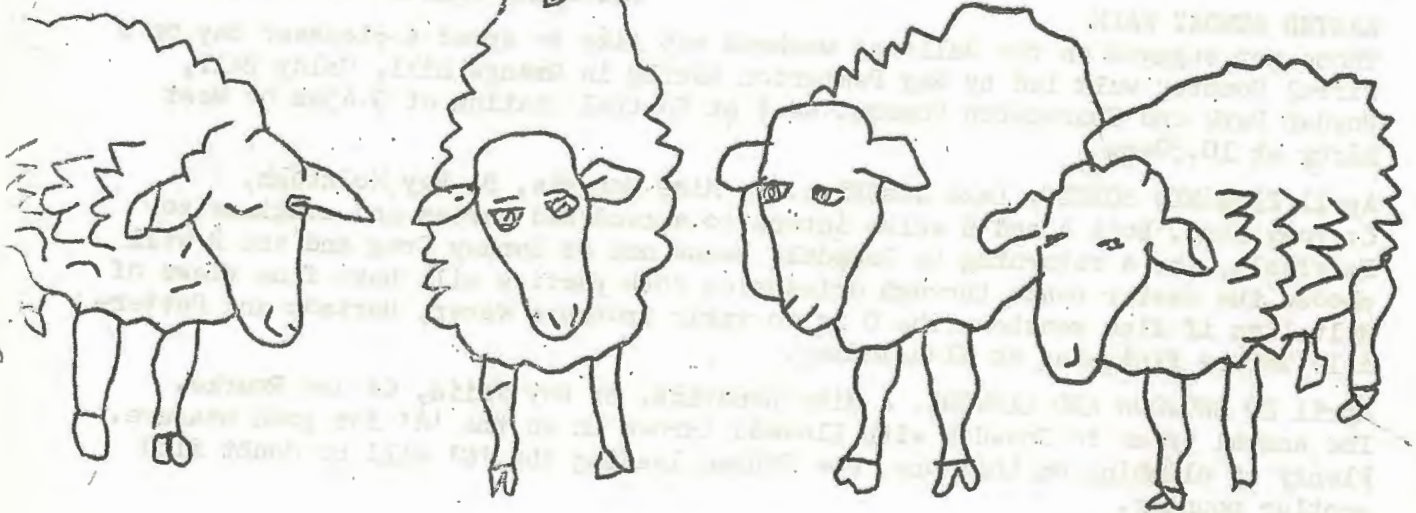
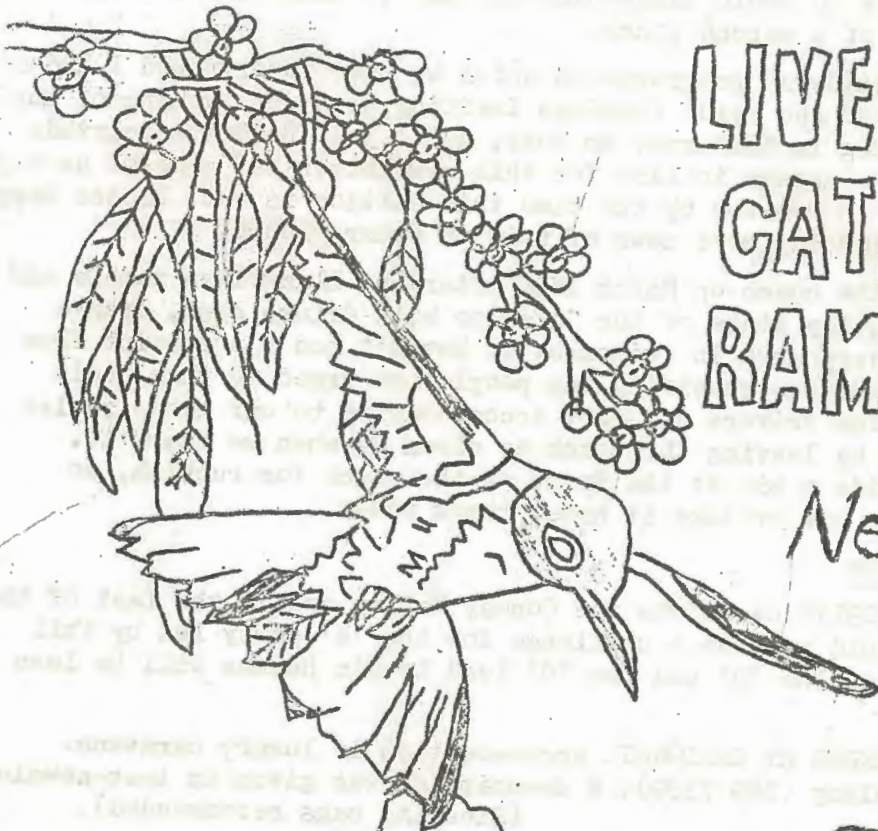


LIVERPOOL CATHOLIC RAMBLERS

Newsletter



R A M B L E R I T E by Ian Freeman

Our rambles continue to be very popular with coaches bursting at the seams every week, so please book early to avoid disappointment and to allow the committee to consider the feasibility of a second coach.

