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LIVERPOOL CATHOLIC RAMBLERS NEWSLETTER



Anon

Edition 33 (fifth series) FEBRUARY/MARCH 1993 Edited and typed by Dave News
(Mona Roberts ** the Seniors' Sectn)

Everyone should have received the new programme by now, but if you haven't, then contact our registrar, Beryl Baker. She also gives a very last reminder that the annual subs are well overdue by some members. It's still only £4 for singles and £5 for married couples - the cheapest rambling club in Liverpool!

A brief reminder that cancellations for a ramble to Ray McIntosh or myself must be made BEFORE THURSDAY EVENING prior to a ramble, otherwise no transfers or refunds can be made. It is still courteous to inform us any time, of cancellations.

Thanks to all who contributed items for this edition - more write-ups would be most appreciated. Next newsletter will appear at Easter so any items for it should be either given or sent to me at 7 Abbots Way, Billinge, WIGAN WN5 7SB. Thanks.

Apologies to Ray if there is any slight resemblance to him in the picture above. It must be purely coincidental!

Finally, on a very sad note, one of our Seniors Section members, Peggy Potter, died whilst out rambling on January 24th. We offer our sincere condolences to Bill and the two daughters.

DAVE NEWS

RIVINGTON BARN DANCE - JANUARY 10

The club's annual trip this year was attended by 144 adults and children. It took place a week later than usual, but unfortunately the weather was still terrible. That didn't dampen anyone's spirits as many little groups went out walking. There were four planned walks, namely the A, B, C and Children's walk. The latter was ably led by Brian Eassom and attended by 25 walkers and one pram! (anyone interested in the children's walks can contact Beryl Baker).

After we all arrived back from our walks it was nice to get washed and changed, and wait for our hot-pot and mince-pies which was served at about 5.15, and a second helping for those who wanted it! Then it was straight on to the musical chairs for the 33 children present - a mad half-hour, after which it was the adults turn - this was an even madder musical chair session! Meanwhile the band had set up on the stage and it was time for the real entertainment - the barn dance!

With it being my first I found it hard following the instructions but some of the old hands helped me out. After about 2½ hours of dancing it was time to head for the coach and we left Rivington around 9.30pm, arriving back in Liverpool at about 10.45pm.

Everyone had a lovely day even though we were shattered.

REG BAKER

ONE TEDDY, found fretting for its one careful owner, at Rivington Barn at the above function. Mums and dads check your children's teddies, and if one has gone missing then contact Beryl Baker who has been left cuddling same! (260 8475).

CHILDREN'S WALK - FEBRUARY 14 - GLIEVES HILL

Travelling Instructions: By train from Central Station to Aughton Park. Train times are 11am and 11.30am. Turn right out of Aughton Park Station and walk to the traffic lights; turn right into Prescott Road walking downhill to St Anne's Church car park which is on the right. Meet there at 12 noon.

By car, travel towards Ormskirk on the A59 to Liverpool Road and Holborne Hill, stay on the A59, then turn right at the roundabout and into the car park at St Anne's Church. Leader is Peter Wilkinson.

LOST - ONE LCRA TORCH

Check your rucksacks for the missing torch belonging to the club. It may have been passed to you by one of the leaders a few months ago. Give to Ray Mc if you find it. He will reward you with a few words of thanks...or something!

EASTER YOUTH HOSTEL WEEKEND AT CRIANLARICH, SCOTLAND

Bookings must be made early for this club weekend away in the South Western Highlands of Perthshire. Total cost of the weekend will be approximately £60. Please see Ian Freeman as soon as possible if interested or if more details are needed.

THE FORTHCOMING KESWICK WEEKEND - MARCH 19-21

Accommodation is at Lakeside House (run by the Catholic Holiday Fellowship) where we have been going biannually for many years. It is always popular, being in a convenient situation for the shops (many selling hiking gear), the pubs, boats, and organised walks either by making use of the coach or from the house itself.

Added attraction is the cellar bar and dance area plus table tennis. There is a unique large drying room (the boiler house) with dozens of coathangers/bootrack.

