



**May - Birthdays & Anniversaries**

- 1st Hartley Staples  
Margaret Ball (senior)  
Lynne & Steve Bye W.A.
- 3rd Cyril Willcox (90)  
Chloe Hayzen
- 4th Tony Parker  
Nigel Middleton
- 5th Sarah & Tom Clark W.A.
- 8th Mike Stowell  
Tina & Nigel Middleton WA
- 10th Jilly Butland  
Jane Morris
- 11th Tina Middleton
- 12th Robert Porch  
Adeline Humberstone
- 15th Samuel Leiper
- 22nd Duncan Mackay
- 26th Jane Staples
- 27th Christopher Jaehme
- 28th Sally White  
Zach Panteli
- 29th Millie Stowell  
Samuel Rogers
- 30th Joanna Brain  
India Bessant

**Our Flag**

7th April, our flag was at half mast to mark the funeral of Ruth Gale. for the passing of Megan Harris aged 101, a long-time member of Kenn WI and for the passing of Jill Iles formerly our district councillor

21st April - Our flag was flown to mark the 94th birthday of HM Queen Elizabeth II.

23rd April - Our St. Georges Flag was up the mast to celebrate St George's Day.

30th April to celebrate the birth of **Isabella Ball, John Ball's latest grandchild.** Daughter for Matt and Rachel who live in Clevedon



Morning glory, starlit sky,  
Leaves in springtime, swallows' flight,  
Autumn gales, tremendous seas,  
Sounds and scents of summer night;

Soaring music, tow'ring words,  
Art's perfection, scholar's truth,  
Joy supreme of human love,  
Memory's treasure, grace of youth;

Open, Lord are these, Thy gifts,  
Gifts of love to mind and sense;  
Hidden is love's agony,  
Love's endeavour, love's expense.

Love that gives, gives ever more,  
Gives with zeal, with eager hands,  
Spares not, keeps not, all outpours,  
Ventures all, its all expends.

Drained is love in making full;  
Bound in setting others free;  
Poor in making many rich;  
Weak in giving power to be.

Therefore He Who thee reveals  
Hangs, O Father, on that Tree  
Helpless; and the nails and thorns  
Tell of what thy love must be.

Thou art God; no monarch Thou  
Thron'd in easy state to reign;  
Thou art God, Whose arms of love  
Aching, spent, the world sustain.

**A brief reflection from Revd. Tim Scott: Team Rector.**

Exodus 16: verse 10.

'They looked towards the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared.'

These words are taken from the book of Exodus, soon after the people of Israel had crossed the Red Sea and are facing an uncertain future. They are words of comfort and assurance that God is there already in the future, whatever that may look like.

I wonder what feelings we have at the moment as we look to the future. Maybe hope, fear, grief, pain, excitement, gratitude for the beauty of the countryside that surrounds us, a faith that is stronger or a faith that is somewhat shaken...and there will be many other feelings.

Whatever your feelings, be assured that God is in the midst of stability and change, hope and loss, suffering and joy, past, present and future. God is simply there.

In our looking to the future, it is easy to forget the gift that the present moment can provide. It has been very moving to hear how much creativity and insight people have discovered in this present time of lockdown.

Our imagination is being stretched and renewed. Within the churches, people are discovering new ways of communicating and new resources for worship.

The strong sense of community within the village of Kenn that I have witnessed on many occasions has given great encouragement and practical support to many at this time.

We are realising, as maybe we should have done far more in the past, the courageous and amazing work front-line health workers and key workers, including our local farmers, are doing.

So we treasure the good things of the present moment whilst acknowledging there is great hardship and pain for many. We look to the future in the confidence that God will continue to be with us.

Please be assured of my continued prayers. Please also pray for Fran Binding who is really looking forward to becoming House for Duty Priest with prime responsibility for Kenn and Kingston Seymour. I have been in regular contact with Fran as she prepares for her move from Wraxall and Failand. She is hoping to move as soon as is realistically possible but the present situation means that her July start date with us will sadly probably have to be delayed. More news on that when we know revised dates.

