



Wot! About Ratby



APRIL 1988

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ISSUE 9

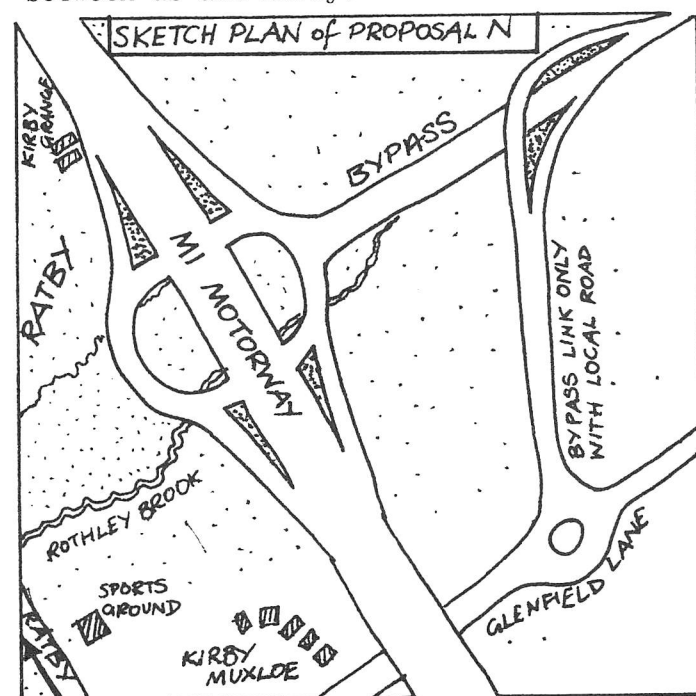
WAKE UP RATBY BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!

At the time of going to press Kirby Muxloe Action Group are presenting their proposed Alternative N to the A46 Leicester Western Bypass Inquiry.

This proposed junction utilises the M1 viaducts which span the Rothley Brook, in Ratby Parish.

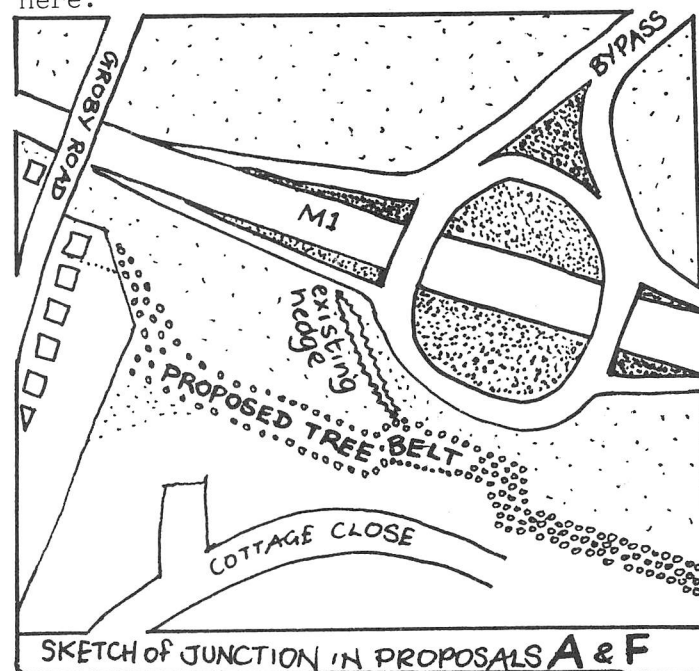
On paper the plan may seem reasonable. But what a plan can never show is the lighting glare, the intensive noise, and the visual impact this will have in Ratby.

Construction work will affect the washland of the Rothley Brook and its wildlife, and if the junction is built, its very existence will make a link road along the Rothley valley a logical next step - destroying the green wedge between us and Kirby.



Ratby Threatened

There have been a never-ending stream of alternative junction proposals, and many people are confused, particularly regarding proposals A and F. Proposal A merely concerns itself with the Bypass and M1 junction. There is no connection with local roads. The junction will be situated south-east of Ratby, very near to new developments in the Cottage Close area of Church Farm Estate, and Groby Road. The noise and lighting would severely affect properties here.



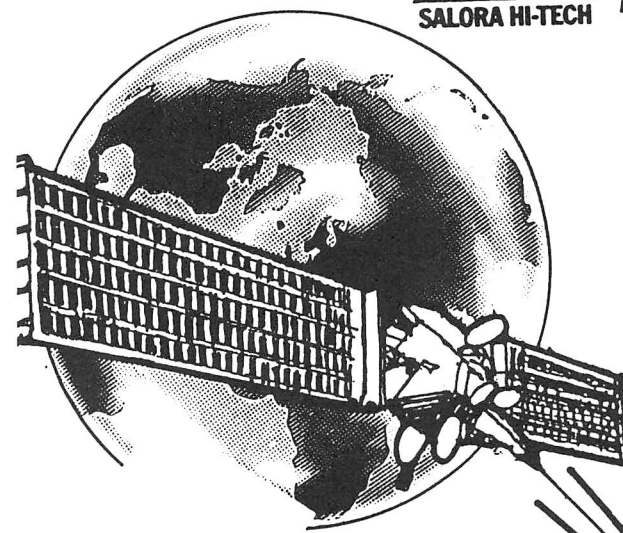
Proposal F shares this same junction, but also includes additional changes to the Bypass route. Both proposals involve disruption of M1 traffic during bridge construction. If I were living in that part of the village I would be protesting loudly!!

