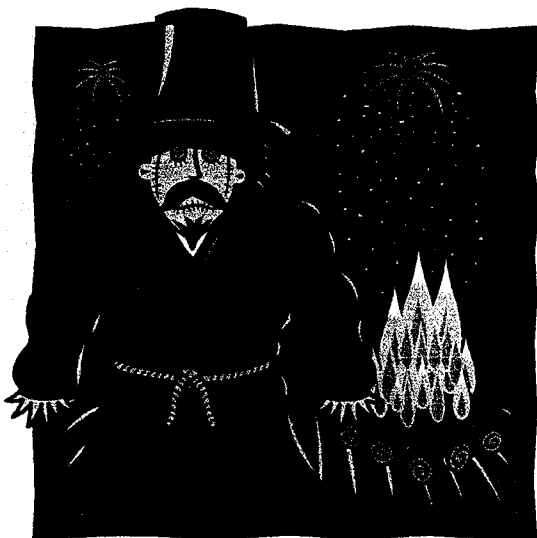


KENN NEWS AND VIEWS



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KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

NOVEMBER

- 9th Andrew Jenkins
12th Derek Wall
13th Sheila Naish
Jody Stowell
16th Sebastian Wilcox
Sam Dyer
Miles and Sheila Naish - W.A
22nd Emma Smith
27th Rebecca Brett (Fenwick)
Sarah Melling (Griffin)
28th Sarah Clark
Grace & John Griffin - W.A.
29th Mr & Mrs George Holtham W.A.

Altar Guild Members on Duty in November

Mrs. Sarah Clark
Mrs. Ruth Dyer
Mrs. Marianna Mackay

December Rota

If any ladies are unable to do their week in December, please let Jean Naish know.
Tel. 872493 - Many thanks

Sunday 5th - Mrs J. Fenwick/Mrs J.Pascoe
12th - Mrs R. Bell/Mrs G. Griffin
19th - CAROL SERVICE
Mrs M Stowell/Mrs H. Jenkins
Saturday 25th CHRISTMAS DAY/26th
- Mrs J Cheek/Mrs M. Mackay

Mrs J. Naish, with helpers, will decorate the tree in Church.

Apologies

I apologise to the "Chalice Handbell Ringers" for not mentioning them playing before evensong on Harvest Festival Sunday. People came to Church early to hear them.

Ray Naish.

Kenn History Group

Apologies for having to cancel the October Meeting at the last minute.

We will now meet on Monday 15th November, 7.30 pm at The Granary, Duck Lane, for an informal chat to discuss our programme.

Please feel free to join us, we are in need of some new ideas.

Grace Griffin

Parish Council Notes

Best Kept Village Competition

Kenn was awarded marks in the 80-89% bracket in the Best Kept Village Competition this year. There is a feeling that it is probably not our turn to win anything!

The judges comments seem very nit-picky - they would like us to sweep the footpaths. They also comment that the new bus shelter has been 'got at' but we are unable to see where. Were they in the right village ?

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The Parish Council, however, was very pleased at the way the village looked and thanks all those who did their bit to tidy up. Names are invidious but it was all noticed. Thank you.

The plaque from a previous victory has been repainted and will be kept on display in the Village Hall to protect it from the weather.

The Millennium

It has been suggested that there should be a new Village Sign to mark the Millennium. Debate is raging as to whether it should be stone, wood or metal. It would be placed on The Green. Please, please give your views to any member of the Parish Council so that a proper choice can be made.

Any other suggestions for celebrating this event will be welcome.

Ann Holtham

Kenn Notes - Snippets

Drainage

Remembering the floods in Kenn Street during last winter, Kenn Parish Council decided at its October meeting to write to the Environmental Agency requesting that all the necessary outlets for flood water will be in order to prevent a recurrence.

Kenn Village Hall

A Jumble Sale will be held in the Hall on Wednesday 17th November 1999 at 2 pm.

Offers of help will be most welcome, also Raffle Prizes. Goods for sale to the Hall between 10 and 11am please. Come along and meet your neighbours.

Admission 20p. for Hall Funds.

Kenn Women's Institute

Kenn W.I. will meet in the Hall at 7.15 pm for the Annual General Meeting followed by a talk by the Reverend Ian Hubbard on "My Favourite Music" Competition - Piece of Old Sheet Music.

Kenn Women's Institute

The Annual Demonstration of Christmas Floral Arrangements by Mrs Oliver will be held in the Village Hall on Monday 29th November at 7.30 pm.
Admission £2.50 to include coffee.

