

# KENN NEWS & VIEWS

## **BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES**

### **May**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Hartley Staples  
Lynne & Steve Bye WA  
4<sup>th</sup> Nigel Middleton  
5<sup>th</sup> Sarah and Tom Clark W.A  
8<sup>th</sup> Mike Stowell  
Tina & Nigel Middleton WA  
10<sup>th</sup> Jill Butland  
Jayne Morris  
11<sup>th</sup> Tina Middleton  
12<sup>th</sup> Robert Porch  
15<sup>th</sup> Samuel Leiper  
20<sup>th</sup> Harrison Flower  
22<sup>nd</sup> Duncan Mackay  
Bradley Beardshaw  
26<sup>th</sup> Brian Stowell  
Jane Staples  
Colin Webb  
Betty Bubb  
27<sup>th</sup> Christopher Jaehme (18)  
28<sup>th</sup> Sally White  
29<sup>th</sup> Milly Stowell  
Trina Willoughby  
Samuel Rogers  
30<sup>th</sup> Joanna Brain

### **Thoughts for the month**

*I am too blessed to be stressed and  
too anointed to be disappointed.*

*Winners make things happen*

### **Naish's Notes**

The Hand Stadium are having Salsa dancing classes on a Thursday night  
8/9 pm for beginners  
9/10 for intermediate  
£1 to stay all night after the classes

The classes are £5 per head.  
Go along and have some fun!!

Please remember I am collecting 'Vouchers for Schools' from Tesco, for Yeo Moor Infants School. Please leave with Ray or phone me and I will collect.

Sheila

### **St. John the Evangelist, Kenn**

#### **25<sup>th</sup> 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

### **St. John the Evangelist, Kenn**

#### **Spring Cleaning at Church**

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> evening and during the day - Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> April - help needed!

### **April Family Service at Kenn.**

We were all intrigued when Celia (Andrews) asked us to bring shoes to the Family Service, but we did as we were told, and the chancel step resembled a shoe shop by the end of Celia's talk. Jo Batten read about the events on the road to Emmaus (beautifully) and Celia talked about different types of walk, sponsored, dog, healthy etc, and the kinds of footwear needed for each. Then she described the travellers on the Emmaus road, and their meeting with Christ,

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and how this relates to us and our journey through life.

The service ended with drinks, biscuits and chat.

## **Cake stall at the 'Brunch' on May 6th.**

I will be selling cakes at the Brunch in Kenn Village Hall, May 6th 10am 'til noon. Profits will go to the Blay Family in Ghana.

Julia Bush

## **Easter-tide at Kenn Church**

Following a good congregation at the Good Friday Service of Meditation, the number of people who arrived at the Church for the two Services on Easter Sunday exceeded all expectations. At the morning Family Communion Service at 11 o'clock, 70 people of all ages attended. At this service children and young people took a major part.

At the Service of Evensong at 6 pm there were over 30 people present this included folk from all five churches in the Yatton Moor Team Ministry. This was a very traditional service from the Book of Common Prayer, which included very time-honoured hymns from Hymns Ancient and Modern. Many of the people present stated how much they enjoyed singing hymns that they hadn't sung for many years, in some cases not since childhood.

The choir sang the anthem "This Joyful Eastertide". It was the first time that they had

sung an anthem at Easter for many years.

Ray Naish

## **Simnel Cake Thanks.**

I'd like to thank everyone who bought Simnel Cakes this Easter. As a result of your generosity I have over £100 to send to the Blay Family in Ghana.

Julia Bush

## **Christian Aid Week**

This year Christian Aid Week will be from 14<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> 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 or Celia.

Julia Bush 01275 873554

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## **Friends of Kenn Church** **Annual General Meeting**

6.30 pm Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> 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 19th May 2005
3. Matters arising
4. Finance
5. Election of Committee

## 6. Future Events

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### First Summer Walk of 2006

It is hoped to arrange a Summer Walk on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May meeting at 'Cloverlea', Kenn Street at 7.00 pm. We hope to walk on a farm at Clapton-in-Gordano. Walkers, old and new, are very welcome to join us.

Ray Naish

### Ascension Day

In about 465 A.D. a series of earthquakes, storms, outbreaks of disease and incursions of wild beasts terrified the inhabitants of Western Europe. In order to restore some degree of morale, Mamertus, Bishop of Vienne, instituted a custom whereby rogations and supplications were made during ceremonial processions on Ascension Day, or on one of the three preceding days. Litanies were chanted, imploring divine protection.

