

Bleadon village

news

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FREE to Bleadon homes

Winter 2010 - Issue 87



Fireworks & bonfires



Troublesome Dames



**Seasonal celebrations..
...and lots more inside**

The magic of Christingle



Children brought toys to give to more needy children. Those youngsters that had regularly attended the Sunday Club were delighted to receive a gift of their own from the Rector.



The enchanting Christingle service on the first Sunday in December was followed by a children's party in the Church Rooms. The cakes and sweets were piled high and it didn't take long for the youngsters to tuck in and demolish the feast.

Roll up, Roll up, the third edition of this not "two for one", better than that, a free village magazine. At this time of the year, the Parish Council reflects on the past year's work, which has been a successful and productive one. We have regained Quality Status, attended conferences, completed courses and assimilated new rules and regulations! Recently, we have welcomed a new Councillor, David Plaister, to our team.

With a change of National Government in May, this brought a new agenda of localism. The policies, reforms and cut-backs reflect on the last tier of Government, the Parish Councils. One of the changes is community volunteering which we all know is abundant in our village. So with your help, the Parish Council will react to the needs of the community and hope that with careful budgeting, we will be able to provide public services to the same standard. The long promised bus shelter is now completed!!

In 2011, we will celebrate, as the nation will, the Royal wedding. Many events in the village in the coming year will be the traditional ones, with some new ideas introduced.

The sparkling Parish Christmas Tree has been erected again this year in front of the Coronation Hall. Our thanks go to Peter the Village Ranger for putting it safely in place.

I wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Penny Skelley
Chairman Bleadon
Parish Council



I'm not sure who looks the most terrified here - Penny or the strange little fella behind? It was all in a good cause and helped raise more badly needed funds for our Bleadon Youth Centre.

High Society hopes

You may notice a bit of a "Big Society" theme running through the pages of this issue.

We've heard quite a bit in the media and from government ministers about the **Big Society**. This is nothing particularly new. It sounds very much like a re-branding of the Labour government's "Community Engagement" strategy.

What's this Big Society mean?

According to the 2010 Conservative party manifesto it has three main principles:

Empowering individuals and communities: decentralising and redistributing power to local government, communities, neighbourhoods and individuals.

Encouraging social responsibility: encouraging organisations and individuals to get involved in social action.

Creating an enabling and accountable state: transforming government action from a top-down micromanagement and one-size-fits-all solutions to a flexible approach defined by transparency, payment by results, and support for social enterprise and cooperation.

So, what's new?

Nothing that we haven't heard promised before, you may think. However, there is one big difference - now it's being driven by economic necessity as well as political ideology. The cynical among you may think that this is a financially strapped government looking to off-load its work and responsibilities onto someone else.

And you may be right. But this could work to our advantage by bringing decision-making and service provision directly to our community in Bleadon.

Change is under way

Already we are seeing proposed changes to Planning and Development control, with parish councils being given a bigger say.

New powers for community organisations to obtain planning permission for housing and business development if they have the majority support of the local electorate.

New powers to help save local facilities and services threatened with closure, and give communities the right to bid to take over local state-run services.

Proposals are also in the pipeline to give residents the power to instigate local referendums on any local issues and the power to veto excessive council tax increases.

Bleadon is well blessed with an enviable sense of community pride and involvement. Social networking and support is already at the heart of our village life. I'm confident that in the difficult and demanding times ahead the people of Bleadon will continue to work together to provide a village society and environment that is second to none.

Let's start with a couple of simple things - like picking up that litter instead of walking past it, or checking that an infirm neighbour is getting along OK in this winter weather.

Your ever hopeful Editor

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 the Spring edition is Friday 25 February 2011.

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.

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:
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NEWS & gossip

New salt/grit bin arrives at the right time

The parish council ordered an additional grit bin through North Somerset Council to help combat the slippery conditions we experienced earlier this year. The new bin, located at the corner of Shiplate Road, was installed and filled just in time for the current spate of bitter icy weather. By ordering the bin through North Somerset the parish council was able to purchase it at a much reduced cost.

At the same time North Somerset Council restocked all our other grit bins and bags at key roadside locations around the parish.



Our Big Society

These grit bins are provided for community-minded residents to use on the village roads and pavements. Do not take the grit for use on private drives.

Car park barrier gets a new coat of paint

You may have noticed that the crash barrier that protects the play area has had a fresh coat of paint. The barrier was looking a little worse for wear, so the village ranger got busy with scraper and brush. Now we have a refurbished barrier ready to take the knocks of careless car parkers.



