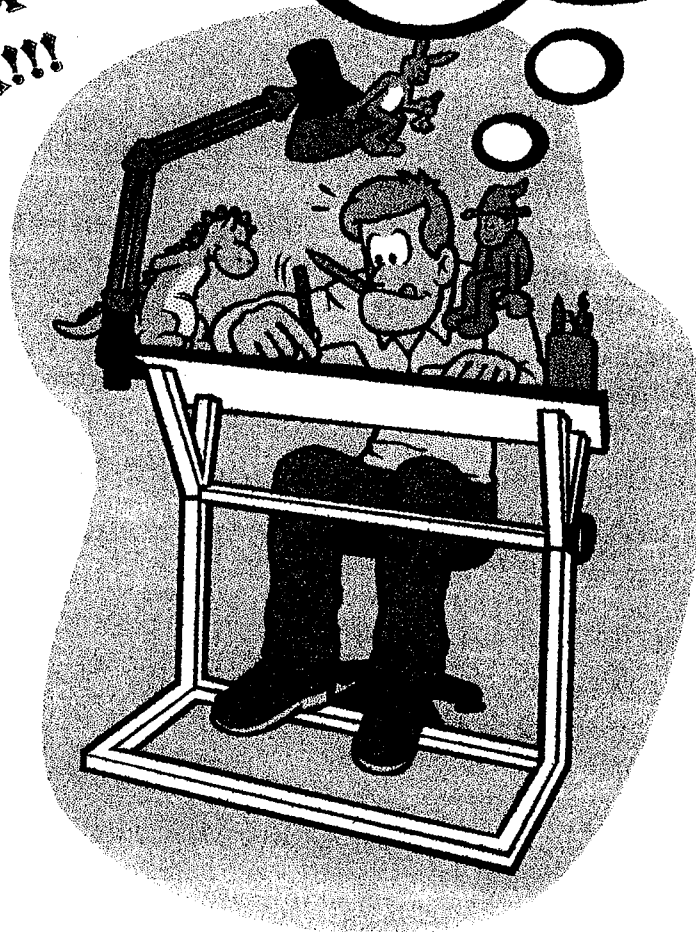


# KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

**SORRY - MY  
MIND'S GONE  
BLANK FOR A  
JUNE COVER!!!**

February - Floods  
March - Spring  
April - Easter  
May - Weather  
June - ??????



Editor Sheila NAISH

Issue No 130 June 1999

Printed by:- Margaret STOWELL

Typed by:- Ann STOWELL

# KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

June 1 - Simon Pascoe  
3 - Joshua Middleton  
11 - Naomi Brain  
Julian Wilcox  
Wendy Papasolomontos  
13 - Lynn Bye  
15 - Matthew Gaunt  
18 - Ian Pascoe  
21 - Tom Bye  
Heather Brain  
Dave Pugh  
22 - Yvonne Ayres  
26 - Roger Wilcox  
27 - Pip Jenkins

## TYPIST'S NOTE

*Due to holidays, please can all material for July Magazine go to Ray, Sheila or Margaret by Monday 21st June at the very latest. Anything received after that date will have to wait until next time.*

## Message from Ed

Best Wishes and Good Luck to all of our youngsters taking their exams !!!  
It's often not quite as bad as it seems.

## Naish Notes

The list of Parish Councillors with their addresses and phone numbers is as follows.

Ruth Mary DYER, 872676  
Kenn Court, Kenn,  
Clevedon BS21 6TR

Clifford Harold EDWARDS, 870329  
Tramar, Kenn Street, Kenn,  
Clevedon BS21 6TL

John Shopland GRIFFIN, 872948  
The Granary, Duck Lane, Kenn,  
Clevedon BS21 6TP

Raymond Victor NAISH, 872493  
Stonehouse Farm, Kenn,  
Clevedon BS21 6TL

Sheila Ann NAISH, 838357  
Oakland Farm, Kenn Road, Kenn.  
Clevedon BS21 6TT

Cheryl Jean QUINN, 876850  
Bow Cottage Kennels, Kenn  
Clevedon BS21 6TH

Cecil Hartley STAPLES, 340771  
Elmbank Cottage, Kenn  
Clevedon

Feel free to contact any of them if you have any questions or queries relating to Parish affairs - do come along to Parish Council Meetings - people are always welcome.

