



Seventh Series

Issue No. 22

Liverpool Catholic Ramblers' Association

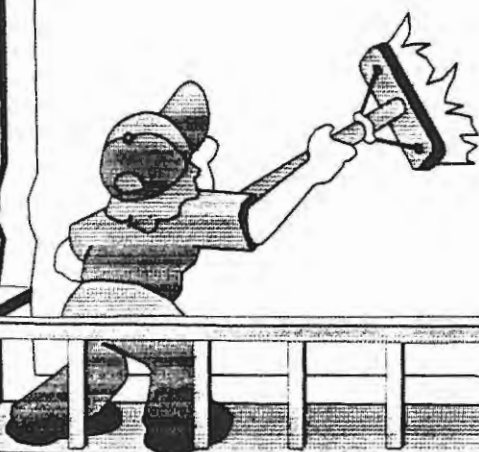
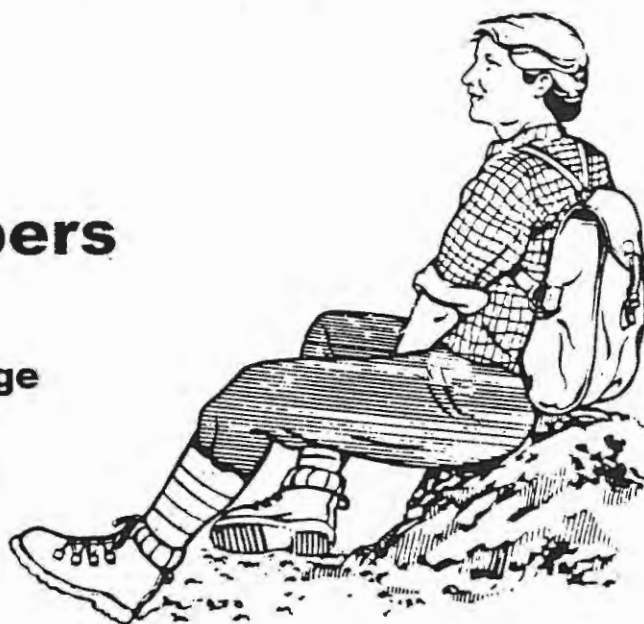
NEWSLETTER

Autumn 1999

**New members
wanted**

18 to 80 years of age

*"Everyone spread
the word around"*



A date for your diary
**Christmas Buffet
Dance**

Saturday 11th December



Dave's dispatch

BARBECUES, skiing trips, club weekends and many other activities are reported in recent bimonthly newsletters. Not our newsletters - these belong to the Catholic Walking Club of Victoria (Australia). Their club is smaller than ours but they are more active by far. I suppose their climate has a lot to do with it.

These were passed on to me by our fully-paid-up club member Albert Downing who spent many years Down Under with them. (I visited Albert recently who introduced me to a visitor, Jack, a sprightly ninety-year-old Aussie old timer - Jack flew back last month).

The Victoria Walking Club are about to celebrate their 50th anniversary in 2001. Well now, looking back to our 50th anniversary we were likewise having annual skiing holidays and we had the odd summer barbecues, and dances, at our own (then) tennis club in Wavertree.

The Australian club have a strong editorial team on their newsletter, but 15 years ago we likewise had a newsletter team, including typists - all the editor had to do was sort out and print the many articles that were already typed on wax stencils. It was quite a messy job printing 200 newsletters then (a few thousand sheets!) with black sticky duplicating ink getting everywhere.

Nowadays just over 200 newsletters are printed and automatically stapled together in a few minutes by a giant photocopy machine in an office superstore, after first being set on the club's computer by me, the editor.

We could perhaps pick up a few new ideas from the Australian club, so I will bring their newsletters out on the coach over the next few weeks for any interested members to browse over.