With prayers and best wishes and thank you for your prayers and inspiration to us. Finally, some of you may know that I have found the poem/hymn opposite helpful and I share it in case others find it helpful too!

Tim.

**10th - 16th May 2020  
is Christian Aid Week,**

but not as we know it.

Due to Covid 19, there will be no House  
to House collections this year and all related events have been cancelled.

There are however many ways to give to Christian Aid, now or at any time.

All of them can be found on line by searching 'Giving to Christian Aid' and  
following the links.

If you don't want to involve the internet you can ring 020 7523 2226 and speak  
to a real person.

You can send a cheque made out to Christian Aid to :-

The Income Processing Unit,  
Christian Aid,  
35, Lower Marsh,  
Waterloo,  
London.  
SE1 7RL

If all else fails, ring me on 01275 873554, and I'll try to sort something out.

Thank you, Julia Bush



Welcome to Charlotte Christine Baber

On 29 February our Team Treasurer, Karen Baber, gave birth  
to a beautiful baby girl, Charlotte Christine, the second in her  
family to arrive on Leap Year Day!

Our warmest congratulations and best wishes go to Karen,  
Royston and Charlotte.



## The Building is closed but the Church is open

### Church during Lockdown. A new resource.

Daily Hope. 0800 804 8044 (free from landlines and mobs).

If you live in an internet free house, there is a new opportunity to access Prayers , Hymns and Info from the C of E.

The options are updated every day, fronted by your call being answered by a recording of Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The BBC Daily Service is on Radio 4 longwave at 9.45 am.

On Sundays there is Sunday Worship on Radio 4 at 8.10 am.

Also on Sunday on BBC 1 TV Songs of Praise at 1.10pm.

For online worship there (log on to [www.churchofengland.org](http://www.churchofengland.org) and follow the links), there is the Sunday Service at 9am

To see what is happening in Yatton Moor, check the Team website [www.yattonchurches.org](http://www.yattonchurches.org).

Thanks J and J

Margaret Bessant recommends the 8.00am Sunday Service on Radio Bristol

**Welcome to Isabella Ball** - who was born Wednesday 29th April to Rachel and Matt Ball weighing 6lbs. 11oz.

Isabella is Matt and Rachel's firstborn and John Ball's third granddaughter.

Our flag was flown in celebration on Thursday 30th April.

We are delighted that Mother and baby are doing well.



## **Jam yesterday, jam tomorrow and cake next week.**

During daylight hours there is a full selection of Heaven Preserve Us stock in the porch at Quercus.

On Wednesday 7th May I will be baking the sort of cakes I would normally have at the Village Market.

This will be to order only.

Please phone in your order and I will get in touch to arrange delivery/collection. Profits to Great Ormond Street Hospital.

Thanks, Julia Bush 01275 873554

## Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) and election of wardens

This is the season when in normal times church wardens are elected, and we hold the Annual Parochial Church meeting. Sadly, these are not normal times.

These meetings have legal significance, so the church authorities have formally extended the date by which they must be held to 31 October 2020.

Those elected to office or appointed in the last such meetings continue to hold office legitimately. This does not mean, of course, that those intending to step down from office will be forced to continue! Tasks are constantly being put down by one and picked up by another, and this natural process will take place.

Thank you to all who serve in so many ways.

*Revd Tim Scott*

Likewise the Friends of Kenn Church A G M which is normally held in May has been postponed. Margaret





## KENN W.I.

Because of this wretched virus the Kenn W.I. was unable to meet in April when we would have heard Ali Ball talk to us on Hieroglyphics.

The W.I. was also due to host the Spring Group Meeting in the Village Hall in April when it would have been so good to welcome members from the locality to Kenn.

