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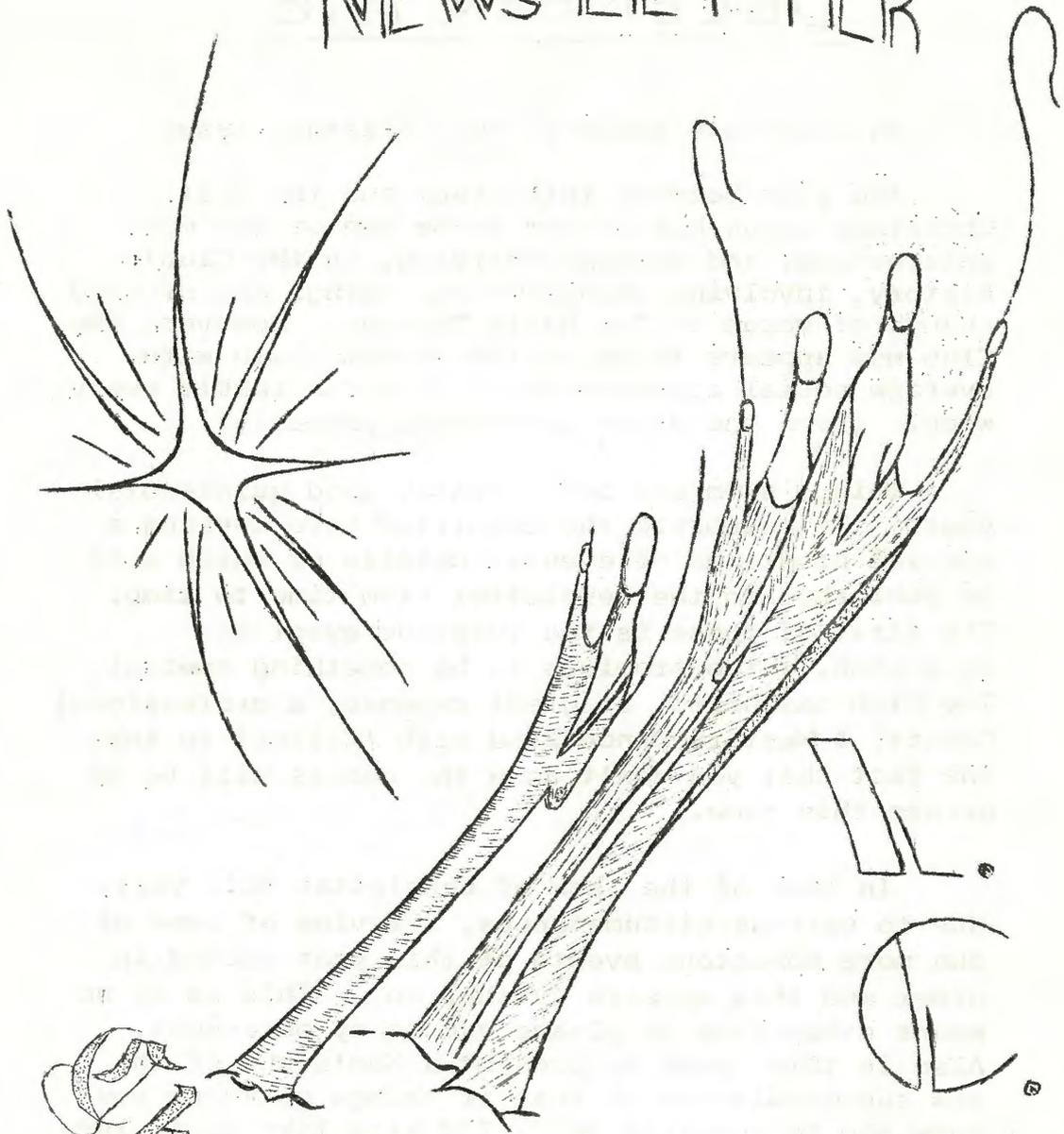
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HOUGHTON FOLK DANCE BAND

dress  
western style

NEWS LETTER



Christmas  
1976

L.  
C.  
R.A.

ISSUE N° 71

FOURTH SERIES

DECEMBER 1976

Welcome once again to our Christmas issue.

