

KENN NEWS & VIEWS

Birthdays and Anniversaries

June 1 - Simon Pascoe
- Tyler Silvester
3 - Joshua Middleton
5 - David Porch
- Margaret & Brian Cook W.A.
9 - Lois Webb
10 - Thomas Finlay Hibbs
11 - Naomi Brain
Wendy Papasolomontos
13 - Lynn Bye
- Bradley Harris
18 - Ian Pascoe
21 - Tom Bye
Heather Brain
Dave Pugh
23 - Robin Mackay
27 - Pip Jenkins
28 - Liz & Martin Jaehme W.A.

St. John the Evangelist, Kenn

St. John's Altar Guild

Please note that Marianna Mackay has kindly agreed to be our Altar Guild Secretary – call her on 340323 to offer your help.

June Rota

The volunteers for this month are Wendy Papasolomontos, Jan Bedford, Lise Willcox and Kate Hatcher.

We are always looking for new volunteers, so if you are able to give a couple of hours a week for one month of the year it would be greatly appreciated.

Marianna

Churchyard Spring Clean-up

The evening of **Wednesday 11th June** has been selected and everyone is invited to come along and help prepare the Churchyard for the Best Kept Village Competition. Meet from 6.00 – bring your own tools and invite a friend or neighbour.

May Family Service at St John's.

On a characteristically grey and blustery Bank Holiday Sunday, the congregation of St John's started the May Family Service with news of old friends and new arrivals.

We were also glad to see Eileen Andrews (John's mother) and Bethany (Stowell) and her family swelling the numbers.

Celia's talk referred to the reading for the day 'Turn the other cheek, go the extra mile' and entailed hapless folk being asked unusual favours, most of which they, quite reasonably, refused!

After the service there was a lot of 'catch up' chatting over drinks and biscuits.

Julia Bush

Church Tower Floodlighting

3rd May – to celebrate Chloe Hayzen's 4th birthday

14th May – In memory of Sam Staples following his funeral.

18th May – in thanks for Ray Naish's 30 years as Churchwarden

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A Celebration.

After Evensong on 18th May, a slightly larger than usual congregation, trickled down to the Church Room, to celebrate Ray Naish's thirty (yes 30!) years as Church Warden at St John's.

Rev Ian Hubbard thanked Ray for all he had done for the church and its people. Ian then thanked Jean for the years of devotion she had shown through her work on the Altar Guild.

Ray was given a montage of photographs, spanning his life in the church, composed by Robert Downs, and given by Ray's friends from all over the Yatton Moor Team.

Surplus funds were sent to Water Aid, one of Ray's favourite charities. Jean was presented with a basket of flowers.

As is typical in Kenn, things were really humming at 7.45....by five past eight, everything was cleared up and we were on our way home.

Julia Bush

PS Ray is going to continue with some of his 'jobs' and will retain his key if you need access to the church. He also will remain the fount of (almost) all village knowledge!

Julia Bush

Kenn Sunday Club

A TRINITY Party at Kenn Sunday Club celebrated the Christian festival in style. Caroline and Julia had previously introduced the Trinity theme of Three in One to the youngsters and the decorations they made turned the New Room into a riot of three colours – green gold and silver.

Each brought three foods to the party for everyone to enjoy and then the fun and games began.

Sunday Club is held at the New Room on the first and third Sunday of each month from 9.30am and all young people are welcome to go along.

The Sunday Club banner which some of them helped to make, is paraded each Family Service on the fourth Sunday of each month in St. John's Church at 11am.

Celia Andrews

Christian Aid Week

To date, just over £520 has been collected in the village of Kenn for Christian Aid Week. THANKYOU.

If your collector called while you were out, please put your envelope through Ray's letter box. Thank you, thank you, thank you to John Croxton, Marianna Mackay, Margaret Ball, Lise Wilcox and especially Jo Batten, who rescued me when I was feeling rotten and took over delivering envelopes, a real Good Samaritan.

Julia Bush.

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THANKS

Jean and I would like to thank the very kind people who arranged a party in the New Room by the Church after Evensong on 18th May.

We were very pleased that so many people attended. About 60 people of all ages were at the service and at the party afterwards.

This party was arranged because we have retired from much of our Church work. Jean has retired from being Secretary of the Altar Guild, a position she has held for many years. Up until last year she was also Sacristan, arranging the altar for services and looking after the altar linen. She would like to retain her position as Treasurer of the Altar Guild. She has had wonderful support over the years from many ladies and some gents who have cleaned the church and arranged the flowers week by week and decorated for festivals.

Many visitors comment on how beautifully clean and tidy the church is always kept.

I have retired from being Churchwarden, after holding this position for thirty years.

My fellow churchwardens over most of this time Renee Bell for eighteen years and Julia Bush for the past eight years have been wonderful people to work with. No one could have had better

colleagues to share this position with. Many thanks to them.

