

LIVERPOOL CATHOLIC RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION

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N E W S   L E T T E R .

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S T A R   O F   B E T H L E H E M .

The happy and gay season of Christmas is upon us once again; the time of festooned revelry, presents and parties; the time, too, for looking back.

The past year has been a chequered one for the Club, bright and dark in patches, but steadily now for three or four months we have been getting back into a position of confidence and strength. Since early September, when we moved into our new "home" at Cathedral Buildings, all the Club's activities have been improving in every way. Your new Committee is applying itself vigorously to every aspect of these activities and the coming year should reveal an even stronger and more surely-founded Association.

It is many centuries to this meteoric age of jets and comets, since that Star first singled out Bethlehem to announce that God, through His Son, had come to the aid of mankind. From those first shepherds and wise men the light of that Star has spread into the hearts of many millions, poor and rich, peasant and king, to make of Christmastide a Holy and joyful occasion. Our churches are filled with it, bells in chime proclaim it and voices in unison praise it!

The Spirit of the occasion electrifies the atmosphere, charges thoughts and actions with warmth and goodwill. Familiar places and faces are brighter, greetings have a deeper ring of sincerity. Speaking for ourselves as a Club, the aura naturally mantles our walks and Socials, but we hold a Yuletide Walk and a Christmas Party to mark the occasion, when in Club comradeship we achieve a further measure of Seasonal joy.

As Catholics we will honour the occasion solemnly, too, and give it that true meaning, without which nothing associated with Christmastide is worthwhile or of avail.

To all our members, past and present, at home or abroad we wish

A HOLY AND HAPPY CHRISTMASTIDE  
WITH ALL GOOD THINGS IN PLENTY  
AND HEALTH, HAPPINESS AND PROSPERITY  
THROUGHOUT THE COMING YEAR.



SOCIAL PROGRAMME.

Dec. 24th.	No Social.	
31st.	NEW YEARS EVE HOP.	Cyril Kelly.
Jan. 7th.	Gerry Penlington.	
14th.	CHRISTMAS PARTY.	Chairman's Night.
21st.	Mary Smith.	
28th.	Sean O'Neill.	
Feb. 4th.	FANCY DRESS.	

RAMBLING PROGRAMME.

Date.	Ramble	Meet	Time	Cost	Leader
Dec. 21st.	Holly Ramble, Hope M'tain	James St.	9.45	3/3	Betty Tracey.
28th.	Yuletide Walk and Treasure Hunt.	Details later.	11.0		Rambling Committee.
<u>1953.</u>					
Jan. 3/4.	New Year Chalet Weekend.	Details later.			Rambling Committee.
11th.	Thurstaston. (Benediction)	Pier Head.	2.0	1/-	Sheila Mulhall.
18th.	Mickle Trafford.	Pier Head.	10.30	3/-	Bernard Edwards.
25th.	Todmorden.	Exchange Station.	10.10	5/9	Joe Clooney.

AsSOCIALated Chatter.

Social events since the last News Letter have been abundant, varied, and on the whole successful. We had first, a Hallow'een Hop, a gay affair with a full share of Hallow'een mysticism. I am told that those who left late that night were treated to the sight of our Chairman brushing the hall. A truly democratic Club ours !!

A week later we had a quick-fire evening, with Kath Daniells keeping us on the floor for dance after dance. Thanks Kath. On the following Wednesday we had our biggest attendance for years. The idea of an Invitation Night was a masterpiece. It may have been the idea of an individual or of the Sub-committee as a whole but whoever is responsible deserves - and has - our thanks. It nauseates me to hear reports that some elements among our membership mourn the "loss" of all those shillings. These mercenary Shylocks - some of whom, I am told, seldom frequent the Socials - should count the newcomers and learn the basic principles of modern advertising.

It is reported that the adjourned A.G.M. and the Quarterly Meeting were not conducted with the solemnity due to them in the opinion of our Chairman. Be that as it may, the outcome is a monthly News Letter ("..... and some did NOT fall on stoney ground !") and an air of solemn formality about the ensuing Social. Ted Murphy, as M.C., a week later was a picture of harassed despair. You know, Ted, you shouldn't have joined if you can't take a Social! Despite a cold, Joe Clooney's falsetto lasted him during his night, and I hear that it is untrue that he is joining the Choir as a Boy Soprano.

