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ISSUE 118

# Bleadon News

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Dates I need to know for the next edition...

Publication of the summer edition of the magazine: *September 2021*

Cut off for content: *August 13th 2021*

Cut off for advertisement: *August 20th 2021*



Front page image credit: Annette Hill

Bleadon Village News



@BleadonParishCouncil

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started is to quit  
talking and begin  
doing.”

*Walt Disney*



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# Chairman's message

**Gill Williams**

Things really are beginning to look brighter!

Two household visiting, eating in restaurants, theatres and cinemas opening up and two-thirds of the adult population having been vaccinated. These must all help us feel a little better.

The other bright things in

Bleadon which I hope you have noticed are the increased number of planted tubs which have recently appeared, along with wild flower grassed areas and lots of young trees all along the A370 and in the village.

Our thanks go especially to the Bleadon in Bloom group working hard to improve and keep our village looking lovely.

Church services are now being held every Sunday in the

church itself and in the church-yard.

Proposed meetings now being booked in the Coronation Hall, the youth club and the newly refurbished Church Room are another sign of some sort of normality returning.

Not totally out of the woods yet but at least we have a bright side to look at.

Have a happy and healthy summer!

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# Parish Council Snippets...

by Bruce Poole

**A**s I write these few words, town and parish councils have been informed that, as of May 6, the interim Covid-19 measures for holding virtual meetings must cease.

Although present day legislation for councils relies almost entirely on the Local Government Act 1972, it didn't then obviously account for what we now take for granted – the World Wide Web and the Internet.

These innovations have, to a large extent, allowed councils these past 12 months to still function with meetings where possible being held virtually.

This format, as you can expect, has had its advantages and disadvantages. Challenges such as having a reliable internet connection has been one such problem for a number of councillors. Getting acquainted with new equipment has been another.

However one main advantage has been without doubt the fact more residents have joined into our meetings than would normally be witnessed at a face-to-face meeting in the Coronation Hall. This factor has led to a number of councillors thinking we should recognise

the simple fact that members of our community might just want to see what is going on each month. This could comfortably be achieved by using both YouTube and similar platforms to stream our monthly parish council meetings.

At least the members and the council can pride themselves on the fact that business has been 'as usual' despite the difficulties the pandemic has undoubtedly brought.

It has also in many ways brought the community even closer together with lots of wonderful and heart rendering stories circulating how neighbours have looked out for each other especially to those residents who live on their own.

This type of support mechanism which has transpired within Bleadon these past months should, in my opinion, not be lost once we return to some semblance of normality. There will always be times for whatever reason when some form of communication network is required.

One small but vital step in that direction has been taken with Cllr Ann Davies volunteering to act as the village coordinator for the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. Perhaps it is also timely to reinstate the 'Contact Us' initiative. What do you think?

The parish council now has a full complement of councillors all of whom personally assumed a specific portfolio as

their particular overall responsibility in serving the council. While the annual meeting of the parish council was held virtually, it covered a very wide range of matters. It received the annual accounts (unaudited) for the financial year end (March 31, 2021). The Annual Governance and Annual Return was duly signed off and once the formal Internal Audit has been completed the accounting certificate will then be forwarded to the External Auditor for finalisation.

Anyone passing through the churchyard cannot have failed to notice yet further repair work has been carried out to the church wall. Because of the very nature and make-up of the wall any works carried out has to be undertaken by professional stonemasons. This has always been an expensive budget line but necessary to retain the beauty of the churchyard.

Likewise you will not have failed to notice that numerous trees have been planted within the village the greater percentage having been set out on the grass verges of the A370. This scheme albeit financially supported by the parish council has been promulgated by the Bleadon in Bloom Group who as always give willingly of their personal time.

The whole area on the A370 will in due time provide we hope a spectacle of colour due to the Wilding that has also been undertaken.



Blean from Hellenge. Picture credit: Annette Hill



# High praise for so many...

**H**ere we are again but things are starting to look up! The sun has come out this week after what feels like forever, the barbecue is fired up and things are starting to open up after a four-month-long lockdown.

I have finally got my garden looking beautiful and I have said goodbye to my lockdown locks and we are now crossing our fingers for as-close-to-normal summer as we can get!

Before I get into the theme of this column, I would first like to share my condolences with Peter Briffitt's family after he sadly passed away in his sleep back in March. Peter was well-known in the village as the proprietor of Bridge Garage which he ran for almost 40 years, playing second fiddle to his son Nick recently.



Having lost my grandfather and my father-in-law last year, I can imagine what Peter's family are experiencing right now and I hope his memory and legacy lives on for years to come.

For the remainder of my column I would like to praise some very special people. At the young age of 26, I thought I would be waiting a long old time for my Covid-19 injection, which considering my full-time job is working in a college... I was less than thrilled about being patient—something I am not known for!

But, I have to start by praising the staff at Mendip Vale Medical Centre who are so ahead of the game that myself and my 30-year-old boyfriend received our first injections three weeks' ago!

I would like to secondly praise the people of North Somerset, who have managed to remain responsible as restrictions have eased.

At the time of writing my column, nine cases per 100,000 people were reported between 14-20 May, besting the national average by three and 136,318 people in the area have had their first dose of the vaccine.

But please don't let it drop now. If you choose not to get the vaccine then that is your decision which I respect, I just implore you to remain vigilant and look after yourself and your loved ones.

I would like to next praise our younger parishioners. As I previously said, I work in a college and regularly see students nervous about exams and studying hard. Traditionally students would be sat in sports halls in rows as they nervously open their exam papers but, thanks to the pandemic, this has not been possible.

Well done students for being patient, persevering and showing real determination to succeed.

So what do we have to look forward to now? Hopefully a warm summer, continued relaxing of restrictions and the nation, and world continuing to come together in the aftermath of the pandemic.



## Bleadon Brownies move to new base



The church group have been very supportive and welcoming during this transition, and we are grateful to the Coronation Hall team for their support during our time there.

We meet every Tuesday evening during school term times from 5.30-6.45pm, and even though we now have a waiting list, any interest is welcome – please contact Jacqui Hall-Scott at [j.hallscott@btinternet.com](mailto:j.hallscott@btinternet.com) for more information.

Jacqui Hall-Scott

**F**irst Bleadon Brownies are now homed in the newly refurbished Bleadon Church Room, which has been a very positive move for us.

Within the first two weeks of the unit re-opening, numbers have spiralled from six to 18 members. To say we are very pleased would be an understatement – the Church Room is an ideal setting for our indoor activities, the park is a short walk away, and there are some lovely local fields and country walks that we are looking to include in our outdoor activities plan.







Answers available on p25.

