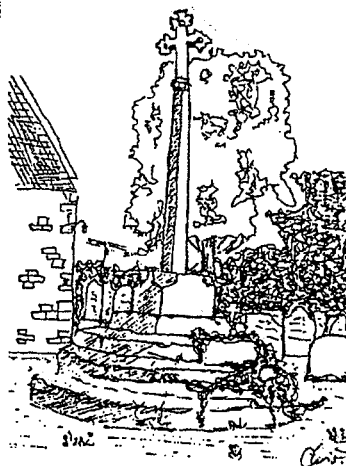


KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

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KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORS

Now that Christopher DENMEAD has moved to Radstock with his new job, we are totally without an artist to provide our magazine covers. Our three-fingered typist has been doing a marvellous job with his scanning equipment, but anyone who would like to submit a cover from time to time - or even more regularly - is more than welcome to send their artwork to us. Seasonal drawings are always particularly welcome.

To help in the layout of the cover the drawings should be about 7" (or 18cm for the metricated) square.

Kate and Sheila

BIRTHDAYS

- 1st - Hartley STAPLES
- 10th - Jill BUTLAND
- 10th - Jayne MORRIS
- 20th - Harrison FLOWER
- 22nd - Duncan MACKAY
- 26th - Jane STAPLES
- 26th - Brian STOWELL
- 28th - Sally WHITE (nee TAYLOR)
- 29th - Trina WILLOUGHBY
- 30th - Joanna BRAIN.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

- 5th - Sarah and Tom CLARKE.

NAISH'S NOTES

Lambing has nearly finished for us now, thank goodness. I cannot remember such awful weather in April. Easter was dreadful! Walking round our fields in yet another hailstorm drenched for the umpteenth time, I decided that if I come back in another life, I will NOT be a farmer's wife.

I wondered why it is that sheep from their outset in life are instilled with a death wish!! (Typist's note: We have a reply later in the magazine on this

contentious issue) They do their very utmost to commit Hari-kari at every opportunity. And why do they have the ability to make their keepers mutter, cuss and have temper fits just as someone walks past the hedge on the other side giving you funny looks as if you're not all there!!!

Anyway I enjoy it really and when the sun is out (did God hear my prayers after all?) and the lambs are skipping about, there is no better sight.

TEENAGER TO LET

I have just returned from a visit to the hairdresser with what was advertised as a soft perm, congratulating myself on looking semi normal again to be told by No 1 that I looked like Daniel's dog!!! (a standard poodle). When said son returns from hospital he's looking for lodgings.

THANK YOU

Thank you to Ray for revealing that quist are wood-pigeons. Now I know.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

We have had unwelcome visitors in the village once again. Please be vigilant and report any suspicious cars or people.

RECIPE BOOK

Marianna and Robin MACKAY are looking for unusual or local recipes for a cookery leaflet which will be sold in aid of Church funds at the Open Gardens Festival. Please deliver quickly to Church Path Cottages.

DIARY DATE

July 16th Oakland Farm. BBQ and disco.

MIDSUMMER MADNESS is just a little later this year.

Be there!!

WELCOMES

We are pleased to welcome two new families to Kenn. Suzanne and Clive GOLDING-ELLIS and their daughters

KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

Katie and Emily have come to live at Pear Tree Cottage, Duck Lane. Their new neighbours in Merlin Cottage are Jonathon and Vicky FISHER.

We wish our newcomers happiness in their new homes and look forward to meeting them at village events.

Gladys DENMEAD

SNIPPETS

- April 9th. Our flag was flown to welcome Jack Freddie baby son of Paul and Rebecca BRETT and a first grandson for Mr and Mrs Fred FENWICK.
- April 21st. Our flag was flown to celebrate the birthday of Her Majesty, our Queen.
- April 23rd. St. George's flag was flown to celebrate St. George's Day.

