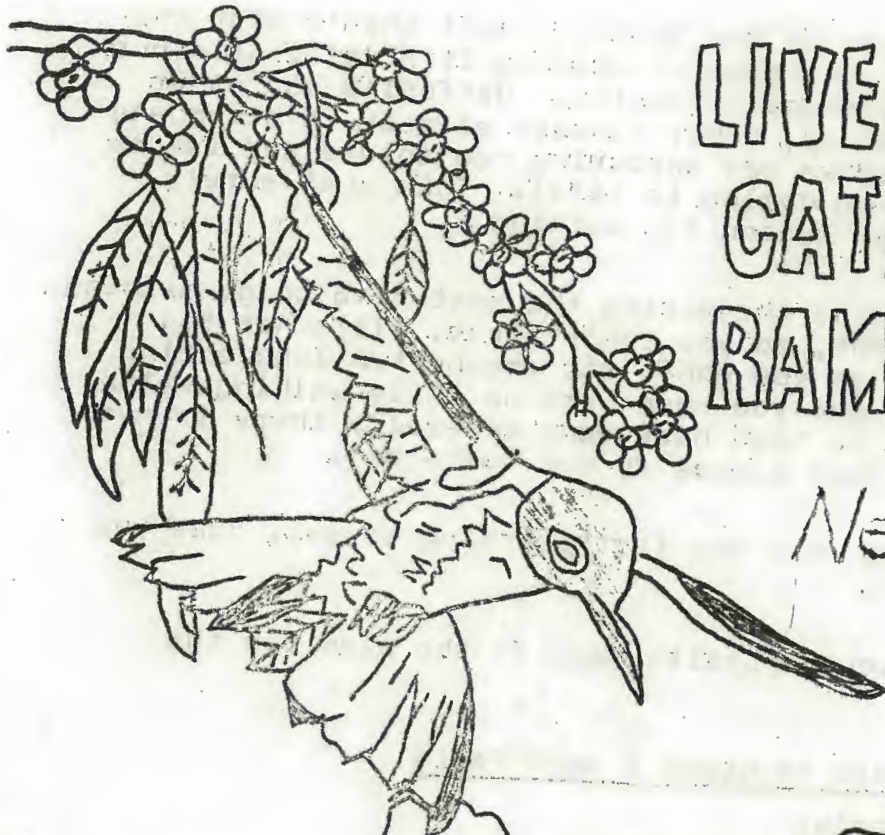


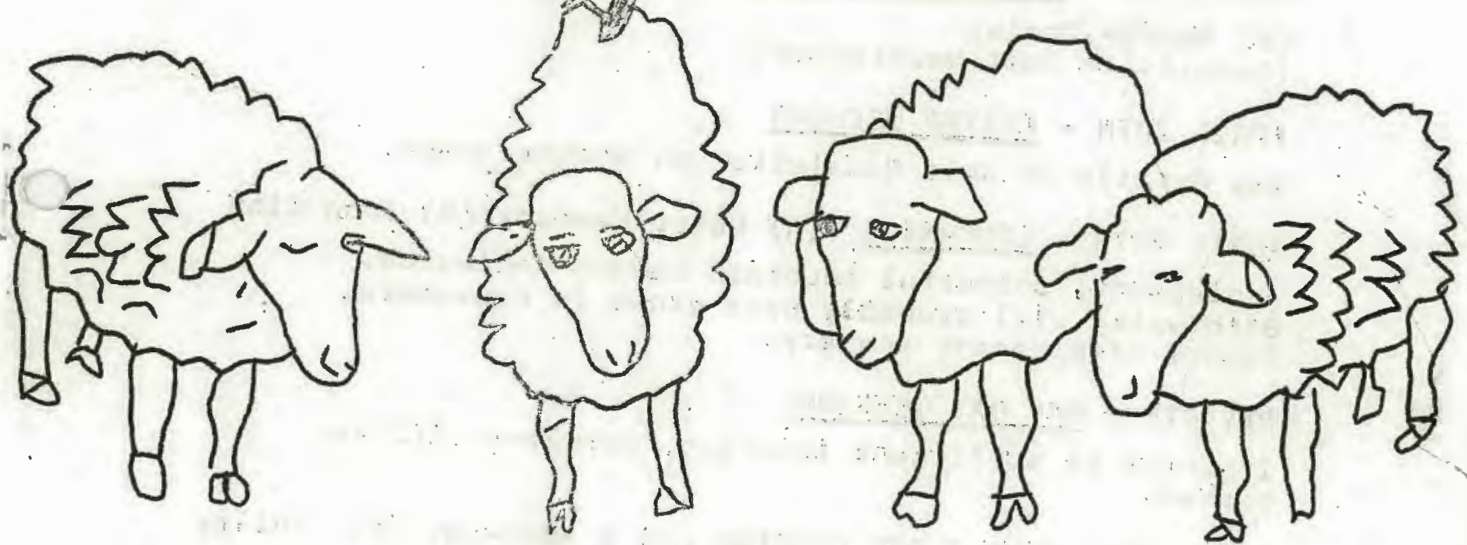
Pete



LIVERPOOL CATHOLIC RAMBLERS

Newsletter

SPRING ISSUE
No. 118



R A M B L E R I T E

Hello again,

Well here we are in the Spring! Well that's what the calendar said. At time of writing it's still cold but there are some signs of Spring. Daffodils and other flowers popping up, other flowers already in bloom and even the hedgerows are sprouting new shoots and leaves (the countryside coming to life). This must surely point to a good season for walking.

I personally find the Spring the best time to go walking. It's not too hot, so you don't sweat. It's not too cold, as long as you don't sit around too long eating your butties, and you soon warm up while walking. The air is clear, no heat hazes and generally there is not so much rain (but please do not quote me).

That leaves me only one further thing to say, "See you on the coach".

Just to wet your appetite here is the plan for the future:-

APRIL 8TH - PEN YR OLWEN & ABER FALLS

(B) Martin Dooley
(Details in last Newsletter).

APRIL 20TH - EASTER WEEKEND

See details in this Newsletter on another page.

APRIL 29TH - LOUGHRIGG (A) Peter Kennedy (B) John Gibb

A pleasant, colourful mountain beyond Ambleside. Both walks will probably pass close to Grassmere. Plenty of pleasant scenery.

MAY 4TH - MAY DAY WEEKEND

If there is sufficient interest, caravans will be booked.

MAY 13TH - FIVE 3,000 FOOTERS (A) A Brockway (B) G Riley

Do not be put off by the title, only the 'A' walk will visit all five summits. George will be taking the easy route, going up one of the Glyders depending upon the weather.

Continued.

MAY 20TH - We will be organizing a car ramble to Kentmere if there is sufficient response. Kentmere is an unspoilt area of the Lake District with limited access, the area is east of Ambleside and rises up to approximately 2,500 feet at High Street.

MAY 25 - 28TH - THE FOURTEEN PEAKS (Committee)

The Fourteen peaks are all over 3,000 feet and are linked by a 26 mile walk. Starting on Snowdon and finishing at Aber. As can be seen from the above plan, much of the walk will have already been tackled so come out and get a taste of the route and see if you fancy trying the fourteen.

ANTHONY BROCKWAY
Rambling Chairman

SPEND YOUR EASTER WITH THE L.C.R.A

LUXURY 6-BERTH CARAVANS, costing about £10 per person, have been booked at Glan Gwna Holiday Park, near Caernarvon. They are superbly situated in 200 acres of river, woods and fields with a shower and toilet in each caravan plus coloured TV! All within close proximity to Snowdonia and the Isle of Anglesey.

