



Liverpool Catholic Ramblers

NEWSLETTER

August/September 2007

Issue No. 63 Seventh Series

Dufton to Appleby – 'A' Walk

Distance: "A long way, but I think we will complete it in good time!"



George and Dave scramble up High Cup Nick

The A Walk started off with the B Walk on a day when rain was favoured by the weather forecasters. The walk was to be lead by Dave and George was to be the 'Whipper in'. That was to be it, just two walkers to make the walk to 'High Cup Nick' Cumbria's answer to the Grand Canyon. The morning was mild and dry.

When it came to the parting of the ways, between the two walks, there were two more walkers who were ready to join Dave. We followed a route that meant we did not have to walk the full length of the valley but would join it about half way. This was not the usual route but after one false start we found the path. It led us down diagonally, alongside a wall, to the valley bottom.

The wind was getting up and the sky was starting to cloud over so

an early meal break was taken in a dry gully to give some shelter.

Then came the long invigorating scramble up the end of the valley. The good part is when you can get to the top and can look back down on the great scene of the valley while you struggle to get your breath back. The path then followed the Pennine way left along the edge of the valley.

The wind had dropped and the rain had held off. After a few more miles we were back to where we had left the B walk. This walk was to end at Appleby rather than returning to Dufton. This gave Dave a chance to fine a good route keeping clear of the roads. Time was passing. We eventually reached the woods, as Dave had promised, and there was a lovely display of Bluebells. There was not far to walk! It was turned six o'clock and we should have been back, the bus was due to leave at 6.30pm. Would there be time for a drink? There was not too far to walk!

It was nearly 6.50pm when we made the outskirts of Appleby. Never mind the drink would anyone realise we were still adrift or would the bus have left by the time we got back? The phone was not being answered. So, was it because everyone was still at the pub with the phones left on the bus or had the phones been switched off at the end of the other walks?

There had been light rain falling for about twenty minutes by the time we made it to the bus at 7.5pm. We had kept everyone waiting and within moments the bus was off on the return trip. I enjoyed that blissful moment, every walker will know, of taking

my boots off. In that short time the heavens had opened to give a heavy downpour of rain which continued for the journey home.

On the trip back I thought what an enjoyable day it had been, good exercise, fresh air, good views and a feeling of having done something worthwhile. I had no doubt that tomorrow there would be stiff legs and sore feet.

It made me realise how much the members of the club owe to the walk leaders. They take the responsibility of taking groups of walkers, into what can be dangerous countryside, with little chance of preparation. We always get back, although there have been times when the bus has had to collect the odd group, we have had the lifts and there has been a recent suggestion that the rescue helicopter should be requested. Thanks to all the leaders I am sure all members appreciate all that they do to give us such enjoyable walks.

T.O.

Ramblerite

BOOK EARLY is the current warning. Bookings were actually quite low for the August 12th Ramble, and so Will Harris had a 33-seater coach booked, as we stood to lose a fair amount of money. However, a very last-minute surge meant that a bigger coach was really needed, but on enquiring, they had none available. Result was that some last-minute bookers were unfortunately unable to come out with us.

Regrettably, the Borrowdale Weekend is now cancelled

Due to only a handful of members booking to date (and no walk leaders among them) we have been forced to cancel the accommodation for the Borrowdale weekend in September, otherwise we would, again, lose a lot of money.

The good news is that now that summer seems to have arrived, we are expecting bigger ramble attendances during the rest of the summer and autumn.

The HAWKSHEAD ramble is now earmarked to take place on September 9th – This is a week earlier than shown on the programme. So now we have got NO RAMBLE on September 16th. Please mark these changes on your rambling programmes.

Car parking on Sunday

If you have a special Ramblers car park pass (£3.50) for Queen Square make sure you use it for opening the barriers when entering, otherwise you will be charged about £18 (non-returnable) for normal ticket use.

