

# KENN NEWS & VIEWS

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

### August

3<sup>rd</sup> Clare Edwards  
    Louise Hockham  
6<sup>th</sup> Steve Bye  
7<sup>th</sup> Ray Naish  
    Lorraine Staples  
10<sup>th</sup> Stephen Brain  
11<sup>th</sup> Trish & Ron Harrison WA  
12<sup>th</sup> Margaret & John Ball WA  
14<sup>th</sup> Mrs Edith Tripp 2008 - 100  
15<sup>th</sup> Jean Naish  
    Nathaniel Jack Stowell  
16<sup>th</sup> Max Naish  
22<sup>nd</sup> Dave Quinn  
23<sup>rd</sup> Mark Pascoe  
24<sup>th</sup> Sam Staples (94) 2008  
25<sup>th</sup> Stella Naish  
26<sup>th</sup> Peter Woods  
27<sup>th</sup> Caroline & John Hayden WA  
29<sup>th</sup> Sylvia & John Staples WA  
    Jane & Hartley Staples WA  
31<sup>st</sup> Jill & Matt Butland WA  
    Annie Silvester

## St. John the Evangelist, Kenn August Altar Guild Rota

Jenny Croxton, Margaret Ball  
and Barbara Dixon

### Water Aid

Ray has received a letter of thanks from the charity Wateraid.

"I am writing to inform you that we have received a kind donation of £75 in celebration of over 30 years as a churchwarden at St. John's Kenn. The gifts received in celebration of our retirement are hugely appreciated and will help the world's poorest communities."

## Baptisms Aplenty at St John's

You know what it's like, you wait for ages for a baptism, and then two come along at once, or in this case, two doubles.

We were thrilled to have the baptism of Henry and his mother Leanna at the June Family Service at St John's.

Celia based her Petertide talk on the theme of the Church being built with Christian 'stones', St Peter being the first and Henry and Leanna being the newest.

It was a joyous occasion with lots of chat and refreshments after the service.

Our July Family Service also welcomed two new 'recruits' Sam and Samuel, who, both coming from village families caused us to expect, and get, a record turn out.

Forward planning meant there was ample seating (and coffee), so all was well. Celia's talk followed up Sunday Club's recent work on 'The Good Shepherd and His Sheep'.

As usual the congregational flock enjoyed their refreshments and chat after the service.

Julia Bush

### Our Flag

Our flag was flown several times in July:

14<sup>th</sup> in celebration of the marriage of James Bird and Lucy Edwards.

17<sup>th</sup> at half mast to mark the funeral service of Charles Bees.

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24<sup>th</sup> to announce the birth of  
Jemima Scarlett, Hatcher  
Wilkins.

26<sup>th</sup> to mark the 60<sup>th</sup> birthday  
of Pip Grainger

28<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the 18<sup>th</sup>  
birthday of Jack Stowell

Cornish-based Artist Heather  
Preston has returned to her roots to  
display a wide selection of her  
work from the past decade.

Born at "Moorgates", Kenn,  
Heather has lived in Cornwall for  
most of the past 15 years. Here she  
regularly exhibits work, drawing  
inspiration from the countryside,  
seaside and her garden.

## "JAZZ IN THE GARDEN"

or if wet

## "JAZZ IN THE BISHOP'S PALACE"

FRIDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> AUGUST

Gates open 6.30pm – Bring a picnic  
to enjoy in the garden or inside

Music with the "SUNSET CAFÉ  
STOMPERS" from 7.30pm

Licensed Bar available

Tickets £10.00 may be reserved by  
phoning

The Reverend Richard Buckley  
on 01935 864039 or 07766 711944

e mail [rbuckley@onetel.com](mailto:rbuckley@onetel.com)

or

Gill Macdonald  
on 02380 617339

e mail [gill@uspg.org.uk](mailto:gill@uspg.org.uk)

All proceeds to USPG: Anglicans in  
World Mission in partnership with  
the "Set All Free" Campaign

Working for many years in oils and  
watercolours, but believing that an  
artist cannot stand still and must  
always try something new, Heather  
has, over the past year or so begun  
to experiment with acrylics and  
mixed media. With this in mind  
and using only a palette knife, the  
new pieces are modern and  
vibrant, using colour and texture to  
produce some interesting pieces,  
mainly of boats and seascapes, but  
also some floral works to satisfy  
her love of gardening. The boat  
pictures came about to satisfy her  
husband who always protested  
that she never painted boats for  
him!

A frequent visitor to Kenn, to  
spend time with her sister Irene  
Stowell, and to catch up with other  
family members, Heather hopes  
everyone will enjoy the display of  
her works. All pieces are original,  
(no prints).