I have also had great support from Margaret Ball and John Griffin who have been deputy wardens for a large part of this time. Also the late Sam Dyer who was a colleague for a short time.

Now I am no longer a Churchwarden, I am no longer a member of the Parochial Church Council, a position it has been my privilege to hold for around fifty-five years continuously. I was first elected to the P.C.C. when the Reverend Basil Jomini Langham was Vicar of Kenn around 1953.

I am greatly indebted to the people of Kenn who have put their trust in me over all these years and elected me so many times. At the retirement party we were given lovely presents. Jean was presented with a beautiful bouquet of flowers and I was presented with a wonderful collage of photographs which had been taken at different stages of my life, from a few weeks old to the present time. I am very grateful to Robert Down for putting this together.

Once again, many thanks to the kind people who arranged this party for us and to those who attended the Church service and Party afterwards.

Ray and Jean Naish

Don't forget! You can still pick up your
North Somerset Times and Clevedon
Mercury at The Drum and Monkey
Times Thursday - Mercury Friday

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Our Flag

3rd May, Our flag flew at half-mast to mark the death of Sam Staples and again on 14th May for his funeral

31st May our flag flew in celebration of the Golden Wedding of Bob and Ruth Gale.

31st May our flag flew to celebrate the wedding of Claire Edwards and Steven Rogers at St. John's Church.

Kenn Parish Plan update

In this issue of Kenn News & Views you will find a short questionnaire. If you live in the Parish, please take the time to complete it, as it will provide some basic up-to-date information about our village that we can incorporate in the Parish Plan. An envelope is provided for the completed form and these will be collected by one of our volunteers in the next few days. If we should miss you, please phone me (01275 349674) and I will arrange collection.

If you are attending the "Brunch" on 31 May look out for the Parish Plan corner where you will get the opportunity to help identify the priority issues that we should be addressing via the Parish Plan. Don't miss this opportunity of making your views known.

Robert Down.

Summer Walk

It is hoped to have another Summer Walk on Monday 9th June meeting at 7 pm at Cloverlea, Kenn Street. Walkers old and new are welcome to join in

On our first walk in May we were delighted to meet Mark Caney from Latcham House also John and Sue who have recently moved into Wimberidge in Kenn Street, which they have bought from Maurice Ford who also joined the walkers. Maurice is now living close to his son in Portishead but still visits us regularly.

Ray Naish

Village Clean-Up 7th June Meet at Chaseside

The annual village clean up will be held on 7th June. We will meet at John and Margaret's to be allocated jobs and issued with our florescent jackets, black bin bags and grabbers.

If you are unable to come on this day, please pick up any rubbish you see outside your homes.

As always there is a free barbeque for all volunteers.

Robin Mackay

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Parish Council Notes

Paul Smart from the Streets and Open Spaces Department of North Somerset Council with P.C. Phil Kinsella, our local Community Police Officer will both be at the Parish Council Meeting, which will take place on Monday 2nd June in the Village Hall at 7.30pm. There are several matters that are of interest to the village that both of them using their particular expertise can help with.

Do come along and talk to them if there is something that you think they could help you with.

On Saturday 7th June there will be the big Village Clean-Up ready for the judging of the Village of the Year Competition.

If you have an hour of so to spare and it is a lovely morning do come along and join in the fun.

All members of the village are welcome to attend Parish Council meetings and there is an opportunity to speak and ask questions if there is anything you need help with. Parish Councillors look forward to seeing you there.

Ann Holtham.

Christian Aid Coffee Morning

The Coffee Morning in Kenn New Room on 21st June from 10am to noon will raise money for Christian Aid.

There will be a cake stall and on show will be the cards sent to thank people for the Present Aid gifts their contributions bought at the last Christian Aid Coffee Morning

Celia Andrews

Baptism at Kenn -18th May

Carys Georgine Lewis of Canters Cottage, Kenn Street, daughter of Anita and Tris and sister of Ewart and Morgan was baptised at St. John's, Kenn by Prebendary John Andrews on Sunday 18th May.

KENN VILLAGE MARKET

The first monthly market to be held in the Village Hall will be on Saturday June 14th from 10 am till noon.

Please come along and support this new venture. Admission is free and refreshments will be available. There will be a wide variety of products for sale.

Joyce Down

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Dates for your Diary

DRUM AND MONKEY

**Every Wednesday
Quiz Night**

Kenn Village Hall

Monday 2nd June 7.30 pm
Kenn Parish Council Meeting
– everyone welcome

Drum and Monkey

**Tuesday 3rd June
12.noon Village Lunch
Everyone Welcome**

**Mondays 9th and 23rd June
At Your Garden Gate – Recycling – don't
forget to put out your Green Box with
bottles, paper and cans!**

**Mondays 2nd, 16th and 30th June
Green Waste**

SATURDAY 7TH JUNE – 10.00am
Meet at Chaseside, Kenn Street
(opposite Village Hall)
to get your bags and grabbers for the
VILLAGE CLEAN UP
followed by a barbecue

EVERYONE WELCOME

Cloverlea, Kenn Street

Monday 9th June 7.00 pm,
Meet at Cloverlea, Kenn Street for
a "Summers Evening Walk" with
Ray Naish.

