

LIVERPOOL CATHOLIC
RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION



LIVERPOOL

NEWS LETTER

Socials 7-30 p.m. each Thursday
at
Building and Design Centre,
Hope Street,
Liverpool.

Editor:- Mr. G. M. Penlington,
43 Alexandra Drive
BOOTLE 20, Lancs.....AIN 4912

Registrar:- Mr. C. T. Marsden
27 Garrick Street,
LIVERPOOL 7.....SEF 4595

HURRAH! - We are back in the rambling business and it is to be hoped you now watch closely the press and pay careful attention to the notices when they are read out at the socials.

For the record, we held our first ramble on 25th February choosing the first one that suffered cancellation, i.e. Silverdale (12th November) What a turnout it was, too, over 70 taking part.

We went fifteen Sundays without rambles! Apart from wartime that has never happened before in the history of the Club. May it never happen again, and that for the farmers' sake too.

So now you should all buckle to and take full advantage of the relaxed restrictions. Elsewhere in this issue we hope to publish an amended programme (not necessarily taking up where the old programme left off).

Every year for long enough I've been saying round about this time that Spring is almost here, and that a better time for rousing yourselves from Winter lethargy you couldn't have. So come on and take the rambling plunge! Another thing I've kept saying:- YOU MIGHT ATTEND SOCIALS FOR YEARS AND NOT KNOW ANY-ONE - ATTEND ONE RAMBLE AND YOU KNOW EVERYONE.

How about it? - there's nothing like it for good company "the healthy enjoyment of leisure" and acquaintance with some of the finest countryside in the world.

'Editor'

Date *****	Ramble *****	Leader *****	Departure *****
<u>May</u>			
5th	London Ramblers	Committee	
12th	'Operation Where'	Committee	10.00 St. Jns. Ln.
17/18/19	Chalet Weekend	Committee	
26th	Delamere	Hilda O'Keefe	9.55 Pier Head
<u>June</u>			
2nd	NO RAMBLE - WHIT		
8/9th	Midnight Ramble	Billy Clay	10 p.m. Queens Sq.
16th	Kettlewell	a) B. Clay	
		b) D. Newns	9.30 St. Jn. Ln.
23rd	Ruthin (Car Ramble)	Brian Kelly	10.00 Queens Sq.
30th	Children's Outing	Committee	
<u>July</u>			
7th	Dolwydden	a) Gay Cryan	9.30 St. Jns. Ln.
		b) M. Humphreys	
14th	'Beach Walk'	Jack Patterson	10.15 Exchange Station
21st	Trough of Bowland	Mike Marsden	9.30 St. Jn. Ln.
28th	Worlds End	a) Bill Potter	
		b) M. Moran	10.00 Queens Sq.
<u>Aug.</u>			
4th	Tal-y-Ofan	a) Ray Anderson	
		b) Mike Parr	9.30 St. Jn. Ln.
11th	The Wrekin	a) Chris Marsden	
		b) Keith Scott	9.30 St. Jn. Ln.
18th	Holywell	John Keenan	10.00 Central Low Level.
25th	Bala	a) D. Titherington	
		b) B. O'Keefe	9.30 St. Jn. Ln.
<u>Sept.</u>			
1st	NO RAMBLE - R.A. TRAIN (see press for details)		
8th	Llantysilio	a) Hugh Molloy	
		b) Paul Anderson	10.00 Queens Sq.,
15th	Sponsored Walk	Committee	
22nd	Annual Mass		
27/28/29	Chalet Weekend	Committee	

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At the Christmas Party each year a silver collection is made in aid of various charities. This year the collection amounted to £12.2 0d. and was divided between the Leonard Cheshire homes and the Huyton branch of Mencap. Apart from these collections and various other donations throughout the year the Club as a whole does not do much social work.

As the Club is expanding its activities the committee felt that we should make a small contribution to the community. To achieve this two events have been planned for this Summer. One is a sponsored walk in aid of the Cathedral building, fund details of which you will find in Ramblerite. The second is an outing for a group of mentally handicapped children.

The outing for the children is planned for Sunday 30th June and will be to Chester Zoo. We are hoping to find about 20 volunteers who will 'adopt' a child for the day, and pay for it throughout the day.

Anyone who is interested in volunteering their help for this event can contact any member of the social committee for details.

Please note that there are some alterations to the programme - the Spring dance will be Thursday 4th April and not 11th April (Maundy Thursday).

On Saturday 20th April the Tennis A.G.M. will be held at the Tennis Pavilion. There will be a social to follow. All prospective members will be welcome.

