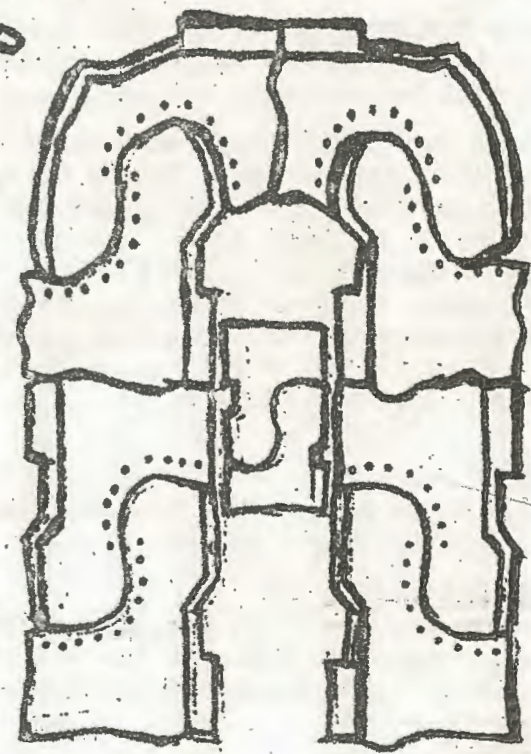
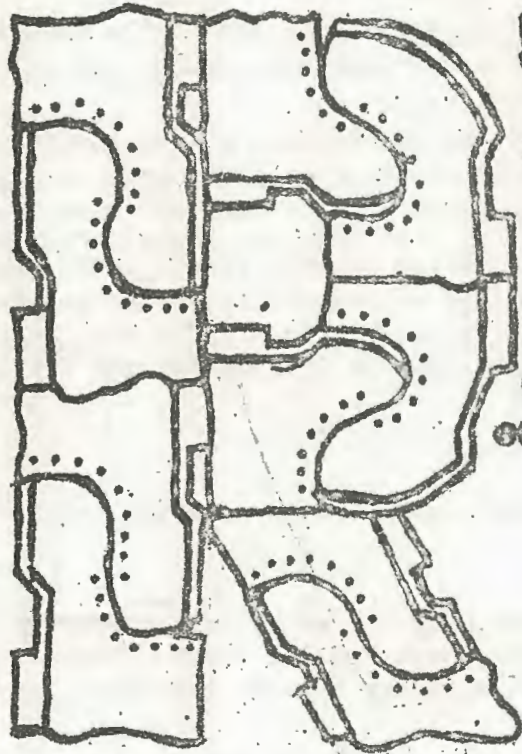


NEWS



We were rewarded with a superb day on the Saturday of the Keswick Weekend when both A and B parties did walks in the Buttermere area - Haystacks was seen in all its splendour and conquered by both parties. This is the mountain which Wainwright, that well known writer of the fellwalkers guides describes in such detail, and when he dies he would like his ashes scattered over the summit. The social evenings at Lakeside House went with a swing complete with Limbo dancers and headstanders! On the Sunday most went to the special Mass for Tommy Keenan, RIP and in the afternoon about 20 did a pleasant ramble over Castle Crag in Borrowdale whilst others went for a row on the lake, etc. Mavis did a splendid job as stand-in chef due to holidays and the packed lunches were the usual "meat pies or crisps or nuts" standard. March can't come soon enough for our next Keswick Weekend.

S O C I A L I T E

The monthly quizzes at the club have been popular and recently there was a special Fred Norbury/Cyril Kelly Trophy quiz when we had an outright winner for both the ladies and gents, but only Paul Healy, who did the marking, knows who they are. This was followed on the Saturday by a ten-pin bowling evening to complete the competition. The trophy winners will be announced at the club's annual buffet dance on November 19th and presented with these annual trophies. Before the Annual Dance the club has . . .

A CHEESE AND WINE NIGHT on November 3rd (Thursday) at the club. The usual disco will be played but the admission will be £1 (70p unemployed). Phone your friends and spread the news as this is not enough notice for many members.

THE ANNUAL BUFFET DANCE is on Saturday, November 19th at the Everton FC but hurry! tickets must be obtained by November 5th. They are just £5 inclusive and Brian Keller is the man to contact on 734 2928. See notice on next page.

Paul Healy (who usually writes this Socialite) is chief cook and bottle washer at the moment as his mother has had an operation and is now back home again but feeling weak. We wish her a speedy recovery back to health.

