

KENN NEWS AND VIEWS



Editor Sheila NAISH

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BIRTHDAYS - JANUARY

8th Cliff Edwards
11th George Noad
13th Abigail Smith
14th Rebecca Brain
16th Fred Fenwick
30th Mike Smith

Message from Ed

On behalf of us all, I would like to say a big thank you for our Christmas gifts which were much appreciated.

We would like to wish each and every one of you a very happy, peaceful and prosperous New Year.

Thoughts of the Month

Many a parent sighs for the "good old days" when a stocking could hold what a child wanted for Christmas

The New Year gives people a fresh start on their old habits.

New Year's resolutions are made in good faith and usually broken.

I have decided this year that I am going to make time not excuses!! to do things I should, see people I want, learn new things and even for myself - let's hope I can keep to it.

NAISH'S NOTES

My thanks to everyone who attended the Christmas Party in the hall. The proceeds from which will enable a young lady to attend the M.S. Centre in Nailsea for a year, visiting each week for a dive in the hyperbaric unit and reflexology which benefits her enormously.

My thanks to Derek at Kenn Valley Social Club for the bar and an excellent Happy Hour and for doing the Disco for me.

It's a wonder that I am still in one piece having spilt my drink on the mixer deck, nearly blowing it up. My thanks to Richard Jaehme's girlfriend for rescuing me with a beautiful Whitney Houston song while Derek dried out.

However, in spite of me, the disco was a roaring success and we had a brilliant time. Thanks to the Stout family for all their help.

Turkey gobbledegook - a certain young lady at Winford Market inspecting the poultry at the Christmas Sale, neatly hung turkeys with plastic bags over their heads was heard to say "oh that's how they kill them then - they suffocate them" oh dear !

Articles for Magazine direct to Margaret or Ray please - anything unusual, odd, funny, we want to hear it.

Sheila Naish

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST, KENN

St. John's Altar Guild January Rota

Mrs M. Wilcox and Mrs. J. Staples

Many thanks to all the ladies who arranged flowers at Kenn Church over the Christmas Festival.

The Church looked really lovely.

Thank you for all your hard work.

Jean Naish

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Church Services at Kenn for January

7th - 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion

14th - 11.00 a.m. Holy Communion

21st - 6.00 p.m. Evensong

28th - 11 a.m. Family Service

This Family Service will include the Annual Plough Service this was introduced last year and proved a great success.

Members of the local farming community will be invited to take part

Service of Carols and Lessons

The Service of Carols and Lessons held on December 17th was a great success 90 people attended. This was a great number considering there were four other carol services held in the Parish of Yatton Moor on the same evening.

There was a choir of 17. All but one of them were from Kenn. They greatly enjoyed taking part.

The service opened with the 121st Psalm "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills" to a beautiful chant by Walford Davis, this was sung as an introit by the choir alone, who also sang two other less well-known carols.

This year we reverted to the old system of nine carols and nine lessons. Fourteen readers took part, some reading in family groups. The service was conducted by the Revd. Avril Gaunt and the readers ages ranged between eight years and over seventy.

After the service around a large number of people assembled at the Village Hall for a Christmas Barbecue. A wonderful spread was provided by Simon and Jenny Pascoe with helpers. This rounded off a great evening. It got us off to a great start for the Christmas Festivities.

Many thanks to all who helped to make this evening so enjoyable.

Ray Naish

Crib Service 24/12/00

Ask anyone who has been involved in the Kenn Crib Service over the last 20 years and they will all say the same thing -

"Christmas begins when the motley crew of angels and shepherds take their places and the congregation quietyens down to hear the Christmas Story once more"

It's only after that, that you start thinking about your own Christmas arrangements.

Each year some things change, the age distribution of the players and the size of the cast and somethings are constant. Mary Holmes turning out midweek to play the organ for the practise, and then somehow making the performance into a seamless whole on the day.

This year we were thrice blessed, firstly with a small group of 'old stagers', teenage narrators who can pull the whole thing together, clearly telling the story.

Secondly, a large cast of 'characters' appeared from the far reaches of the village and beyond, who behaved beautifully and formed a touching tableau at the end of the play.

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Thirdly, we had a jolly lot of mums and dads who turned up on time and assembled and sewed some lovely costumes and kept cheerful throughout.

Led by Revd. Avril Gaunt the service, attended by 80 people went without a hitch (including 2 new carols) and once more the wonder of that most special of stories crept over us, preparing us for the joy of Christmas Day.

Thanks to everyone involved, see you next year, we hope

Julia Bush and Heather Noad.

Village Luncheon - Drum & Monkey

I'm pleased to report good support on December 5th our second event, with over twenty attending. We again enjoyed excellent food and company.

Please note our January meal will be on Tuesday the 9th. All welcome - no need to advise anyone, just turn up at about 12.30.

John and Grace Griffin.

