

GOOD TIDINGS

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Not so good tidings: Subscription fees have been due since September. If you have not paid them yet, then see Anthony Brockway as soon as possible with the cash or cheque (made out to L.C.R.A.) See further reminder overleaf.

Greetings ramblers,

Our annual Yuletide at Rivington is the event we are all looking forward to with Brian Keller selling the tickets at £3.30 which includes the usual hot-pot supper and covers the price of the barn dance, etc. This time it is the Hoghton Folk Band as usual. There will also be the choice of ramble. You can even just do your own little walk if you so wish, as long as you are back in time for the hot-pot! Talking of walks, the one last week was well attended with nearly 40 out in the Horseshoe Pass/Llangollen area. There are two more rambles this month, so let's see them even better attended, especially the Silverdale ramble on December 29th - a good time to walk off your excess turkey, etc, in readiness for the New Year.

The Saturday ramble was very poorly attended. Maybe people have other things to do on a Saturday, or could it be that we had a ramble only six days prior to this one, plus the annual dance, or maybe the torrential rain on the day had something to do with it. Anyway, I am just about to print over 200 newsletters all to be distributed to the membership of the Liverpool Catholic Ramblers. I just wonder how many are true ramblers!

Thanks due to Roy for contributing material for this thin newsletter. I hope the New Year brings a little more inspiration to some of the budding writers in the club and we can get a few more ramble write-ups, etc. Next rambles are as follows:

December 15 SANDSTONE TRAIL

This ramble is in the Beeston/Peckforton Hills area of Cheshire. Quite a good variation of scenery and terrain on these two walks and you wouldn't think that you were in Cheshire which is generally flat. Leaders Mike Norgate and Paul Healy.

December 29 SILVERDALE

Partly a scenic coastal walk and a bit of a hill to climb called Arnside Knott. The seaside resort of Arnside will be visited. A good winter's walk, even if it is snowing. Good views of the Lake District hills, hopefully. John Maddocks and George Riley leading.

January 5 ANNUAL YULETIDE WALK

See notice in this newsletter. Main thing to remember is BOOK EARLY or you might miss the bus! Only one coach!

January 19 TROUGH OF BOWLAND

Paul Amundsen and Peter Wilkinson take you around this grouse-infested area. Very scenic part of Lancashire and I believe there is a shortage of grouse this year. There shouldn't be too much grousing done on this walk. Even better if there is snow on the ground.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

DAVE NEWNS, Editor

PS: This is your last reminder about subs. This will be your last newsletter if you don't pay up to A. Brockway, 38 Acres Road, Bebington, Merseyside L63 7QQ

SOCIAL SPOTLIGHT

Hello everybody, and a special welcome to our new members. Well, I am pleased to report that the first meeting of the Social Committee took place recently and top of the agenda was....yes, you have guessed it! Who's buying the next round of drinks? After taking this, our first fundamental decision the committee soon relaxed, the gentlemen lighting up cigars and the ladies slowly eating 'After Eights'.

One of the many topics (eaten) discussed, was whether the top prize in the 'raffle' should remain as a 'Free Holiday for Two in Hawaii' or perhaps an alternative prize. The committee, after looking at their wallets and purses, unanimously decided that the ever-popular second prize (a bottle of white wine) should be elevated to first prize. Don't you wish you were on the Social Committee?

Before I move on to 'Future Social Events' I feel the time has come to give you a take-it-or-leave-it, in-depth, behind-the-scenes update on some of the events you may have missed. First of all there was the frightening, hair-on-end, "I want my mummy", Halloween Night, held, would you believe it, on — Thursday, 31st Oct. Many thanks must go to Maureen, the manageress of the 'Liverpool' for donating all the decorations, witch hats, masks, etc....also thanks to Charles with the Magnum Disco....also to Peter Davies for donating 'Des O'Connor's Greatest Hits' to the club's own disco (Look, Peter, I know you don't like...but....! Best fella in Fancy Dress went to John Platt, who celebrated in his usual way, by kissing every girl in the room! Best lady in Fancy Dress went to....well, how can I say this, it's rather embarrassing, but I'm sorry to tell you this, there were no girls in fancy dress! Luckily enough, the DJ had a brainwave and quickly organised a 'Girls Only' Singing Contest. This consisted of the club's very own 'Three Degrees' — Angela Platt, Denise Forrest and Fiona Hawken. After 6.7 seconds of singing it was supersonically decided that Fiona ~~Hawken~~, Liverpool's answer to Madonna, was the supreme winner. On November 8th the club held its not-to-be-missed social event of the year, at the Everton Football Club's plush Royal Blue Suite. According to a Gallup opinion poll, the next day, it seemed the new venue was very popular indeed. It really was nice to see so many old faces, like Alan Ball, Gordon West, Paul Healy, Mick Norgate, etc. Lets hope next year's dance is just as successful.