continued on page 2



SALORA

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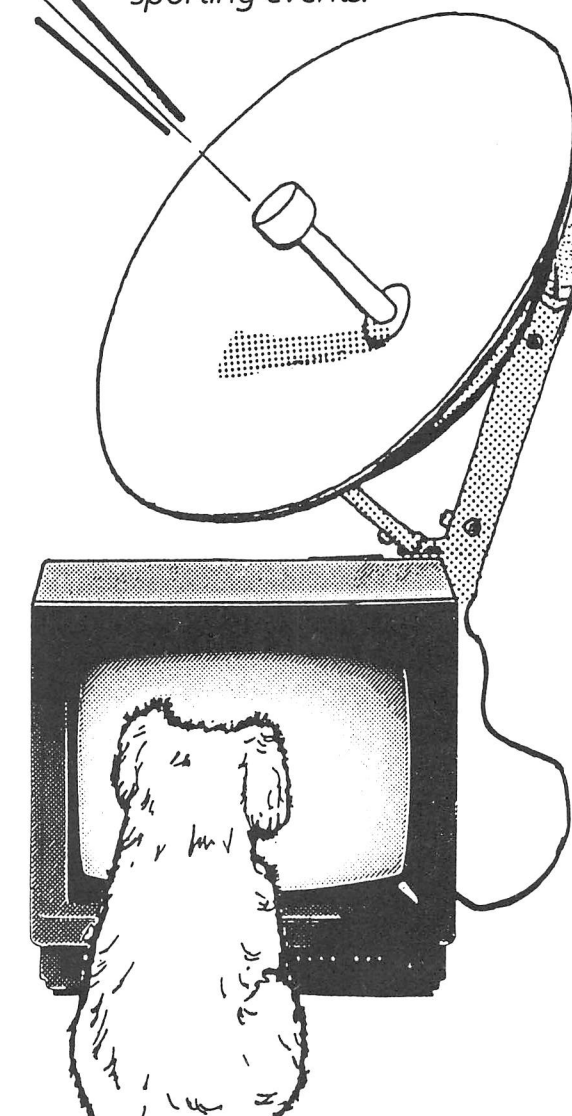
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The views expressed are the views of the individual contributors

continued
from Page 1

A46 LEICESTER WESTERN BYPASS

Leicestershire County Council have already presented their argument for alternative D - which was featured in 'WOT' This was the proposed round-about between Ratby and Kirby, with a link road along Rothley Brook. The traffic figures they have presented indicate increased traffic in Ratby. As a result of objections by Kirby Muxloe Sports Club to alternative D, Leicestershire County Council have decided to move the link road further into Ratby, by re-aligning the Rothley Brook - "The brook will be diverted northwards from its present position if alternative D is approved, to help reduce the effect on Sports Club facilities". To put it bluntly they'll destroy Rothley Brook for the sake of a cricket pitch.

This brook and its washland are important to Ratby people. Re-alignment involves the destruction of all the Alder trees on its banks.

Write now and protest - your views do count.

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THE INQUIRY

The Inquiry into the Proposed Leicester Western Bypass opened on Tuesday March 15th, presided over by Air Vice Marshall W.E. Colahan. Those of us who have struggled to reach the Inquiry at the Robert Hall Memorial Rooms on Narborough Rd., by bus, may be wondering if this location was deliberately chosen to discourage objectors.

The Department of Transport opened the Inquiry by setting the Bypass in it's National context.

Travers Morgan, the Consultants for the D.O.T. then followed with their evidence.

Many of us present remained unconvinced that this Bypass is needed.

Under cross-examination by a Ratby objector, a representative of the Road Haulage Association, (who are supporting the proposed road) admitted that he would not choose the A46 to go from the South West to Lincoln. He would prefer to send his lorry fleet via the M1 and A52.

Objections

Anstey Parish Council were the first objectors to challenge the Dept. of Transport. they have employed a traffic consultant who cross examined Travers Morgan and the Leicestershire County Council to try and show that the Bypass will merely act as a Distributor Road, and that it's use by through traffic would be minimal.

Certainly much of the evidence seems to point towards the Bypass relieving routes in and out of Leicester. Does this really justify the devastation of our rural environment? Have other transport alternatives for commuters been properly considered? It is not too late to write and object!! New roads bring increased development - Industrial and residential.

Crime and Vandalism

If this Bypass is built then Ratby will rapidly become just a part of Leicester. Our sense of community and village identity will be lost. Crime and vandalism may increase. If you care about Ratby, and want your children and grandchildren to grow up in a peaceful rural community then write now to

AIR VICE MARSHAL W.E. COLAHAN
INSPECTOR
A46 LEICESTER WESTERN BYPASS INQUIRY

Dear Editor:

Thank you for your kind invitation to reply to the editorial in Issue 7 of your newsletter. As our appeal is now being put in motion, we consider that the time is appropriate for a reply. So here it is:-

The planning application was submitted in the name of "The Knighton Park Trust", as this was the legal entity which owns both our present meeting room and the land at Ratby. Although your heading reads "Green Belt Threatened", the landscape and limited development will rather enhance the approach to the village.

In addition to several visually attractive features noted in our letter accompanying the original application, we have offered to provide a wildlife lake with associated footpaths to be given to the village of Ratby. The total development (including considerable landscaping and tree planting) involves only $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres of the 22 $\frac{1}{2}$ acre site owned by the Trust. The remaining 20 acres will be subject to a legally binding agreement (Section 52) between the Trust and Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council, to be retained in its present rural state. We also told the council in writing that we were prepared to accept a condition whereby if at any time in the future we were to sell the property, fresh planning permission would have to be obtained by the prospective purchasers.

