

THE LIVERPOOL CATHOLIC RAMBLERS' ASSOCIATION

Under the Patronage of His Grace the Archbishop of Liverpool

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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

E D I T O R I A L

Our last Newsletter was very forthright and aroused much constructive criticism, for which we are very grateful. However, we are happy to note the improvement in Socials and Rambles during the past month. The Socials are essentially sociable and we are also attracting new members, to whom we extend a hearty welcome and trust they will remain to be staunch supports of the C.R.A. The attendances on the rambles are improving and it is encouraging to note the popularity of the hostelling week-ends. To the old members, who may perhaps be unable to attend the various activities which are arranged, we ask you to show your continued interest by paying the annual subscription which is now 5/-. We can assure you that your continued patronage is an encouragement to the workers who give so much of their time to maintain and extend the C.R.A. This year we are attempting to double our numbers in membership.

Will you co-operate.

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P E R S O N A L

We offer our deepest sympathy to John Miller, whose father died recently.

We are sorry to learn that Mrs Tom Joyce (Rose Sheehan) is ill in hospital after undergoing a major operation. We offer our best wishes for her speedy recovery.

On behalf of the Club we extend our very best wishes to Tom Gibb and Pat Wright who were married on March 26th.

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R E - U N I O N     D A N C E

Opportunities are all too rare for our old members to renew associations with their 'alma mater' or to become acquainted with the more recent members of the Club. Again, new members seldom have a chance to appreciate our real strength. Our coming RE-UNION DANCE at CATHEDRAL BUILDINGS on Friday 29th April, is one of these opportunities. Please do not let it pass. Make a note of the date and help make it a huge social success. Tickets may be obtained from Miss Kathleen Collins, our Registrar, but if you are unable to get hold of any, you can still pay at the door.

S O C I A L   P R O G R A M M E

2nd May	-	Host	-	Cyril Kelly
9th May	-	Host	-	Frank McMahon
16th May	-	Host	-	Dick Marsden
23rd May	-	Hostess	-	Mary Smith
30th May	-	Host	-	Mark Walsh

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by  
I. C. A L L

Spring is in the air ! Spring, when a young man's fancy lightly turns to - what ? I have yet to fathom exactly what it does turn to. In the C.R.A. of course, it could be rambles and socials, tennis (not a word, but I have heard several rumours); but I should stress the Socials seeing I'm on my own ground. People have been heard to say that our Club night is much more sociable at Iona House and I think that I'm inclined to agree.

Certainly the anagrams and advertisements displayed on several Mondays caused a lot of amusement and more than a little head scratching. Austin's "20 Questions" was quite hilarious and I'm still wondering if Cyril Kelly was flattered or battered by the rather dubious compliment paid to him. Anyway Cyril, if it any consolation, I don't think you are notorious.

Then we had 'Ladies Night' without a pianist, which was an absolute riot - but very enjoyable; especially when Jim Duncan gave an impromptu exhibition of a dance known only to himself. Fortunately the floor was able to withstand the shock.

One Club night we had quite a conundrum as to who was supposed to be M.C., but as usual everything came to an amiable and satisfactory conclusion. In the near future we have a Re-Union Dance on April 29th, so ROLL UP, ROLL UP, you pays your 2/6d and you takes yer choice, so its up to you to enjoy yourselves.

Before I close I must pay tribute to Mark's Social recently - I say 'Mark's Social' because it was grand to know he was back to form and gratifying to know the evening was a huge success, thanks to him.

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March 20th - DUNHAM-ON-THE-HILL For this ramble there was a turnout of 7. It was originally planned to go to Capenhurst, but we were very sorry to learn that the leader (Stella Devoy) was ill in bed with 'flu - perhaps the aftermath of last week's soaking); there was a sigh of relief when Dick & Kath Marsden arrived and we decided to go on Dick's ramble, which was rather 'messed up' a few weeks ago - so off we went.

We piled off the bus from Woodside a short distance past Whitby. Here Jim Duncan was very sad at the thought of the loss of his stick, which Kath assured him could be collected from the bus on our way back, but it turned up (dare I say unfortunately) so Jim was back to normal again. We continued walking through the village of Stoke to - guess what - "Ann's Pantry"; need I say it was the very sound of the name 'Ann's Pantry' that made us press on regardless, until we saw it and Ann. At first, believe it or not, there was a "closed" sign outside, but with very stout hearts, very empty tummies and pathetic faces, we persuaded Ann to let us have a pot of tea. We ate and ate and then started to walk again.

It was a grand Ramble through Bridge Trafford & Barrow (what a lovely village this is, so quiet and still). Jim went all sentimental over a small donkey in the corner of a field and was promptly told not to be an ass.

Eventually we reached Dunham-on-the Hill and went straight into Kelly's Road House, where we were told we were not allowed sandwiches on the premises; we said that was alright as we only wanted tea (!!!!), so midst all the relics round the wall we drank it.

After tea it started to rain so we got on the bus for Chester and from there back to 'Scouseland', arriving in Birkenhead at about 8 o'clock. The writer and all members who were on the ramble can assure all who weren't out that they missed a grand day.

March 27th - KINGSWOOD.

