

**Liverpool Catholic  
Ramblers' Newsletter  
March 1999  
7th Series Issue 18**

FRONT COVER for this edition was first engraved on a wax stencil about thirty years ago for our now outdated duplicating machine method of printing. The newsletter, of course, is now produced on the club's computer, then rapidly photocopied and stapled in a matter of minutes in an office superstore.

Thanks for all the contributors to this newsletter. Send or hand your articles, etc. for the next newsletter to me: Dave Newns at 7 Abbotts Way, Billinge, Wigan WN5 7SB. Thanks.

**NEW MEMBERS** WELCOME to the following new members who have joined the club recently. They are: Teresa Leatherbarrow, Angela McNamee, Lynn Davies, Eddie Williams and Nick Cuddy. We hope they have many happy memories with us.

## Social Events at the Cornmarket

March 4th	SANDWICH NIGHT	
March 11th	WHO WANTS TO BE A MILLIONAIRE-ISH	Will Harris
March 18th	IRISH QUIZ	Mike Riley
March 25th	WHO WANTS TO BE A MILLIONAIRE-ISH	Will Harris
April 1st	MAUNDY THURSDAY - NO CLUBNIGHT	
April 8th	CHEESE AND WINE	
April 15th	PLAY YOUR CARDS RIGHT	
April 22	GENERAL KNOWLEDGE QUIZ	

## A PEEP AT WHAT WE DID IN THE PAST

WAY BACK in 1932 we had alternate weeks of Saturday and Sunday walks. We even tried a Wednesday walk but apparently this didn't take off. Eventually the regular weekly Sunday rambles started in 1934.

### CATHOLIC RAMBLERS ASSOC. & HOLIDAY GUILD

Hon. Sec.—Miss R. M. FITZGERALD,  
11, Spencer Street, Everton, Liverpool.

#### SUMMER PROGRAMME, 1932.

Saturday, 26th Mar.—Wirral Mystery (10 miles).  
Liver Buildings, 2-15 p.m.  
Leader—Mr. J. Chambers.

Easter Monday, 28th Mar.—Beeston Castle  
(14 miles). Liver Buildings, 9 a.m.  
Leader—T. Marquess.

Sunday, 3rd Apr.—Simonwood (14 miles).  
Aintree Tram Terminus, 10-30 a.m.  
Leader—J. Duffy.

Saturday, 9th Apr.—West Kirby (10 miles).  
Liver Buildings, 2-15 p.m.  
Leader—Miss N. Farmer.

Sunday, 17th Apr.—Burton (10 miles). Liver  
Buildings, 2-15 p.m.  
Leader—Mr. F. Harvey.

Saturday, 23rd Apr.—Croughton Wirral. Ramblers  
Federation Right of Way. See Press  
Notices.

Sunday, 1st May.—Hayfield (14 miles). Central  
Station, 9-45 a.m. Leader—Mr. J. Shaw.

Wednesday, 4th May.—Woodchurch, Wirral  
(8 miles). Liver Buildings, 3 p.m.  
Leader—Mr. T. Marquess.

N.B.—Other Wednesday Rambles will be  
arranged if sufficient support is shown.  
See Press Notices.

Saturday, 7th May.—Lydiat (10 miles). Skel-  
horn Street Bus, 2-15 p.m.  
Leader—Mr. R. Joyce.

Sunday, 8th May.—Delamere (12 miles). Lime  
Street Station, 9-45 a.m.  
Leader—Mr. T. Joyce.

Saturday, 14th May.—Wallasey (10 miles).  
Liver Buildings, 9-45 a.m.  
Leader—Mr. J. McKay.

Whit-Monday, 16th May.—Whalley, Stoney-  
hurst, etc. Exchange Station. With Bolton  
C.R.A. See Press Notices.

Sunday, 22nd May.—Stoak (16 miles). Liver  
Buildings, 10-30 a.m. Leader—Mr. J. Shaw.

Saturday, 28th May.—Town Green (10 miles).  
Exchange Station, 2-15 p.m.  
Leader—Mr. G. Griffith.

