

KENNI NEWS & VIEWS

ISSUE 404 APRIL 2022



April Birthdays & Anniversaries

1st Clare Hibbs
3rd Antonis Papisolomontos
Avril Brown
4th Rosie Treble
5th Nikki Alexander
7th Jo Batten
Alfie Alexander
8th Emma Brooks (Fenwick)
10th Anna Powers
Paul Lillie
13th Troy Gale
18th George Matthew Butland
19th John Ball
21st Barbara Middleton
22nd Liz Jaehme
23rd Talitha Stowell
24th Margaret Ball
29th Miles Naish

St John the Evangelist, Kenn

April Altar Guild



Easter Sunday is 17th April
Flower arrangers are invited to
decorate St John's on Saturday 16th

Thank you

Dear all,

I'm looking out at my garden, the damson tree is in blossom, we have had wonderful weather and Spring is here. The clocks have moved forward giving us lighter evenings and the opportunity to spend even more time in our gardens. We are truly blessed.

Set against this we have the catastrophe of the dehumanising war in Ukraine. The shadow of the tyranny of a man who is lying to his own country while trying to exterminate another.

The horrific images of buildings reduced to rubble and desperate people trying to find safety, of stations with women and children spilling out on to platforms with no men and few older people who remain in a war-torn country.

Those countries immediately adjacent to Ukraine have done an amazing job of welcoming those fleeing the horrors and gradually the refugees are trickling further west in Europe and places of safety.

As we pray for peace we are also called to action and the local villages are providing opportunities to contribute at markets, coffee mornings, breakfasts, and donations at various collection points.

To date the DEC have raised over £200 million and the need for continuing support is going to carry on for some time.

I'm reminded, looking at the DEC website that refugees from Afghanistan and Syria and other areas of conflict are still trying to find new homes, making hazardous journeys, risking their lives.

I've been reflecting on my involvement in resettling refugees in Nailsea and know how difficult, time consuming and labour intensive it can be, but how worthwhile it is as long as a strong support network is in place. This need often makes rural locations not the best area for resettlement but there will always be ways to help and support.

I'm aware too that this war in Europe reminds us of just how close we are to the worst expression of humanity, that there is a shadow that is much closer. But in the deepest of darkness there is hope as demonstrated by love, compassion, forgiveness, and courage. These fruits of the Spirit are the best reflections of our humanity, we have witnessed them in Ukraine and these will defy tyranny and uphold what is right.

As we travel through Lent towards Easter in Church, we have a time of reflecting on light and shadows, conflict and forgiveness, destruction, and hope. Easter is an expression of hope and I hope and pray that by the time we reach Easter Sunday morning there will be peace in Europe and that although there may still be shadows, we will continue to be compassionate in our response to the needs of refugees and all those innocents whose lives are impacted by war.

Through all of this, the continuing impact of Covid, rising energy bills and other political and social uncertainty we hold on to what is good in life and celebrate it even more in the light of everything else. As I look at my diary over the next month and consider what I can join in with or who I hope to visit or who will visit me I have to be grateful that I have that freedom. At church we are planning for Easter. Messy Easter bags are being packed to distribute to families and on Maundy Thursday (April 14th) we shall be sharing a high tea at Kenn Village Hall and remembering Jesus' last meal and the walk to the garden of Gethsemane with his friends as we then walk down to church. Easter Morning at 9.30am we have a celebration service and no doubt Easter Eggs will feature somewhere! If you can't make the service then pop into church for an egg and enjoy the wonderful spring flowers. We'll also be working on the New Room over Easter, refreshing, and updating it, cleaning, painting, getting new furniture in the hope that we can revive its usefulness and begin to make use of it again as a regular meeting place. I'm hoping to use it as a base in Kenn, a drop in for a coffee place, a sharing of ideas place, a place to talk about weddings and baptisms, a connecting place.

I wish you a happy, hopeful Easter and with everyone I hope for, pray for, peace. Fran

The Yellow Teapot Gang again had a lovely, (Socially) spaced out meeting in March in the Village Hall where the seating can be as distanced or close as each person feels comfortable.



