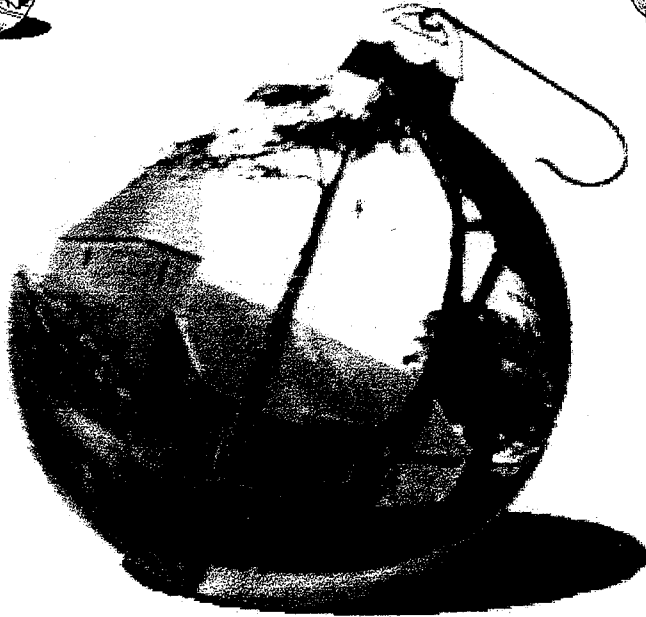


# KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

## *Happy Christmas*



## 1999

Editor Sheila NAISH

Issue No 136 December 1999

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# KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

## BIRTHDAYS ETC.

- 1st Sotoris Papasolomontos  
4th Sally Whitehead - 90  
Roger Jenkins  
5th Jerry Naish  
Chris Wall  
10th Louise Pugh  
Tom Clark  
Penny Leiper (Griffin)  
15th Emma Smith  
20th Vincent Stowell  
21st John Griffin  
23rd Richard & Avril Gaunt W.A  
24th Shirley Wall  
John Street  
25th HAPPY CHRISTMAS ONE AND ALL  
31st HAPPY NEW YEAR.

## St. John the Evangelist, Kenn Church Services for December

*Sunday 5th December*  
*8 a.m. Holy Communion*  
*11 a.m. Christingle Service*

*Sunday 12th December*  
*11 a.m. Holy Communion*

*Wednesday 15th December*  
*11 a.m. Holy Communion*

*Sunday 19th December*  
*6 p.m. Service of Carols & Lessons*

*Friday 24th December -  
Christmas Eve*  
*3 p.m. Crib Service*

*Saturday 25th December -  
Christmas Day*  
*11 a.m. Family Communion*

*Sunday 26th December -*  
*10 a.m. Holy Communion at*  
**VATTON**

## THOUGHTS FOR THE MONTH

*1. Few have all they need - none all they wish.*

*2. If at first you don't succeed, try doing it the way your wife told you.*

**3. FOR MILLENNIUM EVE -  
AN EXCUSE**

*I drink to make other people interesting.*

## MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

All of us at Kenn News and Views would like to wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Here's to the next Millennium, let's hope it brings peace to the many people who really need it throughout the world and good health, prosperity and happiness to all.

## NAISH'S NOTES

Our condolences to the many family and friends in Kenn of Pat Morris and Lindsay Bendall (nee Pearson)

.....  
Thanks for the good wishes on our Silver Wedding - we're arguing at the moment which one of us deserves the medal for putting up with the other ! (we've had the jokes of being out for good behaviour had we committed murder).

Many, Many thanks to the villager (who shall remain nameless - but my friend for life) who said I must have been a child bride. Love it !!!!!!!  
TRUE OF COURSE .....

# KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

## **MILLENNIUM DISCO PARTY at Kenn Village Hall**

Tickets for the Millennium Party are now on sale - price £4 to include raffle. Prizes required please.

This is our last party - Johnny is retiring from Discos!! Hence it is very special, also a special Millennium Do being as everyone this New Year's Eve will be all over the place.

We'd love to see as many Villagers as possible so that we can feel we've been together.

The theme is **Ritz & Glitz**, so get out your gladrags, all your finery and get down to our very lovely "TIN MISSION" for the best party ever. Don't miss it !!

All proceeds to M.S. Centre, Nailsea.

Contact Heather Jenkins or Sarah Clark or myself for Tickets.

Sheila Naish 01934 838357

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## **Children's Christmas Party**

The Kenn Children's Christmas party will be held from 3.00 pm on Wednesday 22nd 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.

