

KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

SUMMER 197



EDITOR

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MESSAGE FROM ED

Don't forget we're in the tidy village competition, thanks to all who've been litter collecting and tubs and planters being placed in our public places. It all helps! Keep up the good work.

Thanks

JULY BIRTHDAYS

5th Our Avril Gaunt!
Happy birthday - we know you
still read our mag!
7th Adam Gamester
8th Oliver Hart
15th Mrs Gladys Griffin
21st Toby Naish
24th Brian Walters
27th Jessica Brett
28th Julie Stowell
Jack Stowell

NAISH'S NOTES

A speedy recovery is wished to Sam Dyer who is successfully recovering from his hip operation!

Thank you to everyone who turned out for my B-B-Q and Disco on the 28th. We weren't quite as muddy as the Pilton pop festival but again the weather did not deter us from having a good time! We are trying to raise enough money to buy a computer for a 4 year old boy called Jamie who has Cerebral Palsy and is deaf. If anyone has any contacts with computer firms etc, we need a PC and then special adaptations to it so that Jamie can learn to communicate with the outside world - I'd also like to obtain a computer cheaper if possible so

that Jamie can have one sooner rather than later. We're looking for £5,000 and have

£650 from the Disco as a start! If you can help phone me! His Grandad is doing a sponsored parachute jump next month towards this - if you want to help - phone me!

Kenn Valley Social Club is holding an exhibition of very old photos of horse drawn vehicles and farm machinery for Weston Museum for two weeks. It is very interesting, all local places - even a picture of Robin and Marianna McKay's cottage when it was the Post Office is exhibited. Pop in in opening hours and have a look.

Don't forget the horse race night at Kenn Valley on Saturday 5th July in aid of the British Institute for Brain Damaged Children. Real Horses! Come and join in the fun

John Williams at Tripp Robbins Garage Car Sales had a car stolen last month from his forecourt, it was clamped and locked and they still stole it! We must keep up our neighbourhood watch efforts - report anything suspicious.

HELP !!

Wanted someone with a Personal Computer to type Kenn News and Views information, save on disc and pass to Simon so that he can produce our magazine. If you think you might be able to help, please give Simon a call on (01275) 878451.

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SNIPPETS

Celebrations - Our flag was flown on June 10th and June 14th to celebrate the birthday of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh and the Queen's official birthday.

June Brides - June 14th Joanna STAPLES married Nicholas CHEEK and on June 21st Kate GRIFFIN married Glen CHRISTIAN we wish both couples every happiness.

BEST KEPT VILLAGE

Kenn Village Hall - Thank you to Jean FENWICK for planting the Hall garden and Robert WILLCOX for cutting the hedge.

Village Green - Thanks to Marianna and Robin MACKAY for planting the pots on the green.

Churchyard - Thanks to all those who mow the churchyard and too Jean INGS who planted the garden.

To all other Kennites who have helped make Kenn "Best Kept" a warm thank you.

KENN VILLAGE HALL

Antiques valuation evening by Marc BURRIDGE of Clevedon salerooms on Tuesday 15th July at 7.30pm. Tickets £1.50 to include wine and nibbles, available from Kenn PO or members of the committee or phone 874472 or 872676.

Valuations £2 per item

Ruth DYER

Diary note - Wednesday 9th July Kenn WI speaker Mrs Harding on teapots. Competition a pretty teapot.

KENN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

A wonderful display of roses greeted members and visitors at the June meeting of Kenn Women's Institute. The competition was for three roses and a great many members en-

tered. Gold was awarded to Mrs Prew, silver to Mrs. Dyer and green to Mrs. Bubb.

Mrs. Rigg gave a most interesting and entertaining talk entitled Voices around Great Britain in which she illustrated with charming examples the enormous variety of dialect and accent around the British Isles.

The Certificates earned during the recent First Aid Course were handed out. As the course appeared to be successful the Institute is prepared to arrange other courses in the Village Hall if requested. Ideas received so far are for Corn Dollies, Calligraphy and Patchwork. Any other ideas will be considered and the courses will be open to anyone in the village and friends.

The Jumble Sale was very successful and raised £100 for funds. Helpers and those attending and spending money were thanked. The next Group Meeting will be at St. Mary's Hall, Clevedon on October 29th and everyone is requested to dress in Old Time Music Hall costume. The competition will be for a decorated hat.

The village sign has had to be taken down as the wood had become rotten. Enquiries will be made about the cost of replacing it with a wrought iron one in time for the Millennium.

It is hoped that members from Kewstoke W.I. will be our guests at the July meeting when Mrs. Harding will speak on teapots. The competition will be for a pretty teapot.

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

Best Kept Village time is upon us again. It is very important that the village is litter free so please pick up any that passing motorists have left with us.

The next meeting is on August 4th in the Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. All are welcome.

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CHRISTIAN AID 97

Thank you for Kenn's wonderful response to Christian Aid Week a marvellous £165.39.

Thank you to all the collectors Clifford Claire Jean and Margaret.

