



ZENZEL



NATIONAL PARK
ACCESS LAINE

ESK DALE AND KINNISIDE CP

Editorial

A week ago there was hardly any material submitted for this newsletter, then all of a sudden the postman went berserk at my door and this eight-page edition is the result. Thanks to all contributors including the two quotations sent in by Helen Riley - one appropriately appearing at the foot of the casualty page. Artistic talents on the next page are Ray Mc's - most other graphics are on the computer but the stick-on pigs were made in Germany (stick-on cows were banned!).

We have had some good social events recently and we could do with one or two volunteers to write reports of such events for our newsletters, giving names of prizewinners, amusing incidents, etc. Why not try your hand at reporting? You can remain anonymous if you wish.

Your next edition should appear early in August so give me your reports, puzzles, etc, by the end of July or just post them to me at **7 Abbotts Way, Billinge, Wigan, Lancs WN5 7SB.** Thanks - Now, try your hand at winning a SUPER TRACKS VIDEO on the back page.

Dave Newns



Social Events



There have been many successful social events recently. The simplest and easiest to run was a Bring and Buy Night, when members brought in their unwanted bric-a-brac, tapes, books, even biscuits, etc. Each item was sold to the highest bidder. Ray Mc was the auctioneer and many bargains were snapped up - often in pence rather than pounds. As a result the club made over £50 which will help subsidise the social functions. We will probably have

another one soon, so dig out those unwanted items now. Other events included a Sausage Night, tastefully organised by Tony Bond and also a "You must have been a Beautiful Baby" Competition. This was well organised by Irene and Ray Segerberg who displayed some twenty-odd old photos brought in by us. Winners were Ray and Pat McIntosh who guessed the names of everyone correctly. Forthcoming Social Events include:

- June 13** **JOKES QUIZ** by Will and Chris Harris - Come along for an amusing night out.
June 20 **"THE EYES HAVE IT" COMPETITION** by Helen Riley.
June 27 **EUROFOOTBALL QUIZ** by Ken Regan.

NOTE: Refurbishing of the Cornmarket Pub is due to take place throughout July, so it looks like we will have to go across the road to the Slaughterhouse pub until the work is finished.

The following July events have been planned but may possibly have to be postponed:

- July 4** **AMERICAN NIGHT** to include Kentucky Fried Chicken - check with Ray Mc.
STAND-UP QUIZ by Norma Ridings.
July 11 **FACT OR FICTION QUIZ** by Marg Perry.
July 18 **STRAWBERRIES AND CREAM EVENING.** This event may be postponed so check nearer the date.



OBITUARY - Sadly, RAY DAVIDSON died after a short illness recently.

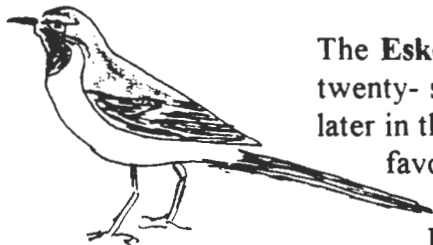
Ray was only 45 years old and was a popular member and walk leader. Many members attended the funeral on May 7th. Our condolences go to his mother and friends. May he rest in peace.

Ramblerite

The trail of mayhem, broken bones and ruffled pride (more details elsewhere) is hopefully behind us now. Casualties aside we've had some brilliant walks of late, especially pleasing was the Dunnerdale Fells trip which required a recci to ensure coach access in an area new to us. On the recci Tom Reilly and I saw a huge buzzard close up on a fence post and I saw a deer on the road. We saw the occasional wood anemone and primroses, violets and bluebells were prolific, as were, surprisingly, carpets of woodsorrel.



I led the "B" walk on the day and we achieved our main objective of Stickle Pike, (not to be confused with Pike O Stickle) quite comfortably. The views of Dunnerdale or the Duddon Valley from here are pretty spectacular and further to the north can be seen our old favourites the Crinkles, Bowfell and glimpses of the Scafells, partially obscured by Harter Fell. The "A" walk tackled Caw, a notable absence from Wainwright's original books, before meeting up with us at Stickle Tarn (again not it's Langdale namesake). We saw a number of grey wagtails and some geese on the tarn. Even the short spell of heavy rain later in the day was taken in our stride, the weather forecast had warned of atrocious conditions, but it was generally fine. We later picked up Dave News' "C" walkers, on time, at Broughton in Furness, they had traversed the Blawith and Woodland Fells from Torver. An excellent day was rounded off with sausage and chip butties courtesy of Christine at the Carnforth Hotel



The **Eskdale Weekend** was a great success with four days walking, enjoyed by twenty- six members, and consequently I've been asked to arrange a similar trip later in the year. The Greenhead Y.H. up near Hadrian's Wall, is currently favourite, so watch this space.

