

KENN

NEWS

+

VIEWS

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TYPING

Richard

Gaunt

PRINTER

Margaret
Stowell

EDITORS

Kate Denmead

879747

Sheila Naish

838357

ALL CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOME

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MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORS

Multitude, numerous, multiplicity, large number, enormous number, million, lots, loads, heaps, masses, great quantity, scores, myriads, trillions, zillions, forests, hosts, hordes, several, various, considerable, very many, ever so many, no end of, umpteen, innumerable, infinite, multifarious, manifold, a dirty rotten typing test, much, ample, abundance, profusion, plenteous, inexhaustible, countless - all words that we would like to apply to the amount of contributions for this magazine. Ask yourselves what it is you most enjoy reading each month. We want to entertain as well as inform, so put pen to paper and send us your anecdotes, tips, recipes, funny moments, anything at all.

Kate and Sheila 870747 and 838357.

DEADLINE FOR JUNE ISSUE - 20th MAY.

BIRTHDAYS.

Apologies to Clare STOWELL and Avril FLOWER as we failed to point out that their birthdays on 1st and 3rd April respectively were full of 21st celebrations. We hope they had very happy birthdays despite the typing GREMLINS in our works!

MAY BIRTHDAYS.

- 10th - Jill and Jayne MORRIS
- 22nd - Duncan MACKAY
- 26th - Brian STOWELL
- 28th - Sally TAYLOR
- 29th - Trina WILLOUGHBY
- 30th - Joanna BRAIN.

NAISH'S NOTES.

A BIG THANKY YOU.

Firstly many thanks to the people who came to the rescue when I was unwell recently, both by taking my children off my hands and thankfully by providing FOOD. We were still busy lambing at the time and these things had escaped Miles who thought that the odd cup of tea was enough! Sometimes I wish I had four legs! Anyway, I am grateful to all for their kindness.

ON THE MEND.

Unfortunately several people have been unwell recently. Joseph DYER and Lee STAPLES each had thankfully short stays in hospital. Anna EDWARDS has had an eye injury and a broken arm. Ann GRAY, wife of David at the garage, has had two months of painful back trouble and Russell HANCOCK has been very poorly in hospital with a nasty viral illness. Russell takes his A levels soon so we wish him good luck and good health. We send our best wishes to all these patients and anyone else who has been unwell or feeling blue.

VILLAGE FLAG

Our flag flew on Sunday 21st April for two very important ladies - our own Barbara and our Queen.

WELCOME

We send a warm-hearted welcome to Nick and Marissa GIBBONS who have moved into Pear Tree House, Duck Lane. We hope that Steve and Sue EDWARDS have settled into their new home, The Paddocks.

COMIC RELIEF

The raffle money collected at the Quiz Night was not required by our lads in the Gulf as they were sent home - thankfully - the following Friday. Therefore, following the horrific, heart-rending news stories about the Kurds, we have decided to send the money to OXFAM who have a special Kurdish relief fund. Many thanks to you all again.

GIPSY SITES.

Most people will now be aware of the proposal for two gipsy sites - one at Kenn Pier and one at Rust Bridge. A petition signed by villagers has gone to Avon County Council and lots of letters have been written by villagers. If you would like to write the address is: County of Avon, PO Box 11, Avon House, The Haymarket, BRISTOL, BS99 7DE. Mark your letter for the attention of Ms. S. JONES/ Mr. T. CHURCHILL.

Information and a progress report on the Kenn Pier site can be obtained from Trevor and Maggie GEORGE, tel. 877363.

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The River Board is a powerful ally there.

Information on the Rust Bridge site from Sheila NAISH, tel. 838357. We have AVON WILDLIFE and Avon's CONSERVATION OFFICER on our side here and it is already listed as a conservation site, so that is all to our advantage.

We have been advised that the more individual letters received the better so please get writing. To those people who think that either site is far enough away from them not to bother them, think about how you would feel if it was opposite or behind your house, and then lend your support as a villager.

