

KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

RACE NIGHT

APRIL 8TH @ 8PM. KENN VALLEY SOCIAL CLUB



IN AID OF:
MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS
CENTRE, NAILSEA

ADMISSION FREE. ALL WELCOME. CHILDREN'S ROOM

ISSUE 80 - MARCH 1995

QUIZ NIGHT

MARCH 25TH - 7-30 FOR 8

FABULOUS FUN

£1-25 PER HEAD AND £2-25 FOR
FISH AND CHIP SUPPER



RING KATE NOW FOR DETAILS ON (0275) 879747

KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

MESSAGE FROM EDITORS

Hands up anyone who's managed to venture outdoors and stay dry in recent weeks! As March comes in and Spring is just around the corner, let's hope that we see the hosts of golden daffodils glowing in the sunshine and not heads bent with rain. I suppose the consolation we have at this time of year is that the days are getting longer - which means we can see the rain for more hours in the day. What happened to frosty mornings? We can but dream. And that reminds me of something the late Jim MIDDLETON once told me and which I've never forgotten:

Friday's dream, Saturday's told,

Is sure to come true, however old.

Hard luck Miles!!

Kate and Sheila

BIRTHDAYS

- 5th - Leon NAISH
- 8th - Jeremy OSBOURNE
- 16th - Angie CARPENTER
- 17th Lee STAPLES

18th - Quinton STOWELL

27th - Amy BYE

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

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

NAISH'S NEWS

Well done and congratulations to Amy BYE for passing the entrance exams to both Clifton Collage and Bristol Grammar School.

VALENTINE'S QUOTE

£1-50 for a red rose? I can buy a pot and a trowel and she can grow her own for that!! (Wonderful!!)

YOU'LL NEVER WALK ALONE?

One of our villagers was seen walking along Kenn Street by another villager dragging a lead and collar along. I don't know which of them was the most embarrassed! The one who found that the dog was not attached to the lead having taken itself for a walk or the one who just smiled, wondered why, and said nothing. (Names withheld to save any further embarrassment or medical treatment being suggested! Wish I'd seen it.

KENN VALLEY

The Social Club has been broken into again and vandalised mindlessly. Fortunately one thug was captured and another soon arrested. This makes a change for Derek and Shirley who have suffered far too many break-ins which have seriously affected their business and personal lives. Let's hope that this these horrors are handed a suitable and just punishment. Having seen the mess made, I'd like to have seen them in the stocks in the middle of the sports field and let Derek and Shirley's customers deal with what was left of them when they'd finished with them.

DRUM AND MONKEY

Ken and Barbara have sadly given up their positions as Landlord and Landlady of the Drum and Monkey. I am sorry to see them go. Ken has always been very helpful in obtaining Licences for various functions, and providing bar facilities for us at others. I hope they enjoy their few weeks rest before taking up new ventures.

MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

We have received a letter from the MS Centre in Nailsea which is printed at the back of this mag.

We are running a race night at Kenn Valley Social Club on Saturday April 8th in aid of funds for the Centre. Free Admission. Children's room.

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Come along and have a flutter. This is a really good fun evening. All welcome. 8-0-clock start. Please support us and bring your friends.

Details from Sheila on 0934 838357.

COMIC RELIEF

To support this annual fund raising event, I am holding a **LADIES ONLY** evening on the 17th March beginning at 8-30pm at Oakland

Farm. Among the goodies will be punch and picky bits, a bring and buy and a raffle. The wearing of a red nose on some part of the anatomy will be compulsory - failure to comply will mean a fine. Noses can be bought from the Oxfam shop (preferable), or from WH Smith for the sensitive.

All proceeds will go to Comic Relief. So make a date for fun and frolics on the 17th of March.

Sheila NAISH

SNIPPETS

CHRISTENING

Jacob William, son of Mr and Mrs MEEK was christened at the Methodist Church, London Road, Clevedon on the 19th February. Our flag was flown in celebration.

V.E. COMMEMORATION

A very successful Jumble Sale on February 22nd raised £133 for the Kenn VE Commemoration Day Fund. Many thanks to all those Kennites who worked to make it such a success.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday March 8 @ 7-30. Kenn WI. Talk and slides on the RNLI Competition: sea rescue picture.