Kenn Women's Institute

Kenn Women's Institute is organising the Annual Carol Service for members of the Yeo Valley Group in Kenn Church on Monday 6th December at 7.30 pm.

Invalid

Jack Hanson has been very ill in Southmead Hospital. He is now convalescing at home.
We send him our best wishes.

Welcome

A warm welcome to Sally and George Bilton who have moved into One Elm; we hope they will enjoy living in Kenn.

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Kenn 2000 Tea Towels

Shop early and locally for Christmas -
Kenn 2000 Tea Towels £3 each from Irene
Stowell 872476 or Ruth Dyer 872676

Dates for your Diary

At Kenn Village Hall

Wednesday 10th November at 7.15 pm
Kenn Women's Institute

Wednesday 17th November at 2 pm
Jumble Sale

Monday 29th November at 7.30 pm
Christmas Floral Arrangement
Demonstration.

Every Thursday 8.00 - 9.00 pm
Tums, Bums and Thighs -
Keep Fit with Sue Gilbert

Advance Dates

Saturday 11th December - Millennium
Disco Party at Kenn Village Hall

Friday 17th December Christmas Tree
lights switch on with carols on The Green.

Letters

Margaret and Maurice Ford would like to
thank the people of Kenn for the friendship
shown to them over the past eight years.

Circumstances dictated that we now
needed an apartment and our efforts to
find a suitable place in the Clevedon area
proved unsuccessful for one reason or
another. Problems with the lease ruled out
one at Weston so we find ourselves in
temporary accommodation in Cheddar.

We now think that we have found
something suitable on the beach at Weston
but it will not be ready until February!

We hope very much that you will allow us
to visit regularly and we hope to get back
into attending the Family Service - so you
have not seen the last of us.

Thank you all

Margaret and Maurice.

Dennis and I would like to thank everyone
in the village for their kind wishes, cards
and gifts on our Golden Wedding.

We should especially like to thank Mr and
Mrs Dyer for flying the flag.

We thought we had kept a pretty low
profile by not saying anything - we should
have known better.

I apologise for being a little late with this
note but I was away with the fairies for a
few days and then found I had missed
publication date.

Thank you again,

Iris and Dennis Goldsworthy

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Mrs Whitehead

We are looking forward to celebrating Mrs Whitehead's ninetieth birthday on Saturday 4th December.

Mrs Whitehead was born in Congresbury, the youngest but one of the Taylor family's thirteen children.

After her marriage to Richard Whitehead, she lived at Moorgates for four years, before moving to Corner Cottage, her present home, in the late forties.

Mrs Whitehead has always been active in the community, being a member of the Church Altar Guild where she gave invaluable help to the well-being of the Church, especially when we had no Vicar.

She used to be a very active member of Kenn Women's Institute, being a prominent member of the Drama Group.

She still regularly helps with parties of handicapped and older folk when they come to tea in Kenn, as well as cooking and looking after her home and garden.

She is always interested and regularly supports events in Kenn., We wish her many more happy years at Corner Cottage.

Ruth Dyer

The Wild Harvest

After the very hot weather back in the summer and then the heavy thundery rain later, country people were expecting an abundance of wild mushrooms. It was ideal weather for them to pop out of the ground, but it never happened. I and other members of our family have been driving around fields over a wide area and none of us have found more than a few. I wonder why this has been, perhaps it is another of

nature's mysteries. Some years there is an abundance, other years none at all.

There has been no shortage of blackberries on the bushes this year. In fact I have never seen them in such abundance. The thing that has been in short supply this year has been pickers. Blackberry picking seems to have gone out of fashion. People seem to be too well off to bother to get out to pick them.

Years ago many people supplemented their meagre incomes by blackberry picking. They could be picked and sold to agents who bought them for people like Chivers Jams. There were several agents in this area, amongst them was Mrs Annie Summerell who had a shop in the Triangle at Kingston Seymour. You could take your blackberries along, Mrs Summerell would weigh them, tip them into a barrel supplied by the jam makers and pay you a few pence per pound for them. A big basketful came to about three shillings - a large amount of extra money to a farm worker's wife who perhaps had to keep house for a large family on perhaps as little as one pound fifty per week.

During the last war any type of food was extremely valuable. There was a great demand for blackberries. I have heard it said that a chap from Kingston named Bill Holly picked a half hundred weight of blackberries in a day during the war.

There were other agents in the area, among them was Mrs Dickie Bird who lived near the "Market Inn" at Yatton and Mr. Albert Stockham who lived at Claverham.

