

14.12.89

200/17

GOOD TIDINGS

CHRISTMAS

CELEBRATION



THE  
 CHRISTMAS  
 CELEBRATION  
 1989



First the new members since our Autumn edition. We welcome Mark Langley to the Family Section, and the following to the General Section: Jue Springings, Carolyn Allcock, Eileen Brosnan, Bridget Connolly, Vicky Davies, John Kelly, Aine Wolstenholme, Henry Sheehan, Jim Wareing, Mr and Mrs Laycock. Happy Rambling everyone.

Thanks to all who contributed in any way towards this newsletter. Many of the items submitted came to me in good time and typists Ann Connolly, Angela Fishwick and Mike Hendrick's mother all assisted in the typing, also to Mona Roberts as usual for the Family Section. I hope you all find time to read this rather lengthy edition.

Happy Christmas Dave News 0744 892791

Editor

GREENINGS FROM THE CHAIRMAN:

I would like on behalf of the committee, to wish you all a Very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year. Good Luck with the New Year Resolutions.

I found this Serenity Prayer, some of you may already have seen or heard it:

God grant me the serenity  
To accept the things I cannot change,  
The courage to change the things I can;  
And the wisdom to know the difference.

Song of the Acorn Fairy by Cicely M. Barker:

To English folk the mighty oak is England's noblest tree,  
Its hard-grained wood is strong and good, as English hearts can be.  
And would you know how oak trees grow,  
The secret may be told.  
You do but need to plant for seed ONE acorn in the mould;  
For ever so, long years ago,  
Were born the oaks of old.

The above poem was taken from Flower Fairies of the Autumn, and I thought it an apt description of the "Planting of an idea" which has grown over the years. We are as yet, quite a young tree, but I see us gaining strength in future years. As a tree puts out growth in new shoots, so do we with our new members. To grow strong and true we need to be fed with togetherness, Christian friendship, love and respect of the great outdoors.

I am hoping the forthcoming year will be fruitful in our rambles and social activities, and will welcome any suggestions, ideas and help from you "my little shoots" to help strengthen our mighty tree. You may share your views and ideas at the informal Rambling/Social Sub-Committee meetings held at Birch House on the first Monday of each month. EVERY member of the club is welcome to these Sub-Committee meetings, starting at 8pm. Your ideas and suggestions will be passed on to the General Committee meetings on the second Monday of each month.

Hope to see you at these Sub-Committee meetings on the first Monday of the month, but with an immediate contradiction that January's meeting will NOT be held on the 1st January for obvious reasons but on the 8th of January,

Hope to see you then,

BERNADETTE DOYLE, Chairman

"Oh no, it's that pesky Registrar again. I suppose she is going to tap us for that subscription fee, but we do have until 31st December to pay up!!!"

Sorry folks who don't renew their subscription by the the above date (they should have been renewed in September!) will be very sad. Just think, no more information about rambling or social activities, and worst of all, no newsletters! So please, it's quite painless, only a single membership, 25 married, or better still, why don't you write a letter to Santa. If you've been good He or Mrs Santa may pay it for you.

Please make cheques payable to: LCRA. Post to me, Santa's best friend, 84 Whittier St, Texteth, L8 0EF.



~~S-O-C-I-A-L S-P-O-T-L-I-G-H-T~~

"Hello! Hello! It's good to be back!"

Once again I am back in the hot seat, proving again that my ugly pills really do work! OK, without further ado it's a special 'hello' to all our new members who I hope will enjoy many socials and rambles. I am sure the club will offer the hand of friendship and warmth, especially if you buy a round in! Oops, sorry.

Now then, as you will all be aware, a new committee was formed in September, from which the two sub-committees were formed, both Rambling and Social. To add to the excitement, I can tell you the Social Sub-Committee for 1989-90 is: in alphabetical order, Tony Bond (Disco Bond), Bernie (Subs) Doyle, Roy, er... This, and by no means least, or even last... yes, it's Christine Welsby! I can see you all clapping and cheering your support... well, thank you.

It's also encouraging to see fellow ramblers wanting to do their bit to help the social side. With this in mind, thank you to Bernie Doyle for organising a trip to see North Pacific, or was it South?... info on Christmas Carol Service/tasty meals at the Anglican Cathedral. Thanks to Christine Welsby for doing her Jive Bunny night on November 30. Finally, to Sale of the Century look-alike, yes... Paul Healy, for doing a good quiz night.

