

KENN NEWS & VIEWS

Birthdays and Anniversaries

July 5 - Avril Gaunt
7 - Adam Gamester
- Bronia Harris
8 - Ian Silvester
10 - Caroline Holden
Molly Cheek
11 - Thomas Hicks
13 - Laura Beardshaw
14 - Lois & Colin Webb W.A.
20 - Andrew Hicks
21 - Toby Naish
24 - Brian Walters
- Eloise Gale
- Jemima Hatcher Wilkins
25 - Sue Pugh
27 - Jessica Brett
28 - Juliet Stowell
Jack Stowell
Millie & Mike Stowell WA
29 - Emma & Peter Brooks WA
Liz & Vince Stowell WA
31 - Annie & Ian Silvester WA

Naish's Notes

Neighbourhood Watch

Just a note to tell everyone to vigilant...we have had a spate of burglaries in the area...please make sure sheds and garages are locked and gates closed!

Thanks go to Nick Davis of the Hand Equestrian Centre who has passed on 30 quite comfortable stacking chairs for the Village Hall.

Don't forget - Pick up litter, tidy verges - We are being judged!!!

Sheila

St. John the Evangelist, Kenn

St. John's Altar Guild

Secretary Marianna Mackay - 340323

July Rota

Jilly Butland and Dave and Sue Pugh

August Rota

Jenny Croxton, Margaret Ball and Barbara Dixon

Churchyard Tidy Up

Our thanks go to all those who worked so hard to prepare the Churchyard for the Best Kept Village Competition.

John and Julia

June Family Service

Several regulars from the St John's congregation were 'getting away from it all' on June's Family Service Sunday, but the church was well filled with folk who had come to witness Jemima Annabel being baptised.

Celia's talk asked us first to consider all the people who had lived on the earth now and in all of history. Then she asked people in the pews some very particular questions about themselves. Then she reminded us that God knows everything about each of us, and all the other people He has made, and loves every single one. Then Celia asked us to think for a minute, just about Jemima, on her special day. We were thrilled to see Jo and Peter, just back from their honeymoon.

The service ended with drinks, chat, and for some folk, tomato plants for their garden.

Julia Bush

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Sunday Club

Sunday Club continues to run on the first and third Sunday of each month.

To welcome children in the village who do not come to Church, the group on the first Sunday of the month will be more secular in its interests and activities.

Last month Robert Down came and talked to the children about insects. The children sat round the table and Robert showed them pictures of wildlife in Kenn. As soon as Robert began to talk the children craned forward with interest. Robert's enthusiasm was readily transmitted to the children. They soon asked questions and told him anecdotes about their own observations.

The children are going to do surveys on the Harlequin Ladybird and report their findings back to Robert.

The highlight of the talk was some live nature study. Robert had brought his microscope and the children enjoyed looking at insects he had brought along. The group ran over its usual time as the children did not tire of looking at the magnified insects. They then found bits of grass and leaves to look at. Thank you Robert we hope you will come again.

On the first Sunday of July, Trevor Riddle is coming to talk to the children about birds. We

hope to do surveys of the churchyard, the village pond and Ray Naish's orchard.

We are also hoping that the Sunday Club will be able to make a Scarecrow for the Kenn and Kingston Kombine event in August. We could form a working party and make the Scarecrow a holiday project.

Caroline

CHANGE OF VENUE

*Garden Party and Fundraising
(traditionally held at The Willows)
will this year be held at
Kenn Village Hall
Saturday 2nd August 2008
Starting at 3.00pm*

Market Success

Kenn's first monthly Market was held in the Village Hall on June 14th.

We were blessed with fine weather and a wide variety of sumptuous foodstuffs, gifts, crafts and charity stalls.

More importantly we were blessed with customers who queued, purchased, chatted and partook of the refreshments.

Thank you to everyone who supported our new venture in so many ways.

Please come and bring friends and neighbours to our next Market on July 12th from 10 till noon when we hope to have even more varied produce to tempt you.

Joyce Down

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VILLAGE CLEAN UP

On a sunny Saturday in June a group of committed villagers of all ages turned out to help clean up our village.

