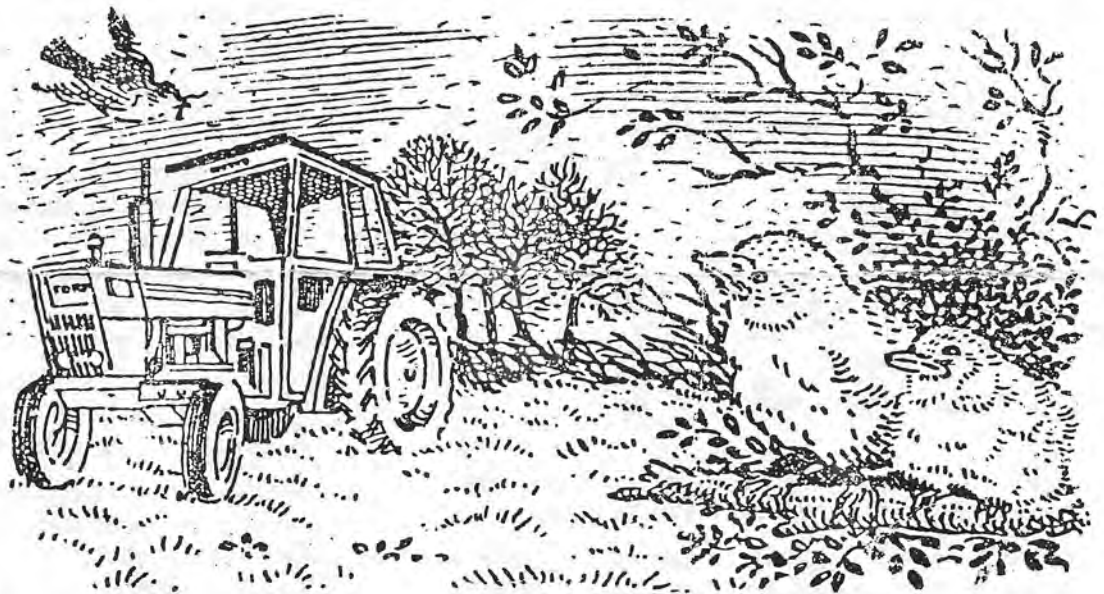


Liverpool Catholic Ramblers' Association

NEWSLETTER

MIDSUMMER 2007

Issue No. 62 Seventh Series



Our Cheese and Wine Night in July
is now on **Thursday July 12th**



(That's the SECOND Thursday in July). This is due to holidays

The August Cheese and Wine night will revert back to the usual first Thursday of the month – Thursday August 2nd

At the Ship & Mitre, upstairs, 9.30. Tunnel entrance end of Dale Street

Write ups – He who dares, wins! Either give or send your ramble write ups or other articles for the next newsletter to me at 7 Abbots Way, Billinge, Wigan WN5 7SB, or to davenews@hotmail.com

Ramblerite

SUNSHINE has greeted many of our recent walks and several seldom-seen members have started to enjoy the rambles with us again.

On May 13th we luckily picked a spot where the rain kept away until the end of the day. Meanwhile most of the country was getting wet – except in Appleby.

Unfortunately we had no 'B' leader, so Jim Dempsey and Seniors' Bill Potter kindly 'volunteered' a joint lead from near Dufton while Mike Riley led a sort of scenic river dance, sorry, river *walk* with the 'C' party.

My small 'A' group were soon scrambling up High Cup Nick in Grand Canyon-type terrain ideal for a Spaghetti Western film set. We didn't see any Indians but followed many yellow arrows later as the four of us zigzagged through bluebell-carpeted woods on our long trek to Appleby. It was thirsty work, but then forlornly, we got to the packed coach just too late for a quick pub visit – and we are still suffering from shock!

Incidentally, we were a fortnight too early for the annual Appleby Horse Fair held on May 31st.



"Hi folks! All the horses have now been sold at the Appleby Fair – but I am still up for grabs!"

Not only are walk leaders a bit thin on the ground at the moment but we have also been short of actual 'A' walkers! However, at the Langdales, Jim (with the shorts) did a two-man 'A-plus' ramble (climb!) up Dungeon Ghyll proper while a large 'B' group clambered down the slightly more sedate Stickle Ghyll. The 'C' walkers strolled along Langdale. At the end of that hot day, most were seen in New Dungeon Ghyll's beer garden (which was nothing new!).

On our Edale ramble Mike Riley led a large 'C' party, bumping into the RA group on the Mam Tor ridge, while Kinder Scout saw our fit Jim (with the same shorts) using a unique one-off method with a 100% certainty that no other 'A' walkers would get past him. Ray Mc led the 'B.' It would be great if someone on those 'B' and 'C' walks had given us a short report.