As I write we have no idea when we shall be able to meet again, but we hope that all the speakers we had arranged will still be able to come and talk to us.

We expect that the first meeting that we are able to hold will just be tea and chatter, we will all be so glad to see each other.

Members have been telephoning each other and keeping in touch and we all say what extraordinary kindness we have been shown.

So far only one member has succumbed to the virus and she only had a mild dose and her isolation in Weston Hospital should end soon.

Until we can all meet again I hope that everyone will stay safe.

If anything is needed please let me know. I may not be able to do anything myself but I could probably cause it to be done.

Best wishes to you all, Ann Holtham

## Fund Raising

The 2.6 campaign has inspired me to walk 26 times round our 5 acre field.

Normally at this time of year we would be organising a summer tea party in our garden to raise money for charity which sadly we cannot now do.

I am raising money for Weston Hospicecare who do a wonderful job but must be missing all the fund raising events that will have been planned for the summer. If you want to donate [www.virginmoneygiving.com](http://www.virginmoneygiving.com) and search for Robin Mackay.

Many thanks to those that have already donated.  
Robin

## Book group.



We will not be meeting in the pub for book group nor getting together anywhere else. During these strange times of the Coronavirus we have to keep ourselves and everyone else safe.

### **Despite this book group will continue.**

We can communicate initially though Email telling each other what we are reading, brief synopsis and our personal responses to the book we are reading.

We continue to read our books through the lockdown. One member is reading 'The mirror and the Light' by Hilary Mantel. Another went to a book signing in Clifton recently. In those halcyon days when we humans still got together in large groups. The signing event was shared by two authors.

Sue Wells has written a semi autobiography about giving her daughter up for adoption at the age of sixteen. Then the story about how she found her again years later. Martin Wells has also written a book accounting how his psychotherapy clients found spiritual freedom from trauma.

May. 2020. Donna Leon's new book to be released in March.

June. 2020. Share and swop what we are currently reading.

Stay safe and well. Book group.

## Art and Craft Stuff

The cabinet in The New Room was filled with art and craft material some of it was very old with random tubs of paint, sticks of glue and jars of glitter.



The Room was open on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> April 2020 for people at home with children to help themselves.

An honesty box was left out and we raised £12.

The money will buy washing up liquid, black bags and other sundry items for the room.

Win-win all round.



## News from around the World

### Australia

In early March Australia was 2-3 weeks behind the UK in Covid preparations. The panic buying was for all the same items that we were trying to find, and there was the same 'Well, we'd better do this now before everything closes '

This was particularly significant for our son-in-law, a musician, as folk brought forward their celebrations. He was rung up at 4pm by a 'mother of the bride' who said 'You know that wedding you're playing for on Tuesday, well, it's tonight, (this was Sunday) can you get here?'"\* **He made it!**

The schools closed sooner in the scheme of things than ours, but the playgrounds stayed open for a while. While we have been marking time in Lockdown, Australia has caught up with us.

The shops now have most of the things most of the time The cost of groceries is always way higher than here, and growers are still dealing with some consequences of the fires. Amongst most suburban streets there are patches of trees and scrub, known as 'reserves' these are still open for a quick walk or play. There are far more 'Roos about, due to the lack of traffic. The schools are closed for the whole of the autumn term, and home schooling is rigorous, our grandsons wear their uniforms!

We keep in touch more often than usual.

Julia and Tim Bush

**Ghana** Simnel Cakes and the Blay Family - Thankyou to everyone who munched their way through a Simnel Cake and everyone who gave a donation for the Blay family. Michael Blay responded on 28th April.

Hi Mum,

It's been quite a while now since I messaged you, because of the lock down in own country. We are not allow to go out even to go to Church, We are all fine.

I hope you and the family are also doing great, sorry for not greeting you this Easter, because of the Corona we are in home praying to mother Mary to save us from the virus.

