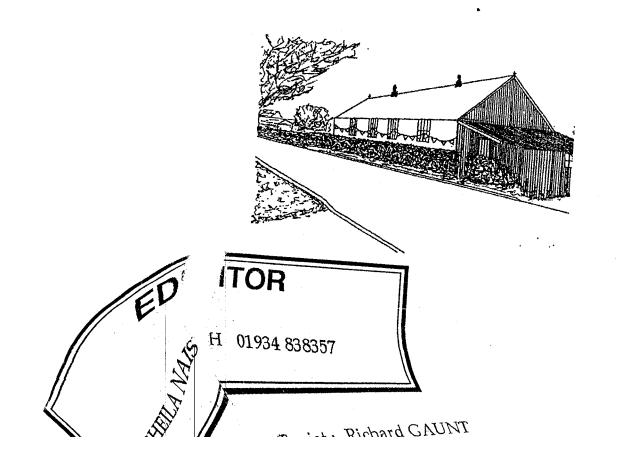
OCTOBER 1995 ISSUE 87



PAY IN YOUR SPONSORSHIP MONIES AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE



### **MESSAGE FROM LITTLE ED**

ASPERSIONS CAST UPON MY FITNESS

The report on the Fun Run appears later on in the magazine but I feel I need to clarify one or two points. I did not run the 3 miles (yes I know - nor the 1 mile jaunt) because I was very busy clocking in all the runners. Later on I was busy too so I had no chance to participate. OF COURSE I am perfectly capable of doing the race and all disparaging remarks about my fitness etc. are quite wrong. To prove that your ed is not a lazy unfit so and so I am quite prepared to "do" the course, fancy dress or not, provided that a donation of £25 (at least) is given to DREAMFLIGHT. (Gulp) It's up to you. Phone me.

Sheila

### **BIRTHDAYS**

- 1st Katy Golding ELLIS
- 3rd Gill TAYLOR

Fancy Dress Charity Fund Raising Party - is it in your diary?

### FRIDAY 10th NOVEMBER

Puddleducks Fancy Goods, Gifts and Novelties Party in aid of Dreamflight. More next month. Come and buy your christmas presents and have a glass of punch and a chat. Men and kids welcome.

### CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Shirley and Derek WALL (Kenn Valley Social Club) on the safe arrival of their first grandchild, a grandson on Sunday 17th September.

#### **BEST WISHES**

Mrs Julie HART from Fresh Fields is in hospital after an operation. We wish her a speedy recovery and send our love to Jeremy and son Oliver.

#### WELCOMES

A warm welcome to Tina, Shaun and baby Levi who have moved into the

some of you. It is of course, Mrs Joyce KENT's home in Kenn Street. We need some more material for our covers - Christmas is coming and we'd really like a festive cover for December please. Can anyone help?

### **FUN RUN**

We are awaiting sponsor money from the Fun Run, please try and get your money in as soon as possible. Thank you to Mrs Sue JORDAN of Puddleducks and Peter NEILL of Clevedon for their donation. Many thanks to the Clevedon Air Cadets who turned out to run the 3 miles having camped out all weekend. Well done to them. We'd like to thank everyone who came to run, walk or just cheer people on. We were grateful that Terry and Shane MANVILLE turned up in their fancy dress outfits having been nearly nagged to death by me. They were really good sports and I think I have been forgiven for "keeping on". I loved the underpants Superman!

Times are given below. If they don't agree with your own, we're sorry, it got a bit hectic.

### RESULTS

1 Mike JAMES 17.08; 2 Mike GRAY 17.15; 3 Peter BROOKS 17.21; 4 Daniel JACK-SON 18.08; 5 Mark PERRY 18.28; 6 Jason HOARE (16) 18.40; 7 Alex HOARE (13) 19.19; 8 Oliver MORRIS (16) 19.31; 9 Simon WILLIAMS (16) 19.33; 10 Tom THIE (13) 19.42; 11 Andrew LOCK 19.45; 12 A N OTHER 19.42; 13 Jeremy OSBORNE 19.54; 14 Guy JENKINS 20.42; 15 Lee MASON 20.48; 16 Tim TAYLOR 20.53; 17 Graham WARREN 20.55; 18 Mark DANIEL 21.18; 19 Dominic POL-SHILL 22.09; 20 Clive Golding ELLIS 22.22; 21 Clive JENKINS 22.43; 22 John GEORGE 23.19; 23 Miles NAISH 23.24; 24 Robert BULLOCK 23.49; 25 Steve ROSSITER 24.53; 26 Shelley BETISON 25.41; 27 Sebstian WILCOX 26.35; 28 Charlotte GEORGE 27.12; 29 Quinton