I like blackberry picking, and have had a good year, at the time of writing I have picked eight lots.

Our grandchildren picked a big basketful of wild Damsons they found on a tree at

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Nailsea earlier in the summer. There were a very welcome treat.

Ray Naish.

Kenn W.I.

The October Meeting was well attended and a report was given on the Group Meeting that was held at Walton-in-Gordano. Eleven of our members had enjoyed the evening with the Speaker giving details on Victorian Fashions. Tickenham W.I. won the competition.

Kenn will be host for the Group Meeting in April.

The Group Carol Service will also be held at Kenn; more details nearer the time.

Those who went to the Fashion Show at Somerset Hall had a good evening and our Team at the County Quiz did well, but not well enough to win! Regrettably our Skittles Team went down to Banwell. Never mind, there is always next year.

After the bobble hats, we now need lots of knitted teddies. These are for the A. & S. Police to give to children who are involved in accidents. The teddies, of all sizes, must of course be made from safe materials and washable.

Mrs Morris and Mrs Ings were each presented with a small gift to show our appreciation of their hard work and ingenuity in displaying so much, so well in so small a place at the Kenn Thro the Ages Day held recently. This was a most interesting exhibition, even though it rained torrents all day. There was so much to see you could have spent all day there - and some people did.

Mrs Blake was given a round of applause for winning nine prizes at the Home Craft Section of the North Somerset Ploughing Match held at Lower Langford.

Our Flower Demonstration Evening will be on Monday 29th November £2.50 at the door and everyone is welcome. Refreshments will be served in the interval.

Our Speaker's subject, "In the Steps of Matthew Flinders" described his own journey around part of Australia with five young ladies. The arduous task of being their road manager took them round South Australia, which had been mapped out by Flinders, ending at the mountain range named after him.

The trip had been funded by Rotary and subsequently an Australian group made a return visit to the UK. Mr. Allinson's host is a farmer.

After the war, instead of demob suits, their service men were given a square mile of land and this man was still working the farm and on the pictures we saw there was not a blade of grass to be seen. The beef cattle had all their food and water carted out to them. Though 120 degrees in the bush, it did rain while the team was there - three years rain all at once. It was soon obvious why they only use four-wheel drives.

Wildlife was interesting and Mr Allinson thought Rod Hull's Emu was mild compared to the real thing. These birds' heads are level with your face and they will peck your eyes given the chance.

He spent some time with the Flying Doctor Service and all the outback stations had a specially supplied medicine chest and the service, having listened to the symptoms,

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tells them which pack of medicine to use. As everyone listens in and comments, a lot of people must keep quiet about their ailments at times!

All the war memorials are military equipment, e.g. a gun, a tank or even a corvette. One man said they felt let down by the UK - after losing more men than Britain and Germany combined in the two world wars, they felt we had abandoned them and New Zealand by joining the Common Market and so destroying a lot of their export trade. Every small town has two things for sale - beer and petrol.

The competition was won by Mrs Ford, Mrs R. Jeffrey second and Mrs Ings and Mrs Dyer were joint third.

Next month's meeting is the AGM and starts at 7.15. Mr Hubbard will tell us about his favourite music and the competition is for a piece of old sheet music.

Shirley Livesey

The following piece of advice from BT is taken from WI Avon News Warning from BT.

If you receive a phone call purporting to be from a telephone engineer asking you to dial "hash 90" or "90 hash" put the receiver down and DO NOT dial.

There is a device on the market which enables a caller to access your phone lines and so make calls to the USA or Australia.

If they use your phone line you will get the BILL for their calls

Bird News I

Weston-super-Mare was host to many birdwatchers early in the month when there were three rare birds present at the new Water Treatment Works near Uphill.

Foremost was an American Black Tern. This is currently considered to be a sub-species of the European Black Tern, but it is thought that it may soon be 'split' into a separate species. This was a first for Britain and attracted big crowds as it hawked for insects over one of the pools.

It arrived in poor weather, no doubt carried on the strong westerly winds, but in any event Terns are great travellers. An Arctic Tern was caught 25 years after it had been ringed as a nestling and it is estimated that this bird had flown one million miles in its lifetime!

The American Black Tern left Weston when the weather settled and on the same day as a Grey Phalarope, a dainty wader, which feeds by swimming around taking insects from the surface. This species breeds in the Arctic and winters on the Arabian Sea. The Grey Phalarope was the second rare bird and it also arrived in gale force winds.

