Bleadon working together in 2019
Sedgemoor Lifeline provides 24 hour assistance to vulnerable people living in communities across Somerset. Our fully trained staff are available 365 days a year, giving families peace of mind.

We are the only 24 hour lifeline service in Sedgemoor that can attend your home to lift you if you have a fall.

We also offer other Telecare services such as smoke, carbon monoxide, fall and epilepsy sensors, which, if activated, will wirelessly connect to us immediately.

TWO MONTHS FREE - limited offer.
Set up a Direct Debit and receive up to eight weeks free!

For more information on how Sedgemoor Lifeline can help you or a family member feel safe in their own home, please call Sedgemoor District Council on: 01278 435776
or e-mail: lifeline@sedgemoor.gov.uk

www.sedgemoor.gov.uk/lifeline

Lifeline is a service provided by Sedgemoor District Council
Message from the Chairman

A new year brings new challenges for all, not least the Parish Councillors who strive to ensure smooth continuity of existing services, standards and facilities throughout the Parish, also to encourage and support new ventures and endeavours to improve the fabric of our community. Examples of these are the Neighbourhood Development Plan and Bleadon in Bloom, both in their infancy but gathering pace as you will no doubt read in the following pages. I imagine the biggest question on most Parishioners’ minds is the proposed development of 200+ houses at Bleadon Road. Feedback from public meetings and the very large number of public objections suggest the overwhelming opinion of the Parish is against the development. At the time of writing the Parish Council is about to have a Planning Meeting to explore what more it can do to respond to the application. Please visit the Parish website for more information. I would also draw your attention to the up and coming Parish Council elections due in May. This is your opportunity not only to vote for who you want to look after the needs of the Parish but indeed to step forward and stand for election. I’m sure there are many in the Parish with enthusiasm and skills which would benefit the community. Let’s face it if I can do it then most of you can! In closing you may not be aware that we have a new Editor of this magazine, Kirsten Hemingway-Arnold, not only a Councillor but an expert in many of the new style media innovations that most of us rely on our grandchildren to explain! This entails content to be at the discretion of the Editor and may not reflect the opinions/decisions of the Parish Council. I think this a good thing thus allowing the opinions of all to be aired not just the opinions/decisions of us Councillors. I wish you all a belated but happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Jim Baines  Chairman Bleadon Parish Council

Parking

Parking near the Queens Arms at the junction of Shipmate Road, Coronation Road and Celtic Way is causing considerable danger to road users and pedestrians. The Parish Council is liaising with North Somerset Council to review options for enforcement such as double yellow lines on all sides around that junction. However, we would rather see drivers using their better judgement and not parking there at all, without the need for unsightly lines and associated signage.

Neighbourhood Plan

A very big THANK YOU to everyone who took the time to complete the survey in January – 281 were returned in total (online or on paper). By the time you read this we will have analysed the results and comments and will be publishing them as soon as possible. Keep an eye on the noticeboards and the website (www.bleadonneighbourhoodplan.co.uk) for updates. As always, any resident who would like to help develop the Neighbourhood Plan is welcome to join the group – it is about YOUR neighbourhood! Contact Gill (01934 813255) or Marian (07453 358318).

The Annual Parish Meeting

The APM is an informal meeting convened and chaired by the Chairman of the Parish Council in order to report to its electorate on what it has accomplished in the preceding year. Electors, public and press are invited to hear reports from the Chairman community groups and any organisation that the parish council has funded during the year.

The meeting must be held between 1st March and 1st June (inclusive) each year. As usual for Bleadon, this year it is scheduled for 8th April, the second Monday of the month.

Legislation can be found here: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1972/70/schedule/12/part/III

Allotments

Nearly all the plots are now taken – only one full and one half plot available. The allotment holders have done a lot of work to clear rubbish from the hedge and the footpath. As well as derelict sheds and undergrowth they found glass, plastic, netting – and a very old portable toilet! New plot markers and a noticeboard will be installed in the next couple of months.

Bleadon in Bloom Big Plant Up

Join us and our volunteers from Thatchers on the 19th of March to do that big wild flower plant up for Bleadon in Bloom! At the hall 10.00am—contact Kirsten for more.
We are **NOW** collecting good quality or nearly new **BRIC-A-BRAC** for the Bleadon May Day Fayre on Monday 6 May

Now’s your chance to give a home to all those unwanted (but treasured) items that have been cluttering up your home, loft, shed or garage. We hope to find them a home where they will be appreciated and loved. Plus you will be helping to raise funds to support our lovely parish church and Bleadon youth club.

**Friends of Bleadon Church are collecting now donations of BRIC-A-BRAC until 27 April.**

If you can deliver to us we shall be even more grateful
Call Mary Clements 623 476 or Cathy Heycock 813 314 to make arrangements

**YES PLEASE** to good quality or nearly new:
- China
- Books
- Electricals in good working order
- Household
- Kitchen tools and equipment
- Small furniture items
- Gardening tools and equipment
- Collectables
- Jewellery
- Toys in clean working condition
- Clean household linen

**NO THANKS** to:
- Glassware
- Picture frames
- Soft furnishings
- Lamp-shades
- Adult or children’s clothes
- Video tapes, DVDs and CDs
- TVs (Cathode tube type)
- Anything incomplete or broken
- Poor quality junk and jumble you wouldn’t buy yourself

Put your unwanted treasures to good use and help us make this **May Day Fayre**
**BRIC-A-BRAC SALE** a **HUGE SUCCESS**

Call Mary on 623 476 or Cathy on 813 314
May Day Fayre Monday 6 May

Some innovations are planned for our May Day celebrations to make this traditional family event more fun than ever

Admission to include FREE goes on many of the stall games in the play area.
Admission on the gate will be £2 for all over 2 years. Visitors will be issued with a wristband which will entitle holders to free goes on many of the traditional play area stalls such as the coconut shy, hoopla, hook-a-duck, toilet dump, splat the rat and more.

