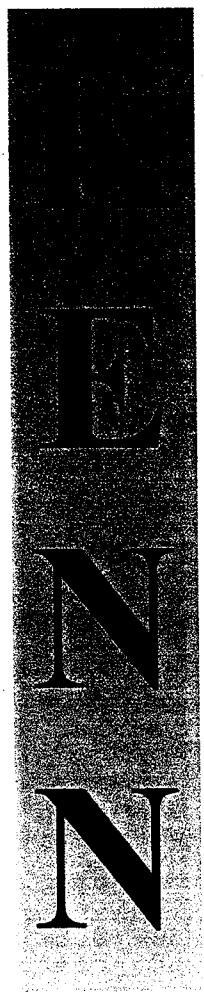


NEWS
&
VIEWS



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KENN NEWS & VIEWS

Birthdays and Anniversaries

- June 1 - Simon Pascoe
3 - Joshua Middleton
9 - Ruth Dyer
11 - Naomi Brain
Julian Wilcox
Wendy Papolomontos
13 - Lynn Bye
15 - Matthew Gaunt
18 - Ian Pascoe
21 - Tom Bye
Heather Brain
Dave Pugh
22 - Yvonne Ayres
23 - Robin Mackay
26 - Roger Wilcox
Lucy Baker
27 - Pip Jenkins

Typist's Note – Serious !!!!

Closing date for copy for July magazine is Tuesday 19th June.

Typist's Note – Flippant??

I am assured by those who know – that **Badgers** are deterred by the smell of men – not ladies or children - but men.

I understand that if Gentlemen 'relieve themselves' where badgers enter their property this has the effect of scent marking and the badgers go elsewhere.

Thought for the month

"Never if, never but, only how?"

Naish Notes

Tidy Village

We will be judged shortly, so if everyone could do their best in and around the village the Parish Council would be grateful.

Annual B.B.Q

Miles and I have decided that this will go ahead on Saturday 7th July and precautions will be taken with regard to the foot and mouth epidemic.

It will be held in the barn as usual from 8.30 until late.

All monies raised will go to the M.S. Centre in Nailsea towards the building cost of their new centre in South Gloucester.

Tickets from Heather Jenkins or myself.

Come along and enjoy the fun.

BAR RAFFLE FOOD

St. John the Evangelist, Kenn Rogation Sunday

The special service for Rogation Sunday 20th May was a great success. Part of it was held outside in the Churchyard following the ancient custom. It was a glorious evening, the warmest this year. The service was conducted by the Revd. Avril Gaunt, the preacher was Revd. Derrick Evens formerly Vicar of Street. There were fifty four people at the service.

R.V.N.

KENN NEWS & VIEWS

Church and Churchyard Spring Cleaning

HELP NEEDED !!!

Church

Monday/Tuesday 4th and 5th June

The gents will start with the heavy and high work on Monday evening from 7.00 p.m. and the ladies will continue on Tuesday from 9.00 a.m.

Please come along, lend a hand and meet your neighbours !!

Churchyard/ Car Park

Tuesday 12th June – 7.00 p.m.

Prior to the Best Kept Village judging - meet in the Churchyard with your tools and help give it a good spring clean

St. John's Altar Guild

June Rota -

Mrs. R. Bell and Mrs. M. Ball

Plants

Mrs Mary Willcox has various flower plants for sale in aid of Kenn Church - please contact Mary on 01275 872837 for details.

Best Kept Village 2001

Kenn has again entered the Best Kept Village competition. It starts on June 14th.

It is proposed to have a big tidy up of the Churchyard and Car Park on Tuesday 12th June from say 7.0'clock in the evening.

The more people we get to help with this, the easier the job becomes.

We especially appeal to people who have relatives interred there to tidy the areas around these graves.

If the Churchyard and surrounding areas are well kept the Village is awarded a large number of points in the competition.

R. V. Naish
Churchwarden

Reunion of Choristers

There will be a reunion of Choristers, past and present, at the Evening Service at Kenn Church on Sunday 17th June at 6.00 p.m.

This will be followed by a get together with light refreshments in Kenn Village Hall.

Readers of News & Views who know former choristers of any age are asked to let them know of the event.

Further information can be obtained from John Griffin 01275 872948 or Ray Naish 01275 872493

KENN NEWS & VIEWS

KENN NOTES – SNIPPETS

Bereavement

We are very sorry to record the passing of Mrs Gladys Denmead on 5th May in Clevedon Cottage Hospital.

