

Liverpool Catholic Ramblers' Association



75th Anniversary

SOUVENIR NEWSLETTER



1927 - 2002

Celebrated with a Dinner and Dance
at Devonshire House Hotel,
Edge Lane, Liverpool
on Saturday, 16th November, 2002

Grace

MENU

*Thick Country Vegetable Soup
with Roll & Butter.*

*Supreme of Chicken Forestiere
with Shallots, Mushrooms, Smoked Bacon,
Wood Herbs & Red Wine.*

OR

*Roast Leg of Lamb in a Mushroom & Rosemary Sauce,
Served with Roast Potatoes, New Potatoes, Chateaux Potatoes,
& Selection of Fresh Vegetables.*

*Or Vegetarian dish:- Mushroom Stroganoff & Rice
With a selection of Fresh Vegetables*

Lemon Cheesecake with Pouring Cream.

OR

Fresh Apple Pie with Pouring Cream.

Freshly Ground Coffee & Mints.



Toast List

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN,
THE DUKE OF LANCASTER

Proposed by TOM REILLY
Chairman of the Association

THE LIVERPOOL CATHOLIC RAMBLERS' ASSOCIATION

Proposed by DAVE NEWNS
A Vice-President of the Association

Response by WILL HARRIS
Treasurer of the Association

OUR GUESTS

Proposed by CHRIS DOBBIN
President of the Association

Response by the Rev Fr MICHAEL GAINE



President's reflections

THE ASSOCIATION reaches another milestone in its ever-expanding history as we celebrate its 75th Birthday. As one who has been a member for well over half of those seventy-five years, I can recall joining in similar noteworthy celebrations, and I have never ceased to marvel at the fact that an organisation which sprang from such humble beginnings, has continued to survive down the years. Its foundations were built in 1927 on a small number of young people whose common denominator was that they were Liverpool Catholics with a love of the countryside, and we are now, arguably, one of the oldest Catholic organisations in the Liverpool Archdiocese.



I recall joining the Association in the late 1950's, being attracted initially, it must be said, by the Tennis Section, which was based at Lance Grove, Wavertree, behind the Cenacle Convent, and conveniently situated for me, at the bottom of my road.

It was a thriving Section of the Club, with a full membership of 50, embracing two courts. Ladies and Gents teams were entered in the Liverpool Group Tennis League, and many happy hours of Social tennis were enjoyed there, including American Tournaments followed by a Social Evening with refreshments provided by the ladies of the Tennis Club. The Club was obliged to give up the courts in the early 1970's when they were required for building purposes and the Section folded.

The Club held weekly Socials in Cathedral Buildings, Brownlow Hill; at the time, dancing being to records, with tea and biscuits provided in the interval. A Committee Room was also available.

The Socials were well attended, the Christmas Parties being particularly memorable, for which occasions we were allowed to decorate the room. On one occasion, thick fog descended on the evening, resulting in an attendance of seven. The ladies of the Club provided the refreshments for these occasions, very often conveying cakes, sandwiches and home-made trifles on Public Transport, and even fog on that night didn't prevent at least one trifle getting through to the valiant seven.

We left Cathedral Buildings in 1967, and there followed a series of venues for the weekly gathering, and at the same time, waltzes, quick-steps and Country Dancing, gave way to Discos, as tastes changed.

Rambling prospered in those times, mostly by Public Transport supplemented by one Coach Ramble per month. I remember in particular, the annual Yuletide Walk, Hot Pot and Barn Dance, which took place for many years at Rivington Barn. We graduated from records to a Country Dance Band and Caller over the years, and these occasions took on a reunion atmosphere, as former members brought along their families.

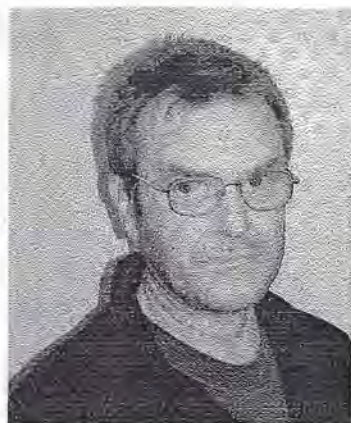
The Club also had a Football Team operating in the Liverpool Central Amateur League, playing at Calderstones Park. I recall taking the team and supporters twice a year between 1958 and 1968 to play the Montfort Fathers Students at their Scholasticate at Church Stretton. These were marvellous days out in scenic Shropshire surroundings, and the game was followed by Benediction, tea and a Concert given by the Students.

