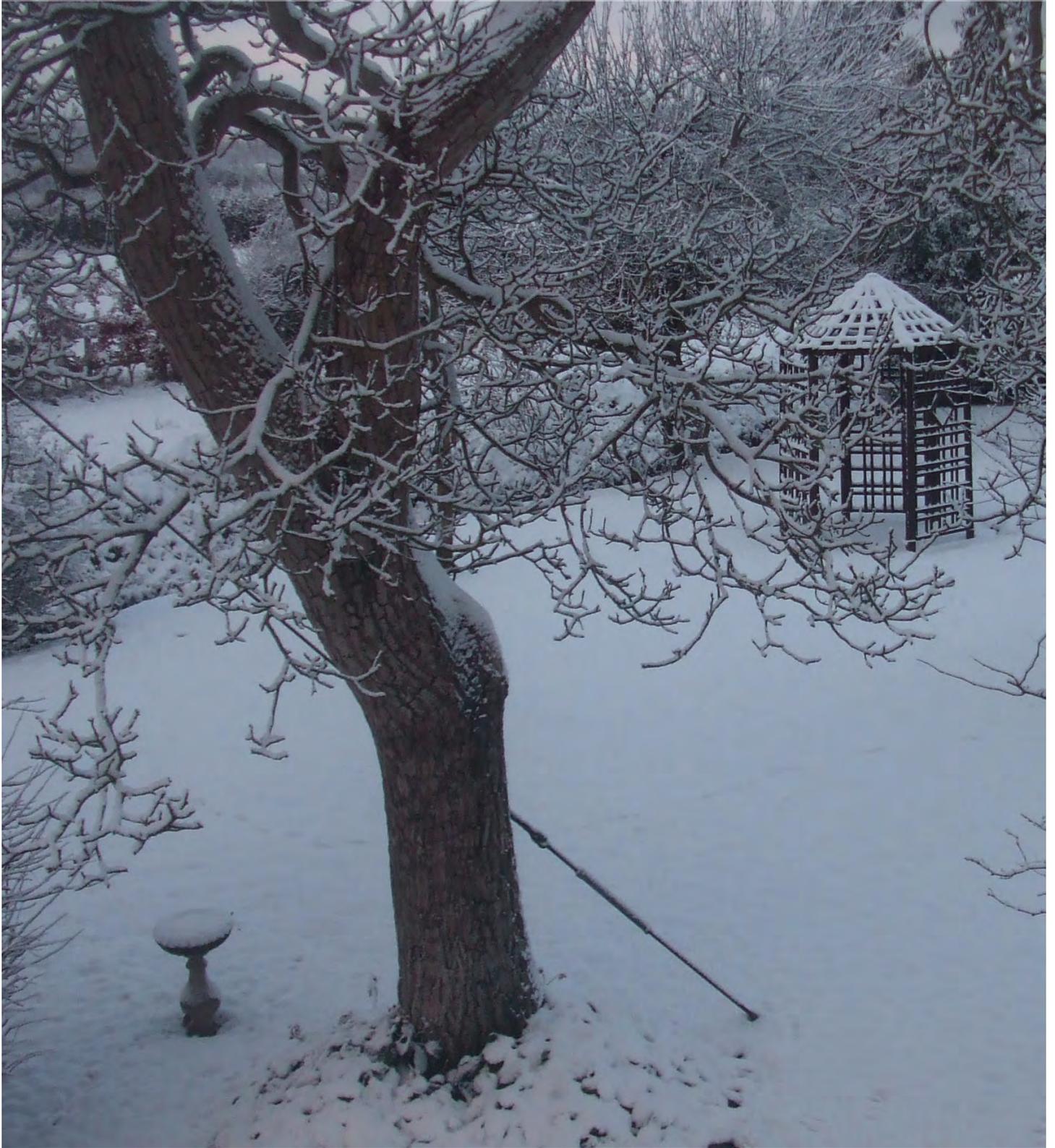


ISSUE 269 JANUARY 2011



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Hectic Christmas, and then the dreaded lurgy. We have been ringing our bell (Unclean! Unclean!) and taking our Lemsip - all to no avail. Still, here we are, finally able to type a sensible paragraph (it says here...)

Heaven only knows what will become of the poor magazine next month - I heard this morning that I'll probably be away (working, if that makes a difference...) at the end of the month. I can usually do it all by the magic of the internet if I'm not here, but this time I'll be out of touch for days on end.

So - any takers to fill in for a month, anyone? Or shall we just wait until I get back and I bash it out as quickly as I can? Let me know...

Thank you all for your kindnesses this Christmas - your long-suffering thanks are much appreciated. I make different mistakes in the mag each month - and you are very forgiving. Thank you.

Christmas Babies!! Like London buses - and none the worse for that. We especially think of Tim and Julia - on an aeroplane as I write - having had to wait to see their wonderful grandson. But congratulations to all our grandparents and parents. And thanks to the babies, for lowering the average age of us villagers!

