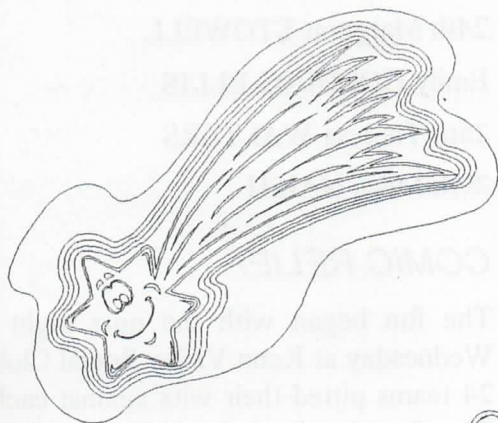
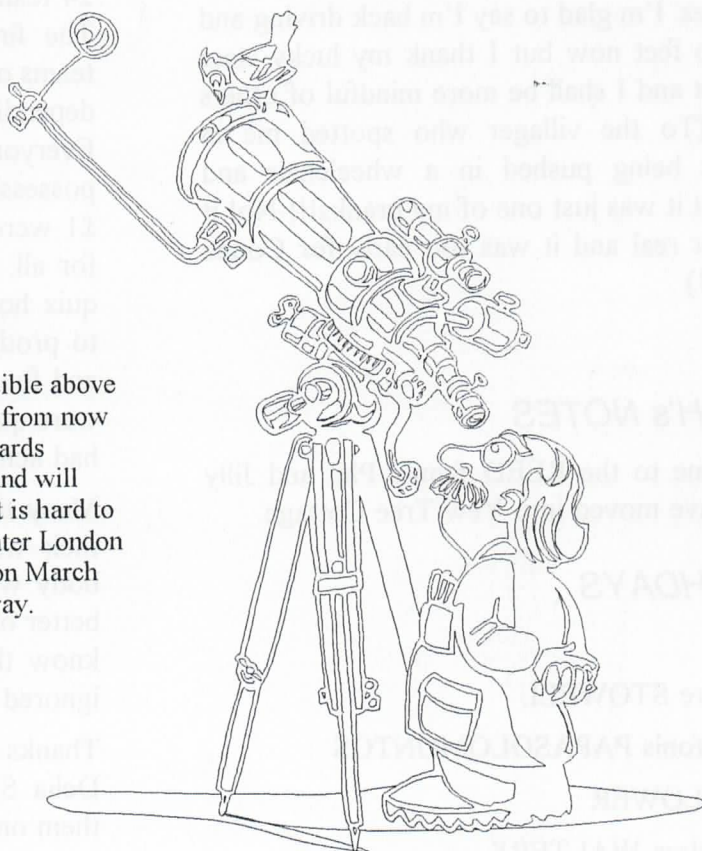


KENN NEWS AND VIEWS



COMET OVER KENN

The Comet Hale-Bopp is now clearly visible above Kenn and can be seen on any clear night from now until the beginning of May. Looking towards Clevedon it can be seen high in the sky and will gradually sink lower towards the west. It is hard to believe its mass is about the size of Greater London and even when it is closest to the Earth on March 22nd it will still be 123 million miles away.



EDITOR

Sheila NAISH

01934-838357

Issue 104 April 1997

Printed by:- Margaret STOWELL

Typed by:- Simon PASCOE

KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

MESSAGE FROM LITTLE ED

Having hurt my leg and had to hobble around on crutches last month for a week or two and still not being able to "run" anywhere I am able to sympathise with the many people who cannot walk well or get about easily! I was astonished at how many people actually barged through doors in front of me and pushed past me. A lesson in keeping your temper if ever there was one. It's really hard trying to carry your shopping and balance crutches. I'm glad to say I'm back driving and on two feet now but I thank my lucky stars for that and I shall be more mindful of others now. (To the villager who spotted me in Tesco's being pushed in a wheelchair and thought it was just one of my pranks!!! No! it was for real and it was too early for Comic Relief!!)

Sheila

NAISH's NOTES

Welcome to the REED family Phil and Jilly who have moved into Yew Tree Cottage.