\*\*\*\*\*

## A day at the Races

The Drum and Monkey are organising a day out at Goodwood Races on Tuesday 27th July - half price admission to the enclosure £10 plus coach fare. Tickets to be booked by 15th July. See Mike for details.

\*\*\*\*\*

# KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

## Midsummer Madness

The Midsummer Madness Summer Party will be held on Saturday 26th June from 8 until late at Oakland Farm, Kenn - in the barn.

Music by Johnny Hazell  
Bar by Kenn Valley  
Raffle - Hot Food

Roll your money at a bottle of plonk and see if you win !!

Tickets from Sheila or Heather Jenkins - £4 to include Lucky Draw Number.

Bring your friends !!

In aid of the NSPCC Full Stop Appeal.  
A really good deserving cause.

There will be a special display by the Kenn Valley Kickers Line Dancers during the evening, come and have a go !!

As usual, Raffle Prizes needed !! to Ray Naish, Heather Jenkins or me.

Sheila

## Kenn Valley Social Club

On Sunday 6th June we are holding a

### **VINTAGE STEAM RALLY AND FAMILY FUN DAY**

The event starts at 10 am - Hot Food will be available all day.

A selection of Side Stalls and Attractions for all the family to enjoy together with all day bar.

Admission £1.50, children free.

## BEST KEPT VILLAGE

Kenn has entered the Best Kept Village Competition again this year.

Judging will take place from the 15th June. Last year we gained an award for the Most Improved Village; with a bit more effort from everyone we can win it this time.

Please keep the area around your home nice and tidy for the next few weeks. The Judges only look at what they can see from the road.

## The Churchyard

If the Churchyard is in good shape the Judges award the Village a large number of points.

We propose to have a big tidy up of the Churchyard on Monday Evening the 14th June from say 7.00 pm.

If you can spare a couple of hours to help it will be much appreciated. Especially if you have relatives interred there. Many hands make light work. Please bring your own tools.

Ray Naish.

## CHURCH NEWS

On Sunday 2nd of May a cake sale was held in the Church Porch after the morning Family Service. This was organised by Jerry and Glenda Penzer who are regular members of the congregation.

The sale was held to raise money for a Sponsored Cycle Ride by their daughter across Cuba in aid of deaf

# KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

children. Over fifty pounds was raised.

Many thanks to all who made and gave the cakes and to those who bought them.

## **Rogation Sunday**

On Sunday 9th of May a short service was held in the Churchyard after the normal morning service.

This service was held to keep alive the old tradition of Rogationtide when it is the custom to have outdoor services to bless the growing crops.

## **St. John's Altar Guild**

June Rota

Mrs. R. Bell and Mrs. M. Stowell

## **Friends of Kenn Church**

The Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Kenn Church was held on the 27th May.

After a few minor problems our Church Heating should soon be installed, along with temporary floodlighting.

If the floodlighting meets with general approval, the Committee plan to obtain the necessary faculty and have it properly installed for the Millennium.

The Annual Friends of Kenn Church Barbecue, was arranged for Saturday 17th July and this year will be held in the field behind the Village Hall, using the Hall itself for Skittles etc.

This will be our main Fund Raising Event for the year. Full details in July News and Views.

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

The Committee elected for the coming year are:

Revd. John Cruse (Ex Officio)  
Renee Bell (Churchwarden)  
Ray Naish (Churchwarden)  
John Griffin (Chairman)  
Simon Pascoe (Treasurer)  
Margaret Stowell (Secretary)  
Ruth Dyer  
Cliff Edwards,  
Grace Griffin  
Marianna Mackay  
Hartley Staples

## **Announcement**

John and Grace Griffin are proud to announce the birth of their first grandchild on May 15th. A son Samuel for Penny and Murray who live in Stonehaven, near Aberdeen.

## **KENN NOTES - SNIPPETS**

### **Save our Post Offices**

Thousands of village Post Offices are in danger of closing due to the Government's policy on Social Security benefits. The Benefits Agency no longer wants to pay the Post Office to distribute benefit payments. The agency would like Banks and Building Societies to take over the business, and pass the charges on to the individual claimants.

# KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

We are indeed lucky in Kenn to still have a Post Office - let us all support it. We could all write a protest letter to the Social Service Minister Alastair Darling, telling him the effect on rural Britain would be disastrous.