High flying Ted - zzzzipp
Launch your favourite Teddy (or other soft toy) from the Church Tower. A 40m zip-wire will provide a thrilling ride for your cuddly hero. You won't miss out if you don't bring your own teddy, you can buy one on site.

Church tower open
Climb the winding stone steps inside the 20m tower for an exciting view of Bleadon and beyond. It's well worth the climb but it's not for the faint of heart or legs.

Trains inside the church!
For the first time ever our parish church will be hosting a model railway layout. Laid out over the pews it's sure to bring a nostalgic thrill to the child in all of us.

Climbing wall
The YMCA team that run the youth club will be bringing along a mobile climbing wall. Challenging but safe, this will strain muscles and confidence.

Wood turning demonstrations
Be inspired by the skills of our resident woodturners (yes, there are a number of enthusiastic amateurs living in Bleadon). There will be the opportunity to buy the product too.

Gates open at 11am
Admission £2 for all over 2 yrs 5 hours of entertainment

Road closure planned
We hope to be able to close the road between Mulberry Lane and the Church Cottages to vehicle traffic between 9:30 and 4:00 on the day. An application for the road closure is with North Somerset Council. This will allow the Fayre to extend into the road between the car park east entrance and the church. At the same time improving safety for visitors. The proposed closure will prevent through traffic, except for emergency vehicles and residents within the closed strip. Traffic will be re-directed over Bleadon Hill.

Temporary car park opposite Catherine's Inn
The House brothers have kindly offered their field opposite the Catherine's Inn as a temporary car park. Naturally, this is dependent upon ground conditions being suitable.

Live music from The Dark Horses
This year we welcome a local trio of guitars and bass to keep us entertained throughout the day with some laid-back rock.

Secret World's feathered friends
We are hoping to have Secret World bring along some of their owls and falcons for you to get up close to. These proved a popular hit at the Christmas market, so we are hoping they can return for May Day.

All the traditional May Fayre attractions and entertainments
Bric-a-brac in the youth club. Pick up a bargain and give a second home to a previously loved item.
If you've got any unwanted treasures at home that you wish to donate please contact Cathy on 813314 or Mary on 623476.
Art on show Bleadon Art Group will be exhibiting their creative talents in the Coronation Hall.
Flowers and music in the church.
Family games at 3pm. The YMCA team will be organising all the usual races and competitions for youngsters and parents.
Licensed bar open throughout the event. You can expect Butcombe on tap and local Thatchers cider.
Refreshments in the Coronation Hall. Sandwiches, cakes, tea and coffee.
Bacon baps and hot dogs at the outside stalls.
Home made cakes and preserves on the WI stall.
Tombola with hundreds of prizes to be won.

Could you help at the May Day Fayre?
The Bleadon May Day Fayre raises over £4000 each year shared between the parish church and the youth club. We always need more volunteers on the day. If you can spare the time and energy to run a stall, put up or take down gazebos or manage traffic please contact Keith on 01934 813 127
Bleadon Village
MONTHLY MARKET
Saturday

16th Feb
16th March
20th April
18th May

Coronation Hall and Jubilee Hall
BS24 0PG
9.30am – 12 noon

30+ stalls with:
Fresh local produce. Old Spot Pork & Sausages.
Bric-a-Brac.
Something new every month.
Delicious refreshments.

Find us on Facebook and www.bleadon.org.uk/market
Happy Easter to the residents of Bleadon and what an exciting time of year it is. The village looks very spring-like with its lovely displays of daffodils. The number of stray dogs has started to decrease although we do have the odd hiccup in the trend. Over Christmas we had several stray dogs that were never collected by their former owners. Many of the stray dogs either don’t have microchips or the microchip details held on the database are incorrect or out of date. Just a little reminder that all dogs should be microchipped and if you change address or telephone number you must update the details! If you need any help please see us as we have microchip scanners and can help you ensure your dog’s details are up to date. We have had some sad cases like the little poodle cross abandoned on the A370 in a very bad way. She was very nervous and she has gone to a specialist rescue centre who will work with her and get her ready for a lovely new home.

Our Cuddle Buddy crew are still very busy visiting two new Care homes along with the ones they already visit. The team currently include Daisy the Labrador, Flossie the Retriever, Pugly the Pug, Nelly the Pug (in training) and Pumpkin Pug. We are particularly proud of Pugly. She has been going into Westhaven School in Uphill and recently at the assembly was awarded honorary membership of the school. Our cuddle buddy team really are magic and to say a little thank you for what they do we arrange for them to have pet massages. Just seeing how our Pugly reacts when she spots Becky arriving says it all. She wiggles all over with excitement. Becky is also able to now offer specially tailored pet massage sessions in your home or here at the kennels.

A date for the diary, we are helping organise the Weston Rotary Dog Day Saturday 11 May on Beach Lawns, Weston super Mare. Registration from 09:00 and lots and lots of charity stalls. We are helping on the stall run by the girls from Weston Breast Cancer Support Group who are famous locally for their homemade dog treats and hand knitted dog coats. We have been busy making some quirky vintage teapot bird feeders for them to sell on their stall so please come and say hello.

Happy Easter from Family and Staff @ Whitehouse
TOP TIPS FOR INJURY-FREE GARDENING!