YET ANOTHER BURGLARY

Kenn Valley Social Club has been broken into FOUR times in the past month. Twice, the fruit machines have been dragged out and subsequently found burnt out in the robbers' stolen get away van. Miles and I actually watched these "people" drive away after one of the break-ins in the early hours of the morning, quite helpless to stop them. When it happens this close to home you realise how vulnerable we all are. If anything suspicious happens near you do not hesitate to 'phone the police - they are glad of any help. Any suspicious people, vans or cars should be reported.

Derek and Chris at Kenn Valley have once again repeated their invitation for any villager to pop in and have a drink and a look around. The club has been refurbished and now has a Children's Room, Skittle Alley, Function Room, Bar and Pool and Billiards Rooms. They are happy to take bookings for Weddings, Birthdays, Christenings etc. They have offered the playing field to us in the summer for a sports day, rounders or cricket match. Simon PASCOE is interested in an inter-village cricket match with Kingston and perhaps the same with rounders. Let us know if you're interested. Tel. Simon 878451.

DIARY DATE.

Watch this space for more details of a Disco and Barbeque at Oakland on Saturday 22nd June.

KENN AIRPORT

The report in the April 1st edition on Kenn Airport had nothing to do with me! You'll have to look elsewhere but I'm open to bribes.....

Sheila NAISH

LETTERS

Mead Cottage, Duck Lane.

As a family we would like to say a big thankyou to all our friends for the comfort and help we have received during our sad time. We did appreciate your attendance at the service, and kindness since. John and I came to Kenn as young married's and found Kenn a "friendly place" - this has certainly been so during the past few weeks.

The British Heard Foundation has received a total of £300 in memory of John and they would like to pass on their appreciation to everyone concerned.

Jean, Jacky and Stuart INGS.

SNIPPETS.

CELEBRATIONS

Her Majesty the Queen celebrated her 65th birthday on 21st April.

Clare STOWELL and Avril FLOWER had their 21st birthdays on April 1st and 3rd respectively.

We celebrated Easter on 31st March. Our flag was flown on these occasions.

ST GEORGE'S DAY

On April 23rd we flew the St. George's flag.

TREE AND SEAT ON VILLAGE GREEN.

We wish to thank Messrs Ben and Fred MORRIS who have replaced the oak tree and painted the seat on the village green. The new tree is a fine specimen so we hope it will grow well in the future.

RETURN TO SOMERSET

Sebastian WILCOX obtained 31 signatures for the Return to Somerset Campaign. Thank you Sebastian. At last the powers that be seem to be listening so perhaps we shall soon see the demise of

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the so called County of Avon.

PROPOSED GIPSY SITES AT RUSS LANE AND MOORSIDE FARM.

Kenn people were, and still are, greatly alarmed to learn of the two proposed gipsy sites in Kenn. It was extremely fortunate for all concerned that the local secretary of the National Farmers Union was present at a County Committee Meeting when the proposals were raised; he immediately alerted the Chairman of the Parish Council and residents whose land and livelihoods will be much affected should the sites become a reality. A petition was quickly organised and some 178 signatures were obtained from Kenn residents and sent to the County Council. Many residents wrote letters of objection indicating that Kenn people will fight the proposals by every means possible. Some of the objections are: Damage to the environment, dogs harming livestock, litter, the presence of a pedigree herd of Shorthorn cattle (one of only three left in Somerset) and the fact that they will have to be sold, damage to watercourses, devaluation of property, planning applications by local residents have already been refused and if these so called gipsies can afford lorries, caravans and cars they can afford to buy a house and carry out their scrap business on an industrial site.

Kenn was well represented at a committee meeting at Avon House when the proposals were on the agenda. From that meeting it was understood that there will be consultation with those concerned, possibly in July. Meanwhile, it behoves EVERY resident of Kenn to support the Parish Council to fight the proposal that gipsy sites should become permanent in Kenn. We won before so we must win this time.

Ruth DYER

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES.

The Parish Council has associated itself with the protest against the gipsy sites in Kenn. At a meeting on 8th April which was attended by several parishioners it was agreed to send a petition to the County Council signed by as many villagers as possible. People objecting are

urged to write individual letters of objection as the more acknowledgements the County have to make the better.

