HERE'S TO 1954

Down at Bournemouth where it's never very cold anyhow the Spartan Club of all the year round bathers held a New Year's Eve dance at the Regina Court Hotel. The Mayor, Mr. Harry Mears, was present. At 11.40. off came the motley, revealing that the Spartans were all set to swim the old year out and the New Year in. At the signal of a toast by the Mayor on came Father Time looking just like Old Moore ~~for his last performance in 1953~~, to lead the hardy bathers down to the sea. It may be that theory's right about the sea being surprisingly warm at this time of year, so it is ~~but it's amazing that so few people go in and try it.~~ ~~Father Time was on the way out anyhow; he had got nothing to lose, but~~ as the civic year still has some time to run the Mayor had to stay on dry land. ~~These public officers always have dirty images.~~ In a few seconds poor old 1953 ~~(alias Father Time)~~ went down for the third time. Out of the waves, up came little 1954 and it was Happy New Year.

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Highlight of London revels was the Chelsea Arts' Ball. 5,000 people got into fancy dress at the Albert Hall and anybody who thinks that the English can't let themselves go and have a good time should have been there.

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Now it really was the New Year. 1954 was born, signal as always at the Chelsea Arts to bring in the floats and wreck them.

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The great advantage of fancy dress is that it needn't cost you much. a nice warm drink by a fire, A grand time all round and all the best for the New Year.