

Liverpool Catholic Ramblers Association

Newsletter



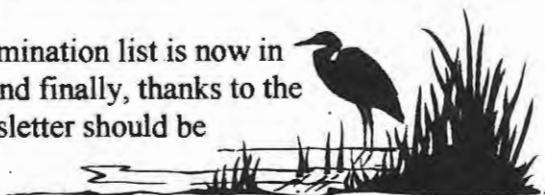
Autumn 1998
7th Series Issue 15

Editor's briefs

BRIEFLY this edition has the usual Ramblerite, details of forthcoming rambles, forthcoming social events and the usual Seniors' Section reports. Unfortunately, what we don't have are ramble reports or articles from the General Section, so how about a few of you out there writing something for the next edition. Ramble reports, however short, are welcome.

Meanwhile, don't forget to come early for the AGM - a nomination list is now in circulation for you to consider joining our new committee, and finally, thanks to the Seniors' Section for their reports. Anything for the next newsletter should be given or sent to me at

7 Abbotts Way, Billinge, Wigan, Lancs WN5 7SB



Dave Newns

BADGES FOR SALE

Many of you will now have seen our newly-designed club badge. They can be sewn onto your rucksacs, jackets, T-shirts, etc. They're now on sale at £2 each. Why not buy two! See Will Harris.

LINDA ROXBY

A Flowering Cherry tree was planted in the grounds of the Library near to the Philharmonic Hall in memory of Linda at a ceremony on July 22nd which was attended by a number of our members.

Social Events

QUIZZES, food nights, etc at the Cornmarket on Thursdays have been enjoyed by a hard core of members but could be better attended, so if you haven't been down yet, why not give it a try?

Don't forget our special food nights are now on the first Thursday of every month.

The recent trip from Maghull on the Roy el barge "Titanic" complete with meal, bar and entertainer seemed to go down well. Roy even had the Red Arrows flying past just before cast-off!

September	3rd	PIE NIGHT - Peter's pork pie and cream cake for just 50p
	10th	Free and Easy Night
	17th	Free and Easy Night
	24th	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (See separate notice)
October	1st	SANDWICH NIGHT
	8th	PHOTO NIGHT - Bring your holiday photographs
	15th	PLAY YOUR CARDS RIGHT - Mike Riley keeps us guessing
	22nd	DINGBATS QUIZ - Will Harris testing our wits again
	29th	BINGO NIGHT
November	5th	CHEESE AND WINE - We haven't found a Guy for this night yet!

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 at a nominal charge if ordered in advance. Lakeside House is run by the Catholic Holiday Fellowship, open to all nominations. Further details later.

NOTICE is hereby given that the Seventy-second

Annual General Meeting

of the Association will take place on Thursday 24th September 1998 at the
Cornmarket Public House at 8.30 pm

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 Chairlady's Report.
5. To elect Officers and Committee for the forthcoming year.
6. To elect Auditors for the forthcoming year.
7. Any other business.

Members wishing to submit resolutions of any kind must ensure that they are in the possession of the General Secretary not later than seven days prior to the above meeting.

ANNUAL MASS - Sunday, 27th September at 11am, in the Cathedral Crypt

Note time change from 11.30 to 11am

This is our club's special Mass when all three sections combine, families and friends are also invited. A number of our members actively take part in the service supplying the music, doing the readings, etc. Our deceased club members and relatives are foremost in our thoughts on this day, especially those who have died in recent years.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE

Payment must be BEFORE the end of October. See Chris Harris. Cheques should be made payable to LCRA

Ramblerite

LAST winter, right through to this May, we filled our coaches with over 50 on seven rambles and an overall average of 45 people. The poor summer could possibly be blamed for recent low attendances, but to refute this we had a high turnout of 47 on a very wet ramble in July (Coniston), then the following week at Baslow Edge - one of our sunniest days - we had only 28 out (probably due to wet boots from the week before!). I've never seen so many rock-climbers out on the different Edges that day.

Did you know that over half of this year's summer rambles have actually been dry! Other walks have indeed put our waterproofs to the test. Kay won't forget that wet day on the Fells near Coniston when she slipped by a stream and broke her wrist but managed to struggle on after improvised first aid (walking stick splint!). She did get plastered the next day (surgically!) and we wish her a speedy recovery.

We obviously need to see more out on the walks but, paradoxically, thirty of our club members are toddling off to the Tatra mountains in southern Poland on September 10th. There will be no coach for those two Sundays as we have planned to use members cars instead (see below). Hopefully in October, with holidays over, the attendances will shoot up again to match last October's average of 43.5 per ramble, or even more optimistically, full coaches again!

The winter rambling programme has been planned. We still need more leaders to volunteer their services and Will Harris is the man to see. The programmes won't be printed until after the Annual General Meeting and you should get yours in early October, but . . . only if you've renewed your annual subscription, which is now due. So all that remains now is to tempt you out on the following walks.

