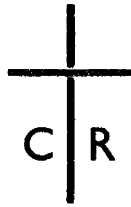


LIVERPOOL CATHOLIC
RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION



LIVERPOOL



Christmas
NEWS LETTER



Socials 8-0 p.m. each Wednesday

at

Cathedral Buildings

Brownlow Hill

Liverpool 3



40th ANNIVERSARY YEAR - DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

18th December - Christmas Chalet Weekend

Wednesday, December 21st - Christmas Party and Dance at Cathedral Buildings.

Wednesday, 28th December - Fancy Dress/Crazy Nite dance. Prices for people in Fancy dress 1/6d. ordinary dress 2/6d.

Sunday, 8th January - Yuletide Walk and Hot-pot-supper at Rivington Barn.

Wednesday, 18th January - Country dancing (and we hope local folk singers).

Sunday, 22nd January - Erryrys Walk and Hot-pot-supper - this will be a new venue for the club.

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May we remind members that subscription renewals are now overdue - 7/6d. for single members and 8/6d. joint membership fee for married members.

.....

Please note there will be no ramble on Sunday, 25th December - Christmas Day, and Sunday, 1st January - New Years day.

Registrar: Miss Mary Jackson, 18 Altcar Avenue,
Wavertree, Liverpool.15.

Editor: Mr.G.M. Penlington, 43 Alexandra Drive,
Bootle,20, Lancs.

There aren't enough Christmas messages in the world!
This may seem a strange thing to say when seemingly
everyone sends seasonal wishes to everyone else.

But, alas, only a fraction of the world is Christian,
a world that seems to grow more pagan, not less, year
by year. The Holy Father's choice is truly Hobsonian
as he inches open the flood-gates of 'modernism'.

He can see in some quarters that 'progress' merely
means man's monkeying around with certain products of
the earth to the ultimate detriment of mankind. He
knows they do these things because they have relegated
the Creator to story-book status.

God has made many signs in the past, but the sending
of His Son should be enough for all generations, all
nations. Christmas is His Son's birthday and because
we believe, we always invite all men of goodwill to
join in the celebrations.

Every century has had prophets of doom, but we are still
here! God will move in his own good time. I think it
was Churchill who wrote of the old man who said he had
had many troubles in his life, but that most of them
never happened.

Listen and take heed, then, of all the messages for
Christmas that will be showered upon you from many
quarters - they add up to a large fund of goodwill.

I hasten to add one from your Chairman and Committee:-
MAY IT BE A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS FOR EACH ONE OF YOU
AND YOUR FAMILIES? WITH A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR TO FOLLOW.

'Editor'

RUABON SAFARI

Sixteen eager ramblers met at Central Low Level and boarded the 11.35 a.m. train in the direction of Ruabon. After changing at Chester we eventually arrived at our destination and alighted without the loss of a single Rambler (more's the pity).

Our next assignment was to find a place of refreshment, and, Bernard, who seems to have a nose for such places, found a small cafe where we partook of our lunch (butties, etc).

We then began our ramble which took us through a boys' college - much to the delight of the girls. Upon approaching a number of very smartly dressed inmates we were asked if we were the Socialists they were expecting - cheek! Dressed in our best slobber, too. We promptly informed them that we were not and continued our journey undaunted.

If you've ever tried to fight your way through a dense jungle then you will know exactly what we went through for the next few hours. If Tarzan himself had suddenly appeared it would have been no great surprise, but unfortunately he didn't.

Well, to get back to the write-up. Following a brief butty stop (I've heard of beef butties, but not brief), we came across a very fast flowing river (it sounds better than stream) whereupon one or two ramblers who decided they had had enough promptly tried to commit suicide by throwing themselves in. Pity someone didn't tell them beforehand that it was only about 2 ft. deep.

We then went uphill through more bush and reached the top only to be told we then had to make a deep descent. After much trouble and effort we made it to the bottom and were then informed that we had gone the wrong way and would have to climb back up to the top. So, with cries of "hang the leader" etc., we, like the Grand Old Duke of York's men, climbed to the top of the hill and found an alternative route to take.

