



AUSTRALIAN  
CHRISTMAS CAKE

1 cup of Butter, 1 cup of Sugar,  
4 large Eggs, 1 cup of Dried Fruit,  
1 tspn Baking Powder, 1 tspn Salt,  
1 cup of Brown Sugar, Lemon Juice,  
Nuts, 1 Bottle of Whisky.

Method: Sample the whisky and check for quality. Take a large bowl. Check the whisky again to be sure it is of the highest quality. Pour one level cup and drink. Repeat. Turn on the electric mixer, beat one cup of butter and beat again. Make sure the whisky is still OK. Cry another cup. Turn off the mixer. Break two eggs and add to the bowl and chuck in the cup of dried fruit. Mix on the turner. If the fruit gets stuck in the beaters, pry it loose with a drawscraper. Sample the whisky again to check for consistency. Next, sift two cups of salt, or something, who cares? Check the whisky. Now sift the lemon juice and strain your nuts. Add one tablespoon of brown sugar, or whatever colour you can find. Wix mel. Grease the oven. Turn the cake pan to 350 degrees. Do not forget to beat off the turner. Throw the bowl out of the window, check the whisky again, and bo to ged.



EDITORIAL



"It's too cold to go out walking" or so many people think, but that couldn't be further from the truth. Anyone who has been out recently will have experienced the joy of being out in the winter sunshine with the crunch of half-frozen mud underfoot leaving boots relatively clean at the end of the day. After the early morning frost begins to melt and the sun starts to peep through, the LCRA are just leaving their coach to make the most of the winter's best daylight hours.

A typical example of this was experienced on the recent Whitbarrow Scar ramble when after a severe overnight frost the sun shone from mid-day onwards and all three parties were rewarded with superb views from the summit plateau, Milnthorpe Sands and the Kent Estuary clearly visible to the south and the Lake District mountains namely the Langdales, Coniston Old Man, etc to the north west with wisps of mist just skimming the valleys below. An additional surprise for people on this particular walk was that at 4.30 at the end of the day's ramble the Derby Arms at Witherslack had their doors open to us and many had a meal in the cosy atmosphere of the dining room. The dozen people who didn't turn up for the coach missed a superb day out and also deprived many on the waiting list from taking their places for the lack of a phone call the night before. Don't let the cold weather put you off rambling, just come prepared with your winter gear - thermals, etc. and even sunglasses may be necessary to stop the glare of the snow or frost in the brilliant winter sunshine.

Thanks to Rosa Harrison and Joe Rourke for submitting articles for this edition, also to Barbara Cassidy for supplying the Youth Hostel information and to Tom Shannon for pirating a recipe for your Christmas fare.

The Family Section keep churning their write-ups out and don't seem short of volunteers. Alas, no write up's from our Section this time. Don't forget - ANYONE can submit a write-up for the newsletter whether you are an old stager or a brand new member. Start making your New Year's resolution now, to do at least one ramble write-up next year. Finally a hearty welcome to all new members.

All that remains now is for me to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year full of memorable rambles.

DAVE NEWS

7 Abbots Way, Billinge, WIGAN, Lancs. WN5 7SB - All correspondence to this address for newsletter, thanks.

'Tis that time of year that comes oft too soon these days. Christmas is more than just one day at the end of the year for celebration and merry making. Look on it as a pattern to follow each day, filled with 'Best Wishes', 'Loving Thoughts', 'Peace on Earth, Good Will to all'. Spare a thought for those less fortunate than ourselves. Remember them in your prayers and remember that by His birth we have the chance of salvation.

My very Best Wishes to you all for a Holy and a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

God bless,  
BERNIE

NEXT YEAR'S CHARITIES

The club will be supporting Jospice and Health Aid for Rumanian orphanages during 1992.

SUBSCRIPTIONS... are overdue. Renewable every September. If you haven't paid up yet then send or give your £5 for doubles or £4 single to Colin Molloy c/o LCRA 8 Hawdon Court, Earle Road, Liverpool L7 6AF. Cheques should be made out to LCRA.

