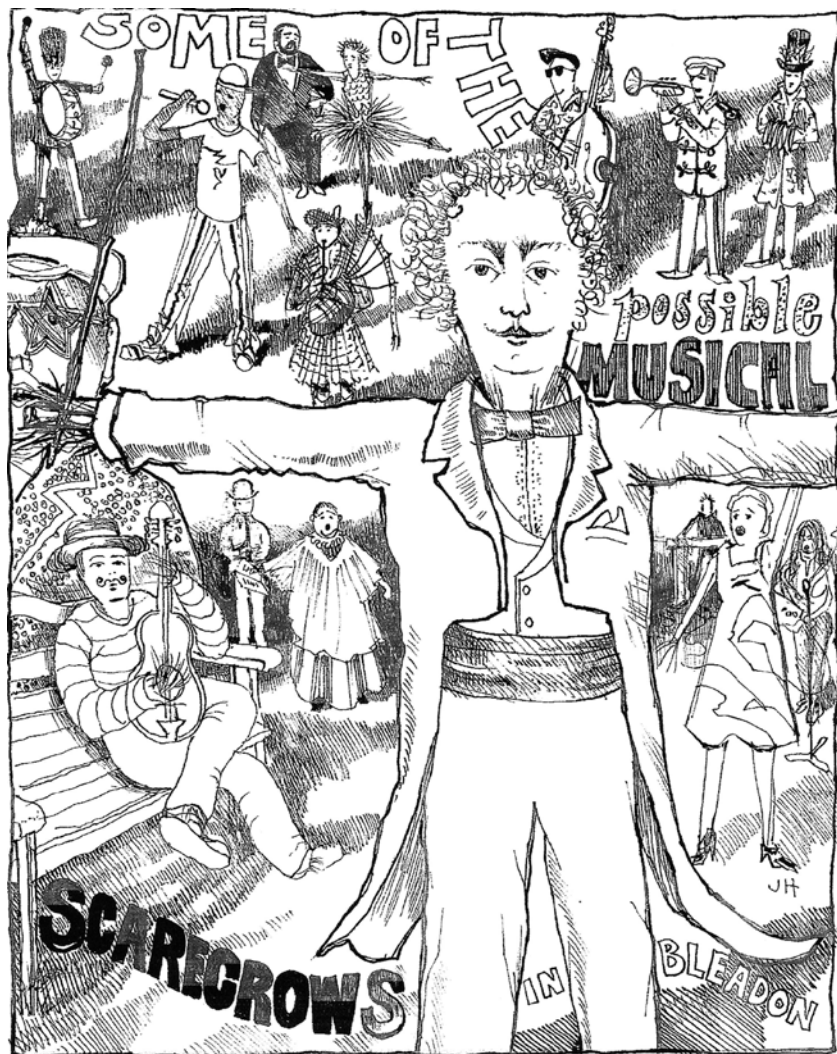


# BLEADON



VILLAGE NEWS 82

Monthly indoor

# Saturday MARKET

19th September, 17th October, 21st November  
5th December Christmas Market  
16th January, 20th February

## Bleadon Village Coronation Hall 9-12.30



Local produce.

Somerset beef and lamb.

Local bread. Fairtrade.

Home-made cakes.

Cheeses. Cider. Honey.

Preserves. Plants. Books.

Crafts. Jewellery. Gifts.

Cards. Bric-a-brac.

*Please bring a bag*

Meet friends and chat  
over coffee and snacks



01934 812 370 for stalls info

## THE PARISH COUNCIL

PENNY SKELLEY [CHAIRMAN]	'MENDIP CROFT', CELTIC WAY, BLEADON.	TEL. 815331
PENNY ROBINSON [VICE CHAIRMAN]	1, THE VEALE, BLEADON.	TEL. 814142
GRAHAM LOCKYER	'HIGHCROFT' ROMAN RD. BLEADON.	TEL. 812050
MARY SHEPPARD	'LITTLEWOOD' BRIDGWATER RD., LYMPSHAM.	TEL. 812921
KEITH PYKE	8, WHITEGATE CLOSE, BLEADON.	TEL. 813127
CLIVE MORRIS	20, BLEADON MILL, BLEADON.	TEL. 811591
BRIAN GAMBLE	'ASHDENE' BLEADON RD., BLEADON.	TEL. 811709
I.D. CLARKE	'THE GRANARY' MULBERRY LANE, BLEADON.	TEL. 815182
ROBERT HOUSE	LAKE FARM COTTAGES, SHIPLATE ROAD, BLEADON.	TEL. 815588

The Council meets on the 2nd Monday of the month at 7.30pm, in the Coronation Hall. An agenda is published on the Parish notice board, and any Parishioner who wishes to, may attend these meetings. If there is a particular issue you would like to raise, could you please let the Parish Clerk know in advance and at the latest by the Friday immediately preceding the meeting. This will give him the chance to collect the most up to date information available.

### THE PARISH CLERK TO WHOM ALL CORRESPONDENCE SHOULD BE ADDRESSED IS:-

BRUCE POOLE, 'THE CHIPPINGS', 21 STONELEIGH CLOSE,  
BURNHAM-ON-SEA, SOMERSET TA8 3EE  
TEL. 07887 802922 or e-mail: [bruce.poole2@btopenworld.com](mailto:bruce.poole2@btopenworld.com)

**This Village Newsletter is published four times a year, March, June, September and December. Date sensitive material and publicity notices should reach the Editor well in advance of the event as a definite publishing date cannot be guaranteed.  
The Deadline for the next issue is 20th November 2009**

Our aim is to provide a copy of this magazine free to every household within the Parish of Bleadon. Those who live outside the Parish may be able to obtain a copy from the Village shop or the Church porch. I should like to thank all those who help with the distribution of the magazine and I hope I can count on your future support. If there are others out there who would like to help please let me know (01934 814142).