St. John the Evangelist

Wednesday 11th June

Evening Working Party to prepare
our Churchyard for the
Best Kept Village Competition
Come along and help tidy your
family graves, or if you have none,
help someone else.
Bring your own tools
The Social Event of the Year

Kenn Village Hall

Wednesday 11th June 7.30 pm
Kenn Women's Institute
Mr Shaw will talk about
the Kennet and Avon Canal
Everyone welcome

Clevedon Salerooms

Thursday 12th June 10.30 a.m.
**Specialist Antique, Fine Art
and Collectors Items**

Thursday 12th June
7.30 pm at Chaseside
Kenn and Kingston Kombine
Meeting to discuss event
24th August 2008
come along with ideas

NEW CHURCH ROOM

Saturday 21st June
10.00 – 12 noon Coffee Morning
Proceeds to Christian Aid
Hosted by Celia Andrews

Clevedon Salerooms

26th June 10.00 am
Sales of Victorian and Later Furniture
and Effects

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A date for your diaries – the next Kenn Concert

ADVANCE DATES

Kenn Village Hall
7.30pm Saturday 19th July
Concert with Richard Baker
Tickets will be available from
Liz Jaehme and Margaret Cook

Garden Party and Fundraising
The Willows, Kenn
Saturday 2nd August 2008
at 3.00 pm

Kenn and Kingston Kombine
24th August – Bank Holiday Sunday
Chaseside, Kenn Street, Kenn
Cream Teas – Barbeque
Classic Cars and much more

14th September- Harvest Supper
Kenn Village Hall following
Harvest Evensong
Tickets will be available
From Jenny Pascoe and
Marianna Mackay

29th September.
Marianna's Fashion show,

full of fantastic clothing
bargains, returns to the village
hall. Better start saving!

Tickets will be available from
Marianna Mackay

After cries of 'we want more' from the audience at the last Kenn Concert, the date has been set for the next concert to be held on Saturday 19th July, 2008, at Kenn Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm.

The Summer Singers will be entertaining us with another John Rutter operetta, this time it will be 'The Pied Piper of Hamelin'. Other items yet to be decided will be sung by the choir, and of course, there will be the audience sing-along to add to the fun.

Richard Baker will be accompanying the choir again, and if we talk very nicely to him I'm sure we can persuade him to enthral us again with some solo pieces. For those of you who attended Richard's concert at St Monica's Chapel recently, you will be delighted to know that discussions are currently taking place with the management company in London, and it's looking very likely that he will get a recording contract. Once details have been finalised I will let you know, as a great many people want Richard to become a recording artiste.

So, make a note in your diaries and join us for another wonderful evening's entertainment. Numbers are limited for tickets so if you would like to reserve tickets in advance please call either Margaret Cook on 870275 or Liz Jaehme on 343211. As soon as tickets are available for sale I will let you know.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Liz Jaehme

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Kenn Women's Institute

At the May meeting of the W.I. members were delighted to be able to congratulate Thelma Blake on the success of her prize bull, Thundercloud, at the North Somerset Show. His rosettes and photograph were on display. He is certainly a magnificent animal.

The speaker for the month, Jenny Lane, gave a recital of readings of poetry and prose grouped according to the seasons.

There were Christmas poems and excerpts from Charles Dickens and Laurie Lee's Cider with Rosie among many old favourites and some were new to us all. It was much enjoyed.

Members are going to be very active during the summer. A Mystery Tour is arranged for August and the W.I. will host the August Coffee Morning to raise funds for the League of Friends of the Cottage Hospital. There are also many county events, such as quizzes, talks and concerts on offer to which some members will go.

The Annual General Meeting will be held in Liverpool this year and members voted for the two resolutions. There are mixed feelings about the one calling for a ban on bottom trawling; as a complete ban on fishing with nets that scrape the bottom of the ocean with nets would be impractical and unenforceable. It is hoped that there will be amendments calling for zones of the sea which can be treated as marine reserves and be unavailable for fishing so that stocks can recover. The second one calling for specialist treatment for the mentally ill, instead of imprisonment as so often seems to happen was unanimously approved.

At the June meeting Mr. Shaw will give a talk on the Kennett and Avon can. All visitors are welcome.

The Jumble Sale raised £130 for funds. Our grateful thanks go to all who supported the event.

Theft

We were sad and angry to find our old chimney/flower pot had been taken from outside our front door on the night of 27th April.