Coach leaves on the Friday night (check time when booking). Meals include one packed lunch on the Saturday; Sunday's lunch is optional at an extra charge. Bookings must be accompanied by a £10 non-returnable deposit.

S O C I A L I T E

Hello everyone. I hope you all had a Happy New Year.

Looking back over the last few months I would first like to thank the following competitors who took part in our annual Fred Norbury/Cyril Kelly Trophy events:

Ladies were Michelle Bache, Janet Bruce, Barbara Lyons, Carol Pickstock, Irene Segerberg, Anne Walton, Ann Woodward.

Gents were Dave Cahill, Richard Christopher, Brian Eassom, Paul Healy, Mike Newby, and Roy This.

Janet Bruce and Brian Eassom were the winners of this year's trophies - Congratulations - Brian can't stop winning! Competitors took part in board games, (ie Ludo, draughts) dominoes, ten-pin bowling and a quiz. The quiz held on November 26th produced a very interesting result. Anne Walton was our outright winner.

THE BARN DANCE on November 20th was a great success with good music, tasty Kentucky fried chicken and baked potatoes. Whilst enjoying our chicken and all pretending to be perfect barn dancers we managed to raise £101.50 for the BBC Children in Need appeal.

THE CHRISTMAS BUFFET DANCE on December 4th at the Churchill Club was a great success. Thanks to Tom Reilly for arranging this night for us and a special thanks to Gordon Gorst for providing the excellent buffet supper. I know everyone enjoyed themselves.

THE LOCAL MINCE PIE WALK on December 27 was a lovely day out. There were 31 of us plus Joe's faithful Labrador 'Bosun'. Thanks Joe for arranging this ramble.

THE PANTOMIME on January 20th was a great night out for the ten adults and eight children who went.

BURNS NIGHT at the club on January 28th was quiet until the haggis came through the door then Paul Healy addressed it - 'hot entrails, etc' and we all enjoyed the very tasty morsels plus spuds and carrots. Well done Tony and Ian for organising.

FUTURE SOCIAL EVENTS

~~Thurs~~ February 10 at the Empire. Beryl has 20 tickets for "Good Rockin' TONITE" at £14.50 EACH. Contact Beryl on 260 8475. ~~Phoned to ...~~

February 26 - A CEILIDH at the Irish Centre for ~~Chess~~ watch. See notice.

Sun March 7 - AN EVENING WITH BRIAN BLESSED 'From Childhood to Everest' at the Playhouse, Liverpool. Tickets £8 (£5 concs) £3. 7.30 pm. One problem here is that there is a ramble to Conway that day and you won't be able to do both.

Mon March 29 - ELVIS - 20 tickets at approx £8 each. Contact me again.

The LCRA would like to take this opportunity to say get well soon Dominic to the Thursday socials barman.

WEDDING - Barbara Lyons your chairwoman and Dave Cahill are to be married at St Stephens Church, Lance Lane on Sat February 20 at 4 pm. Congratulations and best wishes from all of us to you both for your future happiness.

CHARITIES

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported all my charity events during the past year. More details elsewhere in this edition.

PS: Did anyone spot the deliberate mistake in last edition of the ~~mag~~ letter? (Can't see Green Gable because it's behind Great Gable).

NEW MEMBERS

A special welcome to all new members including: Tom Barber, Malcolm West, Irene Fletcher and Marie McDonald.

BERYL BAKER (Social Chairwoman and Registrar)

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS URGENTLY OVERDUE FOR SOME OF YOU - SEE ME NOW - BERYL!!!

CHARITIES

SPONSORED WALK on Sunday, May 16th run by the Rotary Club of North Wirral and sponsored by Typhoo Tea. If you are not going on the ramble to Crinkle Grags that day then you may be interested in walking around the Wirral coastline from Seacombe Ferry to the Thurstaston Country Park on the Wirral Way. Distance is nearly 15 miles but check points have been arranged on the route for orange drinks and for finishing arrangements if you can't make the full walk. Charity will be one named by our own club. Many other clubs and organisations usually take part. Refreshments are to be provided by Ty-Phoo at Thurstaston. For route maps, sponsorship forms and further details see Beryl Baker.

