

- Summer 2010

# Bleadon village

# news

[www.bleadonparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.bleadonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

FREE to Bleadon homes

Summer 2010 - Issue 85



2009/2010 Annual Report of your Parish Council

We welcome Hillcote to Bleadon in April 2011

Weird & Wonderful Bleadon - Scarecrow Festival

**Fun and sun bring out the crowds at the May Fayre**



Changes to our refuse and recycling collection coming to Bleadon this Autumn

Find out what's happening in very sociable Bleadon



Village volunteers got busy planting the summer colours

# Show packs hall with Spring colour



**It's a tough job but someone's got to do it!** Chris Cudlipp gets down to awarding the winning certificates and handing out the much coveted competition silver at this year's Spring Show.



# Welcome to your new look Village News

Firstly, an apology to all our readers for the delay in the arrival of your Village News. Let's hope it was worth the wait!

Creating this new format has been something of a challenge for the new editor. In the Spring issue of the Village News I promised you a fresh look and a new format for this much loved quarterly magazine. I hope that you will like the larger A4 format, the increased use of images throughout and colour on our cover pages.

One of the changes that I hope you will find useful is the move of all the **advertising of local services to the centre pages**. Now you can find your local professional services in just one place! Plus the beginnings of a Bleadon Business Directory.

I'm hoping that this bright new look will encourage you all to contribute to the magazine with your writing, news and images. The news content will develop as readers and contributors realise the benefit of promoting the huge variety of social activity that Bleadon offers its residents and visitors. **I'm relying on you readers to come up with all the Bleadon news and gossip that will make the magazine an interesting read for villagers.**

Village News is first and foremost about the people and environment of Bleadon. It is here to encourage us all to make the most of our delightful Mendip village and encourage everyone in the parish to participate in its enjoyment.

Bleadon Village News is also the 'voice' of your parish council. It's the primary opportunity that the council has to tell you what it's doing and what its plans are. I will work to try and ensure that these pages remain non-political and fair in their reporting. I'm sure that you will soon let me know if I get the balance wrong!

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



## Parish Councillor Graham Lockyer

On behalf of the Parish Council, I write with great sadness in memory of Councillor Graham Lockyer, who died in May.

In the short time that Graham served with the Council, he did so with great intelligence and much strategic thinking in his primary role as a team member. In every aspect, he fulfilled this role to the utmost, with his analytical mind and his vast knowledge.

When Graham retired to Bleadon, he brought a background of business expertise, providing the Council with up-to-the-minute and astute answers. He relished difficult tasks, especially planning, which he would follow in great detail, and always with relaxed enjoyment of the banter "after the match".

With his help and acumen, he extended our forward thinking and pro-activeness as a Council.

Graham will be sorely missed by us all.

He was a true and loyal friend to our community.

*Penny Skelley, Chairman Bleadon Parish Council.*

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

**Send your contributions to:**  
**Keith Pyke, Village News Editor**  
**8 Whitegate Close,**  
**Bleadon BS24 0PW**

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

## Could you be a Bleadon Parish Councillor?

If you live in the parish and are keen to get involved in providing better services for the people of Bleadon, then you might want to be a parish councillor.

As a councillor you can become a voice for your community and affect real change.

In August the parish council will be considering who to co-opt onto the council to help fill the very big boots left by Graham.

**If you are interested contact  
Bruce Poole the Parish Clerk on:  
07887 802 922  
[bruce.poole2@btopenworld.com](mailto:bruce.poole2@btopenworld.com)**

**Bleadon Village News** is published quarterly by Bleadon Parish Council in mid 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**

**news items and advertising in the Autumn edition is 20 August.**

We aim to provide a copy of this newsletter free to every household and business in Bleadon. Additional copies are usually available from the village shop and the church porch. We are eternally grateful to the band of volunteers who deliver this newsletter to households.

## Bleadon Parish Council - Annual Report 2009-2010



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

We are currently looking at having an earlier start, with an informal half hour before the Parish Council meeting for you to chat with councillors and discuss any issues you have. If that is what **you** want?

**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 see what we do.

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

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

Bruce Poole,  
Rooftops,  
10 South Street  
Burnham-on-Sea,  
Somerset TA8 1BS  
Tel: 07887 802 922

Email:  
[bruce.poole2@btopenworld.com](mailto:bruce.poole2@btopenworld.com)

Or visit the website at:  
[www.bleadonparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.bleadonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

**Please note  
Bruce's NEW  
postal address**

**We currently have a vacancy for a councillor on the Bleadon Parish Council. If you are interested in joining the parish council because you believe that you have something to offer the community please contact Bruce Poole immediately.**

# Annual Report

The Bleadon Annual Parish Meeting was held on the evening of 12th April in the Coronation Hall. This is the annual meeting where Bleadon residents get to find out what's happening in the parish and have their opportunity to air their views and concerns.

The Chairman, Mrs Penny Skelley summarised the past 12 months with the following short report.

I am always the optimist, so once more will boast that all is well in Bleadon. Our **Coronation Hall** is to have a makeover and remains a great asset, well used and well loved by us all.

Our Open Spaces are to be proud of. A **new Parish Ranger**, Peter McHugh, who in spite of not living among us, keeps the appearance of the village to a high standard.



*The volunteer planters on 8 May*

The village **plant-up** will be held later than usual on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> May – we always need hands on deck – and the colours are still secret.

More little ones than ever are using the **play park** and one of the wish-list items in the Village Plan is to have more play equipment in the park. The bark and sand are regularly topped up and all equipment is constantly monitored.

Turning to **Planning**, the Council has received 19 planning applications in the past year and North Somerset has upheld all Parish Council decisions. There are two outstanding applications awaiting a decision from North Somerset Council.

On **Allotments**, all the plots are occupied and there is a waiting list of eight. On 28/29 August, during the Scarecrow Festival, we hope that there will be an open day at the allotments.

Our Community Policeman, PC Steve Church, keeps a careful and watchful eye on our village and we are very grateful to him. There is a police surgery every Tuesday afternoon where Steve is always happy to listen to any policing problems.

The **Youth Club** has a new Chairman, Julie Al-Hinai, and a new treasurer, Bob Jordan. I wish the Youth Club Committee a successful year of projects and fundraising, and thank too all the volunteer leaders of the youth organisations in the village.

Bleadon Parish Council is reliant on North Somerset for **road repairs**. After the severe winter these are endless and nationwide, but our pot holes are at least marked up! We are in permanent discussion with North Somerset for road improvement. The **bus service** is running efficiently, although the new buses have a strange sound!

Sadly the promised **Bus Shelter** is still to be erected on its new site and the History Interpretation Board has been delayed. Both are in storage in the village and will be installed as soon as possible in the new financial year. Talking of history, the Bleadon History Group will next meet on the last day of June.

The Parish Council has reviewed the North Somerset **Draft Core Strategy**

## Bleadon Parish Council - Annual Report 2009-2010

and our comments have been submitted. You will have seen this in our Village News and on the Parish Council web-site.

Lastly I must tell you that the North Somerset Parish Boundary Review has been published. As a result, in 2011/12, **Hillcote will become a part of Bleadon Village**, so they too will enjoy the facilities and services that we do here and we welcome them.

This is a very brief overview of the Parish year. More in depth information may be found on the Parish Council web-site. I hope you feel that the Parish Council serves you well and works hard on your behalf. The welfare of the village is paramount to us.

Thank you for your support.