This custom was adopted in England early in the eighth century. The Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday before Ascension Day were called Rogation Days, and sometimes Cross Days because of the cross carried by the priest at the head of the procession.

Later these processions became disorderly and at the Reformation they were prohibited until Queen Elizabeth I's reign when the custom of 'walking the bounds' was introduced. Queen Elizabeth directed that 'in the Rogation daies of the procession they saye and singe in English the two psalms beginning Benedic Anima Mea, with the litany and suffrages there unto, with one homelye and

thanksgiving to God already devised and divided into foure partes without addition of any superstitious ceremonies here-to-fore used.'

The elders of the parish, accompanied by the younger generation, walked the boundaries of the parish, and at strategic points the boys were 'bumped' or 'whipped' with willow wands in order that they would not forget the position of the boundary. If as was often the case, the line of a brook or stream marked the boundary the boys were ducked in the water.

There was another significant reason for these perambulations; to let the people in the neighbouring parishes know of the boundary lines and to stress that no encroachment beyond the line would be permitted.

In some parishes, where the land was flat, the children were taken to the top of the church tower on Ascension Day to have the boundaries pointed out to them.

The deeds associated with all property these days and the publication of Ordnance Survey maps has made the custom of walking, or beating, the bounds unnecessary, but in the days of unenclosed commons and wide expanses of heath and open land such perambulations were of great importance.

Ascension Day is still observed in a number of rural areas by the custom of "well-dressing". If a well or spring continued to run during a time of drought the people used to express their thanks on Ascension Day by placing garlands of flowers beside it, and it is from this that the custom of dressing wells with flowers in the form of pictures is thought to originate.

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Hartley Staples

## Thanks

Mary Willcox wishes to thank all those who sent cards, flowers and good wishes during her recent stay in Hospital. (Bionic knee).

## **Parish Council Notes**

At the last meeting of the Parish Council, which was combined with the Annual Parish Meeting, a period of silence was kept in tribute to the memory of our District Councillor, Greta Lewis. Her death was very sudden and terrible shock to us all. Greta had been our Councillor since Kenn became part of the Yatton Ward in 1979. She was tireless in her efforts for what she believed to be right and will be sorely missed as a champion for Kenn and its people.

Her replacement will have a very hard act to follow, but whoever is chosen will be welcomed to Parish Council meetings.

The by-election is scheduled for 1<sup>st</sup> June.

Kenn is again entering the Village of the Year Competition.

Judging begins in June and continues through the summer.

In order to have the village

looking as spick and span as possible Robin Mackay will again be organising a village clean up on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June. He will be letting everyone know what needs to be done.

The Parish Council has been informed that Kenn Street is to be surface dressed soon. Motorists are warned that there may be delays in Kenn Street.

Unfortunately Kenn is not yet on the round for the collection of garden waste but the service does seem to be very successful in those places where it operates, so we must hope it will not be too long before it is rolled out over the whole district.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm. See you there

Ann Holtham

## Corrections

In the March News & Views, I wrote about Mr. R. W. Pearson having a petrol pump installed at Wayside Garage in the early 1930s. I stated that he sold Power petrol at ten pence half penny a gallon. Ralph Bye, who lived at Kenn Pier Farm for nearly 60 years until retiring to Clevedon, has told me that what I wrote was incorrect. Ralph says that Mr. Pearson sold R.O.P. petrol, short for Russian Oil Products at the same price. How he remembers this is that someone, at the time, asked

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what R.O.P. stood for, he got the reply Rob Old Pearson.

In last month's News and Views, in my story of Kenn in Wartime, I stated that there are 30 people still in the village who were here during the war. This was incorrect. The number who are still here is 15. Bob Ford of Kingston has read it and tells me that he is amazed that there are still 15 here. The number still in Kingston is just 3, himself, his cousin Tony Bailey and Ray Stuckey.

Ray Naish

## Our Flag

### Celebrations

March 31<sup>st</sup> - Our flag was flown in celebration of Mike and Iris Callow's Ruby Wedding Anniversary

### April 8<sup>th</sup>

Our flag flew in celebration on the Wedding Day at St. John's of Leanne Williams and William Gray.

