

# KENN

ISSUE 386

OCTOBER 2020



**Thanks go to Michael Greaves for sharing his thumbnail sketch of our lovely church.**

Michael created this while John Ball and Tim Taylor were doing tree work and they had a delightful conversation with him. He has sketched most of Somerset's churches

# 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 Papisolomontos WA  
 19th Heather & John Saxby WA  
 22nd Troy & Julian Gale WA  
 23rd Robert Brown  
 24th Matthew Clarke  
 26th Justin Naish  
     Margaret Bessant (80)  
 27th Jack Treble  
     Maisie Taylor  
 31st Roman Bessant

***A sad time for Kenn***

Our Flag was flown at half-mast on Friday 18th September in memory of Jean Naish who passed away on the 17th.

Jean's funeral service at St. John's will be on Friday 9th October at 11.30.

Also, at half-mast on Sunday 20th to mark the passing of Cyril Willcox on the 19th September.

Cyril's funeral service will be at St. John's at 11.30 on Monday 5th October.

**The Annual Meeting of Parishioners  
St. John the Evangelist, Kenn**

**Held after 11.00am Morning Prayer on  
Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September**



Our Parishioners Meeting is usually held in spring, but due to Covid was delayed.

Fran welcomed 23 parishioners to the meeting and thanked the Churchwardens, deputies, and many others for all they had done to care for our church during the period of vacancy. Special thanks to Revd Avril Gaunt for all her care for both parishes.

Fran then read from Bishop Ruth's recent letter regarding Covid19 and emphasising that we must comply with the current limitations on worship and attendance, paying particular attention to sanitising and social distancing. She also shared extracts from a letter from our Archbishops encouraging us in what is likely to be a second wave of the virus to act responsibly caring for each other, our communities and those who are most vulnerable.

We have the privilege of services at our church and must take all precautions to ensure this can continue.

**Election of Churchwardens** - Julia Bush and John Ball were again elected as Churchwardens With Jenny Pascoe and John Griffin as Deputies.

Kenn's representatives on the Kenn and Kingston PCC will be the churchwardens and

Caroline Holden, Ann Holtham, Marianna Mackay and Jenny Pascoe.

It was also noted that this year Jenny Pascoe had been licensed as Lay Pastoral Assistant for the parish of Yatton Moor.

A permanent Food Bank box will be kept in St. John's porch for contributions.

In October Holy Communion will start at Kingston Seymour, and Fran hoped that, with wise seating arrangements, Kenn might also hold these services in November.

The meeting closed at 11.55am

## A Message from Revd Fran Binding

Dear all,

A very big thank you for all the generous Harvest donations to the Foodbank and for the wonderful wellies that have been on display.

Harvest Sunday was a beautiful day and thank you to all those who came along in the morning and afternoon to make it a successful one. I also hope that all those who received Messy Harvest bags enjoyed the crafts, bread making kit and seed planting they contained. This was my fish!



I now need to consider how we can involve the community in Remembrance Sunday and looking ahead to Christmas in imaginative and unusual ways that will help us be involved as community in what may be difficult times.

We may be restricted on how many we can get into the building for a service but there are still ways to involve folk of all ages especially for special celebrations.

We will continue to collect for the foodbank so please do put items in the church porch when you can and we will ensure their delivery. We particularly need items for Christmas parcels and there will be the opportunity to give toys at the end of November for children in need too to ensure they have a happy Christmas. More details on this next month.

You will find details of upcoming services in this edition and I am so pleased to say that we shall be moving to a service every week at St John's from the beginning of October for as long as circumstances allow.

We are in changing times when we are not sure about what lies ahead so I think the blessing we use at the end of our weekday Morning Prayer service is appropriate to share.

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you,  
wherever He may send you.

May He guide you through the wilderness,  
protect you through the storm.

May He bring you home rejoicing  
at the wonders He has shown you.

May He bring you home rejoicing  
once again into our doors.