We've been helping out (top of the village, we think) with power cut sufferers at the bottom (Duck Lane) end. We had our transformer replaced when the old one melted everything we owned, but half the village still puts up with an old transformer which is clearly not up to the job. Something needs to be done - any ideas?

Our entire family played table tennis over the holidays - so huge thanks to Jo for all the organising. Despite its burst pipes, the village hall was the place to be. Brilliant.

Hazel

## Down on the Farm

The very cold weather that came towards the end of November has caused quite a lot of disruption on the farming scene, but we got off fairly lightly in this part of the country compared to the North of England and Scotland.

There are reports of much damage being done to farm buildings in those areas. Over four hundred farm buildings collapsed under the weight of the snow. When buildings collapse, what can farmers do with the animals trapped inside? I read of one farmer who had four hundred sheep in a shed whose roof collapsed. One hundred and forty were crushed to death.

Around here the snow never got deep enough to bury the grass completely, so that the animals still living outside could find grass to eat.

One of my sons Jeffrey Naish always gets his ewes mated to lamb in late November or early December because the weather is generally milder then than later in the winter. This year he got caught out, but fortunately very few lambs died of weather exposure because it was reasonably dry.

The biggest problem has been of ewes that had difficulty lambing being attacked by birds and foxes. One morning he found a ewe being attacked by fifteen Magpies and four Ravens. The Ravens peck the eyes and tongues out of the lambs as they are being born.

On another occasion foxes had killed lambs soon after they were born, but generally there has not been too much trouble.

Miles, my elder son, lambs his ewes from February onwards and my grandson Max lambs his ewes from March, hopefully the weather will be better by that time.

Although we have had a large amount of snow the land is still reasonably dry so that there are still cattle out in the fields grazing the grass that got protected from the frost by the snow.

I wonder what 2011 will bring forth on the farming scene. Will the age old saying apply this year :

“If November’s ice will bear a duck the winter will be mire and muck”

There are still large numbers of cattle being offered for sale in the Somerset Markets which is unusual for mid–December at the time of writing these notes.

Ray Naish

## Congratulations

Jean and Ray Naish are pleased to announce the safe arrival of their first great-granddaughter, Mya Naish. Mya is the daughter of Melanie and Justin and granddaughter of Sheila and Miles. Ray has now seen the baby; she is the sixth generation of the Naish family that he has seen.



**What could be lovelier? Normally we wouldn't make such a fuss, but this is Christmas, and there's something wonderful about all these beautiful babes being born just in time.**



**Sheila and Miles Naish are Mya's doting grandparents.**

Mya was born at 8:45am on 17/12/10 at Southmead Hospital. She weighed 6 lb 13oz and is healthy. However she did inhale meconium as she was delivered therefore had to go to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit to be treated with IV antibiotics for a lung infection. She was in NICU for 4 days and then came back to the Mendip ward to finish her antibiotics and came home exactly a week later at 5pm on Thursday 23rd December just in time for Christmas. Mya is now doing well and she was weighed a few days ago and is now 7lb ½oz so has gained weight.

The staff at Southmead, delivery suite, Mendip Ward and NICU were absolutely amazing, they looked after me and Mya so well we couldn't have wished for more and she wouldn't be here without them, so if you could say thanks to them that would be great and we would like to do something in the future to raise money for all the sick and premature babies in NICU. Maybe we could do a charity event at the village hall in the summer of 2011.

Melanie Naish



### **Our Precious Christmas Gift**

**We are delighted to let you know that baby Joseph Frank Davis was born to Amy and Matt (and big brother Charlie!) at St Michael's Hospital on Christmas Eve weighing 7½lb. All the family are happy and "Christmassy" and well!**

**From a proud Grandad Colin and Granny Jan Bedford.**



### **PEAS on EARTH**

**Parker Timothy Diffey was born 8lbs 9oz, at 18.26, on December 22, 2010. He's a great little guy, and mum and Parker are both doing great.**

**Tim and Julia Bush are winging their way to Australia to say Hello to their gorgeous grandson.**

Thanks Jo!

We would like to say 'Thank you' to Jo Batten for organising a Teenage Christmas Party straight after the Children's Christmas Party. We had fun playing table tennis and skittles. Jo even popped home and arrived back with cooked pizza for us all. John Hayden organised a game of 'skittles killer' and I seem to remember him winning - Caroline came a close second.

Eloise and Olivia Gale

## WHITE CHRISTMAS MARKET

Once again market day dawned as a white wonderland but it seemed more appropriate this time as it was our Christmas Market.

Only two sellers failed to dig themselves out and though some of our customers decided it was too inclement those who made it enjoyed the mince pies and the tombola along with the usual goods for sale.

Thank you all once again for your support.

Caroline's book stall raised money for the Children's Hospice in Wraxall.

A donation of £100 is to go to Caring at Christmas. Sale of refreshments and the tombola raised this. Didn't we do well!?

