

KENN NEWS & VIEWS

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

May

- 1st Hartley Staples
Lynne & Steve Bye WA
- 3rd Cyril Willcox
Chloe Hayzen
- 4th Nigel Middleton
- 5th Sarah and Tom Clark W.A
- 8th Mike Stowell (50)
Tina & Nigel Middleton WA
- 10th Jilly Butland
Jayne Morris
- 11th Tina Middleton
- 12th Robert Porch
- 15th Samuel Leiper
- 20th Harrison Flower
- 22nd Duncan Mackay
Bradley Beardshaw
- 26th Brian Stowell
Jane Staples
Colin Webb
Emily Limage
- 27th Christopher Jaehme
- 28th Sally White
- 29th Milly Stowell
Trina Willoughby
Samuel Rogers
- 30th Joanna Brain

St. John the Evangelist, Kenn

1st May - ASCENSION DAY

Ascension Day begins early with a celebration of Holy Communion at All Saints, Kingston Seymour at 6.30 am.

This will be followed by a full English breakfast for the congregation at the home of John and Celia, Cherry Tree House, Ham Lane, Kingston Seymour.

Kenn Altar Guild

May Rota

Mrs Grace Griffin, Mrs Joyce Kent
and Mrs Troy Gale

Christian Aid Week 2008 in Kenn

This year Christian Aid Week is from 11th to 17th May.

If you would like to help in the door-to-door collection in Kenn and the surrounding area, please contact
Julia Bush (01275 873554) or
Lise Willcox(01275 871993)

Thank you,

Julia Bush

PS If you cannot help, please give generously.

Kenn April Family Service

April's Family Service at St John's was a joyous occasion, as for the first time in its recorded history, triplets were baptised.

Jeannie, Ruby and Harrison behaved immaculately, as did the large number of babies, toddlers, children and a puppy in the congregation.

The service fell on Rogationtide, and Celia's talk referred to the similarities between the nurturing of these three new members of our church, who will grow and blossom under their parents' and godparents' care, and the young shoots of this year's newly sown crops.

A big 'Thank you' to Rev Chris Steed for officiating.

After the service the congregation were addressed by Caroline Holden about the 'Parish Plan'.

Then there was lots of chatting and laughter over drinks and biscuits.

Julia Bush

KENN NEWS & VIEWS

The Family Service held on Sunday 27th April.

It is a pleasure to write and let readers know about the wonderful service held on Rogation Sunday Morning in our Church.

It was the occasion of the Baptism of the Bessant triplets, Jeannie Belle, Ruby Mae and Harrison Bobby.

Unfortunately, the Revd John Andrews had been taken ill the night before and was unable to conduct these baptisms, which had had been so looking forwards to doing.

The Revd Chris Steed took over at very short notice and did a wonderful job.

We were particularly delighted that Clare and Matt, the parents, chose Kenn Church for these baptisms, probably the first time triplets have been Christened here in the church's almost 1000 year history.

Although the Bessant family now live in Yatton, historically they are a Kenn family.

About 100 years ago, Mr and Mrs. Herbert Bessant and their children Reg, Dick, Doris and Eunice lived at "Greenacres", Kenn Road (near the Auction Rooms) the children attended Kenn School and the boys were Church Choir Members. In fact Dick had a very special job, he was given the job of Organ Blower for the ancient organ that was in use at that time.

He sat behind the organ on a stool and pumped the bellows with a wooden handle. He told me that he got the sack for ringing a bicycle bell during a service.

Herbert, the father, was slaughter-man when Kenn has its own slaughter-house where the car sales now take place.

When Reg, the oldest son had to join the army in the First World War, he was a Grenadier Guardsman. He volunteered for service in Ireland when there was much trouble there. For this he was awarded a pound per week pension for life.

Reg was the great-grandfather of the triplets.

When he married, he worked at Kenn Court living in what was then called Pound Cottage on the Village Green. Several of his children were born there.

He later, after moving to Clevedon, worked for my parents at Stonehouse Farm for many years. In later years Reg's sons Herbert, Douglas, David and John all worked for the Bye family at Kenn Pier Farm at different times.

