

# Bleadon village news

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Autumn 2010 - Issue 86



**Weird & Wonderful Bleadon - Scarecrow Festival highlights**

**Help at the touch of a button for Jeff**

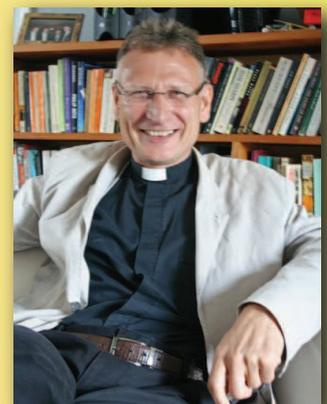
**Gardeners invade Wisley**



**Summer Flower Show colour spectacular**

**On the Bleadon cider trail**

**Bowlers are all shipshape**



**We meet our new Rector**

# Bowls Club (nearly) at sea

A prompt departure from Bleadon meant that in little over an hour we were boarding the good ship *Baghera*; an all-weather type vessel normally seen on Continental waterways. But after cast-off, the newly computerised controls of Cumberland Basin's locks and bridges conspired to delay things. Luckily the bar had opened and eventually we were released into the River Avon.

After passing beneath the Suspension Bridge we are all wishing we'd paid more attention when trip organiser Malcolm announced 'the quiz'. How long is it? He also threatened to keelhaul anyone found phoning a friend to find out.

Rounding the infamous 'horseshoe bend', apparently more tricky than our own village variety, a nautical ploughman's was served. Between banks lined with sentry-like Herons and tree-roosting Cormorants we passed the picturesque inlets serving Sea Mills and Pill and witnessed the grim underside of the M5.

The delay in departure meant stopping short of the Channel and we turned and headed upstream, following the sailing cutter *Irene* back towards Bristol. We slowed awhile to allow the multiple-prize draw to take place and also learn the quiz outcome. With our estimates of bridge length varying from 100ft to twenty thousand, Ann H's creditable guess of 700ft was a worthy winner; actual span 702ft.

Re-entry to the docks was trouble free - typical. So, tying up alongside the *SS Great Britain* we had ample time to visit the ship, Mr Brunel in attendance of course, or stroll the Bristol Harbour Heritage Trail before returning home.

Well done Malcolm and Grace for so ably providing a day out with a difference.



Thanks to Pete Williams for the words and pictures.

Phew! Things don't appear to have turned out too badly so far. The new format Bleadon Village News seems to have gone down quite well with most readers and I'm told that the bright new look has even attracted a few new readers. Let's hope we've not lost any!

We've received quite a few compliments. Thank you everyone who took the trouble to contact me. Readers especially seem to like the additional photos that we're able to include within the larger page size. I shall continue to try and include as many photos as possible. You need to tell me when and where to be with my camera and I'll try and cover your stories. Otherwise, just send me your photos (preferably as JPGs by email).

However, not everything in the garden is rosy. It would appear that my proofing and spelling skills need honing. More experienced editors have picked me up on a few errors. I warn readers now that I'm one of those arty-farty designers, no journalist.

Community groups have been quick to realise the potential benefit of promoting their social activities in this magazine. Please continue to send me your stories and reports.

We just need to get more local advertisers to realise that they can benefit also. These are hard times for many businesses, but if they fail to invest in attracting new business from their surrounding community they are missing out on a loyal local customer base.



The Christmas/Winter edition of *Bleadon Village News* should be on your doorstep in mid December. So send me your stories to share.

*Keith Pyke, Editor*

One obvious improvement for this Autumn issue is that I have managed to get it out on time. Much of the thanks for that go to the many contributors who sent me material in plenty of time.

Plus, my thanks go to the Print Unit at North Somerset Council who turn round the printing of the magazine in just a couple of days. I hope that the newly "outsourced" print unit can maintain these excellent standards.

### **In this issue you'll find:**

- **Scarecrow Festival photos**
- **New history panel installed**
- **Meet the new Rector**
- **Help from Carelink for Jeff**
- **News & gossip**
- **What's on around Bleadon**
- **Cider trail**
- **Snapshots from our past**
- **Social activities**
- **Introducing PC Steve Church**
- **Bowlers all at sea**
- **Summer Show and Wisley visit**

The promised guide to "How to play Croquet" failed to materialise I'm afraid. I hope to bring you that in the Spring issue.

**Welcome** to the second edition of the new format Village News. Much praise should be given to the editor and many contributors to the pioneering first edition.

Mine is a brief report after the summer stand-down and before the new season starts. Once selected, a new Councillor will be joining the Parish Council and, with a full team, the future projects and "to do list" of the Council will go ahead. Issues concerning us all will be studied and hopefully resolved. We, as your Parish Council, have a direct interest; we know our "patch" so care more. With your support and input, we are able to obtain valued opinions and reach informed solutions.

The waste revolution is underway with some trepidation for many of us, but we are assured that, given time, the use of our different boxes, wheelies etc will be easy! We must, in this community, have the environment in mind.

You will have read the list of our achievements for 2010 in the last Village News. Another plus will be, dare I write the words, "Bus Shelter". At the time of going to print, this should be in place. A minus is that we still receive constant complaints about dog fouling on footpaths, and recently noisy dogs. Please may I remind you that the dog control orders are in place.

Many visitors and friends of Bleadon have not only admired our well cared for village, but also our new Historical Interpretation Board, which is sited near the play park and easily accessible to everyone. This, together with our five notice boards, is a great asset to anyone who wants to know more about the heritage of Bleadon.

Thank you for your support of the Parish Council – our community continues to thrive as demonstrated by recent Village events. Your Parish Council, with drive and initiative, will continue to serve the people of this "big village society".