Refreshments will be available, so  
do come along and enjoy the show.

August 11<sup>th</sup> /12<sup>th</sup> Kenn Village Hall

ART EXHIBITION AT KENN

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## Welcome

We extend a warm welcome to the Court family – Mike and Lisa with children Joshua Court, Bradley Harris, Henry Court, Bronia Harris and Olivia Court who have recently moved into Orchard End, Kenn Street. We were pleased to meet them at Marlene and John 's Garden Party and look forward to seeing them at future Village events.

## Bank Holiday Bonanza

### Parkinson's 100

*Maybe it's too late to get those muscles  
toned up for the beach  
– but how about a gentle mile walk  
around Kingston Seymour.*

**We are looking for 100 people  
mums, dads, children, uncles,  
aunts and even the dog  
to each walk a mile on Sunday  
26<sup>th</sup> August  
and get themselves sponsored as  
part of an overall  
100 Mile walk in aid of the  
Parkinson's Disease Society.**

*Sponsor forms are available from  
Margaret Ball and Simon Pascoe in  
Kenn and Sue Thomas at Kingston.*

Walking will start at 11.00 am on a one mile circuit, starting from Yew Tree Farm, Ham Lane, Kingston Seymour and continues in 15 minutes slots up until 5.00 pm, with everyone present walking "The Last Mile".

If you would like to take part please pick up a Sponsor form and indicate a time you would like to walk.

**Remember, Sponsorship can come from workmates and friends from as far and wide as you like - all for a very worthwhile cause.**

## Parish Council Notes

As you have probably read in the newspapers by now, sadly, the application to develop another business park was approved at the Central Area Planning Committee on 12<sup>th</sup> July.

Our Councillors proposed that the application should be refused, but after lengthy debate their proposition was defeated. It cannot be said that a lot of people did not try to get another outcome and the Parish Council thanks them all for all the letters and e-mails.

It now remains to make sure that Kenn gets the best arrangements for drivers, pedestrians, cyclists and bus passengers that it can.

The Parish Council has requested a meeting with North Somerset Council to discuss the 106 Agreements and other related matters so that we can continue to have our say and are fully informed as to what is going on. As I write a date for the meeting has not been fixed but it is hoped that it will be soon.

Judging is still taking place in the Village of the Year Competition.

What a soggy time the judges are having this year! Please pick up any litter that you see so that the village looks its best

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when the judges come. Thank you.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> August at 7.30pm. All are welcome, so please come along and see what we get up to!

Ann Holtham,  
Clerk to Kenn Parish Council

## Midsummer Madness

June 23<sup>rd</sup>, villagers and their friends gathered at the Village Hall for an evening of entertainment. After a week of gloomy weather, which had held up the erecting of the marquee for a few days, it held off just for the evening of fun.

The evening started at 6pm with a glass of cider being offered on entry, while John Mill's Jazz Band provided us with some foot-tapping music to chat to. The Hall started to fill up. Following on from the Jazz, a duo Plus One, Dave and Tom, specialising in ballads, this upped the tempo. The B.B.Q. and Pig Roast was now in full swing at a reasonable cost of £2. and £2.50.

Next on stage, "Footloose", a moment of nostalgia for aging trendies. In between Mark Collins filled in with the Disco, then onto the Raffle and Auction. First choice for the raffle was a mountain bike, with an array of good donated prizes; the large rocking cock was another highly sought after item.

The Auction went a storm with Formula 1 goodies (including Michael Schumacher's signed hat),

Wallace and Grommit signed picture, scuba diving and much more... Didn't John Pope enjoy himself up there too!

Last, but by no means least on came Jusould, the main act. Dave sent the girls wild as he strut his stuff, in his famous leotard. Everyone was up dancing. All too soon the Midnight Deadline approached.

From a personal point of view, it was great to see so many villagers attending the event. Old and new ones, catching up with news and views. It has also been reassuring, since the event, how many people have commented on this. What a good night they had and they would like to see more events like it!!

We would like to thank all those who turned up on the evening to help raise £4410.00. A tremendous amount, some of which will go towards the main charity "Weston Hospice" who give support to families at difficult times.

Rob Gait of Jusould had the idea for the event after losing his Father to Cancer last year. He would especially like to thank the Bands who supported the evening.

£910 was given towards the Hall Entrance Fund (since increased to £1,000), The Hall means a great deal to the villagers and Jusould who practise there on a Thursday night.

A few more donations and nights like this will go a long way to keeping it alive.

