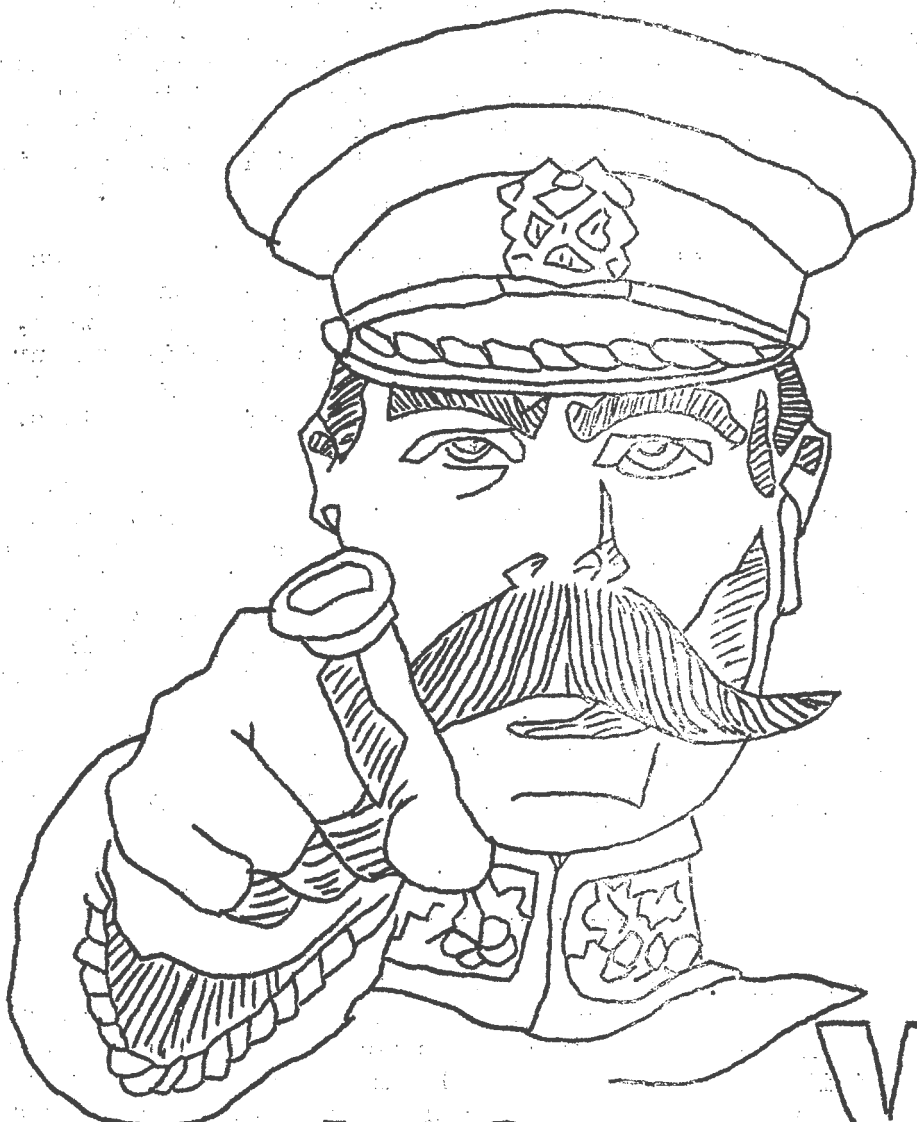


No. 25

4.6.91

LIVERPOOL CATHOLIC RAMBLERS



THE L.C.R.A.
NEEDS

YOU!

