

KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

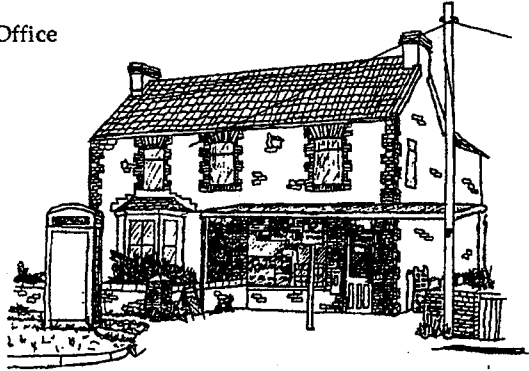
ISSUE 74

SEPTEMBER 1994

STOP PRESS

We can now pay our Council Tax and gas bills by cheque at Kern Post Office. This service is free.

Support your local Post Office



PICTURE OF THE MONTH

This is the best picture submitted by a reader in response to our pleas.

Could you do better?

EDITORS

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MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORS

After giving our three-fingered typist the lovely Blanche Carte last month, I note he has been missing for the last couple of weeks! So it's back to the old routine for yours truly at the Editor's desk.

On behalf of the rest of News and Views team can I thank Mrs DYER for organising a very pleasant coffee evening during August. The proceeds are divided between the Christmas Tree on the green and its lighting and gifts of gratitude for the Kenn News and Views production team. A considerable number of people attended the coffee party at Kenn Court on a beautiful summer's evening with croquet on the lawn for both physical and visual enjoyment - thanks to John GRIFFIN for bringing his croquet set. Thank you to everyone who attended or helped on the night.

Kate and Sheila

BIRTHDAYS

- 3rd - Mrs Irene RUSSELL
- 7th - Mr HOLTHAM
- 8th - Donald and Hilda STAPLES
- 10th - Howard WATKINS (80)
- 18th - Jean FENWICK
- 19th - Justine FLOWER
- 19th - Barbara (Drum and Monkey)
- 20th - Jessica QUINN
- 26th - Joanna STAPLES
- 28th - Heather JENKINS

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- 7th - Mike & Joan STEPHENS
- 24th - Dennis & Iris GOLDS-WORTHY
- 27th - Mark & Yvonne AYRES.

BELETED AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 7th - Jack HANSON
- 14th - Mrs Edith TRIPP

Apologies from Mrs Three-fingers who forgot to pass the message on.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations and good luck at the University of his choice to Julian WILCOX who passed all three of his exams.

Congratulations to all those in Kenn who have passed GCSEs and A levels. All the best for your futures.

RUBY MAPLE

I notice that the Ruby Maple on the village green is looking healthy and vigorous and we look forward to its Autumn colour very soon. The tree was planted last year to celebrate the Ruby Jubilee of Her Majesty, our Queen.

HRH LITTLE ED

Our diminutive Editor has been achieving one of her greatest ambitions (See later for one of Miles', Richard) and getting acquainted with the interior of Buckingham Palace. Thankfully none of the eligible batchelors periodically residing there spotted her (we need you here, Little Ed) so she promptly returned on the coach - not, unfortunately, horse drawn. BUT look out for particularly unusual, sparkling or gem-encrusted prizes in the Fun Run Raffle!!

NAISH'S NOTES

Yes it's true, I've been!! Buckingham Palace - inside. No not to a Garden Party, not even in the front door! but I've been! A wonderful tour around those of HM's rooms that the mere public are allowed to view. Absolutely wonderful. I've even been in the Throne Room. I can tell you all, that if the opportunity arises, go and see for yourselves. Needless to say, pride

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of place on my china cabinet is reserved for my bone china Buckingham Palace commemorative mug. And since I've been to "Buck House", Big Ed, (no she's not been, she's green!), has respectfully saluted when she's driven past. I was born for Buckingham Palace life, I could easily live there, not get bored. I wish!!

PS I did find it difficult behaving myself when I spotted Her Majesty's secret door which she appears through from her private apartments. I would love to have pressed the button and appeared through the entrance; oh well, back to reality. Can't understand why Miles won't raise the ceilings and paint them with gold - a simple request you'd think.

New Residents

Welcome to Mr and Mrs PEARCE who have moved into Orchard End.

