

KENN NEWS AND VIEWS

DECEMBER 1989

Issue No. 15



MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORS

As you will see from the following pages, we have some seasonal drawings from our own children, as well as Ian and Mark Pascoe and Alexander and Matthew Gaunt. With only these few entries in answer to our plea for a Christmas cover we have decided not to differentiate between all the boys (girls, where are you?) and so they will all receive a token of our appreciation. Well done lads.

What about anyone else? The 'leave it to someone else' club seems to have been evident in the district. Thank goodness for the minority who remain non-members. If sarcasm is the lowest form of wit, then apathy must be the biggest insult to effort.

The season of good will is upon us and as we prepare for the various festivities both public and personal, we pause for a moment to thank once again all our regular contributors to Kenn News & Views; all those who tell us often that they enjoy the magazine and everyone who has supported us in many ways. We wish all readers a peaceful and very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.  
Kate & Sheila 834894 & 838357

DEADLINE FOR JANUARY ISSUE - 18th DECEMBER

Your best Christmas present to us would be your material on time.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

7th November	Belated Congratulations to Roger and Margaret Stowell on the occasion of their Silver Wedding Anniversary.
2nd December	Libby Wilcox
2nd December	Alexander Gaunt - 8
14th December	Marion Atkinson
20th December	Angel Middleton - 5
20th December	Vincent Stowell

We also received too late for the last issue birthday congratulations for Melanie Stevens who was 18 on 25th October.

NAISH'S NOTES

Well done to Tim Taylor, Karl Menear and two friends who by their scary exploits 'Trick or Treating' on Hallowe'en night, raised £6 which they donated to Guide Dogs for the Blind.

- Don't Forget - Senior Citizens' Tea Party, Wednesday 6th December, in Kenn Village hall.
- Don't Forget - Fancy Dress disco in Kenn Village hall on Saturday, 9th December, 8 - 11.45 p.m. in aid of ITU fund. Christmas theme fancy dress. Tickets £2.50 from Sheila or Kenn Stores.
- Don't Forget - Annual Children's Christmas Party in Kenn Village Hall on Wednesday, 20th December. Letters to parents are on the way. The party starts at 2.45 p.m. and will be taken by popular entertainer Uncle Bryan. The age group we cater for is all those under 10 (including 10's) but young people willing to help are welcome and should contact Kate or Sheila.

Dcn't Forget - The Annual Village Party on Saturday, 20th January in Kenn Village Hall 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. As in past years there will be a fancy dress Competition for the following age groups - 4 years and under; 11 years and under; over 11 years; and adult. Plans for the evening are underway but there could be a hiccough with the entertainment. If you have ANY ideas or suggestions please contact Ray Naish.

Don't Forget - Children's Crib Service - Christmas Eve.

#### HALLOWEEN DISCO

The Hallowe'en Disco was held on Saturday, 28th October and was a 'howling' success. Most people arrived dressed the part as various ghosts, ghouls, witches, ghostbusters and other nasty things. I had difficulty in recognising some villagers and some people were only identified as their outfits came apart or off! The hall was packed, despite the awful weather, and we were lucky not to have had a power cut as the surrounding areas were all in darkness. Many thanks to all our helpers and once again to John and Penny Hazell for their brilliant disco. The grand sum of £252.07 was raised and donated to the Village Hall funds. Altogether a 'spooky' evening was had by all - but where was Dame Edna? Spooked by the spooks do you think possums? S.N.

(Nearly - spirited north, actually, for the weekend. K.D. )

#### CHILDREN'S FAMILY SERVICE

What a lovely service this was and how well performed. Let's hope that this is to be repeated - it was super. S.N.

#### CRYSTAL AND CERAMICS PARTY

£38 was raised at this event and was donated to ITU funds. S.N.

#### PLEA

Does anyone have an old Black and Decker work bench for sale cheaply or similarly any tools no longer required. They are needed for a Yeo Moor Junior School science project. Contact Sheila if you can help.

