

KENN NEWS & VIEWS.

ISSUE NO 12 SEPTEMBER 1989

KENN  
NEWS  
And  
VIEWS  
Editors

KATE DENMEAD  
& SHEILA NAISH

your own  
magazine

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## MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORS

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY KENN NEWS & VIEWS.

Yes, a whole year has passed since Issue No.1. Now that we are a year old - And didn't time fly by! - we invite you to comment on any changes you'd like to see, any new ideas for inclusion, whether you think once a month is ideal or perhaps an issue every two months -whatever. Your comments are requested. As we're always reminding you it is your magazine after all.

On this anniversary we extend our thanks to all those who have contributed to the magazine over the year, to all those who assist in its production and to everyone who has told us how much they enjoy the results. We're looking forward to future successful and interesting issues and ask you all to write to us. Many thanks.

Kate and Sheila

834894 and 838357

Deadline for October Issue 14th September

## NAISH'S NOTES

Sunflower Competition Kathy Burstow has sadly had to announce that the Grand Sunflower Competition has to be declared null and void owing to the fact that so few seeds grew. We would still like to hear from anyone whose sunflower did grow beyond 2 ft high. My own sunflower seeds are still asleep in their pots - perhaps they'll come up next year.

## VILLAGERS COME AND GO

James Griffin and Robert Bessant should have left on their worldwide travels at the time of printing (see itinerary further on) but we welcome home Emma Fenwick who has spent the summer holidays in France. Jackie and Laurie Houston and sons James and Andrew emigrate to Australia shortly. We all wish them every happiness and much good luck in their new home, their new jobs and schools.

## NEW ARRIVAL

Congratulations to Irene and John Stowell on the safe arrival of their first grandson, Jack Michael, a son for Michael and Millie. We are pleased mum and baby are home and doing well.

## KARATE KIDS II

Congratulations to Justin and Leon Naish for gaining their orange grade belts at Karate.

## BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

29th August	Belated congratulations to Hartley and Jane Staples on the occasion of their Silver Wedding Anniversary.
8th September	Hilda Staples - 80
	Donald Staples.
28th September	Heather Jenkins

## ESCAPED PRISONER IN KENN

Whilst being driven through Kenn, a prisoner jumped out of a police car and into the ditch outside Oakland Farm. The officers jumped out after him, handcuffed him and took him back to the car; all of which bemused my father who stood watching in the driveway. I missed it all as I was on holiday!

S.N.

### KENN NEWS & VIEWS GARDEN PARTY

The afternoon of Wednesday, 3rd August, could have been a typical British summer's afternoon. Having arranged for a Garden Party to be held, it would not have been unusual to have had to carry out 'Plan B' and hold it indoors due to the weather letting us down. However, we were 'disappointed' and had to endure the 'agonies' of sitting at prettily laid tables, in a beautiful garden under a summer-blue sky with the sun beating down.

What could be more idyllic than being in an English country garden on a summer's day, sipping tea from delicate china cups and dining on that West Country delicacy, a cream tea, comprising home-made scones and jam and cream.

The August afternoon I speak of was enjoyed at Walnut Tree Farm, the home of our hostess Mrs. Trish Harrison. Around 30 people attended for the purpose of raising funds for your magazine. There was a Bring and Buy stall and a very well stocked raffle. Mrs. Harrison had also put on a display of her fascinating collection of buttons which are not only beautiful but have most interesting histories. We are most grateful to Trish for providing such an enjoyable afternoon and enabling us to raise £40 for magazine funds. Kate Denmead

### SNIPPETS

#### Celebrations

July 28th - A WARM WELCOME TO Jack Michael, son of Michael and Millie and grandson of Mr. and Mrs. John Stowell. Our flag flew in celebration.

August 4th - Our flag flew to celebrate the eighty-ninth birthday of our much-loved Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother.

The property market continues to be in the doldrums - Barberry Farm was offered for sale at auction on August 17th but no buyer was forthcoming.

#### GARDEN PARTY

At the Garden Party held at Stonehouse Farm, Kenn, on Wednesday, 23rd August, over £200 was raised for St. Mary's Restoration Fund. It was a lovely afternoon attended by people of all three parishes. Many thanks to all who came, donated goods and helped on the day. Jean Naish

#### KENN VILLAGE HALL JUMBLE SALE

The Jumble Sale arranged by the ladies of Kenn Village Hall committee was well supported by customers from a wide area. Many stalls were well laden with goods donated by Kenn people and friends of Kenn. It was good to see members of the younger generation helping; Lorraine Staples sold toys and books; Joseph Dyer sold eggs and potatoes and Andrew Jenkins helped with odd jobs - a warm thankyou to them and to all who gave, came to the sale and helped to prepare and later with the clearing up. A total of £163.59 was raised for hall Funds. R.M.Dyer

#### THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Right, wrong and correct - Some time ago, leaving work and using the lift, we stopped at an intermediate floor. "Good God" exclaimed a girl waiting. "He's not in here" was the reply. True, physically He was not there, but He was because He is everywhere - so it was also correct. Anon

ROGER BAKER found a balloon from Edwerry, County Offally, Republic of Ireland, in a field at the bottom of Kenn Street. Our reporter tells us it had 'something to do with the Lions'.

