

NEWS & VIEWS

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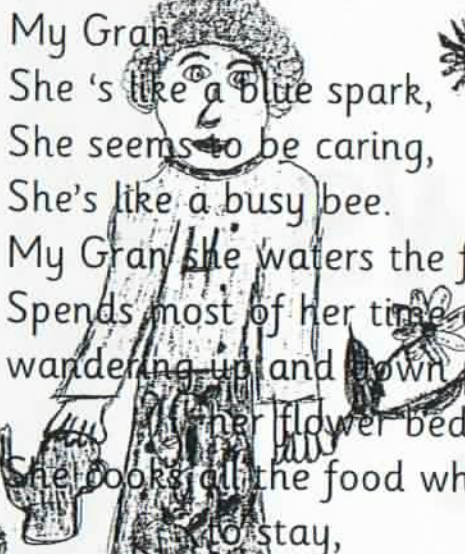
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My Gran



My Gran
She 's like a blue spark,
She seems to be caring,
She's like a busy bee.
My Gran she waters the flowers,
Spends most of her time outside
wandering up and down proud of
her flower beds,
She cooks all the food when we come
to stay,

Her chocolate cakes are scrumptious,
I wish I could have a piece of her cake
everyday.

By Charlotte Harris

SUBMITTED BY MRS JOYCE KENT (GRAN)



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
Julian Gale
25th James Griffin
26th Ray and Mary Sayer WA
27th Jenny Pascoe

Thought of the Month

*The way each new day works out
depends rather a lot on us!*

Naish's Notes

As I write for this month's magazine, I have the news on in the background, which reports that we are moving nearer to war with Iraq.

I find it very sad that 10 years ago (or whichever) I was writing in this magazine asking for help in providing knitted fingerless gloves for the troops in the Gulf. They had been sent out ill-equipped for the weather – it was freezing and they were desperate for gloves.

As usual, readers rallied round and I'm proud to say many pairs were sent.

I hope and pray that should our troops be sent to the Gulf again that they are properly kitted out and return safe and sound.

Safe and Sound

I have a gold cufflink in my possession which was found at the Village Hall, if anyone knows of a gent having lost one – let me know.

Breast Cancer Awareness

Ladies – (and all!!) We shall be holding our Breast Cancer Awareness Walk once again this year – Walking round the "Fun Run" course. Details to follow – prepare to get sponsors.

We will also be holding another Quiz Night – details to follow.

Sheila Naish

St. John the Evangelist, Kenn

Lent Lunches

LENT LUNCHES will be held at John and Celia Andrews' home, Cherry Tree House, Ham Lane, Kingston Seymour each Wednesday from 5 March to 16 April, 12.30 – 2 pm.

All are welcome to drop in for a light lunch at £2 each week, with all proceeds going to Christian Aid.

Anyone who would like to come along but has no transport should contact John Andrews, who will see you get there.

Altar Guild - Rota for February

Volunteers Needed – Can You Help?

Contact Jean Naish 872493!

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Plough Sunday

The Annual Plough Sunday Service was held on 26th January, incorporating the monthly Family Service. There was the largest congregation that has ever attended this service with almost sixty people present.

It was almost like a Harvest Festival, all the hymns sung represented food and farming.

It was very encouraging that it was no trouble to get people from farming backgrounds to do all the readings etc.

Hartley Staples was good enough to go to Tickenham to borrow a suitable horse-drawn type of plough. He also acted as the farmer. There were also a milk churn, and a shepherd's crook on display.

A lady and gent who have recently moved to this area and attend the church in Kenn were so impressed with the type of service used that they asked for copies of the service sheets to send to their friends near their former home in Kent.

Many thanks to all who took part in any way for making it such a success.

Ray Naish

Snippets

Kenn Village Hall

To keep our Hall weatherproof, new windows have been installed at a cost of £2575.00

The committee is currently making plans to improve the Hall kitchen for the benefit of Kennites and their friends.

