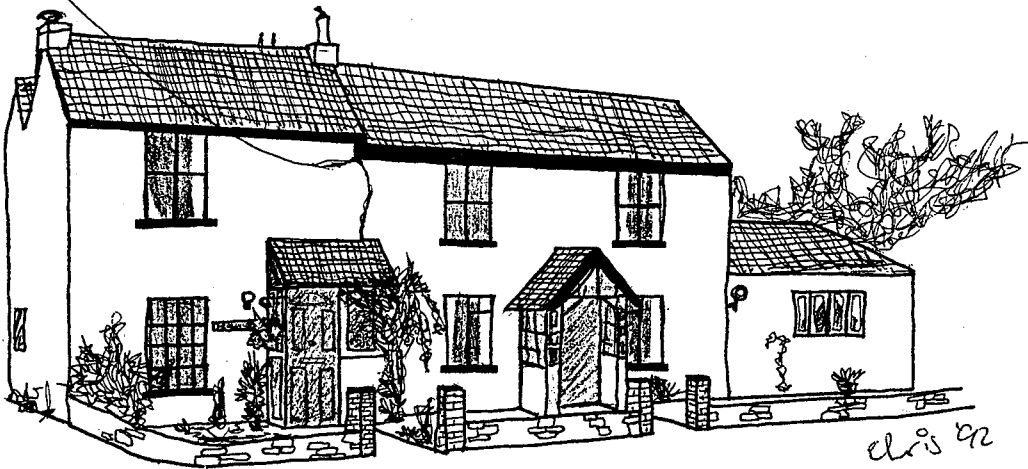


KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

MARCH 1992 ISSUE 44



EDITORS.

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MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORS

At the time of writing our printer - Margaret - is on holiday in the United States and so it befalls Big Ed to step into the breach. Hopefully the three-fingered typist will have drawn up a fool proof plan for me to follow (I did last time and she still got it wrong, Richard) but in any event I apologise in advance for any pages that may be cock-eyed.

Kate and Sheila

DEADLINE FOR APRIL ISSUE

MARCH 20TH

Please make a mental note that ALL deadlines will be the 20th of the month.

BIRTHDAYS IN MARCH

- ⇒ 5th - Leon NAISH
- ⇒ 7th - Mrs CHAPPELL
- ⇒ 8th - Jeremy OSBOURNE
- ⇒ 12th - Mark CALLOW (30th)
- ⇒ 16th - Angie CARPENTER (up the garage)
- ⇒ 17th - Lee STAPLES
- ⇒ 18th - Quinton STOWELL
- ⇒ 27th - Amy BYE (8)

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- ⇒ 16th - Brian and Juliet STOWELL
- ⇒ 31st - Sam and Ruth DYER

NAISH'S NOTES

FLYING AWAY

We wish Mr and Mrs SUMMERILL, landlords of the Drum and Monkey Kenn, who are moving to the Airport Tavern at Lulsgate, all the best for the future. We look forward to meeting the new landlords.

RETURNING

Mr Mark AYRES is now closer to home and is in the Cottage Hospital, Clevedon. We wish him a speedy recovery.

GIPSY SITE

The gipsy site problem in the village is still a major issue. We have had the south Kern site taken off the lists but the site at Kern Moor Road, which is Mr WITHERS' field is now on a priority list.

A very successful meeting was held on Thursday 19th March which was attended by a large number of farmers and villagers but for those of you who were unable to attend due to work etc the Parish Council meeting called for March 5th is open to everyone. Please come and find out the up to date position and lend your support to John WITHERS. We still need to fight to show Avon County Council that the site is totally unsuitable for travellers for the variety of reasons put forward, and should therefore be removed from ALL lists for good.

A report on the 19th of March meeting appears later in the magazine.