#### ACHIEVEMENT RECORD

As this year draws to a close it is time to recall all the things that various people have organised in Kenn and to remember the happy times we have all had. Most functions have been by way of fund raising - for the hall, the Church, and the Intensive Therapy Unit to name just a few. All events from Jumble Sales to Coffee mornings, Barn Dances to Discos, Treasure Hunts to Quiz Nights and Skittles Nights to Bonfire Party have been well supported by most of the village at some time. If all the proceeds of these events were added together the total monies received would be roughly £3,500 to £4,000. For a small village like ours I personally think that it is a marvellous achievement and I am proud to be part of it. Kenn villagers and their friends have proved themselves to be generous both with their money and their time. Let's hope 1990 continues along the same lines and we all look forward to many more events together. Sheila Naish

PERSONALLY SPEAKING....I have been accused of 'never being seen without a book of raffle tickets in my hand' by a villager this year - and it has been true! So I must thank everyone that I have begged, bullied or just nagged this year. People have been so generous both with offers of help and raffle prizes and also with their time, for all the things that I've helped with. Fund raising is fun and made so enjoyable when everyone is so kind. Thanks again - special thanks, personally, to Juliet Stowell for just being there. S.N.

IN REPLY... I think I speak for the majority when I say that we must all thank Sheila in return for her efforts. Everybody knows that she has given more than her fair share of time and commitment to the events she has mentioned, as well as being busy on the farm, looking after her home and family, co-editing the magazine and taking a very active role on the PTA at Yeo Moor Junior School. It is her infectious enthusiasm and energy that encourages us all. Well done Little Ed. Kate. P.S. Can I have Christmas Day off please?

#### DENMEAD'S DOODLINGS

Get well soon wishes go to Katy Stowell who has been feeling quite poorly for several weeks now. Also to Sebastian Wilcox who had a brief hospital visit in November but is well on the mend. Andy and Mandy Boyle have also had nasty bouts of flu but are now recovered.

Congratulations to Christopher Denmead who collected £47.10 at school in aid of the BBC Penny Appeal. Having heard about the appeal on the radio Christopher sent off for all the details and begged an empty sweet jar from his local shop. Over the last four weeks he has been touring the school during break times and collected the amount as above. When the money was paid into the bank, the cashier commented on how much more encouraging it is when children help other children. How right she is - well done Christopher. K.D.

#### SNIPPETS

Silver Wedding - Congratulations and best wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Roger Stowell who celebrated their Silver Wedding on 7th November. Our flag flew in celebration.

Remembrance - Our flag was flown on 11th November in remembrance of all the men and women who gave their lives in wars, that we might be free. "At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them."

Royal Birthday - His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales celebrated his birthday on 14th November. Our flag flew in celebration.

Flowers on the Village Green - Thankyou to Mrs. Burstow for planting the pots on the village green ready for spring flowering.

Patients in Hospital - We are sorry that Mr. Richard Whitehead and Mr. Harrison, senior, are both unwell and in hospital in Bristol.

Welcome - A warm welcome to Mr. and Mrs. Gamester.

Kenn Village Hall - Many thanks to Mrs. Sheila Naish and friends who organised a much enjoyed Disco on 28th October in aid of hall funds with music provided by John Hazell. The profit at the end of the evening was £252.07. Well done and thankyou to everyone who helped and supported the evening. R.M.D.

#### BONFIRE NIGHT

How good it was to see so many Kenn folk of all ages enjoying the firework evening on 5th November. We enjoyed watching the 'big boys' lighting the lovely selection of fireworks in the field thanks to the generosity of Miss Stuckey and Mr. Cyril Willcox. The little ones enjoyed their sparklers and the climbing frame and swings; meanwhile we older ones enjoyed Mrs. Summerell's delicious hot soup and hot dogs among friends and neighbours. To Mrs. Summerell and all who helped, thankyou for a pleasant evening, hopefully to be repeated in 1990. R.M.D.

## SUGGESTIONS FOR FUND RAISING 1990

The Unofficial Committee asks for suggestions - may I suggest:

1. The Hall Committee has been informed that washing facilities in the cloakrooms have to be upgraded in 1990. Kenn Hall is there to be used and enjoyed by Kenn residents so perhaps this could be considered.
2. All the children of Kenn are loved and cherished. Almost daily we read and hear of little children being hurt and abused. Could we consider the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children?

These are only two suggestions. I am sure our readers have many more. R.M.D.

### CHRISTMAS TREE

We hope to have a Christmas tree or lights in one of the existing trees on the village green. At the time of writing we await permission from the 'powers that be'. R.M.D.

### KENN VILLAGE FIREWORK NIGHT

After a year's absence the fireworks returned to Kenn and proved to be a great success. Thanks to Miss Pam Stuckey, fireworks were set off in the field behind the Drum and Monkey and children and adults alike were treated to a half-hour display, from the safety of the pub garden.

