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SIDE this 100th issue of leadon Village News



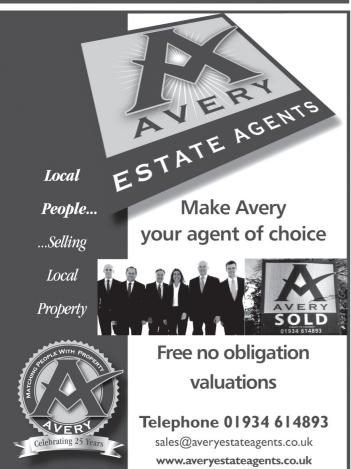
**Bus service changes** Remembering the fallen Christmas events calendar Looking back over 25 years We had a Bleadon Ball Welcome to our new councillor and our new Rector

and plenty more news









# 100

A few hundred words for this Special 100th edition, thank you editor for this *Bleadon Village News*. Certainly a collectable, as in the future we may be paperless.

A pilot scheme initiated by Bleadon to revise regulations to allow Council agendas and documents to be sent electronically proved a success. This August the Parish Council did not 'stand down' as usual due to work load and ongoing planning matters. Next May is the Four Yearly Elections, the Council will not 'go-slow' or fall into inertia in the coming months.

Please remember your parish needs you!

Outline planning has been granted to Marshalls for the Quarry Site. The opinions and objections of the parish councillors and villagers were taken into account and 30 caveats requested were granted.

A constant 'happy-go-round' of fayres, parties, shows festival plus a celebration to welcome the Rev. Tim Erridge made for a memorable few weeks.

During this summer the parish council has received praise from visitors and villagers on the high standard of maintenance throughout the village.

We are proud of open spaces, footpaths, tubs, allotments and the Church Yard all of which we look after, under the precept, as part of the Council's work in the community.

Winter planting is complete, so thank you to everyone who helped on the day, and for all the praise received since from villagers for the colourful tubs.

The Bleadon Christmas tree will be erected for the December village market, local garden centres and shops are full of Christmas cheer. I too wish you and your families a very Happy Christmas.

Penny Skelley, Chairman



**Bleadon Village News** is published quarterly by Bleadon Parish Council. Contributions to this magazine are very welcome, so long as they are about Bleadon or can directly benefit its residents.

Send your Village News contributions to: Keith Pyke, Editor bleadon.editor@btinternet.com Tel: 01934 813 127

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

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# Marshall's Quarry redevelopment

On 13 August North Somerset Council granted Outline Planning Permission for the future development of the Marshalls Quarry site in Bridge Road.

Approval was granted for the mixed use scheme of 42 dwellings and 500 sq.m of employment floor space with details of access for approval; with landscaping layout scale and appearance to be reserved for subsequent approval.

The parish council had expressed a number of concerns to North Somerset Council and Marshalls which appear to have been well noted and taken into consideration when NSC granted Outline Permission. The parish council's main concerns are outlined below.

Bleadon Parish Council Planning Committee has no objection to the principal that outline planning permission should be granted for the mixed use scheme of 42 dwellings at Bleadon Quarry, Bridge Road, Bleadon subject however, to the following caveats:

# That permission is granted for no more than a maximum of 42 No dwellings

The Parish Council accepts that there has been a significant reduction from the original planned number of 53 dwellings and does not wish to see a subsequent increase beyond 42 dwellings

The suggested mix of light industrial and commercial units within a planned predominately residential area is not what the community requires

It is the view of the Parish Council that there is sufficient provision already within the village (Purn House Farm) with respect to light industrial and commercial units

#### Serious consideration should be give to providing units that would accommodate use for Doctors Dentist and such like professions

The Parish Council believes this approach would thus support a green approach to reduce unnecessary migration to Weston-super-Mare.

The Parish Council has already stated that the original proposed layout was not in keeping with the rural nature of Bleadon and is still of the view that more can be achieved to improve the revised layout especially in the proposed very limited shaded amenity space.

The village of Bleadon is in desperate need for more outside space for recreational purposes and this proposed development must play part in this need

The Parish Council recognises the advantages in securing a safe pathway to and from the proposed development as an alternative to using Bridge Road however it also accepts that there is strong objection from locally affected residents on the grounds of safety and potential injury

The consensus is that any increase in foot or cycle traffic up this very narrow lane will cause conflict with the occupants; they feel that their privacy will be greatly disturbed and that there is potential for injury between cars accessing the lane and pedestrians using this route into the quarry development.

# Coronation Hall improvement plans get the go-ahead

North Somerset Council have granted Planning Approval for the proposed improvements to the Coronation Hall.

As reported in the previous issue of BVN these include a new entrance to serve both halls, removal of the narrow corridor between the two halls to improve the access and a complete refurbishment of the toilets, including a new disabled facility.

The Hall management committee have rejected a suggestion from the parish council to include a new unisex/disabled toilet with access from the outside as part of the improvement works.

Working with the architect the next stage is to find contractors to undertake the work and the funding to pay for it.



It may be some years before we see any development on this site. Marshalls have to relocate the Bleadon production and depot to their Newport works. Then, in a challenging economic climate, find a developer for the quarry.

After that, the new developer will have to go through the whole formal Planning process with detailed proposals.



The Parish Council has great concerns relating to the Bridge Road access to the development and is of the view that further consideration needs addressing with regards to both ingress and egress.

It has been indicated in a letter by Mr David Tate of 2 May that substantial work will need to be carried out on Bridge Road to avoid a conflict between cars and pedestrians all using this access way. The parish council is in favour of an upgrade to Bridge Road which would include culverting the rhyne to enable the road to be widened, and a footpath/cycle path to be included for the full length of Bridge Road. There is also the issue of parking along Bridge Road, whilst some spaces for homes

on Bridge road have been made available within the quarry site this would still leave a number of cars that have no option but to park on the road.

The Parish Council wishes to have an active partnership role in the amount - type and allocation of the proposed social/affordable housing within this development.

It is the opinion of the Parish Council that people with ties to the village are given the opportunity of this housing. This would indeed give those young people who have roots in the village the chance to stay in the area. Or, indeed, people who would like to return to the village to be closer to their families.

Any future and agreed Section 106 Payments should fully mitigate against the proposed planning development which will undoubtedly have an impact on both the infrastructure of the village and its residents for many years to come

With a development of this size Bleadon will need to upgrade and update its community buildings. Both halls are in need of renovation and indeed it might be easier to demolish and start again which would be at a considerable cost. All the community buildings are already running at full capacity and a large influx of new parishioners would only add to this burden.

