

KENN

ISSUE 374

OCTOBER 2019



NEWS & VIEWS

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

October

- 3rd Gill Taylor
- 6th Dave & Sue Pugh W.A.
- 7th Julia & Tim Bush W.A.
- 8th Robin Rogers
- 16th Cheryl Quinn
- 17th Callum Hobbs
- 18th Kayleigh Stowell
Wendy & Sotoris Papasolomontos WA
- 19th Heather & John Saxby WA
- 22nd Troy & Julian Gale WA
- 23rd Robert Brown
- 24th Matthew Clarke
- 26th Justin Naish
Margaret Bessant
- 27th Jack Treble
Maisie Taylor
- 31st Roman Bessant

**Harvest Service in Kenn
Sunday 15th September.**

6.00pm Harvest Evensong at Kenn. Rev Nigel Thomas led our service with contributions from Nicky and members of the congregation. We even had a story read to us. "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" by Eric Carle".

The church was beautifully decorated with fruit and flowers, and a magnificent Cornucopia or 'Horn of Plenty', made by Jean Louis Maurin, was the centrepiece on the altar.

A lovely gathering.

Julia Bush



St John the Evangelist, Kenn

ALTAR GUILD



October Jean Woods, Heather Jenkins and Tina Middleton

November Sarah Clark . Clare Hibbs and Ann Holtham

Our Flag

31st August our flag flew to celebrate the wedding at St John's Kenn of Daniel Dowling and Katherine Sherriff.

14th September for the marriage at St. John's, Kenn of Joanne Davenport and Anthony Dewberry.

Best wishes to them all in their married life.

Kenn's Children's Harvest Service 11.00am Sunday 22nd September.

As everyone settled down in the pews before the service, Jo warmed us up with a few verses of 'Food glorious Food'.

Then we said prayers about being thankful for all the good things we have.

Tom and Sam read the parable of the sower, 'The Wonderful Harvest'



Then there was a 'Farmer Drama' about how the food chain involves a lot of people, BUT our daily bread relies on the seasons of Creation.

The bread that was finally baked was a special kind from Australia called 'Damper'. Jeremy told us how it originated in the outback.

Then all the children took fruit, vegetables, flowers, eggs, wheat and the Harvest Loaf to the altar and Jenny said the words of blessing over them.

The Children's Offerings 'suitable for a food bank' will go to the Sisters of the Church, who have been doing food parcels for years.

The Service ended with a Celtic Grace,

'May we who have so much, have one thing more, a thankful heart.'

We finished with 'Food Glorious Food.'

Then we ate the Damper with jam made in Kenn. Lush.

M T Pew



Messages of Thanks – As is usual Harvest Gifts were distributed following our Harvest Festival.

Messages have been received giving thanks for the gifts and the season.

I was very pleased with the lovely harvest box, a big thank you to John Griffin for bringing it over to me. It was lovely to see him.

Thank you to all involved. Kind regards Win Cole

Thank you so very much for the lovely harvest box that arrived with me this week. It was very much appreciated and I'm very much enjoying the contents .

Thank you once again, Jean Naish

Iris and Mike would like to thank St. John's Church, Kenn, for the Harvest gift.

Many thanks for the box of goodies I found on the doorstep today.

I can feel a cooking session coming on. Joyce

Thank you very much for the goodies from the church harvest festival, it was lovely to have fresh fruit and vegetables grown in Kenn. from Irene Stowell

Thanks have also been received from Juliet Stowell and Margaret Ball (senior).

Diary Date - The start of Christmas 2019

Kenn's fabulous Christmas Tree lights will be illuminated on Sunday 1st December to mark John and Grace Griffin's 60th Wedding Anniversary and will be lit each night until Epiphany

Carols round the Tree — Friday 20th December Meet at 7.00pm

An opportunity to join with friends and family singing our favourite Carols, whilst consuming mulled wine and mince pies, at Church Path Cottage.

