

# KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

**EDITOR :- Sheila Naish**



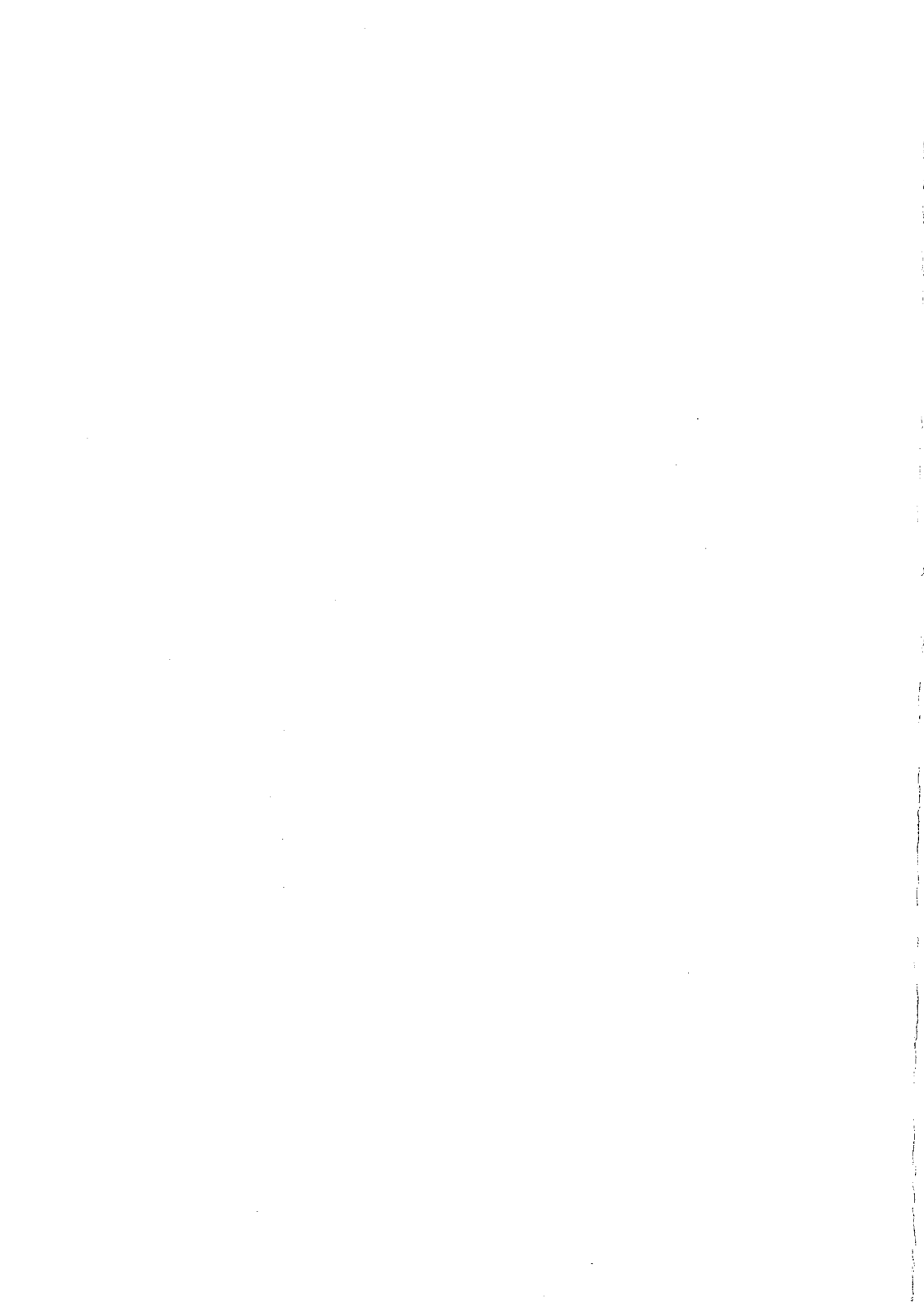
CALLING ALL SINGERS

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CONTACT RAY NAISH 01275 872493

MARCH 1996 ISSUE 92



## LITTLE ED'S MESSAGE

Well Valentine's Day (where were all my sackfuls of cards? Gone astray I expect) and Pancake Day have been and gone and Spring is just around the corner to look forward to. Time seems to go by more quickly once you pass 40. My children accuse me of being embarrassing: am I going through a second adolescence; am I going to grow up, they ask. These two quotations sum it all up:

"To me old age is always 15 years older than I am" Bernard Baruch, 1955.

