bowled over as they were by an avalanche of instructions: dos and don'ts, uses of Blanco and Brasso, making of beds and marking of kit. Rogers energetically ink-stamped his number on the outside of his collars whilst Newing, a country lad from Norfolk, tried to metal-stamp his on the blade of his knife and snapped it off.

"What they doin' for a village idiot now you've gone Newing?" Their Corporal enquired.

On the fourth day, still overwhelmed and confused and looking like they had on someone else's kit, with nothing fitting and with berets jutting like wings over dramatically shaven heads, they were ready to begin – square bashing.

"You'll get the hang of it," assured the Corporal, "just a matter of timing."

Military drill movements are separated into numbered actions, seldom more than three, which trainees call out as they progress. They'd soon mastered the basic drill performed at the halt, but it was drill on the move that caused the trouble; jostling and adjusting positions in confusion, optimistically shouting 'one pause, two pause, three' from amid the resulting melee. Conducting this military madness were Drill Instructors and, always lurking, the Regimental Sergeant Major (RSM). The Drill Instructors coaxed, threatened and bullied; screaming the improbable insults they'd used and nurtured over years.

"If you don't swing your arm, laddie, I'll tear it off, stick it up your ass and have you for a lollipop!"

We come swarming in from the road, brandishing our rifles, scattering the display of cleaning utensils arranged around the stove and crashing onto their beds. Boot marks and debris now blemish the polished linoleum, there'd been a hut inspection that morning, soon there would be another, but for now they're too tired to care.

" 'Im what invented rifle-drill should be castrated!"

"More likely got Decorated."

"These squaddies, see, drilling on Beachy Head" Taff begins their joke-of-the-moment and I groan, covering my face with a pillow, "...an' the Sergeant forgets the commands just as they reach the edge...."

"....Please Sarge say something if it's only GOODBYEeeeeee!" Comes the shouted punch line.

"Just what they were doing on Beachy Head escapes me," drawls Vestry wearily.

Yellow Platoon - a short story

Just as wearily his neighbour rises, grasps Vestry's bed and tips him out onto the floor.

Their Corporal calls from the doorway, "Watch the noise you lot, they'll think you're enjoying yourselves. Randle you're on a charge, dirty mug this morning, Company 'orders' tomorrow 09.00."

He grins, "Knock twice and ask for the Squire."

A muffled curse from me; a charge meant Fatigues and points deducted in the Platoon Competition.

"Hard luck Randy."

"Hey! Squire's the new Rupert, you might get off."

"Not with the Sarn' Major around," I mumble from beneath my pillow.

For reasons unknown, Vestry has chosen me as his soul mate. "Don't care much for this Yellow Platoon business Old Chap," he had confided, "daren't ask the Pater to send mail to someone in a Yellow Platoon." He'd avoided the shame by giving his address as 'Care of the Company Office'. There'd been a mix-up with Vestry's whereabouts. He should have been at an Officer Training Unit but had ended up here on Firbright's last training intake with a bunch of common squaddies. "Wheels are turning I believe," he'd say with a smile, accepting his fate with an air of resigned amusement as he did the ragging, mimicry and 'Rupert the Officer' jokes.

Stage managing the Company 'orders' pantomime next morning is the RSM, WO1 Darroch - Scots Guards: six foot four, chest full of ribbons and thick as a NAAFI sandwich. Removing my beret, I'm allocated an escort and wait my turn. A door crashes open and the previous villain marches out; the building shuddering with the full force and din of stamping boots urged on by roars from the Sergeant Major.

"'Eft-right -'eft-right, alt! Five days Fatigues," he announces, then turns to glare down at me.

"Hescort an'haccused!" we stiffen to attention, "Quick march! 'Eft-right-'eft-right, rightwhee-oh! 'Eft-right-'eft-right, mark time! 'Alt-'eft-turn! 847662 Private Randle J Sah!"

Second Lieutenant Squire gravely studies the charge sheet as a drizzle of plaster dust drifts down onto his cluttered desktop. Darroch will soon demolish this place, I'm thinking.

"Dirty mug yesterday Randle?" enquires Squire mildly.

"Yes Sir. On fire piquet. Made me late. Thought I'd washed it, obviously not thoroughly."

"Anything previous Sarn'Major?"

"No Sah!"

"Shame to spoil your record for a stained mug Randle," he looks up, "hardly going to start a trench mouth epidemic Mr Darroch. Charge dismissed."

