

# Bleadon village news

FREE to Bleadon homes

Spring 2015 Issue 101

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**INSIDE this 101st issue of  
Bleadon Village News**

**Bus service changes fail  
to please passengers**

**Your new parish council**

**Bleadon Belles sing for joy**

**Looking back to the 1920s**



**May Day Fayre preview  
and plenty more news**

**Green fields or housing?  
Our rural landscape is under  
threat from developers**



# Whips, bondage, drugs, bedroom antics and green bogies - panto had them all

With an all star local cast and explicit scenes featuring all of the above the Bleadon Players were guaranteed a packed Coronation Hall for this year's panto performances. They didn't disappoint their eager and vocal audience.

This production of *Sleeping Beauty* delivered the predictable mix of forgotten lines, handsome (and doesn't he know it) hero, well-wicked whiplashing witch, hunchbacked bogie-man, put-upon princess and dotty dame.

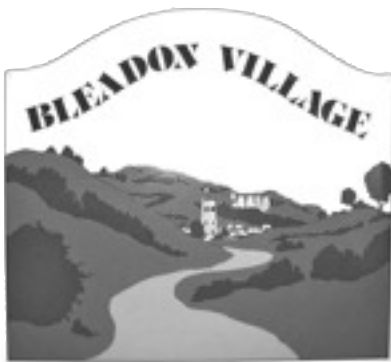
All supported by an enthusiastic cast of players, dancers and musicians. And I swear the voice of the narrator was Vanessa Redgrave taking a break from *Call the Midwife*.



## In her final opening summary as departing Chairman of Bleadon Parish Council Penny looks forward to a summer of positive progress for Bleadon

### Dates for your diary

- 27 Apr Village Plant-up
- 4 May May Day Fayre
- 7 May District and Parliamentary elections
- 11 May First meeting of the newly elected Parish Council
- 12 June Contactus welcome party for newcomers to the village



**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.

*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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'A few words' said the Editor. Just a few, knowing a cornucopia of words will follow.

**The four year term of this Parish Council ends in early May.** On May 7th National, District and Parish Council elections take place across the country.

Many members of the parish council are standing down this year, including myself after 13 years as chairman. Unfortunately, only four candidates have put their names forward for the parish council. This means that the new parish council will need to co-opt members on to the council. This is a chance to serve your community and join the Bleadon Parish Council team. Perhaps you have a 'wish' list, perhaps you would have done things differently. Democracy reigns, ignore the pessimists, I'm sure there will always be a parish council.

It was lovely to see so many of you at the **Annual Parish Meeting** in the Coronation Hall on **April 13th**. This is often the most important meeting of the year. Our District Councillors were be there to field your questions and concerns about the threat of more housing development and bus services.

Unfortunately the new defibrillator wasn't yet in place for the Annual Meeting. By the time you read this it should be installed on the wall of the Coronation Hall. Sponsorship funding is being sought for this invaluable asset to our community.

The Parish Precept has been set at the same rate as last year. Just £73.66 for the average Band D household in Bleadon. This is in spite of increasing costs being passed to the Parish as a result of continued budget cutting by central government and district council.

As many of you will know an outline planning application for housing on Bleadon Hill has again been submitted to North Somerset Council. Considerable and lengthy deliberations were discussed by the Parish Council and concerned members of the public. We now await the outcome from North Somerset.

The annual **Contactus welcome party**, sponsored by the Parish Council, will be held in the Coronation Hall on **Friday 12th June 6.30 - 8.30 pm**. This event welcomes the new-comers and their families to our Bleadon community. Life long friendships are often made! This year the Contactus party is also a thank you to the many clubs and social groups who help and inform new neighbours. There will be **FREE** tickets for the Bleadon Players 2016 panto for all the village newcomers who attend the welcome party.

The summer **Plant Up** will be on **Monday 27 April 10:30 am**. Coronation Hall Car Park.

We need help with the planting. The more the merrier it will be. Full tubs and a splash of dazzling colour is the theme.

Three words in passing - **May Day Fayre** - how lucky in Bleadon we have so much to look forward to in a year.

Thank you for your continuing and sustaining support for Bleadon Parish Council and for making my job so enjoyable over the past 13 years.

*Penny Skelley,  
Chairman*





# NEWS

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## Elections

On Thursday 7 May we shall all be going to the polls to elect our two District Councillors and our Member of Parliament.

It's an important event that will directly affect our day-to-day lives and wellbeing over the next four or five years.

There will be no parish council election in Bleadon on 7 May because just four candidates have stood for the nine available seats on Bleadon Parish Council. This means that the election is uncontested.

The four candidates are automatically elected to the parish council after 7 May without any further ado.

The four elected parish councillors serving you for the next four years are:

**Mrs ID Clarke**

**Mrs Carole Findlay**

**Mr Ian Gibson**

**Mrs Mary Sheppard**

Following the first meeting of the parish council on Monday 11 May the four elected councillors must try and co-opt five other residents to join them on the parish council.



**Arrested, jailed, beaten, chained, body-slammed, twisted, punched, & tortured to win us women the right to vote...and you're NOT going to use it?! Really?**



Getting five people to come forward will be challenging. Retaining a balance of councillors that seek to ensure a progressive and active parish council in Bleadon will continue to be interesting and challenging.

Some of the elected councillors may already have ideas about who they should like to see working alongside them, but the door is open.....

**...if you want to have a say in the future of Bleadon then you may wish to be considered for co-option onto the parish council.**

**If you are interested in being a parish councillor please contact Bruce Poole, the Parish Clerk**

**Tel: 07887 802 922**

## Election timetable for voters

**Last Date for Registration to Vote** Monday 20 April

Receipt of **Postal Vote and Postal Proxy Applications** 5pm Tues 21 April

Publication of Notice of Poll / Situation of Polling Stations Tues 28 April

Receipt of **ordinary Proxy Vote Applications** 5pm Tues 28 April

Last ordinary issue of postal votes 10am Wed 29 April

Day of Poll: Thurs 7 May. Polling stations open 7am - 10pm at the Coronation Hall, Bleadon

Parliamentary election results should be published in the early hours of Friday 8 May

District Council results should be published later during the morning of Friday 8 May

## Could you be a Bleadon Parish Councillor?

**YES**

If you are over 18 and have a passion to make things better in Bleadon. You need to live in Bleadon (or within 3 miles of it) for the last 12 months and you mustn't be a Bankrupt or a convicted criminal.