I'd like to finish with a little personal tribute to **Ray Davidson** whom I shall remember with affection. Ray was a man who never rose to the bait, the provocative comment was simply shrugged off or parried with a smile and perhaps a gentle throw away comment. Always pleasant company and a gentleman, his passing is a loss to us all.

Ray Mc. 

JOE ROURKE MEMORIAL

There will be a memorial service at Maeshafn on **Sunday 16th June**. A short walk, service and presentation of a picnic table and bench to the Youth Hostel, will be followed by refreshments.

A coach will be leaving the Queens Pub, Queens Drive at **8.30am**.

If you would like to attend the service, then please phone Josie Clark: (252 3201 or 523 2914)

RAMBLE AND MEAL, July 14 - The trip to KENTMERE is now to be a meal inclusive event, ie, the normal ramble, followed by a Chicken and Chips Salad at the Carnforth Hotel (£8.50 inclusive).

MISSING FIRST AID KITS - Yes, two have gone astray. Search your rucksacks please.

A DINNER - The Committee is arranging a dinner at Birch House on Monday 28 October. Cost will be approx £10 per head. All members are invited but seating is limited so book a.s.a.p. please.

WHIT SUNDAY IN SWALEDALE

Whit Sunday morning - an early start was made to the "far off" Swaledale, my own particular favourite of all the Yorkshire Dales.

We finally arrived at Muker in our 24-seater coach, travelling via the scenic route (by design of course!) and it was the first time that I can remember going over the Butter Tubs Pass and seeing Great Shunner Fell mist-free - however that wasn't the case on the return journey!

I joined the B party with Ray leading and he didn't let me down - a superb walk from Muker to Keld then Thwaite - which included part of the Pennine Way.

A pity the meadowlands were not in full flower as the Swaledale meadows are usually a sight to behold, with an abundance of every wild flower imaginable. However, this was well compensated by the fell sides being covered in primroses as far up as the eye could see. As the day went on it got wetter, windier and colder but it was still one of the best walks I've ever had with the Ramblers, everyone seemed to enjoy it (C party with Dave leading likewise) and agreed it was well worth the journey.



I can't help feeling though that for some of the meanies on the B walk, the highlight of the day was when Ray was the only one who couldn't fit through the narrow gorge whilst scrambling up the waterfalls at Swinner Gill. I didn't laugh of course - oh OK then, perhaps a slight snigger for all the times he's made us take the hard way over the streams. So Pat, no more sweets for Ray after school!

The day was rounded off superbly with plenty of sausage and chips for Bill at The Carnforth Hotel and not a traffic jam in sight!

Anon

"Yesterday is a cancelled cheque, tomorrow is a promisory note; today is the only cash you have - so spend it wisely"

ESKDALE WEEKEND

Eskdale is one of the most unspoilt places in the Lake District. Classic mountain peaks, moorland, woodland and fast-flowing rivers make this south-west Lakes area ideal for walking. The summits of Great Gable, Scafell and many popular peaks are situated here.

Twenty-four club members went on this Youth Hostel Weekend organised by Ray Mc from May 3rd to 6th. We left Liverpool at 1.30pm, arriving at the hostel at 5.30pm via the Hardknott and Wrynose Passes. The journey over these passes were very scary and at one stage we had to get out and push the car. We told Bob that he's to go on a diet!

Some members had gone up there early on the Friday morning and when we arrived they had just finished their walk. On Saturday there were A, B and C walks. We went on the B walk up Scafell Pike - the highest point in England. We were blessed with very clear weather and the view from the summit was excellent. We could see the Isle of Man and Scotland.

On Sunday we did the C walk, Ray Mc was leader and he took us to Eskdale Green where we paid a visit to the King George IV pub which had a good range of traditional beers. It also had nice toilets - well, they had got an award for 'Best Toilets'! We all felt this was well deserved.

