

LIVERPOOL CATHOLIC RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION

UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF
HIS GRACE THE ARCHBISHOP OF LIVERPOOL

REGISTRAR:

Miss Kathleen Collins,
254 Anfield Road, Liverpool 4.

Hon. Secretary : Miss M. W. JONES,

56 CUNNINGHAM ROAD,

LIVERPOOL, 13.

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

SECOND SERIES NO. 21.

APRIL 1948

HAPPY EASTER, EVERYBODY!

NOW IS THE TIME

for us all to take part in the weekly
rambles and benefit by the invigorating
Spring air!

YOUR CLUB!

Beautiful countries there may be, beyond our view and purse, where azure skies frame scenes of purple hills and green fields, or where washed white sands melt into seas as blue as those same skies; but is not Britain, too, beautiful - beyond the drab factories, dinghy brick walls and seemingly endless blocks of houses?

Birth and environment restrict us to one small area of this world of ours; nay, we are even confined to one diminutive district of this Britain. Providence might have placed us in more beautiful surroundings, but have we so little in which to live our lives, shape our minds and refresh our spirits, if but for all too brief a day here and there? Surely, even the leafy lanes and paths of Wirral, well-trodden though they may be, are an escape; the hills of Lancashire and North Wales an invigoration! And - do we never have blue skies to frame our green fields and hills? Have we never the physic of a strong sun; or nature's sounds as lullaby to cares and responsibilities?

From a big city your companions are of many walks of life and of variegated capability and adaptability. Your life is coloured by their presence and their endeavour. Make the most of what can spring from so companionable a soil. Whether we could be a larger or smaller club is immaterial. We are a club, alive and vigorous, and, incidentally, one of the largest if not the largest Catholic club in the country. Take pride in that by all means, but it is the least of our qualities. Corporately, we have achieved much and can achieve more; - let us continue to do so - our achievements are ancillary to the 'treading of the way.' This 'way' leads to health and true pleasure.

THE EDITOR.

OUR 21ST YEAR CELEBRATIONS

1. GRAND EASTER DANCE - Don't forget the dance at Blair Hall, Tuesday, 30th March (following Easter Monday). Dancing will be from 7-30 to 11-00 p.m. with 'Spots' and Novelties. Refreshments will be available, and tickets, 2/6d each, may be had from Win Jones at any Social or on application at the above address. Your M.C. for the evening will be Mr. Cyril Kelly!
2. A dance is being arranged at the Carlton Ballroom for Wednesday, 2nd June. Further details in your next Newsletter. We are hoping to make it a great attraction so keep this 'date' open. Tickets will be 3/6d each.
3. "TWENTY-FIRST BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS"
 - (a) Friday, 24th September - A special evening is being arranged for the Social at St. Oswald's Hall.
 - (b) Saturday, 25th September - We have booked at Reeces, Parker Street, for a Dinner Dance, the cost of which will be 12/6d.
 - (c) Sunday, 26th September - Mass of Thanksgiving will be offered, followed by a Special Outing.

Naturally, there are innumerable details, but, as negotiations proceed, these will be announced. Meantime, as the total cost of the weekend will be in the region of £1 to £1/5/-, covering participation in all these functions, Miss Kathleen Collins will be pleased to accept weekly subscriptions towards the cost, for which she has obtained special subscription cards.
START NOW! - whether for one or all of the celebrations.

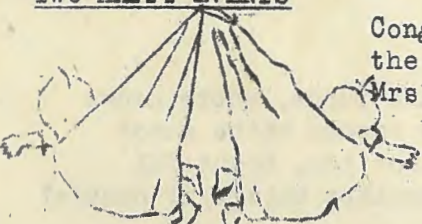
FOOTBALL

Hello, Soccer Fans! You will recall some time back that it was mentioned the C.R.A. was endeavouring to form a Football section. I'm glad to say that we are slowly but surely coming in to being. Having now played a number of games, with more in view, we hope in time to join a League, so we will then be firmly established, thus adding more social activities to the Club. I know all members will join with me in wishing the team every success for the future. Be seeing you again! Cheerio for now.

YOUR FOOTBALL REPORTER.

