

Liverpool Catholic Ramblers' Association

NEWSLETTER

Midsummer 2002

7th Series
Issue 37



THANKS to those who contributed articles for this edition, including cartoons supplied by Richie Cannon but not drawn by him. However, the front picture of Derwentwater was sketched by Tricia Bentley on our spring Keswick weekend. **AN APPEAL** to all members to give ramble reports or articles to me for the next newsletter - Dave News, *Editor*.

NEW MEMBERS - A hearty welcome to all new members who have joined us over the past few months, and we hope you will have many happy years of rambling with us.



RAMBLERITE

There is an urgent need to fill more of those coach seats!

We have been losing money on coaches recently. That's the bare facts.

In spite of the good weather on recent walks (although it was slightly damp at Coniston!) attendances have been low. For whatever the reason, Chairman Tom Reilly reckons if everyone came out at least once a month, then the weekly coaches would be almost full.

Earlier this summer, because of a slight rise in coach costs, we had to increase the coach fare, first from £7 to £7.50, then a few weeks later, to £8. This is still competitive with other local clubs but in spite of this, many members have been conspicuous by their absence.

GLORIOUS WEATHER

It was a gloriously sunny afternoon on the recent Longdendale walk (near Glossop) when we all started from the camp site at Crowden, complete with handy shop for light refreshments. That day the 'A' had to step to one side on the paved summit of Black Hill to let the 200-odd fell runners pass by on their annual Holme Moss fell run over part of the Pennine Way. Meanwhile the 'B'/'C' walkers went along the Lad's Leap path to Tintwistle then along the reservoirs back to Crowden.

A week earlier the coach passed through Keswick to

Borrowdale where, on another fine afternoon, Jack visited Watendlath with the 'C' party. Ray's group conquered the summit of Bessyboot, and Carol's 'A' walkers encompassed Green Gable, Great Gable, etc.

The recent Welsh walk was threatened with a dodgy weather forecast but it turned out to be a fine day with beautiful views from high up above Blaenau Ffestiniog.

GOOD WALKS COMING

A couple of months ago, we had to cancel the coach to Dolgellau because of very low bookings (possibly due to a number of members who were on holiday then).

Now many good walks are just around the corner so get booking now! Bring, or phone a friend! We have leaders standing by to fill in those many TBA's (to be arranged) so there's no problem. Meanwhile don't forget that sun cream. *Dave News*

Forthcoming Rambles and the Eskdale Weekend

August 25

BANK HOLIDAY - no coach.

September 1

LANGDALES - Popular walking area in the heart of the Lakes, several miles to the west of Ambleside, finishing at the famous Dungeon Gill car park and pub.

September 8

MONYASH/BAKEWELL. A good selection of Derbyshire's Dales here and also a chance of getting hold of a Bakewell tart.

September 15

ESKDALE WEEKEND (South West Lakes). We've booked the whole youth hostel (30-odd beds) including meals and packed lunches. Everyone should have paid up by now but you may just be lucky to book that last odd vacancy. Transport is being arranged (mini-bus or cars still to pay for). Walks will be planned. In the evening there's just a 5-minute walk to the Woolpack Inn. Mini-bus leaves from William Brown Street at 2.00 on the Friday. Those who want details about early Sunday Mass contact me *before* we go so arrangements can be made. - *Dave N.*

September 22

DUFTON/APPLEBY - Several miles north-east of the M6 Tebay junction. If you do the spectacular High Cup Nick walk on the Pennine Way there, you could think you are passing the Grand Canyon.

Ambleside at New Year - Book NOW or you will be too late!

ROOMS and dormitories have been booked for Ambleside's massive superior hostel on the shores of Lake Windermere. (*It used to be a large Edwardian hotel*). This will be our fourth year there.

Accommodation is for three nights, Monday 30th Dec to Thursday 2nd Jan (travelling back that day).

Dave Dickel has booked a choice of 2-bedded, 3-bedded and 4-bedded rooms or the cheaper dormitory accommodation. Room prices vary from £15.25 to £16 per person per night, or dormitories (approx 7 beds) at

£13.75 per night. There's also a choice of self-catering or prepared meals. Evening meals on Mon and Wed are £5, but Tuesday's New Year's Eve Buffet is £8. Breakfasts are £3.40 and packed lunches are £3.

