

NEWS
&
VIEWS

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Issue No. 163 March 2002

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KENN NEWS & VIEWS

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

March

- 5th Leon Naish
8th Jeremy Osbourne
9th Tassos Papasolomontos
16th Angie Ndow
(at the garage)
16th Brian & Julie Stowell WA
17th Lee Staples
James Mackay
18th Quinton Stowell
Grace Griffin
27th Amy Bye
31st Ruth & Sam Dyer WA

Thought of the Month

One kind word can warm three winter months

Naish's Notes

Many thanks to all the wonderful people who have helped throughout the last few months with the Breakthrough Challenge that I undertook to raise £1000.

We have achieved this with the Quiz Nite, Disco, Sponsored Silence and of course Jean Woods "frustrating" quiz!!

The charity is now looking for people to raise money in 2002 and have crocus pins on sale for £1 which I shall be selling. The Norwich Union will match £ for £ any money raised from Crocus Walks held in the spring!

SO with this in mind, I am going to organise a Crocus Walk in May which will be the old Fun Run course which is 3 miles.

Date to be advised.....
Please give it some thought.....
Get sponsors for yourself.....

Grannies get sponsored for pushing a child round.....
Sponsored for walking the dog.....
Anything!!!
More info next month.

Sheila

St. John the Evangelist, Kenn

Church Services at Kenn and Kingston Seymour in March

3rd March

- 8 a.m. Holy Communion Kenn
11 a.m. Family Service Kingston
6 p.m. Taize Kingston

10th March - Mothering Sunday

- 11 a.m. Family Service Kenn
11 a.m. Family Service Kingston

17th March

- 11 a.m. Holy Communion Kingston
6.00 p.m. Evensong Kenn

24th March - Palm Sunday

- 8 a.m. Holy Communion Kingston
11 a.m. Holy Communion Kenn
followed by Easter Vestry Meeting

29th March - Good Friday

- 11 a.m. Meditation Kenn
11 a.m. Meditation Kingston

31st March - Easter Day

- 11 a.m. Family Communion Kenn
11 a.m. Family Communion Kingston Seymour

Church Notes

St. John's Altar Guild

Members of the Altar Guild on duty in March are Mrs Julia Bush and Mrs Jenny Pascoe.

KENN NEWS & VIEWS

Mothering Sunday in Kenn

One bright spot in the austerity of Lent is Mothering Sunday.

To celebrate this we will be holding a

Mothering Sunday Family Service

**Sunday 10th March
11.00 a.m.**

There will be a little treat for Mums and Coffee and Cake after the Service

Julia Bush and
Wendy Papisolomontos

St. John the Evangelist, Kenn Easter Vestry Meeting after 11.00 Service Palm Sunday 24th March 2002

This is when our Church Wardens are elected for the coming year.

The short meeting will take place at the end of the morning service on Palm Sunday.

All residents on the parish of St. John the Evangelist, Kenn and those on the Church Electoral Roll are entitled to vote.

Ray Naish and Julia Bush

Jumble Sale 13th February for the Christmas Parties Fund

Many thanks to all those who contributed, helped, served, bought raffle tickets, gave raffle prizes or sent donations.

It was a joy to see so many helpers, especially the younger generation.

£186.82 was taken on the day, a further £11.00 has been received since and thanks also to donations received during the year of £37.66 the grand total reached £235.48.

Expenses for the 2001 parties have all been paid, and funds for 2002 are looking very healthy.

Special thanks to the two Johns (Griffin and Ball) for loading up the remaining goods (clearing the Hall in good time for the W.I. meeting) and to my John for delivering them to Tickenham where they were offered for sale at their Jumble Sale on the following Saturday.

Margaret Ball

News from the Drum & Monkey

**Following Mike's spell in hospital
over the New Year.**

**Mike and Karen wish to thank one
and all for their Good Wishes.
All is now well (ish)**

Thank you.

KENN NEWS & VIEWS

What's on at the Drum?

KENN VILLAGERS' LUNCH
TUESDAY 5TH MARCH
FROM 12.30 P.M.

EVERYONE WELCOME

WEDNESDAY NIGHT
IS QUIZ NIGHT

"Fun at the Drum Night"

Thursday 4th April
8.00 p.m. till late
Three Course Meal
with coffee and mints

Live Entertainment

From
Elvis Presley II
&
Frank Sinatra II

Charity Raffle in aid of
"The Barn" in Clevedon

Tickets at £15 now available from
The Drum or Margaret or John Ball

The Queen's Golden Jubilee Monday 3rd June 2002

Parish Council Meeting Monday 8th
April - Come along and give your
views on how Kenn should celebrate
the Queen's Golden Jubilee.