Unless otherwise stated the opinions and comments expressed in this magazine are those of the contributor and not of Bleadon Parish Council. Anyone who has a comment to make on the content of this publication or has a contribution for inclusion, should send it to :-

Mrs. Penny Robinson, 1, The Veale, Bleadon. BS24 0NP  
Tel. 01934 814142 | e-mail : [penny@bleadonvillage.co.uk](mailto:penny@bleadonvillage.co.uk)

Keep up to date with the Parish Council news and to see this magazine online go to...

**[www.bleadonparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.bleadonparishcouncil.gov.uk)**

**Bleadon at its best!** A Scarecrow Festival was held in August, was a great success and highly acclaimed by villagers and visitors. The event was partly sponsored by the Parish Council and over 30 Scarecrows were scattered around the village on this sunny weekend. Two scarecrows, chosen as the favourites by everyone, will be shown at Puxton Park on 26th September. One scarecrow from each village will also reside in the Weston-super-Mare Museum for a short time. Fun for all in Bleadon and thank you for supporting this first time event.

Parish work continues into the autumn. Central Government's Community Secretary has recently heralded the biggest single transfer of power to local government and we as a Parish are the final tier. The Council training days have helped us to gain Quality Status and we continue our studies under the guidance of our Clerk, the Society of Local Council Clerks, and the course of "Working with your Council". Somewhat difficult for those of us whose schooling days were a long time ago!

Just before commencing the next Parish Council Meeting on 14th September, a short ceremony will be held to unveil a plaque in memory of District Councillor Ian Peddlesden, who died earlier in the year. Mrs. Pauline Peddlesden has been invited to attend and is very pleased that the plaque in honour of her husband is to be placed on the seat presently dedicated to her late father-in-law.

The temporary loss of the bus service to Bleadon was remedied by North Somerset with a substitute service within 48 hours. Buses and their routes are always under scrutiny by the Parish Council and we are looking into the possibility of extra bus shelters and associated works. This intention by the Council and with some matched funding from North Somerset will be confirmed soon. When it comes to buses, the emphasis is "use it or lose it".

Our first Village Ranger will retire in September. John Hurcombe has worked tirelessly for four years pioneering the tasks of our Ranger. We thank him for his diligent work on our behalf and his conscientious commitment to maintaining the village to such a high standard. The "lipstick colours" of this year's summer plants will be replaced in October with autumnal hues.



The Parish Council has purchased environmentally friendly cotton Bleadon bags. A green Bleadon logo and the Parish Council's new web-site are printed on both sides and these are now on sale.

The date of the next Historical Society meeting is Saturday, 10th October 2009. Please come, perhaps to contribute, to learn more local history, facts and knowledge of our part of Somerset. The Parish Council meets every second Monday of the month and you are always welcome to attend; this ensures that we have contact and direct feedback from the community.

**Penny Skelley, Chairman.**

## Section 1 – Statement of accounts for

### BLEADON PARISH COUNCIL

In completing the boxes below please explain any significant variances on a separate sheet and send this to the external auditor together with a copy of your bank reconciliation as at 31 March 2009.

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2008 £	31 March 2009 £	
1 Balances brought forward	27097	86966	Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Value must agree to Box 7 of previous year.
2 (+) Annual precept	34000	34875	Total amount of precept received in the year.
3 (+) Total other receipts	59855	4166	Total receipts or income as recorded in the cashbook less the precept. Includes support, discretionary and revenue grants.
4 (-) Staff costs	13656	14051	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include salaries and wages, PAYE and NI (employees and employers), pension contributions and employment expenses.
5 (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	—	—	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on borrowings (if any).
6 (-) Total other payments	20330	29356	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).
7 (=) Balances carried forward	86966	82600	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) – (4+5+6)
8 Total cash and short term investments	85024	80027	The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and short term investments held as at 31 March – to agree with bank reconciliation.
9 Total fixed assets and long term assets	43411	43780	The recorded book value at 31 March of all fixed assets owned by the council and any other long term assets e.g. loans to third parties and any long term investments.
10 Total borrowings	—	—	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including FWLB).
11 Trust funds (including charitable) disclosure note	N/A	N/A	The council acts as sole trustee for and is responsible for managing trust funds or assets. (Readers should note that the figures above do not include any trust transactions.)

I certify that the statement of accounts contained in this annual return presents fairly the financial position of the council/meeting and its income and expenditure, or properly presents receipts and payments, as the case may be, for the year ended 31 March 2009.

Signed by Responsible Financial Officer

*B. Oole*

Date 10/04/09

I confirm that these accounts were approved by the council/meeting and recorded as minute reference

M 213.12a

Date 11/05/09

Signed by Chair of meeting approving this statement of accounts

*P J Skelley*

Date 12 May 2009



## Section 2 – Annual governance statement

We acknowledge as the members of **BLEADON PARISH COUNCIL** our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including the preparation of the statement of accounts. We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, with respect to the statement of accounts for the year ended 31 March 2009, that:

	Agreed – Yes or No*	'Yes' means that the council/meeting:
1 we have approved the statement of accounts which has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations and proper practices.	Yes	prepared its statement of accounts in the way prescribed by law.
2 we have maintained an adequate system of internal control, including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness.	Yes	made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.
3 we have taken all reasonable steps to assure ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and codes of practice which could have a significant financial effect on the ability of the council to conduct its business or on its finances.	Yes	has only done things that it has the legal power to do and has conformed to codes of practice and standards in the way it has done so.
4 we have provided proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations.	Yes	during the year has given all persons interested the opportunity to inspect and ask questions about the council's accounts.
5 we have carried out an assessment of the risks facing the council and taken appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.	Yes	considered the financial and other risks it faces and has dealt with them properly.
6 we have maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the council's accounting records and control systems and carried out a review of its effectiveness.	Yes	arranged for a competent person, independent of the financial controls and procedures, to give an objective view on whether these meet the needs of the council and reviewed the impact of this work.
7 we have taken appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit.	Yes	responded to matters brought to its attention by internal and external audit.
8 we have considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on the council and, where appropriate have included them in the statement of accounts.	Yes	disclosed everything it should have about its business activity during the year including events taking place after the year-end if relevant.
9 Trust funds (including charitable) – in our capacity as the sole managing trustee we have discharged our responsibility in relation to the accountability for the fund(s)/assets, including financial reporting and, if required, independent examination or audit.	YES N/A	has met all of its responsibilities where it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts.

