

Liverpool Catholic Ramblers'  
Association

# Christmas Newsletter

**December 1998**  
**7th Series Issue 17**



COVER PAGE was first engraved on a wax stencil for our Christmas newsletter about 15 years ago. Any reports, readers letters, articles, etc, for our next newsletter should be given to me before the end of January. - Editor's address: 7 Abbots Way, Billinge, WIGAN WN5 7SB

Dave News

## LCRA Christmas Party

is now on **SATURDAY 12th December**  
at the **Eldonian Village Hall, Vauxhall Road**

Star Turn Buffet Free Raffle

8pm till last orders 1.30 - DISCO and DANCING

Car Park - also TAXI rank outside Tickets **£4.50** inclusive of Buffet

No admission to Buffet without ticket. Last-minute bookings to Mike Riley on 521 2268

**NEW MEMBERS** We give a special welcome to the following new members who have joined our ranks recently and wish them many happy times in the future with us. They are: John McDowell, Peter Lewis, Francis Hegarty, Keith and Jean Gidman.

## March Weekend at Lakeside House

Friday night, 19th to Sunday, 21st March (two weeks before Easter)

This very large guesthouse is double glazed and has a high standard of comfort with spacious lounge, bar/games room, large dining room and a drying room in the basement with coathangers and boot rack.

It is ideally situated within minutes of the well-stocked shops, bars and centre of Keswick. Accommodation is half-board. Walks will be organised. Packed lunches for the walks are also available at extra cost if ordered in advance.

Rooms vary from single to three or four-bedded. Please state any preference at time of booking with your £10 non-returnable deposit. They have room for about 45 people but there are already over two dozen of us booked in, so get your name down quickly to avoid disappointment.

A new tariff is due in January, so we don't know the exact cost. It is two days of half board, starting with bed on Friday and finishing with your evening meal on Sunday. A rough estimate is about £55 plus cost of the transport up there. We may have to share cars if it proves too expensive for a coach. You can pay by instalments if you wish. See whoever is going around with the book for details.

**Note:** Some have not paid a deposit yet. Your booking is not secure until you pay that £10 deposit.

*Lakeside House is run by the Catholic Holiday Fellowship and open to all denominations.*

## YULETIDE EVENT - Saturday January 16th

A full day of walks, followed by hot-pot and a barn dance at Goosnargh near Preston. The spacious village hall is an ideal setting for this function which we have hired from 5 pm. There will be bar facilities and the hall is situated adjacent to the village green in the centre of Goosnargh enjoying beautiful views over to Beacon Fell Country Park and close to the Trough of Bowland.

Cost inclusive of coach is £10 which is actually £1 cheaper than last year. It's advisable to bring your normal sandwiches for the walk as the hot-pots are only small for this low price.

**COACH START TIME IN WINTER** - A 9.00 start has been suggested for winter rambles so there have been questionnaires in circulation. The committee will make a decision at their December committee meeting. If implemented it won't come in force until January.

# Ramblerite

COACH ATTENDANCES recently have been much better than many of last summer's rambles with 54 out at High Cup Nick including four going up by car, 45 out at Grasmere, 50 at Askham and 42 at Church Stretton.

The two Welsh walks attracted only thirty people on each, yet both were very scenic walks, especially the recent Glyn Ceiriog walk.

On that ramble, dozens of pheasants were seen running around, with legs moving rapidly in laughable fashion across the meadows. We were walking in and above that awe-inspiring wooded glen of the River Ceiriog, near Chirk, and the coach driver even walked with us for a short distance! It was gratifying to see both Duggie and Jack going around the coach giving members full descriptions of their walks - a practice occasionally neglected by some leaders.

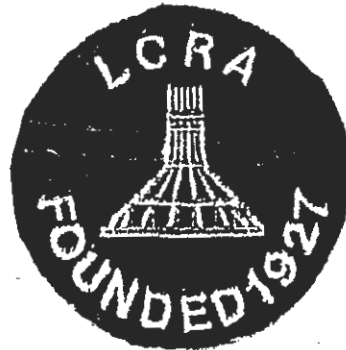
Unfortunately, on this walk, one member cut his leg badly on barbed wire, but after first-aid treatment he enjoyed our pub-stop in the Woolpack in the quiet hamlet of Pandy (near the glen) at the end of the walk.

We're having a few week's rest over Christmas, but our next big event is the Yuletide walk in January which this time is on a Saturday. There will be at least three walks for the General Section (no feedback from the other two sections at time of writing this). There will be a hot-pot supper (licensed bar) and a good old hoedown with a caller giving us continuous guidance (see full details opposite).