LAMBING IN KENN

We are still in the thickness of the lambing season and although we plead a slight degree of madness at this time of the year it has not helped our cause by "him outdoors" using our lawn as a sick bay for poorly ewes. We are now fenced in with flexi-net and an electric fence with three poor old girls recuperating on lush green grass. So far I have been asked about prison camps, Colditz, and someone even admired our new lawnmower! If they eat my shrubs and plants I shall have something to say!

Does anyone fancy a few ewes on their lawn pro tem?? (Does anyone fancy a farmer long term???)

(Big Ed and smallest son noted the arrival of said fencing when son was heard to remark on the huge numbers of sheep which must be arriving. For a fleeting moment I thought to say maybe they were in the garden so Little Ed could keep an eye on them while attend-

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ing to her housework. I'm prone to these momentary lapses!

Kate)

AVRIL

We are proud and delighted that our own Avril GAUNT has been accepted to train for the ministry of the Church. Well done Avril, we know you can do it and will do it well!

FLYING HOME

Welcome back to James and Robert, no doubt our postcard is still on the way!!?

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Wrestle with me baby" spoken to Big Ed by a certain head stockman.

Can we watch? (Little Ed)

SNIPPETS

CELEBRATIONS

Our flag was flown to celebrate:-

- ⇒ February 6th - Her Majesty the Queen had reigned for forty years
- ⇒ February 9th - The christening of Richard James STOWELL.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- ⇒ 5th - Public Meeting 7-30pm Kenn Hall re proposed travellers' site
- ⇒ 11th - Women's Institute 7-30pm Mrs TAYLOR will speak on Jumble sale
- ⇒ 23rd - Skittle Evening for WI members, husbands and friends. 8pm at Yeo Valley Social Club
- ⇒ 28th - Quiz Kenn Hall 7-30pm.

ADVANCE DATE

Wednesday April 22nd 7pm Jumble Sale at Kenn Hall.

SUGGESTION FOR QUEEN'S RUBY JUBILEE

Keep Kenn completely litter free at all times; remind those who drop rubbish to put it into bins or take it home!!

ANNUAL VILLAGE PARTY

The annual village party held on Saturday 8th February was very poorly attended but clearly enjoyed by the children. The evening commenced with the children's Fancy Dress competition judged by Mrs Joyce KENT and Mrs Ruth GALE. The results were as follows:

UNDER 4 YEARS

- ⇒ 1st - Phillippa JENKINS, Goose
- ⇒ 2nd - Charlotte COLES, Witch
- ⇒ 3rd Christopher JAEHME, Pixie

5 TO 8 YEARS

- ⇒ 1st - Andrew JENKINS, Brains, from Thunderbirds
- ⇒ 2nd - Charlotte GEORGE, Bunch of grapes
- ⇒ 3rd - Ken REECE, Penguin

9 TO 11 YEARS

- ⇒ - 1st Alex GAUNT, Spider
- ⇒ -and Joanne COLES, Snowman. Joint first.

All the entrants received a prize for entering.

In the absence of any adults in fancy dress an impromptu knobbly knees contest was held for the gentlemen. There were 11 entries and the result was:

- ⇒ 1st - Bob GALE (a unanimous decision)
- ⇒ 2nd - Jack HANSON
- ⇒ 3rd - Trevor GEORGE.

It occurs to me to ponder on the female equivalent of this contest for next year, any ideas?

Games for the children were next in the form of musical chairs and North, south, east and west.

Supper was enjoyed courtesy of Jean FENWICK, ladies of the committee and friends and accompanied by punch made by Margaret STOWELL.

The party drew to a close with the raffle organised by Mrs I. STOWELL.

The committee would be interested to hear your ideas for the future of this

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party. How would you like to spend the evening? All suggestions please to chairman, Ray NAISH, or any committee member.

A profit of £5 was made towards Social Committee funds.

JUMBLE SALE

The Social Committee Jumble Sale was held on Wednesday 19th February and made a rather handsome profit of £78.44. Thank you to all who helped at this event or gave donations. The proceeds will go towards the senior citizens Tea Party in December.

