

DECEMBER

2020

ISSUE 116

# Bleadon News

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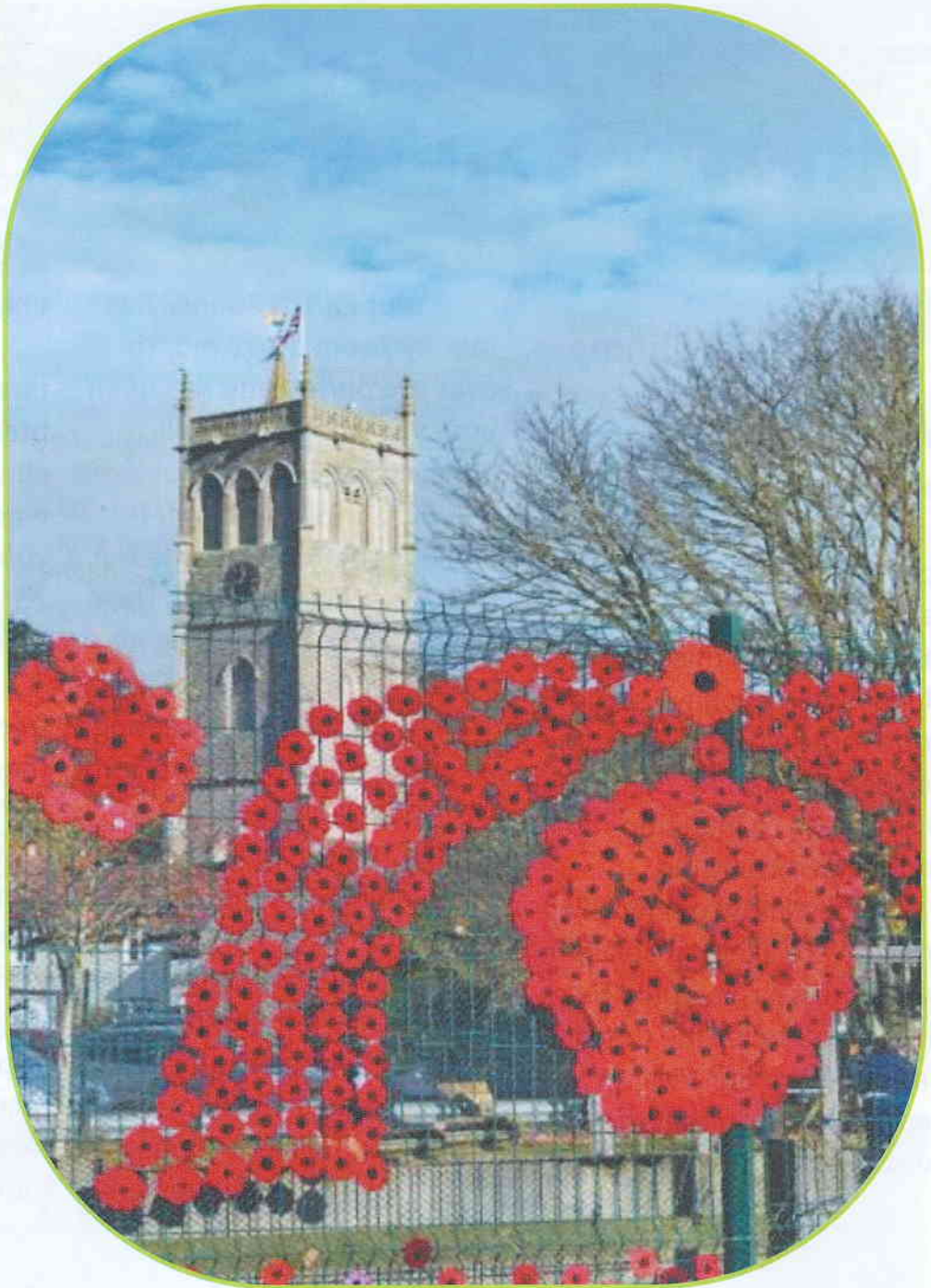
District councillor Mike Solomon reports on A370 incident.

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An update on the otter pups found in Bleadon from Secret World Wildlife Rescue.

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The much-needed upgrades to Bleadon Churchrooms near completion.



“It’s only a drop in the ocean — but the ocean wouldn’t be the same without that drop.”

*Mother Teresa*

Dates I need to know for the next edition...

Publication of the Spring edition of the magazine: *March 2021*

Cut off for content: *February 15th 2021*

Cut off for advertisement: *February 19th 2021*



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



@BleadonParishCouncil



# Chairman's message

**Gill Williams**

Well here we are again in lockdown, but hopefully with news of a vaccine on the horizon. Christmas may be curtailed a little with regard to family reunions this year but at least we now have some hope for the future. Bleadon has been fortunate up till now with regard to infection rates. Long may it continue.

If you know of any villagers who are likely to be alone over Christmas it would be really helpful to let the Covid Group or Tim our Vicar in the Rectory know so that they can do something to help.

Your Parish Council has met by Zoom every month over the period and has been busy with planning applications, street lighting problems, dog bins, the village toilets and bus shelters to name but a few. All things that keep the village going and looking it's best.

At this month's meeting we were delighted to welcome two councillors back to the group Councillors Dave Sharman and Kirsten Hemingway joined us.

This means we only have one vacancy left and it would be really helpful if someone from the eastern end of the village might like to come forward as we are a bit western

end imbalanced.

In spite of Covid, we did manage to have a Remembrance Day service in the churchyard when a wreath was laid by me on behalf of your council in memory of the 25 villagers who lost their lives in the two world wars.

We had good reports from you re Ellie's first issue of the Village News.

I hope you enjoy this new issue and please remember that to make it a real Bleadon newsletter Ellie needs articles from YOU the villagers.

I like to look forward so I hope Issue 117 will see us all receiving our vaccinations in time for a more hopeful Summer 21.

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# Parish Council Snippets...

by Bruce Poole

The councillors hope you enjoyed receiving and reading edition 115 of the Bleadon Village News. From the feedback the Parish Council has received it has been judged to be a welcome return after short break. Well done Ellie – keep up the good work.

The Parish Council has recently received the resignation from the Rev. Steve Hartree as a councillor having served the parish for a number of years. His past experience as an accountant and indeed a parish clerk will be sorely missed and we wish him well for the future. The Parish Council is still not at full strength with eight members, its correct complement being nine.

If you have some spare time and wish to work to make the village of Bleadon up-to-date administratively and forward looking project-wise then why not seek to be a co-opted member? Three such people who have recently 'answered the call' are Ann Davies of The Barton as well as welcoming back Kirsten Hemingway and David Sharman - bringing the Par-

ish Council to eight, with one position remaining.

No one will have not been moved on hearing the news of yet another fatality on the A370 at the junction of Catherine's Inn and The Anchor Inn. This time a young man on his motorcycle travelling home to Highbridge from Weston-super-Mare having visited his girlfriend.

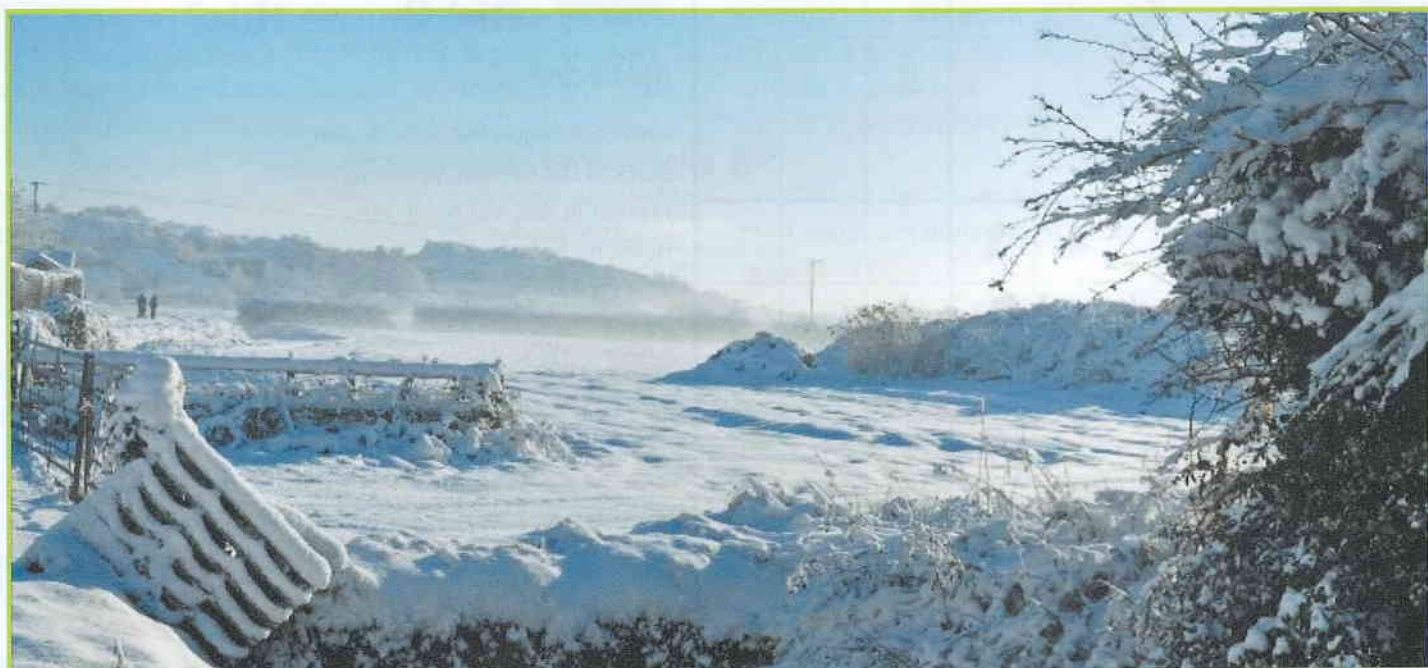
The Parish Council at its October meeting resolved that representations should once again be made to the Highways Authority at North Somerset to demand that early action is taken at this very dangerous junction. In its representation it was pointed out those with local knowledge will avoid at all costs exiting from the village at this point.