All are welcome to join us for this traditional start to the Christmas season.

Robin & Marianna

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

St John the Evangelist Priest in charge:
Contact Parish Office or Churchwardens

Churchwarden:

John Ball 874077
078 1667 1304
Julia Bush 01275 873554

Church Floodlighting:
David Pugh 874278

Village Flag Flying:
Marianna or Robin 340323
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
Chaseside, Kenn Street, Kenn



COFFEE MORNING

Will be held in Kenn Village Hall on
Saturday, 12th October
10:00am till midday.

North Somerset Times

Don't forget that
copies are freely
available in the porch
a St. Johns



MONDAYS

Recycling 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th October
Dustbin 7th and 21st October
Green Waste 7th and 21st October



Tel: 01934 830111

Clevedon Salerooms

FINE ART AUCTIONEERS & VALUERS

Email: info@clevedon-salerooms.com

Antique and Quality Furnishings. Collectables etc
Thursdays 10th and 24th October

Viewing at Saleroom
Prior Wednesdays -10am - 6.30pm
Mornings of sales from 9am

Quarterly Specialist Sale
Thursday 14th November 10.30am

Viewing at Saleroom

Wednesday 13th November 10am - 6:30pm
Morning of sale from 9am

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

What's on in Kenn

**Monday 7th October — Monthly Lunch at
St John the Evangelist, Kenn 12.00noon—2.00pm
Everyone welcome**

**Tuesday 8th October from 12noon Drum and Monkey
Village Lunch — come along and meet your neighbours**

**Wednesday 9th October - 7.30pm Kenn Village Hall
Kenn Women's Institute Meeting**

**Saturday 12th October - 10am - 12 noon
Kenn Village Hall - Village Market and Coffee Morning**

**Wednesday 16th October at The Drum 7.00 for 7.30pm
Kenn Supper Club**

**Saturday/Sunday 19th and 20th October at Kenn Village Hall
Gordano Scout District - 2nd Clevedon Scout Group
JOTA Amateur Radio Special Event
Visitors welcome**

Thursday 25th October 8.00ish at The Drum — Book Group

**Saturday 26th October - 10.00am - 12noon
Charity Coffee Morning at Kenn Church Room
Proceeds will in aid of the Blay Family - School Fees**

October Charity Coffee Morning - Thanks to the generosity of the people in Kenn earlier this year, I had enough money to pay the Autumn school fees for the children of the late Denis Blay in Uganda.

I will be fundraising in earnest until Christmas to pay for the Spring Fees.
Julia Bush 873554

Yellow Teapot Time!

9th October
2.30-4.30pm

and every 2nd Wednesday of the month



At The Drum and Monkey, Kenn

Come along for a chat and tea. Meet old friends and new!

Rural Connections Project

Want to know more?

Contact Sarah Friend, Village Agent 07422 078548

Sarah@wern.org.uk



Katherine Sheriff and Daniel Dowling were married at St John's Church Kenn on Saturday 31st August - they travelled to and from the church in a stately carriage, with two black horses.

Their reception at Dan's parents' - Mike and Debra's home, Willow House included a spectacular firework display, enjoyed by most of the village.

The service was conducted by the Rev. Richard Taylor with Robert Rideout organist, Mike Callow bellringer, the flowers were arranged by Marianna Mackay.

They will make their home at Keynsham.



