

# LIVERPOOL CATHOLIC RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION

Under the Patronage of  
HIS GRACE THE ARCHBISHOP OF LIVERPOOL.

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SECOND SERIES NO: 38

SOCIAL EACH THURSDAY EVENING AT 8-0 P.M.

MARCH 1950.

## E D I T O R I A L

Experience seems to show that following the Xmas festivities there is usually a drop in attendances at the Socials and on Rambles and the past month seems to be no exception to the usual routine. Weather, recently, has not been conducive to a night at the Club or a walk in the countryside, but we may confidently look forward to an improvement.

Our last Newsletter seemed to be the signal for a general airing of views on Club activities. The bulletin was described as dull and uninteresting and was anything but a news sheet. We welcome these expressions of constructive criticism and in return we ask your co-operation in helping to make this bulletin both readable and interesting. This may be achieved by leaders or others with a flare for writing, sending or handing a write-up of a ramble to any member of the Committee. Items of Club News could be collected and handed in to the Committee. Brief articles or subjects of interest or even downright criticism would be welcome.

The Newsletter is a joint effort and the Newsletter staff do their utmost to sort out the chaff from the wheat. Of late, however, it has been receiving neither wheat nor chaff and the gleaning of news has been left to a few who have not the time to be present at every function organised by the C.R.A.

Will you assist us in maintaining the high standard of our bulletin by sending in items of interest. In case any of you may be shy in coming forward with your ideas, we will leave a suggestions and Newsletter box on the piano in the Club rooms each Thursday evening.

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It is with regret that we report the death of Rita Lloyd. She was a regular attender at the Socials and Rambles until her illness last May. We extend to her family our deepest sympathy and we are arranging for a Mass to be said for the repose of her soul.

R.I.P.

## THE THURSDAY EVENING SOCIALS

I am, relatively, a newcomer to the C.R.A. and my first impressions were of smiling faces and a general atmosphere of good-will. I was made to feel as if I had belonged to the C.R.A. for many years. The Socials were enjoyable in spite of the limited accommodation. In short I developed a liking for the C.R.A. and an enthusiasm for its cause. But let me freely admit there has been a deterioration in the quality of the Socials, which has reduced them to the standard of the hum-drum and I cannot help but feel that it is doing the cause no good.

Dare I suggest firstly an earlier start. If you must have Table Tennis, let it be between 7.30 and 8.30. Then I suggest you appeal for hosts and hostesses who will lead the evening and hold the attention of those present. Recently the host for the evening has been an uncertain factor and the main burden has fallen to one or two. Can we not have a wider dispersal of responsibility and in consequence a greater pool of ideas in which to fish. There may be people with ideas for running a social, who have not the ability to organise, then I suggest you ask these people to come forward with their ideas and let us give them a trial.

The loud-speaker is a grand idea, but must it be "so loud" and could we not persuade Mrs Wilton sometimes to play the piano. It does give the human touch and a welcome contrast to an otherwise "canned" programme.

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RAMBLING PROGRAMME

		<u>Meet</u>	<u>Fare</u>	
Feb 26th	Llanarmon	Pier Head 10.00	4/6d	Details later
Mar 5th	Brownlow Hill.	Russell St 10.00	1/10d	Miss B. Tracey
Mar 12th	Nelson	See Railway Advert		Mr. F. Boyle
Mar 19th	Hooton (Benediction)	Pier Head 2.15	10d	Miss P. Toes
Mar 26th	Lymm	Russell St. 9.45	3/6d	Miss M. Roberts
Apr. 2nd	Mickle Trafford	Pier Head 10.00	2/-	Mr. W. Wildes.

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RAMBLING REPORTS

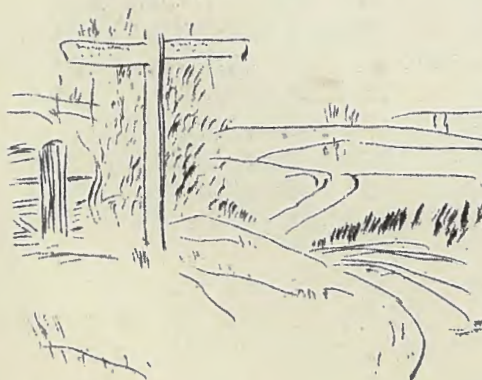
R.A. PENSARN &

ABERGELE WALK

The experiment of having an R.A. leader, Dennis by name, was a distinct success. It was a glorious autumn day when ten of us set off for a mile or so along the pebbled beach beside a surprisingly blue sea. The next part of the walk was up and over a wooded hillside to Abergel Castle. On the first grassy height we took some snaps which you should have some time next year. After that Dennis said good-bye to any pioneering he may have done and we just went where maps, right of way and our leader's liking for a particular bit of country took us. Bernard's and Betty's flasks did yeoman service during the highest and chilliest tea-break we have had in the open since Moel F. mmau in January. Scuttling down the mountainside to beat the dusk, Dennis' impression of a mountain goat was the most 'moving' thing seen in years, but as it got us down to Abergel in time for tea, home-made cakes, poached eggs and Walls' ice cream, the headlong gallop was well worth while. We all sardined into one carriage on the return journey, complete with Dennis and had the most unusual version of the miming game the Club has ever known. We gathered from an overheard remark that the Club had acquitted itself very nicely and made a good impression. Nice work.