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This event is only possible with the support of others. We would like to give thanks to the following people:

Jusould for a perfect performance.  
Stefan and his team from the Drum & Monkey for running the bar and very reasonable prices.  
Nick Davis from the Hand Equestrian Centre for donating the money for the marquee.

Select Electrics, sponsors of the Pig Roast (Margaret n micky)  
J.P. Humberstone, friends and family doing a wonderful job providing the BBQ meat donated by R. Hodder (Congresbury)  
Staddon's Timber who sponsored the Cider and Raffle  
Joanna Cheek, for her time prettying up the marquee poles.

Other sponsors,  
Mr & Ms. Hockerday, Nic Dumine, Mark Collins Disco, Footloose, John Mills Jazz Bank, James Griffin, Tranquillity, Burnett Fencing, Somerlap Fencing, Bristol Rovers, Redwood Lodge, David Downs, David Lloyd, D. & M. Plant, Arc Lighting, Duncan (traffic control), John Pope and the team of volunteers that turned up next morning to help with the clearing up.

Stuart and Avril.

**Digital Camera - Found after the Midsummer Madness Party – contact Avril if it is yours!**

## **NO FLOODING**

The very large ditch that was dug a couple of years ago across the orchard between

'Coxhay' and the Village Hall had definitely eliminated the flooding problems that occurred every time there was heavy rain.

Before this ditch was dug, there were often floods in the road near "The Old Ox House". As there has been no flooding in that area in this year of

tremendous rainfall, I doubt if there ever will be, as long as the ditch is kept clear of weeds.

Years ago people walking up the road from further down Kenn Street often had to wear their Wellingtons to get through the floods in that area. People had to carry their shoes and change in the Village Hall Porch, leaving their wellies there until they came back.

Ray Naish.

## **Tesco Expansion Plans**

Tesco have withdrawn their plans to create a huge new Tesco Extra in Clevedon following a report drawn up by Donaldson's, which pointed out many of the adverse effects the development would have on Clevedon.

However Tesco don't give up that easily and they will submit new plans shortly. These will almost certainly be just as ambitious.

The result of a major Tesco expansion will be much increased traffic through our community

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(already to be increased by the ROK development), the devastation of small businesses in Clevedon and the closure of Morrisons.

Please register your opposition to this entirely inappropriate development online at [www.n-somerset.gov.uk](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk)

Robin Mackay

## **Garden Party at The Willows**

It seems to have been weeks of worrying about the weather – should we trust the weather forecasts? And if so how many days in advance?

All the advice we received suggested that although the morning may be dry, rain was expected in the afternoon; so we prepared tables inside and agreed to erect awnings outside, but close to the house. In the event, we could have managed all outside.

Two years ago, we had to quickly transfer everything from outside to in – this year, during the afternoon we transferred tables from inside to outside – the English weather!!

Despite everything and with the help of a substantial number of people we had a successful day.

Firstly, thanks to the erection team which, with the guidance of John Ball, worked like a well-oiled machine in getting the awning assembled, and later dismantled and loaded to take away.

Then a huge thank you to the kitchen staff, arranging the cakes, scones, jam, cream, numerous pots of tea and serving with a smile – no one was waiting for too long we believe.

Then they all transferred to being washers up, driers up and packers – how adaptable they all were!

Our thanks go to the generosity of the people who gave cakes, prizes etc., and to the sterling work of those taking the money on the gate, raffle, Tombola and bric-a-brac; all helping to make the day a success.

Also to Lauren for making a teddy bear and organising the “Guess the Name” competition; and to Robin Mackay for persuading people to part with more money buying the surplus cakes.

The weather stayed fine until all was packed on John’s trailer or in other car boots.

Then, with a sight of relief the monies were counted and the princely sum of £720 raised for Hall Funds.

Well done to you all!  
Marlene and John

## **Dr. David Wilson**

Former Kenn resident, David Wilson who was brought up at “Honey-mead”, Duck Lane the son of Philip and the late Connie Wilson has been appointed as Professor and Medical Sub Dean at

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Cardiff University's School of Biosciences.

David was educated at Nailsea Comprehensive School and the University of Wales, Aberystwyth. He will be moving from his current position as Head of Division of Medical Sciences at Queen's University, Belfast to Cardiff in the autumn.

R.V.N.

## ART EXHIBITION

KENN VILLAGE HALL

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> August

11am – 5pm

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> August

11am–4pm

by locally-born artist

HEATHER PRESTON

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

## AUGUST DIARY

Your Garden Gate

Wednesdays

1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> August

Recycling Collection

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> August 7.30 pm**

**Kenn Parish Council Meeting**

**Kenn Village Hall**

At the Drum and Monkey

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> August -

from 12.noon

Village Lunch

Everyone welcome!