**YES**

If you really care about the community you live in and want to see it thrive and prosper.

**YES**

If you want to get things done to ensure that our village continues as a wonderful place to live in.

**YES**

If you want to see progress and improvement, but not at any cost to our semi-rural idyl.

**YES**

If you want to have a say in what the council spends taxpayers' money on and are willing to work towards ensuring that the council delivers the best value services.

**YES**

If you have ideas that you are willing to argue for and turn into action. Working as part of the team delivering those on ideas.

## Still interested in being co-opted on to the parish council?

You need to be willing to give up some of your time. How much time depends on you and your commitment to work for your community without being paid.

The parish council meets once a month, usually on the second Monday of the month. These meetings generally last up to two hours.

As a councillor you will also sit on some of the committees that manage the council's resources and deliver the services. These include:

Planning Committee - meets once a month plus visits to planning application sites as required

Finance & Personnel - meets 2 or 3 times a year

Open Spaces - meets 2 or 3 times a year

Whenever possible the committee meetings take place just prior to the Monday evening council meetings.



Lord Chamberlain



## Commanded by Her Majesty

In recognition of her many years as a Bleadon Parish Councillor, including 13 years as Parish Council Chairman, Penny has been invited to a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace later this summer.

Penny is no stranger to these occasions at the palace, but this is the first time that she has been invited in her own right.

Deservedly so.

## No increase in Bleadon Parish Precept for 2015/16

In January the parish council voted to keep the Parish Precept at its current level of £38,000. This is the part of the annual Council Tax bill householders pay towards running the parish council and providing its services.

Bleadon households in an average D Band property are paying £73.66 annually towards the cost of services provided by the parish council.

At a time when costs and responsibilities for the parish are increasing year-on-year it is clear that there will be an increasing call on the council's financial reserves. The actual budget spend for 2015/16 is predicted at over £48,000, which means taking almost £10,000 from bank reserves unless substantial savings can be made over the coming months.

These are challenging times for the new parish council which are likely to continue for some years to come as responsibility for services is devolved from central government and the district council. They are both seeking to make massive savings. The result will be a loss of services or finding other ways of funding them.

In recent years we've seen responsibility for public toilets, youth service provision, dog bin emptying and footpath maintenance transferred to the parish council. What will be next - bus services, verge cutting, litter bin emptying, pot holes, care of the elderly and infirm, library services, policing ?

Challenging times and difficult decisions ahead!

# Goodbye green fields ?

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A pre-planning enquiry for up to 24 dwellings has been submitted to North Somerset Council by the owners of the fields to the north of Amesbury Drive.

Under established arrangements for pre-application this enquiry will be dealt with internally by North Somerset officers and councillors. Hopefully, by the end of April.

Formal consultation with third parties (residents and parish council) will be undertaken if a formal planning application is subsequently made.



Long popular as the green walking link between the village centre and Purn.

The fields that link Purn Way with Rectory Drive lie outside the Bleadon Development (Settlement) Boundary. North Somerset Council will take this and the greenfield importance of the site into consideration when looking at this enquiry.

Hopefully, we shall see this pre-application enquiry dismissed. But I have to declare an interest. Our home overlooks these fields !

*Editor*



## Barn proposal refused

An application to erect a large agricultural storage barn on the field south of Bleadon Road opposite Chestnut Lane has been refused by North Somerset Council. They concluded that the design (including size and massing) and siting of the proposed agricultural building would result in an incongruous and utilitarian structure in an open landscape which would be harmful to this open rural landscape.



# Development proposals for 79 houses on Bleadon Hill

There was a packed house of concerned residents and councillors at the February meeting of the Bleadon Planning Committee when proposals for new housing on Bleadon Hill were discussed. The new development would effectively link Weston and Bleadon.

The proposed development on the two fields west of Bleadon Hill Road opposite Hillcote would bridge the current green and open rural space that separates Bleadon from Weston.

The proposed housing development was unanimously opposed and rejected by Bleadon Parish Council. Let us hope that North Somerset Council Planning officers and councillors are of a like mind and will wish to refuse the Planning Application when it comes before the North Somerset Planning Committee in the coming months. Similar, but smaller, applications have met with refusal in the past. However, these are changing times and more relaxed planning guidelines from central government can mean that local strategies, opinion and desires can count for little against the big guns of developers.



Proposed new housing on this 12 acre greenfield site on Bleadon Hill



# NEWS

## Welcome sewage pipe improvements on Bleadon Road have meant some traffic disruption throughout March and April



Wessex Water are installing a new sewer pipe from the Bridge Road junction along Bleadon Road towards Purn to the pumping station. This is to alleviate occasional problems with sewage flooding to properties in the area of the Barton and Coronation Road. The new pipe will help remove excess flows in the area.

### Rolling road closure

Wessex Water contractors are carrying out the works utilising a rolling road closure commencing from outside the sewage pumping station and progressing in an easterly direction from the sewage pumping station along Bleadon Road to the junction with Bridge Road. Disruptions to property access will be minimised by the rolling roadblock, and contractors are liaising with local residents

when they cannot provide vehicular access to their property for a small period of time.

### Completion 24 April

Wessex are planning to complete the works by 24<sup>th</sup> April if all goes well. If they are still occupying the highway on May Day, 4<sup>th</sup> May, they will make provisions to ensure the road is open in some capacity (traffic lights etc) but are aiming to complete the works before this time.

Hopefully, this major improvement to the sewage system will help alleviate the problems of flooding that have plagued residents in the Coronation Road and Barton area during recent years of extraordinary rainfall.

