

KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

KENN FETE

SATURDAY JUNE 22ND FROM 2-30

STALLS
CREAM TEAS
MEMORABILIA
WELLY THROWING
CLASSIC CARS
Live music

in aid of FRIENDS OF KENN CHURCH

BE THERE!



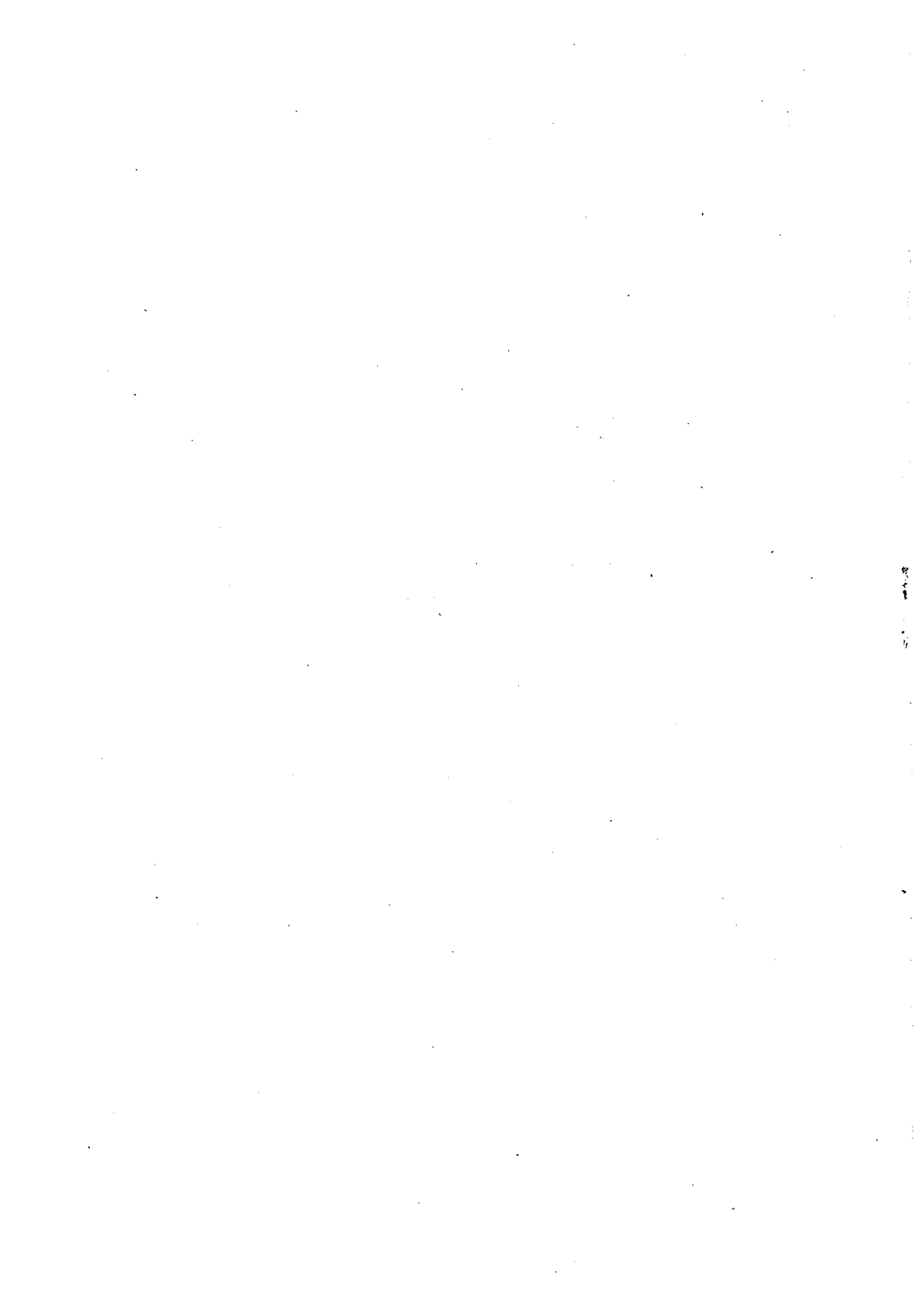
EDITOR

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Printer:- Margaret STOWELL

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EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Sadly this month's magazine is the last one that Three fingers will type for us. Richard, Avril and family will leave us in August and due to a trip to Australia in July, Richard will type no more!! I should like to thank Richard on behalf of all Kenn News and Views readers for the excellent job he has done; he has upgraded our magazine, reorganised it, scanned photos and generally been of the utmost importance in the smooth running. He has, of course, kept us in line for deadlines, sometimes left bits out and sometimes mis-spelt names but he has always produced the magazine come what may. The contribution made by Richard will be very sorely missed. Let us hope that we can manage as well in the future - I'm sure an eye will be kept on us from afar.

