

# KENN NEWS & VIEWS

There were 7 entries for naming our new magazine. Mr and Mrs Middleton kindly agreed to perform the unenviable task of judging the competition. After much deliberation the winner was announced as Kelly Burstow who thought of the above title.

Well Done Kelly! Your prize is  
on its way to you.

## MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORS.

Thanks for all the encouraging comments and well wishes for the success of *Keem News & Views* - it's nice to know you all like the idea. It's up to you all to keep us up to date with news, snippets, gossip or whatever to make this an ongoing success. We look forward to receiving your notes for the December issue by the 25<sup>th</sup> November deadline. If you know of anyone who is connected with or who supports events in Keem in any way and who would like to take a copy of *News & Views* - do let us know and it shall be done.

Your contributions are invited on Yalton 838357 (Sheila) or 834894 (Kate) or can be left with Roy Walsh or Keem Stores.

Sheila and Kate.

The Cott.  
Church Path.  
Keem.

1<sup>st</sup> Oct. 1988

Dear Sheila,

I think the new magazine is great - lots of good news. Thankyou for the kind words about the house. It is lovely for over a year to be free of workmen.

Thankyou also for the goodies you brought - I am so pleased with them. My sister is writing this for me as I have difficulty in seeing.

yours sincerely

Dee Elkins.

### Note.

The 'goodies' Dee refers to were a gift from the Keem children who attend Yeo Moor Junior School. The Harvest produce is always distributed to local Senior Citizens and there were several recipients in Keem.

We also understand Dee has not been well recently and wish her a speedy recovery.

SN & KD.

## SNIPPETS.

To the Editors: "Well done and Congratulations" - this is the feedback we hear from all ages and interests - keep up the good work.

## OUR FLAG.

We raise our flag to celebrate national events and local happenings in Kew. We raise it for Births, Christenings, Weddings and special anniversaries i.e. Silver weddings, Ruby weddings and Golden Weddings, twenty-first birthdays and eightieth birthdays. It is also flown at half mast for deaths and funerals. Now we depend on Kew people to tell us when such events are due to take place - so please telephone 872676 to be sure not one family is disappointed.

## KENN VILLAGE HALL FLOOR.

Many thanks to Mr John Griffin, Vincent and Quentin Stowell and James Griffin for the excellent job of polishing the Hall floor. Thanks also to Richard and Barbara Dyer who lent their heavy duty polisher.

## OUR VILLAGE GREEN FLOWERS.

Mrs Burstow of Linden Lea has kindly offered to plant the pots on the Village Green.

## ALTAR GUILD DUTIES FOR NOVEMBER.

Mrs Dyer and Mrs Fowler.

## FURRY GENT OR LADY RAISES ALARM.

We all observe burglar alarms are unfortunately becoming very necessary. Have you heard that at the dead of night one went off and woke a local household? Having ascertained where the locality of the trouble was and armed with a rolling-pin, the head of the household found no unwelcome visitor, but on further inspection discovered a mouse had set off the alarm. No doubt the furry family were moving in for the winter !!

We are sorry to report Moat Cottage received unwelcome visitors recently - it believes one and all to keep their eyes open to protect our homes.

## WINE & CHEESE PARTY.

Christmas celebrations start early in Kew with a Wine & Cheese Party in the Hall on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 8pm. Tickets £2 from committee members.

## "HAVE FUN WITH FLOWERS"

Kenn Women's Institute invites readers and friends to watch Mrs Muriel Bliss demonstrate 'fun with flowers' at Kenn Village Hall on Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm. Admission 75p including Coffee and Biscuits. There will be a Raffle and gifts for Christmas will be on sale.

## ADVANCE NOTICE

Old Christmas Light Dance on January 6<sup>th</sup> 1989 with music from The Symes Trio - details later.