Sunday, 29th May.—Hawarden, etc. Ramblers'  
Federation. See Press Notices.

Sunday, 5th June.—Glossop (14 miles). Central  
Station, 9-45 a.m.  
Leaders—Manchester Catholic Ramblers.

Saturday, 11th June.—Caldy (10 miles). Liver  
Buildings, 2-15 p.m.  
Leader—Miss A. Kilgannon.

Sunday, 19th June.—Caergwrle (14 miles). Liver  
Buildings, 9-30 a.m. Leader—Mr. J. Shaw.

Saturday, 25th June.—Hough Green (12 miles).  
Woolton Tram Terminus, 2-30 p.m.  
Leader—Mr. J. Chambers.

Sunday, 3rd July.—Chester, etc. See Press  
Notices.  
Leaders—Chester Catholic Ramblers.

Saturday, 9th July.—Shotwick (9 miles). Liver  
Buildings, 2-15 p.m.  
Leader—Miss N. Kerrigan.



## Do you need protection?

On the rare occasions, walkers are confronted by landowners who resent our walking on footpaths through their land, but this doesn't happen to us. Well, maybe sometimes. OK - a few weeks ago! However, one brave member negotiated (in his own way) a safe passage for us on this public footpath through ankle-deep mud. So you can have peace of mind with our man out on a ramble. If you require his services you will probably find him tucked away in youth hostels taking on the role of head chef in the self-catering kitchen. He was last in action for us on the battlefields, sorry, near the cattlefields of Cartmel!

# Ramblerite

COACH ATTENDANCE has been much improved since last October, and the club has been making a small but steady profit. Alas, this all went sour with the Yuletide trip, which was poorly attended. Any profits made from the coaches up to that trip, disappeared on that one day. We are going to ask for member's views on the Yuletide trips in order to decide if they should continue. If there seems to be interest, we may try it again, otherwise it is just not viable.

Trips to the Lake District are still proving to be our best sellers, usually leading to waiting lists. Early bookings are recommended for these. Other trips are holding up well, and we are currently getting the average 42 members per coach that we need to break even.

The summer programme (May to October 1999) is now in circulation for leader names. The basics of the programme are:

Lake District - 9 walks

Peak District - 5 walks

Wales - 4 walks

Yorkshire - 4 walks

East Cumbria - 1 walk

North East - 1 walk

Two weekends at Keswick and possibly one in the Brecon Beacons.

One of the walks (27th June) will be Snowdon, where we will be asking members to be sponsored. More details to follow. It would be a great feat if some of the 'C' walkers could make it to the summit.

There is an article in this edition about the 'Right to Roam' Bill going in front of parliament. I feel it deserves the support but must give my own point of view. I am very much in favour of more places being opened up to ramblers, and feel we must give the Bill our support. On the other hand I am against the concept of roaming anywhere. As long as we get footpaths properly sign-posted that should be enough. We must, though, avoid the more militant stance of wanting to walk 'anywhere at all.'

*Will Harris*

## Wanted

Would you like to be blamed for getting lost on walks?

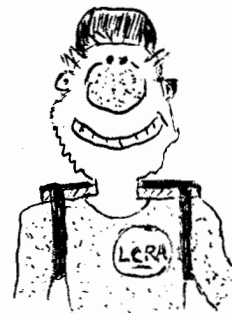
Would you like to spend your time and money learning how to do it?

Would you like to be regarded as somebody who never tells the truth?

(There's only 3 miles to go, we'll be there shortly, etc.)

Would you like to be somebody who has tea breaks too soon and too late?

Do you have broad shoulders and a thick skin?



If the answer to any of these questions is Yes or No, then you could become a Leader with the LCRA.

If you're interested, have a word with Will Harris. We will try to set up either a map reading course or possibly a map reading weekend at a suitable place.

## FORTHCOMING RAMBLES

**March 7th - GRASMERE.** Good variety of scenic walks. Coach often gets fully booked for this one.

**March 14th - HARTINGTON.** Trekking in the Derbyshire Dales, following rivers flowing between huge limestone cliffs, a few miles north of Dovedale.

