

KENN

ISSUE 410

OCTOBER 2022



St John the Evangelist Harvest Loaf - made by Jean-Louis Maurin

NEWS & VIEWS

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**October**

3rd Gill Taylor
 6th Dave & Sue Pugh W.A.
 7th Julia & Tim Bush W.A.
 8th Robin Rogers
 9th Angela Alexander
 17th Callum Hobbs
 18th Kayleigh Stowell
 Wendy & Sotris Papisolomontos 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

St John the Evangelist, Kenn

AL-

TAR
GUILD**Kenn's Village Flag and Church Bell**

2nd September our flag was flown to celebrate Robin and Marianna's Golden Wedding Anniversary.

8th September at 8.00pm John Griffin tolled 96 strokes of our bell to mark the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II and Dave Pugh floodlit our church in respect.

9th September, John Ball muffled the church bell which was tolled for one hour from 12noon by Mike Callow and John Griffin - our flag at half-mast.

Sunday 11th September the bell, now unmuffled rang out for our 11.00 Holy Communion service in Celebration of the Proclamation of King Charles III and the flag was back at full mast, having been raised at the moment of Proclamation on Saturday 10th.

Monday 12th September till after the State Funeral our flag remained at half-mast.

Monday 19th September Mike Callow and John Ball tolled the muffled bell from 10.00 till 11.00am and the State Funeral was screened at St John the Evangelist, Kenn.

Monday 15th September half-mast also for the passing of Joyce Down

Dear friends,

September became an historic month as we said farewell to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Special services for the time of mourning, a proclamation in the churchyard, the signing of the book of condolence culminating with the screening of the funeral in church.

We now enter a new chapter as a nation with a new Prime Minister to add to the uncertainties of what the future holds, but it is at times like this that we can be grateful for our community as we pull together to love and support each other into that future.

Huge thanks to all those who donated to the Foodbank and to 'Ripple Effect' for Harvest as we focused on sharing what we have, so that others may have hope.

Opportunities to come together are important and we have those at church to which everyone is invited.

In October we have our usual Sunday services and for your diaries we are looking forward to **Remembrance Sunday on November 13th** when everyone is welcome to join us for our Act of Remembrance in the churchyard at 11am, before we begin our service and on **November 27th** at 11am we have a **Christingle service** for all ages and stages when we do our best not to set fire to the church!

We are very excited to tell you that we have a concert in church on

Saturday 12th November at 7.30pm

**“An Evening Recital at St John’s with Rachael Cooper (soprano)
and Sue Parker (piano)”**

We do hope you can join us.

Tickets will be £10 each to include a drink and nibbles during the interval.

We are raising money to improve the entrance to the church so that it is much safer, especially for those who are a little unsteady on their feet.

Tickets will be on sale soon.

I'll be in the Church Room on **Tuesdays 4th and 18th October 2-4pm.**

Please pop in and say hello if you are around. There is always tea and cake on offer.

Love and thanks, *Fran*

Monday 12th September

**Parish Council Chairman
Sheila Naish reads the
Proclamation of
King Charles III
to the assembled people
of Kenn**



Thanks go to Sheila, for performing this historic duty, dating back into history - when there was no mass media and important news was spread by word of mouth

Basically the same words as the Proclamation at St James Palace on Saturday 10th September which was shared on television live at Kenn Market

Thanks to Fred Holloway for pictures



Village Market

I am happy to report that we had a well-supported market last month, there was a real buzz in the hall.



From the refreshments we are delighted to be able to donate £75.74 to Weston Hospice Care a charity close to our hearts at Kenn Market, and with the money from the book stall we are sending £100.

Joyce has run the book stall for many years collecting money to help the Hospice continue their work to support the very ill and their families, we were all very sad to hear of her death.

Joyce was a founder member of Kenn Market and when Lyn and I moved into the village she was ready to hand over the reins but was always there to give advice. Joyce remained a great supporter of the market and really enjoyed meeting her neighbours and friends each month. She will be sadly missed.

The next market is Saturday 8th October from 10am to 12pm.

If you would like to run the refreshments or would like a table for the Market please get in touch.

