

NEWS & VIEWS

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Editor Sheila NAISH
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Issue No 177

May 2003

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NEWS

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NEWS

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KENN NEWS & VIEWS

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

May

1st Hartley Staples
Lynne & Steve Bye WA
4th Nigel Middleton
8th Mike Stowell
Tina & Nigel Middleton WA
10th Jill Butland
Jayne Morris
11th Tina Middleton
15th Samuel Leiper
20th Harrison Flower
22nd Duncan Mackay
26th Brian Stowell
Jane Staples
Colin Webb
28th Sally White
29th Milly Stowell
Trina Willoughby
Samuel Rogers
30th Joanna Brain

Thought of the month

Fortune comes to those who smile!

Naish's Notes

The Walk for Life will be held on Sunday 8th June, whereby we???? (you, us!) will stroll, amble, walk or run around the Fun Run Course, hopefully earning money for Breast Cancer Research as we go.

We will have a "Barbie" afterwards, and there will be various stall.

If you have anything to donate, please let me or Heather Jenkins know.

Books, Cakes, Plants, Bric-a-Brac all welcome.

There will be a raffle and prizes are needed for that.

Please get yourselves sponsored, bring the dog, the kids, the mum-in-law, even your lunch guests.

We will walk at 3.00 pm.

Be there !!

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST KENN

Thank You all round

Thank you to everyone who supported the Simnel Cake Bake on Easter Sunday.

I have been able to send Mr. Emmanuel Blay £70. This should be enough to cover this term's school fees for his three youngest children.

Thank you to all the Smartie Eaters of Kenn, to date 23/4 we have raised £408. towards the "Newroom and Loooom"

I think there may be a few tubes still out there, could you drop them in at Ray and Jean's house please.

WOW this is fantastic!
Thank you all Smartie Munchers –
What Next!

Christian Aid Week 2003

This year Christian Aid Week is from 11-17th May. As usual I'm on the look out for folk to collect door to door. Last year I had lots of help, if you think you could chip in again, or have a go for the first time ring me.
Julia Bush 01275 873554

Kenn Altar Guild

May Rota

Mrs Renee Bell and
Mrs Jan Bedford

Church News

Geoff Marchant has presented the church with a new bell rope in memory of the Late Queen Mother. It has a red, white and blue sally. Many thanks to Geoff for the interest and help he gives to Kenn Church.

Church Census

Julia Bush and I have completed a five week census of the congregation at the church. This had to be undertaken by all Churchwardens in the Bath and Wells Diocese.

Ours revealed some alarming facts. 81% of the regular congregation i.e. those who attend church at least once per month, are retired people. As readers can see this only leaves 19% of wage or salaried earners attending. As the average attendance on a Sunday is about thirty people it can be seen that very few of the younger generation are attending services.

What are the prospects of the Church in Kenn remaining viable if this trend continues?

Easter tide

Many thanks to all who decorated the church for Easter. As usual it looked wonderful. The Easter Morning Service attracted a large congregation. It was encouraging to see so many children and young people there.

Ray Naish

Just a thought

Truth is as clear as a bell
But how often is it tolled?

Yatton Moor Annual Parochial Church Meeting April 13th

The A.G.M. OF The Parish of Yatton Moor was held at Kingston on Palm Sunday. At that meeting Renee Bell retired from the Parochial Church Council after twenty five years continuous service, eighteen of those years were spent as Churchwarden of Kenn.

During those years Renee oversaw a tremendous amount of change including the formation of Yatton Moor Parish. Also during that time much improvement was undertaken of the Church here in Kenn, including a new floor and a new roof.

I am sure many people would like to join with me in wishing Renee a Happy Retirement and good health in the future. It is doubtful if, in this modern age, anyone else will put in such a wonderful length of service to the church.

Many thanks,

Ray Naish

TYPIST'S NOTE

June News & Views

Absolutely the latest date for copy

9.00 a.m.

Tuesday 27th May 2003

'cos the Typist needs a break!!

KENN NEWS & VIEWS

Friends of Kenn Church Annual General Meeting

7.30 pm Thursday 22nd May 2003
at St. John the Evangelist, Kenn

**All Parishioners and Friends are
invited to attend this meeting**

A G E N D A

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of Annual General Meeting 9th May 2002
3. Matters arising
4. Finance
5. Election of Committee
6. Future Events:

THANKS

Pam Stuckey would like to thank all her friends and relations for their cards and gifts and for making her 80th Birthday so enjoyable.

