

ISSUE NO. 3

JANUARY 1989

# KENN NEWS + VIEWS

WANTED!

Hands up all those who think this cover is boring! Agreed!

So let's see who can come up with something a bit more inspiring.

The only rules are that it must have ISSUE NO. and 1989 leaving us room to write in the month - and the title. The rest is up to the artist.

A prize awaits the best entry received by 23rd February - we're giving you an extra month to think about it.

Leave your named entry at Kenn P.O. or give to Sheila or Katz.

There's no age limit for entries.



## MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORS

First of all let us say that we hope all the readers of Kenn News and Views had an enjoyable and happy Christmas and that everyone will have a prosperous and peaceful new year.

As most of you know, Sheila and I are responsible for receiving and collating the items we print. Mrs. Jo Cooper is now our official typist and Mrs. Margaret Stowell sees to the photo-copying, with either Sheila or myself joining her for the stapling together. For the November issue of News and Views I was present at the photo-copying stage and watched while Margaret juggled the printing with her own work in the office. To get the magazine pages to follow on properly takes a fair amount of working out and some trial and error! If my mental arithmetic serves me correctly, when we submit 16 sheets of A4 typing, the copier has to print some 1200 times and not without a few problems like over-heating. Margaret oversees the whole process and we are indebted to her for her generosity. On behalf of H.Q. and all readers, thankyou Margaret.

We'd also like to take this chance to thank those who deliver the magazine and those who have become our regular contributors - we couldn't do it without you.

Our January deadline is Thursday 26th, so please get all items to us by then. Don't forget our numbers which you may ring with telephone contributions - Kate Yatton 834894 or Sheila 838357.

## Kate and Sheila

## Thanks, Reflections and Resolutions

As we arrive at the end of the year it is sometimes wise to stop to say thankyou, reflect and resolve to do even better in the coming year.

Thanks first. Let us thank all those ladies who week by week throughout the year clean our dear little Church, arrange the flowers, see the silver is cleaned, and the Alter Linen beautifully laundered.

Talking of cleaning, what about the small band of ladies who from time to time give the Hall an extra clean to keep it in the immaculate condition we take for granted at Kenn Village Hall. We do appreciate the extra polish the lads give the floor from time to time; yes, and thank you to those who manage the Hall, see to the bookings' finances, put out the garbage on the correct day, and see clean towels and tea towels are always available, and to those who do day to day maintenance and painting.

Our Kenn News and Views -how well it has been received!! - many thanks to those who contribute to it, to those who edit it, duplicate it and distribute it - well done!

## Social Activities

How dull life could be without our parties for the young and not so young, our discos for the more energetic who like louder music, and dances for those who love dancing. To members of the Womens' Institute who month by month arrange meetings and activities to suit many tastes - thank you to all those to help with these activities.

To our Parish Council who do their very best to look after the interests of Kenn and its residents. To members of the North Somerset Drainage Board who give their time to see all our water courses are kept at the right level to prevent flooding. Thank you.

## Best Kept Village

To all those children who worked so hard with the Poster Competition; to those who made a special effort to get the village ready for the inspection - alas we did not win but most of us did try very hard.

Our Village Shop and Paper Delivery Service here is always with a smile to help us along - thank you.

Our Village Green flower pots and flag To those who tried to keep the grass down, plant the pots for a splash of colour and raise the flag for local celebrations as well as national ones - thank you.

To those who visit and see our older residents are well; and drive them to the Doctors or fetch prescriptions and to those who provide lunches - thank you.

Our Village Pub where Mr. and Mrs. Summerill are always willing to help out and attend our village events, also for their lovely floral displays and their welcoming Christmas decorations.

Reflections. It is right that we should remember our village traditions have been passed to us for safe keeping and to remember those Kenn residents who gave so much to the village during their lives. We remember Mrs. Baker, Mrs. Willcox, Mrs. Bye, Mrs. Hazell, Mrs. Naish, who were always so ready to help; Mr. Denmead who installed the overhead heating in the hall and Mr. Grigg who helped so much with the hall and social club.

