NEWS & VIEWS



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BIRTHDAYS -JANUARY

8th Cliff Edwards 11th George Noad 13th Abigail Smith 14th Rebecca Brain 16th Fred Fenwick 30th Mike Smith

Message from Ed and Typist

Thank you for our gifts, given to us at the Christmas Tea Party – Much appreciated.

We wish all our readers a very Happy, Peaceful New Year.

Thoughts of the Month

Give thanks for all you have! Somebody, somewhere is not as lucky as you!

NAISH'S NOTES

Breast Cancer Awareness

The Christmas Disco Party went very well. The costumes for fancy dress were brilliant. We had a really fun time. Thanks to the Kenn Valley Team for the bar and disco.

Numbers Quiz — Jean Woods has her 'mind blowing' Quiz Sheets available at £1 each. Guaranteed to get you thinking!

Many thanks to Jean for her hard work. Again all proceeds to the cause.

It's January - and what must we do?

F ind the flies!
L ook in the loft!
I nspect the outhouse!
E xamine the barn!
S uck 'em up in the vacuum!

And the prize for finding them? -A 'plague-free' summer

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST, KENN

St. John's Altar Guild January Rota

Mrs M. Willcox and Mrs. J. Staples

Many thanks to all the ladies who arranged flowers at Kenn Church over the Christmas Festival.

The Church looked really lovely.

Thank you for all your hard work.

Jean Naish

Service of Carols & Lessons at Kenn

The Annual Carol Service was held on December 16th. The Church was packed with around 100 people. There was the largest choir anyone can remember of 21 people of all ages ranging from 10 years to over 90.

There were a record number of readers, 15. Some reading in groups of family and friends.

The Chalice Handbell Ringers rang before the Service giving it a very festive start.

People who decorated or who helped in any way to make this service such a success were thanked by the Revd. Avril Gaunt who conducted the service.

The Christmas Barbecue

Very many thanks to Simon and Jenny Pascoe and their helpers who once again provided a wonderful Christmas Supper in the Village Hall after the Carol Service. Around seventy people were treated to a feast of gigantic proportions. It was greatly appreciated by all who took part including many families with young children.

R.V.N.

Church Services at Kenn and Kingston Seymour for January

- 6th 8 a.m. Holy Communion Kenn 11 a.m. Family Service Kingston
- 13th 11 a.m. Holy Communion Kenn 6 p.m. Evensong Kingston
- 20th 11 a.m. Holy Communion Kingston 6 p.m. Evensong Kenn
- 27th 8 a.m. Holy Communion Kingston 11 a.m. Family Service Kenn

The 11 a.m. Family Service on Sunday 27th January includes the

Annual Plough Service when all families are invited to attend. Members of the local farming community will be invited to take part in this very popular service.

Crib Service 24/12/01

As we drove to Church on a bitter Saturday afternoon for the first (and possibly only) Crib Service Rehearsal those same old questions settled about us:

Will any one turn up? Will the costumes fit? Will the church be warm?

Answers: (in reverse order)

Yes - Thanks to Ray's forethought Yes - Perfectly Yes - Lots

We could honestly say it was the most trouble-free practice we could remember. So it was that, hoping the saying "Bad dress rehearsal – good performance" didn't work in reverse, we sallied forth on Christmas Eve with high hopes.

Thanks to "Mary the Music" the carols were great. Thanks to Vicar Chris the prayers put us in the right frame of mind. Thanks to the Mums and Dads the costumes were fab. Most of all, thanks to the children the wondrous Nativity Story was told once more with dignity and humour.

As we left the church we thought, as always "Christmas had really started".

Julia Bush and Heather Noad

p.s. Mums, as it was such fun – see you next year?

Village Luncheon - Drum & Monkey

12.30 p.m. Tuesday 8th January -Everyone welcome - come and greet the New Year with friends and neighbours.

KENN NEWS-Snippets

Presentation

On December 5th at The Christmas Tea Party we were pleased to say a warm thank you to Margaret Ball and to Sheila Naish for producing News and Views every month. They were presented with gift vouchers.

