

KENN

ISSUE 328 JANUARY 2016



No snow yet this winter so we hope you like this photo of
Kenn Court by taken by Robert Down
(from the archives)

NEWS & VIEWS

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

3rd Jane Roberts
8th Cliff Edwards
13th Abigail Smith
14th Rebecca Brain
Ella Hibbs
15th James Hayzen
16th Fred Fenwick
18th Mike Callow
26th Elijah Stowell
30th Mike Smith

Kenn Altar Guild - January Rota



Mary Willcox and Jane Staples

Thanks go to everyone for the beautiful decoration of our church for Christmas. The candles were greatly appreciated, both inside the church and lining the paths for the Christmas services.

Church Floodlighting

28th December our church was floodlit to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the passing of Robin Taylor (Dag).

Our Church was floodlit for the lighting of our Christmas Tree with Carol Singing on Friday 11th December, again for our Carol Service Sunday 20 December.; to celebrate the festival of Christmas and to see in The New Year.

Thanks go to Dave Pugh who is keeper of our lights. Tel; 01275 874278

Christmas Services at St John's

began with our Carol Service on Sunday 20th December - a full church, lit by candles inside and out - a warm welcome from Warren. Nine Lessons beautifully read, and carols sung with joy and gusto.

Christmas Eve - the Crib Service (see opposite) our church so full that extra chairs were needed.

10.00pm on Christmas Eve our night mass —thanks to Warren for a quiet, meditative sermon surrounded by joyful singing, a wonderful start to Christmas Day..

10.00am Christmas Morning—Avril Gaunt officiated at our Family Communion Service - the opportunity to light candles in memory of loved ones. Carols by request, more sweets, not only for the children.

Thanks go to Jo Manning for playing for us three times in less than a day.

John Ball, Churchwarden

Our flag was flown

11th December at half mast for the passing of Robert David Down, and again on the 23rd for his Service of Committal at Weston Crematorium.

18th December at half mast for the passing of Ben Crossman.

28th December at full mast to celebrate the birth of Olive Daphne Tran, first granddaughter for Tim and Julia Bush

Kenn Nativity 2015

What a blissfully chaotic time we had at the village 'no rehearsal' nativity this year. I had anticipated at the most seven children coming.



So I had devised a simple series of readings, poems and carols. As it drew near to 3pm on Christmas Eve the church door kept opening. Again and again in came angels, shepherds and kings. (We lost count of the numbers.)

They were accompanied by siblings, parents and grandparents. The church was full of friends, Christmas cheer and good will. The congregation were assured that Kenn is a welcoming community. If the children want to wander around during the service they were free to do so. The most important thing is that it was Christmas Eve and we were all together.

Bella did the opening reading telling us about an angel visiting Mary. She looked and sounded like an angel herself. Sam very competently did two readings. One about Joseph the other about The Magi. Bethany, with reverence, told us about the journey to Bethlehem and the birth of Jesus. Sizzle, Drew and Polly eloquently shared a reading about the Shepherds. Julia Panteli and Hazel read beautifully poems by Christina Rossetti.

Many, many thanks to all the other children who came dressed up for the nativity. Some preferred to watch and stay with their parents.

There are just a few other people to thank. John for making sure the church was warm and welcoming. Julia and Jenny for sorting out the costumes. Also a special thanks to Jo for playing the keyboard and leading the carols. (She had a list of the carols on a scrap bit of paper with moments to go. I had forgotten to print her off an order of service.) Many, many thanks to Avril for opening and closing prayers and reflections. Her calm serene presence helped the nativity move with joyful ease.

The whole congregation was fabulous, singing carols, clapping their appreciation for the readers and fully engaging in the festive fun.

This is a winning formula to be repeated next year. Caroline

Kenn to celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday

2016 is the year when the Queen will celebrate her 90th Birthday and **Sunday 12th June** has been designated as the day when communities are asked to mark the occasion.

Following the great success of last year's Big Lunch it is hoped that we will be able to organize another Community lunch and entertainment.

We will be raising money for local Charities, as requested by the Queen.

We are rightly proud of our sense of community and our ability to organize a really good event.

Last year's wondrous array of delicious food was magnificent and who can forget the Kenn Choir and Chorus.

So would it be a good idea to have a meeting to discuss some details and the format?

**A suggested date is Thursday 14th January at 8pm.
At Church Path Cottage**

Perhaps someone could take charge of this one as we will be away quite a bit before June?

Discuss it among yourselves, fresh ideas are always needed.

Please let us know about your availability for the meeting.

Robin and Marianna Email: mackayagents@aol.com

Phone: 07860235495(R)

07860497203(M)

'Everything Kenn'

Thank you to everyone who has "liked" the 'Everything Kenn' Facebook page.

There are approx 60 members currently which is amazing.

But there is always room for more so come check us out.

Thanks

Jane Roberts

SONGS FROM THE SHED 2016 DATES KENN VILLAGE HALL



USHTI BABA

Gypsy Jungle - Turbo Folkstep
Beatboxing - Belly Dancing!
The perfect post Christmas
pick me up.
Saturday January 23rd



DOUBLE HEADLINER THE LITTLE UNSAID.

A giddy conflation of folk,
electronica and lavish orchestration



TOBIAS BEN JACOB & LUKAS DRINKWATER

"Stand out new Folk, superb,
excellent" Chris Hawkins BBC Radio 6
Wednesday 17th February



RACHEL RIES

Hailing from Vermont via New York.
"Organic storytelling a gorgeous gush
of warm-blooded harmonies" Uncut
Thursday March 10th

£10.00 ON THE DOOR OR FROM
WWW.SONGSFROMTHESHED.COM

Caring at Christmas

Thank you Kenn for your very generous contributions to this year's appeal. We were able to take one and a half car loads of clothes, food, toiletries, blankets and sleeping bags....plus a large turkey to the shelter in Bristol. These were gratefully received by the volunteers who told us that it looked as though this year will be especially busy as the number of homeless on the streets of Bristol has grown.

