

# KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

# HAPPY NEW YEAR



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Printed by:- Margaret STOWELL

Issue No 125 JANUARY 1999

Typed by:- Ann STOWELL

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## BIRTHDAYS

### JANUARY

11th George Noad  
14th Rebecca Brain  
16th Fred Fenwick

### Message from Ed

To those of you who have had troubled difficult times in 1998 let us hope and pray for a better New Year; bringing good health, wealth and happiness.

We wish all our readers a very Happy New Year.

Thank you for your support in 1998 - especially our regular contributors.

We are always looking for fresh ideas, snippets and articles so why not give it a try - write in !!

Many thanks on behalf of us all at News and Views for our Christmas gifts. Much appreciated indeed.

A special thank you to Margaret who goes her utmost to keep us (ME in particular) to a deadline - (I'll try harder) and gets the magazine out in spite of us.

### Thoughts of the month

- 1. Happiness is sharing whatever we have, with someone we care for.*
- 2. One thing is certain about the future  
- It will come one day at a time  
- Make the most of this one.*

## NAISH'S NOTES

The Christmas Disco Party held on the 12th was, as usual, well attended and thoroughly enjoyed by all. The fancy dress costumes were a joy to behold - so much effort put in by some people - such good ideas too. I enjoyed jiving with Elvis - but cannot compete with Morley's legs or cleavages - more's the pity.

Thank you to everyone who helped to make the evening so successful and all monies raised will be winging their way to the Multiple Sclerosis Centre in Nailsea.

Just one point I would like to make being as I put so much effort into it — I was BREAK DANCING !!! not Cossack Dancing - don't you people watch Top of the Pops ? Tut-tut - I hope nobody had a Video ! Camera !!!

### Christmas Tea Party

Thank you to everyone for the kind messages of thanks received. We all enjoy organising and attending the Tea Party too - a super start to the Christmas Festivities and so nice to see you all.

### Naish's Notes 2

Last year I organised a re-union party for ex Gardiner-Alumin Ltd employees; the Company Johnny Staples and myself worked for, for a good many years. The Company closed down after a merger with Alcan Industries and although Johnny has stayed in the window industry I had not seen many people for 20 years.

The re-union was held at Kenn Valley Social Club on a Friday night. I, along with two or three other girls, tracked down, phoned and wrote to as many

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people as could be remembered. It's amazing how it all snowballed; what started off with 30/40 people expected ended up with 110 replies definite, 20 odd we hadn't heard back from and 10/15 who knows ?

People were contacted in various parts of the country and abroad. France and the British West Indies - the gentleman from France arrived - I think the post is still trying to arrive in Anguilla.

On the actual day I was very excited and set off to the station to collect two of our "consultants" from London, booked in for the night at the Bridge Inn. Sadly one of them had had a massive heart attack the day before and died and his partner arrived with the news which set everyone back a bit, but we decided that Zac would have wanted us to continue and so we did.

The evening arrived and with mixed emotions I set off to Kenn Valley Social Club (via the Bridge Inn and a bottle of "Dutch Courage" beforehand).

The Club was jammed packed, 105 people from all over the country had arrived and how lovely it was to see and hear from people who had not seen one another for 20 years in some cases, some needless to say looked the same, others took some recognising. I weighed under 6 stone and had hair nearly down to my waist last time I saw some folk (oooh I wish now !!!)

The evening flew by, by 12.45 I think I had talked to or hugged most people, including Joan, our Company Lottery Winner - £7.4 million - Yes it could happen. Joan who had kindly paid for a splendid buffet had more "lucky" rubs than was thought possible.

Most people commented that now we had got together again it should be an annual event, and not to lose touch again. We are therefore planning to do just that.

All the effort was well worthwhile and very enjoyable. I recommend it to anyone who has lost touch with work or schoolmates.

Needless to say to those of you who know me - I chatted so much (yes I could be heard all over the place) that I nearly lost my voice the next day!