Maggie Hobbs 876277 or Lyn Burnett 870189

Market Message from Julia Bush

I will not be baking for the October Village Market due to a family event. There will be a complete range of "Heaven Preserves Us" jams, marmalades and chutneys available. Baking will recommence in November. Thankyou,

The Yellow Teapot - Kenn Village Hall

The Yellow Teapot will be in action on

Monday 10th October from 2.30 - 4.30pm.

All the usual comestibles will be available.
Hope to see you there.



MANY THANKS to Lyn Burnett for hosting September's meeting.

Julia Bush



Kenn's Foodbank Contributions. Help Wanted.

I have decided it's time to hang up my foodbank hat, and am looking for someone to take over.

What is entailed?

- (1) Looking in the church porch every couple of days and checking the Foodbank Box.
- (2) Putting said offerings in the Church Room until there is enough to make a trip to the Foodbank worthwhile (usually about once a fortnight).
- (3) Taking the donations to the Foodbank in Knowles Rd Clevedon (opposite the vet) on Monday or Friday 9.30 - 11.30am
- (4) Calling the Foodbank office at a suitable time to get the list of specific needs, in time to get it into Kenn News and Views.

You do not need to be a churchgoer!!

Thank you - Julia Bush 873554

The Galvanised Bin.

Keep the packs and plastic bottle tops coming!

There is a small, galvanised bin just inside the driveway at Chap-Cottage. It is the drive next to the converted Chapel on Kenn Street



Put used tablet blister packs and plastic bottle tops in the bin. I then take them to a collection point in Clevedon. From a monthly trip to the collecting point it is now weekly.

Thank you Kenn for this recycling. Caroline x

Notice of Annual General Meeting of The Friends of Kenn Church

**7.00pm Tuesday 18th October
at St John the Evangelist, Kenn**



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

Yatton Music Society October Concert

The Yatton Music society is delighted to welcome Helen Reid to perform at St Mary's Church for their October concert. Helen is an eminent Bristol based pianist and valued tutor as a visiting professor of piano and Bristol University, she also leads the professional studies course at the Guildhall School. Helen first came to fame as a keyboard finalist in the BBC's Young Musician of the year and subsequently won first prize in the Karic International Piano Competition. She has performed recitals across the UK and Europe and given master classes at the Dartington Summer School and many of the Nation's music colleges.

[The concert will start of 7.30pm on October 22, ticket prices are £10 and the audience is assured of a warm welcome and delightful music.](#)

Details of the concert can be found on the society's website www.yms.org.uk or contact David Ford daford220@gmail.com, Tel, 01934 830255.

Yatton Local History Society -

Tuesday October 4th 7 30pm Yatton Methodist Church - There will be a talk on the **Wrighton Vale Light Railway by Stephen Osman**. If you are not a member and want to join or want to register an email address please contact YLHS at yattonlocalhistorysoc@gmail.com

Yatton Local History Society: new book autumn publication 2022

We are hoping to publish a book of articles about Yatton and surrounding villages in the autumn hopefully at the October 4th meeting. There will be a wide range of articles varying from the development of Yatton to famous people in the area and development of local societies over the years amongst other items.

Marianne Pitman



Gordano Scout District ~ 2nd Clevedon Scout Group

JOTA Amateur Radio Special Event Station GB8CS
15th & 16th October 2022 at Kenn Village Hall ~
From 9:00am onwards, Saturday & Sunday

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)

theWI

INSPIRING WOMEN

KENN W.I.

Members stood in silence at the September meeting of the Kenn W.I. to honour Her Majesty the Queen, our National President, who had died the week before.

The meeting was chaired by Vice President Mrs. Margaret Burdge who welcomed members and the visitors who had joined us. We were delighted to see them and hope that they will join us.

Our original speaker who was to talk on Felt making had been booked pre-Covid and was no longer available. Her replacement also booked a long time ago suddenly developed Covid, so it was thought that it would be a good idea to have a television and watch the Royal procession from Buckingham Palace to Westminster Hall, but the TV wouldn't work!

Member Alison stepped into the breach and gave us an unscripted, unrehearsed talk on her experiences as an archivist in County Record Offices. It was very much enjoyed and she was very warmly thanked.

Names were taken for the Group Meeting which is to be held in Nailsea on October 4th. There was also an opportunity to sign up for a special opening of John Lewis and a Carol Service which will be held in Tickenham Church this year.

