



**Historic Houses  
Trail  
Kenn Festival  
2010**

## Kenn 2010 Time Capsule Project

Welcome to our Historic House Trail.

Please visit the properties and collect a sticker for your sticker sheet.

Stickers will be available in either the front porch or some other very obvious place. **Please respect villager's privacy. Access is only to the front garden and to the front door.** We are not going inside the houses or knocking on doors.



Roads in Kenn are dangerous and **children will need to be supervised.** Those houses on Kenn Moor Road may need to be visited by car. For Riverside Cottage, Moor View and Riverside it is best to park on the triangle of grass at Kenn Pier.

***The Orchards, Treetops, Green Acres and Oaklands Farm*** on Kenn Road all have difficult parking, so will ***not be included in the trail*** and do not have stickers.

**Children's prizes** will be awarded for the most stickers stuck accurately on the sheets provided. It will be judged in the following age groups:

**Under 7 years of age**

**7 to 12 years of age**

**12 to 15 years of age**

Children should hand in their sticker sheets at the village photograph on Sunday afternoon. All sheets will be returned if they have an address in Kenn on them, once they have been judged and prize- winners informed.

This time capsule could not have been completed without the time and expertise of our historical experts Ray Naish, Sarah Clarke, Ann Holtham and Hartley Staples.

Thank-you also to Robert Down who has taken all the beautiful photos and to Hazel for printing the booklet and making the stickers.

We do say a sincere thank-you for their generous time and expertise.

Thank-you also to all the villagers who have taken part, allowing us to visit their houses. It's this kind of village effort that makes Kenn so special.

Heather Brain *The Limes, Kenn*



## **The Willows**

Built in the 1880s The Willows was previously the old vicarage of Kenn parish. The cottage in the grounds was the old coach house.

In the 1970s and 80s the vicarage was completely painted inside in orange (as that was the only paint the diocesan had left).

Neil Macgregor was the last vicar to live there and he moved to the new vicarage in Kingston Seymour in the mid 70s.

Previous vicars were Rev Trevor Still, Rev Portis, Rev Hughes, Rev Thatcher, through the war Rev Hodgson, Rev Davis Probert, Rev Langham, Rev Tambling, Rev Thirst who did not turn up to church on Easter Sunday because he had died in the night. Rev Wright, Rev Frank Stephens and finally Rev Neil Macgregor. Kenn seemed to get through a lot of vicars.



## Elm Bank

This country cottage, which is in close proximity to the old Post Office and the local village Public House, was built in 1902 and a number of families have lived there. However, during the passage of time it gradually fell into disrepair until approximately 1990 when it was rebuilt by a local builder and sold on. The current owners of Elm Bank are a local family – Hartley and Jane Staples.

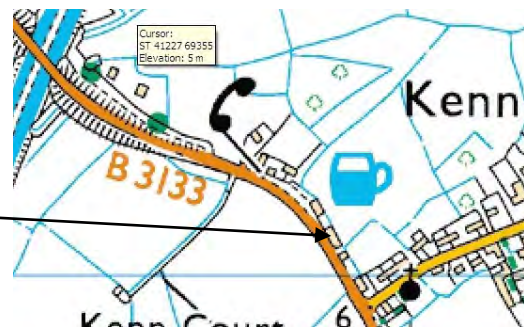




## Drum and Monkey

The Drum started off life as the Drum and Monkey, became the Rose and Crown, and was back to being the Drum again by 1975. The original bar space was two downstairs rooms in the centre portion of the building. The wing to the left was let as a cottage and lived in by a Mr and Mrs Wakefield. The rest was accommodation for the landlord. When alterations were done in the 1960s/1970s a well was found in the middle of what had been Mrs Leaman's sitting room. It was made a feature of the bar with a glass top and fish swimming in it. It has now been completely capped. The premises were further extended in 2000.

Drum and Monkey





## Westonwood

This bungalow was built on the site of a demolished row of derelict cottages. Commissioned by Miss Natalie Griffey, who was organist in St John's Church, Kenn, for over thirty years, it has only had three owners. Jack Hanson bought the house following Miss Griffey's death and continued the strong connection with the Church. The current owners have altered the original house into a more substantial family home.



Westonwood

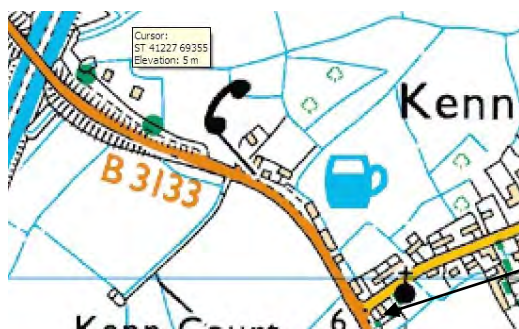


### **Church Path Cottage**

This house was originally home to four families, three at the front and one at the back (which also doubled as a coach house). A cottage has probably stood on this site since the thirteenth century when the Church was built. When the house was sold in 1948 for £500 it still had mud floors.

The front of the house has been much painted and photographed, including being featured on the front cover of Country Life in 1968.

It was purchased by the present owners in 1990 and has had a complete makeover since then.



Church Path Cottage



## **Corner Cottage**

This was originally the vicarage to Kenn Church, but in 1871 William Dyer used it as a shop.

