

KENN NEWS AND VIEWS



Editor Sheila NAISH

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Printed by:- Margaret STOWELL

Typed by:- Ann STOWELL

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BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

March 5th Leon Naish (18)
8th Jeremy Osbourne
16th Angie Carpenter
(up the Garage)
16th Brian & Julie Stowell WA
17th Lee Staples (18)
18th Quinton Stowell
27th Amy Bye
31st Ruth & Sam Dyer WA

Thought of the month

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

Message from Ed.

Articles for the magazine to reach us
by 20th March please.

Anything interesting, unusual or funny
- share it with us.

I went out one Thursday for a girls
night out to Weston - walking along
the road I discovered I had one blue
suede platform shoe on and one black
suede shoe - no platform. I'm worried
about by sanity !! still perhaps I'll
start a new trend.

Naish's Notes I

Don't forget the **Comic Relief Quiz
Night. Kenn Valley Social Club -
Thursday March 11th 8.00 pm.
Raffle too.**

Bring you family and friends, this is a
Fun Quiz, so everyone can join in, you
don't have to be Brain of Britain.
Come and have a laugh and help us to
raise a lot of money for Comic Relief.
Give me a ring and let me know about

your team, or phone Kenn Valley
832086 or just turn up. Prize for the
funniest/most original team name.

See you there! don't forget your red
nose !

Naish's Notes II

I am collecting the Tesco Vouchers for
Schools for a local school; so if
you've no need of them, pop them in
an envelope and leave them at the
shop or with Ray for me. Do ask for
them, they are so useful.

I am also collecting the Walkers crisp
packets with tokens for Books for
Schools - please don't throw them
away - leave them and I'll collect them
from Ray or the shop.

Thank you.

St. John the Evangelist, Kenn

Easter Vestry Meeting

The Easter Vestry Meeting at Kenn
this year will be held on Sunday 7th
March after the morning service at
about 12 noon.

At the meeting Church Wardens are
elected for the coming year. Everyone
on the Electoral Roll or who lives in
the Village is entitled to attend this
meeting.

St. John's Altar Guild

Members of the Altar Guild on duty in
March are Mrs Julia Bush, Mrs Jean
Fenwick and Mrs Jenny Pascoe.

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Kenn Notes

Snippets

Coffee Morning Saturday 13th February at Kenn Court for News and Views and Kenn Village Hall was not very well supported; but warm thanks to those Kennites who attended and helped. Thanks to those who gave raffle prizes and donations. Sixty pounds was raised.

Kenn Village Hall Quiz Friday March 19th at 7.45 pm.

Kennites and Friends are invited to a Quiz in aid of Kenn thro' the Ages.

Mr. Nigel Hackett will be Quiz Master.

Supper consisting of a Ham Ploughman's will be supplied by Mike and Lita of the Drum and Monkey cost £3.50.

Quiz £4 per table of four. Bring your own drinks.

Names and supper orders to Marianna Mackay, Church Path Cottage
- phone 349323

Kenn Village Hall

The Committee of Kenn Village Hall is pleased to announce the have been

allocated a grant from Lansec - the Land Fill Tax, of £701 plus V.A.T. for improvements to the Hall Kitchen.

This is the very first grant the Hall has ever received and it will be most appreciated.

Dates for your diary

Wednesday 10th March 7.30 pm

Kenn Women's Institute - Travel with Pat Davies to Iceland.
Competition - An Unusual Pebble.

Friday March 19th 7.45 pm

Quiz in Village Hall

Wednesdays (except 2nd)

8.00 pm. Keep Fit with Jacqui Curwood.

Thursdays

8.00 pm. Keep Fit with Sue Gilbert

Advance Dates

Wednesday 7th April 2.00 pm. Jumble Sale organised by Kenn Women's Institute.

July 24th/25th Kenn thro' the Ages

History Group - January report

The Kenn History group was treated to a fascinating insight to Cliff Edwards' wartime activities.

Some 56 years ago Cliff volunteered to join the Navy. In 1941 he arrived at HMS Collingwood, a shore-based training camp at Portsmouth, at the tender age of 18.

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After a 12 weeks training programme learning Navy jargon and many knots, he got his first posting as a range and direction finding operator, now commonly known as RADAR.

Cliff's first ship was the HMS Royal Scotsman, Belfast. As any new sailor he had high hopes for a glamorous new ship. In the event it was a cross-channel steamer carrying cattle and passengers! It was refitted to become a commando carrier.

The Royal Scotsman joined a Russian bound convoy as a rescue ship, supporting 29 ships to Murmansk. Although this was April 1942 it was still bitterly cold, 5 ships were lost to submarines and aircraft and Cliff's ship rescued men and corpses.

On arrival in Russia, the Russians were not very hospitable, in fact hostile. All aboard the Royal Scotsman were delighted to return to Belfast.