Celebration – Welcome

Best wishes and welcome to Elijah Roger Booth Stowell, born at 8.28 am on Sunday 26th January to Jody and Quinton Stowell of Maidenhead, brother for Talitha, cousin for Bethany and first grandson for Margaret Ball and the late Roger Stowell.

COFFEE MORNING

A Coffee Morning will be held on Thursday 6th February 10.30 am at Kenn Court in aid of Kenn Village Hall funds. Bring and Buy – Raffle

Come and meet your neighbours and support our Hall.

Offers of help will be appreciated

Ruth Dyer

Kenn News & Views

Correspondence

From The Children's Society

To Mrs Ruth Dyer

Dear Mrs Dyer,

PARISH COLLECTION

Thank you for the recent gift of £100.00 for the work of The Children's Society. We really appreciate the concern shown for children and young people. Please share this letter with all those who have helped in this wonderful effort....

The original letter will be on display at Ruth's Coffee Morning on Thursday 6th February from 10.30 am.

Dates for your Diary

Monday 3rd February 7.30 pm

Kenn Village Hall - Kenn Parish Council Meeting - all welcome

Tuesday 4th February

The Drum and Monkey
Kenn Village Lunch
12.30 onwards
Everyone welcome

Thursday 6th February 10.30 am

COFFEE MORNING at Kenn Court
Everyone welcome - proceeds to Hall Funds - Bring and Buy - Raffle

Monday 10th February - 9.00 pm

The Drum and Monkey

RACE NIGHT

For the Children's Hospice
Tickets £3 from the bar
Include Curry Supper and the chance to be an owner or jockey

Wednesday 13th February 7.30 pm

Kenn W.I. - Kenn Village Hall -
Speaker Mr M. Bell
Subject BIFFA
Competition - Tip for reducing rubbish

Everyone welcome

Wednesday 26th February 2.00 pm

Kenn Village Hall
JUMBLE SALE
Proceeds to Village Christmas Parties
Help and Jumble needed
Contact Margaret Ball

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PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday February 3rd in the Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

Have you had an opportunity to inspect your roof spaces for the dreaded hibernating flies? We were very lucky not to have an infestation last summer and if a quick look in the loft means that you and your neighbours have a fly free summer everyone would be so pleased.

Thank you

Ann Holtham

Kenn Women's Institute

KENN WI 2003:

OUR GOLDEN JUBILEE

December 2002 saw us celebrating the last meeting of the year with an hilariously manic game of Beetle. This event is gradually becoming an annual event. Accompanied by our customary cup of tea we munch mince pies whilst noisily competing to get our beetle drawn first.

It's funny how the old games stand the test of time and still provide a thoroughly enjoyable evening. Let us

hope that future generations will not lose the ability to enjoy homespun entertainment without the need to be stimulated by electronic equipment via television or computers!

This year is our 50th Birthday so why not join us to enjoy the celebrations. We are planning several events to mark the anniversary.

To start the year on the right footing by thinking of our environment, in January Mr Baker enthralled us with his talk about the countryside. He is passionate about the countryside and things rural, and his farm in Wrington is renowned for spreading the word.

He is attached to a company that produces organic cheese, and his hundreds of pigs are fed on the whey of the milk used for the cheese. He is intent on retaining nature's balance by ensuring that domestic and wild creatures are allowed their place and natural habitat.

He underlined the necessity to keep our hedgerows, maintain natural watercourses, and keep our landscape as it is, without too many alterations to 'flatten it'.

We are visiting his farm later in the year, as do many parties. Mr Baker is particularly keen to introduce children to the countryside and he has many young inner-city visitors as school groups. Many of these children have had no contact with pigs, cows, hens or any other farmed animals, and therefore they do not understand them or the need to raise them as humanely and stress-free as possible.

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Mr Baker was another of our speakers who is so enthusiastic about his subject that we all became inspired to try to do something to help.

Let us all keep this in mind for 2003; why not resolve to send at least one letter this year to either Government or Local Authorities when we either see injustice on treatment of the countryside by buildings being allowed to spread into what used to be green belts, loss of village Post Offices, loss of local transport, or any other subject that inspires you.