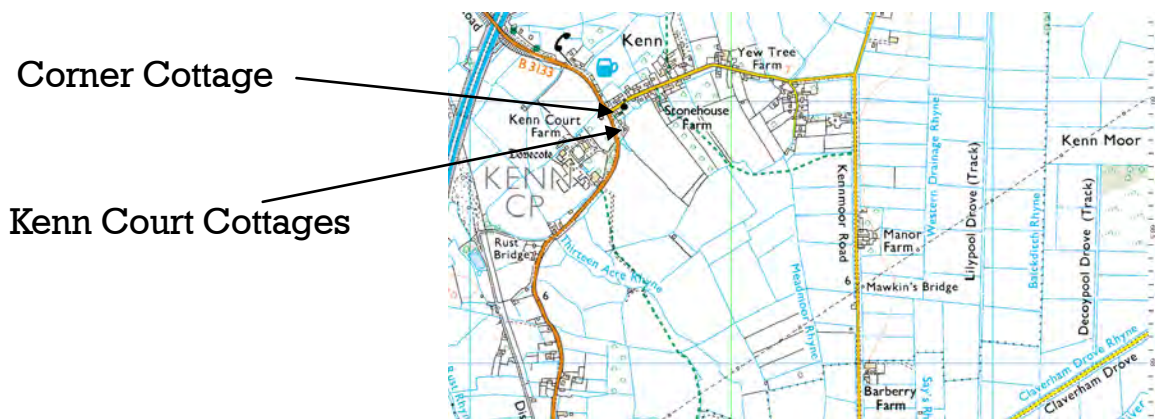
Several generations of the Dyer family kept shop there and in 1927 William H Dyer was recorded as being a grocer and postmaster.

In 1931 the post office moved and Corner Cottage returned to a private residence.



## Kenn Court Cottages

Originally tied cottages attached to Kenn Court, these were demolished in 2009, after many years of neglect, to make way for the magnificent brand new houses we see today. The cottages, which were the home to many generations of farm workers and their families, housed up to 12 people in tiny two bedroom accommodation. The new houses have been built by Kenn residents.





## **Bram Rigg Kenn Road**

Built in the 1970s (how on earth did they get planning permission for a house so out of keeping with the rest of the village?), the house used to be called The Chalet (for obvious reasons).

It was architect designed by a son for his father, and lived in by the father for some unspecified amount of time.

The Limages changed the name when they moved in in March 2000.

They are told that Avril and Richard Gaunt, the last occupants but one, made several changes to the house; then Alan Dillon moved in and un-changed it all; and now the Limages are putting it all back to how it was in Avril's day. It is a much put upon house.



## Kenn Court

This is an original Manor House and is very old. In Tudor times it was in the possession of the Ken family. The last Ken to own it was Sir Christopher Ken, who died in 1593 without heirs. His possessions passed to a daughter and hence to the Paulett family. In the 1820s it was owned by a Miss Knight and let. The Georgian façade was added in 1814. The Dyer family has lived there since 1847.

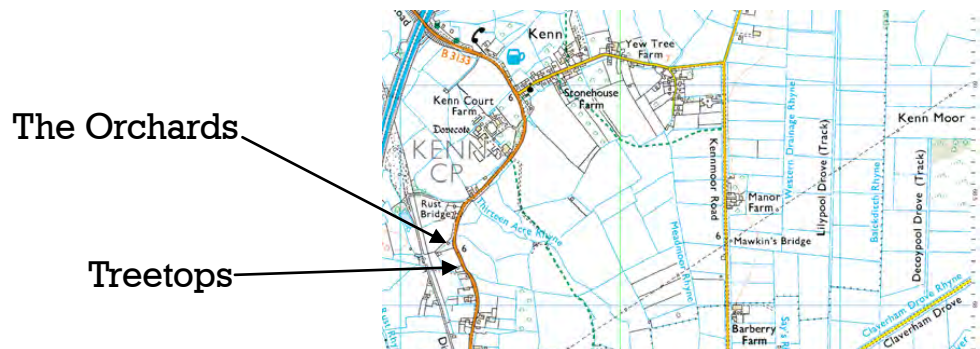




## The Orchards

The original cottage (part of Russ farm) was probably built in the late 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century. In 1929 the cottage was sold by Theodore Charles Staples to Henry Graham Gale for £870. The property remained with the Gale family until 1995 when it was purchased by the present owners John and Heather Saxby.

The original two up two down cottage was extended in about 1990 at the front by adding a new kitchen and extra bedroom. In 1995 it was completely refurbished and later extended at the back to incorporate an extra bedroom. The original cottage is now contained by extensions at both front and back.





## **Treetops**

Iris and Mike Callow arrived at “Treetops” on the morning of 12<sup>th</sup> August, 1976, with a removal van full of furniture and Mrs Rene Russell nearly died of shock, as she had just put fresh flowers on the table for Ted Gooch, for whom she worked. He had said, that very morning “I am afraid they are going to make me sell the house, Mrs. Russell”, but didn’t say it was that day.

“Treetops” was built for Bob Gale in the 1950s, Bob left a few years later when he moved to a farm in Wick St Lawrence, where he still lives.

After Mrs Gale, and then Mr Toby Gale, died we purchased the old orchard where Mr Harry Gale had his cider apple trees and two lovely Devonshire Pippins, which had grown old, and Bob helped us to turn it into a lawn, which we still call “the orchard”. After nearly 34 years Iris and Mike still live at Treetops.



## **Greenacres Kenn Rd**

35 years ago the cottage was very dilapidated.