**Penny Skelley**  
*Chairman Parish Council*



**Bleadon Village News** is published quarterly by Bleadon Parish Council in mid March, June, September and December. Contributions to the newsletter are very welcome, so long as they are about Bleadon or can directly benefit its residents. Please ensure that your editorial or advertising material reaches the editor at least three weeks before

publication. **The deadline for the Winter edition is 19 November**

We aim to provide a copy of this newsletter free to every household and business in Bleadon. Additional copies are usually available from the village shop and the church porch. We are eternally grateful to the band of volunteers who deliver this newsletter to households.

*Unless otherwise stated the opinions and comments expressed in this publication are those of the contributor and not of Bleadon Parish Council.*

**Send your contributions to:**  
**Keith Pyke, Village News Editor**  
**8 Whitegate Close,**  
**Bleadon BS24 0PW**  
**bleadon.editor@btinternet.com**

# At last!

## Our yesterdays begin to come to life

It's over six months since the Bleadon History Group hoped to get its first history interpretation panel installed on the green alongside the Youth Centre. The story was written, the graphics prepared, the oak frame hand crafted and ready for delivery.

Our hopes were frustrated however, by delays in the installation of the new bus shelter. The English Garden Carpentry Co. had made both the support for the history board and the new bus shelter. The parish council, keen to save your tax-payers money, would only be happy if both items were delivered together. So we waited for North Somerset Council to find the funds and resources to do the pavement works for the bus shelter in Coronation Road. Finally, frustrated at the delays we had the carpentry delivered, and resolved to sought out the bus shelter when the time came.

Peter the Parish Ranger was on hand to install the heavy-weight green-oak frame. With a bit of sweat, a few bags of quick-set concrete and a good spirit level the frame-work was installed. The graphic panel followed a few days later and now all our residents and visitors can discover a bit more about the village.

Now we are working on the graphic for the other side. Peter Lindsay has kindly offered his up-to-date map of the village. So we will be using this, together with old photos of the village to give an insight into how things looked in days gone by.



# NEWS & gossip

## Barking mad!

It's no comfort to know that I'm not the only one driven mad by neighbours who leave their dogs out to bark and whine for hours on end. Please have a consideration for other villagers and don't let your pets be pests.

## New bus shelter

The long awaited bus shelter in Coronation Road should be installed outside the Church Meeting Room around the time you read this.

The bespoke hand-crafted green oak shelter was manufactured by the English Garden Carpentry Co. for the parish council at a cost of £2500. This is the first of its type for the company so we are all hoping that it proves a pioneering success for both Bleadon and EGCC.

North Somerset Council contractors are scheduled to install the shelter and provide a wider raised pavement in the week commencing 20 September.

By moving the bus stop down the road a bit we hope that we have now eased the traffic hazard that previously existed on the dangerous Shiplate corner.

The parish council will now look to providing a bus shelter at the Purn/Bleadon Road stop.



Location for the new bus shelter and raised kerb in Coronation Road

## Mobile library - new timetable



The mobile library has started its revised schedule. Now stopping only **opposite the church** in Coronation Rd for two hours on alternate **Fridays**.

The library is there from **10.40 to 12.40**. Scheduled dates are 1, 15, 29 Oct; 12, 26 Nov and 10, 24 Dec.

If you are housebound and unable to get a friend or neighbour to go to the library for you please contact the Library Service. They can arrange to collect and deliver books, CDs and DVDs to your home.

Tel: 01934 426 020 for info

## The things you see...



This colourful crowd of crazy cyclists brought an extra smile to the village during the Scarecrow Festival. It was a Bank Holiday so they were doing a fancy-dress bike tour of local pubs. After imbibing at the Queens Arms, the Anchor was the next port of call via a quick photo opportunity at the church. Let's hope they all made it home safely.



## Bier House clearance

Following a plea for help from the Parochial Church Council, Peter our Bleadon Ranger has again cleared the knotweed and briars that once again threatened to completely engulf the Bier House in the churchyard.

The old stone building was once used as a store for the gravedigger's equipment.

Now that the churchyard is closed to burials it is the parish council's responsibility to maintain the churchyard.



A love of real ale, live music, chickens and opera, plus an admiration for John Prescott, are just some of the surprises that our new parish priest revealed in conversation.

## Three months to the day that the Revd Philip Stevens was licensed as our parish priest Bleadon Village News met up with him in his study at the Rectory.

**It's been a whirlwind few months for you Philip - a new ministry with two parishes to look after, moving into a new home and getting married. Any surprises?**

One surprise is that Bleadon Church knows exactly what it wants, where it is and what it's here for. A lot of churches have lost their way and don't know where they are going. Especially after a three year vacancy you would expect them to be all over the place. But they know exactly why they're here - to worship God, to be part of the community and to be a parish church that is for everyone. **That's a great place to be. They're not trying to re-invent the church, they're quietly getting on with being a parish church.** That means welcoming everyone, offering worship to God, offering care to people and being part of the community. So that's been a wonderful discovery for me. I'm meeting lots of lovely people, both in church and in Bleadon.

What more could I ask for?

**Bleadon and Bournville are two very different parishes. How do you cope with that?**

They are very different, and that's part of the excitement. As a job it's a fantastic combination with quite different tasks to be done in both parishes. That's part of the attraction and one of the reasons I applied for the job. It's true that Bournville has certain social and structural challenges, but don't think that the people in Bleadon don't have challenges too. We are all human-beings with personal and emotional problems to resolve along life's highway.



