

# KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

ISSUE 86 SEPTEMBER 1995



**EDITOR**

SHEILA NAISH 01934 838357

Printer :- Margaret STOWELL

Typist :- Richard GAUNT

## ***PeterPan Launderette***

*Your Local and Friendly Launderette where washing bulk loads are made easy.*

*We have drying facilities that are quick and efficient, which is healthier than having wet washing around the house on those cold wet days.*

*Other facilities include, service washes and ironing.*

***PeterPan Launderette  
43 Hill Road  
Clevedon***

***Tel: 01275 874668***

---

# KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

## MESSAGE FROM LITTLE ED

Sunday September 3rd FUN RUN. BE THERE

Our village GCSE students have all received their exam results and all the waiting and worrying is over - for now at least. Good luck to all of them in their new ventures, be it in jobs or universities or colleges.

I feel very sorry that this year the media hype over firstly the A Level results and secondly what the GCSE results were going to be before they'd even come out, put extra strain and pressure onto the students and indeed parents. How soul destroying to have done one's best, got a good result and then to be told that the exams were too easy! Or that the exams were being marked more stiffly this year because too many passed last year. Crikey, I'm glad I took my exams years ago. Well done to all our students.

## BIRTHDAYS

- 3rd Rene RUSSELL
- 7th Mr HOLTHAM
- 8th Hilda STAPLES
- 8th Donald STAPLES
- 10th Howard WATKINS
- 18th Jean FENWICK
- 19th Justine FLOWERS
- 20th Jessica QUINN
- 26th Joanne STAPLES
- 28th Heather JENKINS

## WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- 7th Joan & Mike STEPHENS
- 24th Iris & Dennis GOLDSWORTHY
- 27th Yvonne & Mark AYRES

## NAISH'S NOTES

### ADVANCE WARNING

Saturday 16th December in Kenn Village Hall - Christmas Party (adults) Write it in your diary now and don't double book yourself.

### VJ DAY

The collection and donations given at the very successful VJ Day amounted to £44 which will be sent to the Burma Star Association on behalf of Kenn villagers.

### SCHOOL TRIPP

Peter TRIPP has won the contract to take Kenn students to the comp this term - common sense at last. We have had coaches from all over the region take our students to school which must have cost more than a local village company taking them a few miles up the road each day.

### WARMER HALL?

Has anyone got a spare fan heater they no longer use? We could do with one (or two) for use in the village hall this winter. Please contact Sam or Ruth DYER or any committee member.

### PUDDLEDUCKS

Mrs Sue JORDAN has taken over Puddleducks gift shop in Clevedon and is helping to sponsor the Fun Run for us this year. We will also be holding a "come and shop for Christmas" evening in October where you can purchase or order anything from Puddleducks. Proceeds from this evening will be donated to Dreamflight. Date to be advised next month.

### KENN VALLEY

Memberships are now due for renewal at Kenn valley Social Club - £5 for single and £7-50 double/family. A varied programme of events is planned for the winter and Christmas and the New Year where you are all welcome and children are catered for. Pop in or phone Derek or

# KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

Shirley on Yatton 832086. The club caters for parties (adults or children), Discos, Rave Nites, Skittles or Darts. There is a fun Pub Quiz Night every Wednesday and Prize Bingo on Sundays. Details from the club.

## SNIPPETS

### CELEBRATIONS

August 4th, Her Majesty the Queen Mother celebrated her ninety fifth birthday.

August 5th, Penelope Jane married Murray Robert LEIPER at Kenn Church. We wish them a long and happy married life together. Penny is the second daughter of Mr and Mrs John GRIFFIN of Duck Lane.

Our flag was flown on both these happy days.

### VJ COMMEMORATION

Our flag was flown on August 15th and again on August 19th when a gathering of Kennites met in the village hall for an American Supper.

Let us not forget the suffering of our men and women in the Far East and always remember the message from them:

"We gave our tomorrow for your today."

### COFFEE EVENING

A coffee evening at Kenn Court in aid of Kenn's christmas tree and News and Views was well supported and raised £108-15p Warm thanks to everyone who donated to the Bring and Buy and Raffle prizes and helped to make the evening so successful.

