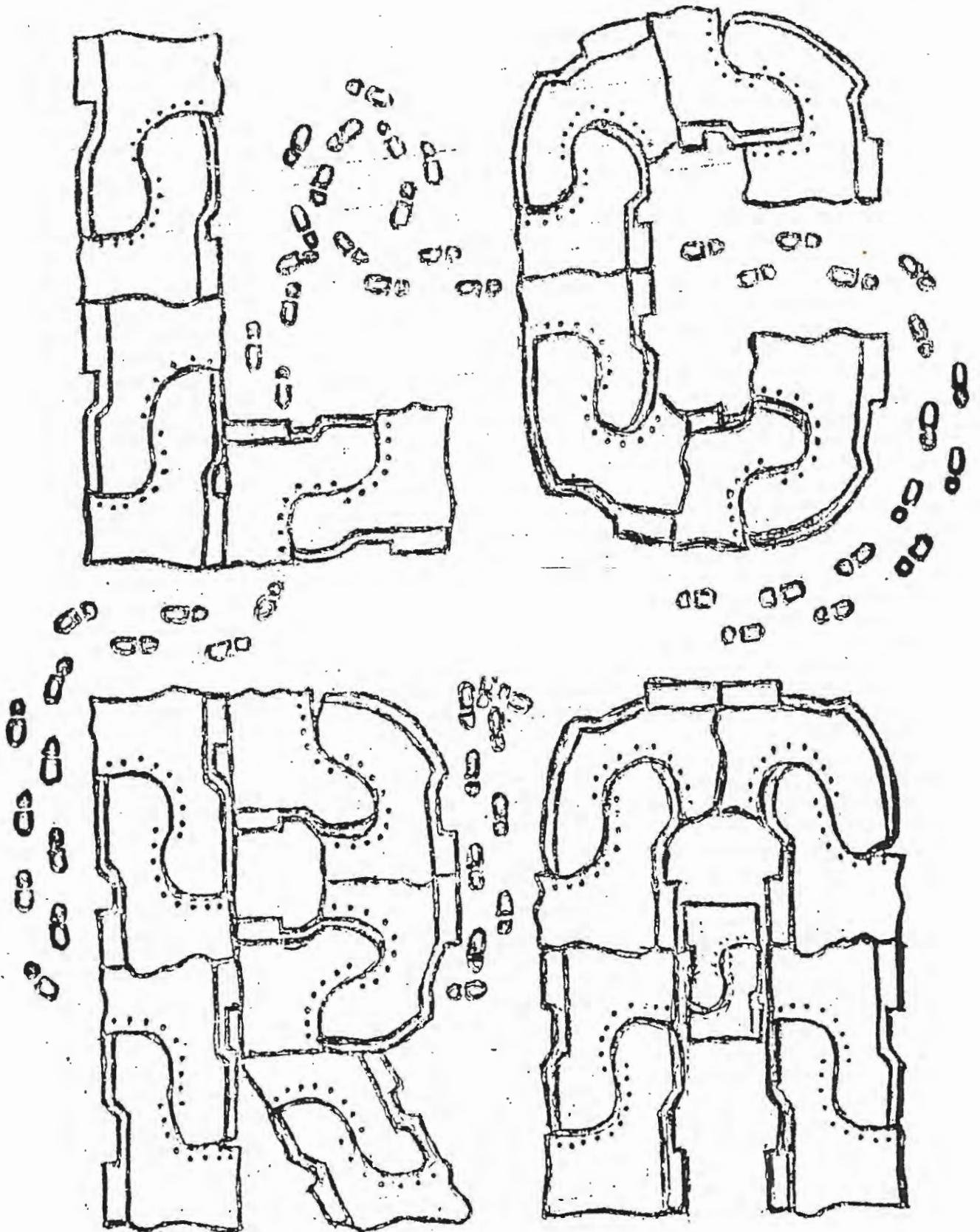


Liverpool Catholic Ramblers Newsletter

EASTER 2000

Seventh Series Issue 25



Bad weather forecast proved to be wrong for our sunny Keswick weekend

FRIDAY 24th MARCH - Straight from work, my first duty was to collect the minibus from the old Match Factory, Garston; from there to my home for my bags and sandwiches, and the journey began.

After picking Larry and Kay up in the southend, the next stop was our usual pick-up point in the city centre. It has to be said we were left waiting for some time for someone (no prizes for guessing who!) but if anyone has any thoughts on this subject please submit them in writing to the committee. Anyhow, thirty minutes later than planned we picked our remaining friends up in Walton and off we went. After an uneventful drive we were soon at our B&B's in Keswick.

A short while later, after unpacking, we headed off to join most of the others (who had come up in cars) at the Oddfellows Arms for a drink and some light entertainment. It is becoming a bit of a tradition to head for this pub because of the singing duo Joe and Ann. What they lack in technique they more than compensate with passion.

I think I can safely say we all enjoyed a wonderful evening of folk and rock music, with some memorable contributions in the singalong from our club members.