**The next Market will be on January 22nd**



**Happy new year to all our readers and thanks to the people who keep it all together, the editor, printer, distributors and contributors - once again our magazine is much loved and well read in lots of places and by lots of people.**

**Sheila**

## **KENN W.I.**

The December meeting was held on a very cold night, just right for Santa to be about and he did not fail to visit. Every member received a present and cards were exchanged. Hazel has fashioned a wonderful post box and we are very grateful to be allowed to use it year by year.

Last January the inclement weather meant that we had to cancel our meeting. We are hoping for better luck in 2011. Mr. Dobson who should have come to give us his Observational Odes is due to try to get to Kenn again. We hope that he will be successful. If you would like to join us do come along on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> January in the Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.

## **SHIRLEY LIVESEY**

It is with sadness that we note the death of Shirley Livesey who lived at Portbury House Farm for many years until ill health forced her to move into sheltered accommodation.

Shirley was a quiet, self-contained person who was a good friend to many in the village. She was extremely well-read and belonged to reading and writing groups. She was passionate about cats and all wild-life, she also enjoyed gardening and flower arranging.

In her working days she was an office worker and later in the caring world at a local Nursing Home. In retirement she took part in the Witness Protection Scheme.

Those who were fortunate enough to enjoy her friendship will miss her sorely.

## **PARISH COUNCIL NOTES**

A much depleted Parish Council met on a very cold evening in December. Let no-one say that Kenn people do not get themselves about – the missing members were in places as diverse as Spain, Capetown and India.

It was noted that all 01275 numbers are scheduled for an upgrade of the Broadband service. Good news indeed! Kenn is about to become a Fair Trade Village – there will be more about that elsewhere in this magazine. National Grid have been found not to have held a proper consultation and now have to do a study of alternative means of transporting the power from Hinkley Point (undersea and underground) and then consult again.

How the village should celebrate the Royal Wedding was discussed. We are always glad of an excuse to have a party. Ideas on how you would like to celebrate it will be very welcome.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2011 in the Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. All parishioners are very welcome. There is always an opportunity for you to raise any matter of concern.

Ann Holtham

## **Caring At Christmas**

On 17th December we took a car load of clothing, lots of food and money donations to the shelter "Caring at Christmas" provides in Bristol. As always the gifts were welcomed by the dedicated staff, and will be put to very good use. It is even more important to support this charity as the recession bites and the winter weather gets colder.

Thank you to all those who so generously donated. Kenn showed its caring side once again to help those less fortunate than ourselves.

Robin and Marianna

## PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

The term of office of the whole of the District Council and the Parish Council comes to an end in May 2011. There are three District Councillors for this ward and seven Parish Councillors for Kenn. The elections are usually held on the first Thursday in May and the term of office is for four years. This time there will also be a referendum on the voting system for Parliamentary elections.

Notices inviting nominations are displayed at the usual places in the village on a date appointed by the Returning Officer. There are notice boards outside the Old Post Office, outside the Village Hall and in the Church porch. The Clerk to the Parish Council has some nomination papers for those wishing to join the Parish Council or they can be obtained from the Town Hall in Weston-S-Mare. For legal reasons they cannot be downloaded from North Somerset's website. When completed the papers must be taken to the Town Hall in person where they are checked and accepted. The candidate is notified by post that their nomination has been accepted.

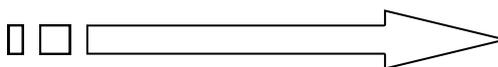
If there are more than seven nominations there will be an election and all the appropriate notices displayed. If there are just seven nominations all are declared duly elected. Should there be fewer than seven then vacancies are declared and nominations invited for a further election. If this does not produce candidates then the existing members of the Parish Council can co-opt.

As there are so many Bank Holidays around Easter and May Day the dates of each stage have not yet been published as there are legal requirements for the number of working days between each stage and this time it will be particularly complicated.

Watch this space!

Ann Holtham

See also over here for a letter from the County Council Electoral Services Manager with more detail about Parish Council Elections



## Kenn Senior Citizen's Party

A wonderful party was put on for the Senior Citizens of Kenn plus those with Kenn connections in the Village Hall early in December.

The Village Party Committee entertained over eighty people to a splendid tea. This was followed by carol singing.

There was a free draw with many prizes. A Christmas present was given to people as they left. At this annual party many people meet who don't see each other at any other time of the year.

Ray Naish

Dear Ms Hatcher,

Thank you for your recent enquiry about the May 2011 parish council elections.

An election will be held for all parish council seats within North Somerset on Thursday 5 May 2011 along with the full elections to North Somerset Council.

Kenn Parish Council comprises seven seats, therefore a poll will be held on 5 May next if eight or more valid nominations are received. If seven or less nominations are submitted the persons so nominated would be elected unopposed.

