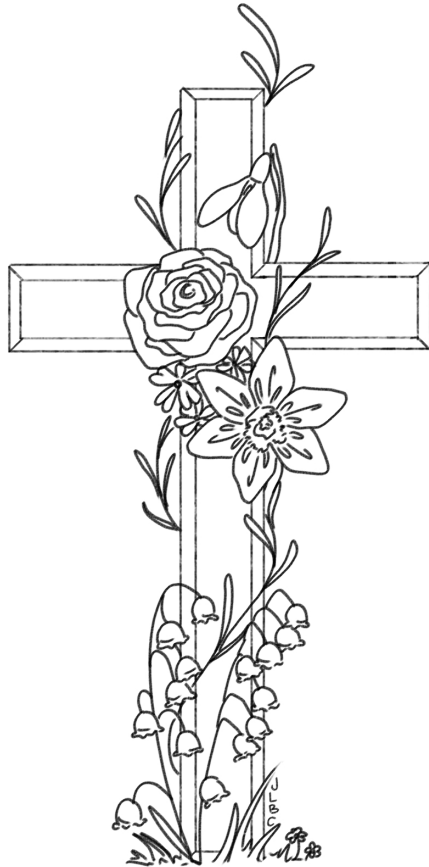


# Bleadon Parish News



SPRING 2024 Issue 128

## Ways to Contact Bleadon Parish Council (BPC)

<b>Personally Contact Councillors</b>	
Cllr Mary Sheppard (Chairman)	marysheppard@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk
Cllr Andy Scarisbrick (Vice-chairman)	andyscarisbrick@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk
Cllr ID Clarke	idclarke@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk
Cllr Ann Davies	anndavies@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk
Cllr Jo Gower-Crane	jogc@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk
Cllr Steve Sugg	stevesugg@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk
Co-option Vacancy	
Co-option Vacancy	
Co-option Vacancy	
<b>Contact the Clerk</b>	
Craig Bolt	parishclerk@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk Tel: 07453 358 318 (Mon, Tues & Thurs am) C/O Coronation Halls, Bleadon. BS24 0PG
<b>Weekly Opportunities to Visit the Clerk</b>	
Bleadon Café every Tuesday, 9am-12pm	
<b>Monthly Opportunities to Raise Questions and Listen to Discussions</b>	
Full council meetings <u>every second Monday</u> of the month at the Coronation Hall at 7:30pm. Residents have 3 minutes each to speak with the council.	
<b>Extra-ordinary Meetings – ad hoc dependent on issues raised</b>	
Can be called by residents or BPC. <u>Dates</u> will be displayed in advance on noticeboards and BPC website	
<b>Residents Annual Parish Meeting 2024 (APM)</b>	
<b>29<sup>th</sup> April 2024, 7:30pm at Coronation Hall</b> - A meeting held for residents to openly discuss any parish issues and concerns, likes and dislikes. (This is NOT a council meeting) Key issues raised can be fed into the council's AMPC in May.	
<b>Bleadon Parish Council's Annual Meeting 2024 (AMPC)</b>	
13 <sup>th</sup> May 2024, 7:30pm Similar format to the monthly meetings.	

## Parish Council Chairman's Address



**BLEADON** PARISH  
COUNCIL

Dear Parishioners,

It is with sadness that I have to report that Mr Peter Lindsay has passed away. He was a big supporter of the Parish Council as well as being a past chairman of the Halls Management Committee.

I also have to report the resignation of Mark Howe as both councillor and contractor for playground and churchyard maintenance. Our thanks must go to him for his support and dedication to looking after the churchyard and surrounding environs for the past 35 years. His knowledge and help will be missed.

Following the initial discussions with the Parochial Church Commission, the Council has included the option to undertake additional works in the churchyard. This forms part of the new Grounds Maintenance contract, which is currently out to tender. If agreed, this will mean that the Council can continue to support the work of volunteers and their churchyard-related projects. The removal of invasive plants that might cause damage to memorials and churchyard walls will also be part of this contract. The allotment gates are to be replaced and we are sifting through the quotations. The installation will take place as soon as possible.

By the time you receive this newsletter Bridge Road will be open. Inconvenience is never easy but then life always has its problems. Unfortunately it will have to be closed again when a new permit is obtained to install a raised table as part of the new traffic calming scheme.

The Annual Parish Resident Meeting takes place on April 29<sup>th</sup> where I hope to see as many of you as possible and hear your views on parish matters.

Wishing everyone a Happy Easter.