Forthcoming Rambles

Sept

- 6 THE LANGDALES. One of the Lake District's prime walking areas nestling between Lake Windermere and Coniston with plenty of scope for lots of different walks, usually finishing up at the New Dungeon Gill Hotel with picnic tables around the side. (Route: M58/M6)
- 13 CAR RAMBLE to PISTYLL RHAADR. The longest waterfall in Wales. Pick up passengers at 9.30 to arrive at Pistyll Rhaeadr Car Park at 12 noon. See Tom Riley or Will Harris if you have a car or if you need a lift.
- 20 CAR RAMBLE to KENTMERE in the Southern Lake District area. Pick up passengers at 9.30 to arrive at Kentmere at 11.30. See Tom Riley or Will Harris if you have a car or if you need a lift.
- 27 ANNUAL MASS 11 am at the Metropolitan Cathedral Crypt (note revised time). See notice..

Oct

- 4 MALHAM. Popular for all grades in Yorkshire's Limestone Country. (Route: M58/M6)
- 11 MOEL SIABOD in the Capel Curig/Bettws y Coed area of Wales near Swallow Falls with plenty of forest tracks to explore with scenic panoramas. (Route: Tunnel)
- 18 HIGH CUP NICK. Breathtaking scenery in North Cumbria. (Route: M58/M6)
- 25 GRASMERE. A good variety of walks in this popular Lake District haunt. (Route: M58/M6)

ADVANCE NOTICE OF OUR YULETIDE EVENT

Saturday January 16th 1999

A ramble followed by a meal and 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. It has a capacity for 250 persons and complies with all statutory regulations complete with a fire certificate, so make a note of this special event.

Seniors' Section

COPSTER GREEN - 12/7/98

ONE was surprised, driving along the A59, that it wasn't raining. Just as the car came to rest in the Royal Oak car park our illusions were shattered. However, always looking on the bright side, our leader was heard to remark that we didn't have to debate whether to don wet weather gear right away!

Nine intrepid souls turned up for the walk: George, Freda, Gerry, Jean, Maureen, Geoff and Audrey. How daft can you get? The rain soon turned into a monsoon as our upbeat troupe set off across the main road to the bewilderment of passing motorists who couldn't believe their eyes. The first footpath obviously hadn't been walked since the pioneering ramble and the grass was about two feet high. We slithered across a brook and made the slight ascent towards Midge Hall, not so much a stately home as a messy building site. The next mile was by way of mud and some moss to Salesbury and then by road for a brief look at the impressive Lovely Hall. We next waded into the village of Copster Green, crossing the main road and arrived at Bolton Hall, and imposing pile, built in 1665.

All this time it was either raining, teeming or doing something for which no word in English exists. The ramble had developed into a sort of handicap, top weight being determined by the amount of water being carried in one's boots, this distinction belonging to Audrey. The ground in the area had now assumed the consistency of blancmange, not noted for its tensile strength.

Our next show house was Showley Hall, alas fallen on hard times, but boasting a collection of

every agricultural instrument, appliance, accessory, knick-knack ever made and scattered at random around the farmyard. The farmer was a jolly chap who chattered amiably for a while and probably wondered what would prompt these mad Townies to ramble round the countryside on such a day!

Lunch was taken at what would have been an idyllic spot except for you know what. But the whole party was wonderfully cheerful without a single complaint. We continued our round of country mansions by heading for Oxendale Hall, lately refurbished and a truly impressive building. At this point a rough calculation revealed that we had crossed eighty-five stiles nearly all of which were theoretically impassable by dint of age, ill-use, poor maintenance, slimy wetness or poor design. But we all managed. The route continued to Osbaldeston Hall but you can have too much of a good thing.

We somehow managed, presumably as the result of a mistake by our leader, to walk for about half a mile on a mud-free track but this was only a temporary reprieve. In order to cross the next stream, a simple manoeuvre in dry weather, we really required sledge-boards but in some cases made do with well-proven posteriors. Getting up the "easy" slope on the other side entailed taking three steps forward and two back, lengthening the walk by about another mile but all accompanied by hoots of laughter! It was such an anti-climax along the track to the Royal Oak!

Thanks, George and Freda - but you did say at the House Meeting that it was no easy walk!

GEFA

DOVE STONE RESERVOIR - 9/8/98 - Leader: Bill Potter

DOVE STONE RESERVOIR lies on the edge of the Oldham to Holmfirth road. It appears to be a popular place for the people of the area in which to relax and enjoy themselves - thankfully without the obligatory evil-smelling hamburger stall!

