

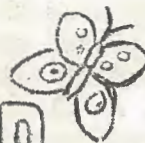
No. 20

14.8.90
(by post)

LIVERPOOL CATHOLIC RAMBLERS



NEWSLETTER



Spring Bank Holiday this year was the time for a few of our members to make an attempt at the Fourteen Peaks of Snowdonia. This time the weather must have been perfect for the ascent of these 3,000ft peaks in contrast to the last few attempts when the weather could have been much kinder. However, as this newsletter is being typed during the bank holiday the reports of the weekend will have to be verbally by those who were there for the action. The Easter weekend at Galloway saw fifteen members taking part in walks in that area of South-west Scotland, the A party experiencing snow conditions on the Merrick and on both days the walking conditions were quite reasonable if you disregard the freak 10-minute hail/snow storm on the Sunday afternoon on Curley Wee. There were beautiful sunsets on both Sat/Sun evenings. Highlight of that weekend was a game called 'Funnybones' introduced to us by Margaret. A good weekend.

You will be aware that Bernie, our lady Chairman is now fit for rambling again as the following report by her informs us. Here's hoping your knee won't stop you coming out on future rambles and everything is on the mend again, Bernie.

Happy Rambling,

DAVE NEWNS (Editor)

Hello everyone,

My, how this year seems to have flown by so far. It seems like only yesterday that I waved bye bye to Christmas. Now Easter and the May Bank Holidays have been and gone too. Well I have actually ventured out on a ramble (the second this year, Sunday 13th) not unlucky for me 'cause I really enjoyed myself - a lovely day, not too hot and not too many feet to climb! A pleasant introductory "C" walk for our new members. Special congratulations to Ian, Mark and Kathryn, out for their first walk under the expert guidance of Dave Connolly, our leader and Pat Rothwell, their driver.

Armed with a slightly damaged pair of binoculars I was delighted to spy, at first one, then a pair of curlews. Ian identified a lapwing in flight, then came the usual crows (aren't they big!). Finches, pipits, skylarks, pied wag-tails and, as I leaned over the bridge just outside Hawes, a beak full of what looked like nesting material - a tiny wren, our smallest native bird. I've never seen one so close before. All in all, a very enjoyable day. Thanks Dave. Hope to be out with you again soon. See if you can persuade Ann to join us.

Bernie Doyle

PS: I've just been going through the membership figures for April. Seven new members, and a hearty welcome to you all. A special welcome goes to baby Michael Brockway. I hope Anthony and Maria have an application form ready for his 1st birthday on April 11th next!

A GENTLE REMINDER - As the membership is growing, so are the numbers out on our rambles, so please spare a thought for those who volunteer to lead walks and the great responsibility they take on. They are responsible for EVERY members' safety, so please stay with your party and not race on ahead. If any member is not given permission to leave the party but does, then no responsibility can be taken for their safety and they are subject to disciplinary action by the general committee. This information is printed on your programmes.

It's also important to return to the coach promptly after any 'pub stops'. Late departures following pub stops lead to late arrivals back in Liverpool. Remember there are some who have to then travel home via public transport which isn't as reliable as it used to be.

Sorry if I've rambled on a little.

Bernie Doyle (Chairwoman).

ESKDALE WEEKEND, MAY 1990

This certainly was a last minute decision on my behalf, as I was fully expecting to be working the May Bank holiday. A telephone call on the Friday night ensured my pillow at the Eskdale Youth Hostel.

Arriving Saturday lunch hour to find a number of our ramblers enjoying a drink at the Woolpack, and to be socialable, I joined in!

In order to remove the guilt of the beer and of course to give ourselves a buzzing appetite for the Warden's food, it was decided to take a tempting path from the rear of the hostel, going in the rough direction of Great Howe. The terrain really is "user friendly" and makes very enjoyable walking, with the added bonus of good company, namely Maureen, Tom, Brian, Paul "Sell-by", and Bob. The great benefit of the weekends is you can pace the walks to suit your own particular needs, in other words, leave the path and perhaps take a new route or have a sun-bathing mega-session! Needless to say the weather was excellent and if anything a bit too warm on this Saturday, hence the policy of taking it easy.

Sunday morning arrived with glorious sunshine and a few painted white clouds, fortunately there was also a definite 'fresh feel' to the light breeze. However, our group had decided that Scafell Pike would have to wait to another day, as it was not worth the three or four sweaty tee-shirts to get up there! So it was decided to take an interesting ramble on to Harter Fell (about 2500 ft).

