

Bleadon Parish News



Summer 2025 Issue 133

Ways to Contact Bleadon Parish Council (BPC)

Personally Contact Councillors	
Cllr Andy Scarisbrick (Chairman)	andyscarisbrick@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk
Cllr Mary Sheppard (Vice-chairman)	marysheppard@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 Lorraine Stanley	lorrainestanley@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk
Cllr Steve Sugg	stevesugg@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk
Cllr Becci Wild	becciwild@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk
Co-option Vacancy	
Contact the Clerk	
Craig Bolt	parishclerk@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk Tel: 07453 358 318 (Mon, Tues & Thurs am) C/O Coronation Halls, Bleadon. BS24 0PG
Weekly Opportunities to Visit the Clerk	
Bleadon Café every Tuesday, 9am-12pm	
Monthly Opportunities to Raise Questions and Listen to Discussions	
Full council meetings <u>every second Monday</u> of the month at the Coronation Hall at 7pm. Residents have 3 minutes each to speak with the council.	
Extra-ordinary Meetings – ad hoc dependent on issues raised	
Can be called by residents or BPC. <u>Dates</u> will be displayed in advance on noticeboards and BPC website	
Residents Annual Parish Meeting 2026 (APM)	
27th April 2026, 7:00pm at Coronation Hall - 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.	
Bleadon Parish Council's Annual Meeting 2024 (AMPC)	
May 2026, 7pm Similar format to the monthly meetings.	

Parish Council Chairman's Address



Dear Parishioners,

I'd like to use my first time in writing to you all to express my sincere thanks to Councillor Mary Sheppard for her time as Chairman of Council. A huge amount had been achieved over the last two years and much of that is down to Mary's leadership and guidance. I'm sure many of you will know that Mary has experienced some mobility issues which have limited her movements in recent months. However, she is still very much involved with the Council and will serve as the Council's vice-chairman for the year ahead.

I'd also like to welcome Lorraine Stanley to the Council. Lorraine is a resident of Bleadon Hill and was formally co-opted onto the Council at our June meeting. Lorraine is an experienced school governor and keen local historian. We do still have one Councillor vacancy and if you'd like to know more, then please contact Craig - our Parish Clerk.

Spring seems to have flown by and the Summer is set to be just as busy. Hopefully, you will find the time to read through some of the articles to find out a bit more about what goes on behind the scenes and the personal commitment so many of our parishioners make to keep the things we often take for granted running smoothly.

If any of the articles pique your interest and you think you might be able to help in the future, then please do let us know as we - as a community - are always on the lookout for new recruits. In the meantime, I would like to say 'thank you' to all of those whose actions make Bleadon a better place to live for all of us and to wish you all an enjoyable Summer - **Andy** (Cllr Andy Scarisbrick Chairman)

<p>Deadline for mid-Sept 2025 to mid-Dec 2025 edition is 15 August 25. Please contact: jogc@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk</p>

Views published are those of the contributor or editor and may not be those of the Parish Council. This newsletter can be found in colour with links, on the BPC website at www.bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk/news-and-events/newsletters, with editions from Issue 1 onwards on Bleadon BOB at www.bleadon.org.uk/villagenews

Bleadon Farm Shop

Life at the Farm Shop continues to be bustling! Recently we've featured Mothers' Day, VE Day and now Fathers' Day specials with thematic food, drink and gifts. Cheddar strawberries are in, so don't miss those- they are delicious! Our gift range has been extended, and we also have lovely gift bags and flowers for those last minute (or well planned) gifts!



We held a very successful wine tasting evening in February with sommelier Ed Hay of The Mendip Bottle. Look out for another date in the Autumn...

Part of our vision as a farm shop is sustainability and reducing food miles. We stock well over 25 local or West Country suppliers' products- most of which you won't find in supermarkets- so please come and have a browse if you haven't seen our offering recently. If you don't support local shops and small businesses, we may not last!



Coming soon we will be offering rotisserie whole chicken cooked and ready to take home with a fresh baguette, salad or coleslaw. Why not add in a bottle of wine to complete your meal?!

We are hosting an increasing number of private functions including birthday celebrations, baby showers and wakes. If you would like to book a bespoke event, do get in touch on 01934 815584. You can also pre order gift hampers or celebration cakes to take away.

Hope to see you soon and thank you for your continued support! Here is a picture of our wonderful Post Office team!

Charlotte & Alistair House

Thank you. Over and out!

Dear Bleadon - What a time we have had! Almost exactly 11 years ago, Heather and I moved into the Rectory, and I was licensed as your Rector in September 2014. Where has all that time gone? There have been so many good and touching moment in the last 11 years. Thank you so much to all of you who have walked with me in different ways.