Bill, with his charges mustered, soon had us on our way, climbing steeply towards outcrops of rock, which gave the skyline a snaggle-toothed outline. At about 450 metres the path levelled off, there the Dean Rocks afforded a shady lunch stop. The heat mist filtered out most of the activity and noise around the reservoir, leaving it like a sparkling diamond resting on a jeweller's velvet cushion.

With the open moorland to our right, a gentle breeze cooled us on our way along an undulating path, with pauses to take an interest in groups climbing various pitches on Dean Rock, the gritstone affording a good grip for both foot and hand.

Skirting Ashway Gap, we struck across more-or-

less open moorland, with a variety of terrain - heather, ferns and large areas of peat - (in adverse conditions, not an area to be trifled with!).



The furthest point of our walk, Raven Stones Brow, was reached, where in years past a wager was struck and SPUC was the beneficiary! A steep, rocky descent brought the party to a track which skirted Greenfield Reservoir, at the end of which Bill crossed over to find a more pleasant path on the other side of Yeoman Hey Reservoir. Here one of our budding water colourists enquired of another "How to you capture the sparkle of the sun on the water?" - "With difficulty," grunted the other!

With a lowering sun and the heat of the day dispersing, we arrived back at our cars, and with boots shed, we set about finding a hostelry in which to enjoy a well-earned meal.

Thanks, Bill, for organising a most enjoyable walk, and the weather as well.

SENIORS' SECTION (cont)

MAWDESLEY - 23/8/98

THE WEATHER, as we approached the rendezvous, was strangely reminiscent of what we'd experienced at Copster Green, or maybe all summer Sundays have been like this of late.

The only car at the venue belonged to Gerry who must have been hoping nobody was going to be daft enough to turn up on such a day! Getting our own back for Copster Green! As we set off, all four of us, having weighted the cars down for fear they would be swept away, we wondered what we must have looked like, armed as we were with umbrellas, and laughing like children on an adventure. We were soon sloshing through long grass and floundering in mud. Nil desperandum. We were enjoying ourselves, I think. We reached Nooks Farm and then came across some delightfully named byways like Tincklers Lane, Halfpenny Lane, Tannersmith Lane. So far we had not met a soul, the locals being far too canny to venture out in the monsoon season.

Lunch was taken in a copse where the deluge seemed even more severe but as soon as we had

finished, the rain stopped and we didn't have another drop for the rest of the day. The improved visibility enabled us to spot Heskin Hall (1822), a solid, no-nonsense manor house. The terrain was proving mostly flat but full of interest, including the sighting by Freda of Himalayan balsam, for which Jean and Gerry will be forever grateful.

We did quite a good deal of walking and talking before we reached Pyebrook Hall and Gerry asked if we would like refreshments but disappointingly the proximity of the Hall was entirely coincidental and the said refreshments depended entirely upon whether one had saved any lunch! Gerry!! Refreshed, we continued towards Harrocks Hill where the pleasant weather enabled us to see far and wide. Our way took us to Gaugers Farm and via Moody Lane eventually back to Mawdesley. It had been most enjoyable and though ostensibly we had done a flat walk, because we climbed four hundred and fifty stiles, we actually ascended 450 x 2 feet and hardly noticed it. Good one, Gerry and Jean.

GEFA

SENIORS' SECTION PROGRAMME

Sept 13th	CHALET	Oct 11th	ROCHDALE - Harry O'Neill
Sept 27th	ANNUAL MASS, 11am Cathedral Crypt (Note revised time of 11am)	Oct 25th	FOXHILL - Bill Potter
Oct 1st	HOUSE MEETING - Gerry and Jean McDonald		

FAMILY SECTION PROGRAMME

Sept 13th	OLD CHESHIRE - David Connolly (342 3564)
Sept 27th	ANNUAL MASS, 11am Cathedral Crypt (Note revised time of 11am)
Oct 11th	MALHAM - Anthony Brockway (608 0425). Meet at Malham car park 12 noon

Snapshots of the past

Some ten-yearly peeps at what we did at this time of the year

Sept 4th 1938	Ramble to Delamere Forest. Meet at Pier Head 10am. Fare 1s 7d.
Sept 5th 1948	Newton. (Ramble with Benediction afterwards) 10.30 start. Cost 10d.
Sept 19th 1948	Longridge. Skelthorpe Street 10am. Fare 6s.
Sept 7th 1958	Hardcastle Crags, Hebden Bridge. Exchange Station 9.50. Fare 7s. 0d. Leader: Bill Potter.
Sept 8th 1968	Llantisilio Mountain (cars) 10.00. (a) Hugh Molloy, (b) Paul Anderson.
Sept 3rd 1978	Berwyns, N. Wales (now weekly coach rambles). 10.15 start.
Sept 4th 1988	Haweswater. Pub meal after ramble. (a) Dave Newns, (b) Paul Healy. 9.30 This was a joint ramble with the Family Section (now Seniors' Section).