

(17) APRIL
1988

LIVERPOOL CATHOLIC RAMBLERS

Newsletter



Hello everyone,

Today's joint ramble to Grasmere starts off with a full coach and the 52 people who booked will be meeting up with the Family Section in Grasmere. Possibly some of the people on board may be out for their first time. I hope that you all enjoy yourselves with our club. Just a reminder that if you book any time for a ramble but find at the last minute that you can't make it, phone Brian or myself so that your seat can be taken by someone else, thanks.

The appeal for material for this newsletter which appears about once every seven weeks has met with some response this time and I would just like to thank all who contributed to this edition. Keep the articles and letters flooding in, thanks.

Any material for the next newsletter should be given to me as soon as possible so that I can get it typed, or, if you are in the Family Section, to Mona Roberts.

DAVE NEWNS

THE RAMBLERITE

Keswick Weekend - 11th-13th March at Lakeside House. Another enjoyable weekend with 31 members experiencing the excellent facilities and good food. Saturday's weather although cool was dry all day and both A and B walks were well supported. Dave Newns led a new A walk to the summit of Dale Head starting from Grange in Borrowdale via Nitting Haws by what he called an EASY ascent. Few who went would agree with him! Although we all enjoyed the scramble on this section of the supposedly Cumbria Way Dave said that it was the first time he had done that bit...and the last! recommending the Righead Quarries route as the better alternative above Rosthwaite. The B led by Paul Amundsen (who had travelled up from the South of England for the weekend) took in Watendlath and the River Derwent and more of a low-level walk. Both parties visited the Bowder Stone before starting the walks. A good-size car park is hidden from view of the main road round the back of this huge boulder about one-third of a mile south of Grange village (future leaders take note).

Saturday night at Lakeside House was the usual session of late night dancing, etc. Few people can remember much about this so it must have been a good night! Sunday was a miserable day with rain and snow and although the hardy went out walking the more sensible settled for a pub lunch and football on the telly in the comfort of the lounge (not really the spirit of a rambling club, but enjoyable!).

There are two write-ups on the recent Long Mynd ramble (A and B). They appear elsewhere in this newsletter. The other walks have been enjoyable since the last newsletter and so on with the future rambles and weekends away:

FORTHCOMING RAMBLES, ETC

April 30/May 2 PATERDALE WEEKEND. Bookings closed now (fifteen going).

May 8 LADYBOWER (Derbyshire) 10.15am departure. Leaders - A: Dave Newns, B: Dave Connolly
An interesting area in the Peak District of Derbyshire not far from Kinder Scout (famous for the mass trespass which preserved common land and public access to those thousands of walkers who would follow in their footsteps).

May 22 CRIB GOCH and SNOWDON. 9.30 start: Leaders - A: Mike Norgate, B: C: Molloy
Really rugged country and good scrambling promised for the A party but easier alternatives available for the B party.

WINTER PROGRAMME - LEADERS WANTED. At the last meeting of the Rambling/Social committee a draft programme was prepared. Copies are available from me. As usual we require more leaders, so please volunteer or make suggestions for changes to the Winter programme before it is finalised.

IAN FREEMAN, Rambling Chairman

S O C I A L I T E

Hello once again,

First of all, let's kick off with an appeal: Is there anyone interested in working the disco equipment any Thursday night at the club. It might look quite complicated to operate but really it's quite easy once you've been shown how to work the disco turntable, so if we have a few budding DJs please let yourselves be known to me any Thursday night.

In recent months we have had a Chinese banquet and a Greek feast. Next on the menu is an Italian meal and disco night at Buca di Bacco's in North John Street in June. Anyone interested in Italian cuisine followed by a disco later in the evening please let me know nearer the date.

