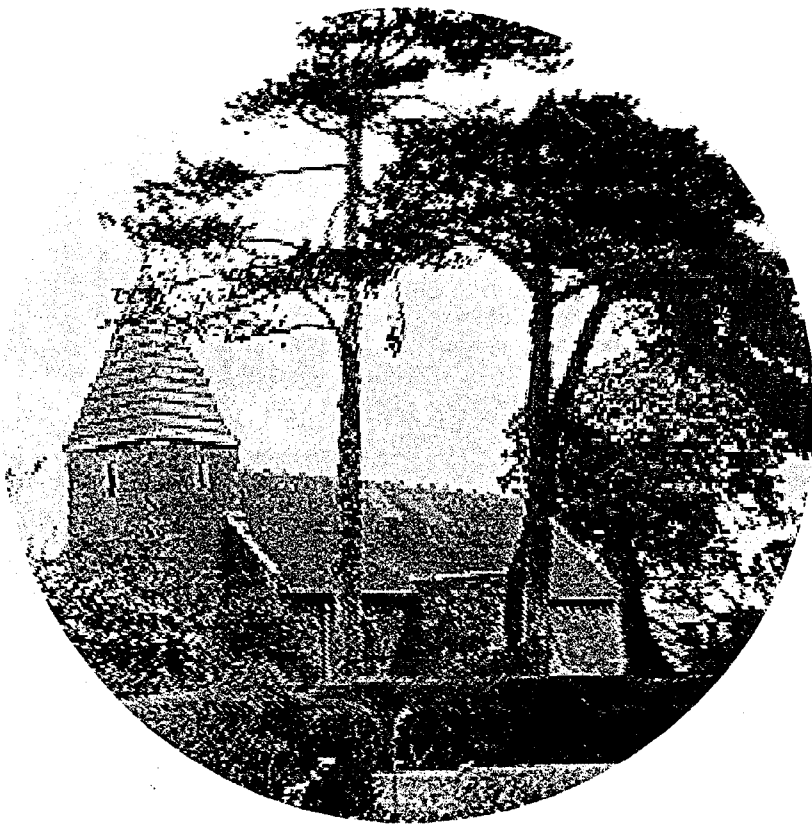


KENN NEWS AND VIEWS



EDITOR

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Roger Norman STOWELL

The people of Kenn and from around this area were very shocked and saddened to hear of the sudden death of Roger on January 13th aged 57. He died at his home in Kenn Street where he had lived almost all of his life. Roger was the youngest son of the late Jack and Irene STOWELL who were both from old Kenn families.

He attended Kenn Village School until he was eleven years old and then Clevedon Secondary School and left at barely fifteen. When Roger was a teenager he bought an ancient hay baler and did contract work with it. This was the first baler in the village.

After doing a bit of buying and selling cars, Roger decided to go into the concrete block making business. He started with a small set of machinery which made five blocks at a time. All the work was done with shovels, very hard work. About this time his young friends from the village helped him to lay a concrete slab to work on, mixing and laying the concrete by hand. This was the start of his business expansion which grew into a huge enterprise making blocks and concrete products in three different yards. The original one at Kenn, one at Wemberham in Yatton and the other at Holcombe near Shepton Mallet.

At the present time Stowell Concrete Ltd employ sixty five full time workers directly plus a further thirty five sub-contractors. There is no doubt that Roger STOWELL was the most successful and enterprising businessman Kenn has ever produced. In my view a man who can find employment for 100 people, in other words support 100 families is a very important person in any area.

In all this Roger received tremendous support from his wife Margaret to whom he had been married for over thirty years. In the early days they did without many things to get the business going.

In the last few years Roger had travelled extensively to many parts of the world including a walking holiday in Nepal.

When I have talked to his employees they have always told me that Roger expected a good days work for a good days pay and that he was always very fair with them. One told me that when the recession was on a few years ago he could easily have sacked many of them, but he did not. He put

them on short time so that everyone had a fair share of the work available. During the past year Stowell Concrete produced 8,500,000 building blocks, plus other concrete products.

All his life Roger was interested in cars and tractors. Over the years he had collected many vintage cars and very old farm tractors, including a Rolls Royce Silver Ghost. He was often asked to take the bridal party to weddings in the Rolls. Over the last few years Roger and Margaret had joined various car clubs and received a tremendous amount of pleasure attending rallies all over the country and in Europe and have made many friends. Roger was a committee member of one of the clubs.