The year between this issue and the last Christmas issue has proved to be one of the most interesting, and perhaps worrying, in the Club's history, involving amongst other things an enforced change of venue to Tom Halls Tavern. However, the Club now appears to be on the ascent again with average social attendances of 70 and a ramble every week. (Even the disco is working properly!)

Things seem set for a really good quintennial year. To celebrate the Committee have devised a special programme of events, details of which will be published in the newsletter from time to time. The first of these is the Yuletide event at Rivington, which promises to be something special. The Club has hired, at great expense, a professional Country & Western Dance Band with 'Caller' so that the fact that you don't know the dances will be no excuse this time.

In view of the lack of newsletter this year, due to various circumstances, a review of some of the more momentous events of this year seemed in order and this appears further on. This is by no means exhaustive so please excuse my omissions. Also in this issue we present a Who's Who of the new sub-committees so that if things go wrong you know who to complain to. I'd also like to include the usual Editor's plea for contributions and letters - even if its only abuse. You stand a very good change of publication - if I can get this rubbish printed you should have no trouble.

Finally, whether you intend to be at home or away for the festivities I would wish you, on behalf of all of us on the Newsletter Committee, a Happy and Holy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

JIM ADAMSON - EDITOR

## LETTERS

To the Editor

32, Delamore Street, Kirkdale,

Liverpool 4. 355.

Dear Fellow Ramblers,

On this very happy occasion of our twenty five years of marriage. We can not let it pass without our thoughts turning to you.

The L.C.R.A. plays a big part in our lives. We recall the very happy times we have spent with you on rambles at dances and all social activities. True to say we don't see a lot of you these days there is a saying out of sight out of mind, in this case you can be assured this does not apply. Our thanks to you all.

How is all this been possible by men and women who have spent their lives with the well being of the club in mind.

Please excuse us if we single out three people in this category. The late Fred Norbury (R.I.P.), C. Kelly, G. Penlington.

We pray, that God may continue to bless the club with people of their dedication in the future.

We say our thanks in the only way possible the holy sacrifice of the Mass will be offered up for you all.

With Love and Affection.

Yours,

Kath & Bill Wildes.

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### Memorial Mass - Cyril Kelly. R.I.P.

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As an expression of our high regard for the late Cyril Kelly and our appreciation for the great devotion he showed to the 'Rambblers' over many years, a special memorial mass was held in the crypt of the Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral at 11.00.a.m. on Sunday November 28th.

The attendance was pleasing, there being about 150 people present at the service. Both Family and Young sections of the club were well represented - a fitting tribute to Cyril.

We would like to thank Fr. B. Alger for officiating and for his warm words of comfort.

Pat Unsworth.

# Ramblerite

The rambles, after a shaky period during the summer when some were cancelled due to lack of support, have had an improved attendance of late when as many as 39 people have been out enjoying themselves. If we could attain this number each week the cost of the ramble would drop considerably.

If there are any new members (or even people who have been members for some considerable time) who have still to make their rambling debut but are worried about what they are letting themselves in for then my self or any committee member would be only too pleased to discuss what is involved with them.

Anyone who has a relative or friend toying with the idea of coming out on a ramble then January 23rd. is the day for them. John Clarke leads an INVITATION WALK to Heptonstall and both the keen Rambler and the novice will find walks suited to their standards.

One Thursday in January, the exact date still to be arranged, we hope to have a 'BRIGHAMS NIGHT' at the club when a representative of Ellis Brigham, Bold St. will demonstrate some of their rambling equipment. Though their equipment is expensive it is of the highest quality. We had such a night as this about five years ago and it was a great success.

