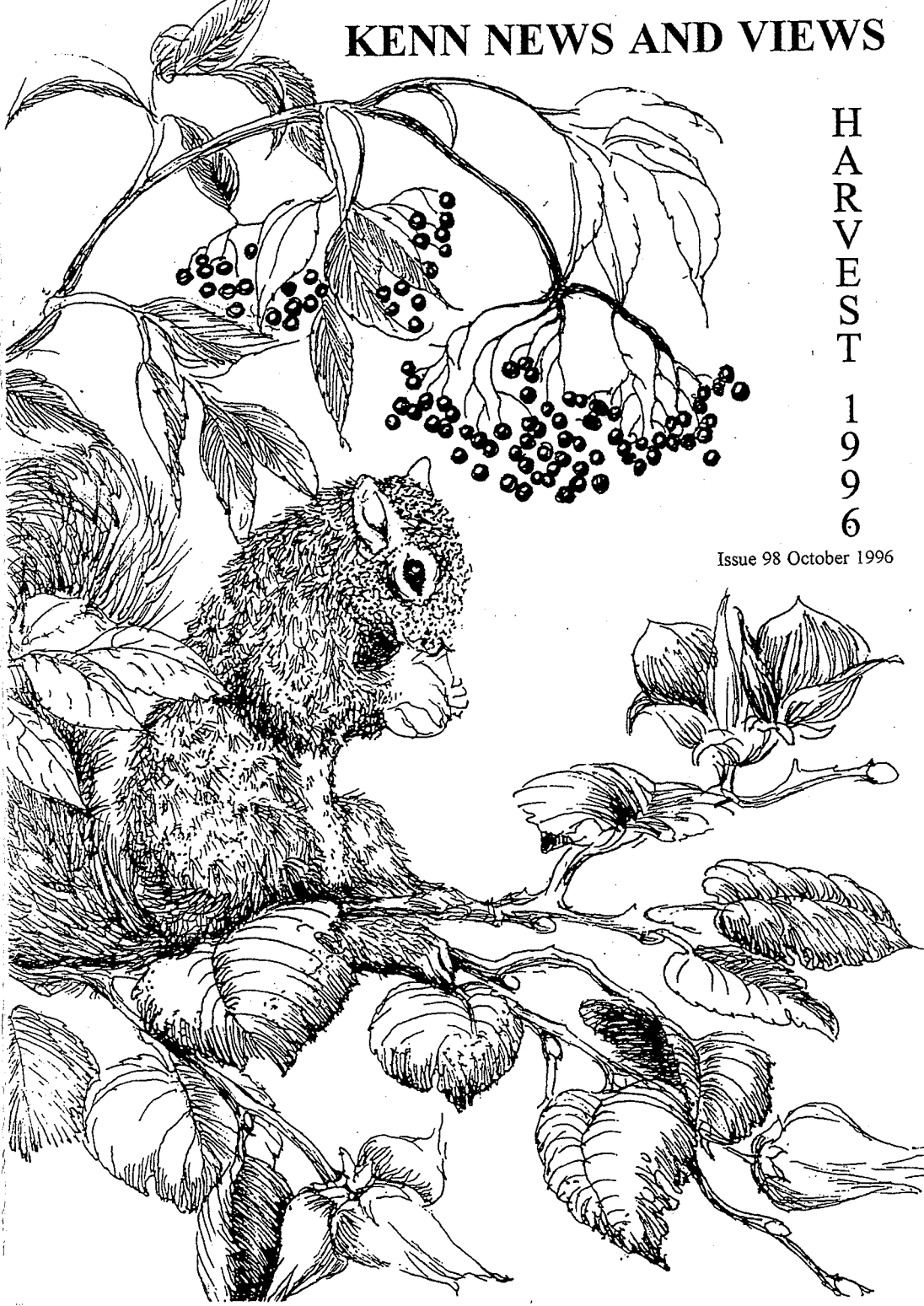


KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

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Issue 98 October 1996





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COVER PICTURE

Thanks to Jean WITHERS for a beautifully drawn cover picture capturing exactly the feeling of a countryside at Harvest time.

MESSAGE FROM LITTLE ED

Letters and articles for the magazine can be left with Liz at Kenn PO or with Ray NAISH or direct to Simon PASCOE by the 17th if possible.