### Praise from some residents

The temporary traffic lights at the junction of Bleadon Road and Bridgwater Road have proved popular with residents exiting onto the A370 from Purn.

The traffic control provides welcome assurance for drivers facing the challenge of safely joining the speeding traffic

**Maybe this is a taste of better things to come at this junction?**



# NEWS

## May the fourth be with you

Hackneyed headlines aside, this year's Bleadon May Day Fayre promises to be day packed with family fun, live entertainment (some by Royal Appointment), traditional revelry and tasty treats.



The May Day Fayre will open on the Bleadon Coronation car park at **11:00**. Tickets on the gate in the form of the printed programme will be just £1. Accompanied children under 12 are admitted free.

Listen out for the church bells heralding in the Fayre from 10:30.

A day packed with live entertainment and fun-filled activities is promised. Some traditional favourites like the **Chalice Morris Men** will be kicking up their bells and wacking their sticks. In celebration of their long association with the Bleadon May Day Fayre the Chalice Men will be performing a **new dance specially created for our Bleadon May Fayre**.

The children's fancy dress parade will be led from the church to the Coronation car park at 11:30 by Disney *Frozen* characters **Elsa and Olaf**. Prizes for everyone who enters and lots of photo opportunities for mums, dads and proud grandparents.

**Smokestax Blues Band** will be providing the background notes throughout the day. So get your dancing shoes on for later in the day when the Butcombe and Thatchers liberates those inhibitions.

New this year will be a choral performance by our very own **Bleadon Belles**. Fresh from their **winning performance** at the National Federation of Women's Institutes **centenary choir competition** and soon to be performing for **Her Majesty the Queen** and the **Princess Royal at the Albert Hall**.

In the play area a host of games and stalls will keep the kids happy (bring plenty of 20p and 50p), while mums and dads can enjoy some tasty home-made food and a refreshing glass of Butcombe or Thatchers.

**Bleadon Art Group** will be exhibiting some very fine art in the Jubilee Room. After 2pm you can also enjoy a relaxed **cream tea** amongst the artworks.



Bleadon Belles photo by Andrew Billington

# NEWS

## New bus shelter on A370

In the last issue of *Bleadon Village News* we reported that a new (recycled) bus shelter was to be installed on the A370 outside Purn Holiday Park opposite Fork (Fiat) Services.

We are happy to report that the shelter was installed earlier this year. However, the hoped for respite from the prevailing westerly winds and rain has not been forthcoming. The shelter has been installed with its back to the road so that advertisers get full value from the prime location on the main road while waiting passengers get a frequently windy view across the Bleadon Levels.

This has also meant that the pavement has been obstructed and disabled access from the raised curb is no longer possible. A rather silly state of affairs that has been drawn to the attention of North Somerset Council.

**Fortunately, North Somerset Council is also unhappy with the insensitive location of the shelter and have demanded that the installers put things right as quickly as possible.**

With the current changes to our 83 service through Bleadon the Nos. 21,76 and 102 bus routes along the A370 have become vital in providing a faster and more frequent service into Weston, Taunton and Bridgwater.



*Ooops! Nice shelter, wrong placement. We are promised that things will soon be put right. Meanwhile, great sunset views.*

## Meanwhile, back in the village there's some confusion

The new Crosville bus service started running at the end of March. The long established 83 service through Bleadon has been replaced by the hourly\* 4A bus on its way from Weston, via Bleadon to **Hutton**.

Unfortunately, the Crosville timetable for the 4A fails to tell us that this new service goes through Bleadon village on its way to Hutton and then to Weston.

### No mention of Bleadon

The Anchor Inn A370 stop is mentioned, and Burnham Drive on Bleadon Hill. From this we are to deduce that the service runs through Bleadon, but we have to guess a bit at exact times.

It appears that the 4A bus arrives at the Coronation Road stop at around 40 minutes past the hour, starting at 08:40 and finishing at 17:40.

### Now via Hutton to Weston.

The new route takes the bus via Bleadon Hill, along Oldmixon Road to **Hutton**. At Hutton the bus turns around and heads for Weston's Regent Street via Broadway, Uphill Hospital, Uphill and Drove/

Devonshire Roads. **Arriving at Regent Street some 40 minutes after leaving Bleadon.**

The return from Weston is less tortuous and takes a more reasonable 20 minutes. Leaving the Regent Street stop for **Hutton** at 22 minutes past the hour. The route from Regent Street takes in Drove/Devonshire Roads, Uphill and the hospital. Then along Bridgwater Road to the Anchor and into Bleadon.

### Limited afternoon service into Weston

\*During school term time the 4A service will not run from Bleadon to Weston during mid afternoons, with no service past Hutton after 13:40 until 16:40. The more popular afternoon return service from Weston isn't so bad with just the 15:22 missing from the hourly schedule during termtime.

**NEW 4A hourly\* service to Weston via Hutton replaces the 83**



**Through Bleadon village at around 20 mins to the hour.**

**Leaves Weston at 22 mins past the hour.**



# NEWS

## Neighbourhood Watch



The *Police News* that used to be delivered four times a year to all NHW members has been axed, no doubt due to cost cutting. However, be assured that even if nothing comes through your door, you are still all registered with the scheme and entitled to home insurance discounts.

Regrettably, our envied status of 100% neighbourhood watch coverage within the village is also at risk. At present, the western half of Shiplate Road, including Old School Lane, and the majority of Celtic Way have no coordinator and are therefore not covered by the scheme. **Volunteers required please for Celtic Way and the western end of Shiplate Road and Old School Lane.**

It is now nearly a year since Bleadon became a 'No Doorstep Trading' village and it would seem to be working well. Don't forget, if you do get any unwanted callers, call 101 and the Police will respond.

There has been little serious crime in the Parish but unfortunately there have

been several major accidents on the A370. The Road Policing Unit is monitoring driving standards on this road and is carrying out random speed checks from time to time.

