

Liverpool Catholic Ramblers Newsletter

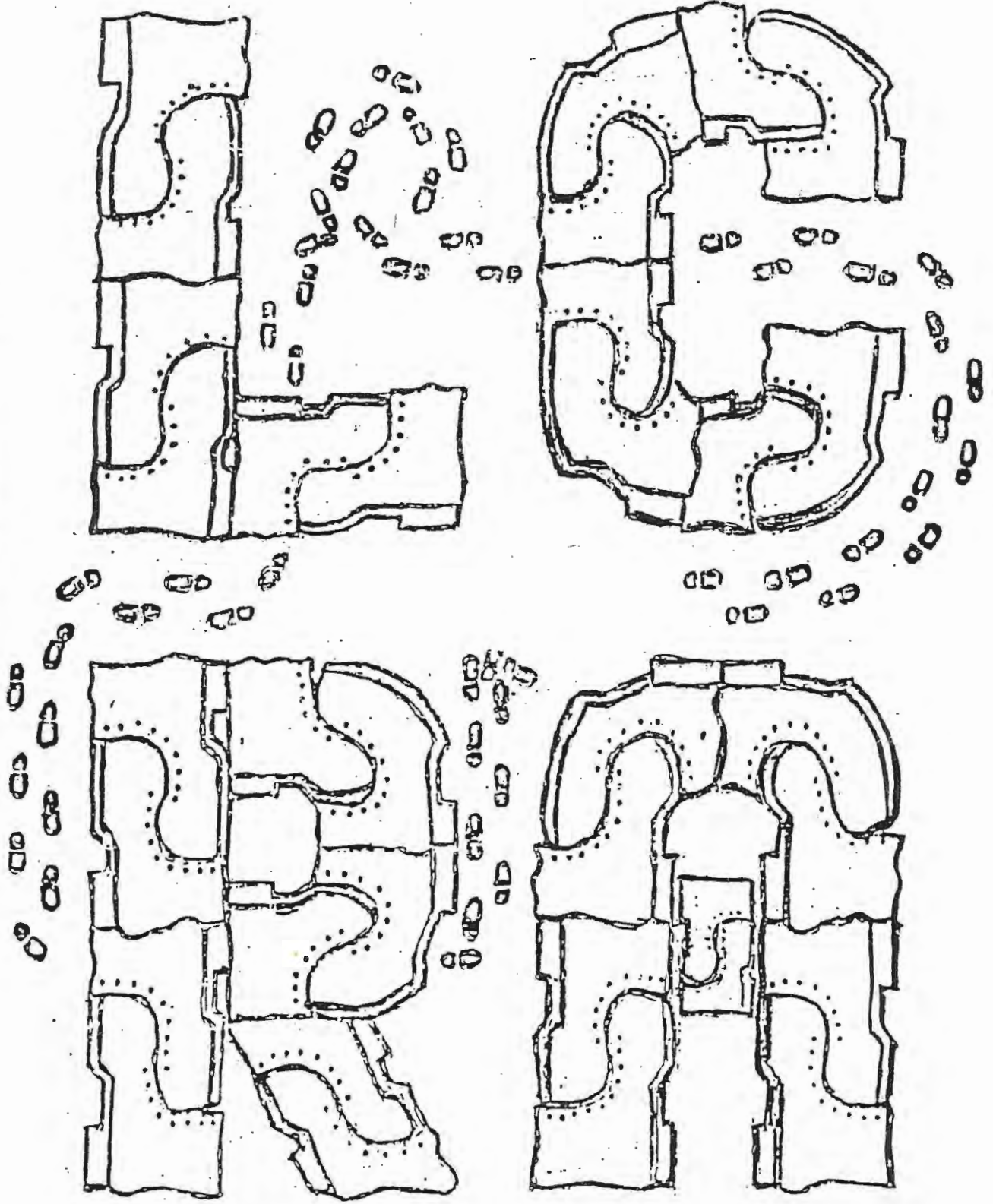
SEPTEMBER 2005

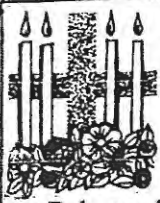
Seventh Series - 52



ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE

Single members £5, Married Couples £6





OBITUARY

Robert Hughes (Bob)

Sadly, Bob collapsed and died suddenly while out on the RA public ramble on the Berwyns in Wales last Sunday (Aug 28).

