



BLEADON IN BLOOM

Pennant Award Britain in Bloom Entry

ABSTRACT

2019 – 2020 Britain in Bloom entry by the Parish of Bleadon in North Somerset

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For Bleadon Parish Council

Bleadon in Bloom

Pennant Award Entry 2019

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Introduction

Bleadon is a rural village on the border between Somerset and North Somerset. We are set along a river and criss crossed by a network of rhyes, footpaths and country roads. The village is small with some 1080 residents and a local holiday business which almost doubles our size in the summer. We have many footpaths and bridleways and country roads which encourage visitors either walking, cycling or on horseback.



Bleadon is situated between the coast and the Mendip Hills, in an area of outstanding natural beauty (AONB) and consequently can boast a wealth of flora and fauna. Purn Hill on our West boundary is an SSI and has a rare Rock Rose found only on Purn Hill and Brean Down.

Our community is vibrant and friendly, although it is said anecdotally that in the last few years we have not networked as well as we could have done and we do not meet often as a community but

rather in our groups such as the WI or the Horticultural Society. Some of our biggest local companies are not close to our community with a result that we can often be in conflict. Delivering Bleadon in Bloom has given us an opportunity to come together as a community and to work across groups and business. This has led to greater understanding and co-operation.

As part of our project we have an eye on social isolation for some members of our community and seek to ensure that all parts of the Parish feel connected to the project and to the wide variety of resources that our parish has to offer. We know that everybody feels better when they are valued and sometimes the smallest contribution takes the most effort.

We have many rare and endangered plants and animals in our community. Part of our project has been about raising awareness of our environment for these animals and plants. We want to find ways to bring them to our attention and help them to thrive – or at least to raise awareness of not creating conditions that make it difficult for them to thrive.

Our parish is naturally beautiful, and we have chosen placements of flowers and herbs that enhance that natural beauty. Our judges tour will include a visit to a high point on the Mendip Hills within our Parish so that the judges can see all of Bleadon.

Review of the year

The Beginning

New to the Parish Council, Kirsten Hemingway was asked by Councillor Bleazard to support him to plant up the free plants we receive each year from North Somerset Council. Kirsten had never planted anything and thought it would be an interesting new challenge. Over 600 plants arrived and Councillor Bleazard collected them and compost and some stones and replacement tubs and arranged to meet Kirsten at the Coronation Hall. “I was immediately completely out of my depth but a few volunteers from the horticultural society had arrived and they were wondering off with trays planting up existing tubs.” Said Kirsten “I had no idea what to do and was sent to Chestnut Lane to plant up two tubs at the end of the road. On arriving and generally looking lost with a trowel in my hand, I appealed to a lady, Vera, who lived in the bungalow at the end of the road. She came out and showed me what to do. We planted the two tubs and she kindly agreed to water them. I carried on helping to move flowers to tubs and arranging for people to water them through the rest of that afternoon, I got an immense sense of achievement and community, I had not spoken to the people who were involved before and by the end of it we were laughing a joking as though we had all been at school together. It was great, the experience brought us together and the tubs thrived and looked brilliant through the summer, with many people remarking about them. Every time I saw someone from that day, we had a big smile and giggle and I thought – this is a great way to bring a community together. I decided then that we should do a bit of a bigger and better job the next year, so I started with the people I had met and began to build a team.”

Our projects

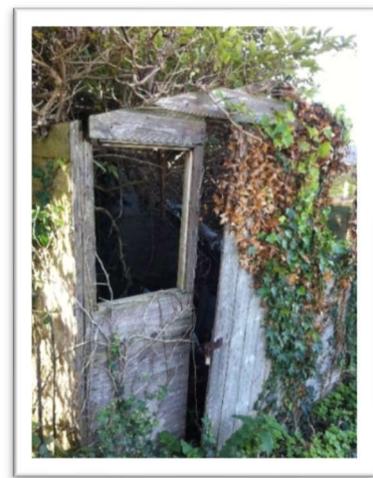
We met and with the help of our Local Council representative Terry Porter, our Parish Council Clerk Marian Barber, the allotment holders and the Horticultural Society we identified a few key projects that we would need to work on to be able to enter Britain in Bloom. These were:

