

# NEWSLETTER

OF THE LIVERPOOL CATHOLIC RAMBLERS

No. 124

February 1985

MYSTERY RAMBLE - January 20. There was definitely a feeling of mystery in the air that Sunday . . . "Where were we going to today? Was the coach going to turn up or would it break down on the way? Would anyone get lost today?" Well, our transport eventually arrived at St John's Lane where we all boarded, only to get off again a few minutes later at the coach depot and continue our journey on a different coach. Apparently something needed fixing - that's not very mysterious!

Now off we went, wending our way up the motorway to Yorkshire. A total of 36 intrepid ramblers finally emerged from the coach into the near-Arctic conditions. "People who come out on a day like this must have no home life," observed Norman.

It was noticed, however, that some of the old faithfuls had been conspicuous by their absence. Rumour had it that they were in some distant ski resort helping Kate Fallon compete for the most sought-after title there: "The Strongest Woman in Mayrhofen, Austria". Kate won the title of course, two weeks running! Now Tommy Keenan had something to do with it but I can't say anymore as they have a ~~message~~ massive exclusive with the News of the World.

Meanwhile, back in the Yorkshire Dales we were now trudging through fairly deep snow up a gradient that was designed to "Settle" any argument as to who would go on the A and who would stay with the B leader. I last saw Peter Kennedy and the A Team as specks in the distance while the rest of us huffed and puffed our way uphill.

After Paul Healy had arranged a most welcome butty break in this most picturesque part of the countryside around Settle we made our way to the Victoria Cave. I was glad after scaling the hillside that I had reached the cave in time to see the combat bravely fought between Mike Norgate and Paul Sellick, both armed to the teeth with giant icicles (I can't remember who won). The cave was huge and very impressive, giving us shelter and another welcome butty break.

Now for the descent to civilisation and once again we trudged through quite thick snow. Eventually we got to road level but poor Tony Kirwin at this point got in the way of a flying sledge. His blood decorated the snowy hillside but he soldiered on in that fine British way with a stiff (bloody) lip.

We finally arrived safely back at the coach, tired but happy, after our adventures.

Thanks, Paul, for a lovely B walk through the beautiful snow-clad hills of Yorkshire and thanks too, fellas, for the very enjoyable pub stop - the wine was lovely!

Bernie

Edited and printed by Dave Newns

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

On returning to England after a sunny winter sports holiday, what do I find? Snow! That funny white substance that I should have seen on the previous fortnight in Austria! A word of warning here is that you are reminded that snow makes walking harder and more tiring, as some of you will have recently experienced. The air is colder at higher altitudes and it is **stressed** that at this time of year extra warm clothing is essential (a few people have been seen without anoraks recently). Boots are essential at this time of the year and also a kagoul or some kind of waterproof clothing to help keep the bitterly cold east winds from penetrating through our clothing. A complete change of clothes should also be brought and left on the coach (just in case one gets saturated on the ramble). Food including butties and chocolate (glucose) are essential so that your body can generate heat. A warm drink out of a flask is an added bonus.

### FUTURE RAMBLES, WEEKENDS, ETC.

March 3 - JOINT RAMBLE (Brenig Reservoir) 10.15 departure.

This is a new walk for the club in the Denbigh Moors and Clocaenog Forest area. Brian and myself have just pioneered it but there was still plenty of deep snow around, hopefully melted before next week, but be prepared (see above). Further details on back page.

March 17 - HOWGILL FELS (South Cumbria) 10.15 departure. (Coach route: East Lancs).

Paul Amundsen and George Riley lead this walk, starting at Sedburgh, 11 miles east of Kendal. George is reported to say the area is fantastic. Walk will probably finish up having cups of tea/coffee in a Temperance guesthouse (Yes, seriously, a pub with no beer). There will be a pub stop on the journey back home though!

March 22 - KESWICK WEEKEND. Bookings to Brian Keller, £10 deposit.

