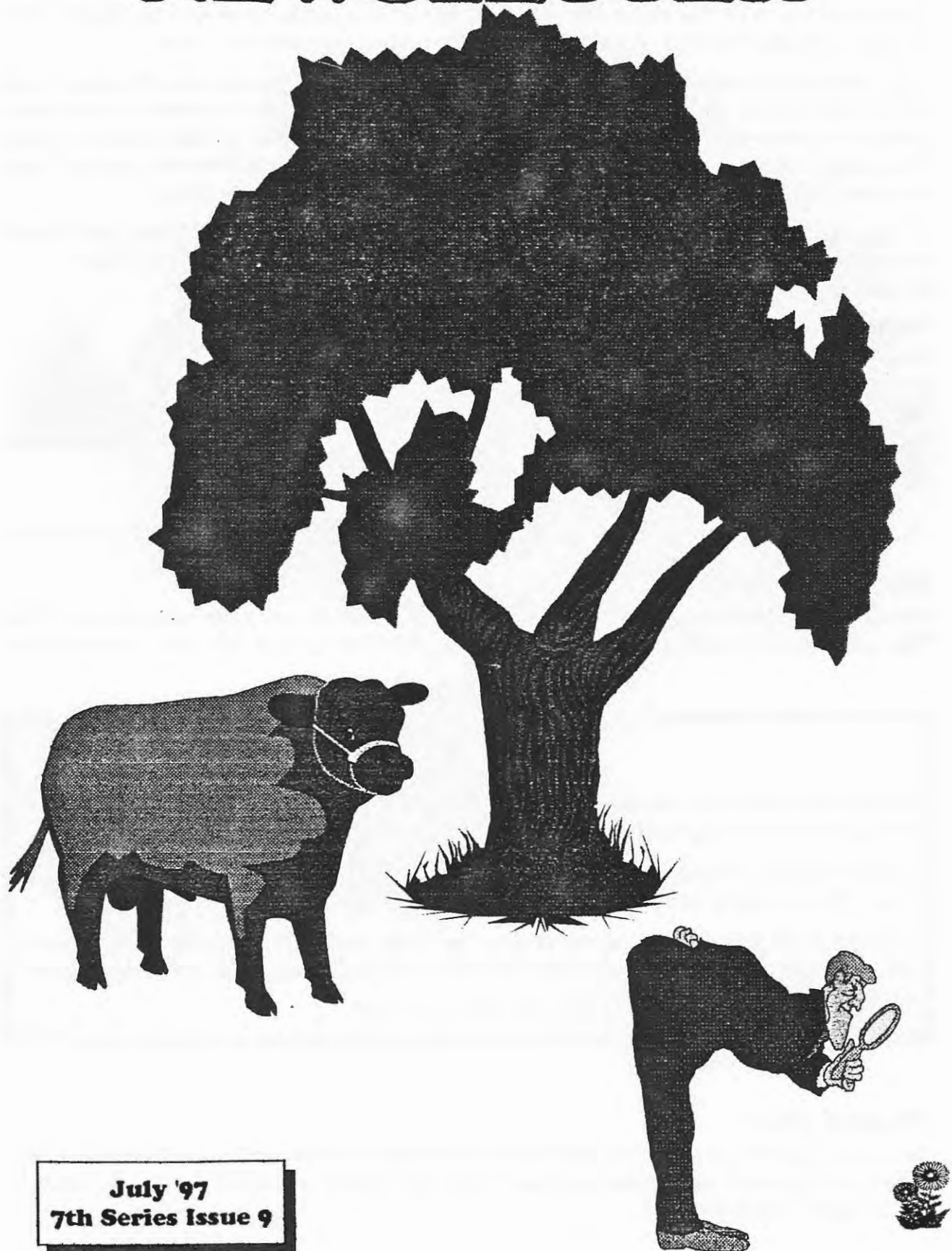


Liverpool Catholic Ramblers NEWSLETTER



July '97
7th Series Issue 9

Editorial

Well, here's your belated midsummer edition, and included is Ray's Ramblerite with summaries of the odd recent ramble, or to be more precise, "scramble" on one occasion, but everyone has emerged unscathed with regular and new members alike finding our outings with the Club really enjoyable.