Shortly after returning to Belfast, Cliff became ill with rheumatic fever and was transferred to Glasgow. At the end of the war he married the sister of his bed-ridden neighbour!

Cliff's next role in the Navy was the anchor man on a landing craft. he saw service in occupied French North Africa, then Malta in 1943, Sicily, Italy and Anzo.

Then his ship was sent to Burma via the Suez Canal, but almost as soon as they reached Burma they were recalled to take part in Operation Overlord. Cliff however was taken to a mine sweeper as a radar operator ploughing the channel. As the war ended in Europe his job was assisted by German sailors sweeping their own minefields.

Cliff had actually been in all the "theatres of war" and therefore has a full complement of campaign medals!

Throughout his presentation Cliff gave a very informed and interesting talk.

He never once glorified the war, but also did not expand upon the horror, pain and fear that no doubt all who saw active service experienced.

Kenn History Group would very much like to thank Cliff for a fascinating evening and his treasure-trove of artefacts.

Mandy Boyle

Thanks

A letter of thanks has gone to Lux Traffic Controls of Malmesbury, who kindly provided the protective cable ducting for the Christmas Tree lights last year. As proceeds from the Carol Singing go to the Children's Society they have said that we may keep this for future years.

Thanks

Jumble Sale 24th February for the Christmas Parties Fund

Many thanks to all those who contributed, helped, served, bought raffle tickets, gave raffle prizes or made donations. The magnificent sum of £137.40 has been banked ready for the Christmas Festivities of 1999.

Margaret Stowell

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KENN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Singing Jerusalem to piano accompaniment on cassette was a good start to the February Meeting. This is an idea we have borrowed from North Newton WI.

President Miss Holtham welcomed members, especially our visitor, Mrs. Saxby and, presented new member Mrs. Callow with her WI card, to be followed by a packet of goodies from National.

Mrs. Morris was thanked for her pretty flowers. The Newsletter was read, and the Agenda received for the EGM at Saltford, for which we need a delegate.

The Group Meeting will be on 28th April at Nailsea where the speaker will be Mr. Anderson from the Long Ashton Research Institute.

South Clevedon WI will be holding a Quiz Night on 22nd March and a team will be entered. There will also be a Quiz Night at Kenn Village Hall on 19th March to help fund the Kenn Through the Ages weekend on 25th and 26th July. More details of these events to follow, and a Jumble Sale will be held in the Hall on 24th February in aid of the Tea Party Fund.

There were plenty of events on the outings board, and we hope to visit Mrs. S. Gregson's garden following on from her most interesting talk to us last September. Mrs. Harris and Miss Holtham enjoyed the Fire and Ice talk at Backwell WI Hall.

Most people would pay anything not to have to go into deep, dark, filthy water

and grope through debris that could contain anything from live ammunition to dead bodies. Mr. R. Cross is a retired police sergeant from the Underwater Search Unit and he not only kept us fascinated by his description of the work, he had us in fits of laughter, too.

There are ten members in the Unit who are on 24-hour call. They did have two women on the team, who Mr. Cross said were 'as good as the men' then they left to have babies and never came back. There have been attempts to disband the unit for financial reasons but to call out Units from Devon or Cornwall would cost around £1,500 per day. Inevitably there are very sad jobs, such as searching for suicides. One man had been in 20 ft. of water that was so cold his entire system had closed down. When taken out of the water they thought he was dead as there was no pulse. However the used resuscitation on him and by the time the ambulance arrived he was breathing again.

Mr. Cross thought he was going to die on one occasion and said all he thought was 'Just when I am two months off retiring'. Just how disorientating it can be in such conditions was down by a trainee diver, who thought he had found a submerged Mini and it turned out to be a Rolls-Royce.

The competition for a Seashell was won by Mrs. Ford, Mrs. Arney was second and Mrs. Prew third. Our speaker on 10th March will be Mrs. Pat Davies on 'Travel in Iceland' and the competition is for an unusual pebble.

Shirley Livesey,
Kenn

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BIRD NOTES I

During the dense fog we had in January, I was fortunate to see at close quarters a Sparrowhawk perched on a heap of stones.

This fierce hawk did not flinch at my presence. I wondered if it was injured or stunned as it did not attempt to fly off. It dropped to the ground and hopped along and behind our garage, by now it was nearly dark - 4.40 pm!

Next morning it was much closer to our house, seeing me first, it flew across the lawn onto the garden seat. I was now able to see that it was not grey above but brown, signifying it was a female juvenile bird.

D.H.Glasson

BIRD NEWS II

The February survey at Kenn Moor produced slightly less than average counts, but with still very few small birds.

At the Yatton end of the Cheddar Valley Railway I was asked to check and clean out the bird boxes. All of the tit boxes had seen some use, but the open fronted ones were quite pristine and unused.

