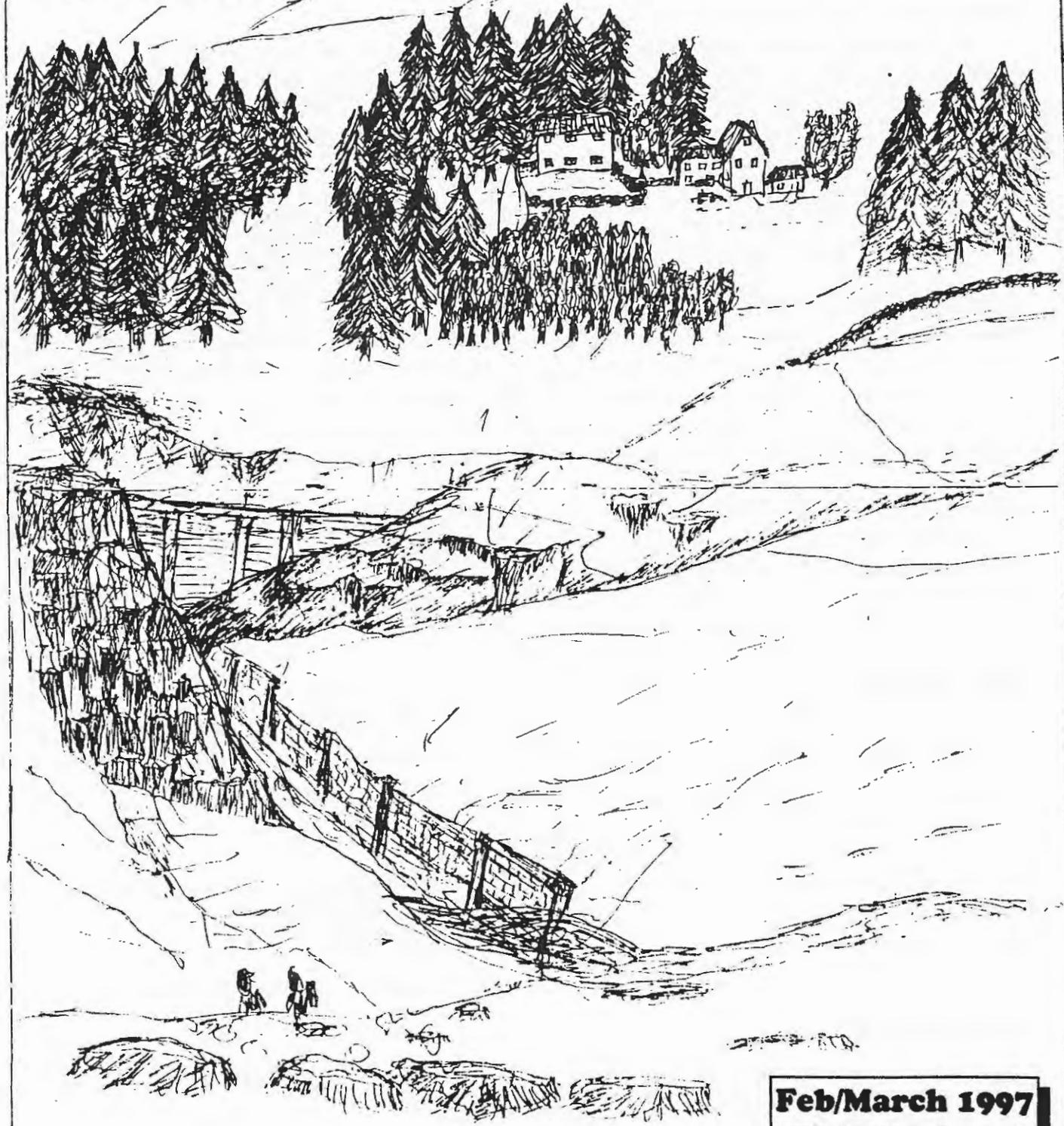


Liverpool Catholic Ramblers  
**NEWSLETTER**



Dave Stone 10/11/96.

Bonley

**Feb/March 1997**  
**7th Series Issue 7**

## Editorial bits

Since your last newsletter we've had our successful Buffet Dance at Churchills and also an enjoyable Yuletide Barn Dance at Carnforth. We are booking again for the Barn Dance next January. Still on the dance theme, we have news below of our forthcoming 70th Anniversary Dinner Dance at the Adelphi Hotel and in order to plan the event we need to know now if you are likely to attend.

You've a chance of winning a prize with our words competition at the foot of the page opposite. We had a similar one at the club recently and, after a brief countdown, Carol and Ken won a bottle of wine. This time the prize is TBA, but who wants to win a penguin? - see our cartoon inside.