Following the recent "Outsiders" programme on which we were interviewed I had a phone call from a member of the Fylde Ramblers inviting us to an evening of music, slides and video on Walking in Killarney on Tues, April 3rd. Unfortunately this invitation was too late to appear in time for this newsletter but some of us may well have been to their venue in Preston by the time this edition is out. Please keep your ears to the ground for any more news of this or other groups.

I was the last to leave the coach on March 18th after the Llangollen ramble and was appalled to see the untidy state of the interior with drinks cans, orange peel and sweets wrappers very much in evidence. We haven't had a complaint from the drivers yet but to avoid us receiving one people are urged to take their rubbish home with them. The drivers are very accommodating to our needs so let us show our appreciation by leaving the coach as clean as when we board it. Some of the drivers provide a bin at the front of the coach for rubbish, so it's either pop it in the bin or take it home, thank you.

FORTHCOMING RAMBLES/EVENTS

April 8th FOEL FRAS at 3091ft overlooks the Conway Valley and is the last of the 'Fourteen Peaks'. It should provide a challenge for the 'A' party led by Phil Wells. Mike Hendrick leads the 'B' and the 'C' lead by Jim Haynes will be less strenuous.

April 13-16th EASTER WEEKEND AT GALLOWAY. Accommodation in luxury caravans. Bookings to Christine Welsby (709 7339). A description was given in last newsletter. (Sleeping bags recommended).

EASTER SUNDAY WALK

Those not engaged on the Galloway weekend may like to spend a pleasant day on a Wirral Country walk led by Ray Pemberton taking in Grange Hill, Caldy Hall, Royden Park and Thurston Common. Meet at Central Station at 9.45am or West Kirby at 10.30am.

April 22nd RED SCREES, Lake District. A: Mike Norgate, B: Ray McIntosh, C: Tony Bond. Both A and B walks intend to ascend Red Screes and continue to Fairfield, the A returning by Deepdale Hause and St Sunday Crag and the B will choose the easier route through Grisedale. Both parties will have fine views of Helvellyn if fine weather. The C is to visit Brothers Water, Hartsop and Patterdale before finishing at Glenridding.

April 29 SNOWDON AND LLEWEDD. A: Mike Hendrick, B: Roy Thisis, C: Joe Rourke. The annual trek to Snowdon with Llewedd thrown in on the 'A' for good measure. Plenty of climbing on this one. Joe Rourke leading the 'C' will no doubt find gentler country.

May 5-7th ESKDALE YOUTH HOSTEL WEEKEND

There is still space available for this weekend. Names to Ian Freeman quickly as we have to confirm numbers and arrange transport, etc by mid-April. Eskdale is a quiet valley, "Far from the Madding Crowd" overlooked by Scafell Pikes (3210ft - England's highest) which we can hopefully tackle.

May 13th HAWES, Yorkshire Dales. A: Joe Rourke, B: Toy Thisis, C: Dave Connolly. Plenty of scope here with many fells between 2000 and 2500ft and also gentler walks along the dales.

May 20th BOWFELL. A: Ian Freeman, B: Paul Healy, C: Tom Brierley. Set in the Langdale area of the Lake District Bowfell is close on 3000ft high and will be the 'a' party objective after scrambling up Crinkle Gill. Details of the 'B' are not finalised but there is plenty of scope in the Langdale area. The 'C' will probably take the valley route from Elterwater to Dungeon Gill.

26-28 May CHALLENGE WALK. Bookings and details to Mike Hendrick (428 7914). This is a challenge to do all the 14 Peaks of Snowdonia over 3000 feet. There is also a need for helpers supplying the challengers with refreshments as they cross over the Llanberis and Nant Ffrancon Passes, etc. Details were given in the last newsletter and more information may be given at the clubroom.

It is planned to present certificates to successful entrants at the annual dance and a possibility of making this a sponsored event. Some people may just prefer to do 8 of the 14 peaks as all 14 completed in one day is extremely arduous but has been done by our club several times in the past.

All-occal walk for those not on the weekend will probably be held. Details later.

SALE OF THE CENTURY

The club have recently bought a lot of new maps to up-date and augment our stocks. At a recent committee meeting it was decided to sell the replaced maps to members and donate the proceeds to Mountain Rescue in addition to the donation we already make. I will be handling this sale and can assure potential buyers that all the maps on offer are "Genuine One Careful Owner, Low Mileage, Can't Afford to Sell at the Price Editions," so don't hold back and be disappointed. Your donations will be put to good use by the Mountain Rescue although it is hoped we will never have to call on them!

NEXT RAMBLING PROGRAMME: Aug '90 - Feb '91

The programme has now been compiled. As usual there are vacancies for leaders. Please see me or Brian as soon as possible if you think that you can help.

IAN FREEMAN, Rambling Chairman

S O C I A L S P O T L I G H T

Hi, Hello everybody, and as always a special welcome to our new members. I invite you, along with our regular members, to support and enjoy the many social events we have planned over the future months ahead.

Now then, a bit of a recap on recent socials to date. Well, first of all I must mention that truly outstanding, 'wonderful' out of this world, slide show that was held at the club on March 1st, presented by a rather shy, modest chap who wishes, on this occasion, to remain nameless. As Barry Norman would say "and why not!" Needless to say, there was a real mix-up of slides from the Snowdonia peaks right through to Susie the Abracadabra dog. Yes, if you were there supporting the club, then you would fully understand that last line!

