

# Liverpool Catholic Ramblers' Newsletter

**FEBRUARY 2010**

Issue No.79. Seventh Series

## **Programme change: Coniston now 25 April**

The Coniston ramble has been moved forward one week from Sun 18 April to make way for the forthcoming weekend away at Llandudno. Don't forget to mark the swap over in your rambling programmes.

## **Llandudno weekend at the Chatsworth Hotel**

**Fri 16 April to Sun 18 April**

Note the change of date (moved from end of April)

For those regulars on our past Keswick weekends (now stopped because of the closure of Lakeside House) Llandudno will be different. Will Harris has stayed at the Chatsworth with a walking group.

At the Chatsworth hotel there is the advantage of ALL rooms being en-suite and yet the cost of is on a par with Lakeside House. Accommodation will be mostly in shared rooms but there are just a few single rooms available. There is an indoor pool and also evening entertainment at the hotel.

**It will cost £35 per night for dinner, bed and breakfast. So for our two-night stay it will cost us £70 each.**

The type of walks that we will do depends upon general consensus when we get there; hopefully getting leaders for both easy and stronger walks.

We will be using our own cars to get there so when booking make sure that you can get a lift with someone, or are prepared to give other people a lift if you have a car (helping towards the fuel cost).

The hotel holds well over 100 guests and is in a good position. They have their own car park. If the car park happens to get full then there is parking nearby at a nominal charge.

The cost of the weekend will start with dinner on the Friday evening, probably at 7pm. Check details with Will when booking with your £20 deposit. Full total payment must be made before going. Any cheques should be made out to LCRA and given to the person taking bookings on the coach or on Thursday night socials.

Plans for a weekend at the Chatsworth have been under way for a while, but we did not know that the hotel would be closed all January for refurbishment and so we were not able to make contact with them all that month. It was only in the past few days that we were informed of the change of date as they were fully booked for our original dates, and so this newsletter had to come out fast to inform everyone.

## **Why not get your newsletters emailed to you?**

Let us have your email address and then we can email your newsletters on to you. Any last minute changes, walk cancellations, etc, can also be emailed to you. Simply email your email to willharris33@aol.com and include your name, if it is not obvious in your email.

## **A train toppled down from a viaduct**

The Seniors' Section ramble report overleaf includes details of a train toppling from a viaduct into the River Weaver, and is worth reading. Bill Potter, from that section, who gave them the facts, is a retired a train driver, now 80 years young.

Some contributions for this edition were via the telephone or emailed to me. More are needed to get future newsletters back to several pages long, either in the form of rambling reports or other articles and perhaps several interesting snippets, however brief.

Send your material for the newsletters to me at:

7 Abbots Way, Billinge, Wigan WN5 7SB

or email them to davenewns@hotmail.com

Dave Newns, *editor*

## **Earlier starts on monthly club nights**

We are starting far too late, and so the committee have decided that commencing next month we need people arriving at the Ship and Mitre (upstairs) from 8.30pm onwards, so do your best to improve our social nights. The quizzes will also kick off much earlier than of late, thus enabling people to get home earlier, especially those who are working the next day.

## **Bring and Buy Sale**

**Thurs, March 4 – 8.30pm onwards**

Bring any unwanted but useful items along to help generate extra cash for our club's funds.

Apologies to those who had not been informed about the Bring and Buy Sale swap from February 4.

## **Cheese and Wine Nights**

**plus Quizzes are held on the first Thursday of each month: April 1, May 6 & June 1 from 8.30.**

## **New member**

A hearty welcome to Gabby MacPherson and any other new members who have joined us recently.

Sorry, but no space left for the Cookery Corner, but it will be back in the next edition.

# Ramblerite

Snow greeted walkers on January 3 on our Lyme Park walk – fairly deep in places – a wonderful winter scene. It is surprising how many of us soon changed our tune barely two weeks later when we were all beginning to hate the slippery, icy stuff!

