COMBWICH CLARION

EDITORIAL

I'll bet you all thought the Clarion was never coming out! My apologies to those who asked me to advertise forthcoming events for January!

My thanks to the Redding family in the Post Office who distributed December's Clarions so ably and filled up Jackie's Jar in the bargain - over £10 came out of that jar and I was thrilled to bits.

Well, what a time we have had of it. I thought it was all summed up so perfectly in CB jargon - Combwich, always known in CB slang as SLUDGE TOWN, has been changed to FLOOD CITY!

But I'm not being flippant. I know only too well the heartbreak that was left when the floods receeded on December 13th. I know life is slowly returning to normal now after two months but it will be many more months before many of the flood victims are fully furnished and carpeted again.

Everyone involved in the clean-up worked so

hard and I would like to thank you all. In the near future I would like to hold a fundraising event with the proceeds going partly to Lions International, who were so generous, so quickly, and partly to the flood victims of Combwith, even if it is only a box of chocolates each to let you all know we are still thinking of you! Offers of ideas and help would be greatly appreciated. And then we had the snow - seems hard to visualise it now - and all I could worry about was a fast thaw! But it didn't, and I must admit I quite enjoyed it. John was actually forced to make a sled this year, after years of promises but not enough snow, he finally had no excuse! We went tobaggonning with the children and some friends and had a great time - I rashly agreed to sled down a vertical hill (it seemed) on solid packed ice and I was terrified - I fell off. of course. When we got back to the car the locks had frozen, it took us half an hour to get in with anti-freeze, and then that froze so we couldn't lock the car for days! Yes, we've had quite a winter this year, but we are all still here so count your blessings and look on the bright side - turn MARCH

THAT COMPETITION

At last...I have received an entry! Not all the questions were right, but because she actually went to the trouble of sending it in, Tricia Ford of Dame Withycombe cottages receives that lovely box of chocolates. For the rest of you, the questions and answers are printed below.

round and you'll find it's full of CHARM!!!

th house in Combwich was once a Public

FEBUARY 1982

House?

Number 28.

2. What is the name of the headmaster of our village school?

Mr Roger Betts

- 3. What was the name of the last large boat docked in Combwich a few years ago?
- No, not the Irene! A few years before that, the Reedwarbler was here for several months. Remember?
- 4. In what year was the village hall renovated?
- Not too sure on this one, but I think it was 1972/3
- 5. How long have Roy and Gwynneth Barlow been publicans at the Ship Inn?

They moved to Combwich on 19.8.69

- 6. Where was the Billiard Hall?
 In Brookside Road, near the home of Mr & Mrs
 Jack Parsons.
- 7. What used to be Combwich's biggest industry?

Bricks and tiles.

- 8. When were the first houses built in Estuary Park?
- I think they started around 1970 the price?
- 9. What does The Towers lack now that it used to have?

A conservatory.

10. Combwich Ponds now produces a variety of wildlife - what did it used to produce? Those famous bricks and tiles ? I8m sure we could still make our own vases out of the garden!

Well, there we are. Please correct me if I was wrong with any of the answers. Silly of me - everybody notices my mistakes!

BELATED BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Alex Langridge of 14 Frookside Road was two on January 18th...Marie Ann Whittney of 3 Estuary Park celebrated her first birthday on January 20th...Simon Sweet of 4 Church Hill was four on January 24th...another first birthday was celebrated by Shaun Parsons of 20 School Lane on January 29th.

CO-OP STAMPS

Those stamps keep coming in..thanks to all of you for taking the trouble. Don't forget, if you shop at the Co-op, don't leave the stamps on the counter, pick 'em up and put them in Jackie's Jar in the Post Office. Or post them through my letter-box at 14 Estuary Park. Thanks!

W.I. REPORT (NOVEMBER)

At the Annual Meeting in November we were sorry to lose two such sterling members as

Mrs E. Nurton and Mrs E. Venner. They had both served on the committee for many years and, each in her different way, been an unstinting source of assistance. However, we are glad they will continue to be valued members and their place has been taken by Miss Myatt and Mrs McGeown whom we are very pleased to welcome, also Mrs Wineberg who has taken the place of Mrs Sanderson who is now in London and who will also be missed greatly.

The evening went off well with Miss Redding and Mrs Richardson kindly acting as tellers. Many examples of Mrs Mobley's beautiful patchwork were on view when she gave an interesting domonstration of this popular craft. She had many original ideas, as well as producing examples of the easier logcabin patchwork done by machine. A little quilt she had made for an exhibition for a doll's bed was really lovely. It is nice to congratulate Mrs Sprake on winning the silver cup for our monthly competitions. (She says that her husband will, not be so thrilled with cleaning it!) This month the prettiest pincushion was provided by Mrs Venner.