At present, the election timetable is still to be finalised, but **it is expected that Notice of Election advertising the election will be published by no later than Friday 25 March 2011** with sets of nomination papers available from this office shortly before that date. On that basis the **final date for the submission of nominations to this office will be noon on Monday 4 April 2011**. In order to stand for Kenn Parish Council, a candidate must supported on their nomination paper by two electors for the parish of Kenn (a proposer and a seconder), be aged 18 or over and be qualified to stand for that election.

The qualifications for membership of a parish council are that on the day of nomination and , if there is a poll on the day of election, the candidate must be qualified to be so elected by virtue of being a qualifying Commonwealth citizen, a citizen of the Republic of Ireland or a citizen of another Member State of the European Community, who has attained the age of 18 years and meet at least ONE of the following: (a) the candidate is a registered as a local government elector for the administrative area of the Parish;

(b) the candidate has during the whole of the twelve months preceding that day or those days occupied as owner or tenant land or other premises in the Parish;

(c) the candidate has their principal or only place of work during those twelve months has been in that Parish; or

(d) the candidate has during the whole of those twelve months resided in that Parish or within 4.8 kilometres .

The candidate must also declare that to the best of their knowledge and belief they are not disqualified from being elected by reason of any disqualification set out in Section 80 of the Local Government Act 1972, or any decision made under section 79 of the Local Government Act 2000.

Candidates may withdraw their nominations by giving notice in writing to the Returning Officer prior to **noon on Thursday 7 April 2011**, and it is at that point that it will be known whether the election is contested or not.

Please do let me know if you need further information.

Regards,

**Mike Jones**

Mike Jones  
Electoral Services Manager  
North Somerset Council  
634903

## And in with the New!

I write this note just before Christmas. Again we look back over a very busy year for our village. We have held all the usual events, also organised the remarkable village festival which was a great success raising over £6,000.

A new team gave us the super Harvest Supper, well up to the standard we have enjoyed from the first years. They say they enjoyed themselves and will be happy to do a repeat in 2011.

Our monthly market is now well established. The coffee and tea sales provide approximately £500 per year for various charities.

The maintenance of the four main facets of our village life - social, charity, church and community requires the support and selfless effort of many. To you all we say a most sincere "Thank You".

We now look forward to next year with its big date - The Royal Wedding in April. Already the Parish Council is thinking how best to mark the event.

To all of you my best wishes for the year ahead.

John Griffin  
Chair, Kenn Parish Council

## Kenn Village Nativity

The Church was full for The Nativity on Christmas Eve. As the Yuletide dusk approached the children transformed themselves into characters in the Christmas story. This Nativity was told from The Star's point of view. Morgan was a very capable star, narrating to us all the events he saw. Sol was a caring Joseph guiding Mary to Bethlehem. Tyler was a graceful Mary. The gorgeous angels were Cerys, Bethany, Rebecca Stowell, Drew, Jemima and Polly. This host of heavenly beings flew around the church to tell the shepherds to go to Bethlehem. Nathaniel and Vincent were noble shepherds.

Rosie did a reading about the Coming of the Magi with poise and eloquence.

We had the delight of three soloists. Hilary sang a moving 'Bleak Midwinter'. Rebecca sang a melodic 'Oh Little Town' and Tyler sang the sweetest 'Silent Night'.

At the end as the congregation sang 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing' all the children took turns at carrying a lit up star up and down the aisle. Hazel and her daughter Kate sang carols for us as we left the church. I noticed people holding back from leaving the church to stay and hear their awesome harmonising.

Many thanks to John Ball who made the star for the Church, Margaret who became a sidesperson, Celia who counted us in for the congregational carols. Julia made sure the church was warm for us. She also sorted out the costumes. Matthew did the candles and lights.

A very special thanks to Jo who played the piano for us especially as she was newly bereaved. She put commitment before her own feelings.

It was a great start to Christmas in our little community.

Caroline

**Pull-out and Keep Centre Section - Dates**

Useful Numbers:

**Village Hall Booking Secretary:**  
Jean Fenwick 875073 or  
Irene Stowell 872472

**St John the Evangelist Priest in charge:**  
Rev Preb John Andrews  
01934 830208

**Churchwardens:**  
Julia Bush 873554  
John Ball 874077

**Church Floodlighting:**  
David Pugh 874278

**Village Flag Flying:**

Marianna or Robin 340323 or  
Hazel 349535

**Altar Guild Secretary:**

Marianna Mackay 340323

**North Somerset Council:**

01934 888 888

out of hours:

01934 622 669

**News & Views:**

Hazel Limage 01275 349535  
Sheila Naish 01934 838357  
Margaret Ball 01275 874077



Will be held in Kenn Village Hall on Saturday,  
January 22nd 10:00am till midday

**Recycling - every Tuesday**

**Dustbin - 4th & 18th**

**Green Waste - 25th**



**Clevedon Mercury and  
North Somerset Times**

Don't forget that copies of both these local  
newspapers are freely available in the bar of  
the Drum and Monkey.