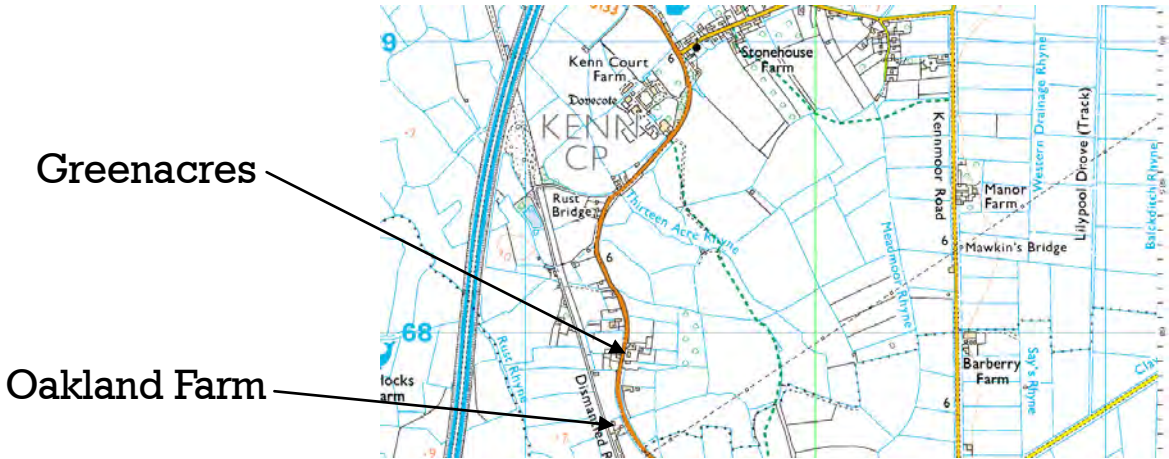
At the time Mike was the leader of a Venture Scout unit, who, because they were to get a new HQ (caravan) in the garden set to work with an old "Allen Scythe" (large zig-zagging blades in front of two big driving wheels and handle bars). The tallest Scout was selected and sent forth into the undergrowth. Suddenly there was a crunch and silence; we rushed down the cut corridor to find him entangled in the remains of a tennis court net. After a little attention he went back to cutting the undergrowth.

Suddenly there was a loud scream followed by a few expletives. We all rushed up the garden - by now over 100meters long - and growing, to find the silent Allen scythe and a spluttering very wet venture Scout in the bottom of a thirty foot long swimming pool full of stagnant water.



**Oakland Farm**

Building for Oakland Farm followed on from the long drought of the summer of 1975. From the first day the foundations were dug it started to rain and continued to rain virtually every day of the construction! The extension was added on a few years later. This is a working farm, keeping sheep and cattle.





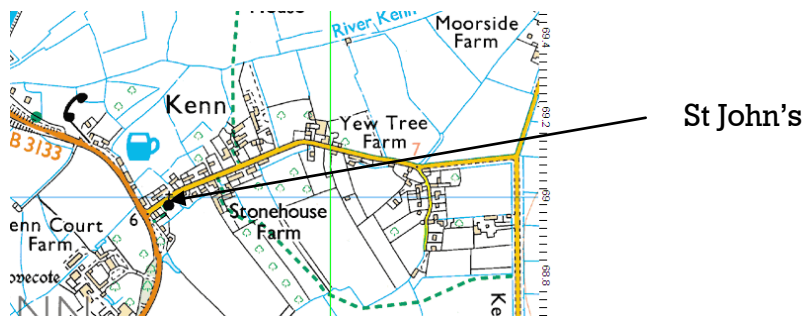
## St John The Evangelist

The site has been used as a church since Norman times. The present building dates back to 1861 with the possible exception of the tower which may be Norman.

The tower houses a single bell of rough cast bronze.

The porch floor is made of old grave stones.

There is no memorial to the 1939-45 war as Kenn was a “Thankful Village” - those who served from the village all returned safely.





## School house

This is the old school house and was inhabited by the village school teacher. The last school mistress was Mrs Griffiths (school mistress 1933- 1950).

The old school was built in 1841, and extended in 1904. When it closed in 1950 it had 60 children on the roll but an average attendance of 31.





### **Chapel Cottage.**

Chapel Cottage was originally a small two up, two down cottage.

At the turn of the century, 1901, the Denman family lived here. Mrs Denman took in washing and Mrs Dyer was known to say 'that house will never fall down, it is steamed together'. Mr Denman was an odd job person in Clevedon.

Bermells lived here next, wife, husband and four children. Early in the second world war the oldest son Gordon lost his life. By the early thirties 'Cock' Walton, his wife and five children, Royston, Jack, Arthur, Babbs and Brenda moved in.

In 1939 Bill and Winn Greggs bought the Cottage from the Dyer family. Ray thinks they moved in the day war broke out on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1939. Bill had a lorry and he transported cattle around the area. Bill and Winn also transported mining pit props around Somerset. During the war evacuees and extended family lived here. Winn Greggs lived here until she passed away in 1995.

In 1996 John, Caroline and Matthew Hayden moved in. Matthew was one year old and Rebecca was born in 1998. John designed and built the extension himself. The cottage is probably now three times its original size and houses the smallest family which has lived here.



## Chapel House Kenn St

Built in 1862 as a Congregational Chapel, it was built on land belonging to Chapel Cottage next door.

It was used for worship until about 1954. It then remained empty for several years and then used for several purposes including a vehicle repairs. It was converted into a house in 1983. There have been two previous owners - Janet Morris and the Dark family (from Challicoms furniture store in Clevedon).





## Tramar Kenn St

The house was built in 1977 . The first owners were Mr and Mrs Smith who were greengrocers in Portishead. The present owners moved in in 1988.





## **Moor Lodge**

This is the old school house and was inhabited by the village school teacher. When it was not used by the school for its mistress the house was often let. In 1905 a Mr Plumley lived there, followed by Mrs Hicks the Headmistress from 1907 – 1915. Miss Bevan, the school mistress, came in 1928 and paid a rent of £12 per annum. The last school mistress was Mrs Griffiths (School Headmistress 1933-1950) after which the house was sold. In the 1960s, Moor Lodge, was home to the Maine family.



