



# Blagdon

www.blagdon.org

**A website for our village**

## **Why?**

The idea of [www.blagdon.org](http://www.blagdon.org) came about after various conversations relating to the problems with finding out information about Blagdon.

How do I? who do I? or where can I? can frequently only be answered by knowing someone who knows someone. While this is fine, and for the most part works well, if you don't know the right person to start with you may be out of luck.

It's possible to live here and be unaware of a club, activity, event or issue occurring in Blagdon which may be of interest to you.

Village notice boards display information, and the parish magazine carries a lot of useful information. But space is limited and may be out of date or superseded by events.

A website would give us the ability to expand the information available and be more up to date with things that are happening.

The following pages are my thoughts so far on how it can be achieved, the information it could contain and its possible development.

Draft copy • version 2  
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## How will it be done?

### Standards

The aim is to produce a website that loads quickly, is easy to navigate through and contains relevant information. We all use different pcs, browsers, monitor sizes and have varying access speeds to the internet, and so a simple standard will need to be set. This will also aid the maintenance and production of the site. Although the look and feel is important, the emphasis will be on accurate information and not whizzy graphics.

The suggested standard:

Monitor size: 800\*600

Colour depth: millions

Browser minimum: Netscape

Communicator 4.7 and Internet Explorer 5

Minimum use of javascript, flash or plug-ins

### Cost

The cost to achieve the above will only be in time (mine).

Equipment and software are currently available. The name is already purchased for the next two years and with the use of free webspace and many of the free services available on the internet there should be no need for any more investment. The use of free services may mean advertising banners appearing when they are accessed - this will be kept to a minimum.

Depending on how the site develops and expands with use, it may well be necessary to purchase web space or other services. It will probably be at least a year before this becomes an issue and things will undoubtedly have changed on the internet by then.

## Where will the information come from?

It is hoped information will come from the community as well as local councils and businesses. There will be no charge for an entry on the site. The idea is to encourage everyone from bell ringers to babysitters to let the rest of Blagdon know that they exist. For the site to work really well, a good pool of information must be created - money and cost should not be an excluding factor.

Due to Blagdon's location, in many cases the standard county boundaries are irrelevant as we use facilities all around us. The only geographical distinctions I will try to use will be "village, valley, local or area".

The aim is to create a gateway for each organisation that contains contact information and a description of what it does. It is unlikely that I will have the time to do more than this. If more detailed information is required/available I will link to the relevant website if I am supplied with the address.

## What are the benefits?

There are already 5 websites that I know of relating to Blagdon, there may be more. They often have difficult addresses to remember and are not always easy to find on search engines.

The [www.blagdon.org](http://www.blagdon.org) could be used as an umbrella to cover them all. It's simple and easy to remember and as long as it's easy to find these linked sites, then it may work better than a search engine.

It could be used to give people new to the village an idea of what living here is like.

It could advertise events such as duck races, school fetes, the country fayre etc.

It could also act as an historical record for the future of Blagdon today.

It could let us know what we've been missing out on under our very noses.

## When?

### Schedule

#### Stage 1

The parish magazine is available at [www.blagdon.org](http://www.blagdon.org) now.

#### Stage 2

The site plans and response forms will be added to the online October issue of the parish magazine and paper printouts will be distributed around the village for viewing.

#### Stage 3

Depending on the volume of feedback received the information will be scheduled for production over the next four months. It is hoped that it should be possible to launch the site proper in February to coincide with the first issue of the parish magazine in 2002. Information can be added to or expanded as necessary.

### Maintenance

The aim is initially to update information every fortnight although this will depend a lot on what it is and how urgent it is. This schedule will be reviewed after 3 months to see how well it is working. The aim is to check all information every 6 months. A mailing list may be considered if last minute information is added regularly.

## How can you help?

It is hoped that everyone will feel that this is their village website. Everyone is welcome but no one is obliged to be included.

It needs current information to be useful.

If you know some of the following information or someone who does, please let me know if they wish to be included.

If you are part of the site and something changes let me know and I'll make sure everything is up to date.

If you think I've missed something or it is incorrect I will try to correct it as soon as possible.

To grow, it needs your feedback, so any ideas, suggestions for improvement or future development would be welcome.

I'm only one person, I can't think of it all so talk to me and we'll see what we can achieve together.