Welcome

We were pleased to fly our flag to welcome Amira Grace daughter of Rebecca and Abel of Laurel Cottage, Kenn.

Our Christmas Tree

December 14th. Despite the cold a nice number of Kennites and Friends gathered on The Green to see Irene Stowell switch on the Christmas Tree Lights.

Carol singing was followed by mince pies given by Mike of the Drum and Monkey and a warm punch given by Marianna and Robin Mackay which were enjoyed with our sincere thanks.

Young Kennites who collected for the Children's Society were Amy Boyle, Jack, Rosie and Jenny Treble and Eloise Gale raising a donation of £66. The tree is paid for by Kenn Parish Council and put into position and decorated with the help of John Ball, Rob Treble and Hartley Staples. This year Andrew, who was visiting at the time, assisted Hartley.

Kenn 2001

Another year draws to a close as we celebrate Christmas 2001 and look forward, with hope, to 2002. This year has been an extremely difficult time for farmers and country folk with Foot and Mouth disease and all its endless problems.

However, it is good to think of all the many blessings we have received living at Kenn and it is only right to say thank you to all those who have given that little bit extra during the year.

We say thank you to all the ladies, who week by week clean our Church, polish the brass and arrange fresh flowers and to the senior citizens who always open up for early services. Not forgetting those who mow the churchyard grass.

We express our gratitude to the clergy who take our services and to our organist who plays for our services.

Volunteers maintain our village hall, which is there for the use and enjoyment of Kennites and Friends.

(typist's note - thanks to Sam, Ruth and Irene for their sterling efforts over the years).

Thanks to all those who decorated the Hall so beautifully for the Christmas Parties.

We are especially pleased that the floor has been sanded and treated and now looks as good as new. It dates from 1920 when our Hall, a new Army Hut from the First World War was erected. The cost of the floor treatment was £1,700.00.

Thank you to all those who arrange various events where we can meet our neighbours.

We are indeed lucky to still have our Post Office, but for how long? It is up to every family to use it or lose it. Remember, the owners don't really close Post Offices and Village Shops; it is local residents who do.

We are always welcomed at our local pub and the monthly Kenn lunches have been much enjoyed.

We are indeed blest for all those kind folk who visit older members of the community, drive neighbours to the doctors and hospital and visit Kennites in Nursing Homes.

To those who plant up the pots on The Green, who fly our flag, for both happy and unhappy events, who brush up The Church Path and the Bus Shelter and pick up rubbish that other folk drop to keep Kenn Tidy – Thank you all!

The Women's Institute meets every month, has extremely varied talks and concerns itself with National Problems.

This year letters have been written to our M.P. to DEFRA and Tony Blair concerning the refusal to arrange a Public Enquiry regarding Foot and Mouth Disease and all its problems.

The reply received from DEFRA was unsigned!!!

Non-members are always welcomed at the monthly Women's Institute Meetings.

Our Parish Council does its best to look after Kenn's interests.

With the Railway Bridge closed at Yatton for replacement, we are indeed indebted to Clive the Yatton Newsagent, and Liz from the Post Office, for delivering our papers each morning.

Finally, a very big thank you to those who each month write, print and distribute our News and Views whatever the weather.

Ruth Dyer

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 8th January - 12.30 pm at The Drum and Monkey, Kenn -Village Luncheon - Everyone welcome.

Wednesday 9th January - 7.30 pm Kenn Women's Institute meet at Kenn Village Hall – Speaker – Mrs Rawlings on "A Children's Home in Wartime" Competition – "War Time Moments" Non-members are always welcome.

12th/13th January – Please complete the FLY PROBLEM survey form and by 19th January – Return survey form to Post Office

Kenn Women's Institute

On Wednesday 28th November we had a most enjoyable evening with Mrs Weeks demonstrating Christmas flower arrangements. She used red roses, red carnations, and a little 'greenery' to decorate a black vase in the Continental style using a lot of flowers, and white roses, white carnations, holly, ivy, and eucalyptus looked beautiful being offset by silver candelabra. Holly, ivy, and pine foliage with silk poinsettias arranged on a 'spade' (a flat base with a handle to hang it up) made a nice alternative to the wreath for a front door, whilst apricot and white chrysanthemums from her own greenhouse with orange euphorbia and accompanying foliage looked superb in a basket for the hearth.

