

KENN NEWS AND VIEWS



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DECEMBER 1998

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Kathleen Mary Bush

Kathleen passed away recently after several months of poor health.

Although Kath never lived in Kenn, she had lived nearby for a large part of her life; she was born and lived most of her life in Lower Strode Road, Clevedon.

From a very early age she, with members of her family, had attended many social events that were held in Kenn and was often asked to take part. Kath was brilliant at reciting poems when quite a young girl, later attending all the many dances and socials that were held in Kenn Hall on a regular basis. Kath was a wonderful ballroom dancer and very much in demand as a dancing partner.

After her marriage to Jeffrey Bush together they built a brand new farm from a greenfield site called "Southfield Farm" and lived there until handing the farm over to their family a few years ago.

When living at "Southfield Farm" Kath was a member of Kenn Women's Institute and took part in the plays and dramas groups that took place at that time.

Kath came from the famous Staples family who have lived in Kenn since at least the 1850's and have been great supporters of the church here from that time. The church records tell us that her great grandfather William Staples undertook to haul all the stones required for the rebuilding of the church from the windowsills up in 1860.

Her other great grandfather William Dyer was sexton of the church for a great many years. He with his wife ran the first Post Office in Kenn, now "Corner Cottage".

Members of Kath's family including her grandchildren are some of the most regular attendees at Church here in Kenn week by week. Kath was a member of Kenn Red Cross during the war and did nursing work in Clevedon Hospital.

Kath Bush was an extremely good natured and friendly person, in fact she was a friend to everyone who knew her and will be sadly missed by a great many people.

Our sympathy is extended to Jeff her husband, Tim, Roger and Deborah her children, her seven grandchildren and all her extended family.

There was a Thanksgiving Service for Kath's life held at Kingston Seymour Church, such was her popularity that around two hundred and fifty people attended to pay their respects to a good friend.

Very sadly Kathleen's brother Percy Parker died five days earlier at his home near Taunton.

Ray Naish.

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One large Supermarket chain, from the New Year, will not be buying any meat from the markets at all !! This won't help trade.

Children's Christmas Party

The Kenn Children's Christmas party will be held from 3.00 pm on Wednesday 23rd December.

This party is not only for Kenn Children, but also for the children and grandchildren of Kenn folk - for further information contact Jo Batten on 01275 878782.

CARING AT CHRISTMAS

A box has been placed in the Church Porch to collect tinned goods for the Homeless at Christmas.

Warm blankets, coats, good underwear are also greatly welcomed. Also any financial contributions made payable to the Julian Trust are needed.

Marianna Mackay from Church Path Cottage will be taking everything to Bristol on Christmas Eve, so if you either want her to take your contributions or her to collect them from you, please contact her on 340323.

SNIPPETS

Our Flag

We flew our flag to celebrate the Christening of Molly Jane, daughter of Nicholas and Joanna Cheek, granddaughter of Hartley and Jane Staples and great grand daughter of Mr. Sam Staples of Riverside Farm.

Also on November 8th on Remembrance Sunday and on November 11th Armistice Day to remember all those who gave their lives for our freedom in the Great War and the Second World War and other conflicts throughout the world.

Let us never forget they gave their tomorrow for our today.

Also on November 14th to celebrate the fiftieth birthday of His Royal Highness Prince Charles, Prince of Wales.

KENN CHRISTMAS TREE ON THE GREEN

Friday 18th December at 7.00 pm

Christmas Tree lights will be switched on by a Kenn Celebrity, followed by Carol Singing and Mince Pies.

Offers of mincepies please to Marianna Mackay, Church Path Cottage - to be delivered to her that evening.

A collection for the Children's Society will be taken.

All Kennites and friends most welcome.

Ruth Dyer.

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BIRTHDAYS ETC

- 4th Sally Whitehead
Roger Jenkins
5th Jerry Naish
Chris Wall
10th Louise Pugh
Tom Clark
23rd Richard & Avril Gaunt W.A
24th Shirley Wall
John Street

25th HAPPY CHRISTMAS ONE AND ALL

31st HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

"The great pleasure in life is doing what people say you cannot do!"

MESSAGE FROM ED

Merry Christmas to all our Readers and may 1999 prove to be a Happy New Year for you all.

Let's hope that for the local farmers it proves to be a better year than the last few have proven to be.