SATURDAY MORNING - We were all raring to go on our walks after such a pleasant evening. The club had arranged three walks, the A and B walks going by minibus to Buttermere and Crummock Water. The A walk climbing to the ridge at Crummock Water and taking in Red Pike, High Stile, High Crag and then a pleasant descent, finishing along the lake's shore footpath leading back to the small village of Buttermere.

Meanwhile the B walk had started below Whiteside on the edge of Crummock Water via Hope Gill edge to Grizedale Pike, down to Keswick via Braithwaite village.

The C, led by Tom Reilly, started from Keswick and took in the Newlands Valley around Cat Bells and the shores of Derwentwater, back to Keswick.

The Met Office got the weekend weather forecast totally wrong. Whilst we were to expect heavy cloud and showers the opposite happened - it was a beautiful Spring sunny weekend!

SATURDAY EVENING - After a number of our members first went to the evening Mass, we split into groups and tried out different cuisine on offer around Keswick from Chinese to Indian, Italian and typical English pub food. We all seemed to enjoy our fayre.

Later, gathering at the Oddfellows Arms once again (*I wonder if it's to do with the name that we feel so at home?*). What tonight's new artistes lacked in the passion of the previous evening we still had a good night's entertainment.

SUNDAY - A bad local weather forecast was spelt out on the breakfast radio, but the sun was still shining as we set out on our walks. It was still shining when we finished!

There were two organised walks. The A started at the foot of Robinson in the Newlands Valley, taking in a few local peaks before going over Cat Bells and back along the lake to Keswick.

The C walk took in Castlerigg Stone Circle, then heading towards Blencathra Visitor Centre, but veered off via the picturesque but steep-sided Southey Woods and waterfalls high above the river, finally crossing a bridge to the railway path leading to Keswick.

Myself, as minibus driver, decided to have an easy day, so I volunteered to take a few members on a short driving tour of the Borrowdale Valley, over the Honister Pass to Buttermere, then on along Crummock Water and out to Cockermouth, before returning back to Keswick.

It was a very scenic route with plenty of flora and fauna to take in. The highlight being, as we passed Crummock Water to watch a few dippers perform in a stream, we startled a green-bodied Woodpecker.

At first sight it looked like a parakeet with its wonderful colours. It had a full red-hooded head and a long green body with small wings, not to forget its long beak. It was a great spectacle watching it flit from tree to tree in short bursts.

Later that day we sat on the banks of Derwentwater enjoying the sunshine and once again looking back on a very enjoyable weekend.

Our thanks must go to chairman Tom Reilly for organising the accommodation and weekend walks.

I think the general consensus was in a venue such as Keswick it gives us more freedom staying in bed and breakfast rather than the youth hostels. At £33 for two nights plus £13 each for the minibus hire and fuel, it was very good value.

Bob Carney

Editorial

REVAMPING this Easter newsletter more into the style of a newspaper has, I think, got several advantages over the old style.

It's chiefly, more attractive to read. By using slightly smaller type it's also created extra columns and thus enables more articles to be put into the same number of pages.

On the minus side, those with eyesight problems may have to get a new pair of specs! Let me know if many of you are having difficulties in reading some of the smaller print, and no, I am not going to refer you to the Grand National vet! I hope it never gets as bad as that!

Thanks are due to Bob Carney and Richie Cannon plus a couple of our Seniors' Section members for submitting articles for this edition. The rest, of course, was conjured up by yours truly. Incidentally, this is not a new club's computer that I'm using. I simply keep learning a little bit more by using "Help" on this (outdated?) Microsoft "Windows for Workshops" 85-93 Word Perfect 6.1 programme.

Many more of you out there could possibly help by contributing some snippet, no matter how small. Perhaps a short report of an amusing incident on a ramble; a newspaper cutting that's relevant to rambles; your first impressions of a ramble with us or whatever! So how about having a go?

Please give all articles, etc, either personally to me, or send them to me at 7 Abbots Way, Billinge, WIGAN WN5 7SB. Thanks.

Dave News

A fishy joke

A BIG FISH is swimming in the lake near your editor's house at Carr Mill and hits its head on a wall. What does it say?

The answer is hidden in the middle of one of the stories in this edition.

AN APOLOGY

IN the last edition a joke was made about the wearing of nicotine patches. This pun was supposed to be about nicotine patches and was not intended to make fun of the two people concerned, who were, indeed, congratulated on their efforts to give up smoking. On re-reading it I now realise that it may have been misunderstood.

Apologies to those concerned. - Editor.

Bear mauled by rambler on the Keswick weekend

ON THE SUNDAY, Dave Dickel decided to take a quiet trek down to Derwentwater Bay near St Herbert's Island on the far side of the lake, close to the Cat Bells car park.

It was here that he came across a number of fully-grown bears and bravely got to grips with one!

This was, of course, at the four-year-old Derwent Bay Bear factory!

These very realistic hand-painted wooden bears are deftly carved out of giant tree trunks by chain-saw!



You can sometimes catch the tree-trunk sculptor at work, brandishing his lethal saw to produce perfectly-formed life-size bears in various cute poses.

They are selling like hot-cakes and can be seen in hotel driveways and large gardens, not only just around Keswick, but in various parts of the country.

