

KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

KENN FUN RUN
SUNDAY 7th SEPTEMBER
3pm



EDITOR

Sheila NAISH

01934-838357

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MESSAGE FROM ED

How pleased I am that the weather is now so glorious.

It makes people a lot happier and encourages them to don shorts and T-shirts and feel good about themselves so good in fact that I'm sure News & Views readers will all remember that it is *TRAINING* time once more - Yep! that time of year THE VIL-LAGE FUN RUN WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 7th at 3pm.

I look forward to seeing your smiling, red, outof puff faces around the village during the next few weeks and to seeing you on the day, ready willing and able to run, support or just to laugh at us!

Did I say US!! - after last year I will need at least £150 pledged before my shorts and stumpy white legs are displayed to the world.

Sheila

(*TYPIST* - No!! - Not the "stumpy white legs" I'm told that if it gets to £200 Sheila will wear a track-suit and we'll all be happy - here's my tenner!!!!)

BIRTHDAYS

August

3rd Clare & Louise EDWARDS

6th Steve BYE

7th Lorraine STAPLES (21st)

Ray NAISH

Jack HANSON

10th Stephen BRAIN

14th Mrs Edith TRIPP

15th Jean NAISH

22nd Dave QUINN

Mark EYRES

24th Sam STAPLES

25th Stella NAISH

26th Peter WOODS

29th Hartley & Jane STAPLES (WA)

John & Sylvia STAPLES (WA)

31st Jill & Matthew BUTLAND (WA)

A very special Happy Birthday and congratulations on her 21st Birthday to Lorraine STAPLES from Mum, Dad & Lee.

NAISH'S NOTES

The BBQ and disco held in our barn raised the marvellous sum of £684.46 which will be put towards the computer, chair and various items needed to enable Jamie our 4 year old chap with cerebral palsy to communicate with others. His parents and grand parents would like to thank all concerned for their generosity on this evening.

Personally I would like to thank John HAZELL, Derek & Shirley WALL, the STOUT family and Rob SHEPPERD for their assistance in making this a brilliant night.

PS, We will be holding another fund raising night for Jamie later in the year. Watch this space.

RACE NIGHT

The horse race night held at Kenn Valley Social Club raise £487.06 for BIBIC (British Institute for Brain Injured Children) Bridgewater.

I'd like to say that we did use REAL horses!! The amount of people who did not believe we would was astounding.. (You should know me better) The horses and racing was organised by Nicky and Dale from Kingston Bridge Riding School and their riders who did a brilliant job.

Our own "4 star" jockeys were auctioned at the end for vast sums of money. Tom CLARK, Milly STOWELL Jeff NAISH and

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Jeremy OSBORNE - don't give up the day jobs!! This race was easily won by Jeff on a small pony. Tom (Detorri) CLARK had in his own words "the biggest horse - shoulders as high as this room and this ***!! wide and I didn't know it would be a real horse". Well done Tom! The last thing he rode was a camel so he didn't do too bad. Milly and Jeremy did extremely well and all four stayed on their mounts.

This evening was really good fun and enjoyed by all. Many thanks to Derek WALL who did a brilliant patter as commentator and auctioneer and to his team of helpers who made this event such a success and one which everyone has asked us to repeat.

We had many sponsors for this event who I would like to thank, Stowell Concrete Bill Peacock Rob Sheppard Tom & Sarah Clark B.P Social Club Abbey National Oxford Instruments Plasma Technology and Ziggy, and staff at Ionet Systems Ltd.

FUN RUN

SEPTEMBER 7th 3pm

This year's Fun Run will be held in aid of 2 charities The Meningitis Trust and The British Institute for Brain Injured Children. We need offers of help, people to organise games, raffles and stalls. We need things to sell and raffle. All donations gratefully received. Sponsor forms from Simon, Kenn Stores or myself. Please turn up and give your support. Bar and BBQ as usual, bring your friends, family, everyone.

There will be a bouncy castle for the children and A TUG OF WAR - teams of 8 required. There must be many of you who could muster a team - football teams, works teams, pub teams - fit, flab or otherwise the more the merrier. Tug of war at about 4.30.

KENN MOOR AIR SHOW

The annual Woodspring Model Aircraft Display was held on the first week end in July.

Again as last year the weather was good for this popular event, the seventh held. The star item of the model section was a one quarter scale model Spitfire, with its big brother being flown on Saturday by a Rolls-Royce test pilot who gave an impressive display of aerobatic flying. This was followed on Sunday by a fly past by Britain's only air-worthy Lancaster bomber which had come from its Lincolnshire home which it shares with a Spitfire and Hurricane of the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight.

DHG

Kenn Pier

SNIPPITS

Welcome - to the CARTWRIGHT family who have come to live at Dahlia Cottage and to the FINCH family at The Cottage Duck Lane. We hope both will enjoy life in Kenn.

Thanks - Sam DYER would like to thank friends and neighbours for their cards, good wishes and visits he has received since his operation.

Congratulations - to James MACKAY on attaining a First Class Honours Batchelor of Art Degree at Warwick University. We wish him well with his future studies.