Unfortunately we are unable to get any more special passes issued to us. If you haven't got a pass there are much cheaper car parks around. It just means that you will have a longer walk to the coach.

Christmas Buffet Dance

Friday, Dec 14, at New Century Hall
(behind Walton Church)

Tickets £8.50 shortly to be printed

New Members

There are more people joining continually, so welcome to the following new members who have now officially joined our ranks. They are Charlotte Dempsey, William Kiernan and Dan Burns (*Dan did come out with us many years ago*).

New Year at Ambleside (3 nights at hostel)
Cost is £109.80 inclusive. No coach, so our own transport will be used. Bookings to Will Harris or to the person on the coach taking bookings.

Our own website

We now have our own website advertising the club, designed by Dave Parry. Pass the word on. If you first access Google you needn't type the www. Just type in: liverpoolcatholicramblers.com and it will appear on your screen.

Editor's briefs

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This edition must be the fastest to be produced. Most of it was done on Saturday morning, August 11th – due mainly to much pre-typed material. Thanks to all who submitted articles. I did take a while last week to do the Polish Magnificent Seven story, editing about 100 of my own words out, but I am sure you will enjoy reading much of this newsletter. Keep submitting you articles.

Dave News

OBITUARY Maria Rothwell (nee McDonnell)

Sadly, Maria died (suddenly) recently, after an operation, only aged 54. Our sincere condolences go out to her devoted husband David, her children and all her grieved relatives and friends – RIP.

Maria (a schoolteacher) was an active club member before her marriage to David, another club member, some 25 years ago. Many ramblers went to the funeral in Southport, followed by the reception at Ormskirk where she lived.

NOTICE is hereby given that the Eighty-first
Annual General Meeting

of the Liverpool Catholic Ramblers' Association
will take place on **Thursday, 20th September 2007**
at the **Ship & Mitre Public House** (upstairs), Dale St, at 8.30pm

AGENDA

- 1 To approve the Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting of the Association.
- 2 To read the Secretarial Report.
- 3 To read the Treasurer's Report.
- 4 To read the Chairman's Report.
- 5 To elect Officers and Committee for the forthcoming year.
- 6 To elect Auditors for the forthcoming year.
- 7 Any other business.

Note: Members wishing to submit resolutions of any kind must ensure that they are in the possession of the Secretary, not later than seven days prior to the above meeting.

Tom Reilly (Secretary)

Secretary's address: 1 Stanmore Road, Wavertree, L15 9ER



**Concerned about
YOUR club?**

**Why not put
your name
down for the
new committee?**

Each September our Committee step down, but they, along with proposed new Committee members, can put their names down on the nomination list for election onto the new Committee for 12 months.

If more than one name is submitted for any Officer's post there will be a ballot, or, in the unlikely event of an excessive number of General Committee members submitted, there will be a paper ballot.

The club's Annual Mass

**is to be celebrated at the Metropolitan Cathedral Crypt
on Sunday September 23rd at 11.30am**

The Rev Fr Michael Gaine will be officiating **Note change of time to 11.30 (not 11.00)**

Free car parking under the Cathedral – entrance is in Hope Street

• All Members and Associate Members are invited to attend when we remember especially those past members who have rambled on to a better place

Afterwards, many meet in the Restaurant (up the main steps) for a meal and a chinwag

Liverpool Catholic Ramblers' Association



80th Anniversary Dinner Dance

plus entertainer, in the James English Suite

Christ the King Parish Club, Childwall, L16

SATURDAY, 27th OCTOBER 2007

6.30 for 7.30 dinner :: Private car park :: Raffle with many prizes

Smart casual dress (no shorts or jeans allowed)

Note: Tickets for the dance are selling fast now and there are only 120 places, so don't leave it too late. You must fill in a form with your menu requirements before you can purchase a ticket at £20.

Alternatively there is another dance in December – the club's Christmas buffet dance – see separate notice in this newsletter

The Magnificent Seven mountaineers



MEMBERS enjoying Keswick often return quite frequently. The same applies to Zakopane where towards the end of June we found the summer.