**March 19th to 21st - KESWICK WEEKEND** at Lakeside House. A large guesthouse that's tailor-made for walkers. Space for 45. Full details overleaf.

**March 28th - BEDDGELERT.** Superb area for a choice of walks from either a 'C' stroll, possibly taking in a short riverside tunnel, with more rugged mountain treks for the 'A' and 'B' parties.

**April 4th - LANGDALES** in the heart of the Lake District and a magnet for walkers. Elterwater nestles at the foot of the Langdale Valley with the famous Dungeon Ghyll Hotel at the top end. We hope to fill the coach in spite of it being Easter Sunday.

**April 11th - MUKER.** Wensleydale/Swaledale area, near Hawes. (Outdoor Leisure map No 30).

**April 18th - GLENRIDDING** (Lakes - Ullswater).

**April 25th - DOLGELLAU/BARMOUTH.** Scenic coastal walk for the 'C' with Cader Idris for the 'A'.

**May 2nd - DUDDON VALLEY** (South Lakes). A scenic valley/fells between Broughton and Ulpha.

**May 9th - THE ROACHES** - Sandstone hills in southern Derbyshire a few miles north of Leek.

# Access to Open Countryside

A BILL to give people the freedom to roam over open country will shortly be debated and voted on in the House of Commons. It will be tabled by Gordon Prentice, MP (Pendle in Lancashire) on March 26th, and the Ramblers' Association give their full support to this Private Member's Bill.

The right of access should not be wrongly interpreted as free to roam anywhere. Basically it's the freedom to walk on uncultivated land defined as mountain, moor, heath, down and registered common land. There will be common-sense restrictions such as protecting wildlife, farming and other interests.

A letter from the Hon Gen Secretary of the RA restates the following ten points on how to bring about this greater access to the open countryside:

## THE TEN POINTS

1. *Freedom to roam: a new law to enable the public to walk over mountain, moor, heath, down and common land in England and Wales.*
2. *Restrictions: the freedom is restricted to protect wildlife, farming and other interests.*
3. *Enter at own risk: walkers take responsibility for their own safety, with occupiers' liability reduced.*
4. *Code of Practice: for walkers, to provide education on how best to behave.*
5. *Wardens and byelaws: where necessary, to help landowners and the public and ensure good behaviour.*
6. *No access to back gardens, cornfields or farmyards: despite what the CLA has claimed.*
7. *Dogs: no automatic right to roam for dogs.*
8. *No compensation: top legal advice makes it clear that the government need not pay compensation to landowners.*
9. *No payment for access: access to be free of charge for walkers, with no entry fee, turnstile or ticket to be sold for walking over access land.*
10. *Willful obstruction: it will be an offence for landowners willfully to obstruct access where Parliament has said it must be freely available.*

## So how can we help!

THE RAMBLERS' ASSOCIATION need as many people as possible to write to their MP at the House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA. If you don't know your MP's name you can find out from your library or the council or you can ring the House of Commons Information Service on 0171 219 4272 and quote your postcode.

### Important points to note and include when writing your letter:

Write in your own name and not as a member of your club, and ask your family, friends and fellow walkers to do the same. Your letter, however short is important. MP's confirm that one letter may raise an eyebrow but just five letters on any subject demands action.

Ask your MP to let you know whether or not he/she intends to attend the debate and vote for Access to the Countryside Bill being sponsored by Gordon Prentice on March 26th 1999.

Ask him/her to give walkers their support, let us enjoy what a recent poll has shown, that 85% of the public support the call for legislation with common-

sense restrictions to protect the environment, crops and animals.

Voluntary access has been suggested but this has not produced any significant permanent agreements in the past or since publication of the Government's consultation document "Access to the Open Countryside" in February 1998.

Ask your MP to forward your letter to the Minister of the Environment (Mr Michael Meacher) and to the Prime Minister.

The Ramblers' Association and other responsible organisations support legislation. Please ensure the dreams of generations of walkers are realised at last.