## Solar panel park plans refused again

Solar Energy developer Energi Installations have failed in their second attempt to install around 32,000 solar panels on farm land adjacent to the A370 Bridgwater Road.

Energi appealed against the decision by North Somerset Council to refuse planning consent for the 21 hectare development. The government funded Planning Inspectorate upheld the decision of North Somerset.

The Inspector agreed that such a large scale development on the border of an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty would cause unacceptable harm to the landscape character.

# Mark Howe gardening services

9 Malvern Road, Weston-super-Mare Phone 01934 413 594 or 0777 327 2003

- Regular grass-cutting
- Hedges & trees cut
- Shrubs pruned
- · Block paving repairs
- · Fence painting
- Turfing
- · Patios & chippings laid
- Lawn treatments

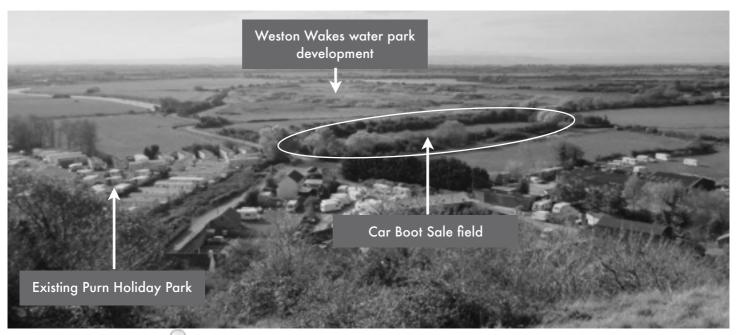
- · Decking erected
- Patios & paths pressure washed
- Fencing erected & repaired
- Shed erection & repair

# New mobile home park at Car Boot site on the cards?

Following an assessment request from the developer, North
Somerset Council recently concluded that a change of use of the established car boot sale field in Accommodation Road to become a static mobile home site would NOT require an Environmental Impact
Assessment.

This almost certainly leaves the way open for a formal Planning Application for the proposed 61 timber chalet type homes on the field that has been used for seasonal car boot sales at weekends and Bank holidays.

Whilst the proposed 1.9 hectare site lies outside the Bleadon Settlement Boundary, North Somerset thought that the development would have minimal impact on the surrounding environment. "Whilst the proposed development may transform the appearance of the site and could impact on the wider landscape setting some weight is given to the fact that the land has an established mixed use."



The Accommodation Road site viewed from Purn Hill

# Posters for the village notice boards

If you have a Bleadon village event that needs to be publicised you are welcome to have your A4 poster displayed on the **five** purpose-built parish notice boards that are scattered around the village. Naturally, this is dependent upon there being space available. With so much going on space on the boards is frequently at a premium.

Leave your five A4 (portrait format only) posters at the Post House Stores at Purn. Ian, the village ranger, picks up the posters on a Monday morning and then distributes them around the notice boards. Please understand that it isn't always possible to display all posters but Ian tries to be as fair to everyone as possible. Priority will always go to promoting village based events for Bleadon residents.





# Some good news at last about our bus service

Following some intense lobbying and a well supported public meeting with North Somerset Council it seems that we can now expect some improvements to the 83 service from next April.

Sixty three concerned local residents turned up at the Post House in Purn for a packed meeting with North Somerset's Principal Transport Planning Officer, Paul Conolly in September.

After fielding a barrage of suggestions, questions and complaints Paul came up with a package of solutions that will, hopefully, deliver a better service for Bleadon.

Whilst the proposed changes are still in the contractural development stage and will need to satisfy bus service regulations it is hoped that the following proposals will be adopted in time to start in April 2015:

## **Proposed changes from 1st April**

- The service will revert to being hourly
- Return of the mid afternoon service as the school bus will be a separate contract
- The service will no longer run to Worlebury
- Revised circular route will include Hutton. Probably on the way from Bleadon into Weston
- Buses will run anticlockwise from Weston town centre to Bleadon. Then down Totterdown Lane to Hutton
- Still stopping at the hospital en-route
- The 83 service is likely to be renumbered to become the 4a
- Services will run Monday to Saturday. No Sunday or Bank Holiday service (as now)
- Starting around 09:00 and finishing around 18:00 (as now). Passenger numbers in the past have clearly indicated that there is little customer support for a wider service on this heavily NSC funded route
- No return to serving The Veale at this time. It will remain a consideration and NSC/Crosville are looking into the regulations regarding reversing of buses with passengers onboard (one of the excuses given by the previous operator for excluding The Veale as part of the route)
- Possible return of single deck buses as there will no longer be a school operation as part of the route. However, operators have the discretion to use any suitable vehicle at their disposal

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## Winter colour and Spring promise

Thanks are due to the faithful village regulars who turned out on a sunny Saturday morning in early October to help plant up the village tubs and the Coronation Hall borders.

Once again our plants were supplied by South Bank Nurseries of Tickenham. Paid for by the parish council at a cost of £234 the plants this year included:

360 Pansies

144 Polyanthus

75 Cyclamen

72 Ivy Golden Gate

24 Carex (Ornamental Grass)

We also planted tulips and narcissi to add an extra burst of Spring colour.

Judging from the many favourable comments our village ranger has been receiving it would seem that this has been one of our most successful plantings yet.

It would be nice to see a few more volunteers turn up to help at the next plant-up in May 2015. It has been suggested that a later start time of 11:00 might encourage more public participation. Would you help?



Annie checks her handiwork

Find us on Facebook

f Like



# Kennels & Cattery, Somerset

Whitehouse Kennels & Cattery are a family run pet boarding home. Having been in the animal care business for over 25 years we know the importance of your family friend and will provide a truly caring service.

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T: 01934 750352 E: enquiries@p-e-t-s.co.uk or visit www.whitehouse-kennels.co.uk Whitehouse Kennels & Cattery, North Rd, Eastertown, Lympsham, Somerset BS24 0HS

# Remembering



In Flanders fields the poppies blow Between the crosses, row on row That mark our place; in the sky The larks, still bravely singing, fly Scarce heard amid the guns below.

Dedicated to the

men of this Parish who gave their lives in the Great War

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Major John McRae, May 1915

## A tree to mark the 1914 centenary?

It has been suggested by members of Bleadon Horticultural Society that they wish to provide and plant a tree in Bleadon village to mark the centenary of the First World War.

