

LIVERPOOL CATHOLIC RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION



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Newsletter Autumn/Winter 2012

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Eighth Series

Hello everyone, welcome to your brand new newsletter which I have the privilege of compiling and presenting to you. I know there's not been a proper newsletter for sometime which, on behalf of the committee of LCRA, I apologise. The reasons for the lack of a real newsletter are numerous: family commitments, ill health or just lack of spare time; life has a habit of spoiling our best laid plans. I willingly volunteered to take on this task because I wanted to help out as much as I could. I have not done anything like this before so it may be quite an amateur affair, certainly not to the same high standard as Dave News, but I will try to make it as interesting as I can.

I should now really introduce myself. For those who don't know me or who have never met me before, my name is Ron, I joined the club last June so I'm quite new, in fact I'm quite new to rambling all together. I found out about LCRA by accident when I had problems booking with another Liverpool rambling club who's coaches were constantly full. I searched the internet and found your excellent website and I was then able to book on my first walk (the Roaches) with no problem at all. In the few short months I started this exhilarating past time, I've come to love this club and my fellow ramblers; I have walked with other clubs, but for me, this one has the edge. I have to congratulate Liverpool Catholic Ramblers for being the most laid back and friendliest of clubs - I walk with some extremely nice people and real characters. The Sunday coach ride is like a blast from the past – it is so lively and the banter passing between members is a tonic – it has a real old fashioned feel about it, like the trips out on the 'charabanc' when we were kids; we even still keep up the tradition of a whip round for the driver (something I noted does not happen on other walking club coaches), I know our driver appreciates it – he actually thanks us on the tannoy - it is nice we show our appreciation for him keeping us safe. This club has an impressive 85 year history which we owe our thanks to the Senior Section for making the club what it is and leaving us with this legacy. I am so proud to be part of The Liverpool Catholic Ramblers' Association and I am hoping to still be here helping out when we reach our centenary and beyond.

The newsletter: In this and subsequent newsletters, I will try and keep you all up to date with what's happening within the club, forthcoming rambles and events, updates and anecdotes of recent rambles, interesting and relevant news items, funny stories, photographs – anything and everything. But also I need **YOUR** input to make this work; If any members have anything they would like to be included in the next newsletter – ramble reports, news items, jokes, items for sale, even your favourite recipes - anything that you may think would be of interest to the club then please email me or write and I will certainly try and get your contribution included in the next edition.

Anyway, preamble over, enjoy your newsletter.....

LCRA AGM

Well after a false start when we turned up at the Ship & Mitre and found the club room had been double booked, the AGM had to be rescheduled for the following week which was the night of the club Social. Everyone took the 'boo boo' in good heart and as we were all together anyway, members decided to take the opportunity for a drink and to socialise; turned into a good night.

The AGM took place on 4th of Oct. We had a good turn out and members were not shy in putting their views across. The Meeting was chaired by Chris Dobbin.

At the meeting it was agreed that there was to be an increase in the coach price of £1, this was because the coach operator is putting their prices up. Members agreed to this as £12 is still good value considering it's for a full day out.

Members also agreed to the price increase for Subs. This was something members felt was long overdue as subscriptions over the years have not kept to up with the rate of inflation. Subs for September 2013: £6 for Singles and £8 for couples.

Members also agreed to scrap the coach discount for A&B walk leaders but continue for C walk leaders.

Other matters arising were the need for a new member recruitment drive and the cancellation of the weekends away. A club member strongly voiced an opinion in favour of the 'weekends away' and Will Harris agreed to sort something out possibly for next April/May – watch this space.

Committee Meeting 17th October

I attended my first committee meeting this month along with Lisa Cumming, both of us are new to the committee and eager to put our ideas forward and do our bit to help . We had the pleasure of meeting a member from

the **Senior Section, Bill Potter**. Bill was there to explain the discontent felt within the Senior Section. To my understanding, the gist of it was: because of the cancellation of various social events and the lack of even a club newsletter, Bill's members felt isolated from the the General Section and basically felt they were just there subsidising the coaches. After Will Harris explained the situation to Bill, it became apparent that the real problem was the lack of communication between the two sections.