Because so many wanted to help we were able to pick up litter from all the roads in the Parish.

As usual a large quantity of bottles, cigarette and crisp packets, sweet wrappers, sandwich containers (and why do people store their McDonald's packaging and drop it in Kenn, many miles from a McDonald's Restaurant?!).

My thanks go to all who turned up.

Everybody worked very hard and was duly rewarded with bacon and sausage baps cooked by Jenny & Simon. Thanks also to James Griffin for the use of his vehicle to carry away the many bags of unwanted rubbish.

Please remember to pick any rubbish you see and let's all try to keep Kenn Tidy.

Robin Mackay

The Case of the Mystery Inscription

G. J. James this inscription was found carved into one of the rafters in Kenn Church ceiling while it was being painted early this year. Ray Naish says he thinks this shows that the 1850 to 1860 rebuilding and re-roofing of the Church was carried out by Kenn men.

Ray as a boy lived opposite a carpenter, builder and undertaker, John James of The Poplars, who Ray says he likes to think was carrying on the business of his father, G. J. James. John was born in about 1850 so his father could have been about 30 when the rebuilding took place.

Ray has found an entry in the old Church records stating that William Staples agreed to haul the stones, said to have come from the derelict Bullbeck Manor at the bottom end of Bullock Farm, Kingston Seymour, to the Church for the restoration.

"What an undertaking that was." said Ray "There was no road, only grass lanes, so he would have had to get them out in the summer when the land was dry, using a horse and cart with a trace horse in front moving less than one ton per load."

John James, Sexton at Kenn Church for many years, died in 1932 and his grave is on the left hand side of the porch as you enter the Church. It states that he was a chorister of Kenn Church for 73 years.

During the project Church-life carried on as usual., including a Plough Sunday/Family Service that included a Baptism amid the forest of scaffolding.

(taken from Moor News)

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Village Brunch

The Brunch was a great success again!!

Well done and thank you to everyone who came and helped to make it such an enjoyable event, especially the cooks in the kitchen, the servers of the food and the toast, tea and coffee makers.

Yew Tree Farm sausages were a real treat!!

It was lovely to see such a great crowd on a beautiful sunny morning all chatting together.

Many thanks also to the stall holders and raffle ticket sellers for their contribution which all helped to make a profit of about £500 for the Hall funds

Grace Griffin

SCARECROWS IN KENN

At the Kenn and Kingston Kombine Event on Sunday 24th August we plan to have a

SCARECROW TRAIL
through the village.

We invite anyone, especially families, who would like to make a SCARECROW to join in and make a character of their choice – perhaps from Nursery Rhymes, T.V. Everyday etc. etc.

We will ask you to display them in gardens in Kenn Street and Duck Lane, the Village Hall, on the Village Green and the Churchyard etc for people to see and enjoy on the Scarecrow Trail.

(This will coincide with the Sponsored Walk for Macmillan Cancer Research, which will start from 2.00pm on that day)

If you think you may be interested please let me know so that we can include you in the publicity.

If you, your children or your grandchildren would like to make a Scarecrow but are not on the Sponsored Walk Route then please bring them along to Chaseside where they can be displayed.

Grace Griffin 01275 872948

(I have photographs if you would like some ideas)

FAIR TRADE AT VILLAGE MARKET

We hope to run our first Fair Trade stall at the next Market on July 12th. If you would like to donate an item of Fair Trade produce to help with this worthy venture we would be most grateful. Profits from this stall would be given to different charities each month.

If you would like to contribute could you please drop your donation in to either Grace Griffin, Joyce Down or Hazel Limage, whichever location suits you best.

If you prefer to bring something to the market on the day that will fine.

If you attend the village lunch we will be pleased to collect from there.

Many thanks in anticipation!!!

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Kenn Village Hall – A Film Set - Winter's End

With the recent hot weather blessing the summer months, a local film crew took over the Kenn village hall to shoot a short film for ITV West...set at Christmas!

Portishead film-maker Paul Dudbridge and Bristol producer Anna Charlett from Hanover Pictures are making a film titled "Winter's End" which tells the story of a young war widow helping out at the village party on Christmas Eve, despite struggling with the loss of her husband. Then a mysterious old man comes in from the snow...

