



EDITORIAL

By the time you all get your Clarions this month, Christmas will be nearly upon us, so may I take this opportunity of wishing all our readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Because it's Christmas, this Clarion is a really bumper issue with lots of exciting new features.

Firstly, the questionnaire - please try and participate as results will go to the appropriate quarters - Social Club, Parish Council, etc. You need not sign your name, but there is a prize for the best letter written on ONE of the questions which will be printed next month, with the results of the questionnaire.

Secondly, we are starting a "Blast Off" in the Clarion - a prize will be given for the best letter.

It is nice to know that the Clarion is not just restricted to Combwich - copies are now going to Spaxton and surrounding villages, Kent Bristol, Gloucestershire and I have just had a request to send one to Seattle, U.S.A! Seems we are quite famous.

I sincerely hope that all who watched Combwich Drama Club's production on Saturday, 1st December had an enjoyable evening and for the less fortunate who missed it, there is a full report in this issue.

Well, once more, my sincerest best wishes to everyone and may 1974 bring fewer problems and more joy to all of us.

All questionnaires and letters to myself, Jackie Mear, 14 Estuary Park.

- memo to mums

There is to be a Toddler's Group in Combwich as from 18th December on Tuesdays - 10.30 am to 12 noon. Any child under 3 will be welcome with his or her mother. Admission 10p.

Mrs D Harris

HELP!

Lost: On Saturday, 17th November at the Village Hall, or thereabouts, China brooch of rose, violets and leaves. Great sentimental value. Also printed shawl. Reward. Contact Mrs L Baner, 37 Brookside.

**** grand & Country Western * DANCE



Music by Mal Darren and Bob on Friday
28th December from 9 pm to 1 am.
Tickets including buffet: £1.00
Bar extension applied for

◆ SOCIAL CLUB EVENTS ◆ Monday 24th December

* CHRISTMAS EVE
RECORD PARTY
* SKITTLING
* DANCING
* PRIZES for LADIES & GENTS
and all FREE!!!!!!!!!!

* Friday 28th December
COUNTRY & WESTERN DANCE
(see above)

* Saturday 29th December
CHILDRENS PARTY

* Monday 31st December
NEW YEARS EVE
RECORD PARTY
and its FREE again!!!!

* 8th February 1974
DANCING TO THE MUSIC OF
FRANK BARTLETT 9 pm - 1 am

The Christmas Raffle will be drawn in
the Bar on Christmas Eve.

On October 25th, I made a very brief call to Comwich and called at Estuary Park. On finding no-one in I walked round to the back of the bungalow. Well, I stood then and looked towards the garden and saw at the bottom of the garden what I thought to be the Suez Canal. Then I realised it was not the Suez Canal after all, because it was so quiet and peaceful. I did, however, see a lady and gentleman cutting their lawn and went along and spoke to them. The man held up a pair of shears for me to see which was about the size of a pair of cutting out scissors saying "I got the easy job" - he was right because his wife was tracking up and down the lawn with the motor mower. Just like a man, but they were both happy.

I had to make another call which was long overdue. It was a question I am always being asked in my work, and may be of interest and helpful to others. "What is the matter with my tree or shrub, it was planted several years ago, blossoms and flowers beautifully, but I never get any fruit or berries?" "Should I cut it down and buy another?" The answer to that is "No". The chances are that this is either a lonely bachelor or a very lonely and frustrated spinster, unable for the lack of a pollinator to produce the fruits desired. For instance, most hollies are decidedly either male or female trees, although a few can be fruitful on their own. You cannot judge their sex by their names, which is most annoying and whilst Golden Queen is a male, Golden King is self-fertile and berries very freely. The yellow-berried variety of hollies is female and needs a pollinator nearby. When growing Japanese Laurels, for instance, and many other berrying shrubs you are up against exactly the same sort of thing. They are unisexual and at least one male must be included in a group of females if you want berries. The Maidenhair Tree (Genko Biloba) Juniper trees and other yews are all deciduous, carrying male and female flowers on separate trees. But they look exactly the same until they flower and reveal their sex. Poplars, Willows, Sallows and many more

such as we see every day in Somerset, go in also for segregation of the sexes and in this very large family their outward appearance, as well as their actual flowers, may differ. Sometimes they do not even flower at the same time which seems a very off arrangement. This leads to hybridization with other species and is why the pedigree of our willows is such a complicated tangle.