So much has changed since 2014! People who have been and are very dear to you and to me have come and gone, technology and the shape of life has changed in so many ways! Did you have a smart phone in 2014? I didn't, yet now they are just the norm and we use them so so much. It has been a huge privilege to come alongside you in times of joy and times of sorrow. There are so many points where you have encouraged me. I just hope I have encouraged you too?

The most precious moments have been the times when you and I together have discovered new hope in the face of present and past challenges and difficulties. The life of Jesus is all about daring to love and care and then finding that the gift of life, this life and the next, is so much bigger, more resilient and full of good potential than we had so often seen before. Thank you to all of you who have stepped out in love and faith. Please just keep trusting and stepping out like that together.

My last service here with you will be on Sunday 3rd august at 5pm. Do come for tea and cake beforehand if you would like to. This is when we will have a chance to chat. I will be leaving directly at the end of the service. There will not be time to chat at that point. It would be great to see you there, or at some other time before I go.

Very shortly after 3rd Aug, Heather and I will be moving to Taunton to start a new chapter of our lives there.

Thank you so much again. May God bless you all and renew your hearts and spirits, day by day.

Tim (Rev'd Tim Erridge (Rector) revtimerridge@gmail.com 01934 815 404)

News from the Coronation Halls (Charity No. 1042602).

2024/25 has been another good year for the Halls. Bookings are up, which makes life a little difficult sometimes for our bookings officer, Robin, trying to fit people in!

The village market was again held throughout the year although, unfortunately, our Christmas Market in 2024 had to be cancelled due to the very stormy weather conditions, and for the safety of our stall holders and visitors. I am very concerned about the possible loss of the village market.

Jo Jones has been running the market for 23 years and feels that the time has come to pass on the organising to someone else. As well as providing funds for the Halls, it is an important social occasion and has helped over the years to foster community spirit. **Jo will be standing down from running the market after the next Christmas Market and we are hoping that someone or a group of people will take over this role from her.** The concern is that, if no one is prepared to, the market will fold.

Issues dealt with during the year include ongoing maintenance including repairs to the leaking guttering; updates to the Halls' conditions of hire and the policy for lending out Hall equipment to local people; we reviewed our Hall capacity limits following an issue with some overcrowding at one event; and we have decided to replace the flooring in the Coronation kitchen which is happening in June.

I would also like to place on record our appreciation of the very generous bequest made by the late Peter Lindsay to the Hall in his will. We will be deciding shortly how best to put this to good use for the benefit of Hall users.

Earlier in the year we decided to hold another Silent Auction to raise much needed funds for the Halls. Unfortunately this had to be postponed but we are now hoping to run it in the autumn, so all the things you were hoping to donate, please keep hold of them and keep an eye on the notice boards for the date.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Robin, Bill and Abbe for keeping the Halls ticking over with bookings, supervision of the building and cleaning during the past year. I would also like to thank the Committee members for their support, and in particular Scott for stepping in on so many occasions to sort out issues with the building and deal with emergencies such as the failure

of the front door's electronic opening and locking system. I would also like to thank my two right hand men, Treasurer, Ian and Secretary, Kevin for all their hard work.

I want to encourage more people from the village, and especially from the groups using the Halls, to join our Committee. We are a friendly bunch of volunteers, meeting once per month, and looking after the upkeep of the halls.

The Coronation Hall is a great asset for the village and we want to ensure that we have it for many years to come. Anyone interested in joining us should please speak to one of us and we will try to answer any questions you may have.

Betty Paterson (Chair Coronation Halls)

The Great North Somerset Bat Project

We are excited to announce that the Great North Somerset Bat Project is now live! <https://n-somerset.gov.uk/news/join-great-north-somerset-bat-project-help-protect-local-wildlife>. The Open Spaces, Natural Environment and Leisure Team is proud to support this important initiative, which is co-ordinated by the University of Bath's Bat Conservation Research Lab. This project is made possible thanks to funding from The National Lottery Heritage Fund.



The aim of the project is to gather essential data on local bat populations, their movements, and habitats. This information will guide future development decisions to ensure the protection and preservation of these incredible nocturnal mammals. This is a citizen science project, which means it relies on the support of local volunteers to collect valuable data. Volunteers will help monitor bat species, including internationally protected species such as the greater and lesser horseshoe bats. The data gathered will contribute to cutting-edge research and conservation planning. We would be grateful if you could help us spread the word and encourage residents in your parish to sign up as volunteers. It's an easy, enjoyable, and meaningful way to connect with your local wildlife.

