

# Bleadon village news

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FREE to Bleadon homes

Spring 2014 - Issue 98



**May Day Fayre programme  
and call for helpers**

**Weston Wake Park  
proposals**



**Xmas jumper fun & frolics**



**Spring Show fun & flowers**





Bleadon Camera Club member Tony Gilbert took these photos of our parish church of St Peter & St Paul last November.



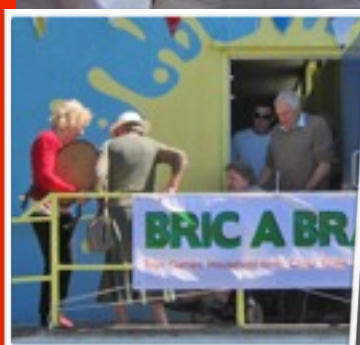
The Camera Club meets on a Tuesday evening in the Coronation Hall

# Bleadon May Day Fayre

## Monday 5 May

### 11am - 4pm

Admission £1 includes programme and cash prize draws



The annual Bleadon May Day Fayre is a much loved celebration of all that is best English in village life.

## A great excuse for fun and revelry



BBQ bacon & sausage baps  
Tea, cakes and loads more  
Pasties  
Beer & cider tent

Fancy dress parade - All creatures great & small  
Minnie & Mickey Mouse  
Live music from Smokestax

# Chairman

Welcome to the first *Bleadon Village News* of the year with news, views and information about life in our lovely Somerset village.

Bleadon Parish Council's recent priority has been setting the Precept for the difficult and challenging financial time ahead. After previous debates and discussions the Precept will remain unchanged for the coming year, with no increase on 2013-14.

The Precept was one of the many topics aired at the **Annual Parish Meeting** on Monday 14 April in the Coronation Hall. The Clerk Mr Bruce Poole presented an explanation of the parish budget in full. The figures will be presented in the next *Village News*.

Alistair and Rob House gave us an update on the **Weston Wakes** project and the current plans for this unique concept. You can read more about it in the centre pages of this *Village News*.

The **Civic Service**, the third for Bleadon Parish Council will be held on **Sunday 18 May** at 10.15 am. at St Peters and St Pauls. All Bleadon Parishioners are invited to join us in celebrating our community.

The Annual **Contactus Party**, sponsored by the Parish Council will be held in the Coronation Hall on **Friday 26 June** at 6.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. The party **welcomes new families** to the village who have come to join us over the last year. Many village clubs and societies will be there to enlighten and inspire new-comers with a taste of all we have to offer and enjoy in Bleadon.

The **summer tubs will be planted up on Saturday 10 May** starting at 10 am. We meet in the car park. Please come armed with a trowel and help the Plant Up volunteers with this season's 'Red' planting scheme. A small token in colour to commemorate the 1914 – 1918 War.

May the year ahead be a good and prosperous one for Bleadon and us all.

*Penny Skelley, Chairman*



## In this issue...some issues

There are a number of concerns that have regularly come up at parish council meetings in recent months. **Anti-social parking** on village roads, **unreliable bus services** and **dog mess** are three of the issues that don't seem to go away.

So, in this Spring issue of Bleadon Village News I have taken a look at a couple of these, in the hope of generating a little more understanding of the problem. This editor can't offer solutions I'm afraid. But by widening the discussion with a little background information I hope that, together, we can work towards an improvement.

Since the introduction by the parish council of the four dog waste bins around the village there has been a marked reduction in the amount of dog mess on our pavements and open spaces. The prohibition orders introduced by North Somerset Council have also had a significant impact.

Yet still there are those anti-social dog walkers who allow their pets to foul our village and fail to clean up after them. I captured this delightful example on the pavement in Coronation Road just a few days ago.



**Why am I harping on about dog mess? Because the parish council faces a decision that will surely impact on this state of affairs.**

Until now North Somerset Council contractors have emptied our four dog bins for us. A couple of years ago it cost the parish council an affordable £336 per annum. Now the cost of the service has risen more than threefold to £1152. That's pretty well unsustainable in the current financial climate.

What is the parish council to do? Get rid of the bins and face a return to the bad old days of dog mess?

Or pay the going rate and add it to the council tax next year? It may mean increasing the Parish Precept by almost £2 per household. This year we have absorbed the cost by making other savings, but that is not sustainable.

Any suggestions?

*Editor*

**Bleadon Village News** is published by Bleadon Parish Council.

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 next edition is Monday 7 July 2014.**

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 throughout the parish..

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

**Send contributions to:**  
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**Bleadon BS24 0PW**  
**Tel: 01934 813 127**





# Editor's views

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.



83 Bleadon - Worlebury

CROSVILLE 01334 836 289

Time 8:00

Days 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

Approximate journey times from Bleadon

Days	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Mondays to Fridays	15:06	16:06	17:06	18:06	19:06	20:06	21:06	22:06	23:06	24:06	25:06	26:06	27:06	28:06	29:06	30:06	31:06	32:06	33:06	34:06	35:06	36:06	37:06	38:06	39:06	40:06	41:06	42:06	43:06	44:06	45:06
Saturdays	15:06	16:06	17:06	18:06	19:06	20:06	21:06	22:06	23:06	24:06	25:06	26:06	27:06	28:06	29:06	30:06	31:06	32:06	33:06	34:06	35:06	36:06	37:06	38:06	39:06	40:06	41:06	42:06	43:06	44:06	45:06

No Sunday or Public Holiday Service

Bus times are subject to change without notice. Please check the website for the latest information.

This timetable is effective from 15 Dec 2013

## Bus service?

A regular complaint at recent parish council meetings concerns the alleged irregularity of the 83 bus service and the oversize vehicles now operating on our narrow village roads. Village News contacted the officer responsible for Supported Bus services at North Somerset to try and get some clarification.