Going from strength to strength!

The next meeting will be on

Monday 19th April – 2-30 to 4-30pm.

Julia Bush

Mothering Sunday at St John's

On a truly glorious spring Sunday morning, we were able to keep the door open throughout our Mothering Sunday worship, letting the sunshine stream in.

Five butterflies chose the beginning of the service to emerge and fly around one of the stained glass windows.

Linda read us the story of the Prodigal Son and Fran used its theme to reflect on the enduring power of caring love, between many different combinations of people.

We had Communion. Small bunches of Daffodils were distributed and, for the first time in over two years, we had coffee and Simnel Cake after the service.



Deep Joy!

Georgia Font

Help! Front cover photograph, thanks to Tim Taylor - it was taken by Robert Down on one of Ray Naish's farm walks -

Do any of you know when it was and where the picture was taken?

Margaret



St John's Kenn



All Saints' Kingston Seymour

Services at St. John's Kenn and All Saints' Kingston Seymour April 2022

April 3rd

8.30am St John's BCP Communion

11am All Saints' All Together in Church

April 10th

8.30am All Saints' BCP Communion

11am St John's All Together in Church

April 14th Maundy Thursday

5pm Kenn Village Hall for a High Tea with a Passover meal and an informal communion then to St John's for 6.30pm for a short reflection (Tickets needed)

April 15th Good Friday

2.00pm All Saints' An hour at the foot of the cross

April 17th Easter Sunday

9.30am St John's All Age Easter Communion

11am All Saints' All Age Easter Communion, crafts and an Easter Egg hunt!

April 24th

11am St John's Holy Communion followed by the Annual Parish Meeting

SIMNEL CAKES - I will be selling Simnel Cakes at Easter (17th April), profits to the Blay Family in Ghana.

Small £5.50

Large £7.50

Please put orders in the Quercus mailbox, phone orders in on 01275 873554 (they will be acknowledged)

Thankyou, Julia Bush

Clevedon Food Bank.

At present the Foodbank is pleased to receive anything and everything suitable (all non-perishable food items and household goods).



If you are stuck for inspiration, Toiletries, household cleaning materials and toilet rolls are always needed.

Thank you to everyone who contributes, whether by using the box in the church porch, the dedicated bins in the supermarkets or straight to the Foodbank.

It's open 9-30 to 11-30am Mondays and Fridays, opposite the vets in Knowles Road, Clevedon.

Julia Bush

NB There was an article on Woman's Hour last week, which examined the effects of the spike in fuel costs on women's ability to feed their families.

A contributor from the Trussell Trust said that women had been asking not to be given foods that required lots of fuel to cook them, as this made them choose between 'heating or eating'.

Useful Numbers:

Village Hall Booking:
Lyn & Nigel Burnett 01275 870189
kvhallbooking@gmail.com

Village Flag Flying:
Marianna or Robin 340323
Chris Taylor 872781

The Team of Yatton Moor
Parish Office 01934 832184
office@yattonchurches.org

Altar Guild Secretary:
Marianna Mackay 340323

St John the Evangelist :
Priest in charge
Revd Fran Binding 01934 830120

Church Floodlighting:
David Pugh 874278

Churchwardens:
Julia Bush 01275 873554
John Ball 874077 - 078 1667 1304

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



Coffee Morning

Saturday 9th April
10am—12noon

North Somerset Times

Don't forget that copies of this local newspaper are available in the Church Porch usually from Wednesday afternoons



APRIL WASTE COLLECTIONS - MONDAYS

Recycling and Food Waste - 4th ,11th, 18th and 25th April
Rubbish 4th and 18th April
Garden Waste 4th April



Tel: 01934 830111

Clevedon Salerooms

FINE ART AUCTIONEERS & VALUERS

Email: info@clevedon-salerooms.com

Antiques, Interiors, Collectables & Jewellery

Thursday 21st April 10.30am

Catalogues can be viewed at

www.clevedon-salerooms.com

Quarterly Specialist Sale

Thursday 9th June 2022 10.30am

Catalogues can be viewed at

www.clevedon-salerooms.com

Bird News

Eleven Snipe were on Congresbury Moor at the beginning of the month with at least one Barn Owl present. Barn Owls were also reported from Kingston Seymour and Kenn and Tawny Owls hooted in Yatton and at 11am (!) on Kenn Moor.