Preparing for Spring

In early October a keen team of villagers braved threatening skies to help plant up our parish tubs ready for the Spring. Armed with trowels, and stocked with Sanders' plants and bulbs our green-fingered volunteered ventured forth to their allotted tubs. I'm pleased to report that we all managed to finish before the rain arrived.

If there's a suitable spot near you for a community plant tub and you would help look after it let the parish council know. The parish council provides tubs and plants throughout the village to provide welcoming colour for residents and visitors.

Our Big Society

If you would like to help with the next plant up in early May please watch for information in the next edition of Village News.

True grit

Whilst our village ranger may be taking a well deserved Christmas break in Australia, he was thoughtful enough to provide us with bags of salted grit for the village car park before he left. It was very much appreciated at the recent Xmas Market when conditions were particularly treacherous in the very busy car park. Thanks for the forethought Pete.



NEWS & gossip



Shelter from the stormy blast

After a year of waiting, our new bus shelter was finally installed last month. Despite the new comfort and safety provided at the bus stop it's not without its critics.

It's a full year since I first expressed the hope, in our Village News, that we should soon be seeing the installation of our new bus shelter in Coronation Road. Unfortunately, the push and pull of budget demands meant that the accompanying pavement and road works could not be undertaken by North Somerset Council until now.

The highway improvements and installation process took six working days. Anyone who passed the site during the installation will have seen that it was no small job. Yet there was little disruption.

The pavement has been widened and straightened to ensure that pedestrians and buses can pass safely. The kerb and pavement raised to allow easy access for pushchairs and wheelchairs onto the bus.

Parking restrictions

Soon there will be road markings to deter parking near the bus stop. In the meantime I urge drivers to park with consideration for the bus and other road users. And don't park on the dangerous corner outside Newbay Cottage. It's crazy and lazy!

Whilst the new shelter has proved popular with bus users in the recent cold and wet weather, it has not been without its critics!

Bit of a lean-to?

It won't have gone un-noticed by anyone standing in the road opposite the new shelter that it has a bit of a lean. I did question this with the workmen as it was lowered into position. The instruction from North Somerset engineers was that the shelter must run parallel with the sloping pavement surface. This ensures that the perch seat is parallel with the ground and thus passengers can reach it at either end. Sound reasoning I guess, but it does look a little odd to me and many others.

Maybe we can turn our quirky shelter to Bleadon's advantage. Tourists travel from all over the globe to see the leaning tower at Pisa. We now have our Leaning Bleadon Shelter to compete!



Bleadon people

Our Big Society

Our village society is about the people who add value to the lives of others in the village. People who care enough to make a difference and maybe bring a smile

Introducing your new councillor

Bleadon Parish Council is pleased to welcome David Plaister to its fold. There was intense competition for the vacant seat on the Council with three applicants seeking to be co-opted. Each candidate was given the opportunity to present their case to the Council. With so much talent and enthusiasm on offer it was a difficult decision, but one that was agreed unanimously by the Council.

Here David outlines the philosophy behind his wanting to be a parish councillor.

I believe that the role of Parish Councillor is one which must be taken seriously.

I have quickly become a driven and fully committed Parish Council member and I feel that I can add value in all general areas, in addition to offering considerable experience in areas such as general business procedures and specific knowledge and expertise in the property and planning sectors.

I have no hidden agenda, however I do openly and honestly consider that our village is worth preserving and its evolution should be a progressive, yet considered one.

I believe that whether one is a member of the council or not, we are all custodians of the village and therefore stakeholders in its future.

David Plaister



Thanks for Frank

We would like to express our sincere thanks for all your messages of sympathy in our sad loss, your kind words of support and encouragement, your offers of help and all your care and concern.



We cannot begin to tell you how much these all have helped us to cope over the past weeks and will continue to do so in the months to come. It was greatly valued and appreciated.

Frank could never have dreamt that so many people cared but we do know that he will be comforted in knowing that we are in such a good and caring community.

We are grateful too for the kind donations made to both the Royal Brompton Hospital and Family Activity Breaks.

Our sincere thanks.

I.D, Richard and Wendy Clarke

Parish Clerk for President!

Bleadon Parish Clerk for the past 22 years, Bruce Poole has been honoured with the role of Presidency of the Society of Local Council Clerks for the current year.

Bruce has worked long and hard to bring professional qualification and skill to the job of Parish Clerking throughout Britain. All too often in the past (and even in some councils today) the job of the Clerk has been regarded as something that can be done by any amateur who can turn up on the night. Thankfully, that is a concept

that Bruce has helped to begin to dispel.

Bruce was invited to come and work for Bleadon Parish Council in 1988 when Rosemary and Chris Sanders were on the parish council. They had been impressed with his work at Berrow Parish Council. Thanks to their foresight we now have one of the most experienced clerks in Britain.