So on to the 15th March when we had a highly successful Cheese and Wine night. On behalf of the club I must say a special thank you to Christine Welsby who was seen earlier that day doing 90 mph around the City Centre getting all that glorious food and wine in. It really does take some organising, so well done to Chris. Also thanks to the management at the Liverpool for supplying the wine glasses.

Imagine if Poll Tax was gone tomorrow, interest rates disappeared, all Ramblers' Walkman's were playing Doris Day; then the thing to do would be to have...yes, you've guessed it... FUTURE SOCIAL EVENTS! Phew! I bet you feel pretty good now, so read on...

SIXTIES NIGHT, Liverpool Empire

Please note that the theatre have moved this show to July 3rd. Only a few tickets left so don't hesitate. Only £3.75 instead of £7.50.

TUESDAY April 10th - MIKE HARDING at Le Neptune

This is instead of Mike Hendrick and Guests! I hope you will not be too disappointed. Tickets £4.50 direct from the Box Office only. The club allocation of 20 tickets went like members who avoid putting the disco away on Thursday nights!

THURSDAY, APRIL 26th - Le Liverpool (downstairs) - Slide Show, 9.30 prompt.

Yes, following that tremendously, 'wonderful' successful slide show in March, Bryan Day, yes ladies, Bryan Day will be presenting his version of events. Don't miss it.

SATURDAY, MAY 12th, etc, etc. Liverpool Empire

Gosh, you are really quick today... The King and I. Good seats for only £4.50. See me on Thursday club nights.

THURSDAY, JUNE 7th - Le Liverpool (downstairs) - Tom's Slide Show, 9.25 prompt.

That nameless person in March must be so proud to know that following his "wonderful" slide show that yet another member has come forward to reach those dizzy heights.

FRIDAY, JUNE 22nd - Le Liverpool - ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY!

This is the first of a trio of events for our annual Fred Norbury/Cyril Kelly Cups to which all members are invited to compete. The other two being:

Pitch & Putt at New Brighton, Saturday, July 21st

Ten-Pin Bowling at the new Bowling Alley at Speke, Saturday, September 15th.

JULY 13th - THE IRISH CENTRE SOCIAL EVENT OF THE SUMMER

The club will be holding a

SPECIAL CHARITY NIGHT

This special charity is to mimic the Ramble Aid we had here in 1985. There will be a popular Folk Group, Disco, Prizes, and most of all, great company. Ticket/price/charity will be in the next Newsletter. I do hope you will support this mega-event.

Well, that's about all for now. See you all soon, in the meantime, happy socialising/rambling. Cheers,

ROY THUIS, Social Chairman.

BIRTH CONGRATS

Born just in time for publication here, a boy, to Peter and Marie Wilkinson at 9lb 14oz. The date: April 1st! No, this isn't an April fool joke, this is serious stuff! Baby's name is Simon Andrew. Congratulations to you both.

LOST PROPERTY TIP

Without too much effort many items left on coaches after a ramble could be quickly identified if the owners had simply written their name in ordinary ball-point pen inside their overtrousers, gaiters, etc. or on the side of the washing instruction labels of jumpers, etc. No need for special marker pens. Have you ever tried to wash out a stain from a ball-point pen? It is almost impossible. Your name will not run and will survive many washes, so start writing NOW.

WOMEN'S LIB

On the Arnside ramble on Feb 25th there were more ladies on the 'A' party than men! The walk was under the capable captaincy of Joe Rourke but he had only one male deckhand, the other three were all of the fairer sex. This must be a first for the club. On the surface you would think this a poor turnout. Don't believe it - two coaches were out that day and both 'B' and 'C' parties were overwhelmed with volunteers. What has happened to all the 'A' walkers?

HOW TO LOOK AFTER AND PRESERVE YOUR HIKING BOOTS

At eighty pounds plus for a pair of quality hiking boots, it would be a foolish person indeed who, after purchasing a pair, did not set out to keep them in good shape. Well, how do you keep them in good shape? A fair question, worthy of a fair answer. You will find as many remedies and advice as what there are ramblers. The following method I have found to be well tried and tested. There are a couple of points to keep in mind. Hiking boots are made from real cow hide (no bull) and, after cleaning them, one should only apply natural oils, that is Leather Oil. Where do I get Leather Oil from? A good question, normally from a farm supply shop. Recommended is the Supply Shop in the centre of Slaidburn - a village we often visit. The cost? Twenty-six and fourpence for one pint; bring your own bottle - it should last you for about ten years. How is it applied? I should concede that, as we usually arrive home late on Sunday night and some times it takes me all the time to climb the staircase, I leave my boots until the next morning. I take the laces out; wash them if required then hang them up. Then I put a couple of inches of water in the kitchen sink, put my boots in them (much to the despair of my good wife), then with a scrubbing brush, I remove all traces of mud and dirt, then I stuff each boot with a couple of sheets of newspaper, ramming it into the toe to ensure they keep their shape. After one hour, the Leather Oil is applied by the following process: You pour a couple of inches into an empty clean vegetable can, put the can over a small flame on the stove until warm, then brush on to the boots with a one inch clean, preferably new, paint brush, ensuring it penetrates into the stitching around the welt. You keep the paint brush immersed in the can ready for the next time. Boots should then be stowed away preferably on a shelf where there is no unnatural heating. Looked after from new in the above manner, your boots should give you seven years of comfortable hiking - they become like old friends. If you do not look after them (you know, sling them in a corner and forget about them) they will lose their shape and start leaking and probably end up in Boot Hill within two years and you will likely end up walking as if you had Chinese Toe Rot!