**BVN** Would you confirm please what is now happening with the 15:06 service from Bleadon (Bridge Rd stop). Does it now only run through Bleadon at that time during school holidays? If so, surely the timetable on the stops needs clarification?

**NSC** "The timetable for the 83 route has become more complicated as some journeys have been lost to allow for a school bus operation. It is hoped in the longer term that this will result in the service being operated on a commercial basis as Council budgets for supporting bus services have been reduced. (Hear alarm bells?)

The journey at 15:06 from Bleadon now operates on non school days and Saturdays only. We have received complaints from passengers at the Worlebury end of the route that timetables are difficult to understand, and that further clarification of school terms is required as people waiting at bus stops would not always know what the school dates are. As a result some timetables have been produced for locations such as the town centre stops which clearly indicate the non school journeys and detail term times for the service. I will see if we can do something similar for the Bleadon stops."

**BVN** As many passengers are elderly it is quite understandable that many of them will not know when school holidays are. Once we grow out of the parenting period most people lose track of exactly when school holidays are.

**BVN** My understanding is that the reason for the double decker bus running through the village throughout the day is also because of the afternoon school service.

Many villagers cannot understand why such an oversize (yet nearly empty) vehicle is struggling to get through traffic pinch points. Again, I feel an explanation would help.

**NSC** "You are correct that the larger buses are being used on the route for the school service. We will monitor the operations of this school service as there have also been some issues with the bus being delayed on the school run and then not getting back onto the service on time."

The 15:06 bus into Weston only runs during the school holidays and Saturdays

For the benefit of bus passengers here are the dates of up-coming school terms.

**22 April - 23 May**

**2 June - 22 July**

**1 Sept - 24 Oct**

**3 Nov - 19 Dec**

**5 Jan - 13 Feb 2015**

There's another clue about when the 83 may be providing the 15.06 afternoon service - look out for the single decker bus running through the village. It appears to only operate during the school holidays!

Is it me?

## Get this sorted NSC

I can live with changes to the timetable, so long as we are all told about them.

I can live with the ridiculous decision to run a double decker throughout the day for the benefit of one school run that doesn't even serve Bleadon.

But I cannot rely on a service that is too often late or fails to appear at all. North Somerset, please get the schedule sorted out and working for us here in Bleadon.

Otherwise passengers will stop using the service.

Or is that the plan?

Editor

# NEWS and views

## Storm damage

Whilst the *BVN* editor was basking in the warmth of the Melbourne sunshine, the rest of you were being battered and drenched by the February storms.

Bus shelters were blown away, utility poles felled, roofs ripped off and drains overflowed (again). Compared to some parts of the country it looks like we got off very lightly.

*Ian Findlay captured some of the carnage on camera.*

The old timber bus shelter at the top of Celtic Way was totally destroyed by the gale-force winds. It's given us a good few years of service, having been moved over 12 years ago from its original location at the junction of Bridge / Bleadon Roads. The parish council has yet to decide whether to replace it.



## Eco plans for sewage treatment works

Wessex Water have put forward proposals for improving the wildlife habitat and pedestrian access around their Accommodation Road treatment works.

Following the recent completion of major enlargement and improvements to the works that handle our foul water and sewage the company hopes to make the surrounding land more accessible to walkers and more habitable for wildlife, water fowl, flora and fauna.

Wessex Water are in lengthy discussions with the various environmental agencies to ensure that we all benefit from the best practical solution. Initial draft proposals were presented to the parish council at the March meeting. We now await final proposals and look forward to the work being completed after the end of this nesting season.



## 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. Of course, this is dependent upon there being space available. With so much going on in our little village space on the boards is frequently at a premium.

Leave your A4 (portrait format) posters at the Post House Stores at Purn. Tony the village ranger picks up the posters at 8.30 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 Tony tries to be as fair to everyone as possible. Priority will always go to promoting village based events for Bleadon residents.

# NEWS and views

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## Who is responsible for our footpaths?

**There have been a few misconceptions about who is responsible for footpath maintenance around Bleadon. BVN hopes to clarify the issue.**

According to the NSC website North Somerset Council are responsible for maintaining public footpaths, public bridleways, restricted byways and a byway open to all traffic. They aim to have them legally defined and signed as well as maintaining the surface of public rights of way, cutting back surface vegetation on some routes and working with landowners to ensure their path furniture (gates, fences and stiles) are safe. See: [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/transport/public-rights-of-way/Pages/Public-rights-of-way](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/transport/public-rights-of-way/Pages/Public-rights-of-way).

Recent budget and staffing cuts mean that NSC is unable to carry out all the work it previously did around the District. My understanding is that now the Public Rights of Way team have a part-time staff of three and a total budget of £24,000 to manage the whole District. If we want to have our footpaths clear and accessible we are going to have to help ourselves.

I think it's safe to say that most landowners are not too bothered about maintaining footpaths for our use. I'm not sure that I can blame them. After all, how does it benefit them to have the public and their pets tramping over their land?

*Editor*

## Volunteers always wanted for footpath improvements

Swingeing budget cuts by central government mean that North Somerset Council and the Mendip Hills AONB are no longer able to provide the level of footpath maintenance that we have been used to. It now comes down to the parish council and volunteers to take over the role if we wish to keep our footpaths accessible.

The Bleadon Rights of Way Group has been set up to fulfill this need. If you have the time and energy to help maintain and improve Bleadon's footpaths please contact Andy Eddy on 814264.

## Improvements to footpath

Walkers using the Whitegate Farm footpath between Rectory Lane and Purn Way have benefitted from recent improvements carried out by members of the Bleadon Rights of Way Group.