Thanks to all those who contributed in any way to this edition. It would be nice to see a few more stories, quizzes, etc, from more of you. How about it?

Material for the next edition should be either handed to me or posted to me at  
**7 Abbots Way, Billinge, Wigan WN5 7SB.**

Finally, thanks for all your condolences following my brother's death on New Year's Day after a short illness.

*Dave Newns*



**MORE NEW MEMBERS** have joined us recently and we hope you have many happy days with us. They are: Pat McKenna, Catherine and John Sweeney, Paul Collins, Brenda Smith and Brenda Moore.

### COACH PICK-UP AND DROP-OFF RESTRICTION

Coach stops must be kept to a minimum and you are reminded that only the following are allowed:  
Northern destinations: Black Bull, Old Roan and M58 Jcn 3 (plus Walton Church homeward only).  
Eastern destinations: Gardeners Arms and A49 (plus Rocket homeward only).  
Southern destinations: Birkenhead/Wallasey Tunnel and St David's Hotel.  
Note that members wishing to be picked up at any of these places must give prior notification.

**ANNIVERSARY DINNER DANCE** - This is our seventieth year and we are to celebrate it with an Anniversary Dinner Dance. The date is **Friday, October 24** at the **Adelphi Hotel**. After the club has subsidised the cost, tickets will be priced somewhere between £12 and £15. We are likely to have a pay by instalment plan for anyone who prefers this way of paying, but we need to know NOW how many are likely to attend so that plans can be made.

**BILL SHANKLY VIDEOS** are offered for sale at £5 each - £1 of the proceeds will go to orphans at Medjugorje in the former Yugoslavia, and £1 will go to the Jospice charity. See Dave Newns.



## Social Events



Feb 20 **BINGO NIGHT** (Helen & Nina) Feb 27 **BRING AND BUY** (Auction for club's funds).  
Mar 6 **ST DAVID'S QUIZ NIGHT** Mar 13 **SANDWICH NIGHT**  
Mar 20 **IRISH NIGHT** Mar 27 **RAMBLING QUIZ**

## OBITUARIES

It was inadvertently omitted from the last newsletter that **Paul Healy's Mother** had died. We offer our sincere condolences to Paul on his sad loss. May she rest in peace.

**GEORGE SWEENEY**, president of the Catholic Holiday Fellowship at Lakeside House, Keswick, sadly died on January 15th. Members have spent many weekends and holidays at this guesthouse over the years and some of us also knew him in his capacity as a walk leader. May he rest in peace.

*Note: Above should not be mistaken as George the chef. He still works at the guesthouse.*

# Ramblerite

We had some really enjoyable New Year walks. On a bracing day, we walked the shore, woods and dunes of Formby. The red squirrels were out in force and I was surprised to see a flock of Herdwicks I'd never seen them outside of the Lake District before this. These particularly hardy sheep were being used to help clear a deforested area of scrubland in order to encourage more varied wildlife. From the shore we could see the Blackpool tower, and further along the coast, Black Combe and a suggestion of other Lake District hills beyond. My apologies for the directional mix-up which caused us to miss the Wigan contingent. They too, apparently, had a good day out.

The Hilbre Island walk was quite sunny and a good turn out for so early in the day. Amongst the various birds, I spotted a goosander at Middle Eye. We all espied a couple of grey seals off the island, the colony of about sixty being inactive on a sandbank a kilometre or so away. We had lunch etc. at the Ring-o-Bells. Later, grey squirrels this time, made their appearance on the disused railway line.

## Programme Meeting ~ Mon 24th Feb.

This meeting is to determine rambling destinations for the summer months and to schedule them. If you would like to contribute then be at Birch House for 8.00 pm. Alternatively you may submit written suggestions, including which walk, if any, you would like to lead, via myself or any Committee member.

## Longthwaite

Three places have become available owing to cancellations, if you are interested contact me as soon as possible. Forty members are booked for the Y/H weekend. This very healthy interest is due primarily to the success of last years' hostel weekends. For those going there will be a meeting, early on a social evening, at the Cornmarket, a couple of weeks before the event. We will probably be considering ideas for other weekends, at the programme meeting, your suggestions are welcome.

**The "A" walkers** of late appear to have become somewhat exclusive. There is a very strong "B" walk contingent many of whom could easily achieve "A" walks if they weren't put off by the competitiveness of the "Sunday Fell Race." Perhaps what is required is the presence of myself and my "slowing down" tendencies ~ who will sponsor my slimming campaign?