And now to 1989 and all our hopes. Let us all resolve to try to do better. We can only win the Best Kept Village Competition if everyone tries.

We all know "they" do drop rubbish but it is no good waiting for "them" to pick it up. We have to do it and keep our village tidy.

Happy New Year to Everyone.

Idea for Christmas 1989. What about a Christmas Tree on our Village Green - any offers?

#### Snippets

Congratulations to Duncan Mackay who was awarded his Rugby "colours". Well done Duncan.

Our flag flew to commemorate the birth of Our Lord on Christmas Day.

We did enjoy having the carol singers visiting our homes.

We are pleased Mr. Wally Moore is home from hospital.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Fowler on the safe arrival of a little grandson on December 21st.

#### Wanted.

Rowena Ayres is looking for pink silk flowers for the production of Ruddigore. Can anyone help?

Used stamps. What do our readers do with their used stamps? Please save them to help the Leukaemia Research Fund. R. M. Dyer.

#### Christmas Tea

On Wednesday 7th December, many of Kenn's Senior Citizens and some ex-pats from Clevedon were invited to take Christmas Tea in Kenn Village Hall, courtesy of the Social Committee. This now annual event is enjoyed as much by the committee as the guests, with many old friends getting together for a chat when they may not see each other very often during the year.

After being welcomed at 3.00 p.m. with a warming glass of sherry, the Grace was offered by Mr. Ray Naish and tea was served. This delicious repast is prepared by the ladies of the committee. Following tea, a short entertainment was performed by mesdames Jean Fenwick and Kate Denmead and messrs. Ray Naish and John Griffin - and took the form of an 'Archers' style' tale of Kenn folk and events. Afterwards a free raffle was held for which many festive and useful gifts had been provided. Then the gathered company sang carols accompanied by the index finger right hand of Kate Denmead! Unfortunately Kate had not played the instrument since the same party in 1987 and had no time to re-acquaint herself with the workings!

Mr. Mark Ayres spoke on behalf of the guests as he thanked the committee for a most enjoyable afternoon and the proceedings closed with each guest receiving a small gift and with the singing of 'We wish you a Merry Christmas' by the committee.

Kate Denmead

### Thanks

We have received a very kind letter of thanks from Mrs. Gladys Griffin in appreciation of the tea party. All those who help organise the party really enjoy it and it is nice to know you do too.

K.D. & S.N.

We have also received a letter from Mrs. Cedella Tiley bearing kind messages about the magazine. It's nice to know you enjoy it, so let's hope the success continues.

K.D. & S.N.

### Children's Christmas Party

A sparkling performance by Clown Bobby made this year's Children's Christmas Party one to remember, although I feel that all the children would agree that a surprise early visit from that very special person, Father Christmas, really made the party. Thank you again to those involved with the organisation of a smashing party.

P.S. A personal thank you to Santa who I know has a very busy schedule at this time of year.

Heather Jenkins

### More Thanks

The following letter has come from Dennis and Iris Goldsworthy's grandchildren who obviously enjoyed the party.

"Dear People of the Kenn Party,

Thank you for such an enjoyable party. Bobby the clown was excellent. And I liked the pretent from Father Christmas.

Thank you again.

Love from  
Frances and James Corke  
xxx                      xxx "

### Christmas Fancy Dress Party

This was held on 10th December and all 120 tickets were sold. The doors opened at 8.00 p.m. and Mother Christmas was there to greet the various villagers and their friends in their imaginative (?) get-ups. The list was endless - Christmas crackers; shepherds; Father Christmas; Christmas fairies; Christmas presents; angels; panto characters - Kate Denmead's fairy godmother outfit would grace the Hippodrome! (Photos available). Mary and Joseph arrived, followed by a reindeer whose antlers succeeded in pulling down the trimmings as they went past. There was even an Irish Father Christmas dressed in green instead of red. Yes - Jeff Naish again!

Johnny and Penny Hazell kindly provided the music and quickly had the party going in full swing.