Kate

KENN WI

Members of Kenn Women's Institute stood in silence in memory of member Mrs TURNER who died during the last month. Mrs DYER welcomed members and visitors. There were several apologies. Mrs HARRIS was thanked for the floral arrangement on the president's table, and Mrs STOWELL was thanked for getting the hall ready.

The skittles team were victorious in the last round of the tournament, the next match is still to be arranged. A skittles evening has been fixed for March 23rd at the Yeo Valley Club. A team will take part in the Quiz in the Village Hall on March 28th.

Mrs GARMSTON will be delegate at the Spring Council Meeting in Bath on 25th March. On the same day the Group Meeting will be held at Congresbury. The speaker will be 'Lady Muck' on 'The way to the compost heap'. The competition will be for a dishmop scarecrow. Kenn's entry will be chosen at the March meeting.

In the 1991 competitions Mrs CRAWLEY and Mrs DYER were joint winners and Mrs BUBB was third. This month's competition for a child's rattle was won by Mrs GOLDSWORTHY, gold, Mrs DYER,

silver and Mrs R JEFFERY, green.

Mr PITTS gave a very interesting and thought provoking talk on the NSPCC. He was thanked by Mrs STOWELL. At the March meeting Mrs FRANCIS will speak on Jumble and the competition will be for a Jumble Sale bargain.

TRAVELLERS' SITE

On Tuesday 18th February Sam DYER and I went to see the Chief EXECUTIVE of Woodspring District Council about the short-listing of Kern Moor as one of the Travellers' sites for Avon. Our district councillor, Mrs Greta LEWIS, was able to be with us. We were extremely grateful to both of them for sparing us the time at such short notice for they are both very busy people. The meeting was extremely helpful and constructive. Woodspring's view is exactly the same as our own.

There will, therefore, be a Special Parish Meeting on Thursday 5th March in the village hall at 7-30pm at which a report of the meeting will be given and any further progress reported. A plan of campaign can also be discussed. Mrs Lewis hopes to be present.

The Parish Council realises that this is a very distressing time for everyone and a very emotive subject, but there is a proper procedure to be followed and this has now been set in train.

Please try and come to the meeting.

Ann HOLTHAM

Now on a much lighter note, the Parish council would like to mark the 40th anniversary of the Queen's accession in some way. The matter will be put on the Agenda of the Annual Parish Meeting to be held in April. If you have any ideas please bring them along. Thank you.

GIPSY SITE PROPOSALS

Last Thursday a meeting was held on the proposed site for a travellers' encampment in Kenn. For those of you who don't

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know it's the 4 acre field between the Droveaway and Kenn Pier bridge.

The meeting was well attended by representatives of the National Farmers Union in support of John WITHERS the land-owner, by local councillors, by officials of both the Conservative and Liberal Democrat parties from Woodspring and by residents of Kenn, some 200 in all. Local television, radio and press were also well represented.

Mary JAMES of the NFU opened the meeting and introduced Maurice BLIGHT also of the NFU, whose address highlighted many reasons why the choice of this particular site is wholly impracticable. A range of points were covered in Maurice's well researched speech including:-

- ⇒ the potentially devastating effect on the livelihood of John WITHERS, who depends on all of his 36 acres to support a relatively rare herd of 36 short horn dairy cattle and a considerable number of sheep
- ⇒ the common and well documented problem of travellers' dogs and the disastrous effect they can have on flocks of sheep and lambs
- ⇒ the close proximity of the proposed site, less than 50 yards from the farmhouse
- ⇒ the potentially damaging effect on surrounding areas registered as sites of outstanding importance to either nature conservancy, local history or the environment in general.

Maurice finished by pledging his own and the NFU's total and active support in this matter.