Happy hiking

- "The Old Man of Coniston"

Editor's warning : The above method sounds great for conventional stitched boots but those with moulded-on welts, such as Zamberlan, require special treatment, because of the danger of chemical reaction on the welt adhesive.

Another "Come and Join Us" Poem

1. Nothing to do on Sundays ?
Then get your act together
Come and join the L.C.R.A.
Because rambling's such a pleasure.
2. The people are warm and friendly,
Someone always has a smile,
Our coach is sometimes rickety
But it gets there ... in a while.
3. The weather can turn quite nasty,
But it's all part of the fun,
From beginners to mountain goats,
There's walks to suit everyone.
4. With eight miles under your belt,
Your body yearns for the tub,
A quick change you will have to do,
Then we ramble on to the pub!

Bryan Day (age 7).

THOU SHALT NOT DRINK ON SUNDAYS IN WALES

Early last year I wrote an article explaining the reason why certain districts of Wales don't open the pubs on a Sunday.

Well, on November 8th last year, the people of fourteen out of the total number of thirty-seven districts were given the opportunity to either confirm their belief in a 'wet' sabbath or become 'dry', remembering that only two districts were still closed on Sundays - Ceredigion and Dwyfor.

All the districts that were 'wet' stayed that way and continuing the trend set since the very first referendum back in 1961 of no district becoming 'dry' after voting to open on Sunday.

In North Wales, polling took place in Colwyn, Aberconwy, Arfon, Ynys Mon, Merionydd, Dwyfor, and further afield in Ceredigion. Some southern areas also asked for a poll, these being centred on Cardiff, Newport and Pontypridd.

South Wales returned large majorities in favour of staying open, whilst in North Wales, Merionydd increased its majority over 1982 when they voted for the first time to open, but it was Ceredigion, centred on Aberystwyth and Dwyfor covering Porthmadog, Criccieth, Pwllheli, Abersoch and Beddgelert, that the real struggle was to take place.

Ceredigion voted by a majority of just 328 out of a total number of votes cast of 21,032 to open on Sundays, whilst Dwyfor voted to stay 'dry' by a reduced majority of 500 on their 1982 result :-

Dwyfor District -		
To open	-	4,563
To close	-	5,951
Majority	-	1,388

So the district of Dwyfor is the only place in Europe where you cannot buy an alcohol drink on public premises (except if purchasing a meal in a restaurant, hotel, or becoming a member of a private club) on a Sunday.

Certainly the "Enough is Enough" campaigners rejoiced at the result, but the publicans and licensees are now threatening legal action in the European Court of Human Rights claiming that closure is a restriction of trade and the poll result should be declared void.

Another chapter on the history of the Welsh pub referendum is written and the people of Dwyfor have now ensured that the amendment to the Sunday Closing Act (Wales) 1880 will remain in force and another round of polls will take place in November 1996.

Phil Wells

NEXT NEWSLETTER

Due out on June 1st and deadline for all copy is Thurs, May 24th, much sooner if possible. Newsletters are now to appear every two months until further notice. Thanks for all contributions to this newsletter (typists: Angela Fishwick, Mona Roberts and Dave Newns). All contributions for the next edition to be given to Dave Newns, or sent to his address at 7 Abbotts Way, Billinge, Wigan, Lancs WN5 7SB

FAMILY SECTION WALK. WIRRAL WAY, 11TH MARCH, 1990.

It was quite unbelievable after all the gales, rain and gloomy weather we have had in recent weeks, that the Sunday we gathered at the West Kirby Railway Station to begin the Wirral Walk turned out to be a really glorious day. I think it must have been on account of the thirty or so good souls who turned out for Peggy and Bill's walk.

But, hold on a minute, scandal is afoot. The question was asked "What has happened to Peggy and George?". The main party had gone ahead, all very happy, some remarking on the weather, some mentioning the fact that the trees were beginning to bud, "A hint of Spring in the air, perhaps" said one. We had gone on a fair way ahead when the leader spotted that his wife was missing

We came to a halt, and waited while Bill went to see what had happened. "Had Peggy fallen". "Had George's sore ankle returned?". By this time the main group were getting a bit like the four dogs in the party, chomping on the bit eager to be off, when suddenly they both appeared with Freda and George, full of apologies about Freda's car (or is it George's when it misbehaves?). Apparently they had some pretty quick repair work done before they had left home which, of course, made for a late start for them. Now Peggy, being such a good whipper in, said she had stayed behind for the latecomers and George, being a gentleman, had stayed to assist Peggy, and that's their story - what do you think? (all a bit of fun folks, must make this write-up last otherwise Mona will kill us ...)

