



**Liverpool Catholic Ramblers**

# **Newsletter**

**August 2006**

Issue 57 Seventh Series

**Editorial** Thanks for the two ramble write-ups received from the Seniors' Section, plus the amusing "Survivors" bit opposite. I have also received this following little snippet given to me by a stalwart member – every little contribution helps!

*Dave News, editor*

**Motto for life**

**The best remedy for a short temper  
is a long walk**

**NEW MEMBERS**

We welcome the following new members who have joined our club recently. They are: Ellen Davies, Michael Clarke, Linda Clarke, Kathleen Loftus, Linda Kelly and Maureen Molden.

**HAWES WEEKEND (Sept 15-17)**

Cost is £35.90 B&B for two nights at the hostel which should have been paid to Will by now. At the moment there are still vacancies at the hostel, so if you have transport and are interested phone Will Harris as soon as possible.

**NEW YEAR WEEKEND AT AMBLESIDE**

**Dec 30, 31/Jan 1**

Two and three-bedded rooms have been reserved at the big hostel at Ambeside. The three-day package is approx £102 each person. You must arrange your own transport up there, or share cars. A deposit is required when booking.

**WILL WRITING SERVICE**

Peter Ramejkis has contacted the club to see if a number of our members would be interested in his assistance in helping to plan for the future and give you advice on Inheritance Tax and other matters associated with their estate, in the comfort of your own home through a national company for which he is now an agent. It costs substantially less than a solicitor or a bank charge and he offers a 10 per cent discount for any club members who decide to take him up on the offer. You can contact Peter on 07804 848402 or on freephone 0800 323 2364 quoting ref 9775 and they will contact him.

**FORTHCOMING RAMBLES**

August 20<sup>th</sup> LLANBERIS.

August 27<sup>th</sup> No ramble

September 3<sup>rd</sup> MATLOCK (Peak District). Coach route M62

September 10<sup>th</sup> BROUGHTON-IN-FURNESS (Lakes). Coach route M58/M6

September 17<sup>th</sup> No ramble (Hawes Weekend)

September 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Mass (no ramble)

**FLOWER FESTIVAL AT THE CATHEDRAL**

A Flower Festival will be held at the Metropolitan Cathedral on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> September.



**We are survivors**

*(For those born before 1940 . . .)*

*We were born before television, before penicillin, polio shots, frozen foods, Xerox, contact lenses, videos and the pill. We were before radar, credit cards, split atoms, laser beams and ballpoint pens, before dish-washers, tumble driers, electric blankets, air conditioners, drip-dry clothes . . . and before man walked on the moon.*

*We got married first and then lived together (how quaint can you be?). We thought 'fast food' was what you ate in Lent, a 'Big Mac' was an oversized raincoat and 'crumpet' we had for tea. We existed before house husbands, computer dating and sheltered accommodation was where you waited for a bus.*

*We were before day care centres, group homes and disposable nappies. We never heard of FM radio, tape decks, artificial hearts, word processors, or young men wearing earrings. For us 'time sharing' meant togetherness, a 'chip' was a piece of wood or fried potato, 'hardware' meant nuts and bolts and 'software' wasn't a word.*

*Before 1940 'Made in Japan' meant junk; the term 'making out' referred to how you did in your exams, 'stud' was something that fastened a collar to a shirt and 'going all the way' meant staying on a double-decker bus to the terminus. In our day, cigarette smoking was 'fashionable', 'grass' was mown, 'coke' was kept in the coalhouse, a 'joint' was a piece of meat you ate on Sundays and 'pot' was something you cooked in. 'Rock Music' was a fond mother's lullaby, 'Eldorado' was an ice-cream, a 'gay person' was the life and soul of the party, while 'aids' just meant beauty treatment or help for someone in trouble.*

*We who were born before 1940 must be a hardy bunch when you think of the way in which the world has changed and the adjustments we have had to make. No wonder there is a generation gap today . . . BUT*

*By the grace of God . . . we have survived!*



*This was spotted by one of our Seniors' Section members. You can actually get all the above printed on a cotton tea towel – contact the Newsletter Editor for details*

NOTICE is hereby given that the Eightieth

# Annual General Meeting

of the **Liverpool Catholic Ramblers' Association**

will take place on **Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> September 2006**  
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*



**Are YOU interested in joining our 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. The nomination list will be shortly in circulation. There will be a ballot if more than one name is submitted for any one post. There will be a paper ballot if an excessive number of general committee members are submitted.