ASHURST BEACON - LEADER R. MARSDEN

Sunday, Jan 29th was probably about the coldest day this year. The 14 members who met at Exchange Station at 10.15 had all been eyed with suspicion by relatives who thought it was "madness going hiking this weather". However, only those who have experienced a good walk on a bitterly cold day can know the joy of being thoroughly and glowingly warm from top of head to toes tucked cosily in two pairs of woollen socks. So with a gallant display of Xmas-gift, lambswool lined mittens, gay scarves and 'fair-isle' bonnets, we set out at a good pace from Rainford at about 11.30 a.m. in the direction of Billinge, to the tea-place on Shaley Brow. We admit we did appear to be the only people abroad that Sunday morning, but even though the rest of the population evidently didn't agree with us, we still maintain it's far better to be



out and abroad on a cold day. Amongst other things the fire-side huggers missed the sweet, lingering, smell of the newly manured Lancashire fields.

Having received excellent service at Shaley Brow and feeling considerably strengthened, we put in a very good afternoon's walk from Billinge to Ashurst Beacon Inn. By this time the wind was quite considerable and decidedly keen and as we started the climb up the hill to the Inn we all felt rather tired and eager for Mrs Webster's hospitality. A huge fire greeted us at the Inn and tea was soon being poured. The warmth of the room after the icy wind had a peculiar effect on our faces - I don't mean the features altered, but our cheeks glowed and tingled and became very rosy - what beautiful complexions our English girls have !!! It was quite a disappointment to discover that the "very nice young man", Mrs Webster described as having called looking for a Club, was not Bernard after all, - the description fitted him so well.

After tea we set off on the final two or three miles to Upholland and while we waited for the Ormskirk bus, we all became absorbed in the latest C.R.A. craze - was it Pat or Stella who introduced us to "Dip - clap one, clap together" etc. Any way Dick took this test of skill very seriously, and his 'dip' developes into a smart knees bend.

The journey back to Liverpool, via electric train was very comfy and the day's battle with the wind had made us all drowsy. I bet no one needed rocking that night.

To those members who always enjoyed the winter rambles, I'd say it's still the very best time of the year for rambling - so let's have your company.

BURTON WOODS - FEB 5th



Though only a small party we set off from the Pier Head in high spirits. From Woodside the Crosville bus took us to Little Sutton, the starting point of our ramble. Walking towards Ledsham in a south-westerly direction, we passed Sutton Hall Farm where the farmer, on horse-back, engaged us in conversation. He gathered we were lost and insisted on being very helpful, much to the suppressed annoyance of at least one of us !!! We passed through Ledsham before I had even noticed it. There is certainly very little of it. By this time the sun had come through and we were quite warm. I, for one, was beginning to think of tea. But lo ! there it was ahead. We had reached the first objective, the **TEA-PLACE.**

Here at the Two Mills Cafe, Dick, Frank and Bernard, of the renowned 'treasure Hunt Committee', had arranged to meet us, but it was apparent they had failed to do so. So after a good rest in the pleasant sunshine, our leader, Stella, gave the order to move off.

Ruddington was the next village through which we passed. Unfortunately there was a good amount of road-work which could not be avoided. Burton seemed a long way off but the trip was well worth the trouble. Whilst our able leader Miss Devoy, earnestly set about taking her bearings, two or three of us decided to spend a brief moment exploring the pre-Reformation Parish church. It is rich in historical interest; I wouldn't have missed the chance of browsing round it. It was now 4.30 and threatening clouds were gathering. We turned north for the last part of our ramble - Willaston.

Reaching Hadden Woods we came upon a difficulty the woods were private ! After a good, brisk walk down to the Chester West Kirby road, we were well within sight of our last stop. The mud patch before Willaston was a bit tricky - ask Frances. However we got over the last hurdle and soon found ourselves in the 'Green Lantern'.

4.  
Yes, they were there to greet us - our three hard-worked "treasure hunt" friends. We all had our tea amongst much exciting talk about the programme on the 19th. Our journey to Woodside, mainly because of the rain, was continued by Crosville. I think we all enjoyed the day.