This annual governance statement is approved by the council/meeting and recorded as minute reference

CONFERENCE 213.12A

dated 11/05/09

Signed on behalf of **BLEADON PARISH COUNCIL**

Signed by: Chair **P J Skeley**

Date 12 May 2009

Signed by: Clerk **B. Dale**

Date 11/05/09

\*Note: Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a separate sheet for each 'No' response that has been given; and describe what action is being taken to address the weaknesses identified.

## Section 3 – External auditor’s certificate and opinion

### Certificate

We certify that we have completed the audit of the annual return for the year ended 31 March 2009 of

BLEADON PARISH COUNCIL/MEETING

### Respective responsibilities of the council and the auditor

The council is responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations and for the preparation of an annual return which:

- summarises the council’s accounting records for the year ended 31 March 2009; and
- confirms and provides assurance on those matters that are important to our audit responsibilities.

Our responsibility is to conduct an audit in accordance with guidance issued by the Audit Commission and, on the basis of our review of the annual return and supporting information, to report whether any matters that come to our attention give cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

### External auditor’s report

(Except for the matters reported below)\* on the basis of our review, in our opinion the information contained in the annual return is in accordance with the Audit Commission’s requirements and no matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met. (\*delete as appropriate).

THE COUNCIL MUST ENSURE THAT IT COMPLIES FULLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT REGULATIONS 2003 (AS AMENDED) CONCERNING THE PROPER EXERCISE OF ELECTORS’ RIGHTS - REFER TO OUR GUIDANCE NOTES SENT TO YOU WITH THE ANNUAL RETURN (INSPECTION PERIOD WAS ONLY 19 WORKING DAYS INSTEAD OF 20).

(continue on a separate sheet if required)

Other matters not affecting our opinion which we draw to the attention of the council/meeting:

PLEASE ENSURE THAT ANY AMENDMENTS MADE IN SECTION 1 OF THE ANNUAL RETURN ARE INSTALLED BY THE CFO (HARRISIAN LBOX 8). PLEASE AVOID THE USE OF TIPPEX ON THE ANNUAL RETURN.

(continue on a separate sheet if required)

External auditor’s signature Mazars LLP

External auditor’s name Mazars LLP, Southampton, SO15 2BE Date 25/8/2009

**Note:** The auditor signing this page has been appointed by the Audit Commission and is reporting to you that they have carried out and completed all the work that is required of them by law. For further information please refer to the Audit Commission’s publication entitled *Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and of Audited Small Bodies*.

## Bleadon Coronation Hall Management Committee



The problem of heating the Jubilee Room has been ongoing since it was built back in 1997, then, as the extension was nearing completion, funds were running out so a cheaper option was decided upon. Overhead electric units were installed but after a few years proved to be unsatisfactory.

These were removed and replaced by four fan-assisted storage heaters which have been in use for a few years; the problem now is that users cannot regulate them according to changing temperature conditions and they continue to operate even when the Hall is not in use.

The continuous rise in electricity costs has finally made us realize that the system has to be changed, and we are now having gas brought into the hall, and space heaters installed.

These will be controllable by the users and will reduce our fuel costs considerably. We all hope that this will be the final solution to the heating problem in the Jubilee Room.

**Len Chamberlain (Chairman)**

## Poppy Appeal 2009



This year sees the 70th Anniversary of the outbreak of the Second World War and as we remember those who served in that well documented conflict let us not forget those who have died and been wounded in the battles since. Right up to the present day the Royal British Legion plays a vital role in helping the families of those who have died as well as the very important task of rehabilitating those whose lives have been changed forever by both physical and mental injuries.

## SO PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY TO THE 2009 POPPY APPEAL

From October 24th all the usual places will be selling poppies and the dedicated team of doorstep sellers will once again be doing their rounds.

If you wish to offer help please ring **Les Masters 01934 811976**

## Friends of Bleadon Church Autumn Events



In November a Concert by Brass with a Difference at the Church at 7.30.pm - tickets at the Post Office or 811571 & 813636 (date to be arranged)

Dec 12th - Punch & Pie Xmas Party in the Coronation Hall





There will be a meeting of the Historical Society in the Coronation Hall on Saturday October 10th at 7.30pm.

Watch out for notices nearer the time which will give full details of the evening.

As always though, we ask any of you with interesting documents, photos etc. to bring them along, nostalgia never goes out of fashion!