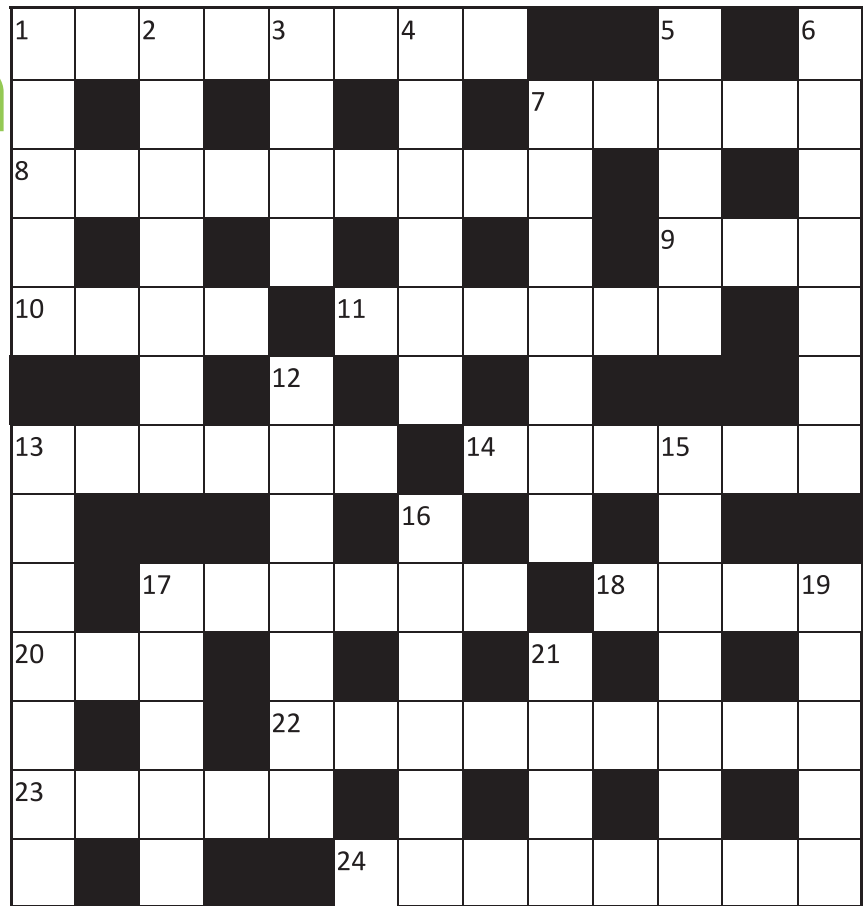
## George's crossword

### ACROSS

1. At the beginning of May, stub led to trip (8)
7. Permit everyone to cry out in pain (5)
8. Fosse Way maybe in Bleadon (5,4)
9. Greek salad item (3)
- 10, 14 & 20. On which we may step—wind a factor? (4, 6, 3)
11. Scorn eiderdown initially (6)
13. Routine messy Ford model (6)
14. See 10 (6)
17. Jumping season (6)
18. Funny ditch (4)
20. See 10 (3)
22. Sully Eire in a gentle way (9)
23. Rope soon returns east (5)
24. Southern pot menders unclean? (8)

### DOWN

1. Warts ride for animal bedding (5)
2. Reveals as we emerge from lockdown (7)
3. Little person has a bit of an angel face (4)
4. Odder around the east? It's worn away (6)
5. Put step around the left (5)
6. Stew port seen on 'Strictly' perhaps (3, 4)
7. Did save as guided (7)



12. Re-fuel perhaps? About right on the end of an umbrella (7)
13. Gosh! Win as demonstrated perhaps (7)
15. Late looker is a skilled marksman (7)
16. Demand something forcefully (6)
17. Academics arise around unknown letter at Church Council (5)
19. Donkey passes by in Gorge (5)
21. Local hill rears up over sailors (4)

## Ellie's sudoku

	2				4	3		
9				2				8
			6		9		5	
								1
	7	2	5		3	6	8	
6								
	8		2		5			
1				9				3
		9	8				6	



## George's quiz time

### Question one:

How long did the Hundred Years' War last?

### Question two:

Where do Panama hats come from?

### Question three:

Where did the dish 'Chop Suey' originate?

### Question four:

Which sport's governing body has W.G. Grace as its first president?

### Question five:

From which animal is cat-gut obtained?



# Bleadon man to cycle 200 miles in son's memory

by Ellie Young

**A** Bleadon man is aiming to raise £10,000 for the RNLI after they tried to save his son in 2014.

Phil Bindon, from Bleadon Hill will be cycling from Weston-super-Mare to Padstow in memory of his son, who died after being swept out to sea.

In 2014, Phil's life 'changed in a split second' when, at 9.40am on January 22, his son tragically died off the coast of Cornwall.



At 23 years old, Mike was a passionate fisherman and, on that particular day, he was out with his best friend looking for a fishing spot to settle down for the day.

When a freak wave hit the pair, his friend managed to hold on and call the emergency services but Mike was swept out in seconds. The RNLI and air support were on the scene within 15 minutes but they never found him.

Phil explained: "Pandemics, lockdowns and furlough, suddenly we all found ourselves with more time on our hands than we knew what to do with!

"During my time being furloughed, I decided I needed some form of exercise. Well, I wasn't going to take up running at my tender old age, so my quest was simple; find a bike (which was a challenge in itself).

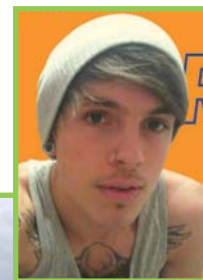
"Eventually, through some miracle, I found one and I managed to get out and about. There I was, racking up



the miles, getting fitter and falling into a pattern of regular exercise when I saw an advertisement to raise funds for a cancer charity—a story many of us can relate to.

"So, I got cracking, found some sponsorships, and completed the challenge with more than £700 donated. A great success!"

Not being able to sit back and stop there, Phil's thoughts turned to Mike.



Phil said he had 'a lightbulb moment' in 2020, the same year his son was due to turn 30, when he decided to set up the challenge to cycle from Weston's RNLI station to Padstow RNLI station, a route which would see him ride 200 miles over tough terrain with a total elevation of 16,000ft—which is not far off the height of Mount Everest.

The ride is set to take four days to complete and will begin on Saturday, 26 June at 10am and Phil is being joined on his trip by a number of colleagues, friends and family.

**To donate to the heart-warming ride, visit [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/philip-bindon-cyclechallenge](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/philip-bindon-cyclechallenge)**





# Calls for 20mph speed limit in residential areas

**M**ay 17-23 saw schools and communities throughout North Somerset celebrate United Nations Global Road Safety Week.

Traffic speeding through our village and town streets is a worry for all of us. Now lockdown is easing, traffic flow and speeds are increasing.

Children are most at risk on the streets where they live, play and travel to school. Every day 3,000 children and young people are killed or seriously injured on the world's roads. A child hit by a car at 20 mph can survive, but if hit at 50mph, most will die.

The key message of United Nations Global Road Safety Week is for 20mph to become the normal speed limit, in places where people on-foot or on-bicycle mix with motor vehicles.

The country has signed up to 20mph becoming the normal speed limit, along with the other UN countries, in the UN Stockholm Declaration on Road Safety of 2020.

Most of the UK's larger local authorities have adopted 20mph for their residential streets, includ-

ing Bristol, Bath and North East Somerset. Wales is about to bring in a 20mph national default speed limit for residential roads.

Around one third of the people in the country live in 20mph speed limit areas. Communities can decide that 20mph is the right limit where people live. Low speed, liveable streets, encouraging people to walk and cycle, are good for our health, good for community life, good for cleaner air, and good for reducing climate change emissions.

North Somerset Council is responsible for setting local speed limits. You can email the Council Leader ([donald.davies@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:donald.davies@n-somerset.gov.uk)) stating you support 20mph for residential streets throughout North Somerset.

Visit [www.unroadsafetyweek.org](http://www.unroadsafetyweek.org) and go to the 20's Plenty For Us campaign page for a speed limit of 20mph to be normal on residential streets and in town and village centres.

**Contact us at [northsomer-set@20splentyforus.org.uk](mailto:northsomer-set@20splentyforus.org.uk) or find us on Facebook.**



## Quizzing with Les Masters

**G**et your walking shoes out and go for a wander around the parish to take part in Les' quirky quiz! How observant have you been while out and about?

1. There are three instances of houses with the same name in different parts of the village: Myrtle Cottage, Apple Tree Cottage and Newlands. Where are the six locations?
2. There is a Mulberry House in Mulberry Lane. There is another about a mile away. Where?
3. Two houses have clearly foreign names: Shalom and Kia Ora. Where are they?
4. Where are three houses whose names end in mead?
6. In the parish of Bleadon, how many bridges are there over the railway? And how many over the river?

Put your answers to these questions until the next edition in September!

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# What do we hope for now?

by Rev Tim Erridge

As Spring moves into Summer and regulations change, among shifting sand and green shoots, I think we are all trying to find the best path forward for us and our communities now!

My guess is that we will all have many different longings and hopes in us at this unique time. It feels important to me to encourage you all to tell each other what they are and to listen to each other, especially when they are very different and contrasting.

I put together this selection of pictures for Rogation Sunday (9 May), a traditional time to pray for blessing on fields as the future fruitfulness begins to form, but fruitfulness need not only be in fields, it can be in communities



too!

Bleadon Church has been formally linked to St Andrew's Church at Bournville for some years now.

This link highlights local diversity and the potential for fruitful partnership amongst it. The pictures are of places in both parishes.