Rambling on forthcoming blank dates

Many of our regular walkers will be away for the two weeks at the end of June and beginning of July, but there may be several leaders who could organise a walk by using either their own or public transport on those dates, so keep your ears to the ground. **DN**

Imminent Coach Fare Increase of £1

Another local walking club often fill their coach to capacity, and yet we regularly have a number of empty seats. It must be pointed out that they do have a membership much bigger than ours – and yet they still run only one coach. The good news is that some of those members often come out with us simply because they can't get on their coach! The bad news is that our costs have risen and it looks like we will be paying £10 each in the near future. If it is any consolation, at least one other club pay more than us (£11 each).

September weekend

The Longthwaite Hostel (in Borrowdale) several miles from Keswick, is earmarked for our club on the 7th, 8th and 9th September. Full details will be given later.

I believe a certain VIP often visits a farm down there ever since the Foot and Mouth epidemic. Look out for those prominent ears!

GRASMERE, June 3

(This could almost be a Seniors' Section report)

ANOTHER fine day; but a below par turnout for popular Grasmere with several empty seats.

There were no takers for Carol's intended 'A' walk so Dave Newns led a 'B' and Ray Mc led a 'C' ramble.

The thirteen fit 'B' walkers (two of them over 65 and two over 70!) eventually passed Easedale Tarn and climbed up to Coedale Tarn – then a climb up to Tarn Crag for some superb views. The descent was via Greathead Crag and then a scenic trek down to the footbridge along Far Easedale back to Grasmere.

Ray Mc's 'C' walk headed south to Rydal, discovering some new permissive paths and also following the well-trodden paths around Rydal Water and Grasmere.

At the conclusion, young-at-heart Richard remarked: "It was a little bit more than just a 'C' walk!" His collapsible walking sticks must have been red hot! Still, it's not bad for someone a few years over 80!

With three-quarters-of-an-hour to spare, most went down to the usual pub in Grasmere, but some of us surveyed the delightful beer gardens of Tweedies Bar, hidden down a side street near the church. We were soon helping Sally and David to get rid of their big bowl of chips. The one's who never came out don't know what they missed – the walks, not the chips! ☺

The club's hip-ops



Tom Reilly, after his recent operation in Halton Hospital for a replacement hip, is now getting back into shape again . . . for a skiing holiday next winter! True.

Tom is already driving again, but it will be next year before we will see him back on the walks.

Our vice-president Chris Dobbin is next. He gets his hip done at the same hospital at the end of this month. Good luck, Chris . . . and next! . . . Watch this space.

Archives – just a few years ago –

The Foot and Mouth epidemic of 2001



IT started in the February and quickly forced us to cancel our walks programme. Some doom and gloom pessimists were worried that this would signal the end of our rambling club, and some members did, indeed, disappear.

Well, five years of having no rambles during World War Two never killed the club, so why should just a few months of Foot and Mouth disease be so different?

We still carried on by doing a number of permitted canal and beach walks, had outings to Chester and York, and as early as May 20 we had a coach for a walk in North Wales again. Other areas gradually opened up and we were back to a full regular rambling programme by the autumn.

Forthcoming rambles

June 17 Kettlewell, Yorkshire Dales

Kettlewell is a quaint village nestling in south Yorkshire with a couple of tea shops and pubs, and the rock climbers' Kilnsey Crag close by. The mountain which the 'A' and 'B' will probably do is called Buckden Pike where there is a 'fox' plaque near the summit. Here a wartime RAF plane crashed in a blizzard, but only one of the badly injured Polish airmen survived. He was a Polish farmer and saw foxes tracks in the snow. He followed them, knowing they would eventually lead him to a house or a village, as it did.

June 24 Sedbergh, near M6 (Yorkshire)

The Howgill Fells rise above the far end – a good variety of walks.

July 15 Cat & Fiddle (Goyt Valley)

The Cat & Fiddle is the pass between Macclesfield and Buxton in the Peak District. The beautiful Goyt Valley starts near the summit of the pass and cuts through hills and reservoirs towards the small town of Whalley Bridge, on the way to Stockport.



New members

A GOOD NUMBER of new members joined us over the past few months. Among them are: Lisa Cumming, Suzanne and Ann Hilliard, Jill Lamb and Linda Maguire. We hope you all enjoy many happy years with us.

Dave and Joan have been fighting injury/health problems for some time now. Many know that they now have a holiday caravan based at Llangollen. Joan was getting better until they thoroughly tested the caravan's waterproof qualities over the bank holiday; then Joan went back downhill again with a cold. However, they are recuperating in Spain at the moment and both wish to thank everyone for their get well wishes, cards, etc, over recent months.

Pat and Linda went off to Vietnam a while back for a cycling holiday and they have not been seen since.



