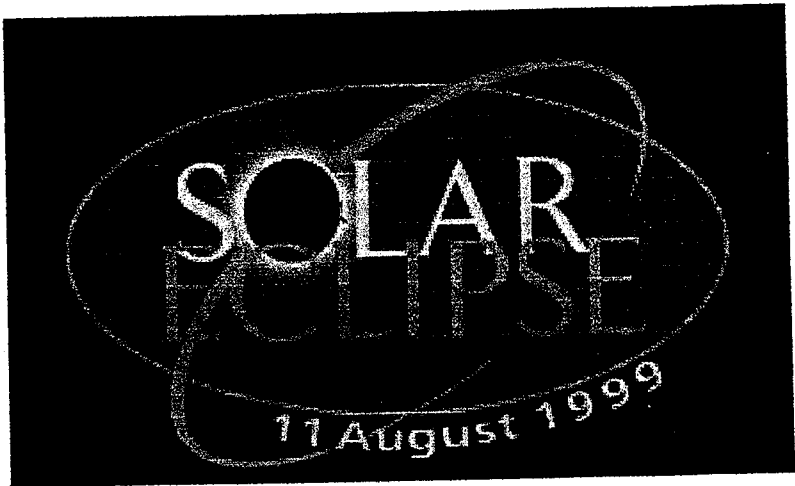


# KENN NEWS AND VIEWS



**THIS REALLY IS THE EVENT OF  
A LIFETIME AS THE LAST TIME  
A TOTAL ECLIPSE WAS VISIBLE  
FROM THE UK MAINLAND WAS  
ON 29/6/1927 AND THE NEXT  
WILL BE ON 23/9/2090**

**IN KENN WE WILL SEE A  
PARTIAL ECLIPSE OF OVER  
95%**

Editor Sheila NAISH

Printed by:- Margaret STOWELL

Issue No 132 August 1999

Typed by:- Ann STOWELL

# KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

August 3rd Clare and Louise Edwards  
6th Steve Bye  
7th Jack Hanson  
Ray Naish  
Lorraine Staples  
10th Stephen Brain  
14th Mrs Edith Tripp  
15th Jean Naish  
22nd Dave Quinn  
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

Holiday time is here, so we wish everyone a Happy Holiday and any funny stories or anecdotes you have - do please share with us.

Exam results are out now, we hope all our teenagers have done well.

## *Thought for the Month*

*A best friend is someone who knows all about you and still loves you*

## Naish's Notes

Note from Ray -

Priddy Fair this year will be held on 18th August. A great day out for the family.

## BBQ and Disco - Oakland Farm

Many thanks to everyone who turned up to support us to raise funds for the NSPCC Full Stop Appeal.

My thanks also to Johnny Hazell for keeping us dancing all night.

To Derek and Shirley Wall at Kenn Valley for their excellent bar which kept us "watered" (or plastered ??). and to the Stout family who did a brilliant job on the BBQ and fed us until way past midnight.

We had a really fun night, I've had many comments from people who enjoyed the party atmosphere.

We raised £483.50.

Oh, by the way, to the really mean, dishonest thief who STOLE the two litre bottles of Gin and Whisky that were going to be used as an additional fund-raising, roll £1 coin nearest to the bottle game which would have netted another £100 - may I say that I hope you felt your need was greater than the need of some poor bruised, battered, lonely desperate child, and I hope you had a nasty hangover, or even better were sick - if you drank the spirits.

I have been fund-raising for 20 odd years now and never before have I had money or anything "stolen" from one of my events. I am comforted that is was an "OUTSIDER" to one of my events and hopefully will remain one.

The donated raffle prizes were very welcome. Thank you to all.

Sheila

# KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

## **MILLENNIUM PARTY**

### **ADVANCE DIARY DATE**

**The Christmas/Millennium Party will be held at Kenn Village Hall on Saturday 11th December.**

This will of course be a very special party - nearest to the Millennium as we could get due to so many events taking place. It is also the last one that Johnny Hazell will do, as he is 'retiring' from Discos at the end of the year.

This will definitely be a night to remember - so book it in your diaries now. It will be first come first served for tickets, so be warned.

Watch this space for further details.

**National Meningitis Awareness Week** is from Monday 27th September to Sunday 3rd October.

The Meningitis Trust collects and utilises foreign coins. If anyone returns from their foreign holiday and has any left over coins they don't know what to do with, I am collecting them on their behalf.