I had the great pleasure of meeting Joyce, one of Reg's daughters at the christening, we hadn't met since I left school in 1940.

I am sorry to say that the Baptism Service was very poorly supported by Kenn people. Of a congregation of

KENN NEWS & VIEWS

seventy, less than ten were Kenn residents. I almost feel sorry for those who couldn't or didn't get to this remarkable and historic very rare occasion in the life of our little church.

Ray Naish

p.s. Mr and Mrs Herbert Bessant and two of their children Doris and Dick are buried in the Churchyard here at Kenn.

The Annual Vestry Meeting of St. John the Evangelist, Kenn

The Annual Vestry Meeting was held on the 13th April with a good congregation, including two couples who plan to marry shortly at St. John's Church.

Prebendary John Andrews welcomed everyone to the meeting, and thanked the retiring churchwardens Julia Bush and Ray Naish for their support over the past year.

Having served for 30 years as Churchwarden Ray Naish was not seeking re-election and John expressed the love and gratitude not only of himself, but also of many clergy for the years of service, devotion to duty and wisdom shown by Ray.

John suggested that Ray be appointed Churchwarden Emeritus so he will not be giving up completely.

Election of Churchwardens

Julia Bush was proposed by Doris Edwards and seconded by Iris Callow

John Ball was proposed by Raymond Naish, seconded by John Griffin

Julia and John were duly elected – Julia continues as Churchwarden and Churchwarden Elect John will take up his position in due course.

Friends of Kenn Church Annual General Meeting

7.30 pm Thursday 22nd May
in the new room of
St. John the Evangelist, Kenn

All Parishioners and Friends are invited to attend this meeting

A G E N D A

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of Annual General Meeting 24th May 2007
3. Matters arising
4. Finance
5. Election of Committee
6. Future Events

APRIL COFFEE MORNING

The coffee morning held on Saturday 19th April in the Church Rooms raised £106.39 for Weston Hospice.

Thank you to everyone who came and made it such a warm and friendly occasion.

Robin & Marianna

KENN NEWS & VIEWS

Our Flag

We flew our flag on the following occasions:

13th April - at Half Mast to mark the death of Maggie George on the 11th.

23rd April – our St George's Flag was flown at Half Mast for the funeral of Maggie George at All Saints, Kingston Seymour.

27th In celebration of the baptism at St. John's of the triplets Harrison Bessant, Ruby Bessant and Jeannie Bessant who celebrated their first birthday on the 25th April.

Church flood-lighting.

Our church was floodlit on the 23rd February St. George's Day in celebration of the 90th anniversary of the founding of St. George's Church in Kabwe in Zambia. Yatton Moor has been linked with Kabwe for many years.

MAY COFFEE MORNING
Kenn Coffee Morning
at the Church Room
Saturday 17th May
10am - 12 noon

This month we are hosting the coffee morning in aid of Cancer Research.

Straight after we will be heading to the Bristol Downs to take part in 'The Race for Life'.

Come and join us for coffee and flapjacks. Our Mum will need lots of caffeine and encouragement to keep up with us!

See you there.
Love from The Gale Girls

Message from the Caney family at Latcham House:

Dear Margaret

We were delighted to see the welcoming note in the Kenn News and Views. We are very happy to be here and are enjoying the house. It is like coming home for Mark who is now close to his family who live in Yatton. (He grew up in Chewton Mendip).

We have been impressed with how friendly everyone is and look forward to meeting more people from the village over the summer.

Best regards

Mark, Angela and Anouk

The First Summer Walk

It is hoped that we can take the first summer walk of 2008 on Monday 12th May, meeting at Cloverlea, Kenn Street at 7pm.

We hope to walk across the fields behind Oakland Farm. I realise that many people have done this walk before, but we get new people all the time.

I have chosen this walk because in the very bottom field against the Motorway, for a few days in May a mass of wild flowers come into bloom. I hope we are lucky and have selected one of these days.

All are welcome to join us, the more the merrier.

Ray Naish.

KENN NEWS & VIEWS

ANNUAL VILLAGE CLEAN UP

Please get your diaries out and mark in Saturday 7th June as the day when you help your community clear up all the litter prior to the Best Kept Village Competition.

