

KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

AUGUST 1995 ISSUE 85



KENN

FUR RUS

Sunday September 3rd

All proceeds to Dreamflight

COME!!

EDITORS

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MESSAGE FROM US

Holiday time is here again and we wish everyone a happy holiday. If you've been to sunny climes - although the weather here is difficult to beat! - let us know where you've been and, better still, any funny event that happened to you.

Fingers tightly crossed for all our students who are expecting their exam results this month - the day of reckoning is finally upon you.

We're sure that no-one needs reminding about their "training" for the Fun Run next month, be it jogging or just burger eating and cheering.

HAPPY HOLS

BIRTHDAYS

- 3rd Clare and Louise EDWARDS
- 6th Steve BYE
- 7th Lorraine STAPLES
- 7th Ray NAISH
- 10th Stephen BRAIN
- 15th Jean NAISH
- 16th Max NAISH
- 22nd Dave QUINN
- 23rd Mark PASCOE
- 24th Sam STAPLES
- 25th Stella NAISH
- 26th Peter WOOD

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- 29th Hartley & Jane STAPLES
- 31st Jill & Matthew BUTLAND

We are trying to update our birthdays and wedding anniversaries lists. Please let us know your dates (and any inaccuracies in the list in the last year) for inclusion in this section.

NAISH'S NOTES

Congratulations to Julie and Jeremy HART on the safe arrival on 8th July of

their first child, a son Oliver, weighing in at 8lb. Julie and Jeremy live at Fresh Fields, Kenn Street.

Congratulations also to Stuart and Hilary GAMESTER on the safe arrival of their second son Adam on 7th July weighing in at 8lb 6oz.

Richard GAUNT (of three-fingered typist fame) has retired as Chair of governors at Yatton Junior School after 6 entertaining and enjoyable years. Richard has worked long and hard (gosh it makes me sound like a paragon of virtue - the teaching staff do work hard for very little reward and take an increasing amount of abuse from parents and government for it) for the school during his terms of office and his contributions have been greatly appreciated by Head, staff and governors.

We have had car thieves in the village and urge everyone to be on the alert for any strangers about. Do lock your cars and close your gates at night.

WARNING

FUN RUN

Sunday September 3rd @ 3pm

This year's charity is Dreamflight.

If you have ever wanted to make a dream come true then this is your opportunity. YOU can make someone's dream come true - DREAMFLIGHT is a charity whose purpose is to send seriously ill children on their holiday of a lifetime to Disneyworld in Florida. These are holidays for children who perhaps can't wait for medical breakthroughs or whose illnesses and treatments have brought pain, distress and disruption to their lives. Their ages are from 7-15.

SO while you are on holiday just think about helping some of these children to have their dream holiday - it could be their first or, worse still, it might be their last. Get a sponsor form (from Shop, Sheila, Simon or Richard) and get it filled

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in. Get running - it's only 3 miles. Get walking - it's still only three miles. Amble around with the children (it's only up the road and back). Get dressed, get undressed, we don't care! Just be there. PLEASE!!

Donations for raffles gratefully received. Offers of help with stalls, BBQ or organising needed,

FUN RUN - 3pm for 3 miles

3-05 for village jaunt.

BBQ and fun afterwards behind the village hall. Bring your friends, family - anyone for a brilliant afternoon of fun.

****BRING YOUR MONEY TOO****

****MAKE A DREAM COME TRUE****

SNIPPETS

WELCOMES

A warm welcome to Oliver HART, son of Mr and Mrs HART of Fresh Fields. Our flag was flown in celebration.

Welcome also to the PROBERT family - Lynne and Barry - who have come to live at Meadow Lea. We hope they like living in Kenn.

KENN FLOWER FESTIVAL

The final amount raised at the Jumble Sale amounted to £103.

COFFEE EVENING

The coffee evening will be held at Kenn Court on August 2nd at 7pm in aid of Christmas tree and News and Views. Raffle, Bring and Buy and Bygones.

All kennites are invited. Offers of help appreciated. If unable to come, all donations to Mrs Irene STOWELL.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

- AUGUST 2nd. Coffee Evening - Kenn Court 7pm
- September 3rd. Kenn Fun Run

- September 13th Kenn WI 7-30pm. Speaker Mrs Ann GAWTHORPE - Weston Mercury.