Please let me, Ray, Margaret or Kenn Post Office have them. Thanks

**DIG DEEP !**

The Trust has a Web site for you computer buffs - it can be found on <http://www.meningitis-trust.org.UK>. and it gives loads of valuable info. Helpline No. 0845 6000 800

Sheila

## **Church News**

### **Thanks**

Very many thanks to Mary Willcox who has donated £150 to the Friends of Kenn Church Fund; proceeds from the sale of plants she had grown in her garden this spring.

### **Friends of Kenn Church Barbecue**

A very successful barbecue was held in the Village Hall Field on 17th July. Over £300 was raised. Around seventy people had a very enjoyable evening with a wonderful range of food on offer and a great opportunity to have a chat with friends and neighbours. There were games provided for the large number of children present.

Very many thanks to John and Grace Griffin for organising the evening to Simon and Jenny Pascoe for providing and cooking the food, to Ruth Dyer for her help in preparing the food and selling raffle tickets, to Margaret Stowell for the use of the field and chairs and to any others who helped in any way to make it a great Village event.

Ray Naish

### **Books for the Choir**

Mary Holmes, our organist, has bought and presented to the Church a new set of Psalm Books for the Choir. This is a very generous gift which is much appreciated by choir members.

Many thanks Mary from all your Choir.

# KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

## Coffee Morning with Bring & Buy in Aid of Friends of Kenn Church

Jean Naish will host a Coffee Morning at Stonehouse Farm on Wednesday 4th August 10-12 Noon.

Everyone Welcome !!

## St. John's Altar Guild

### August Rota

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

## VILLAGE NEWS

### Thanks

Members of the Parish Council would like to thank Dave Pugh for spending part of his holiday painting the new bus shelter.

Many people are commenting on its smart appearance.

### Sympathy

Sincere sympathy is extended to Joan Stevens and her family on the sudden death of Joan's mother Mrs Voisey who lived at Cleeve.

### Kenn thro' the Ages

Has anyone got any items of clothing from 'way back when' that I could borrow for a couple of days to display in the Village hall for Ken thro' the Ages in September.

Please give me a ring on 340771

Jane Staples

## Cancer Research Campaign

Well done Kenn !

A grand total of £81.29 was collected in a house-to-house collection in April.

Sorry for the delay, but I have only just got the receipt.

Thank you very much to Jean Fenwick, Joan Stevens and John Staples for their help.

Heather Jenkins

## Gymkhana Success

At the recent Woodspring Dog Show and Gymkhana, Kenn collie dogs put up a first class show and had a very successful day.

Jess Clark won several rosettes in the Gymkhana events alongside a daughter from her second litter of puppies, Jordan Bragg. One of her sons from her first litter of puppies, Ben Noad, was the "Best Turned Out Dog" and won many other classes to take the trophy for the most points in the show.

A really good fun afternoon was had by all and thanks to Di Lavelle and Nicky Povey for organising the event. All proceeds from the show went to W.A.S.P.

## Ragwort

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

# KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

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

## KENN VALLEY SUMMER SIZZLER

**Saturday 7th August 7.30 pm**

Featuring - Taste of Honey  
plus - Starship Abba

**Tickets £10.00  
to include Mixed Grill Platter**

Tickets from Kenn Valley Social Club  
- 01934 832086

## KENN NOTES - SNIPPETS

### Kenn Village Hall

The Kenn Village Hall Committee has decided that rents for the Hall for Kenn residents, will stay at:

Meetings	£10
Social Function	£25
Jumble Sale	£20
Children's Party	£15

The rents were last raised 1st September, 1992.

### JUMBLE SALE

Wednesday 25th August at 7 pm

A Jumble Sale will be held in aid of Hall Funds.

Offers of help will be appreciated.

Plants, books, toys, bric-a-brac, clothes etc., in fact anything saleable to the Hall 10am - 11 am morning of sale.

**Kenn 2000 Tea Towels - £3 each**  
Tea Towels, with designs in blue, drawn by Kenn artists are for sale from Ruth Dyer 872676 or Irene Stowell 872472 for Hall Funds.