## LCRA Annual Mass



will be held on **Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup>**

**in the Metropolitan Cathedral Crypt, Hope Street, Liverpool, at 11am**

Father Frank Johnson (*a former active member of our club*) will be officiating

All members of the club, their relatives and friends, are invited to attend  
At this Mass we will be remembering all our past members and also all our members who are sick

*There is a free car park underneath the Cathedral (Hope Street Entrance)*

## **Bring and Buy Sale club night**

First Thursday in September (7th) at the Ship and Mitre (upstairs)  
at the bottom end of Dale Street

Bring all your unwanted goods down and help to generate money for the club's funds

*Note: We won't be having our usual quiz this night*

## SENIORS' SECTION RAMBLE REPORTS

### **Jumbles Country Park – July, 2006**

It was an ideal choice, Harry made. From North Merseyside, through Wigan, right at Aspul, then almost there, according to the map, but some mischievous or malevolent planner put Bolton right in the way! Marcia, our chauffeur for the day inputted 'Jumbles Reservoir', pressed the 'enter', and the Sat.Nav. took us right there. Unfortunately, Tony was not so lucky, as upon asking directions to Bolton Railway Station, as planned with Harry as a meeting place, was sent to Bury Railway Station!

We had barely been greeted by Harry when raindrops started falling on our heads - and kept falling on our heads intermittently for most of the afternoon. Leaving the car park by a steepish, stepped path-cum-beck, we were startled by a rapidly descending mountain biker, all caution thrown to the winds. All it would have taken was a foot slip or a turn to speak to someone behind to cause an accident - but all was well.

Presently we happened upon a cameo - two little lads, about 6 and 7, sweeping the family path. Each had a brush and pan, the elder pointing to leaves which his brother had missed, making sure he did a thorough job. Obviously an early career move!

With lunch time fast approaching, Harry's fine-tuned senses guided us to Turton Tower where we had sandwiches al fresco, then with 'raindrops continuing to fall on our heads ... etc.' indoors we went for tea and coffee.

Does Turton have a tower, or has someone nicked it? One wasn't visible close to, nor later, after Harry pointed to a distant skyline and stated 'that's our destination'. After more than one false horizon, and in the face of more rain and a gusting wind blowing our brollys in and out like accordion bellows, I required levitation rather than elevation, as the last horizon more or less levelled off to open fells. Scudding cloud permitting, a quick scan of the vista failed to reveal the legendry Tower of Turton, so time to call in Holmes & Watson, Christie and Poirot!

The descent into the village of Egerton was quieter and drier than earlier, the rain stopped 'falling on ... etc.' and a fitful sun was beginning to make an appearance during the last few miles to the car park - and thence to a local hostelry. With the Sat.Nav. activated, we settled into our comfortable seats and relaxed as our skilled driver brought us safely home. One last thought - will the Satellite Navigator System ever become fully automatic, so that the driver can relax and have a snooze as the system takes over completely? The reason for asking is that there is a tale of a route from Liverpool to London via Dublin! If that is true, then more than one snoozing driver is in for a damp awakening!

With thanks to Harry for another interesting walk (maybe next time we will actually see Turton Tower), to Marcia for a journey of education and with sympathy to our absent friend who, I feel sure, would like to Bury Bolton!



## Nantwich — 12.4.06 Leaders: Lilian, Maureen and Anne.

WITH mein host's permission, a small but select group assembled in the pub car park — one or two having driven through a blizzard of hailstones, while a couple of latecomers arrived in brilliant sunshine. The vagaries of an English Spring! Such were conditions that it was suggested that lunch was taken in our cars, which presented us with the opportunity to nip into the pub for teas and coffees (honest!).

Shortly after leaving the car park, the Shropshire Union Canal was joined. As we puddle-hopped our way onwards, the sun shone fitfully between spiteful showers of rain. There was a surprising amount of traffic movement on the canal — some occupants gave a cheery wave and a greeting, but one or two cruised past regally with their probiscuses in the air as though a bad smell had arisen! We left the canal and went over a bridge which led to the village. The reason for the turn off was a visit to the village church. Upon entering we were regaled with the smell of soup, or hotpot being consumed at the rear of the church in aid of charity, though the resident knights and their ladies didn't appear to be impressed, as they lay supine, staring stonily at the ceiling. In the cemetery there is one unique gravestone, though I'm not an aficionado of gravestones! It is a family grave in memory of two young men who died in horrendous circumstances, one in the first world war and the other in 1927 'in the Polar Region'. I have just finished a biography of Capt. Scott in which it describes Scott's journey to the South Pole, manhandling sledges with 200 lbs. of equipment for 9 hours a day in temperatures ranging from 30 — 60° c below freezing, in ferocious winds at 9–10,000 ft. The gravestone had a lighter side, though — a carving of a set of cricket stumps, capped with bails and crossed cricket bats with a cricket ball at the bottom.

After that ecclesiastical interlude it was back to the canal, but only for a few hundred yards, the objective being a marina with a promise of hot drinks. After this the canal was left to run it's own course, as our route changed to a quiet lane with motorists and tractor drivers slowing down and acknowledging us and moving over for us, and we expressed our appreciation with a wave. It was a very pleasant change from the norm.