'Socialite'

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RAMBLERS ON SKIS - JAN 21st to Feb. 4th.

Sunshine glistened onto our faces as we flew high above the clouds (at over 500 mph) enjoying a chicken and ham lunch. Our destination was Lermoos, Austria and after we had landed at Munich, a coach conveyed us to this snow-covered village lying below picturesque mountains.

A short while after our arrival on this Sunday afternoon Des, Tom, Hilda and Terry joined us. They looked non the worse for wear considering they had been motoring since Friday.

Club members on this holiday included: Bernard Duffey, Eric Kavanagh, Hugh Molloy, Keith Scott, Des Titherington, Tom Chambers, David Newns, Monica Byrne, Winefride Gately, Anne Sunsborg, Eileen Fat, Terry Crutchley and Hilda O'Keefe. A few friends from previous ski holidays also accompanied us "Bend zee knees!"

Next day we were on the nursery slopes. After being sorted out into various classes, we started our performance on skis. You should have seen us. The Austrian instructors were shouting: "Bend zee knees!" or "Stick your bottom in!" We tried hard, but alas, many of us just couldn't keep upright. Tom entertained his class by skiing downhill BACKWARDS! - Well done Tom.

It started to snow on Wednesday - just a little at first, but then it increased to blowing a blizzard at times, and this persisted for FOUR DAYS! You could imagine that our spirits were dampened by this (so were our anoraks!) but nevertheless most of us pressed on with our skiing and ended up looking (and feeling) like abominable snowmen!

Night life

After slipping off the slopes each day, we then looked forward to the night life. We had many pre-dinner parties in our rooms. I won't go into any details, but have you ever tried to get about 30 people into one bedroom?

Dinner was served between 7 and 8 p.m. in our posh hotel by smart Austrian waiters - Heinz (tall dark and handsome) was every girl's favourite. After dinner the night life really began. We had two main dance spots in the village. The most popular (and noisiest) was a dive called the Kellor Bar. There was also the Hotel Post Tavern. Highlight of the evenings

(or early mornings) was a dance called "La Boustella" which was very lively and we did much knee-bending. We also had a bowling alley, and there was the "Weinstubbe" where we sat around candle-lit tables listening to zither music and yodeling. We often staggered back home in the early hours.

Sun and fun

A burst of glorious sun shone upon us on Sunday, and luckily repeated its performance daily until Saturday. After attending Mass and enduring a long sermon (in German!) most of us spent the day skiing at Bibberweir (a small village just a few kilometres away). Our four motorists, however, decided to dig the car out of the deep snow, then they headed for German border, but alas, it wasn't long before a snow-chain disappeared off one of the wheels! Undaunted, they crossed into Germany, but on returning to the Austrian frontier they were stopped. This time it was because they had no insurance card (it was at the hotel!) Reluctantly, Des had to purchase another one before passing through. They never used the car much afterwards!

Skis and Trees

Skiing accidents were surprisingly low, but we had our tell-tale black and blue marks in some unmentionable places! Several of us were seen limping around the hotel (I won't mention any names) but on the other hand, Dave somehow got wrapped round a tree one day! You should have seen him - there he was, with tears of laughter in his eyes as he stood there, fondly embracing the tree skis either side! Luckily, he wasn't hurt. Later, a picture postcard showing a cute hedgehog doing exactly the same thing (arms round tree wearing skis, etc.) was presented to Dave, having 23 signatures on the back in memory of the happy occasion. Getting away from trees, another problem was the drag-lift where some of us (Monica springs to mind) could never get the hang of the rotten thing! There was often a tangle of arms, legs, skis - the lot!

Dizzy heights

Suspended in mid-air on Thursday, some of us were 9,000 feet up the Zugspitze mountain in a cable car. We had magnificent views, and a few of us did a little skiing on top. Afterwards, Bernard, Eric and a few others went down the hair-raising slopes from the half-way stage on skis.

We had all been leaping in and out of chairlifts, by now and were all improving by weekend. However, Saturday came and the four motorists started their journey home.

Meanwhile, some of us were now 6,000 feet up the Grubigstein mountain with Willie (our instructor) leading the way down. A few hours later, we had almost reached the bottom when alas, Winnie cried out in pain. She had fallen (not unusual) but her safety bindings failed to release, and she pulled a ligament in her leg. Poor Winnie, she was still limping a few weeks later!