Have they got bogged down in some paddy field or even worse? Hang on! I have just found Pat on the other end of the phone and she says Linda is now on holiday in Germany. Don't mention the war! Pat said there were lots of mountains to negotiate in Vietnam. She had also been globetrotting to Amsterdam and Benidorm since and hopes to reveal all this Sunday on the Conway walk.

Kay has not been very well recently. She has been checked out at hospital but is back home again now. We hope that you are feeling much better now, Kay.

New Year – The massive Ambleside Hostel is again the place for our three-day stay – more about this later.

Disappointed at this short newsletter?

WITH over one hundred General Section members it is up to many of you to write a ramble report from time to time for a much bigger and better newsletter.

Alternatively you could even send in a bit of witty fiction, etc, like Richie Cannon has done so below. This was obviously cut-out from an American publication:

There are a just few bits and pieces from some of you that I still hold ready for future newsletters. *Dave News, Editor*

Ten dollar dog



A guy sees a sign in front of a house:

"Talking Dog for Sale." He rings the bell and the owner tells him the dog is in the backyard. The guy goes into the backyard and sees a black mongrel just sitting there.

"You talk?" he asks.

"Sure do." The dog replies.

"So, what's your story?"

The dog looks up and says, "Well, I discovered my gift of talking pretty young and I wanted to help the government, so I told the CIA about my gift, and in no time they had me jetting from country to country, sitting in rooms with spies and world leaders, because no one figured a dog would be eavesdropping. I was one of their most valuable spies."

Awarded a batch of medals

"The jetting around really tired me out, and I knew I wasn't getting any younger and I wanted to settle down. So I signed up for a job at the airport to do some undercover security work, mostly wandering near suspicious characters and listening in. I uncovered some incredible dealings there and was awarded a batch of medals."

"Had a wife, a mess of puppies, and now I'm just retired."

The guy is amazed. He goes back in and asks the owner what he wants for the dog.

The owner says, "Ten dollars."

The guy says, "This dog is amazing. Why on earth are you selling him so cheap?"

"Cause he's a liar. He didn't do any of that.

He's made it all up."

A visit to the home of the world's largest plum pudding

THE SENIORS' RAMBLE in April was to the Crook of Lune. We arrived earlier than normal in order to partake of the bacon butties which are the speciality of Woody's, the local café, and are cooked to order. In fact, they proved so delicious, that it was difficult to drag people away to start walking!

There were ten of us on the walk: leaders Tony and Marcia Thompson; Jean and Gerry, Lilian, Bill, Harry and Christine (a walking friend from Rochdale), Ita and her sister Julia, who actually lived locally in Caton.

The first loop was simple and allowed a bit of a warm up around one of the "crooks." We were also able to see the memorial tree garden and read the dedications; sadly some to young children.

After that, the walk proper began with a gentle ascent to Halton Park and a delightful picnic stop overlooking the river at Hawkshead Farm. It was a fine and sunny day but rather misty so our views of Bowland were somewhat hazy. Our route then took us through Lower, Middle and Far Highfields. These were farms, although the middle one had been converted into luxury housing.



After Highfield we descended to the village of Aughton which is the home of the world's largest plum pudding. This is cooked here every 21 years, in the boiler which was originally intended to soften willow wands for basket making. The last pudding, made in 1992, weighed 5,000lbs!

Later, we reached the banks of the Lune and followed the river all the way back to the car park. The first part of this final stretch consisted of open river bank, followed by a delightful path through woods full of bluebells.

Altogether we walked about 9 miles with about 700ft of ascent. The weather stayed sunny and warm, the mist cleared and the day ended with a pleasant meal in the Station Hotel in Caton.

Seniors' Section ramble – 11th March



"A muddy good walk"

(according to Gerry)

George and Freda, Marcia too,
Gerry and Jean with leaders two.

Met to ramble in Tarporley,
The Cheshire countryside to see.

At twelve o'clock we set out on our way,
On a very fine and sunny day.

Along the route we were pleased to see,
Daffodils and blossoms on many a tree.

Crossing two golf courses along the route,
The village of Eaton we soon reached on foot.

A slight detour we had to make,
While mud on our boots became like a cake.

In the distance we soon could see,
The parish church of Tarporley.

The end in sight before the dark,
Back to change our boots in the car park.

To end our day which was great fun,
Six ramblers adjourned to the "Rising Sun."

There the meal was so good,
We soon forgot about the MUD!!!!!!

Thanks to all who came that day,
We enjoyed your company all the way.

THE THREE GRACES

Seniors' Section forthcoming Rambles

June 10th HARRY O'NEILL – 01706 658281
July 8th GERRY McDONALD – 526 6775

Seniors' Section House Meetings

June 7th ROSEMARY ROLLERSON
July 5th MOLLY and TONY ROCHE

Eightieth Anniversary Dinner Dance Tickets – Please fill in the attached form