



Liverpool Catholic Ramblers

NEWSLETTER

February/March 2005

ISSUE
49

Summer Holidays



IT'S that time of the year when members are having thoughts of summer holidays. Some just like to laze around on a sun-kissed beach while others prefer a variety of mountain and valley walks in a different place each year, such as in France, Austria or Spain.

Others seem to have found their favourite corner of the world but perhaps it's also sandwiched between trying out a few new places each year.

Whatever your plans, why not get them published in our newsletter so that others may share your holiday experience?



One stalwart, Dave Dickel, is looking at a group booking for mid-July to Zakopane, Poland's main holiday resort, at the foot of the Tatra Mountains, near the Slovak border. Many are aware of this and are now contacting Dave.

Over the past few weeks he has been checking flights from Liverpool Airport by Wizz Air to Katowice (*pronounced Kat-o-vee-she*) nr Cracow. Fares fluctuate between £78.60 to £100.60 return. This price includes the £45.62 extra cost for airport tax, fuel surcharge, etc. Accommodation is extra.

Some of these fares are already increasing on a daily basis, so there's now a sense of urgency for a group booking in the very near future.

You can contact Dave on 01244 533995. He is planning to book for the usual family guesthouse (charging about £14 per night BB and Evg Meal).

Dave stresses that this time he will be leading mostly strenuous to moderate mountain walks as he has been going there for 11 times now and led many walks but has never done some of the strenuous walks that he has been dying to do. Therefore there is no provision for Dave personally to lead 'C' walks. On the other hand, myself and possibly someone else may lead that occasional 'C' walk. Others can obviously do their own exploring.

Dave won't be doing any trips out to the saltmines, etc, but these can be organised individually via the Tourist Information office there, or by simply getting hold of a bus timetable. Several of us can also give you advice on this.

If you can't make these dates or you are too late to book with Dave then you can do it yourself by logging on to www.wizzair.com

Don't forget to add on the extra cost of £45.62 when booking. *Dave Newns*



Single rooms

IT is quite normal, with a group of unattached people to share two, three or more to a room, as single rooms are often in short supply.

Many people, including myself, would prefer a single room but, like most, I usually share on holiday.

Some are really embarrassed as they've been told they are loud snorers, so would prefer a single room. Others just can't get on with certain people, but think about it; we are hardly ever in our rooms on holiday, except when we are asleep.

If you think you are a special case, then state when booking, and we will try to accommodate you.



OBITUARIES

Dot Murphy's daughter, Jenny, aged only 32, sadly passed away a few months ago, after a long illness. May she rest in peace.

Tricia Bentley's Mother sadly died recently. May she rest in peace.

We offer our sincere sympathy and condolences to both Dot and Tricia, and their relatives and friends at this sad time.

Past club member due to be ordained

FRANK JOHNSON, originally a schoolteacher and a keen member of the club in the late 1970's, is getting ordained on May 14th.

Frank, now in his mid-fifties, used to get dropped off from some of the rambles at a lay-by on the East Lancs Road, near the Carr Mill traffic lights, where he lived (literally). His elderly but active mother still lives there (near the traffic lights). Frank, a St Helens Rugby League supporter, moved to Sinclair Drive, Liverpool more than two decades ago.

Most current active members won't remember Frank, but quite a few readers of this newsletter knew him and have been invited (along with myself) to his ordination Mass at St Mary's, Leyland. You can get in contact with Frank on 0151 722 3981.

Editor's briefs

WELL it's a bit late to wish you all a Happy New Year!

John Cleese telling his Spanish waiter not to mention the War (to the Germans) has inspired my excuse for this edition's late appearance. And so I won't mention the recent skiing trip in Poland's Tatra Mountains!

I did miss the rambles and you lot – just a little bit!

Now, before I 'Wizz Air' back again (after the Retreat) I must thank the few who contributed to this edition, which included a write-up on floppy disc by a member of the Seniors' Section.

There's a few interesting snippets in this edition but it was a bit of a struggle for me to write the Ramblerite piece because, as many know, I have missed several walks of late so I can't really waffle on about recent rambles.

Not too many years ago, the Ramblerite used to be the Rambling Chairman's article, but then again, our Will can't get out too much with us either, plus he's also wearing the Treasurer's cap.

So how about one or two volunteers perhaps taking turns writing their own version of a Ramblerite for these newsletters?

