

KENN NEWS AND VIEWS



*KENN TIDY VILLAGE COMPETITION
PLEASE HELP*

EDITOR

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KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

MESSAGE FROM ED

We are entering the Tidy Village competition again this year so the Parish Councillors are appealing to everybody to make a *VERY* special effort this year. Please help by picking up litter if you see any, keeping the verges clear, gardens tidy and as many tubs and hanging baskets on show as possible. Posters showing Village events should be on show and the public places being neat and tidy all gain marks for us. We can all try hard and perhaps once again we can be up with the prize winners.

Judging will take place between May and July.

Little Ed

NAISH's NOTES

We have been asked to mention that anyone with spare Tesco's vouchers for School computers can put them to good use by donating them to Yeo Moor Infants School via Mrs Jan BEDFORD or leave them at the Post Office.

We are in urgent need of volunteers to keep the grass cut on the Village Green. John GRIFFIN is hoping to have a team of people to ensure that the green stays tidy with the tidy village competition in mind.

Please contact John or any Councillor.

The Parish Council are looking for ideas to mark the Millennium in the Village - has any one any bright ideas? Contact any Parish Councillor.

BIRTHDAYS

3rd Joshua MIDDLETON

11th Naomi BRAIN

Julian WILCOX

Wendy PAPASOLOMONTOS

13th Lyn BYE

21st Heather BRAIN

Dave PUGH

Thomas BYE

22nd Yvonne AYRES

26th Roger WILCOX

27th Philippa JENKINS

KENN NOTES

Snippitts

Easter Sunday - as is the custom in Kenn we flew our flag to celebrate Easter.

April 21st - Our flag was flown to celebrate the Queen's 71st Birthday.

Coffee Morning - The coffee morning organised by the WI on April 15th raised £81.65 for The Lauriston Hotel in Weston used by blind and the partially sighted.

Fashion Show - A Fashion show will be held in the Village Hall by Carousel of Congressbury on Monday 19th May at 7.30 Ticket £3 from members of Hall Committee Proceeds to Hall Fund.

Kenn Post Office - A new venture has arrived at the PO Mrs NOYES has provided space for Richard WILLIAMS of Yatton to display model railways and diecast toys. Fans will be able to buy a range of items including Hornby Railway E FEOO gauge die cast vehicles. Richard commented " Most of our business is done through regional toy fairs but an increasing amount of mail order is now required. Kenn PO gives us a retail outlet and posting facility combined in one.

KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

Contact 01934 -832514 or leave a message at the PO .

We wish the venture every success.

Diary dates - Wednesday 14th May Kenn WI
7.30 Speaker Mrs EDWARDS on Reminiscences of Police Life Competition a Uniform Button

Kenn WI Jumble Sale Wednesday 28th May
7pm

Advance Notice - Antiques Valuation
Evening Tuesday 15th July at 7.30

KENN VALLEY SOCIAL CLUB -

6 a Side Skittles

We will shortly be starting our summer 6-a-side Skittles League on Thursday and Friday nights

If you would like to enter a team or wish to join an existing team either pop in or phone Derek on 01934-832086

KENN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Sadly, owing to illness, the advertised speaker for the April meeting of Kenn W.I. was unable to come. She was replaced at the last minute by Mr. Pierce who gave a fascinating talk entitled Shipshape and Bristol Fashion which gave an illustrated history of Bristol Docks and the unique arrangements made for getting shipping up and down the river. He was thanked by Mrs. Bubb.

Mr. Pierce also judged the competition for an arrangement of spring flowers. Mrs. Prew was awarded gold, Mrs. Ings, silver and Mrs. Naish, green. Mrs. Ings was judged the winner in the competition for the limerick to be entered at the Group Meeting.

Final arrangements were made for the Group Meeting to be held at Kenn and for a social

skittles evening to be held at the Kenn Valley Social Club. The Kenn skittles team had played a team from Sandford W.I. who have been champions in the tournament and were only narrowly beaten.

Miss Holtham gave a report on the General Meeting held at Weston -S-Mare which she and Mrs. Jeffrey attended. The main speaker was Zena Skinner and there had also been a representative of the Matthew Project. The Matthew will sail for Canada with a gift from the W.I. to the Canadian W.I.

At the May meeting Mrs. Edwards will talk on her reminiscences of Police life and the competition will be for a uniform button.

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

At the last meeting of the Parish Council, Mr. Edwards was welcomed as a new Parish Councillor.

Kenn will again enter the Best Kept Village Competition. The judges are particularly keen on a village free of litter, so although we do not drop it ourselves please pick up any dropped by people passing through.

There were several tentative suggestions for marking the Millenium. They included flood-lighting the church, some form of memorial, a scrapbook with photographs of each house and its inhabitants and an event which will have an opportunity for a village photograph. The Parish Council will be delighted to receive any other suggestions.

The next meeting will be held on the 2nd June. All parishioners are welcome.