Unfortunately, the Community Speedwatch in Bleadon has folded as, although we have all the necessary equipment and sites that have been approved, there seems to be no one who is willing to run it. **If there are any volunteers willing to carry out periodical checks on vehicles speeding through the village, please contact the Parish Council.**

David Jones, *Bleadon Village NHW Coordinator*



## Spring Plant-up Monday 27 April

The plant-up of our village flower tubs is scheduled for **Monday 27 April at 10:30** in the Coronation car park.

**500 plants will bring a summer full of colour**

South Bank Nurseries will be delivering the plants to the Coronation car park on the Monday morning. We need a team of volunteers to plant up the 25 tubs ready for May Day.

### Help needed

If you can spare a couple of hours to help, please come along and join the gang. Just bring a trowel and a green bag, and most importantly, a fistfull of community spirit.

## 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.**



Bleadon is well endowed with five official noticeboards around the village. So please do not clutter up the village with fly posted notices on utility poles. Such activity is both illegal and unsightly

# Sociable Bleadon

## May Fayre Flower Festival Challenge

Will you accept a challenge to create a floral arrangement spending no more than £5 on the whole task? Then display your creation in the church on May Day?

Your own garden is obviously a starting point but local hedgerows, fields and woods and even Tesco can provide exciting additions but no more than £5 is allowed to be spent.

There is no limit on size or shape. There is no theme to this challenge but if you would like to work around your own theme and give it a name that would be great. You may accept this challenge as an individual, as a family or as a group.

On the day of the May Fayre these floral arrangements will be on display in the church for people to enjoy the results of the challenge. Live organ music will provide an audio backdrop to the display throughout the day.

Sara Osborne and Gill Williams will be in church between 2pm and 5pm on the afternoon of Sunday 3 May to accept your arrangements and decide with you where you would like to place them.

It would be helpful to know numbers, so if you would like to accept this challenge please ring Gill on 813255. Thank you and I hope you enjoy it.

*Gill Williams.*



### Toys for us

John is collecting toys for the very successful toy stall and toy tombola at the May Fayre. Last year your generous donations of passed over playthings raised an impressive £590 for our two local charities. Toys and cuddlies in good condition and working order are wanted. If you can include batteries that's even better, otherwise the cost comes out of John's pocket. **Your clean and wholesome toy donations welcome at the White House, Mulberry Lane** before 1 May please.



### Helpers needed for May Day Fayre

We are always looking for helpers on the day. This year many of our regular stalwarts are away ....mmmm...funny that! We need all the help we can get.

If you can spare some time on May 4 your help running a stall, putting up gazebos at 7am, manning the gates or serving up the tasty treats would be very much appreciated.

Whether it be for the whole day or just an hour or two.

**Be part of the fun and get involved.  
Call Keith on 813127  
or Miles on 07989 410 767**



# WANTED

## Quality Bric-a-Brac for the Bleadon May Day Fayre

### **We're collecting good quality/nearly new:**

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

**We want our 2015 May Day Fayre to be the best ever.** Please don't take offence if we have to decline offers of goods that aren't up to our demanding standards.

**Help us find a home for all those unwanted (but useful) items that have been cluttering up your home, loft, garage or shed.**

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 4 May.**

\*All funds raised at the May Day Fayre go towards Bleadon's parish church and the youth club. Last year your bric-a-brac donations raised over £1000.



**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 811165 or Brian Drinkwater on 813636**

# Lifesaver for the village

A high energy electric shock, given to the heart in some types of cardiac arrest, may restore a more stable rhythm.

This is called defibrillation, and it's an essential lifesaving step in the chain of survival.

After months of debate and procrastination the parish council has invested around £2000 in a lifesaving public access defibrillator to be installed on the **outside wall of the Coronation Hall.**

In the event of an emergency anyone can access the lifesaver by dialling 999 and requesting the four number code to access the locked cabinet. Then while an ambulance is on its way the untrained rescuer can begin to save a life by following the simple instructions that the machine automatically gives the user.

Designed for the untrained and infrequent rescuer, it is easy to use and understand in a cardiac emergency, where time is of the essence. The defibrillator is a fully automatic model. If the patient has a shock able heart rhythm the defibrillator automatically delivers a shock without any other user intervention required.

The unit combines real-time CPR feedback, fully automatic shock delivery, variable escalating energy and fast shock times. First time users are able to perform each critical step through the help of feedback via voice and text prompts, as well as real time instructions. The machine tells the rescuer what to do and when.

The user will even be guided through correct CPR, telling you all the time if you are doing it right.

Thanks to Ian Findlay our village ranger for persevering in his pursuit of obtaining this for the village.



A simulated demonstration of the new defibrillator is planned for the May Day Fayre.



## Whitehouse

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.

Whether you are looking for pet boarding, relocating abroad, dog grooming, or buying a bed for your cat, Whitehouse Kennels & Cattery is the place for you!

Services include:

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- 🐾 Day Boarding
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- 🐾 Collection & Delivery Service
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- 🐾 Wedding Doggie Services



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Whitehouse Kennels & Cattery, North Rd, Eastertown, Lympsham, Somerset BS24 0HS





## 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 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.

There's a reduced rate for Bleadon residents.

Call Joanne Jones on **812 370**.

*Created Saltwater marsh habitat*



## Nature Reserve on the Levels

A year ago Bleadon Village News reported on plans to create a new nature reserve at the site of the Wessex Water sewage treatment works on the banks of the River Axe off Accommodation Road.

Hopes that the new reserve would be open to the public in time for this Easter seem to be down the pan for now, but I'm sure we can expect an announcement soon. In the meantime, Wessex have kindly provided a

plan of the site with its new footpaths and some ducky pics (not of the Toilet Duck variety).



# Sociable Bleadon

## Bleadon Belles crowned winner of Singing for Joy

The Bleadon Belles have been named winners of the National Federation of Women's Institutes (NFWI) centenary choir competition and will have the honour of performing at the organisation's Centenary Annual Meeting at the Royal Albert Hall on 4 June.

The Bleadon Belles, formed just a year ago, were thrilled to win the semi-final in Exeter against strong competition, in spite of their inexperience. They worked hard at rehearsals with their talented choirmaster Andrew King and were lucky to be accompanied for the final by Richard Lennox, a gifted pianist from Weston-super-Mare. They had financial support from the Bleadon WI and the Avon Federation.