Sunday March 13th @ 7-30. Meeting regarding VE Commemoration Day.

Saturday March 25th 7-30 for 8. Quiz organised by Mrs Kate DENMEAD.

All events in the village hall.

MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

On February 15th a fund raising evening held at Kenn Court and organised by the Ladies of Clevedon Yeo Rotary Club and supported by Kennites raised £170. This will be used to buy additional equipment for patients having treatment at the Multiple Sclerosis Centre in Nailsea.

DRYING OUT!

The services of a South West Electricity Board helicopter were called upon to dry out the pitch at Clevedon football ground on February 20th for the match against Bristol City Reserves.

RVN

KENN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

At the February meeting of the Kenn W.I. Mrs. Bubb was thanked for the posy of garden flowers on the President's table. Spring can't be too far away! Mrs. Bubb also read us her poem on helping the hard of hearing. It has been sent to Home and Country, so we hope to see it in print. Several Kenn members attend a lip reading class.

To help the winter along there are several dates for the diary. A delegate was chosen for the Spring Council Meeting in Bath. The Group Meeting is at Congressbury on 22nd March. Mrs. Blake is progressing with our patchwork entry for the competition. Invitations have been received and accepted for two parties, one at Tickenham and the other at Clevedon South. Among other activities there are the County Lunch at Portishead, a talk on the weather by Tony Targett and golf tuition. A skittles evening to which husbands are cordially invited will take place at Kenn Valley Social Club on 30th March.

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Mrs. Merrett-Smith gave a delightfully illustrated talk on Bach Flower Remedies. A drug free method of relieving stress of all kinds this treatment uses tinctures of flowers distilled in spring water. Each prescription can be precisely tailored to the individual and is often used in conjunction with aromotherapy. The competition for a scent bottle was won by Mrs. R. Jeffrey, gold, Mrs. M. Harris, silver and Mrs. Crawley, green.

At the March meeting Mrs. Lloyd will give a talk on the work of the Royal National Lifeboats Institution and the competition will be for a sea rescue picture.

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

At the very well attended meeting of the Parish Council on 6th February several items of general interest were raised which it was felt people would like to know.

The Avon Health Authority are proposing to close the Haemotoly Unit at Southmead Hospital and to transfer its services to the Oncology Unit at the Bristol Royal Infirmary. This is felt to be a bad thing because patients will have to use the Casualty waiting rooms and thus risk infections which are so dangerous to patients with diseases like leukaemia - and we all know what it is like to park at the Royal Infirmary! A letter of protest will be sent.

Because the Civic Amenity Site at Strobe Road does not meet the stringent measures brought in under the Environmental Protection Act Waste Management Licensing Regulations, 1994, it is to be closed. A new custom built site is being constructed at Valley Road, Weston-in-Gordano and is due to open in March/April 1995. It was felt that it would not be long before ditches and fields around the area are littered with mattresses and any other rubbish that people cannot be bothered to take the extra distance to the

new tip. A plea for the Strobe Road site to be kept open as long as possible will be sent to the appropriate authority.

The Parish Council is due for re-election in May. Publication of the Notice of Election will be Monday 27th March and all nomination papers have to be delivered to the Town Hall at Weston-S-Mare by noon on Tuesday 4th April. Elections for Parish and District Councillors take place on Thursday 4th May. The District Councillors who are elected will be the ones who will steer the new unitary authority into being. In order to make sure that the Parish Council is truly representative of village views it would be a good idea to have an election this time. There has not been one for several years.

The next meeting which will be the Annual Public Meeting will be held on 3rd April.

NUMBERS QUIZ

Thanks to all who bought and all those who helped sell the quiz sheets over the Christmas period, especially Barbara at the Post Office, Heather and Roger JENKINS supported by Owletts and British Aerospace yet again, Dave PUGH at Bakers of Nailsea, Lyn AUTY and Wendy PAPASOLOMONTOS. I hope they haven't suffered too many complaints of sleepless nights and non-communicating partners from their customers! The total made, over £220, just exceeded last year, so well done everybody.