Only a dozen people have booked so far but Dave Dickel can only hang on to the bookings a short while longer, then he will have to cancel any superfluous beds that he has booked. Booking forms are available from the person going around the coach. You can also ring Dave on 01244 533995. You will need a £15 deposit.

My first stay at Lakeside House, Keswick

OFF to Keswick we go - Gordon, Joan and I . . . "Only got a small case," says Joan. On opening boot, "No chance!" says Gordon. Case ends up across front seat.

We had a good laugh over that so-called small case. It became part of the weekend. Meanwhile Gordon asks which way shall we go up to the Lakes. Joan and I says: "The scenic route of course!" With a grump Gordon agreed but had a little moan on the way. Oh heck! (What's new?). Rock on Gordon.

That Friday evening, to see so many of our club members sitting in the dining area relaxed and talking, enjoying their meals with such beautiful mountain views through the windows was fantastic.

Only one thing - we had to let Paul M have the leftovers (as he likes Desperate Dan dinners). The staff and service we received at Lakeside House was excellent.

To me, Keswick will always be a place and an occasion I will never forget. It gave everyone the opportunity to mix and also to have space. The friendliness, company and aura of the weekend were exceptional.

Now the walk I chose on the Saturday - to Honister Pass - took me back in time to Ambleside Farm by the bridge, my first camping trip, 29 years ago. What a life shock to have to remember when we put the tent up it only had three legs! (Let's forget about that).

Ah, yes - also the set up Dave D and Dave N did where we started going up Tongue Gill, then they said we had to come back down again. Next time it's onwards to Dale Head. Thank you two Daves. Watch out for that on the next occasion!

Thanks to everyone who helped to make the weekend brill, especially Dave N who shared a cup of tea (?) with myself and Joan in our room, burning the midnight oil and telling us jokes and tales. It made Joan's and my weekend that little bit more special to have shared that time with you. Also to all who contributed and have committed themselves to the planning and organising of the club.

Looking forward to more memorable weekends. Love to all.

Dot

The Rucksack

This is the rucksack for the journey of life. Like most rucksacks it has all sorts in it, Some useful things, like maps and sun cream,

Some useless, just weights to carry. Old anger and un-cried tears and guilt well past its sell-by date.

Every now and then I need to turn the rucksack upside down and empty its pockets

To see what I do need for this journey and what I can leave behind.

Some things can be hard to let go of, I've carried them a long time

And it's hard to know what life will be like without them.

Some things I'd love to let go of - but I'm not sure how.

Some things I feel guilty of:

Responsibility - even for what I'm not responsible for.

Things I was told as a child, even though I'm old enough to make different decisions for my life.

When it comes to filling the rucksack that can be a problem too.

I know I need love and support - but it can be hard to believe I'll get it.

I may need forgiveness and compassion - but maybe I think they are for everyone else.

And what about God?

What kind of God am I going to carry through life?

The God of judgement and fear, or the loving God of Jesus Christ?

The God who, in fact carries me, rucksack and all.

Good packing!

Jailed for owing 37p Income Tax!

FOUND during recent house renovations, these details of Income Tax prosecutions came to light from a Newcastle Evening Post dated 20th November 1919, as follows:

"At Chester-le-Street Police Court, Mr P Kirkup presiding - T Coonan of 26 Oxclose Street, Washington Station, was committed to prison for 14 days for non-payment of 7s 3d Income Tax (just 37p in today's money!) and 15s 6d costs.

And even more seriously, D Dowd of 7 St Peter's Road, was committed to prison for 28 days for non-payment of £2 1s 7d Income Tax and 15s 6d costs."

My, how times have changed.

- LCRA's Taxman



**We will be chasing EVERYONE next month:
Annual Subscriptions are due -
£5 Single Members, £6 Married Couples**

The Five Sisters of Kintail

MANY of our club members know of my passion for the Scottish Highlands over the last three years, so hopefully I won't bore you with this report of my last jaunt earlier this year.