In this village Roger had been very generous in helping with whatever needed doing over the years. Since he had been a Parish Councillor he had undertaken to provide a new Parish notice-board which he had made and set in place at his own expense. Just recently he had taken great interest in getting a new flag pole for the village and undertook to have it set in place on the Village Green. He was an excellent Parish Councillor.

His funeral service in Kenn Parish Church drew a huge congregation, around four hundred people attended. Without doubt this was the largest number of people at a funeral in Kenn. Such was his popularity, friends and business acquaintances travelled to Kenn to pay their last respects from all over the southern half of England and Wales.

As Kenn Church only seats just over 100 people a marquee was erected on the Village Green to get the huge crowd under cover and the service relayed out to it. Even then many people had to stand outside. There were literally hundreds of cars parked around the village.

At this very sad time, our sincere sympathy is extended to all the family, Margaret, her three children, Vincent, Gina and Quinton and all their extended family.

Roger had been a wonderful relation and friend to a great many people and was held in great respect all around this Village and beyond. He will be greatly missed by many.

Ray NAISH

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NAISH's NOTES

The news of Roger STOWELL's sudden death last month was a great shock and left so many of us very saddened by the loss of one of our own at such a young age. We all have our own memories and thoughts of Roger. My own were mixed. I was glad of Roger's support and common sense when we joined the Parish Council together. I was glad to have the might and wisdom of Roger when we were fighting the "powers that be" over the proposed weight limit through Yatton which would have ruined business by sending lorries on huge detours! We won the day eventually but due mainly to Roger.

When raising funds for charity I lost count of how many times I asked Roger or Margaret - can I have.....? could you sponsor.....? can I borrow.....? - always help was provided. My fondest memory and one which still brings a smile to my face is Roger chauffering "Dame Edna Everidge" (alias Kate) to open our fun run in one of his beautiful cars, one of my dafter ideas but it was such a laugh. As if that hadn't been enough at the end of the fun run after several wines and a glass still in my hand Roger was "persuaded"???... to drive a few of us around the course. I just waved at everybody.... just like royalty. I made Roger park on the motor way bridge and we all waved at the passing traffic! (yes, I was still dressed up as a BEE!!!!) - a wonderful afternoon.

A quiet large man who will leave a large gap in village life, Roger will be much missed by us all.

To Margaret, Vince, Quinton, Gina and family on behalf of the team on News & Views we offer our love and sympathy.

Sheila

SAM TAYLOR

Sadly after a brave fight Sam TAYLOR passed away the day after Roger. Sam had been very ill for a long time but even so was determined to raise money for a Hearing Dog for the Deaf in memory of his brother Dag. This we did and fortunately Sam was still well enough to receive a plaque from the charity on behalf of all the friends of Dag. A brave man, our condolences to Mrs Sally WHITEHEAD, Chris, Wendy and families.

BIRTHDAYS - February

- 1st Tim TAYLOR - 18th - Congratulations
- 2nd Katy STOWELL - 21st - Congratulations
- 14th Gladys DENMEAD
- 16th Marianna MacKAY
- 19th Jeff NAISH
- 25th James GRIFFIN

SNIPPITS

Carols on the green - We have received a note of thanks from The Children's Society for the collection of 32.00 raised at the carol-singing.

Christmas Day - As is the custom we flew our flag to celebrate the birth of Christ.

Bereavement - All Kennites were shocked to learn of the death of Roger STOWELL.

Roger had built up a very large business during his lifetime and created much employment. Even so he always found time to help in Kenn, only just before Christmas he erected our new flagpole.

In 1996 he was elected to serve on the Parish Council where his contributions were much appreciated. One of his hobbies was his collection of Classic Cars which he displayed at the Kenn Fete.

Over 300 people attended his funeral on 21st

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January at Kenn church where the service was conducted by John CRUSE. Those who could not be found seats in the church were accommodated in a marquee on the green.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Margaret, Vincent, Anne, Gina and Quinton on their great loss.

Bereavement - Sam TAYLOR, a former resident and frequent visitor to Kenn died on January 15th after a long illness. Before his illness Sam worked on the railway at various stations in the district and eventually as a guard.

A large company of family, friends and railway staff attended his funeral at Yatton Church on 22nd January. To his brother Christopher and Mrs WHITEHEAD and all of his family we extend our sympathy.

Kenn Village Hall - To conform with present day regulations the heating system in the Hall has to be attended to. The cost of the work amounted to 2361.00 with a further 890.00 for insurance and electricity.