#### AVALON 1989

On July 29th this year, 1,000 Guides and Guiders descended upon the small Somerset village of Cheddar, the reason being to participate in an International Camp at the Kings of Wessex School.

The Camp was split into five sub-camps. Clevedon Division sub-camp was known at Sir Percival and each sub-camp was split into companies. I was cook (QM) for 20 Guides and 4 Guiders from the 3rd Redcliffe Bay, affectionately known as the Yellow Knights. Included in the above numbers were 6 Guides and 1 Guider from Ulster, to whom we were hosts.

During the week the Guides took part in numerous activities such as board sailing, abseiling, craft, go-karting and many more. They also had day trips to either Longleat, Littlecote or Big Pit.

Each night entertainment was laid on such as a barn dance, a village fair, it's a knockout and camp fires. On Thursday night the whole camp dressed up in medieval costumes and in divisions held a Medieval Banquet.

The closing ceremony on Friday was a very moving moment. After the camp fire each Guide and Guider lit a candle from a central flame and walked in procession to the National flags at the front of the school. 1,000 Guiding Lights were shining bright in the darkness and as taps were sung, the flags from the eight countries at the camp were lowered and everyone's candle was blown out. It was very emotional and really quite sad, as a week of great friendship and unity had come to an end.

We went back to our sub-camps and our Yellow Knights held an impromptu camp fire. We were singing until midnight but no-one seemed to mind.

The 6 Guides and 1 Guider from Ulster were such warm and friendly people. They are what the Guiding movement is all about.

This camp took 2½ years to organise by a team of very dedicated workers. It was over in one short week but will be remembered by some of us for the rest of our lives. Rowena Ayres

#### MINEHEAD TO LAND'S END WALK

As many people in the village already know, I recently completed a 200 mile walk from Minehead to Land's End. This feat was attempted on behalf of the Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind (Sight Savers). Luckily for William and myself (though not for anyone else) the weather broke the day we started. This meant that instead of boiling we were able to keep reasonably cool. On that day we passed through Culbone, the smallest hamlet in England, 2 houses and a tiny church. There we met Lawrence, the fattest walker in existence, who talked at us for the next half-hour. A warm welcome at Lynton - fish fingers, chips, peas, ice cream - lovely!

After a rest day spent exploring Exmoor, we went cross-country to Instow. We arrived late which meant that while everyone else guzzled chicken, we had salad - boo!

The next day William took a longer route than I did because I had strained a muscle; I had to make up for this later. At Clovelly I turned off the coastal path and walked to Hartland Youth Hostel. I rang home at 9.00 because William had not arrived. At 10.00 we were

worried and at 10.15 we rang his parents who, to our embarrassment, were not worried in the slightest! My paranoia was not helped by two Swedes who every five minutes suggested that I call out the "nee-naws" and "der helicopters". He arrived at around 1.30, by which time my pascings up and down roughly equalled his 35 mile walk. Of course, he was totally unworried as well.

Then we went from Hartland to Boscastle. On the way we passed through a herd of yearling cattle. William said "Bet they charge us." He was correct. Luckily there were plenty of bramble bushes to play hide-and-seek with them.

On our rest day we explored Boscastle Harbour. One of William's shoes was washed off by a large wave and it took 1½ hours to catch it thanks to a visiting fisherman.

Then to Tintagel (not our favourite hostel) and on to Treynarnon. On the way we met a rather large and immovable bull, who caused us to make a deviation round the cliff edge - rather scary!

As Tintagel was the worst, so Treynarnon was the best of the hostels, with amazing food. From Treynarnon to Perranporth it was very sandy. Over a mile of sand-dunes to get lost in, and did we get lost! Laurence of Arabia wasn't in it! We arrived late. The next day I tried surfing. I am not good. Eventually we used the board for holding clothes, shoes, suntan lotion etc. Later we only just caught it in time as it was drifting out to sea with everything on it. All our clothes were saturated, Backs sunburnt - what a lovely rest day.

On the last stage it was HOT. We had to stop twice for refills. One of the houses we stopped at invited us in for a mug of cider. They had a New Zealand girl staying who was walking round the world. The other house was owned by a lady who knew my great-grandfather. At 5.15 we reached Land's End. The walk was over.

The sponsorship from the village was generous. In total we hope to raise £400, enough for 80 people to be cured of blindness. James Mackay

#### THE FUN RUN

DON'T FORGET IT! - DON'T SAY YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT IT! - BE THERE.

