

20.2.90

2018

A special welcome to all new members. The club is continuing to prove very popular and coaches are getting fully booked up at a time of year when normally it is fairly easy to get booked on a ramble. The addition of 'C' walks for all the rambles seems to be popular and should improve the quality of the 'B' walks for those who aren't quite up to 'A' walk standard yet want a decent 'B' walk.

Thanks due to Ann Connolly, Mona Roberts and Mike Hendrick's mother who all gave assistance in the typing of this newsletter and thanks to all who contributed in any way. Starting off is a witty recruitment poem composed by Vicky. I hope you all enjoy reading this, your newsletter and hope that you will continue to send articles, ramble write-ups, etc for future editions.

DAVE NEWS, Editor

RAMBLER'S RAP

Want to know what's going down?  
That ain't so hard to do,  
Even though my membership is something fairly new.  
I joined the L.C.R.A.  
Hey man, it really is quite neat,  
So long as you've got yourself a groovy pair of feet,  
A nicer bunch of folks you couldn't wish to meet.

The walks are cool, if you get my drift.  
Some of the leaders sure make you shift!  
That boss fresh air gives my spirits such a lift.  
The organising of these gigs is certainly a gift.  
Hip, hop, funk, you're sure to hear  
If you venture into town,  
To the Thursday social,  
It's the grooviest sound around.  
So no matter what the weather,  
Have your back-pack ready to go,  
'Cause come hell or high water, rain, hail or snow,  
It's always "on with the show!"

L.C.R.A. is by far the best, or so I reckon.  
So remember all you folks - just keep on trekkin!

Vicky

P.S. I hasten to add that the above was written before venturing out on a 'never to be repeated' 'A' walk in Corwen/Llangollen!!

CONSTITUTION OF THE L.C.R.A.

All members please note that the club's Constitution is currently being reviewed. If any member has any amendments they would like to submit to the Constitution Committee for approval, please forward them to Chris Dobbin at:

207 Childwall Road, Liverpool 15

or pass them on to any committee member.

R A M B L E R I T E

The first jottings of 1990, so a 'Happy New Year' to you all! The rambles throughout January have been well supported and although we have had wet and windy conditions, the temperatures have been very mild. Is this the much talked about Greenhouse Effect!

On the last Sunday in January's walk to Ambleside both A and B parties encountered snow both falling and lying on the ground. This was probably a new experience for some of our newer members, but everyone managed the slippery conditions with the minimum of falls and no serious injury.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Feb 16-18 MAESHAFN YOUTH HOSTEL WEEKEND. Joe Rourke has full details of this weekend which includes map and compass training to those interested. A visit to the Theatr Clwyd on the Friday night had to be cancelled as all tickets have been sold. The hostel is self-catering and the overnight charge is only £3.20. Joe has hinted a visit to the Miners Arms for Saturday evening. Contact Joe on 256 9144.

Feb 25 ARNSIDE. This part coastal walk is in an area of scenic grandeur which used to be called North Lancashire (now Cumbria). If we are blessed with clear conditions there should be fine views of the Lake District hills over the bay to the north. Leaders: 'A' Joe Rourke, 'B' Paul Healy, 'C' Ian Freeman.

Mar 4 MACCLESFIELD FOREST. The rolling hills between Macclesfield and Buxton in the Peak District. Tegg's Nose country park lies in this area. Leaders: 'A' Allan Caple, 'B' Paul Healy, 'C' Brian Keller.

Mar 11 BOLTON ABBEY, Yorkshire. A popular area for day-trippers in the Skipton area, and popular with ramblers with paths close to the River Wharfe, and for the more adventurous, ascending to the summit of Simons Seat. Leaders: 'A' Dave Newns, 'B' Dave Connolly, 'C' Joe Rourke.

Mar 19 LLANGOLLEN (World's End). A visit to the picturesque town and the Dee, and the hills around it, in the Horseshoe Pass area. Leaders: 'A' Brian Keller, 'B' Dave Newns, 'C' Ray Pemberton.

