

Bleadon News

Issue 126

June 2023

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Bleadon News
Editor

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Welcome back
Croquet Club

Thank you to Beth
Bevan for this beautiful
front cover image.



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Editor bids farewell to magazine

by Ellie Young

It is with a heavy heart that I bid you all farewell the lovely residents of Bleadon.

Since joining the magazine as editor in September 2020, I have had the utmost pleasure of meeting many of Bleadon's fantastic residents and getting to hear and write so much about the events and activities taking place in and around the village.

I have enjoyed my time as editor and the friendships I have made, but after three years and a career change, the current demands of my new job, alongside my other commitment as a netball coach, has made the magazine too much for me now.

Since announcing my departure, I have had many kind well wishes from many of my local contributors, distributors and advertisers and I am eternally grateful to them—as without them, we would not have this magazine.

I would like to thank the parish council for taking a chance on me and supporting my vision for the magazine, and allowing me the freedom to style it how I wanted.

I would also like to say thank you to my long-time proof reader, Les Masters, who has not only been a fantastic contributor over the years, but has also supported me in checking the magazine for any errors.

I would like to wish you all a long and prosperous summer and hope the sunshine continues.

Stay safe and be kind.



CONTACT YOUR PARISH COUNCIL



Call us 07453 358318



Email: parishclerk@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk



Website: www.bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk



Visit the Clerk Wed 10-12 Bleadon Farm Shop



Facebook: [BPC.Bleadon.Parish.Council](https://www.facebook.com/BPC.Bleadon.Parish.Council)