### PRIZE WINNERS

The renowned herd of pedigree Shorthorn cows owned by Mr John WITHERS of Moorside Farm won prizes at the Mid-Somerset Show at Shepton Mallet. All together they won five prizes in different classes.

## CHAMPION

Mrs Heather NOAD not only won first prize in her Private Driving class at Dunster Show, but Champion Prize in Private Driving Classes overall.

## LONG SERVICE AWARD

Constable Alan McCULLY who joined the Police Force some 22 years ago and is presently serving in the Avon and Somerset Constabulary has been awarded his long service medal. Congratulations.

## WESTON and SOMERSET MERCURY

From time to time happenings in Kenn receive publicity in the Mercury under our own Label, Kenn, not lumped under reports of neighbouring centres. The paper is on sale at Kenn Post Office, price 25p.

## KENN VILLAGE HALL

The committee has decided not to raise rents for the Hall for the coming year. Rents are:

Meeting - £10

Children's Party - £15

Jumble Sale - £20

Social evening - £25

All day hire - £35.

All for Kenn residents. Further information from Mrs I STOWELL (872472) or Mrs R DYER (872676).

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday Sept 3rd @ 3pm. Kenn Fun Run in aid of Dreamflight

Wednesday Sept. 13th @ 7-30pm. Kenn WI. Speaker Mrs Ann GAWTHORPE - reporter for Weston and Somerset Mercury.

Wednesday Sept. 20th @ 7pm. Jumble Sale in aid of Senior Citizens' Tea Party.

# KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

Advance Notice - November.

21st Hall cleaning

25th Silent Auction with Buffet Supper, 8pm

29th WI Christmas Flower Arrangements, 7-30.

RMD

## KENN VILLAGE HALL

During the past months, the exterior of the Hall has been completed at a cost of £936.

## MARRIAGE

On Saturday 5th August we celebrated the marriage of our daughter, Penny to Murray LEIPER of Stonehaven, near Aberdeen.

We enjoyed a day as near perfect as could have possibly hoped for with Kenn looking at her very best, basking in the glorious sunshine of this summer of 1995. Our church full with family and friends, John CRUSE conducted the service and gave a talk to Penny and Murray. Many commented that the service was "just right". Mary HOLMES played the organ supported by Sandy KEMLO from Clevedon on the bagpipes; we are grateful to them both for the super atmosphere their playing created.

Roger and Margaret kindly provided the wedding car "The Ghost" which with Quinton at the wheel and its passengers made an impressive sight gliding majestically up and down Kenn street.

Cheryl QUINN was responsible for the flower arrangements, both in the church and marquee. Her artistry was much enjoyed and admired.

We held the reception in the garden, this was special for us as Penny was born here at The Granary. We are indeed fortunate to have lived in the same house for over 30 years now.

The breeze of the afternoon died away to give us a still, balmy evening, which was again perfection for sitting out in the garden or joining in the Scottish dancing, which went on until midnight - most of the Scots were in their kilts which added greatly to the spectacle.

Philip NOBLE did a pig roast and Beryl WAKEFIELD the rest of the catering, both were excellent.

Murray's family and friends from Scotland were most impressed by our part of the West Country and our lovely little village church providing the classic setting for a real village wedding. Some stayed with Ray and Jean NAISH at Stonehouse Farm, others in Clevedon with Gillian SOMERS, nee BYE, of Kenn Pier. They all remarked on the warmth of the hospitality.

Penny and Murray left on Sunday morning for a week away on a Greek island, which couldn't have been any warmer than Kenn!! They returned to us for a couple of days before making their way back north to Stonehaven in a car packed tight with all the super wedding presents they received.

We now have the wedding photos and video to remind us of a great family day.

We are very grateful to everyone who joined us for the day or who contributed in any way to the event.

John & Grace.

## KENN HISTORY GROUP

There were upwards of thirty keen walkers who came to Stonehouse Farm for the August walk to Decoy Pool Farm. Among them were friends from Walton-in-Gordano, and Kingston Seymoor, including Mrs LAWRENCE whom we wish much future happiness. Joan and Trevor PICKFORD had travelled from Sherbourne so the fame of Ray's Rambles must be spreading.

# KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

It was a sunny but cool evening as we left the village, turned right at Kenn Pier along Nailsea Wall to our starting point. We began at the small bridge that spans the river Kenn. The source of the Kenn is somewhere near Wraxall, whence it flows through Nailsea to Kenn and on to Kingston. The river plays a major part in the drainage of the 90 acres of this part of the moor, but more about that later. The old path, on which we began the walk, had been, during the last six months, made good with gravel but had at the same time, covered up what remained of Decoy Pool Farm.

On our left now was a field of golden straw, made even more golden by the evening sun. To the right, a green meadow with the long grass waiting to be cut.

The land here is flat and below sea level so this explains why the history of the moor is in two phases: one, before the drainage work done in the fifties; and two, as it is now. Years ago, the land flooded every winter and was deemed to be fairly useless, except for the shooting of duck. Many hundreds of birds flew in each winter to spend the night there, including widgeon, mallard, teal, pintails and geese. The shooting enabled some local people to augment their living. After milking their very few cows, they were able to get down to the moor and bag a few ducks. They also had an ancient right to set up a stall in the market at Alexander Road to sell the birds.

As we walked on, the moor was criss-crossed with small water-filled ditches, so we were able to see patches of land as it was before drainage. Growing from the ditches, were the reeds and rushes, just as they had done so many years before. The rushes were harvested and used as bedding for animals and the reeds provided the main food for the birds. The reeds could grow to 10 feet, sometimes hiding completely, the cattle grazing

during the summer.

The water table here is only just below the surface and this accounted for the very healthy green grassland through which we were now walking. In the distance now to the left we could see the wooded uplands that lead up to the Mendip Hills. Cormorants were perching on the pylon cables and a pair of buzzards flew by, on the look-out for supper, no doubt. On this part of the lonely moor is the frontier between Nailsea and Kenn, but there was not a Kalshnikov in sight. We now came to an old part of the moor known as the Big Plantation. The trees were old and gnarled and must have been there for many years. This land was bought some time ago and the new owner uprooted many of the trees but it still conveys something of the place as it was.

The cooling breeze was blowing a little stronger by now, but in the lee of the tall hedge it felt warm. In the winter, cattle know to shelter from icy winds behind these hedges.

We had now reached the limit of the walk, and we turned homewards into the setting sun. A water course known as the Black Ditch was to the left and on the far side a small flock of mallards were waddling through grass but when disturbed treated us to a fly-past.

And so we arrived back at the bridge in the gathering darkness. One of the visitors gave a vote of thanks to Ray for conducting us on this tour. Ray told us many anecdotes of the characters he has known. There were eels to be caught, wild watercress grew abundantly and Old Harry, when he had one too many, would dance with his pony. It was even said that in the flood during a severe winter, you could skate from Yatton to Tickenham Church, but maybe that's a "fisherman's tale".

Many thanks again to Ray from us all.

# KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

## KENN HISTORY SOCIETY

The final walk of the season will take place on September 4th meeting at Stonehouse farm at 7pm.

We hope to walk around "Alcott's Orchard" in Kingston Seymoor then visit Fairfield Farm Museum later in the evening.

## KENN SCHOOL REUNION

Schooldays are the happiest days, or so the song has it, and if the party at Kenn last Saturday is anything to go by, then the songwriter knew what he was talking about.

To prove the point, fifty former pupils of the village school which closed in 1953 descended on the village hall to re-live those happy days at a reunion, the brainchild of local farmer Ray NAISH, himself a scholar there sixty years ago.

Not only were ex-pupils present but the guests included 93 year old Gladys GRIFFIN, sole surviving school manager, former caretaker Winnie GRIGG, 88 and Mrs MALET, who as Miss BOND taught there from 1937 until she joined the ATS in 1941 and the only teacher still around from the old days, retiring prematurely in 1964 after also teaching in Bristol, Clevedon and finally at Portishead.

People travelled from far and near to be there, the most adventurous being Beryl COX (as was) who came down from Stirling in Scotland and Winnie GRIGG's daughter, Grace, who not only travelled from Hull, but spent the morning preparing quiches for the party.