### April 21<sup>st</sup>

We flew our flag to celebrate the eightieth birthday of Her Majesty our Queen.

The 21<sup>st</sup> April was also a very special birthday for Barbara Middleton – we send her our congratulations and best wishes.

### April 23<sup>rd</sup>

We flew our St. George's Flag to celebrate our patron saint St. George's day.

## **Easter**

Our flag was flown at half-mast on Good Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April and in Celebration on Easter Sunday the 16<sup>th</sup>.

## Thanks

Rose Baker sends her sincere and grateful thanks to everyone for their cards and flowers and enquiries while she was unwell in Weston Hospital. She has appreciated everyone's kindnesses.

## Thanks

Roland, Sue, Stephanie and Joanna Ellis would like to thank you for such a warm welcome to Kenn village during their recent move into Stonelea (the old post office)

They look forward to meeting more of the community as they settle into their new home.

## What's on at The Drum!

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May from 12.00**  
**Village Lunch - All Welcome**  
**Bring a friend**

**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> May**

**Don't forget**  
**Every Wednesday**  
**Is still Quiz Night**

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Nice to see more of the  
Villagers being entertained by  
us

## May Holiday Refuse collection dates for Kenn

### **Normal Day**

Monday 1st May – Tuesday 2nd May

Monday 29th May – Tuesday 30th May

Recycling 10th and 24th May

### **Revised Day**

Kenn Women's Institute

## Clevedon Salerooms

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> -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

## Cloverlea, Kenn Street

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> at 7.00 pm – Meet for a  
walk at Clapton-in-Gordano  
with Ray Naish

## Dates for your Diary

### The Drum and Monkey

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May -  
Village Lunch from 12.15 p.m. -  
Everyone welcome!

Every Wednesday is Quiz Night

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May  
10.00 am – 12 noon

**A SUMPTUOUS BRUNCH**  
**In aid of Village Hall Funds**

**Come along and enjoy the  
company of friends in our  
Village Hall.**

**Tickets are on sale**  
**Adults £5**  
**Children (under 12) £3**

### Kenn Village Hall

Wednesday 10th May 7.30 p.m.

## St. John the Evangelist, Kenn

6.30 pm Thursday 18th May  
Annual General Meeting of  
The Friends of Kenn Church

## The Church Room

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May**  
**COFFEE MORNING**  
**10.00 – 12 noon**  
**All Welcome**

## ADVANCE DATES

1<sup>st</sup> June – By-Election

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June – Village Clean Up

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June – Parish Council  
Meeting

## **THE NORTH SOMERSET SHOW**

**Bank Holiday Monday, 1<sup>st</sup>**  
**May**  
**at WRAXALL, near Bristol, on the**  
**B3130**

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***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 £9 – Seniors £8 -**

**Children £3 (under 5 free)**

**Family (2 adults, 3 children) £23**

## **Welcome to Margaret and Brian Cook, now living at West Haven.**

Margaret and Brian (Liz Jaehme's parents) moved into West Haven, across the road from the Village Hall, on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2006.

They have spent considerable time visiting Kenn since Liz and Martin Jaehme moved into the village 20 years ago, and have always thought that it is a lovely and friendly village to live in.

When West Haven came on the market just before Christmas last year, they jumped at the chance of being able to purchase in the village and be so close to their family. So they bid farewell to Weston-super-Mare, where they have lived for the past 21 years, in order to become 'Kennites'.

Amidst all the decorating and renovating work currently taking place in West Haven (and, of course, boxes – everywhere), there's a lot of laughter and music, particularly singing from Margaret, who sings even when she's cleaning windows.

Welcome to Kenn. We hope that you will have many enjoyable years involved in village life.

## **Wedding at Kenn Church**

On 8<sup>th</sup> April, William Gray and Leanne Williams were married at the Church. Church people were very pleased that Leanne chose to come back to Kenn from her home in Lower Claverham for her marriage. In her younger days she was a member of the Sunday School here and attended church with her family and grandmother, the late Rosalind Williams who lived at 'Great Thornworth', Kenn Street.

Leanne is the daughter of Andrew and Judith Williams whose family have lived in this area for generations.

William Gray's family have lived at 'Nurse Batch Farm', West End, Nailsea also for generations. They are making their home at 'Nurse Bottom', West End, Nailsea. With his two brothers and their father, William runs Nurse Batch Farm, together with 'East End Farm', Clevedon.