Dave sent his huge bear to his brother for a surprise birthday present - he has a big garden!

(Answer to joke: The fish said Dam!)

The factory is worth a visit on foot or by car and well signposted (by bears, of course) from the Cat Bells car park.

The late Bob Ramsey to be remembered on the Roaches walk (May 7)

THIS DATE and venue was purposely earmarked as it is the anniversary of Bob's death. Bob was a very popular member of our club. He sadly collapsed and died towards the end of the club's Roaches ramble last year. We will have a brief period of remembrance during the walks, close to the spot where Bob died.

Bookings on the coach could be heavy, so you are advised to book now.

FARMER OFFERS LIFT TO RAMBLERS

SOUNDS UNBELIEVABLE doesn't it, but this actually happened to three of us as we were wearily walking up a steep country lane leading to the Whinlatter Pass during the recent Keswick Weekend.

Together with his wife he kindly took us almost three miles to the summit. We then walked downhill, using footpaths when possible, all the way to Keswick.

Free phone calls on Cable

If you have a Cable phone you can ring me FREE after 8pm - Editor. At other times did you know that calls to Billinge are still classed as a Liverpool Local call.

We were in sunny Keswick but why were the Seniors' Section leaving Liverpool?

SS stroll into Parkgate, suitably clad

IT WASN'T a promising start by any means, with the leaving of Liverpool the clouds gathered and took on a battleship grey hue, smudging the Welsh Hills into shapeless forms. In the middle distance the ribbon that was the Dee donned the mantle of Pewter - as I said, not a promising start. With this outlook it was gaiter and overtrouser time.

Serious money land

Suitably clad and rucksacked, a leisurely stroll took us along the parade into Mostyn Square, leading to School Lane and then past St Thomas' church. We were now into 'serious money' land, where parks turned into someone's back garden. It is said that money doesn't buy happiness - well I for one could be perfectly unhappy in these surroundings!!

The rain had petered out by now so skins of waterproofs were being sloughed off and as the sun reappeared a few scarves and pullies too. The urban scene was changing now into farmland, although there wasn't much evidence of 'ploughin' an' sowin'' as yet - in fact one field had the stalks of last year's corn crop still in the ground. I suspect the farmer was still sunning himself in the Bahamas.

With various muddy patches, puddles and stiles successfully negotiated, a lunch stop was called in an enclosed footpath, with views of Thornton Hough Church in the distance. This was particularly pleasing, for with hedges and trees still in bud, it will soon be veiled by a curtain of blossom and leaves.

Locals quaffing on benches

Raby Mere was the next place en route; particularly interesting was the early 17th century Inn, the Wheatsheaf, and very inviting it was too, with whitewashed walls, thatched roof and locals quaffing on benches in the sunshine. Resisting the temptation, Tony and Mossy shepherded us past, but with still time to admire a dazzling display of daffodils, primulas, pansies and primroses.

Raby Mere conjured up bygone memories of rambles and cycle rides. The Blue Lamp(?) Cafe at Thornton Hough, boating on the Mere at Raby - is it all still there? . . . the penny slot machines "What the Butler Saw," which we weren't allowed to see! The electric shock machine on which the craven ones held hand while two others held a handle each, and for a penny we all got a shock! The braver ones went solo!

Have fifty or more years passed since those days?

Green ice-cream

The return path was along the Wirral Way, which has been designated a Millennium Project, which has entailed the removal of numerous trees and bushes and a new surface laid, which enables cyclists to ride faster and quieter, but makes walking more hazardous.

Parkgate had changed dramatically in our few hours' absence - more cars and motor bikes lined the Parade, and people

promenaded - most licking the colour-of-the-day ices - green!

Many thanks to Tony and Molly for serving up a varied ramble of fields and path and village. Nice one, folks. G.

Disaster at Highfield Farm

WORTHINGTON 12/3/00

TEN SENIORS all told, met at the Visitor's Centre on an overcast day. Nine of us were dazzled by the shine on Freda's boots. I wonder how she manages it?

Everyone appeared to be in good spirits and why not? Aren't we all lucky to be still able to do these walks?

We crossed the main road and turned into a footpath which took us over a stream and alongside the railway where one was surprised to find that Bill did not feel the need to tarry! Passing the "Crown," we soon reached Talbot House Farm where the dogs were all bark and no bite, thank goodness!

Lunch was taken in a field and after a series of stiles we reached another public house where one could envy the other half or not as the case may be.

Slurry most vile

Crossing Coppull Mill Bridge, we entered Lancashire and were soon negotiating the stiles at Holt Farm.

At the next farm, Highfield, disaster struck! Freda's boots, so painstakingly buffed by our leader, were seen to be almost submerged in slurry most vile, and not only Freda's! The leader wasn't wearing his wellingtons!

A diversion was unavoidable but eventually we were back on course and not smelling too badly. Tea was taken and there wasn't an audible complaint about the mud or the weather or the leader.

We crossed the Chorley road and dropped onto the towpath of, yes you've guessed it, the ubiquitous LL Canal. The three miles stretch between Adlington and Wigan is picturesque and made a pleasant end to the walk.