Mar 25 THE LONG MYND, Shropshire. As the name suggests, a long hill in the Church Stretton area of Shropshire. 'A' To be advised, 'B' Tom Brierley, 'C' Tom Bibby.

Mar 30-Apr 1 LAKESIDE HOUSE, KESWICK. Weekend away at our usual twice annually visited Mecca. Comfortable guesthouse accommodation with bar/dance/games room in the basement and superb drying facilities in the boiler room. George the chef is now in charge of the house. Walks planned for the weekend. Cost is approximately £35 which includes breakfast and evening meal on the Saturday including a packed lunch for midday, Sunday breakfast and evening meal. (Note: pack lunch optional extra on Sunday). Transport by car sharing on the Friday night and departing after the evening meal on the Sunday (Meal around 5pm). Cost of petrol extra. Bookings to Roy Thisis. The Family Section are sharing this weekend with us and as they prefer to use their own transport a coach is uneconomical this time.

Apr 8 FOEL FRAS/CONWAY VALLEY. Snowdonia in the spring. Will there be any snow on the peaks? Leaders: 'A' Phil Wells, 'B' Mike Hendrick, 'C' Jim Haynes.

EASTER WEEKEND (See separate notice). Book early for this.

I have noticed recently that the parties are becoming very strung out, often because walkers are going way ahead of the leader. This happens more on 'A' walks and can lead to those in front going the wrong way, as well as being out of touch with the party in case of mishap. All walkers are therefore requested to stay with the party. Thank you.

Happy Rambling,

IAN FREEMAN

(Rambling Chairman)

## THE FOURTEEN PEAKS CHALLENGE WALK

Within the Snowdonia National Park there are fourteen summits above 3,000 ft, and they lie in such a way that all fourteen can be visited, without a great deal of deviation, on a single walk between Snowdon and Aber. The walk is over 30 miles long and requires over 13,000 ft of ascent.

The route can be tackled in various ways but the quickest route and the one described by Thomas Firbank in his book 'I bought a Mountain' is start on the summit of Snowdon take in Crib-y-Ddysgl and Crib-Goch before descending directly to the Llanberis Pass. Ascend Elidir Fawr on the western side of the Glyders and Y Garn, Glyder Fach and Tryfan before descending into the Ogwen Valley. Finally onto the Camedd's and Pen-yr-Ole-Wen, Carnedd Dafydd, Yr Elen, Carnedd Llywellyn, Foel Grach and Foel Fras to finish.

Tradition demands that the walk should be completed within 24 hours but realistically the hours between sunrise and sunset depict your time allowance. This is why on the weekend nearest Mid-Summers Day literally hundreds of people can be seen crossing Crib Goch ridge in the early hours of Saturday morning.

During the Spring Bank Holiday Weekend the Club will be staying in Snowdonia and anyone interested in attempting the Fourteen Peaks will be welcome. The Fourteen being an extremely arduous walk some people may prefer the challenge of 8 of the 14, Snowdon to Tryfan.

We plan to present certificates to successful entrants which will be presented at the Annual Dance, also there is the possibility of making it a sponsored event. Anyone interested in the Challenge or just in the Weekend please see me as soon as possible.

Michael Hendrick

April 13-16

E A S T E R     W E E K E N D

April 13-16

Luxury Caravans with integral shower/toilet, hot water, etc. have been booked for this unique part of Scotland where on a good day the Lake District mountains can be seen in the south.

The Galloway Hills could be reached in about five hours by car, but if the full splendour of the Galloway region is to be appreciated a more leisurely journey, stopping at various points of interest on the way, is recommended. This was what some of us did last year on the Good Friday, enjoying a meat-free meal at the caravan park in the evening.

The Gulf Stream is said to sweep across this deer-ridden/goat-inhabited area and Galloway often enjoys unusually warm weather compared to the much colder northern regions of Scotland further north.

There are over 200 hills over 2000ft in the area and one of the best parts (Glen Trool) is close to the caravan park where the club have booked 3 luxury caravans. Cost including car-sharing, food and accommodation is estimated at around £35 for the weekend. Returning Monday. Contact Christine Welsby for information and bookings (709 7339).