A couple of suggested locations have been put forward:

- 1. in the southern edge of the gardens fronting the bungalows at The Veale or
- 2. on the green in front of the Veale houses (Nos 6/7) bordering Shiplate Road. This would replace the large old decayed tree removed by North Somerset Council a couple of years ago.

The parish council are supportive of the suggestion and have written to North Somerset Council and Alliance Homes to seek consent to have the proposed tree planted on their land. In the meantime consideration is being given to a suitable species for either location.

Image courtesy of Google Earth copyright





Remembrance Sunday was marked with wreaths being laid in church by village organisations to honour the memory of those killed and wounded in past and current conflicts.

## **Any suggestions?**

If you've got any ideas or proposals for planting to mark the 100th anniversary of the 1914 -18 Great War we should love to hear your ideas and views.

Write to:

parishclerk@bleadonparishcouncil.gov.uk or bleadon.editor@btinternet.com

## More good bus news

Bleadon Village News has heard that a recycled North Somerset Council bus shelter is to be installed at the bus stop outside Purn Holiday Park on the A370 opposite Fork (Fiat) Services.

This will provide welcome shelter from the prevailing westerlies that too often leave soaked and winded wannabee passengers waiting for the Nos. 21 from Taunton and 102/76/75 from Bridgwater into Weston.

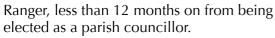
There's no confirmation yet as to when the shelter will be installed. Whenever, it will be very welcome.

Whilst it's a bit of a hike from the village centre to the A370 it is worth remembering that the 21 service runs ever half hour at 26 and 56 mins past the hour. With an hourly service on Sundays and Bank Holidays.



## lan steps down as parish councillor to concentrate on his Village Ranger role

It was a difficult decision for lan, who had recently taken on the role of



Despite assurances that such an appointment was within governance guidelines Bleadon Parish Council were very dissapointed to discover after appointing Ian as Ranger that this was not the case. Ian had to decide between being a Ranger or a Parish Councillor.

Whilst he was very reluctant to give up his councillor role he was quick to realise that the Ranger job has more direct impact and influence on the village he loves.

He assures us that he will be looking to rejoin the parish council in the future. In the meantime he will continue to look after the village and keep a close eye on the parish council.



# Welcome to our new councillor.....another lan

Ian Findley's resignation from the parish council left a vacancy on the nine member Council. The proper legal procedures took their course and North Somerset Council advertised the vacancy to see if an election was wanted by Bleadon residents.

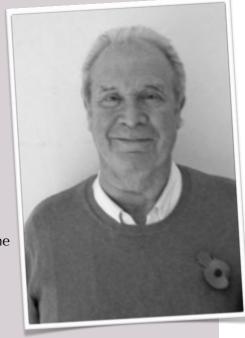
No election was requested. That allowed the parish council to advertise for interested persons to step forward to be

co-opted onto the Council.

We are delighted to report that Bleadon Mill resident Ian Gibson asked to be considered, and was duly elected by the Parish Council at its meeting on Monday 10 November.

Some of you will know lan Gibson from his pro-active role as Treasurer on the Coronation Hall Management Committee. Many of you will have handed him cash on the gate to enter the May Day Fayre.

Sounds like a man who knows how to look after the parish finances.



# Spotting and stopping fraudsters

Our recent status as a **No Doorstep Trading village** means that we appear to have succeeded in keeping unwanted traders off our streets. However, it is still too easy to fall for the telesales fraudsters.

Here's some common-sense advice from Avon & Somerset Police about avoiding becoming a victim of fraud. These guidelines apply equally well to telesales and postal scams.

#### **SPOT IT -**

#### Make decisions in your own time

- Obtain at least three written quotes and references before having any work done
- Genuine callers won't mind coming back in a day or two so that you can make independent checks
- If a caller refuses to leave your doorstep contact the police

#### Check people are who they say they are

- Check a company is trustworthy by making independent checks, such as calling the National Consumer helpline or Action Fraud
- Check a caller is a genuine employee by calling the company on a number you've looked up independently. Don't use the number they provide on their ID badge
- Telephone fraudsters can stay on the line after you hang up. Wait at least 10 minutes or use a different line to make any other calls

#### STOP IT -

#### Don't share your personal information

- Personal information includes: financial details, your full name, date of birth, address and travel plans
- Always destroy documents containing your details after use

**Report fraud** to 0300 123 2040 / www.actionfraud.police.uk If you are concerned and the caller is still in the area call 999

If you have information about any crime, phone the police on 101 or you can call anonymously to the independent charity CRIMESTOPPERS 0800 555 111.

## **Bleadon WI host Social Media Workshop**

18 ladies from Bleadon WI attended a Social Media Workshop run by the volunteers at Weston Works at the Bleadon Youth Club on 4 November.

The ladies were shown how to use facebook and twitter as well as being able to sample lots of different media gadgets that are currently on the market.

The evening was excellent with lots of tips and knowledge gained as well as lovely cake. The WiFi in the Youth Club was well up to the task and allowed us all to be logged on at the same time making the evening much more productive

Watch out for the ladies of Bleadon tweeting!!

Michelle Harper





should be installed once again in front of the Coronation Hall in time for the Christmas Market on 6 December.

Funded by the parish council and installed by the village Ranger the tree will again be supplied by local contractor Tree Services of Purn House Farm.

# Sociable Bleadon

# **Plymouth Pilgrimage**

That's where it all started, back in 1558: with that notable old salt Francis Drake getting his Knighthood for Services to Bowling by bravely calling, "One more end lads": despite being a dozen or so behind at the time and the Spanish threatening on the horizon. So, enduring another of Malcolm's fearsome early starts, (07.56 by my watch), the bowlers of Bleadon leave to pay homage.

Following a breakfast break at Trago Mills and arriving in good time for its 12.30 departure, 'The Spirit of Plymouth' with 108 souls aboard sets sail and after a brief 'touch and go' in Cornwall the tour of Plymouth harbour starts. Past the nuclear submarine graveyard, (more in there than out at sea I'm sure) and HMS Portland blushing in the afternoon sun accompanied by spirited commentary by our Captain. The ferry obligingly stops to let us pass untangled and 'mid all this Malcolm can be seen cunningly questioning the Plymouth's crew for quiztime material. On past various and diverse units of the 'Grey Funnel Line' including the Bulwark, recently refitted and promoted Flagship of the Royal Navy. Then, sights seen

and information obtained, a return to Plymouth Barbican (via Cornwall) where most made the short trip up to the Hoe to soak up the sunshine.