Mummy the situation here is too much now many peoples have died and some people have been affected with the virus. We normally put on masks and use hand sanitizer to prevent us from the Coronavirus.

Thank you so much and thank the people of Kenn for their generosity and prayers. God bless you all. Michael Blay.

### Devon

May I thank on behalf of my aunty in Devon who is shielded .

I last month sent her a News and Views April edition . She has asked me to thank the person who put in the worship at home. It has given her so much pleasure each day by reading the prayers .

In fact she still is reading each day .

Once again thank you on her behalf .

Heather Jenkins

Useful Numbers:

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

**St John the Evangelist;** Contact Parish Office 01934 832184 or Churchwardens

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

**Church Floodlighting:**  
David Pugh 874278

**Village Flag Flying:**  
Marianna or Robin 340323  
or Chris Taylor 872781

**Altar Guild Secretary:**  
Marianna Mackay 340323

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

**News & Views:**  
Margaret Ball 01275 874077  
Email - Margaret.john@btinternet.com



**Postponed due to Coronavirus**

**North Somerset Times**

Copies of this local newspaper are available in the Church Porch.



**MAY WASTE COLLECTION - MONDAYS**

**Recycling and food waste** 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th May  
**Rubbish** 4th and 18th May  
**Garden Waste** 4th and 18th May



Tel: 01934 830111

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Catalogues can be viewed at:  
[www.clevedon-salerooms.com](http://www.clevedon-salerooms.com)

## Supper Club and News from the Drum

Some of us ordered ourselves take-away meals on the night of "Supper Club" in April, and have continued ordering on other days as well.....all very much enjoyed!

I saw Jamie as I passed the other day. He was busying himself tidying up the car park and outside of the pub.

He continues to try and keep the Drum going as best he can! **Thank you Jamie!**



To order: You can email on [jfthomas314@gmail.com](mailto:jfthomas314@gmail.com)

Otherwise phone numbers to use are: Jamie 07393 743471 or Josie 07821 197102.



Thanks to Jan and Colin Bedford for Supper Club News and for passing on Neighbourhood Watch messages.

**Received 2<sup>nd</sup> April**

The latest scam seems to be that scammers have been sending fake texts to individuals threatening a fine for leaving home. The text claims that the UK Government has been tracking your movements and that you left the home on given dates and travelled a specified distance. You are then told that you have to pay a fine, which will increase the longer you take to pay it. **THIS IS A SCAM.** It uses the name of a civil authority and preys on your worry that it will cost more if you ignore it. Delete the text and never click on any link in a message from someone you don't know.

The BBC Website has more information on this and can be found by following this link below:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-hereford-worcester-52049616>

**Received 7<sup>th</sup> April**

I have this morning been contacted by PCSO Caroline Harris to let you know that the Clevedon Police team continue to function as normal. There may be uncertainty in this difficult period but the team at Clevedon wish to reassure you that they are still there. Do please as always, should you need to report a crime that is not an emergency call 101 or for an emergency call 999. You can contact the Clevedon beat team directly via the link below.

Do please stay inside.

<https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/your-area/clevedon-and-villages/>

Thanks to Ann Holtham for

**By Pam Ayres**

I'm normally a social girl  
I love to meet my mates  
But lately with the virus here  
We can't go out the gates.  
You see, we are the 'oldies' now  
We need to stay inside  
If they haven't seen us for a while  
They'll think we've upped and died.  
They'll never know the things we did  
Before we got this old  
There wasn't any Facebook  
So not everything was told.  
We may seem sweet old ladies  
Who would never be uncouth  
But we grew up in the 60s -  
If you only knew the truth!  
There was sex and drugs and rock 'n roll  
The pill and miniskirts  
We smoked, we drank, we partied  
And were quite outrageous flirts.  
Then we settled down, got married  
And turned into someone's mum,  
Somebody's wife, then nana,  
Who on earth did we become?  
We didn't mind the change of pace  
Because our lives were full  
But to bury us before we're dead  
Is like a red rag to a bull!  
So here you find me stuck inside  
For 4 weeks, maybe more  
I finally found myself again  
Then I had to close the door!  
It didn't really bother me  
I'd while away the hour  
I'd bake for all the family  
But I've got no flaming flour!  
Now Netflix is just wonderful  
I like a gutsy thriller  
I'm swooning over Idris  
Or some random sexy killer.  
At least I've got a stash of booze  
For when I'm being idle  
There's wine and whiskey, even gin  
If I'm feeling suicidal!  
So let's all drink to lockdown  
To recovery and health  
And hope this awful virus  
Doesn't decimate our wealth.  
We'll all get through the crisis  
And be back to join our mates  
Just hoping I'm not far too wide