STOWELL 27.13; 30 Leon NAISH 27.39; 31 Rob WHITE 28.21; 32 John HADLEY 30.17; 33 Len TAYLOR 32.14; 34 Barbara 33.09; 35 (son in law) 33.11; joint 36th Roger WILCOX and Ben WOODS 33.23; 38 Shane MANVILLE 37.01; 39 Terry MANVILLE 39.10; 40 Chris WILLIAMS 42.44; 41 Anthony PALLERT 42.45; 42 Alex HADLEY 43.54; 43 Steve ROW 43.56; 44 Andrew CARNON 43.57; 45 Alison OSBOURNE 44.53; 46 Emily MARKS 44.53; joint 47th Heather JEN-KINS and JEAN WOODS 47.05; joint 49th Amy KNIGHTON and Karen OSBOURNE 49.44.

### CHILDREN'S RACE

1 Vanessa NAISH 12.00; 2 Andrew JEN-KINS 12.02; 3 Tom MEEK 12.04; 4 Jerry NAISH 12.54; 5 Katie GEORGE 13.00

### NO WIN - I GIVE UP

Having lost Big Ed down to Medium Ed (and she's still getting smaller), I realised that as Little Ed I'm moving up to Medium Ed. I decided to forgo chocolate, crisps, chips and the odd drink (well I did say ODD) and managed to loose some weight only to be told by he who shall remain nameless that he was getting used to cellulite and quite liked it!! So I wrote this having just polished off cod and chips and a glass of wine with no twinge of conscience. BLISS

### CORRECTION

Kenn Valley Social Club is available for RACE nights not rave nights as printed last month. Sorry for my bad writing.

Sheila NAISH

### **THANK YOU**

John and Sylvia STAPLES would like to thank everyone for the cards and presents received on their silver wedding anniversary on 29th August. A special big thank you to Lorraine and Lee for their hard work and decorations.

### **SNIPPETS**

YOGA CLASSES

Kenn Village Hall at 7-30pm and Mondays, 9, 16, 23 and 30th October and 6 and 13th November. Full particulars from Mrs Bobby MACARTHUR, phone 875468.

#### KEEP FIT CLASSES

These will be held in Kenn Village Hall on Thursdays: October 12, 19, 26th and November 2, 9 and 16th, all at 7-30.

Further particulars from Mrs CUR-WOOD, 84 Hawthorn Crescent, Yatton.

#### DIARY DATES

Wednesday October 11th. Kenn WI at 7-30. Speaker Mrs COURSEY. Demonstration of teddy bears made in clay. Competition: teddy bear.

November 21st. Hall cleaning.

November 25th. Silent auction and buffet supper.

### **SUNDAY CLUB OUTING**

On Thursday 17th August - one of those hot sunny days - the Sunday Club members, accompanied by families and friends, were guests for the afternoon of Jim and Sylvia MERCER who live with their daughter Patsy and their granddaughters Vanessa and Gerry in a beautiful house near Blagdon. It was a most memorable time for all, with fun and games for the children organised by Gerry and Vanessa, panoramic views from the hilltop setting, an idyllic garden, refreshing drinks, a wonderful assortment of festive fare to tempt the most jaded palate and, of course, a comprehensive collection of animals horses, bantams, chicks, rabbits, guinea pigs, stick insects and dogs - one of which leapt out of the bedroom window to join us and became stuck on top of the conservatory roof! With some quick thinking by Vanessa he returned to

safety the way he got out! Heather MATTHEWS, Rector of Blagden, was a guest also, so that the conversation became very lively comparing the two parishes!

It was difficult to leave the oasis of peace and tranquillity and all the attentive hospitality of Patsy and Sylvia but after the lingering thank yous and goodbyes, the party of about twelve made its way back to Kenn. Thank you once again Sylvia, Patsy. Jim, Gerry and Vanessa for such an enjoyable afternoon.

PS If anyone would like a pair of stick insects, please contact Gerry NAISH!

### KENN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Mrs. Mann, President, welcomed everyone back from their summer holidays to the September meeting of the Kenn W.I. There were several apologies, so some members are obviously still enjoying the summer. Mrs. Bubb was thanked for the table flowers which were later included in the draw.