Unfortunately, there was a sad sight of a lot of men bursting into tears as our very own Doris Day ie. Maureen had to bid farewell so she could join friends at Patterdale. Understandably morale was running low as we set out on our adventure, but clutching photos of Maureen and singing 'Whatever will be, will be etc, we were soon back in high spirits.

For the first leg of the walk we were joined by a chap called Adrian from Cambridge, who was obviously no replacement for Maureen, but proved he was a good 'pool' partner the night before in the Woolpack. Adrian was actually doing the classic Lakeland circular tour, which Mick "Eastgate" and Co did a few years ago. After only a few miles it was time to have a photo-call and bid goodbye, so that Adrian could have a quiet walk to Coniston "Copper Mines" Youth Hostel. For the rest of us it was to do what John Wayne would say "Move out" !!

Climbing at a steady rate it was not long before we reached the summit of Harter Fell and what splendid views it gave too, "Old Man of Coniston," Scafell Pike, Barrow, to name a few. Keeping to the theme of pioneering new walks we started to descend down the north face (sounds pretty dramatic eh?) to Hardknott Pass. Here was to be the highlight of the day after crossing a number of small crags we crossed a modest brow which quite unexpectedly brought into focus a superb ariel view of the Roman Fort. One had to

Continued.

admire its clever and commanding position guarding the main route between Ravenglass and Ambleside. Later as we got closer to the battlements we tried to do a mock attack, but our efforts would surely only raise a few laughs, rather than arrows from the Roman soldiers!

Bank Holiday Monday started in typical Lakeland style ... Rain !!!, but no one was really complaining, because we all knew the ground was so dry (in fact a real fire risk) and most humans were suffering from ... no, not hangovers sunburn! So if you're going to get wet why not go all the way. Yes, there's nothing like messing around in rowing boats on Lake Windermere. Its amazing on one hours hire how you can run aground, get stuck in 6ft reeds, sink two boats, hit an iceberg and still have fun.

All in all then, a very good weekend indeed, an area of the Lakes I hope to return to one day (hint hint to Ian Freeman).

Once again special thanks to our unique gang.

Love and kisses!

ROY THIIIS.

SOCIAL SPOTLIGHT

Hi everybody! Good to see a number of new faces down on Thursday club nights and of course the rambles, on behalf of the Association I welcome you.

Now then, I must apologise to Brian Day for me getting his Slide Show dates mixed up. Yes, I must be getting old, however in the end it was a very enjoyable show. Therefore, a big thank you to Brian and all his lady fans who clap and cheer him along.

Whilst on the subject of funny pictures, Mick Norgate was recently seen buying loads of Mike Harding goodies during a recent trip to the Neptune Theatre. The event in question was an excellent Mike Harding slide show called Footloose in the Himalaya. After the show we all had a chance to meet Mike and straight away I tackled why he had not been to any of our slide shows! Let's just say that Mike seemed somewhat go5-smacked. Thanks to Mike Hendrick/Christine Welsby for getting the drinks in and of course organising the whole thing.

The King and I proved to be yet another successful social get together and no-one could really be disappointed with this very colourful musical production.

Right then, I can hear the band outside playing 'There'll always be England', fireworks streaking across the night sky, the crowds cheering ... yes ... yes its FUTURE SOCIAL EVENTS!!

Tennis Dance - Electric Supply Club - Sat 2nd June

Yes, John, 'Saturday Night Fever' Platt's sister Angela is the person to see for your ticket. Be there!

Slide Show - Thursday 7th June - 9.30 PROMPT

This will be the last of the trio of slide shows for a while, so please do make the effort to lend your support to Tom. After all he's a 'L' of a guy!

Darts - Wilmslow Pub, Goodison - Friday 22nd June, 8.30 pm

This is the first heat of the annual Fred Norbury/Chris Kelly Cup Competitions. It looks like Jocky Wilson/Eric Bristow will not be coming this year which means we are all in with a fighting chance. Why not come along and show your skills or at least buy a round in!

N.B. Details of how to get there during News at Ten, but basically just head for Goodison Football Club. (Saturday 21st July - Heat No. 2 Pitch & Putt at the Hollywood Bowl.)

Sixties Night - Hold Tight! Le Empire - Tues 3rd July 7.30pm

Tickets as expected have been going like hot cakes, so do not hesitate, please see me on Thursday Club Nights. Tickets are £3.75 instead of the usual price of £7.50!

Indian Meal at the Kopal Restaurant - Fri 20th July - 9pm

Vicky knows a good thing when she sees one and this should prove her point. Please let Vicky know a.s.a.p. Meal cost should be based on about £11 to be realistic. Drinks if requested can be billed separate to make it fair on those who are driving.

