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NOVEMBER ISSUE

1949

EDITORIAL

A long lapse of time has occurred between the issue of the last Newsletter and the present one. This delay is a matter which cannot be overlooked without a word of explanation, nor can it be condoned merely by ignoring it.

The simple truth is that an increased volume of work demanded all the energies of the Council and unwittingly attention was diverted from this sphere. It is necessary therefore to express regret at the silence which, unfortunately has prevailed.

Major events affecting the Guild have been brought to the notice of all by circular letters and it is sincerely hoped that in this way the absence of the Newsletter has been mitigated.

It is intended that, in the future, there will be two publications issued each year - one in April and one in October.

The role of the Newsletter can be made a vital one in the growth of the Guild and through its medium progress and events can be made known to all and (and this is important) the opinions and suggestions of members can be voiced.

It is desirable and necessary that a closer relationship between Head Office and members should be built up and it is hoped that this relationship will be achieved through this service. You can help to bring this about by forwarding articles of interest, criticisms or suggestions for insertion in future issues.

A keen response in submitting material for publication will provide a strong stimulant for Guild activity and will help considerably in creating a high standard of interest and enthusiasm in members for the work of the Association.

THE EDITOR.

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REPORT FROM HEADQUARTERS AND THE HOLIDAY CENTRES

Perhaps the most important news of the year has been the opening of ST. GARMON, our new Guest House in North Wales. St. Garmon has already established a great reputation under the guidance of our excellent Manager and Manageress, Mr & Mrs H. Westwood. The establishment of this Guest House has been difficult but difficulties have been overcome and local hostility ignored and we expect a great number of visitors there next year.

THE HOLLIES has been very busy this summer after a somewhat slow start. There have been difficulties over staffing which have caused the Council a great deal of worry but we hope that by next year we will have remedied the trouble. Our thanks are due to our Manageress, Miss Roberts and to Mrs Mayson, for their hard work during the season. An efficient hot water system has been installed in THE HOLLIES for which we have had many expressions of appreciation.

Certain changes have been made in organisation. At the last annual meeting the increasing work attaching to the office of Secretary made it necessary to split the duties and a General Secretary was appointed to deal with the general administrative work and a Bookings Secretary to deal with all enquiries and bookings.

There have been more frequent and regular meetings of the Council which has resulted in members keeping in closer touch with Guild affairs. The work of running the Guild is becoming increasingly onerous for voluntary officials and we are considering placing the bookings and enquiries in the hands of one of our Managers, as the first step in the appointment of a full time paid official.

PILGRIMAGE TO ROME: HOLY YEAR.

Arrangements have been made, following our circular to all members, for two pilgrimages to Rome during the Holy Year. Brief details are as follows:-

August 1950 11 day pilgrimage by Motor Coach, arranged by the Havas Travel Agency. No night travel. 3 days in Rome. Papal audience etc. Price approx. £34 with dormitory accommodation or £40 with Second Class hotels.

October 1950 12 day pilgrimage by train, arranged by Thos. Cook & Sons, in conjunction with either the C.T.S. Pilgrimage or the Liverpool Diocesan Pilgrimage. 5 days in Rome. Papal audience etc. Price approx £38 with pension in Rome, £41 with Second Class hotels or £44 with First Class hotels.

Intending pilgrims should send their names immediately to: Mr. G.F. Tindall, 18, Overdale Road, Ealing, London W.5., with a stamped addressed envelope stating the Pilgrimage in which they are interested. Booking forms and full details will then be sent to them. Please quote the Catholic Holiday Guild in all communications, otherwise you may not be with the Guild party on the pilgrimage.

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NEWS FROM THE AREAS

All areas which have established, or are in the process of forming, Catholic Rambling Clubs, have been circulated and the following abbreviated reports have been received. If your district has not been included we would be glad to hear from you and any omission will be rectified in our next issue. Many members for the local Clubs have been recruited from the ranks of the C.H.G. members and vice versa. For the benefit of members who have not contacted the local Rambling Club, names and addresses of Club Secretaries are included and we have been assured that all new members will receive a warm welcome.

If there is no Catholic Rambling Club in your area and you are interested in the formation of one, we would be glad to supply any information which would be of any assistance. Perhaps there are a number of people in your locality who were at "The Hollies" or "St. Garmon", who would be glad to join you on regular rambles.

ALTRINCHAM Secy: Miss A. Minton, 'Braeside', Harrington, Altrincham. The Altrincham Club commenced activities in May of this year and have, wisely enough for the present, limited their rambles to a regular fortnightly outing. With comparatively small numbers to draw upon, the attendance on rambles is good and they are blessed with a small core of enthusiasts (an essential in starting any club) round which they can, no doubt, build a flourishing Club. Full advantage is taken of the outings organised by the Manchester Rambling Association and the Club has visited Llangollen and Ilkley with them. In addition they joined the Liverpool Club on one ramble and hope to return the compliment at a future date. Rambling is usually organised in the Edale, Goyt Valley and Rushton Areas.

LEEDS Secy: Miss P. Fahy, 22, Stanmore Road, Leeds, 4. A Rambling Club has been established in Leeds since March 1948 and they enjoy organised hikes almost every Sunday. Unfortunately membership has dropped a little this year due to members leaving the district. However, they are hoping that with such a large and well-populated area to draw upon, numbers will soon show a decided increase.