More contributions would make a better newsletter, so I am expecting you all to send me a shedful of ramble write-ups, etc, for the next edition to 7 Abbots Way, Billinge, Wigan WN5 7SB or give them to me in person.

Dave Newnski

Forthcoming Retreat Sun Feb 27, 10am

A WEEK'S notice was needed to book for this day of spiritual recollection at Loyola Hall, so names should have been given to me by now. However, I gave them an estimate, so any last-minute bookers please ring me now to book your meal on 01744 632211, or leave a message on my answerphone.

A WALKING RETREAT

Easter Mon 28th to Thurs, 31st March

ANY member with young adult children or adult grandchildren can encourage them to take part in this 50km walk (or shorter for the unfit) along the Offa's Dyke Path, over a period of four days.

It will be an opportunity for young men and women for prayer, sharing and reflection with others.

Cost is £25 (suggested minimum donation). It has been organised by Sister Lynne FCJ, FCJ House, St Hugh's, Wavertree, L15 2HY - Tel 0151 733 5475 or online to lynnefcj@hotmail.com

NEW MEMBERS - Welcome to all new members who have joined us in the past few months. All your names will appear in print in the next edition.

Recruitment poster

NEW POSTER on the back should be photocopied (*place a bit of white paper over the paper clip*) then please display it in a prominent place, i.e. in libraries, near (or in) outdoor pursuits shops, etc.

It is polite to ask permission first.

The poster was designed to attract seasoned fell walkers to our club. New committee member Peter Carfoot and lady friend, Jules, carefully designed it.

It's not just a very old rambling programme

INTERESTING facts are revealed. Just look at those 10/- (50p) coach fares. Today it's 18 times the cost! Petrol for my car ramble on Dec 8th 1968 was 3 gallons for £1 (7p a litre). Now (79p) it cost 11 times that!

There's only two names that some of the current General Section members might recognise. Namely Bill Potter (16th March). He was one of the older single blokes (pushing 40). Bill seemed to organise the dances, etc. The other name was myself. I had joined the club just two years before (Nov 1966) and I was another old bloke (27) compared with most of the other members! The older generations of members seemed to go out on their own with their kids and were soon to form their own Ancient Order Section in 1970, but were soon renamed the Family Section (finally settling for the Seniors' Section).

On the social night that I joined the club (in the Cathedral Buildings) there was a buzz about a forthcoming skiing holiday to the Austrian Tyrol. I told

them that I had also just booked my first skiing trip to Austria with friends.

Now how about the following coincidence: The company I was booked to go skiing with was Hard's Travel. The English manager, Clifford Hard, was married to an Austrian lady. Years later he went into liquidation but started up again as New Millennium - specialising in cheap holidays to Austria and, among others, ZAKOPANE in Poland! Dave Dickel, Mike and Helen booked through them for several years before we started doing our own bookings!

A name many of you will be familiar with is Brian Keller, who joined the club in the early 70's.

I always remember Brian saying something like: "You would never get me on any committee" - Brian had

joined the club for the rambling, and he soon became a leader. A few years later he was one of the strongest committee members, ending up as Treasurer for a number of years!

About 15 years after I had been in the club, older people were joining - one was an old lady of well over fifty named Kay Shuttleworth! Among others was Joe Rourke (RIP).

It was not until the late 80's when "A" walkers Ray Mac, Tom Reilly and a few other familiar names appeared on the scene.

Back in 1968 it was frowned upon when leaders started to split the members into two groups ("A" and "B") occasionally. It was thought that it would cause a split in the club and the camaraderie would be lost!

RAMBLING PROGRAMME

Winter 1968/69

November

- 3 ***Moel Siabod**. Leaders: (a) Des Titherington (b) T. Chambers. Depart St John's Lane 9.30 (13/6)
- 10 ***Ribchester**. Leader: Pauline Cunningham. Depart St John's Lane 10.0 (10/-).
- 17 **Aldford** (Car Ramble). Leader: David Parry. Depart Queen Square 10.30.
- 24 ***Kinder Scout**. Leader: Paul Anderson. Depart St John's Lane 9.30 (9/-).

December

- 1 ***The Wrekin**. Leader: Chris Marsden. Depart St John's Lane 9.30 (11/-).
- 8 **Vale Royal**. (Car Ramble). Leader: Dave News. Depart Queen Square 10.30.
- 15 ***Trevor Rocks**. Leader: Chris Laycock. Depart St John's Lane 9.30 (10/-).
- 20/21/22 **Chalet Weekend**. Warden: Ray Anderson.
- 29 **Delamere Forest**. Leader: M. O'Dea. Depart St John's Lane 10.0 (8/6).

