

# KENN NEWS & VIEWS



WE WISH YOU A  
MERRY CHRISTMAS

## Message from the Editors

Issue 3 and News and Views goes from strength to strength, which is of course thanks to you all as contributors. Please keep your news and views coming in order to make your magazine interesting and enjoyable. Of course we realise that Christmas is a busy time for all of us, but it also means that we must rely more heavily on you to get the material for January's issue to us. So when the turkey is eaten, the mince pies have run out (do they ever?) and the T.V. gets boring, sit down by the fire with a pot of tea and write to us. Our deadline for December is the 29th.

Incidentally, we try to keep our deadline as late as possible for last minute news and the date we set really is the last practical time for accepting material ready for collating, typing, printing, stapling and distribution, which as you know comes right at the beginning of the month with Moor News to save manpower.

We extend our greatest thanks to Mrs. J. Cooper who has offered to do the typing for us. Offers also are in hand from Mrs. S. Clarke, Mr. J. Davis and Mrs. J. Ings who all leapt to the telephone when they realised our plight. We are very grateful and will be in touch. Our thanks also to everyone who delivers News and Views.

Finally, we'd like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas - but please write to us.

Sheila Naish (838357) and Kate Denmead (834894)

## Bits and Pieces

### Christenings

Congratulations to Catherine Tucker, grand-daughter of Mark and Yvonne Ayres, who was baptised at St. John's, Kenn on 24th October.

Also at St. John's, the Baptism took place of Joseph Sebastian Daniel, son of Sarah Pinder from "Moorgates" on 6th November. Our flag flew in celebration.

### From "Meadow Lea"

Thankyou to all our friends in Kenn for their good wishes on our Christening on November 13th. Kelly and Emily Burstow.

### Congratulations

Best wishes are sent to Cindy Menear from "Meadowside" and fiance Simon from Clevedon, who became engaged on the occasion of Cindy's 17th birthday during October.

Happy Birthday and congratulations to Louise Pugh of "Poppins" who will be 18 on 10th December.

Joanne Staples, formerly of Duck Lane and now living in Tickenham, has successfully passed her driving test. Well done Jo.

Justin Naish, who only joined the Cubs 6 months ago, has won the title of Cub of the Year at an award ceremony on 25th November. His leader said that Justin has achieved the most work in the shortest amount of time of any other Cub. Also Justin and his brother Leon have recently passed their Yellow Belt grade in Karate. Well done boys.

On Thursday, 10th November, Barbara and Jim Middleton of Kenn Post Office Stores received the good news that their youngest son Kevin had been notified that he has gained his Master of Science Degree with Distinction at the University of London.

Lorraine and Lee Staples, Tim Taylor and Karl Menear were out and about with Trick or Treat for Halloween and collected £5.00 which they are donating to the N.S.P.C.C. Well done to all four and thankyou to everyone who gave.

### From "Conifers"

Gladys Denmead would like to thank the many friends in Kenn and around who sent cards and flowers on the occasion of her move into her new home - especially the 'Garden Party Friends'. Many thanks.

### Au Revoir and Welcome

Don and Joyce Weston who lived at "Lamorna" in Duck Lane for over 20 years, have now moved to Clevedon and we wish them every happiness in their new home.

We welcome Mr. and Mrs. Jenkins from Tickenham to Duck Lane and hope they will enjoy living in Kenn - we look forward to meeting them at village events.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Whitehead on celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 2<sup>th</sup> November. They were married at Congresbury Church 50 years ago.

### Jean Naish

We are glad to hear that Mrs. Travis, Mum of Mrs. Lyn Bye, is recovering well in hospital and wish her a speedy recovery.

### S.N.

#### For Sale

Ex Kenn resident has house for sale in Clevedon. 3 bed, end of terrace, gas central heating, gardens and garage - vacant possession. Early viewing recommended. £69,750. Tel. Clevedon 877703 after 6. p.m.

#### On Two Wheels

We are pleased to see Mr. Wally Moore cycling around the village again.