BBC CHILDREN IN NEED APPEAL have acknowledged our donation of £101.50 which was raised at our Barn Dance on November 20th. They sent a brightly-coloured card thanking us for our donation. Beryl has the card if anyone wishes to see it.

CUMBRIAN WAY CHARITY WALK. In Dave Cahill's report of the Cumbrian Way Charity Walk in the last newsletter it was correctly stated that 'between us we raised £644 for charity.' One of the charities was the Handicapped Children's Pilgrimage Trust and their letter of acknowledgement of the group's donation of £244 to them was correctly stated. There was no mention of where the remaining £400 went. However, since then a letter has been given to me, dated 11 Nov 92 from KIND (Kids in Need and Distress). It is reproduced herewith:

"Dear Beryl,

On behalf of all at KIND I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, Mary, Barbara, Ray, Bob, Ian, David and Andrew for the very kind donation of £400 raised as a result of your recent sponsored walking holiday in Cumbria.

Your support and understanding are both very much appreciated and, as I am sure you are aware, very much needed. This is especially so in 1992 when KIND has embarked on the restoration of it's new centre in Ayrshire. I have enclosed an information brochure which I hope you will find of interest.

I would also be grateful if you could send our sincere thanks to all of those kind people who sponsored your efforts on our behalf. On behalf of all the children and families who will benefit from the work of KIND, thank you for your kindness and understanding.

With all best wishes, yours sincerely - STEPHEN YIP (KIND)."

So, a splendid effort by the Cumbrian Way walkers named above. Just for the record a total of £644 raised (£244 to HCPT and £400 to KIND).

Members of the Liverpool Catholic Ramblers are cordially invited to attend a Fund-raising Event being held at the Irish Centre on 26 February. Details are:

A C E I L I D H by a local group will be the main attraction. The date is Friday 26 February at 8.00 pm Admission at the door is £3 or £1.50 unwaged.

This Ceilidh is on behalf of "Merseywatch" a recently formed environmental group dedicated to the cleaning up of the River Mersey and the Irish Sea. It is supported and approved by Greenpeace and works closely with similar environmental groups in Dublin and the North West of England.

Please support Merseywatch and make a date in your diary for this Ceilidh.

JOE ROURKE

THE SCAFELL CHARITY WALK which was for Layla who is waiting for treatment at the Brain-damaged Institute. We have raised £100 towards Layla's treatment.

Thank you,
BERYL and IAN

Y.H.A. MEMBERSHIP

The club is now a member of the Youth Hostels Association and holds a Group Membership card. This card is available to any group of members within the club for an overnight stay or weekend so long as there are more than five persons. It cannot be used on an individual basis.

For further details contact Phil Wells.

CLUB HOSTELLING WEEKEND (SPRING BH)

Now that the days are getting lighter and summer holiday adverts are appearing on television we can think towards brighter and warmer (hopefully!) times.

This year's hostel weekend will be on May 29/31 to Ffestiniog Y.H.A. in North Wales.

Full details from Phil Wells, 8 Pear Tree Road, Huyton (Telephone 051-480 6650).

THE BEST WAY TO VIEW THOSE LOFTY PEAKS

Are mountains best viewed by looking up to them, or by ascending them and looking into the middle distance? I have listened closely over the past couple of years to the two schools of thought that prevail among the members of the LCRA over this ever perennial discussion. I belong to the first school of thought, looking up at them. Allow me to explain why.

I remember over fifty years ago looking up to my first mountain. Coming from the flatlands of Liverpool North it was a culture shock to gaze up at the majestic heights of Table Mountain. My eyes were as big as saucers as I looked up in awe. Yet, when I walked on the plateau of it two days later it did nothing for me.