As we are heading towards the summer months, the time has come to start getting the garden ready! Having had a break over the autumn & winter it is really tempting to hit the gardening hard which your body won’t be used to. I have put together some top tips to ensure that getting your garden ship-shape will not lead to pain or injury!

1. **Warm up** - Doing the garden can feel like a full on workout so you should treat it as one! A few mobility & dynamic stretching exercises should do the trick.

2. **Wear comfortable clothing** - Make sure you are suitably dressed for the activities that you are going to carry out in the garden. It is a good idea to wear clothing that is non-restrictive so you are able to move freely.

3. **Keep moving** - make sure that you don’t stay in the same position for too long & take regular breaks.

4. **Stay hydrated** - as with any other exercise, & especially if it is warm & sunny, make sure you drink plenty of fluid & take regular breaks to do this.

5. **Use padding under your knees** - if you are weeding or tending to flower beds & kneeling, make sure that you have a cushion or something similar under your knees.

6. **Choose the right tools** - try & use a long-handled tool where possible to stop you having to bend over or over-stretch.

7. **Lift sensibly** - Bend your knees, keep your back straight & hug the weight close to your body. Get help if the item is too heavy or awkward to lift on your own. Don’t try & do everything in one go & know your own limits!

Hopefully you find these tips helpful but if you do end up with an injury or pain after gardening that is not getting better on its own, please see a health practitioner or your GP for further advice.

**About Me!**

I have a First Class Honours degree in Sports Therapy from the University of Bath & have nine years of experience working within a clinic and with sports teams. I also have a degree in Exercise & Sports Sciences from the University of Exeter. Through personal experience of injury & the difficulties of returning to sport following this, I have a good understanding & empathy with anyone finding themselves in the same situation. My aim is to provide an optimum level of treatment & advice for those who are seeking a return to fitness.

In addition to my Sports Therapy work I am also a Pilates Instructor & I currently teach the Pilates class on a Friday morning at Bleadon Coronation Halls.

Emma Hunter
News from your community policing team

A friendly reminder that local PCSO’s Aisha Mitchell and Kayley Anderson can be reached via 101 and the Avon and Somerset Website.

PCSO Anderson is continuing to encourage local residents to sign up to Horse Watch and Farm Watch. Contact Kayley if you have any queries or are interested in receiving property marking.

PCSO Mitchell is the current Unit Leader for WSM Police Cadets, a group of 14-17 yr. olds with a keen interest in the Police. If you have any village events or local clubs and groups that would like the Cadets to attend please contact Aisha.

If there are any local groups that you feel would benefit from an input from the police, whether this be on protecting property, fraud and scams or anything else you can think of, please contact us to arrange.

Aisha Mitchell

Eastern Spice
29 Orchard Street, BS23 1RG
01934 645972
We sell Indian, Thai, Chinese Spices
Opening Times 10.30am to 6pm Monday–Saturday
NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Thank you so much to everyone who responded to the recent village survey. We received 281 replies which is over 50% return and with some of you sharing a form the percentage return was even higher. A really great result.
Thank you too to the volunteers who distribute the Village News who undertook to deliver the survey. We could not have done it without you.
What happens next is that all the results and comments will be analysed and then the committee will be able to identify what the real concerns of parishioners are.
A second survey will then be conducted and a whole series of reports commissioned such as environmental and planning so that we have a way forward for parishioners.
Thank you again and magazine distributors I do hope you will be able to help with the second survey!!!

Gill Williams

Bleadon Big Breakfast

On Saturday 2 February, the Friends of Bleadon Church laid on a ‘BIG Breakfast’ in the Coronation Hall. About 65 villagers enjoyed a full English breakfast during the course of the morning, with plenty of opportunity to chat to friends.

We are especially grateful to chef Liz Scarisbrick and her team of helpers for making it a most enjoyable morning.

The Friends’ next event is the St. David’s Day Lunch on 3 March in the Coronation Hall. Tickets are available from Liz (813125), Mary Hollis (811165), Cathy Heycock (813314), and we hope to see you there.

George Scott

Note from the Editor

The views expressed in Bleadon News are not necessarily those of the Parish Council or the Editor.

Our thanks to the leaflet distributors as the Bleadon News is delivered to every house by a team of volunteers.

Bleadon News is your paper—please contribute your news and views and articles and contact us about Advertising. The anticipated copy deadline dates are 8th May, 8th August, 8th November 8th January.

Contact the Editor Kirsten Hemingway writer@kirstenhemingway.co.uk for advertising rates and information.

The Editor reserves the right to reject articles or adverts for any reason.
Saint David's Day Lunch
SUNDAY MARCH THE 3RD
At the Coronation Hall
TIME 12.00 FOR 12.30 PM

MENU
LAMB SHANK
OR
SHORTBREAD PAstry POCKET FILLED
WITH VEGETABLE LUSHNESS)
(WELSH ORANGE CHEESECAKE)

Ticket 12.50 pp
Tickets from
Mary Hollis 811 165
Cathy Heycock 813 314
Liz Scansbrick 813 125
Bleadon Wild

Water vole
As the days lengthen, the chances of seeing water voles feeding in daylight increases. They are most commonly seen along the length of the rhyme on Bridge Road and Coronation Road, but may well exist along side other bodies of water and are capable of forming colonies on open ground away from water.
As we move into spring you may even see courting and mating behaviour. Courting is quite a vigorous activity featuring frantic chasing along the bank and even ‘hand to hand’ combat. Latrines with tic tac like faeces mark out the breeding territories. We would like to know more about populations of voles in the area. The Facebook group “in and around Bleadon” is a good place to report sightings and share pictures.

