

# KENN NEWS AND VIEWS



EDITOR

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Xmas 1996

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# KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

## *Message from Little Ed*

We would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and hope its a peaceful and merry one. Copy for next years magazine as usual by 17th please.

## *December birthdays*

- 4th Mrs WHITEHEAD  
Roger JENKINS
- 5th Jerry NAISH Chris  
WALL
- 10th Louise PUGH Tom  
CLARKE
- 11 th Paula McCULLY
- 13th Margaret FORD

## *Presentation - Hearing Dog in memory of Dag TAYLOR*

The presentation of the cheque for 2500 took place at Kenn Valley Club. Mrs Pearl WITHYMAN and her hearing dog Spring and Norma the hearing therapist for Weston Hospital accepted the cheque from Sally & Tim. In return they received a certificate from the charity in acknowledgement. The TAYLOR family have asked that the certificate be hung in Kenn Valley Social Club for all to see. We were glad that several villagers and friends involved in the fund raising were there.

Thanks to the STAPLES family for providing us with a lovely buffet. Many thanks to everyone who has supported us in this venture. It has been such fun and an absolute pleasure raising these funds this year. In Dag's memory we have raised 700.00 for a special mattress for Weston Hospital, 500.00 for the oncology Dept at BRI, 2500.00 for a Hearing Dog and to finish the year and to complete a fitting tribute to Dag a Christmas Tree lights and decorations for the Village Hall.

## *Christmas Disco*

This years Disco will be on 14th December from 8-12pm. Tickets 3.00 from the shop or Sheila. Fancy dress optional but nearly a necessity. Be there or be square.

## *Aside*

I'm not sure that I need a holiday or a large gin but I have just spent 5 minutes looking for my other sock (not an unusual event in our house - we've only ever got 1!!!) getting crosser by the minute to find that i'd actually got it on and what I was really looking for was my trainers - Oh deary me !! There's no hope.

Kenn Valley Social club has just been refurbished. They are available for bookings for weddings, christenings birthdays and even refreshments after funerals. The skittle alley, family room pool and snooker tables are all available.

Don't forget there is a Christmas Party on Saturday 21st December. Bookings are now being taken for New Years Eve (Coach from Clevedon and Kenn at nominal cost) The Club is open Christmas lunchtime and all day Boxing day.

Contact Derek or Shirley on 01934-832086.

There will be a Charity football match on Boxing Day at Kenn Valley in the afternoon following the regular team's match. There will be a disco in the afternoon and another in the evening. This will be a family fun day with the proceeds going to the Multiple Sclerosis Unit in Nailsea.

Come along and join in the fun.

Friday 6th December there will be a social evening in aid of Childline at the Village Hall from 7.30 -10.30.

Wine punch and mince pies will be on offer, the usual raffle and Puddleducks fancy gift shop will be providing a Christmas stall with a

# KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

wide variety of gifts for all ages and tastes. Come along and buy your Christmas presents. Gentlemen come along and buy your wife's/ girlfriend's presents !! No excuses!!

See you there.

Sheila

## *Snippets*

We were sorry to hear of the death of Mrs Edna CHAMBERS of Duck Lane. Her funeral took place at Weston crematorium on October 24th and was conducted by John CRUSE with many friends and neighbours present. To her family we extend our sympathy.

Mrs JONES who had been in failing health for some time died at the home of her daughter Mrs BROOMFIELD. Her funeral took place at Pilning on November 5th and we extend sympathy to Mr and Mrs BROOMFIELD and their family.

Remembrance Sunday November 10th

As is our custom in Kenn poppies were used for Altar flowers.

Bearing in mind the request from the Royal British Legion we remembered at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month all those who had given their lives in wars for our freedom.

Our flag was flown on both days.

Celebration - On November 11th we flew our flag to celebrate the birthday of HRH The Prince of Wales.

Kenn Village Hall The Jumble Sale on November 6th raised 110.00 for hall funds. Many thanks to all those who helped on the day and gave goods for sale.

Kenn Christmas Tree - Friday 13th December 7pm

All Kennite and their friends are invited to the switch on of the Kenn christmas tree lights

with carol singing accompanied by Kenn musicians. Offers of mince pies please - Phone 340341 or 872676. Collection for the Children's Society.

## *Diary Dates*

Wednesday 4th December 3pm - Senior Citizens Party

Wednesday 11th December 7pm - Kenn WI a Beetle Drive

Friday 13th December 7pm Carols around the tree.