Andy Eddy and Ian Findlay hand laid a tonne of new stone scalplings funded by the parish council. They then installed a new easy access gate provided by North Somerset Council which should prove a boon to less able walkers and pushchairs.



## Marshalls quarry redevelopment

Following the two public consultations held by Marshalls in the Bleadon Youth Centre last autumn, and subsequent discussions with the District Council the company has now lodged an outline planning application with North Somerset Council.

The outline application is for a mixed use scheme of 53 dwellings and 500sq. mtrs of employment floor space. Details of access, landscaping, layout, scale and appearance to be reserved for subsequent approval.

Readers can view the complete application details on the North Somerset Council planning website. The application number is **14/P/0687/O**



# NEWS and views

## No doorstep trading in Bleadon

Bleadon is now a **No Doorstep Trading Village**, backed by Avon & Somerset Police and North Somerset Council Trading Standards.

Window stickers were distributed by Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators with the recent issue of Police News. The road signs will be in place shortly at the entry points to the village.

**Please ensure that you display the new door stickers**, because without these and the road signs, the scheme is not legally enforceable.

Once this has been done, anyone may **call the Police on 101** or **Trading Standards** at the Town Hall on **01934 888 888**, if you are pestered by unwanted salespeople or rogue traders



## Anti-social parking

It's another regular topic at parish council meetings. What can be done about irresponsible and anti-social parking on our roads?

Regular hot spots for complaint are around the junction of Shiplate Road/ Celtic Way, outside the Catherines Inn and the Queens Arms, at the south end of Bridge Road and around the play area Coronation Road bend.

Dealing with the problem is a regular Police Priority for the parish council, but there are limitations on what can be done.

A vehicle obstruction in law is actually covered by a number of acts, however, on most occasions the Highways Act 1980 will be used by Police. In essence, Police have to show that the vehicle is actually causing an obstruction to a member of the public. Quite simply, if a vehicle is parked in such a way that you are unable to easily walk along the pavement, enter and exit a property, then an obstruction offence applies. This includes passing along the pavement or entering and exiting a building in a wheelchair, mobility scooter, pushing a pram or using a walking frame/trolley.

Obstructions include: **Parking on the pavement**- if a vehicle is parked partially or wholly on a pavement in such a way that you are unable to freely and easily pass, an obstruction offence applies.

**Parking in front of driveway/gate/walkway/drop curb**- If a vehicle is parked in such a way that you are unable to freely and easily leave your house/business/land then the offence of obstruction applies. However the offence may not apply if a vehicle is parked in a way that prevents you from gaining access to your driveway or land.

A car, van, lorry, motorcycle can all cause an obstruction to the highway as long as it is on a public road- this would not apply to private land/road.

Often the District Council as well as Police have powers to deal with parking on double yellow lines and other road markings.

If you are caused such an obstruction then call your local Police on telephone number **101** to request Police attendance. A Police Officer or a PCSO can deal with vehicle obstructions; the options they have available are;

- **Locating the owner and asking them to remove the vehicle.**
- **Issuing a fixed penalty ticket to the vehicle.**
- **Requesting its removal by a tow truck.**

### Leaving vehicles in dangerous positions

If a person in charge of a vehicle causes or permits the vehicle or a trailer drawn by it to remain at rest on a road in such a position or in such condition or in such circumstances as to involve a danger of injury to other persons using the road, he is guilty of an offence.

*Road Traffic Act 1988*



Please don't worry about calling the Police on **101** for an obstruction, as this is something that can be simply and quickly dealt with.

# May Day Fayre appeals for help

We are rapidly heading towards Bleadon's biggest annual event on Monday 5 May and there are some things we still need your help with.

## WANTED Quality Bric-a-Brac

The Friends of Bleadon Church are appealing for your donations of good quality bric-a-brac and unwanted household items to help raise desperately needed funds at the **May Day Fayre on 5 May.**

### We want good quality

- China
- Glassware
- Electricals in good working order
- Household
- Kitchen tools and equipment
- Small furniture items
- Gardening tools and equipment
- Collectables
- Jewellery
- Toys
- DVDs and CDs

### Thank you, but we don't want:

- Clothes
- Bedding
- Soft furnishings
- Anything that's broken or incomplete
- TVs (Cathode tube type) + Video tapes
- Junk and jumble you wouldn't buy yourself

*Please don't take offence if we have to decline offers of goods that aren't up to our demanding standards.*

**Friends of Bleadon Church are collecting donations of bric-a-brac until 26 April. If you can deliver to us that's even better.**

**Call Mary Hollis on 811 165 or Brian Drinkwater on 813 636**

## Helpers on the day

We expect over 1500 visitors on May Day and we need loads of help with setting up and running the dozens of stalls and activities throughout the day.

### If you can help with

- erecting a stall
- running a stall
- organising activities
- catering

Particularly help with

- The Book stall
- BBQ
- Tombola

If you can help please call  
**Miles on 07989 410 767**  
or **Keith on 813 127**

**Don't be shy, join the fun**



John is again collecting toys and soft cuddlies for his Toy Stall & Tombola. **Your clean and wholesome toy donations welcome at the White House, Mulberry Lane**





# NEWS

## May Day plans coming together

Once again the May Day Fayre will be a collaborative effort by supporters of the Friends of Bleadon Church and the Youth Club. Between them they hope to at least match the £5000 they made for the two village charities last year.