**Cllr Mary Sheppard** (Chairman)

## Newsletter Update

Thank you for your feedback on the first edition of the new style newsletter. The more compact A5 format was well received, by both residents and distributors. Your comments regarding the updates from council on its activities and decisions, farming schedule (especially in relation to interest by young children) and even the chosen typeface have helped influence this second edition. Following your feedback, a colour centre spread of photos has been added, for all to see what great events happened in Bleadon over the winter months.

I must also thank all those who helped make possible my first edition, as Editor of the Parish News. Many thanks to the volunteer distributors, who worked hard to deliver newsletters a couple of weeks early, to make sure that they reached you in time for you to join in with the advertised events and Christmas festivities.

A number of new volunteer distributors came forward to assist and now we have full coverage to the extremes of the parish, including Canada Coombe, Toll Road, Accommodation Road and Shiplate Road.

As always, we welcome your positive and constructive feedback on the newsletter content, the council's activities and projects, and its current and planned expenditure.

I wish you all a Happy Easter (31 March), May bank holidays (6 & 27 May) and Father's Day (16 June).

**Cllr Jo Gower-Crane** (Editor)

**Deadline** for mid- June to end-September 2024 edition is **17 May 24.**

Please contact: [jogc@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:jogc@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk)

Views published are those of the contributor or editor and may not be those of the Parish Council.

NB: This newsletter can be found in colour with links, on the BPC website at [www.bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk/news-and-events/newsletters](http://www.bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk/news-and-events/newsletters), with editions from Issue 1 onwards on Bleadon BOB at [www.bleadon.org.uk/villagenews](http://www.bleadon.org.uk/villagenews)

**(NB: Only editions 48 and 50 are now missing. If you have either of these historic newsletters please let me know, so that they can be scanned for all to see)**

## Birthday Month Bus Pass

Apply now for your free month of bus travel.



Starting in August 2023, if you live in the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority or North Somerset Council region, you will receive a free month of bus travel throughout your birthday month.

Further information about the offer and application process can be found at <https://www.birthdaybus.co.uk/register>.

To enjoy free travel for the whole of your birthday month, apply as soon as possible and at least 7 days before the first day of your birthday month. You can still apply in your birthday month, right up to the 15th, and get a pass for the rest of that month.

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## Bleadon Farm Shop

Christmas Open evening was a huge success, Alistair was the Christmas Elf! We put together charity food boxes for 6 families in need at Christmas, thanks to the generosity of our customers.



**Easter** - Easter Eggs and other Easter goodies are available. Come and browse!

**Fathers Day** - Lots of Father's Day treats on sale, including drinks and chocolates.

**Coming soon...**

A new lunch for Spring and Summer...**the Bleadon Burger!**  
Served with homemade slaw and chips.

## Public Consultations & Resident Meetings

Two residents meetings were held at the Youth Club on Monday 15th January 2024 and were well attended (see centre spread photos).

The first meeting related to the **one-way system introduced on Bleadon Road at the A370 junction**, due to quarry housing works. Residents expressed their concerns regarding the negative and dangerous effects that North Somerset Council's (NSC) chosen approach was having, from cars driving the wrong way through the system, to children having to cross the fast A370. Bleadon Parish Council (BPC) collated the feedback, and submitted it to NSC. Residents were also encouraged to send their concerns directly to Edenstone and NSC, via the contact details provided. Sadly, the parish council and residents' requests for traffic lights at this junction did not happen. However, we would hope that residents comments are taken into consideration the next time the road is be closed, including an answer as to why all traffic, not just quarry traffic, had to go over Celtic Way?

The second meeting related to **farming, food production and food security**. Comments were again recorded and formed part of BPC's submission to the NSC's Local Plan consultation. During November, December and January I attended a number of meetings with NSC officers to discuss these and related rural issues, and also presented to NSC Executive Committee. Following my presentation I was offered and attended a meeting with Executive Members, Cllr Canniford and Cllr Waite, who recognised that food production and security issues had not been sufficiently addressed in the draft Local Plan. Given the scheduled time constraints for the Local Plan process, the members stated that they would put forward a proposal for a Supplementary Planning Document. I consider this an initial success for all rural communities across North Somerset and shows that our representatives do listen.

Local Plan responses are due to be published by NSC on 30 April 24, with a summary of the main issues submitted to the Secretary of State. A subsequent examination/hearing of the Local Plan is due to be held in the summer, where some residents may get the opportunity to speak. Bleadon Parish Council's responses to North Somerset Council's revised **Local Plan and Corporate Plan & Budget Development consultations** can be found on the BPC website.