Spend a physical or relaxing weekend, depending on your choice, in this picturesque Lakeland town. Good walking and good socials in the evenings. Accommodation is at Lakeside House, a few minutes from the centre of Keswick. There is a drying room in the basement for any wet gear, boots, etc. Cost of weekend is not certain but going on previous figures will be about £26 for accommodation including a packed lunch on Saturday. Cars will most likely be used to get there (four in a car approx £5 each for petrol). A coach would only be worthwhile if 40 or more people book. Cost of coach for less (say 25 people) for the weekend would work out at about £10 each.

March 31 - TAL-Y-FAN (Snowdonia) 9.30 start.

Two walks around the rolling upland overlooking the Conway Valley. Brian leads the B walk.

April 5 - EASTER WEEKEND. This Caravan Weekend will be at Llanrug, between Llanberis and Caernarvon, limited bookings (£3 deposit) to Dave Newns. Cost approx £6 per person for caravans plus food and petrol money (cars). More luxury caravans will be booked if necessary. Only two booked at present but there were only a few left at time of booking, so hurry, or you may be disappointed.

April 14 - MADWOMAN'S STONES (Peak District) 9.30. (Coach route M62).

The coach will climb the Snake Pass. Dave Newns will lead the A along Seal Edge, probably reaching Kinder Scout and hopefully finding the Mad Woman. The B will probably be walking further down the valley in the Ladybower Reservoir area, led by Paul Healy.

April 28 - LANGDALES (Lakes) 9.30. (Coach route: East Lancs).

I lead the A walk in this popular area. The B still to be arranged but always good with superb views.

May 3-6 - MAY DAY WEEKEND

Caravans again but at Barmouth this time. Bookings to me.

#### RUBBISH ON COACHES

There seems to be several litter bugs on our coaches at present. There is a bin at the front of the coach for litter (culprits please note). Better still would be to take your litter home with you. The driver complained last week about the state of the coach, especially the rear seats being wet. The coach was to be used early next day and it was debatable whether the seats could be dried out in time. This was after a DRY day out.

Finally, please make sure you hear the leader correctly when he states where the pick-up point is at the end of the ramble. If you don't know where it is then ask the leader, just in case the party gets split up on the way back to the coach, especially on our oversized B parties.

ANTHONY BROCKWAY

Rambling Chairman

#### MARATHON RUNNERS

Paul Amundsen and Tommy Keenan were once again in action recently at Upholland when they ran a mini-marathon for the Cafod Ethiopian Appeal. Many club members sponsored them for which Paul and Tommy thank for their generosity.

#### BARGAIN OF THE MONTH

A pair of Green Flash pumps, size 10 $\frac{1}{2}$  (gent's), hardly worn, have been offered for sale by one of our members. For further details contact Dave Newns who will put you in touch with the person concerned.

#### LOOPING THE LOOP

February 23rd will be a memorable date for Chris Biggs, Kim Parry and Kevin Bell as they will be taking to aerobatics "Red Devil" style at Squiresgate Airport in Blackpool. Their object is to raise as much money as possible to send the mentally and physically handicapped to Hosanna House in Lourdes. Many members have already sponsored them but they would welcome further sponsors or donations to make the event a resounding success. If you feel you can help in any way please contact any of the above or phone Kevin on 924 8642. Thanks.

#### THE CLUB'S DISCO BOX

During the past few weeks Ged Courtney has been giving up his valuable spare time to construct a large box at the Liverpool to house all the disco equipment. You may have guessed that Ged is a joiner. He certainly made a good job of it. Thanks Ged..

## S O C I A L   S P O T L I G H T

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Hello everybody, and a special welcome to our new members, which reminds me; usually on a Thursday club night, or on a Sunday walk, we get a certain amount of potential new members. Often, however, we might not see them again, which is rather sad.

There are, no doubt, a number of reasons for this, some of which the club is completely blameless. But, after speaking to various new members over a period of time, it has become clear to me that the Thursday club nights are the cause for most concern.