The general opinion was that it was harder than last year's - sorry about that! Apologies for any errors, I didn't get the answers to the questions that I hadn't set until too late to check them (even then I wouldn't have spotted that there was one Dr Who short!). The results were not altered by these errors so congratulations Simon PASCOE - first, Kate DENMEAD - 2nd, and GEORGE family - 3rd. Far

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fewer sheets were returned for marking this year but I suspect this was due to people knowing the high standards of the prize winners last year! I hope people got some enjoyment as well as frustration out of attempting the quiz and I will try to make next year's less tricky. Once again the quiz reached some distances with answers from Wales, Scotland, Kent, Essex and Leicestershire.

Special thanks to Margaret STOWELL and family for their prompt and tireless printing service.

Jean WOODS

QUIZ NIGHT

Please ring Kate NOW if you would like to enter a team for the next Quiz on March 25th in Kern Village Hall.

The old die-hards will know the format but for any newcomers the evening commences at 7-30 for an 8pm start.

Teams of four are invited at £1-25 a head and fish and chip suppers are available at £2-25 a head. Therefore, for a team all taking supper it will cost £14. Bring your own wine and glasses.

There'll be a raffle and first, second and third prizes for the quiz winners, plus, as usual, a booby prize.

It's usually a fun night and also raises funds for the upkeep and maintenance of our village hall.

So ring Kate NOW on 0275 879747 although the best time is between 4 and 6pm.

See you there.

Kate DENMEAD

FLOWER FESTIVAL

Fed up with the rain - can't get out - why not plant some seeds on the window sill and look forward to a Flower Festival in July?

Providing we get the necessary permission, it is our intention to hold this event on July 8th and 9th with half the proceeds going towards St. John's Church funds and half to a nominated charity.

We hope to get as many village flower arrangers as possible, the emphasis will be on using garden and wild flowers to represent texts from the Bible, eg Moses and the bullrushes.

During the day there will be cream teas and stalls on Church Path and a BBQ in the evening. Hopefully, a service will be held on the Sunday morning to celebrate the Festival.

Despite the fact that it is several months until we need to get down to the details, we do need as many volunteers as possible to:

- Bake the scones
- Flower arrangers
- Serve the teas
- Man the stalls
- Act as guides on Saturday and Sunday
- Any other ideas? Plant stalls, children's games etc.

We shall also be holding a Jumble Sale in June to raise funds for flowers etc.

All volunteers welcome - please contact Marianna on 323390 or Avril on 875992.

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KENN HISTORY GROUP

A small group of twelve members met on Tuesday 13th February when we were entertained for the evening by Jane LILLEY, niece of local historian Derek LILLEY, and now well known and respected herself as an authority on the history of Clevedon.

With a selection of really excellent slides and her extensive knowledge of the area, Jane took us on a tour of Clevedon and the outskirts of Kenn, telling us a little about the history of some local farmhouses and other older properties, many of which are sadly no longer in existence.

There were slides of properties in Clevedon, including a hall house in Walton Road which dates back to c1500, and Trinity Cottage in Stoud Road, so called because it is formed from 3 cottages. At one time this was Squire Jennings' house and later became the Poor House for the parish before the Union House in Bedminster was established.

The first house we talked about in Kenn was Cole House in Cole House Lane - a large, mainly 16th century farmhouse, now called Lake Farm. This property belonged to a family called Cole who are known to have lived on the site as early as 1187. The farm was once owned by Sir John Knights of Bristol, who also owned other farms in the area during the 17th century, including Highdale Farm and Strode Farm in Clevedon.

Another interesting farm is Clevedon Farm in Davis Lane, just below the the motorway bridge, and known to have been in existence in the 1890s. The steep slope of the roof and the ridges around the base of the chimneys show that it would probably once have been thatched. This farm is said to have been the centre of the local black market industry just after the last war during rationing when pigs would be slaughtered during the night and taken into Bristol for sale.

Not far away in Court Lane is a pottery, also dating back to c1690, and called Insolls when it was a farm. Mr Fishley HOLLAND who owned the property earlier this century came from Devon and was first employed by the Elton Pottery before moving to Court Lane and founding his own business. Some of the clay used in his work was dug from his own orchard, but later he imported clay from Devon. At one time he was a chorister at Kenn Church. The HOLLAND family are still making pottery, a great grandson is the seventh generation of the family to follow the same craft, although no longer in this area.