E D I T O R I A L

Hello fellow ramblers,

New members are now joining us with ever-increasing numbers and as Ray points out in his Ramblerite below there is an increasing problem trying to accommodate all and sundry on the rambles, mainly because of a shortage of leaders. When two coaches are used, ideally, and for safety reasons, there should be about five parties of approx 18 people on each. At the moment there are not enough leaders available to meet this requirement so only one coach is being booked, thus many members may be disappointed until the situation has been resolved. Some of the club leaders seem to be in semi-hibernation at present with other commitments at weekends or have just simply left the club, so along with Ray I join in the appeal for more leaders to come forward or if you think you might like to try but are a little unsure, see Ray or any leader for a little confidential chat. There is one perk with the job - all 'C' walk leaders at present have a free ramble!

Latest rambles seem to be alternating with wintry conditions followed by summer weather the following week, then back to winter again. There was snow on the top of Fairfield recently and also snow and ice on the Snowdon ramble last week, so the saying: "Never strike a clout until May is out" certainly applies on our mountain walks and we are all reminded how important it is to carry full winter gear in our rucksacks even if it is just like a summer's day in the valleys.

Before I wrap up I must appeal to everyone that this is YOUR newsletter and sadly, contributions from individual members have dwindled in recent years. Ramble write-ups, weekend write-ups or anything else that may be of interest to the membership of our club would be welcome. Perhaps a Readers Letters page might be introduced again, there used to be one many years ago. Anyone with any ideas, or better still articles or write-ups for future newsletters, please contact me either in person or by phone. but please break the news gently to me, the shock may be too much!

Finally thanks to P. Barry for his Falkland Island story, Ray for the Ramblerite and Mona for the Family Section contribution which was done at very short notice.

DAVE NEWNS, 7 Abbotts Way, Billinge, WIGAN WN5 7SB Tel. 0744 892791

R A M B L E R I T E

Firstly let me thank Tom Shannon, Dave Newns and Joe Rourke, all of whom have stepped in at the last minute to lead walks for us and save the day. It is unfortunate that at a time when we are seeing many new members, and coaches are being booked up earlier than ever, we have to limit ourselves to one coach only because of a severe lack of leaders. The next rambling programme has been drawn up but is nowhere near ready for printing because of the lack of leaders, so I will be round at every opportunity to fill in some names. There are a couple of likely prospects whose names will be appearing shortly but not nearly enough, so if you feel that you could lead a walk come and see myself or Brian Keller.

If you have been unable to make a firm booking for a walk please do not take a seat on the coach until asked to do so. Every effort will be made to accommodate those who have provisionally booked in the order in which they appear in the book.

I have to ask you once again to keep with your leaders. The latest incident on Snowdon illustrates the point when a walk was ruined by a member leaving the party. The time lost looking for him and the uncertainty of the situation enforced the leader to cut short the walk and return to the coach by the shortest route.

On Sunday, May 12th Brian Keller will lead us on a walk on the Long Mynd, a gentle green undulating ridge above the town of Church Stretton in Shropshire. A good chance for the stronger 'C' walkers to try an easy 'B'.

Further walks include:

NOEL HEBOG (Beddgelert area) 19th May, CRINKLE CRAGS (Langdale area) 2nd June, SETTLE (Yorkshire Dales) 9th June, CARNEDDS (Snowdonia) 16th June, CONLSTON (Lakes) 23rd June - all highly popular walks, so book early!

On Friday, 24th May we will be going to Edale Youth Hostel and Activity Centre in the heart of the Peak District for the Bank Holiday Weekend. The cost of this will be approx £66 plus transport. The package includes breakfasts on Sat, Sun and Monday and dinners on Sat and Sun. There will be four activities: climbing, abseiling, a fun problem solving activity which may include raft building and map and compass. The latter should be of particular interest to current as well as budding leaders. There are only 12 places booked so get yer names down quickly to avoid disappointment.

RAY McINTOSH, Rambling Chairman

HAS ANYONE LOST A RUCKSACK?

Among the lost property that Brian Keller holds is a small rucksack. Next time you are on a ramble please look over your shoulder, it may be yours! Does anyone know of a member of a few weeks/months back who has lost one? See Brian or phone him.