Thank you once again

Evening Walk

An evening walk has been arranged for Monday 12th May, meeting at "Cloverlea" for a move off at seven p.m.

This walk will be led by Norman Harris of Kingston. He proposes to take people down to the mouth of the River Yeo where the old Clevedon/Portishead Railway formerly crossed the river.

All are welcome to join in.

Ray Naish

The Windmill

Many people in Kenn were astonished and saddened when they learned that the ancient Windmill at "Mill Farm" had been demolished. In a few hours a man with a machine tore down part of the heritage of this village that had stood for perhaps hundreds of years. Many people have said it was vandalism on a grand scale. If high spirited young people had done something like that there would have been an outcry.

That Windmill was famous all over the country. It was featured not too long ago in a National Magazine.

When I was chairman of Kenn Parish Council, the Clerk and I were approached by the developers of the site asking us if we agreed to them naming the new road that passed by the Mill "Windmill Road". We readily agreed as being most appropriate. Will the road now have to be renamed as it no longer applies?

Ray Naish

What's on at The Drum

**Every Wednesday - The Drum Quiz
& Raffle**

Come early to get a seat

**Tuesday 6th May - Village Lunch
from 12.30 p.m.**

Everyone welcome !!

KENN NEWS & VIEWS

SNIPPETS

Bereavements

Jack Hanson – Good Friday – 18th April

We were sorry to learn that Jack Hanson had passed away in Clevedon Hospital after a long illness.

Jack was always ready to help in the village. He kept the bus shelter tidy, swept the Church Path, helped in Church and was always on the door at Jumble Sales. Jack was very blest with kind neighbours and friends. We shall miss him. His funeral took place on April 29th in Kenn Church. Our flag was flown at half-mast.

Mr. Hathway

We were sorry to hear of the passing of Mr. Hathway in his ninety third year. He was Jean Ings' father to whom we extend our sincere sympathy. Many years ago, when regulations required the interior of the Village Hall be painted with fire retardant Mr. Hathway spent a long time helping John Ings to carry out this work. The Hall Committee have not forgotten his help.

Ruth Dyer.

Celebrations

April 21st - We flew our flag to celebrate the seventy seventh birthday of Her Majesty our Queen.

April 23rd - We flew our St. George's Flag to celebrate our patron saint's day.

Best Kept Village Competition

Once again Kenn is entered in this Competition and Kennites living on Kenn Road have declared war on rubbish on grass verges.

From Treetops to Wendover Mike and Iris Callow will tidy up.

Heather Saxby will look after the verge from Treetops to Kenn Estate.

Valerie Cox opposite Kenn Estate.

The Noad family from Russ Lane to Kenn Court buildings.

Kenn Court buildings to Bush Shelter, Ruth Dyer.

Pots on Green, Hazel Hansford.

Green, Robin and Marianna Mackay.

Bus Stop to Drum – Hartley and Jane Staples

Pub Lay by to Post Office, Mike Beardshaw and friends, Geoff and Liz Noyes.

Lay by by M5 bridge John and Marlene Arney.

Base of M5 bridge to top, Irene Stowell.

More volunteers would be most welcome to – KEEP KENN TIDY.

We do not appreciate rubbish thrown from cars and lorries.

Should a £5 note be picked up it will be 'finders keepers'

To volunteer 'phone Ruth Dyer
872676

KENN NEWS & VIEWS

Dates for your Diary

Kenn Village Hall

Thursday 1st May -

ELECTION DAY

Clevedon Salerooms

Thursday 1st May 10.00 am - first of their fortnightly sales at their new venue.

At The Drum and Monkey

Tuesday 6th May - Village Lunch

from 12.30 p.m. -

Everyone welcome !!

Cloverlea, Kenn Street

Monday 12th 7.00 pm - Meet for a walk with Ray Naish and Norman Harris.

Kenn Village Hall

Wednesday 14th May 7.30 p.m.

Kenn Women's Institute

100 Years of Bristol Operatic

Society - Speaker - Mr. Lamb

Competition - A Fan

Non-members always welcome.