#### In the Money

Many congratulations to Kenn's latest pools winner, who having sensibly decided to wait for the cheque to arrive has to announce that the money will not be changing their lives. Life goes on as before!

#### November Wordsearch Answer

Wilcox Baker Denmead Gaunt Pascoe Taylor Wilson Staples Naish Lamb Dyer.

#### Kenn W.I. Skittle Team

Well done ladies. Captained by Rachel Pearce, Jean Ings, Irene Stowell, Ruth Dyer, Jean Naish, Iris Goldsworthy, Barbara Middleton and Julia Bush played a very good game against Backwell W.I. beating them by 52 pins. The match was played at The Spotted Horse, Congresbury, and was not the easiest alley to play on - we found a lot of pins rolled off the sides.

This win brings us into the 2nd round of the Avon Federation of Women's Institutes Skittle Competition. We will let you know how we get on in the next round, win or lose!! R.P.

#### Flowers by Candlelight

The ladies of Kenn W.I. must all have been good Girl Guides judging by the speed with which candles and kettles appeared when the electricity failed at the flower arranging evening on 16<sup>th</sup> November.

Mrs. Muriel Bliss demonstrated seven very different arrangements using flowers, foliage and pasta! It all looked so easy, but that is obviously the real skill. The results were raffled so several homes have some very lovely arrangements in them. Coffee and delicious home-made biscuits were served in the interval. The sales table did a brisk trade.

#### Ann Holtham

#### Kenn Women's Institute

A large number of members were present at the A.G.M. in November. After the Minutes of the last meeting and the correspondence, there was a draw for the lucky members to go to the Carol Service. Members were reminded that the Christmas Post Box will be available at the December meeting and were asked to make suggestions about the one charity to be supported in the coming year.

The Minutes of the last year's A.G.M. were read. In the absence of the Treasurer in



Australia the Annual Report was read by the Assistant Treasurer and adopted. The Secretary gave her report on a very full and active programme, which was also adopted. The President in her speech thanked all the Committee and Members who had helped her in various ways to make such a success of her first year as President. The names of the new Committee were announced and Mrs. Harrison agreed to become President again.

Mr. David Sorrill, who has recently returned from 20 years' work in Bangladesh, gave an illuminating talk on the country and the many problems encountered by its people and by charities who try to help. A great many questions were asked and answered and he was warmly thanked by Mrs. Jackson.

The competition for an antique candle holder was won by Mrs. Bullock and the competition results for a string of beads were: Gold - Mrs. Lamb; Silver - Mrs. Surridge and Green - Mrs. Holtham.

In December Mrs. Marchant makes a welcome return and the competition is for six Christmas biscuits.

#### Ann Holtham

#### N.S.P.C.C. House to House Collection

The recent house to house collection was very successful and raised the following amounts of money for the N.S.P.C.C.

Kenn - £58.63. Kingston Seymour - £75.89. Clevedon & District - £1301.30.

Many thanks to all who gave so generously and special thanks to the following ladies who helped to collect the envelopes - Miss L. Baker, Mrs. L. Bye, Mrs. P. Harrison from Kenn; Mrs. G. Ticehurst and her band of helpers from Kingston Seymour.

#### Angela Bullock

#### Children's Corner for Christmas

Now that we have so many children in the village active in the Sunday School, it has been decided to have a "Children's Corner" in the Church this Christmas, that they have decorated themselves. On Tuesday, 13th December, we intend to make the decorations - so if your child/ren would like to be involved, any children from the village will be welcome so don't feel your child has to be a Sunday Club member to join in the fun. Please send them along to Willow House, Kenn Street at 4.00 p.m. with lots of enthusiasm, any good ideas for tree decorations that you may have and £1. for a fish and chip supper after all their hard work. If there are any "young at heart" amongst the adults who want to come and help, you would be very welcome.