**What's your background?**

I'm a bit of a Jack of All Trades. After university I worked in the private sector in commerce. Following ordination I worked in Manchester and Sheffield. In both rural and city parishes.

I got increasingly involved in city regeneration and ended up swapping jobs so that I could spend all my time on regeneration.

**Were you still a priest then?**

Yes. It's much easier than you'd expect to switch roles because the funny thing about being a parish priest is that there's not a given job description. Your job is to be there, find out what needs to be done and get on with it. What they needed in Sheffield and then Newcastle was regeneration. So I ended up doing more and more of that.

**You must have been pretty good at it. You were awarded an MBE for your work.**

Yes. It was a great surprise and a very great honour.

**Why the move to Weston Hospicecare?**

When the work in Newcastle was completed I was trying to decide what to do next. People suggested that running a hospice would be a good combination of management and care.

I applied for the job of Chief Executive at Weston Hospicecare and got it. I enjoyed living and working in Weston and wanted to stay in the area. I'm fascinated by the rhythm of the tides here, the ebb and flow of the visitors and I loved the Raglan Arms with its real ales and live music.

**You're a real ale fan then?**

Oh yes! Absolutely. Love live music in a pub atmosphere. With the Queens Arms almost next door I think I may have arrived in paradise already!

**How can parishioners get in touch with you?**

Any way they want. Call at the door of the Rectory. Although I can't guarantee to be here because of my work at the Healthy Living Centre but people can always chance it. Or phone me up for a chat or to arrange a meeting. Leave a message and I'll call them back. I'm delighted by how many people have already contacted me via the church website and email. I'm always happy to arrange home visits or talk to them here in the Rectory.

**What about May Fayre children's games on the Rectory lawn?**

I haven't been asked yet, and it may be a little difficult as I was planning on creating an allotment on the lower lawn. Suzanne and I are very keen to get growing our own vegetables. She used to run a city farm. I've always wanted to keep chickens and this would be an opportunity to have some hens running around the place. A touch of the Good Life here in Bleadon. Perhaps you could try and find an alternative site for children's games.

**Will Suzanne be active in village life?**

I guess Suzanne will play as active a part as any full-time professional. She has just started her new job in Wells. For five days a week she is fully committed to her role as an Educational Psychologist for Somerset County. She will continue to answer the phone as Dr Bradbury, not Mrs Vicarage!

**I see that you are reading Blair's autobiography**

It's a fascinating insight into the man and his political world. I had the privilege of working with John Prescott during my time in Newcastle. I'm the only person I know who has some regard for him! He was able to talk Gordon Brown (the then Chancellor) into stumping up over £2billion towards the

*continues on page 7 >*

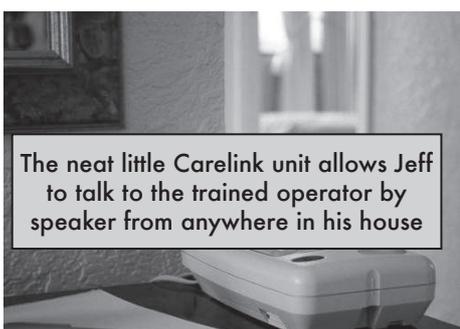
# Help at the touch of a button

At 87 Jeff is still pretty fit and fairly mobile so, naturally, he wants to retain his independence, live at home and enjoy his garden. Carelink has provided the reassurance of help at the touch of his wristwatch, should he ever need it.

Some of the effects of growing older are beginning to wear away at Jeff's edges. Pain in the knees, loss of hearing and being a bit wobbly on the pins are characteristic symptoms. But that doesn't stop him from getting into town on the bus at least twice a week, and all his meals are cooked from scratch by his seasoned baker's hands.

That said, he needs the reassurance that should anything un-toward happen to him at home he can summon help easily and quickly. North Somerset Council's Carelink offers him that peace of mind. This links him via his home phone line to a bank of helpful local Carelink operators.

If Jeff has a fall, feels ill or needs any other kind of urgent help he simply presses a button on his special Carelink watch, or his bedside alarm or the unit in his hall. A Carelink operator will speak to Jeff immediately through a compact loudspeaker unit near the phone in his hall.



The neat little Carelink unit allows Jeff to talk to the trained operator by speaker from anywhere in his house

This speaker system is powerful enough to pick up Jeff's voice from anywhere in the house. If they can't reach him that way, they will ring on his landline, and then call his daughter or other nominated helper.

**"For my daughter and family it's been a great reassurance to know that help for me is just a call away at any hour of the day or night"**



Christine, the Carelink advisor, came to Jeff's home at the pre-arranged time and presented her ID



**"It's brought me peace of mind. Given me extra confidence to carry on living an active life at home, with the reassurance of knowing that someone I trust is just a call away"**



After a chat over a cup of tea the Carelink advisor explains how the unit works

## How much does it cost?

Normal rate is around £4.08 per week.

If you are receiving Pension Credit (Guarantee/Income Support Rate) it's around £2.06 per week.

There are no additional installation charges.

If you'd like the wristwatch/alarm it's a one-off cost of around £77

**"The operators are always so friendly. Even when I accidentally pressed my alarm they assured me it was no trouble and that it happens to everyone"**



If you think that Carelink can help you or a loved one live more securely at home **contact North Somerset Carelink**  
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 Web: [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/carelink](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/carelink)

Christine goes through and completes the paperwork with Jeff. It takes about 30 minutes to complete.

Fitting, testing and demonstrating the alarm takes another 30 to 45 minutes.