Ed's thought:

DO IT TOMORROW, YOU'VE MADE ENOUGH MISTAKES FOR TODAY !!

~~~~~  
Thank you to our three entrants for our Christmas cover. We were so impressed we've used them all in the magazine, Congratulations to them all.

~~~~~  
This year's Blue Peter Appeal is for cans and tinfoil. Do bear this in mind over the Christmas - there are many places to leave them. Safeway being one of them.

~~~~~  
The Fun Run proceeds amounted to £1,720.42 and will be given to the building fund for the new wing of the Cottage Hospital. Many thanks once again to everyone concerned.

~~~~~  
Don't forget the Christmas Party and Disco at Kenn Village Hall. 12th December 8 - 12. Get there early. Fancy Dress optional.

"
Tickets £3 from Sheila 838347 or Heather Jenkins 877389.

In aid of the M.S. Centre in Nailsea.

Raffle prizes please.

~~~~~  
Best wishes for their speedy recovery to Mrs. Holtham and Mr. Sam Staples who at the time of writing are in hospital.

## Farming Note

~~~~~  
Spare a thought for the Kenn farmer who took 17 sheep to market last month to find that the Meat and Livestock Commission Levy and Auctioneers Fees amounted to more than their worth, so he had to GIVE them away rather than bring them home again.

~~~~~  
Next time you are in a supermarket paying a fortune for a leg of lamb remember this tale.

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work and gave a very graphic picture of the ignorance and prejudice still shown.

But there were many good things too amongst which was the support given to and by the parents involved.

There is now a database so information can be accessed quickly in any part of the country.

Mr. Leimdorfer suggested that people with learning difficulties could enrich many areas of life if they are encouraged to do so. Weston Tech. has helped and now there are about 130 students doing courses there.

As this was our AGM reports were given by our Asst. Sec. Mrs. Stowell and Treasurer Mrs. Crawley. Miss Holtham said how much she had enjoyed her second year as President and thanked everyone for their support, especially her very good Committee. All these ladies agreed to stand again for 1999. There was a vote for President and to our pleasure Miss Holtham was unanimously voted in again !

At next month's meeting on 9th December there will be a Beetle Drive. There will be the usual Post Box for Christmas Cards - for delivery to Kenn W.I. members only please - and the donations given in lieu of postage will go to the ACWW.

## **KATHLEEN BUSH**

Everyone who knew Mum will have their own reason for smiling when they think of her. When people describe her, whether they knew her

for a lifetime or just a short while, they use the same words "friendly, gracious, gentle".

Everything Mum needed to do she did well. We was a hard working daughter, loving wife, caring mother and a truly outstanding Granny. As for Mum, as a mother-in-law I sometimes thought we were living out the Book of Ruth.

Mum's talents were many and with her legendary culinary skills and a great love of gardening she made a secure and loving home for us all. She had a great knowledge of literature and the arts, and a mind like a razor when it came to crosswords. She was also a wonderful listener; folk felt better when they talked to her.

Having spent most of her life within sight of her birthplace Dowlais Farm, Mum moved with Dad to Chalford near Stroud in 1988 when they semi-retired. This opened up a new chapter in her life, becoming a popular member of the village, among a varied crowd of people from all walks of life.

Until a few weeks ago Mum and Dad would spend a couple of days a week at the farm, where she gave us all invaluable support, be it wrestling with the AGA to produce stupendous meals at silage time and family gatherings, or collecting children from school or football or dancing.

The wonderful gathering at her Thanksgiving Service was worthy testimony to her popularity. It was a privilege to know her, and fun !!