We were also able to give them a large donation of cash/cheques thanks to your generosity.

Our record over the last many years has been magnificent and shows what a caring community we are at heart. So thank you to everyone who contributed. Robin and Marianna





December Market

Thank you to all who came along and supported the Christmas market and of course to the stall holders who fill the village hall with so many tempting

products.

The village hall looked beautifully festive. As promised, we held a tombola which proved very popular, thank you for the donated gifts. We provided the mince pies and coffee this month.

However there was sadness as we all remembered Robert Down, one of the founder members of the market, so we are pleased to say that because of the generosity of our supporters, we are able to donate £120 to Weston Hospice Care in memory of Robert.

Please note that the next market is Saturday 13th February 2016 from 10am to 12pm.

If you would like to run the refreshments or would like a table for the February Market please get in touch.

Maggie 876277 or Lyn 870189

'THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU' to everyone who donated to The Children's Society via the Christingle service and December services, including the huge congregation at the Crib Service. A total of £110.00.

Julia Bush

Bags of Rock Salt, for use on garden paths, are still available from Bram Rigg in the Church lay-by, near the flagpole
- Feel free to help yourselves.

Also Bird Food—put your money in the pots provided—again—Help Yourself!

The Crucifixion

An oratorio composed by Sir John Stainer
ALL SAINTS CHURCH, KINGSTON SEYMOUR
Tuesday 22nd March 2016 at 8.00 pm

The Congresbury Singers will be visiting Kingston Seymour for the first time with a performance of this well-known oratorio. The choir consists of approximately forty singers of mixed voices and led by their musical director, Gordon Pullin. They have performed at two Yatton Music Festivals in recent years, as well as numerous other concerts in the area.

This work has been in their repertoire for a number of years. The Singers like to visit churches in the locality during Lent to perform this work and in recent years have included parishes in Clevedon, Nailsea, Winscombe, Brockley and Congresbury. The Crucifixion has been sung continuously since the first performance in 1887. It includes such well-known works as 'Fling wide the gates' and the beautiful unaccompanied chorus 'God so love the world'. There are two soloists, a tenor and a bass. It is accompanied by the organ and lasts just over the hour. Sir John Stainer has also composed many hymn tunes including 'Love divine' and 'All for Jesus'. The presentation of this work is put on at the Congresbury Singers own expense.

Kenn Supper Club

The first, very successful, Supper Club was held on 18th November 2015. We hope that this will now become a monthly event.

Therefore on the Wednesday 20th January 2016 at 7.00pm for 7.30 pm we will convene again at The Drum and Monkey.



It is a good way for villagers to meet each other informally and catch up with news and gossip. From then on it will be on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. All are welcome.

If you want you can then stay on for the pub quiz.
It would be helpful if Mike had some idea of how many diners to expect.

Please contact John and Grace Griffin. Tel 872948.

Kenn Diary for January

**Wednesday 13th January - 7.30pm Kenn W.I.
Meeting at Kenn Village Hall**

**Thursday 14th January 8.00pm at Church Path Cottage
Meeting to discuss Queen Elizabeth II Ninetieth Birthday Celebrations**

**Wednesday 20th January - Drum & Monkey
7.00 for 7.30 Kenn Supper Club**

**Saturday 23rd January — Coffee Morning
Church Room 10.00—12 noon**

**Saturday 23rd January — Kenn Village Hall
Songs from the Shed USHTI BABA**

**Monday 25th January - Drum & Monkey
8.00pm - Book Club**

Book group

We gathered on the 7th December 2015 to discuss 'Lucky Jim' by Kinsley Amis. This comic novel was written in 1954 and is set in an unspecified redbrick English university.



In essence the narrative is a rebellion on pretentious academia. The elements of a promising good read. However we were unanimous in our dislike of this book. We had little empathy for the characters. Also the fifties novel did not transport itself to the 21st Century. Especially around issues of gender and language.

The first book group of 2016 will be on Monday 25th January. We are going to open the year with a thriller. Our book is 'At Risk' by Stella Rimington.

As usual we meet in 'The Drum'.

We are flexible about start time, meeting at around 8pm.

Caroline.

Useful Numbers:

Village Hall Booking:
Lyn & Nigel Burnett 01275 870189

St John the Evangelist Priest in charge:
Revd. Warren Williams 01934 833608

Churchwardens:
Julia Bush 873554
John Ball 874077

Village Flag Flying:
Marianna or Robin 340323 or
Hazel 349535

Altar Guild Secretary:
Marianna Mackay 340323

Church Floodlighting:
David Pugh 874278

North Somerset Council:
01934 888 888
out of hours:
01934 622 669

News & Views:
Margaret Ball 01275 874077
Email: Margaret.john@btinternet.com
Chaseside, Kenn Street, Kenn



Will be held in Kenn Village Hall on Saturday,
13th February - 10:00am till midday.