**Cllr Jo Gower-Crane** (Food Security, Climate Change & Biodiversity)

Bleadon Players

LAZY BEE SCRIPTS AND THE BLEADON PLAYERS PRESENTS



"A farce that is  
out of this world"



ABOVE &

WRITTEN BY ROBERT SCOTT

BEYOND

DIRECTED BY PETER GIBBON

16th - 18th May 2024

Get your  
tickets here



Coronation Hall, Bleadon

[WWW.BLEADON-PLATERS.CO.UK](http://WWW.BLEADON-PLATERS.CO.UK)



## **Funding for more Defibrillators**

The Parish Council has been successful in obtaining a 50% government grant towards the funding of some new defibrillators. Each unit will initially cost us £750, plus installation. Ongoing costs would be around weekly checks, potential electricity supply, and replacement batteries and pads (approx £200 and £70 respectively).

There are currently two in the Parish - one at the Coronation Hall (which is provided by the Parish Council) and one at the Farm Shop (which is provided by the Farm Shop). We'd like to install some more and the challenge is where best to locate any additions to make sure that we've got the best coverage. If you have any ideas we'd love to hear them.

One of the requirements for siting a defibrillator is that it has to have access to a power supply. They don't consume much power, but there is a small heater which protects the defibrillator during sub-zero temperatures. However, that - and the fact that they need to be accessible - is the only real limitation. They don't have to be on Council property - they can be in private or business premises and the Council will pay for the costs of installation.

If you think you might be able to help with the siting of a defibrillator or have a view about where best to locate within the parish, then please do let me know. I'd be particularly keen to hear any suggestions relating to The Veale and Hillcote/Roman Road and the surrounding area.

## **Parish Council Grants**

The Council established a Grant Funding budget of £2,000 for the 2024/5 financial year (which starts on 1st April 2024).

If you would like more information or have a proposal you would like to discuss, then please email [parishclerk@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:parishclerk@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk)

**Craig Bolt** (Parish Clerk & RFO)



## Bleadon Women's Institute

The Bleadon WI are putting on an event on 20<sup>th</sup> April to raise money for South West Children's Hospice at The Loft Nightclub, 37 Oxford Street, 2pm-8pm.

This event is open to both men and women. Book soon as half the tickets have already been sold, including selling all the VIP tables!

BLEADON W. I PRESENTS

# IN BED BY 9

THE PARTY THAT DOESN'T SPOIL YOUR SATURDAY NIGHT

ENTERTAINMENT PROVIDED BY :  
**ENHANCED ENTERTAINMENT**

LAST ENTRY 7PM

**HOG ROAST - COCKTAILS - TUNES**  
**CRAZY PHOTO BOOTH**  
VIP PACKAGES AVAILABLE

## 2PM - 8PM

**OVER 30'S ONLY**  
**ID MAY BE REQUIRED**

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM EVENTBRITE  
FROM £10 MORE ON THE DOOR

**RAISING MONEY FOR**  children's hospice  
SOUTH WEST

**20TH APRIL 2024** | **THE LOFT NIGHTCLUB**  
**37 OXFORD STREET, WSM**

THE CLUBBING EXPERIENCE FOR PEOPLE  
WHO WANT TO PARTY HARD BUT NOT AT  
THE EXPENSE OF A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP  
OR BE SURROUNDED BY "CHILDREN"

## The Bleadon Belles

**THE  
BLEADON  
BELLES** THE WI CHOIR



After a busy Christmas which included a lovely carol service and successful Christmas Singalong, the Choir are preparing six songs to sing at the [Highbridge Festival](#) on 16<sup>th</sup> March

**Save the date!** We are planning a **Summer Concert** as a charity fundraiser on 14<sup>th</sup> July in the **Coronation Hall**.

## Conversations with Farmers

Across Europe, farmers are taking to the streets to protect residents' food security – Holland, Switzerland, Poland, France, Ireland, Wales, Kent, even Weston-super-Mare.



The UK government is restructuring subsidies and encouraging farmers to retire or diversify away from food production e.g. renewable energy (solar panels, wind turbines), Biodiversity Net Gain (rewilding, woodlands, wetlands) housing, roads, Net Zero etc. Although these initiatives may be well intended, the consequences may be catastrophic for farming, and so need to be considered in relation to essential food production. For example, in 2023 non-farmers bought more than half the farms sold.