Mrs Denmead lived for many years at Pear Tree House, Duck Lane where she and her late husband Stanley ran a successful car and general repair business and a caravan park.

After Mr. Denmead's death she built a bungalow in a paddock she owned and moved into "Conifers".

Mrs Denmead thoroughly enjoyed life to the full, always ready to join in and help with all village activities.

She was a founder member of Kenn Women's Institute, a loyal member of Kenn Church and Altar Guild, Village Hall Committee and regularly helped with the WRVS Tea Parties at Kenn Court.

A little time ago she decided to move into Clevedon to live with her son Roger and daughter-in-law Jane, but she still came back to Kenn.

On February 14th 2000 she celebrated her ninetieth birthday in Kenn Village Hall with a lunch party when she entertained a large number of her family and friends.

In 2001 she celebrated her ninety first birthday with members of Kenn Women's Institute at their February meeting.

In her last years she was indeed blest with wonderful neighbours in Duck Lane and her family.

Her funeral was held at Kenn Church on May 14th when the Reverend Chris Horseman paid tribute to her long life.

To Roger and Jane and family we extend our sincere sympathy.

We flew our flag at half-mast on 5th May and 14th May in her memory.

Ruth Dyer.

Tea Party

On 15th May sixteen members of the WRVS Tea Party were entertained to tea at Kenn Court. The eldest visitor being ninety eight years young. My sincere thanks to Jill Hackett and Jenny Croxton who came along to help.

R.M.Dyer

Kenn Women's Institute

Jumble Sale May 16th. Proceeds amounted to £105 for funds. Thanks to everyone who supported the evening.

Kenn W.I. Strawberry Tea

– Saturday 30th June 3.00 p.m. in Kenn Village Hall in aid of Multiple Sclerosis Unit at Nailsea.

Raffle

Tickets £3 from Committee members or Ruth Dyer 872676

(no ticket no tea!!)

KENN NEWS & VIEWS

Dates for your Diary

St. John the Evangelist, Kenn Monday 4th / Tuesday 5th June

Church Spring Cleaning - heavy/high work Monday from 7.00 pm -
Ladies Tuesday from 9.00 a.m.

The Drum and Monkey Tuesday 5th June from 12.30 Village Lunch – everyone welcome

St. John the Evangelist, Kenn Tuesday 12th June Churchyard Blitz/Car park clear up

- bring your own tools
- meet at 7.00 p.m.

Wednesday 14th June Best Kept Village Competition Judging commences

Kenn Village Hall Wednesday 14th June – 7.30 p.m.

Kenn Women's Institute Meeting
– speaker Mrs Thyne on Ancient Medicine.

Competition – an old fashioned medicine bottle.

Non-members always welcome

St. John the Evangelist, Kenn Choristers' Reunion Sunday 17th June at 6.00 p.m.

This will be followed by a get together with light refreshments in Kenn Village Hall

Kenn Village Hall Saturday 30th June – 3.00 p.m.

Kenn Women's Institute

STRAWBERRY TEA

in aid of Multiple Sclerosis

Tickets £3 from W.I. Committee Members

The Drum & Monkey Wednesdays

Quiz from 9.00 p.m.
Prizes Raffle

Advance Dates

Oaklands Farm – Saturday 7th July
Barbecue

Kenn Village Hall
Wednesday 8th August 7.00 p.m.
Kenn Women's Institute
Table Top Sale

To book a table please contact
Ruth Dyer 872676.

KENN NEWS & VIEWS

The Drum & Monkey, Kenn

What's on at the Drum

Every Wednesday Evening

9 - late The Drum Quiz

Every Tuesday Evening

Live Music

Tuesday 5th June

Greg Winters

Tuesday 12th June

Not Guilty

Tuesday 19th June

Rob Cook

Tuesday 26th June

Pete Holden

FLY UPDATE

Following my letter in last month's magazine regarding FLIES!

I would like to thank the people have telephoned to tell me how the flies affect them and for giving their support - it's nice to know you're not alone!

With your help and an ordinance survey map I have a much clearer picture of the area now affected and will have a lot more information should it be necessary to contact the Environmental Health Department again this year.

I will keep you updated with any further information received, in turn please continue to telephone me with anything you can add.

By the same token, if anyone does not agree with me that we have a problem or are unhappy with the way I am going about it, please telephone me on 01275 876476. I need everyone's point of view on this issue, regardless of whether it is my viewpoint or not.