Now to a more serious subject. In a recent article in the Echo it was stated that if you're going to have a heart attack, don't have it on Merseyside because they cannot give you the care and attention you deserve. So with that in mind, this year we are having a Charity Dance to raise money for the much-needed Broadgreen Hospital equipment etc. for the intensive care, cardiac unit, namely the Broadgreen Heart Appeal. A very worthy cause indeed. Tickets are on sale at just £2 each for this charity event to be held at the Hollywood Night Club, Duke Street on Friday, June 3rd with dancing till 2am - all proceeds going to the Broadgreen Heart appeal. Tell you friends. We are expecting a large contingent from Broadgreen to attend this function - 500 tickets have been printed! Please buy a ticket even if you are not sure whether you can make it, or alternatively donations will be most welcome to Bernadette Doyle (who is directly involved in this unit at Broadgreen) or any committee member. Buy a ticket NOW and enjoy the night on June 3rd, supporting a great charity event.

In the near future (no date has been fixed yet) we will be having a conducted tour of the pubs and gin palaces of Liverpool City Centre. There are many watering holes in the city and nearly all of us take them for granted, yet they are steeped in history. So one weekday evening we will be having what promises to be a very interesting tour of some of these pubs with the history of them revealed to us. If your interest in this event is strong then contact me or hear about it at News at Ten down at the clubroom on Thursdays.

Now some news of our members, usually the Hatches and Matches column, and this time is no exception. Congratulations must go to Peter and Marie Wilkinson who recently became proud parents of a baby girl (Paula Joanne, 8lb 10oz) born on March 24th. Also to Dave Connolly and Ann Nicholson who decided to have a walk for just the two of them and rambled down the aisle to get married. Sincere congratulations to you both. Good weather and a very good evening reception enjoyed by many of their rambling friends made their perfect day.

Finally Tommy Keenan is making a rapid recovery after his recent appendix operation. He was in and out of St Helens Hospital to convalesce after his operation at Whiston so quickly that by the time I popped in to visit him, he had gone home after only a few days. Dave Newns had the same experience (visiting that is, not the operation!).

So, until the next Socialite it's Ta-ra from me,
PAUL HEALY 051-426 0162

ORRELL FC DRAW TICKETS

Anyone holding tickets for the above draw should return them forthwith to Brian Keller or any committee member. If any are unsold then still bring them in as we can sell them easily. There have been many new faces down at the club recently and the unsold tickets could be sold in a matter of minutes, hopefully to them or to anyone who fancies just one more go at guessing the time the watch will stop. Don't forget, the star prize is a Ford Sierra car, ready for the road!

FOOTWEAR ON RAMBLES

On all mountain safety leaflets, etc is stressed that stout footwear, namely boots with a good tread, is essential. Leaders have the right to refuse anyone who turns up for a ramble ill-equipped. If in doubt about your footwear, check with your leader.

THE LONG MYND - two reports...first the 'A' walk:

The recent ramble to the Long Mynd in Shropshire lived up to the high expectations that members associate with the club. The Spring Equinox set out to prove to all hands that Winter had indeed truly ended by putting on a day of sunshine and blue skies matching the outlook and spirit of those who had put six months of wet Sundays behind them.

The delightful market town of Church Stretton, our jump-off point for the walk greeted us with a foretaste of the lovely day that lay ahead. The 'A' walk was assembled by Bob Gregson leading his first walk. Twenty minutes after setting off the first woollies were taken off and stowed away in back packs to be joined by other garments as the walk progressed. A feature of the Long Mynd plateau is that it is a Mecca for hang gliders, sail planes and lots of very adult men controlling model aircraft with radios complete with a look of rapturá which clearly indicated that it was much too good to be shared with children. The terrain of that area is rather peculiar to Shropshire - a series of short, sharp hills woven together with narrow and eye-catching valleys that gave rise to moments of serenity as one progressed into the late afternoon. The presence of Carol on the 'A' walk assured impeccable behaviour by an otherwise all-male group. Incidentally Carol has proved to be a very strong walker and a cheerful walking companion. Regretfully, the ramble came to an end. Homeward bound the on-board entertainment was provided by the Rumble Seat Riders who provided much amusement to the amidship crew. A jolly pub stop ended the day on a high note, surely, another delightful memory to stow away on board the mental rocking chair of old age.

