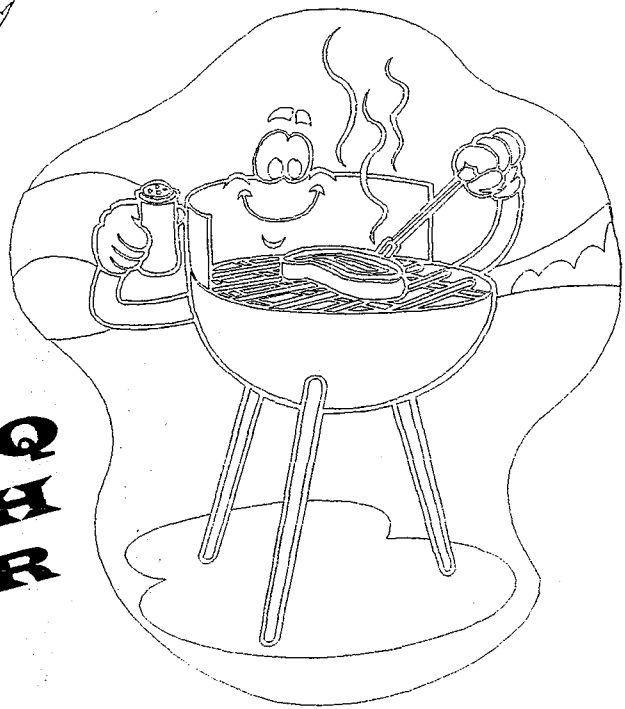


# KENN NEWS AND VIEWS



**FUN RUN  
SUNDAY 6th  
SEPTEMBER**

**HARVEST BBQ  
SUNDAY 13TH  
SEPTEMBER**



Editor Sheila NAISH

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# KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

### September

3rd - Renee Russell  
7th - Mr. Holtham  
7th - Mike and Joan Stephens (W.A.)  
8th - Mrs. Hilda Staples  
8th - Matthew Hayden  
18th - Jean Fenwick  
19th - Justine Flower  
20th - Jessica Quinn  
20th - Clive & Suzanne Golding-Ellis  
(W.A.)  
24th - Iris and Dennis Goldsworthy  
(W.A.)  
25th - Caroline and John Hayden  
(W.A.)  
26th - Joanna (Staples) Cheek  
27th - Mark and Yvonne Ayres (W.A.)  
28th - Heather Jenkins

### Message from Editor

Hope to see you all, fit, well and rested after your summer holidays. All ready for the FUN RUN on the 6th.

### Naish's Notes

All good wishes to Vince and Ann Stowell and baby Bethany. Bethany has been seriously ill in hospital with Meningitis. Thankfully she is now home. The most welcome news we have had in a long time. Our love to you all.

Sign seen on lorry - Maximum speed 56 mph - please walk past.

## Words of Wisdom

Look on the world as a big fruitcake - it wouldn't be complete without a few nuts in it.

## FUN RUN

We need books, bric a brac and raffle prizes please !

Offers of help too!

Please come and support us !

✓ The Cottage Hospital is used by most of us at some time, so it's a very deserving cause.

## CHURCH NOTES

The Harvest Thanksgiving Services this year will be held on September 13th.

There will be the usual Family Service at 11 a.m. when children are invited to bring gifts which will be distributed to the sick and elderly later in the week.

Festal Evensong will be held at 6 p.m..

After this Service at about 7.00 p.m.. there will be a Special Harvest Supper in the Village Hall. All are welcome to attend the Harvest Supper, even if you are not able to attend the Service.

# KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

## St. John's Altar Guild

### September Rota

Mrs. J. Stowell, Mrs. J. Naish  
and Mrs. S. Pugh

Harvest Festival -  
Sunday 13th September.

### Birthday Party

After the Family Service on 2nd August a surprise Birthday Party was held in the church. This was to celebrate Jack Hanson having reached his three score years and ten.

