

NEWS  
&  
VIEWS

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Editor Sheila NAISH  
01934-838357

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# Kenn News & Views

## BIRTHDAYS

February 1st Tim Taylor  
2nd Katy Stowell  
4th Bethany Stowell  
11th Alexis Papasolomontos  
14th Richard Dyer  
16th Marianna Mackay  
17th Jeff Naish  
25th James Griffin  
27th Jenny Pascoe

### Thought of the Month

*I'm not going to worry unless the  
animals start lining up two by two for  
the next space shuttle!*

*Too many gods, so many creeds,  
Too many paths that wind  
When just the art of being kind  
Is all the sad world needs*

### Naish's Notes

Foot and Mouth restrictions have been 'officially' lifted from us now. This however does not mean that RESTRICTIONS on movements have been.

We still cannot move freely about, if you move an animal to another farm or holding it **cannot be moved for 21 days** which makes things very difficult. The Royal Bath & West Show will not have any animals because if animals are taken they will have to stay there for 21 days. We will also lose the North Somerset Show.

Things for the farming community have changed forever, what our fathers and forefathers grew up with and

cherished are no longer applicable and farming as we know it will diminish.

Check your labels at the supermarkets .....buying British Meat is so important. We have a far safer, more controlled and regulated system than most countries that we import from.

Sheila

### St. John the Evangelist, Kenn

#### Altar Guild - Rota for February

**Volunteers Needed - Can You Help?**

**Contact Jean Naish 872493!**

### Plough Sunday

As usual the Plough Sunday Service held on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> January proved very popular. There were 52 people of all ages in the congregation. Many people from the local community took part. There were so many things to do with farming in the Church including a plough, a milk churn, part of a milking machine, a shepherd's crook, eggs, home-made butter that it was almost like a mini Harvest Festival, especially the hymns that were sung.

Many thanks to all who took part in any way.

Ray Naish

# Kenn News & Views

## Update on the "New Room" for St. John's Kenn

To date (22/1/02) I have met with Church Architect Julian Hannam and discussed the final plans for the new room, passing on the comments I received from the congregation. I have given Julian the OK to submit said plans to the planning office.

I don't know how long it will take for the plans to be processed but will keep you up to date when anything happens.

Julia Bush

## Christian Aid 2002

**Please! Please! Please!**

**Could I have some help distributing  
and (especially) collecting envelopes  
during Christian Aid Week 2002**

**13<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> May 2002**

**The more helpers we have, the fewer  
envelopes each collector will need to  
handle. The envelopes can be delivered  
prior to 'the week' but must be  
collected during the specified dates.**

**Anyone aged 18 or over can help.**

**A few hours of our time can mean a  
lifetime of difference to some of the  
world's poorest people.**

Julia Bush

p.s. Thank you to everyone who gave to  
Christian Aid at Christmas. We raised  
nearly £100.

## Rose Edwards

Mrs Rose Edwards has passed away aged 105. She was better known to Kenn people as Clifford Edwards' mother.

Mrs. Edwards was a born and bred Londoner who came to live in this area when 90 years old. Her family say that moving here have her a marvellous extension of life. She kept in good health until a few months ago.

Mrs. Edwards had a family of five who all survive her; some of them over eighty years of age.

Few people have lived in three centuries as Rose Edwards had done.

Her funeral service at Kenn Church had a large congregation of family and friends. Her ashes, after cremation, were interred in the family grave in the churchyard.

When the burial of her ashes was recorded in the Burial Register at Kenn Church it made history as previously, no one mentioned there had ever lived to become over 100 years old. I have checked the Register that has the first entry recorded in 1813, no one recorded in there had lived beyond 97 years, and I doubt if anyone who died in Kenn before 1813 lived to be 100 years old.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to her family who looked after their mother with great devotion to the end of her life.

Ray Naish

# Kenn News & Views

## Snippets

### Bereavement

9<sup>th</sup> January, our flag was flown at half mast for the funeral of Mrs Rose Edwards who passed away at the great age of one hundred and five years. She was the mother of Cliff Edwards of Tramar, Kenn Street. We extend our sincere sympathy to him and his family in their great loss.

### Dates for your Diary

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February 7.30 pm  
Kenn Village Hall - Kenn Parish  
Council Meeting - all welcome

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February - 12.30 pm

Special 'Thank You' event -  
Mike and Karen invite Villagers to  
Lunch at the Drum and Monkey -  
Come along and choose two courses  
from the £5.45 board -  
Compliments of Mike and Karen.

