

KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

**APRIL
OVER TWICE
USUAL
RAINFALL**

**SUMMER'S JUST
AROUND THE
CORNER -
HONEST!!!**



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BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

May

1st Hartley Staples
4th Nigel Middleton
8th Mike Stowell
Tina & Nigel Middleton WA
10th Jill Butland
Jayne Morris
11th Tina Middleton
15th Samuel Leiper
20th Harrison Flower
22nd Duncan Mackay
24th Ann Stowell
26th Brian Stowell
Jane Staples
28th Sally White
29th Milly Stowell
Trina Willoughby
Samuel Rogers
30th Joanna Brain

Message from Ed.

Eds thoughts of the month

Don't worry because a rival imitates you!

As long as they follow in your tracks they can't pass you.

Telegraph poles only hit cars in self defence.

Drum and Monkey

Mike and Lita are delighted that their extension has been finished and is now fully operational.

I recommend that you pop in and have a look. the pub has been completely altered and the extension, which is a

non-smoking area, adds loads of space. It looks absolutely brilliant.

The menu is extensive - there is something for everyone, evenings and lunchtimes and cannot be beaten in this locality.

I have to say that I am personally a good advert for the pub - I'm not sure that these "DIET" chips I have been eating there work! My stomach is catching Mike's up! So I'm on a calorie count - I just eat new potatoes instead.

The Steak and Strawberries for £4.95 can't be missed.

Pop in, say hello and see how super the "new" bit is. All welcome.

Neighbourhood Watch

Our immediate neighbours and ourselves have had our Annual Neighbourhood Watch Meeting. We try to keep our eye on one another's property, and keep an eye on strange people walking about on the main road, or the lane.

We have had a fair share of break-ins up here and this had made us all more aware and sadly, suspicious of strangers.

Kenn Valley Social Club has been burgled and Derek would be grateful if anyone who sees anyone in the club grounds during the day, or, driving about late at night spots anyone parking near or in the club to let me know (01934 838357) and I will contact him.

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Remember, better to be wrong about someone or something than sorry !

Our thanks to our hosts Mike and Liz Bell.

MIDSUMMER MADNESS

Saturday 1st July - Sheila's Barn

In aid of Meningitis Trust.

Put it in your diary.

Dig out those unwanted Raffle Prizes.

B.B.Q. Bar Dancing Fun

What more do you want

New this year - PIG ROAST !!

Naish's Notes continued.....

Best Kept Village

We are entering the tidy village competition once again this year.

The Parish Council would be grateful if everyone could keep their eye out for any litter, mess or clutter and tidy it away.

We would be judged 3 times between now and September, so, if we could all make just that extra effort with our homes and gardens who knows perhaps we can become a winning team once again.

We are a little unlucky with the main road running through the village, but we shall be doing an organised litter

collection at some point! Volunteers please!

Mrs Dyer has grown some Oak Trees - if anyone would like one - give her a call.

We have a letter from North Somerset Council asking for Volunteers for the School Appeals Panels - give me a ring if anyone is interested.

Any unwanted Walkers Crisp Packets or Tesco Vouchers gratefully received, either to myself or Jan Bedford please. Ta!!

Our love and best wishes for a speedy recovery to Ralph Bye who is at present in hospital.

Personal Note

Ray and Jean Naish celebrated their Golden Wedding last month.

We all, as a family, would like to thank them for their constant support throughout the last few difficult years. Always being there to help and listen, even though they haven't been well themselves recently. It has been a comfort to know that the teapot is always full and something home-made is there for the eating.

We don't always thank the people who care, we usually take them for granted. So Mum and Dad, we're delighted you've made the 50 years - in spite of us all !! and we're glad that your day was as special to you as you are to us.

Miles, Sheila, Jeff, Stella, Heather, Roger, Justine, Leon, Toby, Max, Andrew and Pip. *Sennyjt Varesa*

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ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST KENN

Church Elections

Following the Vestry and Parochial Church Council Meetings the following people represent Kenn on the Yatton Moor Parochial Church Council for the coming year.

Churchwardens:

Julia Bush and Raymond Naish

Church Council Members:

Renee Bell and Nigel Middleton

Deanery Synod Representatives:

Julia Bush and
Wendy Papasolomontos.

Deputy Wardens:

Wendy Papasolomontos and
John Griffin.