## Keswick Weekend (II)

At Keswick Youth Hostel - Friday 4th to Sunday 6th June

TWO DAY WALKS (optional) - BEER FESTIVAL (optional)

### PRICES:

Bed and Breakfast . . . . .	£26.50	Full Board (2 breakfasts/2 packed lunches and evening meal Saturday) . . . . .	£36.50
Bed and Breakfast (1 evening meal) . . . . .	£31.10		
Bed and Breakfast (2 packed lunches) . . . . .	£31.90		

Weekend Beer Festival/Entertainment tickets £8.50 Daily ticket £5.00 Transport to be arranged

All enquiries: Bob Carney 0151 427 5373

## Seniors' Section

### CHESTER - 13th December. Leader Pat Pearson

THE FIRST shall be last and the last first, the Good Book says, and at the Seniors' Section Christmas Dinner, Pat Pearson's hard work and imagination were acknowledged with the well-deserved presentation of the Cyril Kelly Memorial Cup. We were all very pleased to have the opportunity to show our appreciation of her efforts.

Another facet of Pat's talent was revealed at Chester. With Leo being indisposed, Pat forsook her usual role as whipper-in, and took on the responsibilities of leading, and so it came to be.

Leo must also be thanked, for after deciding that the fees in the usual car park were excessive, he found a quiet road on the opposite side of the river, free of restrictions and charges. A big thank you all round.

After checking that all who were expected were present, a short stroll took us to the river, the bridge and the facilities. Just before recrossing the river a lone figure was spotted waving on the opposite bank. Those in the party with younger and keener eyesight identified it as Bill P., thus increasing the party to a nice round group of twelve.

The conditions were ideal for walking - a light breeze with an almost balmy temperature. Although the gnats were a little water-logged it didn't cause a problem, until a few of the party diverted from the main path and found themselves surrounded on three sides by deepish water and were thus forced back onto the straight and narrow.

The river itself was fairly busy, with earnest-looking oars-people propelling the frail crafts at astonishing speeds, regardless of life and limb. At various points along the bank, inlets have been fenced

off, presumably to protect them from human and bovine 'pedal extremities,' to use F. Waller, Esquire's description.

With lunch taken, it was only a short stretch to Eccleston Ferry, which doesn't exist any more, but which invoked an 'all our yesterdays' session. "Do you remember when . . . When did it stop . . . Does the path still run along that house????"

The route led inland at this point and we were shortly standing in the centre of Eccleston Village. Pat suggested a visit to the Parish Church of St Mary. The approach was along a trim avenue with beautifully kept grounds on either side. Harry gave us a brief history of the church, it being built at the start of the century by one of the Grosvenor family. The then Bishop of Chester, on viewing the architect's plan was heard to comment dryly: "We have quite an adequate cathedral a few miles away!" So presumably the building was scaled down somewhat.

In the late afternoon, with a lowering sun, a break was called and refreshments taken in a clearing amongst the trees and bushes, and all too soon we were back in Chester wishing each other a happy Christmas and a safe journey home. It was a fitting ramble to finish the year with, and many thanks to Pat for a lovely walk and getting us all back safe and sound - without a whipper-in. G.

### FOXHILL - Sunday 10th January

A COLD wintry bright day with the meet at Frodsham and strict instructions from Bill that the walk would start at 11.30am.

Frodsham brings back happy memories of my early days with the club when after a good day's walk we would end up at the farm where Peggy Sharkey lived, a welcoming home with a roaring fire in the kitchen. Years later we attended the wedding of Peggy and Bill; what a wonderful day that was - such happy memories.

It was a change to be early and take the opportunity to have a hot drink at the local cafe before eleven members set off.

Up through the park where everything was white with hoar frost. When I asked the name of the park I was told that it was known as Grandfathers Park, which possibly suited our party!

Onwards and upwards to the top of Frodsham Hill and the remains of an ancient fort which is one of seven forts along the sandstone ridge of West Cheshire and dates from as far back as the Iron Age. From this vantage point you have clear views of the surrounding countryside, much of the agricultural

land recovered from the marshes. Further on, Fiddlers Ferry power station belches out smoke to vie with ICI Chemicals, and further to the west, Stanlow petrochemical complex - the modern industrial age.