In sharp contrast to Britain, there seemed to be more people out in the mountains than ever, and many thousands of teenagers – all Polish, bar about one percent, and lots of 18-30 groups plus many young couples and, amusingly, hiking nuns wearing their habits! There was a really happy atmosphere, totally alien to the many years of oppression people suffered until the end of 1989.

Half a dozen of our first-timers and the other fourteen regulars not only walked the mountains this time but also did several trips including a day out to nearby Slovakia. Anyway, I hope that someone else will give their version of that June trip in the next edition. And now, the second trip:

Three very lucky weeks later, I fortuitously EasyJetted back to those mountains, yet again! This was on a last-minute recycled plane seat courtesy of a past member, Ian Alistair, who had to cancel at the last minute! We were now an all-male Magnificent Seven gang with Paco, etc, all set on a mission to really surmount the Tatra Mountains and mosey down to a saloon or two.

I was the mountain guide (tongue-in-cheek!). So my plan was to start us off on a cobbled path near the temporarily closed cable car station on a relatively easy mountain trek, just to break us in.

A blue marked route was in mind. The route colours don't indicate degrees of difficulty, they are coloured differently to avoid confusion, okay!

Many struck by lightning

And so, with my mountain expertise (tongue-in-cheek again) I glanced quickly at my mini map, but some time later I realised that there were *two* blue routes, both starting from Kuznice, and guess what? We should have been on the other one!

Ah well, never mind, we were now on the blue route to Giewont, the rugged 6,200ft 'pilgrimage' peak. Not a bad mistake – that should break us in!

Our summit was actually only 3 hours away, as the town of Zakopane was 3,000ft above sea level. It was a perfect breezy summer's day and literally thousands of Poles were zig-zagging up.

At least two thousand and ninety-two steps higher (I lost count at thirteen) and Bob Carney was too cream-crackered to continue (with back and knee problems) so he reversed back down. (*He actually made it to Giewont a few days later.*)

As the summit came into view we discovered that it was absolute gridlock up the grab-chains to the big metal cross with about 500 motionless people literally hanging on, so we decided to bypass it and go down by the quieter but long rocky route around the back. This was the most

awesome descent with dramatic views, which we enjoyed in the afternoon sun.

Apparently lightning often strikes Giewont, and many people have been killed up there. But don't let that put you off climbing up the chains!

I chatted-up a fit Polish female

One day, ascending a green route up the cable car mountain, I was trailing slightly behind and admiring how well a brand new cable car pylon was constructed, when a fit female sailed past me.

I swiftly switched my attention to admire how well she was constructed! Instinct told me not to give the usual Polish greeting of "Jane Dobbyr!" So I quickly shouted: "Do you speak English?"

"Actually I do," was her very friendly reply.

Now we were ascending side-by-side. She was an attractive but coloured Polish girl (very rare) and revealed that she worked in Sainsbury's at . . . Birmingham! But she was about to embark on a course of Tourism and Leisure Management. She later introduced me to her white mother coming up from behind; then I presumed she was adopted.

At the summit my pulse was racing (may have been the bronzed beauty who triggered it off!) so I then decided I would take it easy and go down the long yellow brick road to where the three bears were spotted by some of our lot on a previous trek.

The others carried on along the ridge and took in a few more peaks! They had bought a map by now. So I then gave 'Goldilocks' and her mother a bear hug as they also set off along the ridge into the sun, with one foot in Slovakia and one foot in Poland. They soon caught up with our lot, namely Paco, John McDowell (*of half a spud on the coach windscreen fame*), fit Dave and Terry (*a skier*).

Sometime later I reached the three bears' lodge and enjoyed a hearty bowl of soup – not porridge!

Bob Carney had booked our bed and breakfast at a massive alpine-style 3-star guesthouse just six minutes from the Paparazzi Bar and eight minutes from the Piano Bar. We dined on barbecued steak, pork, grilled trout and lots of different salads at several restaurants. We snored in six single rooms.

