

# Newsletter

No. 125

SPRING 1985

Since the last newsletter the Club have been on an uphill path regarding rambles attendances and having to order larger coaches on several occasions as numbers were around the fifty mark. We had the sun glistening on the snow on parts of the Bronte Country and again on the Howgill Fells in March. On the joint ramble in the Brenig Reservoir area the few Family Section who turned up made use of the coach. They had already had a walk the week before in the Foxhill area (see Family Section write-up) when they lost two of their party - that sounds familiar!

Well, the General Section had to do better than that and quickly lost nine members a few weeks later! Seven found their way back promptly but two unfortunates didn't realise that Buzby was waiting for them to call, so they arrived back much later (see Ramblerite).

Not to be outdone, on the Edale ramble 49 people turned out for the fresh air and spring sunshine, Mike Norgate led his first 'B' Walk successfully and everyone was in fine condition, except the coach! On the return journey there were lots of smoke and fumes in Macclesfield (emitted from the coach). Later, as we emerged from a local hostelry in the town we searched up and down the streets for about twenty minutes until we came to the conclusion that 49 ramblers had LOST ONE COACH! Shortly afterwards someone found it hiding behind some hedges about half a mile up the road, now defumigated.

A new sheet on 'Safe Rambling' is now in circulation and it is hoped all will read it and remember what to do if you ever get separated from your party. Basically, if you are lost or will be very late getting back to the coach then find a phone, dial 192 (Directory Enquiries) or the Operator (100), ask for the LOCAL POLICE, then tell them who you are and where you are. The leader will have already have been in contact with the police and you will quickly be reunited. Note only dial 999 if Emergency Services are needed (serious accident).

In order to cool down a bit after all our recent frustrating incidents Fiona Hawken organised a night out on ice at the Deeside Leisure Centre when 15 Torvil and Deans represented the Catholic Ramblers last Sunday.

Finally, three Polish Ordination Candidates have asked if they could come out with us on rambles for the next few months before they move to another country. They are in their twenties and are desperate to meet young people and practice their English. They are all very short of cash with only £5 a month to spend which soon goes on bus fares alone. I feel sure we can help them.

Happy Rambling and Socialising,

DAVE NEWNS Editor/Chairman LCRA



# RAMBLERITE

A recent ramble was marred by an unfortunate incident when nine ramblers found their own way down from the mountain.

Seven turned up at the coach, whilst the other two went astray. A search along roads revealed nothing and the police were alerted. After about two hours, and with the approach of darkness, the Mountain Rescue team were called in from Bethesda. A search was about to be started when a call came in to say that two people had been seen walking along the coast road. These two ramblers were found to be safe and well over four hours after the 'B' party had returned to the coach.

This incident passed without injury and with minimal assistance from the Mountain Rescue team. It could, however, have been a different story as the following extracts from the Lake District Mountain Rescue Mountain Accidents Report 1983 reveal:

| Date/<br>Time    | Weather<br>conditions  | Clothing/<br>Equipment | Experience                                      | Cause of<br>Accident   | Injury  |
|------------------|------------------------|------------------------|---|--|---|
| 4/3/83<br>16.40  | Dry/bright             | Good                   | Considerable                                    | Slipped whilst<br>descending path                                    | Fracture to<br>right ankle  |
| 12/3/83<br>Dusk  | Not<br>recorded        | Not<br>recorded        | Became sepa-<br>rated from<br>father at<br>dusk | lost   | Found unhurt  |
| 19/3/83<br>23.50 | Heavy rain/<br>Windy   | Reasonable             | Some  | Became lost  | Found cold/wet<br>at Pillar<br>Stretcher Box<br>at 3 am                                 |
| 2/5/83<br>24.00  | Cold/wet<br>dark night | Not seen               | None  | Became parted<br>from companion<br>about 6 pm<br>reported<br>missing | All night search<br>- not found -<br>Found six days<br>later in London,<br>fit and well |
| 13/8/83<br>15.35 | Very hot               | Good                   | Very good                                       | Slipped on<br>fellside,<br>fell 30+ feet                             | FATAL   |

The above reports were not published to scare or frighten but to inform so that we may all learn. An accident or members lost from a party can easily happen. What we have to do is take steps to minimise the risk. The Rambling committee is

always looking at ways to improve the walks. Our major problem is still the lack of leaders. Some people are leading their first walks in the near future but it takes time to train a leader, and only experience gained whilst leading groups will give them the necessary qualities of a good leader. Further training of leaders will commence in the near future. Anyone interested (male or female) please see me as soon as possible.