Vivienne Passmore.

TWENTY-ONE AGAIN?

Was it roses again this year for Liz Hutchings of 14 Martyn Close when she calcharated her birthday on Febuary 2nd?
Tell all, Liz!

IT'S COMING:

A Royal person with flowers in her hair...
twelve men with bells....ribbons...music...
four maidens in white dresses...

PEEP INTO THE PAST

The issue of Febuary 1979 contained the following poem which I have great pleasure in reproducing:

I come from haunts of deer and midge, And make a sudden sally, To trickle under Bolham Bridge, 'Long Biffen's field I dally.

By near Crossroads, I slowly swim, And hear an anvil ringing, Old Harry Quick and nephew Jim, Are busy horse a' shoeing.

Past Sally Wynns, I gently swell, (Some half a mile from Ducketts)
My water supplements the well,
By filling household buckets.

'Neath small stone bridge I neatly stray, With kissing gate beside it, Hore field daisies star my way, Whilst cob, and pen beguile it.

They shout! They stand! A happy band, The children of the village, Old shoes on feet, old fork in hand, My tasty eels they pillage.

Through "Overlong", round "Rookery Bend", To clear Horse Fond I travel, See here, a dragon fly may blend, With fish, and weed, and gravel.

Till last by FenderHouse I flow, Then "Old Mill" smells to savour, And under Brichyard Bridge I go, To join the Parrett river.

By a local Dylan Thomas.

FEBUARY BIRTHDAYS

Julie Williams of 5 Dame Withycombe Cottages was five on Febuary 2nd...Darren Beasley of 38 Estuary Park celebrated his seventh birthday on Febuary 4th...daughter Gina was also seven on 9th Febuary. Happy Birthday, all!

THAT'S THE ADDRESS

14 Estuary Park for your letters, complaints, praise (!) and forthcoming events.

TIMES GONE BY

Extracts from the Bridgwater Mercury, December 21st, 1927.

"Alsatian pedigree puppies for sale. Dark wolf from 4gns.

LUCKY CLARION

The Lucky Clarion was not claimed in December so the prize of a novelty key holder will go to the person who receives this month's copy with my signature on it. Bring it and yourself to 14 Estuary Park to claim your prize.

CONGRATULATIONS

to

Jimmy and Janet Hood 50 Estuary Park.

a baby boy, born 23rd December
ANDREW NEIL

WELCOME, GOLD-DUST:

We have a new reader in our midst - Gold Dust as he is known to fellow C.B.ers, but in reality Phillip Wheeler. Phillip lives in Nether Stowey and is disabled. Good luck to you, Phillip, hope you like the Clarion!

COMMUNITY SPIRIT - OR LACK OF IT?

"Someone, probably a person who lives in this village, has reported us to the Council

yet again, this time for having a tree which overhangs the pavement and needs trimming. I expect that, in turn, somebody from the council has had to come and inspect it, go back to their office and waste their time and our rates money by writing and posting a letter asking us to trim it. I presume that the person concerned is not mute or illiterate and I cannot therefore understand why they could not have the common courtesy to point out the situation, when we would have been pleased to remedy it. As it is, that person can thank him/herself for striking yet another blow against the spirit of community in this village. Unlike him/her. I have provided our name and add-Helen and Martin Rees. ress. 26 Brookside Road,

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, BRIDGET

Bridget Phillips, of 18 Estuary Park was 21 again on Febuary 9th. Something to remember next year, Ken!

Combwich.

ANY OLD TOYS?

The Playgroup have got very low on toy cars, you know, the wheels fall off, the paint disappears, the opening bonnet won't stay shut and sometimes, a little tot gets so attached to the red Mercedes, mum has no option but to ask if he can take it home with him!

So please look in the old toy box and see if you have any Dinky cars that will replenish the garage for Playgroup.

Also, the animals. They have all left...
Those that remain are the sick and lame.
Some have three legs, some are not so lucky.
They are a sorry lot - have you any farm or zoo animals to keep them company?

............

WANTED - PRAM SEAT

"They are like gold dust in Bridgwater, do you know if anyone in Combwich has one to sell?" Says Barbara Edmunds. Barbara used to live in Combwich and she appealed to me for help. So does anyone have a pram seat for sale? Ring Barbara on Bridgwater 426412

FOR SALE

Cotto airer cabinet. £10.00 Phone 652005

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

To...Richard Stark of 65 Estuary Park who was one on Febuary 9th...Charlotte Williams of 49 Riverside. Charlotte was five on 13th Febuary.

