

Kenn Festival 2010



Village Market

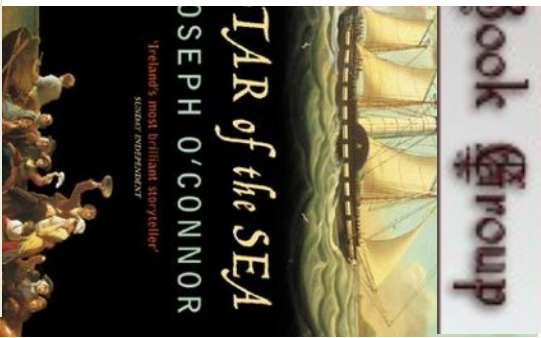
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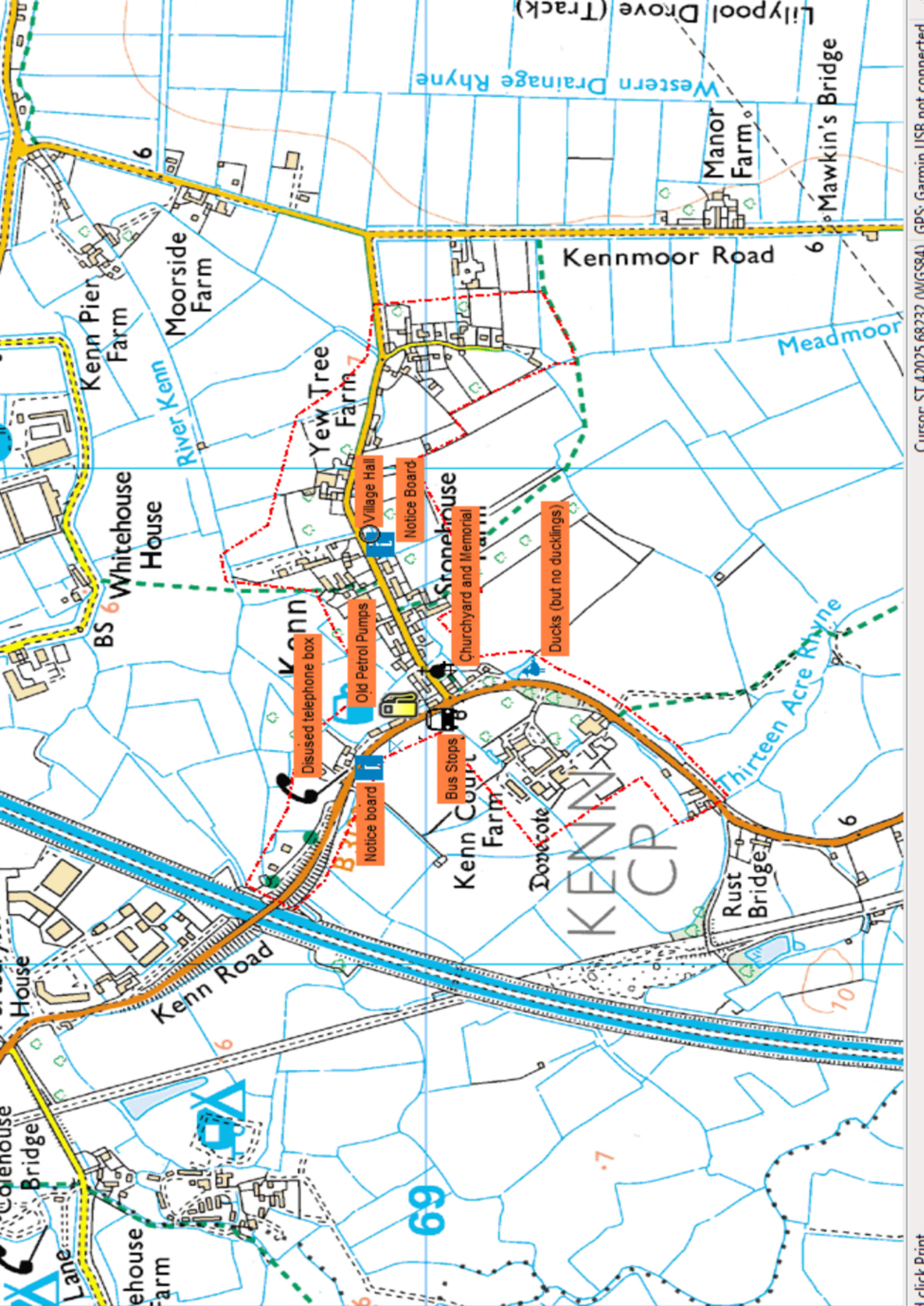
- Welcome to Kenn, North Somerset
- Village Walks
- Parish Council
- Contacts
- Book Group
- Links
- Camera Club
- Limage Photos