Regarding our beliefs, we do not take the ground of being a sect, although we are generally known as "The Brethren". Our beliefs are founded entirely on the Christian teachings of the Bible, the inspired Word of God. There is one God, who has revealed Himself in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Matthew 28 v. 19, Ephesians 3 v. 4-6, 1 Timothy 3 v. 16. "God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life". John 3 v. 16. In order to effect salvation for sinners "All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God", Romans 3 v. 23,

"Christ died for our sins...and...He was buried, and...He rose again the third day according to the scriptures", 1 Corinthians 15 v. 3-4. God gives faith and His Holy Spirit to those who believe, to enable them to live according to His will. Acts 2 v. 38, Acts 20 v. 21, Romans 8 v. 13. As believers, we are enjoined to "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers". 2 Corinthians

the only ground of gathering for all believes, and our practice is governed by the individual conviction that the Word of God clearly indicates the acceptable walk for every Christian. Brethren have held these truths for about 160 years, and in the Leicester area have for the past 120 years or so been gathering peaceably and enjoying happy fellowship.

For the record, two of the Trustees, prior to our formal approach to the Council, visited residents in the immediate neighbourhood of the site, to explain the nature of the development, and, to those who enquired, outlined our beliefs. These efforts, which were appreciated by the neighbours at the time, were considered by us as common courtesy. Regrettably, at the meeting of the Parish Council on 28 October 1987, this informal approach was misconstrued as an "unprecedented pressurised campaign", and further described as "intimidation".

At that meeting, several residents voiced their concern as to what alternative development could result, if our proposal were to fail. We submit our view that any alternative development could only be more intrusive, and harmful to the environment, as no commercial developer would be prepared to relinquish development of 20 acres of land, as the Trust has undertaken to do.

May we conclude by expressing our opinion, and that of several Ratby residents, that if the petitioning of the villagers had been conducted in a fair manner, free of suggestions that we might have been wishing to establish a hippy-type commune or that we were a modern pseudo-religious group, there would have been additional support and considerably less apparent opposition to the project. Yours faithfully,

Trustees of Knighton Park Trust.

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

Welcome to issue 9 of "WOT" the villages magazine published by the Scout Group. It certainly seems to have found a niche in village life if responses and new articles are anything to go by.

Two important articles for you to consider in this issue. Articles about developments which may effect your village. So read them carefully and if you do feel strongly about them do something!

We print in full a letter received from The Knighton Park Trust, so that you can make up your mind about their planning application.

In our opinion we do think its a pity that they find it neccessary to blur the issues involved by casting doubts, on the valuable efforts of the Parish Council to keep the village informed. Similarly the ladies who organised the petition to represent the views of Ratby villagers.

People have a right to be concerned and express their opinion to issues that will affect the village. The Trust simply cannot expect to dismiss rightful opinion by levelling unsupported alegations at them.

The reference to alternative development is we beleive rather misleading as there is no reason why alternative development should take place. The Trust suggested scheme is probably the lesser of two evils if there were too evils.

Paragraph two of the letter sounds attractive, but fails to make clear the nature and limitations of any agreement. A clear statement from either the Trust or the Borough Council would be helpful.

The real issue remains, in issue 7 we wrote "Green Belt threatened", this is still true, part of the green wedge is required by the Trust for building development, as we said in issue 7 any development which directly or indirectly threatens the green spaces around Ratby, regardless of the nature or purpose should be opposed. We believe limited development is just the thin end of the wedge.

This issue concerns us all. Let us know what you think or write to your MP, The Right Hon. David Tredinnick or the Director of Development at Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council.

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Ratby Parish Council

A46 Leicester Western By-Pass

A special meeting was held to discuss the presentation of Ratby's case to the Public Inquiry. Mrs Olive Smalley agreed to represent the Council.

ARC Quarry Plans at Groby

The council heard a report on the development plans for quarrying at Groby.

It is anticipated that 3 million tons of aggregate would be moved annually, and that a lorry would leave the site every minute.

The possibility of a Rail line would be investigated.

The Parish Council agreed to write to Leicestershire County Council concerning possible pollution.

Annual Parish Meeting

This will be held on April 20th at 7.30 pm in the Welfare Hall. At this meeting the Parish Council Accounts for 1987/88 will be presented. The Crime Prevention Officer of Leicestershire Police will attend the meeting. Time will be allowed for any discussion on Parish matters.

Tree Warden

Mr. Kilminster has kindly volunteered to be Ratby's Tree Warden.

Best Kept Village

The Council are considering entering Ratby in this competition.

Co-operation will be needed from all residents in helping to keep the village at its best. We can all help by looking after our own property, and by respecting the village amenities, such as avoiding parking on grass verges.

Bus Shelter

Contrary to some belief, the bus shelter at Markfield Road/Groby Road corner was removed for safety reasons after it had been damaged by a vehicle. The Council have yet to decide about any replacement.

DEADLINE FOR LETTERS, ARTICLES AND ADVERTS for JUNE'S ISSUE of WOT is THURSDAY 19TH MAY

ADVERTS ... PHONE 395179

ARTICLES ... PHONE 393279

EDITOR ... 393367

HOTLINE !! PHONE US ON 386980 or 395179 with interesting News for WOT !!

LOST! A Camera in Ratby on Saturday 26th March
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RATBY SPORTS CLUB

RATBY/GROBY JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB

Our AIM - to PROVIDE FOOTBALL FOR THE YOUNG BOYS OF THE TWO VILLAGES.

The Club formed in September 1974 by Dick Borret - Manager, and his wife as Secretary, Brother in Law Ron Preston - Treasurer, Charles Geary - President, Albert Hargreaves - Chairman. And I am delighted to say that all these people, although no longer holding office still take great interest, and attend many of the functions. This family atmosphere still continues with the Club after 14 years with many of the officers continuing to serve the Club even though their son may have grown up past our age structure of 10 - 15 years.