YATTON MOOR TEAM MINISTRY

SERVICES FOR OCTOBER 2019

1st Sunday 6th October THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY GREEN
YATTON HARVEST & FLOWER FESTIVAL
CLAVERHAM HARVEST & FLOWER FESTIVAL

8.00am Holy Communion* at Kenn

10.00am Harvest Festival Service at Yatton – **Banns** (Breakfast 9am)

11.00am Harvest Festival Service at Claverham
 followed by Harvest Lunch in Claverham Village Hall

11.00am Family Service at Kingston Seymour

3.00pm Holy Baptism at Kingston Seymour

6.30pm Songs of Praise at Claverham

2nd Sunday 13th October THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY GREEN

8.00am Holy Communion at Yatton*

9.30am Parish Communion at Yatton – **Banns**

9.30am Shared Parish Communion at Claverham

11.00am Holy Communion at Kenn

12.00pm Holy Baptism ~ Phoenix Jeffery Zhi Tran

5.00pm Afternoon Tea at Kingston Seymour

6.00pm Evensong at Kingston Seymour*

3rd Sunday 20th October THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY GREEN

9.30am Parish Communion at Yatton – **Banns**

9.30am Shared Parish Communion at Cleeve

11.00am Holy Communion at Kingston Seymour

6.00pm Evensong at Kenn*

4th Sunday 27th October THE LAST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY GREEN
(Bible Sunday)

8.00am Holy Communion* at Yatton

8.00am Holy Communion* at Kingston Seymour

9.30am Parish Communion at Yatton

10.00am Café Church at Court de Wyck School

11.00am Family Service at Kenn

12.45pm Holy Baptism at Yatton

Sunday 27th October at St Nicholas Church, Brockley
- Harvest Communion Service at 6.15pm - All are welcome!

* Book of Common Prayer (1662)



BIRD NEWS

A juvenile Cuckoo in a Kingston Seymour garden two days running at the end of August was a major surprise. At that time of year all the adult Cuckoos are well on their way to Africa leaving all the young birds to know that they have to fly south and find their way. It really is one of the miracles of migration.

Jeff Naish has seen a Kingfisher on Kenn Moor a couple of times and I have also had reports from Wemberham Lane, Yatton, the Strawberry Line and Kingston Seymour. These are birds seeking winter territories and it seems that it has been a productive breeding season for them.

Jeff also reported several Wheatears on his land at Tickenham and not to be outdone Bryan Thompson had one in his garden. There was a steady passage of Wheatears along the coast throughout with a few Whinchats too.

Wader passage picked up with a flock of 350 Ringed Plovers a memorable sight. But most unexpected was a huge flock of 650 Knot roosting at the Kenn Estuary, a species that is more usually found (in any numbers) on the east coast.

The Knot is rather a drab undistinguished wader, but, a flock of 650 wheeling around is an impressive sight and sound; the rushing of air as they turn is well above Starling murmuration noise. Their Latin name is *Calidris canutus* - a reference to their habit of roosting very close to incoming waves and appearing to be attempting to stop the incoming tide with no more success than the good king.

Tawny Owls have been vocal this month with calling heard from Kenn and Yatton and a few Chiffchaffs are singing.

Most of the local Swallows departed mid month and with Jays flying over open areas and the Peregrine back on his pylon it's a sure sign of Autumn.

Migration will continue in October and the first Redwings and Fieldfares may be with us by the end of the month.

On the 21st, Wessex Archaeology ran a public display, showing some of the finds from the excavations at the Bloor Homes site at North End, Yatton. One of the finds was a leg bone and talon from a White Tailed Eagle thought to have died c 400BC.

On a national note 6 juvenile White Tailed Eagles have just been released on the Isle of Wight as the start of a re-introduction programme and one adventurous bird took a long tour after a few days and was photographed passing over central London. White Tailed Eagles are generalist predators that seem to co exist with humans quite well so perhaps in a few years a Yatton will see another 'Sea Eagle'.

Trevor Riddle 01934 835208



September Supper Club continued to surprise us all. Yes, the pub is now very smartly decorated – we were expecting that.

However, we were not expecting there to be a new manager, Simon, and for Sophie, the cook, to be back! All good though! Simon went out of his way to welcome us, and Sophie produced 12 lovely plates of food.

Amy at the bar doubled up as waitress and worked hard to make our evening go well.

