

KENN

ISSUE 414
FEBRUARY 2023



SOMERSET LEVELS

Villager, Robert Bessant of Pump Supplies overseeing the pumping of flood water into the River Parrett



NEWS & VIEWS

Birthdays and Anniversaries in February

1st Tim Taylor
2nd Katy Hill
4th Beth Stowell
9th Sizzle Summerell
11th Alexis Papasolomontos
14th Richard Dyer
15th John Andrews
16th Marianna Mackay
 Fran Binding
17th Jeff Naish
 Julian Gale
21st William Cheek
22nd Polly Summerell
 Lizzy Dyer
23rd Lorraine & Jonathan Allison W.A.
25th James Griffin
 Rebecca Stowell
26th Amelia Ann Bone

St John the Evangelist, Kenn

Altar Guild for February



Jan Bedford and Maggie Hobbs

Our Flag was flown at half-mast on Sunday 1st January in memory of Barbara Middleton, who passed away on 31st December, and again on Friday 27th January when a Service of Thanksgiving and Celebration for her life was held at St John's, Kenn, followed, late in the afternoon, by the interment of her ashes.

On Monday 16th January, our flag flew at half-mast to mark the passing of Colin Cooper.
His funeral will be held at St. John's at 2.00pm on 8th February.

Our Bell - at Barbara's funeral service Mike Callow rang our church bell the Tellers for a woman followed by 86 times to mark her age.

Celebrations in Kenn

The church tower was floodlit to celebrate the New Year.

A Warm Space in Kenn

After a trial run in January, it has been decided not to continue offering the Church Room (by the church car park) as a 'Warm Space'.

It may be reconsidered as next winter approaches.

Julia Bush - pp Ann Holtham, Rev Fran Binding.

Dear friends,

January is often not an easy month as the days are short and the weather can be challenging and with a few folks still poorly there is a lot of neighbourliness and consideration for others going on, showing the strength of village life.

We are sad to have to say our farewells to two village folk – Barbara Middleton and Colin Cooper and I'm sure many of you will remember with fondness their contributions to the life of the village.

Opportunities to get together continue with the Village Market, the Yellow Teapot and the newly named 'Lunchbreak'. Some change, some continuity.

At church we know that this year is a year of change as we prepare to lose a fulltime post and move towards the 5 team churches working together under one full time clergy person and one house for duty priest. How this is all managed is the task for this year into next and it will undoubtedly mean change. I used the image below for a recent service.



We know that change is coming and rather than leave it to chance we want to actively engage with the challenges and move forward together. We have to broaden our perspectives recognising that we are part of something bigger while holding on to that which is good of what we have.

Through Epiphany one of the things we have considered in church is how the wise men followed the star but then discovered to their surprise, and probable annoyance, that they had to take a new and very different route home. But they had met with Christ and the experience had changed their lives. Meeting with Christ is life changing and helps gives the prospect of change, or a new direction a different perspective because we know that he is always at least one step ahead of us.

'Follow me' he said and I am reminded again of the quote we heard during the Queen's Jubilee and again in our New Year's Day service:

"I said to the man who stood at the Gate of the Year, 'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.' And he replied, 'Go out into the darkness, and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light, and safer than a known way.'"

The door to 2023 is open, Spring is on the way, challenges ahead but off we go!

Love to all, Fran

Warm Packs

The Community Resilience group have been fortunate enough to receive some funding to provide some warm packs for older people in our communities who could be in need of them.

This is in anticipation of potential power outages which may happen and in addition, being mindful of the difficulties for some older people to keep warm.

These packs will include such things as blankets, torches and hot water bottles etc.

If you know of anyone in the village who could benefit from such packs please let me know and I'll pass it on.

Stephen Brain

07773 211 394

Saturday - 11th February 10.00am-12 noon

Books, Stalls, Produce, Coffee and Cakes and the chance to chat with your friends and neighbours.



Contacts - Maggie 876277 and Lyn 870189



Letters of thanks received by
Andree following our
Christmas Market.

Thanks to everyone who
contributed

The originals are in the Village
Hall noticeboard.





Many thanks to all the generous people in Kenn who have left food and cleaning materials donations for Clevedon Food Bank in both the village church porch and the entrance porch to Carpenters Farm. Your generosity is hugely appreciated by everyone who needs the help of the Clevedon Food Bank and by the volunteers who work there.