Thanks Bob for an excellent walk. Well done,
JOE ROURKE

...and now - The 'B' walk:

On that bright Sunday morning 38 people travelled into Shropshire by coach and after a short stop at Whitchurch we arrived at Church Stretton, where our walk was to begin. Roy This greeted us on arrival at the car park where he had been waiting for us. After Bob Gregson had set off with the 'A' party, Phil Wells now led the 'B' party out of Church Stretton and up the Cardingmill Valley. Just before we reached the top of the Long Mynd we stopped for a butty break then suitably refreshed, we continued the upward slog and reached the plateau. Much to our surprise, the weather was still bright and clear all afternoon (except for one short shower). We continued along the Long Mynd plateau and reached the trig point where there was also a toposcope (at least I think that is what it is called) showing the names of the surrounding hills which were clearly visible, we could also see the mountains of Wales. We proceeded onwards past Pole Cot, most of us looking at the gliders and hang gliders in the sky above us - there were many shouts of "There's a glider" and "No, it's a hang glider!" from someone else. Later we saw them at close quarters as we had a butty break just outside the gliding club watching them all taking off and landing (the hang gliders using a stretch of the ridge just outside the gliding club), then we followed the public footpath which crossed the gliding club, Phil hurrying us across afraid someone would be hit by a glider. But we reached the other side without incident and followed the path through woods and into what seemed like country lanes, stopping at a farm so that Phil could take a photograph of a letter box, set into the wall, dating back to the reign of Edward VII. We arrived back in Church Stretton where some of us went straight to a cafe and a pot of tea! Thanks Phil for a very enjoyable walk.

DAPHNE O'SHEA

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome three new members into our club: Peter Edward Connor, Paul Deir and Ms E. Manley. Total membership is fast approaching the 200 mark with 188 to date and several prospective new members trying out their first ramble with us. We wish you all many happy days ahead in our club.

TWO DAYS IN LAKELAND

Six a.m. Saturday morning, a tired, sunken-eyed individual cancelled the alarm clock and crawled out of bed. If the choice had been mine I would have stayed there but arrangements had been made. Luckily I had packed the previous evening, or to be more precise, a few hours earlier. To cut a long, boring story short I made it to the meeting point, Stew having the job of chauffeuring me up to the Lake District.

After a breakfast stop in the Apple Tart cafe, Ambleside, we reached our destination, Dunmail Raise, the pass between Grasmere and Thirlmere. The weather looked promising, a blue sky with white fluffy clouds. Our route took us up Raise Beck on a much-improved path, though the top is still as boggy as ever. Raise Beck is interesting for two reasons: It starts as a spring fed from Grisedale Tarn and forks flowing down to both Thirlmere and Grasmere. On reaching the tarn we had an interesting encounter with a Lakeland hunt. The game, not the usual fox, but a hound, which they had lost earlier. Lakeland fox hunting is a sport of the farmer. Unlike the smartly dressed red brigade, they wear tweed jackets and wellington boots, often carrying a walking stick, the hunt being on foot following the barking of the hounds.

Crossing the stream we left Grisedale Tarn and contoured St Sunday Crag, searching for the pinnacle ridge on its northern spur. The route necessitated crossing numerous snow-filled gullies, the ice axes we were carrying providing a comforting support. The ridge proved difficult to locate but eventually we found a cairn pointing the way.

Having puffed, panted and squeezed our way up the initial steep step, the ridge opened out, becoming easier with outcrops of rock making interesting scrambling. Next the Crux, a steep exposed section of loose rock. After some deliberation we chose the safety of a rope and set up a belay point. Stew led off and eventually disappeared over the top some forty feet above. I continued to pay out the rope until there was only a couple of feet left. Fortunately Stew called down "I'm safe!" I set off after him finding the route easier than expected, mainly due to my security line. On reaching the brink a gradual ascending ridge came into view. Abandoning the rope I strolled up to where Stew was busy coiling it up. Here we realised that, though we had conquered a fine ridge, it was not the pinnacle ridge we had planned to climb. From our vantage point we could look upon the ridge thirty yards to our left. Having had an enjoyable scramble our disappointment was not too great, next time we should be able to find it. Hands became necessary on a few more occasions before the spur gave way to the open top, a short walk from the summit cairn. The views to Ullswater, High Street and Fairfield were superb and Helvellyn had an added interest as an RAF air/sea rescue helicopter hovered above Striding Edge for a considerable time.