Profit from raffle and food sales meant that the display was provided without the need for an entrance fee and it was an excellent night out. Mrs. Lou Summerell's soup especially was a great success - please can we have the recipe for the magazine? Thanks to all concerned for a great evening and special thanks to Lou and Keith for their hospitality. All profit from the evening was donated to the ITU fund. Jenny Pascoe

Note - Mrs. Lou Summerell wishes to thank Jenny for her kind gift of a coffee and walnut cake, given to her in thanks for her part in the bonfire party. "It was absolutely delicious but has done nothing for my diet!", says Lou.

### VILLAGE CRIB SERVICE

Yet again plans are underway for this year's Christmas Crib Service. It is intended that the service should follow the same format as last year - with the children singing and acting out the nativity play. ANY child in the village can join in - you don't have to go to Sunday Club to be able to participate. Please contact Avril Gaunt, 878451, or Wendy Papasolomontos, 877923, if you have a child who would like to be part of this service.

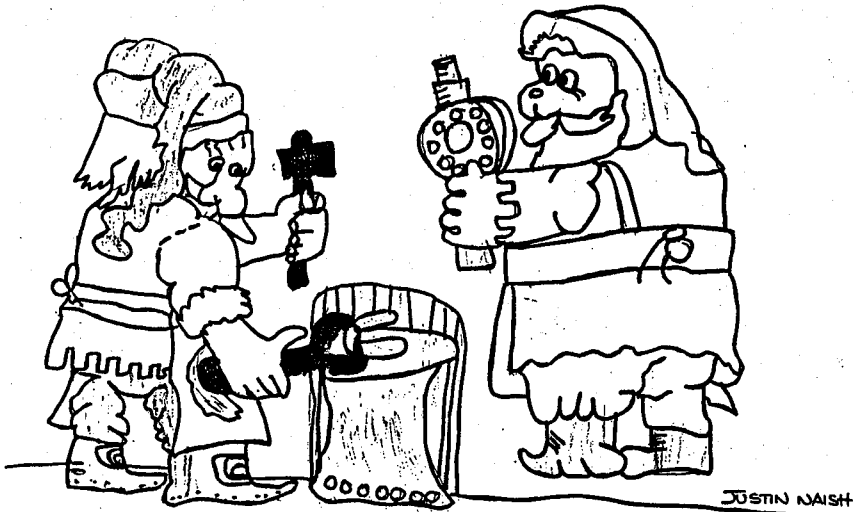
### KENN CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

December's family service on 3rd December will also be a Christingle Service. For the first time the children are to have their own Christingle. ANY child in the village is welcome to come along and receive his or her Christingle candle. Please come and join us - it's a wonderful service. Jenny Pascoe

### CHRISTMAS CAROL SINGING

It is intended to have Carol Singing around the village again this year. The singers will start at the Village green on Tuesday, 19th and Thursday, 21st December, and hope to raise some money for the Salvation Army. Please contact Avril Gaunt if you can join in.

Two dwarfs making a lucky charm  
for Father Christmas.

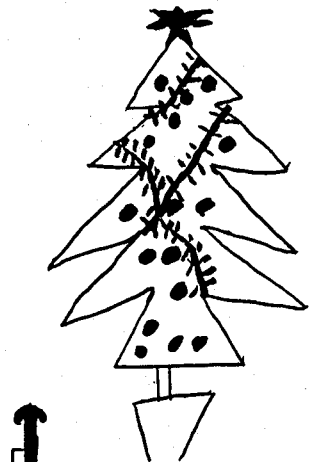
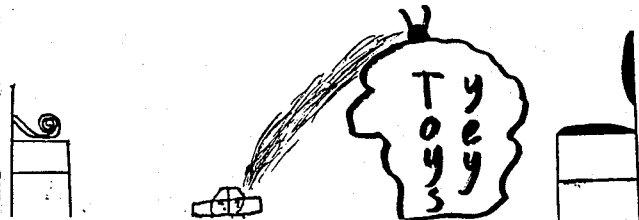


Christmas is coming!!

Please come!!!