PRIZEWINNER

Lady Luck smiled on Mrs Jean FENWICK when she was lucky in the weekly raffle organised by Gloucestershire Cricket Club. The ticket was sold at Kenn Post Office Stores.

LONDON MARATHON

Kenn was represented by John MEEK who completed the run in 2 hours 50mins. Sponsorship in aid of the Multiple Sclerosis Unit at Nailsea raised about £120.

BRITAIN IN BLOOM

We are grateful to Robin MACKAY for the gift of a frame for the certificate we won in the 1993 competition. It is now hanging in the village hall.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Thursday May 5th. Floral Arrangement Class. 7-30pm.
- Wednesday May 11th. Women's Institute Members Social Evening. 7-30.

KATE'S 40TH

Thank you to all friends in Kenn who sent cards and best wishes for my "life begins at" birthday. I had a super day (even with the posters and photos that adorned the locality). The family and many friends enjoyed a party at Kenn Village Hall, which as always was the perfect venue for a cosy, friendly get-together. Many friends from Clevedon had never visited Kenn before and all said what a delightful place the hall is.

Thanks again.

Kate

KENN W.I.

At the April meeting of Kenn WI Mrs FLUX entranced members with a talk and display on Faberge eggs. So much skill and time had gone into this fascinating craft work. Mrs FLUX was very warmly thanked. The competition which was for a powder compact was won by Mrs CRAWLEY, with Mrs SIMS, silver and Mrs ALDRICK, green.

Mrs JACKSON gave a report on the Spring Group Meeting held at Kenn, which was judged a success. The next Group Meeting will be held in November and the competition will be for a willow pattern in blue and white in any craft medium, size 10"x6". Entrants have got time to make their contributions.

There will be no delegate to the Triennial General Meeting in Birmingham as no member was able to go to a two day meeting owing to family or work commitments. The cost of the two day meeting would be too much for the Institute to pay and it would not have been reasonable to ask a member to pay her own overnight expenses. It has been pointed out to the committee that it will cost £40 to exercise a proxy vote on the resolutions. It has not been decided whether or not to purchase a proxy vote. The resolutions this year deal with organ

KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

transplants, legal aid and pornography.

Kenn has entered the Britain in Bloom competition and the Best Kept Village competition. The WI will help with the effort. One suggestion is that a small garden be made around the village sign.

There are several dates for the diary. These include:

- 22nd June - Mystery Tour
- September 1st - Day trip to Hereford
- 21st September - Day trip to Greenwich.

Arrangements were made for the Jumble Sale on April 27th at 7pm. The May meeting will be a members evening and the competition will be for a musical box.

BEST KEPT VILLAGE AND BRITAIN IN BLOOM COMPETITIONS

Once again Kenn is entering the above competitions. 1993 was our first attempt at the Britain in Bloom competition and we were awarded a Mary Mortimer Certificate. A case of first time lucky probably, but with plans for a Garden Day there should be plenty of flowers this year.

The two competitions are being judged at roughly the same time - June till September. Mrs DYER and Mrs INGS are organising the poster and written competitions for the children. The emphasis in the Best Kept Village competition is on the absence of litter and this year we are fortunate in being able to draw up a roster of people who have very generously offered to keep a section of village litter free. The offers so far are:

Oakland Farm to Treetops - Mrs Sheila NAISH

Treetops to Russ Lane - the RUSSELL

family

Kenn Court buildings to Bus shelter - the DYER family

Painting the seat on the Green - the MACKAY family

Bus shelter - Mr Jack HANSON

Verges from Kenn St. to Post Office - Mr Hartley STAPLES

Orchard House to Top of Motorway bridge - Mrs Irene STOWELL

Top of bridge to Garage - Mr P NEILL

Kenn Pier area - Mrs OLSEN and neighbours

Duck Lane - the GRIFFIN family and helpers.

If any reader feels that they are able to help the 'volunteers' or undertake a patch of their own, please contact the person concerned or Mrs DYER. Just picking up litter outside your own house will be a great help.