1. Our allotments
2. Our Rhynes

3. Our floral displays on green spaces
4. The orchards
5. Our Churchyard
6. Our floral displays
7. Our Owls
8. Bleadon Outdoor Festival

The Allotments

The allotments were less than half occupied, and they were in a poor state. We knew that there was a waiting list for allotments in Weston-super-Mare and thought that by improving them we would be able to encourage more people to use them.



Our Parish Clerk worked with the allotment holders to build a team who would volunteer to carry out some tidying up. The team included Rose Benjamin, Paul Harding and David Sharman from the main Bleadon in Bloom team. We enlisted the support of Marshalls the Quarry in Bridge road and they supplied chippings and kerb stones.



The allotment team began to clear the allotments that were not used and put a fence at the bottom. They created signage and cleared away debris at the south end of the allotments. The compost pile at the North end was moved and tidied and new people took on allotments, some from Weston and some local to Bleadon. We now have a full compliment of allotment holders and the area is much improved, tidy and well managed by a team of people.

The Rhynes

Need pictures of Allotments

 Our Rhynes in the centre of the village along Bridge Road and Bleadon Road were full of plastic and a plant called “floating Pennywort” had choked much of the water way. The local drainage board, led by ecologist Phil Brewin, worked with member of the community to unstick the rhyne network and clear the pennywort.



One member of our Bleadon in Bloom team, Paul Harding, got a group together to take out the plastic. He found a small boat and went through the Rhyne on the boat, throwing the plastic to the sides where the team picked it up and put it in recycling boxes provided by the council.

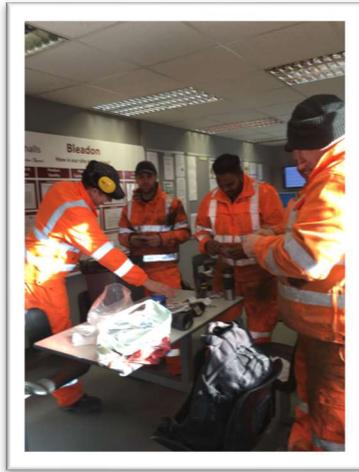


We got a grant from North Somerset council and bought some nets to stop recycling from local bins from blowing into the Rhyne.

The Parish Council supplied a budget for wildflower seeds that we used in part for the Rhyne Banks. We were unable to get the local landowners to work with us, but the drainage board allowed us to plant along the Rhyne edges. We were given a donation by Marshalls Quarry of £50 and another one from a member of the Horticultural Society, Val Dark also £50, and some further money from the Parish Council and we used this with Westhaven School Nursery to buy appropriate plants to bring colour to this area.



The team at Marshalls Quarry, whose base is alongside one of the Rhyne in Bridge Road, provided the manpower and they dug away grass at regular intervals and planted the seeds and the flowers.



David Sharman dug away some brambles that were inhibiting the growth of the wildflowers around a wall at the corner of the rhyne and we planted more flowers in this area. Our plan is to continue to remove grass and replace it with wildflowers as we develop the project over the coming years. This way we can support our Water Vole population with plants that are native rather than the floating pennywort which we hope to eventually eliminate.



This area has been catalogued by our local wildlife photographer Bill Hewitt and he has encouraged ecologist Chris Sperring to support this initiative and help the community to understand the importance of our Water Voles. Between them they have educated the community with information about how this endangered species work with the Rhyne and how to protect them from predators. Our local action group Bleadon Acting Together, also has a vested interest in the Water Vole as the fields around the Rhyne have an application on them for development. This group has been working hard to educate the community about the Water Voles and why they are important as a national species. They commissioned a report from ecologist, Phil Quinn, which has been useful in raising the level of understanding for the Bleadon in Bloom group and informed our choices of flowers for the Rhyne. Here we used Wildflower Seeds (including cornflower and poppy), Forget me Nots and Fox gloves.

