

# Bleadon village

# news

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

FREE to Bleadon homes

Spring 2011 - Issue 88



**Spring shows its colours**

**Panto photo feature**



**Royal Wedding - Bleadon's big celebration plans for 29 April**

**Find out what else is happening in sociable Bleadon**

**Wessex Treatment Works expansion plans revealed**

**Local elections on 5 May**

**Spring Show photo feature**

**Plans for Sanders' field - your views sought**





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After a long cold winter, Bleadon looks forward to a happy and warmer year ahead. Read here all you wish to know about your village in this bumper, spilling over with news, edition.

The important **Annual Parish Meeting** of Bleadon will be held in April, with the local and Parish elections in May. Please join your Parish Council for that April meeting, and convey your concerns and aspirations for our community. A chance to let your democratic voice be heard!

For our part, we promise to do our best and work hard on your behalf. Having been held steady in 2010, the precept will be raised this year by a very small amount, which will be used wisely for projects already in the pipeline and also when we are asked to pay for more of the services that we currently take for granted. Parish Councils, I read recently, are well used to ruling on the mundane, but we are told that we must embrace the changes and progress that will lead to more powers being delegated to the Parish Council level.

**Welcome to Hillcote** which will formally join Bleadon in April. In time for the forthcoming local elections. A **street party to celebrate the Royal wedding** (lots of red, white and blue) will be held in the heart of the village.

The **May Fayre**, the best known village event, will be held on the May Bank Holiday. The annual Contactus party to **welcome all newcomers** over the past twelve months will be held in June. A **Scarecrow Festival** is planned over the last weekend in August, with the theme of "Nautical". The History Group are planning a **Cider evening** in September and inviting Thatcher's to tell us more about their apple growing within the Parish. These events are all partly sponsored and encouraged by the Parish Council.

The Parish Council realises that there have been complaints in the village over the complex waste collection arrangements, but with our input things have slowly improved. We understand that Wessex Water are modernising and upgrading the sewage treatment works on the levels just inside our boundary. The building work and consequent increase in heavy road vehicles will affect us to some degree, but will benefit us long term. More details on all of the above will be found in this "encyclopaedia".

The object of my short report is to convey the feeling of optimism and enthusiasm of the Bleadon Parish Council and its future.

**Penny Skelley**

*Chairman Bleadon Parish Council*



# It's local election time

The local Parish and District council elections are fast approaching, and I hope that on **Thursday 5th May** you will all exercise your right to vote.

**If you have spent the last four years complaining about your local councils and wondering why they don't "do something" here's your chance to have your say. Maybe even stand as a councillor yourself!**

## Why is it important?

It's too easy to become complacent and a bit lazy when it comes to using our democratic right. But a glance at our protest-filled TV screens over the past couple of months has been a sharp reminder of the importance of democracy and how hard some people have to fight to achieve it.

I guess that we have all grown a little jaded and cynical about politicians and their promises. On this occasion, however, you have the opportunity to elect your local representatives - the people who directly affect Bleadon, its environment and community services.

## Could you be a councillor and make a real difference?

We want a vibrant and active parish council filled with local people of all shapes and shades who are willing to get involved and help make a difference to our community. I would strongly advise anyone who is interested in their community to summon up the courage to put themselves forward for election. Yes it does involve standing up and taking responsibility and you will have to justify what you say and do, but if you really want to improve people's lives you are in the best place to do this.

## Noon 4 April 2011 deadline to apply to be a councillor

That's the deadline for people to apply to be a Parish Councillor. There are a few rules. Basically you have to be: a British citizen resident for the last 12 months within three miles of Bleadon parish, 18 years or older.

You will also need the written support of two other adults registered to vote in the Parish.

Full details and rules, plus application forms to apply to be a councillor are available from Electoral Services at the Town Hall in Weston. Tel: 01934 634 909

[www.n-somerset.gov.uk/voting](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/voting)



Send contributions to:

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**Tel: 01934 813 127**

*Unless otherwise stated the opinions and comments expressed in this publication are those of the contributor and not of Bleadon 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 Summer edition is Friday 20 May 2011.**

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

# NEWS & gossip

## River Axe water levels rise

**Bleadon Sluice on the river Axe continues to remain inoperable.**

To allow Bristol Water to take the water they need, the Environment Agency will be maintaining water levels in the river at a higher than normal level. Water levels between Bleadon Sluice and Brean Cross Sluice will be up to one metre higher than normal. If you are an Axe fisherman this may have an effect. We are reassured that the Agency is monitoring the situation carefully and has a contingency plan in place to deal with any potential flood risk. In the meantime Bristol Water and the Environment Agency continue to look at the options for the future of the Sluice that is a familiar landmark near Bridge Garage.



## Drainage Board answers concerns over condition of village rhynes

**Some residents have expressed concerns over the low water levels and accumulating rubbish in some of our village rhynes.**

The parish council have contacted the Somerset Drainage Board, which is responsible for maintenance of the rhynes. They have come back with some answers, but no immediate solutions I'm afraid.

Winter water levels are kept low to cope with potential seasonal flooding. This has been exaggerated by the Bleadon Sluice problems.

The Drainage Board have refrained from carrying out any mechanical weed clearance on this section of watercourse because of the presence of *Pennywort*. This invasive weed has been at this location in excess of ten years and conventional weed cutting posed a serious risk of spreading the plant further down stream. *Pennywort* grows at an alarming rate and left untreated would cause a serious flood risk by blocking watercourses.

