

KENN NEWS AND VIEWS



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BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

NOVEMBER

9th Andrew Jenkins
12th Derek Wall
13th Sheila Naish (21 again)
14th Rowena Ayres
16th Sebastian Wilcox
Miles and Sheila Naish - W.A
27th Rebecca Brett (Fenwick)
28th Sarah Clark
29th Mr. & Mrs. George Holtham
Diamond Wedding Anniversary

KENN NOTES

KENN VILLAGE HALL

Ploughman's Supper, Saturday November 8th at 8pm. Tickets £3 from Committee members or tel: 872676. Raffle.

Come and meet your friends and neighbours and support Kenn Hall.

KENN WOMENS' INSTITUTE

'Christmas Floral Arrangements' by Miss Frappell. Everybody welcome. Admission £2.50 to include coffee. Wednesday November 26th at 7.30pm.

COFFEE MORNING

The coffee morning held at Kenn Court in aid of Hall Funds raised £125. Many thanks to everyone who supported it.

BULBS

Mrs Winnie Cole has given a bag of bulbs to Kenn. Parish Councillors have planted them on grass verges. We thank Mrs Cole most sincerely for her kindness.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday November 8th at 8pm - Ploughman's Supper.

Wednesday 12th November Kenn Women's Institute Annual General Meeting, 7.15pm - speaker Mrs Shrimanker, competition - a pretty scarf.

Keep-Fit with Jackie Curwen starts again at Kenn Village Hall at 7.45 p.m. on Monday 3rd November.

Wednesday 26th November, 7.30pm, Christmas floral arrangement.

Coffee and Chat

Now that the clocks have gone back, our monthly meetings will be on the "winter schedule", that is coffee and biscuits in the morning (rather than tea in the afternoon).

Our hostess for November, Thursday 20th, 10.30 to 12.00 is Julia Bush at Southfield Farm, Lower Strode Road. As usual everyone in welcome and if you would like a lift please contact Wendy 877923.

Sewing Afternoon

A sewing afternoon has been arranged for Tuesday 25th November at 2.30 p.m. at The Granary, Duck Lane to help with repairing the church hassocks. Helpers welcome, (male or female). Please bring strong needles and thimbles.

ADVANCE DATES

Wednesday December 17th - Christmas Party for Kenn Children.

Friday December 19th "switch on" with carols and mince pies, Kenn Christmas Tree on Village Green.

Ruth Dyer.

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MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

The clocks have gone back, Autumn is here and Christmas is just around the corner. Time to get out the diaries and make a note of our village events and an even bigger effort to attend as many as possible. See you soon!!

NAISH'S NOTES

FUN RUN

Any outstanding sponsor money for the fun run should be handed in as soon as possible, please chase up those sponsors!

To date I have over £1,100 and next months magazine will give the final total.

Thank you.

HALLOWEEN DISCO

Last chance to purchase your tickets!! £3 from myself or Heather Jenkins. Get your ghoulish outfits out and have a spooky time, all in a very good cause.

FUTURE EVENTS

CHILDREN IN NEED

We will be holding a VERY FUN quiz night at Kenn Valley Social Club on Wednesday 3rd December, 8pm for 8.30pm start. Teams of 4 please. The theme for this year's Children in Need is PARTY FOR PUDSEY. So that's what this fun night will be.

You will need to dress as a teddy, bring a teddy bear or be wearing a Pudsey teddy badge (available from me!), anything with a "teddy theme". There will be a raffle and a large Pudsey Bear will be auctioned at the end of the evening!

Any donations of "teddy" items for the raffle will be welcomed.

There will be the bar waitress service at your tables for your drinks. There will be a table sale of famous names of sportswear, jackets and sweatshirts and jogging bottoms all at

very reasonable prices with donations being given to our cause, so bring your cheque books and buy your Christmas presents!

Anyone who came to our Comic Relief quiz will tell you this is a FUN QUIZ, anyone can join in the fun and answer the questions. The more the merrier. £4 a team. Book your table in advance, phone me on tel: 01934 838357 or Kenn Valley on tel: 01934 832086, or just turn up! If you've not got a complete team don't worry, we'll make you up one. Come and have a PUDSEY PARTY NIGHT and help Children in Need.

CHRISTMAS DISCO

Don't forget! Saturday 13th December, Kenn Village Hall!! 8 - 12 midnight! Start your festivities off at our party. Tickets on sale next month from Heather Jenkins or myself.

Welcome to Chris and Julia Cloak who have moved into the Old Forge.

Congratulations to John and Emma Williams (car sales - Tripp Robbins Garage

Forecourt) on the birth of their first child Georgia.

All good wishes for a speedy recovery to Mr Ron Harrison.

LETTER FROM JANE STAPLES

After reading Ray's very sad story about the family at Moat Cottage, Nailsea Wall - I would like to point out that the family was called STAPLE and not STAPLES

HOW TO KNOW WHEN YOU ARE GETTING OLD

Everything hurts, and what doesn't hurt, doesn't work.