Wednesday 21st May 7.00 pm.

W.I. JUMBLE SALE

At St. John the Evangelist

Thursday 22nd May - Annual

General Meeting of The Friends of

Kenn Church at 7.30 p.m. - Everyone

welcome !!

At Kenn Village Hall

Wednesday 21st May 7.00 p.m.

Kenn W.I. Jumble Sale.

Advance Diary Dates

Sunday 6th June - Walk for Life - in aid of Breast Cancer Research

Sunday 22nd June - Cream Teas at Rhodyate - in aid of Kabwe Appeal

JACK HANSON

Jack has passed away in Clevedon Hospital after several months of illness ages 74 years.

Jack was one of the best known people in Kenn. He had lived in the Village since he was a teenager. He was brought up on a farm, near Sowerby-Bridge in Yorkshire and he never lost his accent.

Being a delicate lad, his mother and father made the very big decision to sell their farm and move to this district for the sake of Jack's health. They moved to "Clanna Farm" in Lower Strode Road, Clevedon, to live with relatives Mr and Mrs Ted Davis. Mr Hanson and Jack soon got jobs with Miss Ackerman-Jones at "Treble House Farm", Kingston Seymour, a little later they moved into part of the farmhouse there.

After a few years they bought "Woodbine Cottage" in Kenn and moved there. Jack got a job with farmer Clifton Ake at nearby "Walnut Tree Farm". One of Jack's jobs was to take churns of drinking water to Kenn Estate twice a week, as the well there had been condemned.

When the Akes left he got a job with Mr. Withers at "Moorgates", Kenn Street looking after the farm.

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When that property was sold, Jack took a job with Somerset Rivers Catchment Board doing River and Sea Wall maintenance. He also worked for a short time at "Brick House Farm" Yatton doing a milk round for the Burdge family. His last job was at Cam Gears engineering factory in Clevedon.

About fifteen years ago Jack bought the bungalow at the top of Kenn Street and moved there, he often said that it was the best thing he ever did as he was now in the community.

Jack was a very faithful member of Kenn Church, very seldom missing a Service. On a Family Service Sunday he was often waiting for me to unlock the church at 10.15. He then went to the Belfry and got all the tables out and the china, fixed up the water heater ready for coffee after the Service. He would then give out a few service books before going next door to fetch his neighbour and friend Mrs Sally Whitehead. When he got back in the church he returned to giving out books and greeting people as they arrived. He then got the collection bags out. He really liked taking the collection himself but he sometimes got others to help. When everyone was gone home Jack good the Hoover out to tidy up the Church. In the week he would often spend an hour tidying the Church Path. People like Jack are almost irreplaceable.

When there was no service at Kenn Jack came with me to Kingston Church. He enjoyed that and was very popular in his quiet way with members of the congregation there.

Jack was a friend to everyone he knew. He would do anything for anybody. He was of nature's

gentlemen. If there were more people like Jack around what a better place the world would be.

Many of Jack's neighbours had been very kind to him since he moved to Kenn and helped him in any way they could. He greatly appreciated this and had a good word for everyone.

Jack was a bachelor and had very few relatives. A small number came down from the north to be at his funeral. Fortunately a large number of local people attended his funeral at Kenn Church. It was a wonderful service of thanksgiving for his life. Jack would have, and we did, enjoy it.

His great friend Mrs. Sally Whitehead had a flower arrangement made and placed in his seat for the service.

His many friends in this district have lost a very special member of the local community.

Jack's ashes after cremation are to be interred in his mother and father's grave in Clevedon Cemetery.

Ray Naish

Virtues you learn at your mother's
knee;

Vices, at some other joint

GET WELL SOON

We send love and best wishes for a speedy recovery to Barbara Russell and Jean Naish, both of whom are in hospital at the time of going to press.

Margaret

Kenn Women's Institute

Jumble Sale

7.00pm Wednesday 21st May

A Jumble Sale for W.I. Funds will be held in The Hall on Wednesday May 21st 7.00 pm.

Many stalls – plants, books, toys, bric-a-brac, jumble

Goods to Hall 10 – 11 am.

Parish Council Notes

The members of the Parish Council retire this year and from the 1st May there will be a new Parish Council.