Has anyone else had things stolen?
Please be warned so it doesn't happen to you!

Colin and Jan Bedford
Great Thornworth

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Tribute to Gramp

As Gramp would say:

*"Cold as an iceberg, gloomy and glum -
cold as the snow on a polar bears bum!"*

*"Thunder roared the lightning flashed -
and all the earth was shakin'
The little pig turned up his tail -
and ran to save his bacon!"*

*"The mist on the moor –
brings the sun to the door!"*

Yes, Gramp certainly had his own special way
of describing the weather to us grandchildren!

93 years of age - a loving father to six,
a Grandfather to six
and Great-grandfather to nine
I think that deserves a round of applause!

I'm sure I speak on behalf of all of us
grandchildren....

From the earliest age I can remember,
he taught us about the country, its wildlife,
and how we should respect 'God's land'.

To this very day,
I still don't know **how** he ever found time for us,
but he always did!
Between feeding ducks, hens, geese, and pigs;
Digging, washing, and packing produce for the
markets;
Seeing to the fires, tending the orchard;
and in later life, tending to my sick grandmother,
Irene, his loving wife of 48 years!

He taught us how to tell the time -
but not with a watch!
It was by the sun! - or so he told us!
He said **he** didn't need a watch,
he got up with the sun!
He'd say:-
"An hour in the morning's worth two at night" .

Time after time, I tried to arrive at the farm,
and catch him in bed!
But I was always greeted with:
"Huh, half the day's gone already!"

He taught us how to pick up cider apples,
in the depths of winter,
When complaining of 'cold hands',
he'd tell us to do as he'd been told:
*"Beat them up against the wall for a while,
like your great, great, grandfather told me"*.
I still don't know whether he was serious or not!!

He taught us how to make cider, set cider,
wrack cider, sweeten cider,
pour cider, sell cider, and finally,
I guess he was responsible,
for teaching us all to drink cider!
He'd never miss an opportunity to pass the cider mug
"around with the sun"!! (that's clockwise for those
who don't come from Kenn.)

He taught us how to trap rats, mink, moles, squirrels,
rabbits, foxes, and finally, net eels in the "black
ditch".
Many a dark night,
we travelled down the moor, to retrieve his
catch, in his old car, with a few dogs,
and only the moonlight to see by.

Most of the time,
I couldn't see my hand in front of my face,
but his trusted foot would lead us out - and back!
Nobody knew that moor better than Sam Staples!

He taught us how to shoot – himself a life-long shot -
feeding the family through the hard times
of the Second World War, with fowl from the moor.
It's probably fair to say, that the 'flight-path' across
Riverside Farm will now be reopened! -
Every Crow, Magpie and Jay,
will have heaved a huge sigh of relief!

He taught us the basic principles of
'respect for your elders',
He taught us 'right from wrong',
He taught us 'to look after the pennies -
and the pounds would look after themselves!'
He taught us that 'life was for living'
and to enjoy every moment.

His glass was always half full
I could talk about this fantastic man for hours,
but I've said enough!
Sam Staples, may you 'Rest In Peace!' -
You will never, be forgotten!

Robert Bessant

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Harold (Sam) Staples

Sam has passed away, peacefully in his own home aged 93, after being confined to his bed for more than three years.

Born at "Cherry Tree Cottage", Moor Road, one of a family of six children, they suffered a great tragedy when their mother died when Sam was only nine years old.

After their mother's death, Sam and his sister Vonnie moved to Riverside Farm to live with their grandparents Mr and Mrs Jimmy Staples. Sam lived there for the rest of his life.

Sam has told me that with their grandparents they lived a very Spartan life. Grandfather liked them to get up very early in the morning to take his cows down into the moor after he had milked them. Another thing that stuck in Sam's memory was that grandfather always bought the fattest joint of beef he could find for Sunday lunch. Generally there was practically no lean in it. He could remember that when grandmother put the cooked joint on the table, it was just a big shimmering lump of fat. Afterwards they lived on cold fat meat for the rest of the week.

Sam attended Kenn School until he was eleven, then moving to The British School in Clevedon.

He married Irene Stevens of Clevedon just before the last war started. They had six children. Sam and Irene suffered another great tragedy when one of their sons Ronald was drowned in the river behind their house, when only two years old. Irene died about twenty-three years ago.

Apart from these tragedies, Sam had a wonderful life. He was self-employed

and his own boss from the time he was fourteen. His children have said that he never took orders from anyone. He did what few people have managed to do, he lived his life the way he wanted to do.

Sam was a market gardener, fruit grower and cider maker. All his life until decimalisation he ran a produce stall in Alexandra Road, Clevedon selling his home-grown produce. He was an absolute expert at living off the land. His knowledge of the moors around Kenn was without parallel, if you talked to him about the moors and mentioned a ditch or rhyne or a bend in a river, he knew exactly where you were talking about. He knew exactly where to find the earliest watercress, moon daisies, catkins and kingcups, all of which he picked and sold on his produce stall in Clevedon.

