

LIVERPOOL CATHOLIC RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION



NEWSLETTER

6th Series Issue 9

Spring 1995

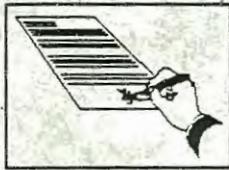
From the Editor's Desktop

BIGGER 'B' WALKS

More members have been going on our 'B' walks recently (see our Postbag bit). This is a healthy sign for our club as we have had the problem of overcrowding on 'C' walks for some time. It proves that many ex-'C' walkers are quite capable of accomplishing and enjoying 'B' walks with us. This also enables the smaller 'C' parties to be more controllable which the leader and our regular 'C' walkers will appreciate.

HOW YOUR NEWSLETTER IS PRODUCED

February last year saw our first computerised newsletter, thanks to Ken Clark. About every six weeks Ken first designs the front cover by using paste-ups in conjunction with his computer. Meanwhile the main bulk of typesetting and graphics are effected by me on a similar computer. My floppy disk is then handed to Ken who enhances it with more graphics and any additional material that he has typed. He then prints out one copy of each page (this month's



edition is now even more enhanced by the use of a laser printer). The pages are checked, corrected, then handed to a third person for the photocopying of well over 1000 sheets, all at a reasonable cost. The sheets are finally collated and stapled. So now we have the technology but we need many more contributors to supply the occasional ramble write-up, puzzle or any other suitable article. Come on, have a go!

THANKS AND NEXT PLEASE

Thanks to Roy Thiis and the Seniors' Section contributors to this edition. Material for the next edition should be given to me or Ken before the Spring Bank Holiday at the end of May for our June edition. My address: 7 Abbots Way, Billinge, WIGAN WN5 7SB.

Dave Newns

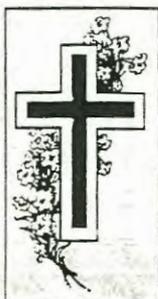
INTERESTING BITS FROM OUR ARCHIVES

In the Editorial of our June 1982 edition the newsletter team were: Laurence Kelly (editor), Dave Newns (printer), Paul Stevens (club chairman), Paul Healy and six typists - Angela Platt, Angela Mason, Pat Rothwell Ann Nicholson and Louise Kelly, with Mona Roberts for the then Family Section. It took three weeks to produce. Now it can be done in less than a week without too much difficulty!



FORTNIGHTLY RAMBLES - Rambles were fortnightly averaging 31 people, but our weekly socials were averaging sixty or more! In that same edition a Pitch and Putt night out at New Brighton was planned, and a Prize Crossword No 4 was included with a choice of £2.50 or a free ramble. This was the last crossword that appeared until this year when Ray Mc re-introduced them. They were too difficult for most to complete - sounds familiar!

OBITUARY



McCOY - Sadly both of Maureen McCoy's parents died recently. We offer our condolences to Maureen and her family at this tragic loss. May they both rest in peace.

RAMBLERITE

Now the light evenings have returned we'll be extending our time for leaders to get their parties back to the coach. This will be no later than 6.30pm again, and may not mean longer 'C' walks but perhaps their butty breaks should be more numerous or extended, as this is preferable to a long wait for the other parties to get back to the coach.

With hot sunny days ahead you could think about trading in your woolly hat for a wide-brimmed one, something to protect your nose, back of neck or even top of head in some cases. Don't forget the sun protection cream. In shorts and summer gear it's obvious to protect the arms and legs, but few remember the upper chest below your chin.

The Autumn/Winter programme (August to January) is pretty well sorted now but I'm looking for leaders again to fill the odd vacancies.

CHANGE OF VENUE - MAY 7th: KENDAL. Meal inclusive event at a cost of £7.50. Just for this day you needn't walk if you prefer to explore this historic town instead. There will of course be walks for those interested. An extended stop at the Carnforth Hotel on the way home will necessitate a 10.30 return to Liverpool.