One other social event qualifies for review, namely the Chalet Social. Joe Sandys entered the breach as soon after his arrival as he had shed some of the chill acquired during a damp, dark trek. Regular visitors to the Chalet assure me that this report suffices, but for the benefit of the majority it had best be explained that Chalet Socials are a Legend - even with one dormitory turned into a sick-bay, and the question being asked "Where did Mary Smith ("Shrinpboats" Smith I Believe) spend the Last Waltz?"

Serious wonder is being expressed at the rather poor turnout of established Club members for the Annual Mass for deceased members. Despite the cause for this wonder there was a strong contingent present, and we must heartily congratulate newer members.

We may well take account of the large influx of new members recently and congratulate the Committee for adding numerical strength to the Club's assets. There is little use in numbers though if they remain inanimate, and here we must acknowledge the co-operation of our new members. Those who have come to us in the past month or two have not only JOINED, they have JOINED IN. I hope that nobody is going to be so busy enjoying himself that time cannot be found to spend a few minutes giving newcomers some "GEN" and making them feel at home.



Among the new ventures recently entered upon, it is said that not least successful is the Chairman's attempt to form a Choir. We hope their efforts will not have us pitched neck and crop from our new home. They tell me, Paddy Jeffries has offered his services complete with squeeze-box, but I don't believe the bit about him punctuating his playing with "Thank you Sir ..... Thanks very much Lady".

The Coronation Trip, too, is well under weigh and talk is centreing 'round a waiting list in case some folk withdraw. Not bad going, Betty!

Two features making an appearance at Socials - one for the first time, the other after an absence - are the Notice Board and the Suggestion Box. Reliable sources inform me that the box has already been used without any rude remarks being directed at the Committee, and anybody attending the Social will testify to the advantages of doing away with 10 minutes of notice reading.

Gay Jones has been making a name for herself as a square dance expert and instructor. Her brother is reported to have won a Public Speaking competition with a T.V. tie-up. It's about time he "looked in" on us again. I wonder if you could get him to deliver himself of a few topical remarks some evening, Gay?

Further personal touches (and the accent is on the TOUCH!) include Joe Sandys' damaged chin and Johnny Battisti's black eye. Any connection, boys? Our "IRISH LEGATION" had representatives Pat Brophy and Johnny judging a kiddies Fancy Dress Ball recently. I am informed that much to the disgust of a maiden school ma'am they awarded a prize to a little boy dressed as a hula-hula girl. You young devils, you!

Cyril Kelly complains that he is being blamed on all sides for all manner of occurrences and says that the Vice-Chairman is the scapegoat of all and sundry. We note that the Cat at Cathedral Buildings had kittens. CYRIL Incidentally I hear that Cyril will complete 20 years membership of the club in March. His first visit was during a beetle drive, when he asked "What's a Beetle Drive" - for Beetles of course! Another long service member is Mr. Marquess, now in his 26th. year of membership and still actively interested in what's going on.

A recent meeting of a sub-committee was refreshed, so I am told, by tea and biscuits at the Penlington's. Is it true, Win, that the baby has first suck at all those biscuits. Christmas entertainment must be much in the minds of the Social Sub-committee just now, and I suggest that they ask Madeleine to tell some of her jokes at the Christmas Party. Don't trot out ALL your repetoi Madeleine - just the good ones!

And now it remains for me only to wish you Seasonal Greetings. This I do heartily, with the hope that the Child Of Bethlehen, Bless your Christmas and make it a truly happy and Holy one.

Yours Socially,  
SENIORES POPULI.

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### Looking Back.