FLOWER FESTIVAL

Kennites certainly have the knack when it comes to organising successful events and our third festival was no exception to this rule.

From the outset people entered into the spirit of it with enthusiasm. Even those of us who are not florists managed to achieve successful and admired displays with the help of those who were. The atmosphere was friendly and relaxed, the sun shone down and, despite the main road being closed for the whole weekend, visitors poured into the village.

Cream teas and cold drinks went down well and all appreciated the backdrop of Robin and Marianna's picturesque garden. The various stall holders and the children's games did a good trade. Clive the busker also entertained the throng.

In the evening Sheila's disco continued the festival theme for those with sufficient energy to bop the night away.

To everyone who donated their time and energy, their baking skills, or their houses and gardens to make the festival a success, a very sincere thank you. To those, listed below, who made the whole event possible by providing the flower arrangements a super warm thank you.

FLOWER ARRANGERS

Margaret BESSANT, Jean WITHERS, Lois WEBB, Joy MORRIS, Wendy PAPASOLO-MONTOS, Iris SURRIDGE, Claire LEAMAN, Margaret FORD, Jean INGS, Arne REEVES, Jane STAPLES, Joanna STAPLES, Mrs HASKINS, Jean WOODS, Sarah CLARKE, Liz BELL, Jean NAISH, Jean HARRIS, Irene STOWELL, Adie MANN, Shirley LIVESEY, Barbara RUSSELL, Grace GRIFFIN, Joyce KENT, Betty BUBB and Marianna MACKAY.

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The event raised over £1000. £500 will go to the Friends of Kenn Church and £500 to the Julian Trust. The remaining money will go in the bank and be used to "kick start" next year's event. Watch this space.....

Avril GAUNT

KENN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

At the July meeting of the Kenn W.I., Miss Preston gave a fascinating talk on semi-precious stones. She had many examples of some beautiful stones and settings that members were able to examine and handle and was able to tell us a great deal of the geological history of each type of stone. She was warmly thanked by Mrs. Mann. The competition, which was for a brooch, was won by Mrs. Prue, gold, Mrs. Dyer, silver and Mrs. Surridge, green.

Members were very pleased to welcome Mrs. Glass from Clevedon who had been our delegate to the I.G.M. at Blackpool. She gave a very full and interesting account of the meeting. The coffee morning held in aid of our charity for this year, resulted in the handsome sum of £75 being sent to the Workshops for the Blind.

Already there are some dates for the autumn diaries. The County Quiz will take place at the end of September and it is hoped to field a team. Kenn also hopes to take part in the skittles tournament starting in the autumn. There are also opportunities to tour the Port of Bristol, hear a talk by Trading Standards Officers, and meet an M.E.P.

As there will not be a meeting in August Mrs. Mann wished everyone a very happy summer and hoped that members would all meet refreshed in September.

BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION

Against all the odds Kern has reached the semi finals of the Best Kept Village Competition, helped no doubt by the fact that the judges came during the Flower Festival weekend. Some marks are awarded for evidence of community spirit and there was plenty of that on display. The judging in the next round continues into August.

PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held in the Village Hall on Monday 7th August at 7.30 p.m. There will be an opportunity for any member of the public to raise matters, so do come along if there is any subject you feel should be aired.

VILLAGE HALL

The Parish Council made some attempt to try and decide whether to accept the generous offer of the Naish family of a piece of land behind the present Village Hall which is to be used to build a new Village Hall by holding a Public Meeting on Monday 17th July. Planning permission has been obtained for a new hall and if and when it is built and only then will the present hall be removed and two dwellings built on the site. The sum of £3,000 goes with the land towards building costs.

Unfortunately only thirty nine people were present at the meeting out of a possible three hundred so it was not feasible to gauge the feelings of the whole village on the matter. Copies of a questionnaire are in circulation so that a wider opinion can be canvassed. The results of this questionnaire will be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting on 7th August.

