

Bleadon village

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news

Autumn 2011 - Issue 90

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**BEST
IN
FEST**



Scarecrow Fest - all at sea
A life in the Raj rediscovered

Budget cuts affect Bleadon

EXCLUSIVES !

Marshall's quarry development



Summer Show photo feature
Your directory of local business
What's on in Bleadon
and so much more

Hello sailor!

The August Bank Holiday weekend welcomed a flotilla of nautical scarecrows to Bleadon. Pirates, Popeye & Olive, mermaids, Sponge Bob, fishermen, sharks and real fish featured. Congratulations to Tracey & Abbey Delafield and Bleadon WI for their brilliant winning scarecrows



Due to technical reasons, please contact your usual supplier for more information. We will be happy to assist you. Let us know how we can help you. 21



SUNDAY 28th AUGUST
CREAM TEAS IN THE CORONATION HALL
(£2.50)
2pm to 4pm



Dear Bleadon, thank you for all your prayers, thoughts and kind words to me over the past weeks. Your support and encouragement has meant a great deal to me at this very difficult time.



Perhaps I need to reassure some of you that I do not intend to become a recluse. Nor will I leave this place I love in the near future. I have been proved correct, in that the words I wrote in the last Village News - "my favourite place to be is at home in Bleadon" couldn't have been more perfectly true.

A good summer, I use that word advisedly, for Bleadon with many happy events taking place. Many of which are covered in this exclusive magazine and in the local press. With sunny weather, the Bleadon Royal Do and the May Day Fayre getting us off to a brilliant start. Celebration of the church bells, nautical scarecrows, cream teas, pork & cider, group outings and much more fun all added up to Bleadon at its best!

Next year we will have a Civic Service in April and a Diamond Jubilee to celebrate nationally in early June.

The parish council team is proud to serve our whole community, so please tell us your aspirations and ideas. Your input is vital for the way we work.

Not an original thought but - village life is a health provider for the soul.

Penny Skelley

Chairman Bleadon Parish Council

Editor's view

I owe some of you readers an apology.

Some have interpreted my editorial comments and views as expressing the view of the parish council. That is not the case.

Please take it that views expressed in Bleadon Village News are those of the contributor or the editor unless, of course, I make it clear that the view being expressed is that of the the parish council as a corporate body.

When I write or report in this magazine it is as editor, not as a parish councillor. I hope that clears up that little misunderstanding.



Which allows me now to move on to briefly outline my understanding of planned developments in the Marshalls quarry.

Marshalls quarry development

The parish council (and many residents) have been aware for some time that Marshalls have plans for the development of their Bridge Road manufacturing and distribution site.

Those of you who attended the Bleadon Parish Plan meetings six years ago may recall that Richard Raper (Marshalls appointed Planning Consultant) then raised the possibility of future development on the site. Since then Marshalls have been very transparent and open in keeping the parish council and North Somerset Council abreast with their thinking.

The facts:

- Marshalls are planning to expand their Newport site to create a modern high capacity manufacturing facility for the south west. This development work should be completed in 2013.
- The Bleadon quarry site will close following the commissioning of that development in 2013. Staff have been kept informed and all those who want will be moving to Newport to work.
- Neither Marshalls nor the parish council want the Bleadon quarry site to be left derelict or unsafe.
- Over the next two years Marshalls will be preparing for a

redevelopment of this brownfield site as a mixed residential site by seeking planning consent. This work will be carried out in tandem with their Newport development to ensure that the Bleadon site is not left vacant.

- Under planning policy, this mixed residential site will include some affordable housing.
- The local architectural firm of Carlisle Jessop has just been appointed as architects by Marshalls, who will be working up development plans for the site. Find out more about this Wells based team at: www.carlislejessop.co.uk
- The first briefing session between Marshalls and the architects took place on 7th September, so things are at a very early stage. No designs or proposals have been put on paper.
- Numerous technical studies will have to be undertaken before any firm plans can be developed. These include ecology, drainage, flood risk, geo-environmental, highways etc.
- Marshalls hope to be able to display their draft plans to the Bleadon community before Christmas. This will be in the form of an exhibition staffed over a few days.

In the meantime, the parish council and Marshalls will work together to ensure that we all get the best for Bleadon and its present and future community.

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 Winter edition is Friday 18 November 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 editor. We are grateful to the band of volunteers who deliver this newsletter to households. If you can help let me know.

Send contributions to:

**Keith Pyke, Village News Editor
8 Whitegate Close,
Bleadon BS24 0PW**

bleadon.editor@btinternet.com

Tel: 01934 813 127

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

NEWS & gossip



Tree fellas

A 40 foot Sycamore tree has been a problem for Mulberry Lane residents at the southern boundary of the churchyard.

The 30 year old tree was a risk to the ancient boundary stone wall and in the Autumn its massive leaf fall created problems for the drains in the area.

Because it is a closed churchyard the problem tree was the responsibility of the parish council. The council brought in Andy Thorne's Tree Services to fell the problem. Within three hours the landmark tree was down and cleared from site.