Snow was falling again on Saturday evening, as we reluctantly returned our (somewhat battered skis) to the ski shop. There was still snow in the air on Sunday morning as our coach left the Drei Mohren Hotel for Munich. After a pleasant air/rail journey we arrived in Liverpool the same evening.

Our thanks go to Bernard (Duffey) for planning this really enjoyable fortnight.

'TREE BASHER'

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HIGH SPEED GAS Cont'd from Pg. 16

I have taken my detail from an article in the November 1967 issue of "Rucksack" the magazine of the Ramblers' Association. I can recommend this excellent little magazine to all serious ramblers and copies can be obtained from:- Ramblers' Association Services Ltd., 124 Vinchley Road, LONDON N.W.3. at 1/- per copy.

C L A I R V A U X.
BERNARD J MANLEY.

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G R E E T I N G

In response to a greeting sent to His Holiness, Pope VI at Christmas by the Chairman, the following has been received:-

"The Secretariat of State of His Holiness is directed to express the Holy Father's sincere appreciation and heartfelt gratitude for the devoted message of good wishes and prayers addressed to Him on the occasion of the Feast of the Nativity of the Lord, and to convey, as a pledge of abiding divine Grace, the paternal Apostolic Blessing of His Holiness."

I R I S H D A N C E 21st February, 1968

This was one of the worst experiences we have had. The dance band did not arrive until 9.40 and started playing at 10 p.m. Many members left, and much Good Will we had built up over the 40 years was almost shattered.

We apologize to our members and friends and have sent a strong letter of protest to the Band agency.

We do hope that this unpleasant, if unique experience will not affect the support we hope you will continue to give to any further dances we may arrange.

J. Keenan.

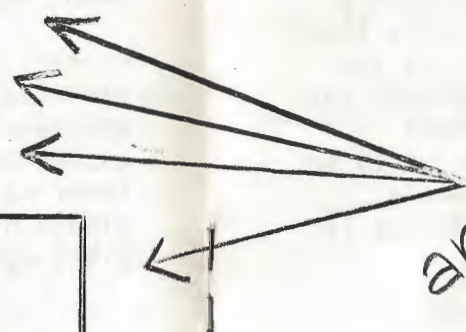
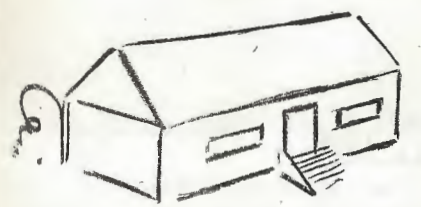
1968 TENNIS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SATURDAY 20th. APRIL.

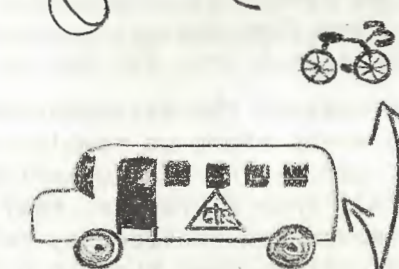
TENNIS PAVILION

LANCE GROVE

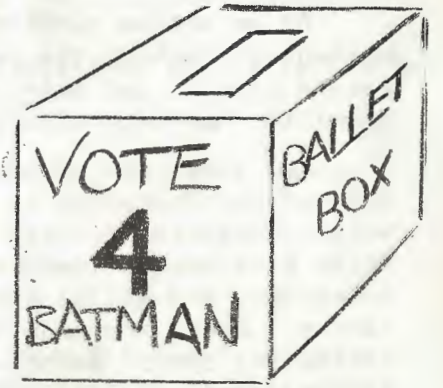
7
P.M.



and afterwards
DANCING
to
OUR RECORD PLAYER
(BRING YOUR BOOTS)



i.e. COACHING WILL
BE ARRANGED



TENNIS SUBSCRIPTION

Over	21	£ 2.11.0
Under		£ 1.11.0

RATIONALISATION OF FOOTPATHS

The government has recently set up a committee under the chairmanship of Sir Arthur Gosling, a former Director General of the Forestry Commission, to consider how the present rights of way and arrangements for maintaining them are suitable for conditions in the countryside today, and to make recommendations. This is a matter of the utmost importance to us as ramblers and the Chairman has sent the following letter. Any person can submit evidence or suggestions to the committee and it would be a good thing if many of the Catholic Ramblers would write individually stating their views. The address is shown in the letter.

Miss C. E. Barson OBE.,
Ministry of Housing and Local
Government,
Whitehall,
London S.W.1.

