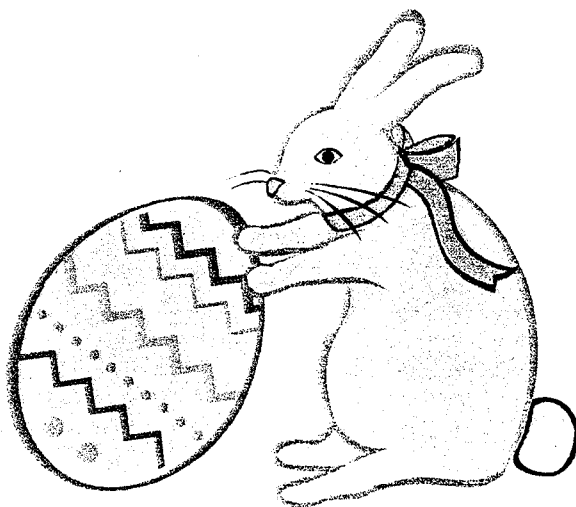


NEWS & VIEWS

EASTER

2001



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Editor Sheila NAISH
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KENN NEWS & VIEWS

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

April

1st Clare Stowell
Mike Beardshaw
3rd Antoni Papasolomontos
Avril Flower
6th Andrea Waters
7th Jo Batten
8th Emma Fenwick
10th Mary Lamb
Anna Edwards
W.A. Jean and Ray Naish
19th John Ball
21st Barbara Middleton
22nd Liz Jaehme
23rd Mary Willcox
24th Margaret Ball
Emily Golding-Ellis
28th Theresa Walters
29th Miles Naish

Thought of the Month

*When life turns against you
reach out for hope.
When sadness surrounds you
Reach out for love
And always, always
Reach out for your dreams*

Message from the Editor

We in this area have, so far, been fortunate in that we have remained Foot & Mouth free. Miles had a scare and for 24 hours the family was not allowed back on the farm. After two visits and tests the Ministry cleared us, but it was a great worry.

We received a great deal of support from most people. We were very touched, thank you!

The local NFU group has been brilliant throughout and we must be thankful to have such excellent people running that office. They have given support, help and advice to all farmers in this area and are always on hand.

Comic Relief "Pants to Poverty"

Many thanks to all the people who supported the Quiz Night for Comic Relief. We had 7 teams enter and in true comic relief spirit many turned up with their pants on over their trousers in keeping with this year's Pants to Poverty theme.

Derek Wall was our Quiz Master helped by Gail and Pete Stout who kept the scores. Kenn Valley was wonderfully decorated by 200 helium red balloons and we had waiter and waitress service all night which gave us plenty of time to concentrate on the various stages of the FUN quiz.

Nobody disgraced themselves, there was something for everyone. Halftime saw a Grand Raffle which even I, past master at raffles was surprised at – I had more prizes donated than ever before. Thanks to all donors!

My thanks to Joan Barker who made 60 Red Nose Cakes for me to sell – hot cakes in fact, I sold out so quickly, I could have sold three times as many. I shall not divulge the identity of the village team who got confused with a certain famous TV Quiz and was caught 'phoning a friend' on the mobile. Excuse given? "Well they were in our team but couldn't come – same thing isn't it?" Answer "No! you will sit in the front next time and mobiles will be banned."

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I have had many congratulations on the success of the quiz which of course was all due to Derek who did us proud, got jeered and heckled but managed to keep us under control. It was surely the best so far and such fun.

My thanks to Smart Systems and Bob Martins for their donations from activities on the day and especially to Pui, who for £15 showed her knickers to her workmates; to the men who bought my various pairs of pants and to all involved for making it such a roaring success.

We raised £275 on the night which is on its way to comic relief.

My only regret is that I missed Billy Connolly on TV prancing around naked! Has anyone got it on video. He is my favourite comedian.

Sheila

Kenn Parish Council

The next Parish Council meeting will take place at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 2nd April

This will be followed by the open Annual Parish Meeting at 8.00 pm.

All Parishioners are invited to attend these meetings.

St. John The Evangelist, Altar Guild- April Rota

Mrs. I. Stowell and Mrs. J. Ings

Anyone wishing to donate a Lily in memory of a loved one at Easter – would they please get in touch with Jean Naish (872493) as soon as possible.

