

THE COMBWICH CLARION

SEPTEMBER 1973

EDITORIAL

Firstly, apologies for the late "Clarion", due mainly to holidays (mine) and lack of support for this paper. It was only when I started to lament about this that a few public-spirited villagers got the message and donated some much-needed articles. Many people have told me they enjoy the "Clarion", but they are not so willing to contribute — perhaps that is the wrong wording — they would like to write something but don't know what to write about. Well, when you think about it — the possibilities are endless — what do you think about the new Village Hall, what would you like to see held there, and ideas you have for fund raising, what would you like to see as a regular feature in the "Clarion", what do you think of Combwich in general? Would you like to see more outdoor activities (football, cricket, tennis) in the village? This village is only what you make it. You should all know by now that the Social Club Committee is crying out for members — and it is this Committee which has to decide what the villagers would like in the form of Entertainment. If you don't like what is provided, what better ways to put forward your views that on the Social Club Committee? Think about it. Would you like to see an Art Class or Flower Arranging in the Hall? Learning to knit or Crochet? All should be possible if only there are enough interested to give it full support. Use the medium of the "Clarion" to put forward your views.

Write to the Ed. at 14, Estuary Park, Combwich.



Parents please note!

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT RE SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAYS

1973

Half Term. Thursday & Friday, 18th & 19th Oct.

All the week commencing Mon. 22nd Oct.

School re - opens Mon 29th Oct.

School closes for Christmas on Thursday 20th December.

Last term parents were asked to vote as to whether they preferred the new holidays of 1973 or the traditional holidays as in 1972. Notice has been received from County Hall that votes throughout Somerset strongly favour the return to traditional holidays. The Committee is also in favour of this because of the high cost in additional salaries caused by the new style holidays. Consequently the holidays for 1974 have been changed and all previous notices have been cancelled.

The holidays for 1974 are now as follows:—

Spring Term	Tues. 8 Jan.	— Fri. 5 Apr.
Summer Term	Wed. 24 Apr.	— Fri. 19 July
Half Term	Sat. 25 May	— Sun 2 Jun
Autumn Term	Tues 3 Sept.	— Thurs. 19 Dec.

Half terms in the Spring and Autumn terms will be announced later.

Good Friday	April 12
Easter Monday	April 15
Spring Bank Holiday	May 27
Later Summer Holiday	Aug. 26

As numbers and conditions are at school at present it is very unlikely that any new entrants who attain the age of 5 years after 24 April will be able to be admitted until 3rd Sept. 1974.

E. Y. Sturman
Headmistress. Otterhampton C.P. School. Combwich

Parish News

From the Chairman

We feel that a little self - praise is sometimes, like confession, good for the soul or shall we say 'ego' and thus we think the village community should know one or two facts of importance to all of us.

The Common: Firstly, the registration as a Village Green was necessary to secure this open space for the benefit of the Village, but it was not just a case of "Form Filling". Much research had to be carried out which involved both travelling and correspondence over a period of years before an enquiry at the Shire Hall, Taunton last November when our carefully prepared case was presented by our Legal Adviser.