BIRTHDAYS

April

1st Clare STOWELL

3rd Antonis PAPASOLOMONTOS

Avril FLOWER

6th Andrea WALTERS

8th Emma FENWICK

10th Anna EDWARDS

Mary LAMB

Ray & Jean NAISH (WA)

11th Big ED - Kate (We've not forgotten you)

21st Barbara MIDDLETON

22nd Liz JAEHME

23rd Mary WILLCOCKS

24th Margaret STOWELL

Emily GOLDING-ELLIS

28th Theresa WALTERS

29th Miles NAISH

COMIC RELIEF

The fun began with the quiz night on the Wednesday at Kenn Valley Social Club where 24 teams pitted their wits against each other. The first hurdle being whether or not the teams of 4 actually contained 4, 5, 6 or even 7 depending on how close the tables were. Everyone was checked to see if they were in possession of a red nose or badge and fines of £1 were imposed and nose badges produced for all. We were entertained to a really fun quiz hosted by Derek WALL who managed to produce an even balance of difficult, easy and fun questions so that the eventual scores were quite high and most people felt that they had achieved something.

Many thanks to the staff at Kenn Valley for their waitress service which meant that nobody was "dry" for long. (I seem to work better on a Martini or 2....3..... I do of course know the correct answers at times but was ignored by my team mates..)

Thanks to Jean FENWICK who had made Delia SMITH's comic relief cakes and sold them on the night for nearly £6.

To everyone who came along and made it such a great night, thank you.

DISCO PARTY

Our second function was a disco party on the Saturday. Kenn Valley was decked out in red bows and hundreds of red balloons which set the theme of red nose day off a treat. All 120 tickets sold and people arrived either wearing red noses, dressed in red or in fancy dress. Once again thanks to all the staff at the club for allowing us to take over and providing us

KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

with such a fun evening.

The total red nose badges sold at both functions was 71 and £71 was given to W H SMITHS who gave us the badges on sale or return.

The total amount of money raised for Comic Relief was £568.14.

Thank you to the people who remembered the theme for this year SMALL CHANGE BIG DIFFERENCE and sent me bags of copper, great!!

Well done and thanks to all.

Sheila

KENN NOTES

Tea Party - Members of the local tea set from Clevedon were entertained to tea at Kenn Court on March 17th. My sincere thanks to Mrs DENMEAD Mrs WHITEHEAD Mrs LAMB and Mrs BROOMFIELD for their help.

RMD

Kenn Village Hall - A successful jumble sale on March 19th raised £111 for hall funds. Thank you to those who gave goods for sale and those who came along to support our hall.

Fashion Show - A fashion show by Carousel of Congresbury will be held in the hall in aid of hall funds on Monday May 19th. Details next month.

Kenn WI - Members of Kenn WI are organising a Coffee Morning at Kenn Court on Tuesday April 15th 10.30 -noon in aid of the Lauriston Hotel in Weston. This hotel caters for blind and partially sighted people. Bring and Buy and raffle - Please support.

Clifford EDWARDS of Kenn Street has been co-opted as a member of Kenn Parish Council to fill the vacancy left by the untimely death of Roger STOWELL.

Diary Dates

April 9th Kenn WI 7.30 Speaker Mrs S JENKINS topic "the joys a handicapped child can bring"

May 19th Fashion show in Kenn hall.

KENN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

At the March meeting of the Kenn Women's Institute Mr. Harnden gave a most interesting and well illustrated talk on the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust at Slimbridge. Some of the slides were taken when Sir Peter Scott went there more than 50 years ago and it was fascinating to see the changes. Mrs. Harnden judged the competition which was for a slogan for wildlife. She awarded Mrs. Crawley gold, Mrs. Prew silver and green to Mrs. Dyer and Mrs. Dobbs.

First Aid classes taken by an instructor from the British Red Cross have begun and are very useful indeed. Fourteen people are attending. A Kenn team took part in the inter-Institute quiz at Southern Clevedon and covered itself in glory by coming first. There will be a social skittles evening on the 14th April at the Kenn Valley Social Club.

A beautifully decorated cake for Easter which was donated by Mrs. Neath, the speaker in February, was raffled for charity. Miss Livesey was the lucky winner. The trade stall ably manned by Mrs. Kingcott and Mrs. Blake had some beautiful spring flowers for sale, a lovely sign of good things to come. Mrs. Bubb arranged a beautiful springlike decoration on the President's table.

At the April meeting Mrs. Jenkins will speak on the joys that a handicapped child can bring and the competition will be for a spring flower arrangement. There will also be an extra competition for an entry to go forward to the Group Meeting. This is for a limerick for St. George's day which is the actual day of the meeting.

KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

KENN PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on TUESDAY 1st April in the Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. It will be followed by the Annual Parish Meeting at 8 p.m. All are welcome.

SPRING IS HERE ????