In these places and others, what do we hope for, long for and pray for now? I hope the pictures will inspire us to hope and pray as we journey forward. As a new time dawns, may we all help each other to discover new hope too.

## Croquet club

### Weston Croquet Club

This year, we are up and running a little earlier than normal, due to the good, dry weather in the middle of March.

Our lawns look really good after the care they have received from our own lawn teams. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, members are required to book a lawn to play on and can play singles or doubles.

Hopefully soon, when restrictions are lifted, we will start our 'roll-ups' on a Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, which members enjoy. With free play on the remaining days of the week. We have a whole list of club competitions from red, blue and white to cup and shield events, both in golf croquet and association croquet.

We are very excited that one of our golf croquet league teams won their Regional league competition and they are looking forward to playing Ripon in the semi-finals of the National Federation Cup.

New members have already had their training from our club coach. They will be starting to play in our roll-ups.

Other new potential members are most welcome to contact us. Details are on our website, [www.westoncroquet.co.uk](http://www.westoncroquet.co.uk)





# BLEADON QUARRY... IT'S



museum still has some of the relics on display. It is well known to this day that there are hitherto unexplored caves, tunnels and underground streams in our local hills, which could be linked to those more famous ones, but this is something that probably cannot now be proved.

Indeed the water used by the quarry workers to wash the stone etc. was sourced from one of these many underground water-courses and of course we

know that there are many wells and springs to be found under the houses of Bridge Road.

Some 320 million years ago the Earth was undergoing an enormous change, and it was at this time that the strata of Carboniferous limestone were laid down. Most of north Western Europe underwent a great deal of tectonic activity and complex ranges of mountains and hills were formed, one of which is the range we know today as the Mendips.

In some areas the limestone was mineralised with lead and zinc and from Roman times until the mid-19th century mining was the main industry of the area and Bleadon was no exception. However here in our part of the world, which represents the most westerly limit of the limestone plateau, the mining for minerals was superseded by the quarrying of the limestone, widely used in the building of our early railways, townhouses and later our roads.

As well as the importance of the bedrock, the hills around Bleadon, like those of Cheddar and Wookey were and are well-known for their caverns. These were discovered by the Rev David Williams, Rector of Bleadon 1820-1850, and it was during his geological exploration of the great fissures, left by mining activity, that the bony remains of wolf, cave bear, tiger and elephant were identified. The long extinct animals seem to have been very large in size and by measuring the long bones it has been estimated that the cave bear may have been 9ft tall (3m)!

Sadly the quarrying activity destroyed most of these sites but our local

The early history of the quarry itself, follows the fortunes of one George Young, who was originally a farmer from Purn, foresaw the need for stone in the building of the burgeoning rail industry and subsequently in about 1840 he gave up farming and became a quarry owner. Known then as Littledown quarry, it was the start of a business that would continue well into the 20th century.

The grand Victorian house in Bridge Road called 'Rock House' now 'Rockville', was originally built as the home of the Young family. It became a focal point for the village during the hunting season.

Later when the Youngs sold up, the house was converted into the flats we know today. Of course when mining ceased to be of importance in Bleadon the only work to be had locally would have been on the land, and most Bleadon sons were agricultural labourers, stockmen or shepherds.

But with the arrival of Kingston Minerals, a new career opportunity presented itself and many local lads from Bleadon and Lympsham came to work as quarrymen but to ensure that only locals

were employed, one of the rules for working in the quarry was that you had to live within walking distance.

For some it became a lifelong occupation. They started as boys and retired only when unable to cope with the heavy labour. That could have been a working life of 50 years or more.





# GEOLOGY—AND MORE RECENT HISTORY!



Interestingly however, it was the case that although the company, later called Kingston minerals, owned the rights to the stone, the actual land of South Hill, like most of Bleadon, was in the possession of the Church Commissioners and they exacted a levy of 1 shilling per ton of rock quarried. (1 shilling = 5 pence).

In its heyday tons of rock were blasted out of the quarry, and inevitably this led to the erosion of South Hill. At one time, a small cottage, the home of Copper and Lucy Banwell, stood proudly up there overlooking the Bleadon Levels, but they had to leave their home when the cliff became unstable.

Eventually the cottage collapsed into the quarry, and today a very faded photo is all that remains to show it ever existed.

Once quarried, the rock had to be transported from Bleadon to other places for distribution; in the early days this would have been achieved by using a single horse and a two-wheeled cart, known as a putt.

The driver, so we are told, would walk leading the horse and heavily laden putt to Burnham where it was unloaded, and he would then ride back on the empty one.



Such hard work one imagines, quarrying of the rock face continued well into the mid-20th century and with more modern equipment the whole enterprise became a lot more efficient.

A hooter would sound three times when blasting was imminent, warning the residents to stay indoors, as it wasn't unknown for small and not so small chunks of rock to fly skywards only to fall into the gardens of nearby cottages, but as far as is known no persons ever came to harm!

This activity happened once or twice a week, usually in the late morning, and the children in Bleadon School, (boys mostly) would go into the playground to see what was happening.

During the Second World War quarrying ceased, but the site was commandeered for the collection and stor-



age of salvage, seemingly to be used for the war effort.

Eventually it was feared that the foundations of nearby houses and indeed those of the Church would be damaged irreparably by the blasting and in the mid 1950s it stopped.

Although Kingston Minerals attempted to reintroduce it on a much smaller scale, the plan was rejected by the local council and so the company sold the site.

The new owners Amey Roadstone Corporation, well known in the road building industry used the quarry site as a source of rock and aggregate, at the time that Britain's motorway network was beginning to expand.

Eventually it was sold to Marshall's and their cement works and storage depot became a very dominant feature in the life of Bleadon, in fact it is true to say that the dust and traffic generated by this enterprise blighted the lives of the Bridge Road residents for many years.

Today Bleadon Quarry stands empty, awaiting the next phase of its 320 million year history.



# Nothing to see here...YET!

by Les Masters

**B**leadon's biggest-ever development, 42 homes and 500sqm of employment space, has been approved by North Somerset Council in a site most of you reading this have never set eyes on and you may never see when it is complete.

It will take place in the old Marshalls quarry in Bridge Road, a brownfield site, being visible only from South Hill as in the below picture and, to a limited extent, from Bridge Road, so the general appearance of Bleadon will not be affected - with one brilliant exception.

The developers are obliged to build two bus shelters opposite each other on the A370 near Bridge Garage and construct a traffic island in-between them, which is the welcome change which will be visible to countless drivers, cyclists and pedestrians and a benefit to so many local people.

The details can all be found on the planning application section of the North Somerset Council's website, ref. 19/P/0835/OUT, which I recommend. The key documents to study are the Delegated Report (01.03.21) and the Amended Plan (25.01.21), but as not everyone is in a position to do this I will pick out the salient points, the first being that our Parish Council very sensibly supported the plan.

They recognised that Bleadon can now say to higher authority that we are going to contribute significantly to the provision of both homes and jobs in the area, which will be enormously helpful in resisting unwelcome developments elsewhere.

They also welcomed the inclusion of fourteen afford-



able homes, something badly needed in a village that has had none built for over forty years while the best part of a hundred other homes have gone up, most of them detached.

Access to the site will be from three points, the obvious one being from Bridge Road but not from the present entrance, which will be closed off because turning right from it is too difficult.

Marshalls prudently bought Magnolia Cottage and Poplars, the adjoining houses on the other side, some years ago to give themselves room for manoeuvre. A new entrance will be opened between them, with part of Poplars demolished. Less obviously, the old access from Mulberry Lane will be available for walkers and cyclists, and there will be a footpath leading to South Hill close by.

Unavoidably there will be disruption and noise when the existing buildings are demolished and materials are brought on site but I think the result will be well worth it.

I remember the construction of Bleadon Mill, also a brownfield site, and can look back on the immense contributions to our village made by residents who arrived there from 1994 on. Let us hope this new influx has a similar effect.

