

KENN NEWS & VIEWS

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

May

1st Hartley Staples
Lynne & Steve Bye WA
4th Nigel Middleton
?? Sarah and Tom Clark W.A
8th Mike Stowell
Tina & Nigel Middleton WA
10th Jill Butland
Jayne Morris
11th Tina Middleton
15th Samuel Leiper
20th Harrison Flower
22nd Duncan Mackay
26th Brian Stowell
Jane Staples
Colin Webb
28th Sally White
29th Milly Stowell
Trina Willoughby
Samuel Rogers
30th Joanna Brain

St. John the Evangelist, Kenn

Sunday 1st May – ROGATION

There will be a
SPECIAL EVENSONG
at Kenn Church
6.00 pm on Sunday 1st May
for Rogationtide.

If it is a fine evening, we hope
to follow our custom of holding
part of the service outside.

R.V.N.

5th 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 and Mrs Joyce Kent

Christian Aid Week

This year Christian Aid Week
will be from 15th to 21st May. I
will be in contact with all the
old faithfuls, but if you would
like to share the load,
distributing and/or collecting
envelopes, please contact me,

Julia Bush 01275 873554

The 'New Room' is dedicated.

On 10th April, a motley crowd
of about 60 souls gathered in
the church carpark, after
Communion, for a short service
at which Rev. Avril Gaunt,
accompanied by Rev. Preb.
John Andrews, dedicated the
'New Room and Looroom'.

Then we all had a drink to
celebrate the completion of the
project.

The room is now simply a part
of the village fabric, available to
anyone in the village and St
John's congregation.

At last!

Julia Bush

Rogationtide At Kenn

We shall enjoy an extra
Evensong at Kenn at 6pm on
1st May.

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Rogationtide

The traditional day for beating the bounds of the parish was Holy Thursday (Ascension Day) 40 days after Easter. The rogation days fall on the four days from the fifth Sunday after Easter which itself falls on the Sunday after the first full moon following the vernal equinox.

Rogationtide is an ancient festival to invoke a blessing on fields, stock and folk.

Friends of Kenn Church Annual General Meeting

6.30 pm Thursday 19th May
at 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 20th May 2004
3. Matters arising
4. Finance
5. Election of Committee
6. Church Room
7. Future Events

May Day

May Day has always been a great rural festival; the celebrations varied in detail from place to place, but basically there was little difference. It is the day when the Maypole was erected on the village green and the children danced round it holding the long ribbons that were attached to the top of the pole.

The children were divided into two halves, one half dancing in the opposite direction to the other so that the ribbons were too short to allow the dancers to complete a circle. The dancers went into reverse and the plaiting was undone, until the ribbons again hung free from the top of the Maypole.

A Queen of the May was chosen from among the girls and it was her duty to take a garland of flowers to a hoop decked with flowers to the Church, where it was placed on the screen and left there until the following May Day.

This pleasant custom used to be carried out with great pomp and

ceremony and it was usually accompanied by a procession of Morris Dancers and musicians.

In the reign of Elizabeth I, Puritans began to abuse the Maypole and its votaries and this hostility culminated in an Order being issued in 1644 to take down all Maypoles.

After the Restoration, the Maypole and Maypole ceremonies were again permitted and Restoration Day (29th May) became the popular day for the May Day Celebrations.

It was not until the latter half of the nineteenth century that the Maypole was again dressed on 1st May.

“The fair maid, who the first of May,
Goes to the fields at break of day
And washes in dew from the hawthorn tree,
Will ever after handsome be”.

“Ill fortune comes to those who wash clothes on May Day”.

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Hartley Staples

Parish Council Notes

Several members of the public attended a very lively Annual Public Meeting on April 4th. Two members of the Care Connect team came as guest speakers to explain the work that they do. By phoning just one number 01275 888 801 or accessing www.n-somerset.gov.uk, one can get information and advice on social services such as Home Care and Care Link alarm systems, housing benefit and other community resources.

It is a very useful one-stop shop. The number is available from Monday - Thursday 8.30 - 5.00 and Friday 8.30 - 4.30. The email address is care.connect@n-somerset.gov.uk.

Kenn was fortunate enough to win the Most Improved Village Award in 2004 and we hope to improve on that in 2005. The village clean-up was so successful that it will take place this year on 4th June. Robin Mackay will take charge again and he will provide information as the date gets nearer.