*Penny Skelley,  
Chairman*



Here are the **times of the bus service from the Bleadon Road stop** at the top of Bridge Road:

Monday to Friday at 07.56, 09.01, 10.06 and continues at 6 mins past the hour until 18.06.  
On Saturdays the service starts at 09.01; then continues at 6 mins past the hour until 18.06.  
No service on Sundays.

### Roads and transport

Bleadon Parish is reliant on North Somerset Council for road repairs, improvements and the subsidy for our bus service. We are grateful for the extensive improvements made to the A370 / Accommodation Road Junction which has resulted in a safer junction.

North Somerset have been responsive to our requests for potholes to be filled in and following the damage caused by the severe winter's weather have inspected our roads and marked repairs to be made when the 2010 budget comes into effect.

Following the demise of ACL and the cessation of our bus service, North Somerset quickly organised a replacement service and, if my memory serves me correctly, we were only without a bus service for one day. Again our thanks to North Somerset Council.

We have discussed improvements to the bus stop at Bleadon Road and Coronation Road with North Somerset Council which have been agreed and will be implemented when money becomes available.

Our next ambition is to have the 50 MPH speed limit extended from the Purn Holiday Park south to Bleadon Mill which will assist exit on to the main road. However, the police have objections as long stretches of speed limit causes "bunching" of traffic and makes joining the main road more difficult.

*Cllr Brian Gamble*

### Open spaces

I am pleased to report another successful year for our village and its open spaces. I am sure the work and effort that has gone into making and keeping our village looking good throughout the seasons is appreciated by the residents.

As in previous years our floral displays have offered splashes of colour throughout the seasons. The colours of the spring bulbs in the tubs and along the roadside looked very fresh and vibrant as you drive around the village. The summer tubs with their displays of what have become known as 'lipstick colours' and the winter displays



## Bleadon Parish Council - Annual Report 2009-2010

have all been more than up to standard.

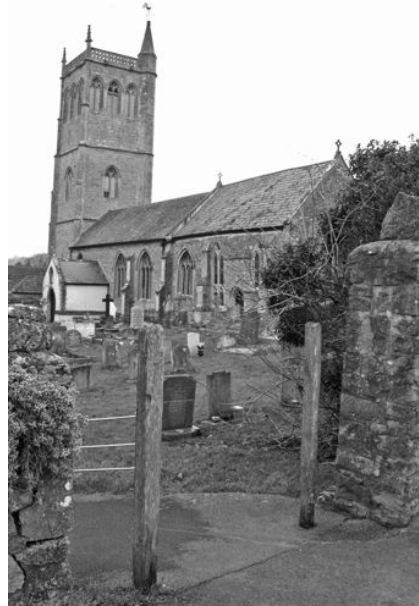
Thank you to all who volunteered for the plant-up days and to those who tended them through the year. Thanks also to the many residents who plant their own containers and displays outside their homes.

The area around the telephone box, with the gardens, trellis, timber planters and shrubs, provide both a welcome splash of colour throughout the year and a pleasant backdrop to the tables and seating. As well as being enjoyed by locals, they are often used by the many walking groups who meet in the car park.

We have to thank our new Village Ranger Peter McHugh for his attention to all aspects of village tidiness – e.g. the lay-bys, the Hall car park, the play areas, the pathways and the outer boundaries of Accommodation and Roman Road. Our thanks also to Mark Howe and his team who have continued to cut the grass in the play area and Churchyard.

In September the Chairman and members of the Parish Council welcomed Mrs Pauline Peddlesden and invited her to unveil a plaque in memory of her husband District Councillor Ian Peddlesden, which had been placed on the seat originally donated by her husband in memory of his father. Mrs Peddlesden thanked the Parish Council for their kind gesture in recognising her husband's contribution to the village as District Councillor.

The ongoing problem of irresponsible dog owners who do not clean up after their dogs



remains. It seems that all aspects of this topic have been covered in previous reports including the strategic placing of bins, the possibility of 'naming and shaming' and our Magazine has repeatedly urged owners to behave more responsibly. All this to seemingly no avail. As a last resort, may I as a dog owner/walker myself, plead on your dogs' behalf for them to have a more pleasant environment in which to walk. It is difficult to understand why people would wish to walk their pets in areas that are affected by dog fouling.

### Churchyard

There has been the need for the usual remedial work around the churchyard, the cutting back of the undergrowth and the general trimming and tidying. Drastic action had to be taken to clear the Knotweed that was taking over the Bier House.

Unfortunately the plugs of primroses mentioned in last year's report did not survive the winter and the Parish

Council will now have to revisit this initiative.

We continue to receive a small contribution of money each year from the War Graves Commission towards the upkeep of three Military Graves. We are only too pleased to carry on this responsibility.

During a general clear up, our Village Ranger came across a few lost graves. Hidden amongst the weeds was the headstone of Lt. Col. John Sheffield Gilbert Riley who had served with the 5th Bengal Light Cavalry and who died in Bleadon in May 1891, aged 83. These details were posted on the Parish Council website, in the hope that someone may come forward with information about this person – but sadly to no avail thus far.

In her role as editor of our Village magazine Penny Robinson received a letter from a person attempting to trace a deceased relative. A search in the Parish Register revealed 14 unmarked graves in the churchyard. The wording in the Register leads us to believe that these are of people of the Methodist faith.

We have met with members of the Parochial Church Council to agree an additional area of the churchyard to be used for the internment of ashes and placing of memorial stones. The Churchwardens will now be seeking a Faculty from the Diocese to allow this.

During the bad weather the paths and approach to the Church were dangerously slippery and the PCC was extremely grateful for the both speed of response and the work done to clear the paths, by the Village Ranger.



## Bleadon Parish Council - Annual Report 2009-2010

Other repairs and improvements carried out this year have been the erection of a willow hurdle screen to hide the dust-bins and watering cans etc, the repair of the gate and fresh tarmac being laid on the church approach path.

### Local democracy

The Government has expressed its desire to encourage the re-engagement of the public in the democratic process. There is recognition that parish councillors often live and work within the communities they serve, are highly visible and in touch with the wants and needs of the people they represent. In line with its responsibilities as a Quality Parish Council, we appointed a 'Democracy Champion'.

Under the general heading of representing peoples' wants and needs the Council has participated in relevant consultations so as to ensure that the wishes of the community are reflected. A good example is the recently concluded Community Governance Review (Parish Review) in which we were able to successfully represent the wishes of the residents of Hillcote to be included within the parish boundaries of Bleadon.

Another part of this review included a proposal to reduce the number of parish councillors from nine to seven. We were able to successfully demonstrate the need to maintain the current number of councillors.

Although knowing that it would be outside the remit of this review, we also attempted to achieve a change of the District Ward name. This attempt was unsuccessful. However another review is upcoming, which will allow us to pursue our proposal for the ward to be renamed as *Bleadon, Hutton and Locking*, instead of the present 'Hutton and Locking'.

All parish councillors try to make themselves freely accessible to all residents of our community by being around the village and posting their contact details in the

quarterly Village Magazine. These details are also available on the Council's website including access by email. The Parish Council meets monthly with details posted on local notice boards, and the public are welcome to attend.

Bleadon Parish Council welcomes your views, compliments and complaints. We actively seek your suggestions and ideas around your wishes and wants.

*Cllr ID Clarke*

### Coronation Hall

I am pleased to report that the Independent Examiner, Shirley Campbell, has examined the accounts for the year ended 28 February 2010 and she has confirmed that these have been correctly maintained and there is no matter which gives her cause for concern.