MayDay is coming... MayDay is coming.....

SAD LOSS

The passing of Major David Dickens was a very sad loss to our community. He had many friends and he and Peggy were well known in the village. My sincere condolonces to Peggy and daughter Christine.

BEST KEPT VILLAGE HALL COMPETITION 1981

The report on the judging of Otterhampton Village Hall.

"The hall is very smart outside, and afforts are being made to find a suitable place to provide a parking area. The structure and paintwork are in very good condition. Although the interior was redecorated last year there was a surprising amount of dirt and scratches on walls. The Committee room floor (and table) need attention although the main hall floor is in very good repair. Furniture and equipment are good but the store room door has no handle on the inside. Sink init door and the fridge need attention but otherwise the kitchen is very nice. The sanitary arrangements are of a very high standard - although a few tiles are missing in the ladies.

Adso almost full marks for safety features but the First Aid box could do with signs being posted so that it is easy to find in an emergency

Heating and lighting very good but the emergency lights were not working.

The electrical installations would benefit from clear marking on the fuse boxes. The hall accounts are clear and well presented, indicating sound financial management. The hall committee is clearly active and interested and their efforts have been rewarded by frequent and varied usage of the hall. A very good skittle alley is provided."

GREETINGS to JOHN FEAR on Febuary 15th

FRIENDS OF OTTERHAMPTON SCHOOL

In the year 1980/81 the Friends raised £781. This was a particularly sterling effort as, for one reason or another, the committee was reduced to a nucleus of three for the last part of the year.

In September, the Chairman, Jane Tarr, stood down with well deserved thanks for all her work. She could not remain in the Chair as she has a new vehicle and her husband insists it is cleaned regularly. Therefore, Dave Wood was elected in her place, Ian Steven-

son was re-elected as Treasurer. Other members of the committee are Jane Williams, secretary, Janet Bayliss, Mike Care, Mike Crouch, Ann Tarker, Sue Stone and Bridget Phillips. Ann Hurley remained as Secretary until Christmas and we are very grateful to her for her hard work and ever charming company.

The Autumn term was very busy. We had a Jumble Sale which raised £60, a book sale and raffle which cleared thirth quid and Dave Wood organised a trip to the Cadbury Club at Christmas which swelled the coffers by another £90. A disco was arranged the Saturday after term. The dancing provess of the children was matched only by their voracious appctite. This was not a fund raiser and was not meant to be. The old favourite, the hundred number draw, re-appeared. The Post Office, Mr Lawrence and the Garage each drew three of the weekly draws. The final draw, at the Treasurer's suggestion was done by that debonair local businessman, Nello, at the Anchor. The first prize of £30 was won by Mrs Bartlett of Cannington, who teaches part-time at the school. The second prize was won by the Chairman (who wishes to deny the rumour that he has a Yoga book on the power of the mind to move physical objects). The hundred number draw is being done again in the Spring term with a few modifications. The weekly prizes will be £4 and £3 and no halfway bonus prize. Previously, the weekly winners gained one pound or got one's money back. The top prizes in the tenth week will now be £25 and £12. This gives more people a chance of winning money.

Another jumble sale is planned for March 6th. The Summer term will see the traditional schooltrek (or sponsored walk) when we boldly go from Combwich to Steart-base one and shuttle back to our enterprising school. (Jimmy Young should tremble with jokers like this writer around). Seriously the walk is an enjoyable event and it will happen on Stardate 01-05-1982 (Sat May 1st). It is also planned to have a fete at the

It is also planned to have a fete at the school on June 19th which gets us in ahead of the Druids by two days; they being at Stonehenge on the 21st. Details of the fete will be published later.

Last year we bought the school a new T.V., some books, filmstrips and the materials for the much-needed storage shed. So far this year we have paid for the T.V. licence, hire of the village hall and transport for swimming and sports.

There are disadvangtages for small country schools but there are gains too. We are lucky to have a school with a hard-working and proficient staff. They have created a happy school, which is vital part of the local comminity. Not all children are so fortunate. Lastly, but not lesstly, there seem to be so

many calls on our generosity these days and the committee do appreciate the help we have had with donations, buying of draw tickets, attending and helping with the jumble sales and in other ways. Very sincerely, THANK YOU.

Ian Stevenson.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Happy Birthday to Glad Sellars on Febuary 21st and to Stuart Parsons on Febuary 22nd.