We have worked closely with the Local Drainage Board and their Ecologist, Phil Brewin, we have two invasive species of plants that we need to clear from the Rhyne they are Floating Pennywort and Himilayan Balsam.

Our floral displays on green spaces

It has been important to Bleadon in Bloom that we make the best of our green spaces but take care to introduce only native species and plants that have a benefit to the wildlife in the area. The apprentices from Thatchers Cider have been the main team to support us with the introduction of wildflowers and snow drops on the two main banks in the village. One by the village hall and the other at the Veale to the East of the village where there is a sharp bank which is currently only populated by grass.



We felt it would be good to make the bank wilder as it could then provide a link between Hellenge Hill (AONB) and South Hill which is another large grass area for wildlife in our Parish. Without this intervention there is a build up area with a road which doesn't provide a corridor to enable the animals to move between the two habitats. The bank has been grassed for many years and therefore the grass is so well established that we decided to dig a "bed" in to the bank to give the flowers the best chance. The bank was then sown with the wildflower seeds and we introduced clumps of snow drops across the bank at intervals. This will be an ongoing project as we start to introduce other patches of wildflowers over the next few years. We looked at our footpaths across the parish and decided that they should not be cut except to enable access. We have used our Blue Hearts to signify this and to ensure that these can become wilder which will be better for our wildlife.

Another large expanse of green is the verge of the A370. Currently, we have added our Blue hearts to ensure that the flowers and grasses can grow in the area to the side of the pavements. Over time we will add wildflowers and we hope to add planters. We feel that by making this stretch of the A370 look like a loved part of the parish we will slow the traffic down and prevent the many accidents that blight this road.



We wanted to include the children of our local schools in our interest in the green spaces and wildlife so we made some of the Blue Hearts for the school in our neighbouring village of Lympsham (where many of the children from Bleadon go to school) and asked the Children to decorate them so that when we put them in the village.

This way they will be able to find out more about rewilding and its impact on the environment.



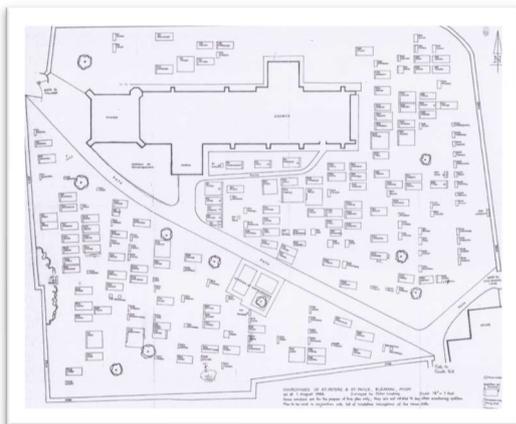
We also worked with Westhaven School to add a new take on the Blue Campaign by creating Blue Pebbles to put in some of our spaces that we are leaving wild for the animals. Each school contributed these, and we had a competition to judge the best one. Both have been spread around the village and their locations added to a map so that the children can walk around the village and see where the hearts and pebbles have gone.

The orchards

Thatchers Cider Company has many of their main orchards in our village. By including them in this project the apprentices have raised the profile of these as habitats for our wildlife which has led to Thatchers adding Beehives and wildflowers into the orchards. The bees help with the pollination of the trees and the wildflowers attract the bees and other pollinators to the orchards. Next year we hope to add owl boxes to the orchards and to slow down the grass cutting to enable these to become release sites for little owls from Secret World Wild animal rescue. The integration of the orchards and the development of this scheme will become a joint project with the Thatchers Foundation over the coming years.

Our Churchyard

Our village Churchyard is a significant place in all sorts of ways. It links us with the past of the community in this place like no other area we have. Over the years Bleadon has changed a lot. Maybe one of the biggest changes is that almost all of us who live here now, did not grow up here. Those people who form our living link with previous generations are a very valuable part of our community, but not the majority they once were. Many of us will move away before we die, but those who lived and died here, and now rest in the churchyard, are here to stay.