"It is not the years in your life but the life in your years that counts." Adlai Stevenson, 1933.

To finish, Happy New Year to you if you've any interest in things Chinese. The new year began on Monday 19th February and we are now in the Year of the Rat.

Sheila

Well at least your memory's holding up well if you can remember as far back as your fortieth!

Three fingers.

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

5th - Leon NAISH

8th - Jeremy OSBOURNE

16th - Angie (up the Jet) CARPENTER

17th - Lee STAPLES

17th - James MACKAY 21st

18th - Quinton STOWELL

27th - Amy BYE

## MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

16th - Brian and Julie STOWELL

31st - Ruth and Sam DYER.

## NAISH'S NOTES

Apologies to Clive GOLDING ELLIS who was renamed Colin in last month's magazine and wants to know "Who the \_\_\_ is Colin?" Enough I say, Alice has been enough trouble.

Three fingers is able to copy photos now as you will realise from the last few covers. If anyone has any interesting photos they think would look good as our cover, please let us know. We will return them and promise to look after them.

Copy date is the 20th of each month. Magazine articles can be left up the shop, with Ray NAISH or with Avril. If I'm telephoned about articles left at these places it would help. I don't always get to the shop by the deadline - it would save me from the wrath of three-fingers.

Ben SMITH recently appeared in the Kingston Players' production of "Don't get your Vicars in a Twist". Well done to Ben who played a brilliant Bertie. All credit to the entire cast for a very enjoyable play. A super night out. One Kennite who was there with me suggested that it was high time we in Kenn put on a play or some such thing! Well there's the challenge. Are we capable, do we have the talent? Anyone out there with any bright ideas? What about a concert? Let us know.

My dad is now home from hospital, not before time and is progressing well He has asked me to thank everyone for their good wishes.

Big Ed has finally departed the area and I have her new address and 'phone number if anyone needs to contact her. Kate once again baffled us with a Quiz Night to remember and I am delighted to say that I didn't come bottom. Yes, I remember I actually managed to answer three questions correctly! Mind you the other team members ignored me anyway. It was a lovely evening and an even better way to bid Kate farewell. I shall miss her.

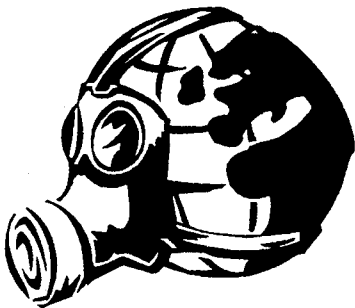
Mr Bob WAYNE of BWOC has taken over the garage from Peter NEILL. Angie CARPENTER will still manage the garage. BWOC are reducing prices at the pumps to the same level as the main garages in Clevedon, and Tesco. Please try and support our local garage. There's no need to go further afield now that the prices are the same - and in addition you get a lovely smile and friendly greeting from Angie.

Raffle prizes are still required for DAG'S Disco on March 2nd. To Kenn Stores, Sheila or Jill TAYLOR.

The following poems were written by Anthony  
ASTBURY, the grandson of Howard WAT-  
KINS,

### *THE CHARGE*

The guns roared, the bullets flew,  
Our hands were shaking as the whistles blew.  
Over and out! Over the top!  
To the staccato rattle and the subdued pop.  
Over our wire and off towards theirs,  
Their guns, their bullets, their men, their snares.  
How long we ran for I do not know  
For the shells were falling as thick as snow.  
And looking back now at the ruined earth  
I end up thinking "What was its worth?".  
That hectic charge through the storm of fire  
To reach their trenches and climb their wire.  
"Gas! Gas!" cried the men ahead  
"Retreat!" came the cry so off we fled.  
So back we went across the sodden ground  
And saw with despair where the barbed wire  
wound  
And we saw as well the rats being fed  
On the half destroyed bodies of the littered  
dead.  
As in a dream I saw a body like a broken doll  
And saw the bullets that had taken their toll.  
But soon, we thought, this war would end  
And this miserable trench we would cease to  
defend.  
But we were wrong.



### *TANKS*

The ultimate weapon of war  
The machine that has no flaw  
Crashing through trenches with ease  
Causing enemy troops to freeze.  
The dragons of steel without weakness.  
The ultimate killers of war....

### *THE LAST DAY*

The last day for the school.  
The school empty and dark.  
The last day of its usage.  
The school that had once been full  
Of busy young people at work.  
The last day for the school.  
The school, empty and dark.