Kenn Village Hall - The first antiques valuation evening on July 15th was a great success when Marc BURRIDGE, of Clevedon Sale-rooms valued around 60 differing items.

The event was enjoyed by all and our knowledge of antiques improved, a profit of £231.50 was made for Hall funds. Thank you to all who helped.

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Welcome Home - to Duncan MACKAY on his return from a round the world trip that started when he left England on January 22nd.

R M DYER

KENN WOMENS INSTITUTE

On a beautiful summer evening members of Kenn W.I. were delighted to welcome Mrs. Harding who brought a selection of teapots from her collection. It is quite amazing how teapots have varied over the years in attempts to make the perfect cuppa. Older members were also very pleased to welcome Trixie Gale who came as Mrs. Harding's travelling companion and met many old acquaintances. Mrs. Harding judged the competition for a pretty teapot. A gold star was awarded to Mrs. M. Harris, silver to Mrs. Dyer and green to Mrs. Ings.

It was lovely to greet several visitors this month and it is hoped that they enjoyed the meeting and will come again. Mrs. Bubbs was thanked for the very pretty flowers on the President's table. There will not be a meeting in August so several issues were deferred until September when decisions will be made about them. These include the Birthday Party to be held on October 21st and a replacement for the village sign which has sadly disintegrated. Several members have visited shows and craft workshops to see examples and it appears that there will be a choice of design and medium.

Ideas for winter classes were asked for and interest has already been shown in calligraphy, corn dollies, patchwork and another First Aid class. A team will take part in the County Quiz in October and two members accepted an invitation to a Birthday Party at Clevedon W.I.

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

At the time of writing there has been no news about the Best Kept Village Competition so we must keep on picking up the litter and hope for the best.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 4th August in the Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. All are welcome.

KENN HISTORY GROUP

Dolebury Warren

(Dole - to share out

-bury - fortified place

Warren - rabbit dwelling)

On a delightful summer evening the Kenn History Group found itself climbing a steep path to the top of Dolebury Warren. On our trip we were accompanied by Dick BROOMHEAD a consultant field archeologist who acted as our guide and historian. Infact his first words were "very little is known about dolebury warren" and yet by the end of the evening we had learnt a lot. The background to the development of hill forts is interesting , in about 6000 BC the Neolithic Stone Age people cleared large amounts of vegetation on the higher ground, this in turn caused massive soil erosion on the lowland moors. The only way to sustain life was for the Stone Age people to migrate and move on.

By 3000BC with new crops and grasses men became farmers and began to settle down. As a consequence of a stable life style the population grew rapidly so by about 2000BC the countryside became overcrowded causing friction between the tribes. The rich and powerful built hillforts to protect themselves and their followers. By 1500 BC - 700 BC, with improved technology, iron had been developed. This led to tremendous wealth for a few who then created the Iron Age towns, (someone suggested a modern day equivalent

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of Milton Keynes) - imagine what Iron Age man would have thought of Milton Keynes' stone cows!!!

These Iron Age forts were packed with people, Dolebury Warren could well have had 1000 people or more. Dolebury reached its height in the middle to late Iron Age but as limited digs have taken place its exact history and importance is unclear. With wooden palisades and towers it would have been a very imposing structure. Infact with 5 hillforts and various enclosures all fighting for supremacy Dolebury Warren lost out to Worlebury but it had connections with the Roman Empire for lead pigs or ingots were discovered in Pompeii with a Charterhouse sign. Today's equivalent might well be "made in Hong Kong or is that China!!

By the 1st century AD Dolebury was abandoned. This was due to a combination of trade routes elsewhere and the climate becoming wetter and colder. In the 13/14 century it was used as Rabbit Warren, factory farming an expensive meat for the landed gentry. The warreners built pillow mounds for the rabbits to live in and vermin traps to catch rats who dared to eat this delicacy. How the lot of the rabbit has changed today. The warreners house was destroyed as late as 1830 but evidence is still there of its foundations.

Today Dolebury Warren is still a very impressive place with commanding views. It is a testimony to man's ingenuity to create such an imposing structure.

The Kenn History Group would like to thank Dick BROOMHEAD for his time and effort in conveying a vast amount of information about hillforts and in particular Dolebury Warren.

Mandy BOYLE

The next meeting of the Kenn History Group takes the form of a walk hopefully to a

farm in Puxton. Meet at Stonehouse Farm on August 11th at 7pm.

All are welcome.

Ray NAISH

IMPERIAL CANCER RESEARCH FUND

I would like to thank the residents of Kenn for their support in raising over £60 which has been passed on to the charity.

Maurice FORD

SOMERSET OR DEVON ?

The following was taken from a magazine seen in a dentist's waiting room.

I veiled mortal zorry ver me mate

Zum forty years agone

When he walked out a country maid

Till things went turble wrong.

Me mate 'e was a strapping card

Who quaffed the cider well

Thee'd zee his jar on top of the bar

Wae a 'alf pint ver the girl.

An zo the days went slippin by

Wae the love birds zippin' scrump

Twas cuddlin' squeezin all the way

Till Ro turned up: ees trump.