Woodpecker
We are lucky to have both Great Spotted and Green white Great Spotted Woodpeckers are the ones you are most likely to see on your garden feeders. They seem to go for peanuts and fat balls or blocks, particularly if the fat contains insects or mealworms. At this time of year listen out for the males “drumming”. They pick a hollow sounding bit of wood, or even a metal cover on a man made structure to hammer on, in short bursts, to advertise their breeding territory.

The Green Woodpeckers can also be seen in gardens, but are shyer birds. They are most often seen feeding on the ground, for example eating ants on the lawn or on dead, rotting wood. Listen out for their distinctive “yaffle”
Both varieties breed in holes in trees. As they get bigger, the youngsters come to the entrance to be fed by the parents.

Short eared Owl
If you go out for a walk along the Axe from the Bleadon Levels nature reserve towards Uphill, there is a chance that you will encounter short-eared owls. These owls breed further north, but come here in winter and can be seen any time between November and May. They roost low down in long grass or bushes and their streaked markings provide fantastic camouflage. Although short-eared owls can hunt at night, they can also be seen hunting in daylight (typically owls with yellow or orange eyes are more likely to hunt in daylight).
From perches on driftwood or fence posts, they will make low flights, surveying the ground, turning on a sixpence to drop down after voles and small mammals (they will also take birds and insects).
Experts in our Community

Property Expert David Piaister explains that clutter, lack of storage, pets, bad smells, overgrown gardens and general mess are the top turn offs when buyers view a home. With prospective buyers forming opinions within the first few seconds of walking through the front door, the survey from sofa and carpet specialist ScS looked at the top turn offs and the top attractive features for viewers.

It found that 41 per cent listed clutter and an obvious lack of places for storage was the biggest turn off while 40 per cent said pets, bad smells and a general mess around the property.

Some 36 per cent said that they would be put off by old or damaged carpets, 35 per cent by an old or messy kitchen and 33 per cent if the property was affected by a nearby main road.

When it comes to the kind of attributes that attract buyers, some 57 per cent said the right number of bedrooms was necessary while 40 per cent said off-street parking. Then 32 per cent said it was a well-maintained garden, 31 per cent new windows and 30 per cent a new kitchen.

Over a third, some 39 per cent of males were put off by pets, bad smells and general untidiness, whereas clutter or obvious lack of storage came up as the biggest bugbear for women. Although people in most places in the UK voted clutter or lack of storage the biggest turn-off, in Manchester 41 per cent of house buyers said that old and damaged carpets would be the first thing to put them off putting in an offer. While 51 per cent of people in Liverpool said inconsiderate neighbours would be the biggest issue to deter them from buying a property.

Older buyers, those aged 45 and over, were more concerned with pets, bad smells and general untidiness. People in this age bracket are usually searching for their ‘forever home’ and lingering smells can be very off-putting when moving in to a new property.

David explains that buyers will look at the front of a house and immediately create perceptions of the entire home before viewing it: “If your front door needs a fresh lick of paint, get it done, those first impressions are all so important.”

-Colours are key in the home for helping to sell the property. Red is scientifically proven to raise heartbeats and evoke an energetic atmosphere. Yellows and oranges are perfect for creative thinking and kick off trails of thought when seen. These colours can, therefore, be considered to be distracting to viewers. There is science behind sticking to simple tones and colour choices, so think first before picking up the paint roller. Decorating is a key part of presenting your property adequately,” he explained.

“If your property doesn’t offer broad appeal and has too many quirky design features and impractical pieces throughout the home, it’s not going to be viewed positively,” he added.
WHAT’S ON IN BLEADON?

9th June 2019                   Open Garden Day Village Hall 10.00am

6 June                                Public Meeting regarding 200 homes appeal – discussion regarding the process; comments to

2 May                                 Local Council Elections

20 April                              Bleadon Market – ‘meet your councillors’ – time for a chat

20 March                            Neighbourhood Planning Group

11 March                            Parish Council

16 Feb 2019                       Bleadon Market – ‘meet your councillors’ – time for a chat

1 Mar 2019                        Bleadon Market – ‘meet your councillors’ – time for a chat

14 March                        Bleadon Market – ‘meet your councillors’ – time for a chat

16 March                        Bleadon Market – ‘meet your councillors’ – time for a chat

20 March                        Bleadon Market – ‘meet your councillors’ – time for a chat

1 April                          Planning Committee

8 April                          ANNUAL PARISH MEETING (APM) – this is convened and chaired by the Parish Council but is an
informal meeting of the electorate to receive reports of the work of the PC during the past year. Also the opportunity for residents to raise issues of concern or interest.

15 April                          Planning Committee

17 April                          Neighbourhood Planning Group

20 April                        Bleadon Market – ‘meet your councillors’ – time for a chat

2 May                           Local Council Elections

13 May                          Annual Meeting of the Parish Council (AMPC)

6 June                          Public Meeting regarding 200 homes appeal – discussion regarding the process; comments to inform the Parish Council’s response at the Appeal.