Total Income for the year amounted to £20,544 - down by 3% on last year. However, Expenditure increased by almost 5% to £16,768. As a result, £3,744 was transferred to the General Fund which now stands at £38,002 (money in the bank for the future). 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.

The main income has been from hiring the Hall with fees marginally up on last year. We have seen another year of successful Village Markets which have become regular features in the village.

These functions generate valuable funds for the Coronation Hall and credit for the success of them 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.

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

Replacement of electric storage heaters in the Jubilee Room with two Drugasar 10kW gas space heaters

Reconfiguring the mains electricity supply so that one supply now provides electricity to both the Coronation Hall and Jubilee Room.

These two projects address the issue of rising energy costs, particularly



## Bleadon Parish Council - Annual Report 2009-2010

electricity. Firstly, the two gas space heaters are more economical to run than the previous electric storage heaters; it is expected that the capital cost of the installation will be recovered over five years through annual savings. Secondly, we have eliminated one of the two electricity supplies to the halls by reconfiguring the supply cables thereby saving unnecessary duplicate costs.

In addition, £679 was spent on general maintenance although no major problems have arisen.

Contrary to their previous advice, our insurers (Aon Limited) have confirmed that the Hall insurance policy should be divided into two – the buildings element being written in the name of the Parish Council as legal owners of the property and the contents and other matters being in the name of the Hall Management Committee.

Legal advice given by Hall, Ward and Fox is that the Governing Document (the Trust Deed dated 14 January 1938) is ambiguous. Their recommendation was to draft a Protocol to clarify the ambiguities and bring the Governing Document up to date. This has now been completed and the Protocol was signed by Penny Skelley (on behalf of the Parish Council) and Len Chamberlain (on behalf of the Hall Management Committee) at the Annual Parish Meeting on 12 April.

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.

*Cllr Clive Morris,*

**Special thanks to Joanne Jones, the Coronation Hall Bookings Officer. She works tirelessly and cheerfully to ensure the smooth day-to-day running of the Hall.**



### Balance Sheet for the year ended 31 March 2010

31 March 2009		31 March 2010
	<b>Current Assets</b>	
23951.74	Cash at bank	78839.58
298.65	Debtors	(49.00)
500.00	Prepayments	500.00
2306.58	VAT to be claimed	1647.57
27056.97	<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>80938.15</b>
	<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
(47.50)	Creditors	21.92
7.50	Receipts in advance	7.50
(40.00)	Accruals	29.42
27096.97	<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>80908.73</b>
	<b>Represented by</b>	
1500.00	Recreation	1500.00
1000.00	Staff Contingencies	3000.00
	Gratuity/Pension	5000.00
600.00	Election Expenses	600.00
2000.00	Village Improvements	35821.29
11300.00	Wonderstone	11300.00
9103.99	General Fund at 31 March	23687.44
25503.99		<b>80908.73</b>



Pauline Peddlesden joined Parish Councillors and District Councillor Porter in May to celebrate the enormous contribution that Ian Peddlesden had made to Bleadon during his tenure as our District Councillor. Ian was always a strong supporter of our village and secured considerable funding for our projects.



## Bleadon Parish Council - Annual Report 2009-2010

# NEWS

### Income & Expenditure for year ended 31 March 2010

31 March. 2009		31 March 2010
	<b>Income</b>	
33720.00	Precept	34875.00
647.93	Bank Interest	41.27
314.28	Youth Club	50.00
.	Orderly Grant	.
.	Allotments	302.08
1512.50	Advertising	2310.00
148.11	Grants	.
8570.00	Other Income	1140.54
44912.82	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>38718.89</b>
	<b>Expenditure</b>	
4584.87	General Maintenance	3894.07
9956.80	Village Improvements	681.83
210.00	Allotments	145.00
25194.86	Administration	27875.19
3013.31	Grants	550.00
360.00	S.137 Expenditure	350.00
.	Events & Promotions	372.50
.	Mispostings	21.65
43319.84	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>33890.24</b>
	<b>General Fund</b>	
9103.99	General Fund O/B	66199.79
44912.82	Total Income	38718.89
54016.81	Sub Total	104918.68
43319.84	Total Expenditure	33868.59
10696.97	Sub Total	71050.09
.	Transfers to/from General Fund	47341.00
10696.97	<b>General Fund at 31 March</b>	<b>23709.09</b>

### Dog controls

Dog Control Orders have been issued by North Somerset Council following requests from the parish council.

This means that dogs:

- are excluded from the **Play Area**
- are excluded from the **Well Green**
- are excluded from the **Church Cross grass**
- must be kept on short leads in the **Church Grounds and Approach** and must not Foul
- must be kept on leads **in the Coronation Car Park and around the Youth Centre and Coronation Hall** and must not Foul

All these Orders are enforceable by law and will result in fines if ignored by irresponsible dog owners.

Any owner who fails to clean up after their dog **fouls any footpath or highway verge** is also liable to hefty fines.

### Your parish councillors are now Certified!

For the past 12 months your parish councillors have been busy studying in their spare time to gain a better understanding of best practice in local government.

The course is conducted by the University of Gloucester and results in a Certificate of Achievement from the Society of Local Council Clerks.

I'm sure that there isn't one of us who hasn't benefitted immensely from this inspiring and thought provoking course. Hopefully, we will all prove to be better councillors for our community as a result.

Our thanks to Bruce Poole, who mentored and supported us throughout the challenging learning process.



### Quality assured again

The Parish of Bleadon was first successful in achieving Quality Parish Council status in December 2004. Being the 124th Council in England and Wales to obtain this coveted and prestigious Government recognised bench mark.

This has to be re-applied for every four years and we are delighted to report that the Council has retained its Quality Council Status by meeting the comprehensive list of requirements.

We understand that we are the first Parish Council to achieve this re-accreditation in North Somerset.



**QUALITY  
PARISH  
COUNCIL**

# NEWS & gossip



Spotted at Bristol International Airport in May. This group of Bleadon party-goers were on their way to wreak havoc and mayhem on the unsuspecting residents of a quiet Spanish seaside town.

These 80's style stags were on their way to celebrate the wedding of Rob House (here blushing in a fetching white bridal dress). Easy Jet have yet to recover from the experience! The editor understands that despite these efforts by his support team the wedding was a socialite's delight. His invitation must have got lost in the post!

## Problems with Bleadon Sluice

Readers may have noticed extremely low water levels in the village rhynes and river Axe. This is partly due to low rainfall in recent months, but is also the result of a problem with the Bleadon Sluice gate on the Axe alongside the A370.

The Environment Agency explains -

The River Axe is usually penned in the summer by Bleadon Sluice to provide water for irrigation. Unfortunately there is a problem with the sluice and it is presently unsafe to operate. The Environment Agency are currently undertaking emergency works to manage the situation and will closely monitor the potential impact on the environment.

In the meantime, we are planning to use Brean Cross Sluice to provide the summer penned level in the River Axe as a temporary measure. This means that water levels between Bleadon Sluice and Brean Cross Sluice will be higher than normal -

and levels upstream of Bleadon Sluice will be slightly lower than usual.

We are working closely with the Drainage Board to provide summer irrigation, and will look to jointly agree a way of operating over the coming months. This will need to take into account available water (a function of the weather), conditions in the river and any increased flood risk associated with holding levels at Brean Cross. During this time we need the co-operation of those living in the area with regards to expected water levels.



