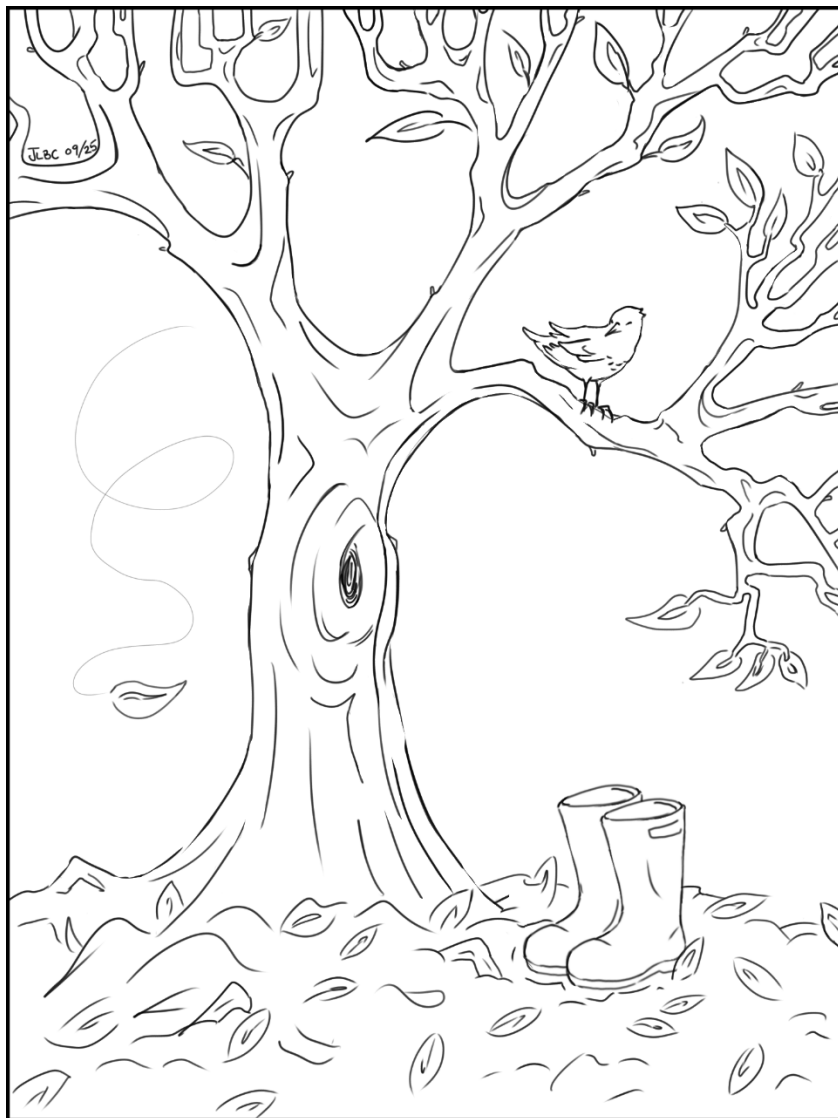


# BLEADON PARISH NEWS



Autumn 2025 Issue 134

## Ways to Contact Bleadon Parish Council (BPC)

<b>Personally Contact Councillors</b>	
Cllr Andy Scarisbrick (Chairman)	<a href="mailto:andyscarisbrick@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk">andyscarisbrick@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk</a>
Cllr Mary Sheppard (Vice-chairman)	<a href="mailto:marysheppard@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk">marysheppard@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk</a>
Cllr ID Clarke	<a href="mailto:idclarke@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk">idclarke@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk</a>
Cllr Ann Davies	<a href="mailto:anndavies@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk">anndavies@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk</a>
Cllr Jo Gower-Crane	<a href="mailto:jogc@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk">jogc@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk</a>
Cllr Lorraine Stanley	<a href="mailto:lorrainestanley@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk">lorrainestanley@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk</a>
Cllr Steve Sugg	<a href="mailto:stevesugg@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk">stevesugg@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk</a>
Cllr Becci Wild	<a href="mailto:becciwild@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk">becciwild@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk</a>
Co-option Vacancy	
<b>Contact the Clerk</b>	
Craig Bolt	<a href="mailto:parishclerk@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk">parishclerk@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk</a> 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 7pm. 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 2026 (APM)</b>	
<b>27<sup>th</sup> April 2026, 7:00pm 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 2026 (AMPC)</b>	
May 2026, 7pm Similar format to the monthly meetings.	

## Parish Council Chairman's Address



Dear Parishioners

In my last letter to you all I said that we were expecting a busy Summer and that has certainly proven to be the case.

As a Parish Council, we've been very active over the Summer, although the fruits of our labours aren't quite as visible just yet. One of our biggest areas of activity has been issuing tenders for work to the play area and the refurbishment of the toilets. There are some more detailed articles within this edition of Parish News which explain a bit more about the process and the current state of play. However, the projects represent the biggest local investment the Parish will have seen for some time, with the value of each project being between £30 - 40,000. For the play area works, we are still dependent upon securing some additional external funding. This has taken longer than we might have hoped but the process of amending the necessary legal agreements is now well underway.