The unsuspecting have what appears to be just three seconds to exit on to the A370 from the village. This figure has been taken from a survey undertaken since the accident, local members of the community and members of the parish council. It was also made clear that the Bridge Garage access is also a challenge at times. The letter to North Somerset is located on the Bleadon Parish Council website.

The request to the District Council was that traffic lights should be installed and that the stretch of road from the Cutting to Lympsham should be reduced to 40mph in its entirety. We shall now wait with 'bated breath' to see if anything is actually implemented. If not the Parish Council will continue pressing for tangible action.

The Parish Council are continuing for the foreseeable future to hold their monthly meetings by way of Zoom. This follows the guide lines and recommendations by both NALC – National Association of Local Councils' and SLCC – Society of Local Councils. You will be always welcome to join in by following the joining instructions that appear at the top of the published agenda.

The Christmas period is approaching fast and although it will undoubtedly be different to previous Christmases enjoyed and experienced it will still be a time hopefully spent with your family in some form or another. May I wish you and your family as best you can a happy one and that the New Year will see us all out of this unprecedented period in our lives.



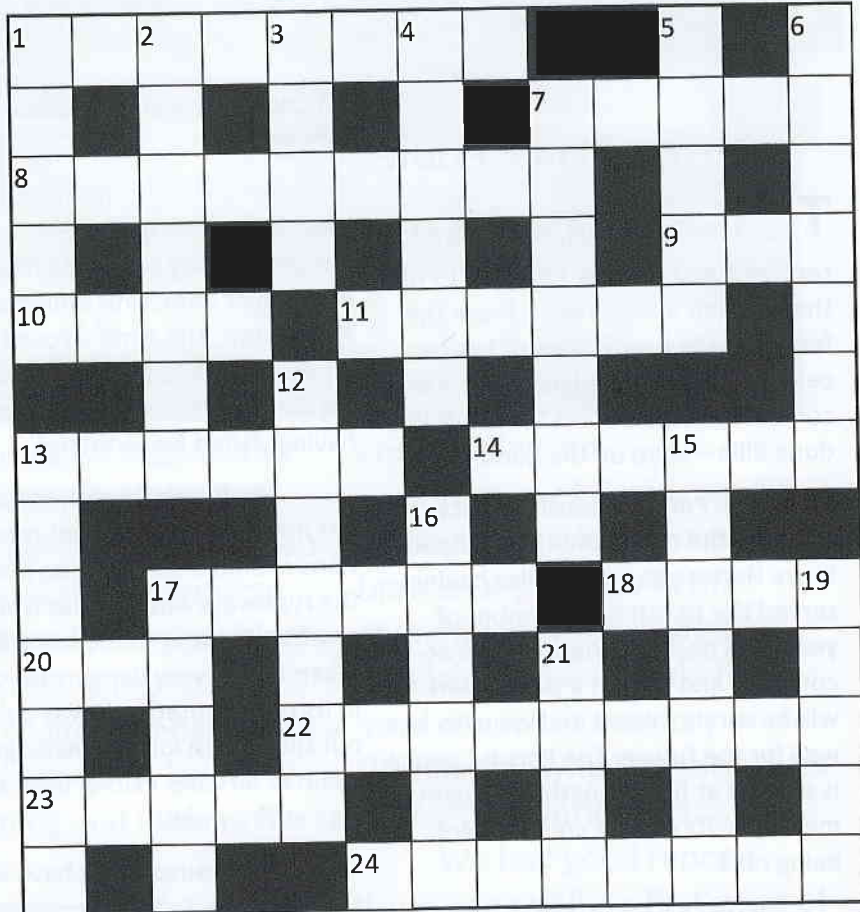
## George's crossword

### ACROSS

1. Leave the houses perhaps off Shiplate Road (3, 5)
7. Russian dimwit. That's novel (5)
8. One diet Tina began perhaps (9)
9. Domestic upkeep includes a piece of pottery (3)
10. Chair for Spanish car (4)
11. This material brings comfort (6)
13. Cinema workers tell you to keep quiet (6)
14. Mountain comes back for detectives. That's calm (6)
17. Married, initially, before the end of three months. She's in the club! (6)
18. Charts return junk Mail (4)
20. Fifty? That is a fib (3)
22. Confused? Hush, till nothing new. Near 1 across (5, 4)
23. Mixed verse will wait (5)
24. Dispatched in France to church. It ends with a full stop (8)

### DOWN

1. Cans about West. There are two of them (5)
2. Pit heap maybe in the churchyard (7)
3. Old record in charge of saga (4)
4. Big cat around part of the bible is a balm (6)
5. Error over at the church. Because! (5)
6. Warehouses arise about a piano? That's halted (7)
7. Idle? Lay around perfectly (7)
12. Concert is initially elite. That's a pledge (7)
13. It's no good, employ fewer (7)
15. The title is perhaps an optic (7)
16. Study of South American country over the Home Countries (6)
17. Some people met—returned at length (5)
19. Fracas for Lee and me (5)
21. Trifle about Pentecost (4)



## Ellie's sudoku

	4		5	9				
		2				9		
		1						3
	2	3		4	1			
								5
	6	9	2	5				
	7							
2		8			9		3	
					4	1		6

## Riddle me this?

### Riddle one:

Only one colour, but not one size,  
Stuck at the bottom, yet easily flies.  
Present in sun, but not in rain,  
Doing no harm, and feeling no pain.  
What is it?

### Riddle two:

What has six faces, but does not wear makeup, has twenty-one eyes, but cannot see? What is it?

### Riddle three:

What runs around the whole yard without moving?

# A370 death ignites action for change

## By Mike Solomon

Sadly we recently experienced another fatality on the A370 at Bleadon and my heart sincerely goes out to this young man, his family and friends.

I've now spoken to our Engineers and unfortunately there are still lots of unresolved issues with the installation of traffic signals at Bleadon Road and/or Accommodation Road for us to be able to definitely commit to them at this stage (costs quoted are around £50,000 per set).

We obviously welcome the communities support and willingness to consider crowd-funding or other local support and we would not want to rule that out for the future. Indeed other communities have provided funding for projects so the principle is a sound one. However, the accident's issues at this location are being investigated in more detail. I think the focus in the short-term will be on speed limit changes we are working with Somerset on.

We have funding in this year's budget for design work and next year for implementation. We continue to work closely with Somerset County Council and they have just re-confirmed their programme to us that they are aiming to reduce speed limits along the route next May.

This is subject to not receiving objections and the usual workload issues. They have not yet advertised their proposals but we understand this will happen later this month. This remains in line with our own programme and we will be working with them to implement reductions in the speed limits at the same time. In broad terms, the agreed approach with Somerset is to reduce the national speed limit locations to 50mph and the current 50 mph speed limit locations to 40 mph.

As mentioned earlier we also intend to investigate additional engineering measures, which if appropri-



ate, will be implemented independently at a later date but we expect the speed limit changes to help improve the situation in the first instance.

Both Terry Porter and I are convinced that traffic lights even by the garage would definitely help reduce accidents and the reason for not considering them immediately is down to budget. However if the money could be raised they hopefully could go ahead sooner rather than later.

# Mask-maker raises £500 for Poppy Appeal

**A** 64-year-old Bleadon resident has raised more than £500 for the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal.

Yvonne Cooper, who has lived in the village for nearly three years, joined a 'Scrub Hub' during the first lockdown where she joined the national effort to support the NHS. She could also be found crocheting ear-savers for staff in care homes across the country.

Yvonne said: "When it became obvious we were going to need to wear face coverings for a long time, I decided to carry on sewing by making masks for the people in the village and hung them on my gate for a donation to two charities close to my heart."

Yvonne's father, Peter Follett, lives in Hutton and is a member of the Royal British Legion and a long-standing poppy seller.

Yvonne explained: "I was explaining to him how I had randomly bought some poppy fabric during the summer and asked him if he would like me to make him a face covering, to which he said yes and also asked me to make a few so he could sell them."

Yvonne put her creations up on the In And Around Bleadon Facebook page where sales began to soar. People

contacted Yvonne regularly to make purchases.

As donations of poppy fabric came flooding in, it was down to Yvonne to wield her scissors, needle and thread and begin creating.

She said: "I asked for a minimum donation of £5 per mask and I have so far raised £517."

When asked what it meant to receive the positive response from the locals, Yvonne said: "Words really cannot describe how it felt to receive such a huge amount of support from the residents of Bleadon and the surrounding villages.

"I am going to start making Christmas masks but these are made for a donation to two other charities—The Rob George Foundation and The Catherine Bullen Foundation."

**Find out more about these charities at [www.therobgeorgefoundation.co.uk](http://www.therobgeorgefoundation.co.uk) and [www.namibia-aid.co.uk](http://www.namibia-aid.co.uk)**



# STATION AND A BRIDGE BY BRUNEL!



The little station also boasted a gentlemen's toilet next to the ticket office, but as it had no roof it wasn't a place to dwell during a rainstorm!

As well as providing a link for travellers to the Devon coast and beyond, the line also afforded an easy means of transporting goods between the towns along the route. For instance, farmers regularly used it to get their milk to dairies, the full churns being loaded onto the early milk train and the empty ones unloaded ready for collection later.

Fresh seasonal produce such as strawberries could quickly reach the markets, and in the autumn apples were sent to the cider making companies further the down the line. Livestock could be transported using the special open sided carriages, and very soon goods trains as well as passenger trains became a regular sight and sound through the Somerset countryside.