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 7.30 pm -  
Kenn W.I. - Kenn Village Hall -  
Mrs Forrest-Taylor will be speaking  
on 'Folklore & Superstition in  
Thomas Hardy's novels' and the  
competition is a Valentine Card.  
Non-members always welcome

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2.00 pm  
Kenn Village Hall  
**JUMBLE SALE**

Proceeds to Village Christmas  
Parties  
Help and Jumble needed

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> February  
Coffee Morning at Kenn Court from  
10.30 a.m. - 12 noon

## Advance Notices

### The Queen's Golden Jubilee

The First Weekend in June

Suggestions so far include

Children's Village Sports

A Village Barbecue

Village Photograph

*How do you think we should  
Celebrate?*

If you have any ideas or would like to  
help - what ever!

Please contact John and Margaret Ball  
Or leave a note at the Post Office

### Kenn Women's Institute

It appears that our efforts in writing to the Government regarding a Public Enquiry into the foot and mouth problem and the news coverage it has received has helped to bear larger fruit than we could have hoped as the European Commission has demanded an enquiry. Let us hope that this time the Government takes notice of the lessons learned!

We are busy trying to knit jumpers, hats and mittens or gloves for Afghanistan so if anyone else feels the urge to knit for children, the clothes must be ready within four weeks. Please contact Rosemarie Ford 01275-877243 if you would like to help.

Our skittles team won their first League match by one pin - how often have we lost by this amount, so a win was super. We play our next match in early March.

The annual competitions prizes were won by Thelma Blake (gold), Madeline Crawley (silver), Jean Ings (green), and our nominated charity for this year is The Friends of Clevedon Hospital.



# Kenn News & Views

Our speaker was Mary Rawlings who gave us a delightful talk on her life in a children's home in Lytham St Annes. She had been sent there with her sister at the age of nine because her father had remarried and their stepmother was like Cinderella's Stepmother and did not want them. Her brother had been sent to an orphanage in Kent but unfortunately they have lost touch with him. The life was Spartan and there were few 'treats' but Mary does not seem to have suffered at all from the experience. Her talk was light-hearted and amusing.

The orphanage was an enormous building run by nuns. Mary and her sister had never seen a nun and they were terrified initially by these ladies sweeping along in their black habits.

She described the 'playrooms' which had no soft toys, just long tables with chairs; books; dolls' houses which they were not allowed to touch; and 'playtime' was spent chatting, reading and sewing.

They slept in dormitories containing 30-40 iron bedsteads with all their belongings, including clothes, kept under the bed in a basket; there were no dressing tables or wardrobes. Each dormitory had a bathroom with three washbasins, two baths, and one toilet - no running hot water. But there was great camaraderie and most of the nuns were very kind.

They ate in the Refectory, which was a very grand room with a stage where they put on plays. One day Mary and her sister were summoned in front of the whole orphanage in the Refectory and they were informed that their Father was no longer able to pay for their keep and they were 'now charity kids'; this really hurt them.

As punishment for misdemeanours the nuns 'sent the children to Coventry' they did not hit the children very often. When they were 'sent to Coventry' they had to wear a special hat when out in the town in their crocodile, and the townsfolk knew those who had misbehaved by these hats.

They were sometimes taken to the end of Pier entertainment. Mary recalled going there in a long crocodile and when they saw the stage they were so indoctrinated they all genuflected to the stage before taking their seats.

Food was basic but adequate: porridge everyday for breakfast and a boiled egg on your birthday but they were taught well with regard to cookery and Mary is still using the bread and butter pudding recipe she learned in the 1940's.

On one occasion Gracie Fields visited the orphanage and wore trousers which was quite avant garde - she apologised to the nuns for her thoughtlessness. At the age of 16 Mary was sent to Clevedon with nuns who were coming down to run St. Edith's Orphanage, and she and her sister went into service here, living with one of our W.I. Member's family in Strode Road.

The competition of a wartime memento was won by Betty Bubb (gold), Ruth Dyer (silver), Madeline Crawley (green).

On the 13th February Mrs Forrest-Taylor will be enlightening us on 'Folklore & Superstition in Thomas Hardy's novels' and the competition is a Valentine Card.

ROSEMARIE FORD 01275-877243

## Coffee Morning Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> February

Kenn Women's Institute will hold a  
Coffee Morning at Kenn Court on  
Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> February  
10.30 - Noon

Bring and Buy

Raffle

# Kenn News & Views

## What's on at the Drum

Entertainment has not been organised this year - YET !!

