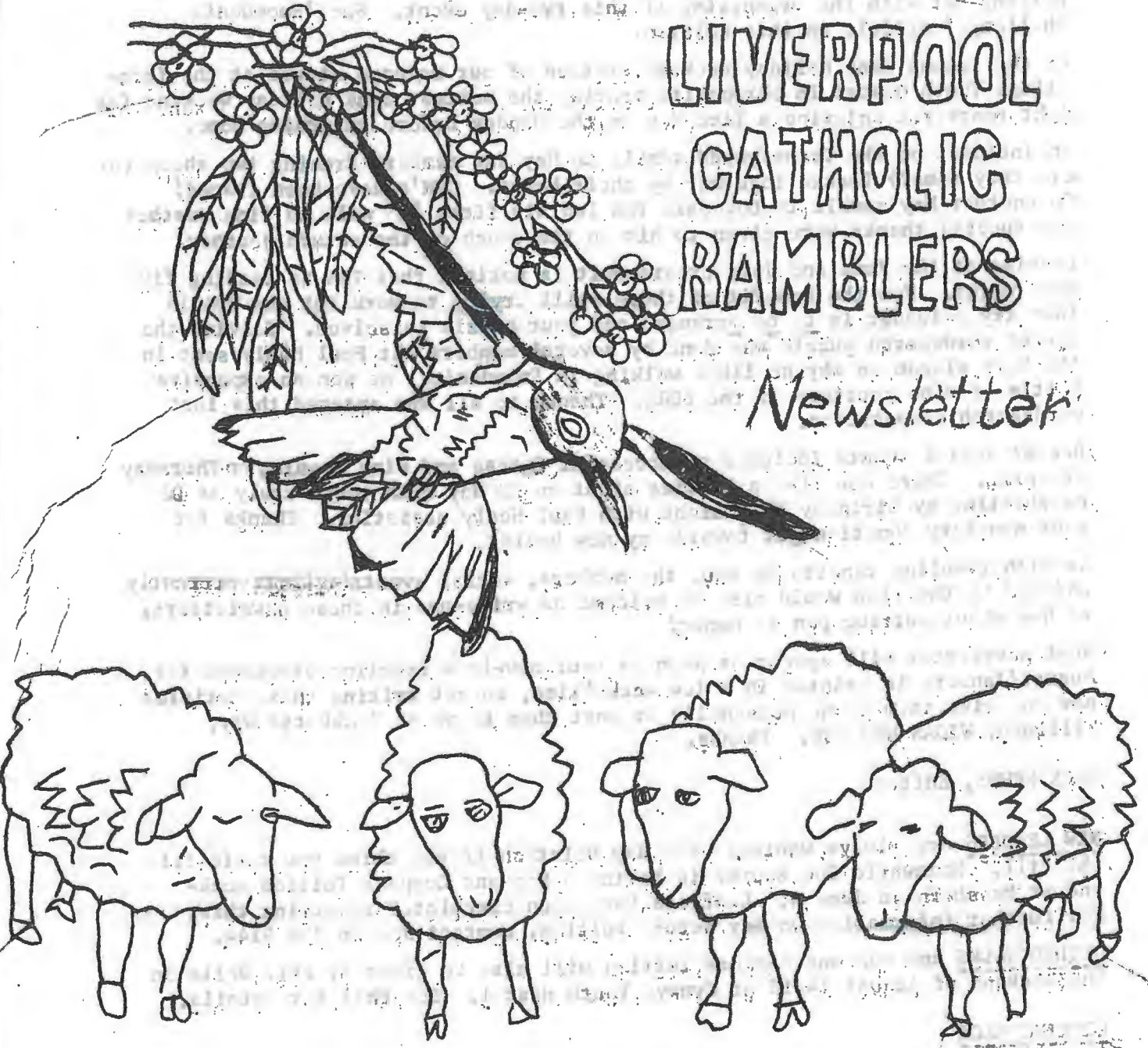


LIVERPOOL CATHOLIC RAMBLERS

Newsletter



EDITORIAL

A couple of Bank Holidays have passed us by since the last newsletter at Easter. On the May Day Sunday we had a full 24-seater taking us to the Duddon Valley in the south of the Lake District. Another 24-seater is being booked for the August 1st ramble but for 'C' walkers only as this will be a big weekend for many members either doing the epic 14 peaks of Snowdonia or helping out with the organising of this two-day event. See 'Snowdonia Challenge' article in this edition.

On the recent Bank Holiday weekend sixteen of our members stayed at the Iron-Bridge Youth Hostel in Shropshire braving the wettest Bank Holiday weekend for eight years yet enjoying a fine day on the Monday before returning home.