Thank you to the team of volunteers who have supported the Summer tub planting scheme and a particular thank you to Libby Boucher and the Bleadon Horticultural Society for their work on Jubilee Gardens. I am sure you will agree that the new planting scheme looks absolutely fantastic. It's quite something to think that the gardens were only planted up just before Easter and the plants are already well established, despite the challenges of the hot Summer.

I hope you get the chance to participate in and enjoy the autumnal activities and events across the Parish - Andy (**Cllr Scarisbrick** - Chairman)

**Deadline** for 01 Dec 2025 to mid-Mar 2026 edition is **01 November 25.**

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. 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)

## Use it or Lose it!

A bit dramatic perhaps – but potentially true. The two examples we want to raise are the mobile library and the recently introduced bus service through the village centre. Taking these in turn:

**Mobile Library Service** – hopefully you will be aware that the mobile library now **visits the Parish at 2.05pm and stops in the Parish car park for 45 minutes**. This follows a review conducted earlier in the year which suggested that the service could be reduced from one hour to 30 minutes. The Parish Council challenged the outcome of this review and cited the needs of local residents, the absence of a local school and the very limited public transport network as reasons why the service should not be reduced. However, in conducting its review, North Somerset Council looked primarily at demand rather than need. As such, it concluded – based upon the number of Bleadon residents using the mobile library service – that there wasn't demand for this service within the Parish. The library service did reflect upon the Parish Council's comments and increased the time allocation to 45 minutes (from the 30 minutes proposed) but this still represents a decrease in the service provided locally. So, our message is clear – please don't assume that these sorts of services will always be around. North Somerset Council is facing significant financial challenges and it won't be able to continue to provide services which aren't being used. Use it – or risk losing it.

**Bus Service through the village centre** – there is a more detailed article covering this service. However, it is worth referencing here as well. The service which now **operates on Monday and Wednesday mornings** on a loop through parts of the Parish out to the hospital and on to the Railway Station in Weston-super-Mare is being operated by Weston & District Community Transport on a trial basis. The trial is currently set to finish at the end of the current financial year (31<sup>st</sup> March 2026) and – quite literally – the number of 'bums on seats' will be a factor in deciding on whether or not the service should continue. There have been some issues about promoting/awareness of the service, which have been acknowledged and which the fuller article hopefully helps address. However, the same basic principle applies – use it, or risk losing it.

**Craig Bolt – Parish Clerk & RFO**

## **Bleadon Farm Shop**

We have had a long hot summer at the shop with excellent footfall - lots of happy holiday makers and locals alike enjoying eating outside.



We marked Breast Cancer Awareness week with cream teas and the opportunity to donate to this worthy cause - we were able to send off £35 to the charity. It would be great to have even more support for our theme weeks!

The butchery has come back under our wing, retaining Keith as butcher Tuesday - Saturday. Do please come and discuss your requirements with Keith as we have more flexibility to provide bespoke packs for your family and entertaining.

Our gift selection is ever-increasing, and we are very happy to promote local artisans who make beeswax products, handmade jewellery and crochet plants to name but a few. Have you tried our House Gin? If not, it might make a great early Christmas purchase!

After a brilliant summer of strawberries, it's time for Autumn products - potatoes and kindling are already in. Look out for our selection of ciders and cheeses for Autumn too.

Finally, do help yourself to one of our new marketing leaflets which outline the range of services on offer at Bleadon Farm Shop - we were surprised ourselves when we started listing them all!

You know about us, but if you can spread the word to a friend who doesn't, we'd be delighted to welcome them!

**Charlotte & Alistair House**

## **Budget for 2026 and Beyond**

Over the Autumn, the Council will be looking at establishing a medium-term plan for the next 3 years and determining what this might mean for future budgets and the local Precept. This is something we did in the Autumn of 2023 and we think it served us – and you – well, as it allowed us to plan ahead and to establish some principles regarding the Precept.

One of the principles relating to the Precept was that – based upon the medium-term plan – we felt that we could avoid a scenario of needing to raise the Precept. We've managed to keep to this principle and there has actually been a reduction in the amount of Precept charged for this year of approximately 5%. To put this in context, the national average has been a 7.4 % increase in Town and Parish Precepts. So, Bleadon households have gone down by 5% whilst many other households will have gone up by circa 7%.

We obviously can't promise that there won't be future increases in the Precept. We continue to face inflationary and legislative pressures and the impact of North Somerset Council's own budgetary pressures may yet need us to make some decisions about whether or not the Parish Council should 'step in' and run some services.

However, we hope you feel that we are working hard to ensure that the financial burden upon households is reduced and that there are visible signs of improvement across the Parish.

If there is anything you would like to suggest or recommend as an area for consideration over the next 3 years, then please don't hesitate to contact either myself or the Parish Clerk.

