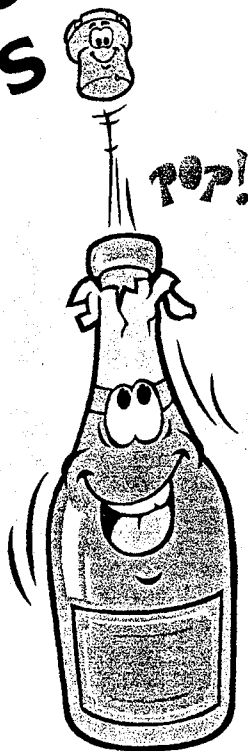


KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

**10 YEARS OF
NEWS &
VIEWS**



Editor Sheila NAISH

Printed by:- Margaret STOWELL

Issue No 120 AUGUST 1998

Typed by:- Ann STOWELL

KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

Birthdays and Anniversaries

August 3rd Clare and Louise Edwards
6th Steve Bye
7th Jack Hanson
(three score years and ten)
7th Ray Naish
Lorraine Staples
10th Stephen Brain
14th Mrs Edith Tripp
90 years young - congratulations
on reaching this wonderful age.
15th Jean Naish
22nd Dave Quinn
Mark Ayres
23rd Mark Pascoe
24th Sam Staples
25th Stella Naish
26th Peter Woods
27th Caroline & John
Hayden WA
29th Sylvia & John Staples WA
Jane & Hartley Staples
WA
31st Jill & Matt Butland WA

Message from Editor

I've just returned from my summer holiday in Majorca where the temperature has been over 100 F, very hot, but it was lovely to see the sun for so long and to actually complain about the heat. We flew into Lulsgate to a very dull overcast evening - then rain ! Exactly as we'd left it ! par for the course !

To everyone off on their summer holidays - Have a really happy holiday and let's hope the weather improves.

Remember the Fun Run is soon - get in training.

Naish's Notes

Very many congratulations to Kate George who has finished her Maths degree at Plymouth University, gaining a First Class Honours Degree. Kate was also awarded a prize as the Top Student in the Year.

Well done Kate, we're all very proud of you.

B.B.Q and Disco - Oakland Farm

Thank you to everyone who turned up to make this event such a success, despite the awful weather - perhaps we'd have better luck in November than June or July !!

Many thanks to everyone who helped in whatever way. The proceeds will be donated to the new wing at the Cottage Hospital.

FUN RUN

The Fun Run will be held on Sunday 6th September 3.00 pm sharp.

We are hoping to hold the Tug of War competition, providing we get enough entrants. Teams of 8 required. Please make sure that all competitors are fit and not suffering from any back ailments etc. The organisers will not accept responsibility for injury. This competition was good fun last year, let's hope we can repeat it.

We would like volunteers for helping on the day - organizing stalls or games to keep Adults and Children occupied.

Raffle prizes, Tombola, Bring & Buy !

KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

There will be a licensed bar and a BBQ.

We may have the possibility of some Kiddies rides - subject to weather.

Sponsor Forms will be available from Kenn Stores, Heather Jenkins, Kenn Valley Social Club and myself.

Proceeds from the day will be donated to the new wing of Clevedon Cottage Hospital. We have all had need to use this hospital at some time or another, let's help the building of the new wing along its way.

We hope to make this a really fun family afternoon.

Church News

Friends of Kenn Church

On the evening of Saturday 18th July we held our Annual Barbecue at The Granary, Duck Lane.

The weather, by this summer's standard, was fine and we were able to have a great evening of good food, chat, family fun and fund raising.

The first guests arriving at 7 pm and the last leaving at 11.15 pm ; a good sign folk were enjoying themselves.

The object this year was to enjoy an evening of fellowship and raising funds for replacing the heating in St. John's Church. A profit of almost £350 was made.

Thanks are due to everyone who worked on organizing the evening the

two Chefs and those who ran the games and raffle.

A great job well done. Also thanks to all who came to support the event and gave so generously to provide the profit.

John Griffin.

Coffee Morning with Bring & Buy

Jean Naish will host a Coffee Morning at Stonehouse Farm on Tuesday 11th August 10-12 Noon.