TWO HAPPY EVENTS

Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Len Kane (Clara Ditchfield) on the arrival of a son (Francis Gerrard), and also to Mr. & Mrs. Fred Begley on the arrival of a daughter.



SOCIAL NOTES

Recent visitors to the Clubroom include Mr. and Mrs. Harnick, and Mr. and Mrs. Bill MacMahon whom we were very glad to see again. Frank MacMahon has been a regular customer since the Xmas Party. Tom Inight has dropped in a few times recently and did not forget his drums - Thank you, Tom!

It must be admitted that Mark Walsh introduced a novel touch when he was Host - plates were passed round during an 'Excuse-me' Quickstep, and the ensuing result was quite hilarious although I noticed Win casting an anxious look at the crockery!

Eileen Collins has a very unusual method of discovering whether people have paid their subscriptions - she introduced the question during an 'Elimination' Waltz. Oddly enough, however, no-one left the floor!

A rambler in the U.S., Miss Vera Byrne, was married six weeks ago and is now Mrs. F. Clifford. Congratulations, Vera, and the Best Wishes of the C.R.A. in your new life.

On Friday, 2nd April, the CRACKAJAX will be presenting another concert, and Mrs. Wilton has promised a non-stop variety lasting 90 minutes. The Social sub-committee are desirous of making this evening a reunion of all past members, and while they realise there is always a difficulty of finding someone to 'mind' the family, perhaps for one evening that elusive Uncle or Aunt could be roped in. Come along - renew old friendships and make new ones!

SALE OF WORK

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO MAKE OR DO FOR THE SALE OF WORK, WHICH IS TO BE HELD LATE NOVEMBER OR EARLY DECEMBER?

Can you undertake to make at least three articles, and/or run a stall? If you have any ideas, let us have them! If you need assistance, we will help you!

STOP PRESS:- On behalf of the Club, we thank the anonymous donor of four Spot Prizes for our "21st Birthday Celebrations."

GRAND NATIONAL - Lucky winners of the Sweep held in the Clubroom on Friday, the 12th March are:-

- 1st Prize - Monica Carroll (Sheila's Cottage)
- 2nd Prize - Bill Roberts (First of the Dandies)
- 3rd Prize - Ken O'Neill (Cromwell)

RAMBLING NOTES

PUDDINGTON, Sunday, 29th February - The weather was kind to us on this ramble led by Miss Mary Smith, assisted by Miss Stella Devoy. Fourteen of our members turned up in a very hilarious mood. It might have been the smell of Spring in the air which made them all so very frisky. This number, by the way, was twelve more than Mary expected. We went by bus to Little Sutton, then after half an hour's walk came to Beech Cottage where we had tea and cakes, and a look at the owner's pups, at a charge of one shilling, over which Bill Wildes lamented for the rest of the day. In fine fettle we started off once more, some of us divested of our jackets as it was very warm. A cork ball was produced and an impromptu ball game - girls versus boys - was held on the way, accompanied by much shouting and laughter. Crossing one field a noticeable acceleration of speed could be discerned, the cause being a herd of young bulls, who were unsociable enough to regard us with rather vengeful eyes. However, better nature prevailed, and after a few tentative canthers in our direction, they allowed us to pass unmolested. (Perhaps they were only cows, after all!) Eventually, we came to the Puddington sign, and here Mary and Stella formally resigned their posts as leaders. We carried on undaunted, the ball game still in progress. Now we were joined by "Ginge", a Red Setter, who followed us faithfully for the remainder of the walk in spite of Eileen, who repeatedly adjured him to wipe his nose. When we rested, one Gentleman found a frog, which he unselfishly insisted on presenting to the ladies who noisily declined the offer. There was a stop for tea at the "Yacht Inn," after which we had the usual merry sing-song along the road home shrouded in thick mist. It was unanimously agreed that a good time was had by all.