On the return on the motorway, bingo and quiz papers are issued and draw tickets searched for.

My guess at the quiz question, 'the number lost overboard from *Plymouth* and/or marooned in Cornwall during a season of passages' proves wrong and Kate almost exactly guesses the passenger total for a season. Well done!

Thanks again Grace, Mandy and Malcolm for the enjoyable day out.

Words & photos Pete Williams



# **New Rector welcomed**

A packed Bleadon Parish Church warmly welcomed the Rev Tim Erridge in late September to be officially Licensed as Priest in Charge of Bleadon and Bournville. The ceremony was conducted by the Right Rev Peter Maurice, Bishop of Taunton in front of an invited congregation of the great and the Godly.

Sparkling silks and gilded chains were much in evidence as local dignatories assembled for the evening service.

















# Coming up....



**Punch & Pie Party** 

The last event of the year hosted by Friends of Bleadon Church will be the Punch & Pie Party in the Coronation Hall on Saturday 6 **December**. Come along from 6.30 to 8.30pm and sing your favourite carols to music provided by members of the RAFA Band. Enjoy a glass or two of punch and a festive mince pie.

Tickets are just £3 and it's free for children under 8. It's a delightful way for families to begin the celebration of Christmas. Look out for posters and ticket availability from Friends around the village.



refreshments in the church afterwards. Children are welcome to come and make their

Christingle and discover the real magic of Christmas. Maybe bring along a nice gift for local children who are less fortunate this Christmas.



## Bleadon WI Choir carol service in the church

on Friday evening 5 December at 6:30. Followed by a lantern lit walk to the Queens Arms for more carols al-fresco and Christmas cheer. Come and enjoy.









## **Regular Coronation Hall events**

## **Mondays**

Bleadon Bridge Club 2-5pm Exercise Classes\*\* 7-8pm + 8-9pm Bleadon Parish Council 2<sup>nd</sup> Mon 7.30pm

#### **Tuesdays**

**U3A Bleadon Latin Group** 10-12 noon fortnightly

Short Mat Bowls 2.30-4.30pm Sept-May

Bleadon Brownies\*\* 6-7.30 pm

**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

Yoga Class\*\* 9.30-10.30 Toddler Group 10-12 noon Bleadon Players/Rehearsals 7.30pm Bleadon Pilates\*\* 7.30pm

#### **Thursdays**

Bleadon Art Group\*\* 10-12 noon W-s-M Croquet Club 2-4pm Oct - April Children's Dance School\*\* 4-5pm Term time Bleadon WI 7.30 2<sup>nd</sup> Thurs

**Bleadon WI Choir** 7.30pm 1st, 3rd, 4th 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

#### **Saturdays**

Village Market 9-12.30 3rd 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. There's a reduced rate for Bleadon residents. Call Joanne Jones on **812 370.** 

# Bleadon Village Christmas MARKET

Over 40 stalls packed with gift ideas and local produce Enjoy a drink, a mince pie and raffle prizes with friends



Saturaay 6 Dec Coronation Hall 9-12.30 + Youth Centre

For info: 01934 812370 www.bleadon.org.uk/market



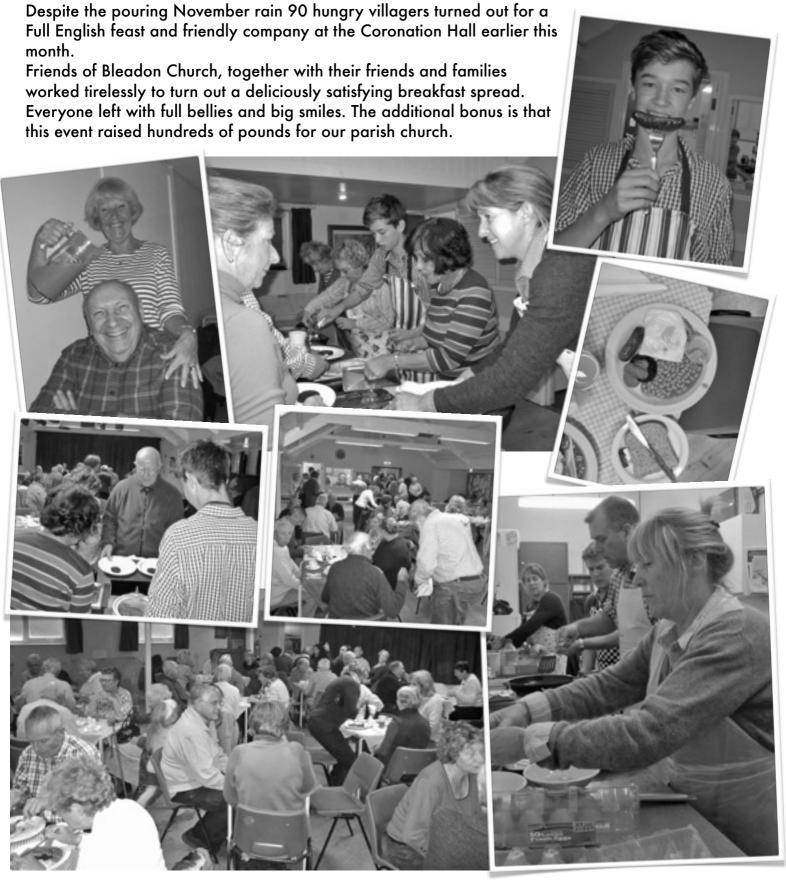
# Christmas services at St Peter & St Paul

in December

- 5 6.30pm WI Choir carols
- 14 10:15 Christingle Service
- 21 3pm Nine carols & lessons
- 5pm Crib Service for children (and adults too)
- 24 11:30pm Midnight Mass
- 25 10:15 Christmas Family Service

# Sociable Bleadon

Sunny side up....Big Breakfast success



# Reporting



# Youth Club will close unless adults step forward

Bleadon Youth Club held its Annual General Meeting in October. Despite sending invitations to parents and club members there was a disappointing turnout. This suggests a rather discouraging prospect for the future of the club.

The running of the Youth Centre building and commissioning of the Youth Club itself is undertaken by a Management Committee of volunteer adults and youngsters. This Management Committee should ideally comprise at least nine active members if it is to do its job successfully. We require at least four attendees at the bi-monthly management meetings to be legally quorate. At the moment we are down to three adults willing to give their time.