We have 6 sides, playing Sunday mornings at the College - (our colours Blue and White) all are welcome to come and support. The standard of Football, although I may be biased, is good, with 2 sides in the County Cup semi-finals and also in the top 3 of their leagues.

Training facilities at the College is limited due to demand by many sports, and we have to seek alternative venues - all of which is provided by the Club.

In 1984 we formed the Junior Section of the Sports Club at Ratby. This has given us the opportunity of headquarters to show off the many photographs and trophies that have been won over the years.

As members of the Sports Club they have the opportunity to participate

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in other sports - and most important get to know other members of the Junior Football Club in the other age groups.

We have since 1976 had alternate visits to Holland, to play football - stay with Dutch families - and encourage sportsmanship between nations. 1988 is our year to visit and details have been sent to all players and it is anticipated that 2 coaches will be leaving the two villages.

Fund Raising - Our sincere thanks to Players, Parents, Relatives, Friends, Local Shopkeepers for their continual support - it is very much appreciated.

I am pleased to say that the lads latest fund raising activity, the Fun Run raised £700 and the Xmas Raffle Draw £600.

Should you or your son wish to know more about the Club - please ring our Secretary, Mike Webber on Leicester 393847.

I seek your continued support both on and off the field.

Yours sincerely,

Graham W.N. Fowler

PRESIDENT

Dear Editor,

I felt I must write to you to say what a wonderful periodical the WOT Magazine is. Rarely do I receive such a well written and interesting publication and I must congratulate you on both the content style and presentation. I have kept each copy carefully as I am sure they will become very valuable with the passage of time. Please excuse the crayon as they do not allow anything sharp here.

Yours sincerely,

(Name and address supplied)

RATBY PRIMARY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Ratby Primary School Association is a voluntary committee which raises money to improve resources at our village school. The events we organise also provide opportunities for people in the village to meet.

Our Valentine's Disco on 12th February was a great success. Judging by the amount of beer and wine consumed, everyone who came along enjoyed themselves as much as the committee! We shall hold a similar event next year so watch out for details.

Our Rummage Sales attract customers from far and wide so they must be good! The next one is on Saturday 7th May, starting at 2.30p.m. in the Welfare Hall.

Most of you will know that the School association organises a Summer Fête every year. The Fête is an enjoyable afternoon out for the whole family and there are major raffle prizes to be won! Make a note of the date for 1988 — Saturday 4th June.

For all those of you unfortunate enough to miss last year's "It's A Knockout", there is good news! NOW is the time to organise yourselves into teams of four men and four women ready for this year's "It's A Knockout" on Sunday 25th September 1988. ANY team can enter so don't miss out on the fun! Please give names or make enquiries to Pete Hammond (395181) as soon as possible.

As you can see, the School Association is working hard to help make Ratby School such a cheerful and welcoming environment for our children. In the past you have all been very generous with your support and I am sure it will be the same in 1988.

DIARY DATES:	Rummage Sale	Sat. 7th May
	Summer Fête	Sat. 4th June
	It's A Knockout	Sun. 25th Sept

ODE TO PLAYGROUPS

Spend a morning in Playgroup
That is all we ask,
Answer children's questions,
Help them when they ask.
Watch them play in water,
Though you think they didn't oughter (?)
Roll the dough, enjoy the play,
With someone else's son or daughter.
Hear them talk and sing and shout,
Sometimes wear your ear-drums out.
Name a painting, glue a box,
Fasten shoes or change their socks.
Take your coat off, come on in,
Hear the words that make the din.
Anytime, there is no rush,
Come and spend some time with us.

Ratby Playgroup is run for the children of Ratby by the people of Ratby. Not just by the workers who are with the children every morning, but also the Committee of Mums who organise our fund raising events and everyone who comes to the events and gives a little of their time and money. We thank you all.

Ratby Playgroup 
Space sponsored by WILLIAM MEE, TRANSPORT

May we take this opportunity to give an open invitation to come along to Playgroup to see what the children do. Anyone who feels they may have something to contribute towards Playgroup is always welcome, or if you just feel you would like to help out with the children, do please come along.

Special date for your diaries
Sunday 22nd May. We are organising a short sponsored walk from the Church rooms for the children of Ratby. The money raised will be going to the Wishing Well Appeal for Great Ormond Street Hospital. Please look out for notices, and help us make it a good afternoon of fun for everyone in Ratby.

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1ST RATBY BEAVERS

DO YOU KNOW WHAT A "BEAVER" IS?

The following notes from an observer's handbook might help:-

SPECIES

Homo sapiens

SUBSPECIES

Male, juvenile (6 to 8 years only)

HABITAT

Ratby School hall, every Wednesday 5.30 - 6.45pm.

COLOURING

Grey upper parts with distinctive bright blue colouring around neck and down chest. Lower parts can vary in colour. Face usually red.

CALLS

A distinct cry of "funandfriends" can be heard at a certain time but generally the beaver makes very loud shouting noises.

SOCIAL HABITS

Meet regularly once a week when great excitement is seen.

FOOD

No nourishment is taken at the weekly gathering but the beaver must eat at other times to sustain his energy.

INTERACTION WITH OTHER CREATURES

The beaver appears to follow instructions from creatures he calls "Moby" "Kit", "Moose", "Otter" and "Squirrel" (although little resemblance can be seen to the animals commonly known by these names).

SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS

An interesting creature to observe with the ability to create a lot of noise and with unlimited energy for games of all kinds.