**Kenn Women's  
Institute**

Kenn Village Hall,  
January 12th  
7:30pm



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Email: [info@clevedon-salerooms.com](mailto:info@clevedon-salerooms.com)

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Collectables etc**

Thursday January 6th 2011

**Viewing at Saleroom**

Wednesday 5th 2011 10am - 7:30pm  
Morning of sale from 9am

**Quarterly Specialist Sale**

Thursday March 10th 2011 10.30am

**Viewing at Saleroom**

Tuesday 8th 2pm - 5:30pm  
Wednesday 9th 10am - 7:30pm  
Morning of sale from 9am

## BIRTHDAYS - JANUARY

2<sup>nd</sup> Olivia Court  
8<sup>th</sup> Cliff Edwards  
13<sup>th</sup> Abigail Smith  
14<sup>th</sup> Rebecca Brain  
15<sup>th</sup> James Hayzen  
16<sup>th</sup> Fred Fenwick  
18<sup>th</sup> Mike Callow is 81 years old today!!  
26<sup>th</sup> Elijah Stowell  
30<sup>th</sup> Mike Smith

## We flew the flag on the following days:

3<sup>rd</sup> for Liz and Mike Bell's Golden Wedding Anniversary;

18<sup>th</sup> for the birth of Mya Naish (granddaughter for Miles and Sheila Naish);

22<sup>nd</sup> for the birth of Parker Timothy Diffey (grandson for Julia and Tim Bush);

On Christmas Day;

26<sup>th</sup> for the birth of Joseph Frank Davis (grandson for Colin and Jan Bedford); and

30<sup>th</sup> – at half-mast to mark the sudden death of Mark Middleton aged 50 on the 29<sup>th</sup> December.

We send our deepest sympathy to his mother Barbara and her family.

## History Project Lunch

We REALLY don't talk about history (unless you want to...) - we just get together and chew the fat. Come along and meet your neighbours and friends for an hour or so - this time I imagine we're going to talk about grit (for next year, so we can organise ourselves), parish elections, FairTrade Village stuff, power cuts (too many!!), the Royal Wedding (what will the village do?) and other villagey stuff. So try and make it to the Drum on **Friday, January 21st at midday for 12.30** - the food is great and the chat is even better.

Hartley and Hazel

## Christmas Day Church in Kenn

On a sunny, slippy, slidey Christmas morning, the congregation carefully negotiated icy pavements and glassy roads to get to Family Communion. It was super to have a gathering of regulars and visitors, the very young and the young at heart. Celia is to be particularly congratulated for driving Rev Preb John from Kingston to all our Christmas services. The beautiful floral arrangements and Christmas decorations looked glorious as the bright sunshine filled the church. John encouraged us, at this season of giving and receiving, not to leave God's greatest gift to us, His Love expressed in His Son, like an unwrapped parcel under the tree.

Julia Bush

## VILLAGE LUNCH

Due to the first Tuesday in January being so close to the Bank Holiday it was decided that the Village Lunch would be on the 11<sup>th</sup> January 2011 at the Moor End Spout.



**St John the Evangelist, Kenn**

**ALTAR GUILD ROTA January 2011**

**Mary Willcox and Jane Staples**



## The Church is open...

Kenn church is open on **Saturdays**, from 10am 'til dusk. If you would like to go into church at any other time, see Marianna at Church Path Cottage, or ring the churchwardens.



## SERVICES FOR JANUARY 2011

### 1st Sunday 2nd January The Second Sunday of Christmas JOHN, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST

- 8.00am *Holy Communion Kenn*  
9.30am Holy Communion Yatton  
9.30am Holy Communion Cleeve  
11.00am Family Service Kingston Seymour  
11.00am First Sunday Special Claverham  
**6.00pm *Patronal Evensong Kenn***

### 2nd Sunday 9th January Epiphany (The Baptism of Christ)

- 8:00am Holy Communion Yatton\*  
9:30am Family Communion Yatton  
9:30am Holy Communion Claverham  
11:00am Trinity Praise Cleeve  
**11:00am *Holy Communion Kenn***  
6:00pm Epiphany Carol Service Yatton  
6:00pm Evensong Kingston Seymour\*  
6:30pm Holy Communion Cleeve

### 3rd Sunday 16th January Second Sunday of Epiphany

- 8:00am Holy Communion Claverham\*  
9:30am Parish Communion Yatton  
9:30am Holy Communion Cleeve  
11:00am Holy Communion Kingston Seymour  
2:30pm Holy Baptism at Yatton ~ *Holly Sophia & Ella Lily Smith*  
**6:00pm *Evensong Kenn\****

### 4th Sunday 23rd January Third Sunday Of Epiphany

- 8:00am Holy Communion Yatton\*  
8:00am Holy Communion Kingston Seymour\*  
9:30am Parish Communion Yatton  
9:30am Holy Communion Cleeve  
11:00am Family Service Claverham  
**11:00am *Family Service Kenn***  
6.00pm Ecumenical Service at Yatton Methodist Church  
for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18th – 25th January)