I have now got a set of photographs to treasure of my old chums. Lots of nice memories to recall and rekindled old friendships, very precious.

I have only one regret, that I had not done it earlier, then perhaps we could have seen the two or three 'absent' friends who sadly had passed away and were greatly missed.

## St. John's Altar Guild January Rota

Mrs M. Wilcox and Mrs. J. Staples

Many thanks to all the ladies who arranged flowers at Kenn Church over the Christmas Festival. The Church looked really lovely.  
Thank you for all your hard work

Jean and Iris

## Dates for your Diary

Mondays - Keep Fit 8 pm. with Mrs. Jacqui Curwood, at Kenn Village Hall.

Thursdays - Bums, Tums and Thighs 8 pm with Mrs. Sue Gilbert at Kenn Village Hall.

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Wednesday 13th January

at Kenn Village Hall

Kenn Women's Institute 7.30 pm

- Quilts Old and New by Mrs. McLaclan

- Competition - A Piece of Patchwork.

## Snippets

## Celebrations

28th November - We flew our flag to celebrate the marriage of Sarah Griffin, elder daughter of John and Grace Griffin of The Granary, Kenn and granddaughter of Mrs. Griffin of Waterford Rest Home, Clevedon to Robert Melling of Teddington. We wish them many happy years together.

6th December - Bethany Eve, daughter of Vincent and Ann Stowell and grand daughter of Margaret Stowell of Chaseside was christened at Yatton Methodist Church. We flew our flag in celebration.

25th December - We flew our flag to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

## Kenn News and Views

At the Christmas Tea Party we were pleased to say thank you to Margaret Stowell for printing, Ann Stowell for typing and Sheila Naish for editing News and Views every month. They each received a Gift Token. We also thanked all those who deliver News and Views to our homes every month.

## Christmas Tree on the Green

December 18th some Kenn stalwarts gathered in appalling weather to see Jean Naish switch on our Christmas Tree Lights; before adjourning to our Church to sing carols while Kayleigh Stowell and

George Noad collected £40 for the Children's Society.

Maurice Ford said we were indebted to Sam Dyer and Douglas Bessant for erecting the tree; to Margaret Stowell and John Ball for their help with the lights; to Robin and Marianna Mackay for the hot punch and providing electricity and to all those who made mince pies and sausage rolls. Marianna and Robin were presented with a thank you.

## "KENN 2000" Tea Towels

"Kenn 2000" Tea Towels are now available depicting various buildings in Kenn. The towels are linen/cotton and the price is £3 - the profit to Kenn Village Hall - Available from Ruth Dyer 872676 or Irene Stowell 872472

Our sincere thanks to Kenn Artists for allowing us to use their drawings.

## Onward to 1999

As we move towards the end of 1998 and look forward to 1999 it is wise to reflect and to say thank you for all the blessings we receive and often take for granted because we live in Kenn.

We say thank you to those ladies who week by week throughout the year keep our church clean; clean the brasses and arrange fresh flowers.

We say thank you to those who run the Sunday Club, to our organist, to the senior citizens who open the Church for early services, to those who mow the grass and tidy our Churchyard.

Our Village Hall is maintained for all Kennites by those who organise and support Fund Raising events and private parties. It is cleaned by volunteers.

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We are indeed lucky to have a Post Office/Village Shop and Pub as well as two Garages where, at each, we are offered excellent service.

We older residents are regularly visited and taken shopping and to the doctors.

1998 saw Kenn awarded third prize in The Best Kept Village Competition and a Prize for the Most Improved Small Village. This happy event is the result of a few Kennites who really try to keep the Village tidy and pick up the litter left by passing cars.

We say thank you to those who create News and Views and deliver it every month.

We do not forget our Parish Council which tries to represent the view of Kennites.

We say thank you to those who raise our flags throughout the year in celebration and remembrance.

We look forward to 1999 and hope to see all our readers at some events.

Ruth Dyer.

