



Liverpool Catholic Ramblers Association

NEWSLETTER

October 1998

Seventh Series

Issue number 16

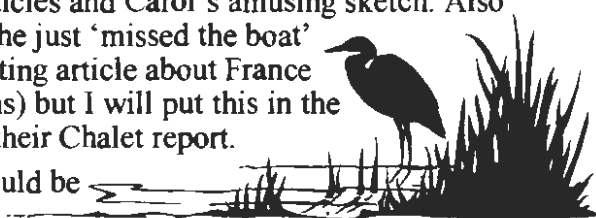
Editorial

CONSIDERING the size of our club, the recent Annual General Meeting wasn't too well attended. I think I counted 28 people present, but having said that, I have just been reading the latest newsletter of the Catholic Walking Club of Victoria, Australia. At their AGM this year the membership total of 129 is roughly two-thirds of ours. Only 17 turned up for their AGM. So looking at it in that light it doesn't sound too bad, with our bigger attendance of 28. I will be carrying a few copies of these Aussie newsletters around with me for a while for those interested. Our much-travelled member, Albert Downing, who spent many years Down Under with them, keeps in regular touch.

There are our Secretary's and Chairwoman's Annual Reports in this edition. There was going to be a witty poem on the recent Polish Holiday but the girls are still working on it, so it will appear in your Christmas edition alongside the full report and cartoon of same. Also included will be the famous Christmas cake recipe (the whisky version!).

Thanks due to Carol and Ken for their car ramble articles and Carol's amusing sketch. Also thanks to Roy for his late arrival of the Wine Barge trip - he just 'missed the boat' for the last edition. Richie Cannon just gave me an interesting article about France with some Lourdes connections (and French connections) but I will put this in the next edition. Finally, thanks to the Seniors' Section for their Chalet report.

So any articles, etc, for our Christmas newsletter should be given to me around mid-November.



Dave Newns

Editor's address: 7 Abbotts Way, Billinge, WIGAN WN5 7SB

NEW MEMBERS

We give a special welcome to the following new members who have joined our ranks since the last newsletter. They are: Peter Carfoot, Lisa Wright, Jean Walker and George Bromfield.

NEW YEAR AT AMBLESIDE YHA

Over the past few months Dave Dickel has been taking names for the Hostel trip departing Thursday, December 31st and returning on Sunday, January 3rd. He has got full details printed out for those interested, so briefly, accommodation costs £10.70 per person per night, evening meal £4.40, breakfast £2.95, and packed lunches £2.55 each.

Those intending going up by their own transport and are able to offer a lift please contact Dave on 01244 533995 immediately, At the moment the only alternative is to travel up by National Express - £17 if booked seven days before or £23 on the day. These are return prices. Balance of Payment: The accommodation price (3 nights) plus cost of all meals if required, must be paid to Dave by October 25th. Cancellation Refund Insurance by YHA is provided at 30p per person per night if required.

Dave's address is: D. Dickel, 5 Grant Drive, Ewloe, Flintshire, CH5 3RR

ADVANCE NOTICE

Next March we have booked Lakeside House in Keswick for a weekend away
Our club have been having weekends at Lakeside House for many years but we've had a break for the last few years. We will be staying there on March 19th to 21st (two weeks before Easter). This guesthouse is double glazed and has a high standard of comfort with spacious lounge, games room/bar, large dining room and a very efficient drying room in the basement. It is ideally situated within minutes of the well-stocked shops, bars and centre of Keswick. Accommodation is half-board. Packed lunches for the walks are also available if ordered in advance. Lakeside House is run by the Catholic Holiday Fellowship, open to all denominations. Further details later.



Social Nights



Note: There will be no clubnights after Friday Dec 11th until Thursday Jan 7th

- October** **22nd DINGBATS QUIZ.** Will Harris testing our wits again. Fabulous prizes.
 29th BINGO NIGHT. Helen Riley in charge tonight.
- November** **5th CHEESE AND WINE.** Sample the various cheeses and have a few pints of wine with us and there could be fireworks when you get back home!
 12th REMEMBRANCE QUIZ. I've forgotten whose doing this quiz. Oh yes, I think Ray Mc will be the one wearing the Quizmaster's Poppy.
 19th BRING AND BUY SALE. Bring anything that might sell, and help boost the club's funds by buying it back again! Ray Mc is your Auctioneer.
 26th POLISH QUIZ. You don't need to know anything about Poland to win this quiz but you might need a little knowledge of furniture polish, shoe polish, etc, especially with Will Harris in charge.
- December** **3rd THE PRICE IS RIGHT.** Ray Mc is Quizmaster.
 10th NO SOCIAL TONIGHT due to Christmas Party Night following this.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11th

Christmas Party Night

at the CORNMARKE T PUB, Fenwick Street

There will be a PROFESSIONAL DISCO

Refreshments will be available but these are still at the discussion stage so keep your ears to the ground.

