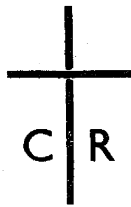


Newcastle ~~Rambler~~ Catholic Ramblers:

23

Dec 15

LIVERPOOL CATHOLIC
RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION



LIVERPOOL

Christmas
NEWS LETTER

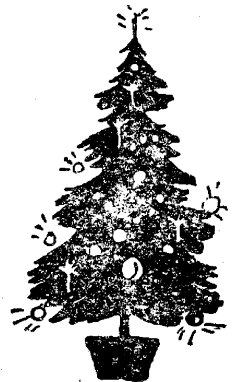
Socials 8-0 p.m. each Wednesday

at

Cathedral Buildings

Brownlow Hill

Liverpool 3





Unto us a Boy is born

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Destination:</u>	<u>Leader:</u>	<u>Departure Times:</u>	
18-19th Dec	Chalet	Committee	Details at clubroom	
27th 1966	" Wirral Wander	Larry Fagan	11.00 Pier Head	5/-
2nd	Jan * Yuletide Walk	Committee	10.45 St. John's Ln.	12/6
9th	" * Woodplumpton (Ben)	Terry Crutchley	10.30 St. John's Ln.	7/-
16th	" Caergwle	Brian Kelly	10.25 Central L.L.	6/10
23rd	" * Conway	(a) Bill Potter (b) John Keenan	10.15 St. John's Ln.	10/-
30th	" Ashurst Beacon	Agnes Vaughan	10.55 Skelhorne St.	5/3
5-6th	Feb Chalet	Committee	Details at clubroom	
13th	" Belanere (Ben)	Rose O'Brien	10.40 Lime Street	5/6
20th	" * Llangollen	Denis Crook	10.15 St. John's Ln.	6/9
26th	" Annual Dance at State Ballroom			
27th	" Hartford	Chris Scott	10.40 Lime Street	6/-

* Coach Trips. Names to be given three weeks beforehand
and all bookings redner members liable to the full cost

N.B. Times quoted are departure times.

ISSUE No.23 (Third Series)

Christmas
1965.

Registrar: Miss A. Vaughan, 41 Dover Road, Maghull.

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

That magic word - CHRISTMAS! transcends time - space. Not yet 2,000 years old, it seems older than time itself, whilst vast terrestrial distances contract to nothing on the receipt of a Christmas Greeting from abroad.

The Club has members scattered about the globe and many of us have relatives or friends exiled leagues across one ocean or another.

If those distant ones have a vision of our C.R.A. Christmas it will centre around the Christmas Party or Yuletide Walk - whether of last year, five years ago or twenty or thirty years ago! A long cavalcade of festive occasions!

Some of the venues differ, many of the faces differ, but the spirit is the same. - That spirit that has always enlivened Club activities.

Let us enjoy ourselves again this Christmas and wish all our members wherever they may be a Holy Happy Christmas with a Prosperous New Year to follow.

'Editor'

TENNIS

The curtain has finally come down on the Tennis season but the unusually mild weather in October did give us an extra month's weekend play. On at least three Sundays, we had nine or ten people at the Courts enjoying a game in conditions which were considerably more conducive to tennis than those experienced at the height of the Season. The Men's Singles Competition was concluded and Peter Atherton emerged as the Winner, beating Brian Kelly in the final in straight sets. The Ladies' Competition had to be abandoned, unfortunately, due to lack of support. As a "post-script" to the "cessation of hostilities" at Lance Grove, I have been asked to mention that a number of tennis racquets have been left in the Pavilion. In the interests of the owners they have been moved to the Committee Room in Brownlow Hill and may be obtained (by the owners) from there.

Thus ends another Season, and a rather disappointing one from the Membership point of view, leaving a question mark over the future of the section. Early in the New Year we will again be taking names for Membership next Season, and I would appeal to every Club Member interested in Tennis, to give their support to the section. For the benefit of new Club Members your standard of play is not important, but if you are keen, you will improve your game by playing regularly. Regardless of your ability on the Court, I am Sure you will enjoy the happy atmosphere which prevails round Lance Grove during the Season.