Saturday 14th December Christmas disco.

## *Kenn Womens Institute*

Mrs DYER welcomed members to the December meeting which was combined with the AGM. Members were reminded about the flower arrangement evening at which Joanna STAPLES would demonstrate Christmas made easy.

The birthday party had been much enjoyed. Mrs INGS and her helpers were thanked and Mrs N MORRIS was congratulated on the superb birthday cake.

Kenn will be the hostess Institute of the spring group meeting on April 23rd. A report was given of the autumn group meeting at Clevedon. The group carol service will take place at Christ Church Nailsea on December 12th.

At the AGM Miss HOLTHAM was elected President. Mrs DYER the retiring President thanked everyone for all their efforts during the year. Mrs BLAKE and Mrs KINGCOTT were presented with gifts in thanks for their trade stall which raise a large proportion of the Institutes income. The tellers Jean FENWICK and Barbara MIDDLETON were thanked and presented with gifts.

The talk was a brief biography of a Kenn resident in the last century, Mrs Brunetta

# KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

GRIFFIN, who had lived at Portbury House and was given by Miss HOLTHAM. The competition was for a paperweight and was won by Mrs BLAKE, Mrs PREW silver and Mrs CRAWLEY green.

The December meeting will take the form of a Beetle Drive and the competition will be for a Xmas table decoration. Christmas post will be available and contributions in lieu of postage will be for Associated Country Women of The World.

## *First Aid Course*

The WI has places available on a red Cross Basic First Aid course to be held in the New Year. Please contact Ann HOLTHAM 875877 for details.

## *Parish Council Notes*

It was reported that for a variety of reasons Kenn did not do well in both the Best Kept Village and Britain in Bloom competitions. Perhaps it was just not our turn!!

In the village competition we did not reach the second round and the comments were ; although little litter was found in association with village features, Old Davis Lane, where there was no bin, was badly littered. Some of the verges were badly cut. There was a general feeling that little effort had been made to give Kenn a favourable image, all the features but the churchyard being only fairly well maintained.

The judge of the Britain in Bloom competition said that the village was generally neat and tidy and the churchyard was very well maintained. There were some good gardens and one or two were excellent. The pub and PO also contributed to the campaign by displaying baskets. The village green could be improved perhaps with roses or shrubs. Otherwise he said all that is required is to encourage more people to improve their floral

displays.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 2nd December at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. All welcome.

## *St John's Altar Guild*

1st December Mrs J FENWICK & Mrs J PASCOE

8th December Mrs G GRIFFIN & Mrs R BELL

15th December Carol Service Mrs M STOWELL, Mrs H JENKINS & Mrs J STAPLES

22 December Mrs M McKAY & Mrs S CLARKE

29th December Mrs I GOLDSWORTHY & Mrs J NAISH

Please let Iris or Jean know if there are any problems - Many thanks to everyone for their hard work in 1996.

## *Donald Vernon STAPLES*

Donald died recently after being in poor health for some months aged 85. Except for about 4 years that he spent in the army during the last war he was a kenn resident from birth to death. He was born at Cherry tree Cottage moor Lane and attended Kenn School was a church choirboy and spent a large part of his working life actually in the village.

On leaving school Donald got a job at Moorgates where the STOWELL family were running a large business which included cheese making and pig keeping. The pigs were fed on the whey left over from the cheese and were later killed on the premises and the meat processed into bacon and sausages which were sold locally and in Bristol. Don, as he was generally known learnt the sausage making trade.

When he was 15 the STOWELLS bought a van to deliver the produce to Bristol, only one

# KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

person, Jim STOWELL was able to drive out of a large number of employees. He told Don that he had to start driving the van to Bristol and said he would show him how to drive. Don told me that he got in the driving seat, Jim got in the passenger side and they took the van to the top of the road and back. When they got back to Moorgates Jim told him he was OK for driving and wanted him to take a load of meat to Bristol the next morning. From that early age Don was fully occupied delivering meat. A Clevedon policeman warned STOWELLS that their driver was tearing around too fast and was likely to have an accident, he didn't realise Don was only 15.

After his marriage to Hilda he bought Myrtle Cottage at the top of Duck Lane which was also a small shop, after a few years they closed the shop and took over the land and buildings at Moorgates where they kept poultry and a few dairy cows and grew flowers and vegetables on the land. One year they planted out twenty thousand anemone plants and picked and sold the flowers from them.