Departures

Jo MOSS has asked me to send her regards to all her friends in the village, reminding us that they moved here in the Queen's Silver Jubilee year. Rachel married George McCLEMENTS and moved to New York where they settled but are now moving to California to work at the Walt Disney Studio. Good luck to them and goodbye and good luck to Jo and Jeff.

HRH Little Ed

NEW PASTURES

Whilst on holiday near Wareham, I passed a farm that I think would be ideal for Miles - Silent Woman Farm. If I said he was tempted Sheila would hit me.

Three-fingers

SNIPPETS

New Baby

A warm welcome to TOBIAS, baby son of Mr and Mrs GARMSTON.

Celebrations

- August 4th. Her Majesty, the Queen Mother celebrated her ninety fourth birthday
- August 24th. Congratulations to Mr Sam STAPLES who celebrated his eightieth birthday. Celebrations continued on August 27th with a party in the village hall for family and friends.

Our flag was flown in celebration

Kenn Heroine

On August 9th Mrs MIDDLETON received a Waley-Cohen Award for bravery from the High Sheriff, Mr Christopher MARSDEN-SMEDLEY at the Police HQ, Portishead. The certificate is now hung in the Post Office.

Our flag was flown in her honour.

Kenn Village Hall

The Jumble Sale arranged by the Hall Committee raised £151 for hall funds. Many thanks to everyone who supported the evening.

Hall Exterior Painting

The committee has accepted the estimate submitted by Mr Paul WALLER, who hopes to start work at the beginning of September.

Quiz - October 15th.

Mrs Kate DENMEAD has kindly agreed to organise a Quiz on Saturday October 15th starting at 7-30pm, in aid of hall funds.

The cost will be £5 per table. Fish and chip suppers may be ordered at a cost of £2.25p per person or £14 per table for entry and supper for the four team members. Entries to Kate DENMEAD, phone 879747 by 8th October.

Come along and meet your neighbours and join in the fun.

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Xmas Lights and News and Views

The Coffee Evening held at Kenn Court was well supported by Kenn people and raised £121 for the above. A warm thankyou to those who came and helped.

We know that Christmas is months away - we like to be prepared.

Invalid

Mr John STOWELL who has been in Southmead Hospital for some weeks has now moved to Belmont Nursing Home.

Prizewinners

At the Mid Somerset Show held at Shepton Mallet, the renowned Withersleigh herd of shorthorns owned by Mr John WITHERS was awarded prizes in the following classes:

1. Cow in milk - Third
2. Female judged on milk and butterfat yield - Second
3. Heifer in milk born since June 1989 - First
4. Heifer in calf - Second
5. Pair of heffers - Second

In the Private Driving Classes at the same show, Mrs Heather NOAD of Rose Cottage driving June of Woodcote was awarded prizes in two classes.

Congratulations.

Dates for the Diary

Wednesday September 14th 7-30pm. Kenn WI. Talk and show of Rag Dolls by Mrs Joan GREENMAN. Competition for a knitted doll.

Saturday October 14th 7-30pm. Quiz

Saturday November 19th 8pm. Wine and Cheese Party.

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

Sadly Kenn was not among the finalists in the Best Kept Village Competition. Better luck next time! The judging for the Britain in Bloom Competition took place in July and to date there has been no news as to how the village fared. There were certainly plenty of blooms about while the judging took place. These had to be hastily removed before they were either trampled or eaten!

At the request of Kingston Seymour Parish Council the Parish Council discussed the newspaper reports of a Motorway Service Station at Kingston Seymour. No formal application has yet been made. It was agreed that Kenn should express understanding of Kingston Seymour's dilemma and promise support in whatever action they may feel it necessary to take.

Congratulations were sent to Mrs. Middleton, everyone was delighted that her courage has not gone unnoticed in high places.

The District Council has decided that the council tax can now be paid by cheque at Post Offices, so if that is a more convenient way for you of making payment Mrs. Middleton will be happy to help you.

The road bridge over the Blind Yeo is to be replaced during the next year at a cost of £500,000. It is considered to be unsafe for the amount of traffic using it. There will be considerable disruption to traffic at times so it may be that you want to consider coming in and out of Clevedon by other routes. The right hand bend at Davis Lane will be improved at the same time.

Councillors also expressed concern at the effect the new Tesco would have on local small businesses. Petrol stations are already finding it very difficult to survive. It is a real Catch 22 situation as

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everyone can see both sides to the question of cheaper goods on the one side and the problems of small businesses on the other.