Write: Coronation Hall, Coronation Rd BS24 OPG



Attend a Council meeting

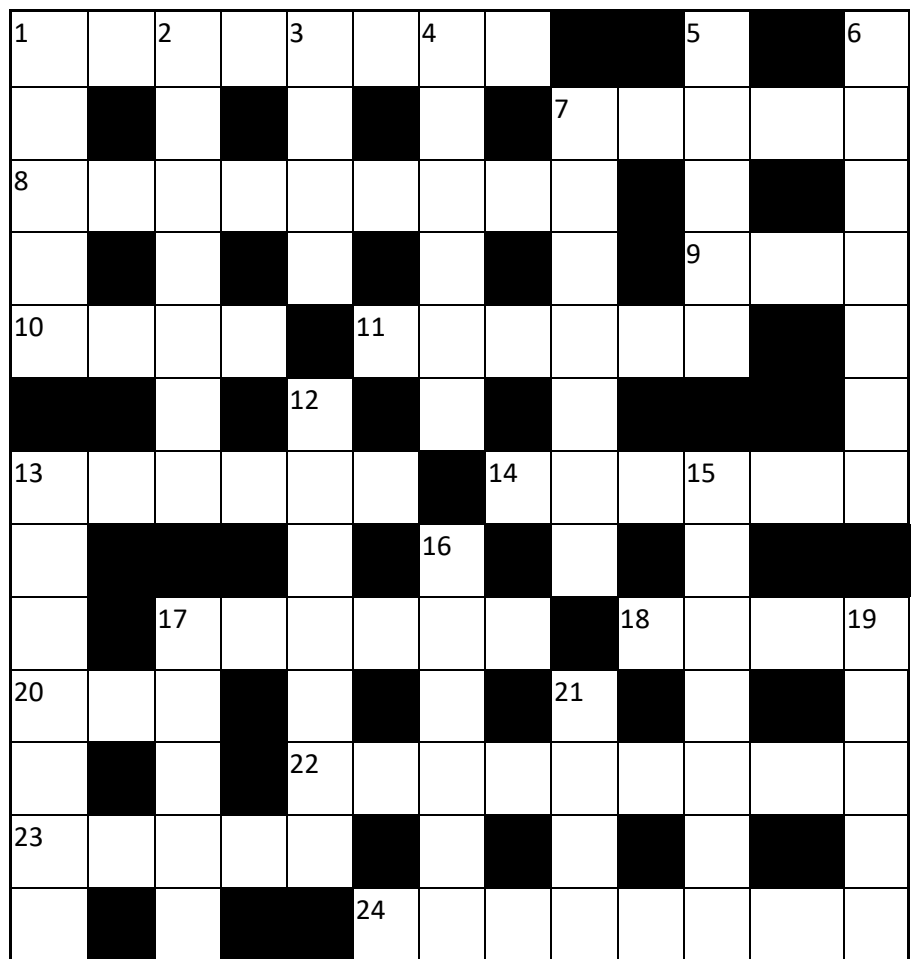
P₃ U₁ Z₁₀ Z₁₀ L₁ E₁

P₃ A₁ G₂ E₁

George's crossword

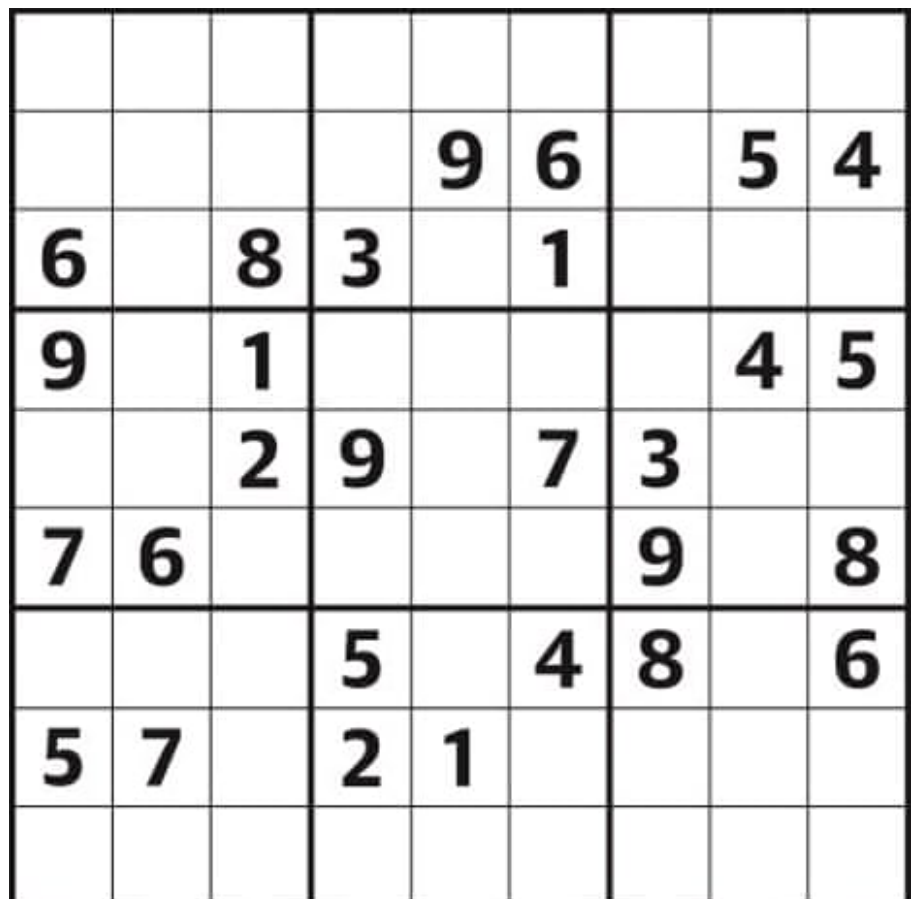
ACROSS

1. Old joke that can be roasted (8)
7. Pinch small duck (5)
8. Bowler one short of a hat-trick? Utterly! (3,3,3)
9. Resort from Belgium (3)
10. Cast off wooden hut (4)
11. Small fish gives off stink (6)
13. Ceramic snooker player (6)
14. Keep space visitor in downpour (6)
17. Local road for card game (6)
18. See a drop of rain (4)
20. Neither Ann or I include this (3)
22. Ecstatic trains for example (9)
23. Collect a service (5)
24. Hors d'oeuvres to begin with (8)



DOWN

1. Angry village beyond Loxton (5)
2. Beg what tern ate perhaps (7)
3. Air a melody (4)
4. Under water? So! Tuba maybe (1,5)
5. Meadow? Quiet, it's for the dog (5)
6. Old bean living in our village (7)
7. Hazels perhaps, rise supported by Ned, unconscious (7)
12. Opposes sisters perhaps (7)
13. Local hill road to the Post Office (4,3)
15. Agree a very quiet wander (7)
16. Appalled that the hag sat around (6)
17. Second class way is nevertheless wide (5)
20. Andronicus brings a bird to us (5)
21. Sure employer maybe (4)



Letter from the Chair



BLEADON PARISH COUNCIL

Coronation Halls
Coronation Road
Bleadon, North Somerset, BS29 0PG
www.bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk
parishclerk@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk

BLEADON PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS CALENDAR

All meetings take place in the Coronation Hall except where stated

Thursday 11 th May 2023 7.30pm	Annual Meeting of the Parish Council (AMPC) (in the Jubilee Hall)
Monday 12 th June 7pm	Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 21 st June 7pm Church Rooms	Extra-ordinary Meeting to sign AGAR
Thursday 22 nd June 7:30pm Jubilee Room	Bleadon Play Area Trustees Meeting
Monday 10 th July 2023 7pm	Parish Council Meeting
Monday 14 th August 2023 7pm	Parish Council Meeting
Monday 11 th September 2023 7pm	Parish Council Meeting
Monday 9 th October 2023 7pm	Parish Council Meeting
Monday 13 th November 2023 7pm	Parish Council Meeting
Monday 11 th December 2023 7pm	Parish Council Meeting
Monday 8 th January 2024 7pm	Parish Council Meeting
Monday 12 th February 2024 7pm	Parish Council Meeting
Monday 11 th March 2024 7pm	Parish Council Meeting
Monday 8 th April 2024 7pm	Parish Council Meeting
Monday 29 th April 2024 7pm	Annual Meeting of Electors
Monday 12 th May 2024 7pm	Annual Meeting of the Parish Council (AMPC)

The agenda and associated paperwork is available the Wednesday before a Monday meeting and can be found on our website www.bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk or a hard copy is available by contacting the Parish Clerk using the details above.

By Mary Sheppard

I am honoured to have been elected as your Parish Council Chairman for the coming year and to welcome three new members to the council, who I know will bring new aspirations to our team.

We need a total of nine for a full council in order to share the workload, so if there is anyone who feels they can contribute to the wellbeing of the village, then please get in touch with our Locum Clerk, Mrs Liz Shayler.

My sincere thanks goes to Liz for all her hard work and for getting us back on the straight and narrow, and to Nina Flint for supporting with our finances.

I would like to thank Miss Ellie Young for her contribution, as Editor of the Bleadon News, as she is stepping down due to her other commitments.

I hope we can find someone to replace her so that residents are kept up-to-date with village activities.

Keep safe and have an enjoyable summer.