## KENN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE BIRTHDAY PARTY:

Mrs Tricia Hamson, President, welcomed some sixty members and their friends, including Mrs Marion Atkinson a former member and Miss Kate from New Zealand, to the Institute's thirty fifth birthday party in the Village Hall. Mrs Bubbs and Mrs Dyer arranged some attractive floral displays around the hall with flowers from members' gardens. After a glass of sherry the company sat down to a delicious meal organised by Mrs Jean Ings, Mrs Megan Harris, Mrs Yvonne Ayres and Mrs Mann. Sally Taylor and Cindy Mewear waited at table and did the washing-up - their help was much appreciated. After supper Mrs Hamson cut the birthday cake made by Mrs Mary Lamb and iced by Mrs Jean Ings. Mrs Bubbs presented gifts to Mrs Hamson, President and Mrs Irene Stowell, Secretary for the past year.

Entertainment followed in the shape of an imaginary radio show broadcast from Kenn with guest star from neighbouring village. Mrs Julia Bush was the newsreader with Mrs Connie Wilson giving an up to date weather forecast; Mrs Rachael Pearce demonstrating an economic recipe even though she seemed unable to cope with two egg whites; Miss Ann Holtham had the audience spellbound with the latest episode of the current thriller; and then finally the guest star Mrs Angela Hughes, who appeared to have matrimonial troubles and travellers' samples of various types of millinery - all good fun and much enjoyed by all.

Mrs Barbara Middleton thanked the cast and gave a donation to Mrs Hughes for Cancer Research. Games and singing organised by Miss Ann Holtham and Mrs Holtham followed and a happy evening ended with Auld Lang Syne.

## SURPRISE

Cyril and Mary Wilcox had a lovely surprise on their Wedding Anniversary. They thought they were going out for a meal, only to find that Robert and Rosemary had organised a surprise party at Aunt Lucy's house just a couple of hundred yards away. What a lovely thought. Congratulations to them.

## NOVEMBER - DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

WEDNESDAY 2ND - Women's Institute Committee at Unique Farm - 7.30pm.

WEDNESDAY 9TH - Women's Institute at Hall - 7.30pm. Speaker: Mr Sorrell on Bangladesh.

FRIDAY 11TH - Women's Institute Skittle Match v Backwell W.I.

TUESDAY 15TH - Ladies Committee of Village Hall meet at Kenn Court to finalise details of Wine & Cheese Party.

WEDNESDAY 16TH - "Have fun with flowers" at Hall - 7.30pm.

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## EDITOR'S NOTE.

Dear SNIPPETS - I feel my knowledge of Kenn will not be complete until I know the identity of our local 'Bath Collector'. Unless the information is confidential - please relieve my misery.

SN.

## SPORT AID UPDATE.

We are delighted to be able to tell you that the sum of £650 has been paid to SPORT AID as a result of our Fun Run and Barbecue. This is far more than any of us dared hope for. Let's hope a result like this makes all the aches and pains seem worth it!

SIMON PASCOE & SHEILA WAISH.

## HELP PLEASE FOR THE CRIB SERVICE.

Has anyone got - or can any would-be playwright provide, a script for a nativity play suitable for 5-11 year olds? Now that we have such an active Sunday Club we are considering a different approach to the Crib Service with more for the children to do.

We would also appreciate your help in our 'wardrobe department' as although we store our costumes from year to year, some of our Kings, Shepherds and even sheep are looking a bit sad. We desperately need velvet, brocade and woven material - even candy-stripe sheets could be used. Please contact Wendy Pappasbmontos or Jenny Pascoe on 878451 or 877923.

## IN REPLY TO HE/SHE RE ARTICLE "MORE GOOD NEWS".

On behalf of the Sunday Club, we feel that it is a great shame that "our dear little church" will soon become too small and inadequate for its community, without the benefit of its proposed extension.

The church room is very damp, cold, too small and looks more like a garden shed every winter. If it were to be used as a child's playgroup it would be refused outright by the local authority.

Unfortunately the Village Hall is too far away for the children to partake in church services as they do now and would prove to expensive to rent.

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Let us also remember the other facilities the extension would provide: running water, toilets and a sizeable meeting room for all the other church committees which now have to rely on the hospitality of its members.

Extending churches to meet the needs of their communities is not a new idea and has happened down the centuries, not always with as much care and sympathy as ours would do.

For the large number of children that we have now attracted to Sunday Club it is not "good news" that the extension has been refused. They put in tremendous efforts to produce craftwork and posters only to see them deteriorate on the walls in a matter of days. We want a church which will enhance and nurture our spiritual lives, not a cold museum to the past.