Ratby Scouts want (to buy) a minibus.
Can you help? Ring Chris: 395297

STILL PUZZLED

Come along to the school on Wednesday 20th April between 6 and 7pm. for an Open Evening, when all will be revealed!

The Open Evening, which is to celebrate the 3rd birthday of the 1st Ratby Beavers, will consist of games, competitions and a raffle. Refreshments will be available - **everybody is welcome!**

We are also intending to mount an exhibition in the Library early in April, which we hope you will find informative.

Anyone interested in helping would be warmly received.

Please contact R. Bent (394873), J Harrison (393871) or J. Hawsworth (870134).

1ST RATBY SCOUT TROOP

This is a surprise article. Do I hear anybody ask why? Well just in case our reader is asking, I'll tell him (or her). I was only asked to write this five minutes ago, so here goes.

We've had a fairly quiet couple of months building on Scout work that has gone before. A few more lads are in the process of leaving Cubs and joining the Scout Troop, so our weekly meetings regularly have 28 Scouts. We now have (at last) a Scout Troop with a complete range of ages from 10½ to 15 yrs. This helps the running of the Troop as the older lads can do some of the work themselves.

One of the highlights of the year so far was a talk on the dangers of Drugs given by an officer of the Police Drug Squad (in his own time!) Thank you very much. We also made good use of the dark nights by having a wide game in the woods.

We have recently had an emphasis on First Aid, and while we hope the lads remember what they have learned we do hope that they don't need to use this knowledge.

Well I think that this is a good place to finish. Thank you for reading this article, see you next time.

Pete Smith
A.S.L.

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LOCAL SCHOOL TAKES THE INITIATIVE!

Pupils at Brookvale High School had the opportunity, on February 25th. to meet and talk to a whole host of experts from the world of work. A pilot, a dentist, a builder, a trainee solicitor, a chef, a graphic designer and many more from the realms of business, commerce and the professions were on hand at the school to talk about their jobs and answer the pupils questions.

Ex pupils of the school, Jane Hywell and Maxine Frame, now a graphic designer and hairdresser respectively were able to share their experiences of working towards a career and give advice to Brookvales third year. Each pupil had a chance to hear and appreciate what was involved in, for instance, becoming an information technologist, a nursery nurse, a baker, an architect or a designer.

All very useful when you're fourteen and need to choose which subjects you will study at Groby Community College.

Mrs King, Brookvales head teacher hoped that the mornings programme 'would encourage a greater awareness and understanding of the world of work and give our students an opportunity to talk in school in small groups with adults other than teachers, as well as helping with subject choices'.

Mrs Luff, the Project Coordinator pointed out that this event highlighted the work put in by schools and the careers service to show pupils the vital link between what they do at school and its relevance to securing a worthwhile career. She added that the morning was only a small part of the careers service offered to pupils at the school.

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RATBY BUDOKAN KARATE CLUB meets every Wednesday night at the Methodist Church rooms 7-8 o'clock Children, 8-9 o'clock Adults and has now been running for over a year. Many of the children who have been attending since the beginning are now graded, some passing through 3 grades to orange belt. It gives the children an insight into self-defence and discipline and they are told **never to practice on their friends outside the Dojo.**

The chief instructor is Sensei Dave Spicer 3rd Dan black belt who also runs a full time Dojo in Braunstone Gate opposite M.F.I. The Dojo has facilities for weight training and bag-work as well as lessons in Karate and ladies self-defence. Dave Spicer's Budokan Karate Clubs are affiliated to the British all styles Karate Association, chief instructor Shihan (Master) Greg Wallace 6th Dan.

Anyone interested in true martial arts should contact Dave Spicer who has 30 years experience on Leic. 895554 or for your local club Steve Cooper Leic. 386520 the local black-belt who assists Mr Spicer.

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CHARNWOOD SCHOOL

Most young boys and girls look upon their school days as being rather a bore, but the pupils of South Charnwood School near Markfield never saw it that way. The Headmaster, Mr. Walter Higgins, and his staff instilled into all the pupils a sense of belonging to a large and happy family.


For this reason when a small group of pupils met socially one evening in 1983 to discuss their happy times at school in the early 1960's it became apparent that a larger reunion would be very popular and indeed it was.

Every year since more and more old pupils and teachers have been contacted and have swelled the numbers attending the function.

This year on Monday May 16th, in the Markfield Room at the Coach and Horses, Field Head, Markfield from 8.00 p.m. onwards, the pupils of the 1950's and 1960's are to meet again and it is hoped to attract more old pupils and teachers than ever.

For further information you may telephone Betty Welch on East Leak 2541 or Coalville 32899.

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First Sunday in the Month

- 08.00 a.m. Holy Communion. Traditional Order Said
10.40 a.m. Morning Prayer usually adapted for children
06.00 p.m. Sung Eucharist/Holy Communion and Sermon

Other Sundays

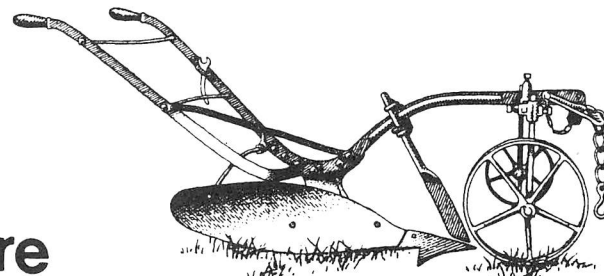
- 08.00 a.m. Holy Communion. Traditional Order Said
10.40 a.m. Sung Eucharist/Holy Communion and Sermon
10.40 a.m. Sunday School in the Church Rooms
06.00 p.m. Evening Prayer and Sermon (except the last Sunday in February, April, June, August, October and December when there is a United Service at the Methodist Church.