Julia Bush.

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY IN DECEMBER:

### Kenn Village Green

#### 7.00 pm. Friday 18th December

Christmas Tree lighting and Carol  
Singing then mince pies - Everyone  
welcome.

### Kenn Village Hall

Wednesday 2nd December  
Christmas Tea Party, 3pm.

Friday 4th December - Private Party

Monday 7th December  
- Parish Council Meeting 7.30 pm.

Wednesday 9th December  
- Kenn W.I. Meeting at 7.30 pm.  
- Beetle Drive  
- Competition 'Three Mincepies'  
- Christmas Post for Members.

Saturday 12th December  
- Christmas Party and Disco  
- 8.00-midnight

Wednesday 23rd December  
- Kenn Children's Party, 3.00 pm

Monday evenings  
(except December 7th)  
- Keep Fit, 7.45pm. with  
Jacqui Curwen

Thursday Evenings  
- Bums, Tums and Thighs  
- Keep Fit, 8pm with Sue.

## KENN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Members were welcomed to the  
November Meeting by Miss Holtham  
and she thanked Mrs Bubb for her  
colourful winter flowers. We were all  
very sorry to hear of Mrs. Holtham's  
illness, and all our good wishes go to  
her for a speedy recovery.

Last month's Speaker, Mrs.  
Cruikshank, had kindly given her fee  
towards the Clevedon Hospital  
Building Fund.

Kenn has come third in the Best Kept  
Village Competition and was also  
"The Most Improved".

Mrs. Harris and Mrs. Hacker enjoyed  
the Fashion Through the Ages at  
Failand.

A W.I. Carol Service will be held at  
Tickenham on Monday 7th December.

Our Skittles Team lost to Whitchurch  
at Barrow. Southern Clevedon have  
invited eight of our members to join  
them and others from the Group at a  
practice match at Kingston Seymour.

Final arrangements for the Christmas  
Flower Demonstration were made.  
The demonstrator will be Mrs. J.  
Barton and everyone is welcome.  
Tickets available or you can pay at the  
door - £3.00 each includes  
refreshments and there will be a Trade  
Stall.

The Speaker, Mr. Leimdorfer, had  
gallantly stepped in at very short  
notice for Mr. Evans. In spite of this  
he gave a very informative talk about  
his work as Educational Advisor for  
MENCAP. He obviously enjoys the

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## On Waking Up

The slide show included looking at today's changing face of the docklands. The old walled city of Bristol can still be seen in small areas, e.g. St. John's church and gate. Within this area there is a wide diversity of architecture depicting how each generation has contributed to the development of Bristol. One member of the History group can remember collecting the only clean drinking water from St. John's conduit in W.W.II.

It is hoped to take a summer trip, not only to visit Medieval Bristol, but to ensure one of our party, who has not visited Bristol in 40 years, is made to change his ways !!!

As always the Kenn History group would like to thank John and Grace Griffin for their hospitality.

Mandy Boyle

## Musical Words

The following was seen on the door of a music store in Farnham:-

"Gone Chopin. Back in a Minuet"

to which had been added:-

"Tried Handel, but you were Haydn"

Cliff Edwards.

\*\*\*\*\*

The strident note beside  
I am re-born  
Events past, & expectations sweet  
Do not diminish  
Sleeps tenacious hold.

Have I laid here long ?  
Has sweet sleep reclaimed me  
For a moment, or an hour ?  
But panic does not bestir me yet,  
And mind's mirror displays  
A hazy preview of the coming day  
With gladness or distaste.

Eyes closing once more ?  
But no !  
I stand bewildered on the lonely floor  
Body a victim  
Of brain's coarse command.  
I am awake  
For better or for worse,  
This day.

Cliff Edwards

## Kenn Valley Social Club

Tel. 01934 832086

Friday 18th December 7.30-12.00  
Gentleman's Evening  
Featuring Comedian "Gil Morris"  
plus 2 strippers  
Tickets now available £7.00 each

