

KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

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MESSAGE FROM THE TYPIST

The world is not what it was. Prisoners store explosives in jail and Middle Ed has let me do the Message again.

Firstly then, the regulation moan; I have still had no pictures for the front of the magazine. Surely someone can draw?

Secondly something more positive; the Fun Run was a tremendous success again and everyone seemed to enjoy it. Even the weather held dry for long enough to finish the programme. This village has a wonderful tradition of charity fundraising - let's continue with more of the same.

BIRTHDAYS

- 3rd - Gill TAYLOR
- 4th - Roland HAZELL
- 6th - Daniel QUINN
- 16th - Cheryl QUINN
- 10th - Alison nee FENWICK
- 15th - Vanessa NAISH
- 25th - Melanie FARLEY
- 26th - Justin NAISH

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

- 12th Dave & Sue PUGH

Belated congratulations to Hartley and Jane STAPLES for their Pearl Wedding Anniversary on the 29th August.

NAISH'S NOTES

This year's Fun Run was won in the fastest time yet, 16 min 17 secs, by Jon MEEK who lives in the village. The first under 16 years competitor home was Tim TAYLOR in his own record time of 20 mins 48 secs. Well done to both of them who received the Stowell Concrete and South West Tyres shields respectively.

The one mile village romp was won by Ian PLETTS in 7 min 28 secs. and the first girl back was Rebecca SOUTHWICK in

11 min 33 s. Both our prize runners received boxes of chocolates for their efforts. Special mention to our youngest serious one miler, Joshua MIDDLETON who easily beat his father in a time of 18 min 48s.

The three mile times are listed below:

1. Jon MEEK 16.17; 2 Kim HAZELDENE 17.15; 3 Mike JAMES 17.16; 4 Mike GRAY 18.12; 5 Julian WILLCOX 18.45; 6 Nelson KNIGHT 18.54; 7 Mark CORNISH 20.25; 8 Tim TAYLOR 20.48; 9 Jeff NAISH 20.58; 10 (joint) Duncan MACKAY, David Hearn 22.09; 12 Robert BULLOCK 22.54; 13 Bob ATKINSON 23.07; 14 Bob NELSON 23.37; 15 Clive JOLDING-ELLIS; 16 John GEORGE 24.12; 17 Miles NAISH 24.47; 18 Mike HAMPTON 25.09; 19 Gary LEE 25.35; 20 Roger JENKINS 26.10; 21 Robert BERRY 26.14; 22 Julie NELSON 26.18; 23 Trudy FENEY 26.52; 24 Charlotte GEORGE 27.18; 25 Honey GEORGE 27.21; 26 Leon NAISH 27.23; 27 (joint) Alison BURNETT, Pat WEIR 28.22; 29 Sandra KNIGHT 28.33; 30 Lee MASON 29.00; 31 Jacqueline CURLWOOD 31.34; 32 Richard WEBBER 31.? sorry; 33 Peter WOODS 31.53; 34 Sam DOWNS 32.15; 35 Barbara DIXON 33.58; 36 Andrew JENKINS 36.13; 37 Brian TYRELL & Glyn LEE, our Leprecaun entrants, 37.50; 39 (joint) Roger WILLCOX and Karen NEATH, our St. Trinians girl, 37.55; 41 Matthew KNIGHT 40.01; **LAST but not LEAST** Mr and Mrs B WOODS and dog, Mrs Heather JENKINS 47.40.

Little Ed was so sorry that Terry MAMVILLE who usually runs in fancy dress with Brian TYRELL had a very badly injured foot and was unable to run this year but was very pleased that the injury cleared up for him by the Monday. Never mind Terry! Next year beckons -- and what was your bowling score then?

The total money raised to date is £785. Would anyone with amounts outstanding get them to Simon PASCOE as rapidly as possible. Well done to everyone who ran,

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played and enjoyed themselves on the day.

WORLD SCOUTER

Daniel QUINN has been chosen to represent this area in the 18th World Jamboree 1995 in the Netherlands. The contingent from Avon consists of 36 young people. Daniel's name was put forward by the leaders at Cleve, Claverham and Yatton troop. He then went before a selection panel and was chosen as one of the three to represent this area. This is a very great honour, WELL DONE Daniel.