## Latcham House

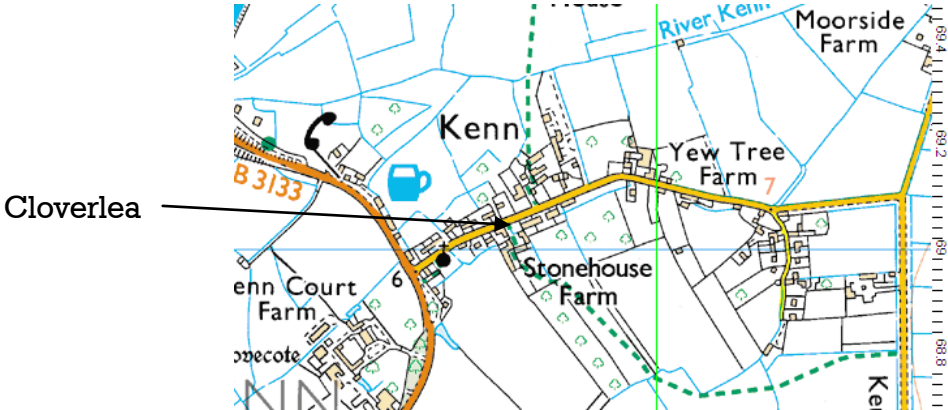
Latcham House is a Grade II Listed building, and was once called The Poplars. It is probably one of the older houses in Kenn. It is thought to date back to the late 1600s or early 1700s. A stone in the inglenook fireplace has the date 1732 on it so it certainly dates back that far. One of the walls still has a portion that is constructed of cob bricks, apparently a rarity in this region. The original house was extended in Victorian times and the well, which was previously outside the back door is now inside the house. The roof must have been tiled around that time, and remnants of the original thatched roof can be seen under the tiles. One of the Mayors of Bristol lived here at one time – Gilbert James.





### Cloverlea

This house was built in 2000 and is a bungalow with two rooms in the roof. It is built on part of what was Stone House Farm for Ray and Jean Naish when they moved out of the farmhouse. The house is in an excellent position in the centre of the village.





## Carpenters Farm

Another of Kenn's listed buildings, Carpenters Farm is a good example of a Somerset long house. Many of the houses in Kenn Street have been built on land that went with the farm. For most of the twentieth century it belonged to the Stuckey family and Pam, who managed it with her mother for a great many years, now lives in Clevedon. It has been modernised by the Jaehme family who have lived here for some years.

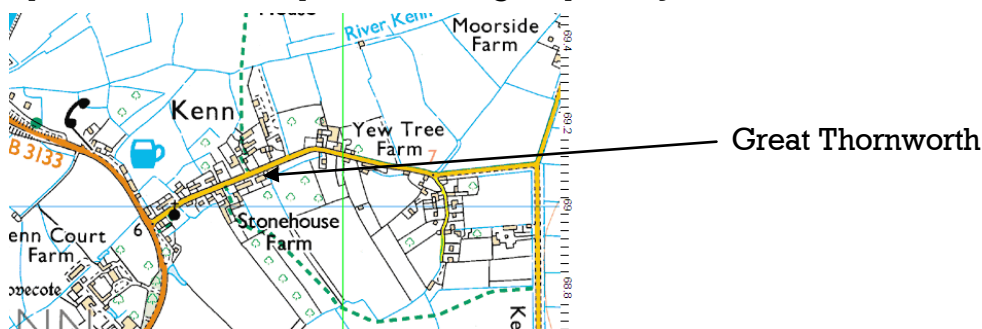




## Great Thornworth

Great Thornworth, Kenn Street, was built in 1976 for Mrs Rosalind Williams and her youngest son Andrew. Mrs Williams and her husband Leslie had previously run a farm at Kingston Seymour, but sadly Leslie had died. Parts of the bungalow were designed to remind Mrs Williams of the farmhouse at Kingston, in particular the large stone fireplace in the lounge. The name Great Thornworth was a little grand for a relatively small bungalow, but apparently it was named after Mr Williams' favourite field on the farm.

The night Colin, Jan, Dan, and Amy Bedford moved in there was a party/disco in the village hall next door and they wondered, how often do they have parties? A couple of days on though, they had met their friendly neighbours, and Ray Naish put on his Sunday best to knock and welcome them to the village. He told them that at any time the children could come and visit his animals at Stonehouse Farm. It was then they began to realise how good village life could be, and indeed Amy spent many hours over the years visiting Ray and Jean's farm.





**Memorial Stone**

**Memorial Cross**



**Christmas!!**



**Memorial Bench**





## Orchard Cottage Kenn St

Orchard Cottage is one of a group of 4 houses built around 1976.

The Papsolomontos family moved in 1981 and were the second owners. They still live there today and claim “it’s a wonderful place to raise boys as it is so well positioned for The Kenn Street Football.”

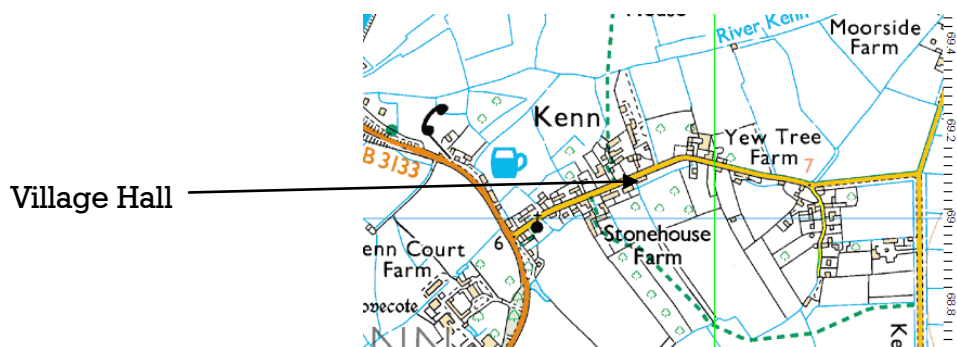




## Village Hall

The village Hall was built for the Women's Institute in 1921/22 by William King of Clevedon for £320 on land leased from Mr Corp, owner at that time of Stonehouse Farm. This arrangement continued when the Naish family were at Stonehouse Farm.

