

LIVERPOOL CATHOLIC RAMBLERS' ASSOCIATION.

Registrar: Mr. B. Edwards,
23, Lowerson Road,
Liverpool, 11.

Secretary: Miss B. Tracey,
23, Makin Street,
Liverpool, 4.

N E W S L E T T E R .

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EDITORIAL.

The beginning of the year is traditionally the time for taking stock of the past and looking forward to the future. We, as a Club, can do both without fear of coming face to face with any unpleasant facts. The past year has been one in which the Club has continued to flourish and recent events point to the fact that the coming months will be even more successful.

I refer to the attendance at the first of the Square Dancing lessons which have been arranged to take place at the weekly Socials. At last, it seems, we can get Members to arrive on time and to take part in what is going on. It looks as if Square Dancing is going to become popular. One swallow, however, does not make a summer, and we must take care neither to expect too much from the newly arrived entertainment, nor to let it outwear its welcome. The actual details will be read elsewhere in the News Letter, but we must, in conclusion, congratulate the Committee on keeping in touch with the modern trend in an effort to make your Socials more enjoyable.

-----ooOoo-----

WE WISH ALL MEMBERS A HAPPY & HOLY NEW YEAR.

-----ooOoo-----

P E R S O N A L .

News has been received of the sudden illness of Mr. Dobson, a very old member, who has always maintained contact with the Club. We are glad to know he is showing improvement and send him our very best wishes.

Our heartiest congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Benny Magauer (Mollie Collins) on the birth of a daughter (Susan), and to Mr. & Mrs. Ben Roberts (Norah Collins) also on the birth of a daughter (Penelope Mary).

-----ooOoo-----

DON'T FORGET
F A N C Y D R E S S
on
THURSDAY, 14th FEBRUARY.

-----ooOoo-----

S O C I A L P R O G R A M M E .

| | | | |
|----------|--------------------------|----------|-----------------------------|
| Feb. 21. | Social (B. Edwards). | Mar. 20. | EM and EM's Night. |
| " 28. | Ladies' Night. | " 27. | Social (H. Burns). |
| Mar. 6. | Pot Pourri (Mark Walsh). | Apl. 3. | Crazy Whist (M. Walsh). |
| " 13. | Irish Night (J. Sandys). | " 10. | Holy Thursday - No Club. |

UP TO THE NECK IN COCKLES OR HOW TO FANCY DRESS!



We have an annual Fancy Dress, and every year each member has to make the fateful decision - to dress up or not to dress up. Should one obey the dictates of one's conscience and be prepared to parade round for the amusement of many, or should one follow the line of least resistance and turn up in Civvies and offer to help in the "kitchen". Every year the same thing happens - practically every one turns up in fancy dress determined to do their duty, even if they are the only ones dressed up, and the "line of least resistance" wallahs are left looking like fishes out of water, feeling thoroughly ashamed of themselves. Therefore, of course, you will be coming in fancy dress, and this is where your problems begin to flourish like the cockle in the parable.

Your first cockle will be whether to come fully rigged out, and face the slings and arrows of outraged fellow travellers, or to put the bits and pieces in your rucksack and hope that someone has scissors and/or pins. Now for the costume! This is simplicity itself. First think up the most original idea you can, and come along fully prepared not to be despondent if the first five people you meet at the Club have had exactly the same brainwave. Then again, is your costume going to be one which will be a howling success in the parade and a howling failure on the dance floor, or will it succumb to a level of mediocrity in both. Of course, you always run the risk of not being able to dance all night and still not winning a prize.

I would now like to give you some (I hope!) constructive tips. If you turn up in mufti you can say either: "I thought it was next week", or: "It wasn't ready on time". Both of these excuses are very lame, and neither will be believed - which is just what you deserve.

GENTLEMEN. Always have an accessible pocket. Have you ever tried to park cigarettes, handkerchief, etc. in flowing robes, or, worse, in tights?

LADIES. Decide what type you are: - Intellectual or Beautiful!! Career or Home! Face the question fearlessly, and having made your decision, dress accordingly.

BOTH. Remember when applying make-up that what goes on MUST come off!!!

However, all the problems having been faced and overcome, our Fancy Dress always proves to be one of the successes of the year.

But before I close, may I, as a frequent sufferer in the past, offer one last word of advice? If you have had a really subtle idea, ensure that the powers that be know what you are supposed to represent. Have no inhibitions! If, after the third time round, you still meet with a puzzled and uncomprehending stare from the judges, do not hesitate. Fall out smartly and tell them what you are. If needs be, explain, and for this purpose it is advisable to carry in your pocket a simple diagram.

That's all the help I can give you and THE BEST OF LUCK W.J.R.

P.S. How can I impersonate a cockle? What is a cockle?!!

S O C I A L _ N O T E S .

Two causes seemed to combine to subdue the Chairman's Night. One was the issue of the News Letter which everyone sat reading, and the other was the arranging of a Gramophone Recital on the same night. This was under Harold's wing and the small coterie that turned up to listen to the chosen records seemed to enjoy them. Many other Social-ites, however, seemed to fight shy of the Recital and stayed away altogether. This has happened before and we cannot stress too strongly that such events as the Recital, Beetle Drive, and so on, take up part of the evening only.