This year everyone I called on was particularly friendly.

"God Loveth a Cheerful Giver"

Julia BUSH

Ps Total collection for Yatton Moor £1650

KENN HISTORY GROUP

This month we visited Folly Farm Tickenham and Cadbury Camp. The farm itself has an interesting history purchased in 1946 by the present family. This farm had too many problems to be a viable concern. Predominantly a wet moorland farm the associated problems of fluke, a small snail which kills cattle and a poisonous plant, snake pipe which also killed cattle and prevented milking was incurable. However Dr Plant the original owner in 1946 was a researcher at Long Ashton and he had invented a spray to wipe out snake pipe. On the strength of this he purchased the farm and with his colleagues attempted to wipe out the problem. However seeing many men in white coats and very funny machinery led to rumours, the favourite one was that this was an experimental farm owned by the Ministry of Agriculture. Today after much work Folly Farm has gone from strength to strength.

As we ascended the footpath Mr and Mrs PLANT showed us probably the oldest lime tree in the west, thought to be 300-400 years old. Behind this was a beautiful barn. Built in 1731 by John BROCKDALE a Bristol magistrate the roof was low sloping in design to collect rainwater, this was then channelled either to a holding tank or a dew pond for animals. The water is in fact a problem for the original Tickenham Hill farmers, the testa-

ment to this is Folly Farm's original water supply is a well over 50 metres deep.

Going up the valley we came to Cadbury Camp. There is some debate as to age of this camp, however early man once he had stopped being hunter-gatherers needed to locate a safe area to practice farming, the place they settled was the highest point around overlooking the large sea area (now Kenn, Nailsea and Tickenham Moor) to the south and Clapton Moor, then also a sea area to the north. They only needed to defend either side of Tickenham Hill, the only problems were with the Welsh and the Danes who came up the estuary.

Further studies are needed to be exact on the earliest settlement but the presence of a bronze spear suggest that the site may have been inhabited as early as 2000 BC. It has been established that the Dobunli tribe lived there in the iron age, they dug 2 circular ditches with a main entrance. The soil from the ditches was thrown up to form a wall and a wooden palisade fence was placed on top. A family would have been responsible for building and maintaining this wall. Mr PLANT has found nearby a flint axe-head and knife, flint was not local to the area so flint tools were often sold by travelling craftsmen usually in stalls outside the manor gates. In fact with today's improved technology and a greater understanding the remains of flint workshops have been found near camps similar to Cadbury Camp. Tools were made to order using flint and hand-sized orange shaped rock used to chip the flint. The remains of flint shards and these rocks are the tell-tale signs of this primitive industry.

The only burials found in this area are "crouch graves" just outside the ditches, these are small holes in the ground where the body is curled up and placed vertically.

The Romans also occupied this site with a small temple. As we walked to the far end of

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the camp overlooking the moors it was easy to imagine the sea lapping 300 feet below us.

The Kenn History Group would like to thank Mr and Mrs PLANT for their time and effort in showing us around.

Mandy BOYLE

KENN HISTORY GROUP II

Following our enjoyable walk to Cadbury Camp we have arranged a visit to Dolebury Warren, another ancient fort and camp at Churchill with Dick BROOMHEAD as our guide. This will be on Monday 7th July with a prompt start at 7pm meeting at Stonehouse Farm Kenn and driving to Churchill. Walking shoes are essential as there is a fairly steep climb with spectacular views at the top.

FRIENDS OF KENN CHURCH

A BBQ is to be held at the Granary Duck Lane Kenn on Saturday 19th July at 7pm. £5 per couple with children 50p. Bring your own drinks and folding chairs if you have them. We plan to have free games. This will be a friendly relaxing evening. Tickets from committee members or ring 872948.

BIRD NEWS - Late May/early June

Last months notes contained a confusing error that the whinchat and the wheatear were resting not nesting (Typist Whoops - sorry!!!) in the locality.

For the first time (in 11 summers) no house martins are using our eaves this year. There is a general view that the numbers of some of our summer visitors are less this year including house martins with swallows and cuckoos also being cited as other species affected. Of course the reason may not be here but in Africa or on their migratory routes.

My survey (one hour) in Kenn Parish recorded 23 different species (but not the

famous red-legged partridge) for the second part I shall select a different route, probably including the centre of the village, further information in due course.

Meanwhile on the Somerset levels at least two pairs of marsh harriers are breeding, it has taken 13 years for a second pair to become established and it is hoped that a modest increase in these birds will now occur. The barn owls there seem to be doing very well with both parent birds hunting by 8 pm from one site. The nest is in a small tin shed situated on an island and I expect the various conservation organisations to provide a few sites following this success.

Trevor RIDDLE

RUSS

Russ is on the western side of Kenn over the old Great Western Clevedon Branch railway line. It is approached by the lane to the side of Kenn estate. Before the railway was built there were two approaches to this area the other being a lane still visible behind the Orchards Kenn Road.