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PANTASAPH, Sunday, 7th March - 27 of our members climbed into the special bus at St. John's Lane and started off shortly after 10-00 a.m. The journey took us about an hour and it was so comfortable in the brand new bus that I think some of us would have stayed there all day without much persuasion. However, there was no option, so off we got at Holywell and clumped down the quiet, sloping street to visit the well. Then as the day was warm and we were thirsty, we refreshed ourselves with tea before starting off on our long walk. It was a grand ramble over fields, lanes and moorlands, and a new area to most of us. The weather was fair although there were black clouds overhead all day. We picnicked in a field at lunchtime, and out came the flasks of hot coffee, tea and oxo, etc. It was heard said that Mr. Jim Duncan's flask has the 'hoo-doo' as his "hot" drink was found to be stone cold when sampled. Out also came the same cork ball of last Sunday, but this time Mr. Joe Rawlinson decided to stop its progress with his head which proved that the ball was the harder of the two after all, as thereafter, a large piece of sticky plaster was to be seen covering the spot where the ball landed, but a word of advice - don't ask him how it happened! After a long walk, we arrived back at the monastery in time for a rest before Benediction, after which we had pots and pots of nice hot tea and the remainder of our sandwiches. The bus journey home was not quite so boisterous as usual. After one or two bursts of song, we succumbed to the comfort of the soft seats which were very pleasant to our weary bones.

NEWINGTON, Sunday, 14th March - The day dawned rather misty, but later became very warm. Indeed, it was more like a Midsummer's day than early Spring. The official ramble to Lymm had been postponed, and instead, we made our destination Newington. The sun was too hot to allow much strenuous walking in comfort, but the leader was kind, and there were many rests on the way. We arrived eventually at Irby Mill Hill Tea Gardens, and it was good to sit in the shade of the summer-house, where short work was made of the tea. There was great amusement over the fact that this was served on a table with a revolving top, and sandwiches were constantly being whisked disconcertingly from under the noses of their potential eaters. Later, an ambitious camera-woman announced her intention of taking a group snapshot, but this was easier said than done, as one male member refused to rise from his prostrate position on the cool, green grass, while another coyly declined to pose until he had cleaned his teeth! However, perseverance won the day, and the party was 'shot' successfully. From the Tea Gardens, we wended our way across the common, where we had another of the many rests, while an advance party went on ahead to order cheese on toast at "Elizabeth's" Tea Place. On coming out of the Cafe, we paused to listen to the clear peal of bells from a nearby church, which, instead of the usual 'ding-dong', played several complete hymn tunes, and blended in perfect harmony with the soft stillness

of the evening. The extra hour was a great advantage to us, as it was light for most of the way home, but in spite of this we managed to lose four of our members, or did they lose us?

Happy Hiking, folk,
YOUR RAMBLING REPORTER.

SOCIAL PROGRAMME FOR APRIL

2nd April	...	BENEDICTION 7-30 p.m. St. Oswald's.	REUNION NIGHT - CRACKAJAX Concert Party.
9th April	...	"APRIL FOLLIES"	Hostess, Miss Kathleen Collins.
16th April	...	SOCIAL	Host, Mr. Tom Walsh.
23rd April	...	"RADIO REVELS"	Host, Mr. Bill Roberts.
30th April	...	SOCIAL	Host, Mr. Gerry Penlington.

RAMBLING PROGRAMME FOR APRIL

Easter Monday	...	LOGGERHEADS	Mr. J. Miller	Meet Pier Head, 9-45 a.m.
4th April	...	BURTON WOODS (BENEDICTION)	Mr. A. Callaghan	Meet Pier Head, 10-15 a.m.
11th April	..	TAWD BRIDGE	Miss M. Roberts	Meet Skelhorne Street, 10-00 a.m.
18th April	..	ARLEY HILL	Mr. J. Leonard	Meet Mount Pleasant, 10-15 a.m.
25th April	..	LLANFERIS	Miss M. Hamilton	Details later.

AUNTIE MABEL'S COLUMN

Now for the letter which we had to hold over from February - a pity, considering the subject matter! "Two Jilted Jills" want to know if I think it proper to send the following proposal to their boy-friends, taking advantage of the Leap Year tradition:-

Proposal Villa,
Leap Year Lane, Hopetown.

