

Liverpool Catholic Ramblers' Association Christmas Newsletter



*The Bridge House
AMBLESIDE*



*The Moot Hall
KESWICK*

Editor gives club's computer a stay of execution

IT'S true! Well almost, after threatening to exterminate it because it was out-dated and too slow, it sprang into action and produced this edition.

The front cover drawings should hopefully photocopy better than photographs. However, we may get that odd photograph scanned in future editions, but past experiments weren't too good on photographs, especially with the high-speed photocopier that this edition is printed on.

Anyway there's a lot to read about in this newsletter so all that remains is, on behalf of the committee is to wish you all

**A very Merry
Christmas
and a Happy
New Year**

Ramblerte

WELLIES would not have been out of place on rambles during the last few months. The problem is that they can get suddenly stuck in the mud and you end up stepping out of them, and certainly not recommended for our rugged fell walks.

One advantage of being so wet underfoot lately is that our boots are sometimes washed clean of mud on that final paddle back to the coach. During the recent floods we had to cancel the coach for Pendle Hill - Noah had the right idea!

During the winter rambles the coach journey is usually shorter. On the last few walks we could also have done with the length of the coach being shorter! The attendances were well down.

In spite of there being less than 30 out on the recent Beddgelert trip, we had four walks, namely A, B, C and a B-plus. Six of the 'A' party (led by Kevin) managed to attain the summit of Moel Hebog at a mere 2½ thousand feet in just 1½ hours, starting from the Goat Hotel in Beddgelert.

We had to step over the trees in Beddgelert Forest on the descent. No, we didn't have stilts! Many trees had been felled and left lying there with yellow arrows marking out the route over the tops of them. On that day the 'A' party got back to the coach first, but the 'B' and 'C' (led

by Ray and Roy) soon followed, just before darkness. The 'B-plus' (led by Bob) had a tougher walk and finished in the dark. This should remind us that it makes sense for all of us to carry torches (not just the leaders).

There could have been many stories to tell about recent trips but they need to get to the editor of this newsletter, so why not have a go at writing something. And don't worry about the spelling - our computer usually corrects the spelling. The Seniors' Section always get several ramble reports.

Meanwhile, back to that Beddgelert 'A' walk, the "whipper-in" took a little bit longer to conquer the summit (I shall remain nameless). There were gale-force winds on the ascent, not to mention the hailstone - but we enjoyed the brief spells of sunshine and the views (true!).

So remember that some of the sunniest walks can be enjoyed in the middle of winter. Another bonus in winter is that, because of shorter daylight hours, we often get back home well before bedtime.

Vaned NSEW (anagram)

December 9th - Saturday Ramble

GRASSINGTON FESTIVAL. All the villagers dress in Victorian costumes with a Olde Worlde market-place atmosphere and fete in the main street. The last few times we went on a Sunday, but have learnt that the best day is a Saturday. Don't forget that all-day car parking in the city is expensive on a Saturday, so consider getting to the coach by public transport or arrange to get picked up en-route.

Ambleside Weekend at New Year

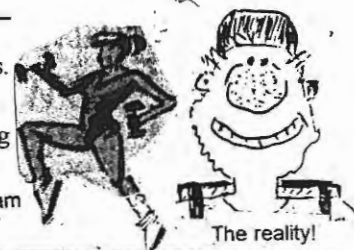
TRANSPORT arrangements are being finalised. Contact Bob Carney personally or ring him on 427 5373 if you have been booked to go up in the minibus. Bookings are full, but you can contact Dave Dickel in case of any last-minute cancellations - 01244 533995. Note that cancellations are subject to loss of money unless your place is taken by someone else. (Those who have booked have full details of cancellation procedure).

NEW MEMBERS - More active outdoor types, in fact all types, are still joining our ranks.

Latest new members are: **John McNamara, Peter Jones and Brian and Joan Anderson.**

There are a few more waiting to be "approved" at our next General Committee meeting including Les Butterworth who has booked for our Ambleside weekend at New Year.

So here's hoping you all have many memorable walks with us.