## FORTHCOMING RAMBLES

**13 Dec. CASTLETON.** Walks in the area of the Hope Valley and the hills around the Winnatts Pass, not too far from Edale. At the end of the day you will see this busy Peak District village lit up in all its Christmas glory. **This is still a 9.30 start.**

**10 Jan. BOLTON ABBEY.** Popular part of Wharfedale where a rocky section of the River Wharfe (known as the Strid) attracts many visitors (sadly including that ill-fated honeymoon couple killed there recently). Note: there is no danger on this walk. Just don't stand too close to the waterfall's edge on the Strid! **Note: Check the start time when booking. It may now be 9.00.**



### CLOTH BADGES

Blue background, gold Cathedral (2.5" diameter) for sale at £2 each

**16 Jan. YULETIDE WALK.** See full details on opposite page. **This event will remain a 9.30 start for the coach.**

**24 Jan. CARTMEL.** Delightful area of the southern Lakes just above Morecambe Bay. A good variety of walks have been planned for this one. **Once again, check the departure time when booking.**

**31 Jan. CONWAY/LLANDUDNO.**

The 'A' and 'B' will be probably be doing Conway Mountain with good paths and breathtaking coast and mountain scenery. The 'C' walk will probably include the Great Orme. **Check departure time.**

## FAMILY SECTION PROGRAMME

January 16th (Sat) YULETIDE February 7th WIRRAL COUNTRY PARK Anthony Brockway (608 0425)

## The curative properties of water

IF you have ever rambled down to the Marian Shrine of Lourdes, near the south west Pyrenees, or you plan on a visit/pilgrimage there someday, you may consider extending your travels in the region after reading this following curious report I came across recently:

### Arles-sur-Tech - could this be a rival to Lourdes?

THE FRENCH village of Arles-sur-Tech (Arles on Tech) in the Eastern Pyrenees is at the centre of a continuing mystery . . . water, lots of it flowing copiously, century after century, by a strange phenomenon.

1000 years ago the remains of two Persian princes, who were converted to Christianity and subsequently canonized as Saints Abdon and Sennen, were interred in the village. Ever since, 600 litres of water have flowed annually from their marble tomb, which has a capacity of only around 270 litres.

Even in periods of drought, the water, which does not emanate from any spring, flows consistently.

From its chemical composition, the water is pure and, according to local belief, possesses curative properties. Thus, when the feast day of these saints occurs at the end of July, believers come in search of a little of the water they call "miraculous".

Scientific experiments attempted, have failed to explain the phenomenon but it seems that neither the scientists, nor the Church wish to commit themselves. They prefer to theorise. Meanwhile, the water continues to flow exactly as in centuries before, except during the French Revolution, when the tomb was profaned by anti-clericals. Once the tomb was cleaned up and reconsecrated the water began to flow again!" (Here the account ends).

I have located the village which is on the D115 road, south west of Perpignan, so would be accessible by car if travelling from Lourdes. The map indicates it had a church, presumably at the site of the tomb of Saints Abdon and Sennen.

Information source is a magazine entitled "La Vie Outre-Manche" (Life beyond the English Channel) published in Maidstone for UK readership.

*Richie Cannon*



# Bears attack hikers in Poland

EARLY one morning, just as the sun was rising this Autumn, the radio news declared that five hungry bears had attacked hikers eating their lunch in the Tatra Mountains and also broken into a mountain restaurant for food. Well, my toast caught fire! We had missed those bears by just a few weeks!

Goldilocks (Joanne) our main Polish mountain guide for that holiday, told us about the three bears who kept eating rubbish out of their forestry litter bins. This affected their health so they were put in a zoo for their own safety. Alas, it was too late to save the mother but her cubs survived and they are now healthy adults. Bears in those forest-clad mountains are rarely seen. Big bad wolves were also up there but they are nocturnal and tend to shy away from people.

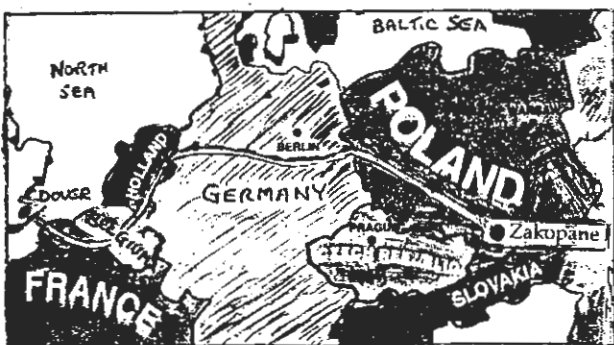
So why did we choose the Tatra Mountains in Southern Poland for a walking holiday?

Well, Dave, Mike and Helen had been out there a couple of times and remarked how surprisingly cheap that holiday was, so would anyone like to join them this year, journeying overland?

"Not keen on that overland trip!" was the initial response, but numbers soon mushroomed and Dave Dickel ended up chartering one of Matthews' coaches to transport us down to Dover in mid September.