Sam was also an expert shot, in the winter-time he spent many hours of the night standing in the floodwater in the moors waiting for wild duck to fly in. He knew all the right places to stand and where the ducks were likely to prepare to land. Hartley his son recently told me that Sam and his retriever dogs often arrived home about eleven o'clock at night with a dozen or so ducks that he had shot. He sold these ducks on his produce stall in Clevedon. These ducks were in great demand during and after the war when there was meat rationing.

In the latter years of his life Sam had been wonderfully looked after by his family and carers. From very early in the morning till late at night they visited him at regular intervals, taking him food and making sure that he was comfortable in bed.

No family could have done more for a parent. People of this village should be, and are, very proud of them for their commitment.

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Sam's funeral was a wonderful occasion. The pallbearers, who were his grandsons and neighbours, carried his coffin from Riverside Farm down through his beloved orchard, out into Moor Road. It was then placed into the hearse until it got to the Old Chapel in Kenn Street. The pallbearers then carried him up to the church.

When the funeral cortege reached the church there were approximately one hundred and seventy people in the church and seated in the churchyard. Prebendary John Andrews conducted a very moving service assisted by readings and talks by Sam's grandchildren.

Sam was buried in his wife's grave in the churchyard nearby where many members of his family are interred. The organist for the funeral was Mary Holmes.

His large family consisted of five children, Hartley, Margaret, Phyllis, Kathleen and Robert, six grandchildren and many great grandchildren, also his last remaining sister Winnie to whom we extend our sincere sympathy.

With Sam's passing, Kenn has lost one of its oldest residents. It is the end of an era, we shall never see the likes of him again. We give thanks for his knowledge and expertise on living in the countryside.

Ray Naish

SAM STAPLES

The family of Sam would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the support you have given us with the loss of our dear father. Bless you all.

Phyllis Brown

Former Kenn resident Phyllis Brown nee Hollyman has passed away at her home in Yatton.

Phyllis was born at Cherry Tree Cottage, Moor Road, Kenn 81 years ago. She was the second of three daughters of Bert and Gladys Hollyman. She married Clifford Brown of Clevedon who passed away many years ago.

Phyllis attended Kenn School and Highdale School in Clevedon. Her eldest sister Betty died six years ago. Her youngest sister Margaret lives in Clevedon and still takes a great interest in what happens in Kenn.

Phyllis's daughter Carol lives at Kingston Seymour.

Ray Naish

Godfrey Revell

Godfrey Revell passed away on 17th May at his home in Huddersfield.

When he was a Kenn resident, he lived with his parents at Bow Cottage, Kenn. He attended Highdale School in Clevedon. When he was a schoolboy he was very friendly with Bob Ford of Kingston, also my brother-in-law David Sandy who has kept in touch with him all those years. Godfrey's father had one of the first cars in Kenn after the war. An Austin Seven, he later sold it to Jimmy Pople who lived in Kenn in those days.

Ray Naish

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What's on at The Drum!

Tuesday 3rd June from 12.00
Village Lunch - All Welcome

Quiz Night every Wednesday

BIRD NEWS I

Winds from the south-east during May brought a good number of unusual birds to the U.K. and we had our fair share locally.

Star of the show was a Black Kite watched by John Croxton on the 17th as it flew over Kenn Moor. It transpired that what was almost certainly the same bird had been seen over the County Ground at Taunton and at Burnham-on-Sea earlier in the day and a couple of days ago a Black Kite was reported from Priddy.

Second in line was a probable Golden Oriole heard, but not seen, in The Big Plantation on Kenn Moor, during the spell of warm southerly winds.

I had to go a bit further, to Shapwick Heath, to see a female Red Footed Falcon, one of about twenty that had arrived in England from Eastern Europe on the prolonged spell of easterly winds. This bird really does have red feet and is a sort of mixture of Kestrel and Hobby, both in appearance and hunting technique. It hawks insects like a Hobby, but also hovers, looking for voles like a Kestrel.

Yesterday (22nd) I heard my first Cuckoo locally along the sea wall near to the

River Yeo estuary. There have only been occasional reports in our area and the decline in number seems to be ongoing.

Not so with our migrant Warblers though. Despite some gloomy predictions, following last summer's wet weather, we have found record numbers of Reed Warblers (27) and Sedge Warblers (13). These figures relate to singing male birds and give an indication of the breeding population on the Yatton to Congresbury stretch of the Strawberry Line. Other regular warbler species seem to be present in good numbers and nearby local areas are reporting similarly.

We don't seem to have our Grasshopper Warbler this year, just a one day stayer and a bird on Kenn Moor has also moved on.