**Councillor Andy Scarisbrick** (Chairman and Lead Councillor for Finance)

## The Bleadon Belles & The WI Choir

Thank you to those who supported our Summer Tea Party this year. It was a happy event and raised much needed funds for the Somewhere to Go local charity: £400 which will be added to the total donation from the WI. Now summer is over and we are planning for future events.



As well as singing in local nursing homes the choir are planning a Christmas Singalong in the Coronation Halls on **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December, 3-5pm with Christmas Carols & Mince Pies**. There will be a **WI Carol Service** and we've been invited to join a Christmas event at **The Wintergardens on Tuesday afternoon 23<sup>rd</sup> December**. Watch Facebook and the Noticeboards for updates.

## **Bleadon Village Market – Support it or LOSE IT!**



Bleadon's Monthly Market is a great social hub for villagers, where people plan to meet friends and catch up. You often hear "see you at the market!". It also supports a wide range of local small businesses and producers. In addition, it raises much needed funds for your village halls, which are a wonderful resource and along with the Youth

Centre and Church Rooms provide our community with a wide range of activities. It's no wonder Bleadon is such a popular place to live.

**Bleadon Village Market will finish on 6<sup>th</sup> December unless supported**

We have an amazing team of volunteers who help run things “The Marketeers” but they can’t do it alone. It is hoped that the public meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> September to help plan a future for the market, or a similar social event, will generate some positive outcomes. If you’d like to help or volunteer, please contact Jo Jones on 01934 812370 or [jojonesbleadon@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:jojonesbleadon@tiscali.co.uk).

## Time of Vacancy

Following Tim's recent retirement, we are now in a period of vacancy. As Churchwardens we are regularly asked if and when we will get another parish minister.



We met with our Archdeacon and Area Dean earlier this month, who are supporting us during this time.

There will be various consultations as to the best way forward but, in the meantime, church services will continue as before with the help of other clergy including retired ministers. You can find a list of these services in our Church noticeboards and in Church notices (sent out weekly).

We expect to receive a letter in September explaining to us what needs to be done before we can begin the recruiting process. Meanwhile the Churchwardens can be contacted for Bleadon Church enquiries and information: Sue is the lead for clergy cover, service and other rotas and churchyard maintenance. Sara is the lead for pastoral support, Church Room bookings and Church maintenance.

Please note that the Bier House to the north of the churchyard is for official access only and should be treated as a hard-hat area. It is tempting to investigate it, the Bier Garden having been cleared of weeds, but the roof remains unsafe.

## Thanks Everyone

Thank you to everyone who cooked food, made cakes, served refreshments and set-up and cleared away for Tim and Heather's Leaving Tea. The event went well and it was lovely seeing lots of you in and around the Church Room that afternoon and later in the church for Tim's last service. We know they appreciated their 'send-off' and the gifts they received.

**Sue Arnold and Sara Hughes** (Churchwardens)

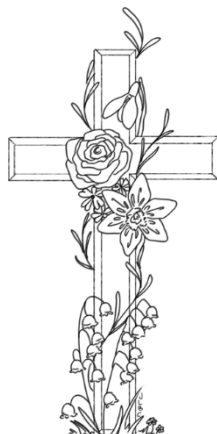
Sue Arnold – 07712452845

Sara Hughes – 01934 811008



# CHURCH FUNDRAISING

## SPRING



Building on last year's Planting Hope.

Spring Colour, a smile, new life .....

Bleadon Church offers you a variety of bulbs  
Amaryllis in various colours, Purple Allium  
and the popular Tete a Tete Daffodil bulbs.

**Suggested donation of £5 per pack.**

By donating you are helping Bleadon Church run its services and activities. Thank you.

Available at church and village events from early/mid-September.



### **A thought as we plant:**

Beneath the soil, small hopes we hide,  
In ground and pots they wait inside –  
Come Spring, their colours rise and sing  
A secret sown becomes the wing.

## Green Canopy Project

The Green Canopy Project, is a tree planting initiative led by the Forest of Avon. This project is designed to support parish councils in planting a hectare of trees (or more), bringing lasting benefits to communities and the environment. Participation will directly support the region's Local Nature Climate Action Plans (LNCAPs) and the ambitious regional goal of doubling tree canopy cover by 2050. <https://forestofavon.org/all-partner-projects/green-canopy-project-for-parish-councils/>

Participants will receive comprehensive, fully funded support to help bring tree planting ambitions to life. This includes:

- Free expert advice and design support for habitat planting, including guidance on site selection, planting techniques, and long-term aftercare.
- Funding for all trees, tree protection equipment and maintenance payments for 15 years through the [Trees for Climate](#) fund
- Full project delivery for tree planting projects in publicly accessible areas.
- Community engagement materials, including an [information poster](#) to advertise the campaign and help identify planting locations.