The Hall committee has decided to organise fund raising events starting with a Jumble Sale on March 19th and a fashion show is planned. In August or September a whole day to be called "Kenn thro' the Ages" when it is hoped that the Church, Council, WI and History Society will take part. Collections of photos or paintings will be invited and the day will end with a BBQ.

Kenn residents or former residents will all be invited to participate. Another possibility will be a wine and cheese party combined with an antiques valuation evening.

Watch this space..

Diary Dates.

Wednesday February 12th Kenn WI - Mrs NEATH will demonstrate Cake Decorations. The competition will be for a decorated sponge.

Advance Notice -

Quiz Night Saturday 15th March -Village Hall. Usual format with fish and chip supper - In aid of Friends of Kenn Church.

KENN WI

Those members of the WI not afflicted with the flu were very glad to accept Mrs DYERS invitation to hold the January meeting at Kenn Court. The President wished everyone a Happy New Year and thanked Mrs MORRIS for the flowers on the Presidents table. It was lovely to see a bit of spring.

The First Aid course will go ahead. Those wishing to participate will be informed of the dates. The treasurer was receiving subscriptions for the coming year.

Members declared their secret friends for 1996 and the 1997 draw took place. The prizes were given to the overall winners of the 1996 competitions - Mrs PREW first Mrs DYER second and Mrs DOBBS third. Mrs HACKETT is in the process of compiling the 1997 programme and would welcome suggestions.

A warm welcome was extended to Mrs BELL who showed slides of Tristan Da Cunha where she is the visiting optician and has become very involved with the islanders and their lives. There were some lovely slides of the native birds. She was thanked by Mrs LAMB. The competition for a bird ornament was won by Mrs JEFFREY, Mrs INGS silver and Mrs PREW green.

At the February meeting Mrs NEATH will demonstrate cake decoration.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be in the Village Hall on Monday February 3rd at 7.30. All are welcome.

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SEASONS

The winter wind blows hard and free
Shaking ev'ry leaf and tree
And blows it keen across the moor
Rattling at the farmers door
The springtime wind more gently blows,
When swifts appear, and soaring crows.
With summer comes the softest air
With flowers sweet and blossom fair.
Then autumn brings its warning gusts
That spins the leaves and lifts the dust,
While swallows wait in eager lines,
Soon to fly to warmer climes.
So each season brings its wondrous cast,
The pity is, they quickly pass.

Cliff EDWARDS

KENN HISTORY GROUP

At the January meeting we were very pleased to have Anne HOLTHAM to tell us of her research into the life of Mrs Brunetta GRIF-FIN who lived at Portbury House with her husband and family during the last century. We all found this a most interesting evening and were pleased to see a few new faces.

We hope to be able to arrange a speaker for our next meeting on Monday 10th February at 7.30 at The Granary Duck Lane.

John GRIFFIN

TYPIST NOTE - John has given me a very interesting synopsis of Annes talk. Luckily and to save my sanity I understand it is available on computer disc and I will try to print it in next months N&V or serialise it over a couple of issues.

TEN LITTLE PET LAMBS

Ten little pet lambs playing in a line
One of them got watery mouth, then there were nine...
Nine little pet lambs worrying about their mate,
One got salmonella, then there were eight...
Eight little pet lambs herad the engine revving,
But they never saw the tractor, then there were seven...
Seven little pet lambs playin' games and tricks,
One hanged in wire netting, then there were six....
Six little pet lambs glad to be alive,
Tried swimming in the water trough, then there were five...
Five little pet lambs bleating at the door,
The farmer lost his temper, then there were four...
Four little pet lambs as sweet as you could see
One died of bloody awkwardness then there were three...
Three little pet lambs wondering what to do,
Ate a bag of barley meal, then there were two
Two little pet lambs, the small one fostered on
To a ewe who went and sat on it, then there was one....
One little pet lamb surprisingly got fat,
So we put him in the freezer, and that's the end of that!!!

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BIRD NEWS - JANUARY

It is always interesting to read other bird news in N&V and the report of the long tailed tit flock was particularly significant. these birds live in parties but most winter flocks average around 15 individuals - a flock of 30 or more is really quite unusual.

Turning to Rays note of the new lamb and the buzzard and raven. Members of the crow family are very bold and probably getting bolder, whereas buzzards have the reputation of being the cowards of the bird world. So my money is on the raven as the cause of the problem, but as with everthing in natural history one can never be 100% positive about a cratures habits.