Meanwhile, back at the social committee meeting, it was decided the following future events will be:

CHRISTMAS DANCE, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20th, 8pm

This year's dance will be held UPSTAIRS at the 'Liverpool' and tickets are now available at the very reasonable price of £1. For this you get the all-important LATE BAR, one of Liverpool's most professional discos: 'HOOPERS' (thanks to Moira Sumner) plus mince pies, etc, and most of all, Great Company!

ANNUAL YULETIDE (Rivington) Sunday, January 5th, 10.15am

Thanks to the Rambling Committee for organising this annual event, especially to Brian Keller, who, incidentally, will be taking bookings. Tickets are now on sale. See separate notice in this newsletter. Don't delay, book today.

THE DIVVIES ARE COMING, Saturday, January 25th, 8pm

Paul Healy, the club's answer to Barry Norman, will be attending the premiere of the latest offering from the Playhouse Theatre. Depending how successful this comedy by Eddie Braben is, Paul will be organising a trip on Saturday, January 25th. Further details and ticket prices will be given during 'News at Ten' on Thursdays

CHINESE NIGHT OUT, Friday or Saturday, February '86

Paul McGrory and Tony Bond, who in my opinion have already done too many pioneers to sample the oriental dishes at their particularly favourite restaurant in Chinatown have agreed to organise a night out at this spot sometime in February. Here ramblers will be able to enjoy the oriental delights (the food that is!) all for about £5 per head. Further details in the New Year's newsletter.

IRISH CEILIDH NIGHT, Saturday March/April (Charity Night)

"Ah! Top of the mornin' to you Sir!" Well, that's about as much Irish that you'll get out of me but there will be an Irish Ceilidh Night in the spring. It's been a couple of years since the club last held one. However, this event will be especially important since all the proceeds will be going to Charity. The charity will most likely be towards helping the starving and homeless in Ethiopia and at the last committee meeting a suggestion made was the possibility of naming it 'Ramble Aid'. Details in the next newsletter.

Well, I do hope to see you all on Thursday Club Nights or on some of the winter walks. I would just like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Very Happy Christmas and a Great New Year.

ROY THUIS,
Social Chairman

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A N N U A L Y U L E T I D E

HOT-POT SUPPER - RAMBLE - BARN DANCE

Rivington Barn

Sunday, January 5th, 1986

Tickets now on sale from Brian Keller -

Adults £3.30 - Children £1.00

Coach extra, departing St John's Lane 10.15

Note: Coach MUST be booked in advance. Seats are limited this year as only ONE coach will be used. Don't delay - Book today!

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FAMILY SECTION. CHESHIRE RAMBLE. NOVEMBER 10TH, 1985

We set out along the motorway not knowing what to expect in the way of weather. On our right we could see some poor souls being treated to an absolute downpour, and on the left the hills were covered in snow, while we were travelling in lovely sunshine. However, it managed to keep sunning for us, and in spite of not being able to find the car park and very nearly turning it into a car rally as a result thereof, we finally arrived to find that the Jeffers and Skillicorns were happily eating their butties, having disguised the car park under a fine growth of grass in the hope that they could have a nice peaceful walk on their own! (Hard luck folks!) Our two new mums with their four lovely children (who are born ramblers if ever I saw any) even managed a tour of the local motorways before they started their walk, followed by the fastest bit of welly donning I gave seen in a long time. Eventually we collected everybody (including those amongst us who have to finish their soup - out of BOWLS with SPOONS!!) and started off.