#### Jenny Pascoe & Wendy Papasolomontos

#### Surprise Party

On November 5th Theo (Tony) Stowell was given a lift with his wife Wendy to what they thought was an evening dancing in Clevedon. They were very surprised when their car turned into Kenn Street and pulled up at the Village Hall. Eventually they were persuaded to have a look inside, where, to their great amazement, the Hall was full of friends and relations who had been invited to a surprise party as it was Tony's 60th birthday. A lovely evening was had by all. The party was arranged by Tony's three children, Martin, Melanie and Rebecca, and their wife and husbands. The music for dancing was organised by Tony's cousin, Johnny Hazell.

Tony was born opposite the Village Hall at New House Farm, the eldest son of the late Jack and Irene Stowell, and now lives at Claverham Road, Yatton.

#### Ray Naish

#### Doris Muriel Ekins

Dee, as she liked to be known, passed away at Ham Green Hospital on 21st November after only a few days' illness and after living in the Church Path for 50 years.

Just before the last war, Dee and her mother and sister Joan bought half the cottage as a weekend home. During the bombing of Bristol they were bombed out of their original home and came to live in Kenn permanently. Later they bought the other half of the cottage and turned it into their home. During her life here in Kenn, Dee had been a

Dee was a great character and was always ready to share a joke with others in spite of failing eyesight during the last few years. Her cottage and garden were always kept in immaculate condition and so pretty it was that it once featured on the front cover of "Country Life" and in the W.I. Calendar for 1989. It has been painted and photographed by many people. There are very few people in Kenn who can remember the Church Path without Dee living there; she will be greatly missed. All her neighbours and friends wish to express their sympathy to her sister Joan and family and niece Carol who arrived in Kenn for a holiday from her home in America on the day Dee passed away.

The funeral of Miss Dee Ekins was held at St. John's Church on Friday, 25th November, and was attended by many relatives, friends and villagers. The interment was at Canford Cemetery.

#### Ray Naish

Our sympathies to Dee's sister Joan and to her special friends in the village. We are all going to miss her. S.N.

#### Miss D. Ekins

We are sorry to record the passing of Miss Ekins at Ham Green Hospital on 21st November after a short illness. Miss Ekins lived at the Cot for fifty years, during which time she was always ready and willing to help and join in village activities, being a former member of the Women's Institute and a regular member of the Church congregation. Miss Ekins was always cheerful and despite her failing eyesight she enjoyed playing Bingo. She was very blessed to be surrounded by caring neighbours who attended her funeral at Kenn Church on 25th November. To her sister, nephew and nieces we extend our sympathy. We shall miss her. Our flag flew at half-mast.

#### Ruth Dyer

#### Snippets

##### Celebrations and Remembrance.

Our flag was flown for the fortieth birthday of His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales on 14th November, as well as on 13th November which was Remembrance Sunday.

##### Night Fliers

A large part of Kenn was plunged into darkness when a swan lost its bearings and flew into overhead wires at Kenn Pier on 16th November. Thanks to modern communications the Electricity Board soon had the problem resolved and light restored. Perhaps luminous balloons on the wires at Kenn Pier might avoid further blackouts or maybe a curfew on night flying swans might be the answer!!

##### Diary Date

Kenn Village Hall - Old Christmas Night Dance with the Symes Trio - January 11th 1989.  
8 p.m. - 11.45 p.m. Tickets £3 from Hall Committee Members.

##### Golden Celebrations

Mr. and Mrs. Whitehead celebrated their Golden Wedding with a luncheon party at Walnut Tree Farm on 26th November. Many relations and friends joined in the festivities wishing the happy couple many more happy years together. Mr. and Mrs. Whitehead have given a lot of help to Kenn. Mr. Whitehead was a Churchwarden for twenty-two years and a Sacristan for eight years. Mrs. Whitehead was a member of the Altar Guild and responsible for cleaning the Church silver for many years. She was also a founder member of the Kenn Women's Institute and a "star" member of their drama productions. Mr. Whitehead has a wonderful gift of storytelling and in years passed was responsible for much fun and laughter. Calling at Corner Cottage today it is always a pleasure to listen to both Mr. and Mrs. Whitehead describing events past and present. We were pleased to fly the flag for them.