VACANCY FOR A SECRETARY. Daphne O'Shea, our secretary is shortly moving to Sheffield with husband Mike. They both intend to keep up their membership and join us in some of the rambles whenever possible. Good luck to both of you. Meanwhile are there any budding secretaries willing to take minutes for us once a month at Birch House LCRA committee meetings?

## S O C I A L I T E

Hi everybody!

First of all a special hello and warm welcome to our enthusiastic new members. I do hope you enjoy many of the Social and Ramble events over the coming year. If you have any good ideas, tips, moans, etc or simply you just want to buy me a large whisky, then please do not hesitate to contact me!

Now then, this year the Club really has got a super Social Committee, which is really being helped along by other keen members. Without further ado I must say a big thank you to the following for organising recent events:

Ian 'Condor' Freeman - Delightful Strauss Evening at the Philharmonic Hall. Great Stuff!!

Chris Welsby & Mike Hendrick (Stars of Ski Sunday) - Christmas Dance Grub at the Liverpool.

Brian Keller & Allan Caple - Yuletide - A very successful event this year, which kept Brian and Allan very busy to the last minute. In fact Allan was still organising seats for the Hot Pot, whilst we were all on 'seconds'!

Christine Welsby (nominated yet again for this year's Oscars!) for organising a trip to Crosby Civic Centre to see the funniest Panto in years!

Oh no it wasn't!!! Oh yes it was!! When I was a lad, I used to be bored stiff with those 'girl' dancers, but for some explicable reason, I was cheering, clapping, whistling all the way along this year! I wonder why? Answers on the back of a £5 note please, and finally, Paul Healy for the Chinese Meal out on 27th January, nothing WONG with that!

Those of you who come down on a Thursday, will know how lucky we are to have unsung heroes like Tony Bond who is the first there to set up the disco system. Those of us who put the system away at the end of the night know only too well what a task it can be.

Also thanks due to Phil, who plays a great selection of records every Thursday. Phil wishes to point out there is no extra charge for dancing!

Right ..... picture a thousand fireworks, spotlights dividing the sky, Doris Day singing "Westward Coach is coming into town...." yes its that time again.

### FUTURE SOCIAL EVENTS

Whilst you are all getting your breath back and letting the excitement soak in, I can tell you that....

Thursday 1st March - Slide Evening (at the Liverpool)

Yes, Roy is blowing the dust off the ole slides and fingers crossed there will be no Clive James type comments. Obviously there will be some rambles, but some other interesting slides will be on display as well, (sorry lads no page 3 ones!) Please come down early. Thank you.

Thursday 15th March - Cheese & Wine Night (The Liverpool)

Christine Welsby, who is "tee-total" like myself, will 'just to be socialable' is organising the food and drink. If you'd like to give Christine a hand or have some 'free' wine please do contact her.

Saturday 17th March - St. Patrick's Day

A possible trip to the Irish Centre. Uncle Roy to get all the details before hand, and will broadcast everything during the infamous NEWS AT TEN on Thursday Club nights.

Really, by coming down on Thursday is the best way of keeping up to date with the Social events. Sometimes a spontaneous event is arranged which would be too late for the Newsletter. A good example was this year's Panto. After all's said and done I do, as Social Chairperson, have access to £100 social fund, which is to be used in a responsible manner. So there you have it, a number of Social Events which I hope will be well supported.

In the meantime, happy rambling/socialising!

Cheers,

Roy Thiis,  
SOCIAL CHAIRMAN.

P.S. Now taking deposits for Keswick (30th March - 1st April).  
£10 per person deposit. (Family Section are on the ball here and have already booked).

#### FUTURE SOCIAL EVENTS - THEATRE TRIPS TO THE EMPIRE THEATRE

60's NIGHT - Tuesday, April 3rd

The story of Ruby, a dowdy, downtrodden teenager who is eventually transformed into a real swinger. This non-stop Musical has no fewer than 47 hit songs from the Swinging 60's era. Special rate (half price) only £4 per person. There are 16 tickets booked. See Roy Thiis or Bernadette Doyle.