10 June                          Parish Council

Bleadon in Bloom Wildflower Planting and Litter Picking 10.00am Meet at Bleadon Village Hall

Bleadon in Bloom Tub Preparation Meet 10.00am at Bleadon Village Hall

Open Garden Day Village Hall 10.00am

3rd Saturdays 7.30pm Coronation Hall

3rd Thursdays 7.30pm Coronation Hall

3rd Tues (Oct-June) 7.30pm Coronation Hall

3rd Sat (both halls) 9-12.30pm

2nd Monday 7.30 Coronation Hall

1st, 2nd, 4th & 5th Tues Sept-May. 7.30pm. Coronation Hall

Wed 7.45pm Jubilee room

Wed 7.30pm & shows 4th weekend in Jan, May & September

Tues & Sun 2.30-4.30pm (Sept-May) Fri 7-9pm (all year round) Jubilee room

4th Thurs 7.30-9.30pm Jubilee Room

4th Thurs Coronation Hall 9.30-11.30am Term Time only

Thurs Coronation Hall 9.30-11.30am Term Time only

2nd Thurs Coronation Hall 7.30pm

2nd Saturdays 7.30pm

Thurs 7.30pm & shows 4th weekend in Jan, May & September

4th Thurs 7.30-9.30pm Coronation Hall

Mon 9.30-10.30am Jubilee Room

Mon 7.45pm Jubilee Room

Thurs 7.45pm Jubilee Room

Other Contacts

19th March 2019

19th March 2019 Bleadon in Bloom Wildflower Planting and Litter Picking 10.00am Meet at Bleadon Village Hall

24th May 2019 Bleadon in Bloom Tub Preparation Meet 10.00am at Bleadon Village Hall

9th June 2019 Open Garden Day Village Hall 10.00am
Bleadon Christmas Market was buzzing at the beginning of December. The three village halls were filled with festive stalls. The Market Café was busy selling hot mince pies and other delicious snacks and drinks. The Secret World owls were a big hit.

And the Christmas Raffle table was frantically selling tickets from the word go. As always it was a great atmosphere and a chance to meet friends and do some shopping. A great way to raise funds for our village halls.

The Market is held every month on the third Saturday. We couldn't do it without all the wonderful helpers and volunteers who keep it going.

---

**BLEADON GARDEN SERVICES**  
Landscape Gardening

- Fully Qualified Gardener and Landscape Designer

- All forms of Garden Maintenance - no garden too small
- Correct shrub pruning techniques
- Landscape/Garden design
- Garden Overhauling / clearance

30 Years experience including Redesign and re-landscaping of numerous Public Parks

**CONTACT:** Joe Scully, Hillcote,  
Bleadon Hill,  
07903 323885
Your Parish Council  - come and meet us at the market

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>ADDRESS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jim Baines (Chairman)</td>
<td>Shalom&quot;, Purn Way</td>
<td>814243</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary Sheppard (vice Chairman)</td>
<td>The Incas, Bleadon Road</td>
<td>812921</td>
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<td>Steve Hartree</td>
<td>Chestnuts, Chestnut Lane</td>
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<td>Kirsten Hemingway</td>
<td>Southerly, Purn Way</td>
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<td>Jo Richardson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gill Williams</td>
<td>5 Pine Lea</td>
<td>813255</td>
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TRAVEL TO WORK SURVEY

How do you get to work? Are you satisfied with your journey? Have your say and tell us about your commute in the Travel to Work Survey from 11-17th March.

It takes 5 minutes to complete the survey online and there are prizes to win! By participating you are helping us understand commuting behaviour and plan for future transport needs. To take part go to www.travelwest.info/survey from 11th March. For more information please contact sustainable.travel@n-somerset.gov.uk
The Bleadon WI Choir
The End of an Era and a New Beginning for the Bleadon Belles

The Choir were sad to be saying goodbye to Andy King at the end of January. Andy joined the choir as Choirmaster in February 2014 when they had only been going for a few months. They immediately knew that Andy was just right for them, with his natural musical talent and cheerful personality. It was Andy who took the choir to the finals of the NFWI Centenary Singing for Joy competition in 2015 which in spite of their inexperience they actually won. The high point of their rapid rise to success was singing at the Royal Albert Hall in June that year.

At a farewell party at the end of January, the choir gave a stirring rendition of their winning song “Singing for Joy” and other favourites. Andy was presented with an album of his time with the Belles. They wish him well for the future, but he will be sadly missed.

Now the choir are determined to keep going, and are actively seeking a replacement. It will be hard, but not impossible. Watch this space!

Jo Jones

BLEADON WI

Since Dr Amy Frost, from Bath University, gave her talk on ‘The Creation of Georgian Bath’, visits to Bath have been seen in a different light: not only is it worth looking up, above the shop fronts, but it is also very interesting to see the rear of the buildings, which more ably show the history of the architecture and a glimpse into Bath’s intriguing past.

December was a busy month: despite a blustery and often wet night, it was good to see so many members and villagers at our Carol service on 7 December. The carol singing afterwards, at The Queen’s Arms, was enjoyed, as were the mince pies and hot mulled wine, kindly provided by the landlord. Collections were made for the Youth Club and the Mother & Toddlers Group. More carols were enjoyed when a group of members travelled to St Mary Redcliffe, Bristol later in the month to take part in the Federation’s Carol service.

Fantastic support was given to the local Gemini Project at our December meeting, with donations of toiletries, small gifts, books, etc and, as always, donations were also brought for the local Food Bank.

The New Year got off to a good start with a talk by Michael Eavis, of Worthy Farm, Pilton on how the first ‘Pilton Pop Festi- val’ started in 1970, with Marc Bolan of T.Rex headlining, through to its transformation into the ‘Glastonbury Music Festival’, looking to mark its 50th Anniversary in 2020. And, yes, Michael did come wearing his trademark shorts and sandals!

We now looking forward to marking our 50th year as a WI – what a lot to look back on and going forward! We are now looking to set ourselves ten challenges and to celebrate a very special year. If you wondered why there were some unusual noises coming from the Coronation Hall in February, we were trying ‘Flamenco’ dancing – oh! Not that our March meeting will be quiet, if we’re sampling local beers!

Libby Lockyer
Bleadon Horticultural Society

Dr George Hargreaves brought a colourful start to the New Year with an illustrated talk on camellias. Flowering from autumn to late spring, some of the best collections of camellias in the UK can be found in the great gardens of Devon and Cornwall.