Since 2007, the Board has chosen to spray the *Pennywort* throughout the growing season in an effort to eradicate the weed from the system. This has been very successful and they hope to resume normal weed cutting when the plant is completely eradicated. They will then assess the requirement for de-silting and if necessary undertake hand picking to remove debris.

The Board will also investigate the accumulation of silt in the Bridge Road rhyne opposite the Marshalls' quarry and take any necessary action.

In the meantime, the Village Ranger will continue to regularly remove litter debris from the rhyne banks where it is safe to do so.

## Water park plans

**We could soon see three new lakes created on Bleadon Level with water ski and other water sport facilities that will bring visitors to Bleadon from far and wide.**

The House brothers have applied for planning consent to create three new lakes on their land opposite the Model Motor Racing Circuit.

The initial planning application is for agricultural irrigation reservoirs. One will be sunken, the other two raised, with landscaped earth banks. But the longer term plan is to create a first-class water sport environment with a water ski cable tow and boating facilities.

Development will be phased over two to three years to allow a full ecological survey to be completed and the subsequent environmental requirements to be put in place. This will involve moving a rhyne and creating suitable new habitats for wildlife.

There is some urgency to this application because the local farming brothers hope to win the contract for taking the soil spoil from the Wessex Treatment Works improvements (see story opposite). If they are successful it will mean that tons of excavated soil will only have to move a mile or so. Thus saving hundreds of lorry movements onto the A370 and beyond. The moved soil will be used to create the banks of the two new lakes. If the scheme is given the go-ahead by North Somerset planners it will create a regional tourist attraction that will entice a whole new range of visitors to the area.

We'll keep you posted in future issues of Bleadon Village News. Or contact Alistair at: [a.house@farmline.com](mailto:a.house@farmline.com)



*The site of the proposed Weston Water Park. Between the railway line and the car booty site on the south side of Accommodation Road.*

# NEWS

For Bleadon these improvements should result in:  
Cleaner water being discharged into Weston Bay  
Reduced smell and less noise from the Works



## A suitable case for treatment

**Wessex Water aims to clean up the treatment of our sewage with a £26m improvement scheme that will practically double the capacity of its treatment works down on the Bleadon Levels**

The Weston Sewage Treatment Works off Accommodation Road may be a long way from the heart of the village and most residents, but its visual and sensory impact means that any developments in this far corner of the parish can affect us all. Wessex Water are sympathetic to this and have been keen to keep the parish council informed on developments with regular briefings.

The site takes waste from the Weston and surrounding villages and is one of Wessex Water's largest treatment works. Sewage is treated so it is clean enough to be returned to the sea safely and meets the current mandatory bathing water standard. However, when new standards come into force in 2015, bathing waters at Weston Main and Uphill Slipway would be classified as 'poor' under the new European requirements.

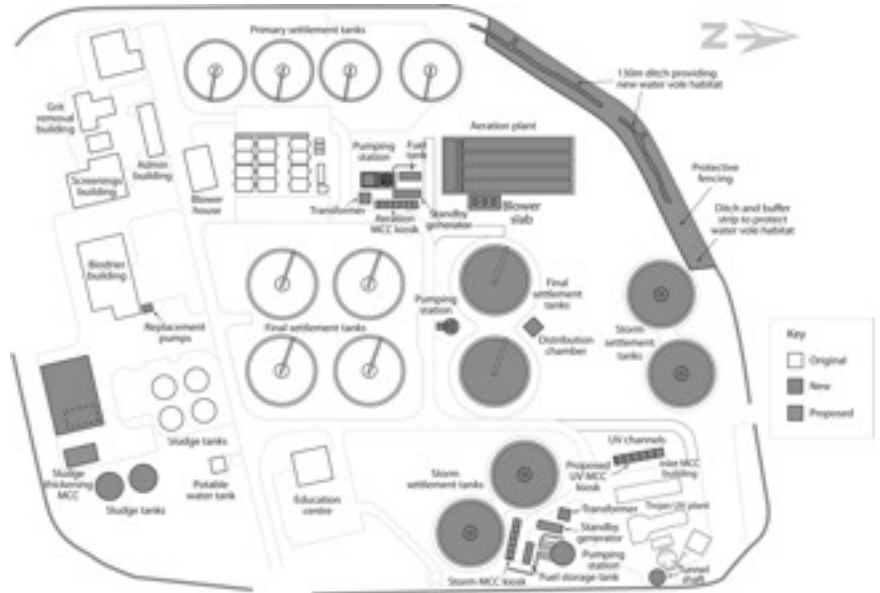
Wessex Water are investing **£26 million on improvements at the Bleadon works** which will be completed two years in advance of the new bathing water standards.

### What does the work involve?

The work involves increasing the secondary treatment and ultraviolet disinfection capacity (ultraviolet light very effectively kills bacteria) which will reduce the levels of bacteria being discharged into the Severn Estuary at Black Rock.

Additionally, stormwater capacity will be significantly increased to store more wet weather flows and reduce the impact on rivers and the sea during periods of intense rainfall. This will also reduce the likelihood of Black Rock sewage pumping station combined sewer overflow discharging into the Bay during storm conditions.

They are also investigating improvements to the sewerage system to reduce surface water connections to lower the amount of rainwater that gets into the sewerage system.