We had our butty stop by the old railway station and after a short time of walking we came to the Wirral Park with it's Information Centre being situated in a very pretty spot, with the exception of the monstrosity which was named the "Bird On Wheels". We all couldn't find the logic in it, and as nobody seemed to like it very much anyway, we moved on.

Over the bridge we came to the cliff edge where we descended the winding steps onto the beach. The weather was still beautiful, but the wind had caught up with us and it was starting to get quite cool. Looking across the estuary we could see the Welsh hills. As we entered West Kirby and walked around the Marine Lake we admired the skills of the Wind Surfers who were braving the very strong winds which made them appear as if they were going at sixty miles an hour.

We then headed back to the starting point with the lasting impression of a very pleasant walk with great company and excellent weather, and that's what Rambling is all about.

Thank you, Bill and Peggy, for a truly friendly day.

ELM.

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A special welcome to all new members. The club is continuing to prove very popular and coaches are getting fully booked up at a time of year when normally it is fairly easy to get booked on a ramble. The addition of 'C' walks for all the rambles seems to be popular and should improve the quality of the 'B' walks for those who aren't quite up to 'A' walk standard yet want a decent 'B' walk.

Thanks due to Ann Connolly, Mona Roberts and Mike Hendrick's mother who all gave assistance in the typing of this newsletter and thanks to all who contributed in any way. Starting off is a witty recruitment poem composed by Vicky. I hope you all enjoy reading this, your newsletter and hope that you will continue to send articles, ramble write-ups, etc for future editions.

DAVE NEWS, Editor

RAMBLER'S RAP

Want to know what's going down?
That ain't so hard to do,
Even though my membership is something fairly new.
I joined the L.C.R.A.
Hey man, it really is quite neat,
So long as you've got yourself a groovy pair of feet,
A nicer bunch of folks you couldn't wish to meet.

The walks are cool, if you get my drift.
Some of these leaders sure make you shift!
That boss fresh air gives my spirits such a lift.
The organising of these gigs is certainly a gift.
Hip, hop, funk, you're sure to hear
If you venture into town,
To the Thursday social,
It's the grooviest sound around.
So no matter what the weather,
Have your back-pack ready to go,
'Cause come hell or high water, rain, hail or snow,
It's always "on with the show!"

L.C.R.A. is by far the best, or so I reckon.
So remember all you folks - just keep on trekkin!

Vicky

P.S. I hasten to add that the above was written before venturing out on a 'never to be repeated' 'A' walk in Corwen/Llangollen!!

CONSTITUTION OF THE L.C.R.A.

All members please note that the club's Constitution is currently being reviewed.

If any member has any amendments they would like to submit to the Constitution Committee for approval, please forward them to Chris Dobbin at:

207 Childwall Road, Liverpool 15

or pass them on to any committee member.

R A M B L E R I T E

The first jottings of 1990, so a 'Happy New Year' to you all! The rambles throughout January have been well supported and although we have had wet and windy conditions, the temperatures have been very mild. Is this the much talked about Greenhouse Effect!

On the last Sunday in January's walk to Ambleside both A and B parties encountered snow both falling and lying on the ground. This was probably a new experience for some of our newer members, but everyone managed the slippery conditions with the minimum of falls and no serious injury.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Feb 16-18 MAESHAFN YOUTH HOSTEL WEEKEND. Joe Rourke has full details of this weekend which includes map and compass training to those interested. A visit to the Theatr Clwyd on the Friday night had to be cancelled as all tickets have been sold. The hostel is self-catering and the overnight charge is only £3.20. Joe has hinted a visit to the Miners Arms for Saturday evening. Contact Joe on 256 9144.

Feb 25 ARNSIDE. This part coastal walk is in an area of scenic grandeur which used to be called North Lancashire (now Cumbria). If we are blessed with clear conditions there should be fine views of the Lake District hills over the bay to the north. Leaders: 'A' Joe Rourke, 'B' Paul Healy, 'C' Ian Freeman.

Mar 4 MACCLESFIELD FOREST. The rolling hills between Macclesfield and Buxton in the Peak District. Tegg's Nose country park lies in this area. Leaders: 'A' Allan Caple, 'B' Paul Healy, 'C' Brian Keller.

Mar 11 BOLTON ABBEY, Yorkshire. A popular area for day-trippers in the Skipton area, and popular with ramblers with paths close to the River Wharfe, and for the more adventurous, ascending to the summit of Simons Seat. Leaders: 'A' Dave Newns, 'B' Dave Connolly, 'C' Joe Rourke.

Mar 19 LLANGOLLEN (World's End). A visit to the picturesque town and the Dee, and the hills around it, in the Horseshoe Pass area. Leaders: 'A' Brian Keller, 'B' Dave Newns, 'C' Ray Pemberton.

Mar 25 THE LONG MYND, Shropshire. As the name suggests, a long hill in the Church Stretton area of Shropshire. 'A' To be advised, 'B' Tom Brierley, 'C' Tom Bibby.