We do succeed when we complain, you know. We wrote to the County Council regarding the closure of the toilets at Six Ways in Clevedon, and they are now open again; a small plus but nevertheless a plus! So take up your pens (or should I now say your keyboards) and cause a stir.

Let the silent majority become a noisy majority and put the 'Great' back in front of Britain.

We must lose this apathy that I feel many people hold at the present time. I am not a political animal but if we are to make things better each one of us must be prepared to do something about it, and writing a letter or making a telephone call does not take up too much time or effort.

As most of our readers are aware, we hold a monthly competition and January saw pictures and items connected with the countryside; Jean Ings won gold with Margaret Chappell receiving silver and Iris Callow green.

Our monthly competitions usually connect with the 'theme' of our speaker and we present prizes for the

annual winners of the most points gained through the year; this was won by Madeline Crawley with Margaret Chappell receiving second and Ruth Dyer and Jean Ings tying for third.

Last month we also drew our Secret Friends for 2003 (we anonymously send cards/presents to that member for the year and 'reveal' ourselves in the following January).

Our monthly trade table continues to sell local produce and our bookshelf does a good trade in recycling!

We meet at Kenn Village Hall on the second Wednesday in the month at 7.30 p.m.

In February Mr Bell is coming from 'BIFFA' to talk to us about how they deal with our refuse and the competition is 'The best idea on how to reduce refuse' – let us hope some of our ideas will be taken on board!

Why not come along to make new friends, hear very interesting speakers (it keeps the grey cells active!), take the opportunity to participate in events organised by our Federation, many visits at reduced rates to those offered to the general public, and help us to improve our environment by the input of ideas and contacting The Powers That Be.

The W I also hold many sports events as a national organisation, there is the opportunity to ramble, city walk, themed holidays, or go to Denman College near Abingdon to learn something new or improve on an old subject from politics to craft, history to music.

I had three wonderful days there in December learning the rudiments of

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watercolour painting and I must say that it is years since I had such an enjoyable holiday. I made new friends and everybody was so friendly that I felt I had known them for years – the true philosophy of the Women's Institute 'friendship'.

If you would like further information please ring me: ROSEMARIE FORD – 01275-542651.

BIRD NEWS 1

Despite the cold snap early in the month, the number of Fieldfares and Redwings in our area remains modest. Lapwings seem to group into a few very large flocks but a small party of 20 did fly over our house during the freeze.

On the Somerset Peat Moors I was lucky enough to see a Bittern and a Marsh Harrier in half an hour.

I assisted with the duck count there and we saw enormous numbers of Widgeon, Teal and Shoveler, as well as 2 Marsh Harriers and a daytime Barn Owl. Later a Firecrest showed – a real jewel of a bird!

By the 12th, Chew and Blagdon Lakes were largely frozen. Cheddar (Axbridge) Reservoir remained unfrozen and on that day was a mass of birds, probably ten thousand. Amongst them were a rare Red-Necked Grebe and a scarce Black-Necked Grebe.

Several Smew have been reported at Chew, Blagdon and in Somerset and these lovely ducks are classic cold weather migrants from Holland.

Finally, I am glad to report that a Hen Harrier has (at last) arrived at Shapwick Heath and Jill and I were lucky to enjoy wonderful close views on the 18th.

Trevor Riddle

01934 835208

BIRD NEWS 2

The large flocks of birds that arrived in this area during the cold spell in early January seem to have disappeared again. I wonder where they have gone.

Jeff Naish rang me on his mobile one morning recently to say that, as he was checking his sheep on the bank of the 'Little River' behind "North End Farm" Yatton, he disturbed four Cattle Egrets. Later in the morning I drove to Yatton and I saw them again resting near Moor Street Bow. It is only this last couple of years that they have been seen in this area.