9 Craven Street,
LIVERPOOL. 3.

25th November, 1967

Dear Madam,

As an active rambling club which arranges outings every weekend throughout the year we feel that we should put on record some of our opinions regarding footpaths now that a committee has been appointed to look into the matter.

For years now we have witnessed the disappearance of many of our footpaths in the areas where we ramble - North Wales, Cheshire, Derbyshire, Lancashire and Yorkshire. Paths have been allowed to fall into disrepair, they get overgrown, and stiles are removed and replaced by permanent fences. Gates are made difficult to pass through by the increasing use of barbed-wire. These are just some of the difficulties.

Ramblers who know particular areas do at least know where to look for certain paths but those not so experienced, can find it very frustrating looking for paths which are marked on OS maps.

We understand that there might be what one could call rationalisation of footpaths and we shrink back with horror. Can't you imagine it, jolly old English footpaths lined with plastic flowers, glass roofs to protect us from the elements, and infra-red lamps to provide us with all the sunshine we need.

What this Association would like to see is proper maintenance of footpaths and the production of adequate maps. Paths should be properly marked. All these things and more should be enforced by Act of Parliament.

For years such bodies as the Ramblers' Association have been fighting for our rights but they have not been getting very far for various reasons through no fault of their own.

We state, here and now, that we support the Rambler's Association in all they do on behalf of the Rambler.

Yours sincerely,
For and on behalf of the
LIVERPOOL CATHOLIC RAMBLERS' ASSOCIATION.

Bernard J Manley.
CHAIRMAN.

A reply has been received to the effect that the letter is being placed before the Committee.

HELP!

A request has been received from St. Mary's Highfield Street, Church, for people of any description to help with their Youth Club which is open every night from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

The Club premises are below the Church.

Historic Catholic Churches of Liverpool

by John Tiernan

3: St. Oswald's Church, Old Swan.

In the year 1839, the inhabitants of the small village of Old Swan decided that they had had enough of walking all the way into Liverpool to Attend Mass at St. Nicholas'. A Curate from St. Nicholas's Fr. John Maddocks was thus put in charge of building up a new parish to be called St. Oswald's.. The Church which was designed by the notable Victorian Arch Augustus Welby Pugin, was financed by weekly contributions from the Catholics of Old Swan over four years, aided by various wealthy Catholics in Liverpool and in the Lancashire area. The foundation stone was laid in 1839 and the church was built in just over two years at a cost of over £5,000. St. Oswald's was opened in 1842 by Bishop Brown, 'Vicar Apostolic of Lancashire (later first Bishop of Liverpool) and was the first post-Reformation Catholic Church to be built in England with a steeple; the Relief Act of 1791 only allowing Catholic churches to be built, but still forbidding the authorities to use bells or steeples. In 1844 a small parish school and a presbytery were built.

In 1851 following after the restoration of the Hierarchy in the previous year, Fr. Maddocks was appointed one of the first Canons of the new Chapter by Bishop Brown. In 1854 the Canon opened a new school and in 1856 bought a nearby Methodist chapel, using part of it for school purposes and the rest as premises for St. Oswald's now famous C.Y.M.S. Canon Maddocks died in 1864 and is buried close to the Altar in the present church.

Another notable rector of St. Oswald's was Fr. (later Monsignor) Joseph Clarkson. He was born in Old Swan and later was educated at St. Oswald's school. Thence he went to St. Edward's college followed by Ushaw (where he became Professor of Mathematics), becoming Parish Priest of St. Oswalds in 1898. Under his care the parish became one of the finest in the city. He built new schools at a cost of £80,000 and founded the Hospice for the Dying (St. Vincent's, Broadgreen Road).

Realising the rapid growth of population in the area he was a prime mover behind the establishment of the parishes of St. Cuthbert's, Stanley, Christ the King and St. Margaret May, Pilch Lane. He became Dean, Canon and finally Monsignor. Afterwards he was made a Domestic Prelate to the Pope; of this honour he said that it was 'a splendid thing for Old Swan'. He retired in 1938 and died at St. Vincent's Hospice in 1940.

The Monsignor's successor, Mr. Nicholas Coghlan (who is still Rector) was faced with the fact that as the Catholic population of the district in 1939 was now so enormous, the present church was far too small, so he consulted the notable architect Adrian Scott, brother of Sir Giles Gilbert Scott (and designer of the toned-down version of the Lutyens Metropolitan Cathedral for Cardinal Godfrey) who drew up plans for an extension. The war intervened and the extensions were not started until 1952, when what was in fact a new church was built. The larger church was erected around the old building which was still used for services, but which was pulled down, with the exception of the steeple, when the Scott building was finished. The cost of the new church was £30,000 and it was solemnly opened on October 2nd, 1957 by Archbishop (now Cardinal) Heenan.

