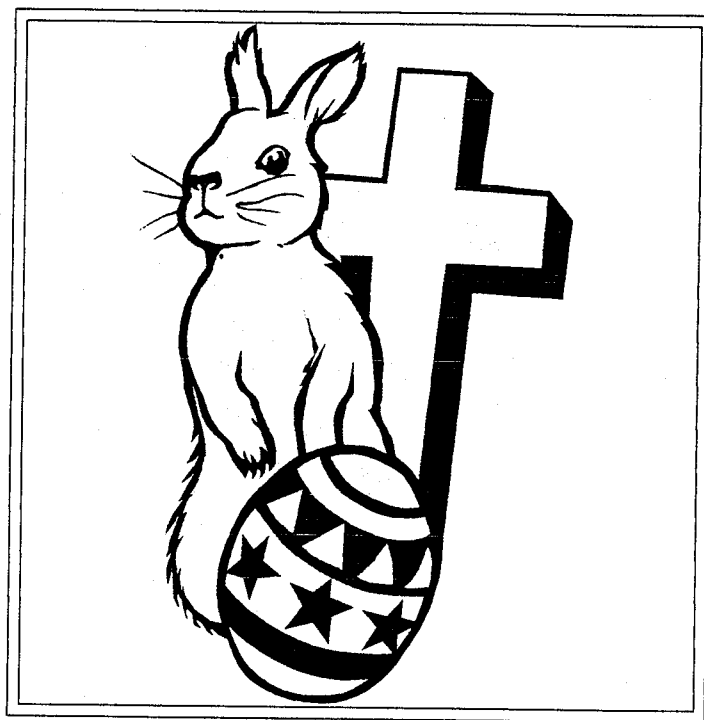


KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

Happy Easter



Editor Sheila NAISH

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KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

April

- 1st Clare Stowell
3rd Antoni Papasolomontos
Avril Flower
6th Andrea Waters
8th Emma Fenwick
10th Mary Lamb
Anna Edwards
W.A. Jean and Ray Naish
21st Barbara Middleton
22nd Liz Jaehme
23rd Mary Willcox
24th Margaret Stowell
Emily Golding-Ellis
28th Theresa Walters
29th Miles Naish

MESSAGE FROM ED.

I am updating the News and News diary for birthdays and anniversaries, if you would like any family member included just let me know.

Naish's Notes

The old tip site off Colehouse Lane has been chained up and for a long time just looked tatty and derelict, but I smile everytime I drive by now as it is now somewhat boggy and wet and has been taken over as a new home for a family of mallard ducks. I notice that mums now push their little ones along to see them and they are a pleasure to behold.

If I didn't know better, and I do because I've had a sneaky feel, I'd swear that THAT Poinsetta in Hartley and Jane's window was artificial !! How come that everybody else has a poinsetta for Christmas and all that's left by New Year's Eve is a stick because they have a self-destruct mechanism, a leaf a day drops off from when you get them home. This one is magnificent. Has anyone else got such a fine specimen ?

Well done at last to North Somerset District Council for finally putting the speed restriction signs on their poles. You certainly can't miss them now.

Congratulations to Jo and Rob at the Old Ox House on the safe arrival of a baby daughter Jenny.

Also congratulations to Mike and Joan Stevens on the safe arrival of their first grandchild, a baby girl, first child for Melanie and Mark

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SNIPPETS

March 11th - A party of sixteen members of the local W.R.V.S. Tea Set were entertained to tea at Kenn Court.

Sincere thanks to Mrs. Denmead, Mrs. Lamb, Mrs. Whitehead and Mrs. Hackett who came along to help.

Welcome

A warm welcome to Lauren a daughter for Mark and Melanie Farley nee Stevens and a granddaughter for Mr. and Mrs. Stevens of Kenn Street.

March 15th we flew our flag to welcome Jenny a daughter for Rob Treble and Jo Batten and a sister for Jack and Rosie.

Food for Thought

On February 27th listening to a radio programme from Brussels we heard that most of the Belgian Restaurants are family owned and considered to be superior to those in France.

One lady owner explained to the interviewer how her family worked in the business indicating various tasks they undertook. She concluded her interview by saying of course her cat was very important in keeping the mice population down !

The interviewer then went to a second restaurant for lunch and enjoyed his lamb. However when the table was cleared the bones were thrown on the floor and the resident dog devoured them.

We may be in the European Union but there seems to be one law for them and one for us.

Dates for your diary

Kenn Village Hall

Monday 6th April - Parish Council
7.30 pm - Everyone welcome.

Wednesday 8th April 7.30 pm -
Kenn Women's Institute - Speaker
Mrs. Quinon on Painting on Silk.

Competition - A piece of silk.