In practical terms, the fact that many families have moved away means that there are many graves in the churchyard where there are now no local living relatives to care for the plots.

Bleadon Parish Council do a very good job of keeping the grass cut, the trees trimmed and the wall in good order, but it is not their job to look after individual plots, historically this has been down to the family of the person who is buried there. As families have moved away, some plots have become very overgrown.

Some of the churchgoers decided to start meeting up for occasional working groups, mainly to cut back brambles and elder on overgrown plots. Each time they met, between four and eight people gathered and gradually the difference has really begun to show.

We started doing this simply because there was a need to cut back and tidy, but what we have also found is that it has been fun. Lots of fun. Through working together. People have got to know each other a bit more and beyond that there are all the conversations with people who are simply passing through. Each time we have gathered to work a real community feel has developed and we want to open that up to others who may want to get involved too. I think often the cup of coffee together and the friendships grown are just as significant as the practical work we get done.

Having had publicity around since the end of January, we will shortly have some individual plots available for “adoption”! The idea of “Adopt a Grave” is that some of the areas that have been overgrown could grow flowers and look good with a little regular attention. All this works in well with our new village “Bleadon in Bloom” project too. It’s good when different things pull together in our community. The flowers grown by Bleadon in Bloom are now also being planted in the beds in the Churchyard and we are entering the Churchyard project as an IYN for Britain in Bloom.

Our floral displays

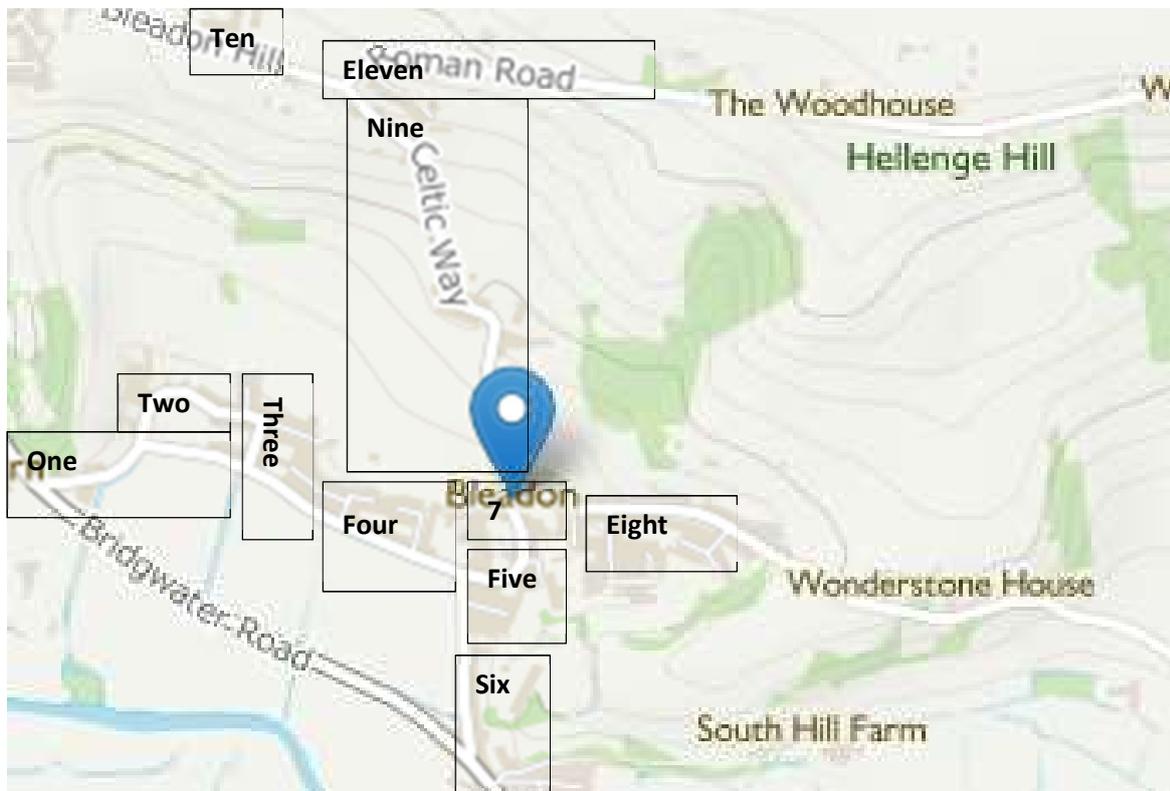
It wouldn’t be a proper “In Bloom” entry if we didn’t have some beautiful displays. Our theme this year was decided back in September 2018 and we wanted to use something that would not only capture our village but also capture what we are trying to do in terms of building our community and encouraging wildlife. We used the theme Beautiful and Useful. We have not picked any colour scheme instead focussing on plants that attract types of insects.

