

## KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

Suggestions for celebrating this the fortieth year of the Institute in Kenn were asked for. It is hoped to make the year very special.

At the February meeting Mrs SALKED will talk on "People in High Places" and the competition will be a mountain scene in any medium.

### THANKS

Margaret - our printer - would like to say a big thank you for the table decoration she received at Christmas on behalf of the readers in recognition of her contribution to the magazine. it was much appreciated.

### SENIOR CITIZENS TEA

Apologies for not reporting last month on this very happy and enjoyable occasion. Fifty four guests accepted the Social Committee's invitation to Christmas afternoon tea at the Village Hall on Wednesday 2nd December. The ladies of the committee had laid festive tables which made a welcoming sight as the guests arrived, and partook of a warming glass of sherry.

After Grace by the Rev John CRUSE, a delicious tea was served, previously prepared by the committee and supplied by generous donations.

Entertainment was provided by members of the Church Choir who gave a choral version of the weather forecast. Kate DENMEAD followed with "revised", and hopefully humorous, Christmas songs. Carols were requested and sung accapella-style by all present.

Mrs Galdys GRIFFIN - our most senior guest - gave a speech of thanks to the organisers which was much appreciated, and goes a long way to make our efforts so worthwhile - even though it is our favourite event of the year.

All the guests left with a small gift and some lucky winners with their raffle prizes.

As always it was a successful and enjoyable start to the Christmas festivities. Thanks to all who helped. Special thanks to Peter TRIPP for his assistance with transport.

Kate DENMEAD

### VILLAGE DANCE

On Saturday 16th January between 50 and 60 people gathered at the Village Hall for this new venture organised by the Social Committee. Music was provided by B & N Promotions, aka 'Uncle Briar' who played an excellent assortment of old-time and modern dance music. Quick steps, Valetas, Barn Dances, Gay Gordons, Jive, Twist and Disco were the order of the day, with everyone 'having a go'. Talking to 'Uncle Briar' afterwards he explained how he gauged his audience reaction according to the popularity of certain records. We were a "good crowd with a great atmosphere" so let's hope we can do it again next year. If we didn't do your favourite dance, come next year and let us know.

A ploughman's supper was provided and a very well stocked raffle added to the entertainment.

Kate DENMEAD

### KENN HISTORY

All churches have been issued with new Burial Registers which have more detail to be filled in to record interment of ashes, which had not been entered in some registers. The Burial Register we have been using in Kenn Church up until the end of 1992 had lasted the biggest part of two centuries. The first entry was made on March 14th 1813. It recorded the burial of Emanuel HARVEY of Kenn who

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I wonder what Kenn was like when this register was started in 1813. The roads are the same but everything else must be very different. There was no school here in those days. Very few had the chance to learn to read and write. The Church was in a state of increasingly bad repair. The Chapel and vicarage weren't built until 50 years later. Perhaps there was no shop. The only source of employment was farm work. It was no good going to Clevedon shopping because it was only a small fishing and farming village with a population smaller than Kenn. The windmill at Mill Farm would have been the place to take your sack of corn to be ground into flour. This was before the moor was enclosed and was Common Land. People who could afford to own a cow or sheep would have had Commoners' rights to graze them on the moor. The entrance to the common moor from Kenn was at 'Moorgates', Kenn Street. The deeds of 'Mead Cottage', Duck Lane show that the occupier had Commoner's rights to graze his animals on the moor. Most of the cottages where the poor people lived would have been small and crowded.

The Overseer of the poor of Kenn, appointed annually, would have been responsible for distributing alms to the destitute. This money came from taxes from those who were better off. It probably only amounted to a few pennies per week, hardly enough to keep people from starvation.

If anyone would like to look through this Register

with me again, give me a ring on 872493.

Ray NAISH

### HAS SPRING SPRUNG?

Are we heading for an early spring? All the spring flowers are very advanced. I saw my first snowdrop flower this year at Manor Farm on 9th January; much earlier than I have ever seen one before, but several people tell me they have seen them earlier.