TEA AND CHAT

This month our hostess will be Mrs Gladys DENMEAD of The Conifers Duck Lane on Thursday 22nd May from 2 - 4pm. Everyone welcome.

KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

KENN HISTORY GROUP

Derek and Renee BELL kindly gave us a most interesting talk on a holiday they spent in China some years ago. With a map and many interesting slides of the sights they visited including The Great Wall of China, the Terracotta Army, Peking and many more it certainly made us want to visit China one day. Thank you again Renee and Derek.

Our next meeting will be on Monday 12th may at 7pm. Meet at Stonehouse Farm and then make our way to Roger TRIGGOLL at Barn Farm Tickenham to look at his collection of vintage agricultural machinery and cars.

You will be most welcome to join us , for more details phone 872948.

John GRIFFIN

KENN HISTORY EVENT

We would like to find out something about the lifestyle of young people in Kenn today in order to produce a display for the contemporary section of the Village History Event which is planned for later on in the year. To get as full a picture as possible of schools, hobbies and leisure activities it would be helpful if village children of school age could complete a survey form (see back cover of N&V. Completed forms can be left at the Post Office.

Also if anybody has any action photos taken around the village or of hobbies or club activities that they would be willing to loan us for display we would be very pleased to receive them.

Wendy PAPASOLOMONTOS & Mandy BOYLE

ROBBEN ISLAND

Many of you will have heard of Robben Island (Robben is the Dutch for Seal). It was the place where Nelson MANDELA was held for 19 of his 30 years in prison. During our recent trip to South Africa we were able to visit the Island which was recently opened to the public, although the numbers are strictly limited.

The Island sits in the middle of Table bay and is provided with the most spectacular views of Cape Town. It is flat featureless lump of rock which housed its first political prisoner in 1658. It was used during the next 300 years as a prison , leper colony and a whaling station, until 1961 when the Government of South Africa decided to house its maximum security black political prisoners there.

We were shown around the prison by a former inmate - Elias. He was jailed for being a member of the ANC, then a prohibited party. He described in harrowing detail the conditions under which prisoners were kept. Mandela and the other ANC and PAC leaders were housed in cell 8' by 6' . Sanitation was a bucket in the corner of the cell. At weekends they were locked in their cells from Saturday 1.00pm to Sunday 8.00pm Work consisted of quarrying limestone and breaking it into tea-spoon size pieces. The rock is very white and the glare has resulted in major eye problems for all ex-inmates.

Some of the punishments for failing to reach targets or minor misdemeanours were horrific. Being buried up to the neck for a whole day in sand and left in the burning sun (I will not describe the rest of what happened) is one example. Mental torture consisted of deprivation of books and paper for many years at a time. For writing about some of his experiences MANDELA was deprived of all books for 3 years. Try to imagine being kept in a cell 8' by 6' with no TV, no radio, no books, no magazines, no pen or paper for 3 years.

KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

Yet at the end of all this harrowing description Elias spoke of the need for reconciliation. It was one of the most moving moments I have ever experienced. Here was a man who had suffered all the worst excesses of an evil white government, having had all of his dignity stripped away by white people yet he could talk to us about the necessity of people working together, of forgiveness yet never forgetting the past. He is part of a team working on the Island that consists of former prisoners and wardens, white and black working together.

South Africa can be grateful that the man who became the first Black President was Nelson MANDELA - let us hope his vision of a rainbow nation prevails and that the spirit of forgiveness continues to grow.

Robin MacKAY

BIRD NEWS - APRIL

It was good to read the notes from David GLASSON and Ray last month and especially pleasing to see that there is further evidence of the Song Thrush recovery. However the most interesting note related to the Red Legged Partridge. These have become very scarce (or at least rarely recorded) and is the first sighting I am aware of for some years.

The unseasonably warm weather early in April brought good numbers of summer migrants and as I write (20th) there seem to be quite a few Swallows around but "our" House martins have not yet returned.

Jill and I paid an evening visit to Aschcott near to Glastonbury on the 16th in an unsuccessful attempt to hear a Nightingale - we did hear two Cuckoos however - quite an early date.

A male Marsh Harrier has returned to the Brue valley but he is neither frequenting the usual area nor has he apparently joined up with the wintering female bird. so we are

anxiously awaiting the outcome. A Little Bittern was a very rare visitor to the Apex Pools at Burnham and this drew twitchers from all over the country (including Yatton!!)

By May Cuckoos and House Martins should be with us along with perhaps the odd Spotted Flycatcher

Trevor RIDDLE

BIRD NEWS II

The two song thrushes that were singing so strongly earlier in the spring at the top of Kenn Street have now both disappeared, victims of the sparrow-hawk I expect. Their places have been taken by several black birds which are now singing strongly. A pair of blackbirds hatched a brood of young somewhere near the Old Chapel, very early, some of the young are already flying.

On April 10th the first swallow arrived around Stonehouse Farm but it was several days before any others arrived. On the same day I saw and heard a skylark singing above Coxhay Orchard behind the Village hall. I cant remember seeing one right in the village before. On April 16th I heard the first cuckoo of the year down towards Meadmoor. It must have been passing through as I not heard it since.