### How will improvements be made?

Improvements to the sewage treatment works include:

- **Installing an activated sludge plant** - to improve biological treatment of sewage.
- **Constructing two more final settlement tanks** to provide improved settlement for removal of suspended solids which are removed by truck.
- **Building an additional ultraviolet plant** to provide a final stage (disinfection) of sewage treatment.
- **Constructing storm pumps and four 21,000m<sup>3</sup> tanks** to allow extra storage of wastewater during storm conditions reducing the likelihood of emergency discharge.
- **Additional treatment to sludge** derived from the treatment processes.
- **Installing odour control equipment** to reduce smells.

### Work is already starting

It is important work gets underway to ensure the improvements are made before the introduction of the revised Bathing Water Directive.

### Key milestones during the scheme:

- March 2011- Start preparatory work on site
- April 2011- Piling works start
- May 2011- Civil construction works start
- October 2011- Mechanical and electrical works start
- June 2012 - Begin process commissioning
- 31 December 2012 - target for completion

**The improvement work will mean more heavy works traffic turning in and out of the A370/Accommodation Road junction this summer.**

### Deja vu?

One of the "mischievous" predictions that appeared in the leaflet promoting the start of the Bleadon Village Plan some six years ago was the suggested expansion of the Sewage Treatment Works.

What other mischiefs are in store?



# Council NEWS

## Our Big Society

The success of our many village activities depend on people who are willing to go the extra mile to make things work. If you've got something to give - please DO.

## Parish Precept rise... but most villagers will be paying less

Despite increasing the amount that the parish council raises this year as its part of the council tax the vast majority of Bleadon residents will be paying less.

Last year the parish council raised £35,500 from the parish precept. This wasn't quite enough to pay for all of its planned spending. So we drew some money from our reserves in the bank.

We wanted to avoid that this year by ensuring that income met our planned expenditure of £37,500.

### Good and bad news for Hillcote

Fortunately for Bleadon we now have the equivalent of 48 additional band D properties contributing to the parish budget thanks to the inclusion of Hillcote.

The bad news for Hillcote is that they have moved from the lower tax Weston parish to the more demanding Bleadon.

The good news for Hillcote is that they are now part of a community that cares about its residents and aims to work towards providing the services it needs.

### Average saving £2.91 for Bleadon

If you are an average band D council taxpayer the Bleadon part of your tax will have gone down from £72.99 to £70.08.

Thanks to a 2.5% financial incentive from central government North Somerset Council has been able to hold its portion of the council tax level at zero increase.

Parish councils get no financial support from government. In the past this has appeared most unfair. However, now that all government funded services are facing severe budget cuts I guess that we can be thankful for that inequality.

If you ain't got it you can't lose it!

## You're all welcome at the Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 11 April

This is the annual opportunity for Bleadon residents to discover what your parish council has been up to and what it intends to do with your money. We anticipate that the budget cuts affecting local councils and government services will have significant effects on many local services in the next few years. At this public meeting we hope to develop some ideas around the theme of our Big Society - looking at ways in which we can improve our community and how we all can help each other more.

Join us for a glass of wine and share your ideas and enthusiasm.

**Starts at 7.30pm  
in the Coronation Hall**

## Parking problems

Inconsiderate parking at dangerous road junctions has vexed the parish council over the past months. Our community police team have "had words" with some offenders, but the problem persists. So we asked to meet up with North Somerset Council Highways officers to discuss the problems.

The result of that meeting on a freezing December morning has brought forward some suggested solutions from North Somerset.

The proposals include yellow lining at the corner of Bleadon Mill where it joins the A370 and no waiting markings at the corner near the junction of Coronation Road, Celtic Way and Shiplate Road.

The Bleadon Mill restrictions will require Traffic Regulation Orders and the formal advertising process. The Coronation Road may be tackled more swiftly.

North Somerset have also promised to repaint the white markings and hatching at the junction of the A370 and Bleadon Mill.

In the meantime we ask all road users to park considerately. And make use of the FREE parking in the Coronation car park.

## Dog bin laden disaster

Not surprisingly, when you look at the photo, the parish council had a number of complaints in January about overflowing dog bins.

Our four Bleadon dog bins were under contract to be emptied every fortnight by Connaught through North Somerset Council's Streets and Open Spaces team.

Up until recently they had been doing a good (and cheap) job, but last year the company went through the hoop. They then re-emerged as Fountains and continued with our bin emptying contract. The transition to Fountains has had its problems, and as a result the service we received in January was very far from satisfactory.

As soon as Bruce Poole received the first report of a problem the parish clerk was in touch with Fountains to come and sort the problem. After a week of wrangling, heated emails and phone calls they came and tackled the job.

Fountains' work scheduling problems appear to now be resolved and we are once again getting the regular bin emptying that we require.

We are grateful to those responsible dog owners who pick up after their pooch and pop the poo in the bin. However, if the bin is full please take the bag home with you. Fountains will not collect waste that has spilled out of the bin.

If you spot a problem please report it to the parish clerk or one of your parish councillors. All contact details can be found on the back page.



# NEWS

## Kitchener calls for May Fayre helpers

The May Day Fayre for 2011 is very short of helpers and is seeking more people to involve themselves in the preparation and on the day.

If you can organise a stall or activity, or if you feel that you can help in any other way with this hugely popular village event please step forward now.