The purchase of the Hall was financed by the sale of shares. The Hall has been the centre of the village for ninety years and has been the venue for the W.I., Parish Council meetings, Youth and Social Clubs and lately the Village Market. Villagers raised a tremendous sum of money in 2006 to renovate the hall to provide a disabled access, a new porch, a remodelled kitchen and state of the art loos.





### **Chaseside Kenn St**

Was originally New House Farm and was built in the early 1930s by the same Mr King who erected Kenn Village Hall at a similar time.

New House Farm became the family home of Walter John (Jack) Stowell and his wife Irene with children Theo (Tone), Hazel, Brian and Roger and was situated to the rear of the orchard of The Laurels.

In 1959 Roger Stowell began to make concrete blocks in the back garden and this grew into Stowell Concrete. In 1964 Roger married Margaret and he built a new New House Farm for his brother Brian, the farmer of the family. In January 1966 Brian and Juliet moved to New House Farm and Margaret and Roger with baby Vince moved into The Concrete Works – later named Chaseside (after a make of loading shovel.)

The Concrete Works expanded to Yatton and other sites and in June 1996 the Kenn works reverted to a private house.



## Quercus

Quercus (Latin for Oak) was built between October 2008 and November 2009 by Tim Bush and builder Steve Thomas on land once farmed by Mr Charles Staples, Tim's maternal great-grandfather.

Built around a green oak frame, the house features several "eco-friendly features," including complete ground source heating, state of the art insulation/double glazing and the required proportion of energy saving light bulbs.

The building's main double height room is its most commanding feature and includes an open fire place, bespoke staircase and large windows. Tim Bush made a point of employing local artisans, resulting in a unique and welcoming home.



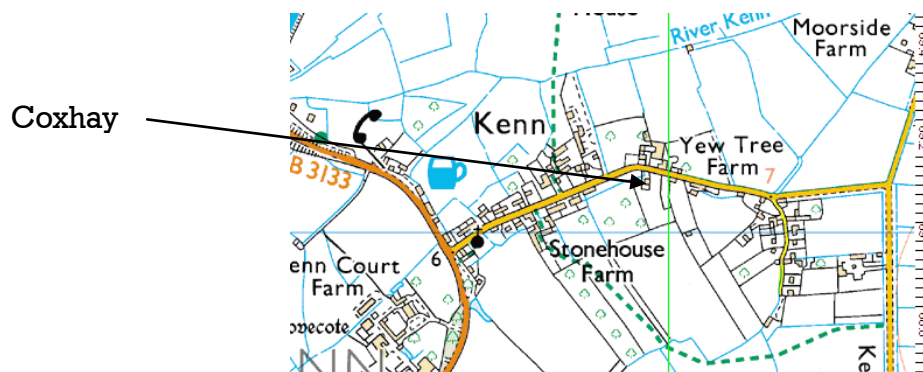


## Coxhay

The ground to build the house on was a gift to Heather and Roger from Grandma Maggie Naish of Stonehouse Farm.

Plans were passed and Heather and Roger assisted with building the house.

Coxhay was named after the name of the field it was built on.





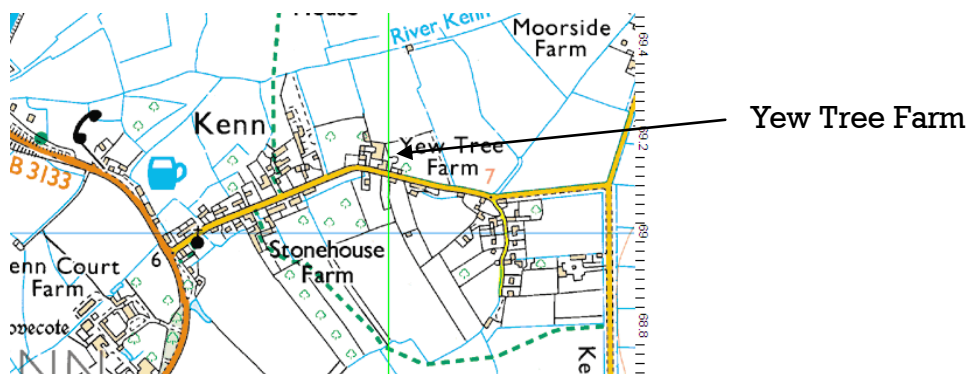
## **Yew Tree Farm Kenn St**

This is a grade II listed building.

It was built 100 years ago when the original farmhouse burnt down. The shell of the old building can still be seen in the barn.

The house and farm were originally occupied and worked by 4 maiden ladies, misses Sarah, Ann, Harriet, and Lucy Baker, they were still there in 1911. At that time they also had a nephew helping aged 29 called Edwin Baker.

The farm was then taken over by Edgar Willcox, followed by Cyril, and now Robert.





## Old Ox House

This was originally an “ox house”. The animals were housed on the ground floor. Stone arches in the south elevation were for animal access. Above the animals was once living accommodation and a fireplace. Access to the first floor was via the road. If you look carefully signs of a doorway are just visible in the stonework of the building.