As always we will meet at The Village Hall at 10 am for a couple of hours followed by some refreshments.

Black sacks etc will be issued then.

There is always a terrific feeling of community at this annual gathering and we hope that lots of people will spare a bit of time to pick up the huge amounts of litter dropped within our parish.

It should always be a matter of pride that we as a village take responsibility for our own mess, many other villages just rely on the Local Authority.

Thanks must also go to all those who turned up on 29th March for the interim clean up and to Jean Osborne who has obviously taken on responsibility for Davis Lane.

All efforts to keep our village litter free are appreciated, even if it sometimes seems that it is a lost cause.

Robin Mackay

Parish Plan update April 08

The content of the Parish Plan is dependent on feedback from everyone in the parish and later in the year we will be issuing a questionnaire that will seek your opinions on a range of topics. In the meantime we are taking some steps to gather some informal feedback on the type of topics you would like to see included.

Firstly we will have a manned display at the Brunch on 31 May and the Kenn Village Hall Markets on 14 June and 12 July. Please come and talk to us.

Secondly we have an email address where you can send any comments you have regarding the Parish Plan. The address is plan@kenn-village.co.uk

Please take the opportunity to make your views known.

One activity we are looking at is a survey of the natural history of our parish to include both flora and fauna and we are keen to get the young folk involved in this. So if you own land and would support supervised access for this purpose or would like to volunteer your help in some other way please contact me.

For members of the Steering Group, the next meeting is in the Church Room at 7:30 pm on 6 May. This meeting is really important as we want to start putting the questionnaire together.

Please come to the meeting prepared with your own proposals for this.

Robert Down

KENN NEWS & VIEWS

May Holiday Refuse Collection dates for Kenn

Normal Day

Revised Day

Monday 5th May - Tuesday 6th May

Monday 26th May - Tuesday 27th May

Recycling 12th and 27th May

Green Waste 6th and 19th May

Parish Council Notes

At the Annual Parish Meeting various matters of interest were discussed. The village will again enter the Village of the Year Competition which starts on 15th June. In order to get the main thoroughfares looking spick and span, there will be the annual village clean up on 7th June. There was a preliminary one at the end of March, in atrocious weather, which was attended by a few hardy souls who picked up lots of bags of litter before the grass and the hedgerows grew too much for it to be get-attable.

As many of you will have seen in the local press, the Hand Stadium has been chosen as a venue for some of the teams competing in the 2012 Olympics. Mr. Davies and his staff have worked very hard to bring the Stadium up to the required standard and we congratulate them.

The Parish Council is hoping to arrange a meeting between a representative from North Somerset and P.C. Kinsella, our Community Policeman, to discuss any traffic issues there might be.

John Griffin and others are attending a Flood Action Group which is intended to see that the vulnerable parishes of North Somerset are prepared for the risk of flooding caused by climate change both from excessive rainfall and rising sea levels.

There have been several power cuts lately, some of several hours duration. Pressure will be put on Western Power Distribution to improve the supply and tell them that the current situation is unacceptable.

It was minuted that Councillors were saddened and surprised that District Councillors had awarded themselves such huge rises in their allowances. Let us hope they will work extra hard to earn them!

The next meeting will be held on Monday 2nd June in the Village Hall at 7.30pm. Do come along.

Ann Holtham
Clerk to the Council

KENN NEWS & VIEWS

Dates for your Diary

The Drum and Monkey

Tuesday 6th May

Village Lunch from 12 noon

Everyone welcome!

Clevedon Salerooms

Thursdays 8th & 22nd May
10.00 am

Sale of Victorian and later
Furniture and Effects.

Cloverlea, Kenn Street

Monday 12th at 7.00 pm – Meet for a
walk with Ray Naish

Kenn Village Hall

Wednesday 14th May 7.30 p.m.

Kenn W.I.

Mrs J. Lane will speak on
A Seasonal Celebration
Visitors warmly welcomed.

The Church Room

Saturday 17th May

COFFEE MORNING

10.00 – 12 noon

*Hosted by the Gale family
Proceeds to Cancer Research*

Kenn Village Hall

Wednesday 21st May
7.00pm

JUMBLE SALE

For W.I. Funds

Jumble to Hall in morning.