MONICA O'BEIRNE

Monica's death was published in the last newsletter just before it was printed and we have since managed to obtain a photograph of Monica and a few more details about her life.

Monica (aged 51) died peacefully at the St John Hospice with brothers Paul and Damien beside her on September 29th. She also had a sister, Dymrna.

Monica had been with our club for nearly 30 years but, being single, was also involved in several community activities, but mostly known as "Brown Owl" in the church Brownie Pack. Since she became ill in July she was supported by many nurses and friends.

We have had a collection for Monica and as a result the charity "CancerBacup" will shortly be getting a cheque from the club.

May she rest in peace.

Included in the many mourners at Monica's funeral were a number of our ex-members.



LOCAL WALK - Dec. 17th

THIS is the morning after the night before, ie: our Christmas Buffet Dance is on Sat Dec. 16th.

So far, nothing has been finalised but plans may be made even at that dance for a local walk the next day.

Cars or public transport will be used if anything materialises.

BOOTS FOR SALE

In good condition. Reason for selling is that the teenagers have simply grown out of them.

Sizes 5, 6½ and 7

Just £5 each

Free trial and delivery can be arranged

Tel. 01257 254276

We are moving



to the

Ship & Mitre

DALE STREET

on the

first Thursday in the New Year

Navigation

The Ship & Mitre pub is situated near the JMU Library at the Tunnel end of Dale Street, near Trueman Street and close to the Churchill Way flyover.

HOW TO GET THERE BY CAR

Head straight for the old Tunnel entrance but keep hugging the roundabout, then take a sharp left past the Tunnel entrance. This slip-road leads into Dale Street.

Car park is only a short distance on the left (situated underneath the flyover). Free parking at night.

After parking the car, the Ship and Mitre pub is about 20 yards up Dale Street on opposite side of the road to the car park.

We have flitted from place to place every three years on average, ever since we left the Cathedral Buildings around 1965, after being there for numerous years. We now move into our at new club meeting place with a sumptuous:



Cheese and Wine night

on Thursday, January 4th (upstairs)



Social Events



ON THURSDAYS

At the Commarket

December

- 7 CHEESE & WINE NIGHT
- 14 THAT WAS THE YEAR
THAT WAS - Ken Regan
- 16 (Sat) BUFFET DANCE at
the Sylvestrian Club

At the Ship and Mitre

January

- 4 CHEESE & WINE NIGHT
- 11 SING-ALONG NIGHT (Focus on
with Richie Cannon ELVIS)
- 18 PLAY YOUR CARDS
RIGHT with Mike Riley

January

- 25 SCOTTISH QUIZ
(with Robbie Burns in mind)
Ray McIntosh

February

- 1 CHEESE & WINE NIGHT

Highlight of our Social calendar - Our Annual

Christmas Buffet Dance

SYLVESTRIAN SOCIAL CLUB, Silvester Street, off Vauxhall Road

Saturday 16 December 2000

Licensed Bar - Hamper Draw - Trophy Presentation - Secure car park

Dancing to a popular Disco

TICKETS from MIKE RILEY £7 (521 2268) - Any cheques should be made out to "LCRA"

Have you got the abbey habit?

MY RECENT explorations around Pendle Hill have unearthed an interesting connection between the Lancashire Hill Country and distant Normandy - namely in the widespread popularity of Benedictine liqueur.

I learned that more Benedictine is drunk in the area around Pendle than in any other comparable region. I enquired as to the reason for this among the local tiplers, and found the Army is to blame. At the end of World War I the old East Lancs Regiment, the 11th Battalion, known as "The Accrington Pals" was stationed in France near Fécamp, Normandy. Here they discovered Benedictine (so called as it is based on a secret recipe by the Benedictine Monks and made in the town's monastery). The "Pals" acquired the taste and bought it home.

Curiously, history repeated itself when, during the Second World War, the 8th Battalion of the East Lancs found themselves billeted near Fécamp in 1944. And guess what? The partiality for this delicious drink was reinforced and still goes strong to this day. Indeed, many pubs have "Bene" on optic and do a roaring trade.