Mrs. Gawthorpe, a reporter on the Weston Mercury, gave a most interesting talk on her experiences in journalism. She is proof of the the maxim that one should never let an opportunity go by because it could lead to something with a really far reaching effect on one's whole life.

Mrs. Gawthorpe judged the competition for an ornate mirror. Miss Weaver was awarded gold, Mrs. Dobbs, silver and Mrs. Bubb, green.

The Autumn Group Meeting will be held at the Mizzymead Recreation Centre on October 18th. The competition is for a chamber pot and the talk on sleeping in strange beds. Mrs. Mann will be delegate to the Autumn Council Meeting at Weston-S-Mare in October. There will be a discussion on the desirability of banning smoking in public places. She will listen to the arguments before casting a vote.

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A team will take part in the County Quiz and it is hoped to send a team to a quiz being organised by South Clevedon Institute. It is also hoped to field a skittles team in the County Tournament this year. The subscription for 1996 will be £12.50.

A letter has been received from the organisers of the Flower Festival thanking the W.I. for their arrangement. £1000 was dividided between charities. The Village Hall Committee have promised to obtain some fan heaters for use in the very cold weather.

It was decided to hold a secret ballot at the Annual General Meeting in November on the issue of a return to the Somerset Federation of W.I.'s. This would help determine the action Kenn should take in the future when Avon County disappears as an administrative county.

The October meeting is to have as its theme a teddy bears' picnic. It will be the occasion of our birthday celebrations instead of a separate party and other Institutes will be invited to send guests to the meeting. The talk will be by Mike Cawsey on making clay teddy bears and the competition will be for a teddy bear. A celebratory supper and birthday cake will be served.

### **KENN PARISH COUNCIL**

The next meeting of the Paris Council will be held in the Village Hall on Monday 2nd October at 7.30 p.m. All are welcome.

### **HISTORY GROUP**

The evening weather was unsettled as we gathered at Stonehouse Farm for the final walk for the year. Most of the hardy walkers were there, including our regular guest from Gordano, Mrs LONG. We were going to Alcott's Orchard & the Fairfields Farm Museum in Kingston

Seymour. On arrival, other friends from Kingston joined us.

The path across the entrance to the orchard is known as Horselease Lane; at one time this lane was a popular way of walking between Weston-super-Mare and Clevedon. Most of the lane can still be traced. Kingston Seymour has changed radically over the past 30 years, especially since the coming of the motorway. At one time, virtually all the people there were farmers and dwellings belonged to farming folk. Now, there are many more houses and a much larger population, so as well as farmers there are other businesses and commuters.

Alcott's Orchard comprises about 10 acres and is one of the biggest cider orchards still in existence locally. It was planted about 120 years ago by the owner of a cider making firm. The trees are now mature and apples plentiful. On beginning our walk through the orchard, it was noticeable that the ground is not flat, but undulating with regular ups and downs. These are known in Somerset as gripes and were purposely made. Because Kingston is low lying it tends to flood in winter; the hollows collect the water leaving the upper parts dry preventing the whole area from flooding.

Apples were found on the ground in great numbers and there was a gentle and pleasant aroma of ripe apples. At one time the crop was harvested by hand as labour there was cheap. The fruits are always collected from the ground and not from the trees, as fallers are more ripe and make better cider. Nowadays harvesting is by machine which acts like a vacuum cleaner scraping apples from the ground. Amongst the cider apples trees Ray noticed another and very rare variety of apple growing; it is known as the Tom Putt apple after the man who named it. When the orchard was planted, it was surrounded by a wind-break of willow and poplar and they still do a fine

job. Willow is the wood used for cricket bats and Somerset was once the main source for that purpose. The willows reminded Ray of the old Somerset proverb which says that "when willows do show white, twill rain before night". By now the wind was beginning to rustle the leaves and sure enough within minutes it began to rain. The clouds were well spaced though and through the trees to the west came a glorious full rainbow, but, alas, no crock of gold at Rainbow's end. We now returned to our starting point and set off to the museum.

The genial, man who met us there was Gerald HARRIS who owns the collection. Before going inside to see the exhibits, he showed us a lovely old farm wagon, built in 1913 as a wedding present for his granddad. Actually its full title is a "full-lock narrow wheel wagon" and very smart it looked too in its newly painted livery.

