

# BLEADON PARISH NEWS



WINTER 2023 ISSUE 127

## Ways to Contact Bleadon Parish Council (BPC)

<b>Personally Contact Councillors</b>	
Cllr Mary Sheppard (Chairman)	marysheppard@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk
Cllr Andy Scarisbrick (Vice-chairman)	andyscarisbrick@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk
Cllr ID Clarke	idclarke@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk
Cllr Ann Davies	anndavies@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk
Cllr Gower-Crane	jogc@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk
Cllr Mark Howe	markhowe@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk
Cllr Steve Sugg	stevesugg@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk
Co-option Vacancy	
Co-option Vacancy	
<b>Contact the Clerk</b>	
Craig Bolt	parishclerk@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk Tel: 07453 358 318 (Mon, Tues & Thurs am) C/O Coronation Halls, Bleadon. BS24 0PG
<b>Weekly Opportunities to Visit the Clerk</b>	
Bleadon Café every Tuesday, 9am-12pm	
<b>Monthly Opportunities to Raise Questions and Listen to Discussions</b>	
Full council meetings <u>every second Monday</u> of the month at the Coronation Hall at 7:30pm. Residents have 3 minutes each to speak with the council.	
<b>Extra-ordinary Meetings – ad hoc dependent on issues raised</b>	
Can be called by residents or BPC. <u>Dates</u> will be displayed in advance on noticeboards and BPC website ( <b>Local Plan Consultation Dec 23/Jan 24</b> )	
<b>Residents Annual Parish Meeting 2024 (APM)</b>	
<b>April 2024</b> - A meeting held for residents to openly discuss any parish issues and concerns, likes and dislikes. (This is NOT a council meeting) Key issues raised can be fed into the council's AMPC in May.	
<b>Bleadon Parish Council's Annual Meeting 2024 (AMPC)</b>	
May 2024 – Similar format to the monthly meetings.	

## Parish Council Chairman's Address



The Parish Council is pleased to welcome our new Clerk and

Responsible Financial Officer (RFO), Mr Craig Bolt, who is a very enthusiastic person and a breath of fresh air. He is keen to learn and it will take a little while for him to get to know his way around the Parish. He will be at the café every Tuesday morning to answer any queries you may have and will be delighted to meet you.

My sincere thanks must go to our locum Clerk Mrs Liz Shayler who has been a great help in rectifying faults made in the past and I now feel we can move on with a fresh start.

The new look newsletter is being edited by Cllr Jo Gower-Crane. She has a wealth of experience: collating facts, reviewing parish news and decisions made by the Parish Council, and I trust you will support her with any news and events that take place.

I am pleased to report that all the allotment plots are now occupied, although a few tenants are behind with their rent. A question remains about the Council's polytunnel. Has anyone any suggestions about its future use? The hedge and dead trees are to be cut soon.

My biggest disappointment is the delay in regilding of the church clock that was given by the people of Bleadon to commemorate Queen Victoria's Jubilee in 1897. We are now awaiting the insurance approval from the diocese and weather permitting it will be finished by Spring. The cost has been considerably reduced, thanks to Liz Shayler who contacted a local company near Bath who undertake restoration work on ecclesiastical buildings. My thanks to all who have contributed towards the cost of the regilding and hope it lasts for another 60 years and beyond.

Wishing everyone a Happy Christmas and New Year.

**Cllr Mary Sheppard** (Chairman)

## Newsletter Update

This December marks the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Bleadon Parish Council (BPC) newsletters and its 127<sup>th</sup> edition. In September the Council decided to take the editorship of the Parish News back in-house. Following the June newsletter survey feedback, and Working Group suggestions, the format has returned to the original A5 grayscale style, similar to that used in the first edition back in 1988.

This newsletter can be found in colour with links, on the BPC website at [www.bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk/news-and-events/newsletters](http://www.bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk/news-and-events/newsletters), along with editions from 2010 onwards. I'm also happy to announce that lifelong Bleadon resident Jim Nipper has given a complete set of editions, from Issue 1 onwards, to Bleadon BOB to complete its online historical archive. Chris Butler is currently undertaking the long process of scanning and publishing all editions for current and former residents to reminisce and download at [www.bleadon.org.uk/villagenews](http://www.bleadon.org.uk/villagenews).

Thank you to all who helped make the Parish News possible, and to Les Masters for proof reading this first edition. Many thanks to the volunteer distributors, led by Gill Williams, who worked hard to ensure that this edition reached you by 1 December. If you would like to join them for the March edition, please let me know.

This Christmas edition focuses on Parish Council updates and community events. We decided not to include sponsored adverts, and few pictures this time but this may change in future editions. Please bear with us as we settle into the new approach. We welcome your positive and constructive feedback on both the council's activities, its current and planned expenditure and the new style Parish News.

I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year

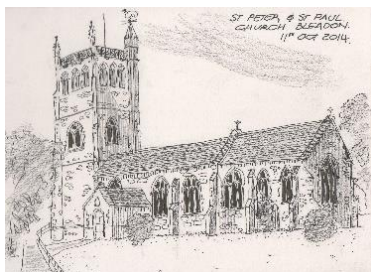
**Cllr Jo Gower-Crane** (Editor)

**Deadline** for mid- March to June 2024 edition is **16 February 2024.**

Please contact: [jogc@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:jogc@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk)

Views published are those of the contributor or editor and may not be those of the Parish Council.