This time of year is noted for taking stock, and having completed 25 years, I think we are entitled to look back with pride. Few clubs of our age are fortunate enough to have their first Chairman, and several founder members still playing an active part in the Club life. Congratulations Mr. Marquess, on your 25 years service to the Club. In those far off days of 1927, we were founded as the Catholic Holiday Guild, but in 1930 it was decided to alter the title to the present one, to cover the wide field of activities that had been added, since our inception. In 1940, the Catholic Holiday Guild, our baby, became a Limited Company, to provide holidays in a Catholic atmosphere for Catholic Ramblers. Did you know the Ramblers had a library? It is rather depleted now, but nevertheless still in existence. Pity the Ramblers Bank was never revived! I see the Suggestions Box is back! It was a popular way for the general member to air his or her grievances. Imagine rambles with 70 or 80, or even more on them; even our membership approached the double century! It has been done. So why don't you help to make 1953 a bumper year, and break all the existing club records! It's all up to you!

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Dear Ed.,

After reading the letter on dancing in your last issue, I decided to check up on La Rinka. Soon I realised that there was a lot of truth in what she said. There's no doubt about it - the Old Tymers and sequence dances do get enthusiastic applause. But I'm afraid I do not agree with her caustic criticisms of modern dancing. I don't really think there is any depth in her anti-social criticism, and so far as a modern dance being no - (continued on page 5)



Abroad with Rambler.Chalet Weekend Nov. 15/16th.

After bringing the local farmer to the door in his nightie and gum-boots to give us the keys, we made our way to the Chalet and tried the keys ( all 20 of them ). After an age and after breaking one key in the lock, we got in and lit the "bed-airing" fire - it was handy for body-warming too !

A large Friday contingent arrived with traditional hungry looks, and supper was partaken in a multifarious assortment of reclining attitudes among mountains of bedding, before the fire. A popular catch-phrase noted at supper was : " Would you like some beans ( or tea, jam, or bread etc. )" " Yes please." " Well get up and get it."

Parents will be glad to know that their respective progeny were in bed fairly early. Despite Bernard's forgetfulness about cornflakes, the shopping party were waiting for the bus to Mold at 10 a.m. on Saturday. Shopping in this busy metropolis was as hectic as usual. The rate of living in MOULD is as fast as ever - dead slow, but none the less we boys found time for a quiet game of darts, and the girls found out how to diddle our opponents while "scoring" for us. - until the locals found out the girls.

The Saturday social was conducted in the usual hilarious fashion and was enjoyed to the full. A two-man search party left early to meet those arriving by the evening bus. Armed with torches, they ventured forth in amazingly dense fog and inky darkness. The incoming party was located in the village, taking refreshment.

The organiser was put to bed early in the evening and had to be taken home after Mass on Sunday - a gloriously fine morning. This left the walk short of it's official leader, but we're never REALLY short of a leader. The walk was enjoyed by those 19 originals who had spent the weekend at the Chalet, as much as by the 6 who came out on the Sunday.

The usual hurried Sunday tea and the panic of packing and cleaning up, heralded the faint pang of regret that invariably accompanies the close of a Chalet weekend. Roll on Jan. 3/4th. !!!

BEST REMEMBERED : Bernard's morning tea in bed for all.

The eagerness of new members to " muck in ".

Cooking in the dark through the shortage of mantles.

Rivington Pike October 26th.

By the time the clans had gathered, we were thirteen in number - eight ladies and five gents.

We set out on our long bus journey, first to Wigan, with a break for elevenses, and then on to Chorley. Chorley always appears to me to be a very depressing place, but then, quite unexpectedly, we just turned a corner and there we were with a beautiful landscape of hills and meadows stretching before us, with an occasional reservoir to complete the picture - almost, it seems, the Lake District in miniature.

We tramped on until lunchtime to the accompaniment of Bernadette's toy trumpet, which I might add sounds quite effective. Lunching in the open with a pause and a say " cheese " from Mona, while she took our photo. After this we were ready to continue the walk with renewed vigour, and just as equally ready to enjoy an early tea at the Barn, where the richer folk indulged in a high tea consisting of chips with etc's. Can any rambler resist the smell of chips ?

After tea we staggered to the top of the Pike, and here while some paused for breath, the more energetic folk gave a demonstration of how not to do a square dance. On our way down we explored the grounds of an old Castle, where some of the rambblers turned ghosts and made the most horrible blood curdling wails. However nobody died of fright. We rambled on quite merrily for a while, until we had to cross a few fields which turned out to be swampy. As it was now quite dark there were moments of panic, but we safely found the road again, covered in mud - but happy! So ended a very enjoyable day.