Water park progress

Alistair and Rob House report on progress at their Weston Water Park leisure development alongside Accommodation Road.

Things are progressing well, but we hadn't realised quite how many hoops there were going to be to jump through!

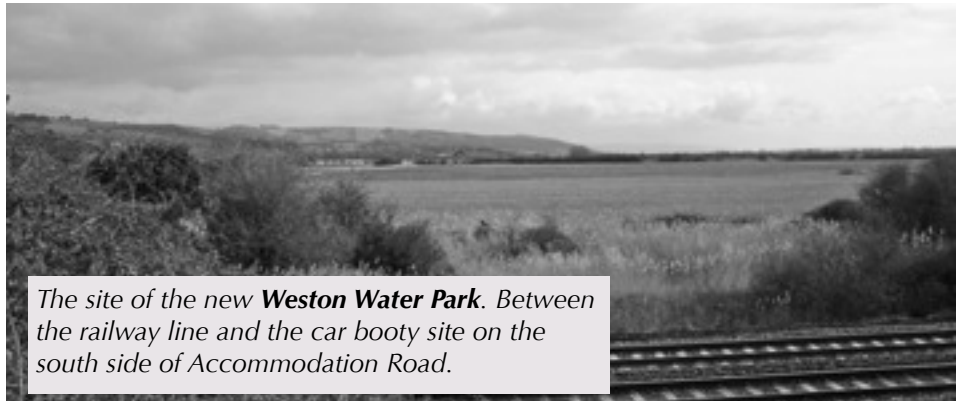
There have been a few delays with ground nesting birds delaying the construction by around four months, but the supply of spoil coming from the Wessex Water Treatment Works has been delayed similarly!

We have created the new entrance and testing and analysis of the ground conditions are under way. Regarding the second phase of planning applications, we are about to put an amended application to the planners

as we have made a few minor adjustments to the position of the first lake. We are working towards the opening of the facility for spring 2013. A website is being developed and we plan to run a series of evening presentations to show the public more of what we are hoping to build during the autumn.

We'll keep you posted in future issues of Bleadon Village News. Or if you want to find out more contact Alistair at: a.house@farmline.com

Alistair House



The site of the new Weston Water Park. Between the railway line and the car boot site on the south side of Accommodation Road.



Rebecca Atkins, Jade Rogers and Anouska Pyke are the new Owls leading the Bleadon Brownies.

Looks like Bleadon Brownies will be a Hoot after all!

Following an appeal from the outgoing Brownie leaders in the last issue of Bleadon Village News we are delighted to report that the group has been saved from closure.

New leaders have been appointed to take over the unit starting Tuesday 13th September. The new leaders are Rebecca Atkins (Brown Owl), Anouska Pyke (Tawny Owl) and Jade Rogers (Snowy Owl).

The new leaders have lots of ideas and lots of fun to bring to the unit. This term alone as well as carrying on with the Brownie Adventure they will be looking at the writing badge and will have a local author coming to the unit. They also have lots of fun with games, crafts and many more activities planned, ending the term with a Christmas masquerade party.

So if you are a girl, aged between 7 and 10 who loves having fun, playing games, making things and enjoying helping others then maybe you should become a Brownie. The Brownie unit meets on a **Tuesday Evening from 6.00 - 7.30** so if you are interested please contact *Rebecca, (Brown Owl) on 751003.*

Brownies look forward to seeing you and having lots of fun!!!

NEWS

Our Big Society

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

Bleadon Youth Club faces threat of closure...

Despite being one of the most successful clubs in the District our youth club is one of many clubs facing up to the threatened withdrawal of North Somerset Council funding for the Youth Service.

For nearly 50 years the Bleadon club has been run by the principal local authority. Firstly Somerset County Council, then Avon and now North Somerset. The councils have, over the years, funded and provided the youth workers that manage and run the Thursday evening club for our village youngsters. In addition the council have contributed around £800 each year towards the cost of the building. It's not much out a total building running cost in excess of £4000, but it's a big help.

We've been very fortunate - not many villages the size of Bleadon have the benefit of such provision for their young people.

As part of the financial review now being undertaken by North Somerset Council the Youth Service appears to be in line for particularly savage cuts with possible reductions far in excess of the 40% savings planned across the whole authority. The money they do retain will be targeted at the 300 or so problem and vulnerable families in the District.

In other words, the Youth Service becomes another social service providing for only the most needy in our society.

The likely result will be that North Somerset will no longer be responsible for leading or funding the delivery of youth clubs like Bleadon's.

If we are to lose our youth workers and the financial support of North Somerset we clearly need to quickly find other ways of providing a youth club in the village. It appears, at the moment, that the current financial support may cease at the end of March 2012. So we have six months to find a solution.

It's alarming that North Somerset Council have yet to talk to Youth Club Management Committees or parish councils about the threat to Youth Clubs' futures. We are only finding all this out through the back door!

.... or an opportunity for Bleadon to excel?

Bleadon's Youth Club Management Committee is now busy talking to North Somerset councillors and staff to seek ways of preventing the loss of our club because of the withdrawal of professional youth workers and funding.