Two members are not seeking re-election. Mrs. Ruth Dyer and Mr. Cliff Edwards have decided to call it a day. Their contributions to meetings will be sorely missed.

It will also bring to an end an era of service to the community by first Mr.

Dyer, followed by Ruth, of more than 50 years. We are very grateful to them both for all that they have done for us all. Happily one of the seats will stay close to the family as it is being taken by Mr. Robin Mackay.

Mr. Edwards has not served for so long but he has been a much respected member of the Council and his contributions have always been valuable. We shall miss them both.

There will be an election for three Councillors to represent Kenn on North Somerset Council. The election will take place on 1st May. The Village Hall will be open from 8 a.m. until 9 p.m. for you to cast your vote. Please try to do so.

It is almost Best Kept Village time again. Kenn will be entering the competition as usual and your help in keeping the village litter free will be very welcome. More news of all this will be published nearer the time.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on 2nd June in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm. Why not come along and see what your Councillors get up to.

Ann Holtham,
Clerk to Kenn Parish Council.

Jack Hanson

Some thoughts on the passing of our friend Jack Hanson
(see tribute elsewhere in N & V's)

As you may have read, the Hansons came to Kenn in the mid 40's settling at "Woodbine Cottage" on the Yatton Road. Some ten years ago Jack moved into his bungalow at the top of Kenn Street. Jack soon became a regular worshipper at our church, not only attending but also a real helper and doer. How we already miss his quiet, helpful and reliable presence.

So again the tide of life has carried away a valued member of St. Johns. We feel the loss keenly and are aware that we are an ageing congregation. We feel too, again our vulnerability, the threat via falling numbers, to the future.

The church presence in our Village goes back hundreds of years, yet it can soon be at risk without new blood refreshing and nurturing its life.

ANON

Kenn Women's Institute

We were pleased to welcome Mrs Greta Harvey, our County Chairman, to the April meeting. We have received a 50th Birthday Card from National Office.

This year we are preparing shoe boxes for children in Africa and Eastern Europe for our County charity project.

Our speaker for the evening was Mr Goundrill, the Officer in charge of horticultural activities at Leyhill Prison. He gave us an enthralling insight into that aspect of the Prison Service and we learned that the Prison Service is totally self-sufficient for foodstuffs. He organises much of the distribution of products between prisons throughout the U.K. It takes two years planning to arrange and produce a garden at Chelsea Flower Show, and Leyhill's entries are always based on wildflowers and wildlife; the plants are all produced at Leyhill. The prison raises money to help towards the Chelsea exhibit by selling plants and vegetables to the general public.

When he retires in two years time, Mr Goundrill is taking a position with VSO in Africa organising horticultural activities there.

The monthly competition of five daffodils was won by Jenny Croxton, with Madeleine Crawley silver, and Rose Jeffrey green.

On the 14th May we shall be learning about Bristol Amateur Operatic Society: it is 100 years old this year. All visitors will be very welcome.

There will be a Jumble Sale at Kenn Village Hall on the 21st May; doors open at 7.00 p.m.

ROSEMARIE FORD 01275-542651

The Fire

John and Grace Griffin were very lucky not to have lost their house when their garage, workshop and carport caught fire just before Easter. If it had not been for the prompt arrival of the fire brigade they probably would never have saved it.

A classic car and many items of garden equipment were destroyed in the fire. Fortunately no one was hurt. Our sympathy is with them, but there is gratitude that things are not as bad as might have been.

Ray Naish

John and Grace Griffin wish to thank their friends and neighbours for their kind offers of help and messages of concern and support when they had the garage/workshop fire on Monday the 14th April. This was much appreciated and a real comfort at a most stressful time.

The fire was very severe, and without the prompt response and the skilled work of Clevedon Fire Brigade would have engulfed our home!

We will be forever indebted to those three crews for that afternoon's work.

Finally a special work of thanks, for support and understanding from those immediate neighbours whose own properties, most unfortunately, were affected by the fire.

Most sincerely, John and Grace

KENN NEWS & VIEWS

BIRD NEWS I

Spring migration is fully underway as I write (25th) and it appears that many of our summer visitors have arrived early this year. One exception is Swallows – I have personally seen very few and I am still waiting to see my first House Martin.

