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About Ratby

APRIL 1993

PUBLISHED BY RATBY SCOUT GROUP

ISSUE 39

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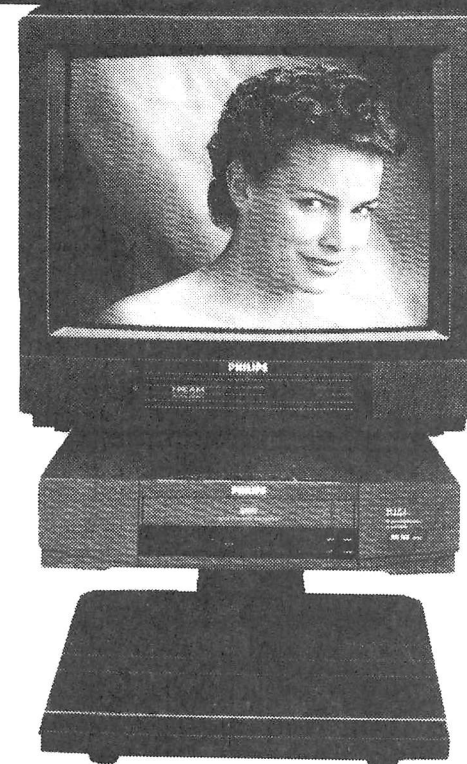
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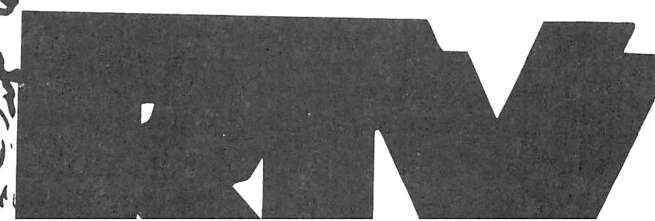
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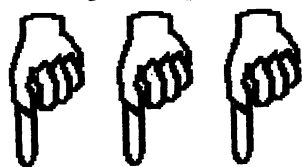
**27 STATION ROAD,
RATBY.**

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304544

1st Ratby Scouts visit to BBC Radio Leicester

After many years of trying, the lads finally got the chance to visit Radio Leicester at the end of January. They were greeted by Hisam Mukaddam, a familiar Ratby face, who guided them around the station, starting with a friendly talk, then a tour around the station in two groups. They were shown the studios, live in action, the newsroom where they met the familiar voices of Ian Pannell who explained what "Night Duty" entailed, and Herdle White, the stations veteran broadcaster. The boys were then shown the record library where they instantly began looking for their favorite artists works and met Sujata Barot, star of the Asian network and Radio 2. Some members of the first group got the chance to experience reading the news (off air of course), where as the second group went live with John Sincliar's "Friday FM" and Dennis Brooks made his broadcasting debut with the words "Good Evening, My name is Dennis Brooks and I am the Assistant Scout Leader for the Ratby Scouts." This was followed by an almighty roar from the 12 lads and quick exit to a record by John. A great time was had by all as the night finished with David Tunnicliffe, thanking on behalf of the troop, Hisam and Programme Organizer Leo Divine who made the visit possible, for making it a trip to remember.



RADIO LEICESTER LOOKS FOR LOCAL CRAFTSPEOPLE

Radio Leicester, Britain's first local radio station, is planning to become the first station in the country to sell a range of environmentally-friendly merchandise. The station is now looking for local craftspeople who could supply items which could be used as station souvenirs and which can be made from recycled materials such as wood, glass and fabric.

'Leicester is Britain's first environment city, so I think we should all be doing our best to promote green ideas,' says Radio Leicester's Publicity Officer STEPHEN BUTT.

The station is already considering a range of products made from recycled wood and cotton but would like to hear from any individual or company with a new idea for environmentally-friendly merchandise.

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Ratby Village Society

Programme of Events

All meetings take place at the Welfare Hall, Main Street, Ratby at 8.0 p.m. unless otherwise noted. The meetings are usually on the third Tuesday, monthly.

The Committee reserves the right to alter or cancel any item should circumstances dictate.

Please advise your friends of our activities and encourage them to join us.

April 20th 'Northumbria'
An illustrated talk by Mr Fred Harding

September 21st 'Hedgerow Heritage and Harvest'
An illustrated talk by Miss Jan Dawson

May 16th SUNDAY An afternoon visit to the Snibston Discovery Park. Details to be announced later.

October 19th 'South America'
An illustrated talk by Mr Paul Griffin

June 15th A local Treasure Hunt devised by Mr David Hulme. Details to be announced later

November 16th 'The History of Magic'
A talk and demonstration by Mr Raymond Cross (Mr Magic)

July No meeting

December No meeting

August 17th 'U.S.A. National Parks'
An illustrated talk by Mr Ron Foster

January 18th 1994 'Water Water Everywhere'
An illustrated talk by Mr Horace Gamble

Counting the Cost

The by-election to fill the two vacancies on the Parish Council took place on 10th December 1992.

This election was requested by a resident (supported by the required number of electors). Had no such request been received by the Borough Council, the Parish Council would have been given the powers to co-opt two people to fill the vacancies.

By-elections' costs are charged to the Parish whereas the full elections held every fourth year are not.

Approximately 240 electors cast their votes for any two from the four candidates. This represented about 8% of those entitled to vote.

The invoice for the costs of the by-election has been received amounting to £943.74.

This represents a charge of almost £4 for each of the electors who voted.

I am sure that many residents will be dismayed at this cost (which must be paid through the Council Tax) and feel that the amount would have been better spent on improving village facilities or reducing the Council Tax levy!

Should vacancies occur in the future the costs involved in demanding an election should be considered. Would it not be better to allow the Parish Council to co-opt? After all they have been elected to represent you in Parish matters and would have been free of charge.

I congratulate Mr John Hopwood and Mr Andrew Jones on being elected and welcome them as Parish Councillors.