Ray McIntosh

FORTHCOMING RAMBLES

- May 7 KENDAL (see Change of Venue, above).
- May 14 ABER FALLS. A few miles this side of Bangor on the North Wales coast road. Last time we had the rescue helicopter out for a 'C' walker who slipped on a flat grassy bit, seriously breaking her leg, so check the tread on your boots for this scenic walk.
- May 21 DOW CRAG is in the popular Coniston area of the Lake District which the 'A' and possibly the 'B' will cover, with the Old Man of Coniston probably thrown in for good measure. I won't mention that the old man typing this has a birthday the day before but will probably come out to celebrate.
- May 28 EYAM is the Derbyshire village which commemorates the heroism of its people in the 1665-66 plague by dressing their three wells on the last Saturday in August. Walks will be in the hills and valleys of this area. Being a Bank Holiday Sunday it's a 24-seater and the fare costs £1 more than our normal coach.
- June 4 THE FAIRFIELD HORSESHOE is one of Ian Freeman's popular 'A' walks in the Lakes. The 'B' and 'C' will probably be in the Ambleside/Grasmere areas but check with leaders Ray Mc and Doug Chadwick nearer the date.



Dave Newns

FREE INSURANCE AGAINST LOSING YOUR PROPERTY

Put your name inside your waterproofs and any other gear that could accidentally get left behind on the coach NOW! Special marker pens are best but ink from ordinary ball-point pens will also survive many washes.





ENGAGEMENT

Our congratulations to **JAQUI RIGBY** and **ROY THIIIS** on their engagement. They actually made this happy decision early this year but the announcement inadvertently got missed out of the last newsletter.

CROSSWORD WINNER

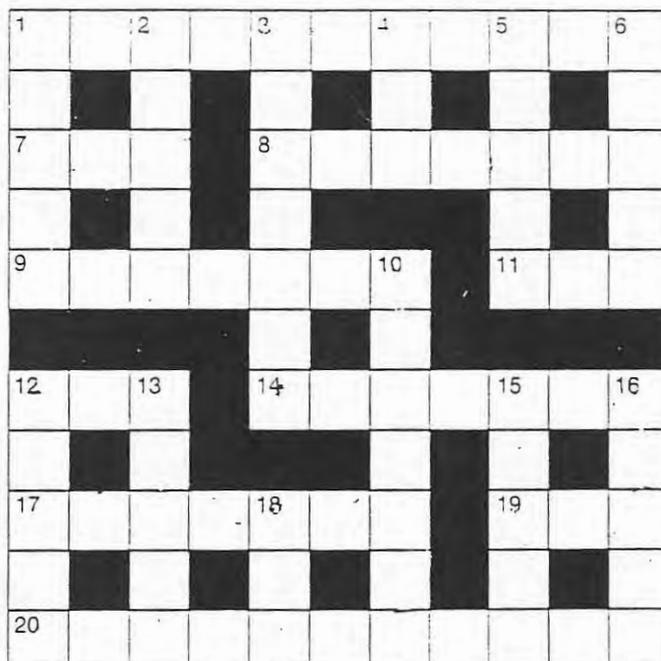
Caroline Kellet won Ray's Prize Crossword No. 2 - not again? She also won Crossword No. 1! It's a fix!! Runners-up were Tom Reilly and Rita Richards. To save embarrassment a third time I've devised the following easy crossword - no prize, but a feeling of pride for all who successfully complete it.



EASY CROSSWORD

Our last two prize crosswords weren't too difficult for regular addicts but were for many others. Now is your big chance to prove that you can do it with this fun crossword. Like many clues, some of the answers are given in the form of anagrams (letters jumbled up in one or two words of the clue) as in 5 Down (a rope). Just start with the easy clues then go back to the others later and it's simple. I won't mention that the solution is given elsewhere in this newsletter as you shouldn't need to cheat by taking a peep.

Editor.



ACROSS

1. Corner of half a Lake District pass and part of a building. (11)
7. Could improve our hot-pots. (3)
8. Cornet breaks around middle C for this performance. (7)
9. Leader who takes 'C' parties over dangerous knife-edge ridges. (7)
11. IRA is fresh in country districts. (3)
12. Has no smoking in our coach prevented this tree? (3)
14. Been and gone - like the dodo. (7)
17. Erb Pele keeps racing ahead of the leader and should be fitted with one of these. (7)
19. It's a --- for members to laze at home on a fine Sunday. (3)
20. These four rambled with Christ and wrote good news letters. (11)