Tuesdays - Dog Training

Thursdays - Tums, Bums and Thighs -
Keep Fit at 8.00 pm with Sue.

Wednesday 15th April 7 pm -
Women's Institute Jumble Sale.

Advance Notice

August 29th Kenn thro' the Ages Day.

Thanks

Many thanks to everybody for their lovely cards, get well wishes and support after my recent stay in hospital. I am feeling better as each day goes by.

Thank you again,

Tina Middleton.

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KENN ALTAR GUILD

Altar Guild members on duty during April - Jean Ings and Irene Stowell.

BIRD NEWS

March came in like a lion, but within a few days we were into a mild settled spell of weather and chiffchaffs were singing by the 11th of the month. A very early house martin was reported over Clevedon two days later.

During a weekend visit to Northamptonshire, I took the opportunity to call at Pitsford Reservoir Nature Reserve. Since 1995 a feeding station has been established for small birds in an old lane close to the water's edge, where various types of bird seed are put out each day. This has been very successful with lots of chaffinches, goldfinches and a flock of 80 tree sparrows present all winter. Nearby are several stubble fields with good hedges, in one of which I noted yellowhammer, corn bunting and reedbunting. A partridge called from the stubble, completing a scene reminiscent of 20 years ago.

April is the main month for spring migration: there should be willow warblers and blackcaps early on with swallows from mid-month and hopefully cuckoos towards the end of the month.

Trevor Riddle.

BIRD NEWS 2

In last month's News and Views, I reported that the Song Thrush that started singing very early in the spring

here at Stonehouse Farm had disappeared. I blamed the poor old sparrow hawk that is seen almost daily in the Kenn Street area, but now I can see the real reason for the thrush going away, a pair of magpies have built a very large nest in the elm tree very close to where the thrush had his singing stage.

Let's hope he has found a new stage to do his singing and stake out a territory here in the village where he will not be interfered with.

A farmer we know who farms down on the Cornish border is having trouble with ravens, they attack and kill weakly lambs and have even killed calves that are not very strong. They pick their eyes out and then pull their intestines out. Nature can be very cruel.

Ray Naish.

KENN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Members were welcomed to the March Meeting by Miss Holtham who thanked Mrs. Morris for her bowl of primulas.

After all the business had been dealt with, we heard of members diverse outings during the past month.

These included visits to other WIs, Country Crafts at Cleeve by Mrs. Dyer, a most interesting lecture, attended by Mrs. Bubb and Mrs. Harris on sound. Though very entertaining, the message was serious; loud noise deafens.

Mrs. Bessant had enjoyed the Countryside March and had been impressed at how well it was organised by the Countryside Alliance.

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Miss Holtham was equally impressed with the EGM at Weston. She reported that the Resolutions passed were one for helping young carers, and the second urging that brownfield, rather than greenfield, sites be used for building.

Two other Resolutions that received a lot of support were one for cancelling the interest debts incurred by third-world countries and the abolition of the single supplement charges by hotels etc.

WI Country Markets are becoming even more popular and the County Budget is looking very healthy. The money raised by Pennies for Friendship (ACWW) came to £1,800 and the Use Your Loaf Campaign (Women Feed the World) raised £1,000.

"To love a human being is to accept him as he is. If you wait until he is different, you are only loving an ideal".

These words by Dame Julian of Norwich (1342-1416) were used by Mrs. R. Ridout of the Julian Trust to introduce her talk on the Trust's work. She emphasised how easy it is to become homeless, using as examples young boys who are physically and sexually abused at home and traumatic events in the lives of older men. A lot of these men are victims of cut-backs in Mental Health Nursing, and they do not get the help and treatment they need when out in the community. The Trust started out with six beds because most centres for the homeless were open during the day only. Now they have 100 beds but to keep going they desperately need volunteers. They also need single nylon sheets and pillow-cases (for easier laundering), non-perishable foods and men's underclothing and shoes. It you cannot

offer help with any of these, donations are need too as the Trust has no other source of income.

The competition for three daffodils was won by Mrs. Prew 2) Mrs. Bubb and 3) Mrs. Crawley

JUBILEE 2000

Presentation by the members of Kenn Sunday Club.

At Kenn Family Service on the 1st March members of Kenn Sunday Club gave a short presentation to illustrate how well-intentioned loans from 'the old world' to 'the third world' have become a millstone round the necks of nations throughout the southern hemisphere.

The presentation was a fine example of 'the ministry of children' and everybody performed beautifully, relating the history of Tiplac, a newly independent African state, eager to be like the sophisticated 'people in the films', but soon weighed down by crippling interest payments.