### *CAVALRY*

The glory of the charge, flags flying,  
The slashing and the blood, the horses shying  
The pain, the loss, the dying,  
The officers, the politicians, the lying,  
The dirt, the grime, the crying,  
The sped, the height, the flying,  
The Cavalry. The Glory?

### *MARS*

Mars, the God of War,  
The planet of the dusty red shore.  
A cold and empty land,  
A world of wind and sand.  
A desolate, lonely nation,  
A land that has no population.  
Mars the God of War,  
The God with a lonely red shore.

## SNIPPETS

### DONATION

Mrs DENMEAD over the years has sold Christmas cards for good causes. Cards sold at Christmas 1995 resulted in a profit of £104 which she has donated to Kenn Village Hall. We are most appreciative of her gift.

### QUIZ

The quiz in aid of Friends of Kenn Church was well supported with eighteen teams competing. Once again Kate DENMEAD provided questions covering many subjects. John LEHAY looked after the scores and Alex and Mattie GAUNT and Ian and Mark PASCOE were competent runners. The evening raised £104 for the Friends of Kenn Church. Once again a very enjoyable evening and thanks to everyone who helped.

### INVALIDS

Mr John WITHERS and Sarah PARISH have returned from hospital. We wish them well in their convalescence.

### KEN or KENN

In the 1894 Kelly's Directory of Somerset it is Ken or Kenn but in the 1935 Kelly's it is Kenn.

However in 1592 on January 2nd, Elizabeth KEN of Ken Court married William GUEST at Ken Church.

Over the years when the living of Kenn was vacant, many if not all the various forms received during the period of sequestration were titled Ken.

The mystery of our name continues.

### DIARY DATES

Wednesday March 13th. Kenn WI talk on Multiple Sclerosis. Competition will be for an arrangement of daffodils.

Thursdays, March 7, 14, 21, 28. Keep Fit classes for Ladies and Gentlemen. 7-30pm Village Hall.

### ADVANCE DATES

Wednesday April 17th. Jumble Sale in aid of Kenn WI.

Saturday June 22nd. Garden Fete at Kenn Court

in aid of Friends of Kenn Church.

## THE AGE OF ROMANCE

For the romantics amongst us, and for next year's Valentine's Day if you were in trouble this year:

You will find as you look back upon your life that the moments when you have really lived are the moments when you have done things in the spirit of love. Henry DRUMMOND

Love is an act of endless forgiveness, a tender look that becomes a habit. Peter USTINOV, 1938.

## DEAR 3 FINGERS,

As you will see from the photo (reproduced below) the Protuberance - which was in fact a Victorian iron ventilator - did not come to a sticky end on being removed from the Church roof when part of it was renovated. This date should be in Church records.



It was put out for the Scrap man but an approach to Vicar STEVENS and a donation to the Roof Fund and it came to Mead Cottage to join the ex-Bath City iron street lamps.

John was at that time building a summer house and decided it should go there - painted black. It stayed there until the hurricane winds of 1987 and disintegrated.

Most Victorian factories had these iron ventilators in attractive designs and some still exist in Bristol. Ours was used by the cat for sunbathing

and squirrels chased in and out.

Church records should show when it was placed on the roof.

Jean INGS

Well what a superb answer to last month's question. Thank you very much, YOUR MAGNIFICENT PRIZE IS ON ITS WAY.

## **KENN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE**

At the February meeting of the Kenn W.I. members were very pleased to welcome Mrs. Bell who came to talk on her experiences on Tristan Da Cunha. Mrs. Bell has been there on three separate occasions for a month at a time as visiting optician. Unfortunately the slide projector broke down at the wrong moment so we were unable to see the slides of the birds that inhabit that part of the South Atlantic but Mrs. Bell's descriptive powers well made up for that.

Mrs. Denmead was congratulated on her Birthday which she was celebrating that very day and Mrs. Rose Jeffrey was also congratulated on becoming the new grandmother to twins. Mrs. Morris was thanked for the pot of daffodils on the President's table.

A social skittles evening will be held at the Kenn Valley Social Club on February 26th. The Jumble Sale is scheduled for the evening of Wednesday April 17th. There are visits to Eastwood Manor in May and Greenwich in June. Invitations have been received from Southern Clevedon and Tickenham W.I.'s.

At the March meeting Mrs. Edwards will speak on the MS centre at Nailsea and the competition will be for an arrangement of daffodils. This month's competition for a memento from a foreign holiday was won by Mrs. Dobbs, gold, Mrs. Bubb, silver and Mrs. M. Harris, green.