I wanted to get know Bill a bit better and after the meeting I asked if he had ever looked at the club's website on the internet which he hadn't! The website was shown to Bill with the archive photographs. Bill recognised a photograph of his late wife, Peggy – which for me was quite emotional.

Jim Langham's Last Walk of the Season



The A Team

'A' walk leader, Jim Langham, announced his last walk of the year was to be the club's trip out to Ambleside.

Jim prefers his walks in more clement weather and finishes his walking season before we get the rain, wind and snow – sensible man.

Jim's last walk was a grueller - Grasmere to Ambleside via a route known as the 'Fairfield' (continued over)

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Horseshoe'. I had the pleasure (and agony!) of doing this walk with Jim and the team and I've included a full ramble report in this newsletter.

LCRA's New Facebook Group



A Facebook Group which has recently been set up for club members has so far been an unbelievable success. Members have been spending hours chatting, planning events and uploading photographs.

For those not familiar with Facebook, it is a website on the internet, something which has become commonly known as a '**social network site**'. On Facebook you have the ability to talk with friends either openly on a forum or privately between two parties using an instant message service. You can also upload photographs and documents for other members to access, it also has a diary which can be used to keep members updated or reminded of future events.

To access the group you will have to open a Facebook account which is easy and is explained on their website. The simplest way to find the group is to go to our own website:

www.liverpoolcatholicramblers.com

Here Dave Parry has kindly provided a link on the first page.

Lost Property - Gaiters Left on Coach!

A member has asked me to report that a pair of gaiters were left on the coach on the Anglesey ramble. If anyone is missing a pair then please let me know so we can get them back to you.

Coach Seat Cancellations

LCRA member, Glen Lloyd has asked me to remind members to please cancel as early as you can if you are not able to come on a ramble. The coach seat you book is important as your absence without your early

cancellation could deprive others of a place on that coach. An example being the trip to Ambleside: we had a full coach, all 49 seats booked and apparently there were five people on a waiting list to get on that trip. Unfortunately, the day of the ramble seven seats on the coach were empty!

To echo Glen's request, if you can't make the ramble please give Will Harris a ring (Tel: 0151 486 6541) and let him know as soon as possible. Cheers.

Dates for your Diary:

01/11/12 – Club Social
04/11/12 – Ramble Ingleton
06/12/12 – Club Social
18/11/12 – Ramble Grasmere
02/12/12 – Ramble Llangollen
09/12/12 – Ramble Castleton
16/12/12 – Xmas Drink

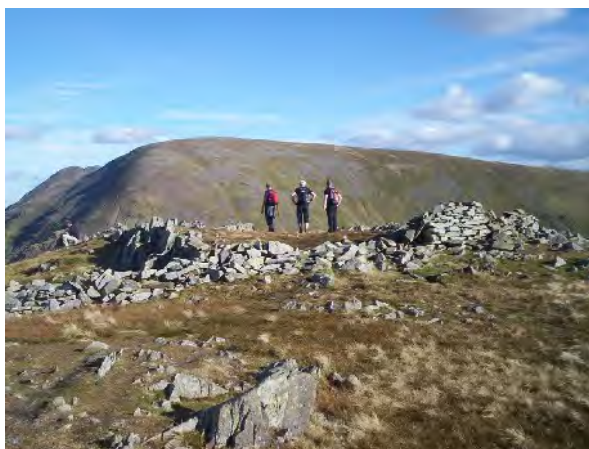
Ramble Report – 'A' Party 21/10/12 Grasmere to Ambleside

This walk was lead by **Jim Langham**, his last walk of the 2012 season. I did the walk with Jim and it being only my second ever 'A' walk, Jim severely punished me for having the cheek to think I was fit enough to do a walk of this calibre; I could just barely limp off the coach when we got back to Liverpool, my legs having the constitution of blancmange!