The club have stayed here several times. I particularly remember climbing Snowdon a few Easter's ago when, after Mass in Caernarvon, we drove the few miles to the back end of Snowdon. As we ascended we were well rewarded by brilliant sunshine and the last of the Winter's snow glistening beneath us with tremendous views for miles around. When we arrived at the summit there were dozens of other delighted walkers, all basking in the Spring Alpine-like conditions, needing sunglasses to stop the glare of the snow (if you were lucky enough to have them with you). Let's hope we get a similar Easter this time.

Cars will be used to transport people up there, sharing the cost with the drivers. There is a takeaway cafeteria on the site but most of us usually cook communal meals in each caravan. The food obtained beforehand or from supermarkets in Caernarvon.

For full details and bookings see me, as soon as possible.

Dave Newns

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

I boarded the coach recently with the confidence that our leader would take us around the countryside without much trouble, but...

The walk started at the small village of Bollington about six miles north of Macclesfield. Soon the "A" party were off at a gallop, leaving the rest of us in the "B" party to wander at a more leisurely pace down a grey stone valley. We passed a house with a stream flowing underneath it. I suppose that's one way of collecting water for your tea without getting out of bed in the mornings!

A little farther on, we passed an inn called the Crown. An hour later we passed another inn with the same name. Was it possible that there were two inns with the same name so close together? I asked. Then I noticed the house with the stream. So we had walked a full circle in the last hour. Could it be that the leader was a bus driver? No, he wasn't. Anyway, there was only one thing to do now, and that was to go inside for some liquid refreshment.

Suitably refreshed, we left the Crown Inn and carried along the road where we soon passed the Cheshire Hunt Inn, where we saw the "A" party having break. Some were outside supping beer, the rest inside, so we gave them a wave and walked nonchalantly past, as if nothing had happened.

A little later, we sheltered from the wind behind a dry stone wall for our first butty-break. It was then I noticed a girl carrying a donkey with her. Not a whole donkey, just a few square feet of the poor animal. It had been made into a rucksack!