Jack seldom misses a sung service in the church and is a friend of everyone who attends. The congregation shared with Jack a birthday cake, cups of coffee and a couple of bottles of wine given by members of the congregation.

Jack was so generous in handing out his birthday cake that he only had two small pieces left for himself.

The Church family greatly enjoyed sharing in Jack's birthday party, especially as he has no family living in this area.

He was also given a birthday card signed by everyone in the church. There were thirty eight people present.

The 2nd of August was a good day for church attendance at Kenn; there was a record number of twenty people at the 8.00 a.m. Communion Service that morning.

Ray Naish.

### THOUGHT TO PONDER

All spirituality requires a strong element of mystery and ambiguity; for if it were not so, logic would sterilise the human soul and certainties would render hope impossible.

R.L. (C.E.)

### THANKS

Vincent, Ann and Margaret Stowell would like to thank everyone for their prayers and kind thoughts while Bethany was in the I.T.U. department of the Bristol Children's Hospital with meningitis. Thankfully our prayers were answered and she is now out of hospital and smiling again.

### THANKS

Jack Hanson would like to thank friends and neighbours of Kenn for his party, cards and good wishes on his birthday.

### THANKS

A very big thank you to Mrs. Mary Willcox for giving a new vacuum cleaner to the church. partly bought with the proceeds of her plant sales during the spring.

We are most grateful to her and for all her hard work with the plants.

### THANKS

Many thanks to everyone who supported the Coffee Morning at Jean Naish's in aid of St. John's Church

# KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

Heating. The total amount raised was £136.55.

Thank you also to the people who brought goods for the Bring and Buy and also for donations, not forgetting the ladies who served the coffee.

## **THANKS**

Nick and Joanna Cheek would like to thank everyone who sent cards and presents on the birth of their daughter Molly.

## **KENN NOTES - SNIPPETS**

### **Celebrations**

4th August - We were pleased to fly our flag to celebrate the ninety-eighth birthday of Her Majesty the Queen Mother.

And again on the 14th August to celebrate the ninetieth birthday of Mrs. Tripp of Nailsea Wall.

We wish both these nonagenarians many more happy birthdays.

### **Bereavement**

1st August. We were sorry to learn of the passing of Mr. Eric Pascoe at Yatton Hall.

Mr. Pascoe, father of Simon, lived in Kenn until his health deteriorated and he moved to Yatton Hall.

His funeral took place at Kenn Church on August 10th. We extend our sincere sympathy to Simon and Jenny and family on their great loss. We flew our flag at half mast on both days.

## **Patients**

Little Bethany Stowell has been very, very ill in Bristol Children's Hospital

Thanks to the wonderful skill of Doctors and Nurses she is now home. Our thoughts and prayers have been with Vincent and Ann during the time Bethany was so ill.

Lorraine Staples had a short stay in hospital - We are pleased to know she is home.

Mrs Jean Ings has recently had an operation carried out on her knee. We understand that she is now home and doing very well.

We wish Bethany, Lorraine and Jean a speedy recovery to good health.

## **Kenn Footpaths**

After waiting for many months, the footpaths around the Post Office and Bus Shelter have now been repaired.

## **Kenn Village Hall**

The Jumble Sale held on 19th August raised £120. Many thanks to those who supported it.

## **Kenn Womens' Institute**

12th August - Members of Kenn Women's Institute entertained sixteen members from North Newton W.I. to tea at Kenn Court.

# KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Sunday 6th September 3.00 pm.**  
**FUN RUN**

In aid of Clevedon Cottage Hospital.

**Wednesday 9th September 7.30 pm.**

Kenn W.I. meet at Kenn Village Hall.  
Mrs. Gregson will speak on "A Winter Garden".

Competition "A Miniature Garden"  
All ladies welcome.

**Monday 14th September and then**  
**every Monday at 8.00 p.m.**

Keep Fit Class with Mrs. Curwood

**Thursdays - 8pm-9pm**

"Bums, Tums and Thighs"  
with Sue Gilbert.