Charles Rogers
Chairman
Ratby Parish Council

L

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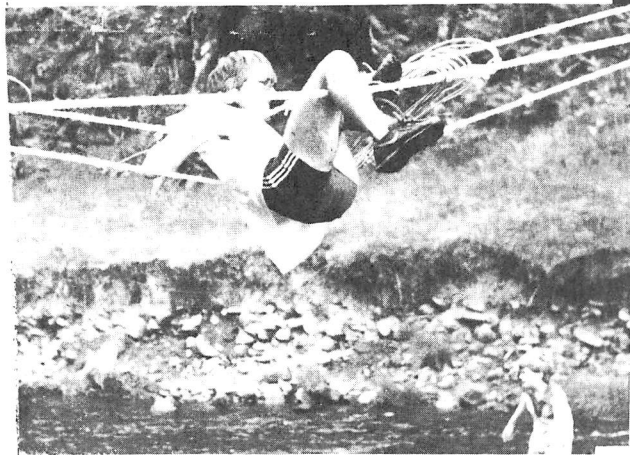
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**CHURCH
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8:15 p.m.
MAY 20th.**

**1st
RATBY
SCOUTS**

**Annual
General
Meeting**



**ALL
WELCOME**

About the Morris & Leicester Morrismen

The Morris is an ancient English Male ritual dance which has always been associated with the changing of the seasons. Nowadays the Morris is danced all year round, but in the old days the dance had its proper time in the calendar and was an important element in celebrating the cycle of the year. Leicester Morrismen hope they are still doing their bit to make sure the sun shines when it's meant to! There are several quite distinct types of Morris - varying according to which part of the country they come from originally. What most people think of as Morris Dancing, with white clothes, hankies and bells, and a background of village greens, is known as Cotswold Morris: this is what Leicester Morrismen dance in the Summer and on Boxing Day. In the Winter, however, Leicester Morrismen put on feathered top hats and heavy rag coats, and smear their faces with raddle (the stuff that marks where the ram has been!) to dance the Border Morris from the Welsh/Herefordshire area - a totally different style.

Leicester Morrismen have been dancing for forty years, and thoroughly enjoy keeping alive a tradition whose origins are lost in the mists of time. There are written references to the Morris in this area as far back as the 16th century and we are proud to continue it today.



A couple of dates you may wish to note:

Saturday 1st May (Cotswold Morris)
7.00 a.m. Bradgate Park - Old John

Wednesday 16th June (Cotswold Morris)
8.30 p.m. Glenfield - The Nag's Head
9.15 p.m. Ratby - The Railway

Sunday 26th December (Cotswold Morris)
12.00 Noon Swithland - The Griffin Inn

We look forward to seeing you there.

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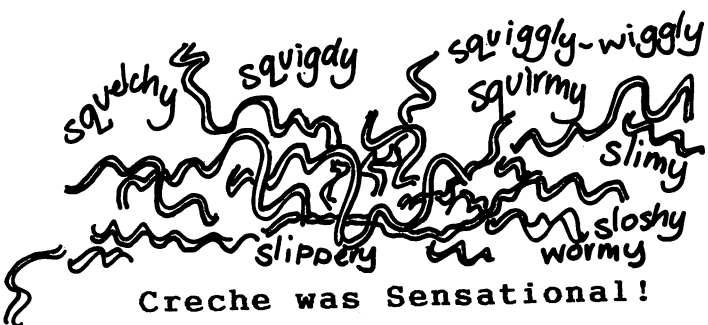
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The special play activities organised for under-fives at Groby Community College Creche really were a sense-ation! Children enjoyed feeling and 'squeezing' the squidgy cooked spaghetti they could finger and hand paint, and play with the more traditional sand and water. There was an opportunity to decorate old shoes with sequins, paint and shiny paper. Lots of things you are not usually allowed to do at home!

Whilst they were enjoying the activities there were also learning new words for the 'feel' of things, the chance to play together and also to develop their imagination and creativity!

The Creche staff deserve a special thankyou for setting this up and let's hope there will be a repeat session soon! (For Mums and Dads too!!).

1st RATBY SWALLOW CUB PACK

The Swallow Cub Pack would like to thank P.C. Brian Moore who visited them and spoke on the various roles of Police Work.



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Shakespeare Project

Our local schools have all been involved in this project. The emphasis right from the beginning was on the provision of new and exciting experiences for the young people. Teachers, students, Shakespearean actors and advisors all worked together to prove that Shakespeare is accessible to all ages.

Children from Mrs Joyce's class at Ratby Primary school enjoyed their involvement with the play "King Lear", and the story widened their experience of life in general, through discussion on family situations, and the 'frailties' of human nature. An explanation of their work, and display of art and written work was on show with that of other schools in Brookvale School Library from 9th-12th March.

During that week there was a range of performances from different schools at Groby College. Pupils from Brookvale School contributed a musical composition which represented the opening scheme from "The Tempest", and the newly formed Brookvale Crumhorn Quartet played a selection of Tudor period music.

Students from Groby College created a performance using music, dance and drama to encapsulate the tragedy of King Lear.

The project has been evaluated by Leicestershire Drama and Dance Advisory Service and De Montfort University through interviews with teachers and students and classroom observation.

A report on the entire project and its evaluation will be published, and thus provide a national documentation of an effective introduction to the teaching of Shakespeare.

The climax of the Festival was Keystage Theatre's production of "Macbeth", a shortened version which they have taken to Primary Schools. An enjoyable evening and a perfect ending to this imaginative venture.

LEICESTER INTERVARSITY CLUB

A friendly, informal club aimed at young professionals.

Enqs: Simon on 0533-355536
or Alison on 0530-834797

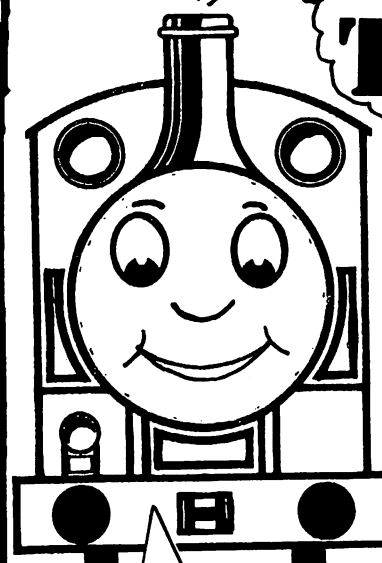
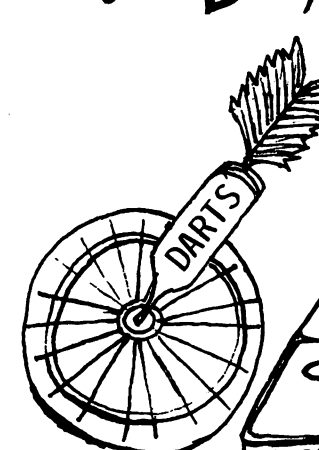


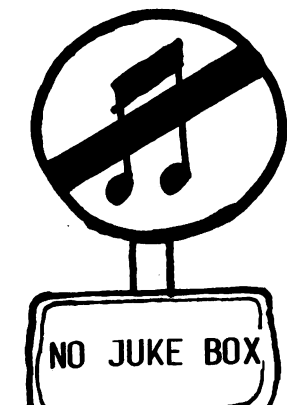
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WHERE IS THIS COTTAGE NOW?

