

NEWS & VIEWS



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KENN NEWS & VIEWS

Birthdays and Anniversaries

July 5 - Avril Gaunt

7 - Adam Gamester

8 - Oliver Hart

10 - Caroline Holden

- Molly Cheek

15 - Mrs Gladys Griffin

21 - Toby Naish

24 - Brian Walters

25 - Sue Pugh

27 - Jessica Brett

28 - Juliet Stowell

Jack Stowell

Millie & Mike Stowell WA

29 - Emma & Peter Brooks WA

Message from Ed

Congratulations to Mrs Lyn Bye on her 40th birthday recently.

*Quote of the month
(for Happy People)*

*We are all worms, but I do believe
that I am a glow worm*

(Winston Churchill)

Naish's Notes

Congratulations to the Jaehme boys – Christopher who on a school trip to France gained the title of “Champion Oyster Eater”!!! he consumed 28 in one go (yeuk!!) and to Richard who has been on an away trip with his local Rugby Club to Majorca, the youngest on tour, we hope those socks stayed white!!!

PARTY IN THE BARN

Due to the Foot and Mouth situation now returning and getting closer, we have decided to postpone the BBQ Party until the beginning of September which may give the situation time to improve. Watch this space.

TIDY VILLAGE

We are still awaiting judging, so please be vigilant and pick up litter if you come across any.

We hope that our youngsters who have sat exams have all done well and are now over the nail-biting swotting bit. We've all been there and it is a horrible time, breathing space until the results week!!!

We look forward to receiving any funny holiday stories or disasters. We would like to hear any snippets on anything – feel free to write

Sheila

St. John the Evangelist, Kenn

A big thank you to all the ladies and gents who helped to Spring Clean Kenn Church at the beginning of June and at the Churchyard blitz later in the month.. We are most grateful for all the hard work.

Many thanks to everyone.

St. John's Altar Guild

Volunteers to join the Altar Guild are always welcome – all it entails is about an hour a week for one month each year – If you think you might like to help contact the Altar Guild Secretary, Jean Naish at Cloverlea, Kenn, or phone 872493

St. John's Altar Guild – July Rota

Ladies on duty for July

Mrs. G. Griffin and Mrs. J. Kent.

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Reunion of Choir Members at Kenn Church

The reunion of Kenn Church choir members past and present was held on 17th June. It was a great success, around 70 people attended the Church Service followed by a get together with a Ploughman's supper in the Village Hall.

There was a choir of 20 people. After the service, those who were in the choir were joined by former members for a photo around the Churchyard Cross this numbered almost 40 people.

The most senior, former Chorister who attended was 87 year old Mr. Charlie Holley who joined the choir 77 years ago.

Daphne Veale (nee Naish) travelled up from Ivybridge in South Devon to attend the service and Lizzie Holtham who lives in Kent was at the party, both are former choristers.

Those who attended were full of praise for Irene Stowell and Jean Fenwick for putting on such a wonderful supper.

Ray Naish

Typist's Note

The reason for the Reunion of the Choristers was to celebrate the fact that between them Ray Naish and John Griffin have notched up a total of 120 years singing in the choir at Kenn.

Congratulations to them both !!!

(copies of the photo are available from Ray Naish)

KENN NOTES - SNIPPETS

Village Hall

A warm thank you to Mrs Mary Willcox for providing the plants and planting the little Hall garden and to Robert for cutting the hedge.

Hall Rents

The Hall Committee has decided that the rents for hiring the Village Hall will remain unchanged; they are:

Meeting £10

Jumble Sale £20

Children's Party £15

Social Event £25

All day £35.

(outside lets at the discretion of the officers.)

The Hall is there for Kennites to use and enjoy.

Enquiries to Secretary
- Ruth Dyer 872676

Celebration

17th June - We were pleased to fly our flag to celebrate the official 75th birthday of Her Majesty our Queen.

Best Kept Village Competition

Our thanks to every Kennite who helps to tidy Kenn and to pick up the litter that others drop!

