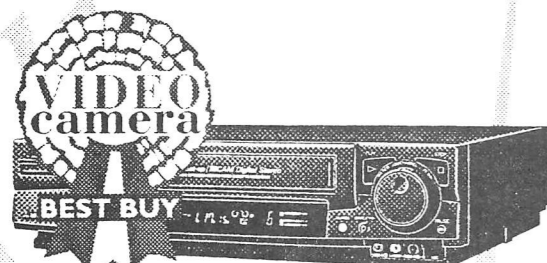


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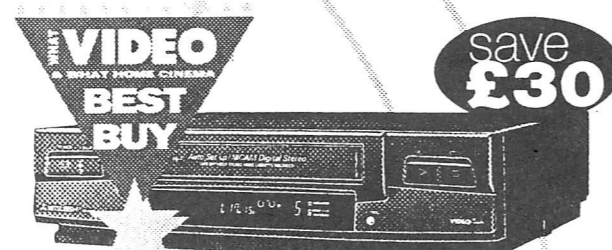
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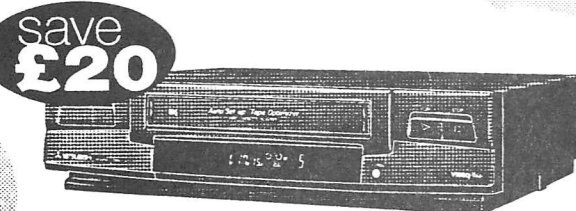
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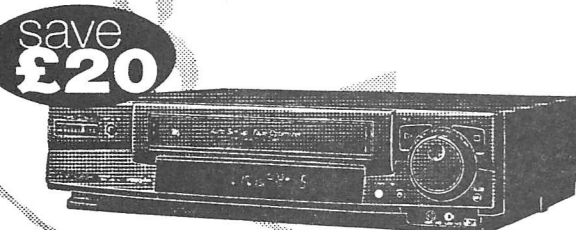
Clocks go forward for British summer time at 1.00am
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WOODLAND TRUST!!
 OLD HAYS SAVED!



Wot! **About Ratby**

PUBLISHED BY THE RATBY SCOUT GROUP

Woodland
 Trust
 News

page 6

ISSUE 51 APRIL 1995

V.E. DAY PARTY



V.E. Day Party for the children of Station Road

Ratby Athletic Football Club

I was told you wanted news of days gone, so I thought a little about our old football team 'Ratby Athletic' might fit the bill. Not sure where the 'Athletic' came from on reflection, seeing as the only training was a 20-30 minute side mêlée on the old Burroughs Road recreation ground.. No serious training in those old 1950 days!

Our strip was red shirt, white shorts and red and white socks. The sponsor of the club in the first instance was Mr Frazer Brooks of Holywell Farm. He also provided our 'pitch', a field down near the farm - much to the disgust of visiting teams. Our visitors changing room was in The Methodist Chapel, so you see they had about a mile walk. That should have been to our advantage, but we didn't always take it.

I didn't really get involved with the team until after my National Service. I had some enjoyable times playing for Ratby, one or two memorable ones I'll just relate.

One match, on cycling to Coal Pit Lane in Braunstone (note - no cars) in our new strip complete with 'Ratby Athletic Football Club' badge, we looked quite professional. Some of the members from other clubs were quite envious. We were playing a team called Braunstone East, who always took us to the cleaners. This day was no exception. After a 10-0 defeat all of the pre-match swagger had left us.

Another game I recall was on Victoria Park, one Boxing Day. The name of the opposition team escapes me. With our team manager, Mr Dick Barton and assistant Mr Jack Herbert shouting encouragement we got stuck in. Jack was recruited to run the line, but after being ignored two or three times over offside flags, he threw the flag away, with a few uncomplimentary remarks about the referee. Shortly before half time our goal keeper got bowled over which resulted in the "St Johns" taking him down the Royal Infirmary. We played on with ten men. No 'subs' then. Just after half-time we heard a report from the Royal. The goalkeeper was "more frightened than hurt". I won't mention his name - he still lives locally.