## Ragwort - A Killer for Horse, Cattle and Sheep

Ragwort is once again sprouting; to avoid losses let us dig it up and burn it without delay.

## Kenn thro' the Ages

Owing to several key helpers being on holiday in July the steering committee has decided to change the date to September 18th and 19th.

## Welcome

15th May Penny and Murray Leiper had a son, a grandson for John and Grace Griffin and a Great grandson for Mrs Gladys Griffin. We flew our flag to celebrate.

R. M. Dyer

\*\*\*\*\*

## Kenn through the Ages

If anyone has any memorabilia, artefacts, or written material that refers to wartime, especially wartime Kenn, I should be most pleased to hear from you.

Any material included in our exhibition would of course be returned.

Cliff Edwards 870329

## Dates for your Diary

**Sunday 6th June** - at Kenn Valley Social Club - Vintage Steam Rally and Family Day.

**Monday 7th June** - Kenn Village Hall - 7.30 p.m. Kenn Parish Council

**Tuesday 8th June** - at the Drum and Monkey - Country Music - RAMROD

Then Live Entertainment every second Tuesday.

## Wednesday 9th June

at Kenn Village Hall - Mr Taylor will speak on Wild Flowers at the Avon Gorge at Kenn Women's Institute meeting at 7.30 pm.

## Saturday 26th June

at Oaklands Farm, Kenn - Midsummer Madness Summer Party

**Wednesdays** at The Drum and Monkey - Quiz from 9.00 pm

**Thursdays** - at Kenn Village Hall 8.00 - 9.00 pm - Bums, Tums and Thighs - Keep Fit with Sue Gilbert

## Advance Dates

8th July at The Drum and Monkey  
The Mendip Morris Men - Morris Dancers

17th July at Kenn Village Hall and Field - Friends of Kenn Church Annual Barbecue.

# KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

4th August at Stonehouse Farm, Kenn  
10 - 12 noon - Coffee Morning for  
Friends of Kenn Church Funds

12th September - Harvest Festival at  
St. John the Evangelist, Kenn followed  
by Harvest Barbeque at The Village  
Hall after Evensong.

18th/19th September at Kenn Village  
Hall and Field - Kenn thro the Ages

## **FOR SALE - BEDDING AND TOMATO PLANTS**

Mrs Mary Willcox of Yew Tree Farm  
is offering Bedding and Tomato Plants  
for sale with proceeds going towards  
Kenn Church Funds.

Telephone 872837

## **Thanks**

Nigel Hackett would like to thank all  
who have sent cards, or in any way  
wished him well, or expressed interest  
in his well-being during his recent  
sojourn in hospital.

All appears to have progressed  
according to plan and he hopes to be  
increasingly out and about in the days  
ahead.

## **Welcome**

A warm welcome to Ann. Vincent, and  
Bethany Stowell who moved into their  
new house "The Maples" in Kenn  
Street at the end of May.

Ray Naish

## **Kenn Women's Institute**

The sun came out at last for our May  
Meeting. Miss Holtham welcomed  
members and especially Mrs Denmead  
and Mrs Jeffrey after her stay in  
hospital.

Two visitors, Mrs. Aldwinckle from  
Truro WI and Mrs. Goulden-Ellis were  
made welcome.

Ten members had been at the Group  
Meeting at Nailsea, having a very  
enjoyable evening with entertainment,  
lovely refreshments and a most  
interesting speaker.

The WI Jumble Sale had been  
profitable, in spite of the mix-up over  
the advertised time!

Kenn have invited North Newton WI  
to come in July, repeating the  
successful event of last year. The  
village sign is beyond repair and  
members were asked for ideas for a  
replacement. There will be a Charity  
Evening to raise funds for Clevedon  
Hospital's League of Friends and ideas  
were asked for that.

The Royal Albert Hall is the venue  
once more for the IGM. Resolutions  
were read, discussed and voted on:

1) The Decline in the Agricultural  
Industry was, of course, of great  
interest and the comment was made  
that people should be persuaded to buy  
food PRODUCED in this country, not  
food imported and just packed here.  
This resolution was passed.

2) On Resolution 2, Genetically  
Modified Foods, it will be left to our

# KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

Delegate's discretion on how she votes.

3) National Screening for Ovarian Cancer was passed. Bart's Hospital is doing research into this in which 120,000 women over fifty years of age will take part; unfortunately it will be six or seven years before the results are known.