Finally, four cream candles offset a display of red carnations, holly and ivy, with a little glittering foliage, which looked lovely when the candles were lit for the Christmas table. Congratulations to Margaret Ball for winning the basket! - this was not a bribe for having to chase me for my copy this month!!!

Our meeting on the 12th December took the form of a Beetle Drive.

Rosemarie Ford 01275-877243

Our next Meeting will be on Wednesday 9th January - 7.30 pm at Kenn Village Hall

Speaker – Mrs Rawlings on "A Children's Home in Wartime" Competition – "War Time Moments" Non-members are always welcome.

Thanks

I would like to thank Mr. Ray Naish for finding someone to take me to the Kenn party. Thank you to Mr. Holmes for taking me and bringing me back. Also I would like to thank all of the helpers for making it such an enjoyable afternoon.

Win Cole.

Thanks - The Pensioners Party:

I know that I am speaking on behalf of all the pensioners who were privileged to be at the village pensioners party.

I say privileged, because we all have some connection or other with the village of Kenn. Kenn is a very special kind of village, with some very special kinds of people. It was some of these very special kinds of people, who gave up their time, and put in the effort to organise the party, to entertain us, and give us all a sweet present.

We really do appreciate it, and we thank you all very sincerely.

God Bless.

Cliff Edwards

Thanks

Thank you to all who popped their spare change into the collecting box at Kenn Post Office – £7.66 was raised which will go towards next year's Christmas Parties. Many thanks also to those who have made donations.

The helpers at the Christmas Tea Party would like to thank all the guests who came – thank you for smiling, for chatting and for singing – We feel that this party 'starts' Christmas for us.

Thanks also to Father Christmas for taking the time to visit the Children's Party on Friday 21st December – the 30 plus children present had a wonderful afternoon.

Bird News I

We are halfway through December as I write and it has been one of the driest and colder winter periods for some time. Cold weather in Scandinavia and across mainland Europe has caused the arrival of good numbers of wintering birds in the UK.

Locally there seem to be largish flocks of Fieldfares and Redwings on Kenn Moor as well as 20 Meadow Pipits. On Black Ditch 3 Little Grebes were in the company of a dozen Teal.

The railway walk at Yatton has reasonable numbers of small birds and lots of Redwings and Fieldfares also. I flushed a Jacksnipe from the side of a ditch, along with a common Snipe which aided identification.

I have only seen small parties of Lapwings, but on the Somerset peat levels a flock of a thousand was being harassed (but not successfully predated) by two Peregrine Falcons. Here too, on a sunny and calm day, a Bittern "boomed" – about two months early! The noise is made from an air sac in the throat and sounds like the noise made by blowing over the top of a bottle. It is much louder of course and I heard it at about 600 yards range.

The 3 Short Eared Owls at Uphill are still present and there are apparently several others down the coast. I do not think it has been a very good Vole year here so probably a lack of food and/or bad weather further north will have caused this influx.

A lot of management work has been undertaken at Uphill, with a new large salt marsh, sea banks with long natural grass and some stubble fields. The results have been amazing, with lots of finches and Skylarks as well as Merlin, a male Hen Harrier and yesterday even a Red Kite over. There is a nice path/cycleway accessed from Uphill boatyard at the south end of Westonsuper-Mare with great views across to Brean Down. It really is worth a visit.

Trevor Riddle 01934 835208

Bird News II

There was increased bird activity during the cold frosty weather in December. Several large flocks of finches of various sorts were noticed in the area. Several people have spotted a Barn Owl flying along the roadside at Nailsea Wall. A flock of Lapwings or Peewits were seen feeding in the field behind the Church. They came back several days running.