Anyone willing to help, please ring Jean on 872493

St. John's Altar Guild

August Rota

Mrs. I. Goldsworthy, Miss P. Stuckey and Mrs. J. Bedford

KENN NOTES - SNIPPETS

Welcome

A warm welcome to Molly Jane , baby daughter of Joanna and Nick Cheek, a granddaughter for Hartley and Jane Staples of Elmbank and a great granddaughter for Mr Sam Staples of Riverside Farm

New Residents

A warm welcome to Mr and Mrs Porch and Robert and David who have arrived to live at Conifers, Duck Lane and to Miss Good and Mr. Wright at Court Cottage and Heather Neil and baby Carly at Beechcroft.

KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

We hope they will all enjoy living in Kenn.

Kenn Womens' Institute

Wednesday August 12th Kenn Womens' Institute members will entertain members from North Newton to tea at Kenn Court at 3 pm.

Kenn Village Hall

JUMBLE SALE

Wednesday August 19th at 7 pm a Jumble Sale will be held in aid of Hall Funds

Contributions of Bric a Brac, Produce, Plants, Books, Toys, Clothes, Prizes for the Draw etc and offers of help will be most appreciated.

Goods to Hall between 10-11 am please

Admission 20p.

Strawberry Tea 4th July 1998

The Strawberry Tea in aid of the Friends of Clevedon Hospital organized by members of Kenn Womens' Institute was well supported and raised a total of £408.

Our sincere thanks to everyone who came, to Messrs John of Old Street who gave the scones, to the Manager of Safeway who gave a donation towards the cream, to Mike Lindsay of Alexandra Road who gave extra strawberries and to the Women's Institute members who gave cakes,

raffle prizes and manned the stalls and generally helped.

Sister Hobbs accepted the cheque at the July W.I. meeting. After the meeting further donations were received bringing the total to £408.

R.M.Dyer

Ragwort

Ragwort is a prohibited weed and when eaten by animals can cause death.

If our readers see any growing by the wayside or have it on their property will they please pull it up and burn it.

Dates for your Diary

Bums, Tums and Thighs

Thursdays 8-9 pm. Keep Fit with Sue Gilbert

Tuesday 11th August

10 - 12 noon - Coffee Morning at Stonehouse Farm, Kenn - by kind invitation of Jean Naish - Proceeds to the Friends of Kenn Church.

Wednesday 12th August

Kenn Womens Institute members will entertain members from North Newton to tea at Kenn Court at 3 pm.

Wednesday 19th August - Jumble Sale

7 pm at Kenn Village Hall - Proceeds to Kenn Village Hall Funds.

Please support

KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

KENN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

President Miss Holtham was very pleased to welcome two members of staff from Clevedon Hospital to our July Meeting. This was in order to present Sister Hobbs with a cheque, the result of a Strawberry Tea held at Kenn Court by kind invitation of Mr and Mrs Dyer.

Returning to W.I. business, Miss Holtham brought us up to date on the list of accidents to members during the past month.

Mrs Crawley has a broken foot due to a fall, Mrs Prew a badly sprained wrist after an argument with a garden chair, Mrs Blake had an accident with a spade and Mrs. Dobbs fell over a dog. The dog was unhurt and all four ladies are recovering.

Letters of thanks from Mrs Prew and Mrs Crawley were read.

Names were collected for the extra meeting next month when North Newton W.I. visit us, and for our September visit to them.

There has not been an election for the executive Committee as there were only sufficient candidates to fill the vacancies. The IGM will be held at Weston-super-Mare on 29th September.

Our Speaker both informed and entertained us - very welcome on a cold, dull evening. Mr. W. Davey's talk on HM Customs and Excise began with the Romans and ended with VAT.

The service is the oldest government department and monarchs used to take one barrel in ten of wine and brandy imported from the Continent.

Gradually the collection of the "King's Customary Dues" was farmed out to either individuals or groups of merchants.

In the 13th Century the Countess of Rouen was given the 'franchise' of Southampton, but she fell in love with her handsome young steward and forgot all about collecting the King's dues. Mr. Davey suggested this set back equality for women by several hundred years !

In the past taxes have been raised on hearths and windows. Single men were taxed, starting at one shilling per annum and increasing in line with the man's circumstances.

Drugs are today's main problem with 134 drug rings being smashed by the customs service in 97/98, the drugs valued at £45,000,000,000. Officers risk their lives by infiltrating the drug rings and cartels abroad.

The evening ended with refreshments and a raffle.