KENN NEWS- Snippets

Christmas Festivities in Kenn 2000

Celebrations for Christmas started early this year on November 29th when Kenn Women's Institute organised a Floral Evening - Mrs. Glenda Martin demonstrated interesting flower arrangements.

This was followed on December 2nd when Jo Batten and Rob Treble and helpers organised a dance raising £130 for Children in Need.

In the same week, December 6th, senior citizens were invited to a Christmas Tea Party. On arrival we were warmly greeted with sherry, followed by a delicious tea with Christmas Cake which had been made and beautifully iced by Kathy Bromfield, carol singing and a free draw and a little present to take home.

To everyone who helped to make the afternoon so successful a sincere thank you.

As is our custom at this Christmas party, we remember those stalwarts who month by month produce Kenn News and Views and to thank those who deliver our Magazines around the village. Margaret Ball who produces the newsletter, Sheila Naish who is editor and Simon Pascoe who provides the front cover each month, all received gift tokens

December 15th evening was Christmas Lights up in Kenn when Margaret Ball (formerly Stowell) was invited to switch on our Christmas Tree Lights on The Green. After switch on, we sang carols around the tree while the children collected £54 for the Children's Society. Mince pies and sausage rolls, kindly made by Kennites, were enjoyed as well as a Christmas Punch given by Robin and Marianna Mackay who also supply the electricity for the lights.

December 16th a Disco for the more energetic was held in Kenn Village Hall, organised by Sheila Naish.

December 17th Carols and Lessons in church. Our church was beautifully decorated by members of the Altar Guild, the service was conducted by the Reverend Avril Gaunt and was well attended.

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Afterwards some ninety Kennites and friends repaired to the Village Hall (which had been festively decorated by Fred and Jean Fenwick and John and Margaret Ball) for The Christmas Barbecue.

We were greeted by our expert chefs Simon Pascoe, Robin Mackay and Richard Gaunt cooking mouth-watering food. The menu was pork chops, chicken portions which had been marinated, sausages and bacon. Potatoes, coleslaw and bread rolls, followed by mince pies made by Jenny Pascoe and ice-cream and finally coffee and hot chestnuts.

All diners were invited to give tinned foods and donations were given for the Salvation Army. The sum of £795 was raised and the Salvation Army have written to Marianna and Robin to thank the Village, confirming that the groceries have gone to their centre in Clevedon which will help meet the many emergency requests they get from needy families.

It was truly an evening to be remembered and thanks go to our chefs Simon, Robin and Richard, to Jenny and Marianna and to all their helpers for all their hard work.

During the evening Kenn's Teddy's name was revealed which was 'Arthur' and he has gone to live in Clevedon with Fay Sandy. Thanks to Jenny Croxton and Heather Jenkins who helped to sell names.

December 20th Jo Batten and Mandy Boyle and helpers organised a Children's Party when our younger members and friends were entertained by Uncle Brian.

December 24th when our Church was full to see the Nativity Story presented; we thoroughly enjoyed watching the story unfold with many angels and shepherds.

Throughout the Festive Season a full programme of good food and entertainment has been available at the Drum and Monkey.

On reflection, we have had wonderful opportunities during the past few weeks in Kenn to enjoy different activities.

There has been something for all ages and interests.

Large sums of money have been raised to help others and our sincere thanks go to everyone who helped.

Each and everyone of us has at least something to give, be it time, energy or money.

Christmas Day we flew our flag to celebrate the birthday of our Lord.

Ruth Dyer

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 9th January - 12.30 pm at The Drum and Monkey, Kenn - Village Luncheon - Everyone welcome.

Wednesday 10th January - 7.30 pm Kenn Women's Institute meet at Kenn Village Hall - Mrs Morris will talk on Aromatherapy Competition - to find as many words as possible from the word AROMATHERAPY

Non-members are always welcome.

Kenn Women's Institute

After fighting their way through gale force winds and very wet roads, Members gathered for the December meeting in a festively decorated Village Hall.

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Ann Holtham is re-elected as president and during the business for the evening she welcomed Barbara Russell who was pleased to be back after having fully recovered from a stay in hospital.

Irene Stowell is again Secretary for the coming year, and she advised that the next skittles match (yes, we are in the second round) will be on 8th January at the Lord Nelson at Congresbury - (? Cleeve) and we look forward to another win. There is also a friendly skittles evening at Kingston Seymour on the 22nd February.

Ruth Dyer expressed deep concern at the loss of village Post Offices and the fact that by 2003 pensions will have to go into a bank account. She has written to the Prime Minister and Dr Liam Fox MP: a long reply has been received from the latter but she has been advised that she will be hearing further from the Prime Minister's Office. It was of interest to know that if the Prime Minister receives 20 or more letters on the same subject, then something must be done about it, so perhaps we should all take pen to paper.

Members provided suggestions for our nominated charity for 2001, and having taken a ballot the Multiple Sclerosis Centre at Nailsea was voted therefor.