We played against Saffron Works on Meadow Gardens, Aylestone, coming off at the end of the match looking more like moles than footballers. We had lost 13-3. 6 goals went in during the last quarter. Colin Bennett, the same chappie who plays with the Ratby Band came alongside me and said, "I reckon another ten minutes and we'd have beaten them." How's that for optimism?!

I think by now you are getting bored with my reminiscing, but I must tell of the goal which our team manager Mr Raymond Johnson reckons wasn't a goal.

Our ground was now in what was known as the Cottage Fields, (now part of the Church Farm estate). It was then a farm belonging to Mr Ernie Ball. The field itself was all 'lants' as we call them.*

Opposition was Midland Athletic who only had to beat us for the championship. We beat them 3-0.

My claim to fame was a 'hat-trick', unless you ask Ray who swears to this day that the last ball went on the wrong side of the post. Fair do's - he never told the referee. "No nets in those days lads!"

A Geary

* 'Lants' are the ups and downs left over from the old ridge and furrow of strip farming.

Is this a local word, do you know?



Front Row left to right :-

B Jones, Wilfred Mott, A Dumford, C Barnes, S Geary, C Joyce

Back row, left to right :-

B Steven, J Herbert, H Foulds, G Forryan, M Dumford

Ratby Methodist Church Gift Day and Coffee Morning April 29th 10.00 am - 1.00 pm

It is now almost a year since we launched our Development Scheme, in which we aim to raise £90,000 towards the cost of improving our Church facilities for both the congregation and the community as a whole.

During our first year we have managed to raise the over-whelming sum of over £34,000, which has greatly exceeded our expectations. We thank God for providing us with the strength and inspiration to do this and for the generosity of all those who have supported us.

We believe that our second Gift Day will be a further cause for rejoicing and look forward to reporting on its success.

The church will be open on 29th April from 10.00 am to 1.00 pm, where a display of photographs, models and plans relating to the project will be on view. Our usual coffee morning stalls will be available and free refreshments will be served to all visitors. Please do come along to see how our scheme is progressing and, if you wish, to put forward your views and ideas.

The Rev Chris Grey, our Treasurer - Ian Freeman and Bill Jones will be present to receive donations from those who wish to give. Any gift will be most gratefully received.

Thank you once again to all those who have supported us in any way over the past year.



BRADGATE LIONS CLUB

Wish to thank the people of the village for all the support that they have given to their fund raising efforts over recent years.

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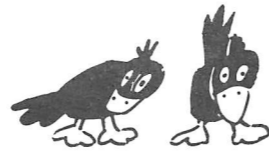
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MALT CRUNCH BREAD COBS CHEESE & ONION BREAD
WHITE & BROWN COBS and ROLLS & TWINNIES
FILLED COBS

Dear Editor,



"RATBY All our Yesterdays"

Parking

Traffic calming in any busy area, must be seen as one solution to growing numbers of vehicles that saturate our roads today. Ratby being no exception.

Many have passed the remark, "we need double yellow lines", that would just create a clear way for more speed making it more difficult and dangerous for people to cross the road.

I must refer to the problem of parking. It is dangerous right through the village, not just the green grocers and fish shop, if people use the 30 mile an hour speed limit there would be less danger to everyone, it is abused all the time.

There should be a public parking sign outside the Library so that people passing through the village can use it for shopping etc. People think it is for library use only I hope something gets sorted out soon.

It won't happen by magic. We have to get together on the problem. We all want Ratby to be a safer place on the roads

M WIDDOWSON

Two local men, Rod Atkins and John Stone are currently preparing an album of local photographs, to be published before Christmas. Any profits from the sale will be donated to local charities.

