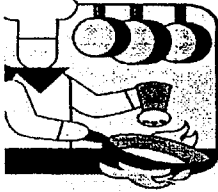


# KENN NEWS AND VIEWS



*SUMMERTIME FUN !!*  
*BBQ + DISCO*

OAKLAND FARM, KENN  
SATURDAY JULY 13 8pm - 1



IN AID OF HEARING DOGS FOR THE DEAF  
( IN MEMORY OF DAG TAYLOR)

*TICKETS £3*

ADULTS ONLY    ADMISSION BY  
TICKET ONLY



*BAR    RAFFLE*

*BE THERE !*

EDITOR  
Sheila NAISH  
01934-838357

Issue 95 JULY 1996

# KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

## MESSAGE FROM" ED"

Vigilance is now the key word for the village! Sadly in the past month we have had a burglary in one of the outlying houses, and a "gang" of vandals yomped through the village one evening, breaking our newly replaced window in the bus shelter, breaking completely our Parish noticeboard, and smashed the windows of the cars parked at Tripp Robbins. This forced the man in charge to stop his newly formed business of second hand car sales. Fortunately these thugs were apprehended by the police, but the damage was done.

If you hear anything suspicious or see strangers or strange cars or vans parked anywhere - ring the police or call your neighbourhood watch co-ordinator.

Join your neighbourhood watch scheme.

Dennis GOLDSWORTHY has details.

## BIRTHDAYS etc.

July

5th Avril GAUNT

7th Adam GAMESTER

8th Oliver HART

15th Mrs Gladys GRIFFIN

21st Toby NAISH

24st Roger STOWELL Brian WALTERS

25th Sue PUGH

27th Jessica BRETT

28th Juliet STOWELL Jack STOWELL

## NAISH'S NOTES

I have been informed that the Cuckoo has been heard on the Moor on the 26th May. Did anyone hear it earlier?

Welcome to Liz and Jeff NOYSE who are now in residence at Kenn PO and have survived their Post Office training!! Do remember to use the PO as much as possible - we are so lucky to have kept it.

Don't forget that Travellers Cheques and Foreign Currency can be obtained so if you're off on holiday look no further than our own PO - and it's cheaper too!!

Liz and Jeff and family would like to thank everyone for their good wishes and extend a warm welcome to all villagers, things aren't quite so hectic now that they have settled in.

## DIARY NOTES

Every Sunday - Bingo Kenn Valley Social Club  
Every Monday - Live Music Drum and Monkey  
Every Wednesday - Quiz Night Kenn Valley Social Club  
July 6th - Disco Kenn Valley Social Club  
July 13th - Disco & BBQ Oakland Farm in aid of Hearing Dogs for the Deaf in memory of Robin (Dag) TAYLOR.

## STOWELLS

STOWELL Concrete works have moved to Yatton. We wish them continued good luck and prosperity in the future. Many thanks should go to Roger and Margaret and their staff for all the cheerful help that has always been given when the odd (100 or 200) photocopies have been asked for or something quickly typed (yes now please!!) or just some general help needed. We shall miss them all.

## WANTED

Any unwanted outdoor climbing frames, slides or swings Contact Sheila 838357

# KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

## EXAMS

Good luck and best wishes to our students who are at the dreaded taking or waiting for results of exams.

## KENN NOTES - Snippets

**Kenn Village Hall Rents** - The Committee has decided not to raise rents for Kennites this coming year.

**Keep Fit** - Keep Fit classes will resume on Thursday 12th September at 7.30pm.

**Village Green** - Many thanks to Mrs Ings for planting the trough to help keep Kenn blooming.

**Flag Pole** - Our flag pole is rotten and will have to be replaced as soon as possible. Over the past 14 years many families in Kenn have had our flag flown for them to celebrate happy events and special birthdays. It has been suggested that many Kennites may like to give a donation towards a new flag pole. Contributions please to Miss Ann HOLTHAM 14 Parnall Road Clevedon OR any Parish Councillor.