### **MEMORIES SUCH AS THIS - Robert Say – as remembered by Sylvia Bird**

*Known to everyone as Bob, - he and his co-worker (from Lympsham) were employed by the Axbridge Rural District Council in the 1930s to maintain the village open spaces. He and his family lived down the lane behind what is now Bridge Garage.*

*Bob and his mate would arrive on their bicycles with their tools, scythe and hook (wrapped in sacking for safety), a rake, spade and brush. The grass verges were cut and the edges trimmed, hedges tidied and a general clean-up carried out, followed by a final brush up. There were no mechanical tools in their day but they always did a thorough job and took great pride in their efforts.*

*Bob was a popular man and in his spare time acted as a hairdresser to old and young alike, keeping heads tidy as well as verges! He was also a chimney sweep, - and - when necessary he helped Mr. Gilson the undertaker by acting as a pall-bearer at funerals.*

*He enjoyed both skittles and darts, playing hard as well as working hard, and he always had a smile on his face and a cheery word for all who met him. I guess you could say he was one of the first 'Village Rangers'!*

### **And while we're talking rangers here's a word from John .....**

*When you read this I will have handed over the ranger's job to the new man Peter Mchugh. I would like to wish him well and can assure him that he is working for a community that has a lot of pride in its village.*

*When I started the job it was only meant to be for a short time, just to see if it would work out for the village, and work out it has. After three and a half years it is time for me to move on and spend more time on my lifetime's passion for golf.*

*I would like to thank all the villagers, farmers, land owners and the parish council for their support during this time for without it the ranger scheme would not have worked.*

*Very best wishes.*

**John Hurcombe**

## Bleadon Horticultural Society



Garden designer and plantswoman Cindy Tratt from Lympham and Sanders' Garden World's own Peter Burks were the guest panelists at the June edition of 'Gardener's Question time' held in the Coronation Hall. They each gave excellent in-depth answers to the varied questions ranging from roses to banana plants, clematis, camellias and many more. Tips on the eradication of bindweed, slugs and snails were also given.

The July coach outing saw us all going over the bridge (passports in hands) to Wales, where we visited St. Fagan's rural life museum, the Castle and colourful gardens. The five-person buggy was a smash hit with the passengers who were taken on an extensive tour of the grounds. In spite of the inclement weather conditions the group managed to complete 55 of the 56 recommended activities.

The new programme for the coming season has now been finalised so here are some dates for your diaries.

Tuesday October 20th – Chris Sperring MBE will give an illustrated talk with the intriguing title of 'Wilding your Garden'.

Tuesday November 17th – We welcome yet again the one and only Paul Gilmore from Cadbury Garden Centre to get us all into the festive season mood.

Both of these events are open to anyone at £1.00 admission to the Coronation Hall at 7.30pm.

Tuesday December 15th – You will need to purchase your tickets in advance for the regular Beetle Drive and American Supper. As usual this will be held in the Coronation Hall at 7.30pm. with the tickets costing the huge sum of £1.00!

**Chris Cudlipp**

## Bleadon Brownies



Spent a busy summer making a scarecrow for the festival.

Amy Winehouse

## Jottings of a WW2 POW

### JOTTINGS OF A WW2 POW – BY DON GARDNER.

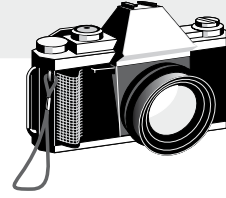
While digging among some old papers found on a bomb site, I came across some ancient documents. I have been able to decipher the following, which may be of interest to any Bleadon Octogenarian.

*Now it came to pass in the third year of the reign of King Georgius Sextus, that I was constrained to dwell in a camp of armed men. And there came forth one bearing on his shoulder three stars, having the pip thrice, who was known as the Adjutantum, which is being interpreted, one who worships the brazen image of the masculine bovine quadruped. And he called in a loud voice, saying, 'Come unto me, O Sergeant Magus'. And there came forth one bearing on his sleeve a crest, showing he was a man greatly to be feared. And he of the three stars commanded thus, 'Parade before me at the ninth hour on the morrow, one hundred men, each standing at his appointed sleeping place, and all that is his shall be laid upon a blanket in the approved fashion according to the regulation of the king which altereth not.'*

*And at the ninth hour on the morrow there were one hundred men, each standing at his appointed sleeping place and all that was his was laid upon a blanket in the approved fashion according to the regulation of the king, which altereth not. At the eleventh hour he with the three stars did appear, being followed by those who only bore two stars, being known as subs, that is small potatoes. And he with the three stars did move among the sleeping places saying 'Where is this thing? And Where is that thing' and Lo they had it all. Until he came to one by the name of Spudus Murphi, and looking upon him he said, 'Oh man of Little Kit, where are thy drawers, cotton, short, & thy boots ankle Mark I pairs of, one?' Then he who was called Spudus Murphi did tremble as with an ague & sake thus; 'Lord, it came to pass on the sixth day at the seventh hour, I was athirst & I had not the wherewithal to slake my thirst. Then did I take my drawers, cotton short, and my boots, ankle, Mark 1, unto mine uncle of the tribe of Levi, and did say unto him, 'Wilt thou give me twenty pieces of silver for these things?' And he replied unto me, "Six". Then did I take the money to the Den of the Forty Thieves known as NAFFI where I did slake my thirst.*

*And it came to pass that on the morrow, he did stand upon the carpet of the C.O. or he Who Must Be Obeyed, who heard all and said "Because thou hast done evil in my sight, and offended against the Regulations of the King, Section 40, paragraph 4d, thou art sentenced to be banished from among us for seven and twenty days, thus earning no remission." And he was led forth to the outer gate, where he was seized by the tribe of Redus Capi amid much weeping and gnashing of teeth.*

*Now therefore my brethren, be as the ninety and nine and not as the one. Flog not that which must not be flogged, but rather suffer your thirst than have it entered upon the slate until the day of reckoning. So shall the blessing of the great Paymasterbus rest upon thee.*



### **PHOTOGRAPHY HAS BEEN GOOD TO ME. A personal memoir**

My interest in photography was awakened back in 1940 when as a pupil at boarding school my maths tutor, a keen photographer himself, demonstrated to a few interested boys how to develop a film. From this we went on to produce a print using Daylight Printing Paper, or P.O.P, by sunlight and inspecting the gradually appearing image until the desired density was achieved, then fixing the print either using Hypo or salt water. I never looked back, for on completion of my scholastic studies I became a "photographer". Well actually I was apprentice printer with a Fleet Street Press Agency moving up to camera operator in a short time. This was in no way due to my abilities but due to the fact that most of the camera men from Fleet Street were away fighting a war so there were insufficient of them around to satisfy the needs. Although I had a lot of fun working on Fleet Street, getting to photograph several famous people like Sir Robert Watson-Watts the inventor of Radar and the concert pianist Benno Moiseiwitsch, my interests lay in commercial photography. For a while I worked for Selfridges, the Oxford Street store doing their publicity and window display photography I also took the studio shots of the actress Ann Todd on the occasion of her wedding but this too was not my ambition. Now the war was over and men started to return.