A typical situation for a newcomer on their first visit is that they are naturally slightly apprehensive, and are looking forward to meeting new friendly faces. But after walking into the club, often find themselves on their own all night, which can be quite dismal. So it's quite obvious that no one in their right mind would come again the following Thursday.

Now before the regular members start throwing eggs and tomatoes at me I would like to point out that there is a minority of regular members who do take the time and trouble to speak to new members. To these people, I gladly applaud.

Therefore, I would like to request that the majority of members think back how they felt when they first came along to the club. In my particular case I can vividly remember taking an overdose of Rennies before walking into the club! Now I am not expecting regular members to fall over themselves in the rush to meet new members, but just a few minutes here and there could make an immense difference to how a new member views our club. Thankyou.

THE LIVERPOOL. If I was an alcoholic trying to go on the wagon, and if Atlantic House was the best drink in town, then boy, I would be suffering from withdrawal symptoms! I really do miss that old place. However, we have of course, moved to the Liverpool, which is obviously quite a change and is bound to get a mixed response at first.

I think what we have got to remember is that the Liverpool is rather central and the rental is very fair. Also we are allowed to store our disco equipment there. This is essential. Some places would just not allow us to store our rather large collection of disco equipment on their premises.

If the attendance at the Liverpool started to drop in the future then, of course, the General Committee would review the situation, but attendance figures have increased since January which hopefully will be maintained.

It's up to all of us to make sure that the Liverpool will be a success.

THE NEW DISCO DECK seems to have been the best thing the club has invested in for many years. It is the type that many professional discos use and can be carried by one person. Anyone who has seen Tony Bond lately will have observed that he is like a dog with two tails with this superb piece of equipment.

FUTURE EVENTS (subject to the approval and help of the committee):

TEN-PIN BOWLING at New Brighton - March 11 (Monday) 7 pm.

Six lanes have been provisionally booked, so there is more than enough room for ramblers to show off their skills! Admission price is 90p and shoe hire is 25p. A member of the Social sub-committee will take names.

ICE SKATING at Deeside - April 21st (Sunday) 7 pm.

Torvil and Dean please move over whilst we attempt the double-axle and the triple gearbox! Admission price and hire to be confirmed in next newsletter.

PLAYHOUSE - May 18 (Saturday) 8 pm.

Alan Bleasdale's new play: "Are You Lonesome Tonight?" starring Martin Shaw as Elvis. Twenty-seven seats have been booked. Why 27? Well, for every eight seats booked we get one free. So instead of paying £5.50 per seat we now only pay £4.35. Please note these seats will be in the Dress Circle - only the best will do! Your seat will be secure when you have paid £1 deposit to me as soon as possible.

BARN DANCE - a Saturday in June.

Anthony Brockway is making arrangements for this night out. He tells me that the actual venue and ticket prices will, hopefully, be in the next newsletter.

In between these dates there will be no doubt a number of trips to the Cinema (remember Ghostbusters?) and the all-important pub crawls.

Of course, if any members have a good idea for a night out, e.g. Free Ale, etc. then please contact me or the Social sub-committee, who are as follows: Shirley McFarlane, Paul Sellick, Tony Bond, Kevin Bell, Bob Banks, Fiona Hawken, Marie O'Loughlin, Christine Welsby.

DOOR ROTA - THURSDAY NIGHTS

Many thanks to members who have volunteered to help out at the door. If you can help out in the future then I would be very grateful if you would let me know which date suits you best.

CLUB'S DISCO

As mentioned earlier, the club recently attained a new disco deck which, after a few simple instructions ("Er, Roy, you're supposed to plug it in first!!") is quite easy to use. So if any member wishes to try his or her hand at being a DJ for an hour or so, I am sure Tony Bond will make time available for you if enough notice is given. If you wish to bring some of your own records please make sure some form of identity is on them, otherwise they will possibly get stacked away with the club's large selection of records.

Finally, a number of people (FBI, Interpol, etc.) have had difficulty in finding my address/phone number, so here it is:-

80 Fender View Road, Moreton, Wirral, L46 9RL Telephone 677 8631

Well, that's all for now,

ROY THUIS, Social Chairman

DARWEN MOOR - 9TH DECEMBER, 1984.      Family Section.