A pair of Stonechats is present on Kenn Moor, so we hope that they will breed this year.

Single Hobbies have been seen occasionally. Whilst undertaking a bird count at Littlewood, we enjoyed an amazing view of a Tawny Owl, looking straight at us about 20 yards away. An alarmed Blackbird and then some noisy Long Tailed Tits revealed his perch, otherwise we would have completely missed him.

Talking of Owls, the Barn and Little Owls are hopefully nesting along the Strawberry Line and the Kestrels seem more determined this year – but we have thought that before!

Trevor Riddle

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BIRD NEWS II

I can never remember a summer when so few Swallows are around the village, also I haven't seen any House Martins or Swifts or heard a Cuckoo.

Everywhere I go I see lots of Blackbirds, they seem to be on the increase.

We have got a nice little colony of House Sparrows around this bungalow, but no Blue Tits.

May 24th, I have just seen three Lapwing or Peewit chicks in Nailsea Moor. The first I have seen for years, also a Roe Buck nearby. The chicks were in a field of mowing grass, I hope it doesn't get cut until they have flown.

Ray Naish

More Bird News

A pair of Ravens has recently taken to visiting our garden. Not content with the seeds and other food strewn on the ground, they have taken to unhooking the hanging containers for fat-balls and peanuts and hurling them around in order to get at the contents.

We are currently being entertained by families of squabbling young Starlings and Blackbirds about a dozen chicks in all who are using the garden as a cross between a restaurant and an adventure playground.

The Martins' nests in the gable ends are in use for the third successive year, but this time one has been squatted by a pair of Blue Tits, who, judging by the noise, are raising a large family in it.

Ray Granger

Ray's Summer Walks

Ray's first walk of the summer covered familiar ground for some of the 23 who came, but was completely new to me.

A convoy of cars and 4x4s jounced up Accommodation Lane (so-named because the railway company built it to accommodate the farmers cut off from their fields by the Yatton-Clevedon spur line) to explore a succession of four fields on Kenn's western boundaries.

We went from Outer Acres, where late-lambing ewes skittered away from our arrival, through Inner Acres to the delightfully-named Nanny Bucks, where we stood under an oak tree and Ray showed us a photograph taken in that very spot nearly 70 years before.

He and other members of his family – this has been Naish land since the 1880s – were milking cows where they stood, rather than following the usual practice of bringing them in to milking sheds.

All the fields were hedged with mature trees decked out in the lovely fresh green leaves you only see in May-time, and the scent of may blossom cloyed the air. Blue damsel flies – the first I'd seen this year – flitted over the 'gripes', the channels dug to improve the drainage of these low-lying fields.

At the far side of Nanny Bucks, we crossed Russ Rhyne – the boundary between Kenn and Kingston Seymour – into a field that had been cut in two when the M5 was built in the 1970s, then used as a dumping ground for all the spoil (rocks, soil, equipment, even broken-down trucks) from the creation of the split-level section above the Gordano

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Valley. The ten-acre field, now standing three to four metres above its surroundings, has been reclaimed by nature over the past 30 years.

Its lush grass, spangled yellow with buttercups, tormentil and dandelions, was cropped by sheep and horses, which delicately nibbled around the odd bit of twisted metal still standing proud.

Ray remembered that one year the field had been covered with charlock – wild mustard – which can be poisonous to horses. Putting ewes on the field in spring made sure it was kept down to reasonable levels and had no chance to flower and spread.

On the way back, Margaret spotted an oak apple in one of the hedge trees. On closer inspection, the oak turned out to be festooned with these whitish galls, flushed with pink, a little larger than a golf-ball and soft to the touch. They are created when a gall wasp lays its eggs inside leaf buds. The larvae that hatch out produce chemicals that transform the appearance of the leaf as they grow.

Ray remembered that it was the custom, when he was a boy, to wear an oak apple or sprig of oak leaves to school on Oak Apple Day, 29 May. Failure to do so could result in you getting your bare legs thrashed with stinging nettles.

The way out along the continuation of Accommodation Lane into the misnamed Rust Lane offered one more surprise: the tree-lined, secluded pools alongside the road were dug out by the railway company to build the ramps leading to the bridge that takes the Lane over the line.

Ray Granger

The next walk will be on the second Monday in June. Meet at Cloverlea at 7 p.m.

Down on the Farm

As the old timers used to say when I was young “what a wonderful apple blowth we have this year”. Blowth is a very old Somerset word for blossom.

Our orchard behind Stonehouse Farm here in Kenn is a sight to behold.

People who have visited it are saying it is just like heaven down there; the quietness and the scent from the apple trees is out of this world.

I am pleased to be able to report that my nephew Ben Crossman has obtained and planted 15 young standard apple trees for me. Standard trees have a trunk length of at least six feet. These trees are of old varieties that have largely died out. They have taken root and are in bloom already.