Whilst we welcome the ideas and options that are beginning to come forward, our real stumbling block will be funding of the three youth workers needed to provide our young people with a dynamic programme of activities and professional support.

North Somerset Council expect **"local community groups, parish councils and parents to be more involved in taking responsibility for running youth clubs"**. This is the reality of the much vaunted *Big Society*.

But managing and inspiring young people in the challenging and sometimes vulnerable 11 to 17 age group can be difficult. This requires the professional expertise of adults trained to support and develop youngsters. It's not a role that can easily be filled by volunteer parents.

One option may be that we hire in professional youth workers (if available locally) on an hourly basis. This could significantly reduce staffing costs. Working with the management committee they would draw up a programme of positive activities for our young people.

Bleadon Youth Club already attracts youngsters from nearby villages. With some help from partner parish councils like Lympsham, Hutton and Uphill we could become a local hub for managed young people activities.

The Youth Club is well blessed with assets:

- We own the Youth Centre building
- The building is tired but well equipped for youngsters
- The club is well attended (36 youngsters came to the club on the last session before the summer break) and continues to be one of the most successful in the District
- The youngsters are enthusiastic and love the club
- Adjacent safe play area is well used on youth club nights
- Has support from Bleadon Parish Council
- Has an enthusiastic and supportive management committee which already provides £100 every month towards activities for the young people

So, it's not all doom and gloom.

But we will need your support and encouragement.

Keith Pyke, Chairman Youth Club Management Committee

NEWS & VIEWS

"Bleadon hasn't lost its bus service and won't if I have anything to do with it"

Elfan Ap-Rees, Deputy Leader, North Somerset Council in response to an email from our Bleadon Parish Clerk.

Bleadon's bus service under review by North Somerset

At the end of July we lost our bus service to the Veale. Now our entire 83 bus service is under scrutiny as part of the cost-cutting review being undertaken by North Somerset Council.

The 83 bus service is financially supported by North Somerset, so it is little wonder that it is now being looked at as a potential part of the 40% budget reduction being sought by the council.

A two week bus-user **consultation** was started by North Somerset Council in July. Unfortunately for bus users, they managed to keep the consultation a pretty good secret.

When challenged about this oversight the following response was forthcoming from David Turner, Director of Development & Environment at North Somerset:

*The public sector is facing enormous challenges in the coming years, with significantly reduced budgets. This means **we may not be able to continue to run supported bus services in North Somerset in the same way we do now.** We are, therefore, starting to look at the network to consider how it could be redesigned to minimise the impact on bus passengers and local communities and to meet any revised budget.*

*Consequently the Public Transport Team was asked to undertake some general public consultation on council supported bus services. As part of this exercise we are seeking views from the public and key stakeholders such as local Parish Councils on supported services in their area. We will be **considering all potential options, which could include withdrawing services, introducing new ones and/or providing new and innovative transport solutions that are more affordable. Some services will continue as they are, and some may change.***

*The bus user consultation has been running for two weeks 13-29 July, but will now be extended to **12 August** to take account of concerns raised by councillors. It takes the form of a questionnaire which is accessible via our website and paper copies which are available in libraries.*



*We have also been contacting **Parish Councils, Bus Operators and other Stakeholders** (e.g. disabled groups) directly and in view of the need for these groups to meet and agree responses the **closure date for this consultation process is the end of September.** The Public Transport Team have also offered to meet with Parish Councils to discuss views or local proposals.*

Can I reaffirm that at this stage the consultation is only gathering general information and views, rather than the details of specific services.

Public consultation now closed, but.....

As the unpublicised public consultation finished on 12th August you probably missed the opportunity to have your say directly via the website. But all is not yet quite lost.

Bus users need to immediately **lobby the parish council and our District councillors if they wish to have a say on the future of our bus service.** The parish council has just until the end of September to present a case.

This valued service is an essential lifeline for many Bleadon residents who rely on a regular service into Weston and the hospital. Let us all hope that district councillor Ap-Rees's undertaking to defend the bus service in Bleadon carries some weight with the axe wielders at North Somerset.

Editor

No surprise!

Villagers who came to the Annual Parish Meeting in April, or read the back cover of the Spring issue Bleadon Village News will remember that I warned of the

severe effects of forthcoming cuts in council budgets. I asked you to start thinking of other ways that we can provide services threatened with closure. That's if you still want them.

Shall we say that the response was disappointing!

Well, the time has come.....

...to look out for our:

- Youth Club
- Bus service
- Public toilets
- Mobile library
- Community transport

NEWS

Potholes and resurfacing completed

In July we saw the long awaited repair of numerous potholes and surface patching through the village towards Loxton. Then in August the main road through from the Catherines Inn to Loxton was surface dressed. Resident reporter *Charlie Reeves* was on hand to record the surface dressing work.



How long is it since any of us saw the village centre empty of all parked cars?

Mobile library

Stops in
Coronation
Road every
other Friday
from 10.40 to 12.40.