Name	Email
Mary Sheppard	marysheppard@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk
Andy Scarisbrick	andyscarisbrick@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk
ID Clarke	idclarke@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk
Ann Davies	anndavies@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk
Jo Gower-Crane	jogc@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk
Mark Howe	markhowe@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk
VACANCY— the Clerk	Parishclerk@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk

Bleadon Village Newsletter Survey

The Parish Council is looking at the ways it communicates with you and shares Council updates, Bleadon news and events. Currently, one of the ways we do this is through the printed parish magazine which comes at a large cost to the taxpayer. The Parish Council therefore wish to understand the topics you find most interesting, how we can potentially cost save as well as investigating running a Parish Council led E-Newsletter.

The idea of running an E-Newsletter is to save on paper waste and printing costs whilst still keeping you up to date on local issues. By answering the following questions, you can help us decide if this is feasible and help us shape the content and future of the Parish Newsletter and e-newsletter.

This survey can be completed online at www.bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk/news-and-events/village-newsletter-consultation or follow the link from our Facebook page www.facebook.com/BPC.Bleadon.Parish.Council

* Indicates required question

1. How do you currently receive news and updates from Bleadon Parish Council? *
- Select all that apply.

Tick all that apply.

- ☐ The Village Newsletter
- ☐ Bleadon Parish Council's Facebook page
- ☐ Bleadon Parish Council Website
- ☐ Door to door printed leaflets
- ☐ Noticeboards
- ☐ Other: _____

2. Do you read the printed village newsletter that is distributed to houses across Bleadon? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Always
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ Rarely
- ☐ Never
- ☐ Don't get a copy

3. If you have answered 'Don't get a copy' to the question above, please tell us your postcode.

4. The printed village newsletter is issued once a quarter. How often would you like ^{*} to receive it?

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ I am happy with every quarter
- ☐ More than every quarter.
- ☐ Less than once a quarter.
- ☐ Never.
- ☐ Other: _____

5. Please check all topics you currently read in the village newsletter. Select "other" to make a new suggestion.

Tick all that apply.

- ☐ Letter from the Chairman
- ☐ Parish Council Updates
- ☐ Police Update
- ☐ Community group news
- ☐ News from outside organisations
- ☐ Highways News
- ☐ Bleadon history
- ☐ Bleadon in Bloom News
- ☐ Village websites and contacts
- ☐ What's on locally
- ☐ Puzzle Page
- ☐ General Articles
- ☐ Church news / updates
- ☐ Business Adverts
- ☐ Business Directory
- ☐ Other: _____

6. Currently, the Village Newsletter costs approximately £6000 of the Parish Council precept with a current income of £2000. How do you think we could save costs? Select all that apply. *

Tick all that apply.

- ☐ Reduce to A5
- ☐ Reduce Printing Quality
- ☐ Reduce Paper Quality
- ☐ Reduce the number of pages
- ☐ Print in Black & White
- ☐ Increase Advertising
- ☐ Charge for Articles / Event Promotion
- ☐ Create and charge for a business directory
- ☐ Charge for a hard copy
- ☐ Have an online copy only
- ☐ Don't have a magazine
- ☐ Don't change a thing
- ☐ Other: _____

7. Would you support the Parish Council in producing a digital E-Newsletter? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Maybe
- ☐ I would prefer digital with the option to request a hard copy

8. How often would you ideally like to receive an issue of an E-newsletter?

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Twice per year
- ☐ Four to six times per year
- ☐ Monthly
- ☐ Never
- ☐ Other: _____

9. Do you give consent for Bleadon Parish Council to use the information you have * provided to assess the feasibility of the current newsletter and possible E-Newsletter ?

Tick all that apply.

- ☐ Yes, I consent
☐ No, I do not consent

10. If you would like to sign up to the E-Newsletter in advance, please enter your name and email below.

THANK YOU

Return Your Survey

Thank you for completing the survey. Please return by **30th June 2023** in the following ways.

By Hand to the Parish Council post box, at the Coronation Halls, Coronation Road, BS24 0PG or drop it in to the farm shop / post office, Purn Way, BS24 0QE.

Online follow the link from our website www.bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk/news-and-events/village-newsletter-consultation or our Facebook page www.facebook.com/BPC.Bleadon.Parish.Council

Electronically by scanning and emailing to parishclerk@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk

***Your answers will be stored by Bleadon Parish Council for up to 3 years and will then be deleted from our records. If you choose to provide your email address in order to sign up to the E-Newsletter mailing list, it will be stored for this purpose only and not shared with any third party.

The result of this survey will only be published as anonymised data, such as graphs and percentages. Your data will be processed in accordance with Bleadon Parish Council's Data Protection Policy, which can be found on our website or on this link [Privacy and Cookie Policy](#) ****

Budget 2023-2024

Department	Proposed new budget (2023-2024)	Precept	Reserve
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Clerk & administration			
Salary & NI	£22,000.00	£22,000.00	-
Pension provision	£250.00	£250.00	-
Homeworking allowance	£208.00	£208.00	-
Training officers	£500.00	£500.00	-
Office expenses	£300.00	£300.00	-
Printing	£400.00	£400.00	-
Insurance	£810.03	£810.00	-
Audit fees	£9,400.00	£9,400.00	-
Mobile	£240.00	£240.00	-
Subscriptions	£1,200	£1,200	-
Bank charges	£130.00	£130.00	-
Website & IT	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	-
Data protection	£35.00	£35.00	-
Election charges	£100.00	-	£100.00
Community engagement	£177.00	£177.00	-
Room hire	£330.00	£330.00	-
Councillor expenses	£50.00	£50.00	-
Chairman's allowance	£50.00	£50.00	-
Training councillors	£400.00	£400.00	-
Total	£37,580.03	£37,480	£100.00