The gleam in your eye is the sun shining on your bifocals.

You feel like the morning after, but you haven't been anywhere.

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You get winded playing cards.
Your children begin to look middle-aged.
You join a health club, but you don't go.
A dripping tap causes an uncontrollable urge.
You have all the answers but no-one asks you the questions.
You look forward to a dull evening.
You need glasses to find your glasses.
You turn out the light for economy rather than romance.
You sit in a rocking chair but you can't make it go.
Your knees buckle but your belt won't.
Your back goes out more than you do.
You put your bra on back to front, and it fits better.
Your house is too big and your medicine cabinet isn't big enough.
You sink your teeth into a steak and they stay there.
Your birthday cake collapses under the weight of the candles - but you've no breath to blow them out.
You get down on your knees to say a prayer and need three people to get you back up.

ONE CONSOLATION

If you can read this and laugh at it you've not lost your sense of humour so keep taking the pills - you may get a telegram from the Queen.

THE JOULES FAMILY

The Joules family were gypsies, they lived or camped in the Kenn-moor Yatton/Kingston Seymour area for at least 100 years until about 1930. After that time most of them had settled down to home dwelling chiefly working on farms.

After looking at their family graves in Yatton Churchyard (the graves are on your right hand as you enter the Churchyard gates) the first ones I am able to trace are Isaic and Merily Joules who lived around here in the early eighteen hundreds. Legend has it that Isaic was a travelling knife grinder, when he plied his trade from door to door he was never refused food or drink because people were afraid he possessed mysterious powers and might be able to cast spells on them.

In 1837 Merily died, on her gravestone Isaic had the following inscription carved in the stone -

"Here lie Merily Joules a beauty bright, that left Isaic Joules her hearts delight". 1837.

It has been said that Isaic was so heartbroken on her death that in the summer time he slept by her grave.

On the adjoining stone it reads-

"Also in memory Isaic Joules 1841 aged 70.

Their son was probably Richard Joules who died in 1867 aged 56. His wife Jane lived until 1898 when she was 92 years old. On her headstone it reads -

"A mother from our household gone, a voice we loved is stilled, a chair is vacant in our home, that never can be filled".

Druscilla a daughter of Richard and Jane died in 1929 aged 94 years. Henry son of Richard and Jane died also in 1929 aged 96 years.

In the years towards the end of the last century Henry Joules and his wife and family lived a large part of their time camped at the end of Meadmoor Lane near "Ham Farm" at North End, Yatton, or in Horseley Lane, Kingston Seymour. They had a very large family of about ten children, nearly all of them were boys. Sadly one of the boys was severely mentally handicapped and had to be kept restrained, in fact he had to be tied to the caravan wheel to stop him running away and

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injuring himself. Father Henry was a traditional gypsy horse dealer while his wife and family made and sold clothes-pegs. How did they make enough money to feed such a large family?, and, even more remarkable, how did they all sleep in an ordinary barrel topped caravan? In the summertime some of them probably slept underneath the caravan.

The Naish family lived at North End Yatton from about 1850 until 1922. When my grandfather and great grandfather were haymaking the Joules boys always came along to lend a hand. All they asked for in payment was some bread and cheese and some cider at the end of the evening. When the family were camped at Kingston they helped my other grandfather John Simmons with his haymaking.

When the Joules boys grew up they nearly all left the travelling way of life and got jobs as farm workers.

Abraham, the eldest, moved to Banwell and started market gardening, and specialised in growing standard apple trees, which he sold to farmers all around this area.

Isaac and Robert worked for the Cook family at "Rolston Court Farm" near

Hewish.

Walter and his sister Eadie lived in caravans until their deaths. They were camped at Box Bush Lane near Puxton. Long time residents of this area will remember Walter riding around here on his bay mare going from door to door selling clothes pegs he had made. He died in 1970.

What I find amazing is that so many of the family lived until they were in their nineties. When you consider that they lived almost all their lives outdoors, their only comfort was the campfire, they only went in the caravans to sleep. There are a few members of the Joules family still around. They live in houses around Hewish, they have all now given up living out in the wind and rain as their

ancestors have for centuries.

Ray Naish

Note: The story about the Joules family written by Ray was passed to me before a similar story was published by the Western Daily Press.

Margaret Stowell

BIRD NEWS 1

OCTOBER

The mild weather at the end of September and beginning of October persuaded many Swallows and House martins to delay their Southward migration. The local House Martins left during the first days of October, quite a late date!

Robins who are singing now do so to establish their winter (feeding) territories. The Autumn song is more melancholic than their spring courtship song.

Northerly winds on the 12th October produced the first Redwings and Fieldfares of the Winter. These may be birds stopping briefly before heading further South. A Water Rail was present along the Cheddar

Valley Railway Walk, Yatton, on the same day, also no doubt a recent arrival. This bird announced its presence by its call, a loud squeal like a pig being slaughtered!