So far the day's programme is looking something like this:

- Church bells ring out from 10.30am
- **Gates open at 11.00.** No admission before this time
- Adult admission £1 includes Free prize cash draws and programme
- Accompanied children under 12 yrs free admission
- Children's Fancy Dress parade has the theme **All Creatures Great and Small**. Starts from the church at 11.15
- Mickey and Minnie Mouse will lead the parade and be around for photo opportunities in the morning
- Smokestax Blues Band performing live throughout the day
- Two separate performances from the Chalice Morris Men
- Bleadon Brownies with their Crazy Elephant and much more
- BBQ bacon and sausage baps
- Bar - with more Butcombe on tap this time!
- Book stall
- Plants
- Refreshments in the Cory Hall
- Bric-a-brac in the Youth Centre
- Toy stall and loads more fun and games
- Animal petting zoo
- Vintage engine
- Overacting pirates
- Pasties
- Cakes & jams produce stall

**Only a real Grump would miss such a great village day out !**

## Help us bring a splash of colour

Volunteers are needed to help plant up our village floral tubs on **Saturday 10 May**.

If you can help for an hour or two please come along to the Coronation car park at 10am. All you need is a trowel, a green bag and a pinch of community spirit. The parish council provides all the plants.



## It's goodbye to Tony our Village Ranger

LATE NEWS

After three years of clearing up our litter, looking after the play area and our other village open spaces Tony Derrick is handing in his gloves and fluorescent jacket on 3 May.

The parish council has yet to decide if the vacant post will be filled. Any takers?



### FRIDAYS

Apr 25  
May 9, 23  
June 6, 20  
July 4, 18  
Aug 1, 15, 29

## Mobile library

The mobile library rolls into Bleadon every fortnight on a Friday morning. Its next scheduled stop is on Friday 25 April, from 10.45 until 12.45.

It parks up in Coronation Road near the church and brings with it friendly staff and lots of books. Talking and large print books too.

You can return items you borrow to any North Somerset library.

On board you can also browse the entire on-line catalogue and the internet.

# NEWS

## New coat of paint for the Cory Hall

Completing a programme of recent improvements to the Coronation Road community site the Coronation Halls now boast a bright new magnolia coat.

This follows on from the fitting of new UPVC windows earlier last year.

The management committee played it safe in its choice of colour. Wishing to avoid the kind of contentious comment that was levelled at the youth centre last year for its choice of bright colours in a village setting.



## Don't lose your vote

If you fail to Register to Vote with North Somerset Council you cannot vote. If you did not return a completed Registration form last Autumn you can still register by contacting the Electoral Registration Service at the Town Hall on 01934 888 888.

**On 22 May you will be electing your six European Members of Parliament. Next year there will be both Parish and District Council elections.**

You can choose to **vote by post.**

If you find it difficult to get to the polling station on election day a postal vote allows you to vote from your sofa. Any voter can select to have a postal vote. It couldn't be easier.

## Donate your unwanted

**toys now** to John Lance and help him raise funds at the **May Day Fayre**. Toys need to be in good clean working condition please. Bring them along to the **White House** near the end of **Mulberry Lane**.

## Meanwhile, in the play area

Workmen from the S&B Fencing team have been busy re-locating the timber ball wall that caused the parish council and some neighbours so much angst in the latter half of 2013.

Happily the new location and newly chamfered posts seems to have solved the problem of climbing youngsters and frequent balls in the road.

Let's hope that everyone can now play nicely (and safely) together.

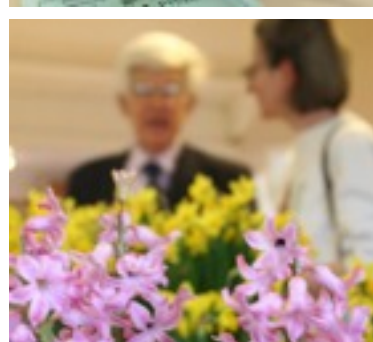




# Spring show



The Coronation Hall was filled from wall to wall with exhibits as varied as a model of a lego coach from the "Italian Job" in the Children's section to adult flowers, photographs, pictures and mouth watering home crafts as the Bleadon Horticultural Society held its 40<sup>th</sup> Spring Flower Show. Libby Lockyer was presented with two cups for her efforts while other trophies were won by Lindsay Ireland, Chris Cudlipp, Antoinette Welch, Maggie Pettit and Jeff Davis with Natthakarn Apps and Pete Williams sharing the cup for the most points in the photography classes. Young Jack Wagstaff was presented with the cup for the best Victoria Sandwich while Joanne Jones won the Jeff Davis trophy, as the Bleadon Master Baker. In the junior section cups were won by Orson Fuller, Edward Durston and Jack Wagstaff in their various age groups.