For more information or to sign up, please visit:

www.batconservationresearchlab.co.uk/north-somerset-bat-survey

Summer Planting Scheme

A huge thank you to everybody who has generously donated their time to plant up and look after the various tubs and planters across the Parish. We are still looking for volunteers to help with watering. If you are able to help, then we would love to hear from you.

We know that watering of the planters is one of the main challenges and the pool of people able to support the planting scheme has dwindled in recent years. This year, we've selected plants which require less watering but the size and style of a number of the planters means that they can dry out quite quickly.

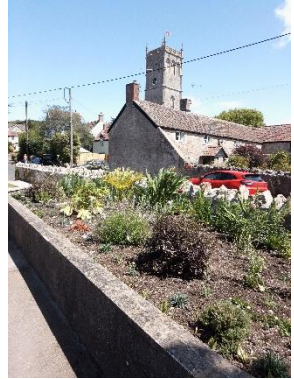
So, over the coming months, we will also look at whether it might be beneficial to have a smaller number of larger planting areas in key locations around the Parish and reduce the overall number of planters accordingly. If you have any thoughts or suggestions, please do let me know.

Andy Scarisbrick (Lead Councillor for Planting Schemes)

Somerset Festival of Remembrance 2025 – 1 November 2025

On Saturday, 1 November 2025, Wells Cathedral will host the Somerset Festival of Remembrance, a one-off commemorative event marking the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. Organised by Somerset County Royal British Legion, the evening will honour the courage, resilience, and sacrifice of the people of Somerset during times of conflict, both on the front lines and on the home front. The event will feature tributes from veterans and serving personnel, the Somerset Book of Honour, performances by the Central Band of the Royal British Legion and the Yeovilton Military Wives Choir, participation from cadet forces, and contributions from civic leaders. This will be a deeply local and inclusive tribute, reflecting Somerset's enduring commitment to service and remembrance.

Tickets will be available for purchase via Eventbrite. We warmly encourage civic leaders and partner organisations to save the date and to show their support for this important occasion. For more information please contact somerset.chair@rbl.community or 07972 768077



**THE
BLEADON
BELLES** THE WI CHOIR
and friends



Invite you to join us for a

Summer Tea Party

on Sunday 6th July

from 2pm

in the Coronation Hall, Bleadon

Tickets £10 Adults - £5 Children

To include
Tea/coffee/squash
And Cake!

RAFFLE!

Available from
Bleadon Post Office &
Choir Members

Dog Bins

We've had a few comments and questions raised about dog bins and the rules about depositing dog waste.

The Parish Council has four general waste bins, which can also be used for dog waste. Two of the bins are located in each of the laybys along Roman Road. The other two are in the centre of the village – one outside of the public toilets and the other next to the bus shelter on Bleadon Road. The two in the centre of the village are new bins which include signage and logos stating that dog waste can be put into these two bins. The two bins in the laybys are bins we've recycled from the village centre and don't have logos or signage but can be used for dog waste as well as general waste.

In addition, the Parish Council has four bespoke dog bins dotted across the Parish. We're in the process of swapping three of these for new, larger bins.

There has been some concern regarding the removal of a general waste bin in Purn Lane. This location is outside of the Parish Council boundary and isn't an action which has been initiated by the Parish Council. This location falls within Weston Town Council's administrative boundary and either that body or North Somerset Council (who are understood to have previously provided and maintained the bin in question) will be better placed to answer any questions.

Ideally, we'd like for dog owners to deposit any dog waste in their own bins. However, we recognize that this isn't always practicable even for local residents and that the Parish receives many visitors to the area. That's why we have provided eight locations across the Parish where bagged dog waste can be deposited. That being the case, there really shouldn't be any scenario in which dog waste goes unbagged, or where bags are left on the ground.

The other thing we'd ask is not to place dog waste in domestic black waste bins which aren't your own. There are plenty of public waste bins across the Parish and most of these are emptied twice a week to prevent a build-up of smell.

Craig Bolt (Parish Clerk & RFO)

Bleadon Players – 25 -27 September 2025

Bleadon Players & Concord Theatricals Present


SEX CELLS

Written by: Anna Longaretti

Directed by: Peter Gibbon

25 - 27 SEPTEMBER 2025

www.bleadon-players.co.uk



CONCORD THEATRICALS

THE BLEADON PLAYERS

EST. 1980

Minor Projects Budget

As part of more significant housing developments, the Local Planning Authority (in our case this is North Somerset Council) receives funds from developers through what is called the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). A proportion of this is then allocated to local Town and Parish Councils.