Nine of us (five whom are members) set out for an extended May bank holiday weekend, our destination being Shiel Bridge on the west coast of Scotland, staying in the Ratagan youth hostel. For those members who travelled to Torridon a couple of years ago, Shiel Bridge is about 40 miles south of it, on a level with the Cuillin Hills of the Isle of Skye. Nick Lancaster was our host. Like Neil in Torridon, Nick is also an important member of the local Mountain Rescue team. He was ably assisted by a Dutch National called Henry - our group becoming friendly with Henry on one of his first weekends free.

Our main hope of the trip was to walk/scramble two ridges, namely The Five Sisters of Kintail and the Saddle - two of the most famous ridges in the Scottish Highlands, easily comparable with the mountains of Torridon.

Friday 3 May saw eight of us (the exception being Frank Hegarty who fancied a B-style walk and some sketching of the mountains) setting out to do the "Sisters." The walk began with a stiff ascent of 2,200 feet to reach the ridge. The angle of walking at some points was as little as 30 degrees. The day started with sunshine, followed by snowfall for about an hour, then the rest of the day returning to glorious sunshine.

Once on the ridge we were faced with the famous five, three of the peaks being Munro's with the other peaks just below that status. The ridge walk was to be respected and we were glad of no strong winds. Snow on the ridge slowed our pace a little, but this makes you respect the mountain more.

This walk was once described to have an Arrgh factor of 10 out of 10. We were not disappointed. This was a view which will stay in my memory for many a year. I walked in the French, Italian and Swiss Alps a few years ago and this was certainly comparable. When the snow cleared we were rewarded with views to the south, of the snow-capped Ben Nevis plus the many hundreds of mountains between. To the north the mountains of Torridon and Sutherland. The west taking in the Isle of Skye plus the many lochs joining the Irish

Sea. Looking east of the mountain range the Brothers and beyond - a sight to dream about - the ridge itself being about 8 miles long and I can assure you it felt a lot longer. This ridge was not for the weak hearted. In total the walks were 17 kilometres long with a 6 kilometres road walk back to our accommodation (11-12 miles). With breaks we were out for 9 hours. We normally walk on mountains at around 2mph so it shows how tough it was.

That night Frank (Hegarty) cooked us a remarkable meal. The whole hostel was talking about it. Henry had been visiting a fishing village and purchased on our behalf some langoustines (large prawns). They were still alive when they reached the hostel. We ate them as a starter, with fresh salad, olive oil and a chilli dressing. The main course was a Mediterranean-style meat and pasta dish. Washed down with good wine and real ale (we took a cask with us) it was meal to remember.

On Saturday we went our separate ways. Some of the party doing the tourist round of Eilean Donan Castle - the most photographed in the world (now made more famous as the castle the BBC hot air balloon flies over). Paco and Dave Clark decided to do the Brothers range of mountains. In two days they had already completed over 9,000ft of climbing and 20 miles of walking.

Myself, John McDowell and our host Henry went for a scenic drive of the coast and mountains, culminating in a visit to Torridon to see Neil and Trish. Unfortunately they were out for the day. Henry, not to waste the trip, was taking photographs for future SYHA websites. Blessed by temperatures reaching upwards of 70 deg F, and sunshine to match, we all had a great day out, finishing with a meal in the Cluonie Inn.

Sunday it was time for the "Saddle". Walking by 9.30am in fine sunshine it was not long before the sunblock was out. The first part of the walk was a gradual ascent of 2000ft where we reached a plateau. At this point the Saddle was in front of us. Looking immediately at the Forcan Ridge, you could see what a beast of a mountain this was.

Continuing to the foot of the ridge we decided on a split - six of the party scrambling up to grades of Scrambling 2, myself and Dave Pope choosing a very steep ascent rather than the challenging scramble, meeting on the summit to exchange a few scary moments. The mountain really is in my top five.

Cost of the holiday was £39 for four nights at SYHA plus £40 minibus and fuel. Food extra.

Names of hills: Five Sisters - Sgurr nan Spainteach (2,600ft), Scurr na Ciste Duibhe (3,400ft), Sgurr na Camac (3,300ft), Sgurr Fhuaran (3,500ft) and Scurr nan Saighead (3,000ft) making a total ascent of 5,000ft. The Saddle (3,314ft) and Sgurr na Sgine (3,104ft) - a total ascent of 5,250ft. The Brothers - Saileag (3,154ft), Sgurr a Bhealach Dheirg (3,600ft), Aonach Meadhoin (3,300ft) - total 5,530ft of ascent.