January

- 5 ***Pistyll Rhyader**. Leaders: (a) Pat Morgan (b) Mike Humphries. Depart St John's Lane 9.30 (10/6).
- 12 ***Yuletide Walk**. Committee. Depart St John's Lane 10.30 (14/-).

February

- 1/2 **Chalet Weekend**. Committee.
- 9 ***Hot-Pot Supper** (Llanarmon-yn-Ial). Committee. Depart St John's Lane 10.30 (15/6 incl. supper).
- 16 ***Gallt yr Ogof**. Leader: Ray Anderson. Depart St John's Lane 9.30 (13/-).
- 23 ***Shuttlings Low**. Leader: Brian Kelly. Depart St John's Lane 9.30. (11/-).

March

- 1/2 ***Spring Weekend** (£3.15.0).
- 9 **Clwyd Ridge Walk**. Leader: Ray Anderson. Depart Central Station, Low Level 10.15 (9/-).
- 16 ***Penyrolewen**. Leaders: (a) Bill Clay (b) Bill Potter. Depart St John's Lane 9.30 (13/-).
- 23 ***Silverdale**. Leader: Paul Brereton. Depart St John's Lane 9.30 (11/-).
- 30 ***Trough of Bowland**. Leader: Mike Marsden. Depart St John's Lane 9.30 (11/-).

April

- 7 **R.A. Train**—Details from Press and Secretary at Club Room.
- 13 ***Bala**. Leaders: (a) Frank Fitzmaurice (b) Tom Clintworth. Depart St John's Lane 9.30 (11/-).
- 18/19/20 **Chalet Weekend**.
- 27 ***Malham**. Leader: Tom Chambers. Depart St John's Lane 9.30 (11/9).

May

- 4 ***Snowdon**. Leaders: (a) Bernard Duffey (b) Mike Parr. Depart St John's Lane 9.30 (13/9).

(a)—Strenuous (b)—Moderate

Keswick Weekend – 22-24 April 2005

LAKESIDE HOUSE is the last guesthouse before the approach road to beautiful Derwentwater. The house has accommodation for about 45 guests and has a high standard of comfort with spacious lounge, basement games room and bar (*open only if enough custom makes it viable*).

There's also a very efficient basement drying room that makes excursions in all weathers possible.

These two corner houses (converted into one) were purchased about 38 years ago by The Catholic Holiday Fellowship and now managed by a committee, comprising of a few members from our club and other Catholic ramblers from Tyneside clubs.

Special weekend rate is £31.25 B&B plus evening meal for one night x 2, or £20 B&B for one night.

This time we go back to the old format of starting with bed on the Friday night and end up with a meal at 5pm on the Sunday, leaving shortly afterwards for home. This should ensure that two full-day walks could be done on the weekend and also gives one the opportunity to dine out on the Friday night or even spend an evening at Keswick's Theatre by the Lake (but you may have to book in advance for this).

Those wishing to attend Mass can get to the 8am Sunday morning Mass – 15 minutes walk, passing the pencil factory. (Breakfast is 9.15 on Sunday). There's another at 10.45 but you would have to miss the ramble on that one.

Cost of the full weekend is therefore: £62.50 for most people, or £51.25 if you don't have the evening meal on Sunday

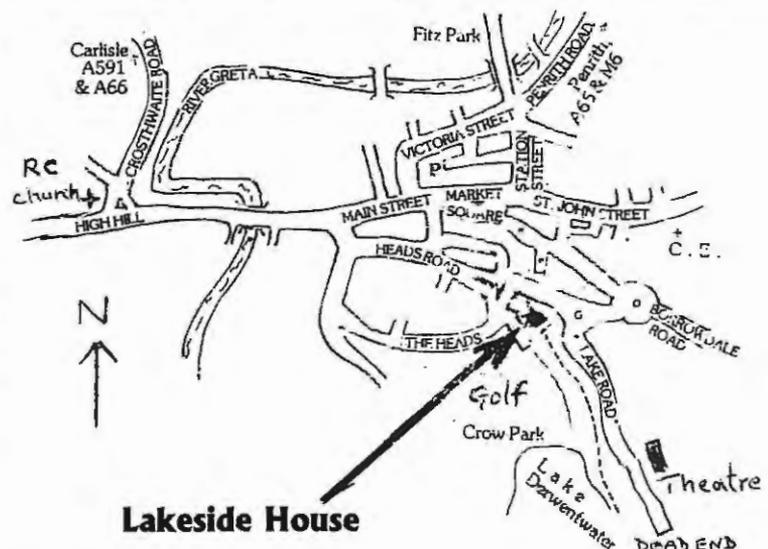
You must state which option you require when booking - and also who you would prefer to share a room with. **Sorry, but there are HARDLY ANY SINGLE ROOMS AVAILABLE** – See first page.