Camera Club

Village Walks





Kenn Farm
 Kenn CP
 Kenn Road
 Whitehouse House
 Yew Tree Farm
 Stonehouse
 Kenn Churchyard and Memorial
 River Kenn
 Meadmoor
 Thirteen Acre Rhyme
 Rust Bridge
 Mawkin's Bridge
 Manor Farm
 Western Drainage Rhyme
 Lily Pool Drive (Track)

Disused telephone box

Old Petrol Pumps

Village Hall

Notice Board

Bus Stops

Churchyard and Memorial

Ducks (but no ducklings)

Notice board

Bus Stops

Churchyard and Memorial

Ducks (but no ducklings)



Campaign to Protect
Rural England
AVONSIDE

ENTRY FORM

Closing Date for entries is 31st May 2011

Part 1 – The Village

Village: **Kenn, North Somerset** Population: **332**

Name, address and telephone number of Village Competition Organiser:

Name: **Hazel Limage** Organisation: **Kenn Pride** (www.kennvillage.co.uk)
Address: **Bram Rigg, Kenn Road, Kenn, North Somerset**
Postcode: **BS21 6TR** Telephone: **01275 349535**

District – **North Somerset**

Churchyard -	Yes
Separate Cemetery -	No
Chapel Grounds -	No
War or Other Memorial -	Yes
Village Hall/Community Centre -	Yes
Notice Boards -	Yes
Schools -	No
Playing Fields -	No
Streams/Ponds/Grass Area -	Yes
Car Parks -	No
Bus Shelter -	Yes
Shop/Post Office -	No
Public House -	Yes
Filling Station -	No
Allotments -	No
Other businesses -	No

All (Yes) answers are marked on the Village Plan attached.

Beyond the control of villagers:

The B3133, or, more precisely, the people who throw their litter out of their cars while driving along it. It is very dispiriting to be forever traipsing up and down the main road picking up (often quite large, sometimes quite odd) litter.

The old petrol pumps by the garage in Kenn Street (to which, actually, we are becoming quite attached...)

The ducks, while not detrimental, have not produced ducklings for two years now, and we begin to wonder whether all the bread is worth it...

The telephone box - the Parish Council is in the process (long process) of buying it from BT.

2 The Community

2.1 Community

Perhaps the biggest boost to participation for all ages and all interests was the first Kenn Festival held in 2010. Organised specifically to involve the entire village, and growing from its roots as a Flower Festival in the church into a weekend of hectic activity, it was an inspired effort to give everyone a chance to do something with their neighbours over a weekend in the summer. Kenn turned out to have Talent, the Historic House tour entertained young and old alike; the cream teas attracted more than just villagers; the Scarecrow Trail led to one of the finer scarecrows being fostered in Clevedon; the Photography Exhibition led to the formation of the Camera Club; and the more usual vintage farm machinery, stalls, tombola and barbecue made for a fabulous time being had by all. £6,000 was raised for local charities. Raising money for charity is something we do really well. The monthly coffee mornings are a testament to that.

The Parish Plan of 2009 had been a departure for the village - organised by relative new-comers who addressed local issues without any preconceptions. Out of the Parish Plan came the village's new community groups: the History Project; the Book Group; the Table Tennis league; the monthly Village Market; the Camera Club; Ladies First (women's group); the Bee Keepers; the Fairtrade Village Committee and the Christmas Parties Team. The monthly magazine (Kenn News and Views) is now in colour; the website grows apace and hosts pages for some of the groups - more will come on line during the next year. The Parish Plan gave a real boost to the newer families in the village - it gave them something of a voice. Thus the goings-on in the village seem to have moved down a generation, with a previously hidden-away group finding that their first impressions (altar guild and cucumber sandwiches) were entirely misplaced.

We have no schools or crèches - we only have forty-odd children - but we try and involve youngsters in everything (the Big Tidy Up in June is a chance for them to get into the ditches under supervision...). There is a small Committee organising the Christmas parties, so that the tiniest, the middle-sized, the teenagers and the senior citizens will all be catered for. Father Christmas will be very busy this year! One of the best village traditions, the carol singing round the tree, is now accompanied by youngsters from the village playing in their own brass band!

The Harvest Supper, again started by forward-looking old hands, has been taken up by a new team and continues to thrive. If we had a larger village hall it would still be filled. Old and young alike help the organising team with every aspect of the occasion, from table decorations to tiramisu.