The Belles travelled to the final in Birmingham, setting off from the centre of Bleadon in a coach packed full of the choir and their supporters. The final of the competition took place at Birmingham Town Hall in



March. The Bleadon Belles took to the stage to perform Beyond The Sea, Seasons of Love and Somewhere Out There as well as their rendition of Jonathan Willcocks Singing for Joy, a piece specially composed for the centenary competition.

Heats of the choir competition were held since 2014 leading up to the final, **with more than 50 choirs from across the country taking part.** This exciting event is just one of a host of activities taking place during 2015 to celebrate the centenary of the NFWI.

In addition to Bleadon Belles, five highly-commended choirs also competed in the final.

Pam Lamb of the 26-strong Bleadon Belles said: "We were so delighted to win, we never expected to make the semi-finals let alone the final.

"We brought a couple of bottles of fizz with us so we'll be having a celebratory drink on the way home.

"We're so excited to be performing at The Royal Albert Hall, we haven't really thought about it until just now as we didn't think we'd win! The village is very proud of us and everyone has been rooting for us all the way."

Janice Langley, Chair of the NFWI said:

**"The Bleadon Belles are very worthy winners. The women performed together beautifully and we cannot wait to see them again at the Royal Albert Hall this June."**

Photography by Andrew Billington





Bleadon Players` Spring Production

## PRESENT LAUGHTER

Gary Essendine is a successful middle-aged actor, with a complicated love life.

Into his London flat come a series of ladies - including his ex-wife, his cynical secretary, a romantic debutante, the predatory wife of his business partner, a mad Swedish housekeeper, a cheeky valet and an intense young playwright. What more could you want?

Of course! A brilliant script by the Master - Noel Coward.

All happening in the Coronation Hall on 21st, 22nd and 23rd May at 7.30 pm. Tickets from the village Stores/Post Office at Purn.



## PIRATES OF THE CARRIBLEADON

This mid-summer's Bleadon Party at Lake Farm will sail into the warm wee hours under the theme of PIRATES. Always a sell out event, this annual fundraiser for Cystic Fibrosis raises thousands of pounds for the charity and provides a highlight night of fun and frolics for 500 party-goers.

Tickets are like treasure trove and in great demand, but it may be worth calling or texting Miles on 07989 410 767 or call Ian Findlay on 812 862. You may be lucky.



## Aloha Yoga

The yoga sessions being run on Monday mornings in the Bleadon Youth Club by Becky Miller are proving to be a real benefit for villagers of all ages and gender.

The classes are designed to stretch and develop body and mind. Being both physically challenging and relaxing for participants.

Sessions start at 9:30 and last until about 10:45 on Mondays.

A great way to start your week.



## Bleadon Belles UPDATE

### May Day Fayre performance

Following their winning performance in Birmingham and recent TV showstopper on the BBC's Points West the Bleadon Belles will be entertaining the crowds at our May Day Fayre on May 4th.

Grab the chance to see and hear our nationally acclaimed, prizewinning choristers at around 2pm on May Day before the bright lights of the Albert Hall and their appointment with royalty turn their tuneful heads forever.



## Bleadon Street Party

**Saturday 27 June in the Coronation Halls 4-7pm**

Organised by Friends of Bleadon Church

Please check notice boards for details and tickets



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# Sociable Bleadon



**Brownies Xmas tree winner**

1st Bleadon Brownies won **Best Dressed Tree** in the Weston-super-Mare Christmas Tree Festival.

The Mayor and Mayoress visited all the trees in the Christmas Tree Trail in December and decided that Bleadon Brownies' tree was the 'Best Dressed Tree' in the festival. Congratulations were announced at the Christmas Lights Switch On event.

The Mayor and Mayoress loved their Robins Nest with individual handmade pom pom robins. In fact they loved the pom pom robins so much that they requested one each for their own Christmas trees.



## **Brownies latest May Day dance appearance scheduled**

We are promised another teardrop moment when Bleadon's Brownies perform a couple of dance routines at next month's May Day Fayre.

No Maypole this year, but I'm sure that we shall all enjoy a truly creative performance at around 1pm.



## **May Day Fayre helpers still wanted to help on the day**

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 811 165  
or Keith on 813 127  
[keith.pyke@btopenworld.com](mailto:keith.pyke@btopenworld.com)

## **Masterchef ?**

As a change to their usual menu the Queens Arms has been encouraging local wannabee chefs to take up the pub's kitchen apron for a night.

Miles Orme is the first to have accepted the challenge and took his stockpots along to create a couple of evenings of delightful food. Feeding fifty famished foodies with an extensive five or seven courses was quite an achievement. Well done chef (and all your helpers).

*Thanks to Jess for the photos*





## Torquay Times

March is the time for the Bowls Club annual trip to Torquay, playing daily against teams from the local area but Malcolm was promising us something special. No, not his winning the jackpot at the Sunday-night card game, he had another Ace up his sleeve.

A trip to Kents Cavern on Monday quietened those unblest with sea views from hotel rooms, just imagine life in a cave. Ten-pin bowling was laid on for the evening and the next afternoon some went to Torquay to enjoy the musical 'Oh What a Lovely War'.

A visit to distant Dartmouth was made on Wednesday to meet the salacious old seamen said to dwell in the Naval college there, the ladies were disappointed.

However a Merlin helicopter arrived, much more interesting than a bunch of fisheads young or old. It was also St Patricks day,



Kath and Aidan the Saint's representatives in our company provided the Holy brew for a convivial evening.

The portable Bingo and Doreen's enigmatical quiz reached a climax on Thursday and after

morning matches against Paignton and Torquay the more energetic walked to Cockington Court, a Council run parkland area that is well worth a visit. That evening it



was prizegiving and recriminations, particularly among the team who failed to win any games. Well, I thought, booby prize is an award - you get goodies too.