Subsequent Socials have been well attended (Beetle Drive Night) being another exception), the high-light of this period being the Christmas Party. About eighty members and friends turned up and joined in the entertainment. Following the custom of the last two years, a running buffet was provided in preference to a knife-and-fork tea. During this winter the accent has been on such dances as the "Haymaker's Jig" and the "Sixteen Hand Reel". This latter is a "marathon" from which some of us seek refuge in flight!!! As you all know, a rival is now in the field, -; Square Dancing. We hesitate to comment further at the moment. Let's wait and see.

F l a s h !! Glad to see Cis Byrne drop in at the Christmas Party. She was with an old faithful, Eileen Devlin. - Heard that Flo Begley's employment now prevents regular attendance at the Club. Wondered where you'd been, Flo.---- Employment also keeps Paddy Jefferies away. We hope to see them both whenever possible. ---- Fred Norbury has not been able to come lately but we will be seeing him before very long.

SQUARE DANCING:

The Committee have arranged to have the services of Miss Tunstead of the English Folk Dancing & Song Society to give some lessons in Folk and Square Dancing. The first of these lessons has been well received, and we would like as many members as possible to turn up to the next which takes place later in February. One is also arranged for next Thursday by which time this News Letter will be issued.

F O O T B A L L _ N O T E S .

The team are doing very well, much better than they themselves expected. They are well placed in the League and have passed into the Second Round of the Cup with a 5-1 win. Nice going, lads!

Unfortunately their Dance, whilst being a very successful evening socially, suffered a loss financially,

RAMBLING NOTES.

Unfortunately owing to shortage of space in this issue we are unable to include a report on the West Kirby Ramble, but we must welcome Madeleine to the ranks of Leaders and hope it will be but the first of many which she will lead.

A large party of sixteen entrained at Liverpool for Abergele on the 3rd February, and had a most enjoyable day. Variety was introduced by way of rock creeping, tree crawling, and although three parties eventually made their way to Abergele, nobody missed the train. You know, you should stay with the Leader!

R A M B L I N G _ N O T E S.

Well, well, well!!! What has been happening on the rambles? Since the last issue of the News Letter the men have out-numbered the women on two occasions, with an even number of each on another. The winter rambles are often preferable in many ways to those in the summer and this year has been no exception up to now.

Although no detailed reports have been received on the Yule-tide Walk or the Carrog Week-end, we have heard that both were up to their usual high standard. Bernard is particularly to be thanked for the success of the Walk which was combined with a Treasure Hunt, this part of it being in the hands of Betty and Margaret.

HOLLY RAMBLE - Caergwrle. Seven keen types, including one male, turned out on this damp, foggy morning - all pretty desperate for holly, I imagine.

The journey to Caergwrle passed quietly enough as we were all studying the Sunday papers. The party livened up considerably on reaching the Milk Bar in Caergwrle, where hot(?!?!?) coffee was consumed and music burst forth from the Juke-box.

The first part of the Ramble took us to the top of Caergwrle Castle where on clear days one stops to admire the view, but today we could only pause for breath and use our imagination. The walk continued in the direction of Hope Mountain. The footpaths up here began to get very muddy, and the holly bushes looked very bare. We were just beginning to wonder if we had come out on a wild goose chase when there were shrieks! Somebody had spotted some holly - with berries!! There was a flash of pen-knives while everybody got busy. Further on Bernadette and Josie discovered a tree full of berries, which we soon laid bare. Flushed with victory we continued, not caring any more about our torn and bleeding hands, or about the mud which by now was almost up to our knees. After we had collected as much holly as we could carry we sat down for a spot of lunch - very hurried I may add.

The afternoon was uneventful apart from a slight argument we had with some cows as to the right of way - however this was soon settled.

It was a very lively crowd going home on the train, and I pitied the poor man in the corner who was trying to sleep. Bernard came down to meet us at James Street Station - begging holly, but I don't think he was very successful! --- Selfish lot!!

ECCLYSTON FERRY. This ramble has been done so often and is always worth doing. The day was cold but fine at the outset, but rain came in the early evening. A small friendly crowd set out along the banks of the Dec, the idea being to cross by the Ferry and proceed via Saighton and Aldford. However, the Ferry, believe it or not, was not operating and we were forced to go by Eaton Hall Estate to the "Grosvenor Arms". After tea in this cosy place we strode along with the wind and rain at our backs as far as the "Rake & Pikel", the amended ramble being on the whole much shorter than the proposed route.

R A M B L I N G _ P R O G R A M M E.

- Feb. 10, Llangollen Survey. 5/-d. 9.30 a.m. bus Woodside (R.A.)
- " 17. Badgers Rake. 1/2d. Pier Head 10.30 a.m. (T.O'Neill).
- " 23/24. Chalet Weekend. Rambling Committee. Details later.
- Mar. 2. Parbold. 1/7d. 10.30 a.m. Exchange. (S. O'Neill).
- " 9. Belmont. 3/5d. 10 a.m. Russell St. (R.Marsden.)
- " 16. Details later.
- " 23. Ruabon & Chirk. Rambling Committee. Details later.
- Apl. 6. Little Switzerland. 3/6d. 10 a.m. Pier Head (M.Smith).
- " 11/14. Chalet Weekend. Rambling Committee. Details later.