March 21st the first day of spring and I have just seen a Red Admiral butterfly at Nailsea, the first this year, what a lovely early spring we are getting this year.

Have you noticed the superb show of spring flowers in the garden at Chapel Cottage Kenn Street formerly the home of the late Mrs Winnie GRIGG? Much of what is growing there was planted by the late Bill Grigg more than 20 years ago.

RVN

TEA AND CHAT

In celebration of the arrival of spring and throughout the summer Tea and Chat will once more be held in the afternoon. On Thursday 17th April Jack HANSON of Weston Wood Kenn Road will be our host. Everyone is welcome from 2.30 - 4.00pm

BIRD NEWS - MARCH

It was pleasing to read in last months N&V of the song thrushes singing in Kenn. There seem to be more singing in several areas now and perhaps they are just starting to turn the corner to population recovery. In village life they are certainly a most pleasant harbinger of spring.

The mild weather early in March brought some early migrants. In particular on the 9th there was a large "fall" of chiffchaffs. The meteorological conditions were ideal for this with fine weather over France and Spain - southerly winds but a weather front with

cloud and rain over us! Visitors to the sea wall reckoned the bushes were "crawling" with downed chiffchaffs. By way of a bonus there was a short eared owl there too.

A couple of days later chiffchaffs were singing in the plantation on Kenn Moors really quite an early date.

Looking briefly further afield I noted two house martins near to Exeter on the 12th - this is very early indeed. As I write this the weather forecast is for cold northerly winds (more usual for March!) and such weather will halt migration until conditions become more favourable again.

April is the main month for arrivals of our summer visitors: willow warblers early on with swallows mid month and then house martins. Just have a think about the weather when you see the first swallow - the chances are there will have been some southerly winds to help it on its way north.!

Trevor RIDDLE

BIRD NEWS II

In the March N & V I wrote about the song thrushes singing in the Kenn Street area and since that time I have discovered that the thrush population in Kenn is more widespread than I had realised.

As well as the two singing at the top end of Kenn Street there has been one in Duck Lane. One evening I stopped near Manor Farm on Moor Road and could hear one singing there and also there has been one singing from the top of a tree near Woodbine Cottage on the Yatton Road.

As it is only the cock birds that sing there must be an equal number of hen birds. Where has this influx of these lovely singers come from? I think we are very lucky as nationally they are becoming quite rare. Mary LAMB from Kenn Street told me that a pair of song thrushes nested in her garden last summer and

KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

reared two broods of young so perhaps this gives a clue as to their background. Song thrushes start singing very early in the morning, one regularly wakes me up at about a quarter to six most mornings singing from a tree behind Stonehouse Farm, I expect it will get earlier as the mornings get lighter.

I can't remember a spring when there has been so much birdsong around here.

There have been reports of many sorts of birds recently, a sparrow hawk is frequently seen around the top of Kenn Street. Jeff NAISH saw a pair of wheatears near the Old Decoy Pool Farm on Nailsea Wall on March 12th, also in the light of his torch one night a bird answering the description of a water rail was seen.

Ray NAISH

Stop press - One of the Kenn Street song thrushes seems to have disappeared, has the sparrow hawk got him?

BIRDS III

Continuing the song thrush report in last months N & V a pair are often heard and seen at Kenn Pier during March. This may be the pair that bred successfully two years ago in a hedge in our garden.

Also seen, and everybody's favourite was a kingfisher on the River Kenn looking like a bright blue light as it flew towards the Moor.

Rare visitors to our bird table were a pair of long-tailed tits using the nut-feeder but they were "seen off" by resident blue-tits. Even more rare to our garden was a red-legged partridge with striking colour of white and chestnut with red bill and legs - its haunt is mainly fields and waste land.

In one of the chestnut trees at Kenn Pier a pair of magpies have been seen warding off carrion crows - up to 20 were counted one day invading their nest.

David GLASSON

KENN CHURCH NOTES

The Annual Vestry Meeting, when the Churchwardens are elected was held after family service on Mothering Sunday with 52 people present. Records of those attending are now a legal requirement and are kept forever so in 100 years time anyone looking at these will be able to see who was present.

Renee BELL was proposed by Wendy PAPA-SOLOMONTOS and seconded by Mary LAMB.

Raymond NAISH was proposed by Cliff EDWARDS and seconded by Margaret STOWELL. As there were no other nominations they are to serve as churchwardens for 1997-98.

ST JOHN's ALTAR GUILD ROTA - April

Irene STOWELL and Jean INGS.

