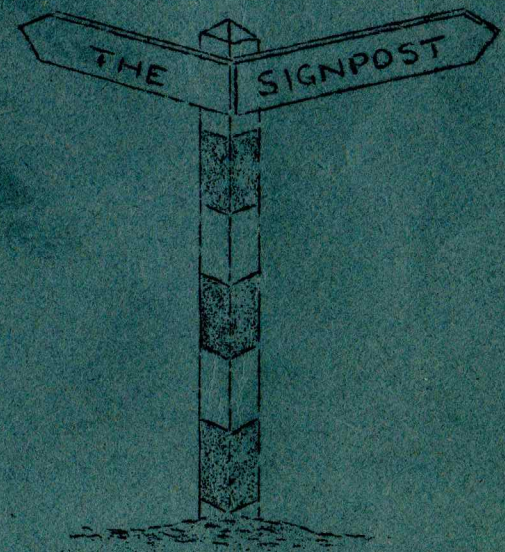


JAN 1941



CLUB MAGAZINE

JAN., 1941.

No. 3; Vol. 3.
"THE SIGNPOST"

- OFFICIALS -

Chairman R. Naylor.
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 Littleover, Derby.
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 Hon. Treasurer .. D. Young, 22 Morleston St., Derby.
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 Magazine Editor J. Tomlinson.
 Auditors Mrs Jenks & Miss W. Allison.

Derby Town Group Y.H.A. Sec: Miss H. Philips.
 Members of Town Group Y.H.A: Mrs Jenks, D. Whewell.
 and R. Naylor.
 Members of Sub-Reg: YHA Mrs Jenks, D. Whewell,
 R. Naylor & H. Philips.

EDITORIAL

December - the dreary month - with its cold damp clammy days. It's days of heavy skies through which the sun rarely appears. Wholly an unpleasant month save for its culmination in the third week of festivities and gaiety. This year though, some spirit was lacking at most of these activities - we stopped short and thought deeper than usual of those who could not be with us, of those who had 'gone before' us, and of the times that lay ahead. We seemed to realise what true friendship really meant to us and it was in this spirit that our club spent their short vacation.

Those members who went to Hartington Youth Hostel spent a quiet but pleasant time and returned refreshed from their journey o'er the moors.

To the lucky ones who were able to go to Wirksworth Youth Hostel on the week-end following there befel a very good supper and party, run in 'true hostelling' style. Thanks are due to the Warden and her husband - Dorothy and Laurie Bishop, old friends of our club and of all - and to their assistants for the success of the affair.

On the Sunday following we had the Club 2nd Annual Supper and Social. This also was very successful due to the capable handling by the Sec. and others. We were pleased to see some new faces to whom we extend a welcome to the club.

Thus the club ended December 1940, a year of many experiences, to enter upon a year of many possibilities and hopes.

May I wish you all a more pleasant future!
 EDITOR.

GENERAL NOTESAnnual General Meeting:

This will be held on Sunday February 9th at 7-30 p.m. at Headquarters (16, Friargate). Items will include the Secretary's and Treasurer's report, election of Officials for 1941, future events, and motions from members.

Will any member who has any suggestions to be discussed at the A. G. M. please forward within 7 days of the above date to the Secretary.

It is with deepest regret that we learn of the death of our old friend Eddie Holmes, at Sheffield during a recent air-raid. Eddie will be recalled by our older members as the Secretary of the Derby Technical College C. C., the predecessor of this club. He was one of the founder members of this organisation, one to whom we shall look back upon as a likeable care-free youth, full of mischief, but a real good friend. His parents and all who knew him have at least one consolation in that he died for a splendid cause.

JANUARY RUNS

Date	Meet	Place	Lunch	Attraction
11 & 12	2-30	5 Lamps	Haddon Grove	Conksbury Y. H. Lathkill Dale
19	9-30	Market Place	Rocester	--
25 & 26	2-30 9-30	5 Lamps Market Place	Flash	Buxton Y. H. Rally
Feb. 3	9-30	Market Place	Winster	

A very successful social and supper was held on Sunday Dec. 29th at Headquarters, although we were sorry not to see a few of our old friends. Supper was served in the best style (serviettes and glasses included). The first course was mixed soup followed by rabbit and two veg., this followed by biscuits and wines.