Our plants came from a wide variety of sources. We were fortunate to be able to have donated use of a polytunnel from one of our team, Val Hart and her husband Roger. Val has a stunning garden and much expertise with flowers. We will be visiting this garden on our tour. She and her team (including Vera from Kirsten’s original foray in to planting) potted up plug plants that we got from John Wheatley’s nursery and seeds that we had donated by other people in the village. They looked after these over the spring and kept a rota for watering them. Roger created specialist trays which were a bit like bain maries and these helped to keep the plants well-watered. We grew over 800 plants this way. These were complimented by a further order from Westhaven Nurseries at the school and we had over 500 plants from this location. We bought plants from John Wheatley nursery expertly picked out by Rose Benjamin and she was helped by Jane Wheatley. We had over 800 plants from this location also. The 1000 plants from Greendales were also donated in the usual way, they gave us some extra due to our competition entry.

Our plant mix was:

- Asters for Bees
- Six Week stocks for
- Geranium for
- Nicotiana for height and fragrance
- Geranium for strength
- Canna lilies for
-

We had 30 tubs in the village, and we calculated that we could add around 15 displays to brighten up areas and join the theme together across the whole Parish. We wanted to provide displays at the entrance to the village but the entrances are on to a very busy main road so we needed something small, beautiful and robust that would not be in the way or detract from viewing the road. We had to keep the display from blocking any visuals on to the road for the cars leaving the village. The idea is instead to just add some colour to the verges. We were delighted to be donated two good sized but low planters from Marshalls Quarry. These had to have licences which we applied for and were given, and our local ranger installed the planters in May 2019. We divided the village into zones and created a project document (attached).



We also wanted to have a contrast to the tubs which are old cider barrels and have used old packing cases which we bought at £15 each from Weston Wood Recycling Project. David Sharman then stained and lined them and made an extra one from the lids that came with them. We have joined three together to sit with the contribution from the local Croquet Club who donated two tubs and planted up the troughs at their entrance to match the theme of our displays. The team also adopted the troughs outside the shop and Café and planted them. In all we added over 30 new planters and displays to the current stock in the parish. Each planter or Tub has a “Tub Parent” these are people who tend the tub from when they are planted until all the plants are over. They may continue to support their tub as we go into next year. Each received a Branded High Viz Vest and Watering Can:

Zone	Location	Furniture	Tub Parents
1	Bleadon Road Junction with A370 –	Raised beds over 1meter x 1 meter set back from Road with signage along bottom of flower Planter - Welcome to	Huttons Garage