And Malcolm's big surprise - he'd organised a solar eclipse for Friday morning! Well here's a man with some influence.

Thanks again to Malcolm and Grace.

*Words and photos Pete, Ann and Glenys*



## Gardeners' delight

Bleadon Horticultural Society meet on the third Tuesday evening of the month at 7.30pm in the Coronation 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 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

Sat 5 Sept **Annual Summer Flower Show** - open to everyone

# Looking back.....to the 1920s

Tony James has kindly loaned Village News some notes his father Vic James started writing before he died in 2005. Vic lived all his life in one of the brick Church Commission cottages in Purn Way. These random memories of village life in the 1920s and 30s portray a more rural village, where families knew each other from cradle to grave. The pace was slower, life and work were harder. *The editor has done nothing to tidy up these jottings of a villager who clearly loved Betjemin. Enjoy them as they are.*

Bleadon was like most villages, everyone was very friendly, there was always someone around to have a chat. A lot were related through marriage. In the village we had the Methodist Church in Shiplate Road. We had the school. Mr Watson was headmaster, ably assisted by Miss Miles later to become Mrs Ian Parker and Mrs Bennet. At the foot of the hill the Queens Arms mine host Earnie George. At the foot of Shiplate Road Mabel Nipper opened a general shop. Newbay stores across the road. Roy Goodall had a garage repair and haulage business. Roy once told me when he started selling petrol it was one shilling (5 New Pence) per gallon sold in two gallon cans. I can remember petrol at 1s/4d a gallon. Across the road there was the old Rectory. There lived Rev Powys



David and Mrs David and Mrs Warner. A lovely old rectory but needed a lot of hard work to keep it clean. Very large lawns and gardens.

Now across the road to the village cross which has stood the test of time very well, we come to our lovely old church. Years ago

the organ was situated between the knave and the vestry - not too good as the organ was one end of the church and the choir the other end. I can well remember Frank Sellabear playing the organ and Ron Goodman pumping. Ron would stop pumping and the organ would go dead. Ron would sometimes before the service play hymns and carols on the bells chiming from ropes in the vestry at the foot of the steps leading to the Tower.

In the later years when Rev Tom Fairchild was Rector the organ chamber was built as we know it today which proved a lot better. A lot of the older folk are resting peacefully in the churchyard.

Gone are the Banwells, Richards, Goulds, Boleys and Walls, to name but a few. Now we come to the Post Office ably managed by Tom Carter. A little down on the corner of Mulberry Lane lived retired Blacksmith Ernest Parker, Nibble Parker, as he was known. Daughter Rose looked after Nibble.

In the corner below the churchyard was the Blacksmith's shop ably managed by Ernest and brother Charlie. Very busy place shoeing horses, not any tractors about, it was all horses. Next to the smithy at the foot of the Churchyard was Ted Purnell's coal yard, stables and cart sheds. Beside Ted was Gilbert



Purnell's sheds for four wheel bread and and two wheeled bread van. Further up the lane at Mulberry House was the Bakery about 6pm Gilbert, Ted's father, would be seen going to the Victoria Inn for a drink and a chat but at 7pm Gilbert would be going back and about 8pm would be in bed, but about 4 am Mr and Mrs Purnell and son Sid and daughter Maud would be up baking bread. Lovely crusty cottage loaf or a split tin. I can smell it now. No sell by date on their bread. As Fred Purnell got older he sold the coal business to Walter Binding as Ted milked cows it was getting too much for him. Now we come to the village Pump. We all fetched our drinking water from the pump. Everyone had a rainwater tank we used to catch all the rain water possible for general use.

Across to the Parish Room (Coronation Hall) over the years it has been altered a lot but we used to have very enjoyable evenings of all sorts.

Whist drives and dances. 1/6 dance only 1/- No trouble to get prizes for whist. Only had to mention whist and prizes were forthcoming. Now we come to





Victoria Inn. Mine host Miss Payne. Just a beer and cider house but very popular with the villagers. Next the Quarry employing local labour. They used to burn stone into lime and stone and gravel for the roads. No lorries in them days horses and two wheeled cart with a tilting body. The drivers had to walk with the horses when they were loaded and ride home empty. But then came the old Ford lorries that put an end to the horses. Now we come to the Poplars the house of PC Garland the village policeman. Adjoining was Mrs Luscombe's Grocery shop. In early days it was only from her sitting room turned into shop but as business grew the shop was extended to the road as you see it today.

Further down the road where the garage is now was Jock Vinson. Jock sold everything except groceries. Sweets and tobacco, boots, leggings (no wellington boots in those days), clothing all kinds of tools rakes, hay forks, garden tools you name it Jock had it. Galvanised buckets and bowls. Also he used to recharge our accumulators for our wireless sets. Anyone remember the crystal sets? We had a lump of crystal and cats whisker and a pair of headphones. Down the lane at the back of Jock was the Mission Hall. Then across the road by the river was Edwin Gilson, carpenter, wheelwright

and village undertaker. When Edwin retired his nephew Reg Gilson took over.

Now we come to Whitegate Farm but no houses until you got to Manor House on the corner of Chestnut Lane. That part Bleadon has always been known as Purn.

Here we have Fairview Farm. Manor Farm and Purn House Farm a little along the road was Catherine's Farm now Catherine's Inn. Now we come to the Anchor Inn (host Charlie Hart). We had many good singalongs in the Anchor on a Saturday night. Always someone ready for a game of cards or dominoes. Now we come to Purn Farm Dairy the home of the Boley family for years until the late Fred Wall married Jenny Boley, then Fred took over.

Charlie Parker the Blacksmith married Miss Miles.

The road alright for horses and cart but of course no pavements one had to miss the puddles. After a time the Council came along with the tar spray - a horse drawn sprayer. One man leading the horse another pumping the tar and another spraying the hot tar on the road. A fire under the tar kept it boiling. Then two men would spread sand on the tarred road. A good surface for horses but as more cars and lorries came on the roads the surface became slippery after rain. Roy Goodall recovered many a car that has skidded into the rhyne. Later the

Council used gravel and rolled the gravel into the hot tar for a lot better surface. No buses, years ago a lot of people rode cycles. The first buses came from Weston to Bleadon Corner (6d return) solid tyres and wooden slats for seats the driver had no windscreen.