Leanne is a nurse at Weston Hospital, her father Andrew who has an engineering business, is also a farmer. He has a lot of land in Kenn Moor, including the field where the Air Raid Shelter still stands; a relic of the decoy fire that was in place during the War to get the German bombers to drop their bombs there, instead of dropping them on Bristol.

Prebendary John Andrews conducted the wedding and Mrs Mary Holmes played the organ.

There were around 70 guests in the church. A great get-together of many farming families.

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Ray Naish.

## **BIRD NEWS I**

If parts of my notes sometimes seem more like weather reports, it is because birds' movements and the weather are pretty closely linked and never more so than during spring and autumn migration.

The first half of April was cold and hence there was little migration, but a warm spell on 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> brought an absolute flood of birds.

So, back to the start of the month, by then there had been a single Swallow on wires in Kenn Street and I noted 4 more Swallows at Wemberham determinedly heading north. I also saw an Osprey over the peat moors on the 5<sup>th</sup> as well as a couple of Golden Plover of the northern race in absolutely wonderful summer plumage – see your bird books.

There was a report of a Cuckoo near Congresbury on the early date of the 17<sup>th</sup> and one was calling on the Peat Moors two days later. A trip to the Black Mountains near Offa's Dyke on the 22<sup>nd</sup> produced two more Cuckoos – surprisingly early considering that they were around the 1,000 feet contour.

There has been a large passage of Sand Martins over the peat moor reed-beds with 500 together in poor weather on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

More locally, Lapwings were displaying over Kenn Moor whilst a few Teal were still present mid-month.

A trip along the Strawberry Line (16<sup>th</sup>) was rewarded with a singing Cetti's Warbler and a Redstart. Another

Redstart was in John Croxton's garden in Kenn for a couple of hours on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

A mega-rarity, was a Chough at Sand Point. It was colour ringed so it was known that it fledged from a nest on The Gower in summer 2004. It left after a couple of days but was followed by a few Ring Ouzels, more Redstarts and thousands of Swallows.

However, the rarest sighting was of a very unusual mammal – a Harbour Porpoise at the Yeo Estuary near Kingston Seymour on the 21<sup>st</sup>!

Trevor Riddle - 01934 835208

## **BIRD NEWS II**

Swallows have been very late arriving in any great numbers this year. Today 25<sup>th</sup> April several have turned up in the low shed behind this bungalow, they are inspecting last year's nests.

Tim Bush of 'Southfield Farm' reported a large number flying around his farm on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Stuart and Sizzle Summerell, who live in 'The Cottage' at 'Stonehouse Farm' spent Easter in the South of France. They have told me there were hundreds flying around there.

A pair of Sheld or Burrow Ducks has been seen in the field behind the Church. They have arrived in this area adjoining our orchard every spring for as long as I can remember. They nest in rabbit holes there.

Jeff reported seeing 18 in a field at Castle Farm, Clevedon. This is also a favoured nesting area.

He has also seen a Yellow Wagtail in the Cooks Lane area, these are very

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rare in this district. I haven't heard of any House Martins in the area yet.

25<sup>th</sup> – both Miles and Jeff have just reported seeing Wheatears in various places around here. There are also reports of Canada Geese preparing nesting sites in the Decoy Pool Farm area of Kenn Moor.

What a transformation in the fields this past fortnight. Two weeks ago there was no grass for animals to eat, now there is luxuriant grass in almost every field.

Ray Naish

P.S. 26<sup>th</sup> April - Many farmers are unwittingly doing tremendous damage to ground nesting birds by chain-harrowing and rolling fields in late April. Skylarks are particularly at risk, also many baby Leverets will be killed.

Ray Naish

## **BIRD NEWS III**

Southfield Farm April 2006

### **The Birds' Sheraton Hotel**

Today we have nesting  
in The Willow Tree Nestbox Suites -  
Blue Tits  
in The Nestbox Feeder Penthouse -  
Blue Tits  
in The Garden Suite Barrel -  
Beautiful Bearded Tits

The establishment has all year cuisine and fresh water, to be recommended, cats not welcome.