In conclusion, on behalf of the Tennis Committee, I would like to wish all our Tennis players "All The Best" for Christmas and the New Year, and let us hope that next year will be more prosperous than this, so far as our Tennis Club is concerned.

'UMPIRE'

SOCIALITE

Our first dance at the "Irish Centre" is now a thing of the past, and was overall a great success

for a "first-timer". There were 326 present, which suggests that an October Dance at this venue could become a permanent feature of our Autumn programme. In accordance with recent practice, a circular letter about the Dance was again sent to all those who do not regularly attend the Club, and as a result, we were pleased to welcome ex-members and less active ones. Another pointer to the value of these functions as occasions for reunions! It will soon be time for our next - on 26th February, 1966 at the State Ballroom, Dale Street. Don't forget to make a note in that diary Aunt Flossy always gives you for Christmas.

The Filmshow put on by British Railways in the Club Room took many by surprise, but the regulars were treated to a very enjoyable tour of the British Isles. The shots included many of places visited by the Club's rambles, and the appetites of non-walkers must have been wetted by the magnificent views.

In this Season of frivolity, we pause to bewail the departure from these shores of "Mark", that notorious Scribe who frequents the columns of this News Letter. Unmasked, "Mark" is none other than Tony Thompson, who is off to East Africa for a couple of years. He is going there to further his career as an Accountant and is not, he assures us, fleeing from the News Letter Committee who pursue him relentlessly for his contributions to these columns. However, just in case there is any ulterior motive Thompson, we are considering introducing a new feature to be styled "from our own Correspondent in Nairobi."

Things are rather hectic on the Social front at the moment. By the time you read this, the Catholic Tennis Clubs Dance will have been held, and also the visit to Hatton Garden Fire Station. Next on the list will be the Christmas Party on 22nd December, followed by the Yuletide Walk on 2nd January. Don't let the New Year in too enthusiastically if you want to be in good trim for the latter, the most energetic date in our calendar. Looking further ahead, we are hoping to arrange a visit to Police Headquarters, Dale Street, a purely social call I should add, for a conducted tour of the Operations Room. For 12th

February, we are arranging a Dinner Dance at the Lantern Hotel, Tartorley, as mentioned elsewhere in this issue. This is another new venture for us, and is intended to be a rather special evening out, in regal surroundings, at a moderate cost. This will include the cost of the the Coach fare to and from Tarporley, which is about an hours drive from Liverpool.

Quite a selection to look forward to, but first there is the Christmas Shopping free for all to surmount. I hope you all emerge from this unscathed, and ready to take your full part in the festivities. Whether you will emerge from the latter fit to take part in anything is another matter. Anyhow, a MERRY CHRISTMAS to you all, and if you want to catch her under the Mistletoe fellas, try sticking it on the roof. Come to think of it, that's not a bad idea if you want to get caught under it either. Anybody got a ladder?

RAMBLERITE

Two rambles in the current programme have aroused my interest in local history Pendle Hill and Ashurst Beacon. Pendle is known locally as Witches Hill and Ashurst Beacon which was part of the warning system set up to guard against friend Napoleon. I am asking some of our studious members to submit articles about these subjects.

Christmas Chalet Week-end. 18th December.

Only a few days before Christmas and yet I'm sure there'll be difficulty in getting ones name down for this.

I'm told that the R.A. Chalet Committee have installed new bunks and that they are most comfortable. If you are intending to t\$avel up on the Sunday be sure to confirm the 'bus times as I'm told that the 10-50 a.m. service has been dropped, the nearest time being 11.15 a.m.

Annual

Yuletide Ramble, Supper and Social, at Rivington Hall Barn on January 2nd, 1966. Most details have been given in the previous issue of News Letter. One thing I did omit however is that we are inviting two

members of the English Folk Dance & Song Society to join us, the intention being that we shall have a folk dance interlude during the social.

Coach Rambles January brings us two coach rambles apart from the Yuletide, Woodplumpton in the Preston area, on the 9th led by Terry Crutchley. Terry is a native of this area and we look forward to a very well led ramble. On the 23rd we have planned 'A' and 'B' rambles in the Conway area. This is great walking country and if it's snowy at the time it will be most picturesque. Please don't forget that these coach rambles cannot operate without good support - may we have yours? Winter Rambling Keeps You Fit!