##### From the Potting Shed

Dear Kate, Sorry to hear that the pup ate your fuchsias, I'd no idea they were so tasty although come to think of it, the fruits look quite juicy. However, not to worry. It's a good excuse for starting with new varieties next year.

Are your tubs a permanent planting? I imagine so as you have put habes' in them. Did you think of polyanthus, primulas or "painted ladies" (auriculas)? Also, bulbs planted in two layers to give a succession and pop up through the other things. Once more I think it may be a little late for this year. Variegated ivies, the small-leaved ones, and winter flowering heathers are also possibilities. For Spring flowering, how about vinca, either major or minor, especially the variegated ones would be pretty. I should think euonymus, either Emerald 'n' Gold or Emerald 'n' Silver, would also be suitable - those could be permanent and just add other plants in season.

If your baskets are the wire ones lined with moss you could plant small bulbs to peep through the sides. The prospect of them freezing is, of course, always a problem but hopefully the moss will help to keep the soil just warm enough. Good Planting.  
Yours sincerely, Uncle Freddie

From H.Q.

Dear Uncle Freddie, Thanks for all your ideas - as with last month I will jot everything down for reference next year. The pansies in my tubs are interesting to note as, with last week's hard frosts, they collapsed completely and anyone would have taken them for dead. However, as the day progressed they gradually stood to attention again. Only Mother Nature knows how long they will continue their up and down existence. Sincerely,  
Kate.

The Nightmare

The ovalline ends and the dear little Church snuggles its fields as I settle down to rest, drifting peacefully to morning. Suddenly, powerful engines rev and marching men disturb the night. The moon is displaced by rapid electric lights. "What the xxxx", I murmur, peering out through curtains. Dreamer Limited have commenced construction of the New Hall and Leisure Centre. The hour hand ambles towards three as I dress rapidly.

Downstairs all is dark, the fish swim oblivious, the air is cold and dust clouds swirl with the morning mist from the moors as the JCB's continue their eerie ballet.

"Stop!". The words seem lost in the din of men and machines. "Sorry, Dreamer's orders" is the laughing reply. "Must build it at night so as not to disturb the view."

I lay down in the path, the earth shakes and vehicles approach, lights ablaze. Sweat pours. Am I invisible? Oblivion.

"Mummy, wake up, it's morning." All a nightmare?

Do we really need a new hall and leisure centre for our active villagers, or more to take an active interest in developing our current facilities to meet the new needs of our lively community?

Anon





DEAR DREAMER !

When I read of your 'New Hall' dream at first I thought it might well be from a fellow member of the Hall Committee !- I can assure you its not a new dream/wish by any means. Unfortunately over the 34 years of living in Kenn and involved in the use, maintenance and fund raising events, I realise that, to quote my father - "Dreams have to be paid for".

I am at present waiting for the latest technology to decide to work - so lets do a "Desk Appraisal" :-

1. Land for New Hall, site must be big enough for parking of 1-50 cars w/access NOT onto main road.
2. Away from neighbours as it will generate some quite noisy/high activity.
3. Large enough for 100/150 people w/Stage, storage room, Kitchen, Cloakroom, small room for Playgroup/Sunday School/Social Club/ Old Age Pensioners etc.,  
2 - W/cs with washbasins - Showers [you will need one after Badminton/Tennis wont you.
4. Floor - expensive, dual purpose needed for those games.
5. Electric supply/items - basic has to conform to very high/expensive standard and well concealed.
6. Shell - should ideally be of Block/Stone/Brick well insulated, with good roof to ensure maintenance kept to minimum - inc. new type ins.windows w/guards [games break windows & lights]
7. Drains & plumbing - all vandal proof.
8. Heating - all rooms should have heat of automatic storage type w/ frost protectors
9. Latest security alarms - fire ext. etc.,  
[this is a rough list with no dream of interior fittings]
10. Outside - tarmac drive, enclosure fencing, gates, security fencing [You are I presume going to have a lot of expensive equipment in your Hall]
11. Why not a Skittle Alley & Bar - you are not alone in your dream and it has to take you into the 2000's dont forget.
12. Tennis Court - land levelling and prep site w/drainage.  
Hard foundation w/latest court surface, nets, poles line/markings equipment. High chainlink [rustproof] fencing w/gates.  
Seats - vandal proof - for flopping onto.