I remember some years ago in Norfolk, I helped a Japanese professor to lay out a large Japanese garden (now famous). We planted two willows side by side. One was a male, tall and robust, known as the tree of welcome, the other one (Mrs Willow) was more of a chubby buxom type, known as the Guardian Tree. They both blossomed together, the very bright, yellowish, fluffy catkins of the male tree were much more conspicuous than the pretty, soft, greenish ones of the female, and every year the numerous baby willows that sprang up all over this Japanese garden testify to theirs being a very happy and fertile marriage.

A few years ago, a lady invited me to see her garden. She pointed out a plum tree, ten years old, which always blossomed beautifully, but never set its fruit. A pollinator was planted by the side of it and two years later when I visited the garden again, all the branches were propped up and heavily laden with fruit. (By the way, the lady had also found a partner and had produced a brace of identical twins!) So when buying trees and shrubs, to avoid any delay in fruiting, always ask for the best varieties to plant as pollinators.

How often I hear people say, Cox's Orange Pippin won't do here, it must be the soil. Get an Ellison's Orange and plant by the side of it, you will get all the fruit you want and a more healthy tree. Some years ago I planted an orchard of ten acres for a well-known public school in Berkshire and every year, without fail, every tree has to be supported with stakes to support the branches. Thus showing that if you get your pollinators right, the fruit will follow.

QUESTIONNAIRE. Please try to complete and return to me at 14 Estuary Park. A prize will be given for the best letter written on ONE of the questions.

1. Are you a member of the Comwich Social Club?

Yes
No

Tick yes or no

2. Do you feel that the Village Hall at Comwich is being used to its fullest extent?

Yes
No

3. If not, what would you like to see held there?

4. Were you in favour of the decision made at the Meeting on the Wharf?

Yes
No

Tick yes or no

5. Do you feel there should be a speed limit in Comwich?

Yes
No

Tick yes or no

6. Would you like to see something done about Mill Corner?

Yes
No

Tick yes or no

7. Do you think the two new estates, Riverview and Estuary Park have benefited the village?

Yes
No

Tick yes or no

8. Is there anything else you would like to see in the Clarion?

9. Are you proud of Comwich?

Yes
No

Tick yes or no

10. If not, why not?

Your Social Committee wish you —
Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year
— hope to see you all on Dec 24/25/29/31

With
ALL GOOD WISHES
for
CHRISTMAS
and the
NEW YEAR

COMBWICH SUB-POST OFFICE & STORES

Shop hours as normal 9 am — 1 pm
2 pm — 6 pm

Early closing 1 pm Wednesday 19th December
and all day Thursday 27th December and
Tuesday 1st January 1974.

The Post Office counter will be closed at
1 pm on Christmas Eve, re-opening at 9 am
on Friday 28th December 1973. It will also
be closed all day on 1st January 1974.

OUR WISH FOR YOU IN 1974 —
MAY YOUR PENSIONS EVER
INCREASE AND YOUR PETROL
COUPONS NEVER DIMINISH.

wishing you
all the joys of the
CHRISTMAS SEASON

TO ALL OUR CUSTOMERS OLD & NEW

W A LAWRENCE
CENTRAL STORES
COMBWICH

Greetings
and all good wishes
at Christmas
and in the New Year

WE WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPOR-
TUNITY TO THANK ALL OUR CUSTOMERS
FOR THEIR PATRONAGE /

Ken & Hazel Bassell

THE HARBOUR GARAGE
& V G MINI SUPERMARKET



BLAST OFF!

How long is it going to take for authorities to realise that children, like young animals, have to be disciplined when young to live happily in this world?

On Radio Bristol this morning November 30th, an old lady of over 80 telephoned for advice - what could she do? Children continually badgered and frightened her by riding their bikes at her - on the pavement almost knocking her down, on one occasion she was saved from falling by a passer-by. When she complained to the police, they were disinterested - what sort of Society are we living in? The advice she got from the B.B.C. Bristol was to complain to the headmaster of the nearest school but what can he do? My advice to this old lady and others similar would be to carry a stout walking stick and any bikes coming too near would have a stick in the spokes of the wheel. Better a naughty child with a broken arm and smashed bike than a blameless old lady in hospital for the rest of her life.