An incident on the Trawsfynydd ramble in May saw members freeing two sheep (or were they rams?) locked together by their horns. CDM's have been issued! On another May ramble to Dovedale TBA led his first 'C' walk in fine weather and special thanks were given to him on the coach on the return journey.

Looking at the June and July programme it is noticed that TBA is leading five more walks. For the benefit of those still trying to work out who TBA is then try a leader is to be arranged and your puzzle is solved. Solving the recent wordsearch puzzle was done by several members but Paul Healy sent in the best slogan on why he likes walking in Snowdonia. He won an expensive bottle of wine courtesy of the LCRA. Thanks to all who entered this last wordsearch competition.

Recent social events included a successful Cheese and Wine evening on Thursday 22 April. There was also a Sixties night on 20 May with yours truly as DJ celebrating my birthday that night with Paul Healy assisting. Thanks for your monetary donation (put towards my new boots).

As with rambling reports by you, the members, social events/outings currently enjoyed by the club would also be welcome as write-ups in these newsletters, so how about putting pen to paper!

Next newsletter will appear as soon as your new-look rambling programme for August/January is printed in a few weeks' time, so get writing those articles now and give them to me personally or post them to me at 7 Abbots Way, Billinge, WIGAN WN5 7SB. Thanks.

DAVE NEWNS, Editor

NEW LEADERS are always wanted. See Ray McIntosh if you think you could fit the bill. Meanwhile Joe Rourke is having a Map and Compass Tuition weekend at Maeshafn on June 4. Leaflets have been circulated regarding this. For further information on any future tuition, contact Joe on 256 9144.

GUIDED WALKS and map and compass tuition will also be given by Phil Wells on the weekend of August 14/15 at Cynwyd Youth Hostel. See Phil for details.

LOOKING BACK

Midsummer 1967 - Six members successfully completed the 14 Peaks of Snowdonia in the club's 40th Anniversary event. About 40 other members helped them by meeting them with food and drink in the valleys and on the mountain tops.

Spring 1984 - Four members, namely Anthony Brockway, Brian Keller, Paul Amundsen and Peter Wilkinson successfully completed the 14 Peaks in adverse conditions. The late Tommy Keenan completed eleven of the peaks.

July 1984 - We had an American Tennis Tournament at the Electric Supply Club which included refreshments, finishing off with strawberries and ice-cream.

Summer 1984 - A wine barge took 44 ramblers up and down the Leeds-Liverpool Canal. A meal was included and there was a singer booked. We had perfect weather and mostly stayed on top deck for part of the evening trip.

R A M B L E R I T E

I have been getting some stick from a few people who, having cancelled after the Thursday night before a walk, are aggrieved at losing their money. It is not up to me to decide on such matters, the committee makes the rules and, of course, the best way to influence a committee is to join it! I would, however, wish to thank those people who phone up to let me know that they are not coming and therefore enable me to fill the coach from the waiting list, when there is one. The cancellation rules will in future be printed on any new programme along with extended information with regard to walking equipment and schedules of our new Family Section walks for children which have so far been very successful.

The Bank Holiday 24-seater to Duddon Valley was a great success also, and we will be repeating the formula for the August Bank Holiday. The destination for this event will be in the Teesdale area of which Joe Rourke talks in glowing and, I hasten to add, eloquent terms.

RAY McINTOSH

S N O W D O N I A C H A L L E N G E

The weekend of Saturday 31st July and Sunday 1st August promises something for everyone. The ultimate challenge is to conquer the 14 peaks over 3,000 ft.

Firstly let me reassure you that there will be a coach, albeit a 24-seater for a 'C' walk only. This will be on the Sunday at the usual time.

Competitors will get down on Saturday morning with a view to starting sometime in the afternoon from the top of Snowdon... (I quite unashamedly will be taking the train up). These walkers will be sleeping overnight at either Devil's Kitchen or Tryfan Bwlch and starting again at first light. For those who feel that the fourteen is unrealistic why not join us for your own personal challenge, say four or five Glyders or perhaps the six Carnedd's. We will also be looking for teams to act as service and back up. These volunteers will be invaluable, especially as tents will have to be taken up a couple of thousand feet. If you are interested in participating in any capacity or would like more information I look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible. As you can imagine, we have to plan this very carefully. We will call a special meeting at the appropriate time to work out details.

RAY McINTOSH

B I R T H C O N G R A T U L A T I O N S

To Allan and Joan Caple, a son, Allan Edward, weighing in at 8lb 1oz on Easter Monday (12 April).