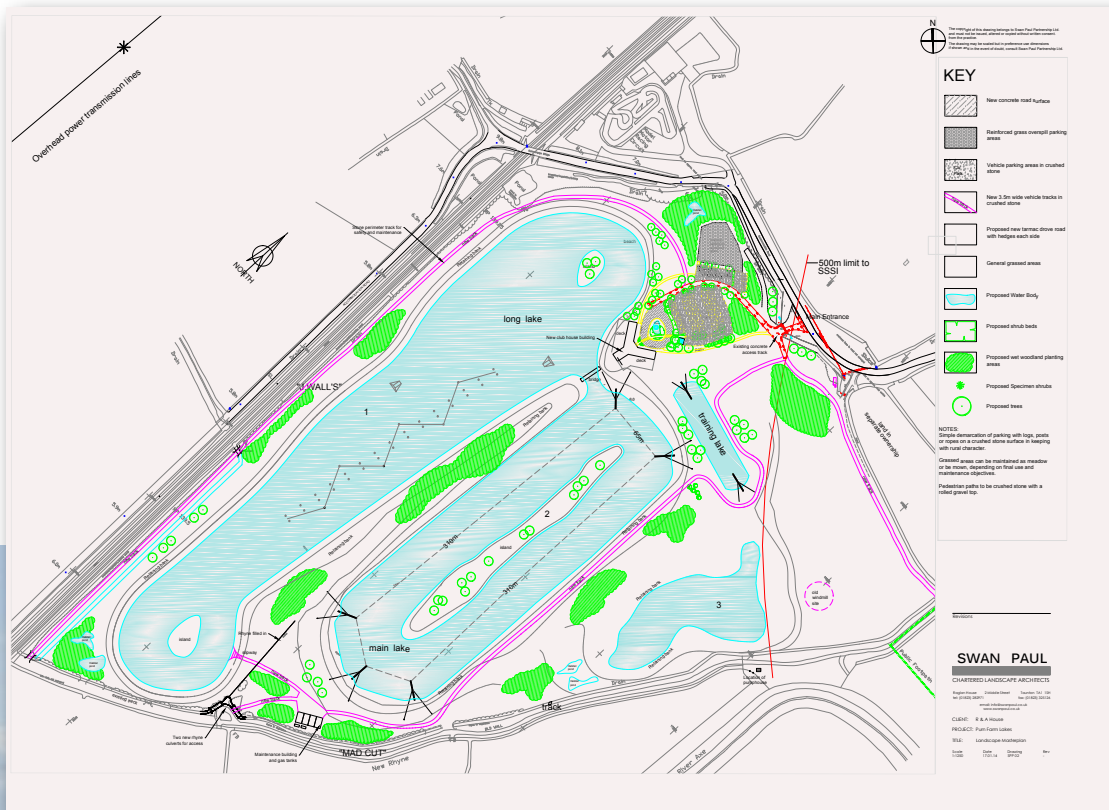




# Weston Wake Park

Once thought of as a bit of a pipe dream by some villagers, the House brothers have taken a step closer to realising their ambitions for a major tourist attraction. The lengthy process of planning and preparation are at long last reaching the critical stage of seeking Planning approval for the Accommodation Road site.

After protracted discussions with the planning department at North Somerset Council, an application has now been put forward for registration. Alistair and Robert House are delighted to be able to make the proposal for a change of use to tourism uses and the realisation of their long cherished dream to open a water park here in Bleadon that will be a regional leisure and sporting asset throughout the year.



The longer of the three lakes will provide space for canoeing, kayaking, boat-towed skiing and a segregated section for swimming.

There will be walking paths so that visitors can enjoy the natural environmental pleasures of these wetland riverside areas.

## What's wakeboarding?

Wakeboards are like skateboards on water. Cable wakeboarding allows numbers of boarders to ski simultaneously. The tow mechanism consists of two cables running parallel to one another supported on steel gantries which hook up tow ropes with riders. Tow ropes are detached and attached without slowing the system down.





The park will utilise a pre-existing lake which was permitted in 2011 (11/P/0305/F). The plan describes an additional lake, a clubhouse and access arrangements.

The proposed use is centred around a cable tow system which tows the wake-board rider around the oval lake on an endless cable. The longer lake provides space for open water swimming, canoeing, kayaking, and boat-towed water-skiing.

Since the Olympics, Triathlon, Rowing and Sailing have all been receiving immense interest from the public. These and other sports will be catered for at the Lake Site along with simple walks amongst the lakes to enjoy the improved natural environment and the opportunity to sit on the shore of the lakes. A small beach area is proposed as it is envisaged that the Lakes will provide a range of opportunities from the high-adrenalin water sports through to quiet enjoyment at the water's edge. The cable tow system is the modern alternative to being towed by a boat and is almost

silent in operation, as well as being electrically powered, which means that a small solar panel array can provide the power for it.

The 50 acre site is one of the only purpose designed parks of its type (most other cable-tows use existing sand/gravel pits), so this one is shallower and therefore safer. The next two nearest cable-tow sites are in London and Cornwall, each more than 120 miles away- this could be an exciting addition to the region's sporting offering, providing year-round employment.

Alistair and Rob look forward to showing their plans to the public at the Annual Parish meeting on April 14 as well as a few other dates which will be publicised locally.

*Alistair and Robert House*  
Weston Wake Park  
c/o Purn House Farm, Bleadon  
tel: 01934 815587  
[info@Westonwakepark.co.uk](mailto:info@Westonwakepark.co.uk)



*The proposal includes a low profile clubhouse and cafe building designed to meld sympathetically into the landscape.*

*The low-noise solar electric powered cable tow system will provide an energy efficient continuous loop for wake-boarders.*

*Ramps and sliders on the wakeboarding lake can provide the added excitement adrenalin junkies require.*



The cost of providing these additional colour pages in Village News has been entirely paid for by Alistair and Rob House.



# Pantomania !

With both Cleopatra and Snow White hitting the boards around Christmas, Bleadon was awash with lovies. Before Christmas we had a first ever performance by the Queens Arms artistes entertaining us al-fresco in the pub car park with the world's tallest dwarfs. A month later the Bleadon Players had us cheering the hero and booing the villains with their Cleopatra.



CLEOPATRA





# Sociable Bleadon



Mirror mirror  
who is the fairest  
of them all?



Just need to  
find my lines

This was a first for the Queens Arms and some of its regulars. A return to the roots of pantomime performed in the village pub. Great fun and merrymen with the bonus that they all lived happily-ever-after. Can't ask for more that.....surely? Wonder what's in store for this year's lavish tinsel-time production?



You are.....very  
nearly my Queen.



## Xmas Big Prize Draw

Miles worked the Christmas crowd at the QA and raised a much appreciated £290 for Bleadon Youth Club. Thanks to the Queens Arms for hosting the event and providing all the prizes.



....and the  
winner of the  
festive jumper competition is....





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

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# Sociable Bleadon

## Scarletts 16th birthday party in the Youth Centre...

...a ladettes to ladies sleepover. ..with a murder mystery thrown in. The 13 girls turned up as ladettes...and by breakfast time they were ladies.