December 17th NO SOCIAL TONIGHT (Next Social Night will be on Thurs, January 7th)

ADVANCE NOTICE OF OUR YULETIDE EVENT

Saturday January 16th 1999

A full day of walks, followed by hot-pot and a barn dance is planned at Goosnargh near Preston in the New Year. The spacious village hall is an ideal setting for this function which we have hired from 5 pm. There will be bar facilities and the hall is situated adjacent to the village green in the centre of Goosnargh enjoying beautiful views over to Beacon Fell Country Park and close to the Trough of Bowland.

Cost inclusive of coach is £10 which is actually £1 cheaper than last year. Don't leave it too late to book if you intend coming by coach. Remember this is a SATURDAY event.

Ramblerite

THE BAD NEWS is that because of low attendances during the past few months we are now losing money on the coaches. But don't panic! The good news is that the coach is full to bursting point for today's High Cup Nick ramble plus the promise of at least one car for people on the waiting list.

We are pulling out all the stops to try and recruit more past and new members to get bums on seats in order to keep the coach prices down.

Welsh Walks now £6 - Earlier this year, we hoped making Welsh trips £1 cheaper would boost numbers, but it didn't work, and all Welsh walks ran at a loss, so now the committee have decided to put the cost back to £6. Hopefully coach trips to other areas should still remain at £6, at least for the winter.

Rambling Chairman - At the recent Rambling Sub-Committee meeting Will Harris gained the above title. His duties are manifold, as Ray Mac will tell you. Put in simple terms, Will is the person who keeps all the club's maps in his house! He won't be out with us every week but his deputies will be on stand-by with the big book of: "Er, I think I'm transferred from seven weeks ago" or "Hang on, I'm sure that was a £20 note I gave you!" etc, etc.

Now for the Serious Stuff - You should receive your new programme with this newsletter (if you've renewed your subs!) and after you've glanced at the centre pages you should read the notes on the first page regarding 'Conduct and Discipline' - it's just a

matter of common sense really. Another important note to make when heading out on the coach for the walks is to listen to the announcement of the pick-up point at the end of the day. For whatever reason, you may get separated from the party, and it is up to you to know where the coach is situated.


Recent Rambles - Last week the 30 who turned up for the North Wales trip had Ray Mc leading an enjoyable joint 'B/C' walk in the Capel Curig area. Meanwhile an eager 'A' group shot in front of the leader to race up Moel Siabod, but it backfired on them when the leader and whipper-in got to the summit first! Moral of the story: Stay with the leader.

At Malham Steve N went over the top with the 'C' (Limestone Pavement) while 24 'B' walkers enjoyed scrambling up Gordale Scar with Dave N. Meanwhile Carol did a diminutive marathon 16-miler for the 'A'.

The two car rambles in September went down the highways and by-ways in search of, and found, the summer weather! Carol and Ken have interesting full reports of this on another page.

Now then, let's tell you all about the rambles we've got from now till Christmas.

☺ Future Rambles ☺

 **GRASMERE (Oct 25)**. Don't forget to put your clocks back this weekend. You'll get an extra hour in bed so you may feel fit enough to do 'The Lion and the Lamb' (Helm Crag) on Dave's 'B' walk or even stroll around the peaks with Tom on the 'A'. If you want a more leisurely stroll then Helen will take you out on the 'C'.

MONSAL DALE (Nov 1). This is just one of several very scenic dales you will be walking through between Buxton and Bakewell in the Peak District. Much of the walking will be on winding rocky riverside paths between towering Limestone cliffs. All groups will also probably cover both Chee Dale and Millers Dale.

RETREAT (Nov 8). No, we're not walking backwards on this one. No ramble today but there's a Retreat at Upholland. Read all about it below.

ASKHAM (Nov 15). The Haweswater area, near Shap and the M6 on the edge of the Lake District. Eric leading the 'A'. The other two leaders haven't been arranged yet - Will has got to ask 'em! Anyway the Lowther Valley it tailor-made for the 'C' walk this day.

CHURCH STRETTON (Nov 22). The Long Mynd is a longish hill in Shropshire. The nearest town is Church Stretton. A bit different from the usual mountain scenery. Excellent views from the top on a clear day.