Now we come to the Hatches and Matches bit. First the hatches when we congratulate proud parents John and Marie Murphy on the birth of their daughter Lois on September 2nd. Peter and Christina Kennedy are the other proud parents and twin boys are the recent addition to their family making a total of five boys, no girls! Now the matches, with Anthony Brockway and Maria Byrne getting married recently. Congratulations and best wishes for your future happiness. Finally we congratulate John Cavannah and Margaret Jennings who were recently engaged. I think that is all for now. Meanwhile give us a buzz if any of you get engaged or married, etc in time for the Christmas newsletter! (Billinge 892791).

OBITUARY

Sadly we have to report that Maureen Rockcliffe's mother died recently. We offer our deepest sympathy to you Maureen.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE

The subs are now due at £4 for single membership and £5 for married couples. See the Registrar, Bernadette Doyle or the assistant Registrar, Allan Caple. Cheques should be made out to LCRA. Bernadette's address is 84 Whittier Street, Liverpool L8 0RF.

NEW COMMITTEE

At the club's AGM - September 22 - there were a few changes in the Committee with the addition of Mike Hendrick, Phil Wells, Margaret Murphy and Nora Sheehan. Daphne O'Shea was elected as Secretary and Assistant Registrar Allan Caple. The other positions are the same as last year.

NEXT NEWSLETTER is due in December. Any material should be given or sent to me by the end of November. Also if anyone would like to assist or even have a go at typing or editing this newsletter, then please contact me.

DAVE NEWNS

Recently the "Which" consumer magazine carried out a survey on walking boots. They tried and tested 32 types of boots and shoes, and most of these stood up to the testing well.

In their survey lightweight, heavyweight and moulded plastic boots were tested, along with walking shoes (which they stressed did not give the same protection to the ankle as boots — so walking shoes aren't suitable for rough hill walking in very wet areas).

There were ten classifications of boots, varying from price to fit, comfort, grip and overall user rating. The outcome was that the general standard of boots was high and coped with most ground and weather conditions. Properly looked after, most of the boots should last for years.

The best buy was Vango Cortina (£29 to £35) and Winit Fellmaster (£40) . . . along with the following boots as good value:

Daisy Roots Vetta	£56	Scarpa Trionic Manta	£88
Dolomite Super Sella	£80	Scarpa Trionic Mirage	£73
High Country Ridgeway	£55	Zamberlan Feltrina (about	£55)
Scarpa Trionic Lady	£80	Zamberlan Trek Lite	£80
(for women)			

with the following two pairs worth thinking about because of price:

Hawkins Glendale£35 and Hi-Tec Trail£25 to £28.

I hope the price of the boots don't shock you. However your boots will last for years if properly looked after by cleaning them well after every walk, sponging them free of dirt and mud with cold water (no soap) on both uppers and soles (dirt left on soles can affect grip). After sponging, let them dry naturally, as direct heat can wrinkle and crack leather and damage the adhesive bonds. Finally, reproof the boots with a wax treatment or a silicone spray.

PAUL HEALY

THE WALLABY QUEST

First light on the first Sunday in October saw once again my heart responding to the serene call of the hobnailed boot. My mystical wandering brought down to earth with a mild rebuke from my good wife Audrey that I must have awakened all of Norris Green in getting my boots out and packing my bag. Situation not helped when I explained that I was off to search for the wallabies! Audrey suggested I might be a little over-worked and perhaps take a week off. A quick series of 'Yes love, no love' even 'Three bags full, love' (under my breath of course) ensured my lift to St John's Lane. I may be only the deck boy at work but when I am at home I assure you I am second in command!

The crew was in high spirits arriving at Meerbrook, uncharted waters for all hands and the promise of a fine and sunny day assured.

Walking past the youth hostel in the village brought back pleasant memories of lovely weekends of long past and a desire to once more stay at the youth hostel and spend an evening in the Three Horse Shoes pub. One hour later saw us on top of the ridge with everybody's port and starboard engines in good **shape**. A brief butty break with some disbelieving members asking were there really wallabies down in Gradbach Woods? Unfortunately we were not to see them on this occasion, having to take my rhubarb home and convert it to a pie. Never mind, I'm sure we will spot them next time!