## **Drum & Monkey Kenn Christmas & New Year Programme**

**Christmas Menu**  
1st-24th December

Wednesdays - Quiz Night

Tuesdays - Live Music  
30th Nov. Flash Harry Duo  
Irish Folk Music

7th Dec. - Bill & Bob  
50's, 60', 70's

14th Dec. - Turnip Tops  
You've seen the Wurzels, now see the Turnip Tops

21st - The Drum Xmas Raffle -  
Tickets £1 each - on sale now.

22nd - Millennium Quiz Night

## **Friday 31st December Millennium Night at the Drum and Monkey**

9.00 p.m. till late  
Singer - Chris Morton  
Buffet

Theme of the evening

## **FUTURISTIC**

*Please come dressed  
for the occasion.*

Ticket holders only  
£10 per ticket  
(adults & children)

**Transport provided to  
Clevedon or Yatton**

**Tel. Mike or Lita 873433**

# KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

## **Ruby Wedding Anniversary**

Sunday 28th November was the 40th Wedding Anniversary of Grace and John Griffin, our flag flew in celebration.

## **Jumble Sale November 17th**

The Jumble Sale for Village Hall Funds raised £127. A warm thank you to everyone who helped to make the event successful.

## **KENN CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS FRIDAY 17TH DECEMBER AT 7 p.m. ON THE VILLAGE GREEN**

Calling all Kennites and friends - Kenn Christmas Tree Lights on The Green will be switched on by a Kenn Celebrity on Friday 17th December at 7 p.m. To be 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.

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY IN DECEMBER:**

**St. John the Evangelist, Kenn**  
**7.30 pm.**

## **Sunday 5th December 11 a.m. Christingle Service**

An especially warm welcome to all the youngsters in the area.

## **Monday 6th December W.I. Carol Service in Church**

Members of the Yeo Valley Group of W.I. members are holding their Annual Carol Service at Kenn.

Collection in aid of Friends of Kenn Church and the Multiple Sclerosis Unit at Nailsea

## **Kenn Village Green** **7.00 pm. Friday 17th December**

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

## **Kenn Village Hall**

Wednesday 8th December  
Christmas Tea Party, 3pm.

Wednesday 8th December  
- Kenn W.I. Meeting at 7.30 pm.  
- Beetle Drive  
- Competition - A Christmas Bauble  
- Christmas Post for Members.

Saturday 11th December  
- Christmas/Millennium Party and Disco - 8.00-midnight

Monday 13th December 7.30 pm  
Kenn Parish Council

Wednesday 22nd December  
- Kenn Children's Party, 3.00 pm

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

# KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

## Kenn Post Office Christmas Hours

Fri. 24th December - closed  
Sat. 25th - closed  
Sun. 26th - closed  
Mon 27th - closed  
Tue. 28th - closed  
**Wed. 29th Open as normal**  
**Thu. 30th Open as normal**  
Fri. 31st - closed  
Sat. 1st January - closed  
Sun. 2nd - closed  
Mon. 3rd - closed  
**Tues. 4th January - open  
until 1.00 pm.**

**Please note as from 4th January  
2000 Kenn Post Office will be  
closing for 1/2 day at 1 pm each  
Tuesday.**

## Get Well Wishes

Our regular contributor and Churchwarden Ray Naish has been rather poorly for the past month and has been unable to attend services. We understand he is now improving and send him our best wishes.

We are pleased to report that Jack Hanson was able to attend Evensong in November.

Lovely to see you about again Jack!

## Caring at Christmas

**Marianna Mackay will be collecting  
for the Homeless in Bristol this  
Christmas**

Offers of coats, socks, underpants, sweaters, tinned goods and money will be most welcome.

## SNIPPETS

### Our Flag

### Remembrance

We flew our flag at half-mast on November 11th for Armistice Day and again on November 14th Remembrance Sunday when arrangements of poppies were placed on the altar.

We remembered all those men and women who gave their lives for our freedom.

“At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them”.

### Bereavement

November 16th - The funeral service conducted by the Revd. John Cruise for Patrick Morris who was born in Kenn, son of Mr. & Mrs Fred Morris was held in Kenn Church.

November 16th - The interment of the ashes in the family grave of Lindsay Bendall nee Pearson who was born in Kenn was conducted by the Revd. John Cruise.

We extend our sincere sympathy to both families in their great loss.  
We flew our flag at half-mast.