Recycling - 6th/12th/19th/26th

Dustbin - 12th/26th January

Green Waste - 6th Wednesday



**North Somerset Times/
Clevedon Mercury**

Don't forget that copies of
local newspapers are freely
available in the bar at the
Drum and Monkey from Wednesday
afternoons

**Kenn Women's
Institute**



Kenn Village Hall,
7:30pm Wednesday
13th January - Visitors welcomed

Clevedon Salerooms
FINE ART AUCTIONEERS & VALUERS

Tel: 01934 830111

Email: info@clevedon-salerooms.com

Antique and Quality Furnishings. Collectables etc
Thursdays 7th and 21st January

Viewing at Saleroom

Wednesdays 6th and 20th 10am - 7:30pm
Morning of sale from 9am

Quarterly Specialist Sale
Thursday 10th March 10.30am

Viewing at Saleroom

Tuesday 9th March 2pm - 5:30pm
Wednesday 10th March 10am - 7:30pm
Morning of sale from 9am

Catalogues can be viewed at
www.clevedon-salerooms.com

theWI

INSPIRING WOMEN

KENN W.I.

The end of November saw the annual Kenn W.I. flower demonstration evening, which was very well attended.

This year our demonstrator was Diane Oliver, who treated us to several displays that we could attempt at home.

The December meeting was our Christmas party. The members enjoyed a buffet whilst they struggled with a picture and Christmas quiz. The evening ended with secret Santa.

December starts the beginning of the W.I. skittles season. In the first round of the competition Kenn played Dundry at the Crown at Regil. Our two new members to the skittles team helped us win by 17 pins. We shall have to wait until the New Year to find out who we play in the next round.

Our speaker at the January 2016 meeting (on Wednesday 13th starting at 19.30) is Alison Lee who will talk to us on the work of Clevedon Hospital League of Friends who were our charity for 2015.

Our charity for 2016 is Springboard a local charity based in Clevedon who help children with special needs. We hope you will support us in our funding raising events during 2016.

Finally I wish you all a very Happy New Year.

Marion Hulance.

It's January

- and what must we do?

Find the flies!

Look in the loft!

Inspect the outhouse!

Examine the barn!

Suck 'em up in the vacuum!

Empty the vacuum into a bag, tie it up
and put it in the Dustbin!

And the prize for finding them? -

A 'plague-free' summer.



Carols by the Christmas Tree

On a blustery night about 70 adults and children gathered to watch the Kenn Christmas Lights being illuminated. 10-9-8-7-6, we counted down the seconds until the big moment.

To everyone's delight the lights came on at this point leaving Robin (facing away from the tree) to struggle on with the count amid much hilarity!

With this minor hiccough behind them everyone gathered round Ali and family who provided a stunning musical accompaniment to our Carol singing.



Ten carols and a full version of Jingle Bells were sung with great gusto. Mulled wine, sausage rolls and delicious mince pies (courtesy of Jenny Pascoe) were served to the appreciative audience.

We were slightly nervous about numbers as several regulars were unable to come, but we need not have worried as many of our new neighbours joined in this joyful community occasion.

Put it in your diaries!! Next year's event will be on Friday 16th December 2016.

Robin and Marianna



Congratulations on the arrival of a precious gift, a granddaughter for Julia and Tim Bush

Monday 28th December to Felicity (Fliss) and Michael Tran at 6.05am weighing 5lbs. 12 oz a daughter

Olive Daphne Tran.

Our flag was flown in celebration.

Proud father reported 1.1.16 that both girls are safely home and doing great !!!!!



Just a couple of snaps taken at private parties.
to the left Sue and Tony with Neil Aldridge, all from Duck Lane, with Neil's amazing elephant photo poster.
below, Jean with daughter Emma at son-in-law Noel's 50th Birthday party.



Margaret's Mutterings

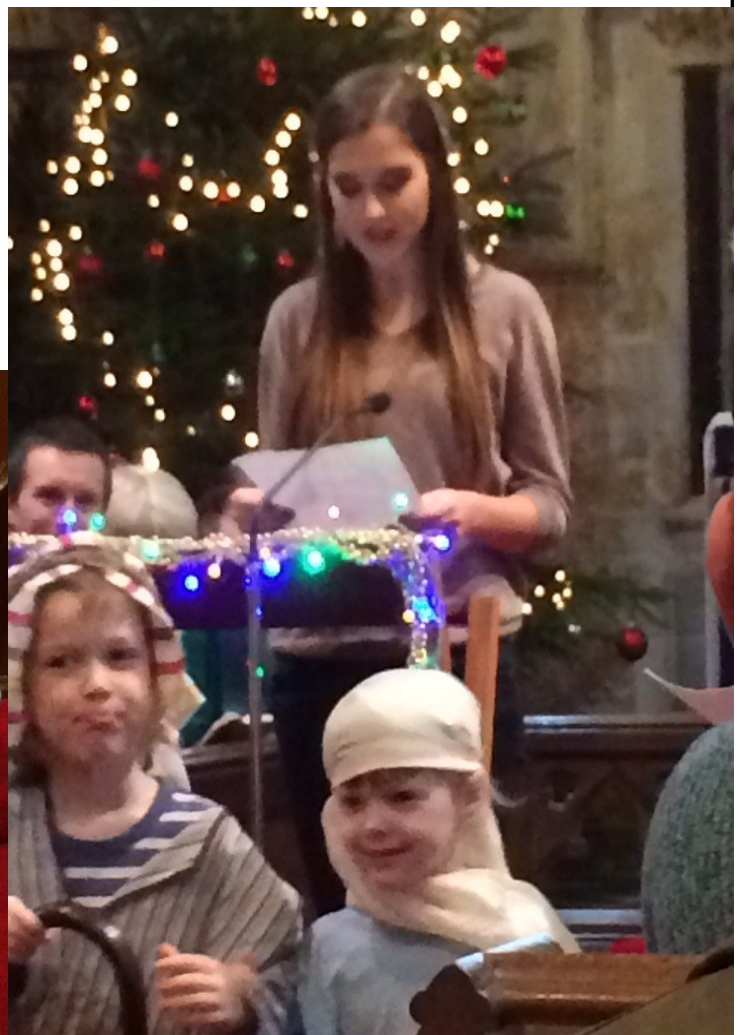
Some snaps from the Crib Service on Christmas Eve

May I start by saying how wonderful it is to live in Kenn.