Easter Sunday 5th April

Church decorating can commence anytime from 2 p.m. on Friday 13th April.
Many thanks to everyone,
Jean.

Election of Churchwardens

The Annual Vestry Meeting at which our Churchwardens are elected took place after the Mothering Sunday Service on 25th March.

There were forty four people present at the meeting whose names were recorded in a special register kept for this purpose. This is a very important register which has to be kept by law for posterity.

The meeting was conducted the Reverend Avril Gaunt.

Julia Bush was proposed by Jean Naish and seconded by Wendy Papasolomontos.

Raymond Naish was proposed by Renee Bell and seconded by Jack Hanson.

There being no further nominations, Ray and Julia were elected as Churchwardens for the next twelve months.

Here at Kenn there have been records kept since 1542. The originals of our ancient records are now in the Records Office at Taunton.

Many thanks to those who took the trouble to prepare the

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sprays of spring flowers that were distributed during the Mothering Sunday Service.

Thanks - Boys

One Saturday in March, I turned up at Kenn Church to do a spot of light dusting, only to find the place all lit up already.

Mr. Johnny Hazell and his son Steven had been replacing the spotlight bulbs in the ceiling and were doing the final try-out - perfect!

When I left the church on a very chilly morning, I found the same two gentlemen cleaning out the gutters and very cheerful workers they were too.

I would like to thank Mr. & Master Hazell for their hard work at two jobs that are not terribly glamorous, but vital for the smooth running of the church.

Julia Bush

Church Room - News Flash

At 9.30 a.m. 9th March, Julian Hannam (Church Architect), Ray Naish, Ian Hubbard and I (Julia Bush) assembled in Kenn Church Car Park to meet with Mr. Mark Tombs, the Planning Officer, and the Conservation Officer, in order to discuss the proposed re-ordering of the old church room.

Having explained the lack of facilities at the church and the implications of the forthcoming 'Disability Act'. (full force 2004), we observed the old room and its surroundings from many angles.

We also looked round the inside of the church and established that there were few opportunities for changing anything there.

We chatted for a short while and then waved the officials farewell, reflecting that it is not only policemen that are getting younger every day!

The plan thus far is that Mr. Hannam will send plans of the present building and of the proposed rebuilt room to the planning office and wait for their reaction.

The criterion used to judge the plans will be solely the impact of the new structure on its surroundings (namely the church)

Certainly the meeting was infinitely better than the reaction to our letter, which just shows how important human contact is.

Don't hesitate to contact me if you have any views about this, or anything else!

Julia Bush.

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Brain Girls at Kenn

February was an amazing month for Rebecca, Joanna and Naomi Brain.

It started with Rebecca being chosen to represent the Welsh Universities and have lunch at Highgrove with Prince Charles. Sitting next to the Prince at the lunch table Rebecca claimed it was really scary. "They served me first and I was terrified I would make a social gaff." But all went well and the meal was relaxed and informal and she found Prince Charles charming and quite passionate about his organic farming ventures. Guess what they had for dessert? -Highgrove Apple Crumble.

A week later it was Naomi's turn to mix with royalty; when she travelled to St James palace to receive her gold Duke of Edinburgh's award. 800 young people met the Duke and received their awards in the palace that is not usually open to the public. The decor was magnificent in gold and red and the walls had wonderful tapestries. She even saw the official throne of England.

Naomi was one of the youngest people to ever achieve the award as she managed to complete it before her 18th birthday. She achieved this at tremendous odds as the local group had no other young people to form the expeditions. However Naomi, undaunted and in true Kenn spirit, joined with a Bristol school and completed 3 gruelling expeditions with a group of strangers who had already completed both their bronze and silver awards together. True to form they were not strangers for long and Naomi was soon accepted as an integral part of the team.

Two days later it was Joanna's turn to show her true colours when she won a national writing competition sponsored jointly by the Independent newspaper and Oxfam. Her prize was to fly off to Zambia and inspect the Oxfam schools' project in the area. She toured a series of schools and now will write an article for the Independent which is due to be published shortly.