Our social scene is still providing plenty of variety. This is reflected in our forthcoming events starting with the Floating Bistro cruise this weekend. The main priority now is for our Anniversary Dinner Dance Bookings to be finalised so that the correct size of room can be reserved at the Adelphi. So if you haven't booked but wish to attend please get your names down now! See inside.

Sadly, several of our members have died recently, the chief one, of course, was Gerry Penlington, who died in May. Gerry, in many ways was the "Godfather" of the Catholic Ramblers. If there was a problem or advice needed at Committee Meetings, most eyes would turn to Gerry. It takes up more than a page of this newsletter to give you an insight into what kind of person Gerry was, and his "right-hand man," Chris Dobbin, says it all in the penultimate paragraph of Gerry's eulogy.

All that remains is to thank all those who submitted material for this edition, including Ray Mc who has supplied our first computerised cover page, and thanks to the Seniors' Section members for their ramble write-ups.

All items for the next newsletter should either be handed to me or posted to me at

7 Abbots Way,
Billinge, WIGAN
WN5 7SB.

Dave News



NEW MEMBERS

Several new members have joined us recently. We hope they enjoy many happy years with our Club. They are: Lorraine Worrall, Lynn Curwen, Brian Dandy, Rita Durkin, Carol Allan and Steven Hackett.

Obituaries

BOB GREGSON - Bob was a Club member and walk leader for several years during the 1980's but had not been in touch with the club in recent years. He died in March this year.

JOHN HOGAN - John had only been with the Club for a few months this year. He collapsed and died after leaving the Cornmarket at around 10pm on Thursday, April 17th.

GERRY PENLINGTON (a Vice-President of the Club) - Gerry died after a short illness, aged 80 years. Many members and colleagues attended his funeral on May 20th. An eulogy is given inside this newsletter.

May they all rest in Peace.

THANK YOU

Dave Dickel had several problems to overcome after hiring a minibus for the Longthwaite Weekend in May, but in his usual way he managed to sort things out as quickly as possible to ensure the weekend was not spoilt. Thank you Dave.

Ramblerite



Wet was a suitable word to describe June but I've no complaints about the Sundays, each of which provided excellent weather for rambles, one of which was Cader Idris. Out of sorts again I went on the "C" for a gentle walk led by Will who did a fine job threading together the "Torrent" and the "Precipice" walks. Mike Riley found a nest, blue tits probably, in a letter box attached to a farm gate, why he should be... anyway we did have a brief shower during which we sheltered in a convenient wood. Earlier we had found an unusual flower alongside the "Torrent" path, this I promised to identify in the Newsletter. Well don't ask me to put money on it but I believe it was Narrow-leaved St John's Wort, *Hypericum Linarifolium*, or something like that.

Then there was Blencathra and Sharp Edge, the lure of which drew me upwards, painfully it's true, though always whipping in the first person at the back (work that one out). I did at one stage try to steal a march whilst the others were buttying at Scales Tarn. I didn't get far however before Ray Wain, first ramble, steamed past closely followed by the others including Lorraine Worrall also first time out, and then the equaliser ~ Sharp Edge.



This was Will's first visit, and he negotiated the edge comfortably, which is just as well since he was leading. Mike Riley and surprisingly, Carol Kellett were amongst the first time visitors most of whom struggled a bit. A lad about twenty had just turned back which made several of our group apprehensive, nevertheless all got across, and up, and more than a little proud of themselves.

The views from the top were as always stunning, I sat on the hillside chatting to the husband and father of a family struggling up the steepest route imaginable, he had travelled by a more conventional path and seemed quite amused by it all. Whilst we were sitting there, several swifts skimmed the edge before we were joined by the rest of the "B" walk, starlings I think, for another butty break.

It was a steep descent to the Blencathra Centre and a long walk back to Keswick during which we tasted tiny wild strawberries alongside the disused railway track..... a thoroughly enjoyable day out.