Wine Barge/Floating Bisto - Maghull - Sat 4th August

Always extremely popular, this is sure to be booked up quick. We have 44 places and a good folk singer! Christine Welsby is the delightful lady to see. N.B. Water wings are of course optional!

CLUB CHARITY EVENT - Irish Centre - Fri 21st September

The Social event of the Year! 500 Tickets are now available. The very successful group 'Green Velvet' with caller will be on stage as will be a disco to fill in, and of course a raffle.

I am really pleased to announce that this year's charity will be K.I.N.D. (Kids in Need and Distress). So far in its 15 year history K.I.N.D. has succeeded in enabling more than 20,000 youngsters, to take their first glimpse of a fascinating new world. A world that previously was locked away ... beyond the front doors, beyond the school gates. So with your help kids like these might now be able to have the break they only dream about! £2 Ticket price will hopefully enable us to make a helpful contribution to K.I.N.D.

N.B. Thank you to our Club who are covering the cost of the Group ie. £100!

Thursday Club Nights - The Liverpool Downstairs 8.30pm

As some of you may know we have a temporary management down at the Liverpool, and this may go on for some time yet. So from time to time there might be a problem of supplying staff for downstairs, all I can do is ask you for your patience and your support during this period.

News at Ten, in agreement with the Social Committee, will now commence at 9.45 pm. The idea is that this might encourage members to come down slightly earlier and also this will leave approx an hour for the disco which will now finish at 10.45pm prompt. Whilst on the subject of the disco please, please it would be very much appreciated if you could lend a hand to put the equipment away. Thank you.

Well that's about it, hope to see you soon, in the meantime, happy socialising/rambling.

Cheers,

ROY M. THIIIS
Social Chairman.

BIRTH CONGRATULATIONS to Maria and Anthony Brockway on the birth of their baby Michael John on April 11th - just too late for announcement in the last newsletter.

FORTHCOMING RAMBLES

June 10 BLENCATHRA. This is not too far from Keswick. Allan Caple leading the 'A', Roy Thiis the 'B' and Christine Welsby the 'C'.

June 17 PEN Y GHENT is one of the famous Yorkshire peaks not too far from Horton-in-Ribblesdale. Leaders 'A' Peter Wilkinson, 'B' Dave Connolly, 'C' Mike Hendrick.

June 24 NANT PERRIS: In Snowdonia with Mike Hendrick leading the 'A', Brian Keller the 'B' and Ian Freeman the 'C'.

July 1 POOLEY BRIDGE is in the Ullswater area of the Lake District.

July 8 SANDSTONE TRAIL and BARBECUE. This is only a relatively short coach journey in comparison to the above four rambles, but a full day is promised with a programme of walks in the Peckforton Hills starting near Beeston Castle in Cheshire. The Barbecue starts around 7pm and a bowling alley has been reserved for us at the same pub 'The Bickerton Poacher'. Further details from 'News at Ten' at the club.

July 15 4 OF THE FOURTEEN PEAKS of Snowdonia.

July 22 HAYFIELD Joint Walk. A: Allan Caple, B: Dave News, 'C' Mike Norgate.

July 22 CONISTON. A: Ian Freeman, 'B' Paul Sellick, 'C' Roy Thiis.

THANKS to Ann Connolly for typing most of the General Section of this newsletter. Apologies for not including Joe Rourke's or Denise Forrest's articles which appeared a little too late for inclusion in this edition so will be included in the next.

S A F E T Y O N R A M B L E S

DISCIPLINE - The leader is in charge from the moment everyone boards the coach. If anyone decides not to take part in a ramble they must inform both the leader and driver of their intention to stay with the coach. Before alighting from the vehicle everyone should be informed of the exact pick-up point at the end of the ramble. If you are uncertain of this then ASK the leader of your party. The leader and whipper-in are in control of each ramble and no person may leave their party without the permission of the leader. If however, anyone is unfortunately separated from their party (they may have taken a wrong turn in the mist or misunderstood the leader's instructions etc.) then it is of the utmost importance that the person(s) involved telephone the local police at the first opportunity so that contact can be made.

Most farmhouses, public houses, private houses, have telephones. The Police will probably even thank you for informing them that you have been separated from your party but are safe and well. They certainly won't thank you later if it involves an unnecessary Police/Mountain Rescue search for the lack of a simple phone call.

CLOTHING - Most important is correct footwear which is essential both for ankle protection and grip on slippery surfaces. Boots with a good tread and fitting comfortably are a must for all rambles. The leader can refuse to take a person on a ramble if he considers that person is incorrectly dressed. Warm and also waterproof clothing must always be taken, even on a hot, sunny day (as weather can deteriorate rapidly in mountainous areas) and should be carried in a rucksack. A complete change of clothes should also be taken, but please, not carried on the ramble, but left on the coach where they will be kept dry.