Currently all 3 girls are studying at University. Rebecca is in her final year reading Medicine at Cardiff. Joanna is in her final year reading Broadcasting Studies at Leeds and Naomi is in her first year at Durham reading Youth & Community studies with a Church Based Specialism.

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Unusual Tales.

Having read some of Cliff's "Tales of the Unexpected" in previous issues of Kenn News and Views, I made a mental note to recount the following true(?) story which appeared in our weekly bellringing paper, "The Ringing World" last October following a rather facetious correspondence as to whether there were bells in Heaven. I will repeat it word for word as I am sure, for ringers and non-ringers alike, it will give that 'tingle down the spine'.....

"Recent correspondence regarding "Bells in Heaven" prompts me to write of an experience which my father and grandfather had during the first World War.

An uncle of mine had joined the army, under age, and was serving as a stretcher bearer in France. He was injured, although not by enemy action, and was sent home to England where his condition worsened. So much so, that my father and his father made their way to the hospital in London to bring him home, as he was not expected to live. Whilst on the way they both heard the sound of church bells ringing, at a time when church bells were not being rung and there was not even a church in the vicinity. When they arrived at the hospital they found that my uncle, who was my father's brother, had died at the precise time that the church bells were heard.

My father, a clergyman and model steam locomotive builder, was a very down to earth man who did not fantasise or imagine things – nor I believe was his father, a builder by trade. I leave readers to make up their own mind as to the significance of this story. Michael D. Marshall, Blandford, Dorset."

...and I sincerely hope they had not been drinking, either, if they were travelling up from Dorset to London and back, even in those days!!

Another snippet I saw recently was a letter concerning the bells of Lancaster and Berwick Town Hall (yes, there are secular rings) and it caught my eye because of a similarity with an account of Kenn's bell which I quoted last year. Chris Pickford of Sevenoaks Kent referred to a diary of George Thurnhill of Huntingdon July 1760, who noted "The town of Berwick is a pretty large town.....The Town Hall is a good building and has a beautiful Turret which we took for the steeple of the Church, And here the Bells are hung as the Church has no Steple."

Now this brings us full circle to our first reference for Kenn in Ellacombe's "Church Bells of Somerset" where he said the bell was hung "in a turret" – obviously (as with so many other words) the meaning of "turret" has changed over the centuries and was in the late 1700's synonymous with our modern meaning of "tower", so there is no mystery here after all!

A couple of other points picked up from the same source:

Glasbury on Wye – 6 bells were cast by Jefferies and Price of Bristol in 1838 when the church was rebuilt. (The same Mr. Jefferies who recast the Kenn bell in 1815.)

And another reference to Glasbury by Chris Pickford – "...most Rudhall rings of the late 18th & early 19th centuries being tonally pretty poor" "When the Bristol bellfounders (Jefferies and Price) were contacted, Rudhall had already ceased business a few years earlier."

And another reference to the same place by Margaret Gill, of Glasbury, regarding historical payments for their bells "...and to Mr North for carriage of the new bells as per bill" - I am sure I've come across this name before but no carrier's name was mentioned for Kenn.

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This page will contain some of the quotations which I have collected along life's way. I have enjoyed and treasured them, I hope you do too.

Starting with a 'bell' one, this comes from a report of the Funeral of bell-founder Paul Lea Taylor, 16th. Oct., 1981. Canon R.A. Jones (former Rector of All Saint's, Loughborough said "In making a bell he had made an instrument which spoke not only to Christians but to the whole of society, to remind men of God and that his nature is one of beauty, joy and harmony."

Brian Dunning in "Land of Swans and Smugglers", Country Life, Jan. 30th, 1975 re Abbotsbury Church: "What matters is that it is God's House and the chief house of the village – a public yet private place, the keeper for generations of the griefs and gratitudes of a complete community."...and how true that is of any church! That is why it hurts the few caring people left so much when their church is closed, emptied of all its possessions, and used for some mundane secular purpose.

"The hum and murmur of the multitudinous insects sounded like the music of innumerable bells" – Kilvert's Diary, 8th. Aug., 1875.