Further along on Kenn Moor is Moat Cottage on Nailsea Wall. When the moors flooded during winter months the only way into this cottage was by boat, and the occupants had to live in the upstairs rooms until the water level went down.

Kenn History Group made a small donation to a local charity of Jane's choice as a thank you to her giving us such an enjoyable and worthwhile evening.

Our next meeting will be on Monday 27th March at 7-30pm at The Granary, Duck Lane, when we plan to have a speaker.

There will be no meeting in April.

Margaret WHITTINGTON

TEA AND CHAT

This month this will be held from 2-30 to 4pm on Thursday 2nd March at the home of Mrs Marianna MACKAY, Church Path Cottage.

BIRD NEWS - FEBRUARY

For various reasons I have been unable to undertake much watching on Kenn Moor this month, so these notes will not follow the usual pattern.

Bob FORD from Kingston Seymour

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'phoned me to say that both male and female Great spotted woodpeckers were visiting his garden from time to time. He recalled some years ago seeing a Lesser spotted woodpecker, a very local and elusive species in this area nowadays.

Most interestingly, he told me of having a 'Butcher Bird Larder' pointed out to him on Kenn Moor around 40 years ago. This would have been the food store of a Red backed shrike, a bird now absent as a breeding species in the UK! Finally we discussed the more recent decline of Yellowhammers in our area - any sightings gratefully received please.

We have enjoyed the company of a Chiffchaff in our garden recently, a tiny warbler, a small number of which, now with milder (and wetter!) winters, stay in Britain. This bird was feeding on tiny insects on a Euphorbia plant.

Finally, we read about diversification in farming. Well, a farmer in mid-Wales has taken to 'farming' Red kites. He has been putting offal and waste meat out daily and inviting the public to watch the birds come to feed. There were 12 Red kites in the air together, giving wonderfully close views and splendid value for the £1-50 admission money. Also present were Buzzards and Ravens and this attraction has proved so popular that additional visitor facilities are to be provided.

Trevor RIDDLE

FEBRUARY BIRDS II

In response to previous KN and V 'bird news' stories re the GS woodpecker.

It seems likely that we are the guilty party as to their disappearance from Kenn gardens. Here at Kenn Pier they visit 3 or 4 times a day to our nut-feeder. So apologies to Kenn bird spotters!

Another regular visitor is the Comorant, a sea bird which is often seen above or on the Blind Yeo river.

D GLASSON, Riverside Cottage.

SOUTH AFRICAN TYPIST

England in February is cold, wet and windy - just the time to go to the southern hemisphere for some mid-summer weather. Temperatures in the 80s were promised and an African sun shining down from bright blue skies. Well

into a life a little rain must fall, or had a somewhat jealous Avril's rain dance really worked at that distance.

On the second weekend of the trip I'd planned to travel to the Mkuzi game reserve in Kwa-Zulu, the home of

the famous Zulu nation, still ruled by their king, Goodwill. They are a fiercely independent people as the British found out in the past and Nelson Mandela is about to find out in the near future. Unfortunately, whenever their independence is threatened they have reacted violently and with the local elections due, more violence is expected.

Everyone tells you the best time to see game is early in the morning and in the evening. "Get there when the reserve opens" was the advice. An opening time of 5am and a two hour drive to get there meant this was unlikely to be followed!

Well at 5am I awoke with the alarm to a



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loud drumming noise, Dismissing alcohol as a cause, I realised it was rain - unbelievable tropical rain descending in torrents! So back to bed!

Three hours later after a hearty breakfast, I finally set off with the optimism of the English that it couldn't keep up at that rate. It did.

By mid-afternoon I was pretty fed up. All I'd seen were a few waders on a lake: blackwinged stilts and blacksmith plovers mainly with a few sandpipers and a bartailed godwit, all being watched by an African fish eagle. On the telegraph wires were our old friends the European swallow (possibly even the Kenn ones!) looking more at home in the rain.

As I set off to drive home, out came the sun and round I turned. At a waterhole, I settled down for a feast. Nothing but a few Lesser striped swallows. Perfect end to the day. I had my lunch - one can of coke, the only food the reserve sold - and began to pack up. Then I turned and my luck changed.