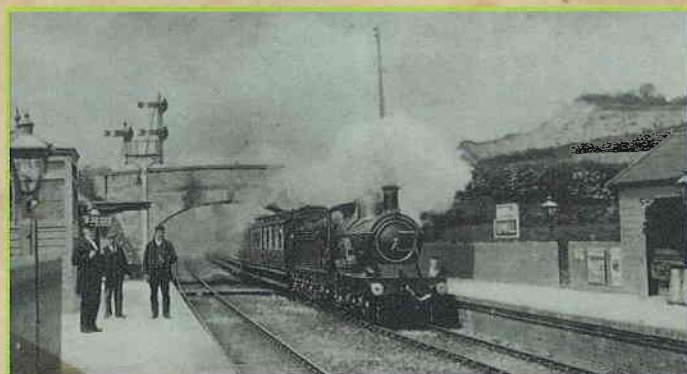
The heyday of rail travel had arrived and it lasted the best part of 100 years. But of course just as



the old ways of moving goods from place to place became easier and more economic by rail in the 19th century, so eventually in the 20th century the great age of steam gave way to the new era of the internal combustion engine.

In the early 1930s, here in Bleadon the rather tortuous narrow road from Weston-super-Mare to Burnham-on-sea was replaced by the A370 straight road; which bypassed many of the villages, and therefore goods could now reach the markets in Bridgwater and Taunton via the A38 much more quickly than before.

Many of the smaller village stations fell into decline, Bleadon and Uphill amongst them, - it became an unstaffed halt in November 1959; it then suffered the fate of so many of its kind when it was finally closed in October 1964, as a result of the cuts inflicted by Dr Beeching.



All was not lost however, as Bob Smallman, who lived in the house adjacent to the old station building and ticket office, was able to rent the property and turned it into the Yielding Tree Rail museum, in the 1960s. The old goods yard housed various interesting exhibits from Cardiff railway and a British railbus. Later it was taken over and became the Somerset railway museum but sadly it closed permanently in 1969, the collection being dispersed to other rail museums in Somerset.

If you take a walk down Toll Rd. just where the A370 bridge crosses the mail line you will find the site, but a private house is all that remains today.

# BLEADON AND UPHILL

The Great Western Rail company was founded in 1833, ran its first trains in 1838, and in the years which followed the rail network spread far and wide. By 1841, the line between London and Bristol had been completed and very soon the West of England became accessible to the travelling Victorians.

Once the line reached Weston-super-Mare in 1841, there was an urgent need to expand southwards and the Bristol to Exeter railway company came into being. Many small stations were built, not only to meet the needs of travelling passengers but also those of the people who lived in the towns and villages along its route, and to this end land needed to be acquired.



The purchase of such land particularly around Uphill was made difficult by greedy and obstructive landowners, and thus it was decided by the engineering genius, Isambard Kingdom Brunel to cut through the hill at Bleadon rather than to bridge the River Axe at Uphill. This meant the old Uphill to Bleadon Road over Bleadon Hill had to be accommodated and he designed a bridge to do just that. It was described then 'as exceptionally interesting, technically daring and innovative', and it would go on to be the highest, (110ft above the line), single span, brick built bridge in the country. How it got its name is a story in itself.

A certain Mr Payne of Uphill Grange owned much of the land each side of the proposed bridge and sought to exploit his position, and, as well as demanding a goodly sum of money he also wanted his own private station, - this was duly built but once



the trains started running Brunel saw to it that they didn't actually stop there!

This angered 'Devil' Payne, as he was known locally, and he took the Railway Company to court, but he lost his case and with it any profit he may have made from the original land sale. The bridge is still known today as Devil's bridge. Due to its unique character the bridge was given Grade 1 listed status in 1982 and has recently been completely renovated, as the original brickwork was falling into disrepair.

The new Uphill station proper was opened in 1871, and was first referenced in Bradshaw in November of that year, but by May of 1872 the name was changed to Bleadon and Uphill, a more sensible title given that it was nearer to Bleadon than Uphill. By this time the line had been taken over by the GWR and a cottage was built to house the first station master. There was also a foot crossing, to enable pedestrians to get from one side of the tracks to the other. This was situated at the end of what is now Toll Road and I believe that there may have also been a small cafe there (NB not a crossing point these days).



# Otter pups 'doing very well'

by Pauline Kidner

**S**ecret World Wildlife Rescue had a young otter brought into us, found on the side of the road in Bleadon. It was only about eight weeks old. He was very quiet so there was some concern that he may have been involved in an accident on the road. However no injuries were found when he was assessed. He soon took some milk and also enjoyed some small fish.

Animal Carer Sarah Tingvoll said: "We usually check other centres to see if they have a single orphan otter pup. We don't like to keep them on their own but the next day, we were told of another otter cub less than half a mile away so we were sure that we have the sibling."



They are both took milk for the first few days but soon changed to small troutlings. You will see we are using thick towels to hold them because even at this age they can give a nasty bite!

The Somerset Otter Group went out to the location to see if they could find a dead otter to prove that they had been orphaned or even a further otter cub as they can sometimes have three pups but nothing was found.

Once the pups had changed completely to eating fish and feeding themselves, we moved them in to the Millie Bock where they could have more room and water available all the time to swim in.

They are doing really well and are really wild which is what we want. We do have our own otter facilities but already have another almost adult otter in there and that one will not get released until it is about 15 – 18 months.



We copy what happens in the wild. They stay with their mothers until this age when they become independent. So we will be sending these pups on to another centre as we have building work starting at our centre and it will be noisy for them.

If you are passing Secret World you will see all the movements that are taking place. Portacabins are being stacked and earth is being moved ready for the base. It will take a long time for the build to be completed as there can only be five builders on site because of the coronavirus.

So it will be next summer before it is finished but we are all excited that the new Treatment Centre is really happening. We're not sure if we have enough to build Phase Two which is the wildlife unit but Phase One for the offices, assessment room and orphan room is definitely happening. We will try and continue accepting casualties on the same basis but we may have to restrict some animals depending on what facilities we have available to us during the time that the work continues.

We shall carry on as an 'essential service' making sure that we work safely and responsibly so please continue to contact us if you need any advice or have a wildlife casualty. We will always do as much as we can. **Tel number: 01278 783250**





# Cuddle Buddies write to friends

**A**nimals who are part of Whitehouse Kennel and Cattery's Cuddle Buddy Gang have been keeping nursing home residents, schoolchildren and hospital patients company through a new pen pal scheme launched over the lockdown period.

The Cuddle Buddy gang is a special team of dogs who visit groups of people to provide companionship, comfort and friendship.

Since Coronavirus forced the programme to end abruptly with lockdown, the dogs have not been able to visit the residents and it didn't take long before the residents and dogs were missing each other.

To fill the void left behind by the regular visits, the team at Whitehouse have instead taken on writing regular letters giving updates about what they have been up to, to the residents.

Christine from Whitehouse Kennels said: "The letters may be amusing but they really do matter to the residents. They have a very special bond."

One of the team from the Cuddle Buddy gang, Pugly, has been to visit a lady in



**We have some bad news: Mum and Dad got a cat called Frankie. He has the tastiest smelling food you have ever smelled but mum puts it on the worktop. I have tried jumping and climbing but I just can't reach it. Mum says I am so cute cuddling Frankie but I am just really cleaning the food he has left around his face!**

*An extract from Pugly's letter to the residents.*



hospital, Angie, who was very unwell.

The visit was organised by Angie's daughter in a bid to cheer her up after a long hospital stay.

**Find out more about the Cuddle Buddy gang at [www.whitehouse-kennels.co.uk](http://www.whitehouse-kennels.co.uk)**

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# Spotlight on entrepreneur florist



## What is your full name, age and where are you from?

Hi, I am Katherine Payne and I'm a fellow Bleadon dweller! I've lived in our beautiful village since October 2015. Where I moved from my hometown Shepton Mallet to live with my boyfriend and I have just turned 30 years old.

## What is your business, where is it based and when did you set it up?

I am a florist, I own and am the Lead Floral Designer at Dainty Dahlia and my business is based at home address, just off Bleadon Mill. I started my little business



on Halloween this year (October 31st). My career as a florist began in October 2019. I have basic training in level 2 Floristry and was lucky enough to be supported and guided by other hugely-talented floral designers in the area.

Flowers were never truly a passion of mine

to tell you the truth. I knew nothing about flowers before 2019! What I loved most about floristry, floral design and weddings/events has to do with the people involved. I love developing the ideas the bride and groom have come up with for their wedding day or the unique and quirky floral designs which are requested for gift bouquets and funeral tributes.

## What prompted you to set up your business?

I've been attending evening classes for floristry and have been studying my City and Guilds Level 2 Floristry with Weston College for over a year now. I have been recreating the floral designs from my class for friends and family. I have had a lot of encouragement to take my floristry to the next stage to start my small business.

I feel I have good base level skills and knowledge to start offering floral items and I felt confident I could succeed. During the last lockdown, I had the amazing opportunity to complete online courses around self-employment and running

my own business to gain the full understanding of how I could put my ideas and plans into action.

I do not have a lot of money to spend on my business. All I invested in were tools, known as my 'bag of tricks', which I purchased as I needed them. My current workspace often varies from my utility room and kitchen with my little Ford Hatchback as a delivery vehicle. Everyone's got to start somewhere; I've decided to start before I'm ready and take that jump or I will never do it!

Another reason for my business launch is my little boy— who was my inspiration to change my career and life goal to have a healthier work/life balance— and I hope one day it enables me to work full-time in my business and allows me to prioritise my time. Our little family values laughter and curiosity in our home. I will run my business in a way that values my family to have the best of me, my clients have the best of me, and I get the best out of my life. This often includes designing gift bouquets and funeral tributes with my toddler hanging off my arm or playing with a bucket of water.

## What is your favourite thing about your business?

I cannot just pick one thing that I enjoy about my business but multiple. The first one would be the opportunity to learn all time, in a way floristry is not reinventing the wheel as it appears to me to be moving in a full circle as moving away from the use of floral oasis foam techniques and back to the traditional moss and chicken wire methods with a strong cli-

mate and eco-friendly materials and techniques.

I am lucky to mix business with pleasure, merging my love for checklists and detailed processes while letting my creativity run wild. With unique ideas, polished style and a high level of professionalism. Most of the time, you find me answering emails, dreaming up floral plans or scrubbing out dirty buckets, but my absolute favourite moments are when I price up a few stems and watch them come together to form your bouquet.