THE KING AND I - Saturday, May 12th

This popular musical is performed by the Birkenhead Amateur Operatic ~~Society~~ Trust. Ten tickets have been booked, cost £4,50 each. See Roy Thiis or Bernadette Doyle.

#### NEW PROGRAMMES - Alterations to map numbers

Your new programmes have the numbers of 1-50,000 O.S. Maps (1 $\frac{1}{4}$ " in brackets. Unfortunately some of these have been wrongly given and need amending as follows:

Feb. 11 Llanarmon Hot Pot (116/117)	May 13 Hawes (98)
Feb. 16-18 Maeshafn W/E (116/117)	June 3 Cader Idris (124)
Mar. 18 Llangollen (116/117)	June 17 Pen y Ghent (98)
Mar. 25 The Long Mynd (137)	July 22 Hayfield (110)
Apr. 8 Foel Fras (115)	July 29 Coniston (90/97)

## YOUR CHAIRLADY'S ADVENTURES

Hello folks and a 'Happy New Year'. Now here's another late item which I forgot to mention in the last newsletter: We have a tiny new ~~comer~~ **comer** in our midst, born on November 2, 1989 to Pat and Mike Lewis, a son, Colin James, and he's a cutie too. Congratulations.

And now for an alternative Yuletide Walk. As usual I've heard glowing reports of how successful your walks and barn dance were at the beginning of January. Although not with you in person, I was with you in spirit. The sun was shining, the sky blue, I was sitting on a coach picking its way up a mountain road, villas of variable shapes and sizes, some very isolated, perched precariously on the mountain-side, surrounded by orange, lemon and olive trees. I was on my way to visit an old Moorish enclave, impervious to Christian assault until 1485, and I'm not surprised. Ronda, perched high above a gorge, or tajo, a deep ~~rent~~ **rent** in the earth 490 ft deep, with the Rio Guadaleuin rushing by at the bottom. (By the way, I wasn't in Wales - a little further South, in Spain, away for a week's rest and recuperation).

Leaving the Estacion Central de Autobus in the "new" town I was looking for the Puente Nuevo (new bridge, in use since 1781!). Crossing into the old Moorish Ciudad, its influence still very evident, once the principal mosque, now the church of Santa Maria la Mayor, has been "added to" the minaret, the bell tower. The high altar is 16th century, gold and heavily decorated and dominates one end. In the centre body of the church stands the Baroque choir stalls and a gothic name tacked onto the side. It's all very high and made me feel a little insignificant. You can still see some of the Arabic decorations on the walls.

Outside, children of varying ages were playing with new toys. The Spanish appear to have Christmas gift-giving right. They celebrate at the 'Epifania' (Epiphany). Children leave water and hay for the three kings' camels. Instead of stockings they leave their shoes for the gifts to be left in. The naughty ones are left lumps of coal similar to our cinders, so look out if you haven't paid your subs yet!

On my way to the gorge I passed the Palacio de Mondragon, once home of the Moorish kings, clearly lords of all, they served when you see the view from the garden, terraced farms and the mountains in the distance.

Now for the hard bit. There is a snaking path down to the bottom of the gorge, and I wasn't on my own. It was quite busy with mums, dads and grannies too. I felt quite at home! The only problem with a walk like this is it's all uphill from the bottom and the bus won't wait if I'm late. Had to put a spurt on half-way back up. Apparently during the civil war Nationalist sympathisers were pushed to their deaths from the top, an event recalled in Hemmingway's book "For Whom The Bell Tolls."

You'll be glad to hear I made it back to the bus station in time with the help of a kind lady, neither of us multi-lingual but she understood my feeble attempt at Spanish. I'll leave my adventures to Granada, Mijas and Gibraltar for another time.

So, Buenos Dias, Buenas Tardes/Noches, Adios Amigos

BERNADETTE xxx

### PROGRAMME MEETING - All members welcome

On Monday, March 19th at Birch House, Bishop Eaton, off Woolton Road, at 7.30pm we will be planning our Autumn/Winter Programme of rambles/events.