There are rules about what CIL can be used for and, as a consequence, it is generally used to undertake one-off works. The Parish Council is planning to use most of its CIL allocation to fund the refurbishment works to the toilet block. However, it has set aside £10,000 to support smaller scale projects across the Parish.

The Council won't make any final decisions about the nature of these projects until later in the year. This is in part because we need to see the outcomes of tendering exercises in relation to the toilet blocks and the play area to make sure that we have enough money to address these priority projects. However, the sorts of things we will be discussing include:

- Improvements to the allotments
- Improving the appearance of some of the ash burial plots in the churchyard
- Replacing the planters
- Addressing overgrown verges at The Veale

If you have any other suggestions, please let us know.

Craig Bolt (Parish Clerk & RFO)

Bigger Projects – Update

As the Chairman's opening remarks indicate, it's been a fairly busy Spring and we're also expecting a busy Summer as we move forward with some of our planned works.

A huge thank you to Bleadon Horticultural Society and the Duke of Edinburgh volunteers who planted up Jubilee Gardens. The works are now largely complete and most of the plants are thriving. It's been planted with smell and touch being as relevant as colour – and taste will come as some of the herbs mature.

The area to the rear and side of the Coronation Halls has now been cleared. We had hoped to complete these works earlier in the year and we thank our neighbours for their patience as we know the heavy bramble and weed growth has been a source of frustration. The works were a little more involved than first anticipated, as it became apparent that a number of the fence posts were rotten; so all of the fencing in this area has also been replaced.

There has been a heavy cut back to trees and hedgerows on land for which the Parish Council is responsible. Tree canopies in the churchyard and the play area were substantially reduced. Ivy and other invasive plants along lengths of the churchyard walls were removed and there was a heavy cut back of hedge lines at the allotments, which has enabled the creation of more informal parking spaces.

Looking ahead, we are preparing for some more substantial projects relating to the refurbishment of the toilet block and works to the play area.

We have already issued a tender for works to the play area and for outdoor exercise equipment on Pea Green. Any contract award will be dependent upon securing the anticipated £40,000 from changes to the planning agreement relating to the quarry development. However, all being well, we hope to be in a position to evaluate bids over the Summer, with a view to the successful contractor completing the works over the Winter.

The tender for the refurbishment of the toilets is expected to be issued by the end of June, with the same broad timeline for evaluation and completion of works. We aren't reliant upon external funding for the works to the toilets but we may need to revisit how much we can spend if we are unable to secure external funding for the play area works.

Because of the expected value of the proposed works to the toilets and the play area and recent changes introduced in relation to public procurement, these tenders have to be advertised nationally using a Central Government procurement platform. However, we are always keen to ensure that local contractors also have the opportunity to bid for Council contracts, so please feel free to share details of these projects with individuals/companies you feel might be in a position to undertake these works.

Craig Bolt (Parish Clerk & RFO)

May Fayre.... The Day Went Well

The Bleadon May Fayre this year gave us successes that we can all be proud of. Some local good causes benefitted from welcome fund-raising and there's £1700 left in the pot to seed next year's May Fayre and other village events.

The Church raised around £600 from its plant stall, raffle and book sales. The WI raised about £600 too from the sale of home-made cakes and the tombola. The youth club profited £300 from the craft fair in the youth centre thanks to the work of Jo Jones. John Lance's raffle raised another £400 for the youth club. All these groups benefit directly from the money they raised.

Thanks go to all those who gave prizes so generously and to the villagers who came on the day and supported the event with their smiles, enthusiasm and generosity.

We had some disappointments too. Both the Chalice Morris Men and the Beach Buoys shanty group cancelled at the eleventh hour. Fortunately, a magician was conjured up to entertain all. Biggest hand of all go to the local band Start of Time for keeping us all rocking and entertained throughout the day.

The May Fayre this year would not have happened without the support of Terry and his team at the Queens Arms. They gave their time free of charge before and during the event. Donating staff and equipment, providing all the catering in the Coronation Hall and outside BBQ. Thank you chef.

Then there are the stalwarts who turned up at 7:30am to set things up then take it all down again at 3pm. The tireless helpers young and old who ran stalls and games throughout the day.

Thank you all.

Keith Pyke

Setting the record straight

In answer to a few comments from some people on the day here's a reprint of the social media response that Terry posted following the May Fayre.

After the fantastic return of the Bleadon May Fayre it is disappointing to hear some negativity from some residents.