Before the evening, it is usually Tony the barman who is there to sort out our pre-orders. He, Amy and others seem to be loyal and consistent members of staff who have worked through the many recent changes in the pub.

It would be great if Simon can now succeed in what is clearly a very difficult task to keep our lovely village pub running. **Good luck** to him and all the staff.

What we can do to support them is obviously to use the pub!

The next Supper Club will be on Wed 16th October– 7 o'clock for 7:30.

If you would like to join us, that would be lovely.

It helps the staff to pre-order food – 875500.

Lunch at St John's on Monday 7th October



This lunch, is on the first Monday of the month.
12.00 noon to 2.00pm.

The lunch has now grown to become a popular gathering in the local church. The atmosphere is very relaxed and friendly.

The fayre is plain food, soup, main course, followed by coffee and cake. All for £5 per head. (Children come for free)

Proceeds go to Charity

Village Market & Coffee Morning

The September market was well supported, it was especially good to see everyone after our summer break and catch up with all the news.



Lyn and I decided to give the refreshment donations to the Curzon Cinema roof appeal. For those who do not know about this wonderful local facility the cinema has been running continuously since 1912. Unfortunately the grade 2 building is showing signs of wear and the roof needs vital work to stop the interior from being damaged.



Thanks to your wonderful generosity we are able to donate £73.00 and for a bit of fun I will be Tagging-a-Tile in Kenn Market's name so that we will become part of the fabric of the building!

Our next market will be on 12th October from 10am - 12pm

all are welcome and if you would like to run the refreshments to raise money for a favourite charity we would love to hear from you.

Maggie Hobbs 876277 Lyn Burnett 870189

October Market, Cakes and Preserves.

I will be sending a small selection of cakes to the October Kenn Village Market - and thereafter cakes to order only.

To be sure of your cake please leave a message on 01275 872554. Thank you Julia Bush

Neighbourhood Watch

There have been a number of burglaries across the force area where the offenders have targeted homes while the residents are on holiday.

There are a number of things you can do to make your home look occupied, which can also be used as the nights are starting to draw in.

Please see the document detailed below for some tips to make your home safer.

<https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk///media/32485939/burglary-prevention-advice.pdf>



The Reverend Jo Stobart - Vicar of the parishes of Ilminster and Whitelackington



Sunday 15th September at St Mary's Church, Yatton Moor said Farewell to Jo with a huge congregation of well-wishers.

Wednesday 25th September, it felt as if the whole of that congregation had arrived at Ilminster to support her. The coach was filled to capacity and many others drove themselves and friends.

At the Church of St. Mary's, Ilminster the celebration of Jo Stobart's New Ministry was conducted by Peter Hancock, the Bishop of Bath and Wells with Simon Hill, Archdeacon of Taunton. The Church was filled to capacity with her family, friends, members of the local community and her new Congregation.

Jo's new congregation welcomed her warmly and supplied all those who had travelled with sumptuous refreshments.

John Ball

ST BARNABAS
JASMINE LANE CLAVERHAM

..FLOWER FESTIVAL
CELEBRATION OF 140 YEARS

CHURCH OPEN 5TH 6TH OCTOBER
SATURDAY 5TH 10.00 am - 4.00 pm.
SUNDAY 6TH 2.00 - 5 pm


CONCERT SATURDAY 5TH 7.00 pm.

HARVEST SERVICE SUNDAY 6TH 11.00 am
WITH VEN. ADRIAN YOUINGS, ARCHDEACON OF BATH

HARVEST LUNCH SUNDAY 6TH
12.30 FOR 1.00 pm
AT CLAVERHAM VILLAGE HALL

SONGS OF PRAISE SUNDAY 6TH 6.30 pm

YATTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY
Registered Charity - no. 1015402



METHODISM IN BRISTOL

Gary Best explores how two Anglican clergy, John & Charles Wesley, sought to change the society in which they lived

TUESDAY OCTOBER 1st
8 pm
Yatton Methodist Church

EVERYONE WELCOME
Members: Free Visitors: £3

Margaret's Mutterings

Sunday 15th September - at least 10,000 runners did the Bristol Half Marathon - among them at least five with Kenn connections - congratulations to them all - Mike and Iris Callow's granddaughter Eleanor Finlay, Margaret Bessant's son Rob, my son Vince with his daughter Beth - also pictured with her boyfriend Oscar.