To give you a clue the, present owner paid £750 for it at an auction in 1950!
Story next issue.



If any one is thinking of writing in saying that the cottage is 'still where it has always been' then you're too late. We thought of that answer first!

KEYNAS AND CHIV IN THE MAJESTIC

Visiting the County Record office in Wigston, I came across a reference to the Ratby Majestic cinema, and couldn't resist an investigation. The 'Majestic' was recalled in a book called "Seeing in the Dark", a collection of short reminiscences about cinema-going, by Paul Hammond and Ian Breakwell. And the recollection of his cinema days was by none other than Chris Garrett, son of the late well-known Charlie Garrett.

He remembers how the front seats were the province of "the yelling gangs of adolescents", and particularly of two notorious characters "Keynas and Chiv". Apparently these two were inseparable, always in the cinema, wise-cracking, and often thrown out before the end of the film.

So, where are you now "Keynas and Chiv?" Does anyone know them, we'd like to know! At the end of the film the audience scrambled for the exits "it was half a mile to the chip shop, so you had to get a head start".

Some things have changed we no longer have a cinema, but we do have adolescents in the village!

Do you remember the Morris Family?

Ken and Dorothy and two children who moved to Windsor, Canada in 1967.

Ken and Dorothy have made a good life for themselves in Canada. Ken and a partner started a successful business eight years ago (Windsor Broach & Tool) Dorothy became a highly sought after psychic consultant. Because she was often busy with clients in the evenings, Dorothy coaxed Ken into getting back to his painting to fill the hours, a hobby he gave up thirty years previously.

He found his art helped him escape from the stresses in his life. "I feel like I'm in a time machine when I paint. I can travel through space and time on my paper." He experimented with various media - oils, pastels, ink, pencil - but always returned to watercolour as a means of achieving the soft hues he sought in his work.

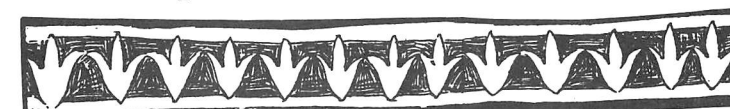
Ken began to exhibit at local shows and sold more than two hundred paintings. His subject matter is primarily landscape, beautiful pastoral settings, exquisitely detailed, reflecting his love of nature. He has also created several gorgeously coloured abstracts, again demonstrating his remarkable ability for detail.

Then tragedy struck when Dorothy was injured in a near-fatal car accident five years ago. It took three years to nurse Dorothy back

to health and Ken's painting was shelved again. Fortunately, Dorothy made a wonderful recovery and Ken is back to painting. The recession has given Ken an opportunity to spend more time with his paints (a mixed blessing indeed!) and he longs for the day when he can "pack it all in and go down to the river and paint all day".

On January 31st 1993, Dorothy Jordan Morris was ordained in "The Chapel of the Inner Light" A Chapel she joined approximately 10 year's ago, where she served as a healer, and medium.

Dorothy's Mother, better known as Agi, lived on Station Road, Ken and Dorothy lived in Park Road.



PUBLICITY LAUNCHED ABOUT COMMUNITY CARE

Elderly and disabled people, and people who care for them can now find out how the new community care reforms introduced on 1st April may affect them.

Leicestershire County Council Social Services Department - jointly with the Family Health Services Authority and Leicestershire Health Authority - has launched a series of leaflets and posters explaining the main changes.

Bearing the distinctive message "April 1st ... It's No Joke!", the leaflets explain the basic principles of community care, the new responsibilities Social Services has for working out people's needs for services, and the local offices to contact for advice.

The leaflets and posters have been sent to Social Services offices, G.P. surgeries, libraries, Citizens Advice Bureaux and main voluntary agencies.

The leaflets are available in Asian languages, Polish and Chinese, and cassette versions in English are also available at Social Services offices.

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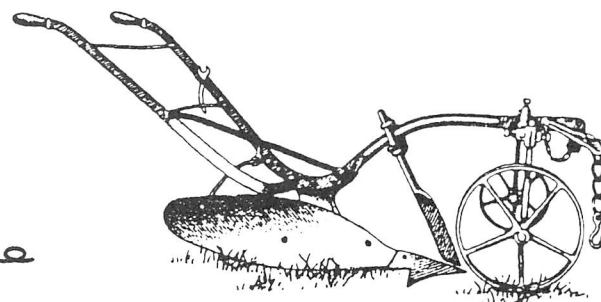


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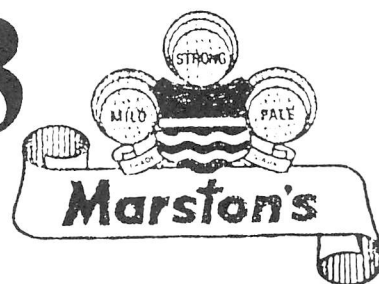
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SWEETS
STILL AS LARGE
AS EVER

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TRY OUR FRENCH
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392103



Janet's
Jottings

for
Spring

Violets, The shy unassuming flowers, have inspired poets, Herbalists and cooks. Fifteenth century vocabulary spells the name as Vyolytte, a diminutive of the Latin Viola.

Amongst many great poets, who were inspired by the violet, was Sir Walter Scott who wrote:

The violet in her green wood bower,
where birchen boughs with Hazels
mingle,
May boast itself the fairest flower
In glen, in copse, or forest dingle

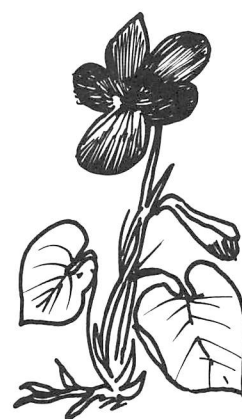
The herbalist, John Gerard, advised that the mind received a special "pleasure and recreation" by just smelling the violet. Culpeper says "Violets are fine, pleasing plants of venus and in no way harmful, they can be used to cool any heat or distemper.