## Frequently asked questions

### What if you don't have internet access?

#### Viewing

A paper copy of the website will be kept at The Village Stores. This will not include the parish magazine which is for sale in The Stores as well.

A digital copy is being lodged with the History Society as a record for the future of Blagdon today. It should be possible to arrange to view it with the Society.

#### Providing information

In the packs there are various types of forms which can be filled and left for collection in the envelope provided. If you can fill in the forms online please do, as my typing is very slow and handwriting is not always easy to read. Not having internet access should not be a problem or an excluding factor.

### Is this really free?

Yes - there is no cost to include a group, business, event or other information on the website. The major limitation is the time I have available to spend on it.

### What do you get out of this?

I live in Blagdon, and I wish to help keep it a living, thriving village.

### Will this effect the Parish Magazine?

The website is another way of giving people access to existing information. This will act as an extension to the Parish Magazine. Usually people use whatever is to hand and the website will not replace the current sources of news.

### Why haven't you included a club/business I use?

I've tried to contact the clubs/businesses that I know of and that time allows. I have undoubtedly missed many small businesses and organisations. If you know of something that you think should be included either send me some contact details or preferably tell them about the website and get them to fill out an a form (online or paper). In the end it is the responsibility of the clubs/businesses to request inclusion.

### Why are business and clubs outside of Blagdon included?

Not all the facilities that we use are within Blagdon. If we support local facilities that are not immediately within Blagdon then we keep our range of options open and aren't forced to go to the nearest town or city to find what we want. There may be odd exceptions where the service is very specialised or is used frequently by the villagers.

### I don't seem to fit into any of these categories what do I do?

Contact me and we'll see where you best fit in.

### How do I contact you?

You can contact me at this email address - [info@blagdon.org](mailto:info@blagdon.org). I will try to reply as soon as possible. If you feel it would be easier to discuss please give me a rough idea of what you want to talk about and a contact number. If you don't have internet access there is a voicemail number you can contact and leave a message (07990 618326). You could also fill in a suggestion/comment form.

### How can I send you files?

I can usually open most file types. As well as the original file it would be helpful to have a version saved as a text file (.txt) in case I can't open the original. Image files should preferably be saved as .jpg and be no larger than 1MB in size. If you wish to send me an image which can't be sent digitally please contact me to organise its transfer.

## The website structure

The following is the proposed layout and the information which it may include.

Some of the following are ideas only. Depending on the volume of information and suggestions received, the schedule for publishing will be worked out and be available for view on the website.

### Sections:

- **About Blagdon**
- **Business**
- **Leisure**
- **Local services**
- **News & events**
- **Representatives**
- **Under 18's**
- **Worship**
- **About the site**

## About Blagdon

### Description

Quick summary of Blagdon population figures etc

### History

Brief summary of village history with link to history society for more detail.

### Gallery

Captioned photos of Blagdon, now & then. These can be sent in by anyone and the photographer/supplier will be credited.

### Anecdotes

Stories about life in Blagdon.

### Location

Blagdon in relation to world, UK, area, road maps etc.

## Business

### Listing

Quick list containing name, type of business and contact no - to be alphabetical & by type

### Detailed view

Entry to include, type of business, contact name, address, contact nos, relevant website/email address, link to map of location, photo and brief description of services offered etc.

### Search

A keyword search of businesses listed

## Leisure

### Sports clubs

Quick lists and details eg football, rugby, cricket, tennis, golf, snooker, skittles, darts etc

### Pastimes

Summary, details of pastimes eg fishing, walking, cycling, bird-watching, gardening, horse-riding etc.

### Clubs & societies

Quick lists and details eg WI, Good Companions, Theatre Group, Mendip Folk Dancers, History Society, flower arrangers, bell ringers, wildlife trusts, choral groups etc.

### Local recreation facilities

Details of sports and leisure centres eg Churchill, Hutton Moor, Wells, Cheddar etc.

### Venues

Details of local venues eg. village halls, church halls, function rooms etc.

## Local services

### Transport

Bus services, Local services, Blagdon  
Minibus, car shares etc.

### Waste recycling

Dustbin collection days normal/revised,  
civic amenity sites, recycling points,  
compost bins etc.

### Adult Education

Evening classes eg WsM College, Wells  
etc. learning accounts, grants etc.

### Local councils

Links to North Somerset, Somerset, Bath,  
Bristol, Mendip etc.

### Libraries

Mobile library - when, where etc.