The second one would be the fact I get to work with pretty things! I mean how can you resist buckets and buckets of peony in June, armfuls of hydrangea in August and swathes of greenery in December. It is, hands down, the prettiest career. And on top of that you get to be creative with all this pretty, from arranging in vases, to making custom bouquets for customers. Now let's not guild over the fact that there is A LOT of hard work that goes into floristry, but chances are you'll get to get your hands on the pretty every single day that you work. Believe me when I say it makes your heart sing!

The final and probably the most rewarding part of my job as a florist is how I get to be involved in people's special days. I'm not just talking about weddings, but all the little moments in life that people drop by our store to grab

Dainty Dahlia  
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some flowers to celebrate with. It could be a new grandmother who is celebrating the birth of her grandson and is ordering flowers for her daughter, or a bouquet to take for a socially distance visit to their loved one to remind them they are loved and not alone. These are just a few stories and life events my customers have share with me. It is always a privilege to be part of their moments, even in the smallest of floral ways!

### What is your favourite product to make?

I love to make gift bouquets and bridal bouquets. I love creative process of working out what flowers are requested for the bouquet and if they are in season. The quality needed for the style of the bouquet, the floral mechanisms of the design right through to collecting, conditioning and delivery of the flowers. I love the spiral technique and I find it very therapeutic.

tic.

### What is the average price range of your products?

I am currently focusing on my gift bouquets start from £25 and funeral tributes are made to order and prices can vary from £30 and up. Starting the end of November, I will be offering fresh Christmas Wreaths and limited Christmas-themed gift bouquets. I would love to offer wedding flowers in the future, I am just cautious due to Covid and Government restrictions. I would aim to book a wedding with no upwards cost of £500.

### What can your customers expect?

At Dainty Dahlias, we try and encourage the use of British grown flowers and seasonal varieties, which have less of an impact on the environment. We are offering these designs in spring, summer, autumn and winter mixes of colours and varieties. Of course, you will have the option to order something outside of the current season and we will focus on using a mixture of varieties which best suit that at the time.

I aim for all our work to be authentic and is designed for clients and is not off-the-shelf supermarket style— no matter how quirky or contemporary. I do have a passion for floral designs which captures the flowers in the wild and natural form. I want the flowers to trigger a memory from the past or stand as a memory for the future.

I pride myself on being honest, even if we may lose a potential customer

this is paramount as being realistic on budget and expectations is key. If we cannot do something, we say so, but also offer an alternative or source what they require and pass on the costs for them to decide.

It is my aim to be eco-friendly as possible from the moment the flowers enter my studio to the time they arrive at their destination. This entails sourcing eco-friendly products when possible, composting, recycling green waste, reducing use of chemicals solutions and a commitment to grow more of my own flowers each year. I am proud to say my main aim will be sourcing local flowers from my nearby flower farms and other British fresh flower wholesalers.

I have ensured all my stationary, packaging and business cards are from recycled materials. All stickers and flower water source, for example eco-wrap, is biodegradable and are safe to compost.

### Can you tell us a quirky fact about your business?

Some days I feel a bit like a superhuman with multitasking abilities and able to do hand-tied bouquet with just a one hand and holding my toddler with another. I start every day with a list, I write down the top three things I must accomplish that day for my business and three things I need to do as a mum. From this, I will tackle them early on in the day because you never know what may happen as the day goes on.

## Croquet Club

2020 has been an eventful year. Covid forced us to cancel our Club Competitions and League matches against other Clubs. This also applied to our internal social events.

However our Members enjoyed playing self distanced croquet against each other and the weather was kind.

The lawns closed on October 18th to allow us to do the extensive work on our three full sized lawns. We hope not only to continue to have beautiful lawns next year but a return to normal croquet competition.

The system on social distancing that the Club instigated worked well

keeping members safe during play.

Next year we plan to accept new members from our current waiting list and are planning to open Late March/Early April, either under this years Covid rules or hopefully normal conditions.

Sadly we lost one of our founder members this year; a resident of Bleadon, Roger Buckley. Roger, together with his wife Shirley, were instrumental in bringing our Croquet Club to Bleadon. He was a qualified croquet coach, and had previously held the positions of Chairman and President of our Club. His wise and thoughtful presence will be missed by us all. (Roger pictured on the right of photo).



We would like to extend our best wishes to the residents of Bleadon and wish you all a very Happy and joyful Christmas, however we are all allowed to celebrate this festive season. Stay safe and well, and a very Happy New Year from the Croquet Club.

**Jeanette Stuchbery (Chairman)**

# New look for Bleadon Church Room

by Phil Heycock

**B**y the time this article is published, works at the Church Room in Coronation Road will be complete and a new community space will be ready to receive its first users (subject to Covid-19 rules etc).

I was delighted to be informed back at the start of 2020 and only weeks before Covid changed our lives that the church had been successful in our grant application of £48,251 to the Viridor Credits Environment Company (10% of this sum was given by the Clarks Foundation Charity in Street). Supplemented by monies left to the Church in people's legacies, this has enabled us to proceed with a very exciting project which will be a great new resource for the church in Bleadon and for the local community.

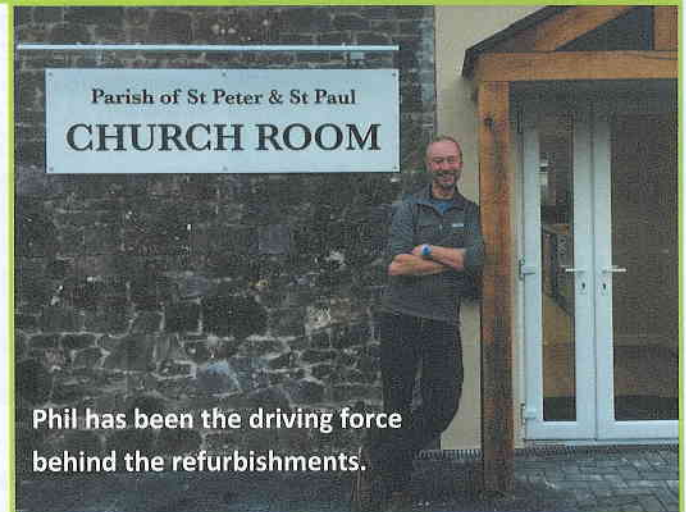


The existing building was opened around 50 years ago and little had changed inside since. So, plans were drawn up to bring the facility up to date internally and take the opportunity to extend into the former garage space that took up half of the building.

As well as increasing the seated capacity in the main hall to 36, the seamless move into the extra usable space means there is now a proper a fully-equipped kitchen with the facility to prepare and cook food. Also, in this new area is an accessible toilet with baby change facilities accessed via a spacious entrance lobby which faces Coronation Road.

Outside the new oak-framed porch and new signage marks the entrance and the roughcast wall finish has been removed and replaced with a smart new cream coloured render. The enclosed front garden has been landscaped and seating will be provided for those who wish to enjoy this space. At the rear the small car park will remain.

The brief which has been kept in mind throughout



the planning and build has been to provide a space that has:

- Accessible accommodation (Entrance from the road and lobby, main hall and toilet)
- Family friendly and child-safe
- Flexible furniture layout options
- Easy to maintain

So, the public spaces from the pavement are level, floor finishes are practical and furniture and fittings will be stackable to give flexible accommodation and the improvements in heating and insulation will make the space a comfortable place for everyone. Fast broadband has also been fitted so we can make use of the latest technology. The local church is keen to explore different ways to partner with people in the community and we hope this new space is one way that we can play our part.

We have been so fortunate in having a local build team from Somerset Bespoke Ltd led by Andy Harper and supported by Mike and Johnny whose skills have transformed this space into something very special for Bleadon.

As soon as Covid restrictions allow we will publish information on the church website, Facebook page and noticeboards about how to make bookings.



By PCSO Michael Benfield

The local beat team will continue to work as normal throughout the second lockdown and will remain contactable in the normal way through 101.

Find out about your local beat team or report a non-emergency crime at [www.avonandsomerset.police.uk](http://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk)



## WI's poppy display

by Elaine Mellor

Bleadon WI members have been busy this year knitting and crocheting poppies. These were sewn together by small groups of our members to make the stunning display at the Coronation Hall to commemorate Remembrance Day.

Bleadon WI continues to hold its main monthly meeting on Zoom. Recent talks via Zoom have included a fabulous talk by Pauline Kidner of Secret World and a great cookery demonstration by Amy Nancollis of Oak and Glass Catering. Unfortunately, there can be no tasting via Zoom!

Our choir, the Bleadon Belles, still rehearse weekly via Zoom and some of our book club members also meet virtually. We are looking forward to making Scandi Christmas trees at our November Zoom meeting and singing carols virtually with our choir in December. We wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas.

Bleadon WI membership is currently at our maximum of 100 but if you would like to be added to our waiting list, please email [bleadonwi@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:bleadonwi@hotmail.co.uk)



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# Farewell to Coronation Halls Chair

by Les Masters

Since this is my last report and the end of my 33-year involvement with the Hall in a variety of ways, it seems time to step back and comment on the changes during that period, partly to help more recent arrivals understand where we are and how we got here.

Of the present Committee only Andy Scarisbrick and Steve Hartree remember the Hall as it was when I first saw it in 1987. There was just the one Hall, with a corrugated iron roof looking pretty shabby, and when I looked at the stage, having been in drama groups in three other villages, I was very disappointed. We thought of joining a Weston group but found that thinly attended performances at the Playhouse were sadly lacking in atmosphere, so after being urged by a number of locals we set about starting Bleadon Players, holding our first show in April 1988. The audience support was all one could ask for and the Hall Committee were immensely supportive. One of the problems was the lack of space backstage, and the Committee helped alleviate it by removing the old pay boxes on either side of the former entrance doors. The idea was theirs and they paid.