And from the same source, but dated 22nd. April, 1876, and describing some magnificent oak trees in Moccas Park, near Monnington on Wye, with one suspected of being 2000 years old and measuring roughly 10 ½ feet in diameter:

"I fear those grey old men of Moccas, those grey, gnarled, low-browed, knock-kneed, bowed, bent, huge, strange, long-armed, deformed, hunchbacked misshapen oak men that stand waiting and watching century after century biding God's time with both feet in the grave and yet tiring down and seeing out generation after generation, with such tales to tell, as when they whisper them to each other in the midsummer nights, make the silver birches weep and the poplars and aspens shiver and the long ears of the hares and rabbits stand on end. No human hand set those oaks. They are 'the trees which the Lord hath planted'. They look as if they had been at the beginning and making of the world, and they will probably see its end."

"A statistician is a man who uses statistics as a drunk man uses a lamp-post – mainly for support and **not** illumination." Anon.

"An ounce of fact is worth a ton of theory." Anon.

"The Ringing World" Nov. 6th, 1981 "We are a mixed community like bits of architecture – bits of church architecture. Some are "detached towers" and never seem to reach the main building; others are flying buttresses – they touch where they can; yet others are buttresses because they give solid support from the outside; but many, many more, thank God, are the pillars who prop the Church up from inside."

York Diocesan Leaflet (via the R.W. Nov. 13th, 1981: "SO WHAT'S YOUR TROUBLE? Our forefathers did without sugar until the 13th. century, without coal fires until the 14th, without buttered bread until the 16th, without coffee, tea and soap until the 17th, without gas, matches and electricity until the 19th, and without cars and canned or frozen food until the 20th. Now what was it you were complaining about?"

Thou that has given so much to me, Give one more thing, a grateful heart. Not thankful when it pleaseth me, As if thy blessings had spare days; But such a heart whose pulse may be thy praise." – George Herbert 1593-1633.

Geoff. Marchant.

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What's on at the Drum!

1st April - Mike's birthday

Tuesday 3rd April - Village Lunch
Everyone Welcome - meet from
12.30 p.m.

Tuesday 3rd April
The Country & Western Sounds of
Dale Winsor

Tuesday 10th April
Back by demand
Greg Winters

Tuesday 17th April
The Talented
Pete Holden

Tuesday 24th April
Back again
Female Artiste
Julie

Tuesday 1st May
The Relaxed Sounds of
Mike and Graham

Afraid to say -
Fully Booked for Christmas Day

KENN NOTES

- SNIPPETS

Table Top Sale - Saturday 21st April -
10 a.m. - Noon - Kenn Village Hall -
organised by Kenn Women's Institute

Goods for sale will include Cakes,
produce, Bric a Brac, Books, Plants,
etc. etc. - Coffee

Come and meet your neighbours.

If any reader would like a table - £5
please contact Ruth Dyer 872676

Dates for your diary

Drum & Monkey

Tuesday 3rd April - 12.30 onwards
Village Lunch - all welcome

Every Wednesday is Quiz Night.

At Kenn Village Hall

Monday 2nd April 7.30 pm.
Kenn Parish Council Meeting
followed by Annual Parish Meeting.

Wednesday 11th April - Kenn W.I.
Meeting. Speaker - Mr. Hale -
Musings of a Retired Policeman -
Competition - 5 Daffodils
Non-Members always welcome.

Saturday 21st April - Kenn W.I.
Table Top Sale - 10 a.m. - Noon

KENN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

'ON BEING A SCHOOL MATRON'
by MRS. CLARKE

At our January meeting we were
entertained (literally) by Mrs. Clarke, a
very petite lady, not at all like our vision of
a school matron, who gave us a most
amusing account of her first position as
Matron in an all boys school.

Following a varied career in which she
trained as a nanny, took up nursing, went
to the London School of Speech and
Drama, and lived in Iraq with her first
husband for two years, in her 40's Mrs.
Clarke had to find a way of making an
income for herself and she needed a
job that would allow her to care
periodically for her ailing Mother.

She advertised herself in 'The Lady' as
"Old fashioned nanny prepared to look
after your children and train their speech".
To this advertisement she had 120 replies
from all over the World, a great many

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of which were from men who seemed to want her for their own nanny, not for their children when they suggested very much extra mural activities!