Thank you for coming, especially Maureen's friend, Lilian.

GEFA

RAMBLERS' REUNION COMMITTEE

A GROUP of ex-Liverpool Catholic Ramblers got together towards the end of last year by holding a very successful reunion buffet dance. Many of those ramblers joined the club in the 1960/70's era when most of them were in their 20's, eventually getting married and bringing up young families, etc, and losing touch with the club. They have now planned a Barn Dance for the spring and look forward to present-day members joining them. Here are the titillating details:

The Ramblers' Reunion Committee invite everyone to join in an evening's revelry with

A Spring Barn Dance

on SATURDAY 13th MAY

at the ROYAL LIVER SOCIAL CLUB, Liver Buildings

Caller and Live Group

Tickets £6 each

Contact Dave Newns



Social Events at the Cornmarket



NOTE: During JUNE and JULY there will be only TWO social nights each month, namely the SECOND and FOURTH Thursdays of the month

April

- 13th PLAY YOUR CARDS RIGHT.
Higher or lower? Win cash on this fun night with Mike Riley.
- 20th MAUNDY THURSDAY
No Social tonight (Club's rule).
- 27th FILUMS QUIZ with Ken Regan
(Or do you remember what's been showing at the cinema?)

May

- 4th PIE NIGHT - *Sayers' big pies and cakes at rock bun prices. Courtesy of Peter Ramejks.*
- 11th BINGO Ramblers' style.
- 18th PLAY YOUR CARDS RIGHT.
Higher or lower? Win more cash tonight with Mike Riley.
- 25th CHEESE & WINE NIGHT.



June and July - Make a special note in your diary to get yourself down to the Socials held on the second and fourth Thursdays of these two months. Events will be announced on the coaches, at the Cornmarket and also in the next newsletter.

Note that the **Cheese and Wine Night** on May 25th should be a good night out as many members on the Scotland holiday should be down in force finalising the details for their forthcoming trip

Bewitched by Pendle

Round and round the cauldron go,
In the poisoned entrails flow,
Fillet of a fenny snake,
In the cauldron boil and bake,
Eye of newt and toe of frog,
Wool of bat and tongue of dog,
Adder's fork and blind worm's sting,
Lizard's leg and owl's wing,
For a charm of powerful trouble,
Like a Hell - broth boil and bubble.



Witches incantation:
*"Double double toil and trouble,
Fire burn and cauldron bubble!"*

THOSE famous lines from MacBeth (above) came to mind when preparing for my ramble to the Lancashire hill country of Pendle recently. Ten witches, mainly of the Demdike Brood and the Chattox Clan, came from the area under the brooding hill of Pendle. They lived in bitter enmity, terrorising each other as well as the rest of Pendle.

Nine were publicly hanged for murder at Lancaster Castle in a sordid episode in 1612 together with one Isabel Robey of Widnes, Old Demdike having died in prison before the trial.

Yet there are people who proudly claim descent from these witches. So, I hoped no witches "Black Sabbath" awaited us on their patch!

Knowing it was a commonly held ancient belief that witches could transform at will into hares, could I help it if I thought about keeping an eye out for these creatures? You never know!

No self-respecting witch would be without a "familiar" - a demon or spirit usually in animal form, attendant upon the witch and obeying her commands. The black cat was the "classic" familiar, so if one crossed my path I was not inclined to consider it a good luck omen, just in case!

Being familiar with the area around Barrowford I was asked, en route, to lead the "C" group of 19. So, my party disassembled near the Pendle Heritage Centre (Junction 13 off the M65) to follow me along the Pendle Trail which begins here, near Pendle Water. Even though I was not *au fait* with the whole of the Trail, I led my party with the grim determination to succeed of a Witchfinder General under the reign of James I.

We had a lot of new members out, so I didn't wish to create a bad impression by getting lost if malevolent forces were conspiring to lead us astray! Some footpaths were fenced off!

After dropping us off, the coach continued onto Barley whence seven "A" walkers tackled Pendle Hill straight on. Meanwhile Dave News led 26 on a more circuitous "B" route, passing through the village of Newchurch-in-Pendle via the "Witches Galore" shop. Dave had modestly avoided tackling Pendle Hill from the bottom of the cheekily named hamlet of Buttock!

We passed through some lovely glens and glades via Roughlee, where lived the gentle, but well-to-do and well-educated witch Alice Nutter (all the other witches led impoverished lives). Here a stocky farmer dismounted from his tractor to ask where we were headed. I told him "The reservoirs" - whereupon he kindly gave directions to re-enter the Pendle Trail which had disappeared hereabouts. This was

in his interest as he didn't want us disturbing his sheep in the lambing season. We enjoyed a couple of picnics besides babbling brooks. The weather, being initially cloudy but warm, started to clear as Pendle Hill announced its presence. We later ran into the same surprised farmer on higher ground and he again pointed us on our way so as not to worry his sheep. We weren't even lost! We suggested he opened a tea shop for rambles and he laughed as we moved on.