It was occupied in 1839 by Joseph Griffin and the building was owned by Harriet Holiman.





## **The Maples**

This was built by Vince Stowell in the 1990s. It took a very long time to obtain planning permission and was resubmitted on many occasions.



## Rose Cottage Kenn St

Originally owned by William Hale, a tile maker in Clevedon Brick works.

Miss Hale, a retired school teacher was a very fierce old lady who told off all the children in the village who would play up and deliberately annoy her.

Wilfred Hale made wonderful pastry and sold it at the village pub. The house at that time was very basic, he fell into the fire one day and died as a result of his injuries.



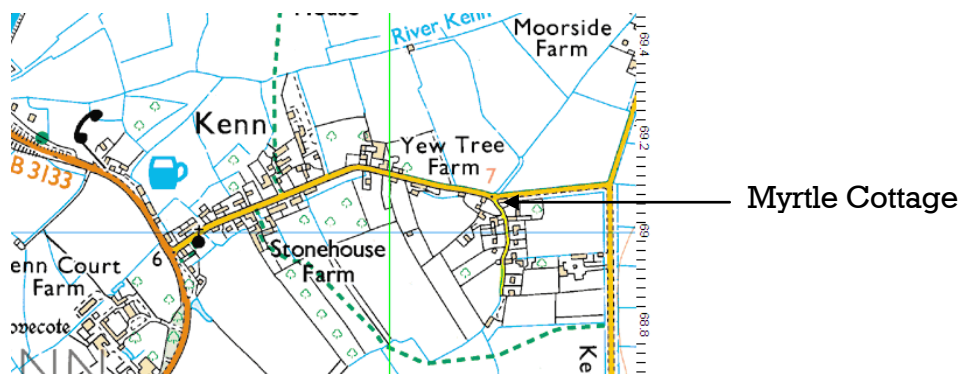


## Myrtle Cottage

Myrtle cottage used to be a shop and cider house.

The room that can be seen on the side of the house is still known as “the shop”. The cider house was implicated in the Kenn Hangings.

The shop sold sweets, chocolates, cigarettes and butter for sale was kept in a hole in the wall.,



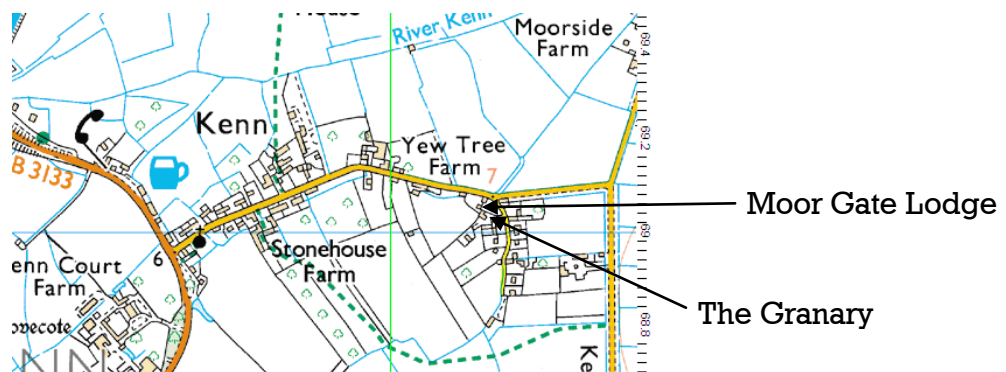


### **Moor Gate Lodge Duck Lane (the Sausage Factory)**

Originally this was a farm building belonging to Moorgate House in Kenn Street. The lodge is where pigs were processed into ham, bacon and sausage.

There is still a vent in the ceiling of the living room.

After its useful life as a pig processing shed, it became a storage unit, an electronics workshop and was then extended and turned into a house in 1998.





## **The Granary Duck Lane**

Built in approximately 1900 as part of the business premises of Moor Gates, it was used as a slaughterhouse and mill.

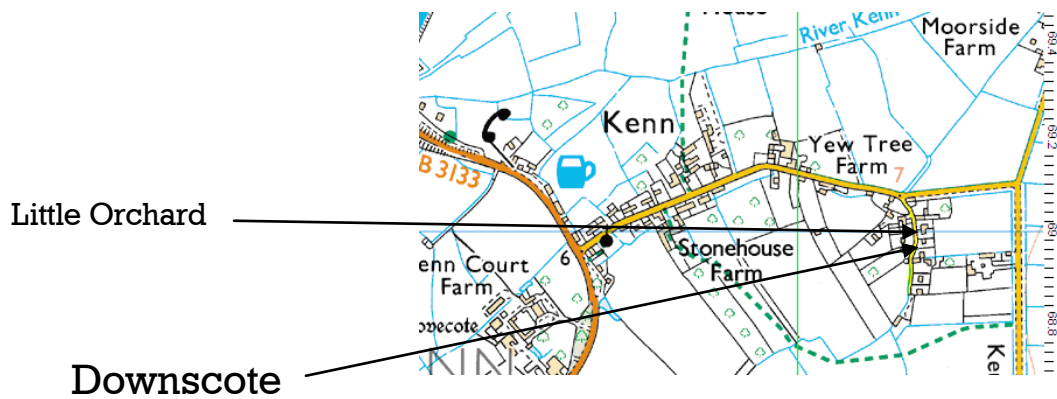
Part of the building was producing the first electricity in Kenn. Milling was still continuing in 1940. It was then used as a deep litter chicken house until 1960.

The buildings and two acres of land were then bought by John and Grace Griffin who converted the slaughter house, mill and hen house into one building which became The Granary in 1964.