There are also two en-suite rooms – one twin-bedded at £3.50 per person per weekend, the other double-bedded at £5.00 per person per weekend.

Simple packed lunches may also be ordered in advance at extra cost (about £3 each) but most of us choose to pop in the bakery shop, just down the road in Keswick.

When you book you must ensure that you can either get a lift in someone's car, or volunteer to take someone up in your own car, sharing the fuel cost (*A rough guide for motorists is that if a coach were used it would cost £20 per passenger*). Free parking is further up alongside the road. There's dropping-off space in front of the house. (*Beware of the vigilant traffic warden who suddenly appears from nowhere!*).

Website is www.lakesidehouse.co.uk



SPECIAL MEALTIMES: Sat breakfast 8.00 (Sun 9.15); Sat Evening meal 6.30 (Sun 5.00).

Did YOU go to the Ambleside hostel at the New Year?

Well, it's the old tale of four people named Somebody, Everyone, Anybody and Nobody.

NOW I, for one, couldn't get there, so I naturally thought that Somebody would write a report.

Everyone had the chance and Anybody could have written a short report, but in the end Nobody

did one. It's a sad tale of lethargy in the club. Will the newsletter soon cease to be? I hope not, as it does keep in touch with those members who, for whatever reason, can't get out anymore, or

not out as often as they would like to be out, and like to keep in touch.

If everyone wrote just one ramble report per year we would have a pretty comprehensive newsletter. *Auntie Peg* (hostel guest)

STORY WRITERS WANTED

Are YOU capable of writing just one short ramble write-up (report) per year for this, the club's newsletter. It needn't be witty but I could give it an amusing slant after you have written it if you wished me to do so. It needn't be very long, but can be if you wish. Check with your walk leader first as someone may already have volunteered to do a report. Then just simply switch the telly off, put on some music and get down to it. Thanks – *Editor*.



Ramblerite

GOOD NEWS is that we seem to be keeping on an even keel where coaches are concerned. We have actually made a bit of a profit on some of the recent trips but this is cancelled out by some of the more poorly attended rambles.

One of the main rambling weekends of the year is fast approaching. I am, of course, referring to the Keswick weekend in April when, hopefully, we will be organising three grades walks on both days up there. A shortage of leaders is often a problem, so (once again) volunteers may be needed. Full details of the Keswick weekend are given in this edition.

Unfortunately I can't comment on recent walks, as I haven't been out much lately. At the present time I need to organise a carer (mother-minder) before I can be let loose, and when I am free I tend to pick up my passport. I quickly burn up my excess energy on the steep but cheap ski slopes of Poland. Believe me, it's a hard life being retired (now officially) and single!

As I have mentioned in the editorial, a volunteer may be needed to write about rambles in our future newsletters, although I do hope to swap my ski sticks back to walking sticks on the rambles in the not-too-distant weeks ahead.

So, meanwhile, happy rambling!

Dave News

The social scene ☺

Bring & Buy Auction a success

OUR Bring and Buy Auction in January generated over £100 towards the club funds. Lyn Perrow was the auctioneer. We hope to hold another one soon.

CURRENTLY, our own musicians "Free and Easy" plus Ken's easy Quiz plus fabulous prizes, accompany our

Cheese and Wine Nights

on the first Thursday of each month at the Ship and Mitre (from about 9.15pm, upstairs) at the Tunnel end of ~~Bold Street~~.
Forthcoming dates are: *DALE ST*

Thursday, March 3rd

Thursday, April 7

Thursday, May 5

SENIORS' SECTION

ROCHDALE - 12th December 2004

THIS was a good walk - up hills, down dales, around reservoirs, cascading waterfalls, and a heritage landscape of old mill sites. The leader was Harry O'Neill who joined the LCRA in 1954 and moved to Rochdale in 1974. He has been leading popular walks in the Rochdale area for thirty years.