Stay safe, keep well,  
Fran

## St John the Evangelist, Kenn

### Harvest 2020 in Kenn.

As with so many events, Covid 19 had a big effect on this year's Harvest Festival at St John's. However, Vicar Fran had some great Covid secure ideas on how we could celebrate Harvest Time, the most visual of which was the Great Kenn Welly Walk. Originally it was intended that there should be a trail of decorated Wellies all round the village, but due to the recent increase in the speed and volume of traffic in Kenn Street, the Wellies were arranged in the church yard and round the layby by the main road. Fran sat in the churchyard on lovely sunny Sunday afternoon, greeting folk who came to count the boots and get a sticker. Thank to everyone who decorated boots and shoes for the event, the footwear was left in place so that all the children in Yatton Moor who had received a 'Messy Harvest' fun bag, could come to Kenn to see the Wellies.



Left Cuban boot, centre Chile boot

Right Russian boots

### All Age Harvest Service in Kenn

On Sunday 13th September, we celebrated Harvest Festival in Kenn.

The church was beautifully decorated, much to Fran and every body's delight.

Thankyou to everyone who put so much work into the arrangements of flowers, fruit and vegetables, this year a real master piece.





### **A New Season in the church's year.**

This year, the month from the first Sunday in September to the first Sunday in October has been designated 'Creationtide', a time when Christians should reflect on the wonder of Creation, acknowledge the situation we now find ourselves due to our poor stewardship of the Earth's riches, and assess what each of us can do to lessen our own impact on the planet. How can we 'Tread lightly upon the Earth.'

### **Our Harvest Offerings this year.**

Due to Covid restrictions it was not possible to take parcels of produce from the church to peoples' homes. Instead we were asked to give non-perishable goods to the Clevedon Foodbank. At that time, the Foodbank particularly needed toiletries and household cleaning items and the box left in the church porch was filled up with these items, which were delivered to the Foodbank Depot on Monday 14th. Other items given will be delivered shortly.



### **Thinking ahead.**

The Foodbank plans to make up 300 Christmas Hampers and have asked us to collect Toiletries in Christmas Packs (men's and women's) Colouring books and small, new toys for boys.

JB and JB

## *SERVICES FOR October 2020*

### Sundays:

#### **4<sup>th</sup>. October Trinity 17**

**8.30 am St John's: Morning Prayer**

11 am All Saints': All Together in Church (welcome local team and Annual Parishioner Meeting))

6.00 pm Zoom Service

#### **11<sup>th</sup>. October Trinity 18**

8.30 am All Saints': BCP Holy Communion

**11.00 am St. John's: Morning Prayer**

6.00 pm Zoom Service

#### **18<sup>th</sup>. October Trinity 19**

**8.30 am St John's: Morning Prayer**

11.00 am All Saints': Common Worship Holy Communion

6.00 pm St. Mary's Musical Meditation streamed

#### **25<sup>th</sup>. October: Trinity 20**

8.30 am All Saints': Morning Prayer

**11.00 am St. John's: All Together in Church**

6.00 pm Zoom Service

### Weekdays:

**8.15 am Mondays and Tuesdays: Morning Prayer via zoom**

**Monday 12th October 7.30 pm at St John's—AGM of Friends of Kenn Church**

*All Holy Communion services are currently at All Saints' Kingston Seymour because of the current regulations about how this can be administered safely allowing for social distancing.*

*All Together in Church is a more informal service for all ages and stages!  
All welcome.*



Lovely pots bought with some of your generous gift on my retirement.

Thank you so much.

Love and blessing to you all. Avril



As part of our local tradition our new incumbent

Revd Fran Binding

pulls the rope in

St. John's Belfry



## KENN W.I

Although she had not been a member for some years, current members are very saddened by the news that Founder Member Jean Naish has died.

She was a very faithful and active member from 1953 until declining health curtailed her activities.

Jean was skilled in so many things. She embroidered, dress-made and cooked beautifully. If there ever was a job to be done, Jean was the 'go-to' person.

The W.I. was also very grateful for the help that several 'W.I. Husbands' were able to give and Jean's late husband, Ray, was extremely supportive.

Jean was not only involved in the W.I. she was also very active at St. Johns and spent many years caring for her mother-in-law.

All the members send their heartfelt sympathy to her devoted and caring family. Jean will be very much missed by all who knew her.

The W.I. itself has not been able to meet at all in September and now that Boris has spoken we will be rethinking the ideas that we had for meeting.