Having got this far, I just know you were planning a Play Area with swings, slides etc., with Avons new 'Bouncy' surface to protect knees !  
So - increase size of land - at Development price NOT agricultural.

There then Lass. [Im guessing of course] is the dream to take us all into the 200's but now you have to pay for it - and your fellow residents and descendents. For you and them - one big headache which will be with you, initially, every week until the mortgage is a working proposition and not a liability - [ask anyone at Kingston who got their Hall off the ground.]

To balance the books it must be used continually by 'paying customers' from morn to night [what price your neighbours peace now].  
Summer will bring on - Letting Secretary's headache of bookings for Tennis Courts and Rooms - she may of course receive back-handers for favoured times of booking - [Help, if Hall, Courts and Skittle Alley are all booked - increase size of parking - queues at toilets, cloakroom loo's blocked send for plumber [you have ensured one lives locally ?]  
Your Hall needs a Licence so Safety & Health inspections will become more expensive to meet each year, regulations are set to become stricter. [This is not just the Playgroup Regs.]

Your Bar will have to be stocked and manned [but it does make money]  
Caretaker will need nerves of steel and a wooden head - the routine cleaning and running repairs of "Our Dream Hall" with its now sizeable proportions gets massive - no more than tidying up can be expected from your customers.

Treasurers - a team I think, with a plentiful supply of brandy and cigars for their pipe dreams.

Im told our dream exists - not in Kenn of course - its in a Bristol suburbs, needs a community of thousands to keep going, its prices are high - £60 a night for Hall and Bar and Skittles/Teenage Room cannot be let if Hall is for lecture or serious meeting - [noise of Pins/Music! Its equipment has meant sophisticated Alarm equipment [dear me we forgot that - add another £1-2000.] and ongoing maintenance.

You know - I need a drink - just the thought of paying for "Your Dream" Oh Yes, its yours again my dear, has made me quite depressed, its bad enough supporting our Old Hall, Church, Churchyard, Altar Guild, W.I. Charities, Tidy Village, Handicapped/Old Peoples - without helping with the reality of your dream.!!

The Bottle has brought respite [and hiccups] - by the time you have got Planning to agree your Dream, raised the down payment and got shell up, I will be far too old to do more than cough up for raffle tickets at your D.A.P. Party !!

P.S. Didnt your Mum ever warn you about dreaming in Mens arms - the awakening is always harsh !!

Jean Ings.



**WHAT IS IT REALLY LIKE?**

In recent weeks we have heard quite a lot about Hurricanes and Typhoons and seen on our televisions scenes of the devastation and hardship that the high winds, torrential rain and mountainous seas that these natural disasters inflict on the places and people which happen to lie in the path of these storms.

The "Storms" are known by different names in different parts of the world, in the Indian Ocean they are known as Cyclones.

A long time ago a Family of Three went out to Mauritius, a small island about 30 miles wide and 40 miles long in the South West of the Indian Ocean; where the husband serving in the Army was seconded to The East African Rifles; it was a very pleasant island with a wonderful climate, superb beaches, good companions and a regular round of social activities.

The main product of the island was sugar (Cane variety), some tea was also grown; yes life was good, until the third week of February 1960 that is when the warnings started coming from the local Met office, there was a Cyclone Brewing to the North East of the island and although still a couple of hundred miles away, the news bulletins reported that it was possible the island could be affected. Following the official warnings the local radio station gave with each news broadcast an update on the position of the Cyclone, out came the maps of the area and the plotting of its path became a game.