On

December 1989



## ST. JOHN'S KENN - PASTORAL CARE COMMITTEE

The first of our lunches was held on Tuesday, 21st November, at The Granary, Duck Lane. Eight of the elder members of our Parish came and enjoyed a hot meal of chicken and vegetables, then apple pie and cream followed by coffee. It turned out to be a very successful event and was enjoyed by everyone. After the meal, Peter Hart joined us during coffee and listened to the reminiscing. It was interesting to find that 5 of the 8 guests had all, at some time in their lives, been connected with The Granary in its agricultural days. For example, the lounge where they sat they remembered as a slaughter-room, etc. The guests left for home at about 2.30 p.m. We hope to hold one of these lunches every three months. Grace Griffin

## OBITUARY

Recently, Jim Stowell passed away at his home in Canada aged 98.

If you remember, John Griffin wrote a story in Kenn News & Views a few months ago, about the Stowell family and the dairy they ran at 'Moorgates', Kenn Street in the early 1920's. Jim decided to emigrate to Canada in 1926 which meant the business passed from the Stowells' ownership. Inside the church porch there is a plaque containing the names of all the young men who left the village to serve in the Great War 1914 - 1918. Jim Stowell's name is among them. As far as we know, all the men named there have now passed away. Ray Naish

## CHRISTMAS REMEMBERED

We are fast coming up to Carol singing time and I was thinking the other day about a story that old John James told me when I was a small boy.

John James was a very big, powerful man even in his old age as I remember him. He lived at 'The Poplars', now 'Latcham House', the home of Dr. and Mrs. Bullock and family. He had been the Parish undertaker, also Sexton of the church and on his gravestone in the churchyard it says he was a chorister for 70 years. In the old records of the church his name appears many times. Always at the Easter Vestry, when Churchwardens are appointed, he seemed to have something to say.

His story was that at Christmas time, a party of carol singers always travelled round the village, mostly members of the choir. In Kenn, at the time he was talking about, there lived a dwarf who was unable to walk, but he could play a violin and was always asked to accompany the carol singers as they went from house to house. As John James was the biggest and strongest member of the party it was his job to carry the little chap around, strapped to his back, another man carrying the lantern on a pole. One can imagine what that little party looked like as they moved round the village on the muddy unmade roads. There was no tarmac in those days. I wonder what carols they sang? Probably some that we still sing but perhaps some old-fashioned carols that have been forgotten forever. I expect as they went from farm to cottage they were invited inside to have a drink - probably home-made cider or wine. I don't expect their collections were very great, people in Kenn would have been very poor at that time. I expect after a few drinks the little party went home happy and contented with their night's work.

John James died in the early 1930's aged about 90. His widow Maria lived on at 'The Poplars' for many years with their son Jack, who sadly was deaf and dumb. They had another son, Gilbert, who was a very successful Bristol businessman, who later in life became Lord Mayor of Bristol. Ray Naish

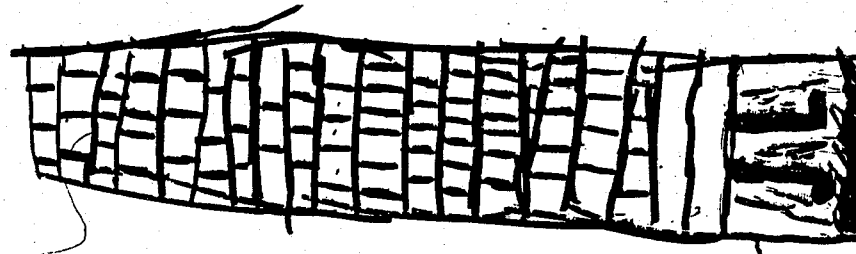
## HELP

I would like to thank the person who so kindly left for me a folder full of gardening magazines to read when I was convalescing from my short stay in hospital. As I am a keen gardener I found them most interesting. I would like to return them but cannot do so as I do not know who left them. Please can anyone help? Thank you once again.

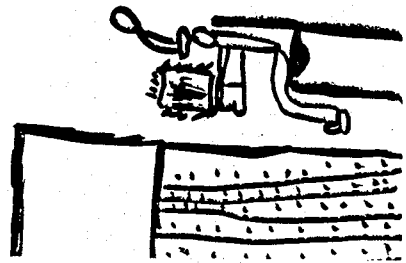
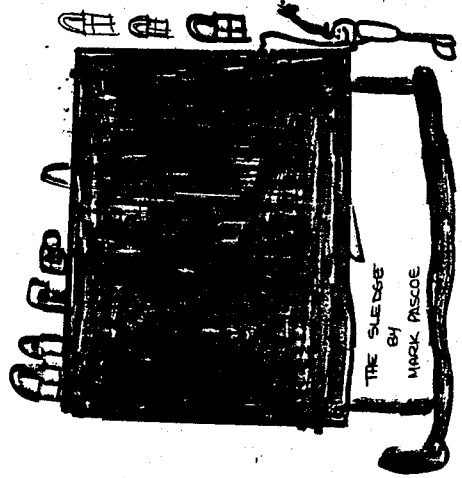
Rowland Russell