John Brothers

## **BIRD NEWS IV**

Frank Williams who, with his wife Darrel, (who sings in St. John's church choir) regularly supports evensongs at Kenn, was 90 years old on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April – (I hope I get around like him and look so jolly and 'with it' when I'm 90).

I apologise for not thinking to ring Kenn Bell in celebration and for not arranging for Kenn's flag to be hoisted and flown in full honour.

Why is this Bird News?

Well, one of Frank's many gifts was a set of fluffy birds – a Chaffinch and a Blackbird – of just greater than life size. Very well coloured and lo and behold, when a button on the back was pushed (as it was numerous times!!) the birds burst into full (and very authentic) song. So Chaffinch and Blackbird may well be heard on High Street, Yatton and possibly at Kenn Evensongs! All the year round.

They are part of 2 sets of about 10 birds, so 'start collecting' Frank and many happy returns from all your friends.

Geoff Marchant

P.S. I promise I won't say anything about your other 'BIRD', Frank, even if she was only on a card! (or even the book for the 'old crock'!!!)

## **WAYSIDE GARAGE**

It is with much sadness that I write to say a very belated "thank you" to Kenn Parish Council, my many friends and loyal customers, for the very pleasant evening held at the Drum and Monkey on 17<sup>th</sup> February.

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Although I had known for quite a long time that the fuel forecourt at Wayside Garage was going to close, it has still been very hard to accept. Until I saw the petrol and diesel pumps being removed, and all the fuel tanks being filled and the final step of handing back my keys to Peter Neill, I still had a small hope that maybe something would save the day and we would continue to trade. However that has not been so.

It was suggested that maybe I would have liked to have had a party to celebrate my leaving Wayside Garage, but somehow that didn't seem right, but it was lovely to have had such an enjoyable evening on the 17<sup>th</sup>. I appreciated everyone's kind thoughts so much and the flowers I received were beautiful. I can't thank everybody enough.

Wayside Garage had been part of my life for the last 34 years. I was sold with the place on four occasions. I am still not sure how I was listed on the inventory of fixtures and fittings!

I was first employed on a Saturday afternoon to stock and tidy the shoe shop, until I was old enough to work on the petrol pumps.

Up until recent times, people would still come in asking if we had any wellies or flip-flops, and of course in those days we were 'attended service' and remember so many years

standing out on those pumps, whatever the weather. We used to go to Eastville Market to buy sheepskin gloves in bulk, because they were the only things that stopped your hands sticking to the metal filling handles on freezing mornings and my annual allowance of waterproof coats with fur linings and hoods and the many occasions I would have to be taken home to be 'thawed out'.

The introduction of Self-Service pumps and the installation of a canopy over the petrol pumps was a luxury that at one stage I only ever dreamt of.

I very first was employed by Sheila and David Pearson, and one of the first things I learnt was how to use the shot gun that was kept close to the till area. Luckily there was only one occasion I had cause to threaten anyone with it. A problem arose with a very drunken construction worker who was working on the building of the motorway at that time, but after the sight of a fifteen-year old girl brandishing a shot-gun we were never troubled again. The gun was never loaded, but it certainly looked good and had the desired effect.

I saw so many changes over the years, people driving off without paying for fuel. At one time this was unheard of, but went onto become a very regular and almost accepted event. The many break-ins we sustained, eventually bringing the

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installation of shutters over all the doors and windows. Although I accepted this had to be done, it felt as if I was working in a cage.

How lucky I have been to have enjoyed my employment for such a long period of time. Of course there were hard times and some very sad times, but on the whole, my years spent at Wayside Garage were extremely happy. B.W.O.C. Limited, my current employers – have run the garage for the last ten years, but I think these last ten years have been the toughest, with fierce supermarket competition and spiralling running costs along with many new regulations to comply with. We were fighting a battle that we really didn't stand any chance of winning.

The village of Kenn has been a second home to me. I have been so lucky to have made so many friends, and enjoyed the social gatherings the village has to offer. So many parties in the Village Hall, the unforgettable Summer Barbeques in Miles and Sheila's sheep shed. Ray's village walks, the support of Kenn Church.

I hope now to have more time to enjoy Village events, although at the moment I am finding it hard to drive past the garage knowing that I no longer belong there!

Malcolm Lippiatt continues to run the workshop at the garage and Gary Peacock has now taken over the car sales, which

will occupy the forecourt and car sales area. I hope both businesses will continue to enjoy the support of the village as I did for so many years.