Why doesn't our Albert come on the walks these days, you may ask? The answer is that although he's still in his prime (only in his early sixties!) his legs seem to be approaching their used-by-date. He won't mind me telling you that he's bought a new comfy armchair where he snugly rambles on, reminiscing about all his past globe-trotting adventures.

Our newsletter is almost a one-man band these days, so we obviously need more writers. Bob Carney's adventurous Scottish holiday report opposite is well worth reading (especially the bottom bit with the Brocken-Spectre saint included).

In this edition, I've fished out the winter programme from half-a-century ago and I have also included a 21st Century mobile phone cartoon to keep you all smiling.

So now, maybe some of you will be inspired to write in our Christmas edition - just a few lines are better than nothing at all. We used to have an article headed "Socialite" which included interesting chit-chat about members, including births and marriages (these latter two carried the witty title of 'Hatches and Matches'). Although the Socialite was usually written by the Social chairman (or woman) anyone can do it really - there must be someone out there who can report on recent social events and give names of prizewinners, etc. We could possibly also get a volunteer to write about the recent Brecon weekend away.

Meanwhile I'm off for a short break. Apart from Poland last year, my last action-packed holiday was way back in January 1990 (see below). I'm going to the Isle of Mull for six days - the deerhunters need some target practice so I am taking one of my 'rambling' sisters and just a few club members with me. I know a number of you would also like to go to Scotland, so get your name down for next May. Meanwhile I'll see you all next Sunday on the Hathersage walk with those Australian newsletters (if I don't get shot on Mull!).

The Seniors' Section have only had a Chalet trip since they last wrote in this edition, so there's no write-ups from them this time.

So now, come on, you budding scribes and get your Christmas stories to me well before the end of November.

Thanks.



DAVE NEWNS, editor

THE LANGDALES WALK TAKES PLACE THIS SUNDAY (October 17th)

The Langdales swap for the Brecon weekend away got inadvertently missed off the last newsletter so spread the news - phone a friend. Even better, why not come out yourself - if you read this in time.

Catholic Ramblers on skis

YOU may be surprised to learn that our 007 editor has notched up a total of fifteen LCRA winter sports trips. A dozen or so members used to swap rambling boots for ski boots, but we doubled that number for one Austrian Tyrol trip in the 1970's. Only ten winters ago, myself, Brian Keller and two other experts like ourselves (at least that was the delusion!) used to zip up and down several mountains and zoom across valleys in just a few hours.

On foggy mornings in the alpine villages we often got the fast ultra-modern *gondola cars up and skied high above the clouds under bright blue skies. We had mini ski maps and followed the well-marked posts (red for intermediate runs and black for steep or difficult runs). We did have some really spectacular falls but rarely hurt ourselves (modern skis just spring off if one falls awkwardly). At the end of each holiday we usually

went back to work with an envious winter sun-tan.

Scotland was a non-starter. I tried it once but it was just like skiing in the North Pole. I was wrapped up in newspapers then, not literally, I used to work for one! Since then I only ski in my dreams (it's true - I woke up from one recently and was most disappointed!). So if I ever win the lottery . . . but I'm rambling on a bit now.

* A gondola car is a six-seater cable car arriving every ten seconds

A mountain phenomenon where eagles fly



LAST MONTH, I made my first sortie into Scotland. Like many people, I had heard so much about it, but failed to fulfil my interest. With this in mind, four keen walkers, namely myself, John McDowell (fellow club member) and two friends eagerly set forth.

We left on the Saturday morning (Sept 4) around 9.30am arriving at Loch Lomond for lunch. As this was our first taste of Scotland we were not disappointed. The small village of Luss on the shores of the loch was beautiful. We sat on the quay looking at Ben Lomond and the surrounding hills. From here we moved on to Clachon on the shores of Loch Long where we set off for a short walk (2 hrs) to stretch our legs after the long drive. We then headed north to our first youth hostel for the night at Crianlarich.