RVN

### JUMBLE SALE

There will be a Jumble Sale at Kenn Village Hall on Wednesday 17th February at 2pm. Any saleable goods to the hall in the morning or they can be collected, telephone Margaret, Jean, Kate or any Social Committee member for assistance. All help offered will also be gratefully accepted.

Kate

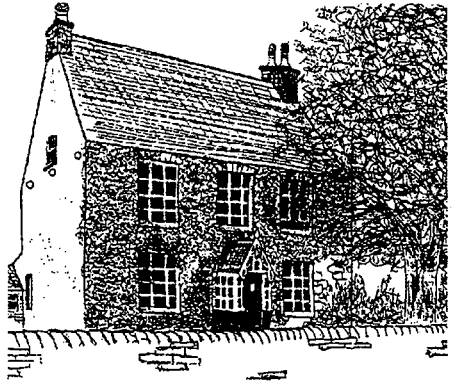
### SHRINKING VIOLET

Many people have been accusing me of having lost weight and I have denied it forcibly and said it was an optical illusion (I know I bought some larger clothes too, Richard). I am shocked to report that I have lied and somehow lost a stone! I know not where or how, nor do I wish it returned if anyone finds it! My Doctor requests me to "keep it up" - I only hope I can find the formula before I see him again.

Kate, aka Twigg



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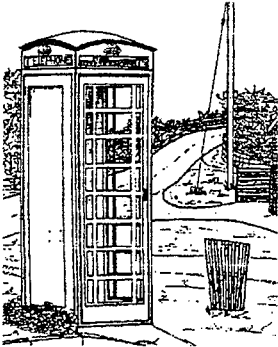


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FEBRUARY 1993 ISSUE 55



PRINTER :- MARGARET STOWELL    TYPIST :- RICHARD GAUNT

# KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

## KENN HISTORY GROUP

The History Group met at The Granary on the evening of January 8th.

We had our best attendance so far and enjoyed a most interesting evening with Connie WILSON talking to us about her thorough and researched knowledge of Kenn and its history, but in particular on the founding and history of Kenn Chapel.

We heard that the chapel was built by a group of religious absentors (ie folk who had parted company with the Anglican Church) who dated from the Kenn hangings. The time was one of serious public unrest, Bristol riots 1830. Kenn was a wild and rather lawless community too, not improved by the fact that approximately 90% of the population were underpaid working poor, with the other 10% or less employing landowners and farmers.

Connie has traced, but cannot name, a very special and inspired lady, who believed that Kenn was much in need of spiritual guidance. She it was who gathered around herself and led this group of non-conforming christians. And they in 1830 obtained from the Bishop a licence to hold house meetings for prayers and to hear the word of preachers.

They must have grown in numbers and commitment because in 1861 they built their own chapel in Kenn Street on land given by the then owners of "Stonehouse", the SPROD family. Kenn Chapel was a daughter church of Clevedon Congregational Church and always remained under their care and sponsorship, right up to the time of closure in the 1950s.

Connie's family, the HALLWORTHS were closely involved with the life of our chapel and in time Connie and Phil were to be the last couple married there!

We look forward to the time when

Connie has completed her research and can publish the full report in Kenn News.

Personal history note:-

The SPRODs who gave the chapel land were my maternal great great grand parents and their grand daughter, Beatrice, was also married in the chapel to John SHOPLAND. They were my maternal grand parents, ie parents of the present Grannie GRIFFIN.

At the next meeting on Monday 15th February at 7-30pm we hope to have a local historian as speaker.

## ST JOHN'S ALTAR GUILD

February Rota: Mrs M WILLIAMS and Mrs J WOOD.

Many thanks to all the ladies who decorated the Church over the Christmas Festival. We have had many comments of how lovely the Church looked and we are most grateful to everyone.

Also a big thank you to everyone who cleaned the brass and kept the Church neat and tidy for all the services.

