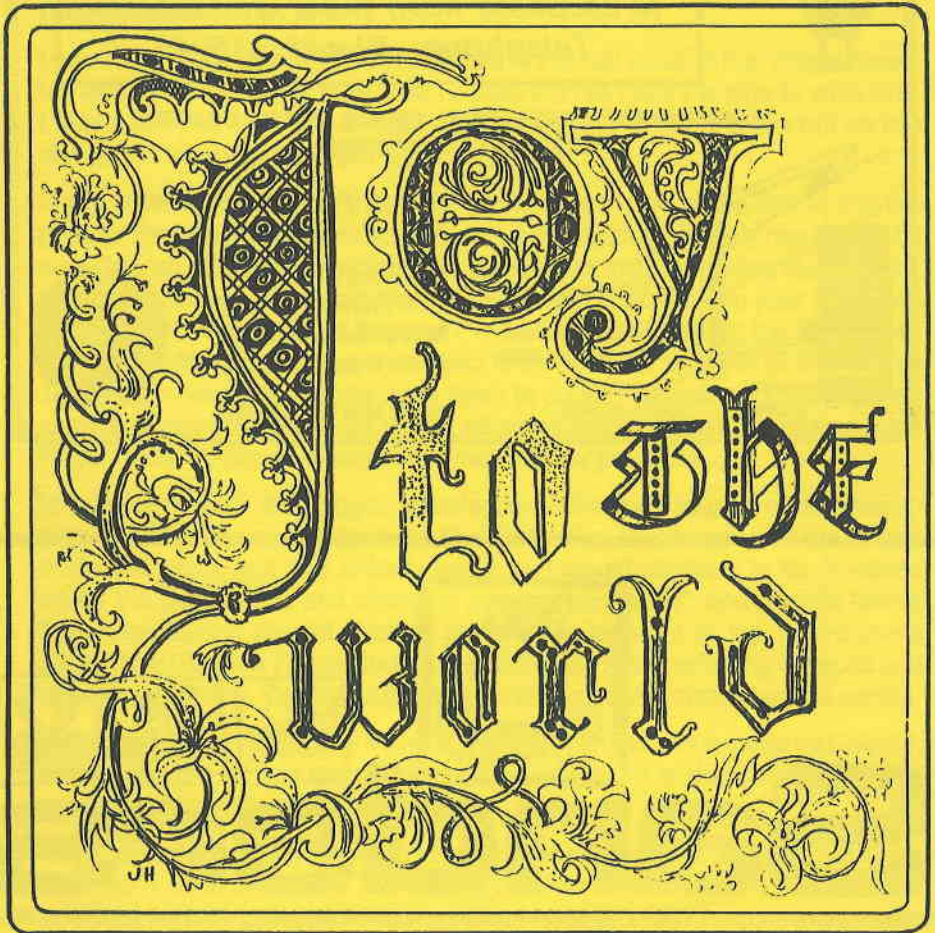


BLEADON



Village News
NUMBER SIXTEEN

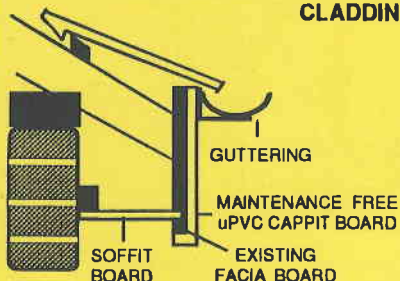


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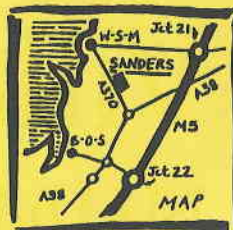
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BLEADON VILLAGE NEWS

No: 16

December '92

Dear Parishioner

I must apologise for not having an article in the last issue of the Village News, but due to a very heavy work load I simply did not have the time to write one. I normally try to cover a number of subjects when writing a piece but on this occasion I intend to deal with just the one topic.

Many of you will be aware that three Parishioners have made claims that the present Bleadon Parish Council is illegal, an allegation strongly repudiated by your Council. They initially objected to the Audit for the year ending March 1991, seeming oblivious to the fact that the objections related to the year when two of them were the leaders of Bleadon Parish Council. This year the same three announced that they intended to object to the Audit for the year ending March 1992, even before the books were open to public inspection. Their reasons were, that as the Council was illegal, all action taken by the Council were also illegal. Both audits were completed without any problems.