More information can be obtained from the Chairman, Graham Rogers Tel 811571.



## Village Books

Good books are wanted for the regular fund-raising stalls at the Village Market and May Day Fair.

For collection please ring Pete Williams on 812 020



## Your mobile library

Stops in Coronation Road every other Friday from 10.40 to 12.40. It's easy and free to join: just take along some identification that shows your name and address and you can join and borrow items straight away. If you have a North Somerset library card you can use it on the mobile library.

It carries a wide selection of books, suitable for all ages and including talking books and large print books. Reservations made on the mobile

library are free so if they don't have the item you are looking for, staff will request it for you free of charge.

The vehicle has a lift to aid access – just ask the staff.

Items borrowed from the mobile library may be returned or renewed at any library in North Somerset, on-line or by calling 0845 022 0777; this is an automated, local rate service.

You will not be charged fines for any items borrowed from the mobile library which become overdue.

## Sewer improvements completed on schedule

Throughout a wet and chilly January and early February a Wessex Water team worked on enlarging the sewer and foul water drains in Bridge Road and Bleadon Road.

Work began on the 4th January and was completed on schedule some six weeks later, despite some unexpected problems.

A two week closure of Bridge Road followed by a four week closure of part of Bleadon Road meant that village traffic was diverted via the A370.

Fortunately, predictions of death and carnage resulting from the diversion onto the busy main road came to nought. Maybe our village drivers are more capable than some people expected.

The closest near-death experience seems to have been when a courier truck driver threatened the Wessex workers with a smack, and then proceeded to drive through the newly erected barriers. Shame he didn't have one of those "How's my driving?" stickers!

Bridge Road and Barton residents now have segregated sewer pipes and, hopefully, the problems of overflowing sewers is a thing of the past.



*Wessex workers soon discovered that part of the historic drainage problem in the Barton was caused by a BT cable pipe running right through the main foul water pipe! Effectively blocking more than half the sewer's capacity. Nice one Busby!*



# NEWS & VIEWS

## What does the village want on Sanders' field?

Village Consultation May 28<sup>th</sup> 2011

Bleadon village has changed a lot over the years, but developments over time have not always helped Bleadon retain its character as a village. Of course we have the Coronation Hall and the youth club, but there are few other public facilities to benefit those who live here.

In fact, because Bleadon has so few facilities of its own, North Somerset's Planning policy dictates that Bleadon should be treated as a suburb without a centre of its own and we are deprived of the rights granted to other regions in North Somerset such as Nailsea and Portishead etc.

Why am I telling you this? Well an opportunity to improve our village facilities exists and we would like to know what your views are on how the centre of Bleadon should be developed and what facilities would most benefit the village.

Almost twenty years ago the Sanders Family purchased the sixteen acres of land in the centre of Bleadon bordered by Bleadon Road to the North, Bridge Road to the East and the A370 Bridgwater Road to the south. This is the field often used as a car park for village events such as the May Day Fair.

Even though part of this land has long been designated in the local plan as land suitable for recreational use, at the moment no recreational facilities have been created, and as we all know Bleadon has no playing field, no tennis court and no cricket pitch. Such facilities are expensive and to date no money has been made available to build them.

At the time the land was purchased by the Sanders family our long term view was that one day we would gift half of the land to the village so that a traditional village green with a pavilion, tennis courts and an all-purpose village hall etc. could be built. To provide the finance for these facilities suitable development would need to be built around the edge of the green such as perhaps a doctor's surgery and a variety of housing to suit the village needs.

However, we have absolutely no wish to promote an idea that is not supported by the majority of the village so as owners of the land we would like to know whether or not you as residents of Bleadon would like to see this development.

If this field is to be developed what would you like to see there? Or do you feel that Bleadon doesn't need anything at all?

**Whatever your view, if you can, please come to the Coronation Hall on the morning of Saturday May 28 between 9am and 1pm, where you can meet us and see some outline plans we have prepared. Everyone from the village is invited and everyone's views and comments will be welcomed and accurately recorded so that we can publish the results in a future edition of this magazine.**

*Chris and Mike Sanders*



## Census advice clinic at Bleadon Youth Centre



On Saturday 26 March you can get advice and help with completing your Census questionnaire at the Bleadon Youth Centre. Experts from the Office for National Statistics will be on hand from 10am until noon to answer your questions and provide help. Your Census questionnaire needs to be completed on Sunday 27 March, so this help couldn't be more timely.

## Help us plant up our village tubs

If you can spare an hour on Saturday 14 May to help plant up our village flower tubs please join us in the car park at 10am. Just bring a trowel, a bin bag and a bit of community spirit.





# The things you see!



## New marina plans for Roman Road abandoned?

Pete the Village Ranger discovered this abandoned boat, complete with life vests, on one of his weekly tours of the Roman Road lay-byes in November. North Somerset Council were contacted and thankfully, swiftly removed it. We regularly see abandoned, burnt-out cars up here. Never before a boat. Must have been some Tsunami!



Clear off Pykey!  
This is a private party.

You blinkin paparazzi  
are all over me these days

Rob House recently celebrated his 40th at the Queens (sic). Unabashed, he bravely sported a very tight shiny spandex number in honour of Little Britain star Matt Lucas. Fortunately, it was a cold night, so he wasn't showing his embarrassment to much.