We stopped for lunch in sunshine on the side of Foxhill where a drop of Scotch improved the coffee no end. Fully refreshed, we pressed on along roads, paths and stiles towards Helsby, crossed the A56 and then on to the M56 where we watched the traffic speeding along. Looking over the bridge it was as though cars were being shot out of a gun at 70mph and the short distance between vehicles was frightening.

The last part of the walk took us over Helsby and Frodsham marshes, arriving back in Frodsham.

Thank you Bill for a lovely day which was rounded off by seven of us having a meal at the Wheatsheaf.

*Heron*

Question: What is the meaning of the word 'Mersey'?

Answer: 'River at the boundary'. In the case of the River Mersey the line between Lancashire and Cheshire.

## **FRESHFIELD - 28th January (Seniors' Section)**

THE WALK started with fifteen ramblers. We joined the eastern end of Fisherman's Path, and then crossed the Southport electric railway line to enter the woods walking north towards Ainsdale.

On leaving the woods the scenery changed to open mature dunes which is a favourite venue for hovering kestrels. We had our lunch break here, with groups seeking shelter behind sandy hillocks.

When they had finished their lunch, four members were surprised to discover that the main group had departed through the sand dunes on their way to the beach. Good tracking skills at path junctions enabled the parties to rejoin.

A brisk beach walk took us to the National Trust squirrel reserve for a brief rest.

We then returned to the western end of the Fisherman's Path for the final stretch.

On her rucksack Maureen was wearing the attractive LCRA cloth badge in blue and gold - at only £2 this is a bargain - buy now while stock last!

The leader had bought a radio - it was a grey day (Man U 2, Liverpool 1) but we all benefited from the sea breezes and exercise.

Thanks are due to Molly and Tony Roche from Maureen, Amy, Harry, Susanne and Alison from Rochdale, Tony T., Jean and Gerry, Marie and Peter, Jack and Betty, and Patricia Pearson. *Atom*

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## **SENIORS' SECTION RAMBLES**

April 11th - HOGHTON. George Skillicorn  
April 25 - To be arranged. Peter Atherton (526 2153)

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## **FAMILY SECTION RAMBLES**

March 14th CLIEVES HILLS, Aughton. Peter Wilkinson (01695 421681)  
April 18 SABDEN VALLEY, Lancs. Bernard Foley (01257 254276)

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## **OBITUARIES**

Sadly, during the past few months we have to report four deaths as follows:

### **HAROLD BURNS, R.I.P.**

It is with regret that we record the death of Harold Burns, a Vice President, Trustee and lifelong member of the LCRA.

Following National Service, Harold joined the Club as a young man and was an active member of all its Subsections. Besides being a keen walker he also was a member of the Football and Tennis Sections and became Secretary of the Club. In due time he met his wife to be, Betty, through the Club.

Like many of their Club contemporaries Harold and Betty became a little less active in the Club during the period of bringing up their two children, Josephine and Dominic, but they kept in touch, and the occasions of the Club's Annual Reunion Dances gave Harold the idea of forming a Family Section. This duly received the blessing of the LCRA Committee and a programme of walks was arranged allied to monthly house meetings. Frequently there were 20 to 30 adults/children on the walks and the Section was a great success. It subsequently became the present-day Seniors' Section.

Harold, as a Trustee of the Association remained faithful to his duties for many years, making the journey from Greasby for monthly Committee Meetings until declining health curtailed his activities.

To Betty, Josephine and Dominic we extend our sincere condolences and prayers at this sad time. May he Rest in Peace.

*Chris Dobbin*

### **VERONICA (Ronnie) O'NEILL**

To husband Harry we extend our sincere condolences and prayers at this sad time. May she Rest in Peace.

### **TOM GIBB**

To Tom's family we extend our sincere condolences and prayers at this sad time. May he Rest in Peace.

### **MRS BOWES (Mother of Maria and Angela - General Section)**

To Maria and Angela we extend our sincere condolences and prayers at this sad time. May she Rest in Peace.