GLYN CEIRIOG (Nov 29). This could be the name of a hostile Welsh farmer, but no, it is a place near Llangollen with the Berwyn mountains close by, but no doubt Jack H will have a pleasant 'C' walk up his sleeve.

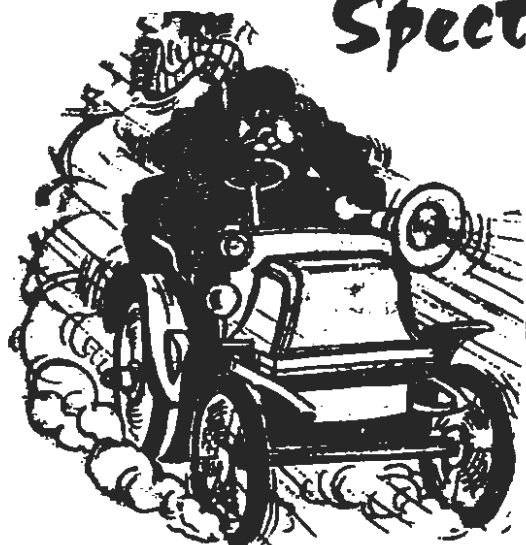
HAWKSHEAD (Dec 6). Extremely popular walking area in the southern Lakes. No description necessary.

CASTLETON (Dec 13). Three good walks in the Peak District with a real festive atmosphere in the village.

RETREAT at Upholland College (St Joseph's). On Sunday, November 8th

Starting at 10.30 with coffee, then a ten-minute RAMBLE to the Convent for the talks, dinner and Mass during the day, finishing around 4.30. Stout shoes needed for the short ramble. Cost of £10 covers the meal and retreat charge. Further details from Dave Newns or the Seniors' Section.

Spectacular Welsh cascade



WITH our large group away in Poland recently, we realised that we couldn't authorise a coach for those two Sundays, so instead we selected two good rambles with roads that were inaccessible by coach in the hope that some of the members remaining would seize this opportunity to use their cars. Well, the weather was fine and these were the walks:

PISTYLL RHAADR - 13th September (10 miles).

CHAUFFEURS John Burgis and Paula Larkin were on hand to drive ten eager ramblers to Pistyll Rhaadr (translates as 'spouting waterfall') the highest falls in Wales with a breathtaking drop of 245 feet (75m). The weather was kind to us, being fine and sunny when we arrived at the car park and cafe close to the falls - a rare spectacle of cascading water and spray, dropping almost vertically to pass through a natural arch of rock lower down.

After a welcome stop at the cafe, we all set off alongside the falls. On reaching the route up to the Berwyn ridge the party split up; half opting to surge on ahead with me (Carol). The rest decided to follow at a more leisurely pace with John Burgis at the helm.

The front runners (walkers!) included Senor Danny in his Sunday best, wearing a jacket and tie. Walking, he informed us, was a 'serious business' (the tie was not discarded until the ramble was over - when he could 'relax').

Climbing onto the ridge, we battled against a cold, driving wind, known locally as Gwynt Traed y Meirw (the wind from the Feet of the Dead).

The walk was concluded by both parties heading down to the arranged meeting point by a secluded lake, returning together to the car park.

We sat on the wooden verandah outside the cafe, drinking coffee and feeding the birds, whilst having a parting view of the waterfall as the sun was setting.

On the way back we didn't find a pub open until we had reached Shropshire. Everyone had enjoyed the walk, and arrangements for next week's car ramble to Kentmere were eagerly discussed.

The ten tenacious trekkers on this awesome Welsh walk were Monica, Paula, Rene, Marie, John, Danny, Ken, Frank W, Billy and myself (Carol).

KENTMERE, Southern Lakes - 20th September (12 miles approx).

ONCE again we met at the usual place for our departure, although this time we had four car-loads of ramblers. As last week, Paula and John kindly drove, but with the addition of Roy and Sandra taking two other groups we had a total of fourteen out on what must have been one of the warmest and sunniest days of the summer.