The fourth Resolution, Women's Human Rights was again left to the discretion of our Delegate.

We were very concerned at the non-appearance of our Speaker for the evening and hope that all is well with him. To fill the gap, members gave an impromptu entertainment of stories and poetry. The competition for a sample of hand-writing was won by Mrs. Ford, Miss Livesey second and Mrs Bubb third. Leaving earlier than usual, most members were laden with plants and produce from our very busy Trade Stall.

The Speaker at next month's meeting on 9th June will be Mr. K Taylor on Wild Flowers of the Avon Gorge and the competition is for a collection of wild flowers.

Shirley Livesey

## **KENN HISTORY GROUP**

The next History Walk will take place on Tuesday 15th June, meeting at Stonehouse Farm at 6.45 pm.

We hope to revisit "Naish Farm", Clapton-in-Gordano. It is hoped it will be a fine evening enabling us to walk around the fields. Everyone is welcome to join us. You do not have

to be a member, just come along and bring your friends.

## **Kenn History Group**

On a very wet evening in May the Kenn History Group met for the first of the "Summer Walks". We went to visit Naish House Farm on the border of Wraxall and Clapton-in-Gordano.

The site of this farm is on the ridge above the motorway overlooking the Severn Estuary to Wales. Not that we even saw Portishead !!

The history of this farm is very interesting, built in the 1600's it was old to two spinster ladies by the name of Kemy. They allowed Bishop Tom Ken from Kenn Court to take refuge in 1637, when he refused to sign allegiance to William of Orange, therefore losing the Bishopric of Bath and Wells.

In 1801, it was bought by James Allen Gordon, a sugar refiner from Antigua. It was thought that Mr. Gordon was a magistrate and that his house was the local Courtroom for the Kenn men who set fire to the hayricks in the 1830's. They were imprisoned in Ilchester, but were brought back to the scene of the crime for their hanging. The last "scene of the crime" hanging. It was the day of the Congresbury fair, so 10,000 people came to watch the spectacle.

Mr. Gordon's ladder can be seen in one of the outhouses at Naish Farm - inscription reads JAG 1835

By 1854, a Colonel Pilgrim purchased Naish Farm. In the grounds is an unmarked grave of the bones of his

# KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

much beloved horse, who took part in the Charge of the Light Brigade.

In 1882 Naish Farm became a boy's school but on 25th December 1902 a tragic fire devastated the beautiful building,

Finally, in 1922, the now derelict building was bought by Mr. Chitty, a surgeon at Bristol Hospital. The original house was blown up by the Royal Engineers and a new one was put up in its place.

Naish Hill Motor Club was the first hill climb after the war and remains of the track can still be seen. However the motorway cut through half the track.

The farm did not get its own water supply until 1957, prior to this water was collected from the roof tops and stored in an underground chamber. The water was installed by Farmer Ogbourne an "ace ploughing champion" according to Ray Naish.

The current owner Mr. M. Filer has set about restoring and preserving this wonderful old site. He has sympathetically kept many of the original features and continues to naturally landscape the surroundings.

During the war in 1942, a Hurricane crashed at Naish Farm, killing the Canadian pilot who was buried at Colerne.

Mr. Filer had a commemorative stone installed and received a visit a few years ago from the pilot's sister.

Despite the appalling weather the group really enjoyed both the history and the spectacular site at Naish Farm.

We would all like to thank Mr. Filer for allowing this visit and due to the awful weather the group want to revisit later in the year.

Mandy Boyle

## Post Script to History Group Report on Visit to Naish House

Granny Griffin recalls, as a young child, being taken on a Sunday School outing from The Linden Road Methodist Church for a picnic in the grounds of Naish House this was about 1910.

The children were all loaded into a four wheeled wagon which was dressed overall with bunting and flags.

The wagon was pulled by a steam traction engine owned by Mum's uncle, Mr. Edmund Shopland of Clevedon Sawmills.

The steam engine was called, I believe, The Clevedonian.

The happy party left Linden Road mid morning, with many proud parents in attendance to see the children off in their Sunday best.

They travelled from Clevedon to Tickenham and up Tickenham Hill to Naish House, spending the day in the grounds, playing games and having their picnic.

The return journey to Clevedon taking place late afternoon and arriving in Linden Road early evening.

