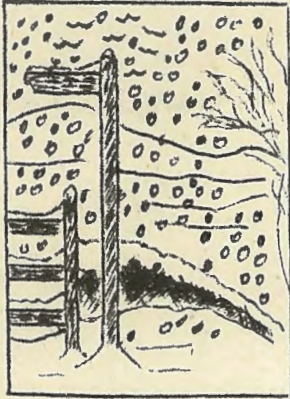


LIVERPOOL CATHOLIC RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION

UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF
HIS GRACE THE ARCHBISHOP OF LIVERPOOL

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Hon. Secretary : Miss M. W. JONES,
56 CUNNINGHAM ROAD,
LIVERPOOL, 13.



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER.

CHRISTMAS NUMBER 1947.



A MERRY CHRISTMAS

AND

A HAPPY NEW YEAR

TO

ALL MEMBERS.

OUR TWENTY-FIRST CHRISTMAS PARTY.

Austerity, which is at present the keynote of our material being, should not intrude itself into our spiritual outlook. The spirit of goodfellowship, which is ever present in the Ramblers, finds special expression during the great feast of Christmas. It is with this thought uppermost in our minds we wish you a joyful Christmas and many blessings during the coming year.

Our Christmas Party will take place on Friday, 2nd January 1948 and in spite of ~~austerities~~ we are hoping to make it the family reunion it has always been. To all members we extend a hearty welcome, with a special thought for those 'old-timers' who now find it difficult to be regular patrons of our Socials or Rambles.

THE EDITOR.

GREETINGS ACROSS THE SEAS.

On behalf of the C.R.A. best wishes for the season are extended to Miss Vi Duffy, Miss Vera Byrne and Mr. Len McKenna, now living in the U.S.A. or Canada, and we sincerely hope their new life brings them all they would wish, now and in the future.

PERSONAL.

Miss Joan Murphy was married to Mr. Tom Leonard, at St. Matthew's Church, on Saturday 18th November, and we know we speak for all members when we wish them both many years of happiness.

THE YULETIDE WALK.

Our 21st Yuletide Walk takes place on Sunday, 21st December, and will be - yes! - in the Wirral! - Thurston, to be precise - but it promises to be quite an occasion as the C.R.A. has obtained the use of "Heatherland", Thurston.

Your Leader will be Miss M.W. Jones, and she asks that you please meet at the Pier Head promptly at 2.15 p.m. The meal at "Heatherland" will be at 5 p.m., and this will be followed by a Social and Dance lasting until 9.30 p.m. Your joint M.C's. will be 'Bill' Dutch and Gerry Penlington. Please bring shoes with you for dancing.

Those who can only join us in the evening should get the '72' bus from Woodside to Thurston, getting off one 'stop' before the terminus, when "Heatherland" will be facing you. Any arriving later than 5 p.m., but wishing a meal, should notify Miss Jones as soon as possible. The cost, excluding fare, should not be more than 4/6d.

THE CHRISTMAS PARTY AND CONCERT.

The Christmas Party will be held in St. Oswald's Hall on Friday, 2nd January, commencing promptly at 7.30 p.m. Joint MC's for the evening will be Miss Kathleen Collins and Mr. Mark Walsh, and the programme will be as follows:-

- 7.30 p.m. Christmas Party, followed by the distribution of presents by Father Christmas assisted by Miss Stella Devoy and Miss Terry Smith. Presentation to Revd. Fr. Coghlan.
- 9.00 p.m. The CRACKAJAX Concert Party, presented by Mrs. Lily Wilton.
- 10.00 to Midnight. Social and Dance.

Please be seated early! The cost of the Christmas Party will be 2/6d.

THE C.R.A. FOOTBALL TEAM.

Our football team, in the hands of Bill Wildes, is steadily and surely progressing. A trial practice has already been held, and on Saturday, 20th December, a 'friendly' game is being played against St. Margaret Mary team at St. Edward's Orphanage Ground. So roll up and set the ball well and truly rolling with your support and encouragement.

Any who would like to join the football team are welcome, and they should hand their names to Mr. Bill Wildes.

DISCUSSION GROUP.

Some two months ago the Committee decided to initiate a Discussion Group, partly with a view to the formation later of a debating team. It was proposed to hold discussions fortnightly from 8.00 to 8.45, so as not to delay commencement of normal entertainment.

At its first meeting, with about twenty people present, the group discussed 'The Crisis - What is it?' The discussion could, of course, only scratch the surface of this subject in the time available, but the points of view disclosed were interesting in their variety.

On subsequent occasions few people turned up in time to begin a discussion; and so the second meeting was not held until December 12th. This time, however, the discussion, on 'Capital Punishment', was more lively, and most of the two dozen people present did speak.