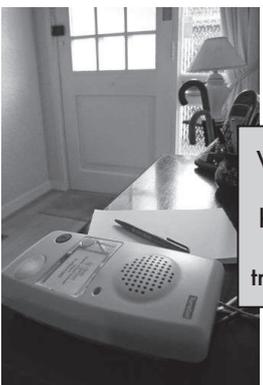
**Helpful TIP :** Have the contact details of your two or three emergency contacts/helpers and doctor ready, to help speed up the paperwork



Jeff keeps his wristband alarm by his bedside so it's within easy reach at night



Jeff opted to purchase the wristwatch alarm with its additional benefit as a water-resistant watch that can be worn discretely all day



When Jeff answers the door to strangers he has the additional security of knowing that his Carelink unit is close by. Within seconds of pressing his alarm button he knows a trained and trusted operator can be listening

*New Rector - continued from previous pages*

regeneration of inner-city estates. Anyone who can do do over a couple of pints deserves my admiration!

**What's on your agenda for Bleadon?**

I don't have one. I'm still listening and learning. As I said at the start you have a church here which is clear in its aims and purpose. I just want to help deliver. I'd like to see more being done for young people in both church and community. Maybe that's an area where I can help and get involved. My experience as a dad with two grown up sons should help, and I've been heavily involved with schools and young people in my previous parishes. It would be nice to see young families and faces in church.

**Clarify the confusion - are you our Rector or Vicar?**

I'm actually the Priest in Charge because I have two parishes to look after. As Bleadon is a very old parish (over 700 years old) you have a rector. More modern parishes have vicars. So here in Bleadon I'll be happy to be the Rector, as I live in the Rectory.....  
 ...or maybe just Philip.



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

**Editor's note**

On the occasions that I've been in Philip's company he comes across as a man who likes to get stuck in and get things done. He's as much at home among blue rinse ladies at coffee mornings as he is handing out prizes to over-excited children. His brown work-man-like boots reveal a down-to-earth approach to priesthood and the community he works with. He wants to get close to the people of his parish, so **go and introduce yourselves.**

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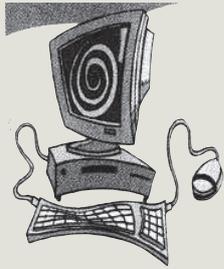
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# Business Directory

As part of the Bleadon Village Plan the parish council aims to regularly publish a Bleadon Business Directory. If you want your Bleadon business to be included here free of charge contact: [bleadon.editor@btinternet.com](mailto:bleadon.editor@btinternet.com)

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Hillside House, Bridgwater Road, Bleadon  
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Traditional village pub. Superb range of beers and wines. Freshly prepared food.

## Somerset Windows

Lonwood House, Bridge Road, Bleadon  
Tel: 01934 815 518  
Mob: 07970 630 118  
Made to measure windows, doors and conservatories using the finest materials.

## Tree Services

Purn House Farm, Purn Way, Bleadon  
Tel: 01934 814 941  
Mob: 07855 911 046  
Email: [rjdtreeservices@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:rjdtreeservices@hotmail.co.uk)  
Tree surgery and garden services - a cut above. Call for free quote.

## Waterhouse Electrical & Engineering Services

Lakeside Barns, Shiplate Road, Bleadon  
Tel: 01934 813 803  
Mob: 07860 597 463  
Gas Safe., NICEIC Approve. Installation & maintenance of gas and electrical systems.

## Wheels & Paint Repair

Mob: 07876 69 69 65  
Mobile repair of paint chips and scratches, alloy wheel repairs, valeting.

## XS Computer Supplies

Unit 8, Purn House Farm, Bleadon  
Tel: 01934 811 155  
[www.xscomputersupplies.com](http://www.xscomputersupplies.com)  
Virus removal, repair and upgrades, broadband setup, cartridges, CDr/DVD

# more NEWS

## Dog control order signs fitted

Earlier this month North Somerset Council contractor Ian Williams was on site in the heart of the village fitting the new Dog Control signs. Hopefully, these will now clarify the situation for dog walkers.



## Play area safety check OK!

In June we had our annual visit from the RoSPA inspector to check the safety of the play area. Generally things are very good, with cleanliness of the site and the new three-slide multi-play picking up top marks.



Our older equipment - the climbing frame and swings are beginning to show some signs of their age. Whilst there is no cause for concern yet, the parish council needs to think about replacing these items in the medium term. In the forthcoming budget round for next year I hope that we can look to planning on some replacements. I take this opportunity to remind the more grown up members of our community that the two spring-rides are for toddlers. Not lumply lads and dads!

If your business is not being promoted on these pages you are failing to regularly reach over 500 customer households in Bleadon.  
**Call the Editor on 01934 813 127**  
or email: [bleadon.editor@btinternet.com](mailto:bleadon.editor@btinternet.com)

# What's on

A round-up of what's happening in Bleadon

## Bowls Open Evening

In the Coronation Hall on **Friday 24 Sept.** Try your hand at the game and have a little bit of tuition for free. Graham Rogers 811 571.

## Harvest Supper

In the Coronation Hall on **Saturday 25 Sept.** Tickets £7.50 from Graham Rogers 811 571 or Brian Drinkwater 813 636.

## Autumn Plant-up

Volunteers needed to help with the planting of the village tubs. **Saturday 4 October at 10am.** Meet in the car park armed with a trowel and black bag.



## Sunday Club

On the first Sunday of the month youngsters of any age can join Chris and Stevie for fun and games in the Church Meeting Room. Starts in the church at 10.15 and usually goes through until about 11.30.



## Monthly Village Market

In the Coronation Halls on **Saturday 16 Oct, 20 Nov** and spectacular **Xmas Market on 4 Dec** in the Halls and the Youth Centre. From 9am - 12.30pm.