**Kenn Women's Institute** - The Open Gardens afternoon organised by members raised £185.15 for the Friends of Clevedon Hospital.

### The Late Mr John WITHERS

Mr John WITHERS had been in failing health for some months and passed away on May 27th.

His funeral took place at Portbury Church on June 5th when a very large number of his family, relations and farming community were present. John was born at Caswell Farm Portbury some 80 years ago. After his marriage he started farming on his own account at Failand Farm until 12 years ago when he brought his renowned Withersleigh

herd of pedigree Shorthorns to Moorside Farm Kenn. His cattle were prizewinners at many shows and in May he was once again winning prizes at the North Somerset Show.

On June 20th the herd was sold to Pedigree Shorthorn Breeders and will no doubt be seen at future shows.

John was a real countryman and lived for his cows. To his widow Jean and all their family we send our sincere sympathy in their great loss.

## RMD

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

July 10th 7.30pm - Talk by Mrs Ann RAMSAY on Springboard Opportunity Group. Competition - "My prettiest cup and saucer"

August 14th - Fashion Show in Village Hall by Carousel of Congressbury.

## KENN WOMENS INSTITUTE

Mrs. Greta LEWIS left members breathless when she spoke at the June meeting of Kenn W.I. about her life as a District Councillor and member of countless other bodies. She started as a Parish Councillor in Yatton and even though not affiliated to any political party had the honour of being Chairman of the Council, which says a great deal for the respect in which she is held.

Mrs. LEWIS judged the competition for three roses which was won by Mrs. Joyce JEFFREY, Mrs. DYER came second and Mrs. INGS third.

There were several apologies for the meeting. Condolences were sent to Mrs. WITHERS who has recently been widowed and best wishes were sent to Mrs. PREW who has had a nasty car accident.

# KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

Sadly there were not enough names for an outing but several members will take up the invitation to tea at The Hawthorns on July 11th. Mrs. DYER and Mrs. BUBB had been to the County lunch, Mrs. KINGCOTT had had a most interesting visit to Eastwood Farm and Mrs. HARRIS had been to Denman.

A report was read from the I.G.M. which was held in Cardiff. All the resolutions were carried. This year they concerned student grants, domestic science teaching in schools and the non-availability of National Health dentists. Clevedon will be hostess Institute at the Autumn Group Meeting. The competition will be a nursery rhyme character in any medium. A suggestion that First Aid classes should be held in the Village Hall was well received. Enquiries will be made.

At the July meeting Mrs. RAMSAY will speak on the Springboard Group and the competition will be for My prettiest cup and saucer.

## PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

The Best Kept Village and Britain in Bloom Competitions are now under way. If the summer continues with the magnificent blossom that we have already enjoyed Kenn will look lovely.

At the last Parish Council meeting it was agreed that another attempt to get a speed limit through the village and requests for footpaths would be made. Enquiries about topping the Lombardy Poplar are proceeding and it is hoped to be able to replace the flagpole.

The next meeting will be on 5th August in the Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. Do come.

## SENIOR CITIZENS

"We are probably the only members of Society in the history of mankind for which the younger generation has so little respect and lack of regard. Senior Citizens are often criticised for almost every deficiency in the modern world, real or imaginary. Upon reflection, I would like to point out that it wasn't the Senior Citizen who took the melody out of music, or the beauty out of art, or the pride out of appearance, or the romance out of love, the commitment out of marriage, the responsibility out of parenthood, togetherness out of family, learning out of education, service out of patriotism, the hearth out of the home, civility out of behaviour, refinement out of language, dedication out of employment, prudence out of spending, or ambition out of achievement. And we are certainly not the ones who eliminated patience and tolerance from relationships".

As seen recently in a magazine.

Of course, not all young people today show disrespect to elderly people, but nevertheless the points made are telling.

Cliff EDWARDS

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Richard GAUNTS piece about how his computer checks his spelling reminded me that mine also has problems, particularly with local place names.