### Emergency services

List of contact details for Hospitals,  
Police, Fireman, ambulance, RNLI etc.

### Health

Doctors, Dentists, opening times,  
prescriptions, blood donors,  
helplines etc.

### Money

Banks, building societies, Cashpoints,  
Cashback etc.

### Fuel

list of electricity, gas and water  
companies.

### Other

Post office and boxes, CABs, Samaritans  
etc.

## News & events

### Diary

Quicklist of events, calendar, weekly  
breakdown and search.

### Reviews

Photos and reviews of local events  
eg Festival of flowers etc.

### Magazine

Articles by month, deadlines for stories,  
info about the parish magazine and how  
to get it.

### Events

Detailed information on upcoming  
events eg Country Fayre, duck races etc.

### News

Births, deaths, marriages, stories that  
missed the deadline for parish magazine,  
news of people who have left Blagdon,  
how to join an email list of latest news.

### Entertainment

Links to local cinemas, theatres and  
concert halls etc.

## Representatives

### Electoral registration

How to get on the electoral register, why  
its important, where to check it etc.

### Parish

List of members, summary of last  
meeting, agenda for next meeting,  
minutes, how to raise an issue, how  
a meeting is run, what they can help  
you with, what they are responsible for,  
parish boundary etc.

### Pages for District, MP & MEPs

Representatives name, photo, contact  
details, how to contact them, surgery  
times, area covered, what they are  
responsible for and how they can help  
constituents, links to relevant websites  
etc.

## **Under 18's**

### **Pre school**

Details of Blagdon Under 5's, playgroup, toddlers, child minders /baby sitters, childcare links etc.

### **School**

Details of local primary and secondary schools, links to Ofsted, PTAs.

### **Sixth Forms**

Details of local sixth forms, Further education options.

### **Youth groups**

Details of local guides, scouts, brownies, cubs etc; youth clubs , Duke of Edinburgh award, Sunday schools.

### **Youth events**

Youth week and links to other youth related events.

### **Sports (youth sections)**

Details of any youth sections of cricket, football, rugby club etc.

### **Youth links**

Links and brief descriptions of sites which may be of interest to under 18's. Sites to be suggested by under 18's with a short review of site contents and why they like it.

### **Gallery**

Images/writing etc created by under 18's.

## **Worship**

### **Overview**

List of local places of worship eg C of E, Catholic, Methodist, Baptist etc.

### **Details**

Address, description of worship, minister contact details, services, letter, Sunday school etc.

## **Site**

### **Search**

A keyword search of the site.

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

Frequently asked questions and the answers.

### **Problems/faults**

How to correct information or report a fault.

### **Disclaimer**

### **Feedback**

A form for sending comments and suggestions.

### **How to contribute**

How to submit information etc.

## Security

Contact details such as address, telephone numbers etc will not be included without the person's knowledge unless they are already available elsewhere. Examples of this are details found on posters, village notice boards, in the parish magazine, freely distributed leaflets, pre published material etc.

## Disclaimers

The views expressed are those of the individual contributors and are not endorsed or edited for content by the publisher.

The publisher has no control over, and takes no responsibility for the content of linked sites.

Every effort will be made to check that the details contained in the site are correct, and the information published in good faith. However, details can change and no liability will be accepted either expressed or implied, in regard to any statements therein.

Timing and other details of events may change please check with the relevant organisers.

All entries within this site will be for information only. No recommendation is implied unless specifically stated.

## Reproduction

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## Terms & conditions

Any one wishing to be included will have to agree to the terms & conditions of the site as shown below.

The information included should primarily be of relevance to Blagdon and its residents

The information included is believed correct at the time of inclusion.

If the information supplied changes the supplier will inform [blagdon.org](http://blagdon.org) as soon as possible.

No party or personal political views will be published.

The publishers reserve the right not to publish or to remove information/links in the following circumstances:

- if it is impossible to confirm its validity
- if it is of an offensive/adult nature
- inappropriate for inclusion.

The publishers reserve the right to edit information as space and time restrictions dictate.

The publishers will try to get each relevant page approved by the supplier before it is published.

By submitting information/links, contributors acknowledge their personal responsibility for the published material under appropriate sections of UK legislation.

Consent of the person who pays the telephone bill if different from the listed contact should always be sought.

Contributors under 18 will need to have their parents/guardians consent to have their details included.

The publishers reserve the right to change the above conditions.