Games 'n disco throughout the night 'n films in the music room. It was a fantastic night and everyone had lots of fun. We made full use of the kitchen facilities...three course evening meal 'n full english breakfast. Will definitely be hiring again in the future.  
*Scalett's mum Tina Blair*



## Torbay Triumph

The first success of our Spring bowling break in Torquay was against the weather, it was actually like Spring. So, whilst the hotel complex does provide a comprehensive range of off-mat facilities, we, dangerously armed with bus passes, gave the public transport system a wake up call for the season ahead with excursions to the outskirts.

Back on the mats. despite the stress of an agonising anagram quiz, drip-feed bingo, birthday celebrations, 'chase the Ace' and too much to eat we enjoyed record-breaking results. Playing sixteen matches against local opposition, two of our five teams remained unbeaten throughout, giving a final score of: won 11, lost 3 drawn 2 .

Success indeed and congratulations to the holiday trophy winners: Doreen, Janice, Kevin and John.

Thanks again to event organisers Malcolm and Grace and 'YOU'RE A HOOP LEASER' to Doreen!

*Pete Williams*



### Appeal for two lost bowls!

Last September the Short Mat Bowls Club held an open day for new members and it appears that two of the club bowls may have been borrowed and not returned. These are needed for other members. If you know where they are please return them to the club as soon as possible.



## New bench on Well Green

The Thorne family have generously donated a new bench to celebrate the memory of Frank Thorne and in appreciation of his work for the village. This fine oak bench replaces the original which was placed by the Thornes on the little green in front of the old parish pumps alongside Mulberry Lane in 1985.

# Sociable 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 each week it's a great opportunity for your baby or toddler to play and for you to meet up with other mums, dads and grandparents.



Toddlers photo by Mendip Photography

## 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.



## Sunday Club

On the **first Sunday of the month** youngsters of any age can come along to the Church Rooms for fun and games. Assemble in the church at 10.15 before we pop across the road to the Church Rooms. Usually goes through until about 11.30.

## Bleadon Horticultural Society

**Third Tuesday of the month** in the Coronation Hall at 7.30pm. Everyone with an enthusiasm for gardening is welcome at our informal but informative meetings. Admission £1.

## Friendship Club

We will welcome some interesting speakers coming to the Coronation Hall during the coming months. Plus various musical afternoons, quizzes, raffles and more. We are a small group of people who always welcome new Friends.

**Friday afternoons** 2.15 - 4pm. £1

Audrey Lee

## The Bleadon WI

Meets **every 2nd Thursday** of the month in the Coronation Hall at 7.30pm. We have recently celebrated our fifth anniversary with a fine meal at The Beachlands Hotel in Weston.

Membership has grown considerably since 2009 and has nearly reached 100 ladies. In addition to our regular meetings we also run three book clubs, a walking group, two skittle teams, a lunch and supper club and a craft club.

There are organised visits to places of interest where you can make and develop friendships. So far in 2014 at our monthly meetings we have had a talk from Paul Cook an ostrich farmer, Kelli Gould from the The Wine Tasting Company and a local MP at our March meeting.

Visitors to our meetings are always welcome and for £3 you can come and sample the delights of the Bleadon WI.

Aline Bennett



## Bleadon Youth Club & Centre

Buzzing with social activities for young people aged 10 to 18yrs from 6.15 to 9pm. on **Tuesdays** and **Thursdays**. Just £1.50 per session. Registration conditions apply.

The bright and spacious youth centre building is also available to hire. It's ideal for kids parties and youthful group activities. Call Keith on 813127

**Nature Kids Purn Meadows, Purn House Farm, Bleadon.** Weekly 1.5 hour sessions for 2-4 year olds to discover nature, explore, make things and have fun in our wonderful Bleadon setting. You and your child can spend quality time together interacting with the natural environment and enjoying the magic of playing outside. Contact Sarah on 07884203766 or see [www.nature-kids.co.uk](http://www.nature-kids.co.uk)



## 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

**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

**Toddler Group** 9.30-11.30

**Yoga Class\*\*** 9.30-10.30

**Bleadon Players/Rehearsals** 7.30pm

**Bleadon Pilates\*\*** 7pm

### 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

### 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 **812 370**.

## GRAND SALE

### Over the Easter weekend

We are moving and holding a garage and household effects sale  
**Sat/Sun/Mon 19/20/21 April.**

Items include garden furniture, parasols, George Foreman electric BBQ, Webber BBQ, garden tools, electric mower etc, etc.

**Ash Dene, Bleadon Road**



# Sociable Bleadon

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Something new every month **and** refreshments. [www.bleadon.org.uk/market](http://www.bleadon.org.uk/market)

## Bleadon Village Monthly Market & community cafe

**SAT  
19  
APR**

**SAT  
17  
MAY**

**SAT  
21  
JUN**

**SAT  
19  
JUL**

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

Call Joanne on 01934 812 370 for more info

### Bleadon Ladies Club

Bleadon Ladies Club finally closed down in January. With a depleted Committee of myself, a treasurer and a tea lady and falling numbers every month, I have run the club for the past year virtually on my own, booking speakers, organising raffles, writing quizzes and chairing the meetings. Now the treasurer has decided to resign and I cannot manage the money as well. At every meeting I asked for help on the committee but none was forthcoming so it was decided there was no other option but to close. With many other commitments, I realised it was taking too much of my time so our Christmas lunch at the Batch was our final get together. After paying all our outstanding bills, we sent all the remaining money of £165 to our nominated charity - The Great Western Air Ambulance, for which they were very grateful.

Many thanks to all those ladies who have supported me throughout this difficult year.