St. John the Evangelist, Kenn

7.30 pm Thursday 22nd May
Annual General Meeting of
The Friends of Kenn Church
in the New Room

Saturday 31st May

10.00 am – 12 noon

A SUMPTUOUS BRUNCH

In aid of Village Hall Funds

Tickets are on sale

from John & Grace

Adults £5

Children (under 12) £3

ADVANCE DATES

Village Clean Up

Saturday 7th June

Kenn Village Hall at 10 am

**Followed by refreshments in
the Hall**

KENN VILLAGE MARKET

Kenn Village Hall

Saturday 14th June

10 am – 12 noon

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

This ever -popular event will fill
you with delight, food and
community spirit!

29th September.

Marianna's Fashion show,

KENN NEWS & VIEWS

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

Triplet Lambs

Many people will have noticed the ewes and lambs in the field behind the Church.

These are the property of 15 years old Max Naish. He bought these 50 ewes last autumn and with Marianna and Robin's permission has lambed them in this field.

He has had wonderful luck, only having to assist with the lambing of one ewe.

These ewes have produced a good crop of lambs with many doubles and several triplets.

Only about three lambs have been lost.

Ray Naish (proud grandfather)



**Kenn
Women'
s
Institute**

Roger Morgan paid the W.I. a return visit in April with a talk entitled Bullets and Bandages. He has spoken to us several times in the past and is a most entertaining and fluent speaker. This time his subject was the development

of medicine and nursing from the time of the Crimean War.

He related the discoveries of antiseptics and anaesthetics during the second half of the nineteenth century, which greatly increased the chances of survival for patients. Some of these discoveries we are in danger of forgetting at our great peril. He had on display part of his collection of medical instruments – a very gruesome sight!

This year Kenn sends the delegate to the Annual General Meeting, which is being held in Liverpool. Each delegate represents four Institutes. The resolutions for the meeting are one on the very inauspiciously named 'bottom trawling'! This is asking for regulations to stop too much fishing by dragging nets on the ocean floor and then wasting the fish that are brought up. The other one is calling for the seriously mentally ill to be given proper help and treatment rather than imprisonment.

Members continue to take part in as many social activities as they can. They will host the August Coffee Morning in aid of the Friends of Clevedon Hospital.

At the May meeting the speaker will be Mrs. J. Lane and her talk is entitled "A Seasonal Celebration". We are indebted to Hazel Limage who produces such wonderful posters for us.

Meetings take place in the Village Hall on the second Wednesday of the month at 7.30 pm. Visitors are always welcome.

JUMBLE SALE

KENN NEWS & VIEWS

There will be a Jumble Sale in aid of W.I. Funds in the Village Hall on Wednesday 21st May at 7pm. Jumble can be brought to the Hall in the morning.

MAGGIE GEORGE

Our village flag was at half- mast and All Saints Church, Kingston Seymour was filled on Wednesday 23rd April, with the family and friends of Maggie George, gathered to celebrate her life.

Maggie has been in intensive care at Dereford Hospital, Plymouth for seven days, following a fall from a height, while helping her husband Trevor, working on their yacht in a boatyard near Plymouth. On 10th April she passed away, a tragic and sad loss for her family.

Maggie was born in 1946, living with her parents the Kings in Reading, she had a sister and brother. Once she started school, she soon shone as a bright little girl. Later when the Kings moved to Long Ashton she attended "Redland High" School, Bristol. She went on to teacher training college. After college she obtained a position as an infant school teacher, becoming a popular and valued member of staff at Yatton Infants School in the early 70's.

Maggie married Trevor George of Congresbury in 1968, they set up home in Claverham, where their first two children, Kate and Helen were born. The Georges then moved to

Kenn Pier Cottage in 1982 and the family grew with the addition of two more children Charlotte and John.

At the funeral service, taken most sensitively by Revd. John Andrews, Maggie's four children stood together to make their tribute to a much loved and appreciated mother. Speaking of the encouragement and support they had received in every area of their lives; how she and Trevor would travel all over the U.K. to cheer them on in their sporting activities.