5 white rhinos were only 30 feet away, walking quietly to feed - amazingly quiet for a 2 ton animal (how come my kids make so much noise when walking?) The white are very rare and were threatened with extinction but management in game reserves has led to a world population of about 3 500. The white is easily told from the black (both love rolling in mud so skin colour is no help) by their large pointed ears, square lips and humped neck. Their skins were ulcerated and covered in flies - perfect for the redbilled oxpecker and these five rhinos had three oxpeckers picking off the flies, helping the rhinos and getting food at the same time.

The rhinos moved off and were followed in sequence by zebras, warthogs, wollynecked storks, impalas and a longcristed eagle - my first sighting of this.

A wonderful end to the day I thought.

Things deteriorated however, Avril doesn't give in that easily. The rain restarted and the dirt roads became a sea of slippery mud, the ~~two~~ hour journey took three and a half hours of hard concentration.

So in conclusion, if you need rain ask Avril!

LETTER TO RAY NAISH

Ray NAISH received the following letter in appreciation of one of his articles.

"Further to my telephone conversation with you, on Saturday evening last, my family and I wish to express our thanks for the "write-up" on the death of Sarah Mary Wainwright which appeared in the latest issue of your "Kenn News". The article was correct in every detail, your memory is certainly in fine fettle, as most of the events you covered happened prior to 1940.

I was especially delighted that you remembered our herd of milking goats. My mother looked after these animals and carried out the milking. You may recall two kids were born to a nanny goat called Daisy, one kid was called Billy who unfortunately was sold for meat; some of the meat was given to us but my sisters refused to eat it, much to my shame, I did not have such scruples. The other kid was a young nanny and was almost a dog and we used to take her for walks using a dog's collar and lead.

All my memories of Kenn are happy ones. No child could have wished to grow up in a better environment and most certainly, no child could have attended a better village school than Kenn Village School. We were fortunate to have been instructed by the likes of Miss Pilgrim, Mrs Bevan, Mrs Griffiths and Miss Bond.

Many events of the 1930s spring to mind, such as the Silver Jubilee in 1935 and the Air Pagent, I believe, which took place in

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the same year. It was also, I'm fairly certain, that Charlie Staples organised the "Brake Outing" to Portishead. All the village children and most of the mums went on the outing, and I think it was the last occasion that the horse drawn brake was used.

I have many other childhood memories of the village, I must jot them down sometime, and compare them with events you have listed.

My kindest regard to you and your family,

Yours sincerely,

George Wainwright.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Mr and Mrs Colin WEBB have moved into the Old Chapel in Kenn Street. We welcome them to the village and wish them a long and happy time here.

Graham, Grace and Carl MENEAR have moved to Clevedon from their cottage "Meadow Side" Kenn Street after having lived there for over twenty years. We wish them all the best for the future.

Congratulations to John GRIFFIN on his excellent story about the life of the late Sidney George STAPLES in last month's News and Views.

Unusual birds have been visiting the village lately. A pair of Jays have been seen in several gardens in Kenn Street and recently a sparrowhawk killed a pigeon in the yard here at Stonehouse farm. He returned again in the afternoon, sat on the gate and had a look through the kitchen window. They are generally very shy birds.

RVN

MR WILF TILEY

May I, through the Kenn News, say a very big thank you to all who helped Wilf at the time of his accident.

He is making good progress and I can't thank you all enough.

Cedella TILEY

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

RE. the short article in the February News and Views, it has brought forth replies from Kenn Road, Yatton and Kenn Pier. It has been suggested by the Wood-spring NW Liason Officer that the village should have a meeting with the community beat officer to explain the ins and outs of Neighbourhood Watch. It is hoped that this meeting will take place in the village hall during the Annual Parish Council Meeting being held on 3rd April. Please remember that burglary is successful because burglary is relatively easy. Juveniles appear in court charged with robbing a dozen houses in their neighbourhood. How did they get in? We are still cocooned in the comfortable philosophy that the police are wholly responsible for protecting us from bodily harm and our property from pillage. Unfortunately this is no longer possible with the constant reduction in the numbers of those responsible for law and order. So remember to lock doors and windows, put tools away and make sure the garage door is locked. Also don't leave the keys in the car when you go to unlock the garage.