Bob, aged 70, was a keen 'A' walker soon after joining our club about five years ago, and has led a number of walks. Only recently did he decide to take things just a little bit easier and went out on the 'B' walks. He also served on the committee for a year or two.

Before retirement, Bob was a seafarer for a number of years. He still kept up with his trips abroad, often on cruise holidays, mainly to the Far East.

Bob was a true gentleman and will be sadly missed.

Our sincere sympathy and condolences go to Bob's sister Catherine and his relatives. May he rest in peace.

The notice on the right was taken from last night's Echo. It gives all the necessary information for those who get this newsletter promptly. A Mass card has been sent from the club and we will remember Bob at the forthcoming Annual Mass.

HUGHES, ROBERT

August 28, 2005

Suddenly in North Wales, aged 70 years. Brother of Catherine and brother in law of Brian, dear Uncle of Peter and Nicholas. Funeral Service and Cremation at Anfield Crematorium on Monday 5 September at 10:30am. Family flowers only please, but donations can be made to either North West Cancer Fund or World Vision. All further enquiries to Hardacres Funeral Directors, Lusitania House, 444 Cherry Lane, L4, where Robert will be resting. Tel 0151 270 2727.

COACH PICK-UPS and DROP-OFFS

EACH time the coach stops to pick someone up, or drop them off, puts extra time on the journey, so we have to keep stops to a minimum.

The current recognised stops are:

Northern destinations (Lakes, Yorks): Walton Church, Old Roan, Inc 3 of M58.

Eastern destinations (Derbyshire): Gardners Arms, Inc 9 of M62 (B&Q).

Destinations via the Tunnel (Wales): B&Q on M65, St David's (near Queensferry).

Further requests or alterations must go through the committee.

NOTE: Anyone getting dropped off should take their gear inside the coach to ensure the minimum delay and be ready to jump off the coach promptly.

ESKDALE WEEKEND - Sept 9-11

VACANCIES are still available for the Eskdale hostel which has been booked for the forthcoming club weekend.

Accommodation is bed and breakfast, with an option of buying hostel meals or eating out. Cost of the weekend is £26.40 for two nights b&b, going on the Friday and returning on the Sunday by cars. You either need your own transport or arrange to get a lift with someone.

There will be at least two walks planned for the Saturday. Note that Woolpack pub is only 7 minutes' walk away from the hostel (contrary to what some were informed).

Book in person or phone Will on 486 6541

The club has a comprehensive YHA card, so you don't have to be a member, but you must abide by the rules (back by 11.00 and lights out by 11.30, I think). No bedroom parties.

Editorial September 1st 2005

7 Abbots Way, Billinge, Wigan WN5 7SB

WITH the tragic news of Bob's sudden death this week, it must be the first time that imminent funeral arrangements have appeared in our newsletter.



I know it can't be bird flu, or at least I hope it's not!

I'm now on my sister's computer until I get the club's computer sorted out. Send any articles for the next edition as soon as possible to me. Thanks.

Dave News, editor

NEW YEAR WEEKEND

PLACES have been reserved for us at the Ambleside hostel for the New Year Weekend. This is a massive hostel by Lake Windermere. We have enjoyed our stay there for several New Years now. The hostel regulations are relaxed for the festive season. It is more like a hotel, and has a night staff on duty.

Accommodation is booked from the Friday night Dec 30th until the Monday 2nd Jan, returning that day.

Prices are £45 for the New Year's Eve package including evening hot and cold buffet, then it's £18 b&b per night (plus £5.50 for evg meal) so it's a total of £92 for the weekend. There will be an extra charge if you require a two-bedded room (there are several available). You need your own transport or arrange a lift with someone. Bookings on the coach or through Will Harris.



We are Planning the Winter Rambling Programme at our meeting on Wednesday Sept. 14th at 8.00pm. If you have any suggestions for favourite rambles that you would like us to put in the programme then please tell any committee member asap

CLUB'S CLOTH BADGES

for sale

Sew onto rucksacks, hats, jackets, etc.