The regular Peregrine was still frequenting the pylons viewed from Wemberham Lane albeit less regularly probably because he is now tied to a nesting territory.

The Ravens on the pylon at Kingston Seymour are incubating as I write and another (I presumed young) pair have constructed a flimsy nest on another pylon and a bird was sitting on it. I am pretty sure that this is all practice and there will be no outcome. Nearby a pair of Rooks have built **a nest on the edge of Stowell's property but do not seem to be persevering** with it. Single Rooks nests often fail.

Fieldfares and Redwings were still present by Wemberham Lane early in the month but by the 25th there were only Fieldfares. They remained very late (mid April) last year so it will be interesting to see if this is repeated.

Our first summer visitors were as usual Chiffchaffs, first heard singing on the 12th and now widespread. Also on the 12th, Littlewood was full of Siskins with an estimated 150 feeding on Alder seeds, a week later and there was not one to be seen, they had presumably fed and headed off north.

A Treecreeper was calling there on the 25th, an encouraging encounter as they have become very elusive.



The wintering Merlin remained along the sea wall. There have been few small birds so it is probably feeding on Starlings. Wader numbers have continued to be low, but the pool at Dowlais Farm near Clevedon is proving attractive to Redshanks in particular.

April is the main month for Spring arrivals, with Swallows, House Martins, warbler species and perhaps Wheatears arriving in our villages and countryside.

Trevor Riddle - 01934 835208.



KENN W.I

There were several absences at the March meeting of the Kenn W.I. (none of the Covid related, thankfully) which was a shame because they missed a most interesting talk given by Tim Bush about the land drainage system in this part of the world. It is all done so efficiently that it had not occurred to most of us that water levels have to be monitored so closely. Who knew that if it were not for the Romans, the monks and the farmers we should all be getting about by boat rather than motor car!

Kenn is to be the hostess Institute for the next Group Meeting to be held on April 27th. We were to have held it in 2019 but the dreaded Covid intervened.

Three members went to the Spring Meeting at the Town Hall in Chipping Sodbury on March 21st. It was very uplifting to hear all the voices singing Jerusalem again. There were two talks during the evening.

The first was a talk from two officers from Avon and Somerset Police about fraud of all kinds. It was a most useful presentation and as they are willing to talk to any group that asks them we will be inviting them to Kenn when it can be arranged.

The other speaker was Mary-Jess, a soprano, who while studying Mandarin in China won the Chinese version of X-factor. She has released several albums and sings the Downton Abbey theme on its official sound track. It was a pleasure to listen to her experiences.

A team of members took part in a form of Curling at Tickenham Village Hall. It was a Group activity and there were eight teams taking part. As the competition intensified the decibels rose and Kenn emerged as winners with a splendid cup, a bottle of wine each and a medal to prove it. It was all great fun and we were very surprised to win.

Members are reminded that the April meeting will begin at 2.30 p.m. now that the clocks have gone forward. Ali Ball will be our speaker. She is making a return visit and her subject is Egyptology. We are always pleased to see visitors.

Ann Holtham

St John the Evangelist, Kenn

**The Annual Vestry Meeting of
St John The Evangelist, Kenn at which the
Churchwardens are elected for the coming year
will be held after 11.00am Holy Communion on Sunday 24th April.**

Occasional Musings from Janet Skinner

How lovely to see the pictures of February and March. I recognised Margaret and Kitty Staples at once. I moved to Exeter at Easter of 1953 so missed all the street parties but I do still have a mug, 5/- piece and serviette.

I traced Dorothy Brittain to Budleigh Salterton but had no reply to my letter. She was there up to 2021.

Mr Holtham ran the garage. His house called the Beeches, looked out onto a row of magnificent trees along the field opposite. Sadly they were felled. On the external wall of the garage were timetables for Campbell Steamers. I recall sailing on one from Clevedon pier around Steep Holm and back.