CLIC GARDEN PARTY

On what must have been one of the hottest days of the year, nearly 70 people attended the Garden Party for CLIC at The Cottage, Duck Lane.

Mrs Naish won the cake raffle, which she was going to keep for her birthday. After a tie-break, Diane HOOK won the "Find the Flowers" anagram game.

The Beachcombers Jazz Band played nearly all afternoon to everyone's delight and over £380 was raised for CLIC. Bob WOODWARD, founder of CLIC, thanked everyone for coming and all we can do is to repeat his words. Thank you to all of you for your support, especially the Village Hall Committee for the loan of crockery.

Peter & Kate NEILL



ST JOHN'S ALTAR GUILD

SEPTEMBER: Mrs Julie STOWELL, Mrs Sue PUGH, Mrs Jean NAISH.

KENN CHURCH RESTORATION - GRAND DRAW

The draw tickets are in the process of being printed. They will be priced at 20p

each and will be in books of 5 so that people will be encouraged to buy a book for £1 rather than a single ticket. The top prize will be £100 and there will be about ten smaller prizes.

We need people to sell the tickets and if we can do as well as the Cow Pat squares then the Appeal Fund will make a profit of £750 or thereabouts. Please, once again ask your friends for help. Tickets will be available from Maurice FORD from about mid-September.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

The Harvest Festival will be held on the 11th September: Family Service at 11am and Evensong at 6pm.

KENN HISTORY GROUP

On Monday July 25th a cavalcade of six cars led by Ray NAISH processed sedately across Kenn Moor to Wemberham. Driving carefully along narrow lanes flanked on either side by freshly keetched rhines with their little stone bridges. The word KEETCH is a local Somerset word and in former days keetching or clearing the rhines was done by hand. On a wide river, there would be two men working in unison on either bank, pulling a scythe blade held by ropes backwards and forwards across the water. In the winter these men worked on land drainage - most of the work being done by the COX family who were the local experts in these matters.

The first stop was a field called "First Rambles" to find the remains of a Roman villa. It was clearly marked by dry grass lines due to the hot summer. Mosaics have been found here too and it is a protected site. Why would a Roman family choose to build a home and live here in such isolation?

In modern time this land was owned by the SMYTH-PIGGOTTS until 1911 when it was bought by the shop owners LANCE and LANCE who sold it to Miles

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NAISH in 1991. All the ground around here is below sea level and the meandering River Yeo was tidal, as were all the other rivers in the area. Boats were a common sight, sailing far into the hinterland to Congresbury mill, to Glastonbury, to Rackley under Crooks Peak, to Clewer and Hythe. Around 1950 hatches were built and the moor reverted back to freshwater moorland, but the old sea defences can still be seen and the raised banks admired for the beauty they add to the landscape.

Motoring on again, the end of the rough, rutted track was reached where Phipps Bridge stands, straddling the River Yeo with Hewish on one side and Kingston Seymour on the other. This is a very ancient bridge, originally a stone bow but now a modern construction of concrete and steel. Here the M5 cuts through Kingston. Here too the ancient footpath from Weston-super-Mare to Clevedon skirts Hewish and passes over the bridge and on to Kingston and Clevedon, but now being directed under the motorway. Two cottages used to stand here but were pulled down when the new road was built. William SCRIVENS lived in one, the sexton of All Saints' Church, Kingston Seymour for many years. Whilst birdscaring at Horselees, he would say he had met people of all nationalities walking along this path! This River Yeo rises in a duck pond at Compton Martin, flows through Blagdon Lake and reaches a great height here at Phipps Bridge in floodtime. Today a beautiful flowering rush grows on the silt bank in the middle of the gently flowing water and a meadow brown butterfly flutters happily amongst the tall grasses.

The third stop on the return journey was the ruins of an old grey stone cottage built for the cowherd to live in during the summer months while he looked after the fattening cattle. He would cut half an acre of thistles one day, the animals would eat them the next while he cut

another half acre and so on. At this place in modern times, the Australian sheep shearers came - four men shear seven hundred sheep in a day, each man taking two minutes to defleece an animal. The fleece used to be sold to the Russian Army to line the soldiers winter coats; now there is little demand.

The field here is called "Second Rambles" and is clearly seen to be in two tiers - probably a second tidal defence. Again questions were asked as to how the ships managed to navigate such tight river bends on their way to Congresbury to deliver coal.