Just £2 each





NOTICE is hereby given that the Seventy-ninth

Annual General Meeting

of the Liverpool Catholic Ramblers' Association

will take place on **Thursday, 22nd September 2005 at 8.30pm**
at the **Ship and Mitre Public House (upstairs), Dale Street**

AGENDA

- 1 To approve the Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting of the Association.
- 2 To read the Secretarial Report.
- 3 To read the Treasurer's Report.
- 4 To read the Chairman's Report.
- 5 To elect Officers and Committee for the forthcoming year.
- 6 To elect Auditors for the forthcoming year.
- 7 Any other business.

Note: Members wishing to submit resolutions of any kind must ensure they are in the possession of Tom Reilly, the Secretary, not later than seven days prior to the above meeting.

Tom Reilly (Secretary)

Secretary's address: 1 Stanmore Road, Wavertree, L15 9ER

Our Committee needs YOU!

Every year the Chairman, Officers and Committee all step down, but if they wish, they can put their names on the nomination list for re-election.

ALL interested Members and Associate Members are also invited to put their names on the nomination list now in circulation.

Note: Eligibility for Chairman or Chairwoman requires Full Member status and they must have served at least 12 months on the Committee.



There will be a ballot if more than one name is submitted for any one post and there will also be a ballot if excessive numbers are submitted to serve on the General Committee. *(Yes - this has happened a few times in the past!)*

EVERY MEMBER should make a special effort to attend this AGM - (8.30 prompt)



Our ANNUAL MASS



will be held on Sunday September 25th in the Metropolitan Cathedral Crypt at 11am

All club members, associate members and families and friends are invited to attend.

Please note the time of the Mass is 11.00 and not 11.30 as stated in the rambling programme.

There is a free car park (on Sundays) underneath the Cathedral

At this Mass we will be praying for any members who are sick and also remembering all our members who have passed away, especially Robert Hughes who died on August 28th. May they rest in peace.



CHEESE and WINE NIGHTS



The club's Cheese and Wine nights are held the first Thursday of every month at the Ship and Mitre, Dale Street (Upstairs) with our own musicians entertaining us, plus **KEN'S FREE QUIZ** with prizes (Anyone could win - answers are simply a, b or c).

Polishing up your Polish

HERBATA means tea and tak means yes; but what is Oswiecim? The Poles would first tell you that it's a medium-sized industrial town in Southern Poland but then they would add that the Germans constructed two infamous camps at Oswiecim, namely Auschwitz and Birkenau.

In mid-July, about ten of our group took a day off walking in the Tatra Mountains to visit Auschwitz and the much larger adjoining Birkenau camp where most of the exterminations were done. Birkenau is frightfully colossal and it could hold 200,000 inmates at a time! Further horrific facts would be too upsetting to read here, so let's get back to Zakopane (just a few hours' journey from Auschwitz).

Zakopane is a vibrant Alpine-like resort and it boasts to have the sixth most famous street in Europe. That street is pedestrianised, with numerous bars, shops, restaurants, barbecues, market stalls, street buskers, etc, and a backdrop of forests and mountains.

A typical start

It was a mid-July evening when 16 of our members were stranded in a broken-down minibus on the long journey from Katowice Airport to Zakopane. An empty Mercedes minibus quickly came to the rescue and Richard promptly remarked to us that the Poles ought to know better than to use German vehicles in Poland!

It was 'young' Richard's first trip to Zakopane. Other first-timers on that minibus were Ray Mc, Frank L, Jim and Phil.

Two days earlier, Kevin and Ann (two more first-timers) flew from Manchester with a trusty guide – me!

Our delayed plane arrived too late for the last bus to Zakopane, so, using our best phrasebook English, we booked the night at a pleasant guesthouse near Cracow Airport.

Next evening, we saw a very stormy weather forecast on TV, so we called the forecaster's bluff next morning and the three of us went up the cable car in the mist (only a 15-minute queue).

Overcrowded

We drank tea in the summit restaurant for half an hour; the clouds soon cleared, and we strolled along the long ridge to Giewont – the mountain with chains to grip.

It was relatively quiet on Giewont with only three people per minute climbing up, and ample space on the summit. True! But it was a different story several days later when more of our lot went up. It was dangerously overcrowded then; with a sheer drop – no fence, guard rails or parachutes!

The resort and mountains were too overcrowded this year – we went during the peak period – and the queues for the cable car were so bad most days that it was quicker to walk up to the top. However, it was great to see so many families out including literally hundreds of teenagers. I estimated that 98% of them were Polish.