Watch Board outside for details

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Please don't forget - Every  
Wednesday is  
**QUIZ NIGHT**  
With Raffle  
Everyone welcome

\*\*\*\*\*

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February  
**KENN VILLAGE LUNCH**  
12.30 onwards

As a Thank You for support in the  
past year

Mike and Karen invite you to  
Choose a two course meal  
From the £5.45 menu

At the February Village Lunch there  
will be No Charge to Kenn Villagers  
and Regulars

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Book in advance for the

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February  
**VALENTINE'S NIGHT**  
At The Drum,

3 Courses with Coffee and Mints  
£14.95

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February  
**VALENTINE'S NIGHT**

## Menu

Crab Filled Mushrooms  
Cooked in Garlic Butter, Lemon and  
Parsley

Asparagus wrapped in Parma Ham  
with Hollandaise Sauce

\*\*\*\*

Valentine of Port in a Rosemary and  
Garlic Marinade

Fillet Steak cooked to your liking  
with Sauce of your liking

Salmon filled with Spinach with a  
Prawn and Wine Sauce

Vegetables of the Day

Dauphinois Potatoes

\*\*\*\*

Lemon Lush Gateau and Cream

Champagne Sorbet with Fresh  
Raspberries and Tia Maria

\*\*\*\*

3 Courses with Coffee and Mints  
£14.95

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# Kenn News & Views

## BIRD NEWS 1

It was interesting to read Ray's note about the Barn Owl at Nailsea Wall last month as one has been sighted at the YACWAG reserve on Congresbury Moor.

"Our" bird hasn't been seen much, we think because there is a plentiful supply of voles so that daytime hunting is not necessary. The weather forecast suggests that the second half of January is likely to be wet so this might lead to daylight hunting.

A Water Rail has also been showing well in one of the railway walk ditches. These birds have benefited from the creation of wetlands and reed beds and there seem to be more wintering each year.

A Little Egret has been reported on Kenn Moor, at least on the less cold days – a new winter record.

Meanwhile, on the Somerset Peat Levels the Starling roost has grown to its regular enormous proportions and this attracted various birds of prey.

By early January our local Robin was singing and by the middle of the month a Song Thrush had joined him. Another, more exceptionally, was singing near and audible from Bristol Temple Meads Station.

Trevor Riddle

01934 835208

## BIRD NEWS 2

Birds of all sorts have become very active around the village these past few weeks. Robins are singing everywhere, together with Blue Tits. The first Song Thrush I have heard singing this year was in the large Beech trees near Kenn Court on the morning of 13<sup>th</sup> January.

There have been large flocks of Lapwings or Peewits, thousands strong, feeding in Nailsea Moor. The very windy weather around the 22<sup>nd</sup> of January brought thousands of Seagulls inland. Remember the old saying

"Seagull, Seagull sit on the sand,  
It's never good weather when you sit  
on the land"

Maurice and Margaret Ford who live in Kenn Street get great pleasure from watching birds feeding at their bird table and in their garden. The following is a list of birds seen from their window this winter. Blackbird, Blue Tit, Great Tit, Long Tailed Tit, Bull Finch, Collared Dove, Gold Finch, Jackdaw, Jay, Magpie, Sparrow, Starling, Robin, Pied Wagtail, Green Woodpecker, Wood Pigeon, Greater Spotted Woodpecker.

Ben Morris, who lives in Duck Lane has seen a Roe Deer in the field behind his house, another sighting of a Roe Deer was in Kenn Moor near the Big Plantation. Perhaps it was the same one, it was heading for Kenn.

A Mistle Thrush was spotted recently in the Holly Bush at Yew Tree farm.

Ray Naish



# Kenn News & Views

Kenn Social Committee

JUMBLE SALE

KENN VILLAGE HALL

2.00 pm Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup>  
February

Proceeds to Christmas Tea  
Parties Fund

ADMISSION 20p.  
MANY STALLS

FOR COLLECTION OF JUMBLE  
'PHONE 875073/874077  
or deliver to Village Hall during  
the morning.

Come along, lend a hand and  
meet your neighbours

Again he carries on the farming with Jack Hanson staying with him to look after the farm work.

I said Jim Withers was a dealer, well Jack recalls that Mrs. Withers told him that in 30 years of marriage they had moved house 21 times!

Anyway, after about one year another deal attracts Jim Withers and Moorgates is back on the market about 1952.

Donald Staples now returns to our story. You may recall that Donald had, as a young man, been chief sausage maker for the Stowell's in the 1920's. Now he and his wife Hilda, buy the farm buildings and land from Mr. Withers.