A handful of your parish councillors were able to join Bruce at the recent SLCC Regional Conference near Cirencester for a full day of seminars and council training workshops.

Grande Dames spotted



A couple of very strange dames caused a lot of excitement recently when they were spotted lurking outside the Coronation Hall.

Rumour has it that they were taking a break from Panto rehearsals, but I'm not sure that these girls should be seen on the streets in daylight! I fear a lot more may be revealed in early January.

NEWS & up-dates

Our Big Society

The success of our many village events depend on people who are willing to go the extra mile to make things work. If you've got something to give - just DO IT.

Poppy Appeal

For the first time the village total has nudged over £1000 - by 7p!

This is very satisfying for the squad of house to house collectors - I.D.Clarke, Susan Oldfield, Sarah Ripley, Adam Stafford, Jill Walford and Pete Williams - and for the hosts of static boxes, namely The Anchor, Catherine's Inn, the Church, Escape, Literlife, the Post Office and The Queen's Arms.

The Royal British Legion is indebted to all concerned.

Les Masters.



Quiz-Master fundraiser

Sixty people in fifteen teams took part in a closely contested quiz in aid of Clic Sargent at the Coronation Hall in October and gave every impression of enjoying themselves in the process. The winners scored 81 to edge home by half a point with most teams scoring in the seventies. Even the last team scored 64, so there really were no failures.

Very importantly, of course, **£502 was raised for the charity**, for which thanks must go not just to the teams but to the tried and trusted squad who ran the bar and catering. It was a good occasion all round, so let us hope that next year the numbers and amount raised might increase.

May Day Fayre appeal for helpers

The May Day Fayre for 2011 is currently in the planning stage and it is hoped to vary the format slightly. However, we are very short of helpers and are seeking more people to involve themselves in the preparation and on the day. If you feel that you can help this hugely popular village event please step forward now. More information can be obtained from the Chairman, Graham Rogers: Tel 811571.

Clearing snow and ice - what can you do?

In winter it's really helpful if you can keep the pavements and public spaces around your home clear of snow. However, some people are put off doing so because they fear being sued. There is no law stopping you from clearing snow and ice on the pavement outside your property, pathways to your property or public spaces. If an accident did happen it's highly unlikely that you would be sued as long as you're careful and don't make the pathways more dangerous than before. Here are a few hints and tips to help keep us all safe this winter:

Start early - it's much easier to clear fresh, loose snow before it gets compacted.

Don't use hot water - this will melt the snow but may turn to deadly black ice.

Make a pathway down the middle of the area to be cleared first, so you have a clear and safe surface to work from.

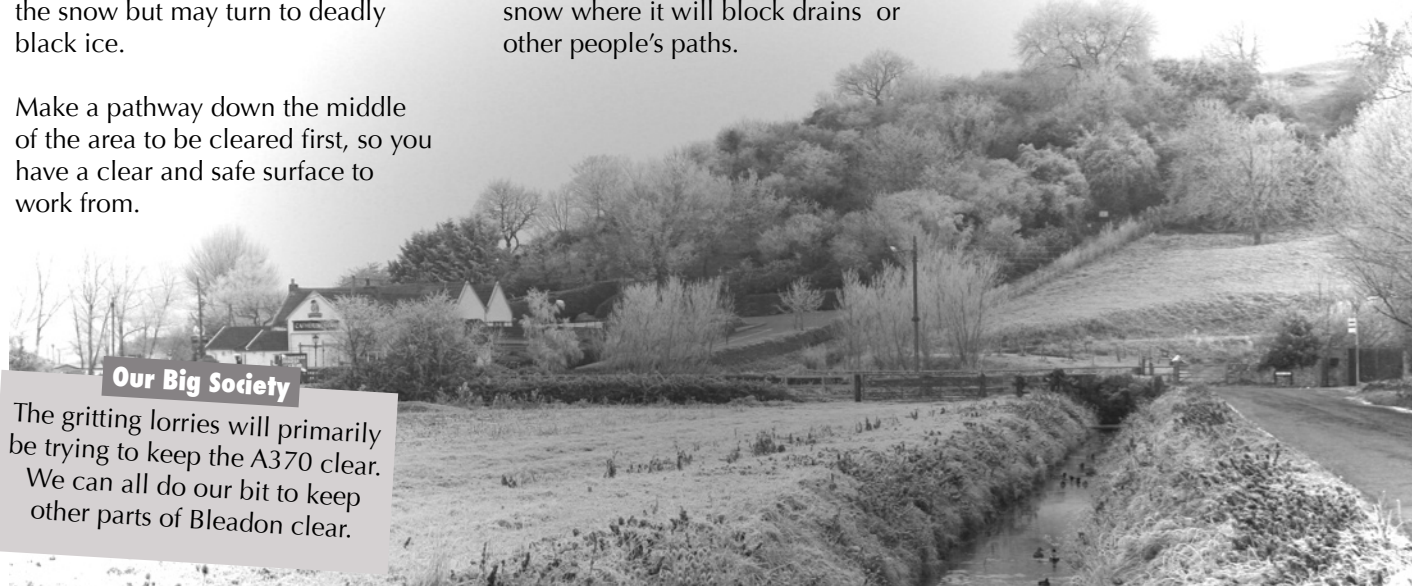
Help your neighbours - some people may be unable to clear snow and ice on paths to their property.