Sidespeople:

Richard Ledbrook,
Dennis Goldsworthy
Mrs Jean Naish,
Mrs Margaret Stowell,
Geoffrey Marchant,
Clifford Edwards,
Jack Hanson,
Mrs Irene Stowell,
Mrs Sally Whitehead
Michael Callow.

Kenn Altar Guild

May Rota

Mrs Wendy Papasolomontos

Wendy would like some help, for about 1 hour per week, for the month of May. Please ring Wendy or Jean if you can help.

Mothering Sunday

The Church was packed for the Family Service on Mothering Sunday.

During the service George Christopher Melling was baptised. George is the son of Robert and Sarah Melling, and grandson of John and grace Griffin and great-grandson of Granny Gladys Griffin.

All four generations of the family were in church. A wonderful family occasion.

Ray Naish

Easter Day at Kenn

The Easter Day Service at Kenn Church had a wonderful attendance of seventy five people of all ages.

It was very encouraging to see the Choir Stalls full. There was a very large number of young people in the Church.

During the Service the Reverend John Cruse dedicated fifteen new Bibles for use in the Church. These are of the new type recently printed for modern day use.

These Bibles were presented to the church in memory of the late Roger Stowell by members of his family.

The Church had been beautifully decorated for the Festival by ladies of the village. Many thanks to all who helped in any way to make the service such a great occasion.

R.V.N.

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Friends of Kenn Church Annual General Meeting

7.30 pm Thursday 25th May 2000
at St. John the Evangelist, Kenn

**All Parishioners and Friends are
invited to attend this meeting**

A G E N D A

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of Annual General Meeting 27th May 1999
3. Matters Arising :
4. Finance
5. Election of Committee
6. Future Events:

KENN NOTES - SNIPPETS

Celebrations

April 2nd - George Christopher Melling, son of Sarah (nee Griffin) and Robert and grandson of Grace and John Griffin, great-grandson of Mrs. Gladys Griffin was christened at Kenn Church.

April 8th - We were pleased to fly our flag to celebrate the Golden Wedding Anniversary of Raymond and Jean Naish.

April 21st - We flew our flag to celebrate the birthday of Her Majesty our Queen.

April 23rd - This year 2000 AD Easter Sunday and St. George's Day were on the same date. We flew our St. George's Flag.

April 27th - Our flag was flown to celebrate the 80th birthday of Dennis Goldsworthy.

KENN VILLAGE HALL

The windows, both inside and out have recently been painted - at a cost of £200.

Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 10th May

7.30 pm at Kenn Village Hall
Kenn Women's Institute - Speaker
Inspector McIvor on Police Dogs
Competition - An Animal Model
- Non members most welcome.

Thursday 11th May

Coffee Morning at Kenn Court
10.30 - Noon
for Kenn News and Views.

Bring & Buy and Raffle.

Offers of help and Raffle Prizes much appreciated.

We invite support from every Kenn family, who all receive News and Views each month.

If unable to attend donations to Mrs Irene Stowell - 872472 please.

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Wednesday 17th May

at 7.00 pm JUMBLE SALE at
Kenn Village Hall for Kenn Women's
Institute Funds.
Goods for sale to Hall 10 am - 11 am.

Thursday 27th May at Kenn Church

7.30 pm - Annual General Meeting of
the Friends of Kenn Church.

Advance Dates

Saturday 1st July - Strawberry Tea
organised by Kenn Women's Institute
for Friends of Clevedon Hospital.

R.M.Dyer.

Saturday 1st July - MIDSUMMER
MADNESS - at Sheila's Barn
B.B.Q - Dancing - Bar - Pig Roast

What's on at The Drum

The extension is now open -
Bookings for parties of 6 or more
taken - lots of room!!

***Grand Opening
Tuesday 23rd May
All Welcome
Buffet and the Sounds of
Chris Moreton
who was here at New Year***

Quiz Night - every Wednesday

Live Music - Tuesdays

2nd May - Greg Winters

Comedian/Singer
- very entertaining

9th May - Monkey Finger

- 60 - 70 - 80 sounds

16th May - Bill & Bob

- 50 - 60 - 70 - 80

23rd May - Grand Opening

with The Folk and Irish Folk
sounds of Chris Moreton.