It's easy and free to join: just take along some identification that shows your name and address and you can join and borrow items straight away. If you have a North Somerset library card you can use it on the mobile library.

It carries a wide selection of books, suitable for all ages and including talking books and large print books. Reservations made on the mobile library are free so if they don't have the item you are looking for, staff will request it for you free of charge.

Ask the staff if you need the lift for access.

Items borrowed from the mobile library may be returned or renewed at any library in North Somerset, on-line or by calling 0845 022 0777; this is an automated, local rate service.

You will not be charged fines for any items borrowed from the mobile library which become overdue.



Churchyard bench gets a make-over

The parish council had received several comments about the somewhat over-enthusiastic natural distressing of the bench outside the church porch.

Tony the parish ranger has answered the call and with much elbow grease removed the patina of algy that had built up over the past 11 years.

Now we have a beautifully refurbished bench where villagers and visitors may enjoy a quiet moment.



Footpath improvements

Surface stone chippings have been laid along the section of public footpath in front of Bleadon House. Until now this short section of path had been grass and was a constant source of complaint about dog mess along the footway. The parish council hopes that the new gravel surface will discourage dog fouling and make access more comfortable for walkers during wet weather.

Nearby, the route to the allotments has also received a dressing of stone, making wet weather access easier to the allotments.



A grave uncovered, a life rediscovered

Penny Robinson discovered the amazing history behind an 1891 grave-stone when she investigated the life of Lt. John Sheffield Gilbert Riley - an officer in the Indian Army

In 2009 as part of a tidy up in our churchyard of St.Peter and St.Paul, Bleadon, a gravestone was uncovered which bore an inscription that aroused the curiosity of those who had found it. Although the lettering was very indistinct eventually the following was revealed:-

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF
LT. COL. JOHN SHEFFIELD
GILBERT RYLEY
LATE OF THE 5TH BENGAL LIGHT
CAVALRY
DIED IN BLEADON MAY 31ST
1891 AGED 83**



After some basic internet research I discovered that the 5th Bengal Light Cavalry along with other similar regiments had played quite an important role in the Anglo-Afghan and Sikh wars of the 19th century, as well as being heavily involved in the Indian Mutiny. This got me wondering about the life and exploits of this officer from the Indian army, and how he had come to end his days in Bleadon. To this end I posted a notice on the village website asking if anyone knew of the whereabouts of any of his descendants.

Earlier this year, having almost forgotten about it all, I was amazed to receive an e-mail from a Mr Hugh Davies informing me that his wife was a descendant of John Ryley, (distaff side), and he sent me some details concerning the life and career of our mystery Indian Cavalry officer.



Here is his story as far as we know it; most of the facts may be verified from official records of the time, along with historical details of the battles. Other information has been gleaned from Census records and various registry entries.

John was born on August 16th 1808 in London to John and Charlotte Catherine Ryley and was baptised in Marylebone several months later on February 17th 1809. At this time his father was a Justice of the Peace and may have been Deputy Lieutenant of Hertfordshire, therefore a man of good position

John attended Harrow school from 1823 -1825 and after becoming a cadet there he went on to pursue a military career, arriving in India in late 1826. Here he took up his post as a Cornet in the 1st Bengal Light Cavalry. This rank was the lowest grade of commissioned officer in the British Cavalry and his duties would have traditionally included carrying the standard or 'Cornet'. (After the Army Reform Act of 1871 this rank was replaced by that of 2nd Lieutenant).

Later in September of that year he was posted to the 2nd Bengal Light Cavalry and after promotion to Lieutenant eventually went on to become the Adjutant to this regiment in 1834, during the Jodhpur Administration.

It was at this time that he met Marianne Christian Walker Watkins and they were married in Delhi on September 20th 1838. Marianne herself came from a good army background, being the granddaughter of Mary Cooper (née Skinner) whose brother was Colonel James Skinner, founder of The First Bengal Cavalry, better known as Skinner's Horse. This was one of the most famous cavalry regiments during the turbulent times of the Raj.

In 1839, during the First Anglo-Afghan war John fought in the battle of Ghazni (or Ghuznee), famously a very bloody affair, and was awarded a medal for his services. After the disbandment of the 2nd Light Cavalry he went on to do duty with the 3rd Light Cavalry in 1841, following that he was posted to the newly raised 11th Light Cavalry in 1842 and then finally to the 5th Light Cavalry at the end of that same



Uniform of the 5th Bengal Light Cavalry



year. We next find him as Station Staff officer at Landour in 1844 where he stayed until 1848, during which time he was involved in the First Sikh War, a conflict between the British East India Company and the Sikh Khalsa Army. He was decorated further for his actions as Battalion captain during the battle of Sobraon in 1846; he went on to be involved in further engagements during the 2nd Sikh War and in 1848 was badly wounded at the battle of Ramnagar.

After this time we can only assume that John was no longer able to be a fighting cavalryman as his army record appears to end here and the next time we hear of him he is in Scotland with his family. The census of 1861 shows John and his wife living in Edinburgh along with their 3 young children, and Marianne's mother, Maria Watkins. They are maintaining a large house and employing at least four servants. 1871 finds them still there although by this time their son Sheffield doesn't appear on the list – sadly there is no further record of him so there is a possibility that he died in childhood.