Four toasts were drunk: The King; Absent Friends; and The Club; this was followed after a refill by a toast to The Visitors. Games were then organised with an interval for cake and a drink of cyder. Altogether a most excellent time was had.

For January a Social Night on Sunday Jan. 19th has been arranged between our club and the Derbyshire Road Club. The evening will consist of darts and table tennis contests and all are asked to co-operate to make a great success of this night.

Further social events are - Club Nights each Wednesday and Sunday between 7 and 10 p.m. with Y. H. A. nights each Thursday at a cost of 6d which includes refreshments.

CLUB DANCES will be held as follows:

Friday, Jan. 17th at the Rialto Ballroom, 7-30 p.m. to 11 p.m. Lionel Millard's Dance Band; Tickets available from members of the club price 1/6 each; H. M. F. 1/- each.

Tuesday Feb. 4th at the Plaza Ballroom, 7-30 p.m. to 12-0 p.m. Billy Merrin & His Commanders; Licensed Buffet; Tickets 2/6. H. M. F. 1/6, obtainable shortly from members of the club and/or at Headquarters.

Please make a success of these two events.

MAGAZINE ARTICLES are urgently requested for the continuity of the "Signpost". Please forward articles on either cycling, rambling, or social events to the Editor, J. Tomlinson, 192 Osmaston Park Road. Derby, by the 22nd January.

JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS (Club Headquarters): D. Whewell, R. Naylor, J. Rutland, D. Young, and Miss M. Hudson.

MEMBERS IN THE FORCES:

These members wish to thank all members of the club for the Xmas gifts received through the collection made by members and send their best wishes to

all members and the hope of the continued success of the clubs.

Jack Page should now be on 14 days leave; Ernie Toon and Ray Braines have recently had their leave. Tom Copley is hoping to be on leave shortly.

The present known addresses of these lads are available from the Sec.

The Sec. reports that he has received an Xmas Card from Frank Swift and it appears that he is stationed at Dereham in Norfolk. Efforts are being made to establish and maintain contact with Frank.

ADVERT:

We are pleased to welcome to the Mag. our friend Tom Crowther. Many of you have met him either on the road or in his shop and experienced his fair dealing in business. We trust that members and their friends will continue to support Tom.

DERBY YOUTH HEADQUARTERS

16 Friargate, Derby.

Each Wednesday, Thursday, and Sunday evening.

To me as Secretary of this club and its predecessor the Derby Technical College C. C., the above heading is an ambition at long last realised.

To achieve such a thing during war-time is without a doubt marvellous but to achieve it at all has meant a great deal of risk and unending work for myself and the other people who have assisted.

To start from the beginning, it was the desire mainly of myself to attempt to establish within this town a Youth Headquarters similar to those which have become firmly established in other towns. This was a great problem since not only were some of the members of my club partially dis-interested but the majority of the youth in this town required spoon-feeding. In other words they wanted something found and prepared for them. They were not willing to start with the raw material and build up. I don't mean that they were expected to build with bricks and mortar, no, all that was necessary was for each club to get together and pool their ideas and enthusiasm.

Here was the difficulty - I was the Leader of a club whose main interest and activity was connected with Youth Hostelling. We came in contact with Rambling clubs who treated us like bad cheese and

we foolishly returned the compliment. Further to this we had only just starting Yo-Ho-ing and trod on a few peoples' corns in our efforts. Also the other cycling clubs in the town and district were mainly self-contained - the Derby Ivanhoe C. C. concerned itself with racing - the Derbyshire Road Club also devoted much of its activities to racing and since some of our members were taking part in racing - a sport which most 'hikers' tread with contempt, it seemed that the 'twain were never to meet'.

Many were the rebuffs I had, but by improving the organisation of my own club together with maintaining the connections and individual views of other clubs it was possible by the summer of 1939 to see a marked improvement between our club and others in the town and the Derby Y.H.A. Group. You may say: Well what has this to do with the Youth Headquarters! Well I could see that while each club was striving to maintain its own Headquarters much effort was being wasted, through lack of concentrated effort. It was in my mind, as well as other peoples', that if we had a building which could be used by each club, with suitable equipment provided, that we should be at last achieving some definite aim.