Many new club members may not realise that most sports shops including Brighams will give a minimum of 5% reduction on the price of their equipment on production of your Rambling Programme.

Rambling equipment has, rather appropriately, now been added to the choice of prizes to be won in the weekly raffle. The raffle profits help subsidize the rambles each week so lets have everyone buying a ticket.

The rambling programme for the coming weeks is as follows:-

- 19th Dec. Cefn Caves - A pleasant ramble in North Wales with dark caves to explore - Leader Dave Newns.
- 26th Dec. No Ramble.
- 2nd Jan. No ramble arranged but if enough support then a car ramble can be arranged.
- 9th Jan. Yuletide Walk - Rivington - One of the high lights of the Rambling Year. The walk this year will be over new terrain with a hot pot supper to follow plus country dancing in the evening.  
Leader - Alan Joynson.

CONTINUED



# Socialite.

The social whirl is now beginning in earnest. In December we have another visit to the Riverside Club in Southport. Admission will be 30p which entitles you to disco, chicken in the basket and free hot pants. Coach transport will also be provided so you don't have to stay sober, costing around £1 - not to be missed.

The club's 'Cramble' party this year is on the 16th December. There wasn't actually to be any food due to financial considerations but there will be funny hats and streamers and an excess of Christmas Spirit so it should be a good night. The first event of next year Rivington Barn. This year we won't be walking to Winter Hill as usual but there will be a completely different walk led by myself (Applause).

The Thursday Social Scene is visibly improving at the moment with high average attendance and the able assistance of Mr. B. Dooley Esq., on our fantastic disco machine.

The Coilli dance with disco from the Irish Centre was a great success despite the members initial shyness about dancing. If you have any suggestions about alternate attractions for the club on a Thursday Night pass the idea on to me or any Social Committee Member.

Other activities in the pipe line include an Cliver Twist Night, a Disco at the Polish Club, (professional) and a Jacobean extravaganza at Worsley Old Hall, but I'll release more details nearer the dates concerned.

Meantime, keep on dancing.

Allan Joyson.  
Social Chairman.

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- 16th Jan. Glynceiricy - The Berwgs is the scene of this North Wales ramble - Leader Phil Gillies.
  - 23rd Jan. Heptonstall - A walk in the Calder Valley, Yorkshire with a chance to drink real ale.  
Leader John Clarke.
  - 30th Jan. Llantsilio Mountains. Another must for all who like Welsh Scenery. Leader - Frank Fitzmaurice.

Brian Keller.

# Longdendale.

We all met the coach at the usual place at 10.00.a.m. There were about 20 of us in all and we picked up a few more on the way. We arrived at Longdendale at 12.30.p.m. and called at a youth hostel for some lunch.

As regards the weather we were lucky again, a fairly blue sky and a winter sun. Once everyone had donned their boots and woolly jumpers we set off with Eileen and Dave as leaders.

We followed the track for a while, it was quite narrow and stoney, so we walked single file for a time. When we reached a resting place it was decided that some of the more energetic of our number should take a more difficult route up and along a ridge, whilst the rest of us ambled along at an easier pace.

We agreed to meet them later by a stream. Needless to say they had arrived first and took great pleasure in throwing big stones in the stream, trying to splash the rest of us as we endeavoured to cross.

The remainder of the ramble continued without incident, passing some remarkable scenery. At around 4.30.p.m. the light began to fade and the final part of the ramble was like a torch-light procession, with everyone slipping and sliding in mud patches unseen in the darkness.

We plodded on towards Hadfield, which Eileen assured us was only a mile away, in tune to comments that Irish miles were longer than English ones.

Eventually we reached the coach and set off in search of some ice-cold largers. Leo suggested a pub in Walkden, which turned out to be a great place, with a disco, a group and a comedian.

The evening came to a close with folk-singing on the bus, expertly accompanied by Mike Bradley on the accordion - a fitting end to an enjoyable

## BBRINSCALL RAMBLE - FAMILY SECTION.

Leaders - George & Freda Skillicorn.