We are in need of a new magazine cover (or 2) - if anyone has a picture or would like to design a cover please feel free. Ideas to myself or Simon, we must have a budding artist amongst us.

NAISH's NOTES

We have had vandals in the village once again! Having suffered two break-ins last month Kenn Valley Social Club had four windows smashed one night, seemingly just for the hell of it. if you see or hear of anything suspicious late at night do contact the police or your neighbourhood watch co-ordinator.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARY LIST

OCTOBER

- 1st Katy GOLDING-ELLIS
- 3rd Gill TAYLOR
- 4th Roland HAZELL
- 6th Daniel QUINN (18th)
- 10th Alison FENWICK
- 12th Sue & Dave PUGH
- 16th Cheryl QUINN
- 25th Melanie FARLEY (Stevens)
- 26th Justin NAISH (18th)

Congratulations to Daniel and Justin who can now legally buy me a large Dry Martini or two. Happy (Hic!!) Birthday boys.

Belated congratulations to Derek and Shirley WALL at Kenn valley Social Club who celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on September 18th. Hope you had a lovely day.

GROVEL - GROVEL

Sorry that we missed September's birthdays and anniversaries -Happy birthday to all of you who had birthdays.

BEST WISHES go to John WALPOLE on his recovery from his operation and return from hospital.

THANKS

Mr Howard WATKINS' son Mr John WATKINS has asked me to thank the villagers of Kenn for their kindness to his family and particularly to Howard during his time at the Old Forge and for the support given to the family at Howard's funeral on Thursday 22nd August. He tells me that Howard received kidney dialysis at Southmead Hospital and also at Weston and was able to continue living at the Old Forge largely because of the support provided by his nextdoor neighbours Barbara MIDDLETON and Jane and Hartley STAPLES. In particular Jane and Hartley provided substantial support for Howard including arranging his midday meal every day. Howard died peacefully in his sleep on Monday 12th August.

John WATKINS has given me a brief history of Howard's life which is very interesting, if anyone would like to read it please contact me. Howard was a very kind man and I miss him and the lovely smell of his pipe. He was very proud of his grandson's poetry and I am glad that we were able to print them in News and Views for Howard to see.

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FUN RUN

Many thanks to everyone who supported this years fun run in whatever way, shape or form.

Confession-time When I took the fliers around advertising the run, if I passed a plum or apple tree I "pinched" one with the result that I did have stomach-ache (yes my mum did tell me about sour fruit but I never listened) So thanks to all you fruit growers I am now cured of "apple nobbing"

A TALE OF TWO RUNNERS

I am very grateful to the kind?? people who sponsored Shirley and myself to the tune of 100.00 to "RUN" the fun run. I should like to clarify the fact that I did NOT say we'd RUN it - I said we'd DO it!! So at 5.30ish given a Martini each and attired in shorts and T-shirts, off we set at a very fast trot,(which lasted until we were out of sight of the hall,) accompanied by our very own "time car" and Jessica QUINN who was nagging -whoops encouraging us all the way. We jogged and walked all the way to the 1st motorway bridge, whereupon we realised that we had been a bit hasty in our intentions of getting around in 45 minutes. However, Cheryl QUINN came to our rescue at the start of the bridge with another Dry Martini, for medicinal purposes only of course. Feeling slightly refreshed off we jogged again waving merrily at all those people who were beeping their horns and laughing at us. By the time we got to Portbury House we were puffed out and decided that a slow walk was more appropriate. Jessica was having none of that "Come on you two there's a car coming and you know the driver!" So off we'd go again only to find that it was no one that we knew. We thought that after the third time of being told this that Jessica would soon land upside down in a ditch if she didn't shut up. as we reached the second motorway bridge Shirley was calling me some very unflattering names for

volunteering her to "run". At the top of the bridge she was threatening to throw me over in between gasps for breath and complaints that she did not have an official number - WHY haven't I got a number?? I WANT a number when I get back - and with that she sprinted past me with a burst of energy that lasted all of 3 yards...