The route up to Fairfield via Cofa Pike consisted of snow, rock and scree. The summit plateau, normally barren and rocky was carpeted in ice and the ever-present wind showed its strength. Seeking out the stone shelter we settled down to enjoy some cheese and coleslaw butties. It wasn't long before the cold crept through, so off we set, down the western ridge. The cloud was thickening and evening approached but Seat Sandal lay in front, inviting us. The invitation turned sour as our tired limbs carried us up a steep, snow-covered slope. On reaching the top it was all worthwhile. Grasmere could be seen in the valley and Fairfield stood tall in the advancing dusk. The last leg of the journey consisted of a steep descent direct to Dunmail Raise and the car.

Dawn on Sunday revealed white hills and dark ominous bulbous clouds. It wasn't long before the sleet started to fall, the beginning of a thoroughly miserable, wet day. Sitting it out in a cafe we waited in hope, but to no avail, the sleet now fell as rain. We executed plan two - Ambleside climbing wall. It was still cold but at least we were out of the damp. A couple of hours pumping muscles and attempting various problems I was more than a little tired, spending more time falling off than actually on the wall. Deciding to take things a little easier we headed for the bright lights of Windermere.

The staff at the tourist office were helpful and pointed the way to Bowness and a slide show entitled 'Lakeland Experience'. I don't know how much we actually watched as we both suffered from heavy eyelids but what we did see we enjoyed. At 4pm we left Windermere, homeward bound. All in all, a well spent, worthwhile weekend.

ANTHONY BROCKWAY

LETTER TO THE REGISTRAR .

I would like you all to share this note of thanks I received recently from one of our newer members. It really is a "Thank-you" to us all as members of the Catholic Ramblers.

"Dear Bernie,

Just a few lines to thank you, the committee and any other people involved in the preparations of all days out, weekends, etc.

What a marvellous bunch you are. My only regret is I didn't go sooner. I have never felt so carefree when I am out walking and what gentlemen we have in the club, always willing to help over those high stone walls. Even when it's bitterly cold and blowing a gale I feel warm and safe with the group and feel an infinity with the land.

The weekend in Keswick was grand. What more could you want — Good company, good food and drink, clean beautiful scenery.

May God bless you all and keep you in his care, especially Paul who was so patient with us when Barbara and I got lost at the Motorway stop.

Looking forward to many more trips.

Yours sincerely
M. F. ROCKCLIFFE

P.S. Keep organising those gruelling walks, we love every minute of them."

CHANGE OF ADDRESS - May I ask anyone who has changed their address to please let me know, otherwise it may take a little longer for you to receive your newsletters. Ta!

BERNIE (Registrar) Telephone 733 2538

LETTER TO ARCHBISHOP WORLOCK

At our monthly General Committee Meeting on Monday, April 11th it was decided to send a letter to our President, His Grace The Most Rev. Derek Worlock after learning of the sudden death of Bishop Hitchen. It read as follows:

" Your Grace,

The general committee of the Association in meeting last night asked that I write on behalf of the members to express their sincere sorrow at the sudden passing of Bishop Hitchen, R.I.P.

Those who had met him remembered him kindly as well as with great respect and know that the Arch-diocese and indeed yourself, Your Grace, have suffered a great loss.

In tendering our condolences to his family we promise to remember him in our prayers.

On behalf of the Association, I am, Your Grace,
Yours most respectfully,

G: M: PENLINGTON
Vice-President "

CHARITY DANCE JUNE 3 CHARITY DANCE JUNE 3 CHARITY DANCE JUNE 3 - £2
Liverpool Catholic Ramblers Association

* All proceeds in aid of BROADGREEN HEART APPEAL

At The Hollywood Night Club, Duke Street - Friday June 3rd from 9pm to 2am

Tickets just £2.- all proceeds to this worthwhile charity. Tell your friends

Tickets available from Committee members