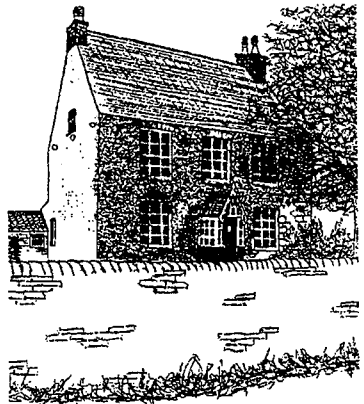


KENN NEWS AND VIEWS



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ISSUE 68

MARCH 1994



Printer :- Margaret STOWELL

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MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORS

Snippets has been away, the three-fingered typist likewise, Little Ed is in her lambing shed and Medium Ed (thank you Richard, you're a friend for life) has not heard anything of note for inclusion in the March mag.

Let's see if we can make April's mag an all time bumper issue. Get scribbling now with your news.

Kate and Sheila

DEADLINE FOR APRIL ISSUE

20th MARCH

BIRTHDAYS

- 5th - Leon NAISH
- 8th - Jeremy OSBOURNE
- 16th - Angie (Jet Garage) CARPENTER
- 17th - Lee STAPLES
- 18th - Quinton STOWELL
- 27th - Amy BYE.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

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

NAISH'S NOTES

Our good wishes for a speedy recovery to Mr Ivor YOUDE who has recently undergone an eye operation.

Our non-smokers are still non-smokers. What will power you all have.

Have you heard about the lady who went to an exercise class called "Bums, Tums and Thighs" and came away with a sore NECK!!

Nearly there. Some shrinking person is 40 soon, watch this space.

Kenn Valley Social Club are now serving roast Sunday lunches from 12 to 2pm at

very reasonable prices.

KENN W.I.

At the February meeting of the Kenn W.I. Mr MILLS and a colleague from the Avon and Somerset Cliff Rescue Team gave a fascinating talk on their work rescuing victims of accidents on the cliffs and rock faces of the area. Their work is entirely voluntary and members were struck by the modest bravery of the speakers. The competition for a flask was won by Mrs SURRIDGE, with Mrs HARRIS winning silver and Mrs INGS green.

Kenn is the hostess Institute at the Spring Group Meeting on the 23rd March. The speaker will be the Rev. Norman Martin on Malta and the competition will be for a lace handkerchief. Kenn's entry will be judged at the next meeting.

It is hoped to arrange flower arranging classes for the late spring and early summer. Names were taken of those interested. There is still room for more participants when final details are announced.

The Triennial General Meeting is to be held in Birmingham on 7 and 8th June. It could prove to be an expensive outing for the delegate and members felt that a two day meeting could prevent a great many people from volunteering as most people have family and work commitments. A letter to this effect will be sent to NFWI.

There will be a Jumble Sale in aid of funds on April 27th at 7pm.

At the next meeting there will be a speaker from Bristol Airport and the competition will be for a photo of Concorde.

Kenn is always delighted to welcome new members. We already have members who live in Kenn, Kingston Seymour, Yatton and Clevedon, so if you would be interested in coming along as a visitor to see how you like us please ring either the

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President, Mrs MANN (0275 871777) or the Secretary Mrs STOWELL (0275 872472) and they will arrange for someone to bring you along. Meetings are held in Kenn Village Hall on the second Wednesday of the month at 7-30pm.

CHURCH RESTORATION



The Committee of the Church restoration fund are to run an open gardens weekend during July. This is an excellent way to raise funds and we are inviting you to take part by allowing the public to enjoy your garden for two weekend afternoons. We shall need twelve in all and your co-operation would be appreciated. Names of those wishing to participate to Jim NOAD, Rose Cottage, Kern Road (Tel. 874078).

No press-ganging or mild threats need yet be used, but may be in the future.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Jim NOAD

MERLIN COMES TO KENN

No not that Merlin - not the magician, but a magical bird for me. It was one of the few calm days of the winter, early February and time to check the birds on

Kenn Moor.

A pair of MOORHENS was an encouraging start, this species seems to be recovering its numbers now, perhaps because the mink population has decreased. The woodland produced a couple of MISTLE THRUSHES engaged in early courtship and also a charming flock of LONG TAILED TITS. Scanning the moor and in particular the fence posts, I observed a small bird of prey perched upright on a gate. It was clearly not a KESTREL and it didn't look right for a SPARROWHAWK. After about 5 minutes it suddenly flew, and its dark colour, pointed wings and very rapid flight established that it was a female MERLIN. It sped away low across the moor and disappeared.

The MERLIN is a small falcon, about the same size as a KESTREL, which catches small birds in flight. They nest on heather covered uplands, but some continental birds migrate to Britain during winter. This was my first MERLIN record at Kenn Moor for ten years so I was well pleased.

Moving on a sizeable CHAFFINCH flock (at least 70 birds) were feeding on seeds from cattle feed. There were REDWINGS, STARLINGS, MEADOW PIPITS as well. No doubt it was this concentration which had attracted the MERLIN.

A BUZZARD was chased by a pair of CROWS, and with a nice party of PIED WAGTAILS, more REDWINGS and some FIELDFARES it had been a very rewarding morning.