### Dates for your Diary

#### **Quiz Night at The Drum and Monkey, Kenn**

Wednesdays 9.00 pm - Raffle and Prizes

#### **Bums, Tums and Thighs at Kenn Village Hall**

Thursdays 8-9 pm. Keep Fit with Sue Gilbert

**Wednesday 4th August 10-12 noon**  
**Coffee Morning with Bring & Buy**  
in Aid of Friends of Kenn Church at Stonehouse Farm, Kenn

#### **Saturday 7th August 7.30 pm** **at Kenn Valley Social Club**

Kenn Valley Summer Sizzler

#### **Wednesday 11th August at 7 pm** **Charity Evening organised by** **Kenn Women's Institute at Kenn Village Hall.**

The Coffee Evening in aid of our Charity for the Year, Clevedon Hospital, will be at Kenn Village Hall at seven o'clock on 11th August. Everyone is welcome to this event at a cost of £2 per head.

#### **Wednesday 25th August 7 pm** **Jumble Sale at Kenn Village Hall**

Proceeds to Village Hall Funds

### **ADVANCE NOTICES**

# KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

## Kenn thro' the Ages

**Saturday September 18th  
from 11am onwards.**

## Christmas/Millennium Party

11th December at Kenn Village Hall

## KENN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

On being welcomed to the July Meeting, members were sorry to hear from President Ann Holtham that North Newton WI were unable to join us. However, we are to visit them on 1st September.

The Triennial will be held sometime in June next year, but Resolutions must be in by 1st October.

Mrs Stowell had received the report from our delegate to the IGM and voting was as follows:

- 1) Steps to Halt the Decline of the Agricultural Industry - carried by 98%
- 2) A five-year moratorium on Genetically Modified Foods - carried by 95%
- 3) On National Screening for Ovarian Cancer - carried by 96%
- 4) On Women's Human Rights - carried by 98%

Letters had been sent to our MPs protesting at plans to pay all Social Security Benefits through banks and building societies. The MPs replies said they agreed with our views, that such a step would be detrimental to both recipients and village Post Offices. We had also received a reply from the Department concerned,

saying there had been no such plan to change the system !!

Nominations are required for Group Secretary. County is asking for ideas on small items to be buried in a Millennium Time Capsule.

Clevedon WI will be pleased to receive tinned goods for their stall at Clevedon Hospital's Fete on 14th August.

The Group Garden Party on 30th July will start at seven o'clock - WI members only please.

The Coffee Evening in aid of our Charity for the Year, Clevedon Hospital, will be at Kenn Village Hall at seven o'clock on 11th August. Everyone is welcome to this event at a cost of £2 per head.

Mrs Sykes, in her talk "Water Cascade", said it was untrue that

people only thought about water when there was either too much or too little. Many people enjoy sports on water and lakes and waterfalls fascinate most of us. It was a shock to hear that typhoid, which along with cholera, is assumed to have been eradicated in the last century, made an appearance in Croydon in 1936.

The competition for a slogan for water conservation was won by Mrs Bubb, second Mrs Ings and third Mrs Prew. There is no Meeting in August, the next one being 18th September when Mrs P. Garrison will speak on "How to Use your Loaf" and the competition will be for three scones.

Shirley Livesey

# KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

## Kenn History Group

### June Report - Naish House Farm

The Group met for the June walk at Stonehouse Farm, and together with our loyal friends from Kingston Seymour, the number was quite good.

In contrast to the May meet, when the weather had been wet, this time it was fine, with a bright sun shining from a cloudless sky.

The walk was a repeat of the May occasion to Naish House Farm, which had been so wet, that only the buildings and not the surroundings had been viewed. The background and history of the farm was fully written up by Mandy.

Our evening became a leisurely stroll in warm evening sunshine, through green fields, high meadows and wooded knolls. Actually, for some of the time, we were on a public right of way and a few days ago, one of Ray's sons, up there tending his animals, saw two middle-aged walkers sitting on a log munching sandwiches.

"What do you think of it here?" he asked "This place today" they replied "is the loveliest place in the world", so too, did it seem to us.

From the high meadow, we could look down and across the full width of the lovely Gordano Valley. To our right could be seen the Portbury Dock area and beyond that, shrouded in the evening haze, the two Severn Crossings.

Slightly to the left and down a bit, were the turrets of Clapton in Gordano Church, which due to its position with

respect to the Motorway, is now not much used.

Further below at the bottom of the Valley, the motorway traffic noisily rushed, hurrying along in both directions. It is a great pity that the road had to cut right through this particularly lovely area. Many hundreds of trees had to be cut down (the burning of them took weeks to complete) to make way.