N E W M E M B E R S

We welcome the following new members who joined our ranks recently, namely Angela Curran, Leslie John Watson, Pam Ferguson, Ian Allister, B. Martin and Elaine Hanley.

O B I T U A R Y

Sadly, Ann Courtney, who used to walk with us a few years ago, died recently. Our condolences go to her husband Ged and young family.

B A R G A I N C O R N E R

Sorry, none for this edition but I have heard of someone with a computer and games to sell. I have sold my saws announced in the last edition. If anyone has anything to sell, preferably rambling gear, but not necessarily, or if there is any item wanted, then contact me, Dave Newns 0744 892791.

S O C I A L I T E

Attendances at the "Legs of Man" saw an improvement in recent weeks and fully, we have managed to stay in the upper sanctum so far, but let us all guard against complacency by continuing to keep the numbers up. The committee are keen to make the Thursday social gatherings popular, interesting, stimulating, entertaining, uplifting, titivating and exhilarating, and would welcome suggestions from the membership. Unfortunately free beer is a little beyond our budget but reasonable ideas would be welcome.

Editor's note: We are still in great danger of losing the use of the Cocktail Bar upstairs, this due to a very poor attendance (after this report was written) on Thursday May 27 (a very wet night) when only about a dozen, or so turned up. So, once again, it must be mentioned that if we want to keep the use of our special room we must support it much more than it is at present.

Please make a note of the following dates:

21st June (Monday) BOWLING ALLEY, Edge Lane, 8.00pm - Meet at the Alley.

29th June (Tuesday) BALI BISTRO. £5 deposit to Beryl, Brian or Ray. (Editor's further notes on this event are helpful: - The 'Bali' also does set meals and/or A'la Carte dishes from £6 per head instead of the set Indonesian Cuisine Bali Special which consists of 11 courses at £13.50 per person. The 'Bali' is situated at the Edward Pavilion, Albert Dock). See Ray for bookings slips.

ANNUAL CHARITY DANCE (Ceilidh Dancing)

The Irish Centre on Friday 10th September. In aid of Claire House, a hospice for terminally ill children of Merseyside, North Wales and the Isle of Man. Dancing will be to the Liverpool Ceilidh Band. More details later. Let's make this a mega-effort. Last year's efforts for charity raised £1200. Can we exceed £1500 this year? This will have to be a total club effort so let's have people organising sponsored swims/runs/walks/table tennis/marathons, etc. We have already made a start with the North Wirral Coastal Walk. Thanks to all who took part.

Monday 19th July SHERLOCK HOLMES THE MUSICAL (£6.00). See Beryl.

QUIZ NIGHTS. These will take place at the Thursday Socials from time to time. The next quiz night will be run by Colin Molloy and should be fairly easy, so keep your ears to the ground for the date.

BERYL BAKER, Social Chairlady.

RECENT RAMBLES

For one reason or another, many members can't get out on all our rambles but would like to know how certain rambles fared, such as which route did they take? Did they see that.....? What's this rumour about someone falling in deep mud? Were they pushed? The questions are endless from our curiosity.

Ramble write-ups are the answer to many of these questions and anyone who reads the Seniors' Section pages of our newsletters will notice that they always have a story to tell on all of their rambles and get these stories down in the newsletter. They are all written by the ordinary members in turn, not by some literary genius chosen from their ranks. So how about us?

Some recent happenings are often related by myself, as editor, or perhaps in the Ramblerite column but it is much better to hear the stories from YOU the very ordinary member. Why not have a go at writing a ramble report, in your own words, not forgetting to mention any amusing events, etc. You can always ask the leader to give you a little assistance with place names, etc. if you wish. There are many members capable of putting pen to paper and if everyone did, your turn would come up about once in every five years! So then come on, it must be your turn to put pen to paper now!

SENIORS' SECTION. HILBRE ISLAND RAMBLE. 2ND MAY 1993.

The meeting place for this walk was the Wirral Country Park at West Kirby. Here eight Seniors' Section members were pleased to be joined by Denise and Mike from our Main Section. Though not quite as warm as the previous few days it was bright and sunny and an ideal day for a ramble.

We began by walking along the Wirral Way, noticing how green the hedgerows were, and how clear the views across the Dee estuary. About an hour later we arrived in West Kirby where we were joined by another six members. A fine bank holiday weekend had brought many people to West Kirby, and there was quite a holiday air with children enjoying donkey rides, and others 'pony and trap' rides, to the islets. We headed for Little Eye with a purposeful stride as it was here that we were to have our long-awaited lunch stop. (Peter would not have lasted, so it's as well he was away!) Satisfied, we then made our way to Hilbre Island itself finding the rocks quite dry. Remembering their slippiness on our last visit unfortunately deterred Mona from coming. Anyone interested in wild flowers would have been delighted by the variety on Hilbre, but if it was the seals one hoped to see at close quarters, they did not oblige, staying on a distant sandbank. After a while we retraced our steps back across Hilbre Island and again on to Little Eye, where we had a further break for refreshments and posed for group photographs.

