

EDITORIAL

FEBRUARY 1982

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 receded 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 fund-raising event with the proceeds going partly to Lions International, who were so generous, so quickly, and partly to the flood victims of Combwich, 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 tobaggoning 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 round and you'll find it's full of CHARM!!!

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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.

A house in Combwich was once a Public

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? £4000!

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? I'm 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!

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BELATED BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Alex Langridge of 14 Brookside 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.

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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!

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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 demonstration of this popular craft. She had many original ideas, as well as producing examples of the easier log-cabin 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 celebrated her birthday on February 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 February 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 Pond 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 February 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

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-

Another jumble sale is planned for March 6th. The Summer term will see the traditional schooltrek (or sponsored walk) when we boldly go from Comwich 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).

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 disadvantages 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 community. Not all children are so fortunate. Lastly, but not leastly, there seem to be so

THANK YOU.

Ian Stevenson.

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

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 harem-type 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.

(How about knitting patterns, too, Gay? JM)

How nice to be

EIGHTEEN!

Congratulations.....

VICKY BONNER

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.

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MORE BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to Paul Selway who was ten on February 26th...Wendy Parsons who celebrated her birthday on the same day...Paul Williams of 5 Dame Withycombe Cottages, Paul was two on February 27th...The 29th was the day for Nicola Radford of 1 Estuary Park and she was also two...Nina Perry of 32 Estuary Park celebrated her fourth birthday on March 3rd...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.

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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!

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

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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 excellent dinner at which the guests of honour were Mr & Mrs Myatt, games, competitions,

dancing and community singing 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 February 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.

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CONGRATULATIONS...

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

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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 trophy 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.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY, CARLEY!

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

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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

squashed tins, crisp packets, polystyrene, even a washing-up liquid container.

Now I'm not asking for maney from anyone, just for your HELP. One hour of your time. Who will come with me on Saturday, April 3rd at 2pm with a bucket and help me clear the approach to Combwich.

Just in time for Easter and any village visitors.

Hope I'm not alone!

Mrs J.M. Hills.

Ednote: Joan and Norman celebrated their 28th Wedding Anniversary on Febuary 20th. May we wish you many more! JM

MAYDAY NOTES

Unclaimed photographs from last year's May Day celebrations are now on sale. Excellent quality photographs and good value at 50p each for enlargements. View at 14 Estuary Park.

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If you came to last year's celebrations you will know what an enormous amount of work went into this event. If anyone feels they would like to 'muck in' and join our small band of willing helpers you will be most welcome.

Please contact any member of the May Day committee.

CANNINGTON HOLIDAY RECREATION SCHEME

The Recreation scheme at Cannington was very successful last year, with more children than ever taking part.

Many activities were provided and under professional supervision the children played organised games, swam, fished and cycled. Thirteen cycling proficiency certificates were given, six medallions were awarded for Life Saving and 21 awards were given for ASA Personal Survival.

Thanks to vigorous fund raising and donations from local businesses and individuals, the scheme had only to be subsidised by 25p per child by Sedgemoor District Council and the organisers have asked me to print their balance sheet for 1981.

Income

'80		'81
12	Cash b/f on 1.1.81	18. 14
10	Interest	
	Enrolments -	
163	Primary School	171 76
133	Brymore School	147 00
45	College of Agric - Tennis	44 60
144	- Sailing	-
-	- Angling	16 00
135	Grant O Sedgemoor District Council (take up of Guarantee)	38 00
	Donations -	
25	Butlins Ltd	25 00
12	Cannington Grain	15 00

'80		'81
50	Cannington Parish Council	30 00
25	C.E.GB	25 00
25	Clarks Ltd	50 00
10	Marks & Spencer	15 00
20	Cannington Parish Council	25 00
	Otterhampton C.I. School	
7	Friends	10 00
30	Somerset County Council Educ	30 00
	Somerset County Council Soc	
-	Services	30 00
10	T. Redding & Co	10 00
-	Bridgwater Building Society	10 00
-	S. Leffman Ltd	10 00
-	Hon RH & Mrs FMI Clifford	25 00
-	Manager - Lloyds Bank	5 00
-	Clarence Hotel	10 00
		780 50

Expenditure

165	Primary School - Instructors	228 00
21	Travelling Exp	19 80
28	Use of Pool	34 85
3	Refreshments	5 32
3	Other	16 44
55	Brymore School - Instructors	60 00
165	Use of pool	180 00
53	Caretaker	52 68
	College of Agriculture -	
55	Tennis Course - Instructor	60 00
6	Travelling Exp	4 40
3	Equipment	80
1	Refreshments	69
211	Sailing Course	-
-	Angling Course - Instructor	24 00
-	Travelling	4 00
-	Equipment	-
40	Insurance Employers and Public Liability	40 00
30	Administration	31 38
18	Cash at Bank and in hand	18 14
		780 50.

FINISH WITH THE BIRTHDAYS..

March 7th..Penny Sperring, 35 Brookside Road
March 9th..Charlotte Williams of 49 River-side was five.

March 12th...Brian Selway of 42 Brookside was twelve.

March 19th...Caroline Jacobs of 8 Church Hill will be age eight.

March 20th...Gay Care, 5 Kiln Close will not disclose her age!

March 24th...Bronnda and Alan Chaudhri celebrate their wedding anniversary.

April 3rd...Katherine Langridge of 14 Brookside Road will be one year old.

April 6th...R. Willis of 71 Estuary Park will also be a year old.

April 10th...just room for David Care of 5 Kiln Close who will be six.

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