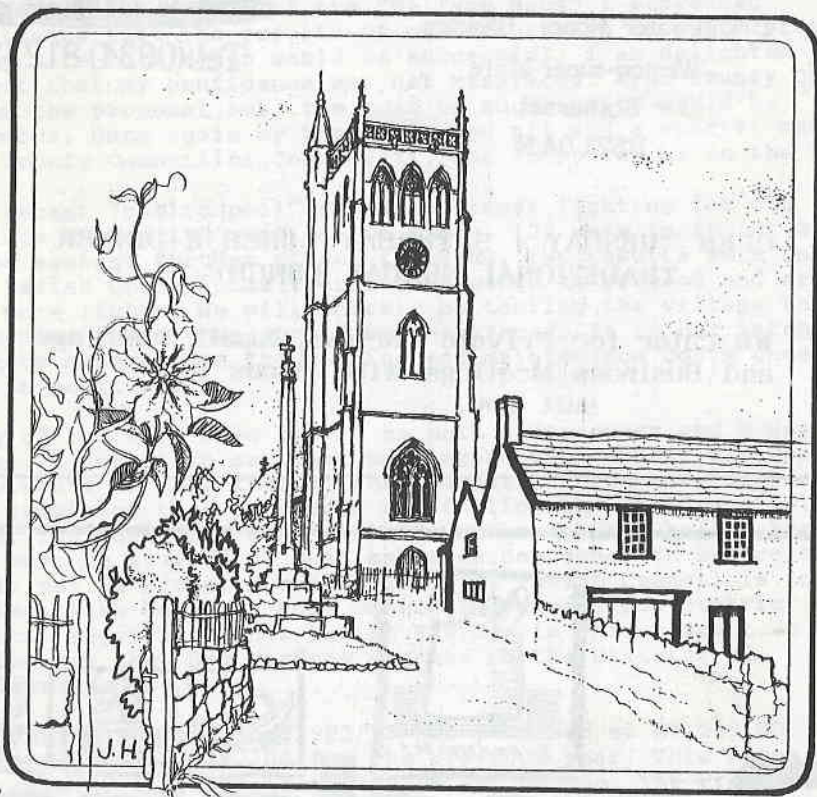


BLEADON



Village News

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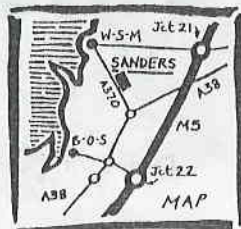
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BLEADON VILLAGE NEWS

No: 13

MARCH '92

Dear Parishioner,

In the December issue of the "Village News" I expressed confidence that the results of our efforts to stop the proposed Gypsy Site in Bleadon would be successful. I am delighted to report that my confidence was not misplaced. Avon County Council threw the proposal out, the cost of such a site would be enormous. Once again my thanks to you all and a special mention for County Councillor John Wyatt, who supported us to the hilt.

The recent "public poll" on extra street lighting for our village evoked 182 replies. Of these, 122 were in favour and 58 voted against further street lighting. Two results were invalid. The Parish Council has therefore decided to proceed and erect a few more lights. We will shortly be touring the village to determine where they should be positioned. It is our intention to have Avon assume the running and maintenance costs once they are in position.

Many of you will know that I am both a dog owner and a dog lover. I regret to say that once again the Council has received complaints of dogs fouling the footpaths. Even more serious is the complaint that some pets are fouling the childrens' play area, including the sand pit. This is a serious health hazard and must be stopped. I must ask each dog owner to ensure that their pet is properly controlled. The Parish Council is in contact with both the Home Office and Woodspring District Council regarding a new Parish Bye-Law in this respect. I also remind you that Dog Wardens operate in the District of Woodspring.

The Parish Precept for 1992/93 has been set at £7,949.00 compared with £7,287.00 for the previous year. This means an increase of approximately 84pence per person. The Precept will be fully discussed at our forthcoming Parish Annual Meeting, when your questions will be fully answered.

I have been asked to include Planning information in the Newsletter. Time constraints prohibit me from complying today. I will do my utmost to ensure that the subject is fully covered in future issues.

Yours sincerely,

Brenig Evans,
Chairman.