Perhaps your readers would like to work out the enclosed genuine examples. No prizes as they are fairly easy but may cause some amusement.

# KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

The Word according to Amstrad:-

YAHOO CONGRESS CLAPTRAP KEEN  
KINGDOM SEAMIER BRISTOLS  
CLEAVE CLEAVED WEAPON SUPER  
MARE BROCKET CHELAE BACKED  
LUGGAGE WRING CHURCHLY  
BURNING LANDLORD PUTTO HELLISH  
TICKED

David HOLMES aka Davit HOLES

## John WITHERS

John WITHERS was one of those people who symbolised the countryside for us. John and Jean were the first people we got to know when we moved into the area and were perfect neighbours to us. As we began to learn about hens or ducks or lambs John was always willing to help us and tell us what we needed to know or where we could get hold of things. Very quickly we came to appreciate them both.

John never seemed to mind the apparently endless numbers of our visitors who, after Sunday lunch would be taken for a look around his farm, - although with his dry sense of humour he did once refer to his farm as being on a tourist trail. He also liked children and I can remember one of our friend's girls disappearing for hours at a time with John as he took her on his rounds.

From time to time we also went to see John exhibit his pedigree shorthorns at the shows. We never saw him come away with less than a first or second. Some years ago he appeared on TV in the advertising for the North Somerset show.

John died on Spring Bank Holiday Monday, a week after his 80th birthday. He was due to retire from dairy farming in June. We will all miss him greatly and our prayers are with Jean

and the family at this time.

Stephen BRAIN

## RETIREMENT NEWS

I've had 3 weeks "Retirement" now and I don't know how I had the time to work.

Jade loves all the walks she is getting and she is making lots of friends in the dog world as we walk along the river bank.

The disco was very enjoyable, it was good to see so many there, thanks for coming and for all your good wishes for my future, a lovely farewell.

Thank you all once again for the many cards, flowers and presents I received. Also for making my 17 years in the PO so happy, there were a few sad times, but always there was someone to turn to if needed.

My best wishes go to Liz and Jeff NOYES and family and I hope they will be as happy as I was - See you soon.

Barbara

## BIRD NEWS - HIGHLANDS

Prevailing weather conditions often figure in my notes of local birds and on holiday in Scotland it is the same story. In early January the temperature never rose above MINUS 10C for a week with a low of MINUS 24C!! It is thought that the this severe weather much reduced the population of mountain hares and smaller mammals and as a result many Golden Eagles and other birds of prey are not breeding this year. One notable exception is the Osprey which we have seen regularly, including 5 adult birds at Loch of the Lowes. This site is managed by the Scottish Wildlife Trust with an observation hide for viewing the Osprey eyrie - an

# KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

impressive edifice built up over many years. I was astonished that the resident birds allowed the intruders/visitors near to the nest. The warden at the RSPB Loch Carter site assured me that "his" birds would not tolerate such goings on. Shortly after he told me that a passing Osprey visibly skirted the nesting area.

There are other spectacular birds in the region and the Slavonian Grebes take some beating. I cannot adequately describe their spectacular breeding plumage: do look it up in your bird book! Slavonian Grebes are unbelievably tame, not a useful habit for a rare and beautiful bird, and one pair were nesting right next to a footpath. I do not hold out much hope for their prospects.

Various moorland trips were generally unproductive, but one morning we encountered three very young Red Grouse chicks. Later we saw an adult at close range and enjoyed lovely views of a pair of Golden Plovers. Not the drab brown birds that we saw in winter, but sparkling golden birds, quite living up to their name. The walk was splendidly concluded by a passing Red Throated Diver which came right overhead before wheeling down onto his remote lochan.

Trevor RIDDLE

## BIRD NEWS II

The pair of swans reported to be sitting on eggs at Nailsea Wall farm have hatched 5 cygnets and all are safe and well.