## Mark Howe Gardening Services

9 Malvern Road, Weston-super-Mare

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Regular grass cutting  
Hedges and trees cut  
Sheds erected or repaired  
Fencing erected or repainted

Fence painting  
Turving  
Patos and  
chipping laid



# New look for Queens' back courtyard

It was lovely to finally reopen the Queens Arms on 12 April and we were lucky the weather was really good for the first two weeks. We were also grateful to Butcombe for refurbishing the back courtyard which now has a proper waterproof roof and has been extended.

We also had new heaters installed, lovely lighting and new furniture and we have just had the greenery arrive and a removable screen for the end for when it is windy, which will add the final touches. The response so far has been very positive and tables are being booked up every week. It's a great addition to the pub.

By the time you are reading this, restrictions have been lifted again and people are allowed inside the pub. We should also be able to have the Open Mic sessions again and can't wait to hear some live music at the pub. We have also started doing the meat raffle on Friday nights which is a great success. The meat is from the Bleadon Farm Shop so it's well worth winning!

We are also eagerly awaiting the arrival of the hanging baskets and will have some extra ones this year on the wall by the tables at the front of the pub.

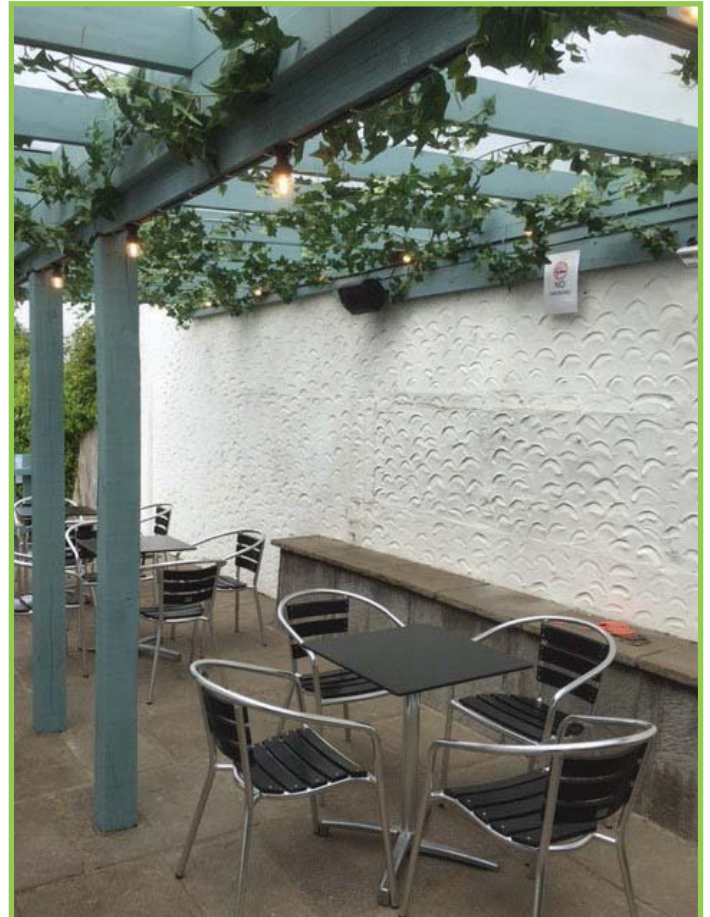
Thank you once again to David Chinn for sorting these out for us and Ruth for planting the tubs.

Hopefully, as restrictions relax further in June, we will be able to hold more events like the quiz nights and have themed evenings for food and just get things a bit more normal.

One event that is being organised on a Saturday in July is the Queens Arms and Green Eye Motorcycles Interesting Bike Show and BBQ. There will be prizes for the

most interesting motorcycle and everyone will be welcome to come along and join in. We will confirm the date nearer the time.

We would like to thank every single one of you who has supported the pub and sat outside shivering and drinking, it was great to welcome you all back again and also to meet all the new people who have come to the Queens.



## Bench installed to mark WI's 10th anniversary

by Elaine Mellor

Bleadon WI members continue to meet on Zoom. In recent months we have had talks from Amanda Prowse about her books and life as an author, Bob Sinfield on TV and radio comedy, have been crafty with iris folding and enjoyed cocktail making!

Future talks include learning more about pearls and Hampton Court. In May we are discussing this year's National WI Resolution which is a call to increase awareness of the subtle signs of ovarian cancer.

We are delighted that the Chat Bench, donated by Bleadon WI to celebrate our 10th anniversary, is now in place in the village. Thank you for the help received from Bleadon Parish Council and the Ranger and to Bleadon in Bloom for providing the lovely planters.

Bleadon WI membership is currently full. If any ladies would like to be added to our waiting list or join us as a guest on Zoom/when we can safely meet again in person, please email [bleadon-wi@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:bleadon-wi@hotmail.co.uk)



# Poem by Patricia Brent - 'After Rupert Brooke'

Oh God to see that other Eden  
The lovely village known as Bleadon.  
For Bleadon is one place I know  
Where August trippers do not go.  
But though the village is delightful  
The neighbourhood is rather frightful.

Down Uphill they don't laugh a lot,  
Well—let's be honest—what they got?  
We all know they'm short of a button  
In the far-flung territory of Hutton.  
And dreadful monsters have been seen  
On Accommodation Road to Brean.

They, down in Weston-super-Mare,  
Do roll around in mud—quite bare.  
If you goes out with a girl from Worle  
I've 'eard it makes your toe nails curl.

There's folks 'as been as far as Wells  
But they say their pigs didn't like the smells.  
And what goes on is something shocking  
With all they airmen down to Locking.  
There's dragons and goblins out as Mark,  
So they dares not go out after dark.

The Witch of Wookey you must see  
'Cos the women there do look like she.  
In Glastonbury they're proud of the Tor,  
But what the 'ell is 'e stuck there for?

Oh! I will go and take a train,  
And (a fortnight later) be in Bleadon again.  
Let me once more the old church clock  
With its handsome golden weathercock.  
But I do wish they'd make it chime  
So I could tell the Bleadon time.

Written October 1996.

## Letter to the editor

Dear editor,

I am writing to inform the residents of Bleadon, again, that a local businessman who wants to build houses for profit and destroy our green fields, voles, bats and other wildlife along with scenery around Bleadon, is still trying to get permission to build on the fields alongside Bleadon Road.

I would urge all to get in touch with North Somerset Council if and when he appeals against their decision to refuse planning permission, as it has just done as well as on two other occasions..

This has also gone to the government's ombudsman in the past when he appealed, and as the inspector listened to all of our arguments, Bleadon Parish Council did not want it, as the parishioners told us in great detail they did not want it.

North Somerset's planning department was also against it and refused permission, for all of

the various reasons given.

Biodiversity, ecology, disruption to the village and disruption to our wildlife, voles, bats, birds, insects and habitat.

Why can't this person realise he will be going against the village's wishes, the local district council and the parish council and the government who all want greener spaces for our wellbeing.

Here are just a few reasons why the development should not go ahead:

- Affect local ecology
- Close to adjoining properties
- Conflict with local plan
- Development too high
- General dislike of proposal
- Inadequate access
- Inadequate parking provision
- Increase in traffic
- Increase of pollution
- Information missing from plans
- Loss of parking
- Loss of privacy
- More open space needed on development

Regards, David Sharman

The following is a brief reminder that during the current Covid-19 vaccination roll-out the UK government advises that, if you experience any of the following from around four days to four weeks after vaccination you should seek medical advice urgently:

- a new, severe headache which is not helped by usual painkillers or is getting worse.
- an unusual headache which seems worse when lying down or bending over or may be accompanied by
- blurred vision, nausea and vomiting
- difficulty with your speech
- weakness, drowsiness or seizures
- new, unexplained pinprick bruising or bleeding
- shortness of breath, chest pain, leg swelling or persistent abdominal pain

To help the NHS with side-effect reporting, the government has set up a £1.5 million Yellow Card system so you can report, and be informed of, known adverse effects.

Please complete a Yellow Card even if you think someone else may have reported one – the system can detect duplicate reports and we can use information to add to details about the case.