Just to be clear, the May Fayre was organised and supported by a group of fantastic volunteers, along with even more volunteers on the day. Whilst the Queens Arms supported the event everything taken at the fayre from entry fee, to food, bar, to tea and coffee has been put into a community fund to support the operation of the fayre for next year.

Unfortunately it doesn't happen for free and takes a huge amount of time and money to put together to ensure it can operate for the whole community.

The £1700 left will be used and split between community events / groups or may even be used to support anyone in the community who might find themselves in need.

We are extremely grateful for the turnout and the support of the community, it's down to you that we now have a fund set aside to be able to continue to run the May Fayre and possibly other events throughout the year.

Bringing everyone together and being a community is what was at the heart of the fayre, long may Bleadon continue to be a wonderful community that can come together and enjoy days like Sunday.

Terry Reynolds

Queens Arms

Public Consultations

All general and planning policy consultations can be found on the North Somerset Council's (NSC) website at <https://n-somerset.inconsult.uk/>.

NSC Community Governance Review Key Information & Dates

A Community Governance Review enables a principal council, such as North Somerset Council, to review, put in place or make changes to local council arrangements. For example, by creating, merging, abolishing or changing parish or town council boundaries. Any changes to existing parish or town council arrangements will come into force on the same day as the next scheduled normal parish and town council elections in May 2027. NSC won't know if there will be any impact on Council Tax in a particular area until they have considered the initial ideas and suggestions from the first public consultation. Any proposals developed from the first public consultation responses will include information about potential impacts for the public and key stakeholders to consider before responding to the consultation.

May-Jun	Review by Officers and development of Draft Recommendations.
July	Draft Recommendations to be considered by Council and approved (July P&R)
Sept-Oct	Second public consultation , on Draft Recommendations.
Nov	Review by Officers and development of Final Recommendations..
Dec	Council discuss and agree Final Recommendations (Dec P&R)
Dec	Reorganisation Order made

North Somerset Council Local Plan Additional Sites Consultation

NSC state that the housing requirement as set by the government is **23,895** over the 15 year plan period. This is an **additional 8,620 dwellings** above the proposed housing supply target in their Regulation 19 plan of 15,275 dwellings. NSC has now published a consultation statement which summarises the main issues raised for each site, as well as a summary of the responses to the questionnaire.

All the representations can now be viewed at <https://n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/planning-building-control/planning-policy/our-local-plan/local-plan-2040/pre-submission-plan-2040-reg-19-july-2024>

Annual Parish Resident's Meeting

The powerpoint of the presented councillor reports can be found on the council website. There were a number of public concerns raised:

- Dog fouling along the footpath from Purn Way to the Queens Arms.
- Potential impact of geo-engineering on the local environment, land and food.
- Implications (if any) of Weston Town Council's declaration as a 'Council of Sanctuary' – the need for accurate and meaningful information to help in this debate was noted.

Have your say on the draft Mendip Hills National Landscape Management Plan 2025 – 2030

As part of caring for the Mendip Hills National Landscape, there is a statutory duty to prepare a Management Plan and to review it at least every five years. The Plan is an important document because it describes the special qualities of the National Landscape; and provides a framework for working across organisations to support its protection, enhancement and enjoyment in line with an agreed vision. The National Landscape Partnership commenced a review in 2023 and since that time we have engaged in ongoing consultation with residents, farmers, other businesses owners, elected councillors, parish councils, other stakeholders and visitors to discover what they think the important issues are.

These conversations have helped us draw up a draft Management Plan for 2025 – 2030 and we would now like to hear your views. Following a six week consultation, amendments will be made and then taken to the three local authorities for adoption, Somerset Council, North Somerset Council and Bath & North East Somerset Council. David Turner, Chair of the Mendip Hills National Landscape Partnership, said, 'This is an important moment for the communities of the Mendip Hills and those who love visiting here. The draft Plan sets the priorities for this very special landscape, and how it responds to change. Lots of broad consultation was done last year but this is the first chance to see the draft plan in its entirety and to comment on it.'

The consultation runs from Tuesday 10th June until Tuesday 22nd July.

To see the draft plan please visit www.mendiphills-nl.org.uk/caring/management-plan/ or to request a paper copy please email feedback@mendiphills-nl.org.uk or call 01761 462338.

Cllr Jo Gower-Crane (lead for Public Consultations / Engagement)

North Somerset's Libraries – help shape the future

North Somerset's library service is at the heart of communities. It brings people together, supports learning, provides access to information, and opens doors to opportunity.



As the way people use libraries changes – and as councils across the country face tough financial times – North Somerset Council needs to make sure library services continue to thrive for years to come.