To fit through the flaming gates!

## LUNCH AT ST JOHN'S KENN.

Usually on the first Monday  
of the month, 12.00 noon to  
2.30pm.



**There will be no lunch at St John's in May  
and for the foreseeable future.**

**At the moment I am thinking we will not  
have the lunch again until Jan or Feb  
2021. I know this sounds over cautious.**

**It will be best to wait and see, as  
lockdown restrictions are lifted, if there is  
a raise in corona cases and at worst  
deaths. This is so we are all safe and we  
do not spread the Coronavirus.**

Caroline. Stay safe and well. xx

What a lovely village we are blessed with.  
So many responded to my request for copy  
Thank you all.

Clapping for Carers - Last week Jo Manning  
played her flute and there are rumours that  
Colin Bedford will join in next week with his  
violin. The rest of us just make a lot of noise.

I understand that Home Deliveries in Kenn are  
available from:

T ickenham Garden Centre	01275 856675
Pullins Bakery	01934 832135
Murrays Hill Road	01275 341222

To all Kennites

Just wanted to say how uplifting and encouraging it is to be a part of the Clap the Carers event on Thursday evenings.

I am not on the front line but out there in the community trying to help keep our vulnerable patients safe. Going off to work in uniform each day, I am someone that you see just doing my job.

It is humbling to feel the warmth of your clapping, cheering and pot banging in appreciation of all NHS doctors, nurses and carers. So from all the District nurses I Thank you.

However my applause is for you, amazing people who are not in a uniform but are quietly getting on with it, supporting each other in so many ways. Mowing lawns, phone calls to neighbours, jars of jam/eggs on the door step, collecting shopping and prescriptions, the list is endless. You are all making a difference and helping our country to fight this silent war.

A Million thank you's to each and every one of you.

Take care and stay safe, Karen (at Trevone)

### **A THANK YOU TO KIND NEIGHBOURS DURING THIS DIFFICULT TIME**

I am sure that all the vulnerable residents of Kenn would like to join me in thanking everyone who has given help and cheer to us during this lockdown, and in particular to Mary and Paul Ashton for their delicious cream tea which Brian and I enjoyed – and I'm sure we were not the only ones.

Also grateful thanks go to those who have shopped for us, especially our Grandson, Richard, and others who know who they are. Thank you to all, and let's hope that this period of lockdown will be over soon.

Margaret Cook, West Haven

May I thank Mary Ashton and Paul for there kindness on delivering a cream tea and flowers to Jean Naish (mum) this weekend.

How you are brightening up so many peoples days.

Also for my cream tea It was Delicious.

You are a true star. Thank you again Heather Jenkins

*From John and Grace— We wish to thank our son James and Jane and our neighbour Tim Rossiter for all the help they are giving us with our shopping etc. Also the phone calls from friends in the village enquiring after our health. A special thanks to Mary and Paul for the very enjoyable scones, cream and jam "Easter Bunny" which was much appreciated.*

Margaret and John together with John's Mother (also Margaret, Ball) would like to join the thanks for the cream teas so kindly prepared and delivered by Paul and Mary.