On a personal note, Richard, thanks for all you have done and YES you will be missed. Who am I going to argue with now!

I wonder what will be altered of this! (Actually very little, I only removed the second and third usage of "magazine" in one sentence!, Richard)
LITTLE (and only!!) ED!! XXXXX

BIRTHDAYS

1st Simon PASCOE
3rd Joshua MIDDLETON
11th Naomi BRAIN
Wendy PAPASOLOMONTOS
Julian WILCOX
13th Lyn BYE
15th Matthew GAUNT
18th Ian PASCOE
21st Heather BRAIN
Dave PUGH
Thomas BYE
22nd Yvonne AYRES
26th Roger WILCOX

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26th Roger BAKER
27th Pip JENKINS

NAISH'S NOTES

Advanced warning

Disco and BBQ at Oakland Farm, Kenn on July 13th, 8 til late. £3, tickets from Sheila. In aid of hearing dog for the deaf (memory of Dag TAYLOR) Put this in your diary.

Football Challenge

Nick's Nobblers are challenging the Drum and Monkey FC to a cricket match for fun and charity (hearing dog for the deaf) Anyone interested let Glyn, LEE or Olive and Lee at the Drum and Monkey know. Date to be advised.

Drums Live at the Monkey

The Drum and Monkey has live entertainment on Monday nights - all are welcome to pop in and have a fun night. Details of acts from Olive or Lee at the pub.

Kenn Valley News

Last call for the skittles tournament - call in or phone Derek or Shirley for details. The more the merrier.

CHARITY FUN DAY

The Drum and Monkey FC v Nick's Nobblers football match held at Kenn Valley Social Club heralded the start of a smashing fun day.

It was followed by a tug of war, ladies!?!? rounders match, darts, skittles and pool competitions. The end result was a very friendly draw.

The BBQ and tombola stall were very well supported and soon sold out. The disco in the evening was a great success and the auction and raffle boosted the sum total of monies raised to a marvellous £782 -72p

which is to be put towards the cost of a hearing dog for the deaf - these cost £2500 so a very good start. Thanks to all concerned for making this such a lovely day.

I have Gary MABUTT's (Spurs) personal framed signed photo of himself receiving the FA Cup (Princess Diana is also in the photo). This is for sale to the highest bidder and was donated by Gary himself. What do I hear you bid?

There will be other football memorabilia for auction at the disco and BBQ at Oakland Farm on July 13th. If you are interested, let me know.

Sheila

SNIPPETS

Celebrations

We flew our flag on St. George's Day, April 23rd, and again on May 15th to celebrate the eightieth birthday of Mr John WITHERS of Moorside Farm,

Welcomes

Welcome to:

Mr and Mrs Chris PEARCE who have come to live at Beechcroft;

Dr Duncan WHITWELL who has moved into White Cottage;

Steve and Lucia who noe live in The Laurels.

We hope that they all will enjoy living in Kenn.

Village Green

Many thanks to Mrs McCULLY for planting the pots on the village green.

Britain in Bloom

We are entered for this competition and can win if everyone tries - keep Kenn blooming!

Best Kept Village

Judging starts on June 1st - keep up the

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good work.

Kenn Fête

Come and meet friends and neighbours and raise funds for Friends of Kenn Church. The event starts at 2-30pm on Saturday June 22nd. It will be held at Kenn Court garden if fine, Kenn village hall if wet.

Offers of help and goods for stalls are invited ie cakes, scones for cream teas, books, bric-a-brac and plants. Bric-a-brac to Kenn Court before fête so that it can be priced. Prizes for the raffle are also invited. We would be grateful for the offer of loan of garden furniture for the day.