## Llantrisant Male Choir Concert

in the church on **Saturday 9 October** at 7.30pm. Tickets £7 from Graham Rogers 811 571 or Brian Drinkwater 813 636 or the Bleadon Country Store.

## CLIC Quiz

The annual quiz in aid of Clic Sargent at the Coronation Hall on **Saturday 20 Nov** at 7.30. Tickets £7.50 per head, to include ploughman's supper. Teams of four are the norm. Information from **Les Masters - 811976** or [lesleymasters246@btinternet.com](mailto:lesleymasters246@btinternet.com)

## Good Night Mrs Puffin

The Bleadon Players perform their latest am-dram production live on stage at the Coronation Hall on 30 Sept, 1 and 2 Oct at 7.30pm. Tickets from the Store or on the door.

If you've got an event happening in Bleadon for village people and you want to promote it on these pages, just let me know in plenty of time. The next Bleadon Village News will be published in mid December. I need your copy by 19 Nov.

Email: [bleadon.editor@btinternet.com](mailto:bleadon.editor@btinternet.com)



## Regular Coronation Hall events

### Mondays

**Mini Movers\*\*** 9.45-10.45  
**Bleadon Bridge Club** 2-5pm  
**Exercise Classes\*\*** 7-8pm + 8-9pm  
**British Sugarcraft Guild** 1<sup>st</sup> Mon 7.30pm  
**Bleadon Parish Council** 2<sup>nd</sup> Mon 7.30pm

### Tuesdays

**Bleadon Ladies Club** 2<sup>nd</sup> Tues 2.30-4pm  
**Short Mat Bowls** 2.30-4.30pm Sept-May  
**Bleadon Brownies\*\*** 6-7.30 pm  
**Bleadon Guides\*\*** 7.30-9.00 (term time)  
**Bleadon Photographic Group** 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> Tues 7.30 pm (Sept-May)  
**Bleadon Horticultural Soc** 3<sup>rd</sup> Tues 7.30 pm (Oct-June)

### Wednesdays

**Toddler Group** 9.30-11.30  
**Yoga Class\*\*** 9.30-10.30  
**Bleadon Players/Rehearsals** 7.30pm

### Thursdays

**Bleadon Art Group\*\*** 10-noon  
**Bleadon WI** 7.30 2<sup>nd</sup> Thurs  
**Bleadon Folk Dancing Group** 8pm 3<sup>rd</sup> Thurs (Sept-June)  
**Bleadon Sugarcraft Club** 7.30pm 4<sup>th</sup> Thurs

### Fridays

**Bleadon Friendship Club** 2-4pm  
**Short Mat Bowls Club\*\*** 7pm (Sept-May)

### Saturdays

**Village Market** 9-12.30 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday

### Sundays

**Short Mat Bowls Club\*\*** 2.30 (Sept-May)

\*\*in the Jubilee Room

**See notice board for contact details**

The Halls are available for hire by private individuals or organisations.

There's a reduced rate for Bleadon residents. Call Joanne Jones on **812370**.

Fresh Local Produce. Bread. Cheeses. Jams, Honey & Preserves. Somerset Beef. Fairtrade. Crafts. Handmade Jewellery. Books. Collectables. Bric-a-brac. Cards. Gifts. Refreshments & Gossip

# Bleadon Village Monthly Market & community cafe

**SAT  
16  
OCT**

**SAT  
20  
NOV**

**SAT  
4  
DEC**

**SAT  
15  
JAN**

**in the Coronation Halls / Youth Centre  
from 9 to 12.30**

Call Joanne on 01934 812 370 for more info

# On our cider trail

In times past *The Victoria* in Bridge Road was one of a number of pubs in Bleadon, but unlike the others it only sold cider and beer - no spirits to be had here - but it was always busy! Jugs of ale or cider could be bought and taken away for home consumption –the stories go that many a jug of cider was topped up at the village pump before it got to its rightful consumer!

Between the wars *The Victoria* was run by Miss Payne helped by Mrs. Lewis and later by Miss Mary Payne on her own.

After closing time it wasn't uncommon for the occasional drunken reveller to stagger across the road straight into the rhyme opposite. At best a soaking, at worst a near drowning!

Much of the cider drunk in *The Victoria* came from other parts of Somerset, but Bleadon had its own orchards and at least one cider press, which was located at Manor Farm. Come autumn the fallen apples were gathered by village children and taken to the farm to be pressed in the time honoured way. The raw fruit was not always very palatable, so the youngsters didn't eat too many of these apples, if they did, they got quite a belly ache and not much sympathy!

Amongst the apple varieties were 'Morgan Sweets', 'Blenheims' and 'Tom Putts' – the former was renowned for being rather bland as an eating apple and so along with the others all went into the mix. It was the case then, and in some parts of the county still is, that if it was an apple, however old, bruised and musty, you could make cider with it! The resultant liquor was the good old-fashioned 'Scrupmy,' still much loved and widely available to this day. The more refined ciders came later.

The orchards were located at Purn Farm along Purn Lane, Manor Farm, behind the allotments and along Bleadon Road up as far as Whitegate Farm -and there was one behind what is now the Coronation Hall. Remnants of some of these old orchards can be seen today if you walk the footpath through the allotments towards the Post Office and Stores.

Apparently during the war there were a few caravans in one of the orchards; these were occupied a lot of the time by folk escaping the bombings, but some were just week-end retreats.