Sadly no snap of Rob Bessant (photographer) however we do have one of his mum , Margaret harvesting apples for cider at Rob's home Riverside Farm.

Also Rob's daughter India, with their dog Trevor , on the back of a trailer loaded with cider apples



theWI

INSPIRING WOMEN

KENN W.I

Members of the Kenn W.I. got together again after the summer break. Although there were several absentees as some people are still on holiday we were all delighted to welcome Mrs. Valerie Cox again after a long and painful time.

Our speaker for the evening was Mrs. Julia Bush who came to tell us about the duties and responsibilities of being a Churchwarden. She has been fulfilling this vital work for some time now and it was most interesting to hear what is involved in keeping a Parish Church functioning.

Julia also explained to us how Kenn came to have the New Room which is so much used for all sorts of events. It also has that vital thing – a lavatory – which is kept open at all times and proves very useful to postmen, bin men, cyclists and so on. She was warmly thanked.

The Autumn is going to be a busy one. There will be the County AGM at which the Yorkshire shepherdess, Amanda Owen, is to be the speaker. There is a Group meeting in October and Edna Baber has once again excelled herself with an entry for the competition.

Our usual Flower Demonstration is taking place on November 20th and Kenn will host the Group Carol Service in December. In the midst of all that we are managing to fit in our Birthday Lunch at the Greedy Goose.

At the October meeting Tim Rossiter is coming to speak to us. If you would like to join us you will be very welcome. The meeting is in the Village Hall on Wednesday, October 9th at 7.30 pm.



Ann Holtham

Church Floodlighting - Now the nights are drawing in - you may wish to remember someone by having our church floodlit. If so, contact David Pugh 874278. A small donation towards the cost of power is appreciated.

Our church was lit up on the 20th, 21st and 22nd September to celebrate the Golden Wedding Anniversary of Geoff and Ellie Marchant, worshippers at St. John's, Kenn.





Gordano Scout District ~ 2nd Clevedon Scout Group

JOTA Amateur Radio Special Event Station **GB8CS**

19th & 20th October 2019 at Kenn Village Hall ~

From 9:00am onwards

Jamboree on the Air offers Scouts the exciting opportunity to make friends in other countries without even leaving home! This is achieved with the help of licensed **Amateur Radio** operators. When Scouts want to meet young people from another country they usually think of attending a World Jamboree or another international gathering. But few people realize that each year about half-a-million Scouts and Guides talk over the airwaves for the annual **Jamboree on the Air**. Since 1958 when the first **JOTA** was held, thousands of Scouts and Guides have "met" each other through this event.

FREE to VISITORS ~ do come along and meet our Scouts, Leaders and Operators!

For further information contact:

Michael Clark (2nd Clevedon Scout Group)

☎ 01275 879858

Book Group

Book group met on the 12th September 2019. The pub was closed as they had a flood. We had to relocate to an emergency venue. The New Room provided the perfect place to get round a table, drink tea and discuss books. We each had a stack of books which we reviewed. The summer break had given us time to catch up on reading.

The focus was on 'Brooklyn' by Colm Toibin. We all enjoyed this novel. Toibin did not fall into the predictable trap of getting his Irish Catholic immigrant heroine pregnant. Instead he masterfully focused on finely tuning where was 'home' for Eilis. Over time foreign, strange Brooklyn became welcoming and familiar. A visit home to Ireland finds small town Enniscorthy stifling and staid.

Next month we will share and swop our favourite current read. The following month we are reading a comic novel about a group of cricketers.