My Dear & Most Respected Sir,

I send ybu this thy love to stir!
 It's you I've chosen first of all on whom to make my Leap Year call.
 So send me back without delay, your answer, either yes or nay,
 But if your heart does not incline in wedlock's clasp to join in mine,
 Then you must Leap Year law obey, and down to me £10 must pay.
 Besides, kind Sir, a handsome dress; I'll ask no more, I'll take no less.
 If the writer's name you guess, then send it back to my address,
 But if for me there is no hope, then send me back six yards of rope.
 I remain with Love and Kisses, One who hopes to be your Mrs."



Dear Girls,

So you're faced with the evergreen problem - whether or not to take the Law into your own hands and pop the question! The answer, of course, depends on various circumstances which you have omitted to mention. On the whole, I think there is something to be said for retaining the old order of things and leaving the males with the conceited impression that they make all the advances; in that case, of course, you just "turn on the heat" in the time-honoured way without actually putting it in words. Some men melt under pressure, but if your intended is one of those whose skin seems to be made of asbestos, you might try the letter as a last resort. Before deciding on that step, however, you may be able to profit from one of my own experiences. I expect you know that this form of proposal in rhyme has been going the rounds for many years now. Well, I once sent a very similar proposal to a boy (yes, I've had my moments you know!) and he replied in kind:-

"Dear Miss, Yours of the 13th inst. was read and left me unconvinced
 That you should change your name to mine; Therefore, I'll have to pay the fine.
 Although £10 is rather steep, my motto's 'look before you leap.'
 I've looked - enclosed please find my cheque. You'd better "watch the bounce" by heck!

Yours, from one who hopes to stay the old proverbial

"BATCHELOR GAY."

(Aren't men brutes? Don't say you haven't been warned, girls!)

AUNTIE MABEL.

LIVERPOOL CATHOLIC RAMBLERS' ASSOCIATION.

Under the Patronage of His Grace The Archbishop of Liverpool.

REGISTRAR:

Miss Kathleen Collins,
254 Anfield Road, Liverpool 4.

SECRETARY:

Miss M. W. Jones,
56, Cunningham Rd., L'pool 13.

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

SECOND SERIES NO. 22.

MAY 1948



THE DREAM OF AURELIUS

The old man moved the table and chair out of the tent and settled down once more. It was too hot to work inside and he had one more job to do - not a long one but nevertheless important. Yes, he must get the cable off by this evening's mail; hadn't he promised faithfully on his last home leave that he would not forget Right, let's start there was only one point - should he send it personally to Old Fred or to the H.Q. Perhaps the latter would be better, then even if the celebrations had started when it arrived, it would not be too late

The thought of Fred brought back a flood of other memories, and the man at the table smiled as he remembered the time when the idea of a Club-house was laughed to scorn Fred was the motive force even in those days against all opposition Nowadays, of course, it was just an accepted fact if a member was having lunch in town, he had it at the Club why not? Fred had been Chairman in those days, too, the year of the 21st celebrations, and the old man had been glad to hear that he had been brought out of retirement and unanimously voted Chairman for this special year in the Club's history Still, he must hurry with the cable, the runner would be here at any moment now it would not do to miss the mail Right, let's start

"THE CHAIRMAN, LIVERPOOL CATHOLIC RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION, RAMBLERS TERRACE, LIVERPOOL STOP FIFTIETH BIRTHDAY CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES FROM SOUTH AMERICAN SECTION CATHOLIC HOLIDAY GUILD STOP MAY ASSOCIATION FLOURISH IN FUTURE AS IN PAST ..."

As the old man signed his name, he saw the runner coming across the plateau towards him. He wished he was going with the cable

AURELIUS

PERSONAL

Our felicitations to Mr. John Miller and Miss Frances Ord, and also to Mr. Peter Carlen and Miss Celia Johnson, who have recently become engaged.

OUR FOOTBALL TEAM DOES IT AT LAST!- by "Comet"

Hello, Folks,

Here we are again, as happy as can be! Yes, it's that man again, back for our monthly chat. You may say I am in a joyful mood - I have reason to be! Let me explain.

The C.R.A., after their fifth try, have recorded their first win by a 3-0 victory over Manor House, at Maghull! We say 'Bravo!' to two of the fair sex from the Supporters Club for making the long journey on a rainy afternoon to see us, turn the corner. Support, it seems, does help. So roll up to our next game and give us the Hampden roar.