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It is estimated that a hall of similar size to the present one with a car park, landscaping and special sewage arrangements would cost approximately £87,000. At present Woodspring give grants of between 40% -60%, but as from April 1996 the new authority of North West Somerset will have come into being and as it will have a great many calls on its resources it is likely that grants, if any, will be in the range of 25% -50%. That will leave the remainder to be raised by the village and it has to be available before the grant would be forthcoming.

It is extremely important that the correct decision is made so please make your views known on the questionnaire or to a Parish Councillor so that a formal proposal can be put to the village and the matter can be resolved. Better still come to the next Parish Council meeting on 7th August and express them yourself.

KENN MOOR FLYING DISPLAY

This the 5th annual event held on the outskirts of Kenn, attracts more people each year. When you see the size and skill that has gone into building these scale model aircraft, you understand why so many people enjoy coming every year.

Two models had wingspans of over 20 feet, one based on the wartime Catalina flying boat.

The RAF provided a full-size Mark 9 Spitfire which gave a superb flying display, obviously flown by an experienced pilot.

A brave music teacher from Portishead, wing-walked tied onto a 1930s Tiger Moth biplane!

D GLASSON

BBQ and DISCO

Many thanks to everyone who came to the BBQ and Disco. This proved to be the best night ever. The weather was lovely,

the food was excellent - well done to the chefs. The music was great and a good time was had by all. Thank you to all the people who made it "happen". The grand sum of £684 was raised and will be divided between The Scanner Fund at the BRI in memory of Diane FORD and the British Heart Foundation.

I have found a gold earring if anyone remembers losing one.

RELECTIONS ON 8TH JULY

The scene were the local cowshed,
The air were warm and clear,
The bar staff were Derek and Shirley
And, as usual, twer full of good cheer.

The host and hostess - Miles and Sheila
Were charming, quick witted and fun,
With Cheryl and Dave on the food side
Giving all you could want in a bun.

The atmosphere couldn't have bettered
What else could you want of a "do"?
Awkward to know how to thank them -
That trusty most affable crew.

And I danced - and that don't happen
often

Fair brought back the days of my youth

And we scoffed and we gossiped and
chuckled

Quite a tonic - now ain't that the truth.

Thanks also to John and his music.

Since I danced, well you know it's no
malice

If I humbly ask you to tell me

Just say, who the four X IS Alice!

Paula McCully

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CHURCH SERVICE

The service of Holy Communion at St John's, Kenn on August 13th at 11am will have as its theme Thangsgiving for the end of the Second World War in the Far East and for fifty years of peace. The evensong at All Saints, Kingston Seymour at 6pm on the same day will have a similar theme.

TEA AND CHAT

This will not be held this month as many people will be away on holiday.

ALTAR GUILD - AUGUST

The duty members are: Iris GOLDSWORTHY, Pamela STUCKEY and Jan BEDFORD

COFFEE MORNING and BRING AND BUY

A coffee morning and Bring and Buy will be held at Stonehouse Farm, Kenn on Tuesday 8th August from 10am to noon. Proceeds in aid of St John's Altar Guild Fund

Everybody, including children, welcome.

St GARGOYLES

Proverbs 17:22 "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine."

The following are actual announcements taken from church bulletins:

1. This afternoon there will be a meeting in the south and north ends of the church. Children will be baptized at both ends.
2. Tuesday at 4 PM, there will be an ice cream social, all ladies giving milk, please come early.
3. Wednesday, the Ladies Liturgy Society will meet, Mrs Johnson will sing "Put me in my little bed", accompanied by the Pastor.

4. Thursday at 5pm, there will be a meeting of the Little Mothers club, all those wishing to become little mothers, please meet the minister in his study.

5. This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs Johnson to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.

6. This service will close with "Little drops of water". One of the ladies will start quietly and the rest of the congregation will join in.

7. On Sunday, a special collection will be taken to defray the expense of a new carpet, come forward and get a piece of paper.

8. The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind and they can be seen in the church basement on Friday afternoon.

9. A bean supper will be held Saturday evening in the church. Music will follow.

10. The rosebud on the altar this morning is to announce the birth of David Alan Belser, the son of Rev. and Mrs. Julius Belser.

Thank you Lord for giving us the ability to laugh at ourselves.