Only last week, when in Woolworths at Bridgwater at about 4.30 pm, I was astounded to see small gangs of boys (9-12 years) on pilfering expeditions. One turned out his pockets to show his spoils to his friends in the store and on the way out one openly picked up a ball and walked past all the assistants unchallenged. There was no manager or floor-walker about and though I reported this to a girl on a nearby till, she was too busy taking money to pay much heed. Later, while in Sainsburys and waiting to pay for my purchases, the girl on the cash desk was apologetic to an elderly lady for the behaviour of children who were barging into her trolley. "Of course", she said, "they don't mean it."

My grandfather was in the Bridgwater Police and one of his duties was to administer the birch. He always said, rarely did they come back for a second dose. I would hate to see brutal punishments return, but I do think children should be brainwashed - or what? We were trained with a stick if necessary and constantly reminded never to steal - even a pin! - by our parents.

The parents of today should remember they will - only too quickly - be the old folk of tomorrow. How will they like being frightened and assaulted by youngsters when they are too weak to retaliate?

Pray give this matter thought and train your kids while they are young and vulnerable.

Mrs Knight, Bridgwater

The last issue of the Clarion was very interesting. I seem to have been implicated somehow, in the different articles. I don't know why I, more than anyone else, should be able to state that Adam and Eve were gardeners; it is there in Genesis 1 and 2 for all to see.

I must confess ignorance about the connection between matins and linoleum, perhaps one of our knowledgeable locals can enlighten me here.

The recipe for the Scripture Cake was very interesting. I wonder how many people looked up ALL the references? That would make a very good beginning to the study of the Bible. But here again why should the whole of the (Two) Books of Samuel and St Luke provide a clue? - any more than the references to other books already given? The controversy regarding Combe Wharf is just the kind of thing one would expect in this kind of set up.

Booming Trade versus Family Welfare.

To be quite frank, I am inclined to agree with Mr



The Editor and her ass
If you disagree, or agree

POSTBAG

On the dark, damp and foggy evening of November 22nd, our Village Hall was lit up by 17 cheery faces of our Senior Citizens from the Parish, attending an inaugural meeting to form their own club. The turn-out was, I think excellent, taking into account the weather, although I do think there are many more who could have attended, but for other duties and as I have already stated, "the weather".

Many thanks must go to Mike Williams and Mrs Wright in arranging this meeting and I know we wish them all the success for the future. The meeting opened with Mr Williams in the Chair, outlining a plan to form a club for our Senior Citizens, whereby they can all meet, whenever they like, to sit and chat, and do whatever they like, in fact, to run it how they please. A vote was taken for a club to be formed and by a show of hands this was carried unanimously. The second item was thrown open to the floor for a name for the club and after many suggestions they decided to call themselves the "Shamrock Club", the three leaves representing Stockland, Otterhampton and Combe Wharf - a great idea, don't you agree? So from now on, we have a Shamrock Club within our Parish.

Why not come to the next meeting of this club and take a trip down memory lane?

Thanks must also go to Mrs Joan Selway for being in attendance supplying our National beverage to all - a good old "cuppa".

Overheard by one of the members - "Looking around, I could see our own football team of yesterday all around me."

Mr L Wright

Lawrence. He is quite right in saying that the drivers of heavy lorries are the most careful, that can be proved on any motorway. But even if they are not to be banned, could they get through at all past the narrow part of Brookside Road, where the parking of cars on both sides often makes it well-nigh impossible for an ordinary car to get through. But apart from this, Mr Lawrence is also right in saying that the small amount of trade which these ships bring to Combe Wharf "one at a time" has its picturesque side, and adds a bit of life to Riverside.

There is one thing more to this question. I believe a large number of people attended the protest Meeting on October 1st. If all these people are as concerned about their children's welfare as they say, then we should have a full Church, because the best for any individual or family is concerned with body, mind AND spirit, and not the first two only.

Wishing you and the Clarion all the Best for Christmas and the New Year.

Rev J B Ritchie

assistants would like it known that that are not necessarily in agreement will all that is written here.
agree, with statements made in Postbag why not write and tell us?

I SAY!