We got off the coach at Grasmere, where the walk commenced. The route basically was: Grasmere, then to the top of Seat Sandal, top of Fairfield, Hart Crag, Dove Crag, High Pike, Low Pike then finishing at Ambleside.

It was a very tough walk, we lost two of our party early into the ramble, them turning around and making their journey back to Grasmere before we even got to our first fell.

First up was Seat Sandal. This was extremely steep and the only way to ascend it was on all fours gripping clumps of grass and pulling yourself up. I was so relieved and felt a certain pride when we finely got to the top. I took a photograph of the team thinking **'that was the tough bit the rest would be a doddle'** – too many 'B' and 'C' walks had lulled me into this false sense of security as, unknowingly to me, the fell behind the team in the photo was our next port of call; this was only the start of the walk!



Yes chaps – that one next!

The walk thereafter went at a blistering pace; no time for chitchat there were miles of 'ups

and downs' to trek. I was constantly encouraged on by Billy Cuddy who made sure I was not too far behind. Although the pace was fast (sometimes we were almost running!), I wanted some photographs to help document the walk and I tried to grab a few snaps whilst on the move only to be told off by Jim: “no time for photographs Ron.”

The ground was rough, sometimes rocky sometimes boggy, with the sun in our eyes for most of the walk, it made an uncomfortable trek. I had a blister on the heel of my right foot and my poor knees were clicking and popping but the march went relentlessly on.



A rough and rocky road

We arrived in Ambleside past the 6.30pm coach departure time – we were late – shamefully because of my poor fitness!

As tough as it was, I really did enjoy the walk and it was a pleasure walking with Jim and the rest of the team; we had some amazing views and the weather was perfect. I felt a definite sense of achievement when the walk was over although I was exhausted.

I am looking forward to doing more 'A' walks with Jim in the new year but I think I need to get my fitness level up. Thanks for the excellent walk, Jim, see you out next year.

RR

Pendle Charity Witch Walk 2012

Last August, club members Ron Deacon, Cathy Clements, Barbara Gregory and Julia McNee completed the **Pendle Witch Walk** which was organised to mark the 400th anniversary of the Pendle Witch Trials and also raise a bit of cash for charity.



Julia Ron and Cathy

Cathy Clements says: "We did it to raise money for the Pendle Hospice and we got to take part in a record attempt" - as part the anniversary event, our members took part in the Guinness World Record attempt for the biggest ever gathering of people dressed as witches.



Barbara Julia and Ron

Cathy went on to say: "There were even dogs dressed at witches on the day and it was ghostly at the top. Witches in the mist!!!!!"

"All ages, sizes and species took part! It was a great day with a real sense of celebration. Tim Robbins was MC and they had a brass

band and other acts on the green so the day had a feel of a spooky carnival atmosphere. We also wanted to take part in the event because it marked the anniversary of the Pendle Witch Trials in 1612 which is why as a one off, they had the date 1612 in big white numbers on Pendle Hill, which was brilliant to look at, near or far."

Well done Ladies and Gent, LCRA members doing themselves and the club proud.

Pete Dumbrill's Charity Halloween Party

On Saturday 27th of October, Pete Dumbrill held a Charity Halloween party which he organised in aid of **St. Vincent's School for the Blind**, a charity Pete has supported in the past.



Pete has promised to wear this outfit when he leads a future 'B' walk!

The event was held at the **Vagabonds Lawn Tennis Club** and was attended by quite a significant number of LCRA members who danced and partied through the night.

It was a fantastic night out and members who missed the event will be kicking themselves
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LCRA Member News

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they weren't there.

Pete did a very professional job at organising this event; superb raffle prizes, fun competitions, DJ, buffet and an extremely talented young singer from Liverpool who not only sung well but also had a superb rapport with the audience.