A cheque for £350 was sent to St. Peters Hospice from the donations made at the Tea Party which the W.I. hosted in August. So many of us have reason to be grateful to the Hospice movement that it was good to be able to send them such a sizeable donation.

One of our members has knitted some beautiful woolly hats and members were reminded that we are still collecting hats and clothing for the Mission to Seafarers in Bristol.

Ann Holtham

Sunday 2nd October

Kennites are invited to join a Social evening Pub Night at Tickenham Village Hall. Buster Jack Band are playing - six of us with Tony Parker on guitar and Sue on keys and backing vocals.

Tickets — email

suzyjeg@hotmail.co.uk



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

**Saturday 8th October
10.00 - 12noon**

North Somerset Times

Copies are freely available in the porch a St. Johns



OCTOBER WASTE - MONDAYS

Recycling 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st
Dustbin 3rd and 24th



CLEVEDON SALEROOMS



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

**Antiques & Quality Furnishing,
Collectables**

**Quarterly Specialist Sale
Thursday 24th November 10.30am**

Thursday 13th October - 10.30am
Catalogues can be viewed at
www.clevedon-salerooms.com

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

Lunch Break

A very warm welcome awaits anyone who fancies coming for lunch at the Village Hall

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

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

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

Next Lunch Break – Monday 7th November 12-2pm

Christmas  Lunch Break – Monday 5th December 12-2pm

Hope to see you there!

Sarah and Tim



LIGHTING OF KENN'S CHRISTMAS TREE 30th ANNIVERSARY

SINGING OF POPULAR CHRISTMAS CAROLS
ACCOMPANIED BY THE RETURNING
LOCHRAN FAMILY BAND

MINCE PIES AND MULLED WINE WILL BE
SERVED AT CHURCH PATH COTTAGE
FRIDAY 16th DECEMBER @ 7pm

KENN CHURCH ROOM - CHARITY COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 22nd October 10.00 - 12 noon

Charity – **St Peters' Hospice** – Host – Kenn W.I.

Celia Andrews was delighted to raise £80 for Macmillan Funds at the September Coffee Morning.

Mike and Iris Callow have received a further £10, bringing their contribution to Cystic Fibrosis to £100 from the August Coffee Morning.

In November we shall be holding the annual Present Aid Coffee Morning for Christian Aid

LUNCH AT KENN VILLAGE HALL.

Sarah Rossiter and I did the lunch in September. We shopped, made soup and waitressed together. We had made tomato soup and a spicey sweet potato and coconut soup. The sweet potato soup was a winner. At the end the pan was empty.



Lyn Burnett was the independent auditor this month. She checked the receipts and my sums. Thank you to everyone's generosity. We raised £100. Expenses were £50. So, I have £20 from July. £21 from August and £50 from September. I will give the food bank £91. I will ask a villager to verify the receipt.

It has been a pleasure to do the lunches. I was just recalling it started in 2016, doing 6 weekly lunches during Lent. It was a cosy affair in the church. Then it became a monthly event. Post lockdowns the lunch was transferred to the hall. Good ventilation and spacing meant we could have the lunch in relative safety.

Thank you to everyone who, over the years, came to the lunches. You all brought good appetites, lots of chat and laughter and generosity. Thank you also to everyone who helped with baking, preparing food, and washing up.

Sarah Rossiter is building a team to take over the village lunch.
(See her Lunch Break invitation on page 10)

Caroline xx



St John's Kenn



All Saints' Kingston Seymour

Services at St. John the Evangelist Kenn and All Saints' Kingston Seymour October 2022

October 2nd

8.30pm	St John's	Traditional Communion
11am	All Saints'	All Together in Church – HARVEST

October 9th

8.30am	All Saints'	Traditional Communion
11am	St John's	All Together in Church

October 16th

11am	All Saints'	Holy Communion
-------------	--------------------	-----------------------

October 23rd

11am	St John's	Holy Communion
------	-----------	----------------

October 30th

10am	St Mary's Yatton	Team Service of Holy Communion
------	------------------	-----------------------------------

Every Tuesday and Wednesday 8.15am

Team Morning Prayer on Zoom

BIRD NEWS

Both Great White and Little Egrets were on Kenn Moor at the beginning of the month with a Kingfisher on the river. A report from John Croxton of five Mistle Thrushes there was very welcome. Normally there is a post breeding flock in mid summer but this was the only report to date.