Well that's enough rambling for this issue except to say that we've been having regular evening visitors to our garden of late the Tiggywinkle family.

Ray Mac 

"C" Walkers

It has been suggested that a few lag far behind, perhaps deliberately. The pace is fairly leisurely anyway and there is no excuse for this. Please keep with the leader ~



this of course applies to ALL MEMBERS.

Forthcoming Programme

| | | | | |
|-------------|------|--------------|---|---------------|
| July | 20th | Hathersage | ~ | Peak District |
| | 27th | Glenridding | ~ | Lakes |
| Aug | 3rd | Carnedds | ~ | Snowdonia |
| | 10th | Ingleborough | ~ | Dales |
| | 17th | Coniston | ~ | Lakes |
| 22nd / 24th | | Y/H W/E | ~ | Fully Booked |
| | 31st | Long Mynd | ~ | Salop. |
| Sept | 7th | 4 of 14 | ~ | Snowdonia |
| | 14th | Langdale | ~ | Lakes |
| | 21st | Howgills | ~ | Cumbria |

An Overseas Visitor



Tom Buykx is a prominent member of The Catholic Walking Club of Victoria Inc. He and our own Albert Downing, will be joining us for a ramble at Glenridding (27th July).

We look forward to extending a warm welcome to them both ■



High Summer is the time to see :-

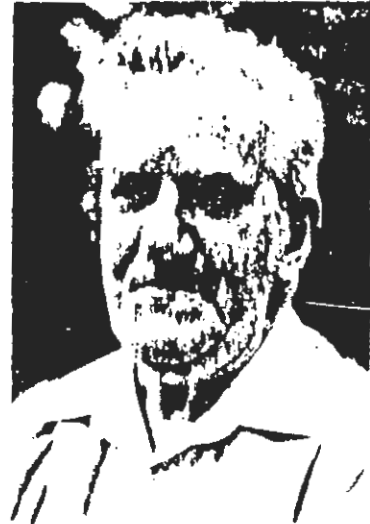
1) SWIFTS 2) SWALLOWS 3) MARTINS

They will be away again soon.

Gerry Penlington

R.I.P.

I first met Gerry when I joined the Club in the late 1950's. At that time Club Nights were held at the Cathedral Buildings, Brownlow Hill and in my initial visits to the Club I soon became aware of the gentleman of military stature who appeared to spend a good part of the evening dealing with financial and other administrative matters concerning the Club. Gerry was in fact the Club Treasurer at the time, a position he had held for some years previous and one which he went on to hold for an unbroken period of 36 years.



He had joined the Club shortly before the outbreak of the Second World War and, along with a number of other young men in the Club, was called up by the Army in 1940. He went on to serve throughout the whole of the War, seeing active service in the North African and Italian Campaigns, and was demobed in 1946. He then renewed his acquaintance with the Club, participating to the full as a walker and leader. Throughout his life, he remained an active administrator of the Association's affairs through his position as Treasurer, and when he relinquished this at the end of 36 years, he continued to be active in the capacity of Vice President of the Association. Undoubtedly, his considerable experience of the Club's affairs was a great comfort to the long list of Chairpersons who served the Club over a period of nearly 50 years, and his continued presence on Committee provided that essential ingredient of continuity and stability so necessary to a club such as the LCRA.

Gerry also became involved with the former Catholic Holiday Guild, which commenced operations in 1948 and to which the Club made a major contribution in the running of its affairs through the LCRA members who served on the Management Council of that organisation. In 1976 he joined the Management Council of the Catholic Holiday Fellowship which carries on the Lake District tradition of the former Guild. He became a Trustee and Treasurer of the Catholic Holiday Fellowship Memorial Trust when this was formed 18 years ago. Gerry and I have for the last 20 years journeyed to Keswick four times a year to attend CHF Management Council Meetings, and into the bargain enjoyed many happy weekends in Keswick as a result. I shall certainly miss his company on future trips to the Lakes.