Sunday 30th. November. About 60 Ramblers started the day well by attending our Annual C.R.A. Mass at the Pro-Cathedral. After the Mass we recited the De Profundis for our deceased members. It was nice to see so many new members present at this function, they certainly have made a good start. On coming out of Church we all made a bee-line for refreshment at Lyon's Cafe in Line Street and made our plans for the afternoon. We dispersed at about 12.30 p.m., some going home to change for the Ramble.



Carr Mill. 2.15 saw 21 of us, 10 girls and 11 men re-assembled in South John St. We boarded the bus and moved off on time. It was pleasing to see some new faces and hear new jokes being cracked. The joking and singing did not cease all day. Under Rita's expert leadership everyone seemed bubbling over with high spirits. I think Viola - and Inky Pinky were played 40 times by our expert gazootist, who incidentally conducted a square dance on the peak at Cartmel. Those of us who were not dancing, watched the sun setting, one of the things not noticed in this great city. The frosty dew was falling thickly and the evening was chilly, so we made short work of the walk to Billinge where we ordered tea. Much to the amusement of the girls, 5 men sat together and ordered meat and potato pie and 6 cups of tea each.

Then out on to the road again and the recommencement of the singing, joking and fooling. Two boys got the idea that Kathleen wanted to be a tank, and helped her over every bush. At one spot, Anne stepped on a sheet of ice, on a steep incline, and became airborne but was not hurt on landing.

We arrived in St. Helens and went to Benediction in St. Mary's Church. A magnificent church and a fitting place to end a Sunday outing with God's Blessing. On coming out of the Church, the majority boarded the Liverpool bus and we thanked Rita. She planned the ramble well, with perfect timing. We got her permission ( we four unsociables ) to take Birnie for a dose of something for his Laryngitis, and arrived home at 10.45 p.m., just in time for supper. Yum ! Yum !

Paddywack.

Windle Hill. 3 chaps and 14 girls met at the Pier Head for this ramble. Over the green fields of Bromboro', up a winding lane which brought us to that ever popular resting place by the lake-side of Raby Mere where we had lunch. After satisfying our insides, we all set off again keeping mostly to the roads this time. There were moans and groans about this, but we managed to find the odd footpath to help us on our way.

Tom kept consulting his map, saying after a while it would mean a lot of road work. Eventually we arrived at Burton Village for our tea. Darkness had descended by this time so our leader asked whether we would like to carry on walking or board the next bus for home. Seven decided that the bus would be more comfortable to the feet, too bad about your blisters, Frank. The others walked on to Willaston of course. On behalf of all who went with you on this ramble, we thank you Tom, for an enjoyable walk and recommend a return visit.

Weaver Valley. Fourteen of us, warned by the City Caterers tea boarder the Widnes bus at 10.40, but where was Pat ? Someone had seen following the expert advice " If ever you're late for a Ramble, take the underground !

By the time we arrived in Widnes, we had a good knowledge of our "destiny and future" in the palms. Just to prove matters, Bernard bought the "Woman" and told us more as we crossed on the Transporter.

Refreshed by another 'cuppa', we set off on the 1.5 bus to Moore. Harry, his friend, Eric and Sean now made the party 18 strong. (10 chaps, 8 girls). We followed the footpath from Moore and really stepped it out along the country lanes to the music of all the latest hits. We added a few pounds to our weight as we plodded thro' the ploughed mud, but our spirits were high - especially Kath's ! She couldn't cross the stile for laughing - or was it the laughing that hindered her ???!!!! Johnny longed to show off his new mac. He spent the ramble praying for rain, but his prayers remained unanswered ! Bernard gallantly led the way past the ferocious bull. We all thought the old tin cow on the railway looked more fierce ! Eventually we arrived in Frodsham. During tea we discovered the latest matchstick tricks and a session of " Oh Dear Golden Slippers" took place in the mud outside.

Benediction was enjoyed by all in the lovely little Church, and Fr. Hewitt (C.H.G. Founder Member) chattered with us afterwards. Back once more to the cafe and then home through Runcorn and Widnes. Thanks Bernard. A really enjoyable ramble.