Next group Thursday October 24th 2019 at The Drum.

Oct 2019.

[Share and swop what we are currently reading.](#)

Nov 2019.

'Penguins Stopped Play' by Harry Thompson.

Dec 2019.

Share and swop what we are currently reading.

Jan 2020.

'The Ministry of Utmost Happiness'. Arundhati Roy.

Book group.



The following, one of the Readings at Kenn's Harvest Festival Evensong, was greatly appreciated by everyone present - so I am sharing it with you all.

Harvest Dreams

Tread softly because you tread on farmers' dreams.
Of what does a farmer dream?

Of a rich harvest? Of a good price for the crop, covering costs with something left over? Of enough capital to see him through the bad times? Of security - for himself and his family? Of a good well-managed farm to pass on to his children, as his father passed it to him?

It may be easier to ask 'what does a farmer fear?' Because fear of failure is ever present! Fear of too little rain - or too much. Fear of rain and wind spoiling a good crop. Fear of low prices for his produce, falling bank balances and an overdraft refused. Fear of sickness or injury - how will my family cope without me?

And all these apply in the world wide farming community along with other fears:- Fear of total crop failure. Fear of an invasion of locusts, leaving just bare earth where there was a green field. Fear of drought - lasting for **months not just a few weeks. Fear of flood or fire. Fear of 'picky' buyers for the crop - refusal could mean disaster. Fear of starvation: - no rain, no grass, no cattle, no crop, no sales. Nothing for tomorrow.**

And for the 'consumer'? Do you remember the fuel shortage in September 2000? Have you ever seen a Supermarket with no food on its shelves? Our food supply appears secure - for now. If the buyer does not like one farmer or country he can make a deal elsewhere. And it is so easy for us with our own 'dream' of cheap food to tread on the dreams of others!
The prophet Isaiah expressed God's indignation when he spoke of 'Grinding the face of the poor' (Is 3:15)

Love for our neighbour can be expressed in treading very softly and carefully **in our choice of food. A wise choice will mean fewer 'food miles', 'Fair Traded' imports and a fair return for the primary producer where-ever they may be. An unwise choice can cause irreversible damage to God's world and farmers everywhere.**

In buying food - **'Tread softly for you tread on farmers' dreams!'**

News from the Dowling family of Willow House, Kenn Road

(See also their Wedding News on page 7)

In early September Simon Dowling along with his partner Kate Dursley of Kenn travelled 1200km to Vichy in France to participate in the inaugural Formula 3 World Water-Ski Racing event.

Simon made the 15-hour journey towing his 150-horse powered Boat No. 51 "Bedlam".

Simon competed in Vichy with his local team, driver Steve Benny and observer Rob Strick both from Weston super Mare.

The event took place over a 2km course set out on the picturesque Allier river running through the centre of Vichy.



Each race was 20 minutes long and due to vertical concrete walls at parts of the course meant that the water conditions became rougher throughout each race. This made the skiing conditions very challenging.



Simon who is 2018 European Champion was skiing at speeds in excess of 60mph.

With 3 days of very close racing, Simon and his team achieved 3rd place each day, giving him 3rd place overall.

A Belgian skier won the event, closely followed by a fellow British team coming second.

The event was deemed a success with plans in motion to make this a biannual event and to take place alongside the existing Formula 1 and 2 World Championships.

The week was a great experience for all with Simon's father Mike and brother Dan also making the journey to Vichy to support him.

Broadband in Kenn - Update

For avid readers of KN&V who hang on my every word you are probably on tenterhooks waiting for more riveting articles from me on the subject of Broadband. At last your patience is rewarded but you are going to need an awful lot more patience before it is all resolved.



If you skip to the end of this piece (probably recommended as the intervening text is somewhat sardonic, cynical and probably libellous – certainly not my usual jovial self) you may find some light at the end of the tunnel but then it may be a train coming in the opposite direction.