And now I appeal, please, to you the member. Would you like to arrange, set-up, start, do a social idea? Then let the Social Sub-Committee know soon!

Right, I can hear the ground starting to TREMBLE, A SHOOTING STAR STREAK ACROSS THE sky (whoops, sorry left the typewriter in shift)... Glen Miller strike-up 'In the Mood' yes, yes... it's future social events!!!

Friday, 15th December - Le Christmas Party at the Liverpool, or:

CHRISTMAS PARTY NIGHT - FRIDAY, 15th DECEMBER upstairs at the Liverpool.

As an East German approaching the Berlin Wall might well be heard to say: "It's over the top" There will be a Professional Disco and the usual good fun. Please note there will be NO CLUB NIGHT on the preceding night (Thursday, 14th December).

There will be the usual Thursday Social on 21st December at the Liverpool downstairs.

STOP PRESS... As there is no social on Thursday 14th December it is a good opportunity to join in the Christmas Carols at the Anglican Cathedral's CHRISTMAS CAROLS NIGHT... no excuses, come along on Thursday, December 14th, 7.30pm at the Anglican Cathedral. - admission free.

FRIDAY, 29th DECEMBER AT THE PHIL... VIENNESE NIGHT

For details of this see poster at the clubroom or contact me or Ian Freeman for ticket £5.00. This is part of their Christmas Concerts at the Philharmonic Hall.

SATURDAY, 27th JANUARY - CHINESE NEW YEAR

Could this be the year of the Rambler? Only one way to find out. Put £3 deposit into Paul Healy's hand to secure your chopsticks. Paul has secured the Far East which is as you may gather, yes, you've guessed it, is not too far away. Price will be around £10. In fact the price would be higher but the good ole General Committee have decided in their wisdom to make a contribution. Thank You.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8th - IT WILL BE ALRIGHT ON THE NIGHT

Oh no, not a sneak preview of my wonderful slides! Well, why not.

Obviously there will be other events on the social scene in the near future. Your best bet is to come down on Thursday and watch out for News at Ten for the very latest up-to-the-minute state of the art social info!

Meanwhile, on behalf of the Committee I wish you all the very best for Christmas and a Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

Cheers,

ROY THUIS (Social Chairman)

## R A M B L E R I T E

The next programme has now been compiled and is almost ready for printing but there are however, still a few vacancies for leaders. Will all potential leaders please form an orderly queue to offer their assistance! 'C' Walk leaders: FREE ramble.

Recent walks have been well attended but I have not been able to attend many myself so cannot give you any first-hand information, but I thank those who have submitted their own accounts of walks/weekends away in this newsletter. I did, however, attend the Kentmere ramble (I had to as I was leading the 'A' party) and we were blessed with an unseasonably mild day, enjoying a medium-level walk from Windermere to Kentmere via Dubs Reservoir and the Garburn Road with fine views of Windermere and the Troutbeck Valley before arriving in Kentmere at about 2.45pm. Here we had a mug of tea before walking back to Staveley and the coach (more tea whilst waiting for the coach). Maybe this walk should have been advertised as "The Darjeeling Special". It's unusual for the 'A' party to be able to buy afternoon tea. (Other Kentmere reports appear in this newsletter).

I have three brochures of Holiday Fellowship (HF) Holidays for the forthcoming year if anyone would like a copy. And now, forthcoming rambles:

December 10th SHUTTLINGSLOW (Cheshire/Derbyshire borders). A: Mike Hendrick, B: Dave Newns, C: Tom Bibby. The most shapely peak in the Macclesfield forest area of Derbyshire

December 17th CORWEN/LLANGOLLEN. A: Roy Thisis, B: Mike Hendrick, C: George Riley. A visit to the Berwyns.

December 24th and 31st NO WALKS. Happy Christmas and New Year. A local walk could be arranged on December 31st using public transport if sufficient support. Please let me know if interested.

January 7th ANNUAL YULETIDE - Walks around Rivington Pike followed by hot-pot and the ever-popular hoedown with the Hoghton Folk Band. Bookings to Allan Caple. NOTE: This is a 10.15am start. The dancing in the barn finishes around 9.30pm, so you should arrive back in Liverpool around 11pm. Usually about 150 or more at this event, so please book early. Allan Caple's phone number is 256 8395.