Any criticisms of previous walks or suggestions for future walks would be welcome so put them in writing and pass them on to Dave, Brian or myself. So let's have your views please.

In conclusion, if through any reason you do get separated from your party and have difficulty or do not know where the coach is, then please CONTACT THE LOCAL POLICE. This enables you to be traced very quickly.

Now for your future walks:-

May 12 VALLEY OF DESOLATION (Yorkshire) 10.15 departure. A: Peter Kennedy, B: Dave Newns. An interesting walk in the Bolton Abbey area near Skipton with far more colour than the name might suggest.

May 24-26 SPRING BANK HOLIDAY: Caravans will be organised in Lakes or Snowdonia if sufficient interest is shown.

June 2 JOINT RAMBLE, 9.30 departure for LANGDALES in the Lake District. Walk starts from New Dungeon Ghyll car park, Langdale. A: To be arranged, B: Paul Healy, C: To be arranged. This is a favourite area for the ramblers with a lot of scope for walks of all grades.

June 16 SNOWDON HORSESHOE, 9.30 departure. Both parties will be climbing this lofty peak which looks down on the rest of Wales. A further incentive (if anyone should need one) is that the cafe on top will be serving hot and cold drinks. A: To be arranged, B: Roy Thiis.

June 30 ANGLE TARN PIKES (Lakes 9.30 departure). A: To be arranged, B: Paul Healy. An interesting walk in the Glenridding/Ullswater area.

Safe rambling,

ANTHONY BROCKWAY

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THE GENERAL COMMITTEE meet every second Monday of the month at Birch House, Bishop Eaton, off Woolton Road. Next meeting is on Monday, May 13 at 8pm. Any ideas or suggestions should be given to any committee member for discussion at these meetings.

## MY KESWICK WEEKEND

To begin with, I wasn't in Keswick but I consider it my Keswick weekend due to the fact that I had a lodger whilst the party of Ramblers were there.

I had known my lodger for a couple of years but had never spent a weekend just with her ..... Candy Platt. Most of you will have met (encountered) Candy at one time or other - maybe at Angela and John's house, or at Rivington (when she was on guard at the entrance to the Barn in the evening), or on the occasional ramble - occasional because Angela doesn't seem able to find her walking boots that often (look who's talking I hear you say!)

Anyway, to get back to the weekend. I collected Candy, dog food, blankets, cushion, food bowl, drinking bowl and .... toys, from the Platt abode on the Friday evening - Angela and John with fond farewells to their beloved, whilst Marie and Brian looked at me with compassion.

After the departure of the above, Candy proceeded to trot around my home, familiarising herself with her new surroundings. I had a couple of telephone calls during which time, Candy endeavoured to climb over me, obviously wishing to dispel any misgivings I may have had, about us getting on together. I soon discovered that the Halifax carrier bag (Angela's trade mark) was missing - it must have gone to Keswick, with food and all.

That evening, we wished each other goodnight and next morning I awoke to find Candy very lively - a sharp contrast to me! We walked to the local shops where I purchased some Pedigree Chum (all top dogs eat it) returning home so that Candy could have something to eat. Angela telephoned to say that she had the Halifax bag and was Candy o.k. - I replied she was.

We went for another walk in the afternoon - it's surprising how many people take notice of you when you have a dog for a companion - neighbours and strangers (who remark "who's taking who for a walk"), old and young plus the other dog-walkers! I was spending a quiet evening at home on Saturday, so it was nice to have Candy's company, although I really think she would have preferred to play games than watch Dynasty and then Bergerac.

Sunday arrived and by then Candy realised that I was not the earliest of risers. After breakfast, we went for a 3 mile walk which Candy seemed to enjoy. Her spirits were still very high on the way back and we met a friend who said "out jogging Pat"? I did some gardening and Candy helped,

I also washed the car and Candy helped. Evening came and I had to get her home, along with cushion and blankets to a rapturous welcome from John and Angela.