Both the Environment Agency and Bristol Water are committed to securing a long term solution to the problems with Bleadon Sluice - and both parties are working with the Drainage Board to manage the situation.

The Environment Agency will communicate individually with farmers, landowners and fishing interests - to outline any specific issues that may arise due to operational problems with the sluice gate.

## Mobile Library changes



From **Monday 2 August** the mobile library service to Bleadon is changing. This is part of District-wide efficiency savings in the service provided by North Somerset Council. The Library vehicle will now only stop at the **Church stop in Coronation Road**. The good news is that it will be there for two hours from **10.40 to 12.40**.

There can be little doubt that this is a reduction in service for users who live away from the centre of the village. The Library Service promises to review the new arrangements. If you have a comment to make direct it to: **andy.brisley@n-somerset.gov.uk** or your District councillors.

## Allotment open days



At this time of year our allotments are a picture of bountiful harvests, ripening fruits and swelling vegetables. All our village allotments are fully taken and there's a waiting list I'm afraid. However, the parish council is keen to demonstrate the hard work that our allotment holders put into looking after this idyllic spot on the sunny Mendip slopes. During the **Scarecrow Festival on August 28-29** the allotments will be open to visitors.

## Waste collection and recycling changes

Few villagers can be unaware of the changes to the waste and recycling collection services that will be coming to Bleadon in September.



The recycling revolution starts in Bleadon with the delivery of the extra recycling box, food waste containers and wheeled bin or plastic sacks to households in August.

But you cannot start using your wheeled bin, plastic sacks or food container until **the new service starts in mid September** because they will not be picked up.

When your new containers arrive you will receive an

information pack and a new calendar which lets you know when the first collection will be.

Additional recycleable materials, such as plastics and cartons, also won't be recycled until the new service starts in September.

Remember that when the new service starts **all cardboard** will be collected in green **recycling boxes**, and not the green waste bag.

[www.n-somerset.gov.uk/revolution](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/revolution)

**EVERY WEEK**



**EVERY TWO WEEKS**



[www.bleadonparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.bleadonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

## Bleadon Bag goes to extremes

Our eco-friendly Bleadon bags have been travelling the world. Here we see them in the hands of a scary Troll at a rather chilly North Cape - Europe's **most northerly point**.

Further south the climate was a deal warmer when this bag experienced the curious floating sensations of **Earth's lowest point** in the Dead Sea.



### Has your Bleadon bag got a story to tell?

There's a bottle of wine in it for the most exciting picture story. Send your photos to the editor - [bleadon.editor@btinternet.com](mailto:bleadon.editor@btinternet.com)

### Not got a Bleadon bag yet?

At just £1.50 it's a bargain. Contact Penny Skelley on 815 331

## Hillcote referendum results

When the residents of Hillcote were asked earlier this year if they would like to transfer from Weston to Bleadon parish a majority who voted were in favour.

- 41 properties were canvassed.
- 28 responded - representing an encouraging 68%
- 19 households wished to transfer to Bleadon
- 6 households voted to remain in Weston
- 3 households had no preference

Whilst the transfer to Bleadon will not happen until April 2011 (in time for District and Parish elections in May) we welcome all Hillcote residents to our extended village.

Professional services

**Mark Howe**  
gardening services

9 Malvern Road, Weston-super-Mare

Phone 01934 413 594 or 0777 327 2003

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

**PLASTECH**  
WINDOWS & CONSERVATORIES

Your **local specialists** in installation  
of high quality UPVC

- doors
- windows
- patio doors
- full range of conservatories
- fascias
- cladding
- guttering

Established 1989

We offer top quality products  
custom made to almost any design

- A FENSA Registered Company
- Member of the Guild of Master Craftsmen
- British Standard BS5713 Glass Units

For prompt and personal service call Simon

Bleadon: 01934 814 500

Mobile: 07774 47 57 36



**Tree Services**  
*a cut above*

- Hedge trimming, tree pruning, removal, reduction
- Dead or dangerous trees removed
- Stump grinding
- Tree planting
- All domestic and commercial work undertaken
- Logs and Woodchip sold

Fully qualified and insured | Free quotes & advice

Office: 01934 814 941

RJ Drinkwater: 07855 911 046 O Till 07733 017 213

Grass cutting  
and Lawn Care  
Service

For all your  
Interior and Exterior Services

Tel: 01934 813 100

Mobile: 07813 175 423

**Dave Baxter**

Garden design, Landscaping, Turfing,  
Pruning, Decking, Patios, Fencing,  
Pergolas, Sheds....

...in fact all general garden maintenance  
and construction undertaken.

**Also**  
Interior Painting, Decorating  
and Carpentry

Let me give you a fair quote.  
Free Estimates  
Reliable and honest service

Fully Insured

**BLEADON VILLAGE LAUNDRY**

at the entrance of Bleadon Mill  
COLLECTION and DELIVERY

- Service Washes
- Dry Cleaning Agents
- Commercial Laundry
- Ironing Service
- Duvets & Quilts laundered

Call Trudy on 01934 814 133 for information

Email: raggettchelsea@aol.com

Hillside House, Bridgwater Road, Bleadon

We Understand The Difficulties Of Bedwetting

Visit us  
www.starrmedical.co.uk

We Help Your Child Go From  
WET TO DRY



We understand that choosing the right alarm,  
bedding protection or even replacement  
equipment can sometimes seem very confusing.

Our staff have more than 30 years experience  
providing practical solutions for bedwetting and  
other incontinence problems.



For help and information: T:0117 9576226 F:0117 9576227 E:info@starrmedical.co.uk

## MOBILE HAIRDRESSER

Shampoo & Set, Blow  
Dry, Colour, Perms,  
Scalp Conditions, Cuts  
and Re-style.

*All in the comfort of your  
own home*

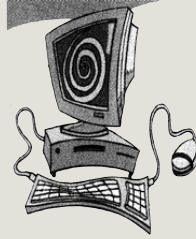
**Call Paulette**  
**01934 813 100**  
**07970 642 965**

## PC Doctor

PC problems, Upgrades  
Internet connections

- No call-out fee
- 7 day local service
- Your computer fixed on site
- At your convenience
- Fully qualified
- Very reasonable rates

**Tel: 01934 811 557**  
**Mobile: 07867 642 542**



## REVIVAL

Dress Agency  
**88 Meadow Street**  
**Weston-super-Mare**

We sell good quality ladies'  
clothing at excellent prices.

Shoes, Bags,  
Jewellery, Accessories, Bridal,  
Party & Evening Wear.  
**www.revivaldressagency.co.uk**

**Call: 07725 464 115**  
*Ladies let us sell your unwanted  
items for you*

# Business Directory

This is the start of what we hope will become a comprehensive listing of all the businesses in Bleadon Parish. As part of the Bleadon Village Plan the parish council aims to regularly publish a Bleadon Business Directory. If you want your business to be included here free of charge contact: [bleadon.editor@btinternet.com](mailto:bleadon.editor@btinternet.com)

### Better Kitchens

Unit A, Purn House Farm, Bleadon  
**Tel: 01934 813 201**  
**www.betteronline.co.uk**  
Suppliers at trade prices of fitted  
kitchens, worktops, appliances. 3D  
design service

### Bleadon Post Office & Country Store

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

### Bleadon Village Laundry

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

### Bridge Garage

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

### Chatterley Plumbing & Heating

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

### Escape Hair & Therapy Salon

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

### Garden & Household Services

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

### Ian Dance Services

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

### Phil Langdon Marine Artist

Chestnut Lane, Bleadon  
**Tel: 01934 813 223**  
Watercolour and Oil artist. Commissions  
undertaken. Your cottage or home  
painted.