A family event of great happiness for Maggie was the marriage of daughter Helen to Simon Harris in Kingston Church last year.

Maggie enjoyed outdoor pursuits; walking, swimming, sailing and travel. She and Trevor had just returned from a month's trip to New Zealand and had a great time.

We offer our most sincere condolences to Trevor and all the family on their sad loss.

John Griffin.

KENN VILLAGE MARKET

The first monthly Market will be held in the Village Hall on Saturday June 14th from 10 to 12am.

Please come along and bring your friends and family and anyone else you can drag in from the vicinity to help make this a success.

KENN NEWS & VIEWS

There should be lots to tempt you from mouth watering local produce to crafts and gifts.

Joyce Down

Cow gossip from Yew Tree, from Lise Willcox

As many in Kenn will know some of the cows at Yew Tree have names, they tend to get them through having slightly different characters. The older dairy herd who have stayed on all have names. One of the youngest is 'Three Legs'. 'Three Legs' actually has a fourth leg so she really has no need for her name, but it stuck, so here is her story;

I think she would be about 5 years old now, she was due to be sold about a year ago, but she suffered an awful leg injury. This happened when she was out with the herd enjoying the sun and fresh grass behind the village hall, (next field along by the track). We found her the wrong side of a barbed wire fence with a badly torn ligament. After getting her home with the trailer and veterinary assistance we concluded that a bit of cow bullying must have caused this injury, they do like their playground antics to establish hierarchy!

Anyway this poor creature was confined to her straw bed for some months. Slowly she recovered though it was decided that she may have to go to the big 'barn' up above, (via the pie factory between you and me), but fate favoured her. 'Three Legs' made such an impressive recovery that Rob thought he might just keep her and after the Artificial Inseminator man paid her a visit - lo she was with calf, (and had secured her future again)! it was a Belgium Blue bull, so a beef calf was expected.

Well time passed, (8 months), but suddenly one morning she was found in a heap unable to stand and quite distressed. The vet was called and

came each day for 9 days! Rob and the vet discussed, scratched heads and even debated the possibilities. Was her fourth stomach twisted? Would she survive an operation to untwist it, would her calf survive this procedure? Or was she calcium deficient as they can be in the later stages of pregnancy? Had her bad leg given out or had she just 'packed up'?

A smart blue lifting harness was purchased and then twice a day 'Three legs' was lifted up by the tractor, dangling her legs and udder in a most undignified manner! A plush pink horse blanket was swiftly borrowed, she had her legs rubbed and was offered the best hay that could be bought. All manner of cow favourites were offered including organic pears and apples. The lifting continued, the appetite failed and the injections and massages increased. Rob was having sleepless nights calving down other cows and I was sad and fretful.

But worse was to come...the unborn calf stopped moving in her! What were we to do? So 2 weeks early she was induced. We hoped that at least she might survive. This was the first time such a procedure had been done at the farm. We watched, we waited, we worried. The hours turned into days, all seemed doomed. Then at 10 am in mid April she started to go into labour, two weeks before her due date. The vet was there, 4 students and of course Rob too. Out popped a medium sized Belgium Blue bull calf, then out came his small twin sister and both were alive and not so bad given what mother had been through! What a wonderful surprise. We can only think that they weren't moving due to lack of space!

'Three Legs' can now get up by herself, she is weak but improving daily and has been well enough to visit her fellow herd members who are out

KENN NEWS & VIEWS

grazing in the sun. We do not know the future for her but she has survived the odds twice so who knows! Our thanks to Julie and Brian for lending her their pink horse blanket, it really helped.

BIRD NEWS I

April has certainly seen plenty of visible migration this year and pride of place should probably go to Jeff Naish who saw a flock of about 20 Yellow Wagtails on a rushy field near Cooks Lane.

The local R.S.P.B. trip to Sand Point mid-month produced a Pied Flycatcher, 4 Redstarts, 2 Tree Pipits and 2 Wheatears. The first Swallow I saw was over Yatton on the 1st and House Martins were reported from Kenn on the 15th.