Bill John Staples and his wife lived in the last house before Kenn Street opposite the bus stop. He lived in one end and had a car in the other, that could be seen through the central doors. Mr Holley was a gardener for Dame Violet Wills and occasionally she would arrive in her chauffeur-driven car (with curtains and tassles). Dame Violet wore long deep mauve dresses with a long coat and big hat. After the service she would be driven to the Post Office and call in on Mr. Holley who lived in the other half of the property. I recall her giving Grandma and I a lift home once. What fun!

Mr. Holley had a large beautifully kept vegetable garden. He was a strict man and his visiting grand-daughter Marilyn and I were often in trouble. Sadly one winter's night he walked across the fields and lay on the railway line. All the men came out of the Rose and Crown to try to find him, but it was too late. Mrs Holley went to Bristol to live with her daughter Enid and I am still in touch with her grand-daughter Marilyn in the USA. Her brother Brian is a poet and lives in Hereford. Coincidence: My first child had Down's syndrome. In the 1970's I was invited to take him to Honeylands Children's Hospital once a week for a day's respite. Honeylands had been left to Dame Violet when her sister died and she had given it to Exeter for disabled children.

Orchard House had been the home of Charlie Staples and his wife. When given his war-time gas mask he asked whether his beard should go inside or out. I never knew him but Mrs Staples had a wonderful head of the whitest hair. In the sheds behind the farm was an area where cider had been made, and also a wagon and trap. No horses in my day. We had a swing in the upper orchard and a bonfire every 5th November in the lower one.

Phyllis Dyer was Mrs. Staples daughter from an earlier marriage, and Margaret Hathaway (known as 'Nurse') came to look after Mrs. Staples. Times changed and the three women went into the cottage between Kenn PO and Ekin's house. Mrs Staples used to sit in a basket wheel chair. After she died Aunty Phil and Nurse lived together. When Aunty Phil became Mrs. Arthur Parker they both moved to Dowlais Farm near Clevedon.

From Kenn School we used to go to the church to arrange flowers and polish the brass on a little table beside the lectern, every week. Behind it on the wall hung a Baptismal Roll. I see this has been moved near the font now. Both my brother Robert and I are included in the baptisms recorded along with so many who will be elsewhere .

Double-decker buses ran hourly from Weston to Clevedon , every 2 hours in winter. The end of the film Remains of the Day was filmed on Clevedon seafront with Anthony Hopkins putting Emma Thompson on a single decker. This should surely have been a Wrington bus but the indicator showed it was going to Wonford via St Leonards. That is in Exeter . Silly mistake to make.

Joyce Alexander 5.4.1930 - 12.1.2022

Joyce was born Joyce Veronica Pickett on the 5th April 1930 in Leatherhead, Surrey.

Joyce had a strong connection to farming as her father was a farmer's son. Joyce never talked about her childhood much, but we know she was evacuated in the War to Hunstanton near Sandringham.

After the war, she had a short spell in the W.R.E.N.S Joyce then married and became an Alexander. In 1952 Colin came along, he was her only child. After getting a divorce early on in Colin's years Joyce had a dream to live near the seaside. When there was an advert in the Farmers Weekly for a farmer who needed a housekeeper, she looked on the Map and saw that Clevedon was near the sea.

This was her dream. It was 1968 that she and Colin moved to Colehouse Farm. Joyce and Clifford were very private people and we think that's why they got along so well.

When Clifford became ill in 1994 help was needed for them to carry on and so Joyce had her family come and live with them.

When Clifford passed away 18 months later, Joyce had part of the house made into a granny flat where she had her own independence. Joyce had carers in her last few years and with lovely nursing care at the end, she was able to stay in her own home.

All the family were very grateful of this.

Angela Alexander

Request from Geoff Marchant

I am still trying to find a photograph of Anthony Marchant who would have been in Kenn Church choir in about 1912 at the tender age of 11. Would you please put a request in the next month's KN&V for any such pictures so that we can see whether there are any available from relatives of old Kennites, or just historic pictures in any old papers?