January 14th STOODLEY PIKE, Yorks. A visit to the Hebden Bridge area of West Yorks.

January 21st BETWS-Y-COED. A: Mike Norgate, B: Mike O'Shea, C: Tom Bibby. Always popular.

January 28th SOUTH LAKES. A: Allan Caple, B: Bernie Doyle, C: Paul Healy. Our first visit to Lakeland in 1990.

IAN FREEMAN, Rambling Chairman

### PENDLE 'B' WALK WITH THE RAMBLERS by Kathryn Clarke, age 7

On November 5th we went on the B walk with the ramblers to a village near Pendle called Sabden. Here we met friends called Jackie, Rick, Cathrine, Tricia and Andrew. They were coming on the walk with us. First the coach came, then Jackie and Rick came by car.

Cathrine, Paul, Andrew and me were the only children there. There were people going on the A walk, some people going on the B walk like me and some on the C walk. First the A walk went off, then we went off. At first we went walking down a street and we passed a bonfire with a tractor on top. Then came the steep uphill bit. We walked up to a bit on Pendle called Spence Moor. When we got on to Spence Moor it was very boggy. Paul Healy helped me over most of the fences as well. Then when Daphne (who was leading the walk) stopped near a little pond, Paul, Andrew and me and Cathrine went down to the pond. We saw a spider on a bit of grass in the pond. Then we came down into Newchurch and went to the witches shop. In the witches shop I bought a pencil with a witch on the end. This witch had a spell book I called the witch Lancer. She is a good witch.

My brother bought something in the shop too. Then we saw a scene in a window of witches and a voice told us all about the witches. Next we went to Newchurch's church. There is something special about this. It has a carved eye of God looking out for witches on the side of the tower. When we got a little further on Paul Healy gave me a tune (which is a cough sweet). Then we finished the walk. When we got back to the car park we went to the park to play. After that we went home to bed.



## THE PENDLE WITCHES

During the recent ramble to Pendle Hill, the walks passed through or near these areas associated with the Pendle Witches. In considering witchcraft and the trial that took place in 1612, one has to consider the situation in the context of the times. It was a highly superstitious age in which many ills, easily explainable now, were put down to the evil spells of witches. The King, James I, had written a book on witchcraft. Old women with eccentric habits might be suspect and many innocent people were executed on unsatisfactory evidence.

In the Pendle area lived two disreputable families headed by two eighty year old wizened croncs, Annie Whittle and Elizabeth Southern, nicknamed Chattox and Old Demdike respectively. Living in poverty, the two women and their brood of offsprings roamed the neighbourhood on begging expeditions. They may have used mild threats of witchcraft to extract money from neighbours and farmers in the area who were glad to see them on their way.

The trouble began when Chattox's daughter, Bossie Whittle, broke into Demdike's home at Malkin Tower near Newchurch in March 1612 and stole some linen and other minor items. A feud developed between the families when Bossie unwisely wore one of the linen items, which was recognised. The matter was brought to the attention of the local magistrate, Roger Nowell, who lived at Read Hall near Whalley. His investigations resulted in various members of each family making wild accusations of evil doings and witchcraft against each other. Roger Nowell, using skillful interrogation, obtained what he wanted to hear from the simple and misguided people and Chattox and Old Demdike confessed to the alleged crimes. Without bothering to check or investigate further, Nowell sent the two women and other members of the families to Lancaster via the Trough of Bowland. Here they were to remain in Lancaster Castle until the next assize in August.

However, Roger Nowell was not yet finished. He heard of a meeting at Demdike's house of the various remaining family members and friends and, after accusations, several more were sent to Lancaster for trial. Amongst these people was an Alice Nutter of Roughlee Hall. Unlike the others, she was a refined and educated woman but she refused to answer the accusations. It is now generally accepted that Alice was a Catholic and by her silence was protecting other local Catholics.

The trial at Lancaster Castle began under Judges Altham and Bromley in August 1612. A total of 19 'witches' were brought before the Court. Demdike, however, had died in gaol before the assize opened. The one-sided trial was a foregone conclusion. Without professional representation the uneducated unfortunates stood no chance of defending themselves. They were found guilty on evidence that today would not be admissible in court. Following sentence, the convicted were hanged the next day outside Lancaster Castle. There were witch scares in 1633 and the 1680's in the Pendle area but the Pendle Witches of 1612 are the best known due to such novels as "The Lancashire Witches" (1848) by Harrison Ainsworth and "Hist over Pendle" (1951) by Robert Neill.