These are just a few memories of over 40 years with the Association. I have made many friends through it, and I would like to pay tribute to all those who down the years have served the Association on the Committee.

At this time, I think we should particularly remember such stalwarts as Fred Norbury, Cyril Kelly, Gerry Penlington and Harold Burns who made contributions to the continuity in the conduct of its affairs, an ingredient which has been so vital in enabling the Association to celebrate its 75th Birthday.

I offer my sincere congratulations to the Association at this time. Long may it continue to give pleasure to all its present members, and to those who are to come after us.

Chris Dobbins
President



From our Chairman

AS current Chairman of the LCRA, it is my pleasure to write the introductory note for this anniversary souvenir newsletter.

I could mention about the changes that have taken place over the years, the advancement of technology and the effect it has had on the meaning of the club, but I would rather cut to the chase and give a justly-earned vote of thanks to the General Committee, many of whom have been on the said Committee for the past five or more years. Rain, hail or shine, they have attended the monthly meetings with most of them also appearing at our weekly Thursday club nights at the Ship and Mitre. Their support and enthusiasm for social events

and Sunday rambles has been crucial to the club being able to keep such an unrelenting calendar.

The Committee, as in past committees, can only be described as a dedicated group who are unselfish with their time and who believe in promoting what is best for our club.

I could not fail to mention the effect the Foot and Mouth outbreak had on the club last year. We had, like every other club and organisation that used the countryside, our programme of walks abruptly halted. So the Committee quickly held an emergency meeting, and what could only be called a battle plan was implemented, and trips to York and Chester

were interspaced with local canal walks, city park walks, inner city footpaths, everything and anything was done. Incidentally, the trip to York was such a success that we have now repeated it in our latest programme.

In conclusion, I would like to welcome our Guests of Honour tonight, and thank members old and new for attending. Finally, we must thank Mike Riley and the Sub-Committee for organising what I hope will be a memorable celebratory LCRA 75th Anniversary Dinner Dance. May God Bless you, may your kagoul keep you dry and your boots never leak.

Tom Reilly

AS EDITOR of this anniversary souvenir newsletter, I have been searching our archives for information. One amusing fact was that in our early days, a member was banned from the club for walking into a public house during a ramble and consuming a glass of beer. That wouldn't happen today without the leader's permission. And if the leader did give permission, hardly anyone would walk into the pub - no, there would be a stampede to get inside, especially if it was raining! Anyway, the man was reinstated later, after apologising.

In an effort to cut expensive printing costs on glossy paper, we have produced this souvenir ourselves. I was a bit concerned about how the photographs would print, but was reassured: "Don't worry, we can use a digital camera transferred onto disc." The result is a bit disappointing but I must point out that the colour originals were much better, and thanks to Peter Ramejkis for taking the photographs.

My very brief history is that I joined the Association a year before our 40th Anniversary. I was already leading walks at the time with the Warrington Ramblers and had just booked my first Alpine skiing holiday with them, but my subsequent skiing trips were all with the LCRA.

After I joined the committee I was privileged to rub shoulders with Fred Norbury, the last of our founder members, who was vice-president at the time. My memories are of crowded newsletter meetings at his house, with his wife

serving refreshments (when Eric Kavanagh was editor following on from Gerry Penlington). Fred was also interested in the Tennis Section, off Lance Lane, Wavertree. Living nearby, he used to tend to the little garden plots alongside our two courts. Sadly, Fred died a few years later, so we introduced a trophy in his memory, presented annually to a worthy club member.

Anyway, there's a lot more of the club's archive information inside these pages that I'm sure will interest everyone.

Dave Newns



Selected memories since the last big blast

WELL, here we are, just five years on from our Seventieth Anniversary blast at the Adelphi, and haven't those few years flown by? So let's just jog our memories over that period.

Now, in addition to our weekly rambles, we can't forget those memorable weekends spent at youth hostels or guest houses, the most recent being at the Eskdale hostel, many doing Scafell Pike in fine weather. In the spring we stayed at Lakeside House, Keswick, which has been popular over many years.

The first big holiday abroad was in 1998, when about 30 of us 'invaded' the mountains of southern Poland, commanded by Dave Dickel and Mike Riley. Then, a bit nearer to home, Bob Carney organised a Scottish trip when 30 of us had a choice of tough scrambles or scenic walks around the Torridon hostel via Loch Lomond and Glen Nevis (many also conquering Ben Nevis) in May 2000.