Every Wednesday - Quiz Night  
with Raffle

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> August 7.30 pm

Kenn Village Hall

CHEESE AND WINE

EVENING

Tombola and Games

£5 per ticket

In aid of the Dorset and Somerset Air  
Ambulance - Kenn Women's  
Institute charity for the year

## Meet at Cloverlea, Kenn Street

**7.00 pm – Monday 13<sup>th</sup> August,**

for a walk at Castle Farm, Clevedon

Everyone is welcome to join in

## Church Room Coffee Morning

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> August

10.30 – 12 noon – come along,

meet your neighbours and

friends.

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> August

At The Drum and Monkey, Kenn

The Mocking Birds

Adult Comedy and Songs

**£20 per person 3 course meal and fun**

**PROCEEDS TO KENN VILLAGE HALL**

**FUNDS**

Stefan would like raffle prizes and support

KENN & KINGSTON KOMBINE

## **Bank Holiday Bonanza**

**Parkinson's 100**

**Sponsored Walk**

Starts 11.00 am

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at  
Yew Tree Farm, Kingston Seymour  
Bank Holiday Sunday  
Human Roulette  
Cream Teas, Barbecue  
26<sup>th</sup> August - from 4.00 pm till late  
Proceeds will be shared between The  
Parkinson's Disease Society and Church  
Funds

26<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> November  
Simon King is **FREDDIE STAR**  
plus supporting act singer  
**Julie Holden**  
**£20 per person to include a three  
course meal**

**Every Wednesday - Quiz Night  
With Raffle.**

## ADVANCE DATES

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September  
2pm - 5pm - Open day at  
YACWAG'S Littlewood Reserve  
Free Entrance

No parking, but a free minibus  
service will run from Kenn  
(every 30 minutes)

**Kenn Harvest Supper**  
**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> September**  
**Following**  
**Festival Evensong at**  
**St. John the Evangelist**

**FASHION SHOW/SALE**  
at Kenn Village Hall  
Monday 17<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm  
*Tickets now available from  
Marianna Mackay - only a few left!!*

**What's on at the Drum?**

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> August - 12.00**  
**Village Lunch - All welcome**

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> August  
The Mocking Birds  
£20 per person meal and fun  
**PROCEEDS TO KENN VILLAGE HALL  
FUNDS**



**Kenn  
Women'  
s  
Institute**

On 8<sup>th</sup> August, the W.I. will be  
hosting a Cheese and Wine Party  
to raise money for The Dorset and  
Somerset Air Ambulance. Tickets are  
£5 to include a glass of wine and there  
will be supper and all the other usual  
activities.

Please come along and support this  
very worthy cause. The service  
receives no government funding and  
does such valuable work.

The July meeting was magic! Mr  
Cruse gave a talk on the history of  
magic and illustrated it with tricks.  
Playing cards were moved around and  
jewellery disappeared, only to  
reappear in the most unlikely places.  
To be as close to one's audience as  
Mr. Cruse was and be able to perform  
as he did was very clever indeed.

Mrs Margaret Flux gave an excellent  
report on the AGM at the Albert Hall.  
The resolution this year was to ask the  
government not to close community  
hospitals. The representative from the  
Ministry was given a very rough ride

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and the resolution was carried with a resounding majority. There was also a talk by Stuart Rose from Marks and Spencer about the firm's aim to be carbon neutral very soon.

There is no meeting in August, the members are all going off on a mystery tour. In September, Mr. Morgan (also known to us as Obadiah Hackett) will speak on the history of Chepstow Castle.

Ann Holtham

## The Wind in the Willows

The village hall was packed to the gunwales (worrying, since it was raining cats and dogs outside, and we all know what happens when water gets in your gun ports. Good bye Mary Rose and all that). But last night it was Good Bye Piccadilly, Farewell Leicester Square on our journey of serenade and song. And what a magical tour it was – the singers were so cheerful and talented (Margaret sings like an angel!); the amazing gentleman on the piano took our breath away; the little opera itself was an absolute joy; the community singing would have put the Proms to shame; and everyone smiled. All the time. Fabulous. Huge thanks to Liz and Margaret and everyone involved for giving us such a splendid evening – despite the weather!

Hazel Limage

**New Village Hall Porch Appeal Update.....**

We trust all Villagers have received and read our appeal leaflets, which we have also delivered to all businesses within the Parish. In total more than 130 of these requests for support have gone out.

We are pleased to report that already some donations have come in.

We hope for a good and prompt response as we are now spending money we haven't got. Any and all donations will be much appreciated.

