

LIVERPOOL CATHOLIC RAMBLERS
NEWSLETTER

MR & MRS PHILLIPS
ASSOCIATION
26 Laburnum Avenue,
Huyton,
Merseyside L36.5UF.

KESWICK WEEKEND
16-18 MARCH



ANNUAL RETREAT

Following on from last year another Retreat has been arranged at Sandymount the Montfort Fathers Retreat House, in Burbobank Road, Blundellsands. It takes place on Palm Sunday 15th April, 1984 commencing 2.00 p.m. (please arrive by 1.45 p.m.) and finishing at 6.00 p.m. costing £2.30, which will include afternoon tea. There will be mass during the afternoon, and an opportunity for confession.

The Retreat will be given by Father Wareing SMM and as we have been fortunate enough to obtain a booking in Lent, the timing provides an ideal preparation for Easter in this Holy year. Bookings can be made with me, (722-0621) or Mona Roberts (733-2122) (Family Section), and directions to Sandymount will be given at the time of booking.

Chris Dobbin

THIS EDITION (No.117) is the first in 1984. Next edition is due to appear in six weeks' time on Thurs., March 29th. Editor: Dave News (Billinge 892791).

All information, write-ups, etc should be given or sent to the editor as soon as possible for inclusion in the next edition. Editor's address: 7 Abbots Way, Billinge, Wigan, Lancs. WN5 7SB. Typist for this edition: Ann Nicholson.

A lot of water has passed under the bridge since the last edition and one of the rambles was a non-starter with the coach breaking down on the way to the Hebden Bridge ramble. Meanwhile eight of us were away in Italy practising for the Sarajevo winter sports - three of us being the main contributors to the newsletter, hence the delay for this edition. Anyway here's thumbs up to the next edition (my thumb is much better, thanks).

Many thanks to all contributors to this newsletter and go Ann for typing most of it, also Mona for the family section for rushing her typed stencils to me at short notice.

Happy reading,

DAVE NEWS, Editor

S O C I A L I T E

As this is the first Socialite news of 1984, we'll offer belated New Years' greetings to all our members. The Christmas and New Year parties at Atlantic House were very well attended and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. Fireside Tales, which twelve of us went to see at the Everyman was 'different', and a few parts of it were quite funny.

We start the current social programme today with a Saint Valentine's Disco, with the theme being the Roaring Twenties, in fancy dress from that period.

LADIES CHOICE

As you'll all probably know, this is a Leap Year and by tradition on the last day of February (thankfully it's not a Thursday) ladies can propose to the person of their choice. In keeping with this there will be an Emancipation Dance on March 1st. All you girls will be expected to ask the men up to dance. Don't they anyway?

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE QUIZ

Kevin (call me Bamber) Bell has been wracking his brains for the last few weeks thinking of questions, and on 22nd March he'll be organising a General Knowledge Quiz with fabulous prizes such as a bottle of wine for the winner. He'll be sorting out teams and all the arrangements in the near future.

LOVE BOAT

We're hoping to organise a night out on the 'Wine Barge' which sails up and down the Leeds-Liverpool Canal from Maghull, sometime in the spring. Drinks and entertainment will be available and the night should be a lot of fun and out of the ordinary. Pat Rothwell is making enquiries and we'll let you have more details soon.

That's all the Socialite news for now. I'm still recovering from the skiing holiday. Hopefully I will be fully recovered to go again next year. Signing off till next month.

George Riley,
Social Chairman.

FIRE PRECAUTIONS, Atlantic House

You are asked to be careful when attending social events at Atlantic House in regard to the serious danger of setting off the fire alarms with smoke from fireworks, etc. There was a serious fire here a few years ago and Atlantic House staff get very touchy at the slightest threat of a repetition, so please be careful and think before you try something that could be a fire danger.

R A M B L E R I T E

We are now well into the winter and have had a few tastes of the elements, snow, hail, ice, wind and sub zero temperatures. A word of warning especially to new members.

One or two people have been caught out by the weather, coming unprepared for the Sunday rambles. It cannot be over stressed that boots with vibram or similar soles are necessary, as are kagoules and warm clothing, but not denim jeans. Also a spare jumper, in a plastic bag, popped in your rucksack with your butties. Please also note that most kagoules leak, so it makes sense to take a complete set of clothing to change into after the walk as sitting around in wet clothes could ruin your health.