At some point during the following twenty years John and Marianne moved from Edinburgh to Somerset, where they are listed, in the census of 1891 as living in 'Seaview', Bleadon, along with 2 servants. The reasons for the move will never be known but perhaps the sea air in this part of the world may have been more beneficial to their health; Weston-super-Mare at this time certainly had a reputation for being a favoured resort for Victorian society. After John's death in May of 1891, Marianne moved away from Bleadon to Surrey, where one of her daughters was residing, and she outlived her husband by some 23 years. The registration of her death in 1914 in the Croydon area shows her as being 96 years old at the time.

Researched and written by Penny Robinson

Sociable Bleadon

The Bleadon Horticultural Society annual coach outing took a packed bus-load of keen gardeners to the **RHS gardens at Rosemoor in Devon** in July. It was a great day out. Even intermittent grey skies could not dull the brilliance of this delightful garden. Spectacular flowers, dozens of different gardens, flower meadows, waterfalls, woodland walks and trees laden with fruit vied for our attention. An excellent Sole in caper butter was enjoyed by the Editor for lunch too!



You can bring our yesterdays to life

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

Photos and stories don't have to be very old. Many residents moved into the village during the house building boom of the 60s and 70s. You've probably got photos of the village and your family growing up here. We don't need to keep your original snaps. We'll scan them and archive them for future generations.

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Regular Coronation Hall events

Mondays

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

Tuesdays

Bleadon Ladies Club 2nd Tues 2.30-4pm
Short Mat Bowls 2.30-4.30pm Sept-May
Bleadon Brownies** 6-7.30 pm
Bleadon 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
Bleadon Pilates** 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**.

Business directory

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

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What's on

Bleadon events for your diary

Phoenix Quiz

The 3rd annual Phoenix Quiz is scheduled for **Saturday 19 November**, in aid of Bristol-based charity Clic Sargent (cancer and leukaemia in children).

The quiz will follow the traditional format, with **teams of not more than four**, tickets being available in due course from Bleadon Country Store or Les Masters (811976), at £7.50 each (including ploughman's supper).

There will as always be a bar, and every effort will be made to avoid running out of essential stock.

Last year's winners were from Weston so it behoves all good Bleadonians to muster strong teams and bring the title back to the village.

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.

Don't miss your chance to buy some unique local gifts and treats for friends and family at the special **Xmas market** on Saturday 3 Dec. It's usually a very packed house of seasonal delights.



Horticultural Society

Tuesday **October 18** Jean Drew will give a practical demonstration on **container gardening for the spring**.

Tuesday **November 15** Paul Gilmour from Cadbury Garden Centre will give a talk on **winter stems and berries**.

Tuesday **December 20** assuming no snow this year we will be holding a fun packed **beetle drive and American style buffet**.

All the events take place in the Coronation Hall at 7.30 pm. at just £1 admission for each event. There's no membership, anyone can pop along.

Chris Cudlipp, Tel: 813152



Croquet Club

Looking ahead to the winter months it is intended to run a **whist drive** on **Thursday afternoons** in the Coronation Hall starting on the 20th October. Although this is being run for the club members we would invite anybody who fancies a game of whist for a couple of hours on a Thursday afternoon to come and join us, all would be very welcome.

Contact for information Tel: 812128.

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

Bleadon Players

After a brief rest following "The Ghost Train" – thanks for coming – we have gone into rehearsal for our Autumn Production, **My Friend Miss Flint** by Donald Churchill and Peter Yeldham.

Tom Lambert is a T.V. Gardening Guru (Horticultural Society take note!) He has a visit from Mr Dobbs, a Tax Inspector, wanting to know the whereabouts of Miss Flint, who features comprehensively on Tom's tax returns. Tom has never heard of the lady. Events take a turn for the chaotic until all is revealed in Act II. Want to know how?

Come along to the Coronation Hall at 7.30 p.m. on **Thursday 6 October, Friday 7 October or Saturday 8 October**. Tickets will be on sale in Bleadon Country Store from September and are also available on the door at each performance.

Bleadon Ladies Club

We have a very good programme for you as we look forward to Autumn.

October 11 - **History and art of narrow boats** Mr C Pryer.

November 8 - **Don't put your daughter on the stage** Mr Robbie Burns

So you can see it is well worth paying us a visit. We meet the **second Tuesday of the month** in the Coronation Hall at 2.30 p.m. we are always happy to welcome new members.

Call Barbara on 8114362

Fresh Local Produce. 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

in the Coronation Halls
from 9 to 12.30

Call Joanne on 01934 812 370 for more info

SAT
17
SEPT

SAT
15
OCT

SAT
19
NOV

SAT
3
DEC

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.

The annual **Poppy Day** collection begins on Saturday 29 October, running through to **Remembrance Sunday on 13 November**.

There will as always be a house-to-house collection, and if nobody catches you in you will find collection boxes in the usual venues around the village.