To complete this project they do require additional material. Can anyone loan any photos of bygone Ratby for this venture? Pictures of any aspect of village life are required and any loaned, any size or any condition will be fully insured and returned.

The producers cannot guarantee that every picture supplied will be included but the album will present the best selection to show, "village life of yesterday".

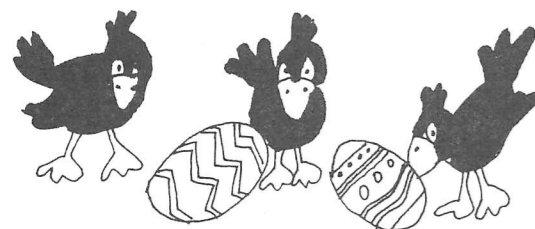
Please contact Rod, or John who is on 2394654.

Thankyou !

I wish to give a few kind words to thank Mrs Janet Grudgings and her happy band of helpers, for their good work towards Cancer relief during the last few years.

The sales were very enjoyable and helpful.

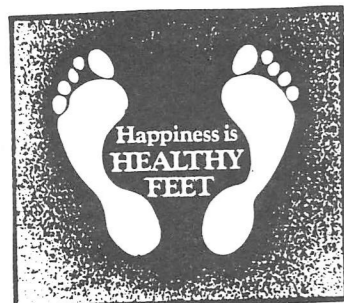
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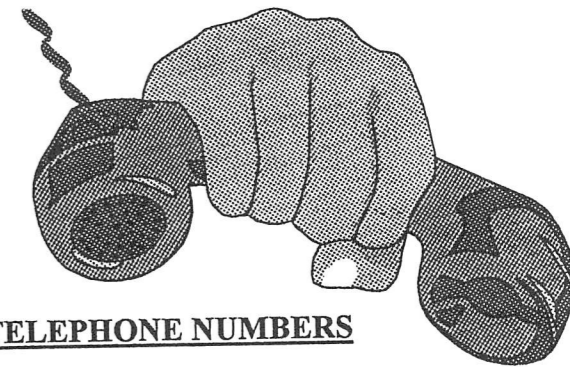
ON THE STREET
WHERE
YOU LIVE

TAVERNER DRIVE

This is the name that has been chosen for the new road, not yet open, that will link Station Road with Tyler Road and the new housing on the Church Farm estate.

The name commemorates the former Ratby vicar, Reverend Taverner, who appears in the Cricket team photograph in this issue of Wot.

Do you have any memories of him? Why not tell us?



NEW TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Are you aware that as of the 16th April 1995 the UK dialing number system will change?

All the area codes will be changed by inserting a "1" after the "0". For example 0908 will become 01908.

There are a few exceptions to this rule for the following locations.

Leeds was	0532 xxxxxx becomes 0113 2xxxxxx
Sheffield was	0742 xxxxxx becomes 0114 2xxxxxx
Nottingham	0602 xxxxxx becomes 0115 9xxxxxx
Leicester was	0533 xxxxxx becomes 0116 2xxxxxx
Bristol was	0272 xxxxxx becomes 0117 9xxxxxx

Also please note that the international code to dial abroad will change from "010" to "00"

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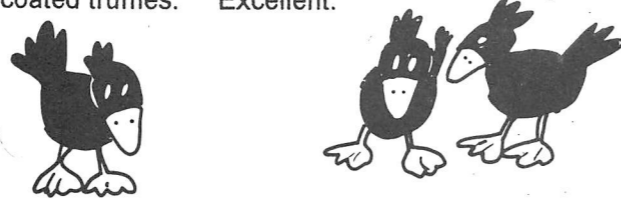
photo by Sylvia Grant

Rainbows Sponsored Bake

When the Woodland Trust appealed for pledges to purchase 60 acres of Old Hays farm land to turn into woodland, Ratby Rainbow Guide unit, with the interest of the Rainbows future recreation in mind, pledged £50.00 to the trust.