ENERGY - The best way to get energy is to eat, and a picnic lunch should be carried with plenty to drink especially during the summer months.

EQUIPMENT - Leaders are well equipped with first-aid kits, etc. but everyone should have their torch, whistle and simple first-aid kits in case of emergencies.

COUNTRY CODE - The Country Code must be followed at all times, keeping to paths across farmland (not walking too many abreast), closing all gates, leaving no litter, not picking wild flowers etc.

SERIOUS ACCIDENTS - Give the casualty first-aid, ensure breathing is not obstructed and dress wounds. Make the casualty safe and comfortable. Send for help. Telephone Police 999 with details including accurate location. The Police will call out the nearest rescue team.

Noté: Distress signal is six long whistle blasts or torch flashes, repeated after one minute.

Please keep this booklet in your rucksack for future reference.

FAMILY SECTION. LOUGHRIGG FELL, 8TH APRIL, 1990.

After the exceptional weather experienced on the Keswick weekend one could not possibly hope for a repetition on the following Sunday, yet so it transpired and we were treated to a warm sunny day, ideal conditions for fell walking.

We left Ambleside car park (about the Local Authority's pricing policy we shall say no more) and proceeded in the direction of Miller's Bridge. From there we climbed a steep narrow road which eventually became a steep track. At the top of this was a rather cute bungalow which was formerly the clubhouse for the golf course that had surrounded it. How anyone could play golf on that terrain is difficult to imagine.

Now we were out on the open fellside and after a short stop for drinks began the climb up the southern face of Loughrigg (sounds awesome, doesn't it). Having attained the top we now experienced the delights of walking over undulating fell until eventually reaching the summit of Loughrigg. The views were exceptional, with many of the high peaks covered in snow. In a coomb just below the summit we stopped for our booty break and to enjoy the glorious sunshine. Did Bill Potter really fall asleep!

The descent to the Terrace was very steep but not too difficult due to the very dry conditions which prevailed. A leisurely stroll along the Terrace, with it's magnificent view of Grasmere, eventually brought us to the White Moss Common car park, where ice cream was readily available.

A short sharp climb brought us out on to a terrace to the west side of Rydal Water. As we progressed in the direction of Rydal Mount we had to pass through a number of gates. At each Margaret was politely heard to say "Would you please mind closing the gate". Not so the whipper-in who shouted at the top of her voice "GATE".

From Rydal Mount we proceeded through the grounds of Rydal Hall and here one event to mar the day was that the teashop had not yet opened for the season. The only place open was the toilets. How often do you get toilets in the middle of a walk as well as the start and finish? All part of the service!

NOEL.

Twass a lovely walk, Fishies. Thank you both very much.

* * * * *

SUNDAY, APRIL 22ND, 1990. HILBRE ISLAND.

Better to travel in hope than to arrive? Is it easier to find Scafell Pike from Scafell in thick mist or the Visitors' Centre, Thursaston from Landican on a beautiful clear april morning? However, we found our Leader,

"A village schoolmaster was he,
With hair of glittering grey,
As blithe a man as you could see on a spring holiday,
And on that morning, through the grass
And by the steaming rills
We travelled merrily, to pass
A day among the hills".

Not quite Snowdonia, but a lovely walk nonetheless. We headed North along the Wirral Way, and suddenly encountered two old friends - Joe and Jacky Whitfield - who joined us via a fence from their own back garden. After about an hour our leader stopped and trained his binoculars and "like stout Cortez, when with eagle eyes he stared at the Pacific - and all his men looked at each other with wild surmise" Tony announced that the approach to Hilbre was still wet and we would take lunch. We were at an ideal spot overlooking the deserted beach and bathed in glorious sunshine.

cont'd...

FAMILY SECTION. HILBRE ISLAND CONT'D.

Inevitably the way led round the marine lake to the toilets, where we proceeded to Little Eye and then Hilbre. Eric Hardy, the naturalist, was the centre of an interested group, to whom he displayed an interesting biological specimen. Cameras were being clicked, stories told, jokes cracked, butties bitten, and everyone was having a great time.

The walk back to West Kirby revealed what a huge, and apparently unspoilt, beach the resort possesses, and on reaching terra concrete we had the opportunity to buy ice-creams et alia (the alia was great)

The way led through the madding crowd, amongst whom I met my sister and family for a 30 second chat, then up a steep hill to the Seamens' Memorial. We left the road and headed to Caldy Hill by a delightful path filled with the scent of gorse, and many beautiful trees in their early finery. There were just enough of us to make it possible to have a chat with everyone at some stage. Soon we were back on the Wirral Way as the evening sun began to make shadows so beloved of the photographers.