Eileen Prew and her helpers were thanked for acting as 'Santa Claus' by sorting and distributing dozens of cards brought by Members, together with parcels for our Secret Friends. A little over £16 was donated by members in lieu of postage and will be sent to Action for Country Women of the World.

A highly competitive and very noisy game of 'Beetle' followed, and the decibels rose as the excitement mounted. The runaway

winner was Ady Mann, with Barbara Russell runner-up and Joy Morris third.

The competition was for a Christmas Table Decoration and Jean Ings had gold, Rosemarie Ford silver and Eileen Prew bronze.

Mrs Morris will be talking about 'Aromatherapy' on the 10th January, and the competition is to find as many words as possible from the word aromatherapy.

Rosemarie Ford
01275 877243

Thanks

I would like to say a sincere 'thank you' to all the kind friends who called to see me on Monday December 4th to wish me a Happy 91st Birthday with wonderful flowers, fruit etc. Again many thanks to you all and it comes with God's Blessing and my love for the coming New Year 2001

Sally Whitehead

Thank You

Jean and Ray Naish wish to thank friends and neighbours for the large number of cards and good wishes we received when moving into our new house.

When living at the farm we always had large numbers of visitors and we hope this continues in our new home.

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Bird News I

There were good numbers of Fieldfares and Redwings in the area early in the month but these now seem to have dispersed or moved on.

The Cheddar Valley Railway turned up a Cettis Warbler, a first for the reserve. This is a very skulking bird, which has colonised parts of southern Britain during the last 30 years. It over-winters, and announces itself with an explosive call and song. Also making a lot of noise was a squealing Water Rail - this call is like a pig meeting its end.

Several Owl boxes have been erected on Congresbury Moor, including a Barn Owl box mounted on a telegraph pole. We are hopeful of attracting occupants this spring - watch this space.

Whilst returning from helping with this task a Peregrine Falcon drifted over in leisurely flight - perhaps one of the Clevedon birds. However a few days later a very strange bird appeared - an (escaped) Harris Hawk. This bird was mercilessly mobbed by Crows and Magpies as it flew high over Yatton towards Kenn.

There are lots of escaped falconer's birds flying free (remember Ray's piece about the Goshawk) but I wouldn't be too optimistic about this one's chances of survival.

Finally John Croxton telephoned to say that he believed that he had a Black Redstart in his garden. He told me all the main field characters, but the real clincher was when he said that he had put down some bark mulch. Black Redstarts love this stuff, or rather they love the insects contained in it. they are rare winter

visitors, but there have been a few reported in Somerset recently. So thank you John, for the information - I am always very pleased to hear of any bird sightings from you.

Trevor Riddle
01934 835208

NO FLOODING

Readers may remember when two years ago Kenn Street was deeply flooded both at the top end and near the "Old Ox House" in fact the flood water was the deepest we had ever seen in the yard at "Stonehouse Farm" and around the "Old School" area.

We have just come through the wettest four months on record and Kenn has remained completely free of any flooding. This is due to the new ditch that the Internal Drainage Board had cut in the fields on the north side of Kenn Street. This ditch connects the drains that pass under Kenn Street to the old River Kenn. It has worked wonders, the ditch that starts at "Coxhay", Kenn Street and runs through the village and along the east end of the Churchyard before entering the drains that are underneath the old School playground have run freely all the winter. It is hoped that the flooding problem in Kenn has been solved for ever.

While on the subject of flooding, the moors around Kenn and Yatton have also been free of flooding except for a few days all the winter. this is due to the wonderful drainage system out there that gets flood water to the sea very quickly.

Ray Naish.

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Christmas Parties in Kenn

On Wednesday 6th December we held our Annual Tea Party at the Village Hall. Again careful planning and good work from the Social Committee produced a most happy event.

Almost fifty guests were entertained for over two hours; with very nice light refreshments including sherry.

Our hall was filled with the happy buzz of conversation as friends caught up on each others news and recalled times past. It's so good for folk to get together, have a chat and refresh friendships.

From the village a big thank you to those who organised the party and a thank you to those who attended. These events are such a important part of our village life.

Well done everyone.

John Griffin

Children's Party 20th December

Almost thirty children were entertained by Uncle Brian at the Annual Tea Party held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 20th December. The Puppet Show was watched by an enthralled audience of all ages.

Father Christmas paid a surprise visit and a fun time was had by all.

Thanks to Jo Batten, Mandy Boyle and their team of helpers.

The date for next year's party has already been fixed at Wednesday 19th December so make this your first diary date.

What's on at the Drum

Tuesday 9th January
The Very Entertaining
TERRY JAMES

Tuesday 16th January
Talented Male & Female Duo
NOT GUILTY

Tuesday 23rd January
A Sing Along All Rounder
ROB COOK

Tuesday 29th January
Back by Demand the
Very Popular
MIKE & GRAHAM

Every Wednesday Night
is Quiz Night

Mike & Lita extend a warm and Very
Happy New Year
to All Villagers & Customers
old and new
and
Thank You for a good 2000

Village Lunch 12.30 pm 9th January