Special thanks to Marianna and Duncan Mackay who gave the Green an extra tidy; to Hazel Hansford for providing plants and planting up the pots on the Green; to Jean Ings who planted up the little garden on the Garden of Rest and to Christopher Taylor for providing the plants.
Ruth Dyer

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Dates For Your Diary

Drum and Monkey

Tuesday 3rd July
Village Lunch from 12.30 p.m.

Tuesday 5th July
8.00 p.m. Mendip Morris Men

Kenn Village Hall

Wednesday 11th July
Kenn W.I. 7.30 p.m.

Speaker Mr. Tapp on
"The Roof of the World"
Competition – Photo of a Mountain.

Non-members always welcome.

Advance Dates

Kenn Village Hall

Kenn W.I. Table Top Sale
Wednesday 8th August 7.00 p.m.
Tables £5 – To book a Table 'phone
872676

Chaseside, Kenn
Sunday 26th August 6.00 - 11.00 pm

Fund Raising Pig Roast/Barbecue **Live Band / Classic Cars**

Proceeds to St. Peter's Hospice and
St. John the Evangelist, Kenn Church
Funds

Admission by Ticket only - £5
from Kenn Post Office, Margaret and
John Ball and Churchwardens –
Tickets will be available early August.

Kenn Village Hall

Chairman Retires

Mr. Sam Dyer has retired from the Chairmanship of Kenn Village Hall Committee having first taken on the position in 1948.

During his tenure of the post Sam has seen dozens of Committee Members come and go and many who have served with him over the years are no longer with us.

He has managed to keep together a small band of dedicated people who work hard to keep the Village Hall going for the benefit of all to use.

I am sure the people of Kenn would wish to join with me in thanking Sam for his commitment over more than half a century.

Ray Naish

Typists note:

The new Chairman is Mrs Margaret Ball, Vice Chairman Mrs Sheila Naish, the Secretary is Mrs Ruth Dyer and the Treasurer Mrs Irene Stowell with Assistant Treasurer Mrs Sarah Clarke.

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Kenn Women's Institute

At our June meeting we learned of three Resolutions passed by the WI Intermediate General Meeting held in Cardiff:-

- 1) The findings of the very expensive enquiry into foot and mouth disease in 1967 were ignored – hence the present muddle – carried by a good majority.
- 2) In view of reports that some elderly people in hospitals, care homes, and their own homes suffer abuse, this meeting urges Government to ensure that all staff caring for the elderly must undergo specific training for a recognised qualification - after discussion: carried by a majority.
- 3) Despite the School Nursing Service being statutory since 1944, no School Nurses have been trained since 1995 - motion carried.

Mrs Mary Thyne then gave us a most interesting and entertaining talk on Ancient Medicine and Disease.

Did you know that dinosaurs suffered with arthritic joints and bone tumours and tuberculosis of the bones as growths have been discovered on bones. To quote our speaker "no wonder they gave up!"

Primitive man also suffered with these diseases but believed they were a curse like voodoo. Therefore medicine men or doctors arrived. The medicine men are

shown in cave paintings and apart from dancing around and throwing earth about they used to suck the patient to 'cure' him by taking the disease from the body and producing a pebble which was the patient's soul.

Through investigation with present day Aboriginal tribes it transpires that primitive man had flint, stone, and shell operating instruments and performed cataract and skull operations to relieve pressure on the brain.

We know very little about the plants that were used but we do know that banana leaves were used because they contain a special enzyme which heals wounds, particularly eczema.

Animal hair (particularly that of donkeys) is high in calcium which we use to cure spasms today - hence 'the hair of the dog' was a literal cure.

The Egyptians had ENT, ophthalmic, abdominal, and gynaecological specialists who worked with the aid of the Gods. They also knew that pregnancy could be diagnosed through urine which was put on barley seeds and quick germination showed pregnancy.