Robin and Marianna are also compiling a welcome pack for newcomers to the village. They will be glad to receive

information that you think would be useful to a newcomer.

Although the powers that be would have us believe that they have attended to the lay bys and the Church Path, the Parish Council is far from satisfied and will pursue the matters vigorously.

Why not come to the next meeting on 4th June at 7.30pm in the Village Hall and see how your Councillors have fared.

Ann Holtham

Evening Walk

We hope to have our first Summer Walk on Monday 9th May meeting at 'Cloverlea', Kenn Street at 7.00 pm.

We have made arrangements to visit "Alcotts Orchard" in Kingston Seymour. Mr. John Thatcher of Thatchers Cider, who manages the orchard hopes to meet us there to give us a guided tour.

We hope to have a large number of walkers, everyone is invited to join us.

Ray Naish

Kenn Women's Institute

The sunny evening and Jean Ings' pretty flower arrangement gave a spring-like feeling to our Meeting on 13th April.

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President Marion Carrington and Gill Hackett had been to the EGM at Weston and reported that Avon Federation members now number 3723 with Bradley Stoke being a newly formed W.I.

There will be a W.I. tent at Bristol Flower Show and a Rose Bowl will be awarded annually to the member who has done outstanding work for the WI or the community.

The speaker, Dicie Lewis, the author of 'Kent Privvies' and 'Yorkshire down the Pan', gave a humorous talk about loos.

Apparently pinking shears were used by posh people to cut up their newspapers before Quilted Velvet was invented.

The resolutions; Care for the Environment, and Farm Gate Milk Prices will be discussed next month when we will be joined by our delegate to the AGM.

A Cheese and Wine evening will be held on 10th August in aid of our charity for the year South West Children's Hospice.

A Jumble Sale will be held at the Village Hall – 7.00 pm on Wednesday 18th May and members were reminded of details concerning our trip to Highgrove.

Our speaker, Mr Michael Brayley, on a return visit, told us about Eclairs at the Berkeley, an amusing tale about this family, especially his aunts, Gert and Straw.

There had been an uncle, who had the distinction of being killed by Queen Victoria's train. This, said

the family, was due to his bowing when he should have jumped.

Gert and Straw, like many women after the first world war, realised that finding a husband was going to be difficult, so decided to go into business and bought a shop in Clifton.

On one side were flowers, where Aunt Straw sat in state, the only movement her hands as she quickly made up bouquets and posies. The other side of the shop was fruit and veg where aunt Gert wore herself out lugging sacks of vegetables about.

Michael Brayley's father had died when he was quite young, so Michael spent a lot of time at the aunts' shop.

As a special treat he went from school to tea every Thursday where, amongst other delights, were chocolate éclairs. The aunts were excellent cooks, making up for his mothers cooking. Her beef gravy was so solid it had the advantage of disguising whatever was hidden beneath.

Eclairs were on the menu when, as he grew older, Aunt Gert would take him to the Berkeley Cafe on Queens Road.

His aunt always wore a large hat decorated with flowers by her sister, making her look like a walking floral display which was useful for stopping the traffic when they crossed the road.

Young Michael enjoyed the Berkeley, not only because of the cakes available, but also the social

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chatter and music from the three-piece band.

The only drawback came when Aunt Gert, at the end of tea, would take out a lacy hankie, spit on it, and wipe the chocolate off Michael's face. Very off-putting when you are 14 years old and six feet tall.

Years later Mr.Brayley had a business meeting in London and arranged to meet his colleague at THE Berkeley for tea. Sure enough, there amongst the selection of cakes on the dish was one éclair; to his relief the other man took a Danish pastry.

Other treats from the aunts were trips to the theatre, as they let off parts of the house to 'theatricals' and greatly admired Vic Oliver as he was related to Winston Churchill.

They took Michael to the Hippodrome and he was stunned when the curtains parted to show six naked ladies on stage, three posing on each side. Young Michael became quite dizzy, not knowing which group to stare at. Though they didn't leave the theatre as Michael expected them to, Vic Oliver's name was never, ever, mentioned by the aunts again.

Next month's meeting is on Wednesday 11th May and Mrs Dobson will be the speaker.

Competition is for a chocolate recipe.

Winners of April's competition for a pretty tea-plate were 1) June Cooper, 2) Hazel Limage 3) Margaret Chappell.

