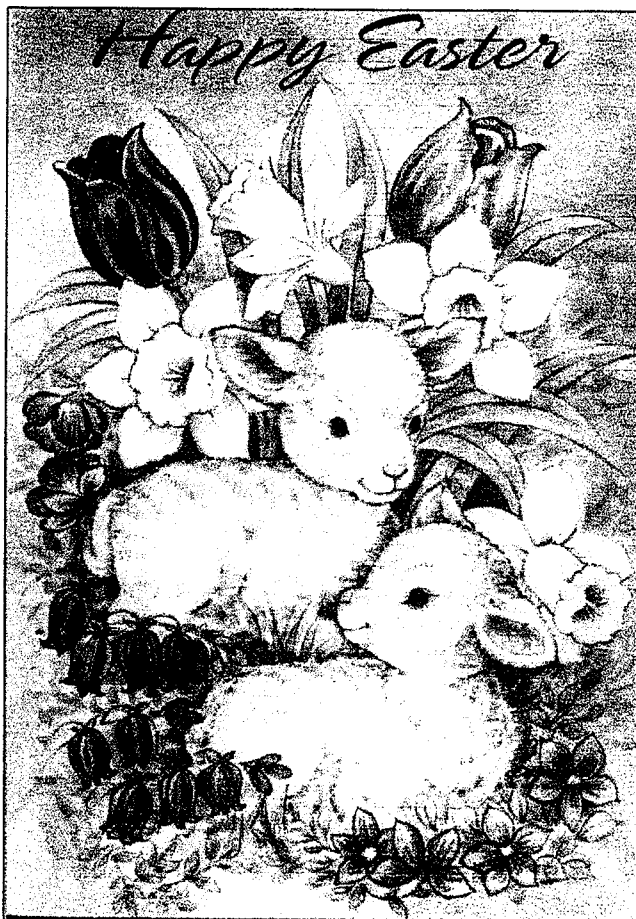


KENN NEWS AND VIEWS



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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

KENN NOTES - SNIPPETS

Christenings

March 14th, India Lily, little daughter of Becky and Robert, granddaughter of Margaret and John Bessant and great-granddaughter of Mr. Sam Staples of Riverside Farm, Kenn was christened at Kenn Church. Our flag was flown in celebration.

March 28th, Rebecca Mary Frances, sister of Matthew and daughter of John Hayden and Caroline Holden of Chapel Cottage was christened at All Saints Church, Clevedon. Our flag was flown in celebration.

Blessing

March 28th. A Blessing was held at St. Johns, Kenn following the marriage of Deborah Barnes (Bush) and Michael Witherspoon. Our flag was flown in celebration.

Tea Party

A WRVS Tea Party was held at Kenn Court on Monday March 8th when thirteen Senior Citizens were entertained. My sincere thanks to Mrs. Whitehead, Mrs. Lamb and Sarah Clarke.

R.M.Dyer

Dates for your diary

At Kenn Village Hall

2.00 pm - Wednesday 7th April
Kenn Women's Institute are holding a **JUMBLE SALE** for funds.
Many stalls - admission 20p.
Goods to Hall 10 am-11 am morning of sale.

Monday 12th April 7.30 pm.
Kenn Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 14th April - Kenn W.I. Meeting. Speaker T. Riddle.

Wednesdays (except 2nd in month)
Keep Fit with Jacqui Curwen 8.00 - 9.00 pm.

Thursdays - 8.00 - 9.00 pm. Keep Fit with Sue Gilbert

Advance Notice

24th 25th July - Kenn thro' the Ages including Friends of Kenn Church Barbecue.

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Kenn Village Hall - Quiz

A very successful Quiz Evening was held at Kenn Village Hall when thirteen teams endeavoured to answer questions set by Quiz Master Mr. Nigel Hackett, with Mrs. Gill Hackett keeping score.

The DUNNOS triumphed.

The runners were Christopher and Richard Jaehme, Andrew Jenkins and Thomas Pike.

An excellent Ploughman's Supper, provided by Mike and Lita of The Drum and Monkey was much enjoyed.

A warm thank you to those who gave raffle prizes and to everyone who supported the evening. £85.60 was the profit for Kenn thro' the Ages.