*Ray McIntosh* 🕶️

## Notices



**Please note** that when attending club social events it is extremely embarrassing to have to apologise to the proprietors, for the bad manners of a few, who persist in providing their own drinks. This practice must stop.

**The Fred Norbury and Cyril Kelly cups** were presented at the Annual Dance.

The first was awarded to Dave Dickel in recognition of his actions in assisting, not without considerable risk to himself, Tom Reilly on the occasion of his fall on Gt. Gable.

Carol Kellett was presented with the Cyril Kelly cup primarily for leading walks and also for being one of the club's most regular, female walkers over many years.

☹️ **All coach rambles, must be paid for at the time of booking.** Recently, the disregard of this ruling, has lead to some abuses.

**Book well in advance.** There is a waiting list most weeks, it is now more important than ever.

## PRIZE COMPETITION :-

Make as many words, of six letters or more as you can, from the following twelve. **A A Y I**

Use a twelve letter word in a witty sentence as a tie breaker and send to the editor. **T T P I**

(Scoring: 6 letters = 6 points; 7 = 7; etc. Except 12 letter words score 20 points) **R N C O** 😊

## Our Chair at the Meal Table

It seems such a short time has passed since I "let the new year in", and here we are with February half gone. I hope you enjoyed the festivities and have recovered 'cause Easter is just around the corner!

Last year the committee arranged a meal at Birch House in October to which all members were invited and those who responded had an memorable evening. During the meal we acknowledged and said thank you to three of our long-standing members, namely:

**Chris Dobbin** (Trustee) has for many years been a committed and active member not only at committee level but also with our tennis section and the Catholic Ramblers' football team, both sections now sadly non-existent.

**Gerry Penlington** (Vice-President) has also given many years' service to the club, especially as Treasurer, and is probably the longest-serving member of the club. As Chairwoman they both have been a source of advice and support to me, and Gerry has once again stepped into the breach to take on the Treasurer's position.

**Brian Keller**, now retired from his post as Treasurer, was also heavily involved in compiling the walking programme, our twice-yearly trips to Lakeside House and organising events such as the Annual Dance as well as leading walks.

We presented Brian and Gerry a quality pen, and Chris a tie pin and cuff-links, a small token of our appreciation for their many years of commitment and service.

Thank you and best wishes to them. It is hoped that another meal will be organised this year.

Until next time, happy wandering and keep yourselves safe on your walks.

*Bernadette*

PS: *Bernadette took photographs at this event, hoping to include two of them in this report but unfortunately the final reproduction on the photocopier was not good enough. - Editor*

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### The Fred Norbury and Cyril Kelly Cups - the Facts

Fred and Cyril were both very active officers for the club right upto their death some twenty-odd years ago. Fred died first and as he was almost a founder-member and vice-president it was felt we just had to keep his memory in the club somehow. We finally decided to have a trophy in his name to be presented annually.

We started with a tennis tournament (Fred helped to establish our original Tennis Section). We followed this with an orienteering event, but now with Cyril Kelly's death we had augmented another cup. This soon became an annual trophy for the winning lady, leaving the Fred Norbury Cup for the best man.

We then tried to give everyone an equal chance of winning and had many summers of multi-activities such as golf, crown green bowls, ten-pin bowls, darts, quizzes, etc, with a detailed points system. The lady and gent with the most points gained being the winners.

Eventually, these multi-activities lost their attraction, and so now each year the committee decide on various reasons for the cup winners (such as for the most selfless act or the most enthusiastic member, etc).

### WINNING THE CYRIL KELLY CUP

*Since '86, I joined in the fun,  
The Cyril Kelly Cup was to be won,  
Competitions were set a-rolling,  
A quiz, playing golf and ten-pin bowling.*

*To those who may think that I am a cheat!  
Just consider that I was beat,  
By one whose score was endorsed,  
Despite playing golf at the wrong course!*

*A member who competed in '89  
(whose name was also Caroline),  
Being so intent on winning the award,  
An injury to an arm she ignored,  
But on achieving her aim,  
She left the Club and was not seen again!*

*This is what I am trying to say,  
Now that the Cup is bestowed in a fairer way,  
Imagine my joy and my surprise,  
To be honoured with the coveted prize.*

*So, I must thank most heartfelly,  
All those members who voted for me.*

*Caroline Kellett*

## GRASSINGTON 'A' WALK

SUNSHINE and blue skies were an encouraging start to the day as I frantically rounded up my rambling gear. On arrival at Liverpool there was a descending fog with an added nip in the air for good measure. A few minutes here discussing the weather forecast and more importantly, would we be back in time for Moll Flanders!