## Recycling Centre Booking System Coming this Autumn

This autumn, a new online booking system will be introduced for Weston-super-Mare, Backwell and Portishead recycling centres. It will be rolled out in stages, starting with Weston-super-Mare, followed by Backwell and Portishead. It's expected to deliver environmental and financial benefits by cutting carbon emissions from idling vehicles, reducing unauthorised use by people from outside the area, and making sure commercial and DIY waste is managed correctly.



Councillor Annemieke Waite, North Somerset Council's Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment, said: "By introducing a simple, quick online booking system, we can reduce queues, make visits easier, and ensure our sites are working as efficiently as possible for everyone." You can check opening times, see what you can bring, and find answers to common questions about the new booking system at: [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/recyclingcentres](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/recyclingcentres)



## **Master Plan to 2040 published - our long-term vision**

Following a comprehensive consultation, Bristol Airport has published its final Master Plan to 2040. The document sets out a long-term vision of how the Airport will steadily grow to meet the demand to travel to and from our region, which is expected to reach 15 million passengers per annum by the late 2030s.

<https://www.bristolairport.co.uk/corporate/about-us/our-future/>

## **Public Transport Interchange now open!**

Our brand new Public Transport Interchange was officially opened this week. The £60m facility is one of the region's biggest bus-coach interchanges and will see around 250 public transport movements a day.

<https://www.bristolairport.co.uk/corporate/news-and-media/news-and-media-centre/2025/7/bristol-airport-s-public-transport-interchange-now-open/>

## **New aircraft and more city links for our region**

We've welcomed easyJet's 19th aircraft to be based at the Airport - a new Airbus A320neo. These aircraft are up to 50% quieter and use 20% less fuel than the generation of planes it replaces.

<https://www.bristolairport.co.uk/corporate/news-and-media/news-and-media-centre/2025/6/easyjet-welcomes-new-aircraft-and-more-routes-at-bristol-airport/>

## **Weston Shuttle Bus Service**

### **To include Bleadon Village / Celtic Way**



A new shuttle service has been operating since April.

The service is operated by Weston & District Community Transport (WDCT) and is part of the West of England Combined Authority in collaboration with North Somerset Council (NSC) – Government Initiative - Bus Service Improvement Plan which is a funded project.

The service is operating as a pilot scheme – meaning it is flexible and adaptable to change, operating 12 months until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026.

The objective is to offer a bus service in areas of Weston-super-Mare that do not have regular bus service routes or limited access to conventional bus services, if the service is successful and generates interest and sustainable passenger numbers, it is hoped the service can continue longer term, possibly with additional days and extended service time.

Therefore, it is essential the service is supported and utilised.

Bleadon Parish Council have identified aspects of the service that can be improved and part of that context is to communicate the service to residents.

- The service operates Monday / Wednesday 09.15 to 13.45
- The service is a membership scheme, but during the pilot membership is Free of Charge.
- It is simple to join- Call 01934 644373 – WDCT bookings will take some details
- Once your membership has been confirmed a unique membership card will be posted to you
- Upon receipt you can use the service immediately.
- Fares are £2.00 per single journey.
- The service covers all stops in Bleadon – see Parish News centre pages for table of stops.
- See timetable and route details, also in centre pages.
- Part of the improvement is to place Weston Shuttle information on each stop.

- The service includes ‘Hail & Ride’ so if you signal the vehicle as it approached it will stop.
- You must show your membership card to the driver when paying your fare, this identifies you as a member, failure to do so will result in the driver refusing transport.
- The service is a timetabled route – therefore the driver will not deviate from the specified route.

If you have any questions and / or wish to join – please contact 01934 644373 or email [bookings@wdct.co.uk](mailto:bookings@wdct.co.uk)

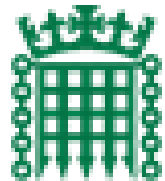
As part of the discussions with WDCT and NSC, the Parish Council did also ask whether it would be possible for the route to be altered to include parts of Shiplate Road and ‘The Veale’. Unfortunately, it’s been concluded that there is no safe place to be able to turn the bus around, so inclusion of these areas isn’t going to be possible within the trial arrangement.

One further point to note is that the bus stop outside of the Church Rooms (and other stops) are now being actively used for buses. Parking on a bus stop is potentially a breach of Traffic Regulation Orders and can lead to fines being issued and there may well be an increase in enforcement activity to ensure unauthorised parking does not take place.