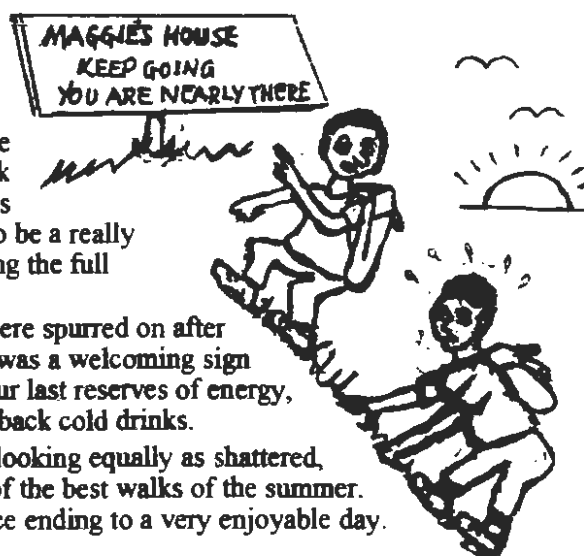
We made it to Kentmere in good time, parking close to that small hamlet's church. With nowhere to have a cup of tea we set off straight away. Intending to stay together, we headed for the famous Horseshoe. In the sweltering heat we struggled from peak to peak.

Our group consisted of Carol, Paula, Paul, John, Fred, Frank D, Roy, Joe, Tommy, Sandra, Maria, Frank W, Tricia and myself (Ken).

As usual Carol led us and set a brisk pace. In the end we split into two groups with myself, Carol, Roy and Frank pushing on to the northern most point with spectacular views of Kentmere Reservoir and the valleys below. It turned out to be a really tough but challenging walk, with Carol and myself completing the full Kentmere Horseshoe.

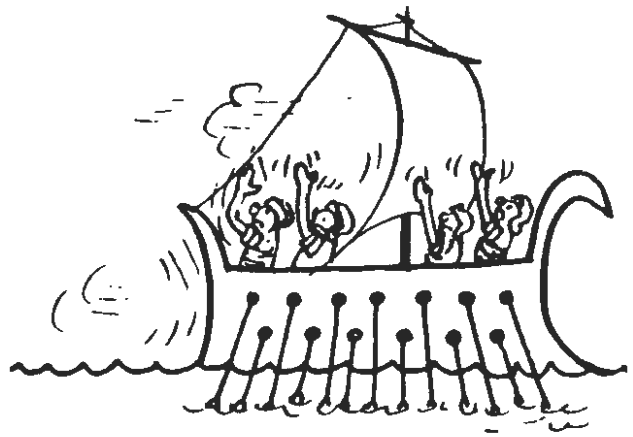
Towards the end of the walk, both tired and thirsty, we were spurred on after spotting a notice telling us that we were 'nearly there'. This was a welcoming sign advertising refreshments at Maggie's B & B. So mustering our last reserves of energy, we struggled up the hill with orders from the others to bring back cold drinks.

Before darkness descended, the tail-enders arrived back, looking equally as shattered, with John waving his arms in triumph after completing one of the best walks of the summer. On the way back we stopped in Staveley for a pub stop, a nice ending to a very enjoyable day.



A special thank-you to John Burgis for planning and organising the walks, providing us with route descriptions and maps and generally ensuring, in a good-humoured and relaxed way, that everything ran smoothly and an enjoyable time was had by all. Finally, not forgetting to thank the drivers, namely John, Paula, Sandra and Roy, without whom these two memorable rambles couldn't have taken place.

Le Wine Barge '98



AN excellent 'Nite-out' was recently enjoyed by a lucky number of rambblers who booked the Floating Bistro.

The proceedings began with an early evening drink in the pleasant surroundings of the 'The Great Mogul' pub. It's a well known sailors' myth that the best way to swallow sea sick pills is to aid its progress with a 'shot' of your favorite beverage. The pills side effects were quickly apparent, as several folk decided multiple shots would only do the trick!

The shipping forecaster's dreary tones of impending gloomy weather could well be grounds for cruelty against oil skins. However, just like similar weather often forecast for the Lakes, the opposite in fact happened, giving a score of...

Party Ramblers 1 Met' Office 0

Arrival at the moorings, brought into view the magnificent, awesome sight of the Titanic 2, complete with ice buckets and water wings. There was, however, disappointment that the usual brass band send off was nowhere to be seen. Instead, we were entertained by a nose-pickin' kid, who was using all his persuasive powers to ...well, see if you can work out what's going on from the following video tape extract, recently released by the members of Congress...

"Er, awright mate, can yer give us a lift, like?"

"Sorry son. No way!"

"Rrrrrr hey! Go on mate"

"NO!"

Kicking half the towpath into the canal and a walk-off Dave Beckham would have been proud of, was the eventual result of these intense negotiations

All abroad and the scene was something like out of the Guinness Book of Records i.e. How many people can you get into a confined space, not forgetting the band's equipment? The magnetic Bar, at the pointy bit of the ship, was indeed the only incentive needed to get everybody safely on board.