They repaired fractures by splints and binding - the cure for fractures disappeared from then until Victorian times when a Parisienne sculptor was tidying up his studio and found that alabaster dust set hard in the mid 1900s

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- what happened in the intervening 5000 years?

They used mouldy bread to cure infections, therefore using penicillin.

They also had family planning clinics and used pessaries of crocodile dung, honey and lactic acid to prevent the journey of unwanted sperm!

A King of Babylon did set a code of practice for doctors showing the price of cures both monetarily and physical (cutting off the doctor's hands if an important patient did not survive).

In 8th Century BC in Mesopotamia they sterilised priestesses (who were supposed to be virgins anyway).

They also produced spectacles to cure cataracts by grinding volcanic glass.

Palestine produced the first laws of hygiene through Moses by washing hands, burying excrement etc.

The Jews invented circumcision to stop infection via the very sandy atmosphere.

India had drainage systems which were better right through history beyond the Victorians, steam baths, public fountains and wash-houses, and very sophisticated cities until the Aerials introduced the caste system and this wonderful lifestyle was lost.

Because the punishment for adultery was to bite off the errant woman's nose, the Indians

developed the art of replacing noses - plastic surgery.

They also operated for cancer, produced artificial limbs and eyes, and they invented surgical needles.

The Indians also performed caesarean operations, removed bladder stones, and made sutures by the use of Bengal ants which clamped their jaws across the wound and remained there until they died - being ants and pure protein they then were absorbed by the body without infection.

300 years BC the Indians opened human hospitals and hospitals for animals. At the same time the Chinese were developing acupuncture which was originally intended to create holes and drive out the Devil, and it was then found to be beneficial in other ways.

They also discovered immunisation by treating mild forms of smallpox with powdered smallpox scabs by using it as snuff; they also treated leprosy with the same oil we use today.

There were blood transfusions man to man and pig to man, and they treated anaemia with pig's liver.

Toad's skin contains adrenalin and the Chinese used toads' skins to treat heart trouble - we use adrenalin today.

It seems that really nothing is new just the technique!

The competition was an old medicine bottle: gold Ruth Dyer, silver Jean Ings, green Eileen Prew.

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Next month Mr Tapp will be telling us about the 'Roof of the World' and the competition is a photo of a mountain.

Non or new members would be very welcome.

We are holding a Strawberry Tea at Kenn Village Hall on the 30th June in aid of the MS Unit at Nailsea - admittance by ticket only £3.00 please ring Mrs Ruth Dyer 01275 872676 if you would like a ticket.

WI nationally are collecting pre-decimal coins in aid of the Children's Hospice and a collecting box will be at Kenn Post Office from the 1st July, or contact Rosemarie Ford 01275 877243 to collect.

Table Sale Wednesday August 8th at 7.00 p.m. at Kenn Village Hall - please ring Mrs Ruth Dyer 872676 for details or to hire a table.

Rosemarie Ford 01275 - 877243

Christian Aid (1)

After co-ordinating Christian Aid Week in Kenn for 20 years, I have decided that it is time to hang up my collecting tin and pass on the job to someone else.

I no longer live in Kenn and have gradually grown to know fewer and fewer of the residents. This has made it increasingly hard to find collectors and this year has been particularly difficult, with some houses being left out and a drop in the total collected.

Christian Aid Week only happens once a year and the more people involved, the lighter the load on each person. The ideal person would live in Kenn and be able to find about 6 collectors and distribute the envelopes etc. to each of this people. This takes one evening in the week before Christian Aid Week.

Please contact me on 01275 873554 if you think you can do the job.

Julia Bush

Christian Aid (2)

Many thanks to my gallant helpers during Christian Aid Week.

We managed to collect over £250 which was down on last year but a good effort none the less. If you have still got your envelope, please take it to Kenn Post Office.

Julia Bush

Sent in by Julian Gale

Subject: Proofreaders Anonymous

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community

Smile at someone who is hard to love.

Say "hell" to someone who doesn't care much about you.

Don't let worry kill you - let the Church help.