Simon Pascoe, lacking a fancy dress, ran home and stripped his Christmas tree of its tinsel, much to the dismay of poor Ian who was told that there were reindeers and Father Christmases in the hall, and No, he could not come, and was left open-mouthed as Dad rushed out bedecked in tinsel!

The raffle provided a much needed break in the dancing and thanks to all the people who donated prizes and to Robin and Marianna Dyer for the 'fun' prizes which gave many people an extra laugh.

The dancing and singing continued and looking down the hall it was lovely to see so many people happy and laughing. When it was time to finish there was a loud groan and calls of "MORE" and "OH NO". A super night was had by all.

Thanks to all who came, all who gave prizes and their time organising the event. Special thanks to Johnny for the best disco yet.

The grand sum of £287 was raised and given to the Social Committee towards the cost of the Senior Citizens' Tea Party and the Children's Tea Party next year.

I have a white money holder (with money) left from the disco. Please contact me if you lost one.

Photographs of the event (and evidence in some cases!) are available from myself and Jean Fenwick if anyone wishes to order any. I also have photos of the Senior Citizens' party. If you would like to see them contact myself or Ray Naish.

#### Sheila Nash

The three fund-raising discos held in the hall throughout the year raised the grand total of £1,115. Very well done to all concerned. Let's see if we can top this next year.

#### S.N.

#### Alison in Australia - Foreign Affairs I

Now that Alison is in Australia her correspondence has dried up and been replaced by short telephone calls. She is working and has found a flat to share with two other girls. She and Donna spent a lovely Christmas day on the beach enjoying a champagne party. Jean and Fred received some lovely roses from Alison on Christmas Eve which made their day for them.

Jean and Fred are now looking forward to Rebecca coming home from America for a holiday in February. Perhaps we can look forward to tales from America next.

#### Foreign Affairs II

It was nice to see Penny Griffin back in the village and helping out at the Senior Citizens' Tea-Party. We look forward to hearing more about her travels abroad.

#### S.N.

#### Kenn's Crib Service

Following the sudden unavailability of Stephen Spielburg and Andrew Lloyd Webber it was all hands to the pump for Kenn's Crib Service Nativity Play.

With a cast of thousands - at least it seemed like thousands at rehearsals, that amazingly went down to one when you wanted them to sing! and comments like "but I want to be a lamb" or "but it's the same story as last year" - we were off.

Come the dress rehearsal on Friday, Christmas was very nearly cancelled, and as one of the organiser's children was heard to say "Mummy's getting in a steak!" (state). But on the day and, we are sure, with a fair amount of divine intervention, the kids of Kenn turned up trumps. At the end of the performance there were definitely one or two huge sighs of relief and may be even one or two lumps in throats! Yes it was all worth it in the end (we think) and the children all enjoyed themselves - what's a few grey hairs amongst friends?

We were helped in all sorts of ways. The costumes looked great, thanks to donations and Mum's help - even though one or two wayward shepherds felt the need to strip off during "We wish you a Merry Christmas". Miss Griffey was a big help playing for us at rehearsals as well as on the day. The script was provided by one of Yatton Infants' School teachers, and Richard Gaunt nearly wore out his printer producing endless copies of scripts and song words.

The special touch to the scene was the crib that Mr. Tony Jenkins made for us. We were very pleased to see him at the Service and hope he felt that we made his efforts worthwhile.

So that's it for another year, the costumes have been put away (Mums can wash up again now the tea-towels have been returned) and we've already written off to Stephen and Andrew ready for next year. We have got this awful feeling that they are going to have something "crop up" again at the last minute though, which will probably mean one or two Mums will have to "get in a steak" again! (Does War and Peace turn into a Nativity?)

I'm having to write this on my own, however, as Avril still hasn't come out of the darkened room she went to lie down in afterwards. Before retiring to bed she was heard to mumble "Never mind, never work with children or animals. She would sooner be chasing Ray's runaway cows any day!"