Yes, snow!

Special Effect snow was placed on the patio, grass and even on the roof of the Hall and the crew had to wait until it was dark at gone 10pm to film the outdoor scenes.

Over 50 extras of all ages, trained dancers and a live band gathered from across the Bristol area to play the partying villagers, all with costumes, hair and makeup from 1945. The production designers did a superb job hiding the few modern touches in the Hall and decorating for the party complete with Union Jacks and a real Christmas tree - no mean feat to source in June!

Paul and Anna looked at a few other halls in the area but found Kenn to be perfect in so many ways - practically untouched and great for filming both visually and practically.

Paul says "It really was the perfect location for us, in look and access, even our sound man was chuffed about the quiet neighbourhood!"

The Fenwicks and The Balls were invaluable hosts and Anna notes how much harder her job in organising the film set would have been without them; "From opening gates, to moving horses, to plastic chairs and keys to everything!"

We felt so welcome and so supported by the Village, we were only sorry to have stolen the Clean-Up BBQ venue this year, despite John assuring me it was a good excuse for him to tidy up his own garden!!"

The film will play as part of "[The Seasonal Short Film Showcase](#)" along with Paul's 2005 film "The Christmas Eve Snowfall". The TV show is set for broadcast 11.30pm Christmas Day 2008 on ITV West. For more updates and pictures visit Paul's website: www.hanoverpictures.co.uk.

Thanks for having us!

Anna & Paul

Tickets for the Pied Piper of Hamelin

The Summer Singers concert will be on Saturday, 19th July, 2008, in Kenn Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Tickets are now available from Margaret Cook at West Haven 01275 870275, and from Liz Jaehme at Carpenters Farm 07703 163590. £7.50 for adults, £5.00 for children under 16.

Tickets are selling quickly, so please don't leave it too late and be disappointed!

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KENN AND KINGSTON KOMBINE **24th AUGUST 2008**

This year's big fund raising event will be a sponsored walk on behalf of

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT.

This is a charity very close to a lot of people's hearts, as many families have been touched by cancer.

The selfless Macmillan nurses provide support and help to everyone in need.

Our main fund raising sponsored walk will be called a:

'MACMILLION THOUGHTS'

which you can have as you waddle, toddle, hobble or amble from Duck Lane to the Church and back to where you can join in the rest of the activities..... Chaseside (admiring all the Scarecrows as you go)

CHASESIDE

Spend the rest of the afternoon indulging in Cream Teas, BBQ, homemade cakes and jams, view the biggest array of classic Rolls Royce's ever assembled in Kenn, enjoy the various side shows, participate in the outdoor games and if you are feeling strong have a go at the Grand Tug of War.

Watch the various craft activities and generally socialise with your neighbours from both Kenn and Kingston.

The profits from this part of the day will be split between the Church and Macmillan Cancer Care.

'MACMILLION THOUGHTS'

Sponsorship forms from:

Robin & Marianna 340323

John & Grace 872948

Margaret & John 874077

Simon & Jenny 878451

Sue Thomas 01934 833593

Anita Simmons 01934 838864

Jackie Wright 01934 833134

Persuade your sponsors to tick the gift aid box – let's get something back from the government!

Kenn Parish Plan update – June

Thanks to all who completed the questionnaire sent out with the last Kenn News and Views and thanks to Margaret for making the distribution possible.

Most questionnaires have been collected but if you still have yours it would be appreciated if you could put it through one of our letterboxes (see below) or phone me on 01275 349674 to arrange collection.

Letterboxes:

- Downscote, Duck Lane
- Chapel Cottage, Kenn St
- Church Path Cottage.

We will now start the task of analyzing the responses to include the results in the Parish Plan.

Those that attended the Brunch at the end of May had the opportunity to choose a priority issue for the Parish Plan. The results were:

- Road Safety 49%
- Facilities for young people 22%
- Recycling 9%
- Litter 9%
- Building development 7%
- Communications 4%
- Utilities 0%
- Facilities for seniors 0%

As a result we will be consulting our Police Beat Manager – P.C. Phil Kinsella to determine the options available to Kenn for improving road safety. We hope to put these before you in August prior to agreeing subsequent action. Watch this space.