Conversely there were 50 Swifts at Chew Valley Lake on the 18th – a very early date. A cuckoo was heard at the YACWAG Reserve on the 17th – another early date and I saw 4 Hobbies at Shapwick Heath on the 22nd.

My 'star' migrant though came on a Group visit to Westhay Moor National Nature reserve near Glastonbury. I was asked what that large bird is – it was an Osprey!

The Osprey circled very high and then headed north no doubt to its nesting area in Scotland.

An evening stroll along the Strawberry Line yesterday produced 6 warblers – Reed, Sedge, Willow Chiffchaff, Blackcap and Whitethroat all singing to establish their territories.

On Saturday May 10th I am leading a "Warbler Walk" along the Strawberry Line. Meet 9 am. for a 3 hour walk. Weather permitting we should hear 6 or 7 species of warbler in song and hopefully see a Cuckoo.

All are welcome.

Trevor Riddle - 01934 835208

BIRD NEWS II

Ken Ferris of Nailsea Wall told me that a Robin was building its nest in a sack of coal in his shed. I went to

have a look. There was a hole in the sack, which the Robin had filled with leaves.

Jeff reported the first Swallows of the season when two arrived at his farm at West End, Nailsea on April 11th.

The first ones to arrive at "Stonehouse Farm" came on the official Swallow day April 15th. Two flew into their old nest in the cowshed like bullets early that morning. They nearly took my cap off as they dashed in.

Jeff and his son Max counted forty Sheld ducks in two groups on the back hills at "Castle Farm", Clevedon. They were still there a week later. They were near a stream that gushes out of the rocks.

Three Whimbrels were seen at "Decoy Pool Farm" on Nailsea Wall on April 20th. These Curlew-like birds travel from Africa to Iceland to nest. This is an early sighting, they generally get this far by early May.

When the wind turned to the South around St. George's Day, two very large flocks of Swallows arrived in this area, taking advantage of the wind. They didn't stay long before travelling on Northwards.

On the 27th five Yellow Wagtails were seen also at "Castle Farm". These are not to be confused with Grey Wagtails they have smaller tails. They were seen in exactly the same spot as a small flock were seen two years ago. These birds are quite rare in this district. They were probably migrating following the River Severn.

Ray Naish

Bush(meat) Telegraph

Early this year Tim and I (accompanied by farmer's daughter Margaret Stuckey) travelled to NZ and OZ, to catch up on old friends and in our case, meet our daughter's new in-laws for the first time. We travelled to Auckland via Los Angeles (2 hour stop) and an hour before landing there were handed the customary immigration forms. Important info required included "Have you been on a farm in the last 30 days?" "If yes, are you wearing any clothing worn on the farm etc." "Do you have any fresh food, fruit with you?"

WE are used to this and respect the care US takes to safeguard its agricultural industry. While queuing in immigration we were picked out by the sniffer hounds (wearing smart jackets saying 'I work for the USA Agric. Dept.') as I had had some apples in my hand luggage as far as Heathrow. If I had still had them on landing in LA I could have put them in the 'Amnesty Bin' provided, or risked a stiff fine. Then we were quizzed by the Agric. Dept. Officers about our farm, the health of our animals etc. We were treated courteously but were in no doubt that this was taken very seriously.

This procedure was repeated on our arrival in NZ & OZ, always politely but with great efficiency. Ditto on our return journey as far as LA

What a difference at Heathrow, we picked up our cases (which could have been full of kangaroo and Kiwi) and simply strolled out through the green channel. I did find one leaflet, well away from the main walkway, explaining the rules and regs. I sent it

to the Minister for Agriculture and have since had some info about plans for the future, feasibility studies etc.

I ask you, just how difficult is it to get the cabin crews of incoming flights to give out information before landing, how much does it cost to train a sniffer dog compared to the millions Foot and Mouth Disease cost us in 2001.

Our pre-boarding anti-terrorism security is amongst the best in the world. It's a shame we can't do the same to protect our oldest and most basic occupation.