#### Jenny Pascoe

Having attended this lovely Service, may I say how everyone enjoyed the Nativity Play and thank the Sunday School teachers for all their hard work in organising both this and the making of the decorations for the Children's Corner. I think they deserved a well-earned large G & T afterwards. Well done girls.

## S.N.

### Children's Corner for Christmas

After getting permission from John Ruffle we were able to make a children's corner for the Church this year. We were lent a small tree and the children spent an eventful evening producing all the decorations for the tree themselves. (Does glue really go that far?) They were treated to fish and chips and a film show for all their hard work. The tree decorations they produced were lovely and every bit home made. Let's hope we will be allowed to continue this corner for years to come.

### Jenny and Wendy

### Spotted after Christmas Lunch

One member of a Kenn family pursuing his Christmas hat up the middle of Kenn Street in the middle of the afternoon. One way of working off the turkey I guess.

It was wonderful to see Wally Moore's lights back on and him back in the village on 23rd December after his stay in hospital. Having been in the B.R.I., then Clevedon Cottage Hospital (and I am told he charmed the nurses wherever he went!) he was well enough to come back to his cottage for Christmas. With well meaning neighbours helping out I think Wally had more food than he knew what to do with over the festive season, but he was at least able to enjoy Christmas in his own place, in front of the T.V. like he wanted to. All the best Wally for continued good health.

### Your Neighbours

### Carolling in Kenn

On the Wednesday before Christmas, ten brave adults plus assorted torch-carrying children set out to carol around Kenn in aid of the Armenian Disaster Fund. Tremendous enthusiasm (and a trace of musical skill) were rewarded by the unbelievable sum of £50 raised in a little over two hours. Kennites demonstrated their generosity in a worthy cause yet again. Thank you all very much.

The evening ended with recuperative mulled wine and sausage rolls at Avril and Richard's whilst the children happily counted the money (and got the right answer - well almost, if you believe our bank manager in the cupboard!).

Thanks Simon for getting all that change to the Fund.

### Avril

### Kenn Women's Institute

The December meeting was held at the home of the President, Mrs. Tricia Harrison. The atmosphere was festive with Christmas decorations and a sales table full of attractive items. A founder member, Mrs. G. Denmead, had recently retired into her new bungalow, so the President presented her with an evergreen plant as a gift from all the members to mark the occasion.

Business was kept to the minimum. Some members sorted Christmas cards which were distributed amongst members. They had been placed in an attractive collecting box. Donations for A.C.W.W. (Associated Countrywomen of the World) were made, as a token of appreciation for this service.

The charity for 1989 was chosen; it is to be the Scanner Appeal.

The names of the 1989 secret friends were available for members to select one each.

The speaker for the evening was Mrs. Phyllis Merchant. She held members spellbound by singing songs which were selected from those she had sung at different periods during her lifetime. She was accompanied by her friend Norah at the piano. She told us of her lifetime associations with music and culminated her programme by encouraging everyone to sing a selection of carols, thus making a fitting end to our W.I. year. To end the evening coffee and delicious hot mince pies were served.

The January meeting will be held at Kenn Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. on January 12th 1989. New members are welcome. Subscriptions will be due. The subject 'Hypnosis in Dentistry'. Competition: a fob watch.

### Joy and Sadness

Two Belgian Blue cattle, bred and reared by Jeffrey Naish and sold by him at Hereford Market during the Summer, have won the fatstock show championships for their new owners at Hereford and Worcester markets recently.

During the week before Christmas and on Christmas Day and Boxing Day, Jeffrey Naish had 17 in-lamb ewes killed or so badly bitten by dogs that they had to be destroyed. Those sheep were in a field called 'Great Wemberham' which is in a very isolated spot between Yatton and Kingston Seymour.

### Quiz

Do you know the answers to this quiz on Kenn past and present? Answers further on in magazine.