"Ye cannae dae that Sah!" Darroch explodes.

"Can't I?" Squire taken aback.

"Nae sah. I got witnesses sah," half-turning in summons.

"No, no," Squire says hurriedly, fearing another orgy of boot stamping, "I'll take your word. Admonishment then? That's a punishment of sorts I believe."

"It's sendin' the wrong message ye ken," Darroch frowns, shaking his head - "whit about three days Fatigues?"

"No!" Firmly now. Important to show who's in charge, "You're admonished Randle and don't let it happen again."

The building suffers another parade ground onslaught and whilst uncertain what competition demerits an admonishment will gather I feel I've won a small victory.

Yellow Platoon - a short story

Vestry also visits the Company Office that morning, but he sees the Company Commander. The elderly Major greets him warmly.

"Ah Vestry. Come in, sit down." On his desk a solitary file which he fussily opens. "Got your papers at last. Officer Training for you my lad, report next Wednesday. What d'you think?"

"Well, very pleased sir but ..."

"Glad to be away I'm sure. Think we owe you a spot of leave, what? Can't have been easy for you."

"Actually sir, I did wonder if I might be able to stay on, have the privilege of passing out on Friday with your Initial Training Company - Yellow Platoon."

"Would you by jove! Dashed civil of you Vestry, dashed civil. Good show. The CO will be chuffed."



A single union flag graces the parade ground. The saluting base is a thinly disguised trailer and a scattering of chairs accommodates the few attending Officers and their Ladies.

"Pass-out stuff's all gone up to Catterick," their Corporal explains as they wait.

"No standards flew, no bugles blew at the Regiment's last parade," recites Vestry.

"Whit mon said that?" Campbell barks, doing his RSM impression.

"Kipling Sah!" I respond.

"Kipling eh! Bloody troublemaker. Put Kipling on a charge Corporal!"

The Corporal interrupts sharply, "Shuddup 'fore I crack me ribs." He lowers his voice conversationally, "funny thing is, God knows how, but we picked up ten competition points yesterday. We was 5:1 against an' now we're bleedin' favourites! Some decent drill an' a good inspection an' we've won it." He shakes his head ruefully, "Should've put another fiver on." Vestry coughs politely as he and I exchange glances.

The six platoons march on, individually do their drill, are inspected and then, standing easy, listen to the CO's 'Defending the Outposts of Empire' speech. Meanwhile an animated group centred on the RSM's intimidating scarlet hat gathers behind the dais then produces and hands up a silvered wooden shield on which the date and a platoon name are written.

"Sadly this is Firbright's last ITC Platoon Competition.....," the CO's amplified voice booms out again around the tree-lined square and startled rooks rise once more in cawing flight, "..... and the winners by a record margin of twenty points - Yellow Platoon."

Yellow Platoon leads the march past and then marches off purposely and proudly, their metalled boot-heels striking the ground with clockwork precision. No need of bands no need to shout the time. The five weeks are over; they are soldiers now and relish it. Marching at the rear, no less proudly, their shield clamped beneath his arm, the Corporal instinctively murmurs.

"Left right, left right...", " then louder so they can hear, "good show lads, bloody good show."

END

Bleadon Beat



Greetings from the Constabulary,

It's been a fairly quiet time for crime in and around Bleadon over the last four months. Down from 13 crimes to 8 crimes for the same period last year.

However one issue that I would like to bring to your attention is 'Rogue traders' and in particular 'cold callers' who often either grossly overcharge or carry out unnecessary work to a poor standard.

"I would like residents to remain vigilant against cold callers and keep an eye out on behalf of vulnerable neighbours. I advise that you don't have any work carried out by cold callers and obtain at least three quotes from three different companies. Ask family and friends for recommendations and be aware of some of the offences that rogue traders often commit."

It is an offence to:

Not give a written quote if work costs over £35

Not have the business name and address on paperwork

Not give a week for potential clients to reflect on whether they want the work to be carried out

Imply work needs to be carried out when it doesn't

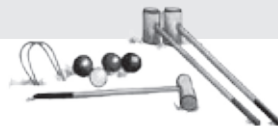
Not carry out the work that they claim to have done.

This has only been a small problem in our area if we all take care it will remain so.

PC Steve Church

PS, The village Police surgery is still open every Tuesday 2 to 4pm in the Church room. No appointment necessary.