2.2 Sustainability - a better future

A new column has been appearing in our village magazine over the past year - **Being Green (*I'm doing my best!*)** A villager who is involved with Transition Clevedon writes about self-sufficiency, and a seed and seedling swap is now in place. This will be the first year that the Produce Exchange will be trialled at the market - those with too many apples will be able to barter them for someone else's marrows. One of our Church Wardens undertakes to convert any produce into jam or chutney - proceeds to the church or to a family in Ghana.

2011 has seen the formation of the Kenn Fairtrade Village committee - it's early days yet but we are making progress. The church is already a Fairtrade Church, and the separate, secular village committee aims to get Fairtrade status for Kenn within two years. It's an ambitious undertaking for such a tiny hamlet, but Kenn generally punches above its weight once it gets an idea in its head. The church has a Fairtrade stall at the monthly market; the committee tries to persuade individuals that their events and coffee mornings should offer only fairly traded goods - so far, so good.

Kenn's first eco-house has been finished. The Parish Council was very supportive of the plans, and the house is now almost a tourist attraction. Another large house in the village has been kitted out with solar panels, and the owner is sharing his experience and financial figures with the village - this is a huge help for those who are thinking of installing a system but would like to test the water first.

Kenn used to have a shared “trip to the tip” arrangement, such that all our recycling went with one person. Now, under the new North Somerset recycling plan, we simply become zealots about recycling everything. We supported and welcomed the new bus service (661) – it provides for twice an hour buses between Yatton and Clevedon, which means that village children can get to and fro without parents having to get the car out.

2.3 Communications – being in contact

New Kennites are welcomed in person, often with a cake or a bottle of wine, always by a church warden and usually by immediate neighbours. The new Parish Council (5 new members out of 7 as of June 2011) has the preparation of a “Welcome Pack” for new residents on its immediate “to do” list.

In the interim, and for existing villagers we have the most excellent village magazine, which, since 2010 has been produced monthly in full colour, on paper and on the website. We have readers in Singapore, New Zealand, Australia, Abu Dhabi and the Netherlands as well as all over the UK. All our news, notice of events, Parish Council overviews, Church Services, recycling days, road closures etc etc and general chat goes into the magazine; birthdays and wedding anniversaries are listed. The flag is flown for special occasions (births, marriages, birthdays with big numbers in them, half-mast for deaths and funerals) - the entire village knows (or knows to ask) what is going on if the flag is flown. The church tower is lit for personal special occasions too - this new service has been brilliant. It makes money for the church, it looks lovely, and it gets people asking each other what the occasion is.

We are a tiny hamlet, with only 132 houses. While that can be a disadvantage when it comes to dishing out jobs for village events (so many cups to wash...) it is a positive advantage when it comes to dishing out support. It is frankly impossible, in this village, for anyone to be in need of anything and for the local network to be unaware. The WI pastoral care provider, the Church pastoral care provider and the jungle drums generally know who needs what. Everyone in the village knows everyone else, whether we like it or not (and some don't). Whilst in a larger community it might be necessary to formalise a procedure for managing help for those with a problem, in our little hamlet that will probably never be the case. The reverse is probably true - the issue here is one of drowning in offers of assistance.

The new Parish Council has made it clear that it intends to focus on the village and the people in. For example - the road through the village iced up in the winter (it isn't a bus route, so we don't expect it to be gritted) - we need to get a plan made so that the grit we have can be spread by teams of volunteers. We need to concentrate our efforts on getting a speed reduction on the roads through the village. And so on.

2.4 Small is Becoming More Beautiful

“A younger generation of new villagers has finally got to grips with village life and decided to join in. Drawing on the time, patience, experience and abilities of villagers who have been organising events for years, they have emerged as keen organisers in their own right. Kenn now has about 10 groups which have come into existence over the past couple of years. Those groups keep in touch by email or via the website and mobile phone rather than by committee meetings or letter. Younger people are taking on the responsibility for existing events - the Harvest Supper, the Christmas Parties, the Parish Council and so on. More and more of the older generation are getting themselves online, and finding that, while it's a bit daunting it's also interesting and helpful. The History Project involves the elders in informing the youngsters so that an important aspect of village life, as well as communication between the oldest and the youngest, is protected.

It really feels like we're at the start of a new, more vibrant, more involved, (probably chaotic) and exciting time. At the first Village Picnic this year families of every age will get together to just BE TOGETHER. There is no committee, no tombola, no raffle, no fundraising, no endless tea-making and washing up – just community and sharing. It's this more optimistic outlook which will make Kenn an even better place in which to live.