The Parish and District Councils are due for re-election on 2nd May. There were eight nominations for the seven places on the Parish Council but one candidate has withdrawn. This will save the expense to the Poll Tax payer of an election and the rather invidious business of choosing who not to vote for.

Best Kept Village time will soon be upon us again. The children might like to start thinking about their posters. There will be classes for 4-11 inclusive and 12-16 inclusive. If anyone would like the responsibility for keeping a part of the village free from litter Mrs. DYER would be glad to hear from you.

KENN W.I. - MARCH

Editors Note. We apologise for 'losing' this item from the April issue.

Mrs. BUBB welcomed members and visitors to the March meeting of Kenn Women's Institute. Mr. Derek LILLY gave a fascinating talk on the early development of Clevedon illustrated with some most interesting slides. He was thanked by Mrs. DODD.

Mrs. Ella BRAKE came to judge the two competitions. One was for a button from the 1920's. Mrs. LAMB was awarded gold, Mrs. DYER silver and Mrs. MANN green. The other was for a spoon. The winning spoon will be entered in the competition at the Group Meeting. Mrs. HARRIS was the winner. Final arrangements were made for the Group Meeting at which Kenn is to be the hostess.

A donation has been sent to the Heart Foundation in memory of Mr. John INGS, husband of a member. Mrs. DYER is to be a delegate at the first triennial conference in the summer. A delegate will go to the Spring Council Meeting at Keynsham.

Concern was expressed at the alterations to the roundabout at the Six Ways in Clevedon. A letter will be sent to the Highways Authority.

The skittles evening at the Kenn Valley

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Social Club was much enjoyed, so another has been arranged for June 24th. The date of the Teddy Bears Picnic, the charity event at Mrs. HARRISON'S home will now take place on July 17th.

Ann HOLTHAM.

KENN W.I. - APRIL.

Three new members were welcomed to the April meeting of Kenn Women's Institute, Mrs. SIMS, Mrs. CARRINGTON and Mrs. DYER.

Several invitations to parties at other Institutes have been received including one from Yatton who are celebrating their 50th anniversary. Mrs. ALDRICH made a special card for members to sign.

Mrs. JACKSON reported on the successful Group Meeting held at Kenn in March. There have been suggestions that the format of future meetings should be changed.

Mr. WALTERS, a W.I. husband, has undertaken to revarnish the village sign. A letter of protest against the siting of two gypsy encampments in the village was read out. It will be sent to the County Council.

A full summer is ahead. There will an outing to a trout farm at Bibury on 19th June. The skittles evening will now probably take place on 29th July and there will be a Jumble Sale on 3rd July.

Lindsay and Susan came from Baker Dolphin to conduct members on a tour of America and to answer travel questions. They were thanked by Miss HOLTHAM. The competition for a holiday photograph was won by Mrs. JACKSON and Mrs. CRAWLEY, gold, Mrs. INGS, silver and Mrs. JETTERIES, green. Mrs. CRAWLEY has won a competition in the Home and County magazine for a trip to America on the QE2 and home by Concorde.

At the May meeting Rev. Holt will talk on old Somerset folklore and the competition will be for a short ghost story.

Ann HOLTHAM.

NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO CHILDREN.

A Coffee Morning held at Kenn Court on 19th April raised £79 for the Society. My thanks to everyone who came and helped to support the work of the Society.

FROM THE POTTING SHED.

Dear Appleticpator, - Thank you very much indeed for letting me know about your apple tree, it makes the head-scratching and pencil chewing worthwhile to know I've got something right! You did not say what variety they have now planted but I'm sure they will have made certain this one is OK. I'm sorry

NSPCC

National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children
67 Saffron Hill, London EC1N 8RS

RECEIPT NO. 157191
DATED 19th April 1991
FOR £79 : 00

RECEIVED WITH THANKS THE ABOVE SUM FROM

NAME MRS DYER of KENN

IN RESPECT OF

DONATION
HOUSE TO HOUSE
COLLECTING BOX
FLAG DAY
EVENT (COFFEE MORNING)
OTHER (.....)