The Chairman of the Management Committee makes this appeal for more pro-active adults of any age to step forward and give a little time to providing a social centre for our young people.

Miles Orme explains the role of the management committee and explains what support we need to work effectively.

# What's this Management Committee then?

The committee of volunteers is responsible for the upkeep of the Youth Centre building and commissions the provision of leadership for the youth club.

The role of the committee has changed in the last 18 months as North Somerset Council no longer provide the workers or the support structure to run the youth club activities. It's now down to the management committee to fund and employ qualified staff to run the club.

Previously, we've only had responsibility for providing a safe and welcoming building. Now we look after the building and employ the YMCA staff to run the club.

# How often does the committee meet and what's the commitment?

Usually we meet in the Youth Centre once every two months. We try and keep meetings down to 90 minutes max.

If there are special events or circumstances that require occasional additional meetings then that's arranged accordingly. We are very aware that everyone has busy lives. Especially the very families with youngsters who should be ensuring the continued success of the club.

# Would I have to be CRB checked if I want to help?

Only if you wish to volunteer to help with the youth club and work with the youngsters.

If you feel you've got the skills and patience to work with young people alongside the YMCA staff I'm sure your help would be gratefully appreciated.

If it's only helping with the maintenance and management of the building there's no need for a CRB check.

# What kind of things do you need help with?

The building needs to be maintained. Some of this is done by professionals, but we try and do as much as we can ourselves to save precious money.

The building needs regular cleaning, loo rolls replaced, minor repairs etc. This is mainly down to the volunteers on the committee. The young people

who use the club are very good at clearing up after themselves, but it still takes the extra bit of TLC to ensure that the building remains welcoming to all.

Coming up we've got the Xmas market. Voluteers will help set up tables and run the catering.

#### What about fundraising?

We are heavily indebted to the May Day Fayre which provides the majority of our funds to run the youth club.

Additional events like the Xmas Draw at the Queens Arms help to keep the club afloat.

We need help and support from pro-active members in the community to bring in this and additional funding.

We've got around £8000 in the bank, which may sound a lot, but it costs around £4500 every year to keep the building and the club running.

If you can help ensure that Bleadon Youth Club continues to have a future please contact Miles on: 07989 410 767

#### miles.orme@gmail.com

Thank you.

# Sociable Bleadon

# **Another grimm night in the Queens Arms**

It appears that any excuse for grown men to don a skirt, makeup and tights is to be seized upon by a Snug assemblage of QA regulars. Following the outstanding performance (outdoors and standing) of Snow White last year we are to be entertained this Christmas by a rendering of **Cinderella**. Any resemblance to the original Grimm tale will be purely co-incidental. We can expect to see some very Ugly Sisters and a Cinders who will, no doubt, turn out to be not such a scrubber after all.

**Sunday 21 December** is the night for fun and festive frolics

• It will probably kick off around 6.30 with the outdoor panto (wrap up warm)

Followed by the dazzling Christmas jumper competition

 and the Big Draw for Prizes you can only dream of

All in aid of funds for the Youth Club



# Nearby, on a stage in a warm village hall.... ...a proper family Panto will be played out in January



It is that time of year when the Coronation Hall goes a little crazy -The Bleadon Players' Pantomime. But which one?

Our newest Bleadon Player - Emily - was born in June. So baby; crib (no she is not playing Jesus) - it was obvious: "Sleeping Beauty".

Nasty and nice Fairies, King, Fester the Jester, Nanny, beautiful Princess Aurora, handsome Prince Charming and a deadly spinning wheel.

Join these characters in the Coronation Hall at 7.30 pm, on **January 8, 9 and 10.** There is a Saturday matinee and tickets available from Bleadon Post Office, or on the door.

Bleadon Players



# Already looking forward to Spring

Bleadon Horticultural Society meet on the third Tuesday evening of the month at 7.30pm in the Cory Hall. Anyone can come along, whether you're already green fingered or just want some inspiration. Most events are just £1 on the door.

Tues 16 Dec Beetle Drive & Social (American) supper Tickets must be booked

Tues 20 Jan Growing for Chelsea and Hampton Court Terry Porter

Tues 17 Feb **Sweet Peas** *Phil Kerton* Sat 14 March **Spring Flower Show** 

Tues 21 April **Spirit of a Japanese Garden** *David Burgess*Tues 19 May **Roses - old and new** *Dinah Lindon-Critchley* 

Tues 16 June **Doing your bit for bees** Bryn Bowles

Tues 21 July Coach trip Tredegar House & Gardens, Newport

# We had a Bleadon Ball

Earlier this summer Bleadon WI decided to look to carry out a fund raising event for a local charity to follow on from the great success of the Bleadon WI Calendar in 2012.



A sub-committee was set up with nine keen members led by our President Tracy Heppenstall. We decided to take on the ambitious project of organising a Bleadon Ball hosted by Bleadon WI

A local charity was chosen, Weston Hospice Care and a booking was made for Batch Country House in Lympsham, a great menu was chosen and along with local designer Jon Hooper, Bloke on His Own, the beautiful tickets and posters were printed.

No-one expected the response to be so

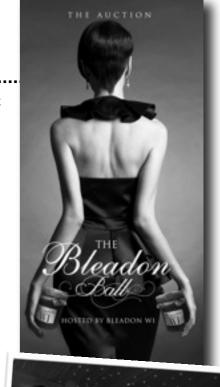
tickets were sold and the committee went about organising the raffle and auction.

Local businesses, Bleadon WI members, and members of the community did us proud with amazing auction and raffle prizes. Dave & Trina Plaister organised the printing of the table auction leaflets and on the night Dave Plaister hosted a hugely successful auction which saw 14 lots including a donkey, Jimmy Choo Handbag and meals in local restaurants.

The night was a great success with good food, dancing to local band Doctor Chocolate, Photographs by Scott at. www.dotphotographic.co.uk/hospice

Everyone had an excellent time, and unbelievably, we far exceeded our target and raised over £10,000 for Weston Hospice Care.

Bleadon WI would like to thank everyone for their support and helping make it a fabulous night.





# Looking back....

As Bleadon Village News celebrates its 100th issue we look back over the past 25 years. Some things have changed, but all too often it's been the same issues and concerns that have vexed editors, parish councillors and residents over the years.