CONGRATULATIONS

Many congratulations to Stuart and Hilary GARMESTER on the arrival of their first child, Tobias, born on 30th July.

SNIPPETS

Congratulations to Mr WATKINS of Dahlia Cottage who celebrated his eightieth birthday on September 10th.

Our flag was flown in celebration.

RUBY WEDDING

Belated best wishes to Mr and Mrs John STOWELL on their Ruby Wedding on the 26th August.

PRIZEWINNER

At the Michaelmas Fayre held at Winscombe, Mr Roland HAZELL, our well-known expert on bee-keeping won:

SECOND prize for mead

THIRD prize for honey comb.

Congratulations.

QUIZ

The next quiz night will be on October 15th in aid of Kenn Village Hall funds. Full details from Kate DENMEAD

DATES FOR THE DIARY

OCTOBER 12th. Kenn WI 7-30pm. Talk

on Multiple Sclerosis - members are invited to bake a cake to sell for MS funds.

OCTOBER 15th. Quiz. 8pm.

NOVEMBER 19th. Wine and Cheese Party. 8pm.

TOYS FOR ZAMBIA



The Jumble Sale to provide Toys for Zambia raised £141-31p - a magnificent total that will go a long way to buy toys for the children of the nursery school in Kabwe.

Very many thanks to all who donated jumble and helped on the day.

KENN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

There was cause for rejoicing at the September meeting of Kenn W.I. as three members are celebrating special wedding anniversaries. Mrs. Mann has had her Silver Wedding Anniversary, Mrs. Stowell, a Ruby Anniversary, and Mrs Aldrick a Golden Anniversary. All three were congratulated and presented with a gift and card signed by members. Mrs. Blake won two prizes for dressmaking at a Ploughing Match. Commiserations were sent to Mrs. Harris who has had an accident while playing croquet.

The subscription for 1995 will be £12 an increase of 40p. The Birthday Party will be held on 26th October and arrange-

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ments are already taking shape. The Group Meeting at Walton St. Mary is on 2nd November and members wishing to enter the competition for a craft article in blue and white are asked to bring it to the October meeting for judging.

A team will represent Kenn at the County Quiz on 5th October and at a Quiz in aid of the Village Hall on 15th October. The first match in the skittles tournament will take place on the 17th October.

Mrs. Joan Greenman gave a most interesting talk on the history of dolls and then showed members how she makes rag dolls in what is almost a cottage industry, as her dolls are much in demand. She was thanked by Mrs. I. Stowell. The competition for a hand knitted doll was won by Mrs. R. Jeffrey, gold, Mrs. T. Blake, silver, and Mrs. Milton, green.

The talk at the October meeting will be given by someone from the Meningitis Trust and the competition will be for cakes which will be sold in aid of the Trust.

KENN PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held in the Village Hall on Monday 3rd October at 7.30 p.m. All parishioners are welcome.

KENN FUN RUN

children's hospice 
SOUTH WEST

Dear Marianna, Robin and all at Kenn,

I just wanted to say how much fun yesterday's events were and say a big thank you to everyone involved for supporting Children's Hospice South West and giving us the chance to increase awareness about our charity in your area.

I know how much work goes into such

a day and we are very grateful to you all. Thank you for selecting us as this year's charity. I shall be in touch properly again soon.

Best wishes,

Jo.

CHURCH NEWS



CHURCH ROOF

Work on the roof of St. John's church, which we hoped would begin in August, has been delayed for a short while because the builder was unable to begin at the stated time. However, we expect the work to begin soon and take several weeks to complete, so we will be just about finished by New Year!

This does not mean, though, that we no longer need to raise funds. We have around two-thirds of the cost to hand but we still have to raise the rest. Yatton Moor Parochial Church Council, who are paying up-front for the work, and the village fund raising committee will still be grateful for contributions, and there will still need to be fund raising events next year.

As this year's activities on this front draw to a close, I would like to thank all those who have given their time and/or their money for the church roof fund. We

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hope that this remarkable effort - as Ray NAISH says, we are not weeks late in starting the work but three years early! - will help to cement the links between the church and the village even more.