She then decided to join an Agency which provided temporary staff as Matrons and through this she was employed in a boys school near London where she was responsible for the welfare of 80 boarders. However, on her first day not only did she find herself responsible for the dispensary and speech training, she was also supervisor of the sewing room, gardeners and sports fields, and the cleaners.

At the school there were children from all religions, and she turned the shower-room into a mosque at night so that the Moslems did not disturb the other boys in their dormitory when they observed their night-time prayers, and with the help of a theatrical friend she turned a Sikh boy, turban and all, into a very believable lady with the use of a wig to cover the hair and turban and theatre 'skin' to cover his beard for the end of term play.

She also read the younger boys a night-time story only to find that the older boys listened outside the dormitory, so she turned her sitting-room into a story room for all.

All this, apart from her other duties, not the least of that as Matron and confidante feeding the boys Matron's Cocktail of linctus and lemon when colds and influenza threatened, keeping mumps and measles localised in the Sanatorium, and dealing with the usual cuts, bruises, and breakages involved with the game of rugby.

The largest crisis of her term at this school was when the kitchen caught fire and they had many hungry mouths to feed; Mrs. Clarke rang MacDonald's who said that if she cared to drive to their cafe they would provide all the food free of charge - thank goodness some large outlets have hearts!

I think Mrs. Clarke's stories are endless because after this school she went on to several other establishments, one a girls school where she was offered a permanent position and then the Governors decided to sell the school and use the land for building development - this was her final position because she had met a gentleman who suggested it

was time that she retired and married him; this she did.

As a finale we were treated to a song and dance routine and we had a sing-song and we could see why Mrs. Clarke looked so young and trim because her energy was almost unbelievable.

The competition was a Memento of School Days and Mrs. Madeleine Crawley had gold with a beautifully embroidered tray-cloth commemorating the Queen's Coronation, Mrs. Marlene Arney had silver and Mrs. Thelma Blake had green.

Next month we welcome Mr. Hale who will be telling us the 'Musings of a Retired Policeman'

The competition is five daffodils.

Don't forget our Table Sale on the 21st April at Kenn Village Hall - ring Mrs. Dyer to rent a table 01275-872676.

Rosemarie Ford
01275-877243

Long Term Occupation of Property in Kenn

Many families in Kenn have lived in the same houses for very long periods of time.

We will start at Kenn Estate where the Cox and Neath families have lived ever since the estate was built in 1938. Ivor Cox was the first child to be born there and is still there.

Next we move to Kenn Court where the Dyer family have lived for over 150 years.

Next stop is Portbury House Farm where the Stowells have lived more than 80 years.

We then go around to Whitehouse Farm where the Flowers have lived for over 60 years.

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Going round the lane to Kenn Pier Farm, the Bye family have been there since 1934.

On to Riverside, Nailsea Wall where the Tripp family have lived for around 100 years.

We then move on to Riverside Farm where the Staples have been living for something like 100 years.

In the same area the Pike family have lived around Moorside Farm for about 100 years.

On up Moor Road to Manor Farm where the Hazells have lived, also around 100 years.

We then move onto the top of Duck Lane to Myrtle Cottage where Mrs Hilda Staples and her family have lived over 60 years.

Up Kenn Street to Yew Tree Farm where Cyril Willcox and his ancestors the Bakers have lived for at least 170 years. They have probably lived there longer; they were there when the Kenn Hangings took place in 1832.

Next stop Chaseside, combined with New House Farm where members of the Stowell family have lived since it was built in 1924.

Up the street to Stonehouse Farm which at present is changing hands after being in the occupancy of the Naish family since 25th March 1924.

Pamela Stuckey who lives at Little Carpenters, Kenn Street which was part of Carpenters Farm is a member of the Stuckey family who have lived on that farm probably for more than 140 years.

Finally Corner Cottage where Sally Whitehead has lived since 1946.

Ray Naish

BIRD NEWS I

The dreadful scourge of Foot & Mouth has severely limited opportunities to visit the countryside so I was especially pleased to hear from John Croxton about a pair of Little Owls nesting in the hedge near to his house.

For my part, I did manage to see a Red Kite from the train on a trip to London. - It was in the 'Goring Gap, on the Oxford/Berks border.