# Kenn News and Views

December 1989



ALEX  
GAUNT



## FROM THE POTTING SHED

Dear Kate, Are you 'well battered down' for winter? All those little jobs in the garden finished and a big virtuous sigh heaved? If so you can come and give me a hand with all those jobs I still haven't got round to doing! I've got my eye on some holly - the berries are lovely again, as long as the birds don't beat me to it. The time for doing wreaths and things will soon be here.

I believe you said you hadn't a poinsettia didn't you? I wonder if you know anyone who had a go at getting last year's to colour up. I did mine faithfully but so far it is still green, although the top leaves are a much darker shade than the rest. Also there are new bracts forming, but so far they are not red. I'd love to know if it does work, wouldn't you?

Happy Christmas and a healthy New Year to you, yours and everyone else. Yours Uncle Freddie

## FROM HQ

Dear Uncle Freddie, My co-editor tells me you were under the sink when she called for your report! She also mentioned something about Creme de Menthe! Is this your secret for raising your Christmas bulbs in the dark or consolation for when they don't come up? I would be interested to know if a dry Martini works as well. I suppose a dash of Grenadine might also help the poinsettia!! Seriously though, I too would be interested to hear from any other gardeners on the subject of poinsettias.

Not much to report from the 'concrete jungle' this month - dare I say it is a quiet period now? However, I would be interested in your comments on the vagaries of the Cyclamen. My books keep telling me how 'easy' they are, but I find them anything but. It is disheartening to receive one as a gift, place it somewhere to be admired and then find it doesn't like the heat, light, cold, damp or whatever.

Merry Christmas to you and Aunty. Kate

## COMICS CORNER

- Q. Why did the boy bury his radio?  
A. His batteries were dead.
- Q. What is the difference between a sick horse and a dead bee?  
A. One is a seedy beast and the other is a bee deceased.
- Q. What do you get if you cross a centipede with a parrot?  
A. A walkie talkie.
- Q. What is green and dangerous?  
A. A caterpillar with a machine gun.

Justin Naish

Come on kids - let's have your jokes for Comics Corner.

## THE W.I. IN LONDON

A party of Women's Institute members and their friends set out bright and early on November 1st for a visit to the House of Commons. We were all very much indebted to Margaret Stowell for duplicating maps, plans and information for us - it was all most useful.

Our guides around the Parliament buildings were delightful men with a fund of stories and information which made the tour very enjoyable. Preparations were in hand for the State Opening of Parliament. Guests sit on very elegant gilt chairs which would brighten up W.I. meetings no end! Jerry Wiggin managed to meet us briefly during a break in his busy schedule.

After the tour we were left to our own devices until the coach left for home. Activities varied. Four lucky people went up St. Stephen's Tower to see Big Ben and thoroughly enjoyed it. Some queued and got into a debate. Other places visited included the War Cabinet rooms, Tate Gallery, National Gallery, St. James's Park, Whitehall, Westminster Abbey and St. Margaret's, Westminster.

Various celebrities were seen. Princess Anne sped by with a police escort. One member was nearly run over by Roy Hattersly. (If you are going to get mown down it might as well be by someone important!) A party of foreign dignitaries were in Downing Street and Westminster Abbey. It was interesting to see the television crews just waiting about to interview M.P.s if anything newsworthy happened.

We all had a wonderful day and our thanks are due to Mrs. Dyer for arranging it for us.  
Ann Holtham

#### KENN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

There were several apologies for the Annual General Meeting of Kenn Women's Institute. Members were reminded about the Flower Demonstration on November 22nd and the Carol Service on December 5th. The first round of the skittles tournament will be played on November 30th at the Prince of Orange against Nightingale Valley W.I. The trip to Holland will set off on either 22nd or 29th April.

Mrs. Withers and Mrs. Aldrick reported on visits to the House of Commons and the Autumn Council Meeting at Weston-super-Mare. At the December meeting there will be an entertainment by barbershop singers. As usual the Christmas post box will be available and contributions will be asked for the Associated Countrywomen of the World. The competition will be for a Christmas table decoration.