Facilities for young people are also high up the agenda and we are very keen for some young volunteers to join us in determining what might be possible. Incidentally it is hoped that the Sunday Club will be able to undertake a nature survey that we can include in the plan.

Finally can I remind you that if you have anything you would like us to consider for the Parish Plan you can:

- Send an email to plan@kenn-village.co.uk
- Phone me on 01275 349674
- Put a note through one of our letterboxes
- Join us as a volunteer.

Robert Down

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PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

Mr Paul Smart and P.C. Phil Kinsella attended the last meeting of the Parish Council along with several members of the public and a very useful and informal discussion took place. The items covered were many and varied and included Davis Lane, The Hand Equestrian Centre, traffic calming in Kenn Street and Neighbourhood Watch.

There are concerns about the road camber in Davis Lane but Mr. Smart said there were no funds available to rectify it and that the bend in question was perfectly safe if approached at a proper speed. An informal approach is to be made to The Hand suggesting that, in the literature for participants at the events, horse boxes should arrive from one direction and leave by another to avoid big vehicles trying to pass in narrow lanes.

P.C. Kinsella is trying to set up a Community Speedwatch Scheme which would be operated by volunteers. There are several places in Kenn where this could be useful. He would not ask people to volunteer in their own communities for obvious reasons.

There were warnings of burglaries and suspicious vehicles in the area. It is helpful if registration numbers are taken if anything that does not seem quite right is noticed.

The village clean-up has been held very successfully. Judging began in the middle of June. Most of the

litter is imported, but please pick it up and dispose of it if you can any that you can get at safely. The village does look lovely when it is all neat and tidy.

The next meeting will take place on 4th August at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. All parishioners are welcome.

OUR FLAG

7th June for the wedding at St. John's, Kenn of Joanne Louise Penzer and Peter Roger Davis.

11th June to celebrate the birth of Thomas Finlay Hibbs who was born on the 10th June at Southmead Hospital to Clare and Matt, a second grandson for Brian and Juliet Stowell, and a baby brother for Sam.

21st June to mark Tom Bye's 21st Birthday.

22nd June for The Christening of Jemima Annabel Hatcher Wilkins at St. John's Kenn

25th June at half-mast to mark the death on the 24th of June of Mrs. Jean Withers at Tiverton (formerly of Moorside Farm, Kenn) and again at half-mast on the 30th June for her funeral service at St. John's.

Congratulations to golfer Robin Mackay who at the age of 60 has just achieved his first HOLE IN ONE!

Is he unique in Kenn – let us know!!

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Phil Kinsella PC 747

At the request of some village residents, I have been asked to contribute to your village magazine with information that may be of interest/concern to you.

Firstly, allow me to introduce myself. I am PC 747 Phil KINSELLA and I am Andy Bibbings' replacement who is now at the Airport.

My Policing career started as a Special Constable where I was based in Bridgwater and Burnham on Sea for about 3 years, before joining in January 2001, where my time has since been served in the Northern Policing area of North Somerset. My previous post, was as one of two Clevedon Town Beat Managers for three years.

I have been here since November 07 and I am responsible for Kenn, Kingston Seymour, Cleeve, Claverham and Yatton.

I have had the opportunity to meet some of you in person, have been to Parish Councils meetings and will continue to work in conjunction with them wherever possible.

I would welcome your views on Policing matters within your Village and I am contactable on 0845 4567000 or e-mail ssnclevedon@avonandsomerset.police.uk

Unfortunately, I also need to advise you all that there has been an increase in dwelling burglaries within the immediate area. These offences have occurred at all times

of day/night, and primarily on unoccupied properties.

Please can I ask you all to remain vigilant and report anything you deem suspicious.

If vehicles are involved then the number plate and direction of travel are always key information for example. Description of people involved is also very important along with how many of them there are.

If you can see the offence happening, or it has just happened within the last few minutes, then the use of 999 is justified and recommended.