The competition for an animal teapot being won by Mrs. Dobbs, 2) Mrs Prew, 3) Mrs. R. Jeffrey.

September's Speaker will be Mrs S. Gregson on "A Winter Garden" and the competition is for a miniature garden.

KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

Kenn History Group

August Meeting

We will meet at Ray's, Stonehouse Farm on Tuesday 11th August at 6.30 pm and then drive to Kewstoke to visit Woodspring Priory where Mr. Cook will give us a guided tour.

You are welcome to join us.

Grace Griffin.

June Report

The summer season for walking has started for the Kenn History Group. On a delightful evening (one of the recent few), we assembled at Southfield Farm owned by the Bush family.

The farm is situated in an area called Dugnaham on the edge of Clevedon. this is a Dutch word meaning "washed by the sea".

Southfield Farm is a comparatively modern farm, its farming history only began in the 1920's.

The Bush/Parker family originally farmed in partnership with the Bye family at Dowlais Farm; as county council tenants. The Bush/Parker family approached Sir Ambrose Elton, the landowner of the adjoining fields to see if they could take on this derelict anthill covered area to clear it for farming. Sir Ambrose agreed and gave them a 2 year free tenancy to get the land into shape. (Many years later Hartley Staples was still demolishing anthills for Mr. Bush!)

The partnership dissolved and the Bye family bought Kenn Pier Farm and the Parker family bought 70 acres making Southfield Farm in 1955.

Mr. Geoff Bush explained how all the services were dug by hand - bringing water and electricity down the lane, indeed building the lane. It is primarily a dairy farm and young stock.

As the History group wandered through some delightfully named fields - Old Acres, Four Acres, Crazy Acres, Barber Five Acres, its history was revealed. In W.W.II some of the fields were compulsorily ploughed for grain. In fact, our area was, up until recently, one of the most heavily stocked per acre.

We wandered down to Kenn River, a delightful somewhat overgrown stream, wandering lazily through the fields, now controlled by hatches but tidal originally.

With only one wall left standing, the remains of a small farmstead became visible with its own well and walnut trees, long since gone. It is hard to imagine in today's modern bustling society just how lonely and isolated some people's lives must have been.

Mr. Bush told the sad story of his father-in-law back in 1940's. Whilst still at Dowlais Farm foot and mouth disease was contracted by a small portion of his herd. As they wandered back to the farm every evening the entire herd was destroyed by the Ministry. The animals were buried by P.O.W.s who apparently removed the livers before burial!

KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

At the end of our tour we noticed a number of new stiles that had been installed. This led to a discussion of old Church paths. They were originally designed to allow the congregation access to the churches across the fields but in fact a corpse path exists nearby.

The Parish of Kingston Seymour was duty bound to bury all the dead washed-up seamen within their parish. Believe it or not, there were quite a few!

Finally, towards the end of the walk we came across the remains of the Portishead to Weston-super-Mare Light Railway. It ran for about 80 years closing in 1940. The rolling stock was always dilapidated and worn out offering both people and freight a regular service. However on Sundays the locals took the milk to Weston by hand cart.

Apparently, regularly the train would stop for passengers to pick mushrooms or blackberries. At least in those days the passengers would benefit from delays, unlike today with "the wrong kind or snow" or "leaves on the line".

The Bush family kindly invited the group back for coffee and cake.

The Kenn History Group would very much like to thank the Bush family for their hospitality and time and for a very enjoyable evening.

Mandy Boyle.

July Report

Have you ever whizzed up to Bristol on the motorway and glanced down into the Gordano Valley shrouded in mist and wondered what was down there? Well finally I got the chance to find out. We set off one drizzly evening with the Reserve Warden Mr. Tony Robinson.

The Gordano Valley is in fact, of carboniferous limestone, capped with mudstone.

In the glacial times it was a lake, held back by a shingle spit at Portishead; gradually after many years it dried up leaving a rushes based bog.

This land has never been intensively farmed. In Mesolithic times, it was thought, man settled on the lake edges, but no archeology has been carried out to prove this theory.

The land was drained in the early part of last century and no large scale farming techniques have ever been applied to the valley, no improvement of the grassland or indeed intensive herbicide treatment. Hence the area was designated in 1987 a National Nature Reserve (NNR) of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). It is currently managed by English Nature and Avon.

These government and local bodies work with the local farmers in a part ownership/lease agreement.

