

Judge backs rent rebels

A Liverpool rent rebel couple won a court battle yesterday after a judge had criticised city housing officials over living conditions in three blocks of multi-storey flats.

Judge Thomas Cunliffe was speaking from personal experience.

On a fact-finding visit to the nine-year-old flats at Everton, the lift failed and he had to walk down 18 flights of stairs in the dark.

Seventy tenants living in the flats staged a year-long rent strike, protesting that Liverpool Corporation had failed to carry out necessary repairs or provided pre-cautions against repeated attacks by vandals.

A married couple involved, crane driver Leslie Irwin, aged 39, and his wife, Maureen, aged 34, brought a counter claim in the county court against the corporation after they and their five children had been ordered to quit last November because they owed £300 in rent.

In giving judgment in favour of the Irwins, Judge Cunliffe, describing his visit to their flat on the ninth floor at Haigh Heights, said: "I was appalled at the general condition of the property and I am astonished that tenants of Liverpool should be expected to put up

with conditions like these

"On the occasion when I went to the Irwins' home, I got to the ninth floor by lift. Half-an-hour later, the lift was not operating and I had to go to the ground floor by using the stairs which were unsafe."

The judge found the corporation—who had claimed most of the disrepair was due to vandalism—were in breach of their duty to repair and of an obligation to ensure the "quiet enjoyment" of their tenants.

He awarded the Irwins £10 nominal damages. The corporation were granted 28 days in which to lodge an appeal.

A bright new era

The next generation of Merseyside Scouts will find fathers' reminiscences rather confusing—for when dad dreamily recalls his boyhood with "The glorious upmeeth City and Toxteth troop" the subject of his admiration will have by name, ceased to exist.

One of the effects of the recent reorganisation

Saturday
If the weather holds for the week-end, most of us will want to be out and about. There's a choice of two regattas, one at Crosby Sailing Club and the other at Bala. There is also football at Everton (v. Norwich). At Gwyn-faney Hall, Mold, Flintshire, a club is holding a clay shoot (12 noon).



Chaotic
IBTOVAPSTRY
Yesterday's was GRANDPOE which, rearranged, makes FRONDAGE

Sunday
Should be some happy scenes at Liverpool's Toxteth, where the Dove Street Playgroup has a carnival for 400 children (2 p.m.). Crosby Sailing Club's Easter regatta is still on, and highlight of the evening scene for a lot of people will be the visit to Liverpool's Royal Court Theatre of Alvin Stardust (6 p.m. and 8.30 p.m.). The Fleet Pavillion, New Brighton, has the Wigan Band (7 p.m.).

Monday
All today's diary entries come from Wales—Denbighshire shooting championships at Llandegla, Llyn and District agricultural show at Nefyn, and the Bont Folk Festival at the Bridge Hotel, Bont-tuchel.

Tuesday
The Incorporated Society of Musicians are holding their annual conference at Cranio House, Liverpool University, and drama workshops for children from 8 to 12 are at the Walker Art Gallery (10.30 a.m. to 12 noon and 2 to 3.30 p.m.). Liverpool Writers' Club has a meeting at the Y.W.C.A., Slater Street (7.30 p.m.), and the Mersey-side Branch of the World Ship Society has a meeting at Liverpool Museum, William Brown Street (7.30 p.m.). The A.G.M. of the Liverpool and District Multiple Sclerosis Society is at Park Hospital (7.30 p.m.).

Thursday
The Liverpool Festival of Music, Speech and Drama starts today at the Royal Institution, Colquhitt Street, and at St. Bede's School, Ormskirk, there is a Women's Institute historical exhibition (10 a.m.). Liverpool Amateur Photographic Association has a lecture at the Bluecoat (7.30 p.m.). The third annual exhibition of the South Liverpool Photographic Society opens today (until April 27)—the Seaside House, Liverpool University (9 a.m. to 9 p.m.).

The Week Ahead
by LESLIE JONES

The English Folk Dancing Society has an instructional evening at Alexander Hall, Rocky Lane, Heswall (8 p.m.) and Heswall Photographic Society an open competition at Heswall Hall (8 p.m.). Events in North Wales include a steeplechase meeting at Bangor on Dec, and sheepdog trials at Bodfari.

MP calls for more factories

MR DAFYDD WIGLEY, Plaid Cymru MP for Caernarvon, has called on the Government to think again about their lack of any plans for further advance factories for the Caernarvon constituency.

Mr Wigley said he hoped that the only remaining vacant factory in the area—the Ciblyn Industrial Estate at Caernarvon—would soon be taken. There was an urgent need he said, for a further program on old-fashioned factories.

He had already met senior officers of the Department of Trade and Industry in Cardiff and had stressed the needs of the area.

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The 3rd hold off challenge

The 3rd Alton won the 1974 Liverpool County Venture Challenge competition by the narrowest of margins from the 25th Alton.

Only one point separated the two teams after the overnight course on the Derbyshire Moors. The winners scored 318 points, the runners-up had 319, and the 2nd Waverley came third with 204.