BE VIGILANT

Dennis GOLDSWORTHY

JOHN GRIFFIN

John GRIFFIN has recently retired from his post as Licenced Lay Reader in the Church of England. This means he was an assistant to the clergy.

John was first licenced when he was in his early twenties and held the Licence for over thirty years. The late Rev. Francis TAMBLING, who was vicar of Kenn in the 1950s, encouraged John to become a Lay Reader. In the next fifteen

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years or so the vicars of Kenn were often elderly and sometimes in poor health, this meant that John had to take the services week after week. He was great at taking services when there were children in the congregation and always made his talks interesting to both young and older people. To mark his retirement a presentation was made to him on behalf of the clergy and members of the congregation by Rev. John RUFFLE during the morning service on February 12th.

It was a well kept secret, John couldn't understand why all the members of his family were so keen to be in church on that particular morning; his daughters Sarah and Penny live in London and Aberdeen. John has also been, and is still carrying on, his work as a Church Councillor, a post he has held over thirty years. He has been a member of the choir here at Kenn for forty seven years; we look forward to him being able to continue for many years to come.

Ray NAISH

GREAT MYSTERY SOLVED

Miles NAISH has a Belgian Blue bull which is kept in a shed in Russ Lane.

Jeremy OSBORNE who works for Miles goes to the shed every morning to feed the bull. He noticed the bull had a sore place on the top of his tail. He treated it daily with antiseptic spray but each day the sore was bigger until it was as big as a rich tea biscuit and nearly down to bone.

Jeremy kept saying he couldn't understand what was making the sore bigger day after day. One morning he saw the culprit in action, a magpie was standing on the top of the bull's tail, leaning over and picking at the sore. A deterrent was quickly found, Jeremy placed a large dab of Stockholm tar on the top of the tail and covered the sore with tar. It seems to be working, the magpie doesn't like standing in the tar or the taste of it.

RVN

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Self help is our way of action

24 January 1995

Mrs. S. Naish
Oakland Farm
Kenn Road
Kenn
Nr. Clevedon
Avon

Dear Sheila,

Once again, we are so pleased to receive the donation to our centre of £350.40 raised from a Christmas Disco held in Kenn Village Hall. Please pass on our most sincere thanks to all the people of Kenn, and others, for supporting this event and, of course, our thanks to you and everyone who organised it.

As you know we greatly value the fundraising you do for us and the money you raise is always put to very good use as we continue to help and support those with MS.

This time it will go towards having our oxygen chamber serviced next month. This is a statutory and very necessary yearly ritual but always leaves rather a "gaping hole" in our funds. Various pieces of rather expensive equipment in the chamber have to be replaced and your money will be used to purchase these. We hope you will be happy for us to use the money in this way.

May we all once again, say a big thank you to you and the people of Kenn for the marvellous support you give our centre. You are all very welcome to visit us at any time.

With kind regards and best wishes,

On behalf of everyone at our centre.

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There are 365 days available for work. There are 52 weeks, of which you already have two days off each weekend, leaving 261 days left for work. Since you spend 16 hours of each day away from work, and that accounts for 170 days, there are just 91 days left available for work. You spend 30 minutes each day on breaks, taking up a further 23 days each year, and leaving 68 days available for work. You spend one hour at lunch, accounting for another 46 days per year. There are now just 22 days available for work. You spend three days a year on sick leave, leaving 19 days available for work. You take eight public holidays each year, leaving eleven days available for work. You take ten vacation days each year. That leaves one day available for work, and *NO WAY* are you going to take that day off!

(Reproduced from The Legal Executive News, published by the Bermuda Branch).

NO WONDER I'M TIRED WORK WORK WORK

There are 56 million people in the U.K.
Twenty Two million are over 65.
Twenty million are under 18.
This leaves 14 million people to do the work.
But 4 million are in the armed forces.
This leaves 10 million people to do the work.
But 3 ½ million are on the dole.
This leaves 6 ½ million to do the work.
But 4 million work for the government.
This leaves 2 ½ million to do the work.
But 2 million are in further education.
This leaves 500,000 to do the work.
But 450,000 are sick or disabled.
This leaves 50,000 to do the work.
But last week 49,998 people were in prison.
This leaves 2 people to do the work.
And since you don't do much,
No wonder I'm tired.