### Plastech Windows & Conservatories

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

### Queens Arms

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

### Somerset Windows

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

### Tree Services

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

### Waterhouse Electrical & Engineering Services

Lakeside Barns, Shiplate Road, Bleadon  
**Tel: 01934 813 808**  
**Mob: 07860 597 463**  
Gas Safe., NICEIC Approve. Installation  
& maintenance of gas and electrical  
systems.

### Wheels & Paint Repair

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

### XS Computer Supplies

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

## Mind your own Bleadon Business!

If your business is not being promoted  
on these pages you are failing to  
regularly reach over 500 customer  
households in Bleadon.

**Call the Editor on**  
**01934 813 127**

or email:

**bleadon.editor@btinternet.com**  
**for advertising rates and to book**  
**your business space in the next**  
**issue.**

# Bringing our yesterdays to life

**A photo of an apple cheeked choirboy prompted District Councillor Efan Ap-Rees to look back at his early years here in Bleadon.**

The picture published back in the Christmas 2009 issue of Bleadon Village News brought back more than a few memories for me, although truth to tell I couldn't name any of the other members of the church choir shown (perhaps other readers can ? ).

Some may wonder how it was that your District Councillor was in the choir so long ago. After all, with a name like mine I couldn't possibly be "local" could I? Ah well, don't judge a book by its cover. However, my Welsh ancestry might give readers a clue.....Oh yes. I could sing "Wings of a Dove " with the best of them, before my voice broke !

It was actually my father who encouraged me to join the choir, probably around 1953 and soon after we had moved to the area, no...not from Wales but from Wiltshire! At that time we lived in Christon, from whence I roamed Bleadon Hill at will, usually alone and sometimes as a cowboy or occasionally as a "Red Indian", depending on mood and the availability of blackberry juice war-paint. (No...I wasn't an only one but my older sisters didn't actually share my interests so I grew up with a vivid imagination). I suppose today I would have been arrested, either for carrying a replica gun or dissing Native Americans but it was a more carefree world then. As a family we also used to visit the Bleadon Hill Sports and join in with the Loxton farmers at hay-making times, me riding on the back of the tractor or atop the trailer load of hay, something else banned today !

However, I digress...this is supposed to be about why I was in the choir. Truth to tell my family were not regular church goers but, whilst my



*A young (arrowed) Efan leads the way into church. Who are the other choir members appearing here?*

mother was kept busy raising six children and numerous animals, my father did like a pint. I suspect that escaping his share in the family chores was not easy but his idea that he encouraged my singing by way of my joining the church choir was probably seen by mother as a good way to get rid of both of us from under her feet.

Anyway his "encouragement " was to drive me to Bleadon in time for rehearsals and services, and then to disappear to the "Queens" for a few drinks whilst waiting for me to reappear. After the service I would then trot over to the pub, where father would buy me an orange and a packet of crisps and have me sit in the car until he was ready to go home. That often took some time.

I never knew him to overdo the drinking and he appears to have built up quite a friendship with the then landlord and landlady. On one occasion he took home the pub sign and repainted it before it was rehung, and I seem to recall him helping out in other ways from time to time too. For my part I more than enjoyed myself for a while, both in singing my heart out and watching

the to-ing and fro-ing at the pub from the driver's seat in our old Ford.

It didn't last...I grew older, my voice broke and I became a disgruntled teenager. We moved from Christon and Father lost the excuse, but...Happy Days .

*Efan Ap Rees.*



## **Cider trail?**

**Do readers know anything about the apple orchards that used to be part of Bleadon's bucolic past?**

There are remnants of some orchards still behind Purn Way. There were probably more. **Victoria Cottage** in Bridge Road was a cider public house until fairly recent times. Does anyone have memories of this?

The **Bleadon History Group** is hoping to put together enough information on Bleadon's cider past to create a Cider Event in the near future. With Thatcher's recent planting of acres of apple orchards along Shiplate Road it seems timely to discover more about our Somerset cider heritage.

**If you've got any memories or photos please contact the editor -**

**Tel: 01934 813 127**

**Email:bleadon.editor@btinternet.com**

# Summertime - and the living is easy?

From the archive of old photos of Bleadon being looked after by Penny Robinson we are pleased to bring you a taste of Bleadon summers past. These are from a time when much of the lower slopes of Hellenge Hill and along Shiplate were fruit-growing small-holdings.



Photos clockwise from top left



- School children were often given fruit or other produce to take home.
- School garden –an important part of school life between the wars.
- Bleadon children 1936 digging and planting – possibly at 'The Mount' which grew fruit.
- Ken and Ray Durston, and John Wride in the orchard of 'The Mount' supervised by Edwin Clogg who was a well known character in the village.
- Strawberry picking in 1936.
- Allotment holders having a get together.
- Bleadon and Lymsham children fruit picking.
- Children preparing vegetables in the garden –shelling peas.



Thanks to Marshalls who kindly sponsor our archive photo page

FUN  
FOR THE  
YOUNG

## Bleadon Youth Club

*The club for young people aged 11 to 17 meets on a Thursday evening from 7 - 9.30pm in the Bleadon Youth Centre, Coronation car park*

*Mike, Patrick and Anne are the three professional Youth Workers funded by North Somerset Council who lead the club and inspire the youngsters to greater things.*

*If your youngster wants to come along on a Thursday please encourage them. It costs just £1 a session.*

*Watch our noticeboard for the full programme of activities.*

### Here's what young Abbey has to say about the club.

We have done so many activities over the past nine months, but here are just a few of our favourites:

We really enjoyed cooking and have made lots of things - pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, bread, cookies and Chinese food for the Chinese new year.

We've enjoyed having chat sessions with our leaders where we've covered lots of the topics that are on our minds, like ethnic diversity, puberty and periods, problems at school and with friendships.

We use the Centre equipment for our table tennis, pool and table football tournaments. And we've done some music things like writing and singing our own songs.

Future activities include ice skating, which Olivia has planned, skiing at Churchill, bowling, African drumming and Dave's going to bring along his bikes and scooters.

I just want to say a BIG THANK YOU to **John Stokes** for making our posh new front steps. THANKS too **Lympsham Concrete** for donating the concrete.

**The Youth Club starts back after the summer break on Thursday 2 September.**

If you've got kids or would like to get involved with making Bleadon Youth Centre even better for our young people come along to our **Open Evening/AGM on Thursday 16 September 6.30 to 7.30pm.** We could really do with some additional helping hands from people with community spirit!

FUN FOR THE  
YOUNG AT  
HEART

## JUST WHEN YOU NEED A GOOD GUIDE!

Bleadon Guides should be the first to test the amazing Maize Maze that's growing opposite the Croquet field later this month. We may never see the pioneering girls again!





FUN  
FOR THE  
YOUNG

### 1<sup>st</sup> Bleadon Guides

**A thriving group of 19 girls, aged 10 – 14 and sadly only one leader, who would very much like a bit more adult company...**

This school year we have been celebrating the centenary of girl guiding.

It started in September with an overnight camp at Puxton Park and a dawn celebration, and will finish at 8.10pm on Oct 20<sup>th</sup> on the new pier with a renewal of our guide promise.