J. Foscoe. Avril Gault. W.J. Pappasokorontos. Julia Bush. Rowena Ayres.

### "THE DREAMER"

I had a dream - and in my dream I saw a renewed Kew !!  
The old Village Hall was swept away and behold a NEW one was built to the south of the Church; in this Hall there was space for a badminton court and by the Hall was a hard surface tennis court. There was a path from the "dear little Church" through the grave stones and over a bridge.

So there was no more sadness, no more tears, because the Church Room was now not needed as the NEW HALL was close by; and there was peace in Kew Street because the old Hall was gone and there were no more cars parked there at evening-time !!! The New Hall had plenty of parking space. So I dreamed of our Shop, Pub, Church Hall, Tennis court and Green all as a centre for "Our Village" ??

ANON.

### "COPPED"

A well known agricultural gentleman was seen driving his small, yellow van up Kew St. one evening recently and it was noticed that one of the rear lights was damaged! Close behind was a white and blue van with a blue light flashing! The white and blue van overtook the yellow van and hailed it to STOP. The officer jumped out and walked round the yellow van inspecting it closely! It was obvious the officer recognised the gentleman as they were seen to be chatting quite amiably. The gentleman apparently told the officer he was going to have the problem put right - tomorrow !!

#### FROM THE FORTING SHED.

Dear Kate - I am afraid you are too late now for fuchsia cuttings. If you drop me a line to remind me - say next July - then I will tell you how to do it. I do hope you have taken your plants in by now as we can expect frost at any time. Do give them a spray against bugs when you bring them in as it will be easier in the Spring when you start them up.

If you really have trouble in remembering how to spell fuchsia, just call to mind that they were named for Mr fuchs, a sailor, who first brought them to this country from America.

I am certain you do not need me to remind you about planting bulbs and wall-flowers now and generally getting ready for winter and muffins round the fire. Have you thought of planting Sweet Peas in the open? If so you need to do this immediately - sow about one inch apart.

Yours sincerely - Uncle Freddie.

#### FROM H.Q.

Dear Uncle Freddie - Thankyou for your letter, I will indeed call on you next July. In the meantime, the problem of my fuchsias has been taken from me - our new puppy ate them! - having picked up the pots in her teeth, carried it into the utility room, removed the terrified plants by vigorous shaking of the head and murdered my fuchsias in cold blood! Undeterred I shall try again next year. Meanwhile I would value your opinion on winter planting of tubs and hanging baskets. I have planted two tubs with Hebe and Universal pansies - the idea having been recommended at the Garden centre. Could I also fill hanging baskets with the winter flowering pansies? And what about the fact that water retained in such containers may well freeze as winter hardens?

Yours sincerely - Kate. P.S. The first crop of muffins were delicious!

#### SPORTSCENE.

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October, a dark, wet and horrible night outside. Inside Cam Gears Sports Club, a warm, friendly, happy atmosphere where a large group of Kenil w.t. members, husbands and friends played a friendly game of skittles.

Overall, the ladies had much higher scores than the men and some very useful spares were gained by some very talented ladies!

Felicity Smeed won the highest ladies score and Tim Bush the highest gent's score after a play-off against John Pearce. This was followed by a ploughman's supper.

It is hoped to arrange another evening later in the year when we hope to see many more of you.

RACHEL PEARCE

### BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION.

Unfortunately Kew was again unsuccessful in the Best Kept Village Competition this year. We were awarded above 80% but were not quite good enough to get into the finals. It is my view that all the villages have to take it in turns!

The 'judges' comments were as follows: "There was very little litter, the gardens were generally tidy and the Churchyard was well cared for. The bus shelter, phone box, pub forecourt and car park and the hall exterior were all tidy and well kept. We liked your posters. A good try."

It is difficult to see what more we can do. Incidentally, there has been no news yet about the poster competition. We sent several and do hope that one of them might win something.

ANNE HOLTHAM.

### WESTON COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL MEETING.

The October meeting of the Weston Community Health Council was held in Kew Village Hall. It was attended by nine parishioners. Mr Dyer welcomed the meeting to the village.