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What's on at the Drum

**First Tuesday of Every Month
Kenn Villager's Lunch
Friends and Family also welcome
3rd July meet from 12.30 p.m.**

5th July 8.00 p.m.

The Mendip Morris Men

**Every Wednesday - Quiz Night
Prizes and Raffle**

Live Music Every Tuesday Evening

**Tuesday 3rd July
Julie**

**Tuesday 10th July
Monkey Finger**

**Tuesday 17th July
Two for Texas
Country & Western**

**Tuesday 24th July
Mike & Graham**

**Tuesday 31st July
Greg Winters**

BIRD NEWS - GIGHA

Jill and I have just returned from our holiday travels and having written of the bird life of the Isle of Arran in previous years, I thought that a few notes about our day trip to Gigha might be of interest.

Gigha. Good for quiz questions.
Where is it?
How do you pronounce Gigha?
Does anyone live there?

Well Gigha is the southernmost of the Inner Hebrides (about 20 miles further south than Glasgow) and lies to the west of the Kintyre peninsula.

Islay is to the west of Gigha, with Jura to the north, so it is sheltered on three sides. Gigha is a Gaelic name, pronounced Gee-a, and it home to 120 people.

It has a hotel and a post office which sells everything from petrol to shoelaces.

Getting there (and back) was a mini-adventure from our base on Aran, involving a drive, a ferry trip with car, another drive with a quick stop to watch 3 Short Eared Owls by the road, then a ferry trip without car.

The island is only about 7 miles by 1 mile, with one road, so a car is rather superfluous!

Much of the island is fertile and is farmed for beef and dairy with some sheep. Some of the fields are small and rough and there is a rocky edge to the island covered with bracken and some heather. There is also a large fish farm and some commercial fishing for shellfish, so there is a relatively good level of employment.

Indeed the ferry was loaded with livestock and fish lorries on the day we were there.

So what about the birds? We found lots of small birds, mostly quite tame. A Sedge Warbler sang from an exposed wire (something an English Sedge Warbler would never do!) and Whitethroats and Garden Warblers were plentiful.

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We visited the noted gardens of Achamore and here there were Siskins, Redpolls and Goldfinches, along with lots of Song and Mistle Thrushes. The gardens are magnificent and a horticulturalist (not me) could write an article on the gardens alone.

Towards the south end of the island we saw a family of Stonechats and a Wheatear, with Eider ducks and Black Guillemots in the harbour. Gannets were diving in to the sea close by and a Buzzard sailed over. However the rarest (for me) birds were in the north with a Twite (like a small Linnet) and a Rock Dove – ancestor of our domestic/feral pigeons.

Just before we left, we found a small book on the birds of Gigha in the post office (I told you it sells everything!) and I was amazed to read that 120 species of bird have nested there. I think we shall have to go back and find the ones we missed.

Trevor Riddle

BIRD NEWS II

A Canada Goose has hatched a brood of goslings on the river bank of the old River Kenn below Nailsea Wall Farm, nearby a pair of Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers has hatched a brood of young.

Jeff Naish reports that the coppices in that area are alive with young birds of all sorts.

He has told me that he noticed a pheasant sitting on eggs on an old wasp nest near the footpath at "Castle Farm", as he walked by daily when

checking his sheep, the pheasant never moved. One day when he and his son Toby walked by the pheasant was gone, just a pile of feathers in the path. A fox had killed her, they picked up the eggs which were stone cold, took them home, switched on the incubator and put them in. Within two days they had hatched. The chicks were put in a cage with a deformed gosling who they have adopted as their mother.

There is a report that two Canada Geese have each hatched five young by the fishing lake at Middle Lane Farm, Kingston Seymour. I have never heard of Canada Geese nesting in this area before.

Ray Naish

Stonehouse Farm

As most people know, Stonehouse Farm has recently changed ownership.

Here is a brief history of the people who have lived there over the last two centuries.