When I deliver the donations on Friday mornings the volunteers are always so grateful for every item donated by our community. However, the growing need of more and more individuals and families means that our continued support is even more important now that we are past the Christmas and New Year celebrations.

Any donations of non-perishable food are greatly welcomed. However, the Food Bank is desperately short of cleaning materials - both personal items such as shampoo, hair conditioner, shower gel, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant and bars of soap. Household cleaners are also really needed, such as washing up liquid, anti-bac surface cleaners, bleach, Cif cleaners, bathroom cleaners, kitchen cleaners, polish and disinfectants.

As Kenn villagers responded so magnificently to the appeal for Advent calendars just prior to Christmas, I wonder if every household in Kenn could donate one cleaning item to the Clevedon Food Bank by the end of February?

I'm more than happy to collect your donations from St John's church porch or to have donations left in the front porch of Carpenters Farm in Kenn Street and to deliver them to the Clevedon Food Bank every week.

Have a great month and keep warm!

Thank you so much for all of your much needed support.

Liz Jaehme

The Yellow Teapot will be dispensing beverages of all sorts, along with cakes, biscuits and chat,

on Monday 20th February,

from 2.30pm -4.00pm in Kenn Village Hall.
Hope to see you there.

Julia Bush



Lunch Break

Apologies for cancelling the January Lunch Break at the last minute, Covid strikes again!

The next Lunch Break is on Monday 13th February (2nd Monday of the month) in our lovely Village Hall.

So please come along, a very warm welcome awaits anyone who fancies coming.

Homemade soup, bread, cheese, homemade cake and, of course, tea and coffee all served at your table.

A donation of £5 per person goes towards the cost of the lunch and any leftover money is donated to the local food bank.

So, if you work from home, are retired, or otherwise free on a Monday lunchtime please pop along and share lunch with friends.

Next Lunch Break – Monday 13th 12-2pm

March - Monday 6th 12-2pm

Hope to see you there!

Sarah and Tim

Thank you so much!

Word gets round quickly in Kenn. I have been very touched and my spirits have been lifted by the kindness of friends and neighbours after my fall last week on our slippery path.

As many have said before, Kenn is a special place to live!
I am so very grateful to you all.

In these troubled times, I have to say that the treatment I have received from NHS staff for my broken elbow at Clevedon Cottage and Weston hospitals has been superb.

I am now slowly on the mend.

Jan Bedford



BIRD NEWS

A Great White Egret was seen by Jackie Huxtable and then by Rosie Treble at the beginning of the month. Then I saw what was probably the same bird on the Blackditch by the hump back bridge on Kenn Moor Road. Seven Teal were on the Blackditch during the cold spell along with two Little Grebes and another on the River Kenn. Seven Snipe were roosting on Kenn Moor while the early month count on the YACWAG Kenn Moor Reserve produced 28.

Good numbers of Goosanders were present at Clevedon Pill and the Blind Yeo with an over wintering Common Sandpiper at the latter site. But star bird was a juvenile Spoonbill seen flying over Clevedon Craft Centre and a few days later at Kingston Seymour.



Barn Owls were noted at Kingston Bridge, Claverham Drove, Kingston Seymour and Congresbury Moor.

They seem to have survived the December cold spell, the January rains and subsequent cold fairly well.

Little Owls were calling and on territory at Congresbury.

There were several sightings of Kingfisher in the Wemberham area of Yatton, along with a Green Sandpiper, a Jack Snipe and a party of 20 Lapwings.

Impressive but perhaps less welcome was a gathering of 1,100 Herring Gulls with 500 Black Headed Gulls.

Some winter thrushes appeared in gardens but generally numbers were low there and on the Moors. Small birds were very scarce, presumably most decamped to gardens in December and have stayed put. That said three Marsh Tits on Cadbury Hill provided a welcome sight as did two winter Chiffchaffs on a manure heap on the outskirts of Yatton.