In those days it was very difficult to get accepted into a major advertising agency or commercial studio without serving a three year apprenticeship, so I decided to study photography full time and go for a qualification but I had no money. So in order to fulfil my ambition I joined the Merchant Navy to save enough money to see me through college as in those days there were no grants available. After three and half years I had enough money saved and applied and was accepted at Regent Street Polytechnic where I studied under Professor Margaret Harker and emerged with an Associateship of the Institute of British Photographers and on leaving was immediately called up for national service which turned out to be an error but by the time it was discovered I had done 20 of the 24 months required I decided to stay and complete my 2 years. By this time I was a Sergeant Air Gunner on a squadron of Washingtons ( B.29s) awaiting a call to the Korean war. I contemplated staying in as I was offered a short service commission but decided to return to photography in civvy street and so on my demob I did some freelance work specialising in architectural photography during which time I was commissioned to photograph some of the colleges of both Oxford and Cambridge which were published in guide books for both Universities. I then joined a small commercial studio producing advertising work mainly for the automotive industry. It was whilst in this employment that I became an honorary member of the Guild of Motoring Writers and a member of the Steering Wheel Club and became acquainted with many of the racing drivers of the day like Fangio, Mike Hawthorn, Stirling Moss, Prince Biera and many others. These were the early days of commercial colour photography and I was one of the few people processing 10" x 8" Ektachrome sheet colour film in open dishes where the temperature tolerance had to be +or - 3F but it worked using a devised technique to control the temperature. Whilst at this company I met some more interesting people like Sir Winston Churchill whom I photographed at Chartwell. At this time there was no money in working for commercial organisations so I decided to move into industry and joined Ilford Ltd where I stayed for the next 17 years eventually becoming Sales Manager of Ilford Graphics Ltd. Later on I was approached by a head hunter to join another photographic company, Criterion Ltd., to become Marketing Director but the company was bought out and my job was no more. I finally joined Canon as Marketing Manage from whom I retired some twenty one years ago. On retirement I revived my interest in the subject and did a City & Guilds course at Weston College from which I gained my L.R.P.S and six months later submitted a panel and achieved my A.R.P.S and am still an active amateur photographer enjoying producing images to suit myself. Photography has been good to me.

**Ken Tapley.**



Anchor Inn and Rosary Cottage



Manor Cottage





Bleadon Ladies on and outing



Bleadon Ladies on and outing



Goose supper at Anchor Inn



Hillside - top of Celtic Way



Mrs Taylor and Mrs Poole - Weymouth 1938



Woollacotts outside Wonderstone Cottage 1930's

**The additional cost of reproducing these photos has been met  
by the generous sponsorship from Marshall's Quarry**

COME TO THE

# PHOENIX QUIZ

IN AID OF CLIC SARGENT

AT THE CORONATION HALL  
SATURDAY NOVEMBER 21ST  
7.30pm

Doors open at 7.00pm

**£7.50p per person**  
(including a ploughman's supper)

Tickets from  
BLEADON COUNTRY STORE  
or  
LES MASTERS — 01934 811976

RAFFLE AND BAR

HAVE FUN

HELP A GOOD CAUSE

## Lost Graves

During a recent clear up in the Churchyard John Hurcombe came across a few 'lost graves'. Lain hidden amongst weeds and shrubs was this one which bears an interesting inscription.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
LT.COL. JOHN SHEFFIELD GILBERT RYLEY  
LATE OF THE 5TH BENGAL LIGHT CALVARY  
DIED IN BLEADON MAY 31ST 1891 AGED 83.

Research has indicated that this regiment was only in existence during the Indian Mutiny, being disbanded shortly afterwards. I am wondering if there are any descendents of this officer still living in the area, and to that end I am posting this on the website in the hope that someone somewhere can provide some clues as to his military career before he ended his days in Bleadon.



**Penny Robinson**

## Bleadon Country Sports



The 70th Bleadon Sports had a very successful show at Appledore Farm on August 22. Having struggled with very wet conditions for the past two years, the kind weather was a treat, and there were good entries in all classes.

It was very pleasing to see a good turnout of horse drawn carriages. Carriages came from far and wide, the furthest from Chippenham.

Champion horses were 'Sooty' ridden by Christian Scott Lovell from Kewstoke and Miniature Shetland, 'Jay of Jopa', led by Trudy Waterhouse of Bleadon.

Champion show jumper was Cara Tyer from Bridgwater riding "She's the village rumour".

Richard Tilley won the traditional Tossing the Sheaf Competition. Richard is the third generation of the Tilley family from Loxton, to be Bleadon Sports Tossing the Sheaf champions.

Competition was very strong in the dog show for the 'waggiest tail'

and 'best six legs.' Pedigree Dog Champions were Magic owned by Glenda Tibbotts from East Hunstpill and Dylan belonging to Georgina Coveney from Uphill.

Proceeds from the dog show will support The Kennel Club selected charities.

All the proceeds from the show will be donated to Weston Hospice Care and Langford Trust at a celebration lunch.