Food is one of the government's 13 Critical Infrastructure Sectors and, although North Somerset Council's (NSC) current proposed Local Plan doesn't address this, it does recognise this needs to be done. A positive outcome should be seen at the Planning Inspectorate hearing in the Summer. In the meantime, NSC reported purchasing land (£300K) to support biodiversity net gain, whilst in 2022 it reported its smallholding land (rented to farmers) had shrunk to 410 acres or to the size of just two current solar panel development applications around Churchill.

So what has been the effect on Bleadon?... Although farming still continues within the parish, over the last 20 years two dairy farms, at Purn House and South Hill, have closed along with an egg farm in Shiplate - creating new housing, retail, business units and private recreation facilities. In the same time period, a new wildlife reserve on the levels and an orchard beyond Wonderstone have been created within the parish. Bleadon is only one of the 39 Town and Parishes in North Somerset. What is happening to land in their rural communities? Where will the next generation of young farmers learn their skills and rent land to produce food for our communities?

Bleadon has been an agricultural parish for over five thousand years. How can we help secure food production and farming for future generations? As seen with the recent Local Plan Consultation, NSC's Executive members and associated officers are willing to listen and respond in a supportive way.

So, please use your freedom of speech and raise your concerns with your parish and district councillors and MP representatives, to make your views heard and ensure that emerging policies support local farming and rural community food security needs. Try to buy truly British produced products, not just packed in the UK, whether from supermarkets, local farm shops or butchers, and let them know you support farmers.

**Cllr Jo Gower-Crane**

(Food Security, Climate Change & Biodiversity)

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## **Anchor Inn**

Open Mic events at the Anchor, first Sunday of every month at 4pm



**Coronation Halls Trust** (Charity No. 1042602)

## **Market Report March 2024**

After the success of the Christmas Market it was with trepidation that we approached the January market with worries about road closures and weather. We need not have worried!

It was a busy market with lots of visitors from in and out of the village wishing to get out and enjoy meeting up for a coffee and a chat.

On top of that they were able to enjoy purchasing from our amazing stallholders who were very happy with the footfall and the enthusiastic shoppers.

The monthly market raises funds towards improvements to our village halls and is run by a lovely band of volunteers.

See you at the next Market!

**Jo Jones**

# **QUIZ NIGHT**

**Saturday 27th April @ 7pm**  
**Coronation Hall, Bleadon**

**\* BAR & RAFFLE \***

**Time - 7pm for 7.30pm start**  
**Cost: £6 each**  
**to include supper**

**Tickets available from :**  
**Bleadon Post Office**  
**Betty Paterson 01934 812183**  
**Or Kevin Barrett 01934 811265**

**All proceeds for the upkeep of your**  
**Coronation Halls Bleadon**

*[Reg charity number 1042602]*

## Bleadon Church of St Peter & St Paul



### New life is all around us! Easter is coming!

The trees spring into leaf, the spring flowers open and the daylight hours lengthen. New life is here amongst the distress and struggle in us and in the world. As we take time to notice the suffering, and Easter morning new life of Jesus, we find new hope and light that shines in the darkness.

Bleadon Church invites you to join us, as we share this Journey and Celebration again together here:

- Every week **Sunday Worship** happens at 10.15am: a varied programme of services held either in the church or the church room, week by week.
- **Exploring Change:** Mondays at 2pm in the church Room on 19th Feb, 4th and 18th March. During Lent our gatherings to explore change will include more time for prayer, alongside the shared discussion, under the theme "Life, Death and Resurrection!"

Special Services as Easter is near:

- **Palm Sunday** (24th March) at 10.15am in the Church: An informal service as we open up the drama of Holy Week.
- **Maundy Thursday** (28th March) at 7.30pm in the Church: A communion service including foot washing as we remember Jesus washing his disciples' feet, ending with the church stripped bare as the time of his agony and arrest comes.
- **Good Friday** (29th March) 12noon in the Church: A short service of reflection and prayer - part of a Good Friday walk with a series of services, starting at Uphill and ending at Bournville. Please look out for full details of the walk.
- **Easter Sunday** (31st March) at 10.15am in the Church: A service of celebration as we welcome Jesus New Life, his Resurrection and share communion together.

