

COMBWICH CLARION

EDITORIAL

I hope you all enjoyed the Fair this year (and the traffic jams) but wasn't it expensive? Straight after school on Wednesday, I collected Gina to take her and Jenny in. Gina didn't want a coconut, she didn't want a ride, all she wanted was a goldfish. I don't know what they cost in the pet shop but I bet I could have bought a dozen for what that fish cost!

At the stall I eyed the huge playing cards and convinced myself that I could stick darts in two of them, so I handed over an exorbitant 30p. To my horror, I was only given two darts. Of course, the first one fell out. After that, I shopped around until I found a stall giving three darts for 25p. I missed. By now, Gina was losing faith in my darting skills (!) so when I passed a stall with the man shouting "Prize every time" I fixed him with a steely eye and asked "Does that include a goldfish?" He must have recognised the look of desperation and agreed. Armed with three darts and knowing I couldn't lose, guess what? Each dart stuck in a separate card.....

Fred the fish is alive and well - thank goodness!!! JM

ANSWERS

Last month Mrs Redding compiled a little quiz about Combwich, no prizes, just for fun. Here are the answers and by special request, the questions. I had a complaint that by the time the answers were printed, the questions had been forgotten!

1. In which field in Combwich might you meet Dick Turpin? COACHROAD
2. Where would Geoff and Audrey hold a Country dance? DYER'S BARN
3. Which house in Combwich should always be near a fire? FENDERHOUSE
4. Where in Combwich should you leave your car? THE PARK
5. Which part of Combwich would Helen like best? MARTYN'S CLOSE.

MANY HAPPY RETURNS

to

ERNE CHARLES

on

September 18th

THANKS AGAIN

Thank you once again to those of you who put your coppers (and sometimes silver) in my little jar in the Post Office. Please keep

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it up. "What little Jar?" you may say. Well, if you feel like donating towards the cost of your own village paper, just ask for Jackie's jar!

TIMES GONE BY

Extracts from the "Bridgwater Mercury", Dec. 21st, 1927.

G.W.R. offer half day trip to Bristol 3/-
Day trip to Cheltenham. Return first class 16/5. Third class 9/10.

Best Wishes to
MURIEL DAVEY
who celebrated her
Birthday on
September 18th

LUCKY CLARION

Well, no-one claimed it last month, so an unusual kitchen apron is the prize for the lucky Clarion this month. If you receive a copy with my signature on it, bring it and yourself to me at 14 Estuary Park to claim your prize.

PEEP INTO THE PAST

Extracts from Combwich Clarion. March 1978.

The funny noise I kept hearing was finally solved by P. Earle, who in a very amusing rhyme revealed, "It's up the quarry where men are drilling!"

The W.I. had held a very successful Jumble Sale for the Save the Hall fund.

February 19th was that unforgettable day when we all woke up to a white wilderness. Snow literally up to the windowsills. Seems unbelievable now, doesn't it? I took some photos of that day about 7am before the snow had been trodden on and still look at them now with wonder.

The Mother and Toddler Group was desperate for new members two years ago...they still are....

It was on March 11th, 1978, that we lost our very own Post-Lady, Glad Sellars. Her retirement was marked with a surprise presentation as she left the Post Office of a huge card with 119 signatures and a cheque for £47, as well as a bouquet of flowers.

A WONDERFUL THOUGHT

The Saturday before my birthday was just an ordinary Saturday, until the lady from Interflora arrived. For she brought me a

After a night of ominous lightning and heavy showers, July 26th turned out to be humid and dull, much to the relief of the W.I. in general and the stall holders in particular. We much appreciate Mr & Mrs Nigel French's kindness in allowing us to hold the event at the Old Rectory. The setting of which could not have been bettered - the stalls on the lawn under the trees, the teas in the play-house and folk dancing in the old walled garden, brought back the flavour of old vacarage Fetes of long ago when life was calmer and more leisurely.

Mrs Cook, who used to live up Church Hill, and was W.I. President for several years, came from her home in Nailsea to open the Fete. She was presented with a bouquet by Alison Willcox and given a W.I. booklet entitled "Somerset Remembers". Mrs Letty Sanderson was also presented with a garden plant in appreciation of the enormous amount of work put in by herself and her family. Mrs Sherratt's team of Combwich children folk dancers performed beautifully, looking so fresh in their costumes and living up to the time and training involved. This scene was completed by Mr Les Wright's musical direction.

I do not usually give all the names of the ladies who work so hard for our functions, but this time they really merit a mention: Tea Ladies: Mrs E. Nurton & daughter, Mrs Marsh, Mrs Selway and Mrs Wilcox (washer-upper)

Fancy Goods: Mrs Myatt and Mrs Venner

Cakes: Mrs Ealey and Mrs Tulloch

Greenery: Miss Rowe and Mrs Temple

Miscellaneous: Mrs Guard and Mrs Nelson

Ices: Mrs Clarke and Mrs Mattaface.

Games and competitions were helped out by many of the W.I. families who came to our rescue and helped take in the money.