We were joined at this point by Mark PASCOE and Antonis PAPASOLOMONTOS who had come to see for themselves just where we were because they had joined in the sweepstake running on our expected time of arrival. We did try to get them to part with their bikes - even threatening to "mug" them but to no avail -"No cheating" said Antonis " I've got 50p on you". He was even offered his money back by someone who shall remain nameless, but a boy of principles he is and he wouldn't accept it.

Running and walking we eventually reached Kenn Pier - there we thought, just a quiet little stroll home, until we met Steve PIKE'S big dog outside his house. Shirley, deciding that we could still be friends, pushed me in front of her, as you would for your friend. We survived this "friendly" attack and on we went, then suddenly - BRAINWAVE we'd get in the back of Ian PASCOE'S "time car" and travel from the white railings back along Kenn Street in style - NO CHANCE that PAPASOLOMONTOS boy and the PASCOE lads would not allow it and sped off. (I'll get you boys - your turn will come!!!)

We tried to get into Bill PEACOCK'S car - he sped off (Sour grapes because he'd bet 29 minutes as our time and we were already way over that) DRAT - but no! a knight in shining armour arrived, well an Air Cadet Captain and his van. STOP we yelled -give us a lift. So we got into the back, collapsed onto the floor and waved bye-bye to white railings. We arrived at the hall thinking that we we'd been clever, saved our aching limbs and given folk

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a giggle at the same time.

We would have gotten away with it too if a certain SCOTSMAN, who shall remain nameless, (villager - farmer - married to Sarah) hadn't said "They didn't finish it properly! I don't have to pay!!" Miles in turn accused us of cheating and not being funny after all! So we put down the Martinis we'd been given - OK so I snatched Shirley's out of her hand, slapped both drinks down and yelled, "Right then" and dragged Shirley off back up the road towards white railings. "THIS IS NO TIME TO STAND ON YOUR PRINCIPLES, NAISH" she was shouting at me. "OH YES IT IS I'M NOT HEARING ABOUT THIS FOR THE NEXT 12 MONTHS" I yelled back.

So we jogged walked and almost crawled back to white railings adding another 7mins 40 secs to our total 3 mile jaunt which took us a total of 47mins 40secs to complete, where Dave QUINN kindly picked us up and returned us to the hall.

YES WE DID IT - NO WE DIDN'T CHEAT! (TYPIST'S OBSERVATION - DEBATABLE - is alcohol on IAAF list of banned substances as performance enhancer? - perhaps Scottish farmer might like to demand a re-run to further safeguard his sweepstake bet!!) YES WE RAISED 100.00 AND NO WE ARE NOT DOING IT NEXT YEAR (well only if its 200.00 sponsorship and a whole bottle of Martini)

NB - WEARY FOOTNOTE AND LAST LAUGH

The Scotsman would have won the sweepstake if we hadn't gone back to white railings and completed the course. Miles and Derek WALL won the sweepstake but being as Miles protested about our "lift" we made them donate their winnings to the cause. Finally to Mike GRAY who put down that we would return two days later on 3rd Sept - "Oh

ye of little faith" - we'll double your sponsorship money.

Thank you once more - from Sheila + Shirley (who I think has forgiven me)

FUN RUN PROPER!!

Follow that - I would not presume to but there were other things happening on the 1st September. At 3pm some 50 runners gathered to start our 11th Kenn Fun Run some in fancy dress and some attired in more serious running kit representing well known athletics clubs. Those others who perhaps were even less fit, MUCH MUCH younger or just less foolish than the intrepid duo above set off some 5 minutes later on a more leisurely journey around the village.

A full list of times is available but the winners of our trophies were race winner Peter BROOKS (17mins 15secs) and the first under 16 runner home in fourth place overall Alex HOARE (18mins 19secs). Other notable performances were 13 year old Daniel CLEGG's time of 24.31 and 12 year old Ann EDWARDS of 25.09.

Special mention should go to Barbara DICKSON who has come and run in the Fun Run for a number of years but this year was on holiday on the day. To be sure of her sponsor money she ran the course the week before in a time of 30 minutes - well done Barbara.

Also a thank you to Christopher WALL who had played 2 games of football, one ending just 10 minutes before our run and one in the morning, just arriving before the start he changed quickly and ran the 3 miles in 35 minutes finishing absolutely shattered but collecting 56.00 of sponsorship. Who says that teenagers have no sense of responsibility - well done Christopher and thank you.