## Little Orchard Duck Lane

Built in 1972 by a local builder Fred Fenwick of Kenn Street, it has had three owners: Mr and Mrs David Chambers, Mr and Mrs Margaret Ford and was purchased by the current owners, John and Jenny Croxton, in 1999.





## **Downscote, Duck Lane**

The house was built in 1964 by Mel Thomas and his two brothers on land purchased from Don Staples. The first occupants, Mr and Mrs D Weston, named the house "Lamorna". They added a swimming pool, garage and flat roofed extension.

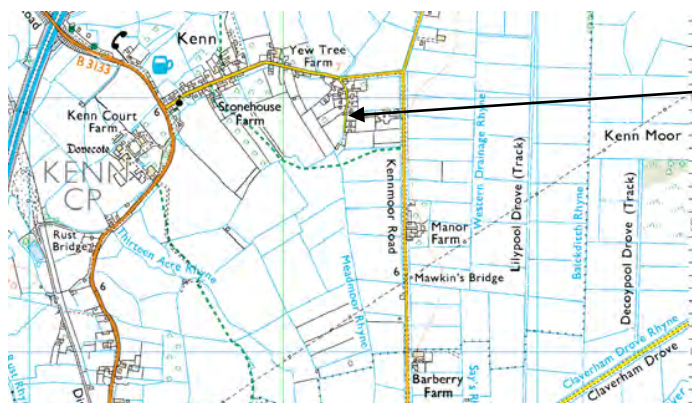
In 1991 the house was sold to Mr and Mrs Jenkins. They renamed the house to "Robins Nest" and added pitched rooves to the garage and side extension.

In 2001 the property was bought by Robert and Joyce Down who renamed it "Downscote". The swimming pool remains as at 2010 but may soon be converted to a fish pool.



## Pear Tree Cottage

Pear Tree Cottage is believed to be the Wall's cider house referred to in the Kenn Hangings document produced by local historians. William Wall and his family were believed to be making/selling cider without a licence. A local farmhand reported this to the judiciary and, Wall now aware of this fact, decided with others to steal a sheep and set fire to the wheat sheafs where the farm hand worked. Wall and his co-conspirators (known as the Kenn incendiaries) were taken to Ilchester Gaol, found guilty of the alleged crimes and sentenced to death by hanging. Wall and the others were brought to the hanging fields at the end of Duck Lane/Kenn Street, where they were hanged. The last hangings at the scene of the crime were in 1830.



Pear Tree Cottage

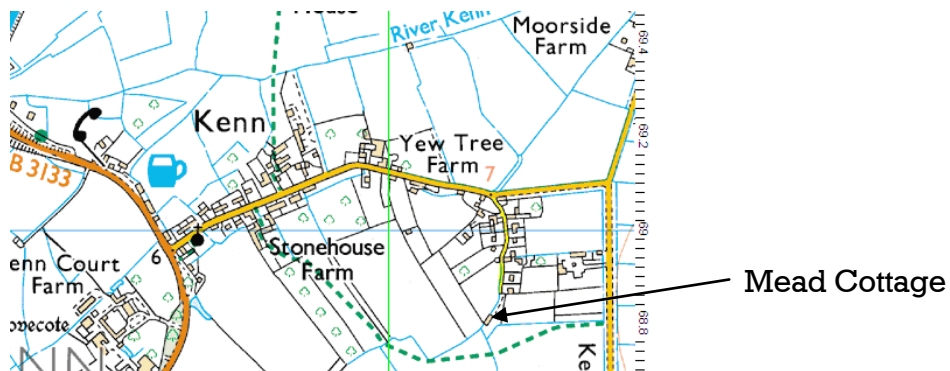


## Mead Cottage

This was once a small farm owned by Edwin Baker.

The farm was then owned by Alfred Holman's father and Alfred lived there with his two sons Kevin and John.

John and Jean Ings moved in 1957 and stayed until the 1990s. Then the Whittingtons came and the Maloneys have now been there a couple of years.





## Manor Farm Moor Rd

Manor Farm is one of the older properties in the Village and is a Grade II listed property. It is thought to have been part of the huge Estate belonging to the Smyth-Pigott family from Brockley Hall. In one of the outbuildings there is a plaque marked “1761 JP” (Joseph Pigott). The front of the house faces east towards Kenn Moor and the original entrance was via the drove ways on Claverham Moor, with the farm buildings to the west of the house. Therefore, what everyone perceives to be the front of the house on Kenn Moor Road is, in fact, the rear!

Through the passage of time the house was owned and tenanted by various people, one being a Mr A J Smith who was a wealthy coal merchant from Bristol. Mr and Mrs George Hazell took up the tenancy circa 1894 and subsequently purchased the farm and lived there with their 8 children. The youngest of these, Roland, took over the farm and lived there all his life with his wife Winifred until his death at 94.

Apparently, before the New River was formed in 1952/53, the moors were flooded for at least five months of the year and Roland and his neighbour, Sam Staples, could take their 12 ft boat from half way down the farm Home Ground to Tickenham Church non stop and back!





## **The Limes Kenn Moor Road**

The house is believed to have been built in the late 1890s.

Clara Prigg was a housekeeper at The Chestnuts in Nailsea. She ran a chicken business from The Limes and delivered eggs to Bristol by horse and cart. She took in lodgers who shared the house with her.

In 1944 Wilfred Tiley, who was a cabinet maker, bought The Limes and lived there with his parents and children. His second wife Cedella ran the Kenn Sunday School for many years.

In 1984 Glenn Tiley bought the Limes from his father and he ran a garage and taxi business from the outbuildings.

In 1988 The Limes was bought by Stephen and Heather Brain who, having brought up their three daughters at The Limes, now run a small Bed and Breakfast and have won a number of Prince Charles Eco/Green Awards for their business.