## Bleadon Church of St Peter & St Paul



We invite you:

The life of **Bleadon Church** includes, groups and activities, regular worship and special services.

Our aim is to connect, interact and encourage. We invite you.

**At Christmas** we will be holding some very special services:

**Our Crib Service at 4.30pm on Christmas Eve:** a special yet informal service for young and old alike. We sing carols and build our Crib together.

**Our Christmas Eve Communion at 8.30pm:** a unique moment of celebration in any year. All who seek to respond in love to the love of Jesus, God with us, are welcome to receive the bread and wine of Communion.

**Our Christmas Day informal worship at 10.15am:** A simple space to sing carols and reflect together on the wonder of Christmas.

**You are also very welcome at our regular worship at 10.15am each Sunday.** We use different styles on different Sundays each month, some more formal, some more informal. We share Communion together twice a month. Our most traditional service is our monthly Sung Eucharist. During the winter months, our regular Sunday services are held in the Church Room, which is much warmer!

You are also welcome at our group activities:

**Craft and Chat: 10am to 12noon on 2nd and 4th Monday Mornings each month-** simply a space to spend time together.

**Exploring Change: 2pm on Monday Afternoons** - An opportunity to share experience of change and help each other engage positively. For dates and more info, please contact Tim.

**Out to Lunch:** a monthly meal on Wednesdays, especially aimed at those who spend more time than they would like alone. For dates and more info, please contact Sara.

If you want more information or have questions please find us on Facebook or at [bleadonchurch.co.uk](http://bleadonchurch.co.uk), or contact us personally:

**Rev'd Tim Erridge** (Rector) [revtimerridge@gmail.com](mailto:revtimerridge@gmail.com) 01934 815 404

Sue Arnold (Churchwarden) [suedav1948@icloud.com](mailto:suedav1948@icloud.com) 01934 814 275

Sara Hughes (Churchwarden) [sara.hughes6@btinternet.com](mailto:sara.hughes6@btinternet.com) 01934 811 008

## Newly Elected Bleadon Parish Council

Local Councillors are elected for four-year terms and the term for all Bleadon Parish councillors was up in May 2023. Since only 5 nominations were received for the 9 Councillor positions, these people were elected without the need for a poll. An additional 2 people have since been co-opted. Your current councillors are:

- Mary Sheppard - Chairman (re-elected Cllr)
- Andy Scarisbrick - Vice-chairman (elected Cllr - returning to BPC after a 17 month rest)
- ID Clarke (re-elected Cllr)
- Ann Davies (re-elected Cllr)
- Jo Gower-Crane (elected - new to being a Cllr)
- Mark Howe (co-opted May 23 - new to being a Cllr)
- Steve Sugg (co-opted Oct 23 – former East Huntspill Parish Cllr)

Please note that co-opted Councillors' voting powers and duties are no different to elected Councillors'. Biographies of councillors are shown on the 'Who We Are' page of the Parish Council website. We will be starting the process of reviewing councillors' roles and responsibilities at our November council meeting. This will help us to be better enabled to contribute to the next edition of the Parish News.

We still have vacancies for two more councillors and would welcome you to put yourself forward to join us. Bleadon Parish has over 540 dwellings that house over 1,100 residents, along with numerous businesses and farmers, so there is plenty of opportunity for you to represent and support diverse views of people within the parish.

If you are interested in joining us, please contact the Clerk or use the Co-option policy found at [www.bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk/parish-council/policies](http://www.bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk/parish-council/policies).

**Cllr Andy Scarisbrick** (Vice-chairman)

## Farm Shop Christmas Open Evening

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December 4pm-7pm



- ❖ Order scotch eggs and sausage rolls, plus Christmas meat orders and flower bouquets
- ❖ Craft stalls, mulled wine, mince pies, festive goodies and carol singing to get you in a Christmassy mood!
- ❖ Write your wish list to be sent to Santa via our very own Christmas Elf (whether you've been naughty or nice!)
- ❖ Raffle drawn at 6:30pm ... tickets on sale now!  
You might win one of our 5 x festive hampers:  
Turkey and Christmas meats, Fresh fruit and veg, Wines and Spirits, Christmas Goodies, Garden Delights... brilliant prizes not to be missed!
- ❖ Tel: 01934 815584 for more details or to book a stall



### Christmas Dinner at Bleadon Farm Shop

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> - Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December and

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> - Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December, 12pm-2pm



The 'end room' will be specially reserved for Christmas dinner bookings (groups between 12 and 25 people)

3 x courses @£30 or 2 x courses @£25. A deposit of £100 is payable at the time of booking.

Christmas dinner includes:

- ✓ Exclusive use of our end room with waitress service
- ✓ Corkage @£2pp for BYO wine
- ✓ Festive cracker, napkin and decorations and festive music!

To book, call Bev on 01934 8155 584 - Christmas begins with us!

## What Does Your Parish Council Do For You?

I know what you're thinking – 'Not a lot!' And I'd be fibbing if I said that I hadn't thought exactly the same about my District and County Councils when receiving my Council Tax demand – and I spent 25 years working in Local Government. However, I also know that the 'not a lot' statement isn't true and I thought it might be helpful to give a quick overview of the Parish Council's responsibilities.