Cooks through the years have candied violets and used them to decorate sweets on very special occasions. Here's how. Very gently bash the flowers holding on to about 1/2" of stem. Drain on kitchen paper. Beat the white of one egg then with a fine paint brush "paint" the beaten egg white all over the flowers, then dust with castor sugar. Lay out to dry on sugared greaseproof paper. Dry in the airing cupboard for 24/36 hours. Store in screw topped jars between layers of greaseproof paper.

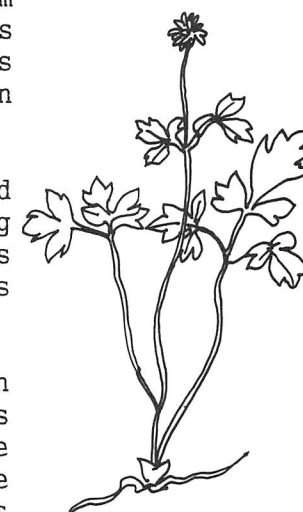
If you look in the 1991 "Flora of the British Isles", produced by Clive Stace from Leicester University, you will find 9 species of Violet listed. Because hybridisation is common between these species it is often difficult to identify them exactly.

The violet produces flowers in spring and also later in the year. The showy spring flowers are usually barren. The later flowers are very inconspicuous and these are the ones that produce the seeds.

Another small plant also flowering in Woodlands and hedges at this time of year is Moschatel. This plant is much less noticeable than the violet because the flowers are greenish and the very pretty 2 trefoil leaves form a greyish green carpet which gets lost amongst the other shapes and shades of the woodland floor. The common name for this plant is Town Hall Clock. The flowers, in tight heads of five, at right angles to each other, are held up above the carpet of leaves.



Viola Odorata.
Sweet Violet



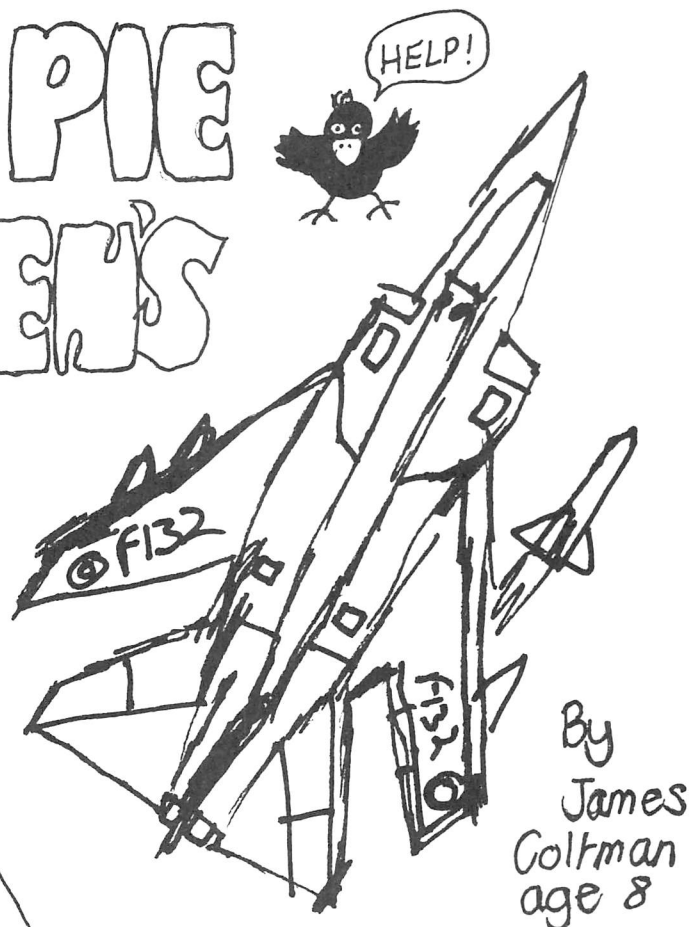
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HAPPY EASTER!

CROW-PIE CHILDREN'S PAGE



Jokes

Did you hear the
joke about the
three eggs?

No? Two bad!
* * *

Why are cooks
bullies?
They whip the cream
and beat the eggs

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Easter
Egg chicks
Hot cross bun

Bunny
Chocolate
Daffodils
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B	U	E	N	I	H	S	N	U	S	E
U	C	H	O	C	O	L	A	T	E	W
N	I	G	B	K	E	A	S	T	E	R
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messages or
poems in the
Wot box in the
library



'Wot!' about this !



Look at this, ex Midland Red Fleet No 6225, a 76 seater. The last double decker bus ordered by this company before nationalisation, the only original DD13 still running, bought by Norman Pearson after son Jeffrey came home and asked him, "if he'd like to buy a bus!"

It entered service in November 1969 at Banbury Garage and worked throughout the system until 1987, when it was to be sold for scrap after covering an estimated 2,000,000 miles, monitored by a hub meter not the normal speedo.

In July 1987 it was purchased for preservation by a father and son team. A major mechanical and electrical overhaul, including a gearbox rebuild was undertaken. Rubbing the body work and chassis down by hand, repainting, 9 coats with a 1½" brush, to its original colour, replacing its transfers, took some three and a half months.

Its first rally was the Vintage one at Abbey Park in May 1988. It is now driven to rallies in the Midlands and the North.

All work, repairs, servicing and cleaning are carried out solely by the father and son team, Norman and Jeffrey Pearson who live in Ratby.

Its next rally and road run will be the Leicester Mercury Vintage Parade at Abbey Park on May 23rd. Go and see it!

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TO SEEK THE PAST


Have you begun to get those family records into some form of order? Well whether you have or haven't you should still read on.

Record keeping is perhaps the most important aspect of family history research. Without a methodical, measured approach to this most fascinating of hobbies a researcher will surely come unstuck. Initially, when one begins to write down the odd gleaned detail or transcription, all may seem quite well. However, do not be deceived, family history is an open ended hobby, within the space of a year it is possible to assemble many hundreds of individual facts about your forbears. It is vital that such information is clearly and unambiguously recorded.

The best means of recording notes is to use loose leaf paper, standard A4 size is perhaps best, each leaf can then be neatly stored in a ring binder. If bound books are used they are quickly filled and it soon becomes difficult to amalgamate information into a logical order.