That's why the council is proposing to launch a public consultation this summer, asking residents for their views on the future of local libraries. The council's Cabinet will decide whether to move forward with the consultation at a meeting on Wednesday 18 June.

If approved, the 12-week consultation (running from 18 July to 10 October) will ask for ideas and feedback on how we can:

- Improve community outreach so more people can access services,
- Adjust opening hours to better match demand,
- And explore how to provide strong services with fewer buildings.

North Somerset's libraries are well-loved, but they also need to adapt. With rising costs and reduced national funding, the council must save £44 million over the next three years – including £433,000 from the library service starting in 2026. North Somerset Council want to make these changes with their communities, not to them.

Currently, services are delivered from ten local libraries, one community-run library in Congresbury, and a mobile library visiting 27 areas. The Council also offers a home delivery service for people who can't visit in person, services for care homes, and a 24/7 digital library where users can access eBooks, audiobooks, newspapers, and more.

Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Open Spaces, (and one of Bleadon's Ward councillors) Cllr Mike Solomon said: "Our libraries are

more than buildings – they're community hubs, safe spaces, and gateways to knowledge. I want to stress that we remain fully committed to providing a quality library service that meets our statutory responsibilities and is fair, accessible and future-proof. Options put forward will be designed and based on the needs of our communities. If Cabinet agrees to move forward, more detail on the library options will be available in July and this consultation will be a chance for everyone to have their say. **No final decisions will be made until we've heard from our communities and residents.**”

A full report with recommendations based on community feedback is expected to go to Cabinet in February 2026, alongside an updated Equality Impact Assessment to ensure any changes are as fair as possible.

To read the **Committee Report for the 18 June 2025**, and stay updated on the consultation, visit: https://n-somerset.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s7498/10%20Cabinet%20report_18%20June_Libraries%20consultation_final.pdf

Mobile library

While we wait for our new mobile library to come into service, we are operating with the support of the Community Services vehicle. Customers can place orders, collect reservations and return books at their usual mobile library stops.

You can reserve books and collect them at your nearest mobile library stop. You can do this using the online catalogue on the [LibrariesWest website](#) or email us at mobile.library@n-somerset.gov.uk or call 01275 888 864.

More information on the mobile library home library see <https://n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/libraries-leisure-open-spaces/libraries/library-services/bringing-library-you/mobile-library>

Church Repairs - A sad state of affairs!

You may be aware that our church has had surveys done on both the tower and on roofs and guttering recently? We (the Churchwardens) are obliged to ensure the church premises are not a hazard to anyone near it or in it and to keep it watertight. Unfortunately there is no subsidy to help to maintain this beautiful medieval Grade I listed stone building and the extensions to it since then.

Repairs update - The most urgent tower repair has been done.

- We have a report detailing all the external repairs that should be done within the next year. The list includes repairs to the balustrade around the top of the tower, pinning/repairing various cracks in the window surrounds on the tower and extra stays on the flagpole.
- A contractor is coming soon to reposition/replace various roof tiles to keep the wet out.
- The organ needs a new amplifier (blower) and totally rewiring to conform to current regulations.
- A new weather vane and repairs to the cockerel (he is badly damaged and needs specialist repair and re-gilding). This will need specific permissions from the Diocese. We have to pay an excess of £500.00 per claim on our insurance.
- The Bells Frame is unstable and we can't ring the bells without its repair.

People seem to think that the Church of England has loads of money. Actually each church has to manage as best it can using its own income (planned giving, fees, donations at services and room rental) while paying out for utility bills, insurance, maintenance costs, etc. that enable it/us to function. We also have to pay a Parish Share to our Diocese of Bath & Wells to reimburse them for clergy pay and pension, training, safeguarding support, DBS searches, advisors, etc. Currently this is £30,400 for 2025 (almost 20% more than in 2024). In previous years we have managed to pay it in full, but at £2,453 a month this is most unlikely to happen this year!

The PCC have agreed to pay £1,500 per month (only) and strictly speaking we cannot afford even this. For years now our monthly outgoings have been £500-£1,000 beyond our income and we have regularly dipped into savings to remain solvent. This is unsustainable and we will have no savings left by mid-2027 at this rate. This is the situation before further repairs.

We will get through this

By setting up various fund-raising events/campaigns for each essential repair/type of repairs, applying for grants and bidding for the VAT back on earlier repairs.



Leaving a legacy

Can you consider leaving a legacy for the church in your will? This will allow us (this community) to leave our beautiful church as a legacy for future generations.

Maybe you can help?