If you are unsure about anything, please see me or any rambling Committee Member.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

4th March - The Last Drop (Bolton)

A new area to me, but said to be quite pleasant. I don't care much for the "Last" perhaps it's the end of the world. George Riley and Peter Kennedy are your leaders.

16th - 18th March - Keswick Weekend

Well worth going on, for further details see any Committee Member.

25th March - Joint Ramble

The last joint ramble worked out well. Let's make this one a bigger success. Llandrillo is a small village built around a picturesque bridge. The walks will take us over the Berwyns, round rolling hills, and quite impressive on a clear day.

8th April - Pen-yr-Olwen/Aber Falls

This is a walk long and hard requiring fitness and determination. Martin Dooley promises a much easier B walk with time to see the view, and the waterfalls.

20th April - Easter Weekend

Last year about fifteen of us went on this weekend. Accommodation is of the mobile kind (caravans) somewhere around Caernarvon. Excellent walking.

29th April - Loughrigg (Lake District)

A colourful mountain which casts its shadow over Ambleside. A walk - Peter Kennedy B - John Gibb.

4th May - May Day Weekend

Depending on demand, caravans will be booked, probably in North Wales. Details later.

As you probably know members of the ramblers will be trying to complete The Fourteen Peaks on 27th May. For those interested, some information:-

All the peaks are over 3,000 feet, the traverse across them being approximately 26 miles. The walk starts on top of Snowdon and finishes at Aber on the coast. 8,500 feet of climbing is involved and has to be completed in twenty four hours. No easy task but with some training it can be done. Anybody interested in helping or taking part, please see me.

Anthony Brockway,
RAMBLING CHAIRMAN.

THE KESWICK WEEKEND

If you want to see the Lakes at their best and in the best of company, dancing the nights away in the cellar of Lakeside House with good food, and good walks planned for the weekend, or just do your own thing, then our usual Keswick Weekend is a MUST. The cost is approx £24 which includes a packed lunch on Saturday, breakfast and evening meals both Sat and Sun. The cost of transport up there (car sharing) usually works out about £5 each. It may sound a lot of cash but once you have paid your £10 deposit to secure your booking, you hardly notice the other £14. It's the bocze money you have to watch! Always a super weekend, whatever the weather.

Bookings to Anthony Brockway (with £10 deposit).

RAMBLERS INTELLIGENCE TEST

You have five minutes to answer the following questions. The answers appear on another page.

1. If the length of an oblong is twice its width, how wide will the oblong be?
2. What have a ship, a railway station and a haircut got in common?
3. When joy riders stole a No. 3 bus from the depot, what route did they have to drive along?
4. What type of case would you ^{have} difficulty packing?
5. Who wrote Churchill's autobiography?
6. If you went into a dark room to a drawer containing black and brown socks, what is the least number of socks needed to make one pair?
7. If a house was named two twos, what number would you expect it to be?
8. What do ballet dancers, alcoholics and barristers have in common?
9. What is black and white and read all over?
10. What can be pushed up a pipe down but cannot be pulled down a pipe up?

Questions set by,

Justa Head.

STOP PRESS:

If you don't like breathtaking views of the Cheshire/Derbyshire countryside, olde worlde Cheshire pubs, a variety of undulating hills, streams to cross, herds of reindeer (yes, reindeer) to pass, then don't come on the ramble this weekend (Sun. Feb. 19) when the Gritstone trail will be walked with Richie Cannon doing a superb 'B' walk and Dave Newns doing an even better 'A' walk starting off with a steep climb (the 'A' walk that is). A word of warning, Moira says that dogs are shot on sight by the farmers because of the high incidence of sheep-worrying in the area. So don't bring your dog unless you have it harnessed tightly.

PLEASE LET ME LIVE

Mummy keep me safe, Mummy keep me warm
And with your love, Mummy, help me to form.

I'm six week's old today, the birthday gift for me:
A pair of bright blue eyes, that one day will see.

I have already got my arms and podgy little nose,
And on the end of my feet those little things called
toes.

I am looking forward to life, ice-cream and snails
Holding my teddy bear, listening to fairy tails.

Where are we going, I wonder today?
In a bath, in a bus, and far away.

Why are we lying down, being pushed on four wheels?
This usually doesn't happen, how funny it feels.