Members have been keeping in touch with each other by telephone and email and are able to share their news and make sure that everyone is O.K. and not in need of anything.

Ann Holtham

**Notice of Annual General Meeting of The Friends of Kenn Church  
7.30pm Monday 12th October  
at St John the Evangelist, Kenn**

Members of the Congregation, Parishioners and Villagers are  
invited to this meeting

(usually held in the spring, but delayed due to Covid)



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

**Village Flag Flying:**  
Marianna or Robin 01275 340323  
Chris Taylor 01275 872781

**St John the Evangelist Priest in charge:**

**Revd Fran Binding 01934 830120**

**Altar Guild Secretary:**  
Marianna Mackay 01275 340323

**Churchwarden:**

John Ball 01275 874077  
078 1667 1304  
Julia Bush 01275 873554

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

**Church Floodlighting:**  
David Pugh 01275 874278

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



**COFFEE MORNING**

**Postponed due to Covid 19**

**North Somerset Times**

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



**MONDAYS**

**Recycling 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th October**  
**Dustbin 5th and 26th October**  
**Green Waste 5th and 26th October**



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[www.clevedon-salerooms.com](http://www.clevedon-salerooms.com)

## October Cakes.

On Friday October 9th I will be baking the sort of cakes I usually make for the Village Market. Fruit cakes, sponges, spicy apple loaf, carrot cake, lemon drizzles etc.

*This month's profits will go to TLG (Transforming Lives for Good). This is a relatively new charity, now working all over the country to help vulnerable children. Offering practical and emotional support, TLG has worked tirelessly since the advent of Covid-19 to keep children well fed and bolster confidence on their return to school. For more info see [tlg.org.uk](http://tlg.org.uk).*

**Heaven Preserve Us** - There is a selection of Heaven Preserve Us items in the porch at Quercus, Kenn Street.

**Covid Masks** - Also, there is a selection of masks next to the above, sold in aid of Smile Train, the charity that provides life changing surgery for children in developing countries born with cleft palate.

To order, call me on 01275 873554. Delivery to be arranged.

Thank You, Julia Bush

## Blay News

Thankyou, Thankyou to all the people who bought cakes last month and gave donations for the school fees for the Blay children in Ghana. I was able to send enough money for the autumn term



More  
boots



## BIRD NEWS



This month we start off with some green birds, the most exotic of which are the Ring Necked Parakeets with Mike and Iris Callow's son Mark in Hyde Park. Definitely quirky but, like many species introduced by humans, they are now a pest. Not so the Green Woodpecker photographed by Mike in his garden; one was also spotted at Quercus by Julia Bush.



Sadly the parasitic disease trichomoniasis has been reported by Andre Olsen at Kenn Pier with five dead and some diseased finches in her garden. The best advice in these circumstances is to stop feeding for a few weeks.

House Martins were still active in Kenn Street towards the end of the month, whilst Wemberham Lane, Yatton hosted 100 Swallows early in the month and 40 on the 23rd. Starling numbers were up to 300 by the latter date.

A family of five Linnets was present and a Cetti's Warbler, probably a young bird, was singing from various reed areas.

At home Jill recorded our first ever Nuthatch, a real surprise, behind our garden and then a Grey Wagtail appeared.

Big Autumn equinox tides and clement weather made for some spectacular sightings along the sea wall with twelve wader species seen on the 21st. These were harried by two Peregrines whilst a Sparrowhawk hunted inland. Migrants in the form of Wheatears, Stonechats and Whinchats were all on show and some passing Rooks were also on passage, they are not resident in that area.

Like many of our common birds, some Rooks are migratory but 'our' Nuthatch isn't one of them. It's likely one mile movement from Cadbury Hill was a long journey for a Nuthatch.

October will see finches and Skylarks passing through with perhaps the first Fieldfares and Redwings at the end of the month.

Trevor Riddle 01934 835208

## Supper Club and News from The Drum

With the stricter Government “Rule of Six”, “Supper Club” could not take place as such in September.

Jamie could not set out a long table for us to all sit together. The restaurant remained with its distanced table settings. However, some of us did choose to book meals for that night.

We enjoyed Jamie’s cooking, served to us, this time, by Josie.