John Griffin - Kenn Village Hall Committee.

## Kenn Village Hall Porch

Firstly, thanks to the Fund Raisers to Avril and Stuart for Midsummer Madness (which I missed) but which made an amazing profit, and gave everyone such pleasure. Well done all of you – hopefully this will be repeated!

The Garden Party – we all prayed for the weather and were blessed. Special thanks go to Marlene and John for opening their house and garden to us again and for donating the proceeds of £720 to Hall Funds.

The Concert at the Village Hall, organised by the Jaehme family - we raised the roof and hopefully some money - Encore! Encore!

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## The Works

A team removed the old porch on the last day of June and it was used for the first time on the 28<sup>th</sup> July – no, it is not complete, there is an awful lot of work to do, but it is weatherproof. At this stage I shall only thank John Hayden and his team of volunteers. What an amazing achievement. More help needed!!!

Margaret Ball

## Bird News I

I am delighted to report that the five young Barn Owls from the YACWAG nest box by the Strawberry all fledged successfully and have now dispersed from the immediate area.

Keep a look out in the evenings – there could be a Barn Owl near you!

Sadly the Kestrel news is not so positive – they have abandoned their nesting attempt. Chris Sperring from the Hawk and Owl Trust tells me that generally Kestrels have had a poor year, whilst for Barn Owls the situation is quite the opposite. Strange since they largely utilise the same prey species.

Last month, Ray commented on the large number of young Blackbirds and the noisy young Green Woodpeckers.

I believe that most of our garden birds have enjoyed a productive breeding season. Whilst it has been very wet, the weather and nights in particular, have remained warm.

Our small garden has seen young Blackbirds, Song Thrushes, Robins, Dunnocks, Blue Tits, Great Tits and Chiffchaff.

Many birds are still singing (and this is very late in the season) and are presumably nesting again.

Speaking of young birds, a pair of Lapwings have fledged at least one, possibly two chicks, near Kenn Moor Gate – a rare feat with all the crows and foxes around these days. Near by were Song Thrush, Whitethroat and Swallow families. Hobbies are present on the east side of Kenn Moor and in aerial battle with a pair of Sparrow

Hawks which probably also have a nest in the same area.

John Croxton has seen Hobbies over Kenn and weather permitting we hope to investigate the presence of another pair, potentially on the west side of Kenn Moor.

The Peregrine Falcons at Clevedon have produced three young – there was much noise and chasing of Pigeons and Gulls over Clevedon seafront at the beginning of the month.

More unusual, following very strong winds on the 5<sup>th</sup> July, over a hundred Manx Shearwaters and four Storm Petrels flew down channel past Clevedon.

Finally the Little Owls near Duck Lane are thought to have fledged two youngsters.

Trevor Riddle 01934 835208

## Bird News II

There seem to be many less Swallows and House Martins around Kenn this year.

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Unusually, many birds including Thrushes were singing loudly into the third week of July. Most birds go quiet after mid-summer when they moult their feathers.

It seems that the wet weather and the lack of insects has stopped the Swallows hatching more than one brood.

The wet weather doesn't seem to have affected wild ducks. Jeff reports several broods of young ducklings, the second broods this year. There are lots of young Sparrows around our bungalow.

Everywhere there are young Green Woodpeckers, they seem to have had a good breeding season.

Toby Naish reports seeing a Barn Owl with a young one at the Lakes at Kingston.

Ray Naish

## **Black Bird News.**

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> July: While shaving I heard a double thump somewhere in the house and thought the post must have come early – but not so and no sign of what the noise could have been.

Later I went out to our car and when I came back down the drive I saw a peculiar coloured lump on the concrete path adjacent to the front of the house. It was a beautiful, probably 80% fully grown, green woodpecker, now cold.

For a change it was a very bright sunny morning and I wondered if it had mistaken the shining glass of the upstairs window for the gap over the garage between the houses, and broken its neck on impact. There is no evidence on the window, nor on the wall of the house.

Could it have been mobbed by magpies or crows and misjudged the gap?

Just possibly it could have been hit in flight by a tall van and landed on our path, but then I wouldn't have heard the thump.

What a tragedy, though, especially as we had only said, when returning from Ray's walk two nights earlier, that we hadn't seen any in the garden this year.

A few years ago a whole family used to visit our back lawn to gorge themselves on the many ant's nests there. For one woodpecker family this year there will be a long, unfruitful wait for this one to come home.

Geoff. Marchant.

## **Summer Walk**

The next summer walk is on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> August when we hope to revisit Castle Farm, Walton St. Mary.

We meet at Cloverlea at 7pm. All welcome to join us.