The war caused a few clubs to drop out (for the duration), leaving three cycling clubs, two rambling clubs, and the Derby Y. H. A. Town Group. Here I saw the first light of opportunity since the Y.H.A. Town Group was following a similar line to our club and since two of our club had been appointed to the Y. H. A. Committee due to the work they had done for the Association.

So it was that there has now come into being a new Committee and a new idea. It was resolved that since each of the organisations (the M.R.C. and Y.H.A.) desired to maintain Headquarters for their members and that the activities at these Headquarters were same, co-operation was desired. With the assistance of a grant from the Derby Youth Committee it is now possible to put into concrete form the ideas each body has been working on.

By inter co-operation it has been resolved to jointly maintain and manage the rooms at 16 Friargate by a joint Committee consisting of five members from each organisation; each club to have equal rights and responsibilities. Thus has commenced the building up of a Youth Centre on firmly established foundations. Maybe we shall have difficulties due to war-time conditions but I and my colleagues are confident that this achievement will be maintained and increased throughout the war and after it to the betterment of relations between our Youth. D. WHEWELL.

Hon. Sec: Jack Rutland, 614 Harvey Rd., Derby.

Those of you who attended the Half-Yearly General Meeting during October will recall a motion by Doug. Whewell, the Sec. of the Cycling Club, that since some members and their friends had expressed their desire to have a try at 'hiking' that due note of this be taken. This was not in any way taken that they were not interested in cycling but that an expansion of our activities had come about.

This motion was passed by a majority, it being left to the Committee to arrange the details.

Since this date the subject has been discussed by the M. R. C. Committee and the following items decided upon providing that these were acceptable to those interested, viz: that the club be called the Mercury Rambling Club, to have its own Secretary, that the Treasurer of the Cycling Club be made joint Treasurer for each club, that the subscription be the same as the cycling club and that it be reciprocal to each club - thus anyone joining the M. R. C. could go either cycling or walking, for the same subscription. That the funds of each club be pooled, each to have equal rights regarding same, that a space be allocated in the club magazine for use of the Rambling Club, and that the club headquarters be regarded as available for each club's members and their friends.

It is pleasing to note that these suggestions have been accepted and that further co-operation has since been achieved.

It was agreed that the Rambling Club should go to the same Youth Hostels as the Cycling Club and as far as was possible that each club should arrange to meet at the same lunch place on the Sunday following.

This has been tried with good success. On December 14th members of each club paid a visit to Hartington Hall Youth Hostel, making for Wetton on Sunday lunch. Although this was the first trip of the Rambling Club and consequent results were to be expected from sore feet etc., this party walked from Ashbourne to Hartington on the Saturday by way of the "Dales" and achieved equal success and enthusiasm by completing a similar feat on the Sunday.

Jack Rutland has proved to be an ideal Leader as well as a capable organiser and we wish him and his club the best of Success and good 'hiking'.

It is not possible owing to war conditions to arrange for runs each week-end since it is necessary for most of the members to work overtime at

their factories that it has been possible to arrange the following:

January

11 Sat. Conksbury Youth Hostel.

12 Sun. Bradford or Lathkill Dale. Lunch at Monyash.

25 Sat. Buxton Youth Hostel.

26 Sun. Goyt alley; Lunch place.

Further details regarding the meeting place, train or bus times and fares, will be posted up on on the Notice Board at Headquarters (16 Friar-gate)

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"YOUTH TAKES A BOW."

It is usual for anything to start at the beginning, and so in case the Editor considers me good enough to supply further articles, I propose commencing with a first tour. In the first place the prime cause of this tour is interesting, if only to stimulate you dear reader, to recall what first made you attempt a cycling holiday. We, that is "Young Spiv" and myself, had been invited down to Folkstone for a week's holiday, but we wanted to go camping, and as is always the case, luck eventually settled the matter. We couldn't afford the train fare, we couldn't afford to buy camping equipment, so we did neither, instead the magic words: "Youth Hostel Association" fortunately came our way. Investigation revealed that the Y. H. A. offered us a means of almost camping our way down to Folkstone without any train fare. Well, that dull, mercenary beginning was the acorn which is growing into a majestic oak tree. It put forth a shoot - our first tour, and like all good shoots, it developed; and when conditions are more favourable its growth will be more rapid - just you wait until after the war!