WELCOME

Welcome to Olive, Lee and John SKELTON who are our new landlords at the Drum and Monkey. Pop in and have a drink and meet them. Watch this space for pub news and good food once they have settled in.

RECOMMENDED PEOPLE

Steve ROPER - Europer .Domestics. Tel 01275 872664

For repairs to most free standing and built-in appliances - microwaves, hobs, ovens, dishwashers, fridges, freezers and washing machines.

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KENN HISTORY GROUP

July walk to Ham and Wharf Farms, Kingston

On a warm and humid evening, a fair number gathered at Stonehouse Farm for the July walk. Among our guests, it was nice to see and welcome Mrs YOUNG from Castle Farm who, you'll remember was our host at the walk in June.

So we moved off to go to Ham Farm where Frank KINGCOTT was to show us round his land. It was a lengthy drive and illustrated one of the differences between Kingston and Kenn; Kingston is well spread out and covers about 3 000 acres, Kenn is much more compact covering only 1 000 acres. We duly arrived and Frank was waiting. Our starting point was the old Ox House and from there we moved into the first field, known as Long Croft. It was across these flat lands that the old light railway used to run from Portishead through Clevedon to Weston. One lady told me that she had known the driver to slow the train enough to get off, pick mushrooms and still get back on again. Changed days indeed.

The water courses were quite full in spite of the dry spell, the grass was green and healthy. Eventually, two or three streams joined at Broadstone Rhyne. 'Twas here Frank told us, that they used to wash the sheep. Washing is different from Dipping because washing is only to clean the fleece. The sheep were ducked in the stream and allowed to emerge the other side a bit cleaner. Not too clean though Frank explained because a fleece was valued by weight and a slightly dirty fleece weighed more than a clean one. By now, we had reached the first of the sea-walls, and as we climbed up onto them we could see the muddy creeks of the tidal water. Frank showed us some of the flap valves and explained how they kept the fresh and salt water apart. They are a non-return valve allowing fresh

water into the creek, but the pressure of water on the incoming tide closes the flap preventing salt water intruding inland. From here, looking back, we could see in the distance the church at Kingston, and the other way, the square tower of the church at Wick St. Lawrence.

Although it was a warm evening, there was a slight cooling breeze, and in the quietness of this place, we could hear the gentle sound of church bells ringing from Wick St. Lawrence. The sound reminded me of some lines from Gray's Elegy:

The curfew tolls the knell of parting day,
The lowing herd winds slowly o'er the
lea,
The ploughman homeward plods his
weary way,
And leaves the world to
darkness, and to me.

From here on, we were mostly atop the sea walls and could see more evidence of the light railway in the shape of an old pier, where loading and unloading took place. The landscape below the dykes was flat, and we began to see various birds: a reed warbler, curlews, cormorants and even a heron. Some of the sea walls are quite ancient, some going back to Roman times but others much more recently constructed. In 1981, there were severe floods here, and Frank said the waters even got into his house. Since then, the defences have been improved further.

The land we were on by now was a nature reserve and designated SSSI ie site of Special Scientific Interest. By agreement, the farmers undertake to make little or no use of artificial fertilisers and leave the grass fairly long. Suddenly nearby, a hare popped up and scampered away as we interrupted his quiet evening. Then that rare find the skylark soared above us. Still on some high ridges we could look down on the widening creeks and their banks thick with reeds. The grass here was knee high, with many different types of grasses and wild flowers. Further to our left and in the

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distance we could see the grey turrets of Woodspring Priory. Also, there were small isolated pockets of water, like large ponds, some of them with an island in the middle. These islands were packed with reeds and make ideal roosting sites for the hundreds of starlings that we could see, already roosting. When disturbed, they rose in a huge black cloud, circled then quickly settled back to their bed of reeds.

Still on the high ground, we turned for home, and there, quietly grazing by the water's edge was a herd of cattle. They, not used to seeing such a large herd of humans on their patch, came with a clatter of hooves, snorting and mooing, to investigate us. It was almost like a scene from the wild west, but with no sheriff and no rustlers.

At regular intervals along the way now, there were a series of numbered stones. These are known as liability stones and mark the area where it is the liability of a particular farmer to keep his ground free of too many thistles and generally see that it is safe and tidy.