Iris GOLDSWORTHY, Jean NAISH

## KENN NOTES

### IN MEMORY

Family and friends of Mr Frank EAGLES gave £224 to the Clevedon branch of the Cancer Research Campaign.

### THANK YOU

A warm thank you to Doctor and Mrs GAUNT for allowing the christmas tree lights to be fed from their electricity supply.

### FLORAL ARRANGEMENT CLASSES

Some ladies who enjoyed the Christmas flower arrangements demonstrated in the village hall in November have indicated they would like to have some classes. If

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there is sufficient support Kenn Women's Institute will make the necessary arrangements. Please let me know if you are interested. Phone 872676.

### DIARY DATES

February 10th Kenn Women's Institute 7-30pm. Speaker Mrs SALKED on "People in High Places". Ladies welcome.

February 17th Jumble Sale 2pm

April 24th Barn Dance in aid of Hearing Dogs for the Deaf.

### BANANA BOATS AND MORE BANANAS

Is it a fact or pure fiction that banana boats did come into Kenn Pier years ago? Research has discovered that at the beginning of the century shallow draught boats for the developing trade were being built at Hill's Shipyard in Bristol. These small boats were used to ferry bananas from the West Indian Islands out to the larger ships anchored off shore in deeper water; harbour facilities on the islands could not accommodate large boats. It is possible that one of the banana boats was used to bring goods up to Kenn Pier.

In 1934, 1935 and 1936 large quantities of bananas were found off Clevedon and schoolchildren used to fish for them.

One theory for their presence was that they were used to protect meat that was being shipped into Bristol from bruising. When the meat was unloaded the bananas were thrown overboard. Now it is probable the meat came from South America and the bananas from the West Indies - a likely story!! Another suggestion for the bananas being found off Clevedon was that they were used to minimise friction when boats were launched in the shipyards around the Bristol Channel. Fact or just bananas!

### SUGGESTION

We now have a Team Rector, two Team Vicars and a Deacon for the five Parishes. Of the team three live in Yatton. Today we are constantly being told to "manage our resources".

Could not consideration be given to the idea that one of the team should live in Kenn or Kingston Seymour, but continue to help at Yatton so many days each week. The same arrangements could apply to Cleeve and Claverham.

Ruth DYER

### KENN W.I.

At the January meeting of Kenn Women's Institute Mrs Tricia HARRISON showed members how to bone a chicken. She made it all look very easy - the secret seems to be having a very sharp knife. She was thanked by Mrs JEFFERIES. Mrs HARRISON judged the competition for a favourite chicken recipe. Mrs BUBB was awarded gold, Mrs CRAWLEY silver and Mrs Dyer green.

Members signed a card for Mrs McEwan SMITH to congratulate her on her award in the New Years Honours list. Mrs DENMEAD was thanked for all the work she had done to raise £151 by selling cards and calendars. Secret friends were declared.

The prizes for overall winners of the competitions in 1992 were distributed. Mrs CRAWLEY took first prize, Miss LIVESEY second and Mrs DYER third. Mrs DYER asked everyone to enter the competitions in 1993. In future there will be a magazine swap. Any magazines not taken will be passed to the hospital. It is hoped to arrange flower arranging classes in the Spring.

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## MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORS

Of paramount importance this month is our magazine covers. Christopher has now exhausted his supply of photographs so unless new ones are forthcoming we shall be forced to recycle the old drawings (see this cover for the first, Richard). Please contact either of us if you can help or supply drawings suitable for covers - they should be 7 inches square so they can be pasted onto the page.

Kate and Sheila

DEADLINE FOR MARCH ISSUE  
20TH FEBRUARY

## BIRTHDAYS

- 1st - Tim TAYLOR
- 2nd - Katy STOWELL
- 14th - Gladys DENMEAD
- 16th - Marianna MACKAY
- 19th - Jeff NAISH
- 25th - James GRIFFIN
- 27th - Jenny PASCOE.

## BELATED JANUARY

- 25th Frank FLOWER
- 28th May FLOWER.