'Ramblerite'

A NEW VENTURE

Some of you may have heard that your new Social Subcommittee has included in its social programme a new idea for the club, that is a coach run out to Tarporley in Cheshire to the Lantern Hotel for a dinner dance on Saturday, February 12th, 1966. The cost will be approximately 27/6d. inclusive.

There will be choice of menu and dancing until approximately 11-30 p.m. The coach will leave Liverpool outside Cathedral Buildings at 6-30 p.m. the meeting time will be 6-15 p.m. It is expected that we should arrive back in Liverpool after midnight and all those who live outside the city centre are advised to arrange groups and organise taxis. I will stay with the party until every member is safely despatched home.

To secure your place for this most promising outing a deposit of 7/6d. will be payable to Chris Dobbin, and will not be refundable under any circumstances.

Bernard Manley,
Vice-Chairman.

LAKE DISTRICT WEEK-END, 5th to 7th NOVEMBER, 1965.

Gathering at Brownlow Hill at 6-15 p.m. on a Friday night and here it was, the date and time many of us had been waiting for for such a long time. Despite the fact that some folk were late and some had gone to the wrong meeting place we were soon off on our travels. Passing many bon-fires en route made the normally dull journey through the North end of Liverpool a lot brighter.

Stopping on the M6 for refreshments, the wiser members using the transport cafe where the nosh is much cheaper, and off we were again. Apart from a few girls being unwell and the coach developing bronchitis we arrived at the Gales Guest House, Applethwaite, near Keswick, without incident.

After a quick cup of tea and some sandwiches we were all off to bed and ready for it.

Next morning brought us a most beautiful day, bright and crisp. Some of us even went for a walk before breakfast. George Clayton insists he went for a swim in Derwent Water at 6 a.m. but few of us believed him. After breakfast we boarded our coach which took us to Borrowdale where we split into two parties. Bill Potter taking the 'A' to do the Gable traverse and Keith Scott taking the 'B' to climb Glaramara (2,560'). Accounts of these walks should appear elsewhere.

Meeting at Seatoller for the coach to take us back to the Gales many of us had to wait for ages to buy fresh milk from a farm house and then we found that the milk had come from those rude cows that had pushed past us earlier!

On arrival at the Gales it was noted that only the experienced amongst us managed to get a bath before dinner, it being absolutely chaotic 40 people all trying to get a bath at the same time (not at once or in the same bath!).

After dinner the coach took all those interested down to the Pheasant to sample the various

lemonades, pickled eggs and pies that were available.

9-45 p.m. saw a happy crowd arrive back at the house ready for a good social under the capable hands of big Mike Marsden. It is always surprising to see folk jumping and dancing around at these socials after a hard days walking but I'm sure it was thoroughly enjoyed.

Sunday didn't bring us such bright weather so we all dashed down to Church in Keswick to pray hard for good weather but it didn't arrive!

After breakfast Chris Scott took all those mad fools interested in doing more walking, over Cat Bells and beyond, and the rest of us passed the time away by tidying the lounge after the dancing the night before, playing cards, listening to the delightful piano playing by one who shall be nameless, looking young ladies in unmentionable places and chatting. I will say this though, most of those staying in the house did venture out during the day even though it was in the coach down to Keswick.

We went to meet the wet and weary party, pulled them aboard the coach and dashed back to the house in time to pack before dinner.

And then it came time to pay (66/6) and make for home.

The homeward journey was without incident and we arrived in Liverpool at 11-10 p.m. having dropped most folk off on the way into the City Centre.

I'm sure I speak for everybody when I say we had a really enjoyable week-end. Here's looking forward to March 18th, 1966!

'Clairvaux'

KESWICK WEEK-END

'B' Party - "Glaramara"

After a dreary, rainy day on Friday for our journey to the Lakes, I think that every-one was very surprised on venturing out from the Gale's on Saturday morning to find that not only was it sunny, but that it was warm as well! The coach took us all to Seathwaite where the "A" and "B" parties separated.