Weston Croquet Club

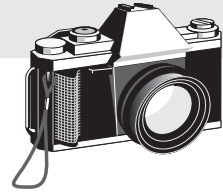


The Weston-super-Mare Croquet Club is looking forward to coming to Bleadon in July. As I am sure you all will know the ground is opposite the Post Office and we are looking forward to playing within the village.

Details of the Officers of the Club are available in the Post Office and leaflets are available on request.

We will look forward to seeing anyone who feels they would like to be introduced to the game of croquet.

Profile of a Pioneer Company



The discovery of the phenomenon of the latent image, that is, one which is invisible until developed, was made by William Fox Talbot in 1840 and this was to all intents and purposes, the birth of modern photography, albeit that Daguerre had produced his process a few years earlier. Fox Talbot is quoted as saying of his discovery "I do not profess to have perfected an art but to have commenced one" The difference between the two processes was that whereas Daguerre's process produced a positive, one off image, Fox Talbot's was a negative from which multiple copies or prints could be made.

For the next 39 years the process gained in popularity with practitioners having to sensitise the material used for themselves as required. Fox Talbot produced his first negative on paper of the Oriel Window at Lacock Abbey where he lived, by a process he called "Calotype", but this process never achieved the degree of popularity that had been acquired by the "Daguerotype", mainly because of its inferior resolution qualities. It is a fact of physics that each time an image is reproduced there is a degree of quality deterioration and this was the case when going from a negative to a positive using a paper negative, plus the fact that the paper base caused a break-up of the detail of the original image when passing through it. In 1879 a man called Alfred Harman from Ilford in Essex found a way of coating glass plates and founded the Ilford Photographic Company and started producing four kinds of sensitised plates and six types of photographic paper. The company lasted in the ownership of Alfred Harman for 18 years when, due to ill health he retired and sold the company. In 1898 it became known as The Britannia Works Ltd. And the name Britannia was used within the company until it vacated its site in Roden Street, Ilford in 1976 and moved to Basildon, Essex. In 1902 the company changed its name to Ilford Ltd.

During the 1900's several other companies had started producing photographic materials, names such as Imperial, Gem Dry Plate Co., and Almagamated Photographic Manufacturers, all of which were bought out by Ilford and in 1920 formed Selo Ltd and bought together all the companies including Ilford, under the single company name. The name Selo was used for a very famous roll film by the name Selochrome which was the mainstay of the amateur market and lasted in the product range for many years. Then in 1928 Selo Ltd. Bought the Raja company who were at that time, producing Bromide paper (the generic description of photographic print paper). Raja Co. were situated at Mobberley in Cheshire. These early years saw the company grow and establish itself as a premier photographic materials producer of high class products. Back in 1899 the first edition of the "Ilford Manual of Photography" was printed a publication which became the bible for photographers worldwide and remains so up to the present day. Many publications have tried to rival it but very few have come anywhere near in doing so.

The company has always been at the forefront of research and development producing infra red emulsions as early as 1932, cine film in 1935 and introduced its Multigrade range of Bromide papers using a three filters system in 1940, well ahead of the now numerous other photographic manufacturers worldwide, producing their own version of the now most popular Multigrade. This range of papers has been improved over the years and is still produced today but now using 11 filters and still reckoned to be second to none in quality.

It was in 1912 that Ilford started to produce roll films which were marketed under the "Selo" brand, the silver sensitive emulsion being coated onto a clear, flexible celluloid base. The celluloid was subsequently replaced, because of its flammable qualities, with a triacetate which, although not strictly speaking non-flammable, is however much slower burning and became known as a safety base.

The company has gone through many changes and partnerships in its 129 years of existence. In 1959 it became involved with I.C.I in order to develop and market a colour film emulsion and in 1963 the Swiss company. Ciba Ag, bought into the company. Then in 1967 I.C.I and Ciba jointly acquired all the shares in Ilford Ltd. In 1969 I.C.I sold all its shares to Ciba who then became sole owners. It was in 1983 when its long association with Essex ended and closed its plants in Ilford, Brentwood and Basildon and moved to Mobberley centring all production there. Essex had been very prominent in the company's long history, having had manufacturing sites not only in

Profile of a Pioneer Company

Ilford which became the main research centre, but at Brentwood, where all film production was carried out, in Basildon which was the distribution centre and coating plant for Azoflex, a range of drawing office Diazo sensitised material products for print rooms, which gained a large market share during its life span. In 2005 there was a management buy out followed by a change in name to Harman Technology Ltd., revising the link with the name of the original founder back in 1879. The company had gone full circle but still retains the name of Ilford as a brand name. These days it concentrates the range of products to the silver monochrome market where it is a market leader and is now also producing a high quality range of Inkjet papers for the digital market under the brand name Harman.