- 1) Which family are believed to have lived in Kenn the longest?
- 2) There are two houses in Kenn which were formerly used as chapels - where are they?
- 3) Where can you find traces of an ancient farm called 'Decoy Pool Farm' which has almost disappeared, and why was it so called?
- 4) Where can you find a large area of land called 'Meadmoor'?
- 5) The parish of Kenn is bounded on three sides by water courses - what are their names?
- 6) A man called Bill Holley who lived at Kingston Seymour used to cut water reeds in Kenn, tie them in bundles and sell them to farmers for thatching hayricks. Where did he cut them?
- 7) A business called Kingston Seymour Brewery once had its headquarters in Kenn. Where was it?
- 8) Until about 1950 there was a footpath running from the corner of Mrs. Grigg's garden in Kenn Street, along the front of Mark Ayres' house and straight into the churchyard. What was this path called?
- 9) The six new houses in the middle of Kenn Street were built over the ruins of an old farm. What was the name of this farm and what was the name of its last occupants?
- 10) Who had the church room built and for what purpose?

### Ray Naish

### And Another Puzzler Answer Also Further On

### Gobbledegook?

Sintillatte, sintillate asterisk minific,  
Vain would I fathom thy nature specific,  
Loftily poised in the ether capacious,  
Strongly resembling the gem carbonatious.

Remembered by Jim Middleton from a lesson on the Use of Plain Word English.

### The Cheese and Wine Party

Where? Kenn Village Hall. When? Saturday December 3rd 1988. Who attended? Approx. 70 people.

The organisers aimed to bring together as many inhabitants of the village as possible, to spend time together, enjoying each other's company, and to raise some money to help maintain the centre of our village social activities, namely our village hall.

The event as usual was successful on both counts, those villagers of Kenn who attended enjoyed the social atmosphere and plunged deep into their pockets to achieve the sum of £201.79. as profit towards the cost of maintaining and running our hall.



Mrs. Jean Ings and Mrs. Sarah Clark had decorated the stage most beautifully with Christmas trees, flowers and seasonal trimmings in a predominantly green and red colour scheme. Such things as spirits, wine, an iced Christmas cake, chocolates, a dressed chicken (ready for the oven), a basket of fruit, eggs, flowers, toiletries and many other things were scattered in a decorative way on the stage. These were the prizes in the draw, arranged and run by Mrs. Irene Stowell. Many of these items being generously given by people of the village, the Hall Committee wish to say "Thank you very much."

When the draw was made Mr. Ralph Bye, our Master of Ceremonies, calling out the winning numbers, I watched the faces of the winners. I could see delight on their faces, except perhaps in one case. Something to do with 'coals to Newcastle', or is it eggs to.... Farm? That's the luck of a draw!

Mrs. Jean Fenwick worked hard on her bottle stall, as did Mr. John Griffin with his table skittles. Mrs. Barbara Middleton demonstrated by being the winner for the evening that she is equally as good at the table top game as at her usual game. Congratulations! But be careful with the prize of wine. Don't spoil your marvellous achievement.

Mrs. Joan Bye cooked a lovely rich fruit cake and we were invited to guess the weight of this. Mrs. Jean Naish's guess was within 4oz of the correct weight, so she went home carrying the lovely cake, leaving many people disappointed that they had not been so clever.

Unfortunately our valiant treasurer, Miss Lucy Baker, was forced to be absent from our activities. What a miserable time she must have spent. But our thoughts were with her, and hopefully she will by now have recovered from her most unpleasant experience. Best wishes Lucy, we missed you.

Mr. John Ings was 'on the door'. Mr. and Mrs. Roger Stowell served us with wine etc. A team of ladies prepared the table and food; they were Mrs. Gladys Denmead, Mrs. Mary Lamb, Mrs. Ruth Dyer, Mrs. Margaret Stowell, Mrs. Sarah Clark, Mrs. Irene Stowell and myself. Other people helped in a miscellany of ways, and to them all, thank you very much. Without their hard work the evening's activities would not have occurred.

Mr. Sam Dyer, the Chairman of the Hall Committee, rounded off our evening by thanking everyone for coming and for their continued support.

Was.....I wonder..... 'dreamer' present?