Shirley Livesey

SNIPPETS

Celebrations

April 9th We flew our flag to celebrate the wedding of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales and Mrs Camilla Parker Bowles. We wish them many happy years together.

April 10th Our flag was flown in celebration of the 55th Wedding Anniversary of Jean and Raymond Naish.

April 21st - We flew our flag to celebrate the seventy-ninth birthday of Her Majesty our Queen.

April 23rd - We flew our St. George's Flag to celebrate our patron saint St. George's day.

Thanks

My sincere and grateful thanks go to everyone for their flowers, visits and enquiries while I am unwell. I have appreciated everyone's kindnesses.

Thank you very much

Ruth Dyer

Kenn Women's Institute Jumble Sale 7.00pm Wednesday 18th May

A Jumble Sale for W.I. Funds will be held at Kenn Village Hall on Wednesday May 18th at 7.00 pm.

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Many stalls, Produce, bric-a-brac
Toys, Books.

In November
A Wurzels Evening

Goods to Hall 10.00 am – 11.00 am.

Ruth Dyer

What's on at The Drum!

Tuesday 3rd May from 12.30
Village Lunch - All Welcome
Bring a friend

Tuesday 31st May
Rikki Harris is Elvis Presley
Sold Out

Tuesday 28th June
WhamTastis is
George Michael
£20 for a three course meal and
entertainment

Tuesday 26th July
£15 - Keith Manifold is
The Big 'O' - Roy Orbison

Tuesday 23rd August
£15 - The Blues Brothers Show
Black Pork Pie Hats and Dark Glasses

Tuesday 27th September
£15 - MEDIEVAL NIGHT

In October
All the way from America
The Cell Block 7
Dixieland Jazz Band

That takes us up to December
Bookings being taken for
Christmas and Christmas Day

Don't forget
Every Wednesday
Is still Quiz Night
Nice to see more of the
Villagers being entertained by
us

The Frank Sinatra Night for the
Village Hall went extremely
well.
Lots of people, lots of laughs
from Eddie Cockup
We collected over £610 for the
Village Hall
Thank you all for the Raffle
Prizes

Mike and Kelly

May Holiday Refuse collection dates for Kenn

Normal Day	Revised Day
Monday 2 nd May	- Tuesday 3 rd May

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Monday 30th May - Tuesday 31st May

Recycling 11th and 25th May

St. John the Evangelist, Kenn

6.30 pm Thursday 19th May
Annual General Meeting of
The Friends of Kenn Church

Dates for your Diary

The Drum and Monkey

**Tuesday 3rd May - Village
Lunch from 12.30 p.m. -
Everyone welcome!**

Every Wednesday is Quiz Night

Kenn Village Hall

Thursday 5th May
7.00 am – 10.00 pm
General Election

Cloverlea, Kenn Street

Monday 9th 7.00 pm – Meet for a walk
at Kingston Seymour with Ray Naish

Kenn Village Hall

Wednesday 11th May 7.30 p.m.

Kenn Women's Institute
Speaker – Mrs Dobson

Competition is for a chocolate
recipe

Clevedon Salerooms

Thursday 12th -10.00 am
Sale of Victorian and later
Furniture and Effects.
Viewing Wednesday prior
10.00 am – 7.30 pm
Morning of sale 9-10 am

Kenn Village Hall

**Wednesday 18th May 7.00 pm.
W.I. JUMBLE SALE**

VILLAGE CLEAN UP

Last year Kenn won the prize for the most improved village in an area called Severnside (includes all of North Somerset, South Glos and Bath & NE Somerset).

The prize is part of the Calor Gas Village of the Year competition.

A large part of this success was due to the Clean Up which removed the enormous amount of litter which accumulates on our grass verges.

Since last year more litter has accumulated and we need to repeat the Clean Up operation.

Please come and join us to improve our environment and help us to gain an even better prize.

The Clean Up will be on Saturday 4th June (meet at the Village Hall at 10.00am) and will be followed by a BBQ later in the day which will be Free Of Charge to all participants.

If you can't join us on the day could you please tidy up an area outside your property or nearby instead.

Robin Mackay

Margarets in the Wars

Both Margaret Ball and Margaret Ford who live in Kenn Street have had falls recently. Margaret Ball slipped while

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on holiday and fractured her leg and Margaret Ford fell over at home and badly injured her shoulder. We wish them both a speedy return to normality.