Other celebrities present were 88 year old Jack MORGAN, who started school the longest time ago and Gillion BYE (as was) who was the last pupil to start before it closed.

There were never more than two classes at the school and only about 25 pupils but it was a happy place and the building, built in 1871 and extended in 1897 is still standing and in use as a private house.

The evening was a very happy occasion with many friendships rekindled and as Ray NAISH said when he closed the proceedings:- "A fair bit of talking was done".

PS Please note Mrs MALET is concerned that her surname should be spelt as printed here. It is an old Norman name.

David HOLMES

## TYPIST'S APOLOGY

For spelling it wrong the first time, I apologise and if it caused offence, I am extremely sorry. However, there is an excuse. I was in a rush (as usual) and had the choice of two versions of the name - one from a contributor who is a reliable speller and one whose spelling is rather more liberal. I chose wrongly. The moral is for all contributors to take care with their spelling of names.

## SCHOOL REUNION II

The reunion took place in the village hall on August 12th. When I first thought about arranging it people said that there would never be enough interest to make it a success so I was very pleased when about 75 people attended, including 50 ex-pupils. As David HOLMES who was invited as Clevedon Mercury Reporter has reported elsewhere in this magazine, Mrs Gladys GRIFFIN was there as former school manager, Mrs Winnie GRIGG as ex school caretaker and Mrs MALET who as Miss Christine BOND was a school teacher during the war years. Many old friendships were renewed; Roland HAZELL met Charlie HOLLEY - the last time they met was in 1939.

# KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

Joan DYER travelled up from Devon. She saw her cousin Chrissie DYER who she hadn't seen for about 60 years. Iris STONE, formerly of Kenn Pier also met Joan DYER who lived at Kenn Pier Farm; they hadn't met since about 1935. I recognised everyone there except Edna NETHERCOTT.

It was good that Gillion BYE and Peter TRIPP attended, they were the last boy and girl to start at Kenn School before it closed. Ediee GRIGG travelled from Cheltenham, Connie HALLWORTH from Northampton and Daphne NAISH from south Devon. Mary HUXTABLE had many photos of former pupils on show; one included her mother taken around the turn of the century.

I would never have been able to arrange this reunion without the help of Renee STOWELL who kindly offered to arrange the ploughman's supper, very many thanks. All her preparing was carried out without any fuss or bother. I am also very grateful to Grace GRIGG who travelled down from Hull and got down to making all the quiches on the morning of the party. Many thanks to the ladies who helped with the refreshments and to Maurice FORD who took video film of the party and to the ladies who tidied up the hall the previous day. One of my great helpers was Roland HAZELL who wrote to many people inviting them to come, some of whom I would never have thought of. I hope everyone enjoyed themselves.

(You will notice that I have used the ladies' maiden names) I have a list of the ex-pupils who were present if anyone would like to see it.

RAY NAISH

## SCHOOL REUNION III

15th October 1994 and 12th August 1995 - two never to be forgotten dates. The first when "boys and girls" met Miss

BOND - now Mrs Christine MALET - who taught at Kenn School from 1937-1941. Mrs GRIGG, who was the caretaker, joined in the re-union, and by the great kindness of Mr and Mrs FORD the school building was invaded. What a transformation.

On 12th August "pupils" of all ages met for a re-union in the Village Hall. The last school manager, Mrs G. GRIFFIN was also present.

It was a most enjoyable evening, when many friendships were renewed. Ray NAISH did a grand job as MC and I want to put on record my grateful thanks to him and his band of helpers.

Thank you to Ray. When is the next get-together?

Christine M. MALET.

## HONOURED FOOTBALLER VISITS

There was an emotional celebration at the football ground near Kenn Pier on Sunday 30th July, when the man who was Knighted for his services to football, paid a visit to Kenn.

Over two thousand fans turned up to mark the retirement of Clevedon Town president, Mr Douglas HAND, and to see Sir Stanley MATTHEWS who was known as the "wizard of the dribble" and helped his team Blackpool win the F.A. Cup in 1953.