Eventually we were able to discern figures standing atop of Pendle Hill and through my binoculars Ken (who had assisted me in map orientation) realised they were our "B" group by the way they were watching and waving at us! A vote was now taken, here at the foot of the hill. No! We would give the hill a miss! Instead we walked down to the pastoral village of Barley where the coach was parked and enjoyed refreshments in the only two pubs there.

Because we had time, many of us walked up the steep road to visit the "Witches Galore" shop in Newchurch selling "witchy" things. Three old witches were dressed in black just outside the shop. On closer inspection these were life-size dummies but look quite realistic from fifty yards away.

On the return journey the coach driver agreed to take all 52 of us back to Barrowford to call in at "The White Bear" - a 17th Century real ale pub (on the A682) steeped in history, also serving food.

Rather amusingly, Bob ran in to ask if our coach/broomsticks could call in, whereupon there was a mass move to the bar by the locals to "get their drinks in quick" before us.

I would also have liked to visit the historic village of Higham where the witch Chattox was accused of turning the ale sour in the inn, and bewitching the landlord's son to death. (No wonder witches were unpopular around here!)

So, next time you get served a bad pint, think again, it might not be the brewery's fault - there could be a witch on the premises! Perhaps we'll go there another time?

It was very pleasing to receive thanks for the enjoyable walk from my punters. We have such wonderful scenery and history in only a couple of hours' drive from home. I hope it's not too long before we explore the area again!

Richie Cannon

A SHAGGY DOG STORY

THE KENDAL MINT CAKE COMPANY are marketing a new wafer-thin mint biscuit suitable for dogs, and Lakeland farmers are delighted with them. Their Collie dogs were prone to terrible bad breath problems owing to rounding up dirty sheep all day. With these fragile mint biscuits their breath has now become much sweeter. The sales marketing girls are known as "The Mary Poppins girls" by the farmers, as these "Super-Collie-Fragile-Biscuits-Expel-Halitosis!" - BOOM BOOM!



A peep at two old Summer Programmes

SUMMER PROGRAMME, 1961

Date	Ramble	Leader	Meet	Approx Cost
May 14	Thurstaston (Bene)	J. Joyce	11-00 Pier Head	3/6
21	Ruabon-Joint Walk	B. Potter	10-20 James St.	7/-
28	*Snowdon	(a) P. Atherton (b) C. Scott	10-00 St. Johns La.	11/6
June 3/4	Chalet Weekend	Details at Club		
11	*Derwentdale Joint Ramble	E. Thomas	10-00 St. Johns La.	9/-
18	Prestatyn (Bene)	H. O'Neill	10-20 James St.	8/3
25	New Brighton (Swimming)	J. Hodgkinson	10-45 Pier Head	5/-
July 2	*Chatburn	S. Hall	10-15 St. Johns La.	5/-
9	Hollingsworth Lake	B. Potter	9-55 Exchange Stn.	8/6
16	*Aber Joint Ramble	(a) J. Potter (b) B. Potter	10-00 St. Johns La.	9/6
23	Freshfield (Swimming) (Bene)	B. Kelly	10-45 Exchange Stn.	3/6
30	*Bala	(a) C. Scott (b) J. Kelly	10-00 St. Johns La.	9/-
Aug. 6	Llanfyllin	D. Bateman	See Press. R.A. Train	
13	Llangollen (Bene)	J. Whitfield	10-20 James St.	7/6
20	West Kirby (Swimming)	M. Kelly	11-00 James St.	3/6
27	*Carnedd Llewellyn	(a) C. Scott (b) J. Potter	10-00 St. Johns La.	10/6
Sept. 2/3	Chalet Weekend	Details at Club		
10	Tattenhall	A. O'Malley	10-20 James St.	5/-
10	Church Stretton (Football)	C. Dubbins	10-15 St. John's La.	8/-
17	*Tryfan	(a) R. Boardman (b) J. Joyce	10-00 St. Johns La.	10/6
24	*Hoghton Towers (Bene)	W. Lyon	10-15 St. Johns La.	5/-
Oct. 1	Keswick Weekend	Details announced later.		
8	Berwyns	S. Cummings	10-20 James St.	7/6
1	Nant-y-Ffrith	S. Hall	9-55 James St.	7/-
14	Dance-State Ballroom			
15	Abergele (Bene)	S. Houlton	10-20 James St.	8/3
22	Nelson-Joint Ramble	B. Potter	See Press. R.A. Train	
29	Rhydymwyn	H. Sheridan	10-20 James St.	7/-

*Coach Trips. Names to be given three weeks beforehand, and all bookings render members liable to the full cost.

All Rambles must be pioneered, and whilst every endeavour will be made to complete the Programme in accordance with details given above any alterations will be announced in the Club Room and in the Press.