Department	Proposed new budget (2023-2024)	Precept	Reserve
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Village News			
Editorship	£2,200.00	£2,200.00	-
Printing	£2,800.00	£2,800.00	-
Income	-£2,000.00	-£2,000.00	-
Total	£3,000.00	£3,000.00	-

Open spaces			
Ranger	£7,224.00	£7,224.00	-
General maintenance	£750.00	£750.00	-
Public toilets	£2,000.00	£2,000.00	-
Car park maintenance	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	-
Grass cutting	£4,350.00	£4,350.00	-
Church clock	£300.00	£300.00	-
Streetlighting	£2,300.00	£2,300.00	-
Defib	£200.00	£200.00	-
Village improvements	£2,000.00	£2,000.00	-
Jubilee Garden	£2,000.00	-	£2,000.00
Waste collections	£150.00	£150.00	-
Churchyard	-	-	£5,500.00
Total	£22,274.00	£20,274.00	£7,500

Allotments			
Allotments	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	-
Income	-£290.00	-£290.00	-
Total	£710.00	£710.00	-

Church clock			
Reguilding of church clock	£14,000.00	-	£14,000.00
Total	£14,000.00	-	£14,000.00

Department	Proposed new budget (2023-2024)	Precept	Reserve
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Play area			
Play equipment	£500.00	-	£500.00
Inspections	£300.00	£300.00	-
Children's playground	£1,500.00	-	£1,500.00
Total	£2,300.00	£300.00	£2,000.00

Grants and donations			
General grants & donations	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	-
Coronation Hall	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	-
Bleadon in Bloom	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	-
Total	£3,000.00	£3,000.00	-

Special projects			
Coronation	£300.00	£300.00	-
Total	£300.00	£300.00	-

Grand total	£83,163.03	£65,064.00	£23,600.00
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Income			
Bank interest	£200.00	£200.00	-
Youth club rent	£50.00	£50.00	-
Village orderly grant	£161.00	£161.00	-
Total	£411.00	£411.00	-

	Budget minus income	Precept request	Reserves allocated
	£82,753.03	£64,653.00	£23,600.00

Bleadon Horticultural Society

By Rose Benjamin and
Libby Boucher

With more than 200 entries the 2023 48th Bleadon Spring Show was a visual delight on Saturday 3 March at the Coronation Hall. Competitors staged their perfect cut flowers and bulb culture.

Silverware was won by the Rev. Tim Erridge and Rose Benjamin for a lovely display of Spring colour. Further colour was added by intricate miniatures and regal floral exhibits with Louise Birtles winning the Lindley Cup.

Many visitors enjoyed a wide selection of beautiful homemade cakes served from the brand new hall kitchen. Further homecraft was on display with Libby Lockyer winning the BHS cup and for gaining most points overall.

Robin Flavell took home the prize for best biscuits and Edward Bayntun received the silverware for the best Victoria sponge. Also on display was a beautiful and diverse selection of handicrafts and photography where

Pete Williams and Chris Parkinson were rewarded for their entries.

The juniors put on a great show of royal designs with the Birtles family winning all the junior categories!

Thank you to everyone who supported the village show. We look forward to the summer show to be held on Saturday 2 September 2023.



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Dates for your diary:

Tuesday 20 June

Beekeeping with demonstration
hive—Neville Lee and Thomas
O'Neill.

Tuesday 25 July

Coach trip to Batsford Arboretum
and Bourton House Garden.
Phone 07801 386477 to book a
place.

Saturday 2 September

Summer Show.

Bleadon wildlife

By Becky Bevan

One of our extra special Bleadon in Bloom projects this year hopes to help wildlife by encouraging people to build wildlife habitats, feeders and drinking stations in their gardens.

The Bleadon Brownies will each create a number of 'recipe-style' instructions with drawings to show residents how to create simple environments for Wildlife. Each will be a page long and they will be brought together into a booklet by Bleadon's own Drink Tea and Eat Biscuits graphic design studio at Purn Farm.

The booklets will be printed at a reduced cost by Thorne Printing and distributed around the village. Another Bleadon Business, WebGlu, will create and host a website where all of the habitats can be registered by the address in the village and the specific habitat number from the booklet.

This will give the village an interactive map where residents and wildlife can see how many facilities there are and where they are in the Parish.

Adam Hastings from Drink Tea and Eat Biscuits said: "The project is so inspiring, we are sure it will be copied by other places and help to support wildlife across the country. We are delighted to have been asked to create the booklet with the brilliant work of the Brownies."

The website will be a resource for residents and also demonstrates Bleadon's commitment to wildlife and local ecology.

Steve McAuliffe from WebGlu explained: "The project is a great initiative which follows many others by the Bleadon in Bloom Group. We are proud to be able to collaborate with other local businesses to support this project. It means we are also part of the Bloomers. We were pleased to be asked and felt that we really contributed to the success of the whole theme this year. You can see the website at www.bleadonwildlife.co.uk."

The project was initiated by Becky Bevan who is a long-term bloomer. She and her family will be at the Bleadon Market in June with copies of the booklet and kits to help people get started with the habitats.