Again, when the weather was very cold, I heard flocks of Teal flying over just as it was getting dark. They fly at great speed, they had probably been resting by day on the mud flats at Kingston Seymour and making their way inland to feed by night. Teal are a very small type of duck. They make a high pitched note as they fly.

Spring is on the way. The first Snowdrops appeared on our lawn on 20th January.

Ray Naish

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What's on at the Drum

Tuesday 4th February

The Drum and Monkey
Kenn Village Lunch
12.30 onwards
Everyone welcome

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

Monday 10th February - 9.00 pm

The Drum and Monkey
RACE NIGHT
For the Children's Hospice
Tickets £3 from the bar
Include Curry Supper and the
chance to be an owner or jockey

Kenn Hangings continued

Mary Wall

Last month I wrote about Mary Wall, the widow of William Wall who had been hanged at Kenn for his involvement in setting fire to corn ricks. Mary had been sentenced to transportation for life for making the matches that started the fire.

"The Highderry", the convict ship on which Mary was being transported, was nearing its destination Hobart Tasmania. I wonder what sort of voyage she had, did she have to suffer being tossed about in great storms at sea or perhaps having to put up with being becalmed in very hot weather as

the ship crossed the equator; a situation which sailors dreaded, sometimes this lasted for days, with not enough wind blowing to move the ship.

Imagine the smell down in the holds, which were packed with convicts with little room to move about.

I wonder how long it took to get to Tasmania, perhaps four months.

On arrival at Hobart, Mary with her infant son was sent inland to work in the house of early settlers. I wonder how they treated her.

Many of those early settlers were very ruthless people, spending much of their time shooting the aboriginal native people of Tasmania.

Within a few years these native people had been completely wiped out, as had many of the local species of animals including the Tasmanian Devil, a primitive type of wolf found nowhere else in the world.

After a short live living in Tasmania, Mary's son who had been born while she was in prison in this country, and had survived a bout of pneumonia while on the long journey to their destination, died. Around that time Mary got into trouble with the authorities and had some privileges taken away.

A couple of years later Mary was given permission to remarry. She married another convict who also came from the West Country. His name was James Hawkins. Mary and James had two children, their daughter married an Irishman, within a short time they moved up to Australia where

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they produced a family of fifteen children.. This couple did a lot towards populating Australia when that country was developing.

Back in Kenn Mary's seven children that she had to leave behind, the oldest being only thirteen, were rescued by Mary's father and mother and brought up by them in their home in Moor Lane, Clevedon.. How did these old people manage to bring up such a large family? Probably with Parish Assistance.

Ray Naish

Kenn Social Committee

JUMBLE SALE

KENN VILLAGE HALL

2.00 pm Wednesday
26th 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

People in Kenn in Wartime

I have recently been asked about the numbers of people that were living in Kenn during the War.

I haven't got any exact numbers, but I can remember the people who were living in Kenn Street or Moor Road as it was called at that time.

Moor Road had only fourteen houses, seven each side in those days. Most were absolutely packed with people, many of them had come to Kenn to escape the bombings in the cities.

In those fourteen houses just about one hundred people were managing to exist. Not one house had a bathroom or an inside toilet. Some had only a water tap in the garden.

The two or three that were most overcrowded were "Chapel Cottage", "The Poplars" now "Latcham House" and "White Cottage.

In "Chapel Cottage" were Bill and Winnie Grigg with their four children. Winnie's sister Bessie with her two children and her husband, when he was on leave from the Navy.

Bessie had been bombed out in Bristol. There were only two bedrooms, the four Grigg children slept in the scullery at the back of the cottage.

The toilet was down the bottom of the garden next to the pigsty where Bill kept his pigs.

There were some very colourful people living in "The Poplars". Dick Delaney, his wife and daughter Alice. They had come to Kenn from Wigan. Dick was part Irish.

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The evacuees from London who lived there were Mr & Mrs Bowdrey. (Mr Bowdrey had been badly shell shocked in the first World War) they had four daughters and two sons.