You will probably only get to drink this on your next ramble in the Pendle locality. Therefore I would recommend a double, with a cognac on top, swilled with a large chunk of ice and you get someone else to drive!

Not only is Normandy famed for its liqueurs and Camembert cheese but also for its apple produce. You may therefore be interested in the following recipe which is as easy as Apple Pie:

Apple Pie the Normandy Way

(Eaten warm in winter, cold in summer)

Ingredients for a meal for six:

300 grammes of shortcrust pastry (or sugar crust, or flaky pastry, as preferred).

Two eggs, 20 cl fresh cream, 1 small glass of calvados, 1 spoonful of cinnamon.

Eight Cox's Orange pippins, 100 grammes of icing sugar, 50 grammes of dry grapes.

PREPARATION:

Marinate the dry grapes in Calvados for a few hours.

Peel the apples and cut into thin slices.

Now spread the pastry onto a buttered pie/tart dish.

Cook for 10 minutes in a pre-heated oven temperature 7, 210 degrees, meanwhile -

Beat the eggs, mix in the sugar and cinnamon.

Add the grapes, calvados and fresh cream. Place the apples in spiral form on the pastry.

Pour over the cream preparation made.

Cook for 30 minutes in a hot oven, temperature 6, 180 degrees.

When done, sprinkle your pie/tart with cinnamon and sugar.

Richie Cannon

Chicken with Orange & Thyme

Ingredients

One whole chicken

One medium size orange

One sprig of thyme - you can also use dry thyme

One tablespoon of olive oil

Salt and pepper

Method: Place the chicken in an oven dish. Smear the olive oil over the skin of the chicken and rub with salt and pepper.

Squeeze the orange and put the juice of the orange inside the chicken with the thyme.

Place the chicken in a hot oven and set the timer to suit your oven.

While the chicken is cooking baste the skin

of the bird two or three times with the dripping fat.

Make the gravy with the juices from the chicken straining the fat first.

The flavour of the chicken will improve, if left to stand for about twenty minutes.

Serve with roast potatoes and vegetables.

You can also compliment it with salad.

'Packo'

GENERAL SECTION

- Jan. 20 MYSTERY RAMBLE, 10.15. A: Peter Kennedy, B: Paul Healey.
Feb. 3 LLANARMON HOT-POT. Committee, 10.15 (Map 116).
17 BRONTE COUNTRY (Yorks) 9.30. A: Dave Newns, B: Roy Thiis (103/104).
Mar. 3 JOINT RAMBLE (Brenig Reservoir, Clwyds) 10.15. A: Brian Keller, B: Anthony Brockway (116).
17 HOWGILL FIELDS (Cumbria) 10.15. A: Paul Amundsen, B: George Riley (97/98).
22/24 KESWICK WEEKEND at Lakeside House (90).
31 TAL-Y-FAN (Snowdonia) 9.30. A: To be arranged, B: Brian Keller (115).
Apr. 5/8 EASTER (Caravan W/E) Committee.
14 MADWOMAN'S STONES (Derbyshire) 9.30. A: Dave Newns, B: Paul Healey (110).
28 LANGDALES (Lakes) 9.30. A: Anthony Brockway, B: To be arranged (90).
May 3/6 MAY DAY W/E. Committee.
12 VALLEY OF DESOLATION (Yorks) 10.15. A: Peter Kennedy, B: Dave Newns (104).
24/27 SPRING BANK HOLIDAY W/E. Committee.
June 2 JOINT RAMBLE (Jack's Rake, Lakes) 9.30. A, B and C walks (90).
16 SNOWDON HORSESHOE, 9.30. A: To be arranged, B: Roy Thiis (115).
30 ANGLE TARN PIKES (Lakes) 9.30. A: Paul Stevens, B: Paul Healey (90).

- July 14 CARNEDD HORSESHOE (Snowdonia) 10.15. A: Anthony Brockway, B: Paul Amundsen (115).
28 THIRLMERE (Lakes) 9.30. A: Brian Keller, B: George Riley (90).