30th May - Pete Holden

- Singer Entertainer

6th June - Mike & Graham

- 60 - 70 - 80 sounds from
Beatles to Crowded House

Golden Wedding Celebrations

On Saturday 8th April, Ray and Jean
Naish, on the week-end celebrating
their 50th wedding anniversary,
invited family and friends to a
luncheon party at Kingston Seymour
Village Hall.

It was one of those rare soft, warm,
sunny spring days. Guests were
welcomed by Ray and Jean and we
were all able to stand around and chat
in the lovely weather. After a while
moving into the hall to enjoy a most
excellent meal.

In speeches after lunch, tribute was
paid by their children to Ray and Jean
for their example of a fifty year
marriage blessed with devotion to each
other. And to providing a secure
loving home life which Heather, Miles
and Jeff have always been very
grateful for. Also the support and
encouragement they received in their
formative years and is still important
to them as adults. They are very

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conscious that their parents are always there for them.

A guest, in thanking our hosts for their generous hospitality, also touched on the remarkable quality of the Naish's family life and how blessed they are that all their close family live virtually within the village.

An additional tribute was paid to the singular contribution which Ray and Jean make to our village life. There cannot really be any event or activity which takes place without Ray or Jean playing some part in it and many are grateful for their enthusiasm and steadfastness.

By the end of this year, Ray and Jean will be moving into their new home. This will be a great event for them in their lives and no doubt their many friends will continue to find a warm welcome when they visit the new abode; just as it always has been at Stonehouse.

We all wish them many happy and contented years there.

J.S.G.

Thanks

Jean and Ray wish to thank all their friends and family for all the cards, presents and good wishes sent to them on their Golden Wedding Anniversary. A glorious sunny day for our special day.

We consider ourselves very fortunate to have lived so long in this wonderful caring village and to have so many friends around us.

Jean and Ray

Celebrations at Kenn Pier

David and Brenda Glasson of "Riverside", Kenn Pier celebrated the marriage of their daughter Clare to Mark Eden at St. Paul's Church, Bedminster, Bristol on Saturday 1st April. David and Brenda, together with Brenda's parents ran Kenn Post Office and Stores for several years in the seventies.

R.V.N.

Easter at Kingston

Congratulations to the people of Kingston Seymour who celebrated the Year 2000 with a Festival of Flowers and Music on 22nd, 23rd and 24th April. It was a most wonderful event attended by many hundreds of people.

The proceeds of this great event was shared by St. Michael's Cheshire Homes, Axbridge and the Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Bristol.

R.V.N.

KENN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Visitor Eileen Way was welcomed to the April Meeting, and Jean Naish presented with a card and token to celebrate her golden wedding anniversary. Final details for the Group Meeting were put in hand and Ruth Dyer's story about pigs will go forward to the competition.

Ann Holtham and Ruth Dyer had been to the EGM at Weston, where a large group of Teddy Bears were taken into

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custody by P.C. Hamilton, these "Trauma Teddies" have been made by W.I. members and will be given by the police to any child involved in an accident or any other traumatic experience. "Made with love, given by love, to be loved".

The speaker in the afternoon was Ann Tippett from the Royal Shakespeare Company who have a very fluent and amusing talk on her work. It was interesting to learn that the 8.5 million pounds given by the government is in fact repaid through VAT, which means they really do not get any funding at all.

Megan Harris and Thelma Blake had been to the Tickenham W.I. lunch and Ann Holtham and Betty Bubb attended a talk on The Tower of London at Hewish, after a long detour around the back lanes due to the closing of the A370 due to an accident.

North Newton W.I. will be invited to join us at one of our summer meetings.

The Resolutions for the TGM at Wembley: Payment of Benefits at Post Offices, Government Funding for Children's' Hospices and Support for Stroke Sufferers will be discussed at the May Meeting.

Mrs. A. Evans spoke on Lupus; Systemic Lupus Erythematosus. This is a complaint that is often not recognised by GPs and luckily Mrs Evans was referred to a Rheumatology consultant who did know about Lupus.

There is at present no cure, though it is treated with anti-malarial drugs and steroids, which can have side-effects. There are around 40,000 people with Lupus in the U.K. Mainly women as

it can be triggered by hormonal activity. The body's immune system goes into overdrive and starts to attack itself. Symptoms include depression, joint and muscle pain, extreme fatigues and can involve the kidneys, heart, lungs and brain. The illness is more prevalent in hot countries and becomes worse in the U.K. in sunny weather.