In very simple terms the Community Health Council consists of members from the elected authorities and members from the various voluntary bodies concerned with health care. They act as a sort of buffer between the Health Authority and the public and try to influence the health facilities in the best interests of the consumer.

The topics covered at the meeting ranged from Family Planning to Physiotherapy for the elderly, late night opening of chemists to the detoxification of drink and drug abusers.

There was an opportunity for questions from the floor and there was also a chance to chat to the members over coffee at the end. My impression was that in the manner of water wearing away a stone, the Community Health Council do have some effect in humanising the judgement of the Health Service.

ANNE HOLTHAM.

### MINUTES OF KEW WOMEN'S INSTITUTE.

Mrs Baber made decorating a Christmas cake look so easy when she demonstrated Sugar Craft at the October meeting. Mrs Bubb was the winner of the exquisitely decorated cake in the raffle that followed. There were no entrants in the monthly competition.

Vice-President, Mrs Pearce took the meeting. There were several apologies. She wished felicity snook "Bon Voyage" for her trip to Australia.

Final arrangements were made for the Party on October 26<sup>th</sup>.

Nominations for the 1989 Committee were made and suggestions for the 1990 Programme were requested. Mrs Bubb gave a lively report of the Autumn Council Meeting.

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In the coming month the Group Meeting will be held at Congressbury on 23rd November and a flower arranging evening entitled "Flowers for Fun" is arranged for November 16<sup>th</sup> in the Village Hall. There will be a trade stall at this event. Members were encouraged to support the trade stall at the meetings.

The November meeting will begin at 7.15pm and the talk will be on Bangladesh. The competition will be for a string of beads. There will also be a competition for an antique metal candleholder. The winning entry will be forwarded to the competition at the Group Meeting.

ANN HOLTAM.

#### NAISH'S NOTES

Mary Congratulations to Bob Hancock of Dewsbury Cottage, Keem on winning a GOLD MEDAL at the World Hairdressing Championship in Dusseldorf, Germany. Well done Bob and good luck for the future of your new salon soon to be opened in Clevedon.

#### WEDDING.

Congratulations to Julie and Tony Jory on the occasion of their marriage on 24<sup>th</sup> September at St. John's, Keem.

#### BAPTISM.

Congratulations to Heather and Roger Jenkins on the baptism of Philippa Heather and also to Stephen and Lynne Bye on the baptism of Thomas on 2<sup>nd</sup> October. This joint ceremony was the first joint baptism in Keem for many a year. Well done to the Sunday Club children for their lovely songs during this happy service. The village flag was flown to commemorate the happy occasion.

#### "IF WINTER COMES, CAN SPRING BE FAR BEHIND?"

How nice to see a newborn lamb and it's mother in John and Lene Stowell's front paddock.

#### CONSERVATION CONVERSATION.

The Electricity Board are re-routing electricity cables over the Rust Pond which could endanger the swans which may fly into the cables causing injury or death. These swans have been nesting on the pond for many years and are of interest to many villagers. Anyone feeling strongly about this should speak to the Electricity Board authorities. Mr R. Russell has already alerted the R.S.P.C.

#### NOTE RE. RUST POND.

Miles Naish has spoken to the SWEB people who will try and find an alternative route for the electricity cables but this may entail felling several old established trees, which will in itself alter the cover of the pond and its wildlife. This had been uppermost in the Electricity Board's mind and they are now prepared to

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have further detailed discussions with interested local people to reach a satisfactory solution to these problems.

#### SPECIAL REQUEST.

If anyone has any old Christmas decorations or trees they no longer want, we would be grateful for them for use in decorating the Hall for the various Christmas festivities. Contact SN or KB.

#### WEMBURY WANDERERS!

Mike and Marion Atkinson have been visiting the village this week. It has been really nice to see them both. They have settled well in Wembury and Marion has become an active member of the W.I. - our loss has been their gain as both Marion and Mike were always ready to help in any village function. Out of friendship we have agreed not to mention anything here about the little problem Mike had with a gate during their stay!

#### DIARY DATES.

DECEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup> - SENIOR CITIZEN'S TEA PARTY - KENN VILLAGE HALL

DECEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup> - CHRISTMAS DISCO - 8pm - 11.45pm - KENN VILLAGE HALL.