Be careful not to leave your cleared snow where it will block drains or other people's paths.

Spread some salt on the area you have cleared to help stop ice forming. Dishwasher salt is excellent because of its large crystals.

Our Big Society

The gritting lorries will primarily be trying to keep the A370 clear. We can all do our bit to keep other parts of Bleadon clear.



NEWS & views

From your two District Councillors

We suppose we should start off this month by putting our heads in the lion's mouth and ask how everyone is getting on with the new waste recycling service?

Of course, we know there have been teething problems and some annoying repeat issues but truth to tell out of the thousands of collections every week the complaints have been remarkably low and reducing as the new contractor and residents get to grip with the changes. We must admit though that even we still have to remember occasionally which week it is for the non-recyclable bin and which plastics are acceptable and which are not....!

On to other matters. We have had some pot hole repairs and patching carried out around the village recently, especially in Mulberry Lane and Purn Way and think that generally speaking the well trafficked roads are now pretty up together. However, if there are holes we have missed let us know quickly before the government grant funding dries up. We also have made sure the grit bins are filled before the winter starts and have bought in large supplies of salt.

Meanwhile "over the hill" we are looking at the new master plan for Weston Airfield and adjoining areas, following the Council's decision to reduce the level of residential development over the next 15 years and focus on employment first.

Whilst this may only be of indirect interest to many of you, there is a plan for a new road between Flowerdown Bridge on the A371 and Winterstoke Road. We imagine this might be quite a popular route for some Bleadon residents accessing the M5. We are concerned at the idea that it might just be an urban 30mph road with lots of junctions rather than a proper bypass alternative to Herluin Way. What do you think?

By the time you read this it is likely that the budget plans for 2011/12 will be in the public domain. Suffice to say that, despite the government cuts and the almost bankrupt Council we inherited in 2007 from the last Administration, the outsourcing and savings we have made over the past three and a half years will now stand us in good stead, much more so than neighbouring councils which appear to mostly be in panic mode! Yes there will be further budget reductions necessary, but **we are determined not to affect important rural issues like road repairs, community transport and supported bus networks any more than is absolutely necessary.**

Finally, have you promenaded along Weston seafront lately? Even we are surprised at the transformation that has taken place since this administration was elected three and a half years ago. Whilst everyone rightly praises the £50 million investment in the Pier, it is worth mentioning that the Council run works have doubled that overall investment, ranging from Marine Lake to Royal Sands, Pier Square and most recently the new art and landscaping that has taken place under the Wonders of Weston project....and your local Councillors have been very much leading from the front. Now we have exciting plans for Dolphin Square and the Tropicana unfolding too.

Never think being a North Somerset Councillor is boring !

**Cllr Elfan Ap Rees
01934 824758**

**Cllr Terry Porter
01934 813399
Mobile 07989 85533**

From the Editor



Recycling surprise

The one thing the Editor wasn't looking forward to in the recycling revolution was the separation of food waste.

The prospect of a "swill bin" in the kitchen was one that did not please. But I have to admit that I have been pleasantly surprised at how easy it all is.

There isn't a horrible messy bin or nasty smell to deal with, and it has revealed just how much food waste we used to throw out. Seeing the bin fill up with our uneaten food has focussed us on reducing our food waste.

I had feared that lining the little kitchen bin would be a problem, as we don't take any newspapers, but it hasn't been a problem at all. We get our compostable starch bags from Proper Job at less than 7p each. Hopefully, as we begin to manage our purchasing of food and portion control better we will be wasting even less. Good result!

Guard your mobile library



Undoubtedly, one of the services currently under review at North Somerset Council is the mobile library service.

No replacement vehicle

I'm a bit alarmed to hear that the promised new replacement library vehicle is yet to be ordered from a manufacturer. It was originally promised for this year! This means that the current vehicle is covering the whole District. What will happen when servicing and repair costs become uneconomic? It will be an easy target for the cuts. *Editor*

Thatchers invest in Shiplate orchards

With its purchase of over 180 acres of land on Shiplate's sunny slopes a local cider producer has doubled its amount of orchard under cultivation.