## **PARISH COUNCIL NOTES**

At the last meeting of the Kenn Parish Council it was noted how attractive the Christmas Tree had looked and Dr. & Mrs. Gaunt were thanked for allowing it be erected there once again. The Parish Council would also like to clear up a misconception. All costs for the Tree and the lighting ceremony were raised by Coffee Morn-

ings generously held by ladies in the Village. A donation was made to the Parish Council for the tree so that the event could be properly insured.

Having disposed of Christmas, spring is coming along and thoughts turn to the Best Kept Village and Britain in Bloom Competitions. There may be some Busy Lizzies available for outside tubs. If you are interested in putting something on the verge outside you house please contact Mrs. Dyer.

The next meeting which will also be the Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Monday April 1st. There will be a short Parish Council Meeting at 7.15 to be followed at 8 p.m. by the

## **MARCH ALTAR GUILD**

Mrs Julia BUSH, Mrs Jean FENWICK and Mrs Jenny PASCOE.

## **TEA AND CHAT**

Tea and Chat will be held on Thursday 21st March from 2-30 to 4 pm at "Conifers", Duck Lane, the home of Gladys DENMEAD.

Everyone will be welcomed.

## **THANKS**

With grateful thanks to my friends who joined a prayer chain with me for Sarah, who is now much better.

The release of anxiety is to turn cares into prayers, it widens and enriches our spiritual life, and helps the person we are praying for. May God bless you all.

Iris SURRIDGE

## **KENN HISTORY GROUP**

At our January meeting, Maurice and Margaret FORD brought along a friend, Martin JOHNSON, to talk to us on one of his interests "Churchyard Carvers' Art" ie interesting inscriptions and the carving of tombstones in our local churchyards.

Martin now long retired has a most fascinating personal history:- merchant shipping pre-war, then the civil service as a housemaster for HM

Borstal Service, Department of the torpedoes and mines during the World War II and awarded the George Medal in 1942. 1944 back to his work with adolescents and in time to a post at the Nautical School, Portishead. Living at Portbury became a Churchwarden from which came his interest in church carvings, in and out. Indeed Martin has published a book on the subject.

Martin gave us a most enjoyable, interesting and amusing evening in which we were able to see many photographs of the early gravestones dating back to the early 1600s when the first carvings appeared. It was much appreciated by us all. Martin now suffers with poor eyesight so is no longer able to continue his interest.

The talk stirred a few memories of gravestone inscriptions seen by some of the members. One, impressively recalled and recited by Deryk BELL was as follows:

Epitaph of Mother Batchelor, a well known Oxford piewoman (18th century)

Here under the dust

Is the mouldering crust

of Eleanor Batchelor shoven.

Well versed in the art

of Pie, Custard and Tart

and the lucrative skill of the oven.

When she'd lived long enough

She made her last puff

A puff by her husband much praised.

Now here she doth lie

And makes a dirt pie

In the hope that her crust may be raised.

Our next meeting will be on Monday March 25th at 7-30pm at The Granary when we are showing slides and talking about Egypt.

## **MEN'S LUNCHEON CLUB**

We met at the "Drum" early Janaury, when ten of us enjoyed good company and food. We were

pleased to have three new members.

If anyone else would like to come along, please let us know and I will advise you when we are having the next get together.

Ring John GRIFFIN on 872948.

## **WEIGHTS AND MEASURES**

Are there any readers who like me get fed up with all these new weights and measures that have been imposed on us in recent years.

It annoys me when the weather forecasters on tv talk about so many centimetres of snow falling; I have no idea what a centimetre is and have no desire to know either. What is wrong with yards, feet and inches - they have stood us in good stead for perhaps hundreds of years.

If clever people like politicians are questioned about it the answer is "to bring us into line with continental countries". What a load of tripe. Why didn't they put the boot on the other foot and insist that if there had to be a change, the continental countries had to change to British measurements.

After all is said and done, wasn't it the young people of Great Britain and our Allies that were in the armed forces over fifty years ago, many giving their lives in the process of ridding Europe of the Nazi tyranny. They should have their say now.

Another thing is the English language is probably the most widely used in the world. Why has it got to be spoiled. I would still like to be able to buy petrol in gallons and milk in pints. I expect there are many people about who would like to be able to do the same.

On a more cheerful note, we shall be back in Somerset on April 1st, Oh Happy Day!