RVN

## WHY DIDN'T I LISTEN

When god gave out 'looks'  
I thought he said 'books'  
and said I didn't need any.

When God gave out 'noses'  
I thought he said 'roses'  
and ordered a big red one!

When God gave out 'chins'  
I thought he said 'gins'  
so I said, "Make mine a double"

When God gave out 'legs'  
I thought he said 'kegs'  
and asked for two big round ones.

When God gave out 'brains'  
I thought he said 'trains'  
and I said I already had one.

When God gave out 'heads'  
I thought he said 'beds'  
so I ordered a soft one.

Anon

# KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

## KENN HISTORY GROUP

Monday 10th June saw the first of our summer outings when we went to the village of Portbury. There we met our old friend Martin JOHNSON who last October gave us an interesting talk on his passion for old churches and churchyards.

His parish church is the Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Portbury, which is a very ancient church, probably dating back to the 12th century. Opposite the church stands a fairly new C of E School and a plaque on its wall stated that when it was built remains were found of a Roman-British cemetery and a Saxon temple going back to AD 200-500.

Thirty years ago the churchyard at St Mary's was completely overgrown obscuring the headstones. That was when Martin and many of the villagers got busy with scythe and sickle to tidy up. Today it looks fine with nicely trimmed areas known by the locals as "fairways".

There were many old and unusual headstones, the oldest dating back to around 1612. It was the Romans who first built their churches over the tombs or relics of martyrs and the altar became the most holy place in the church. Inevitably the most coveted place to be buried was as near to the church and the Holy Place as possible. These places were at first kept for high clerics and church benefactors. Later, wealth influenced where one could be buried and Martin quoted an epitaph seen in Kingsbridge:-

Here I lie at the chancel door - Here I lie because I'm poor - The further in the more you pay - But here I lie as warm as they

Some of the carvings are exquisite and although eroded by time and weather still shine through as works of art in themselves.

The lettering on the stones often gave the trade or profession of the person for example, "boatman" or "tideman" (excise man) and "hobbler". In the days before tugs a hobbler crewed small rugged rowing boats which towed larger ships to their berths.

Of particular interest were some of the epitaphs which were quaint and sometimes touching:

Farewell vain world we've seen enough of thee - And now not care what you say of me - Your smiles we count not nor your frowns of fear - Our troubles past our heads lie quiet here.

In her was centred all that Heaven could send - To grace the life of sister child and friend - Reader do her faultless path pursue - So shall your pitying tear her tomb bedew

And now to the church itself - the fine old clock in the steeple was given by the parishoners in honour of the jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1887. On the south facing wall is a small metal pin at shoulder height, such that it would give a shadow on to marks on the wall giving a rough idea of the time - called a Mass Dial.

The church is entered via the porch which protects a very well preserved Norman Arch, reminding us of its antiquity. An unusual feature is that the body of the church is a square of 64 feet suggesting that maximum accommodation was required. Originally the only seating in the churches were stone seats along the walls so that at one time most people stood or knelt at the services. The elderly or infirm went to sit and hence the saying "The weakest went to the wall".

To the left of the door in the North wall is a brass of 1621, very well preserved of the KEMISH family who lived at Naish House and were friends of Bishop Ken. Coming out

# KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

of the South door consecration crosses are cut on the outside wall of the porch. At the lynch gate are two yews one 700 and one 900 years old. The fine lynch gate was built in 1882 as a memorial to her father by Mrs GRIFFIN of Portbury House Kenn, On a small outside the gate stands a megalithic stone of pagan origin and probably 2000 years old which was recovered from a nearby pond.

Altogether a very interesting evening showing that dedicated people do try to preserve our heritage, for to quote Martin again "Only thus will we be able to pass on to future generations, that which is written, that which was made and that which we have been lucky enough to see and inherit".

Finally on a personal note I'd like to thank John and Grace GRIFFIN for the pleasant drive home through the picturesque Gordano valley - Thank you.