Suggestions to date - 27th February

Geoff Marchant has kindly offered to
organise **Bell Ringing at St. John's** at
12 noon on Monday 3rd June.

Jenny and Simon Pascoe will organise
The Village Barbecue during the
afternoon/evening.

Other suggestions include:

Children's Village Sports

Village Photograph

*How do you think we should
Celebrate?*

Tell your Parish Council at their
next meeting!

HIBERNATING FLIES

Your replies to the questionnaire as a
result of checking roof spaces for
hibernating flies are trickling in.

If you have not managed to get into
your loft yet or have just omitted to
take your form to the Post Office, the
Parish Council and your neighbours
would be grateful if you could do so.

It is possible that there is no way into
your roof, in which case we should like
to know, so that we have a record.

If you need help to get up into the roof
and to deal with any flies North
Somerset are willing to do it for a fee
of £20.

It is recommended that the flies should
be Hoovered up while they are still
dozy and the bag thrown into the
dustbin. If you wish a Vapona strip
will help.

Please be neighbourly and do this, so
that everyone can have a fly free
summer.

KENN NEWS & VIEWS

SNIPPETS

Coffee Morning

The Coffee Morning held at Kenn Court on 20th February raised £66 for funds for Kenn Women's Institute. Many thanks to everyone who supported the morning.

Safe Arrival – 21st February

William arrived, a baby son for Joanna and Nick Cheek, a brother for Molly, a grandson for Hartley and Jane Staples and a great grandson for Mr. Sam Staples.

Joanna is a gifted flower arranger and her arrangements in Kenn Church are much admired. We flew our flag to celebrate the happy event.

Golden Wedding

Congratulations to Ray and Mary Sayer of Orchard End who celebrated their Golden Wedding on February 26th. We flew our flag in celebration.

Thanks

Our sincere thanks go to our Clergy and Organist who, during the closure of Yatton Railway Bridge, made the detour to be at our Church Services.

We also thank the Doctors from the Yatton Surgery and Clive who carried all our newspapers every day and to Darren who brought our meat and to everyone else who helped.

Thank you.

Ruth Dyer

Dates for your diary

The Drum and Monkey Village Lunch -

Tuesday 5th March from 12.30 p.m.
Come along and meet your neighbours - A warm welcome for everyone.

Kenn Village Hall

Wednesday 13th March - Kenn
Women's Institute - 7.30 pm.
Speaker – Mrs Marshfield
"Barefoot to Buckingham Palace"
Competition – A Hat for An
Occasion

Non Members always welcome

St. John's Kenn

11.45 a.m. Sunday 24th March
Easter Vestry Meeting

Advance Diary Dates

The Drum and Monkey
"Fun at the Drum Night"
Thursday 4th April
8.00 p.m. till late

Kenn Village Hall

Monday 8th April – 7.30 p.m.

Kenn Parish Council Meeting –
Opportunity to discuss The Queens
Golden Jubilee Celebrations in Kenn

Wednesday 4th December

Christmas Tea Party

Friday 20th December

Children's Christmas Party

KENN NEWS & VIEWS

KENN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Please join us as we are again charging our pens and dusting off our keyboards to write to The Powers That Be with regard to CONSIGNIA and their position with deliveries and collections to rural areas - particularly those more remote points of the compass such as Exmoor, The Highlands, and the Peak District.

Are they aware of the social service they provide in such areas by the 'Posties' contact?

We think not. As Clevedon WI, we, too, are writing to North Somerset Council and our own Town Council concerning the closing of the Public Toilets at Six Ways. Please back us and take up your pens as well!

Wish us luck because March 12th sees us in the next round of the Skittles League.

Our speaker was Mrs Forrest-Taylor who gave us a most illuminating and informative talk on the folklore and superstition to be found in Thomas Hardy's novels. Her enthusiasm for her subject shone through!

It was clear that in those days most people believed in witchcraft (either black or white), the healing properties of plants (Thomas Hardy's maternal grandmother healed half her village with herbal remedies), and superstition reigned supreme.

We heard that bees must be informed if their master has died so that they do not fly away, how young girls threw apple peelings over their shoulder to see what shaped alphabet letter fell on the ground - the first letter of their true-love's name. Spring processions with decorated willow twigs for fertility, and many more.

There was a good deal of small time smuggling with Mother Rogers hiding bullock bladders filled with brandy under her skirts, and contraband being buried in wooden boxes under fruit trees until the excise men had been.