Trevor Riddle (01934 835208)

LIVE FOLK & BLUES MUSIC NIGHT FUNDRAISER FOR 2nd Clevedon Scouts

SAT 25TH FEBRUARY
7 'TIL 11PM AT KENN VILLAGE HALL

£15

Harmonic Motion,
Running on Empty &
The Delta Blues

Salthouse mobile bar
with real ales & cider

Chilli supper included

Free minibus
shuttle

Tickets can be booked
directly on our website at
2ndclevedonscouts.org.uk

UK Charity No. 267422



Exploring Chaplaincy

95% of people do not attend Church!

Are you interested in exploring ways in which Christian faith can be lived and shared in the workplace, in communities like schools and hospitals?

Want to discover what mission looks like in everyday settings?



This course is for you!

We look forward to welcoming you to **EXPLORING CHAPLAINCY** – a course from Bath & Wells diocese held in PORTISHEAD DEANERY
Saturdays: March 11th & 18th 2023 10am-4pm.

All welcome, lay or ordained, of any Christian church or denomination. We will meet at Chapter House, St. Mary's Church, Yatton BS49 4HH. Plenty of parking. Drinks provided, please bring your own lunch. To book contact: office@yattonchurches.org 01934 832184

If you have any questions about the days, please contact:

Mike Haslam 07530 677493 mike.haslam@bathwells.anglican.org
Nigel Thomas 01934 283340 nigelbthomas1@gmail.com

Bristol Brass Consort at St Mary's, Yatton, 25th February.

Yatton Music Society's spring season is now well underway and we welcome the Bristol Brass Consort to entertain our audience with a rousing evening performance on 25th February at St Mary's Church.



The Consort is a quintet from Bristol's finest brass players and has two trumpets, French horn, trombone and tuba.

Their concert is called "Circum Mundi" and they invite the audience to "sit back and let the Consort be your tour guide on a Worldwide musical journey", featuring music by the likes of Debussy Shostakovich Gershwin Vaughn Williams amongst others.

The concert starts at 7.30pm on 25th February at St Mary's Church, ticket prices are £10 and the audience is assured of a warm welcome and inspiring music.

Details of the concert can be found on the society's website www.yms.org.uk

Burns Night

IS BACK!

Saturday 11th February
7.15pm for 7.30pm



at Kingston Castle
(also known as the Village Hall)

3 Course Supper
Piper
Ceilidh



Dress Code: 'fairly formal with a touch of tartan'

Tickets : £25
From: Sue Thomas (833595)
Judy Seward (832612)
Sue Lang (835939) Tuesday Post Office
or text 07763674395



Make up a table of 8 or 10 or just come along to be part of a group.

In aid of Church General Fund
Parish of Yatton Moor registered charity no 1152177



KENN W.I.

On an atrocious afternoon in January members of Kenn W.I. met in the Kenn Village Hall for their monthly meeting. Most of the members were present, probably just glad to meet other people as the weather was so dark, wet and windy.

2023 is the 70th year of the W.I. in Kenn and we hope to compile a scrapbook to commemorate it. This will join the other scrapbooks that have been made over the years and they make very interesting reading.

Times have changed, but our concerns and interests have not.

Edna Baber was thanked for decorating a Christmas Tree for the Festival at St. Mary's Church in Yatton. Our tree had pride of place just inside the door and it was much admired. We think that it was placed there because, with St. Mary's own tree, it was the only real one. The rest although beautifully decorated were artificial.

A skittles team will play in the first round of the tournament in January. Kenn W.I. is due to defend its title as Kurling Champions in the spring.

The four Resolutions for the National AGM in Cardiff later in the year were discussed and voted upon. One will eventually be chosen to go forward to the meeting. Each was introduced by a different member and when they had all spoken a vote was taken. Mrs. Edna Baber urged us to save water, but sadly did not receive any votes. Mrs. Jenny Croxton spoke about the plight of the women tea pickers in those countries where tea is grown. This resolution received 5 votes. Mrs. Jane Clark told us all about on-line gambling and the dangers of addiction. This resolution received 8 votes. The winner with 13 votes was about clean rivers and the amount of sewage that goes into them. It will be interesting to see how the rest of the country voted.

At the February Meeting, Mrs. Pauline Cox from the Sow and Arrow shop in Clevedon will be speaking to us about nutrition.

If you would like to come we meet at 2.00p.m. in the Village Hall on Wednesday 8th February. We will be so pleased to see you.