So here's the *bare* facts: We stayed overnight in Dover, then after a rushed dawn breakfast we got taxis to the Channel ferry for Calais. A few friends from last year's holiday also met up with us. Bob's priority was to get his duty-free cigars, then: "Keep an eye on your luggage!" My titanic heart sank, I couldn't find mine! Suitcase was eventually found hiding behind the wheels of a dock wagon.

We soon boarded our Belgian double-decker coach for the long haul to Zakopane. A genteel brother and sister team took turns doing the driving and on-board catering. Route was through France, Belgium, Holland and Germany. Sleep was just a dream for most of us. Every time we started to nod off we were promptly disturbed by refreshment or comfort stops! We soon discovered that a 20 pence coin was more valuable than the Eurodollar. This coin was accepted at most continental toilets!



Our overland route to the Tatra Mountains

At the German-Polish border Thelma couldn't produce her passport for the uniformed officer. We gave her our hushed warning: "Don't mention the War!" Then with some relief, she found it. We finally moved off after a frustrating three-hour wait for no apparent reason. We now called at an all-night shack-cum-cafe with a display of huge gnomes outside and all agreed that one of the portly gnomes bore a strange

resemblance to one of our members back home.

After a comfort stop at Krakow (the old capital city) we journeyed through an agricultural belt and saw some really outdated equipment including a farmer with a horse-drawn plough. Finally we could see the mountains and soon arrived at our modern hotel on the outskirts of Zakopane early Saturday evening in time for our beetroot soup. We were several hours late, but at least we had started the holiday with sunny weather (we thought!).

Sunday morning and Denise and Betty were rudely awakened by an unwanted call at dawn. Mike and Helen didn't receive their early call for 6.30 Mass! (Well, Mike had only got one room digit wrong!). A more convenient 7 o'clock evening Mass was our final solution. Anyway we now rushed our 8 o'clock continental breakfast, complete with cereal, cold meat, cheese and even honey (don't tell the bears!). We then grabbed our packed lunches and rushed out for the coach. Herr Flick's female courier greeted us with: "You will get on the coach for tomorrow's walk by 8.30, otherwise ve vill go vithout you!" We promptly arranged 7.45 breakfast for the rest of the week.

The mountains were all about half-an-hour's coach ride from the hotel surrounded by massive pine forests with miles of well-constructed paths (no walls or fences). We soon tested our waterproofs to the limit as the heavens opened and forgot to close again. Our hotel did have a drying room but was not very efficient - boots were still pretty wet the next day. On the other hand, the two ladies from Birmingham who walked with us (Joyce and Shirley) said their hotel's drying room was too hot and their boots had shrunk!

After a couple of days Eric decided to test out the very cheap coloured "Noddy" macs that seemed a favourite with the locals. Did it keep him dry? In a word: No! But ten of our ladies (only one man) found a way of keeping dry by default. Unfortunately they were ordered to stay indoors until 2 o'clock the next day as they had been hit with all the signs of severe food poisoning. A doctor had been called in, followed later by some health officials seen talking in hushed voices in the hotel's bar. The exact cause of this mystery sickness or bug was never identified but as we were in the hands of the Millennium Holiday company we just had to name it the Millennium Bug! Hapless victims were reimbursed a few weeks later.

Evenings were spent frequenting the many shops and bars in the pedestrianised main street of Zakopane then spending the last hour or so socialising in our hotel bar. Some took the opportunity to include an excursion to the not too distant Auschwitz and Birkenau concentration camps. Optional excursions included visits to a salt mine, a railway museum, and a day at the ancient city of Krakow, also a folk night.

Highlight of the holiday for most was the walk starting from the top of one of the high peaks. We changed cable cars half-way up then stepped out into the snow at the summit (7,800ft). The panoramic

view was breathtaking. Many of us had purchased half-price collapsible walking sticks from the resort. (Price of most things was about half that of back home, including the drinks). Those sticks were now put to good use on the descent in the slippery snow.

Friday was a free day. Some went bargain hunting around Zakopane's huge market. Soft leather slippers seemed quite popular but Phillip Hyland (retired teacher and brother of one of our members) purchased a fistful of Russian roubles! Well, you never know when they might become valuable. Some who had been down with the bug had missed out on the walk to the famous "Eye of the Sea" lake, high up in the mountains, so Dave obligingly took a party up there. Meanwhile Joe Brown, Eric, Margaret, Denise and a few others did a walk from the cable car summit including Giewont (the mountain with grab chains).

### Dobbin sets Paul's head a throbbin'

Midway through the holiday, we had just descended a steep muddy slope onto a flat grassy plateau where a large horse seemed to be tethered. Most of the walkers had gone past the animal and were now sat a short distance away by a small homestead. Paul had been doing some spectacular uncontrollable mud-sliding on his back and he finally passed alongside the stallion (on his feet by now!). But Dobbin suddenly moved towards Paul and started nudging him with its head. Paul stepped to one side but the horse didn't want to give up so easily. It now tried to get real friendly, nudging him and nibbling at Paul's head, almost pushing him over. Well, of course, we were all helpless with laughter.