After the energetic part of the afternoon the BBQ and bar were well patronised and many took part in bale hauling, wellie throwing and

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the infamous peg gathering.

Thank you to all who took part and helped.

Could sponsor money be collected as soon as possible please and given to us, Ray or left at Kenn Shop. An update on the total raised will appear in next months N&V but we had 500.00 on the day.

BLOOMING MARVELLOUS

Sheila and Simon

KENN ON THE ATHLETICS MAP

Did they ask to use OUR course?

Many would have seen 150 plus runners around the village on Sunday 15th September who were taking part in a AAA 5x5k (3 miles in old money) championship using our fun run course described in the press as a "fast flat circuit". Looking at the times recorded by some of our runners they would have been more than a match for some of these club athletes. Many ladies teams were taking part and having acquired an entry form for next year we are now looking for three more runners - I'm sure I've spelt NAISH and WALL correctly, current form is 47mins 40secs, but are they GIRLS/LADIES or VETERANS?

TEAM BARBEQUE

On Friday 6th September Kenn played host to members of all five churches in the Yatton Moor Team Ministry and their friends. Over a hundred people enjoyed a very mild evening sitting under the stars on straw bales or gathered round tables in the village hall while Simon PASCOE and Roger JENKINS produced a succulent variety of meats from the BBQ. These were served with jacket potatoes and salads and washed down with drinks from the bar provided by Derek WALL ably assisted by Sheila NAISH.

With plenty of good food and good company

it was generally agreed to be a most enjoyable occasion.

Thanks are due to those who helped with the food preparation, setting up the hall, the lighting, clearing and washing up and for the use of the field and straw bales.

It is very good that despite its small size Kenn can contribute very positively to the camaraderie of the Parish.

Wendy PAPASOLOMONTOS

KENN NOTES

SNIPPITS

The Jumble Sale for Village Funds held on August 28th raised 126.00. Thanks to all those who supported it.

Prizewinner - Congratulations to Mr Roland HAZELL who entered the Show for Honey at Winscombe on September 7th. His entries were awarded 1st for Mead 2nd for Honey and 3rd for Cut Combe. Well done.

Diary Dates - 7.30 October 9th Mrs June SMALL will speak on Apples. Competition a dish using apples. All ladies welcome.

KENN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Miss Holtham welcomed members to the September meeting of Kenn WI after the summer break.

Mr Clive PRATT from Tate and Lyle gave a very informative talk on the history of the sugar industry. Tate and Lyle produce sugar from cane which was the original source of sugar before the introduction of sugar beet. The competition for a slogan for sugar was won by Mrs PREW gold Mrs J JEFFREY silver and Mrs R JEFFREY green.

Members were sorry to hear that Mrs MANN and her family are leaving the area and wished her well in her new home. Mrs HOLTHAM was presented with a plant on the occasion of

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a special birthday.

It is hoped that it will be possible to organise a basic first aid course during the autumn and names were taken to gauge interest. The birthday party will be held on October 23rd. Members were encouraged to bring a guest. This year the party will be free for members but there will be a charge for guests. A friendly skittles match at the Kenn Valley Social Club has been arranged for September 30th and Kenn is taking part in the County Skittles Tournament. The fund raising for the flag pole on the green is almost complete and the WI will give a donation when it is seen how much more money is needed.

Members were reminded about the group Meeting in Clevedon on October 18th and asked to bring a nursery rhyme figure for the competition. It can be in any medium and size is not specified.

At the October meeting Mrs SMALL will talk on apples and the competition is for a dish using apples.

KENN PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting of the Council will be held in the Village Hall on Monday 7th October at 7.30. All electors are welcome.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING

The Harvest Thanksgiving Service this year will be held on 6th October. At the morning Family Service children are invited to bring their Harvest Gifts which as usual will be distributed to the sick and elderly. During this service two young children will be baptised and a large congregation is expected. The evening service at 6pm will take the form of Harvest Songs of Praise.

St JOHN'S ALTAR GUILD

October rota - Mrs H JENKINS Mrs T MIDDLETON and Mrs J WOODS.

THE BISHOP OF BATH AND WELLS VISITS KENN

Bishop Jim THOMPSON attended the service at Kenn Church on Sunday 8th September and seemed to very much enjoy his visit as did his wife Sally who accompanied him.