New Year trips to the massive Ambleside hostel overlooking Lake Windermere were started four years ago by Dave Dickel and 32 of us celebrated the Millennium there - the magic moment being when about 200 hostellers gathered by the jetty to watch a midnight cascade of fireworks launched from the high fells on the far side of the lake.

Then we all remember the nasty hiccup in mid-February 2001 when the Foot and Mouth outbreak forced us to suspend our planned walks. However, like the Windmill, 'we never closed' but quickly adapted to walking along canal paths, etc. We also walked around the Walls of Chester and York.

We noted that one of the first places to reopen was Snowdon, and we took a coach there on May 20th. Then other areas were soon declared free and in a few months our usual rambles were back.

For keeping our ship afloat during that arduous F&M period and ensuring the club's smooth

continuity over the past five years and indeed, over the past 75 years, we have to recognise the selfless efforts put in by our officers, committees and our walk leaders, including new leaders of recent years like Roy Fletcher, Lyn Perrow, Kevin Mulligan, 'Paco' and a few budding leaders raring to go.

Sadly, over the past five years, several members or past members have all done their last walk here on Earth. Two prominent names are Harold Burns, one of our long-serving officers of the Association, and also Bob Ramsey (who had a fatal heart attack on a ramble in 1999). Others were Monica O'Beirne, Tom McEvoy, Keith Scott, the wives of two of our members, and there may be a few others that we have overlooked. So may they all rest in peace.

It couldn't be predicted in our 50th Anniversary newsletter that we would, just two decades later, be walking in mountains behind the (*then*) Iron Curtain. Well, we've done that - been there, got the T-shirts. Now where do we go from here?

Some of our newer members, without their specs, must have slightly misread our LCRA title as SAGA! But it's a fact that our membership is - how can we put this - getting more mature in its age profile than in the past. But surprisingly, some of our over-60's prefer the more strenuous walks!

We can't disinvent television but we can spread the word that getting out on Sunday rambles keeps you younger. We are now being more bold in our advertising and plan to get our message on local radio as well. So our new slogan could well be - 'The LCRA is good for your health!' *Dav-roy*



A RECENT RAMBLE - 'C' Party on Cat Bells walk above Derwentwater

A recent ramble - or Last of the Summer Wine

GRIMEWATCH (with a 'G') operating near Sid's Cafe in Holmfirth, were anxious to locate three men who were missing from the 'C' party at an inn near Saddleworth Moor on a wet murky evening. These two photofits are said to be a good resemblance.

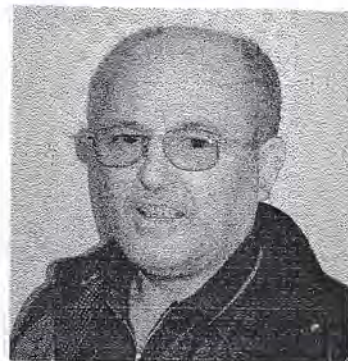
The third man isn't shown for digital reasons, but when he was located later, he had his foot strapped up - blamed it on a Cossack on the moor. (*Sorry, this should read tussock*). However, this man described as Dave D, thinks he will be at the Ambleside hostel at New Year as usual.

Ray Mc (pictured right) is often seen walking up and down the coach, extracting money from people and writing names in a book, but Will Harris did it on this occasion.

Ray has also been seen jotting down minutes at our committee meetings and also poses as the auctioneer at our Bring and Buy sales, but is best known for leading many walks - a number of which could be described as 'unforgettable!' - this one included. Full walk description: Boggy. The End.

Mike Riley (pictured right) has since been doing strange things such as popping into Devonshire House and counting tables. He was also spotted nibbling cheese alongside Tom Reilly at the club's monthly cheese and wine nights at the Ship & Mitre. Mike says he's OK but has also been seen grinning, holding up extra large playing cards from a board and shouting "Higher or lower?" on some club nights. Claims to be our Social Chairman.

If you spot any of these men, don't ring us, we'll ring you.



What was it our founders said about sharing our mutual enjoyment of the countryside?



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NOSTALGIC MILESTONES



These are merely snapshots from the Association's full 75-year history

Largest attendance was in the late 1930's when 98 went on a walk to Caerwrlle, near Wrexham - just one leader - no 'A' or 'B' walks then! There were often 50 to 60 on a walk. World War II stopped us rambling for over five years, but we survived where many other Catholic rambling clubs didn't.