The third rarity was a Ruddy Shelduck, a very gaudy duck. There is generally some doubt about the origins of unusual ducks as many escape from the ever-increasing number of wildfowl collections, but this bird seemed wary and carried no identification rings.

Today (16th) I have noted a single Swallow at Clevedon along with a few Chaffinches and Skylarks on migration.

There was also a big (80) flock of Linnets and a passing Peregrine Falcon. There

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have been reports of a Great White Egret along the sea wall at Kingston Seymour and I can confirm that their smaller cousins Little Egrets have commenced breeding in Britain. Their stronghold is Brownsea Island in Poole Harbour - there were 25 nests this year, but they are also nesting on the Somerset Levels with just 2 or 3 pairs.

Finally, Tawny Owls have been disturbing the quiet nights in Yatton with 3 or 4 calling. No doubt these are young birds trying to find territories.

Trevor Riddle.

Bird News 2

A couple of months ago in News and Views there was a mention of a Tawny Owl calling at night in the orchard behind Stonehouse Farm. Roger Wilcox who lives near the church reported seeing him on his roof one night and said how large he was, halfway up the length of the chimney.

I happened to disturb him the other afternoon in the Orchard. I can see what Roger means about his size; he is huge, I estimate his height at two foot six inches. Fortunately he is still around calling at night.

The last Martins left Stonehouse Farm on 29th September migrating south. There have been several flocks of Long Tailed Tits around lately, they seem to be more numerous than in former years.

Ray Naish

Sam Stuckey

There was an announcement of Sam's death in last month's News & Views.

Sam came from a very old Kenn family, his grandfather Wallis Stuckey lived at "Whitehouse Farm", Kenn and Wallis's brother was Joseph Stuckey of "Carpenters Farm", Kenn. Joseph was a very prominent member of the Village in his day, his name crops up frequently in old church and school records. He died in 1920.

My sister, Margaret Crossman, reminded me of Sam's involvement with Kenn in World War II. At that time most of the teenage girls in Kenn and the surrounding district took lessons in Red Cross work at the Village Hall. They took instruction from Mrs. Charles Council of Clevedon who was a former nurse.

When they had been trained they were sent to do Hospital work at weekends, some were sent to Winford Hospital.

Sam was hired with his hire car to take these girls to and from the hospital, this was when there was no petrol allowed for private cars, in fact there were very few cars in Kenn during the war.

Although Sam lived in Claverham he was often seen in Kenn when he, with his wife, visited their family at "New House Farm. They enjoyed coming to Kenn's Christmas Parties.

Sam was very well known in the Yatton area, he had been a village milkman for many years, also a taxi driver.

Sam was a great character and a good friend to many people. He was famous for his large moustache and side burns.

There was a very large congregation at his funeral at Yatton Church.

Ray Naish

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The following is taken from a Kenn and Kingston Magazine published in August 1984

Kenn Tithe Map - 1839

Back in January, during my visit to Taunton Records Office, I had a look at the Tithe Map of Kenn, meticulously drawn up in 1839 for land taxation purposes.

It is complete with a tithe award which gives details of every property in the village and indeed every field in the whole parish.

I list below the main farms in 1839 and a few details about them. It is interesting to compare and contrast them with those of today.

Ken Court, owned by Nicholas Lovell, occupied by John Griffin - 186 acres

Cole House, owned Messrs. Edgehill & Coombe, occupied by Edward Holder - 63 acres

Ken Pier Farm, owned by Thomas Edwards, occupied by John Young - 59 acres.

(see below) owned by John Light, occupied by Mrs Hannah Poole - 51 acres

Carpenters Farm, owned by Thomas Edwards, occupied by Samuel Young - 50 acres

Stonehouse Farm, owned by John Griffin, occupied by Henry Griffin - 46 acres

Portbury House, owned by John Purrell, occupied by Samuel Ives - 36 acres

Yew Tree Farm, owned by Christopher Garrick, occupied by Robert Baker - 35 acres

Decoy Pool Farm, owned by Rev. John Boake, occupied by James Brookes - 31 acres.

Two other prominent farms of today were, in 1839, of little importance:

Mill Farm: homestead with 12 acres arable and pastureland.

Manor Farm: homestead with 19 acres pastureland.

Poplar Farm: now disappeared, which stood in Kenn Street near Stonehouse Farm is listed as a homestead with 11 acres arable and pastureland.