I spent 18 years of my working life at Ilford and left in 1970 as a Divisional Sales Manager after my division was sold off and closed but I still have a great affection for the company which provided me with such happy memories.

Ken Tapley.

Bleadon Photographic Group.

Bleadon Horticultural Society



As we rapidly approaching the long hot and lazy days of summer, we can look back on a very successful 34th Spring Flower Show, when the Coronation Hall was full of the glorious colour and scents from the various pot plants and cut blooms. Brian Thorne won the Harold Banwell Cup for the best exhibit in show with his magnificent Clivia.

Other cup winners were Joe Thomas, Pam Townsend (3cups), Brenda Weymouth and Pete Williams shared a cup with equal points, and Margaret Dunston. Ellie Keele won the cup for the most points in Junior Section 'A', while Laura Paterson won the cup in section 'B'.

In April we welcomed back Dr George Hargreaves for his third visit since 2000, and yet again his presentation of Westonbirt through the seasons was superb, showing witch hazels followed by camellias, azaleas, rhododendrons and magnolias dotted along the 17 miles of avenues and walkways.

The sale of plants and social in May went well thanks to Maggie and Wendy ably assisted by Betty and Celia. Our thanks are also extended to Hutton Garden Centre and Sanders Garden world for their generosity.

The trip to the Welsh Botanic Gardens beckons in July and then we're almost round to the 35th summer Show on September 6th at 2.39pm in the Coronation Hall. Schedules are available from the usual places, Church Porch, Bleadon Country Store or from a committee member.

Happy gardening to all our readers and supporters - work hard but above all do enjoy your garden!

Chris Cudlipp



On May 10th there was an evening to celebrate the 20th birthday of The Bleadon Players. Everyone enjoyed a great supper and the entertainment was as good as ever.

This is a list of the performances of the past 20 years.

Twenty Years of The Bleadon Players

1988 *Here we are and Here we are again.*

1989 *Production - Oh, what a Bleadon War*

1990 *Panto - Cinderella*

Spring Production - Show Time

1991 *Panto - Aladdin*

Spring production - Those were the days

1992 *Panto - Jack and the Beanstalk*

Spring production - Love and Marriage

1993 *Spring Production - Welcome to Cabaret Inn*

1994 *Panto - Sing a Song of Six pence*

Spring production - Cock o Vine

1995 *Panto - Goldilocks and the Three Bears*

Spring Production - Never again

1996 *Panto - Dick Whittington*

Spring production - Importance of Being Ernest

1997 *Panto - Sleeping Beauty*

Spring Production - Spring Fever

Autumn Production - Autumn Capers

1998 *Panto - Mother Goose*

Spring production - A Murder is announced

Autumn production - They don't grow on trees

1999 *Panto - The Enchanted Golden Cockfrel*

Spring production - Confusions

Autumn production - Bonaventure

2000 *Panto - Cinderella 2000*

Spring production - The Ideal Husband

Summer Production - Summer Songwivich

2001 *Panto - Babes in the Wood*

Spring production - The Blue Goose

2002 *Panto - Hickory Dickory Dock*

Spring Production - Singing in the Reign

Autumn production - Slaughter House

2003 *Panto - Humpty Dumpty*

Spring production - An Evening of Curve

Autumn Production - Easy Virtue

2004 *Panto - Aladdin*

Spring production - Is there anybody there

Autumn production - Post Horn Gallop

2005 *Panto - The Grand Old Duke of York*

Spring Production - The Hollow

2006 *Panto - Puss in Boots*

Spring production - When we are married

Autumn production - Pastiche

2007 *Panto - Tom, the Piper's Son*

*Winners of the Avon One Act Play Festival -
The Winter of 1917*

Spring Production - Fish Out of Water

Autumn production - Ten Times Table

2008 *Panto - The old woman, who lived in the shoe*

Avon One Act Play Festival - After the dream

Bleadon Short Mat Bowling Club

Since Christmas we have enjoyed our annual dinner. We held this at Worlebury Golf Club, which becoming our usual venue. As normal the ambience and the food were excellent, many thanks to Ann and Celia for making it so successful.