- 1927 After a few preliminary meetings, our first AGM was held in July. Annual subscription one shilling.
- 1928 Membership soared to over 110. Ramble reminders were sent to members by individual postcards.
- 1929 First printed rambling programmes were supplied to members.
- 1933 Joint walks with other Catholic rambling clubs commenced.
- 1935 Club's first Football Team was formed at Queen's Drive, Stoneycroft.
- 1936 YHA holiday in Ireland. Club's Tennis Section formed, but using public courts at Newsham Park.
- 1938 Tennis Section moved to Cherry Lane, Walton, but short-lived with the intervention of the war.
- 1940 Last pre-war social held in an air-raid shelter as clubroom was badly damaged by bombs.
- 1940 No rambles during the war but a small nucleus of members held quarterly meetings and maintained contact by corresponding to many members called up to serve overseas.
- 1945 First post-war social held in October at St Oswald's Hall, Old Swan, and rambling resumed.
- 1946 Tennis Section revived, first at The White Sisters Convent in Sefton Park, then at Garden View, West Derby. Newsletter resumed publication in June. Membership was 46.
- 1948 Football Section resumed. Twenty-first anniversary dinner and dance held at Reece's Cafe with Archbishop Halsall presiding.
- 1952 Clubroom moved to Cathedral Buildings, Brownlow Hill. Netball Section formed (short-lived?).
- 1955 Thriving Tennis Club (50 members) moved to Lance Grove, Wavertree where many successful years were spent with organised dances and American Tournaments for everyone in the LCRA.
- 1957 First of 38 years of Yuletide Walks at Rivington Barn. Many previous Yuletide venues were varied.
- 1959 First of a decade of trips to Church Stretton for football and a social at the De Montfort College.
- 1966 Groups within the club now booking skiing holidays to Austria and Italy almost annually until 1990.
- 1967 Changed clubrooms from Cathedral Buildings to Design Centre, Hope Street, triggering a change of clubrooms every three years on average. Metropolitan Cathedral opened on May 14th.
- 1968 Seven of our young lady members tragically killed in an air crash on way to Austrian walking holiday.
- 1970 Family Section formed with approval of General Committee. Orienteering introduced in the club.
- 1972 Fred Norbury, last of our active founder members, and a popular vice-president, died suddenly.
- 1973 Sad demise of the Tennis Section as land was sold for building on. Some joined another tennis club.
- 1976 Cyril Kelly, another stalwart, and vice-president, died. Joining in 1934, he was chairman for 11 years.
- 1982 Club thought we'd found ideal clubrooms at Atlantic House, Hardman Street, holding dances on two open-plan floors. Memorable Christmas/New Year buffets there. Sadly, we had to move out in 1985.
- 1990 New influx of 'mature' members and a sudden demand for regular 'C' walks.
- 1992 Family Section renamed to be called the Seniors' Section and a new young Family Section formed.
- 1995 End of an era of 38 years of Yuletide Walks, Hot-pot and Dancing at Rivington Barn.
- 1997 Gerard Penlington, a vice-president, died, after over 50 years service in many roles, including a record of 36 years as treasurer of the club.
- 1998 Chris Dobbin was elected as first lay-President (some of our Archbishops presiding in the past). Some 30 members went to Zakopane in southern Poland, walking in the Tatra Mountains.
- 2000 Millennium weekend celebrated at Ambleside Youth Hostel by about 32 members. A spring holiday in hostels at Loch Lomond, Glen Nevis, Torridon and Edinburgh, attracted 30 members.
- 2001 Foot and Mouth outbreak stopped our normal walks in mid-February for several months but we utilised by planning local walks on permitted paths and outings to Chester and York.

Snapshots of our early years

Sun 19 Oct 1930: HUYTON. Meet at Woolton Tram Terminus 2.30pm. Leader Tom Marquess

Sat 6 Dec 1930: HALEWOOD. Meet at Bowring Tram Terminus 3pm. Leader Mr F. Harvey

Sat 10 Oct 1931: HOUGH GREEN (10 miles). Meet at Woolton Tram Terminus 2.45pm

Sun 6 Dec 1931: BURTON (20 miles). Full day ramble. Meet at Royal Liver Buildings 10.30am

Sun 17 Jan 1932: PEX HILL (14 miles). Full day ramble. Meet at Woolton Tram Terminus 11am

Sun 14 Feb 1932: DUNKIRK (16 miles). Full day ramble. Meet at Royal Liver Buildings 10.30am

Sat 18 Mar 1933: RETREAT. Gent's, Loyola Hall, 12/6d. Ladies, Cenacle Convent, 6/6d.