Connie Wilson

#### Salmonella and Eggs - the Real Facts

Much publicity has been given to the alleged link between salmonella and eggs since Mrs. Currie made her infamous statement on ITN News. The facts that Mrs. Currie has since been forced to resign over the issue and that the Government is having to spend £17 million to compensate farmers for the damage she has caused prove that her comments were grossly inaccurate. However, sections of the media seeking to sensationalise the issue have continued to produce reports based mostly on assumptions, dubious statistics and, in some cases, outright lies, which have left the public at best confused and at worst frightened of eating eggs for fear of catching salmonella. Here are some true facts to put the issue into perspective;

- 1) Eggs are one of the safest foods you can eat.
- 2) The Government has stated that this year only 46 outbreaks were believed to be associated with eggs out of a total consumption of 30,000,000 eggs per day.
- 3) Of the above 46 outbreaks only a handful have been proven to have come from eggs and all of these involved mass catering and suspect hygiene.
- 4) The Agricultural Development and Advisory Service and Ministry of Agriculture Microbiology Department have tested thousands of eggs from hundreds of farms throughout the country and so far all tests for salmonella have proved negative.

At Laurel Farm we have had tests carried out on day-old chicks, laying hens, poultry feed, laying sheds and eggs - all of which have been given a clean bill of health.

### ENJOY YOUR EGGS IN CONFIDENCE

Michael Gray

#### From the Potting Shed

Dear Kate - Walking around the garden the other day I thought it looked more like Spring than December - I hope it lasts.

Were you fortunate enough to be given a Poinsettia for Christmas? If so, don't throw it out when it has finished with you. It is a bit of a fiddle getting it to go red again next year but it can be done - here's how.

When the leaves drop, cut the stems to about four inches. Keep fairly dry and place in the shade. Early in May re-pot and keep watering. New shoots will appear. Feed (I suggest Phostrogen) and remove all but four or five strong stems. Now comes the tricky bit. From the end of September, light - or lack of it - is crucial. You must cover with a black plastic bag each evening and remove it in the morning - it must have total darkness for 14 hours each day. Keep this up for eight weeks, then treat normally. If you wish you can try to take cuttings from the pieces you had removed using a rooting compound.

Wishing you every success with your gardening in the new year. - Yours, Uncle Freddie.

#### From H.Q.

Unfortunately I did not get a poinsettia but I now wish I had. However, I do have a very confused Christmas Cactus. Purchased at Christmas 1986 in flower, it then refused to show any more blooms until March 1988, when it was smothered. I followed instructions and ignored it until October this year when I watered it in readiness for blooming at Christmas. That one watering was enough of a shock to produce a flower on every leaf - in November. I picked off the last dead flower on December 15th! So I consider I now own an Easter/Bonfire Night Cactus. Now it has stopped flowering should I re-pot it?. Yours, Kate.

#### Quiz Answers

- 1) The Denmeads.
- 2) Chapel House, Kenn Street, the home of Ted and Lyn Dark and family, and Riverside at Kenn Pier, home of Mrs. Edith Tripp.
- 3) Across the moors on the righthand side of Nailsea Wall, half way up. It had special ponds and traps to encourage wild ducks for sport.
- 4) From the bottom of Duck Lane across towards Yatton where it joins a now disused lane called 'Meadmoor' Lane, which eventually comes out at Ham Lane, Yatton.
- 5) The Blind Yeo, Russ Rhyne and The Black Ditch.
- 6) Russ Ponds.
- 7) Moorgates, Kenn Street.
- 8) "The Cassey", probably an old Somerset name for Causeway.
- 9) Poplar Farm. Two ladies called Miss Wallis. The farm was managed by a man called Dick Orchard. Several of us older residents remember him. He lived at Woodbine Cottage.
- 10) Mrs. Perks, who was the wife of the vicar at that time, the Rev. Walter Perks. It was built as a meeting room for ladies of the village to attend a sewing class.

#### Gobbledegook Translation

Twinkle, twinkle little star, How I wonder what you are,  
Up above the world so high, Like a diamond in the sky.

Simple wasn't it!