She said: "People in Bleadon really care about wildlife and we have a number of really simple tools to be able to make a difference in our gardens. The habitats range from a bug hotel to a simple saucer with stones to make a butterfly drinking station. All of these ideas are essential to the wildlife in our area."

The Brownies are drawing the drawings and writing the instructions for people to follow in their own gardens.

Brown Owl Jacqui Hall-Scott said: "This is such a clever project for the brownies to be involved in. They are committed to wildlife and they can make a real difference."

"Everyone will be able to support the project and we will be able to see how many people have put habitats in their gardens on our map. It will be great to see the habitats start to pop up on the website. It is really easy to log on and no personal details are shared."

If you would like to get a booklet, pop along to the June Market or the post office and grab one. We will be so pleased to see the spaces you have created based on the recipes the Brownies have made.

Thanks to everyone who has taken part in this excellent project.

Well done Bloomers.



Update from Bleadon in Bloom

By Robin Flavell

Our theme this year is Bleadon, Blooming Nothing! We are coming to this on the back of last year's incredible success which will mean that this year we are pitted against some very capable competitors in a class with towns as well as villages.

Our usual budget has been brought down due to the cost of living crisis and we are therefore working with little cash and a big ask from the Bloomers. So, we have decided to be open about that with our title and our approach.

We have grown many of the flowers ourselves from donated seeds and plug plants. These are in our Polytunnel at the allotments and we are incredibly grateful to have such an amazing resource for Bleadon.

North Somerset Council is also donating some plants to the village for our display. The Bloomers have been incredibly generous, with many of the seeds and

plugs donated by people in the village.

Owing to the austerity bloom, we have no formal colour scheme this year. We are hoping to make the village look colourful with what we have.

The village looked lovely for the Coronation with the crowns we purchased last year for the Jubilee making a fitting come back for the Coronation year.

This is a busy time for the Bloomers and we would love help. If anyone is free to join in, the plants will be planted out around the village at the end of May / beginning of June. We can always use extra support to water the displays at the hall, Bleadon Mill, the bus stop and at the entrance to the village. Please let us know if you can help.

We are continuing with the allotment in front of the polytunnel. We also need vegetable experts for our community free veg project.

Come and join the Bloomers and give something to the community in Bleadon.

Veggie Madness

By Kirsten Hemingway

Waste not want not! This is the mantra for Bleadon in Blooms, "Bleadon, Blooming Nothing" Theme for 2023. Our focus is on the fact that many people in our community and some around us will not have money for food as the bills have all escalated.

The craft Bloomers have time and space in their polytunnel as soon as they have finished the June plant up. Instead of resting on their laurels and just watering the tubs our intrepid bloomers are going to feed the world – well a couple of bits of it anyway. They are growing donated vegetables from seed and then distributing them through the network with our Parish Church. The Church includes Bleadon and the Bournville within its boundary so there will be free veg at the church rooms and at the Healthy Living Centre.

Terry Porter, our local councillor, knows a thing or two about vegetables and he grows many for shows such as the Chelsea Flower Show at his nursery in Hutton. Terry has donated many of the seed and plugs for this adventure.

He said: "I am very pleased to help such a worthwhile endeavour from the bloomers. They really are making the most of what they have to do things for the Parish and for the wider community."

One of the Blooming Bleadon Businesses, Bleadon Trees will also be donating some Hazel bushes to go in to the Chocolate Garden and a team of the Bloomers will be going down to help the local team led by Nicky Pybus to plant them and have a general tidy up.

Nicky said: "We really appreciate the help from the Bloomers and look forward to receiving the veg and working together with them in the Chocolate Garden"

The Bloomers are grateful for all the support they have received on this project and welcome any volunteers who would like to get involved in the success of Bleadon in Bloom.



14 years of Bleadon WI

By Alison Matthews

February 2023 marked 14 years since Bleadon WI was formed. As you would expect we celebrated in style. Our birthday meeting was all about learning how the Cheddar Spirit Company produce gins, vodkas and rums.

We were able to sample some of the products along with celebratory cake. Many members also attended a birthday meal and quiz at the Royal Hotel in Weston.

For our next meeting we learnt about self defence the Wing Chun way. Bill McKay and two of his students joined us from Somerset Wing Chun. We were all very impressed with the moves they showed us and some ladies were able to try their hand at these moves for themselves.

As a WI we are lucky to be able to go to many different places on trips. Over the last few months these have included a backstage tour at Bristol Hippodrome followed by lunch and a fabulous performance of My Fair Lady, a visit to Shepton Mallet prison including a

'prisoner's lunch' and in addition some members braved the escape rooms – not all escaped! Highclere Castle was our most recent trip. We were so lucky with the weather and were able to enjoy this beautiful property in sunshine.

Our April meeting followed a slightly different format. We welcomed lots of new members so we had a 'getting to know you' evening. The room was filled with chatter as we all learnt a bit more about each other.

Our regular groups, book, skittles, walking, lunch and supper clubs and our new creative writing group continue to meet and flourish. Bleadon Belles, our choir, continue to meet every Tuesday and are busy preparing new songs for future events including a Summer Afternoon Tea on Sunday 9 July.

Bleadon WI membership is currently at our maximum of 105.

If you do wish to be added to our waiting list, please email bleadonwi@hotmail.co.uk

Summer tea party

By Jo Jones

You are invited to join the Bleadon Belles and friends at their Summer Tea Party on Sunday 9 July 2023 from 3-5pm in the Coronation Hall, Bleadon.

Tickets are £7 for adults and £5 for children and includes tea/coffee/squash and, of course, cake. Do make sure to bring some change for the raffle!