We plodded onward through yet more bushes and trees and up another incline. This time we came to a barbed wire fence surrounding a field containing cows. Now normally cows are quite well behaved creatures, but, as anything could and did happen on this ramble, it wasn't surprising when they formed a semi-circle right by the fence (silly moos) and just glared at us. Roughly translated their looks as much as said "just you dare cross that fence you scruffy lot and we'll butt you into the middle of next week". Being brave ramblers we quaked in our shoes and stayed put. However, we came to the bright conclusion that we couldn't stay there all day so the boys started to yell abuse at the cows and after a few minutes they moved back a few paces (the cows not the boys) leaving us enough room to climb over the fence and beat a hasty retreat. Talk about cows to the right of them, cows to the left of them.....

The worst wasn't over yet. Upon reaching the next field we were chased by a little fellow frantically waving his arms. Apparently there were people out grouse shooting and we were right in the line of fire. I don't know what he had to GROUSE about - it was our lives that were at stake. Gosh! the perils we ramblers face. We're so brave, bold, courageous and modest too. Our virtues never cease to amaze me.

After two more butty breaks (take note John Keenan) and a berry battle we eventually arrived at Ruabon Station and deposited ourselves on the luxuriously upholstered B.R. benches.

We had been sitting there for a while when a cheerful little Welsh porter gaily informed us that the train we were waiting for had gone and the next one would be along in about half an hour. You may have read about this porter - he was found hanging from a signal box near to Ruabon. I wonder who could have done such a thing - heh! heh! heh!

The train eventually arrived and we clambered aboard. The journey, compared with the ramble, was an uneventful one, apart from the fact that someone was chucking

streamers (of a very delicate nature) out of the train and they kept floating past our window.

We all arrived home scratched, scathed and sore, but in spite of this we had a very good, even though dangerous, ramble thanks to our leader Mary(Jackson).

'Me Jane'

CHURCH STRETTON - JOINT WALK WITH THE BIRMINGHAM CATHOLIC RAMBLERS.

After a late start at St. John's Lane, the L.C.R.A. journeyed to meet their counterparts from Birmingham. A slight difficulty was experienced in locating the village of Little Stretton, terminating in the coach taking a right turn onto a piece of waste ground. After reversing, about 15 minutes later the party arrived at the prearranged meeting place - better late than never!

Our Birmingham hosts were ready and waiting, some inside the local inn, and some outside. Here old friendships were renewed and I'm sure new ones formed. About this time Bill Clay, boots, breeches, red socks and all was somehow mistaken for the coach driver. (I have it on good authority that he was not the driver - he was only trying to arrange that the coach was met at the end of the days walk - anyway he doesn't hold a P.S.V. licence).

The walk, which was led by the Birmingham ramblers, proved to be very pleasant indeed. It covered some excellent walking country, similar in terrain to the well tramped Glydian range of North Wales. It also included glimpses of the wild ponies which are to be found in the area. This walk has given me a taste to explore this part of the country further, in the not too distant future.

At the finish of the walk we descended from the hills upon St. Mary's scholastic, for a light tea. After

the invading force, which is what we walkers resembled to me, at last had eaten, our chairman gave a short speech of thanks on behalf of his club. Benediction followed, then the Brothers, who seemed very pleased to have been invaded after all, gave a concert. This was an excellent finish to a good day, which I am sure all enjoyed.

After aurorevois were made by all present both clubs departed, looking forward to the next time they meet.

Thank you Birmingham C.R.A. for such an enjoyable day.

'Mud, by another name'

KESWICK WEEKEND - 4th - 6th November, 1966.

Meeting at Brownlow Hill on a cold and wet November's evening were the 29 club members determined to have an enjoyable weekend in the Lakes despite the weather. We were slightly delayed because a small contingent travelling from Kirkby were held up in the traffic by a hole in the ground!

After an uneventful journey we arrived at the Gale Guest House at 10.50 p.m. which was our best time yet. The advance party had arrived and were eagerly awaiting us so that they could tuck into the plentiful supply of sandwiches, etc.

Saturday morning brought us some brighter weather and the 'A' party set off in the coach to Patterdale from where they were to climb Helvellyn. The coach driver (Jack) was brave (or mad) enough to join the party.