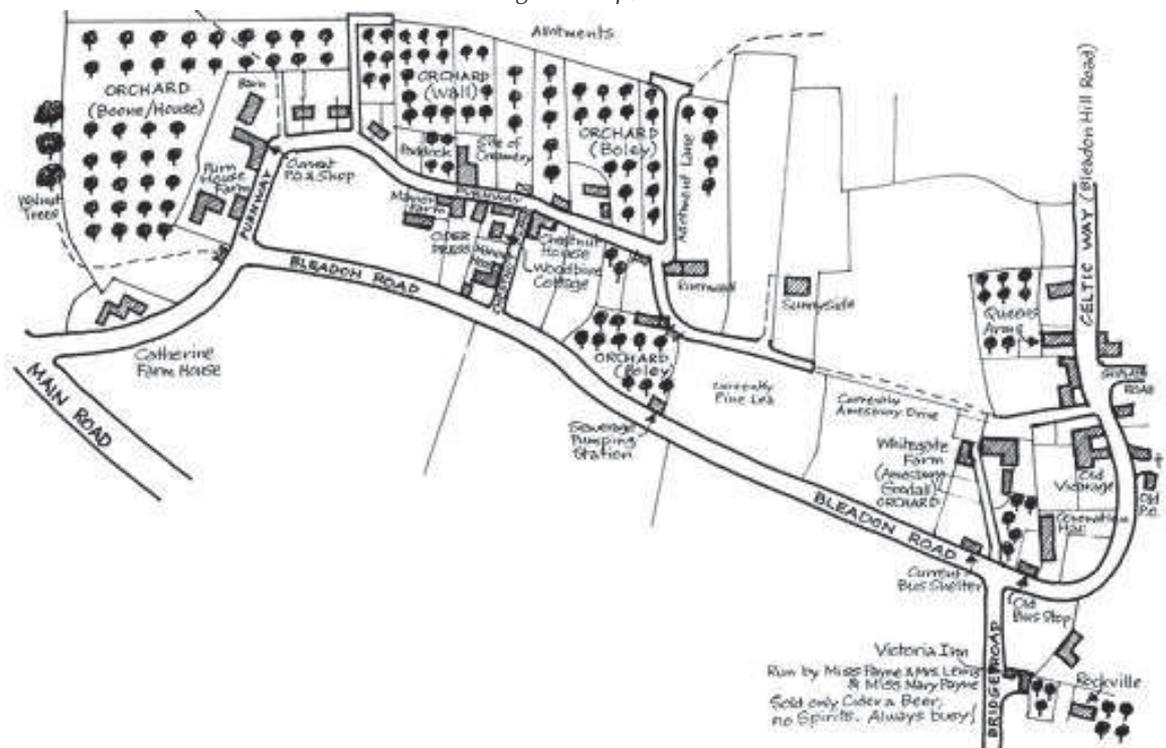


Above: *The Victoria* was a renowned cider house  
Below: Colourful musicians outside *The Victoria*



I'm sure there are plenty more of you who have memories of these 'happy cider days' – please let's hear from you - and if you have photos as well that would be even better!

**Penny Robinson** (with thanks to Sylvia Bird for giving me the background and to Peter Lindsay for researching and drawing the map).



# Autumn - celebrating the harvest

From the Bleadon History Group archives we bring you a collection of images that reflect the way Bleadon celebrated the rewards of the all-important local harvest.

Thanks to Marshalls who kindly sponsor our archive photo page



Photos on this page clockwise from top right: Hay wagon; Ploughing at Lake Farm; Young Farmers float (I can't imagine what the theme was here?); Giant Kale; Farmers Wall and Frost at Bleadon Hill Sports - held annually at Roman Road from 1931; Bleadon Harvest Home - some of the committee and helpers with provender for the annual meat tea.

# Sociable Bleadon

We are well blessed with over 20 clubs and social groups here in our little village. If you would like to join in the fun just pop along and introduce yourself. You will always be welcomed with a smile and a warm handshake. Many groups meet in the Coronation Hall. Check notice-boards.

## Bleadon Friendship Club

We meet on Friday afternoons in the Coronation Hall from 2 to 4 p.m. 'Slightly more mature' ladies and gents who enjoy tea and a good chat. Guest speakers, entertainers, a raffle, bingo etc and the occasional trip out. Transport to the Hall can be arranged. New members welcome. Just come along and enjoy the friendship we share.

*Audrey Lee*

## Bleadon Coronation Hall

In the last issue of the Village News, our report was given at the Annual Parish meeting by our Hall Representative and Treasurer Cllr Clive Morris.

It was a comprehensive report, on finance, improvements and general happenings in both halls.

It also mentioned the signing of a new Protocol document, to clarify the ambiguous wording on our 1938 trust deed, which to my knowledge has been the cause of several serious and conflicting interpretations in past years.

So we are confident that future hall committees will have the benefit of the action we have taken now and we have minuted our appreciation of the time and effort put into this over the past year by Clive.

*Len Chamberlain - Chairman*

## Bleadon Horticultural Society

Looking back at my records I see that 3.5mm of rain fell through the night of July 19/20 and that through the day of 20<sup>th</sup> 4.0 mm or one sixth of an inch of rain fell through the day. All of us on the coach trip to Wisley that day didn't need to water the garden when we returned tired but happy.

We had enjoyed glorious sunshine all day and everyone agreed that our contribution towards the new greenhouse, lake, beds and borders had been used to good effect. The societies name was prominently displayed on one of the many green



glass panels proclaiming the names of all groups and individuals who had helped sponsor the new greenhouse.