Nov 5 1933: PARBOLD. Joint ramble with Preston Catholic Ramblers. See Press notices

Jan 14 1934: SIMONSWOOD. Meet at West Derby Tram Terminus 2.30pm. Leader Fred Norbury

Aug 9 1936: MAM TOR and CASTLETON. Meet at Central Station 9.45am (Fare 4/-)

In the early years, ferries across the Mersey were used regularly to link up with trains or buses. Bookings weren't necessary. Often large numbers turned up for Bank Holiday Monday rambles, example: to Caergwrle by boat and train when 98 people turned up! Trains had more carriages then,



"I know you said that he'd got strong legs for walking but you didn't tell me he couldn't swim!"

RAMBLING PROGRAMME, 1950/1951

1950/1	To	Time	From	App. Cost	Leader
Oct. 29	Hatchmere	10 am	Pier Head	2/6	C. Collins
Nov. 5	Badgers Rake (Benediction)	10-15 am	Pier Head	1/2	M. Walsh
„ 12	Carr Mill Dam	2 pm	Russell St.	2/-	M. Roberts
„ 19	Trevalyn Meadows	10-15 am	Pier Head	2/6	B. Tracey
„ 26	Abergele	9-15 am	Lime St. Stn.	6/3	B. Edwards
Dec. 3	Woodchurch	2 pm	Pier Head	1/-	B. Edwards
„ 10	Scarth Hill (Benediction)	11 am	Exchange Stn.	1/4	M. Roberts
„ 17	Yuletide Walk and Treasure Hunt	2 pm	Pier Head	1/-	Rambling Committee
Jan. 7	Caldy Hill (Benediction)	2-15 pm	Pier Head	1/-	J. Stewart
„ 14	Eaton Hall	10-20 am	Pier Head	2/6	M. Bundy
„ 21	Rhydymwyn	10 am	Pier Head	4/-	B. Tracy
27/28	Carrog Weekend	Full details later			Ramb. Comm.
Feb. 4	Weaver Valley	9-15 am	Lime St. Stn.	2/9	M. Walsh
„ 11	Winter Hill	10-15 am	Russell St.	3/5	B. Edwards
„ 18	Barnston Dale	2-15 pm	Pier Head	1/-	S. Macaulay
„ 25	Derbyshire Ramble	Full details later			
Mar. 4	Windle Hill (Benediction)	10-20 am	Pier Head	1/	F. Kane
„ 11	Llanfynydd	10 am	James St. Stn.	3/3	B. Tracey
„ 18	Noctorum	2-15 pm	Pier Head	1/-	P. Toes
23/26	Easter Chalet Weekend	Full details later			Ramb. Comm.
Apr. 1	Mystery Tour (Benediction)	10-45 am	Pier Head	1/3	Ramb. Comm.
„ 8	Delamere	9-15 am	Lime St. Stn.	2/9	F. Boyle
„ 15	Saighton	10-20 am	Pier Head	2/6	L. Constantine
„ 22	Irby Mill Hill	2-15 pm	Pier Head	1/-	F. Begley
„ 29	Rostherne Mere	10-30 am	Pier Head	3/-	J. Duncan

BENEDICTION RAMBLES

The Catholic side of the club was more in evidence until 1966 when, in addition to our Annual Mass and Retreats, we also had Benediction Rambles.

Members often called at a church about once a month at the end of (or during?) the walk for Benediction

To jog our memories, Benediction is a short service with set prayers called the Divine Praises, then a public Blessing by the priest and set hymns.

We also used to say the Rosary at the clubrooms once a month until we moved into licensed premises in the 1970's.

OUR FULL 75 YEARS' HISTORY

THE SEEDS were sown when a small group of young Liverpool Catholic men including Tom Marquess, our first chairman, and the Norbury brothers (all no longer with us) along with friends in St Oswald's and the Catholic Social Guild, discussed the idea of starting a Catholic Holiday Guild. After several meetings at the Norbury home, the first general meeting was held on 8th July 1927, at the Father Berry Homes in Shaw Street. A clubroom was later rented at Wood Street.