Then we went into a roomy hanger-like building with an amazing array of machinery, implements and hand tools. An engine powered a 50 volt generator for the lighting and also turned a main shaft from which other belts powered all the machines. It looked like a victorian workshop with all the belts being driven from one shaft. There isn't enough space to mention everything we saw, but Gerald demonstrated a chaff machine, a swede crunching machine and a coarse mill for grinding animal feed. Weed hoes were shown, one horse driven and another which was pushed by a worker. It was easy to see how labour intensive were farms of those days, but then labour was cheap.

There were a great many hand-tools and other implements on show. An old fashioned jack used to change wagon wheels, a log cutter for the old saw mill in Yatton, a very long handled pitch fork for making the hay ricks. Finally we were picking up strange looking objects and

asking "What was this for?" Gerald patiently explained them all, like the mole traps, a gadget for shaping horns, there was even a curved metal container which when filled with water was used as a belly warmer.

It was dark now and time to go home. But before we went, we had some lovely tea and coffee inside the bungalow. A vote of thanks was given to Gerald for showing us around and to Hazel and the other ladies for the tea and coffee.

As this was the last walk of the season, it is fitting that we should thank Ray NAISH for the time and trouble he has taken to organise all these walks and to the kind people who entertained us. Thank you all very much.

Cliff EDWARDS

### **GIVING THANKS**

Our sincere thanks to those kind kennites who presented our two mothers with a harvest gift of flowers, fruit and vegetables. It was gratefully received. Many thanks.

Mr & Mrs D GLASSON

Kenn Pier.

### **ALTAR GUILD**

October rota: Tina MIDDLETON, Heather JENKINS.

Many thanks to the many kind ladies who helped with the beautiful decorations this Harvest-tide

### LONG LIFE

If you wish to live to be an octogenarian then Kenn is the place to live in. There are twenty people in this village over the age of eighty - about 6% of the present village population.

### HISTORY GROUP

The first winter meeting of the History

Group will be held on October 9th at 7-30pm at The Granary, Duck Lane. If you are interested, please come along.

Grace & John GRIFFIN

### FRIENDS OF KENN CHURCH

A meeting was held in the church on 22nd July to consider forming a Society to be known as The Friends of St. John's Church, Kenn. The meeting was well attended by villagers and others.

John CRUSE explained the purpose of the proposed society which is to raise funds to assist the Parochial Church

Council in the upkeep, restoration and improvement of the St John the Evangelist Church, Kenn. The society will be a charity and rules acceptable to the Charity Commissioners were discussed and agreed by those present. A committee was formed and a date for the first business meeting fixed.

At that first committee meeting, which was held at Stonehouse farm, officers were elected as follows: Chair M FORD; Secretary M STOWELL; and Treasurer S PASCOE. The rest of the committee is: Iris SURRIDGE, Ruth DYER, Marianna MACKAY, Grace GRIFFIN, Cliff EDWARDS. John CRUSE and Ray NAISH also attended as representatives of the church.

Once the society is properly registered every household in the village will receive a letter inviting them to join. As membership will not be confined to Kenn, the letter will also be circulated outside the village and copies will be distributed from our Post Office. It was

agreed that there should be a membership subscription, a £1 p.a. minimum, payable each October. Arrangements will also be made so that this subscription could be paid by covenant, which would be financially beneficial to the Society. Initial donations to the Society were

graciously given from the Kenn School Reunion and also money from our wonderful flower festival. Other fund raising events and ideas will be announced in future News and Views.

The whole village will wish this venture every success and support it so that everyone can have a personal

interest in the upkeep and well-being of our church.

Cliff EDWARDS

### **SCHOOL REUNION - PART 4**

People have been asking the names of the former pupils who attended the reunion in August. Here is a list with the ladies' maiden names in brackets

Margaret CROSSMAN (NAISH, Robin TAYLOR, Daphne VEALE (NAISH), Joan CHURCHILL (DYER), Chrissie GRIN-NELL (DYER), Sam DYER, Gillian SOMERS (BYE), Christine MALET (BOND), Frances FORD (MOORE), Mildred SWEET (MOORE), Grace DAY (GRIGG), Eddie GRIGG, Hartley STA-PLES, Cyril WILLCOX, Bob GALE, Betty RICHARDS (HOLLYMAN), Edna WIL-LIAMS (NETHERCOTT), Mary SAUN-DERS (HUXTABLE), Phyllis BROWN (HOLLYMAN), Margaret MOXHAM (HOLLYMAN), Dorothy CAPLE (BAI-LEY), Grate PARSONS (GISSING), Moira LUXTON (BAKER), Connie WILSON