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Can I just say a big thank you to Tawny for having us all in her home even though she was waiting for a bed to arrive which by the way did arrive just as everyone had gone.
Brown Owl

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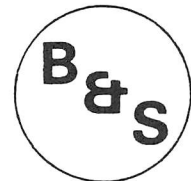
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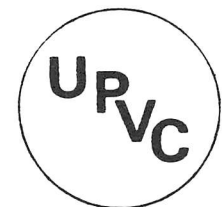
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OLD OAK

His existence began one misty April morning in a wood about half a mile outside of the village of Rathby. He sprang from an acorn which had been buried by a jay as a food store the previous autumn and then forgotten.

His first slim tender shoot grew out between a fern and a clump of wood sorrell, and from the beginning his life was fight for the life giving sun.

He was born into a wood of mature oaks and beeches, he was just another generation in an unchanging cycle, he was subject to hazards and dangers, from the beginning, these were the rabbits and hares to nip him in the bud, there was the careless footfall of the villagers going about their tasks, coppicing, gathering acorns, firewood and timber to repair their ploughs and mend their fences.

He survived this and grew, lifting his vulnerable head above the level of the first rabbits and hares and then man. The woodland spirit protected him, other young trees his size were taken, the charcoal burners sought their tender young branches to fill their furnaces which worked round the clock providing charcoal for the fires of the gentry, and to make blasting powder for coalmines as well as gunpowder. These furnaces were actually in the wood, and their consumption of young timber was prodigious, but he survived.

He survived the shipbuilders men, who in their search for good oak to build ships to fight the war with France, were forced to come to the Midlands woods, so great was their need. He survived the tanners of leather and their insatiable desire for oak bark for tanning, and a much lesser evil, the medicine men who used oak bark in their concoctions for use in fever, haemorrhages and chronic stomach upsets.

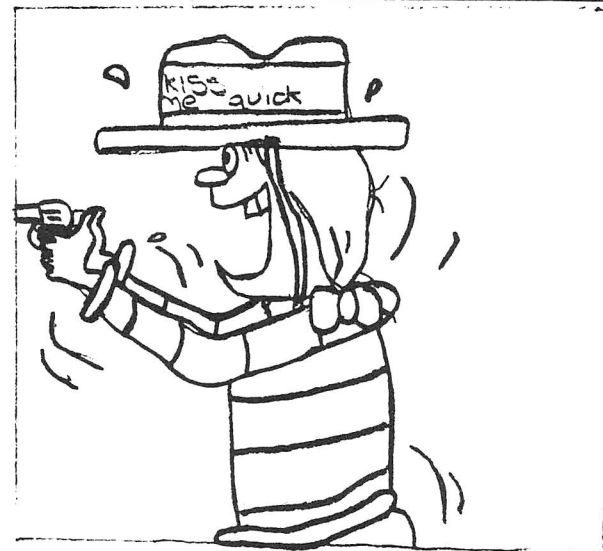
The only hurt he received was from a musket ball fired by a poacher at a squirrel in his branches which damaged the branch and let in the rain and the frost, to ultimately, over the years form a hole in which a pair of great tits nested. The wood in which he lived formed part of an estate and it was well tended, but all good things



must come to an end, and the estate was sold. Most of his mature companions in the wood were destroyed by man, with their saws and axes but he survived even this. Now his wood had changed, only scrub and birches grew, but people come too not to destroy but to enjoy, gathering berries and watching birds and just walking.

The army came to practice warfare, and hand-grenades were thrown and bullets fired and the Home Guard with their own peculiar weapon the Blacker Bombard a name reminiscent of a medieval siege weapon, but in fact a type of mortar. The children too, took a liking for him, he got the name Old Oak, people met at Old Oak, and children played around him. Courting couples met there too, but Old Oak kept their secrets, he looked out over the rhododendrons and a pretty little stream, the birds sat in his top and the nightjars flew around him like giant moths.

Then his wood was planted by man with alien species, and his friends, the children, the courting couples were fenced away from him, but still he stood proud over the puny seedlings around him. One day he died, he died with a crash which shook the old musket ball out of the hole in which the great tits nested and which was found by a youth who went to mourn his passing. He didn't die naturally, a great track was being carved through the county, its name was the M1 and Old Oak, and the rhododendrons and the little stream stood in its way, so they had to go. The sad youth with the musket ball in his pocket counted two hundred and thirty age rings in his poor old trunk and wished him goodbye.