We Sunday Club Leaders were very proud of the way S.C. members behaved and performed. Since then we have been 'on the road' to Kingston Seymour and Yatton and will visit Cleve and Claverham after Easter.

p.s. Tiplac either stands for 'this interesting, pleasant land and culture' or 'tin pot little african country' depending where you are coming from.

Julia Bush for Kenn Sunday Club Leaders.

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St. John the Evangelist, Kenn Election of Churchwardens

The Easter Vestry Meeting when Churchwardens are elected was held on 1st March, there were forty three people present whose names were recorded.

There were two nominations:

Renee Bell was proposed by Nigel Middleton and seconded by Tina Middleton.

Ray Naish was proposed by Heather Noad and seconded by Dennis Goldsworthy.

They were elected to serve as Churchwardens for the year 1998-1999.

The Revd. John Cruse thanked all those people who help in so many ways to keep the Church in Kenn a wonderful place in which to be and work and worship.

KENN HISTORY GROUP

What's in a name ?

If you ever get fed up with shopping in Broadmead and the dull 1950's architecture is causing you eyestrain, treat yourself to a short walk to Bristol's architectural gems of Brunswick and Portland Squares.

Cross over the pedestrian bridge by Allied Carpets, go left for a few steps, turn down the next street into a lovely Georgian square - Brunswick Square,

walk diagonally across it and enter the forgotten world of Portland Square.

These two squares have seen many changes of both fashion and land-use. The original area, occupied by the city's poor, was called St. James.

It was cleared in the 1790's by an imaginative speculative builder, he renamed the area St. Pauls and wealthy merchants flocked to these fashionable residences.

St. Pauls enjoyed 150 years of the high-life, but with the advent of transport and the Wall Street Crash the 1920's brought dramatic changes. People left for modern, quality houses in the suburbs, leaving these beautiful squares to fall into dereliction and poverty. Houses were turned into flats and sites for small-scale industries.

By the 1970's the whole area was in a desperate state, no Building Society or Bank would offer assistance, its only future was to be knocked down.

In 1977 a historic decision was taken. English Heritage and Bristol City Council jointly spent millions renovating the area. Some twenty years later this lovely area is nearly finished. The once fashionable residences are now occupied by accountants and solicitors and other service industries.

Bristol can be proud to boast its Georgian past. Oh ! by the way, the estate agents call this newly renovated area - St. James !!!

Mandy Boyle

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Tragedies at Sea

In last month's News and Views I described how there was a possibility that a young man from Kenn had perished with the sinking of the Titanic.

There was another terrible disaster at sea when a young man who had lived in Kenn when a young boy was killed.

In the late 1920's Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Burnell and their family lived at Chapel Cottage, Kenn Street. In the early 1930's the family moved to Clevedon.

When war broke out the oldest son Gordon was called up into the navy, he was posted to the battleship "Royal Oak". Early in 1940 the Royal Oak was anchored in Scapa Flow off the north coast of Scotland.

Scapa Flow was at that time considered impossible to be entered by enemy U Boats, because of the defences around it only British shipping knew the way in through a narrow channel.

Unfortunately a German U Boat under the command of Captain Gunther Prien found the way in and opened fire on the "Royal Oak" which was quickly sent to the bottom of the sea. 835 sailors lost their lives and went down with the ship, among them was Gordon Burnell aged about 19.

There were only a small number of survivors, the German U Boat was lucky enough to find its way back out before it could be located.

There are still a few of us left in Kenn who were at School with the Burnell children Gordon, Ruth, Pat and Terry. I think I am right in saying that Mrs.

Burnell, their mother, lived until well over 100 years of age.

Another young man from Kenn who was in the Navy during the war was William Huxtable whose home was "Meadow View" the house next to "Kenn Court" on the Yatton side.

Willie, as he was called, took part in the battle of "The River Plate" on board the battle ship "Achilles" which with her sister ships "Ajax" and "Exeter" damaged the German Battle Ship "Graf-Spee" and drove it into the Montevideo Harbour in Uruguay.

After the ship was repaired it tried to come out, but rather than face three British Battleships the captain Admiral Hans Langsdorff scuttled his ship and then shot himself. This was after he had disembarked most of his crew and 300 prisoners of war, merchant seamen from ships he had sunk.

Thousands of onlookers had gathered on the shore to watch the battle out at sea, which never came off.

Before he shot himself Admiral Langsdorff wrote a letter explaining his actions. Had he decided to confront the three battleships he could have probably won the battle because the "Graf Spee" had much heavier guns on board.

Willie was the son of Albert and Elsie Huxtable. Elsie was a sister of John Locke who I wrote about last month as having perished with the Titanic.

Albert and Elsie's daughter Mary now Mrs. Saunders still lives in Clevedon.

Ray Naish.