In addition, should anyone require crime prevention advice or general information on Neighbourhood Watch, Smartwater, Speedwatch or any other Police matter then feel free to contact myself, or the local PCSO's Kate Turner and Andy Gatenby, on the contact details above.

Summer Walk

The next Summer Walk has been planned for Monday 14th July, meeting at Cloverlea, Kenn Street at 7pm. We hope to revisit Castle Farm, Walton St. Mary to see this year's crop of young foals.

Walkers of all ages are invited to join in. New walkers are especially welcomed. If it is a clear evening there is spectacular scenery from this part of the coast.

Ray Naish

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Kenn Women's Institute

On a lovely June evening Mr and Mrs Shaw came to tell us about the Kennett and Avon Canal. Beautifully illustrated with slides, the talk was interesting and informative. Mr. Shaw was a mine of information on the history of the canal and all the trade and people associated with it over the years. We also heard about its reinstatement after falling into disuse for a long period. We look forward to taking a trip on his long boat next year.

The talk for July also has a local theme. Mr. Freke is to speak on the chocolate makers J.S. Fry & Sons. The competition is for a chocolate recipe.

Also in the calendar for members is a mystery tour with supper on 13th August and on Saturday 16th August the W.I. will hostess the Coffee Morning in the Village Hall in aid of our hospital.

Kenn provided the delegate for the Annual General Meeting, which this year was held in Liverpool.

The meeting took place in the brand new Echo Arena, which is on the dockside and has been built as part of the Year of Culture. It is a huge building aptly shaped like a ship.

The resolutions had mixed fortunes. The one asking the Government to provide specialist treatment outside the prison environment for the seriously mentally ill was passed with a resounding 97% majority.

The other seeking to ban bottom trawling for fish was lost as it was not entirely clear what the resolution was seeking to achieve.

Also on the agenda were some very good speakers. One was seeking our help in encouraging girls to take up science at school and university because, contrary to popular belief, girls are really very good at it.

Another was speaking about the development of the brain and the need for the stimulation of relationships, reading and other activities to encourage the development of personality and intellect, which makes every person unique.

The last speaker Sandi Toksvig was just plain funny.

It was a most interesting day and I would encourage everyone to go if they are offered the opportunity.

Ann Holtham

Copy for Kenn News & Views to
Chaseside please

Tel. 01275 874077

Fax 01275 342050 Email

Margaret.john@btinternet.com

Or to Ray at Cloverlea.

Kenn Street.

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**Yew Tree Farm Hot Dogs for
workers!**

Dates For Your Diary

Drum and Monkey

Tuesday 1st July

Village Lunch from 12.noon

Everyone Welcome.

**Mondays 7th and 21st July - Recycling
Mondays 14th and 28th - Green Waste**

Kenn Village Hall

Wednesday 9th July

Kenn W.I. 7.30 p.m.

Mr. Freke will talk on the
Chocolate makers J. S. Fry & Son
Non-members always welcome.

Kenn Village Hall

**Saturday 12th July 10am – noon
VILLAGE MARKET**

Monday 14th July 7.00 pm

Meet at Cloverlea, Kenn Street
for a summer evening walk at
Castle Farm, Walton St. Mary

Clevedon Salerooms

**Victorian and Later Furniture and
Effects –
10.00 Thursdays 17th /31st July**

Kenn Village Hall

Saturday 19th July

9.00 am

'PAINTING PARTY'

**Come along and help smarten
up the patio side of the Hall!**

The New Church Room

Saturday 19th July

COFFEE MORNING

10.00-12noon

your hostess – Julia Bush

Pied Piper of Hamelin

Kenn Village Hall

Saturday 19th July 7.30pm

Summer Singers with

Richard Baker

Tickets: Margaret Cook 870275

Liz Jaehme 07703 163590.

£7.50 for adults, £5.00 (under 16.)

PIPE DREAMS

Rhodyate Lodge, Congresbury

Sunday 20th July from 2.30pm

In aid of a Bore Hole in

Chumaka, Kabwe, Zambia

Everyone welcome – B.B.Q.