Ruth Dyer

## **Neighbourhood Watch**

There have been a series of very expensive thefts in the area. A caravan from a farm yard which was taken in the early morning and it was done so quietly that no one heard it.

A vast quantity of very saleable items have been stolen from cars parked near houses. All the cars had their windscreens broken and all of the items were visible.

Please, please make sure that any valuables are not left in cars overnight.

I have a number of leaflets on security locks for garages with up and over doors.

If you would like one, please phone  
D. Goldsworthy 877392

## **BEST KEPT VILLAGE**

We are pleased to be able to report that Kenn has got into the second round of the Best Kept Village competition and we have been given an award for the "Most improved Village of the year".

Ray Naish

## **ATTENTION ALL PAST KENN SCHOOL CHILDREN !!**

We are looking for your memories, experiences, old books, school reports, photos and any surviving handicrafts and uniforms to help us with our display for the Millenium of Kenn Through the Ages.

We would like to take photocopies of any suitable items and will take great care of any artefacts we might be offered.

If you would like to pass on any comments to the "Education Team" we would love to hear from you.

Please 'phone Wendy 877923 or  
Many 874368 or Gill 876591.

# KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

## BIRD NEWS 1

Last month's edition of K.N. & V included lots of local bird news, so perhaps I can start by saying that I was sorry to miss the History Group trip to the Gordano Valley and the Barn Owl.

Barn Owls do look very big if you are lucky enough to see one closely: as with many species of birds of prey, the wings are very large in relation to the body size.

David Glasson comments on the dearth of Kingfisher sightings in May and June. Well I didn't see any either and I believe that during breeding Kingfishers generally become much more elusive. Perhaps as the small fish become plentiful they are able to feed in a very small and undisturbed area.

Spotted Flycatchers are definitely in decline but the Yatton Swifts seemed to be in good numbers this year - they have gone as usual by early August.

Swifts are truly amazing birds: they sleep, feed and mate on the wing. It has recently been discovered that they make feeding flights round the back of weather fronts, lasting several days and covering perhaps a thousand miles. This is why they are not seen in bad weather: they are feeding in good weather many miles away.

David also mentioned the Bittern and the English Nature warden at Shapwick Heath tells me that there was a male 'booming' in the spring but it is thought that no female arrived. Despite the contrived creation of large reed beds in the Brue Valley, with only a dozen or so breeding pairs of Bitterns in Britain colonisation is likely to be slow and erratic.

Whilst talking of the Brue Valley reedbeds there is an addition/correction of last month's Marsh Harrier news. Unbeknown to me the male (superdad?) fathered a further four chicks - making nine in all - at a secret site several miles from his other mates. At the end of July there were fourteen Marsh Harriers in the area!

Turning now to Ray's notes. I believe that the Woodpecker is very unlikely to have been a Wryneck. Wrynecks are very rare and are not known to breed in England now. They do turn up in Autumn though, quite often in gardens.

As Ray says it seems to have been a good year for Green and Great Spotted Woodpeckers. Lesser 'peckers remain a very local and scarce bird in our area but they do favour old orchards.

The Red Kite sighting was very welcome. There has been a bird wandering around Somerset for a few months now, probably part of the re-introduction scheme. This scheme is proving to be very successful, in fact chicks are now being relocated from the Chilterns where the species is well established to other parts of the country.

The Moth News was very interesting and the two Privet Hawk Moths must have been an amazing sight.

Finally, whilst driving through the roadworks in Kenn, I witnessed a Peregrine Falcon zooming after a Wood Pigeon ..... as usual it didn't catch it.

Trevor Riddle - 01934 835208

# KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

## BIRD NEWS 2

A Wheatear was spotted by the Black Ditch recently, the first one reported lately. I saw about a dozen young Lapwings or Peewits in a field near the Little River perhaps they were hatched nearby.

We have had about six pairs of Swallows nesting in the buildings here at Stonehouse Farm this summer.