Tickets are available from Thursday 1 June from the Post Office and any member of the choir. Alternatively, email bleadon.choir@outlook.com to make arrangements to get tickets. The price of tickets has remained the same as in 2022. All profits from the event will go to the Children's Hospice South West.

We recommend you get your tickets early as this is a popular event.

If you are interested in becoming part of the choir – you will need to be a member of either Bleadon WI or any other local WI.

There is no audition and you are able to come for a couple of sessions to see if this is for you. We meet on a Tuesday evening in the Hall. Contact us on the email or speak to any member of the choir.

THE BLEADON BELLES THE WI CHOIR and friends



Invite you to join us for a

Summer Tea Party

on Sunday 9th July

from 3 – 5pm

in the Coronation Hall, Bleadon

Tickets £7 Adults - £5 Children

To include

Tea/coffee/squash

And Cake!

**Available from Bleadon Post
Office & Choir:**

bleadon.choir@outlook.com

RAFFLE!

All proceeds to Children's Hospice South West

New PCSO for Bleadon

By Michael Benfield

We are finally pushing through to the end of April and all its showers and on to what is hoped to be a sunnier and warmer May.

This is my last update for Bleadon News as PCSO Stephen Hemmett (Stephen.Hemmett@avonand-somerset.police.uk) has now taken over the beat area.

Steve comes to us from Cheddar and has a vast knowledge and experience in rural matters. Steve will be continuing the monthly beat surgery at the Post Office site in Purn Way. Please pop in and have a chat with him. The beat surgery dates and times will be advertised at the post office.

A quick reminder as the sun comes out and the days get warmer, we are all tempted to throw the windows open and let the breeze in to blow away the winter cobwebs.

A wonderful idea and I wouldn't ask you not to at any point, what I would ask you is to only do this when

you are at home and the rooms with open windows are in sight. It only takes a second for someone to reach in and take something from an open window.

When you go out for the day, please make sure all windows and doors are locked and secure. When you're home, if you're in the rear of the property or in the garden, make sure the front windows and doors are secure and when in the front of the property make sure the rear doors are locked and secure.

We would advise a security chain on your door and to ensure it is placed on before answering the door to anyone. Don't let anyone into your property without first seeing identification and if in doubt NO ENTRY.

If you believe something is suspicious call 101 and report it. If you need advice on security issues, please feel free to contact Steve at the beat surgery or call in via 101 and ask for one of the team to come and have a chat with you.

We will all have Avon and Somerset Police ID and will be happy to show that to you before we enter.

Crossword answers

C	H	E	S	T	N	U	T			L		B
R		N		U		B		S	T	E	A	L
O	U	T	A	N	D	O	U	T		A		E
S		R		E		A		U		S	P	A
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News from the Bleadon Farm Shop

By Alistair and Charlotte House

We are delighted to announce that the shop, Post Office and cafe will resume full hours again from early June!

After a short period of transition between butchers, we are excited to be able to welcome the Team of Butchers from New Manor Farm to Bleadon Farm Shop.

We are busy refurbishing the shop layout and we will be stocking lots of new products. Thank you for your forbearance during the period of reduced hours, and we hope you will be pleased with our new look farm shop very soon!

Deli/Café:

We are also extending our hours in the café to 4pm, and dogs are welcome after 2pm! If you are coming as large group, it is always worth calling beforehand so that we can give you our best attention.

Our Coronation platters were well received and so by popular demand- we will again be serving Wimbledon platters...where has this year gone?! Fathers' Day is on 18 June, and we have a range of gifts, cards, drinks and chocolates for the special men in your lives.

It is our pleasure to serve as a community centre and we welcome Locum Clerk to Bleadon Parish Council, Liz Shayler on Wednesday mornings in the cafe between 10am and approx. 12.30pm. Do come and have a chat with her, she's here to help!

Whatever brings you to Bleadon Farm Shop, you are guaranteed a warm welcome!

Thank you for your continued custom.



Meet the team

With extended hours, come new staff members:

Post Office clerks: Tracey, Amanda, Peter and Anne will be joined by new PO clerk Paula.

Shop staff: Kelly, Nikki, Amy and Deb will be joined by Kerry.

Cooks: Bev, Steph and Ali will be joined by Kate.

Café staff: Cici, Helen, Max, Zaara, Olivia and Jared will be joined by Charlie, Abigail and Laura.

Mark Howe

Gardening Services

9 Malvern Road, Weston

Regular grass cutting

Hedges and trees cut

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Fence painting

Power washing

GET IN TOUCH TODAY!

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Happy 90th birthday Grace!

By Ellie Young

A Bleadon tandem cyclist is proving that age is just a number after seeing in her 90th birthday with a 32-mile ride.

Fifty cyclists on 22 tandem and six solo bikes came to Bleadon to join in a celebratory bike ride for long-time tandem club member Grace Gammon.

Grace cycled in style, with balloons tied to her bike and wearing a sash—garnering many birthday wishes from passers-by during the ride.

The riders travelled along the Strawberry Line to Axbridge before continuing on to Wedmore and Mark before stopping at the Fox and Goose, in Brent Knoll, for a delicious Sunday roast.

The cycle party then headed back to Bleadon to enjoy an afternoon tea party in the Coronation Hall, where members of the Bleadon Short Mat Bowls Club

were in attendance—another club which Grace is a member of.

Grace has lived in Bleadon for 25 years and has been a long-time member of the national Tandem Club.