Mark Perry, Chairman of the Hutton in Bloom volunteers is our speaker on 19 February, when we hope to pick up some useful tips on preparing for Bleadon in Bloom.

The 45th Annual Spring Show will be held in the Coronation Hall on Saturday 9 March. Show schedules detailing classes are available from Bleadon Post Office Shop, the Queens and the church porch. Entries should be submitted to Bleadon Post Office Shop by 4.30pm on Thursday 7 March. Doors open to the public on Saturday at 2.30pm. Entry is £1 for adults, under 16 free. Refreshments available.

We welcome speakers for the following dates:

16 April   The importance of my garden to me - Sally James
21 May     Bristol University Botanic Garden - A new garden for the 21st Century - Ann Brake
18 June    Vegetable Growing - John Studley
17 July    Coach trip - destination to be confirmed

We meet in the Coronation Hall at 7.30pm. Admission is £2. Refreshments are available and all are welcome.

Rose Benjamin
and Libby Boucher

Have your say on Healthy Weston hospital proposals

February 13, 2019

Local residents are being invited to have their say on NHS proposals to create a stronger and more focused Weston Hospital at the heart of the local community.
Croquet in Bleadon

In the centre of Bleadon is a delightful spot opposite the local post office shop and cafe which is known as Weston-super-Mare Croquet Club, and we are members of the Croquet Association. Our club moved from Clarence Park to Bleadon in 2009 and we will celebrate our tenth year in Bleadon in 2019.

Many of our members live in Bleadon and take an active role in village life. We are always delighted to welcome new members of all abilities and age. Coaching and teaching is available to all new players. We can arrange a trial period before a prospective member is required to join the club.

Association Croquet and Golf Croquet At the club we play two forms of Croquet on six lawns, which convert into three large lawns for major competitions. Both forms of the game are played as singles or doubles using six hoops. Association Croquet is an interesting game which requires the player to play the ball through every hoop in a prescribed order. Probably if you have ever played garden croquet and had your ball hit into the shrubbery then you were trying to play Association! In fact it’s a very well organised game with no foot on the ball or sending the opponents ball off the lawn! Games usually last about two hours. Then we have Golf Croquet an alternative form of the game where it is the first player through the hoop that scores the point. All players then move on to the next hoop in a prescribed order. These games last about 40 to 50 minutes. This of course, is a very simplistic explanation but we recommend you come and have a try! Both forms of the game have organised afternoons for club members, which are well attended. Our season runs from approximately the beginning of April until October, weather permitting. Lawns are available from 10.00am until dusk. If passing our ground in winter you will notice ongoing activity as our members are very keen to improve our lawns and grounds and keep them in good condition. The Club has a purpose built Boule court with an active group who play regularly. A Boule only membership is available whilst Croquet members have boule included in their membership. The Club has Croquet teams in the South West Federation Croquet Leagues. This year the Club has achieved very good results with many of our members taking part in these leagues matches. Members are required to wear whites when playing in league matches and club competitions whilst for other club activities players may wear casual clothes. A must have, however is flat shoes or sandals. The Club runs Social Events throughout the year, run at cost. At the end of the Season we hold our Fun(d) Raising Day; a social event to help our funds and give all our members a croquet fun day to remember. National Croquet Day will be held on Sunday 12th May 2019, a date to put in your diaries. Come in throughout the day and try your hand at Croquet. There will be members playing and members to introduce you to the delights of Croquet. The day is free to all visitors; equipment is provided and the club is open from 11.00am until 4.00pm. We look forward to welcoming you. Check us on our website http://www.westoncroquet.co.uk/# or www.facebook.com/groups/1619544241658881/

Jeanette Stuckbury Chairman
Weston Super Mare Croquet Club
Take part in the £5 FLOWER CHALLENGE. Create an imaginative arrangement for less than £5, then display it in the Church over the holiday.
Call Gill Williams 813255

**Bleadon**

**MAY DAY FAYRE**

**MONDAY 6 MAY**
11am - 4pm

Admission £2
Wristband includes FREE goes on most games

**May Day Holiday** Monday 6 May 11am - 4pm
Coronation car park, play area, Coronation Halls, Youth Club and Church

**Fun and entertainment all day for the whole family**
Inflatable, Climbing wall, Teddy Zipwire, Secret World animals, Wood turning

**MORRIS DANCERS**
at 12:15 and 1:45pm

**FOOD**
throughout the day in the Coronation Hall + outside stalls
Licensed BAR
Beers, cider, wines

**BRIC-A-BRAC**
BARGAINS GALORE
throughout the day in the youth club

**Model railway, Flower Challenge & Live Music in the Church**

**Plant sales**

**Free games**
Demonstrations + Stalls
to challenge and entertain

**Live music from The Dark Horses**

**Admission £2**
Wristband includes FREE goes on most games
Free admission for children under 2yrs
Bleadon Dark Skies

Night Sky Delights throughout March

If one looks up to the heavens during March then a little bit of navigating around the stars will reveal some wonderful objects to enjoy.

The constellation of Orion the Hunter is very well placed in the southern sky from around 7pm onwards and if one takes a bit of time to look to the south of Orion’s three main belt stars they should be able to make out a faint fuzzy patch of light. This area is known as Orion’s Sword and contains the Great Orion Nebula, a vast area of gas and dust which is the birthplace of new stars.

The nebula (Latin for cloud) lies about 1600 light years away from Earth which means the nebula is seen by us as it was 1600 years in the past as the light takes this long to reach us. Amazing when you consider light travels at 186000 miles per second. Work out how many miles this is over 1600 years!!