Each month I send out a round robin and back comes copy for this publication — thank you to one and all.

Keep up the good work in 2016 please.....
New contributors especially welcome

HAPPY NEW YEAR



SERVICES FOR JANUARY 2016

1st Sunday 3rd THE EPIPHANY (Transferred from 6th Jan.) **WHITE**
THE SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS **WHITE**

8.30am Holy Communion at Kenn*
 9.30am Parish Communion at Yatton
 9.30am Holy Communion at Cleeve
 11.00am Taste & See/Holy Communion at Claverham
 11.00am Family Service at Kingston Seymour
 6.00pm Evensong at Yatton

2nd Sunday 10th THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST **WHITE**

8:00am Holy Communion at Yatton*
 9:30am Parish Communion at Yatton
 9:30am Holy Communion at Claverham
 11:00am Holy Communion at Cleeve
11:00am Holy Communion at Kenn
 6:00pm Evensong at Kingston Seymour*

3rd Sunday 17th THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY **WHITE**

8:00am Holy Communion at Claverham*
 9:30am Parish Communion at Yatton
 9:30am Holy Communion at Cleeve
 11:00am Holy Communion at Kingston Seymour
6:00pm Evensong at Kenn*
 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18th – 25th January)

3rd Wednesday 20th January

11.00am Holy Communion at Kenn

4th Sunday 24th THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY **WHITE**

8:00am Holy Communion Yatton*
 8:30am Holy Communion Kingston Seymour*
 9:30am Parish Communion Yatton
 10:00am Café Celebration at Court de Wyck School
11:00am Family Service Kenn
 6.00pm Holy Communion at Cleeve
 6.00pm Ecumenical Evensong at Yatton*

5th Sunday 31st (THE PRESENTATION of CHRIST) – CANDLEMAS **WHITE**
THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY **WHITE**

10.00am Team Communion at Kingston Seymour

* Book of Common Prayer (1662)

Down on the Farm

The warm wet weather of the last month has resulted in a late flush of grass. Normally we don't expect as much grass after the end of October. This has enabled farmers to keep some of their cattle out of the grass till the middle of the month.

Sheep have also benefitted from the fresh grass.

Some early lambs have already been born, but unfortunately several have been lost to foxes, which take the new born lambs.

The fox will take the second lamb as soon as it is born and the ewe has difficulty protecting both.



The local Christmas livestock show was held at Sedgemoor Market at the start of the month. A top prize for cattle of £1,000 attracts exhibitors from all over the South West, even into Wales and the West Midlands. It was very pleasing to see the prize for the Champion beast was won by a local 15 year old young farmer against very tough opposition.

Footnote: a friend of ours has a daffodil in flower in the garden and we still have roses in bloom so near to Christmas.

Notes from Miles Naish, typed by Leon Naish

Kenn Village Hall

In response to Sarah Clark's article in the mag for December in which she thanks many people including ourselves, we would like to thank **HER** very much indeed. When you live right next door to the hall it is easy to see who the people are that put so much work into keeping it going. Sarah's car has so often been seen parked outside the hall as she has been inside beavering away to make sure everything is in order for the next event. It has been great to see the hall used so much. Sarah has been very careful in deciding who should use it and informing those around who is using it and when.

All of this has taken a considerable amount of her time and effort and the hall has been in very safe hands in her care.

Well done and many thanks again, Sarah!

We'd also like to echo Sarah's thanks to all the others who work so tirelessly to make the hall such a wonderful resource for us all, and to wish good luck to Lyn and Nigel next year.

Jan and Colin Bedford.

Bird News

At the time of writing the weather is unseasonably mild (if rather wet) and there is an unconfirmed report of swallows feeding young in a nest near Penzance on the 9th December! There seem to be low numbers of Fieldfares and Redwings around probably because many haven't ventured very far south. The weather has favoured our winter stonechats with at least ten on Kenn Moor where the wintering Little Grebes had arrived on the Blackditch and a few Siskins and a Woodcock were noted in Littlewood.

The Yacwag fields by the Strawberry Line held 20 snipe and a Barn Owl. Speaking of which, Jackie Huxtable has found the remains of two Barn Owls recently on Clevedon Moor. The second carried a ring and I am waiting to find out its history. It was not ringed by Chris Sperring who rings local birds so it may have come some distance.

A friend counted 62 Little Egrets in fields by Middle Lane, Kingston Seymour at a pre roost gathering. Many are currently feeding in fields near to the Kenn estuary.

The main excitement along the sea wall has been the build up of the Dunlin flock with at least 5,000 birds present mid month. They provide a marvellous display when they are wheeling around at high tide.

There were also a thousand Lapwings around the Yeo estuary - the new pools created in connection with the sea wall works seem to be an attraction for them. At the beginning of the month there were still 170 Greenfinches feeding on weed seeds at the back of the sea bank, but following a hard cut by the Environment Agency contractor numbers were much reduced.

Lastly, has anyone seen or heard a Song Thrush lately? I usually hear them singing on mild days in December but not this year.

Trevor Riddle 01934 835208.

Excess traffic speed in the Kenn area .

Concern has been expressed by people in Kenn regarding the excessive speed of traffic particularly in Kenn Street and also the speed of traffic on Kenn Road and Moor Road.

A meeting will take place soon with the local police department to discuss what measures can be taken to make drivers aware of the speed restrictions in the village area.