Ann Holtham

Yatton Local History Society

Our next meeting will be; **Tuesday 7 February**
 - Arthur Langley will do an update for Yatton Local History Society on the work of the local voluntary archaeological team (YCCART). If you are not a member and want to join or want to register an email address please contact YLHS at yattonlocalhistorysoc@gmail.com
 All are welcome at our meetings which are held at Yatton Methodist Church, starting at 7 30pm.

Details about the History Society and its talks are on the website. **Marianne Pitman**

Useful Numbers:

Village Hall Booking Secretary:
Lyn & Nigel Burnett 01275 870189

St John the Evangelist:

Priest in charge
Revd Fran Binding 01934 830120

Parish Office 01934 832184
office@yattonchurches.org

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

Village Flag Flying:

Marianna or Robin 340323
Chris Taylor 872781

Altar Guild Secretary:

Marianna Mackay 340323

Church Floodlighting:

David Pugh 874278

News & Views:

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



Saturday 11th February 10-12

North Somerset Times

Don't forget that copies of this local newspaper are available in the Church Porch from Wednesdays.



FEBRUARY WASTE COLLECTION - MONDAYS

Recycling and food waste - 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th February
Dustbin 13th and 27th February



CLEVEDON SALEROOMS



Clevedon Salerooms Ltd, The Auction Centre, Kenn Road, Kenn, Clevedon, BS21 6TT
<https://www.clevedonsalerooms.com>

Antique, Interiors, Collectables & Jewellery

16th February 10.30am
Viewing Wednesday prior 10.00am-5.00pm

catalogues can be viewed at

Quarterly Specialist Sale

Thursday 9th March 10.30am
Viewing Wednesday prior 10.00am-5.00pm

www.clevedonsalerooms.com

A prayer written by Maya Angelou

When I say "I am a Christian" I am not shouting "I'm clean living"
 I'm whispering "I was lost, Now I'm found and forgiven"
When I say "I am a Christian" I don't speak of this with pride
 I'm confessing that I stumble and need Christ to be my guide
When I say "I am a Christian" I'm not trying to be strong
 I'm professing that I'm weak and need His strength to carry on
When I say "I am a Christian" I'm not bragging of success
 I'm admitting I have failed and need God to clean my mess
When I say "I am a Christian" I'm not claiming to be perfect
 My flaws are far too visible but, God believes I'm worth it
When I say "I am a Christian" I still feel the sting of pain
 I have my share of heartaches. So I call upon His name
When I say "I am a Christian" I'm not holier than thou,
 I'm just a simple sinner Who received God's good grace somehow

copied from Harrow Street Pastors supporters' letter

KENN CHURCH ROOM - CHARITY COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 25th February - 10.00 - 12 noon

Charity – The Blay Family in Ghana - Hostess Julia Bush
 Come along enjoy coffee, cake and a chat.

Margaret Bessant was delighted to raise £122.50 for Dementia UK on 28th January and thanks everyone for their support.



Mike Callow 93 – on his birthday
 18th January



Hostess Margaret Bessant with her son and daughter and a granddaughter.

Barbara April Middleton

21st April 1936—31st December 2022

A Service of Thanksgiving and Celebration for Barbara's life was held at the church of St. John the Evangelist, Kenn.

Attended by well over 100 family and friends, the service was led by Revd Avril Gaunt, a long-time friend of Barbara and her ashes were interred in the late afternoon.

Her eldest son Nigel led us through an A - Z of her life -
Arm—where she had met Jim her husband, and Africa where they had lived.

Boys—3 sons - Bingo—Barmaid all with many memories

Chocolate beloved by Barbara - cards—church, regular at services, served on Kenn Altar Guild—Clevedon where lived when she retired.

Dogs - many of them - Jade, Blackie and Nina while in Kenn.

Entertaining - Enterprising

Family, the eldest of 8, 4 girls and 4 boys and her ever-growing family with 6 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren.

Great Nanny — gregarious, a very sociable lady.

Harveys Bristol Cream, enjoyed before Sunday Roast. Horse racing, having a flutter - trips to Ascot and Goodwood - Hardworking

Independent - fiercely so, at times

Jim (James Hugh Middleton) her husband who she lost in 1990.