We talked to one another loudly across a not too crowded room.

What strange times!

Who knows what the situation will be by the next third Wednesday of the month, 21<sup>st</sup> October. One certainty is Jamie is still at The Drum, trying against all the odds to keep our pub running.

If we continue using the pub for drinking, or choose to book a meal, on the night of “Supper Club”, or any other night in October, we will help him to do that!

You can contact Jamie on [jfthomas314@gmail.com](mailto:jfthomas314@gmail.com)

or phone him on 07393 743471.



Hello all,

Hope you are all keeping safe and well. I'm missing seeing you all at the various social events but remember I'm a phone call away if you need any advice or help on anything, big or small, or just a chat.

Would be lovely to hear from you.

For all of you on the internet, The Village Agents have set up a zoom Storytelling session (see details this magazine page 22).

Let me know if you are interested.

You can contact me by email

[sarah.friend@curo-group.co.uk](mailto:sarah.friend@curo-group.co.uk) or [sarah@wern.org.uk](mailto:sarah@wern.org.uk)

or phone Mobile 07422 078548 or 01275 878180.

Until we meet again, stay safe and well, Sarah Friend, your Village Agent.

## Book group.

We were to have Book Group this evening, 22<sup>nd</sup> September. Following the increase in the Covid virus numbers in the area, the group has had a rethink.



Each of us for various reasons felt hesitant about meeting up. Instead we are going to have a zoom meeting next week. We will report back in the next News & Views the books we have shared with each other. We will also have our planned reading list for the next few months.

Stay safe and well. Book group.

**Harvest Thanks** - Win Cole sent a big thank you for the beautiful flowers brought over from the harvest festival.

"They really brightened my day."

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

Verbal thanks from others have also been received for their share of the Harvest Loaf and jam.

**Dog Head Designs** is a new studio and shop at **The Clevedon Craft Centre** which specialises in bespoke furniture painting. Tristan, who owns the business, has recruited local makers and crafters to supply the studio with their handmade wares, his vision being to build a totally unique shopping experience where only handmade products are sold. The shop has been described as a 'treasure trove' which is full of furniture, gifts, cards, homewares and Annie Sloan paint.

There is free parking and the shop is open everyday apart from Mondays and Thursday afternoons. It would be lovely to see the immediate community and surrounding villages using the shop and thus supporting and sustaining local business and artistry.

## LUNCH AT ST JOHN'S KENN.

Usually on the first Monday of the month, 12.00 noon to 2.00pm.



There will be no lunch at St John's in October or for the foreseeable future.

I did have a tentative plan to have a lunch in the Village Hall, Everyone brings their own food and we sit socially distanced. This is now not possible.

There is nothing better than getting friends together sharing food and conversation. We cannot take a chance that we might also be sharing the virus. It is now time to face a tough decision. Rather than waiting every month to see if we can start again. I am going to temporarily close the group.

Please witness here that I have £50 left from funds. I will use this as start up money for when it is safe to gather again.

Stay safe and well. Caroline.

## Kenn Broadband

Hi Kenn Residents!

I'm TrueSpeed's Regional Manager for North Somerset (and an ex Kenn resident!). I want to update you on progress towards getting the village connected to our ultrafast network.



We have almost finished laying 11km of fibre optic cable from Langford to connect our new network cabinet by the bus stop.

Unfortunately, due to a blocked duct near the Congresbury Arms we are having to carry out 350m of roadworks to lay new ducting for our cables to go through. As this is a very busy junction we can only work on it at weekends.

This has pushed our network "go live date" in Kenn back until November. I'm sorry for the delay, but we are working as hard as we can to get people connected ready for the long dark nights.

I'm more than happy to answer any questions, directly 07548 239261  
Andy Moore or email me [amoore@truespeed.com](mailto:amoore@truespeed.com) or [amoore@truespeed.com](mailto:amoore@truespeed.com)

## Jean Naish

With great sadness we announce the loss of our beloved Jean Naish.

A life so beautifully lived deserves to be fondly remembered.

Jean will be taking her final trip through Kenn on Friday the 9th October at 11.15'ish due at Kenn Church at 11.30.

Love from Jean's family.