As Keith led us towards Glaramara the sky was really blue and the sun was streaming down. Those of us who were muffled up to the eyes had to divest quite a few garments in the first ten minutes of walking. We kept up quite a brisk pace (Keith not being used to "B" walks) but soon, however one or two flagged a bit and we had to have some rests. This gave us plenty of chance to drink in the beautiful fresh air (ah, the texture of it!).

As we reached the top of Glaramara we could see in the distance Great Gable, but none of the gallant "A" party was visible (probably buttying). At the top we had our packed lunch and a pleasant rest, viewing the incomparable surroundings from our mountain lair as it were.

After lunch Keith told us that we were going back via Springding Tarn, so off we set gamely. The pace was still rather hot so more rests were called for. After walking alongside a gloriously clear stream we eventually arrived at Stockby Bridge, where we met a large caucus of the "A" party. Walking past Seathwaite farm dusk began to fall, and when we arrived at Seathwaite it was bitterly cold. At Seatoller many of the party bought cartons of refreshing milk, and soon the bus appeared giving welcome warmth to all. The thought of all I am sure was of a lovely hot meal awaiting us back at the guest house. - that wish was soon fulfilled!

Thank you Keith for a very interesting ramble through some of the most beautiful territory in the country.

'A' Party - "Great Gable"

At that time (10.30 a.m. on a bright sunny morning) Bill Potter said to his disciples - "Whomsoever wisheth to be called an 'A' rambler must this day take up his rucksack and follow me to the summit of Great Gable."

And there were in the party about 20, a few of whom speedily fell by the wayside.

The faithful plodded on and showed themselves equal to the scramble up Taylor Gill Force whereafter those in front were rewarded for their endurance by a halt in Sty Head Pass, lasting long enough for the stragglers to catch up.

From thence they climbed Gable Traverse with a spectacular view of Wastwater to spur them on the greater heights.

At the foot of the Needle Bill Potter had them sit down and eat, where they fared considerably worse than the five thousand on the unimaginative packed lunch provided by the guest house. And the fragments that were afterwards gathered up would not fill one rucksack never mind twelve baskets.

And the next test of the faithful's spirit was to climb over the Needle, after which they all succeeded in following the Angles Footsteps. And even John Burns, who descended into the depths after his camera that was dropped, managed to regain the path of righteousness.

And the summit was reached: but was this the end of the test? - indeed it was not.

On descending once more to Sty Head Pass the faithful were informed that there were other tests ahead. Hereafter many that were with him were heard to murmur - This is a hard saying - and they walked no more with their leader.

The remainder crossed Esk Hause and wandered far over

the wilderness of Glanamara, stout of heart although darkness overtook them, before descending at length to the Promised Land guided by the twinkling lights.

Thank you, Bill, for such a testing walk, that some of the most experienced ramblers were heard to groan they were not as fit as they used to be!

'One of the least of the Brethern'

....

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

May I be allowed to comment on the letter from 'Observer' in your November issue.

Firstly, I think the reason for such a small attendance at the half day of recollection was the fact that nobody had been asked to collect names of those willing to attend. The General Committee probably thinking that as nothing had to be booked in advance it was unnecessary to do so. Ramblers being the gregarious lot they are always need a certain amount of pushing before they will commit themselves to anything and so we get the attitude "unless so-and-so is going I'm not." Unfortunately this is life.

Secondly, while we are discussing the title of the Association it should be noted the words "and Holiday Guild" were dropped in 1964 not this year as your correspondent seems to think. It was mentioned at the last A.G.M. because it was in the minutes of the 1964 A.G.M. The words were dropped on the recommendation of the special sub-committee which was set up to bring the Constitution up to date. This committee felt that as the Association was no longer connected with the Catholic Holiday Guild they should be dropped. The Constitution still allows the Association to organise holidays for its members.

The title "Liverpool Catholic Ramblers' Association and Holiday Guild" was far too long a title and could be quite a nuisance in official correspondence.

Lastly, with regard to the comment that the word "Catholic" might have been dropped from the title why not take it a little further and drop the word "Ramblers" also, seeing that out of a membership of approximately 170 we get an average of about 20 turning out for Sunday rambles. Indeed why not drop the word "Liverpool" as well, seeing that many of our members don't live in the City.