### 5th Sunday 30th January Candlemas Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

- 8:00am *Holy Communion Kenn\****  
10.00am Team Communion Yatton  
6.00pm Evening Plough Service Cleeve

### Holy Days in January and February

#### Thursday 6th January – The Epiphany

- 9.30am Holy Communion at Cleeve  
7.30pm Holy Communion Yatton

#### Tuesday 25th January – The Conversion of Paul – 8.30am Holy Communion at Yatton

#### Wednesday 2nd February – The Presentation of Christ in the Temple - Candlemas

- 10.00am Holy Communion Yatton  
10.00am Holy Communion Kingston Seymour



**The Parish Council wants your input.**

**Suggestions are invited for ways the village can celebrate/commemorate the Royal Wedding in April.**

**PLEASE - children as well as adults - put your New Year brains in gear and tell the councillors what you think.**

**Would we like to buy some kind of memorial for the village?**

**Would we like a huge party?**

**Would we like something completely different?**

**Your councillors can be reached at:**

**[parishcouncil-royalwedding@kennvillage.co.uk](mailto:parishcouncil-royalwedding@kennvillage.co.uk)**

Or at:

the Granary; Church Path Cottage; Old Ox House; Elmbank; or Oakland Farm



Many, many thanks to everyone who sponsored our Festive Abseil - we raised £500 to help treat children with cancer.

Jo and Jack

## Carols on the Green

About 70 people gathered on the Village Green to start their Christmas switching on the lights on Kenn's Christmas Tree. We then crowded onto the Church Path to sing Carols. As has become customary we were accompanied by the wonderful Duck Lane Brass Band led by Andy Hicks. We are incredibly lucky to have such talented musicians to lead our singing.

As usual mince pies and hot punch were served - they were much needed on a cold night.

A collection was taken on the night and we were able to send £214 to the Children's Society.

Robin and Marianna

## Salt of the Earth...

Jean Osborne: Have you seen the junction of Kenn Street and our road? Its lethal. The ice and snow have compacted and you can't stop. There's going to be accidents there if nothing is done. I've already skidded there trying to get into Kenn Moor Road.

Me: Davis Lane and Court Lane have been closed so that's the only road around here. As the council don't grit these roads it will only get worse.

Jean: If some grit could be put down it would help.

Me: That's true. Someone has gritted the junction of Duck Lane and Kenn Street and its made an amazing difference. There's a grit bin at the corner of Duck Lane but I expect that would have been cleaned out long ago.

Jean had a point and although I didn't think there was a chance of any salt being in the bin it was worth a look. It was Christmas Eve morning, a wonderful bright sunny morning but very, very cold.

I wasn't needed in the house, I had a shovel and an old feed sack in the car so I decided to drive round the corner and look in the bin. Much to my surprise I was in luck. The grit bin was almost full. (Actually it holds salt, not grit but who cares what it is, providing it does the job?)

I shovelled some into a sack wondering if anyone watching was thinking I was stealing it. I recalled that the grit bin near my daughter's at Cardiff has been raided by a local farmer and the people on the estate, which is built on a hill, are about ready to lynch him. Grit is clearly an emotional commodity.

With sack half-full - I wasn't going to risk my back - I drove down to the junction. Just standing upright while throwing shovelfuls of grit/salt was a challenge. I wish I'd got Jean's crampons so I'd have some grip. I remembered my physics lessons that each action has an equal and opposite reaction. When you are standing on ice throwing salt it suddenly becomes highly relevant.

The sack was soon emptied. Little holes appeared in the snow where the grains had fallen. Clearly something was happening, albeit not very quickly. I considered it a foretaste of things to come however. I never thought how delightful it would be to see black tarmac again instead of white snow polished by rubber tyres to an icy, mirror finish.

I went back for more salt.

Job nearly finished, I heard the sound of a vehicle in the distance coming from Yatton. I straightened up and moved to one side towards the verge. A lorry came past at thirty miles an hour. Yes, you've guessed it, it was spraying out salt from the rear.....

Stephen Brain

## **PUNCH, PIES, COFFEE - SAT 11th DECEMBER 2010**

John, Marlene and Irene would like to thank all who attended their Christmas Coffee Morning and also to say "Thank You" to those who could not attend but gave both donations and gifts in lieu.

Once again the 'friendly team of helpers' offered their services - it really runs like clockwork now!! We are very, very grateful to you all.

Despite numbers being down this year we still made £500. This will be divided equally between Kenn W.I. Charity for 2011 - Western Air Ambulance and Clevedon Ladies Evening Group Charity for 2011 - to be decided in January but this is always a local charity.

We could not achieve this without all of you supporting us, so again Thank You.

We wish you a Very Happy New Year.