Jean pictured at Kenn Christmas Tea Party 1991



## Memories of Cyril Willcox

We moved to Kenn nearly forty years ago and have some very special memories of Cyril.

One of the first things that we did after moving in was to have a large load of top soil delivered that we needed for the back garden. Simon was then faced with the daunting task of moving this by wheelbarrow through the garage and around into the back garden.

We could not believe it when Cyril, who we only knew to wave to over the garden fence, arrived with his tractor and a large scoop. Much to Simon's relief and in a very short space of time all the soil was moved from the front of our house down the path at the side of the village hall and deposited in our back garden.

We felt incredibly lucky that as new residents in Kenn we had been shown such kindness.

This kindness continued in the understanding he showed towards our son, Ian, who was only two and a half when we moved in and constantly referred to Cyril over the garden fence as 'Farmer Jones'. This was the name of the farmer in Ian's story book about a farmer, so as far as he was concerned, all farmers were called Farmer Jones. For many years Cyril and Mary sent Christmas cards to us signed 'Farmer Jones and Mrs Farmer Jones'

Such a kind man, he will be sadly missed.

Simon and Jenny Pascoe



## **Kenn's loss and our personal thoughts**

This month, sadly, we have lost two of Kenn's most elderly and well-known villagers, Jean Naish and Cyril Willcox.

They had both lived long and happy lives, but the time of one's passing is never easy, and we send all the Naish and Willcox families our heartfelt sympathy.

We have our own personal thoughts on how these Kenn characters have affected our lives since we moved here thirty years ago.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Jean**

Jean was so much the heart of the large and close Naish family, and a devoted wife to Ray, who farmed the land around Stonehouse Farm for most of his life. Together they were such an important part of the village, especially around church matters.

Their lovely homes, first Stonehouse farm and then, later, Cloverlea, always had an open door to welcome family and friends.

They invited children to visit their farm and share their animals. Our daughter, Amy, and her friends, Kelly and Emily Burstow, spent many a happy hour doing just that.

Theirs was the place where the church key was kept, so that involved many people calling in to discuss church matters. Ray was, of course, churchwarden for many years and Jean was our "Altar-Guild" secretary, and a brilliant flower arranger.

She did this in a calm and understated way. That, it seemed to us, was how she would go about her busy life, but always with a welcoming and friendly smile.

We as a family will always be grateful to Jean and Ray for making us feel so welcome in the village and teaching us a great deal about farming, the community and Kenn's characters, past and present.

Jean sadly suffered the loss of Ray, and her own illness during the last few years of her life. She was of course, supported magnificently by Heather and the Naish family, and also wonderful carers.

She accepted her illness with grace and dignity, and tried to make the most of things. When I visited her, Jean enjoyed talking about the family she loved so much and happier times in her life.

She never failed to thank me for coming as I left and give me that lovely smile!



## **Cyril**

Cyril lived in, and farmed the land around Yew Tree Farm for most of his life.

He lived there with his devoted wife, Mary, and their children, Rosemary and Robert. It seemed to us that as well as being a loving family man, Cyril lived his life for farming and was so good at it!

It was such a pleasure for us to get to know him over the years, watching him with his dairy herd, going to and from the fields behind Great Thornworth on a daily basis for milking.

In our many chats to him over the fence we learnt what the weather forecast was for the week! He also taught us so much about his cows and the whole process of dairy farming. He was meticulous about how he cared for his animals. They were in very safe hands.

We laughed that although he rode a rusty old bike he even managed to keep his tractors spotlessly clean!

We usually met him in clothes fitting for the job, so it was always a pleasure and surprise to see him dressed up for a special occasion!

He was caring, knowledgeable and hard-working, and now of course his son, Robert, follows so well in his footsteps, despite the difficulties of farming today.

Cyril must have been so pleased that the life of the farm carries on today, with a new generation of children to share it.

In later days, Cyril and Mary moved into their new home, Kingfisher.

They were very fortunate in that Rose chose to move in with them.

Sadly in the last few years, Cyril suffered the loss of Mary and his own illness.

Even then he remained the farmer and took trips down the road on his mobility scooter to help Robert.