After crossing the bridge out of Brinscall, one is faced with a choice of three routes, a left hand path which was apparently impassable, straight ahead, or the right hand path. This last route is the most hazardous, as it is usually guarded by a gaggle of garrulous geese! As one who has a highly developed sense of self-preservation, it was a relief when George took us up the central path.

We chatted our way upwards until we surmounted the first foothill of the Penines. Here it is that the three paths meet, the one we had travelled, the second the Belmont Road and the third dropping downwards to White Coppice. Before descending, there was a chance to look around at the rolling hillsides, clad in ferns of Autumn hues.

White Coppice is a fine hamlet which nestles beside a lake; the main feature being a cricket pitch, still emerald green. One wonders what mighty deeds were done there this halcyon Summer past, how many balls lay in the depths of the lake or are the local lads as enterprising as the boys of my youth who dived into the ponds of Bowring Park Golf Course to recover balls to sell back to some hapless golfer!

The ponderings of yester-days dissolved with the gentle caress of misty rain - one more fern clad hill to breast and there across a forest glade, created by the rain and a weakening afternoon sun, was a beautiful double rainbow, glorious colours shimmering in the slanting rays. There too was a heavily laden holly bush, its glistening leaves and fire-bright berries combined to make a display no jeweller could better.

It was back to the car then and hot coffee - a ramble to be remembered and treasured, thanks to George and Freda.

Gerry.

## THAT WAS THE YEAR THAT WAS

A pretty eventful year - roughly as follows:-

### Engagements

Congratulations to - Richie Cannon and fiancé.

### Weddings

Commiserations to -

John and Lesley Clarke  
Gerry and Gwen Finnigan  
Dave and Anne Holden  
Pete and Phil McLindon

### Other Notable Events

Pat Unsworth was elected the first female Chairman (person) in the Club's history.

The Club was forced to change premises to Tom Hall's Tavern. First walk in December was cancelled due to extreme weather conditions.

Disco equipment was repaired again.

On a more serious note the Club also suffered the tragic loss of Cyril Kelly R.I.P. who will be sadly missed within the Club.

E & O E

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### New Members

John Bickerstaff  
Maria Christian  
John Garner  
Pauline Murphy  
Pat Murphy

Eileen Rasmussen  
Ruth Schenck  
Katherine Sheneghan  
Norman Sherry  
Kenneth Stone

Angela Platt

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Our first experience of a Ramble with the D.C.R.,

Sunday November 21st

During our first visit to the Thursday night social we found ourselves inveigled into accompanying the Ramblers on their forthcoming ramble to North Wales. We were assured that this was the best way of getting to know the ramblers, but we must admit that there was an added attraction with the promise of scampi or chicken in a basket at the Clywd Gate at the end of the day.

The morning of our departure proved to be slightly overcast but otherwise pleasant, as we set off from Liverpool, and after a break for coffee and goo-ey pancakes we arrived on a deserted road in North Wales. With a party of 29 or 30 or was it 31, and directed by our leader, Mary Barnett, who despite being the smallest in stature, bravely contended with the constant barracking from some of the male chauvinists of the party.

Our hike began along Offas Dyke, and proceeded over moorland tracks (when we could find them) through knee-high heather, which demanded an Olympic standard of hurdle - type climb and which stretched for several miles.

After a brief stop for lunch we continued striding out until we reached the summit - the mast - and then proceeded on our way down. We arrived at the finishing post at Pen - y - stryt "dead" on time, where the coach was waiting to take us to the Clywd Gate. Here we tucked in to our scampi and chips etc, helped down with a dash of grog. Here we were joined by two of our members who had taken a short cut.

Later we enjoyed some musical entertainment - a good old sing song - which carried over on to the coach journey home.

A most enjoyable day - wondering what aches and pains are in store - but still - whens the next one folks?