Even at 90, Grace still enjoys a tandem ride through the lovely Somerset countryside, and last year completed 67-mile Audax cycling event through the New Forest.



Phil and Mike raise thousands for charity

By Ellie Young

A Bleadon resident has raised more than £4,000 for charity after embarking on another long cycle ride.

Phil Bindon has completed his third cycling challenge for charity, pedalling 'The Carten 100' covering 108 miles from Cardiff to Tenby and conquering 5,836ft elevations along the way.

Phil, joined by his colleague and cycling partner Mike Huddleston, raised money for The Noah's Ark Children Hospital, Swansea City Bravehearts and Uncle Paul's Chilli Charity.

Through their fundraising efforts, Phil and his team successfully smashed through their £4,000 target and raised £4,125 through their JustGiving page.

Phil said: "We have chosen to help a couple of smaller charities this time around.

"Mike and I both have family members who have autism and require specialist treatment and support.

"We chose these charities because they help young adults get the help they need and to build their confidence."

You can find out more about the charities, and make a donation, through Phil and Mike's JustGiving page: www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/mikeandphilscarten108

The avid cyclist had previously completed similar rides from Weston RNLI station to Padstow RNLI station and from Holyhead to Cardiff Bay in aid of charities RNLI and Mind, all in memory of his late son, Mike.



Croquet club back in action



by Pauline McAllister

Weston Croquet Club were back on the lawns after their winter close down with our opening ceremony of 'first ball through the hoop'.

The lady holding the mallet is Sandra Cox who joined the Club with her husband Bernie in 2010 so this is their 13th year.

Sandra was awarded Honorary Membership in recognition of the years of gardening expertise she and Bernie have enriched our grounds with for so long. The area in front of the Pavilion has had various shrubs over the years but our favourite by far was the Salvia Hot Lips which sadly died in a hard frost in the winter and has been replaced with Hydrangeas.

The long drought last year saw off the hanging baskets which were much too difficult for Sandra and Bernie to keep watered. They have now fixed window boxes to the front balustrade planted with begonias and geraniums.

A new season inevitably brings thoughts of past years. This will be our seventeenth year of playing Croquet at Bleadon, our founder members having moved from Clarence Park.

Many of them have sadly passed but we are thrilled that we can boast two founder members still with us: Hazel Nichols and Peter Nisbet.



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Royal start to new croquet season

By Pauline McAllister

A big thank you to all the members and guests who came and made the Right Royal Croquet Day such a memorable event.

Everyone joined in the games organised by Rene' and her team of helpers. It was a delight to see people of all ages having a go, many experiencing croquet for the first time and I am pleased to say we have captured a good number of names of people who want to give croquet a try. See our poster inside the front cover if you fancy giving it a go.

When the rain did catch up with us, both visitors and members rushed to the marquee for early Afternoon Tea.

Everybody thoroughly enjoyed the marvellous selection of homemade cakes and scones made by our members and organised by Maureen. Tea was served in China cups and saucers by Beryl, Olivia and Lin. A collection was made for the British Heart Foundation, the Croquet Association charity of the year.

Our local MP John Penrose called in. He chatted to our members and guests - partook of a cake or two and showed a real interest in our club and its future.

It was a real team effort which made the day an outstanding success.



Bleadon Sugarcraft Club

Bleadon Sugarcraft Club have professional demonstrator Kelly from Kelly from Heaven's Kitchen demonstrating 'A Model Selfie' on Thursday 29 June at 7.30pm in Bleadon's Coronation Hall, in Coronation Road.

The demonstration costs £5 for first-time visitors and members attend for free, thanks to their membership fee.

If you would like to find out more about the Bleadon Sugarcraft Club, please visit our Facebook page.



What's new at the Coronation Hall?

By Betty Paterson

All in all it has been a good year for the Coronation Halls. Bookings are up and we seem to be getting very popular again.

Finally we have a spanking new kitchen. We had a few teething problems with the dishwasher to start with but as I write this report, these have all been resolved.

I hope our users will all be as happy using the new kitchen as we are at having it installed. A big 'thankyou' to our Treasurer, Ian Gibson, having to deal with all the aggravation throughout the last few months, but I am sure he will agree now that it is finished, it looks fantastic.

We have also had issues with people using our bins for their own private use, which caused us a lot of problems with collections. Sad to say we have had to put locks on all of our bins, especially the 'dog waste bin' as our caretaker was struggling to move it because of the weight.

The Christmas Market was a great success again, as always, with all profits going towards hall improvements. We always look forward to the markets each month and thank the volunteers that make this popular event take place.

We now have some new stage curtains, and although I say it myself, they look very smart indeed. The old ones have been recycled... the Bleadon Players are making some use out of them.

In March, we had a Bleadon History Presentation, introduced by Les Masters and Penny Robinson. This event was very popular and well attended. Everyone went away with some new knowledge of Bleadon in the past, even me. I have lived in the village for 31 years and there were some slides of places I didn't know of.

Now that the kitchen is in place, and the new bright LED lights, the Coronation Hall is looking a bit sad. We will be brightening it up with a fresh coat of paint in the near future.

Our storeroom will be having a facelift

also to alleviate dampness. Work is in progress with this project.

Our May Fayre returned after three years, and the Coronation Halls Committee ran a very successful refreshments/cafe in the Coronation hall. I personally, would like to thank the ladies that worked their socks off in the kitchen making sandwiches, serving tea, coffee, cold drinks, and cakes to our customers. Without them this would never have happened. Thank you all.