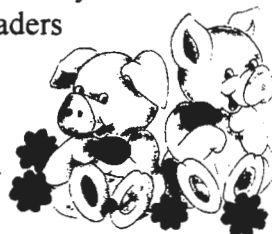
After finishing our drinks we took advantage of the miniature steam train back to Booth and walked back to the hostel. We finished the day off with an evening drink at the Woolpack. This local pub became a bit of a habit.



On the last day all members joined Tom Reilly for an enjoyable circular walk followed by a pub lunch. Everything about the weekend was good: the weather, the hostel, and the walks. The hostel had plenty of food (ask Bob!). We would like to thank Ray Mc for the superb weekend, also the leaders for their excellent walks.

A good time was had by all.

*Irene and Ray Segerberg
(also Bob and Joe)*



From our casual casualties



To all club members, friends and Gerome Fisher,

Just a few lines to let you know I am now just about over my bungee jump minus the bungee! I have been told that the other unfortunate, Paul (Jensen), has been tied up with *Norma Ridings and the pair of them are to enter a number of three-legged races during the next athletics season!

I would, on a slightly more serious note, like to take this opportunity to thank Dave Dickel for his quick and decisive thinking at the time of my accident. He charged up the fell to me while rocks and debris were falling all around, and literally pushed and pulled me over to the path, at times lifting my feet and legs for me as I was unable to do so.

My thanks also to Mike Riley for holding my hand in hospital and picking me up on Sunday, and to Gerome Fisher for visiting me in hospital on the Saturday evening.



Thanks again to Ray Mc who drove me home, ate my dinner and drank my wine! And last but not least, the girls of the club who gave or sent me my card and asked me (that means you Thelma!): "How are you feeling now?"

Yours, **Claude Ball**



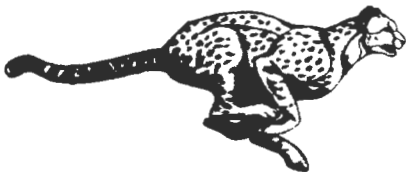
PS: Paul was never silent for more than a minute. He was even gabbing in the rescue helicopter!

*Norma was our third latest casualty - she broke her ankle on 21st April on the Snowdonia ramble.

THE GREAT GABLE SNOW SLIDE



Only two members of the club entered for this event on 23rd March which was to be won by a combination of length of fall down a steep snowy slope and injuries obtained thereby. Tom Reilly slid off first on his back and at a good speed, but at least three times I saw him flung up in the air like a rag doll when he hit clumps of rocks, and whilst this slowed him down it was also a good way to build up his injury count, and he still managed about a quarter-of-a-mile fall.



When it came to my turn I knew it needed a really good injury to beat him, so I aimed at some large rocks side-on and broke my hip. I thought that should clinch it, so I dug into the deep snow and stopped my fall. However, when the Mountain Rescue arrived they judged it a draw. So Tom and I shared the first prize - a free helicopter flight and a free holiday in the West Cumberland Hospital!

Many thanks from Tom and myself to all who sent their congratulations. I should be out walking again soon.

Paul Jensen



"Our greater glory is not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall" (Confucius 551-479 BC)

Seniors' Section

DUNSOP BRIDGE - 12th May

Dunsop Bridge is located (O.S. Map 103) in the Forest of Bowland where the rivers from the Trough, the River Dunsop from the north, and the River Hodder from the east converge. The hills and fells rise to 1,400 feet.

George Skillicorn led a party of ten on a pleasant Spring day towards the lower slopes of Burn Fell. George Parkinson had arrived in his chugging Land Rover and fittingly adopted the role of 'Farmer George'. He explained that the hillsides, historically denuded of trees, were not of a high agricultural grade and the hill farming ratio was only one sheep per acre. To clarify matters, this was explained to Marcia, who teaches in metric, that you would see only two-and-a-half sheep on a hectare.

As higher ground was gained the views became more impressive and there was evidence of modern tree planting along the rivers. At the lunch stop Tony T tried to explain finding direction by using woodcraft. He said the growth rings of a cut tree could have a bias towards the south and a tree have more branches in this direction. Gerry McDonald was sceptical and said the concept was too difficult because you had to use logs.

When we reached Dunsop Fell there were signs banning guns but it was clear that the area was a

REDESMERE - 10th March

Nine of us assembled at the car park beside the lovely mere in central Cheshire. A short walk took us to Siddington Church, consecrated in 1521, a building with timber frame and wattle-and-daub filling.