The 'B' party had a less adventurous but equally enjoyable ramble to Walla Crag. I believe that their leader Bill Clay did throw in a few difficult bits just for fun.

After the evening meal everyone came to life again and we all set off for an extra-ordinary committee meeting in the Pheasant Inn, where we were entertained on the

piano and banjo by a group of campers who later joined us at our social.

Everyone arrived back at the Gale's in jolly mood. The carpet had been rolled back and Bill Potter put us through our paces with such dances as the Hay Maker's jig, etc. During the social we all adjourned to the back garden where a bonfire had been blazing and we were entertained to a grand firework display.

At 12 o'clock everyone retired to their rooms tired but happy. Sunday morning wasn't very bright. The coach took us to Mass at Keswick. The weather got gradually worse and most people decided not to go on the ramble although a few brave folk did go out. A coach trip to Keswick and Borrowdale was arranged for the rest.

Later in the afternoon we had a small social. This brought us to dinner time and then the worst part of the weekend - time to pay and go home!

I'm sure everyone did have a marvellous time (even those who missed their breakfast on Saturday morning!).

'Clair'aux'

Letter from our correspondent in Central Africa

P.O. Box 252
Lusaka,
Zambia.

Hello Friends and Ramblers,

May I thank all of you for a bon voyage card that I will treasure for some time. I was very sad to leave so many close friends that for a while I did not want to go. However, you will be pleased to know I had a great flight on a VC 10 to Nairobi where I had a home to home welcome from Tony Thompson. It was a terrific feeling as I waved across the tarmac to Tony and Marcia on the reception balcony. We chattered for hours about the club and its activities. It is surprising how out of touch you

can get in a few months. So please any of you please write with up-to-date news.

I was taken to the Thompson's beautiful home in Nairobi and there I delivered personally to Tony and Marcia their wedding present from the club - a beautiful crucifix - they were delighted to get it.

Tony and I escaped into the Ngong hills near Nairobi on Tuesday, 6th October and relished some good walking overlooking the Nairobi plain and the great rift valley where the Masai tribes men rear their cattle. It looked very like the Clwydians and Moel Fammau with the Cheshire Plain and the great Denbighdale with Chester substituting for Nairobi and the wild welsh tribes lighting their evening fires near Ruthin. But Kenya is so so beautiful. I took three photos of Mount Kenya, 17,000', from the VC10 immediately before landing at Nairobi. The views were superb.

The Spinners record of "The leaving of Liverpool" sea shanty had the three of us slightly nostalgic for a couple of days, but soon I was on my way on a Comet 4 to Lusaka via Dar es Salaam. I was very sad to leave Nairobi but the Terrific sight of Mount Kilimanjaro, 19,500' immediately below us soon had my spirits high. I had a wonderful birds eye view of the crater and I look forward to walking to the summit next year with some luck.

I have settled with some excellent friends in Lusaka in the gorgeous sun and here I must say cheerio for now.

Regards to all

Chris Scott.

SOCIALITE

Its a bleak night outside with a tremendous gale blowing, as I write this column before a crackling fire - a reminder if it were necessary, that winter and the social season proper are both well under way. Soon the round of parties and dances will be in full swing reaching a peak at Christmas time.

The L.C.R.A. Social Season got off to an excellent start with the Irish Centre Dance in October. There were 375 present and the menu of modern, twist and jive with a dash of Irish thrown in for good measure all added up to a lively evening. The rendering of "The Merry Ploughboy" nearly took the roof off and was sung with such gusto that I thought everybody really was "Off to Dublin in the Green". Bedad, I didn't know we had such a preponderance of Irish blood in our midst.

Saturday, 19th November saw us returning to the Lantern Hotel, Tarporeley for our second Dinner Dance at that Venue. Whereas 23 were present on the first occasion, there were 38 this time, and we virtually took the place over.

Our previous club visits to the Philharmonic have been confined to Carol Concerts. We broke new ground therefore, so to speak, when a small party attended the Phil on 10th November for an Industrial Concert. Personally I am not an inveterate follower of so called highbrow music, but found the evening very enjoyable and rather more entertaining than I had expected.