One night Ro ad won at darts

My mate was working late

Zo Ro called for a Tivvy stout

And carried it to the maid

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My emmers ow' her eyes lit up
 Er cheeks wuz all aglow
 Er smiled and swilled the lovin cup
 Av another , maid, said Ro.

An zo me mate e' ad the zack
 And lost his sweetheart dear
 I told im ow to get er back
 But e' wouldn't stump up ver beer.

Submitted by Cliff EDWARDS

TYPIST - feel free not to find too many more like this Cliff - the wulitzer's spell checker can't cope!!!

St JOHN's ALTAR GUILD- August

Mrs Jan BEDFORD, Mrs Iris GOLDSWORTHY and Mis Pam STUCKEY..

BIRD NEWS - July

Early in the month I undertook my second one hour survey in Kenn, (on behalf of the Bristol Naturalists Society) and recorded 24 species. Eight of these were different to the first survey which was on a different route, a total of 31 species was a creditable result over 2 hours.

Survey like this are organised using 2km x 2km national grid squares known as Tetrads and give a snapshot of species present. The results are published in a format using 10km squares so the 25 sets of results (50 hours) for each big square give a fairly comprehensive coverage.

On the second survey I noted a bird so scarce it did not appear on my printed record sheet - a single tree sparrow!! This surprise was seen on the footpath from Kenn Court to North End near to the large Willow Tree a regular habitat for them in the past. Also of note were

3 graet spotted woodpeckers, 10 linnets and a single lapwing.

My notes on the Somerset Levels (Brue Valley) last month have proved over optimistic. The barn owls lost all of their chicks in the awful weather in late June and at least one marsh harrier nest seems to have gone the same way. There are hopes that the barn owls will nest again but the harriers only get one chance each season. On a brighter note a pair of bitterns have raised 2 young at Chew Valley Lake, one of only 15 pairs in the country and a first for the lake. By the time you read this autumn migration will be getting under way particularly notable at first should be waders along the sea-wall.

Trevor RIDDLE

BIRD NEWS II

Jean and I have just spent a week in Scotland, we stayed at an hotel at the top end of Loch Long in the village of Arrochar. what I did not realise is that Loch Long is tidal, it enters the sea down on the Galloway coast.

All through our holiday we saw and heard very few birds, we saw a small flock of mixed swallows and house martins near to Loch Lomond but all other sorts of small birds were nowhere to be seen.

From the hotel we could see herring and black-backed gulls nesting on an old landing stage. On two mornings we saw seven oyster catchers flying around the Loch, also on a couple of misty mornings a few small black and white birds could be seen diving in the middle of the Loch. A lady in our party using field binoculars thought they were black guillimots.

Riding around in our coach daily for many miles right up to Oban and Fort William I was amazed that you could travel so far without seeing a single bird of any description. We travelled across Ranoch Moor and down

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through Glen Coe which must be something like 30 miles without seeing a bird or any wild animal, not even a rabbit.

What a bleak and barren place this part of Scotland is, the only humans up there were the gipsy families in highland dress waiting to play their bagpipes for the coach parties who stopped to have photos taken with them for a small fee. The children were selling bunches of lucky heather to the tourists although it was easy enough to pick your own.

When we arrived back in Kenn it was like another world, our garden was filled with birds of all sorts.

We have now come to the time of year when most birds moult their feathers, many of them have stopped singing and keep out of sight except for feeding. Even the song thrushes are quiet after pleasing so many people with their songs throughout the spring. We are very lucky in Kenn to have so many resident thrushes, I am told that Kingston Hass very few even though only 2 miles away.

Ray NAISH

PRIDDY FAIR

Don't forget Priddy Fair, it will be held on Wednesday 20th August on Priddy Green, it is a great day out for all the family and although there is ample parking it is best to get there before 11am.

RVN

NEW YORK MARATHON CHALLENGE

In a fit of madness back in April I spotted a poster at my local fitness centre inviting participants to support the charity "Whizz Kidz" (the movement for non-mobile children) and run in the New York Marathon on November 2nd. Friends and colleagues at Michael Page had just completed the London

Marathon with tales of achievement - an unforgettable experience of sheer physical and mental endurance!! (I had to go for it! - it also seemed like a momentous way to celebrate my 35th birthday)

Those of you who know anything about me will understand why I have undertaken to train for this event - I thrive on challenges. Recent holidays???? include climbing Mount Kinabalu in Borneo, the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu in Peru and all being well Mount Kilimanjaro for Christmas this year.

I am well into my training programme and thoroughly enjoying it. I have joined the "Wimbledon Windmilers" running club with a six day a week training schedule (I get Saturdays off!!). Our runs take us across Wimbledon Common and into Richmond Park - what better way to "de-stress" than to end the day running in the evening sunlight dodging grazing deer and hopping bunny rabbits. We could almost be in the countryside - hard to believe only 5-6 miles from central London.

If anyone would like to support my fund raising efforts to purchase a wheelchair for "Whizz Kidz" - Mum and Dad - Grace and John GRIFFIN have a sponsor form. All donations will be gratefully received.

Keep an eye out for me pounding down Kenn Street on the weekends between now and November 2nd.

Sarah GRIFFIN