I witnessed a thing I had never seen before one morning recently. I was taking my dogs for a walk in the orchard behind "Stonehouse Farm" when a flock of about 50 Starlings flew up between the apple trees at great speed being pursued by a Sparrow Hawk who was gaining on them. As if they had a prearranged plan they flew into a dense elder bush with one great swoop and froze still. The Hawk could do nothing but fly over the top of the bush. After a few minutes when the Hawk had gone, the starlings flew out at their leisure and quietly flew away unharmed.

Ray Naish

What's on at the Drum?

Village Lunch 12.30 pm Tuesday 8th January

> Every Wednesday Night is Quiz Night

> > ************

Mike, Graham, Kelly and Karen and the team at The Drum & Monkey extend a warm and

Very Happy New Year
to All Villagers & Customers
old and new
and
Thank You for your support in
2001-

Typist's Note

Mike has decided that as a Gesture of Thanks to the Village for their support at the February Village Lunch the Main Course will be Complimentary

(more details next mag.)

FLY PROBLEMS

Inside this magazine is a survey form which the Parish Council would like every householder to complete over the weekend of 12/13th January and return to the Post Office by 19th January so that an overview of the problem can be gained.

If you are able to get into your roof space and feel safe doing so, please have a look around and see it there are any flies hibernating in nooks and crannies and in clusters hanging from the rafters. If possible please hoover them up and throw the bag into the dustbin. If you can see flies but are unable to deal with them please say so on the form. The loft my be insulated in which case remove as many surface flies as possible and hang up Vapona strips.

North Somerset are willing to help those who cannot get into their loft for any reason at a charge of £20 per house. If you would like this service please say so on the survey form.

It may be that there is no access to the roof space of your property in which case we should like to know. Any information that you can put on the form will be helpful.

Thank you all for your co-operation.

The Parish Council hopes that
everyone will play their part whether
they are troubled with flies or not in
order to cure the misery that those who
are affected have had to endure.

From the past

I was talking recently to Sam Staples of "Riverside farm". He told me an interesting story about wartime and just after.

When Italian prisoners of war were camped at Yatton during the last War they were sent to work each day on farms and to various other jobs in the area. This included working for Somerset Rivers Catchment Board cleaning out rivers in this area. Some of this was on the old River Kenn. Sam told me that when they were

working on the river behind his house and further up the river, some of the prisoners got on with the work they were supposed to do, but others spent their day digging rabbits out of their holes in the river bank to take back to the camp for food. At that time meat was in short supply and I doubt if prisoners of war were allowed any meat in their rations at that time.

When the prisoners of war were allowed to go home about 1945, prisoners from Horfield Prison were sent out each day to carry on with the river work. Sam told me that when they were working near his farm, some of them found out that he had cider in his sheds. They got in and helped themselves. When the Warders came to round them up in the afternoon some were missing. They were later found asleep under a tree, blind drunk. Sam said the trouble was they were not used to drinking cider.

Ray Naish

Moorgate House part 2.....

Why was the property and business for sale in January 1930?

The background appears to be as follows: I am indebted to Brian Stowell for some help here.

Apparently while the property was owned by Mr and Mrs Stowell, of their four sons in the business James "Jim" was the driving force and indeed the owner, which explains much, which had not been clear to me.

We now go back some years to the Great War. Brian suggests that only two brothers served. However the Commemoration Board in our Church Porch records 1914 A. Stowell, I assume Alfred or Fred.

1915 J. Stowell, J. for John or Jack as he was known.

1916 J. Stowell, J. for James of Jim. As he was the younger of the brothers and would be enrolled later.

Thankfully all Stowell lads return safely to Kenn and would by now be thinking about their futures.

About 1920 the one brother who for some reason had not gone to war, Hugh, called Boy, marries a Miss Marshall and they purchase "Portbury House" Kenn which their grandson Michael still farms.

Fred is not in good health and plays little part in the work at Moorgates.

Jack decides he will emigrate to the United States of America and lives for a while in Michigan. However he returns to Kenn in 1923 and marries local girl Irene Hazell. They buy land in Kenn Street and build "Newhouse Farm" in 1924. (now Chaseside)

Mr Stowell senior had met with an accident, which led to his death, leaving his wife Kate a widow.