By the time you read this we shall be on our annual bowls holiday at Torquay.

We decided at the A.G.M., that this year we would give everyone who wished an experience of playing on the league. This we are doing, while maintaining a mid table position. Congratulations to all those taking part.

Anyone who would like to have a game, experienced or complete beginner, please drop in and see us. We can supply the bowls. Our meeting times are printed elsewhere in this magazine.

Fred James, Chairman.

Bleadon Folk Dance Club

Celebrating 25 years of dance.

Back in September 1983 the late Barbara Snelgrove asked me to start a folk dance club for the village. I knew that John Tomlinson was a caller at the Weston Club, but because of his wife, Joan's bad health, had given up. However he was delighted to call for me and our local group and with others he continued to do so for 24 years. He was sadly missed when he passed away last year.

Our numbers have declined from over 30 to just 6 but we have continued to keep going, encouraged greatly by other dancers including Robert and Mary Blackborow of Bridgwater, who run two or three clubs.

On **Thursday September 18th 2008 from 8pm – 10pm in the Coronation Hall** we shall be having a special evening to celebrate our 25th birthday. The caller will be Robert.

There will be an 'American style' supper and cold drinks, but you may bring your own if you wish.

Cost £2.00 per person and there will of course be a raffle

Past and present members are most welcome and even if you can't 'Strip the Willow' these days you can always just come along to enjoy the music and tap your feet.

This year the evening entertainment for the Harvest Home takes the form of a Barn Dance so why not warm up there and then come along and join our party a few days later! I know you will enjoy it.

This is a good way to keep fit and active and is much more fun than aerobics!
The club meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month in the Coronation Hall.

Jean Thorne tel. 01934 814007



A list of organisations which regularly use the Coronation Halls

Mondays

2.00 -5.00 pm	Bleadon Bridge Club	Mr D Munden	812772
11.00 am - 12.00	Marie's Mini Movers	Mrs M Keele	07939 038 071
7.00 - 9.00 pm	Exercise Classes **	Mrs M Keele	07939 038 071
7.30 pm	British Sugarcraft Guild	Mrs F Hatcher	620784
1st Monday	W.S.M. Branch		
7.30 pm	Bleadon Parish Council	Mr B Poole, Clerk	07887 802922
2nd Monday			

Contact

Tuesdays

2.00 - 4.00 pm	Bleadon Ladies Group	Mrs B Pugh	814362
2nd Tuesday			
2.30 - 4.30 pm	Bleadon Short Mat Bowling Club** Sept-May	Mrs G Bonham	811630
6.00 - 7.30 pm	Bleadon Brownies**	Mrs R Hemmings	811891
7.45-9.00 pm	Bleadon Guides** (term time)	Mrs B Ware	811545
7.30 pm	Bleadon Photographic Group	Mr K Tapley	623877
1st,2nd,4th,5th	Sept-May		
7.30 pm	Bleadon Horticultural Society	Mr C Cudlipp	813152
3rd – Oct-June			

Wednesdays

10.00 am - noon	Infant Welfare Clinic	The Health Visitor at the Clinic	
2nd & 4th	& Toddler Group		
10.00 am - noon	Toddler Group	Mrs E Knight	625089
1st,3rd & 5th			
1.30pm	Yoga Class	Mrs D Marsh	
7.30pm	Bleadon Players/Rehearsals	Mrs S Gibbon	645135

Thursdays

10-12 noon	Art: Watercolour painting class**	Mrs B Davies	813363
8.00pm	Bleadon Folk Dancing Group	Mrs J Thorne	814007
1st & 3rd Thurs	Sept-June		
7.30pm	Bleadon Sugarcraft Club	Mrs C Peters	843754/626587
	4th Thursday		

A list of organisations which regularly use the Coronation Halls

Fridays

2-4pm	Bleadon Friendship Club	Mrs B Davies	813363
7.00pm	Short Mat Bowling Club** Sept-May	Mrs G Bonham	811630
5.30 - 6.30 pm	Pilates Classes	Mrs E Duffill	623653

Saturdays

3rd Saturday	Village Market	Mrs J Jones	812370
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Sundays

2.30 Sept-May	Short Mat Bowling Club**	Mrs G Bonham	811630
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**in the Jubilee Room