NEXT WEEKAN INVITATION WALK IN ENGLAND'S LAST WILDERNESS

with JR

Members are invited to take part in a Walk of Discovery in the North Pennines, the habitat of Arctic and Alpine plants only to be found in this region of the country, also many species of Wild Flowers peculiar to the Upper Tees and Wear Valleys, at their best in mid-May.

It is proposed to travel up on Monday 13th May and travel home on Friday 17th. It will entail four overnights at Langton Beck Youth Hostel. In the absence of members cars we will travel by public transport. Interested? Give me a bell!

JOE ROURKE (256 9144).

F A L K L A N D I S L A N D S T O R Y

When I was offered a contract employment in the Falkland Islands I hesitated at first but then I thought "No, I'll go for it - it will soon go over". So take the job I did. I thought I might be able to get a few decent walks down there, as there would probably be some kind of club or organisation that walked - well I was soon to find out. I left Brize Norton at 1800hrs 13/8/90 and arrived at Mount Pleasant Airport, Falkland Islands at 11.45 14/8/90 which was a bit of a drag but it wasn't too bad. Anyway over the next couple of weeks I got a couple of sections of a large map of the Falklands, which covered Stanley, ready for going out on my own as I found out that there was no organised walks at all. I also met the priest in St Mary's church - who was from Freshfield - would you believe! and one of the two hairdressers on the Islands - Lynne Davis - was from Anfield! When I got talking to the priest - Father John Doran (Millhill Fathers) he said he liked walking in the mountains but was unable to do so at the moment owing to the fact that he was using a walking stick (he tried to vault a fence that was higher than he thought and damaged his knee!) so I planned a few walks for myself.

The Falklands countryside (or 'Camp' as it is known locally) is different to ours in as much as there are no trees to be seen anywhere, the whole Islands are peat and the grass is a greeny-brown. There is a small bush that covers the ground like heather and bears fruit, which the locals eat, called 'diddle dee'. I don't know what the proper name is. It is very windy as well, usually high winds for seven days a week. There are a lot of stone runs around the area I could reach for walking as well - I say that I could reach because outside Stanley there are no roads at all, only tracks and they are full of potholes, or across very boggy peat so you have to be careful when trying to drive which is why I purchased a landrover

when I was there. There are also a lot of minefields around Stanley, so you have to plan to miss them. They are all fenced off but I didn't like the idea of walking next to them, also the local radio broadcast warnings of people who are going out walking to be careful as a number of unexploded mortars and hand grenades are found every few weeks, but these are becoming less frequent as the bomb disposal 'sweep' the area. The most I found when walking was a couple of empty ammunition boxes and plenty of spent bullets.

I took a walk around the opposite side of Stanley Harbour one day during the Falklands Summer (Winter over here!) and found three dead sheep and a dead pony - it was up to its belly in a peat bog, which is a common occurrence with horses and sheep, the locals told me. I also came across some old Argentinian dug-outs and a portakabin which looked like a communications H.Q. as there were telephone wires all over the place, so I had a butty break here out of the wind and imagined the goings on some ten years previous. When I continued my walk I noticed a hawk of some kind in the sky so I looked up at it drifting, motionless on the wind. The next thing I knew, whoosh! it dive-bombed me! and I thought "I think I'll get out of here". Then from nowhere another one appeared and I could see them both drifting towards me. Then whoosh! I was dive-bombed again. I stooped low and turned then looked up. It was hovering about 6 to 8 feet above my head making the sort of noises that birds of prey make.

Well I won't say that I was scared but my heart was pounding in my chest (I was terrified really). It must have had about a 4-foot wingspan but it seemed like twelve foot as it hovered there staring into my eyes. Anyway it then slowly drifted back into the sky and I got on my way cursing it!

The whole purpose of the walk was to take a look at a lot of old portakabins, near the entrance of Stanley harbour, which the Navy had used to live in just after the Falklands War. The two birds - which I have since found out were red-backed hawks - followed me all the way to these portakabins although they were high in the sky. So when I got to the relative safety of the portakabins I armed myself with a six-foot length of conduit I had found in case of a repeat performance on the way back, but I took a different route coming back (coward!) along an old railway track.