Thank you for a lovely walk, Tony and Molly.

G.S.

* * * * *

FAMILY SECTION, LLANGOLLEN, 13RG MAY, 1990.

A lovely summer's morning encouraged only seventeen intrepid souls to attempt this Wesah Rarebit.

We set off along the canal towpath, light of heart, heavy of rucksack, although Leo is looking for a lightweight kitchen sink. We left the towpath and headed across a field towards Crucis Abbey, soon to be seen nestling incongruously amongst modern caravans. We paused for a very brief historical reference by our leaders to the Pillar of Eliseg and then crossed the footbridge and climbed to a pleasant viewpoint where lunch was taken (most of it by the flies). We continued through a copse and down to a quaint little chapel. At this point our leader's pedagogic instincts once more got the better of him and he felt constrained to tell those interested about the different rocks hereabouts - Silurian and carboniferous limestones. One couldn't help noticing how devoid of vegetation the latter were.

Our very democratic leader then offered a choice, as we headed for Trevor Rocks and the Panorama Walk - either join him on the scramble up to same or stay on the comparatively flat road. We split about fifty-fifty. The views from the Rocks were glorious, though too hazy for photographs. The descent was immediately followed by a steep ascent to the ruins of Dinas Bran but it was worth the effort if only to see the red faces at the top. Again, the views were superb and, as Marcia said, one could see exactly the way back to Llangollen. I thought it was a lovely walk (but I would, wouldn't I?).

Thanks to all who made it such a happy day with their patience and good humour. Thanks to Freda who made such a great whipper-in and kept up one or two flagging spirits.

FRAUDY.

* * * * *

Hysterical shrieks from the typist - she's missed a paragraph out! I've inserted it overleaf.

cont'd....

FAMILY SECTION, LLANGOLLEN (completed!).

"We continued to Plas-yn-Egwyseg where a signpost indicated the way to World's End. Some of the party thought they'd already reached it! A stiff climb across some very rough ground brought us to a stile and on to Offa's Dyke path, where a distressed lamb was lying. Marie, dressed like a typical shepherdess in Eau-de-nil shirt and shorts, hastened to its aid.. George produced a bottle of water and with Peter's assistance the little fellow (the lamb, not George) began to revive. Peter then carried it the best part of a mile to the nearest habitation." Sorry, George.

Up with Democracy -(the Liberal variety preferably!) was much appreciated by those who chose the lower path. My knees, for one, were beginning to protest.

* * * * *

PROGRAMME.

1990.

JUNE 10. CHURNET VALLEY, STAFFS. Leaders Gerry and Jean McDonald.

Take the M6 and leave at Junction 16. Turn left onto A500 to A52.. Follow signs for Ashbourne to Kingsley. In Kingsley turn right for Oakamoor. Turn right in Oakamoor for car park and toilets. Walking starts at 12 noon.

JUNE 24. BILLINGE, with George and Freda Skillicorn leading. Meet at St. Mary's Club car park in Trent Road off Birchley Road. Those who have been to House Meetings should find it easily. Start walking at 1 p.m. Its a longish walk but over easy country.

JULY 8. Ignore the printed programme. It is not Scarth Hill. Leo and Pat Pearson are now leading this one and have met a few snags. If you haven't had your ear to the right patch of ground or the grape vine died the death before it reached you, there are two house meetings and a phone number - 489 0746 - from which to gather the necessary information. There is one very cogent fact - we start walking at 12.30 p.m.

JULY 22. JOINT WALK. HAYFIELD. PERBS.

Meet at 11.15 a.m. in the main car park (with toilets) in Hayfield.

The route is the M62, the M6 and M56 to Stockport. Take the A6 South to New Mills then the A6015 to Hayfield. Leaders are as the General Club's programme, so we should all be suited. Not sure whether the 11.15 time is for nosebags or for starting walking, but I'm sure we shan't be allowed to starve! (Editor's note: 11.15 is nosebag time).

HOUSE MEETINGS.

JUNE 7. Peter and Marie Athertons at 12 Meadow Lane, Maghull.

JULY 5. Tony and Marcia Thompson's, at 14 Beechwood Drive, Formby.

* * * * *

Just a fleeting reference to the Chalet weekend. The addition of the Bank Holiday was fine. Weather was a bit patchy but the company and catering made up for this.

Congratulations to Julie McDonald and Des Lamb who were married on the 19th May. A lovely bride with Kim (glad you made it) and Heather in mint green and two small relatives of Des. We wish you both every happiness for the future.