Before you all get too full of the Christmas spirits make a note in your diaries about the following hardy annuals:-

Wednesday, 21st December - Christmas Party

Monday, 2nd January - Carol Concert at the
Philharmonic Hall.

Sunday, 8th January - The Yuletide Walk &
Hot-Pot-Supper & Social.

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our readers.

'Socialite'

CHRISTMAS TRUNK CALL FROM AFRICA

Nairobi,
KENYA.

Sincere Christmas greetings to everyone from Kenya. It is now a year since I left my Liverpool home and it has been rather a wonderful one, but time passes so quickly. Marcia joined me in February, and after we were married it so happened we arrived (the next day in fact) on the slopes of Mount Kenya. This is a 17,000 ft. massive which straddles the equator and gives rise to the apparent contradiction of perpetual snows on this latitude. We crossed the equator at 8,000 ft. - the scene was quite alpine with dense forests of Christmas trees and snow capped peaks - a rambler's delight.

Since that time there have been several adventures and a number of rambles walking round old volcanoes etc. The Newsletter has arrived regularly and it is good to read of all the famous names and places. I read the editor's request for write-ups but made the mistake of thinking that 4,000 miles was a safe distance. You can imagine my surprise when he sent C.P.S. the flying Scott from Brownlow Hill to Africa. It almost had the touch of the Livingstone/Stanley drama, or even the goons episode of "The Equator's Exploding Boot". Anyway the man from buncle duly arrived on time (which will surprise one and all). Whilst we were waiting at the Airport, the shimmering heat at the end of the runway produced an odd mirage. Suddenly against a blue sky there appeared a B.O.A.C. yellow submarine - those fiendish witch doctors Min!

The ramble that week was to the Ngong Hill (8,074 ft). There are four distinct peaks on the edge of the central rift valley. There is a car track to about 6,000 ft. so the walk to the top is an easy one. Wild game can be found in the area but none was encountered during Chris's visit. The animals are generally quite wary of man but it takes someone with the advantage of Len Rand or Mike Marsden to look a giraffe in the eye.

Amongst the things we have received from the Club, and for which we would like to express our thanks is a poster

for the Irish Centre Dance (I believe it was a good night) and of course the Club Cricifix which makes a very good gift for the special occasion. The post card from the Keswick Weekend ramblers provided some fun and we would like to thank all the signatories including the new members, e.g. William, Arthur, John Potter; is he any relation to.....?

This Christmastime we will be travelling south into Tanzania and it will be from a little place facing Mount Kilimanjaro that our thoughts will travel home to our good friends in the L.C.R.A.

'Mark'

.....

Belated congratulations to:-

Weddings

Pat Jones and Harry Cavanagh who were married in July.

Births

Joan (nee Murphy) and Steve Cummins - a son

Monica (nee Connor) and Frank Rowe - a daughter

Shelagh (nee King) and Stan Cunningham - a son

Marie (nee Corkery) and Peter Atherton - a son

21st Birthdays

Pauline Kenny who was 21 in September.

Congratulation and Best Wishes to All.

.....

Those of you who remember Eddie Highton will be pleased

to learn that he has now completed his initial 2 year training course for the priesthood and is now in the Noviciate at Chilworth Friary, Surrey, where he will be for at least a year. After this Eddie hopes to go to the Friary at East Bergholt for further studies.

Eddie writes home to say that he and his fellow novices have settled down and that their vow of silence often goes for a "Burton" especially when playing at "Batman" and "Robin" with capes flying in the wind.

He is now known as Ludovic or "Ludo" to his friends at Chilworth. He is very happy and asks to be remembered in everyones prayers.

.....

Dear Members,

I think this is about the only way I can be sure that I don't miss anybody out. I would like to thank all of you who sent Get Well cards, letters, gifts and 'phone calls during my illness, and it helped so much to know that I was being remembered in the prayers of so many.

By the time you read this I am hoping to be back at home, if not back at work, and will be hoping to see you down at the clubrooms in the not too distant future.

Once again then, thank you all most sincerely for everything, and may God Bless you all.