After an hour or so walking, the canal system was rejoined — this time the Bridgewater. We joined it at a lock through which a boat was about to pass, but sadly one of the crew was attempting to close the lock gates, but a dead badger was in the water preventing them. Now I don't know whether badgers can swim or whether they take birds' eggs, but on the far bank a pair of swans were nesting with one sitting on at least one egg, so the question is, was the badger after the eggs and if so, did it fall in or was it pushed to drown, or was it killed by one of the swans? This is the sort of question I have put to Tony Roche in the past, and from his vast reservoir of information, almost anything to do with nature he has provided the answer — so come on Tony, can you solve the conundrum for us?

A few more miles and four more bridges and dinner awaited where we had left our cars. Many thanks to our three graces.

PS: I am sure we have all realised that all canals have only one towpath. This does not cause any problems to the movement of, as Jean put it, longboats (as I did not see any horn-helmeted Vikings, I think she meant narrow boat) to to-day's mechanically-propelled craft, but in the days of pre-mechanisation, imagine the scene of two barges going in opposite directions, both drawn by big, probably shires, using one towpath. Who has right of way? I'm sure that their confrontation caused many a canalside argy-bargee!

# ANIMAL GROUPS

EVERYONE KNOWS A GAGGLE OF GEESE, BUT DO YOU KNOW  
WHAT YOU CALL GROUPS IN THE REST OF THE ANIMAL KINGDOM?  
FILL IN THE BLANKS WITH THE APPROPRIATE GROUP NAME

To help you they are listed alphabetically underneath the quiz, and the answers are upside down at the foot

- |         |               |         |                 |
|---------|---------------|---------|-----------------|
| A _____ | OF APES       | A _____ | OF BABBOONS     |
| A _____ | OF BASS       | A _____ | OF BEAVERS      |
| A _____ | OF BOARS      | A _____ | OF CATERPILLARS |
| A _____ | OF CLAMS      | A _____ | OF COBRAS       |
| A _____ | OF COYOTE     | A _____ | OF CROCODILES   |
| A _____ | OF CROWS      | A _____ | OF DOGS         |
| A _____ | OF DOVES      | A _____ | OF ELKS         |
| A _____ | OF EMUS       | A _____ | OF FINCHES      |
| A _____ | OF FLIES      | A _____ | OF FOXES        |
| A _____ | OF GREYHOUNDS | A _____ | OF HENS         |
| A _____ | OF JELLYFISH  | A _____ | OF LIONS        |
| A _____ | OF MAGPIES    | A _____ | OF MOLES        |
| A _____ | OF OWLS       | A _____ | OF OXEN         |
| A _____ | OF PARROTS    | A _____ | OF PHEASANTS    |
| A _____ | OF PIGS       | A _____ | OF PONIES       |
| A _____ | OF PORPOISES  | A _____ | OF RATTLESNAKES |
| A _____ | OF RAVENS     | A _____ | OF SEALS        |
| A _____ | OF SPARROWS   | A _____ | OF SQUIRRELS    |
| A _____ | OF STORK      | A _____ | OF SWALLOWS     |
| A _____ | OF TOADS      | A _____ | OF TROUT        |
| A _____ | OF TURKEYS    | A _____ | OF TURTLES      |

ARMY • BALE • BAND • BED • BROOD • CHARM • COLONY • COMPANY • DRAY  
DULE • FLIGHT • FLOAT • GANG • HERD • HOST • HOVER • KNOT • LABOUR  
LEASH • LITTER • MOB • MURDER • MUSTERING • NEST • PACK • PARLIAMENT  
POD • PRIDE • QUIVER • RAFTER • RHUMBA • SHOAL • SHREWDNESS • SKULK  
SMACK • SOUNDER • STRING • SWARM • TIDING • TROOP • UNKINDNESS • YOKE

A charm of finches  
A skulk of foxes  
A brood of hens  
A pride of lions  
A labour of moles  
A yoke of oxen  
A nest of pheasants  
A string of ponies  
A rumba of rattlesnakes  
A herd of seals  
A dray of squirrels  
A flight of swallows  
A hover of trout  
A bale of turtles

A litter of pigs  
A pod of porpoises  
An unkindness of ravens  
A host of sparrows  
A mustering of storks  
A knot of toads  
A rafter of turkeys  
A troop of baboons  
A colony of beavers  
An army of caterpillars  
A quiver of cobras  
A float of crocodiles  
A pack of dogs  
A gang of elks

*Animal groups answers:*  
A shrewdness of apes  
A shoal of bass  
A sounder of boars  
A bed of clams  
A band of coyote  
A murder of crows  
A dual of doves  
A mob of emus  
A swarm of flies  
A leash of greyhounds  
A smack of jellyfish  
A tidings of magpies  
A parliament of owls  
A company of parrots