MIKE O'SHEA

## MATCHES AND HATCHES

First the matches bit. Mike Norgate has been keeping the engagement between himself and Linda low key. Linda is not in the club, or I should say not a member of the LCRA; so she is in for a big hearty welcome if she ever comes out on a ramble with us. Congratulations to both of you.

Now the hatches bit. Colette and George Riley became the proud parents of a little girl on 3rd November (6lb 10ozs). Congratulations. Lovely photographs, lovely baby.

## THE KESWICK WEEKEND

The October Keswick Weekend was, as usual, a hectic weekend, cramming as much walking and socialising as possible into two days.

The 'A' walk on the Saturday was the classic High Crag, High Stile, Red Pike Traverse at Buttermere. Unfortunately, Brian led it back to front, therefore missing one of Wainwright's few scrambles, Sheepbone Rake on High Crag, and missed the delightful evening descent of Scale Beck to Scale Force. But I am sure Brian will have his reasons.

Sunday, and the usual hangover, only six of us braved the 'A' walk to Glaramara. Many of the others did an afternoon walk/ferry crossing after the 10.45 am Mass. I managed to prise the leaders map out of Brian's tight grip and decided to attempt Cam Crag Ridge. The weather was a bit changeable for scrambling and the final words in the guide book read "some parties may feel the need for a rope". I began to wonder if I was making the right decision. But, as the chances of leading an 'A' walk on a Keswick Weekend are about as rare as Chris Bonnington asking you to be Base Camp Manager on his next Himalayan expedition, you've got to seize the moment.

Cam Crag lies 2½ miles along the Langstrath Valley on the Glaramara side. The ridge is more of a horseshoe-shaped buttress with the best scrambling near the centre. On the day it was a bit wet and the rocks were greasy, so we kept left of the main ridge but the scrambling was interesting and we were soon on the summit.

The weather had now really deteriorated. We headed towards Glaramara passing Comb Door but we missed the final ascent to the summit of Glaramara opting for a direct descent down Hind Gill to the Valley.

Thanks to those who came on a tough walk in such bad weather. Alan and Tom, the two girls, Heather and Fran, and even the old man, Himself, Brian, who I think enjoyed it although he would never admit it.

MIKE HENDRICK

## A NEW VENTURE FOR THE CLUB

February Hostel Weekend / Theatre Trip at Mold (Maeshafyn Hostel).

On Friday/Saturday, 16th/17th February, hopefully to include an evening at the Theatre Clwyd in Mold on the Friday evening.

Saturday, daytime to include map and compass tuition for potential leaders of the Club. Saturday evening may consist of a common meal (any babbling brooks among the weekenders?). One may fetch a bottle of lemonade along for consumption after the meal, followed by a social hour in the Miners Arms, a short walk away in the village of Maeshafyn (any piano players?).

Sunday - daylight again. Map and compass work up on the Offa's Dyke.

(Editor's note: Assumed Joe will have Sunday's programme geared up to the Catholics in the party, who will be going to the 11.00 am Mass in Mold).

Recommended purchases for would be leaders of walks: Combined Ordnance Survey and Daily Telegraph - Simply Map Reading. Author - Richard Neave. Price £2.95 Also a Silva compass.

JOE ROURKE

## ANNUAL FRED NORBURY/CYRIL KELLY TROPHIES

This year's winners were: Fred Norbury Trophy - Jim Haynes  
Cyril Kelly Trophy - Caroline Ferrol

Runners-up:

2 Paul Healy	7 Bryan Day	2 Norma Puddifer	8 Diane Jones
2 Paul Sellick	8 Ray Pemberton	2 Carol Kellett	9 Maureen
4 Mick Norgate	8 Dave Newns	4 Margaret Starkey	10 Paula Larkin
5 Mike O'Sannor		4 Ann Connor	10 Mary Unwin
5 Barry Dooley		6 Heather Pike	12 Eileen Brosnan
		7 Christine Welsby	

## KENTMERE

Sunday 12th November - BEATRIX POTTER WALK  
6 Mile = C Walk Leader - Joe Rourke

On a light and temperate November morning having first off the A & B parties, all 16 of us in the C party arrived at Bowness on Windermere. The resort was still alive with visitors and the shops were bright and as full of merchandise as during their highest season.