Paul had, by now, realised that he couldn't get away as the rope around the horse's neck wasn't attached to the ground at all! Out of desperation, he grabbed hold of the rope and held Dobbin on a short rein. He stood there frozen to the spot until the owner (a sheep farmer) came to the rescue and led the horse away. It must be said that Paul was not quite his usual self by now - in fact his face was white! It had actually bitten the top of his head but fortunately it

wasn't too serious and so didn't require any stitches.

Horse safely tethered, and the colour now restored to Paul's cheeks, our mountain guides suggested that we should peep inside this farmer's building before we move off again. Our Bob must have been smoking his ninety-ninth duty-free cigar by now. Can you guess what the farmer was smoking? Wrong! It was sheep's cheese (over a log fire of course). This was a rarity as there aren't many sheep in Poland.

Later that evening we had a grand presentation of a genuine Zakopane plastic horseshoe to Paul. He still had a headache, but mostly from the barrage of all our horse jokes since the incident!



We left the resort on the Saturday afternoon and had an onboard-presentation of a Troll to Dave Dickel for organising the holiday, etc. We zoomed along the Continental motorways in record time for an earlier Channel crossing on Sunday afternoon in perfect weather. Ironically, the slowest part of the return journey was in England on the M25 on Sunday night when we hit a huge traffic jam, eventually arriving home well after midnight. Poor Lill had to be up at dawn for the early shift. She made it!

Interesting footnote is that Zakopane is also a winter-sports resort. The Pope used to live nearby and has skied and rambled there.

*Dave Newns*

Walking in the Pope's footsteps were Dave Dickel, Bob Bowyer, Mike and Helen Riley, Ray and Irene Segerberg, Joan Boardman, Teresa Campbell, Mary Hurley, Lynn Perrow, Liz Armstrong, Margaret Scotland, Flo Morrin, Kath Robinson, Joe Brown, Eric Heller, Kay Shuttleworth, Brenda Horan, Lil Martin, Pat Webster, Maureen Price, Denise Griffin, Joyce Appleton, Mary Lesbirel, Paul Malone, Terry Coakley, Reg Haynes, Ivy Hecker, Bob Ramsey and Dave Newns. Non walkers: Margaret Nolan, Betty Doyle and Phillip Hyland.

**RAMBLE ON MONDAY, DEC 25TH** - A FRODSHAM ramble has been planned, using your own or public transport. Details of train times are not available at time of printing.

**SOCIALS** - There is a club night now on December 17th at the Cornmarket, so make an effort.  
7th Jan CHEESE AND WINE NIGHT  
14th Jan THAT WAS THE YEAR, ETC. QUIZ  
21st Jan GENERAL KNOWLEDGE QUIZ  
28th Jan PLAY YOUR CARDS RIGHT  
4th Feb PIE NIGHT

**Wishing you all a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year  
from all the Officers and Committee**



# SENIORS' SECTION

## ROCHDALE - 11th October

THIS was a great walk - up hills, down dales, cascading riverfalls and a heritage landscape to boot. Harry O'Neill joined the LCRA in 1954. He and his wife Veronica ('Ronnie'), also a keen Rambler, moved to Rochdale in 1974. So here we were in October 1998, on another O'Neill ramble which has now become a popular annual event.

Each year Harry finds a different route with interesting terrain. Twelve rambles started from the church of St Vincent De Paul and made towards the Healey Dell Nature Reserve. Part of the way was along a disused railway (1870-1967) with dense wooded boundaries. Margaret, a retired teacher from Huddersfield, joined us, she had met some of our members in the Holy Land and they were pleased to see her again.

A dramatic feature of the walk was the classic stone viaduct which carried the old railway some 100ft above the River Spodden. Looking over the edge seemed to magnify the height but vertigo was diluted by faith in the Victorian builders of such massive structures. Bill Potter, as a former train driver, was particularly interested in the original artefacts along the route. Questions, questions, I agree with Bill, we have the right to expect leaders to be the font of all knowledge, particularly on 19th century railways.

When Jack Highton led us down rock steps to the river and the "Fairy Chapel" we saw the Spodden in good spate forcing its way through a sandstone gorge. This was dramatic enough to attract a serious photographer, the sort who use a heavy steel tripod

and a large format camera to capture the long exposure shots.

Leaving the hillside which was clothed in oak, beech and birch we passed by large former Mill buildings now converted to a variety of uses. The leader had a surprise in store, we were to visit a parishioner couple who live in converted cottages by a small lake. Because it was now raining the plan to have tea and scones on the patio was changed and, de-booted, all twelve sat in a comfortable lounge and enjoyed the most generous hospitality from Winifred and Mike.