The Government Yellow Card system can be found at [yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk](https://yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk)



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 [enquiries@cityofbristol.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@cityofbristol.ac.uk)  
 0117 312 5000

[Book now](#)



# Recipes

While the weather may not be particularly 'summery' right now, here are some barbecue-worthy dishes to celebrate the sunny season! Make them? Send us a picture!

## Korean chilli, sesame and honey chicken skewers

### Ingredients

12 chicken thighs, boneless and skinless  
2tbsp soy sauce  
1tbsp sesame oil  
Thumb-sized piece of ginger, grated  
4 spring onions, sliced

### For glaze

4tbsp Korean chilli paste or use a mix of  
3tbsp ketchup and 1tbsp sriracha chilli  
sauce  
2tbsp honey  
Juice of 1/2 lime  
1tbsp soy sauce  
1tsp sesame oil  
2tbsp sesame seeds

### Method

1. Toss the chicken in the soy sauce, sesame oil and ginger. Thread each

thigh on two long metal skewers, so each skewer pieces one side of the thigh. Keep threading the chicken, making sure it's packed onto the skewers tightly. Chill until you are ready to cook.

2. Mix the ingredients for the glaze.
3. Heat the barbecue. If using a coal barbecue, wait for the coals to turn ashen before you start cooking.
4. Cook the kebab for 5-8 minutes on each side and once nicely charred, but not fully cooked through, start painting on the glaze. The honey will catch if cooked for too long—the key to nice sticky chicken is applying the glaze in layers, turning the kebab often.
5. Once, the glaze has been used up and the chicken is cooked through (it will take about 20 minutes in to-

tal), transfer to a plate and leave to cool for five minutes before serving scatter with spring onion.



## Strawberry shortcake slice

600ml double cream  
1tbsp vanilla bean paste  
1tbsp orange blossom water  
125g icing sugar, plus 2 tbsp  
500g shortcake biscuits, plus 3 crushed  
350g strawberries, sliced

### Method

1. Line a 20cm cake tin or dish (either a square or rectangle works well) with cling film, leaving an overhang.
2. Whip 500ml of cream, the vanilla, orange blossom water and 125g icing sugar with an

electric whisk until thick and billowy.

3. Add a layer of biscuits to the tin, and spoon over some of the cream, about 1cm thick all over.
4. Add a layer of strawberry slices then repeat with the cream, biscuits and strawberries until you fill the tin, finishing on a layer of biscuit.
5. You'll have some strawberries left over to serve. Press everything down well so every biscuit is covered in cream. Cover and chill overnight.
6. To serve, flip the tin onto a serving plate and remove the cling film.
7. Whip the remaining 100ml cream with 1tbsp icing sugar and dollop on top of the cake, swirling it around.
8. Top with the remaining strawberry slices in lines, sift over the remaining icing sugar and sprinkle the biscuit crumbs in between the strawberry rows.



## Mojito pitcher

6 limes, plus 1 lime sliced to serve  
4tbsp granulated sugar  
4-5 mint sprigs  
Ice  
350ml white rum  
600ml sparkling water

### Method

1. Chop each lime into six pieces and drop them into a two-litre jug.
2. Add the sugar and squish the lime wedges with a muddler, or the end of a rolling pin. Keep crushing to get out all the juices.
3. Pick the leaves of a mint sprig and lay them on one of your hands.
4. Clap the other hand on top to bruise the leaves ever so gently, then drop them into the jug. Repeat with the rest of the mint sprigs.
5. Fill up the jug about three-quarters with ice, then add the rum.
6. Stir with a long-handled spoon to mix all the ingredients together gently and top-up with sparkling water.
7. Stir once more, then serve poured into tall glasses with a few extra ice cubes and lime slices.



# Spring in the Thatch-



by Penny Adair

Spring is here, the days are longer, the weather warmer, and we're beginning to meet up with family and friends once again. Out in the apple orchards we've got that spring feeling too!

It's the time of year when the trees wake up after their dormant period. The leaves have unfurled and the sweet-smelling apple blossom has been brightening our days.

Somerset is an amazing place for growing apples, the climate is relatively mild, with a perfect combination of sun and rain. Perhaps that's why the county has such a long tradition of cidermaking!

Here at Thatchers we grow a myriad of apple varieties for our popular ciders in our Somerset orchards. But did you know the orchards aren't just a five star hotel for apples.

They are a haven for insects and inverte-

brates, birds of prey, bats, pheasant, deer, rabbits and hares to name but a few and spring is a great time to spot this wildlife.

Bees, of course, are vital to the health of the trees at this time of year, helping ensure all-important pollination. It's not just honeybees seen buzzing around though. Wild flower strips in the orchards provide a valuable foraging source for bumblebees and solitary bees too.

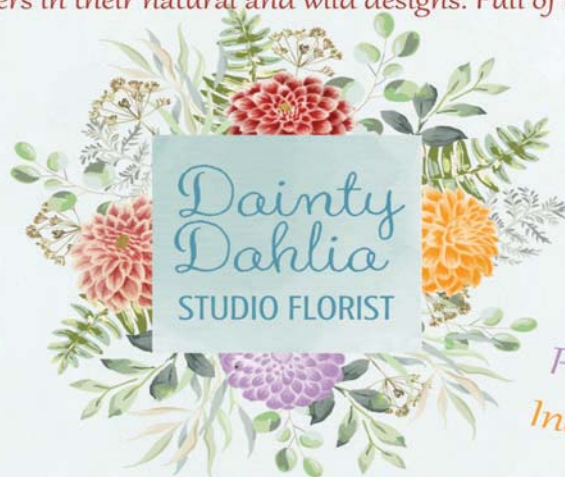
You can enjoy the fruits of the Thatchers orchards by visiting The Cider Shop at Myrtle Farm in Sandford where our full range of Somerset-crafted ciders are available. Why not combine your trip with a visit to The Railway Inn next door, where there are plenty of outdoor tables to enjoy our delicious spring menu.

Visit [www.thatcherscider.co.uk](http://www.thatcherscider.co.uk) today.



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# The village is looking 'blooming lovely'!

by Robin Flavell



## **S**ummer flower displays

As I'm writing this article in late April we are still seeing frosty nights and are protecting our young plants under cover. By the time you read this newsletter, spring should definitely be here, our main summer planting will be well on its way and the village will be looking beautiful.

Lots of planning has gone into this year's display, which hasn't been easy at times as we haven't been able to meet up due to Covid restrictions.

Val Hart and I have been working away behind the scenes to grow many of our plants 'in house'. The Bloomers also

saved as many plants as possible from last year including fuchsias, geraniums and canna lilies.

This obviously saves money and is much more satisfying than just buying everything in ready to plant from a nursery. It could win us some extra points with the competition judges too!

Dave Sharman and Roger Hart have been a great help with getting our new barrel planters ready and repairing the existing ones.

As usual, Kirsten has been busy championing Bleadon in Bloom with the Parish Council and local businesses, not to mention ordering plants and organising our entry into the South West in Bloom competition.

Of course, we couldn't do all of this without the volunteers in the village who help with the design, planting and maintenance of our flower displays – well done again to all of the Bloomers.

## **South West in Bloom competition**

We are entered into the full competition this year for villages of less than 1,500 people. This puts us in direct competition with Lymsham!

Judging is scheduled for the afternoon of Monday July 5, we are busy preparing the competition portfolio for our entry and organising the route to show off the village at its best.

## **Apple trees**

We successfully applied for some Community Orchard apple trees from Thatchers Cider back in early spring.

The trees are a mixture of dessert, cooking and cider apples. You may have seen us out and about in March planting them at locations around the village. They

seem to be surviving well so far and I've even seen some apple blossom, we can't wait until next year when we might be lucky enough to get some apples.



## **Wildflowers and Field Maple Trees**

Our wildflower installation has been planted on the main road through the village along with 20 Field Maple trees. The seeds were watered during the very dry spell we had in April, luckily there has been some rain now so we should see the wildflowers springing into life very soon.

## **Want to get involved?**

We always need more help with planting, watering and tidying the tubs, can you spare some time to help us keep the village looking beautiful all summer?

Follow us on Facebook – Bleadon in Bloom, or email Kirsten Hemingway [writer@kirstenhemingway.co.uk](mailto:writer@kirstenhemingway.co.uk) to join our WhatsApp group.