Our group led by Joe and whipped in by Peter (Davies) made our way towards the ferry. Once aboard, we rooted into rucksacks to find our fare - 10p. I mentioned to the ferryman that he couldn't possibly make a profit? To which he replied - "No we don't - so today we are selling all our passengers SARDINE YOGHURT" !!

Leaving the ferry (without any yoghurt), we made our way towards the old ferry house complex and from here wended our way below and around a group of bright red and green holly bushes growing on the pathway close to the waters edge.

After walking for a quarter of a mile, we joined a path on our left leading uphill and into a wood we began climbing and there was much banter and laughing as we pulled off our woolly sweaters in the mild air. The wood underfoot was completely golden with fallen leaves and overhead they still left their boughs and swirled and sailed to the ground in hundreds. Joe quoted from a book he had read he said - "the leaves fall like golden musical notes".

At the top of the hill we followed along a track at Joe's bidding as he assured us of fine views ahead. As the track descended we found the perfect spot and were able to see our first view of the Sawreys. There is far and near Sawrey, both are tiny villages, surrounded by a magnificent pastoral scene.

### Beatrix Potter Country!

I don't think I have ever seen a more splendid area of low country in my life. After gazing (not grazing) for some time and not really wishing to leave this view, Joe led us down the hillside keeping to the track until we came to Far Sawrey. Here it was at the Sawrey Hotel where we stopped for a glass of cider. Once inside this quaint pub with its tiny rooms and alcoves Joe noticed a collection box on the mantelpiece. It was a Seaman's Mission Box. "Haven't seen one of those in years" said Joe putting money in - for those who go down to the sea in ships.

It was after our cider stop that we had all the fun at the kissing gates. There being 14 women and only 2 men and a map, we left them breathless didn't we girls? "Grin".

Passing on through gentle rolling countryside and following a brook for some way we came to Near Sawrey and nearby Hilltop Farm, the latter bought by Beatrix Potter in 1905. It was during the next eight years of her owning Hilltop that she was at her most productive writing and illustrating some 13 books.

We decided to take a closer look at this tiny village of Near Sawrey. The grey stone cottages were attractive in detail and beautifully kept. Blue delphinium stood tall over garden walls.

while along cottage window sills tiny peach coloured roses still grew abundantly. Clematis could still be seen growing up and around cottage doorways and up to the roof and even along the telephone wires.

A dog barked in the distance but this was a sleepy place apart from our own inquisitive group. The hedgerows smelt sweet and strong as we left the village by way of a minor road. We were hungry by this time and thirsty and on finding a long wooden bench soon after leaving the village, we stopped for sandwiches and tea. In the distance as we ate there was a misty view of Esthwaite Water.

"We should head back now" said Joe, "in good time to catch the ferry", and we did so enjoying our lovely surroundings in the slightly fading light of late afternoon.

We crossed some low land and one or two stiles and saw a church set out clearly on the opposite hillside its windows aglow with light. We knew from the map that we were to climb up beside the church and as we did we noticed that the flag of St. George was flying. As we left the church behind we checked our watches - It was 4pm on Remembrance Sunday.

We finally reached the lake shore road with lovely near views of Lake Windermere and we could hear the sound of water lapping on stone as we walked along the shore road. We soon arrived at the ferry and climbed on board. It took just a few minutes to cross to Bowness and there was a bright orange sunset over the lake.

Thanks, once again Joe for a lovely time and a memorable day.

Gemima Puddleduck!  
(and Norah).

#### CHRISTMAS APPEAL - Co-Workers of Mother Teresa, Seel Street.

The Co-Workers of Mother Teresa are appealing for help in any way by either giving gifts of scarves, gloves, socks, ladies tights, ladies and gents items, toiletries, toys for children (new and good secondhand), foodstuffs, etc., to help the Sisters in the various parties for the homeless, old folk and children.

Anyone who can help pack these will be welcome, also help needed during the parties, in preparing food and serving. Do you know anyone who can entertain? All would be made welcome.

Dates for Christmas parties for the Co-Workers of Mother Teresa are:

Children's Party - Dec 10th; Old Peoples Party - December 14th; Soup Kitchen Clients - December 17th.