There are some things the Parish Council must do and quite a lot of things the Council may do. These are set out in lots of different Acts of Parliament, some of which are a couple of hundred years old and some of which have only come into force in the last few years. In the case of Bleadon, some things which the Parish Council is responsible for include:

- Allotments and community polytunnel
- The public toilets, Purn Quarry and 2 laybys
- The church graveyard, walls and church tower clock
- Litter picking and Dog, Grit & Litter bins
- Benches and seating
- 5 Parish Noticeboards and 3 Bus Stops
- Planters at various locations around the Parish
- Defibrillator
- Grass cutting on land owned / controlled by the Council.
- Trustee of Playground, Carpark, Halls & Youth Club land

The Parish Council is also a statutory consultee in relation to any planning applications within the Parish and also has a host of responsibilities as landowner for land and property within its ownership. Like any 'business' it must also comply with a raft of legislation relating to health and safety, employment issues, use of data,



etc. There are also strict rules and regulations regarding the way in which the Council must conduct its business and many will be familiar with the concept of Parish Council meetings. Whilst it's true that these can appear bureaucratic, it is right that there are robust governance arrangements – as the Council is overseeing the spending of your money.

There are some things which the Parish Council isn't responsible for, which are areas which sometimes can be frustrating for residents. In the main, these are issues to do with highways (including footpaths and Public Rights of Way), traffic management and bus services. These are the responsibility of North Somerset Council and North Somerset Council has an on-line process for logging concerns and complaints which can be accessed by using the following link <https://n-somerset.gov.uk/council-democracy/complaints-feedback/complaints-about-council-services>.

However, just because the Council doesn't have a legal responsibility, doesn't mean that it doesn't have a voice and if there are issues which are potentially concerning or detrimental to the Parish, then the Council can and will use its voice to help parishioners.

**Craig Bolt** (Parish Clerk & RFO)

## **Meet the Clerk**

Thanks to the generosity of Charley at the Bleadon Farm Shop, I can be found in the café between 9.00am and Noon every Tuesday. They are open sessions and anybody is welcome to attend. Alternatively, please feel free to contact me by way of the following: Mobile: 07453 358318 or [parishclerk@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:parishclerk@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk)

There is also a [comments form](#) on the Bleadon Parish Council website, or you can make contact by way of Bleadon Parish Council's [Facebook page](#). Alternatively, there is a Parish Council post box at the front entrance (Coronation Road) of the Coronation Halls.

**Craig Bolt** (Parish Clerk & RFO)

## **Councillors' Public Engagement**

As well as listening to residents and volunteering their time to attend monthly council meetings, councillors have also committed to personal training and attending parish, local, district and regional meetings at their own expense.

Recent topics have included planning, finance, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Corporate Plan, Biodiversity, Rural Strategy, Local Plan, Avon Local Council's Association, Avon & Somerset Police & Crime Commissioner Councillor Forum, along with Open Spaces, Parish News and Allotment working group meetings.

## **Public Consultations & Resident Meeting**

Councillors also spend time responding to consultations such as North Somerset Council's (NSC) Corporate Plan & Budget Development in October, and its Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Guidance in November. BPC's responses can be found on the website.

**NSC's Local Plan 2023 Consultation opens soon with a six week chance to send in your views**, with the Rural Strategy Consultation to follow. The resulting policies will have generational consequences for the residents and families of Bleadon, and the environment that we live in. Bleadon Parish Council (BPC) is committed to supporting all residents, groups and businesses within our community, including our farmers that have helped keep Bleadon rural, provided our food security, and offered opportunities to future generations and local businesses since the Bronze Age!

As agreed at the Annual Residents' Meeting in April, BPC will be hosting a **Residents' Meeting on the Local Plan Consultation**, potentially in **December**. This will be an open meeting for everyone to discuss their concerns and share comments with other residents. Following the meeting BPC will take issues raised into consideration when it compiles a community response to North Somerset. For all North Somerset's current and previous consultations visit <https://n-somerset.inconsult.uk/consult.ti> and submit your views

**Cllr Jo Gower-Crane**

## Police Related Activity



I am looking to set up a new beat surgery in the New Year. I will be looking to source a location in Bleadon where I

could set up for a couple of hours a month, all ideas welcome. Whether you want advice on how to protect your belongings, arrange for free bike security marking, more information about the work we are doing in your area, or you want to raise a concern about an issue in your community, please come and speak to me, PCSO 8338

**Stephen Hemmett**, Neighbourhood Policing team, Worle and Villages,  
Tel 101/999, Mob 07889655212, [www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/](http://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/)  
Email [stephen.hemmett@avonandsomerset.police.uk](mailto:stephen.hemmett@avonandsomerset.police.uk)



As you will all be well aware, fly tipping is a major issue for every community within North Somerset. It causes harm to the environment, is a health hazard,

is unsightly and costs the tax payer money to clear. Every householder has a duty of care to make sure that when they hand over their waste to another person, that waste is going to be disposed of in the correct manner.

Evidence has been found within fly tips in the form of packaging labels, envelopes, etc giving the name and addresses of people who have paid for "the man in a van" to collect their waste expecting it to be legally disposed of. It is an offence for householders to fail to take certain steps to ensure that their waste is correctly disposed of that can ultimately end up with a hefty fine and it is quite evident that not everyone is aware of this.