On Sunday we continued northwards to Fort William to conquer the highest mountain in the British Isles (yes, Ben Nevis). Before we set off we filled our route plan in and handed it in at the Glen Nevis youth hostel where we stayed that evening. The route we chose was the CMD Arete. This was a very hard route but it took us away from the cumbersome and busy tourist route.

We had our first treat within one hour of leaving the hostel when we came across our first herd of stags and deer. It was also the time we saw the five gullies on the north side of the 'Ben'. Not soon after this the mist descended so our views were limited. It was a steep and rocky climb, covering two *Munros, before we came to the last hut short rocky escarpment to the top of Ben Nevis (1344m or 4½ thousand feet).



**A Munro is any Scottish mountain over 3000 feet.*

On the summit our compasses were needed to guide us off. It is very easy to make a mistake at this point - 99 per cent of all accidents in the Scottish highlands take place here. We descended on the tourist route, not only for safety but also because it is the quickest way to the youth hostel in Glen Nevis, the whole day's walking taking about 9 hours.

On the Monday we woke early for continental breakfast before heading north to our final destination: Torridon. This was a three-hour journey through some of the most breathtaking scenery we are ever likely to come across. Passing numerous lochs and mountain ridges, finally arriving to the warm welcome of Neil and his crew at the Torridon youth hostel. Tuesday after breakfast we set our route for the day which was to include two more Munros. Starting in the morning sun, we climbed Coire Liath Mhor (955m) before heading west to Spidean a Choire Leith (1055m).

Here I came across the two highlights of my holiday. One was the first sighting of the natural phenomenon called a Brocken-Spectre, named after the first person who recorded it on paper. This is when the sun breaks through the cloud behind you and creates your shadow on the cloud below with the amazing effect of a halo of rainbow around your head.



Words don't describe the effect completely. Soon after, I remarked that to see a Golden Eagle would complete such a fantastic day on the hills. We started our descent when, to our surprise, we were strikingly rewarded by this. As we looked back up the ridge we spotted a pair of Golden Eagles less than a couple of hundred metres away.

It was completely awesome to see such wonderful birds of prey in full flight in their natural habitat. What more could you want from a holiday! That evening in the hostel we found ourselves talking to all and sundry about the events of the day (total walk 8½ hrs).

We split into two pairs for our walks on Wednesday. After leaving our routes with reception, John Mc and myself set off for a typical 'B'/C' walk whilst Peter and Phil set off for the Beinn Alligin ridge which included two more Munros: Sgurr Mhor (986m) and Tom na Gruagaich (922m). On reaching the highest ridge Peter and Phil were turned back due to high winds. We decided to stay to the valley floor to give our tired and weary limbs a rest (6 hrs).

On Thursday the weather was absolutely awful - very strong winds and torrential rain. With this in mind we set off on a coastal walk from the village of Diabaig. We managed to walk about ten miles on the most awful of days, the highlight being the stumble across one of the remote and smallest of youth hostels in the British Isles (Craig House). The nearest road was 3½ miles away (shop 6 miles). The warden invited us in for tea and coffee but we declined because we were so wet it would have been hard to leave.

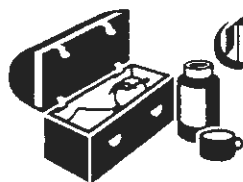
Next morning the sun was shining but the forecast was high winds from noon onwards. With this in mind we set off for Beinn Eighe, the largest ridge in the region with seven peaks including two Munros: Ruadh stac Mor (1010m) and Spidean Coire nan Clach (993m). We started our ascent up to the Loch Coire Mhic Fhearchair (589m) - with the weather in mind I decided not to attempt the ridge, but John, Peter and Phil did complete it (shame on me). I walked back to the road and joined a path south across Glen Torridon to Loch Clair completing a typical 'B' walk before returning to the youth hostel for 5pm.