The Annual Vestry Meeting - St. John's

The annual Vestry Meeting of our Church was held on Sunday 7th March, after Morning Service and a total of 31 people attended.

Rev. John Cruse introduced the meeting, thanking everyone for their attendance.

The previous Vestry Meeting had been held on a 1st March 1998. Minutes of that meeting were read and approved.

At the '98 meeting, Mrs. Renee Bell and Mr. Raymond Naish were elected as Church Wardens.

Nominations for the Offices of Church Warden for 99/00 were as follows:-

1. Mrs. Renee Bell: proposed Jean Naish, seconded Kathleen Cawston.

2. Mr. Raymond Naish: proposed Cliff Edwards, seconded John Griffin.

There being no other nominations, the appointments as above were made without dissent.

John Cruse then thanked the Church Wardens for their past unstinting work for St. John's Church. Also thanked were the organist Mrs. Mary Holmes and all the other lay people who give time and effort to the efficient running of our church. A round of applause was given to all helpers.

Grace was said and the meeting ended at 12.15

Cliff Edwards

KENN ALTAR GUILD

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

MOTHERING SUNDAY

The Service held on Mothering Sunday was probably the best attended ever. Around ninety people were in the Church. During the service India Lily Bessant was baptised by the Reverend Mary Welsh. India is from the Staples family and there were four generations of her family in the church; headed by great-grandfather Sam Staples. In fact around a quarter of the congregation had Staples family connections.

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Members of the Sunday Club acted a short play which was greatly appreciated by the congregation.

The collection was probably the largest ever taken here at a morning service.

It was rather disappointing that so few of this large congregation were actual Kenn residents, just thirty of them live in Kenn.

Ray Naish.

IN AND OUT OF HOSPITAL

Mr. Sam Dyer and Mrs. Jane Staples both spent time in hospital during March.

They are now home and would like to thank everyone for the cards and messages received.

KENN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

At the March Meeting Miss Holtham welcomed new member Mrs Heather Saxby, and Mrs Harris was thanked for her flowers.

The competition at the Spring Group Meeting, to be held at the Reform Church, Nailsea on 28th April, will be for a natural history photograph, minimum size 7" x 5" and maximum 10" x 8".

Mr. Anderson from Long Ashton Research Institute will be the Speaker.

There will be a W.I. Jumble Sale at Kenn Village Hall on 7th April at 2 pm.

Teams are required for Quiz Nights on 19th March in aid of Kenn through the Ages funds, and on 22nd March when Southern Clevedon W.I. will be holding theirs at Knightstone Court.

Southern Clevedon W.I. will be having a skittles evening at Kingston Seymour on 19th March.

Mrs. Stowell is arranging a friendly skittles evening to be held at Kenn Valley Social Club on 12th April the cost will be £1.50 per head and everyone is welcome.

Our Speaker, Mrs. Pat Davis's previous talk on Iceland had trouble with the projector, but this time everything went well. she showed some really stunning shots of what seems to be a beautiful, but desolate country. It must be a geologists' dream, being full of strange rock and lava formations. Sheep have been raised there since the 9th century but fishing is now the biggest industry. Their salted fish is a main export, especially to Japan. There is good salmon fishing available at \$2,000 per day. Another thriving industry is growing vegetables and fruit, even bananas, in greenhouses heated by the hot geysers which are such a feature of Iceland. It was interesting to see the tiny churches built on some of the old farms.

The competition for an unusual pebble was won by Mrs. Arney with Mrs Ings second and Mrs Dyer third.

The meeting on 14th April will have Mr.T. Riddle speaking on Birds of the Kenn Area and the competition will be for a bird ornament.

Shirley Livesey, Kenn
Tel. 871419

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BIRD NEWS I

It was interesting as always to read other people's bird news in the last issue of K.N. & V. There is little doubt that Sparrowhawks are becoming much more tolerant of human beings. Perhaps this is because they are not expecting to be shot these days, and their fear of man is slowly being eroded and of course to survive they need to visit gardens and indeed very urban areas.

Talking of which, the T.V. News covered a pair of Peregrine Falcons which have set up home on a church steeple in the centre of Bath.