The jammin' Herivals wowed the crowds in the Queens Arms on New Year's Eve. So much talent in one Manor Grange family shouldn't be allowed.

## Our Bleadon bag gets about down under

Guess who Chris Cudlipp bumped into outside the Gabba the day before the 1<sup>st</sup> Ashes test in Brisbane last Autumn? Devotees of "TMS" may know his voice better as he is the number one cricket correspondent for the BBC. No prizes for recognising Jonathan Agnew (Aggers), because I'm sure you all knew that!

*Where ever in the world you travel, take a photo of your Bleadon bag and send it to us. It's up to you to show Bleadon Bag in the most enchanting and unusual locations in the world. You may win a bottle of wine.*

**Contact the Editor if you want to sport your own Bleadon bag for just £1.50.**

**They're a great excuse for travelling.**



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## 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

Bleadon Pilates\*\* 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**.

# 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)

### **Actionwork Film & Theatre**

PO Box 433, Weston-s-Mare BS24 0WY

Tel: **01934 815 163**

[www.actionwork.com](http://www.actionwork.com)

Film, theatre and anti-bullying solutions.

Local, national & international touring.

### **Better Kitchens**

Unit A, Purn House Farm, Bleadon

Tel: **01934 813 201**

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

Suppliers at trade prices of fitted kitchens,  
worktops, appliances. 3D design service

### **Bleadon Post Office & Country Store**

Purn House Farm, Purn Way, Bleadon

Tel: **01934 815 584**

Post Office services, fresh produce and  
everything expected from a village store.

Plus **Tiffin Coffee House**

### **Bleadon Village Laundry**

Hillside House, Bridgwater Road,  
Bleadon

Tel: **01934 814 133**

Mob: **07979 794 478**

Email: [raggettchelsea@aol.com](mailto:raggettchelsea@aol.com)

Laundry, dry cleaning, ironing services on  
your doorstep. We collect and deliver.

### **Bridge Garage**

Bridge Road, Bleadon

Tel: **01934 812 206**

[www.bridgegarage.com](http://www.bridgegarage.com)

Vehicle sales, full servicing all makes and  
models. MOT. Attended fuel station.

### **Chatterley Plumbing & Heating**

The Croftings, Purn Way,

Bleadon BS24 0QE

Tel: **01934 644 539**

Mob: **07887 768 877**

Gas appliances, safety checks &  
servicing, general plumbing. Gas Safe.

### **Escape Hair & Therapy Salon**

Longwood House, Bridge Road, Bleadon

Tel: **01934 813 400**

Escape to Bleadon for a new you.

### **Garden & Household Services**

Sunnycove, Bridgwater Road, Bleadon

Tel: **01934 813 100**

Mob: **07813 175 423**

[davebaxter25@sky.com](mailto:davebaxter25@sky.com)

Gardening, landscapes & property  
maintenance services.

### **Andy Harper Joinery & Building Services**

8 Coronation Road, Bleadon, BS24 0PQ

Tel: **01934 814962**

Mobile: **07977 466 216**

Email: [Harper.A5@sky.com](mailto:Harper.A5@sky.com)

Kitchens, Extensions, Wet Rooms

### **Ian Dance Services**

Purn House Farm, Purn Way, Bleadon

Tel: **01934 813 686**

Mob: **07920 110 441**

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

Gas heating and plumbing, heating  
installation, servicing and repairs. Gas  
Safe.

### **Phil Langdon Marine Artist**

Chestnut Lane, Bleadon

Tel: **01934 813 223**

Watercolour and Oil artist. Commissions  
undertaken. Your cottage or home  
painted.

### **Plastech Windows & Conservatories**

10 Coronation Road, Bleadon BS24 0PQ

Tel: **01934 814 500**

Mob: **07774 475 736**

Local installer of high quality windows,  
doors, conservatories, fascia, soffits &  
guttering.

### **Plum Communications & PR**

28 Bleadon Mill, Bleadon BS24 0BE

Tel: **01934 812 972**

Mob: **07717 756 644**

Email: [info@plum-communications.co.uk](mailto:info@plum-communications.co.uk)

[www.plum-communications.co.uk](http://www.plum-communications.co.uk)

Marketing, communications and PR  
services for businesses and organisations.  
Special rates for local businesses.

### **Queens Arms**

Celtic Way, Bleadon

Tel: **01934 812 080**

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

Traditional village pub. Superb range of  
beers and wines. Freshly prepared food.

### **Somerset Windows**

Longwood 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

# What's on

Royal Wedding celebrations plus the May Day Fayre promise to make Bleadon even more eventful than usual in the coming months

## Art Exhibition

Friends of Bleadon Art Group and their tutor Mike Coogan, together with Phil Langdon are holding an art exhibition in the Jubilee Hall on **Thursday 5 and Friday 6 May**, from 10am to 6pm. Refreshments will be available and entry is free.

## Horticultural Society

**Tuesday 19 April** BBC Points West weatherman **Richard Angwin** will be guest speaker in the Coronation Hall **at 8pm**. His topic will be "Weather and the media – 60 years of TV". Open to everyone at £2.50.

**Tuesday 17 May** - Bring and buy plant sale and social

**Tuesday 21 June** - Bees and beekeeping with Chris Cudlipp At 7.30 pm in the Coronation Hall and open to anyone at £1 admission.