### **Yellow Teapot Chat.**

Just to let you know that Tony, who tirelessly keeps the Yellow Teapot crew supplied with tea when we meet, spoke to Margaret Bessant recently and sends his 'Best Wishes ' to all of us and is looking forward to seeing us all again before too long.

Sarah and Julia

### **Anonymous Litter Survey**

Unsurprisingly, a much reduced amount of litter on the motorway bridge since the coffee shops and fast food takeaways closed. Still some plastic bottles and lots of aluminium cans.

## Bird News

Jeff Naish phoned to report a Mallard with 14 ducklings at the end of March, an early date. Subsequently there have been more sightings of Mallard broods of various sizes. Jeff has seen a single Lapwing at Tickenham Moor, but last years nesting sites at Kingston Seymour have not been occupied as the fields were too wet to plough. He had also spotted a Barn Owl and there seem to be quite a few around at present bolstered by a large number of voles.

Sadly, Jackie Huxtable discovered a road casualty at the M5 roundabout in Clevedon.

The Kenn Red Kite Observation Centre (aka One Elm, Kenn Street) recorded both Osprey and Red Kite over. Rob Treble saw another or the same Red Kite and others were over Claverham and Kingston Seymour. The best I could manage was a Peregrine high over Yatton.

A Red Legged Partridge reported by Joan Stevens in Kenn Street was an exotic garden bird and an Egyptian Goose seen by the Finlay family at Clevedon ran it close.

John Croxton recorded a Swallow on the 3rd and a House Martin on the 11th but at the time of writing these species are only present in modest numbers. A Cuckoo was heard at Congresbury on the early date of the 15th, Rob Treble saw one by the Yearling ditch then there were three reports from Yatton (Kenn Moor side) on the 24th.

Our migrant warbler species have all arrived although more birds will come in April. There seems to be good numbers of Lesser Whitethroats (all the way from Ethiopia) this year and House Sparrows and Greenfinches are recovering their numbers. There have been an encouraging number of Mistle Thrush sightings too and a few more Linnets so just maybe, some of our farmland and village birds are coming back.

**Let's hope so, lots of people have expressed their enjoyment of the bird song in the current circumstances.**

Trevor Riddle - 01934 835208



More Bird News

Hils Morgan at The Old School messaged on the 16th April that **“We saw “our” first Swallow fly over tonight!**

We might be a bit behind everyone else but it was great to see.

**Also we’ve heard** a Tawny owl really close by in the grave yard, and had a Sparrow Hawk in the garden.

**Incredible! “**

John Croxton messaged that a birding friend had spotted two Harbour Porpoise at Clevedon from the Blind Yeo outfall in mid-April, no photo.



Isobel Finlay sent this photo of an Egyptian Goose taken at Clevedon



Celebrate Victory in Europe.  
V.E. Day. 8th May. 2-4pm  
Picnic in your own Garden Party.

There had been several ideas suggested for a village party this year. Commemorating the Centenary of the Village Hall, a special wedding anniversary or a revival of the Kenn and Kingston fete.

None of these are going to happen.

Shall we have a very contemporary Street Party on the 8th May?  
We can observe social distancing by having a picnic in our own front garden. Decorate our houses and play music.  
Nailsea and Kingston Seymour are doing the same.

Chapel Cottage.

## Kenn Parish Council— **Chairman's News**

We are unable to hold meetings at the moment but will be using other methods available to us as and when the need arises, online and video calling. If anybody has anything they need the Parish Council to deal with or answer please address to myself or Eleanor.

North Somerset keeps us up to date with information around the county, and on the various departments and facts etc on the virus. I have copied the last email which was very long and full of information onto the Kenn Facebook page.

If anyone would like to be sent an email copy let me know and I will forward on

Kenn Parish Council - Chairman - Sheila Naish Tel. 07808 920 962

Parish Clerk - Eleanor Wade Tel. 07580 195 645

### Mrs Jill Iles

It is with much sadness that I have to report the passing away of Mrs Jill Iles.