In the mean time I have found a company who supply speed warning stickers that can be attached to wheelie bins ! !.

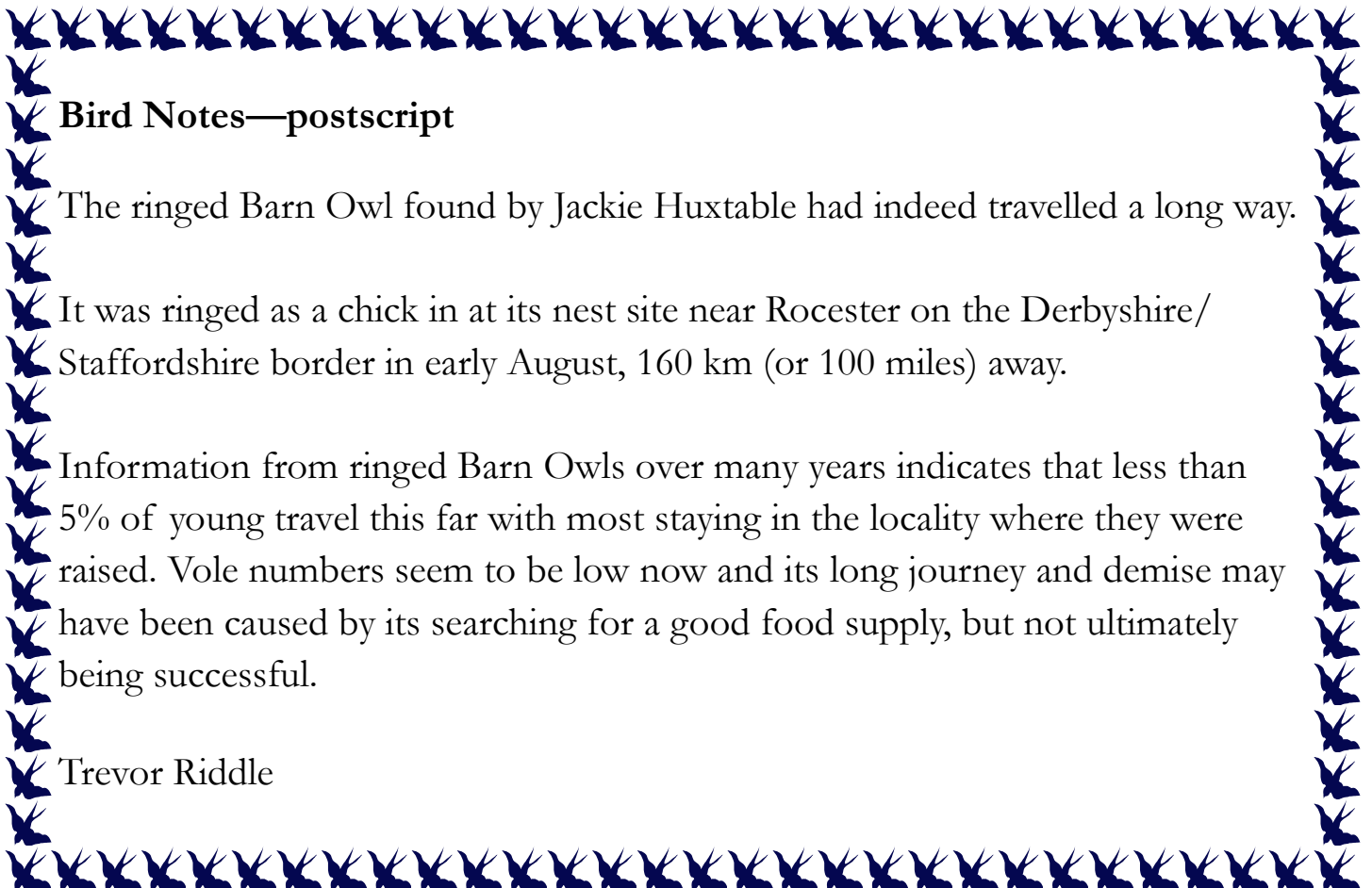
These stickers can vary from " 30 mph limit to Please slow down in our village ".

The company can be found on the internet under " Smartwheelie.co.uk " and their e-mail address is

sales@smartwheelie.co.uk

I will probably purchase some myself and if anyone feels they would like to try them please get in touch on 075 8295 9417.

Bryan Thompson .

**Bird Notes—postscript**

The ringed Barn Owl found by Jackie Huxtable had indeed travelled a long way.

It was ringed as a chick in at its nest site near Rocester on the Derbyshire/Staffordshire border in early August, 160 km (or 100 miles) away.

Information from ringed Barn Owls over many years indicates that less than 5% of young travel this far with most staying in the locality where they were raised. Vole numbers seem to be low now and its long journey and demise may have been caused by its searching for a good food supply, but not ultimately being successful.

Trevor Riddle

Happy New Year!

Just like to say a BIG thank you to everyone who came to this years children's Christmas party!

It was great fun and even Father Christmas made it!

Thank you to all Santa's little helpers.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy New Year!!

Sizzle

Just a few snaps from the
Children's Party 21.12.12

(below the children are okay—just playing sleeping lions)





ROBERT DOWN

I cannot write much at this time, as I write on the morning of Robert's cremation.

However, neither can I let this first opportunity pass without saying a huge thank-you.

Support from friends and neighbours in Kenn has been tremendous.

I cannot thank you enough for all your messages, cards, letters flowers and even meals.

I am humbled to be part of this village.

Joyce.



Robert Down

Our church bell was rung at 1.30pm at the time of Robert Down's funeral at Weston Crematorium on the 23rd. December.