Brian, our usual folk singer/quiz master was unfortunately booked up in Las Vegas or was it Birkenhead? Anyway, the last minute booking proved to be an instant hit. Normally when the singer starts his slot, most folk make a bee line for the top deck, however this years trio of Tommy (Ex 'Swinging Blue Jeans', I kid you not), Angela and Hil, his delightful singers, kept everybody well entertained. All in all a good 'Nite' enjoyed by all.

As always, a number of Thanks are in order...to Ray Mac, Will Harris & Dave Newsns from the LCRA.... The Red Arrows for their dazzling display (Cheque is in the post chaps), ... John Cavangh CDM, ASAP, ET, for organizing a small group from the Liverpool Outdoor Club....and finally, you, the intrepid seafarers for coming along.

Cheers Roy Thisis ☺☺

OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING took place at the Cornmarket on September 24th. The Secretary's and Chairwoman's reports give a history of the club's last 12 months

Our Secretary's Report

DURING the last year we've had 46 coach rambles with an average of 41 on each. In addition there has been a wealth of other activities.

Last September we held our Annual Mass at the Cathedral Crypt and will be doing so again next Sunday at 11am.

Last October we celebrated our seventieth anniversary with a dinner dance at the Adelphi. This was attended by 150 people including our guests headed by Monsignor Atherton, Mrs Harold Burns and Carla Platt with husband Brian (Carla being the daughter of our late Gerry Penlington). Members, past and present, turned up at the dance from all over the country, as did most of the Seniors' and Family Sections members. This event was sponsored by Ellis Brigham and SOF to whom we are especially grateful.

The Retreat last November was at Loyola Hall. This is to be repeated though probably at Upholland.

Over the Christmas break we had a wet day out at Delamere Forest and a couple of Wirral walks.

At Easter we visited Brixham - though not many took advantage of that weekend, those who did, found it very enjoyable. This was closely followed by a visit to the Wastwater hostel on the Spring Bank Holiday weekend.

In July we had a barge trip and a meal at Maghull and in August (after first rambling in the Peckforton Hills) we had a meal at the Bickerton Poacher. We had two 8.30 starts, one enabling us to walk along the edge of the North Yorkshire Moors, following last year's recci to Flamborough.

We had the Christmas dance at Churchills, and a Yuletide walk was held in the Carnforth area, followed by a hotpot supper and barn dance at a Carnforth hotel. The next Yuletide event will be held on Saturday January 16th at Goosnargh Village Hall.

A weekend at Keswick is planned for next March.

Numbers are limited so early bookings are advisable.

During the social meetings at the Cornmarket, whilst carrying on our full programme of events, including quizzes, auctions and games nights, we have also introduced food nights comprising of pie nights, cheese and wine nights or sandwich nights on the first Thursday of every month. On other evenings we have provided crisps, nuts, etc.

During this September, whilst thirty or so of our members were on holiday in Poland, we had two successful car rambles to North Wales and the Lakes.

A new cloth club badge has been introduced this year at a cost of £2 each.

We donated £50 toward the Snowdonia Appeal and a further £25 to Fr McCausland on his Golden Jubilee.

There were sad times too. We were shocked by the death of Linda Roxby - during the summer there was a small memorial ceremony for her and a tree was planted at the university, the club making a small donation to this.

John Platt also passed on and Carol Schofield succumbed after her long illness.

Mike Riley was badly injured at work, and we wish every success with the repairs programme to restore function to his hand.

It was necessary to change our coach company during the year and we also had to increase the price of a coach ramble to £6.

Lastly, Ray McIntosh resigned his position as a committee member and as Rambling Chairman in June. Will Harris, Tom Reilly and Dave Newns jointly share the Rambling Chairman's job until the new committee elects one. After several months rest, Ray is now submitting his name for re-election onto the General Committee.

PAT McINTOSH

Our Chairwoman's Report

SEPTEMBER 1998, and the 71st year of the LCRA draws to a close. As has just been said, this time last year we were looking forward to the seventieth anniversary dinner dance at the Adelphi - an evening enjoyed by many of our current and past members.

During the past year the club has enjoyed, as usual, a varied and entertaining programme of events.

Now very shortly we will be electing a portion of willing souls who will continue to ensure our membership is duly entertained each Thursday evening and ensure a healthy appreciation of our beautiful countryside each Sunday.