## Christmas 1988 the 1st edition

Mrs Mary Sheppard is Chairman of the parish council Other parish councillors include:

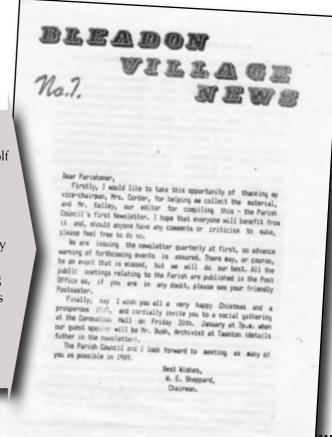
Mrs J Corder
Mrs Ruth Ham
Mr George Wall
Mrs Joy Wilkinson
Mr C Hart
Mr M Doolan
Mr R Goodman
Mr P Kelley

Cllr Kelley is editor for this the parish council's first newsletter.

Titled with Letraset and typed on a proper typewriter. Those were the days!

## Inside issue No.1

- Planning applications included the Golf course & clubhouse on Roman Road
- Disturbances and vandalism amongst the youths in the area
- Golden Jubilee of Bleadon WI
- Call for help to run stalls etc at the May Day Fayre 1989
- Village Hall Christmas Coffee Morning
- The big event of the year the Christmas Dinner Dance
- Start-up of Neighbourhood Watch
- Bleadon Scout Group Christmas float tours the village to raise funds





## Inside issue 2 March 1989

- The first of the John Hickley illustrated covers. John continued to provide beautifully illustrated covers for a further 82 editions. Never missing one in over 20 years
- This edition includes advertising for Nelson's Boyle's Restaurant at Bleadon; Sanders superstore; Catherines Inn; The Queens Arms; Bridge Garage; ARC (now Marshalls) and The Anchor Inn
- Goodbye to the retiring Parish Clerk, Tony Lambourne and welcome to John Gravell as temporary replacement Clerk
- Complaints about dog mess in the Churchyard
- A plea from Chairman Mary Sheppard for more parishioners to attend Parish Council meetings
- Bleadon Players mark the anniversary of the start of WW11 with a production of *What a Bleadon War*
- Badgerline start their bus service to Bleadon on 1st April
- Call for drivers not to park on both sides of the road in the centre of the village and to use the free car park
- Call for helpers to plant village for Britain in Bloom

# .. things don't change mucl

## Inside issue 6 Spring 1990

- John Hickley's cover drawing depicts some of the storm damage caused in January
- Vacancies for two new parish councillors as Messrs Doolan and Goodman step down
- The new Clerk, Bruce Poole, is reported as costing £1350 annually in salary + expenses
- Village handyman's wages for looking after the Play Area and Churchyard is £1000
- Costs of repairing the north wall of the Churchyard estimated at £3000 to £4000
- The following planning advice on TV satellite dishes: one dish per house; no larger than 90cm diameter; must not be above ridge height of roof
- Planning application for residential development of Willetts Mill (Bleadon Mill)
- Newsletter costs for production and printing £160
- Brownies clear litter from car park area





Margaret Cullen winding the Church clock

## In issue 6 Councillor Corder reported on the Church Clock, which may have significance today, as further repairs are now required

"This was given by the people of Bleadon to commemorate Queen Victoria's Jubilee in 1897. For years, the parish council undertook responsibility for the winding and maintenance, but for insurance purposes, it was handed to the Parochial Church Council. The parish council however, is still duty bound to finance its maintenance.

Atmospheric pressure changes the valuable wooden mechanism, thus many steps are taken weekly for our benefit. If it were not for the punctilious services of Mr (and Mrs) Arthur Cullen, time would stand still."

## From **Issue 16** Dec 1992 A poem by Maggie Pettitt

Be ye young or mature, Get ye back to nature. There's something ye need to know About the Bleadon Horticultural Show. Handicraft and cooking; all there for the looking. Plants and sewing; all there for the showing. So plant ye bulbs now - not mow Sit back and watch them grow

Then bring them to your Village Show!

# From Issue 22 July 1994

## A problem nearing solution

All who drive into Bleadon from the A370 opposite the Anchor Inn will be relieved to learn that a revised planning application for the car park extension at Catherine's Inn has been approved. Work cannot start soon enough.

### Cock au Vin

Readers may recently have seen in the Weston Mercury a photograph of the weathercock that used to perch atop our church. A project is under way to restore and reinstal this local landmark, and Bleadon Players are supporting it, firstly by donating £400, and secondly by presenting an entertainment with food and drink ... punningly entitled Cock au Vin.

# **BLEADON** Village News NUMBER TWENTY-SEVEN

## **Inside Issue 27** Sept 1995

- Village road safety review. Parish and District councillor meetings with Avon's Highways Dept recommended: 30mph speed limit through village; a speed limit on A370; look into constructing central traffic islands on A370 at junctions of Bleadon Mill and Bridge Road; improved signing at Coronation Road/Celtic Way/Shiplate Road; prohibition order preventing large vehicles through village.
- Concerns expressed about the size and number of lorries servicing the Atlas Stone quarry. Road surface being damaged and banks of rhyne verging on collapse.
- Offer of substantial grant from the Rural Development Commission to help build the Coronation Hall (new Scout & Guide Hut) extension and improve access.

# BLEADON

# Looking back

These recollections by Ken Durston are reprinted from issue 3

# Boyhood memories of Bleadon in the 1930s

Bleadon was a small, close-knit community when I was growing up, most of the men employed either in the quarry (now ARC) or on the farms.

South Hill was the largest agricultural employer, a dairy farm which distributed the milk and cream it produced to Bleadon, Uphill and Weston by fleets of horses and carts, the latter running on car tyres for smoothness. Purn Dairy Farm used BSA motor cycles and side-cars whilst others used bicycles, the cans slung over the handlebars. There were even Austin 7 vans in use!

There were no such thing as battery hens. All were free range.

As the mechanised milking concerns took over the milk rounds, sadly, men drifted into employment outside the village, and the tied agricultural cottages still stand as a reminder that these men had to relinquish their homes also.

Hay making on Bleadon Levels began each summer, the hay brought back to the farms or the Barton by wagon, the load to be stored in barns for the winter.

The cart horses were a magnificent sight in Accommodation Road, and *Smiler* the star of them all, was pure black with a white diamond on its nose.

The village boys were encouraged to 'pound at dawn' in order that as much hay as possible was stored. Of course, it provided the opportunity for the lads to let off steam, but nevertheless, it was great fun.