It was a beautiful crisp Autumn day, with colour to gladden the hearts - somewhat cold and more than somewhat muddy, but with a marvellous collection of animals to keep us interested - dogs, sheep, chickens, goats, cows and even bulls, or bullocks or some such. Although I long ago felt Gerry's magnetism(!) I never before realised that it extended to bulls! We all (very gently) passed through a field full of them and reached the other side safely, only to look back and see Gerry, who had stopped to take a photograph, with measured stride and complete nonchalance crossing the field with the whole herd following him, from behind and to each side. Perhaps he is the Pied Piper well disguised, who got his tune wrong (does he ever get it right, I ask!), but for the rest of us our chuckle muscles got good exercise that day!

We continued on to the village of Great Budworth, with its beautiful old church where we entertained the local populace with feeding time at the zoo (most entertaining thing they had seen in many a long Sunday - and all for free) and then wended our way back to the cars, happily tired and ready for another cuppa to help us on our way home. Angela, if Noel was muddier than everybody else, please do not send him to bed without supper - he did it in the course of playing Sir Galahad all day, and these finer feelings must not be discouraged - they are all too rare!

Many thanks, Vera and Pat, for a lovely ramble, and everybody else for their company.

Jean.

How do you make an Irishman laugh on New Year's Day?

Tell him a joke on Christmas Eve!

If you have any jokes, material suitable for this newsletter or even a ramble write up, then give or send them to me, the Editor, Dave News, 7 Abbotts Way, Billinge, Wigan, Lancs. WN5 7SB.

FAMILY SECTION PROGRAMME - 1985/86.

- Dec. 5. The House Meeting is at Bill and Peggy Potter's house, 91 Woodlands Road, Halewood.
- Dec. 8. This is the TURTON walk. George and Freda are leading. We start walking at 12.30. Herewith travel details. Take the road to Horwich, then the B6226 from the centre of Horwich, turn left on to A58 (to Bolton) to Junction A.676. Turn left (towards Bradshaw) to traffic lights (about 1½ miles. Turn left (fork) Continue for 1 mile until you see Hamer Poultry Farm. Just beyond there is a signpost on the wall (very hard to see) to Jumbles Reservoir and car park. If you come to a pub, you have passed it! (20 minutes from Horwich. Comment- Get lost after that and you're not trying. Don't forget to meet at 12.00 for a 12.30 start.
- Jan. 2. House Meeting is at Mona Roberts's, 7, Elmbank Road, off Greenbank Road, L'pool 18.
- Jan. 5. The Annual Hot-pot Supper and Barndance at the Great Barn, Rivington. This is always an enjoyable affair and our newcomers will be made very welcome. £3.30 for adults and £1 for children. The coach fare is extra to this. Peter and Marie are leading and can give route instructions if you ring 526 2153. Be ready to start walking at 12.30. p.m. Please book with Pat Pearson on 489 0746 as soon as possible.
- Feb. 6. Jack and Betty Highton are at home to us at 37 Kingscourt Road, West Derby, L'Pool 12.
- Feb. 9. FRODSHAM walk. Bill and Peggy Potter are leading this one. Take the A56 into Frodsham. Turn left at Clock/Traffic lights in centre of Frodsham. Then go under the railway bridge. The car park is in the shopping precinct on the right. 12.30 meet for a 1 p.m. start.

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A passing postman says he thinks the post boxes may be opened at the weekend, so those of you who get the newsletter by post should be O.K. as well as the hand delivered ones. Thank goodness for the 'phone. Its a great life if you don't weaken!

Our sincere thanks go to Father Wareing for a very enjoyable retreat. It was very stimulating and we had quite a lively discussion among ourselves after the first talk. 21 of us partook. The Sisters and lady helpers provided a very tasty tea including home-made jam, I think.

Do try and join in the above events. Miserable note to finish (almost) on. Subs are very much overdue. This will be your last newsletter if subs aren't paid by the end of December. The Yuletide will do! What worse threat!!

Best wishes for a peaceful Christmas and a good New Year.