Mrs. Rene Bell and Mrs. Josephine Hedger were welcomed to the meeting as tellers for the voting and to judge the competition for the prettiest jug. Gold was awarded to Mrs. Bullock and Mrs. Harrison, silver to Mrs. Jackson, green to Mrs. Ings and Mrs. Harris.

The President, Mrs. Harrison, Secretary, Mrs. Stowell, and Treasurer, Miss Snook, presented their annual reports and the retiring committee was thanked by Mrs. Aldrick. There was no election for the new committee but in the ballot for President Mrs. Dyer was elected.

The meeting closed after a delicious supper provided by Mrs. Mann and her helpers.

#### HEATHER'S WEDDING - SATURDAY 21st OCTOBER

On the afternoon of October 20th we arrived at the village of Stoke Fleming, near Dartmouth, for our daughter Heather's marriage to David, a local farmer's son, which was to take place at St. Peter's Church the following day at 2.30 p.m.

Unfortunately, the weather had changed dramatically with heavy rain and high winds and the chalet which Heather had purchased in the spring as a temporary home (she had sold her cottage in Horrabridge) was not an ideal place in the circumstances. A glorious position in the summer overlooking the sea immediately to the right of Dartmouth, but on this particular evening the rain forced its way up and over the patio doors and we arrived to find Heather and Tara, her Canadian friend, who was to be matron-of-honour, mopping up the water with towels and bowls, and at the same time endeavouring to pack the trousseau. At 7.30 p.m. the wedding rehearsal was to take place and upon arrival at the church we discovered that the roof was leaking immediately above the chancel steps; one can imagine the consternation of the prospective bride and bridegroom with the possibility of kneeling in the rain!

The following morning we rose to find that the chalet was without electricity and apparently the whole of Stoke Fleming was in a similar situation. A quick telephone call was made and shortly afterwards a thermos of tea was delivered to us. After further telephone calls and following a conversation with John Griffin, who was a guest and due to travel down later that day, he kindly made preparations for a generator to be brought down from Clevedon. However, one was located in Dartmouth by Ron, Heather's future father-in-law, who collected it for use if necessary at the farm. The electricity

was restored sometime later in the morning at the farm and all was thought to be well. Little did we realise that the electricity was only on in part of the village which did not include the church! In the meantime, Ron had returned the generator to the hire company in Dartmouth and by then it had closed for the weekend. Heather's feelings at this time can well be imagined!

John had been told that the generator was no longer needed and it was impossible to obtain one elsewhere at short notice. No lights! No organ! A few candles existed in the church, others were acquired very quickly and when the first guests arrived, the vicar requested volunteers to 'pump the organ' - the first time it had been done for 40 years! The bride arrived, a little late, for a candle-lit service whilst two guests (now down to shirt sleeves) pumped the organ. After the service bride and bridegroom emerged from the church in the wind and rain and were after all able to travel by horse and carriage (which had earlier been cancelled and then reinstated, again because of the severe weather). The Stoke Lodge Hotel where the reception was to take place was also still without electricity, but fortunately shortly before it started the lights came back on and all went well.

They have now returned from honeymoon in India which proved quite an experience where, at one point, they had to be escorted out of the country assisted by the Army and police in view of the rioting.

All in all, perhaps it is preferable to be married in the summer in the hope of better weather and may be select a honeymoon destination less volatile! Joyce Kent

There were more disasters Joyce tells us. Perhaps a second installment next month. SN/KD

#### JAMES AND ROBERTS TRAVELS

It is now about three months since Robert and James left on their one year round the world trip. First step was DELHI which James, in his first letter, described as "Disgusting, a massive shock, dirty with very little hygiene, many homes are ruins with muddy, smelly streets; we don't realise how lucky we are!" Still it was cheap at £2 per night and 50p meals.

A 30 hour coach journey took them to KASHMIR, which was a different world of course; very beautiful. They stayed in a houseboat on a lake. Very modest cost, £2 per head per day for accommodation, food and servant! After a week they returned via another nightmare coach trip to DELHI, then by train to MATTERA (one of the Seven Holy Cities in India) where "Hare Krishna" started, on by bus to AGRA and the Taj Mahal, which impressed them greatly. They visited another Holy City and also many temples, etc. They saw a lot of cremation fires by the Ganges, which was not a pretty sight. James tells us that children under the age of five who have died are not cremated as they are considered sinless and pure. Their bodies are instead tied up and weighted down with stones and thrown into the Ganges river.