The "Nine Tellers", and one strike of the bell for each of his years, sounded forth from the tower which Robert had pictured so well in one of his Christmas card selections.

We were fortunate to get one of those cards from friends in the Yatton Moor Team only a few days after his death and had said at that time what a very special card and memorial it made.

May he rest in peace and rise in glory. G. and E. Marchant.

Memories of Robert Down

The day before Christmas Eve was one of the saddest days in the village. The passing of Robert was made all the more poignant by the time of year.

Roberts's funeral was dignified, thoughtful and reflective. This was truly symbolic of the man himself. It was an honour to be there with his family, friends and fellow villagers.

I recall the first time I went to Robert and Joyce's house. Joyce showed me her orange blossom china collection. I admired this and the pristine state of her immaculate house. She then showed me into Robert's room where he was sitting at his table. My eyes were agog with wonder. The volume of wall to wall, bits of machinery, books, tools, instruments, on going projects and memorabilia was at first puzzling. Robert had obviously seen this look on visitors faces before. 'I know, I know' was his response. Joyce gave a withered look.

This was Robert, curious, interested and engaging. The purpose of my visit to Downscote was to work with Robert and a small team of others on 'The Parish Plan'. We had several meetings and events. Some of us went off on tangents with grandiose plans and schemes. Robert could be relied on to keep us grounded and focused.

Robert was a renaissance man. He was both artist and scientist. For several years he and Steve Thole held photography exhibitions in the hall. I used to love going to see them. I would discuss with Robert how his style and presentation had developed. Like I knew what I was talking about!

Ever the gentleman Robert would listen positively to my observations. At the market it was always a pleasure to be greeted by Robert at his card and photography stall. He had time and interesting conversation for everyone.

Robert the scientist brought a microscope and aphids to the Sunday Club several years ago. This was truly amazing. Through the microscope the children could see that inside the aphid was the next aphid fully formed. Then again inside that was another fully formed aphid, it seemed infinite. What was really striking about that morning was that Robert had not lost his wonder and fascination for this insect's reproductive capacity.

John (Hayden) recalls how Robert worked with him and a team on the village hall extension. Robert wanted to be involved in preserving our community asset. He did the plumbing and the tiling. This is a fitting memorial to Robert.

From now on we will realise that the village is poorer for Robert's sudden passing.

Rest in peace Robert.

Caroline and John.

Robert David Down - 1943 - 2015 - A large numbers of neighbours and friends were at Weston Crematorium on Wednesday 23rd December to say farewell to Robert and give support to Joyce, Rachel and Andy. Printed below are the words composed by his family.

By Joyce:

Rachel, Andrew and I would like to thank you all for being with us today to say farewell to Robert. He would be truly amazed to see so many family members, ex colleagues and friends here.

Robert David Down was born in Bristol in April 1943.

He was the second son of Elsie May and Henry John Down. He considered himself a true Bristolian and was proud to be so. He told me (Joyce) a Yorkshire Lass, that Bristol was the centre of the universe and he soon had me won over. We didn't 'do' football though!

I am told that Robert was a shy child. However this didn't prevent him getting into mischief. He proudly told me of the time when he tried to sell flowers off the fuchsia bushes from his garden to the girls at school telling them they were fairies.



Once he was found with bright green 'wellies' and legs which had been painted with gloss paint. This resulted in him being put in the kitchen sink and scrubbed with petrol by his father and a large stiff bristled brush.

Robert lost his father when he was only nine and this had a profound influence on him. However he had a 'big' brother John who was his playmate and role model. Sadly John passed away earlier this year. 2015 has not been kind to the Downs.

Late teens and early twenties saw Robert at a crossroads, trying to decide what he wanted to do. Was it to be engineering or photography. Then he was offered the chance to get involved in the new industry of IT and computing. He took it and the result as they say is history.

He was fascinated by this developing challenge and it was just at the right time. His working life was spent in this field, with various companies, starting with the Electricity Board and ending in the financial field.

During the 'Swinging Sixties' he met this 'lass with the funny accent, mini skirts and red leather boots'.

I had decided to leave Yorkshire and came to teach in Bristol where a College friend lived. Making new friends here, I met Robert who was working at BAC. We were married in 1969. Rachel arrived after two years and Andrew the following year.

I gave up teaching and we moved to Swindon where Robert had a new job. When we had to start considering secondary schools we decided to move back to Bristol and Robert became self employed with his own company.

Always simmering in the background was Robert love of cars, machines and photography. He had many vehicles over the years from his first Morris Minor, to other models which he always wanted to modify to suit himself. We roared around in Scimitars, E-Type Jaguars, Ginetta kit cars, sedate Daimlers - you name it, he once owned one! Rachel got her first mini when she was just sixteen but it was never restored enough for her to use! I remember he constructed an E-Type bonnet using glass fibre and resin in our spare bedroom. I can still smell it.

In 1990 Rachel went to University and stay on in Durham to get a PhD. She now lives and works in York as a research scientist trying to do her bit in preventing the world from destroying itself.

Andrew when he left school was heavily into Theatre and particularly lighting design. He toured the country and abroad. We went to many of his shows and I have all the programmes with his name in. Like his father he was bitten by the IT and computer bug, so he left the road and settled back in Bristol with his own company. I have to say that it is relatively recently that Robert had to admit that his son knew far more on this subject than he did. Thank goodness he does because I am a technophobe and wary of pressing the wrong key in case I lose my email address, or my savings disappears.

In 2001 as Robert was soon to retire we were considering moving from the delights of Bristol to out of town. One Saturday evening I was surfing the net, as you do, with a view to finding somewhere that ticked all the boxes. By Sunday afternoon we had found, viewed and had an offer accepted on our new home in Kenn. I still can't believe how impetuous we were. However it was definitely the right move and we have never regretted it for a second.