Unusual visitors flying around the village in mid April for two days were a pair of ravens, they had several fights with the resident carrion crows.

Two pairs of sheld or burrow ducks are nesting somewhere near the bottom of the orchard behind Stonehouse Farm and there are a number of rookeries appearing around the village.

One morning I had a telephone call from Jenny PASCOE who lives near the Village Hall and she asked me to come and rescue one of my cockerels from a strange bird which was attacking it.

KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

(TYPIST NOTE - there may be some about the village who might have thought that I had been suffering from drink or hallucinations had I reported seeing a cockerel on a garden fence early in the morning being chased and pecked by a strange bird that even I knew was not of the same species !!! - honestly though that was the reality of the scene)

I thought it must have been a sparrow hawk and when I walked across the field to Jenny's house they had both disappeared but then we noticed that the strange bird had driven the cockerel behind the greenhouse. On looking closer I was able to tell Jenny and Simon that the attacker was a red-legged partridge and luckily the cockerel was not one of mine. The chase went on most of the morning the partridge driving the cockerel around between the gardens and across the garage roof before both disappeared down the road.

Later I mentioned about the partridge to Jo BATTEN who lives at the Old Ox House in Kenn Street and she told me that it must have been the red-legged partridge that had been living in and around her garden for about 12 months. Joyce KENT who lives further down the street had also seen it in her garden several times - where he has come from and why he has stayed around for so long remains a mystery - as does the owner and the whereabouts of the poor cockerel.

Ray NAISH

ST JOHN'S ALTAR GUILD - JUNE ROTA

Mrs W PAPASOLOMONTOS - if there is any kind lady who can help Wendy please let her know.

CANCER RESEARCH COLLECTION

A grand total of £81.17 was collected in Kenn from the recent house-to-house collection. Thank you to all who donated and also thanks to Sylvia JOHN, Lorraine STAPLES, Joan STEVENS and Barbara RUSSELL for their help.

Heather JENKINS

ARE YOU A SURVIVOR?

If you were born before 1940 read on - you are a survivor.

We were before television, before penicillin, polio shots, frozen foods, Xerox, plastics, contact lenses, videos, frisbees and the pill. We were before radar, credit cards, split atoms, laser beams and ball point pens, before dish-washers, tumble driers, electric blankets, air conditioning, drip dry and before man walked on the moon.

We got married first and then lived together (how quaint can you be). We thought fast food was what you ate in lent, a "Big Mac" was an oversized raincoat. We existed before house-husbands, computer-dating, dual careers and when a meaningful relationship meant getting along with cousins, sheltered accommodation was where you waited for a bus. We were before day care centres, group homes and disposable nappies. We never heard of FM radio, tape decks, electric typewriters, artificial hearts, word processors, yoghurts and young men wearing ear-rings. For us time-sharing meant togetherness, a chip was a piece of wood or a fried potato, hardware was pots and pans and software wasn't a word.

Before 1940 'Made in Japan' meant junk, making out referred to how you did in your exams. A stud was something that fastened a collar to a shirt and 'going all the way' meant staying on a double decker bus to the bus

KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

depot. Pizzas, McDonalds and instant coffee were unheard of. In our day cigarette smoking was fashionable, 'grass' was mown, coke was kept in a coal shed and a 'joint' was a piece of meat you had on a Sunday and 'pot' was something you cooked in. Eldorado was ice cream and a gay person was the life and soul of a party and nothing more. 'Aids' meant a beauty treatment or a help for somebody in trouble.

So, we who were born before 1940 must be a hardy bunch when you think of the way in which the world has changed and the adjustments we have had to make. No wonder we are sometimes confused.

BUT by the grace of god we have survived .

Submitted, but not written by Cliff EDWARDS

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Recently a friend of mine sent me a copy of this poem which I found quite moving. The poem is thought to be ancient and mystery still surrounds its origin and author.

Cliff EDWARDS

Do not stand at my grave and weep

I am not there, I do not sleep

I am a thousand winds that blow

I am the diamond glints on snow

I am the sunlight on the ripened grain

I am the gentle Autumn rain

And when you waken in the morning hush

I am the soft uplifting rush

Of quiet birds in circled flight

I am the soft stars that shine at night.

Do not stand at my grave and cry

I am not there, I did not die.

THANKS

The MS Centre in Nailsea has written to thank Sheila for the donation of £640.

KENN HISTORY EVENT SURVEY

Name:

Age:

School/Nursery/Playgroup attended:

Hobbies:

Clubs/Classes (Please indicate if these are School based):

Evenings

Weekends

Any other spare time interests (Include watching TV and listening to music)

Are you given pocket money? YES/NO

Are you expected to do chores at home? YES/NO

If yes what are they?

Do you earn any money? (eg paper round, baby sitting etc)

What job would you like in the future?

If there are any questions that you would rather not answer please put a line through them.

Thank you for your time