Words cannot adequately express those thrills as we planned our journey - a week cycling down to Folkstone, a week spent there, then a week cycling back - How great! Three weeks' holiday instead of one! The first difficulty was "Young Spiv's" age, since the Y.H.A. had a minimum limit in those days of 14 yrs - but we were dishonest by at least six months. Then there was his bike to get ready - a full fortnight's job because we stripped the frame and repainted it green (just to be different!). We also tried to lighten the heavy roadster by fitting caliper brakes, but "drops" or any other of the "true cycling fittings" which we have today, were

not for him. We did NOT read any books for advice, and at the risk of boasting I'm going to say here and now that the whole trip was accomplished without a hitch in a style which compares excellently with our recent "old-ago" tours.

That first night at Astwell Castle Y. H. is still fresh in my mind, but is preceded by memories of the tea we had at Abthorpe, a little village a few miles away from the hostel. There it was we received our first (and how good!) impression of "foreigners". There was no official tea place in the village, but the good lady at the village shop provided us with tea and we had to press 9d on her for both of us: "Was 9d too much?" said she!

That evening spent making our beds, cooking our supper; those four Americans who ate a 2lb jar of jam just like we ate fruit; those four snobbish Gloucester girls, and finally the moonlight singing on the castle roof. Small wonder we slept soundly - even the excitement couldn't keep us awake.

The next day we reached Watlington - Oh! the place where we washed our feet in the village brook because they were so tired after such a hot day, and anyway, we had to wait from 3 till 5 for the hostel to open. Odiham was our next place of call - here, a bad impression of the Warden, but what meals - we took half-a-dozen cobs away with us. The next stop was Ide Hill Y. H. Immediately I think of the open-air swimming pool at Brasted - it gave us such an appetite for tea, taken in company with a crowd of hostellers, all interesting people but space forbids their being mentioned individually except for the French girl - her English, my French - phew!

We were now near the fruit district and so our menu was fruit; plums, apples, and pears every meal and in between - so cheap - 6 lbs of apples and 4 lb of pears for 4d! We bought the apples and found two florins in the dust at the side of a lane. We reached Folkestone on the last day, by covering 20 miles of country lanes, and the final 70 miles along the military road, the latter so boring we could only do 10 miles to the pot of tea!

The week at the sea-side was grand, but tame compared with the trip down, the only exciting even being our climb up the Cliffs of Dover. On the Saturday morning that we were ready to return no money had come through from home, so our last 6d was spent on a telegram, so cryptic: "Address, Money urgent, Spiv." A money order came about 12 p.m. and we were off, explanations could await our return home.

Then on to Ewhurst, a model hostel - how grand those blackberries and cream tasted after a hot bath (Keep quiet - rough-necks!) - we had gathered them ourselves on Leith Hill Common, as we had - - come through such beautiful countryside - Abinger Hammer, Friday Street, etc. The next day: Guildford and the Hogs Back stand out in my memory, followed by the hostel at Bucklebury, and here we met the German boy and his girl who thought a cucumber was some kind of a truncheon, who also were loth to return to Germany, having received such a good impression of England.

From Bucklebury we pushed through Cotswold countryside far too quickly, past Shipston-under-Wychwood Hostel to Stow-on-the-Wold, a beautiful market town built in limestone with cobbled market square and a pleasant rustic air. The Hostel has left me a memory of mystery, for the warden, curious fellow of the artist type, with goatee beard, white moustache and black bow, seemed to do all the catering and cooking. Was that fat lady his wife and all those children his? Then of course there was his omelettes - in the days of eggs!

The final stage of the journey was via Birmingham, where we had to call at an Aunt's, and so we were baptised to touring, and became the envy of our schoolmates, just as today we tourists are the envy of our workmates, who never have the initiative to leave home.

The memories of this tour are multitudinous, and are ever a source of pleasant enjoyment.

"SPIV"

- -

"A LONE WEEK-END" By R. Naylor, has had to be left out owing to lack of space.

- -

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