The last brood left the nest on August 23rd. I think there are still young in some of the nests now at the end of August.

Mr and Mrs. Webb who live in the Old Chapel saw a Sparrow Hawk kill and eat a small bird in their garden.

In last month's News and Views there were reports of a strange woodpecker type bird of steel grey colouring being seen around the Village. John and Grace have now seen a pair of them in their garden. They also report that their daughter and her husband who live in Stonehaven, Scotland saw a Peregrine Falcon kill and eat a pigeon on their lawn - they managed to film it happening.

Ray Naish.

## KENN FUN RUN 1998

### 6th September

This year's 3 mile run starts at 3 o'clock sharp from Kenn Village Hall, Kenn Street.

**Sponsor forms available from**

**Sheila Naish**

**01934 838357**

**or Kenn Valley**

**01934 832986**

We have a Fun Jog for the Kids and not so fit and "walkers".

We have a BBQ, Raffle, Various Stalls, Games for Adults and Kids.

There will be Henna Body Painting.

Vintage Cars, Motor Bikes, Tractors etc. will be on display. Later on in the afternoon there will be a demonstration of Line Dancing. Come along and have a go.

Outdoor skittles competition.

There is a Tug of War competition organised - Teams of 8 required. Team details to Sheila Naish or Kenn Valley beforehand if possible.

Licensed Bar all Afternoon

All welcome - A fun afternoon for all the family.

**ALL PROCEEDS TO THE  
NEW WING OF  
CLEVEDON COTTAGE  
HOSPITAL.**



# KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

## KENN HISTORY GROUP (August)

The arrival of summer in Kenn, coincided with the August meet of our History Group. So, on a beautifully sunny and still evening, we set off in convoy to visit Woodspring Priory.

Woodspring Priory is owned by the Landmark Trust, which is a charity founded in 1965 and devoted to the rescue of worthwhile buildings which are then restored and subsequently let out for very fine holidays. Landmark have owned the Priory since 1969.

It is situated on flat ground hard by the sea that is part of Sand Bay and quite near to Kewstoke. On arrival, and when standing within the grounds of the Priory, there is an air of peacefulness, serenity, quietness and isolation.

All of us there found the place to be pleasurable and uplifting. Thomas Hardy would certainly have said this to be "far from the madding crowd".

Originally much of the area around was open to the sea, with islands of higher ground scattered about. Years of drainage, and improved sea defences have left it as it is today, very flat but still low lying.

We were met by Mr. Cook, who is the resident guide and curator, and lives in an adjoining cottage. He related to us, in some detail, the chequered history of the site.

Worspring, as it was once known, was founded in the early 13th Century by William de Courteney, for Augustinian Canons of the Order of St. Victor de Paris. The Courteney family came to

England after the Norman invasion and became big landowners in the West Country. Interestingly, the founder was a descendant of one of the assassins of St. Thomas Becket and his martyrdom is depicted on the Priory Seal.

By the 15th Century, the original church had been replaced by a completely new church. Today the outline of the original foundations can still be seen and related to the later building. The new Church must have been a gem, because even now some of the original features can be seen and admired as outstanding architectural craftsmanship.

Over the passing years, excavations have revealed some interesting stone carvings and small artefacts which can be seen in the small museum inside the Hall.

Part of the remains of one carving shows a knight's armoured foot resting on a dog. Such knights, during their warring days could pay an annuity so that later on, in their later years they could live out their days in the peace of the cloisters.

Evidence too was found showing part of the food eaten at that time, in the shape of hundreds of oyster shells.

Sometimes, some of the encumbants did not live up to their holy orders and had to be punished or banished for such crimes as bad language, misbehaving during the service and even for wandering outside the precincts without permission.

Eventually in 1534, King Henry VIII began to dissolve the monasteries and the church was stripped of much of its beauty, especially the interior, because

## KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

in those days the insides of churches were rich in colour and ornament. At the end of the Reformation the final break with Rome was almost complete. The Tower however, remained and still remains. It is 65 feet high and is of the same class as Dunster and Othery. Some restoration was done in 1829 and it is still a prominent and lovely local landmark.