Departure by coach from St. John's Lane. Leaders must ensure arrival back in Liverpool before 11 p.m. Bookings (£1 deposit) to leader of ramble, otherwise contact Brian Keller on 734 2918 or Dave Newns (after 8 p.m.) on Billinge (0744) 892791.

FAMILY SECTION

Chairman. Bill Potter
Vice-Chairman. Noel Fishwick
Registrar. Mona Roberts
Social Secretary. Pat Pearson
Rambling Secretary. Angela Fishwick

FAMILY SECTION PROGRAMME

- Jan. 3 House Meeting - Angela & Noel Fishwick, 74 Moss Lane, Maghull.

- 6 Yuletide Ramble - 12.30 Start. Leo & Pat Pearson.
Feb. 7 House Meeting - Magda McKenna. 3 Mullion Walk, Gillmoss.
10 Foxhill - Bill & Peggy Potter. 12.30 Start. Frodsham Main Shopping Centre Car Park.
Mar. 3 Joint Ramble, Brenig Reservoir. (Details later).
7 House Meeting - Cath & John Burns. 20 Beechburn Road, Roby, Huyton.
10 Wirral - Arthur & Vera Brockway 12.30 Start. Meet Roydon Park, Frankby.
29/31 Chalet W/E. Mona Roberts.
April 11 House Meeting - Marie & Peter Atherton, 64 Kendal Drive, Maghull Macclesfield - John & Cath Pelee. 1.00pm Start. A537 to Macclesfield Car Park by 'Setter Dog' Pub.
May 2 House Meeting - Freda & George Skillicorn, 12 Avon Road, Billinge, Near Wigan.
12 Seal Edge (Snake Inn) - Gerry & Jean McDonald. 1.00pm Start (details later).
June 2 Joint Walk - (Jack's Rake). 1.00 Start. New Dungeon Ghyll Car Park, Langdales.
6 House Meeting - Pat & Leo Pearson, 81 Twig Lane, Huyton.
9 Cheshire Area - Maureen Howard and Mona Roberts. 1.00pm Start. (details later).
July 4 House Meeting - Jean & Gerry McDonald. 28 Ormonde Drive, Maghull.
14 Lake District - Peter & Marie Atherton (details later).

GUESS THE YEAR of the old programme above - Answer in the next newsletter

SPRING KESWICK WEEKEND - BOOKINGS are going well. A £10 deposit secures your place

A few gems from the club's archive chest



One, or two cakes per person? That was the question in 1935

BROWSING through minutes of a committee meeting held in the Cathedral Hall, Brownlow Hill on Tuesday 17th December 1935 I was amused by the arrangements for the Christmas Party of 2nd January 1936, to be held in their clubrooms. No bar, just tea, biscuits and cake?

Another meeting was held just two days after Christmas - they must have been keen! The amusing bit from that meeting appears in bold type (below).

A pianist was booked and refreshments would be arranged by the Social committee.

On 27th December 1935 a member at that Social sub-committee meeting suggested that two biscuits and one cake per person would comprise the

refreshments at their January Christmas Party. But the secretary said that he thought they should adhere to their former arrangement of

two cakes per person. Giving only one cake was removing the event too far from a Christmas Party. It was finally decided that this be done.

Plans for the party included sixteen dozen cakes to be ordered from Sayer's and eight dozen paper plates would be

bought, also spot prizes to the value of 4 shillings and streamers to the value of 1/6d would be purchased.

An admission charge of 6 shillings was suggested.

"This may incur a slight loss but the club could well afford it," pointed out one member. But the secretary disagreed and proposed 9 shillings should be charged with profits going to holiday funds, etc. After a heated debate he got out-voted and 6 shillings won the day.

January's Socials included:

2 Jan Christmas Party

9 Jan Talk by Mr Smith

16 Jan Whist Drive

23 Jan Ladies Night

30 Jan Debate between Mr J. Duffey and Fred Norbury

(See piece below appertaining to Fred Norbury Trophy)

Did a change of venue improve the Thursday Socials (in 1935)?

