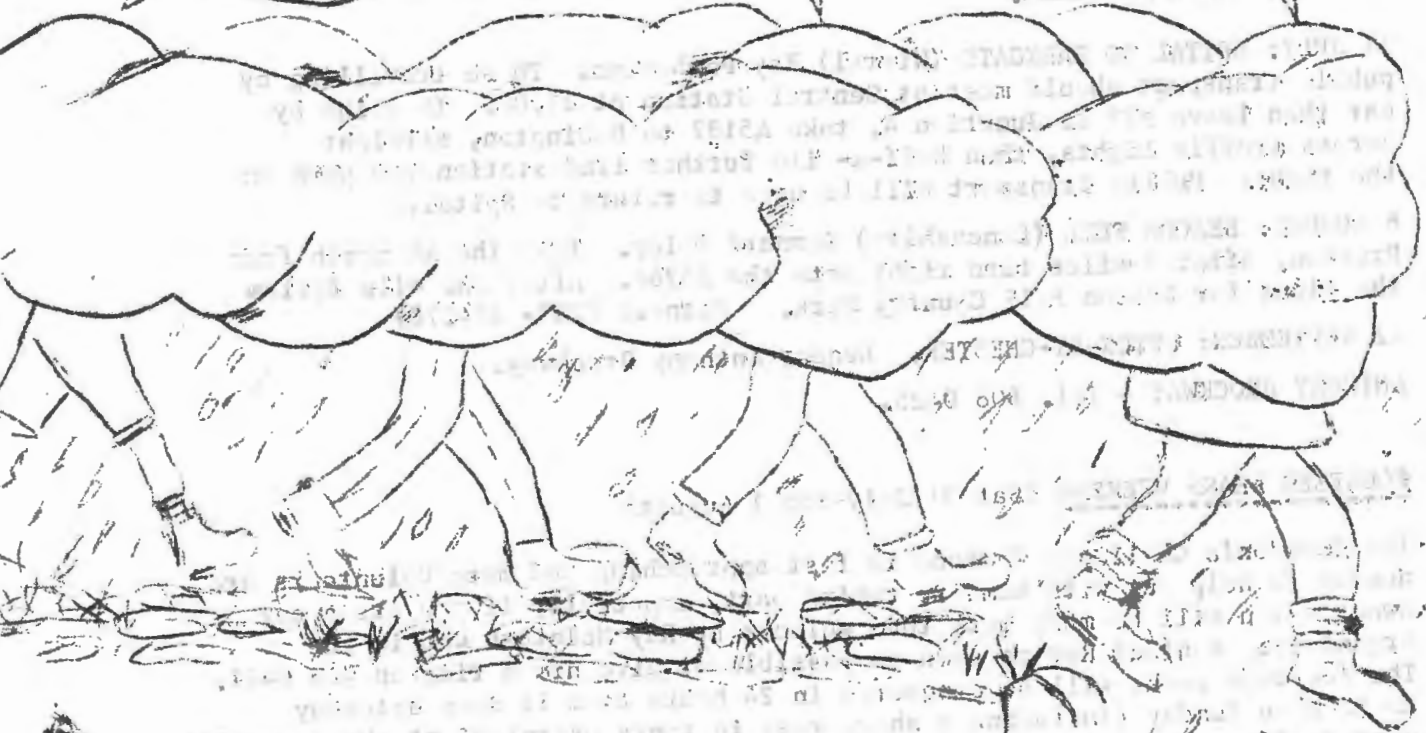


You can't beat  
a good  
'Tom Reilly'  
walk!

Good old Tom,  
you can rely  
on him!

Don't worry,  
the ground's a  
lot softer here!



NEWS

NEWSLETTER No.36 (5th Series) JULY 1st 1993

Congratulations to all new members who have joined us since the last newsletter. Well the new programme is out and hopefully most of you will get one in time to book for the August rambles. Apologies are given to Barbara whose name should read Barbara Cahill. For people with poor eyesight the print is bigger and better on these new look programmes.

Ramble write-ups or any other material for the newsletter should be given or sent to me at 7 Abbots Way, Billinge, WIGAN WN5 7SB, thanks.

DAVE NEWNS, Editor.

FAMILY SECTION

These walks are designed for the members with young children and here are the future rambles with travel details. If you haven't been out with us yet, then make a date and come along. All walks start at 12 o'clock and last for four to five hours depending on weather.

The Family Section is still building up so pass the details on to anyone who might be interested.