The Strawberry Line has hosted 9 warbler species, although the maximum I have encountered on any one visit is eight. For the record they are: Chiffchaff, Blackcap, Willow Warbler, Cetti's Warbler, Sedge Warbler, Reed Warbler, Whitethroat, Lesser Whitethroat and Grasshopper Warbler.

However, the warblers have been rather overshadowed by migrant Pied Flycatchers. Two males then a female, another male and lastly another female all fly catching at the Chescombe Road pond.

During the cold weather there were 50 Swallows and 4 Sand Martins hawking insects over this pond, as well as Reed Buntings, Chaffinches and House Sparrows, also practising their fly catching techniques. These Sand Martins are the first that I have ever seen in Yatton.

The pair of Barn Owls seems to be settling down, but the three Kestrels

have formed a 'love triangle' with two females occupying the same box and chasing the lone male bird relentlessly. This may preclude eventual successful breeding. Bullfinches and Jays (the latter remarkably confiding) have added colour to the line.

A visit to Backwell Common on the 10th April produced a flock of 50 Linnets on stubble – still in winter mode. We also saw a pair of Yellowhammers – an increasingly scarce breeding bird locally nowadays. And talking of birds becoming scarce, I have not yet (26th) heard a Cuckoo, not even when I spent a couple of hours at Shapwick Heath National Nature Reserve. Any sighting or sounds of Cuckoo locally will be gratefully received.

Jill and I visited a nature reserve near Taunton (actually a butterfly reserve) to hear the newly arrived Nightingales and they did not disappoint. One sang from a thicket a few feet away – it was wonderful.

Trevor Riddle - 01934 835208

THE NORTH SOMERSET SHOW

**Bank Holiday Monday,
5th May**

**at WRAXALL, near Bristol, on the
B3130**

***One-day countryside and
agricultural show
with plenty to see for all the family***

TRACTOR PULLING

PONY CLUB GAMES

TERRIER RACING

**Cows, sheep, pigs, llamas, alpacas, horses,
hamsters, rabbits, birds**

Country crafts Rural demonstrations

Entertainments Trade stands

Vintage vehicles

Food and licensed bars

FREE CAR PARKING

KENN NEWS & VIEWS

Adults £10 – Seniors £9 -
Children £4 (under 5 free)

Family (2 adults, 3 children) £23

BIRD NEWS II

I saw the first Swallow of the summer on the 5th April, within a few days we had heavy snow, it probably killed it.

Sunday April 20th a pair of Sheld ducks arrived in the field behind the church this morning. Pairs of these black, chestnut and white ducks have come back every April to this same field every spring all my life. They nest in the many rabbit holes nearby.

Also this morning, young rabbits in the same area appeared, including a black one. These black ones have also arrived in this same bank in the orchard most years all my life.

Jeff Naish has seen a flock of about 20 Yellow Wagtails in Clevedon Moor this morning. These birds are rarely seen and then generally in pairs. They had probably been blown off course by

the strong easterly winds that have been a feature of this spring.

April 26th, Jeff Naish has seen about 20 Whimbrell at Decoy-pool Farm. These Curlew like birds are said to fly from South Africa to Iceland to breed. They stop off in England to rest in April and May.

April 27th no Swallows have arrived at the usual nesting sites around Stonehouse farm to date. I have never known them so late in appearing, I hope all is well with this particular family.

Ray Naish

p.s. April 28th – The Swallows have arrived this morning, a welcome sight.

A Good Walk

Recently Marianna and I revisited the Sculpture Trail in the Forest Of Dean (www.forestofdean-sculpture.org.uk).

This 7Km walk through the forest is not taxing (well lets face it we are hardly mountaineering types!) and the woodland is stunningly beautiful. Strangely considering how popular it is the walk is very peaceful.

During the walk there are some 20 sculptures ranging from a giant stained glass window to 30 yards of carved railway sleepers. Many of the sculptures reflect the industrial past of this area, which is an interesting contrast to the tranquil scene of today.