The journey behind a smoky steam engine had taken a fearsome toll on the children's' once pristine outfits. My mother recalls that there were two



# KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

outings like this. Simple pleasures of less privileged times.

John Griffin

## BIRD NEWS I

Most of our summer visitors have now arrived (23rd) and first impressions are that Swallows and House Martins are in their usual numbers.

I have seen fewer Swifts, but this is perhaps because of a lack of warm evenings recently.

Cuckoos seem to be decidedly scarce - I have only heard one locally, but on the plus side there are lots of Whitethroats and in suitable habitat Reed Warblers. In fact a recent count showed 18 singing Reed Warblers on the old railway between Yatton and Congresbury (and since they never all sing when you are counting the real number is probably 20-25).

The Kenn Moor survey revealed a pair of Grey Partridges, Kingfisher and a few Whimbrel along with the more usual and easily seen birds.

At Shapwick Heath our male Marsh Harrier now has at least two wives and there are other birds in the area, so we are hoping for another good year - I will keep you informed of progress.

Six Hobbies provided a marvellous spectacle there as they hawked damselflies over the heath. These birds are fantastic fliers, catching and eating insects on the wing.

Trevor Riddle

## BIRD NEWS II

There seem to be a very large number of Swallows around the Village this year, but up to date I have not seen one House Martin or a Swift.

I have only heard a Cuckoo once this year, this was in the Hillsea area of Claverham; it called just twice, why have they become so scarce ?

Jeff and Stella Naish report four young Peewits being hatched at the old "Decoy Pool Farm" in the moors. They tell me that the parent birds have had a big struggle to keep them alive due to continual attacks by Carrion Crows. The latest reports are that the young have now grown out of danger and the Crows have lost interest.

I saw a Roe Deer in Ham Lane, Yatton early one morning recently. Has anyone else seen it ? It was right outside Ham Farm.

Ray Naish

## Mrs Clara Gale

Former Kenn resident Mrs Clara Gale has passed away aged 92.

Mrs Gale came to Kenn in the early 1930's. her name then was Clara Bibby, she came here, from the North of England, with her brother-in-law and sister Mr and Mrs Pearson who had bought "Wayside Cottage", now Wayside Garage. Her mother Mrs Bibby also arrived with them, also Mr and Mrs Pearson's children Joan and David.

# KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

A few years later Clara married Pat Gale from this village. I remember hearing their Banns called before their wedding when I was a choirboy, this was well over sixty years ago.

After their marriage, Pat moved into Wayside Cottage with his wife and all her family. It is amazing how so many people lived in such a small house. Later Pat and Clara had two sons; many years later the Gales moved to Yatton.

In the 1930's Mr and Mrs Pearson had petrol pumps installed turning it into Wayside Filling Station, they sold R.O.P. Petrol (Russian Oil Products) at ten pence halfpenny a gallon (in today's money about four and a half pence). The petrol was pumped into a glass jar by hand, when the handle was turned backwards the petrol ran into your car or can. This was when you could count the cars in Kenn on one hand.

Mrs Gale died in a nursing home in Melksham, after cremation her ashes will be buried in the Memorial Garden at Kenn Church alongside those of her husband Pat.

Ray Naish

## Robert Burns and some aspects of his life and writings.

In a previous issue of N. & V. I wrote a few lines about Auld Lang Syne and Robert Burns. Some interest was shown in that article, so here, I have written a little more on Burns the man.

"Rabbie" Burns, is probably Scotland's best known and best loved poet. The son of a poor farming

family, he was born in 1759 in a cottage made of clay, and built by his father's own hand.

The cottage was situated on the banks of the Doon in the District of Kyle in the County of Ayrshire.

A few days after his birth, a storm arose and crushed the frail house and the unconscious baby Robert had to be carried out to the safety and shelter of a neighbour's house.

His early schooling was sketchy but he early showed a great aptitude for learning. Accordingly, he went for more intensive studying under the care of a fine local teacher, one Mr. Murdoch.

So he began to mix with a wider range of friends and their parents who generally were much better off than he was. However he still had to work on his father's farm and soon became a skilled and hard-working ploughman and the principal labourer on the farm.

Quite soon, his father died, mainly due to overwork and poverty. Robert, his mother and brothers, took on another farm of about 118 acres. The rent for this was £90 p.a. and the brothers paid themselves £7 p.a. each for their labours.