When we came to check on the owl box, I explained to the environmental student who was with me about the usual precautions - "make some noise and don't put your hands in or face near". However the box was clean with no droppings, so I was quite surprised when, banging the ladder against the tree, a Tawny Owl flew out!

A visit to the sea wall and River Yeou estuary produced lots of birds, perhaps a thousand Lapwings, a couple of thousand Dunlins and many Redshanks and Curlew. There were about 50 Grey Plovers, a few Golden Plovers with some Knots and 3 Oystercatchers.

Two Peregrine Falcons were perched on fence posts, but I missed the Short Eared Owl reported by another birdwatcher. Consolation came in the form of an obliging Merlin which was positioned on the same post where I last saw this species at the Yeou about seven years ago. So a pretty good day, but the most unusual spot was a freshly dead, slightly oiled Guillemot, which has been sent away for analysis.

Trevor Riddle

BIRD NEWS III

The mention of the sighting of the Pied Blackbirds in last month's News & Views has created a lot of interest. These are ordinary blackbirds with some white feathers.

Dennis and Iris Goldsworthy of 'Moor Lodge', Kenn Street report seeing them in their garden almost daily, they think they are the young of a hen bird that was around for several years which they named 'String of Pearls' due to the ring of white feathers she had around her neck.

Mary Lamb who lives a few doors away has also seen them in her garden.

Richard and Avril Gaunt have told me that when they lived at 'The Chalet' on the Green they often saw a pied blackbird in their garden, this unusual

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family of blackbirds has been around Kenn for at least forty years, probably longer.

Miles Naish says that they were around the Churchyard area when he was at School. When Lynne Dark lived at the 'Old Chapel' she regularly fed a pied hen blackbird in her garden.

Dennis and Iris also report regular visits of a Kestrel; he sits on their garden fence, his next visit is here at Stonehouse Farm, he flies through at speed, probably trying to catch one of our pigeons.

About two weeks ago, I looked out of an upstairs window here at Stonehouse Farm early in the morning. Looking across Robert Willcox's orchard I saw the biggest fox I have ever seen strolling about sniffing the ground., He moved down near to the rank of houses out of sight; within a few minutes he was strolling around our lawn. Two days later I saw him again in our orchard, this time he was following a vixen, they went down into the large badger earth between the orchard and Mr. Dyer's field. I expect he was looking for the vixen on our lawn, she was probably lying up in one of the buildings here in the yard. Foxes mate in January and February.

A badger has taken to visiting our garden most nights, he comes in through a hole under the fence; the same place as the fox got in.

A pair of Carrion Crows are building a nest in the fir tree on our lawn, this tree is probably the tallest in the Village. The crows start getting noisy about five o'clock in the morning, in competition with our cockerels who start crowing about that time.

There are two or three elm trees in the paddock behind the house here, they are dying of Dutch Elm Disease, I saw a Lesser Spotted Woodpecker pecking about on one of them two days ago; the dead bark is probably a good source of insects for food.

Ray Naish.

Ivor Johnson

Former Kenn resident Ivor Johnson has died suddenly aged 82, his home was in Yatton.

Ivor was brought up by his mother and step-father in a house called 'Briarside' which was on the opposite side of the road to the former Vicarage in Kenn.

'Briarside' was a beautiful house built in 1900, sadly it was pulled down to make way for the motorway bridge.

Ivor with his brother Alec were former pupils of Kenn School, there are several people still living in Kenn who were at school with them, Sam Staples, Rowland Hazel and Sam Dyer are some of them.

Ivor was always interested in what was happening in Kenn; he was often seen cycling around the Village visiting people he knew. He was very pleased to attend the 1997 Christmas Tea Party and was very disappointed at not being able to get to last year's party. His wife Evelyn died several years ago.

Ray Naish.

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They said it; not me:

The scene is too dull, tell him to put
more life into his dying
: Sam Goldwyn

Anyone leaving their garments for
more than 30 days, will be disposed of
: In a dry cleaners window

We repair anything. Please knock
hard, the bell isn't working
: Window of a repair shop

Successful breastfeeding. An evening
for everyone
: Cornish Guardian

Bargain basement upstairs
: Store notice

If you are unable to read, this will tell
you how to get lessons
Information leaflet London

For sale. Elizabethan cassette
recorder. As New £11.50
: Salcombe Gazette

Macadam. the first man on earth
according to the Scottish Bible
: Washington Post Contest to
re-define words

In case of fire, do your utmost to alarm
the Hotel Porter
: Viennese Hotel

God give me patience, and I want it
now.
: Patience Prayer

The only place you will find success
before work is in the dictionary
: May V. Smith

There is good news from the front
tonight. From N. Africa comes the
word that Allied troops have stopped
the advances of the German Pansy
Division
: Newsreader BBC Radio
1942

Negligent, describes a condition in
which you absentmindedly answer the
door in your nightie
: Washington Post Contest to
re-define words.

Cliff Edwards