The competition for a spring posy was won by Eileen Prew, with Ruth Dobbs second and Jean Ings third.

Next month's Meeting will be on 10th May and the speaker will be Inspector McIvor talking about Police Dogs and the competition is for an animal model

Shirley Livesey 871419

BIRD NEWS I

Spring migration is in full swing as I write (22nd) despite very unseasonable weather. The first Swallows arrived mid-month and I noted my first House Martin over Yatton on the 20th. I have yet to see or hear a Cuckoo, but one was reported at Congresbury on the 15th (an early date) with two at Poets' walk, Clevedon on the 21st.

More surprising was a beautiful male Redstart in a Yatton garden for several hours on the 20th.

Reed Warblers, Sedge Warblers, Whitethroats and Blackcaps had all arrived along the Cheddar Valley Railway Path and were singing on the 21st. On the same day a Siskin was singing in Ham Lane, Kingston Seymour. This small finch is generally known as a local winter

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visitor and if this bird does stay to nest it will be one of the first in the area.

Slightly further afield, an Osprey spent a few days at Chew Valley Lake, even eating a fish on the specially erected "Osprey nesting platform" which was a first. He has since headed north.

On the Somerset Peat Moors, the regular male Marsh Harrier (Superdad) has failed to return this year and the female is looking rather lonely. I recorded by earliest ever Hobby on the 22nd in the same area and also a Short Eared Owl, no doubt a late migrant.

Trevor Riddle

BIRD NEWS II

I saw the first Swallows of the season at Nailsea on 15th April. It was a very wet windy day, some of them were resting on some fencing looking exhausted, others were flying in and out of a herd of cattle where they had obviously found some flies to feed on.

The first ones to arrive here at "Stonehouse Farm" came on the evening of the 18th. They flew straight into last year's nest in the garage to rest after their long wet journey north. This was an early date for them to arrive, generally the first ones to arrive here do soon the 23rd.

Mr Sam Staples of "Riverside Farm" has been feeding several Mallard that come into his yard. Four pairs have nested around his house and buildings this year. Unfortunately one night recently a badger came into his yard, found all the nests and ate the eggs.

The Song Thrushes that have been around the Village all the spring have been singing their hearts out in spite of the miserable wet weather. It seems the wetter the evenings, the more they sing.

It is April 26th and I haven't heard of anyone who has heard a Cuckoo this year.

Ray Naish.

NOTES ON KENN BELL AND ASSOCIATED HISTORICAL DETAILS..... continued

It can be noted that the bell weight of five and three quarter hundredweight, which I suggested in the last article was a reasonable estimate, is much less than that which the late David Chambers, in his brief history of Kenn Church, attributed to the previous bell cast by William Bilbie of Chew Stoke (and which was supposed to be of similar weight to the bell previous to that, by terms of the 1775 re-casting agreement) see details later.

It would appear that David probably made an incorrect supposition - his weight of 8 cwt 1 qr. 17 lbs. is an exact transposition of the bellfounder's total bill of £8 8s. into a weight, by the stated charge for re-casting the bell, i.e. £1 per cwt.

No doubt the bellfounder's total bill, though, would have included not only the actual re-casting but other tasks such as fettling off any excess metal in the casting mould, tuning the bell and perhaps even visits to Kenn for dismantling the old bell, carriage to and from Chew Stoke, and then

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re-fitting the new bell in the (new?) bellframe.

The Churchwardens' accounts for the year 1775 contain the following interesting details in very ornamental script:

“October the 3rd This Day is Agreed on between the parifhioners of Kenn & Wm Bilbie of Chew Stoke Bellfounder, for New Casting the Bell, to be the Same Weight as Near as Can be Made, if any Addition to the Bell be Wanting for to pay One Shilling a Pound Weight, if any Deficiency for him to allow the Same in Perportion, and for the Casting to Pay Him One Pound p Hundred Weight

(signed) William Bilbie

John Gosling Churchwarden
Goo. Witherall, Overfeer
Wm Manning
Wm Wilkins”

And then, after the bell had been supplied, the mason had done his work in the tower, and the carpenter and blacksmith (all local men?) had prepared the tower and bellframe, bell wheel and iron fittings including made-to-measure bolts, nuts, washers, braces for the wheel, bearing cups & caps, gudgeons (the pivots or spindles on which the whole bell rotates) & gudgeon straps shrunk onto the wooden headstock to hold the gudgeons tight even in hot summers when the wood dries out and shrinks, came the final reckoning: (again in ornamental script)