Four grocery stores were patronised by the villagers, who seldom shopped in Weston. These were located in Bridge Road, Coronation Road (old post office) and by the Queens Arms and at Hillcote, known locally as *Pussy Town*.

The bakery at Mulberry House provided a bread round which served the village until it was closed down by Birds of Winscombe.

Butchers at Uphill supplied the village's meat, whilst Bridge Garage recharged accumulators for wireless sets. A hardware store was next to the garage.

Central Garage lay opposite the new vicarage. It was a haulage contracting firm, giving employment to half a dozen men. The base of the old petrol pumps still exist, but now form part of a wall. Miss Taylor, a staunch Methodist, ran their bicycle accessory shop.

If all the Methodist children did not attend Chapel three times each Sunday she was quickly on our doorsteps.

There were three other haulage contractors in Bleadon, one of whom was also the coal merchant.







Photos this page: Ken Durston's mum milking; Newbay Stores; Central Garage with petrol pumps bottom left.



Photos on this page Left: Quarry workers. Below: Children tending the school garden.

Right: Fruit picking youngsters with Mr Over



They were employed in hauling stone and gravel from the quarry.

On Roman Road, the bungalow with its tin roof, and its outbuildings which you may have noticed, belonged to Flagstaff, a coach builder and signwriter.

Yet another of the local services ceased when the grandson of the village undertaker died two years ago.

Bleadon & Uphill station was always busy, used regularly by the villagers right up to the late 1950's.

Gypsy Genty, who smoked a clay pipe, lived with her sister in a traditional Romany caravan in Fakenham (Facum Lane).

Coal ships sailed up the Axe as far as Lympsham Wharf to unload their cargoes of Welsh steam coal destined for the local gas works.

In the long summer holidays, the village boys, complete with a picnic, would play on a shipwreck at Uphill Wharf, or take their little wheeled trollevs up Bleadon Hill to the then derelict house White Barns.

The Anchor Inn, one of four public houses in Bleadon, was a proper spit and sawdust pub offering table skittles, but the Victoria Inn, a cider pub, was the most popular. Led by Bob Say and his squeeze box, the boys from the Ack Ack came down from Roman Road to join us in singsongs at weekends.

Bleadon boasted a blacksmith, a peglegged cobbler, a school and three teachers. The farmers brewed cider and the lads got a good hiding for tasting it!

One of the best known characters of the day was Mr Clogg. He lived in a hut in the grounds of The Mount, owned by Mr Over. These men only used money as a last resort. They thrived on bartering their produce in exchange for labour provided by the local children. They were generous men, handing out punnets of fruit to

children as they left school, and giving the surplus to hospitals in the area.

Deprived children spent holidays at The Mount, and Miss Dingwall, who lived there, would load her 'Yankee Studebaker' with produce.

Children piled into the car too and helped distribute it all.

Mr Over, an authority on bees, kept many hives, and Mr Clogg, who hitch-hiked all over the country, sent drivers honey as a token of his appreciation.

In the late 1950's, Mr Clogg attempted to rescue two boys from the River Axe. Mr Clogg and the boys, who had been camping at The Mount, were all drowned. His gravestone is in the churchyard.

Alas, so much of Bleadon's past has been eroded in the name of progress. The Chapel, Mission House, British Legion, Sports Club to name but a

Ken Durston writing in Bleadon Village News in 1989

Fresh Local Produce. Aberdeen Angus Beef. Old Spot Pork. Cheese. Bakery. Bread. Cakes. Pies. Veg. Plants. Fairtrade. Pet Supplies. Books. Crafts. Jewellery. Collectables. Gifts. Bric-a-Brac. Something new every month and refreshments. www.bleadon.org.uk/market

# Bleadon Village Monthly Market SAT & community cafe

**FEB** 

ΔPR

in the Coronation Halls

from 9 to 12.30

Call Joanne on 01934 812 370 for more info

# Village people



# It's the way he tells 'em

Many of you will have been eagerly flicking through this edition of Bleadon Village News in anticipation of reading another beautifully crafted personal insight by Royston Walters. Sadly for us dear reader, Royston has decided to take a

break from writing his delightful Village People articles.

Somehow, Royston always manages to get to the heart of a person. To give us a glimpse of the inner man and find a good and positive story in everyone he interviews. On top of that he is a brilliant wordsmith. His articles are always a joy to read, and sometimes leave us with a lump in the throat.

When Royston first approached Village News in the summer of 2011 he was keen to tell people about the lives of our neighbours. We all too often only hear

about people's lives after they are no longer with us. It's left to the obituary or the eulogy to provide us with an account of a person's life and achievements. Royston wanted to give us an understanding of our fellow villagers now, while they are still our neighbours. He always succeeded in doing this in a most sensitive and interpretive way.

Recently though, Royston has found it difficult to find willing subjects for his penmanship. It is especially frustrating and disheartening when, after hours of interview and toil over a keyboard, a subject decides they don't want to be published after all. Maybe sometimes, Royston is too insightful and sees in us a side we don't want exposed?

So, for now at least, Royston is putting away his notebook and pen. This editor sincerely hopes that we will read more of Royston's wonderful prose in the future.

In the meantime, thank you Royston for bringing your talents to these otherwise dull pages over the past three years.

A grateful editor

## John Loxton

Thank you to everyone in and around Bleadon for your wonderful support, condolences, cards, and messages after the sudden death of John.

.....

It was a terrible shock to me, and I know how many of his friends and neighbours felt the same devastation. Although I have now moved back to Worle I shall never forget all of your kindness.

Rosemary

## **Bleadon bag travels**

Penny Robinson took her Bleadon bag to Canada in August. Here we see her holding it very securely over **Niagara Falls**. Drop it here and it's gone forever. As well as visiting the Falls and the CN tower 'the bag' also went to Nova Scotia, stayed in the Algonquin National park where it met a real moose! and went canoeing on Lake Otter in Ontario.

If you've got a Bleadon bag tale to tell please send your photos to: bleadon.editor@btinternet.com
If you want a Bleadon bag (just £1.50) contact the same address.



## Thank you

As the end of 2014 draws near, we would like to thank everyone who has helped and supported **The Friends of Bleadon Church** throughout the year.

Without you, we would not have succeeded in raising so much money and having so much fun and satisfaction doing it.