Ray NAISH

## **RSPB BIRDWATCH 1996.**

On Saturday 27th of January, I took part in the RSPB's Birdwatch 1996. Every year the RSPB ask their junior members to sit and watch what birds they see in their gardens. They do this so that they know which birds are increasing in numbers, and which have not gone on so well

over the year. What you are meant to do is count how many birds of each type you have seen in the garden at one time.

These are the birds I saw in my garden and in the field behind my house.

Starlings 6  
Blue tits 5  
Great tits 2  
Greenfinches 2  
Sparrows 2  
Chaffinch 5  
Wren 1  
Collared dove 13  
Pied wagtails 1  
Robins 3  
Duncock 2  
Magpies 5  
Blackbirds 1  
Crows 4

From looking at last year's results in the same area of land, we know that the number of Great tits has gone down from 5 to 2. Also, the number of Greenfinches has gone down from 4 to 2. However, the number of Collared doves has gone up a lot, from just three last year to this year's 13.

Mattie GAUNT

## BIRD NEWS

It was interesting to read David GLASSON'S notes last month. The Redwings and Fieldfares were part of an enormous influx and a huge roost has formed just south of Yatton Railway Station. I counted 1140 birds (a mixture of Redwings and Fieldfares) over our house in just 20 minutes. My estimate is that the roost holds at least 5 000 birds.

Meanwhile mid-month, two Waxwings turned up in Clevedon. These gorgeous birds breed in northern Russia and Scandinavia and it is reckoned that numbers in the UK this winter are the highest ever. With more cold weather forecast I wonder if any more of these northern wanderers

will be seen.

Not to be out-done, a Black-throated thrush, the 30th ever seen in Britain, was discovered in a park in Bedminster! Not quite so rare but more welcome, was a report from Ray NAISH that his son had seen a Barn owl on Kenn Moor. I shall be paying some dusk visits to the moor in future. A daytime trip located a Grey wagtail, a Teal, lots of Redwings and Fieldfares, a couple of Buzzards and a Kestrel.

Finally, a friend reported a Peregrine falcon over Clevedon on the 1st February.

Trevor RIDDLE

## BIRD NEWS II

Jeff NAISH has seen 100 Teal in the river at Tickenham and heard a Barn owl, and two Skylarks singing.

## JAMES WHELDON WOODS

On January 26th our neighbour, Jim WOODS died at the nursing home where he had lived for the past year. He left "Broadlands", Duck Lane some eighteen months ago after his wife Bess had died. Jim had stayed with his daughter Brenda and her family near Banwell for approximately six months before going into a rest home through failing health.

Jim and Bess moved to Kenn about 1969. At that time, Jim being an electrical engineer highly trained in telecommunications, was regional manager for the South West region of BT, ie he was top man. He retired 20 years ago and for the next 15 years he and Bess enjoyed their garden, family and friends and a hobby of caravanning; they would sometimes be gone for 10/12 weeks on long trips through Europe as far as Portugal, Italy, Spain and Germany, until first Bess' failing health then Jim's kept them nearer home. However they certainly enjoyed retirement to the full.

Jim was born in 1915, his early life was spent at Newby Hall near Ripon Yorkshire, a great estate in the grand style where his father was the estate engineer. Jim told us many interesting stories of estate life in the 1930s. The owner had other estates besides Newby Hall and of course



a London home for "the Season" to which a daily supply of food from the estate went by train. With dozens of staff in and out at Newby Hall and over twenty men to look after the stables alone. The estate has its own cricket and football teams with their own pitches and pavilions. Jim looked back to those days with happiness.

Jim's first ambition was to join the constabulary, he was a big fellow, but a motor cycle accident left him with a damaged hand so he was turned down. So he went in for electrical engineering at which he excelled; he made his own tv many years ago.

During the war, his was a reserved occupation as with his damaged hand he was rejected by the forces but served in the Home Guard.

Jim and Bess were good neighbours, having lived next to us for over 25 years. Jim was considerate and helpful and always greeted you with a smile. We miss them both but are particularly pleased that his grandson and wife Nicky WHYBROW are now living at "Broadlands". We wonder if we shall be their neighbours for over 25 years, we shall then be ourselves over 80!!