Apart from stalls and cream teas, classic cars and memorabilia will be on show organised by Roger STOWELL, not to mention the paintings, drawings, hobbies and collections created by our young people and children. Please contact Wendy PAPASOLOMONTOS regarding entries. Plant planters made by Andrew JENKINS and Peter WOOD will be on sale. Music will be played by our wandering minstrel Clive GOLDING-ELLIS. Any others ideas for events will be considered.

Organisers of stalls:

Cream teas - Grace GRIFFIN

Plants - Marianna MACKAY

Books - Irene BELL

Bric-a-brac - Eileen PREW

Cakes - Jean INGS

Welly throwing - Clive GOLDING-ELLIS

Accident

We are sorry to learn that Mrs PREW has been in a car accident. We are pleased she is home now and making a speedy recovery.

North Somerset Show

Exhibitors from Kenn were among the prizewinners at the North Somerset Show. Mrs Heather NOAD won first prize in the

Private Driving class and Mr John WITHERS, owner of the renowned Withersleigh herd of shorthorns won two prizes in different classes. Congratulations.

Diary Dates

Wednesday June 12th at 7-30pm in Kenn village hall. Kenn WI. Speaker Mrs Greta LEWIS on her work as a councillor. Competition:- 3 roses. All ladies welcome.

Saturday June 22nd from 2-30pm. Garden Fête.

June Thursdays at 7-30pm in village hall. Keep fit classes.

CHRISTIAN AID IN KENN

This year Kenn has given £103-58p to Christian Aid, despite the clash with Cancer Research Week. Many thanks to collectors Jean, Wendy, Ashley and Claire who cheerfully walked the village in very changeable weather.

On the evening I delivered my envelopes the wind was quite keen and I got home cold and grumpy. However reading the "Telegraph" over a warming coffee I saw the Christian Aid ad for this year, a diary written by an Indian child working off part of his father's debt by knotting carpets in appalling conditions. This put me to shame, what's a few hours a year if it helps even a few children. Christian Aid saved this little chap by paying off his father's debts and sending him to school.

Please, if your collector missed you, take your envelope to Kenn PO and don't buy an oriental carpet without checking the age of the workforce.
Julia BUSH

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KENN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Members of Kenn W.I. were hugely entertained at their May meeting when Mrs. ADAMS, a farmer's wife gave an account of Living with the Boss in very amusing verse. She was warmly thanked by Mrs. HARRIS. Mrs. ADAMS judged the competition for an old domestic utensil. Gold was awarded to Mrs. PREW, silver to Mrs. DOBBS and green to Mrs. DYER.

A warm welcome was extended to Mrs. BAGLEY from Trendlewood W.I. who is to be our delegate at the forthcoming A.G.M. The resolutions were discussed and Mrs. BAGLEY will vote on them on Kenn's behalf. Apart from a constitutional resolution there were three public interest ones. They were that the Government be asked to review the system of loans to students as many are getting badly in debt and some may be put off further education altogether, that domestic science be a compulsory subject in the National Curriculum and that the Government should ensure that there is a National Health Service dentist available to all. Kenn voted in favour of all three.

Mrs. BUBB, another of our octogenarians, was wished a very happy birthday and presented with a card. Mrs. WITHERS was thanked for the very pretty table flowers. A report was given of the recent Group Meeting. A skittles evening had been much enjoyed by those who attended and the Jumble Sale was successful.

At the June meeting Mrs. LEWIS will give a talk on her work as a councillor and the competition will be for three roses.

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 3rd June in the Village

Hall at 7.30 p.m. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

Don't forget that it is Best Kept Village time again. One of the main mark winners is lack of litter so that if we can keep the village litter free it will help. The organisers do understand that it is very difficult to keep track of litter if a main road runs through a village but we do get marks if we are seen to try.

KENN WI CHARITY

The Kenn WI charity event this year in aid of Friends of Clevedon Cottage Hospital takes place on Saturday June 15th from 3-5pm.

There will be 4 gardens open to view at Nos. 13, 15 17 and Brackenwood House - all in Brackenwood Road, Clevedon.

Cream Teas will be served at no. 15, where there will also be a plant stall, bring and buy and draw. Tickets are available £1-50 each at the venue.

Parking in Brackenwood Road may be restricted but parking is available in Edward Road and Edward Road West with access to Brackenwood House garden via a footpath in Edward Road cul-de-sac.