For more information on how to correctly dispose of your waste please contact **Dave Eastham** at [Enviro-crime@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:Enviro-crime@n-somerset.gov.uk)

## **Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR)**

The External Auditor has reported on the 2022-23 AGAR and previous resident requests for investigation, that were upheld for 2020-22.

The Council has responded with a number of positive actions including increased best practice with greater openness, transparency and timely access to information. The Agenda now automatically contains all related non-confidential documentation in the appendices, including background information on decision making and spending on contracts, budgets, trusts, assets and reserves, and working group minutes. Also, increased financial compliance and governance. All available on the BPC website.

The External Auditor has also clarified the governance, control and accounting for trust funds and assets held by the Council, stating “The Council holds the play area as a charity (**Bleadon Children’s Playground** (the Trust) – Charity number 304491) of which it is sole trustee with the day-to-day management being undertaken by the Council... The Council is also custodian trustee of the **Coronation Hall**. The Trust Deed declares that the Council holds the land on trust for the charity. The relevant property is therefore held by the charity and is not an asset of the Council. The Council has informed us that a management agreement (dated 2010) exists for the Coronation Hall, which the Council and the management committee have been following. It incorrectly identified that the Council should be undertaking all external maintenance and meeting the cost of the building’s insurance. Whilst it is possible that the Council and the charity can enter into any arrangement that they consider to be in the interests of the charity, any expenditure incurred by the Council is in effect a grant to the charity.” The Management Committee operates as a Charity (No. 1042602). The council is also Custodial Trustee for the **Youth Club land** (with the Youth Club being an independent Charity (No. 304492)). BPC owns the **Coronation Halls Car Park**. BPC’s financial information and Assets Register can be found on BPC website on the ‘Financial & AGAR’ and ‘What We Do - Policies’ pages.

**Cllr Jo Gower-Crane**

Bleadon Players

THE BLEADON PLAYERS & LAZY BEE SCRIPTS

# ADRIAN'S

## Adventures in Pantoland



BOOK YOUR  
TICKETS NOW



**25<sup>TH</sup> - 27<sup>TH</sup>**  
**JANUARY 2024**

THE SCRIPT OF ADRIAN HAS BEEN TWEAKED TO MEET THE  
NEEDS OF THE BLEADON PLAYERS WITH KIND  
PERMISSION OF ROBERT SCOTT AND LAZY BEE SCRIPTS

**WRITTEN BY**  
**ROBERT SCOTT**

**DIRECTED BY TINA SHERWOOD - ASSISTANT DIRECTOR SCARLETT BLAIR**

**CORONATION HALL, BLEADON**



TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE OR VIA BLEADON POST OFFICE

[WWW.BLEADON-PLAYERS.CO.UK](http://WWW.BLEADON-PLAYERS.CO.UK)

**THE  
BLEADON  
PLAYERS**

## Parish Council Grants

The Council can and does provide funding to community organisations where there is a proven benefit to parishioners. There are some limits to what the Council can fund, even if it is a really good idea. For instance, it can't fund individuals (and we can only fund organisations which have a bank account in the name of the organisation and are properly constituted) and it can't fund things which don't directly benefit Bleadon parishioners.

There is also a legal limit as to how much the Council can spend on things which are outside of its legal duties and responsibilities. This has the appropriately bureaucratic descriptor of 'Section 137' expenditure and most grant requests would fall within this legal limit. That said, the Council plans to establish a Grant Funding budget for the 2024/5 financial year (which starts on 1st April 2024) and there is also a small amount of funding available in the current year. So if you have a good idea which relates to the themes below, then we would love to hear from you, with proposals which:

- support and promote a 'rural' character
- improve the physical appearance of the Parish
- help make the Parish of Bleadon a happier and safer place to live

We understand that creating a properly constituted organisation can be a daunting task and we're happy to help where we can.

One final thing – if you have a great idea, please talk to us at the start of your journey. Please don't come to us to 'plug a hole' at the end of your journey if your idea is short of funding, as we probably won't then be able to help – and we want to help.

If you would like more information or have a proposal you would like to discuss, then please email [parishclerk@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:parishclerk@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk)

**Craig Bolt** (Parish Clerk & RFO)

## The Asian Hornet – a non-native threat to Bleadon



Report via the Asian Hornet Watch app or [www.bit.ly/asianhornetreport](http://www.bit.ly/asianhornetreport)

The Asian Hornet is a predator of honeybees and other pollinators such as bumblebees, hoverflies and halictids. The Asian hornet is native to South East Asia and was likely introduced into Europe by accident in plant pots imported from China. It was discovered in France in 2004 before spreading to the UK. The Asian hornet is not generally aggressive towards people but the venom from its sting, as well as its bite, can cause severe allergic reactions.

The Asian hornet hunts honey bees. Each one can hunt down and eat 30-50 bees per day and their habit of hovering outside the hive stops the bees from collecting nectar and pollen to feed themselves. Pollinators, including honey bees, contribute an estimated £22 billion each year to European agriculture and pollinate over 80% of the continent's crops and wild plants.