Like his ancestors Don was a great survivor who could find wild plants and flowers from the moors that he would sell, things that the average person wouldn't even notice. Up until quite recently Don would drive his car to Clevedon with plants, flowers and greenery which he delivered to florist shops. Always an early riser Don was a very active person who worked very hard all his life. The last few years had been quite difficult for him as he couldn't walk far, but he overcame it by travelling around the village in his battery powered chair. He was extremely well known and liked nothing better than having a chat with people as he went and he was good friends with everyone.

At his funeral service in Kenn Church which was taken by John CRUSE there was a very large congregation and I am sure villagers

would like to join me in offering our deep sympathy to his wife Hilda, to whom he had been married for over 65 years and to his son John, daughter Christine, brother and sister Sam and Winnie, his grandchildren great grandchildren and all of his family.

Ray NAISH

## *Christmas Services at ST John's Kenn*

Sunday 1st December 11am Christingle

Sunday 15th December 6pm Carol and Lessons

Sunday 22nd December 11am Holy Communion

Tuesday 24th December 3pm Crib Service

Christmas Day 11am Family Communion

Friday 27th December 10am Communion - St John the Evangelist

Sunday 29th December 8am Holy Communion

## *Christian Aid*

The envelopes distributed in Kenn church for Water Aid at Harvest thanksgiving contained 95.47. Shirley ELLIOTT the organiser says this was a fantastic effort and has asked that her sincere thanks be passed on to all who contributed.

Ray NAISH

## *Bird News - November*

The strong south westerly winds early in the month pushed some unusual seabirds well up the estuary and both storm and leaches petrels were seen at Severn Beach as well as great and arctic skuas. These birds were unwilling to negotiate the new Severn bridge but were waiting for the winds to abate so that they could return to sea.

# KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

It seems likely that in future more seabirds will be seen at Severn Beach by virtue of the Bridge providing a barrier. This is not a wholly bad situation because whilst skua species can migrate overland it would not help the delicate small petrels to be pushed inland.

On the sea wall near Clevedon two peregrine falcons were seen resting on the mud at low tide. Eventually half a dozen crows ganged up on one and forced it to fly off. Also present was a black redstart and quite a few others seem to have arrived this autumn. One has been reported from a Congresbury farmyard, a favourite habitat as they are wholly insectivorous. They look like a plump grey robin but with a russet red tail. As always I shall be pleased to hear of any local sightings.

By mid-month lots of fieldfares and redwings were arriving. I counted 500 in mixed flocks on Kenn Moor, a high count for so early in the winter. Many of our winter visitors are arriving early this year and already there are waxwings in the north and east of Britain. Is this the prelude to a cold winter?

Stop Press

On the 16th a pallas warbler a tiny (goldcrest sized) vagrant from Siberia was found on Poets Walk Clevedon. Lots of bird watchers came to see this first ever record for Somerset. A real little gem, it was very active associating with blue tits and goldcrests.

## *Local Birds II*

Our bird experts are predicting an invasion of wild birds to our gardens this winter. They say it is because of the failure of a major wild food source, the beech trees had set very few nuts because of the cold spring.

As I write this, only now are our popular garden birds coming back into the garden. Just today I have seen a pair of greenfinches return to the nut feeder determined to get

their share of food amongst the tit-birds.

Also we have seen a pair of mistle thrushes return to our garden but still absent are fieldfares and redwings although there are plenty of berries around.

A puzzling sight one morning was seeing rooks flying into a field at Kenn Pier with an object in their beak pushing it into the ground then flying back to collect more. On further observation we saw that they were collecting walnuts from our neighbours tree!! Will they remember to collect their winter store or will the squirrels get there first?

David GLASSON

## *Reminder*

Do not forget the Childrens Christmas party in the Village Hall on December 22nd 3.00-5.30 pm. Any offers of help gratefully received. Contact Jo BATTEN on 878782.

## *Kenn History Group*

On Monday 11th November we gathered at The Granary to experience a remarkable fete of memory by Ray NAISH. Ray had prepared a map of the village with each property shown as it was in 1934 (he was a boy of 12) He then took us on a tour of each house and cottage recalling exactly who lived there. We had Mary SAUNDERS nee HUXTABLE as a guest for the evening. Mary was at Kenn school with Ray and she helped to prompt his memory if ever he looked like faltering for a moment, which did not happen very often.

Ray not only remembered every single person in Kenn from over sixty years ago but he also knew lots about them, their ages, way of making a living, drinking habits etc etc. Also many details of their children, a truly virtuoso performance.