BYE-LAWS

- The leader is in control of the Ramble until return to Liverpool. The leader must:—
 - Pioneer the Ramble.
 - Arrange for refreshment and travelling.
 - Begin the Ramble promptly and arrange for the Ramble to finish so that members may arrive Liverpool not later than 11 p.m.
 - If unable to be at the meeting place at the time appointed, arrange for a deputy to be present.
- Expenses may be allowed, at the discretion of the Committee, to leaders pioneering Rambles.
- Members are expected to maintain the high standard of conduct of the Association. The following are not permitted during a Ramble:—
 - Singing, or playing musical instruments when passing through villages, built-up areas, etc., or on public vehicles unless permission of a conductor is obtained.
 - Singing at refreshment places unless permission to do so is obtained by the leader.
- Permission of an officer of the Committee is necessary before members may sell tickets in the Club Room. Complaints or suggestions should be submitted in writing to the Secretary, who will place the matter before the Committee at their next monthly meeting. Arrangements shall be made on at least one Ramble per month for members to attend Benediction.

"I guess I am getting better. I now only smoke during the coach stops!"



NOTE: This does not resemble any of our club members, but if it does it is purely coincidental

- Editor

Forty years ago

SOME INTERESTING archive material here. Read the last paragraph of the (then) Bye-Laws, especially the last sentence. Benediction was included on the walks at least once a month, to which the (Bene) in the programme refers.

A spelling mistake makes our current President almost unrecognisable. Chris Dobbin is down as C. Dubbins on the Sept 10 Church Stretton (Football) outing.

Twenty years ago

WE WERE going through a bit of a bad patch as regards ramble attendances. We had to knock them to fortnightly at that time. We could hardly fill a 29-seater coach then, even with fortnightly walks. Departure time was normally 10.15 am. This was mainly so that Mass could be attended beforehand. Nowadays many go to Mass on a Saturday evening, enabling an earlier start.

Actually, we were more of a social club than a rambling club at that particular time.

Although ramble attendances were poor, the weekly socials were bulging at the seams with sixty or more enjoying the disco dances that we held then. It must be said that the average age of many of our General Section members then was somewhere between 18 to 30. Well, no change on the current average age there then, ladies!

We also had dances in the basement of Lakeside House in Keswick, twice a year. There used to be a queue when the Keswick Weekend bookings were being taken at the clubrooms. We sometimes had an overflow in an adjacent guesthouse with over sixty members on some weekends away!

GENERAL SECTION

JUNE

14 ANGLETARN PIKE (Lakes)

(a) Anthony Brockway, (b) Dave Newns.

28 JOINT RAMBLES with Family Section.

(a) Gritstone Edge, Dave Newns.

(b) Chatsworth House, Ritchie Cannon.

JULY

5 PIKE OF BLISCO (Lakes)

(b) Phil Steele, A and C to be arranged.

19 LLEDR VALLEY (Snowdonia).

(a) Alan Cunningham, (b) to be arranged.

AUGUST

2 CADER IDRIS (Wales). Note 9.30 Start.

(a) Paul Stevens, (b) to be arranged.

16 DOVE CRAG (Lakes)

(a) Paul Stevens, (b) to be arranged.

31 BANK HOLIDAY Details later.

SEPTEMBER

6 MOEL HEBOG (Snowdonia).

(a) Dave Newns, (b) to be arranged.

17 (Thurs) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

20 ANNUAL MASS 11.30 Cathedral Crypt.

27 ARANS (Lakes).

(a) Bernard Foley, (b) to be arranged.

OCTOBER

2 (Friday) ANNUAL DANCE

11 TRYFAN AND GLYDERS (Snowdonia).

(a) Paul Stevens, (b) to be arranged.

16 KESWICK WEEKEND at Lakeside House.

AMBLESIDE - NOW BOOKING FOR NEW YEAR

THIRTY PLACES have been pre-booked at Ambleside youth hostel for three nights from Saturday 30 December to Tuesday 2 January 2001.

All bookings will cease on Sunday 25 June. Any names taken after all 30 places have been booked, or after 25 June, will be placed on a reserve list.

A registration form has to be filled in upon booking. These can be obtained from Dave Dickel (01244-533995) or from the club when you book your weekly walks.

Unfortunately, transport will have to be arranged by the individuals concerned, so

when booking, you should either have a car, or ensure that you can get a lift up there.

Accommodation is £12.95 per night, total being £38.85. Additional cost of meals, etc (self-catering available) is: Breakfast £3.20, Evening Meal £4.80, Standard Packed Lunch £2.80, Filled Rolls £1.10. Indicate your requirements on the registration form. A booking fee of £15 is required, payable to 'LCRA'. Book now to avoid disappointment.

AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY (MINNIGAFF YHA)

FOUR HOURS' drive away are the Galloway Hills of southern Scotland where Minnigaff youth hostel can be found near the town of Newton Stewart.

These 2000ft hills, above the Solway Firth, lie in the path of a warm Gulf Stream.

Some unusual attractions are the numerous wild goats seen on the hills, and you may occasionally spot a herd of deer. On a good day you can see the Lake District mountains.

Accommodation is for Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights (August 25-28). Bookings are

already underway as we imperatively need to know whether to book the whole of the hostel (35 places) or just a part of it.

The club held caravan weekends in this area (near Loch Trool) in 1988 and 1989 when Curley Wee and The Merrick were conquered.