Pete having a rest on Ste's knee

Credit must also be given to Pete's girlfriend and fellow LCRA member, **Paula Rothwell**. Paula was kept busy all night with the buffet, raffle and everything else that went into making the success this night truly was. Thanks Paula, for your superb effort – job well done.



Marty, Helen and Ste dancing the night away

Everyone had an amazing time and everyone let their hair down; people who I would never believe would get up and dance got up with no inhibitions and just let themselves go. It was a first class night all round.



Pete and Erica trip the light fantastic!
Speaking on behalf of attending LCRA members: thank you for a great night and well done **Pete and Paula**.

Another Charity Walk



Jacqui Browne and Jeanie Cottier

These two lovely ladies have also completed an amazing charity walk and I'm hoping to have a full write-up for our next newsletter – watch this space.

Pete Dumbrill's Trek Up Everest!

This week one of our members, Pete Dumbrill, is travelling to Nepal to embark on the challenging hike up to Mount Everest Base Camp. Pete is a true adventure seeker and last year trekked up Kilimanjaro raising thousands of pounds for St Vincent's School for the Blind.

Pete has promised us a full report of the trek and photographs for our next newsletter.

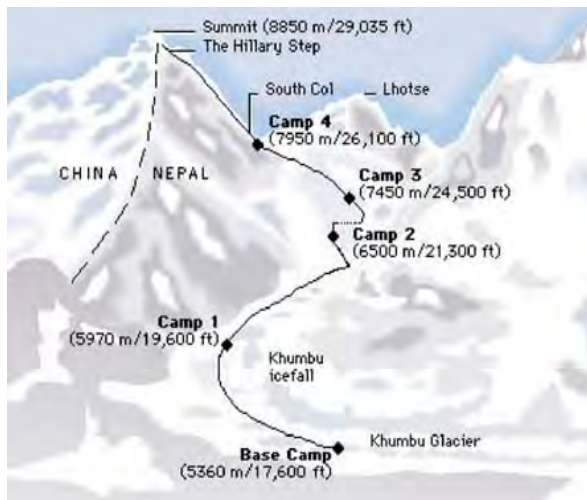
I'm sure we all wish Pete the best of luck and a safe journey home.

Sir Edmund Hillary

On the subject of Everest, it set my mind thinking of the man who first conquered this mountain in 1953 - Sir Edmund Hillary. As Pete will be walking in Hillary's footsteps, I thought it might be a nice idea to reflect on this piece of history by giving a brief synopsis of this man's remarkable achievement.

A passionate mountaineer since his early teens, in 1948 Hillary climbed the Aoraki/Mount Cook (3,754 meters), the highest mountain in New Zealand. Three years later, Hillary took part in the British reconnaissance expedition of the Everest. In 1952 he and his New Zealander friend George Lowe were part of a British team led by Eric Shipton that unsuccessfully attempted to climb the Cho Oyu, one of the Himalayan mountains that is 8,000 meters above sea level.

In 1952 Hillary and Lowe were invited to join the British expedition that was being organized by the Joint Himalayan Committee with the aim of climbing the Everest via the South Col route in Nepal.



Originally led by Eric Shipton (who would soon be replaced by John Hunt), the expedition involved more than 400 members, including 360 porters, 20 Sherpa guides and five tons of luggage.

The expedition set up base camp in March 1953. The first team, formed by Bourdillon and Evans, tried to reach the summit in May, but was forced to abandon just 90 meters away from the summit, due to problems with the oxygen equipment.

A second attempt was carried out by Edmund Hillary and the Sherpa Tenzing Norgay. They set up a tent on a spot at a 8,500 meters above sea level, from which they launched the final assault. The final and crucial obstacle to be overcome was what would later be known as the 'Hillary Step', an imposing vertical stonewall of 12 meters located at a short distance from the summit of the world.

They reached the 8,848m summit at 11.30am of the 29th of May 1953. Hillary took the famous picture of Norgay and, 15 minutes later, they started the descent.