The hedges on Wemberham used to be tall, affording shelter in this windswept and bleak place for the livestock but after the war they were all cut very low. Now they are beginning to regain their original height as Miles lets them grow so that once again the sheep can have shelter from the raw winds and driving rain.

A row of beautiful Horse Chestnut trees stand sentinel guarding Wemberham Farm, only reached by a long track now in the process of being made up into a firm road. This deserted and isolated farmstead has a very peaceful aura with the cowsheds, barns and farmhouse complete with furniture still standing. The ancient watering pool, built with the same beautiful grey boulders at the head of the Little River, is still in good order. Here too is an orchard, cool, peaceful and quiet, the same as the day it was left. One farmer who lived, El LAMBERT, always kept black Kerry cows and it is told that when he and his wife went keetching for the day, they would sit on the bank at lunchtime and share a meal of dry bread - perhaps they were able to have a scrape of Kerry butter on their bread too!

Any children living in these isolated farms and cottages had such a long walk to school in Yatton in all weathers with

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no home comforts and amenities that we take for granted - electricity, gas central heating, running water or cars. The life made tough adults, a few of whom still live locally. Anita and Richard SIMMONS have now cultivated an area here for the first time, with a crop of maize which seems to be growing well.

That evening, rain began to fall on the dry parched earth, releasing its fragrance and shattering the peace and tranquility of Wemberham. The spirit of its past lingers still, the battle with the elements, the long hard hours of toil day after day, the ever present sense of vastness and emptiness of the surrounding moorland and sheltering its secrets - all this covered by a huge dome of changing sky.

The next venue for Kenn History Group will be at 7pm Tuesday 6th September at Stonehouse Farm.

UNUSUAL VISITORS

One afternoon in the middle of August I saw an unusual sight travelling along the Moor Road. It was a family of gypsies moving along in the way that was common years ago. The man was walking along leading a horse drawing an old fashioned caravan with a dog walking by his side. Tied to the back of the caravan was another horse and following that were two horses and carts driven by girls, probably the man's daughters. They turned into Ham Lane over Kingston bridge and back into Kenn. They set up camp for the night on the wide grassy area in front of Kenn Court. The gypsy man staked out his horses on the grass and lit a camp fire. Next morning they moved on without causing much damage. They were probably making their way to Priddy Fair which was held on the 24th August.

ROUND UP

The residents of Kenn Street and Duck Lane are very lucky to have their newspapers delivered daily. For as many years as I can remember Barbara up the shop has been able to find lads to do this job in all winds and weathers. Come hail, snow, rain or tempest the papers are in a pipe by the gate early in the morning.

While the current paperboy, Tom WOODS, has been on holiday, Emily and Katie SMITH of Mendip Farm, Kenn Street have stood in for him. Like Tom, it is a pleasure to see them doing the round so cheerfully.

We are also lucky that various boys deliver the Clevedon Mercury every Thursday, also with cheerful smiles.

RVN

WELCOME

A very warm welcome to Adrian and Cathy PEARCE who have moved into Orchard End, Kenn Street, new neighbours for us at Stonehouse Farm. We have known the Pearce family for many years.

Ray NAISH

GEORGE HEDGES

Last month I wrote about an elderly gentleman named George HEDGES visiting this farm and telling us that his family had lived here about a hundred years ago. We have had a return visit from his two daughters, one of whom lives in Southern France. They wanted to find out how long their family had lived in Kenn. Another look through the old Burial Register at the church told us that they were here in 1830 and probably before that too as that was the first entry of a HEDGES burial in the book. This told us that the family were in Kenn at least 50 years.

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We wondered if they lived at Stonehouse Farm all that time. If so they were here when the farmhouse was burnt down in Victorian times. All the eastern end was saved, the part you see from the road was rebuilt after the fire.

KERRY COW

The famous little black Kerry cow used for the Cow Pat Party two years running has had to be destroyed.

One windy evening recently a lot of apples were blown down in the orchard. She gorged herself on them and made

herself ill. The next morning she was unable to stand. The vet was called who treated her for various deficiencies but she never got over it and was put to sleep by a lady vet from Finland.

She was very near calving and was very old, perhaps 20 years. It will be hard to find another cow like her and the lady vet had never seen one like her.

Ray NAISH

TOYS FOR ZAMBIA JUMBLE SALE

Saturday 24th September, 10am to 12md

Kenn Village Hall

Jumble in advance to Avril Gaunt
(tel:0275 875992) or to the village hall
on the day.