Jenny Hancock
Dewsbury, Kenn Road.

From the Past

"Kenn Fair"

An account of a sale held at Stonehouse Farm, Kenn in 1894

Extracts from 'Clevedon Mercury'.
3 March, 1894

THE annual stock and cider sale at Mr. C. Staples', Stonehouse Farm, Kenn, better known as Kenn Fair, was held on Tuesday by Mr. G. Baker, auctioneer. Being favoured with a remarkably fine day, and an exceedingly good attendance of local butchers and dealers, all was sold at satisfactory prices. Five very choice fat steers averaging over £24 each, nine fat heifers from £12.10s. to £18.15s. and store steers and heifers from £16 to £23 per pair. The feature of the sale was the celebrated cider of which, 6,000 gallons were sold at from 5½d to 8½d per gallon.

Mr. Staples, with his usual hospitality provided an excellent luncheon etc., for those present which was very much appreciated.

* * *

KENN NEWS & VIEWS

Kenn Women's Institute

At our May meeting we were sorry to hear of the death of one of our founder members, Mrs. Gladys Denmead. She was so jolly and enthusiastic and will be sorely missed. Our thoughts go to her family at this sad time.

We also discussed the bad state of the roads in our area and the fact that the potholes are growing in size and number; we are writing to the Council accordingly.

Our speaker was Mr. Wakefield, a voluntary Area Welfare Officer for the Donkey Sanctuary at Sidmouth which is run by the Elisabeth Svendsen Trust. He instilled into us his enthusiasm and love of donkeys and quoted many anecdotes showing their loyalty, long suffering natures, and humour: if they bond with another donkey it is for life and they are not separated if they are taken into care. They also bond with horses, goats, and the Trust have even taken in cows with donkeys. Donkeys can live to over 50 human years of age, in fact there is one in Bristol of this age who does charity work for Frenchay Hospital.

The Sanctuaries (of which there are now 11 in the UK and Southern Ireland) are totally reliant on donations: there is no Government or Lottery money involved. We learned that there is a very successful fostering programme.

The 'Adopt a Donkey' scheme brings in funds as well.

The Sidmouth Sanctuary is open 365 days a year and the admission is free, there is no pressure to pay out money but obviously all contributions are their life blood, so why not take a trip down the motorway to pay them a visit (foot and mouth allowing).

Our competition was a country ornament and Jean Nash took gold, Barbara Russell silver, and Theima Blake green.

Our next meeting is 13th June when Mrs Thyne is telling us about ancient medicine; the competition is an old fashioned medicine bottle.

Rosemarie Ford - 01275 877243

Gladys May Denmead

Mrs Gladys Denmead has passed away after being in poor health for some time aged 91.

Gladys, as she was known by most people, had lived in Kenn since the 1940's. She was a wonderful parishioner, taking a great interest in all Village events. She was a great supporter of the Church right up until her death.

Before moving to Clevedon about two years ago, she regularly held tea parties at her home, inviting the Vicar and anyone who would like to come along to have a chat over a cup of tea. This was to keep in touch with the Church when she was not able to get to the services.

She was a member of the Mothers Union.

Gladys had been a Village Hall committee member for many years. She with her late husband Stanley had taken care of the hall for many years. She was also a founder member of the W.I. and attended meetings until a short time ago.

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Gladys raised large amounts of money for charity through the sale of Christmas cards.

The Denmead family had been living in Kenn for at least two hundred years before Gladys moved to Clevedon. This is probably longer than any other family have ever lived here.

Stanley and Gladys ran a caravan holiday park from their home in Duck Lane for a very long time, giving pleasure to hundreds of people over the years. Many people came back year after year for their holidays and became great friends of the Denmeads.

Many people who were privileged to be able to attend Gladys' 90th birthday party held in the Village Hall last year had a wonderful lunch.

This party gave Gladys great pleasure, meeting a large number of friends that she had made over the years.

At her funeral held in Kenn Church there was a large congregation including many of her fellow members of the Women's Institute.

After cremation her ashes were interred in her husband Stanley's grave in the Churchyard.

Sympathy is extended to her son Roger and his family on their great loss. Gladys will be greatly missed by many people.

Ray Naish

BIRD NEWS I

Most of our summer visitors have arrive at the time of writing (19th) and the nesting season is well underway.