## Bleadon WI



Since we started jammin' in February we've had some great meetings and made 35 'new friends'! We've tried wine tasting – not as easy as we thought but hugely enjoyable – and been inspired to

try modern flower arranging à la Jane Packer. We've exercised our little grey cells in a challenging quiz and gained an insight into the problems facing the honey bee. And now we've been designated the "Wiggling WI" after our evening of 'Turkish Delight' when we tried our hands (and hips) at belly dancing – great fun! We broke for summer with a 'Pimms & Picnic', complete with games for the whole family.



In case the belly dancing caused a few twinges, we're having a talk from a chiropractor at our **10 September** meeting. Our AGM is on **8 October** and, at our **12 November** meeting we'll be looking forward

to Christmas – and then a seasonal round-up for the year at our **10 December** meeting.

We meet every second Thursday in the month at 7.30 pm in the Coronation Hall. We'd love you to join us – why not come as a visitor in September and then you can join in October and pay your annual subscription which will cover you for 15 months' membership. Need to know more? Just call 812050 and ask for Libby and look out for our posters.

Keep Wiggling!

**Libby Lockyer**



## Final Solution - A Short Story

Winston Churchill called it the 'Battle of Britain' because before a German invasion could begin they required complete air superiority and RAF Fighter Command in the South East needed to be eliminated. The Luftwaffe promised this in five days but five weeks later the remains of Britain's front line fighter units were still fighting. It's fifteen years since, but I still vividly recall those final days and my last battle sortie.

\*\*\*

We four, running out now to our aircraft for the sixth time that day, are all that remains of 85 Squadron and again we've been scrambled too late. After takeoff, our Hurricanes are still straining for height when Townsend spots the Germans and banks sharply.

"Stukas bearing 180. Over Ventnor radar."

The chain of radar installations had been the eyes of the fighter controllers' but over the last weeks, one by one they have been destroyed. Only the radar site at Ventnor

on the Isle of Wight is still working. Closing on Townsend I can see the enemy now, straight ahead, a dozen JU87 bombers stacked neatly and lining up for their dive to the target.

"Corks in boys. Follow them down," Townsend orders, "Johnny you stick with me."

Regulars like him are all 'Toffs' but Townsend cares, even about me, a Sergeant Reservist.

"Roger Leader," I acknowledge, thumbing off the firing button safety catch and we turn to descend and intercept.

The Stukas appear to stop as they throttle back and tip forward into their vertical dive. It's after releasing their flurry of bombs, when pulling up to begin a slow and inelegant climb, that they are the most vulnerable; the swooping birds of prey becoming turkeys. Soon I have one at 250 yards gradually filling my gun sight and I press the firing button. The Hurricane shudders and lines of yellow tracer from my eight guns race to the enemy cockpit and sunlit shards of shattered Perspex and metal blossom and scatter. The Stuka rolls over and stalls, falling silently and uncontrollably now, streaming fire and smoke and smashing into the sea with a brief white upheaval; my first kill.

It was to be my only kill. I remember mixing it with some escorting Me109s for the next ten minutes, the only result being my aircraft taking cannon shots in the wings and tail making it almost impossible to handle. Thankfully, the battle area quietened, the sky suddenly empty, and then Townsend slips in alongside. He gives me a thumbs-up and in company we turn for the coast. We cross the Isle of Wight, the radar station at Ventnor a smoke-wreathed ruin, as is our airfield at Driffield when we reach it. Townsend shepherds me all the way and circles 'shotgun' while I creep in to land. Next day the squadron remnants move out to Hendon, part of a general redeployment north of London. The forward air bases in the south east of England were being abandoned and the German invasion, Operation Sea Lion they called it, starts almost immediately. During three days in September 1940 some 260,000 men and 30,000 vehicles landed on a front stretching from Folkstone to Lyme Bay. At the same time, parachute troops secure the airfields we'd so recently left. Our forces in the south, not yet recovered from their defeat in France, are soon overwhelmed.



I never flew again. There were surplus pilots at Hendon and I was assigned airfield defence duties. We were soon overrun anyway and I was 'in the bag', a prisoner for two years. Peter Townsend got himself attached to the Royals, then being evacuated to Canada, and I heard later that he had married Princess Margaret. The Germans advanced as far as the Scottish border, where, like the Romans, they stopped and there was a negotiated surrender. Politicians and VIPs who wouldn't cooperate were interned on the Isle of Man, Mr Churchill ended up there of course. Germany and America came to a contrived understanding and between them developed an atomic bomb. Germany used it on Russia and the Americans on Japan and the War ended in 1944.

In the camps, many POWs wasted their efforts on pointless escape attempts but I never did. Escape to where? My family had been killed in the blitz on London. I've never forgiven the Germans for that but I've been waiting my time. Released early I was sent to work at the aircraft factory in Bristol where I soon joined the Royal British Legion. Funny, it is one of the few organisations the Germans didn't stop. We do a lot of social work and I've been very busy with that but its primary purpose is a cover for the national resistance movement. As part of the deception, most of us also joined the 'Black Shirts', the National Socialist Party, and I've been industrious on that front too and become the factory organiser.

It was expected that Hitler would come to England for King Edward's Coronation in 1945 and I know that assassination attempts were planned, but their occupation security people advised against it. Mussolini didn't attend either. Things appear more settled now, so the Germans believe, and we're sure he'll be coming to the invasion anniversary celebrations in London on Saturday and, being a chosen example of a good British National Socialist, so will I. Yes, fifty of us are going to get medals during an investiture at the palace. A lot of work has gone into improving the place recently and in the process the building's structure has been wired and filled with explosives. On Saturday, Hitler, Good King Edward, Prime Minister Moseley, my companion loyal Party members and the rest of the British Fascist hierarchy will all be blown skywards when I press a switch on my Party badge; a nice touch that. I shall die too of course, as I should have done during the war - but for me the war has never ended.