Ray Naish

Mary Rae Rogers

As reported in April News and Views, Rae Rogers passed away in March after a prolonged illness aged 82 years.

Rae had been living in Cole House Lane for several years after living in Cornwall for many years. She and her family were fortunate to be able to buy back the house that Rae and her late husband John had built and lived in before moving to Cornwall over 40 years ago.

Since moving back to Cole House Lane, Rae had become very well known to Kenn people, she was a regular attender at the Church together with her daughter Helen and grandchildren, Samuel, Verity and Robin. She was a very friendly person and made many friends through her church connections. She is greatly missed.

Rae's funeral was held at Kenn Church, the church was packed to the doors, her grandsons and brother read the lessons. There was a full choir and the service was conducted by Preb. Rev. John Andrews who had got to know Rae and her family well since moving to this Parish.

Those of us that know the family express our sincere sympathy to them in their sad loss.

Ray Naish

Kenn Court in 1820 – part 2

The following advertisement is taken from Felix Farley's Bristol Journal, published on Saturday 4th March 1820.

TO GENTLEMEN GRAZIERS TO BE LET for a term of THREE YEARS With immediate Possession

That Capital and well-known MANSION & ESTATE
KENN COURT

The House is situate on a handsome Lawn, surrounded by extensive Plantations; and contains dining, drawing, and breakfast rooms; entrance hall, china-pantry, kitchen, back ditto, wine and other cellars, 8 bed-rooms; excellent walled Garden, stocked with the choicest Fruit Trees in the highest state of cultivation: Garden House, Coach-house, two Stables, Barn, Bartons, Ox-Pens and every other necessary Office to render the whole convenient, and fit for the residence of any gentleman.

The quality and excellence of this Estate is too well known to render any description requisite: it consists of 219 Acres, statute measure; 28 of which are Arable, 5 Orchard and the remainder Meadow and Pasture, be the same more or less. The whole of the Lands are in the highest possible state of cultivation, having been some years in the occupation of the late John Knight, Esq. the former proprietor. The Estate is free of all Tithes. Poor Rates, and other parochial charges, are extremely moderate; and it also possesses the superior advantage of being within the short distance of 12 miles only from Bristol.

The present is an opportunity to any Gentleman who wishes such an Estate, that may never again offer.

To treat for the same, and any further Particulars may be obtained on application to Mr. ROBERT GOUGH, Shannon-Court, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, from 11 to 2 o'clock and other days at his residence, Whitley-Court, near Pensford:- if by letter, the postage is requested to be paid. A person at the House will show the Estate

I am surprised that there is no mention of The Court being moated. The moat

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was still there until the road through Kenn was straightened in the 1970's.

I am also surprised that the ancient Dove Cote that was built into the garden wall is not mentioned.

I have searched the Ancient Burial Register (first entry 1813) that is in the Church safe and can find no entry of a burial of either John Knight Esq. or his daughter or sister Miss Knight who called the sale at The Court that I described in last month's News and Views.

I remember the late Sam Dyer telling me that the previous tenant of the Court before his great grandfather, also Samuel, arrived here in 1850 was a man called Lovell so there must be a fair assumption that he was the man who obtained the tenancy in 1820.

Ray Naish

Margaret's Mutterings

Kenn Village Hall

Thanks to the generosity of Mike Beardshaw at the Drum and our very own Frank Sinatra, Colin Alexander, a most enjoyable evening at The Drum resulted in the absolutely magnificent sum of £612 being donated to Kenn Village Hall Funds on Tuesday 26th May.

Mike, Kelly and all the staff are to be congratulated, the food was great, the entertainment, not forgetting "Eddie Cockup" Brian Tyrrell, was first class and a great time was had by all.

The following day, Wednesday, Mike Flanders came along and did the Village Hall floor, this

now looks a treat and should last for many years.

Ducks – Alas, Hazel's famous five are now four!

Thanks

May I thank everyone for the kindness I have received since I slipped and broke my leg. Special thanks to Irene Stowell who did my church cleaning, all those who sent flowers, cards, cakes, best wishes and did my ironing, but most importantly, thanks to John my chauffeur, nurse, helper etc. who has been wonderful.

Only another three weeks then the plaster should be off. It most certainly makes me grateful for the health that I normally take for granted.

In and out of hospital

During April several Kennites have spent time in Clevedon Cottage Hospital, in particular Sam Staples, who is now home, Ruth Dyer, also home again and George Holtham.