Besides his keen interest in Liverpool Catholic Ramblers, Gerry was of course a man of many parts. Since the age of seven he had been a very keen stamp collector, and I would imagine that his collection would be of considerable interest to any Philatelist. In his usual vogue of wishing to become fully involved in any activity in which he participated, he served the Liverpool Philatelic Society for many years as Secretary and regularly attended their monthly meetings. He was a well read man and loved to browse in second-hand book shops and stalls, as I witnessed on many occasions in Keswick, and had quite a collection of books. He was also a keen collector of Big Band Dance records, of the 40's, 50's and pre-war vintage.

Gerry served his Parish of St Robert Bellarmine exceedingly well, being involved in financial matters and running the Covenant Scheme for many years. He also served for many years as Secretary to the Governors of St Robert Bellarmine's School as well as Governor. He was a member of the St Vincent de Paul Society for 34 years and Secretary of his branch for all but six of those years.

I think perhaps I have said enough to illustrate what a very full and active life Gerry lived right up to his death, and perhaps a suitable epitaph for him would be "**he gave abundantly of his time for the benefit of others.**" Consequently he will be greatly missed by many who came into contact with him.

We give thanks for having known you Gerry. May God reward you for your kindness and consideration to others.

Chris Dobbin

A further personal tribute from Roy Thiis, one of our regular writers:

Gerry was one of the very first people that I met when I joined the LCRA. Well you could not avoid him really, since he always seemed to be taking the door money when you arrived on Thursday club nights. This was going back to the days when we used Atlantic House in Hardman Street for our socials.

I quickly became involved in assisting Gerry who used to nudge me, as people arrived up those steep stairs, to get the correct number of tickets ready as he sorted out the monies.

Through those Thursday club nights I got to know Gerry as a real gentleman and a true ambassador for the LCRA.

During my time on the General Committee Gerry always had the quiet voice of authority and somehow I always felt I had an ally there.

Gerry will be sadly missed by us all.

Roy Thiis

About to change your address?

There have been a number of instances when a member has moved or changed their phone number but they haven't informed the club. As a result newsletters go astray, etc, and in one case recently a member who hadn't informed us of a change disappointingly missed out on a planned club weekend as we tried in vain to make contact after a last-minute hiccup with transport arrangements. **So it makes sense to inform our registrar, Helen Riley, or any committee member, when you are about to change your address or phone number.**

SENIORS' SECTION

DELAMERE

A very good walk, of seven to eight miles, was enjoyed in lovely spring sunshine by eight rambles. One regular walker was missing though. It seems Bill deserted us for a more ambitious 'A' walk with the main section. Maybe nobody remembered to tell him there wouldn't be any stiles to climb today.

The meeting place was the large car park and picnic area at Hatchmere. We set off along the road, turning right at the crossroads and into the forest. The sun shining through the trees made it an ideal day to be out for the visitors to Delamere, including many cyclists and numerous dogs walking their owners!

We followed the yellow markers most of the time, but a slight detour took us to the Black Lake. This, originally a block of ice and now a Conservation Area, was once graced by David Bellamy. But today sees only lesser mortals. Unfortunately we didn't see any wild life during our ramble except for one brave stoat which ran across our path, but we did see an abundance of Honesty and large patches of Bluebells.

They certainly appear to be thriving in Delamere although recognised nationally as an endangered species.

Another lake we came upon was the Dead Lake, a rather eerie area, apparently a flooded forest since numerous dead tree stumps were showing above the water as well as living ones with distorted trunks.

Our walk took us so close to the Visitors' Centre that it was impossible to resist an extra stop for an ice-cream and a look around the gift shop, which contained some quite unusual items. Soon a slightly tricky crossing over water on planks of wood was successfully negotiated and all the boots, including one new pair, stayed clean. The path took us near the railway, across the road and round behind the car park, eventually to arrive back at the opposite side from which we had left.

Thank you Molly and Tony for a very enjoyable and different Delamere walk.

M and A

ARKHOLME

The party which assembled for this walk consisted of the people who intended to do the Crook o' Loon plus the two wayfarers who on that historic day had found it necessary to pioneer this very ramble! I'm not sure whether this is a reflection on the leader's popularity or his incompetence!