I have received various photos of Old Yatton recently from online sources so thought it worth asking re Kenn. Dear old Ray knew one existed but he also knew that copy had been burnt unfortunately. Clevedon Historical Society members may be able to help perhaps.

Many thanks, Geoff. Marchant. PS Anthony is on the WW1 memorial.



Kenn Village Market

We enjoyed a busy market, the sunshine brought out the shoppers and they appreciated the wonderful range of produce the market had to offer.

Lyn and I decided to raise funds for Ukraine via DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal and along with your kind donations for refreshments

Joyce Down gave £30 from the sale of books from the last few markets and with gift aid we were able to donate £202.00 – an amazing amount! Thank you. Joyce has also sent £60 from book sales to Weston Hospicecare.

Next month the WI will be providing their usual range of delicious refreshments to raise funds for Seafarers.

We are sure you will support them for such a worthy charity.

If you have a charity you would like to raise money for please contact either Lyn or myself. We would also welcome any new stall holders too.

Our next market is Saturday 9 April from 10 am to 12pm,

we hope to see you there.

Maggie Hobbs 876277 or Lyn Burnett 870189

NB Caroline will be at the next market to promote the village event to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Book group.

About halfway through the month we usually decide to have an impromptu book group. Dates and themes are flexible.



We usually share and swop what we are reading.

This month we decided not to meet up. Although all the covid restrictions are now lifted, the virus numbers are still very high. We know more people who have covid now than at the high of any of the lockdowns. Also, mild symptoms are not always the case. Some members of the group live with partners who are vulnerable. So, it seemed the best idea to postpone until next month.

LUNCH AT KENN VILLAGE HALL.

The lunch on 7th March 2022 was divine. The lunchers are increasing in numbers and seem to have an enjoyable time. The barometer for this is the level of chat and happy conversations.

Jo Manning and I were the dream team. We waitress served the tables with soup, top up soup, tea and coffee and top up tea and coffee. We decided it was easier to wait on tables. Balancing bowls of soup and plates of bread is not practical. Especially if you are a little unsteady. Also, it lends itself to a relaxed ambiance.

This month Jo Manning was the auditor. Following expenses and rent + holding over a kitty for next month £35 will go to the Clevedon food bank.

Despite the lifting of restrictions these are still covid times. Let's still be mindful of space and ventilation. During the next lunch, at intervals, I will open the doors.

Lunch dates for 2022.

Monday April 4 th	Lunch
Monday May 2 nd	Lunch. Bank holiday. Lunch will go ahead
Monday June 6th	No Lunch. Queen's Platinum weekend.
Monday July 4 th	Lunch
Monday August 1 st	Lunch. Bank holiday. Lunch will go ahead
Monday Sept 5 th	Lunch.
Monday Oct 3 rd	Lunch
Monday Nov 7 th	Lunch
Monday Dec 5 th	Lunch

Caroline xx

Our Flag was flown on the 21st March in celebration of Margaret Cook's ninetieth birthday.

**William McVicker at St Mary's Yatton,
30th April, 2022.**

William McVicker is one of the country's leading organists. He is the curator of the Royal Festival Hall organ and teaches organology at the Royal Academy of Music. Broadcast work has included BBCTV, as well as independent radio and television both in the UK and abroad, and presenting 'Building a Library' and 'Record Review' on BBC Radio 3. His recordings include ten discs of choral music and top-selling Great Organ Classics for Classic FM.

His organ recital for the YMS has been financially supported by Yatton Parish Council and will have music selected to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

The concert will also be enhanced with a video display of his performance provided by the Bristol and District Organists Association. With this visual display the audience will be able to appreciate the technical complexities of coaxing the best music from the 'King of Instruments'.

The concert starts at 7.30pm at St Mary's Church, tickets price £10, half price for students over 16, children free.

Details of this concert and future events can be found on Yatton Music Society's website www.yms.org.uk or contact David Ford daford220@gmail.com, tel, 01934 830255.