(HALLWORTH), Richard HALLWORTH, Charlie HOLLEY, Betty IRVING (BOWDERY), Theo STOWELL, Winnie COLE (STAPLES), Roland HAZELL, Margaret BESSANT (STAPLES), Gladys GRIFFIN (SHOPLAND), Jack MORGAN, Ronald GRIGG, Beryl MCDONALD (COX), Ann HOLTHAM, Margaret CHAPPELL (HOLTHAM), Eddie RUSSELL, Alex JOHNSON, Renee STOWELL (COX), Peter TRIPP, Lucy BAKER, Pamela STUCKEY, Iris FLETCHER (STONE), Donald STAPLES, Winnie GRIGG and Ray NAISH.

### HARVEST THANKSGIVING

There was a good congregation at the Harvest Services this year and a surprisingly good amount of produce was brought to the church considering the very dry weather we've been having. This was distributed to the sick and elderly in the Parish.

Thanksgiving for a bountiful harvest and for all the other good things nature provides doesn't rate very highly in most people these days. This year about 100 people were present at the two services. Quite a few of those attending were from outside the village, including two visitors from Carolina USA and Zoya GRAY's mother from St. Petersburg, Russia. I think back to the days before the last war when everyone grew almost every vegetable they used throughout the year in their gardens, chiefly because they didn't earn enough money to be able to but such luxuries. Many more people attended Harvest Festivals. In those days there were four services in Kenn Church on Harvest Festival Sunday, 8am Communion, 11am sung MATINS, 3pm Children and Family Service when children brought their gifts as they still do today and 6-30pm Evensong when often the Church was so packed that chairs had to be brought in. This was when Kenn was a parish on its own and there were few visitors from outside, most were village

people.

Ray NAISH.

### **NEW VILLAGE HALL**

As villagers know, a form was delivered to every household a few weeks ago asking people to state whether they were in favour of trying to raise the money for a new hall or against. There was a very poor response to this, only about a third of the forms were returned. Just about half of these were against and some of those in favour were concerned about how such a large amount of money could be raised (it is estimated a new hall could cost around (£80 000). One of the big problems at the present time is the change over that is taking place next Spring in local government. There have in the past been grants available from the local authority towards the cost of building new halls, but these may not be available from the new authority.

In view of the difficulties this is causing to members of the Parish Council who have been investigating the prospects of a new hall, my sisters and I have decided that it is in the best interest of the village to withdraw our offer of the land for a new hall for the time being.

Ray NAISH

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### **BIRD NEWS**

The notes by the Reverend Stevens provide an interesting comparison of bird populations in Kenn (and in many instances nationally,) between 1970 and 1995.

Turtle doves are extremely scarce birds nowadays, their range having contracted eastward. Tree sparrows, and to a lesser extent Yellowhammer are also decreasing species, albeit that the Kenn area is not likely to have been more than marginal habitat for these seed-eaters.

On the plus side Sparrowhawk, common

nowadays, is an obvious absentee from the Revd. Stevens' list and Buzzards are also much more numerous nowadays.

Migration is well underway early in September with large numbers of swallows and house martins feeding over Kenn Moor. A Whinchat, en route south, was a most interesting visitor. Whilst the resident Kingfisher, Sparrowhawk and Buzzard (3) were equally welcome sightings.

A maize stubble field attracted a flock of 50 Greenfinches, whilst 70 Lapwings were surely on passage resting quietly in an undisturbed meadow.

The low reservoir levels may be causing concern to the water companies, but migrant birds have been quick to exploit the muddy edges. Many different species of wader have been feeding up at Chew Valley Lake in readiness for the long journey south. More improbably a couple of Spotted crakes have caused great interest and attracted quite a few twitchers. Spotted crakes are like small Moorhens but are generally described as "shy and skulking", impossible to see! The Chew birds have been almost the opposite, feeding regularly in the open. A Little egret has been a regular visitor. A bittern has arrived and a feeding family of Water Rails were seen.

Tens of thousands of Swallows and Martins (Sand and House) have been feeding over the lake and have attracted at least three Hobbies. There are thousands of Teal feeding on the muddy margins and these in turn have brought in a Peregrine falcon. An aerial joust between a Peregrine and a Hobby was pretty exciting!

Nearer to home, I have reports of a Short-eared owl near Congresbury and a party of eight Fieldfares over Clevedon on the 16th - an early date.