Not long after this the Committee floated the idea of a short mat bowls club and arranged a sampling evening with a firm of equipment suppliers. We were all invited to turn up one Friday and give it a try, signing up if we were interested in joining. Obviously enough people did so and the Committee bought the first set of equipment. The club gradually paid this back and went on to buy another set. Storage was under the stage.

In 1990 I was elected to the Parish Council and one of the first issues to crop up was a cry for help from the scouting organisations, whose hut was near collapse. There followed long negotiations, resulting in an agreement to extend the hall, giving the scouting organisations priority in the use of the extension. Betty (Akela) Paterson was much involved, and the contributions of Len Chamberlain, Harry Chatterley and Barbara Snelgrove are commemorated in their pictures on the wall of what was in due course named the Jubilee Room. The work included alterations to the main entrance and the toilets.

When the idea of Lottery grants appeared I know the Hall Committee, quite understandably, became interested and ambitious plans were drawn up for a new Hall to be built over the existing main hall. A grant of £96,000 was sought and refused. When I became Secretary in 2002 a second application had been made, which was also refused. It was realised that time and money were being wasted so we settled for having a new roof (metal and felt), which Mike Holyday installed for £12,000 at the end of that year. Some time during 2003 Joanne Jones declared that the Jubilee Room needed a new floor, the present one being covered with second-hand carpet tiles. This was laid early in 2004, after a clear-out of huge amounts of junk, and the room instantly became far more attractive for lettings.

Joanne also started the monthly markets, with a revolutionary effect on income. In a relatively short time the main kitchen had been provided with wall cupboards and floor units, plus a water boiler, all the main Hall chairs had been replaced with upholstered ones and all the old tables had been replaced. The bowls club were enabled to move to the Jubilee Room, making life much easier for the Players and the toddler group. In 2005 the present Licensing Act came into force and we decided to obtain a full premises licence. This added to the inflow of funds.

The build-up of money to finance the major alterations to the central part of the building lasted several years. The plans were discussed very thoroughly before a final draft was sent out to tender. Many of the present Committee were involved and must have shared with me a tremendous satisfaction with the outcome. It was immediately clear that we were offering the public a greatly improved facility.





By this time the Hall had a well-established, successful business model, with a healthy surplus every year on the lettings and fund-raising the icing on the cake. Not surprisingly, another target was quickly set - the refurbishment of the main kitchen. Unless something ridiculously extravagant is proposed, the funds are now in place, but the pandemic has of course put everything on hold. We are only on the brink of a partial re-opening and have no idea when the kitchens will come back into use.

September 3rd, 2017 was a very special day for the Hall. It was Len Chamberlain's 90th birthday and the occasion of our "thank you" party for Joanne Jones after 35 years as Bookings Officer. The event was one of the pleasantest I can recall, being made so by the group of ladies who decorated the hall and organised the refreshments, also revealing our Treasurer's remarkable poetic talent. It had to be followed, however, by some organisa-

The Management Committee of village volunteers that runs the Coronation Hall has carried out a risk assessment and drawn up protocols for its safe use during the pandemic. This includes marking up the two halls into two metre squares to facilitate social distancing, provision of hand sanitising facilities within the Hall and a set of Covid specific conditions that hirers must agree to adhere to when using the building.

Arrangements were put in place for reopening the Hall from 19th October for those hirers who were able to meet safely and a small number of local groups did indeed start to meet again. Unfortunately, as we all know, Lockdown 2 then intervened and we have had to close our doors again.

At the time of writing, it is hoped to open up the Hall again in December, government restrictions permitting. The day to day running of the Hall is managed by a small but dedicated group of local residents who aim to ensure that Bleadon continues to have an excellent community hub for a wide range of clubs and other activities. We do need to recruit more volunteers to help in what is not an onerous commitment.

We generally meet monthly and would welcome interest from any Bleadon resident who would like to contribute their life skills and enthusiasm in running and improving the facility. The Hall cannot continue to play a key role in village life without this local support. Please speak to Betty (812183) or Kevin (811267) if you would like a chat about helping to run your local Hall.

tional restructuring. We are now fortunate to have in Kate James, Bill Blacklock and Jo Howitt three very capable contractors to deal with bookings, maintenance and cleaning respectively.

Despite the difficulties of the unique situation that confronts us all, I feel I can step aside and leave the management of the Coronation Halls in good hands and say to Bleadon that it has a facility that compares very favourably with many other village halls, in several ways –

1. It is centrally situated, most residents living within 10 minutes' walk.
2. There is at the same time a respectably sized car park.
3. It has two multi-function halls, which can easily be booked together.
4. Unlike halls built to accommodate badminton, it has a pleasant feel to it which has been remarked on many times.
5. Groups such as the Players and the church are allowed to keep the profit when they run a bar.

I can also say to Bleadon that it is lucky to have such a team of unsung heroes managing this facility. Whoever follows me in the chair could not want a more efficient Secretary and Treasurer, and other members have when the need arose weighed in quickly and effectively to deal with problems. I wish them all well.

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## Zoe's Recipes

Zoe Solomon from the Bleadon Café shares her culinary expertise with Bleadon News readers with three delicious delights.

### Brie and cranberry stuffed chicken

Chicken breasts  
Streaky bacon  
Cranberry sauce  
Brie  
Potatoes  
Vegetables of your choice  
Splash of oil  
Oregano  
Salt and pepper

#### Method

1. Preheat oven to 180C/gas mark 4.
2. Butterfly the chicken breast by cutting in the centre of the breast but not completely through the middle.
3. Slice the brie width ways so slices are approximately half a centimetre wide and place this on the butterflied chicken breast.
4. Place two teaspoons of cranberry sauce on top of the brie in the chicken and wrap with 1-2 rashers of bacon.
5. Salt and pepper the chicken on the top and sprinkle with oregano (or a herb of your choice).
6. Slice your potato into cubes (the size is up to you) and place in a saucepan and bring to the boil—cook until soft but still holding shape.
7. Drain and place the potatoes on a tray and season with salt, pepper



- and herb seasoning.
8. Place the chicken and the potatoes in the middle of the oven and cook for 30 minutes—make sure the chicken is cooked through before eating.
9. Boil/steam your favourite vegetables and serve.

### Chocolate torte

#### Torte

225g 70% dark chocolate  
160g ground almonds  
140g white breadcrumbs  
225g unsalted butter  
340g caster sugar  
6 eggs  
1 vanilla essence

#### Biscuit base

175g digestive biscuits  
1tsp cocoa powder  
85g butter

#### Chocolate ganache

110g 70% dark chocolate  
225ml double cream  
125g icing sugar

#### Method

1. Preheat oven to 160C/gas mark 3
2. Blitz together the biscuits and cocoa powder and pour in the melted butter. Grease the base of a cake tin and place base mixture along bottom of tin to suitable thickness.
3. Melt the chocolate and add in the ground almonds and breadcrumbs, mixing well to combine.
4. In a separate bowl, cream the butter and sugar until light and fluffy and beat in the eggs, one at a time, followed by the vanilla.
5. Add the chocolate mixture to the butter and eggs and mix until smooth and incorporated.
6. Pour the mixture into the cake tin and bake for 55 minutes until set and cooked through. Allow to cool.
7. For the ganache, place the chocolate in a large bowl. Bring the cream and icing sugar to the boil in the saucepan then pour over the chocolate, stirring until the chocolate has melted and the mix is smooth.
8. Set aside to cool and then spread the ganache on the cooled torte.



### Christmas mocktail

Cranberry juice  
Orange juice  
Pineapple juice  
Lemonade/sparkling water  
Fresh mint  
Ice

#### Method

1. Measure out equal parts of the three juices together in a pitcher.
2. Add the ice and lemonade/sparkling water (you can opt out of the fizz if you don't want a fizzy mocktail).
3. Dip the edge of glasses into sugar if desired.
4. Mix in some fresh mint and ice and serve.
5. Want to make it alcoholic? Mix in some vodka.





# Bleadon Youth Centre

## JUST AS THINGS WERE LOOKING UP.....

..... the second lockdown sent everyone back home.  
Thankfully not quite everyone.

After six and a half months of social inactivity in the Bleadon Youth Centre things were beginning to return to some sort of socially distanced, sanitised normality at the start of October.

The youth club was meeting on a Thursday evening, the table tennis club were playing intimate Wednesday sessions, yoga was providing some serenity, music was filling the hall from Toot Suite and toddlers were tearing around the wide open space. Smiles were returning to our sunny walls.

Now we are into our second lockdown and only the toddlers remain as regular weekly users. Thank goodness our bright community space is able to provide a safe and welcoming venue for our early years practitioners.

Hopefully, by the time you are reading this restrictions and fears

will have eased and once again we will be seeing some return to social activities in the village.

### For now Youth Club continues virtually online



In the meantime the YMCA are running weekly social interaction sessions on ZOOM with our young youth club members.

When it is safe to do so they will be returning to regular face-to-face sessions.

Probably continuing with the two sessions at 6:30 and 8pm on a Thursday evening.

**If you have youngsters aged 10 to 17 who want to come along to the youth club simply scan the QR code on the poster at the entrance. This will allow you to register your interest. The YMCA staff will then contact you.**

### On the wall

Following the summer-long refurbishment of the youth centre building our bright new walls now boast a full-size kayak. Courtesy of Palm Equipment International in Clevedon. More exciting than flying ducks.



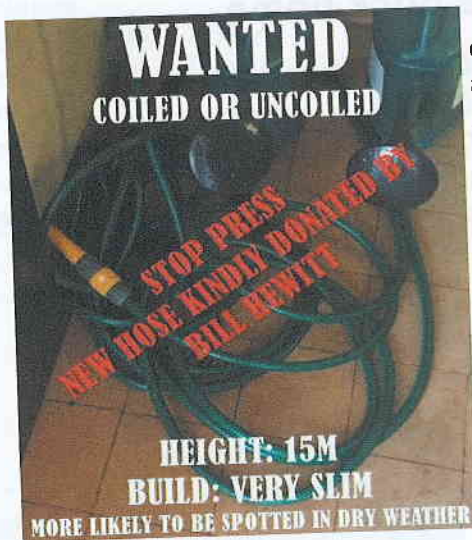
At the time of writing it looks like our regular BIG Christmas draw fundraiser at the Queens Arms pantomime may not happen this year. I hear cries of SHAME and BOO resonating throughout the village and far beyond. But keep an ear cocked for news of this and other excitements. Fingers crossed.