## Beat surgeries return

by PCSO Michael Benfield

**B**eat surgeries will be restarting again in the village from June.

PCSO Michael Benfield will be parked by the Post Office/Bleadon Village Stores between 9-10am on June 16 and July 14.

This is a great opportunity for anyone wanting to speak to the local officer to pop along for a chat.

Social distancing will be observed.

Contact me

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



[bleadonnewseditor@gmail.com](mailto:bleadonnewseditor@gmail.com)



07715 333830



# Exciting new project to help Bleadon's voles

by Robin Flavell

**W**ater voles used to be found in nearly every waterway in the UK but are now thought to have been lost in up to 90 per cent of these sites.

Threats include habitat loss and fragmentation from unsympathetic riverside management, predation by non-native American mink and pollution. Development of flood-plains have also led to the direct loss of habitat and damage to riverside vegetation.

We are extremely lucky to have a colony of water voles in the rhynes in the heart of Bleadon and are determined to do everything we can to help its continued survival.

A team of experts has come together led by Kirsten Hemingway to apply for Heritage Lottery Funding to help the survival of our voles. The organisations involved so far are the Peoples Trust for Endangered Species, Natural England, Avon Wildlife Trust, Wessex Water, Internal Drainage Board, North Somerset Council, Hawk and Owl Trust as well as Bleadon Parish Council and Bleadon in Bloom.

#### The aims of the project are:

- To set up an education team to build resources which will promote the importance of this ecological site.
- To connect with the wider community including homeowners, landowners and schools to raise the profile of



the water voles and educate people about the importance of caring for their habitat.

- To establish a nature reserve for the voles, accessible to everyone, allowing everyone to connect with local wildlife.
- To carry out a programme of improvements to the habitat to help the water voles thrive.
- Who knows, we could even establish a Facebook dating group (Rhynder?) to help like-minded water voles meet for boating trips on the rhyne, picnics and creating more pups together!

This project is still in the early stages, we are currently submitting an initial expression of interest to the Heritage Lottery Fund.



We care about you

## ESCAPE

HAIR AND BEAUTY



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To book an OAP service at our warm and welcoming salon on a Thursday with Deb call 01934 813400.

**OAP cut/blow-dry for just £30!**

*"It's great to be back and we thank you for all your support. Love Tracy and Team Escape x"*



# Stoatally amazing! Update from Secret World

**by Pauline Kidner**

**I** sometimes wonder how on earth some people find wildlife casualties when they are so small. This little baby was brought into us and to start with, we thought it was a weasel but we soon realised that it was a stoat.

We often get baby weasels, but I think we have only had about four young stoats in the past 40 years of caring for wildlife. This kit was only a few days old. Stoats can have between six and 12 babies, so we were quite glad just to have one that needed feeding every two hours and no more!

Like weasels, they are very good feeders and very soon grow, taking solids before their eyes even open. As a hunter they are very efficient and can kill an animal five times their own size.

The stoat is larger than the weasel with a black tip to its tail. The white underbelly is in a straight line, whereas a weasel has a staggered pattern. This small



Last year in November, we were told about a fox that had netting caught around her neck in Bristol. In these situations, we try to cage trap, but foxes are very difficult to catch. Weeks and months went by without any luck catching her and two people, in particular, spent many hours trying to find a way to get her so that the netting could be removed.

Despite their fantastic efforts, Eva, as she had now been named, was still avoiding capture. There was a concern that, as she was a young fox, the netting would grow into her skin after being around her body for so long. Last week these dedicated men finally caught her, nearly six months after she was first seen. She was brought into Secret World for care.

Amazingly the netting was cut away under anaesthetic and the wounds were found to be treatable. She is now receiving veterinary care but there is every chance that she will be able to go home in a few weeks. The incredible lengths that some people will go to, to help an animal in distress is really wonderful. We are so glad that we will be part of her recovery after she suffered for so long.



boy which was about the same size as a little finger was kept in an incubator until he was able to maintain his own temperature.

He has already moved into a large cage and is living up to his name of Dart being quite difficult to catch. Within the next few days, he will be released back in to the wild.





# What's the latest from the Village Shop?

## by Alistair and Charlotte House

**W**e are very busy in the shop and continue to expand both physically and in terms of offering... we now stock around 2,000 products!

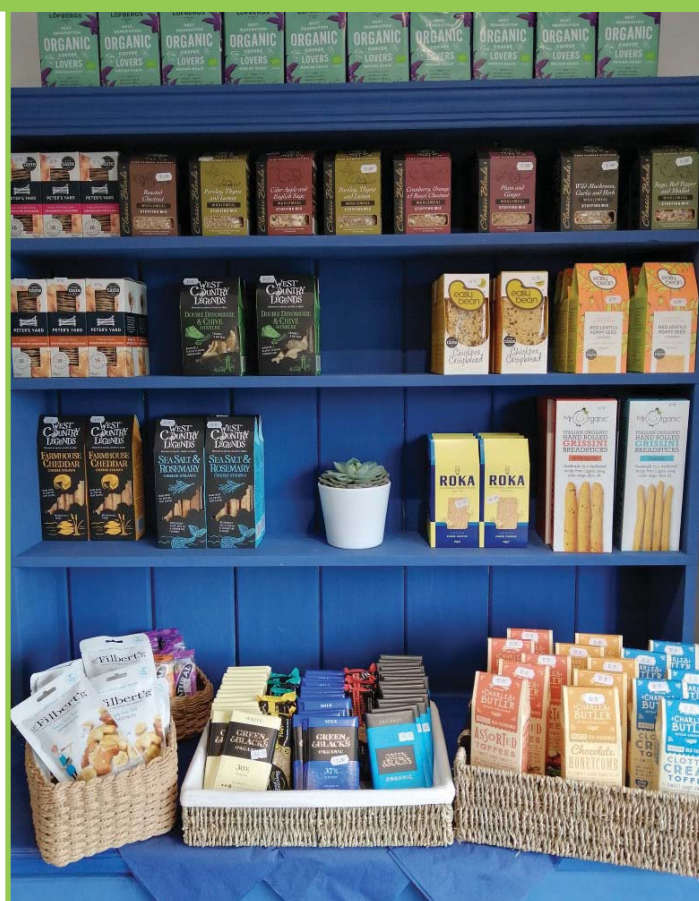
It is incredible to recall that 18 months ago, the shop employed three full-time staff, and now we number more than 20, albeit many part-timers. Shop hours have changed slightly, opening half an hour later on weekdays, but staying open longer on Saturdays and Sundays.

Our biggest news is that we have extended the shop to include a delicatessen which has received really good feedback so far.

We sell delicious baguettes, freshly baked-off on the premises daily and served with popular fillings: coronation chicken, home-baked ham from our butchery, tuna and brie and cranberry.

We also sell salad boxes, cakes, pastries and a huge selection of savoury biscuits and crisps. If you love having your cheese cut to order, we have Time Past Mature Cheddar, Draycott Blue and Somerset Brie, as well as deli staples such as olives, taramasalata and houmous.

If you love a bespoke coffee, why not try our wonderful Lofberg coffee beans, as a cappuccino, latte or espresso, to suit?



We can only offer takeaway service at present, but we hope to completely refurbish the kitchens before the end of June.

We have enlarged the shelving in the shop to accommodate a wider selection of beers, wines and spirits. Also we have extended the range of 'World Foods' to include Chinese, Indian, Mexican and Italian products and also our 'Free From' section of gluten or sugar free items.