*Jo Lucas (Chairperson)*

### There's loads going on

With over 20 clubs, groups and societies providing social activities for young and old in Bleadon there's plenty of opportunities for you to join in. Check the parish notice boards for what's happening in your village.

### Bleadon Photographic Group

Last November the group held an exhibition of photos of the church and our own work at the request of the past vicar and also we have contributed towards the application of a new replacement vicar for the church by way of the photographs we exhibited.

New members are welcome to join us on a Tuesday evening, to any presentations given by invited photographers.

Bleadon Photographic Group meet on a **Tuesday evening at 7.30pm** in the Coronation Hall Bleadon. For more information see their web site [www.bleadonphotographicgroup.moonfleet.com](http://www.bleadonphotographicgroup.moonfleet.com) or contact Tony Gilbert on 01278 760 956.

### Welcome to new residents

**Contactus** exists to give help and local advice to all newcomers into the village. We visit those who have recently 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 Friday 26 June in the Coronation Hall 6.30 to 8.30pm**. This is a relaxed occasion and provides the opportunity of making new friends and finding out about our 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*



[www.Bleadon.org.uk](http://www.Bleadon.org.uk)  
Independent Community Website  
Est. 2004

Do you wish you knew more about Bleadon? Do you want to share ideas, news, views and concerns about general topics, planning applications, green issues, etc.? Would you like to find local businesses, activities, events and walks; or to offer your services or skills? Then please visit the website or send an email to [BOB@Bleadon.org.uk](mailto:BOB@Bleadon.org.uk) and I'll point you in the right direction.



This ad paid for by a Bleadon resident & BOB supporter

# Village people

Royston Walters continues his revelations about Bleadon villagers. Here he meets up with Wendy Marriott

**A well baked sourdough loaf, preferably seeded, sliced and toasted. Lashings of French butter, a warm plate and generous portions of a West Country marmalade laced with a single malt whisky. Dappled shadows playing on a book lined wall sway in time with the gentle breeze on a warm Spring morning. A Chopin piano concerto plays unobtrusively, there's a cat on the knee and a dog at the feet, in your hands the latest novel by your favourite author. All is well.**

This is as close as I can get to describing how it is to be with Wendy Marriot. Do not be deceived; it is not her softness but her strength that instills the sense of warmth and security you feel in her company, she is one you would happily follow into combat. And that is the point; her defining qualities are those of determination and leadership.

Wendy Marriot is a head teacher employed by Bristol City Council to remedy failing schools. Often at very short notice and in dramatic circumstances she is commissioned into a school with her only brief being 'Turn it around'.

Wendy is also an Ofsted School Inspector. She works in teams of three to ensure that schools reach and maintain prescribed standards. The pace of government reforms has been stepped up in recent times and makes this work at times controversial. She is also a self employed 'School Improvement Partner' where her experience is called upon to help other heads during times of crisis or tempestuous change.

Wendy is immensely proud of her heritage. Her grandfather was brought up in a workhouse, her grandmother in a gypsy caravan. This couple had eighteen children, Wendy's father being the youngest



but his mother didn't survive the birth. On her mother's side they were a Guernsey family, the women had an abiding passion for fortune telling and mystery.

Wendy asserts it was her mother who was the driving force in their family, her father was a man who lacked confidence due to, she thinks, being brought up by a succession of sisters. But, listen to this as an illustration of her father's determination.

One evening while lost in Southampton (he was on standby to disembark as part of the D- Day landing force) he briefly met a girl of whom he asked directions. Ignoring strict instructions 'never to talk to soldiers' she politely showed him the way but rebutted any other overtures he employed to curry favour. Days later this delicate girl was sent to work in a foundry in Maidenhead to aid the war effort. Wendy's father was smitten and every Saturday night travelled to Maidenhead to visit every dance hall in the area until he found her.

They married after the war and rented a house in a dilapidated area of Southampton near the docks where Wendy's father found work as crane driver. Wendy arrived and she swears her mother, lacking in

imagination, named her after the brand of wool she was using to knit booties for the expectant child. They became a family of four and Wendy illustrates the poverty of her street by telling how children used to knock on neighbours' doors with a plate saying "Have you got anything for my Dad's tea?"

It was during this time that Wendy suffered a ruptured appendix, she was very seriously ill and at one point was not expected to last the night. The miracle of penicillin and the infant National Health Service

saved her but her mother observes that she entered hospital on the 13th, she stayed for 13 days and henceforth, 13 was going to be her lucky number.

She reflects on these uncomfortable times, curiously, as the very happiest, their community's shared difficulties fostered a sure and profound sense of belonging.

All well and good, however the standard of education at the local school was appalling. The number of children passing the 11+ exam was not recorded because no children were entered. A clear case of backward post war thinking equating poverty with a lack of intelligence. This incensed Wendy's mother and motivated her to change their circumstances.

A new rent act had recently come into force which meant that by canniness and sleight of hand Wendy's parents exchanged their right to buy their rented property at a concessionary price for a mortgage on a property in a much better area. So at ten years of age Wendy moved school and during the first weekly test she came 48th in a class of 48, but, a year later she passed her 11+. Wendy went to Grammar school and passed her 'O' levels but university



never beckoned, the height of ambition for a working class girl in those days was an office job.

She took a secretarial course and got a job as personal assistant to the managing director of Southampton airport. He was tremendously wealthy with a wife who was heir to an industrialist's fortune. This couple liked her and under their guardianship she travelled extensively and gained insights into a world, the benefits of which, she could only dream about.