Everyone agreed a "Sponsored Bake" would then take place to raise the money.

So on a Monday evening in the school hall 16 energetic five to seven year olds took turns to stir the delicious ingredients of porridge oats, desiccated coconut, chocolate, butter, sugar and milk in somethings that seemed like enormous mixing bowls. When the mixing was complete, to everyones satisfaction the, "paste" was rolled out into coconut coated truffles. Excellent.



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Wotcha gonna do about PHONEDAY?

On 16th. April area codes starting with 01 will start with 0116, & Leicester (0533) will become (0116) 2xx xxxx. So why not stick these handy self-adhesive labels onto your letters, envelopes, invoices, statements, compliment slips, etc., and TELL EVERYBODY!!

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RATBY WOODLAND SAVED

On March 15th contracts were exchanged. The Woodland Trust will own the land at Old Hays upon completion at the end of April. Stephen Webb, fundraiser for the Trust paid tribute to everyone who had helped--"This was a difficult target to reach and I am delighted for the people of Ratby that we have succeeded. I'd like to thank all those who donated to the campaign, especially Ratby Parish Council, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, Leicestershire County Council, The Countryside Commission and Cawrey Ltd: whose donation arrived, like the cavalry just in time.

I'd also like to thank all those individuals who distributed pledge forms and persuaded others to give -- without them we would never have reached the target."

The trust will be holding a series of meetings to discuss plans for the wood. Contact Amanda Callard for details, at the National Forest Head Office, Stanleigh House, Chapel Street, Donisthorpe, Swadlincote, Derbyshire DE12 7PS.

Stephen Webb has told us that the Woodland trust will be applying for National Forest funding for Old Hays. He would like ideas for how the area could be developed.

Would you like to see the Woodland linked to Martinshaw Woods? Would you like picnic glades? What about ponds or other features? Are there any favourite views you would like to see remain?

