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LINK WITH THE PAST - - The quaint and ancient festival of Rushbearing at Ambleside filmed for the first time.

-Westmorland-

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Picture:-

One of the oldest, if not the oldest, customs kept up in Britain is Rushbearing.

From 1400 up to the present day, people of Ambleside have gathered in the--

--old Market Place, having first gathered the Rushes. One--
--item in the Church Record of 1680 is for--
--ale bestowed on those who brought rushes 1/-. Either
few--
--bought rushes, or 1/- bought a lot of ale in those
days.

The rushes are taken into the Church and strewed about the--

--aisle. Some say it's a religious ceremony. Others say they were originally put down to keep--

--worshippers feet warm. Anyway, the kiddies --
--get a ginger cake. So why worry ! They don't !