Paco outshone us by completing a total of 26 miles plus 15,500ft of climbing.

Bob Carney

MORE LEADERS WANTED

Interested? Then contact Will Harris, *Rambling Chairman*

He's measuring a route.
Can you ring back next week?





Forthcoming Social Events



AUGUST

- 22 BRUSH-UP ON YOUR DANCING (with Roy F)
- 29 BRING & BUY SALE (see back page)

SEPTEMBER

- 5 CHEESE & WINE NIGHT
- 12 ESKDALE PLANNING NIGHT
- 19 WHO WANTS TO BE A MILLIONAIR-ISH QUIZ
- 26 AGM (see back page)

OCTOBER

- 3 CHEESE & WINE NIGHT and Ken's Quiz
- 10 PLAY YOUR CARDS RIGHT with Mike Riley
- 17 WEAKEST LINK with Ray Mc
- 24 COME DANCING (Final practice before the Dinner Dance) with Roy Fletcher
- 31 WITCH QUIZ with Chris Harris



Our BIG Reunion Event



Tickets will shortly be on sale for our

75th Anniversary **DINNER DANCE**

on Saturday 16th November 2002

at the Botanic Suite, Devonshire House Conference Centre, Edge Lane - 7pm for 7.30 meal

Dancing to Live Cabaret Group, followed by a Disco - Tickets £20

MENU *(choice of three main courses and choice of two sweets)*

Thick Country Vegetable Soup with Roll and Butter

(Chicken)

Supreme of Chicken Forestiere
with Shallots, Mushrooms, Smoked Bacon,
Wood Herbs and Red Wine

(Lamb)

Roast Leg of Lamb
in a Mushroom and Rosemary
Sauce

Served with Roast Potatoes, New Potatoes, Chateaux Potatoes and a Selection of Fresh Vegetables

(Vegetarian)

Mushroom Stroganoff and Rice with a Selection of Fresh Vegetables

(Cheesecake)

Lemon Cheesecake with Pouring Cream

(Apple Pie)

Fresh Apple Pie with Pouring Cream

Freshly Ground Coffee and Mints

Application Form for ticket(s)

Please supply me with ticket(s) for the LCRA's 75th Anniversary Dinner Dance

Name(s)
and choice
of menu

Include your name and menu required (main meal and sweet) - example: Joe Bloggs, Chicken with Apple Pie, Mary Bloggs, Lamb with Cheesecake, etc. (Use back of this application form for larger orders of tickets).

Note: If you require tickets to be posted to you, please send stamped addressed envelope and make out cheques (£20 per ticket) to LCRA and send to Will Harris 57 Higher Road, Liverpool L26 1TA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that our

Annual General Meeting

will take place on **Thursday 26th September 2002 at 8.30 pm**
at the Ship & 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 that they are in the possession of the General Secretary not later than seven days prior to the above meeting.

PAT McINTOSH, *General Secretary*

General Secretary's address: 27 Meadway, Hough Green, Widnes WA8 8XT

THE ANNUAL MASS of the Association will be held in the Cathedral Crypt, 11am, on Sunday 29th September. Cars can be parked at the Cathedral or in the University car park.

Interested in serving on the committee?

A Nomination List is now in circulation, so why not give it a try? Meetings are held on the evening of the second Monday of each month at Birch House, Bishop Eaton.

Bring and Buy Night - Thursday August 29th, upstairs at the Ship & Mitre, 9.30pm

SPREAD the word around. Our last Bring & Buy night was good fun and made a record of £96 for our club funds. Come on down and get that bargain. Don't forget to bring items to sell such as cassettes, compact discs, books, booze or anything that should generate money for the club funds. Ray Mc is the Auctioneer.

Changed your address? Then don't forget to inform us, otherwise you won't get your newsletter sent, etc. If you think you might have missed your last edition, it was out a several months ago - the Spring Issue (May).

WINTER PROGRAMME PLANNING MEETING

SUGGESTIONS for popular walks that would attract members to book a seat on the coach in our forthcoming winter programme are invited. Coach access and parking facilities are essential in any of your suggestions.

Contact any of our committee members *before* the meeting held on September 2nd at Birch House, 8pm. Thanks.