## Thanks

I would like to say a sincere thank you to all the kind friends who sent me cards and flowers and also those who came to see me on December 4th. I send you all my fondest love and every blessing for 1999.

Sally Whitehead.

## Kenn Women's Institute

The Village Hall looked festive for our December meeting. Miss Holtham welcomed members and thanked Mrs

Morris for her pretty seasonal flower arrangement.

After business had been dealt with and the News Letter read, we voted for our 1999 Charity. This will be Clevedon Hospital league of Friends, it being felt that we are very lucky to have a hospital in the town and so many of us have reasons to thank them for their work.

The Carol Service at Tickenham church had been much enjoyed, inspite of several of our members being unable to attend due to car problems.

The skittles practice at Kingston Seymour had also been a good evening, with the raffle making £21 which was sent to the Children in Need Fund.

The Flower Demonstration given by Mrs J. Burton from Blagdon W.I. had been both an inspiration from the floral point of view, there being something to please everyone, and amusing as Mrs Burton is a most interesting speaker, too.

Mrs Harris drew our attention to W.I. food parcels - though too late for this year, she said it was worth keeping in mind for the future.

Treasurer Mrs Crawley reminded us that subscriptions, now £14.50 are due next month.

The Christmas Post Box did brisk business, quickly sorted by Mrs. Prew and her helpers, postage money being given to ACWW.

As is now the custom, we did not have a speaker for this Meeting. Instead we had a rather frantic Beetle Drive - some of us getting very annoyed with the dice which seemed to have lives of their own. All

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very enjoyable and it gave us an appetite for the hot mince pies, donated by Mrs Crawley, that followed.

The competition for three mince pies was won by Mrs Crawley, second was Mrs Ings and third Mrs. Dobbs.

## Bird News I

There seems to be a real dearth of Lapwings this winter - I haven't seen any flocks on Kenn Moor, just a few birds.

During the cold snap early in December there were a pair of Stonechats on the Moor and a Grey Wagtail. But a real surprise was to see a Hare crossing several fields at great speed !

During a recent survey on Nailsea Moor a large flock of Yellowhammers was seen, a most unusual record. The counter telephone me to assure me that his record sheet was correct. It was a very wet afternoon and the birds appeared to be roosting - there was no arable field nearby where they could feed.

The Wildlife Trust purchased some land on the Dolemoors near Puxton last spring. The stubble fields there have attracted large numbers of Chaffinches and a few Tree Sparrows. One afternoon in late November a Short Eared Owl passed over whilst a Peregrine Falcon perched atop a pylon nearby.

Trevor Riddle

## Quote

Quote of the week seen in a recent Highbridge Market report

"The world is full of willing people, some willing to work, others willing to let them"

## Service of Carols and Lessons at Kenn

The Service of Carols and Lessons held on December 20th was probably the most successful ever held in the Church.

There were thirteen Lesson Readers, some reading in groups. the Kenn Handbell Ringers played before and during the service and the Choir sang three less well-known carols.

The congregation numbered ninety which was wonderful considering there were three other Carol Services held on the same evening at other local churches.

## The Crib Service

The Crib Service held on Christmas Eve was very well attended, eighty six people of all ages were in the Church.

A Nativity Play was enacted by members of the Sunday Club with other young people, those taking part numbered around twenty.

The newly-formed Kenn Handbell Ringers also took part. The ladies who arranged and helped with the running of this service are to be congratulated on the way it ran so smoothly.

R.V.Naish.

## Carol Singing in Kenn around one hundred years ago.

Around one hundred years ago the members of the Church Choir travelled around the Village each Christmastime singing carols in the cottages and farms.

One prominent member of the Choir in those days was John James of what is now "Latham House". On John's gravestone

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near the church door it states that he the was a Chorister of the Church for seventy two years; he died in 1932.

John James was a very important man in the village in his day; he was sexton of the church, gravedigger, village carpenter and builder and local undertaker; when there was a death in the village John tolled the church bell early in the morning to notify people.