# Bleadon Bloomers prepare for winter

by Robin Flavell

The summer is well and truly over and the Bleadon in Bloom volunteers have been hard at work tidying up our flower displays all around the village. We've planted hundreds of bulbs and polyanthus for the winter season to give us all a boost of colour through to spring.



The Bloomers have once again taken responsibility for their own tubs, working in a socially distanced way with support from a core team of organisers.

With the environment in mind, wherever possible we've saved this summer's plants to be overwintered and used again next year.

Thanks again to Val and Roger Hart for their horticultural expertise in keeping last year's polyanthus safe over the summer.

We've started thinking about our theme for summer 2021. Find out more in the next newsletter and our Facebook page.

**Are you a local business? Interested in joining in next year's competition?**

It's easy to enter and get recognition for your business. Gold, silver and bronze awards are up for grabs. Find out

more and download an entry form at <http://www.southwestinbloom.org.uk/Business-awards.aspx> or contact Kirsten Hemingway for advice.

## **Bleadon wins special recognition!**


Although this year's main competition was cancelled, we were invited to submit a video of our activities.


The RHS Bloom organisation has praised our ingenuity & creativity in continuing to improve our green spaces despite the difficulties of the coronavirus pandemic. Our Bleadon groups have been awarded special certificates recognising our valuable contribution to the community during 2020. Well done all the Bloomers!

Thanks to Mike and Liz Butt for organising the Bleadon in Bloom video. You can see it on [www.southwestinbloom.org.uk](http://www.southwestinbloom.org.uk)

## **Want to get involved?**

Join our friendly band of volunteers, have some healthy, outdoor, creative fun and make a difference to your local community.

 Follow us on Facebook—**Bleadon in Bloom**

 Email Kirsten Hemingway [writer@kirstenhemingway.co.uk](mailto:writer@kirstenhemingway.co.uk) and join our WhatsApp group

 Visit the South West in Bloom website for the latest regional competition news [www.southwestinbloom.org.uk](http://www.southwestinbloom.org.uk)

## **And finally...**

I'm sure everyone in the village would like to say a huge thank you to Kirsten for her enthusiasm and hard work organising the people, resources and funding for Bleadon in Bloom. She's helped bring our community together and made Bleadon's entry into the South West in Bloom competition such a success.



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# New zero-waste business

**W**eston has a brand new store but you may already know it as a local cafe which has been around for the last decade.

Good and Proper, in Regent Street by The Big Carrot, is now a zero-waste store. But do not worry, you can still get your caffeine and sugar fix as the shop is still doing drinks and food to take-away or eat outside.

The zero-waste business sells a range of products from flour to cereals, lentils to vegan sweets. The team also serve food and drinks to takeaway or eat outside.

When coronavirus hit, Good and Proper cafe owner, Clare Morris, had just refurbished her cafe. A month later the cafe was closed and Clare was left wondering when, or if, she would ever be able to re-open.

The time at home gave her some time to focus on her passion for sustainability, zero waste and supporting local businesses in the south-west. She already stocked a few items from local suppliers and missed the zero waste shop that has recently shut so she decided to take the leap and open her own zero-waste shop.

The shop opened in October, on a very rainy Saturday, and has already seen lots of customers coming in to refill items from cereals to washing detergent to vegan sweets.

Clare said: "I've been overwhelmed by the number of people who have visited my new shop. I want Weston High Street to be a vibrant place that people come to and I hope my shop can help to be part of that while supporting other local south-west suppliers"

If you want to pop in the shop is open from Tuesday to Sunday, between 9am and 4pm. If you cannot find what you are looking for, there is a suggestion board where you can write down what you are after and you might find it is there next time you go in!



## Editor's column

**N**ew beginnings and legacies are the two themes which have been playing on my mind during the creation of this edition of the magazine.

Christmas and New Year are a time of reflection and looking forward and over the past few months, I have had the opportunity to look back at my past and ahead to my future.

After the sad loss of a family member, I realized the importance of legacies and how we carry our family's legacies on with us into our future.

Last month saw the country commemorate Armistice Day and the legacy left behind by the soldiers who 'gave their today for our tomorrow'.

It is now down to us to treasure that legacy left behind by our ancestors and move forward — make a difference in the world and create a legacy our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren can be proud of.

Together — if we put our mine to it — we can achieve anything and make the world a better place.



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# "The light shines in the darkness"

by Rev. Tim Erridge

As the nights draw in, sometimes we see the most beautiful display of stars! As life with Covid continues and changes, sometimes we find good surprises too! Life is different for all of us at the moment and often challenging, but as I think over recent weeks I see moments where the sun breaks through the clouds and I hope, if I tell you about some of them, you might notice some that have been there for you too?

In September and October, Bleadon Church was able to start holding Sunday services again in a simplified way. Covid has forced us to change what we do, sometimes in ways that are hard to swallow. Our lovely ancient atmospheric church building is not the biggest! Usually this helps it be cosy, but now it seriously limits the number of people we can welcome at any one time and the need to quarantine the space limits how much it can be open. Alongside this the absence of permission for congregations to sing has been especially hard for many of us to live with.

I have though been struck by different comments from a number of people who have found good things in what we have been able to do in this strange time. Simply seeing each other face to face, even in a limited way has been a tonic after not gathering at all for so long. Although many of us have missed things that we have not been able to do, I have been struck by some people who have said they value the new simplicity!

In early November, we usually hold a special evening service for "All Soul's Day", which gives an opportunity to trust to-

gether as we remember those who we have loved and lost. This year we could not hold the special service and so had to weave our remembering into our morning service. I was not at all sure how this would work and was worried about finding a way of doing it that worked for everyone. We usually read out names given to us and the list can be quite long. Time constraints and the different situation made us think again, so instead, we printed out the names and placed them amongst lights in a display. Afterwards, some people told me they found that far better than the way we had done it before. Without all the current constraints, we probably would not have done it the way we did! "The Light Shines in the Darkness!"

For the last issue of Bleadon News, I compiled an article about our shared Covid Help work and all the encouragements that had come from it. On 8th November, we had to mark Remembrance Sunday very differently, with a short outdoor service, rather than the usual indoor one, but again, a number of people found this more profound and connected to the whole community in a very good way.

Christmas this year is clearly going to be very different. As yet we do not know what we can and can't do then, (Please do look out for information in the coming weeks) but I do have a real hope that we will again discover new and good things in it this year, even as we miss many things we would often do together.

As I think of Christmas this year, this poem (see below) comes to mind. I wonder if it can help us notice the good things that might otherwise pass us by.

*Peace to you all this Christmas.*

## Calendars for sale

Bleadon's answer to Ansel Adams, the grandfather of landscape and nature photography, will be releasing the 2021 Bleadon wildlife calendar.

Richard Cole, mid-70s, has lived in Bleadon for more than 10 years and can often be spotted sharing his colourful and sharp photographs of the local wildlife in Bleadon. In the In And Around Bleadon Group and Somerset Nature Photography Group on Facebook.

The sharp shooter praised the 'superb' area of natural beauty and wildlife and found the feedback on his photos 'extremely gratifying'.

Richard has been creating and selling local calendars for several years now, featuring wildlife, birds and the village itself.

He said: "However, the enforced closure of the Village Market has obviously had a severe impact on this."

The calendars will be available within the coming weeks and will cost £5, excluding postage should it be required.

The money raised from the calendar covers the cost of the production of the calendars and no profit is gained through the process.

Richard added: "I can be contacted via the In And Around Bleadon website, where I post on a daily basis. The purpose of these calendars is to provide a truly local pictorial record of the beauty which is around us, and it provides publicity for the village through those who send them to friends and relatives."



BC – AD; by U A Fanthorpe

This was the moment when Before  
Turned into After, and the future's  
Uninvented timekeepers presented arms.

This was the moment when nothing  
Happened. Only dull peace  
Sprawled boringly over the earth.

This was the moment when even energetic Romans  
Could find nothing better to do  
Than counting heads in remote provinces.

And this was the moment  
When a few farm workers and three  
Members of an obscure Persian sect

Walked haphazard by starlight straight  
Into the kingdom of heaven!

# What to expect at Queens after lockdown...

by **Kerrie and Alan**

**W**e would like to say a massive thank you to all our loyal customers for supporting the Queens Arms since we reopened on July 4th— it's been amazing. Thanks to everyone adhering to the new Covid rules in the pub we have all stayed safe. It's been a learning curve for all of us, but everyone has embraced the new way of coming to the pub.

Unfortunately, we now have another lockdown, but hopefully we will be back up and running in time for Christmas. At least it gives us plenty of time to put the decorations up! The Quiz Night had to be cancelled again because of lockdown, but it will be re-scheduled for a date in January.

We did manage to have a couple of Open Mic sessions outside before it got too dark and cold and it was brilliant to have some live music playing at the Queens again. Thank you to Jordan, Mike, Charlie, Pete and everyone else who performed and to everyone who came and supported it.

The meat draw has proved to be

a brilliant success and we have eight lucky winners every week. We are thinking of having a Christmas meat raffle in the middle of December where you can win a turkey. More details will be posted on Facebook nearer the time.

We have had the amazing news that the Queens has been awarded five stars from the Cask Marque Trust for our cellar inspection so you can rest assured that our beer is well looked after and tastes the best it possibly can – come and try it for yourselves!

We have also been informed Butcombe are looking at doing some work on the back courtyard to make it into a more weatherproof seating area with heating. We are looking forward to hearing what they have planned.

The Christmas menu is in the process of being sorted out, and once it is available, we will post it on Facebook and we will be taking bookings. If you want a more private family reservation or work party for up to six people, the Tap Room can be booked.