(Read what happened three months later!)

"Financially the club is undoubtedly in the best position it has ever been"- from secretary's AGM report, 1935.

Here's some interesting snapshots from that secretary's report

"AT THE START of the New Year, to improve the standard of our Socials, we took a new room in Colquitt Street, and in November bought a radiogramophone.

"We had incurred a big responsibility-and naturally expected the wholehearted support of all the members-but our difficulties were increased by a section of the members who frowned on the move.

"We were faced with a bigger task than we had expected, but were undeterred, and gradually, the radiogramophone gained in favour.

'FIRMLY ESTABLISHED'

"However, back in February, we found it impracticable, through no fault of our own, to stay any longer at Colquitt Street, and in March, after a great deal of searching for fresh quarters, we returned to our former room here in Wood Street.

"We now seem to be firmly established here."

We've moved about 20 times since that 'firmly established' statement! - Editor.

The secretary goes on to say that in the treasurer's report we have not only paid for the radiogramophone, but also have a very substantial balance of cash in hand. It is very unlikely that there are many other clubs in this city in a stronger position.

"During the year we held three dances, all of which were successful both financially and socially. While there were over 2400 attendances in total at the socials on Thursday evenings, the biggest attendance at a social function was at the New Year Party in Colquitt Street where 80 attended.

"There was a big drop in membership last year from 146 to 85. The number of new members last year was 75, this year it is 23. However, this fall in membership is not alarming if compared with 1932-33 when the membership was 109."

Full-day rambles commenced

(Before then they were half-day)

The secretary continued her report: "A new feature of the Summer Programme was to introduce full-day rambles in the months of June and July".

She said: "Another feature proved a hopeless failure. This was the provision of Wednesday evening rambles during the summer. **It will also be seen that Saturday rambles were also discontinued** - the Rambling Sub-committee decided that it was a waste of time putting them on."

In conclusion, the retiring secretary said: "The committee are fully aware of the conduct on rambles of late.

"Some of the members have been drinking intoxicants, some have purposely avoided paying for their tea . . . and some have gone out from the clubroom and come back after having had intoxicants.

"There has been much ill-mannered conduct on rambles and the new committee are determined to stamp out these things and deal severely with the wrong-doers!"

The Fred Norbury & Cyril Kelly Trophies - usually presented annually at the club's buffet dance

THE FIRST TROPHY was inaugurated in 1973 in memory of Fred Norbury, a vice-president and the last active founder-member, still giving his valuable advice at the committee meetings until he suffered a fatal heart attack in 1972. He was like a "Godfather" to the club. Then Cyril Kelly, like Fred, was also a dedicated vice-president and active on the committee up

to his death in 1976. He joined the club around 1935 and was elected onto the committee in 1936; later served as chairman for 11 years. So we eventually got a second trophy bearing Cyril's name. Sadly, both were only in their mid-sixties when they died. Many of our present-day long-standing members, including myself, knew them both personally - *Editor*

A couple of Seniors' Section treks and a couple of jokes underneath

Thor's Stone (or Thurstaston) - Sunday, 13th August (8½-9 miles)

MEETING at the Visitor's Centre at the Wirral Country Park, we were greeted by our leaders Molly and Tony. After welcoming two new members to our fold, namely Cath and Jim, fourteen of us did a half-mile trek along the Wirral Way, then turned left for a footpath alongside a brook into a wood at the "Dungeon" (Old English for wooded dell).

On entering the wood we crossed a wooden footbridge noting the sandstone cave above. We then climbed a path to the cave, then onto a waterfall. We crossed a stream above the waterfall then at a T-junction we turned to our left where we enjoyed splendid views of the Dee Estuary and surrounding districts.

We eventually crossed a main road onto a path leading to Thurstaston Common and climbed up to Thor's Stone, from which the name Thurstaston is believed to be derived.