Fearless Frank (*he once climbed Cains Brewery chimney!*) had a twin room and set up an afternoon tea bar on his balcony which we all frequented. His first attempt to buy a litre of Polish milk resulted in a litre of yogurt!

On that 8-day holiday we had 6½ days of good weather, but one night we were 'forced' to stay in a bar for a while during a violent thunderstorm.

We didn't see a single bear, but we all felt like one with a sore head on some mornings!

Jen Queer (Polish for Thank You)



CHALET WALK SENIOR SECTION

23RD MAY 2007

Our hosts for the day at the R.A. Chalet had ensured that we arrived at the correct venue by placing a large notice saying L.R.C.A. on the gateway. On arrival at 10.45 we were treated to a welcoming cup of tea and a piece of cake by Rosemary, Maria, Tony G, Harry and Bill. Soon afterwards Gerry, Jean and Kath arrived.

Bill as leader suggested we should leave about 11.45. Maria decided to visit a local Garden. Setting off down the path from the Chalet we met a group of young Ramblers who were on their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Medal Expedition. After some expert advice from H.R.H. Bill and H.R.H. Harry on the route they should take, they accompanied us for a short distance and then continued on their own way. Our path meanwhile led to a disused quarry, where Nature is taking over on the stony hills and rusting machinery. The old offices had been renovated and made attractive houses. The way ahead was through a shady forest where a rocky outcrop was the ideal place for a lunch stop. Nearby some rock climbers were practising their rope-climbing skills in the lovely warm, sunny weather.

After lunch we walked alongside a stream until we reaches the A494. Crossing the road we reached a stile, which as Bill explained would lead to a steady climb of about 35 minutes. This duly happened, but the views over Llanferres and the Welsh countryside was worth the effort. Through the green fields, wild flowers were prolific and the May blossom superb. On our descent someone's sharp eyes spotted a pair of glasses which had fallen out of a map case carried by the leader. They were Ita's! Several farms were passed and we met a group of Wirral R.A. Ramblers walking in the opposite route to us. Before we began our return journey a welcome tea break was taken.

Once again we climbed uphill along a stony track on which we met a herd of very frisky bullocks. On reaching the top we could see the Snowdon Range, the Anglican Cathedral, the Metropolitan Cathedral, the Runcorn Bridge and Fiddlers Ferry in the distance. Reaching the road we read an information board all about the area of the River Alyn. We rejoined the path taken earlier in the day, stopping for a short break to enjoy the evening sun. A decision was taken to continue along the road to the Chalet. We arrived about 5.45 to find that Jack and Betty had arrived earlier to visit us and had met Maria in Mold. Ita and I left after a refreshing cup of tea. Traffic was light on our homeward journey as we were wondering who would win the Liverpool v Milan Match.

Thanks to Bill and the Chalet Team for organising the gorgeous weather and a very enjoyable walk.

I.A.

Old photos for display at the Dance

If you have any old photos for the display boards at our Anniversary Dance please bring them with you (don't bring current photos), or pass them on to myself or a committee member, but ensure that you put your name on the back of them all. Several of George Skillicorn's were taken home by someone else at the end of the night last time. He never saw them again – have YOU picked them up by mistake?

Chris Dobbin

Chris is recovering well after his recent hip operation and hopes to be seeing us at the Annual Mass. Then he goes in again for his other hip to be done – must be two for the price of one!

Apple Pie Competition

Have a go at guessing how many apple pies will be ordered by everyone attending the Anniversary Dance. Just ring Will Harris with your estimate, or see the person taking names on the coach. There are four more alternative sweets but we think many will order the apple pie menu (total sweets will number about 120).

Hip-op Tommy Reilly

Tommy has recovered from his hip operation earlier this year but will he ever recover from his special milestone birthday coming up in the next few days. Happy Birthday Tommy!