## NAISH'S NOTES

Not much to report this month. Most of my time is taken up in the lambing shed! It's not true what they say about counting sheep to get you to sleep - it's forgetting about the blooming things that does it!

The New Year started off well! We were plagued by an army of ants everywhere and there are still an odd one or two left just to annoy us.

It's lovely to see the snowdrops out early this year.

Big Ed who is not to be outdone is to be seen in her shiny new car! I'll have to polish mine now!

The village dance held in January was really good fun!! The three-fingered typist and I are very nearly "Come Dancing" standard at the Valeta, even if we weren't going the same way as everyone else. Is there anyone out there willing to give lessons to the few of us wishing to learn a few legal steps before the next dance?

Barbara (up the shop) raffled a large box of chocolates for Children in Need and raised £21 -50p. Well done to her.

Our district councillor Mr JOPP was quoted in the Clevedon Mercury as saying that the proposed weight restrictions for lorries through Yatton or Kenn was **marginal**. How does he know when to date neither he, nor Cllr CUMMINGS have asked anyone that might be affected in Kenn their opinions.

Sheila

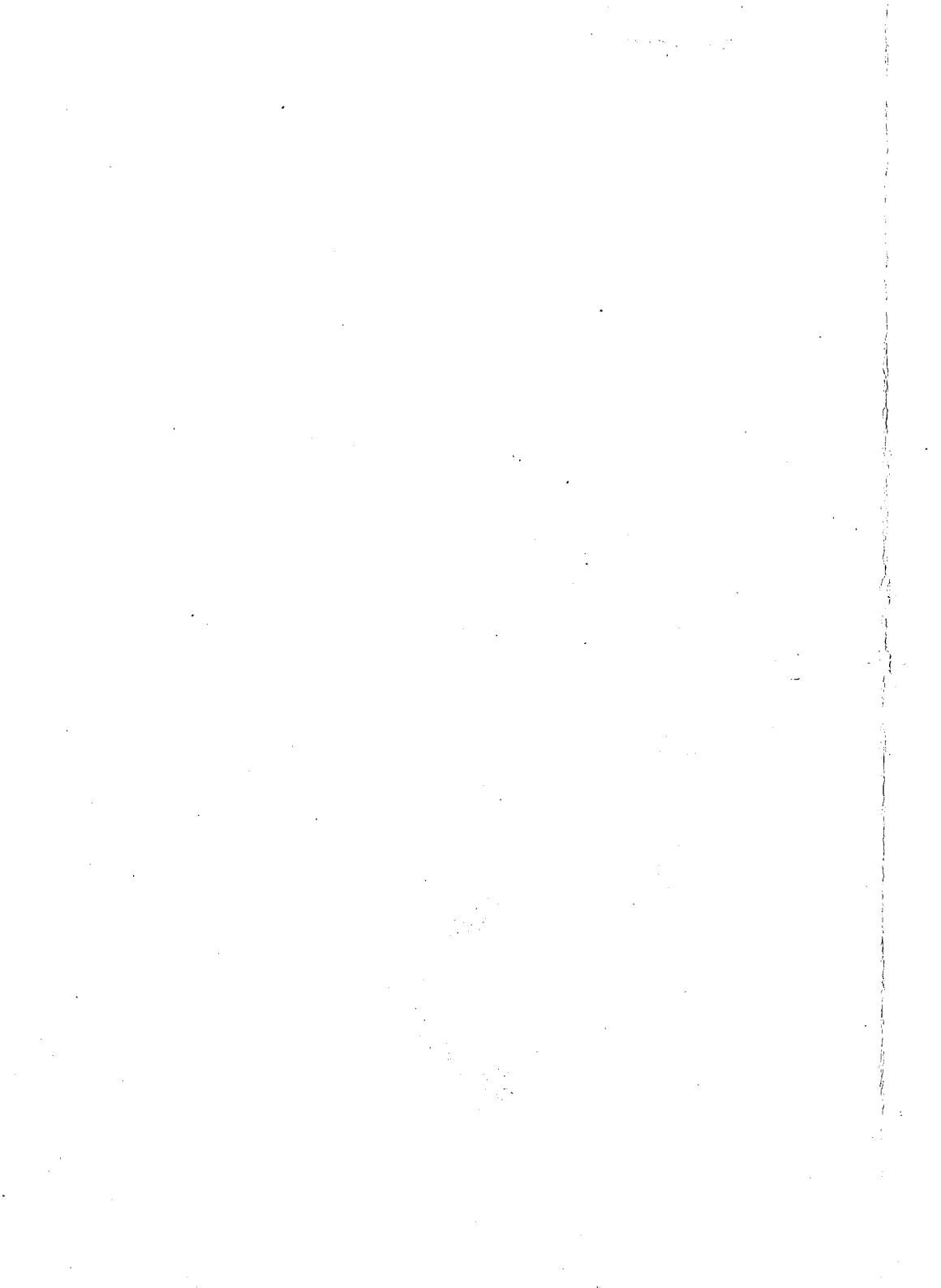
## XMAS PUNCH RESULTS

Congratulations to the STOWELL household (Bowell strain's Just ol' wellie) on their list of correct ingredients which was the first drawn from Elbert's old hat, and wins them a tree of their choice.

To the five other entrants also correct in their answers: Brenda and David GLASSON, Kate DENMEAD (AKA demented), James and Jo STAPLES, James and Duncan MACKAY and JENKINS rabble (Ah tis Kenn hejer) the choice of a shrub or a dozen primulas for their gardens.

Well done

Please give Elbert a ring on 878782.



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died aged 1 day. The vicar who performed the ceremony was the Reverend Thomas WICKHAM who was Vicar of Yatton, also in charge of the Parish of Kenn. This village had no vicar of its own until 1846 when the Reverend Cartright was given the title Perpetual Curate of Kenn. He only stayed one year before the Reverend John ACRES was put in charge in 1847. During this time the Revd. ACRES had the church rebuilt from the window-sills up in about 1860.