	Huttons Garage Side	Bleadon in Bloom – donated by Marshalls – value £500	
1	Bleadon Road Junction with A370	Opposite Huttons side – Add Wildflowers to Bank – added forget me not and daisy	Bill Hewitt
1	Bus Stop	New Planter – three levels – using packing crates – Plus two tubs (donated by Croquet)	Karen Orme
1	banks of Rhyne	Wildflowers seeds, forget me knots and Foxgloves	Marshalls, Kirsten, Paul Harding (litter)
2	By Café and shop	5 Troughs of various sizes already on site	Shop and Café
2	Pedestrian entrance to croquet lawn	2 troughs	Croquet Club
3	Start of Footpath at end of Purn Way	Tub and planter	Liz Scarisbrick
3	By Bench on West Mendip Way	Two tubs	Marian and Nikki
3	At start of foot path	One square planter	Ronnie and Allan
4	None	Two tubs at end of road both together – Chestnut lane	Vera
		One tub outside stables - Chestnut lane	Val
		One Tub on Purn Way at Mays cottage	Kizzy
		Two tubs at end of road both together - South Combe	Rose
		One planter west side of road entrance – Amesbury Drive	Betty
		One Tub at east side of road entrance – Amesbury Drive	1 Amesbury
5	Bus stop	One Tub at Bus stop Tenterk close	Liz Butt
5	Entrance to hall	Added three Tubs and one planter, plus one low small trough and one pot. Already has 5 tubs and flower beds plus low troughs and pots of various sizes	Bev and Ben
	Wishing Well area	Two concrete tubs this year and volunteers to plant the area outside the public facilities.	Mary and Glen

6	Escape area	Matching planter from Marshals 1m x 1m	Escape – Garage sometimes Jo Jones
7	Church Cross	One new planter by bench – 4 planters already in situ.	Church Team
	Church Yard	In beds in Church Yard – IYN entry	Church Team with Tim Erridge
	bus stop and around the church room	Two planters	First house on Mulberry
	Pub	New landlord and land lady – encouraged them to hang baskets bought from Westhaven school at the Festival	Queens Ams
8	Birch avenue and the Veal	2 New Planters – 5 already in situ	Libby Boucher
	Birch Avenue	Two tubs at top of Birch Avenue	Jackie HS
9	Hill top	Two tubs, flower area built into bus stop	Rachel G
	Bus stop	Tub added at old Bus stop	Nikki
10	Roman Road	Viewpoint – 2 planters added	Trina Plaister
11	Hill Cote	One new planter by bus stop.	1 Hill Cote

We also have added Oxide Daisy, Forget Me Nots, Fox Gloves and wildflowers to the bank on the entrance opposite the Anchor Inn to add colour to this wild area. These have been planted by the team from Marshalls Quarry and Bill Hewitt and many were taken from Bill’s own garden.

Our Owls

As well as indirectly supporting the Water Vole we wanted to directly impact one other wildlife species in the area. Our ecologist and wildlife photographers picked owls as we had not been hearing so many of them and felt that there was a lack of spaces for owls to nest in the parish. We spoke to Kitto Construction who we know through a local carpenter, Steve Smith. We knew that Steve was a brilliant carpenter and we asked him if he would be able to make us some Owl Boxes. He was enthusiastic and spoke to Kitto who donated the wood immediately. Steve built 5 boxes, two little owl boxes, two tawny owl boxes and a Barn Owl box.



Chris Sperring came to the village and picked sites for the boxes which will be erected in Autumn, ready for the nesting season. We got special permission from landowners to site these boxes. Bill volunteers at Secret World Wild Animal Rescue and they will want to use our sites as release sites for owls taken in over the period.

Bleadon Outdoor Festival

To deliver the judging for the school's "Blue" competitions and the Schools Painting competition and to bring all the parts of the community and the project together, we held the Bleadon Outdoor Festival. We had visiting owls from Secret World and stalls from Thatchers, a local ice cream Company, Our Police Cadets, Westhaven School, Plastic Free Weston-super-Mare and the Church.

Bleadon Outdoor Festival—2019
 Sunday 9th of June 2pm—7.30pm
 Bleadon Coronation Hall

Wild Bleadon Lunch with Chris Sperring MBE - local ecologist and wildlife expert
 Event at 6.00pm in the Village Hall where we will be launching a project to catalogue, protect and improve our Wildlife across the Parish of Bleadon and the Levels. This local community initiative will be kicked off by Chris Sperring MBE. Many of our local organisations concerned with wildlife will be there.
 If you care about our Bleadon Wildlife and want to learn more—then this is your opportunity to join in and get involved!