Mar 30-Apr 1 LAKESIDE HOUSE, KESWICK. Weekend away at our usual twice annually visited Mecca. Comfortable guesthouse accommodation with bar/dance/games room in the basement and superb drying facilities in the boiler room. George the chef is now in charge of the house. Walks planned for the weekend. Cost is approximately £35 which includes breakfast and evening meal on the Saturday including a packed lunch for midday, Sunday breakfast and evening meal. (Note: (pack lunch optional extra on Sunday). Transport by car sharing on the Friday night and departing after the evening meal on the Sunday (Meal around 5pm). Cost of petrol extra. Bookings to Roy This. The Family Section are sharing this weekend with us and as they prefer to use their own transport a coach is uneconomical this time.

Apr 8 FOEL FRAS/CONWAY VALLEY. Snowdonia in the spring. Will there be any snow on the peaks? Leaders: 'A' Phil Wells, 'B' Mike Hendrick, 'C' Jim Haynes.

EASTER WEEKEND (See separate notice). Book early for this.

I have noticed recently that the parties are becoming very strung out, often because walkers are going way ahead of the leader. This happens more on 'A' walks and can lead to those in front going the wrong way, as well as being out of touch with the party in case of mishap. All walkers are therefore requested to stay with the party. Thank you.

Happy Rambling,

IAN FREEMAN

(Rambling Chairman)

THE FOURTEEN PEAKS CHALLENGE WALK

Within the Snowdonia National Park there are fourteen summits above 3,000 ft, and they lie in such a way that all fourteen can be visited, without a great deal of deviation, on a single walk between Snowdon and Aber. The walk is over 30 miles long and requires over 13,000 ft of ascent.

The route can be tackled in various ways but the quickest route and the one described by Thomas Firbank in his book 'I bought a Mountain' is start on the summit of Snowdon take in Crib-y-Ddysgl and Crib-Goch before descending directly to the Llanberis Pass. Ascend Elidir Fawr on the western side of the Glyders and Y Garn, Glyder Fach and Tryfan before descending into the Ogwen Valley. Finally onto the Camedd's and Pen-yr-Ole-Wen, Carnedd Dafydd, Yr Elen, Carnedd Llywellyn, Foel Grach and Foel Fras to finish.

Tradition demands that the walk should be completed within 24 hours but realistically the hours between sunrise and sunset depict your time allowance. This is why on the weekend nearest Mid-Summers Day literally hundreds of people can be seen crossing Crib Goch ridge in the early hours of Saturday morning.

During the Spring Bank Holiday Weekend the Club will be staying in Snowdonia and anyone interested in attempting the Fourteen Peaks will be welcome. The Fourteen being an extremely arduous walk some people may prefer the challenge of 8 of the 14, Snowdon to Tryfan.

We plan to present certificates to successful entrants which will be presented at the Annual Dance, also there is the possibility of making it a sponsored event. Anyone interested in the Challenge or just in the Weekend please see me as soon as possible.

Michael Hendrick

April 13-16

E A S T E R W E E K E N D

April 13-16

Luxury Caravans with integral shower/toilet, hot water, etc. have been booked for this unique part of Scotland where on a good day the Lake District mountains can be seen in the south.

The Galloway Hills could be reached in about five hours by car, but if the full splendour of the Galloway region is to be appreciated a more leisurely journey, stopping at various points of interest on the way, is recommended. This was what some of us did last year on the Good Friday, enjoying a meat-free meal at the caravan park in the evening.

The Gulf Stream is said to sweep across this deer-ridden/goat-inhabited area and Galloway often enjoys unusually warm weather compared to the much colder northern regions of Scotland further north.

There are over 200 hills over 2000ft in the area and one of the best parts (Glen Trool) is close to the caravan park where the club have booked 3 luxury caravans. Cost including car-sharing, food and accommodation is estimated at around £35 for the weekend. Returning Monday. Contact Christine Welsby for information and bookings (709 7339).

VACANCY FOR A SECRETARY. Daphne O'Shea, our secretary is shortly moving to Sheffield with husband Mike. They both intend to keep up their membership and join us in some of the rambles whenever possible. Good luck to both of you. Meanwhile are there any budding secretaries willing to take minutes for us once a month at Birch House LCRA committee meetings?

S O C I A L I T E

Hi everybody!

First of all a special hello and warm welcome to our enthusiastic new members. I do hope you enjoy many of the Social and Ramble events over the coming year. If you have any good ideas, tips, moans, etc or simply you just want to buy me a large whisky, then please do not hesitate to contact me!

Now then, this year the Club really has got a super Social Committee, which is really being helped along by other keen members. Without further a-do I must say a big thank you to the following for organising recent events:

Ian 'Condor' Freeman - Delightful Strauss Evening at the Philharmonic Hall. Great Stuff!!

Chris Welsby & Mike Hendrick (Stars of Ski Sunday) - Christmas Dance Grub at the Liverpool.

Brian Keller & Allan Caple - Yuletide - A very successful event this year, which kept Brian and Allan very busy to the last minute. In fact Allan was still organising seats for the Hot Pot, whilst we were all on 'seconds'!

Christine Welsby (nominated yet again for this year's Oscars!) for organising a trip to Crosby Civic Centre to see the funniest Panto in years!

Oh no it wasn't!!! Oh yes it was!!! When I was a lad, I used to be bored stiff with those 'girl' dancers, but for some explicable reason, I was cheering, clapping, whistling all the way along this year! I wonder why? Answers on the back of a £5 note please, and finally, Paul Healy for the Chinese Meal out on 27th January, nothing WONG with that!