Jeff has just reported seeing a deer with faun at Castle Farm.

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Ray Naish.

## **Priddy Fair**

The 659<sup>th</sup> Priddy Fair will be held on the Village Green at Priddy on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> August. A great day out for the family. You are advised to get there early i.e. soon after 10am

Ray Naish

## **A visit to Wharf Farm – 9 July 2007**

For the July summer walk Ray had arranged a visit to Wharf Farm that is owned by Thelma Blake. This farm is about as remote as can be and is situated right alongside the sea wall on the far side of Kingston Seymour. Considering the appalling weather we have been experiencing there was a very good attendance and we were lucky that the rain held off for the duration of the walk.

Walking from the farm towards the sea wall Thelma pointed out a ditch where bubbles continuously rise to the surface of the water. Could this be marsh gas or methane produced by rotting vegetation perhaps?

I should explain at this point that Thelma's farm lies to the landward side of two sea walls. The first next to the farm is the original seawall and the sea topped it in 1981 and large areas of land were flooded. Subsequently in 1984 a higher seawall was constructed much closer to the sea. This seawall was constructed from material excavated from land belonging to the farm and so much was taken that a large pool known as Blake's Pool was formed.

From the top of the new seawall we looked back towards the farm to admire Thelma's herd of purebred beef Shorthorns. In the past Thelma owned a world record-breaking cow called Kingsley Musical the 3<sup>rd</sup> that produced a total of 21,000 gallons of milk.

Looking out across the estuary we saw the remains of two wrecks in the mud banks. These were all that remained of two ships that were deliberately positioned there during World War 2 for bombing practice.

Mindful of the likelihood of rain we wasted little time discussing history but promptly set off to follow the outer wall as far as we could to where the Congresbury Yeo River meets the Bristol Channel. For a short distance we walked along the riverbank arriving close to Blake's Pool. At this point we turned left and continued back to the farm along the old seawall.

In earlier times the residents of Kingston Seymour were required to maintain this original sea defence. Engraved stone markers or Meare Stones indicated the sections that were the responsibility of individuals. I was pleased to see that several of these stones are still visible.

My report would not be complete without mentioning some of the wildlife that we spotted. For me the highlight was the sight of two brown Hares that put on a fine display of high speed running. We also saw or heard many birds including Whimbrel, Kestrel, Curlew, Lapwing, Egret, Skylark, Redshank and a Grey Heron.

We arrived back at the farm just as the rain started but luckily we were able to shelter in the barn whilst we thanked Ray for arranging the visit and Thelma for allowing us access to her farm.

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Robert Down

**Kingston Seymour  
OPEN GARDENS 1.30 - 5.30pm  
Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> August  
£3 entry to all gardens  
(accompanied children free)  
Refreshments, open church and  
Koi carp pond.  
Proceeds to All Saints' Flower  
Festival June 2008**

## The Village Hall Gate

I have been asked if I knew where the unusual metal gate came from that was at the entrance to the Village Hall Porch.

During the War, a lady from Clevedon named Mrs. Council, who had been a nurse got all the young girls from the Village to meet in the Village Hall where she gave them lessons on basic nursing. My mother Maggie Naish helped her with this.

When these girls had received some training they were taken to Hospitals in Clevedon and Winford every Sunday to help out, so that the hard pressed regular nurses could get some time off.

These girls were provided with stretchers by the Red Cross to assist in their training.

About 1950, this group was disbanded as no longer required.

The late Stanley Denmead was caretaker of the Hall at this time. He cut one of these stretchers in half and made it into the gate that has been there ever since.

I think it should be retained – it is a bit of the history of Kenn.

I have a photo of those girls in their Red Cross Uniforms. Very few of them are still in the village.

If anyone would like to see this photo, feel free to talk to me. I know them all by name.

Ray Naish.

## Kenn News & Views

Several months ago, I had a spare copy of Kenn News and Views.

I passed it on to our accountant who lives in Weston-super-Mare. His reply was as follows:

I have read your News and Views with great interest. It is so full of enjoyable reading and the thing that has impressed me most is how many people contribute, the variety of very interesting functions which you organise and just how much you raise on any charity function.

Please feel free to use this letter as a basis of an entry in a forthcoming issued of Kenn news and Views. H.J.

R.V.N.

**The people who lived in Kenn in 1934 continued**

# KENN NEWS & VIEWS

I am writing about the people who lived in Kenn in 1934, when I was eight years old.

It is worth recording, that in 1934 Kenn was a very different place than it is today. There were no telephones, piped water, gas or electricity in the village. People used wells or the River Kenn for drinking water and oil lamps or candles for light and oil stoves or black-leaded ranges for cooking.