We are hoping to have the annual pantomime again this year but we are just working out the logistics of how we can do it in a Covid-safe way

Rebel the dog, one of the Queens loyal customers.



and we will provide more information when we have worked out a risk assessment.

We will be open on Christmas day, but do recommend that you book a table if you want to be sure to sit inside. Just message or ring us and let us know what time you would like to come and for how long and hopefully we will be able to fit everyone in.

In these uncertain times, we don't know what the opening times will be for Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, but whatever they are we will let you know, and we hope you will join us to celebrate more happy times.

## Mark Howe

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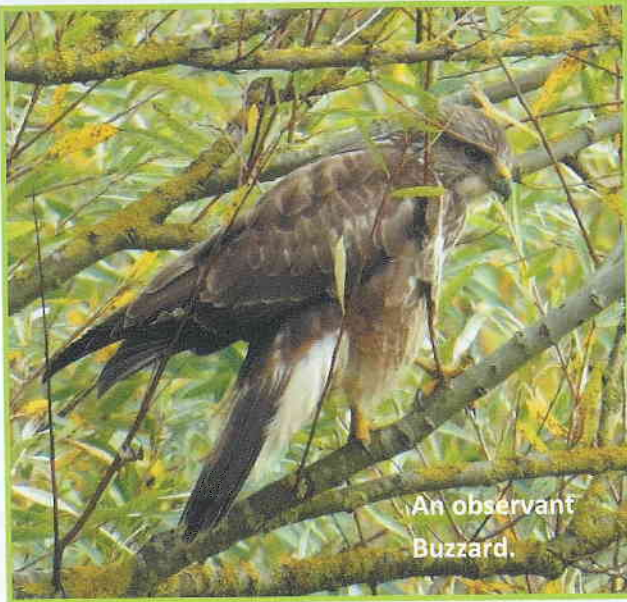
Fence painting

Turfing

Patios and

chipping laid

# Wildlife photospread and wildlife story



An observant Buzzard.



Robin.



Marmalade Hoverfly.

Photos by Richard Cole, Peter Williams, Penny Robinson and Tom Nutley,



Ivy bee.



A hungry squirrel



Southern Migrant Hawker Dragonfly.



Breakfast buffet.



A visiting Vixen.

# Bleadon Coronavirus Help Group update

Now we are in Lockdown 2 (and beyond) I would like to remind folk that, unlike last time, when the Government tried to work out how to help folk fast, this time support is much more in the hands of the NHS, North Somerset District Council (NSDC) and community groups like this one and there is a need to register or phone for help.

The NHS has issued Shielding emails and letters to those who need to be clinically shielded for health reasons and there is a need for people/households who have one of these to register for support from the National Shielding Support Service (NSSS). They will have given you the details and you do need your NHS number (it is on the letter). It is very important that you do even if, right now, you are doing okay. If you need help to register please let me know. If you want to register for support for a relative or friend who lives in this locality you can do this on the website.

If you do not have a NHS letter but you do need to stay indoors, have other issues that make you vulnerable to the virus or are frail and you feel you might need some support then please contact the Town Hall and register for support with them on COVID-19 I need

help.

The Council have a triage system and will give you any types of support you need. Your details will be referred to me and I will ring you to check you are okay and what help we can offer you too. This is just to ensure you do not fall through the net and the Council and I will work together to ensure you get all the help you need. It is important you register if you find things are not great at your house and you or others in it are vulnerable or frail in any way.

If you are mostly okay but just need help with collecting prescriptions, medical supplies, putting the bins out for rubbish collections or anything else that is a problem that the volunteers can help you with, then please let me know (Sara Hughes 811008) if you live in Bleadon Village or Janice Horrigan on 814841 if you live on or over Bleadon Hill).

We will relay your requests to our team of excellent village volunteers and get you some help. If you are already on our list that is great but please can you still register for support anyway. It will make no difference to us but it will ensure that the Council have a fuller picture of what the community is doing to help itself.

If you have been or are suddenly told to go into isolation by NHS Track and Trace/the NHS app you cannot go out. If you do not have a supermarket delivery slot and you need help please register with the Council but also give us a call so we can ensure you are supported quickly and until you can get food and medical supplies some other way.

We (and another 43 groups like us) 'popped up' in North Somerset when Coronavirus hit in March and they all stand ready to 'go-again' under the North Somerset Together banner. It is amazing that the community round here is so resilient and my husband and I continue to count our blessings following our move here 18 months ago. What a great place!

I would like to thank those people who initially set up the group in March, all our amazing volunteers for what they have done and continue to do and those organisations and individuals who have given financial support to enable us to do what needs to be done.

Thank you and Seasons Greetings to you all!

Sara Hughes (Group Lead)

## Live Christmas Trees For Sale

Non-drop and traditional trees  
Available after lockdown or  
pre-order  
Open every day from  
9.30am - 6pm

**\*New location this year\***

By Eastertown junction  
Brookfield House, Lympsham  
BS24 0JT

**eden**  
GREENERY

Facebook.com/Edengreenery  
M 07803 242 583

\*Following Covid-safe rules



# A word from the Bleadon Shop

by Alistair and Charlotte House

**A**t the time of writing, we are in the middle of a second lockdown, still open, still thriving and still offering home deliveries for those shielding or isolating. We have put a range of Covid-secure measures, including wearing face masks, hand sanitising, protective barriers and, recently, we have also introduced a 'fogger' which is used twice daily to kill 99% airborne nasties. Please bear with us as we pause for trade between 12pm and 12.15 pm daily for additional cleaning. With the recent news of a vaccine on the horizon, we sincerely hope we will be 'out of the woods' before too long.

The Butchery is very busy, so much so, we have taken on assistant butcher Jay to help Barry. Christmas meat orders are being taken from now, so do come and see Barry about your festive requirements. The Fruit and Veg selection has been increased with the arrival of a huge new fridge. Produce is selling so fast, we now have deliveries three times a week so freshness is guaranteed.

Our eco-friendly milk vending service with reusable glass bottles is steadily growing. Chew Valley Dairies deliver daily and we now supply their cream, so do come and sample this style of milk purchase if you haven't yet tried it out. Cut flowers and homemade cakes are very popular...you'll want to grab them when they are first delivered midweek.

We are going to be stocking frozen fruits shortly. You can buy the meringue nests, cream and various delicious sauces to

construct your own Pavlovas for winter treats.

Perhaps you have noticed the staff wearing new polo shirts and fleeces sporting our logo? We think they really look the part, and you might also see their photos gradually appearing on Facebook!

Staff-wise, we are still growing. Joining existing Post Masters Manshu, Izzy and Rachael is Michelle who is behind the counter twice a week. Amanda still comes out of retirement once in a while to help us out! In the shop joining Kelly, Ellen and Georgia, we have taken on Luke and Jaz.

Whether you are a seasoned customer or have never visited us before, we offer a warm welcome, friendly service and great produce.

**Thank you for your custom!**



## REVIEW: Thatchers launch new ciders for winter season

by Ellie Young

**T**hatchers harvest season is always a popular time of the year, with juicy apples being plucked from their stems and transformed into an array of delicious ciders, for which Somerset has become so famous.

This September was no different, with the two newest brews now becoming available for purchase from the Thatchers Shop, in Sandford. As a fan of Thatchers Cider since moving to Somerset four and a half years ago, it was refreshing to try the newest two ciders—Cox's and Grenadier.

Well let me say that Mark and Sophie, the cider makers of the two blends respectively, are my new favourite people for delivering these tasty tipples to our shop shelves.

The first bottle I popped open was the Grenadier, a sweeter cider described by Thatchers as 'an elegant, light sparkling cider which beautifully blends the unique characteristics of the grenadier apple'. This cider is sweet but not sickly so like many fruit ciders.

A refreshing beverage which is a bit on the strong side (7.4%) so best to keep this to only a few pints at the risk of falling off the bar stools. But it is still something which should be enjoyed in moderation. The Grenadier is crisp and fresh and is perfect for enjoying in the sunshine or by a cosy fire with your feet up. I personally feel it would fit with refreshing foods such as salads and fruits to further celebrate the cider.

Next up was the Cox's brew, made by cider maker Mark, which was another pleasant surprise. A little bit on the drier side, this cheeky tippie is made of one of the finest tasting dessert apples and is deliciously juicy and richly aromatic.

The medium cider, which was last produced from Myrtle Farm in 2014, is a 5.3% alc vol and is definitely more-ish with elements of sweetness and dryness all at the same time. Another bright and refreshing cider out of the harvest and it is a cider I could definitely find myself enjoying again and again.

The Cider Barn range, including Cox's and Grenadier, can be purchased from the Thatchers Shop, in Station Road, Sandford. Please remember to drink in moderation and be drink aware.





# Puzzle Page answers and thanks

## Riddle me this?

### Riddle one:

It's a shadow

### Riddle two:

A dice

### Riddle three:

A fence

8	4	7	5	9	3	6	1	2
3	5	2	4	1	6	9	8	7
6	9	1	7	8	2	4	5	3
5	2	3	9	4	1	7	6	8
1	8	4	3	6	7	2	9	5
7	6	9	2	5	8	3	4	1
4	7	6	1	3	5	8	2	9
2	1	8	6	7	9	5	3	4
9	3	5	8	2	4	1	7	6

## With thanks to...

Peter Williams  
 Gill Williams  
 Michael Benfield  
 Charlotte House  
 Rob Tyson  
 Ann Davies  
 Andy Scarisbrick  
 George Scott  
 Mike Solomon  
 Penny Robinson  
 Pauline Kidner  
 Kirsten Hemingway  
 Jeanette Stuchberry  
 Yvonne Cooper  
 Katherine Payne  
 Phil Heycock  
 Elaine Mellor

Les Masters  
 Kerrie Jones  
 Betty Paterson  
 Bruce Poole  
 Penny Adair  
 Rev Tim Erridge  
 Kevin Barrett  
 Zoe Solomon  
 Robin Flavell  
 Christine King  
 Clare Morris  
 Richard Cole  
 Tom Nutley  
 Michelle Harper  
 Jo Jones  
 Sara Hughes

Thank you to everyone who has advertised with us for this edition.