Marlene and John Arney and Irene Stowell

## **Being Green. *I'm doing my best!***

No gardening again this month. Sub-zero temperatures and snow kept me again in doors. Christmas is not a good time to be ecologically responsible. Over-consumption, spending money and festive tat. Bring it on, who does not love it?

My contribution to the reduction of global warming was to give John a solar powered radio for Christmas. It's brilliant. It runs off mains or solar power and recharges it own battery. How amazing is that?!

Village life can be green. The market can save a few trips to Tesco. Sausages, bread, cheese, cakes, preserves and the most delicious hummus I have ever tasted.

I have taken over the market book stall from Joyce. I will raise funds for 'The Children's Hospice' at Wraxall. It is a way of giving thanks for not having had to use their services. The books are being classified into genres. It is not exactly Dewey Decimal classification but a more home-made version. The books will be on sale for 50p each. Alternatively as the mobile library no longer comes down Kenn Street and most of us have far more books than we need you can borrow a book instead! A small donation of 30p for the loan is welcome.

Did I say I would see if I could stay out of Tesco during the month of February? Better start planning!

Happy New Year.

Caroline Holden

Really, honestly, truly seen this week (but not in St John's, obviously) -

***Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.***

**Just as I was beginning to despair about the village website** (*no one reads it, no one needs it, think I'll go and eat worms...*) I got this lovely email. It's great to hear from you Kate! Thank you for taking the time to write - I hope the website will continue to improve. PS - I'd really, really like to see the photo...

Hazel

Hello

I just wanted to drop you a line or three to say thank you for the work you do on the Kenn Village website. I had not discovered it before today but have just spent a most enjoyable couple of hours with reminiscences and catching up.

I lived in Kenn from August 1979 until October 1987 though moving out was certainly not the end of my connection with the village and as we had only moved to Congresbury and later Clevedon, I was still involved in village life until the mid 90's.

My name then was Kate Denmead and along with Sheila Naish, I was co-founder of Kenn News and Views which I am delighted to see is still alive and well and providing such a vital link for the villagers. We were known as 'Big Ed' and 'Little Ed' by virtue of our very different statures (!). We spent many happy hours collecting and collating the material each month and inviting the children to design covers. My own son Christopher did a lot of drawings of village buildings and a commemorative tea-towel was created from his scribblings.

Reading the latest issue I am reminded of the Village Tea Party which was begun in my time on the Social Committee, it was always a great way to get the Festive Season underway, along with the children's party and the visit from Santa's representative (Mark Ayres). The Village Party in the New Year was always a somewhat moveable feast according to the weather but enormous fun was had in the organising and recruiting different and various entertaining talents from villagers. I was once part of the 'Three Little Maids from School' with Jean Fenwick and Julie Stowell, dressed as St. Trinian's type lasses and tripping the light (?) fantastic up and down the stage. There is a photograph but I would have to get clearance from J&J. On another occasion, the September Fun Run, I was coerced into impersonating Dame Edna Everage, the guest 'celebrity' invited to start the race. I rode the length of Kenn Street to the Village Hall in Stowell's vintage Rolls Royce, casting gladioli into the crowd - what fun.

Many names have come and gone in the years between but I'm glad to read and recognise some names which are so synonymous with my time - Ray Naish, Julia Bush, Jean Fenwick et al.

I am still in contact (though not as much as I should) with Hartley and Jane and in fact the reason I was looking for a website was to see if I had missed the carol service. Sadly I have but then I have also just had 2 weeks in hospital and only just home. I now live just outside Bath which is not a million miles away but in snow and ice I do get marooned in my valley. When Spring begins to show though, I shall keep an eye on News and Views for upcoming events and perhaps call and say a few hellos.

Thank you once again

best regards

Kate Tivney

## Bird News I

The Bram Rigg Sparrowhawk is a splendid young female. Female because of its brown plumage and bulky size; young because of the pale eyes—they turn darker with age in Sparrowhawks.

Ken and Pearl at Kenn Pier Cottage reported both Little Grebe and Kingfisher on the river—let us hope that our Kingfishers survive the cold.

The weather has dominated discussions about bird movements. It is understood to be the worst pre-Christmas cold spell since 1940, from which date there is film of water freezing when firemen were tackling the Bristol Blitz, and 100 miles to our east the River Thames froze over.

John Croxton and I visited the Blakes Pools Reserve at the River Yeo estuary on December 3rd in freezing conditions and noted vast numbers of Redwings and Fieldfares feeding on the Hawthorn hedges and in any unfrozen spots on the adjacent fields. I felt that there were probably 5,000 of these birds between Kingston Seymour and Clevedon; John thought that there may be as many as 20,000 and the real figure is probably somewhere in between. It was quite impossible to count or even estimate their number - they were everywhere. Such a concentration of birds often attracts predators and we had already encountered a big female Peregrine en route to the reserve. Suddenly a Merlin flew in front of us but the best was still to come. We sat in the hide eating our lunch and a Hen Harrier flew past. This is only the second I have ever seen in our area, and the previous one (in 1991) was also at this site. With such a massive gathering of Fieldfares and Redwings a few are bound to be weak or ill and these provide the prey for the raptors - the survival of the fittest.