Round about this time, Burns was growing into young manhood and Burns the farmer was also becoming interested in the lassies and they in him. In particular, there was a certain fair haired girl, from whose hands, in the fields, he picked the thistle stings.

Of her he wrote one of his first poems:

## KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

“My Nellie’s looks are blythe and  
sweet  
And what is best of a’  
Her reputation is complete,  
And fair, without a flaw.  
She dresses aye so clean and neat  
Both decent and genteel  
And then there’s something in her gait  
Makes any dress look weel.”

Because of his upbringing in very rural  
Scotland, his poems and rhymes were  
always in the local tongue.

Pure English was to him, as it was to  
all Scots at that time, almost a foreign  
language.

About this time too, he began to write  
more poetry, one, about his father, as  
follows:

“My father was a farmer  
Upon the Carrick border  
And carefully he bred me up  
In decency and order.

He bade me act a manly part  
tho’ I had ne’er a farthing  
For without a manly honest heart  
No man is worth regarding.”

After these first ventures in attempts to  
write poetry, it now became something  
of a passion for him. He read and  
became familiar with, much classical  
literature and poetry. In spite of this,  
he still led an unpolished life, wedded  
as he was to the plough.

At this time too, some of his  
neighbouring farmers, were at night,  
indulging in smuggling activities.  
Burns himself took no part in this, but  
associated with those who did. He  
recognised their danger by saying

“it is dangerous for a bare hand to  
pluck the lily from amongst the  
nettles”.

He recognised too, that to err is human  
and wrote these lines.

“Then gently scan your brother man  
Still gentler, sister woman  
Tho’ they may gang a bitty wrang  
To step aside is human.

One point must still be greatly dark,  
Is the reason why they do it,  
And just as lamely can ye mark,  
How far perhaps they rue it.”

In spite of all the hard work on the  
Burns farm at Mosshiel, the land was  
not yielding a profit. This was due  
mainly to bad luck with poor seeds, the  
weather and other factors. Burns  
sought to distract his friends and  
neighbours from their hard labours by  
organising meetings at the local inns;  
to talk and debate even, on various  
subjects, and to try to raise their  
awareness and intellect. He soon saw  
the limitations of his friends, saying

“No polish can convert a pebble into a  
diamond”

Because of his sometime and by now  
excessive drinking and by some of his  
outspoken poems and comments, some  
fame and notoriety accompanied his  
name.

In spite of this, he was a pious man, as  
his later writings will reveal. He was  
by now a man, so head of his house.  
He was a handsome man, his large  
dark expressive eyes, his tanned skin,  
broad brow shaded with dark wavy  
hair, his sad look and vigorous and  
active frame, all united to set people’s  
eyes upon him.

## KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

Some time after this, he met his first real love, one Mary Campbell. Mary came from the West Highlands, but was working as a dairy-maid in nearby Ardrossan. After a while they resolved to be betrothed.

They spent a whole summer's day, on the banks of the river saying farewell. She, to go back to the Highlands to arrange with her family, her new life with Robert.

That Autumn, she returned and recrossed the Clyde to meet him. Scarcely had she landed, when she became ill with a severe fever, and died - before Burns even knew of her illness. The tragedy is, that before they parted for her to go back to the Highlands they stood on each side of a stream, holding a Bible between them, and pronounced their vows to be faithful each to the other.

They parted, never to meet again. It is thought that Burns had her in mind when he wrote this most beautiful of love songs:

“O’ my luv’s like a red red rose  
That’s newly sprung in June  
O’ my luv’s like a melodie  
That’s sweetly played in tune.

As thou art fair my bonnie lass  
So deep in luv am I  
And I will love thee still my dear  
Till a’ the seas gang dry.

Till a’ the seas gang dry my dear  
And rocks melt wi’ the sun  
I will love thee still my dear  
While the sands o’ life shall run.

So fare thee weel my only love  
And fare thee weel a while  
And I will come again my love  
Tho’ it were ten thousand mile.”

To this day, there is in Dunoon, on the banks of the Clyde, a statue to Mary Campbell; still known as Bonnie Highland Mary.

Burns took some time to get over his loss, but later, he became acquainted with a Jean Armour, Jean of Argyll.

But, more of her another time.

Cliff Edwards.