For a change, Sunday dawned dry and sunny, if not a little crisp. We met at the carpark near to the village of Tockholes. Our initial path lay along a wide track which rose gently into a small wood. Here the path was extremely muddy after the recent rain. On emerging from the wood a series of small waterfalls was to be seen. By means of a long zigzag we climbed above the waterfalls and turned north in the general direction of the Jubilee Tower. The path gave us excellent views as far as the Lancashire coastline and of Blackburn in the valley below, with Pendle Hill in the background.

After scaling the Jubilee Tower in what seemed to be gale force winds, we were able to look down at Darwen, a former mill town dominated even today by the giant ornate chimney of the India Mill. We continued along a track which ultimately brought us to the top of Darwen Moor. A steepish descent from the moor led us to the venue for our well-earned refuelling stop within the ruins of Hollinshead Hall. It was at this point that we were joined by our Chairman and Christine who had done extremely well to follow and eventually catch up with us.

A pleasant walk through a spinney was followed by a steep descending path through a wood down to a river, the course of which we followed at various levels for about a mile. The <sup>valley</sup> through which this river flowed varied enormously in its natural features. At one point it ran over solid rock where as the far bank consisted of vertical rock cliffs, on top of which trees balanced rather precariously. After crossing a foot-bridge, we climbed up out of the valley and back to our starting point just as daylight was beginning to wane.

A lovely day out! Thank you Noel and Angela.

H.W.

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FAMILY SECTION PROGRAMME 1985.

- FEB. This is the re-arranged date for Bill and Pegs' FOXHILL Ramble.  
24. Meet in the main shopping centre carpark in FRODSHAM. 12.30 START.
- MAR. A Joint Walk. Brennig Reservoir, Clwyd. See attached slip.  
3.  
MAR. 10. A WIRRAL WALK led by Arthur and Vera Brockway. Meet in the car park at Roydon Park, Frankby, for a 12.30 START. Ring 645 6140 if you should need further directions.
- MAR. CHALET WEEKEND. Names to Mona Roberts on 733 2122 as soon as you  
29/31 like.
- APR. The House Meeting is at Marie and Peter Atherton's, 64 Kendal  
11. Drive, Maghull.
- APR. MACCLESFIELD walk. John and Cath Peloe are leading and its a 1 p.m.  
14. START. Leave Macclesfield taking the A537 to Walker Barn. At the "Setter Dog" pub turn right to the Teggs Nose Car park.
- MARCH  
7. There is so much happening during March that I slipped up on the House Meeting. My apologies to John and Cath Burns, at whose house it is. The address is 20 Beechburn Road, Roby, Huyton.

ANNUAL YULETIDE WALK AND HOT-POT SUPPER, RIVINGTON, 6th Jan. 1985.

Leaving home around 10.30 a.m. it seemed no time before we arrived at the entrance to Lever Park which incidentally, once belonged to the 1st Lord Leverhulme, the Lancashire Soap Magnate. In recent years it was acquired by Liverpool Corporation, who now maintain it as one of the most attractive open spaces in south Lancashire. Travelling along the path we passed the first of the Saxon Barns - 'Great House Barn', and as we continued along the drive to Rivington Hall we soon arrived at the second of the Saxon Barns dating back to the 11th century - the Great Hall Barn, our meeting place for lunch and, later in the day the place where our hot-pot supper and Barn Dance was to be held.

A number of us arrived simultaneously and as is always part of the annual event, we greeted each other with great affection and enthusiasm, not having seen many since the previous Yuletide walk; the children having grown beyond recognition and with parents, old friends and acquaintances hardly having altered since our last meeting. Lunch and greetings out of the way 59 of us set off on our ramble, leaving Rivington Hall and the Great Hall Barn behind us.