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### CHALET WEEK - ENDS

The Club has now organised three week-ends at the Ramblers' Association Chalet at Maeshafn, and though most of our active ramblers have passed through the mill, yet nothing has been written about this particular Club activity in the Newsletter. It is to make good this omission and to enlighten the many members who have only heard of 'Chalet Week-ends' and would like to know more about them without the trouble of going, that this article is being written.

The Chalet itself has quite a restful atmosphere. It stands on the top of a small hill against a back-ground of pine trees and looks out across some of the finest scenery in North Wales. The peak of Moel Famau, surmounting the Clwydian Range, Moel Findeg and the rocky crags of the Pot Holes can all be seen from its windows. Inside the Chalet, a large lounge furnished with wicker chairs, double decker bunks with Dunlopillo type mattresses in the dormitories, a coal fire, gas lighting, cushions, book and magazine stand and dart board, all add to the general comfort. In fact there is every amenity for spending a nice, lazy, comfortable week-end in the mountains, from which one could return to the city and work refreshed and reinvigorated.

But that would be without the help of our Rambling Sub-Committee, which insists on properly organising these week-ends. Anyone taking part is probably quite unaware of the planning which has gone on to ensure that everyone's last ounce of energy is consumed during the week-end. A good start is made on Saturdays by climbing the three miles from Loggerheads to Maeshafn, laden with bulging frame rucksacks, gramophones, records and probably pounds of unnecessary junk. Of course it is infra dig to short circuit this climb by taking a bus unless you are part of the shopping party.

Lunch at the Chalet is generally sandwiches and tea. After tea two or three volunteer cooks and primus operators and the rucksacks are left behind, while the remainder tackle the local hills. Anything involving less than a ten mile walk and a few thousand feet climb would not be considered worth while by this party.

It is always a gamble on Saturdays, whether the volunteer cooks and primus operators produce a meal or burn down the Chalet, especially so when Stella was acting primus-operator in chief. To the walking party, a column of smoke on the horizon always gives cause for alarm. However, as yet, there has always been a meal awaiting the returning wanderers.

This meal, as all meals, is attended with certain chores which have to be completed before settling down to the real business of completely exhausting everybody who still has any remaining energy. To assist in this direction, there has been a gramophone and records on two occasions and just records on one. Only the most vigorous dances such as the Schottische and Polka are encouraged and it is not unknown for certain individuals to surreptitiously put back the arm of the gramophone, so that the dance only ended when all had dropped out exhausted. It usually takes until about 11 p.m. to finish off everyone.

Sunday morning is always heralded by the sound of bells, not from distant churches as you might reasonably expect but from Bernard's super alarm clock and the big hand-bell which stands on the welsh dresser. It usually takes two hours to cook and eat breakfast, wash up, cut sandwiches, wash faces and get ready for the four mile walk to Mold and Mass.

Although tired from Saturday's exertions and perhaps a restless night in a strange bed, Sunday is invariably spent walking miles over hill and moorland. It is perhaps not surprising that after a dozen miles or so, many members, usually with an air of non-chalance, enquire about the remaining distance to the Chalet and tea. However, those who look to the Chalet as a haven of rest after the day's toil are disappointed, because immediately after tea all hands are employed cleaning and tidying up. When everything is ship-shape we once more load up our now numb bodies and trudge back the three miles to Loggerheads and the bus home.

Thank goodness for work as a rest between such 'marvellous' week-ends.

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S O C I A L   P R O G R A M M E

March	2	MODERN DANCING
"	9	OLDE TIME NITE
"	16	MODERN DANCING
"	23	NOVELTY NIGHT
"	30	MODERN DANCING
April	6	CLOSED - MAUNDY THURSDAY
"	13	OLDE TIME NITE
"	20	FANCY DRESS

Your Social Committee have drawn up the above programme for the forthcoming Socials and they particularly wish to draw your attention to the FANCY DRESS NIGHT, to be held on 20th April.

Prizes will be given for the most ingenious, the most becoming and the most humorous etc. So put your "thinking caps" on (Idea No.1) and let us see what you can do !!!!!

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F O O T B A L L   S E C T I O N

The Football Section continues to progress, fields regularly a good team and is really making headway with its match record - only two games lost in the last eight played. Players' meetings are held each month and the players now have the satisfaction of knowing that they are covered against accidents etc by insurance.

At the last players' meeting held on 4th Feb. plans for next season were discussed and prospective players and supporters should contact Mr. Gerry Penlington or any member of the team.

The Football Dance was a great success, both socially and financially and the team wishes to thank all those who helped to make it so.

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T E N N I S   S E C T I O N

This Section will again be in full swing for the Summer season and the courts at Garden View, West Derby are undergoing the usual pre-season preparation. Further information regarding subscriptions etc., will be given in the next issue of the Newsletter.

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