Editors footnote

It would be of interest to members to know that the L.C.R.A. had its origin in this Parish.

YOU MUST READ THIS

"Dream, dream - I'm goin' to make that dream come true".
So goes, I think, the words of a one time pop song.
Well, for years now club members have been dreaming about
the club owning its own premises in the country for the use
of the members. Indeed, one of the objects of the Association
is to 'purchase', take on lease, or otherwise acquire
land or buildings, or both, and construct, equip and carry
on a club house, or guesthouse for members of the Association.

Finance has always been the snag and even though the club has
got a reasonable healthy bank balance it is nothing like what
would be required to undertake such an operation as buying a
cottage. The Finance sub Committee has been looking at the
situation and it has with the approval of the General Committee
decided to start a special fund.

THE TARGET IS A COTTAGE IN WALES which we think would cost
up to £5,000 and we anticipate it would take about three to
five years to accumulate such an amount. If we could raise
the balance by a suitable mortgage in a much shorter time.

The General Committee feel that this is the sort of project
that would receive much support from the members. A Ways
and Means Committee is to be formed as soon as possible.
This Committee will be formed from any interested members
of the Association and not necessarily existing Committee
Members.

If you would like to serve on this Committee or you have any
ideas you think we could use PLEASE let General Secretary
Margaret Acred know as soon as possible. Don't forget that
enthusiasm is catching - let's all catch some!

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Well at last rambles have started again!
The three month enforced rest seems to have stimulated
interest rather than have dulled it. This is a comment
made in the light of the two high attendances upon our
first and second rambles to Silverdale and Langdale. Many
of our newer members will have had their first introduction
to rambling on these walks and one hopes that this will
lead to many, many more satisfying miles walking with the
Club.

The comments of one of our leaders upon the
above walks are worth noting upon this occasion. He was
heard to say after the walk that controlling the ramblers
had been rather difficult, they tended to shoot off in all
directions. He added that this was no doubt due to their
keenness after such a long lay-off. But please, please
obey your ramble leader in his directions concerning the
walk no matter how keen you are to run about in Gods fresh
air. Your safety depends upon it.

A new programme for the forthcoming six months
has been drawn up and the remainder of the present are rewritten
to accommodate the areas which are now open after the finish
of Foot and Mouth restriction. Watch the club notices and
press for details.

One of the most noticeable event on the new
programme is the 'sponsored walk' proposed for next September.
The support of all members is earnestly asked. Details will
be announced in the near future. Please make a note of this
in your diary and underline it twice!

Wishing you the best in your renewed rambling.

'Ramblerite'

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The effects of Natural Gas have yet to be felt on the economy of the Nation and before it gets too late let us consider a few points applicable to the Rambler.

You know those lovely fields of waving corn one takes such delight in seeing during the Summer months and the lovely hedgerows; well many of these will be dug up because above each pipeline used for the carrying of natural gas there will be a seventy foot gash cutting ruthlessly all away. Promises have been made that trees and the like will be replaced but it takes such a long time for these to grow, the marks will be unsightly for many, many years. Wherever there is a grid junction the pipe lines will come above ground. It is estimated that by 1970 there will be 1,600 miles of pipe lines and as time goes on the increase will be phenomenal. At each junction point the pipes will be seen (mostly 24" diameter and trunk lines 30"). There will also be little huts for equipment. It has also been said that at some junctions a compressor station requiring five acres of ground will be necessary.

The Council for the Preservation of Rural England is of course very concerned about the whole business and much space was devoted to it in its last annual report.

Another threat is that the Gas Council has decided to use radio control which will involve a series of radio masts in high positions visible from one to the other and on average up to 30 miles apart. A good example of this work is the case in the East Midlands. The planning is an advanced position. The length of the pipe is 100 miles stretching from Northampton to the Humber, and for this five towers, 150 feet high and fitted with 'dish' arials, will be necessary together with a number of 50 foot arials. Can you imagine it? Arials covering practically the whole of the country.

In the words of W.S.Tysoe of the Ramblers' Association. "It is obvious that we will all welcome this bountiful supply of cheap fuel, but it is tragic that yet once again we have to pay the price of technological progress with the acceptance of irreparable damage to the precious and ever-diminishing landscape beauty of the countryside.