If you are a regular giver could you consider increasing your monthly donation? If you pay tax can you gift-aid your contributions (by using yellow-envelopes)? Perhaps you could make a one-off donation to the Church General Fund to help out? We used to have a team called the 'Friends of Bleadon Church' who would help with all things fund-raising-is this something we could start again? Could you help in this way? If you can do any of these things or have any other fundraising ideas that we are not currently doing please contact a churchwarden. Thank you.

We will miss Tim leading us, and also Heather, but they are embarking on a new chapter in their lives and we wish them well in their new home and community. Tim has been such a big part of our church worship and community life and will be greatly missed. It is likely we will be without a vicar for a while but this will be managed by support from other clergy, as happens now. The process to fill the vacancy can take some time but it is important to establish what we want in a new clergy person beforehand. We will, of course, endeavour to keep parishioners informed, where we can.

A Visitation service held at St Mark's Church, Worle on 2nd June 2025 – this is held each year following the appointment of the churchwardens for the forthcoming year. We were sworn in as officers of the Bishop but take the Archdeacon's Charge resolving to be faithful in our duties. This year's Visitation was particularly helpful to meet those people in the Locking Deanery who will guide us through the process of finding a new incumbent.

Sue Arnold and Sara Hughes (Churchwardens)

Contact Sue Arnold on 01934814275 or 07712452845

Horses on the Roads

You may be aware that there was a recent incident in Lymphsham in which a rider and horse were injured following an encounter with a motorist.

The Parish is fortunate to have a wide range of footpaths and bridleways. In order to get to the bridleways, there is sometimes a need for horses to use the roads. If you do encounter horses on the roads, please follow the British Horse Society advice:

If I see a horse on the road, then I will:

- Slow down to a maximum of 10mph
- Be patient, I won't sound my horn or rev my engine
- Pass the horse wide and slow – at least two metres
- Drive slowly away

Mary Sheppard (Vice-chairman of Council)

Parish Precept - Bucking the Trend

You might recall that in the previous edition of Parish News, we provided some details about the Parish Precept and the Council's hope that parishioners might see a reduction in their bills. We can now confirm that this is the case.

Unfortunately, because of increases by North Somerset Council, Avon & Somerset Constabulary and others, overall Council Tax bills will have risen. However, the amount collected on behalf of the Parish Council (the Parish Precept) has gone down. For a Band D property the Parish Precept has reduced by approximately £10.

Craig Bolt (Parish Clerk & RFO)

North Somerset Council New Red Bag

Red bags for recycling plastic and metal are now delivered. We trialled a new bag for recycling household plastic and metal packaging between November 2024 and February 2025. The trial involved around 6,000 households. Red bags have now been delivered to the rest of North Somerset.



The bag is for:

- household plastic bottles, pots, tubs and trays (not plastic bags and soft plastic wrapping)
- metal packaging such as tins, cans, foil and aerosols

Please see our frequently asked questions for more details at <https://n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/bins-recycling/new-red-bag>

New recycling and waste collection services go live

From Monday 9 June North Somerset Council will collect plastic bags and soft plastic wrapping as part of its weekly household recycling collections, and is the first council in the country to provide this service to households across the district.



Other changes introduced from 9 June include a new collection day and black bin collections switching from fortnightly to three-weekly for most households. Comprehensive information packs outlining the new arrangements have been posted out to every property.

Plastic bags and soft plastic wrapping includes items such as crisp packets, film lids, plastic pouches and vegetable packaging, which take up a lot of room in black bins. Plastic bags and soft plastic wrapping should be presented for recycling in the household's glass recycling box, squashed into a bread bag or carrier bag and tied with a knot to squeeze all the air out.

More information at <https://n-somerset.gov.uk/news/new-recycling-waste-collection-services-go-live>

Wessex Water Community Drop-Ins

If you want advice or have a question about our services, you can speak to us in person at one of our Community Drop-In sessions.



Our sessions, which are being held at locations across our water supply area, will give you the chance to speak with a Customer Adviser who will act as the point of contact for your local community.

They can:

- answer questions about your bill
- refer you for support if you are struggling to pay your bill
- provide advice on saving water and avoiding blockages
- answer questions about water quality, plumbing and drainage.

You can attend our sessions on the following dates. Sessions will be held from 10am to 12pm and 1pm to 2pm. For example:

Weston Library

- Monday 30 June 2025
- Monday 1 September 2025
- Monday 3 November 2025

Additional information, including a video and Drop-In locations, can be found at <https://www.wessexwater.co.uk/community-drop-ins>.