**If you would like more information please go to: "St Peter and St Paul, Bleadon" on Facebook or [www.bleadonchurch.co.uk](http://www.bleadonchurch.co.uk) Or contact Tim (our Rector)**

**Tel: 01934 815 404 or 07538 074 039 or Email: [revtimerridge@gmail.com](mailto:revtimerridge@gmail.com)**



Bleadon Players Panto



Xmas Market

Bleadon Belles Carol Service



Resident's Meeting

Bleadon Belles Christmas Singalong



Bleadon Farm Shop Charity Food Boxes



Queens Arms Panto



## **Bleadon Parish Council Plans & Priorities**

It would be fair to say that we've had to spend quite a lot of time over the last year looking at the way in which we operate and making sure that we are better and clearer about how we make decisions and how we spend your money. However, we've also been mindful about the need to address a number of long standing issues within the Parish and have developed a plan for addressing these challenges. We know that we can't do everything straight away and that there are lots of things which might derail our plans but we're up for the challenge. We also haven't been resting on our laurels and have already completed a number of projects over the last few months. Below is a summary of our achievements and our priorities for the years ahead:

### **2023/24 – Completed**

- Phase 1 of improvement works around the halls and car park – including new car park markings and improved pedestrian access
- Upgrades to BPC owned streetlights
- New allotment tenancy agreements
- Changes to and reducing the cost of producing the Parish News
- Tree cutting/safety works
- Influencing local arrangements around food security

### **2024/25 – Proposed**

- Phase 2 of improvement works around the halls and car park – including planting areas and further improvements to pedestrian access
- Regilding the Parish Clock
- Replacing/upgrading the public toilets
- Putting in place new maintenance/service contracts e.g. grass cutting, litter picking, emptying dog bins
- Transport and highways improvements – minor schemes
- Upgrades to Public Rights of Way e.g. via Edenstone over Purn Hill and North Somerset Council over South Hill and River Axe path
- Enhancing play equipment as part of the Playground Trust responsibilities
- Surface water drainage improvements via North Somerset Council and Wessex Water via NSC?



- Memorials safety and appearance
- Surveys on historic monuments
- Upgrading the Council's IT
- Enabling community activities and events?

#### 2025/26 – Proposed

- Transport and highways improvements – major schemes with NSC
- Replace noticeboards
- New bleed kits and defibrillators
- Allotment improvements
- Reviewing and replacing planters where necessary

#### 2026/27 – Proposed

- Planned preventative maintenance to churchyard and walls
- Establishing future arrangements for Purn Quarry
- Upgrade/replace seating
- Refurbish bus stops
- Examine the need for local affordable housing
- Look at options for generating local power
- Explore opportunities for how the Council can support local employment
- Examine our approach to 'Dark Skies'

The above isn't exhaustive and there are lots of other examples of where we will be looking to improve things for local residents. A great example is keeping alive the legacy of all of the hard work of those involved in Bleadon in Bloom and building on past successes. The Council is committed to having a comprehensive planting scheme in place over the Summer, has created a budget of £1,000 and will have 250 plants donated by North Somerset. Any volunteers willing to help with this ambition would be greatly appreciated, we hope to have a planting up day in early June, keep an eye on the council facebook page and noticeboards for dates!

Any comments upon our proposals are always welcome.

**Cllr Andy Scarisbrick** (Vice-chairman & Planting Schemes)

## **WHAT! No May Day Fayre this year?**

I'm afraid that we haven't been able to garner enough support to organise and run a Bleadon May Day Fayre this year. We struggled last year to have enough helping hands on the day and I felt that we let the some of the customers and the volunteers who were helping down a bit.

Whilst the day was hugely successful financially, and the vast majority of visitors had a good time, there were some short-comings. All of which can be overcome with better organisation and more helping hands.

Not all is lost. By giving ourselves a bit more time to organise and not competing with other events in the district we hope to stage a successful alternative.....

## **The Bleadon Midsummer Fest**

Following a similar format to the May Fayre, but about seven weeks later on **Saturday or Sunday 22nd or 23rd June**. A celebration of midsummer and all that's great about our wonderful village. Providing a relaxed festival vibe celebrating all the gifts that nature provides here on the edge of the Mendips.

To make this event a success we need your help. A commitment by at least 30 volunteers to manage stalls and activities on the day. We need the active involvement of community groups in organising and delivering a quality, fun filled experience for our community and our visitors.

In anticipation that this will be a success the Bleadon Youth Club is willing to invest the funds to make this happen, but we need a commitment from you and the community as well.

If you are able to help in delivering our Midsummer Fest or you have fresh ideas that will add to the celebrations let me know now by

emailing: [keith.pyke@btopenworld.com](mailto:keith.pyke@btopenworld.com) or message 07757 012 862

**Keith Pyke**

(on behalf of Bleadon Youth Club Management Committee)

## **What else can we do instead of the May Day Fair?**

I am guessing a lot of people in Bleadon know already that there are no plans for a May Day Fair this year. Keith Pyke has been a leading light for this event over many years. Thank you Keith for all you have done.