11 JULY: SPITAL TO PARKGATE (Wirral) Ray Pemberton. Those travelling by public transport should meet at Central Station at 11.00. If going by car then leave M53 at Junction 4, take A5137 to Bebington, straight across traffic lights, then half-a-mile further find station car park on the right. Public transport will be used to return to Spital.

8 AUGUST: BEACON FELL (Lancashire) Bernard Foley. Take the A6 north from Preston, after 3 miles turn right onto the B5269. After one mile follow the signs for Beacon Fell Country Park. Bernard 0257- 254276)

12 SEPTEMBER: UPTON-BY-CHESTER. Leader Anthony Brockway.

ANTHONY BROCKWAY - Tel. 608 0425.

FOURTEEN PEAKS WEEKEND (Sat 31 July-Sun 1 August)

The Snowdonia Challenge Weekend is fast approaching and more volunteers are needed to help out with members taking part, especially if you are a car owner. You will be made more than welcome by Ray McIntosh who is the organiser. Contact Ray as soon as possible or give him a ring on 424 0481. The fourteen peaks will be conquered in 24 hours from 12 noon Saturday to 12 noon Sunday (including a short rest in tents overnight at the camp site near Tryfan on the A5, starting again at first light).

SUNDAY, AUGUST 1 - A ramble will be on for 'C' walkers only with Colin Molloy leading. Coach leaves at the usual time of 9.30. You will probably get a glimpse of the 14-peakers just finishing their ordeal at Aber on the North Wales coast (near Bangor). It is hoped that the 'A' and 'B' walkers of the club will be either competing or helping out with the big challenge. Part of the route may be done by some if the full fourteen sounds a bit too much of a challenge but make sure you see Ray ASAP.

CHARITY CEILIDH

A date for your diary - 10 September - See notice in this newsletter (back page).

THANKS to Angela Fishwick of the Seniors' Section for assisting me in the typing of this newsletter. Mona Roberts typed the Seniors' Section bit. Thanks Mona for typing at short notice. Next edition won't be until late August.

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION. Help out by getting Beryl to give you a copy for your friends who are members but can't get down to the club or rambles at present.

## CADAIR IDRIS - 20 JUNE

We waved goodbye to the 'A' and 'C' parties as they went their separate ways - Ray McIntosh taking the 'A' up to the summit via the Minffordd Path and the 'C' led by last-minute stand-in Ray Davidson to travel anti-clockwise through varied scenery to Dolgellau and the coach.

It had been a long coach journey and it was now past 1.00 pm as we, the 'B', were finally dropped off after staying with Ken the driver for another twenty minutes as he followed round to the coast to the Kings Youth Hostel road. After a brief ascent, with Dave Newns leading, we quickly took in the splendour of the mountain scenery and backdrop of Cadair Idris.

After a short while we came upon a camp site near the Youth Hostel. Now we were tempted so much by a sign that said 'Teas' pointing the way we were going that it was decided a butty break could be held there if feasible.

About one mile later we came upon the cottage and were soon having cuppas on the lawn of this tea place. The elderly lady who served us had two dogs, the smallest being quite ferocious. When she saw us eating our own sandwiches on the lawn she bared her teeth, growled at us and tried to take them from us (the dog, not the lady!).

Now with time at a premium, Dave had to make an important decision. "Just one cuppa without sugar would be fine", he decided!

We were now heading for the Pony Track leading to the summit but as it was too late to make the full ascent we headed to the lake at the foot of the steep scree for our next break. The fourteen of us thought we could see climbers near the summit but it turned out to be the 'A' party we learned later. There were now clear blue skies and the superb panorama was awe-inspiring as we now made our descent via the Fox's Path to the lake at the roadside. After a brief glimpse of the 'A' party on the other side of the lake (they didn't see us) we now set off for a scenic trek to Dolgellau via someone's landscaped lawn. Another ferocious dog jumped out and bared its teeth at us at this house with the frontal path, the owner now reassuring us that the path did, indeed, cut right through his lawn with a stile at the far corner! He controlled his dog as we left him.

Eventually, after pleasant plods, we came across a bridle path leading us to a superb viewpoint just above the rooftops of Dolgellau where we quickly descended to the streets below and the coach at 6.35, just five minutes after the agreed finishing time. The 'A' party had pipped us to the post by a few minutes. The 'C' party had been back about ninety minutes before us, so they must have had a very short walk...well, there are plenty of vacancies on the 'B' walks if you want a longer walk!