Michael Wardle and David Hudson, of the 2nd West Kirby Venture Scouts, head the honours list this week. They gained the Duke of Edinburgh's Silver Standard.

The Reverend W. J. Bullock, Vicar of St. Peter's, Aintree, has received the Chief Scout's Commendation for services to Scouting, and Mr. P. Salisbury, Scout Leader, 13th Bebbington, the Medal of Merit from the Chief Scout, "in recognition of outstanding service."

Mr. John Morgan, District Scout Leader, Birkenhead, has qualified for the Wood Badge of the trained Scouter. Tawd Vale's 76 acres

SCOUTS AND SCOUTING

of camping land, one of the most attractive sites in the country, will again be open at Easter.

New district names are developing following the merging of old districts. Wavertree, Childwall, and City and Toxteth are now known as Picton District, with headquarters at the Jewish Liberal Congregation, Church Road, Wavertree, while Anfield, North districts come under the Liverpool, and Aintree title of Walton on the Hill.

Scout Job Week starts on Saturday. General Headquarters are keen to make the week safe and pleasant and ask all job-seekers to go in pairs, in uniform if possible, and with credentials showing they are insured against injury to person and property.

of local government has been the restructuring on a geographical basis of long established voluntary bodies such as the Scout Movement.

Local Scouts have now formed the Merseyside Scout County. The former Liverpool County Scout Association and parts of the former Cheshire West and South West Lancashire Counties have taken on new identities to what formerly were just Scout neighbours.

The immediate effect on the Scout population is the donning of new regional badges, name tags and meeting new faces at district sports and swimming galas. It also means the disappearance of long-cherished troop members.

This week 16,000 Merseyside Scouts and cub Scouts are being asked to design a new county badge for their uniforms. Liverpool Scouts Liver Bird badge is now defunct, as is the wheathead design of the Cheshire badge worn by Birkenhead, Bebbington, Wallasey and West Wirral Scouts, and the roses design of in-shire—in those areas which joined Merseyside.

Birkenhead, scene of a world jamboree in 1929 and a visit by Baden Powell in 1908 when he encouraged the formation of the 1st Birkenhead troop, together with Wallasey, Bebbington and West Wirral will, however, keep their long established names but join Merseyside.

Troop titles, some with traditions going back a half century, disappear. Districts at Southport and Formby, Maghull, Crosby and Bootle re-emerge as Sefton North, East, West and South.

Liverpool's Aintree, Anfield and North associations are now known as Walton on the Hill and the three areas at Childwall, Wavertree and City and Toxteth become one in Picton.

Huyton and Kirby Scouts join as Knowsley, and members at Alton, though largely unaffected, are joined by Scout groups from Cronton and Halewood, formerly part of the Widnes district.

