

Swiss Club Manchester

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SWISS CLUB, MANCHESTER.**National Day Celebration.**

On Sunday, 28th July, members of the Swiss Club, Manchester, went by coach to Bolton Abbey in Wharfedale and were met there by a party of the Leeds-Bradford Swiss.

In the shadows of the Abbey ruins alongside the gently flowing river Wharfe a picnic lunch was enjoyed, not the least of the pleasures being the renewal of old friendships from both sides of the Pennines.

Bolton Abbey is a ruin of a great medieval Monastery, which after falling into disuse now houses in a reconstructed portion a church in which services are once again held.

Wandering in this quiet and peaceful valley, reminded of the past by the picturesque ruins, one could not help feeling that the choice of meeting place was a fitting one; that here was something which perhaps by its antiquity, or possibly by the beauty of its surroundings, could help us in one of the main purposes for which we were gathered together — to cast our minds back to the days of the foundation of our beloved country — and at the same time the new church calling us to our duties in the present and in the future.

Starting from Manchester the drive through industrial Lancashire eventually leads on through some of the most magnificent moorland scenery

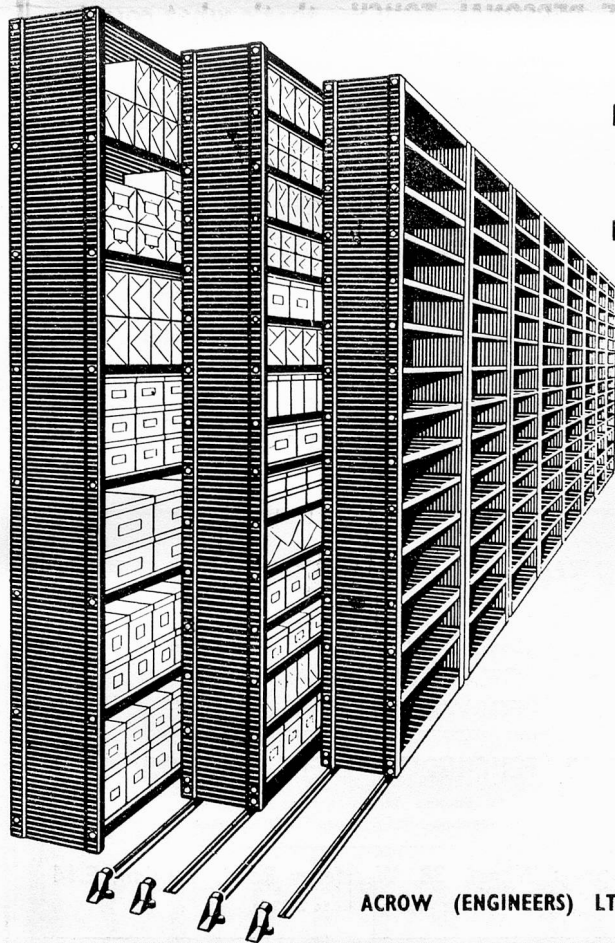
descending to the wooded country surrounding the Abbey. After our lunch a walk along the winding path through the woods, along the river and past the famous Strid where the peat brown water rushes between rocks, brought us once again to our coach which was waiting to take us to the old-world village of Burnsall for an excellent tea which was obviously enjoyed by everyone.

The occasion was graced by the presence of the Consul of the Manchester District, Mr. Buechi, and his charming wife. After tea Mr. Buechi read to us the message to the Swiss abroad from Mr. Hans Streuli, the President of Switzerland.

After the reading of the Pact of 1291 and a few well chosen words by our President, Mr. H. Monney, we had the joy of entertaining ourselves, as so often takes place "back home", by singing traditional Swiss songs until the time came for the return journey.

The coach took us home by a different route from the outward journey, over some of the more severe northern mountain moorland in contrast to the wooded route of the morning and gave our younger members an opportunity of seeing some of the grandest Yorkshire scenes in their varying moods. A short deviation from the main road took us through Haworth, the home of the famous Brontë sisters. And so ended a day for which we must thank our President, Mr. Monney, and his committee for so well organising, on which the 666th anniversary of our National Day was most fittingly celebrated.

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