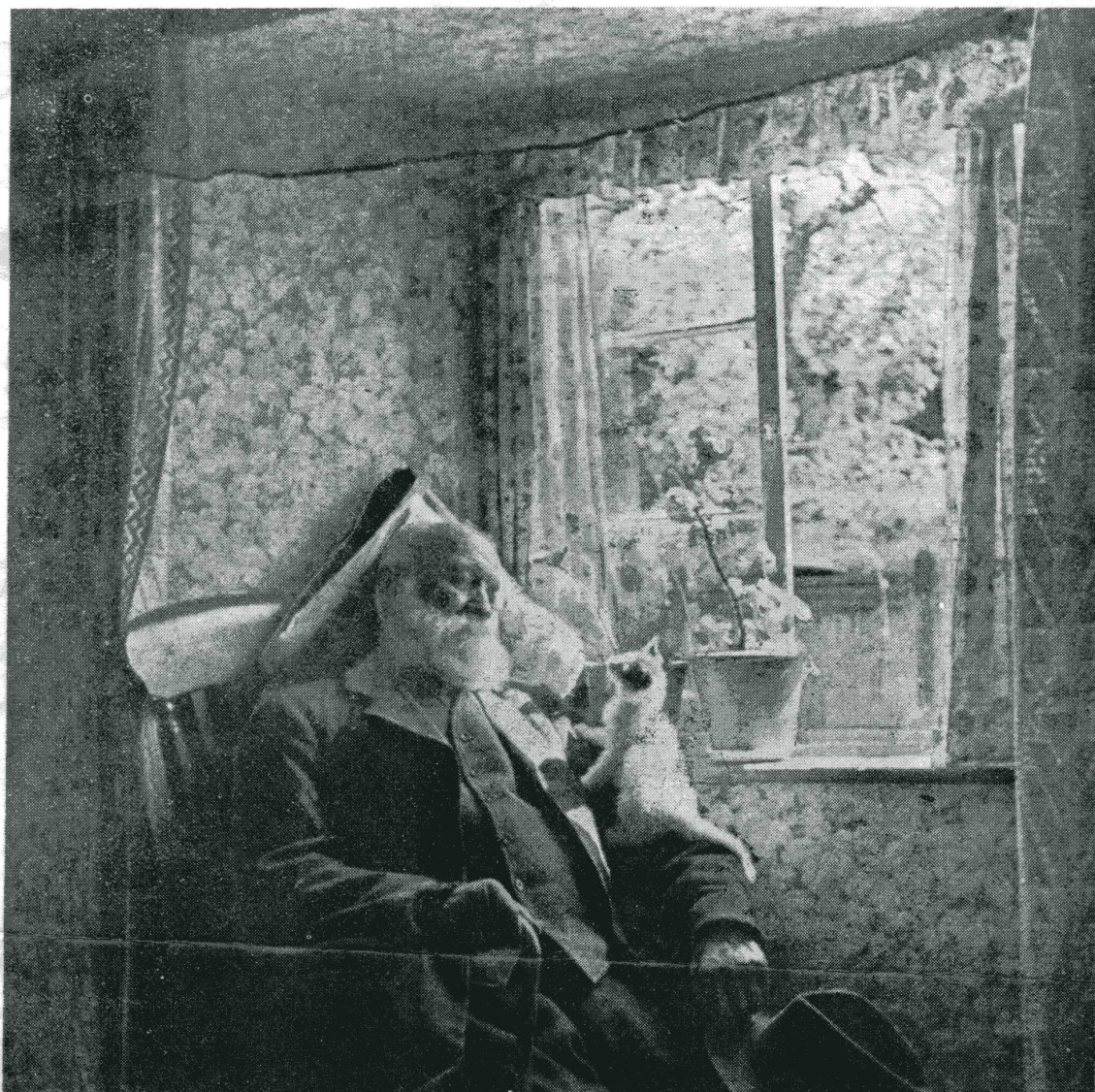
However, having achieved this objective, it is now a matter for the Village as a whole to preserve and enjoy the benefits

envisaged. For this purpose we have formed a Common sub-committee consisting of Messrs. C. Cook, R. Blake and A. Bouchier and any suggestions for the preservation and/or improvement should be addressed to the Clerk for subsequent submission to the Council.

We hope in the near future to have a general meeting when all your suggestions will be welcome.

Bus Service: This is just one of these unexpected problems that can occur, and here we were able to play a small part towards the retention of a SERVICE which would otherwise have ceased to exist and we take this opportunity of expressing our gratitude and sincere appreciation of the village for the generosity of all who, not only made contributions, but made them so promptly to save this service.





Puzzled at the sudden end to their game, the white kitten waits hopefully for her old friend to open his eyes. He is Mr. James Payne, aged seventy-one, in the 300-year-old Ship Inn at Combach, near Bridgwater, Somerset.—*A Lensman Study.*

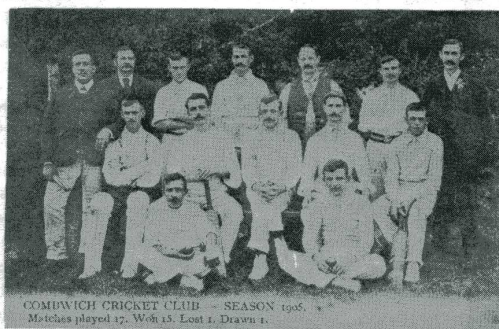
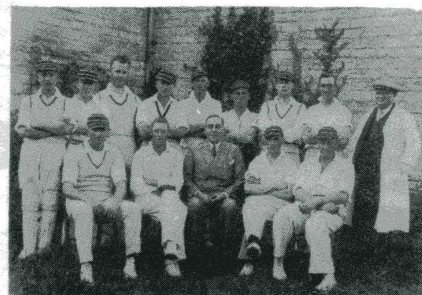


Those were the days -

ABOVE: from the Daily Mail
back in the '30's

Can **YOU** tell us anything
about these other photo's?