**Tuesday 19 July** - Awaiting confirmation of the trip to the **RHS gardens at Rosemore** in Devon. Watch this and other space. The Summer Flower Show will be on **Saturday 3 September**.

## Monthly Village Market

In the Coronation Halls on **the third Saturday of every month** From 9am - 12.30pm. Dozens of stalls packed with delights. The usual refreshments and a chance to catch up with friends.



## Bleadon's Royal Wedding party and celebrations



**Friday 29 April** there will be a big **Celebration Party** in and around the Coronation Halls from **2pm - 11pm**.

Children's' entertainment for all ages to include bouncy castle, hair and nails for the girls, henna tattooing, table tennis, entertainers and much much more.

Entertainment for all ages afternoon **cream teas**, Bar and Refreshments.

**Live Bands and Pig Roast from 7pm**.

We are also selling **picnic tables fully decorated** with seating for 6 people, so why not bring the family and your picnic along, this will also reserve a base for the day. Alternatively you can just come along and join in the fun.

To reserve your table, tickets are £5 per table available from 14 March at Escape Hair and Beauty, Bridge Rd or Bleadon Post Office & Stores.

Tickets for all events strictly limited.  
FANCY DRESS OPTIONAL.



## May Day Fayre Monday 2 May

The annual event promises to deliver all its usual colour and fun with entertainment, games and stalls galore throughout the day from 10.30am.

The organising committee needs two major areas of support from you:

- We need quality items for the Stalls - books, glassware and china, diy and gardening tools, household items, children's toys and games, soft toy and small bric-a-brac items. These can be collected. Phone Graham 811571 in the first instance to make arrangements.
- We need helpers for the stalls and games on the day. Even if you are regular helpers please telephone Graham to confirm your availability.

## New residents welcome party

At 6.30pm on Thursday 23 June there will be a free welcome party in the Coronation Hall **for all those who have moved into Bleadon over the last year**. Join us for a glass of wine and refreshments and find out about all the things new families can enjoy in this lovely village.

Fresh Local Produce. 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  
APR**

**SAT  
21  
MAY**

**SAT  
18  
JUN**

**SAT  
16  
JUL**

**in the Coronation Halls  
from 9 to 12.30**

Call Joanne on 01934 812 370 for more info

# 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.

## Pilates returns to Bleadon

It's good to see that Pilates classes have returned to the Coronation Hall on Wednesday evenings from 7.30 to 8.30pm. Corinne is running the six week courses for beginners, intermediates and advanced. It's a very relaxed and sociable group. Just wear comfortable clothing, bring a mat and water to drink. Newcomers can have a two week trial to see if they like it and Corinne will provide the mat. *Tel: 01934 750 006.*



## Croquet Club

The close season has seen a lot of work to improve the lawns for the coming season and it is planned, weather permitting, to open the new season mid-April.

The winter has seen a number of activities amongst the members to keep a togetherness for the coming season when it is intended to have two Association and two Golf Croquet teams competing in the South West Federation leagues along with numerous in-house club competitions. We will be holding an Open Day in early May (date to be confirmed) when everyone is welcome to try the sport of croquet.

If you require any further information please ring the Secretary, *Shirley Buckley 01934 815345.*

## Bleadon Short Mat Bowls

With the season now reaching its half way stage focus is on social activities until we start again in September. and our Annual General Meeting in May. Our social events include a bowls trip to Torquay on 20 March for five days and then a supper of baked potatoes with a variety of fillings on 24 June. Our annual coach trip is planned for 10 August (plans to be finalised) on

which everyone is invited. For further information contact Malcolm Gammon on 813340.

The league competition ends on 31 March and it is expected, in a very close competition, that we will end up mid table. Other competitions within the region, to which we have been invited, take place during April.

The Annual General Meeting to review the year and appoint new officers for next season takes place in the Coronation Hall on 20 May at 7 pm. A reminder to anyone is that we are mainly involved in bowling for the fun of it, with options to play on Sunday & Tuesday afternoons at 2.30pm or Fridays at 7pm. There are always vacancies for new members. Contact the Secretary *Leoni Rogers Tel: 811571.*

## Contactus

Exists to give help and local advice to all newcomers into the village. We visit those "just arrived" providing them with an attractive **Welcome to Bleadon pack** and the Village News. All new residents of the village are invited to the **annual welcome party on 23 June**; this is a most pleasant occasion and provides the opportunity of making new friends in the community.

Contactus members here in Bleadon appreciate feedback when you arrive or move into the village. If you wish for more information and help with getting to know your new area please call me *Penny Skelley Tel: 815331*

## Society and Club Posters for the May Fayre

Last year, the organisers of the **May Fayre** thought it would be helpful to village clubs and societies if they were able to display posters for advertisement purposes. A board was set up in the Hall foyer displaying a range of posters which caught the attention of, not only newcomers to Bleadon but many long-term residents who had no idea that there was so much going on! As well as villagers, folk from Weston have been encouraged to join some of the village groups.

We've been asked to do the same again this year so club leaders, please let us have your posters for inclusion in the display. Drop them off at 18 Bleadon Mill or email them to

*leo.paxton@btinternet.com*

*Leoni Paxton-Rogers*

## Bleadon Youth Club

Open on **Thursday nights from 7pm until 9:30pm**. We charge £1 per session and welcome all young people aged 11 upwards with a focus on 13-19 year olds.

We have an exciting array of activities planned for April to July. Parents and youngsters are welcome to come along on a Thursday evening to check us out.