Two hours later we all set off for our final meal of the holiday, stopping at the beautiful village of Shieldaig on the bank of Loch Torridon. Whilst eating our locally-caught fish, with chips and peas, we talked about how lucky we were to be in one of the most wonderful and isolated places in Western Europe, and already planning our next trip. On Saturday we started our long journey home to Liverpool arriving 9 hours and 500 miles later.

Bob Carney

The club will be organising a week's trip to Scotland next May if enough members are interested

SUBS DUE - Many have renewed but have you! Single £5, Married £6



Christmas HAMPER APPEAL

We are making up a hamper which will be drawn for at our Christmas Buffet Dance. Please make an effort to donate anything that you think should be included to Mike Riley. If in doubt ring him on 521 2268

SNOWDON CHARITY WALK

A final total of £492 was raised from our sponsored walk earlier this year for 'Integrate'. Thanks to all concerned.

MAP-READING COURSE

Anyone interested in learning how to read a map properly should contact Ray McIntosh who is endeavouring to start teaching those interested in the near future.

CLUB BADGES FOR SALE

We still have an ample supply of the new circular badges that can be sewn onto rucksacks, etc. They're just £2 each

NEW MEMBERS - A number of new members or prospective members have been coming out with us lately. We give them a very hearty welcome and hope they spend many happy years with us.

LIVERPOOL CATHOLIC RAMBLERS' ASSOCIATION

Christmas Buffet Dance AND CABARET

to be held at THE SYLVESTRIAN Sports and Social Club
in Silvester Street, near Vauxhall Road
on SATURDAY 11th DECEMBER

This brand new club was just about to open as this newsletter is being printed. Full details will be given as soon as we get them but it is expected that tickets should soon be on sale at a very reasonable cost.



Social Events



at the Cornmarket

OCTOBER

21st **GREAT BRITISH VICTORIES** - Ray McIntosh

28th **HORROR QUIZ** (Haloween time) Ken Regan

NOVEMBER

4th **PIE NIGHT** - Pies supplied by Peter Ramejkis (Sayers' best quality)

11th **WHO WANTS TO BE A MILLIONAIRE-ISH QUIZ** - Will Harris

18th **FUN BINGO NIGHT** - Helen and Mike Riley

25th **GENERAL KNOWLEDGE QUIZ** - Irene Segerberg

DECEMBER

2nd **MINCE PIE NIGHT**

9th **CHRISTMAS QUIZ**

JANUARY

6th **CHEESE AND WINE NIGHT**

Make a note of this date

Annual Retreat at Upholland (Nov 21) - a great day out - honestly!

NOT INTERESTED? Well just read this: Because of closure at the end of November this will be our last visit to this palatial-like structure. Its grandeur is on a par with a stately home. This is your last chance to visit this majestic awe-inspiring place and a hearty welcome is extended to all our non-Catholic members to join us on this nostalgic day. Upholland College is closing because it's proving far too expensive for the upkeep.

One approaches the hall along a lengthy driveway, opening out to a fairytale scene with huge duck pond in the foreground, a scenic wooded area in the background and the palatial multi-roomed college buildings set back on the right where there's plenty of parking space. After parking up you will be impressed as soon as you enter the hall.

One does need a car to get up there, but if that's a problem, we could soon fix you up sharing a car with someone.

On arrival, after tea and biscuits, Canon Jimmy Collins (a keen walker and an extremely interesting person who writes weekly in the Catholic Pictorial) will take over.

He will speak to us all for a while and in return we will most likely be asking him questions, but I suspect that he will also make time to give us a bit of a nostalgic tour of those impressive buildings. 'Father' Collins will also be celebrating Mass with us sometime during the day.

Make a note of the date. Because of the meal, we need numbers of people going, so give your names to Dave Newns (General Section) 01744 632211, or Jean McDonald (Seniors' Section) 526 6775.

Cost is £10 which includes the hot meal and light refreshments.



Canon Jimmy Collins

CONCLUSIVE DECISION AT AGM: RECRUIT NEW MEMBERS!