**Councillor Steve Sugg (Lead Councillor for Transport) and Craig Bolt (Parish Clerk & RFO)**

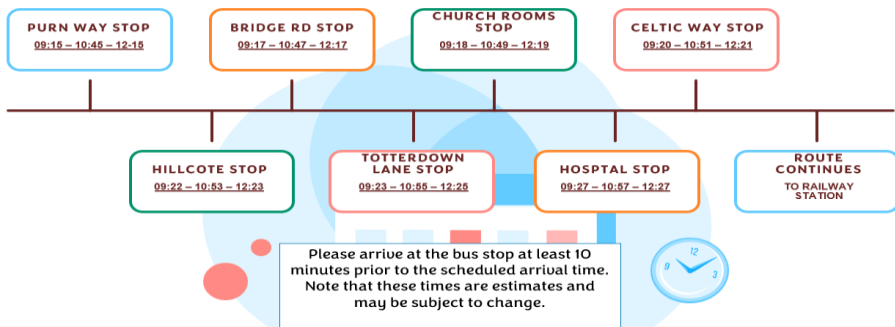
## **A Message from Our MP**

As the Member of Parliament for Weston-super-Mare, Worle and the villages, one of my priorities is to ensure that every single constituent knows where to turn if they need advice, support, or assistance with local and national issues. With that in mind, look out on noticeboards for contact details, an outline of services my office can provide, and my vision for our community.



Let’s keep Weston moving forward, together.

**Dan Aldridge MP** ([daniel.aldridge.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:daniel.aldridge.mp@parliament.uk))



## BLEADON STOP TIMES



## Your Weston Shuttle route

runs on  
**Mondays & Wednesdays**  
(excluding public holidays)



**BECOME A  
MEMBER OF  
OUR  
SERVICE**

- **MEMBERSHIP**  
MEMBERSHIP IS FREE  
CALL 01934 644373 OR EMAIL [bookings@wdct.co.uk](mailto:bookings@wdct.co.uk)
- **FARES**  
ADULTS: £2 SINGLE  
CHILDREN £1 SINGLE
- **CONCESSIONS**  
CONCESSIONARY PASSES ECCEPTED
- **NO NEED TO BOOK**  
JUST BE AT A STOP 10 MINS BEFORE SCHEDUALLED TIME

## Bleadon to Oaktree Park

**Monday & Wednesday** (except Public Holidays)

<b>Bleadon</b> (Purn Way stop)	0915	1045	1215
<b>Weston General Hospital</b>	0927	1057	1227
<b>Rail Station</b> 🚶 (for town centre)	0937	1107	1237
<b>Asda</b> (for retail)	0943	1113	1243
<b>Flowerdown Retail Park</b>	0948	1118	1248
<b>Oaktree Park</b>	0955	1125	1255

Passengers travelling to Hutton Park should remain on the vehicle at Oaktree Park. It continues to Hutton Park as per the timetable below.

## Oaktree Park to Bleadon

**Monday & Wednesday** (except Public Holidays)

<b>Oaktree Park</b>	1000	1130	1300
<b>Flowerdown Retail Park</b>	1005	1135	1305
<b>Hutton Park</b>	1008	1138	1308
<b>Flowerdown Retail Park</b>	1011	1141	1311
<b>Asda</b> (for retail)	1017	1147	1317
<b>Rail Station</b> 🚶 (for town centre)	1024	1154	1324
<b>Weston General Hospital</b>	1034	1204	1334
<b>Bleadon</b> (Purn Way stop)	1039	1209	1339

Passengers can remain on the vehicle at the Purn Way stop to get off at other stops on the loop a few minutes later.

Operated by

**WESTON & DISTRICT  
COMMUNITY TRANSPORT Ltd.**

*Providing Transport Solutions  
For The Community...*



## History Beneath Your Feet

Hi, my name is Councillor Lorraine Stanley, I have a keen interest in History, Archaeology and Metal Detecting, and I thought that I would give you a few points about Bleadon and the surrounding areas, and also touch on the Chronological History of Somerset.

“Bleadon”, meaning “Variegated Hill”, from old English BLEO (colour) and dun (hill), was documented in the Domesday Book of 1086 as Bledone - part of the ancient Winterstoke Hundred.

The geological significance of Bleadon and Bleadon Hill is a designated Geological Site of Special Scientific interest. Its Pleistocene-era sediments point to ancient ice sheets or even Mesozoic beach environment.

In 200 BC, Glastonbury Lake Village flourished about this time, the inhabitants were early Britons, most likely Belgae. Around 100 BC, Somerset was part of Pre-Roman Iron Age Britain. Somerset was within the lands of the Dobunni and maybe the Durotriges Tribes. Communities lived in Hillforts like Cadbury Camp, Brentknoll, Ham Hill and Worlebury. Although there is no direct evidence that Bleadon Hill was an Iron-Age hillfort, it would have maintained a presence with them.

The River Axe was tidal and quite a lot wider than it is today. People would have used the River Axe to trade with the Welsh tribes. Many of the Hillforts were beginning to decline in a military way but instead used by traders and farming Communities.

Iron Age people practiced mixed farming: cattle, pigs, and cereal crops (wheat, barley and oats), Evidence from poll and Field systems suggest increasing clearance of woodland for farmland.

The people were Polytheistic Celts, worshiping deities linked to rivers, hill and groves, as well as the Sun and the Moon.

More next time, hope you like this.

**Cllr Lorraine Stanley**



## **Refurbishment of the Toilets**

As Craig indicates in his article about the play area improvements, the proposed works to the public toilets have also had to follow some strict procurement standards.