Before we went for our walk we had lunch at the Ostrich Inn in Newland (www.theostrichinn.com). Described as “unspoilt “it is more like “untouched”! No new paint or furniture has been allowed to despoil the truly medieval feel to this pub. Combine this with an extremely amiable Landlady, a welcoming log fire and a superb selection of beers and wines and you have a wonderful hostelry. We had a delicious lunch, the obviously homemade Mushroom and Coriander soup was a triumph; the chicken liver pate with toasted brioche was smooth and rich and served in a generous sized ramekin. The old English sausages were made from local pigs and tasted heavenly.

Believe me after a lunch like that the walk through the forest was much needed!

If you have a free day the sculpture trail (and the Ostrich) are well worth a visit.

KENN NEWS & VIEWS

Robin Mackay

Farming in Kenn in the early 1930's continued

As I stated in April News & Views there were 21 farms in Kenn at that time, 17 of them were used for milk production as the chief means of making a living.

The few people who work on the land in Kenn today have a very easy time compared to how things were down. Now over seventy years later, most work is done by machinery. As I wrote last month, the first tractor didn't arrive in Kenn until the 1940's.

I realise that those who work on the land today have many more animals to look after than were around years ago, but they haven't got the very boring and monotonous jobs to do like root hoeing and haymaking by hand.

All the cows were milked by hand, one man to about eight cows. Very few people were prepared to milk more than seven or eight cows at a sitting. If the farmer had seven or eight cows, he generally milked them himself. If he had about sixteen one man was employed to help do the milking and all the other work on the farm. If there were around twenty-four cows on the farm at least two men were employed.

The largest dairy herd in the village in those days was at Kenn Court, where Farmer Dyer had thirty-two cows. He employed four men.

Hay making at that time was very hard work. Everything except mowing the grass, which was done by two horses and a finger mower was done by hand, including turning the cut grass with hand rakes. It was surprising how fast

a gang of men and boys could turn a field of grass, they walked very briskly turning the swaths of grass by a quick flip with wooden hand rakes.

I can remember when the only haymaking machinery we had at Stonehouse Farm was a two-horse mower, a horse rake and a four wheeled hay wagon, plus a dozen or so of two pronged forks called peeks and about the same number of wooden hand rakes.

When the hay was dry, the horse rake was used to get it into rows, this rake was tipped every few yards by a handle assisted by a foot pedal.

The wagon was then brought into use. The loose hay was forked up onto the wagon by one man on each side, with another man in the wagon building the load.

When the wagon was full, it was drawn by a horse into the farm yard and unloaded into the hay shed. One man unloading the wagon, others spreading the hay around the hay shed.

In those days it was not difficult to get casual labour in the evenings to help with haymaking. Many of the men in the village considered it their duty to help their neighbouring farmers to get their hay in and enjoyed doing it. They were generally paid ten pence per hour (about five pence in today's money). They could also help themselves to as much cider as they wanted, with the added bonus of a lump of bread and cheese at the end of the evening.

p.s. the first baler didn't arrive in Kenn until the late 1940's.

Ray Naish

KENN NEWS & VIEWS

To be continued.

Bell Restoration News – 24th. April 2008.

On Tuesday, 25th. March, Julia, John Ball and myself had a very useful meeting with our church architect, John Bucknall, at Wells. He was most interested in John Ball's model of the tower and the proposed new access schemes, as he could now see what problems existed as well as hear our thoughts on the matter. ("I am impressed – no-one has ever brought me a model before!" So another 'first' for Kenn, and 'Brownie points' as well!)

We had also taken the wood-joiner's proposals with us, and his quote to carry out that work. The architect required a few changes, mainly to materials used for stairways and platforms, as he wanted to ensure that the work would last for one or two hundred years and not fall foul of deformation due to dampness from the tower walls in much shorter periods.

In all other respects he considered our scheme to be very acceptable and, provided that his "in house" inspection threw up no other requirement, we had his basic agreement to go forward with both the access scheme, and our chosen scheme for the bell restoration.

Our preferred choice of the bell restoration options was considered to be an excellent proposal by both the Diocesan Bell Advisor and church architect as well, so we feel we have chosen wisely.

This scheme was therefore put before the full Yatton Moor PCC on April 3rd. and we had enthusiastic approval to approach the 'Friends of St. Johns' to see if they were willing to fund it

from the Jack Hanson bequest, and if so, to start getting a faculty together.