Julia

Love doesn't make the world go round
Love is what makes the ride
worthwhile

Fairtrade Bananadrama Inspired by the talk at Quarterly Forum during Fairtrade Week

Assemble:

4 medium Fairtrade Bananas
Packet Gingersnaps (need not be top
brand)
Small pot double cream (whipped)

Caramel (Made as follows: melt
together small tin evap. milk

4 oz sugar, 4 oz marge,

2 tbs. golden syrup

WATCH LIKE A HAWK

as one minute this will be all golden
and slurpy, the next you will be able to
patch your drive with it.

It is ready when it darkens and pulls
away from the side of the pan.

Do not attempt to taste however
tempting as it will be VERY HOT!)

Start by beating the heck out of the gingernuts with a rolling pin, put into a loose bottomed 7" cake tin (lined) and moisten the crumbs with cooking sherry, ginger wine or fruit juice. Cover with 2 bananas (sliced), cover with the warm caramel then top with the rest of the sliced bananas. Chill Top with cream.

Enjoy in the knowledge that the guys who grew the bananas got a fair price for the crop.

p.s Watch out for your fillings!

Julia

ZOOM IN ON ZAMBIA

Yatton Moor Team Ministry is to launch an Appeal to raise funds to assist its Link Parish of Kabwe in Zambia. This is to build a much needed priest's house on land adjoining St. George's Church, so that another priest can be appointed to the parish which has nine Anglican congregations with nearly as many churches.

Before embarking on the idea of supporting the project of St. George's house, the advice of the Bishop of Central Zambia was sought by Yatton Moor, on how best to help Kabwe.

He strongly commended the building project, because the ministry of an additional priest is desperately needed.

The present parish priest, Father Goodson Chipapala, has a heavy workload, as he is also the Archdeacon of the area covering many miles with many churches.

The parishioners of St. George's have already started the building with money provided by Yatton Moor in

the past. The project has, however, been stuck at foundation level for a long time due to lack of funds.

It is estimated that £7000 should see the modest building completed. Such an amount does not seem an unrealistic Thank Offering for the many blessings that Yatton Moor has received, particularly with regard to the recent Restoration of St. Mary's Church, and every effort will be made to reach this target as soon as possible.

Since the closure of the copper mine and Zambia Railways, which were the main employers in Kabwe, 85% of residents in the town, which is on the road between the capital Lusaka and Ndola, are unemployed.

Drought has meant that famine is always just around the corner, and as in the whole of Zambia, HIV/AIDS is prevalent.

The average life expectancy in the country is 37 years and is falling. One in three primary-aged children are not in school as education has to be paid for and one in five children never reach their fifth birthday.

Despite all this, the Church is growing and it is humbling indeed to hear that the members of the churches in Yatton Moor, and the clergy, are always included in the prayers of our brothers and sisters thousands of miles away under the African sun.

They certainly need our prayers and our practical help to realise the dream they have held for many months - a priest's house, next to their church.

It's not much to ask.

Mary Kesby
Mission Circle Co-ordinator.

The Appeal will be Launched in all the Churches of Yatton Moor on Sunday 18th May

More details of Fundraising Efforts in next month's Kenn News and Views

Any suggestions, donations, to Kenn Mission Circle Member – Margaret Ball

Diary Note

Sunday 22nd June 2-5.00 p.m.

At the home of Ryan Densham.
Rhodyate Lodge, Rhodyate Hill,
near The Star

Cream Teas Children's Games, Family Fun

Proceeds to Kabwe Appeal
ZOOM IN ON ZAMBIA

Offers of scones and help 'on the day'
gratefully received by
Rosie Tucker 01934 834116

The Battle of the River Plate

On Easter Monday evening a film was shown on TV about the Battle of the River Plate. In this wartime battle at sea three British Cruisers took on the mighty Admiral Graf Spee which was the pride of the German Navy and probably the most formidable battle ship in the world. The two British ships and one New Zealander were the Ajax, the Exeter and the Achilles.

Why I was so interested was because a young sailor from Kenn was on board the Ajax. His name was Willie Huxtable, when he as home he lived

with his parents Albert and Elsie Huxtable and his sister Mary at Meadowview, Kenn Road, Kenn.

The Graf Spee was badly damaged and driven into Montevideo harbour on the River Plate. While she was being repaired many more British ships arrived at the mouth of the Plate which is one hundred miles wide to take on this mighty warship.

After a time in harbour being repaired the Graf Spee was ordered out. She made her way up the River Plate, thousands of people lined the banks to witness what was going to be the greatest sea battle of all time.