We had a 'B' and a 'C' walk at Lyme Park. Sometimes the deer can't be seen there but they were spotted this time. Towards the end of the 'B' walk a few got a bit separated in the snow but the leader was our 'Pied Piper' Roy, and he soon sniffed them out. I believe they ended up in the Mousetrap – that's a pub in Disley, where the walk finished. An enjoyable day of was had by all.

We knew we would not fill a coach on December 20th, so it was Dot who organised the pleasant public transport ramble that day when eight enjoyed a Wirral walk where they trekked through Royden Park and on to Thurstaston Hill and down onto a popular part of the Wirral Way. They finished off with a welcome meal at Weatherpoons at West Kirby.

## A fine day at Arnside

The Rivington ramble on January 17 had to be cancelled because insufficient numbers had booked for the coach. However, a week later our 30-odd seater coach was almost full for the Arnside walk (in fact with 4 "no shows" it was technically full).

After a short break at Lancaster Services we all got off the coach at Yealand Conyers. Dot then took the C's down past Leighton Hall towards the Bird Sanctuary while Roy took 14 B's left onto Warton Crag and down to Crag Foot, taking lunch at Jenny Brown's Point. Contrary to the wet day back home, the weather up there was fine all day but the haze prevented them from seeing Blackpool Tower though they could see Heysham. Afterwards they walked into Silverdale Village and on down to the shore. They followed along the coast to The Cove followed by a climb to the Pepper Pot. From there they headed towards Arnside Tower and then climbed up to the trig point on Arnside Knott. From there it was an easy descent into Arnside Village. – a total of nine miles.

Two groups will be going skiing towards the end of Feb and beginning of March but it is hoped that this should not affect the rambles too much as several of those going are not our regular walkers.

## Forthcoming walks

Feb 7 THE LOGGERHEADS. A fairly short coach journey a few miles past Mold in North Wales.

Feb 14 HAYFIELD. Not too far from Glossop at the foot of the Pennines. *Coach route via the M62.*

Feb 28 PENDLE HILL. *Coach route M58/M6.*

Mar 7 LLANGOLLEN.

## Seniors' Section ramble report

# The Weaver Valley

December 13th 2009

Our ramble began at 11.30am where Gerry (our leader); Jean, Tony, Marcia, Freda, George P, Kath, Rosemary, Susan, Ita and Anne all met on the Green outside St Peter's Church, Aston.

It was a lovely wintry day, the sun shone and it was warm as we walked along. Overnight frost resulted in frozen puddles as we followed a broad path beside the river. It was wet on the fields and so for our lunch break we sat on an old water trough with a pile of bricks and a suitable old wall.

## Chemical train plunged into River

After lunch we came to a viaduct carrying the main London to Glasgow railway line for Virgin Pendolino trains and London Midland Railway. Bill told us some interesting facts. Further along was the junction with a steep incline where the Liverpool-Runcorn line joined the rail track. Many years ago a train driver of a chemical goods train could not stop on this steep incline due to brake failure and the engine and carriages careered over the viaduct wall and crashed from a great height into the River Weaver, depositing chemicals into the river. Sadly, the driver was seriously injured. As a result of this accident new rules were introduced about the braking system to ensure safety.

Walking along, we came to a sheep that was guarding the gate (it turned out to be plastic!!!). Beside us on the river was a rowing boat with a crew of eight rowers followed by a safety launch in which their coach was issuing training instructions to the crew. We reached Dutton Locks, one lock well kept; the other lock was in disrepair. Further upstream an old boat was rotting on the riverside.

Retracing our steps, we joined a bridleway which opened out onto a broad sandy track giving us a free view of Runcorn. A double bridge was reached which was the junction that Bill had told us about earlier. We had already seen herons in flight and a buzzard was spotted perching on a nearby fence.

We recognised the road back to Aston where we spotted a dead grouse and as nobody wanted to take it home, Gerry put it on the grass verge. Back to St Peter's, where we saw a magnificent sunset, the silhouette of trees against the background of a red sky, making a wonderful scene for a photograph.

The ramble was completed by an enjoyable meal at Preston Brook.

Thank you, Gerry and Jean for a most enjoyable ramble on a wintry December afternoon. A.