WARNING: If subs aren't renewed by Dec. 31st you cease to be a member of the club.

SOCIAL EVENTS Sat Dec 14 Dance at the Electric Supply Club. Tickets £2 from Brian Keller. Their Tennis Section run this Disco. Always a good night.

W. Thursday Dec. 19 CHRISTMAS PARTY NIGHT at the Spiral Staircase - Admission FREE.

Sat Dec 21st is "Grab a Granny" Night at the Grafton. For more info see Beryl.

ALADDIN at the Empire on 22 Jan with Mr 'T' as the Genie from TV's The 'A' Team. Tickets £9 from Beryl.

ONCE A CATHOLIC at the Playhouse on 12 Feb. About £9. See Beryl again.

VED NORBURY/CYRIL KELLY TROPHIES were presented at our Annual Dance to Brian Bossom and Barbara Cassidy. Well done. This is the second year in succession for Brian winning the club's multi-event competition.

THANKS for another good night at the Manor on 24 October - The Karaoke Night. We had Ray and Dave swinging their hips, Paul Healy impersonating Dean Martin and Ray Pemberton singing Green Green Grass of Home. We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Nigel on winning his gold medal. He's also got a good voice. Thanks again Beryl for another good night.

IRENE SEGERBERG

BOOTS FOR SALE, size 10, good condition, hardly worn - Phone 260 8475 or see Beryl.

MANY THANKS to Norah for her excellent "write-up" about the walk to Levers Water (Coniston) in the last edition, also to everybody present on the walk, particularly Ray and Paula who were the "Whippers-in".

ROSA HARRISON

OUR THOUGHTS OF SYMPATHY go to Tony Bond whose father died recently. You should also remember to pray for Ann Connolly who is very ill in hospital.

#### LIVERPOOL YOUTH HOSTEL GROUP RETURNS

A meeting was held recently in Liverpool just sixty years after the first-ever meeting of YHA members. Joe Rourke is starting to renew efforts to re-activate this local group and he is also initiating efforts to have a Youth Hostel opened in the City. Although nothing is finalised, the Liverpool Maritime Museum has been approached with a proposal to use the Bar Pilot Boat currently moored in the dock complex of the Maritime Museum. All are invited to attend the regular meetings at the Walton Sports Centre. Further details from Joe on 256 9144.

MAESHAFN WEEKEND - Dec 20/22. Joe is arranging a super Christmas Weekend away at this youth hostel near Mold with a Christmas Dinner on Sat evening and good walks arranged in this pleasant part of Wales. Very cheap W/E so contact Joe on the above number.

#### WORTH MORE THAN JUST A MENTION

This edition of the newsletter coincides with the 25th anniversary of membership of the Catholic Ramblers of the editor David Newns.

This summer a fellow member mentioned that he was browsing through a Liverpool Echo of twenty years ago when he read with interest that the Catholic Ramblers advertised a walk in the Lakes with Dave Newns leading!

Like a number of other members I tend to forget that there is a lot of organisation attached to getting a coach of fifty ramblers off the launching pad, and the many details and planning that ensures that everything goes right. The committee-work and newsletter production that goes on backstage for our benefit.

I would like to salute the twenty-five years of David in service to the club, having served on the General Committee many times and also chaired the club for three years on two occasions. Indeed, I shall drink a toast to his outstanding contribution at the Maeshafn Christmas Party. I am sure you will all join me in wishing this quiet unassuming member many more years of involvement in our club. I am quite sure that like myself you find David an inspiration as we walk in his footsteps over high fell and lowland footpaths. Well done Dave, well done.

JOE ROURKE

YULETIDE - Hot-pot and Barn Dance (Rivington Barn) Price includes Band - Coach extra. Sun 5 Jan. Our biggest and best event. £5.50 adults, £2.25 children. Book NOW.