We had a good turnout for the Annual General Meeting on September 23rd. Main discussion was on how to rectify the decline of numbers on walks and consequential loss of income. Will (our treasurer) stressed the need to tighten the belt a bit more on the club's finances. From my memory it was only two decades ago that we had a similar situation when we were averaging only 31 members per ramble for a couple of years. We rectified this by having smaller coaches and having fortnightly rambles for a number of years but we don't really want to go down that path again. Simple solution is to recruit new members, so spread the word around. Meanwhile we have been distributing posters which are already getting some response. That night at the Cornmarket we elected a few new committee members - they have now just experienced their first committee meeting at Birch House, near Bishop Eaton (which we hold on the second Monday of every month). Here Will Harris was re-elected as our Rambling Chairman, but Will requested the occasional assistance of Ray Mc and Ray agreed. Social Chairman is Mike Riley.

ALL MEMBERS are encouraged to come to the first of our two meetings each month, namely our rambling and social sub-committee from 7.30 to 8.30 (licensed bar!). The general committee meeting starts at 8.30pm.

A DISMAL TURNOUT FOR THE ANNUAL MASS

Our Seniors' Section were in the majority from the 45 members (approx) who turned up at the Cathedral Crypt for the Mass. Only 5 per cent of the General Section bothered to turn up.

Our president, Chris Dobbin, read the bidding prayers and asked us to remember especially those members and relatives of members who had died in the past year. Chris read several names out which included: Harold Burns, a vice-president and trustee of the Association for many years and Bob Ramsey who collapsed and died on our Roaches ramble in May. Readings were rendered by George Skillicorn of the Seniors' Section and Dave Newns. Paul Healy, Richie Cannon and Patrick Hearne provided the vocals plus the music on keyboard and guitar.

MILLENNIUM WEEKEND AT AMBLESIDE - PAY UP NOW TIME!

Final payment is needed by October 28th for everyone booked to go to Ambleside Youth Hostel. You have all paid your £15 deposit but owe £46.95 for accommodation incl three breakfasts, three meals and two packed lunches.

See Dave Dickel or send your cheque to him (payable to Mr David Dickel, not to the club) 5 Grant Drive Ewloe, Flintshire CH5 3RR - 01244 533995. Going up on Friday 31 December and returning on Monday 3 January.

leading to . . .

NEW YEAR 2001! - We should be planning now, on what to do for the following New Year. If anyone has any suggestions see Dave Dickel or give him a ring on his number above.



BARBARA MOLLOY Sadly, Barbara died recently after a short illness. She used to walk with the General Section not too many years ago. We offer our condolences to husband Colin, daughter Annette and son-in-law Brian (Keller). May she rest in peace.

50 Years ago

WINTER PROGRAMME 1949/50

Looking at the Officers and Committee on the right, the (then) Assistant Secretary Mona Roberts is still around and probably taking the dog for a walk when you read this. Many of you will remember that Mona used to type the Seniors' Section newsletter pages until only a few years ago. She only stood down as Registrar for the Seniors' Section a couple of years ago and, of course is still a Vice-President of the Association.

FRED NORBURY AND CYRIL KELLY TROPHIES

Two names can also be picked out that are still relevant today. Fred Norbury, who was a founder-member and vice-president, died in the 1970's and was still actively attending the committee meetings right up to his death.

Likewise Cyril Kelly was a vice-president and still active on the committee right up to his death just a few years after Fred Norbury died, but Cyril was not a founder member. Both were only in their sixties when they died.

Not long after their death two cups had been inaugurated in their memory and are presented each year to club members who, in the opinion of the committee, think deserving of the trophies.

This year both trophies will be presented at the Christmas Buffet Dance to two more deserving club members.