When the Graf Spee got to the mouth of the river, Captain Lansdorph witnessed what was waiting for him and could see he was in a hopeless situation. He ordered his crew to take to the boats and make for the safety of dry land. He then scuttled this mighty warship. This was a great victory for the British Navy.

In the months leading up to this battle the Graf Spee had sunk very many British Merchant ships that were bringing food to this country from South America.

Ray Naish

A tale of two bitches

Jessie, was a bitch, an Alsatian bitch to be exact and she had been with our neighbours Hazel and John, and their children for some years. She was an adorable creature and was especially well loved by the children. At that time we lived in a cottage situated in a small Hampshire village. The cottage was at the bottom of a narrow lane and up the hill were our other neighbours

at Sweetwater Farm. The bottom of our lane joined a made-up road which led to the village, which consisted of the Pub the Church, the Village Hall and a dozen or so scattered houses.

Opposite our cottage what that of John and Hazel and the two dwellings were exactly the same, in that they both had a porch at the front. The centre door of the porch was nearly always left open and the open porch area belonged to Jess. Here, was her comfy basket, her food and water, and when not with the children she was always to be found in the porch. During the night she kept her eyes and ears open for strangers. She was a good watchdog.

Jessie though, had a problem, a dangerous problem. She meant no harm, but she didn't like bikes, or motor bikes, and she would run beside them barking furiously. Not many bikes passed our way and most of the locals knew her and took little notice. However, things got much worse when she graduated to motor cars, running close alongside, barking, barking.

Then one Saturday morning, I heard her barking at a car, quickly followed by yelping, then silence. John and I ran out to see Jess lying in the road obviously badly hurt. By good luck the driver if the car was a young vet. New to the area and visiting a local farm. He apologised, but we knew it wasn't his fault. He took Jess to his surgery, but it was too serious and she died.

For some weeks afterwards John hadn't the heart to remove the basket from the porch. They couldn't accept losing her.

Then, a few weeks later, it happened. Opening the inner door of her porch one morning to fetch the milk, Hazel found that the basket was occupied. In it was an Alsatian bitch, not fully grown, but past puppy-hood. She seemed to have appeared, just like that. The children made a fuss of the dog, expecting that soon, someone would claim her, but hoping that nobody would do so.

Some days later we saw a familiar car stop outside John's house. It was the young vet and he called out to John "How are you getting on with the dog?" "Oh, so it was you", said John "Yes" the vet replied, "A client of mine breeds these dogs and because I helped him with a difficult litter, he gave me the smallest one to keep. I've had her for a while, but I can't keep her, so I thought of you"

They kept her of course and called her Bessie. However it soon became apparent that Bessie has a little problem too, not motor cars, but postmen. She always barked at the postman, nobody else, just postmen.

But then, postmen are not lethal like motor cars and when we left the area a few months later Bess was still there and still barking at postmen.

Visiting our friends a couple of years later, Bess was a real part of her new family and still barking at postmen.

One day I suppose with all these mobile phones and E-mails, perhaps there won't be any postmen and that would be a pity because we'd miss that surprise letter or post card from a long lost friend and not only that, Bessie would have nobody to bark at.

Cliff Edwards

KENN NEWS & VIEWS

SERVICES FOR MAY 2003

1st Sunday 4th

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

08:00 Holy Communion Kenn

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

2nd Sunday 11th

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

08:00 Holy Communion Yatton
09:30 Family 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 18th

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

LAUNCH OF KABWE APPEAL

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 Yatton

18:00 Evensong Kenn

4th Sunday 25th

THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

HOLY DAYS IN MAY:

1st PHILIP and JAMES, APOSTLES

19:30 Holy Communion Yatton

14th MATTHIAS the APOSTLE

10:00 Holy Communion Yatton

29th ASCENSION DAY

06:30 Holy Communion Kingston Seymour
09:30 Holy Communion Cleeve
19:30 Holy Communion Yatton

31st THE VISIT OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY TO ELIZABETH

08:30 Holy Communion Yatton

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Daily 08:30 Morning Prayer 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

21st May

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

TYPIST'S NOTE

June News & Views
Absolutely the latest date for copy
9.00 a.m.

Tuesday 27th May 2003