## Bleadon Baby & Toddler Group

In the Coronation Hall **Wednesday mornings** from 9.30 - 11.30 during term time. Open to all pre-school children in the village and the surrounding area. With a range of activities which take place each week including arts and crafts, singing and a soft play area for babies. Visitors provide exciting fun events.

Its a great opportunity for your children to play. And for you to meet other mums, dads and grandparents, come along any Wednesday.

## 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.



## Bleadon Players

Our next production will be the **Ghost Train** by Arnold Ridley. This is an exciting drama based on a remote Cornish railway station, set in the 1920's. A group of annoyed passengers find themselves stranded there on a night, with only the driving rain and the prospect of a ghost train to keep them company.

Various suspicious characters arrive and there are several moments of high suspense, before all is revealed and normality is restored.

**Performance on May 12, 13 and 14<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 p.m. Coronation Hall.**

*Tickets from Bleadon Post Office or on the door.*

## Friendship Club

In January the Friendship Club enjoyed a visit by a delightful North Somerset Carelink advisor at one of their **Friday afternoon** sessions. The advisor explained the benefits of the monitored alarm system that provides reassuring

help at home at the touch of a button.

Future dates include a Beetle Drive, Mike and his music, Car Bingo etc. With a cup of tea and a biscuit, you are always welcome. We are a very happy mixed group. 2.15 to 4pm hope to see you in the Coronation Hall anytime on a Friday afternoon.

## Ladies Club

The Bleadon Ladies Club meets at 2.30 pm. in the Coronation Hall the **second Tuesday of the month** our next meetings are as follows:

April 12 - **Look for the silver lining** - a musical afternoon with Terry Merrett-Smith

May 10 - **My time on Concorde**  
Charles Herd

June 14 - Mr Toby Pinn of **Clevedon Auction Rooms**. Members are invited to bring one item for valuation.

Do come and join us we always welcome new members.

*For more information call Barbara on 814362*

## Bleadon Coronation Hall

The AGM of the Hall Management Committee will be on **Thursday April 14** at 7.30 pm.

This is the only meeting when the public are welcome to attend, and put their views on the general running of the Halls. For a number of years now no one has been interested, so we must assume that everyone is quite satisfied.

At this meeting each organisation that is a regular hall user can **nominate a representative to serve on the Committee** for the coming year. I urge all user groups to nominate someone to represent their interests on the Hall Committee.

For the third year now Hire charges for Village users will not be increased. We have been able to do this mainly because of the income from our monthly markets, which continue to be very popular.

*Len Chamberlain, Chairman*



## Scribe and new blood needed

You will read elsewhere in this magazine that the Coronation Hall Management Committee has lost it's **Secretary** (which was rather careless). We desperately need a new one. Preferably, someone with a pen or laptop and can string a few simple words together.

We are also looking for some **fresh and enthusiastic people** to join the management committee to ensure that the Coronation Halls continue to thrive and serve our community well.

If you can spare a few hours and are willing to give up one Thursday evening a month please contact **Len Chamberlain on 814517**.



## Carols and mulled wine

The Bleadon WI organised a very sociable evening of carols and festive cheer at the Queens Arms before Christmas. As well as providing a most enjoyable social event they also raised £60 for the Youth Centre. A big thanks from all the young people and other Youth Centre users that will benefit from your generosity.

## Do you know what are your kids get up to?

Earlier this year we had a problem with youngsters vandalising the ladies' toilets in the Coronation Hall. Now we're getting reports of children accessing the very dangerous edge of Marshalls' quarry from South Hill. Fences are being damaged and cattle spooked.

Bleadon is a wonderful environment to grow up in. For many of us it's the reason we moved here. We want our children to enjoy the outdoor freedom that our village provides and we want them to live to enjoy it safely.

**So parents, please make sure you know where your children are playing and what they get up to. And ensure that your kids know how to behave responsibly.**

# Thank you...

## Royston Walters

for making our Coronation Hall Management Committee minutes a joyous entertainment every month in recent years.

We are going to miss your wonderful prose, good humour, downright common sense and ready help with getting things done.



Many thanks to all those villagers and Friends of Bleadon Church who contributed so generously last year to the **May Day Fayre**. We are again collecting saleable items for Bleadon Church's May Fayre, to be held on Bank Holiday Monday 2 May. This annual event helps to fund this beautiful 13th century building at the heart of the village.

So, if you are having a clear out we will willingly collect quality:  
Kitchen equipment, china and glass  
Garage and garden tools  
Toys and games  
Small bric-a-brac  
Books and jigsaws  
Small electrical items in safe condition  
Unwanted presents, toiletries and jewellery  
CDs, DVDs, and games but not videos.  
Sadly, due to a decreased workforce we are unable to accept clothes and soft furnishings this year.  
Every penny goes to Bleadon church and is desperately needed.  
Please call Graham 811571 or Brian 813636

*Graham Rogers*

Dear Editor

I would just like to say a very big thank you to **Mark Howe** for keeping our village clean and tidy during December / January whilst our ranger was on holiday for five weeks. Even the ducks are happy, as Mark and his daughter also cleaned out the rhyme. Thank you Mark for your hard work.

*Betty Paterson.*

Dear Editor,

I have today sent a cheque to you for £10. This was received from friends Carol Poole and Cynthia Brown – sisters who lived in Bleadon during the war years. They think the new version (Village News) very impressive – you usually let me have two extra copies of the village magazine for them via Penny.