LIVERPOOL CATHOLIC RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION

Under the Patronage of
HIS GRACE THE ARCHBISHOP OF LIVERPOOL

Vice-President :

Mr. T. MARQUESS

Trustees :

Mr. J. F. HARVEY & Mr. F. C. NORBURY

Officers :

Chairman . . . Mr. F. C. NORBURY

Vice-Chairman . . . Mr. C. KELLY

Treasurer . . . Mr. R. MARSDEN

Secretary . . . Mrs. M. W. PENLINGTON

Assistant Secretary . . . Miss M. ROBERTS

Registrar . . . Mr. B. EDWARDS

Committee :

Mrs. K. MARSDEN Mr. A. CALLAGHAN

Miss K. COLLINS Mr. F. KANE

Miss M. SMITH Mr. G. PENLINGTON

Mr. F. BOYLE Mr. W. WALSH

Mr. W. WILDES

Now I understand
what they meant
when they said that
if I kept bleating every
ten minutes on this
Catholic Ramblers'
new mobile phone
that I would get
fleeced!



WINTER PROGRAMME 1949/1950

Date	Ramble	Meet Place	Time	App. Fare	Leader
Nov. 6	Edale	Central Stat.	9.30	7/6	Miss A. Naylor
„ 12 & 13	R.A. Chalet, Maeshafn	Pier Head	10.15	4/5	Rambling Com.
„ 20	Thornton Hough	Pier Head	2.15	10d.	Miss K. Gould
„ 27	Parbold (Benediction)	Exch. Station	10.15	1/7	Mr. J. Mulhall
Dec. 4	Eccleston Ferry	Pier Head	10.0	2/5	Miss C. Reid
„ 11	Capenhurst	Pier Head	10.15	1/4	Mr. F. Kane
„ 17 & 18	Caerwgwle, Nantyrffrith	Pier Head	9.45	4/-	Miss P. Rocke
Jan. 8	Yuletide W'end, R.A. Chalet, Maeshafn	Pier Head	10.15	4/5	Rambling Com.
„ 15	Grange (Benediction)	Pier Head	2.15	10d.	Miss F. Begley
„ 22	Prestaryn or Abergele	See Railway Advert.			R. A. Guide
„ 29	Ashurst Beacon	Exch. Station	10.15	1/7	Mr. R. Marsden
Feb. 5	Burton Woods	Pier Head	10.15	1/4	Miss S. Devoy
„ 11 & 12	Hostelling Y.H.A. Delamere	Pier Head	10.0	2/6	Mr. J. Mulhall
„ 19	Treasure Hunt (Benediction)	Pier Head	2.15	10d.	Rambling Com.
„ 26	Llanarmon	Pier Head	10.0	4/5	Miss M. Morgan
Mar. 5	Brownlow Hill	Russell Street	10.0	1/10	Miss B. Tracey
„ 12	Nelson	See Railway Advert.			Mr. F. Boyle
„ 19	Hooton (Benediction)	Pier Head	2.15	10d.	Miss P. Toes
„ 26	Lymm	Russell Street	9.45	3/6	Miss M. Roberts
Apr. 2	Mickle Trafford	Pier Head	10.0	2/0	Mr. W. Wildes
„ 8, 9 & 10	Hostelling Y.H.A. Llangollen	Pier Head	10.0	5/4	Mr. B. Edwards
„ 16	Ince Woods	Skelthorne St.	2.15	7d.	Miss S. Macauley
„ 23	Neston (Benediction)	Pier Head	10.30	10d.	Mr. F. Kane
„ 30	Great Hill	Skelthorne St.	10.30	4/3	Mr. R. Marsden

CAR PARKING ON SUNDAYS - Members parking cars on Sundays are reminded that to avoid the now £4 Sunday car parking charge on the streets that the multi-storey car park at Queen's Square "The Swallow" costs only £2 for all day Sunday. They do close at 11.30pm but there is an all-night attendant who will let you out if you happen to get back home later than 11.30. This happened to the RA recently after their coach broke down.