Contact Stephen Webb as soon as possible at:-

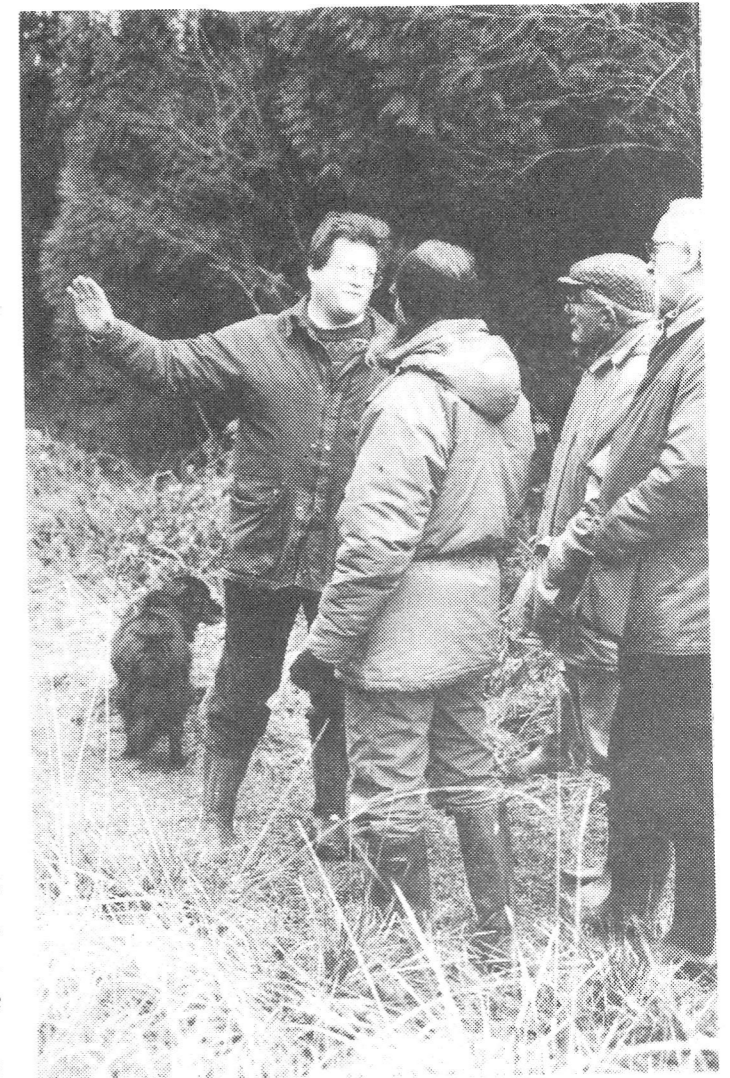
The Gate Lodge,

Chilton Foliate

Hungerford.

Berkshire KG17 0TY.

or phone 01488 681623



photo, Horace Gamble

Paul Billing of the Forestry Commission explaining the method of thinning out at Martinshaw Wood to members of the public, including Ratby Parish Council Chairman Charles Rogers and Ratby tree warden Iris Hannaford. Saturday 28th January 1995.



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Ratby Parish Council

Mini-roundabout at Desford Lane/Ratby Lane Kirby Muxloe

The Parish Council was dismayed to discover that this proposed scheme is to go ahead. It seems inevitable that traffic from Ratby will be delayed considerably when leaving the village in this direction.

Burroughs Road Footpath Stiles

Following Council letters after concerns by residents, extra treads are to be installed at several stiles to improve access. Apparently, extra rails had been added to the fences at stiles making them difficult to negotiate.

Spring Front Gardens Competition

Judging will be held on Saturday 22nd April by Mr Cammack from the Judge's Guild

Nominations must be with the Clerk by 20th April at the latest

Prizes : £25, £10, £5

Why don't you nominate a local garden?

Charnwood Poultry Farm

Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council have agreed to an amended plan for 10 houses for this site. Whilst empathising with the residents who suffer considerable distress from smells emanating from the poultry sheds, the Parish Council and Markfield Parish Council have opposed planning applications for this area which is part of the countryside, outside of the development area.

Public Inquiry for proposed Ratby/Glenfield Bridleway

At the March meeting, Councillor Iris Hannaford reported the highlights of the Inquiry, which began on February 21st. The County Council and other supporters of the scheme based their evidence on the fact that the route has been well used as a public footpath for twenty years up to 1989, believing it to be a right of way.

The barrister representing the objectors, insisted that walkers knew they were trespassing on private land, and that a right cannot be claimed by an illegal act of trespass. He described the barriers that had consistently been erected to stop trespassing.

The Inspector, Dr Chris McDonald, now considers the evidence. It will be around 3-4 months before his findings are published.

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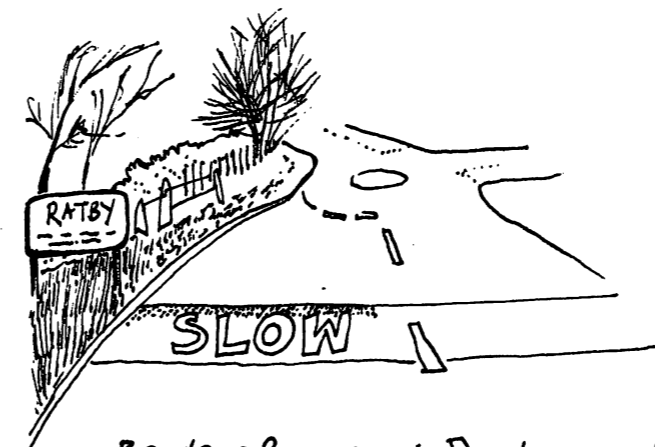
Ratby Parish Council

Traffic Calming through the Village

Following concern over road safety in Ratby, an accident investigation has been carried out by the County Council. This showed that action should be taken to reduce vehicle speeds and improve facilities for pedestrians at Markfield Road. These measures would create a safer environment.