Unfortunately Mrs BURSTOW feels that she is unable to attend to the tubs on the village green this year. We are very grateful to her for what she has done in past years and send her our best wishes. If there is someone out there who would like to take them on - many thanks.

The Parish Council is hoping that the Football Club and the Equestrian Centre can be persuaded to take on Davis Lane. We shall ask them anyway.

It is hoped to thin out the daffodils on the Green in order to keep them blooming well. Any spare bulbs will be available to beautify other parts of the village. Some will certainly go to Kenn Pier.

All that is required now is lots of lovely sunshine so that the village really looks its very best.



15:00 sheep racing programme. Auction for owner of entrants for the first race and a tote for the punters.

15:15 There off! for the first race of the day.

+ 4 Races

16:30 (approx) Last race will be the TIN MISSION CUP Chase.

16:30 Tug of War starts including Ladies! and Junior teams competing.

18:00 Presentation of trophies and certificates.

COW PAT II

Date: June 25th.
Time: 12:30.
Venue: Kenn Village Hall.

Programme in proposed events:

12:30 Village Hall opens for hot lunches, and Name the Cow competition.

13:00 COW PAT TAVERN & village stalls opens.

13:30 Village Fair Events start, events include:
Milk the Cow (Championship event).
Welly Throwing (Championship event).
Target Golf (Championship event).
Lift the Bale (Championship event).
Pony Rides (just for fun).

14:20 Winner of Name the cow competition.

14:30 Fingers crossed for your Square, as the cow enters the field.

15:00 Sheep racing programme. Auction for owner of entrants



KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

BAA BAA KENN SHEEP

Dear Eds, Big and Little,

I recently attended the nativity of yet another little addition to the Kern menagerie - in short, a lambing. Both the little dears were dragged from their mother and quickly slapped into life. Shortly afterwards I happened upon a sadder occasion; one of the lambs was being dragged from a ditch in which it had found a rest from the trials and tribulations of life.

This set me a-wondering. Why is it that sheep, not renowned for their sense and stability anyway, should spend their first few months on this earth apparently trying to get off it again as quickly as possible? Thinking back to the lambing, I believe I have the answer. The amount of effings and blinding that an average sheep hears in the first few precious seconds of its life is surely what scars members of the ovine species for the rest of their short life span. I cite Professor Morton J THROCKMORTON's excellent "Some aspects of Sheep Psychology" in which the good doctor concludes that out of a random sample of 8 000 sheep that answered his questionnaire, the most stable by far were those born without human assistance. (Sadly this fine work has, to date, not been published.)

Surely the answer, which I trust you will convey to the members of the farming community amongst your readership, is to remove the violence and bad language from the lambing process, rather as the current government is attempting to do in its current campaign against 'video nasties'. Spot checks by Min of Ag officials would soon ensure that the words "get out of there you b**** little b****, ***** you, ***** it," would be a thing of the past. Instead special birthing centres could be set up - making valuable use of set-aside land - in which sheep would be prepared for

the trauma of birth by skilful use of incense and tapes of whales mating. A possible new use for those old sheep-dip tanks would be to give those sheep that wanted this particular option the gentle relaxation of a water birth. When the moment of labour finally arrives, a quick epidural should solve all remaining traumas.

By means such as these, with the addition of special "sheep surgeons" on hand in case anything went wrong, it could be hoped that, in time, a new breed of sheep, calmer, more relaxed and friendly might soon arise. Instead of suicidal maniacs jumping hysterically into every ditch, drop or rhine around, whilst running away from everything that moves and an amazing amount of things that don't (I've seen sheep run away from bushes, strange pieces of grass, normal pieces of grass and, occasionally, themselves) we would have happy intellectual sheep in a newly formed Democratic Republic of Sheep. Why, sheep could even be given the vote. Sorry, my apologies, that's happened already, hasn't it?