So far, the only method proven to slow the spread and reduce environmental impacts is destroying the nests. Asian hornet colonies build two nests over the year, primary nests in the spring/April and secondary nests later. The papery nests are often difficult to spot because hornets build them among the vegetation or high in tree canopies. Most hornet nests are discovered during late autumn when trees have shed their leaves. If uninterrupted Asian hornets can expand their territory at a rate of 60-100km per year, with 70 nests discovered this year.

How to identify an Asian hornet: it is very black, has a wide orange stripe on 4th segment of abdomen and its legs look as if they have been dipped in yellow paint. If you think you've spotted an Asian hornet then please take a picture (carefully) and report via the "Asian Hornet Watch" app or email [alrtnonnative@ceh.ac.uk](mailto:alrtnonnative@ceh.ac.uk). The app has useful identification pictures and more information is available on the [British Beekeepers Association](http://www.britishbeekeepers.org) website.

**Andy Scarisbrick** (Local Bee Keeper)

## A Brief View of an Annual Farming Schedule



**Jan/Feb/Mar** – getting ready for lambing.

**March/Apr** - Newborn lambs go out into the field with their ewes. Cattle are turned out after 6 months in the shed, happy to run around again. Drilling with spring crops such as spring barley, maize, pumpkins.

**June** - Haymaking in the village, silaging (forage grass that's chopped and stored for use as animal feed) and helping local farmers gather in the crops when the weather allows. It's a busy time of year especially when the weather is constantly on the turn but with

some big machinery and plenty of late nights, we can eventually get all of the grass cut and gathered in ready to be fed in the winter.

**July/August/September** Combining the crops, starting with the winter barley that has been in the longest, followed by the oilseed rape, wheat and spring barley that was sown later in the year. Baling and hauling straw for the cattle and sheep to use in winter.

The type of soil you have dictates the type of vegetables grown. Cereals or grass are sown around the Bleadon area. Vegetables like light free draining soil, but it's mainly heavy clay around here, whereas Taunton is known for its potatoes.

**October/November** - The sheep and cattle are brought in for the winter. It can be a tense time of year as we never know if we've managed to make enough feed for the winter, it can vary massively with the weather and can become very expensive if additional feed is going to have to be brought in. Harvesting of the maize, ensiling (the forage preservation method above) ready to feed the animals in winter. Preparing and cultivating the ground for the drilling of



winter barley, wheat and oilseed rape. The crops have to be sown when they can, when the conditions are good. The roads may get a bit muddy at this time of year, but it's kept as clean and tidy as respectfully possible.

**December/January/February** - The daily winter routine of checking on the animals, alongside field maintenance, hedge cutting and, fence mending. The hedges get trimmed every year to help thicken them out making habitats for a diverse range of species. It encourages birds to nest, to protect themselves and their young, as well as creating bat corridors. If hedges are left uncut for more than three years, they become woody and open. Muck spreading the land with organic matter starts. This can create a few countryside smells but it helps to minimise artificial fertilizer usage as farming is heavily regulated, with rules not to pollute watercourses.

Land is set aside around some fields to allow wildlife habitat to flourish around the edges, commonly called rewilding, and is only cut once a year. That way the grass margins and hedges remain protected. Farmers need to work with nature and the environment to make sure their animals and crops are well looked after. Farmers also help to maintain Bleadon's rural parish and village aesthetic, as well as cutting verges for of pedestrian safety.

**Tom Goodall** (Reflections of a fifth-generation young farmer, whose family have lived and worked in the parish for over 150 years)

## **The Changing Landscape**

North Somerset Council has said that, "Biodiversity Net Gain policy set out under the Environment Act 2021 is due to come into force in January 2024. Most planning applications will be required to demonstrate that biodiversity net gain of 10% has been achieved." Some of this biodiversity will be achieved via 'nature recovery' projects on current farmland. However, the proposed Biodiversity Policy makes no reference to agriculture, farming or local food production. How will these enforced planning requirements, along with solar, wind and housing policies, positively or negatively affect rural Bleadon and its farming, now and for future generations? Have your say on NSC's current **Biodiversity Consultation**, which ends **27 Nov**, at <https://n-somerset.inconsult.uk/biodiversityspd>

**Cllr Jo Gower-Crane** (Climate Change & Biodiversity)

## Newsletter Survey Responses

Thank you for the 50 responses received from the last edition's survey. Although not a statistically significant return, it did broadly reflect wider views.

**Q1. How do you currently receive news and updates from Bleadon Parish Council? Select all that apply:** The multiple ways residents receive BPC news and updates are via the Parish News (82%), Noticeboards (40%), BPC facebook page (34%) and BPC website (30%).

**Q2. Do you read the printed village newsletter that is distributed to houses across Bleadon?** 80% read the newsletter, with 16% saying they 'don't get a copy'. BPC is aiming for 100% on this edition so if you, or someone you know didn't receive a copy, please let me know.

**Q3. The printed village newsletter is issued once a quarter. How often would you like to receive it?** 84% quarterly, 8% more than every quarter.

**Q4. Please check all the topics you currently read in the village newsletter. Select 'other' to make a new suggestion:** The top topics were BPC updates (94%), What's on locally/Community News (92%) and Bleadon History (85%).

**Q5. 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:** Apart from advertising, the top three ideas were to reduce paper quality (56%), reduce size to A5 (42%) and to reduce printing quality (38%).