He was so lucky to have the wonderful constant care of Rose at his side, aided of course by Robert and Lise wherever possible and Jareth and Zara, his grandchildren, to keep him smiling!

## **The Bedford family**

Cyril James Willcox 3rd May 1930 - 19th September 2020

Dad was born on 3 May 1930 to Edgar & Dorothy Willcox in the bedroom at Yew Tree Farm, where he was raised with his younger sister Barbara.

**Dad attended Kenn school before boarding at Sexey's School, Bruton at 10 years old.** Dad was taken under the late Don Hurford's wing, who was his best man at his wedding. He would often come home at the weekends to help **with haymaking.** **When dad returned to Sexey's, he would take the latest farming magazines to swap in return for his homework** been completed by friend Derrick White.

Upon leaving school at sixteen dad returned to the farm initially working with the horses before persuading his father to buy a tractor.

Dad and his friends attended various social dances, where he was to meet Mary, who had the perfect farming pedigree!

Mum and dad were married on 10th September 1958 at Godney Church

After the wedding ceremony they had a marquee at Godney Farm for the reception before driving up to Blackpool, even on that trip, they went to a Farm Sale. After their brief honeymoon, they started their married life together at Yew Tree Farm in Kenn.



Dad and Mum loved their life at Yew Tree Farm, working tirelessly whilst bringing up us 2 children.

Dad would devote his life to his family and breeding the best cows possible. Dad would attend many cattle sales with the late Mervyn Baker.

Dad flew only twice, to go on a cattle club visit to view the latest Friesian bulls in Holland.

Dad would be seen around the village on his bike taking the cows to and from milking until 2006, then until recently swapping his bicycle for a red mobility scooter. Dad favourite colour was red, hence red car, Landrover and tractors, until John Deere tractors (green) arrived on the scene.

In 2018 Dad and Mum celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on 10th September. Mum and dad were over the moon to receive a card from the Queen.

Sadly mum passed away a month later.



It was the love, smiles and warm hugs from grandchildren Jareth & Zara that kept Dad going, until passing away peacefully at home on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2020



Dad had a busy and fulfilling life as a husband, father, grandad and friend to so many.

Cyril will always be remembered for his kindness, smiles and sense of humour by family and friends and he will be loved forever in our hearts.

His funeral will be on 5th October 2020 at 11.30am.



Due to COVID restrictions people are welcome to pay their respects as the funeral cortege goes through Kenn.

Donations in lieu of flowers to Cancer Research UK c/o Keith Britton & Son Funeral Directors, 10 High Street, Yatton BS49 4JA

Many thanks,

Robert & Rose

## Our Monthly Missive from the Limes

I recently had a birthday. Not that it was unexpected. After 67 years you have worked out when they are due so it wasn't a surprise and anyway if I had forgotten about it I was reminded when I read the August KN&V where it was on the inside page.

However I think that judging by the lack of cards, £5 notes or other sundry presents from villagers, that part of the News 'n Views must have escaped readers.

I must say nowadays I view my birthdays more with a sense of trepidation and a time when I should take stock of my life than with great anticipation and excitement.

I mentioned last month that I was running out of ideas for articles but happily one of my presents has provided inspiration so that calamity is averted for another month. I will eventually get to the point of this article but let first me share with you the other presents I had from the kids.

From one daughter I received a book on how to play the clarinet properly. Let me say this was not a reflection on my playing as I had asked for it.

From another daughter I was given a large scale map of the Mendip, which unbeknown to her was on my wish list so I am very grateful. She also gave a set of maps of the southern half of the Pennine Way. (This was not on my list). The Pennine Way was the country's first long distance footpath, some 260 miles long and as a student I had walked part of it but never completed it. In a recent passing remark I had said I would like to complete it one day, so hence the maps. The moral of the story of course is be careful what you say in front of the children, even if they are 41.

My problem now is what do I do? Am I fit enough? Who would want my company for the number of days it takes (20ish if you do it in one go) or vice versa?

The present from the last daughter was a book, described by one of her sisters as "interesting", which is sister-speak for "Are you really that sad an individual and desperate for ideas for Daddy?"

This book has the rather natty title: "**Richard Stephens and The Clevedon Motors Cars**" by a William Fairney and is a mine of interesting information, supplied to the author largely by Julia Elton of Clevedon Court and Roger Triggol of Tickenham, who a number of us will know.