An exhibition was held in the Welfare Hall on 21st February. Mr Ray Kingett was present to answer questions. He has informed the Parish Council that it was the most well-attended exhibition he had been involved in. Most residents were in favour of the scheme. The scheme proposes a range of measures. Mini roundabouts were proposed for 3 locations - Station Road/Park Road Junction, the new estate road, Taverner Drive/Station Road, and Markfield Road/Main Street.

Entry Treatment ... At the points on Groby Road and Station Road where the village speed limit comes into force.



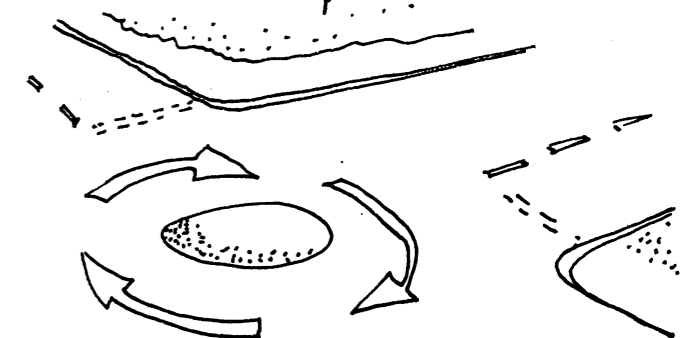
Bands of contrasting colour and texture, and re-inforcement of signs.

Since the Exhibition, we have been informed that the mini-roundabout at Park Road junction will probably not now go ahead as there is insufficient space. The Parish Council view is that this is the most urgent location for calming, and so has written to request a re-appraisal of that area.

At the entrances to the Village on Station Road and Groby Road bands of contrasting colour and texture will be installed to slow traffic down. Many residents expressed concern that the plan would cause drivers to avoid the roundabouts by using Danehill as a rat run. The Parish Council has written to suggest that any funds saved by the loss of one mini-roundabout should be diverted to traffic calming on Danehill at the same time. The County Council have stated that they would closely monitor the effects of the calming on use of Danehill. Plans are to go to the April/May committee for approval.

Mini Roundabout

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Middle Row A Wigglesworth, (Scorer & Treasurer) A.Marvin, F.J.Bowley (Vice Captain).
W.G.Marvin (Captain - with the Cup), T.E.Jayes, T.W. Shipman,
Rev. G.W.Taverner (President).

Front Row L.Sutton, A.Ball.

Photo lent by Steve Roche.

KEEPING A NEIGHBOURLY WATCH

The LE6 postal district has a low crime rate and this is recognised in the insurance premiums we all pay. For this we must thank the diligent, committed, friendly and enthusiastic efforts of our village bobby PC Brian Moore together with his colleagues in surrounding villages. They walk their beats in all weathers and during hours when the rest of us sleep soundly in our beds.

Community policing and Neighbourhood Watch are inextricably linked. NW co-ordinators meet regularly to be briefed on events which occur in and around the village and operate a communications network ("snowball") which informs their street members to be security conscious, particularly at times of special concern.

Neighbourhood Watch street members are the community's eyes and ears and report when they see or hear something suspicious. We are not vigilantes and we do not patrol the streets. We work as a community network on behalf of the police.

The police and the Home Office are vigorously promoting the work of Neighbourhood Watch. New policing arrangements shortly to be announced will be helped by a strengthened spirit of partnership with the community.

During 1995 Ratby Neighbourhood Watch will attempt to promote this partnership. We need twenty more street co-ordinators to join the existing twenty seven. We will be present at various village social events to explain what we do. You are welcome to join us at our next meeting in the Library on Thursday 27th April at 7.30pm or why not telephone Elaine Hanrahan or myself, the village co-ordinators. Whichever route you take to join us you will be welcomed to help reduce crime in our village.