Although our committee organise these events, they only succeed by the support of the membership. It's this support that keeps us together. We have in the past had differences, but, in the main it has been the commitment, companionship and friendliness that shines through and I wish it will long continue.

As Chairwoman it has been my duty each year to offer thanks to the outgoing committee for the support and time they have given to the club, and of course, myself; especially President and Trustee Chris Dobbin, also Vice-Chairman Tom Reilly, ex-Rambling Chairman Ray McIntosh, and last but not least, Pat McIntosh for her tireless support.

For the club, one of the most difficult positions belongs to the Registrar, ensuring you have programmes and newsletters and that your subscriptions (now due) are paid on time. Also the newsletter printer in our midst, Dave Newns.

After nine years in the Chair I now wish to stand down, so to you all, and on behalf of the club membership and myself, thank you very much and good luck to our next committee.

BERNADETTE DOYLE

AFTER a vote of thanks to Bernadette by Ray McIntosh for her long and faithful service as Chairwoman, the new officers and committee were then elected, but there were no nominations for Chairman. However, at our subsequent committee meeting Tom Reilly took up the post, leaving a vacancy for Vice-Chairman.

Seniors' Section

CHALET VISIT

FROM 11th - 18th September, eight of us again visited the R.A. Chalet near Maeshafn in North Wales. Friday at 4.30pm we met in Tesco's cafe in Mold in preparation for the big shop. Equipped with two trolleys, we scooted up and down aisles searching for all our food, drink, etc, for the week. It was all very civilised, as we had lists from previous visits to assist us.

It is always interesting to find out if there have been any changes/improvements at the chalet since the last visit. This time, to our surprise and delight, we found the windows had been double-glazed, which certainly made it warmer and cut down noise from the lorries going up and down to the quarry.

Unfortunately we had the poorest weather we have ever experienced at the chalet. On Saturday, in spite of waterproofs and even a few umbrellas, we all came back very wet and feeling most uncomfortable, but after a cup of tea and something a little stronger, we soon revived.

It is now established that after Sunday Mass, we retreated to Tesco's for breakfast, before returning to the chalet. By this time the weather was lovely. We spread all our wet clothes, boots, etc. to dry and took advantage of the lovely sunshine.

This holiday we have had daily sessions of yoga - all very serious stuff. Bill, of course, was the awkward member of the group, questioning why we did this and that, while the rest of us were trying to concentrate on the yoga positions.

On Wednesday, the day-party joined us at the chalet. After a hot drink, we split into two parties - four ladies to take a gentle walk along the Lute, while

the rest went by car to the Llanarmon area for a more strenuous walk, led by Tony Gilmore. We had a lovely day, with wonderful views over the Vale of Clwyd. The wind was extremely strong and some of the party had difficulty keeping on their feet.

Our last full day - Thursday - we walked from the chalet to Maeshafn. There we met a group of local residents sawing and bagging logs. Apparently they do this on a regular basis to raise funds for local charities.

At the moment they are trying to raise money to buy Moel Findeg, which is just behind the Youth Hostel. They need to raise half a million pounds, otherwise the present owners will sell it to be quarried. At the moment there are, I think, six quarries in the area, so the locals and ramblers certainly don't want another one.

After breakfast on Friday, the big clean-up commenced. Jack volunteered to take the rubbish to the local waste disposal tip (worth a visit, so organised and immaculately clean). By 11am the chalet was in ship-shape order, then the meter was read, water turned off, curtains drawn and we were ready to say reluctant good-byes to each other. Let's hope we will enjoy many more chalet visits.

SENIORS' SECTION PROGRAMME

- Oct. 25th **FOXHILL.** Leader Bill Potter
Nov. 8th **RETREAT** at Upholland.
Nov. 22nd **COLWYN BAY.** Leader Gerry McDonald (526 6775)
Dec. 13th **CHESTER.** Leader Leo Pearson (489 0946)

FAMILY SECTION PROGRAMME

Have you got young children that you would like to bring out on a ramble?

Then contact Anthony Brockway of the Family Section on 608 0425

- Nov. 15th **WITTON COUNTRY PARK, Lancashire.** Leader Peter Wilkinson (01695 421681)
Dec. 14th **DELAMERE FOREST.** Leader George Riley (017048 70161)

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS WERE DUE LAST MONTH

Single Members £4, Married Couples £5. Cheques payable to "LCRA"

Registrar (General Section): Mrs W. Harris, 57 Higher Road, Liverpool L26 1TA

NOTE: Joining Fee and Re-joining Fees have now been abolished