By now Worspring had become Woodspring and down the years the Priory had a succession of owners. By the end of the 17th Century it came into the possession of the family known as Smythe-Pigott. In 1825 this family commissioned a well-known and respected local architect to make fine drawings of the buildings and then to supervise careful renovations, especially of the tower.

Late in the 19th Century it was owned by a local surgeon and he used some of the grounds and surroundings as a golf course for himself and friends.

We went into one of the exquisite rooms which may have been used as their Club House and is still furnished as it then was, so it was easy to imagine these gentlemen; sitting down after their round of golf, to enjoy a smoke and another round of a fine malt or vintage claret.

In 1969 the Priory passed into the hands of Landmark Trust. It is accessible to the public, being open every day from 10 am to 7 pm. Finally we saw the old Infirmary which still has its original dirt floor. The main feature of this annexe is the 15th Century roof which is the only medieval timberwork surviving at Woodspring. The craftsmanship has to be seen to be appreciated.

With the sun setting, and the light beginning to become twilight it was time to go, but I sensed a reluctance to leave by all of us who had come to see this ancient religious shrine.

I pondered on how it must have been for these pious men, to live and pray all those years ago in their remote community.

Perhaps a verse from Grays Elegy sums it up:-

"Far from the madding crowd's  
ignoble strife  
Their sober wishes never learned to  
stray,  
Along the cool sequestered vale of life  
They kept the noiseless tenor of their  
way."

Before we left John Griffin thanked Mr. Cook on our behalf for the interesting commentary. Our thanks too go to Grace Griffin for arranging the visit.

Cliff Edwards.

Post Script:-

Sometimes you will meet people who live near a famous or interesting place and they will surprise you by saying that not only have they not visited that place, but often, do not know of its existence.

I felt a bit like that about Woodspring Priory, because although I know of it, I had never visited it and could not know of its serene beauty and tranquility on such a summers night.

I commend a visit.

# KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

## HISTORY GROUP WALK

The last walk of the year will take place on Tuesday 8th September. The venue will be Yeo Bank Farm at Kingston Seymour; by kind permission of Nigel and Linda Cole. We shall meet at Stonehouse Farm at 6.45 pm to arrive at Kingston at 7 pm.

Ray Naish.

## WELCOME

We extend a warm, if belated, welcome to Sarah Tauwhare and Simon Dawson who have moved into White Cottage in Kenn Street.

## Mr. Eric Pascoe

Mr. Pascoe passed away recently at Yatton Hall Nursing Home aged 83.

When living in Kenn he was known as a very friendly man who talked to people with an almost old-fashioned politeness. Many villagers got to know him as he strolled up the road on the way to the Post Office taking several rests on the way.

Mr. Pascoe enjoyed attending the Christmas parties in the Hall and talking to people he had never met before. The guests there found him very easy to chat to.

A Cornishman by birth, a place he liked to return to, he was a member of Redruth Cricket Club and their secretary. I am told everyone there referred to him as the "Colonel", a title that fitted him perfectly.

Mr. Pascoe served in the army throughout the last war, spending much of that time in North Africa and later in Sicily and Italy.

He had only one job in his life as secretary with the same company.

His funeral service was held in Kenn Church, there were many villagers present.

Our sympathy is extended to Simon, Jenny, Ian and Mark on their sad loss. The family had looked after him wonderfully when he was living in his home in Kenn Street.

Ray Naish

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Did you see anything suspicious between 10.30 pm and 7.30 am on Thursday 20/8/98 ?

**A laptop computer  
Mobile Phone  
and  
Filofax**

were stolen from a green Rover parked outside Merlin Cottage, Duck Lane, Kenn.

If anyone did notice anything untoward, please do not hesitate to contact Tony or Monica Carter-Burns on 01275 342324.

And remember "Keep 'em peeled"

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