

50th Anniversary Year..... Mourne Rambling Group [1969-2019]
Launch Dinner: Burrendale Hotel, Country Club and Spa

This year is a special year for the Mourne Ramblers as it is our 50th Anniversary year as a hillwalking group. To begin our club's anniversary celebrations a 'Launch dinner' was held in the Burrendale Hotel on the last Sunday in January.

A cold winter's evening did not deter a total assorted gathering of 39 ramblers, partners and spouses from attending the launch dinner. Everyone was smartly dressed and very presentable, so it was quite a change in style from our usual hardy outdoor gear. Greetings were first made in the hotel lounge or bar until the call was made that 'dinner was served'.

The dinner meal was held in the hotel's Vineyard restaurant where the arrangement of long tables allowed for a good mixture of seating and lively conversation. Menu choices allowed for a two or three course meal choice with wine for those who wanted it followed by tea or coffee.

Despite the formality of the setting the occasion was truly informal in spirit and very sociable, the food was lovely, the hotel staff supportive and professional. The chairman's speech helped bring the evening to a close; Peter thanked everyone for coming along and gave a brief summary of proposed future events for our Anniversary year.

Leave-taking, of course, was prolonged; more chat, a group photograph [several takes] and then before the tables were finally cleared by the staff, a chance [for some] to collect a colourful 50th dinner hotel menu as a club souvenir. All in all, a good evening.