When making genealogical notes it is wise to record the date on the top of your sheet of paper. Record your own name as the person carrying out the research. Record the place where your research is being carried out, e.g. The Leicestershire County Record Office. Next it is vitally important that you record the nature of the research that you are undertaking. Something along the following lines would suffice:-

Surname researched: Kinton
Source material used: White's Gazetteer and Directory of Leicestershire and Rutland, 1846
Reference: LR0 636/12. Page Nos 585-586
Parish researched: Ratby Village, Parish of Ratby, Co. Leicester
Extent of search: All references to surname recorded



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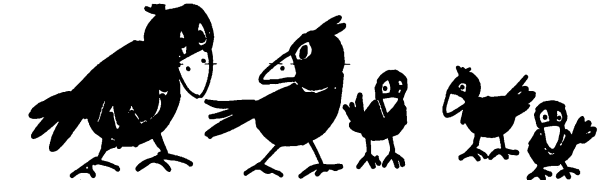
One should then record the detail exactly as it is written, never add your own interpretation to a transcript unless, by the sensible use of brackets, you make a note to the additions which you make to your own text, as follows:-

Ratby (Residents)

Kinton, Wm & Richard, farriers and blacksmiths
Kinton, Richard, shopkeeper
Kinton, Danl. shoemakr. (sic) & parish clerk

NB. detail in brackets () added by researcher

These few simple guidelines will greatly aid you in your research. But what of that research, where does it begin. Well one of the initial steps to be considered might be the purchase of a birth certificate.



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Application Number 9559 A

REGISTRATION DISTRICT <u>Tadcaster</u>									
<u>1856</u> BIRTH in the Sub-district of <u>Bilton</u> in the County of <u>York</u>									
No.	When and where born	Name, if any	Sex	Name, and surname of father	Name, surname, and maiden surname of mother	Occupation of father	Signature, description and residence of informant	When registered	Name entered after registration
470	<u>Twentythird May 1856</u> <u>Whitby</u>	<u>Thomas Boy</u>	<u>Henry</u>	<u>Ann Hewick</u>	<u>Ann Hewick</u>	<u>formerly</u> <u>labourer</u> <u>Kendall</u>	<u>Agnes</u> <u>hal</u> <u>Father</u> <u>Whitby</u>	<u>The mark of</u> <u>Henry Hewick</u>	<u>Third George</u> <u>June Cowburn</u> <u>Deputy</u> <u>1856 Registrar</u>

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of Births in the District above mentioned.
Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, LONDON, under the Seal of the said Office the 15th day of September 1982.

This certificate is issued in pursuance of the Births and Deaths Registration Act 1953.
Section 34 provides that any certified copy of an entry purporting to be sealed or stamped with the seal of the General Register Office shall be received as evidence of the birth or death to which it relates without any further or other proof of the entry, and no certified copy purporting to have been given in the said Office shall be of any force or effect unless it is sealed or stamped as aforesaid.
CAUTION:—Any person who (1) falsifies any of the particulars on this certificate, or (2) uses a falsified certificate, as true, knowing it to be false, is liable to prosecution.

BCA 049412

The registration of births, marriages and deaths by the state was begun in England and Wales in the year 1837. In order to effectively record the changes in population the country was divided up into registration districts, these were based on Poor Law Union districts; Ratby came under the Market Bosworth Union.

Records in registration districts were kept by registrars, whilst copies of records were submitted to the General Registry Office in London. To this day the London office, St Catherine's House, has available for consultation indexes of all civil registration records from 1836 to the present. These can be consulted freely. However, a trip to London can be both inconvenient and expensive. So it is of good fortune that many other groups now possess copies of these indexes in the form of microfiche cards and microfilm. The Church of Jesus Christ or Latter-day Saints, whose members have a great interest in genealogy, have branch libraries throughout the country which house many of these types of records. The Leicestershire and Rutland Family History Society also holds copies of births' indexes for the years 1837-1900, inclusive.

A birth certificate, of course, will give not only a person's date of birth, but it will also reveal details of parentage. The names of the mother, including her maiden name are recorded; as are the father's name and occupation. The place of birth is also given. All of these details enable the quest for ancestry to move a step closer.

The complexities of all types of certificate will be covered in the next edition of 'Wot!'. However, for those who would like to find out more not only about the indexes held by the county family history society, but also its activities in general, a stamped addressed envelope, together with a request for a society fact sheet, should be sent to:-

Mr and Mrs M T Billings
33 Garland Crescent, Leicester

Mark

Questions for Mark can be sent to 35 Danehill or telephone Martin on Leicester 395179.

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Letters

Dear Editor

Amid all the doom and despondency of seeing trees coming down and hedges being torn up to make way for several more miles of solid concrete dual carriageway across beautiful green fields there is one ray of brightness in the gloom. A recent item in the Leicester Mercury reports the welcome decision by the County Council to designate the trackbed of the former railway line between Glenfield and Ratby as an official bridleway, to be marked as such on the definitive map of footpaths.

Three years ago in an issue of WOT a poem was published (I can't remember who wrote it. An up and coming young author, no doubt) which suggested that if the footpath ever became a reality it might be called Stephenson's Way, or even Comet Trail. Comet being the name of the first locomotive to leave West Bridge, Leicester, for Bagworth on 17th July 1832, and built by Robert Stephenson who has also engineered the Leicester and Swannington Railway. The last locomotive to run on the line, before closure in 1966, was 78028 built by British Railways which, although passenger services had been discontinued in September 1928, hauled a Leicester Railway Society rail-tour special, consisting of six goods brake vans, through Ratby on the afternoon of 7th November 1964. I enclose a photograph taken from the leading 'van shortly after leaving Ratby along what will soon become a public right of way and which one hopes might, after all, be known as Stephenson's Way.

Yours faithfully

Horace Gamble

Editorial Comment

Someone has a good memory, our computerised retrieval system (courtesy of UNISYS) tells us that the poem was in the December 1989 issue by someone with the initials of H.A.G!



A view of 78028 between Ratby and Glenfield on Saturday 7th November 1964. The driver is George Belcher



Leicestershire Constabulary
HEADQUARTERS,
P.O. BOX 999,
LEICESTER. LE99 1AZ

Dear Sir,
I have today read the article in the newsletter Wot! about Ratby. It was very nice of you to write in such terms and also nice to think that PC Moores actions have been appreciated. I hope that the rapport built up between PC Moore and the residents of Ratby will continue to flourish. Yours Faithfully,
G A Gibson
A/Superintendent.

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GAS COOKERS: SECONDHAND MAY MEAN SECONDRATE



The results of a recent survey to check the safety of secondhand gas cookers show that people buying them from generalist secondhand shops are at risk. Customers are also getting poor value for money - the cookers often fail to perform basic functions efficiently or at all.