All those years later and I was able to meet my boy-hood hero here in Kenn!

David GLASSON

## COFFEE MORNING

Many thanks to everyone who supported and helped at the coffee morning at Stonehouse Farm on August 8th for St. John's Altar Fund. The total amount raised was £72.



# KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

## SEPTEMBER ALTAR ROTA

Mrs J STOWELL, Mrs S PUGH and Mrs J NAISH.

## FLOWER FESTIVAL

Two pairs of large scissors were found after the Flower Festival. If they're yours, ring Jean NAISH.

## PENSIONER'S PRAYER

Recently, I saw this little prayer in a magazine.

### THE PRAYER OF A PENSIONER

Lord, thou knowest better than I know myself, that I am growing older, and may someday be very old. Release me from craving to straighten out everybody's affairs. Make me thoughtful but not moody; helpful but not bossy. With my store of wisdom it seems a pity not to use it. Keep my mind free from the recital of endless detail, and give me wings to get to the point. Seal my lips on aches and pains; they are increasing. I dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales of others' pains, but help me to endure them with patience.

Dare I ask for improved memory, and for a growing humility when my memory seems to clash with the memories of others? Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken.

Keep me reasonably sweet: I do not want to be a Saint - for some of them are hard to live with, but a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the Devil.

Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places, and talents in unexpected people. and, give me O Lord, the grace to tell them so.

Amen.

### subhead>HAVE YOU HEARD?

That a lady in New York collapsed when the frozen chicken she had stolen and

hidden in her hat overcame her.

RVN

## POEM OF THANKS

I'd like to thank the lady  
Who asked about my name  
I'm not the one from Wonderland  
Although it's spelt the same

A band to hold one's hair up?  
No, that's not down to me  
A distant cousin of the Queen?  
That's not my cup of tea.

For those of you still pondering  
From Kenn to Crystal Palace  
I'm the lady in this smokey song  
With lots of love

From Alice.

## AVRIL'S ORDINATION

Having completed my three years training for the Ministry this August, I am to be ordained Deacon in Wells Cathedral at 10-30am on Sunday 1st of October. All my friends are invited to attend.

Some tickets are available though numbers are not restricted and there should be no problem with room at the Cathedral. A coach has been arranged and can be booked (first come, first served basis) by ringing Betty in the Parish Office (tel: 01934 832184) between 9am and midday Monday to Friday.

Richard and I are having an open house on their return from Wells and invite all friends to drop in between 3pm and 5-30 and again after I've officiated at the 6pm

# KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

Evensong at St. Mary's to which all are welcome.

Avril GAUNT

## V.J. DAY

Events in Kenn to give thanks for fifty years of peace and for the end of the war in the Far East were as follows.

On Sunday 13th August there was a special service of thanksgiving and remembrance at 11am. The Reverend John CRUSE took as his theme the difference of culture between the Japanese and the people of the West fifty years ago. The intercessions were led by Clare LEAMON with great skill. It was disappointing that only the usual morning congregation were present from the village.

On the following Saturday evening, a very pleasant party was held in the village hall - or as it turned out in the paddock behind the hall on account of the heat. About 50 people sat around on chairs and on bales of straw and enjoyed an American style supper, while the younger people present played skittles or listened to records. Everyone seemed to enjoy a happy evening in pleasant company.

The proceeds of the evening and donations will be sent to the Burma Star Veteran's Fund.

RUN

## HARVEST THANKSGIVING

The Harvest Thanksgiving Services this year will be held on September 10th.

At the 11am Family Service children are invited to bring harvest gifts. These and any other gifts that people may like to bring along, will be distributed to the elderly and sick people in our community.

There will also be a Service of Evensong

at 6pm.

There will be light refreshments in the Church after each service.

## THANKS

Many thanks to Maurice FORD for painting the Church Path gate that leads into Kenn Street.

## AUGUST BIRD NEWS

In mid-month I received a welcome and interesting phone call from Rob TREBBLE to say that a bird of prey with long wings had been around chasing swallows and house martins. He thought it was a Hobby and from his excellent description I thought so too. So straight off to "The Old Ox House" and after about half an hour the bird appeared and sure enough it was a Hobby. Rob was tuned in to the alarm calls of the Swallows and spotted it first: I was surprised to see it at low level, like a streamlined Sparrowhawk.