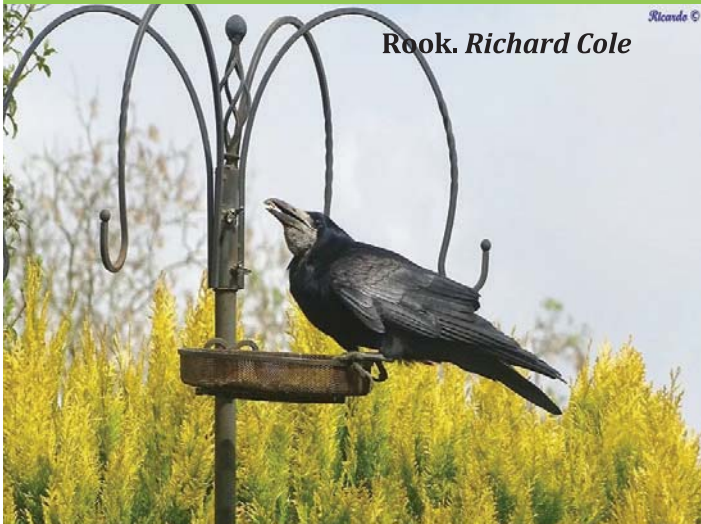
Plants, flowers and seeds are selling very well and they add a wonderful splash of colour to the porch. In the butchery, Barry and Jay are there from Tuesday to Saturday (now extended hours until 4pm on Saturday) and the selection of locally produced meat is amazing. If you still haven't tried it, you're missing out!

Joining existing Postmasters Manshu, Rachael, Michelle, Amanda, Izzy and Georgia, is Tracey. In the shop, joining Kelly, Jaz, Mir, Luke, and Nikki, we have taken on Lorna and Helen. Annie can be found in the deli on most weekdays and supporting her are Charly, Cici, Helen, Maxine, Mae, Katie and Eve. And we're still growing!

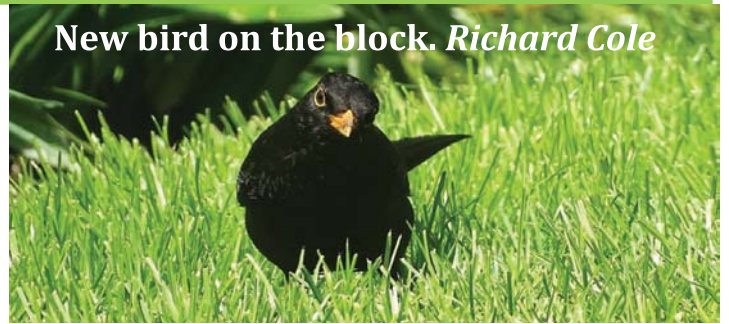
Whether you are a seasoned customer or have never visited us before, we offer a warm welcome, friendly service and great produce. Whenever possible, we respond to customer requests and we're happy to receive suggestions at any time!



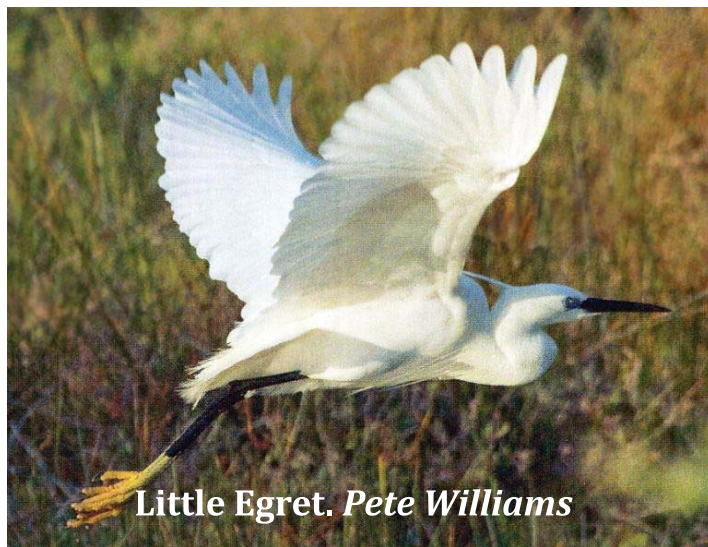
# Spring has sprung and the fields are alive



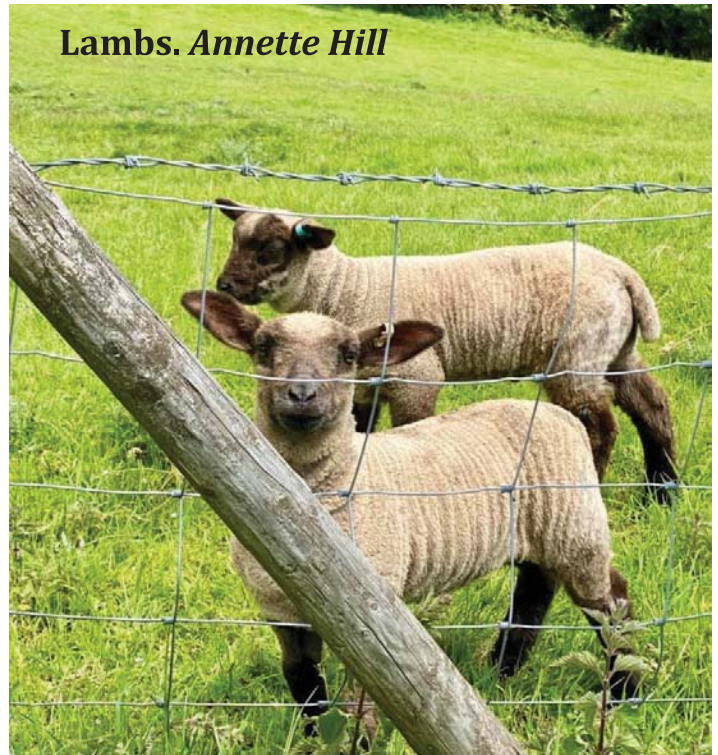
**Rook. *Richard Cole***



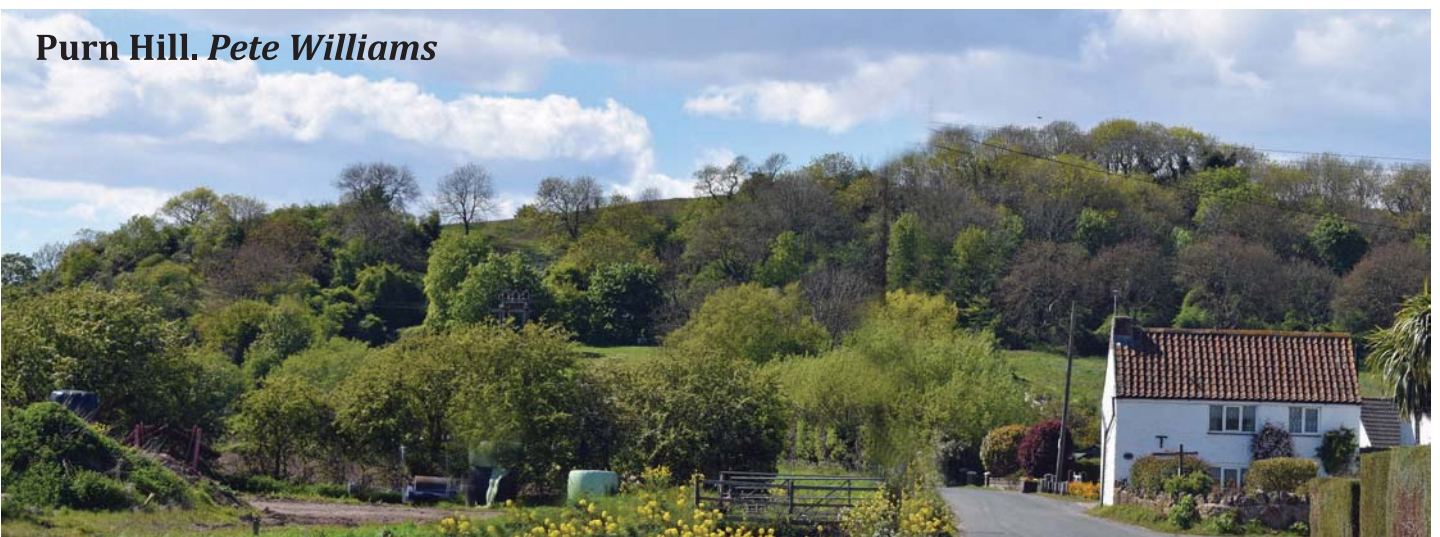
**New bird on the block. *Richard Cole***



**Little Egret. *Pete Williams***



**Lambs. *Annette Hill***



**Purn Hill. *Pete Williams***



**Mama and her ducklings. *Kirsten Hemingway***



# Where dogs are part of the family

## New puppy & dog training opportunities in Bleadon

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*get off on the right paw!*

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# Not the May Day Fayre... ....but three fun Saturdays

We've missed two Bleadon May Day Fayres and a lot more because of the wretched pandemic. Enough is enough. It's time to start socialising and having a bit of communal fun again here in Bleadon.