DOWN

1. Worn 'C' walkers often relax here to socialise with other members. (5)
2. Birds rot so on their perches. (5)
3. Cavè Len changes for isolated territory. (7)
4. Brightens up our day. (3)
5. Twisted a rope on stage. (5)
6. To go inside a cave. (5)
10. Len H. Rat was spellbound at the litter we left behind on the coach. (7)
12. Not quite a Rambler but a way of walking. (5)
13. Laughs at ramblers who walk around the zoo. (5)
15. You don't mention the War but can still find ten SS in trees. (5)
16. Temporary countryside shelters. (5)
18. Swine of a track up Snowdon. (3)

THURSDAY SOCIAL EVENINGS AT THE CROWN

PLEASE NOTE - Following complaints from the management of the Crown the Committee has established the following procedures that must be observed by all Club members:

Members are requested to vacate the room no later than 10.50 but drinks may be taken downstairs. All excess debris should be cleared up before leaving.

Drinks purchased outside the premises must not be brought into the Clubroom.

Committee members will be available to be responsible for all Club members whilst at the Crown and the following have volunteered to form a special Sub-Committee for that purpose: Tony Bond, Beryl Baker, Doug Chadwick and Ian Freeman.

It would be difficult to find a better venue suitable for all members so please support your Committee and Club. Let's look forward to many future events there, and we start with the first three Thursdays in May, as follows:-

RAMBLERS' QUIZ NIGHTS

The FIRST THURSDAY of every month, ie MAY 4th and JUNE 1st - Win a FREE RAMBLE

V.E. CELEBRATION NIGHT

THURSDAY, MAY 11th, 8.30pm

Don't miss our special night of celebrations upstairs at the Crown

TREASURE TRAIL

THURSDAY, MAY 18th, Rendezvous at Victoria Monument, Queens Square At 7.30pm Pick up your clues from Joe Rourke (organiser) then proceed armed with pen & paper to solve the mystery clues around our City Centre. It would be more fun if you could work in teams, the cut off time for the Treasure trail will be 9.30 at the Crown Pub and the Winner will be announced at 10.15pm. This activity should appeal to all our members, Family and Seniors' Sections.

* FREE PIES for everyone * PRIZES for the winners

So you think you know Liverpool!

DISCO at the Traders Social Club, Rice Lane, Walton on Friday 2 June, 8pm

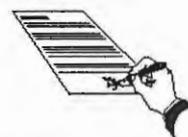
£2.50. Food and Raffle. Bar till 2am - See Beryl or Ray Mc for tickets.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Dear Editor,

Walk descriptions passed around the coach on a couple of rambles recently attracted me to the 'B' walks. On these occasions 'C' walks were advertised but there were no 'C' walk descriptions passed around. Had there been a 'C' walk description I might have been attracted to that walk, but I, like some of the other members who now go on selected 'B' walks, still desire to know what the 'C' leader has planned.



A B WALKER

Dear Editor,

You have a circulation problem, in your case with the newsletter. I know of at least one case where it has affected the blood pressure of a member even to the verge of rabidity. For our said Treasurer not to receive a newsletter is unforgivable if not downright dangerous. Though not in any way guilty Caroline Kellett would be as well advised to keep clear of the said member if she is to avoid a few more Prize Crosswords.

GEROME FISHER

PS: If history repeats itself I need not worry about retribution as he will not have the opportunity to read this anyway.

ARNSIDE EN-SUITE - A RECENT CLUB 'A' WALK

Always good to know in this age of Satellites, high-speed computers, etc, the ole weather forecasters can still get it wrong! So instead of Michael Fish's Hurricane Brenda we were blessed with a fine, almost Spring day.



To emphasise the mild conditions the boots soon became good friends with the super-glue mud as we crossed the deer park at Milnthorpe. It wasn't long before we came across the deer herd and the traditional game of who can stare the strongest soon began. As always it was one nil to them as they stampeded over the brow.

At the quiet village church of Bentham, Brian, le leader, pointed out to the unaware how you could spot the tell-tale differences between the earliest part of the church to the later additions. Any further admiring of the church, not Brian, was quickly curtailed as a villager was in the midst of burning ole copper wire in our wind direction.

With the visibility all clear it was on to Fairy Steps but not before we crossed paths with a 'C' party photo-call in the woods. The main attraction of the picture wasn't so much the ever-increasing smiles, but rather the sheer beauty of the carpets of snow-drops surrounding us. It was more than compensation for what should have been the real stuff. Would the bluebells, I wonder, be just as impressive in the Spring?