Once again I would like to say thank you to the Village of Kenn for your support, kindness and friendship, I am going to miss you all very much.

Angela Ndow

### Mill Farm

With the recent demolition of Mill Farm, Kenn has lost one of its older buildings. The property, with a break of approximately 30 years, had been occupied by my family and ancestors since the early 1800s.

It was my home from 1939 until 1961 and remained in the ownership of my brother and sister-in-law until they sold it last year, 2005.

Some of our readers may be interested in such knowledge as I have of its history.

We think that the house dates from about the 1820s. My brother Gerald found, when having roof repairs carried out in the 60s, evidence that the roof originally was thatched.

When Julian Gale researched the history of Kenn Windmill some while ago, he found that Earl Paulett's estate map of 1811 showed neither Mill Farm or Kenn Mill on the land. So we know that both were built after 1811, but before 1839, because he traced a document between Charles Brackenridge, as owner and Thomas

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Sprod, as tenant, to let Thomas Sprod land, dwelling house, out buildings, garden, orchard and the mill for £60 per annum, dated 1839.

Thomas Sprod was the miller of Kenn Mill and he was my maternal great, great grandfather. As the mill we know was built in 1832 we can, I think, assume that this was also about the time Mill Farm was constructed.

Thomas Sprod's wife Sarah died in 1853, Thomas lived on until 1870. His son Edward with wife Eliza, my great grand parents now living at Mill Farm, but Edward Sprod's business was that of Candle Maker, did he also work the Mill? It seems likely that he did to help make ends meet.

As the end of the 1800s approaches Mill Farm is altered when bay windows are added to the south façade. The work carried out by my grandfather John Shopland, a builder of Clevedon. John was married to one of Edward's and Eliza's daughters, Beatrice. (of village interest, is the fact that another daughter, Agnes, was married to Ernest Dyer of Kenn Court).

As son-in-law John made improvements to Mill Farm, does this mean the Sprods are not tenants any more, but owners? Again it seems likely. Eliza died in 1893 and Edward in 1900, upon his death the property passes into the ownership of a Mr and Mrs Harding. With additional land the Hardings run a smallholding until 1939, when the property is offered for sale.

A descendant of the Sprod's is back in ownership. One of John and Beatrice Shopland's daughters, Gladys is married to Archie Griffin of Claverham, parents to my brother

Gerald and myself. Our parents purchase the property and move in during the summer of 1939, with Gerald as a seven year old and me three years. Mill Farm was in for an interesting time, as a certain Mr. Hitler is about to turn everyone's lives upside down.

Within a very short time we have a family of evacuees living in part of the house, plus 5 RAF lads billeted on us. Their task was to construct and maintain the Decoy site in Yatton/Kenn moor, in what was to prove a mainly vain hope, that the Luftwaffe would leave their bombs in our moors, rather than on Bristol. Unfortunately Jerry was not so easily deceived.

The Home Guard took over the Mill and constructed a corrugated iron roof with a lookout tower, used to watch for parachutes in the event of an invasion and if observed to take appropriate action as they saw fit!!

I recall that on cold winter nights, those on duty found our kitchen with the Aga cooker, a warm comfortable place to get some shut eye.

Kenn's Home Guard was not a "Dad's Army" as the four members from Kenn were all young men, Ralph Bye, Sam Dyer, Pat Gale and Sergeant in charge Bill Grigg (no Captain Mainwaring for them), plus a similar number from Lower Kenn Road, Clevedon.

I recall from my early childhood during the war the house was always full, how my mother with some help coped with all the work I can hardly imagine. Dad was running a small farm enterprise by day and formed, with Rays father Victor Naish, Kenn's wartime Special Constable Force and

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he and Mum, with many others, were busy in the village community too.

After the war Mill Farm settled down to a more normal life of farming supported by earnings from using the house as a "Guest House". We did B & B and also took in guests for their annual holidays, often on a full board basis!

And for many years had what was called Paying Guests (or P.G.s), these were guests who lived with us full time "en famille". Some stayed for years, two brothers made Mill Farm their home for seven years.

In the late fifties I ran my Mobile Grocery business from Mill Farm and when my wife Grace and I married, we lived in a caravan for the first two years before moving to The Granary, Duck Lane in the early sixties.