Ideally we needed a bright sunny day to appreciate the charms of the Lune valley but it was not to be, although the weather was not unpleasant. A series of forays across stiles and bridges brought us to Storrs Hall, described as "a Tudor Gothic mansion" but built in the 19th century! Lunch was taken in a field which offered views of the Bowland Fells, Ingleborough and Pen-y-Ghent. Sustained by refreshments and typical Ramblers' Banter (we don't change, do we?) We set off for Gressingham, a charming village whose interesting church was rebuilt in 1734 but retains its Norman doorway.

Our way then took us to the confluence of the Wenning and Lune, an impressive sight from above. Heading towards the medieval Loyn Bridge we were fascinated by the aerobatics of hundreds of oyster-catchers and the faultless flying of sandmartins. We crossed the bridge and continued along the bank of the Lune and back to Arkholme.

Thank you, Freda and George.

GEFA

PARKGATE (May 25) led by Tony and Molly Roche

"Park anywhere," Tony had said over the phone, "we're bound to find each other." So I parked anywhere and found the toilets but no recognisable faces. Then Bill turned up - great relief. We were tempted to have an ice-cream but decided to wait until we'd earned it at the end of the day. Setting out to search together we soon found seven other rambles sunning themselves on the promenade and our party set off across country and through some delightful country lanes with Cow Parsley as high as we were. We soon lost Pat and Bill. "They're taking photographs," said Leo optimistically - and the lanes were certainly photogenic. Molly insisted we wait for them; also that we had our second picnic in a proper picnic spot. Our first picnic area had grown up since the pioneer. "Grass grows, just like children," said Gerry. Jean and Gerry should know. On each walk I go on, they seem to have acquired another grandchild, so

congratulations to them both on their fifth! The final lap was along the Wirral Way and took us through and old railway cutting with interesting rock and stone formations which should have been another temptation for our photographer except that she had, unfortunately, run out of film. Tony (Gilmore's) cookery ideas kept my mouth watering along the route, creating an appetite which cheese butties and a banana couldn't assuage. I'm looking forward to trying that raspberry crumble.

Many thanks to Tony and Molly for a lovely walk along some of the best of our local countryside. Also for organising and arranging the excellent weather and the bonus of home-made ice-creams at the end. As Tony said, "Your husband gets a month in America and you get a day at Parkgate." It may not be the Grand Canyon but it's a beautiful area.

Marcia Thompson

Socials at the Cornmarket

| | | | |
|------|------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| July | 24th | Food Night | Supplied by Peter Ramejkis |
| | 31st | "Famous Scousers" | Irene & Ray Segerberg |
| Aug | 7th | Cheese & Wine Evening | |
| | 14th | "Fourteen" | Will & Chris H. |
| | 21st | Picture Quiz | Jack Henderson |
| | 28th | Film Quiz | Ken Regan. |



Millennium Fund

Committee members traditionally contribute to the ongoing costs of the Cathedral by means of the Cathedral Penny. We have been collecting money recently to enhance this fund by means of "Spotballs" on the coaches. Our thanks to Dave Dickel who recently donated a basket of fruit which was raffled and raised £18. This year we will be presenting a cheque on the occasion of our :-

70TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

**A DINNER DANCE IS TO BE HELD AT THE
BRITANNIA ADELPHI HOTEL LIVERPOOL.
FRIDAY 24TH OCTOBER --- 7PM FOR 7.30PM.**



**A SHERRY RECEPTION AND 4 COURSE MEAL
WILL BE FOLLOWED BY DANCING TILL LATE
TO LIVE MUSIC COURTESY OF
FINN MC COOL ASSISTED BY A DISCO.**

**THE SUBSIDISED PRICE OF £15 WILL INCLUDE
FREE RAFFLE & SPOT PRIZES.
SMART DRESS PLEASE**



If you wish to attend, please fill in below and return to:
**Ray McIntosh, 27 Meadway, Hough Green, Widnes, Cheshire.
WA8 8XT.**

Please enclose a cheque made out to L.C.R.A. for £15 / person.