The raffle of a lovely Sunday dinner was won by Sam Passmore. The cake weight guessing by Mr Trahone and the £1 note number by Di Russell. Amy Russell won the Treasure Hunt.

Mrs Pike did a brisk trade with W.I. publications and a good time was had by all. We

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
to
PETER BROOMFIELD
32 Brookside Road
WHO WAS ONE ON OCTOBER 3rd.

More from Muriel Fielder who spent her evacuation in Combwich.....

At Otterhampton School was Mrs Hunt, the Headmistress who took the Seniors, and Miss Sayer who had the Infants. I had the Junior group, and at first had to take it in the field outside for several days. Luckily the weather was beautiful and we were able to go on walks doing Nature Study, or telling stories and singing, saying tables and doing oral arithmetic or playing games. We had no books or writing material. Eventually Mr Peck took some of the older ones to Stockland School and I was able to have my group sharing the large Otterhampton schoolroom with Mrs Hunt, while Miss Sayer had the small room with the Infants. Consequently, most work was individual and had to be quietly done in the shared room. The yard seemed fairly small for physical work, but we managed as the group was not too large. The boys did sewing with the girls, mainly simple embroidery on a small piece of hessian, and I remember the best purse was neatly and carefully made by Ronnie Teather.

We had an occasional hymn by Mrs Hunt otherwise little singing or music, much to my sorrow as that was my special subject.

More next month...

Local Flower Shows are always popular, with Combwich residents flying the flag for our village in most of them. The most notable being, of course, Met Pople, who has hundreds of rosettes for his flowers and vegetables shown over the years. Many people ask why Combwich does not have a Flower Show and the obvious answer is that no-one has bothered to organise one! I know it is a lot of work, but a large Committee would soon break the back

∴ WHOOPS,

.....JACKIE

MISCALCULATED

of the work and Mr Owen Button, from the Harbour Garage, has offered to donate a cup to help get it started. So, over to you, villagers.....

..... WI. REPORT (SEPTEMBER)

It was nice to meet again after the August break, and there was a good attendance to hear Mr Francis, Headmaster of Chilton Trinity School, speak on the Comprehensive system. He gave an illuminating talk on the background and aspirations of this type of education; and quoted examples of successes and failures. Many questions were put to him afterwards by various members.

After delicious refreshments members got together to plan their own meeting for next month. The Group Meeting is to be held in Cannington this time and it will be our turn next - early in March 1981.

The berry necklace competition brought forth some lovely examples of fruity decoration.

We would welcome new members at any meeting.

Vivienne Passmore.

.....
~~~~~  
Calling

LYNN PERRY

32 Estuary Park

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

Ten on October 5th.  
~~~~~  
.....

MYSTERY SOLVED

Thanks to Miss Margaret Redding, who scanned old Kelly's Directories, I can now tell you that the Bijou Cinema, featured in last month's Clarion, used to be at 25 St Mary Street. The Manager, in 1927, was H. Jarvis and the telephone number was Bridgwater 159!

..... YOU SHOULD KNOW BY NOW

If you have anything you would like to put in the Clarion, letter to the Editor, advertisements, complaints, praise and so on, write to me at 14 Estuary Park.

..... YOUR CHANCE TO HELP

Mrs Sprake, who lives at 44 Estuary Park is disabled and her husband has come up with a very good idea for when he has to leave his wife alone in the house. He has bought her a little device, which, when the pin is pulled out, emits an extremely loud and piercing warble. This will continue for 20 hours and if not stopped, I should imagine would drive Mrs Sprake mad! However, if you should ever hear this unusual noise, it does mean that Mrs Sprake is in trouble and in need of assistance. Contact Mrs Ann Cross, tel. 652505 as soon as possible.
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PARLEZ VOUS ANGLAIS?

More about our adventures in France...

The next evening it was my turn for a walk and as I walked along the shore with the tide lapping at my feet, I felt completely at peace. On the way back, I discovered a jellyfish. It was alive but covered in sand so with a stick I flicked it towards the incoming waves to wash it off and have a good look at it. While I was crouched down waiting for the next wave, in came a great roller to completely drench me! It was a rather wet and begraggled Jackie who staggered back to the caravan. That walk notched up another first, however. A good-looking Frenchman emerged from a very swish-looking hotel opening on to the beach and proceeded to chat me up!

We never got further than the weather with my schoolgirl French, but it was very flattering!

By Monday morning, John felt a lot better and the sun was shining. "Perhaps today I shall sunbathe" I said hopefully. It had become a big joke because every day I said that and every day by the time we had got ourselves organised the sun had gone in!

Today was to be no exception. We sat on the beach for a while until I decided to run down to the sea for a paddle. In my enthusiasm I didn't look what I was stepping on and trod on a shard of glass. Back to the van to disinfect the cut - luckily only small - and apply a plaster. We thought that it would be safer to go into Cabourg for some shopping but while we were walking around I began to feel increasingly uncomfortable with a boil on an unmentionable place. By the time we had eaten lunch I didn't know which was worse, standing on my cut foot or sitting on my boil!