( continued from page 3 ).  
and so far as a modern dance being no spectacle for the onlooker, well - I'm lost for words ! Just watch a Tango sometime ! I am bound to admit, nevertheless that the more barbaric attempts at modern dancing fall within the sphere of her critical eye.

I like modern dancing and I don't like too much Old Tyme, so I would advocate more of the former in our Socials please, and a little less square dancing.

Yours etc.,  
Sitting on the Fence.

Editor, L.C.R.A. News Letter.



HOW TO STOP A CLUB TICKING.

It's such an easy matter, really, in a club like ours. Just be half hearted and lazy when you are leading a ramble. Don't bother to pioneer your walk. If folk have a miserable Sunday, following you up cul-de-saca, so much the better!

By far the best place to strike, if you want to ruin the Club, is in the Committee Room. Don't arrive in time for the start of the meeting and when you do arrive don't bother to expedite the business in hand. A long, tedious meeting soon gets the keen types cheesed off. Should a measure be decided on, you just ignore the decision of course. Just as an instance, remember that when you're leading, you mustn't detail anybody to "write up" the ramble. A News Letter without Rambling notes adds to the general chaos.

A recent bug-bear is the influx of new members. If it goes on at it's present rate the Club will never fall to pieces! You can form private groups by the piano, of course, and shut out the newcomers, or you can ignore the new member sitting next to you, turn your back on him, and talk shop to the old stager on the other side. A golden rule is: Never dance with a new member and Never make one welcome - the support of the members is indispensable. (That's a good reason for not paying your subscriptions). If nobody gave support there would be no rambles, no Socials, no football, tennis, netball etc., so it would seem to be a good idea to stay away from the Club altogether. And if any of these ideas are YCUR ideas, you won't be missed!

J.Clooney.

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S P O R T S   R E P O R T .

Football : Since the last edition of the News Letter, the football team has shown a marked improvement in their play, having lost only one league and one cup-tie since then.

Although beaten 5-2 by MASONIC, one of the leading first division teams in the first round of the Benevolent Cup, they were by no means disgraced and put up a splendid fight. For most of the game they were the equal of their more robust opponents and it was not until the last 20 minutes that Masonic were able to get on top.

Against DEE-JAY, the C.R.A. scored their biggest victory ever, winning 13-1, centre forward J.Peynton scoring 8 goals and inside-left Frank Moorhouse 3. In the return game, the following week they could only manage a 2-2 draw. Such are the vagaries of football form.

We would like to see and HEAR a few more Club members on the touch-lines. How about it C.R.A.? Why not come and support YOUR football team.

FIXTURES:

Dec. 27th. Sevenates Un. Mill Bank, West Derby. K.O. 2.30 p.m.  
 Jan. 3rd. Boundary. Calderstones Park. Plot.1. K.O. 2.45 p.m.  
 10th. Broadgreen Hospital. at the Hospital. K.O. 2.45 p.m.  
 17th. Waterloo C8. Calderstones Park. Plot.1. K.O. 2.45 p.m.  
 24th. Albert Un. Long Lane Rec., Garston. K.O. 2.45 p.m.  
 31st. Harrison Rangers. Calderstones. Pk. Plot.1. K.O. 2.45 p.m.

Netball : Practice games are still being held every Saturday at St. Hugh's Playground, Earle Road. A couple of friendly matches have been played against the Senior Girls of St. Hugh's, the C.R.A. winning both.

More players are still required, so please come along and support the netball team.

Table Tennis : We regret that owing to the indisposition of the organiser Ted Murphy, we have been unable to carry out the programme as arranged. We hope, however, to carry on the Tournament in the New Year.

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ADVISORY PANEL of LEADERS :

Messrs. H.Burns, J.Clooney, B.Edwards, T.O'Neill, S.O'Neill, Miss F.Roberts. The above panel has been formed to help in all matters concerning :-  
 Holidays in Great Britain and Abroad, Rambles, Map Service, Pioneers etc.  
 Members are INVITED TO USE THIS SERVICE FREELY.

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