Jill was for many years the Conservative Councillor for North Somerset, and had responsibility amongst other things for Kenn. She was an excellent councillor, and a very good friend to us here in Kenn. She fought tirelessly for Kenn. She regularly attended the Parish Council meetings, keeping us up to date and feeding back any concerns we may have had, and providing us with up to date information affecting Kenn.

Jill was a great help to me as Chair and always available to talk things through, her guidance and advice was of utmost importance to myself and the Councillors.

She regularly attended our village market and always available to talk to.

She lost her seat at the last election and as such, we lost her, which was a great loss.

Jill carried on with her local work by sitting on Yatton Parish Council up until her recent illness.

I have spoken with her son and expressed our condolences, both on behalf of the Parish Council and our villagers. Oliver informs me that her funeral will be in accordance with government restrictions and so strictly family members only, and a short service. He advises that the family will be holding a memorial of some sorts for folk to pay their respects and share their thoughts and experiences of Jill, this will be at a much later date, and when all the coronavirus lockdowns are removed. I will keep the village informed. Her death is a tragic great loss to this community and all the others that she represented previously.

On a personal note I would like to pay tribute to Jill who was such a great person, friend and colleague. She gave her wisdom and knowledge generously and to which I am indebted, it made me a better Councillor. She helped my nephew Andrew out with cider apples at the start of his venture. She always looked to help people wherever possible, and had a warm kind nature. She will be greatly missed.

Sheila Naish

Chairman

## Coronavirus Commentary

Contributors to KN&V regularly receive an email from Margaret telling us the next issue deadline and whether/how desperate she is for gems from us. The latest missive sent to all 500 of us shows she is really desperate this time. She is "looking forwards to receiving some amusing, informative, articles".  
No pressure there.

She must be joking. Amusing AND informative? That's a bit tough, even for talented writers like me whose contributions to KN&V either make people cry or make them store up the article with other treasures for future generations.  
"You wouldn't believe what they wrote in the old days and what rubbish people read."

Yes, times are tough. The C word has beaten the B word. Hardly a mention of Brexit so at least there is something to be cheerful about. However things are so bad that Google cancelled its April Fool pranks and the Queen cancelled her 94 gun birthday salute.

For many of course, that news is irrelevant. Pain and fear dominate over everything else. We don't know how or when it will end and for some of us on our own it is particularly hard. People have been good to me but it's still not easy at times.

So how can we manage?

Humour is known as an excellent coping mechanism.

Stanford researcher Andrea Samson and psychology Professor James Gross ran an experiment where subjects were asked to improvise jokes. They found that people who made any kind of quip benefited, reporting both increases in positive emotions and decreases in negative emotions.

"If you are able to teach people to be more playful, to look at the absurdities of life as humorous, you see some increase in wellbeing," said Samson.

So what can we be cheerful about? Let's start with the village. At this point let me thank the lady who arrived unannounced on Saturday morning with a cream tea for me. I was so touched I could have hugged her or married her. Hugging was out because of "social distancing" so that left marriage. Unfortunately she is already spoken for.

What next? How about Broadband? Hmmm. It is getting closer but is delayed again to late May or June. That's informative but hardly amusing. In fact broadband in Kenn has never been amusing. The nearest we may get is when Truespeed do a photo shoot of the Parish Council outside the village hall. No, I don't know why they might want to either. Perhaps they never met the Parish Council in daylight.

This leads me nicely onto the Parish Council. Can I find anything amusing there? They are lovely people but I don't think so. At the moment we are avoiding each other like the plague. (Boom, boom).

Let's move on quickly...

So, I've run out of ideas from the village, and that leads me onto the old British standby for all dire situations: Gallows Humour. The British must be the only nation that can make jokes in times of calamities or see the funny side when things are bad.