Thatchers Cider has acquired over 180 acres of new orchard at Shiplate, just 8 miles away from its own Myrtle Farm in Sandford, where the Thatcher family has pressed cider since 1904.

This means that Thatchers has now more than doubled the acreage it has under orchard, and will allow the company to increasingly meet the growing demand for its Somerset ciders with its own apples.

Thatchers chairman John Thatcher says that they will **planting upwards of 70,000 new trees at Shiplate over the next two years**, with a further 30,000 at Thatchers other orchards in and around Sandford.

He explains, "We started to plant at Shiplate this spring, but this is a long

term project - the trees will be ready to crop commercially in around ten years time. We'll be including some of our favourite traditional cider apples, Tremlett's Bitter and Dabinett there, as well as some other later cropping varieties, Angela, Prince William and Harry Masters Jersey, which will be used across our range of blended ciders."

This year's planting has the addition of a new ten acre orchard at Sandford including over 2,000 new Katy trees. The Katy apple is used in Thatchers popular Katy and Katy Rosé ciders.



As well as the orchards, Thatchers has also taken on 100 acres of arable land in Shiplate, which will be given over to maize, as well as a 1.5 acre vineyard, which will be a project for the future.

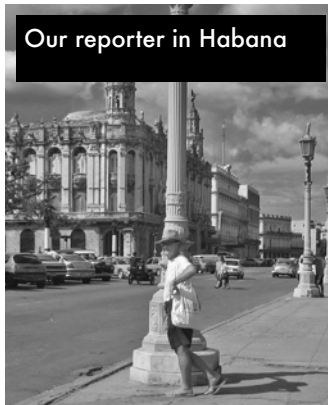
"For us to maintain the quality and character of our ciders, it's important to us to use a high percentage of our own apples," continues John. "And with the increasing volumes of cider that we produce – upwards of 40 million pints last year - the purchase of the land at Shiplate has been integral to the ongoing success of our business."

Our Bleadon bags get about

Penny atop the Apponale Tower at Lake Garda



Our reporter in Habana



Joanna at Petra

Jill wins the wine this issue for taking her bag all the way to the Great Wall of China



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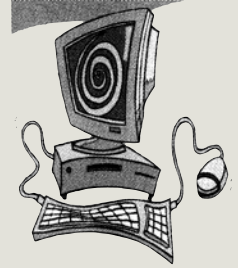
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Bleadon Parish Council 2nd Mon 7.30pm

Tuesdays

Bleadon Ladies Club 2nd Tues 2.30-4pm

Short Mat Bowls 2.30-4.30pm Sept-May

Bleadon Brownies** 6-7.30 pm

Bleadon Guides** 7.30-9.00 (term time)

Bleadon Photographic Group 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th Tues 7.30 pm (Sept-May)

Bleadon Horticultural Soc 3rd Tues 7.30 pm (Oct-June)

Wednesdays

Toddler Group 9.30-11.30

Yoga Class** 9.30-10.30

Bleadon Players/Rehearsals 7.30pm

Thursdays

Bleadon Art Group** 10-noon

Bleadon WI 7.30 2nd Thurs

Bleadon Folk Dancing Group 8pm 3rd Thurs (Sept-June)

Bleadon Sugarcraft Club 7.30pm 4th Thurs

Fridays

Bleadon Friendship Club 2-4pm

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

Saturdays

Village Market 9-12.30 3rd Saturday

Sundays

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

**in the Jubilee Room

See notice board for contact details

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

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

If you've got an event happening in Bleadon for village people and you want to promote it on these pages, just let me know in plenty of time.

The next Bleadon Village News will be published in mid March.

I need your copy by 25 Feb.

Email:

bleadon.editor@btinternet.com

What's on

A round-up of what's happening in Bleadon in the coming months



Sunday Club

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



Monthly Village Market

In the Coronation Halls on the **third Saturday of every month** From 9am - 12.30pm. Dozens of stalls packed with delights. The usual refreshments and a chance to catch up with friends.

Bleadon Baby & Toddler Group

In the Coronation Hall **Wednesday mornings** from 9.30 - 11.30 during term time. Open to all pre-school children in the village and the surrounding area. With a range of activities which take place each week including arts and crafts, singing and a soft play area for babies. Visitors provide exciting fun events.

Its a great opportunity for your children to play! And for you to meet other mums, dads and grandparents, come along any Wednesday.