Trevor RIDDLE

DUNNOCKS - A POSTSCRIPT

The New Atlas of Breeding Birds in Britain 1988-1991 has just been published.

The DUNNOCK population is thought to have fallen only slightly since 1972 (the

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date of the previous survey) and is now estimated at around 2.5 million birds.

It was found breeding in 2317 10km grid squares, was present in a further 194 squares and was not found in the remaining 209 squares.

Trevor RIDDLE

MR ERNEST WILKINS

Mr Ernest WILKINS, a past resident of Kenn, died in Weston General Hospital recently.

Between 1964 and 1984 Mr WILKINS lived in a caravan at Pear Tree House, Duck Lane but for the last 10 years had lived in a flat in Yatton.

Those people who knew of him and remember him cycling around the village, will have known that he was totally deaf and one had difficulty in understanding his speech, although he was very knowledgeable.

He was a loner and always wished to be that way having no relatives whatsoever.

Every week since leaving Kenn he came back to the village shop to collect his pension and to pay his rent etc. Barbara was very patient and could communicate with him quite well.

His funeral took place on February 8th at Weston Crematorium and was attended by Revd. John CRUSE, Barbara MIDDLETON, Juliet STOWELL, Philip WILSON and ourselves.

Gladys, Kate & Roger DENMEAD.

QUIZ NIGHT

A new Quiz Night has been started weekly on Saturday nights at the Prince of Orange, Yatton. There is a £1 entry fee and £10 first prize at stake. There is also an accumulator prize which this week stands at £33. Just come along at 8-30pm to enter either individually or as a team.

FUN TIME

Q: What does an insomniac, agnostic dyslexic do?

A: Lies awake all night wondering if there is a dog.

TEA AND CHAT

This month Tea and Chat will be held on Wednesday afternoon the 2nd of March from 2-30 to 4pm at 6 Kenn Estate, the home of Claire LEAMAN.

Everyone is welcome for an informal afternoon with the vicar.

KENN HISTORY GROUP

The February meeting had to be cancelled at the last minute because of a heavy fall of snow and it was decided not to hold a meeting this month due to other commitments.

Unfortunately Mrs Christine MALLET, ex school teacher at Kenn School 1936 to 42, has not been well since Christmas and does not feel able to come to our March Meeting. She does, however, feel she would like to come when the weather is warmer and we will try to arrange this and announce the date later on.

We have received some interesting responses to the questionnaire sent out regarding the older properties in Kenn and shall be pleased to receive more information before our next meeting on Monday March 14th at 7-30pm as we shall be looking at the details received so

CONSIDERING PRIVATE HEALTH COVER?

For more information and advice contact:

Simon Pascoe
Health Care Adviser

BUPA 

0275- 878451

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far. We will try to pass on more of this information in future issues.

Grace GRIFFIN

RAY'S REVIEW

Due to lack of support there was no event to celebrate the New Year in Kenn this year. This is a great pity because there had been a party or entertainment of some sort every year probably all this century, perhaps even longer, except in wartime. When the last war finished the late Mrs Hilda BYE of Kenn Pier Farm revived the Kenn New Year Party with great success and it had continued until this year. It is not the fault of the Village Party Committee who have worked very hard to keep it going. Two years ago the party was very poorly attended and last year the committee decided to change the type of party to a traditional dance to see if it would attract more village people, but the result was much the same, a very poor attendance. The committee has decided it is not worth their effort to continue to try and provide a New Year entertainment. They have taken this decision with great regret, perhaps next year another group of people would like to have a try to see if they can attract better support.

CHURCH CHOIR

Readers may remember in Kenn News and Views several months ago I listed the names of the men and boys who were in the Church Choir when I joined in 1933. One of these ex-choir boys got to hear of this, his name is Henry TUCKER and he lives near Reading.

A few weeks later he unexpectedly came to the farm to see me. He is retired now. We hadn't seen each other since before he was called into the Royal Marines at the beginning of the last war in 1939. I recognised him immediately and we had a great time recalling old times. Sadly by some mistake his name didn't get printed in the magazine, only his brother's name,

Herbert TUCKER. I had to explain this to him and he was pleased to take a copy back to show his wife. When he and his family lived in Kenn, they lived in one of the old cottages that have been pulled down; these were situated between the top of Kenn Street and Tripp-

Robbins petrol pumps.

KENN BIRDS

I have noticed some interesting birds around lately. One evening around Christmas time I heard partridges calling each other in the field behind the farm and a few days later I saw a pair running around. This is the first time I have seen partridges in Kenn for many years; I hope they don't get shot and have a chance to breed this coming year.

This morning, February 23rd, a pair of pheasants were feeding in the paddock behind our house. One of them was pure white, the first I have ever seen in the wild.

WINTER ON THE MOORS

Have you noticed how free from flooding the moors were kept this year in spite of one of the wettest winters ever known. Without the modern drainage system based on the new River Kenn, which you cross as you enter from Clevedon, the moors from Yatton to Tickenham would have been flooded to a depth of at least a yard, with the roads impassable in many places. Also there has been no flooding in Kenn Street near Yew Tree Farm; years ago the flood water there was often too deep to walk through without wearing wellington boots. In contrast Russ Pond is so full it is overflowing its banks, I don't remember it so full before.

Ray NAISH