He told us that there are still 12 people in Kenn from those days, with the death of Don

# KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

STAPLES now eleven, also that the village population is almost the same.

Mary SAUNDERS had brought with her some wonderful old photos of Kenn School from as far back as the end of the 1800's which were most interesting to see.

We thank Ray for a fascinating evening and Mary for her contributions.

We took a tape recording of the talk and a list is being made of Kenn folk and their homes in the 1930's for our archives and copies will be available if anyone would like one.

We hope to do an update in the year 2000.

John GRIFFIN

## *Edna Maud CHAMBERS*

Mrs Edna Maud CHAMBERS passed away suddenly on 7th October after suffering from ill health for several years. She was the widow of the late David CHAMBERS who had been archivist at Kenn Church and had written many interesting articles on our village life and history.

The first came to Kenn over 30 years ago and lived at Broadlands for approximately 5 years then moved back to Bristol but returned to Kenn in 1970 to live at Little Orchard in Duck Lane. They became active in the parish as PCC members and joining in village activities. Edna was once a WI member and also a member of the skittles team. Her hobby was painting and she was able to show some of them at local exhibitions.

We extend our sympathy to her family in Bristol, niece Anne and nephews, sister and brother and many friends.

Trevone

Kenn

Street Kenn

Edith Mary JONES

On behalf of my family I would like to thank you all for your kind messages of sympathy and for flying the flag at half mast in respect of my mum Edie, as she liked to be called. Although we are newcomers to the village you have made us feel very much at home, its a nice feeling to know that other people care.

Thank you.

Kathleen and Tony BROOMFIELD

## *Coffee and Chat*

John CRUSE will be the host for coffee and chat on Thursday 19th December at 10.30 am. The venue will be his home at The Vicarage North End and everyone is welcome. If you would like a lift please contact Wendy PAPASOLOMONTOS on 877923.

## *Blue Peter Appeal*

There will be a coffee morning and Bring and Buy sale in aid of the Blue Peter Appeal on Saturday 7th December at 10.30 am in the Village Hall.

Please come!

Philippa JENKINS

## *Morning Prayer at ST John's*

Some of you may have noticed in the Church News that Morning Prayer at St John's appears regularly on the list of daily activities in the parish churches. Inclusion of these short midweek services to complement Sunday worship in Kenn was started by Avril GAUNT.

Even though Avril has now left the village the services continue, sometimes with and sometimes without clergy present. Anyone who

# KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

would like to start their day with a time of quiet reflection (lasting about half an hour) is most welcome to come along on a one-off, occasional or regular basis. The services consist of a few short readings and prayers and begin at 8.30 am on Mondays Wednesdays and Fridays.

Wendy PAPASOLOMONTOS

## *Sunday Club*

Crib Figures

Following the "tradition" of recent years our pre-nativity figures of Mary Joseph and the donkey will make their way around the homes of Kenn on their journey to "Bethlehem", which in this case is St John's Church. As usual we hope they will be able to stay at as many of the homes with young children as possible on their way arriving in due course at church in time for the Crib Service on Christmas eve.

A very warm welcome to the Crib Service is extended to everyone.

## *Crib Service*

If any children would like to take part in the Nativity Crib Service they are very welcome to come along to the preparations which will be during Sunday Club sessions in December. Sunday Club meets in church (11.00am - 12.00) on 3rd and 5th Sundays of the month and at Stonehouse Farm starting at 10.45am on the 2nd and 4th Sundays.

Wendy PAPASOLOMONTOS

## *Christmas Quiz*

It is rumoured that another testing festive quiz is in the course of preparation - we've had numbers and colours - what else can there be to test brain and patience?

## *The Julian Trust*

A box has been placed in the Post Office for your food donations for the Homeless at Christmas. I am collecting warm blankets and coats to take to the Shelter, so if anyone has anything they wish to donate please can they let me know by 20th December, Either give it to Liz at the Post Office or Marianna at Church Path Cottage or phone 340323 to arrange collection.

Robin McKAY

Myrtle Cottage

Duck Lane

Kenn

Dear Sheila

I wonder if you would insert the following in News & Views.

On behalf of Mum, Christine and myself and all the family, we would like to thank everyone for their support and kind messages at the time of Dad passing on.

We have sent 78.50 to the Cottage Hospital and 68.50 to Cancer Research which was the collection in his memory at the church.

Once again thank you all.

John STAPLES