Not surprisingly, this being Cheshire, the terrain was fairly flat but pleasantly green and unspoilt. We crossed fields and clambered over stiles and passed through farmyards. It was noticeable that our leader and only our leader was shod in wellingtons and the reason became apparent when we reached Crabtree Moss Farm. A river of mud-cum-slurry greeted us but George seemed disappointed that it wasn't worse! Appropriately lunch was taken hereabouts (Peter was in the party and we all know what that means!).

We went through woodland and then crossed a field where model aircraft enthusiasts were pretending to be little boys again. Soon we arrived at Henshaw Hall Farm, where an unusual plaque on the wall

game bird 'preserve' equipped with gun butts and hides for the game season. The land owner was North West Water. As we went higher, Marie Atherton was in good form, striding ahead up the fell through the heather, George P wished he had brought his Land Rover.

During our second break Jean McDonald seemed to work the miracle of feeding the thousands with honey slices. I will only mention Peter A as an obvious beneficiary. On descending we entered the Whitendale valley where Bill Potter was intrigued by the impressive water pipe systems laid by the former Blackburn Corporation Water Works Dept.

I suppose that only the Seniors will remember 'Dick Tracy' the American private eye famous for his wrist radio. On the same theme we have our own version with Gerry's wrist compass. However, some were sceptical because it was said that his magnetic personality would effect the compass bearing. Directional Scepticism score: 1 - 1 on the day.

We returned to Dunsop Bridge in warm sunshine and the leader was able to photograph some interesting landscapes. It was a perfect day for which we thank George and Freda for a very good walk.

ATOM



indicated its owners down the centuries. As a bonus, Gerry had done some research at the Picton Library into the history of the building!

Continuing across fields and stiles, we eventually arrived at Capesthorne Hall. We took afternoon tea hereabouts, not actually in the hall but in a clearing in a field but nonetheless within sight of the hall. A short walk along the main road brought us to a track which took us alongside the mere and back to the cars.

Thanks to the leader and especially to Freda, the whipper-in, for a walk in an area deserving of more attention.

GEFA

SENIORS' SECTION (contd)

HELVELLYN - 14th April

The drive up the M6 suggested that most people believed the weather-forecaster. Empty roads made the journey a rare pleasure. Moreover, it was dry! As we drove into Swirls Car Park a few drops of moisture were deposited on the windscreen. Surely not! It can't rain after all those months of drought!

Five minutes later, all eight of us were ready to go, heavily swathed in multi-coloured wet-weather gear, but enthusiastic and bursting with energy. The decision made, our leader, Tony, warned us of the consequences of straggling, bolting etc, expressed in very diplomatic language, of course.

Our direction was roughly south-east, Helvellyn, snowcovered and shrouded in mist, a distant objective. Inevitably, there were a few grunts and sighs as long forgotten muscles were summoned into action. A spirit of happy camaraderie carried us ever forward and upwards.

On reaching some crags, bulwarks against a coolish wind, Tony offered us lunch. Most of us were too embarrassed to accept this kind offer or perhaps felt that he had overlooked the B.S.E. scare, so accordingly declined.

It soon became obvious that Tony knew something that we didn't know. I wonder if he is a weather-forecaster? At any rate the rain turned to snow and the wind increased, circumstances designed to make the walk more interesting but not necessarily more comfortable for eating lunch. As we progressed, chatting happily and occasionally peering ahead, we were suddenly confronted by two figures whose combined ages were less than the average of our members. "Don't go on," they warned "We are turning back. Conditions are too dangerous." We looked at them in pity and walked on. Eventually we reached Brown Cove Crags well over 2000 feet,

you understand, our last chance to have lunch before the final assault. Standing in the shelter of a huge wall of rock, munching contentedly, our dreams were shattered by the appearance of a pair of super enthusiasts equipped with ice-axes, crampons and detailed knowledge of every hazard to be encountered on Helvellyn. They were turning back! Phrases like 'horrendous wind' and 'dangerous ice' convince Tony and his seven charges that discretion was the better part of valour and down we would have to go. Anyway we'd had our lunch standing instead of sitting; makes a change.