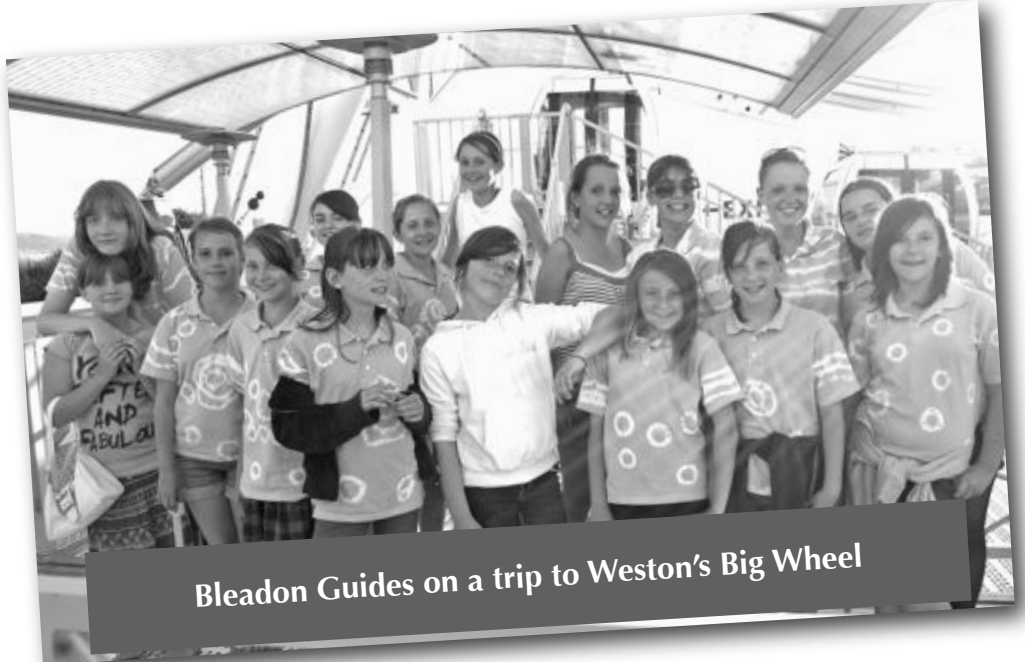
During the year we have been working towards the Adventure 100 centenary badge, with lots of different challenges covering all aspects of our programme... This week we are covering "Moving" by going on the Weston Wheel, and

"Wacky 100" when I challenge the girls to build 100 sand castles per patrol.

We have just joined the rest of Weston in a weekend camp at Worle school. There the girls had a chance to try lots of different activities and find out just how many others are

Guides, Brownies & Rainbows, a total of nearly 600 people were there on the Saturday.

It has been a very busy & exciting year and certainly proving that Guiding is not a thing of the past, but very much in the here and now.



# Brownies

**This has been a very busy, fun, year at Brownies. It started with us winning the Bleadon Scarecrow competition, of which we were very proud!**



We have been celebrating our Centenary this year which started in September with a Sunrise Celebration at Puxton Park. The whole of Weston Division ( over 600 of us) met at 5.00am at the Park, watched the sunrise, had a wonderful parade of Uniforms dating right back to the beginning, and enjoyed hot dogs and renewed our promise.

We have also been on a Division Camp, with over 600 of us staying at Worle School. The Guides camped on the field, the Brownies stayed in the classrooms and the Rainbows visited for the day on Saturday when we had a fun day with face painting, a climbing wall, bouncy castles, nail art, hair braiding, car driving, and lots, lots more. It was fantastic but VERY tiring!!!

We will have a closing ceremony in October, on the Grand Pier, with chips and fireworks and renew our promise again.

We have also been working towards a very special, one off badge, The Adventure 100 badge. There are lots of activities to do from this and each activity is worth some points, the girls have to get 100 points to 'earn' their badge.

Some things we have done include:

- Making our Centenary tie and dye T-shirts, this is our new summer uniform.
- Attending the Christmas pantomime.
- Skipping 100 times.
- Visiting the local fire station.
- Having a disco.
- Holding a Unit meeting in Fluorescent clothing.
- Learning some new songs.
- Making a monster munch tower.

And lots, lots more.....

Brownies is a fun place for girls, with lots of challenges, badges to be earned and new friends to make.

If you have a daughter who is between the ages of 7 – 10 and would like to know a bit more, please contact **Brown Owl (Emma Tucker) on 01934 815 396**

# 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 for details.

## Bleadon Ladies Club

This year has been another successful year for the club. With many new members and some very good speakers ranging from Dance Bands of the 20s, 30s and 40s, to Old Movies, and a lovely afternoon with Harry Chatterley and musicians.

August 10<sup>th</sup> our annual outing which this year is to Weymouth. If you are interested in joining us there are a few seats left.

September 14 Cheese making – Mrs Pauline Aldus (cheese available after the talk)

So if you haven't joined come along and give it a try you won't regret it.

We meet the second Tuesday of the month at 2.30 p.m. in the Coronation Hall.

**For more information call Barbara on 814362.**

## Bleadon Players

After the success of Lady Windermere's Fan the Players are "resting". But like the legendary Windmill Theatre, we never close, so are busy pursuing "Goodnight Mrs Puffin" for our next production – September 30, October 1 and October 2.

Unlike the legendary Windmill Theatre, we have a website [www.Bleadonplayers.co.uk](http://www.Bleadonplayers.co.uk)

## Bleadon Short Mat Bowls

The league season ended in March with Bleadon's team improving on last year's performance, finishing in fourth position. On the other hand social bowling has seen a considerable improvement in

standard of playing overall and this was reflected in the friendly matches arranged during the spring tour when non league playing members participated well.

On the matter of the spring tour to Torquay, 17 members spent six enjoyable days at the Toorak Hotel which has substantial facilities. Each morning two matches were organised against local teams from South Devon. We performed well and won most matches. The hotel was excellent with friendly staff and good food. Optional afternoon visits were organised which included visits to Torquay Museum (this included a presentation on Agatha Christie) and Kent's Cavern (concluded with a real Devon cream tea). Evening activities were arranged at the hotel and ended with a prize-giving ceremony and a decision to undertake the tour again next year at the end of March. This is open to non-members – contact Malcolm Gammon (tel: 01934 813340) for further details.

A boat trip down the River Avon as far as the Channel has been arranged for August and is already a sell out.

The new season commences on the 14<sup>th</sup> September and we are looking for new members, experienced or otherwise. Equipment and training is available.

**Graham Rogers 811571**

**A special Short Mat Bowls open evening on Friday 24 September has been arranged for prospective new members who would like to try their hand. Come and join this very friendly club open on Sunday and Tuesday afternoons and Friday evenings.**

## Friends of Bleadon Church

May Fayre for the year is over and once again we were lucky with the weather and like last year we raised in excess of £6000. A great deal of work and planning is called for months before the event and much appreciation is given to those responsible.



We should like to thank our sponsors who take out advertisements in the entry programme and everyone who gave their services and helped on the day; we would never manage without you. In fact we could do with more helpers when it comes to setting up and particularly clearing up and bringing equipment to and



from the halls and play areas. Within 24 hours the site is back to normal, clean and tidy and thanks are due to Pete the village ranger who follows up our own cleaning efforts to ensure the area is fit for use and all the rubbish removed.



One area of concern was the lack of car parking facilities as the field was not available. Marshalls were very helpful in allowing us use of their small car park but this was inadequate for the numbers of visitors attending. We would like to apologise to residents who were inconvenienced and will do our best to improve on this next year.