SUPPORTERS CLUB: It has been mentioned in the Clubrooms, but for the benefit of members unable to attend, let me just repeat: The above is now going well. The subscription is threepence per week, the purpose being to help us with our ground and league fee commitments. We thank present members for their grand response to our appeal. To those wishing to join, cards can be obtained from Mr. Bill Roberts at the social on Friday.

I will now sign off; so until the next time, this is your football reporter saying Happy days to you all.

T.T.F.N.

THE CLUB LIBRARY

There is now quite a number of books in the Club library, and anyone wishing to borrow one may do so, free of charge, on application to the Club Librarian, Miss Eileen Collins.



CHESS

Mr. Tom Walsh wishes to contact anyone who may be interested in Chess, whether he or she can play or not.

OUR EASTER DANCE



Although over a hundred attended our Dance at Blair Hall on Easter Tuesday, the evening tended to be quieter than our other efforts of the past year, but it is thought all entered into the spirit of the occasion nevertheless, and spent an enjoyable evening.

THE COMING CARLTON DANCE

Spurred on by an indifferent attendance at the Easter Dance, your Committee plan to make this occasion a greater attraction. The Dance takes place on Wednesday, 2nd June, at the Carlton Rooms, Eberle Street (off Dale Street). Dancing will be from 7-30 till 11-00 p.m., and refreshments will be available as usual. Tickets, 3/6d each, will be available in the course of a few days and may be had from Mr. Penlington or any member of the Committee. So roll up, and bring your friends with you!

Have you told
your friends about
the DANCE?

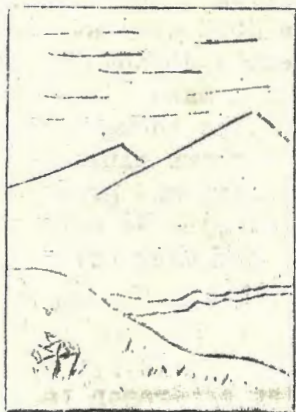
DO YOU WANT YOUR OWN CLUB ROOMS?

Then DON'T forget the CARLTON DANCE!

Support the SALE OF WORK

What are YOU
making for the
SALE OF WORK?

RAMBLING NOTES

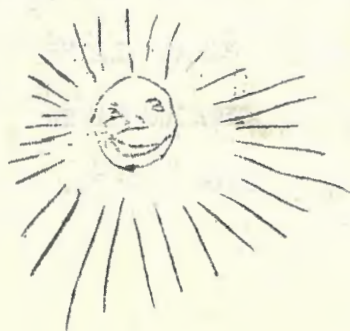


LITTLE SUTTON, Sunday, 21st March - The names of Beech Cottage and Two Mills have become very familiar to us in the last few months and our acquaintance was renewed on this ramble. Starting from Hooton, we made our way in warm sunshine to Burton. After lunch the weather was far from promising, and before long the raindrops began to fall. This lasted for the rest of the day. We carried on undaunted! (some of us). Stella, with the assistance of Bill Wildes, saw life from a new angle. By the way, Stella, how's the headache? Did the 'army' pill give the required result? We arrived at Two Mills cafe in a very wet condition, which seemed to justify an earlier comparison with natives, and set off in a similar state for Little Sutton and the bus home.

LOGGERHEADS, Monday, 29th March - 36 members left Woodside on Easter Monday after being warned by the Bus Inspector that he would not guarantee buses for our return. The first Tea Place was at Mold, and the ramblers were amazed when Jim Duncan came round with a tray of chocolate wafers. Jim's generosity was much appreciated, but we found out later that we had to pay for them! However, they were well worth it. We left Mold to walk across country to Loggerheads, climbing stile after stile. This proved rather too much for Sam, but when he lodged a complaint with the leader, he was informed that it was a "stylish" ramble! There was a break at Loggerheads for refreshments, and here about 10 of the party left us, as they were afraid that they would not get a bus back later on. The rest of the party followed the river back to Rhyddmwyn and found that they could have home made chips at the Tea Place there. After tea we set out by road and ten lucky people caught the last bus from Pantymwnn, whilst the remainder of the party had to continue to Loggerheads.