The survey was carried out by the five County Council Trading Standards Departments in the East Midlands. As a joint exercise nineteen gas cookers were bought from generalist secondhand shops at prices ranging from £20 to £120. Each cooker was then tested by an independent consultant gas engineer.

None of the cookers fully complied with the relevant safety regulations, eight were generally unsafe, three had gas leaks and

none had the required written instructions for safe installation and use.

The survey suggests that generalist secondhand dealers lack the knowledge, facilities and skills needed to ensure that all cookers they offer for sale meet the relevant safety standards. The offending dealers will be cautioned or prosecuted by their local Trading Standards Departments as appropriate.

Meantime the message to consumers is:

- Only buy from a dealer that can satisfy you that the cooker has been tested and is safe.
- Insist that you get written instructions on the safe use of the cookers.
- Only use a CORGI registered fitter to install the cooker.

P.C. Moore - Best Beat
Bobby!

1st. Ratby Scout Group

CONCERT

APRIL

29th & 30th

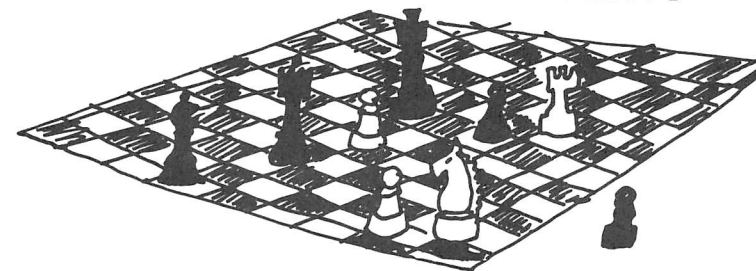
CHAPEL ROOMS

7.30pm

ADMISSION £1.00 per adult



1st RATBY SWALLOW CUB PACK DISTRICT CHESS & DRAUGHTS



Saturday 6.2.93

86th HQ Buckminster Road

This year the competition was run under new rules and was the better for it.

The team members were:-

Ibrahim Mukaddam	U11's	Draughts
Andrew Norton	U10's	"
Steven Chevin	U9's	"
Anthony Woodward	U10's	Chess

Leaders in support were:-

Mrs Lesley Chevin
Mr David Hardy

The level of competition was of a very high standard. Our team played well but the day did not go too well for Ratby

I would like to encourage the Cubs to try again next year. As they say, nothing ventured, nothing gained.

Well done everyone.

Brain Cross (Akela)

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ALL LEVELS OF FITNESS WELCOME

1st RATBY SWALLOW CUB PACK DISTRICT SWIMMING GALA

On the 28th November 1992 I and my fellow leaders were pleased to take our team along to compete in the gala. As the statistics will show, this was one of the strongest teams we have ever entered. The team consisted of:-

NAME	AGE	STYLE	POSITION
Steven Chevin	U9's	Breast Stroke	3rd
Anthony Woodward	U10's	" "	4th
David Chevin	U11's	" "	2nd
Steven Chevin	U9's	Free Style	2nd
Anthony Woodward	U10's	" "	5th
David Chevin	U11's	" "	2nd
David Cross	U11's	In Kit	2nd
Steven Chevin	U10's Relay		4th
Daniel Ward			
Stuart Foxon			
David Root			

David Cross	U11's Relay	2nd
Anthony Woodward		
Tom Simmonds		
David Chevin		

The competition was held at Cossington Street baths. 11 Cub packs from the district entered. 1st RATBY SWALLOWS were MAGNIFICENT! Well done lads.

Leaders in support:- Mrs Lesley Chevin
Mr David Smith
Mr David Hardy

We were also pleased to see some mums and dads, brothers and sisters cheering the team on.

Brian Cross (Akela)

Ratby Fish Bar

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION REVIEWS LEICESTERSHIRE

The Local Government Commission, the independent body charged with reviewing the future structure of local government in England, will arrive in Leicestershire on 10th May, 1993.

After 10th May and until 25th July the Commissioners will widely announce the review and invite submissions on proposed structures from the various councils currently providing services to the people of Leicestershire.

- November recommendations for the future structure of local government will be drafted by the Commission.
- 8th November 1993 to 9th January 1994 will be spent seeking the views of local people, organisations and interest groups.
- In 1996 the new local government structure will take effect.

VENUES AND DATES FOR LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S CONSULTATION MEETINGS

Hinckley and Bosworth
John Cleveland College
Butt Lane, Hinckley
Wednesday 31st March
Market Bosworth High School
and Community College
Station Road
Wednesday 21st April
Both meetings start at 7.30pm.

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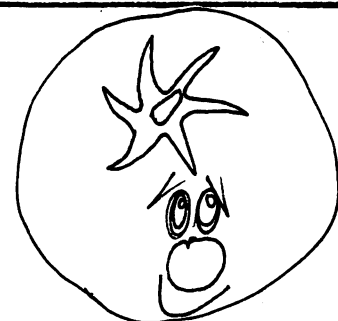
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Comic Relief in Ratby

Ratby Primary School

Several children raised money by attempting to eat red jelly with chopsticks in Assembly!

Yvonne Pyggott, the School Crossing Warden collected money as she crossed children to school, and then toured the village to add to the grand total. Over £100 was raised!

Brookvale High School

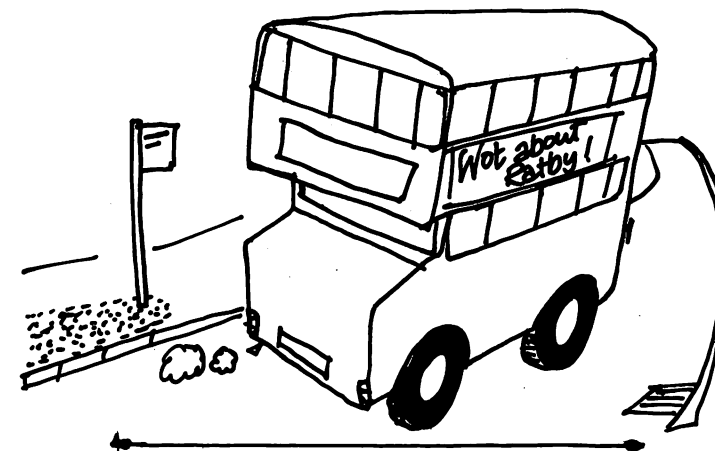
Design teacher Mr John Smith was sponsored to have his beard shaved by First Years. Other students bought tickets to watch this performance! The 'barbers' had won the privilege in a raffle!