After three weeks they were relieved to leave India, which they found a survival test. James lost half a stone in weight; Robert became so ill that he needed medical attention when they got to BANGKOK; before he recovered his weight had gone down by a stone. James said poor Rob looked really grim, thin as a rake handle. He wasn't that fat to start with! Anyway THAILAND was a great success, people super, country lovely and the food O.K., they both started to regain their weight losses.

They stayed five days in Bangkok before moving out to the coast, to a lovely beach complete with coconut palms, golden sands and green/blue clear seas, just like in the travel brochures; as James said, "Bliss". They rented a bungalow for £1.25 per night. The food was good but expensive.

Bangkok is the place for cheap clothes and leather goods etc., many lines sold with well known names attached (but fakes of course), Benetton shirts @ £2, Levi jeans @ £3, T-shirts @ £1.25, made to measure cowboy boots in leather @ £30 (all made by sweated labour, no doubt). So they have done quite a lot of shopping.

After three weeks of rest and restoration in Thailand they flew on to SIDNEY, Australia.

However, James would like to return to Thailand one day for another visit.

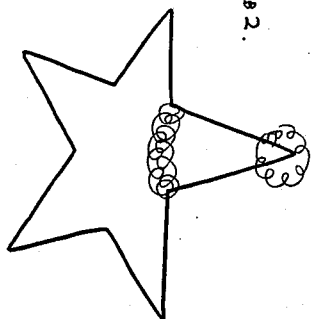
They have been looking forward to getting to Sidney as they both feel the need to do some work, not only for the money (of which they are running short) but also to use their strength and hands. No doubt the western life style will be welcome again also.

To be continued.....

Please send our love and best wishes for a Happy New Year to both of them and say that they were missed at the Disco!

# HOW TO MAKE A SANTA STAR by JUSTIN DASH

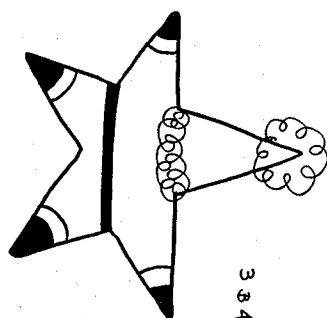
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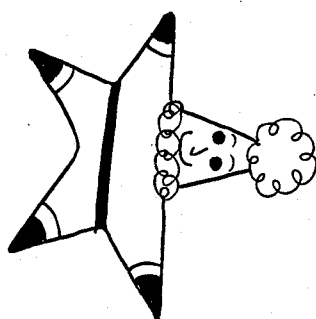
2.

FIRST CUT A STAR OUT OF RED CARD.  
THEN STICK A COTTON WOOL FLUFF BALL AT THE TOP AND MAKE A BEARD OUT OF THE SAME WOOL.

- 3. STICK GLOVES AND BOOTS ON.
- 4. STICK BELT ON.



3 & 4.