Bleadon Ladies Club

Tues 11 January

Tim Lewis and Shelia Furnecuix

"Glorious Mud"

A musical afternoon

Tues 8 February

Mrs Pauline Aldis

"Cheese maker"

Cheese for sale after talk.

Each month a good speaker, a quiz, tea and biscuits and the chance to make new friends. For more information ring Barbara on 814362

Bleadon Players

This year's pantomime has been specially written for us and Bleadon by Brenda and Steve Shrewsbury. Loosely based on Cinderella it's a tale of dark deeds and general mayhem. Sir Simon Slyme is a talent show entrepreneur, and wicked uncle of Cindy. Not only has he tricked poor Cindy out of her inheritance, but, in league with the Coronation Hall committee he is planning to sell off Bleadon to a chain of supermarkets. This is his last show before it is demolished. Add his lovely daughters Daphne and Vanda....

...what could go wrong? Find out on **January 6, 7 and 8th at 7.30.**

Matinee at 2.30 on Sat 8th.

Tickets £6/£3 at the Post Office or on the door.



Bleadon Horticultural Society

2011 will be kicked off on **Tuesday 18 January** when Terry Porter will be the guest speaking when his subject will be "Going for gold at Chelsea and Hampton Court"

"Gardening in the shade" with John Horsey will be the subject on

Tuesday 15 February.

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

The 37th Spring Flower Show will be held in the Coronation Hall at 2.30 pm. on **Saturday 13 March.**

For information call Chris Cudlipp on 813152.

Bleadon Youth Club

Open on **Thursday nights from 7pm until 9:30pm.** We charge £1 per session and welcome all young people aged 11 upwards with a focus on 13 -19 year olds.

We have an exciting array of activities planned for January - April. This includes :

- January 13 Street Dancing
- January 20 Trip to Barcode
- January 27 Multi-sports Coaching
- February 3 Gardening Project
- February 10 Street Dancing
- February 17 Multi-sports Coaching
- February 24 CLOSED
- March 3 Making pancakes
- March 10 Street Dancing and 'No Smoking Day' workshop
- March 24 Ice skating trip

Fresh Local Produce. Bread. Cheeses. Jams, Honey & Preserves. Somerset Beef. Fairtrade. Crafts. Handmade Jewellery. Books. Collectables. Bric-a-brac. Cards. Gifts. Refreshments & Gossip

Bleadon Village Monthly Market & community cafe

**SAT
15
JAN**

**SAT
19
FEB**

**SAT
19
MAR**

**SAT
16
APR**

**in the Coronation Halls / Youth Centre
from 9 to 12.30**

Call Joanne on 01934 812 370 for more info

Bringing our yesterdays to life

The Cider Trail feature in the last issue of Bleadon Village News revived memories of childhood days in Bleadon for Ken Durston.

I lived with my parents and four siblings, at No 1 Church Cottage and attended Bleadon Church of England School until I was 11 years old.

At the age of 10 my first job when I came home for dinner, was to call on Granny Watts (Gracie) who lived next door to the Post Office. Collect two pint bottles, and then go to the Victoria Inn where Miss Payne would fill them with rough cider, with a security tab over the stopper, I would return to her house.

I soon found a way of lifting the security tabs and many a summers' day would have a drink and then stop by the village pump to top up.

Granny Watts lived to a ripe old age and died during the war. Her out house building was used by the local NFS (National Fire Service) and housed the Studebaker Car which was used by the NFS during the war. This was the car that Miss Dingle bought to transport all us children to local hospitals and Barton Camp with Mr Over's fruit.

My Uncle George Durston who drove for R E Goodall, would be lent out for these trips. I often wonder what happened to this car as I was not demobbed from the army until 1947 and by then the NFS was broken up.

Bob Gay the local road sweeper was the man who entertained the Victoria Inn customers with his squeeze box. Many the nights after Home Guard Parades we would retire to the Vic and enjoy an hour or so of gutsy singing during the war.

My Grandfather used The Victoria for his pint of cider. Both my grandad and grandmother would drink a glass of cider with a meal. In fact grandad would have a glass of cider before going milking. They lived at No 3 Manor Villas and both lived to a good age.

Grandad smoked a pipe and it was not uncommon to see Grandmother having a puff before going to bed.

The Anchor Inn was also a keeper of cider and when Charlie Hart was landlord was very popular with his customers for serving a quality drink of cider to go with a hunk of bread and cheese and onion.

Even in recent years my brother-in-law who lived in Lympsham always had a gallon jar in his outhouse.