### Wedding

Our flag was flown on Saturday 27th November to celebrate the wedding at St. John's of Rebecca Knight and Robert Bessant.

# Grand Millennium Party

at

## Kenn Village Hall

### 8.00 pm - 12.00 midnight

### Saturday 11th December 1999

In aid of M.S. Centre - Naitsea

Bar Raffle Disco



DRUM AND MONKEY



CHRISTMAS MENU

SEASONAL SOUP  
OR  
SEAFOOD COCKTAIL

ROAST SOMERSET TURKEY WITH BACON & SAUSAGE ROLL, CRANBERRY SAUCE & CHESTNUT STUFFING

OR

ROAST SIRLOIN OF BEEF WITH HORSE RADISH SAUCE & YORKSHIRE PUDDING

VEGETARIAN OPTION AVAILABLE

ALL SERVED WITH ROAST & NEW POTATOES AND 3 SEASONAL VEGETABLES

CHRISTMAS PUDDING & BRANDY SAUCE

FOLLOWED BY

COFFEE & MINCE PIES

# KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

is seriously large, was built in ten months. Tianneman Square will hold one million people and is the largest open public space in the world.

Pressure of population in cities means that the local authority imposes a heavy tax on any pet. For instance to keep a cat will cost you as much as taxing a motor cycle, the only tax free pets are goldfish!

Of course, only one child per marriage is allowed, however, in the event of a broken marriage and remarriage another child is permitted.

Alternatively if you are a farmer living above about ten thousand feet then if your first child is a girl you are allowed a second child, in the hope that it will be a son. The state realising that a son is essential for the farmers. However, the second child is not permitted until after six years have elapsed and if this should also be a girl a third attempt is not permitted.

Law and Order is very tough, they have large problems now with all their prisons filled. They still have the death penalty, and drug dealers are condemned to death by a single bullet to the head, provided by their own family. Prison really means hard labour.

Greatest experience being Beijing (Peking as was) with the Forbidden City, the Summer Palace, the Great Wall of China which is 4000 miles long. Xain for the Terracotta Army, surely the eighth wonder of the world. Shanghai for its western flavour; the Europeans have long influenced the life of this great city and port which currently has five active shipbuilding yards.

When one looks back at this ancient culture, certainly a sophisticated society many thousands of years ago, and realises that for so many centuries now this huge nation i.e. one sixth of all mankind, which has been described by others as a "slumbering giant", is now clearly stirring from its long slumber and enters the new millennium becoming an ever more important player on the world stage. This will clearly be of profound importance to the rest of the world.

Flying in to Beijing by day over the Gobi Desert and flying out approximately ten days later, again by daylight, over Russia, Southern Siberia already with snow present was another memory in a remarkable holiday.

John and Grace Griffin

## Double Congratulations - John and Grace Griffin

### Anniversaries

John and Grace celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on the 28th November which was also the first anniversary of their eldest daughter Sarah and son-in-law Robert Melling who tied the knot at St. John's last year.

### Arrival of new Grandson

Grace and John are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their second grandson, George Christopher Melling who was born on Wednesday 24th November (7lbs 3 oz) at Teddington.

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Christmas 1999 - Altar Guild  
St. John the Evangelist, Kenn

December Rota -

Week 1 - 5th December

- Mrs J. Fenwick
- Mrs J. Pascoe

Week 2 - 12th December

- Mrs R. Bell
- Mrs G. Griffin

Week 3 - 19th December

- Mrs H. Jenkins
- Mrs M. Stowell

Week 4 - Saturday 25th Christmas

- Mrs M. Mackay
- Mrs S. Clark

Would ladies please decorate their windows etc. for the Carol Service on 19th December.

Many thanks to everyone.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Jean

## Impressions of China

Last month we spent ten days visiting mainland China, herewith some of our impressions and memories.

Teeming cities, friendly people, possessed with impressive patience and tranquillity, yet clearly having great energy, enterprise, self reliance and optimism.

A country large, in fact bigger than Australia. Beautiful countryside, with large bustling cities afflicted with

terrible industrial pollution; no blue skies visible unless you are in the countryside.

Illustration of numbers of Chinese. For instance, one billion i.e. every sixth person in the world is Chinese, on the Yangsi River valley five hundred million people live, or, if you like, every twelfth person in the world.

On the Yangsi River in the Three Gorges area, a city is expanding at such a rate that it will soon be the largest in the world with a population of over thirty two million.