BUSES ON DANEHILL

During the road works in the village, buses were diverted along Danehill. Many passengers found this service helpful, particularly the older residents. For estate dwellers there were less hills to struggle up with heavy bags of shopping. Several residents have written to Leicester City Bus or Midland Fox, asking if an occasional service could be provided.

Apparently Midland Fox are looking at the possibility of a Fox Cub service, but they are aware of the views of some Danehill residents! Once again, Wot would like to hear your views. Would you welcome a limited service on this route? Perhaps buses could avoid busy school times to avoid danger to children? Do you live on or near Danehill? What do you think?

Why not write to the bus company and tell them your opinion. Individual letters do carry some weight, whereas petitions are not usually so successful.



RATBY PARISH CHURCH ROOMS RE-ROOFING FUND

The quiz announced in the last issue of "WOT" to raise funds in connection with the above was won by a Mr Alan Sims of Ingle Drive with a 98% score.

The prize was presented to him by the Rector the Rev. Peter Blackman at the Barn Dance on Sat 27th March which was also held in aid of the re-roofing fund.

The quiz raised some £180 and the Church Council wishes to express thanks to all the participants, together with the organisers and distributors.

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COTTAGE LOAVES
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BUN LOAVES
FUDGE
MALT BREAD
WHITE & BROWN COBS and ROLLS & 'TWINNIES'

FILLED COBS

Ratby Parish Council

Public Meeting

This meeting was held in the Welfare Hall on Tuesday 9th March. Parish Councillors gave short reports on topics such as, Ratby past and present, housing, leisure, shopping and traffic.

Members of the public were invited to pose questions or put forward their own views. Over 30 villagers attended the meeting, and questions were mainly points of clarification.

The Parish Council hopes that all villagers will express their opinions to the Council, so that we can then represent the majority view when future plans are discussed.

There was a feeling from some members of the public that response was easier when an actual plan is on the table for discussion. However, it is the view of the Parish Council that the village itself should have a clearly stated view of its own future development. "Our own Ratby plan" - other proposals can then be evaluated with reference to this plan.

It is not too late to put pen to paper and let the Parish Council know what you think.

Council for Voluntary Service

Mrs Judy Handford of the Hinckley and Bosworth C.V.S. attended the Public Meeting and gave a talk on how the organisation can help and support local voluntary groups. The C.V.S. can help organisations to draw up contributions and apply for charitable status. They also have equipment such

as notice boards, a laminating machine for identity cards and other items for more practical help.

If you are interested in helping CVSperhaps with the 'Dial-a-Ride' Community Transport service, or Carers Support Scheme to help carers of terminally ill people, or your group needs help or advice, contact the CVS on 0455 633002.

Write to CVS at Regent House
16B Rugby Road
Hinckley
Leicester LE10 0QD

for more information

Traffic

A second traffic count was undertaken at Danehill on Friday February 12th between 7.30 and 9 a.m.

The total number of vehicles was 236 less than the total number in survey one, in December. There were 237 fewer cars coming through Ratby.

Perhaps the diversions (and delays?) discouraged drivers from coming through Ratby whilst the road works were in progress.

The main road through Ratby is open now, and traffic appears to be back to normal on Danehill. A further traffic count will be taken on Friday April 2nd to give an accurate picture of traffic flow, and enable the Parish Council to find out whether some drivers are continuing to use Danehill as a 'rat-run'.

Police

Ratby has the lowest incidence of crime in the Beaumont Division. The Parish Council view is that this is due in part to the efforts of P.C. Moore, and he was thanked for his hard work.

Annual Parish Meeting

This will be held on Tuesday 27th April in the Welfare Hall. Come along and hear the Chairman's report for the last year, and take the opportunity to express your views about the village, or put forward your own ideas or suggestions.

Traffic



One last glimpse of Station Road as it used to be.

Photo by Sylvia Grant.

The road works are finished and Station Road is open once again. There are mixed views about the 'improvements'. Some have said "it's much better no more dangerous parking", others feel that it has been turned into a race track, and have observed that traffic is travelling much faster through this part of the village now. There are still regrets about the lost cedar tree one person wondered why it couldn't have been left to grow in the pavement. Perhaps the new Co-op lay-by will discourage drivers from blocking the adjacent access road. Time will tell whether we have sacrificed the "rural" feel of this location for any real benefits.

Traffic Calming

If it is true that the road widening has speeded up traffic, then it is ironic, since many villagers have been calling for traffic calming measures elsewhere. The Parish Council have been informed that there is presently no chance of getting traffic calming measures on Ferndale Drive, as the road does not meet any of the County Council criteria. To qualify for the limited funds available, a scheme would need to

fulfil a considerable list of requirements. There have been no pedestrian or cyclist casualties on Ferndale Drive, property does not directly front the road, and traffic levels are not sufficiently high.

Changes

The A46 Leicester Western By Pass is well-under way. Ratby has been surrounded by scenes of devastation - monster machines tearing up trees which are then burned, leaving a barren wasteland. But worse to come will be the increased traffic noise and fumes, and the anticipated pressure for development at the new junction.

Blaby District Council have already ear-marked land at the top of Blood Hill (formerly the Louella Stud) for industrial development.

Less traffic is predicted through Ratby once the By Pass is open. But we shouldn't forget that this 'less' means less than the 'predicted future traffic levels', so we may not notice any real benefits.

Once again, only time will tell.

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To boldly go

One Friday morning, in search of a little excitement and a good story, I ventured over the border into Groby, to the Community Room at Groby College to be exact. There, every week, the Friday Morning club meet. Why would I expect to find a good story there you might ask. Well, having been, I suspect there are many fascinating tales to be found within this group, but that is another story.

I had heard on the grapevine that they had a guest speaker whom, by coincidence, I had read about in the Leicester Mercury that very week and the subjects that she specialised in appealed to my curiosity. The lady's name - Taronia.

Before I tell you about her, however, I will let a secret or two out of the bag. The Friday Morning Club at this time consists only of ladies. I believe that I am the only male ever to turn up. I arrived at the last minute intending to sneak in at the back but the meeting had not quite started.

I paid my £1, received a cloakroom ticket, and sat down quietly on the back row. "Look, a man", said one lady to two others. "What shall we do with him?", I heard. Perhaps it is best if I leave you to wonder about what followed. Any way they might be your wives!