### Sources

Duel of Eagles - Peter Townsend

Fighter – Len Deighton

A Good War - Patrick Bishop



**IF YOU OWN A DOG PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW IT TO FOUL THE FOOTPATHS AND VERGES OF OUR VILLAGE. THE RESULTING MESS IS UNSIGHTLY AND A SOURCE OF INFECTION. BE A GOOD CITIZEN AND CARRY A POOP-SCOOP OR A PLASTIC BAG AND DEPOSIT IT IN THE DOG LITTER BINS THAT HAVE BEEN PROVIDED IN THE VILLAGE. PLEASE DON'T LEAVE IT FOR OTHERS TO CLEAN UP**

## Our Priestly Future - Finally



At last after two years and seven months of interregnum we finally have news of our future at St Peter and St Paul!

You might know that the original diocesan plan was that our parish should be added to the workload of the parish of St Andrew's at Bournville and our Rectory sold. The PCC was not happy with that arrangement for obvious reasons. We felt that with the best will in the world we would have to come second in line and we were also concerned that there would no longer be easy access to a priest in our village. So reluctantly in January of this year we finally informed the diocese that we could not go ahead with this plan. In the meantime the priest at Bournville had decided that a career move was necessary for her and so in January Bournville too were beginning an interregnum.

In the Spring we felt we were in limbo with very little happening and so the PCC decided to meet with our Patrons, the Guild of All Souls, and also the Churchwardens and I met with Andy Piggott our Archdeacon. Since then we have become a small thorn in the side of the diocese. There have been meetings, letters, emails and phone calls to and fro between Wells and Bleadon and finally I think we have a result with which all parishioners will be pleased.

It has been agreed that there will be a joint benefice of St Andrew's Bournville and St Peter and St Paul Bleadon with the priest in charge appointed as a .5 post in each parish. Each parish will retain its own PCC and be independent. The Rectory at Bleadon will be refurbished in the autumn of 2010 and the new incumbent will be resident in Bleadon. The Patrons of both parishes plus two elected representatives from each will be involved in the short listing and interviewing for the new post.

At the beginning of the interregnum we knew we would never have another priest solely for Bleadon and our best hope would have been for the basic plan outlined above. Finally it has been achieved. We will still need the invaluable contributions made by Peter Tullett, Nigel Venning and Jill Smith, we could not have managed without them and we thank them and hope that they understand how grateful we are to them.

I am sure that shortly you will see signs of a start on the refurbishment of the Rectory and in due course we will inform you of the progress of the new appointment.

**Gill Williams** Chairman PCC

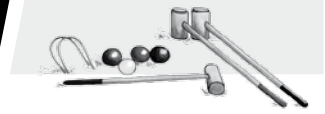


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RING PENNY ON 814142

## Bleadon Croquet Club



There has been a great deal of activity in the Weston super Mare Croquet Club during the summer months. We have had visits from the East Brent Church group, Uphill W.I. group, Birnbeck Probus Club and West Woodspring Rotary Club, all of whom have enjoyed the croquet experience.

The Club has had a successful season in the South West Federation League, winning three of its matches and losing two, one of which was on the final shot of the game.

New members of the Club, mainly from Bleadon Village represented us in the golf croquet league, and bearing in mind that most of our newer members had never held a croquet mallet in their hand until a year ago, nearly all of them have reached a very high standard and we are extremely proud of them.

Several visiting clubs have played us in friendly matches, notably Worcester Broad - was when we had forty people playing on our lawns during the day.

We are of course located near the Bleadon Post Office and we are very grateful for the friendly service we receive from the staff and also from Tiffin's Café.

If any one would like to try the game of croquet, please contact either the shop or the Secretary at 9 Manor Grange, Bleadon.

Did you see our latest recruit standing in the field, disguised as a scarecrow?



## Bleadon Ladies Club



We are now approaching our autumn programme and we have some very interesting speakers coming in the next few months. The Committee hopes that all our members, friends and families have had a very good summer-in spite of rather indifferent weather.

**October 13th** – musicians will play with Mr. Harry Chatterley for 'A Musical Afternoon'

**November 10th** – AGM followed by 'Humourous Reflections on a Police Career' by Mr Mike Rowland

**December 8th** – Christmas Luncheon at Batch Farm Hotel.

We are a friendly group so please do come and join us. We meet at 2.30pm on the second Tuesday in the month in the Coronation Hall.

For more information call **Barbara** on 814362

## Bleadon Short Mat Bowls Club



The bowls club has been closed for the summer but the 2009/2010 season commences on Friday the 18th September. New members, whether seasoned experts or absolute beginners are very welcome.

During the closed season there were three social events. The first one was a canal trip along the Avon and Kennet canal. This proved to be a very sociable occasion with sunshine and calm weather making for a very relaxing time with friends.

Secondly, we took part in the village Scarecrow Festival. Ann Hurcombe and Doreen Ward were responsible for making a male scarecrow with, as was required, a musical theme, the title being "The sun has got his hat on and he's coming out to play".

Finally, before the season begins in earnest we are all looking forward to a skittles evening at the Red Cow on 1st September. These evenings are generally very lively and enthusiastic and the excellent buffet is appreciated by all who take part.

Plans are afoot for the usual Christmas and New Year events, the Wine and Nibbles evening before Christmas and the Annual Dinner early in the New Year. In March there will be a break at the Toorak Hotel in Torquay. This is open to playing members and friends and details can be obtained from Malcolm Gammon (Tel – 813340). We have used this hotel on a number of previous occasions and have enjoyed every visit. It is well positioned for exploring Torbay and Dartmoor, is very comfortable, the food excellent and the break at this time of year is very welcome after the winter.