Cliff EDWARDS

The first walk of the season will be on July 15th at 7-15 - meet at Stonehouse Farm - destination probably on the Moors. All are welcome.

RVN

## ST JOHN'S ALTAR GUILD

July Rota - Mrs S NAISH Mrs G GRIFFIN and Mrs J KENT.

## CANCER RESEARCH COLLECTION

Thank you to everyone in Kenn who contributed to the collection, over 70.00 was raised.

Thank you to John STAPLES Joan STEVENS and Barbara RUSSELL who helped with the collecting.

## NAISH'S REMINDER

It is the time of year when I just need to "jog" your memories and say its time to start thinking about fitness. In particular fitness for the fun run. YES!! THE FUN RUN its to be held on SUNDAY 1st SEPTEMBER at 3pm. A3 mile jog around the village for some and a more gentle amble up and down Kenn Street for the rest of us. This year the funds raised will go to the Hearing Dogs for the Deaf Charity which we are supporting in memory of Robin (DAG) TAYLOR. Dag was always on hand for our fun-run, no not running but keeping the collecting tills rattling and getting sponsors here ther and everywhere he went. No one was allowed to leave without parting with another pound or so. He organised very funny games for us to do and generally was a major factor in making our fun runs such a success. It would be a fitting tribute to Dag to make sure this years fun run is a roaring success and earns MEGA MONEY for our cause.

PLEASE bring ALL your family, ALL your friends and get yourselves sponsored - Sponsor forms from Sheila, Simon, Jill TAYLOR or in the shop.

We are making this a really good family fun day with the usual raffle (prizes please) tombola, face painting, stalls, games and a licensed bar. BBQ to follow and music singing and dancing in the evening (if there is anyone still capable). We hope to have a football memorabilia auction too - Watch this space.

If I am given enough incentive - this means MEGA sponsorship I may consider going around the course myself later in the day but it has to be a LARGE enough ~~Gift~~ donation. (WHOOOPS TYPIST ERROR!!) Never let it be said I'm not fit or willing.



# KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

Right then! more nagging and pleading for support next month -you have been warned.

FUN RUN - SUNDAY 1st SEPTEMBER  
3pm BE THERE

Anyone wishing to help, organise a game or a stall please let me know.

Sheila

MRS Anastasia PAPASOLOMONTOS

Those in the village who remember her were sad to hear of the death of Mrs Anastasia PAPASOLOMONTOS aged 88. She stayed with her son Sotoris and Wendy in Kenn Street for several months about three years ago. She is remembered for being a very brave person who underwent hospital treatment on her eyes whilst living here. Although she neither spoke nor understood English she was a regular church goer whilst in the village and seemed to enjoy the services, we very much enjoyed her company.

Our sincere sympathies go to all her family.

RVN

CATTLE SALE AT MOORSIDE FARM

John WITHERS' herd of pedigree dairy shorthorn cattle was sold on June 20th. John had arranged the sale before he became ill, the auctioneers were John THORNBERRY, specialists in rare breeds of cattle. Considering the state of the livestock industry it was a very successful sale.

Dairy shorthorns are becoming increasingly rare and it was good to see keen competition from buyers from as far away as Yorkshire, Lancashire, Cheshire, Staffordshire and Devon. John's herd numbered about 90 and were absolutely clear of BSE.

Ray NAISH

ARTHUR JOHN WITHERS

John WITHERS passed away recently after having been in poor health for several months, just a few weeks after his 80th birthday.

John and his wife Jean moved to Moorside Farm about 12 years ago bringing with them their famous herd of dairy shorthorn cattle.

John was an old fashioned farmer, his chief interest being his cattle which he milked himself until he became ill at the beginning of the year. He regularly showed a group of his cattle at the North Somerset Show and always came away with some prizes.

His funeral was at Portbury Church, the village he had been brought up in. John's funeral was a wonderful occasion, he was carried into the church and to the grave by his four sons, Paul his youngest son gave an address about his father's life and two of John's granddaughters read poems about farming and the hymns chosen were all about farming. Jean was supported at the funeral by her large family and by a sizable congregation of farming folk.