CALLING ALL DRESSMAKERS

Those of you who have been wondering whether the Turkish Delight adverts were being made in the village ... sorry to disappoint you but it was only Philippa and her friend Katherine Langridge sporting their haremtype playoveralls. Philippa has four pairs already and two more cut out and ready to sew, to say nothing of two more pinafores from the same pattern. They have cost nothing to make as the material came from old dresses of Grandma's and the pattern was borrowed from Mary Collins. (Thanks, Mary, I believe you used the pattern for John's trousers but didn't add the frilly bottoms!) I passed the pattern on to Katherine's mum; which brings me to the point of all this rambling...considering the cost of paper patterns and their limited usage (it's not often you want to make six copies of the same item of clothing ..) wouldn't it be a good idea if you could borrow patterns in a similar way to library books? It's not my idea - two mums at Toddler Group suggested it - but I am willing to gather in the patterns, catalogue them and lend them out at a small fee, say 10p per week payable to Toddler funds, with a 50p deposit to cover accidents. I have been given a lot of old patterns already but would be grateful for any more, whatever age, size, style, etc. If you have any old patterns, which you would like to give, lend or sell, please pop them into 5, Kiln Close. Then, in a couple of weeks, when I have (hopefully) sorted everything out, please pop in again to see whether I have a pattern which you would like to borrow.

Thank you. Gay Care. (How about knitting patterns, too, Gay? JM)

How nice to be EIGHTEEN!

828888888

Congratulations....

VICKY BONNER

多多多名的

for Febuary 25th.

Now that we are over the "It's too cold" and "I'm stranded in the snow" and "I can't possibly go anywhere" weather (for the time being at least)...wouldn't it be nice to say "Thanks" to all the people who were not defeated by the elements?
Such as those who delivered our letters, milk and papers. They didn't hibernate like I did; instead they battled on and did their jobs as best they could, providing us with services which are all too easily taken for granted.

Grateful customer.

MORE BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to Faul Selway who was ten on Febuary 26th...Wendy Parsons who celebrated her birthday on the same day...Faul Filliams of 5 Dame Withycombe Cottages, Faul was two on Febuary 27th...The 29th was the day for Nicola Radford of 1 Estuary Park and she was also two...Nina Perry of 32 Estuary Fark celebrated her fourth birthday on March 13rd...the 4th March was Kevin Sperring's day. Kevin was six and lives at 35 Brookside Road...One year old is a very special day and was celebrated by Benjamin Ingram at Hill Farm, Otterhampton.

MORE THANKS

Newcomers Reg and Eve Manning of 4 Riverview were so grateful for the help they received from their neighbours during the bad weather they asked me to put it in the Clarion.

Happy to do it, Reg and Eve!

The residents of Estuary Fark (the lower end) were also very grateful for the Good Samaritan who cleared the pavements. Very public spirited and much appreciated!

SHAMROCK CLUB

In early December the Shamrock Club members were looking forward to the yearly entertainment provided for them by Mr Betts, the school staff and children, and in turn, entertaining them to tea at the Village Hall, but the weather, that ghastly never-to-be-forgotten Sunday intervened and upset all our plans. So instead of a happy "old and young" party we had a drowned village hall quite unable to house any social function. However, thanks to the hard work of the teachers and children we did have our entertainment, two days late, but well worth waiting for. Many thanks to the school and it's teachers from all of us.

On January 6th, our annual dinner and party was held in the village hall. After an excellant dinner at which the guests of honour were Mr & Mrs Myatt, games, competitions.

dancing and community singinf filled an evening which passed all too quickly. Since the dinner, two club meetings have been held. At the first, card bingo was played, the winners being Mrs Manning, Mrs Haldane, Mrs Charles, Mrs Ingram, Mr Braycotton and Mr Bratton.

Miss Sturman entertained us most interestingly at the Febuary 2nd meeting with talk and slides of some of her many travels, this time to Madeira, Vigo and Rio de Janeiro.

Again our thanks for all your old newspapers and magazines and a very special thank you to Mr Stanley Stone of Steart who collects for us there. This is greatly appreciated as is all the help we get from our regular and very willing band of helpers. Keep up the good work, everybody, and what about some new members and helpers? You would be most welcome.

CONGRATULATIONS...

To Don and Joan Selway of 42 Brookside Road who celebrated their wedding anniversary on March 5th.

A FLOWER SHOW?? !!!

Make Saturday, September 11th a date for your diary.

The Parish of Otterhampton will once again have it's own Flower Show, open to all residents. There will be classes for those of you who are keen gardeners or who enjoy cooking and crafts, or those who have an interesting and enjoyable hobby. There will also be a class for under sixteens. More details will be available later. Please try to support the fund raising functions coming along. We hope they will help towards the costs involved. Has anyone got a trpphy from previous Combwich Flower Shows tucked away and forgotten about? If you have perhaps you would let Mrs S. Jacobs of 8 Church Hill know. Or perhaps you may have an unmarked cup or similar article which you would like to donate to the Flower Show.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, CARLEY!