Those of you who come down on a Thursday, will know how lucky we are to have unsung heroes like Tony Bond who is the first there to set up the disco system. Those of us who put the system away at the end of the night know only too well what a task it can be.

Also thanks due to Phil, who plays a great selection of records every Thursday. Phil wishes to point out there is no extra charge for dancing!

Right picture a thousand fireworks, spotlights dividing the sky, Doris Day singing "Westward Coach is coming into town....." yes its that time again.

FUTURE SOCIAL EVENTS

Whilst you are all getting your breath back and letting the excitement soak in, I can tell you that....

Thursday 1st March - Slide Evening (at the Liverpool)

Yes, Roy is blowing the dust off the ole slides and fingers crossed there will be no Clive James type comments. Obviously there will be some rambles, but some other interesting slides will be on display as well, (sorry lads no page 3 ones!) Please come down early. Thank you.

Thursday 15th March - Cheese & Wine Night (The Liverpool)

Christine Welsby, who is "tee-total" like myself, will 'just to be socialable' is organising the food and drink. If you'd like to give Christine a hand or have some 'free' wine please do contact her.

Saturday 17th March - St. Patrick's Day

A possible trip to the Irish Centre. Uncle Roy to get all the details before hand, and will broadcast everything during the infamous NEWS AT TEN on Thursday Club nights.

Really, by coming down on Thursday is the best way of keeping up to date with the Social events. Sometimes a spontaneous event is arranged which would be too late for the Newsletter. A good example was this year's Panto. After all's said and done I do, as Social Chairperson, have access to £100 social fund, which is to be used in a responsible manner. So there you have it, a number of Social Events which I hope will be well supported.

In the meantime, happy rambling/socialising!

Cheers,

Roy This,
SOCIAL CHAIRMAN.

P.S. Now taking deposits for Keswick (30th March - 1st April). £10 per person deposit. (Family Section are on the ball here and have already booked).

FUTURE SOCIAL EVENTS - THEATRE TRIPS TO THE EMPIRE THEATRE

60's NIGHT - Tuesday, April 3rd

The story of Ruby, a dowdy, downtrodden teenager who is eventually transformed into a real swinger. This non-stop Musical has no fewer than 47 hit songs from the Swinging 60's era. Special rate (half price) only £4 per person. There are 16 tickets booked. See Roy This or Bernadette Doyle.

THE KING AND I - Saturday, May 12th

This popular musical is performed by the Birkenhead Amateur Operatic Society Trust. Ten tickets have been booked, cost £4,50 each. See Roy This or Bernadette Doyle.

NEW PROGRAMMES - Alterations to map numbers

Your new programmes have the numbers of 1-50,000 O.S. Maps (1 $\frac{1}{4}$ ") in brackets. Unfortunately some of these have been wrongly given and need amending as follows:

Feb. 11 Llanarmon Hot Pot (116/117)	May 13 Hawes (98)
Feb. 16-18 Maeshafn W/E (116/117)	June 3 Cader Idris (124)
Mar. 18 Llangollen (116/117)	June 17 Pen y Ghent (98)
Mar. 25 The Long Mynd (137)	July 22 Hayfield (110)
Apr. 8 Foel Fras (115)	July 29 Coniston (90/97)

YOUR CHAIRLADY'S ADVENTURES

Hello folks and a 'Happy New Year'. Now here's another late item which I forgot to mention in the last newsletter: We have a tiny new**comer** in our midst, born on November 2, 1989 to Pat and Mike Lewis, a son, Colin James, and he's a cutie too. Congratulations.

And now for an alternative Yuletide Walk. As usual I've heard glowing reports of how successful your walks and barn dance were at the beginning of January. Although not with you in person, I was with you in spirit. The sun was shining, the sky blue, I was sitting on a coach picking its way up a mountain road, villas of variable shapes and sizes, some very isolated, perched precariously on the mountain-side, surrounded by orange, lemon and olive trees. I was on my way to visit an old Moorish enclave, impervious to Christian assault until 1485, and I'm not surprised. Ronda, perched high above a gorge, or tajo, a deep rent in the earth 490 ft deep, with the Rio Guadaleuin rushing by at the bottom. (By the way, I wasn't in Wales - a little further South, in Spain, away for a week's rest and recuperation).

Leaving the Estacion Central de Autobus in the "new" town I was looking for the Puente Nuevo (new bridge, in use since 1781!). Crossing into the old Moorish Ciudad, its influence still very evident, once the principal mosque, now the church of Santa Maria la Mayor, has been "added to" the minaret, the bell tower. The high altar is 16th century, gold and heavily decorated and dominates one end. In the centre body of the church stands the Baroque choir stalls and a gothic name tacked onto the side. It's all very high and made me feel a little insignificant. You can still see some of the Arabic decorations on the walls.

Outside, children of varying ages were playing with new toys. The Spanish appear to have Christmas gift-giving right. They celebrate at the 'Epifania' (Epiphany). Children leave water and hay for the three kings' camels. Instead of stockings they leave their shoes for the gifts to be left in. The naughty ones are left lumps of coal similar to our cinders, so look out if you haven't paid your subs yet!