I have to admit to not being a particular lover of dogs, never having had a dog at home. However, I am writing this in appreciation of Candy Platt because despite her high spirits and energy, she does behave and shows a lot of love ..... and I am hopeful of a good yield from my grass this year! I hope your Keswick weekend was as eventful as mine. Woof Woof.

Pat Rothwell.

Before LCRA



## S O C I A L   S P O T L I G H T

After LCRA



Hello everybody again,

Well, I'm pleased to report that a successful and enthusiastic meeting of the Social Committee took place recently at the 'Liverpool'.

A number of excellent ideas were discussed, some of which I will give details later in this report.

Of course, at the end of the day, it doesn't matter how events are organised, success greatly depends on you, the member.

I think you will agree the following future events cover as wide a variety of tastes as possible. Of course if you have ideas of your own or want to help out, then please do contact me or any Social Committee member.

Now for those details:-

THURSDAY, 16th MAY

## \* QUIZ NIGHT \*

Plus LCRA's own fantastic Disco

See Chris Welsby, LCRA, CDM, if you would like to take part in this intellectual battle of rambler's wits.

(PTO for more Social News

ELVIS - Playhouse - May 18th (Saturday) 8 pm.

The combination of Alan Bleasdale, Martin Shaw, and Elvis have certainly sold tickets like there's no tomorrow. Shrewd members gave me their £1 deposit weeks ago! In fact all allocated tickets have been reserved in this manner. However, if you have not obtained a ticket yet, then see me and I will put your name on the reserve list or better still, contact the Playhouse, directly on 709-8363. (My phone number is 677 8631).

To the members who have paid their deposits, I will be grateful if you pay your balances soon, say within the next 24 hours! The actual balance is £3-90. In return you receive a Blankety Blank cheque book and of course, your tickets.

Just before I leave this item, I must apologise for giving the wrong calculation in February's newsletter. Luckily enough only a few mathematical geniuses spotted the mistake, however it is quite a temptation to say it was a typing error. But no, it was good old human error again (Remember 'B walk' Bronte Country?)

BARN DANCE - June

Our usual venue is temporarily unavailable for the next few months. However, as soon as dates are free, you can be sure that full details will be published.

BARGE TRIP

Gratitude to Pat Rothwell (Miss L.C.R. 1984), who again will be arranging this trip. The Saturday night booked is the 8th June 1985, details of actual prices will be in the region of £4.50-£5.00 inclusive of meal on board, with entertainer. Due to Barry Dooley ordering ice in his drink, means that this year we will not be using the Titanic! Book early!!

Looking more ahead to the future, various Social Committee members will be making initial enquiries in the following events:-

BEATLES TOUR/NATIONAL GARDEN FESTIVAL

Norma Riding (ex Pans People dancer) will be talking to Paul McCartney and Derek Hatton about this special day out for the L.C.R.A.

ALTON TOWERS

Not to be outdone, Tony Bond will be using his newspaper contacts, to seek more information for a day out not to be missed.

FUN CYCLE RUN - Liverpool to Southport - On your bike!! says Kevin Bell, and why not? But Kevin is also looking into the possibility of members jumping the choo-choo train to Southport. Hopefully we could all rendezvous at a nearby pub.

Well, that's about all for now, hope to see you soon.

ROY THUIS, Social Chairman.



# FAMILY SECTION

FOXHILL - FRODSHAM, FEB. 24th, 1985.

After the disappointment of having our ramble cancelled two weeks earlier because of the bad weather, it was lovely to be out again. What a beautiful day it was too.

We set off with Peg leading the way, a happy group catching up on all our news since the last meeting. Not long after leaving the houses behind we were strolling through a lovely woodland area. It was there we met our first challenge - a rather steep path rising up through the trees. We struggled up! well I did, but it was well worth the effort I thought, when I looked down over the beautiful countryside below. On we travelled over stiles, across fields, passing some rather thin looking sheep. There were quite a few patches of snow about and good use was made of this by the younger members of our party, NOT, need I say, without some retaliation from the Dads.