The Peregrine reported last month has been seen over Poet's Walk in Clevedon and what is a probably the same bird also over Yatton. The path around Poet's Walk was opened in April and quite a few interesting migrant birds have been seen there. I managed 2 Pied Flycatchers in late April, but Redstart and Grasshopper Warbler were also reported.

On the peat levels in Somerset, the male Marsh Harrier did not stay, so disappointingly there will be no breeding again this year.

Two theories are being put forward for the lack of nesting – firstly the huge Starling roost has trashed the reed-beds which may make them unsuitable for a nest.

The second theory is that with successive wet winters there is very little dry reed-bed – it may be that the reed-beds are too wet to be suitable.

Of course the reason may be quite different - that is one of the most interesting things about birdwatching. There is still a lot that we don't know!!

By way of compensation the usual parties of Hobbies arrived to feed on emerging dragonflies and other large insects, and a Cuckoo on the 7th May was my first for 2001.

Locally a Cuckoo was calling at Yatton on the 12th and as the Strawberry Line was re-opened I was able to listen to all the Reed Warblers,

KENN NEWS & VIEWS

Sedge Warblers, Blackcaps and Whitethroats.

There were no Lesser Whitethroats and as my reserve site at Kingston Seymour is closed, I still haven't heard or seen one of this local species.

A walk along the Brockley Way produced 3 Yellowhammers – these are the only ones I know of in our immediate area.

However, it was near Kingston Seymour on the 11th that I almost couldn't believe what I was seeing – 2 Honey Buzzards, one quite low, but both obviously on migration. Both birds soared to a great height and drifted north east. Probably heading for Wales where a few pairs breed. The weather was warm and the large thundery high pressure weather system was ideal for Honey Buzzard migration; several were passing through Britain whilst the high pressure persisted.

Honey Buzzards are not conventional birds of prey: their talons are blunt and are used for digging out wasp and bee nests. They do take a few small mammals which they catch by walking around rather than in flight.

Finally, Jill was pleased to see a beautiful Grey Wagtail in the centre of Bristol by the Floating Harbour at Temple Back one morning.

Trevor Riddle

BIRD NEWS - DUCKS

The duck that was nesting outside my kitchen door produced 11 ducklings –

unfortunately she was frightened from the nest early one morning and waddled off down the garden with her brood – never to return.

In the morning we discovered she had left two ducklings behind which have now been 'adopted' by my normally very boisterous Labrador/Retriever cross "Cheddar".

They follow him everywhere around the house and garden and when he settles down for the evening so do they, either on his back or under his back legs. We just have to keep a watchful eye in case he rolls over and squashes them!

Jenny Hancock, Dewsbury.

BIRD NEWS from Ray

Owing to the land drying out very late this year, farmers have had to delay their chain harrowing and rolling until May.

Unknown to them a great deal of damage has been done to ground nesting birds when this work is done.

One field in Nailsea Moor had Skylarks sitting on eggs. The landowner unwittingly sent a worker out to cut the rushes, that was the end of Skylarks hatching there for this year.

On adjoining fields that were very rough, large numbers of Skylarks were flying in and out, no doubt some were nesting. When it got dry enough the owner took the opportunity to roll these fields. Goodness knows how many nests were rolled in.

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I heard, but could not see a flock of Whimbrel flying over the "Moorstreet Bow" area on the 6th May. These Curlew like birds migrate from South Africa to Iceland each year to nest and rear their young. They have a distinctive call of seven pips.

Jeff and Stella Naish saw a pair of Yellow Wagtails in a field at Castle Farm, Clevedon. This is a rare sighting, someone else saw them near Clevedon. They seemed to be following the coast, they also migrate from the south making their way to Russia for nesting.

Several young Peewits have been hatched in a field at Decoy Pool Farm, in Nailsea Moor.

When I was delivering the May News and Views to "Riverside" Kenn Pier, as I walked down the long path following the old River Kenn, I could hear young ducks on the water. There were two being guarded by a drake Mallard. As I got near the mother duck flew out of a pollarded tree calling to the others who were still in the tree. They were trying to pluck up courage to make the jump down to the river to join their mother – a drop of about twenty feet. I have never seen this happening before.

I have just had a report that the wildlife on Dolebury Warren at Churchill has made a dramatic recovery since the closure of footpaths due to the foot and mouth restrictions. There are many more birds of all sorts to be seen and they are much less frightened of humans because there are no dogs allowed on the hill. There are also many more deer to be seen, this report comes from a man who works in the forestry there.