We made the house our own over the years and completely finished a major project two years ago. We were always DIY'ers and Robert was overjoyed when Clevedon got a Screwfix of its own. He used to visit on a Friday morning and get his coffee and a doughnut there. This is a trade secret and you have to have a card!

After retirement photography became a passion once again and all the advances in digital wizardry helped him to develop his skills and start selling his work. He built himself a garden studio into which he used to disappear for hours.

Robert was a 'Doggy' person in his younger days. I had to introduce him to felines and as a family we all became passionate about our cats (always black). We have six buried in our garden and two still with us. I can confirm that cats do pine for their families. We did manage to entice a local ginger Tom into Robert's room at Weston Hospice, where he spent the last three weeks. This was certainly not discouraged by the wonderful staff there.

Our move to Kenn has brought us many new friends and lots are here today. Old friends, many from a long time back are also here. I value all the support I have received from you all at this sad time.

One last thing Robert became influenced by in his later life was classical music. It has always been a vital part of my life and he took me to concerts regularly. Eventually he became as hooked as I am. I hope it helped him to bear his last few weeks as the radio was on day and night.

Thank you Robert my husband, father to Rachel and Andrew, and friend to many. We love and miss you more than you could ever know.

By Andrew;

You taught me to swim - You taught me to dive - You taught me to fish - You taught me to drive

My fondest memories of my Dad are when he was showing me how to do something.

Equipped with a face mask, flippers and snorkel in the swimming pool of the hotel in Guernsey we always stayed in; you showed me how to swim underwater and how to dive in from the side.

In Cornwall fishing at dawn from the cliffs near Bessie's Cove. We never caught much, but the fishmonger in Porthleven got pretty used to us showing up to buy a giant fish so we could take it home to Mum and Rachel and pretend we did.

Sitting on your lap and steering your Daimler up and down the lane in Swindon, before being allowed later to drive on the beach or down the long road into Leigh Woods.

With those four simple things you taught me to have the confidence to dive into things, knowing that I will float. You taught me to keep trying, and that one day I would catch that fish. And most importantly you taught me to drive myself to where I want to go. I miss you loads and will continue to miss you loads, my Dad.

By Rachel;

Dad had another great passion in life - his love of nature. He put this down to his early childhood days running wild on the coal tips and clay pits at Deep Pit Road where all manner of exciting creatures could be found: slow worms, hedgehogs, frogs, newts and toads. At certain times of the year, especially in wet weather, the pavement at the entrance to the clay pits would be covered in tiny frogs. His mum used to pick them up and put them on his pram cover so that he could watch them hopping around!

Dad has always shared his love of nature with us. I remember him waking me up one night when I was young and taking me out into the garden to show me a mole. And then of course there were the frequent requests to "shut our eyes and hold out our hands" so that he could place some little creature he'd found in our palms. We were always rescuing injured birds and trying to nurse them back to health. Mostly they didn't survive but one exception was an injured seagull that we found in Cornwall. We took it back to Bristol with us and then returned it to Cornwall for release when it had recovered. You can imagine for yourselves our journey with a squawking seagull, as well as our two cats, in the car for company! Dad's other rescues included our first rabbit, Benji, and a couple of hares that had got caught in a ring of burning stubble. I have inherited my own love of nature from Dad and also cannot pass an injured animal by. My latest animal rescue is a lost domestic rabbit who very rapidly produced seven more much to dad's amusement! I also have Dad's love of nature to thank for my choice of career. You won't be surprised to hear that I chose to read my favourite subject, biology, at university and to follow a career as a research biologist. I handle insects on a daily basis and love it!

Thank you Dad, for sharing your love of nature and for leading me to a job that I thoroughly enjoy.

Of course I have many other things to thank Dad for, too numerous to mention now. So I will simply say, thank you Dad, for your never ending love and encouragement.

Dad, you are the best, my dearest friend. I love you dearly and I know that you will always be with me.

Robert

We have been very saddened by Robert's death. We are very sorry for Joyce, and Rachel and Andrew's loss but hope that the many tributes paid to him in recent days offer some consolation. We liked Robert a lot as a person and admired him for the contribution he made to the lives of others in the village. We will miss him as well but will not forget him. Looking at the village photos in the hall and our village plan booklet will help us to do this, and we always keep our Bob the Builder scarecrow card.

Robert had an amazing set of skills. He was able to make just about anything in his workshops. He could turn out devices to adapt his cameras to use a range of lenses.

He made a very sophisticated pin-hole device from an obsolete camera and at another level experimented with drinks cans to use them as cameras. He took this picture of his garden with a drinks can. The exposure was over several days as you can see from the sun tracks.



He was always interesting to talk to on technical or scientific matters because he was naturally curious and retained that capacity to rise to an intellectual challenge as well as a practical problem.

He was not shy of having an opinion but in this it was his sense of community that seemed to shape his ideas. He listened to others with empathy and care and was keen to help others if he could. He did many things for the village which we remember such as taking the village photos and working on the village hall. He and Joyce made a success of the village market which is now well-established largely due to their considerable efforts. He was serious about things which are worth being serious about and that included politics.

He was concerned about social justice and how that might be achieved. But he was also very funny at times and had a warm smile and an infectious laugh. He had a playful sense of humour as could be seen in some of his photos.