A succession of other speakers then took the platform and many further important points were made including:-

- ⇒ the local Conservative party pledged their continuing support in the fight to stop the proposal turning into reality, as did John

WYATT on behalf of Jerry WIGGIN, our local MP

- ⇒ the Woodspring contingent of the Liberal Democrats, including their prospective MP for this area, Brian COTTER, also pledged support and will put pressure on their colleagues in Avon to do likewise
- ⇒ turning to the physical nature of the site itself, it is impracticable for many reasons; it is bordered on one side by one of the most dangerous water courses on Kenn Moor where a death by drowning has occurred in the past - school parties would not be allowed access on this factor alone -, the land floods easily, power cables pass diagonally across the site directly contravening the recommendations of the Ministry of the Environment's Guidelines.
- ⇒ access to the site is at the most narrow and probably most dangerous bit of road in Kenn. This has been the site of numerous accidents
- ⇒ from an environmental point of view the imposition of a large caravan site would be devastating. The field directly adjoins an attractive riverside setting bordered by two of the older cottages in the village - typifying the very nature of Kenn Moor itself. It would also be detrimental to the many forms of wildlife and to the recreational aspects provided by excellent fishing
- ⇒ the sheer scale of what is being proposed must not be underestimated. The site is designated for 8 pitches. One pitch provides standings for 3 caravans. Taking the average 'nuclear' family of 4, this clearly shows the potential for close to ONE HUNDRED extra residents should the proposal succeed and the site be fully occupied. Facilities for the existing 250 residents are considered barely

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- adequate now
- ⇒ the chairman of Clevedon Town Football Club, moving to new pitches nearby explained the difficulties his club had obtaining planning permission for club facilities on the grounds that sewage and drainage services are already over-stretched in the area.

It is late already! Our site is now on a short list of only 12 selected from a potential list of over 100. You can help to fight to overturn this proposal by writing your protests as outlined later.

OPINION

It is difficult to see how the proposal to place a large travellers' encampment has proceeded this far. Any rational argument must conclude that the proposal is wholly non-viable. Those who attended the meeting in the Village Hall sometime ago where Avon presented their original proposals will remember that the site now in question appeared very much an outsider because of factors presented very similar to those voiced again last Thursday.

A cynical view might well conclude that once again political interests have come into play. This becomes more believable when the fact that votes cast within the committee set up by Avon to establish the short list were cast as:-

Labour	4 for the proposal
Conservative	4 against the proposal
Lib/Dem	2 for the proposal.

Ms Pat HOCKEY, who is Chairperson of the committee and Mr J BLIZZARD, both Liberal Democrats are those whose votes swung the committee's decision. They are also elected members of Avon County Council where their chosen party holds the balance of power.

The Kenn Pier site directly contravenes almost totally all guidelines issued by the Minister of the Environment for the consideration of travellers' sites. With

the Liberal Democrats declared national stance as 'friends of the farmers' and the blatant disregard of national government guidelines it is difficult to assume that the L/D vote was cast on any consideration other than political.

Roger WILCOX

CONGRATULATIONS

I have been asked to express through the pages of this magazine our congratulations and thanks to Lyn BYE and her neighbours for their hard work and efforts in organising the meeting.

Kate DENMEAD

PROPOSED KENN GIPSY SITE

NOW SHORT LISTED

IF YOU ARE OPPOSED TO THIS, ACT NOW

HOW? By writing THIS WEEK even if you sent an earlier letter a second is essential as the situation is changed and serious.

State the reasons you feel the site is unsuitable. For instance:-

- ⇒ the land is low lying therefore has a high water table which will pass pollution into the waterways and moors
- ⇒ the nearby river bank is a leisure amenity area used by fishermen etc
- ⇒ adverse effect on the farms and other nearby enterprises
- ⇒ the social effect on our small village community of possibly 50 or more travellers coming to live within the confines of the village
- ⇒ unsuitable road access
- ⇒ the site is too far away from local schools, health centres etc etc
- ⇒ MOST IMPORTANT. Please add your own reasons.