By the sixties, our parents had retired and my brother and his wife Jenny had come back from Africa and took over ownership of the property, again farming supported by other enterprises, i.e. farm door sales of meat, then a timber business, supplying local farms etc.

In the last twenty or so years the house had been altered internally to provide four residential accommodations.

Now the house has gone, one reflects on its history, with so many beginnings, endings, hopes, struggles, triumphs and failures, good times, bad times, even tragic times. The many hundreds of people that have come and gone through the doors and stayed for an hour, a day, a week, a month, a year, a generation; all part of the history of Mill Farm, which has served our family well for four generations. It always needed not only to provide

us with a dwelling, but also part of our livelihood.

Mill Farm, with its Mill and occupants down through the years is a significant part of the Kenn story.

John Griffin

### GRETA LEWIS

In the sudden sad death of Greta Lewis, our village has suffered the loss of a good friend. Greta was one of our District Councillors and has been attending our Parish Council meetings since 1979.

Her wide experience gained from many years of public services, supported by a remarkable memory and sound judgement, was a great help in our discussions, especially when we were dealing with planning matters.

A very busy person, Greta almost always found the time to attend our meetings. When our hall door opened and we heard the quick tap of her shoes, heads turned, greetings were exchanged and Greta took her chair, always placed ready for her. We all felt O.K. Now Greta had arrived we can start and if we had any difficulties, she will guide us through.

At our meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April, we started with a period of quiet reflection on her outstanding public service record and how fortunate we had been in Kenn to benefit from her friendship and support for so many years. Our thoughts were also with her family in their bereavement.

Greta was a person who attracted not only admiration, but also much affection from so many.

## KENN NEWS & VIEWS

Kenn was well represented at Sr. Mary's Yatton for the funeral and service of thanksgiving for her life.

The church was filled with her family, friends, neighbours, colleagues and admirers. Rev Ian Hubbard delivered a wonderfully thoughtful and fitting tribute. Her coffin was carried from the church to the stirring sounds of Widor's Toccata. She had once told Ian this was her wish and it was Ian who played it for her.

John Griffin.

### **Iris Goldsworthy.**

Dennis and Iris's daughter Jane would like to thank everyone for their kind words of comfort following her mum's death.

The family have both been touched and delighted that so many people from Kenn have remembered her and went to her funeral service and greatly appreciate the letters and kind thoughts.

Dennis will continue to live at Oaklands in Clevedon for the time being.

### **Household Accounts 1939**

Winnie Coles who was born in Kenn and now lives in Yatton and is from the Staples family, has kept records of her weekly expenses for running her household since her marriage in 1939. The following are some of her first records.

# KENN NEWS & VIEWS

*6.00pm Evensong Kenn*

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May**  
**THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

8 am Holy Communion Yatton  
8 am Holy Communion Kingston Seymour  
9.30 am Parish Communion Yatton  
9.30 am Holy Communion Cleeve  
10 am Family Service Claverham  
**11 am Family Service Kenn**  
2.30 pm Holy Baptism Cleeve  
6 pm Evensong Yatton

**SERVICES FOR MAY 2006**

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May**  
**THE FOURTH 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 Yatton

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May**  
**THE FIFTH 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**  
6 pm Evensong Kingston Seymour  
6.30 pm Holy Communion Cleeve

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May**  
**THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

8 am Holy Communion Claverham  
9.30 am Parish Communion Yatton  
9.30 am Holy Communion Cleeve  
11 am Holy Communion Kingston Seymour  
2.30 pm Holy Baptism Yatton

**PARISH OF YATTON MOOR**

**HOLY DAYS IN MAY:**

**15<sup>th</sup> MATTHIAS the APOSTLE**  
8.30 am Holy Communion Yatton

**25<sup>th</sup> 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

**31<sup>st</sup> The Visit of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth**  
10.00 am Holy Communion Yatton

*Thursday 18th May 6.30 pm AGM of  
The Friends of Kenn Church  
at St. John The Evangelist, Kenn  
– All Welcome!*

**WEEKDAY SERVICES**

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

**Every Wednesday**

# KENN NEWS & VIEWS

10:00 Holy Communion Yatton

**1st Wednesday in month**

11:00 Holy Communion at Kingston Seymour

**3rd Wednesday in month**

*17<sup>th</sup> May*

*11 am 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