If we then navigate from Orion to the north west we can see the famous open star cluster the Pleiades, or more often known as the Seven Sisters. This inhabits the constellation of Taurus the Bull. These stars are fairly young in astronomical terms and it always been a good test of the local skies to see how many stars can be counted. The darker the skies the more stars will become visible.

To the south east of Orion is Sirius, the brightest star in the night sky. This star is about 9 light years from Earth and resides in the constellation of Canis Major the Great Dog. It is a main sequence star and is around two times the size of our own Sun. It was a very influential object in ancient Egypt where it was known as the Dog Star.

Finally, for those wishing to stay up to the early hours then the ring of the planets Jupiter will be seen rising in the East. This massive planet is larger than all of the other Solar System planets combined and is made up of mainly hydrogen and helium with a likely small Earth sized rocky core.

It is a very active planet with huge storms raging with the most well known of these being the Great Red Spot. This storm is twice the size of our planet and has been active for at least the last three hundred years. To the naked eye the planet looks like a very bright star but with a small telescope it can easily be seen to be the planet it is with its four main Galilean moons circling Jupiter as well as its major cloud belts.

Joanne Richardson

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Bleadon Café

It feels like the summer is just around the corner and we are busy getting the Café ready for all the visitors to our village. The team here are keen to welcome groups that would like to set up regular meetings here and happy to host parties—come in and see us if you are passing.

We are planning a Mothers Day Lunch specials, treat those Special Mums and Grandmas we are taking bookings now ... Contact us by email on—zo-esols8@hotmai.co.uk for more details also slimmer the price and slimmer the menu 2 meals for £10 selected menu only ..... 

Don’t forget out new our new telephone number 01934 814339
CORONATION HALLS UPDATE

Universities offer an astonishing range of degree subjects nowadays but I don’t think Village Hall Management is one of them - yet. It is left to a bunch of unqualified amateurs who have to learn (often by their mistakes) as they go along, and it is by no means an easy task. We do of course receive chunks of unsolicited advice from self-appointed experts, but it is rarely helpful.

To begin with, we have a large building to maintain, inside and out. When problems occur they often need to be dealt with as quickly as possible so that hirers can continue to use the facilities in the normal way. For example, last year we had to replace the water boiler in the main kitchen and have emergency work done on one of the heaters. At the time of writing we are replacing the electric cooker in the Jubilee Room and the insect trapper in the main kitchen (I bet you didn’t know we had one of them).

Maintenance is not enough on its own. There has to be improvement as well. The major alterations a couple of years ago are basically a vast improvement but they brought numerous teething problems which were gradually overcome, often after hirers pointed out things that we had overlooked although they were obvious once we were shown. A recent relatively minor one which passed unnoticed by the majority of users was the need for a mirror. There was one in the gents’ toilet and several in the ladies’ toilet (imagine the outcry if they had not been provided!), but none in the disabled toilet. The contractor missed it and for two years the committee missed it. Once a user drew attention to it our hall supervisor, Bill Blacklock, got busy and installed one. A much bigger improvement of the “why didn’t we think of that before?” variety is the recently created pedestrian access at the southern end of the building. The idea came from Steve Hartree and as the land belongs to the parish council their approval had to be obtained, the result being a jointly funded venture. Meanwhile we continue to build up funds for the refurbishment of the main kitchen, where some of the equipment has been in place longer than most of the committee can remember.

We also need to keep pace with change. An example is the provision of Wi-Fi, which was unheard of not so long ago. At the moment there has been a blip in our arrangements, leading to unfavourable comments, and we are in discussion with other parties. We have to accept that the cost of this has to become part of our budget. Another cost of which we have been given warning is that of rubbish collection. At present the collection is treated as domestic by North Somerset but this is likely to change, resulting in further cost to the halls. On these grounds alone we need to reduce the amount put out for collection, at the same time as we need to make our contribution to improving the environment. We therefore suggest to hirers, present and potential, that their activities should generate the smallest possible amount of waste. The ladies who provide the refreshments at the monthly market set an admirable example. Their kitchen is very busy but at the end of the morning the amount of rubbish does not even fill one black bag. There are weeks, however, when the number of black bags put out for collection at the car park exit is a very embarrassing advertisement for our community. We should like to see all events and activities organised with that consideration in mind.

Les Masters

Mark Howe
Gardening Services
9 Malvern Road, Weston-Super-Mare
Phone 01934 413594 or 07773272003

- REGULAR GRASS CUTTING
- HEDGES AND TREES CUT
- SHRUBS PRUNED
- FENCE PAINTING
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- PATIOS AND CHIPPINGS LAID
- LAWN TREATMENTS
- DECKING ERECTED
- PATIOS AND PATHS
- PRESSURE WASHED
- FENCING ERECTED AND REPAIRED
- SHED ERECTION & REPAIR
- BLOCK PAVING REPAIRS
We busily preparing for the open garden afternoon on 9 June 2019. If you would like to open your garden, do please get in touch via dandgpeacock@gmail.com or 814237. To enable the programmes to be prepared, we do need a firm commitment by 31.3.19. All are encouraged to apply - it doesn't need to be a huge Capability Brown garden - you might have a small courtyard, or a work in progress, or a wildlife garden with little formal structure. It isn't a competition - just a chance to celebrate Bleadon's lovely gardens. We hope you would want to be involved in this community enterprise.

For those who don't feel able to do the whole open garden thing but who wish to support the community Bleadon in Bloom work, we would love it if you would 'garnish your gate' or 'decorate your front door' - in other words, do something extra special to the front of your house to make it look even better. For example, you might put a new pot outside, or a flower wreath on your front gate or door, or string some cheerful bunting to your front fence.