Archbishop Keating was then approached and he readily gave his consent and blessing for the club.

Twelve months later, over 110 members had joined. A small group spent a week's holiday at Hope, in Derbyshire, but the main activity was the rambles with 12 being held that summer. So, the title was then altered to the Catholic Holiday Guild and Ramblers' Association, but finally changed to the Liverpool Catholic Ramblers' Association.

By 1930, rambles were held on the first Saturday and the third Sunday of each month, but only 18 months later we started weekly rambles but still on alternate Saturdays and Sundays. Then just a few Wednesday rambles were tried but were unsuccessful. Finally, in the summer of 1934, weekly Sunday rambles were launched, some half-day and others full day rambles.

The years between 1930-35 also evidenced an expansion of other activities, main ones being a Tennis Section and a Football Section, also choirs, piano concert parties, theatre visits and a library, etc.

In 1935 expanding membership forced the move to St Sebastian's Hall where we had previously held dances. Monthly Benediction was introduced at these new clubrooms and included at the end of selected walks which prevailed until 1966.

With the outbreak of World War II, most club activities were ceased by 1940. However, a small nucleus of members met quarterly, organised the occasional dance, and the ladies kept up a continuous correspondence with the men who were stationed on active service. Rambles were finally resumed shortly after the war.

In the club's earlier years we had many joint walks with other Catholic rambling clubs from St Helens, Preston, Chester, Bolton, Manchester and other areas. Most of those clubs seem to have folded now, but the Newcastle area still have a Catholic walking group and we keep in touch with some of their members through Lakeside House at Keswick.

Our 21st Anniversary saw a dinner dance at Reece's Cafe with Archbishop Halsall presiding.

The Cathedral Buildings in Brownlow Hill became our regular clubrooms between 1952-1967. Our Tennis and Football Sections were quite strong at that time but sadly folded up in the early 70's.

After moving from Brownlow Hill, our organised dancing and games were gradually phased out in preference to the (then) younger generation of members favouring discos, lasting until the late 80's.

We kept our country dance sessions alive at the annual Yuletide Walk and Hot Pot at Rivington

Barn, where in 1977, we had a record crowd of almost 250 (including children of members). Sadly, our barn dances lost popularity in recent years.

In 1949, 'A' and 'B' walks were instituted but this was met with some opposition at first. Some coach trips were also introduced. About that time, holidays and weekends at the Ramblers' Association chalet at Meashafn became popular.

Small groups also started continental walking holidays. We also started annual trips to Snowdon but it wasn't until the 60's that we tried other peaks in Snowdonia, and with road improvements, the Lake District could also be reached for a day's ramble. We had already commenced biannual guest house weekends at Keswick.

After moving from the Cathedral Buildings in 1967, the General Section of the club have had a nomadic clubroom existence, moving to different premises roughly every three years with Atlantic House being the most memorable venue. Gradually our Thursday discos were dropped in favour of the current Thursday social scene of quizzes, cheese and wine nights, bring and buy nights, etc.

In the late 60's, coach use became more frequent and we travelled greater distances. Then in 1970, many members with young children elected to form their own section of the club, using cars for their walks and holding monthly house meetings. They called themselves the Family Section for many years, but in 1992 (after a younger Family Section was born - lasting for about 7 years) they changed to their present title of the Seniors' Section.

During the 70's and 80's most General Section members were under 40 years old, enjoying caravan and camping weekends, plus many Lakeside House weekends (including dancing in the cellar). Small groups within the club were organising skiing holidays to Austria and Italy and summer holidays.

Then around 1990, the average age of new members rose and 'C' walks were planned on a more regular basis, soon to become the largest group for many walks. Hostel weekends quickly replaced caravan and camping weekends, but the occasional guest house weekend still proves to be popular.

Ensuring the LCRA's continuity was mainly due to three dedicated stalwarts, namely Fred Norbury, the last of the founder-members, serving for 45 years on the committee until his death in 1972 when he was a vice-president, also Cyril Kelly (42 years service, including 11 years as chairman, died 1976) and the late Gerard Penlington (over 50 years service including 36 years as Treasurer) who sadly died in May, 1997. *Archives research by Dave Newns*

The Ups and Downs of Rambling

TRYING to look back over the 75 years of the Association can be quite a mind-blowing exercise.

I wonder if the first thoughts of those early pioneers were how they could recruit more members, find more leaders, find interesting venues and how the Club would fare over the next few years.