An airport environment is fertile ground for an attractive young lady to meet professional young men, one such was Leo, a newly qualified air traffic controller. She'd seen him, met him and on casual acquaintance had found him wanting, she wasn't the least interested - there were plenty of fish in her sea. On closer inspection most of the other fish turned out to be mackerel, rather oily and not to her taste so when Leo asked her to a party she accepted. Almost from the first moment they were alone they were besotted. 46 years later it remains the same

When Wendy is 21 she and Leo have their first son Nigel and soon after, another son, Simon. Fate takes a hand and they move to chilly Northumberland. Bringing up the boys is Wendy's full time job, she just wants to lavish love and affection. As Nigel grows a nagging instinct tells her something is amiss with him, frustratingly she can't put her finger on it because he is affectionate, happy and intelligent.

Wendy mentions to Nigel's teacher that she feels something is not quite right. After a myriad tests and numerous visits to diverse specialists they discover he is 80% deaf. They also discover the extent of his amazing intelligence, which in connection with his perfect lip-reading, has hidden the hearing deficiency. He has hearing aids fitted which work well and the concern recedes. The boys grow and when they are less dependent, Wendy at 37 finds a renewed purpose in life and applies for teacher training.

She becomes a teacher at 40 and instantly loves the job and the children. The skills of inspiring her wards, instilling discipline and the politics of dealing with parents, she finds, are not instinctive and only come with experience. She is judged to be an excellent teacher and is encouraged to seek promotion but the boys are still at home and they remain her first consideration.

The time arrives for the boys to leave for university and Wendy feels she is free to further her career. She actively takes steps toward becoming a head teacher but during this intense time she and Leo notice that Nigel is increasingly accident prone, always walking into things, it becomes a family joke. Nigel plays rugby and after a particularly bruising encounter he suffers a detached retina and consults a specialist.

Nigel is diagnosed with a rare genetic disease called Usher's syndrome, at last his hearing loss makes sense for this is a condition which first affects the hearing, the prognosis then indicates a gradual and progressive loss of vision. There is no effective treatment. The emotional impact on the family, the heartache and anguish is impossible to describe.

After ten years in teaching Wendy gets her first job in authority. She becomes acting head of a school in Northumberland, she is effective and her efforts fruitful. This is a brief and vital chapter in her development and soon she is seeking new challenges. Meanwhile Leo is maintaining progress in his field and moves to a position in flight training in Bath. They decide to relocate south.

A post is advertised for the head teacher of Windwhistle Primary School in Weston. The interview straddled two days and she is offered the position. Curiously, one of the factors in deciding to accept the job was the quality of the light she experienced on the seafront in Weston. It was sunset on her first night here, she found the last pale beams of evening markedly different from the cold blueish light

on the north east coast and felt uplifted by it. In the short period before she takes up her new position Wendy and Leo find a house in Bleadon and a new phase begins. They still live in the same house and have now been here sixteen years.

Windwhistle school was a happy one, beloved of pupils and parents alike, a fully integrated part of the community of the Bourneville Estate. The problem was that it was failing the needs of the children and results were poor. Wendy put into action a campaign of measures devoted to celebrating the talents of the pupils. Parents didn't like the changes, they were rejected as unworkable and she was denounced as dangerous. They called a public meeting to voice their dissatisfaction and made sure press and TV crews were in attendance. Similar circumstances and demonstrations have followed her appointment at other schools.

This sort of response could easily expose any failings in her courage, policies or her steely resolve in carrying them out. Wendy is undaunted. She stays at Windwhistle for eight years and leaves with a plaque from pupils and parents inscribed with appreciation for everything she has achieved for them and the school. Now here's the thing.

I have mentioned her steely resolve, her intrepid qualities of determination and mettlesome leadership and to some it may seem that way. But she can't fool me. All the weapons in her vast arsenal of problem solving are primarily conceived with the love she has for children and a wholehearted belief in the gift of education.

Wendy is now past retirement age but she is very much a woman of the present. She recently became head of another school in trouble, there are 35 teachers and hundreds of pupils. There is an ethnic and religious mix which is mind boggling but it's clear to me now, she has one of the simplest jobs in the world. All you need is love.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:parishclerk@bleadonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Visit the Bleadon parish website at:  
[www.bleadonparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.bleadonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

## You will be heard

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## Your Bleadon Parish Councillors

<b>I D Clarke</b>	The Granary, Mulberry Lane, Bleadon	Tel: 815182
<b>Steve Hartree</b>	Chestnuts, Chestnut Lane, Bleadon	Tel: 811849
<b>Robert House</b>	Purn House Villa, Purn Lane, Bleadon	Tel: 815 588
<b>Ian Findlay</b>	The Mount, Shiplate Road, Bleadon	Tel: 812 862
<b>Clive Morris</b> (Vice Chair)	20 Bleadon Mill, Bleadon	Tel: 811 591
<b>Miles Orme</b>	Purn House, Bleadon Road, Bleadon	07989 410767
<b>Keith Pyke</b>	8 Whitegate Close, Bleadon	Tel: 813 127
<b>Mary Sheppard</b>	Littlewood, Bridgwater Road, Lympsham	Tel: 812 921
<b>Penny Skelley</b> (Chairman)	Mendip Croft, Celtic Way, Bleadon	Tel: 815 331

**Bleadon Village News** is published 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 two weeks before publication.

**Send your Village News contributions to:**

**Keith Pyke**, *Village News Editor*

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*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.*

We aim to provide a copy of this magazine free to every household and business in Bleadon. Additional copies are usually available from the editor. We are grateful to the band of volunteers who deliver this newsletter to households. If you can help let me know.

**We still need more volunteer distributors. If you are able to help deliver this magazine to households in Purn Way/Chestnut Lane or around Bridge Garage please contact the editor on 01934 813 127**

**The copy deadline for you to email your contributions for the Summer edition of Bleadon Village News is Monday 7 July 2014.**  
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*Sunday Lunch is priced at £16.50 per person, All dishes on the Dinner Menu are individually priced (see website). A reservation is strongly advised!!*



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