

Editor's Briefs

We've had some eventful rambles and socials lately but newsletter reports of these have dwindled somewhat. So if you think this edition is a bit thin, then maybe this could be rectified in future by putting YOUR version of a recent ramble or social event in print - either amusing or otherwise.

Well, during holiday time one would expect to get booked on the coach fairly easily, but last-minute bookers have recently been caught by surprise as some coaches were already full. One reason is that a steady stream of new members have been joining us. This must be a healthy sign for the club.

I think that the map-reading classes (details opposite) should include tips on how to greet farmers (or should that read how to <u>avoid</u> farmers!). If you can find Birch House you qualify for a free course.

Do you recognise the Lakes hotel on this edition's cover? Seasoned ramblers will associate it with the start and finish of many walks in the Langdale Valley area. Thanks due to Tricia for the sketch, also to Barbara for her amusing Baslow report, to Ray for his usual Ramblerite and to all other contributors. So, finally, if you think you have a story to print or a puzzle to solve for our next newsletter, simply pass them or post them to me at 7 Abbotts Way, Billinge, Wigan WN5 7SB.

Note: I hijacked my BT line recently - my new Cable number is 01744 632211.

Apologies to anyone who couldn't get hold of me during the change over.

Dave Newns

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to the following new members and we hope you will have many enjoyable rambles with us:

Penny Mathison

Carol Schofield

Hilary McIver

Glen McIver

Peter Ramejkis

Susan Lynch

Josephine Jones

Margaret Jones

Jason Laverty

Joanne Seddon

Sue Cox

Cathy Rigby

Susan Cullen

IN MEMORY OF RAY DAVIDSON

The following letter was sent to our chairlady from the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers.

Dear Bernadette

Many thanks for your club's donation in memory of Ray Davidson. Like yourselves we were very saddened to hear of Ray's passing. The money donated from yourselves and other friends of Ray will be put towards the planting of a small woodland/copse of trees within Merseyside, although the actual site has not been decided upon as yet. We will be aiming to plant the copse during the winter months and I will contact you later with full details. In the meantime please let your members know of these plans and thank them for their generosity. Ray obviously touched many people's lives. I hope that you find this a fitting tribute to Ray's years of conservation work.

Yours sincerely

MARK JOSLYN - County Manager BTCV.

Ramblerite

Many people say about themselves ~ "I have no sense of direction ~ I'm hopeless with a map."

This need not be the case. With a little knowledge and some practice we all have the ability to find our way.

So on the third Monday of the next few months I 'm holding map-reading classes at Birch House (8:00 p.m.). Jack Henderson will be assisting, and will, on one of the evenings, give a talk on outdoor gear. Several members have already indicated their intention to take part in what will be an informal, and hopefully, enlightening occasion.

The only fee will be the odd pint or two.

You should be aware by now that we're not having a Keswick W/E this October. For a change, we'll be going

to Greenhead Y/H on the 18th & 19th Oct. The venue being so close to Hadrian's wall should be educational i.e. Vindolanda isn't a hot curry \sim O Reilly!

Twenty- seven people have booked so far.

There are only a few places left, if you wish to take part then contact me with a £10 deposit now.



The number of stops to allow people to disembark from the coach on homeward journeys, has got a little out of hand on recent occasions. The Committee has decided to publish a definitive list of coach stopping places:-

Northern Destinations

Black Bull, Old Roan & Junc. 3, M58. (plus Walton Church homeward only).

Eastern Destinations

Gardeners Arms & A.49 . (plus Rocket homeward only)

Southern Destinations

Birkenhead / Wallasey Tunnel & St. David's Hotel.

Members wishing to be picked up at any of these places must give prior notification.

The coach will of course be leaving from the normal departure place in William Brown Street. St. John's Lane, though suitable for disembarking, is not as convenient for departures as it was before the changes in the road layout.

Anyone travelling on the coach before or after the official start /finishing point do so only by the courtesy of the coach company.

It is inadvisable to park cars in William Brown St.