Arnside Tower never fails to stimulate a good talkie bit and today was to be no exception. As always a never ending supply of questions and theory's erupted during the butty break - How important was the Tower? Who lived there? etc. Even though it's in ruins you could spot some noticeable features like the beam supports and the fireplaces on every floor. Very cosy but where's the en-suite? one of the ladies mentioned.

I wonder if in the year 2095 will ramblers on their butty break be able to scan Arnside Tower with a pocket-size computer TV and within seconds be given a 3D tour of the Tower in its former glory? I'll let you know!

Meanwhile it was one up on the Jones' as we passed loads of M reg four-wheel drives on our path through the caravan park. In the centre of the site was a play area which Ray Mc, Ann and Frank were to show their hidden skills. Watching these 'A' walk regulars on the assault course brought it home to me that by going on so many 'B' walks I now felt like an Action Man deserter. However, seeing those Krypton Factors being added up certainly underlined the 'A' walk's motto "He Who Dares".

Having been spellbound by this performance a new inspiration overpowered me, taking me off down the path with a gritted determination. Within a few feet it began to pay dividends as two kids (total ages nine-and-a-half) coming in my direction moved off the path pretty quick so my 'yomping' to Silverdale could continue unhindered.

At Silverdale, Frank broke off from his in-depth discussion on Liverpool City Council election tactics to inform us all that the pleasant church for all to see was indeed called St John's. Thanks Frank.

A wet trek across Silverdale Sands was anticipated due to the previous high tide. Past treks over the filled gulleys meant some ramblers were more wet behind the ears than others. However, I'm pleased to report there were no looks at the coral reef this year from our crew. But some local kids on brand new mountain bikes soon found out the true meaning of an Apollo splashdown!



Safely across the sands there was enough time to unload the rucksack a bit more and enjoy the sinking sun. The final few miles back to Arnside are always a pleasure due mainly to the scenic coastal path. This trail ensures the fifth gear stays in place as you enjoy the views across the great expanse of sands and the distant fells. Thanks Brian for a good walk.

Roy Thiis

CROSSWORD SOLUTION for checking AFTER you've done it!
Across: 1 Cornerstone, 7 Oxo, 8 Concert, 9 Nutcase, 11 Air, 12 Ash, 14 Extinct, 17 Bleeper, 19 Sin, 20 Evangelists.
Down: 1 Crown, 2 Roost, 3 Enclave, 4 Sun, 5 Opera, 6 Enter, 10 Enthral, 12 Amble, 13 Hyena, 15 Nest, 16 Tents, 18 Pig.

STRANGE LIVERPOOL

While out on one of my Sunday Rambles with our club I mentioned to a fellow walker, that I had picked up a rather unusual story guide to Liverpool in the tourist office.

I started to tell him some of the story's and I could tell by the look on his face, that he only halved believed me.

Over the next few Newsletters I will reproduce some of the more bizarre story's. Ken Clark.

The following story is taken from Thomas Slemen's Guide to-
"STRANGE LIVERPOOL"

HITLER LIVED HERE.

MANY CELEBRITIES have visited the city of Liverpool over the years.

Literary giants such as Daniel Defoe, Charles Dickens, Herman Melville, Mark Twain and Nathaniel Hawthorne have all visited the town, as well as prominent history-makers such as Lord Nelson, Theodore Roosevelt, Winston Churchill - and even his adversary,

ADOLF HITLER

According to an unfinished manuscript that was discovered in a New York public library in the late 1970s, Adolf Hitler came to stay in Toxteth, Liverpool when he was a young down - and - out Draft-Dodger. The author of the incredible manuscript was one Bridget Hitler, the wife of Adolf's half -brother, Alois. Bridget had married Alois Hitler after a whirlwind romance when the two met in Dublin at the annual Horse Show there in 1909.

The couple later moved to Liverpool, where Alois tried his hand at a succession of business ventures which left him bankrupt. Alois put what little money he had left on a horse in the Grand National, and it won him a fortune. Alois used the winnings to go into the safety - razor business, and decided to move to 102 Upper Stanhope Street, Toxteth, an area of the city where many Germans had settled. One freezing November morning in 1912, Alois and Bridget stood at Lime Street Station, waiting for Anton Raubal, the brother-in-law of Alois to disembark from a London to Liverpool steam train. Anton had been summoned by Alois to help with his newly-founded razor business, But Anton Raubal didn't step down from the train.