We may wonder if Jim, the owner of the enterprise, may have been discouraged by all these changes. In any case by the late twenties he had decided to follow some other Kenn lads, and emigrate to Canada. Very shortly after, his widowed mother joins him in Canada, never to revisit Kenn or her family here!

So that is how Moorgates comes to be for sale in 1930.

At The Grand Hotel, Broad Street, Bristol on the afternoon of January the 30th 1930, the bidding did not reach the reserve. So Moorgates and its considerable equipment was withdrawn, unsold.

Now on to the scene steps Ernest Baker of Nailsea. His wife Annie is a daughter of the Stowell's. That is Ern Baker is son-in-law to Kate. Ern and Annie buy Moorgates lock, stock and barrel. However they do not continue the business, which may indeed by now have ceased trading.

They let the house as a residence and use the slaughterhouse and mill premises for milling corn. The milling business continued until the late 1940's mostly under the supervision of Ern's son Joe Baker.

Meanwhile, early 1930's parts of the premises are let to The Kingston Seymour Brewery Company. They leave after a few years to be followed by Mr. Wainwright who runs a Pickling Factory. Another enterprise that does not last very long.

Around the 1930's one Clifton Acke who lived at Walnut Tree Farm on the Yatton road rents the pigsties.

In 1942, the house, land, cowsheds and loose boxes were let to Mr and Mrs Sidney Cox who farmed what can be best described as a small holding. Their daughter Irene Stowell, who married Boy Stowell's son Hugh Marshall (known as John), and is mother to Michael, recalls that the three uses of the property i.e. the Bakers milling, her parents farming and Clifton Acke running the piggery continued though the Second World War years and beyond until her family left in 1950 whereupon Ern Baker sold

the house, land and premises to a Mr. Jim Withers.

More next month.

An interesting little side story is that Clifton Acke employed to look after the piggery, a man named WILLIAM HAND who had no fixed above.

He lived rough in the village. Sleeping in a haymow or cow shed with its piled hay and warmth of the tied up cattle, was just about the only place he could have survived on a cold winter's night.

John Griffin

Sheila hopes you will enjoy the following -

Wartime Recipes from the Home Front

A Nostalgic Perspective by Mark Spurlock

Few people reading this will have a first-hand experience of food rationing in the UK during wartime. At the tender age of 40, my experience of rationing is all second-hand, gathered as a boy from many evenings sat around the Rayburn stove in my great-grandmother's kitchen. There I would listen to her tales of the skilful use of limited resource to prepare family meals during the Second World War, with advice dished out by the Ministry of Food, Lord Woolton, Potato Pete and Dr Carrot, and employing the likes of dried eggs and mock bananas (parsnips)

Such conversations sparked a later interest in both nutrition during wartime and the varied recipes that abounded. I am now a collector of wartime cookery books and, to the frustration and despair of my wife, I often try out specific recipes, some of which are particularly good, and others that are best left only in print!

My objective in writing this short article is to (in a rather tongue-in-cheek fashion) offer up a few recipes from selected wartime cookery books, as well as detailing the construction and use of a haybox. The latter is an early precursor to the slow cooker of today but acting through insulation only, is far more economical.

For those of us youngsters unable to recall rationing, it's interesting to reflect what the housewife had at her disposal to feed the family during this period. The following is a list of the weekly ration for an adult:

 Bacon / Ham
 4oz (100g)

 Butter
 2oz (50g)

 Cheese
 2 - 8oz (50 - 200g)

 (depending on availability)
 4oz (100g)

 Margarine
 4oz (100g)

 Cooking fat
 2 - 4oz (50 - 100g)

(depending on availability)
Milk 2 - 3 pints
(1.7 litres) (depending on availability;
skimmed milk was more common in urban

areas)

 Sugar
 80z (200g)

 Jam
 1lb (450g)

 every 2 months

 Eggs
 1 egg per week;

 dried eggs:
 1 packet

 (40z) every 4 weeks

Sweets (40z) every 4 week 12oz (300g) every 4 weeks

A points system also operated in the ration book; these could be "spent" on goods available at that time, e.g. fish or dried fruit.