We managed to fit in a half-hour pub stop on the return journey, getting back to civilisation at 9.50 after a good day's walking.

VANED N S E W

### BARGAIN CORNER

BOOTS, size 8, hardly worn and a good make. For details phone Dave on 0744 892791, or contact personally. (Not Dave's boots!).

### WANTED

TWO BIKES (one lady's, one gent's). Must be a reasonable price and bikes in a good condition. Phone Dave on 0744 892791, or contact personally.

### QUICKY QUIZ

What is the latest time a coach has arrived back in Liverpool after a ramble with our club? Answer on back page.

MORE SALTY TALES FROM JOE ROURKE . . . . AND HE GETS PAID FOR THEM !

After spending many years at sea, Joe finally brought his sea legs to the hills with us around ten years ago. He has spun many a yarn in our newsletters but now he's hit the jackpot by winning £25. for joint second prize in a recent seafarers competition set by the Marine Society. There were over 270 entrants.

Congratulations Joe. I feel that the full story is worth reproducing below as follows :

THE WHEEL DOES A FULL CIRCLE  
FROM PEGGY BACK TO PEGGY IN FIFTY YEARS

My twelve months aboard the training ship "Indefatigable" never fitted or prepared me for my first job when I joined the "Rangitiki" in mid 1942. Joining her in Huskinson Dock, Liverpool, I was told by the Quartermaster to report to the Bosun who, in turn, informed me that I was to be Sailors Peggy. Shown around the focsle and the six-berth cabin I shared with another five boys by the Bosun's Mate, who also explained what my duties consisted of, mainly of looking after thirty adult deck ratings, the cleaning of the accommodation consisting of mess rooms, wash rooms and toilets, alleyways, pantrys, the carrying and fetching of all food from the crew galley, the cleaning and scrubbing out of a number of six and four berth cabins, the drawing of all dry stores from amid ships and quite a number of other tasks.

I never fully took in the implications of what was to dominate and control my life for the following voyage.

I found out soon enough two days later when we set sail. Called at 5.30 am. for 6.00 am. turn to, I was flat out cleaning up the debris from the night watches, drawing the days dry stores at 6.30 am., preparing the mess room for seven bell breakfast, cleaning and washing up to prepare for the main breakfast at 8.00 am. with its mountain of dishes to clean and then the serious work of getting the focsle clean ready for inspection at 11.00 am. by the Chief Officer, Purser and the Bosun following up in the rear. I cannot recall a day without some complaint, brass taps not polished enough, shower gratings not clean underneath, the hot press not up to scratch, the list was endless.

After inspection, it was seven bell dinner for the 12 - 4 watch and then prepare for the main meal at noon. In theory I was supposed to have an hour off to myself of an afternoon 1.30 pm. - 2.30 pm., but that never worked out, I was always engaged on rectifying the faults of the morning inspection and so the day wore on. Peggy do this, Peggy do that.

The 4 - 8 watch had their evening meal when they came off at 8.00 pm. and then of course I had to clean up and prepare the mess room for the night watches. I finished at 9.30 pm. with just about enough energy left to reach my bunk, sometimes taking comfort from the oft expressed "A good Peggy makes a good seaman". Was I a good Peggy? Well of course, that is not for me to say but rather for others to judge, but sufficient to say that at the end of the voyage the hat was passed around for me by the deck crew, and I was given the very large sum of thirty-six shillings and ninepence, which together with my wages of five pound per month, also five pound War Risk Money, represented a fortune, which I shared with my Mother.

Many years later, I read with interest of where the word "Peggy" came from. It was derived, like a lot of other strange names on modern ships, from the days of sail. "Peggy" was the name given to seamen who had

incurred serious leg injuries, usually from falling from aloft which resulted in amputation. The wooden leg which they had fitted resembled an inverted wooden clothes peg. In time, "Peg Leg" was simply shortened to "Peggy". Many of them continued at sea, finding employment as ships cook or messman.

The "Rangitiki", which is a Maori name meaning "God of Luck" certainly lived up to its name in my case. I returned and signed on the next voyage as Junior Ordinary Seaman - what a pleasure to work on deck all day, seven days a week! I do remember helping the new first trip Peggy as much as I could, giving him a hand at night. Mind you, I was all of fifteen and a half by then, he was just a boy.