Back up along the ridge we walked southwards along the 'Roaches' - an escarpment of grit and sandstone of many kinds and shapes, affording breathtaking views of the surrounding countryside. Another tea break afforded some hilarity about the wallabies with lots of members promising they would dearly love to come again and seek them out. Back along the valley floor we were reminded of the never-ending scene of nature as the first autumn leaves were falling like musical notes.

A slight hitch on the last two hundred yards of the footpath proved to be nothing more than just a dropped stitch in the cardigan of life. Arrival back at the coach at 5.30 afforded a leisurely change of clothes in quite attractive surroundings. It was agreed that the pub stop should be at Paul Healy's local in Prescot. It proved to be a winner and was so good that some members elected to stop. Lucky members!

Arriving back home chatty but happy and confessing to Audrey that we had failed to see the wallabies and had brought the rhubarb back brought a look of concern and the suggestion that I should stop drinking Red Eye and ... go to bed early all this week. Perhaps I should have tried the banana cake to entice them.

JOE ROURKE

With a follow up to this last walk by Joe he has plans now for his own personal Boxing Day, yes BOXING DAY walk. Joe reckons that it will prove popular to many of the members and invites all and sundry to walk off that surplus Festive Fare. Read on:

INVITATION WALK

You are invited to take part in a walk on Boxing Day in the Formby area. Assemble and start noon at Ainsdale Station. A circular walk taking in the sand hills and woods via the Fishermans Pub - oops, sorry, I meant the Fishermans Path!

A rare chance to spot and identify the once thought extinct Barnacle Bat, peculiar only to that region of woodland, easily recognised by only having one ear and a green tail, affectionately known as Batty in the locality. Batty has a craving, perchance, for mince pies and Red Eye, so please bring along in plentiful supply!

For further details please contact Joe Rourke on 256 9144.

Happy Batty watching. J.R.

U R G E N T

HURRY! It's BUFFET DANCE TIME....only a few days left to get YOUR ticket.

LCRA ANNUAL BUFFET DANCE

at Everton Football Club
Sportsman's Cabaret Lounge

SATURDAY, 19th November

Tickets £5

must be obtained before

November 5th

Dancing from 7.15 to 11.45pm
to resident DJ - Dancing will be varied
to suit all tastes. Dress optional but
no jeans. Please note no admission after 9.30
(Everton's rules). Tickets from:

Brian Keller (734 2918)

Note: This is an informal Buffet Dance and will be different from last year's Dinner Dance, which was a special anniversary dance. Past buffet dances have proved to be very enjoyable here. Don't be left out in the cold - 220 limit!

R A M B L E R I T E

The past half dozen walks (with the exception of Dolwyddelan) have all been generally dry overhead and hopefully this run of luck will continue. Those who went on the Ingleton ramble had the added comfort of a luxury coach with videos of pop music on the return journey. A reminder that it costs only £3.50 if you pay that full amount in advance (£2.50 for unemployed). At this time of the year you can get on the coach without booking but it will cost you 50p more! Book for the following walks NOW!

Nov 6 Millers Dale is a delightful spot a few miles past Buxton in Derbyshire. The walk takes in Chee Dale, Monsall Dale and Millers Dale. Brian Keller and Paul Healy.

Nov 13 Kilnsey is near Kettlewell, Yorkshire, and Ian and Bob have walks planned.

Nov 27 Arnside Knott is a part coastal walk near Morecambe Bay. Always popular.

All the above November walks are 10.15 departures

Dec 4 Hawes is a 9.30 departure and is in the Yorkshire Dales with Dave Connolly leading the A walk and Peter Wilkinson the B.

Happy Rambling, DAVE NEWS (PS short of time and space in this edition)

Don't forget to book for the Yuletide Hot-pot (Jan 8th). See Allan Caple.

RAMBLING PROGRAMME, 1988. FAMILY SECTION.

NOV.13. Arthur and Vera Brockway are leading this one somewhere in the Wirral. Meet in Royden Park carpark as usual, but don't boot up, drivers, as we may be moving on. The entrance to Royden Park is in Greaseby, Opposite the famed Farmers' Arms. We start walking at 12.30 p.m.

DEC. 1. Bill and Peggy Potter are our hosts for this House Meeting. Round 8 p.m. at 91 Woodlands Road, Halewood.

DEC 11. Bill and Peggy Potter are on duty again leading this ramble (Foxhill) in the Frodsham area. Meet at the shopping precinct, Church Street, Frodsham to start walking at 12.30 p.m.