Some people have passed on messages to say they would like me to visit them; I am always glad to meet people from the village for an informal chat or to discuss something on a deeper level if you so wish. If you are uncertain about how to contact me, I am usually taking the service at 11am on the first Wednesday of each month, and every first Thursday I am available in a parishioner's house or in the church in the afternoon - see details of time and place in "Kenn News and Views" each month. Or contact one of the churchwardens, Ray NAISH or Rene BELL, and they will pass your message on; or give me a ring on 0934 832776.

John CRUSE, Vicar

THANK YOU

Thank you to all the ladies that helped with the Harvest decorations at Kenn Church over the weekend of the 11th September, also to people that gave gifts.

Many people admired the decorations.

Thank you again.

Jean and Iris

ALTAR GUILD

October rota:

Mrs Kate DENMEAD and Mrs Heather JENKINS

HARVEST THANKS

From Mrs Gladys M. GRIFFIN

Dear Sheila,

Would you kindly add this letter to the village mag. The three grans did enjoy the morning Harvest Service and thank you for all the work that must have been

spent. With the lovely flower and fruit today kind Ray brought us a nice surprise of box of a bit of this and that.

We both thought the "Farmyard layout" was so well done by the children.

Kind regards

From the three Grans in Clevedon

TEA AND CHAT

This month the vicar, John CRUSE will be visiting the home of Mrs Jean NAISH, Stonehouse Farm, Kenn Street. There is an open invitation for anyone to join them from 2-30 to 4pm on Thursday 6th October.

KENN HISTORY GROUP

Although rain threatened to fall on the evening of August 16th, 7 cars arrived and parked by Hillsea Crossing adjacent to the Exeter-Bristol railway line, and about 25 people of all ages, joined Ray NAISH to explore the area of Lower Claverham called Hillsea. Nervously we opened the level-crossing gates to cross the railway track and could share in the farmers' worry of getting all their animals over before an express train travelling at over 120mph through Hillsea cutting, mowed them down. Passing this safely, we walked a little way up Mud Lane to enter the first field of exploration, which has been owned for the past 400 years by the Yatton Charitable Trust who collect the money and distribute it to the poor of Yatton. The Trust comprises the clergy and leading members of the local community and was set up after the land was donated for this use in the 16thC. As the present tenant of this grazing, Ray said that the building of the railway in the 19thC was a major factor in making the farming of this land so difficult, as Mud Lane is the only access and it necessitates driving stock, with great care, over this dangerous track.

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The gate to this nine and a half acre ground had been recently smashed down by a bull and was in need of replacement but the grass within was green and lush. This field had once had ten cattle fattening up on it, had been cut for hay and the animals still left there to feed as the grass grows so quickly. As trains continued to rush by with their din and clatter, Ray said that until quite recently the official route into this area of grazing had been an even smaller and more dangerous crossing, but with a considerable sum of money paid to the farmer by British Rail, a safer right of way had been established with a telephone link to the signal box.

Trevor RIDDLE showed us a sparrowhawk hunting its prey between the trees of the old established hedge while we were walking beside the Tannery Rhine. This rhine used to be red and very polluted during the days of the Claverham Tannery and there being no other source of water the stock had to drink it! As we came to the old wooden bridge straddling this water, we were shown a large boulder, smooth, rounded and sandy coloured, one of several to be found on these moors and thought to have been brought down by a glacier, the presence of which was confirmed by sediment found during the drainage excavations in Kenn.

Walking across the next field Ray told us with sadness that five generations of his family had owned this land, but that now he was having to sell it because of the dangers and isolation attached to farming this piece of land, which had felt neither plough nor chain harrow upon its turf. Stamping on this ground produces a hollow echo, reminding everyone that it is peat covering an underground lake - quite an eerie experience. Here water used to flood to a depth of three feet and the whole was an area of soft reeds gathered for bedding but now, with the drainage achieved by the cutting of the New River Yeo, a rich and lush grazing.

Ray remembers several occasions while still a young lad, being sent to look for the newborn calves to bring back to Stonehouse Farm with their mothers - once, after searching all day and finding only one twin in the tall reeds, tying the mother up and returning next morning to find both calves suckling happily. Another time, he had to get a particularly difficult and stupid calf to get back with its mother over that dangerous level crossing all the rest of the long way to the farm, and with a bicycle as well!