Cream Teas, Refreshments

Swimming, Live Band,

Train Rides and much more

ADVANCE DATES

Garden Party and Fundraising

CHANGE OF VENUE

Now

KENN VILLAGE HALL

Saturday 2nd August 2008

at 3.00 pm

Monday 4th August 7.30 pm

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Kenn Parish Council Meeting
Kenn Village Hall

Kenn and Kingston Combine
Scarecrow Trail/Sponsored Walk
"MACMILLION THOUGHTS"
24th August - Bank Holiday Sunday
Chaseside, Kenn Street, Kenn
Cream Teas - Barbeque
Tug of War
Classic Cars and much more

14th September- Harvest Supper

Kenn Village Hall following
Harvest Evensong
Tickets available soon
From Jenny Pascoe and
Marianna Mackay

29th September.
Marianna's Fashion show,
With LOTS of fantastic
clothing bargains, returns to
Kenn Village Hall.
Better start saving!

Tickets - Marianna Mackay 340323

What's on at the Drum?

Tuesday 1st July - 12 noon
Village Lunch - All welcome

Monday Evenings
Buffets from around the world

Every Wednesday Evening
9 - late The Drum Quiz
with Raffle

Don't forget!
You can still pick up your

*North Somerset Times and Clevedon
Mercury at The Drum and Monkey
Times Thursday - Mercury Friday*

MAY COFFEE MORNING

Our May coffee morning started really well. Our Flapjacks looked like flapjacks, the car was packed with tea, coffee, sugar, squash, biscuits, and even a few raffle prizes.

We arrived early enough to set down a few chairs for people to sit on and put the kettle on in anticipation of an early visitor. Our first order for 2 coffees with MILK!!!! How could I forget to pack the milk? After all it's only a Coffee Morning! We didn't have to worry though as clearly no one was in a rush to leave.

We thoroughly enjoyed doing the Coffee Morning. With so many offers for help with the Raffle, washing up and tidying up, it seemed entirely effortless.

Eloise, Olivia, Lily Fowler and myself were dressed in our jogging gear ready to do our 5 kilometres for the 'Race for Life' Event in Bristol. I chatted with neighbours feeling quite confident that I would be able to keep up with them, especially after a morning of caffeine.

At the beginning of the race we couldn't help noticing a group of young women dressed as pink fairies and every now and then they overtook us with a stampede of Indian noises. It didn't take us long to decide that our challenge was to beat the pink fairies to the finish line. Every time we heard the Indian noises we ran just that little bit faster. I am very proud to announce that we did beat them to the finish, but moreover I was amazed at how fast our younger ones can run. Next year I will need to take my jogging a bit more seriously if I am going to keep up with them at all. But then at the end of the day it is more to do with the fun we had that day.

So we would like to say a BIG thank you for everyone's support for our chosen charity. Cancer Research. We managed

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to raise £113.10 from the coffee morning alone.

Troy Gale

brood of young Swallows has been hatched in the old cowshed behind this bungalow, they have now left the nest.

Bird News I

So far this year seems to have been a pretty good breeding season for our local birds. The very wet and cool weather at Spring Bank Holiday caused some nest failures (including our garden Blue Tits) but in general the season is going well. There are lots of young birds along the Strawberry Line and in Littlewood with Treecreepers and Great Spotted Woodpeckers at the latter site.

Chip Granger called me to say there were Ravens around her garden and this is a species that is definitely on the increase.

Jill and I have been to mid-Wales for a few days. The farm where we stayed has a small colony of Sand Martins and Redstart, Nuthatch, Spotted Flycatcher, Grey Wagtail and common Sandpiper were all seen on the farm and adjoining river.

News from the peat moors is that after years of management work, Bitterns are now nesting at the R.S.P.B. Ham Well reserve. This is the first breeding (for many years at least) in that area; there are two pairs currently (22nd) feeding young. They can be seen in flight travelling from the nest area (in dense reeds) to a fishing spot and back again.