I shall never forget a couple of years later when the mountains of Hawaii literally jumped out of the Pacific Ocean from a distance of thirty miles away. A very long love affair of looking up aloft at mountain ridges was well under way. It would be difficult to recall which was the most inspiring event - Was it looking up at the Andes when five miles out from Valparasio, rounding Cape Horn and witnessing the last of the same Andes running down to the meeting of the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans.

I remember at two o'clock in the morning from a distance of ten miles looking up at Stromboli blowing its top off once again - a fireworks display that has made all other firework displays since then insignificant. Also a few years later looking up with fascination at Mount Etna putting on its never-ending demonstration to prove that it's not dead yet.

Looking up at the mountain ranges of the Norwegian Inland Sea for two and a half days, on passage from the Russian border in the Arctic Circle to emerge into the North Sea, reluctant to go to sleep in case one missed something special.

Even looking up to the Heights of Abraham in Quebec to me was an eye-ful.

Perhaps what to me was a memorable occasion was floating in the Dead Sea looking up at the Heights of Masada. It did not take my imagination long to relive that event of 1600 years ago.

And so the list is endless...the mountains of South West China as we broke off from the Yangtse River to enter the Wang Poo River to get to Shanghai.....

When our gallant band of 'A' walkers request my company to go with them in the Lake District or Wales I shall politely decline. I shall ramble with the 'C' party and spend the day looking up!

In my opinion the best way to view mountains.

(THE OLD MAN OF CONISTON)

A Third Dimension

Another spectacular alternative was shown on TV recently - 'Ballooning over Everest' with an awe-inspiring panorama of the snow-capped peaks. Worth watching if there is a repeat programme in the future. - Editor.

THE SENIORS' SECTION. GRISEDALE RAMBLE, 15TH NOVEMBER, 1992.

It poured rain all week. Saturday was dreadful, Monday worse and yet Sunday produced not a spot of rain. The air was clear, the clouds high and the wind cool and from the west. How did Marie and Peter manage it? The weather was perfect for walking.

The going underfoot was, in racing terms, soft (we would say soggy) when a dozen of us met in Garstang and set off at a brisk pace across the soaking meadows, over river and streams, threatening to burst their banks, with the weight of water which had fallen almost incessantly for weeks. On Grisedale Fell with its tree clad slopes still tinted by the last of the autumn leaves, we stopped for lunch - but not for long. The early winter chill crept into our ancient bones.

Ahead of us lay the ascent of Wickey Nook. Our feet slithered under us as we proceeded, but all the effort was worth it. Standing breathless on the top we admired the dramatic panorama before us; the sweep of Morecambe Bay glowing with a pale yellowish light from a sun which had not yet reached us; a hot air balloon drifting effortlessly across the Ribble mud flats. Distantly, Blackpool Tower stood as a lonely sentinel dwarfed by the majesty of the mountainous foreground. Other vague man-made shapes, witnesses to what is called civilisation, disfigured the far horizon. A short stop, then time to move on.

We headed down to the road, disturbing the sheep and cattle in their melancholy pursuit of a full stomach. The temperature was dropping and the light fading as we squelched our way through woodland, meadow and across the odd waterway to the car park in Garstang. Here we said our goodbyes before joining the mad chaos of the motorway traffic as we headed for home.

Many thanks to Peter and Marie for an excellent walk.

TONY ROACHE.

CHESTER RAMBLE. 29TH NOVEMBER, 1992.

On a raw Sunday at 12.30 p.m. (our leader had expected a 12 noon start) a party of twenty-two ramblers departed from the Little Roodee car park in the direction of the Suspension Bridge. Having crossed the Dee we turned left to walk along the River bank following the Marchers' Way signs over several stiles. Not surprisingly all the rain of recent weeks had left the going very muddy. After about an hour and a half it was time for a lunch break and most of us perched on the dead branches of a fallen tree - rather more comfortable than the squelchy ground!

There was much activity on the River - canoeists enjoying themselves near the weir; rowing - eights, among others, possibly training for the Head-of-the-River-Race which is held in March; and birds, notably a comorant, which we stopped to observe. Our knowledgeable rambler pointed out that its presence would suggest fish in the River and comorants have also been seen around the Mersey. No doubt a good sign. While we were discussing the comorant three mallards - one male and two females - flew over and landed in the water.