We descended to Rochdale and made our way to The Packhorse Inn where we were joined by Betty Highton and Ronnie. It was good to see Ronnie looking so bright after having had a major operation a few weeks previous. So with a drink, a welcome meal, and good company we ended another good ramble.

With thanks to Harry (and the LCRA) from friends who enjoyed this day - Jean and Gerry McDonald, Marie and Peter Atherton, Bill Potter, Pat and Leo Pearson, Margaret, Betty and Jack Highton and Marcia and Tony Thompson.

*Atom*

## LYMM - 25th October

LYMM is always a watery place, with the Bridgewater Canal skirting its north side and a dam to the south, but following the torrential rain of the days before our walk, you would have expected it to be wetter than is turned out to be. A couple wore overtrousers to start with and another his 'wellies' - just in case, but we were lucky that the sun shone most of the day and the wind did not reach the gale force forecast.

We met at the car park near the old sandstone monument of Lymm Cross and set off along the towpath of the Bridgewater Canal. This was the first canal to be built in England, completed in 1767 and engineered by James Brindley to distribute coal from the Duke of Bridgewater's estates at Worsley, near Manchester.

After about a mile and a half we left the canal bank and followed a lane and field path to reach a wood, where we chose a sheltered spot in which to have our lunch. Unfortunately there were no picnic tables or even any seats in the shape of fallen trees, so we settled on a bed of autumn leaves with the trees as back-rests. When satisfied we struggled to our feet again - after all we are the Senior' Section!

We found one field, which had been a ploughed field a couple of weeks earlier, was now quite green with a new crop growing. We continued our walk passing Oughtington Parish Church. Rivington was pointed out in the distance and the Thelwall Viaduct

was clearly visible as we made our way along paths through new housing estates, etc, eventually reaching St Mary's Church and Lymm Dam. One or two grey squirrels were seen as we passed the dam but there was no sign of the Kingfishers that can sometimes be seen near the water. After crossing a bridge at the end of the dam we arrived at 'The Avenue,' lined in the French fashion on both sides with Lombardy Poplars. This took us to the B5158, recognised by some as the way they had driven. After leaving this road our route followed paths and fields where the sound of motorway traffic was ever with us. After another stop we eventually reached the canal again to the west of Lymm, and were heading back towards Lymm. Bridge when the dark clouds gathered and the rain, with a few hailstones, came. However it didn't last long and a beautiful rainbow appeared.

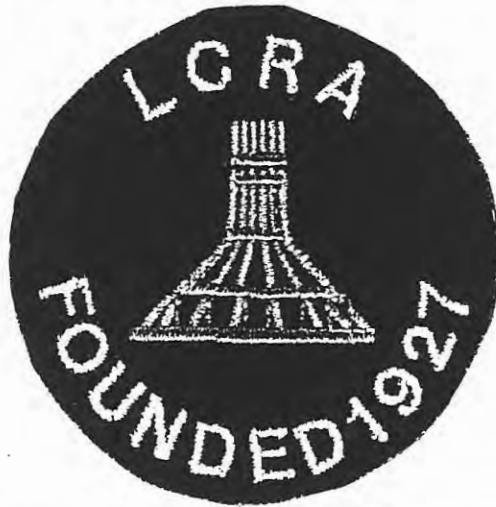
Thank you George and Freda, Gerry and Jean and Peter and Marie for joining Geoff, Audrey and Maureen on their walk around Lymm.



# Liverpool Catholic Ramblers Association

## NEWSLETTER

7th Series No 20



Midsummer 1999

**CLOTH CLUB BADGES** These are for sale at just £2 each. Photocopy of one above but obviously looks a lot better in colour (blue and gold). Sew them onto your rucksacks, etc. They are also useful for stopping your nose from getting sunburnt on a ramble! (just use a bit of Bluetac).

**NEW MEMBERS** A special welcome to the following new members who have joined us during the past few months, namely: Ronald Singleton, Michael Griffin, Peter Bailey, George Foster, Steve Strode, Mary Molloy, Karen Rees, Betty Mathews and Dave and Joan Anderson.

### MAP-READING

Interested in mastering the art of map-reading and using a compass? Then please contact any committee member.

### THAT POLISH MILLENNIUM BUG

Four have just returned from another walking holiday in the Tatra Mountains courtesy of Millennium Travel. They did some superb walks and had great weather. Incidentally the bug that knocked a number of our group for six last year was finally traced to an airborne virus over Zakopane. Many more went down with it after we left last year. There were some rumours that the bug was spotted with a small 'SS' on its back and wearing jackboots!