The Hinkley Connect works have continued to attract migrant birds with eight Wheatears and three Whinchats by Wemberham Lane. Eight Yellow Wagtails were feeding amongst cattle where the works are by the River Yeo. Two Kingfishers, more Wheatears, Whinchats and a pair of Stonechats along with a dozen Linnets were seen nearby. Two Green Sandpipers were also on the Yeo towards Kingston Seymour.

Wemberham Lane hosted the regular Peregrine and Raven as well as a flock of 100 Goldfinches feeding on thistle seeds. Kestrels were less regular but there were three together on one occasion and two Kingfishers were present.

A high tide visit to the Kenn Estuary saw a flock of 14 Avocets fly in looking as if they were going to settle but after a couple of circuits they headed off down the estuary. Curlews, Oystercatchers, Redshanks and Dunlin were on show with a few Shelduck just returned from their summer moult.



The Chestnut Park estate at North End Yatton has nesting House Martins and a party of 20 was noted along with 150 Starlings including many juveniles on one house roof! They seem to have enjoyed a very productive breeding season and hopefully the migrants mentioned earlier have been seen in good numbers because of successful nesting this year.

Six Chiffchaffs were singing along the Strawberry Line and Crows were chasing two Lapwings over a freshly cut maize field, a role reversal as when they were nesting on the same field the Lapwings were driving the Crows away.

Trevor Riddle 01934 835208

Harvest Lunch. This year we kept it simple. A 'bring and share' harvest lunch. We didn't even have to sell tickets. An easy list was drawn up for people to indicate if they were bringing a savoury or sweet dish. It was a feast. Delicious quiches, salads, cheese, and bread. Followed by sumptuous puddings. Coffee was served with 'After Eights'.

The instruction was if everyone does 10 to 15 minutes in the kitchen the workload is spread out. This made for a relaxed lunch. An ambiance of sharing, eating, and exchanging news. It felt so good to be with over 30 friends and neighbours in our village hall. The autumnal landscape of the fields and orchard blended beautifully with the seasonal celebration. Caroline.

Harvest Festival in Kenn

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make the Harvest Festival Service at St John's such a success.

Well Done to the Altar Guild for decorating the church so beautifully with flowers, fruit and vegetables and then leaving the church absolutely spotless. Not a petal or leaf to be found out of place, so much so that after arranging a few bits of farming and dairying kit about the place, I had to get the dustpan out to clear up the cobwebs I had brought in with me.

Fran had written us a lovely service in which we thought about present day challenges, 'How can we share the Earth's Bounty?' and sang traditional Harvest hymns, played by Jo.

Our Harvest food offerings went to the Clevedon Food Bank, and our cash collection will go to 'The Ripple Effect' *charity, as requested by Bishop Ruth (Taunton).

So many people stayed for coffee, cake and chat after the service, 'prepared earlier' mugs and reserve biscuits had to be fetched, Thanks Caroline.

JB & JB

* For more info on The Ripple Effect see last month's KN&V or go on line

Many congratulations to Rebecca Hayden

who gained a first class honours degree in Film Studies and Creative Writing from St Mary's University in Twickenham.

A fitting reward for hard work and perseverance.



Visitors to Kenn from North Carolina

Some days have a strange start. A few Fridays ago, Wilf Bessant knocked on the door.

Wilf: Caroline, you have something to do with the church?

Me: Yes, I do.

Wilf: There are two people from North Carolina in the churchyard. They are looking for a grave would you come and see if you can help them? Me: Course I can Wilf.

Turns out it was Bill and Wanda Stalling from Wake Forest, outside Raleigh, North Carolina. They had been on a cruise round the U.K. Docked in Southampton the day before, made their way to Clevedon and spent the night in the Walton Park Hotel.



Bill is 10th generation Stalling. His ancestor Nicolas Stalling (1550 to 1605) is buried in Kenn. He was the second husband of Lady Kenn. Together they were instrumental in the founding of the church in Kenn. So influential, his was buried inside the church under the altar. His gravestone is preserved above the inside of the church door. Bill and Wanda had come to find St John the Evangelist church and the gravestone.