**Q6. Would you support the Parish Council in producing a digital E-Newsletter?** The majority of respondents agreed (64 %) with 44% saying 'Yes' with 20% said they 'preferred digital with the option to request a hard copy), 18% said 'Maybe' and only 18% said 'No'. A quarterly to six-monthly frequency was preferred (61%).

In response to this survey this newsletter can also be found in colour with links, on the BPC website. If you would prefer to receive **digital only**, please email me via [jogc@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:jogc@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk).

**Cllr Jo Gower-Crane** (Parish News Working Group Chairman)

## Historic First Bleadon Village News (published 1988)

# BLEADON

# VILLAGE

# NEWS

No. 1.

Dear Parishoner,

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity of thanking my vice-chairman, Mrs. Corder, for helping me collect the material, and Mr. Kelley, our editor for compiling this - the Parish Council's first Newsletter. I hope that everyone will benefit from it and, should anyone have any comments or criticism to make, please feel free to do so.

We are issuing the newsletter quarterly at first, so advance warning of forthcoming events is assured. There may, of course, be an event that is missed, but we will do our best. All the public meetings relating to the Parish are published in the Post Office so, if you are in any doubt, please see your friendly Postmaster.

Finally, may I wish you all a very happy Christmas and a prosperous 1989, and cordially invite you to a social gathering at the Coronation Hall on Friday 20th. January at 7p.m. when our guest speaker will be Mr. Bush, Archivist at Taunton (details further in the newsletter).

The Parish Council and I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible in 1989.

Best Wishes,  
W. E. Sheppard,  
Chairman.

## Bleadon in Bloom



### Bleadon Wins Silver Gilt

This year we have been fortunate to be in the exciting champion of champions class which is a first! It was very exciting too have been winners

in 2022 but our theme this year- reflecting the cost of living crisis - was Bleadon Blooming Nothing! On the back of last year's incredible success we were pitted against some very capable competitors in a class with towns as well as villages.

We grew many of the flowers ourselves from donated seeds & plug plants. These are in the Polytunnel at the allotments and we are incredibly grateful to have such an amazing resource for Bleadon. North Somerset Council also donated their regular 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.



One of our extra special Bleadon in Bloom projects this year, "Wild Bleadon", is helping wildlife by encouraging people to build wildlife habitats, feeders and drinking stations in their gardens. The Bleadon Brownies created a number of "recipe style" instructions with drawings to show residents how to create simple environments for Wildlife brought together into a booklet and distributed around the Parish. A website has also been created where all of the habitats can be registered – giving the Parish an

interactive map. (See [www.wildbleadon.co.uk](http://www.wildbleadon.co.uk))

As Winter approaches, we will be putting everything away in readiness for next year.

Please come forward if you would like to run Bloomers next year and much help will be given to you.

**Kirsten Hemmingway**

Queens Arms Bleadon Panto

**QUEENS ARMS PANTO 2023**  
**GOLDILOCKS & THE 3 BEARS**



**6.30'ISH SUNDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**  
**PRIZE RAFFLE IN AID OF**  
**LOCAL CHARITIES**

This will be our 11<sup>th</sup> year and we are enjoying the support of our new pub landlords.

## Raise a glass to local food and drink

“In North Somerset and Mendip we live in a golden triangle when it comes to food and drink. Cheese, yoghurt, beef, port, chicken, turkey, chocolate, cider, beer, wine” An excerpt from Mendip Times Farming October 2023, by Nick Green.

## Rural Bleadon

Bleadon’s rural status will become increasingly under threat over the next few years as Weston-super-Mare expands into the second largest settlement after Bristol - as stated by Mike Bell in relation to North Somerset Council’s Corporate Plan! So, I thought I’d list just a few of Bleadon’s abundant rural attributes that need protecting (See NSC mapping at <https://map.n-somerset.gov.uk/dande.html>):

- Arable and pastoral farming, and related farm services – “There is evidence of agricultural use of the land in the medieval period and probably from at least the Bronze Age” that was 3300 BCE – 1200 BCE (Wiki)
- 20 Public Rights of Way including part of the Mendip Way
- Part located in Mendip Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- 7 SNCIs (Site of Nature Conservation Interest) including Hellenge Hill to Loxton Wood, South Hill, Bleadon Hill fields, Purn Hill, part Bleadon levels
- 4 wildlife sites – Avon Wildlife Trust on Hellenge Hill and Purn Hill, Wessex and AWT Walborough Reserves on the Bleadon Levels
- 4 SSSIs (Site of Special Scientific Interest) – On the Bleadon Levels, Purn Hill, off Roman Road and Shiplate Slait
- 5 listed buildings & monuments (Purn House Farmhouse, Bleadon Church, Village Cross and Well, Hillside Farmhouse)
- 1 regionally important geographical site – Purn Quarry
- 1 scheduled monument – a bowl barrow on Shiplate Slait
- A Natural England Ancient Woodland – Shiplate Wood
- Several TPOs (Tree Preservation Orders)
- Environment Agency (Water) Source Protection Area
- Bat SAC (Special Area of Conservation)

Some current North Somerset Council policy consultations, as seen on their website, will affect Bleadon’s rural status up until 2038 and beyond, so please take the time to attend any Bleadon public meetings (e.g. Local Plan in Dec/Jan) and respond to consultations to help protect Bleadon’s rural status and community way of life - **Cllr Jo Gower-Crane** (Climate & Biodiversity)

## Churchyard

BPC is responsible for the maintenance of the churchyard and its retaining walls. A meeting has been held with the rector and several suggestions and ideas are to be put before the Parochial Church Commission regarding the full maintenance of the churchyard.