We know the Britain in Bloom judges will be visiting in July. And we feel that these little contributions that we can all make, relatively easily, will help with the competition. More than that though - they will show a community coming together to improve its environment and being glad for the privilege of living in such a lovely place.

Bleadon on Bloom is well underway and there is a project plan available on the Parish Council Website. We are being keen to involve the community and would like a Bleadon in Bloom leader in every street. If you feel you could help please let us know.

We have a team of apprentices coming from Thatchers Cider to help with planting up the banks and creating the wildflower gardens but we will need help to plant up tubs, water tubs, make herb walls and help us to have a general tidy round.

Get in touch if you can help.—07710098804 or 815540
Bleadon in Bloom

Calling all Litter Pickers, tidy uppers and Planters—we have a team from Thatchers coming to help prepare the banks for Bleadon in Bloom but we need you too—please join us at 10.00am on the 19th of March at Bleadon Village Hall—bring tools if you have them!!

Also—we need people to look after a planter or tub—could you care for a tub local to your house? We need tub parents to make sure they are weeded and watered once we have planted up for Bleadon in Bloom.

This year we are entering the Pennant award. This is a more “light Touch” award that will help us to get started and get involved.

Talking of getting started and getting involved we would like to ask people if they would like to decorate their gates or entrances to provide some extra things to look at on the open garden day and to support Bleadon in Bloom.

Clearing Weeds from your own house fronts would be really useful. Judging for the competition is early June.
Bleadon Cider Orchards

‘The Victoria’ in Bridge Rd

This was one of the other pubs in Bleadon, but unlike the others it only sold cider and beer - no spirits to be had here, nevertheless it was always busy! Regularly jugs of ale or cider were bought to be taken away for home consumption and local youngsters were often paid an old penny to carry jugs up the hill, not surprisingly some was quaffed along the way, and the stories go that many a jug of cider was topped up at the village pump before it got to its rightful consumer!

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

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

The more refined ciders came later.

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

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

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

Musicians outside ‘The Victoria’.

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

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

Postscript to this article first published a few years ago in Bleadon Village News.

Over the past few years new orchards have been planted adjacent to Shipmate Road, just past Wonderstone, so there will be plenty of locally sourced cider for us all to enjoy for years to come.

Penny Robinson (Bleadon History Society)

(Fond memories of the late Sylvia Bird who gave me the background for the original article).

This article is to be read with an update from Thatchers

Bleadon Orchards
Thatchers Bleadon Orchards

Back in 2010 Thatchers Cider acquired around 180 of orchards in Shiplake. These are stunning, south facing orchards which provide near perfect conditions for growing apples for Thatchers cidermaking.

With a light, loamy, free draining soil, the orchards are now home to 70,000 apple trees, which if you look closely, you’ll see are planted in neat rows, in the “hedgerow” style championed by Thatchers.

“By planting the trees in rows, tighter together and more like a hedge than traditional bush orchards, you can make the best use of light with the right pruning,” explains Chris Muntz-Torres, Thatchers orchard manager. “The trees are supported on wires, and planted 5 ft apart and grown to around 16 ft in height. Shaping of the young trees maximizes the amount of light that reaches the fruit, giving us the great quality apples that our cidemakers need.”

In order to be able to supply the cider mill at Sandford with the range and quality of fruit required, Thatchers has been committed to research and innovation for many years, amongst other things developing and trialling new cider apple varieties with the National Association of Cider Makers.

At Shiplake Thatchers grows some of its favourite apple varieties – all bittersweet, such as Dabinett, Tremlett’s and Somerset Redstreak, while also introducing some of the newer varieties such as Angela, Lizzie and Prince William.

As part of its extensive research, Thatchers maintains an exhibition orchard in Sandford, which contains the largest collection of cider apple trees in the UK. Gathered by John Thatcher over the last 30 years, many of the 458 varieties homed in the orchard were brought across from Long Ashton Research Station in Bristol when it stopped fruit research back in the 1980s. This year Thatchers has produced a cider called Thatchers 458, that uses each of the apple varieties grown in the Exhibition orchard. A well-balanced, medium dry cider Thatchers 458 is a true showcase for the heritage of the apple, including the complete range of cider apple types - bittersweet, bittersharpe, culinary sweet and culinary sharp. Lesser known and ancient varieties preserved in the Exhibition Orchard, are blended into Thatchers 458, including Vagon Archer, Wyken Pippin, Pigs Snout, Foxwhelp, Cider Ladies Finger, and Slack-ma-Girdle.

As we move through the year there’s plenty to see at the Shiplake orchards. During the winter months there’s ongoing “housekeeping” to be done, such as pruning and shaping of the trees, and in some orchards there’ll be some planting. During spring you’ll see the harvest team start mowing in between the rows of trees, and of course in May the blossom starts to appear. Shiplake is a sheltered, higher spot, so it is protected from late frosts but apple trees do need some winter chill to help their growth. Harvest starts at Shiplake mid-September, with the Somerset Redstreak apple the first to be ready. Prince William, Angela, Lizzie and Three Counties follow into October, with Dabinett often the last to be gathered in.

Finally, keep a look out for these stunning orchards in Thatchers new TV commercial that is aired from the beginning of February!
WELCOME TO OUR CIDER SHOP.

Experience our complete range of ciders here at Myrtle Farm. Try our traditional ciders and explore our exclusive, award winning Cider Barn collection. Or join us at the Railway Inn for some delicious food and a friendly atmosphere.

EST. 1904

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Visit www.thatcherscider.co.uk/visit us Tel: 01934 822862