We welcome **Hillcote** to our territory, where Caroline Bainton has agreed to be the collector, and Jane Derrick has taken over the **central village** section from Jill Walford, whose work commitments make it impossible for her to continue.

Last year we topped £1000 for the first time (our "grand" total !) so obviously we hope to better that this year. Start saving now! *Les Masters 811 976*

Bath Aqua Glass

Enjoy an evening discovering the beauty and secrets behind the crafting of Bath Aqua Glass on **Saturday 29 October at 7 for 7.30pm** in the **Coronation Hall**. Of course, there will be the opportunity to handle and maybe buy a unique piece of this handmade craftsmanship.

If that's not enough, there's **Bangers & Mash** washed down with a nice glass of wine. Tickets £7.50 from Brian Drinkwater, Tel: 813 636

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.

We have an exciting array of activities planned for the Autumn. Parents and youngsters are welcome to come along on a Thursday evening to check us out.

Come along to our **AGM on Thursday 22 September** at 6.30pm if you want to have a say in the future of the club.

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. To meet other mums, dads and grandparents come along any Wednesday.

Croquet

Weston croquet club have had a very successful summer both in events for members and as teams playing in the South West Federation Leagues. Both forms of croquet, Association and Golf are played at the club and Ed Coia captain of the Association team which play in the in the Central B League and Doug Norfolk captain of the Golf team which play in the South East A League were delighted with their teams performances finishing 2nd in both leagues, the highest position for each team in the club's history. The other 2 teams playing in their respective leagues finished a credible mid table which emphasises the growth of the club over the last 3 years in Bleadon.

The summer has brought other internal events for members, a golf ladder league was competed for in both singles and doubles matches of which the doubles was won by Roger and Shirley Buckley. The Association singles final was contested by Brian Robinson and Roger Buckley with Brian Robinson triumphant. Other internal matches plus organised croquet Monday to Friday afternoons has produced a summer of fun and competition.



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.

Cream teas and church bells

In July, whilst visitors to Rookery Nook enjoyed delicious cream teas in the sun-filled garden, nearby the bells ringers of St Peter & St Paul were pulling their Sallys and working up an appetite before joining them.

All this was to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the church bells and to raise funds towards the church. Well done to all who worked so hard.



Caring Bleadon

We are fortunate to live in a village where many people care enough to make a difference. These are just a few of the many good things going on

Bleadon to Afghanistan

In April the Bleadon WI gave a beautifully iced cake to be auctioned at the Bleadon Royal Do. It was purchased by Ian Heppenstall, whose wife Tracy has a son Ryan serving with 42 Commando Royal Marines in Afghanistan. The cake was sent to Afghanistan and was welcomed with open arms by Ryan and his colleagues. They are in the front line fighting the Taliban and making the local area safe for the local people.

Often the temperature is over 40 degrees and the troops survive mostly on ration packs. Tracy and others in the village regularly send 2kg **shoe box parcels** with little goodies and essential items, thereby making life in such hostile conditions a little more bearable

Contact Tracy at *Escape for details of the Shoe Boxes for Troops scheme.*



Desert endurance runner

Liz Wiggins is a villager about to undertake a huge challenge in November and raising money for Breakthrough Breast Cancer in the process. She is participating in a five day race in **Oman**. Running **195 kms and over 6000 feet of climb**. From the mountains to the sea through the dunes of the Wahiba desert.

Liz started running in 2002 when offered a place in the New York Marathon. Decided she quite enjoyed it so carried on running when she returned.

Roger Hart, also from the village, ran this race in 2009 and Liz has

persuaded him to go back to do it again this year!

She's running 75-80 miles a week in training at the moment. Which includes one long run of 20-25 miles, usually early on a Sunday morning. Liz quite often goes out at 6am and is back home in Bleadon for breakfast!

Liz says that her passion is with the endurance, but she also loves off road hill running much more than road running.

Liz's trip is entirely self funded and is raising money for Breakthrough Breast Cancer. You can find out more at www.justgiving.com/lizwiggins



On yer bike Chris

On 19th August I cycled 100 miles for Cancer Research UK. This was my third charity bike ride and probably the most enjoyable to date. It started with a cool misty morning with an amazing sunrise, then turned warm and sunny for the rest of the day.

I cycled from Bleadon to Taunton and back, then repeated the journey.

Thanks to all my family and friends for their support and donations. Thanks also

to my father-in-law, John Harris for preparing my bike for the trip.

I did this bike ride to raise money for cancer research, but also to raise awareness. Cancer affects so many of us at some point or another, and is always in need of more funding.

Please locate your local cancer research UK rep, if you decide to donate to this very worthy cause. Thank you,

Chris Parkinson



Village people

In the first of what we hope will be a regular feature
Royston Walters introduces a Bleadon villager



Alison Procter - author and artist.

If Alison Procter was part of your family she would be your favourite aunt. The one who allows elbows on the table, who is indulgent of those upliftingly lax vices others forbid, the one to whom you can confide secrets and inspires devotion in all who meet her. Adorable? Yes, but also fragrantly sharp, she cannot calmly countenance affectation or poor conduct.