Kathy Diver & Mary Kerr.

Sub-Committees

RAMBLING

Chairman - B. Keller  
Members J. Adamson  
F. Fitzmaurice  
F. Johnson  
M. Lewis

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SOCIAL

Chairman - A. Joynson  
Members G. Finnigan  
F. Johnson  
F. Lee  
M. Lewis  
B. Lyon  
A. Platt  
M. Roberts  
P. Unsworth

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NEWSLETTER

Editor - J. Adamson  
Members A. Brockway  
C. Dobbin  
B. Dooley  
A. Joynson  
M. Lewis  
G. Penlington  
P. Unsworth

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FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS.

23rd December - Frances Lee  
30th December - Bob Banks  
6th January - Ann Hartley - Clare Morris - M.Christian  
13th January - John Watkins  
20th January - The J.Mac Show - with special guest  
D. Holden  
27th January - Peter Kennedy - Lenny Carter  
3rd February - Bernadette McMullen - Mary Barrett

CHALET WEEKEND - FAMILY SECTION.

December 11/12, 1976.

Friday night was beautiful, with a shallow layer of untouched snow over everything. It always seems to make the hills look higher, somehow, and the starry sky made the scene even lovelier.

From the sublime to the sustaining, catering reached its usual high standard. As a change from the perpetual prawn cocktail and fillet steak menu, we decided on mince for Saturday and Sausage for Sunday, but with lashings of home made cake around, who cared.

There was a feast of walking on the Saturday, one in the morning and another after lunch. Arthur Brockway did a sly sneak-off to do the pioneer for the Sunday without any enthusiastic youngsters to hinder him.

As a day partier, I was able to reap the fruits of Arthur's efforts. It was nice to see the Chalet again, looking more civilised every time. There's even a sink unit to delight the hearts of the more domestic among us now. After being greeted by a happy gang of children, and a relaxed (or collapsed) group of parents, we were walking right on time. The snow still lingered in crannies, making quite a christnassy scene, but where the heck was the holly! I think the professional pickers had been there before us. Even so, it was surprising what pretty greenery could be gathered with a bit of effort. The teachers among us, with their usual hawkeyes for decorations for their classrooms, were soon festooned with rosehip and hawthorn berries, and the real enthusiasts even took some holly leaves to decorate with plastic berries. No soul, some of 'em. One unprincipalled walker even brought her secateurs, but she was very modest in her demands so we won't name her. Chris Dobbin did Trojan work carrying the 'spoils' for the more fragile members. The prize winning item was a fallen rose hip branch. It completely filled the back seat of Maureen's car, and Christine Brockway can vouch for this. I'm a bit hazy about the route, but it included Llanferris. I rather think some of the parents were hoping to loose a few of their offspring here, but in spite of dangerously fast traffic, we all made it safely.

Back to the Chalet for a quick tea, a tidy up and a fogless ride home, thank goodness. Thank you, Arthur.

FMR.

### THOUGHTS FOR CHRISTMAS

Go placidly amid the noise and haste, and remember what peace there may be in silence. As far as possible without surrender be on good terms with all persons. Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others, even the dull and ignorant: They too have their story. Avoid loud and aggressive persons they are vexations to the spirit.

If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain and bitter; for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself. Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans. Keep interested in your career, however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time. Exercise caution in your business affairs; for the world is full of trickery. But let not this blind you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for high ideals; and everywhere life is full of heroism.

Be yourself. Especially, do not feign affection. Neither be cynical about love; for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment it is perennial as the grass. Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune. But do not distress yourself with imaginings. Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness. Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth. Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself.

You are a child of the universe, no less than the trees and the stars; you have a right to be here and whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should.

Therefore, be at peace with God, whatever you conceive him to be; and whatever your labours and aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life, keep peace with your soul. With all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world. Be careful strive to be happy.

Taken from "DESIDERATA".

THE OLD SAINT PAUL'S CHURCH  
BALTIMORE.