To deal with adultery effigies of the guilty pair were tied to horseback and galloped through the streets as a public disgrace, and to underline the fear of the Devil, many believed that he played a violin and led unsuspecting folk onto the moors at night.

The competition was a Valentine card - Gold Rosemarie Ford, Silver Margaret Chappell, Green Thelma Blake.

At our March meeting on the 13th Mrs Marshfield will be telling us about 'Barefoot to Buckingham Palace'.

Please come along as a guest - we start at 7.30 p.m. Any queries, please ring

Rosemarie Ford 01275-877243

KENN NEWS & VIEWS

BIRD NEWS I

The theme of this month's notes could be "Birds that other people have told me about!"

First up was a remarkable record of a Bittern at Congresbury. This was seen at close range by the owner of the Silver Springs Fishing Lakes and is a just reward for the work he had undertaken to create a wildlife friendly wetland.

I reckon that this is the first Bittern records in this area for at least 40 years (unless you know differently). Before the Kenn Moor drainage work was undertaken in the 1950's there were Bitterns in winter. No doubt the Congresbury bird was a continental migrant driven out of Holland by freezing weather.

This winter has seen record numbers of Bitterns in England including three at the newly created Barn Elms Reserve in Putney!

Next in the Heron line up was a Little Egret, ranging on Kenn Moor towards Yatton. Little Egrets are regularly alone the sea bank so it is only a local trip to the moor.

Bob Ford telephoned to say that a farmer friend at Wick St. Lawrence had watched a Barn Owl on his land – the first he had seen for many years. Our "Yatton" Barn Owl hasn't been seen lately so it may have gone to Wick, again a relatively short flight.

Mid-month a friend from Clevedon was driving along Nailsea Wall when a large bird of prey passed him (going in the opposite direction – towards Clevedon). He only got a quick look, but it definitely was not a Buzzard – his best guess was a Marsh Harrier.

Has anyone seen such a bird in the area? It was just before the cold snap and may have been migrating in front of the cold weather, as it was making direct and determined progress.

Finally the gales in early February brought a number of seabirds up the Channel. Gannets and a Razorbill were recorded off Clevedon and at Burnham-on-Sea there were an unprecedented 14 Leaches Petrels. These are oceanic and should be hundreds of miles out to sea.

Whilst there is more coverage these days, there are more sightings of this nature, indicating the increased velocity of Atlantic Storms.

I saw none of these birds, but am always pleased to hear of any interesting local birds.

Trevor Riddle - 01934 835208

BIRD NEWS II

A Little Egret was seen flying near Nailsea Wall on Candlemas Day 2nd February, it has been seen again today, 26th February near Tickenham Church.

A Cockatiel has been seen flying around West End Nailsea, we haven't heard of anyone who has lost one.

I counted fifteen Swans feeding on the Flying Club field in the moor. This seems to be a favourite field for them. They come back every winter. I expect it is because the grass on the field is kept mown, keeping it short and sweet.

KENN NEWS & VIEWS

The large number of Fieldfares and Redwings that were around earlier in the winter disappeared in January, but a few reappeared in mid February.

A huge flock of mixed birds was seen feeding in the moor about that time. The flock included Starlings, Lapwings and Fieldfares. They hung around for several days. There were many thousands in the flock.

Wherever I go lately I hear Song Thrushes singing loudly. What a wonderful amount of sound they can produce for such a small bird. They start singing before it is really light and are still going strong as it gets dark again.

Ray Naish

Question

What is it ?

Poor men have it

Rich men want for it

And if you eat it you die

Answer next month !!!

The Mill at Kenn

My brother-in-law, Bob Gale found the following article on the Kenn Windmill, which we think some of our readers will find of interest.

Until recently, to reach the Mill you needed to cross a field we called "Homeground" at Mill Farm. However, now that the Business Park is open, an inspection is very easy. Turn into the

Business Park, take first right and you will see The Mill just ahead on left and at the side of the road.

The Mill is now in a very poor state. However help is at hand as it is a condition of the Planning Approval on that part of the Park that the Mill is restored and incorporated into any building there.

When the land was sold the purchasers deducted a considerable amount of money from the agreed price to cover the restoration work as required by North Somerset Council.

It will be very interesting to see that they keep their undertakings in this. We will be pleased to see this ancient structure preserved for the future.

I recall that some fifty years ago, my brother Gerald and I were milling corn in the mill which still had a roof with "Home Guard" look out tower but we used a portable mill powered by a belt from the pulley of our Standard Fordson tractor.

About 1955 would be the last time any corn was milled at Mill Farm.