Finally, on Saturday November 11th, I am arranging a coach trip to Giglin Farm, Rhayader, in mid-Wales. This is a winter feeding station for Red kites and there is a small interpretive centre. The coach will pick up in Clevedon and will cost around £12. Please let me know if you are interested. Phone me on 01934 835208.

Trevor RIDDLE

### DEAR ALICE

Inevitably surely that I should return your verse,

I really was impressed with it (Well, I've often heard far worse!)

This is, perhaps, not quite the place to act as super sleuth,

But my curiosity's rampant And I yearn to know the truth.

If you can't reveal your self - your own name good and true,

At least give me the peace of mind

\_ Who lives next door to you???

Paula McCULLY, Yew Tree Cottage

### **ENDPIECE**

We have had three letters this month and to save old-three fingers from wearing out, they are copied at the end of this magazine



Please Reply to:

22 Welsford Avenue, Stapleton, Bristol BS16 1BW 30th August 1995

Dear Mrs. M. Mackay, Kenn Flower Festival Donation of £500.

I am writing to thank you for the wonderful gift of £500 that you sent to support our work with the homeless. It is one of the two or three largest donations that we have ever received from a church; we really are very grateful.

Please will you pass on our thanks to all of your church members who helped to organise the Flower Festival or contributed in other ways.

It was very thoughtful of you to think of the needs of the homeless and we are, of course, pleased that you decided to help them through our Night Shelter. We can assure you that none of your donation will be wasted on administration; all of it will go directly to improving provision for our guests.

Your letter was dated 2nd August. I am sorry that you have had to wait nearly a month for this acknowledgement, and indeed had to phone our Treasurer. For the first time ever the solicitor at our Registered Office mistyped my house number when redirecting the post; it went to a neighbour of mine who was on holiday for two weeks, so it did not arrive until the middle of the month when I was on holiday! Please do reassure any of your members who may have thought we did not appreciate your effort on our behalf.

We are grateful too for your intentions of donating blankets and food at Christmas again; this will be very acceptable. You ask for suitable literature, however we produce hardly any publicity material and all I can offer at present is a copy of our last Annual Report, a 1993 Leaflet and an out of date poster! We really do keep administration costs to a minimum! I will forward any new printing that may be developed over the next few months.

Thank you again for your generosity.

May God richly bless your church life together.

Yours sincerely,

John Rosewell

Secretary.

25 Elm Close Yatton BRISTOL BS19 4EL 01934 832485

The Editor Kenn News & Views 2 September 1995

Dear Sheila

More in sorrow than anger I am writing to say that I was dismayed to read the comments about newspaper coverage in the current issue of Kenn News and Views, particularly as I am responsible for most Kenn items that appear in our Merc.

I appreciate we all like to think that Kenn is the centre of the universe. Unfortunately others do not share our view and Kenn news has to be lumped together with items from other communities; faraway places with strange sounding names like Claverham, Cleeve, Congresbury and Kingston Seymour, whose inhabitants do not seem to mind their news appearing in the Yatton and Wrington column.

I always thought that Kenn people liked seeing their village mentioned in our columns, especially as some of the items appear almost by special request! However it seems I have been labouring under a misapprehension and this is not so. I am therefore perfectly willing to forget all about Kenn if the villagers object so much to their news being included with that of other villages.

and Alba Hollanders

Yours sincerely

DAVID HOLMES

Local Correspondent South Avon Mercury Newspapers

Davie Her Cua

### ot Death Research

AND SUPPORT FOR BEREAVED PARENTS

• Helpline (0836) 219010 •

117 High Street, Worle, Weston Super Mare, Avon, Telephone / Fax 0934 510230. BS22 OHB.



1995

Dear Friends

Thank you sincerely for such beautifully knitted baby and childrens items that you have sent in to Cot Death Research.

We appreciate your support very much indeed, without your help we would not be able to supply the Special Care Baby Units with Premature baby Clothes and Blankets.

The children, s wards where older children spend quite some time because of problems are also in need of larger knitted clothing, also Hats, Gloves, Slippers etc.

In our Charity Shop we sell all sizes, but always in need of the larger sizes of cardigans and jumpers, we never have

The money from the sale of these items 100% is used for purchasing vital monitoring equipment for use by babies "AT

At present we are desperate for this equipment as we have recently had more than £2,000 worth stolen ( see newspaper

We are all volunteers no one in the charity gets paid, we do this work because we want to help as you do, so from all of us

Yours sincerely

P.S. We have been asked for soft toys by the baby wards so would appreciate if anyone could help.