Our main group took it easy the first day with a short ride on the funicular train up to a



The grim entrance to Auschwitz, scene of unprecedented inhumanity

mountain village, then a scenic walk, a chair-lift down, then a bit of sightseeing/walking.

Early next morning, Kevin and Ann, my neighbourly rambling friends of long-standing, were now long sitting when they did a five-hour marathon to Czestochowa on buses! But they were glad that they saw Poland's famous shrine there – the Black Madonna – then five-hours back again!

One day, Richard and Danny took themselves to the historical city of Cracow by express bus (a 2½ hrs journey for 2 quid!).

One escaped to Slovakia

Paul and Maria went out for a Chinese meal one night, but three of us (b&b only) went out for Polish meals every night and kept missing the main group, so I expect to get Richard's or someone's other version of this holiday for the next edition. I have been trying to include all the names of those who went; ok then: Richard, Dave D, Mike and Helen, Brenda, Tom R, Ray Mc, Paul, Maria, Frank, Maureen, Dave L, Joan, Jim, Phil, Danny, Ann and Kevin, and me.

You would probably get bored if I mentioned all the enjoyable walks that everyone did, or all the numerous trips to the sauna that Mike made, but one hot afternoon Danny (Mike's neighbour) took his passport and jumped a couple of buses into Slovakia. It was thirsty work, but not one drop of Slovak beer touched Danny's lips all day! (You know what I mean!).

Finally, there was an official party one night when Ray Mc had yet another birthday. The other nights, of course, were also party nights, not to mention the much-visited Piano Bar.

Peggy Boot

COWS AT CRACOW



Daisy – "The livestock buyer from Zakopane is coming tomorrow. Are you looking forward to the moo-ve?"
Buttercup – "Not really. I think he works at MacDonaldis!"



Poles are helping our economy

HALF of the total influx of east European workers looking for work in Britain over the past year are from Poland – a total of 131,000.

Most are between the ages of 18 and 34, and have not brought any dependants with them.

According to a report by the Ministry of Work and Pensions, recently, hardly any have claimed benefits – disproving last year's fears to the contrary.

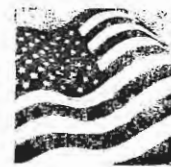
Britain needed the workers to fill the hundreds of job vacancies, particularly in the service sector.

Results suggest that their arrival has allowed certain sectors to expand, creating more jobs, increasing output and total employment, having a minimal impact on British workers but having a positive effect on the economy.

The 25th anniversary of the birth of Solidarity

SOLIDARITY, the union formed by Lech Walesa in 1980 – with a bit of help from the late Pope John Paul II – celebrated its 25th anniversary on August 31st.

Its formation led to the collapse of Communism in Europe just nine years later.



American War of Independence from Britain and the American Civil War

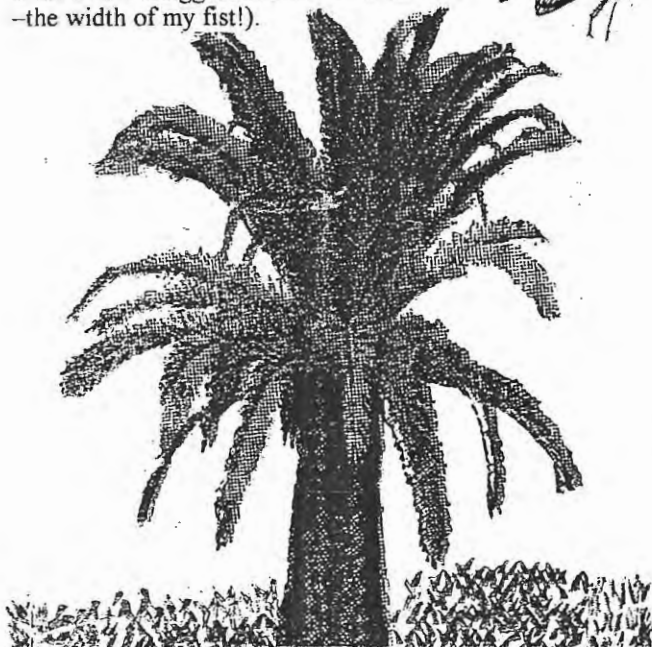
DUKE STREET. Fawcett & Preston works (known as "Fossetts") near the bottom of this street, produced not only guns for the Duke of Wellington, America's Mexican war in 1842, but also for both the Union and the Confederacy in the American Civil War, caused by the slavery issue. The opening shot of the War was fired at Fort Sumter, South Carolina, from a gun made here!