Our Grandfather would recall that when he was courting Grandmother Beatrice Sprod of Mill Farm around 18880 the Mill was still working – now read the article:

KENN

The tower of Kenn Mill, now much shortened, carries a stone carved with the initials "C.B." and dated 1821, and this windmill was the first to occupy this low-lying site on the north of Kenn Moor.

KENN NEWS & VIEWS

The mill was a three storey tower with a single pair of stones and the thatched cap is said to have been winded by a tail pole reaching to near the ground, a method rare if not unique in the country and perhaps surprising on a windmill built in the 19th century.

The mill worked until sometime towards the end of the 19th century, but was powered by an oil engine from the 1880s and it is possible that its low position on the Moor, only some 20 feet above sea level, accounted for this. The last miller was a Mr Herbert.

The tower was truncated in about 1900, the wall formed a gable shape and the top thatched, and before the Great War it was used as a slaughterhouse.

In the 1930s the millstones, in pieces, remained at the farm and during the 1939-45 war the tower was used as a Home Guard lookout.

The tower has now been reduced to an uneven height of about 18 feet and is completely gutted owing to the fact that it was used recently as an incinerator.

The ground floor contains a fireplace, with a flue within the tower wall, and timber from the machinery is said to have formed the raw material for Clevedon War Memorial.

There are dim memories here of a happening possibly linked with this mill. In 1830 three men were sentenced to death for setting fire to some mows of wheat here and were ordered by the High Sheriff to be executed on the spot where the crime was committed.

Fourteen thousand persons collected on Kenn Moor and a troop of cavalry and 200 constables were in attendance. One of those executed, named Wall, left a wife and seven children.

Claverham Drove and Kenn Moor

Many people who do not normally travel on it have had to use Claverham Drove during the closure of Yatton Railway Bridge. Some people have found it very hazardous, especially at night.

Perhaps many people do not know the history of this area.

When you travel from Lower Claverham towards Kenn, as you pass the last house, you soon pass over a bridge, which crosses the Little River.

This area is called Kenn Moor Gate. The reason for this is that in olden times this was the gate into the Common moor.

Before the Enclosures Act of 1813 the area from Kenn Moor Gate right through the moor up to the then Kenn Boundary at "Moor Gate House" in Kenn Street was "Common Land".

In those days before the land in the moor was enclosed many people in the Kenn, Yatton, Claverham and Nailsea areas had commoner's rights attached to their houses. This allowed them to graze their animals on the common moor, free of charge. I expect the five or six original houses in Duck Lane, Kenn held these rights.

When people had these rights they could live very cheaply. If they could afford to own a cow she could be let out into the common to graze. The milk she produced could be used for the family; butter could be made from the cream and the skimmed milk used for feeding a pig, which could also be grazed on the common. In the autumn the pig could be killed and the meat salted. This meant that the family had

KENN NEWS & VIEWS

meat for the winter. If the people had a good garden the produce grown there made them almost self-sufficient.

All this came to an end when the Enclosures Act came into force. All the common rights were taken away, causing great hardship because people had nowhere to keep their animals. This caused riots in some parts of the country. It has been stated that it was the start of the Bristol Riots.

We now go back to Kenn Moor. Before the enclosures there were no roads out there. There was no road from Kenn to Yatton or to Claverham. My great grandfather was William Naish who was born in 1824. When he was a young man he helped to lay the foundations for Claverham Drove. They laid 'withy faggots' in the bottom. These were bundles of willow sticks tied with willow bonds. I would not be surprised if those faggots are still intact as when wood is buried in peat it gets preserved for hundreds of years.

Ray Naish

Fun at the Drum Night

Thursday 4th April 2002
from 8pm 'til late

Charity Raffle in aid
of "The Barn" in Clevedon

Featuring live entertainment from

**Elvis Presley II
&
Frank Sinatra II**

Set three course meal,
plus coffee & mints

(A vegetarian option will be available)

Waitress drinks service

Tickets are strictly limited
and are available from:
The Drum and Monkey
Margaret & John Ball

£15



JULIAN TRUST

NIGHT SHELTER FOR THE HOMELESS

Please Reply to:

G. W. Moon (Treasurer)
439 Fishponds Road
Fishponds
Bristol
BS16 3AP

Simon Pascoe
Willow House
Kenn Street
Kenn
N. Somerset
BS21 6TN

24th February 2002

Dear Simon,

On behalf of the Julian Trust, I wish to thank you for the generous cheque donation of £160 towards our funds.

We are very grateful for this practical support of our voluntary work amongst the homeless people in Bristol. This donation will make a difference for those people who find themselves without accommodation in the city.

Yours sincerely,

Geoff Moon