Later in the month at least one, perhaps two, Short Eared Owls were seen, as well as a Barn Owl and two Merlins arguing over winter territory rights. The duck numbers have soared with refugees from frozen lakes, and the Dunlin flock had increased to a thousand birds.

The Woodcock is another species associated with cold weather and it was almost no surprise to find at least three in Littlewood, along with a Great Spotted Woodpecker, half a dozen Siskins and a Treecreeper.

A few Waxwings have been seen in Nailsea, as well as single flyover birds in Clevedon, and a Black Redstart has been reported from Clevedon Pill. There are, however, currently hundreds of Waxwings in Gloucestershire and South Wales so I am hoping some will arrive locally soon.

Trevor Riddle



In recognition of 25 years of voluntary work Trevor Riddle has received a Long Service Award from the RSPB. We offer him our congratulations and also our thanks for writing so many "Bird News" over the past fifteen or so years!

Water Rail



Goosander



Wigeon



Black Redstart



Hen Harrier



## Bird News II

The very severe weather over the past few weeks has sent flocks of birds of all sorts into this area. Miles Naish has some sheep grazing in Weston-in-Gordano Moor where there are two rivers that have kept flowing. This has attracted very large numbers of duck of all sorts, Mallard, Teal and Wigeon amongst other sorts. It is the only place around where they could feed.

Several people around Kenn have reported large flocks of Blackbirds arriving here; John Griffin, Hartley Staples and Miles Naish have seen them. They must have arrived from further north. People who have put food on bird tables have had large numbers of visiting birds this winter.

Ray Naish

## Bird News III

At Chaseside we have been delighted by the display of Tits on the fat-balls and peanuts, Long Tailed, Blue and Great Tits have all attended regularly. In freezing conditions if I fail to put out fresh water one of our resident Robins sits on the edge of the bowl and looks at me until I respond.

We were particularly thrilled when a Great Spotted Woodpecker spent around ten minutes eating peanuts hanging on the Horse Chestnut tree just outside the kitchen window and a Jay has also been a regular visitor in addition to various Pigeons, Doves, Starlings, Magpies, Jackdaws, Pied Wagtails, Chaffinches, Green Finches, Dunnock, Sparrows etc. Thanks to the lady at the Village Market for providing so much entertainment by selling the nuts and bird seed.

Margaret and John

## Bird News Extra

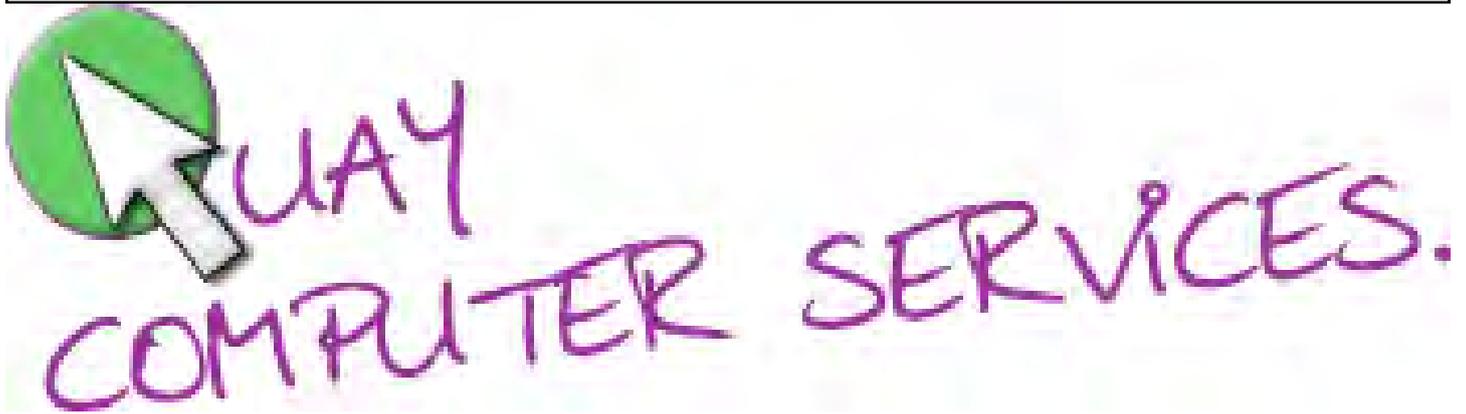
Due to the unusually cold weather an influx of rarely-seen winter visitors has been spotted in the area.

Rob Treble reported Goosander on the Blind Yeo, and a visit to the river revealed eight males and one female, together with at least nine Little Grebe and a few Wigeon. Rob later saw three male Shoveler in the same area.

A Water Rail and Grey Wagtail were seen at Kenn Pier and three different sightings of Woodcock have been made in the village.







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