I would like to call the attention to all STOCKLAND CLUB members, that there is to be held in the Clun hall on Friday 4th January, a CHRISTMAS PARTY for all its members and their children with fun and games for all, followed by dancing and singing later in the evening. Roll up 7.30 pm and enjoy yourselves. Cold buffet arranged. Children 15p. Adults 30p. Tickets available from: 7 Martyn Close and Mrs Grenner, Ship Lane.

L Wright

In answer to enquiries about paying for the Clarion, we cannot, by law charge, but a small donation will always be gratefully accepted.

Our best wishes to the member who was recently run over by a steam roller. He is recovering well in Wards 11, 12 and 13.

Our cynical chum who, having sat through half a dozen cool dishes when dining out, was heard to say, when the champagne arrived, "Ah, at last, something warm."

Seen in the back window of a car in Bridgwater —
"A Merry Crisis and a Hapless New Year."



PLAYGROUP

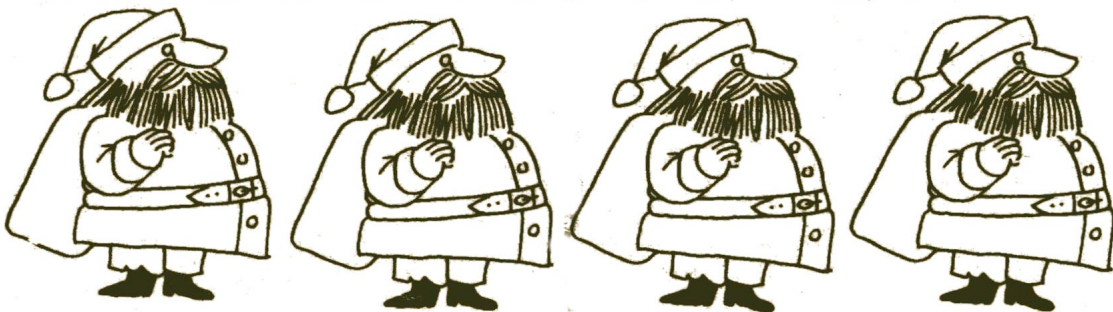
Combwich Playgroup held their annual Christmas Party in the Village Hall on December 7th. The 20 little children who came watched a display of magic, conjuring and a Punch and Judy Show, which they loved.

They then had a marvelous time eating a feast prepared by their mothers. The party ended in great excitement when Father Christmas arrived to distribute the presents.

Then there were the other two Irishmen who started a window cleaning round and took 3 days to clean the basement windows. When asked why so long, they explained, "the windows only took 15 minutes but the rest of the time was spent digging a hole for the ladder."

WANTED BY COMBWICH PLAYGROUP

Doll's Pram or Pushchair in reasonable condition. Willing to make reasonable offer. Combwich 721.



Here's the picture we couldn't print last month. Concerning this Mrs Aldridge writes:

The snapshot shows Capt. P H Aldridge when he was master of the Ketch Emily, taken at Combwich Pill. The other vessels are Irene, Emily and New Design. Date: 1930

photo-reports



Thank you to the W.I. Members (pictured above) who braved the bitter weather to watch the planting of a Weeping Willow tree opposite the Brush Factory for "Plant a Tree Year". It is hoped the tree will flourish and provide shade and beauty

in the years to come for young and old alike. Gratitude too, to Mr Stan Kibby for digging such a superior hole, and to Mr John Fear for the loan of his No. 2 spade and compost gift.

Vivienne Passmore (Pres)



Our play, "Alice Sit By The Fire" by J M Barrie, which was performed on 30th November and 1st December has been described as a "smash hit" and "crashing success"! For those who did not come, and I think anyone who saw the Saturday night performance will agree, they missed an hilarious evening! (Certainly the cast were in hysterics most of the time) I feel I can speak for all the Drama Club when I say we all thoroughly enjoyed putting on the Play and we can only hope that our audiences enjoyed it as much. On behalf of the Club I would like to thank all those who helped us put on the production and all those who gave us their support by

coming to see the play.

We are now in preparation for our next production which we hope will be a type of Variety Show. It will be a mixture of sketches, songs and dances, etc. so that everyone will be able to display their talents! With luck this should be hitting the stage around the end of February 1974. For this we would be grateful for any material which could be used. Perhaps we have a budding Playwright in the area who would like us to perform a playlet that they have written. Don't forget, anyone is always welcome to come down to the Hall at 7.30 pm on Mondays.

Tessa Webb