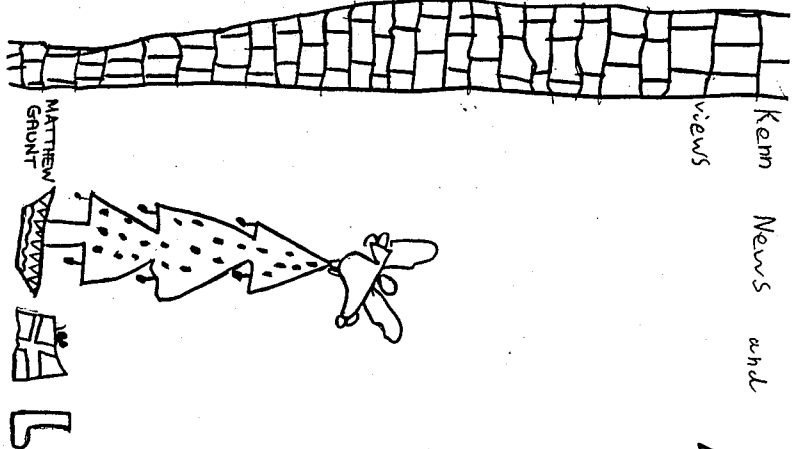


5. THEN DRAW A FACE ON.

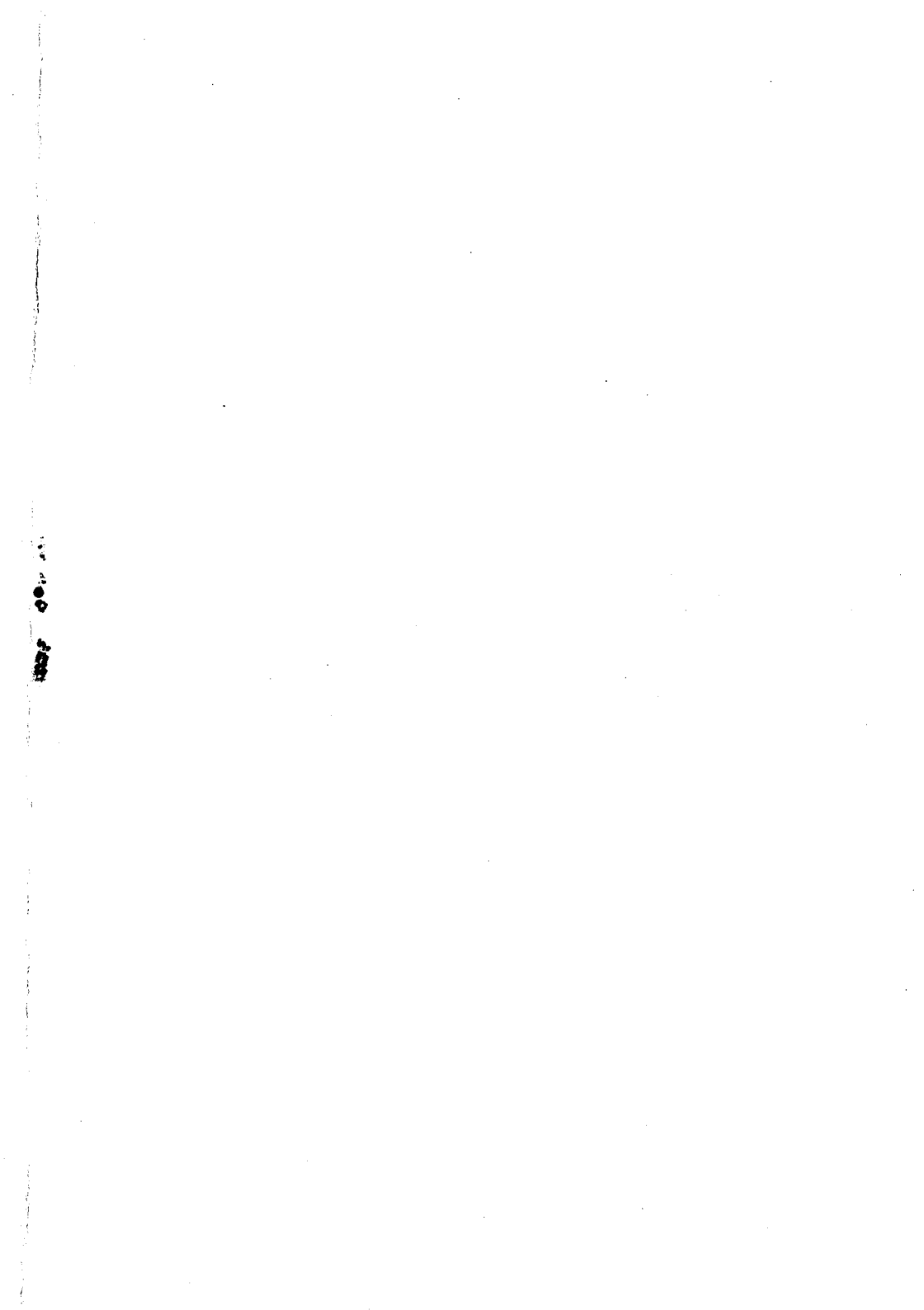


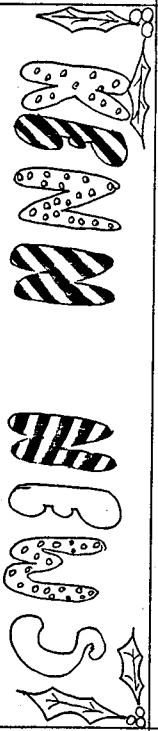
Kern News and

views



WE ENLARGED YOUR DRAWINGS JUSTIN SO THAT EVERYONE CAN SEE YOUR LOVELY STAR CLEARLY.





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15

WIMBOS.

DECEMBER

1989.

MERRY CHRISTMAS ALL