We now made a traverse in a northerly direction and a number of portraits were taken, after the modern fashion, al fresco, using interesting backgrounds like snowscapes. We eventually reached a subsidiary objective, a series of waterfalls, pretty and dramatic and only available to people, like us, prepared to climb upwards. Yes, virtue has its own reward!

We now made our way down, Jean not feeling too well, despite having refused Tony's offer of lunch earlier. We crossed the main road and embarked on a delightful forest ramble, close to the eastern shore of Thirlmere. We encountered some charming lambs, little more than a few days old and regained the car park in the early evening. We had enjoyed a lovely walk; Tony and Marcia were disappointed at being unable to reach the top but they had gone to a lot of trouble to offer us an alternative and deserve our thanks, not to say congratulations.

GEFA

SENIORS' SECTION PROGRAMME

June 9 LLANARMON - Tony Roche

June 23 SANDSTONE TRAIL -

Leo Pearson

July 14 RAINFORD - Rosemary & Maureen

July 28 TBA - Peter Atherton

Note the change around in July's programme

HOUSE

July 4 Marie and Peter Atherton

12 Meadow Lane, Maghull

MEETINGS

August 1 Bill Potter

91 Woodland Road, Halewood

ANNUAL MASS DATE SHOULD READ 29th SEPTEMBER

Gremlins have got into the Seniors' Section Programme stating that our Annual Mass is on 15th September.

Correct date is Sunday 29th September as shown in the General Section's Programme.

FAMILY SECTION PROGRAMME

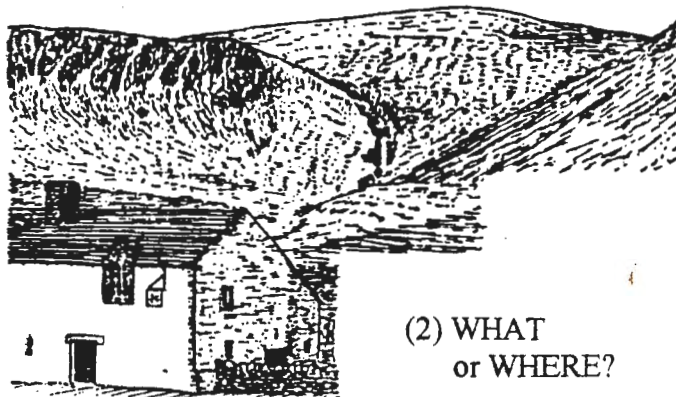
July 14 CLIEVES HILL - Peter Wilkinson (01695 421681) *(These walks are for parents*

August 11 WEST KIRBY - Anthony Brockway (608 0425) *with young children)*

PRIZE COMPETITION

The last Prize Competition attracted a dismally poor number of entries. This time the prize is a **Super TRACKS Video** that no 'experienced' or 'aspiring' walker can afford to be without! So come on, you've got nothing to lose. Entries please on a postcard or envelope to Marj Perry, 22 Wills Avenue, Maghull L31 OAX by 30th June - GOOD LUCK!

*"Higher still and higher
From the earth thou springest
Like a cloud of fire;
The deep blue thou wingest,
And singing still doesn't soar,
And soaring ever singest."*



(1) WHAT? (plus an extra point if you can name the poet!)

(2) WHAT or WHERE?



(3) WHERE? (The location)



(4) WHAT? (Flower)
An elusive barometer perhaps?

PLEASE NOTE - Another reminder that this year when the subs become due in September, members who have not paid by the end of October will have to pay a re-joining fee before they can book another walk. There will be no exceptions for non-payment on time and the rejoining fee will be strictly adhered to. The majority of members are courteous enough to pay on time so this should only affect the minority. In the meantime - keep on enjoying those 'super value-for-money' and 'best deal in town' weekly rambles.

Marg P (Registrar)

NEW MEMBERS

There is a backlog of new members who joined us during the last few months (some are renewals). We hope that you all enjoy many happy years with our club, so welcome to all the following:

Anita and Billy Curry
Brian Moonan
Anna Bumford
Carmen Velasco
Gerry and Gwen Finnegan
Keith Sayle

Pat Webster
Angela Moonan
Elizabeth Clegg
Duncan De Borde
Sandra Harrison
Teresa Crompton

Lilian Martin
Peter Moonan
P. E. MacDonald
Linda Maher
Patricia Bentley
Evelyn Woods

Lorraine Mitchell
Alfred Seddon
Marjorie Prescott
Maria Bowes
Liz Jenner