ST JOHNS ALTAR ROTA

June: Mrs R BELL & Mrs M STOWELL

Many thanks to all ladies and gents that helped to Spring clean St Johns church at the end of April. Thank you all very much for your hard work.
Iris & Jean

TROUBLED WATERS

Did any other kennites see Kenn Pier featured on BBC tv local news on April 29th? A Euro MP, along with Nailsea Environmental Watch took samples of the river waters at Kenn Pier for possible pesticide contamination.

David GLASSON

KENN HISTORY GROUP

On Monday May 13th we enjoyed a visit from Liz and David STAPLES who came from their home in Mid Glamorgan to give a talk on the STAPLES family.

David STAPLES, a genealogist, has for some years made his hobby studying his family history. His researches brought him to Kenn last year when he met Ray NAISH. Ray, on learning of David's interest in the STAPLES of Kenn, asked if he would come and tell us the story.

Eighteen turned out for the evening, nine of them members of the STAPLES family. David believes our Kenn STAPLES came from the Bleadon area, the earliest record being William STAPLES baptized at Kenn in 1815 and became a farmer of 30 acres. He married Elizabeth and they had 9 children, the best known by kennites being a son, Charlie STAPLES who lived at Stonehouse Farm before the NAISH family; about 1913 they moved to Orchard House. James lived at Riverside, Sidney George at Rose Cottage, Kenn Moor, grandfather to Hartley etc.

The STAPLES were to become one of Kenn's most populous families over the years and are still well represented; out of 300 we have about 16 descendants.

David told us he has traced approximately 8000 STAPLES, the earliest one John

STAPLES in 1251, possibly with Norman connections. They are to be found in far away places - Salt Lake City USA; New Zealand; Australia etc. and of course in many parts of the UK, but not too far north. They worked in farming and timber mainly ie rural folk.

There are a number of theories for the origin of the name:

Hugh de STAPLES - French

Barnstaple - market town

Stay pole - support

Staples - for fixing wire, are some.

Well known STAPLES include:

Thomas de STAPLE - Sargeant at arms to Edward III

4 Lord Mayors of Nottingham

? Lord Mayor of London.

David enjoyed comparing notes with Lynne COLES and Joanna STAPLES, who with her father Hartley had done a lot of work on recording the history of the family in Kenn and district.

David and Liz were warmly thanked for giving us a most interesting and enjoyable evening.

Our next meeting will be on Monday June 10th at 7-15pm. Meet at Stonehouse Farm from where we will be visiting Portbury Churchyard to look at the gravestones with Martin Johnson, who came to talk to us last October.

CALLING ALL COOKS

Would you be kind enough to whip up some cakes/biscuits etc for the cake stall on June 22nd.

Concoctions suitable for children would be appreciated and clear top bags provided for display (in hope of a hot waspy day).

Many thanks.
Jean INGS

MAD COWS & POLITICIANS

I have been reading with interest Richard GAUNT's comments in last month's News and Views under the heading Mad Politician's Disease about the current BSE in cattle crisis. He has raised some very interesting points and obviously has strong views on the situation.

I note that he says he has not eaten any European beef since 1989. I am relieved the comparatively few people have followed his example, otherwise by now cattle other than dairy cows would be extinct in Europe by this time.

Ray NAISH

RICHARD'S RESPONSE

I think you've missed my main point, Ray. It is a terrible gamble your industry is taking. It is simply not enough to "be relieved that few have followed his example" or to believe that the main risk is that beef cattle "would be extinct in Europe". An expression of regret by your industry, without admission of liability to please your lawyers, for the lives of the young people and their families blighted by a terrible brain disease that MAY be related to eating beef products, would be a start.

The main point is to stop being dragged unwillingly into taking action. Many see your industry as caring only for itself and doing as little as possible to control BSE; this is a public relations disaster. Your industry needs to take convincing action now to restore public confidence, not to cross fingers and be relieved that few are following my example.

As an example, and with far fewer cases Germany has already slaughtered 350 000 and France 200 000 cattle. You must take some positive action.

POETS CORNER

A reply to Paula's poem of last month was necessary.

The 'Vicious' Dog Bites Back
by Rikki (with a little help)

I want to put the record straight
regarding that report
about 'that vicious dog next door'
the one that likes rough sport.

Now, dog fighting has been banned for years
but not in parts of Kenn
The sparring rounds 'tween Mac and me
are like Bruno and 'big' Benn.