The long line of trees, of ash, alder and oak in their dark green summer mantle, growing around the edges of these fields are very ancient - probably the last remnants of the original woodland which used to cover the area. Fossilized trees are still dug up during ditching but quickly crumble to ashes on contact with air. Those still alive have their root systems above the surface of the soil - like the trees of mangrove swamps - escaping the worst of the flooding water. Their trunks are old and gnarled, yet polished smooth and shiny by innumerable cattle brushing against them. Here, under the protection of these tall hedges, the animals stay warm and dry in the depths of winter.

Then, at the rising incline, we were coming off peat and onto sandy soil - still a good combination producing more rich pasture land. Here too were badger setts and deep dry ditches similar to those at Stonehouse Farm. Just through the gate and around the corner, we were able to have a good look at Ox Barton where there was enclosed, covered shelter including cribbing to hold enough hay to feed cattle for several days. Today, it was standing neglected and unkempt - such a waste of an old tradition which could continue to be of use and benefit. We passed on old grey stone drinking pool set in the corner of the field by the gate bringing us out into Mud Lane again, and close by we stopped to admire

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another meadow whose grass used to produce a hay mow the size of a cathedral, an impressive sight in bygone days!

Up the lane, now reinforced with stone, we came at last to the field named Great Hillsea. Here was an Ox house, just a simple stone shelter and at the very top of the hill there was the Dew Pond, the high spot of our walk. This had been dug out and the steep, deep slopes of the hole smoothed with clay and allowed to harden in the sunshine. It then filled naturally with dew - a miraculous sight, one of many around these parts. We people of modern times and ways have lost so much expertise and experience in harnessing nature's resources and working with Earth's natural rhythms. From the vantage point, we could see the new housing estate in Yatton and stretching out on the other side side, the Common or Claverham Moor, but it was now very cold and bleak here - a great contrast to the warmth of the moorland below. Hurriedly we left, hoping that the disturbed mallards would soon return to their pond and with even greater nervousness crossed the railway track once more to the safety of our cars and made a speedy journey home in the gathering gloom.

KENN HISTORY GROUP II

The first meeting of this season will be on Monday 10th October at 7-30pm when we will discuss the programme for our meetings during the winter.

We are very pleased that we have now been able to make arrangements with Mrs Christine MALLET (Miss BOND) ex school teacher from Kenn School 1936-42 to come to Kenn on Saturday 15th October at 3pm to meet some of her pupils of that time with a photograph to be taken outside the school and afterwards tea and chat in the village hall.

We hope that as many of her pupils as possible will be able to come and meet her, making this a time to remember for

her as well as yourselves.

If you are able to attend please contact me :- Grace GRIFFIN on 0275 872948.

We are also hoping to have the Clevedon Mercury to make a report on this event.

ROMAN CORN DRYING KILN

Students from Reading University have uncovered the Roman corn drying kiln on Mead-moor in Kenn recently.

About thirty years ago the late Maurice CROSSMAN of Ham Farm, Yatton, noticed an unusual mound in one of his fields at Mead-moor. He informed the late Gray USHER who people may remember wrote a weekly column in the Clevedon Mercury with the heading "Spade and Plough". Gray, with his friend Mr SYKES who was a tobacconist in Station Road, Clevedon and Derek LILLY who was, and still is, very interested in local history went to the field and found this kiln only a few inches under the turf. They also found remains of grain that had been dried there.

The students there at present have done a much larger dig and have uncovered a much larger area showing the walls of the kiln and the drainage ditches used to keep the area free from water. They have also found pieces of grain and areas of charcoal which had been used to dry the corn. They are taking the grain back to Reading to try and establish what sort of grain it was that had been grown in those far off days.

I spent a very interesting hour with the diggers this afternoon, 20th September. I found that the kiln was constructed of stone tunnels through which the warm air had been drawn to dry the grain.

I was able to tell the students that in my opinion the stones used to form the kiln were Nailsea stones, mostly found at West End, about a mile from the site.

Perhaps it is not generally known that

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every stone that has ever been used for any purpose in Kern and Kingston has had to be brought here because there are no natural stones to be found in either village.

The Roman occupation of this area was about sixteen centuries ago, one wonders why they picked such a damp spot to construct their kiln. The students working there have had water seeping in when only digging about ten inches down. The site is very near the ancient Mead Moor Lane, an old road linking Yatton and Kern across the fields; it joins up with Duck Lane, Kern.

Ray NAISH