Taronia talked about experiences in taking people back to their previous lives using regression. The stories told were impressive and there certainly, it would seem, exists a large amount of evidence that justifies each one of us considering the theory of reincarnation and the possibility of past life regression. She also touched on a number of other subjects of a psychic nature, including assistance given in the investigation of crime, before coming to what I am sure all present considered the highlight of the talk; a demonstration of Clairvoyance. A number of volunteers received "mini readings" which were initiated by the choice of three Tarot cards. Whether you believe this is possible or not,

I must say that it was very difficult to argue with the level of accuracy that was, according to the recipients, achieved. Not surprisingly, all were not convinced.

What did impress me was the way people mixed afterwards over coffee and discussed the subject, no matter how far apart they were in their beliefs.

I have deliberately not gone into specific detail because the only way to really enjoy a talk like this is to be there. The forthcoming subjects cover a very wide spectrum and I am sure provide something for everyone.

When the coffee was finished I found out why I had been clutching the cloakroom ticket. It was for a prize draw. Being something of a novelty I was asked to make the draw. First prize was a chocolate orange. I fancied that. The second and third tickets drawn were for something Taronia could not have foreseen: the honour of washing up and drying up. I didn't win. Phew!

For those still wondering what happened to me, I suppose that I had better come clean and tell you what these women did. They made me feel at home and very welcome. The comments were certainly made, but any more would be wishful thinking. Well I can dream can't I?

Seriously, if you are free on a Friday morning, male or female, if you make the effort to go I am sure you will be glad you did.

Time: Friday 9.45 a.m.

For details contact: Lynn Davidson
Telephone: L. 314253

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BRAIN TEASERS

Why not test yourself against the family before you look at the answers. Ten minutes should be plenty but make the time limit longer if you need it.

1. How far can a dog run into a forest?
2. Why can't a man living in Oxford be buried west of Ipswich?
3. If you had only one match left in the box and entered a room in which there was a paraffin lamp, a gas ring and a fuel stove, what would you light first?
4. Some months have 31 days, some 30. How many months have 28 days?
5. If the doctor gave you three pills and told you to take one every half-hour, how long would they last?
6. A man has a house with four sides to it and it is rectangular in shape. Each side has a southerly aspect. A big bear comes wandering by. What colour is the bear?
7. I have in my hand two coins totalling 15p. One is NOT a 5p piece. Please remember that. What are they?
8. Divide 30 by $\frac{1}{2}$ and add 10. What is the answer?
9. An archaeologist claims he found two coins with the date 46 BC on them. Could they be genuine?
10. A woman gives a beggar 20p. The woman is the beggar's sister, but the beggar is not the woman's brother. How is this?
11. How many animals of each species did Moses take aboard the Ark?
12. Is it legal in Britain for a man to marry his widow's sister?
13. Some ducks are swimming in a line. There is a duck in front of two ducks, a duck behind two ducks, and a duck between two ducks. How many ducks are there in total?
14. If three cats kill three rats in three minutes, how long will it take 100 cats to kill 100 rats?
15. The number of eggs in a basket double every minute. The basket is full of eggs after 60 minutes. When was it half full?
16. Two fathers and two sons each shot a duck. None of them shot the same duck. Only three ducks were shot. Why is this?

40th Edition

The next edition of Wot! will be the 40th. Can you help us to make it a really special one by sending in any interesting stories or other contributions to 35 Danehill or telephone Martin on Leicester 395179 or Sue on Leicester 394873

I think they're all too easy!

Answers on page 26 →



YOUTH WORK IN RATBY SPRING 1993

My name is Katy Wright. I used to teach Art and Design at Groby Community College, and have since spent two years as a Youth worker.

I've been employed temporarily by the Youth Tutor at the College, to do some work in Ratby. This is a research project, to find out how young people spend their time, and what they think they need from the youth service.

I also want to find out what other things go on in Ratby, and how young people over 14 years might be involved.

I will be talking to people in the village and asking as many young people as possible to do a questionnaire and interview. Hopefully the report will be a clear picture of young peoples situation. Recommendations could be made - what provision would be suitable, and what might be possible.

Whilst I'm doing the research, a youthworker is available! We hope to go on a couple of day trips, as well as discuss what affects young people in Ratby.

If you want to know more, or take part in any way, please contact me

c/o Jan Bartholomew
Youth Tutor
Groby Community College
Ratby Road

Tel: 0533 879921

I am there Tuesday afternoons, and around the village Wednesday and Thursday evenings.
Hope to see you!

1. To the centre. After that it would be coming out.
2. He is still alive
3. The match
4. All twelve
5. 1 hour. One now, one in ½ hour and the last after 1 hour.
6. White. To have all sides facing south he must be on the North Pole!
7. One 10p and one 5p. One was not a 5p but the other one was!
8. 70:- 30 ÷ ½ = 60, 60 + 10 = 70
9. No. They would not have known Christ was to be born in 46 years time.

10. The beggar is the woman's sister, i.e. they are both women.
11. None. He let Noah do it.
12. No. He has already died.
13. Three - in front of 2 ducks
- between 2 ducks
- behind 2 ducks
14. 3 minutes. 1 per cat per 3 minutes.
15. After 59 minutes.
16. There were 3 people not 4. A son, his father and grandfather (i.e. his father is also the son of the grandfather).

Brain Teaser Answers



Congratulations to everyone involved for an original and inspiring production!

Suddenly it was over, to tumultuous applause!

The finale, performed by Mrs Joyce's class, was a Caribbean Carnival, a riot of colour and sound, with party poppers, balloons and whistles.

Then followed scenes showing stories from different cultures, starting with the Chinese Dragon. There were tales from Nigerian culture, Native American and Japanese.

took part in this scene. Some children came on with black sheets to show the darkness at the earth's beginning. Children in costume used materials to show the creation of night and day, the sea and land, the trees, the sun and moon and birds, beasts and fishes.

The next scene was introduced again as a homework task and followed a suggestion to explore the Bible Story. The whole of Miss Anness' class

One of the link children came back on stage and asked their "Mum" for advice about 'The Seasons'. She suggested the story of 'Persephone' as told by the Greeks. This myth was then acted out.

Then followed children dancing with streamers to depict the scientific view of the earth's creation - the swirling gases.

The Theme of the production was 'Our Earth'. Some children began the performance with a discussion about their homework topic - "Our Earth". These children acted as a link between the different scenes.

Children from classes 5A and 5J at Ratby Primary School gave a wonderful performance on Tuesday March 23rd.

The Secrets of the Earth's Creation Revealed



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