The arctic conditions in early January brought lots of birds into the villages, with redwings being particularly prominent. We put down some apples which seemed to be much appreciated but I think that there have been a number of casualties and the thaw arrived just in time to prevent more.

Redwings and smaller numbers of fieldfares have returned to roost near to Yatton railway station and this attracted the attention of an immature peregrine falcon. When I saw it the redwings were easily avoiding its not very well developed hunting attempts but a freind saw it with a kill a couple of days later. One thing that these falcons are pretty good at is picking out a sick, starving or injured bird and of course with perhaps a couple of thousand at the roost there will always be a few such unfortunates.

The harsh weather brought a reed bunting into our small garden for the first time in several years and I have received similar reports from other gardens. In the wider area there has been an influx of wildfowl from Holland and several bitterns have been reported including two incredibly in Bristol gardens!

A day time roost of long eared owls has formed on the perimeter of Oldbury Power Station and this has built up to seven birds. They were even featured on TV (Points West) and should now stay until the end of February. I know that many non-birdwatchers are fascinated by owls and these with their erect "ears" and orange eyes are the tops! If you would like to see them the staff at the visitor centre at the power station will direct you or if you prefer to telephone me I will be happy to provide information (01934-835208)

The owls roost about 50 feet from the path but binoculars are really needed as they tend to be well camouflaged.

Trevor RIDDLE

BIRD NEWS II

During the very severe weather in early January all the ponds and ditches were frozen with quite thick ice which drove many birds to the strems that were still flowing. During the freeze I went to Lower Claverham and walked down to the Tannery Rhyne which was not frozen and I was amazed at the number of members of the duck family that were there. There must have been about 100 teal and widgeon in one flock, the largest I have ever seen.

In the Russ Pond area the coots and moorhens were driven out onto the lane with hunger, Miles fed them with rolled barley each morning and within a few days large numbers of birds of all sorts had found this food supply and were waiting daily.

Ray NAISH

Stop Press - I am pleased to report that the white-headed coots on Russ Pond have survived the winter, I was afraid the foxes might have walked onto the ice and got them.

RVN

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KENN CHURCH NOTES

The Christian Aid envelopes collected in the Church at Christmas time contained 59-80. A letter of thanks has been received from Shirley ELLIOTT at Yatton Moor.

TEA AND CHAT

The next meeting will be on Thursday 20th February at Wendy PAPASOLOMONTOS' house Orchard Cottage Kenn Street 10.30 am - 12.00

CARS IN KENN

In last months N&V I wrote that there were only 2 cars in Kenn in 1934 - apparently I was wrong. Sam DYER has reminded me that William John STAPLES at the Kenn Garage had a Cubit car at the time. William bought it to take the Kenn children over 11 to school in Clevedon on contract.

Ray NAISH

POST BAG

Waterford House

Claverham

This is a thank you letter from the 4 widows and one widower Jack to say how much we enjoy seeing our friends at the Xmas party.

Each year I think this is the last time I will come but I am still here, well and happy at Waterford House. I count my blessings for a kind family and many dear friends.

Granny GRIFFIN

Conifers

Duck Lane

Many thanks again to all those who supported me by purchasing cards and wrapping paper and many other items from my Christmas Catalogue.

The profit amounted to 138.25 which I have

donated to The Friends of Kenn Church.

Gladys DENMEAD

Hearing Dogs for the Deaf

Bristol and North Somerset

Sponsorship

Thank you for your donation of 2500.00 in respect of your sponsorship.

Thank you for your marvellous support.

Hearing Dogs for the Deaf

OLD MONEY QUIZ

Well here's the answer - did you get it right/

Astone	Fourteen Pounds
A bicycle	Penny farthing
A singer	Tenor
Monkeys leg (part)	Ape-knee
Mans name	Bob
Kind of pig	Guinea
Sun Moon & Pluto	3 "far things"
Leather Worker	Tanner
50% of panties	Half a nicker
Royal Headdress	Crown
Hit repeatedly	Pound
Unwell sea creature	Sick Squid

All adding up to 32 : 17 : 8

"Ape-knee", "3 far things" and "sick squid"

I'm not saying anything!!!!!! Typist

JUMBLE SALE

AT

KENN VILLAGE HALL

2.00 p.m. - Wednesday 12th February, 1997

Proceeds to the Christmas Tea Parties Fund

ADMISSION 20P. - MANY STALLS

FOR COLLECTION OF JUMBLE

**PLEASE 'PHONE - JEAN 875073
- MARGARET 874077**

or deliver to Village Hall during morning