Bang, through a door, all people in green,
If they hurt you Mummy, run and scream.

No, don't go to sleep and leave me alone.
Mummy, what's happening, I'm starting to cry?
Run quickly Mummy, I don't want to die.

They are killing me Mummy, they are pulling me apart.
My legs, my arms they are tearing my heart.

Goodbye Mummy, Mummy goodbye.
Thanks for trying, but I won't see the sky.

I won't see the birds, the grass or the trees,
I won't hear a sweet song or feel a soft breeze.

I love you Mummy, I really do.
I hope Mummy, you love me too.

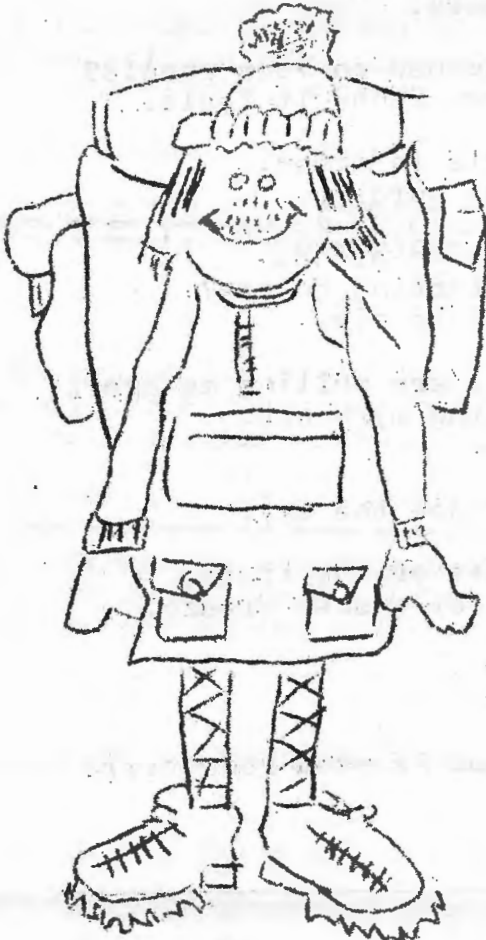
(Poem found on waste ground near Prescot recently).

Welcome to the following new members:

Lucy Bretherton Margaret McParland ~~Haydn John Roberts~~

ANSWERS TO INTELLIGENCE TEST.

1. Half of whatever length it is.
2. Crew(e).
3. If you stole a bus where would you take it?
4. A staircase.
5. Who writes anybody's autobiography?
6. Three (either 3 brown, 3 black, 1 brown and 2 black or 1 black and 2 brown.)
7. Two twos are four.
8. They all spend time at the bar.
9. A newspaper.
10. An umbrella.



By
John
Macdonald

Lakeland Visitor

Keswick with the ramblers,
Is my idea of heaven,
Of course the pubs and bars
Number well over seven.

When the coach arrives,
We reach the nearest hall,
To drink a gill or more
Before the time is called.

A merry time is had by all,
In our pub below the stairs,
Some miss their breakfasts,
While others have no cares.

Morning sees our happy band
Sat on the coach once more,
Who can face the hills today,
Because of the night before.

Up the hills from the dales,
Until we reach the skies,
Panting, breathless, sitting
I do like Mavis's meat pies.

The sun sets that evening,
It gives us such a thrill,
We watch the skies turn red,
When climbing down the hill.

FAMILY SECTION. FISHERMAN'S WALK. DECEMBER 11TH, 1983.

It was the day after "The Day After" doom film had been shown on Television, Coventry had murdered Liverpool the previous day, Marie had 'flue, Pat Jeffers was working and the Met. men had promised us everything nasty in the weather line. Only the mistral was missing - apparently a Mediterranean speciality. Not exactly an auspicious day for ramble, you'd think, but not a bit of it. The distribution of Christmas cards by the Boy and Girl Scouts among us spread quite a festive air around, a mood helped on by the invitations to various seasonal 'dos'.

The feeling of bon-homie was dissipated a little as we skirted icy patches and pools on our way down to the railway crossing, but the return of our handwaves from the passing train passengers restored some of the euphoria. I'm all for this sand-walking. It uses up such a lot of energy and takes off the odd half-ounce of fat. I thought Noel had been a shade over-cautious by wearing his Wellingtons, but after screeing down a sandhill or two and finishing up with more sand than foot in my boots I think he was the smart one. This happy area isn't one that lends itself to superlatives - there are no massive climbs with panoramic views of the surrounding valleys, nor are there precipitous drops from the said heights, but I always think the coast compensates for this.