He told me that he was impressed with the choir and the way it incorporated all age groups, mothers sat with their children and other young members were seated next to adults.

There was a large congregation of about 65 it was good to see so many families present with young children.

After the service the Bishop took time to speak to each person as they left the Church making it a very memorable day in the life of the Church here.

Before leaving Kenn the Bishop and his wife were invited to look around Kenn Court and they were very interested in this historic building which was the home of the KEN family many years ago. The famous Bishop Thomas KEN who was Bishop of Bath and Wells in the sixteen hundreds was a descendant of that family. 1996 is the year of celebration of the life of Thomas KEN and the Bishop's visit here was part of that celebration.

Ray NAISH

LETTER FROM FARNHAM

Fifteen years ago when we told our friends in Yorkshire that we were moving to Kenn they said that you would be unfriendly, like all southerners. Well obviously they were wrong. Kenn is an extremely friendly village and we have enjoyed living among you. We have made many good friends and have many lovely memories, not the least of which were acquiring another son and Avril getting ordained.

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It was not that we wanted to move, but commuting to London was both tiring and expensive. Before our move here, we had the same concerns as fifteen years ago about our new neighbours. Well again we seem to have been wrong, they are friendly. We are all looking forward: the boys to a new school, Avril to a new parish and me to a shorter commute.

After the first month here we have managed to get the house tidy - but still can't get into the garage! The new garden seems very quiet without the birdsong we were so familiar with in Kenn - I guess it will take time and a regular food supply to improve this. We do, however, have a fox that pays us a regular visit, numerous squirrels and a noisy jay. We have lost the collared doves, replaced by pigeons.

Many people helped tremendously over our moving period. John GRIFFIN's firm did a first class job and can strongly be recommended to anyone having to move home. Thank you to all who sent us cards and good wishes, they were most appreciated. The bad news is that you have not got rid of us totally and we will be visiting Kenn from time to time and look forward to seeing you all again.

Richard Avril Alex & Mattie GAUNT

HISTORY GROUP (September)

A smaller number than usual gathered at Stonehouse Farm to visit the ancient church at Puxton. As we drove along the narrow winding lanes and across the Moors the sun was already setting in the west and I thought how lucky we are in this part of the country having these wonderful and picturesque sunsets.

On arrival at Puxton we were joined by some friends from Kingston making our numbers up to about fifteen. We also met Mr JAMES, a very kind local gentleman who was to con-

duct us around the church. Although the church dates back to the 14th century the site goes back much further. Archaeologists from reading university who have dug here say that there were settlements her in Roman and pre-Roman times.

The tower of the church dates from the 15th century and is almost unbelievable to behold. It best be described as the Leaning Tower of Puxton. I couldn't judge how many degrees it is out of line but incredibly it leans in two directions both forward and sideways.

The tilt is probably due to the type of foundation laid and also the combination of the peaty soil and the level of the water table. It is known that the foundations consist of alternate layers of timber and stone and that together with the low lying nature of the land caused slippage. Flooding hereabouts used to occur regularly but modern drainage has eliminated further problems.

Over the years cracks appear both in the tower and in the main body of the church and people like Mr JAMES with a diminishing band of helpers have always managed to get running repairs done. Steeplejacks, stonemasons and other journeymen have been both patient and generous in helping to keep this wonderful building in repair. Recently some of the outside rendering began to peel and 500.00 was required to make good. Somehow though, through an unknown benefactor the money just appeared and some of the maintenance bills always seem to get to the bottom of the pile.

The Parish records date back to the 1400's and the older ones are written in a kind of Anglo-latin not easily deciphered. These records when found in the church were taken to Taunton for safe-keeping although copies are still held in Puxton. The churchyard and burial grounds are also very ancient having been used for burials long before gravestones or other permanent gravemarks were used.

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Over the entrance door to the church is a coat of arms in stone of the St LOWE family from Bath who at one time owned the land. On entering the church itself it is difficult to find words to describe your first impressions. Sheer amazement is all I can think of for it is truly medieval. The pews are 14th century and of very old rough sawn oak sometimes held together with ancient iron staples and even the original saw marks are visible. Then, your eyes fall upon the equally ancient "horse box" type pews which are Jacobean in origin. These again are of dark rough wood, shoulder high with doors to enter and hard wooden bench seats inside. The priest from his vantage point can see inside these boxes and often scolded anyone falling asleep or children skylarking. In this part of the church it really is like being in a time capsule of more than a century ago.