Kenn, where Mum made many friends. Kenya, parties and animals. Krefeld, near Dusseldorf Germany where Kevin was born.

Line Dancing—laughter - Lorraine who's been brilliant caring for her for many years, enabling her to stay in her own home.

Mark, the son Mum lost, the husband and father Glenys and Laura lost, and brother we lost over 12 years ago. Mauritius where Mark was born.

Nanyuki in Kenya where they were stationed after Mauritius.

Open all Hours - The Post Office 7 days a week.

Post Office which along with the Church and the Pub formed the beating heart of the village. Police from whom she received her Award for tackling an attempted armed Post Office robbery .

Quzzes - she loved them on TV and at the Drum and Monkey.

REME served by Dad for over 20 years.

Skittles - an avid and very good player with thanks to Janice who kept her involved.

Taunton Bishop Foxes Grammar School for Girls. **U**SA holidays.....

Very Good Friend, Valued by all who knew her. **W**oodington Road where she lived in retirement. **X** cross, very rarely. **Y**oung at heart to the very end **Z**ealous or zebra but with a huge Zest for Life.



Memories of Barbara Middleton

When we moved into the village 35 years ago, the Kenn community not only had our church and village hall, but also a thriving pub and post office.

If you walked into the post office you could not have had a warmer reception, because it was run by Barbara, with Jean Fenwick often helping out. Besides post office service, Barbara kept a range of useful groceries for those who found it difficult to get into Clevedon.



Best of all, if you wanted to catch up on village news, the post office was a pretty good place to go!

Barbara gave our son Dan his first job, delivering the papers before school. She would be there every morning with the papers sorted; we knew he was in safe hands. Dan and Amy also have fond memories of calling into the post office after school, to buy sweets and Chelsea buns.

Barbara lived at the post office with her family for 17 years, but sadly her husband Jim passed away during that period, in 1990.

Barbara came from a large family herself, and she and Jim had 3 sons; Nigel, Mark, and Kevin. For some years before leaving to join the army, Mark helped Barbara run the post office. A second great sadness in her life was that Mark passed away as a relatively young family man, unexpectedly, in 2010.

Something to be greatly admired in Barbara, however, was her positive spirit and zest to make the most of life. She was a naturally warm, friendly and bubbly person. When you met her she would always have a smile on her face.

She was often seen out and about enjoying life with her friends Janice, Jean and Julie. Every Wednesday night she joined Margaret, John, Jean, Jenny and Richard for Mike's quiz night at The Drum.

When Barbara left the post office she went to live in Clevedon, but remained part of the Kenn community and always returned for village events.

In later life she suffered but overcame several serious illnesses.

For the last six years she has been wonderfully cared for by Lorraine Waterman in her home, as well as by her loving family.

It is lovely to hear from Heather that just before she passed away, Barbara had spent a happy Christmas surrounded by her family. We bet she would have been smiling!

The Bedfords

Barbara April Middleton 21st April 1936 - 31st December 2022

Here is Barbara on Christmas Day when Barbara spent the day with Nigel, Tina and their lovely family, including 3 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren. This beautiful picture is of Barbara and her latest great grandson Casper Middleton born in October.



Barbara also saw Kevin and his family between Christmas and New Year including 2 more grandchildren and a great grand-daughter from America.

We will all have very fond memories of Barbara in the Post office at skittles and quiz nights.

Barbara enjoyed a very active social life and enjoyed life to the full.
Rest in peace Barbara, Heather

Kevin's thoughts at the Service of Thanksgiving for Barbara 27.1.23

To me she was mum.

To others, she was Barbara, a sister, a friend, a confidant, the happy barmaid or cheerful postmistress. She was Nanny, and Great Nanny.

She was kind with a beautiful smile and a caring nature.

She had time for everyone. She was a hero - undaunted when confronted by an African tribe on the warpath or an armed robber in her post-office.

She taught us right from wrong, the importance of principles, to be humble and thankful.

She was pub-grub not Michelin; scampi not scallops; rum and coke not champagne; comfortable not flashy.

She was dogs not cats; very much a royal not a republican. She was of her age.

She was strength, consistency, unwavering.

But to me - She was mum, And always will be.