I AM concerned that Mac was hurt
and spent some time away.
but it's not my fault if
he mistakes my intention just to play.

Mac bares his teeth through our 5-bar gate
while Tosh just runs inside.
Perhaps Tosh's got more sense or
is concerned about his hide!

Benny and Job have seen Mac's scars
and cannot show their face
as Mac has lost two big round spots
from a very tender place.

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How rumours spread around the town
when incidents occur
but really - me a killer -
it's just a vicious slur.

I've even heard that I've attacked
Mrs McCully from Yew Tree
It's NOT true and mum and me
have entered an innocent plea.

I've been unwell myself, you know,
through all the stress and strain
and just like Mac, I have as well
been in a lot of pain.

I got no cards to wish me well
like that dog did next door.
My reputations down the pan
and still they talk of war.

I would like to be his friend
and go for a country walk.
However, that truly is impossible
but, at least our owners talk!!
Dewsbury Cottage.

POET'S PRIZE

Richard WATKINS, grandson of Howard WATKINS, whose poems were printed in our March issue has just won a prize for his poetry. Richard was awarded first prize in the 12-13 age group in the Stratford upon Avon Children's Poetry Writing Competition. There were 615 entries in total and the Mayor of Stratford presented Richard with his booktoken prize on 21 April. This is the second time Richard has won first prize in this competition - the first time was in 1991.

INCHING TO METRES

Many thanks to my pal David HOLMES for explaining to us the advantages in his opinion of going metric in last months News and Views. He raised some interesting facts that I for one didn't know about; electrical,

telecommunications and radio engineering are not my scene, yards feet and inches, gallons, quarts and pints are good enough for me. It's like the old saying, "It's a job to teach an old dog new tricks."

Regarding David's views on the return to North Somerset which he obviously dislikes, I wonder if this has anything to do with him being born a "Wiltshire Moonraker" and not a "Somerset Cuckoo Penner"?

Ray NAISH

PS It may interest both Ray and David to know that News and Views is laid out in neither inches or the metric system, but in a traditional typesetting measure known as the "point"

MRS DAPHNE YOUNG

It was with great shock and sadness that the people of Kenn and district heard of the sudden death of Daphne YOUNG aged 77. She was found dead out in her beloved fields at "Castle Farm" Clevedon.

Last summer Daphne was pleased to take Kenn History Group members on a walk on her spectacular farm and to show us round her beautiful garden. With her husband Charlie, who died about four weeks ago after a very long illness, they had transformed their farm from a bracken covered wilderness into a productive farm after they obtained the tenancy from the late Sir Charles MILES at the end of the war.

Using very heavy machinery, Charlie ploughed and cultivated this very steep and difficult farm which sweeps down to the rocks around Walton Bay.

Daphne took great interest on Kenn history Group and took part in several walks with us last summer and was looking forward to

joining us again this year.

Her funeral was held at St Pauls, Walton-in-Gordano. The church was full with her family and friends. After cremation, her ashes were scattered with her husband's in a field on their farm.

RAY NAISH

VILLAGE CRICKET

The following poem written by the Revd Frank Stevens a former vicar of Kenn and Kingston Seymour, recalls an incident in his years of playing cricket for Kilve.

Our Umpire

A great roar went up from the fielders,
"OWZAT?"

The cry rang out clear and loud.
I was pretty sure that I'd touched it -
But the umpire refused to be cowed.
He just shook his head - very slowly,
And lifted his eyes to the sky,
As if asking divine forgiveness
For the justice he'd contrived to deny.

'T was only a few overs later -
I thought I was run out by a yard.
The appeal could not have been greater;
But the umpire just shook his head, hard.

I thought "what a good game is cricket!"
When the ball hit me bang on the pad,
A foot to the left of the wicket -
But the fielders were now hopping mad.
"How was THAT?" they all shouted
together.

I thought, "For me, the outlook is bad!"
For I knew our umpire's decision
Couldn't possibly be based on the truth,
As he'd got into such a position
That his fairness, by now, needed proof!

So, 'twas no surprise when his finger
In the air went up straight as a die.
"Out", he declared - nor did I linger

Although I knew he'd spoken a lie.
As I passed him, "Young man," he said,
softly,
"I've long done my utmost for thee,
But I'd given 'ee "not out" twice already,
And this would have brought it to three".