Trevor Riddle 01934 835208

Bird News II

Up until Mid-summers Day, I had been disappointed that I had seen so few young birds of all sorts. But since that time there has been a transformation; a

Young Green Woodpeckers are calling most days. One morning recently a large flock of young House Martins was flying around the buildings at Stonehouse Farm, also small flocks of noisy young Starlings have been feeding in the paddock nearby. Every day I see at least four Blackbirds feeding in the same area. Every morning I feed a flock of about a dozen House Sparrows on a table on our lawn. Young Carrion Crows have been hatched in the large pine tree on the lawn at Stonehouse Farm.

June 25th Jeff Naish has just reported that, like me he had seen very few young birds this spring, but in the last week things have changed. Two broods of five young Swallows in each nest around his house have been hatched, also several broods of young Blue Tits and Long Tailed Tits are now in the bushes in Cooks Lane. A pheasant is walking around Castle Farm with four chicks.

Ray Naish

A visit to Wemberham June 08

Ray's walk on 9th June was across an area of land known as Wemberham to Phipp's Bridge. The bridge is the meeting point of three parishes – Kingston Seymour, Yatton and Hewish. Ray told us that for hundreds of years the area has been noted for its rich grazing and that in former times the grass for the year was always sold at auction.

Amazingly the land here has only been sold four times as far as records show. At one time it formed part of the Smyth-Piggott estate that stretched

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from Weston-s-Mare to Brockley. This estate is believed to have originated in Norman times and was eventually broken up and the land sold in about 1918. Wemberham went to a company called Lance & Lance from Weston who had a large shopping concern. Their premises were destroyed during the 2nd World war and they never rebuilt the business. Subsequently it was sold at auction about twenty years ago and once since, both to local farmers.

After Ray's introduction we started the walk in a field called 1st Rambles continuing on into 2nd rambles. Ray pointed out how the river Yeo meandered in great loops across the landscape and how the banks had been raised to protect the land from flooding. Before the sluice at Phipp's bridge was installed the river here was tidal and navigable as far as Congresbury. Records talk of deliveries of material to Congresbury via the river including one of 250 tons of iron. I believe the last deliveries were around 1926.

I was particularly keen on this walk to see again the site of the Roman Villa in the field called Great Wemberham. So whilst the main body of walkers followed the river embankments some of us sought out the roman site. This is quite extensive as evidenced by the obvious ground works and at one point the remains of a wall are visible.

Discovered in 1884 whilst laying drainage the villa was partially excavated to the extent of about 65ft x 150ft. Of the 14 rooms uncovered, 5 had mosaic floors but 3 were badly damaged. Evidence of a stairway was found suggesting that at least part of the Villa had a second storey. Hypocausts were found in both the bath block and elsewhere. There was also evidence of a small dock.

One room had more than half the floor intact that allowed R C Meade to make drawings in 1885. The design for this mosaic appears to be based on local nature subjects with four large Oak leaves as the central subject surrounded by patterns based on leaves, mushrooms and berries. Worm like creatures (Eels?) are entwined around the outer edge. Unfortunately an internet site that described the mosaic is now no longer available.

Apparently this villa is far more significant than others found in the locality and being right in the centre of the North Somerset levels there is considerable speculation that the origin of the flood embankments is associated with it. Based on coinage found it appears to have been in use between 250 – 360 A.D.

In 1828 in the same field a stone coffin containing human remains was found.

Leaving the villa behind we rejoined the main group arriving at Phipp's Bridge. The sluice here was constructed in the 1950's to control tidal flooding and maintain water levels in the river Yeo.

Whilst at the bridge Ray pointed out the route of the public footpath that at one time was passable from Clevedon to Weston-s-Mare. We spent some time at the bridge examining the sluice mechanism and in general discussion about the locality before tracing our route back along the river to our start.

After another splendid and interesting walk, enlivened by Ray's many stories about the locality and past characters it was time to depart but not without first thanking Ray for arranging the visit.

Ray has planned the next walk for the 2nd Monday in July to visit Geoff's

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special horses at Castle Farm, Clevedon where we hope to see many foals.

Robert Down

Farming in Kenn in the early 1930's

I have just realised that there are only two people left living in Kenn who can vividly remember how farming was carried out in the early 1930's, they are Roland Hazell and myself.