Currently the council ensures that the grass is cut and mulched 20 times throughout the year, using a mulching mower, that keeps debris to a minimum and helps put moisture back into the soil. An all-year-round wildlife corridor for wildlife and plants is located by the Bier House behind the church. This is maintained by the church and is trimmed by hand by volunteers, to cause minimum disturbance.

**Cllr Mary Sheppard & Cllr Mark Howe** (Churchyard & Open Spaces)

## The Anchor Inn Bleadon



THE ANCHOR  
INN

*New Year's Eve*  
**PARTY 2023**

TICKETS  
**£15**

SUN 31ST DECEMBER 2023  
8PM 'TIL LATE  
THE ANCHOR INN

LIVE MUSIC BY GRAHAM GOLD & BUFFET

JOIN US TO SEE THE NEW YEAR IN STYLE WITH LIVE  
MUSIC FROM GRAHAM GOLD AND A DELICIOUS BUFFET

## **So ... What Next for Bleadon Parish Council?**

So, now you're probably thinking "But what are you actually going to do for Bleadon?"

A fair question and whilst it may not be obvious, we have been busy and the early results of our work should start to become visible as the Autumn progresses. What follows are a few examples:

- The pathway outside the front of the Coronation Halls is being resurfaced, with lighting and better access for those with mobility problems.
- A number of streetlights will be replaced.
- The Jubilee Gardens and Pea Green planting areas are to be tidied up and emptied to allow for walls to be structurally checked and with a view to replanting next year.

Of course, not all we have been doing involves physical work and we have also had to devote quite a lot of time to some of our processes and the way in which we conduct our business. We've also had to spend some time changing arrangements in relation to our allotments in readiness for the new allotment year (which starts in October of each year). We know that this hasn't been an easy time for many of our allotment holders and we thank them for their patience and forbearance.

We also shouldn't forget that the very thing you are now reading has required a lot of work from all involved as we move to a format and approach which will save the Council at least £1,600 per year.

However, we are not stopping there. We have also been spending time thinking about priorities for the next 3 years and how this relates to the funding we have available and, crucially, how this relates to future Council precepts. More detail will be available as the budget process develops.

**Craig Bolt** (Parish Clerk & RFO)



## **Bleadon Women's Institute**

**Bleadon WI Carol Service at the Church of St Peter and St Paul,  
Bleadon - Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December, at 6.30pm**

All are welcome to join the WI and their choir The Bleadon Belles for their annual carol service led by the Reverend Tim Erridge. This will be followed by **more carol singing in the car park of the Queens Arms**.  
Contact: Bleadon WI Secretary at [bleadonwi@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:bleadonwi@hotmail.co.uk).

**THE  
BLEADON  
BELLES** THE WI CHOIR



Invite you to join us for a

## **CHRISTMAS SINGALONG**

**on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December**

**from 3 – 5pm**

**in the Coronation Hall, Bleadon**

**Tickets - £5 - to include:**

**TEA/COFFEE/SQUASH**

**MINCE PIE - SHORTBREAD**

**Available from**

**Bleadon Post Office**

**RAFFLE! With proceeds to Children's  
Hospice South West**

## Planning Overview

Bleadon Parish stretches from the Bleadon Levels near Brean in the West to Loxton in the East, and from Hutton and Canada Coombe in the North to the Somerset border in the South. According to the 2021 Census Bleadon has 540 households. Roughly two-thirds of those, 350, are within the Village Settlement Boundary (see the back cover illustration of the Parish News for a boundary map). All Planning applications can be found on the North Somerset Council website.

## Quarry Development Update



Bleadon is now in the process of increasing its housing by 8%, by building an additional 42 dwellings on the former Marshalls Quarry site. This development aims to house up to 189 new residents, with a possible 13 affordable houses, along with a number of employment buildings. However, before that can be completed, we appreciate that residents are undergoing a difficult time with noise and vibration disturbances, especially those closest to the development work.

With residents, Bleadon Parish Council has been discussing with the developers a number of measures to try and mitigate these disruptions including quiet days, acoustic fencing and the use of different tools. Other issues being discussed include access along Mulberry Lane, public open space and the street name for the development, with a final

decision on the naming resting with North Somerset Council. We will keep you posted.

It is worth noting that there will also be some wider benefits to the Parish arising from the development. For example, in the Spring of next year, the developer will undertake a series of upgrades to the public right of way (PROW) running from the village centre to Southridge Heights. The image below shows the extent of the public right of way in question.

The Council will also be able to access funds through a scheme known as the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). There are some restrictions regarding the use of these funds, but - as part of its wider budget setting process the Council would welcome areas for consideration.