I /we would like to attend the Anniversary Dinner Dance:

Full Names:- _____

Queries/ Comments / Requests :-

Signed _____

Midsummer Madness at Stickle Tarn

"The only way is up," one used to sing, and likewise was our unavoidable steep climb up Stickle Ghyll to Stickle Tarn, but at least it wasn't raining, just blue skies and a refreshing breeze. Stickle Tarn always proves to be a popular place for butty break, and today was no exception. The sheer crags on the north and west of the tarn never fail to impress the ole mind, so that names such as Pavey Ark, Jack's Rake and Harrison Stickle can be recalled in an instant. In true mid-summer madness, John and a new member (whose name escapes me for the moment) decided they would tackle Jack's Rake. As we waved them off everybody tried to keep a straight face, but that proved impossible, even if you turned the other way!

However, our dramatic duo had the last laugh as they easily 'bagged' Thunacar Knot (723m) and even had time to stroll down to us as we sweated out Bright Beck.

Now it was time to make the final push for High

Raise (762m) helped along with a blustery wind and gentle terrain. The viewpoint from High Raise must go down as one of the top ten classics. The panorama of peaks to the west read like Who's Who of the mountain world . . . Bow Fell, Esk Pike, Crinkle Crag, Great End and, of course, the daddy of them all, Scafell Pike, with its best mate Scafell. With views like this you linger as long as possible, but reluctantly we have to switch off the cruise control and start to make our way down back to the Dungeon Ghyll car park and the coach.

One of the points of conversation was how we had the place to ourselves even when we linked up the Cumbrian Way. Not that anybody was complaining, but rather enjoying the remoteness the land was offering. A good opportunity then to recharge the memory banks and to look back on more hectic times.

Thanks to the 'B' crew for a great walk.

Roy Thiis

Sole-searching at Great Asby Scar

Those of you who are tired of overcrowded routes in popular areas will revel in this quiet part of Cumbria. Jack, the leader, had obviously done his homework as the coach pull-up was within a metre of the walking post. Our initial direction was towards the sleepy hamlet of Orton via the local farmers fields. Whilst trekking across we unwittingly became the centre of attention by a large flock of sheep, who seemed to be quite disappointed we were not having a butty break just yet.

As we bypassed Orton it was clear the village skyline was influenced by the impressive local church, its grey square tower giving a subtle clue that it may date back to Norman times.

Great Asby Scar could at times be mistaken for Malham, particularly its Limestone Pavement. A remote, yet pleasing landscape to ramble away the miles.

The hidden valley was an excellent choice for butty break number two and a good vantage point to observe this attractive valley. Running close to the stream below was a very civilised path posing a question of which way would we go on it. Er . . . neither way! The unthinkable steep side opposite was soon under our grumbling feet. But thanks to Ray Mac's unique jokes, he was soon left in a cloud of dust, so our group made

the fastest ascent in the Club's history!

Crosby Garrett must be one on the very few villages that has not been tempted by the tourist trade. Left to its own devices it was certainly doing well, even if some thoughtful local had left corrugated sheets all over our exit path. In fact Forensics are convinced these offending items were the reason why Marie lost her right boot sole! Or was the prime suspect the super glue mud, encountered near the Settle to Carlisle railway line, that finally made Marie's sole part company. Another case for the 'X' Files I suspect,

The final four miles to Kirkby Stephen proved to be an unexpected discovery of how England's hedges are making a bit of a comeback to the surrounding fields. Jack pointed out a line of young trees which had been cut back to about four feet, with the main trunk split and forced sideways. Given time new growth of the branches would ensure a 'natural fence' is formed and eventually an established hedge. Jack related to a number of examples that can be dated to the Middle Ages (this was when the LCRA subs were one sheep and two fresh eggs). Who says you never learn nothin' on these rambles!

Thanks to Jack for a great walk and for hedging his bets with our group.

Cheers, *Roy Thiis*

Seventieth Anniversary Dinner Dance - Friday, 24th October