LIVERPOOL TOWN HALL. The unlikely setting for the final act of this War took place on 6th November 1865. Then (after General Robert E. Lee laid down his arms to General Grant, bringing the Civil war to an end) the British built Confederate raider "Shenandoah", with 38 "prizes" to her name, sailed from San Francisco Bay area into Liverpool Bay. Her captain, Lt. Commander James Waddell, formally surrendered his ship to the Lord Mayor!

10 RUMFORD PLACE. Throughout the Civil War, Number 10 was considered the "unofficial" Confederate Embassy in Britain. It was also the Office of Georgia-born James Dunwoody, an ex-US Navy Lieutenant during the Mexican Civil War. He arrived with a brief to obtain ships and arms for use against the Union. Two cruisers, the "Florida" and the "Alabama", soon destroyed or captured 69 ships and destroyed 36 others. A further 33 Confederate blockade-runners were built on Merseyside shipyards. Bulloch made his permanent home in Liverpool and his grave is in Toxteth Park Cemetery, Smithdown Road.

ST JAMES' CEMETERY. The US government recently placed a bronze plaque at the grave of Confederate seaman George Horwood, by the Anglican Cathedral.

19 ABERCROMBY SQUARE was originally built for C.K. Prioleau, another Confederacy Agent (who's wife was reputedly the most beautiful woman in Liverpool). It still has in the stonework above the front door, the "Bonnie Blue Star" of South Carolina. On the ceiling inside the doorway is a painting of the Palmetto tree, the State tree of South Carolina, growing above a serpent. This symbolizes the South's superiority over the wicked Union, which was of course, anti slavery! (Palmettos grow everywhere in Georgia, including the garden of my brother-in-law's former house in Savannah. It attracts the biggest beetle I've ever seen -the width of my fist!).



3 ABERCROMBY SQUARE. Here resided the great American wild life artist and illegitimate son of a French slave trader, John James Audubon. He came from New Orleans with over 400 drawings illustrating the birds of North America. Wanting to raise finance for publication, Liverpool took him to its heart allowing him to hold a successful exhibition at Royal Institution, Colquitt Street. His two oil paintings painted in Liverpool "American Wild Turkey" and "A Pounce of Partridges" plus another "Otter Caught in a Trap" are on permanent display in the Walker Art Gallery, and his bird illustrations on special occasions.

CASTLE STREET. A hero of the American War of Independence, for the British side, was born on the corner of Castle Street in 1745. Our hero was Banastre Tarleton - only 22 when he went to fight in America, he became a Lt. Colonel, later Major General, and helped capture General Charles Lee from behind "enemy" lines. George Washington eventually captured him at the surrender of Yorktown 1781. His five years as a cavalry leader and youth made him a British hero but was nicknamed, with some justification, "The Butcher".

A portrait of him in his full regalia hangs in the National Gallery, London, painted on his return from America. His sister Bridget married another local hero, Edward Falkner, who built Falkner Square.

MANESTY'S LANE (Bluecoat Chambers area) - a rather gloomy street is named after Joseph Manesty, one of Liverpool's leading merchants in slavery, because he lived here. He owned slave ships such as "The African" captained by John Newton. Born in 1725 Newton went to sea as a boy and later served on a slave ship. During a terrifying storm he converted to Christianity. Nevertheless despite his deep conviction became a slave ship captain at 24, only to give up four years later through ill health. He later chased smugglers in the Mersey as a Customs Officer, eventually becoming vicar of Olney. Then he wrote the famous hymns "Amazing Grace" and "How Sweet the Name of Jesus". He died in 1807; the same year that slavery was abolished in Britain!

SLAUGHTER HOUSE PUB. Author Daniel Defoe came to Liverpool and resided at lodgings behind the pub, as he liked to watch the proceedings at nearby Liverpool Castle, site of the Victoria Monument today.

CUNARD BUILDING. Samuel Cunard, owner of the Cunard Shipping Line, had this building built as the site of his offices to deal with the transportation of thousands of emigrants from all over Europe to the New World. A visit to the basement reveals the luggage compartments made of wood where their luggage was stored whilst awaiting the arrival of the transportation liners. Here you can also see part of the stonework of the original dock on which the Port of Liverpool was founded!