The story so far..... In a place far away and long ago the Government decided that unless you have fast internet so you can watch several films at once whilst simultaneously sending your holiday pics to friends and your kids are doing homework online you are not a real citizen and in the 21st century. Hence the term “superfast broadband” was coined. This refers to a speed or capability far in excess of what is really needed, even for the previous example, but with the technology now available it is easily provided and a good excuse to charge more. In the main this technology is based on a little glass fibre that carries a light beam flashing on and off at incredible speeds (think of Morse code) and colloquially called “fibre”. This little fibre connects a small box at your house to the main internet somewhere miles away. You may also come across the term FTTP to describe it. There is an alternative approach but rapidly becoming dated where BT for example does magic things to replace some of its long cables with fibre but the connection to your house is still the existing cable. The village Broadband committee did at one stage get a quote from BT for doing this but the figures were horrific.

The Government eventually realised that commercial companies would quite happily rub their hands together in glee and provide this superfast service in towns and cities where it was dead easy but they would look at the costs and decide it wasn't worth their while anywhere else – like Kenn.

At the same time the government decided to encourage businesses to set up in rural areas, and government agencies, such as DEFRA, moved some of their admin onto the internet. This meant farmers for example had to submit animal movement orders online or incur wrath from DEFRA. In many cases online just didn't work as the existing internet connections weren't up to the job

Clearly this isn't a wonderful example of joined up thinking but the folly of this approach took some time to get through to Government. I remember Liam Fox telling me he had pointed out these issues to his mate George Osborne when the latter was Chancellor.

Once reality dawned, the solution was simple. Throw money at it. Of course the money was nowhere near sufficient and public sector procurement policies prevented any rapid implementations or optimum solutions. The other problem was that on the scale needed to put all this in place no company had sufficient resources anyway. Even BT were not enthusiastic.

In the South West (i.e. here) a government organisation was set up called “Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS for short)”. Its brief was to spend the government money wisely, procuring contracts, funding and managing projects by commercial companies to provide fast internet to rural communities not otherwise covered. The first syllable of its name gives a clue to its overall competence, ability and measurable results. It has a lamentable history of failure (as documented by the technical press) and appears a vehicle for demonstrating all the worst features of public procurement, i.e. ignorance of the real need, inability to move at anything other than the pace of a geriatric snail, inability to check companies can actually do the work, inability to provide meaningful information, inability to communicate, etc. etc.

I could go on but you get the idea that it isn't a shining example of how to do things. It even had a lawsuit against it at one stage.

I can't say anyone else comes out of this with glory. Even our MP couldn't get more than a polite brush off from BT when he approached them on behalf of the Parish Council and although North Somerset Council says it has someone with some sort of responsibility for getting fast internet I could never establish contact to find out what that entailed or if that person really existed.

Moving on....

A company called Gigaclear eventually won a contract to sort out rural broadband and make us all happy. Unfortunately no-one, least of all them, checked whether they could actually do it. Their website displayed nice maps of the area with timescales for start and completion of broadband for various communities. However the validity of the information wasn't much better than that of CDS. Dates kept slipping quarter by quarter until last October they realised they couldn't do it at all. They scrubbed ALL the timescales with the exception of 4 areas in North Somerset. The one relevant to some of us is in a band from Bristol Airport to either side of Davis Lane and you will have noticed their roadworks in the last few months. Gigaclear said that this area would be up and running by the end of 2019. Dates for Kenn itself were withdrawn nearly a year ago.

Back in 2018, both the Gigaclear and CDS websites stated discussions between them would be held to determine a revised way ahead. TEN months (!!) later on 12th Sept 2019 CDS announced they were terminating Gigaclear's contract and would start a procurement process all over again. As of writing this, the view in the press is that this will add a possible 2 year delay. What the delay would be if they stayed with Gigaclear is of course impossible to predict. What will happen to the work Gigaclear are currently doing is also unknown. The previous charts and maps on the Gigaclear website have been deleted.