Weather conditions up till now had been very humid and wet, but at this point the rain became heavier and spoilt Molly and Tony's plans to have lunch at the top of the Common. However, after a quick consultation, it was decided that we take shelter in the nearby wood. Here sandwiches and drinks were consumed with some of our members perching on sawn-off branches of trees but one or two others having to stand due to the dampness of the ground. However, one of our party was looking elfin-like sitting leaning against a tree with her yellow umbrella, adding some brightness to the dimness of the rain-drenched wood.

Moving house from Bidston Hill - literally!

The second part of our walk continued through the woods across a field where we could see a Tudor-style house called Hillbark which was first built on Bidston Hill in 1821 and moved piece by piece to its present location near Royden Park in 1930. Our walk now took us past the Visitor's Centre at Royden Park and onto Montgomery Hill. At this point we crossed another main road onto a footpath signposted to Grange. The rain by this time had abated.

Dropping down from Grange, we reached Telegraph Road and turned right, then, at a rise, we turned left into a sandy lane leading to Stapleton Wood. Now we were in single file fighting our way through bracken and nettles - and more rain.

Tony and Molly were encouraging us with a promise of another stop for light refreshments in Stapleton Woods. True to their promise, we were rewarded with a coffee/tea break, but with seating facilities as poor as our lunch break, left us with no option but to look with envy at one, who shall remain nameless, sitting on her three-legged seat.

Seniors' Section future House Meetings

January 11th - Jean and Gerry McDonald

February 1st - Amie Pritchard

After this short break we continued on through the wood onto a bridleway which led us to a road. We turned right here through Caldý noting some very swish houses en-route. We followed through a passageway between houses which

eventually lead us to the Wirral Way. Tony then gave us choice of going along the beach or staying on the Wirral Way, but we plumped for the shorter route. Safely back at the Visitor's Centre, we gave our thanks to Molly and Tony for a well thought out and planned walk, which was enjoyed with pleasant company and camaraderie.

"BeJay"

Arley (AD 1190) - Sunday, 8th October 2000

AFTER a rainy start to the morning the skies cleared and out came the sun. The drive into Cheshire was very relaxing - (no, it's not a fairy story!).

We met in a small car park in Arley village. Fifteen minutes after the scheduled starting time we commenced our walk; four survivors of William Tell's Musketeers. Jean was absent due to injuries sustained on a walk in the Vale of Clwyd a couple of weeks previously (get well soon Jean).

It never ceases to surprise me when walking in Cheshire as to how prosperous this county is.

We passed Arley Hall and the gardens - had no time to visit the Antique Fair - and on thro' the fields over stiles and at one spot over hedges when the stile was under water.

We had stopped for lunch when someone spotted a figure in the distance coming across the fields. It was back marker Bill Potter. He had arrived late but had an idea which way we were heading, and of course a map of the area, so now we were five.

Once the most commercialised Cheshire mere

George, our leader, pushed us on to a place called Penfold Corner which turned out to be an ancient stone enclosure in which stray animals were impounded, interestingly but not very exciting.

On we went with the usual banter and the weather back to normal, ie: raining, and pressed on to Pickmere which used to be the most commercialised mere in Cheshire with fairground, boats for hire, etc, etc. But now they were just a memory. We by-passed the ancient Budworth Church and arrived back at Arley having had a very pleasant day thanks to George and Freda.

The historic Arley Manor and its magnificent gardens, at present the home of Mr and Mrs Flower, is one of the few remaining estates which is still owned by the descendants of the original family who were the Warburton's, and had owned Arley from at least 1190.

Heron

NEW TERRITORY

Rambler's wife: "Where do you want to go on holiday this year?"

Husband: "I'd like to try walking to somewhere I've never been before."

Wife: "Then how about the kitchen!"

MEN BEFORE WOMEN

Question: Why did God make men first?

Answer: Because He didn't want a woman looking over His shoulder!

DANCE REQUEST

Young man: "Can I have this dance?"

Young woman: "Sure, if you can find someone to dance with!"

EXPERIENCE MATTERS

Education is what you get from reading fine print. Experience is what you get from not reading it.



"I think, sir, the extensive buffet that covered this table was also meant to include the other rambles on the dance floor!"