The Soup Kitchen is always glad of help in the evenings (except Thursdays). An odd visit to Seel Street helps the Sisters to get to know you.

Secretary: Mrs Maria Kettle, Tel. 722 4623.

#### LOST PROPERTY

A great deal of property has been left on coaches-lately. If you have anything missing from a ramble then contact Paul Healy 051-426 0162. Property includes a lightweight anorak and a small radio alarm clock left at the clubroom on 16th November. If there are no claims to the property being held by Paul in the near future then Paul will have to either move into a bigger house to accommodate the mountain of stuff, or simply dispose of all the lost property as he sees fit, probably to a local jumble sale. An easy remedy is to write your name inside your anorak, cagoul, gaiters, etc in ordinary ballpoint pen. It takes seconds.



EASTER WEEKEND 1990

Last Easter six of us visited the Galloway area of Southern Scotland. It was a new area for all of us and we were very impressed, so impressed that we are hoping to organise a Club Easter Weekend to Galloway next year.

The Galloway Hills are situated in the South West corner of Scotland. Head up the M6 to Gretna Green, make a left turn through Dumfries and you're there. Last year we stayed near Newton Stewart which is a superb area for walking, the highlight of last years trip was a walk from the beautiful Glen Trool onto the remote summit of Curlywee, with its wild Mountain Goats and a brief glimpse of two Red Deer.

To get to Newton Stewart takes about 5 hours, but the journey can be broken up. Two hours on the M6 will see you at Tebay services for 'elevenes'. Another two hours and you are at Clatteringshaws Loch where you can have a short walk or visit the Deer Museum. Another hour and you are at Newton Stewart.

Now the reason we are planning the Easter Weekend early is we want to give as many members as possible the chance of going. Last year we stayed in a 6 berth caravan which worked out the same cost as a Youth Hostel. This year we hope to again use caravans, there is also Hostel accommodation available in Minnigaff.

Anyone interested in going please see Christine or myself and let us know which form of accommodation you prefer or other suggestions such as camping, B + B, Hotel etc., we'll see what we can do.

Mike Hendrick

BANK HOLIDAY WEEKENDS 1990

At a recent meeting suggestions were put forward for next years Bank Holiday Weekends. the following weekends were chosen:

May Day 4th - 7th May

Eskdale Y.H.A.

Bookings to Ian Freeman

Spring Bank Holiday  
25th - 28th May

Llanrug caravans

(This weekend will include a challenge walk, incorporating the 14 peaks of Snowdonia).

Bookings to Mike Hendrick

August Bank Holiday  
24th - 27th August

Dolgellau Bunk House

Bookings to be arranged.

1989.

DEC. 10. MYERSCOUGH. Gerry and Jean are leading. 12 noon walking start. Use the M6 and come off at Junction 32 onto A59. Park in the hidden layby immediately before the Myerscough Arms. Motorway toilets, please.

1990.

JAN. 7. YULETIDE WALK. RIVINGTON. Meet at the Great Barn, Rivington at 12 noon. Leo and Pat are leading. Here is an important note from Pat.

"As in other years there will be a hotpot supper after the Yuletide Ramble. However, unlike other years, payment for the occasion - and all future occasions - must be made at the time of booking. The reason for this change is the amount of time involved on the night and, more importantly, the amount of cash which both myself and Brian Keller handle on the night. The fee for the evening will be given in the General Section's notices. Cheques are to be made payable to L.C.R.A. Your co-operation would be appreciated - in fact it is obligatory."

FEB. 11. ORMSKIRK. Take the A59 up to the roundabout just before Ormskirk. Take the 3rd road on left going into Ormskirk to traffic lights. Turn left and carpark is 200 yards on righthand side. Please make your own toilet arrangements. Meet at 11.30 prompt. Stay shoed - we're then driving on to the actual start of the walk.

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FAMILY SECTION. DOVESTONE RESERVOIR RAMBLE. 8TH OCTOBER, 1989.

After the torrential rain of Saturday we awoke to a lovely Autumnal day and, as newcomers, decided to take advantage of the offer of Noel and Angela to join the group on the ramble to the area of Dovestone Reservoir. By a variety of interesting routes fifteen intrepid souls arrived at the assembly point in time to start the walk. Unfortunately, two members who were seen on route did not materialise and were sadly missed. Messages of condolence and map of the way were left in a prominent position on the car of our leaders Bill and Peggy Potter then off we set.