I guess if you ask a resident of Clevedon what is the area around here noted for you will get answers which will mention the Pier and the Curzon. They might mention the Triangle (really?) or the Bandstand and if they have some culture they might mention the poets (Coleridge etc) or Clevedon Court.

If you asked a resident of Kenn they might say the same but include the Kenn Hangings and they might even know the date (1830) but that is it.



I'm willing to bet that no-one would mention Clevedon's role in motor car development. As you will read further on, even Kenn had a (small) part to play.

According to this book, Clevedon is the home of "the first all British car with independent front suspension to go into series production". Despite the caveats it is still an impressive feat. If you drive into Chard there is a sign saying "Home of powered flight". How about a similar sign as you get off the motorway at Clevedon? Probably by the time you have read it you'll have crashed into the roundabout.

Richard Stephens is an interesting character. He started as miner and worked his way up the mining industry in Australia, Canada and the USA, showing himself to be inventiveness in character and a man of ideas. While in America he became interested in motor cars, came back to this country and set up in Clevedon, obtaining a part time job with the Elton's to finance his activities. This was in the late 1800's. Over the following years the Elton family sponsored much of his work.

Based in the Triangle, in 1894 he initially designed and sold his own bicycle called the "Clevedon Special" which sold for 15 guineas and then started on designing and manufacturing motor cars. His wife Mary meanwhile ran a "Refreshment room", (I guess an early café), and taught Bible Classes at Clevedon Baptist Church.

The prototype car was constructed under strict secrecy. Trials were completed at night. The car was pushed under covers along Kenn Road to a "heath near Kenn" for the actual trials. When it was finally launched in 1898 it caused a local sensation. Trips were run to Burrington Combe and there were evening trips to Kenn and Tickenham. (Beats me why to Kenn and Tickenham. Perhaps the nightlife was different then).



Stephens started his own motorised hackney carriage business in Clevedon. A round trip to Cheddar for example was £1 per person. The very first Bath motorised hackney carriage was purchased from Stephens in 1900.

In all, Stephens made 12 vehicles – 4 dog cart type four seaters for customers, a 6 seater hackney carriage for Bath, 3 dog carts, 2 other hackney carriages and 2 buses. Apparently two of the vehicles are still in use today. He also had other business interests and was a member of the Town Band and the Chamber of Commerce. He had properties at 9-11 The Triangle and Old Church Road and I think St Peters Hospice occupy one of them now. Unfortunately as far as I know there are no plaques on any of the properties to say "Richard Stephens was here" and perhaps the Civic Society or the Town Council should give some thought to that. There is also no mention of it in the Wikipedia entry for Clevedon.

Later on he purchased a Model T Ford and ran a taxi and car hire business in Clevedon. He also was the author of many patents and in his later years he manufactured his adjustable balanced brake shoe which is the basis of the drum brakes used today. At one time he was also an agent for Edison's Phonograph machine. Eventually as times changed he moved away in 1920.

Who would have thought Clevedon and Kenn have such an interesting past?  
Stephen

## STORY FEST

### Do you love WORDS (or know someone who does)?

Would you like to join like-minded people and listen to

**Stories - Poetry - Prose**

Maybe even share your favourite piece and let us know why you enjoy it so much.

If so, then join us virtually via *Zoom* with **Michael Loader of Storyfest** an engaging storyteller who has worked in education and the arts for the past 25 years

**TUESDAY 6<sup>th</sup> October - 2.30 -3.30pm**

Please contact your Village Agent to register your interest and for further information. Internet connection will be required.

Assistance can be provided if you are new to Zooming!

Facilitated by the **WERN VILLAGE AGENTS**  
and delivered by Michael Loader, Storyteller.  
Funded by the WERN Rural Connections Project.



*Zoom* allows you to virtually meet and connect with others.



## Neighbourhood Watch ...more scams!

### Received 9<sup>th</sup> September

#### HMRC Scams (Ongoing - Remain Alert)

Fraudsters continue to contact residents claiming to be from HMRC (the Tax Office) claiming that they owe money and that an arrest warrant will be issued if they don't hand over payment.