ALL WELCOME. PROCEEDS TO SOCIAL COMMITTEE FUNDS.

TICKETS £2 FROM S. NAISH OR KENN P.O. LATER IN NOVEMBER.

DECEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup> - CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY. 3pm - 6pm KENN VILLAGE HALL.

CHILDREN FROM 0-10 years WELCOME AND ANY PARENTS

WHO WISH TO HELP. DETAILS K. DENNEAD AND S. NAISH.

#### NOTE

Don't forget - if you need to book a disco for a party, ring SOUNDS ALIVE on Yalton 835270 and speak to organiser Mr John Hazell.

SHEILA NAISH.

#### SOME SAD NEWS

Since the last issue of the chat-sheet there have been three losses by death of people with Kenn connections.

Those who knew Harold Ford were saddened to hear he had passed away after a short illness aged 64. Harold had been baptized and married at Kenn Church, his widow Frances is the eldest daughter of Wallace Moore and his late wife Lillian. Harold was a kind and considerate man who was always willing to help other people. We would like to express our deep sympathy to Frances and all her family.

Doreen Baker has passed away at her home near Hightbridge aged 58. Doreen née Barrett was born in Kenn and attended Kenn School until she moved with her family to Winscombe when she was a young girl. She left a husband, Ted and three cont...

daughters. Her mother who came from the Pike family has only recently died.

Kevin Holyman who lived with his family at Mead Cottage during the 1930's has died suddenly at his home in Devon aged 64. While living in the village he also attended Kew School and was a member of the Church choir. His younger brother John died several years ago.

Ray Walsh.

### A DRIVING AMBITION.

At the risk of 'blowing my own trumpet', I took and passed the Advanced Driving Test on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October. Having taken up the challenge and succeeded in overcoming it, I do feel a certain amount of pride, but I now <sup>have</sup> to maintain the standard I achieved on the day, especially if I am to display the badge of the Institute of Advanced Motorists. What made me take up the challenge? During March and April I attended a series of five, one night lectures organised by Avon Road Safety team in conjunction with Police Patrol Officers of the Avon and Somerset Constabulary and members of the I.A.M. Each lecture of 2 hours duration dealt with a different aspect of driving eg. observation, Motorway driving, car sympathy etc. Many of the talks were accompanied by slides or film and each in its turn was interesting, informative and constructive. The icing on the cake was a demonstration of the Police system of car control, which involved being taken out in a police car on a Sunday morning and being shown how an officer drives his vehicle on all classes of roads. This also included some very high speed motoring in the hands of a professional - a treat not to be missed. The last of the 5 lectures was given by the Chairman of the local branch - Weston and Mendip - of the Institute of Advanced Motorists and we were invited that evening to have our driving assessed there and then by one of their members. At the end of this assessment we were each advised as to how many lessons we would need before reaching the standard required to take the test. We were also able to join the I.A.M. as an associate member for 6 months at a cost of £5. Within a week or so I was given the name of my advisor Chris, whom I had to contact for my first lesson. An advisor is a member who has taken additional training to become a voluntary tutor to prospective members. Now this is the point where if you always thought you were a very good driver, you are in for a surprise. How many can say - hand on heart - that they never pull on the hand-brake through the ratchets? Can we honestly say we read all the road signs we pass? Do we