The architect's inspection of the tower had to be delayed until April 18th and resulted in no new problems for the previously agreed work.

He did however see an opportunity for re-pointing of some of the internal stonework in the bell chamber while the bell was away – so we now have to fund about two day's work there.

Balanced against that extra cost was his consideration that, as the tower internal area is so small, we could do away with the need for a large trap-door built into a completely new floor (to enable the bell to be removed) by simply removing the whole floor, re-using as much of the existing floor structure as possible when the bell is back in place, and then screwing down the new floorboards so that they can be removed easily if the need arose in the future.

A quote for electrical work in the tower has been received, and others may be required.

Julia will also now let the Whitechapel Bellfoundry know that their scheme to remove the bell to their works for the start of its restoration is the approved scheme, subject to a faculty being granted by the diocese. We have to find out if they are happy with the "no floor" suggestion while they are working in the tower, and also consider the need for, and supply of, suitable scaffolding. So many unanswered questions still exist but we are gradually moving nearer to our goal.

Geoff. Marchant.

**W
R
O
Z
O
I**

Saturday 31st May
10.00 am - 12 noon

BRUNCH

KENN VILLAGE HALL
Tickets are on sale
from John & Grace
01275 872948

Adults £5
Children (under 12) £3

In aid of Village Hall Funds

What's on at The Drum!

Tuesday 6th May from 12.00
Village Lunch - All Welcome

Every Wednesday is
QUIZ NIGHT
With Prizes and a 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

Margaret's Mutterings

Congratulations to Ruth and Bob
Gale of Wick St. Lawrence who
celebrate their Golden Wedding
Anniversary on the 31st May.

Richard Baker Concert

A good contingency from Kenn
accepted Liz Jaehme's invitation in
April's mag and as a result enjoyed
a most pleasant evening at St.
Monica's Chapel on the Downs in
Bristol. Most of us already had
experience of the soloist Richard
Baker who enthralled the crowd, at a
packed to capacity venue, with his
music - played on grand piano,
church organ and electric keyboard.
His vitality and skill is amazing and we
look forward to welcoming him back
to Kenn in the not too distant future.

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.

KENN NEWS & VIEWS

SERVICES FOR MAY 2008

1st Sunday 4th May THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

8am Holy Communion Kenn

8am Holy Communion Claverham
9.30am Parish Communion Yatton
9.30am Holy Communion Cleeve
11:00am Family Service Kingston Seymour
6pm Evensong Yatton

2nd Sunday 11th May DAY OF PENTECOST (WHIT SUNDAY)

8am Holy Communion Kenn

8am Holy Communion Yatton
11am Pentecost Service with Communion
on Yatton Junior School Playing Field
6pm Evensong Kingston Seymour

3rd Sunday 18th May TRINITY SUNDAY

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

4th Sunday 25th May THE FIRST SUNDAY OF TRINITY

8am Holy Communion Yatton
8am Holy Communion Kingston Seymour
9.30am Parish Communion Yatton
9.30am Holy Communion Cleeve
10.00am Family Service Claverham
11.00am Family Service Kenn
6pm Evensong Yatton

PARISH OF YATTON MOOR

HOLY DAYS IN MAY:

1st ASCENSION DAY

6.30 am Holy Communion Kingston Seymour
(followed by breakfast at Cherry Tree House)
9.30 am Holy Communion Cleeve
7.30 pm Holy Communion Yatton

14th MATTHIAS the APOSTLE

10am Holy Communion Yatton

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Daily 8.30 am Morning Prayer at Yatton
(except Holy Days)

Every Wednesday

10:00 Holy Communion Yatton

1st Wednesday in month

11:00 Holy Communion at Kingston Seymour

3rd Wednesday in month

21st May

11am Holy Communion at Kenn

4th Wednesday in month

11:00 Holy Communion at Claverham

Every Thursday

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

1st & 3rd Wednesdays

2.00 pm First Steps, Yatton

***Thursday 22nd May 7.30 pm AGM of
The Friends of Kenn Church
at The New Room of St. John the
Evangelist, Kenn – All Welcome!***