We climbed Hawk's Yard and Yarn's Hill to the unusual rock formation aptly named 'Pots and Pans' near to the war memorial, where we stopped for a break and all took part in the interesting discussion as to our whereabouts. We are still trying to decide if we were south of Pendle, North of Holmfirth, east of Huddersfield, or somewhere near Manchester. The moral behind all this is 'Always take a map and compass'. We then set off along a lovely ridge overlooking Dovestone Reservoir. It is only when walking high that one realises how the long, hot Summer has affected water levels in these areas and that a lot of rain will be needed to top everything up again, so long as it doesn't arrive on one of the rambles.

Eventually we stopped for lunch down in the valley of Yeoman Hey Reservoir, where another discussion took place on the merits of carrying one's own rucksack. All male members seemed to agree that in these days of equal opportunity they were only too pleased to allow the ladies to partake of the privilege of carrying their own 'bags and butties'. The views of the ladies were not recorded. Feeling refreshed we were then taken for a gentle walk towards the head of the valley prior to the 'final assault'. We all know how Hilary and Tensing felt in 1953 when they scaled the final 1200 feet to the summit. "Straight up", "Watch your footing" and "Don't look down" was good advice. Up the side of the valley we scrambled to the top, where each group to arrive received a rousing cheer and a "Well done". Oxygen was not supplied. The effort was worthwhile as the view from the ridge were quite breathtaking, especially looking back down into the valley and the realisation of what we had achieved. All that remained now was a level walk along the ridge then down to the Reservoir carpark, feeling comfortably tired and very satisfied with our day out.

Well done to all and a special thanks to Bill and Peggy.

Doreen and Harry.



FAMILY SECTION RAMBLE - ECCLESTON.

On the 12th November, thirteen of the veteran members assembled on the Roodoo Carpark. We were advised to get on the road early to avoid the Remembrance Sunday Service in Chester so, instead of arriving at the last minute, everyone was relatively early.

The weather was beautiful, warm and sunny, in contrast to the cold wet weather of the previous week. We walked along the banks of the Dee, watching with envy the youngsters canoeing, as we ambled along slowly.

After walking for an hour we stopped to eat, shuffling around to get the benefit of the Autumn sun. After refreshments, we continued on our way along the river bank and onto the road leading to the small picturesque village of Ecclestone. The walk then proceeded through a wood where we were given a botany lesson on the different fungi growing. The Autumn colours were really spectacular and the mild weather brought the Sunday trippers out in their dozens.

The conversation became more depressing as the walk drew to a close. George and Leo were very concerned about the ozone layer and seemed relieved that they wouldn't be alive to be killed off by it.

It's amazing on our rambles how many knowalls there are, particularly as the knowalls are so naive. Among our small group we produced an authority on fungi, another on birds, another on the life cycle of wasps and yet another on black spots on leaves.

One claimed a bird in a tree was a comorant - a check in a bird book later proved IT to be a dodo - a species that became extinct over a hundred years ago. Come to think of it, that description seemed to fit the group walking that day???, except for Stephen.

Mollie and Tony.

\* \* \* \* \*

Our Retreat in November was very enjoyable and rewarding. Father Wareing took "Prayer" as his topic and there was quite a lively discussion afterwards. I now find mine a little more inspiring instead of the "Will You", "Can I" type I was mostly using previously.

Our associate members George and Audrey came, in spite of Audrey's injured back. You'll get extra credits for that, Aud!

Thank you, Father.

\* \* \* \* \*

This Christmas looks like being a very active one in the Club. Our Social Secretary has done us proud. The Cathedral dinner and the Speke Hall events must have taken a lot of organising and should prove to be very entertaining.

Only remains now to wish everyone a happy and peaceful Christmas, and a prosperous New Year.

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To take the gilt of the gingerbread and produce guilt of another sort, the question of Subs must raise it's ugly head again. They are £5.00 for doubles and £4.00 for singles, as those of you who haven't paid up know very well. If they aren't paid before the end of December the ruling is that it must be taken that the "unpays" do not wish to renew their membership and, the hardest blow of all! the newsletter will not be sent out to you. Mona Roberts at 7, Elmbank Road, L18 1HR will be delighted to legitinise you.

Mona R.

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