Looking forward we have planned the following events and look forward to seeing you

August Watch out for the Scarecrow Festival

September 24 **Harvest Supper** in the Coronation Hall

October 9 Concert by **Llantrisant Male Voice Choir** in the Church.

## Bleadon W I

Why not come and take a look at your W I. Ladies of all ages are very welcome, its not all jam and Jerusalem!

Our recent activities include chocolate making, wine tasting, belly dancing, a visit from "Thatcher's Cider" and the gift wrapping guru, Jane Means. Still to come in July are the clothes swishing, bra fitting in September, Ready Steady Cook and planning for Christmas.

Meetings are every second Thursday of the month 7.30 p.m. – 9.30 p.m. Coronation Hall, Bleadon.

## Bleadon Horticultural Club

A renovated rocking horse, huge amaryllis, flowers and mouth watering home craft helped fill the Coronation Hall for the 36<sup>th</sup> Spring Flower Show. There were 240 exhibits staged by the 54 exhibitors ranging in age from under 2 to over 80 years. The two classes for photography attracted 21 lovely images. While the children yet again came up with several really imaginative creations. The judges in all sections spoke very highly of the overall standard.

Over 100 visitors and villagers enjoyed the atmosphere during the afternoon as they appreciated the efforts put in by all the exhibitors.



### Trophy winners were

Lindley Cup Lindsay Ireland

Harold Banwell Cup Roy Tansley

Jubilee Cup Joe Thomas

BHS Home craft Cup Lucy Steven

BHS Handicraft Cup Pete Williams

Mike Welch Memorial Cup Pete Williams

Victoria Sandwich Cup Neil Coombes

Irene Hilditch Cookie Plate Libby Lockyer

King Cup Naomi Morgan



Davis Cup Peter Dunston

Junior Cup Daniella James

Society Spring Show Cup Chris Cudlipp

Don Everitt was the guest speaker at the April meeting where he gave a very well illustrated talk on both rock and alpine gardens with their associated plants which thrive in these comparatively harsh conditions.

May saw our usual bring and buy plant sale and social well supported. We would like to thank Sanders Garden World and Hutton Garden Centre for their generosity in supporting us with plants. Thank you also to everyone who brought and bought plants of all descriptions.

David Bryant from Sander's Garden World was gallant enough to step into the breach as Pete Burks was suddenly called away to a managers meeting in Northampton. David gave us lots of useful information on New and Unusual plants so that we can now make sure they stay healthy.

**Schedules for the 37<sup>th</sup> Summer Flower Show on 4 September are available from the village post office/shop, the Church Porch or Committee Members.**

The winter season of talks will be kicked off by Graeme Thompson who will give an illustrated talk titled "Secret World's Wildlife Rescue".

All our talks are open to anyone at £1 per person.

Happy gardening.

*Chris Cudlipp.*



**Weston-super-Mare Croquet Club** held their annual Daphne Holland Shield competition at the club's ground in Bleadon on Friday 1 July 2010. This is a Golf Croquet handicap competition, the overall winner being Lance Binning from Cheddar who defeated Peter Aynsley from Bleadon in a hard fought final.



*Club president, Peter Nesbitt presents the shield to Lance Binning.*

The Croquet Club is looking for new members and if anyone is interested in joining this very social and happy club and learning about croquet, please ring the Secretary on 01934 815345.



### Dear, dear John

Bleadon artist John Hickley has once again designed and illustrated a delightful Scarecrow Festival poster. After producing 84 brilliant cover illustrations for the Village News over the past 21 years I would have thought that he would welcome a break!

## Bleadon Photographic Group

By the time you read this, the group will be on our Summer recess and hopefully enjoying a summer better than the last, to enable us to replenish our library of photographs that can be shown when the group restart in September. This last year has been a very successful one, having attracted some new members to the group and upholding our standing within the whole of the West country photographic arena. Whilst we strive to win inter club events, that is not our main aim, which is to further our overall interests in photography with people with similar interests. There is a perception that you need to be of exceptional ability before joining a group like Bleadon, but this is far from the truth. People join for a variety of reasons not least to improve their ability to produce better images of what ever subject interests them. It may be pictures of the family growing up and keeping a record of those precious moments, or it may be a record of summer holidays spent in exotic parts of the world, but what ever is your interest, would it not be better if you produced these images with more successful results than may at present be the case. We in the group don't all profess to be masters of the subject but by talking to one and other we gradually improve our results and this could be the same for you. On the other hand, you may be more skilled than the rest of us, in which case we can all learn from you. So why not give us a try. You will find us a very friendly lot eager to learn, wanting to show the sort of work we are producing and above all not taking things too seriously. The group have visiting speakers, internal and external competitions and workshops to improve our knowledge of working in digital and we certainly are not stuck in the mud, we keep up with developments within the sphere of general photography. What better way of passing some of the dreary evenings of winter, than to pass them with friends and at the same time learn a bit more. None of us can be so

overloaded with knowledge that we can't receive a little more. It is often said of photographers that they see things that others pass by or just accept, like shall we say, a wreck of an old car, but in that pile of junk there are shapes and colours and light and shade all just waiting to be recorded and turned into a stunning picture. There are shapes in the sand (and we have plenty of that in Weston) where light plays a big part in turning just sand into emotional images which disappear with the turn of the tide and you can capture these images and they can never be repeated, so that image becomes unique to you. And what about the beautiful countryside which abounds in our vicinity especially at certain times of the day when the light plays tricks, casting shadows which amplify the beauty of the place and the shapes in the landscape. Cameras these days are capable of astonishing functions but how many of us just point and shoot without knowing what the camera can do if we only knew. You know what is said "when all else fails, read the instructions" and this is a good starting point by way of improving our photographs. If you should want to know more of the activities of the the group, the dates of meetings and where to make contact, go to [www.bleadonphoto.org.uk](http://www.bleadonphoto.org.uk) and we hope to see you in September.

Ken Tapley.  
Bleadon Photographic Group.



### Flight of fancy

*Hot-Shot Pete Williams sent Village News this remarkable image of the Red Arrows over Bleadon on Armed Forces Day (26 June).*



# What's on

## CLIC Quiz

Following a good deal of positive feedback it has been decided to repeat last year's quiz in aid of Clic Sargant. The venue will be the Coronation Hall, the date will be **Saturday 20 Nov** (7.30), and the format will be the same. Tickets £7.50 per head, to include ploughman's supper. Teams of four are the norm.

Expressions of interest or requests for information to **Les Masters - 811976** or [lesmasters246@btinternet.com](mailto:lesmasters246@btinternet.com)

## Coffee and Danish

The annual Coffee & Danish morning in support of SSAFA Forces Help will be held in the Coronation Hall, Bleadon, on **Friday, 3 September** 2010 from 10.30 to noon.

## Scarecrow Festival

Scarecrows are returning to Bleadon and, after the success of last year, the theme will be "Weird & Wonderful". This will take place on the weekend of **28 & 29 August**, noon to 4pm, throughout the village.

Roast pork and cider available on the Saturday in the park and Cream Teas on the Sunday at the Coronation Hall. Look out for the Posters. **Entry forms are in the Post Office.** Contact Penny Skelley for info. on 01934 815 331

## Bleadon Country Sports

The 71st Bleadon Country Sports will be held on **Saturday 21 August** at Appledore Farm, Lymsham (on A370 near Jeff Brown's Garage).