We also came to know Robert through our trips to concerts. Sometimes we would all go together and afterwards we might talk about the music or the performers. Here is an opportunity to spread Robert's enthusiasm for one relatively obscure Russian composer. Perhaps he would like his name advertised here? He particularly liked a piece by Sviridov from a film called Time Forward which was optimistic about industrial progress. You can find it on You Tube. He liked it because of its representation of industry. We did not know Robert from before his retirement but think that he was proud of the work that he had done and his contribution to "progress". He was also very fond of nature as can be seen in the way he observed it for his photos. Often his subjects were small and delicate.

Above all Robert was a family man. It was easy to see so many dimensions to Robert's personality but at the core of this it seemed to us was a care and compassion for others spreading out from his family to the wider community. We are very glad to have known him.

Jan and Colin Bedford

Robert and Kenn

I first met Joyce and Robert the day they arrived in 'Duck Lane' some fifteen years ago, it was a happy meeting. Looking back, little did I realise just how fortunate we were, that they had chosen to settle here in Kenn. They both soon proved that they were as one in their wish to take part in much of village life. However, it is Robert's contribution I here write about..

Robert was one of those so welcome and encouraging member of any community a 'yes' man, as in 'yes, if you have a job to do I'll help, what time shall I turn up?' Robert with his enviable DIY skills was so helpful, especially when we were constructing the new Hall porch, his skilled tiling and plumbing is there for us to enjoy for many years. I think he particularly enjoyed working on the Hall as he was to turn up on other occasions and take a full part in any task.

When a team was working on 'The Village Plan' a few year back, Robert's other work-acquired skills and experience were much valued by his colleagues. He gave many hours to that project.

About five years ago, Robert was a founder member of the ' Kenn Market Start Up Four'. He created the market signs which we still use each month and involved himself in every aspect of getting this idea off the ground.

When we gathered for a village event, which required a group photograph it was Robert's camera that recorded the occasion. Resulting photos will, I imagine, hang on the Hall wall for as long as the village has a a Hall.

If Robert attended a Parish Council meeting as a member of the public, his contribution was helpful and always carefully considered.

A Village is made a good place t live, not by its buildings, or a street or lane, but by the people who live there, the way they care for and respond to each other in good and difficult times. Robert who was the best of companions, neighbour and friend to so many of us, I suggest loved living here, because he found the spirit of this place fitted so often with his values.

We can hope and trust that as his life's journey drew to a close, he would have realised from the cards, visits and messages, just how much he was appreciated and loved by us, and that his dear Joyce is held in the same affection.

John Griffin

Neighbourhood Watch

Received 11th December – Overnight of 9-10 December a padlock on an outbuilding at a property in Frost Hill, Yatton was forced off and a quad bike was stolen.

MONTHLY UPDATE November covering Kingston Seymour, Yatton and Kenn

Total calls reported to the Police across the beat – 104 Out of those 13 were listed as crimes, including:

0 Assault - 0 Assault on Police - 1 dwelling burglary (distraction) - 2 Non dwelling burglary - 2 criminal damage (property/vehicles) - 1 theft from motor vehicles - 1 theft of motor vehicle—0 theft of pedal cycles - 0 theft from shops - remainder miscellaneous

(PLEASE NOTE: the police have moved to a new recording system and as such we are experiencing short term data quality issues. This will improve over time as corrections are made to the database)


Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) -

6 reports. Hot spot identified in Yatton and regular patrols are being made - Beat Surgery - there are no beat surgeries planned for December/January at this time. PACT/Have Your Say meeting - held as agenda item at local parish council meetings, dates as follows: Kingston Seymour - village hall on 11 January and 15 March both starting at 7.30pm Yatton - Hangstones pavilion on 11 January starting at 7.30pm - Kenn - details not yet confirmed. Current priorities are identified in Yatton as being speeding and parking issues

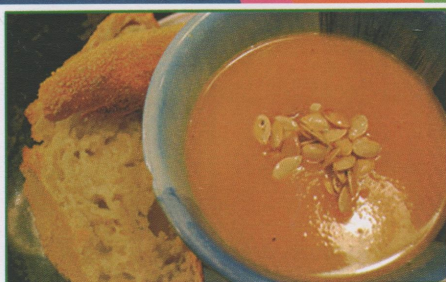
If you have information about any crime, phone the police on 101 or you can call anonymously to the independent charity CRIMESTOPPERS 0800 555 111.

For general information about Neighbourhood Watch nationally see the www.ourwatch.org.uk website.





The new name for
AGE Concern Somerset



Would like to learn how to cook some simple, delicious and healthy recipes?

HEALTHY COOKERY COURSE

Starting date: 28th January
Time: 10:30 am – 12:30 pm
Venue: Christchurch, Chapel Hill, Clevedon, BS21 7LL


For more information and book a place contact:
Angi Lewis
on 07702 687 314 or
email: angi.lewis@ageuksomerset.org.uk

www.ageuksomerset.org.uk

This is a 5-week course for people over 55 who need some help to prepare and cook healthy meals.

Every week you are going to prepare a simple, delicious and healthy dish.

You will also look at how to cut fat and sugar in your diet.



community learning west

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KENN PARISH COUNCIL

2016

KENN PARISH COUNCILLORS

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Jon-Paul Humberstone – Tel: 07990 690 060
Cheryl Quinn – Tel: 07983 015 286
Hartley Staples – Tel: 01275 340 771
Robert Treble – Tel: 07831 316 760

MEETINGS FOR 2016

The Village Hall, Kenn St. Kenn

11 January – Council Meeting
7 March – Annual Parish Meeting
followed by a Council Meeting
9 May – Stat. Annual Meeting of Council
4 July – Council Meeting
5 September – Council Meeting
7 November – Council Meeting
Agenda will be on notice boards
3 clear days before the meeting.



For 2016
From Kenn Parish Council