Barbara Middleton

How wonderful it was to attend the celebration service for Barbara Middleton . It was a packed church and a great get together in our hall afterwards.

Barbara was much loved. The post office so central to our old village way of life
A fantastic welcome awaited us and of course lots of chats
A wander down memory lane for lots of us, rest in peace Barb...
you will never be forgotten

Sheila

Thanks go to Colin and Jan Bedford who have very kindly donated a television screen to the Village. This has been set up in the Church Room.

With the existing Internet Connection we shall now be able to use the Church Room for Zoom Meetings.

JB and JB



The Galvanised Bin.

Keep the packs and plastic bottle tops coming!
There is a small, galvanised bin just inside the driveway at Chapel Cottage on Kenn Street

Put used tablet blister packs and plastic bottle tops in the bin. I then take them to a collection point in Clevedon.



From a monthly trip to the collecting point it is now weekly.

Thank you Kenn for this recycling.

Caroline x



St John's Kenn



All Saints' Kingston Seymour

Sunday Services at St. John's Kenn and All Saints' Kingston Seymour February 2023

February 5th

8.30am St John's Traditional Holy Communion

11am All Saints' All Together in Church

February 12th

8.30am All Saints' Traditional Holy Communion

11am St John's All Together in Church

February 19th

11am All Saints' Holy Communion

February 26th

11am St John's Holy Communion

Every Tuesday and Wednesday 8.15am

Team Morning Prayer on Zoom

Our Monthly Missive from The Limes

Back in March 2021 I wrote an epic article about local democracy and what Parish Councils and Councillors do, which I thought was very good. In fact so did our editor because she said nice things about it.

Anyway I want to revisit the subject again but for space reasons I'm not going to reproduce it all here. I do recommend however you dig out your old copies of KN&V and take another look at it.

"What!" You exclaim, "I don't keep back copies!"

I'm not judgemental so no comment, but I'm sure a request to the editor accompanied by a suitable consideration would result in production of said article. A request to me accompanied by an even larger consideration would produce the same result assuming I could find it. You may be surprised to know I do not automatically keep copies of my articles so in a few years when my articles are an eagerly sought after commodity you may find your old copies of KN&V worth lots.

Alternatively you could try the Yatton Moor team ministry site. There are some back copies of KN&V but the site is a bit buggy so I'm not sure what really is there. I did also notice they say own the copyright on all material on their site, which is a bit naughty as they don't.

So why talk about local democracy? Firstly because this year, coming up, we have a once in a four year event – LOCAL ELECTIONS !!!

Secondly it's about time I had a bit of a moan and this is an opportunity to say a few (rude) words about North Somerset Council.

Assuming enough candidates stand, there will be two local elections in Kenn in early May 2023. One for Kenn Parish Council councillors (KPC) and one for North Somerset Council (NSC). NSC is the next governing level above us and has the greater resourcing (in theory) and makes the big (and often unpopular) decisions. Kenn Parish Councillors you already know and love, but you may be unaware that NSC provide a couple of their District Councillors for us. They usually attend our Parish Council meetings and we tend to use them as our "way into" NSC to find out what is going on and to get things done. KPC is non-political but NSC is organised along political party lines so occasionally it can be interesting, but on the whole the various district councillors we have had have worked fairly well together for us even if they represent different parties.

I have no idea if my fellow Parish Councillors will stand for re-election. Unless anyone else stands in addition, there will be no Parish Council election and all candidates will be automatically elected. Personally, and possibly perversely, I would love to see several others standing, partly because it would be good to get fresh blood into KPC with new people with ideas and energy, and secondly because in a vote we would find out what the village really think of us. In case anyone wants to ask, I haven't decided if I will carry on but I will say we have currently have a good team on the Parish Council.

Now for North Somerset Council.

I do find it hard to be positive about them. Over the years, functions they have been meant to provide to our communities have been cut back, with Parish and Town Councils now having to pick them up and of course pay for them. A simple example is that KPC now pays for extra cutting of hedges and verges because if we relied on NSC it just would not happen.

In return we get nothing back. Perhaps that is a bit strong. We seldom get anything back. If we mention the state of our roads or drainage issues to them you might get a response.