Those of us who know them express our sympathy to his widow Jean and to all of his family.

Ray NAISH

Federation Member



Self help is our way of action

## THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS CENTRE (BRISTOL)

UNITS 40-42 SOUTHFIELD ROAD TRADING ESTATE  
NAILSEA, BRISTOL BS19 1JD  
Telephone (01275) 858806

10 June 1996

Mr. D. Wall  
Kenn Valley Sports & Social Club  
Kenn  
Nr. Clevedon  
N. Somerset

Dear Derek,

Well, having received all our sponsor money we are delighted to say that we topped the £500.00 mark by £35.00!!

Our sincere thanks to you for making the Horse Race Night so enjoyable and successful. We couldn't have done it without you.

Our thanks to the 'Tote Girls', Shirley, Vera and Sue, and to Colin on the projector. They all did a grand job and we couldn't have done it without them either!!

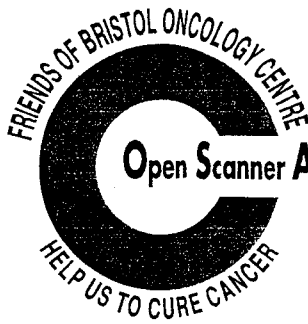
Our thanks also to your bar staff for a very efficient service.

We all greatly value your support and hope we can come along again next year for another evening.

Once again, our thanks indeed to you all for a great evening. You may rest assured that the money raised will be put to very good use as we continue to help and support those with Multiple Sclerosis.

With kind regards and best wishes,

ON BEHALF OF EVERYONE AT THE CENTRE



Tel / Fax 0117 / 9283432

Friends of Bristol Oncology Centre  
The Bristol Oncology Centre,  
Horfield Rd.,  
Bristol,  
BS2 8ED

Mrs S Naish  
Oakland Farm  
Kenn  
Clevedon  
Bristol. BS21 6TT

Dear Mrs Naish

7 June, 1996


May I on behalf of the Friends of the Bristol Oncology Centre sincerely thank you for the kind donation of £500.00 to our charity for the Cancer Open Scanner Appeal which was raised by a Disco in memory of Robin "Dag" Taylor

It is only with such gifts can we ever achieve our aims and objectives and we are most grateful to you and all who so kindly supported you with this event, and for the interest you have shown in our cause

The light at the end of the tunnel is beginning to appear and we hope to start the building side to house the scanner in the not too distant future and hopefully by the end of the year we shall have got our million to install the scanner, so that the patients may benefit from this new technology which will lead to more effective treatment and so save lives.

We would like at this time to offer you and his family our sincere sympathy in the sad loss of Robin "Dag"

Yours sincerely

  
Aves E Kilsby Mrs  
Hon Secretary

25 Elm Close  
Yatton  
BRISTOL  
BS19 4EL

The Editor  
Kenn News and Views

1 June 1996

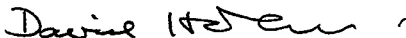
Dear Sheila

I wouldn't blame you if you adopted the editor's traditional prerogative and declared that this correspondence is now closed. But in case you are feeling generous or short of material perhaps I can make a couple of points in answer to Ray's remarks in your June issue.

First, I suppose the metric versus Imperial debate will go on ad infinitum but what worried me about his original contribution was what seemed to be the implication that by 'going metric' we were somehow betraying our countrymen who fought in WW2. And secondly, I remain unconvinced that we are now back in Somerset. If this were true we would be governed from its ancient county town of Taunton, not from a 19th century seaside resort.

I'm not sure what my birthplace has to do with the argument but just for the record I was born in Swindon, have lived in Yatton for 28 years, both my parents were born in the City and County of Bristol and my mother's family Somerset roots go back at least four centuries.

Yours sincerely



DAVID HOLMES