Nothing as exciting ever happened to me during the rest of my time over there although I did visit a few settlements and saw plenty of penguins (they smell awful). This article is becoming a bit long so I'll stop and possibly write another in the future.

P. BARRY

WANT TO GO RAMBLING BUT CAN'T GET A SEAT ON OUR COACH?

Have you considered going on one of the public excursions with the Ramblers' Association? They run from Liverpool and Birkenhead with various picking up points en route. They leave from St John's Lane a little earlier than ours. Wingate coaches are the ones to look out for. Bookings are of course necessary but there is a short notice only service from Donald Merchant, 17 Walkden Avenue East, WIGAN, Lancs WN1 2DX Tel. 0942 825465 or Ron Gordon, 12 Narrow Lane, AUGHTON, Ormskirk, Lancs L39 5EW. Tel. 0695 421294. There is a choice of three rambles, the leaders wear green armbands.

Here is a sample of some of their forthcoming rambles:

		Depart	Due back	Fare
May 5	VALE OF LUNE (Kirkby Lonsdale and Sedbergh)	9.10	8.40	£6
May 26	DERBYSHIRE DALES (Monsal Dale and Bakewell)	9.10	8.45	£5.50
Jun 23	SNOWDONIA (Capel Curig and Beddgelert)	8.45	9.15	£6.
Jul 28	LAKE DISTRICT (Scales, Thelkeld, Keswick)	8.40	9.30	£7

Booking forms available from: Ramblers' Association, 17 Walkden Avenue East, Wigan, Lancs WN1 2DX or from the RA's social on Friday Evenings at 8pm in the AEU Building (large hall), 48 Mount Pleasant, Liverpool 3. (Children under 16 £3).

FAMILY SECTION PROGRAMME - 1991.

MAY 12. CONWAY MOUNTAIN. Gerry and Jean are our leaders. 12 noon is the time to start walking. Take the A55 to Conway. Go through the centre of the town and through the arch in the wall, still on the A55. About 100 yards past this arch take the first road on the left (a very minor one), turn right and park on the roadside.

MAY 26. LONGTON MARSH. We start walking at 12.30 p.m. and our leaders are George and Freda. Meet at the BOOTH Super Market car park in Marsh Lane. This is the planned easy walk of the month, so will all those on the Ainsdale walk step forward and partake! It's a flattish 5½ miles.

JUNE 9. WEST YORKSHIRE WALK. Peter and Marie are leading. Approaching Settle from Gisburn, go into Settle to within 10 yards short of the first traffic lights. Turn left down Station Road. The car park is 25 yds. on right of Station Road itself.

JUNE 28 Once again we have taken the Chalet for the whole week and it should be JULY 5th. lovely between these dates, long days and hopefully, good weather. Partakers come and go as they can spare the time, and all are welcome. Ring Peggy or Rosemary on, respectively 486 7952 and 526 1724.

JUNE 30. This is the official walk while we are at the Chalet. Be at the Chalet at Pant Dhu near Nerquis and Maeshafn in North Wales to start walking at 12.30 p.m.

JULY 14. HEBDEN BRIDGE, YORKSHIRE. Freda and George are leading this one. We start walking at 12.30 p.m. Meet at the St. George Street car park in Hebden Bridge, close to the Council Offices. George says he went to a lot of trouble finding a car park which incorporates his name, so he expects a good crowd to turn out to show its appreciation!

Once again, if anybody can't get to the House Meetings and who need extra information, ring 733 2122 for the number of any of the leaders.

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HOUSE MEETINGS. On the 2nd May we are at Maureen Howard's, 236 Brodie Avenue, Liverpool, 19; June 6th Peter and Marie are our hosts at 12 Meadcw Lane, Maghull, and for the 4th July we are at George and Freda Skillicorn's, 12 Avon Road, Billinge, Wigan.