They had a good look round the church and identified the gravestone. I gave them some Kenn literature. In the church room we had lots of chat about the Stallings and how they came to be in America, our present families, tea, and a sandwich, exchange of emails and photographs. Then their taxi came to take them to Yatton Station. They were going to London, then off to the Lake District to find graves from Bill's mother's side of the family.

How unexpected that our lives intersected on that day.

How lovely. Caroline

Kevin Harold Carnell

Sunday 4th September

aged one week at his first Ploughing Match with mum Kayleigh, dad Jack and big sister Molly.

First grandson for Jack and Millie Stowell of Portbury House Farm. Irene Stowell's first great grandson.



Royal Matters

Kenn Villagers were able to watch the proclamation of King Charles III at the September Market via iPlayer and a large TV. The Chair of Kenn Parish Council thought the North Somerset donated/loaned projector and screen could be set up for the funeral. Sadly, it did not arrive at the Village Hall in time to be set up properly.

However, thanks to the broadband link from the Village Hall the funeral was broadcast live at St. John the Evangelist, Kenn. Several parishioners watched, and joined in with the hymn singing, during the service, disbanding as the Queen's coffin left Westminster Abbey.

The Village Hall Committee now have time to set up the hall, so the Parish Council can view Planning applications at every meeting, and it will be ready for the next important Royal event, perhaps The Coronation of King Charles III

Joyce Down

Joyce Down, wife of Robert Down, mother of Rachel and Andrew, sadly passed away on the 14th September at Alice House Nursing Home. Joyce was up until recently an active lady often seen around the village, and always seen at the Village Market selling books to raise money for Weston Hospice. Joyce was always in control of her life, independent and hard working and an extremely keen gardener.

Mum never wanted a fuss to be made of her, and even refused to acknowledge birthdays in recent years. This wish was reflected in how Rachel and I were to manage her last days with us, and the inevitable arrangements to follow. There is no funeral or wake for Mum as she opted for a Direct Cremation.

Rachel, myself and Joyce's sister Helen, do acknowledge that there were many of her friends who didn't get to see her in the last couple of weeks, and that in addition to there being no traditional funeral or wake, there is no opportunity to say goodbye in person.

We want to respect Joyce's wishes, in memory of her, however please be assured that as soon as we feel she's not watching over us to tell us off, we'll arrange a get together over tea and cakes (muffins too!) in the village hall.

This will be a happy event with good memories to be shared and we'd be extremely pleased to see you there. Watch this space! In the meantime, heartfelt thanks to all of Mum's friends in the village who have provided such tremendous support.

Those who want to give a thought or prayer for her may wish to do so on the morning of the 4th October.

Rachel and Andrew



?? Final Musing and Memories from Kennite Janet Skinner

Here is a final offering. People will be fed up with me and it would be nice to give others a chance, especially those who have never left the village, or left and came back.

Stephen from the Limes wrote about loss and grieving last month.

Well Stephen it doesn't get completely better. I still miss Grandma who ran Kenn PO for 40 years and died in January 1974. She lived a long life, dying aged 84, having retired just 8 years earlier. Her photo greets me every morning and as I write this my eyes are full of tears. Ridiculous really but there you are.

May I urge someone to write the names of all those in the photo with the village hall behind. My brother has a copy of the charabanc outing back in the 1930's a copy of which was hanging in the Drum and Monkey. While I know some it would be difficult to name all the people.

Before the motorway altered the road to Clevedon it was a short walk past the Vicarage, over the river to Mill Cottage. Before it was fashionable The Hilliers had a large slab patio and wonderful toys to ride on and play with. This included a proper rocking horse with leather reins and saddle with stirrups. Rosemary and Judith Hillier called at the PO one day to invite me to tea. On the way I asked if they would like to see the new-born calf in Baker's field. I started to cross the road, close to a bend, and was knocked down by a sports car. Actually I was totally unhurt and really annoyed. The driver insisted on carrying me home so I never got the tea or play time. Next day the school children ganged up and laid into me. The lady passenger had been sick on arrival at their destination in Duck Lane? Taylors and it was all my fault!

Earlier in August I went out to pick blackberries to make my annual supply of bramble jelly. It reminded me of a time when in the Autumn sea mists would envelope the village. I was about 5 and, we were all up early to go out picking mushrooms. There were 4 of us spread out just within sight of each other combing the field. Then we went home for a full cooked breakfast. Lovely bacon in those days, eggs and mushrooms and fried bread.