The unnamed farm, run by Mrs. Hannah Poole, stood where the Yew Tree Farmhouse now stands. The Yew Tree Farm of 1839, farmed by Robert Baker is listed by the Tithe award, quite precisely as standing at the very bottom of Mr. Willcox's farmyard, opposite Mr. Gale's house.

Presuming that the Bakers had always farmed a Yew Tree Farm (the Tithe Map, unfortunately, does not give the names of buildings) the "disappeared" farm of Hannah Poole, whoever she was, remains a mystery. Could it be a solution to the Milthay mystery?

If anyone has any ideas I should be interested to hear from them.

James Bullock,
Latcham House

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Letter from India - part 2

continuation of extracts from Rebecca
Brett's letter to sister Emma Fenwick

The bride and groom go back to the bride's house for 3 days which is spent visiting the bride's relatives and then after 3 days the bride's parents hand her over to the groom's family and they visit his relatives ! (nice honeymoon!!)

Due to get the train back to Trivandrum at 5.45 am the next day

The station was packed and we arrived with minutes to spare

Had to walk/run the length of the platform to get to the air con carriage (luxurious compared with the other classes).....

Indians seem unable to travel without the 'kitchen sink'

Finally we found our seats - quite comfortable reclining chairs but so grotty and an awful smell of toilets kept wafting through.....

The journey was 5 hours

To Mini's house, met her mum and dad and Annie and Renjit.....

Then a party for all the people who could not attend the wedding.....

I met lots of people who used to live in Abu Dhabi but have now retired back to India....

After the party - same day, now 10 pm - drove to Bivin's place (Mini's husband) because Jason's baptism was the next day..... along with Mini's auntie and her two boys plus the maid to help with the baby - a total of 10 of us with luggage - in one car! Eventually arrived about 1 am.

Bivin's house is in the middle of a rubber tree forest...

It is a lovely house, but as we walked in the door there was a power cut !

They had a generator, but reduced power so water had to be carried up to bedroom for a wash before bed.....

Ants everywhere, including my bed

The baptism is very similar to ours although they don't have godparents, and they completely undress the baby and put him in the font ! Jason did an enormous "blow off" just as he was being put into the font!.....

After the baptism there was a reception in the village hall.....

I was called to the top table to sit with the priests and eat my dinner as I was the guest of honour. I also had a special meal - chilli chicken and fried rice.....

There were probably 2-300 people there - all sat at tables this time. I really can't get used to watching them eat with their hands! It's quite off putting watching them slosh curry and rice together and stuffing it in their mouths and then slopping up the curry sauce/yoghurt or whatever with their fingers and slurping it. Yeuch !! Thankfully I had a fork in my handbag.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner all consisted of curry

To be continued.....

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North Somerset Crossroads Charity Reg. No. 900330

The Carer Contact Scheme
they are looking for volunteers to
help
them give the best possible service to
Carers in the area

Whatever your skills,
qualifications or life experience, they
welcome your interest in them.

North Somerset Crossroads

North Somerset Crossroads is a charity
managed by a Voluntary Management
Committee and is affiliated to the
Association of Crossroads Care Scheme
Limited. It provides a range of services
tailored to meet individual needs, to
support all carers of all ages throughout
North Somerset.

Who is a Carer?

A carer can be anyone in the local
community who looks after someone else
who, because of illness, disability, or old
age, cannot manage without help.

Many carers live in rural areas. They have
the same needs as carers living anywhere.
However, the rural setting means they may
face extra difficulties in finding the services
and support they need.

Services Provided

The Care Attendant Scheme
The Activity Centre
The Carers Support Service
The Young Carers Project
The Carers Contact Scheme

The Carers Centre

This centre exists to provide information,
advice and support for carers throughout
North Somerset. It provides a range of
services and seeks to develop and adapt
these in response to the expressed needs of
carers, including:

Information Room
Information Pack for carers
Newsletter
Carers support groups
Free counselling service
Individual appointments
Telephone helpline
Information sessions

They need volunteers to act as a local
point of contact, to promote and publicise
the support and services offered by the
Carers Centre.

Choice of Tasks for Contact Volunteers

Displaying leaflets and posters
Providing information locally
Providing the Carer Centre with
information.
Talking to local groups
Generally publicising the services
available to carers

How Can I Become a Volunteer?
Telephone the Volunteer Co-ordinator
Bridget Steel-Jessop -01934 417975
for an informal chat or write to:

The Volunteer Co-ordinator
North Somerset Crossroads
The Carer Centre
1 Graham Road
Weston-super-Mare
Somerset
BS23 1YA

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