Shanghai, a city of fourteen million, six and a half million bicycles, one million motor cars, forty five thousand taxis and road systems five storeys high.

A city, building and developing at such a rate that, we are told, the city map is updated every thirty days.

Shanghai has four and a half thousand restaurants which are open twenty four hours a day. More restaurants which are open by day only. A business area of incredible vitality, for instance in one street alone there are 1.2 million workers. Most factories run a five day week only, however, they are running for twenty four hours. i.e. three by eight hour shifts. Many people have two or three jobs.

Young people would not expect to take holidays until their mid-forties. Eighty five per cent of the population is still rural, farmers etc.

The building industry is so vigorous that a huge hotel will be constructed in only ten months, for instance the Hall of People in Tianneman Square which



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## KENN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The November Meeting opened with Ann Holtham welcoming visitors Rosemary Ford and June Cooper. As this was the AGM there was more business than usual to get through but this was done smartly.

The Accounts were presented, the Secretary's yearly report read, with special thanks to Mrs Ings, Joint Secretary.

The president in her report said how valuable the kindness and support from WI members is.

Mrs Bubb proposed the thanks to the departing Committee and there was no election for the new one as only seven members stood.

Ann Holtham was re-elected unanimously for her fourth year as President.

Reminders were given that the Group Carol Service will be at Kenn Church on 6th December at 7.30 and our Flower Demonstration by Mrs D. Oliver is on 29th November, £2.50 at the door.

Yet another instance of how useful WI Membership can be came from Mrs Bubb. She and Mrs Harris had been to Cyprus to visit Jenny Jackson, who was for many years a very active member of Kenn WI. Jenny is convinced that this gave her a good grounding in dealing with people and situations she has met with over the last few years whilst living abroad. We wish Jenny and Eric well in their island home.

The Rev. Ian Hubbard gave us a very lively talk on the musical milestones in his life. Starting with music lessons at four years old, his career later spanned the range from playing the organ in Salisbury Cathedral to Daisy, Daisy, in the pubs around Whitchurch on Saturday night.

It was surprising to hear that the Egyptians played organs as far back as 250 BC, and that they were played in the arenas in Rome, these being so powerful they could be heard 60 miles away.

At one stage Mr. Hubbard was seriously ill and during his convalescence he was sitting in the garden watching the birds, among which was a blackbird who often brought her family along to be fed raising. Mr Hubbard fell asleep and the blackbird nestling into his neck startled him awake. He said he knew he would recover and in thanks composed music to one of the psalms, which he played for us.

After treating us to a very varied and enjoyable selection of music, he finished off with a splendid anthem of his own called "Great and Wonderful".

The competition was won by Mrs Naish, second Mrs Prew and joint third were Mrs R. Dobbs and Mrs R. Dyer.

The Meeting on December 8th will be a social evening and the Post Box will be available for members Christmas cards. The competition will be for a Christmas Bauble

Shirley Livesey

# KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

## **BIRD NEWS I**

There seem to be good numbers of our winter thrushes, Fieldfares and Redwings around at present. It will be interesting to see if they stay with us for the winter, or if they move further south.

Two White Tailed Eagles have arrived in eastern England so it may be a cold winter. On the other hand it might not!

There are a few Stonechats around on the moors but so far a complete dearth of Lapwings.

A recent visit to the Dolemoor rear Puxton produced a flock of 80 Linnets along with Chaffinches, Greenfinches and Reed Buntings. These birds were feeding on unharvested linseed and attracted the (unsuccessful) attentions of a Kestrel and a Sparrowhawk.

Further south at Shapwick a wintering Hen Harrier has joined the resident Marsh Harriers and both Merlin and Short Eared Owl have been seen.

We should be in for a Short Eared Owl Winter soon (equals a high vole population) Do let me know if you spot one!

Trevor Riddle 01934 835208

## **Food for Thought**

As the last year of the millennium draws to a close it is wise to stop for a few minutes to say thank you for all the blessings we have received during the past year - to be able to live in Kenn surrounded by good friends and neighbours and our lovely countryside.

We say thank you to all those who help in the village in so many ways - to all the ladies who clean our dear little church every week and arrange fresh flowers; to our senior citizens who open the church for our early morning service, to our clergy who never fail us, to our organist, to those who look after the Sunday Club, to our Churchwardens and Sidespeople and to those who tidy our churchyard.

Our Village Hall is kept afloat by so much effort to raise funds and kept clean for all Kennites to use.