These notes are being written in mid-May. The weather is wonderful with the temperatures in the 70's. A few farmers have already started silage making, getting the grass into store for next winter.

I hate that I may be described as a spoilsport, but by the time these notes are being read in early June, I hope we shall have had a considerable amount of rain. Long periods of dry weather at this time of the year are not

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good. It is the time of maximum growth, but this cannot happen without rain. The weather pattern at this time of the year affects all crops, right up to harvest time.

Reports are that such a large acreage of land has been planted with wheat during the past months, that barring accidents, there should be a record harvest. Wheat has become so expensive that it is being described as corn farmers' gold.

The prices being realised for cattle and sheep destined for the meat trade are reaching very high levels not seen for many years, and in some cases unheard of.

There is such a small amount of beef being imported into this country that the large supermarket buyers and meat wholesalers are having to come out into the live markets and compete with each other to obtain supplies.

What a difference to a few years ago when foot and mouth disease closed livestock markets. Farmers then were obliged to send all their meat animals directly to slaughter-houses.

Many, especially those governed by large supermarkets took advantage of this situation and paid the farmers who had produced these animals as little as possible. In the case of lambs these people were paying about one third of the prices they are having to pay for the same type of animals now.

Some farmers, especially those that farm in less favoured areas, who were obliged to sell at any price have never recovered from this dreadful treatment. Is it any wonder that young farmers in those areas are not prepared to stay there and be treated like this!

Ray Naish

Friends of Kenn Church Meeting 22nd May.

The AGM and Committee meeting were held in the Church Room – and it was unanimously agreed

“that the legacy from Jack Hanson should be released to Yatton Moor General Funds” to supply the finance for:

St. John's Kenn to spend £7,778 + VAT on the work outlined in the Whitechapel Bell Foundry's Quotation, plus a £1,000 contingency.

Yatton Moor P.C.C. will now apply for a faculty for the work on St. John's bell tower.

Lots of other things were discussed including Best Kept Village, Harvest Supper, Coffee Mornings etc. if you would like to know more then please ask a churchwarden, or even better come along next year.

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Future Happenings in Kenn

Harvest Supper

This years Harvest Supper will be held on Sunday 14th September at 7pm in the Village Hall.

All the usual components will be there; delicious roast dinner, with all the trimmings, and wonderfully tempting calorie filled puddings.

It is always a memorable evening, when a large part of the community come together to celebrate living in such a special village.

Tickets will be on sale from Marianna & Robin or Jenny & Simon after the beginning of July.

Fashion Show

Last years Fashion Show was such a success that Marianna has decided to invite the same people to return with their inexpensively priced but very fashionable clothes.

The same M/C Simon will be there to present a thoroughly professional and entertaining commentary as the models display the various garments. Come along and have a glass of wine (or two!) and find a bargain for your wardrobe.

The show will be held on MONDAY 29th September at 7pm in the Village Hall.

Tickets on sale soon from Marianna

Tips regarding filling your car's fuel tank (Taken from one of my frequent emails) – I quote:

“I don't know what you guys are paying for petrol... but here in Durban we are also paying higher, up to R7.35 per litre. But my line of work is in petroleum for about 31 years now, so here are some tricks to get more of your money's worth for every litre:

Only buy or fill your car in the early morning when the ground temperature is still cold. Remember that all service stations have their storage tanks below ground. The colder the ground the more dense the fuel, when it gets warmer petrol expands, so buying in the afternoon or in the evening ... your litre is not exactly a litre. In the petroleum business, the specific gravity and the temperature of the petrol, diesel and jet fuel, ethanol and other petroleum products plays an important role. A 1-degree rise in temperature is a big deal for this business. But the service stations do not have temperature compensation at the pumps.

When you are filling up do not squeeze the trigger to a fast mode. If you look you will see that the trigger has three (3) stages: low, middle, and high. In slow mode you should be pumping on low speed, thereby minimising the vapours that are created while you are pumping. All hoses at the pump have a vapour return. If you are pumping on the fast rate, some of the liquid that goes to your tank becomes vapour. Those vapours are being sucked up and back into the underground storage tank so you're getting less worth for your money.

One of the most important tips is to fill up when your tank is HALF FULL. The reason for this is, the more fuel you have in your tank the less air occupying its empty space. Petrol evaporates faster than you can imagine. Petroleum storage tanks have an internal floating roof. This roof serves as zero clearance between the petrol and the atmosphere, so it minimises the evaporation. Unlike service stations, here where I work, every truck that we load is temperature compensated so that every litre is actually the exact amount.

Another reminder, if there is a fuel truck pumping into the storage tanks when you stop to buy, DO NOT fill up – most likely the petrol/diesel is being stirred up as the fuel is being delivered, and you might pick up some of the dirt that normally settles on the bottom..... Hope this will help you get the most value for your money!