## Social Events



CHEESE AND WINE nights, quizzes, etc are all planned for our social events at the Cornmarket on Thursday nights. Attendances haven't been so good lately which is a pity as a lot of effort has gone into some of the quizzes and food nights that we have been organising. So come on down and join in the fun. The following has been planned over the next few months:

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| July 29      | <b>WHO WANTS TO BE A MILLIONNAIRE-ISH QUIZ.</b> Your big chance to win up to five hundred pence. Will Harris is the questionmaster with a choice of four easy answers.                        |
| August 5     | <b>PIE NIGHT.</b> Peter, our rambling pieman is supplying the goodies. Could also be a few cakes.   |
| August 12    | <b>GROUSE QUIZ</b> (Glorious 12th). Dave Newns will be grousemaster (Oh! that sounds like me).  |
| August 19    | <b>BINGO.</b> You may have never played Bingo like this before. Fantastic prizes. Mike and Helen.   |
| August 26    | <b>PLACE THE FACE</b> with Jack Henderson.  |
| September 2  | <b>SANDWICH NIGHT</b>   |
| September 9  | <b>PLAY YOUR CARDS RIGHT</b>  |
| September 16 | <b>KEN'S QUIZ</b>   |
| September 23 | <b>OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 8.30 at the Cornmarket.</b> Come down and take an interest in our club which is in its seventy-third year. You may even want to join our committee.            |
| September 30 | <b>BRING AND BUY SALE.</b> Bring anything down that you think might make money for the club from a book to a bar of chocolate or a club badge to packet of biscuits. Ray Mc is our Auctioneer |
| October 2    | <b>CHEESE AND WINE NIGHT</b>  |

**THANKS** to Jack for supplying the toilet cartoon. Richie also sent in quite a lengthy Tour of Mont Blanc article so I will circulate it around the coach for now before appearing in the next edition. Give any articles for our next newsletter to me (Dave Newns) or post them to me at 7 Abbots Way, Billinge, Wigan WN5 7SB.



## A full day out (leaders not included)

THE COACH had a number of empty seats at 9.30 so some thought we had better hang on a bit longer. People soon got restless and so the driver made the decision to move off. We wanted a motorway cafe stop but couldn't agree on which one, so the driver took the initiative, shouting: "Coffee stop!" as we pulled in.

Many had returned back to their seats in less than half-an-hour but others seemed oblivious of time after an extensive tour of the cafe and shop. There was no leader to round them up, and anyway they had to take a trip to the toilets yet, and make a phone call! These same people later blamed the driver for not putting his foot down when the coach got to the Lakes an hour later than usual!

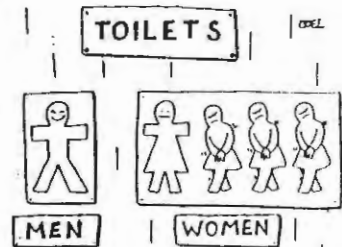
Now several did their own thing and walked around the village but soon got bored. Some shot off up the nearest hill (we don't need a map!) but soon found themselves climbing over high stone walls and barbed wire fences, then thick mist came down suddenly and they were hopelessly lost. One person cut themselves badly on barbed wire but nobody had a first-aid kit. This group later struggled back after a big detour down the wrong valley and having to ask an alien the way back to civilisation. Others found a nice flat path through farmland leading to a lake until a farmer chased them back as they weren't on a public footpath.

At the end of the day the first group back to the coach went in search of cafes and shops. Others arriving back, on finding the coach half empty, went to a pub for an hour. Eventually, the last person decided to wander back to the coach but via the toilets, and we left much later than usual.

On the journey home some thought it was too late to

have a pub stop but the driver needed a short break so we had one anyway. Oblivious of time, some decided that our usual three-quarters-of-an-hour wasn't really long enough, so stayed for another drink while the rest of us waited restlessly on the coach.

Later, at the inevitable urgent toilet stop, some also took a selfish wander around the shop and cafe, keeping the coach waiting much longer than necessary.



The coach had several unscheduled drop-offs often resulting in trapping a few frustrated motorists who had no room to squeeze past. The driver had to open the boot for members gear. (Drop-offs shouldn't have gear in the boot). We finally arrived back in Liverpool at midnight! Many had to get taxis back home but who cares! Some of us had a good lie-in next morning. Others had to be up early for work but that's not our problem.

Am I going out next Sunday? Well, not really! I seem to have overspent a bit on this trip and, oh yes! I have to get up early next Monday.

*The day out above is just a bit of tongue-in-cheek fiction, but we can pick up on many points on why we need leaders and strict discipline. We are always looking for extra leaders and below is a list of their duties:*

## DUTIES FOR OUR CLUB'S LEADERS

A, B and C Leaders must liaise with each other to arrange pioneers, coach drop-off and pick-up points for walks, ideally trying to arrange that all walks finish at the same point, preferably with public toilet facilities.