Contact Ray McIntosh, or anyone taking bookings. Own transport has to be arranged.

OIL PAINTING OF CRIB-GOCH (SNOWDON) AUCTIONED

A CANVAS of Snowdon's knife-edge peak - by Cyffin Williams - sold for £2,300 at a recent auction of heirlooms at the home of the world-famous glass-making family near St Helens recently.

This followed on from the death of the popular Lady Mavis Pilkington of Windle Hall, near St Helens. She used to hold regular open days at the hall and gardens.

My claim to fame is that I have met Lady Mavis Pilkington on a couple of occasions. I also like going to auctions, but sadly, I didn't hear about this one, so I couldn't make a killing on a bid for this oil painting to bring down to our club's recent Bring and Buy night! - Editor.

Incidentally, the estate road to Windle Hall (where Lady Mavis Pilkington used to live) lies across that very high bridge over the East Lancs Road half-a-mile past the Windle traffic lights.



Book NOW for this August Bank Holiday W/E. We need a full hostel!



Two 'I's in This... but there's six eyes and three mouths under their roof now!

Congratulations to Roy and Jacqui This. They are now proud parents of Charlotte (7lb 10oz), born on Sunday 19th March. Mother and baby are doing fine - Roy is slowly recovering! Roy, in his typically quiet way, wrote about the closely-guarded secret on all their Christmas cards!

Members to whom this concerns can cut this half-page out and keep in your wallet/handbag ready for the holiday

OTHER DETAILS OVERLEAF

Club's holiday to Scotland Saturday May 27 to Sunday June 4

MINIBUS: People going up in the minibus should pay me £50 each as soon as possible which includes hire and most of the fuel. There may be a little more for each to pay for fuel during the holiday depending on mileage.

Note: FIRST DAY EVENING MEAL BOOKED at Loch Lomond. Special arrangements have now been made for twenty-six hostel meals booked for us here at a cost of £5 per meal. We owe this money.

SAT 27 MAY

LOCH LOMOND (hostel and conference centre). A meal is now booked for Saturday night (see above). This hostel is a very impressive Laird's mansion, built like a castle (frequently filmed and used in Scottish and Irish TV's "High Road"). Nearest pubs, shops and church are all in the small town of Balloch, two miles away - a brisk 45 minutes walk if you don't want to drink and drive! No noise rule after 11pm, doors locked at 2am.

Walks on the first afternoon: I plan to do an A/B walk on arrival on the Saturday afternoon, probably Ben Lomond. Dave Newns knows a good scenic C walk. If you arrive a bit late it's worth a trip to Luss, just a few miles away.

Sunday Mass: Saturday evening Mass is at 6.00 at St Kessogg's Church in the centre of Balloch (near the Balloch Hotel). People may wish to do a walk on Saturday afternoon and may not be back for 6.00, so it could be more convenient to attend the 9.30 Mass in Balloch on Sunday morning (hostel breakfast is served from 8.00 to 9.00 am). If you go to this 9.30 Mass it's sensible to have your gear packed beforehand, ready for departure/walks on return to the hostel, probably around 10.30.

SUN 28 and MON 29 MAY

GLEN NEVIS (hostel for next two nights) nestling in the heart of Scotland's most scenic glen, a couple of miles around the corner from the small town of Fort William. All the attractions of Fort William are mostly in the main street (the best place used to be McTavish's Kitchen where there's a meal with cabaret). The Ben Nevis tourist path (Pony Track) starts from the hostel. There's also a camp site near the hostel. No noise rule after 11pm, doors locked at 2am.

Ben Nevis Distillery Trip - I need to know the people interested in this so that I can book in advance. See overleaf.

TUE, WED, THUR, FRI 31 MAY to 3 JUNE

TORRIDON (hostel for four nights). A reminder that Torridon is a Standard-grade hostel (better than a Simple-graded one!) and it's self-catering only, or eat out several miles away. External doors are locked here at 11.30pm. We also need our beauty sleep for the walks. There's no stopping up until 2am here.

SAT 4 JUNE

EDINBURGH (note there's two hostels in Edinburgh - ours is the EGLINTON one). We arrive Saturday night. No noise after 11pm, doors locked at 2am. Breakfast is included here. Time on Sunday for sightseeing, Mass, shopping, etc, before leaving for home in the afternoon. Takes about four hours, excluding traffic jams.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS - There has been a flood of new members lately. They are: Shaun Devine, Vanessa Drew, Paul Wilson, Rose and Dave Blanchflower, Nicholas Jones, Dave and Helen Pope, Tom O'Connor and Francisco Manzano. Others are in the queue to be "approved" by the general committee. We hope you all enjoy many happy years with us.

Cookery Corner

Several people on walks have sampled my

Home-made FLAPJACKS

and lived to tell the tale - *Editor*. Flapjacks make a good alternative to biscuits. So here's the official recipe which you may like to try first, followed by my own special (catering pack) version.