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# A hive of interest in the orchards

**O**rchards are a hive of interest – not just for the apples that are grown there, but for the incredible diversity of wildlife that make orchards their home. And that's why Thatchers – based in Sandford – place a huge importance on the care of their orchards, protecting and celebrating the biodiversity of these distinctive Somerset landmarks.

In a short film recently released by the national Discover Cider campaign, Chris Muntz-Torres, Thatchers Farm Manager, describes the importance that orchards play: "Orchards are such an important part of the rural economy. The trees can be rooted in the ground for potentially decades. Therefore they have a real role to play in biodiversity, they are massively important for wildlife and are a real feature of the landscape."

Recognising the part that orchards play in the landscape, the orchards at Shiplate have just been awarded an RHS Britain in Bloom certificate as part of the Bleadon entry into the competition.

Apple orchards are at the heart of Thatchers' cider making, and it's here

varieties are chosen to suit the local soil and climatic conditions. With over 500 acres of its own orchards throughout Somerset, Thatchers grows 25 varieties of apple that they use regularly in their ciders. The fourth generation cider maker also places huge importance on research into apples for the future.

Helping with this, Thatchers maintains an exhibition orchard in Sandford, which contains the largest collection of cider apple trees in the UK. Gathered by John Thatcher over the last 30 years, many of the 458 varieties homed in the orchard were brought across from Long Ashton Research Station in Bristol when it stopped fruit research back in the 1980s. Lesser known and ancient varieties preserved in the Exhibition Orchard include Vagon Archer, Wyken Pippin, Pigs Snout, Foxwhelp, Cider Ladies Finger, and Slack-ma-Girdle.

Close by, there is another historically important traditional orchard at Christon: also home to unusual apple varieties, and interestingly planted back in 1928 by the much-revered Long Ashton Research Station. This is an amazing wildlife habitat, and the Thatchers farm team leave dead trees or stumps in the ground providing a home for many different insects and invertebrates, which in turn provide food for abundant woodpeckers.

From blossom in the spring, through to the fruit ripening on the trees during summer and culminating in harvest, all Thatchers orchards are not just the source of the raw ingredients for cider. They are a haven for wildlife and an important contributor to the local

ecosystem.

The orchard margins, the grass carpets throughout the orchards, and the trees themselves, these are an invaluable, multi-layered habitat. For insects and invertebrates, birds of prey, bats, pheasant, deer, rabbits and hares to name but a few.

Bees of course are vital to the health of the trees. With hives throughout the orchards, bees help ensure effective pollination in spring. But it's not just honey bees to be seen buzzing around.

Thatchers has been planting wild flower strips, providing a valuable foraging source for bumblebees and solitary bees. These are really efficient pollinators and are able to fly in weather conditions that would normally see the honey bees stay in their hives. Wildflowers such as red clover, yellow rattle and bird's-foot-trefoil are rich in nectar and pollen for the queen and worker bees. The margins of the orchards are also protected, providing valuable nesting places for wildlife.

Thatchers has hives in all its orchards for honey bees, cared for by local beekeepers. One such beekeeper is Jamie Lewellyn, who has been keeping bees since the age of 16, and now runs Waggle and Hum Honey. He says: "The diversity of the apple species in the Thatchers orchards gives a really good pollen protein profile for the bees in the spring. The bees love the different flowers: "Apple nectar gives a really nice light flowery flavour and a good amount of our spring honey contains a nectar from orchard blossom."

You can listen more to Chris Muntz-Torres talking about the value of orchards with Gabe Cook of the Discover Cider Campaign here: [www.discovercider.com/2020/10/28/orchard-in-the-orchard-with-thatchers-cider](http://www.discovercider.com/2020/10/28/orchard-in-the-orchard-with-thatchers-cider)



## Contact me

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



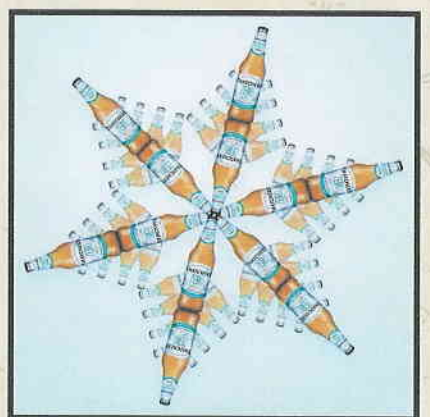
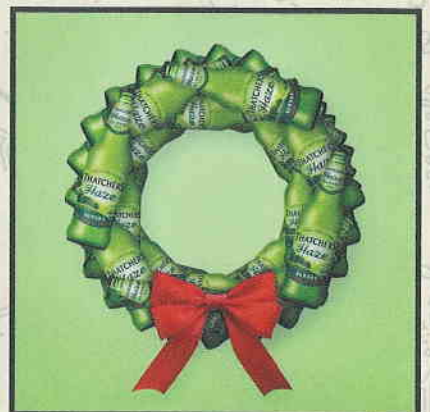
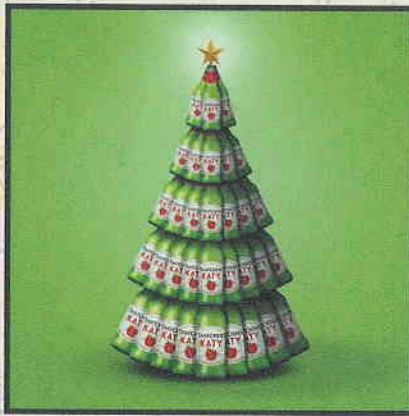
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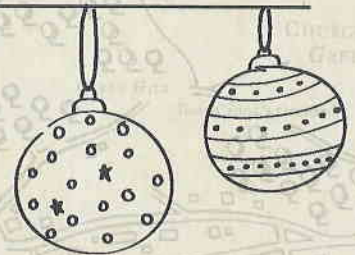
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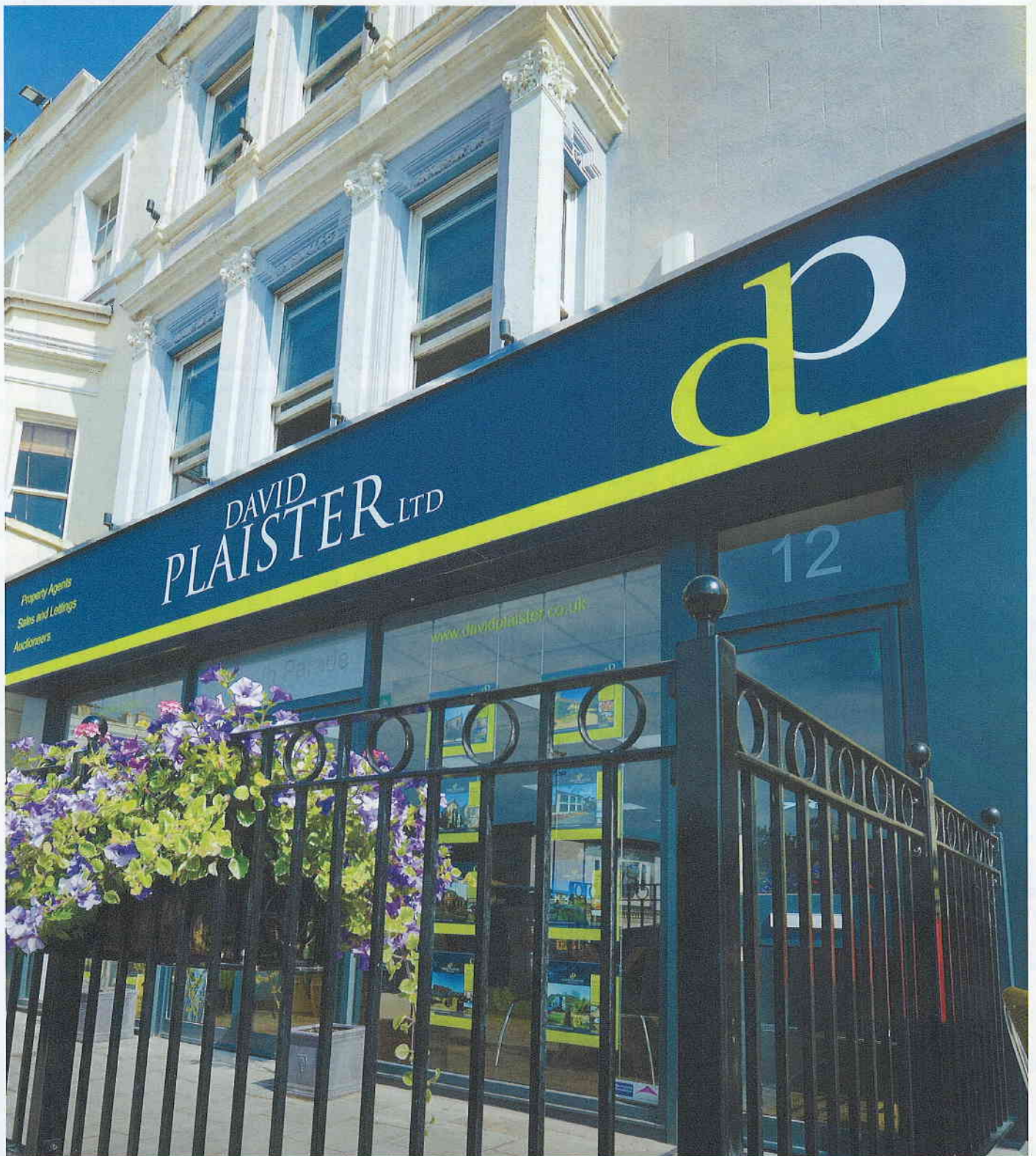
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Shop online or pop into our cider shop at Myrtle Farm this Christmas for gift ideas and a range of our delicious ciders.



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