Quote of the century:

Dear God,  
Can you please uninstall 2020 and  
download it again????  
It has a virus!!



An example of real gallows humour was the execution of a traitor after WW2.

*Moments before the white hood of a condemned man was placed over his head, John Amery, a Second World War traitor, turned to his besuited executioner holding the noose and said: "I've always wanted to meet you Mr Pierrepoint. But not, of course, under these circumstances."*

Incidentally John Amery was convicted by the jury in 8 minutes and the hangman, Mr Pierrepoint was known for banning any humour in his job, which he treated in a very serious and professional way, so "Gallows Humour" may be a misnomer.

Speaking of wartime, it leads to some bizarre humour so let's look at one or two instances from WW2.

*A young soldier fighting in Italy in WWII managed to jump in a foxhole just ahead of a spray of bullets. He immediately attempted to deepen the hole with his hands and unearthed a silver crucifix, obviously left by a previous occupant.*

*A moment later, a leaping figure landed beside him as shells screamed overhead.*

*The soldier turned to see that his companion in trouble was an Army Chaplain.*

*Holding up the crucifix, the soldier said "am I glad to see you, how do you make this thing work?"*

*"Hitler and Goring are standing atop the Berlin radio tower. Hitler says he wants to do something to put a smile on Berliners' faces. So Goring says: 'Why don't you jump?'"*

Humour can backfire however (as can possibly this article). Don't laugh too hard - a German factory worker was reportedly executed for telling this one.

Politicians have been likening the current situation to WW2.

The Queen, quite rightly in her incredibly well spoken message to the nation avoided all mention of war language but alluded to it through her "we'll meet again". Brilliant.

So that brings me back to the current crisis where the lockdown has given rise to some interesting humour:

*"I made the mistake of telling my husband an early symptom of Covid 19 is loss of smell. He's taken to passing gas in my vicinity and when I react, informing me he is helpfully "performing a health check". "He taught the children the technique. "I may divorce him".*

From one of my kids:

*"I just got a Tesco grocery delivery slot, funny what we get excited about nowadays....."*

Close proximity in lockdown gives some interesting revelations:

*"Day 2 without Sports:*

*"Found a young lady sitting on my couch yesterday. Apparently she is my wife. She seems nice"*

Even death gets a joke:

*"My husband had a letter from the government today advising him that he is at risk from Covid 19 because of an underlying condition. Personally I'm pretty sure he's safe since he has been dead nearly 4 years."*

And the one I like best:

*"Those people who said no one person could change the world never ate a half cooked bat."*

And finally:

*"There are only 3 days in the week: yesterday, today and tomorrow."*

Happy lockdown!

Stephen Brain

# Kenn Parish Council

Kenn Parish Council is following government and NHS guidance to help to limit the spread of COVID-19 (Coronavirus).



- All Kenn Parish Council public meetings are cancelled or postponed until further notice – or will take place remotely (see future arrangements below).
- The Parish Council will be reviewing their arrangements regularly as Government Legislation changes.

While all meetings have been suspended until further notice, the day to day business will continue via internet and telephone. Where possible the Parish Clerk will take urgent decisions in conjunction with councillors and will communicate with councillors keeping them informed electronically or by telephone.

## **FUTURE ARRANGMENTS**

If the current situation continues in the long-term and/or:

- If an emergency meeting needs to be organised to deal with an urgent item, the notice of the meeting and agenda will be published and displayed on the village noticeboards and their website.
- Should Kenn Parish Council decide to hold their meetings remotely online in future for general council business, the Parish Council will publish details and display this on the village noticeboards and their website.
- In both the above circumstances the notice and agenda will provide the date, time with details of how to participate remotely – each meeting is set up with a meeting ID and password.
- There will be no physical public participation until it is safe to do so, so this will be the only means of participating in person.
- Or if you do not have this facility, you can write to or email the clerk with your comments 2 days before the meeting to give time for the councillors to read it.