BY Jonathan Gray



by Nicholas Gray



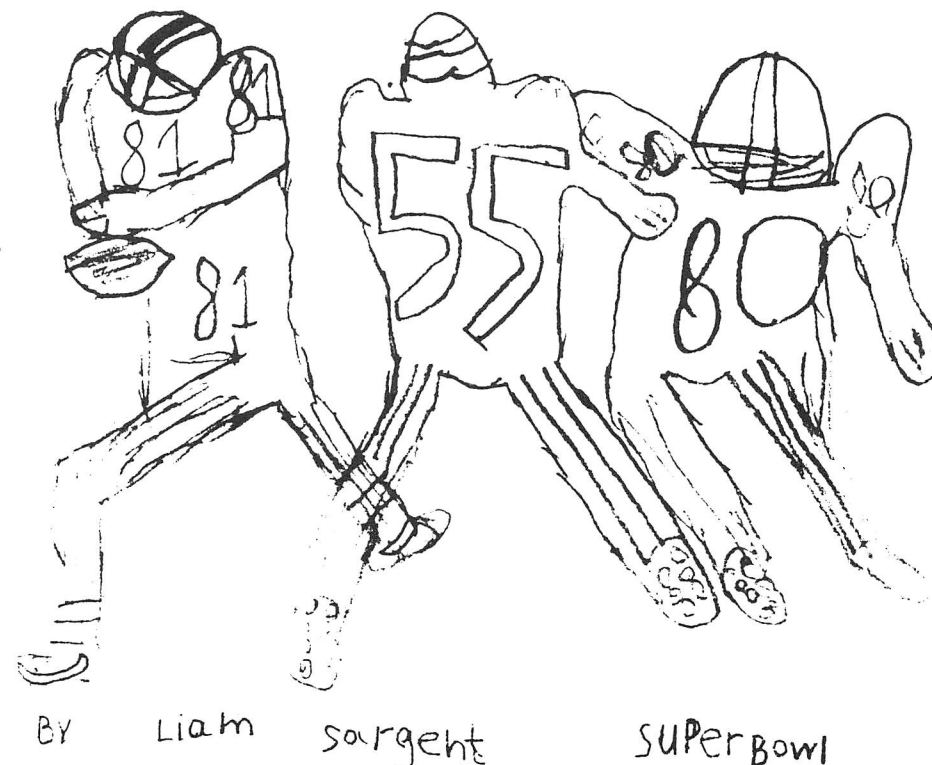
Talking Pictures

There's a big black box at home which has got a rather straight glass dome and lots of little buttons at the front, and when you flick a switch it's harder when your titch a picture comes on the glass screen. A noise is coming out, it's starts to scream and shout. I've got to turn it off, I'm starting to cough. It's finally off.

by Salim Mukaddam

Don't forget to send us your poems, jokes, stories and pictures! Black pen or pencil please. You can leave them in the Wot box in the library.

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BY Liam Sargeant SUPERBOWL

The Railway through Ratby

In last August's edition of WOT there was an article on the early history of the Railway John Winfield now continues the story with the history up to the present day.

The railway line running through the village is part of the Leicester & Swannington Railway. The L & S although not the first steam operated railway in the country, it was the first in the midlands. It was the first to have a tunnel (1796 yards long). Robert Stephenson was engaged as the engineer. The section of the line running through Ratby was opened on Tuesday 17th July 1832. The engine pulling the inaugural train had a mishap in Glenfield tunnel when its chimney struck the roof showering 400 prominent people in soot and cinders. The train stopped at Glenfield Brook for passengers to wash the results of the mishap off.

When first opened Ratby did not have a proper station but a wharf building constructed on the east side of the level crossing. The station buildings that most local people know were built by the Midland Railway Co. in 1876 with extensions to the platforms in 1887.

The line was constructed principally for carrying coal and minerals, passengers on the line took pot luck what they shared a wagon with, be it empty or full of coal, granite or farm produce. The L & S Co. only possessed two passenger carriages. The line was owned by L & S Co. until 1st January 1847 when it was absorbed by the Midland Railway co.

The line closed for passengers on 24th September 1928. Goods traffic ceased on 4th April 1966. There are still some remains of the original line in Ratby. The wall alongside of the private road leading to the residential caravan site is constructed of the original stone sleepers and the track bed can be traced between Ratby and Glenfield. The station was where Caspak now stands. Only one diesel passenger train passed through Ratby in the whole of the line's lifetime. This was a D.M.U. running from Glenfield to Desford with RCTS Railtour.

Mr. D.A. Ramsey, author of 'Groby and its railways' will be giving a talk to the 'Village Society' in April which will include a history of the railways locally.

Ratby Station crossing 1954 with Mr. Burns the stationmaster at the crossing gate.

THE MILK ROUND AND BEASTINGS

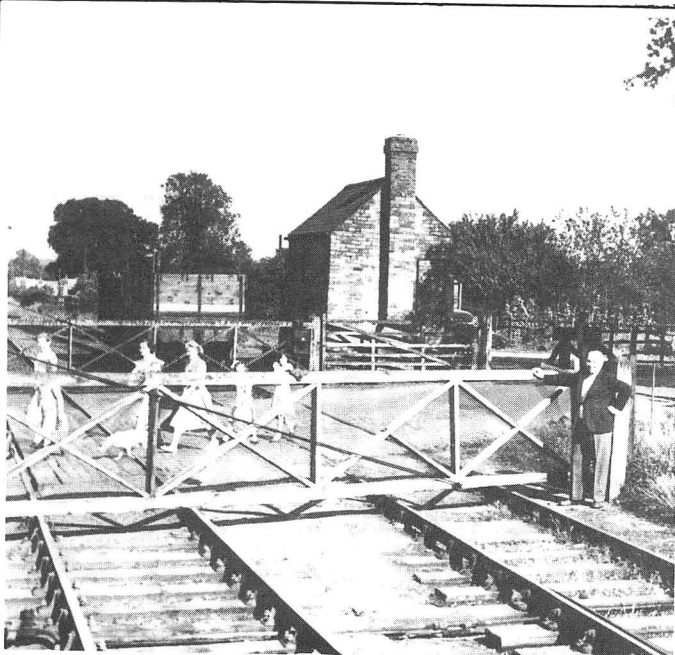
The farm lads day started at the dairy door at 7.15am. As soon as enough of the mornings milking had gone through the cooler it was taken to the "Mrs" who measured into pint and half pint cans with loose lids. Delivery to the dozen or so customers scattered around the village was precarious, with five cans threaded through the left fingers and two hanging from the lamp bracket, the bike was steered and braked by the right hand. The two stanchions in Berry's Lane were always tricky. Customers would often leave a basin on the doorstep overnight into which the can was emptied. Milk never came fresher.