From photographs kindly
loaned by Jean Kibby





The Combwich Drama Club met again on Monday, September 3rd after the break for the Summer Holidays. Unfortunately there was a poor attendance. They are in the process of choosing a play for their winter production at the end of November and will be casting in the next few weeks. If you can act, or are a dab hand at scenery, costumes, etc. you will be welcomed with open arms! They meet every Monday at 7.30 p.m. if you are at all interested, go along and look them over!

FIRE ENGINE (S!) FULL SPEED AHEAD !!!

A hedge on fire in Church Hill on Friday, 24th August had no less than two fire appliances rushing to the scene — complete with sirens! However, countless buckets of water had the fire under control before the firemen got a look in!!!

(The residents of Church Hill show a surprising lack of goodwill, it seems to me. One would have thought that, having called out the Fire Brigade, the very least they could have done would have been to keep the fire going until they arrived!)

adspotadspot

Wanted — To Borrow:

Old photographs of Combwich, for historical purposes.

David Blake, 9 Riverside, Combwich. Tel : 419

WANTED: Male and female workers. Must be prepared to give up a lot of time in return for nothing but frustration. Should preferably be free to work some evenings and some weekends.

SALARY: Nil.

QUALIFICATIONS: Even tempered, broad shouldered, thick skinned and a determination to carry out work for which very few will thank you.

APPLICATIONS should be made direct to the Social Club Secretary, c/o The Village Hall, Combwich.

STOP PRESS: Congratulations to

Dave Binding on his recent T.V.

"Opportunity Knocks" appearance.

We hope you and your partner fare well in the future

from a local newspaper

Combwich as Well

The Carhampton Wassail is over once more, and the apple crop is assured! Mr. Eric Tarr blasted the evil spirits back to nether regions, a good time was had by all, and the only disappointment was the absence, through indisposition, of the "mayor," Mr. Fred Adams. He has attended more wassails than there will be apples on my old Tom Putt! There used to be a wassail at Combwich, and I have heard this week from Mrs. T. W. Chant, of Minehead, who witnessed what she thinks was the last ceremony at Combwich. That was in 1912. The ceremonial, was very similar to that at Carhampton, but a different wassail song was sung, and Mrs. Chant sends me the words. "As far as I can remember them," she adds.

There was an old fox out in a green copse,
Devouring his dinner and licking his chops,
And Granfer's gurt bulldog, he burned his long tail,
And this is the night we go singing "Wassail."

Chorus :

Sail, me boys, sail; sail, me boys, sail,
And this is the night we go singing "Wassail."

There was an old man, he had an old cow,
And how for to keep her he didn't know how,
So he built up a barn for her to keep his cow warm,
And a little more cider 'ull do us no harm.

Chorus :

Harm, me boys, harm; harm, me boys, harm,
And a little more cider 'ull do us no harm.

*There was a young lady called Marion,
Who sent in an Ad. to the "Clarion",
It read: Book a blind date
If you're wanting a mate,
The Ed. fainted, then said 'what a carry on!*



Country & Western DANCE

featuring **mal darren & bob**

Saturday October 6th. 8.30 p.m. — 11.30 p.m.

Admission 50p. Ticket only.
Light Refreshments.

Bar Facilities

post~bag

ghubby



A very charming letter from Mr. John Disney from Berrow.

"A few days ago I had the pleasure of visiting Combach. During that brief visit two very charming ladies handed me two copies of the Clarion asking me to write for them. My answer to that was that I did not know enough about the Village to be able to write an article. The quick answer to that was, "for sixteen years you wrote in the 'Country Churchman' magazine which one edition was for the Combach and Otterhampton Parish". People in Combach are rather shy — shy of writing in their own magazine.

It is some years ago now that I first visited Combach, some of my relatives took me there to see a friend of theirs who was at that time, I remember, rebuilding some houses called the 'Towers! I remember those tumbledown houses which looked to me to be beyond repair. Since living at Berrow, I have frequently visited the Towers, and what a contrast, all so beautiful, so neat, with their lovely gardens, and all the other residences with their charming gardens add to the picture. Because it is a picture, I have been round there on my own. You see, it has a very sentimental meaning for me now.