May 20th – seven Whimbrel were seen in Nailsea Moor. The Swan that has been sitting by the roadside at Nailsea Wall and watched by thousands of people as they drove by has hatched her eggs. She is very protective, nobody has been able to count her cygnets.

Ray Naish.

The Pink House

Although to most people in the village it was known as the Pink House, in fact it was a small farm worker's cottage. Its flint walls were painted pink, and kept that way by old Ned, a retired farm worker who lived there.

I lived in a small bungalow at the bottom of the lane that led up to old Ned's cottage. The lane was not much used, and its rough stony surface made its way up the hill to a flat grassy knoll, on which stood, the Pink House.

The lane always looked pretty, on one side there stood many tall limes and in the springtime, the ground beneath them was covered in bluebells and primroses. On the other side was an ancient hedgerow, with summer wild roses and autumn wild fruits. In the early mornings you could hear the rough calls of pheasant and in the evenings the hooting of owls and the bark of a vixen.

Most days, old Ned would be out walking, and I got to know him quite well. He was a jovial man, tubby and with an infectious laugh. He always seemed to be dressed the same, an old soft hat, a brown jacket with leather patches at the elbows, green corded trousers, leather boots and a pair of old leather gaiters which came up almost to his knees.

KENN NEWS & VIEWS

Occasionally, he would go up to the nearby farm where he had once worked, and where his advice and experience was always welcomed. The farm was called Sweetwater Farm, a curious name of which I was to find out more later.

One Summer's afternoon, Ned invited me up for a cup of tea. His garden, I noticed, was tidy and well kept, full of colour from the many flowers and healthy looking fruit and vegetables growing in orderly rows. As I went through the garden gate, I saw the old nameplate, it read Sweetwater Cottage. This puzzled me, especially knowing the name of the farm next door, so I asked Ned to explain.

"I have no mains water here," he said, "and I don't need it, because in my garden there is an artesian well. Water draining down from the chalk hills above, flows underground towards my garden and through the bottom of the well, and as it is flowing it remains cool and fresh and never freezes". Later I tried some of the water myself and it really was different, with a special fresh taste. It was indeed sweet water.

Sadly, just over a year later, old Ned died suddenly and his cottage put up for sale by auction. Because of its location, it quickly sold for a very high price to a young business couple from London who were going to use it as their weekend retreat.

Some months later, I happened to meet the Chairman of the Parish Council and he told me some disturbing news. Apparently the London couple had applied for an extension to the cottage and a change of use.

"They want to use it as a bottling plant, because they want to bottle and market that lovely Spring-water"

"The Parish turned it down" he continued, "but what will they do at County level" They'll spoil that lane.

It was around about this time, that we had decided, for family reasons, to move house. Before we left though, I heard that the application at the cottage was approved. Something about 'bringing employment' being the reason given.

By the time I got round to visiting some of my old friends in the village, two years had quickly passed and standing at the end of the lane that I knew so well, I could hardly believe my eyes. Gone were the tall limes, the lane had been widened and the surface metalled. Not much was left of the ancient hedgerow and not much evident of bluebells or primroses either. As a big lorry came down the hill laden with crates of "Hampshire Spring Water" one of my old friends came by.

"Well, what do you think of it now?" he said. "It's awful!", I said, "and what would old Ned think of it?" "Well," he replied rather ruefully, if old Ned were alive today, he'd be turning in his grave.

Since then, I have never been back to my old village, but I'd like to think that one day, perhaps, the ghost of old Ned will return to haunt the old Pink House, that he loved so much.

Cliff Edwards



cancer research campaign

CLEVEDON COMMITTEE

"Lyndhurst",
42, Cambridge Road,
CLEVEDON, Soms.
BS21 7DW.

4th May, 2001

Tel: (01275) 875088

KENN
HOUSE TO HOUSE COLLECTION

The Cancer Research Campaign acknowledges with thanks receipt of the sum of £88.91 (EIGHTY-EIGHT POUNDS & NINETY- ONE PENCE) being the monies collected by Joan Stevens, John Staples and Margaret Ball during our recent house to house appeal in Kenn.

Sandra Pine
Hon. Chairman

Our thanks to everybody for their kind response to this appeal.

Patron HM The Queen
President HRH The Duke of Gloucester KG GCVO
Chairman of the Campaign FE Worsley FCA
Hon. Treasurer Sir John Banham DL
Corporate Appeal Chairman Lord Mackay of Clashfern
Director General Professor JG McVie MD FRCP



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