Sunday, 3rd September. 3.00 p.m. Willow House, Kenn Street.  
(Jenny Pascoe's)

#### EXTRA NEWS ITEM RE FUN RUN

##### WHO IS THE MYSTERY CELEBRITY???

- If the Queen or the Pope are suddenly unable to attend, Colin Bedford has kindly said he will step in as first reserve - Good old Colin.

- Sheila has also offered to make a grand entrance on a horse! A sight not to be missed - look out Lady Godiva. Jenny Pascoe

Note: Can anyone teach me how to ride in a short time? Little Ed.

FOOTNOTE: Rumour has it that I am to be the Mystery Celebrity. Flattered as I am, of course, I must say it is not me. Nor Richard Wyatt, nor Emu (thank goodness), nor Annie St. John or Bros (thank God for that.K) No, you will all have to come out on the day, support the fun run and find out. But be warned - bring your cameras. You'll wish you had when our guest arrives. Don't forget. Be there. And please don't forget to wave and cheer and make our guest feel

right at home! Ha, tough luck all those who don't know or even just think they know. Sheila

#### ITU FUNDS UPDATE

At the time of this newsletter the village has so far raised £900 - a fantastic effort. The Consultant in charge of ITU at the BRI wrote to me last month and has asked me to pass on the fact that she is well aware that fund raising and the organisation that it involves, is a thankless and often much criticised task. She has asked me on behalf of the Unit to extend her thanks and gratitude to everyone who has contributed.

We all know what hard work it has been at times but hope that everyone has enjoyed the variety of functions for all ages that have gone towards helping to raise the money - thus the village has benefited socially as the Unit has benefited financially. Jenny Pascoe

Note: And don't forget there are still more functions coming up - the Fun Run, the Quiz Night and the Halloween Disco.

#### WALLY COMES HOME AGAIN

It's wonderful to see Wally back from hospital and out in the village again. It's nice to look out and see lights on again in the cottage in the evening and Wally's door open in the day.

Jim Middleton is also home from hospital and we are very pleased to see him in the shop once more. J.P.

#### VILLAGE BARBECUE AT THE PUB

Despite the very poor village turnout, Lou put on an excellent barbecue on Saturday, 19th August. Those of us who went had a very pleasant evening in the pub garden and enjoyed burgers, hot-dogs and filled jacket potatoes.

Lou had put a lot of effort into the evening and everyone there had a good time. Again, despite the small village turnout, over £100 was made for the ITU fund.

Lou has made a considerable contribution to the ITU fund by raising money at the pub and running bars at the functions for us - something that is greatly appreciated by all the fund organisers. Jenny & Sheila

#### KENN TREASURE HUNT

The setters both hope you enjoyed the car rally.  
96 pounds was the fabulous tally.  
At least that's what hon.Treasurer said  
When he'd given and taken the sausages and bread.

20 cars full of Kennites honest and true  
Set out to follow some devious clues.  
Route A went thru Churchill and Route B elsewhere  
Would all make it back? Did anyone care?

Your hunting abilities gave rise to much fun,  
But humour shone out, just like the sun.  
You provided some genuinely inventive replies  
But the families Naish, Middleton and Clarke won the prize.

Gynaecologist isn't spelt with a K  
But it was in the Great Kenn Treasure Hunt.  
There used to be a churchyard in Churchill  
But not in the Great Kenn Treasure Hunt.

Trespassers should be prosecuted by "Order"  
But not in the Great Kenn Treasure Hunt.  
Dinosaurs are not common in Somerset  
But they were in the Great Kenn Treasure Hunt.  
Sheila is a really cheerful lass  
But not after the Great Kenn Treasure Hunt.

(This is blank verse - like the stuff Wendy writes only  
with words.)

Many have asked if blank copies there are?  
Yes of course, come to see me with your car.  
They're 250 pence each, but please no offers  
We need to swell hon.Treasurer's coffers.

The setters both hope you enjoyed the car rally.  
Now get into training and no longer dally.  
The Fun Run and Rounders are next on the line.  
We hope the girls won't cheat so this time.

Robin Mackay - Dr. Richard Gaunt - Marianna Mackay

I thoroughly enjoyed the Treasure Hunt and am always cheerful (ignore poem and immediate family). A lot of planning and hard work went into this and I'm sure all of those who attended would agree that it was a great success. True there were a few grumbles but they were inter-family and over who did have the right answer after all. Many people have said that they would like another next year. I do hope the organisers can be talked into it. Over £90 was raised for the ITU fund at the BRI, made up of entrance fees, raffle and proceeds from a much needed barbecue afterwards. A super afternoon. Thanks to all concerned from everyone there. S.N.