From the time the first entry was made in 1813 until the last one which was to record the burial of Ada May BEES on 20th August 1992 aged 59 years there had been 726 entries in the register. The last entry the Revd. Thomas WICKHAM made was on March 15th 1829, recording the burial of Edwin DENMEAD aged 1 year. In the 16 years he was in charge of this village there were 64 burials, of

which 41 were of young people under the age of 22 years. Most of them were 1 year or under - what sadness there was in Kenn in those far off days.

A few people lived to great age. Mary JENNINGS died in 1822 aged 92 years and Celia WALL died in 1827 aged 94. During these 16 years Revd. WICKHAM conducted the funerals of 7 members of the DENMEAD family, 6 of them under 2 years of age. The two oldest ladies recorded in the register in all those years are Harriet LAURIE who died in 1903 aged 97 and Edith Maud WESTON in 1981 aged 96. The two oldest men recorded are father and son, William STAPLES in 1908 aged 92 and John STAPLES in 1937 aged 91; Except Reginald RAWLINGS who died in 1983 aged 94 who was born in Kenn but lived in Clevedon at the time of his death. It is doubtful if anyone in Kenn has ever reached 100 years of age.

There is an entry of the burial of Ann STOCK in 1890 aged 84. I believe this is the lady known as GRANNY STOCK who the old people used to talk about many years ago as having witnessed the Kenn hangings of three Kenn men for rick-firing in 1830. The hangings took place in a field called 7 acres in Kenn Street. She was a young woman at the time and saw what happened from her cottage window. The cottage was 'Meadowside' opposite 7 acres, now the home of Graham and Grace MENEAR.

Thankfully since 1950 there have been only 3 deaths of people under 22 - two aged 17 and 19 as the result of car accidents and one baby aged 8 months.

Better health care and housing have meant that children have an almost 100% chance of survival in modern times. Looking through this register, it is very noticeable that most people have lived to a good age since 1930.