By the time you read this the 37<sup>th</sup> Summer Flower show will have come and gone and we will be looking forward to the first of our winter talks with Graeme Thompson with his illustrated talk on the now famous Secret Word Wildlife Centre at East Huntspill this will be on **Tuesday 19 October.**

**Tuesday 16 November** sees another welcome return of Paul Gilman of Cadbury Garden Centre with his illustrated talk on "Christmas Inspirations". The Annual Beetle Drive followed by an American Style Supper will be held on **Tuesday 21 December.** You will need to buy tickets in advance for this fun packed evening.

All events take place at 7.30 p.m. and are open to anyone at £1 admission.

*Chris Cudlipp*

## Bleadon Players

Our next production is "Good Night Mrs Puffin"

The Fordyce family are looking forward to the wedding of their eldest daughter when a strange woman arrives on their doorstep. Mrs Puffin claims to have premonitions in her sleep and is adamant that she knows what lies in store for the household. Her predictions are not what the family want to hear, and while the younger Fordyce's are intrigued by her astonishing stories, Mrs Puffin doesn't prove to be quite as popular with their parents.

How will the family deal with their uninvited guest?

Will her visions become reality?

Will she ever take the hint and leave them in peace?

Coronation Hall, **Thursday 30 September, Friday 1 and Saturday 2 October** 7.30 pm. Tickets from Bleadon Post Office or on the door.

## Bleadon Ladies Club

The Club's year so far has been very successful with some very good speakers and a club trip for members and friends to Weymouth. We have a membership of 40 plus but are always looking for new members to join us. We enjoy our afternoons together. Our programme for the autumn is:

October 12 "Fifty Years in British Radio" – John Penny

November 9<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting followed by Mr Toby Pinn of Clevedon Auction Rooms. Members may bring one item for valuation.

December 14 our Christmas Luncheon at Batch Hotel we always have a warm welcome there and wonderful food.

It is well worth joining the Bleadon Ladies Club

We meet in the Coronation Hall at 2.30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the Month. *For more information call Barbara on 814362.*

## Friends of Bleadon Church

During the summer we enjoyed a very successful Open Tower Day and Cream Teas. Over 50 people made the journey to the top of the Church Tower and were lucky that although the day was cloudy its base was high and visibility very good. Those not fit enough for the climb joined us at Rookery Nook, the home of Brian and Glenys Robinson in Old School Lane, and 120 people sat down to their tea to enjoy a very pleasant afternoon. A raffle took place and through the generosity of friends

there was an excess of prizes donated. The winners were duly announced in gusto by some of our younger friends who made their presence felt. £450 was raised overall, an absolutely brilliant reflection on the efforts of the Robinson family and their helpers to whom we are greatly indebted.

We manned the Coronation Hall again on the Sunday of the **Scarecrow Festival** and the cream teas again proved very popular.

**Harvest Supper** is to take place in the Coronation Hall on 25 September and we hope to repeat the success of last year. Tickets are available from Graham Rogers (Tel 8111571) or Brian Drinkwater (Tel 813636) price £7.50

On the 9 October there will be a concert in the Church by **Llantrisant Male Choir** at 7.30 p.m. and highly likely, informally, in the Queens afterwards. Tickets are priced £7. Available from the above or Bleadon Post Office and Store.

The Llantrisant is one of the oldest and best known choirs in Wales. Its membership of forty enables the choir to perform in any venue from small churches to the Albert Hall.

The choir is proud to have performed with very well known performers such as Bryn Terfyl, Dame Shirley Bassey and Tom Jones. They include in their programme the old "war horses" of yesteryear as well as modern arrangements of pop songs, Negro spirituals, folk songs, hymns and operatic choruses.

The Church of St Peter and St Paul welcomes the choir on its second visit to Bleadon.

Remaining events for 2010

Nov 17 Skittles evening

Dec 11 Punch and Pie evening

### **Bleadon Short Mat Bowls Club**

We are looking forward to a new playing season starting again on September 14.

An Open Evening is planned, for new members and for those who would like to try their hand at the game, on the 24 September when tuition will be available. For further

information contact Leoni or Graham Rogers on 01934 811571.

This year, on the 10 October, we are celebrating our 21<sup>st</sup> year in existence and we will be having a Special Supper in the Coronation Hall on 13 November.

Over the summer months we experienced our annual excursion. This time it was a boat trip when 50 members and friends sailed down the River Avon from Bristol Docks to Avonmouth and the Severn. It was a huge success despite the weather.

### **Coffee & Danish**

On 3 September the annual Coffee and Danish morning was held in the Coronation Hall to raise funds to support the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association - Forces Help, which celebrates its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. We take this opportunity to thank all of you who supported this event and, in particular, wish to thank all those who assisted us on the day.



For 125 years, SSAFA Forces Help has made an unflinching commitment to the men and women of Britain's Armed Forces, continually adapting to meet the changing needs of those who serve, those who used to serve and the families of both. At a time when members of our Armed Forces are working in extremely dangerous and challenging circumstances, SSAFA Forces Help continues to provide our servicemen and women, and their families, with the practical support they need.

*Penny and Dick Skelley*

### **Weston Croquet Club**

Held its annual doubles competition, The Tim Kelly Shield, at the club's ground in Bleadon earlier this month. This is an Association Croquet handicap competition, with the eventual winners in a very close final being Edmond Coia and Douglas Norfolk who defeated Dick Tyas and Shirley Buckley by the narrowest of margins.



On 11 Sept we held an end-of-season Ladies Day. This was a golf croquet handicap competition in which over 20 ladies from the club competed against each other. After a gruelling day and several close matches, the overall Ladies Champion was Christine Jones from Bleadon.



### **Amazing Guides**

The Bleadon Guides were the lucky first visitors to explore the Maize Maze that has been such a welcome attraction in the village this summer. It was a dull and damp evening but this didn't curb their enthusiasm. Even with the help of the maze map many of the Guides and leaders struggled for over an hour to find their way out!