From the Bleadon Church perspective the May Day Fair has been our main fundraiser, except during Covid times-of course, and last year's event, although smaller, was a good boost for our ailing finances, but, more importantly, it seemed to offer a chance for the Bleadon Community to work together for the common good.

So, the big question is "What can we do instead?" I am hoping we can organise a Bleadon Community Event later in 2024 with local people and organisations working together to create either a single event or perhaps a series of smaller events over a week for the benefit of Bleadon and its community.

I have booked the **Church Room for 22 May 2024 from 7.30 pm** for anyone/everyone who is interested in helping create a Bleadon event/week. Everyone is welcome-please do come along with ideas and suggestions and perhaps even some pledges from organisations you run or local businesses keen to join in. There will be refreshments (donations will be well received) and I am imagining a **brain-storming session initially** and hopefully the outcome will be the bare-bones of a plan and a few people to form a working group (Friends of Bleadon?). Please do come along and be part of something for the Bleadon Community.

Just because the May Day Fair has run its course it doesn't mean we can't start a new tradition!

**Sara Hughes MBE**

(Churchwarden and Lay Pastoral Assistant for Bleadon Church phone me on 811008 or email me on [sara.hughes6@btinternet.com](mailto:sara.hughes6@btinternet.com))

## Bleadon Girlguiding Volunteer Request

Weston Mendip District is a collection of units which cover the Haywood Village, Locking, Locking Parklands, Banwell, Hutton, Bleadon and Lymphsham area. We currently have units in Bleadon, Hutton and Locking.



The units are Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers. The groups are for girls from 4 to 18. The groups are very popular, but we welcome girls onto our waiting lists until places become available!

We are looking for new volunteers to work with our young people, to help them have fun and learn new skills! You might have specific skills or interests that you could share with the girls at a one off session or event? Or maybe you have time available to support activities on a more regular basis? You can volunteer as little or as much time as you can spare, all whilst making a difference in young people's lives - any contribution you could offer would be fantastic!

And on your part, you'll learn career friendly skills, boost your wellbeing, and make new friends, because volunteering at girl guiding works both ways - good for young people and good for you too.

We'd love to give you the chance to try out different things, meet the team, and see what support is on offer before you decide whether to be involved. If you are interested in giving us a go, then thank you!

Bleadon Brownies meet on a Tuesday Evening and have spaces for new girls to start immediately (from age 7 to 10).

Please contact:

Chloe Poole District Commissioner at  
[Westonmendip@girlguidingwsm.org.uk](mailto:Westonmendip@girlguidingwsm.org.uk)

**(For general information on Girlguiding see**  
[www.girlguiding.org.uk/volunteers](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/volunteers)**)**



## **Youth Club** ([Charity No. 304492](#))

News from Bleadon Youth Centre and its Youth Club

Things have been a little quieter for the YMCA team at the youth club over the winter months, with around ten to fifteen youngsters attending the Thursday evening sessions. Come the arrival of lighter, warmer evenings we expect things to liven up as the youngsters take to enjoying more outdoor play and activities this spring and summer.

If your youngster is aged 10 to 17 years and would like to come along to the **Thursday evening youth club (7-9pm term time)** please pop in and chat to the YMCA team to find out what's on offer.

### **Some building improvements**

Our local expert has installed bright new LED lights throughout the building, replacing all the old fluorescent tubes and hopefully reducing our electricity bill. You may have already noticed the new car park lighting that was installed in the Autumn. Now on a timer so that we don't illuminate the car park all night.

### **Other activities in the youth centre**

As well as providing the venue for the Thursday evening youth club the building plays host to a number of other community activities and events.

**New to the youth centre** this Spring are yoga, mumba and wellbeing sessions aimed specifically at expectant mums and mums (bring your little one along too) on Thursday and Saturday mornings.

On **Saturday 27th April** we shall be playing host to brave runners participating in the **Butcombe Ultra Run**. A gruelling 50 or 56 mile ultra marathon along the Mendips.

Coming up in **June the Bleadon Midsummer Fest**. A celebration of the gifts of summer in Bleadon. Why should the Swedes have all the fun?

**Keith Pyke** on behalf of Bleadon Youth Club Management Committee

keith.pyke@btopenworld.com Tel: 07757 012 862

## Parish Precept and Budget for 2024/25

The **Parish Precept for 2024/25 has been set at £67,800**. This represents a rise of approximately 4% for the average Band D property (and is indicated on your Council Tax statement). By way of comparison, the average increase for all the Parish Council's in the North Somerset area is just under 8%. The main reason we've had to increase the precept relates to our externally contracted services. We have a number of three year contracts – grass cutting, toilet cleaning and the like – which are due to expire on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024. These account for almost 25% of the total precept. Everyone will know that there have been very significant cost increases over the last 3 years and in discussions with contractors, we have had to plan for an increase of up to 40% in our costs. We have taken a lot of action to mitigate this rise but didn't feel that we could avoid an increase in the precept for 2024/25 – hopefully, next year will be different.