I am writing about how farming was carried on in the winter-time in those days.

As I have written before, most farmers in those days milked cows as the chief source of income.

In the winter-time, all milking cows were kept tied in cowsheds permanently. They were tied in pairs by chains around the neck.

In those days there was no piped water supply in the village. One or two farmers had stationary engines, which they used to pump water from wells into overhead tanks which was gravity fed into drinking bowls where the cows were tied. All the other farmers had to untie all their cows twice daily and let them out to drink from ponds and ditches.

This was in most cases a very unsatisfactory way of providing cows with drinking water because generally the drains ran into these same ponds and ditches. The cows had to drink it or die of thirst. Is it any wonder that disease was rife in cattle in those days?

All cows were fed chiefly on a diet of hay and mangolds, which were a type of large beetroot, which grew in two colours red and yellow.

Of course, all hay was stored loose in hay sheds. This was twenty years

before any balers were used. The hay was cut out of the hay sheds in chunks called flaps, which were about three feet deep by using a large blade called a hay-knife which had a T handle. These flaps were carried on workers' heads into the cowsheds.

The mangolds were ground down into large slices by a machine called a mangold pulper, which was turned by hand. It was fed to the cows in their mangers carried there in large baskets.

At that time, there was no electricity in Kenn, so farmers and their workers had to carry lanterns around with them during the hours of darkness to be able to see to milk and feed the cows and clear out the manure.

Very little field work was carried out in winter-time, except when it was a time of hard frost, then some manure was carted out into the fields when they were frozen over. This was done by a horse and putt. A putt was a very strongly built cart that held about three quarters of a ton of manure, which was pulled out into small heaps in the fields, eight heaps to the load. This was later spread by workers using what was called dung forks.

Cows in winter-time produced very little milk, about two gallons a day each was around the average. How farmers made a living in those days is a mystery.

Ray Naish

Margaret's Mutterings

Kenn Village Hall

The paintwork at the rear of the Hall is in need of attention so a

PAINTING PARTY is planned for Saturday 19th July meeting at 9.00am - Workers Welcome!

KENN NEWS & VIEWS

Caroline has promised to cook 'Yew Tree Farm Hot Dogs'

SERVICES FOR JULY 2008

1st Sunday 6th July

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

8am Holy Communion Kenn

8am Holy Communion Claverham

9.30am Parish Communion Yatton

9.30am Holy Communion Cleeve

11am Family Service

Kingston Seymour

6pm Evensong Yatton

2nd Sunday 13th July

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

YATTON PATRONAL FESTIVAL

8am Holy Communion Yatton

9.30am Holy Communion Claverham

9.30am Patronal Communion Yatton

11am Open Air Pet Service Cleeve

11am Holy Communion Kenn

6pm Evensong Kingston Seymour

3rd Sunday 20th July

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

8am Holy Communion Claverham

9.30am Parish Communion Yatton

9.30am Holy Communion Cleeve

11am Holy Communion

Kingston Seymour

2.30pm Holy Baptism Yatton

6pm Evensong Kenn

6pm Ecumenical Songs of Praise

Claverham Village Hall Grounds

6pm Evening Worship following Pipe

Dreams afternoon at the Densham's.

*3rd Wednesday in month 16th July
11.00am Holy Communion at Kenn*

THE PARISH OF YATTON MOOR

4th Sunday 27th July

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

8am Holy Communion Yatton

8am Holy Communion

Kingston Seymour

9.30am Parish Communion Yatton

9.30am Holy Communion Cleeve

11am Family Service Kenn

6pm Evensong Yatton

HOLY DAYS IN JULY:

3rd Thomas the Apostle

7.30pm. Holy Communion Yatton

22nd Mary Magdalene

8.30am Holy Communion Yatton

25th Eve of James the Apostle

7.30pm Holy Communion Yatton

AUGUST SERVICE

1st Sunday 3rd August

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

8am Holy Communion Kenn

8am Holy Communion Claverham

9.30am Parish Communion Yatton

9.30am Holy Communion Cleeve

11am Family Service Kingston

Seymour

6pm Evensong Yatton