Starting at 9.30 there will be horse events, a companion dog show and sports. A fun day for everyone and all proceeds to charity.

Tel: 01934 815 407 for info.

## Bleadon Youth Club Open Evening/AGM

**Thursday 16 September 6.30pm**

Fun activities for youngsters and a chance for parents to see what it's all about.

## Talking Heads

The Birnbeck Actors Company will be presenting three thought-provoking and amusing monologues from the pen of one of Britain's most celebrated writers, Alan Bennett.

We are performing three of his most poignant monologues from the *Talking Heads* series of plays at Bleadon Coronation Hall on the evening of **Saturday 4 September at 7.30pm**. Tickets are £6.50 from **Bleadon Post Office and Country Store** or at the door on the night.

The monologues we will be performing for this evening of Bennett enjoyment will be:

***Her Big Chance*** - Lesley carves out a living in acting of sorts, mainly as a TV extra. She was once a woman in a Musquash Coat in *Crossroads!* Her life takes an unexpected turn when she ends up meeting Spud.

***A Chip in the Sugar*** - Graham is getting on for middle age and still lives at home with his mother. Although she has a passion for knitting tea cosies coupled with a worsening short term memory loss, she discovers that her long term memory is a lot better when she meets an old friend from the past, leaving Graham to comprehend a life without her and forcing him to face up to his own isolated future.

***Bed Among the Lentils*** - Being a vicar's wife is not everything it's cracked up to be. Not for Susan anyway. There's a chill in the air from the sub-zero temperature in the side-chapel, but there's some warmth to be found in the little Indian shop on the corner!

The Birnbeck Actors Company is a newly formed theatre group with an aim to bring quality drama straight to the heart of the community.



## Organisations which regularly use the Coronation Halls

### Mondays

**Mini Movers\*\*** 9.45-10.45

**Bleadon Bridge Club** 2-5pm

**Exercise Classes\*\*** 7-8pm + 8-9pm

**British Sugarcraft Guild** 1<sup>st</sup> Mon 7.30pm

**Bleadon Parish Council** 2<sup>nd</sup> Mon 7.30pm

### Tuesdays

**Bleadon Ladies Group** 2<sup>nd</sup> Tues 2-4pm

**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** 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> Tues 7.30 pm (Sept-May)

**Bleadon Horticultural Soc** 3<sup>rd</sup> Tues 7.30 pm (Oct-June)

### Wednesdays

**Toddler Group** 10am-noon

**Yoga Class\*\*** 9.30-10.30

**Bleadon Players/Rehearsals** 7.30pm

### Thursdays

**Bleadon Art Group\*\*** 10-noon

**Bleadon WI** 7.30 2<sup>nd</sup> Thurs

**Bleadon Folk Dancing Group** 8pm 3<sup>rd</sup> Thurs (Sept-June)

**Bleadon Sugarcraft Club** 7.30pm 4<sup>th</sup> Thurs

### Fridays

**Bleadon Friendship Club** 2-4pm

**Short Mat Bowls Club\*\*** 7pm (Sept-May)

### Saturdays

**Village Market** 9-12.30 3<sup>rd</sup> 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**.

# Introducing...



**Emma Wright** is our village's Police Community Support Officer (PCSO).

You will find her and/or her Beat Manager **PC Steve Church** in the church meeting room most Tuesday afternoons from 2 to 4pm.

The **Police Surgery is held every Tuesday** that manpower resources allow. Any resident can pop along for a chat in confidence. Emma and Steve will always make you feel most welcome and relaxed.

Drop in and see them if you have any concerns over the safety of your family or a neighbour, or maybe you just want to find out a bit more about Police priorities in our area.

You will spot Emma and Steve patrolling Bleadon and neighbouring villages and occasionally behind a speed camera in our speed blackspots.

Take care out there.

## In the next issue of Bleadon Village News through your letterbox in September

- Jeff gets help with Carelink
- Gardeners invade Wisley
- How to play Croquet
- Scarecrow Festival report
- Introducing our new rector
- ...and so much more.

Send your stories and photos to: [bleadon.editor@btinternet.com](mailto:bleadon.editor@btinternet.com) or by post to: 8 Whitegate Close, Bleadon BS24 0PW  
**Deadline 20 August**

**Bleadon remains one of the lowest crime areas in North Somerset. Let's work to keep it safe for all. Here are some tips on beating crime from our Neighbourhood Watch team.**

### Strangers at the door

Do NOT deal with door to door callers or respond to leaflet dropping unless you are absolutely sure who you are dealing with.

#### Things TO do:

- Keep your front door shut and talk through it.
- Lock doors both front and back.
- Fix security chain on door bar and use it!
- You do not have to let people into your home if you do not feel comfortable. If the caller is genuine they will come back or make an appointment.
- Do not keep large amounts of cash at home.

#### Things NOT to do:

- Don't believe everything you are told by callers however plausible (tarmac left over, water or gas leak, etc.)
- Don't be intimidated into making a decision or agreeing to work without a second opinion or quotes.
- Watch out for anyone who says they are in a hurry - if in doubt call a neighbour or friend.
- When checking ID - don't always rely on a callers card for phone numbers - you could be calling their partner - look up the phone number in your phone directory.
- Don't leave keys in doors or windows.

- Don't assume the caller is genuine because they are smartly dressed or wearing a uniform.

#### PASSWORD SCHEME:

The gas, water and electricity companies, and some councils, now have a password system for older and vulnerable customers. Customers give the company a word which is confidential to them and the company. When a representative calls, they will be expected to tell the customer the password to prove they are genuine.

If you have information about any crime, **phone the police on 0845 456 7000** or you can call anonymously to the independent charity CRIMESTOPPERS 0800 555 111.

### Wheely bin burglars

The new wheely bins that you will be getting from North Somerset Council in August can provide a perfect step-up for opportunist burglars to get through windows and over fences.

Keep your bin well away from open windows and think about how easy it would be to get into your home. Try and keep your bin out of sight or secured so that it can only be moved easily by you.

### Vehicle theft

There has recently been a small number of thefts from cars and garages in the Hutton area. Don't leave valuables in vehicles. If you hear or see suspicious strangers out and about at night give us a call please. If you don't want the officers calling at your house just say so and we will make other arrangements if we need to see you.

## Your Bleadon Parish Councillors

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

**We have one vacancy. If you are interested in becoming a Bleadon Parish Councillor and have something positive to offer the community please contact the Bleadon Parish Council Clerk immediately - [bruce.poole2@btopenworld.com](mailto:bruce.poole2@btopenworld.com)**

Here's a small sample of last year's scarecrows for a bit of inspiration.

# Scarecrow Festival

## Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 August

This year's festival is running over the August Bank Holiday weekend. The theme is **Wierd and Wonderful**. So let your creativity and imagination run riot. Last year was our very first year and we had over forty delightfully entertaining scarecrows around the village. **Get your entry form now from Bleadon Village Stores.**



**NEW this year**  
Get lost in the  
**Maize Maze**  
part of the 2010  
Bleadon Scarecrow Trail

**SCARECROW TREATS**  
This year we'll be offering  
**SATURDAY** lunchtime  
Roast pork & cider in the park  
**SUNDAY** afternoon  
Cream teas in the Coronation Hall

# May Day Fayre

The sun smiled on Bleadon again this May Day Holiday. Smiling too were the hundreds of visitors who enjoyed another delightful village event.