## **Moorside Farm Kenn Moor Rd**

The farm is approximately 200 years old and was originally the family home of the Staples family. It was later bought by the Pikes and finally by John and Jean Withers.

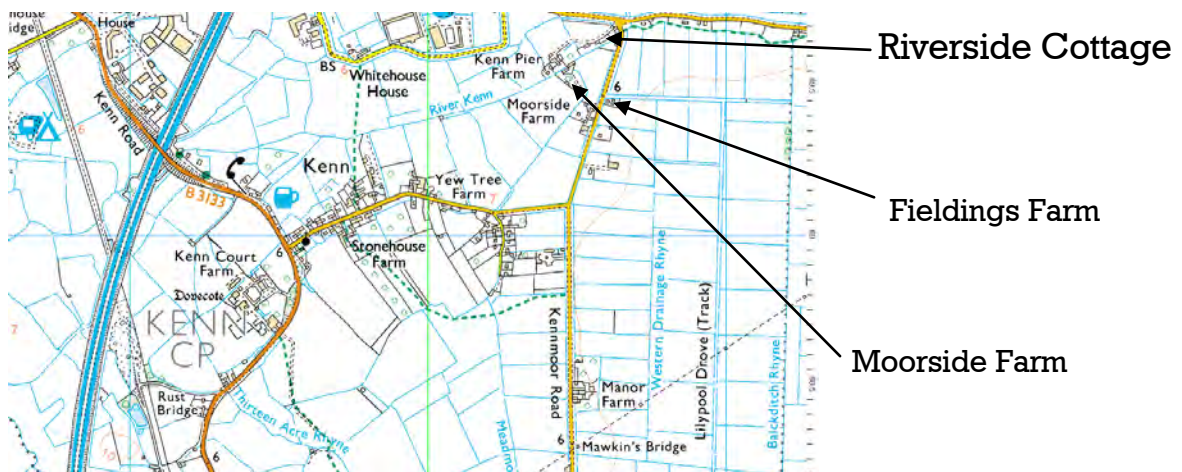
John Withers bought Moorside Farm as his retirement farm and bred Shorthorn cattle. He was well known in the Shorthorn world and regularly won championships with his cows at the North Somerset Show.

Jean met John when she was a land girl; she was a distinguished artist and specialised in painting the countryside, farms and animals around Kenn.



## Fieldings Farm

This was built as a farm worker's bungalow for Moorside Farm in 1980. Stephen Pike the son of the farmer built the bungalow himself and continues to live there today.





## **Riverside Cottage**

The original cottage, a two up two down farm labourers dwelling, was built at the beginning of the 19th Century and was occupied by various owners, who would have probably worked at Kenn Pier Farm, until it was bought by Mr and Mrs Badman in 1920. Riverside Cottage was in turn passed to their spinster daughter, Ella, and on her death sold at auction to David and Brenda Glasson, the former owners of Kenn Post Office, in 1979.

James Griffin bought the now restored property from their daughter, Christine, in 2006 and continued to complete the works and extension. Trevor George, of Kenn Pier Cottage, gave James an old photograph of two unidentified children playing on the river bank by the 'Pier' when James moved in. Last year there was a knock at the door and an elderly lady introduced herself as Thelma Oram, daughter of Ivy Oram, who was the niece of Ella Badman and explained that she used to visit the cottage as a child. On the off chance James showed her Trevor's photo and astonishingly it turned out to be Thelma and her cousin, Ted! This photo will on display at the house on the open day.



### **Moorview Nailsea Wall**

Moorview was built in 1960 as a home for Mr and Mrs Ferris when they got married. Mrs Tripp, who lived next door, gave her daughter the lounge and two bedrooms from her own house and this was incorporated into an extension to make the new four bedroom house and Mrs Tripp's house (Riverside ) reverted back into a two bedroom house.

In the previous generation of Tripps in 1929, again the parents had extended the house (Riverside Cottage) to provide a home for their daughter and this new extension was the part that was given to Mrs Ferris in 1960.

The delightful thing about Moor View is the wonderful view of wild life on the Moor with regular views of deer, foxes, herons and ducks.

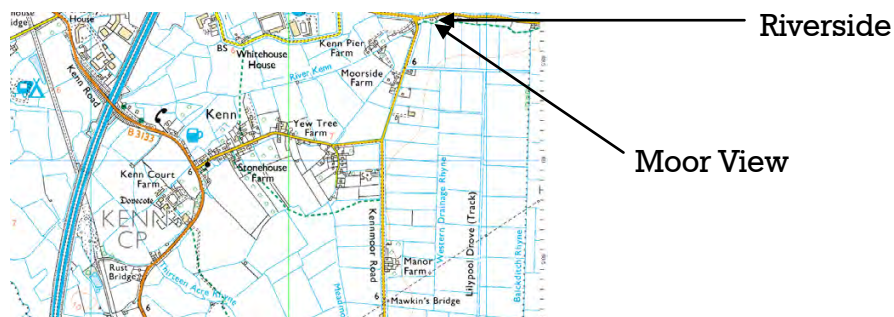


## Riverside Nailsea Wall

Riverside house is believed to have been built over 300 years ago.

In 1934 Mrs Tripp with her son Roderick and his wife Edith and two daughters Joan and Pearl were running the farm and kept seven cows. Water from the house came from the River Kenn.

Mrs Tripp died in 2010 aged 101 years old. The house is currently being restored.



Sadly, gone for ever....

**Windmill**



**Mill Farm**

**Riverside Farm**



68

stage

TOWN  
(H)

78

77

75

74 20

73

Congre  
Ch

69

School

72

W

Grave Yard

Church  
(Vicarage)

Box

70

84

21

85