OFFICIAL RECIPE - Makes 15 Flapjacks

- 3oz margarine (hard) not soft
- 4 level tablespoons golden syrup
- 3oz soft brown sugar (light)
- 5oz rolled (porridge) oats

1. Prepare a moderate oven (380 deg F or Gas Mark 4). Grease a shallow 7in square tin.

2. Place margarine in a saucepan. Measure golden syrup carefully, levelling off spoon with a knife and making sure there is none on underside of spoon; add to saucepan. Heat gently until margarine has melted; remove from heat. Stir in sugar and oats.

3. Spread mixture evenly in tin. Cook in centre of oven for 20 to 25 minutes, depending on crispness required.

4. Remove from oven; leave to cool for about 5 minutes. Cut lines to make 15 bars. Leave in tin until cold; break into bars. Store in a tin.

MY RECIPE - Makes 40 Flapjacks.

- Two 250g packets of cheap butter
- 500g tin (1lb) of Syrup
- One small tin of condensed milk (218g)
- 2lb (approx) porridge oats
- Half a teaspoon of mixed spice or cinnamon

1. Prepare a moderate oven (380 deg F or Gas

Mark 4). Put plenty of grease on two shallow tins 9" x 12".

2. Throw both packets of butter into a deep saucepan. Now carefully lob in all the contents of the syrup tin and heat gently until butter has melted then add condensed milk and take off the heat. Stir in the mixed spice or cinnamon. Don't use any sugar.

3. I usually buy a 2kg plastic bag of breakfast oats for 99p and use about half. Just keep stirring in a few cupsful of oats to the pan until the mixture stiffens up (but not too stiff).

4. Scrape out half the mixture from the pan into one tin and half into the other and spread out as flat as you can (the mixture not you!).

5. My tins won't fit on one shelf so I put one on the top and the other in the middle shelf for 13 minutes, then change over tins for another 13 minutes (total of 26 minutes). Take out of oven and leave for 5 minutes then cut three lines down and 4 lines across, making 20 flapjacks in each tin. Leave until cold then break into bars. Store in either a tin or an airtight plastic container. They improve with keeping (up to 4 weeks - but mine never last that long!). Tips: If you mix too stiff a mixture the oats tend not to gel together and end up all crumbly. If you leave them too long in the oven they get hard.

Pick-up and drop-off points en-route

COACH STOPS are purposely limited to avoid too much delay. Don't assume that the coach will automatically stop at all the allotted points. It will only pick-up where requested at the time of booking.

Northern destinations (via M58 and M6): Walton Church, Black Bull, Old Roan and M58 Junction 3.

Eastern destinations (via M62) Outward: Gardeners Arms bus stop, M62 Junction 9 (B&Q bus stop on A49). Homeward: M62 Junction 9 (B&Q bus stop on A49), The Rocket and Mount Vernon.

Tunnel destinations: New Tunnel Junction 1 (at Bidston Station) and St David's Hotel.

NOTE: If you are getting dropped off on the return journey ensure that the driver remembers your stop. Avoid delay when getting dropped off by keeping your gear with you (not in the boot) whenever feasible.

MOBILE PHONE NUMBERS

Our three mobile numbers are given in the new Summer programmes. They could be useful for members at times, for example: two members were at the wrong bus stops the other week and they could have made contact with the coach if they knew the 'C' phone number.

Members to whom this concerns can cut this half-page out and keep in your wallet/handbag ready for the holiday

Scottish Holiday - continued from overleaf

DEPARTURE DETAILS: Minibus will be leaving from William Brown St at 9.00am on Saturday 27 May

NIGHTLY MEETINGS

As agreed at the recent Scottish meeting at the club, we will be having short meetings each evening to review the following day's programme, etc. Just a general discussion on what alternatives people would like to do the following day. I will be getting some more information from the Scottish Tourist Board shortly.

BEN NEVIS DISTILLERY VISIT

After spending two days walking in the Ben Nevis region, we might need to rest our legs, so on the Tuesday afternoon, before we drive up to Torridon, I am hoping to book for a Whisky distillery trip for those interested. It's only a couple of miles down the road from Glen Nevis youth hostel and Fort William.

The visit will probably take a couple of hours and there will be an admission charge of about £3 or £4 which includes a "sample." Those not interested will have a variety of options, but let me know if you are interested so that I can book as soon as possible.

TIPS FOR CAR DRIVERS

PETROL - Keep topping up your tank. Petrol stations are few and far between in the highlands and fuel gets more expensive the further north you go away from the oil refineries, so it's a good idea to fill your tank up again on the first day at Balloch near Loch Lomond while it's still cheap.

SPARE CAR KEYS - These could be useful for your passengers who may get back early from another walk or may want to get something out of the car when you are in the shower, etc.

HOSTEL ADDRESSES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Loch Lomond Youth Hostel, Arden, Alexandria, Dumbartonshire G83 8RB	01389 850 226
Glen Nevis Youth Hostel, Fort William, Inverness-shire PH33 6ST	01397 702 336
Torridon Youth Hostel, Torridon, Ross-shire IV22 2EZ	01445 791 284
Edinburgh, Eglinton Youth Hostel, 18 Eglinton Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 5DD	0131 337 1120

Finally my phone number: **Bob Carney 427 5373**