I am so glad Ray Naish approached me to ask who I was when tending Grandma's grave and then Marianna arranged for me to have the magazine. Despite moving to Devon in 1953 Kenn is still HOME. Most of my friends will have moved on to pastures new and as I get nearer to 80 many are no longer with us. Thank you for letting me record my memories and I hope I have jogged some of yours. My brother Robert Say was born in Exeter and only knows Kenn from school holidays playing with Jeff Naish next door. Marilyn Holley in New York State always mentions Kenn in her e-mails. She had an aunt Grace who died in Clevedon a few years ago (Hartley Staples was her gardener) and I remember how welcome she made me because I could talk of old times in Kenn. No-one in the retirement home was "local" she said.

Don't let the old memories die. Take your grandchildren out picking blackberries or rose hips for delicately flavoured rose hip jelly. Show them how to make cake, jams and jelly. It is our heritage. And don't forget to put the names on the back of old photos.

Janet Skinner

Our Monthly Missive from the Limes

We never planned on living in Kenn. It just happened, but it was many years after we first saw it.

Around 1980 we were on our way to a family holiday in Cornwall. As we went along the Gordano Valley stretch of the M5 heading south we emerged through the gap above Clevedon and both of us remarked what a nice area it seemed to be. On the way back, returning after our holiday as we passed by we again said it was a nice area but never thought any more about it.

It wasn't until 1989 that circumstances sent us to our present location in Kenn and we could start to appreciate the area. I recall the initial impressions were that we had arrived in a place with a rich history, the feeling probably reinforced by the first thing that people said was did we know about the Kenn Hangings?!

Anyway I thought I would like to share a few musings about Kenn this month. Bear in mind they are my views and you don't have to agree with them!

Let's start by saying I don't think anyone would say that Kenn is the most attractive village in the country, but it is not unattractive and when visitors from back home came to stay we always took them for a stroll along Kenn Street to impress them. At that time the village had two working farms and most of the houses and cottages looked (and still do) extremely nice and well looked after. I recall one cottage had an "interesting" colour scheme but thankfully taste has prevailed and it changed some years ago. Apart from that however, it is nice to walk around Kenn, although as it is a spread out village most of the walking tends to be along Kenn Street with the odd foray into Duck Lane, nowadays a very pleasant cul-de-sac after an unsavoury past.

A derelict cottage and a half-hearted building site in Kenn Street won't attract the tourists however and let me say here that I don't know who owns them and haven't asked, so it's nothing personal. Interestingly North Somerset Council have the power to compulsory purchase empty properties. Uncompleted building sites are a different matter as there is no time limit for completion but decades with no progress seems a bit steep. A couple of years ago there was an online petition to ask Parliament to debate this issue and to put in a limit, but it was badly advertised as after 6 months there were only two signatures.

During the Covid lockdowns there was much publicity about people moving out of the city into the countryside and various areas of the country were highlighted as popular locations. To my knowledge the West country appeared not to be featured and I started to wonder why not, as I could not think of anywhere else in the whole country that had the advantages that we have here.

Let's consider location and access. Where else in the country do you have an international airport, a mainline railway line to London and the junction of a motorway network that can take you north, south, east or west? Birmingham? Hmmmm.

Look at what else is in the area. There is Bristol (if you can get to it – see later) with its history and some useful facilities. There is the seaside. There is Cheddar and the Mendips and gorgeous countryside and you are a lot nearer to Cornwall than if you live in London, and South Wales is now free to get into and has lovely scenery.

What else? You have a small town (Clevedon) with the day to day shops, the Curzon and a pier. You have decent primary schools and you have a choice of secondary schools so it is a great place to bring up families. We also have a relatively low crime rate.

If you look around there are also a lot of clubs and societies, especially in music, sport and art.

Furthermore, in Kenn we now have some of the best broadband in the country. (Yes I know Truespeed are digging up the roads to get their broadband to Clevedon and it is a pain but Kenn got ours first). That means individuals and companies can access their office systems easily from here, kids can do their online homework and you can stream television to your heart's content.