FOR NSPCC

Kate Morgan-Clave

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about the red faces, especially this early in the year.

About the grease-bands; strictly speaking it is not essential if you are not going to let it fruit this year but be sure to do it next year.

You are quite right to prune the LAVATERA hard to a good outward facing bud. A feed of rose fertiliser will do it good - this is true for any flowering shrub. If you have any BUDDLEIA these should have received the same treatment. Speaking of feeding, some bonemeal round about the DAFFODILS will help to build them up for next year, use after they have stopped blooming.

Yours, Uncle FREDDIE.

GARDENER'S SWAP SHOP.

Does anybody have any cucumber plants that they would like to swap for some lettuce plants? Also I have some spare Runner Bean and Hollyhock plants that I will swap for anything, vegetables or flowers - especially cottage garden varieties. Finally, does any reluctant gardener have any flower pots they don't need?

If you can help 'phone Kate, 879747 after 6pm.

CHILDREN'S BLOOMERS.

Don't be alarmed if Kenn starts to disappear beneath a host of giant sunflowers this summer. Mrs. DYER has kindly donated some sunflower seedlings to the Sunday Club and club members will be coaxing them to grow to gigantic proportions over the coming months. If anyone would like to sponsor these efforts all money collected will be sent towards a Tear Fund Vaccination Programme in under-developed countries. Thus the more the sunflowers grow the more these children will be given a chance to develop. A list for sponsors is posted in the church path.

WJP

AND BLOOPERS.

SON : Mum, are you the Easter Bunny?

Mum : Why do you want to know?

SON : I need to know because when I'm a grown so I'll need to know if I have to get the Easter eggs for my son. If you don't tell me he might not get any eggs!

Mothers reply to this superb example of the childish mind is not recorded.

AND AGAIN.

Mum when did Nelson Mandela lose his eye?

KENN 1934 - 1937 CONTINUED

Before piped water was brought to the village in 1937, the fields on the Village Hall side of Kenn Street had no water for the animals to drink in summertime. Water had to be carted to them in milk churns or cider barrels. The fields on the other side of the road were watered by the old river Kenn. Many of the cottages had no drainage systems at all. The water used had to be carried in, and out again after use. Some of them had earth floors. Large families lived in the six cottages that stood between what is now Miss GRIFFEY'S bungalow and Tripp Robbin's garage. These cottages were very small and those that faced the road had no room behind them other than tiny yards about ten foot square. Many housewives very rarely left the village, everything they required was delivered to the door by tradespeople from Clevedon or Yatton or from the Post Office. Pullin's bakers from Yatton delivered bread to most households three times a week. Griffin's grocers from Yatton and Kingston Seymour sent their employees around taking orders several times weekly. Goods however small were delivered the next day. Arthur WYNN from Yatton and Tom LILLEY from Clevedon made weekly deliveries to the village in their motor vans. These were travelling shops and they both had a tremendous variety of goods on offer, ranging from paraffin for the oil lamps to bananas and oranges and all types of household goods like candles and tin baths which were kept on the roof of the van. Arthur WYNN also sold some farming and gardening tools such as wooden hay rakes which were hung on the side of his van. Mr. COLLINSON, boot repairer from Yatton, sent a young man

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on his bicycle around from door to door on Tuesday mornings, inquiring if there were any boots or shoes to be repaired. He took these with him and returned them two days later. A man from Bristol, who had been wounded in the First World War and could only walk with great difficulty, cycled from Yatton Station around the district selling cotton and buttons, pins and needles, all for a few pence. Looking back one wonders how he managed to make a living.

Mr. KIDDLE, tailor, of Chevtot House, Clevedon cycled down to Kenn at intervals with his books of cloth patterns. He would measure up men and boys for suits which he would make up himself. Three or four butchers delivered meat to Kenn several times a week. Victor STUCKEY of Yatton brought large pieces of meat in his horse-drawn van and would cut off any size of joint that his customers required on the spot. If it was beef he always weighed a large piece of suet with the joint. His view was that meat should be at least half fat to be any good.