Beastings, the second or third milking after a cow had calved, were full of nutrition and were made into a delicious custard by those who requested it. No charge was made for this but the milk lad often got a penny for the special delivery.

A one and only claim to fame was to be able to demonstrate to Mr Sumptors science class the law of centrifugal force. This came about by the milk lads ability to take the lid off a pint of milk, swing the can briskly by the handle through 360 degrees without losing any milk.

All High Tech stuff this, until the handle comes off the can and you were in deep deep trouble with the 'Mrs' who didn't appreciate the finer arts!

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FROM CHIPPY TO CHIPS

Very few people in Ratby know that Fish and Chip shop proprietor John Millington is a skilled Cabinet Maker.

Brought up in Nuneaton, John undertook a five year apprenticeship in carpentry and joinery. It was at a regular Saturday night dance at the 'Grand' in Coalville that he met future wife Lynne and his life began to change.

Lynne's parents had always been in the Fish & Chip shop trade, and following this tradition, she and John came to Ratby nineteen years ago to run 'Ratby Fish Bar'.

John still finds time to practice his carpentry skills. Amongst other items he has made a Grandfather clock, bookcases, and a miniature decorative chair.



Ratby Fish Bar

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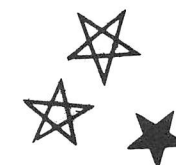


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BOULES AHEAD AT THE BULL'S HEAD!

What is it that attracts 5 million people in France and is about to hit Ratby in the months ahead?.....The answer is "Pétanque", more popularly known as "Boules" (pronounced 'boole'), the French national pastime: a game played on a fairly level patch of ground, gravel, dirt or grass, anywhere convenient from the village square to in front of the Eiffel Tower. It is played by young and old alike, friendly matches, family matches, leagues and national competitions. The odd bump in the ground only adds to the interest and excitement. Rumour has it that the Bull's Head may be providing a Boules square for us all to enjoy in the summer evenings, so what do we need and how do we play this captivating, all-embracing game?

Sets of boules are available from sports, toy and duty-free shops in plastic, wood or metal. The latter are used by the 'experts' and indeed, plastic and wooden boules are rarely seen in France these days, but they are useful on beaches and when playing with young children. A set can be purchased in a pair, with a jack ("but" or cochonet), or in sets of four, six or eight, and the metal ones will last a life-time.

RULES

1. Two teams composed of one to four players each.

1 against 1 (tête à tête) 4 boules each
2 against 2 (doublette) 3 boules each
3 against 3 (triplette) 2 boules each
4 against 4 (quadrette) 2 boules each

2. Toss to decide the starting team.

3. One member from the starting team is designated "leader" and traces a circle on the ground 30-50 centimetres maximum. It is in this circle that each player will place both feet and from where he will throw his boules.

4. From the circle the leader throws the jack between 6 and 10 metres away and then with a measured underarm throw tries to land a boule as close to the jack as possible.

5. A member of the opposing team then places himself in the circle and aims one of his boules at the jack, hoping

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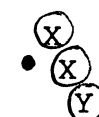
8 Markfield Road
Ratby, Leicester
LE6 0LP

Tel. Leicester 392464

6. From then on, it is a member of which-ever team is NOT closest to the jack who throws.
7. An opponent's boule or the jack may be dislodged quite 'legally' as long as the jack remains visible from the circle (unless hidden behind a boule).
8. If one team has no boules left, the other team continues.
9. A team gains as many points as it has boules placed close to the jack in front of the 'best' boule from the opposing team.

eg

Team X gains 2 points
Team Y gains 0 points



- 10 To continue, the jack is now thrown by a player from the winning team from the spot where it landed previously. The game continues as before and the winning team is the first one to total 13 Points.

SEE JOHN AT THE BULLS HEAD FOR MORE INFORMATION.

EATING IN RATBY

Real Ale with your lunch at the Railway

There's no hint of British Rail sandwiches at Ratby's Railway Inn.

This traditional pub serves an appetizing selection of lunchtime meals, which we found good value.

The tasty soup, garnished with herbs, and served with a crusty cob was almost a meal in itself at 65p.

We'd recommend both the Gammon and Chips at £1.95, or the Grilled Pork Chop at £1.75. They were attractively presented with salad and minted peas.

The Ploughmans, at £1.35 proved to be a generous portion of crusty bread, salad and cheese.

A cup of piping hot coffee rounded off our meal, but for those who prefer something a little stronger, there's a real treat in store.

In April, Everards Brewery are launching the "Old English Ale Club", and the Railway Inn will be serving a selection of guest beers, including 'Old Hooky', from Hook Norton Brewery in the Cotswolds, a dark traditional brew, with an old ale taste, and 'Farmers Glory' a dark dry hoppy bitter from Wadsworths.

If weather permits, there are plans to hold regular Barbecues in the summer - the first one is scheduled for May Day.

So make if full steam ahead to the Railway Inn if you want a good meal and a real ale!!

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TEST PAPER I GAMES AND AMUSEMENTS

QUESTION A

Name 5 games or amusements you would NOT expect to find in a traditional English Local.

ANSWERS

- I AMERICAN POOL TABLE ✓
- II JUKE BOX ✓
- III SPACE INVADERS ✓
- IV VIDEO SCREENS ✓
- V DISCO ✓

QUESTION B

Name 6 games or Amusements you WOULD expect to find in a good traditional local.

ANSWERS

- I DARTS ✓
- II SHOVE HA'PENNY ✓
- III DOMINOES ✓
- IV CRIB ✓
- V CHESS ✓
- VI DEVIL AMONGST THE TAILORS ✓

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