One last story when Jimmy Vowles workers returned to the farm over at South Hill from working down on the Bleadon Levels around 8 – 9 p.m. they would drive up Accommodation Road in convoy with at least 4 or 5 hay wagons each pulled by the magnificent Shire horses of the day. The drivers would park them along the Main Road and then go into the Anchor Inn for a drink before continuing the journey to South Hill Farm.

*Ken Durston
The Veale, Bleadon*

From Bleadon's photo archives we've selected these images of the area around the new Coronation Road bus shelter. They give a glimpse of halcyon days before the motor car dominated the village centre.



Our Big Society

Can you spare a few hours a month to help reduce traffic speeding through Bleadon?

Concerned about speeding traffic in Bleadon?

PCSO Emma Wright puts in a plea for a fresh band of volunteers to help tackle the problem of speeding motorists in our village.

This has been a cause of concern from residents and the parish council recently. One of the ways to help reduce speeding traffic has been by the implementation of a local **Speedwatch**, which is run by volunteers in conjunction with ourselves. With various groups of people monitoring traffic at various times, but on a regular and unpredictable basis, has kept motorists on their toes in other areas where Speedwatch operates.

Volunteers are trained to use the speed gun, and any information recorded will be checked on the Police National Computer. In the event that vehicles are found to be exceeding the speed limit the registered keepers will receive a warning letter from ourselves. As well as monitoring traffic independently, PC Church and myself are happy to assist the local Speedwatch teams as well.

If you can spare a few hours a month and are interested in helping with Speedwatch for Bleadon, please give me a ring on **01934 638123**.

PCSO Emma Wright



Bleadon road closures will mean traffic disruption from 4 Jan

Wessex Water is making improvements to the foul water sewer which serves Bleadon.

Work begins on Tuesday 4 January and will last approximately five weeks at the busy T-junction where Bridge Road meets Bleadon and Coronation Roads.

It will start in Bridge Road from the junction with The Barton and continue to Bleadon Road, ending at the junction with Amesbury Drive.

It will be necessary to close Bleadon Road from the junction with Bridge Road to Amesbury Drive. Bridge Road will also be closed from the Barton to Bleadon Road.

The two road closures should be in place at separate times during the five weeks of work. Thus allowing traffic to follow the sign-posted diversion routes in and out of Bleadon.

Photos from top left:
The Rectory long before it was replaced in the 60's; Post Office & Store; Mulberry Lane; Coronation Rd/Shiplate corner; bottom of Celtic Way; Newbay Stores; The Queens Arms and Newbay Stores.



Sociable Bleadon

Our Big Society

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.

Bleadon Short Mat Bowls

The open evening in September proved highly successful with 14 potential members turning up and 9 have subsequently become fully paid up members.

So far our league team have experienced mixed fortunes but of late positive results in matches will show an improvement in our league position.

In October we **celebrated 21 years** of existence so, in early November we held a **celebratory supper in the Coronation Hall**. Thanks to the hardworking members Doreen Ward and Lynn Riding, who worked on its organisation for weeks beforehand, the evening was a huge success. Over 50 members, past and present, attended and they enjoyed a lavish meal, with wine, which concluded with the cutting of the celebratory cake and a glass of champagne.

Doreen Ward also gave a short talk on the history of the club and produced photographs and paper work outlining the progress of the club including its annual bowls holidays and tours.

There are always vacancies for new members. Contact the Secretary, Leoni Rogers Tel: 811571.

Contactus

Exists to give help and local advice to all newcomers into the village. We visit those "just arrived" providing them with an attractive **Welcome to Bleadon pack** and the Village News. All new residents of the village are invited to an **annual welcome party**; this is a most pleasant occasion and provides the opportunity of making new friends in the community.

Contactus members here in Bleadon appreciate feedback when you arrive or move into the village. If you wish for more information and help with getting to know your new area please call me

Penny Skelley Tel: 815331



Seeking women with talent

The Women's Project, a North Somerset charity supporting women affected by abuse in the home, is holding a **'Women's Got Talent Night'** on 5 February 2011 at Bleadon's Coronation Hall.

They are looking for acts to compete for the coveted prize trophy. If you are a woman with talent, please get in touch ASAP for an application form. Ring Georgina on 01934 814237 or email gcp123@btinternet.com.

May Day Fayre 2011

The May Day Fayre for 2011 is currently in the planning stage and it is hoped to vary the format slightly. However we are very short of helpers and are seeking more people to involve themselves in the preparation and on the day. More information can be obtained from the Chairman, Graham Rogers Tel: 811571.



Catherines Inn bonfire party

Bonfire Night was celebrated with a huge bonfire and a spectacular firework display at the Catherines Inn this year. Drizzly rain wasn't allowed to dampen the spirits of the hundreds of people who turned up for the free show.