NESTON, Sunday, 4th April - Neston is far from being a new ramble, but this time we had a new leader - Mr. A. Callaghan, who approached the destination from a different angle and actually discovered some fresh footpaths, giving a 'New Look' to an old ramble. We had lunch at the Red Lion, Little Sutton, and tea at the Green Lantern, Willesden, and ended the day with Benediction at St. Winifred's Neston, and dancing later in the church hall with Austin acting as M.C. To our great delight, Austin produced a spot prize, but as this proved to be chocolate and everybody proved to be in a condition of starvation, the poor unfortunate "winners" were pounced upon and practically torn limb from limb in the endeavour of all to 'get a bite'. By the way, Austin, DID you get that telephone number??XX!!

TAWD BRIDGE, Sunday, 11th April - The ramble to Tawd Bridge did not, in fact, take us within sight of the famous place, so that certain members of the C.R.A. are still in doubt as to the existence of a Bridge in this wind swept corner of Lancashire. Nevertheless, in spite of this, or perhaps because of this, we had a very enjoyable day. Starting at Burscough, the first part of the ramble was along the canal towards Rufford and then branching off to the Black Bull at Mawdsley Moss, where lunch was arranged. The second half of the ramble was over fresh ground to Parbold. On the way, we encountered some hens who claimed we were trespassing on their property, but after a *tête-à-tête* with our leader, we were able to carry on. At the top of Hunter's Hill we enjoyed a brief rest, after which we carried on over still undulating country to the Delph Tea Gardens. That this canal ramble was enjoyed by the majority was proved by the unanimous vote that decided on a further walk along the canal back to Burscough rather than finish at Parbold.



STORMY CORNER, Sunday, 18th April 1948 - This ramble was originally billed as 'Arley Hall,' but as the leader did not put in an appearance, Mr. D. Marsden jumped into the breach by taking us to "Stormy Corner." It was a GOOD day for walking; there was a GOOD crowd out; it was a GOOD ramble - and as you might expect, a GOOD time was had by all. We stopped for lunch at Chaley Cafe, a new tea-place recently discovered by our pioneers, where the popular poached eggs on toast may be had on demand. During the course of the day we passed several building sites, and Bill Wildes thought it would be a brilliant idea to gather enough of the bricks to build our own club-house; however, Butch decided that it would be easier to gather plants and grow our own timber. (He was seen to be doing something of this sort later). We are certainly not short of ideas even if we are short of a club-house, and they are original if not practical - the ideas I mean.

SOCIAL REPORT

On Friday, 19th March, we again had to evacuate to the schoolroom, which left us a little cramped for space. However, 'Butch' made the most of the facilities at his disposal and induced Betty and Jim to sing a solo each. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves in the circumstances - Better luck next time, Bill.

We were again treated to a full dress entertainment from the CRACKAJAX. The concert was exceptionally well-organised and we were treated to 60 minutes of non-stop entertainment, which ranged thro' Chorus, Monologue, 'Sophisticated Wit' and Community Singing. On thanking the artistes once more for a delightful evening, we wish them continued success in any future show they may present. We particularly thank Mrs. Wilton - the power behind the throne - for the hard work she put into the show.

Kathleen's new idea of 'X marks the spot' added a different angle to her social. Many and varied were the black beauty spots adorning the faces of the male element. Bill Wildes made a tremendous attempt to win the prize. (Don't worry, Bill, I won't tell anyone why you didn't win even though you did cheat!)

Austin's idea of Musical Chairs was quite hilarious - especially when the girls were blindfold and some wag removed the chairs. The poor lassies were walking around in circles. His spot prizes added a unique touch - camouflaged chocolate and cigarette boxes, but I won't give the game away by disclosing what they contained.