As a teenager I am told by older generations that once upon a time the sea came up to Purn Hill along the Weston facing side of the hill. I can well believe it as opposite Purn Farm there is an old Quarry where tenants of the Church Commissioners were allowed to take fillings for their Farm gateways. That quarry consisted of layers of sand shingle with fossils, seashells and a layer of clay. Sometimes when we were busy with pick and shovel some of the surface would collapse then you could see distinct layers. No rock was visible. The rock surface you see now was exposed in the road widening. There was shingle right along to Undercliff House it being used in road making.

The Old Wall as it has always been known was no doubt built as a sea defence from Accommodation Road near the caravan park, in a right hand bend to the Railway and road that continues around Bleadon Level to where the sewerage works are being built, joins the road beside the Toll House.

*Vic James*

# Sociable Bleadon

## Spring honours

Beautiful spring flowers, pot plants, floral exhibits, photographs and mouth watering homecrafts as well as many handcrafted delights were on display in the Coronation Hall for the Horticultural Society's 41st Spring Flower Show.

Judges in all sections of the show spoke very highly of the overall standard of exhibits staged by the 48 participating adults and children.

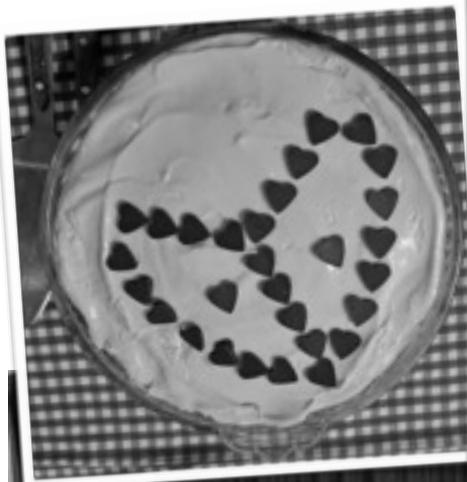
Libby Lockier took home three trophies, Sylvia Davey two, while Penny Skelley, Ann Hurcombe and Diana Perrett each won a trophy. Gill Chatterley and Ian Clark shared the photography cup, while in the junior section Lauren Perrett and Millie Grace Hunt stole the honours for most points in their respective age groups. Josh Whiffen and Sophie Warren tied on points and shared the cup in their group.

*Chris Cudlipp*



## Sweet Valentine delights

February 14th turned out to be a sweet lovers' dream when Friends of Bleadon Church hosted an evening of puds and sweet delights to help raise funds for the church. Friends and lovers came together in the Coronation Hall to share home-made sweet treats and a glass or two of wine. Leaving a few £ lighter in the name of a good local cause but a few pounds heavier too.



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# Our open spaces

*Cllr Mrs. I.D. Clarke, Chairman of the Open Spaces Committee reviews the past 12 months in Bleadon's open spaces*

As always I am able to begin my report by saying that I am pleased to say that it has been another good year for our Village and its Open Spaces. I hope you agree with me that the village has looked good throughout the year.

Having said this I will dispose of **the negative issues first.**

Sadly I am forced to begin by mentioning the two issues that are now regular opening features of my reports - litter and dog mess.

Litter around the village – As mentioned last year I do not think we villagers are litter throwers but that rubbish is both blown out of our bins or dropped by the collectors. To help overcome this please may we ask that bins are not placed out for collection before the night prior to collection – and if rubbish is scattered by the animals or dropped by the collectors at the 'multi collection points' please can it be picked up – both would be a great help and a benefit to all.

The viewing points and the lay-bys in Roman Road are frequently strewn with general litter and takeaway food packaging. This is particularly difficult to understand as presumably the people have driven there as they appreciate the outstanding views – so why spoil it? Sadly we have seen an increase in fly tipping – we can only presume it is linked to the increased cost of disposing of such waste at the local re-cycling centres.

Dog mess – What more can be said - In the past years when writing this report both Penny Robinson and myself have pleaded for cooperation in picking up and using the bins which are strategically placed around the village. So on behalf of those of us with dogs, those without and our dogs themselves – please help us to keep our environment clean. If you know of or see an irresponsible owner please inform our Parish Clerk – be assured confidentiality will be respected.



## **Moving on to the positives:**

The shrub and plant areas as well as the general area around the Village Hall, Youth Club, and Play Park have all been well maintained by our Village Ranger. He also maintains the tidiness around the village and the outlying areas – Purn Quarry, Accommodation and Roman Roads as well as Hillcote.

The village tubs have once again provided us with splashes of colour throughout the seasons alongside the lovely displays that have been planted or have just appeared on the verges and in the hedgerows. We are also lucky to have so many well-tended gardens with their seasonal changes around the village.

The general remedial work of trimming, tidying and cutting back the undergrowth around the churchyard has been ongoing through the year. The Church Yard / Mulberry Lane wall has undergone major repair and the area running along the wall within the churchyard has been cleared of tree stumps and been given a general tidy up.

We are aware of the need for remedial work to be carried out on the boundary wall of the Play Area and our Finance and Personnel Committee have agreed to make funding available. We are presently seeking quotations to carry out the

repair work. We are also presently pursuing the contractors who recently white-lined the Coronation Hall car park - you will have noticed that the job is of very poor quality – in many areas the new paint has not bonded with the old.

We rely on many people to help in keeping our village looking good and in good repair, our grateful thanks to:

The volunteers who help at 'plant up' times and to the residents who kindly take it upon themselves to plant up and tend their own containers.

Our Village Ranger – Tony Derrick who resigned earlier in the year and to Ian Findlay who has since taken on the task since June 2014.

To Mark Howe and his team who continue to maintain the various grassed areas and verges around the village and churchyard as well as undertaking various other jobs that need attention.

To those who when coming across litter pick it up.

And finally to those who take the time to report / share their concern/s, suggestions and compliments with us.