Any suggestions for walks, etc, whether new or old favourites will be welcomed. Any person having difficulties with transport to the meeting simply contact any committee member so that transport can be arranged for you. Everyone is invited to this meeting. There is a bar available on the premises.

FAMILY SECTION PROGRAMME, 1990.

MAR. 1. HOUSE MEETING at Leo and Pat Pearson's, at 81 Twig Lane, Huyton.

MAR. 11. RAMBLE. Leaders Bill and Peggy Potter - Wirral Way. The walk will start promptly at 12.00 noon from the start of the Wirral Way opposite West Kirby Station. Park in the nearest available space on the Prom or in one of the nearby Car Parks. Toilets will be found on the Prom.

APRIL 5. HOUSE MEETING - Noel and Angela Fishwick's, 74 Moss Lane, Maghull.

APRIL 8. RAMBLE. Loughrigg Fell, Ambleside - leaders Angela and Noel Fishwick. Walk starts promptly at 10.30 a.m. The Quarry Car Park is on the right about 2 miles before Grasmere.

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FAMILY SECTION RAMBLE, MYERSCOUGH, 10TH DECEMBER, 1989.

This was a good December walk which started near the Myerscough Arms by the British Aerospace Complex east of Preston. Pilot and navigator were Gerry and Jean McDonald with a route based on one of those walking books (ambiguous) entitled "a Thousand Walks East of Eden"... did we say Preston?

The Ribble Valley countryside was sufficiently varied to have allowed the leader to miss out that part where the path went through a field with fifteen bulls - but he didn't. He calmed his party down by saying they were immature animals - bullocks - precisely. Nevertheless, his judgement was sound, but should farmers put such livestock across public footpaths?

Conversation on the walk was of the usual erudite standard so I was surprised to read in the last Newsletter that there were some know-alls and naive persons on our rambles. We don't know who they are, of course, but bless 'em all, I say. Would the other writer really prefer to spend his day with craft sophisticates? Could be amusing, I suppose, but could they walk?

It was a fine pre-Christmas walk enjoyed by Freda and George S., Doreen and Harry Hays, Tony and Marcia T., Paul Pearson taking a break from sky-diving, and Molly and Tony R. Thanks, Gerry and Jean.

Talking of Christmas, don't miss the 1990 Dinner at the Anglican Cathedral - the '89 evening was excellent, so the more the merrier.

Happy Rambling for 1990.

"ATOM".

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THE FAMILY SECTION YULETIDE WALK, 1990.

I have to do this write-up for two reasons - one because Mona is twisting my arm (in spite of my plea that it is too long ago and I can't remember what happened) and two, to put the record straight. Right, so the first objective is achieved, now for the second.

It has come to my attention that there are rumours going around that for the first time in living memory the whippers-in got lost!! THIS IS NOT TRUE - never at any time did we not know where we were, but being kind thoughtful sort of people, we thought that the others might not know that we knew where we were, so we turned back to find them. Meanwhile, the others had arrived back at the Barn before us and sent Gerry out to find us, but since we were not lost, he was having some difficulty finding us, but all was well when we met him coming back from going back.

I do hope that is perfectly clear to all who have had the per severance to have got this far!!

The ramble? Well, that was lovely as usual, for the the usual reasons - too much food being walked off, gorgeous fresh air being gasped into lungs too long without, and all that catching up on the news with people who have been hibernating since the last Yuletide. The weather was quite kind - as far as I can remember. The hot-pot was happily put away, and the children's (?) games and barn dance were very much enjoyed by everybody.

Many thanks to our leader for his usual lovely walk (and for not chewing our ears off for not getting lost!), and to all those who put so much work into making the whole thing a success. It really is appreciated.

from

"She who was not lost but  
is found".

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Jean, I wouldn't have twisted your arm so viciously if our revered and respected editor, Dave Newns, had not twisted both of my arms and one leg. He's so nice about it that I don't notice the agony until about two seconds afterwards. Anyway, thank you very much for the 'return of post' write-up.

Mona.

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