Alison speaks with a breezy joy and makes and holds friendships fast, you can be with her for hours without feeling itchy or scratchy and in Bleadon most know her through her art. She has a passion for flowers, is a proud member of the Society of Botanical Artists and opens her house to exhibit her paintings during North Somerset Arts week.

By her own admission her upbringing was privileged compared with many, she is one of three children, the only daughter of doting parents who both were doctors. They were a three car family, quite something in the Thirties, they employed a nanny, a cook and a lady who mended, more than that, the house boasted a full size billiard table.

One evening after a dinner party Alison hid under the the billiard table and while there drew a chicken, a modest enough subject but when

produced for all the guests to see, the drawing drew amazed gasps that one so young could be so accomplished. This was her first memory of any of her drawings being considered as having some merit though she had been drawing since she could remember and when paper was in short supply during the war she drew on the wall above her bed.

The sylvan setting of Alison's childhood idyll was shattered when she was nine, her father died quite suddenly of a stroke, her mother and her childhood were never to recover and she was sent to boarding school. Alison proved to be academically bright and the school recognised and encouraged her artistic flair but while her brothers went on to become a doctor and an architect when it came for Alison to leave school there was little money left for further education, she had pleaded to be allowed to study at art school but her mother dismissed the idea in strident tones saying she'd end up living in a garrett. Alison joined the Westminster Bank and hopes of becoming an artist drifted like a helium balloon caught on a thermal.

She married when 22 and had a daughter, Carol. Time has a peculiar gravity and irrevocable loss visited Alison's life again when on a trip to the coast with family and friends, her husband left them to take a dip and didn't return. He drowned, the victim of a rip tide. Married less than five years, she was left with a sixteen month old child and so many pieces of the jigsaw missing. In these circumstances we could forgive Alison for finding it difficult to believe that the universe is in perfect balance and that everything will turn out to be like baby bear's porridge..you know...just right...but when going to the bad, fate can sometimes be poetic. On the very same day that her husband died, another marriage, 150 miles away, ended.

Alison and Tony married, had a son Nigel, and it was some time before

domestic rituals allowed her interest in painting to reignite, she joined an evening class which taught painting but never considered her efforts worthy of note. During this time however her artistic talents did find an outlet in cake decoration, especially with her beloved flowers.



Amazingly, all these flowers really are made from icing

Alison's fame grew throughout the country and she became a member and eventually a judge with the British Sugarcraft Guild. She, with Tony in support, travelled the world holding teaching seminars and exhibitions, she became luminescent in the sugarcraft firmament. Then for two weeks every year she held tutorials at Hutton village hall and fervent students from all over the world came to learn the skills she was eager to pass on. She has written several books among which is 'Simplifying Sugar Flowers' which has become the definitive work on the subject, it still has five star reviews on Amazon and continues to sell 2000 voluptuous copies a year. On the back of this steady advance Tony started and continues to run a very successful business manufacturing and supplying accessories to the sugarcraft industry. The price of these achievements was in time and effort and the pressure to fulfill all their commitments became too great to remain as a full time occupation.



Tony and Alison have lived in Bleadon for 46 years and the extra time retirement created found shape, of course, in painting. She is prolific and her subjects diverse though her skills are at their most potent, and her heart most at ease, when painting flowers. Flowers?!! I know, there will be those of you out there who have a shuddering aversion to the sticky sweetness of the kind of illustrations which ornament the top of chocolate boxes and biscuit tins but Alison's work gloriously exemplifies the antithesis of this genre and I commend her paintings as elegant enough to challenge the most vehemently held of prejudices even though she requires no modified rapture from anyone. Her paintings grace walls on five continents and commissions arrive regularly.

As in all the best interviews the subject is asked about a favourite book and piece of music but I couldn't pin her down. Her nominated book would be any study of wild flowers, which she would read for hours, and as for music, while sitting by the fireside, her preference would be for anything Baroque. So while Tony and Alison are relaxing their genes are out there playing their role to perfection, four grandchildren, across a spectrum of disciplines, are richly endowed with an innate artistic grace and style.

One's occupation should never be a real test of worth and acceptability but still, I can't help but stand in amazed admiration of this one household in our little village.



Words and pictures
by Royston

Help plant up our village tubs ready for Spring

If you can spare an hour on **Saturday 22 October** to help plant up our village flower tubs please join the merry band of volunteers in the car park at 10am. Just bring a trowel, a bin bag and a hand-full of community spirit.



Could you be getting some financial help?

Fifty pounds a week more pension; fifty pounds a week towards your rent; twenty pounds a week towards your council tax - these are not pie-in-the-sky figures but actual increases obtained by retired people after a benefits check at our local Citizens Advice Bureau.

I know because I have calculated these and many more since becoming a volunteer adviser there two years ago. Not everyone is entitled, of course, but a surprising number of people are, without being aware of it.

