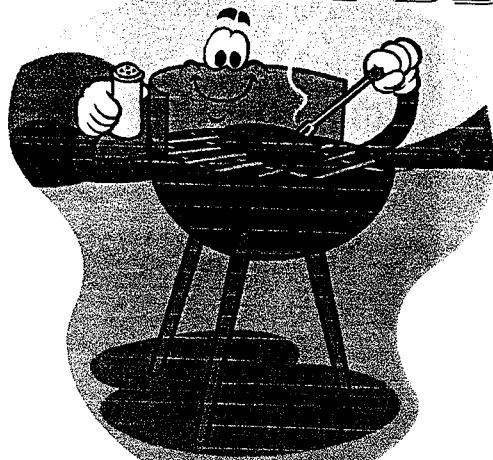


KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

HARVEST BBQ



KENN'S HARVEST SUPPER

WHERE

Kenn Village Hall

WHEN

Sunday 12th September at 7pm

TICKETS

£2.50 adults £1.00 children

Bring your own drink cutlery and plates

Tickets from Jenny Pascoe

Ray Naish or John Griffin

Editor Sheila NAISH

Issue No 133 September 1999

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Typed by:- Ann STOWELL

KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

Birthdays and Anniversaries

September

- 3rd - Renee Russell
7th - Mr. George Holtham
7th - Mike and Joan Stephens (W.A.)
8th - Mrs. Hilda Staples
8th - Matthew Hayden
18th - Jean Fenwick
19th - Justine Flower
20th - Jessica Quinn
20th - Clive & Suzanne Golding-Ellis
(W.A.)
24th - Iris and Dennis Goldsworthy
(W.A.)
25th - Caroliņe and John Hayden
(W.A.)
26th - Joanna (Staples) Cheek
28th - Heather Jenkins

Message from Editor

Don't forget to come along to the Kenn Thro' the Ages Exhibition in the Village Hall on Saturday 18th September.

We're going to be displaying our News and Views from the very beginning !!
See how we've evolved
Are we better now ?
See for yourselves.

Any articles for inclusion in the magazine can be given to Ray, Margaret, myself, or left at the shop.

All articles welcome.

Thoughts of the month

Keep your face towards the sunshine and the shadows will fall behind you.

Life is made up of getting and giving and forgetting and forgiving.

Naish's Notes

Summer is nearly over and Autumn is on the way, before we know where we are Christmas will be upon us, and the New Millennium Year will have been seen in.

Our Village will be endeavouring to mark the Millennium with some special event. The Parish Council would be grateful for any suggestions, please let us know, or come to the next meeting 11th October at 7.30 pm. All welcome.

I am holding a Millennium Christmas Party in the Village Hall on Saturday 13th December. Both Kenn Valley Social Club and The Drum and Monkey are having New Year's Eve Parties - Details to follow.

FUN RUN

Due to circumstances beyond our control, this year's fun run will not take place. However this does give everyone a chance to train hard for next year. It will also give us a chance to plan and co-ordinate the event round a Family Fun Day - any ideas would be gratefully received.

Sheila

KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

Drum and Monkey Village Pub

The Drum and Monkey have regular Quiz Nights on Wednesdays
- All Welcome -
Come along and test your General Knowledge.

Music Nights on a Tuesday -
Entertainment is as follows:

7th September -
JANE DEMPSEY AND FRIENDS -
Traditional Irish Music

14th September -
MONKEY FINGER
60's and 70's Evening

All welcome - pop in and enjoy live music on your doorstep.

CHURCH NOTES

NEW CHURCH HEATING

A new heating system has been installed in Kenn Church. This is a modern type of underseat heating.

The cost of this will be met from the Friends of Kenn Church Funds.

The Committee of The Friends of Kenn Church would like to thank all those whose generosity has enabled the work to be carried out and hope that it will be appreciated by all.

HARVEST FESTIVAL AT ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST, KENN

The Harvest Thanksgiving Services this year will be held on Sunday September 12th.

At the Morning Family Service at 11 am children are invited to bring harvest gifts these will be distributed to the sick and elderly later in the week.

Festal Evensong will be held at 6 p.m. After this Service at about 7.00 p.m. there will be a Harvest Barbecue Supper in the Village Hall.

All are welcome to attend the Harvest Supper, even if you are not able to attend the Service.

Tickets £2.40 adults, £1 children from Ray Naish, Jenny Pascoe or John Griffin
Bring your own drink, cutlery and plates.

St. John's Altar Guild

September Rota

Mrs. J. Stowell, Mrs. J. Naish
and Mrs. S. Pugh

Harvest Festival -
Sunday 12th September.

THANKS

The Coffee Morning held on 4th August at Stonehouse Farm was a great success. Around 40 people attended or took part in some way.

£115 was raised, this was given to the Friends of Kenn Church Fund. Many thanks to all who attended or helped in any way.