The details of the Pied (partial albino) Blackbirds were fascinating and shows, I suspect, that albinism is passed down from one generation to another (many times). These plumage variations can make common birds difficult to identify - I have seen Chaffinch, Magpie and Reed Bunting in recent years and they all looked very different.

The Cheddar Valley Railway Local Nature Reserve had just been provided with a fine new path and proper access from Yatton Railway Station car park (near Grahams Builders). I commend it as a peasant walk, with good numbers of Song Thrushes and other resident birds, soon to be joined by Blackcaps, Whitethroats and all our other summer visitors. It is a lovely walk - do try it.

Trevor Riddle.

BIRD NEWS II

The Village is alive with birdsong from before daybreak until after dark, wherever I go around the area song thrushes are singing. We are very lucky here as song thrushes are scarce in some areas.

Twenty swans have been living out in Kenn Moor for the last couple of months, eighteen in one field. These all seem to be last year's young; they are still showing grey feathers. The field they are living in has nice long grass. It has been said that three swans eat as much as one sheep.

A Chiffchaff was heard in the Churchyard on 17th March. Chiffchaffs are generally the first summer visitors to arrive in this country.

There seems to be a large number of Blackbirds around here this spring. Mrs. Sally Whitehead has told me that several are nesting around her garden, they are doing quite a bit of damage pulling up small plants in her beautifully kept flower borders.

Ray Naish.

LOVE RUSSIA CONCERT

A concert at Clevedon Community Centre will be held on Wednesday 7th April at 7.30 pm, when Tanya Verba (violin) and Marina Koreva (piano) will play a selection of classical music.

Proceeds will go to the charity "Love Russia", which works with Russian orphans.

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Tickets are available from Leisure and Pleasure, Station Road, Clevedon or from Derrick Evans 875309.

JOHN JAMES

Earlier this year I mentioned that very well-known Kenn resident of yesteryear in News and Views, John James.

He was, in his day, Sexton at the Church, Chorister for seventy two years, Gravedigger, Undertaker, Builder, Carpenter and for a short time Churchwarden. The old Church records show that he attended every Vestry Meeting as a witness year after year. He lived at "The Poplars", Kenn Street, now "Latcham House" named after another prominent Kenn resident of early last century William Latcham. It is interesting to note that John James is buried on one side of the Church Porch and William Latcham on the other.

I was talking recently to senior resident Rowland Hazell who lived at "Manor Farm" for most of his life. Rowland can remember when John James was a Choirman; he told me that John always sat in the Sexton's seat next to the pulpit.

Rowland also told me that John generally went to sleep during the Reverend Walter Perks' boring sermons, but the Reverend always woke him up as he descended from the pulpit with a touch from his walking stick.

I have been thinking about the problems John James must have

encountered when he was about his business as an undertaker say one hundred years ago. It is worth remembering that the bereaved people he was dealing with, in most cases, were extremely poor, many of them farm workers.

Farm workers' wages had never risen above twelve shillings a week (in today's money sixty pence) before the First World War.

Imagine John being called up in the middle of the night by a poor man whose child had died of something like TB and being asked to arrange the funeral and burial. He would have known that whatever he did for that family he would probably never get paid for it; for the simple reason that the family had no money whatsoever. Sometimes the man would probably offer to give John half a crown (twelve and a half pence) a week when he could, but by doing this he would most likely have to keep his other children short of food to pay the debt.

Another Undertaker years ago was Willie Traves of Kingston Bridge who dealt with the burials at Kingston Seymour.

Willie probably had to deal with an even larger proportion of very poor families than John James, because Kingston was a self-contained village. Only one or two people left each morning to work elsewhere, the rest were either farmers; most of them small farmers, or farm workers who were very poorly paid; many of them had very large families.

At one time the School Mistress at Kingston was so concerned about some of her pupils being

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undernourished that she provided hot soup for them at lunchtime at her own expense.

My father, Victor Naish, was a pupil at Kingston School about a hundred years ago, I have heard him say that some of his fellow pupils came from such poor families that all they brought to school for dinner was bread spread with lard.

Some people talk about the good old days, what was good about it?

Ray Naish