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1271, 1273, 1275, 1277, 1279, 1281, 1283, 1285, 1287, 1289, 1291, 1293, 1295, 1297, 1299, 1301, 1303, 1305, 1307, 1309, 1311, 1313, 1315, 1317, 1319, 1321, 1323, 1325, 1327, 1329, 1331, 1333, 1335, 1337, 1339, 1341, 1343, 1345, 1347, 1349, 1351, 1353, 1355, 1357, 1359, 1361, 1363, 1365, 1367, 1369, 1371, 1373, 1375, 1377, 1379, 1381, 1383, 1385, 1387, 1389, 1391, 1393, 1395, 1397, 1399, 1401, 1403, 1405, 1407, 1409, 1411, 1413, 1415, 1417, 1419, 1421, 1423, 1425, 1427, 1429, 1431, 1433, 1435, 1437, 1439, 1441, 1443, 1445, 1447, 1449, 1451, 1453, 1455, 1457, 1459, 1461, 1463, 1465, 1467, 1469, 1471, 1473, 1475, 1477, 1479, 1481, 1483, 1485, 1487, 1489, 1491, 1493, 1495, 1497, 1499, 1501, 1503, 1505, 1507, 1509, 1511, 1513, 1515, 1517, 1519, 1521, 1523, 1525, 1527, 1529, 1531, 1533, 1535, 1537, 1539, 1541, 1543, 1545, 1547, 1549, 1551, 1553, 1555, 1557, 1559, 1561, 1563, 1565, 1567, 1569, 1571, 1573, 1575, 1577, 1579, 1581, 1583, 1585, 1587, 1589, 1591, 1593, 1595, 1597, 1599, 1601, 1603, 1605, 1607, 1609, 1611, 1613, 1615, 1617, 1619, 1621, 1623, 1625, 1627, 1629, 1631, 1633, 1635, 1637, 1639, 1641, 1643, 1645, 1647, 1649, 1651, 1653, 1655, 1657, 1659, 1661, 1663, 1665, 1667, 1669, 1671, 1673, 1675, 1677, 1679, 1681, 1683, 1685, 1687, 1689, 1691, 1693, 1695, 1697, 1699, 1701, 1703, 1705, 1707, 1709, 1711, 1713, 1715, 1717, 1719, 1721, 1723, 1725, 1727, 1729, 1731, 1733, 1735, 1737, 1739, 1741, 1743, 1745, 1747, 1749, 1751, 1753, 1755, 1757, 1759, 1761, 1763, 1765, 1767, 1769, 1771, 1773, 1775, 1777, 1779, 1781, 1783, 1785, 1787, 1789, 1791, 1793, 1795, 1797, 1799, 1801, 1803, 1805, 1807, 1809, 1811, 1813, 1815, 1817, 1819, 1821, 1823, 1825, 1827, 1829, 1831, 1833, 1835, 1837, 1839, 1841, 1843, 1845, 1847, 1849, 1851, 1853, 1855, 1857, 1859, 1861, 1863, 1865, 1867, 1869, 1871, 1873, 1875, 1877, 1879, 1881, 1883, 1885, 1887, 1889, 1891, 1893, 1895, 1897, 1899, 1901, 1903, 1905, 1907, 1909, 1911, 1913, 1915, 1917, 1919, 1921, 1923, 1925, 1927, 1929, 1931, 1933, 1935, 1937, 1939, 1941, 1943, 1945, 1947, 1949, 1951, 1953, 1955, 1957, 1959, 1961, 1963, 1965, 1967, 1969, 1971, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1979, 1981, 1983, 1985, 1987, 1989, 1991, 1993, 1995, 1997, 1999, 2001, 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2021, 2023, 2025, 2027, 2029, 2031, 2033, 2035, 2037, 2039, 2041, 2043, 2045, 2047, 2049, 2051, 2053, 2055, 2057, 2059, 2061, 2063, 2065, 2067, 2069, 2071, 2073, 2075, 2077, 2079, 2081, 2083, 2085, 2087, 2089, 2091, 2093, 2095, 2097, 2099, 2101, 2103, 2105, 2107, 2109, 2111, 2113, 2115, 2117, 2119, 2121, 2123, 2125, 2127, 2129, 2131, 2133, 2135, 2137, 2139, 2141, 2143, 2145, 2147, 2149, 2151, 2153, 2155, 2157, 2159, 2161, 2163, 2165, 2167, 2169, 2171, 2173, 2175, 2177, 2179, 2181, 2183, 2185, 2187, 2189, 2191, 2193, 2195, 2197, 2199, 2201, 2203, 2205, 2207, 2209, 2211, 2213, 2215, 2217, 2219, 2221, 2223, 2225, 2227, 2229, 2231, 2233, 2235, 2237, 2239, 2241, 2243, 2245, 2247, 2249, 2251, 2253, 2255, 2257, 2259, 2261, 2263, 2265, 2267, 2269, 2271, 2273, 2275, 2277, 2279, 2281, 2283, 2285, 2287, 2289, 2291, 2293, 2295, 2297, 2299, 2301, 2303, 2305, 2307, 2309, 2311, 2313, 2315, 2317, 2319, 2321, 2323, 2325, 2327, 2329, 2331, 2333, 2335, 2337, 2339, 2341, 2343, 2345, 2347, 2349, 2351, 2353, 2355, 2357, 2359, 2361, 2363, 2365, 2367, 2369, 2371, 2373, 2375, 2377, 2379, 2381, 2383, 2385, 2387, 2389, 2391, 2393, 2395, 2397, 2399, 2401, 2403, 2405, 2407, 2409, 2411, 2413, 2415, 2417, 2419, 2421, 2423, 2425, 2427, 2429, 2431, 2433, 2435, 2437, 2439, 2441, 2443, 2445, 2447, 2449, 2451, 2453, 2455, 2457, 2459, 2461, 2463, 2465, 2467, 2469, 2471, 2473, 2475, 2477, 2479, 2481, 2483, 2485, 2487, 2489, 2491, 2493, 2495, 2497, 2499, 2501, 2503, 2505, 2507, 2509, 2511, 2513, 2515, 2517, 2519, 2521, 2523, 2525, 2527, 2529, 2531, 2533, 2535, 2537, 2539, 2541, 2543, 2545, 2547, 2549, 2551, 2553, 2555, 2557, 2559, 2561, 2563, 2565, 2567, 2569, 2571, 2573, 2575, 2577, 2579, 2581, 2583, 2585, 2587, 2589, 2591, 2593, 2595, 2597, 2599, 2601, 2603, 2605, 2607, 2609, 2611, 2613, 2615, 2617, 2619, 2621, 2623, 2625, 2627, 2629, 2631, 2633, 2635, 2637, 2639, 2641, 2643, 2645, 2647, 2649, 2651, 2653, 2655, 2657, 2659, 2661, 2663, 2665, 2667, 2669, 2671, 2673, 2675, 2677, 2679, 2681, 2683, 2685, 2687, 2689, 2691, 2693, 2695, 2697, 2699, 2701, 2703, 2705, 2707, 2709, 2711, 2713, 2715, 2717, 2719, 2721, 2723, 2725, 2727, 2729, 2731, 2733, 2735, 2737, 2739, 2741, 2743, 2745, 2747, 2749, 2751, 2753, 2755, 2757, 2759, 2761, 2763,