The wife and mother of the family happened at this very time to be expecting their second child the forecasted date of confinement being the 7th day of March. As the last days of February ticked away the dreaded cyclone came nearer and nearer; Wife consulted the Doctor - a decision had to be made, should the cyclone hit the island then it was necessary to confine oneself and family in the house whilst the storm lasted, the question

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was - should mum stay at home with the family? or should she pack her case and move into the hospital? if the latter then the Doctor would also have had to move into the hospital: the decision was made - it shall be left to providence and wife would stay at home.

And so it came to pass that this dreaded tropical blow with its cloud heavy with very wet rain decided to head for the Island and on the 28th of February the final warning came.

As it was part of the husbands duty - he joined his boss in the specially equipped Landrover and toured the local area warning the populace over the loud hailer that the storm was heading for the island and to take all the precautions necessary for protecting themselves.

Warnings and advice on the precautions had already appeared in the local newspapers and been broadcast on the local radio; these had advised people that if the cyclone came there would be no electricity supply and of course no water supply either, also one must make provision for sufficient food, water, alternative cooking and lighting facilities to last at least four days, this had been done; at four pm on that day the family shut themselves in their home and checked that the exterior doors and windows were shut tight and securely locked. After tea an attempt was made to put the 22 month son to bed as usual, but it had got dark very early that day and the storm had arrived, the wind howled and the rain beat down on the roof of the house which because it was clad with corrugated iron sheets sounded very loud indeed. It was then that a loud bang was heard followed by an increase in the sound of the wind, investigation revealed that a window had blown open (the catch had failed), hubby struggled to close the window without breaking any glass whilst his wife searched for something to secure it closed, in the end an old aerial wire was ripped from the wall and after a struggle which seemed to last an eternity the offending window was made secure, most "Town houses are built off the ground on brick pillars so that the effect of a strong wind on them was mini-

mised, because by allowing the wind to pass under as well as around the building the pressure on all sides of it were kept fairly much at the same level.

So they passed the evening playing cards, pacifying young son and watching through the window the ferocity of the storm (not that a lot could be seen) but it was reassuring to see that the kitchen, which was detached from the house proper and was not built on pillars like the house, did not suffer from the ravages of the cyclone.

After a fitfull night throughout which the storm continued, morning came and at about 10 o'clock on the 29th the wind abated, the rain stopped and the sun shone, what a relief it was, the family ventured out and met neighbours swapping tales of their experiences - it was then noticed that the little meadow (about the size as Kenns Village Green) had become a small lake and there were signs of some damage to a number of dwellings in the immediate area. Then it dawned on the community that there was no sound from the birds or insects, in fact there prevailed a eerie silence a very strange almost unreal sensation, then it was learned that the dreaded cyclone had not gone away, in fact they were only in the middle of it (called the Eye of the Cyclone) and the birds and the bees and all the other insects knew this and they stayed in their hiding places to wait for it to go away completely.

It happened that the man of the family was called away at this time to tour the local area again, this time to warn the local people that the Eye of the cyclone was upon them and that the wind and rain would return in about 5 hours, driving the Landrover at this time was even more hazardous than it had been the day before because now there were fallen trees to negotiate as well as leaves and damage debris which had been blown about during the night. Safely home for lunch after the duty was completed and to enjoy the brief respite from the wind and rain before shutting themselves in the house again at about 2.30 pm. Back it came like a train coming out of a tunnel, it was quiet then suddenly the wind was



blowing fiercely and the rain driving as hard as ever albeit in the opposite direction from before it was still daylight and the best view was from the main bedroom window, which overlooked the little meadow - from this window the family watched the wind whip across the newly formed lake and literally blow it away, what a fantastic experience; then it was back to the waiting and apprehension of sitting out the second half of the storm and hoping that it would be as kind to them as the first half had been. When morning came on 1st of March, it was not as calm as it had been on the 29th of February but when it was possible to venture out there were signs that a lot more damage had been caused by the passing of the cyclone. Checking up on friends and their families happened through-out the locality, and a visit to the families' Maids home found them to have suffered quite a lot, their property was damaged they were without water supply and most of their food had been ruined by the rain, providing them with water and a little food and giving Simone (that was her name) two or three days off work did allow her to re-organise her home. For the next week or so the man of the family was kept very busy assisting the Islands Public Service Department to clear roads and tracks of fallen trees and other obstacles so that help and assistance could be administered to anyone found to require it.