Pot and Hanging Basket Competition
 Classes include:
 Age groups, On theme for Bleadon in Bloom (Beautiful and Useful), Most inventive Pot. (Schedule on back)
 Entries to be in by 12.00 noon at the Village Hall on the Day

Children's Painting Competition Judging
"Get Rid Of Plastic—Go Green"
 Entries in by 12.00 noon on the day at the Village Hall—will be judged by the visitors to the event.
 Finalists to be entered in the South West area Bloom Competition maybe a National Prize
 Also Judging the Decorated Blue Hearts

Will be bringing their beautiful Owls

Plant Sale, Pot planting, Bar, Cream Teas, Stalls and lots of Fun for all the family

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 BLEADON
 IN
 BLOOM



We had entertainment from local entertainers and the horticultural society ran a café. Local Wildlife Celebrity, Chris Sperring came to the festival to give a talk and launch "Lets Get Bleadon Wild" which

is a spin off from the Bleadon in Bloom Campaign and aims to catalogue our wildlife and habitats. The event was a huge success and we raised over £200 for The Church in Bleadon, Secret World and the Hawk and Owl Trust. Great things came from the networking such as a commitment from the Thatchers Foundation to look at funding owl boxes in the orchards for Little Owls.



Our Achievements:

Horticultural Achievements

As a team we have managed to grow on our own plug plants as well as find a budget for our own planting scheme. We think our displays are complementary to our village. The planters were a huge achievement in terms of building them and choosing those that look like they should be here and reflect our village heritage such as cider barrels and packing cases for quarry goods. These link in with the history of the village.



Bleadon in Bloom also achieved our aim of physically planting on the Rhyne and Banks. Our planting scheme of Beautiful and Useful has been achieved and we feel that we chose many of the right plants for the wildlife. During the winter we maintained our scheme with evergreens and our Silver plants continued to grow and develop all year. In September we planted bulbs in all our tubs and added snow drops to the banks. For next year we are going to be more prescriptive on a colour scheme and planting scheme. Although we started that this year, we feel we would like to aim to be more uniform. This September we will increase the bulbs around the play area and mix daffodils, snowdrops and tulips for a wider variety of colours.



Environmental Responsibility

Bleadon in Bloom are proud of the impact the project has had on the wildlife and environment. We have used recycled pots donated by the village and collected by the Polytunnel team. Our owl boxes will be a huge benefit to re-introducing and supporting the owls in our parish. We have made a significant difference to the Rhyne by supporting the removal of the invasive plants and allowing the banks to grow. We are beginning our accreditation as Plastic Free Bleadon and we have supported two wildlife charities with our donations raised at the Bleadon Outdoor Festival. All our planters and pots are recycled from other materials. We are avoiding the use of chemicals in the displays and have used aged horse manure from a local source as our main feed.



Community Participation

Bleadon in Bloom has brought our community together and allowed us to interact with local businesses in a positive way. The competition has allowed Marshalls Quarry to have a positive effect on the village and to learn more about the community, which in turn has helped them to be a more sociable neighbour. The team at the quarry have been instrumental in supporting the Rhyne and have become very concerned about its health and wellbeing which is a good thing as the quarry sits right along side it. They now regularly check the Rhyne and their team will walk along it when they have hours owed from the factory. We are working on a patio area for the village hall and we have started to talk about what we are going to do next year.



Bleadon in Bloom has brought the Thatchers Cider Company into the parish and enabled them to share news about the orchards in our local paper. The Apprentices have been given the opportunity to work on community projects together as a team. Also, they have supported the wild campaign and improved their stewardship of the orchard wildlife by introducing beehives and planning to introduce owls as well as leaving sections of their own gardens to grow for the animals and wildlife.