A Keynsham resident received a voicemail asking them to call back on a certain number, and when the resident called he was told that he owed money to HMRC and that he would be sent to court if he didn't pay. The victim was told to purchase Amazon gift cards as the tax office was closed due to the Covid-19 virus and they couldn't accept debit card payment. Sadly these were purchased and the codes and reference numbers were handed over during another call at significant cost, furthermore I have just been notified of a similar incident in Cheddar, however this time the Scam was spotted by a Neighbourhood Watch member.

These offenders are very convincing, using the fear of arrest to panic their victims into handing over payment for the non-existing debts. They may give passwords and fake identity names and "badge" numbers.

Be assured that HMRC will never telephone you threatening court proceedings as a first contact, and they certainly don't take gift cards as a means of payment. If you receive one of these calls, hang up immediately. If you are concerned contact your local tax office using a phone number from previous printed communication or from the phonebook. Never use a phone number provided by the scammer

### Received 14<sup>th</sup> September

#### HM Courts & Tribunals Service Scam

We have been made aware very recently of a new scam. An email is titled HM Courts & Tribunals Services and will state in the subject "Your Fixed Penalty Notice Ref:" followed by a series of numbers. In the actual email itself it will explain the total cost is £25 with a delivery date of 7am to 7pm. The location for the supposed offence simply states "United Kingdom" I have attached a copy of the scam I received earlier to familiarise yourselves, the "Click here to Pay" link has been deactivated. Please, if you receive this in your inbox do not fall for it and advise others that may be unaware. <https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/media/32958135/penalty-charge-notice-scam.pdf>

## KENN PARISH COUNCIL

2020

**Covid-19 North Somerset Council's latest update (25 Sept 20):**

This week we have been continuing our work with our health partners and settings to manage local outbreaks swiftly and effectively to ensure that the correct outbreak management actions are delivered and the risk of onward spread of infection is minimised. There have also been several changes announced by government (these are detailed on their website).

**Latest case data**

The latest 7-day rate for North Somerset (*based on a full week's data*) is 18.2 per 100,000 up from the 16.7 per 100,000 figure we shared last week. For context, the comparable South West 7-day rate is 10.1 and the England rate is 38.1. Given the national trends we do expect rates to rise in the South West over the coming months.

**Availability of mobile testing units**

As well as the regional testing centre at Bristol Airport, we continue to benefit from two mobile testing units (MTUs) in North Somerset – at the Castlewood car park in Clevedon and Locking Road car park in Weston-super-Mare. Our MTUs are open as follows up to Thursday 1 October (we don't have dates beyond then yet):

- Clevedon: open daily except Sunday 27 Sep and Thursday 1 Oct
- Weston: open daily except Friday 25 Sep and Wednesday 30 Sep.

Access to testing continues to be an issue locally and nationally. The advice remains that people with symptoms should self-isolate at home while trying to access a test.

You can see more detail on local case data at [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/lomp](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/lomp) and COVID-19 information and advice on the following topics:

Advice for carers	COVID-19 resources	Health advice	Stay up to date
Latest North Somerset information and news	Local Outbreak Management Plan		
Situation in the UK	Support offer for adult care providers		

**Parish Council Meeting – 10 September 20** The Parish Council met in the Village Hall to consider the following three planning applications:

20/P/1840/FUL – Land adjacent to Carpenters Farm, Kenn St, Kenn, BS21 6TL Change the use of the existing land from agricultural to equestrian use for private/domestic purposes (not commercial) and erection of stable barn.

20/P/1838/FUL & 20/P/1839/LBC – Carpenters Farm, Kenn Street Kenn BS21 6TL

Proposed single storey rear extension, replacement roof to existing garage and proposed detached triple garage (incorporating existing "Brye" into design). Change of use of strip of land to north of site from agricultural to residential curtilage for purpose of siting new detached garage.

Members discussed these in detail but felt there were no planning objections to report to North Somerset Council.

A list of items for consideration at the next meeting was then drawn up.

**Clerk's change of address, send to:**  
10 Frobisher Avenue, Portishead, BS20 6XB

**2020 Meetings**

**7:30pm in the Village Hall**  
**2 November – Council 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