Much local stone was quarried and blasted out for the road and local craftsmen were used to create the dual level hereabouts. It must be said however, that the motorway is a 'mixed blessing', keeping the heavy traffic away from our villages.

Moving on to more of the fields, we could see how extensive is the estate, being about 150 acres, all well kept, well preserved and well maintained.

The wooded areas were particularly pleasing to the eye, with tall oaks and even taller, the straight, smooth trunks of birch and ash. Behind the fencing, wild flowers abounded.

As we returned to the lower fields, lambs and calves were gambolling in the evening sunshine, paying little attention to us. One or two calves through were quite inquisitive, peering at us from behind the safety of mum.

We also saw one of the old barns, that Mr. Filey has restored to use as luxury rented accommodation. Interestingly, he still kept the old East/West Door System. This system was used at one time during the threshing and winnowing season. Both doors were kept open and the prevailing wind helped to separate the wheat from the

## KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

chaff. Old pulleys and shafts that were used with the steam engines at that time also were preserved and fixed to the outside wall of the barn as a feature.

Before leaving this green and pleasant place, we noticed how abundant was the fragrant elder flower. For wine makers a rich harvest indeed.

The company thanked Ray for organising our walk, and we went home with the sun still not set, to a well earned cup of tea. I wish to thank Ray for the picturesque drive home, past the very beautiful Tickenham Church.

Cliff Edwards.

### July History Group Walk

The July walk took place at "Yew Tree Farm", Kingston Seymour, by kind

permission of Richard and Anita Simmons.

On arrival at the farm Richard took us out across the fields to have a tour of their extensive poultry unit containing around fourteen thousand laying hens.

People were very impressed with the efficient way it is being run. The hens are allowed free range across several fields and are kept in a very environmentally friendly way. The unit in itself is run by very little labour, using very up to date technology. The eggs are sold through a company that caters for a large supermarket and are sold as "free range" eggs.

We then took a walk over a bridge that spans the Motorway down into a small

farm that is now part of Richard and Anita's larger farm. This ancient farm is called "Wemberham House". The house is no longer habitable, but the old buildings are in good repair and are still used in the winter.

This old farm was built on the bank of the "Little River" that runs through North End, Yatton on into Kingston Seymour.

I think I am right in saying that the last couple to run this very isolated farm before it was included into "Yew Tree Farm" were Mr and Mrs Eli Lambert, an eccentric old couple who were legends in their time.

I have been told that Eli had a small herd of Kerry cows when he lived there. These are very small black cows that originated in Ireland, very rare in this area. He probably bought them in Bristol Market, where before the last war, large numbers of Irish cattle were sold weekly.

Along the bank of the river in the orchard of this ancient farm is a fine row of horse chestnut trees, about twenty in number, that can be seen for miles around. Look out for them as you drive down the Motorway on the left hand side as you leave Kingston Seymour. The Lamberts left the farm in the late 1920's.

As far as I can remember the last people to occupy "Wemberham House" were a very unusual couple, named Mrs. Macroary and Mr. John Cobley, who claimed to be a direct descendant of Uncle Tom Cobley of "Widdicombe Fair" fame. They lived there during the last war when people left the cities to get away from the air-raids and were prepared to live anywhere for peace and quiet and



# KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

comparative safety. When they lived there they must have had to dip their drinking water from the river and use candles for lighting.

I seem to remember that Mrs. Macroary had about twenty cats living with them. I wonder how she fed them, I expect they and the cats lived on wild rabbits that they caught. Perhaps also they were clever enough to catch eels from the river. Eels formed a big part of the diet of people who lived near a river years ago. I expect Eli and his wife were experts at eel catching and generally living off the land.

On returning to the farm, Richard and Anita kindly invited those present into the farmhouse for refreshments, rounding off a very pleasant evening. They were warmly thanked for their generosity.

Most of those that took part in the walk were from the Kinston History Group, only John and Grace Griffin were from Kenn, in fact no one arrived at Stonehouse Farm for the start, which was disappointing.

Ray Naish.

## "The Sky's The Limit" - Kenn Moor Air Show

The first weekend of July marked the return of the Woodspring Wings Model Aircraft Display on Kenn Moor.

This show is very popular for enthusiasts from far and wide, hence the appearance of a genuine Spitfire making a return visit and giving a wonderful display, in spite of low cloud.

Some of the models were almost big enough to climb into. The Bristol Brabazon with a 20 foot wing span was amongst the largest.