A pale faced young man in a worn-out suit descended instead and offered his hand to Alois. It was his 23-year-old half-brother. Adolf. Adolf explained that Anton could not make the journey, so he had come in his place. Alois was furious and started to argue with Adolf in German. During his stay at the three bedroomed house in Upper Stanhope Street, young Adolf confessed he was in Liverpool because he had deserted from the Austrian army, and had been on the run for eighteen

months. He had managed to slip out of Germany by using the altered identity papers of his dead brother Edmund Hitler.

Adolf spent most of his time lounging about the house and playing with his brother's two-year-old baby. He often spread a large map of Europe on the kitchen floor and told how Germany would one day rise and conquer the world, and would rant on about the Jews in Vienna who turned down his application to enter the Academy there. He occasionally wandered aimlessly around the town until nightfall, and often visited the Walker Art Gallery, where he admired a huge painting of Napoleon that still hangs over the gallery staircase.

Adolf also spent hours down at the Pier Head, watching the ships on the Mersey. At that time, Britain and Bavaria shared the same national anthem tune, and when Adolf heard a brass band at the Pier Head playing God Save the King, he couldn't believe his eyes when all the old men present took off their hats and stood to attention.

Adolf eventually outstayed his welcome, and Alois told him to go home.

In May 1913, Adolf Hitler left and returned to Germany. Bridget says in her manuscript that she blamed herself for turning loose a man who plunged the world into war, and regretted not getting him to learn English.

Historians who have analyzed the manuscript believe the alleged trip to Liverpool is entirely credible, and furthermore, November 1912 to May 1913 is something of a lost period in the Fuhrer's life. Hitler never mentioned his stay in Liverpool in Mein Kampf, but then that could be because he didn't want to publicise his shameful days as a draft-dodging drop-out. Ironically, the last bomb to fall on Liverpool in World War Two demolished the house in Upper Stanhope Street where Hitler once lived.

Next month

The Man in the Iron Tube and
The Penny Lane Poltergeist.

SENIORS' SECTION

(For information to newcomers of our club, most of the Seniors' Section have been with our club for many years. They organise their own walks and hold monthly meetings in their own homes).

RIBCHESTER - March 12th

To be forewarned is not always to be forearmed. The leader and spouse were just about to make a smart getaway from the car park when plaintive voices were heard pleading to be allowed to join in. So Jean and Gerry still hold that unenviable record.

On a lovely Spring morning we made our way along the Ribble Way past the Parish Church and down to the river bank. We crossed a stile, ascended a slight mound and stopped for Amy to have breakfast whilst the more conventional ones amongst us had lunch.



We continued past a lovely old manor house, Hothersall Hall, by way of a wide track but soon turned into a field and by paying careful attention to fences, hedges and tree locations eventually came to a photogenic stile where three of our quartet posed for snapshots. Our route now brought us near another country mansion, Alston Hall, and a mini observatory.

Our leader was now obliged to make a momentous decision - to follow the official route or stay on the country road for a while? Whatever he did would be wrong; and so it was! The official route turned out to be through a rice farm and though the forearmed leader was well shod in wellingtons, alas, his charges were wearing boots, walking not riding boots, and George, up to his calves in mud-cum-slurry, had, perforce to retrace his steps, adding another mile-and-a-half on to our Sunday stroll.

Back on course we skirted a reservoir, went through a kissing gate and found our way to Butcher Fold. We visited a number of farms hereabouts, not out of any special interest in husbandry but presumably to sample as many different kinds of gooey mud as possible. None of the party ever raised a single protest; in fact, at the afternoon break, there was a free issue of chocolate biscuits, courtesy of Maureen. Having walked about nine miles, our leader made another momentous decision - head for home.

A lovely day was had by all. - Thanks, Freda and George.