PICOS DE EUROPA - August 1991

When our daughters Maureen and Elaine returned from a holiday in Northern Spain one summer they enthused about the green countryside and the absence of commercialisation. This sounded very inviting. So, this year Norman and I chose a break from a Brittany Ferries brochure.

To break our journey we arranged an overnight stay at the "Bowling Green Hotel", Plymouth. As we wandered around it was possible to visualise certain historic events: Sir Francis Drake standing on Plymouth Hoe and looking out to sea, The Pilgrim Fathers boarding the "Mayflower" and the press gangs in New Street (a narrow alley with Elizabethan-style buildings) forcing their victims to take to the High Seas.

The sun shone as we boarded the "Bretagne", a ferry which has facilities that make it more like a cruise ship, thus making the 23-hour journey more comfortable (also the waters in the Bay of Biscay were calm). On arrival at Santander, rain-coats gave an indication of the weather. It remained dull and the skies were over-cast as we drove through the mountain gorge, Desfiladero de la Hermida which claims to be the second deepest gorge in the world, after the Grand Canyon. Was this sunny Spain!

Then the sun broke through and the blue skies were smiling down on us. In less than three hours we had reached our destination. Before us was the rural hide-away "Hotel del Oso", set in the foothills of the Picas de Europa (also known as the Spanish Alps).

Refreshed by a night's sleep, we donned our walking boots, etc and looked for the path which led to the next village and was used regularly by the locals. Rula, a dog from the hotel, was our companion. As the path became steeper the foliage provided a welcome shade and we could see birds of prey hovering above the tree-line. Suddenly there was no shade at all and the sun was fiercely beating down on us. This was typical of "Mad dogs and Englishmen",

The birds of prey were now below us. Spectacular views surrounded us as we looked down into the valley towards our hotel. In the opposite direction the village rooftops were visible but still seemed to be a great distance away. The paths twisted and turned. Once again there was shade - and mud from a dried-up mountain stream - Were we lost? There were no "Public Footpath" signs to be seen here. Still we kept on going. At last there was a pathway ahead which led to two buildings, on the outskirts of the village. A left turn revealed an oasis, identified by the word "Bar", set in the authentic Spanish village of Pembes. No English was spoken by the bar owner or his customers. However, "Das Cerveza" were served quickly and tasted like nectar.

An alternative route along the main road took us back to "Hotel del Oso" (Hotel of the Bear). A swim in the pool, a shower and an "a la carte" meal were the finishing touches to a very different and interesting day. An ash tray filled with aqua was the reward for our faithful friend Rula.

Two days later we travelled 25 kms to Fuente De. Here we took a cable car up the sheer side of a mountain a further 2,500 feet from the valley. At the top are some truly breathtaking views. The peaks of the mountains themselves are covered with snow for the majority of the year. Mules tracks led to the snow. En route we saw sheep, horses, mountain goats, cattle and eagles. However, the chamois, deer, badger, fox, wild boar and occasional bear, were more likely to have been seen by those who hired jeeps and drove further into the restricted hunting reserve.

Next time we intend to have a longer holiday and travel out to the North West Coast.

Rosa Harrison

LUCKY WINNER - No.102

Philip Caine won the recent draw for £75 worth of equipment from Blacks.

INFORMATION, 1991.

SUBSCRIPTIONS. I do like a nice sociable start! Subs. are very much overdue for at least twelve of last year's membership. Do please hurry your cheques (£5.00 for doubles and £4.00 singles) to Mona Roberts, 7, Elmbank Road, L'Pool, L18 1HR.

1991. CHRISTMAS DINNER. The important thing about this notice is not the fact that it is again being held at the Anglican Cathedral, nor that the date is the 21st December, nor even that the cost is £13.00 (which includes car parking and minding); no, the vital point is that you must send off your cheques for the required amount made out to Pat Pearson at 21 Twig Lane immediately on receipt of this newsletter!

1992.