If you are lucky someone might even take a look and probably decide that it is not an issue and they can't see a problem. If you are really lucky you might get on a list for 2026 or something. NSC Highways have historically been the least helpful and just don't get some members of the village started on what they think of the Highways department. In addition, general comments from NSC that we should walk, cycle or get the bus show how out of touch they are with the realities of life.

From personal feedback from Clevedon Town Council members I can't say their experience of NSC is great either. Liam Fox also seems to agree. NSC have come across as dictatorial and lacking in both compassion or understanding. The Clevedon sea front and Hill Road disaster is an example where the Town Council was totally overruled by NSC. I have been told that at least one of the conversations was quite threatening. The sea front issue is so bad that the debacle reached the national press. Overall I can't think of any major decision by NSC I would feel comfortable with but you may take a different view and I'll try to limit my comments.

What I can say however is that at the last Council elections four years ago, the parties then running NSC received quite a pasting by the electorate and there was a major turnover of councillors with a number of Independents coming in. I have no idea what the views of the electorate will be in May but if I was an NSC councillor and responsible for some of the decisions in the last four years I would decide it was time for a career change.

OK. Moan over. I have 400 words left. In the rest of this column I'm coming back to election timings. Firstly please consider if you would like to stand as either a NSC councillor or a KPC councillor. In both cases you have to be prepared to work with colleagues who you might not normally choose to do so. If you can't cope with that, don't even consider standing. Also don't stand if it is only to get your pet project through. Bear in mind a North Somerset District Councillor role will consume a fair bit of time and I do respect the commitment of those who take it on.

The NSC website has information about the electoral process as does the Electoral Commission website. From them you can also get information about duties and responsibilities of Councillors. I will make the point that Councillors are NOT volunteers. As I was told firmly once on a course, we are "Elected Holders of public office". Also you don't get paid! I think there are expenses payable by NSC but on KPC we don't pay.

If you decide to stand you will need to get your application Hand Delivered to W-S-M Town Hall by the beginning of April.

This KN&V comes out beginning of February so you have nearly two months to look into the topic and decide. (This is assuming you have eagerly pounced on KN&V as soon as it comes through the letterbox and immediately read it cover to cover, starting at the front).

Also don't forget my KN&V article in March 2021 which tells you what we do. If you have any questions about the whole thing feel free to discuss it with any of the Parish Councillors whose contact details are on the back page of KN&V. They will be helpful and probably less caustic over some of the issues than I have been.

Finally, whichever Council you end up on, you will be performing a valuable service to the community despite my acerbic comments above. Once on, just understand the issues, be competent and try and make the right decisions!

Stephen

Time Limit 10 am 20th February 2023



At last, North Somerset Council are considering the Concept of 20 mph in Kenn Street and reducing its attractiveness as a through route. The Parish Council have identified through traffic as a key issue. This is Concept only at present.

The following was received as an urgent message ;

The Kenn scheme is included in the list of 20mph proposals and Cris Fletcher (North Somerset) tells me (Tony Parker) that the prioritisation will take place depending on the **responses received to the Consultation**. So, it's important that we make and encourage as many positive responses to it as possible.

Obviously, the PC will respond but it would be worthwhile publicising the need so **as many local individuals** do so as well.

Cris also sent a very precise web link to the Action Plans, which includes a link to the Questionnaire response form, which they want us to use. There are other topics in the Action Plans, which are of interest to Kenn - notably improving walking and cycling links into Clevedon, which should also attract comments.

To view the reports refer to:-

<https://n-somerset.inconsult.uk/ats22/consultationHome>

Hidden within this document there is a not very obvious link to a survey :-

<https://online1.snapsurveys.com/interview/1bcfc2e1-310a-459f-90a7-59aae1c5c3d6>

Please if you support the NEED of a 20 mph limit and reducing the attractiveness of use by through traffic in Kenn Street and Duck Lane - fill in the Survey

<https://online1.snapsurveys.com/interview/1bcfc2e1-310a-459f-90a7-59aae1c5c3d6>

a quote from Cris Fletcher:

“ We are currently consulting on our 20mph active travel action plan which you will notice includes the Kenn concept. Our policy colleagues will then be progressing with the development of the programme.”

Further details and advice from Mark Titterton, J.P. Humberstone, Tony Parker and John Ball.

Remember this has to be done BY 20th February