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all know the safe distance between ourselves and the car in front? These and many more are the things your advisor will point out and teach you to correct. However, he will also give praise where it is due. When it comes to the test, you are required to display your skill on all classes of road - Motorway, A-roads, B-roads, Towns and Country lanes (the narrower the better!). Your examiner is either a Police officer or at least someone who holds the Police Advanced Driving Certificate; so on the day of your test you are understandably filled with trepidation at the thought of having a policeman in your car for 90 minutes. I was lucky and had a very nice officer who put me at my ease. The test route should take you 35-40 miles. I won't bore you with the details of my test but it's worth knowing you are asked to include a reverse corner (sometimes downhill), a three point turn and to park between 2 parked vehicles - as per Mr Møldersbånd. At the end of the test you are either passed or failed, recommended or not for membership of the I.A.M and given remarks on the good or bad points you have gained or lost. I know the experience has made me a better driver but I am far from being a perfect one - that honour has yet to be bestowed on anyone. I consider I am now a safe driver, more considerate and courteous - but my purpose in writing is to encourage more people to join the Avon Road Safety Course, if not the I.A.M. in an effort to make our ever more dangerous roads a safer place to be. The Police Driver's Manual, Roodcraft, has this to say in its introduction - "Accidents, with rare exceptions, do not occur at any given times and places, but rather in widely scattered areas and at all times of the day and night. Comparatively few of these incidents can be directly attributed to any particular road feature or vehicle defect, but it is found that in 9 cases out of 10 the cause of the accident can be traced to the failure of the 'human element' of the person or persons concerned. A vehicle can be a lethal weapon and, like a gun, it should be handled with care: the advice which follows is not intended to reduce the pleasure to be gained by driving, in fact the opposite is true, the more confidence and knowledge at a driver's disposal, the greater is his capacity for enjoying and taking pride in his driving. Furthermore, if the reader follows this advice he may one day save somebody's life - perhaps his own." The new season of Avon Road Safety lectures starts in Portishead on 15<sup>th</sup> November but travels through the locality. Contact Weston Town Hall for details on W.S.M 631701 ext. 588.

KATE DENMEAD.

## PENNY IN PROVENCE.

This summer our daughter Penny grew restless with her job in Bath and with her friend Bridget, took a coach to the south of France. They spent two enjoyable weeks in Nice, staying in a Youth Hostel and lazing in the sun, searching without success for work in the hotels etc. Just when they were giving up hope of finding anything, they saw a card in an employment agency advertising work on a goat farm near Le Garde Freinet in Provence.

The position offered free accommodation and food in return for doing general farm/garden work and milking 30+ goats twice a day, seven days a week, with NO pay at all. They phoned the farmer who arranged to meet them in Le Garde Freinet and take them to his "farm" to look around and decide if it would suit them.

As promised, the Frenchman arrived in his well worn van, introducing himself as Olivier and off they went with him, turning off the main road onto a rough mountain track. Two miles later (which took half an hour from the village) they came to the "farm" near the mountain top. One look and they said "Yes please" and at the time of writing are still there after twelve weeks, only coming down from the farm once a week to visit St. Tropez where Olivier sells most of the cheese he makes each day from the goat's milk.

Penny and Bridget start milking each morning at 7 a.m. After breakfast they take the herd of goats up the mountain to the area to be grazed for the day. The girls then work about the place until noon, when the Siesta time starts with lunch and a rest until 4 p.m. It is too hot to work during this time. The goats are then brought down from the mountain for milking. They often come down of their own accord as the only water is at the farm - also they are fed concentrates whilst being milked. About 5 of the 30 goats have bells around their necks; these are the well behaved ones who will not wander off and the rest of the herd stay near the sound of the bells. If a bell is put on a 'naughty' goat, as they call them, it could take the herd astray miles over the mountains. When evening milking is finished the herd stay at the farm for the night.

The evening meal is eaten in the kitchen "en famille". Everyone takes a turn to prepare this, mostly vegetable meals as they have a good garden but little meat except the odd bird which may have come to grief, or a chicken, goes into the pot. A young goat had to be killed as it had been injured by one of the older ones, so this gave the family food for several meals though Penny and Bridget were not over impressed by the meat.

Penny and Bridget sleep in a caravan; They shower under a

Wosepipe hanging from a tree branch, which is also the water supply for the goats. Olivier found the water. After searching for 4 years he came upon a spring of lovely fresh mountain water !! The "Guest Room" is a ground sheet in a polythene tunnel which covers a few hay bales, so guests sleep in the hay barn in effect!!! The farm has its own generator for electricity, mainly used for the milking machine.

We took a touring holiday this year to the Italian lakes via France and Switzerland, coming back along the coast of Southern France to the Midi Pyrenees. We were able to stay 2 nights at Le Gorge Freinet to see Penny. We found the farm, which in parts is very old, in a beautiful setting yet so run down as to be rather sad, but this is so often the French way of property and life. It is of interest, to those of us who have experienced one of the worst summers ever, to learn that Provence has suffered from a drought, with no rain for over 13 weeks!!!!