Mr and Mrs Corder duly lodged an objection to the audit for year ending March 1992, this despite a letter from the District Auditor which warned them of "the additional costs that had already been, and would continue to be, involved whilst the questioning and objecting process continued", and despite letters from Woodspring District Council and the Department of the Environment stating that Bleadon Village Council is in fact legal. After reviewing the audit and taking legal advice, the District Auditor (Ernst and Young) confirmed this verdict.

I fully support the right of any individual to question decisions made by Council, but surely it is time to stop when proved wrong. It is the Council, not the complainant, which has to pay the bill.

Your Council constantly strives to keep the precept as low as possible, but these objections are costing the Parish a great deal of public money. It is quite possible that the precept will have to be increased next year to redress the wasted expenditure thus caused. I do hope that we have finally heard the last of these unnecessary and time wasting complaints.

To end on a much happier note, Judith and I wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

Yours sincerely

Brenig Evans

Chairman, Bleadon Parish Council

BACK TO BASICS!

In the age of aerobics, jazzercise, cardiofunk, callenetics and so on, what is wrong with the classic name 'Keep Fit'?

The Keep Fit Association was founded in 1929 based on Laban's theory of exercise, and although methods have changed, the classic stamina, flexibility and strength are still taught. The Keep Fit Association exercise the safe way, and at my classes we are not in competition with each other, but work as a whole class - friends together.

At present I hold three classes a week, Mondays at Windwhistle School, Tuesdays at St Mark's School, and Thursdays at Mendip Green School, all at 7.30 pm. I would, however, like to start a class in Bleadon, especially since the Friday morning class ceased. If you are interested, please ring me on 812025.

Tish Cassidy
2 The Veale

BLEADON SHORT MAT BOWLING CLUB

After a slow start the bowling club is now well into a busy season. We currently have a membership of 35 playing members and 4 social members. We meet on Friday evenings and Sunday afternoons. Recent attendances on Friday nights have averaged 25 persons but can occasionally rise to 28. This imposes tighter limitations on each person's playing time than we would like. For this reason we have reluctantly had to close our membership list and open a waiting list. In the meantime our managing committee are considering whether, and how, we might operate an alternative membership which would be limited to Sundays only.

Our interclub competitions are under way. In order not to upset our normal club playing times, we are booking additional time in the hall. The next competition session will be on Sunday morning, 17th January.

This year we have joined other clubs at Kewstoke, Banwell, Congresbury and Tickenham in forming a Woodspring Short Mat Bowling League. We have Played two matches to date and will have home matches on Sundays 10th, 17th January and 14th February plus away matches on 7th March and 1st April.

Sunday 13th December will find the club away at Kewstoke playing our annual friendly match. We shall look forward to hosting a return match in the New Year.

I wish all club members and, on their behalf, all readers of this newsletter a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

John Ward

FRIENDS OF THE CHURCH

Tickets are on sale at the Post Office for the New Year's Eve Grand Dinner Party in the Coronation Hall. Price £7.50, which includes a full licensed bar, music, dancing, quiz, super draw, lucky ticket prize and entertainment by Les Masters and Company. So make a festive end to 1992 and welcome in the New Year with your friends. Tables of 8 bookable - **don't delay, book today!**

Thank you for all the recipes received to date for the "**Bleadon Village Cook Book**". At the time of going to print we are still short of starters. The closing date for recipes is the end of January. Everyone is working hard to make this a great success but this will depend on the advertising pages being sold. It is to be a very attractive publication with illustrations featuring the Bleadon Church Mouse. Intrigued? All prospective advertisers please contact Tony and Sylvia on 814739.

It approaches again! The May Day Fayre! Don't forget to save a Christmas bottle for the Bottle Stall, and put aside any items for the other stalls. New next year is a Photographic Competition, so take some good Christmas snaps! Let us know if you have any good ideas for the next May Day Fayre - if you want to help, then we want you to help! Happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year to all residents of Bleadon!