Many Happy Returns to Carley Walker of 19 Estuary Fark, Carley was five on March 6th.

BEAUTIFUL SOMERSET

Norman and I love the country and country walks. Most Sundays will see us out to breathe in the fresh air come what may in the shape of weather conditions. We love Somerset and Combwich, that's why we came to live here. We like the folks, too. One fine day on our ramble we counted no less than 50 cigarette packets along the road from Combwich to Cannington, some

Page 6	
squashed time, crisp packets, polystyrene,	'80 <u>'81</u>
even a washing-up liquid container.	50: Cannington Farish Council 30 00
Now I'm not asking for maney from anyone,	25 C.E.GB 25 00
just for your HELP. One hour of your time.	25 Charkes Ltd 50 00
Who will come with me on Saturday, April	10 Marks & Spencer 15 00
3rd at 2pm with a bucket and help me clear	20 04 25 00
the approach to Combwich.	Otterhampton C.P. School
Just in time for Easter and any village	7 Friends 10 00
visitors.	30 Somerset County Council Educ 30 00
Hope I'm not alone!	Somerset County Council Soc
Mrs J.M. Hills.	- Services 30 00
Ednote: Joan and Norman celebrated their	10 T. Redding & Co 10 00
28th Wedding Anniversary on Febuary 20th. May we wish you many more! JM	- Bridgwater Building Society 10 00 - S. Leffman Ltd 10 00
	- Hon RH & Mrs FMP Clifford 25 00
MAYDAY NOTES	- Manager - Lloyds Bank 5 00
	- Clarence Hotel 10 00
Unclaimed photographs from last year's	****
May Day celebrations are now on sale. Excellent quality photographs and good value at	7 80 50
50p each for enlargements.	Expenditure
View at 14 Estuary Park.	165 Frimary School - Instructors 228 00
	21 Travelling Exp 19 80
If you came to last year's celebrations you	28 Use of Pool 34 85
will know what an enormous amount of work	Refreshments 5 32
went into this event. If anyone feels they	3 Other 16 44
would like to 'muck in' and join our small	55 Brymore School - Instructors 60 00
band of willing helpers you will be most	165 Use of pool 180 00
welcome.	53 Caretaker 52 68
Please contact any member of the May Day committee.	College of Agriculture -
	55 Tennis Course - Instructor 60 00 6 Travelling Exp 4 40
CANNINGTON HOLIDAY RECREATION SCHEME	3 Equipment 80
	1 Refreshments 69
The Recreation scheme at Cannington was very	211 Sailing Course -
successful last year, with more children	- Angling Course - Instructor 24 00
than ever taking part. Many activities were provided and under pro-	- Travelling 4 00
fessional supervision the children played	- Equipment -
organised games, swam, fished and cycled.	40 Insurance Employers and
Thirteen cycling proficiency certificates	Public Liability
were given, six medallions were awarded for	40 00
Life Saving and 21 awards were given for	30 Administration 31 38
ASA Personal Survival.	18 Cash at Bank and in hand 18 14
Thanks to vigorous fund raising and donations	780 50.
from local businesses and individuals, the	100 30.
scheme had only to be subsidised by 25p per	FINISH WITH THE BIRTHDAYS
child by Sedgemoor District Council and the organisers have asked me to print their	
balance sheet for 1981.	March 7thPenny Sperring, 35 Brookside Road March 9thCharlotte Williams of 49 River-
Income	side was five.
' <u>80</u>	March 12thBrian Selway of 42 Brookside was
	twelve.
12 Cash b/f on 1.1.81 18.14 10 Interest	March 19thCaroline Jacobs of 8 Church Hill
Enrolments -	will be age eight.
163 Primary School 171 76	March 20thGay Care, 5 Kiln Close will not
133 Brymore School 147 00	disclose her age!
45 College of Agric - Tennis 44 60	March 24thBrenda and Alan Chaudhri cele-
144 - Sailing -	brate their wedding anniversary.
Angling 16 00	April 3rdKatherine Langridge of 14 Brook-
135 Grant O Sedgemoor District Council	side Road will be one year old. April 6thR. Willis of 71 Estuary Park will
(take up of Guarantee) 38 00	also be a year old.
Donations -	April 10thjust room for David Care of 5
25 Butlins Ltd 25 00 12 Cannington Grain 15 00	Kiln Close who will be six.
12 Cannington Grain 15 00	•