This year has seen us completely restructure our budgets and for 2024/25 there will be a substantial shift in terms of moving money away from administrative functions and into projects and works which are both more visible and which will have a more direct impact on the lives of parishioners. As part of this longer term strategy, we've also taken a critical look at all of our funding sources. This has meant some difficult decisions in relation to areas such as the allotments and the costs of producing the Parish News. The confidence of having a longer term plan also means that we feel that we can release part of our reserves and plan for the immediate use of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) monies associated with the quarry and other developments within the area (approx £63K). As a consequence, we've set a **budget for 2024/25 of £138,387**. Cllr Scarisbrick's article contains some more details about a number of projects which will form the bulk of the budget, along with some more details about what we've already achieved and our plans for the years ahead.

The Internal Auditor has just issued her report and confirmed that the Council's financial processes are now sound. So – whilst we still need to keep a hand on the tiller around our processes and decision making arrangements – we can now devote more of our time to residents, plans and priorities.

**Cllr Ann Davies** (Finance)

## Quarry Development Update



The development is progressing well considering the weather we have experienced since we started on site. We have laid tarmac to the first section of road and are 'out the ground' on plots 1 – 4 and the commercial unit. Our next programme is to complete the attenuation pond works at the front of site which will help us with water management moving forward and the footpath works (S278 works).

I'd like to thank everyone for their patience during our road closure and diversion works and apologise for any inconvenience caused during this time. **Dave White** (Head of Construction – Southern - Edenstone Group)

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## Queens Arms

Monthly quiz nights - Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March and 21<sup>st</sup> April at 6:30pm



## Highways Update

We've been giving a lot of thought to traffic issues in and around the Parish, including those associated with the one-way system on Bleadon Road. Some areas of thought are more advanced than others, but it would be good to get your views on the full range:

**Permanent lights** at the junction of Bleadon Road and the A370 - We're keen to get the focus back on to a permanent solution. We have agreed to jointly fund a feasibility study with North Somerset Council (our contribution is limited to £3,000). The study will take some time to complete but should establish once and for all whether permanent lights are possible and the costs associated with any scheme.

**20mph speed limits** - We know that there are pros and cons with this approach, but we know that speed of vehicles, particularly through the village centre, is something which concerns many of you. So, we plan to raise this with North Somerset Council for further consideration.

**Mirror, mirror on the wall** - We've reached a provisional agreement with North Somerset Council for mirrors at the junction of Chestnut Lane and Bleadon Road, and the junction of Mulberry Lane and Coronation Road. These would be paid for by the Parish Council. Unfortunately, traffic regulations won't allow for a mirror at the junction of Coronation Road, Shiplate Road and Celtic Way, but we are discussing the possibility of improved signage.

**A raised table** will be installed in Bridge Road as part of traffic calming measures arising from the quarry development. We'll also be looking to provide improved signage at the approaches to Bridge Road to reflect the fact that pedestrians will be in the roadway.

The above provides a bit of a snapshot of the things we're currently exploring. In the meantime, if you've got any comments or suggestions then please feel free to contact me **Cllr Steve Sugg** (Highways) at [stevesugg@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:stevesugg@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk) or **Craig**, our Parish Clerk at [parishclerk@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:parishclerk@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk).



## Police Related Activity



Hello everyone, my name is Steve Hemmett, and I am the PCSO for Bleadon the areas surrounding Locking, Locking

Parklands and Hutton. I wanted to take the time to introduce myself to those who have not yet met me.

To better serve the community, I will now be looking to start a Beat Surgery at the Riverside Holiday Park, which is still in its early stage but will update the parish when I send in the monthly crime stats of any dates and times. I cancelled the previous drop in at the post office/café due to lack of numbers and confidentiality. During these surgeries, I will have a variety of literature available to provide crime prevention advice and answer any questions or concerns you may have. Please do not hesitate to attend and utilize these resources.

With the change in season, unfortunately, comes a rise in anti-social behaviour in our communities. I want to assure you all that I am here to help and support you in any way that I can. I am also aware of the recent issues with youths causing anti-social behaviour around the youth club which I have and still am currently dealing with.