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AINSDALE AREA FAMILY SECTION WALK, 24TH MARCH, 1991.

The sun was shining brightly as approximately 36 members assembled in the Freshfield Station car park for George Parky's walk. The turn-out was extremely gratifying and no doubt was a tribute to the popularity of the Leader. There were quite a number of members out whom we have not seen on a ramble for a very long time. Keep up the good work!

Having followed the track alongside the railway, we crossed the line and proceeded on the Fisherman's Path almost as far as the shore. We now trudged in a northerly direction in very soft sand up and down and in between sand dunes. We eventually stopped for lunch and passed the time by watching parachutists jumping from a balloon. The sun was so hot at this stage that I would have been quite content to spend the rest of the afternoon sunbathing.

But this was not to be and George soon had us moving on our way again. As the afternoon progressed, the temperature appeared to drop dramatically and we were only too glad to keep on the move. Eventually, we reached the railway line again to the accompaniment of the constant drone from the engines of the aircraft of the University Squadron.

Thank you for a great walk, George, and bring your better half with you next time. The things people do to avoid going on a ramble! Rosemary did a grand job as whipper-in.

Noel Fidwick.

* * * * *

If you want good weather on a ramble come to the Lake District in April. For the last three years the weather has been exceptionally fine, which obviously enhances the walk itself.

We started from the car park (marked with a red cross on the map!) and walked into Coniston Village, whereupon a certain member, seeing a phone box, made a quick call to discover if she was yet a grandmother. Grandfather to be (he was then) promised ice creams all round if she was, but regretfully we were to be denied.

From the village we followed the road/track to the now disused copper mine, passing numerous water falls on the way. The views of Coniston Water and the Old Man of Coniston were perfect. The path became more steep as we slowly made our way up to a col which was the entrance to a high (in some places waterlogged) valley. We now traversed the side of Weatherlam on a track which was covered in lush grass and a delight to walk on. Crossing a well-maintained bridge over a beck we then descended to Higher Tilberthwaite.

As is almost inevitable on a walk in this area, we started to climb once again up the side of the fell which was very rewarding, however, because of the views of the Longdale Pikes and Helvellyn. Cameras were very much in evidence at this stage. The path down was steep and rocky and led us to Yew Tree Farm, which features a great deal on many Lakeland calendars. Before reaching the farm however we were accosted by two men who asked us to carry yew boughs which they had just cut, down to their Land Rover which was parked just above the farm. I understood that they used the yews to carve bowls and spoons which are sold in a local craft shop.

Once again it was a slog up to Tarn Hows where an ice cream van was conveniently situated. After a short stop at the tarn side we proceeded along a very pleasant downward path through weeds, eventually arriving at the Hawkahead road. A short walk along this busy road soon brought us back to the car park.

Did Tony Thompson ever sell that sunbed?

NOEL.

* * * * *

Should one sense a resurgence in the walking membership of our Section? The two John and Cath menages were on the Ainsdale walk, as were newly re-joined Geof and Audrey Slack, the Kings have signed up again and have 'threatened' to walk with us some time, etc. etc. Now that Jean is arranging hard and easy walks alternatively (bless her) most of us should be able to enjoy one ramble at least in each month.

For the disappointed non-ice-cream-eaters on the Coniston ramble, we're delighted to announce that Caroline and John Malone now have a daughter, born on the 26th April and Mum and baby are well. She is to be Kathryn. The McDonalds are using the ice cream money to wet the babies head, as we used to say.

Your typist feels she simply must thank the writer-up and leaders for their superb co-operation in letting her have the Newsletter material in such a short space of time for this hurriedly concocted issue. The phone lines simply sizzled. May all your corns be little ones.

Just another reminder about the Chalet WEEK. Even if you've only a couple of days to spare; delightful company (did I hear somebody mutter (Big head) good food and walks and all very reasonably costed out. What more can I say. Shall we see you?

M.R.