When we reached the top of the next hill, one of the ramblers pointed to some cattle in a field. We crowded around her to find that they were long-horned Highland cattle. One of the beasts grazing there suddenly ran towards me, as I thought of hot steaming haggis. I was now glad of the fence that kept us apart. Had we reached Scotland, I wondered? A quick word from our leader assured us we were south of the border.

Soon we reached a canal that blocked our progress and this gave us a chance to rest. We gazed at those cold brown waters that barred our way.

"Good afternoon. Nice weather?" The voice came from a man steering a brightly coloured barge with a box of tulips on top. He wore a long black coat with a wide-brimmed hat. His face matched the colour of his coat.

"Looking for a bridge?" he continued. "There's one back-aways," he said, pointing the way from where he had just come. We took his advice and followed the canal to bridge number 27, then to bridge 28, then back to bridge 27! - a pretty young girl with her grandfather had told us we had gone the wrong way. They waved to us from the comfort of their cabin-cruiser.

It was now only a short distance from the bridge to the coach where we were glad to take off our boots. The "A" party arrived later, then we sped to an olde worlde pub by the name of The Bear's Paw, near Warrington.

Did I enjoy the walk? Yes, even though we got lost more than once, and yes, I am looking forward to the next one, but I hope the walk will be pioneered next time!

S O C I A L I T E

Greetings fellow Socialites, Spring is upon us and winter hibernation is at an end. We have lots of happenings coming up to get you out and about.

Around seventy people came to the St. Valentine's Disco and eight brave souls who came in period costume were rewarded with a glass of wine. The Leap Year Disco was quieter than we hoped for. Not many ladies took the initiative. For those who missed it, we'll be having this event again in 1988.

Congratulations to the winning team of Kevin Bell's Quiz Night, Ann Connor, Bernie Lewis, Ann Nicholson and George Riley who were rewarded with a free drink at the bar. Many thanks to Kevin and Paul for taking the time and trouble to organise the competition. At the time of writing a skating night is planned for 30th March at Deeside Leisure Centre. Joan Finegan following intensive physiotherapy will again be giving lessons.

Planned for the future are the following events:-

Disco Night - 12th April. Professional disco and Late bar extension at Atlantic House. Come along and make it a good night. Admission £1.00.

Bavarian Night - 29th April. After last year's runaway success, this very popular event is being repeated. Late bar, Free wine, Fancy Dress (Bavarian Style) and traditional dancing. Admission £1.00. Details of a dance practise night will be available later.

Return to the Forbidden Planet - May (date to be arranged). This Science fiction, Rock and Roll Shakespearian musical was a sell out at the Everyman last Autumn. We hope to get a party together for this rerun. Should be better than Fireside Tales.

Wine Barge - 16th June. If you like food, wine, entertainment and good company, with the added bonus of the picturesque Lancashire countryside then put this date in your diary. The trip starts from Maghull on the Leeds - Liverpool Canal at 8.30 pm and lasts for three hours. Numbers are strictly limited so book early to avoid disappointment.

That's all the news for the moment, Angela and Pat are selling tickets for a Hoedown, an American style Barn Dance, to be held in Chorley. It's in aid of Hosanna House so give it your support.

(Continued overleaf

(Note: There will be NO CLUBNIGHT on MAUNDY THURSDAY)

Finally, many happy returns to Ann Nicholson for her recent 21st Birthday, which was celebrated at a Thursday Social with a cake and candles.

GEORGE RILEY, Social Chairman

* Last-minute News

It has just been revealed to us that our chairman, Paul Stevens, is about to leave us for a job in Penzance. He will be leaving at the end of April and already he is taking bookings for holidays down there later in the year. If you fancy a holiday in Penzance then Paul says he will be really pleased to see you and will probably be able to fix you up with modest accommodation at a later date this year.

Paul has been club chairman for 2½ years. I am sure that you will all join the committee in thanking him for chairing the club and wish him every success in his move to Penzance.

MOIRA HAMILTON had to be flown home from holiday in Italy on a stretcher recently after suspected gallstone trouble but after being operated on they now suspect a possible liver infection. She is still in hospital at Macclesfield near where she now lives. Her address is: 4 Nab Lane, Bollington, Macclesfield, Cheshire. We hope you will get well soon, Moira.

PALM SUNDAY is the day for the ANNUAL RETREAT (15th April). It is only a half-day retreat, starting at 2 p.m. at Sandymount, the Montfort Fathers Retreat House in Burbobank Road, Blundellsands. The cost is a modest £2.30 which includes afternoon tea. There will be Mass during the afternoon, and an opportunity for confession if anyone wishes to go.

Bookings can be made with Angela Platt or by contacting Chris Dobbin on 722-0621 or Mona Roberts (Family Section) on 733-2122. Directions to Sandymount will be given at the time of booking.