We used the shore as a gathering in and refreshment point, and it was surprising to see the full strength of the party for a December walk. As the Sunday fliers from the local aerodrome droned overhead (they'd have looked very silly trying to drone underfoot) we wondered audibly what the fools up there were getting out of their day, with hardly any views and not a spot of sun to brighten their trip. It was Leo, I think, who said that they were probably looking down on us and thinking "What can that gang of lunatics down there get out of walking on a day like this"!!! Takes all sorts, and each to his own poison. Heather and Anne did a little sunbathing or plane spotting here, stretched full length on the wet sand. Makes one feel very old! There wasn't a single volunteer - or a married one for that matter - for a paddle, though we thought what was a suicide bid on Pat's part as she walked unseeingly towards the water's edge was just a search for flower arrangement material. Again, a lovely walk. Our leaders presence was very gentle, just the occasional crack of a whip echoed back to us from the head of the party as Pat, with vaguely reproving eyes, counted the stragglers to make sure that she would finish with the same number, roughly, that she had begun with. Will the English purists forgive that sentence, finishing up as it does with a conjunction/preposition/---. The unpure can take their pick.

Many thanks to the Clan Pearson for a truly good day. AFM

* JOINT RAMBLE - March 25 (Llandrillo). See Gen. Section Programme. Recommended route is via Queensferry to Hawarden, then the A5104 towards Corwen. On reaching the A5 junction near Corwen take the left turn towards Corwen, then shortly afterwards the right turn to Llandrillo B4401. Meet in Llandrillo car park, 1 pm.

FAMILY SECTION. PROGRAMME.

1984.

- MAR. 1ST. The House Meeting is at Magda McKenna's, the address 3 Mullion Walk, Liverpool 11. Around 8 p.m. Ring 546 8531 if you're not sure of your bearings.
- MAR. 11TH. The STANDISH Walk. John and Sue Longworth are leading. They'd like a 12.30 START to make sure we finish in daylight. Meet in the Car Park at the side of Standish Church. Its quite a landmark, and can't be missed.
- APRIL 5TH. The McDonald's House Meeting. The address is 28, Ormonde Drive, Maghull. 8 p.m.ish meet.
- APRIL 8TH. This ramble is a week early. Please mark your diaries accordingly! Its the BICKERTON Walk. Pat and Vera Jeffers are the leaders. This is a 1 p.m. start. Meet at the Bickerton Poacher Inn.
- APRIL 15TH. RETREAT. It will be given by the De Montforth Fathers. They are at Sandymount House, Burbobank Road, Blundellsands. It will last from 2 - 6 p.m., with tea included. The cost is £2.30. Would you please meet at 1.45 p.m. in time for the retreat to start at 2 p.m. This is Passion Sunday, and the start of Holy Week. What a good way to commence the week. Do try and come.

Quite a full April, that, and a good lead up to the Easter Season. I'm sure the printed programmes you've been asking for will be available shortly.

Seems ages since the Yuletide, but it surely deserves a comment. It was good to get into the old routine of table service, and the dance floor seemed less crowded than last year. The Jeffers' House Meeting on Jan 5th was rather special, with a lovely buffet spread instead of the usual tea/coffee and two biscuits - only one chocolate! Thank you, both.

Yesterday's walk around Gathurst was lovely. There will be a full write-up in the next newsletter, but it was nice to see new people and to welcome members who don't appear very often. John and Cath Burns came along with the 'other' Mary Smith and a friend of Mary's - Nan. She did famously, tramping through all the mud - the glutinous variety - in shoes. She'd certainly make a good rambler! Dave and Maureen Foulis are back in Liverpool, and we'll hope to see them out again with us.

All for now,
MONA ROBERTS

APOLOGY - The Jan.-Jun. programmes which arrived in December were just too late for inclusion with your Christmas newsletters. In the rush to get them distributed Anthony had assumed that I had given the Family Section's programmes to Mona as in the past. It was, unfortunately, only discovered this week that your section had not yet received the new programmes. Sorry for the mix-up and delay.

DAVE NEWNS