Jean Naish

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Christening

The Christening of Samuel Robert Archie Leiper, grandson of John and Grace Griffin was held at Kenn Church on Sunday 8th August, during morning service. Four generations of the family were present with ages ranging from 3 months to 97 years.

KENN NOTES - SNIPPETS

Celebrations

4th August - We were pleased to fly our flag to celebrate the ninety-ninth birthday of Her Majesty the Queen Mother.

Bereavement

Our sincere sympathy goes to the family of Mr. Penzer, a regular attendant at Kenn Church. His funeral took place on 16th August. We flew our flag at half mast.

Kenn Village Hall

The Jumble Sale held on 25th August raised £190. Many thanks to those who supported it.

KENN THROUGH THE AGES

HELP REQUIRED

As I have been asked to organise the refreshments for the day - Saturday 18th September, I am looking for some helpers to serve coffees, prepare Ploughman's Lunches and Cream Teas. If you are able to lend a hand, male or female, please contact me - Grace Griffin on 872948

Many thanks.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 8th September 7.30 pm.

Kenn W.I. meet at Kenn Village Hall. "Use your Loaf" with Mrs P. Harrison. Competition "Three Scones"

Thursdays - 8pm-9pm

"Bums, Tums and Thighs"
Keep Fit - with Sue Gilbert.

Saturday 18th September Kenn thro' the Ages

11.00 am onwards at Kenn Village Hall and Field

The Eclipse 1999

The Eclipse as seen from Kenn was fairly low key. I sat in the garden while it took place. I could hardly see anything different. The swallows flying around took no notice, neither did our cockerels stop crowing. Veteran star gazer Patrick Moore was very excited about it on TV. He said he intended to view the next one in 90 years time providing he was still around at the advanced age of 167 years.

RVN

The Queen Mother

The Queen Mother has been in the news now that she has entered her 100th year.

In 1940 the Royal Train spent a night in the siding near Yatton Station. The King and Queen had been visiting bombed cities and towns in the West. In the evening the King and Queen

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sent out a message inviting all school children in the area to meet them on the platform at Yatton Station early next morning. I was one of those privileged to be there.

Are there any other readers of News and Views who were there that morning ?

Ray Naish

BIRD NEWS 1

August is a quiet month for most of our garden birds - many are moulting into new feathers ready for the winter. However flocks of Starlings are gathering, as are Swallows - grouped together closely on telephone wires - thinking about migration.

A few mornings ago a party of around 50 House Martins were wheeling over our house, presumably some migrants having joined with our local birds.

Those of you who have walked the Cheddar Valley Railway path recently may be interested to know that a conservation group "YACWAG" (Yatton and Congresbury Wildlife Action Group) has acquired a ten acre grass field adjoining the walk. With sympathetic management it is hoped to encourage Skylarks and Lapwings to nest, and there are plans to reinstate old ditches and plant some new hedgerows.

Membership of YACWAG costs the princely sum of £2 per year and I shall be pleased to provide anyone interested with further details - Kennites are most welcome !!

Trevor Riddle 01934 835208

BIRD NEWS II

As everyone knows, this is a very quiet time of the year for birds; most are getting over the annual moult. There are some things happening that are interesting. Owls are beginning to get noisy, as they do at this time, I have heard several Little or Screech Owls calling in the evening time. They answer one another across the fields.

A Tawny Owl has been calling at night in the orchard here at Stonehouse Farm. Roger Willcox who lives near the church saw it on his rooftop one night.

Gordon Morris of Duck Lane, had an usual visitor on his lawn earlier in the summer. It was a young Cuckoo, it was being continually fed by its foster parent.

Several Blackbirds are now appearing in the garden here at Stonehouse Farm, they are in their immaculate new plumage having recovered from their moult. Also a few Robins are beginning to sing their feeble winter song. They also have got their new feathers.

I was talking to David Crossman of "Ham Farm" Yatton the other morning. He had just seen a remarkable thing. He had been clearing some weed from under the hatch or dam under "Ham Bow" on the Little River, he was standing on a plank. He stood still for a moment to let the weed flow through, as he stood there a Kingfisher flew up the river and then landed on the plank beside him without noticing him.

Ray Naish

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Peter Gerald Penzer

Gerry Penzer as he was known to people in Kenn died suddenly recently aged 56.

Although Gerry lived in Clevedon he was very well known to many Kenn people through his very regular attendance at Church here with his wife Glenda.

Gerry was a very useful member of the congregation here. He was a lesson reader and a sidesman and had a great singing voice. People always knew when he was in church, he led the singing from the front pews.

Gerry had been a church singer all his life, he was in a church choir in his native Swansea when a young boy.

Not only was Gerry a regular attender at Church himself, he was also willing to collect people who had no transport of their own, making sure that they were able to get to the services here.

Gerry's working life was spent as a member of the Railway Police. He had retired from this job only a few weeks before his death.