Saturday, April, 30th

Organ Recital by William McVicker: 7.30pm, St Mary's Church, Yatton,
Tickets £10, details: www.yms.org.uk

The Galvanised Bin. I was at a 'Sustainable Clevedon' meeting a few weeks ago. The aim of the group is to reduce our carbon footprint. Encouraging and supporting us all in becoming less dependent on oil. People were coming up with excellent ideas and projects. However, one very wise woman pointed out, 'these projects need planning and committees to get them started never mind implementation in the community.'
So here is a very simple idea for recycling in the village. There is a chap in Clevedon who takes used tablet blister packs and plastic bottle tops for recycling.
This also raises money for Marie Curie.
There is now a small, galvanised bin just inside the driveway at Chapel Cottage. It is the drive next to the converted Chapel on Kenn Street
Put used tablet blister packs and plastic bottle tops in the bin.

I will take them to the man in Clevedon. Caroline

On Sunday 5th June 2022 we will be celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Here in Kenn we have a tradition for holding 'a big event'. It is exciting as a village occasion approaches. Especially as we move through covid times.

This is the provisional running order.

12pm Arrival at the village hall.

1pm Lunch. 'A Somerset Feast'.

2pm Speech's. Toast the Queen. Village Photograph.

The Kenn choir will sing.

4pm Afternoon tea and cake.



Play areas for the children.

Bar will be open all day.

The best bit is, all for a fiver a head!

We will sell tickets at the village market in May.

There are many people in the village who have been doing these noteworthy landmark village events for decades. Initially we are going to ask all the newcomers to the village for help. Lots of people have already come forward with offers of assistance.

If everyone does a little, we will have a fabulous time. Caroline and John. xx



The Centre for Sustainable Energy are hosting a workshop on behalf of North Somerset Council about renewable energy in Yatton and Kenn. The council is committed to becoming carbon neutral by 2030 and would like to increase local renewable energy generation and would like public involvement on what might be acceptable within Yatton and Kenn to inform, its planning policies.

The event (which is not a drop-in session) will be from 10:00 - 2:30 PM with a free lunch provided. In the workshop we'll be exploring:

- Which parts of the local area should be protected from development
- Could your community get more of its energy from renewable sources
- What types of renewable energy might be acceptable in your area and where

the overall impact on carbon emissions within the 2 parishes

There will also be a free (optional) talk from 2:00 - 2:30 with practical tips on

how to save money on your energy bills.

After the workshop, we will share online what the group has said, along with other items like maps of potential sites for renewable energy around Yatton and Kenn. The whole community will have the opportunity to view and share their opinions online.

To register for the event, click here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/have-your-say-generating-renewable-energy-in-yatton-and-kenn-tickets-276726084167>. **To be consulted on the outputs of the workshop (without attending), click here: <https://communityenergyplan.commonplace.is/>**

Margaret Cook celebrated her 90th birthday on the 20th March



Pictured at the flagpole with son-in-law Martin

Margaret would love to thank all her friends and neighbours for their lovely cards, messages and flowers sent to her to celebrate her 90th birthday.

She had a wonderful day surrounded by her family and celebrated in style at The Ivy restaurant in Clifton. It was certainly a day to remember!

Dear Kenn

By the middle of March there can have been few people in Kenn Street and Duck Lane who hadn't heard that my much-loved cat Felix was missing.

We tried phoning around, knocking on doors, dropping notes through letterboxes, decorating telegraph poles with pictures and pleas to check your shed requests.

Then technology stepped in and the smartphones got to work. Facebook users had a breakthrough and a black cat found was matched to a black cat missing!

The rest they say is history. I have my cat back and his twin sister has her playmate again.

There are people of Kenn I would like to thank especially for their part in the return of Felix.

Judi, Rob, Sue, Lise and Lynn.

How lucky I am to live in such a kind and caring community. Joyce & Felix



Our Monthly Missive from The Limes

At the last village market there was a discussion about the existing (old) pylons stretching across the moor and when they were installed. We think it may have been in the 60's and we think the contractors had various problems installing them.

Some village folk were mentioned as possibly knowing the full story and if anyone has got some knowledge of that time and can get memories to me I'm happy to knock them into some form of article for KN&V readers.