You do not have to book – just show up on the day. If you would like to arrange a dedicated time slot, please email community@wessexwater.co.uk.



Avon and Somerset Police NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

Talk to us

Join your Neighbourhood Policing Team at

Drop in and speak to PCSO Steve Hemmett, whether you want advice on how to protect your belongings, arrange for free bike security marking, more information about the work we are doing in your area, or you want to raise a concern about an issue in your community.

Time: 12:00 till 13:30

Date:

2/4/25 7/5/25 4/6/25 2/7/25 6/8/25 3/9/25

1/10/25 5/11/25

Their will be no attendance in March

Location: Bleadon Riverside Holiday village
Bridgewater road BS240AN

For more information please visit:

www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/your-area

Follow us on



Cllr Roles & Responsibilities for the New Financial Year

Portfolio Responsibility	
Affordable housing	All Councillors
Allotments	Cllr Sheppard
Bus Stops	Cllr Sugg
Churchyard/Church Walls	Cllr Sheppard
Church Liaison	Cllr Clarke
Climate Change & Biodiversity	Cllr Gower-Crane
Contactus/Social Activities/Targeted Support/Grants	Cllr Wild
Drains	Cllr Sugg
Finance	Cllr Scarisbrick
Food Security	Cllr Gower-Crane
Halls/Car Park Environs	Cllr Wild
Highways (Safety/Signage/Parking/PC laybys)	Cllr Sugg
Historic Structures – Market Cross, Pump/Well	Cllr Sugg
Life Saving Equipment – Defibs & Bleed Kits	Cllr Wild
Neighbourhood Watch & Community Safety	Vacant
Open Spaces Working Group Chair	Cllr Sheppard
Parish Clock	Parish Clerk
Planning	Cllr Clarke
Planting schemes	Cllr Scarisbrick
Play/Recreation – All ages	All Councillors
Public Engagement/Consultations	Cllr Gower-Crane
Public Rights of Way	Cllr Sugg
Public Toilets	Cllr Wild
Outside Organisations	
ALCA North Somerset Group	Cllr Gower-Crane
Bleadon Youth Club	Cllr Scarisbrick
Coronation Hall Management Committee	Cllr Clarke & Cllr Sheppard
NSC Standards Sub-Committee	Cllr Clarke
Play Area	All Cllrs as Trustees
District Councillors & MP	
District Cllr Terry Porter Email: terry.porter@n-somerset.gov.uk Mobile: 07989 855 339	District Cllr Mike Solomon Email: mike.solomon@n-somerset.gov.uk Mobile: 07768 631 702
Member of Parliament for Weston-super-Mare	
Dan Aldridge MP (Labour) daniel.aldridge.mp@parliament.uk	

Bleadon Village

MONTHLY

MARKET

Saturday

**21st
June**

**19th
July**

**16th
Aug**

**20th
Sept**

Coronation Hall and Jubilee Hall

BS24 0PG

9.30am – 12 noon

30+ stalls with:

Fresh local produce.

Goat Meat, Milk, Cheese. Bakery. Eggs. Pies. Savouries.

Preserves. Cakes. In Season Veg. Plants.

Books. Crafts. Fashion. Cosmetics. Jewellery. Collectables.

Gifts. Toys. Bric-a-Brac.

Something new every month.

Delicious locally sourced refreshments.

Find us on Facebook and Instagram

Your Chance to View
Bleadon Parish Council's
Governance and Accountability

Commencing on 4th June 2025
and Ending on 14th July 2025

The AGAR or Annual Governance and Accountability Return is a set of documents and financial statements that local councils are required to prepare and submit each year. It is an essential part of the external audit process and ensures public transparency of the council's decision making processes and financial spending.

The AGAR typically consists of various sections, including the Annual Governance Statement, Accounting Statements, and an Internal Audit Report. Each section requires specific information related to the council's governance arrangements, financial transactions, assets and liabilities, income and expenditure, and other relevant details.

Any person interested has the right to inspect and make copies of the accounting records for the financial year to which the audit relates and all books, deeds, contracts, bills, vouchers, receipts and other documents relating to those records must be made available for inspection by any person interested. For the year ended 31 March 2025, these documents will be available on reasonable notice by application to the clerk.

Current and previous information can be found in the 'Financial & AGAR' section of the council's website at

<https://www.bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk/financial-reports/>. Also in the 'Agenda & Minutes' section at <https://www.bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk/agendas-and-minutes/>

If you have any questions, or if there is anything specific you would like to discuss, or information that you require, please let Craig know via email at parishclerk@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk or Tel: 07453 358 318