JAN. 5. YULETIDE. The venue, of course, is the Great Barn at Rivington. We start walking at 12 noon. The cost is £5.50 for adults and £2.25 for children. Cheques, made payable to L.C.R.A., must be in Pat Pearson's hands by Saturday, 28th December. It's a hot-poy as usual, followed by a barn dance. This is an extremely happy occasion when the whole Club gets together.

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JAN. 9. Our hosts for this House Meeting are Gerry and Jear McDonald, at 28 Ormonde Drive, Maghull.

JAN. 19. FRESHFIELD. George and Audrey Parkinson are our leaders. I think the plan is to walk the coastal path to Southport and then train back to Freshfield and the cars. We start walking at 12 noon again.

FEB. 6. This month's House Meeting is at Mona Roberts's, 7, Elmbank Road, Mossley Hill, Liverpool, 18.

FEB. 19. WHITCHURCH, Bill and Peggy Potter are leading this one. Instructions as far as Bill can give two months ahead are to take the A41 to Whitchurch and park near the Information Centre. More at House Meetings, etc.

SUBSCRIPTIONS are still more overdue'

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HURST GREEN RAMBLE., 6TH OCTOBER, 1991.

Where else to start a walk on a beautiful October day then in the sleepy Lancashire village of Hurst Green, known as the home of Stoneyhurst College, but looking more like a scene from Miss Marple.

After leaving the village we made our way along the banks of a small river through a leafy glade. From here we had a short spell in the open where we had an opportunity to view the beautiful countryside with Pendle Hill in the distance. However, this was not to last and we said farewell to the sun as we entered the woods. Not long after we were allowed our first butty stop, giving us a longer look at Pendle Hill and also a chance to be told that WALKER'S crisps are now the official brand for the Ramblers - not due to the name, but because of the 'freebies' available. Hope you've got your car by now, Kath.

Cont'd...

FAMILY SECTION. HURST GREEN CONT'D.

With a new lease of life we started a muddy trudge through the pinewoods making our way to the top path. From here we continued through even denser woods, always expecting to round the next bend and find Dr. Livingstone (we presumed). The fine view found as we emerged from the woods made it all worth while. What I want to know is - how come there was so much mud about, when the weather had been so dry for months? Had Peter been there the day before with his watering-can so as to make the walk more interesting?

After a gentle drop we made our way through pleasant countryside to the banks of the River Hodder (which was very low compared with other times) where we climbed along the river bank accompanied by the smell of wild garlic. Further along the river we stopped for another break with a heron for company, and the sun starting to set after a beautiful day.

The walk finished with us walking through the grounds of Stoneyhurst, soon finding ourselves back at the gates of the College.

Many thanks Peter and Marie for a lovely walk on a lovely day.

Guess Who?

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CHESTER/ECCLESTON FERRY, 17TH NOVEMBER, 1991.

Where, oh where have all the walkers gone? No, not the crisp people! There were just 22 stalwarts out on this short, flat walk, which meandered along the River Dee to Eccleston Ferry (what no boats?!) This was a pleasant walk on a grey day, marred by a short shower. The route continued through the pleasant village of Eccleston, over the motorway and then through the woods back to Chester. Unfortunately there was not a lot of fungi (mushrooms) about to identify, but there was no shortage of chat.

Thanks Big Ell for a pleasant walk.

"ANON".

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The Retreat was another successful and enjoyable affair with numbers up and some newcomers, mostly from the General Section. The discussion afterwards was really good.

The setting of the Anglican Cathedral for the Playhouse production of "A Man for All Seasons" was magnificent, though Henry's slide down the banister was a shock! The accoustics were quite good except for one microphone that was out of order.

Our congratulations go to Dave and Kath (nee Fishwick) Vaughan on the birth of Thomas David on December 2nd. - 8 lbs. 10 pzs, and Mum and him doing well. One of each now!

All for now, except for your subscriptions! Have a lovely Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Mona R.

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