As the weather continues to improve, I will also be organizing bike marking events, where our team can mark your bikes free of charge. This is a great way to deter thieves and protect your property.

Finally, with the open spaces drying up, I want to encourage everyone to be vigilant and lock any gates or entrances to large open spaces such as car parks and fields. This is important as it helps prevent illegal encampments from being set up. If you do come across any suspicious activity, please do not hesitate to call 101 as there is a [new law](#) that supports landowners in dealing with these situations.

Please do not hesitate to approach me with any concerns or issues you may have. Together, we can make our community a safer and better place to live.

**Stephen Hemmett, PCSO 8338, Neighbourhood Policing Team, Worle and Villages, Tel 101/999, Mob 07889655212, [www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/](http://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/)  
Email [stephen.hemmett@avonandsomerset.police.uk](mailto:stephen.hemmett@avonandsomerset.police.uk)**

## Cllr Roles & Responsibilities for the New Financial Year

<b>Portfolio Responsibility</b>	
Allotments	Cllr Sheppard
Bus Stops	Cllr Sugg
Climate Change & Biodiversity	Cllr Gower-Crane
Finance	Cllr Davies
Food Security	Cllr Gower-Crane
Halls/Car Park Environs	Cllr Davies
Highways – Safety/Signage/Parking and PC laybys	Cllr Sugg
Historic Structures – Market Cross, Pump and Well	Cllr Sugg
Open Spaces Working Group Chair	Cllr Clarke & Cllr Sheppard
Parish News Working Group Chair	Cllr Gower-Crane
Planning	Cllr Clarke
Planting schemes	Cllr Scarisbrick
Public Rights of Way	Cllr Sugg
Public Toilets	Cllr Davies
Social Activities/Targeted Support/Grants	Cllr Davies
<b>Outside Organisations</b>	
ALCA North Somerset Group	Cllr Clarke & Cllr Gower-Crane
Bleadon Youth Club	Cllr Scarisbrick
Coronation Hall Management Committee	Cllr Davies & Cllr Sheppard
NSC Standards Sub-Committee	Cllr Clarke

# Bleadon Village

**MONTHLY**

# MARKET

# Saturday

**16<sup>th</sup>**

**March**

**20<sup>th</sup>**

**April**

**18<sup>th</sup>**

**May**

**15<sup>th</sup>**

**June**

**Coronation Hall and Jubilee Hall**

**BS24 0PG**

**9.30am – 12 noon**

**30+ stalls with:**

**Fresh local produce. Old Spot Pork & Sausages.**

**Goat Meat, Milk, Cheese, Lamb. Bakery. Eggs.**

**Pies. Savouries. Preserves. Cakes. Veg. Plants.**

**Books. Crafts. Jewellery. Collectables. Gifts. Toys.**

**Bric-a-Brac.**

**Something new every month.**

**Delicious locally sourced refreshments.**

**Find us on Facebook, Instagram and [www.bleadon.org.uk/market](http://www.bleadon.org.uk/market)**

# **The Annual Residents Meeting**

(aka the Annual Parish Meeting)

**29<sup>th</sup> April 2024**  
**Coronation Hall at 7pm**

**HAVE YOUR SAY... and light refreshments!**  
**This is NOT a usual parish council meeting**

Did you know... by law the council must hold a parish meeting just for Bleadon parish residents, once a year, between March and June? This meeting gives you an opportunity to raise and discuss ANY issue affecting the parish. For example, the state of the roads/potholes, diversions, school places, buses, food security, community events, flooding and drains, etc. Your concern doesn't need to be on the agenda, but it would help the chairman to arrange time for questions if you could let the parish clerk know your topic in advance.

As it is also the beginning of a new financial year, this meeting enables residents to meet and consider what they would like to see achieved by next year, and whether Bleadon Parish Council's current priorities and projects, as indicated in this edition of the Parish News, can help achieve those goals. The key issues raised at this residents' meeting will be recorded and submitted to the parish council's annual meeting in May, for consideration and action where applicable.

Councillors are not obliged to attend, read annual reports, answer questions or make decisions, that's what monthly council meetings are for, with specific agenda items, background papers and minutes. However, attending councillors may be able to identify who would be best able to help resolve identified issues, e.g. an individual, a specific group, the parish or district council, etc.

Some councillors will of course attend, especially the chairman of the parish council who will be chairing the meeting. So please be patient as they are residents too, with their own personal views for the parish, just like you.

If you have any questions, or if there is anything specific you would like to discuss at the residents meeting, please let Craig know via email at [parishclerk@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:parishclerk@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk) or Tel: 07453 358 318