The works were advertised over the Summer and we have had six companies submit tenders. We are still part way through the tender evaluation process so there isn't too much we can say at this stage about the prospective companies, other than to say that we're confident that the works can be completed within the budget we have set – although those of you who have undertaken renovation works yourselves will know that sometimes things don't always go to plan!

By way of a reminder, what we are planning is to create two fully accessible cubicles without changing the footprint of the existing building. Each cubicle will be accessed from a (lockable) door facing out on to Pea Green and the surrounding walkways raised/ramped to avoid any form of stepped access into the new toilet cubicles. Inside each cubicle will be fully renovated with new floor and wall surfaces and a complete new suite of sanitary ware.

In the documentation we provided to prospective bidders, we referenced some of the past problems with vandalism and asked companies to consider how they would respond to this in their submissions. Quite a number of the companies specified stainless steel sanitary ware as part of their solution. We've reflected on this and feel that this might be a bit too 'clinical' so we are going to look at other solutions e.g. porcelain sanitary ware, but we would welcome any views you might have.

Our hope is to be able to confirm a preferred contractor at our Council meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2025. In much the same way as for the play area improvements, we would then look to work with the preferred contractor to work out some of the finer detail and confirm things such as colour schemes and the timing of any works with a view to then making a contract award.

**Councillor Becci Wild – Lead Councillor for Toilet Refurbishments**

## **Play Area Improvements**

The Council has decided to work with a company called Caloo to potentially provide new play equipment in the play area and to develop proposals for outdoor exercise equipment next to the public toilets.

The Government introduced new rules about procurement which came into force earlier this year. This has meant that – due to the potential value of the works – we have had to follow some set procedures over the Summer. In total we had seven companies bid for the works to the play area and the provision of new outdoor exercise equipment, and one further company bidding just for the outdoor exercise equipment. As you can imagine, it has involved quite a lot of work going through the submissions to be able to compare them on a ‘like-for-like’ basis and work out which would be the best solution for the Parish.

One of the things we particularly liked about the Caloo submission was their focus on wooden products. They have also proposed a challenging climbing structure which we would really like to see installed but we need to spend just a little more time checking that this wouldn’t unduly impact upon the small amount of open space within the play area. As a consequence, there will be some further discussions with Caloo over the coming weeks and we hope to be able to share some graphics of the type and location of the new play equipment for the next edition of Parish News.

We also wanted to provide some feedback about some of the suggestions we received regarding new equipment in the play area and adjacent to the toilets. One of the things we were asked was whether it would be possible to provide a small in-ground trampoline in the play area. This was something we asked prospective bidders to consider and price. However, the Council has decided that this isn’t something that can be progressed. There are a number of reasons for reaching this decision, but the main one has been that the Council would likely experience difficulties with obtaining insurance cover as insurers are

increasingly withdrawing trampolines from their cover. It's also worth noting that the cost of a small (1 metre square) in ground trampoline is in the order of £5,000 and they also have quite high ongoing maintenance costs as springs have to be replaced on a fairly regular basis. Taking these factors together, the Council didn't feel that a trampoline would represent a wise use of public funds.

Another suggestion which was made was to provide a climbing rope – the sort of thing that will be familiar to many of you from time spent in school gymnasiums. Whilst this hasn't been completely ruled out, we thought it would be good to use this as an example of why it sometimes isn't possible to accommodate what might seem like very sensible suggestions. There are a series of regulations relating to commercial play and exercise equipment, some of which focus upon what is known as 'critical fall height'. These regulations effectively determine the amount of clear, open space around a piece of equipment and the type of safety surfacing which needs to be in place.

So, for instance, a climbing rope which is 3m tall wouldn't be able to have anything else around it within a 3m radius and we would also have to put in special safety surfacing. To put this in context, if a 3m climbing rope was put in the middle of Pea Green (adjacent to the public toilets), then we really wouldn't be able to put much in the way of other items of equipment within the grassed area and would have to put in safety surfacing.

However, there are other pieces of equipment which can work the same muscle groups as a climbing rope and that's part of what we will be working with Caloo on over the coming weeks.

**Craig Bolt – Parish Clerk & RFO**

## **Village Cross Works**

You will no doubt have seen the golden hues of the Village Cross following the works which were completed earlier in the year.

We thought some of you might be interested in understanding a bit more about the cross and the works which were undertaken.

The cross is a scheduled listed monument and the stepped base dates back to the medieval period. The fluted column is a later addition and is probably some two hundred years old and the cross on the top is the newest part of the structure.

Because it is a listed monument, we have needed to work closely with North Somerset Council's Conservation Team, who have been exemplary throughout the whole process and have helped us find solutions rather than present us with problems.

The first stages of the works involved cleaning the cross with a specialist low pressure steam cleaning system designed for cleaning soft stonework so that we could see the extent of any damage/deterioration of the stonework. We're not sure if the cross has ever been properly cleaned before but if anyone can clarify, we'd love to know.