JOHN & GRACE GRIFFIN.

## FOREIGN AFFAIRS II.

I am writing this sitting in a restaurant on the beach. It is only 8 o'clock in the morning and as usual there is a commotion on the sea front.

Lots of colourful Indian fishermen are tugging at ropes out in the sea (I wish I had my camera). They are chanting something to keep them in rhythm but it doesn't seem to help much !!

Well now I've set the scene: We are still having a great time in this wonderful country. We are staying in a little cottage set far back from the beach among the undergrowth and coconut trees.

We have to cross numerous bridges and stepping stones over little stagnant rivers, up and down little dirt tracks, and past the local wishing-wells. It's one thing getting there in the daylight but it is an incredible journey in the dark. The place is alive with

the sounds of frogs, crickets and other tropical noises, but we are lucky we haven't experienced a falling coconut on the head - yet! Back to the fishermen - they have just gone running up the beach but I still can't see what they are up to.

We have befriended lots of Indian women fruit sellers. Despite their hard lives of stomping up and down the hot beaches with heavy baskets of fruit, they are real characters. One in particular is about twelve years old and called Sindu. We buy a papaya off her every day to make her load a little lighter.

Last week we ventured out to Trivandrum, the nearby town

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to visit the zoo. It's only a bus journey away but you have to push your way through crowds of people just to get a space on the overcrowded bus. They literally cram loads and loads of people in and if there isn't room inside they hang on the outside and on the roof too. When we arrived there were certainly some unusual animals to see: bonnet monkeys and elephants roaming free. We were the only tourists there so of course we got more attention than the animals.

Last night some Japanese people were having a party on the beach to which we were invited. They barbecued large amounts of food, prawn, squid and all sorts of interesting things - it was like a lucky dip. Supper was followed later by someone playing a guitar and making an attempt at singing - what a noise!

#### ONE WEEK LATER.

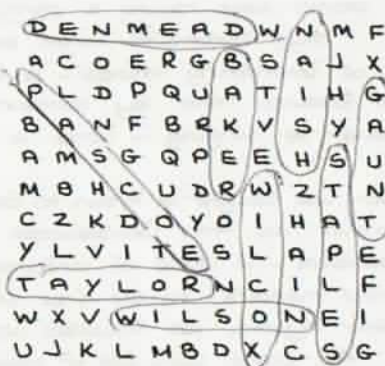
After leaving Kavalan beach we caught a train to Bangalore, then travelled on to Mysore, known as the Sandalwood City. This was a really wonderful experience - a place of unforgettable smells of incense - amazing colourful markets - hassle-free streets and a comfortable climate. After Mysore, we travelled up the coast to Goa, land of the hippies. The place was full of Indian men affected by tourism, dressed up in their marble-washed jeans.

After leaving Goa we wanted to be instantly transported back to Delhi. We caught a coach to Bombay - it took nine and a half hours. We were dropped off in the centre of dirty, busy, incredibly hot Bombay. From there we spent 24 hours on a train back to Delhi. We arrived hot, dirty and dehydrated from lack of water. Anyway we survived and arrived back at our Indian friends whom we met when we first arrived in India. Although we felt exhausted we soon revived when we were handed our huge pile of letters and cards which we had been looking forward to the whole time we had been in India. I felt so happy I could have cried - you never really appreciate a letter until you are away from home, that's all Donna and I could think about on our way back to Delhi. Well, as we prepare to leave India after 3 months we will take with us the memories of a country full of beauty, amazing colours and untold surprises. On Friday we fly on to Australia - it is strange to put 'war paint' on again. Thanks to everyone who has kept me informed with news and I hope they will keep in touch when I have my new address in Australia.

ALISON FENWICK.

## PUZZLE CORNER

Christopher Denmead has compiled this word-search in which are hidden the surnames of 11 Kenau families. He insists that as before, the list of answers should be published next month.



Puzzle Corner is open to everyone who feels they would like to have a go at brain-teasing.

Me  
Bing  
Paula + Nick  
Sally + Martin  
Chris + Liz  
Lester + Jill  
Cath + Pete  
James  
Sarah.  
Sally S. + Paul.