“Disburfments of John Gosling CW p of Kenn from the visitation Aug 4th 1775 as follows:

	£	s	d
Pd the bellfounders bill	8	8	0
Pd the carpenters bill	4	4	0
Pd the blacksmiths bill	1	-	8
Pd for 3 loads of gravil & one days work for a man	2	8	
Pd the mafon one Days work	1	6	
Total Disbursted	24	10	3 ¹ / ₄
Recd. by Rate	26	10	4
Balance due to the parish	2	-	0 ³ / ₄

Note that from the size of the carpenters bill (which is half of that of the bellfounders) it is my guess that a new bellframe was provided - and this may be the same one as is still in the tower now!! Also note that my calculation of the “Total Disbursed” is only £13 16 10d. so “where has all the money gone” ???

to be continued

Geoff Marchant

The Egg Lady

I had been living for some months now in a small Hampshire village, and getting to know not only my surroundings, but also the villagers. Mostly, they were farming folk, though there were a few business and professional people who daily commuted to London.

I also knew that by now, I had been accepted as a ‘local’ myself. I knew this because one day whilst I was out walking, one of the farmers passed me in his Land Rover and, as he did so, he looked up, smiled and lifted one finger (just one) from the steering wheel in

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recognition. That was enough, now I was officially 'one of them'.

Among the many that I got to know, was Connie, known by all in the village as Connie the Egg Lady.

Connie had been in the village for many years and she lived in one of those old style Romany caravans. This, she kept meticulously clean, tidy and well painted and maintained. Her caravan was kept on a small, secluded and sheltered piece of land rented to her by a local farmer, and there she kept her hens and a couple of goats.

She was often to be seen, pushing her bicycle along the lanes, with her basket of eggs strapped on to the pannier.

She called on most people locally, selling eggs, and soon she was calling on me every week. I was always struck by her appearance. She was aged about fifty, rather small and very agile. Her hair was still jet black and she had brown eyes. Her skin had that tanned outdoor appearance, and she had a ready smile. She was a gentle person, with a gentle voice and everyone liked her.

One afternoon, after I had bought some eggs, she surprised me by quietly asking if I would like her to tell my fortune. I don't really believe in such things, and anyway, I thought she might tell me something that could disturb me, so I said a polite no thank you.

A week or so later, I had second thoughts about it and began to change my mind. After all I thought, it was probably quite harmless and in any

case "que sera sera" what ever will be will be. So when she next came, I said

that perhaps after all, would she like to tell my fortune.

Her reply surprised me, she looked a bit downcast and said "I'm sorry but I can't, not any more" I asked why, was it because of my previous refusal, was she upset about that? "No, really, it isn't that" she said "its just that I'm not able to do it any more, at least, not for now, because its as though, a something, a fog, has descended, making me lose that gift I had of seeing ahead".

I sympathised with her and said that I was sorry too, but that if things changed for her, to let me know.

After that, I thought no more about it, until that is, about a fortnight later. Then it happened. It seems that Connie, whilst pushing her bike along a main road leading to the Village, was struck from behind by a speeding motorist.

He didn't stop.

Connie was thrown into the ditch, bike, eggs and all.

She lay there for a while before the ambulance came and took her to hospital. There she was pronounced dead on arrival. She was sorely missed.

p.s. Connie did however leave a will, the contents of which, surprised everyone.

Cliff Edwards.

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Eleanor Roosevelt wrote:

Many people will walk in and
out of your life,
But only true friends will leave
footprints in your heart.

Beautiful young people are
accidents of nature,
But beautiful old people are
works of art.

To handle yourself, use your
head;
To handle others, use your
heart.

Learn from the mistakes of
others;
You can't live long enough to
make them all yourself.

Anger is only one letter short
of danger.

Friends you and me...
You brought another friend...
And then there were 3
We started our group....
Our circle of friends
And like that circle...
There is no beginning or end.

Great minds discuss ideas;
Average minds discuss events;
Small minds discuss people.

Yesterday is history,
Tomorrow is a mystery.
Today is a gift.

He, who loses money, loses
much;
He, who loses a friend, loses
much more;
He, who loses faith, loses all.