THE LYCEUM, BOLD STREET. The father of Herman Melville, author of "Moby Dick," he was a prosperous American businessman and tourist. Herman visited Liverpool in 1811 as a poor friendless sailor boy aged 19. On attempting to visit the businessman's venue, the Lyceum, he was thrown out onto the pavement!

It just goes to show, they even had bouncers in those days!

Richie Cannon

Seniors' Section Chalet Walk

ON the Wednesday, we visitors were accorded the ever warm welcome by the Chalet group, with offers of tea, coffee or something a bit stronger, which, as the sun was not yet over the yardarm, was regrettably declined.

Tea, coffee, plus one beaker of hot water – at least I hope it was water, and not the alternatives offered earlier – together with a plate full of Betty's 70th birthday cake soon had us settled and looking forward to the day's walk.

With Harry and Bill leading off from Loggerheads car park, we set off along the Leet Valley. I think many people believe that it gets its name from the river, but in fact the river is the Alyn. The name 'leet' is a water course cut from the river to provide water power for industry – Marcia knows these things – not many people do!

We had a choice of river crossings – a ford or a footbridge. With the painful memory in mind of an earlier ramble river crossing, which offered neither choice, the drier route was used. Thenceforth, the road led to a track, and the track to a path, leading to the



summit of Moel Famau. It was on the flank of the mountain that the loggers had been at work; leaving behind a tangled mass of discarded branches – like the bleached bones in the fabled elephants' graveyard, to which they spent their lives traveling.

Lunch was called at 2 o'clock, a little later than usual – with Peter absent there was no dissent (a Seniors' Section 'in' joke!) about the lateness of the hour. The wind was much stronger and much colder on the summit, Cader Idris was ahead and the Snowdon Range was just about as visible, with the rest of the Clwydian Range stretching away to the right and the mouth of the Cheshire Gap to the left.

With the full party atop the tower, photos were taken minus one, but a kindly walker offered to take a picture of the whole groups, to whom Tony entrusted his camera and joined us to complete the group.

The path off the summit was not exactly precipitous, but was steep enough for caution to be taken, after which the gradient eased. Finally over fields we came to the last lane to the car park and chalet, and more tea, coffee and cake.

Many thanks to the chaleters for their hospitality, and to Harry and Bill for their leadership. G.

FIFTY YEARS AGO

Copied from an old newsletter – June 1955. Editor was Gerry Penlington

This is an interesting ramble write-up for a joint ramble with the Birmingham Catholic Ramblers

JOINT RAMBLE WITH BIRMINGHAM CATHOLIC RAMBLERS' CLUB
LLANFYLLIN, MONTGOMERYSHIRE, SUNDAY, 9th MAY.

40 of the Liverpool contingent arrived at Llanfyllin at 12-30 p.m. which was about half an hour before our appointed meeting time with the Birmingham club. Unfortunately we were still waiting at 1-30 and our lot were getting a bit restless. By this time they had bought up the town in respect of chocolate bars and iced lollies. I think it was quite a treat for the local residents to see booted, bare legged, iced lolly sucking ramblers swarming all over the High Street.

Bill Potter displayed a bit of his business acumen by getting the cafe proprietor to drop the charge of 3d. per head to eat ones own sandwiches.

The Birmingham club eventually arrived at 1-45, thirty one in all, and after hasty greetings they were shoved into the cafe.

At 2-15 we all eventually set out on our ramble and I'm sure that Lanfyllin has never seen the like before. Well, just picture it. Seventy ramblers in attire varying from natty sports suits and polished shoes to scruffy jeans and great heavy boots. There was even a trilby hat in evidence!

The story then rambles on for another page- and-a-half but concludes, thus:

So, with farewells to our Birmingham friends, we dashed off in our coach back to civilisation to stop at the first pub that was open, where we were able to quench our thirsts.

The following is a letter received from the secretary of the Birmingham Ramblers'

This is to tell you all how much we enjoyed the joint ramble on Sunday last. A special word of thanks to Bill Potter for leading a fine ramble and to Chris, who I understand, help'd with the pioneering, and to the committee for choosing such a lovely spot. The company, ideal countryside and perfect weather made it a day to remember. We hope to do the honours next year.