Clic-Sargent benefited too on the night. The landlord's chosen charity raised over £110. Collectors Sharon and David Trotter, Jackie Lovering and Gordon Cassidy worked the crowd into digging out their small change.





Punch and Pie

The annual Church fund-raiser packed the Coronation Hall on Saturday 11th December. Advertised as a **Village Affair** the delightfully sociable evening was just that. With carols that we all actually knew and live music from *Brass Attack*. Ren and Jeanette kept the mulled wine flowing and the mince pies were piled high.

With over 30 raffle prizes, I'm sure no table went away empty handed. The hall was packed with families of all ages enjoying an evening of singalong music and good humour.



Coffee, cakes and friends

The Friendship Club worked hard to attract a celebratory crowd to their Coffee Morning in the Autumn.

Jeff demonstrated his *Master Baker* skills with a tasty selection of cakes and pastries. Mary's cupcakes were a tower of sweet delight. Cuddly toys, fragrant bathroom essentials and raffle prizes help generate welcome funds for future Friendship frolics.



Christmas Market

Freezing conditions and icy roads didn't keep the visitors away from the annual Christmas Market.

With over 40 stalls in the Coronation Halls and Youth Centre there was plenty to please the punters. Many early Christmas bargains were snapped up by eagle-eyed shoppers.

Bacon sandwiches, mulled wine and hot mince pies helped keep the chill at bay. A rosey cheeked Santa and his elfish helpers were kept busy in the Youth Centre Grotto checking on what the village youngsters wanted for Christmas.



Young achievers

Youth Club leaders are rightly proud that 10 young members of Bleadon Youth Club have worked towards and achieved a North Somerset Youth Award during 2010. All these youngsters and their families were invited to attend the NS Award Ceremony at the Winter Gardens on an evening in early November. Well done to everyone involved.

Youth Club membership is thriving with around 25 - 30 young people regularly attending on a Thursday evening. With the assurance of some funding from the Management Committee the youth workers are able to put on a steady programme of events and activities that provide opportunity for young people to have fun.

Youngsters are able to meet new friends, build positive relationships, take part in decision making, learn new skills and build confidence.

Sociable Bleadon

In October our lovely Parish Church was blessed with a visit from the Llantrisant Male Choir. It was a wonderful evening of harmonious voices and company. Thanks to the Friends of the Church for organising the concert. I understand that the boys from the valleys then went on to sample some proper English ales at the Anchor and the singing continued until the wee hours!



Will you be voting next May?

On May 5th you will have the opportunity to elect your **nine Parish Councillors** and your **two District Councillors**. If you care about how Bleadon Parish Council and North Somerset Council are managed you will, no doubt, want to express your preferences. Before you can do so you need to be Registered to Vote.

In September every property will have received a registration form. If you completed and returned the form and still live in the same house you will have been registered to vote. If you failed to return a completed form then you will miss out unless you register quickly with North Somerset Council. **You can apply to register to vote at any time** and if you're not yet registered, you've moved or your details change you can apply to:

Electoral Services,
North Somerset Council,
Town Hall,
Weston-super-Mare
BS23 1UJ
Tel: 01934 634909
or go on-line to: electoral.services@n-somerset.gov.uk

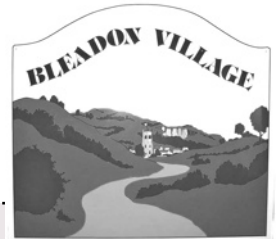
Will you be heard?

The **Parish Council meets** on the **second Monday of the month** at 7.30pm in the Coronation Hall. **An Agenda** is published on the Parish notice boards and the website at least three days before the meeting.

We welcome parishioners to attend meetings and see what we do.

Parishioners' Voice is your opportunity at the start of each meeting for you to talk briefly to the Council about any issues you have.

If there is a particular issue you would like to raise please let the Parish Clerk know by the Friday before the meeting. This will give him the chance to collect the most up-to-date information available.



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

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

Email:
bruce.poole2@btopenworld.com

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

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
David Plaister	Mulberry House, Roman Rd, Bleadon	Tel: 814 612
Keith Pyke	8 Whitegate Close, Bleadon	Tel: 813 127
Mary Sheppard	Littlewood, Bridgwater Road, Lympsham	Tel: 812 921

Bonfires and bangers



Catherine's Inn treated its drizzle-drenched customers to a wonderful free show of fireworks and a giant bonfire. The bangers and burgers went down a treat - as did the ales!

Philip and Suzanne celebrated their recent move into the Rectory with a house-warming and bonfire party. The Ploughman's kebabs were probably a "first" for Bleadon, and the novelty proved to be very popular with guests.



Seasons greetings
to all our readers