~~~~~  
Christmas Eve 7.30-12.00
Family Disco Party

~~~~~  
Christmas Day 11.30am-1.30pm  
Bring the Family and Friends along for  
a Pre-Xmas Lunch drink and compare  
your best and worst presents.  
~~~~~

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Christmas 1998 - Altar Guild St. John the Evangelist, Kenn

December Rota -

Week 1 - 6th December
- Mrs J. Fenwick
- Mrs J. Pascoe

Week 2 - 13th December
- Mrs R. Bell
- Mrs G. Griffin

Week 3 - 20th December
- Mrs H. Jenkins
- Mrs M. Stowell

Week 4 - Friday 25th Christmas
 - 27th December
- Mrs M. Mackay
- Mrs S. Clark

Would ladies please decorate their windows etc. for the Carol Service on 20th December.

Many thanks to everyone.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Jean and Iris.

The Church in Kenn

Sunday 1st November was a wonderful day for church attendance at Kenn. at the 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion Service there were seventeen people present, this is something of a record for modern times.

The 11.00 a.m. Family Service had over seventy people present; during

this service Molly Jane was baptised, she is the first daughter of Nicholas and Joanna Cheek.

There were many members of the family there including Great Grandfather Sam Staples from Kenn Pier.

Although the Cheek family do not live in Kenn, Joanna is an Electoral Roll member of this church and always takes part in the decoration of our church for festivals.

The Service of Carols and Lessons

The Service of Carols and lessons will take place at 6.00 p.m. on Sunday 20th December, it is hoped there will be the usual large congregation.

The Annual Crib Service will take place as usual on Christmas Eve at 3.00 pm.

A Family Communion Service will be held at 11.00 am on Christmas morning.

Kenn History Group

The Kenn History Group's November meeting was very well attended. A slide show about Bristol outlined Bristol origins, dockland development and medieval town. Bristol began as a small town at the lowest bridging point on the River Avon, now called Bristol Bridge. From there the town grew to 10,000 people in 1381 with the influence of the docks making Bristol the second largest city in the UK after London.

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BIRD NEWS I

Fieldfare and Redwing numbers have started to build up with the onset of some northerly winds and there are some very large flocks in mid Somerset - 1,500 on Chilton Moor.

On a couple of clear evenings I have heard Redwings calling as they pass over, probably heading for the warmer climes of Southern France.

Birds are coming more into gardens as we move into winter (temperature wise rather than rain wise!) and a Reed Bunting has been a visitor to a neighbour's garden. We even managed a brief visit from a party of Long Tailed Tits to our garden.

Yesterday (21st November) we went to see a starling roost at Shapwick Heath estimated to hold a million birds. It was a truly amazing spectacle with flocks arriving from every direction and then masses wheeling and turning against a splendid sunset.

We saw a lone Sparrowhawk patrolling the roost and a Marsh Harrier (probably one of "superdad's offspring) disturbed from a reed bed by the starlings.

Trevor Riddle.

BIRD NEWS II

A fine Green Woodpecker has been visiting several gardens in Kenn Street recently. Redwings and Fieldfares are around in ever increasing numbers, one very large flock was seen making

its way down the coast at Kingston Seymour.

Flocks of wood pigeons have been having a banquet in the field where maize has been recently cut for silage, there is a lot of wastage behind the large machines that do this harvesting.

A Sparrowhawk has been busy hunting starlings around Nailsea Wall, one small flock took refuge underneath Jeff Naish's van while he was checking his sheep after a long chase by the Hawk. The next day a starling actually landed on Jeff's boot to get away from the Hawk after being singled out.

Ray Naish.

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Boxing Day 12 noon - midnight
Our new "soft play" equipment will be available in our family room to entertain the children to give you time to relax and enjoy a few drinks at the bar. We will be holding a Disco during late afternoon until closing time.

New Year's Eve - Party Night
7.30-1.30 - Everyone welcome - coach travel to and from club - plus hot and cold buffet. All inclusive.
Advance tickets £5 per adult.

January 28th 1999 - 7.30 - 12.00
Ladies Night -
Featuring "Adrian Varcoe"
(Comedy Drag Artiste)
Plus 2 male strippers
Tickets £7

Best Kept Village Competition

Kenn was the host village for the presentation of awards for the Best Kept Village Competition this year.

A huge number of people came to Kenn from all over the former Avon area to collect their awards and prizes on 14th November. It is impossible to name all the prize winners; there must have been around fifty school children from all over the area attending with their families to collect their awards for art work and hand writing.

Kenn won third prize in the Small Villages Class, it also won an award for the most improved Village this year. Mrs. Ruth Dyer accepted the awards on behalf of the people of Kenn, there were two trees and a certificate, also a cheque.

Tickenham were the winners in this class with Hanham Abbots the runners up.

If any parishioners would like to make suggestions about where these trees may be planted would they please tell a member of the Parish Council.

Ray Naish.

A letter of thanks has been received from the C.P.R.E. re the Prizegiving from the Organiser of the Village of the Year Competition Margaret Hunt.

She writes:

Dear Mrs Dyer,

C.P.R.E. wishes to express its grateful thanks to you and the ladies of the committee for your warm welcome on November 14th when the Kenn Village Hall was used as venue for the Village of the Year Competition prize giving.

Many thanks, too, to the male members of the village community who attended to front of house matters in advance of our arrival.

The success of the event was undoubtedly aided by the professional way in which arrangements were made, from booking of the Hall to provision of coffee and biscuits. It is one of C.P.R.E.'s most important social functions, so smooth running is essential.

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by Pip Jenkins

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