Cyril (Kelly)

We are pleased to report that Cyril is out of hospital, but has not yet returned to work. He is under doctors orders to take life very slowly, and to a person who has been as active as he has been, this is not easy, but you can take it from us he is remaining very cheerful.

Please accept our good wishes, Cyril, for a speedy return to good health.

RAMBLERITE

Joint Ramble

So another joint ramble has come and gone but before it gets buried too far into our store of pleasant memories I would like to place on record our sincere thanks to the Birmingham Catholic Ramblers' Club for giving us such a pleasant day. Considering the shortness of time I think the ramble was excellent.

I would like, through the medium of this News Letter, to invite the Birmingham club to join us on a joint ramble next year when we shall be the hosts. Secretaries get busy writing!

Transport

Transport is becoming more and more a problem for the Rambling sub-Committee, the times of trains and buses and costs being the headache. An idea we are going to try therefore is the use of cars owned by members of the club. What will happen is a list will be placed on the notice board asking members willing to use their cars to indicate the number of passengers they can take. The cost to be divided by the passengers.

The first ramble we have chosen is to Aldford, on December 11th, to be led by Tom Chambers. The cost by rail for this ramble would have been 11/3d. and the train would not have left Liverpool until 11.45 a.m. thus limiting the daylight hours very considerably.

As this is a trial run its future use depends almost entirely on its success or otherwise. If you consider it to be a good idea then let the committee know by giving it your support whether it be with an offer of a car/just as a passenger.
or

Map Reading:

Can you read a map? Can you use a compass? These

are two very important items for ramblers and our leaders are instructed always to take them on a ramble. Perhaps next time you are on a ramble you might like to ask someone like Bill Potter, Billy Clay, Bernard Duffey or John Keenan (and many others) to explain some simple points and you will be surprised how quickly you can pick map reading up.

At some time in the future the Rambling sub-Committee hopes to arrange a map reading course so watch this space folks.

'Ramblerite'

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Tennis:

We ended our last column on a note of gloom concerning the future of the section consequently I am happy to start this commentary with better news. Following the Special General Meeting of the Tennis Members and subsequent deliberations by the General Committee, we are definitely in business next season. Needless to say however, we need the support of every tennis player and potential player in the Association, and we are making an all out effort in the coming months to get this, in order to put new life into the section.

The new committee for the ensuing twelve months is constituted as follows:-

- Chairman & Treasurer - Chris Dobbin
- Secretary - Maureen Howard
- Other members- Pauline Cunningham, Betty Turner
John Burns & Fred Norbury

The committee has already met, and as a first step to increasing membership, they have reduced the subscription for under 21's to 30/- for the season. Plans have also been made for carrying out close season work on the courts and improving the facilities where possible. Much of the work will be done by the committee itself

but assistance will be sort from members nearer the start of the season.

'Umpire'

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SECRETARIAL REPORT
GIVEN ON THE
40TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER 1966

1. In our 39th year our membership reached a total of 138 which was a decrease of 24 on last year.

2. Ramblings

A ramble or special event was arranged for every Sunday or Bank Holiday throughout the year.

Special events were:-

- a) A Keswick Weekend in November (1965)
- b) A Christmas Chalet weekend
- c) Yuletide walk including hot-pot-supper and social. Attendance was 105 of our members, plus 25 visitors.
- d) A Coniston weekend in March
- e) A coach trip to Church Stretton for a football game with students at St. Mary's Seminary.

The following events were included in the programme but had to be cancelled:-

- i) Ramble to Bala - lack of support
- ii) Barbecue & Midnight ramble - lack of information concerning regulations.
- iii) Kinderscout - lack of support
- iv) Tatton House - lack of support
- v) Club weekend - unable to book accommodation
- vi) A trip to Church Stretton - St. Mary's unable to keep arrangements owing to circumstances beyond their control.

3. Socials

There were 51 Wednesday night socials held during the year, including a Christmas Party, Monthly Barn Dances,

Films by the British Rail, a photographic colour slide competition, a visit by two White Sisters on Ash Wednesday showing films on their African Missions.