#### FROM THE POTTING SHED

Uncle Freddie is having a holiday this month, or, it is rumoured, has locked himself in his potting shed for a couple of weeks. We will await with eagerness his next report, by which time we may have had sufficient rain to make gardening a trifle easier. Perhaps he is in that shed doing various rain dances. S.N.

#### JAMES'S AND ROBERT'S WORLD TOUR ITINERARY 1989/90

31st August - 22nd September - India (Delhi)  
22nd September - 15th October - Thailand (Bangkok)  
15th October - end of May '90 - Australia (touring)  
June - mid-June - Fiji  
Mid-June - July - New Zealand (Auckland)  
July - mid-July - Honolulu  
Mid-July - end August - Canada (touring)  
End August via Holland (Amsterdam)  
Return Home

Robert and James would like to thank all those who have sent them good wishes for their Round the World Trip. They will look forward to seeing all their friends again in a year's time.

They will hopefully send us news of their travels and experiences.  
John and Grace Giffin



### MILL FARM AT WAR (Cont'd)

Among the people who stayed at Mill Farm was a family of Polish Jews, driven out of their own land by the Nazis. They had left a business and property but were now refugees in a foreign land with little money. I remember that the husband, who had been in the Polish Army, had to report each day to Clevedon Police Station. Also that the grandmother would not eat any food I prepared, only that which she had cooked herself. On Friday the family fasted until the evening. After a while they moved on.

### The Home Guard

The Home Guard built a small look-out tower on the roof of the old windmill in our home ground. This look-out was manned every night by two or three men watching in case any German air crew baled out from the bombers which were raiding Bristol, Avonmouth and Bath.

There was a period when these raids were very frequent. My most vivid memory was of the Thursday morning when about THIRTY German bombers came in daylight, in formation flying low from the Channel over Lake Farm on their way to bomb Bath. Very frightening but also impressive too.

Most nights in the early hours, when it was all quiet, the look-out Home Guard would retreat to our kitchen and sleep on the floor in the warmth by the Aga cooker. Archie would have to step over the sleeping bodies to get to the cooker to make our early morning cup of tea, which of course the lads shared. One of our 'Dad's Army' was a fellow we called 'Happy Harry'. Now Harry had a very simple view of life and evenings he loved to march up and down in front of the farm 'on guard' with a rifle, which may or may not have been loaded, and give the challenge to anyone passing on foot or bicycle "Who goes there?" Archie was always worried someone returning from the "Rose and Crown" would fall a victim to 'Happy Harry's' devotion to King and Country.

I recall the night all the Home Guard congregated in our kitchen, very nervous and excited. They had been told by their officer, a retired ex-Army officer living in Clevedon, that the Germans were expected to invade England by crossing the Channel! And they must be ready! No sleep for anyone that night. How worried we all were. A lifetime away now.

Archie, together with Victor Naish (Ray's father), had become 'Special Constables'. I think they preferred the navy blue uniform and peaked cap to the baggy khaki of the Home Guard! They had truncheons, not rifles. I'm sure neither Vic nor Archie had much heart for shooting even Germans, but bumping someone on the head wasn't quite so final.

Ray tells John about the night he was riding his bike home late after dark from Kingston without any lights. As Ray passed Walnut Tree Farm he heard his father's voice from the darkness call out "STOP". Vic was on patrol. Ray decided it was best not to stop just then, so he stood up on the pedals and hurried on home to Stonehouse Farm. Next morning at breakfast Vic related to the family how he had almost caught someone riding without lights the night before! I'm sure Ray and his sisters had a good giggle over that.

One night Archie and Vic were detailed to search likely hiding places in and around Kenn to look for crooks on the run after a robbery during which they had used violence. It was one of those dark winter nights when you could not see your hand in front of

your face. Now both Vic and Archie had what could be called limited enthusiasm for this rather ticklish task, especially when they arrived at Kenn Pier cross road where there was a 'pill box' and they realised that duty required they should enter and examine the interior of this low dark fortification. Vic had the only torch and Archie, always being a gentleman, suggested Vic should go in first! Vic had only taken a few cautious steps into the pill box when Archie, thinking it was time to relieve the tension, called out in a loud and urgent voice "LOOK OUT VIC". I'm afraid the effect on poor Vic made Archie realise that his sense of fun was not shared that night by his companion!!

Well, these are just some memories, only a few from so many, of people and things far too many to put down here. Some not mentioned are William John Staples and his Kenn fire engine; William Ham, the tramp who spent winters in the work house at Axbridge, I think, but the summers around the village doing odd jobs at Mill Farm in return for food and sometimes sleeping in the fore stall of the cow house, where hay was fed to the cows, and where once he lived for two weeks when he went down with pneumonia and was looked after by Archie.

William got through his illness to join the bonfire party Kenn held on the green which was then (now Brian and Juliet Stowell's drive) by Wally Moore's garden wall to celebrate V.E. Day after the war. What a party we had.

Gladys Griffin