Tony Ewin

REPAIRS TO THE CHURCH ROOF

At long last it does seem as if the major repair works to the Chancel Roof and South Porch of the Church will commence quite early in the new year. We are waiting for the final approval from Wells but that should arrive very soon.

We would like to thank all those who have supported us in our fund raising activities and we will do our best to keep interruptions to the normal flow of village life to a minimum.

The contractors for the work are Messrs Chamberlain of Clifton, Bristol and it is thought the works will take about three months. There will be a 'standstill' period once the roof is opened as the architects (all three of them!) decide on the exact nature of the repairs.

David Elliott
(Churchwarden)

BLEADON CORONATION HALL

Fund raising events have included the Autumn Jumble Sale which raised £110, and the well attended and very convivial Christmas Coffee Morning which increased the Hall's funds by nearly another £170. The Hall was particularly welcoming with its Christmas decorations and background seasonal music, and some most attractive stalls provided variety to the coffee and chat. Thank you all for your support.

Thanks also to Les Masters and the cast of the Charity Variety Show in early October, for they donated a very useful £212 to the Hall's funds. I understand an equal sum was given to the Guides/Scouts Building Fund. True charity, voluntarily produced.

The joint venture between the Guides/Scouts and the Hall to develop their properties has progressed to planning applications and costings. However, further progress depends heavily on the funds becoming available to the Guides/Scouts, whose part of the project must be the first to commence. The Hall Committee has agreed in principle to their part once that stage is near.

The Committee has become conscious of a potential danger to Hall users from window breakage caused by footballs 'straying' from over-exuberance in the play area, and secondary glazing with shatterproof material will shortly be fitted to the car park side windows.

Hall hiring fees have been slightly increased (+5%) from January.

Peter Lindsay
Chairman

* * * * *

BLEADON FRIENDSHIP CLUB

The last meeting of the club was on 18th December, a happy afternoon with music and song provided by Mr Russell Rogers and friends. Home-made mince pies were served with tea.

The Christmas lunch at the Kirkwood Hotel was as usual, an enjoyable social event.

The club re-opens on 22nd January when we hope to meet all our old friends again, and perhaps some new ones.

BLEADON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Be ye young or mature,
Get ye back to nature.
There's something ye need to know
About the Bleadon Horticultural Show.
Handicraft and cooking: all there for the looking.
Plants and sewing; all there for the showing.
So plant ye bulbs now - not mow
Sit back and watch them grow
Then bring them to your Village Show!

The date is Saturday 21st March 1993 at 2.30 pm. Entry forms and schedules will be available from your local Post Office. Look forward to seeing you all.

Maggie Pettitt

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Lympham and Bleadon Men's and Women's Branches

Both Branches have held their Annual General Meetings, and both report a successful year with increased Membership and Donations.

Thirty five Members and two Standard Bearers attended the Festival of Remembrance at the Winter Gardens on 1st November. This was a great success, and it is hoped that this will become an annual event.

A record amount of money was raised for the Earl Haigh Poppy Appeal. A total of £1,040.05 was despatched to Headquarters, and comprised of £655.99 from Lympham together with £384.06 from Bleadon. A very big 'thank you' is due to the organisers, Lady Jean Galsworthy and Mrs J Diment, and to all the house-to-house collectors, and those Members and friends who helped at Sanders Superstore on Saturday 7th November.

A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year is extended to all Members of Men's and Women's Sections of the Royal British Legion.

L G Clarke

BLEADON VILLAGE WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Once again Christmas is on the horizon when everyone is busy making arrangements for the Festive Season, but even so, our Christmas coffee morning and bazaar held on Thursday 3rd December was well supported, and proved to be a very happy and successful occasion amongst friends.

The first two meetings of the Club were well attended, and in spite of the very inclement weather on the third occasion, quite a few members managed to come. We were entertained to a very interesting and enlightening insight into the formation and running of the Weston Hospice.

Our Leader, Mrs Cullen is unfortunately at the present time unable to support us in person, having recently undergone an operation. She is sorely missed, and we wish her a speedy recovery, and look forward to welcoming her back among us as soon as she is able to return.

Our next meeting will be on 26th January, when we look forward to seeing everyone again.