Nearer to home a Chiffchaff appeared in my garden on the 19th and an early Swallow flew over Uphill on the 24th. The Peregrine has been sitting on top of the radio mast in Clevedon.

April is the prime migration month - let us hope that a few more cuckoos visit us this year.

Trevor Riddle

BIRD NEWS II

I drove through Claverham moor this morning, 21st March, after a dreadful night of weather, heavy snow and rain, the rivers were up to the top of the banks. When I got to the bridge over the Black Ditch rhyme I counted about 20 swans and to my great surprise among them was a pair of Canada Geese, the first I have ever seen in the moor. There was also a large number of Mallard on the water.

KENN NEWS & VIEWS

A pair of Carrion Crows are building a nest in the large fir tree on the lawn at Stonehouse Farm. They come back to the same branch year after year, and have become quite tame.

Mrs Tripp who lives on the river bank at Nailsea Wall has a bird table quite near her sitting room window. A large number of birds come there to feed.

I was talking to her the other day when delivering her News & Views, to our surprise a large bird pitched on the bird table. It was a Cock Pheasant, he was trying to get at the bird seed. He had obviously noticed the small birds feeding there. He must be finding some seed on the ground, since then he comes back daily bringing his hen bird with him.

Also visitors to Mrs. Tripp's garden are a pair of Mallard. They seem to be looking for a nest site.

Roland Hazell of Moor Road spotted a small flock of long-tailed tits from his kitchen window on 5th March.

23rd March, Jeff Naish has reported seeing six Canada Geese and a small flock of Wheatears in Tickenham Moor, also large flocks of mixed Fieldfares and Starlings near Cooks Lane, Clevedon. It was a warm day, he said that the quiet countryside in that area seemed to be alive with birds. He also saw some mad March Hares boxing as they do at this time of year. When they are doing this they do not notice human beings, even if very near to them.

The same evening it was very warm, as it was getting dark there was a tremendous amount of Birdsong behind Stonehouse Farm, it was

almost like being in a tropical bird-house.

Jeff has also seen some very small Bats flying around his house at Nailsea. They must have come out of hibernation early.

Ray Naish

Thinking Matters

(a random selection of quotes)

Selfishness & kindness,
idealism & vanity,
shyness & courage,
laziness & nervousness,
obstinacy & disinterestedness,
can all exist in one person.

Many people do not believe in
the truth of this

You may do whatever you like,
So long as you remember
That there may be a policeman
round the next corner

Any man may be justified in
sitting on the fence, but he
would be prudent to leave his
legs dangling on the side on
which he secretly believes

The object of work,
Is to obtain leisure

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Not the least of the evils of
 life, is that someone whom you
 love, ceases to love you
 Affection is not love

A man is inclined to be foolish
 at 20, for were it not so, he
 would not be so wise at 50.

No fish is as good as the one
 you caught yourself.

Even if I knew that tomorrow
 the world would fall apart, I
 would still plant my apple tree.

He was an atheist, but though
 he didn't believe in God, he was
 still frightened of the Devil.

It is a poor cook that cannot
 lick his own fingers.

We are not the same person
 as we were last year, nor are
 those we love.

A young and prudish
 prospective lady M.P. for a
 staunch naval constituency, had
 a naval officer friend of hers
 with her as she went round
 knocking on doors.

"Is your mother in?" she asked a
 little girl who opened one door.

"No, but mummy says that if a
 lady calls with a sailor, tell her
 that she can use the back
 room upstairs, and leave the
 £10 on the kitchen table before
 she goes".

Cliff Edwards

Refuse and Recycling Collections 2000 - 2001

Normal Collection Day

Easter

Friday 13 April

Monday 16 April

Tuesday 17 April

Wednesday 18 April

Thursday 19 April

Friday 20 April

Monday 23 April

Tuesday 24 April

Wednesday 25 April

Thursday 26 April

Friday 27 April

Revised Collection Day

Tuesday 17 April

Wednesday 18 April

Thursday 19 April

Friday 20 April

Saturday 21 April

Monday 23 April

Tuesday 24 April

Wednesday 25 April

Thursday 26 April

Friday 27 April

Saturday 28 April