His funeral service was held at Kenn Church. there was a huge congregation present numbering almost 200 people including about 40 uniformed Railway Police, some of whom acted as pall-bearers.

I am sure people from Kenn who knew Gerry would wish to join with me in expressing our sincere sympathy to Glenda and her two daughters and Gerry's mother on their great loss.

Ray Naish

ROBERT BURNS

Holding a Bible between them, Robert Burns and Mary Campbell had pledged their love and faithfulness each to the other.

They parted never to meet again, for on her return from the Highlands to marry Robert, she was struck down with fever and died.

Poetry, especially Burns' poetry, is not always of men and women of rank and high station. Mary Campbell was a peasant's daughter and when she captivated Burns, she was a humble dairymaid.

On his loss, he wrote:

*How sweetly bloomed the gay green
birch,
How rich the hawthorns blossom,
As underneath their fragrant shade,
I clasp'd her to my bosom.
The golden hours on angel wings,
Flew o'er me and my dearie,
For dear to me as light and life,
Was my sweet Highland Mary*

Eventually, life for Burns moved on and he became acquainted with Jean Armour. This young woman (only in her 'teens) was the daughter of a devout man, a master mason. Jean and her father lived in Mauchline in Ayrshire. Jean had a fine voice and attended a school for singing and through a mutual friend at the school, met Burns.

At this time, Burns was still tending the family farm at Mosshiel. During the first four years of its lease, the weather was against him, the springs were frosty and late and the summers

KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

moist and cold. There conditions could not be foreseen, but the land itself was high and tended to be wet. It therefore needed exceptionally good weather to make it productive and profitable. Burns was skilled with all the basic tools, especially the sickle and the scythe, but his other implements were meagre and he wrote of them

*Wheel carriages I hae but few
Three carts, and twa of them not
nearly new.
An auld wheel barrow, mair for
token
Its leg and baith the trams(handles)
are broken.*

Burns could now see the failure and coming ruin of his mother's household, so despairing of success in agriculture, he began to look for alternatives.

The courtship of Burns and Jean Armour continued for a year or two, and there is no doubt that had fortune permitted, they would have been man and wife during the first year of their acquaintance. But Burns was not only poor, for seemingly, he had little chance of becoming richer. Money, was not the only obstacle to marriage for Jean was the favourite daughter of a rigid father and he did not want her to marry a poor farmer, who, as he say "wrote rhymes" Denied parental forbearance, the lovers had recourse to stolen meetings under the cloud of night.

In any protracted courtship, there is always danger, for prudence seldom takes much care of the young and warm hearted.

Respect protected them for a while, but their nighttime meetings ended in Burns being told that he was to become a father before becoming a husband.

To one so poor as Burns, this was a stunning event, but that was not the worst - for Jeans father heard with much anger of his daughter's condition.

Jean begged his forgiveness, and showed him a form of marriage certificate, a sincere but private agreement between Robert and Jean (but without the sanction of the Kirk) which was legal in Scotland at the time. This her father snatched from her and threw it into the fire, commanding that she should no longer consider herself the wife of a mere poet.

Aside from his domestic life, or perhaps because of it, Burn throughout his lifetime wrote many memorable poems, mainly on homely themes, for example to a mouse, a daisy, an old mare and even the Haggis. His works

have been translated into many languages and both he and his works are much respected the world over. As well as poetry, he wrote many epigrams and epitaphs and his 'grace before Dinner' lines made him in much demand for such functions.

Here is an example of a fine epitaph.

To a Friend

*An honest man lies here at rest
As e'er God with his image blest,
A friend of man, a friend of truth
A friend of age and guide of youth*

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Few hearts like his, with virtue
warmed,
Few heads with knowledge so
informed
If there is another world, he lives in
bliss
If there is none, he made the best of
this.

Grace before Dinner

O thou who kindly doth provide
For every creature's want
We bless thee God of Nature wide
For all the goodness lent,
And if it please thee Heavenly Guide
May never worse be sent
But whether granted or denied,
Lord, bless us with content.

Finally the last verse of a much quoted
poem, in which Burns wonders how
much we would like to know what
other people may think of us.

O' wad some Power the gift could
gie us,
To see ourselves as others see us.
It wad frae many a blunder free us
And foolish notion
Wat airs in dress and gait would
leave us
An e'en devotion.

More of Burns and Jean Armour
another time.

Cliff Edwards.

Clevedon Breathe Easy on behalf of
BRITISH LUNG FOUNDATION

THE CLEVEDON & DISTRICT COUNTRY FETE

ON SATURDAY 4th SEPTEMBER
COURT LANE, CLEVEDON

11am - 5.30pm

Attractions include:

DONKEY DERBY
TUG OF WAR COMPETITION
KARATE DEMONSTRATION

OLD MCDONALDS FARM
HAWK DEMONSTRATION
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