Your endeavours and contributions are noticed and most valued

*I.D. Clarke – On behalf of the Open Spaces Committee.*

# Vandalism in the play area and toilets

**The school holidays regularly bring problems to our village amenities. Idle hands and all that.**

Sadly, some over enthusiastic and energetic youngsters have managed to wreck our four seat bounce ride in the toddlers' sand pit. Considerable brute force must have been used to snap off the steel handle.

Consequently, we have had to remove the surface equipment until a repair or replacement can be obtained. Repair is likely to cost around £150 of your taxpayers' money. Replacement of the whole ride would be around £1200. Parents with toddlers are advised that the base of the ride is still buried in the sand. Please take care and bear with us. More sand is on order.

Meanwhile, in the toilets it seems that a lot of fun can be had blocking toilets with toilet paper and throwing it at the walls!

If you see any mischief happening please try and prevent it, or report it to the police and our village ranger on 812862.

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# Finally, the last word.. ...from this editor

As I shall be stepping down as a parish councillor from 7th May it's time for a new scribe to take up the keyboard and mouse of the village newsletter. Some fresh young enthusiasm and creative input is required. The new parish council needs to have its own voice and its own style.

It's likely that the new publication will be different from the magazine format that has been produced under my stewardship over the past five years.

Times are changing in the world of media and communications. The new council may wish to channel its communications in quite a different way from the traditional format of the printed word. Audiences are demanding more and demanding it now, not in three months time.

These are times of developing social media, instant messaging, blogging, Facebook, Twitter and many more channels that I can't even put a name to. Certainly, these new channels can be more attention seeking and may save the council some money.

It has long been the ambition of the parish council to have an effective and engaging official website to promote the village and the work of the council. At times we have come closer to achieving that, yet have failed miserably in the end to achieve what was wanted by the council or deserved by its parishioners.

Hopefully, the new local web providers and the new council can deliver what we failed to do.

The last five years as editor of Bleadon Village News have been fun for me and I hope that this has been reflected in the pages. The parish council has given free reign to this editor. Sometimes I may have overstepped the mark as far as some councillors and readers were concerned, but the parish council always remained supportive and left me alone to do the job.

Thank you for that.

Thank you too to the team of volunteers who, come rain or shine, regularly deliver the News to the households of Bleadon

I'm off to do a bit of gardening now and catch some rays.

Ed



**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.

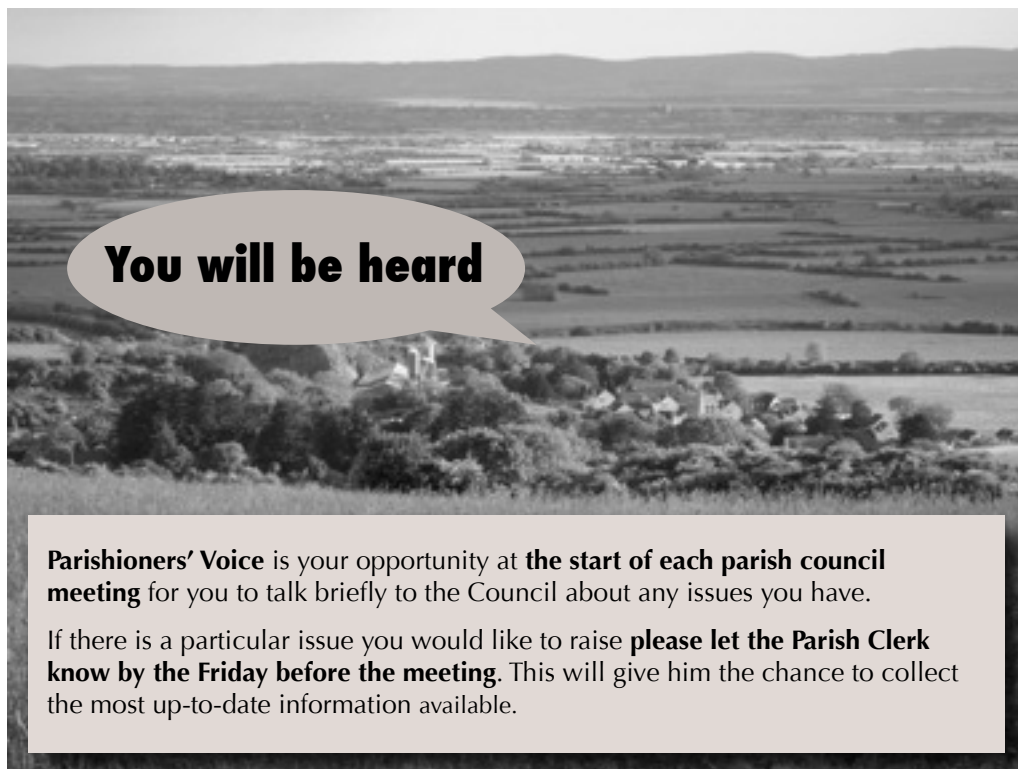
If there is a particular issue you would like to raise **please let the Parish Clerk know by the Friday before the meeting**. This will give him the chance to collect the most up-to-date information available. If it's a last minute issue you wish to raise you can still ask to address the Council but 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**

**Parishioners' Voice** is your opportunity at **the start of each parish council 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.

## Your Bleadon Parish Councillors after 7 May

I D Clarke	The Granary, Mulberry Lane, Bleadon	Tel: 815182
Carole Findlay	The Mount, Shiplate Road, Bleadon	Tel: 812 862
Ian Gibson	6 Bleadon Mill, Bleadon	Tel: 814261
Mary Sheppard	Littlewood, Bridgwater Road, Lympsham	Tel: 812 921

## Up until 7 May these councillors are also serving you

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
Penny Skelley (Chairman)	Mendip Croft, Celtic Way, Bleadon	Tel: 815 331

The newly elected Bleadon Parish Council is scheduled to meet for the first time on **Monday 11 May at 7:30pm**. Parishioners are welcome to attend.

**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 three weeks before publication.

*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.



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