Soon the impressive sight of the 'K' reg coach (the best I have ever seen for a club ramble!) was eagerly boarded.

Fog ensured its presence all the way to our elevenses stop at Skipton. The grey of the day was soon forgotten as Skipton's Christmas market was in full swing, with many of the locals wearing Victorian costume, including some of the Police. My favourite stall must go to the young ladies selling the local 'punch' and homemade mince pies, and very nice ones they were too!

The main street was closed to traffic only to be replaced by curious folk admiring two minute steam traction engines. What a grand sight they were with their almost fairground colours and reflective brass finish. Pure white steam clouds into the lingering mist also ensured that a good taste of sulphur was to be had.

Arrival at Grassington was greeted by the car park being full, however, a first-class expanse of tarmac outside the local post office was soon under the trample of our boots.

No 'C' walk today, so an easy 'B' walk claimed by Will Harris with a twinkle in his eye. With the majority following him this left about fourteen of us, including myself, on the 'A' walk.

Leaving Grassington in a northerly direction soon had us on a gradual ascent via a maze of dry stone walls. As the height was gained so was the intensity of

the fog, making cairns disappear only to be replaced by those mystery moving cairns . . . ie: sheep!

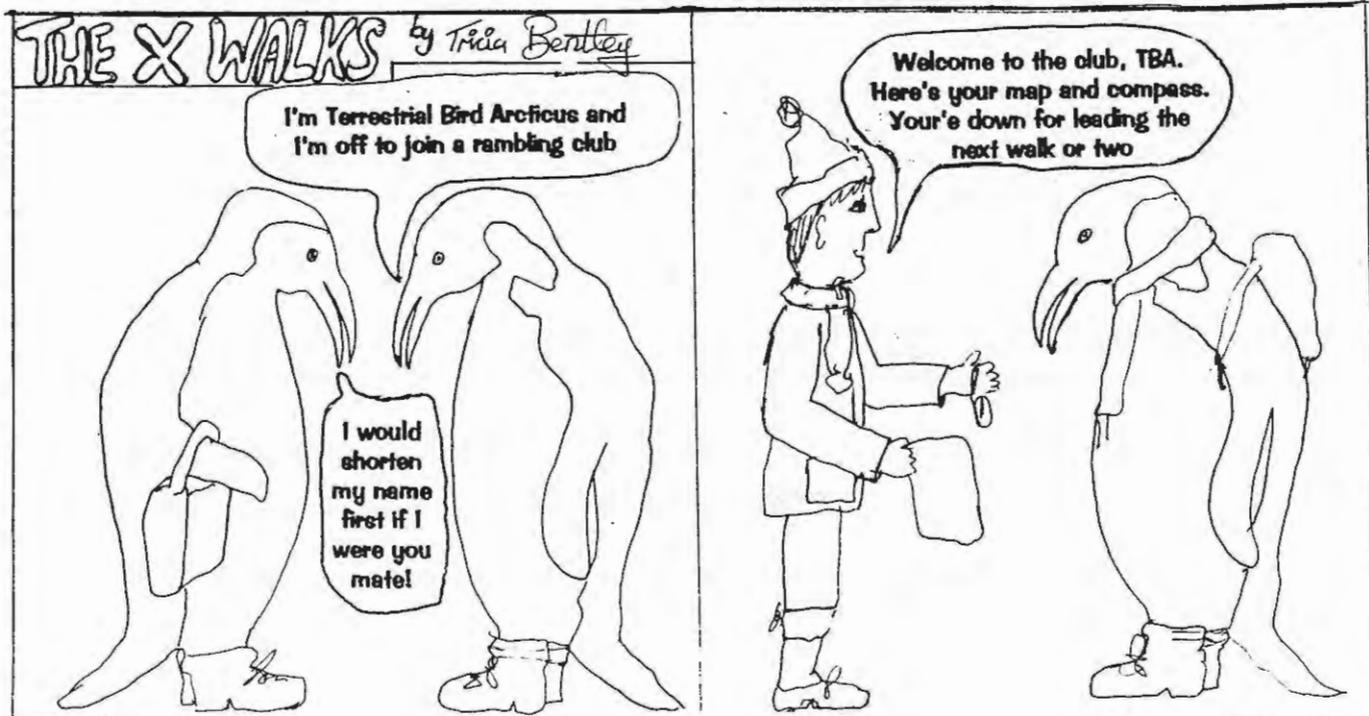
The maximum flying altitude today was about 1000 feet, high enough to ensure that you didn't linger on to those well-earned butties in the chilly wind. Moving on past an ole ruined farmhouse brought our group on to a 'green road' which eventually emerged at some disused mine workings. Even slag heaps can be attractive to some folk, especially as a testing ground for the local bikes. Impressive as they were, I am sure some of the over-revving was more for our benefit, but what the heck! I'd do exactly the same at 16!