On my way to the gorge I passed the Palacio de Mondragon, once home of the Moorish kings, clearly lords of all, they served when you see the view from the garden, terraced farms and the mountains in the distance.

Now for the hard bit. There is a snaking path down to the bottom of the gorge, and I wasn't on my own. It was quite busy with mums, dads and grannies too. I felt quite at home! The only problem with a walk like this is it's all uphill from the bottom and the bus won't wait if I'm late. Had to put a spurt on half-way back up. Apparently during the civil war Nationalist sympathisers were pushed to their deaths from the top, an event recalled in Hemmingway's book "For Whom The Bell Tolls."

You'll be glad to hear I made it back to the bus station in time with the help of a kind lady, neither of us multi-lingual but she understood my feeble attempt at Spanish. I'll leave my adventures to Granada, Mijas and Gibraltar for another time.

So, Buenos Dias, Buenas Tardes/Noches, Adios Amigos

BERNADETTE xxx

PROGRAMME MEETING - All members welcome

On Monday, March 19th at Birch House, Bishop Eaton, off Woolton Road, at 7.30pm we will be planning our Autumn/Winter Programme of rambles/events.

Any suggestions for walks, etc, whether new or old favourites will be welcomed. Any person having difficulties with transport to the meeting simply contact any committee member so that transport can be arranged for you. Everyone is invited to this meeting. There is a bar available on the premises.

FAMILY SECTION PROGRAMME, 1990.

MAR. 1. HOUSE MEETING at Leo and Pat Pearson's, at 81 Twig Lane,
Huyton.

MAR. 11. RAMBLE. Leaders Bill and Peggy Potter - Wirral Way.
The walk will start promptly at 12.00 noon
from the start of the Wirral Way opposite
West Kirby Station. Park in the nearest
available space on the Prom or in one of the
nearby Car Parks. Toilets will be found on
the Prom.

APRIL 5. HOUSE MEETING - Noel and Angela Fishwick's, 74 Moss
Lane, Maghull.

APRIL 8. RAMBLE. Loughrigg Fell, Ambleside - leaders Angela
and Noel Fishwick. Walk starts promptly at
10.30 a.m. The Quarry Car Park is on the
right about 2 miles before Grasmere.

FAMILY SECTION RAMBLE, MYERSCOUGH, 10TH DECEMBER, 1989.

This was a good December walk which started near the
Myerscough Arms by the British Aerospace Complex east of Preston.
Pilot and navigator were Gerry and Jean McDonald with a route based
on one of those walking books (ambiguous) entitled "a Thousand
Walks East of Eden"... did we say Preston?

The Ribble Valley countryside was sufficiently varied
to have allowed the leader to miss out that part where the path
went through a field with fifteen bulls - but he didn't. He
calmed his party down by saying they were immature animals -
bullocks - precisely. Nevertheless, his judgement was sound,
but should farmers put such livestock across public footpaths?

Conversation on the walk was of the usual erudite
standard so I was surprised to read in the last Newsletter that
there were some know-alls and naive persons on our rambles.
We don't know who they are, of course, but bless 'em all, I say.
Would the other writer really prefer to spend his day with craft
sophisticates? Could be amusing, I suppose, but could they walk?

It was a fine pre-Christmas walk enjoyed by Freda and
George S., Doreen and Harry Hays, Tony and Marcia T., Paul Pearson
taking a break from sky-diving, and Molly and Tony R. Thanks,
Gerry and Jean.

Talking of Christmas, don't miss the 1990 Dinner at the
Anglican Cathedral - the '89 evening was excellent, so the more
the merrier.

Happy Rambling for 1990.

"ATOM".

THE FAMILY SECTION YULETIDE WALK, 1990.

I have to do this write-up for two reasons - one because Mona is twisting my arm (in spite of my plea that it is too long ago and I can't remember what happened) and two, to put the record straight. Right, so the first objective is achieved, now for the second.

It has come to my attention that there are rumours going around that for the first time in living memory the whippers-in got lost!! THIS IS NOT TRUE - never at any time did we not know where we were, but being kind thoughtful sort of people, we thought that the others might not know that we knew where we were, so we turned back to find them. Meanwhile, the others had arrived back at the Barn before us and sent Gerry out to find us, but since we were not lost, he was having some difficulty finding us, but all was well when we met him coming back from going back.

I do hope that is perfectly clear to all who have had the per severance to have got this far!!

The ramble? Well, that was lovely as usual, for the the usual reasons - too much food being walked off, gorgeous fresh air being gasped into lungs too long without, and all that catching up' on the news with people who have been hibernating since the last Yuletide. The weather was quite kind - as far as I can remember. The hot-pot was happily put away, and the children's (?) games and barn dance were very much enjoyed by everybody.

Many thanks to our leader for his usual lovely walk (and for not chewing our ears off for not getting lost!), and to all those who put so much work into making the whole thing a success. It really is appreciated.

from

"She who was not lost but
is found".

Jean, I wouldn't have twisted your arm so viciously if our revered and respected editor, Dave Newns, had not twisted both of my arms and one leg. He's so nice about it that I don't notice the agony until about two seconds afterwards. Anyway, thank you very much for the 'return of post' write-up.

Mona.