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

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

Friday 5th September	10-12 noon	Coffee Morning	SSAFA
Saturday 6th September	2-4pm	Flower Show	Horticultural Society
Saturday 13th September	1pm	Harvest Lunch	Bleadon Village 811976
Saturday 13th September	7.30 pm	Harvest Hoedown	Hall Committee 812829
Saturday 27th September	7.30 pm	Harvest Supper	Bleadon Church 811490
Saturday 8th November	10-12 noon	Coffee Morning	Friendship Club
Saturday 22nd November	7.30 pm	QUIZ in aid of CLIC	
Saturday 14th December	4pm	Christingle Party	Bleadon Church 811490

Monthly Village Markets in 2008 (9-12.30):

19th July, 16th August, 20th September, 18th October, 15th November, 6th December – Christmas Market & Fayre

Bleadon Country Sports



Bleadon Country Sports (formally Bleadon Hill Sports) has taken place in and around the village for 69 years. The show is a mixture of horse events, dog show and fun sports for children and adults. Apart from being a good day out, ALL proceeds from the show go to local charities.

This year, the show will be held on:-

Saturday August 16th at Appledore Farm, Lymphsham,
by kind permission of John Frost and family.

For further information, please contact:-

Alison Hillyer, 1 Coombe Cottage, Bridgwater Road, Bleadon, BS24 0AL
Telephone 01934 815407

Epitaphs

EPITAPHS FOUND IN A BOOK 'GOODBYE CRUEL WORLD'.

Thanks to Sylvia for finding them.

*"Torn from the embrace of his second wife,
And their fond children, happy in his life,
Lost to the poor too, who exclaim in woe,
Striking their bosoms, here lies Mr Yeo!"*

Bleadon, Somerset 1763

*Here lies Merrily Joules,
A beauty bright,
Who left Isaac Joules,
Her heart's delight.*

Yatton, Somerset 1827

The second here may refer to an ancestor of the gypsy family who for many years lived in a caravan in Facum Lane, Bleadon, and were well known in the area.



IF YOU OWN A DOG PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW IT TO FOUL THE FOOTPATHS AND VERGES OF OUR VILLAGE. THE RESULTING MESS IS UNSIGHTLY AND A SOURCE OF INFECTION. BE A GOOD CITIZEN AND CARRY A POOP-SCOOP OR A PLASTIC BAG AND DEPOSIT IT IN THE DOG LITTER BINS THAT HAVE BEEN PROVIDED IN THE VILLAGE. PLEASE DON'T LEAVE IT FOR OTHERS TO CLEAN UP

1st Bleadon Brownies



Brownies are very busy at the moment planting the garden behind the Jubilee Hall – by the time this goes to print, it should be completed. We have planted a few shrubs and lots of bedding plants, and look forward to using the garden for our promise ceremonies.

Our current badges being worked on, besides the Gardening badge, are: Friend to Animals; Disability Awareness and Community Awareness. We will be receiving a visit from a Hearing Dogs charity. You may be interviewed by our older Brownies who are preparing maps, a plan, and a report on the “ideal village”.

A coach will be taking us, and lots of Brownies from our District to a County Brownie Outdoor Fun Day in June – activities will include: line dancing; abseiling; fencing; archery; outdoor cooking; circus skills; kites; tae kwan do to name but a few and promises to be a fantastic day. We are looking forward to our sleepover; games outside in the park and field, plus a sandcastle competition on the beach.

We are collecting Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers, printer cartridges (not Epsom) and mobile 'phones for recycling – we would be grateful for all donations.

From September there will be a Rainbow group for the very young.

For more information regarding 1st Bleadon Brownies, please contact Brown Owl (Rachel Hemmings) on: 01934 811891.

Bleadon Friendship Club



The Club had a good many interesting meetings during March and April. And we thank all who supported our Spring Coffee morning, this was an undoubted success we could not have done it without you.

During May Eight of our members enjoyed a holiday on the Isle of White joining up with our sister club at Hutton, staying at the Ocean View Hotel in Shanklin. This venue was much looked forward to.

August Annual Break.

September	12th	Reflections
	19th	Harvest Auction
	26th	Pauline Kidner from Secret World
October	3rd	Mike and his music (by popular request)
	31st	Pat Hase- Victoria Pastimes and Pleasures?
November	8th	Autumn Coffee Morning
	28th	Isabel Cummings and Yatton Ladies Choir
December		Christmas Musical Entertainment to be confirmed

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

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