Mary Hollis

## May Day Fayre 2015

## helpers and bright ideas wanted

In January we will start planning and organising the next May Day Fayre. If you've got the enthusiasm and energy to help make this community event an even greater success we should love to hear from you.

Call Mary on 811165 or email:keith.pyke@btopenworld.com

## **Bleadon Country Sports**

A fine sunny day brought the crowds out to the 75<sup>th</sup> show at the end of August. During the morning there were horse showing, dressage and show jumping classes.

A variety of local craft stalls displayed their wares and tried to hang on to their gazebos in the wind.

At lunch time the Chilmark and Clifton Beagles paraded and spectators were invited into the ring to pat the beagles.

In the afternoon, driving carriages competed round a timed cone obstacle course and it was time for local dogs to strut their stuff in pedigree and novelty classes.

After the gymkhana there were all the usual fun sports such as the wheel barrow race, musical mats in cars and the traditional "tossing the sheaf"

Proceeds of the show are being donated to The Cinnamon Trust, The Exmoor Pony Society and Riding for the Disabled Carriage Driving.

The show organisers are indebted to Mike and Miranda Frost for the use of their fields on the day and to all the local sponsors. Also, a big thank you to all helpers for making the show a successful day.

Alison Hillyer





## **Fancy an allotment?**

Usually there is a waiting list for allotments in Bleadon, but there may be a rare vacancy coming up. If you fancy growing your own and escaping to one of the most tranquil and sunny spots in the village please call Cllr Mary Sheppard on 812 921



## Be careful what you wish for!

One local parish has the services of a fine upstanding member of the clergy who has a fine stallion, the envy of the entire congregation.

One morning a usually staid member of his congregation named Henry plucked up enough courage to ask the vicar if he might have a go on his horse.

The vicar readily agreed and made the necessary arrangements. Henry rendezvoused at the stable and, on his own, mounted the horse after reading a note from the vicar wishing him a good ride.

Well, Henry just sat there and the horse would not move, so he got on his mobile phone, rang the vicar and was told to utter the first two words of the Lord's Prayer. Success! Off the horse went at a steady walk.

After a while Henry thought he could do with a bit more speed, but did not know what to do. So, on the mobile phone again, he was told how to move into a canter and then a gallop. Being a little impatient he tried immediately for the gallop, the code word being 'Hallelujah': off he went like the clappers. Regrettably the field where he was exercising was bounded on one side by a sheer cliff and as he got nearer he realised he did not know how to stop. Gallop, gallop and again on the phone got the answer, simply say 'Amen'. So Henry summoned all his strength and guts and yelled 'Amen' and the horse came to a grinding halt right on the edge.

'Hallelujah' shouted Henry.

Contributed by Mary Hollis

# **Bleadon 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.





## Email address for the Parish Clerk parishclerk@bleadonparishcouncil.gov.uk

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. If it's a last minute issue you wish to raise you can still ask to address the Council but they may not immediately have the answers you require.

Send all correspondence about Bleadon Parish Council matters to the Parish Clerk: Bruce Poole, Bleadon Parish Council, Rooftops, 10 South Street, Burnham-on-Sea TA8 1BS

Tel: 07887 802 922

parishclerk@bleadonparishcouncil.gov.uk Visit the Bleadon parish website at: www.bleadonparishcouncil.gov.uk

## **Your Bleadon Parish Councillors**

I D Clarke The Granary, Mulberry Lane, Bleadon Tel: 815182 Ian Gibson 6 Bleadon Mill, Bleadon Tel:814261 **Steve Hartree** Chestnuts, Chestnut Lane, Bleadon Tel: 811849 **Robert House** Purn House Villa, Purn Lane, Bleadon Tel: 815 588 Clive Morris (Vice Chair) 20 Bleadon Mill, Bleadon Tel: 811 591 **Miles Orme** Purn House, Bleadon Road, Bleadon 07989 410767 **Keith Pyke** 8 Whitegate Close, Bleadon Tel: 813 127 **Mary Sheppard** Littlewood, Bridgwater Road, Lympsham Tel: 812 921 Penny Skelley (Chairman) Mendip Croft, Celtic Way, Bleadon Tel: 815 331

The copy deadline for your

contributions to the

Winter edition of

**Bleadon Village News is** 

Friday 23 January 2015

Bleadon Village News is published quarterly by Bleadon Parish Council.

Contributions to this magazine 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.

Send your Village News contributions to:

**Keith Pyke,** *Village News Editor* 8 Whitegate Close, Bleadon BS24 0PW

bleadon.editor@btinternet.com Tel: 01934 813 127

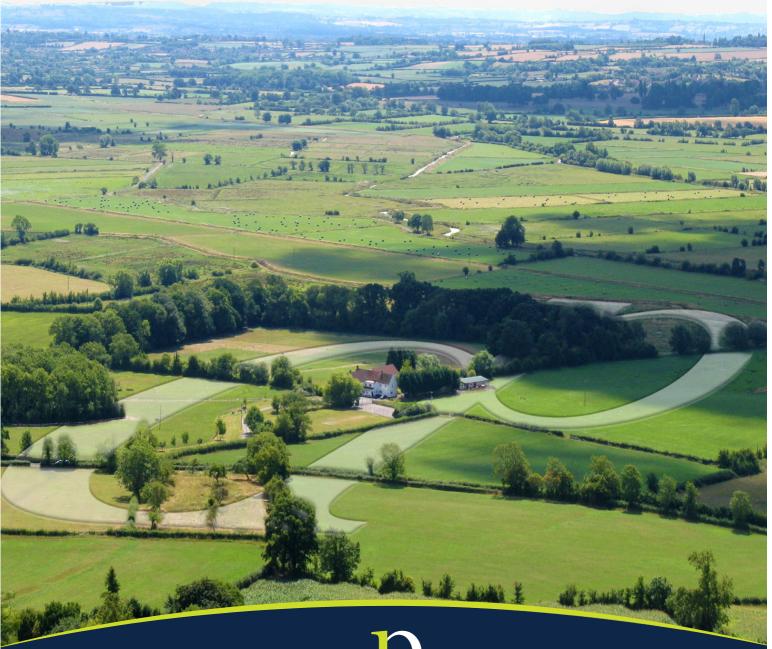
Unless otherwise stated the opinions and comments expressed in this publication are those of the editor or contributor and may not be those of Bleadon Parish Council.

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We do need more volunteer distributors. If you are able to help deliver this magazine to households in Bleadon parish please contact the ediitor on 01934 813 127



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