Ensure prompt departure at 9.30am.

Ensure coach aisle is clear of baggage, rucksacks, etc. Tell members to make use of the boot (unless they are being dropped off en-route).

Collect any outstanding fares for that day.

Circulate a brief description of routes to be followed giving distance, ascent, terrain to be encountered and other points of interest. A photocopy of the relevant map section is of value. Copy of route for the day is to be left with the coach driver for information.

Be equipped with first-aid kit, map, map-case, compass and torches and armbands.

Take name and address, and telephone numbers of walkers out for the first time.

If any one group appears to be too unwieldy, the leader should ask appropriate members to volunteer for one of the other walks.

Appoint a competent whipper-in and have a head-count at start of and during the walk. Travel at a pace which does not allow the party to be too spread out (particularly in misty conditions).

Arrange suitable stops for refreshments.

Record accidents/incidents in the book provided and report any first-aid used.

Ensure prompt departure of coach after walk and/or any other stops. Aim for arrival in Liverpool not later than 10.30pm. Remind passengers to take their belongings, including litter, home with them.

The leader has the right to refuse to take any member who is improperly attired or who, in their opinion, is inexperienced for the walk in question.

One of the leaders is to take bookings for future walks on the return journey.



## COACH DROP-OFFS ON RETURN JOURNEY

A common-sense reminder that these aren't unload your gear from the boot stops! You should be ready together with your gear at the front of the coach so that you can be dropped off promptly with the minimum delay.

## MOBILE PHONES

The club has recently purchased three mobile phones for the leaders to carry. They are primarily for emergency use on the walks but could also be useful for making contact when running late, etc.



## **ARE YOU PROPERLY ATTIRED?**

I WOULD like to remind all members that there are certain common-sense rules regarding what you are expected to carry for a walk. As we go through summer I have noticed that some members don't carry a rucksack or carry any gear that might be needed on a ramble, expecting the leader or other members to help them out if they get thirsty or need extra clothing. This is a very selfish attitude not to mention foolhardy.

A number of members have experienced dehydration problems recently through taking insufficient drink with them. Some have also experienced hypothermia through sudden weather changes from hot and sticky weather in the valleys to ice-cold winds on the hills in a matter of minutes.

I hope the people concerned will heed this warning and in future carry extra gear and drink in a rucksack.

**Remember each leader has the right to refuse to take anybody on their walk whom they consider improperly attired.**

Also, in future, members of a ramble will be made to walk with the main party of walkers and not race away, nor deliberately lag too far behind. Don't forget the walk is only as fast as the slowest, so if any members race ahead they will find themselves being designated as whipper-in to look after the tail-enders. If people continue to race ahead on future walks they might even find themselves directed towards the Liverpool Harriers!

*Tom Reilly, Chairman*

### **BRECON BEACONS HOSTEL WEEKEND IN OCTOBER**

The youth hostel is situated in South Wales in a unique but remote part of the Brecon Beacons and is ideal for exploring these scenic hills and valleys. Members will be going up by minibus, leaving during the day on the Friday, so those working will need to take Friday off. A £10 deposit secures your place.

See Tom Reilly for further details.

### **SNOWDON CHARITY WALK**

Money is still coming in from this recent sponsored event. The name of the charity is Integrate which is involved in helping underprivileged children and treating them to holidays, etc. So far over £400 has been collected.

### **FIRST-AID COURSE**

A one-day First-Aid Course geared towards hill-walkers is to be arranged for suitable members (preferably for our more regular walkers) at a nominal charge. See Bob Carney for more details if you are interested.

### **COACH FARE HAS BEEN INCREASED**

Mainly because of a drop in attendances we have been losing far too much money on coaches over the past months. There has also been a recent rise in the cost of the coach hire so the committee agreed, but with some reluctance, to a £1 increase to £7 from July 4th. Can anyone tell us why attendances have dropped?

### **PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN**

We have recently started spreading more posters around to attract new members. Many members join through word of mouth so maybe you could help to spread the word around but please stress that we are fell walkers and a certain degree of fitness is needed to get up the hills.

### **ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS INCREASE**

These are due on September 1st and they have been increased by £1 on that date to £5 for single members and £6 for married couples. Note: If you have only just paid your subs on joining the club during July or August then you don't have to pay again until next September.

### **BOB RAMSEY**

Bob's widow Chris would like to express her thanks for our condolences on her sudden sad loss (Bob had a heart attack on the walk on May 9th). Donations were preferred to flowers and the collection we have been having has now been closed with a total of £152. Chris thanks us for our generous donation which is being used to purchase much-needed cooling fans in local hospitals (Bob's four daughters all work in hospitals).