Also squeezed in there were Londoners Mr and Mrs Alf Jones, their son Alfie and daughter Glenys, making fifteen people in all, crammed into four bedrooms.

In "White Cottage, Wally and Lillian Moore, their four children and Lillian's father Charlie Stevens managed to sleep in two bedrooms.

In "Stonehouse Farm" there were fourteen people living at one time. Most houses had evacuees or friends or relatives living with the original families.

Other houses in Kenn that had large numbers of people living in them were "Mill Farm" that had twelve or fourteen residents, including about six Airman billeted there.

"Kenn Court" where five of the Dyer family lived with eight Airman. All these airmen were manning the Decoy Fire out in Kenn Moor.

Jo and Lillian Cox at Kenn Estate had a houseful of ten people

In Kenn Street today there are forty four houses, the difference is that there are still only about one hundred people living there.

Ray Naish

A bird in the hand

George was a retired policeman and he lived with his wife in a small village in Hampshire. He was frequently to be seen pottering around in his garden and he liked to encourage all wildlife. He was interested in the various species of birds around the garden, and counted the different types, which he identified from his R.S.P.B. books.

One morning he noticed a small bird lying, feet uppermost, under his front window. From the book, he knew that it was a blue-tit. It had probably flown into the window and become stunned, but George, knew from a bird-watching friend that this kind of accident was not uncommon, also, if the little creature was kept warm, it could recover. Picking it up, he cradled it in his large hand, then put his hand under his jacket close to his chest. Before long, he felt stirrings, the treatment was working, so he continued with it, still in the garden.

At that moment, a certain Village notable passed by and stopped to speak. The notable was a redoubtable Miss Flint. Ada Flint. Ada had a reputation in the village. She was a stern woman with little sense of humour, and not much in the village escaped her eagle eye. She was a bit of a dragon.

"Morning George", she said, and after a further minute of conversation, she pointed to his arm under the jacket. "And what have you got under there?" she demanded rather brusquely

There was a pause

"A blue-tit" he replied.

Ada was not amused.

Cliff Edwards

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THE PARISH OF YATTON MOOR

1st Sunday 2nd February
THE PRESENTATION OF
CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE
(CANDLEMAS)

08:00 Holy Communion Kenn

08:00 Holy Communion Claverham
09:30 Family Communion Yatton
09:30 Holy Communion Cleeve
11:00 Family Service Kingston
Seymour
18:00 Evensong at Yatton

2nd Sunday 9th February
THE FOURTH SUNDAY
BEFORE LENT

08:00 Holy Communion Yatton
09:30 Parish Communion Yatton
09:30 Holy Communion Claverham
11:00 Family Service Cleeve

11:00 Holy Communion Kenn

18:00 Evensong Kingston Seymour
18:30 Holy Communion Cleeve

3rd Sunday 16th February
THE THIRD SUNDAY
BEFORE LENT
SEPTUAGESIMA

08:00 Holy Communion Claverham
09:30 Parish Communion Yatton
09:30 Holy Communion Cleeve
11:00 Holy Communion Kingston
Seymour
14:30 Holy Baptism at Yatton

18:00 Evensong Kenn

4th Sunday 23rd February
THE SECOND SUNDAY
BEFORE LENT
SEXAGESIMA

08:00 Holy Communion Yatton
08:00 Holy Communion Kingston
Seymour
09:30 Parish Communion Yatton
09:30 Holy Communion Cleeve
10:00 Family Service Claverham

11:00 Family Service Kenn

18:00 Evensong Yatton

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Daily 08:30 Matins at Yatton (except
Holy Days)

Every Wednesday

10:00 Holy Communion Yatton
14:15 Pram Service at Yatton (in
school term time)

1st Wednesday in month

11:00 Holy Communion at Kingston
Seymour

3rd Wednesday in month

19th February
11:00 Holy Communion at Kenn

4th Wednesday in month

11:00 Holy Communion at Claverham

Every Thursday

09:30 Holy Communion at Cleeve
19:30 Holy Communion at Yatton