We are so fortunate to have this lovely hospital so close.

BIRD NEWS I

Many of our summer visitors have arrived at the time of writing (25th) and the Cuckoo was heard along the Strawberry Line near Yatton on the early date of 19th April.

A few Swallows arrived early in the month, but the main body came in mid – late April.

There were 5 Pied Flycatchers in trees on Wains Hill, Clevedon on 20th

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April. There seems to be exceptionally high numbers of Blackcaps singing this year, with reports of high numbers from several sites.

By the 17th April, there were Whitethroats, Reed Warblers and at least one Sedge Warbler singing along the Strawberry Line.

The Cattle Egret is still being seen occasionally around Kingston Seymour and there were reports of two!! If there is a pair ornithological history could be made

At the peat moors near Congresbury a pair of Marsh Harriers was present, but just as we thought they might settle down to breed they disappeared. We are hoping that they have moved to a quiet spot and are being unobtrusive. Alternatively they may be migrants that have moved on.

There were 3 Hobbies at Shapwick Heath by the 23rd, no doubt there will soon be sightings around Kenn Moor.

A pair of Swans is nesting right beside Eastern Drove, next to Littlewood. The Cob (male) is very 'protective' and anyone walking past the nest does so at their peril, as I found out when I got a wing bashing!

Trevor Riddle - 01934 835208

BIRD NEWS II

Jeff reports seeing a Golden Eagle in Tickenham. This huge bird lives in an aviary at Tickenham and flies in and out.

To date, 25th April, the Swallows that have nested in the buildings at

Stonehouse Farm for many years, have not yet put in an appearance. I wonder why they are so late?

Crows are causing a problem with sheep lately. Jeff had a lamb's tongue pecked out soon after birth. Miles found a ewe stranded on her back (sheep get stranded like that when they have a full fleece), a Crow had attacked her and pecked her eye-lids off. Fortunately he found her before her eye was pecked out as happened to several of his sheep last year.

Both Miles and Jeff have had bulls attacked by Magpies. These vicious birds pecked holes into the bulls' backs.

Rooks have failed to build nests in the Ash Tree in the Churchyard this year, I wonder why? I saw a large noisy flock inspecting the site in February.

Ray Naish

THE NORTH SOMERSET SHOW

**Bank Holiday Monday, 2nd 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

Adults £8 Children £2

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SERVICES FOR MAY 2005

1st Sunday 1st May - ROGATION THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

8 am Holy Communion Kenn
8 am Holy Communion Claverham
9.30 am Parish Communion Yatton
9.30 am Holy Communion Cleeve
11:00 am Family Service Kingston Seymour
6 pm Evensong Kenn (an extra service)

2nd Sunday 8th May THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

8 am Holy Communion Yatton
9.30 am Family Communion Yatton
9.30 am Holy Communion Claverham
11 am Family Service Cleeve
11 am Holy Communion Kenn
4 pm Evening Service Kingston Seymour
60th Anniversary of End of World War II

3rd Sunday 15th May DAY OF PENTECOST

8 am Holy Communion Kingston Seymour
8 am Holy Communion Claverham
11 am Outdoor Pentecostal Communion at
Yatton Junior School
2.30 pm Holy Baptism Yatton
6.00pm Evensong Kenn

**Thursday 19th May 6.30 pm AGM of
The Friends of Kenn Church
at St John the Evangelist, Kenn
- All Welcome!**

4th Sunday 22nd May TRINITY SUNDAY

8 am Holy Communion Yatton
8 am Holy Communion Kingston Seymour
9.30 am Parish Communion Yatton
9.30 am Patronal Festival Communion Cleeve
10 am Family Service Claverham
11 am Family Service Kenn
6 pm Evensong Yatton

PARISH OF YATTON MOOR

5th Sunday 29th May FIRST SUNDAY OF TRINITY

8 am Holy Communion Kenn
10 am Team Communion Yatton
6 pm Evensong Claverham

HOLY DAYS IN MAY:

3rd PHILIP and JAMES, APOSTLES
8.30 am Holy Communion Yatton

5th 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 Yattoln

14th MATTHIAS the APOSTLE
8.30 am Holy Communion Yatton

**26th DAY OF THANKSGIVING FOR
HOLY COMMUNION
(Corpus Christi)**
7.30 pm 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
18th May
11 am Holy Communion at Kenn

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

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Every Thursday

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