**OBITUARY** Sadly, we have to report the death of MONICA ROWE who died in May. Monica was a member of the club for many years and a member of the Seniors' Section until several years ago. We offer our sincere condolences to her family.



# Seniors' Section Ramblings

## Teeing off near Whalley and ending up with tea

WYCOLLER and Bouldsworth Hill having proved too wet and boggy on the pioneering walk, our leader switched to the Sabden Round on June 13th. This did not tempt any more of our Section than those who intended to do the original walk. But we had quality - those going to the French Alps in July!

We started at the picnic site on the edge of Whalley Golf Course and actually finished there. It was a very pleasant day, the company was excellent, the leader adaptable, the scenery delightful. What more can one say? Just that Harry took us to a rather smart "Eater" and that set the seal on a most enjoyable day. Thanks everyone.

GEFA

## Whitegate Way - June 27th

SEVEN valiant stout hearts all hovering around the 70 mark (one may even be past it, in the temporal sense) met at what was once Whitegate Station on a very wet Sunday morning. It had rained all the previous night and seemed as though it would never stop. Whilst booting up it was apparent George was in some distress - he'd forgotten his thick walking socks and then said his power steering hadn't been working properly (had a few funny turns on the way!). Freda came to the rescue with a spare pair of socks.

Regrettably there was nothing we could do about his power steering - I'm dead jealous because I haven't got it on my car and have had to struggle on without it. They say the extra exercise is good for the biceps, can't say it's done much for mine - but I digress.

Suitably booted up, we set off. In some respects this route is like the Wirral Way but there is a marked absence of tunnels. The rain was steady and relentless and it was just as wet under the trees as out in the open countryside. This line (as it was) was opened in 1870 (1st June) to transport salt from the mines and works along the west bank of the River Weaver from Winsford to Cuddington where it joined the main Chester-Manchester line. A passenger service opened a month later but closed after only four years because of competition with the main LNWR line. It was re-started in 1886 with three passenger trains a day. The journey apparently was slow and uncomfortable because the trains were mixed and passengers had to wait while goods wagons were shunted on and off into the many sidings. In its heyday there were six passenger trains per day. In addition to salt - coal, livestock, building materials and foodstuffs were also transported by rail. The line almost closed in 1958 but a joint arrangement with BR and ICI left it in use to transport rock salt until 1966. There were a few reminders of the past such as a load gauge at the station and sections of track at Catsclough and Newchurch Common.

The Way is managed for the maximum benefit of wildlife as well as providing an attractive environment for people to enjoy. We saw various species of birds and at times lovely wild flowers, orchids, foxgloves, etc. Even in the rain the views were quite stunning when the route provided us with an open aspect.

Lunch became a problem - there was no shelter and as we had umbrellas up it was going to be difficult to stand and eat butties and pour coffee at the same time. However the leader spotted a rather grotty barn and made for it. A few of us, a trio in fact, thought it would be better to seek permission from the adjacent house before we entered. The

rather surprised lady of the house had obviously never had such a request laid before her but after slight hesitation said yes, as long as we didn't smoke. Harry found a dry section with piles of clean straw so we settled down for a civilised lunch. It was marvellous to be out of the rain. I seem to remember a very learned discussion going on about Heaven and Hell but as I was pre-occupied with the consumption of my strawberry yoghurt (Sainsbury's Economy) I was unable to take part. I'm always a bit lost when it comes to Theological discourse!

Lunch finished we pressed on past the salt works (if you're out of table salt this is the place to come - they've got bags of the stuff here!). The route took us back into the country, across a beautiful golf course and near locks on the river and lakes.

Having crossed our bridge we asked Bill why there had been a train crash a week or so earlier and there followed a most erudite discussion or should I say mini-enquiry into this rather unfortunate occurrence. Harry and Bill mesmerised us with their technical knowledge of sophisticated electronic signalling systems and this threw doubt on whether they really were any better than the ones that had hitherto prevailed. We felt that if Peter Parker and Bill had been running the show, the accident wouldn't have happened. However, the enquiry had to be put into abeyance and a final adjudication delayed until a later date when perhaps more vital facts will hopefully have emerged. (Watch this space).

The walk was resumed and the rain gradually ceased.

I forgot to mention that during lunch Harry gave Bill and I a home-made mince pie each. There is obviously serious competition here. I will have to look to my laurels.

Unbelievably we glimpsed blue sky at times as the ramble concluded at the picnic area. Cheshire is a lovely country and it was well worth the effort in turning out and our thanks are due to Bill for his pioneering efforts on our behalf.

Rambling Recipe

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## Family Section Rambles

*No Family Section rambles during August*

September 12 RIVINGTON, Lancs. Leader Bernard Foley (01257 254276).

Meet at Top Barn car park, 12 noon. Directions: Enter Lever Park from Horwich, turn right at Lower Barn. Follow signs to Top Barn car park at end of road.