*First to finish >*



# Introducing...

Now it's the turn of the other half of our Community Police Team to introduce himself. PC Steve Church is a familiar face around our village.



I've been asked to put a more human face on the Police for Bleadon. Some of you who know me may well think that's a mission impossible but here goes:-

I've been a Uniform Police Officer, note the Uniform bit, for over 27 years, my choice, It's actually what I joined to do and I've seen nothing to change my mind over the years. I still think it's the most important job and I still take great pride in doing it well.

27 years ago I turned up at training school as relatively fresh faced recruit. I spent three months being taught how to be a uniform copper and also how to march in time with some really really bad music played out on an old wind up record player. The marching I can't say has been much use but I'm sure it was character forming at the time.

Now contrary to popular belief I didn't get into the Police just because my Father was in 'the job' nor was it because I played a bit of rugby and at the time A&S were short of a number 8, but I guess both didn't do any harm. I was posted to WsM and what a baptism into the 'rank and file' it was. Less than a year in I found myself up on the miners strike and learnt all about coal mines and flying pickets and how to dodge a lump of coal thrown at 50 paces. I went up 12 times in total I remember thinking the pay wasn't bad but even then I wasn't sure if that's what I joined to do.

A couple of years later and I was on task force. A Sergeant and five of us who drove around in a van called 'home'. We worked in all the hot spots in our force where the need presented. Did a lot of searching for drugs, bombs or people, watched a lot of football crowds and watched even more travellers. All very exiting and quite good fun in patches, but long, long days.

Got married some time around here, Quite a good day as I remember. Then onto the firearms teams and the training to a very high standard, good stuff. I remember one phone call at

home from the chief Supt in charge of firearms. It was about the time when threat level had got quite high and we needed to put out our very first Armed response Vehicle. Anyway it went like this "Hi Steve you know about these ARV's" "yes sir" "Well you know we're placing them on the traffic department" "Yes sir" "Well have you ever thought about going on traffic" "I've thought about it, but it's not really my thing I haven't got much interest in traffic" " OK let me put it another way, you start on traffic next Monday ok" click ..... so a stint on Traffic commenced and it's got to be said that I did learn a lot about traffic. I also learnt that my partner didn't like me eating garlic, can't think why. Anyway after that came back to uniform in the county which is where I've stayed. On the 'Beat team' 10 years ago and to the Villages 5 years ago. I still enjoy some of my work but it's got to be said that I've seen quite a change over the years the biggest being the keyboard and the little grey box that I'm using to type this piece. I can remember back when, if I wanted a copy of a document I had to ask the Sergeant for a piece of carbon paper. For some reason back then it was kept under lock and key and had to be given back after use. So the little grey box has made my life a bit easier in some ways and in truth I haven't seen any carbon paper in the station for years and I'm betting some of my colleagues wouldn't know what it was or how it works.

Progress.....

**PC Steve Church**

The Parish Council meets on the **second Monday of the month** at 7.30pm in the Coronation Hall. An **Agenda** is published on the Parish notice boards and the website at least three days before the meeting.

We welcome parishioners to attend meetings and see what we do.

**Parishioners' Voice** is your opportunity at the start of each meeting for you to talk briefly to the Council about any issues you

have. If there is a particular issue you would like to raise please let the Parish Clerk know by the Friday before the meeting. This will give him the chance to collect the most up-to-date information available.



Please send all correspondence about Bleadon Parish Council matters to the Bleadon Parish Clerk:

Bruce Poole,  
Rooftops, 10 South Street,  
Burnham-on-Sea TA8 1BS

Tel: 07887 802 922

Email:  
bruce.poole2@bopenworld.com

Or visit the website at:  
www.bleadonparishcouncil.gov.uk

## Your Bleadon Parish Councillors

Penny Skelley (Chairman)	Mendip Croft, Celtic Way, Bleadon	Tel: 815 331
Brian Gamble (Vice Chair)	Ashdene, Bleadon Road, Bleadon	Tel: 811 709
I.D. Clarke	The Granary, Mulberry Lane, Bleadon	Tel: 815 182
Robert House	Purn House Villa, Purn Lane, Bleadon	Tel: 815 588
Trevor Marshall	15 Bleadon Mill, Bleadon	Tel: 811 548
Clive Morris	20 Bleadon Mill, Bleadon	Tel: 811 591
Keith Pyke	8 Whitegate Close, Bleadon	Tel: 813 127
Mary Sheppard	Littlewood, Bridgwater Road, Lympsam	Tel: 812 921

# Gardeners' delights



Two garden related events brought colour and inspiration to members of the Bleadon Horticultural Society in recent weeks. A visit to the RHS Headquarters at Wisley in July and the Summer Flower Show at the Coronation Hall in early September. Here's a photo snapshot of both events.



A packed charabanc sets off for darkest Surrey from even darker Bleadon.

Twin towers of Begonia greet us at the entrance. Our name engraved on glass honours Bleadon's contribution to the funding of the new glasshouse.

No stone throwing please ladies.



# Bleadon's Weird & Wonderful Festival

Weird and Wonderful was the theme for our second Scarecrow Festival here in Bleadon. The number of Scarecrows was down but the standard was wonderful (and weird!) with many straw laden scarecrows scattered through the village. Trophies to be won, maps a must, Pork Baps and Cider plus Cream Teas, all added to the jolliness and fun. Many thanks to all who helped over the weekend, to the intrepid scarecrow makers, and all who made this event such a success and a lovely community adventure!