'Clairvaux'

I have noted the letter from 'Observer' in Issue No.22 with regard to Retreats, and I feel that he has reached his conclusions without giving the matter much thought. The Ramblers', as we are more often known, are very Catholic in all that they do, and I think his comparisons between discussions at the Club, and a mixed retreat are not justifiable at all.

If he looks at our past record at retreats, he will find that we have had between 25 and 50 in attendance at most of them. This year there were only 8 - why? Could it be because this was not a Ramblers' Retreat, but was a joint effort with others? This, in my opinion was the reason. Most of the members belong to other societies such as Legion of Mary, C.Y.M.S. etc, who have their own Retreats, and members no doubt go on those. I am quite sure that if the Retreat this year had been one for the Ramblers, the response would have been just as good as in other years.

Perhaps the Committee could be asked to organise such a half day Retreat next year, when I am sure it would be proved that we are still very much the CATHOLIC RAMBLERS, in action as well as in name.

'An Oldster'

....

MEANDERINGS

I would sincerely like to thank everyone for their good wishes and fine collection of elephant jokes which were appreciated - the real Jumbos in Kenya should be tickled.

Many thanks to the News Letter advertising office staff - one small advert in the last issue found one lucky buyer for the Mini and 24,000 offers of house-trained Safari elephants.

Happy Christmas to all readers - my thoughts will be with you.

'Tony Thompson'

....

WINDY HILL - 24th October, 1965.

The morning was cold, but crisp, and the sun was showing every sign of appearing, as the party of 15 ramblers caught the 10.05 train to Bolton from Exchange Station. The Heating in the train was practically nil and most of the party were frozen to the marrow. After several delays (including the train having to back along the line about 100 yards) we arrived at Bolton only 20 minutes late.

However, hot chocolate in the bus station soon revived those who were flagging, and we all caught the Edgworth bus in right good spirits. The bus took us through some very typical Lancashire countryside and past Turton Towers to our destination, the village of Turton. After a very brief rest for liquid refreshment in the Chetham Arms, we started off on the walk.

By this time (1 p.m.) the sun had fully appeared and it was quite warm. For about half an hour we tramped along a pleasant country lane, until we came to the Turton and Entwistle reservoir. An enjoyable "butty-break" was had by the side of the reservoir, with cabaret provided by Bernard, Terry, and of course Margaret's anorak!

After another eventful walk we arrived at the charming little village of Entwistle, then on towards the Wayoh reservoir. By the time we reached Wayoh it was realised that we hadn't enough time or light left to achieve our objective, so we kept to low ground and walked along the side of the reservoir, across Edgworth Moor and round in a circle to Edgworth, where we found

that the next bus to Bolton would arrive there too late for us to catch the 5.05 train. Of course the next train was at 9.10!

Stranded in Bolton, with 4 hours to kill we were rather nonplussed. However, it was a very good opportunity to look at the new civic centre, which is really splendid, the streets are broad and clean, and outside the magnificent (and recently cleaned) town hall, in Victoria Square are two large floodlit fountains, which made me shudder to think of our mouldy Steble fountain in William Brown Street!

After 7.00 of course the time factor presented no problem, and it was a happy band of ramblers who eventually boarded the train at Trinity Street.

Thank you Bernard for a very good ramble, and a ramble at that which was exceptionally Jolley!

"Ssh-Puppy"

.....

SUGGESTIONS FOR DISPOSING OF CHRISTMAS RECORD TOKENS.

At Christmas time, we nearly always receive a record token from someone, and invariably, with the wide range of records available, the choice when using the tokens is not an easy one. I would like to suggest a few light classical records which I myself have bought and enjoyed, and which I think, you, the reader might also enjoy. All the records mentioned below are "bargain classics" (i.e. cost no more, and sometimes much less, than 23/6d).