It is suggested you could add great impact if your letter comes from your own solicitor. This would underline to the committee the depth of concern and

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opposition to their proposals.

NOTE: You cannot object because you believe the encampment will devalue your property or assets.

NOR: Can you object because you think the presence of travellers in the area may cause a security risk.

FOR INFORMATION the Committee voted

LABOUR 4 in favour
CONSERVATIVES 4 against
LIB/DEM 2 voted with labour

This carried the decision, thereby giving us the **PROBLEM**.

Letters to:

- ⇒ Councillor Mrs P HOCKEY
- ⇒ Councillor Mr J BLIZZARD
- ⇒ The Travellers Sub Committee

AND/OR IF POSSIBLE

- ⇒ County Planning Officer
- ⇒ Director of Highways Transport and Engineering

All above are at : Avon County Council, Avon House, The Haymarket, BRISTOL.

AND TO

- ⇒ Jerry WIGGIN MP at House of Commons, LONDON, SW1A 0AA.
Tel: 071 219 4466 and FAX: 071 219 5937.

NOTE

This is a very serious matter. Mrs Hockey has spoken on Radio Bristol and is of the opinion that North Avon has had its share of travellers' problems and South Avon should now take its turn. This means that we have to fight on and ensure that Kenn Moor is taken off the priority list. Please write your letters. Letters carry more weight. Do not be complacent. **DO IT. DO IT NOW.** We must be seen to be united as a whole village behind this protest.

John GRIFFIN

PUBLIC MEETING

There is to be a Public Meeting chaired by Jerry WIGGIN MP at Weston super Mare Town Hall, 7-30pm Friday, 28th February on the travellers problem. Please try and attend. If anyone requires transport because they do not like night time driving or need a lift contact J GRIFFIN, R NAISH or Sheila NAISH.

The more people from Kenn there the better.

Sheila NAISH

LETTER TO THE EDITORS

PROPOSED GIPSY SITES IN AVON

I propose that all those people opposed to the KENN MOOR site (and there were hundreds of us there at the Kenn meeting recently) use the forthcoming General Election to further our cause.

Let us NOT give our vote to any candidate unless he/she personally gives assurance that when elected he/she will **OPPOSE** every measure put before him/her to establish KENN MOOR field as a future travellers' site here in Kenn.

David GLASSON, Riverside Cottage, Kenn Pier.

Note from Editors

And so say all of us.

WORKING IN THE CHURCH

Little did I appreciate the train of events that lay ahead when on a January morning last year I went to discuss with the Rector what work I could do in the Church. At that time I really had no clear idea what was available to an ordinary housewife/part time nurse like me; all I was sure about was that God wanted me to do something more than I was already doing. At John's suggestion I began to explore the non-stipendiary ordained ministry. This means that after a period of training I could become a deacon and work in our parish.

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After a great deal of thought, prayer and discussion with Mary WELSH and Richard I decided to pursue the idea. An interview with the Diocesan Director of Ordinands, a clergyman with special responsibility for organising the selection and training of candidates followed. He arranged interviews with two more clergymen (one brought his wife too) to see if I was suitable to go forward for a national selection conference at which the final decision would be made. It was already after Easter and they recommended that I wait until the following year and spend the intervening time reading to improve my knowledge.

On the Saturday before Christmas I received my summons to attend a selection conference at the beginning of February. Boxing Day found me filling out the numerous application forms, one of which asked for four referees.

Before going off to Woking (where my conference was to be held) I was interviewed by our Bishop, James THOMPSON, at Wells. With trembling knees I waited for my first ever interview with a bishop. Bishop Jim, as he is fondly known, could not have been nicer and we were soon chatting in a very relaxed way. I left feeling very encouraged.