Thank you also to Robin our booking officer, Bill our Caretaker and Abbe our Cleaner for all their hard work over the year.

Lastly, thank you to all the committee members for their support. You are greatly appreciated.

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The time for the dawn chorus!

by Pauline Kidner

With the lovely sunny weather that is with us and the days starting to get longer, June is the month to be up at 5am and enjoy the bird song! The males sing to attract females, to claim territories and warn other males away. They start just before sunrise and continue for several hours. It is a wonderful sound and really worth getting out of bed that early to hear it. With warmer temperatures, food sources become abundant, and broods of young will be far more successful.

Tawny owls start to breed earlier which is why we already have Tawny owlets. These owlets are very noseys and can often fall out of their trees. They do have the ability to climb back up the tree using their talons, but ours were taken to a vet surgery and kept overnight so it was too late to get them back. We did get a call out to two tawny owlets last week.

One of our Wildlife Carers, Dan, went out and found them on the ground but the parent bird was calling to them, so Dan just put them up on a branch and they were soon being told off for being too adventurous!

Another nest of blackbirds was found in a tree that was being cut down. It is actually illegal to disturb nests in trees and hedges after February which is part of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, but accidents do happen. These chicks are doing well and will soon be out in aviaries once feeding themselves.

Our night-time calls increase at this time of year, but the charity Secret World Wildlife Rescue (SWWR) is only able to work from 8am – 8pm because of lone working regulations.

A lot of animals do get themselves into trouble during the night so there is a voluntary group called Wildlife and Badger Care that takes over during the night. It will give advice and either collect injured casualties or accept them into the

farmhouse ready to be given over to SWWR in the morning.

Both Secret World and Wildlife and Badger Care are always looking for volunteers to collect animals, day or night, so if you would like to help, I have given the number below.

During the day at Secret World, you can always do a shift with the Wildlife Ambulance collecting wildlife casualties or picking up animals at vets that have already been treated. Enjoy your summer!

Secret World Wildlife Rescue 8am – 8pm 01278 783250

Wildlife and Badger Care 8pm – 8am 07954036687



Bleadon Village MONTHLY MARKET Saturday



Coronation Hall and Jubilee Hall

BS24 0PG

9.30am – 12 noon

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Hundreds set to hit the hills for hospice

Weston Hospicecare

Hordes of people from Weston-super-Mare, North Somerset, Somerset and beyond are set to take part in Weston Hospicecare's Mendip Challenge. The Mendip Challenge is a mass participation event raising vital funds for the hospice.

It has been ran annually since 1991 and this year will take place on Sunday 4 June for the 33rd time.

Participants are given the choice to take part in a 30, 20, 10 or 5 mile route following the stunning West Mendip Way which routes over, on and around the Mendip Hills in Somerset.

This year, it is expected 1,000 incredible people will take part across all routes with the hope of raising £75,000 for the charity.

Events and Challenges Manager, Nicola Slark, said: "I cannot put into words how truly thankful we are to our incredible community for supporting the Mendip Challenge this year particularly in the challenging climate.

"You, our incredible supporters and volunteers, are amazing and your support means the hospice can continue giving crucial care to those in need."

The 30-mile route starts in England's smallest city, Wells, before the 20-mile route begins from the fantastic Cider Barn in Draycott.

The 10 and 5 mile routes start later in the day from the event's headquarters of all routes, Weston Cricket Club.

Participants of the 30 and 20 mile routes must

register at Events HQ before boarding a coach to the start point.

Latest figures confirm that Weston Hospicecare are caring for approximately 2,000 people across the region each year across the service provision.

Weston Hospicecare is comprised of an Inpatient Unit, Day Hospice, Community Nursing Team, Wellbeing Centre, a Family Support Team and a range of specialist doctors and consultants.

It costs £5.5million every year to run Weston Hospicecare with 80% of that figure coming from organic support through fundraising events, such as the Mendip Challenge, and retail activity.

Online registrations will close on Sunday 28 May at 23.59pm and if capacity permits, on the day registrations will be taken.

For more details about the Mendip Challenge and the tremendous cause, visit and explore <https://www.westonhospicecare.org.uk/event/the-mendip-challenge>



Wedmore 40/30 date announced

Weston Hospicecare

Volunteer organisers of the Wedmore 40/30 charity ride have announced it will return on Sunday 10 September 2023.

The event supports multiple causes including Weston Hospicecare who provide palliative care and support to people across northern Somerset and consists of a 40-mile, 30-mile, a combined 70-mile and a family friendly 12-mile ride.

Cyclists will pass beautiful Somerset landmarks such as Cheddar Gorge, the Somerset levels and Mendip Hills.

Events and Challenges Manager, Nicola Slark, said: "We're extremely grateful to the wonderful volunteers who organise the Wedmore 40/30.

"Events and fundraising activity like this are abso-

lutely crucial to the charity and make a huge difference to local people.

"A huge thanks to everyone involved and we can't wait to see hundreds of cyclists taking part."

The hospice not only treats physical symptoms but treats the emotional and spiritual needs of patients, their families and loved ones.

The hospice is a charity which has to raise 80% of its annual costs organically through income generated in the charity stores and through fundraising activity.

This means, support in any form be it a financial donation, a pledge to volunteer or a gift in kind from the community is crucial.

To register for the Wedmore 40/30 and to learn more about the event, visit westonhospicecare.org.uk/event/wedmore-40-30/.



Hutton, Oldmixon & Locking Branch

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