A sparkling concert record, containing such favourites as the "Dance of the Hours", and Brahms' "Hungarian Dances", is "Toscanini - by Request" (R.C.A. VIC 1010). The highlight of this record is a stunning performance of Sibelius' "Finlandis". Whilst on the subject of Sibelius (it was the centenary of his birth on December 8th), there is a very good record of his popular 1st Symphony on MFP 2018, played by the B.B.C. Symphony Orchestra under Sir Malcolm Sargent. As this record

only costs 12/6d. it really is a bargain.

If you like Gilbert and Sullivan, a marvellous record is Philips GBL 5607, which is a concert of patter songs given by Martyn Green, who was for many years the principle comedian with the D'Oyley Carte Opera Company. This fine record contains songs from "H.M.S Pinafore", "Pirates of Penzance", "Iolanthe" and many more. The speed and clarity with which Mr.Green sings has to be heard to be believed!

Finally, a superb bargain record of four very welcome and popular pieces: Tchaikovsky's "1812 Overture", and "Capriccio Italien", and Rimsky-Korsakov's "Capriccio Espagnole" usually, each take up one side of a 12" LP, this is in every sense a bargain. The recording is very clear and the performances are top-notch. The orchestra is the Vienna State Orchestra, conducted by Mario Rossi and the record number is Philips GL 5728.

'John Tiernan'

A CHRISTMAS BOOK SUGGESTION

To fill the stocking of the one nearest and dearest to you, what better could you do than buy them a volume (or volumes) on the Lake District?

An enormous service has been done to ramblers and lovers of the Lakes by Mr.A. Wainwright in his most thorough, and, inciendtally enjoyable series "A Pictorial guide to the Lakeland fells" (published by the Westmoreland Gazette Ltd., Kendal, 12/6d. per vol.). Six volumes out of a projected seven have so far been published, and when the series is completed a more-or-less all-embracing survey of the fells will have been warried out.

The books are plentifully illustrated with maps and diagrams, and each volume is worth 12/6 of anybody's money. Those published so far are:-

1. The Eastern Fells (1955). 2. The Far Eastern Fells (1957). 3. The Central Fells (1958). 4. The Southern Fells (1960). 5. The Northern Fells (1962). 6. The North Western Fells (1964). The volume remaining to be published will be 7. The Western Fells.

"Bibliothecaire"

A THOUGHT FOR CHRISTMAS

In wishing you all joy this Christmastime, we trust you will spare a thought for the lonely and underprivileged and as far as your time and resources allow, take something of and from yourself into their lives. There are so many whose lives have not really been touched by these affluent times and it might just be possible that only you can remedy the deficiency in a particular circumstance - don't let the opportunity slip by, it may not present itself again.

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FROM OUR NEWSLETTER ARCHIVES.

CHRISTMASSES PAST.

1938: Christmas Message from Archbishop Downey. Yuletide Walk & Social at Raby Mere. 64 attended. Christmas Party - sit-down tea, tree, Santa Claus and present for all - 1/- instead of usual 6d. charge. 120 attended. Panto at "Empire" - Cinderella - best seats 2/6d.
Charge made for newsletter - 1/- per annum.

1939 (First of the War): (In the 'Black-out')
Yuletide Walk Thurstaston to West Kirby.
Christmas Tea and Social at Orange Kat Cafe - Max 1/6 per head. M.C. Cyril Kelly.
Christmas Carols in Clubroom - with own lanterns.
Christmas Party (tree and presents) in clubroom.
Perennial plea for overdue subscriptions.

1940 (Year of Dunkirk and the "blitz")

Many members, male and female, now in forces and in contact by correspondence, Newsletter

had ceased. No record of Yuletide Walk. Social held whilst heavy air raid in progress and had to be finished in nearby air raid shelter - hall badly damaged. Further Socials held Sunday afternoons in St.Oswalds, but even these had to close during 1941.

1946: Most members have returned from forces. Yuletide Walk to Ashurst Beacon - Coach and Chicken Tea 10/- - bring own knife/fork. Christmas Party - sit-down tea, tree & presents for all. Food and presents donated mainly. Protracted correspondence with Food Office to obtain infinitesimal allowances of sugar etc. (e.g. 1 oz per 32 people.)

1957: First Yuletide Walk to Rivington.

.... .