As you see I live at The Veale and have greatly **appreciated all the offers of help and kindness during the snowy weather** shopping, posting letters etc – perhaps some thanks could be given in the magazine? Both from me and other elderly tenants.

*Miss Sylvia Bird, 22 the Veale*

## Graham and I

settled in Bleadon in Summer 2007 and found it to be just as great as we'd hoped. Sadly, Graham was only able to enjoy a few of his 'retirement years' but, during his short illness and in the time since, the support and friendship that I and my family have received has really helped us to face the years to come. We should just like to **thank you all** and to say how much we appreciate everything you have done.

*Libby Lockyer & Family*



Thank you to the band of regular helpers who braved the snowy weather and **delivered** the December edition of the **Village News** in very treacherous conditions. Ice and snow covered roads meant that all 550 copies were distributed on foot and by sledge. Hopefully, this Spring edition will be a little easier.



The Tiffins coffee morning "girls" would like to extend a very sincere thank you to **Lyn and her team** for providing a brilliant Christmas Dinner – especially under the extreme weather conditions!

Also, grateful thanks to **Alistair** who picked up all the waifs and strays from the top of the hill in his trusty 4X4!!

*Maggie Pettitt*



# Bringing our yesterdays to life

From Bleadon's photo archives we've selected these images of the area around Shiplate Road.

Photos from top left:  
*Wonderstone; view towards the village from the Shiplate Rocks; Shiplate Hill Farm circa 1950; the Mount circa 1930; the Fields in Shiplate Road; No 3 Eastfield 1950's; Shiplate Court Farm; The Veale looking freshly built.*



## Memories are made of this

If you've got any old photos or memories of Bleadon and its people that you would like to share please contact Penny Robinson on 814142 or the Village News Editor on 813127



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

Bruce Poole,  
Bleadon Parish Council  
Roofops, 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

## You will be heard

**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.

# Will you be voting on 5 May?

On May 5th you will have the opportunity to elect your **nine Parish Councillors** and your **two District Councillors**. If you care about how Bleadon Parish Council and North Somerset Council are managed you will, no doubt, want to express your preferences.

Before you can do so **you need to be Registered to Vote**. In September every property will have received a registration form. If you completed and returned the form and still live in the same house you will have been registered to vote. If you failed to return a completed form then you will miss out unless you register quickly with North Somerset Council. If you're not yet registered, you've moved or your details change **you can apply to register to vote until 5pm 14 April**.

If you can't make it to the polling station at the Coronation Hall on 5th May you can apply for a **postal vote**. You've got until 5pm on 14 April to do so. I advise you to do so early, as things get a bit hectic in the Electoral offices the closer we get to the elections. Any elector can apply for a postal vote. For me it's the simplest way of ensuring that I get to vote. In fact, around 20,000 of North Somerset's electorate are registered to postal vote.

To Register contact:  
**Electoral Services,  
North Somerset Council,  
Town Hall,  
Weston-super-Mare  
BS23 1UJ  
Tel: 01934 634909**  
or write on-line to: [electoral.services@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:electoral.services@n-somerset.gov.uk)

# Could you be a parish councillor and make a real difference?

The Local Government minister Grant Shapps MP has called for talented "school gate mums and dads to step forward and make real change to real lives in their communities". So, if you think you would make a good parish councillor, now is the time to step forward. **You have until 4 April to register as a Bleadon Parish Council candidate**. Contact Electoral Services at the Town Hall for details.



**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 get actively involved in things that matter to Bleadon.

## 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
David Plaister	Mulberry House, Roman Rd, Bleadon	Tel: 814 612
Keith Pyke	8 Whitegate Close, Bleadon	Tel: 813 127
Mary Sheppard	Littlewood, Bridgwater Road, Lymsham	Tel: 812 921

# Imagine...

...a Bleadon without  
a bus service  
public toilets  
village shop  
youth club  
post office  
local pub  
church  
mobile library  
community transport

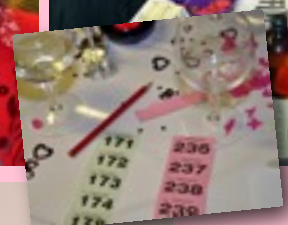
This is not scaremongering.

All are threatened by budget cuts and the rapidly changing face of village life.

We had better start thinking now of other ways that we can provide these services if we still want them.

**Let's make a start at the Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 11 April at 7.30pm in the Coronation Hall.**

**Better bring your thinking heads!**



In February, Friends of Bleadon Church enjoyed an evening of pudding tasting, a glass of wine and a quiz in the Coronation Hall. It was also an excuse to celebrate St. Valentines day. A large selection of of different puddings were on offer which were enjoyed so much that everyone licked their platters clean. Thanks to everyone who provided the puddings and who worked so hard on the night. Thanks also to Pete Williams for providing the photos.



# Colour and scent delight visitors



The Coronation Hall was packed wall to wall with the 250 exhibits staged by 61 exhibitors of all ages. Scent from daphne, hyacinths and narcissi mingled with the mouth-watering aroma of the homecrafts. Imaginative creations from the 17 children drew many comments of admiration from the record number of visitors to the *Bleadon Horticultural Society Spring Show* on a sunny March Saturday afternoon.