There is no reason why the Discussion Group should not become a permanent feature of club entertainment, for most people like to talk and many like to listen; but this can only come about if those interested arrive in time to begin punctually at 8 o'clock.

In the New Year perhaps a debating team could be formed, and a short formal debate held once a month, say from 8.15 to 9 o'clock, before all the regular members of the club.

P.S: Next meeting: December 19th Subject: The House of Lords.

SOCIALS PROGRAMME TO 30th JANUARY 1948.

Friday 5th Dec: Miss Eileen Devlin.
 " 12th " Mr. Fred Begley - "Crazy Whist".
 " 19th " Miss Eileen Collins.

THERE WILL BE NO SOCIAL ON BOXING NIGHT!

Friday 2nd Jan: CHRISTMAS PARTY (Social Sub-Committee. MC's:-
 Miss K.Collins & Mr. M.Walsh.
 " 9th " Mr. W.J.Roberts - "Experimental Night".
 " 16th " Mr. Sam Barker.
 " 23rd " Miss Terry Smith.
 " 30th " Mr. W. Wildes.

RAMBLING PROGRAMME TO 25th January 1948. Meet:

Sun 7th Dec: HESWALL (Benediction) Miss F.Begley. Pier Head 1015.
 " 14th " MOLLINGTON Mr. P. Carlen. " " "
 " 21st " "YULETIDE WALK" Miss M.W.Jones. " " 2.15.
 " 4th Jan: Parkgate (Benediction) Miss E.Collins. " " 1015.
 " 11th " "Mystery Ramble" Mr. J.Leonard. " " "
 " 18th " RUFFORD Mr. G.Penlington. Details later.
 " 25th " OVERTON HILL. Mr. W. Dutch. Pier Head 9.45.

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RAMBLING REPORTER.

NESS GARDENS, Sunday 26th October 1947.

The Ramble to Ness Gardens started in a similar manner to every ramble we have - everyone was fairly well-behaved before dinner but afterwards it was everyman for himself. Bill Wildes and Bill Dutch seemed to be enjoying themselves - as usual they were pelting everyone with acorns. After we had passed Ness Gardens the road forked and the Leader followed by eight people went one way and the slow coaches at the back went blithely on their way along another road. They finally joined up again at the tea-place to find Bill Dutch esconced in a deep armchair before the fire, and promises chips for tea. Unfortunately we waited so long we were told they were now "off" - much to our disappointment. We again split up when the bus was sighted; the people in front caught it, and the ones at the back added another mile to the ramble by having to walk further on. That'll larn 'em!

CALDY HILL, Sunday 2nd November. Miss Stella Devoy led the first ramble of the new Winter Programme, and a very pleasant one it was, too, despite somewhat arctic conditions. Our route led us from Thurstaston to Irby for dinner (how did you guess?) and over to Caldby Hill. Here the Beacon provided opportunity for a rest and some speculation as to why and wherefore, what-have-you etc. We continued on to West Kirby and as the day was somewhat blowy the wintry aspect of the promenade was not too inviting - but being hardy ramblers we fitted into the occasion snugly, like the celebrated occupants of rugs! Stella had found a nice cafe for tea, the kind of place where the welcome and the refreshment soon took the chill out of one's marrow. After tea all attended Benediction at the Church of St. Agnes, West Kirby, and forthwith rolled home across Thurstaston Common to the bus terminus, 'losing' Peter Oldershaw in the process. For one reason or another, however, he had decided to catch a bus in West Kirby, mainly on account of his wishing to catch a bus back to Manchester.

ECOLESTON FERRY, Sunday 9th November 1947. The Leader, Mrs. Marsden, avoided the usual routine walk along the banks of the Dee for some miles, eventually taking the path which would lead us to the Westminster Estate. Whilst having a rest in a Summer House John very generously offered to carve hearts and initials on the already scarred woodwork, but no-one accepted the offer. A sentry at the gate refused us admission to Eaton Hall and this necessitated a further walk along the side of the river - ending at Eccleston Ferry. After dinner at the Grosvenor Arms we went a circular tour of the surrounding countryside and debated upon the possibilities of some horses (careering around in a field) for racing. Fortunately we had no potential trainers in the company and the animals were left in peace. We returned home via Saughton, and the usual chorus - not very tuneful, I'm afraid - brightened the walk along the country lanes.