Cont'd.....

THE SENIORS' SECTION. CHESTER RAMBLE Cont'd.

We left the River at the site of the old Eccleston Ferry to walk towards the village of Eccleston, which merited a 'Best Kept Village' award in 1980. Turning left at the monument we took the first road on the right and then a footpath which, for a short way, ran alongside the motorway, to Handbridge.

As Chester came into sight its lights were reflected in the River with its swans tucking their heads under their wings and its boats moored, daylight fading at about four o'clock in the afternoon.

Although it had been overcast all day the rain had kept off until a few light spots of drizzle were felt when we arrived back in the car park.

Once again, we offer many thanks to Pat and Leo for a very enjoyable day.

A.S.

RAMBLING PROGRAMME, 1993.

Once again our Rambling Secretary Jean has done us proud and we have two rambles in both February and March. It's been encouraging lately as some of our A-walkers have been coming out. They should rejoice in the Aughton Hills and Freshfield Rambles, I will! Here they are:-

FEB. 14. SWETTENHAM. The leaders are Gerry and Jean McDONALD and the phone number is 526 6775. Coming to the Previous House Meeting is even better.

FEB. 28. THE AUGHTON HILLS. Rosemary is leading. This is an easy one. Phone 526 1724 for further particulars.

MAR 14. SEDBERGH. George Skillcorn is our leader. Ring 0744 892 823 for details.

MAR 28. FRESHFIELD. This is another slightly easier one, and within the capabilities of all of us. George Parkinson is leading. Phone number is 07048 79746.

APRIL 2ND TO 9TH. We've taken another whole week. Do try and (CHALET) join us - for the weekend from Friday night or at any time during the week. Both times are lovely and the countryside should be beginning to show signs of spring!

House Meetings. The February meeting is at Mona Roberts's; the March meeting is at Rosemary Rollerson's; and the April one at Freda and George Skillcorn's. The addresses are in your printed programme which you already have or which will be included with this Newsletter.

THE SENIORS' SECTION.

PARBOLD HILL, 13TH DECEMBER, 1992.

On a chilly and almost rain free morning we started off Parbold in the direction of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal. Having followed the towpath for about half a mile we crossed the canal over a stone bridge and proceeded in the direction of Parbold Hill. Before the climb up to the top of the hill we turned towards Gillibrand House and through a small wood where the first of the day's mud was encountered. More mud and half an hour later we entered the Fairy Glen in which a welcome lunch was taken.

Our route then took us through the whole of the Fairy Glen alongside Spredly Brook and its mini-waterfalls. Having crossed the main Parbold/Sherington road we crossed a field to another wood, then a narrow path alongside reeds, which seemed to be a favourite spot for game birds.

Having arrived at High Moor we passed the restaurant which, I am reliably informed, is by far one of the most expensive in the area. The cars parked outside would have given credence to this information. Just past the restaurant we turned through the entrance gates of Harrock Hall, which is owned by a member of the Moore's family. The footpath follows the drive to the house but after about half a mile struck off in the direction of a hill, on the top of which were some strange-looking aerals. More mud and couple of fields later brought us on to the top of Harrock Hill. The views from the top are very good and on a fine day one can see Blackpool Tower.

After a short break next to the disused windmill we started to descend off Harrock Hill only to have to climb again up Hunters Hill and passed the quarries. As the mud had been so bad it was decided to cut out the last part of the 'official' walk and so we proceeded to Hill Dale and back along the main road to Parbold, just as the light was beginning to fade.

(He can't thank himself so maybe we should!)

NOEL.

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+ We offer our deepest sympathy to Bill, Helen +
+ and Christine Potter on the tragically sudden death +
+ of Peggy on the Frodsham walk. As a great worker +
+ for our Section and especially at the Chalet, she +
+ will be sorely missed. +
+ She will be remembered in our prayers. +
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