I should say at this stage that Gigaclear reckon the CDS funding would only cover 20% of their costs so they could of course look at funding it all themselves and carry on. I have no great expectations of a meaningful statement or clarity from Gigaclear in the near term however.

Why it takes 10 months to come to this decision by CDS with no interim announcements is also unclear. I can speculate but the danger is that this article becomes even more vitriolic.

The knight in shining armour of course is Truespeed, a competitor to Gigaclear. They have no government funding, using their own money instead. As a result they need to know before they start work it is going to be worth it. A charm offensive over recent months by Andy Moore of Truespeed, assisted by the village Broadband group, has resulted in considerable interest in their broadband solution and he tells me:

"You may have noticed one of our canvassing managers, Samantha, in Kenn over the last few weeks. Sam has been speaking to those people who we hadn't managed to reach so far.

Since we originally met we extended the build area to include all of Kenn Moor Road as far as the junction with Claverham Drove. The good news is that we now have nearly 50% of the properties in Kenn signed up.

"Kenn is in a project with a number of other communities. By the end of this month we should be in a position to sign off the project with our investors and start the build phase.

I estimate that we should be connecting people in Kenn to our live network by **April next year (2020)**.

People can expect to start seeing TrueSpeed engineering activity anytime from October onwards. There will be some digging, but remember that we use Western Power poles, BT poles and ducts to run our fibre wherever we can.

"Lastly, the help that we have received from the Parish Council and Kenn residents has been instrumental in TrueSpeed coming to Kenn, so thank you!"

So that's the update. Stephen Brain

Stop Press — Gigaclear have requested a meeting sometime !

KENN PARISH COUNCIL**2019****2019 MEETINGS**

At 7.30 in the Village Hall
4 November – Council Meeting
Agendas will be on noticeboards
three days before the meeting.

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

NORTH SOMERSET COUNCILLORS

Steve Bridger	Tel: 07762 023 423
Wendy Griggs	Tel: 01934 834 143

Parish Council Meeting
16 September 2019

Hedge and Verge Cutting

The Chairman reported receiving positive comments that the areas cut and paid for by the Parish Council had assisted in reducing highway visibility issues. Those in attendance felt this was a worthwhile project which should be funded annually. Each year that the hedges are cut would make it less of a task for the following year and, maybe, enabling the areas covered for cutting to be increased.

Bus Service

A report was received from a North Somerset Councillor that he had been in discussions with various people to try to find alternative options for a supported service to reconnect Yatton, Kenn and Clevedon.

Modification to the Definitive Footpath Map – Kenn Road to Russ Lane

North Somerset Council had received an application requesting that a route (defined on a map provided to the Parish Council) should be recorded on their Rights of Way map as a Footpath. The route commences from the junction of the highway at Kenn Road and proceeds in a westerly direction along the path to the junction of Russ Lane – for use by pedestrians.

3 Planning Applications considered:

- Orchard Farm – placing of a caravan.
- Kenn Pier Farm – 2 lodges and 1 barn conversion to form tourist/visitor accommodation
- Yew Tree Farm – removal of requirement to provide landscaping for solar panels

Bus Shelter Survey

This was being carried out by North Somerset Council. The Clerk had advised them that the only bus shelter in Kenn was in the ownership of the Parish Council.

Consultations provide to the Parish Council for comment

Three consultation were currently requesting consideration and comments:

- North Somerset Council's Street Trading Policy – it was noted that there was a change to the requirement to place notices on the intended application site. North Somerset Council used to do this, now the applicant would be responsible for this. Members wondered how this would be monitored and enforced.
- Street Café Policy] it was felt these were not issues
- Shop Front Design] that were of concern to Kenn PC.

Bike Marking

It was noted the Community Police Officers would be carrying out bike marking at The Drum & Monkey's car parking area on the 24 September.