BIRD NEWS I

On 3rd of May I saw 15 Whimbrel fly over the village, the first time I have ever seen this happen as they generally stick to non-residential areas on their migratory flights.

Today, 20th May, I heard my first Cuckoo of the year near Kingston Bridge. In the same area, the same day I saw a pair of Shelchicks or Barrow ducks, also the first sighting of the year.

There has been around 15 to 20 Swans in a field on the moors near "Kennmoor Gate" for several weeks. They are probably last year's young who haven't paired off yet. One pair has built a huge nest and are sitting on eggs near the River Kenn at Nailsea Wall Farm. There is a nest of young green woodpeckers in a witley tree nearby. Years ago, many Peewits or Lapwings, nested in the moors around here but I haven't seen any this year. You could tell if you were near their nests because they dive bombed you.

A Song thrush (they are quite rare now) built a nest in the garden here at "Stonehouse Farm", unfortunately something pulled it out early one morning and ate the eggs, probably a magpie. There seems to be fewer Swallows around this year - there are reports that thousands are being killed and used for human food in parts of Africa during the winter.

RAY NAISH

BIRD NEWS II

Bird news is nearly always linked to prevailing weather and 1996 has produced, for migrant birds at least, a very late nesting season.

Despite this, records of Whimbrel for this area have been exceptional. Ray NAISH was first off the mark with 20 on Kenn Moor at the end of April (28th) and I recorded a flock of 30 on Congresbury Moor in early May and then a party of 75 was noted, again on Kenn Moor on May 8th. Numbers in the Brue Valley levels seem to have been smaller, so perhaps our area is being more favoured this year.

Cuckoos seem to be erratic - not many on Kenn Moor, at least 3 south of Yatton and lots in the Brue Valley.

Generally speaking, the warbler species have arrived in good numbers, perhaps with the exception of Willow warbler. One member of the family, the Lesser whitethroat has put in a welcome appearance - or should I say its voice has. This is a skulking species but its "song" a short rattle of half a dozen notes gives its presence away.

I have received one record of a Hobby over Nailsea Moor but the Brue Valley birds (no less than 8 on 6th May), must have been finding their preferred insect diet hard to come by and no doubt they would feed on Swallows and Martins.

The Avon Gorge Peregrine falcons are also late nesting this year and watchers witnessed a remarkable fight between the resident male and an intruder. This lasted for half an hour (on the ground) and both left injured. The male is considered to be a poor hunter anyway and the female has been leaving her incubation duties to catch her own prey!

As I write (19th) the weather is truly awful and no doubt a lot of breeding endeavours will fail today - let us hope for some warmer weather in the weeks to come.
TREVOR RIDDLE

COMPETITION

My typing is not of the best so every magazine is checked by my computerised spell checker before printing. As some of its suggestions are interesting, I have set this small competition. I have given you the computer's suggested replacement word and a small clue - you must give me the original word and the meaning of the computer's suggestion. Usual small prize. All the words occur in this month's News and Views.

Micellae - local pot planter
Brim-a-bras - stall of plenty
Golfing-Ells - welly thrower
Nomad - driver
Ashkey - christian worker
Clavation - local place
Khannates - local tribe
Blowdown - staple locality
Mr Haulms - metric writer
Peignoir - nickname
Wanton Bay - local beauty.

ADIOS, THREE FINGERS

As many of you know, Avril, the boys and I are moving to Surrey in the summer. Due to my travelling next month, this will be the last Kenn News and Views I am able to type.

So to finish, two pleas.

One, could those of you who are normally late with copy make an especial effort to be on time - at least for next month - you might fool the typist that that's the norm. You might even find it's just as easy to get the copy in on time, and then be able to do it every month!

Kenn News and Views

Two, the magazine is in need of more contributions from our readers. The regulars such as Ray, Ruth, Trevor, Ann Holtham and the History Group do a sterling job, it would be nice if **you** joined them. Additionally, some new cover pictures for the magazine would be very nice. Surely someone can draw!

So finally, it's a good magazine, look after it. I've enjoyed being involved. Adios.

LATE ITEMS

Most contributors get their contributions in on time which made my job easier and reduced my costs, some are regularly late. The contribution below is from one of the regulars in the latter category.

TEA AND CHAT

This will be held on Thursday 20th June from 2-30 to 4pm at The Chalet, home of Avril GAUNT.

Wendy