The cleaning showed up a number of cracks in the fluted column itself and in the 'ball' base of the cross on top of the column. The stepped base was in remarkably good condition given its age. We took advice from North Somerset Council's Conservation Team and produced a specification for potential works which they were happy to approve without requiring a formal application for Listed Building Consent. The works were tendered (as were the original cleaning works) to ensure that we got the best value for parishioners and a contractor appointed with North Somerset Council's approval. The contractor in both cases was Moffatt Stoneworks.

There were a number of things which influenced the remedial works to the cross. One of these was that we couldn't have anything

touching/leaning on the stonework as although the stone looks quite strong, it is relatively soft and could be easily damaged and we also weren't sure of the extent of the visible cracks. It also wasn't practical to bring in cranes because of the overhead lines – hence the fairly extensive scaffolding which needed to be able to take the weight of the various pieces of stone as they were lifted with chain blocks and pulleys.

The reason for the cracks in the stonework became obvious as the cross and ball section was removed. When the cross and ball were installed, the method of connecting them together had involved driving three iron bolts down into the fluted column, with the bolts protruding by a couple of inches and slotting into some corresponding holes within the base of the cross and ball. Iron, of course, rusts on exposure to the oxygen in air and water and when it does it expands. This wasn't lost on those who had installed the cross and ball section and they had encased the protruding bolts in lead to prevent exposure of the iron to oxygen – which was the prevailing methodology at the time.

Unfortunately, over time, this system had failed and the bolts had 'flared' out. Whilst this had proven overly effective in locking the pieces of stone together, it was also creating pressure within the stonework and causing the stone to crack.

The solution to the problem was to remove the lead and use modern epoxies to seal the iron (to prevent further oxidation) and bond the stone back together with epoxy and stainless-steel pins. However, even epoxies will fail over time and in a hundred years from now future generations might be questioning the currently accepted approaches – so we shouldn't be too critical of those who went before us!

**Councillor Steve Sugg** – Lead Councillor for Monuments and Memorials

## 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>

### Community Governance Review Consultation

<https://n-somerset.inconsult.uk/CGRPart2/consultationHome>

This review looks at the electoral arrangements of its parishes to make sure they reflect local communities and work effectively. **This second consultation is open for 8 weeks, from Monday 8th September 2025 and closes at 23:59 on 31st October 2025.** NSC's Elections Team will review all the feedback and prepare a report for the Planning and Regulatory Committee in December. If you need a paper copy or an alternative format, please contact [consultation@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:consultation@n-somerset.gov.uk).

### North Somerset Council Local Plan Additional Sites Consultation

NSC's latest Forward Plan indicates that the North Somerset Local Plan **will be put to Full Council on the 15<sup>th</sup> October for approval** of revised Reg 19 document for consultation and submission for examination (previously listed for September 2025), Full Council Agenda Item 6

<https://n-somerset.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=169&Mid=1281>

### Local Devolution Programme Policy and Framework

<https://n-somerset.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=152&Mid=1274>

NSC Cabinet 10<sup>th</sup> September Agenda Item 7 - **Four Recommendations:**

Discussion at [https://www.youtube.com/live/dQ24B\\_hle0Y](https://www.youtube.com/live/dQ24B_hle0Y) at 20 minutes. To delegate approval of the Local Devolution Programme: A Framework for Asset and Service Transfer in North Somerset, to the Leader of the Council; To approve the Disposal framework as the overarching policy for asset disposals; To progress to delivery phase of the local devolution programme (LDP) and to recognise that the programme will be delivered in phases subject to Officer and Town and Parish Council (T&PC) capacity a. The first phase ("Quick Wins") b. Subsequent phases to be delivered to mutually agreed programmes with T&PCs; To authorise the transfer of all play areas to town and parish councils. Where such transfers cannot occur, there will be no further investment, and such play areas will close. Non transferred play areas will be maintained safely until the point of closure. (NB. Bleadon will not be affected by the devolution of play areas as ours is not owned by NSC, but is in trust for the residents of Bleadon.) A resident presented concerns regarding devolution to Town & Parish Councils see [https://www.youtube.com/live/dQ24B\\_hle0Y](https://www.youtube.com/live/dQ24B_hle0Y) at 12 mins.

## Formal process starts for North Somerset Council to consider WECA membership

<https://n-somerset.gov.uk/news/formal-process-starts-north-somerset-council-consider-weca-membership>

NSC took the first formal step in exploring potential membership of the West of England Combined Authority (WECA) this week after councillors approved starting an exploration process, including public engagement. Councillors authorised the Leader of the Council to develop and consult upon a devolution proposal that is in the interests of North Somerset residents, businesses and partners. Full Council 16<sup>th</sup> Sept Agenda papers at <https://n-somerset.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=169&Mid=1281> Subject to approval at the next meeting of the WECA Mayor and council leaders on 17 October, **formal public and stakeholder consultation on the proposal is expected to take place in the coming months** across North Somerset and the WECA area for a minimum of eight weeks. The process set out above is expected to take approximately 12 months to complete. Agenda Item 9 discussion <https://youtube.com/live/nkkgMU5JFFE> 1hr 18 minutes.