PLANNING MATTERS

Alan Kerr, District Councillor

It does matter and it is a matter on which I spend a considerable amount of time. It is a fascinating subject and covers just about everything that anyone wants to do to a building or a piece of land; its scope includes windows and walls, housing developments, hospitals and highways, advertisements and airports, factories, golf courses, garages and a thousand other types of building or usages of land. The major exception to planning law literally, lies in the field of agriculture where control is not so great, often with unfortunate results.

Like most things the whole subject looks very complicated at first sight but its basic principles can soon be appreciated. At meetings of the South Area Planning Committee I have been very impressed with the mastery of their briefs which the Woodspring officers have and the way they bring forward the relevant planning considerations. Councillors do not always agree with officers but we obviously respect their professional knowledge.

Helpful advice and a courteous, efficient service is available at the Town Hall for all members of the public who have queries or who may wish to submit a planning application. There has been much discussion recently about the delays in processing planning applications in Woodspring but my preference is towards spending sufficient time initially on important matters in order to consider them properly rather than to rush them through and have regrets later.

It is not always easy to please everyone when new developments are proposed although generally officers and councillors will try and arrive at positions which are as accommodating as possible. A confrontational approach is not normally a part of the process but firmness sometimes is, especially when there are breaches of planning policies or planning consents.

Planning decisions are made within the overall framework of policy contained within various local plans. A new district wide local plan is to be drawn up and I hope that many individuals and organisations will pass on their views to Woodspring Council as to what policies it will contain; policies which will have a direct bearing on the Hutton and Bleadon ward.

My own view on future development in the Woodspring district is, by and large, the less the better. The whole area has been more than generous in its provision of new housing in the past twenty or thirty years and with the Locking Castle scheme still to go ahead there is no need for any new housing development.

When it comes to weighing the balance between the competing claims of the community in terms of those who support something new, (such as an indoor bowling facility) and those who are objecting, (such as residents who are likely to be disturbed) my rule of thumb is to give more weight to nuisance than pleasure. In other words I will feel more inclined to support those who will suffer because of any new planning proposal.

May I leave you with two thoughts. First, to everyone, please take an interest in what is going on; be vigilant and make your views known. Second, to anyone applying for anything or anyone affected by an application, put yourself in the position of the other party concerned: applicants consider objectors, objectors consider applicants. That way, I believe, there may be better understanding all round.

PANCAKE PARTY SUCCESS

Shrove Tuesday brought another full house to the Coronation Hall for the Pancake Party revived last year by Ruth James. Entertainment was again provided by the Bleadon Players, under the first-time direction of Sandra Kelly, accompanied by guest pianist John Henshaw, and about £200 was raised for Church funds. It will be surprising if this does not become an annual event.

Les Masters

STAGE FRIGHT

Beware! The B P's are at it again!

If you hear strange noises coming from the Coronation Hall on Wednesday evenings, just pull up your collar and hurry on by. If your curiosity should get the better of you and you can't resist popping in to take a little peek, watch out. You may never emerge the same again. That crazy bunch of frustrated actors and musicians, laughingly known as the Bleadon Players, will grab you at the first sign of interest and turn you into stage hands, costume makers, scenery painters, or even worse, prompters. With rehearsals just starting for their new show on 5th and 6th June, their appetite for helpers is voracious.

Mind you, the ENORMOUS success of their Christmas pantomime, 'Aladdin', seems to have gone to their heads, and they've come over all sentimental. They say their new show is about love and marriage; that should be good for a punch-up or two. And they've thought of a title, 'Love and Marriage', - inventive lot, aren't they? Oh well, they get such a lot of harmless fun out of putting on a show every now and then, we'd better indulge them and remember to go along on the 5th or 6th June, just to make sure they are doing it right. Judging by past experiences, it'll be fun for us too.

Rosemary Sanders

BLEADON FRIENDSHIP CLUB

The club held the Annual General Meeting on 21st February.

President Mr. W. Stephens was pleased to report that all the past committee members had agreed to serve for another year.

Social Secretary Mr. R. Addison hopes to start the seasons outings in April.

Membership has now reached seventy-three, and a full programme of events has been planned.

On 13th March Mr. Lane will give a talk on 'Keeping Bees'. The usual Easter Bonnet Parade and flower arranging contest will take place on 10th April.

New members and visitors are always welcome.