Gerard Morley's ramble, as usual was well pioneered and led us over some excellent rambling ground. We have climbed Frodsham Hill in various types of weather - broiling hot sun, crisp dry snow and pelting rain, but never I think, have we climbed it in such a strong wind as there was this day. Many of us were blown over several times while struggling to keep our feet. We certainly had the cob

webs blown from us and there was very little talking done, for if we opened our mouths at all the wind caused us to gasp so much that we didn't try again. Walking in such a wind all day provided us with an appetite and the poached eggs on toast at Whitby's were most welcome.

April 3rd. - RIVINGTON.

Ten ramblers set off for Rivington Pike and two more caught us up at the lunch place at Rivington. The weather was fair till mid-day, but then the rain started and a few sensible people went back to the cafe. The rest of us carried on over the moors to Belmont and found it a hard struggle against the wind and the rain. Some folk might be inclined to regard this as rather a depressing manner of spending the day, but we can assure you it is not. There is something exhilarating in tramping over fields and moorland with the rain beating on your face and the wind tearing at your hair. It was rather a wet and bedraggled party that arrived back at Rivington in the evening, but after having partaken of some hot tea and danced some 'hot' jigs and reels we very soon warmed up.

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RAMBLING PROGRAMME

May 1	Delamere Forest	G.Penlington	Meet	Pier Head	10 a.m.	(2/6d)
8	Neston (Benediction)	J.Duncan		Pier Head	10.15	(10d)
15	Weaver Valley	G.Hawksey		RussellSt.	9.45	(3/6d)
22	Two Mills	E.Devlin		Pier Head	2.15	(10d)
29	Saightom	M.Walsh		Pier Head	10.15	(2/-)

We would like to point out that for the Weaver Valley Ramble, the bus stop at Russell Street is simply the same bus as we used to get from Mount Pleasant, but which is now starting from Russell Street. We would remind you also that this is a joint ramble with the St. Hele's Ramblers and we are hoping for a good turn-out.

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COMMENTS ON SOCIALS by OBSERVER.

It is now roughly three months since we said good-bye to St.Oswalds and took up residence in our new quarters at Iona House, so perhaps this is a suitable time for me to look back and observe what effect the change has had on our weekly socials.

During the first month there was rather an alarming drop in numbers, and it seemed that the change had had rather a bad effect - hence perhaps last month's rather gloomy news-letter - but it is becoming more noticeable each week that although the quantity of members attending socials has gone off, the quality of the socials has greatly improved. Some of the dancing enthusiasts (e.g. those who get up for slow fox-trots, tangoes etc.) will probably disagree with me, but all must agree that there is a better spirit these days, and a much friendlier atmosphere. This is due no doubt to the size of the room which is causing people to mix together more than they did, and is ironing out the little cliques, formed at St.Oswald's.

At one time, not very long ago, it was usual to see members leaving from 10 p.m. onwards, so that by 11 p.m. the Club Room was nearly empty; nowadays Mrs.Wilton plays the 'last waltz' far too soon for most of us. It is a pity that more members cannot manage to come earlier, but now that the table-tennis table has been brought into use, at least the table tennis players will be early.

These past few weeks, I have taken it upon myself to sit quietly for a few minutes, whilst almost every one else was dancing, and observe the general scene. Time and again I was impressed by the genuine pleasure shown on the faces of our members as they danced and chatted, bumped good-humouredly into other couples and called jolly remarks to one another.. I noticed that when a fairly 'regular' member was not present, he or she was definitely missed and enquiries made about the absent friend, and when someone turned up late at least one person would be heard to say and mean it - "Oh! I'm glad you came, I was wondering where you were".

I maintain that there exists between the active members of our Club a very real and sincere friendship, and for me at least it is always a delight to chat with everyone on Club nights, to laugh with them and plan future days of rambling. These things are the outward signs of the quality of our social nights and are very much more worth while than large numbers without deep rooted interest in and - **yes**, even 'love' for the Club.

However, although the Socials are going well, we must not let the Committee think we are satisfied. There is still plenty of room for improvement, but it would be presumptuous of me to attempt to tell the Committee their job, although perhaps one little suggestion would not be out of place and that is - "Can we have some powder for the floor, please ?

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!!!!!! S T O P P R E S S !!!!!

The new Guest House of the Catholic Holiday Guild is being opened by the Bishop of Menevia, Dr. Pettit, at Carrog, near Llangollen on Sunday next at 3.p.m. A bus will be leaving St. John's Lane at 11 a.m. on Sunday. Anyone interested in visiting the Guest House and watching the official opening, is invited to come along. There are still some spare seats in the bus.

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We offer our congratulations and best wishes to Joe Rawlinson, who became engaged recently.

We are pleased to hear that Mary Conifer has returned home after a spell in hospital and we are hoping she will soon be fit and well again.

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#### C O R R E C T I O N

It seems we have slipped up in our information regarding rambles. Whilst the ramble on May 15th is a joint ramble with St. Helens, and it does start from Russell Street at 9.45 a.m., it does not go to the Weaver Valley. The ramble will be to Tock Holes (Rivington district). This is a change over with the ramble down in the programme for July 10th.

In closing we offer our apologies if some of our information is out of date because we are late going to press, but it has been unavoidable and there is one final item which you may have heard already.

CLUB NIGHT IS RESTORED TO FRIDAY  
(STILL AT IONA HOUSE) COMMENCING FRIDAY MAY 6TH.

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