On arriving back in West Kirby the group who had opted for a shorter walk parted company, and the rest set off to return to Thurstaston. The two main club members took the more direct route along the Wirral Way, while the remaining stalwarts plodded up the road as far as the monument, where we joined the footpath leading to Caldy Hill. Several gorse bushes with their yellow flowers brightened the path to the road leading back to the Wirral Way and the car park.

Many thanks to Molly and Tony for an enjoyable ten mile walk.

'A. STALWART'.

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SENIORS' SECTION WALKING PROGRAMME, 1993.

JUNE 13. DENT DALE. Gerry and Jean McDonald are our leaders. To get there take the M6 to Junction 37. Turn right on to A684 to Sedbergh, (about five miles). Take first right after Burma Garage (signposted Dent) into Busk Lane. Then turn right at T junction - five miles to Dent Village. The journey is about 82 miles (1½ hrs. plus). Meet at the Pay and Display car park. Toilets are here. We start walking at 12 noon.

CHALET WEEK. We have taken the Chalet from Friday evening 25th June to 2nd July. For information re catering please ring Rosemary, Molly or, (if you're just letting us know that you'll be there) Mona. You'll be very welcome if you only wish to have a day or two during the week.

JUNE 27. There will be a walk from the Chalet from about 12.30 pm. Bill Potter will be our leader.

JULY 11. Peter and Marie Atherton are leading this walk. They've a house meeting before then but if you can't get there please ring them on 526 2153

JULY 25. PECKFORTON. Joe and Jackie Whitfield are to lead this one. I think it's a fairly local one. Ring them on 625 2632 nearer the date.

Don't forget names for the Chalet, please.

Chipping is a quaint old market town with a lovely old church, school and almshouses. These cultural gems were given short shrift as we sought the nearby toilets, a welcome shelter from the scything rain. In such unwelcoming conditions we had a surprisingly good turnout and, in reasonably high spirits we wet off.

A gradual ascent through a lush meadow brought us to Burchen Lee whence we took a broad track in the direction of Chipping Lawn. Here we attempted to find a narrow path through the wood. Our leader assured us that this had been stolen at the time of the pioneer. A fruitless search suggested it had not been put back so we continued on the broad track to the ruined Park Style Farm, where our way was obstructed by a herd of wet grubby cows which made every effort to accompany us. It was noticeable that nobody seems to live in this part of the world, unless the inhabitants were sheltering from the rain. We walked on to Lickhurst Farm where violets, wild strawberries and wood sorrel allegedly flower. Having crossed by the quaint wooden footbridge we ascended the allegedly indistinct path opposite. At the top of the rise it was obvious to the leader that we had veered off course. It was poetic justice or his just deserts for having assured the half starving Marcia that it was 'only fifteen minutes to our lunch stop at Dinkling Green Farm! Frenzied map inspections and compass readings were made and advice taken, all unnecessary as Leo, being 6ft 2ins, spotted the farm buildings through the mist over the hedge.

Lunch was finally taken, mostly standing, as the rain continued to fall.

Having admired the Tudor doorheads and mullioned windows we walked on to Higher then Lower Greystonely and down to Loud Mytham Bridge. We turned at this point and took a lovely riverside path until we reached the stepping stones at Bailey Hippings. These were not to be used when the river was in spate. Yes, you guessed it, so an interesting diversion was made through a farmyard where we actually met another human being. He represented the one human being in nine linear miles. I'm sure that statistically it must be one of the most underpopulated parts of the globe. We eventually came down again to the River Lowd and emerged near the Country House Hotel on the road back to Chipping.

Trudging back one was able to reflect on the day - lovely views despite the rain, soggy sandwiches thanks to the rain, historic meeting with farmer (had we made his day or marred it? Back to the car park, now deserted, to squeeze out ones socks, and head for home in rapidly steaming cars.

Thanks, Leaders.

GEFA.

Following on the sad death of Peggy Potter the Seniors' Section had a collection and then bought a wheel chair for use at Lourdes to commemorate her death. The residue was sent to CAFOD.

Remember the taller of the two sisters who were very helpful to us on our retreats at Blundellsands? Sister Mary Peter has come to stay at St. Clare's, and wishes to be remembered to you all. I gave her your regards.