Most farmers and some cottagers bought a couple of small pigs in the spring - fattened them up through the summer, then when the weather became cold about November, they usually sold one and had the other killed on the premises. The meat was then salted daily for about a month, then it was hung in a dry place in the house and used as required. If the pig had been a large one the bacon and hams lasted until the following summer.

Ray NAISH

KENN AIRPORT.

We understand that some villagers still believe that the April Fool story about Kenn Airport is true. Sorry to those who believed but it was only a joke. If only the gipsy problem was the same!

APOLOGY.

There was a slight confusion last month over the Parish Council report which was 'filed' in a comodious editorial pocket, and forgotten. This month's covers the remaining, relevant points.

NATURE NOTE.

The first three swallows have arrived at the farm this morning, 25th April, the latest date I can ever remember. I still haven't heard the cuckoo. The swallows have just flown into the garage having a look at old nests.

The Oak is out before the Ash, we shall only get a splash. It looks like being a dry summer again this year, so be careful not to waste any water; treat it as the precious commodity that it is.

RVN

TEN YEARS OF BIRDWATCHING ON KENN MOOR, 1981-1991.

On moving to Yatton from my native Northamptonshire, I soon found Kenn Moor to be a good close-at-hand site for watching birds. My visits are always confined to Claverham Drove, usually with a walk along Eastern Drove and more rarely Decoypool Drove.

The Moor is of course quite unlike Northamptonshire and its surrounding counties, and I soon discovered that its birdlife was quite different too. In particular BUZZARDS and SPARROWHAWKS were virtually nonexistent in the Midlands; on Kenn Moor I was able to see them regularly.

HERONS of course are a feature of the moors, and for a couple of years SHEL-DUCK were occasionally present. LAPWINGS still breed in small numbers, but are probably more noticeable in winter when sometimes large flocks are evident. REDSHANKS used to nest, and in 1981 SNIPE were still trying, but REDSHANKS are rarely seen now, and SNIPE are winter visitors, most obvious when the ground is frozen. On the plus side BUZZARDS are now more regular (there were four birds in 1990) and hopefully successful nesting will occur soon. MOORHENS also seem to have recovered in numbers; their enemy, the feral MINK, is thought to keep numbers in check.

During the winter of 1982/3 a pair of SHORT EARED OWLS moved in - it was to be six years before they were seen again, in December 1988. Late after-

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noons could almost guarantee sightings, and probably an altercation with the resident KESTRELS. The most unusual birds generally appear in very cold weather: GOLDEN PLOVER, once a MERLIN, STONECHATS and of course the numbers of FIELDFARES and REDWINGS present rise dramatically.

TAWNY OWLS are no doubt resident, but as I don't make nocturnal visits I cannot confirm this. LITTLE OWLS are seen very occasionally but seem to have become scarcer on the moors generally of late. The damp fields make excellent homes for the local SKYLARKS, surely the most beautiful songsters. REED BUNTINGS and MEADOW PIPITS are common, with REED WARBLERS and SEDGE WARBLERS visiting during the summer. Then there are the migratory birds: WHIMBREL (a small CURLEW) pass through usually in early May en route from Africa to their northern breeding grounds, WHEATEARS with their distinctive white rumps also move through, along with LINNETS, the occasional YELLOWHAMMERS and GOLDFINCHES. GREEN

WOODPECKERS and GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKERS reside in the copses, where in summer WILLOW WARBLERS, CHIFFCHAFF and BLACKCAP can be seen, or more likely heard.

Then there are the common birds, CROWS (too common?), ROOKS, JACKDAWS, MAGPIES, the occasional JAY and in winter hundreds of STARLINGS, BLACKBIRDS, THRUSHES, ROBINS, WRENS and DUNNOCKS in the wooded areas, WOOD PIGEONS, SWANS, MALLARD and in summer SWALLOWS and SWIFTS. And finally it is a pleasure to record the presence of a KINGFISHER - let us hope he survived the cold in FEBRUARY.

Space precludes mention of each species, but hopefully these notes demonstrate what a marvellous variety of birdlife can be found so close to home.

Trevor RIDDLE. DAY