LIVERPOOL Secy: Mrs. G. Penlington, 1, Greenfield Road, Liverpool, 13.
The Liverpool Club are fortunate in being well and truly established (they are now entering their twenty third year). It is no surprise, therefore, to report that in addition to the weekly hike, organised summer and winter, they are able to run Tennis and Football sections during the appropriate seasons.

Weekly socials are held in their Club rooms every Thursday night and Club dances are run at regular intervals. The last few months have seen the influx of a considerable number of new members, many recruited from 'The Hollies'. Rambles are organised in the Wirral, Cheshire, South Lancashire and North Wales, the latter district being their favourite stamping ground. The walks in North Wales have proved so popular that hostelling week-ends in that area are now a regular feature of the Club programme. Last Whitsuntide saw them visiting the Guest House at Carrog during their week-end outing.

ST.-HELENS. Secy: Miss M. Rotherham, 60, Bishop Road, St. Helens, Lancs.

The St. Helens Club has been in operation for nearly three years now and Club membership is on the increase. Regular Sunday hikes are the order of the day and the social side is catered for by a monthly get-together on the first Friday of the month. During the summer months the Club also meet for tennis in Victoria Park each Friday evening except the first. Hiking is the first love of these enthusiasts who manage to cover North Lancashire, the Wirral, Cheshire and even North Wales, which seems to hold for them also pride of place among the areas from which they can select. Youth Hostel week-ends have been spent in North Wales and Buxton. The Club are looking forward to meeting representatives of any of the newly formed clubs.

STOCKPORT Secy: Miss A. Naylor, "The Flags", Chester Rd, Hazel Grove, Ches.

Membership of the Stockport Club has increased considerably since it was first formed three years ago. Rambles are organised twice a month, winter and summer; the first ramble in each month is designed to suit newcomers and members who have not been out for some time and the second one is rather more strenuous. Y.H.A. week-ends are a popular feature with this Club also; a new idea which may perhaps be copied by other Clubs is that of having a Club week at a C.H.G. Guest House. It proved very successful with the Stockport Club and would no doubt go down well with others. Joint rambles have been held with the Liverpool Club and the St. Thomas More Society of Manchester. The social committee have arranged tennis parties during the summer and also cinema parties with informal musical evenings during the winter.

BIRMINGHAM Secy: F. Sheehan Esq., 305, Ridgacre Rd., Quinton, B'ham 32.

LONDON Secy: N. Downe Esq., 25b, Eaton Rise, London N.5.

NEWCASTLE Secy: J. Thompson Esq., 12, Saltwell Place, Bensham, Gateshead/Tyne.

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THE NEED FOR SPIRITED INITIATIVE AMONGST CATHOLIC RAMBLERS

In this Newsletter, it is thought that some consideration should be given to the aims and ideals for which the Guild was founded. Mr. Naylor, in a recent report on policy, has restated very well the primary object in these words "The original purpose behind the Guild was to cater for walkers in the more beautiful parts of the country and it would be a great pity if this object was lost sight of, or the spirit of the Guild weakened as a result of an over-eager attempt at expansion".

Our General Secretary has hit upon the essential, but the wider aspects go much further than that. In looking back upon history since the Reformation in this country, we find that Catholics as a body have been deprived of almost all cultural facilities,

artistic, intellectual and Social. An experience with non-Catholic societies, who have reached a high level of development in this direction, shows how much we are missing! Our people have been culturally starved.

I know that some individuals, by their talents, stand out and that in one or two of our Rambling Clubs a common effort in dramatic art has produced quite decent results. The evidence is, however, that we are far behind others in this direction and in some cases nothing has been attempted yet.

A beginning might be made to awaken an interest in the beauty of Nature and an awareness of the joy of penetrating to the secrets of God's Creation.

"What went you out into the desert to see ?

A reed shaken in the wind ?"

There is more than a reed shaken in the wind and those that are alert enough to observe closely will reap an exceeding great joy.

"We have a birthright
No man can sell
And a secret joy
No man can tell."

We can derive much more benefit than we generally do if our rambles are made more interesting in this way. A library of books collected with a view of special interest in Nature and Topographical pursuits should be in every Guest House and Club meeting place. The development of the entertainments in the Clubs and at our social evenings might aim at a higher level culturally and intellectually. Music and the Dramatic Art should receive special attention. Catholics should be satisfied with nothing but the best to aim at. Here we have an opportunity for the enterprising and vigorous spirit of youth.

Whilst borrowing the best from others, let us display initiative in invention and production. A C.H.G. Song Book might be compiled from the best available material and brought up to date.

"Nothing would be done at all if a man waited until he could do it so well that no one could find fault with it." (Newman)

Our opportunity in our Catholic Guest Houses is unique. It is for us to show that Catholic principles applied in Social practice can produce that happiness which is highest and best.

" T.M. "

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THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WILL BE HELD IN LIVERPOOL ON 28th JANUARY, 1950. THE GENERAL SECRETARY REQUESTS THAT ALL RESOLUTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE MEETING SHOULD REACH HIM NOT LATER THAN 31/12/49. PROCEEDINGS OF ANNUAL MEETING WILL COMMENCE AT 8 P.M. IN THE CATHEDRAL BUILDINGS, BROWNLOW HILL.

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