We look forward to the arrival of Kenn News & Views each month; thank you to those who write for it, edit it, provide our covers, type and print it, not to mention those who deliver it whatever the weather.

Our Parish Council does its best to look after the interests of Kenn.

The Women's Institute at their monthly meeting offers interesting talks for all who wish to attend, and raises money for local charities.

Thank you to those who raise our flag to record the joys and sorrows of our daily lives, and thank you to those who organise the Christmas Tree Lights on the Green, not forgetting the Candles in Church Path when Carol Services are being held in the Church and to those who plant the pots on The Green and pick up litter left by others.

Our Post Office - we are indeed lucky to have one, long may it continue.

Perhaps the highlight of the year was the Kenn thro' the Ages Day in September when wonderful displays were on show plus an amazing amount

# KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

of information - thank you to everyone who helped. On account of the appalling weather our young folk were unable to carry out their programme - this was very disappointing for us.

To those who visit their neighbours, take them shopping or to the Doctor or Hospital when needed - thank you.

We look forward to the new century with humility and hope.

Ruth Dyer.

## A Short Tall Story

Very slowly, I inched the car up to the double-fronted white painted gates. As I got out to open them I could just make out the nameplate, it read 'Ashe Park House'... Some way to my left, across the well kept lawn, I could just see the house itself, its grey stone walls looming through the darkness. There was an eerie stillness and a silence, broken only by the hooting of an owl and the distant bark of a vixen.

It was biting cold. I pulled my cap further down over my head, and turned up the collar of my jacket. Quietly and slowly, I drove up the shallow sloping driveway towards the house, the tyres crunching on the gravel. I parked under some trees close to the house and got out of the car. As I did so, I took with me a plastic bag, in which, was a small package. A clock on a nearby church, chimed. It was 3 a.m. and the sound seemed to hang endlessly on the cold night air. It was still biting cold and light snowflakes began to settle on my shoulders. Flinging into my eyes and chilling my cheeks.

I knew that the front of the house was covered by security lights, so I made for the side and kept close to the wall, feeling for an unlatched window. At last, at the back, I found one. As I pushed it slowly upwards, the squeak of wood against wood sounded noisily in my ear. I climbed over the sill and dropped on to the floor; I was in. I could now feel a friendly warmth, and as my eyes became accustomed to the new light level, I could see in the corner an Aga, quietly working its magic. I was in the kitchen.

From there, I felt my way to the bottom of the main staircase. I still carried the plastic bag, with its contents. All stairs seem always to creak, but I'd been told that if you avoided the middle of each tread and just used the edges near the banisters, no noise would be created, and so it proved. At the top of the stairs, I moved stealthily to the first door on the left, it was a bedroom, her bedroom. At this point, I slipped off my shoes, discarded my jacket and quietly dropped them on to the polished wooded floor. I began to shiver.

Cautiously, I opened the door, placed the package from the bag near the foot of the bed, and retreated. Picking up my shoes and jacket, I retraced my steps; down the stairs, through the kitchen, out of the window and back to the car. By four o'clock, I was back at base (indoors to be exact) and was beginning to feel warm again. I poured myself a 'wee dram' and went to bed.

My mission had been successful, but why had I done it? Why had I gone to so much trouble on such a night?

# KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

Well, its all because the lady loves Black Magic, especially when she finds them at the foot of her bed on Christmas morning. As for me, well, I was left wondering, it took me over two hours to make one visit, how did the real Santa Claus manage his workload in one night.

Have a merry Christmas everyone.

Cliff Edwards

## Kenn Valley Social Club

### MILLENNIUM NEW YEARS EVE PARTY

CHAMPAGNE  
TOAST

BAR OPEN  
8.15 - 2.15

COACH TRAVEL  
TO AND FROM  
CLUB

HOT AND COLD  
BUFFET

ALL DRINKS, FOOD  
AND COACH INCLUDED  
IN TICKET PRICE

SEPARATE  
CHILDRENS  
BUFFET

DISCO

ADULTS - £50  
NON MEMBERS - £55  
CHILDREN AGED 6 AND OVER - £7  
UNDER 6 - FREE

FAMILIES  
WELCOME

(£5 DEPOSIT + BALANCE BY NOVEMBER 31st)

DRESS TO IMPRESS.

LIMITED TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE FROM KENN VALLEY SOCIAL CLUB  
CALL (01934) 832086

STRICTLY NO LARGE ALL MALE/FEMALE PARTIES