Subscriptions \sim The annual subscription due in September for the year '96/'97, will remain at £4(single) and £5(married couples). However we will be introducing a joining fee of £4 (£5 married couples), which means an initial payment of £8/£10, for new members. Bearing in mind last year's decision to rule those who fail to pay, by the end of October, as being non-members, then those wishing to rejoin will be required to pay the aforesaid £8/£10, before partaking in any further club activities.

And finally ~ I'm still looking for leaders for some of the walks on the new programme. How about Conway Mountain, Grassington or even Holmfirth?

Perhaps there'll be plenty of volunteers after a few map reading sessions at Birch House.

Two birds in the bush

Perfect weather; a good walk so far, then a cry: "Teresa and Joan are missing!" No official whipper-in had been appointed yet, but obviously should have been. Well, they couldn't be far away as Bob and Joe had done a sort of unofficial whipper-in job and the ladies in question were just behind them a few minutes ago. We had emerged from the extensive woods below Froggatt Edge, then across a field to the courtyard of a refreshing country pub for a butty break when the alarm was raised.

After an immediate search by Bob, Joe and myself going back into the woods in three directions all we could find was a policeman and policewoman who seemed to be amused at our description of the two ladies in question. After our extended butty-break Ray pointed out that anyone split from the main group should always stay put so that they could easily be found, and he then organised his own search, backtracking with Ken, in vain.

We could only hope that they had read my walk description on the coach which mentioned that we would be finishing at Baslow. They were two mature ladies and they should find their own way back. Anyway we continued the walk without them. Their story now unfolds . . .

A QUIET DAY OUT - JUNE 23

Teresa and I were sitting on the coach discussing which walk to go on. Apparently we didn't have a choice as Bob and Joe were sitting behind us saying we were being miserable, and if we didn't go on the 'B' walk with them, they wouldn't buy us a pint later.



As the 'C' walkers were getting off at Bakewell Teresa gave me one of her DON'T YOU DARE looks, so I settled back into my seat. 'A' and 'B' combined we set off. It was a lovely hot sunny day and after a while a steep climb left me parched. Teresa waited while I had a cold drink. We put on a bit of speed to try and catch up. As we got to a road I was saying to Teresa how peaceful and quiet the countryside was. She said it was quiet because there were NO RAMBLERS, not one to be seen anywhere!

We went through an iron gate and found a path leading to Froggatt Edge. So I was frogmarched up to Froggatt Edge. We watched some rock climbers, had a half-hour butty break and worked out our revenge on Bob and Joe for leaving us behind. Then we decided to get onto a road to find a phone box. A mile down the road and into Carver we found one, down a lovely little country lane. Little did I know that it was going to be a long time before I emerged from there.

I phoned the Police - I gave very little information. We weren't sure where the coach was, and it just had to be this Sunday that our coach had come from another company. I didn't know the coach company's name but Teresa remembered - IT WAS BLUE. (I think she's marvellous).

We were told to wait by the phone. Outside Teresa was chatting to a young lad who worked at the Fourways Bistro on the corner. It wasn't long before I heard him laughing along with her (that's Teresa!). She had really made his day.

Later the poor demented policeman rang back for the fifth time. He had finally made a link up and told us to go up to the Bistro. We settled down by the wall and could see the young lad inside still laughing and shaking his head. The manager came out - we thought he was going to chase us. Instead he handed me a mobile phone. It was our friend PC49 telling us that the coach would be with us in five minutes. He wished us a safe journey home, and we apologised for all the fuss.

We blamed Billy for not being the whipper-in that day (he wasn't out with our party). As for Bob and Joe - thanks for all the drinks. (You are forgiven).

NOTICE is hereby given that the Seventieth

Annual General Meeting

of the Association will take place on Thursday 26 September 1996 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 fothcoming 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 Committee not later than seven days prior to the above meeting.

ANNUAL MASS - Sunday, 29th September at the Cathedral Crypt, 11.30 am

This is our club's Mass when we remember especially our deceased members and relatives. Quite a number of members from all sections of the club are also involved in the service, some playing the music, some doing the readings, etc. Afterwards many flock to the Irish Centre around the corner for a chat and a little light refreshment or even a meal. Make a note of the date.