GEFA

NEXT HOUSE MEETINGS

Thursday, May 4th - Molly and Tony Roche, 16 Hillfoot Road, Gateacre

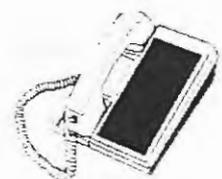
Thursday, June 1st - Jean and Gerry McDonald, 28 Ormonde Drive, Maghull



FORTHCOMING RAMBLES

May 14th - TO BE ARRANGED. Leader Peter Atherton - 526 2153

May 28th - SWETTENHAM. Leader Gerry McDonald - 526 6775



SENIORS' SECTION (Continued)

WIRRAL WALK - March 26th

A very select band of nine met up at the Thurstaston Visitor's Centre. This band of the elite had turned out despite a change in the hour and an adverse weather forecast (all the powers of Fish and McGaskill could not hold them back). As it happened the weather turned out fine but very breezy.

We took the Wirral Way paths initially south to Dungeon and following the blue arrows walked for about half-an-hour to Thurstaston Church, then up to the main road.



Once across we took the Irby footpath - over the stile - and turning right eventually reached Irby and managed to get past the Anchor public house from which establishment emanated some very appetising smells of lunches cooking.

After a short downhill walk we took the National Trust path. In a spinney we decided to stop and have our lunch. It's always a pleasure to have a rain-free and wind-free lunch stop and this was in ideal spot and a break for some of the ladies.

After being duly refreshed we pressed on and passed an outdoor model railway at the edge of the woods arriving a little later at another smaller visitors' centre with a walled garden.

After a brief stop we pressed on but not without taking note of all the signs of nature's marvellous awakening to



Spring - trees and hedges in bud, sap rising, and masses of daffs in many places.

After various meanderings we arrived at Thurstaston Common and made for the

highest point, taking in the fine views from this vantage point. It was extremely windy and there were quite a few people about. We didn't stay long and proceeded down to the road and on to Caldy.

There were two rugby matches in progress with large crowds of spectators - but we had more important matters afoot.

Our leader pressed on with resolution and in no time at all had us down to the beach for a two-mile stretch south - in no time at all we were back at the starting point for cups of tea in the 'cafe'.

There had been lofty discussions near the summit trig point and obtruse philosophical dissertations given concerning the nature of the Universe, its beginning and end, the big bang, etc (no, not Tony's car!), light still coming to us from stars long extinct, but it stopped short of becoming polemic.



George wondered what he was going to do all day when he got to Heaven (I bet Freda keeps him going with the DIY), and Gerry wondered where he came from (I thought he came from Maghull!) and where is he going. If he doesn't go back to Maghull Jean's going to be most upset!

In passing I heard Einstein's name mentioned ($E=Mc^2$) and now we should be able to work out how far we had walked. We were told that it was about ten miles - so we'll accept that.

It had all been most enjoyable and our sincere and grateful thanks must go to Tony and Molly from a very well pioneered lead and ramble through pleasant Wirral countryside.

Q.E.D.

Guided Walks in Liverpool's Parks and Green spaces 1995.

Provided by the Liverpool Rangers Service
051 225 5910 ALL THE RANGER LED WALKS ARE FREE.

Thursday 13th April - 10am Childwall and Gateacre Circular Walk

This 6 hour walk includes part of the Liverpool Loop Line railway path.
Childwall Woods and Reynolds Park.

Leave or join the walk at the car park opposite the
Childwall Abbey Hotel at 1.30pm

[meet at the gates of Reynolds Park, Church Road Woolton at 10am]

Saturday 29th April - 2pm Anfield Cemetery - Veterans Walk

A guided walk around Anfield Cemetery looking at some of the
Heroes of past Wars.

[meet at the corner of Priory Road and Walton Lane]



"ENVIRONMENT WEEK"
20th MAY - 28th MAY



Monday 22nd May - 10am The 18th Century Church Walk

A 6 hour guided walk from the Ancient Chapel of Toxteth
to the Rectory of St marys Church walton.

Join or leave the walk at Botanic Road and edge Lane at 1pm.

[meet at the Ancient Chapel of toxteth, Park Road 10am]

Thursday 25th May - 10am The Lost Villages Circular Walk

Spend 6 hours enjoying this interesting walk that includes the
Parks of Childwall, Gateacre, Woolton and Allerton.

Join or leave the walk outside the Gateacre Hall Hotel at 1.15pm

[meet at Calderstones Park Coach-House 10am]