Anyway, to this month's gems:

From time to time I decide I should beat my head against a brick wall and attempt a semi-impossible task. I never quite know why I do this. Perhaps I enjoy a challenge or perhaps I need to cut my ego down to size or perhaps I take a macabre pleasure in inflicting pain upon myself. Whatever the reason it always ends in frustration and failure but not closure.

Depending upon the project I may leave it temporarily and then have another go some time later. Somehow I just haven't learned the lesson that some things are not worth pursuing.

So what is my latest head-banging project?

It is quite a topical subject, but listening to the government one would be led to believe that its days are numbered and therefore not worth pursuing now.

When we purchased The Limes back in 1988 one of its attractions was the apparent remoteness and the opportunity to live "closer to nature". It really was steeped in the past, accentuated by Tilley lamps and paraffin pressure heaters being left behind and a couple of 1926 DIY project manuals in the workshop. Researching its history one realised that water and electricity were installed in not that far a distant past and the old rainwater collection system was still in place, although not in use. There was also a telephone connection and that was it.

I may talk about drains another time but what you may have realised is that I haven't mentioned gas. That of course is because there is no mains gas connection here. If you want gas it has to come in a tanker.

Somehow we found out that there was a mains gas pipeline nearby. 80 metres away to be precise so we looked at how we could get connected. In our naivety we thought, a) it would be simple, and b) not expensive or even free. Ha ha!

At this point I should mention that half of Kenn is on mains gas and the rest of us have to lump it. Whether you have it depends on where you are. It is those nearer the main road who have the access to gas.

I think it was British Gas in those days that one contacted about connections. (Otherwise it might have been Transco). Anyway we got a quote and it was around £2500. As well as paying money we would have to get permission from the landowner where the pipe with the connection would be made and it would need a pressure reducer fitting at that point but the gas company didn't like fitting them in fields as they could be easily damaged.

Our Monthly Missive from The Limes continued

Unfortunately, just having purchased the house we had no money and so left it. Looking back it was a bad decision but also looking back there was no way we could afford it so there we were.

Over the following years I had another 2 attempts. I don't think I kept the paperwork but as the gas network management company seemed to have changed I thought it might be more affordable. In practice it wasn't. One quote was £20000 and the other I just can't remember.

In 2014 I decided to have yet another go. By then Wales and West were the outfit to go to and things were computerised so they could give you some ideas over the phone. I ended up with a quote for about £9000 and a nice little map showing how they would route the pipe to get to me.

Again it would be up to me to obtain a wayleave (why me, my neighbours are nice people but why can't Wales and West do it?) and to make arrangements for a meter installation etc.

To me, the cost seemed a bit steep and so having got this I wondered if we could get a connection cheaper if a number of us banded together. Surely that would make a substantial reduction to the price? Again: ha ha.

I contacted neighbours. Some were interested and some had already gone a different route, such as oil. Anyway I got enough interest for another quote. This time averaging over £12000 per house! Apparently it came under a different costing process.

So that was my head banging for a few years, then this year I thought I'd have another go. This attempt was really interesting. Advances now mean that you can go direct to the Wales and West web site and get your own quote. It also shows you all the gas pipes in the area. A sort of DIY process.

Unfortunately for me it just didn't work so I contacted them direct. Yes they could quote and they would send a surveyor out.

A few days later a lad turned up from Wales and West. He said he wasn't really a surveyor as he worked on the gas emergency service but he could sort me out. Where did I want the termination to be and how would we get the pipe across my garden? Yes that was fine. He would go and look at the route to the main pipeline and report back.

Five minutes later. "Sorry we can't do it." "Why not?" "The pipe would have to cross the ditches and we can't do that."

"What about taking the pipe down my side of the road to the Kenn Street junction where there is a pipe?"

Our Monthly Missive from The Limes continued

“Too far. It would cost too much.” What? For a trench and a bit of pipe. A local farmer could dig that in a couple of hours. Come on.

I was so speechless that I just let him go. This was a new one on me. Are Wales and West such wimps that they can't dig a trench when for the last 30 years that has been no problem?