A new pond has been constructed by Mark Britten, the farmer, close to the railway walk, and a healthy patch of phragmites reed has been developed, which is obviously much to the liking of the Rail.

Siskins are beginning to appear in our area, and are part of what seems to be an invasion of seed eating birds from Northern Europe. Crossbills arrived in large numbers in July. Siskins from August onwards, followed by lots of Jays. Our RSPB group

saw a brambling on Brean Down (a quite

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unusual record) so garden nut feeders should be busy and interesting this year. Remember though, Siskins like their nuts in red or orange bags!

STOP PRESS -

At least 100 Chaffinches at Kenn Court feeding on Beech mast on 19th October.

Trevor Riddle.

BIRD NEWS 2

Today 23rd October, I have heard the first Fieldfares of the season at Nailsea.

Ray Naish

BIRD NEWS 3

This morning Sunday 26th October at about 7.30, I was checking some cattle near Moor-street Bow on the Moor Road to Yatton when I noticed three young swans flying down the Little River from Claverham. I witnessed a horrible incident as they approached the overhead electricity wires - one flew over, one underneath, but the other flew into the wires there was a terrific bang which frightened the cattle around, the swan landed in the field a ball

of flames, completely cooked. Why can't the electricity board fix those orange warning balls to all wires that cross rivers. This carnage happens every year when the young swans learn to fly.

Ray Naish.

ALTAR GUILD MEMBERS ON DUTY IN NOVEMBER

Mrs Sarah Clarke

Mrs Ruth Dyer

Mrs Marianna Mackay

FAMILY SERVICE

The October family service was a special occasion. Tim and Julia Bush of Southfield Farm (Julia is one of the Sunday Club leaders) were celebrating their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary and were hosting a party at their home later in the day.

On their invitations they had invited their guests to join them at the Family Service at 11 am. Nearly all their guests arrived at the Church, with the normal Sunday congregation almost filling the Church.

The Church had been decorated by the Sunday Club members and there was quite a party atmosphere. Rachel and Felicity, Tim and Julia's daughters, read the lesson. Julia's mother and aunt welcomed the people to the service.

After the service Tim and Julia were presented with a Silver Wedding Cake made by the Sunday Club leaders, the hymns sung during the service had been chosen by the family and were based on harvest time.

KENN HISTORY GROUP

At the October meeting, our first for the winter, we discussed our future programme.

We then watched a video on "Somerset" loaned by Mr. Ben Crossman which we all enjoyed. It showed many of the beautiful places we have in our county.

Our next meeting will be on Monday 10th November at 7.30 p.m. at The Granary.

Grace Griffin.

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KENN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

When Mrs. Whittle invited members to make music with her at the October meeting of Kenn W.I. they little thought that they would end up forming a band with all manner of percussion instruments. It was great fun and very much enjoyed by everyone. Mrs. Whittle judged the competitions. One was for a pretty brooch and Mrs. M. Harris was awarded gold, Mrs. Surridge, silver, and Mrs. Crawley, green. The second competition was for a music hall hat to be worn at the Group Meeting later in the month. Mrs. Dyer's Edwardian hat won and she gave us a twirl in it.

All the plans have been made for the Party to be held on 22nd October and the event is being looked forward to eagerly. There will be a social skittles evening on October 20th in preparation for the first round of the skittles tournament when Kenn plays Hewish. The Flower Arranging evening will be held on November 26th when Mrs. Frappel will come to instruct and entertain.

It is hoped to hold some classes in the New Year. Calligraphy is the favoured subject this time. If anyone would like to attend please get in touch with the President, Ann Holtham, so that we will have an idea of the numbers attending.

Concern was expressed by members at the reported sum of money spent by the Local Authority on the provision of a site for one family of travellers at Box Bush Lane.

At the November meeting which will also be the Annual General Meeting, Mrs. Shrimanker will demonstrate how to wear a sari and the competition will be for a pretty scarf.

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

Sadly Kenn was not at all successful in the Best Kept Village Competition this year although we do congratulate Kingston Seymour on their richly deserved success.

The judge's comments seem a little vague - it just goes to show how difficult it must be to judge. They are as follows:

The road passing through Kenn from Clevedon to Yatton is fairly intrusive - luckily most of the village is situated to one side of it. The gardens were very attractive, some with road-side planting outside their boundaries, but a few householders had chosen rather urban paving. A little litter was seen in the telephone kiosk, by the public house and at the garage. Only two of the eight features - churchyard and open areas - could be described as 'well-maintained' and the telephone kiosk, admittedly not a Parish Council responsibility, had a rather neglected air.

PROPOSED QUIZ NIGHT

Make a note in your diaries early in the New Year for a quiz night on Friday January 9th - usual format with fish and chip supper - Bring your own drink - see next months N & V for confirmation.