John and Grace GRIFFIN



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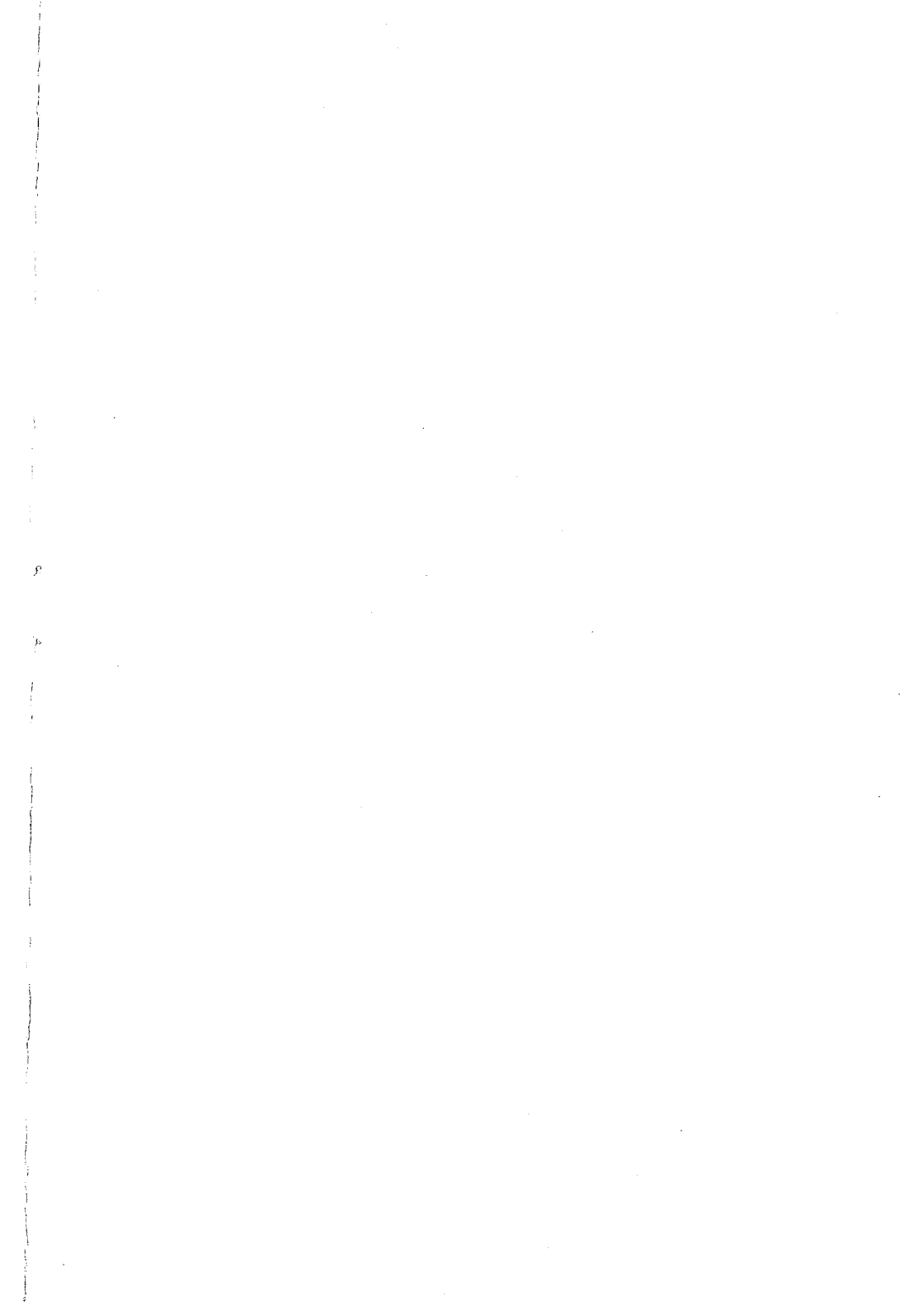
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From *S. Naish*

Date *15-2-96*

Signature *V. M. Bundell*

Dear Sheila,

On behalf of everyone at our Centre may I express my sincere thanks for yet another superb donation in the sum of £380.40p, raised by the people of Kenn.

Please pass on our many thanks to everyone involved in your latest fundraising efforts. We greatly value the support of them all.

As I believe you already know, with your money we are purchasing a hoist and sling for our physiotherapy room. This will make lifting so much easier for our physio. but, more importantly, it will be much safer for patients being transferred. We will hopefully be taking delivery of this hoist at the end of February.

Once again, our thanks indeed for this most welcome donation and we hope you will be happy with the way we have decided to spend your money.

With best wishes to you and all our Kenn supporters,

On behalf of everyone at the Centre