E.M.T

BLEADON CORONATION HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

It is nice to be able to report that the hall is taking an increasing number of bookings. We now have Bridge on Mondays, and Whist on Wednesdays, and the Short Mat Bowls Club is now playing on Sundays as well as the usual Friday evenings.

More income means that we are able to spend more money on improving the hall's facilities. Following the fitting of new stage curtains, matching curtains are now being made for the windows. A storage rack is to be fitted for the new trestle tables, and special cleaning fluid has been purchased for the cleaning of the chairs.

Amplifier, speakers and microphones have also been purchased, and will shortly be installed. This equipment will be available to all organisations at a small extra charge.

A Spring Fayre and Coffee Morning will be held on Saturday 11th April. So please put the date in your diaries now. Tables will be available for the usual Craft Stalls at a charge of £3 for which application forms are ready. A pleasant morning is assured, and tickets will be on sale shortly.

Just a word to all hall users about the heating. When the heaters are on full, the hall will get very warm in a short space of time, sometimes doors and windows are then opened. If the heating controls are turned down, the opening of doors and windows will not be necessary. Whilst this would appear to be stating 'the obvious', at the moment gas is frequently being wasted. There have occasions when the hall has been locked up with the heaters full on! This results in horrendous gas bills, so please, your co-operation would be appreciated.

L.J. Chamberlain (Chairman)

* * * * *

BLEADON CORONATION HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Notice of Annual General Meeting, to be held on Tuesday 7th April at 7.30 p.m.

AGENDA

- (1) Apologies for absence
- (2) Minutes of last Annual General Meeting
- (3) Chairman's report
- (4) Treasurer's report
- (5) Booking Officer's report
- (6) Election of two village representatives
- (7) Election of auditors
- (8) Any other business

L.J. Chamberlain (Chairman)

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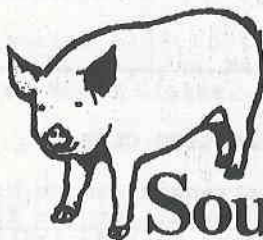


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WE WELCOME ALL ENQUIRIES

St. PETER & St. PAUL, BLEADON, WOMENS' FELLOWSHIP.

The meetings so far this year have been very enjoyable and well attended. In January, Mrs. Jennifer Buckland gave a most interesting talk, illustrated by slides, on the training of "Hearing Dogs for the Deaf". She was accompanied by Mrs. Pearl Withyman with her Hearing Dog "Spring", a brown and white Springer Spaniel-Collie cross. It costs £2,000 to train a dog, which is usually obtained from a dog refuge, so funds are urgently needed.

At the February meeting, Mrs. Marjorie McGlyn, one of our members, gave us the second part of a talk on her holiday in Canada. She showed us beautiful slides of scenery on her trip, by coach and train, through the Rockie Mountains to Vancouver. The slides belonged to her travelling companion, Mrs. Irene Hilditch, who sadly is no longer with us.

Eight members will be attending the Womens' World Day of Prayer service at Brent Knoll Methodist church on March 6th., when Mrs. Cullen, our leader, will be one of the readers.

At the meeting on Tuesday March 24th., Mrs. Pauline Kidner, of New Road Farm, East Huntspill, will be telling us about her work with sick animals, again illustrated by slides.

We are a small friendly group and warmly welcome new members, and visitors, to the Church Room, on the fourth Tuesday in the month, at 2.15 p.m.

B. J. H.

SHORT MAT BOWLING CLUB

Our club goes from strength to strength and we hope this trend will continue. More recently we moved, for the first time, to competitions within the club. These include ladies' singles and doubles, mens' singles and doubles and mixed doubles. The vast majority of the matches are being played by booking additional evenings at the Coronation Hall, thus leaving our normal Friday club evenings substantially unaffected by the competitions. I am pleased that so many club members have commented favourably on the opportunity for some competitive and thus different play.

Since the New Year we have been "at home" to both Kewstoke and Clarence Park bowling clubs for friendly but competitive matches. We acquitted ourselves quite well by winning on both occasions by comfortable margins. We do have a slight advantage over our visitors since we now know and understand the many oddities of the hall floor, (which is anything but flat and level). We look forward to our next "at home" to Banwell club on Sunday 22nd. March.