Plan: Developer upgrades to the PROW from the village centre to Southridge Heights

**Cllr Jo Gower-Crane & Craig Bolt** (Parish Clerk & RFO)

## **Playground Trust** (Charity No. 304491)

Bleadon Parish Council is the Trustee of the parish playground, located outside the Coronation Halls. It owns the land and the playground equipment and is responsible for its maintenance, and health and safety issues. It has an allocated budget and any expenditure can be found in the monthly agenda appendices, relating to finance. For 2023/24 a budget of £2,300 was allocated, with £1,500 for general maintenance, £500 for equipment and £300 for the year's inspections.

Following a post implementation inspection, parts of the new wooden equipment were temporarily put out of action. The ropes have been replaced and additional repairs undertaken at a cost of £200. The broken rocker was also repaired at a cost of £525. The grass is cut every two weeks from April to October. The sycamore overhanging the carpark and picnic table were also pruned.

**Cllr Mark Howe** (Open Spaces) & **Craig Bolt** (Parish Clerk & RFO)

## **Budget and Precept Setting**

In November councillors started reviewing its projects, finances and reserves, as part of its budget setting process for 2024. Please let us know of any project, grant, or associated financial requirements you feel that we should consider, ideally before 11<sup>th</sup> December for full council. This financial process must be finished by January 2024.

The precept (Bleadon tax) is calculated as part of the parish council's budget, to fund its administration, duties, responsibilities and the activities it wants to undertake on behalf of residents. The precept fills the gap between the parish council's planned expenditure and its estimated income. BPC's inherited planned spend for 2023/24 was £85,454. This includes the precept (£64,653) and other income/use of reserves. The amount you pay as a resident can be found on your North Somerset Council Tax bill. BPC financial information can be found under 'Financial & AGAR' on the BPC website.

**Cllr Jo Gower-Crane & Craig Bolt** (Parish Clerk & RFO)

**Youth Club** (Charity No. 304492)

# Bleadon Youth Club



Thursday evenings 7 to 9pm in term time  
for young people aged 10 to 17 yrs

With YMCA staff providing leadership and support

Bleadon Youth Club is open to all young people aged 10 to 17 years from Bleadon and the surrounding area. Currently we have around 20 youngsters turning up weekly.

It provides a relaxed social venue for youngsters to be with friends, chat, play, have fun and learn safely under the supervision of qualified YMCA staff.

Simply turn up on the night with £2 for the weekly subs. Plus some more cash for the popular tuck shop.

**We ask that parents come with the youngster on their first visit** to register the child for membership and provide all their contact details to the YMCA staff.

## **Other regular activities at the Bleadon Youth Centre include:**

U3A Music Group on Mondays

Puppy/dog training on Monday and Tuesday evenings

Dance sessions with Sharon on Tuesday evenings

Table Tennis Club on Wednesday evenings.

**To find out more or to hire the hall** for a party or any other young at heart activity call Keith on 01934 813127 or message him on 07757 012862.

[keith.pyke@btopenworld.com](mailto:keith.pyke@btopenworld.com)



## News from the Coronation Halls Trust (Charity No. 1042602)



If you've been into the Coronation Hall lately you'll have seen some big changes. Our lovely new kitchen has been completed and looks amazing.

Not only have all the cupboards, worktops and most appliances been replaced, but we also have a new ceiling, better lighting, easy-clean walls and a wider serving hatch. I'm sure you'll agree it really now is a first class facility for the village and further afield.

As I write this, the decorators are in the Coronation Hall giving the walls a much needed repaint, the ceiling having been done some months ago. We have also replaced the old stage curtains with new ones. So all in all the Hall will be looking much smarter than it has for some time.

I'm pleased to report that Hall bookings have returned to and even exceeded pre-pandemic levels with a wide range of regular users as well as one-off bookings for family occasions such as birthday parties and wedding receptions.

To book the Hall please contact our Bookings Officer, Robin on [bleadoncoronationhalls@gmail.com](mailto:bleadoncoronationhalls@gmail.com), 01934 812218 or 07724 010715.

I would like to thank all of the volunteers who run the Hall on your behalf. Without their help and dedication we wouldn't have a Hall to enjoy. We always welcome new people to our Committee so if you're enthusiastic, maybe have some time to spare and want to help your local community, we'd love to hear from you, especially if you've got skills or experience to offer. Please get in touch with our Secretary on [kevinbarrett240@btinternet.com](mailto:kevinbarrett240@btinternet.com) or 811267.

**Betty Paterson** (Chair of the Coronation Halls Management Committee)

# Bleadon Village

**MONTHLY**

# MARKET

# Saturday

**2<sup>nd</sup> Dec**  
**XMAS!**

**20<sup>th</sup>**  
**Jan**

**17<sup>th</sup>**  
**Feb**

**16<sup>th</sup>**  
**March**

**Coronation Hall and Jubilee Hall**

**BS24 0PG**

**9.30am – 12 noon**

30+ stalls with:

Fresh local produce. Old Spot Pork & Sausages.  
Goat Meat, Milk, Cheese, Lamb. Bakery. Eggs.  
Pies. Savouries. Preserves. Cakes. Veg. Plants.  
Books. Crafts. Jewellery. Collectables. Gifts. Toys.

Bric-a-Brac.

Something new every month.

Delicious locally sourced refreshments.

**Find us on Facebook, Instagram and [www.bleadon.org.uk/market](http://www.bleadon.org.uk/market)**