I sailed before the mast for the next forty-six years, sailing as Able Bodied Seaman, Quartermaster, Lamptrimmer, Bosun. I suppose Peggys are now an endangered species, like British Flag Ships. The odd thing is that fifty years after my first voyage, I now find myself back as "Peggy". With the wife still working full time, the day starts with preparing seven bell breakfast, going for the day's stores at 9.00 am., cleaning out the galley, oophs I mean kitchen, and the countless other tasks to ensure everything is bright and clean. Thankfully, I am spared inspection every day, but good wife Audrey appears to have just as keen an eye as any Federal or Blue Star Captain when it comes to spotting anything amiss. The only difference now is that when I receive a rebuke for failing to carry out a task in a shipshape and bristol fashion, I answer "Yes Love", "No Love", even "One three bags full Love" under my breath of course.

All in all, no complaints. Joining the former Seafarers Education Society and College of the Sea in 1948, I look with great pleasure for the arrival of The Seafarer and of course I can always go down to what's left of the Liverpool waterfront and reminisce with a few old shipmates. Perhaps drag out the Scythia or some old colony boat. Indeed, I can't think of anywhere I would rather be than in my Liverpool home.

Hi diddle dee dee,  
A Peggy's life for me.

JOE ROURKE

#### GUIDED WALKS

If you think you need a bit of map and compass tuition then see Phil Wells who will be doing guided walks on the weekend of August 14/15 at Cynwyd Youth Hostel.

#### POTHOLES AND PENYGHENT - 27 JUNE

A hot and sunny day on the Horton-in-Ribblesdale ramble saw young Chris Grice leading the 'A' walk from the waist upwards at one stage during the afternoon!

I have never seen anyone jump into a bog with BOTH legs disappearing beneath the squelchy mess before. All seven of the 'A' walkers thought it was very funny but I don't think Chris was too happy at the time. He managed to extract himself without the aid of anyone after a couple of attempts - a major feat in anyone's book. Well done Chris! Needless to say, the rest of us walked around the offending boggy bit, and let smelly Chris clean himself off at a safe distance. The rest of the walk was a real adventure of calling round all the various pot-holes, many just off the main path. After getting Penyghent out of the way by 2 o'clock we got into the serious business of our version of the 14 peaks, calling it the 14 pots!

Hunt Pot, Hull Pot, Sell Gill Holes are just a few that we visited but the biggest one accessible to us was Browgill Cave which most of us entered after wading through a shallow river. We could get upto about 70 yards in without much difficulty. A great day out. Thanks for the entertainment Chris.

NEWD SAVEN

SENIORS' SECTION. PROGRAMME. 1993.

Information is now to hand for the two July walks:-

JULY 11. BOLTON ABBEY. Peter and Marie Atherton are our leaders. It's about  $1\frac{1}{4}$  hours from Maghull. Leave the M6 at Junction 31. Take A59 and stay on it until you pass Skipton. (Beyond Skipton the A65 goes off on right to Ilkley) Stay on A59 and six miles past the A65 sign to Ilkley (referred to above) there's a sign for Bolton Abbey on left. Turn left. Car Park is about  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile on left again. Start walking at 12 noon. Distance is about nine to ten miles. The car park is one that you have to pay for but it lets you into the Abbey as well.

JULY 25. PECKFORTON. Joe and Jackie Whitfield are leading this one. Meet at the Cheshire Candle Factory. There's an O.S. map reference - Chester Sheet 117. Joe says the Candle Factory is well signposted. Please be ready to start walking at 12 Noon. The distance to be walked is eight to nine miles, and the terrain is easy. It's mainly in the Higher Burwardsley, about two miles from Beeston.

\* \* \* \* \*

CONGRATULATIONS. They're to Neil and Rosemary Whitfield on the birth of Joseph, who is now about a month old. Here's wishing him a very bright and happy future from us all.

Tom Gibb is proposing to rejoin us to strengthen the 'Old Swan group' of Frank and May Leyland. It will be nice to see you again, Tom.

Sorry this newsletter is so puny, but Peter has promised a write-up for Gerry and Jeans' Dent Dale walk. Apparently this edition is in a hurry to go out with the new printed programme, among other things.

All for now,  
MONA.

LCRA CHARITY CEILIDH  
With the Liverpool Ceilidh Band

Our own very special Charity event at the Irish Centre on Friday September 10 - Please spread the word and make a special effort to keep this date free. Beryl Baker will be organising it. We hope to have a big response from all sections of the club, so don't delay, get your tickets today!

Quicky Quiz Answer: 11 am on the Monday morning in the early 1970's when we had some members stranded on Penryn-by-wen in treacherous snow and icy conditions. It was a mountain rescue job taking all night to find them.