On the 15th of March Mum was taken into hospital - the infant due on the 7th had decided that it was time to face the world and so it happened, son number two arrived at lunch time - mum and baby were fine inspite of the Cyclone which was at that time the worst in recorded memory, the wind speed had averaged 120 miles per hour and the highest recorded wind speed was 160 miles per hour.

When Mum and new son were fit enough, a tour around the Island was made, the aftermath of that Cyclone was evident in every quarter, trees had been uprooted, the natives home-steads blown over or severely damaged; in the towns houses were built mainly of timber with corrugated iron roofs

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but the majority of the sugar plantation workers homes were wooden frame shed-like constructions clad with corrugated iron or matting made from the sugar cane, invariably the roof was "thatch - ed" with sugar cane leaves-not a suitable way to keep cyclonic storms at bay, these "homes" were used to sleep in only - cooking, eating, washing, laundry and socialising were done on the verandah if one existed or in the "backyard" somewhere it was shaded from the sun.

Around the coast there were numerous damaged small boats, even in the harbour of the main port (Port Louis) several large ships had dragged their moorings and there were two which had ran aground during the period of the storm.

Electricity lines were down in many parts of the island, and it took weeks for the authorities to restore supplies of electricity and water to all the small outlying communities and many of these communities suffered great hardship for many months; the majority of the people working on the sugar and tea plantations were very poor peasants with African and Indian backgrounds whose ancestors had been brought to the Island by the Dutch and French colonisers of previous decades, the most common and main language spoken was Creole (a "bastard" french).

Thats what it is like, (in words!) the reality has to be seen felt, smelt, tasted and lived with to have half an idea of "What It Is Really Like".

It is hoped that you have enjoyed reading this small epistle, alas IT IS TRUE!

Oh! I nearly forgot - the Family? - you all know them - they keep Kenn's Village Post Office and Stores - its Barbara and Jim Middleton, young son (then) is Nigel and the expected infant none other than son Mark.

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### Foreign Affairs III

Allison arrived in Australia from India in October. Due to unforeseen circumstances (like having to work!) she hasn't sent me her latest travel report. She is living in Sydney and is hoping to see more of Australia after Christmas, when I expect we will hear more tales from "down under".

#### Jean Fenwick

Note: I'm sure that with Australia being so much in the news this year, we are all looking forward to Allison's first-hand account of life in the Antipodes - especially Christmas on the beach. K.D.

#### Penny in Provence (continued)

In a recent letter from Penny, she tells us how Olivier gathered lavender honey from the hills and brought it back for them to put into jars. They made 80 kgs, so honey with every meal. It was very clear, runny and completely pure with no additives. They even added it to make a drink, just a spoonful with boiling water.

At the end of the month they made chestnut puree, which was also packed into jars and sold at the annual fair, with the honey, at Le Garde Freiret.

The rains had come and the mountains had turned a beautiful green, with heavy thunder storms. The weeds in the garden had grown but they were putting off the task of weeding.

They have now left the goat farm. Penny feels she has learnt a lot and enjoyed her time there. They have made their way to the French Alps in search of work for the ski season and eventually found a job in an English run hotel, chamber maiding in the mornings and waitressing in the evenings. The hotel is near Val d'Isere which is the famous ski run slope we sometimes see on "Ski Sunday". This job could last until next May or longer as the season goes on all year round in that area. They should have a good time!!!