I have been told that when the carol party was travelling around the village they enlisted the help of a dwarf who lived here at that time, this unfortunate chap was unable to walk, but he could play the violin or fiddle as it was called in those days. He played as the choir sang. John James was a big powerful man, so it was his duty to carry the little chap around on his shoulder with the carol party.

I think it would be great if we could take a look into the past and see this little ceremony taking place.

Kenn would have been a very quiet place in those days with very little happening. I expect the householders were pleased to welcome them to their doors. When they got to the farms no doubt they were invited inside to have a drink of cider or home-made wine. When the carol singers return to their homes I expect they were in good spirits.

John James and his wife Maria had two son, Jack who sadly was deaf and dumb worked at Wake and Dean's furniture factory at Yatton; Gilbert the younger son joined Shell Mex oil company in Bristol and rose through the ranks to become a director. Later in his life he became Lord Mayor of Bristol.

I have fond memories of Mr and Mrs James; when we were small children my sisters and I with our Mother visited them most Saturday afternoons. Mother did a bit of shopping for Mrs James who seldom left her home. Saturdays was her baking day, she was generally baking huge pies when we got there; enough to last the week. Before we left Mrs. James always gave us children a Marie biscuit and Jack gave us a penny each, this was the highlight of our week.

Ray Naish

p.s. One member of the Church Choir in those days was from the Staples family, unfortunately this old chap was unable to read, what he didn't know by heart he got through with the words pom, pom, pom.

## Vandalism and Criminal Damage in Kenn Street

A lady and gentleman attended the Carol Service at the Church on the evening of December 20th. they came from Clevedon, and it was their first visit to Kenn Church.

Imagine their horror when they returned to their car which was parked in Kenn Street to find that two of their tyres had been spiked. They had to call emergency services out to fit two new tyres before they could move the car.

This must have caused considerable expense and probably spoiled their Christmas. It is hoped that the person or persons responsible for this criminal damage feel proud of themselves and that they enjoyed their Christmas better for doing it.

R.V.N.

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## Mrs Cherrie Stranks

Mrs Stranks has passed away recently in a Nursing Home after being in poor health for some time.

Mrs. Stranks or Cherrie as she was generally known lived at Yatton but she was very well known by many Kenn people through her regular attendance at Kenn Church for the past eighteen years.

People will remember her coming to church here with her late husband Sidney before his death ten years ago and with their friends the late Reverend and Mrs. Havergal.

Since her husbands's death Cherrie had kept up her attendance here at Church with her sister Kathleen. She was very interested in what was going on in the Village and took great pleasure in attending Coffee Mornings, Harvest Suppers and the Annual Christmas Tea Party.

Cherrie was extremely disappointed that she was not well enough to attend this year's party.

Cherrie will be remembered as a very friendly and gracious lady who always had a kind word for everyone.

There were many Kenn people at The Service of Thanksgiving for her life held at Yatton Church on December 30th.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to Kathleen her sister by their many friends in Kenn.

Ray Naish.

## Bird News II

It is New Year's Day, a few birds have started singing, the nice weather has made them think spring is here. Let's hope it keeps that way

R. V. N.

## Christmas Parties in Kenn

### Senior Residents Christmas Tea Party.

About fifty senior residents from the Village with friends who have Kenn connections were entertained to an Afternoon Tea at the Village Hall early in December by the Kenn Village Party Committee.

After an excellent tea provided by ladies from the village the guests were entertained by committee members and their helpers who sang a song about Kenn people to the tune of the song "Widcombe Fair", this was followed by community carol singing. There was a free draw which contained many prizes. Before leaving each guest was given a small Christmas present.

Everyone seemed to have had a pleasant afternoon including the committee members and their helpers.

### Children's Party 23rd December

Thanks to all who organised the children's party which was greatly enjoyed by all.

Special thanks to Santa Claus for dropping in and distributed gifts to all the children.