We have brought together many of the groups in our community and built a sense of purpose for the villagers and the groups. We use the “Bleadon Acting Together” and “In And Around Bleadon” Facebook pages, regular meet ups (including the Horticultural Society Meetings) to get together and plan. We also have a WhatsApp group which allows us to communicate and quickly take advantage of good weather or new donations. Bleadon in Bloom has also supported the school in Lympsham with information and “Blue Hearts” for their own re-wilding project. The School will work with us on our plans for Plastic Free Bleadon and our Wildlife and Ecology project.

Our own community have rallied to support Bleadon in Bloom with many groups involved including:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Westhaven School | 12. Escape Hairdressers |
| 2. Lympsham School | 13. The church |
| 3. Bleadon Brownies | 14. Bleadon Café |
| 4. Escape Hairdressers | 15. The Queens Arms |
| 5. All our Tub parents | 16. Bridge Garage |
| 6. Bleadon Horticultural Society | 17. Thatchers Cider |
| 7. Bleadon Allotment Association | 18. Langage Ice Cream |
| 8. Bleadon Acting Together | 19. Bleadon Cadets |
| 9. Bleadon WI | 20. Kitto Joinery |
| 10. Marshalls Quarry | 21. Weston Croquet Club |
| 11. Huttons Garage | |

We have also been helped by some individuals:

1. Tom Hemingway-Arnold – Logo Design
2. Steve Smith – Owl Boxes and Children’s Blue Hearts
3. Dave Sharman – Planters and Blue Hearts
4. Bill Hewitt – Photos
5. Local Councillor Terry Porter – our mentor

We were able to get grant funding from North Somerset Council to buy High Vis Vests and to have branded watering cans.



Marshalls Concrete provided us with two planters (retail price £500 each), 64 Kerb stones and 19 tonnes of shingle for the allotments.

The Thatchers team came to plant with us all year round and supported us when we held the Bleadon Outdoor Event. We were delighted that our community police support officers brought a team of cadets to help at the event.

Our Croquet Club had donated plants and planters to support our efforts by their playing area. They have a competition the day of the judging so we will be able to see them in action.

Manor Farm Holiday Cottages is run by keen gardener Valerie Hart and her husband Roger. They looked after our plug plants and donated space in their Polytunnel. Roger made special Bain Marie style trays so that our plugs would have a good supply of water.

We have asked Wessex Water to support our efforts but they were not able to do anything in the time period, however, we hope they will be able to provide a “friendship bench” on their small patch of ground between the main settlement and the shop and post office. This will allow people who struggle to walk the whole distance a space to rest on the way.

Future Plans

Our calendar has plans for an autumn plant up so that we can add bulbs to tubs and banks. We now know what our main planting areas are and we have a team to help look after the displays so we can focus on what our Horticultural arrangements will be and our plants.

Using the great start on Wild Bleadon we will continue to develop our grass roots ecology strands and build a catalogue of the habitats and wild animals and plants in the Parish. Our owl boxes will be up and we will be working on other habitat requirements for hedgehogs and dormice.

Next year we have plans to work even closer with our community to help to tackle social isolation. We are interested in starting a men’s group of volunteers who will help us with the infrastructure but also this group will support social prescribing. The group will be akin to a “man in a shed” group – supporting men’s mental health. At the same time this will help us to support our footpaths with a team of volunteers.

Conclusion

We feel we have made a good start and a given the Pennant award a good go. Our team has grown from just an idea last year into a committed crew of at least 12. And then with additional 12 who are on the periphery, such as our tub parents.

The Bloomers have learned a lot about our village and how it works and we are able to better understand the character. People are open to planting and lot of the residents have become involved. It has been an incredible year with our committee starting from nothing in August 1st year and now building to be one of our main community groups.

6. Illustrating your achievements, using the headers below:
 - Horticultural Achievement
 - Environmental Responsibility
 - Community Participation
7. Conclusion, giving a brief summary of key achievements and an outline of plans for sustaining your work and developing new projects.