This remote part of Kenn is bounded by Russ Rhyne the boundary between Kenn and Kingston Seymour and the old River Kenn in the north. Many long term Kenn inhabitants have never been down there.

Before the M5 cut Russ in two few people ever saw it, only the farmers. In former days it was a wonderful wild life habitat, the first spring birds were heard down there like the chiff-chaff and it was always the place where the first cuckoo was heard. The area was all unimproved grassland in those days with many rare plants growing there, many of which are not seen any more - like wild carnations and a cactus type of plant which the old farmers called clamuts which had sharp spikes which got into your hands when you were haymaking.

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A feature of this area in those days was the Oxhouses which had been built many years ago with a flagstone yard in front of them leading to a watering or drinking place in a ditch. When the M5 was built some of them were pulled down removing some of the areas history.

There is a lane following the railway line from Russ Bridge to Kingston Bridge the correct name for this is Accommodation Lane. It was constructed when the railway was laid to accommodate the farmers whose land had been cut in half to allow them access to their land behind the track.

At the foot of Russ Bridge is Russ Pond which is let to a private fishing club. This pond was dug to build the railway bridge which was a common occurrence. For many years the only human inhabitants of Russ were Mr and Mrs Jack DENMEAD. Jack purchased a small field near the lane just after the first world war he then bought a redundant railway carriage which he had delivered to the field. The DENMEADS then turned this into their home. The no smoking area was their sitting room. Jack and his wife appeared to live with very little income he grew lovely crops of apples which he took to Clevedon and Yatton markets on his bike.

Jack also kept goats using them for meat and milk. He did odd jobs for local farmers like hedging and haymaking but never seemed to have regular employment. The DENMEADS were the sort of people that you could find in any village 60 years ago who could live off the land with very little money and never want for anything but have now completely disappeared.

Ray NAISH

OF INTEREST

Did you know that Kenn was featured in the June edition of the Somerset Magazine with several pictures of properties in and around Kenn and an interesting story about its history.

I am told that Kingston Seymour was featured in the May issue.

RVN

COFFEE MORNING

Many thanks to those who helped out and came to the coffee morning held in aid of St John's Altar Guild at Stonehouse Farm. £73.50 was raised.

Iris and Jean

ST JOHN'S ALTAR GUILD - July

Mrs Grace GRIFFIN, Mrs S NAISH and Mrs J KENT

BIRD NEWS II

It seems to be a good year for rearing young birds - where ever you go around the fields their are flocks of young birds in the hedges. Steve BYE of Kenn Pier Farm has two pairs of young pee-wits on Kenn Moor. This is the first time we have heard of pee-wits breeding on Kenn Moor for years.

RVN

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THE CHURCHYARD

It has been our custom for several years now to gather together a working party during the last week in May to tidy up the churchyard in preparation for the tidy village competition.

This year was no exception and a small band of helpers worked very hard indeed clipping around gravestones and digging up weeds. We are grateful to all who helped especially Peter WOODS who made a wonderful job of mowing the grass.

Renee BELL

TEA AND CHAT

This months Tea and Chat will be held on Thursday 17th July 2.30-4pm at Orchard Cottage Kenn Street. Hostess Wendy PAPA-SOLOMONTOS - all are welcome.

THANKS

I would like to thank all my friends from Kenn for supporting me at my recent confirmation - it was lovely to see you all there and it helped make a memorable evening.

Also thank you John for your patience and understanding.

Tina MIDDLETON

WILD FLOWERS IN KENN

What a joy to see all the wild flowers growing in the verges by the side of our roads. Ox-eye daisies, Hedgerow Cranesbill, Horseradish and Teasles all have their beauty and usefulness.

On the Motorway Bridge at Kenn, the following flowers have been identified;

Purple Toadflax	Goatsbeard	Bush Vetch
Common Vetch	Hairy Tare	Pignut
Hog Weed	Yarrow	Sainfoin
Birdsfoot Trefoil	Spiney Restharrow	Chicory
Ribbed Plantain	Greater Plantain	Ox-eye Daisies
White Campion	Broomrape	Mugwort
Creeping Thistle	Spear Thistle	Dock
Chickweed	Common Mouse-ear	Creeping Buttercup
Dog Rose	Dewberry	Blackberry
Creeping Cinquefoil	Silverweed	Meadow Vetchling
Knapweed	Black Medick	Red Clover
White Clover	Common Mallow	Dovesfoot Cranesbill
Cut-leaved Cranesbill	Perforate St. John's Wort	Groundsel
Ragwort	Common Catsear	Dandelion
Horseradish	Smooth Hawksbeard	Hawkweed
Rough Hawkbit	Bristly Ox-tongue	Beaked Hawksbeard
Hawkweed Ox-tongue	Wild Carrot	Wild Parsnip
Hedge Parsley	Hedge Bind Weed	Field Bindweed
Mullein	Scentless Mayweed	Pineapple Mayweed

This is neither a complete list, nor does it include all the grasses and shrubs which can be found growing in this location.