JAN. 8. This is the date for the annual Hotpot Supper at the Great Barn, Rivington, following a good walk in the area. More particulars in the Christmas issue of the Newsletter.

* * * * *

HOLLINGWORTH LAKE AND HILL : FAMILY SECTION, 11TH SEPT.

This walk is an annual classic and has been in a Club programme for at least 30 years. Situated near Rochdale, Hollingth became a Family Section favourite when Harry and Ron O'Neill went to live in the area, for the sole purpose, some thought, of guaranteeing the end-of-Summer O'Neill safari.

Over the years the area has been improved by the Local Council; a new facilities centre has been built, water sports are encouraged, even the car parks have been landscaped. It was from the Centre that some 25 Ramblers followed Martin O'Neill away from the lake and along the route of the old stone canal drain towards the hills. The weather was dry and windy, ideal for us and the hang gliders which seemed to follow our slow progress like watchful hawks.

Also enjoying the day in the hills were two resourceful mountain bikers who were not men on bikes but vice versa - some sport! We had with us our mountain dog Glen Atherton and his three aides - Marie, Peter and Mark. There was only a mild growl of protest at the top, and I think that was from Peter.

Helen O'Neill kept an eye on Martin at the front, and on Dad at the back who, with map, was wondering why we were walking up Benny Hill. The Hightons and Potters were in good form and Leo had delegated the mega-sac to Stephen for the day.

George S. was so engrossed with photographing the valley and lake view that he had to rush to catch up, but missed the narrow turn off. Was it ten miles away that a small red anorak caught his eye - a rapid retreacking returned him to the fold. When do we see the photographs, George?

Meanwhile, Ron O'Neill led a B walk with Betty Highton on a good Lakeside tour. Thank you, Harry, Ron Helen and Martin - we will come again next year - boots, bikes or hang-gliders?

ATOM.

* * * * *

HURST GREEN, OCTOBER 9TH. FAMILY SECTION.

Fortune favours the brave, but on Sunday October 9th 1988 it favoured the foolhardy too. After the torrential rain and gale force winds of the previous few days, and with more rain and high winds forecast, ten EUMRS (Elder Upwardly Mobile Ramblers) braved the elements and turned up at the meet in tranquil, almost balmy weather.

There should have been 12 EUMRS in the party, but two failed to make the start. I shall refrain from naming names, nevertheless, B.R. still managed to operate out of Lime Street all day Sunday.

In the dim distant past there was a square dance we used to do, called 'Dip and Dive and Away we go'. Sunday's walk could be called 'Slip and Slide and Down we go!'. Leaving Hurst Green by way of what Peter euphemistically termed a 'path' and ascending slowly we were soon crossing field and fence to gain a pine forest, in which that ubiquitous silence peculiar to this type of woodland soon enveloped us. With the gradient easing, we burst forth like salmon over a leap, into rain-cleansed air, giving clear views of distant hill and vale with the massif of Pendle Hill to the right. The pattern and colour of the fields rivalling Joseph's magnificent garment, we strode the path along the crest of Longridge Fell, till we plunged once more into the forest.

A descending path took us to the steep banks of the River Hodder as it tumbled and struggled against the confines of the restraining arms of Mother Earth, till finally finding freedom in the expanse of Morecambe Bay. Cooling temperature and a lowering sun reminded us that not too many hours of daylight remained.

It was through the neat and ordered grounds of Stoneyhurst College the route back to Hurst Green lay, ending what had been a halcyon day to be remembered and savoured in time to come.

Our thanks must go to the Leader, who not only brought us geriatrics safely back, but by combining leader's role with that of whipper-in, made sure the stragglers kept up. Thanks, Glen, you did a grand job.

GERRIM.

Sorry, Gerrim, about the absence of royalties, or even an advance on same but, as everybody knows, write-ups are supposed to be a labour of love!!

* * * * *

A discordant note must now be struck. With 'not quite so many' members attending the A.G.M., 'not quite so many' paid their SUBSCRIPTIONS. They are now well due - Four pounds to singles and Five pounds to doubles, and cheap at twice the price! Mona Roberts at 7 Elmbank Road, L18 1HR will be absolutely delighted to send you a receipt for same!

* * * * *

There are some among us who find the drive - walk - and drive home from some of our more distant walks a bit hectic. You now have an opportunity on the next two (if not three) walks of taking advantage of the nearer locations in the near future. Do come if you possibly can.

Mona R.