However the house and one outbuilding are sold separately to Mr and Mrs. Seeley the stationers of Hill Road, Clevedon.

Don and Hilda Staples, with their son John, continue to work the farm buildings and land as a mixed farm, small holding. Cows, pigs, hens and horticulture.

After a while they drop the pigs and Toby Gale takes on the pigsties for a few years.

The Staples run their business for eight or nine years until about 1960 when they sell to Bert Puddy.

Mr. Puddy builds in the paddock, at the rear of the farm buildings, a bungalow, which, with paddock and buildings is offered for sale at £7,000.00. But times are bad and the property remains unsold for at least a

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## Moorgate House – part 3.....

Mr. Jim Withers appears briefly in the story. He was a dealer in land property and World War II Army Surplus, also doing a modest amount of farming on the side.

He had in about 1948 purchased "Walnut Tree Farm" on the Yatton Road from Clifton Acke. Jack Hanson was employed to look after the farming there.

Now in 1950 Jim Withers sells "Walnut Tree Farm" and, as we read last month, buys "Moorgates".

# Kenn News & Views

year, when my wife Grace and I purchase in 1961.

The Slaughterhouse was now put to its last commercial use. The Staples had kept hens in it for several years. We used it as a storeroom for our business, which at the time was a Mobile Grocery Shop.

In 1964 the stock was moved to another shed and the Slaughterhouse and Granary were converted into a house. After selling the bungalow we moved into "The Granary" and have been here ever since.

Meanwhile "Moorgate House" was sold by the Seeley's to Mr and Mrs Wilson, in time they sell to the Mickleburghs who around 1966 sell to Simon and Joy Pinder, who move in with their three young daughters.

Now we come to the final commercial enterprise to be run at "Moorgates" and I have asked Simon to write his story for next month's News and Views (Over to you Simon)

Side Note....

I have counted the number of properties to be constructed out of or on the Moorgates land and buildings and I make it ten.

I hope you have enjoyed my account of the history from early last century of one of Kenn's most interesting buildings.

John Griffin

## Thanks

I should like to thank everyone who gave messages of condolence after the death of our Mum.

Special thanks to Chris Horseman who conducted the service so sensitively.

Sincere thanks to Mary at the organ and members of the choir who gave up their time to be there.

Finally thank you Ray for helping me with the arrangements.

Mum was 105 years old, and until two months ago was lovingly cared for at home by my two sisters Doris and Peggy.

No praise is too high for them and they deserve the utmost credit and grateful thanks of all the family.

Cliff Edwards



# Kenn News & Views

## Stonehouse Farm in Wartime

When war broke out in 1939 a large number of our relatives from the London area arrived at the farm. They came down because it was thought that the Germans would bomb London immediately. Some of the children attended Kenn School.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1940 a string of bombs were dropped in Kenn, killing many horses and cattle.

One of the bombs dropped in the garden here at "Stonehouse Farm" exactly where the garage has now been built for our new house.

It did tremendous damage to many houses in Kenn Street. The farmhouse and buildings were severely damaged. Fortunately nobody was hurt.

When it became light next morning there was a frightening scene.

There was no glass left in any of the windows and many of the tiles and slates on the roofs of the house and buildings were either smashed or blown off.

There are still shrapnel marks visible on the side of the Old Chapel, which took much of the blast.

When we moved house last year I rediscovered several pieces of shrapnel that I had collected around the yard the next morning.

My father was in the road on Special Constable duty when the bomb dropped. He was very lucky not to have been hit by flying shrapnel.

All of our family were downstairs when the bomb dropped, except my grandfather who was upstairs in bed.

We were almost afraid to go up to see if he was still alive. When we got up there he was sitting up in bed, which was covered in glass from the windows and plaster from the ceiling.

He was unhurt. He was over eighty years old at the time and he died at the farm when eighty six years old.

The local authority sent men to make the house habitable quite quickly.

I was fourteen at that time.

Ray Naish

Please pass your contributions for Kenn News and Views to either

Margaret at Chaseside,

Ray at Orchardlea,

Sheila at Oakland Farm

Or Liz at Kenn Post Office

It is your Magazine and we welcome your

News & Views

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Kenn Social Committee

# JUMBLE SALE

## KENN VILLAGE HALL

2.00 pm Wednesday

**13<sup>th</sup> February**

Proceeds to Christmas Tea Parties  
Fund

ADMISSION 20p.

MANY STALLS

FOR COLLECTION OF JUMBLE  
'PHONE 875073/874077