The afternoon proved to be dull so we decided to go for a drive. As usual, we managed to get lost, but as we climbed up a hill I looked to my right and there below was the most beautiful view. "Can you stop, I'd love to take a photo!" John found a convenient lay-by and I walked back to break in the trees. There was a steel barrier at the side of the road and I thought to myself "If I climb on to that, I should get a lovely picture". So climb I did, aimed the camera and promptly fell off into the undergrowth on the other side! I got my photo. I also got a bloody toe and a long gash on my foot - the other foot. As I hobbled back to the car I didn't even know which foot to limp on!

More next month...

..... HAVE YOU REALISED YOUR AMBITION?

Following an editorial about ambitions a couple of months ago, Mrs Jean Kibby told me about her ambitions. One is to ride in a helicopter any offers? I'll keep her company) and the other is to dress in a

long, flowing evening gown and waft down a wide staircase to a handsome man waiting for her at the bottom. Knowing Jean, I can just see her tripping halfway down! Still, anyone got a wide staircase and a handsome man?

 * Birthday Greetings *
 * to *
 * ~~IRIS PERKINS~~ *
 * 18 Estuary Park *
 * who was four on October 6th *

ARRIVAL OF THE "IRENE"

Well, the "Irene" certainly arrived with a bang, didn't she? What a surprise when we got to the common on Saturday morning to find her stuck fast in the mud. What with police darting all over the place, cars parked as far as the Post Office and television cameras all over the place it was a day to remember. I think the sight that amused me most was that of the Mayor of Bridgwater, complete with chain of office, dashing round with his camera and with mud all over his shoes, completely oblivious to his undignified appearance! But what a wonderful atmosphere, with more folk on the common then even on bonfire night, then switching from BBC to HTV on the Monday to see if anyone you knew was on the telly.

I had the great pleasure of meeting Mr Percy Aldridge, who, for many years, has subscribed to the Clarion and very generously, too. His family once owned the "Irene" and he showed me several photos of her taken many years ago. Thank you, Mr Aldridge, your last donation more than paid for this month's printing. Well, the "Irene" has sailed away now, leaving Combwich to settle down once more into it's quiet little village. It was fun while it lasted, with visitors from all around coming to visit and it must have brought many memories back to those who remember Combwich as a port. Farewell, "Irene", Bon Voyage.

LUCKY WINNER

Idly listening to Radio Bristol one Sunday morning, I was amazed to hear a caller identify himself as Bill Johnson from Combwich. However, as was, and after correctly answering a question, Bill won himself a Kenco Coffee Maker and £25s worth of dairy Goods. Well done. I tried in vain to win the weekend in Paris, but alas, no luck!

SAVE YOUR STAMPS

When you go into the Post Office, I know you never forget to put your coppers into the Clarion jar, so remember the other jar there as well. In aid of the R.N.L.I., which relies entirely on public subscription and save many lives every year, they are appealing for used

stamps. All you need do is tear the stamps from your envelopes and take them into the Post Office. When Christmas cards start arriving, please remember the R.N.L.I.

TIMES TAKEOVER

Hearing the news that the "Times" is up for sale, it has been suggested to me that the Clarion make a take-over bid. If they accept my offer of £5.63, the papers will be merged and thereafter called the "Combwich Times".

PANTOMIME TIME

Fancy taking part in a hilarious production of "Cinderella"? You don't need to act, sing or dance. It would be an advantage of course, but the most important thing is to have a sense of humour. Also required are dress-makers, scenery paintery and props builders. Let's make this a panto to remember. Call me on 652499 for details.

HOWS ABOUT THAT THEN?

I hear....that the Clarion is sent to Florida.....FAME AT LAST!!!!!!

ODD JOB MAN WANTED

The Parish Council are in desperate need of an odd-job person (!) willing to carry out repairs and maintenance around the village. Work not arduous and preferably voluntary. This way, it will help to keep the rates down, and don't we all want to do that! Apply to any Parish Counsellor or to me at 14 Estuary Park, 652499.

HAVE YOU SEEN HIM?

A kingfisher has been sited on the Ponds behind Estuary Park. I have never seen a kingfisher and am busy bird-watching. Let me know if you have seen him.

TIMES GONE BY

Sydney Wattler, 7,8 & 9 Cornhill, Bridgwater. Gifts For The Ladies.

Umbrellas 3/11½ Gloves 4/11
 Skin Coats £5.15.0 to 30gns.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU, AND YOU, AND YOU, AND

Birthday Greetings to Kevin Ford, 7 River-view. Kevin was three on October 6th.

October 9th was the big day for Tricia Ford but she won't tell me how old she was! Mrs Norman celebrated her birthday on 10th October, Happy Birthday to you.

October 27th was shared by Anthony Radford, 1 Estuary Park, who was two and Leanne Perry of 32 Estuary Park, one on that day.

In November, Kate Stevenson, 16 Martyn Close will be six on the ninth and special greetings to Ted Darch on the 23rd. I could do on but I'm running out of space, I'm running o...