WINTER SPORTS HOLIDAY - EARLY 1985

For details please contact Dave Newns or Anthony Brockway as soon as possible. Group bookings are now so popular that we have to book as early as May for the following year!

STANDISH - HAIGH HALL. 11.3.84.

Sunday arrived, a lovely sunny morning, and we set out in very good spirits for Standish Parish Church. After our usual refreshments and when we were ready to set off, Mona discovered that she had come without her boots. What could we do? Tony did a quick scout round and there were plenty of spare socks to be had but no spare boots. Laura kindly offered her shoes which were more suitable for walking than Mona's own and, luckily, they weren't a bad fit, so off we went.

By this time the sun had decided to retire for the rest of the day. We left Standish behind and came out onto an open road, passing the old Heinz factory on the way. Crossing the Chorley road we followed a narrow track which led us to the Water Boad Reservoir. We made our way round the back of this and down onto a path alongside the river and, after crossing a bridge, eventually come out onto the Golf links. There were a few people playing golf so, keeping our heads low, we continued on our way. Down alongside the Canal and then onto another road led us into Haigh Hall Country Park owned by Wigan Corporation. Some preparations were going on here for the Summer season.

As we approached the Hall, down came the rain and we all ran for cover and a welcome buttie break in the covered porch entrance to the Hall. Some of us were lucky enough to find a seat and so dined in reasonable comfort. The rain showed no sign of stopping, so off we went again splashing our way through the park and down to the canal path again. The children had great fun jumping in all the puddles and splashing anyone unfortunate enough to be near them. At this point Ann Marie and Helen entertained us with a little song which they had made up on the way. We strolled on, and on coming to the end of the towpath, Jack decided to take a short cut back to Standish. Before long we were making our way through the Cemetery where there were some very old gravestones, some dating back as far as 1700.

Thanks, Jack and Sue, for a very nice walk. We hope Jack enjoyed his birthday as much as we did.

V.J.

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PROGRAMME.

1984.

APRIL 5TH.

The House Meeting is at the McDonalds'. 28 Ormonde Drive, Maghull. 8 p.m.ish.

APRIL 8TH.

The Sunday after the house meeting - please note. Its the BICKERTON WALK, led by Pat and Vera Jeffers. This is a 1 p.m. start. Meet at the Bickerton Poacher Inn around 12.30.

APRIL 15TH.

Here are the details again. It is to be given by the De Montforth Fathers at Sandymount House, Burbobank Road, Blundellsands. Mass will be said for us.

Cont'd.

We meet at 1.45 p.m. The retreat will start at 2 p.m. and finish at 6 p.m., after we've had tea. Cost £2.30. Names to Mona Roberts as soon as possible, please. It would make a good start to Holy Week.

MAY 7 3RD. The Potters will be at home to us at 91 Woodlands Road, Liverpool, 26. (Halewood).

MAY 13TH. LONGRIDGE FELL. Ignore your green programme for starting time. Its a 12.30 start. On the B6243 six miles from Longridge and going towards Clitheroe, turn left into village of Hurst Green. Park 200 yds. on right. Don't forget the 12.30 start. Peter and Marie are Leaders.

Ramble to Gathurst and Ashurst Beacon, 12.2.84. Noel and Angela's.

Sunday, 12th February, dawned fine and bright, though some -what cold - a perfect day for a winter ramble. We set out early, expecting to arrive first at Gathurst Station - but no, the McDonalds were there first again, and were already tucking into their second Course. Gathurst Station (closed to travellers on Sundays) was never so busy - choc-a-bloc with cars, especially when Phil and Mikki's van arrived! The Licensee of "The Salutation" won't forget the Liverpool Catholic Ramblers' visit to Gathurst either - so many visitors to the pub so early in the day!! Couldn't they have waited?

We set out, all 43 of us, plus dog, and soon got 'stuck in' to the walk - plenty of variety - across muddy fields, along country lanes, over the common at Ashurst Beacon - stopping to admire the view - skirting the golf course, through a self-sufficiency establishment (rather questionable) and finally returning through woods, with Phil Boardman a very gallant helper to some of the damsels in distress.

We all returned safe and sound. A lovely sunny day, a pleasant walk and we didn't need to use our torches after all. It was still daylight when we returned, pleasantly tired after out 8½ miles, with rather muddy boots and four muddy paws.

Mudlark.

P.S. Please don't send your boots to 74 Moss lane to be cleaned - Noel already has four pairs to attend to!!!

THE NEXT NEWSLETTER will appear in Mid-May. All material for inclusion should be given or sent to the editor, Dave Newns, 7 Abbots Way, Billinge, Wigan, Lancs. WN5 7SB.

~~XXX~~ FINAL REMINDER - There will be NO SOCIAL on MAUNDY THURSDAY