SOCIAL PROGRAMME FOR MAY

Friday, 7th May	SOCIAL (Benediction 7-30 p.m.)	Host, Mr. W. Wildes
Friday, 14th May	SOCIAL	Hostess, Miss E. Devlin
Friday, 21st May	SOCIAL	Host, Mr. J. Rawlinson
Friday, 28th May	SOCIAL	Hostess, Miss W. Jones

RAMBLING PROGRAMME FOR MAY

<u>Date</u>	<u>Ramble</u>	<u>Leader</u>	<u>Apprex. Cost</u>	<u>Meet</u>
Sunday, 2nd May	Nocterum (Benediction)	M. Toes	10d	Pier Head, 10-30 a.m.
Sunday, 9th May	Rostherne Mere (Joint Ramble with Stockport)	W. Jones	4/6d	Mount Pleasant, 10-15 a.m.
Whit Monday	Caegwrlle	W. Roberts	DETAILS LATER	
Sunday, 23rd May	Lancashire Round	R. Burke	DETAILS LATER	
Sunday, 30th May	Delamere	W. Dutch	2/6d	Pier Head, 10-00 a.m.

AUNTIE MABEL'S COLUMN

Well, girls, my hardest problem this months has been trying to pick the most deserving letter for publication, and I finally decided that I haven't the heart to leave out either of the two dealt with below.

The first, for a change, is from a MAN - not that I haven't had them telling me their private troubles before now, you know! - but this is the first specimen we have had in our column.

Dear Auntie Mabel, (he writes)

After much hesitation, I feel that I must write to you for your advice. I feel so wretched and miserable that I can neither sleep, eat nor work properly, and now I've started to mutter to myself!

You see, Auntie, it's my girl friend, Tootsie. I've wooed hard but not won her. Sometimes she says she will be mine, then puts me in torment by saying maybe she'll have someone else. And it's all because I'm so quiet and gentle. I never argue with her, and I never even look at another girl, but obey her every wish without question. Would it be better to adopt a "tough" attitude? and if so, what should I say to her?

Melancholy Maurice.

(Just hang onto your hat, Maurice, and pay close attention to what our next customer writes)

The Nutshell.

Dear Auntie Mabel,

I wrote two months ago asking your help with my problem (if you remember, I had lost my self-confidence). Well, I tried to follow the expert's advice and after praying as counselled by your Elder Member who is slightly deaf, I went to look under the mat and found it had disappeared (I'm not saying anything definite, BUT Gerry and Bill were using a mat very similar to it at the last Concert).

I used the perfume as quoted by your Beauty expert, i.e. "Dark Temptation" which was absolutely certain to make 'HIM' give at the knees, but strangely enough the only one who has been affected by it is myself. I'm simply overpowered each time I wear it. You must admit it's most annoying, especially as it cost 2/6d per bottle at a well-known Chain Store.

Your P.T. instructor wasn't much help when advising deep breathing exercises - it merely developed more muscle, which I can very easily do without.

So you see, dear Auntie, apart from losing the mat, developing muscles I don't need, and squandering my money on 'Dark Temptation', I'm back where I started.

Yours in desperation,
Desperate Dinah Twigg.

(They seem to have much the same trouble, so a joint reply will meet the case.)

Dear M.M., and D.D.T. (incidentally, Dinah, would you mind if I call you "Flit" for short!) - As my favourite radio professor would say, "now THERE'S a coincidence! Two people with a common problem. I think the best solution is for each of you to give up your present unsatisfactory love affairs and get together - your lack of self confidence will, I am sure, prove to be a basis for mutual understanding.

I hesitated, at first, to recommend this to you, as I am still smarting from the rebuff I suffered recently in trying to induce one of those "bobbysoxer" girls to renounce a man nearly three times her age in favour of a youth of my acquaintance. She just laughed outright and replied "Don't be stoopid, Cupid - the old geyser's filthy rich." Such is the attitude of the rising generation!

Anyway, I have sent you each other's address (accompanied by a copy of an excellent booklet entitled "Why be Shy" by Miss B.A. Hardclock). May I suggest that as you are both so reserved, you might arrange the first rendezvous at some lonely deserted spot - say, the Pier Head at 10-15 a.m. sharp on a Sunday morning? Let me know how you get on!

Toodle-bye. Auntie Mabel.

P.S. Incidentally, how many of you readers have seen through the identity of my correspondents? They may not know it, but I have so far tracked down the author of every letter published (except one - and even in that case I have my suspicions)