Last month, we got as far as Wayside Garage. We now move to Portbury House Farm. This was the home of Hugh and Kate Stowell and their children Kathleen and John.

In the south-facing wing of the house lived a Mr and Mrs Smith, who were retired people.

Hugh, or Boy Stowell as he was known, employed three men on the farm. They milked a herd of cows. The milk was sold to Misses Robertson and Barnes at Station Road Dairy in Clevedon.

Next farm was Colehouse Farm, up over Colehouse Bridge. This farm was run by Mr and Mrs. Tommy Beacham and their son Clifford. A herd of cows was milked there; also they had the first camp-site in the area which is still there.

Down the lane was Lake Farm run by Mr and Mrs. Bill Withey. They had a mentally retarded son Bobby who died about this time aged about twelve. Bill Withy milked quite a large dairy of cows for those days. He employed several men and he delivered the milk around Clevedon house-to-house.

We now move back down into Davis Lane and come to Clevedon Farm which was run by George and Evelyn Hazell, they had one daughter Betty., There was a herd of cows milked on the farm, one man was employed.

Further along the Lane was Whitehouse Farm, run by Mr and Mrs Bill Sumerhayes, they had two sons.

A herd of cows were milked there by machine, the first milking machine in the district.

Bill Sumerhayes had recently had a model piggery built which housed over a hundred pigs at all times, one man was employed on the farm.

Around the corner, towards Nailsea, we come to Kenn Pier Farm. William and Hilda Bye had just taken over the farm with their son Ralph and daughter Joyce. They employed Mrs. Bye's nephew Ken Andrews to help on the farm. The milk from their cows was delivered house-to-house in Clevedon by horse and cart. Mrs. Bye was from the Staples family and had been born at Stonehouse Farm, Kenn.

To be continued .....

Ray Naish

## Charles Bees

Former Kenn resident, Charlie Bees, has passed away recently aged 85.

Charlie came to live in Kenn on his marriage to Ada Watts and lived here for many years before returning to his native Clevedon.

Charlie had an unusual occupation, he was a Saw Doctor. He sharpened and maintained the saws at Shopland's Saw Mills for many years, also doing

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sharpening and repairing saws privately.

A very pleasant and polite man, he was one of nature's gentlemen.

His funeral was at Kenn Church conducted by Prebendary John Andrews. Mrs. Mary Holmes as the organist. Following the funeral, Charlie was buried in the family grave in the churchyard.

R.V. Naish.

## **Robert Cecil Guest**

Cecil Guest, who was well known to many Kenn people has passed away aged 85.

Cecil married Mildred Neath, a Kenn girl, when she was our next door neighbour. When a schoolgirl, she had lived with her family at "Chapel Cottage", Kenn Street.

Unfortunately, Mildred died when only 37, she left three young children.

Cecil was one of the most hard-working men I have ever known. His day job was with the Somerset Rivers Catchment Board. He was responsible for all the hatches and dams that regulated the water levels around this area.

He had been known to get up at two o'clock in the morning and cycle out into the moors to adjust hatches to prevent flooding after thunderstorms. Also to get up in the middle of the night to do 'tide watching' on the Sea Wall when very high tides were expected.

Cecil worked on this job for 37 years. When he retired two men were

employed to take over his work. They could never manage to get all the work done as he had done.

The River Authority purchased a boat fitted with cutting equipment on the sides to cut the weeds on the river banks. Cecil was the only man able to manage this boat. When he retired it was made redundant.

Added to his day job, Cecil worked at Stonehouse farm for three generations of the Naish family, evenings and weekends for well over forty years.

When large amounts of Cider were made on the farm, Cecil carried out the cider making operations for many years.

Before Cecil came on the scene, it took three men to operate the machinery required to make the cider, but Cecil operated it along, with no fuss or complains.

In spite of holding down two jobs, in the evenings, after work, Cecil brought up his three school aged children single handed after their mother's death, without asking for help of any sort from anyone.

A funeral service was held for Cecil at Weston Crematorium, conducted by the Revd. Chris Horseman. His ashes were interred in his wife Mildred's grave in the garden of remembrance at Kenn Church.

I talked to his children Sylvia, Jacky and Robert after the funeral. They were full of praise for their dad who, they said, had been a wonderful parent, doing everything he could for their well-being all through his life.

Cecil was very proud of his seven grandchildren. They all attended the

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funeral. They are a very smart and respectable group of young people

Cecil was a keen gardener. He had won prizes for the Best Kept Garden on the estate where he lived.

When he got to old to work he delivered the Ad Mag around part of Clevedon.