Looking back at some of the old programmes, you can see the walks had to take public transport into consideration, with car ownership still in its infancy. A large number of venues were of a local nature, but ambition was shown with the use of trains to more far away places.



I have in my possession some old minutes and statistics going back to the 60's and 70's. These show that the Association had a thriving social side, but some difficulties filling the coaches for the walks. There are examples of monthly discos attracting between 80 and 100 people on a regular basis. This has now changed with more attending walks than the social evenings. I feel nowadays there is a lot more choice and competition on the social front.

Another change affecting us is that the world is regarded as shrinking as people are able to travel farther a field and take more holidays. No longer is the two-week summer holiday the norm. Nowadays some members take 3 or 4 holidays per year and this can affect the walks with members often unavailable.

When we attend committee meetings, we have to deal with the problems of low turnouts and what to do to encourage social gatherings, but I expect the same problems have always existed, and a cycle of different people have found solutions over the years. A cycle, which has helped the Association reach the grand old age of Seventy-Five.

Times are changing. Today we have the advantages of increased car ownership, better access to the countryside, and far superior equipment than that used when the Association started.

With that in mind, all we have to do is recruit more members, find more leaders, find interesting venues and see how the Club fares over the next few years.

Oh, and after this year, we really deserve some decent weather. It never rains...

PS. I would like to pass on my personal thanks to all those who have helped in creating this special event, and also those who have made it possible by attending and by supporting the Association over the years.

Thank You,

Will Harris

Rambling Chairman



COMMITTEE 2001/2002

Back L to R: Ray McIntosh, Mike Riley, Dave Newns, Will Harris, Tony Bond. *Front:* Brenda Horan, Helen Riley, Tom Reilly (Chairman), Chris Harris, Richie Canon, Mary Hurley, Chris Dobbin (President). Not pictured are Mona Roberts, Pat McIntosh, Ken Regan, Roy Fletcher, Bob Hughes and Robbie Franks

Past Chairmen and Chairwomen

1927 T. Marquess	1951 M. Walsh	1968 B. J. Manley	1986 Miss A. Platt
1928 T. Marquess	1952 W. J. Roberts	1969 D. Titherington	1987 P. Healy
1929 W. G. Smith	1953 W. J. Roberts	1970 D. Titherington	1988 P. Healy
1930 T. Marquess	1954 C. Kelly	1971 D. Newns	1989 Miss B. Doyle
1931 T. Marquess	1955 C. Kelly	1972 D. Newns	1990 Miss B. Doyle
1932 J. F. Harvey	1956 C. Kelly	1973 D. Newns	1991 Miss B. Doyle
1933 T. Joyce	1957 C. Kelly	1974 J. Clarke	1992 Miss B. Lyons
1934 J. F. Harvey	1958 C. Kelly	1975 J. Clarke	1993 Miss B. Doyle
1935 T. Joyce	1959 C. Kelly	1976 F. Mullin	1994 Miss B. Doyle
1936 J. F. Harvey	1960 C. Kelly	1977 Miss P. Unsworth	1995 Miss B. Doyle
1937 J. F. Harvey	1961 C. Kelly	1978 Mrs L. Clarke	1996 Miss B. Doyle
1938 J. F. Harvey	1962 C. Kelly	1979 Miss M. McDonnell	1997 Miss B. Doyle
1939/45 J. F. Harvey	1963 C. Kelly	1980/81 Vacant	1998 Miss B. Doyle
1946 T. Inight	1964 C. Kelly	1982 P. Stevens	1999 T. Reilly
1947 F. C. Norbury	1965 C. Dobbin	1983 P. Stevens	2000 T. Reilly
1948 F. C. Norbury	1966 C. Dobbin	1984 D. Newns	2001 T. Reilly
1949 F. C. Norbury	1967 B. J. Manley	1985 D. Newns	2002 T. Reilly
1950 G. Penlington			

Archive gems - 1930's: On all full day rambles bring two meals; on half-day rambles, one meal. Time on programme, quarter-of-an-hour before departure of boat. 1935: Oct 29th CRANK: Meet at Pierhead Tram Terminus, No.10 tram 2 pm, St Helens Tram Terminus, 3 pm - Leader Miss Powell. Through Fare 7d. 1931: Dec 6th BURTON: (20 miles). Meet Liver Buildings 10.30 am (*How did they do 20 miles in December? They must have been walking in the dark for about three hours!!*) Nov 15th NESTON: (18 miles)