The Hobby is a scarce bird, with an estimated population of around 500 pairs. They arrive from Africa around the end of April, leaving us again in late September. I have seen their flight best described as "mercurial" - they can catch an adult Swift in flight.

Like the other members of the falcon family, they do not build a nest but Hobbies do not breed until mid-June so they generally use discarded Crows' nests. The young fledge around mid August so Rob's sightings coincide with a period of peak food requirements. They hunt over a wide area, are extremely inconspicuous by their nest so I shall be very interested to hear of any young birds (brownier than adults) that appear.

Rob was telling me that a Redstart was in his garden in the spring and that more recently a pair of Song thrushes had taken to using a stone as an anvil for feeding on snails. All this serves to show what an important habitat our gardens

# KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

provide.

The dry weather has brought a Green woodpecker to our small garden, identified by its (piercing) "yaffle" at 6am!

On Kenn Moor the presence of young Buzzards indicates a successful breeding season, likewise for many juvenile birds in a 40 strong flock of Goldfinches feeding on the thistle heads. Finally, a correction to last month's notes - the number of species located by survey on Kenn Moor was 32.

Trevor RIDDLE

PS Jeff NAISH saw a family of Wheatears near Tickenham Causeway early in August. I believe that they are quite uncommon these days

RUN

## VICARAGE BIRD LIFE

Jean and I have received a very nice letter from the Reverend Frank and Mrs Stevens. He was the Rector of Kenn and Kingston Seymoor from 1968-1974. They wrote to say how pleased they are to still receive Moor News and Kenn News and Views, many thanks to Sally WHITEHEAD who sends them her copies when she has read them. It is good to hear them say that Kenn Vicarage was the nicest home they have ever had, partly

because it was a bird sanctuary. This was before the M5 came and frightened many species.

They are pleased that we have revived bird reports. Rev. STEVENS included this in the magazine when he was editor. He noted 60 different species of bird during their stay at the vicarage. At one time there were 40 House martins' nests under the eaves.

The following are a list of the birds he can remember seeing:

Robins (nested), House sparrow, Dunnock, Tree Sparrow, Meadow pipit, Tawny owl, Little owl, Curlew, Kingfisher, Green woodpecker, Spotted woodpecker, Spotted flycatcher, Pied wagtail, Grey wagtail, Goldfinch (nested), Greenfinch, Bullfinch, Chaffinch (nested), Wren (nested), Goldcrest, Magpie, Jackdaw, Crow, Rook, Thrush (nested), Fieldfare, Redwing, Blackbird, Heron, Swan, Moorhen (nested), Coot, Wildduck, Water rail, Reed bunting, Skylark, Long tailed tit, Blue tit, Swallow, House martin, Starling, Swift, Willow warbler, Blackcap, Whittethroat, Chiff chaff, Pigeon, Turtle dove, Yellowhammer, Buzzard (moor) Wheatear (sea wall).

Ray NAISH

## KENN FOR RUN

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 3RD - 3PM

IN AID OF





Friends of the Bristol Oncology Centre  
Bristol Oncology Centre  
Horfield Road  
BRISTOL BS2 8ED

Tel or Fax: (0117) 928-3432

Registered Charity: 264136/2B

31 July, 1995

Mrs S Nash  
Oakland Farm  
Kenn, Clevedon  
Avon BS21 6TT

Dear Mr & Mrs Nash and Friends

May I on behalf of the Friends of the Bristol Oncology Centre sincerely thank you for the very kind donation of £500 to our charity for the Open Cancer Scanner Appeal in memory of Diane Ford.

It is only with such gifts shall we ever achieve our aims and objectives and we are most grateful to you for this and for the interest you have shown in our cause. To raise one million is quite daunting but we are at approximately £350.000 so far which is very encouraging, but it is due entirely to people such as yourselves that have helped us to reach this mark and we thank you once again.

With every good wish

Yours sincerely

A Kilsby Mrs  
Appeals Secretary