It looks like we may be coming out of the worst of the restrictions, so plans are afoot for three days of village fun and activity this summer.



**Saturday 3 July from 2pm - 4pm**

**Saturday 7 August from 2pm - 4pm**

**Saturday 4 September from 2pm - 4pm**

It's early days and we aren't entirely sure what activities will be taking place. But we do know that there will be an OPEN CHURCH TOWER on each Saturday. So long as you are over 8 years old, able and fit enough to climb the steps up the tower you will be able to enjoy the spectacular views of the village and participate in:

- Creative Day with prizes for the best artwork produced from your tower visit
- Teddy Zip Wire - is your Ted brave enough to go from the top?
- Photo Treasure Hunt around Bleadon. Follow the clues and have a walk at the same time.
- Bleadon Quiz
- Refreshments



KEEP AN EYE ON  
THE VILLAGE  
NOTICEBOARDS  
AND FACEBOOK  
PAGES FOR  
UP-DATES ON  
WHAT'S  
HAPPENING  
IN THE COMING  
MONTHS

We are going to need helpers  
on these Saturday afternoons.  
If you would like to help  
please contact  
Tim Erridge  
815 404  
revtimerridge@gmail.com

# Puzzle Page answers and thanks



## Riddle me this?

1. 116 years
2. Ecuador
3. USA
4. Bowls
5. Sheep

8	2	7	1	5	4	3	9	6
9	6	5	3	2	7	1	4	8
3	4	1	6	8	9	7	5	2
5	9	3	4	6	8	2	7	1
4	7	2	5	1	3	6	8	9
6	1	8	9	7	2	4	3	5
7	8	6	2	3	5	9	1	4
1	5	4	7	9	6	8	2	3
2	3	9	8	4	1	5	6	7



## Disclaimer

Bleadon Village News is published independently on behalf of Bleadon Parish Council. The views and comments are those of the Editor and contributors and not necessarily of the Parish Council.

## With thanks to...

Annette Hill	Penny Adair
Gill Williams	Robin Flavell
Jacqui Hall-Scott	PCSO Michael Benfield
Bruce Poole	Pauline Kidner
George Scott	Alistair and Charlotte House
Phil Bindon	Keith Pyke
Les Masters	Kirsten Hemingway
Rev Tim Erridge	Andy Scarisbrick
Jan Scotchmer	Rob Tyson
Penny Robinson	Ann Davies
Elaine Mellor	Pete Williams
Kerrie Jones	Richard Cole
David Sharman	
Patricia Brent	

Thank you to everyone who has advertised with us for this edition.

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	G			D			24	S	T	I	N	K	E	R	S		



<b>Mon 6.45-7.45pm &amp; 8-9pm Jubilee Room</b>			
Marie Keele	Aerobics	01934 270853 / 07939 038071	mariekeele@hotmail.co.uk
<b>Tues 10.30-12.30 Coronation Hall</b>			
Tina Dodd	Art Class	01934 843660	sandtdodd@btinternet.com
<b>Thurs 10-12noon Jubilee Room</b>			
Stevie Rhodes	Bleadon Art Group	01934 813497	
<b>Mon 2-5pm Coronation Hall</b>			
Doug Norfolk	Bridge Club	01934 812128 / 07547 163862	doughn@btinternet.com
Judith Hutton	Bridge Club		judithhutton341@googlemail.com
<b>3rd Mondays 7-10pm Coronation Hall</b>			
Debbie Thorne	Holistic Therapy	07905 537118	debbiethorne37@hotmail.com
<b>Fridays 2-4pm Coronation Hall</b>			
Gordon Brown	Friendship	01934 811926	NO EMAILS
<b>3rd Thursdays 7.30pm Coronation Hall</b>			
Ian Gibson (Treasurer)	Halls Management Committee	01934 814261	igibson6@sky.com
Kevin Barrett (Secretary)	Halls Management Committee	01934 811267 / 07855 225049	kevinbarrett240@btinternet.com
Scott Morris (Players)	Halls Management Committee	07963 747572	scott@dotphotographic.co.uk
Betty Patterson (Chair)	Halls Management Committee	01934 812183	gilbet.paterson@btinternet.com
Gill Williams	Halls Management Committee	01934 813255	gwilliams28@btinternet.com
Jane Derrick (WI)	Halls Management Committee	01934 811464	jane.tony@talktalk.net
Steve Hartree	Halls Management Committee	01934 811849	stenhartree194@btinternet.com
Andy Scarisbrick	Halls Management Committee	01934 813125 / 07747 626875	scarisbrick.andy@gmail.com
<b>3rd Tues (Oct-June) 7.30pm Coronation Hall</b>			
Libby Boucher	Horticultural	07966 563495	libbyboucher2003@gmail.com
Rose Benjamin	Horticultural		
<b>3rd Sat (both halls) 9-12.30pm</b>			
Jo Jones	Market	01934 812370	jojonesbleadon@tiscali.co.uk
<b>2nd Monday 7.30 Coronation Hall</b>			
Gill Williams, Chairman	Parish Council	01934 813255 / 07964 084501	gwilliams28@btinternet.com
Bruce Poole	Parish Council		parishclerk@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk
<b>1st, 2nd, 4th &amp; 5th Tues Sept-May 7.30pm Coronation Hall</b>			
Trevor Hartgroves	Photographic	01934 239011	t.hartgroves@sky.com
Mark Frisby	Photographic	01934 812573 / 07796 693032	marknfrisby@yahoo.com
<b>Wed 7-8pm Jubilee Room</b>			
Corinne Mutlow	Pilates	07919 532960	coz@cmutlow.com
<b>Fridays 9.30-10.30am Jubilee Room</b>			
Emma Hunter	Pilates	07787 563775	emma@ehsportstherapy.com
<b>Wed 7.30pm &amp; shows 4th weekend in Jan, May &amp; September</b>			
Peter Gibbon	Bleadon Players	0785 9001468	petergibbon@beals.co.uk
<b>Tues &amp; Sun 2.30-4.30pm (Sept- May) + Fri 7-9pm (all year round) Jubilee Room</b>			
Kevin Barrett	Short Mat Bowls	01934 811267 / 07855 225049	kevinbarrett240@btinternet.com
<b>4th Thurs 7.30-9.30pm Jubilee Room</b>			
Sue Dennelly	Bleadon Sugarcraft Club	07891 996707	bleadonsugarcraftclub@gmail.com
<b>2nd Thurs Coronation Hall 7.30pm</b>			
Elaine Mellor (Secretary)	Womens Institute	07854 628664	bleadonwi@hotmail.co.uk
Michelle Harper (President)	Womens Institute	07780 688830	
<b>Tues 8-10pm Jubilee Rooms</b>			
Bev Riddell	Womens Institute Choir	01934 811218 / 07970 475626	riddell2en@btinternet.com
Maggie Heath	Womens Institute Choir	01934 813050 / 07761 102934	
<b>Oct-April Thurs Coronation Hall 2-4pm</b>			
Sue Norfolk	WSM Croquet/Whist	01934 812128 / 07484 233086	suenorfolk99@gmail.com
<b>Mon 9.30-10.30am Coronation Hall</b>			
Cheri	Yoga	07717 290708	info@uniquebalance.co.uk
<b>Other Contacts</b>			
Kate James	Bookings Officer	01934 814955 / 07775 795977	bleadoncoronationhalls@gmail.com
Tony Derrick	Security	01934 811464	
Keith Pyke	Youth Club Hall	01934 813127	keith.pyke@btoopenworld.com
Chris Butler	Bleadon Bob		bob@bleadon.org.uk
Bill Blacklock	Caretaker	01934 813031 / 07747 801753	





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