A VISIT TO THE "CATHEDRAL IN OUR TIME" - THE CATHEDRAL OF CHRIST THE KING.

We assembled at 2.15 p.m. on a cold blustery afternoon at Brownlow Hill awaiting the arrival of Mr. John Tiernan - the Cathedral Site Clerk of Works - who was to be our guide for the afternoon. He began the tour by taking us across to the entrance of the site, and telling us something of the history of the project. He described how Archbishop Downey had acquired the land at the top of Brownlow Hill (which was at that time the location of the old Liverpool Workhouse) and had had plans for the Cathedral drawn up by Sir Edward Lutyens. These were subsequently modified by Sir Gilbert Scott, but in spite of this, the design had to be abandoned because of the prohibitive cost. Thus came into being the present project, the result of a Competition sponsored by Archbishop Heenan. The theme of the Competition being "A Cathedral in our Time".

After sheltering from the elements in the Clerk of Works Office, we proceeded with our Guide inside the Cathedral itself via the podium, otherwise referred to by the "scousers" on the site as the "launching pad".

Inside the Cathedral is a lift which takes the Construction Workers up to the roof. Nobody needed a second invitation to take a ride to the top to see the stained glass windows of the "Lantern", and we were soon assembled aloft. The Dome roof is set into concrete which is covered by aluminium sheets. The floor of the Lantern tower is temporary wooden decking which will be removed when structural work is completed. The Lantern is 75' high x 75' diameter, and is of 1" thick stained glass set in lead with concrete reinforcement giving a lattice effect of a crown. The pinnacles outside stand 60' high. The rays of light coming through the windows are directed onto the Main Altar below, the different colours symbolising the events in our lives and the clear glass representing the Holy Ghost.

An enquiry made by one of the party as to the system of heating to be used in the Cathedral (no doubt he was feeling a bit chilly at the altitude) served as a cue for our descent to earth. Back on Terra Firma Mr. Tierman explained that the heating would be installed beneath the floor, not dissimilar from the system used by the Romans. He pointed out the positions of the various Chapels, which will fill the spaces between the sixteen structural supports, and the subway leading to the sacristies from which the processions to the Main Altar will come. The Altar itself consists, at the moment, of a deep circular well, with suspended concrete reinforcing bar projecting all the way round. Wooden blocks on the floor indicate the position of the circular benches to be erected around the Main Altar. An interesting feature about the seating arrangements is that the furthest seat away is only seventy-five feet from the Altar. Our Guide referred to the ability of the structure to withstand wind pressure, and the howling gale which had prevailed all afternoon gave added emphasis to his remark.

Moving outside the Cathedral again, we saw the mosaic clad buttresses which encircle the entire building, and which are sunk between sixty and eighty feet into the sandstone rock beneath. The structure is held together by a concrete beam which will also be clad in mosaic. An interesting point about the concrete

used in the construction is that it is 'insitu' concrete, meaning concrete mixed, moulded and laboratory tested actually on the building site.

Making our way to the front of the Cathedral, we came to the end of our tour under the Bell Tower. The great bells, Mathew, Mark, Luke and John, gazed majestically down on us, silent as yet, but poised ready to declare to the World that a "Cathedral in our Time" is no longer a theme, but an accomplished fact.

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Congratulations to:-

Eileen & Tony Atherton on the birth of their fourth child - a son.

Ann & Peter Hudson on the birth of their first - a son also.

Monica Connor & Frank Rowe on their recent marriage on 6th November at Blessed Sacrament Church.

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Dates to Note:-

Dec 18th - Chalet Week-end.

" 22nd - Christmas Party

Jan 2nd - Yuletide Walk - names to Terry Ctrutchley

" 7th - Visit to Police Information Room

Feb 12th - Dinner & Dance at the Lantern Hotel.

" 19th - Alibaba on Ice - few tickets still available.

" 26th - State Dance

1st Wednesday in every month - Barn Dances

"The Greatest Story Ever Told". Eric Kavanagh is organising a party to see this film early in the New Year - probably a Friday evening. (Party bookings of 25 people will be at a reduced rate, e.g. 7/6d would be 6/0d). Let Eric know if you are interested.