For example, a couple whose joint income from all sources is less than £209 a week will have it topped up to that amount and have all their council tax paid (and their rent, if any). Couples with an income quite substantially above that may still qualify for help. Other factors such as the amount of savings may influence the outcome, but if you think there is a chance you might benefit **drop in at the bureau in Wadham Street any Mon, Tues, Wed or Fri from 9.30** onwards (best to arrive early). If you just have an odd question or two feel free to email me at: lesleymasters246@btinternet.com.

Above all, do not think of this as cadging or scrounging; well-to-do farmers and property developers have no qualms about claiming all the subsidies or grants going.

Les Masters



16 year old Hannah Skelley took her Bleadon bag all the way to Dubai in July.

Penny's grand-daughter was visiting her dad in the Gulf during the summer holiday break from her school in Hull.

Here we see her in front of the iconic Burj al Arab (Tower of the Arabs) luxury hotel in Dubai.

Has your Bleadon bag got a travellers tale to tell? Send your photos to:

bleadon.editor@btinternet.com

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

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

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

You will be heard

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

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

Bruce Poole,
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



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

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

Dear Editor ...thanks

I should like to say how much I enjoy the bell ringing and congratulate the ringers who delight us week by week. It may be my imagination but they seem to get better and better as the years go by. I have been meaning to write for months and then the article in your last Village News spurred me on.

Whilst I'm at it, I should also like to thank the editor for his lively, interesting style and for making the newsletter so enjoyable. The larger font also makes it easier for elderly eyes!

Yours sincerely,
Pearl Crompton
Hillside Cottage

Ed says: Spare my blushes Pearl. Here at BVN's production offices we do try to inform, stimulate and entertain our readers each quarter.

And if anyone is interested in becoming a bellringer I'm sure that Peter Maffey and the crew would welcome you with open arms. Ring 813 285.



I am writing to say how very much we enjoyed the 'Royal Wedding Do' evening celebration in the village.

The band was excellent (and at times, the dancing was amazing!), the pig roast was delicious and all in all we had a really memorable evening. It was clear that a lot of careful planning and hard work had gone into making the day so successful and we would like to applaud all those involved. Very well done!

Best Wishes

Linda and Richard Hazzard
(Hillcote)

Ed says: I'm a bit late with this "thank you", but we were rather pushed for space in our bumper summer edition of Village News. Better late and all that...

Your contributions to Bleadon Village News are always welcome. If you've got a story to tell or a constructive comment to make please send it to:
bleadoneditor@btinternet.com
or mail to 8 Whitegate Close, Bleadon BS24 0PW

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
Miles Orme	Purn House, Bleadon Road, Bleadon	07989 410767
David Plaister	Mulberry House, Roman Rd, Bleadon	Tel: 814 612
Keith Pyke	8 Whitegate Close, Bleadon	Tel: 813 127
Mary Sheppard	Littlewood, Bridgwater Road, Lympsham	Tel: 812 921

Bowls, rail and sail

For the Bleadon Short Mat Bowls Club seasonal day out this year, forty-nine members and friends of the club travelled to Paignton, starting point for a delightful rail and river experience.

The event is again crisply organised by Malcolm – he wearing the high-visibility hat – and Grace his attractive assistant. Out train is drawn by a Class7800 steam loco No7827 'Lyndham Manor' (now properly restored to its dignified BR black livery) which does indeed depart a bit BR late.

It is perfect weather for the half-hour journey to Kingswear: Picture postcard scenes of Broadsands and Dittisham, crossing viaducts and through a tunnel courtesy of I K Brunel, (should have taken more note of these folks!).

However, it's a proper steam experience with smells, smuts and smoke plus the real chance of some coal grit in the eye when going through Agatha's tunnel.

The ferry 'cross the river to Dartmouth brought some time to shop and eat. Beware, not a smart venue if you're planning an illicit weekend – there's a photographer on every corner! Boarding the 'Dart Explorer' mid-afternoon for an hour-long harbour cruise, the summer sun still shining, our skipper keeps us amused with his tall tales of the river bank. A prompt return to Kingswear ensures seats for the return to Paignton and the homeward coach.

Grace was soon upping and downing the aisle like Elizabeth Taylor. The duty raffle was duly drawn, Audrey claiming the sought-after alcohol, and quiz answer sheets issued. Malcolm's fixation with the length of Mr Brunel's accomplishments is again apparent, (last year the suspension bridge). Now he is asking the extent of his tunnel and viaducts; with the usual threats made against googleing blackberry users, (as if we would – or even could!). Steve deservedly won this one with a cunning calculation that was only 45ft short. Glennis was away in orbit at 20,000ft and took home the wooden spoon.

Another winner for the Gammon team and thanks for a memorable day.

Photos and words by Pete Williams



Blooming marvelous!

The 38th Bleadon Summer Flower Show attracted exhibitors of all ages to stage over 220 colourful and creative exhibits. Throughout the afternoon visitors enjoyed the delight of the many flowers, plants and floral displays in the centre of the Coronation hall, flanked by tables laden with top quality fruit, vegetables, mouth watering homecraft and imaginative children's exhibits.