The first person they encountered was Lowe, who was addressed by Hillary with the famous line 'Well, George, we knocked the b*****d off!'

News of the ascension's success reached Great Britain on the day of Queen Elizabeth's crowning. Upon return, Hillary and the members of the expedition were rewarded with honours, recognition and a great deal of publicity.

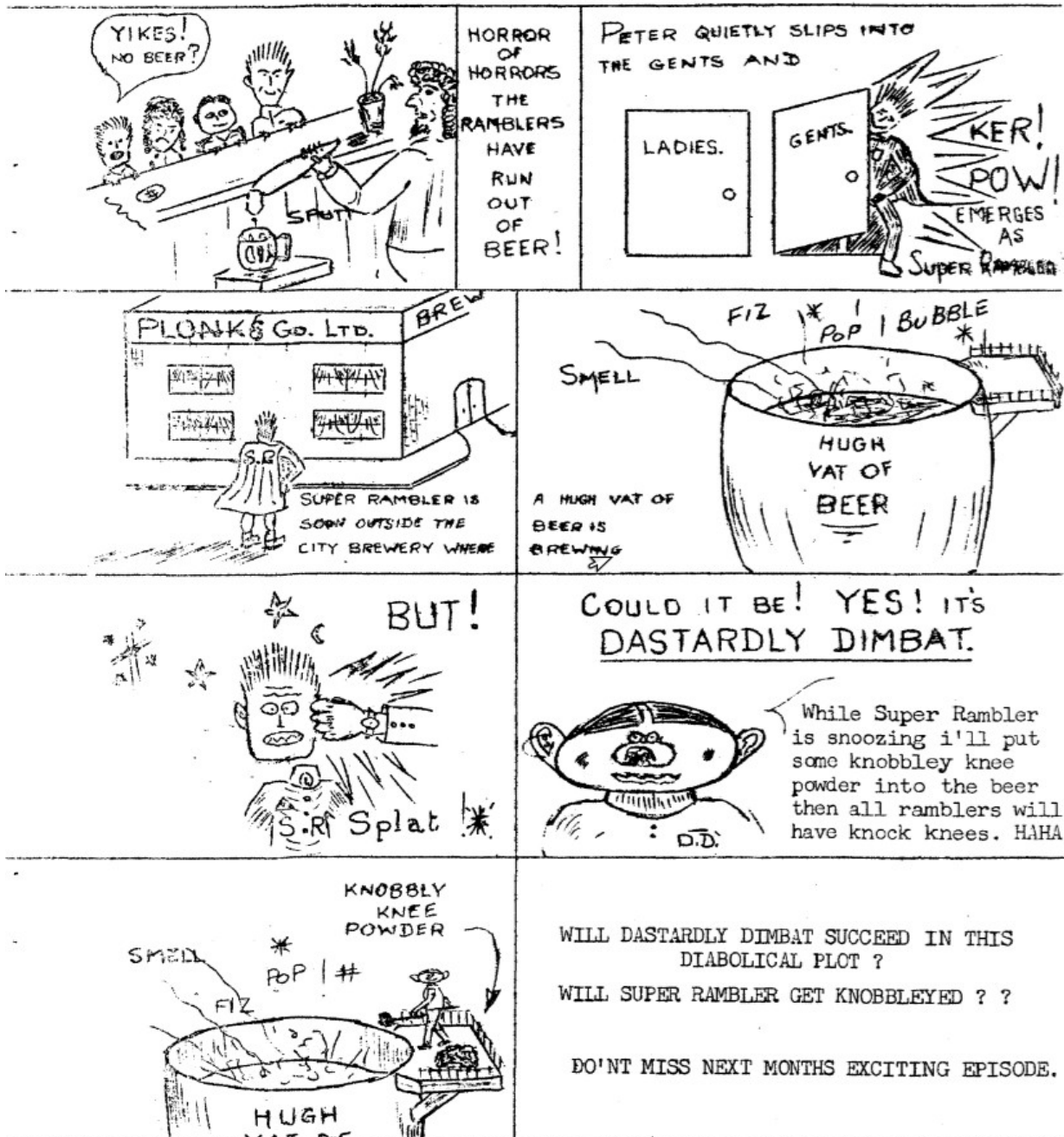
The Time Machine

I know this is going to be my favourite part of the newsletter. This is where I take us back in time as I trawl through LCRA's vast archive of documents, searching for interesting curios and long forgotten articles and re-show them to a brand new audience.