Mrs M J Blinkhorne

BLEADON FOLK DANCE CLUB

Dances will begin in the Coronation Hall on Thursday 7th January from 8.00 - 10.00 pm, and on the FIRST and FOURTH Thursdays in each month thereafter, excluding July and August. As always, new members are most welcome.

Barbara Snelgrove

WHIST DRIVES 1993

These will be held in the Church Room, every Wednesday beginning 6th January, from 2.00 - 4.00 pm, admission £1 to include tea and biscuits.

Come and enjoy a social afternoon and a game of whist. A raffle will be held, proceeds towards the Guides and Scouts New Building Fund.

Barbara Snelgrove

BACK TO SOMERSET

The Government has set up a Commission to review the structure of local government throughout England, and two of its members, Miss Mary Leigh and Mr Ken Ennals, are currently listening to local opinion prior to making recommendations for Avon, Somerset and Gloucestershire. Many people will have views about the efficiency of the present structure at county(Avon) and district (Woodspring) levels, and the Commissioners want to hear those views before coming back with draft proposals next June. We will then have two months to react and respond to their proposals before they harden up their recommendations, and present them to the Minister for the Environment.

The Back to Somerset Campaign is hoping to achieve the restoration of the traditional county boundaries on the shirt-tail of this review. Although we are supported by some people who would like to see a return to Somerset County Council administration from Taunton, it would seem that the majority want a more local form of government, based perhaps on Woodspring. All audits have shown that almost any change will be less expensive to operate than the present two-tier system, even if the changeover itself inevitably results in additional costs to local charge payers. People need to identify with their local government structure, and if Woodspring achieves Unitary Status, it is intended that it will be renamed to reflect its Somerset connection.

I feel very optimistic that we shall recover our Somerset identity in the very near future. When that happens it will be an occasion for quiet satisfaction - and an excuse for a boisterous celebration!

John Ley-Morgan

20 Elmsleigh Road, Weston-super-Mare. Tel: 0934 416224

PS Thanks to all those residents of Bleadon who have supported the campaign over the years. You will be pleased to hear that our 3,500 word submission to the Commission will be accompanied by well over 3,500 letters which have come in from right across (old) North Somerset. Well done!

GRAND DRAW

This will be held in MAY, proceeds in aid of the Guide and Scout New Building Fund.

Karen Wheeler

THANKING ALL SPONSORS

I would like to thank as much as possible, all those who gave so generously to Doctor Barnardo's via my successful completion of the cycle expedition from John O'Groats to Lands End - all 950 miles of it!

Eventually, monies exceeding as much as £1,200 was collected of which a significant proportion came from your donations, whether to me in person, through Les at the Post Office, or Mike at the Queens Head, who I'm sure deserve a special mention.

Once again, many thanksuntil the next time!

Tim Southwell

PS May I add that none of those who sponsored Tim at the Post Office was asked to do so. As with other sponsored events, I simply left the forms on the counter, and customers did the rest. The spontaneous generosity of local people never fails to impress me!

Les Masters



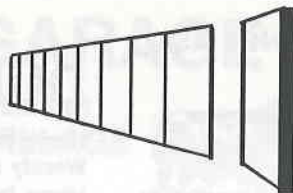
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BLEADON VILLAGE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Bleadon W.I. had a lively and entertaining last quarter of the year under the presidency of Mrs P Brent, and now Mrs B Hillier.

Highlight of the October meeting was a visit by Mr John Osborne of Bath, who illustrated his life as a farmer and entertainer with excerpts from his published book of poetry. A bring-and-buy stall with a harvest theme did brisk business.

Askittles evening in the Queen's Arms, now a top attraction for the branch, was a great success.

November brought an intriguing talk by Mrs Patricia Martin who brought along examples of her delicate work - christening gowns, silk hand embroidery, silk hand-made gowns and English lace.

The Christmas meeting was backed by visitors from the Uphill and Clarence Weston branches who enjoyed carols by candlelight, with Mr I Cottrell the accompanist. Joint winners for the year's competitions were Mrs Brent and Mrs Hillier, with Mrs B Sargent runner-up. Games and charades made it a light-hearted finale to a busy year.

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Atlas 
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