February 3rd dawned and I set out for St. Columbus House, Woking. The prospect of the next three days and the thought that the rest of my life was to be decided here was more than a little daunting. I was greatly cheered, however, in the knowledge of all the prayers and good wishes for me at home. There were fourteen candidates and six selectors and we all got on surprisingly well given the circumstances! We went through four probing interviews into all aspects of our lives and faith in between discussion groups in which we were observed and a written exercise designed to assess our handling of a sensitive pastoral issue. We even had to take our meals with the selectors so that the scrutiny could con-

tinue.

Although it was the toughest test in my life in a curious way I enjoyed it and found it a stimulating experience. The system although nerve wracking and very probing is the fairest way of assessing suitability for the ministry.

The next ten days were very hard as I waited to hear the verdict, via the Bishop, but on St. Valentine's Day a letter popped through the door and I was put out of my misery. I was recommended for training!

My next step is to secure a place at the Salisbury School of Ministry for a three year non-residential course. This will involve some weekends away and an eight day summer school each year but the majority of the work will be done at home using a distance learning package with the help of a personal tutor. To give me practical experience in the Church's functions there will be a number of placements in other parishes.

Although the future is going to be hard work it presents a tremendous challenge. For me a new life is certainly beginning in my forties! A lot has happened since that first interview with John and there have been many occasions when I have asked, and do doubt will continue to ask, "what am I doing?" However I know that this is right for me, and that I can do it because God will give me the strength to succeed.

Avril GAUNT

QUIZ NIGHT

The bookings list for the Quiz Night on Saturday 28th March is now full but I also have a reserve list of two names so if anyone thinks that they have overbooked or will be unable to attend will they please let me know as soon as possible.

Your monies will be collected by Jenny PASCOE but if you can take them to her all the better. A reminder of these - Team Entry £5, fish and chips - £2-50 each.

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Donations of raffle prizes would be gratefully received by myself or Libby.

The proceeds of this event will be going towards the purchase of a lawn mower for the village.

DON'T FORGET - 7-30 for an 8pm START. Bring your own drinks.

Kate

KENN HISTORY GROUP

At this month's meeting on Wednesday 19th February we heard a tape recording of Mr and Mrs Donald STAPLES' life and work in Kenn over the past 60 years. This was not only very interesting but also very amusing at times. We are looking forward to hearing more recordings of some of the older villagers of Kenn in order to make a record of life in the village during this century, also containing photographs and any other memorabilia of life in Kenn.

Looking ahead we would very much like to hold a "ROYAL MEMORABILIA" day in Kenn Hall to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the accession of Queen Elizabeth II, some time in June, but more about this later. It has been suggested that a PIG ROAST might also take place.

Our next meeting is to be on Monday 16th March at 7-30pm. We believe this will be a more convenient day for some people and we hope to see some new faces.

Grace GRIFFIN

RAY REPORTS

Congratulations to Avril GAUNT on being accepted as an ordinand for the ministry of the Church.

We have to go a long way back to find the last time anyone from Kenn reached this status. If my memory serves me correctly we must go back to 1931, at that time the Reverend William Henry Durante THATCHER was vicar of Kenn or "Perpetual Curate of Kenn" as was his

correct title. He encouraged and helped a man called Ernest BEVAN to become a clergyman.

Ernie BEVAN as he was known to many people in Kenn at that time was the husband of Lillian BEVAN the headmistress of Kenn School. Ernie was a keen member of the Church Choir and helped several of his fellow choiristers to learn to read music and gave them voice training.

The Bevans lived at 'School House', Kenn Street, now Moor Lodge.

After a spell of training at a Theological College he was ordained Priest and immediately accepted a post at Trinidad in the West Indies. While he was practising his ministry there his wife kept on her job at Kenn School until joining him later. Mrs BEVAN was a very popular school teacher.

After several years they returned to England where he became vicar of several parishes in Herefordshire.

Ray NAISH.

OXFAM LEAP DAY

On Saturday night (February 29th) the Youth Club are having an extra club night in aid of Oxfam. The evening will begin at 7pm and contain all the usual fun things to do. Entry to this special evening will be £1.

Any secondary school age friends are welcome.