The start of the walk was east of Rochdale at Ogden Reservoir - car park and toilets both available. On a pleasant day for December, ten rambles started from Ogden into an area that may have more reservoirs and lakes than anywhere in the England, given an area four miles square. [O/S Map Landranger 109]

We followed the water's edge and wondered how the many fishermen kept warm and what were they thinking as they sat, patiently in isolation for hours, looking at the grey lake. Their catches were few but they seemed to be doing a good job feeding the fish. There was a coffee break at the dam wall and the fishermen watched us, wondering why we were walking about in the hills following muddy paths without the concentration and excitement of catching a fish.

We were well kitted out for cold weather in the hills and one member was wearing a winter hat made of the latest performance materials and with protection for the ears. It also had an extra feature, a logo or brand name, as is the modern style,

embroidered at the front. The word was "SERIOUS". Why? It was Gerry who proved it was meant as a conversation piece when he came along and said to the hat wearer "You can't be Serious"

The route was towards Tunshill where we took the footbridge over the M62 and set off for Hollingworth Lake and Country Park. There is a good Interpretation Centre with a shop, toilets and café. We had our lunch at the picnic tables by the lake and wondered how the people in small sailing boats, constantly splashed by icy waters, could be enjoying themselves if they were not fishing or rambling.

After lunch we returned south passing below Nicholas Pike. We saw some mountain bikers covered in mud and we wondered how they could be enjoying themselves if they were not . . .

At 4-15pm the light was fading as we approached Ogden. Harry had booked a table at the Black Horse in Denshaw where we had a drink and dined to end a winter's day of walking the hills.

With thanks to Harry (and the LCRA) from friends who enjoyed this day - Jean and Gerry McDonald, Marcia and Tony Thompson, Bill Potter, Freda and George Skillicorn,

Ita MacDonnell, and Tony Gilmore. *Atom*

The Liverpool Catholic Ramblers

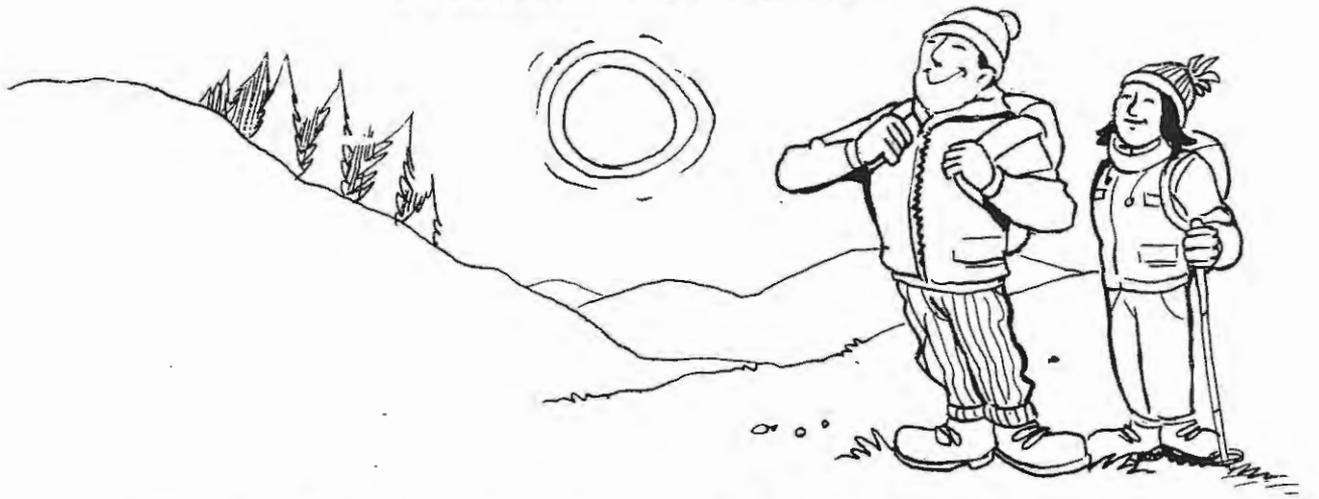
– welcome –

Walkers, Ramblers, Fell Walkers
to join our club

*Feel healthier, lose weight and soak up
the breathtaking views and the fresh
country air*

With **3** grades of walks,
anyone can enjoy a Sunday out on our
regular coach trips to the fells

All denominations welcome



Call WILL HARRIS on **0151 486 6541**
for booking details