John Ward

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION LYMPHAM AND BLEADON BRANCH

Probably most of us are aware of the Royal British Legion only once a year, when poppies are sold and Remembrance Day services held, but of course like most other organisations it functions all year round and our local branch numbers about forty members. In point of fact potential membership is considerably higher because any former members of the armed forces (and their dependents) are eligible.

For years the Poppy Day Appeal in Bleadon was personified by Miss Maunsell who covered endless miles in house-to-house calls but finally called it a day in 1991. Jan and Steve Webber have been responsible for the organisation within the parish, a task which has now been taken on by Joan Diment.

The funds raised are of course devoted to ex-service personnel and their families (the legion is a registered charity), but not just in cash handouts. Much work is given to ensuring that members receive their full pension entitlement, the RBL Housing Association has provided over 12,000 sheltered homes for elderly people in need, and locally we are very lucky to have one of the Legion's three convalescent homes situated in Weston. This last is something in which Somerset can take considerable pride, being purchased in 1947 for £38,000 (raised in less than a year!) as the county's War Memorial. As all welfare work is confidential I am not allowed to name the local residents who have benefited from stays at Somerset Legion House, but I can assure readers they were full of praise for the facilities provided.

There is also a social side to the organisation and a Branch Social is to be held on 15th May. All enquiries about the branch should go to Mrs J Clarke, Becks Farm, Lympham (750351)

Les Masters

WHIST DRIVES

Mrs Jill Hobbs and I would like to thank the friends who came to our Whist Drives and have helped us to give £84.50 towards the fund for the new building for the Scouts, Guides, Brownies and Cubs.

We look forward to seeing them for another six week session beginning 2nd September from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. as usual.

The total for the twelve drives realised £165. 65p

Thankyou.

Barbara Snelgrove

BLEADON WOMENS' INSTITUTE

The first event of the year was the luncheon at the Beachlands Hotel, which was most enjoyable and at the February meeting Mrs. Brent was thanked for arranging such a successful party.

There have been good attendances at the meetings so far this year, including some new members whom we have been pleased to welcome.

A coffee morning was held on February 29th. at the United Reform Church, organised by the National Federation, at which some of our members helped. There was a good attendance and, as usual, the produce stand was in great demand.

At the January meeting there was return visit by Mr. Philip Noble, a butcher who demonstrated his skill in cutting, boning and making mouth watering joints of pork.

In February we were visited by Mr. and Mrs. J.D. Richards. Mr. Richards gave a very interesting talk on th S.S. "Great Britain", showing slides of the restoration work carried out since the ship was returned to Bristol in 1970 and pictures of the original construction and launching in 1843 of the first propeller driven ocean-going iron ship. Mrs. Richards modelled clothes such as would have been worn when the S.S. "Great Britain" first conveyed passengers to America and later to Australia. The steerage passengers did not appear to have a very comfortable time on the voyage but then they were paying less than £20 for the journey.

At the March meeting the Broadoak School Orchestra visited us again and entertained with most enjoyable concert. They have come to play for us for a number of years and are always welcome.

The April meeting, on the 14th., is also Members' Day when the special tea is provided by members. The speaker will be Mr. D. Everitt who will talk on "Garden Tubs and Hanging Baskets" and the competition is "A garden in a saucer".

M.W.

BLEADON YOUTH CLUB PLAYGROUP

Bleadon Playgroup wishes to apologise for its temporary closure last term which was as a result of heating problems in the hall.

We are pleased to say that we are now back in full swing.

The Playgroup meets in the Youth Club Hall every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, during term time, from 9.30 a.m. until 12.30 p.m. The cost is £2.00 per session.

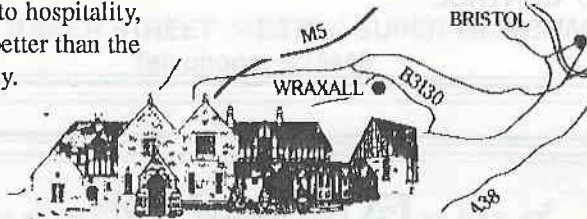
For further information please contact Playgroup leader Mrs

8. Cynthia Richardson. Telephone 812704

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Edited by Les Masters, Bleadon Post Office.

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

.....
The Parish Council is greatly indebted to Glo Smith, John Ward and Peter Lindsay for the production of this Newsletter. Special thanks are due to John Hickley for yet another imaginative and well executed front cover.

Atlas 
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