So go on, farmers, give it a go. Next time a sheep's uterus grips your hand in a vice, or a well-placed hoof catches you where it oughtn't, try restricting yourself to "Oh drat, deary me, that wasn't very nice was it?"

Let's build the Republic of Sheep together!

Yours faithfully,

Larry the Lamb, Somewhere in Kern.

OAK APPLE DAY

The 29th of May is Oak Apple Day. How about all the readers of News and Views reviving the very old custom of wearing an oak apple in their button hole on that day? If you can't find an oak-apple a spray of oak leaves will do.

When I was a pupil at Kern School if you

KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

didn't have some oak leaves on your coat when you went to school on that morning the older boys stung your legs with stinging nettles. You have been warned.

TEA AND CHAT

Mrs Ruth DYER is the hostess for Tea and Chat on Thursday 5th May. It will be held in her home, Kenn Court, from 2-30 to 4pm.

All are welcome.

APRIL FUN

Very many thanks to everyone who contributed in any way to the April Fun Event for the Childrens Society and especially to Barbara Middleton for organising the Easter Egg Raffle in the shop.

The total raised was £91-15 and this has been sent to the Childrens Society.

Wendy PAPASOLOMONTOS

KENN HISTORY GROUP

Our meeting on Monday 18th of April was mainly to discuss our summer programme. It was decided we would be taking some more walks of interest in and around Kenn, with Ray as our very knowledgeable guide. The first one will be on Wednesday 25th May; we meet at Stonehouse Farm at 7pm to walk the old "Roman Road" from the moors. The next will be on June 20th to Kingston Seymour sea wall.

We also looked at copies of the deeds of Dahlia Cottage, given to us by Mr Howard WATKINS and were interested to learn among its history that it has been the village blacksmith, probably until the beginning of this century.

We are still hoping to get Mrs Christine MALLETT (Kenn teacher, 1936-42) to visit us, but unfortunately she has not been well this winter, has had an eye operation and is due to go in for an

operation on her knees in May., so we don't think she will be fit enough to come until July.

Congratulations to Andrew JENKINS, our youngest member, who has gained his local history badge at cubs; he had to write about Kenn Church, draw a map of Kenn and interview an old resident of Kenn (his grandfather). Not many boys have got this badge - well done Andrew!

We hope to see as many as possible on the walk to the old roman road on Wednesday May 25th at Stonehouse Farm, 7pm. We always see and learn many things of interest.

TROUBLE IN A RAY NAISH FIELD.

Rumours spread like wildfire, so I'm going to add some fuel to this one.

"Just when you thought it was safe to go back, THE COW PAT PARTY returns to a field near you."

COW PAT II - The splodge, June 25th.

And if that's not bad enough, a spokesman from the Restoration Committee has admitted that excessive amounts of fun, laughter and entertainment will be on offer for you and your friends.

Hopefully the above has now got your undivided attention, so let's fill in the facts to this wild rumour.

- **Fact 1** - COW PAT II is scheduled for the 25th June.
- **Fact 2** - The Ray NAISH racing stables will be providing suitable candidates (sheep) for a full afternoon's racing programme including the KENN TIN MISSION CUP for 2 years olds; sheep that is.
- **Fact 3** - Arnold SCHWARZANEGGER and the CHIPPENDALES will not be competing in the mighty TUG OF WAR contest but last

KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

year's defending champions will be on hand for autographs and may even retain the trophy against some very stiff opposition.

- **Fact 4** - Iris GOLDWORTHY's enchanting creations will be on sale amongst the many stalls at this mini (well Kenn is after all only a small hamlet) VILLAGE FAIR.
- **Fact 5** - Yes you can treat mum and family to a lunch at the all new KVH cafe (Kenn Village Hall, sorry about the acronym) open for your gastronomic indulgence. Special offers are the order of the day with 1 for the price of 2 (catering for those of a more generous nature).
- **Fact 6** - The COW PAT TAVERN returns with a new landlord and an immense (considerably larger than last year) range of guest beers for your crapulence and perusal.
- **Fact 7** - You'll need to be fit if you're going to last out the afternoon.