The drainage in the area is entirely by gravity (i.e. no pumping as elsewhere in Somerset), although water is kept back for the summer months to allow

KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

"wet fencing" in the rhynes for stock grazing.

Mr. Tony Robinson pointed out a wealth of naturally occurring plants and sedges as we trudged across a black, boggy, bouncy surface.

In the distance we spotted a graceful barn owl. A rare sight even for this nature reserve. As Mr. Robinson explained about the management of the woodland this barn owl decided to fly up the valley, majestically swooping very near us, watching for his dinner, finally soaring off for the next hedge line. It was a magical sight. I had not realised just how big this bird was in full flight.

We then negotiated our way through waist high grasses or was it sedges ? to finally come across a small service road to home.

About once a week a team of volunteers net and ring the birds, for the purposes of a species count and to study the migratory patterns. A bird from the Gordano valley was netted in Morocco. The Gordano Valley is the only site in the U.K. where all owls, except the snowy owl, can be found.

It was a great evening, the constant drizzle didn't dampen the spirits, we had a very knowledgeable and enthusiastic leader who showed us a great insight into a local treasure.

The Kenn History Group would like to wish him every success in his new venture in Taunton giving advice and management of ancient trees in the U.K. and thank him for his time and effort to make such a memorable evening. It was wonderful.

Mandy Boyle.

Kenn Moor Air Show

This year's Woodspring Air Display for model and full-size aircraft was held at Kenn Moor on July 3rd/4th.

The weather was not quite bad enough to prevent the Spitfire making its appearance and giving a wonderful display.

On Sunday, in blue skies, a Russian build Antonov bi-plane in Hungarian colours showed just how slowly this aircraft could fly on one engine, hardly moving forward at all.

David Glasson.

BIRD NEWS I

(omitted from July issue)

In the May edition of K.N.&V. I reported having seen the Kingfisher on our river Kenn, in fact I had 8 sightings during April.

Sadly there have been none since, but then as a Cormorant (sea bird) is often seen on the Blind Yeo river, this would explain why the Kingfisher goes elsewhere to seek food.

Today, June 8th the Great Tits nesting in our Mail box have finally left having reared 5 youngsters. So far we have not seen that regular summer bird the Swift or the Spotted Flycatcher that usually return every year, another species that are in decline.

A pair of Jays have come into our garden at Kenn Pier, the first seen for a long time. This could be bad news for

KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

small nesting birds as well as the threat from Magpies.

On a BBC 2 "Bird Watch" programme recently viewers were able to see a shy secretive bird, usually hidden in reed-beds, the Bittern is now increasing in numbers again and it is hoped it may be found on the Somerset levels.

David Glasson.

BIRD NEWS 2

The weather has continued to be changeable, but in general most birds seem to have enjoyed a reasonable breeding season. Whilst we have certainly endured plenty of rain, it has not generally been associated with cold, which is the worst combination.

Indeed the Marsh Harriers on the mid-Somerset Levels have produced a record five youngsters. This was achieved by one male bird with two females. For complex reasons there are often more females than males in Harrier populations and this method (polygamy !) is a means of ensuring maximum reproduction of the species. The male bird was thought to have a third (unsuccessful) female, but there is no truth in the rumour that he is on his back with his feet in the air!!

However, once the young fledged it was noticeable that he spent very little time in the nesting area, but seemed to seek a more peaceful spot to rest.

Trevor Riddle

MOTH NEWS

Mr. Broomfield of Kenn Street recently found two huge moths in his garden; they were as big as small birds. His neighbour, Mrs Angela Bullock, who knows about moths, has identified them as Privet Hawk Moths. They were released into a privet hedge.

Has anyone else in the village come across any of them or are they very rare ?

Ray Naish

BIRD NEWS 3

Many people in Kenn Street and Duck Lane have seen a strange bird in their gardens recently. It is of Woodpecker type but of steel grey colouring with a pinkish head.

Antoni Papasolomontos has been looking through his bird books and come to the conclusion that it is a Wry Neck which are very rare in this country. Some other people think it may be a juvenile Green Woodpecker which has not yet got his full colouring.

It seems to have been a good year for Woodpeckers, there are a good many around of both Green and Greater and Lesser Spotted varieties.

Steven Bullock of Latcham House, Kenn Street has seen a sparrow-sized bird in his orchard and garden that he has identified from his bird book as a Corn Bunting, these are also very rare birds.

KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

Jeff Naish has seen a Red Kite flying in the Nailsea Wall area, they seem to be making a comeback in this area.

A flock of Swifts were noticed flying and screaming over the surgery area of Yatton one evening recently. There were the first I have seen this year. I haven't seen any in Kenn for years.

Ray Naish.

Readers may remember last year when a Red-legged Partridge was reported to have spent the day in Simon and Jenny Pascoe's garden chasing an unidentified Bantam Cockerel. The partridge disappeared, but on the 21st July this year the Bantam Cockerel returned and spent several days around the Stonehouse Farm area but has now disappeared again.

His comings and goings remind me of the poem about the "Peddler Man" -

"Where he come from, no one knows
or where he goes to, but off he goes".

BIRD NEWS 4

Mrs Mary Lamb of Kenn Street has had an unexpected visitor in her garden lately. It is an exhausted racing pigeon. Mary is feeding him up, hoping he will regain enough strength to fly back to his home. He has become so tame that he feeds out of her hand.

LETTERS

Gladys Denmead

I would like to thank all my good friends in Kenn, especially my past neighbours for their kindness and help whilst I lived in Duck Lane. Also for the many cards and good wishes for the future. I loved belonging to Kenn; a delightful place to be. I shall be back to join in events whenever I am able.

Thank you all for everything.

Gladys Denmead.

Win Cole

Win Cole wishes to thank everyone for the lovely cards and kind enquiries on her recent stay in hospital.

From David Holmes

PROGRESS ?

May I respond to Ray Naish's piece about travelling to Bristol from this part of the world, an ordeal I endured daily for 20 years before I retired.

First of all it could be argued that Bedminster isn't really Bristol, certainly old 'Bemmy' boys didn't used to think so, and the Hen and Chicken, which is still there although I suspect not the same building, is in North Street not far from the City ground.

KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

Secondly Ray is not comparing like with like. A fairer but impossible test would be to replace all those other cars, buses and lorries by horse drawn vehicles and then see what happens in the rush hours!

When she was a girl my old granny used to make a journey similar to Charlie Staples, but from Burrington into Bristol. Her horse went faster on the way home because they had to get back to Churchill before the gate was closed.

Perhaps the simplest answer is to leave the car at home and let the train take the strain. I believe the rail journey takes only about 20 minutes, the wrong kind of snow, leaves on the line and other delaying factors permitting.

The following are genuine, but badly worded small ads., as seen in provincial newspapers:-

Lost: Small poodle. Reward.
Neutered. Like one of the family.

Dinner Special: Turkey £3.50,
Chicken or Beef £2.50, Children £2.00

Wanted: Unmarried girls to pick fresh fruit and produce every night.

Tired of cleaning yourself?
Let me do it.

We do not tear your clothing with machinery. We do it carefully by hand.

This Hotel has bowling alleys, tennis courts, comfortable beds and other athletic facilities.

Auto repair service. Free pick up and delivery. Try us once, and you'll never go anywhere again.

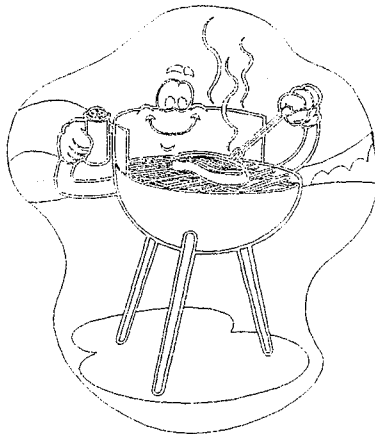
Mixing bowl set: Designed to please a cook with a round bottom for efficient beating.

Dog for sale. Will eat anything and is fond of children.

Wanted: A widower with school age children requires a person to assume general housekeeping duties. Must be capable of contributing to growth of family.

Contributed by Cliff Edwards.

KENN NEWS AND VIEWS



HARVEST BBQ SUPPER

Kenn invites everyone to its own brand of Harvest Supper – a Harvest BBQ.

WHERE – Kenn Village Hall

WHEN – Sunday 13th September at 7pm

TICKETS - £2.50 adults £1.00 children

Everyone welcome - meet old friends and make new ones.
Bring your own drink cutlery and plates.

Tickets from John Cruse, Ray Naish, Renee Bell