Special Social Occasions were:-

- a) Two dances one at the Irish Centre in October, 1965 and one at the State Ballroom in February of this year.
- b) A course of First Aid lectures given by the British Red Cross, taking place in the Committee Room on Tuesday evenings.
- c) Tuesday evening experimental record socials in the Committee Room.
- d) By arrangement with the Clerk of Works two Saturday afternoon visits were made for conducted tours of The Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ The King. A visit was also made to the Liverpool Anglican Cathedral.
- e) A visit to Hatton Garden Fire Station to learn about the methods and apparatus used in fire fighting, and a visit to the Operations Room of the Liverpool Police Headquarters.
- f) A Saturday evening dinner-dance at the Lantern Hotel, Tarporley.
- g) Party bookings to the Philharmonic Hall for the Christmas Carol Concert and to the Empire Theatre to see 'Alibaba on Ice'.

4. Tennis:

The 20th post war tennis season started rather slowly due to the winter-like weather lasting until after Easter. Membership reached a total of 25. The mens' team played once again in the L.L.T.A. The ladies' team was withdrawn from the league owing to the lack of lady members in the club.

No special tournaments were held during the season due to insufficient members. Four successful barbecues and socials were held in the pavilion. A Joint Catholic Tennis Clubs' dance was held at the Catholic Chaplaincy, making a profit.

Expenditure was cut down to a minimum, making do with the previous season's shales on the courts, court nets, wire netting and cutting down on the supply of balls. By doing this it was hoped that the section would not show a great loss.

A meeting of all tennis members was called to discuss the situation of the section - no decision was made at this meeting.

5. News Letter

The News Letter in its 20th post-war year was issued on eight occasions.

6. Football

The football team played its 18th post-war season in the Liverpool Central Amateur League and from all accounts did very well. Due to Town Planning their football pitch has been changed from Colderstones Park to Long Lane Recreation Ground, Garston and this season got off to a sporting start.

7. Donations Fund

Donations were made during the year to:

Poor Priests Hamper Fund	£2 2s. 0d.
St. Vincents Hospice	£5 2s. 6d.
M.E.N.C.A.P.	£5 2s. 6d.
Bishop of Menevea	£2 2s. 0d.
	<u>£14 9s. 0d.</u>

8. Wedding Presents

Eight cricifixes were given to members as wedding presents.

9. Annual Mass

The Annual Mass at St. Nicholas' Church was attended by about 43. Only 8 went onto the half day of Recollection at St. Augustines.

10. 40th Anniversay Committee

A anniversary committee was formed to prepare for 1967 Anniversay celebations. A film is in the process of being made to record the different sections of the Association.

1966/1967 Officers and Committee:-

Trustees:

Mr. Frederick Norbury
Mr. Cyril Kelly

Officers:

Chairman	Mr. Bernard J. Manley
Vice-Chairman	Mr. John Keenan
Treasurer	Mr. Gerald Penlington
General Secretary	Miss Elizabeth Turner
Ass. Gen. Secretary	Miss Margaret Acred
Registrar	Miss Mary Jackson

Committee:

Misses Pauline Cunningham
Hilda O'Keefe
Anne Harrington
Pauline Davies

Messrs. Thomas Chambers
William Clay
George Clayton
Desmond Titherinton
William Potter

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A Message From the Chairman

Firstly I want to thank you for electing me to the high office of Chairman of the Association. I certainly consider it an honour and privilege. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Chris Dobbin for all the hard work he put into the job during his years of office.

I suppose I must be the youngest Chairman in recent years. I have been informed, however, that when the club was founded forty years ago and for many years afterwards all the Chairmen and Committee members were young.

With the help of the vice-Chairman, John Keenan, and of yourselves I hope that we can make this anniversary year a very successful one.

Some of my aims for my year of office are to increase and maintain the membership, improve clubroom facilities, increase the club social activities and to get the Rambling sub-Committee to organise such things as adventure weekends, map reading courses and the like.

Of course I cannot do these things on my own and I have to rely very much on the committees for support and the committees in turn rely on the membership

Enthusiasm is something which must come from everyone. Help us to help you and I assure you we will have the best Catholic Club on Merseyside.

Yours very sincerely,

Bernard J. Manley

CHAIRMAN.