The first family I can find anything about is the Hedges. They were living there at least since 1830, probably earlier. In mid-Victorian times say,

About 1850-60 the farmhouse was burned down but they managed to save about one quarter which is still there on the eastern end.

The part that can be seen from the road was rebuilt soon afterwards. The Hedges family lived there until about 1888, many of the family are buried in the Churchyard. Their names are

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recorded in the ancient burial register in the church.

A few years ago, an elderly gentleman came to see me. He told me that he was one of the few survivors of the Hedges family, his name was George Hedges. I believe he is still alive, he must be well into his 90's. He lives at Sheppardine, in South Gloucestershire.

When he was talking to me he told me that the last time he was in Kenn was when he attended his Aunt Lavinia's funeral in 1933. I have found her gravestone in the Churchyard.

When the Hedges left, I believe I am right in saying that the next occupiers were Mr. Samuel Dyer and his family, the present Sam Dyer's grandfather. The Dyers only lived there about two years before moving to "Kenn Court".

During their time there the cattle they owned contracted Foot and Mouth disease. This was before there was a slaughter policy, they kept the cattle alive by feeding them gruel. My Great Grandfather William Naish who lived at Brick House Farm, Yatton had an outbreak of Foot and Mouth in his cattle at the same time.

Around 1890 Charlie Staples with his wife and one daughter moved into "Stonehouse Farm" over the years, four more daughters and two sons were born there. They were all born in the bedroom on the western end. The same one that I was born in years later.

Charlie Staples was a great character. He and his family were great parishioners, involved in everything that went on in the village. He was also a very successful business man. He told me that he started life by picking and selling watercress and

wild flowers that he could find in the moor.

By the time he had been at the farm a few years he had taken the tenancy of a lot of land in the area until his rent bill was five hundred pounds per year. A tremendous amount of money in those times!!

Charlie was famous for the sales by auction he held on the farm which were known as "Kenn Fair" an account of one of them that was held in 1894 was printed in June News & Views. Tremendous amounts of cider were made at the farm, much of it sold at the Kenn Fairs. He also delivered cider to pubs in Bristol and all around the area.

At one time he owned a wonderful mare that could trot harnessed to a cart loaded with full cider barrels from the farm to the "Hen and Chicken" pub in Bedminster in fifty minutes.

This was when the roads were rough and the cart had iron rimmed tyres. Almost quicker than you get could there today in a motor car in the rush hour.

The Staples were great entertainers, they held many parties and many of them could do an evening's entertainment at social functions. They knew many songs, some of which they had composed, mainly about the countryside. Sadly no one has recorded them.

Sadly Charlie's wife, Mary Anne, died when only 49. She was a Kenn girl, the daughter of Mr and Mrs. William Dyer who kept the Old Post Office and stores when it was at the top of Kenn Street.

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The Staples left Stonehouse Farm in 1912 moving to Orchard House near the present Post Office.

To be continued next month ..

Ray Naish.

Typist's note

No, not Hartley and Jane, they live the other side at Elm Bank.

Cines of Thought

*Reading may make a man learned,
but it does not make him wise:*

*How much happier life would be if
some of the things we try to do,
retained to the end, the delight of the
beginning.*

*If the dregs of the wine were as sweet
as the first sip.*

*It occurs to few people that a man
who sits out in the rain
for a noble cause.*

*Is just as likely to get rheumatism as
the drunkard lying in the gutter.*

*When will the religions of the world
acknowledge that pleasure is not
always hurtful, or pain always
beneficial.*

*Hunger is a desire which is
on the boundary between pain and
pleasure, but when it is excessive
there is only pain.*

*Then one's thoughts are engaged
not with the satisfaction
of a good dinner,
but rather trying to get
something to eat.*

*Old age should be looked upon
without dismay.*

*For a complete life includes old age
as well as youth and maturity.*

*The beauty of the morning,
the radiance of noon are good.*

*but it would be a silly person who drew
the curtains in order to shut out the
tranquillity of the evening.*

Cliff Edwards