Peg had chosen a very nice spot for our first stop, and as I settled down with my back against a convenient tree, I realised for the first time that our group was slightly diminished. Mona and George, who were at the tail end, had somehow got lost. A search party had gone back along our route to look for them. Whilst waiting their return, we were entertained by a tug-of-war - girls against boys. I still can't figure out who won. After that, Peter gave us a skipping demonstration. Soon after, Peg and Audrey returned alone and it was decided to continue our walk. Hopefully we would meet up with Mona and George en route.

We moved on, admiring the countryside around us. I'd got my second wind by now and Jacob's Ladder wasn't too bad. Later, having another welcome break on an outcrop of rock, we heard voices and could just discern two tiny figures below us. Was it our lost friends? We couldn't be sure. On our return to the carpark we discovered that it was indeed them. How did we lose them? Well, Mona stopped to post a letter, and it was in that odd minute that, due to a bend in the lane and a rather obscure entrance to a pathway, they lost sight of us. For the first time the Family Section have had an 'A' and 'B' walk.

It was a lovely walk, Peg. I'm sure everyone enjoyed it, even the 'B' party, and I know for certain it's one birthday you will always remember. Thank you for a lovely day.

V.J.

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## INVOLUNTARY 'B' PARTY - FOXHILL, Frodsham.

We think we did the 'A' walk in reverse, plus chasing after slightly scared walkers to ask them if they had seen you all. George even stopped cars and cyclists! Our leader did a great unpioneered job. Apart from the odd thought or ten of Audrey amidst the (almost) alien corn, and food and drinkless, we had a great day, thank you! That letter was Club business, honest! Happy birthday from us, too.

'B' party.

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## FRANKBY RAMBLE- FAMILY SECTION, MARCH 10TH, 1985.

Seventeen of us arrived at Roydon Park just as the rain stopped. One of our number made the journey by taxi, but the rest of us made our way in the usual manner. We set off past Roydon House, a mock tudor residence (reputedly moved brick by brick from Bidston) and then made for Thurstaston Common. From the triangulation point we enjoyed panoramic views of the River Dee and the Welsh Hills.

We descended to Thurstaston Village, passing the old manor house and making friends with two ponies on the way. After heading down towards the Dungeons through some beautiful woodlands, we picked up the Wirral Way and followed the old railway route to the Country Park Visitors' Centre, for a well deserved butty stop. After a very civilised lunch, sitting at picnic tables, we watched a short film about the history of the Country Park.

Next we had a very pleasant walk along the shore and when we stopped we admired the shafts of light on the water. Then we walked through the lovely village of Caldy, admiring the beautiful houses, and back onto the Common and another triangulation point. From here it was possible to see the Lake District, the Welsh Hills and Llandudno. On the last lap home we passed Caldy Grammar School and in the late afternoon sun made our way back to the cars, completing a splendid walk.

Many thanks to Arthur and his assistant (Michael) for a lovely day.

G. F. C & J.

## FAMILY SECTION PROGRAMME.

MAY 2ND. The House Meeting is at Freda and George Skillicorn's, 12 Avon Road, Billinge, Near Wigan.

MAY 12TH. The Ramble is Seal Edge(Snake Inn). Take the M62, the M6 and follow route for Stockport on to M56. This Motorway ends in a roundabout. Take the 2nd exit off on to the A560(sheffield). Turn right onto A628 then right onto A57 to Glossop. Toilets are signposted by the traffic lights. Park in a large lay-by on left after Snake Pass Summit. START WALKING at 12.30.

JUNE 6TH. Pat and Leo Pearson's House Meeting at 81 Twigg Lane, Huyton.

JUNE 9TH. This walk will be in the Cheshire Area. Maureen and Mona are leading. Please ring Maureen on 427 4537 nearer the date for further details or get them at the house meetings.

CHALET WEEKEND 29/31 March, 1985. A nice one this! Roast Beef was on the menu for the Saturday night's meal, and the Sunday 'leftovers' meal was even more exciting and enjoyable. George and Audrey joined us for the first time and there is now a very enthusiastic Darjeeling Tea group in existence. The Hightons' late arrival didn't damp their ardour in any way, and George and Jack gave us two very good walks. Pate and Marie came up on the Sunday to collect Ann and ferry Mona Home, thank you!