Leaving the kick-start hills behind us we were soon upon Yorkshire's answer to 'corn crop circles' - these were a series of shafts which were each filled in as they became exhausted. In time this has now left almost perfect circular surface indents up to 20 feet in diameter, giving a very unusual landscape.

The remainder of the walk proved the fog was too stubborn to move, however, arrival back at Grassington in the dark proved to be an unexpected bonus as the main street buildings were brightly lit with Christmas lights. An impressive colourful display indeed, achieved no doubt from the strong community spirit within the village.

Thanks to Dave for a grand day out.

Cheers, **ROY THIS**



# SENIORS' SECTION

## ALDFORD - Jan 12

ACTUALLY the steps are quite easy. You start with left foot forward, place it down, slide it six inches to the left, wobble about for two beats of music as if off balance, move the right foot forward to the left foot, don't place it down - first tap the ground alongside the left foot and then take a pace forward on the right foot. When the right foot touches the ground slide it six inches to the right - wobble, etc, etc.

After every fourth step, before placing the left foot down, shake it vigorously and stamp it on the ground. Similarly after every fourth step do the same with the right foot.

Some of the readers may wonder what this has to do with our ramble. The answer is: Everything! Jean and Gerry quite brilliantly combined a ramble with a brand new American line dance. Modestly they claimed the sliding was due to the muddy ground, and the shaking and stamping merely to shed some clinging clay. Rubbish! The dance was exciting and innovative - during the wobble you could grab your partner ostensibly to stop falling over, but really an excuse for a quick cuddle.

We also had a ramble through the Cheshire plain, past sleepy little villages such as Farndon and Aldford, down quiet unspoilt country lanes and around fertile fields and pastures. Part of the walk was close to the River Dee. The Dee is a river of many

moods. Sometimes a torrent, sometimes a babbling brook, sometimes menacingly majestic - but in this part of its progress it becomes uncertain. It was not meant to be sun. Normally dense vegetation hides it and then the occasional glint of sunlight on water on the splash of a waterfowl gives a mysterious hint of a powerful but hidden river. But in winter without a shielding cover of vegetation, the river is quite boring, almost apologetic - even the ducks on it spend their time yawning.

Many thanks to Jean and Gerry for the interesting experience of a combined ramble and dance. Just one further news flash. Most dances end up in an anti-climax when the music stops and participants walk back to their seats, but I've had it on good authority that Gerry intends a spectacular finish to his dance - it's called a ladder leap. I understand he has perfected the leap, but thinks his landing could do with a little more attention!

*M & T*

## RUFFORD - Jan 26

THE SUPERSTITIOUS say that thirteen is an unlucky number but the thirteen who met at the 'Hesketh Arms' car park would never subscribe to such an idea. They had a lovely Spring-like morning, congenial company and the prospect of an invigorating walk.

We set off on the narrow road to Mawdesley, three bridges taking us over the railway, the ubiquitous Leeds and Liverpool Canal (ignore the latest rumour that it is going to be moved to Germany) and the River Douglas. It was near here that we all fell silent when passing an old people's home but the proprietors showed some concern for our feelings by calling it a home for the 'Elderley' (sic).

Crossing into a field, we headed north, enjoying views of the Pennines to our right and, harried by Peter no doubt, Maureen suggested lunch. We continued towards Croston, an old and pleasant village and walked along Church Street and over the railway bridge.

From this point we appeared to be surrounded, if not engulfed, by Rivers Yarrow, Douglas and Lostock. Needless to say this situation led to a discussion on hydrology, Geoff assuring us that at least two are tidal even so far inland.

We walked along the bank of the Lostock for some time before succumbing to the temptation of afternoon tea.

Crossing the Douglas at Red Bridge, we turned south and followed the canal footpath back to Rufford.

Thank you, Maureen and Amie, for a lovely walk and for encouraging a lucky thirteen to enjoy it.

*GEFA*

**SENIORS' SECTION RAMBLES** - Feb 23rd FRESHFIELD. George Parkinson.

March 3rd TBA. Peter Atherton. March 23rd PRIMROSE WOOD, KELSALL. Leo Pearson.

**HOUSE MEETING** - March 6th Freda and George Skillicorn, 12 Avon Road, Billinge.

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**FAMILY SECTION RAMBLE** - March 9th APPLEY BRIDGE. Bernard Foley.

Meet at Appley Bridge Railway Station at 12 noon (01257 254276).