As our walk was not to take us through the Rivington Gardens and then up to the Pike which rises 1,200 ft. above the reservoir, we set off across the carpark following a stoney path taking the right-hand fork until we came to a 'kissing gate'. Passing through the gate, dropping down onto the road turning left, we then walked a short way until we turned right through another kissing gate and crossed a field and approached Rivington Reservoir. As the crocodile of happy chatting ramblers continued on their way, in the distance towards Rivington Pike could be seen a number of hang-gliders swirling and swaying in the cool air. None of us felt particularly envious of them as a chilling breeze was coming across the reservoir. However, we were soon to be warmed up as we started to climb a slight incline eventually leading us down several very wide steps. Before reaching a bridge taking us over the reservoir, we had a shower of rain, which fortunately didn't last many minutes, as Rosemary discovered there had been a pillage in her rucksack covering her kagoul!

The countryside somehow looked rather splendend in its winter glory. Someone commented on how the water on one side of the bridge had a thin layer of ice on the top whilst the other side was free from ice. Soon we were on a steep climb to a monument commemorating a Wellington Bomber which had crashed in 1943, killing all on board. By this time it had started to rain quite heavily with sleet, but by the time we had donned our waterproofs it had stopped! We carried on walking along a road and then on to a field, dropping down as we went, eventually coming along the other side of the reservoir. It was decided at this point to have a short respite and many enjoyed some light refreshment in the form of coffee, sandwiches or fruit. Once more we were happily on our way chatting to each other as we went, catching up on news or just reminiscing on past events.

Eventually our walk took us to a quarry and a steep climb where the ground was very frozen making it difficult to keep steady, as Mona was to find out as the ground came up to meet her. Ooh! Ouch! After passing through the quarry, we were soon to retrace our steps to the Great House Barn. But before reaching the barn our party increased in number to 62 as we met Pat and Leo Pearson and Pat Jeffers.

YULETIDE Cont'd.

After a reallu super walk we were well and truly ready for the hot-pot supper and barn dance. It is amazing just how the barn dance is performed over such a wide age range. Many thanks to all who made the day so pleasant. Thank to Peter and Marie who took over the leading of the ramble from Leo and Pat - hope Leo's knee is better soon.

"Old Timer".

-o-

Please read your newsletter this time, noting as you do the re-arranged date for the Foxhill walk - 24th February. Please also ignore the typist's unintentional error and find the March house meeting among the April items. I don't think we've welcomed Phil and Mikki Boardman to our ranks. If I already have, have two for the price of one! You will really have to read from cover to cover for this issue, as Dave Newns promises that the directions for those travelling by car for the Brenig Reservoir Joint Walk will be in the General Club's programme notes. (See below).

EDITOR'S NOTE:  
Instructions below

Yours,  
Mona R.

-o-

BRENIG RESERVOIR - HOW TO GET THERE, ETC.

After weighing up the cost of petrol for your car you may decide that £3 on the coach is the best way of getting there. If you decide to go by coach then bookings are essential to Brian Keller on 734 2818 or Anthony Brockway on 645 6140. By popular demand the coach will be stopping at a wayside tavern on return journey arriving back in Liverpool around 9.30 pm. If you do decide to go by coach, we always leave our cars at the large open-air car park (free on Sundays) opposite the Royal Court Theatre, behind the bus shelters. This entails a somewhat circular tour to the entrance in St John's Lane. Coach departs at 10.15 am nearby.

BY CAR

The best plan is to meet the coach at the car park near the river at Ruthin (map on right) where the coach passengers will be having their cafe stop at 11.20 am, departing in convoy at 11.45 am to Brenig Reservoir. If you arrive late or **get lost** then from Ruthin take the B5105 to Cerrigydrudion and then a right turn in centre of Cerrigydrudion village sign-posted Brenig Reservoir (I think) but it is the B4501. If you get to the A5 you have missed the turn-off. There are two visitor centres along the B4501 and at the time of typing was unsure which one would be suitable for starting the ramble from. If anyone is confused ring Noel Fishwick nearer the date on 526 3695.