You took your ration book along to a retailer with whom you were registered to get your weekly allowances. Registering with a local retailer was a requirement that arose from problems with sugar stockpiling by individuals during the First World War. It is often forgotten that rationing operated during WWI. Sugar was then restricted to about 21b (1kg) per household per week, although some individuals abused the basic system and amassed large stocks of sugar, to the detriment of others. Many examples of ration books from WWII are still easily found; those from WWI are less common.

So, to the thrifty and inventive cookery that abounded during this period. For the more adventurous, and those with a Blue Peter award, I have included here the details for constructing and using a haybox. This information was originally published in 1940 in "Hard Times Cookery", a wartime cookery guide issued by the Association of Teachers of Domestic Subjects. The haybox was seen as a great way to conserve energy, plus allow for meals to continue cooking through air raids. As the box operates on the principle of insulation, no energy (aside from the initial heating up of the ingredients) is required.

CONSTRUCTION OF A HAYBOX

Choose a strong wooden box with a hinged lid, which fastens. Line the box and lid with several layers of newspaper or brown paper, and then with thick flannel, such as an old blanket. Fasten down firmly with tacks. Pack tightly with clean, dry hay, leaving one or more nests to hold saucepans. Make a cushion of hay encased in flannel to put on the top. If hay is unobtainable, crumpled newspaper packed tightly may be used as a substitute.

Method of Using for Soups, Stews and Boiled Meat

Prepare the food in the usual way, bring to the boil and cook from 10 to 30 minutes. Remove the pan from the fire, being careful that there are no live sparks on the outside [unlikely in today's modern home!]. Quickly wrap it in a piece of flannel, put it into the hay box immediately, pack it well down in the hay, cover with the cushion and fasten the lid. As flannel and hay are bad conductors of heat the food will go on cooking in the box.

Time required

Food that is normally cooked in 2 to 3 hours will need 5 to 6 hours in the haybox.

At the time of writing Mike Beardshaw of the Drum and Monkey is in Weston Hospital,

We send him our best wishes for a speedy recovery.



Date: Friday, 21 December 2001

YATTON STATION RAIL BRIDGE REPLACEMENT

Good progress has been made to date by Railtrack's contractor to replace the bridge. All the mini piles for the new foundations have been placed together with the pile caps. All public utilities' apparatus has been diverted off the old bridge with the exception of BT, whose equipment will be moved early in the New Year. Work on Railtrack's site is now suspended for the Christmas period. Work will start again in the New Year with the removal of the old bridge parapets and deck surface, followed by the demolition of the structure itself. Once the old bridge is gone the new beams will be craned in and the new deck cast. The traffic management measures required for these remaining works are described below;

The bridge will close at 8 p.m. on Saturday Jan 5th 2002 and will remained closed until 25th February 2002. The 3 Tonne structural weight restriction and the temporary width restriction will be removed once the bridge is reopened but the 7.5 Tonne environmental weight restriction through Yatton will remain. The opportunity is being taken to construct the new mini roundabout associated with the development at Northend while the bridge is closed to avoid further disruption to Yatton at a later date.

During the first 4 weeks of the bridge closure Claverham Drove will be closed to all traffic. This is to allow Entrapose to repair the damage caused during the gas pipeline works. Once this has been completed Claverham Drove will reopen but just to one way traffic, east to west, until the bridge is completed on the 25 February.

Diverted traffic should use the M5 and the A370.

Highway maintenance work to reconstruct and resurface the High St. Yatton have been planned to start on 7th January 2002. These works have again been planned to co-inside with the bridge works to avoid further disruption to Yatton at a later date. There will be localised road closures from Tuesday 21st January 2002, for approximately 3 weeks, to enable this work to be completed safely.

North Somerset Council would like to thank the residents of Yatton, together with the travelling public, for putting up with the inconvenience caused by theses necessary works to date and in advance for the works in the New Year. We wish you all a Merry Christmas.

Should you have any questions about these works please contact Highway Services on 01275 882001.