The 140 member club gives all the proceeds from the weekend to local charities.

David Glasson.

## BIRD NEWS I

The notes written by Roger Wilcox in last month's KN & V were very interesting and demonstrate just how much wildlife is around locally. I have been passed closely by a hunting Sparrowhawk, but not as closely as Roger.

Muntjac deer were relatively common in my native Northamptonshire, but were always confined to dense woodland. I have never seen one in this area, but believe there is a population in the extensive woods east of the A370. Perhaps the Kenn animal is a wanderer from there.

It was good to see a couple of Yellowhammers along Brockley Way - they seem to be just hanging on in our area. More surprising was an adult Peregrine Falcon which drifted quite low over our house one teatime. I assume this was one of the Clevedon birds and it indicates the size and range covered by this species.

Down in the Brue Valley, our famous male Marsh Harrier has done his stuff again - there are four fledged youngsters and just the possibility of a second nest nearby. Also in that area 5 pairs of Barn Owls have young, much the best result for a long time.

## KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

Overall 1999 seems to have been a pretty successful breeding season - there are lots of young birds along the Local Nature Reserve (Cheddar Valley Railway) at Yatton - and there have been no extremes of weather this year.

Trevor Riddle

### BIRD NEWS 2

Many people who live in the Kenn Street area have reported seeing the three young Green Woodpeckers with their parent birds that were hatched in an apple tree here at Stonehouse Farm.

Miles Naish reports seeing a Long Eared Owl near the seawall at Kingston Seymour also a flock of Linnets in the same area.

On 23rd July, I saw a small flock of Swifts, about eight birds, flying over the Alexandra Road part of Clevedon. These are the first I have seen this year. I think I am right in saying that swifts are amongst the first birds to leave this country on their Autumn Migration.

Most birds have now stopped singing, it is their moulting season and they tend to keep out of sight at this time.

Ray Naish.

Contributed by Cliff Edwards:

They said it, not me:

History is littered with wars which everybody said would never happen

Enoch Powell

It is only when they go wrong, that machines remind us of how powerful they are.

Clive James

I drove into a garage, where Anthony Newley was at the petrol pump. He was singing 'what kind of fuel am I'

Eric Morecambe

It's not the people in prison that worry me. It's the people who aren't.

Earl of Arran

Please try the tarts of the house, available for your delight on the trolley.

Cairo Hotel

For sale: 100 year old brass bed. Perfect for the antique lover.

Evening Star

Religion is a candle inside a multi-coloured lantern. Everyone sees a different colour, but the candle is always there.

A. Maquib

A lorry carrying onions has overturned on the Motorway. Motorists are asked to find a hard shoulder to cry on.

G. Brandreth.

## KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

Contributed by Heather and Jim Noad:

This mirth-packed list is compiled from real life church bulletins:

Don't let worry kill you - let the church help.

Thursday night - Potluck supper. Prayer and medication to follow.

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community.

For those of you have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

The rosebud on the altar this morning is to announce the birth of David Alan Belzer, the son of Rev and Mrs Julius Belzer.

This afternoon there will be a meeting in the south and north ends of the church. Children will be baptised at both ends.

Tuesday at 4 pm there will be an ice cream social. All ladies giving milk will please come early.

Wednesday, the ladies Liturgy Society will meet. Mrs. Jones will sing, Put Me In My Little Bed accompanied by the pastor.

Thursday at 5 pm there will be a meeting of the Little Mothers Club. All wishing to become little mothers, please see the minister in his study.

This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.

The service will close with Little Drops Of Water. One of the ladies will start quietly and the rest of the congregation will join in.

Next Sunday a special collection will be taken to defray the cost of the new carpet. All those wishing to do something on the new carpet will come forward and do so.

The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind and they may be seen in the church basement Friday.

A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the Church hall. Music will follow.

At the evening service, the sermon topic will be "What is Hell?" Come early and listen to our choir practice

**SATURDAY 7th AUGUST**

**KENN VALLEY  
SUMMER SIZZLER**

**FEATURING**

**TASTE OF HONEY**

(A TRIBUTE TO THE BEE GEES)

**PLUS**

**STARSHIP ABBA**

(THE No 1. ABBA TRIBUTE BAND)

**TICKETS £10.00**

**TO INCLUDE  
MIXED GRILL PLATTER**

**EVENT STARTS AT 7:30  
TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM  
KENN VALLEY SOCIAL CLUB  
01934 832086**