All this is particularly galling when you look at all the work that has been done in the last few years in Clevedon replacing virtually all the gas pipes in the town and also all the pipes being laid around Tickenham and on the way towards Portishead.

Never mind. I have had my head banging completed for the time being. Off now to collect some firewood.

Stephen

Note. *I sent a draft of this article to Wales and West Utilities for comment as I felt it was only fair they had an opportunity to respond to my slagging off.*

The following was what they supplied:

Beverley Robinson, Wales & West Utilities Connections Manager said:

At Wales & West Utilities we look after the pipes that keep the gas flowing across Wales and south west England.

We also connect homes to the gas network. This work is chargeable, and the cost is driven by a number of issues – including distance from the existing gas main.

Since starting operations in 2005, we have provided several quotes to connect The Limes to the gas network which are yet to be taken up. Unfortunately, on a recent visit, one of our team overlooked a potential pipe route. We will be visiting The Limes again to resurvey the site and provide an updated quote for connecting to the gas network.

We know that connecting to the gas network can be costly. Our Warm Home Assistance Scheme can help fund connections to mains gas by offering vouchers towards the cost of a new gas supply to eligible households.

KENN PARISH COUNCIL

2022



How to help Ukraine and everyone affected by the conflict.

Sadly, it looks as though aid and support will be needed for some time. North Somerset Council are working with Voluntary Action North Somerset (VANS) to support local communities to help Ukraine and to help make sure the right aid is available at the right time and will share information from VANS as soon as they can. There are also a number of national and international organisations which you might like to donate to. Please do check the validity of any organisation you donate to – unfortunately there will always be scammers who try to take advantage of situations, including the Ukraine crisis. Here are some of their links to just some organisations:

- www.dec.org.uk/appeal/ukraine-humanitarian-appeal
- www.donate.redcross.org.uk/appeal/ukraine-crisis-appeal
- www.unicef.org.uk/donate/donate-now-to-protect-children-in-ukraine/ (United Nations Children's Fund)
- www.gofundme.com/f/helpukraine (Association of Ukrainians in Great Britain)



Donate IT

Do you have unwanted IT products taking up space. Donate IT to the local community. They would be grateful for laptops, PC's, Tablets and Phones. Along with accessories such as cables.

- The community will directly benefit from your donation.
- Donate IT guarantees secure data destruction using industry standards.
- Any unusable kit is recycled to recover precious & rare earth minerals & metals.

Find out more at: www.donateit.co.uk and www.r3cycle.co.uk

And donate now at Weston Library (BS23 1UJ) and Clevedon Library (BS21 6NN)

* they cannot accept monitors, displays, TFT, VGA screens and printers.

Asda Foundation - Empowering Local Communities Grant

This grant programme is provided and administered by Asda Foundation and is to support projects and activities which are important to a community which benefit local people. The programme is designed to support projects under four themes:

- Building Resilient Communities. • Active Lives. • Seasonal Celebrations & Festivals. • Leading Healthier Lives.
- Project activities must start or take place before 5 June 2022.

The following criteria apply: • Group must have a presence in and benefit the local community and be not for profit. • Any equipment funded is the property of the group and is not for individual use. • End beneficiaries must be community groups of people.

The application deadline is 15 April 2022.

www.asdafoundation.org/foundation-grants

2022 Meetings

9 May – Ann Parish Meeting followed by the Statutory Council

4 July – Council

5 September – Council

7 November – Council

The meetings will be held at 7:30pm in the Village Hall – agendas on the noticeboards before the above date

KENN PARISH COUNCILLORS

Sheila Naish (chairman)	Tel: 07808 920 962
Neal Breeden (Vice-Chairman)	Tel: 01275 879 636
Stephen Brain	Tel: 07773 211 394
Wilf Bessant	Tel: 01275 872 406
Jon-Paul Humberstone	Tel: 07990 690 060
Mark Titterton	Tel: 07960 240 960
Robert Treble	Tel: 07831 316 760
<u>NORTH SOMERSET COUNCILLORS</u>	
Steve Bridger	Tel: 07762 023 423
Wendy Griggs	Tel: 01934 834 143