ST JOHN's SPRING CLEANING

The annual spring clean will take place on Monday and Tuesday 28th & 29th April - any help would be appreciated.

Monday 28th - Evening for gents from 7pm

Tuesday 29th - Morning for the ladies from 9.15am

Many hands make light work.

Thank you

Iris GOLDSWORTHY & Jean NAISH

KENN HISTORY GROUP

The History Group would like to thank Trevor RIDDLE for his fascinating and very informative talk about Kenn's local and migratory bird population. Trevor's talk included a wide ranging slide show looking at the typical birds found in the area. We are very lucky having such diverse natural habitats. I really enjoy seeing wetland birds like herons

KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

cruising around my back garden. Trevor's talk included details of migration patterns and posed such interesting questions as "If parent cuckoos have abandoned their young to migrate, how do they know to fly to Africa later?" I really enjoyed how the long tailed tits bring up their families with a series of younger helpers providing food to ensure the brood is successful. Maybe I should take on this pattern but 18 in a brood rather outface me, 2 pregnancies was enough!!!

We are very fortunate to live in Kenn and see such a wide range of birds, Trevor's illustrative talk made me realise this.

Mandy BOYLE

The next meeting of the History Group will be on Monday 14th April at 7.30 pm at The Granary when we hope to have a talk and slides on China.

The May meeting will be a visit to Roger TRIGGALS agricultural and car museum - date to be advised.

THANKS

Kenn Valley Social Club

Re Comic Relief Charity Events

Dear Sheila

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for holding the recent Comic relief events at Kenn Valley Social Club and we are pleased to hear that £156 was raised for the charity. Undoubtedly these events would not have been so successful without your enthusiastic support and organisation.

Even more importantly can we ask you to pass on our thanks to all those who turned up to either (or both) events - from comments we heard at the bar it is evident that a good time was had by all!!

We had 24 teams enter the Fun Quiz and it is pleasing to report that all the teams got extremely high scores. I suppose I should

apologise to Kenn Valley's own team "The Boys at the Bar" who seem to be under the illusion that they won the quiz - however the vote which decided to put them second was completely unbiased and was in no way influenced by the Quizmaster - maybe we can find them a small trophy to restore their pride.

It was good to see so many people dressed either in red or in fancy dress at the disco fun night. In particular the chicken looked rather lovely and Gerry looked nice as well!!

We are still looking for 150 missing helium filled balloons!

Sadly we must end this letter on a word of complaint - many local shopkeepers have contacted us complaining about the number of local people who have been emptying out tubes of Smarties and apparently counting the contents only to replace them on the shelves and leave the shop making no purchase. In order to call a halt to this, there are still 40 Smarties in a tube!!!

Once again thanks to everyone who supported these events and we hope to see you at our forthcoming Line Dance fun nights (Even "Hopalong NAISH"!!)

Many thanks

Derek & Shirley

LINE DANCING

FUN NIGHTS

Friday 4th April

Friday 18th April

Friday 2nd May

8pm

£1per person

KENN VALLEY SOCIAL CLUB

ALL WELCOME

KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

A FARMER'S PRAYER

Old Tom is a farmhand who works on the land
From the cry of the cockerel each morn,
He lives in the cottage and sleeps in the bed
Where his Dad and his Grandad were born.
He's not one for thinking; he can't read or wrie,
Though he's happy and gives of his best
But lately he's taken to waking at night
With a problem that won't let him rest.
"Dear Lord" he will say as he tosses and turns,
"Can it be that I'm suff'ring from greed?
I 'ear on the wireless 'bout folks being poor
While I got much more than I need.
There's folks turned to exiles 'cos they can't afford
To live in this country no more;
Though I pays me taxes, they ain't very 'igh
And I certainly ain't very poor.
There's folks 'as do travel for 'undreds of miles
"Cos they need a break every year
While I'm quite contented to stay wher I am
Wi' me pipe and me baccy and beer,
And some folk do need them infernal machines
To get all their laundering done,
While I've got the stream where the water runs clear
And me washing can dry in the sun.
And filks spending money on freezers and things
To keep all their food at its best,
While I gets me milk from old Daisy the cow
And eggs fresh each day from the nest.
And what of them poor folk who 'as to buy cars
If they'm need to go anywhere,
While me and old Dobbin can jog down the lanes
And breathe in the fresh country air.
Dear Lord, it ain't my fault you blessed me so much
And made me so 'appy and free,
But please "elp them poor folks so weighed down wi' care
And make 'em all rich men like me".

Barbara CHARLES