RIVINGTON PIKE, Sunday 16th November. This was a joint ramble with St. Helens club, and was led by Frank King. Shortly after leaving Chorley it started to snow and before reaching the dinner place we had the four seasons of the year rolled into half-a day. After dinner the football team came into action - Bill Wildes' mac made a very good ball and the game was fast and furious - while it lasted!! We reached the Pike in the midst of a blizzard, which unfortunately blotted out all views of the surrounding countryside. One rambler was unlucky enough to be rolled down the hillside in the cold, cold snow. She was heard to mutter dark threats about telling her Dad, but I have it on good authority that the parent in question has offered to help the perpetrator of the dark deed next time. We travelled on over the moors and, as usual, the boys couldn't resist throwing a few snowballs, but their marksmanship needed more practice. As the paths would be rather slippy in the dark, it was decided to return by road and a very lusty chorus could be heard along the country lanes. Back in our own bus thermos flasks made a very welcome appearance. After this fortification we once more burst into 'Wings of Song' and so ended a very enjoyable day.

SHOTWICK, Sunday, 23rd November. Harry and Pat O'Brien led this ramble and although the weather did not behave very generously it was nevertheless a very enjoyable day. Brute force at the first stile was Bill Dutch's idea of sport. At lunchtime, Peter modestly proclaimed his powers as a Palmist and, judging from the hilarious laughter, his imagination was running riot. John was absorbed in a crossword puzzle and, unable to get any assistance from his table companions, was heard to say that our brains were like the puzzle - BLANK! (I could think of numerous things to say to him!). Torrential rain during the afternoon sent us scurrying to the shelter of some nearby trees, and on arrival at the "Yacht Inn" for tea we looked rather bedraggled. The ladies, however, were soon spic and span again - it's amazing what a powder puff will do for 'em!!!

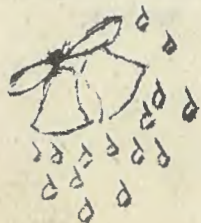
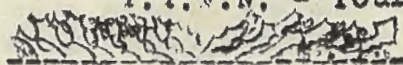
FOLLOW THE LEADER (LOGGERHEADS) Sunday 30th November. Cold and frosty was the atmosphere which greeted me as I gingerly poked my nose out of the blankets at 6.30 am on Sunday morning, and quickly pulled it back again. No sensible person would be expected to turn out at such an unearthly hour on such a morning! (Sez I to meself). After lying for a few moments, debating whether I would, or whether I wouldn't, I jumped out of bed - or rather - I crawled, shivering, out of bed, and hurried to Mass with an air of martyrdom. On arriving at the Pier Head, however, just in time for the boat, I found a merry group of ramblers, 34 strong, all looking cheerful and bright. My feeling of martyrdom soon vanished into thin air and I was only consoled by the fact that there were many others besides myself who had debated "whether they would or wouldn't weather the weather" before turning out.

Half of the party managed to squeeze on the first bus to come along and the others followed shortly after, on a duplicate. Icy draughts seemed to ooze from every corner and I was glad when we alighted and the walking began. Very soon we started to thaw out, then to warm up, and later still some folk were to be seen casting off layers of clothing as they went. We stopped for lunch at a little place on the mountain road; Here the sun appeared and remained with us for most of the afternoon. Those people armed with cameras made the most of this, and many snapshots were taken. The white frost which covered everything, and the snow which still lay in the hills, added to the natural beauty of the district, making a charming background for the 'would-be photographers'.

We climbed Moel Famau and sat for a while on the wall of the ruins at the top, just long enough to get our breath back and admire the view, then we wended our way down the other side, and this we found was not easy, as it looked for the snow had frozen and the path was very slippery. Almost everyone took a toss sometime during the day, which was a source of amusement to everyone but the victim! However, I cannot resist telling you that the 'star' turn of the day was provided Miss Mona Roberts, who performed one of the most beautiful "Swallow Dives" I have seen for some time, whilst crossing from the bus to the ferry on the return journey - it really was a grand finale! Thanks for a fine ramble, Harry - keep up the good work.

HESWALL, Sunday 7th December. I think Flo Begley deserves to be congratulated on her first attempt at leading a ramble - the day proved to be very enjoyable. After stopping at Irby for lunch we retraced our steps, by-passed Arrows Park and walked via Barnston to Heswall. Flo and Win were pushed into a couple of gorse bushes by 'Butch' Dutch. We were again offered 'eggs' for tea at our special dug-out and full advantage was taken of the offer. We sang carols on our way to Benediction at Our Lady and St. John's Church in Heswall. I must record here that the C.R.A. arrangement of "Silent Night" (in harmony) sounded more like a carol than any I have heard for some time, especially as Church bells were tolling in the distance.

T.T.F.N. - Your 'RAMBLING REPORTER'.



RING OUT THE OLD!

RING IN THE NEW!