You are all cordially invited to socialise with our committee members and partake in

A SPECIAL THREE-COURSE MEAL

on Monday October 28th at Birch House, 8pm. Cost will be £8. See any committee member for details

FORTHCOMING SOCIAL EVENTS

The Cornmarket is now open again after redecorating and the following events are planned:

BRING AND BUY SALE on Thursday 29th August - Simply bring along anything that will fit into a plastic shopping bag and hand it to Big Mac, our qualified auctioneer (he's done this at least once before). The last sale not only included bric-a-brac, but there were also tins of biscuits, video cassettes, waterproof clothing and a variety of surprises. So come along, join in the fun and help to make a bit of cash for our social fund.

Sept 5th FAMOUS QUOTES QUIZ

Sept 12th WHERE QUIZ

Sept 19th PIE NIGHT



WEDDING CONGRATULATIONS

ROY THIIS and JACQUELINE RIGBY walked down the aisle on Saturday, August 24th. Congratulations to both of you and best wishes for your future happiness.

RESULTS OF OUR PRIZE COMPETITION

- 1. To a Skylark Percy Bysshe Shelley. 2. Cross Keys Inn Howgill Fells. 3. Llangollen.
- 4. Scarlet Pimpernel. Winner was Eileen Lewis. Congratulations Eileen. Well done!

COMMITTEE MEMBERS WANTED

A vacancy was filled on our committee in June when Chris McKendrick was co-opted onto it. At our forthcoming AGM we will be looking for more committee members. A nomination list is in circulation. Why not consider joining us. The main meetings are normally held on the second Monday of the month at Birch House at 8pm.

SWEATY FEET SYNDROME (Helen Riley spotted this in a recent walking magazine). No doubt you will have smelt how hot your feet get during summer. Phew! All that sweat trapped inside your boots will not only make your feet stink but it will also encourage athlete's foot and make your skin soft, which can easily lead to blisters.

To overcome these problems try and keep your feet dry and clean. During the middle of the day take your boots and socks off to let them air. Soak your feet in a river and let the air get to your poor old plates of meat. Make sure your feet are dry before diving back into your boots. By the time you've eaten your lunch your feet will feel revitalised.

Bank Holiday Sunday in the Wirral

Not able to join the club that day, a few of us did our own thing. We left at Heswall at 11.40 under a grey sky with the start of heavy rain. Soon we were by Gayton Cottage, the start of the footpath along the Dee Marshes. The hedgerows and trees were in full colour and the sound of the birds was a joy to behold.

We walked along the footpath and headed towards Parkgate, a place steeped in history and once a very important port, but today is a quiet backwater famous for its home made ice-cream.

After lunch we headed through the footpaths out of Parkgate and headed for the Old Quay to where the River Dee once reached. We went along the path to a viewpoint just outside the village of Burton, a place with an Olde World feeling. Here we had to do some road work to get to Puddington, a very small sleepy village.

Back on the footpath and into the heart of the Wirral countryside we made our way over meadowland, looking at wild plants. Then it started to rain again but it wasn't bad, for most of the afternoon it was warm.

Soon we had to cross the busy Chester high road to get to Badger Rake Farm, eventually reaching the Wirral Way. By then the rain came down heavily but the walk along the Wirral Way made up for it. At the end of the walk we headed for the pub before coming home. This was the end of a good day's walk.

Stephen Nuttall

FAMILY SECTION PROGRAMME

Sept 8 BEACON FELL (Bernard 01257 254276) Oct 13 DELAMERE (George 017048 70161)

SENIORS' SECTION PROGRAMME

There isn't much response from the Seniors' Section this time, but Bill Potter ventured out with the General Section on Striding Edge recently. There's a stay at the CHALET around 13th September but I can't confirm the exact date at the time of printing.

Sept 29 ANNUAL MASS in the Cathedal Crypt 11.30 (this date is correct).