The Chancel was "modernised" in Victorian times and it is there that the small congregation now hold their services. The average congregation now numbers between 5 to 8 and on one recent Sunday it was down to 2. Mr JAMES told us many interesting, and humorous facts and anecdotes relating to the church, for example it is a Grade I listed building and although now in need of major repair because of rotten beams, English Heritage will not allow anything to be changed. It is classic "Catch 22" situation - to save the building repairs must be done BUT repairs are not being allowed because of the buildings age and listing.

Another potential hazard is the proposed Leisure Park complex on Puxton Moor. So many buildings and so much activity would almost certainly alter the delicate balance of the water table which at the moment seems to be keeping the tower stable. Local people are doing all they can to resist the park's intrusion into their preferred lifestyle.

Mr JAMES spoke of a special warmth that

the church gave him when he was alone in its cloistered quietness. I think we felt that too. As we emerged into the darkness of the Autumn night further lines of poetry entered my head no doubt from my schooldays of long ago. These from Gray's *Elegy* I think:

Now fades the glimmering landscape on the sight

And all the air a solemn stillness holds

Save where the beetle wheels his droning flight

And drowsy tinklings lull in the distant folds.

Perhaps in this neglected spot is laid

Some heart pregnant with celestial fire

Hands, that the rod of empire might have swayed

Or waked to ecstasy the living lyre.

Finally Mr JAMES was thanked for spending time with us. He also should be warmly congratulated for helping to keep this church alive. Our thanks also to Grace GRIFFIN who organised the visit.

Once in our cars and on the main road again I think we all felt we were back in the 20th century, for better or for worse.

Cliff EDWARDS

The next meeting of the History Group will be on Monday 21st October at The Granary Duck Lane when we discuss our winter programme. We are always looking for new members with interesting ideas. For only 25p for coffee it is an interesting and friendly evening and we always learn something new about our community.

We would like to thank Cliff EDWARDS for his very interesting reports on our walks this summer. They are always a pleasure to read. Cliff obviously has quite a gift with his descriptions and observations on the countryside.

Grace GRIFFIN

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READING IN CHURCH

I apologise to anyone who has tried to contact me regarding reading. In last months N&V I made a mistake in writing my own telephone number. The correct number is 01275-870329

Cliff EDWARDS

BIRD NEWS - SEPTEMBER

September is a peak time for bird migration and early in the month I was pleased to see a whinchat on the local moors. Whinchats breed mainly in upland areas or marginal land. They winter in Africa so "my" bird had a long journey in front of it.

Goldfinches seem to be thriving probably helped by the good feeding that the set-aside schemes bring. There are good numbers of young birds this year in the flocks (or charms as they are properly called) which I have seen recently.

My wife Jill saw a kingfisher speeding along the River Kenn near Nailsea Court. She actually saw this bird from the train, its wonderful colours showing clearly. Generally kingfishers seem to have suffered a decline, no doubt due to the severe winter - have there been other sightings locally?

Finally I was surprised to be told of two seals in the estuary just off the sea wall during the very high tides. I have never heard of any similar sightings but would be only too glad to know of a previous occurrence.

Trevor RIDDLE

BIRDS TWO

Swallows - It is the 19th of September and there are still young swallows in a nest in the garage here at Stonehouse Farm. The parents are feeding every few minutes. I think this is very late in the year for young to still be in the nest, is this a record?

Ray NAISH

ROMAN KILNS

Just what did the Romans dry in those kilns (History group report in September N&V). Reading quicker than I can type, which is not difficult, I left off in mid sentence last month - for those interested grain was dried in the kilns.

Sorry to spoil last months report Cliff.

Humbled TYPIST

COFFEE AND CHAT

On Thursday 17th October, Jack HANSON, Weston Wood, Kenn Street will be host for Coffee and Chat with the vicar. This will be in place of Tea and Chat in the afternoon and as usual it is an open invitation, everybody welcome. Time 10.30 to 12 noon.

Wendy PAPASOLOMONTOS