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Margaret's Mutterings

Kenn Village Hall

Why you may ask are we meeting at Chaseside for the VILLAGE CLEAN UP on the 7th June?

We have a perfectly lovely hall, why can't we meet there?

Answer – WINTER'S END

What you may ask is Winter's End?

Well – it is a film, set in World War II Britain, around Christmastime – which is being partially filmed in our Village Hall.

Hanover Pictures have booked the Hall for the whole weekend plus and they plan to have a live band and artificial snow.

What fun!

Pip Jenkins

I am told that Pip Jenkins is doing wonderfully well at college in fact she has won a prize, which involves her visiting New York.

Perhaps she will tell us all about it when she gets back.

Village Brunch - report and results next time

Corner Cottage

We are pleased to welcome Chris Taylor to the heart of the village from the depths of Duck Lane (joke) His new windows and door have been fitted and the inside is being renovated. He tells me that it will look even better when the walls have been painted in country cream. We are fascinated by the gold fish in his pond – they look almost big enough to eat.

May Family Service

Bethany Stowell, with help from sister Rebecca rang the bell to celebrate the birth on Friday 23rd May of her sister Freya Imogen Clare Harvey, weighing 8lbs 2oz at Weston Hospital.

Mum Ann-Marie and Freya were at home at Draycott, but Bethany was visiting with her nanny (me) and John.

Ps. I got a cuddle with Freya when Ann collected Beth on Tuesday – absolutely gorgeous.

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Garden Party at
The Willows, Kenn

on
Saturday 21st July 2007.
at 3.00 pm

£3.50 (£1.50 children under 12)
by kind invitation
of Marlene and John Arney

Kenn and Kingston Kombine again
this year at Chaseside, Kenn on
Bank Holiday Sunday 24th August –
the Rolls-Royce Enthusiasts' Club
are coming along after they have visited
Clevedon Flower Show.

The ladies of Kingston Seymour are
providing their famous Cream Teas.

Simon, Jenny, Mike and Liz will be
cooking the Barbecue and Stefan
from the Drum and Monkey will be
running the bar.

We are hoping for a display of
stationary engines and hopefully lots
more.

A meeting to discuss will be held at
Chaseside on Thursday 12th June to
which you are welcome to come.

WOULD

YOU

FILL

THIS

SPACE?

PLEASE!

Copy for Kenn News & Views to me
at Chaseside please

Tel. 874077

Fax 01275 342050 Email

Margaret.john@btinternet.com

Or to Ray at Cloverlea.

Kenn Street.

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SERVICES FOR JUNE 2008

1st Sunday 1st June **SECOND SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

08:00 Holy Communion Kenn
08:00 Holy Communion Claverham
09:30 Parish Communion Yatton
11:00 Holy Communion Cleeve
11:00 Family Service Kingston Seymour
18:00 Evensong Yatton

2nd Sunday 8th June **THIRD SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY** **ST. BARNABAS, APOSTLE**

08:00 Holy Communion Yatton
09:30 Family Communion Yatton
09:30 Patronal Communion
Claverham
11:00 Trinity Praise Cleeve
11:00 Holy Communion Kenn
18:00 Evensong Kingston Seymour
18:30 Holy Communion Cleeve

3rd Sunday 15th June **FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

08:00 Holy Communion Claverham
09:30 Parish Communion Yatton
09:30 Patronal Communion Cleeve
11:00 Holy Communion Kingston Seymour
14:30 Holy Baptism Yatton
18:00 Evensong Kenn

4th Sunday 22nd June **FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

08:00 Holy Communion Yatton
08:00 Holy Communion Kingston
Seymour
09:30 Parish Communion Yatton
09:30 Holy Communion Cleeve
10:00 Family Service Claverham
**11:00 Family Service Kenn with
Holy Baptism**
18:00 Evensong Yatton
18:00 Evening Worship Kingston Seymour

PARISH OF YATTON MOOR

5th Sunday 29th June **SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY** **ST. PETER APOSTLE**

08:00 Holy Communion Claverham
08:00 Holy Communion Kenn
10:00 Team Communion Yatton
18:00 Taize Yatton

HOLY DAYS IN JUNE:

24th Birth of John the Baptist 08:30 Holy Communion Yatton

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Daily 08:30 Morning Prayer at Yatton
(except Saturdays and Holy Days)

Every Wednesday
10:00 Holy Communion Yatton

1st Wednesday in month
11:00 Holy Communion at Kingston
Seymour

3rd Wednesday in month – 18th June
11:00 Holy Communion at Kenn

4th Wednesday in month
11:00 Holy Communion at Claverham

Every Thursday
09:30 Holy Communion at Cleeve
19:30 Holy Communion at Yatton

1st & 3rd Wednesdays
14:00 First Steps at Yatton