Cecil's life was wonderfully well lived, may he rest in peace.

Ray Naish

## Margaret's Mutterings

### Condolences

We send our deepest sympathy to our editor Sheila, together with Miles , Leon, Justin and Mel, on the death of Sheila's mum Mrs. Barbara Hughes at Cherry Orchard, in Clevedon 21<sup>st</sup> July.

### In Hospital

At the time of writing , Brian Stowell is still in hospital, having moved from Weston to the B.R.I. Sadly he was unable to be at the Christening of his grandson Sam William Hibbs at St. John the Evangelist on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> July, but we are keeping our fingers crossed that the doctors will do the necessary and that he will be home in time for Kate and Dave's wedding on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> September.

### Out of Hospital

Remember Clare and Matt Bessant's triplets born on the 25<sup>th</sup> April, in Gwent? Well, on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> July (which would have been their late grandmother Jean's

birthday) they were all allowed home to Yatton from Southmead Hospital.

I have visited them and they are absolutely beautiful - all of them are doing well and have reached normal birth weight.

Ray's July Walk - Whilst leaving Wharf Farm we saw a weasel, now weasels are (w)easily recognised, but a stoat is (s)totally different.!

## Congratulations

Our ex-Post Mistress Barbara Middleton is justly proud of all her grandchildren, but, at the moment, particularly proud of Angel Middleton who has gained a 2.1 B.A. Hons . in Language and Communications, at Cardiff and Angel's cousin Laura who has attained a 2.1 B.A. Hons. Degree in French at Stirling .

## Publishing Success

Chip Granger celebrated a special birthday in July and the fact that her recently published memoirs 'Alone' had reached number 8 in the list of Best Selling Paperbacks. If you are looking for a copy W.H. Smith are very obliging and Chip writes under the name of Pip Granger

Doggie's Bin - Have you noticed it, green on a post near the junction of the moor road & Kenn Street? Thanks to Lise Willcox for organising it, it should be emptied once a fortnight, so it is now ready for use!

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## Shirley and Ron Moore

We extend our best wishes to Shirley and Ron Moor who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on the 6<sup>th</sup> July. Ron was born at White Cottage, in Kenn and worked for many years for David Crossman and his father.

Copy for News & Views to Ray Naish or Margaret Ball Fax 01275 342050  
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## PARISH OF YATTON MOOR

### **1<sup>st</sup> Sunday – 5<sup>th</sup> August Ninth Sunday after Trinity**

**08.00 Holy Communion Kenn**  
08.00 Holy Communion Claverham  
09.30 Parish Communion Yatton  
09.30 Holy Communion Cleeve  
11.00 Family Service  
Kingston Seymour  
18.00 Evensong Yatton

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday – 12<sup>th</sup> August Tenth Sunday after Trinity**

08.00 Holy Communion Yatton  
09.30 Parish Communion Yatton  
09.30 Holy Communion Claverham  
11.00 Trinity Praise Cleeve  
**11.00 Holy Communion Kenn**  
18.00 Evensong Kingston Seymour  
18.30 Holy Communion Cleeve

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday – 19<sup>th</sup> August Eleventh Sunday after Trinity**

08.00 Holy Communion Claverham  
09.30 Holy Communion Cleeve  
09.30 Family Communion Yatton  
11.00 Holy Communion  
Kingston Seymour

*18.00 Evensong Kenn*

### **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday – 26<sup>th</sup> August Twelfth Sunday after Trinity**

08.00 Holy Communion Yatton  
08.00 Holy Communion  
Kingston Seymour  
09.30 Holy Communion Cleeve  
09.30 Parish Communion Yatton  
10.00 Family Service Claverham  
**11.00 Family Service Kenn**  
18.30 Ecumenical Service at  
Yatton Methodist Church

## SERVICES FOR AUGUST 2007

### HOLY DAYS IN AUGUST

**6<sup>th</sup> Transfiguration**  
08.30 Holy Communion, Yatton

**23<sup>rd</sup> Eve of Bartholomew the Apostle**  
19.30 Holy Communion Yatton

### WEEKDAY SERVICES

Daily 08.30 Morning Prayer Yatton  
(not Saturdays or Holy Days)

Every Wednesday  
11.00 Holy Communion Yatton

1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday  
11.00 Holy Communion Kingston  
Seymour

***Third Wednesday -  
Holy Communion service  
at St. John's Kenn on  
Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> August 11.00***

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4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday

11.00 Holy Communion Claverham

Every Thursday

09.30 Holy Communion Cleeve

19.30 Holy Communion Yatton

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays

14.00 First Steps, Yatton