You want a quiet, rural life? Here Kenn excels. We are just outside the town of Clevedon (I can walk to Tesco in half an hour) but here you are in a different world where you can engage in village life and not be lost in a crowd.

What is there about Kenn that I personally like?

I like the scenery. I like the rather quirky but charming village hall, maintained by a team of loving enthusiasts. I like St John's church, small though it is but oozing history.

I like the people – they have been good to me. I like the fact we still have a working farm in the middle of the village.

I like strolling along Kenn Street or very occasionally, Duck Lane and day dreaming about what it must have been like in the past. I like the village green and our tree at Christmas and the recent wild flower beds planted there and at Kenn Pier.

I like the village market and although I am not a big spender it is nice to pop in and see faces I recognise and who recognise me and make me feel welcome.

Of course there are things I don't like or would like to see improved. The number one on my list is I want to be able to walk conveniently from my house into the village, at any time of day and any time of year. That basically means a decent footpath.

I'd like a playground for the kids. Some families take their children to the swings at Tickenham, which has done a fantastic job in creating a play area and it would be nice to have something local. Yes, I have heard reasons why we haven't got it or can't do it but a can do attitude can overcome much.

What else? I'm not sure whether to mention public transport or not and hope this does not descend into a rant. Basically public transport is a joke and although one district councillor was pleased that he had been instrumental in getting a bus service past our village it didn't last long and was never of much use to those of us in the more outlying areas. A bus along Kenn Moor road to Yatton railway station is a nice dream however! What it does mean is that you cannot live here without a car and I do wish Bristol and Clevedon and everywhere else that has decided cars are a bad thing would engage with the real world. Last week I decided I would get the bus to Bristol from Clevedon and when I looked up the services they had been cut back so much it would take a large part of the day to get there and back for what I needed to do, so in the end I drove and just hoped I'd find somewhere to park near where I needed to go.

However as I write this I realise the negatives are very few. That's good! The only other thing that comes to mind is sometimes I worry that in time we may lose the gap of countryside around us which currently delineates us from the adjacent towns. I am aware of the pressures on housing but it would be a shame to lose that.

Further back I briefly mentioned the people. I like the fact we have people in the village willing to get stuck in and organise village activities and make us a community. I do get to some of these and probably should get to more but well done to those who run and support them.

Long may they all continue!

Stephen

KENN PARISH COUNCIL

2022

Licensing for short-term holiday lets

Calls for the government to introduce licensing for all short-term holiday lets. In response to the recent consultation by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) on short-term holiday lets, there are calls for the government to tighten regulation by developing and introducing a licensing scheme for all short-term holiday lets, with physical checks of premises.



It would go a long way in reducing anti-social behaviour at these properties. It would also baseline minimum hygiene, health and safety standards at such properties, providing reassurance for landlords and holidaymakers.

The Government's Tourism Recovery Plan, published in June 2021, included a commitment to consider a possible Tourist Accommodation Registration Scheme in England. The purpose of the call for evidence is to gather the information that will improve the government's understanding of the benefits and challenges of short-term lets across England as a whole and how they vary across the country. The evidence will help the government determine whether there are options they should pursue through a consultation.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tourism-recovery-plan>

RURAL HOMELESSNESS is an unseen crisis in the countryside, driven by limited access to services and an absence of affordable homes. The extent of the crisis is unclear as limited rural data is captured in official statistics. Trends show that overall homelessness has increased in the last decade and where interventions have helped in urban areas, their impact is less successful in rural communities.

A rural housing task force, which includes the Rural Services Network, has joined forces to shine a light on the crisis by commissioning a [12-month research collaboration](#) between academics at Kent and Southampton Universities. The rural task force includes leading national, rural charities and housing providers. Working collaboratively, the group have pooled resources to develop and fund the research, designed to secure evidence showing the extent of the rural housing crisis and what interventions will help tackle the problem.



Working with the researchers, the group will develop and share a series of recommendations to inform government ministers and future policy making. Existing research has largely focused on urban homelessness due to its inherent visibility, yet it has neglected a growing crisis facing rural areas. This lack of exposure has meant it hasn't received the attention and investment it deserves from policymakers.

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

2022 Meetings

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

[Low Noise fireworks](#) – website, these are virtually silent at ground level and approximately 70 decibels in the air, about half of the legal limit which is 120 decibels.