The club's bowling sessions are on Fridays at 7.30pm and on Sundays and Tuesdays at 2.30pm when competitive matches are played and when there is ample time for tuition for newcomers to the game. All that you need is enthusiasm and a pair of shoes with flat soles!!

On the serious side, our League team is looking forward to competing in both league and cup competitions. Last year we finished mid-table and this year the resolve is to improve upon this. What is really important that we enjoy the challenge of competing and measuring ourselves against both our peers as well as those more experienced players.

## Bleadon Players



Our autumn production is called 'Murder in Play' by Simon Brett. As the title suggests it is a play within a play.

Boris Smolensky's budget repertory production of 'Murder at Priorswell Manor' is looking decidedly shaky. The members of the cast are more interested in their egos than the play and life imitates art when Boris's wife Renee is murdered on stage. The hilarious text ruthlessly satirises the politics of the inept company and numerous red herrings keep the audience guessing until the final moments of the action.

The venue is the Coronation Hall on October 1st, 2nd and 3rd. at 7.30pm  
Tickets £6 from the shop or on the door.



## A list of organisations which regularly use the Coronation Halls

### Mondays

11.00 am - 12.00	Marie's Mini Movers**	Mrs E Duffill	623653
2.00 -5.00 pm	Bleadon Bridge Club	Mr D Munden	812772
7.00 - 9.00 pm	Exercise Classes **	Mrs M Keele	07939 038 071
7.30 pm	British Sugarcraft Guild	Mrs F Hatcher	620784
1st Monday	W.S.M. Branch		
7.30 pm	Bleadon Parish Council	Mr B Poole, Clerk	07887 802922
2nd Monday			

### Contact

### Tuesdays

2.00 - 4.00 pm	Bleadon Ladies Group	Mrs B Pugh	814362
2nd Tuesday			
2.30 - 4.30 pm	Bleadon Short Mat Bowling Club** Sept-May	Mrs G Bonham	811630
6.00 - 7.30 pm	Bleadon Brownies**	Mrs E Tucker	815396
7.30-9.00 pm	Bleadon Guides** (term time)	Mrs J Sear	522583
7.30 pm	Bleadon Photographic Group	Mr K Tapley	623877
1st,2nd,4th,5th	Sept-May		
7.30 pm	Bleadon Horticultural Society	Mr C Cudlipp	813152
3rd – Oct-June			

### Wednesdays

10.00 am - noon	Infant Welfare Clinic & Toddler Group	The Health Visitor at the Clinic	
2nd & 4th			
10.00 am - noon	Toddler Group		
1st,3rd & 5th			
1.30pm	Yoga Class	Mrs D Marsh	
7.30pm	Bleadon Players/Rehearsals	Mrs S Gibbon	645135

### Thursdays

10-12 noon	Art: Watercolour painting class**	Mrs B Davies	813363
7.30pm	Bleadon Womens' Institute	Mrs L. Lockyer	812050
2nd Thur			
8.00pm	Bleadon Folk Dancing Group	Mrs J Thorne	814007
3rd Thurs	Sept-June		
7.30pm	Bleadon Sugarcraft Club	Mrs C Peters	843754/626587
4th Thursday			

## A list of organisations which regularly use the Coronation Halls

### Fridays

2-4pm	Bleadon Friendship Club	Mrs B Davies	813363
7.00pm	Short Mat Bowling Club** Sept-May	Mrs G Bonham	811630
5.30 - 6.30 pm	Pilates Classes	Mrs E Duffill	623653

### Saturdays

3rd Saturday	Village Market	Mrs J Jones	812370
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### Sundays

2.30 Sept-May	Short Mat Bowling Club**	Mrs G Bonham	811630
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\*\*in the Jubilee Room

The Halls are available for hire by private individuals or organisations. There is a reduced rate for Bleadon residents. ENQUIRIES: 812370

## What's On - in the Coronation Halls Make a note in your diary now!

<b>Saturday 26th September</b>	HARVEST SUPPER	Bleadon Church
<b>Thurs/Fri/Sat 1st/2nd/3rd October</b> 7.30 pm	Bleadon Players	
<b>Saturday 10th October</b> 7.30	Meeting of the HISTORICAL SOCIETY	
<b>Saturday 7th November</b> 10-noon	COFFEE MORNING	Friendship Club
<b>Saturday 21st November</b>	CHARITY "PHOENIX" QUIZ	Les Masters
<b>Saturday 12th December</b>	PUNCH & PIE	Bleadon Church
<b>14th/15th/16th January</b>	PANTOMIME	Bleadon Players

# Bleadon Friendship Club



The Club took its usual break for August reopening on September 18th 2009.

September	18th	Bingo
	25th	Chris Rainbow (always popular)
October	2nd	Harvest Auction
	9th	Reflections
	16th	Beetle
	23rd	The Alternatives
	30th	Mike and his Music
Nov.	6th	Card Bingo
	7th	Coffee Morning (Everyone welcome)
	13th	Mr. Crockford-Hawley - Potty Parsons
	20th	Quiz
	27th	Chris Rainbow

Interested in joining us contact details on Bleadon Parish Web-site

## Days out with WDCT (incorporating Dial-a-Ride)

We as a club took days out as follows:

### June 17th

Wednesday a trip to Oakham Farm and Museum very interesting venue. Especially for the men in the Club( who require a second visit,) this was followed by lunch at Golden Acres at Tickenham.

### July 15th

Trip to Blooms Garden Centre, this was user friendly for our wheel chair members and we were very thoughtfully looked after with restaurant arrangements.



### August 22nd

The group enjoyed a lovely afternoon being bussed around the village to view the Scarecrow festival. Several of us made scarecrows for our entry on behalf of **Bleadon Friendship Club**

**Beryl** ( Transport organizer)

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