On the last lap now, we passed Wharf Farm, which is managed by Mrs BLAKE, who was with us on the walk. We were shown some of her shorthorn calves, a fairly uncommon breed now. She told how once she owned a world-record breaking cow how they called musical; in her lifetime she produced 21 000 gallons of milk. I know that said Mrs BLAKE because for most of that time I milked her by hand. We also saw some sheep of a special type - a Dorset breed that can breed all year. Some of the ewes were to lamb this coming November.

Eventually, after a fairly long but enjoyable outing, we came back to Ox House. Ray Naish warmly thanked Frank KINGCOTT for showing us around, but that was not all. We were invited back to Ham Farm for tea and coffee.

So in the gathering dusk, we sat outside in the yard, chatting whilst drinking tea, coffee, biscuits and home-made cake. Rene KINGCOTT was most kind and generous, going to a lot of trouble for us. So we thank you very much Rene and many thanks too to all your family who helped make the evening so enjoyable. I understand Frank and Rene will be moving to a new house close by soon, so wish them both very good health, happiness and contentment.

Finally, thanks to Ray NAISH for taking time to organise these pleasant summer walks.

Cliff EDWARDS

REUNION

There will be a reunion of former Kenn School pupils of all ages at the village hall on August 12th at 7pm. If you know the whereabouts of former pupils would you please let them know.

Further details from Ray NAISH. Tel 872493

HISTORY SOCIETY

The History Society's August walk will take place on August 14th; meeting at Stonehouse Farm at 7pm.

THE LITTLE THINGS

It's the little things that mean a lot
Not the kind of car you've got
It's sunshine and starshine,

Rainbow and starshine

Trees and honey bees,

Poppies that grow amongst the corn,

And birds that sing at break of dawn.

It's the little things that mean a lot,

Not the banking balance that you've got

It's bluebells and seashells,

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Summer hazes and daisies

Blue skies and butterflies,
It's the twitching of rabbits' noses,
And morning dew on the roses.

It's the little things that mean a lot,
Not the amount of power you've got,
It's [h]lox and Lady's smocks,
Ducklings and fairy rings,
Flakes of snow and mistletoe,
It's the new buds bursting open in
Spring,
It's simply the joy of living.

KENN BIRDS I

It has been said that after Midsummer's Day you don't hear much birdsong in the morning. This is very noticeable this year. I generally have a look out of the window about four thirty or just at day-break, there has been 1 or 2 birds singing this past couple of weeks but nothing like the volume of song heard earlier this Spring. Crows and magpies can be heard, they seem to be very early risers as are swallows and house martins.

Out in the moors there have been large flocks of lapwings, or peewits as they are generally called, several hundred have been around for several weeks. Where were they hatched? I suggest not far away as they look very immature.

Have you noticed that the number of wild rabbits around the village has almost reached plague proportions. But nature is taking charge again and I have seen several in Russ Lane and on the old railway line with myxomatosis. This will probably wipe out a large proportion of them again.

Ray NAISH

BIRDS II

The pair of magpies seen around Kenn Street seem to have managed to fledge two youngsters. All four were seen to visit our garden birdtable - mum and dad introducing them to a free source of food?

BIRDS III

The RSPB Weston-super-Mare Group has been surveying the South Avon Levels to record the birdlife this Spring.

Areas covered have included Kenn Moor and Nailsea Moor with the object of the survey being to get an overall picture of birds present. It is impossible to record every bird or every species.

Nevertheless, Kenn Moor produced 3 different species in two visits, the most notable being a migrant short eared owl seen early on the 7th of May. A flock of 20 whimbrel was also notable and there were encouraging numbers of mallard.

Nailsea Moor provided 39 species including a couple of migrant wheatear. Best birds here though were a couple of tree sparrows, very unusual in Avon nowadays. The Wildlife Trust are hoping to start a nestbox scheme to encourage this species. I would be very glad to hear of any sightings.

I am grateful to landowners for their help and co-operation in this project. We hope to continue so if there is anyone out there who would like to help, or come along on a survey walk please get in touch on 01934 835208.

Trevor RIDDLE