This little gem I found in the **July/August 1972 newsletter** which I thought the absolute epitome of the LCRA Rambler; the decades may disappear into time's infinite black hole but always there remains one constant - our love of beer!.... John Price, wherever you are, we salute you.

SUPER RAMBLER IN 'SOMETHING BREWING'


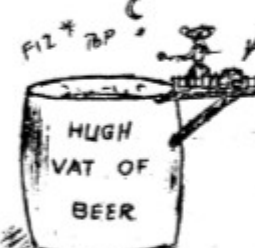



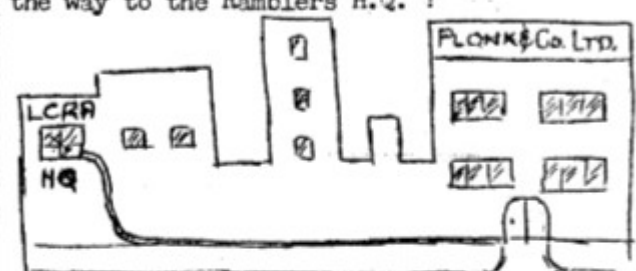


*by
John Price of
Unit Construction.*



SUPERRAMBLER IN SOMETHING BREWING

PART TWO

by John Price of
Unit Construction *

<p>SUPERRAMBLER REGAINS HIS SENSES</p>  <p>GEE! THAT HURT</p> <p>BUT WHERE IS DASTARDLY DIMBAT?</p>	<p>DD IS ABOUT TO POWDER THE BEER WITH THE KNOBBLY KNEE POWDER</p>  <p>Listen D.D. if you don't come down I will make you read the Ramblers Newsletter.</p>
<p>AGH! I give in! Not that Anything but the Newsletter!</p>  <p>D.D.</p>	<p>With DASTARDLY DIMBAT Defeated our HERO now concentrates on how to get the BEER from Plonk & Co. Ltd to the L.C.R.A. H.Q.</p>  <p>THINKS</p> <p>PUZZLED EXPRESSION</p>
<p>SUDDNLY</p> <p>PLONK!</p> 	<p>But whats this going from the brewery all the way to the Ramblers H.Q. ?</p> 
<p>Yes it's a tube, now all the ramblers can take turns to have a drink.</p>  <p>SUCK TO BREWERY</p>	<p>WHY PETE, WHILE YOU WERE OUT, SUPER RAMBLER SOLVED EVERYTHING. ISNT HE A WHIZZ?</p>  <p>SURE IS BABY DOLL</p>

THE. END.

Conclusion



Well that's your lot for now. I hope you enjoyed the read as much as I enjoyed the write. It has been a pleasure compiling this newsletter and I hope at the very least you enjoyed just looking at the photographs.

To finish off I thought I would show a few photographs members have uploaded to the Facebook group. These were taken at recent LCRA Rambles.

It is nice to show what a happy bunch we are – always smiling!

A few words about our Rambles: Our rambles can be as simple as a nice gentle stroll in the countryside or a strenuous slog up the side of a mountain but either way, you are always guaranteed a fun and healthy day out with nice company.

I am hoping to get your next newsletter prepared and ready for posting before Christmas then after that, I will try and get them sent out quarterly.



One last reminder. I need your input so please write or email me with your ideas and contributions for future newsletters. I would particularly like to hear from our senior section members.