So if it's a sensible Saturday in June you're looking for, don't come to COW PAT II.

See you there!

Heather JENKINS

TYPIST'S NOTE

The programme for COW PAT II is given on the last page.

DENNIS VICTOR SHARP

Dennis, or SHARPY as he was generally known, died suddenly recently.

Although he was a Clevedonian, he spent a large part of his time in Kenn and was known by a great many people; a very familiar figure driving around the village in his three wheeler car.

Sharpy was a great character whose daily

routine went something like this:

First thing in the morning he visited the amenity tip in Strode Road, searched through the refuse to see if he could find anything worth selling. He would take orders and generally found the items required.

One of his best finds was a set of artificial gold teeth, another a naked blow up rubber lady - people were aghast when they saw him driving around with her in his car, thinking it was real.

At ten am prompt he arrived at Stowell Concrete to have a game of cards with the workers during their morning break. He then moved off to have a chat with people around the village, spending a long time at the Post Office keeping Barbara up to date with the news.

About midday he made his way to the Drum and Monkey, played cards and chatted to the other customers until about three o'clock, when he made his way back to his flat in Clevedon.

I was at Highdale School in Clevedon at the same time as Dennis and remember him as a good footballer. After leaving school he got a job at Clevedon brick yard where men were paid on piece-work; he once told me how many hundreds of bricks he had to get out of the kilns to earn two shillings (10p in today's money).

At the outbreak of war in 1939 he joined the Royal Navy. After the war he worked for many years at Hales Cakes in Clevedon, staying there until the factory closed.

Dennis came from a very large family who were brought up by their parents who earned very small wages, much of the time less than £2 per week.

He was one of those people who will never be replaced. He was only 69 years of age. At his funeral at Weston Crematorium so many people attended there

KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

was standing room only.

QUISTS

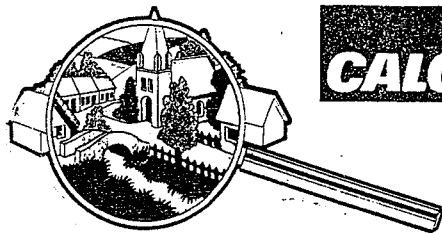
I was interested to read in last month's News and Views that a reader had spotted a pair of quists in his orchard. Quist is an old Somerset name for wood pigeons.

There are so many local names for birds.

Here are a few: What are a SCUTTY, a STORM COCK or a YAFFLE? There are two kinds of birds whose local names start with screech. Please write in to next month's News and Views if you know the answers.

The first pair of swallows have arrived at Stonehouse Farm this morning, April 22nd - much later than usual.

Ray NAISH



CALOR

**RURAL SPONSORSHIP
PROGRAMME**

in association with



BEST KEPT VILLAGE - POSTER AND ESSAY COMPETITION

This year the theme is ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF TRAVEL, now and in the 21st C. - to school, to work, for shopping, visits to relatives, holiday trips etc. Trains, buses, cycles, tandems, ponies, donkey carts, even balloons can find a place on posters, essays or poems.

As well as looking at means of travel without the car, children may care to give thought to footpaths, cycle tracks, bridleways in, or near to the village. If these are inadequate, are there any suggestions for improvements.

There are two classes run by Calor and CPRE:

1. Aged 8 and under: and 2. Aged 9 and over on 15.7.94

As usual in addition to these, KENN PARISH COUNCIL is awarding money prizes in three age groups:-

1. Aged 4 to 7 years; 2. Aged 8 to 12 years; and 3. Aged 13 to 16 years. All on 15.7.94

So entries from children living in Kenn will be competing in two competitions.

Entries on A4 paper please with NAME, AGE, SCHOOL on back of each entry. (Any medium for the posters.) Please send your entries to Mrs DYER, Kenn Court by 31st May 1994.