As I have already said, I do not know much about the History of this charming village of great character. I have been round your village and explored the lovely old houses as I went along and saw growing in the gardens some flowers and a shrub which varieties were unknown to me. I would like to walk round Combach on foot and explore all the things and places I have not seen to enable me to write more fully. I notice the old Coal Yard has gone now. There is a Brush Factory in Combach — I have never seen a Brush Factory, "I thought bristles just grew, I suppose". I have been in your shop several times, a typical Village Stores where one can find such friendly people, so helpful with that personal touch and charming manner from the assistants, (and they did not even know me) Of course, that is Combach all the way.

There must be such a lot to learn about your village — it must have a great history with those waterways. I have stood on the bank and looked across the water to my village Berrow. How lucky you are you do not have that through traffic like we have. Not only holidays, but Sundays as well, cars going through to Brean Down, and most of them have a 'nest Box' (I call it) trailing on behind. Give me the peaceful joy of living in Combach. 'A Heavenly Peace'. I like the well-kept gardens, and I quote what one very keen lady gardener said to me one day in Combach. If there is one place I would like to be, if I was not in my garden, it would be in my garden!

Now, wasn't it at Combach, or near Combach that an Irish farmer lived and took some pigs to Bridgwater Market to be sold, they were weighed in and sold by auction in the usual way. When Paddy arrived home his wife was waiting at the gate and said 'How did you do at the Market, Pat' — Paddy said 'Ho sure and be gorra, Mother, me pigs didn't weigh as much as I expected, but I didn't think they would!'

I have been reading your Combach Clarion with great interest — no, you should not let it cease to exist. I find people living in the same village are always reluctant to write until they have made a start, perhaps my little piece will give them a start — who knows?

I want to know more about your village, I want to visit the Brush Factory. The Towers, The Market Garden (of course) and all those places of interest before I can write again.

Any offers to take me round all these places and tell me the history of the Village, the old cottages, the docks and of course, I have never seen Otterhampton All Saints Church and St. Peters Church in Combach.

So to all people of Combach I say 'Keep on Praying and never lose heart'. St. Luke.



ADVICE/HELP REQUIRED

From D. J. Weaver Esq., 11 Estuary Park.

"It came as a surprise to most of us in Estuary Park to discover that we are required to pay Land Drainage Rates, the Vendor having omitted to mention this when we bought our properties.

On enquiry, we find that many of the existing villagers pay this rate (all up to eight feet above high water) although there seems to be a little discrepancy in the amounts. To save us from stumbling blindly along ground that has already been trod, I wonder if any of the existing ratepayers has investigated the provisions of the Land Drainage Act, the constitution of the Cannington and Wembdon Drainage Board or whether we get value for money out of their activities."



SUNDAY SCHOOL OUTING

From Mrs Pauline Mead, 32, Estuary Park.

"I am sure all parents would wish to join me in thanking all concerned in organising the Sunday School outing on Thursday, 16th August. The party left Combach at 10.30 a.m. for Cricket St. Thomas Wildlife Park, where a thoroughly good time was had by all. May I expressly thank Mrs Norman and Mrs Richards who supervised the children."



from a Reluctant Hiker

May I, through the medium of your paper, be allowed to express gratitude to the public-spirited souls who came to the rescue financially to keep the local 'bus a-trundling.

Signed: 2 Flatfeet.



Arthur Wevell.

Combach has lost its only Freeman. Among the many tributes which have been paid to Mr. Arthur Wevell there is a special memory belonging to this village. At the very last Fete held in Otterhampton Rectory Mr. Wevell, in his opening speech, recalled with great glee how he had been made Freeman of Combach at a feast at the Anchor Inn. A huge key had been tied round his neck, and he been given a large cardboard ticket entitling him to ride free on a tramway between the crossroads and the Anchor Inn, whenever the tramway was built.

Good-bye Mr. Wevell, we shan't forget you.

Anon



KEEP COMBACH TIDY

From: E. Y. Sturman.

I thank members of W.I. and applaud them for their efforts to tidy up our village.

The litter at times is deplorable and I am constantly reminding the pupils at school about this. On our 'bus journeys to and from the Lido all litter has to be brought back to school and deposited in waste bins. However, children have two standards, one for school and one for out of school. Please would parents kindly co-operate and insist that children do not drop wrappers and litter in the streets and roads. I feel this would do much to keep our village tidy. Also, should the weather be hot on our return to school I should be grateful if parents would not allow pupils to bring drinks to school in glass bottles or tin cans. The danger of these, particularly the glass, are obvious.