## Food Security Speech

On 16<sup>th</sup> September I presented to NSC Full Council a number of concerns regarding WECA, including a lack of future local representation. I asked NSC that all council and WECA plans, strategies and policies address and support farming, food production and food security, and to protect and improve the current level of food production and availability. I also asked that Food Security is added to the Climate Change and Environmental Implications in all reports, to help achieve a more considered strategic approach to food security. See NSC recording at <https://youtube.com/live/nkkgMU5JFFE> at 17 minutes. On 10<sup>th</sup> Sept a resident addressed Cabinet regarding how devolution or selling of NSC land assets to Towns & Parishes, privately or tying up land in contractual green initiatives may subsequently effect food security. Also referencing the Smallholding & Allotment Act [https://youtube.com/live/dQ24B\\_hle0Y](https://youtube.com/live/dQ24B_hle0Y) at 16 mins.

## Boundary Review

With regards consultation the report states that, “consultation is a key part of the Commission’s activity at a number of points in its process. The Council, its members, town and parish representatives as well as the public are all invited by the Commission to provide written submissions on its proposals.” Various dates from **Mid-October to May 2027**. Full report Agenda Item 11 <https://n-somerset.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=169&Mid=1281>

## Cllr Jo Gower-Crane

(Public Consultations / Engagement / Food Security / Climate Change & Biodiversity)

## North Somerset Libraries Service Consultation

### Timeline

**Feb 2025** - £433K saving from library service budget agreed by Council

**18 June 2025** – Decision made by Cabinet to go out to consultation

**31 July 2025** – consultation starts

**24 October, noon 2025** – consultation ends

**February 2026** - Final recommendations will be presented to Cabinet and Full Council in February 2026

**March 2026** – depending on the outcome of the public consultation, potential staff consultation on revised staffing requirements

**Summer 2026** – any changes start to be implemented.

**More detailed information, including the consultation link, is available at:**

<https://n-somerset.gov.uk/library-consultation>



### Key messages

- We remain fully committed to providing a quality library service across North Somerset that meets our statutory responsibilities and is fair, accessible and future proof.
- No decisions have been made on how the £433K library saving agreed in February 2025 should be made - but staying the same is not an option. Any changes made will be based on our understanding of equalities implications and analysis of need.
- The council needs to save £44million over the next three years and we are reviewing all areas of council spend. Just like any household, we have to live within our means.
- Our options for change show we aim to keep as many library buildings as possible open, but they also highlight three library buildings (Worle, Pill and Winscombe) are potentially at risk if community support cannot be sought.
- **No decisions** about these three library buildings or delivering library services in different ways have been made.
- Library services will continue across North Somerset. There is no expectation that communities should step forward. Where a library building can't remain open, alternative library services will be provided such as outreach or mobile library services.
- Savings will not be sought through library staff redundancies, but it is likely there will be some impact. We will know more once the consultation ends, and any recommendations approved.







## **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](http://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: <a href="mailto:terry.porter@n-somerset.gov.uk">terry.porter@n-somerset.gov.uk</a> Mobile: 07989 855 339	District Cllr Mike Solomon Email: <a href="mailto:mike.solomon@n-somerset.gov.uk">mike.solomon@n-somerset.gov.uk</a> Mobile: 07768 631 702
Member of Parliament for Weston-super-Mare	
Dan Aldridge MP (Labour) <a href="mailto:daniel.aldridge.mp@parliament.uk">daniel.aldridge.mp@parliament.uk</a>	

# **Bleadon Village**

**MONTHLY**

# **MARKET**

# **Saturday**

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

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

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

**6<sup>th</sup>   
Dec**

**Coronation Hall and Jubilee Hall**

**BS24 0PG**

**9.30am – 12 noon (12.30 Xmas)**

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**

# Harvest Celebrations



Our **Harvest Festival Service** is taking place in  
Bleadon Parish Church on **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October at 10.15 am.**

Food donations (fresh food to decorate the church and/or dried, tinned and bottled food) will be taken to the food-bank at the Health Living Centre on the Bourneville Estate. No homemade items please.

The **Harvest Lunch** will be at the Riverside Holiday Park (over the A370 in Bleadon). It will be a carvery and all dietary requirements will be catered for. **Please be seated by 12.00 for 12.15 pm.**

There is a representative of the charity, Farm Community Network, who will speak about their work after the meal - cash donations during the day will go to this cause.

**Tickets (free)** will be available from the churchwardens. Sue Arnold (814275) and Sara Hughes (811008). **These are essential to book a place and for catering purposes.**

**The main meal will be £13.50 for a standard plate and if 2 courses are eaten-£15.00** (a sweet deal!). Please pay for what you eat at the end of the event - like we do for our monthly lunch.

We do hope you can come along and join us.

Sara Hughes - Churchwarden