GRAHAM STANLEY

Degree for Maria



Maria Lopez, 24, of Station Road, Ratby, has gained a Bsc Hons Degree in Geography at Huddersfield University. She was educated at Ratby County Primary, Brookvale High School and Groby Community College. At present she is studying to take a post graduate degree in law with the view of becoming a Solicitor.

Maria's mother and father, Christina and Fernando Lopez have recently celebrated 35 years of married life after meeting on a beach in Spain when Fernando was serving in the Spanish army.

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photo . Sylvia Gant 10

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A MEMORY OF VE DAY

I would have been 5½ years old at that time, a day I remember as warm and sunny.

We lived near to the City General Hospital, my Mum, Dad and Sister. Also we had two nurses who were billeted with us.

Where Wakerly Road and the Crown Hills School now stands, were all allotments right up to the edge of the Hospital grounds with a large car park in front. A party had been organised and a fancy dress parade. My sister and I were dressed as the "Quality Street" soldier and his lady, very smart, all in cardboard and crêpe paper. I do not remember if we won a prize or not but it was a very happy time.

ROY HOLLOWAY

P.S. The nurses were very useful as during the next Winter, at the first snow I broke my leg then from the Ambulance or the hospital. I caught Chickenpox, German Measles and Impetigo all at once - the nurses would look after me when they came off duty. I was 9 months off school.

I was, like thousands more young men, serving in the armed forces and was on duty on board HMS "Hare" when the war in Europe ended.

The 10th Minesweeping Flotilla, based at Harwich, had been operating off the Belgian coast for several weeks and anchoring for a few hours each night in Pegwell Bay near Ramsgate.

In the evening of VE day we were allowed to anchor off Ostend where we could see the lights ashore, the wartime blackout now being lifted. The Admiralty signalled to all ships, "Splice the Main Brace" which meant a celebratory tot of rum each, to supplement the regular one which we had consumed at midday. The party over we returned to the task of minesweeping again next day -- and for months afterwards in other parts of the world.

Yours sincerely,

H03

RATBY & DISTRICT ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

LEST WE FORGET

In the 50 years since the end of World War 2, there have only been one or two years when there was not somewhere in the world, a conflict involving the loss of life.

We in the British Isles have been fortunate in having the sea around us, as this natural barrier has kept away invading forces for a long time. That is not to say that we have not been involved in international incidents and conflicts as we are today.

During this year there will be various events in Europe, America, Far East and most of the rest of the world, of celebrations and remembrance.

The R.B.L. consists of ex-service persons who try to ensure that the casualties of the conflicts, whether it be a physical or mental injury, are cared for in a manner fitting that for the sacrifice that they made so that we and the future generations can live in a "free" world.

To celebrate VE and VJ day alone, would be to deny the thousands of other troops who were still involved in conflict at that time in remote and forgotten places both on land, at sea and in the air.

International conflict is something that the world must never again become involved in. Due to human nature we shall always have disagreements but in this service of commemoration and remembrance we must put out the message of the horror of war so that our future generations live in peace.

It is for this reason that the Ratby and District Branch of the R.B.L have decided to commemorate the end of hostilities with a Remembrance Service in Ratby Church on Sunday evening 20th August. Everyone is invited.

ROY HOLLOWAY
CHAIRMAN



*It is not too late
to send your memories
and photographs!*

V.E. Day Memories



Our cover photograph shows the VE day celebrations outside Nellie Marvin's shop on the corner of Park Road and Station Road (Now "His and Hers" - it hasn't changed much).

John Marvin recalls that everyone eagerly read the news or listened to the radio for announcements of the end of the war. He was 10 years old in the October as the war ended in May. He remembers it coming on the radio in the morning that the war was ended. Everyone came out of their houses to greet one another. Even as a child we felt a great sense of relief. Messages were sent around for volunteers to collect wood from the Burroughs for a celebration bonfire. May 8th was a National Holiday, and street parties were planned everywhere!

John Marvin lived in a house where Cardinal Broach car park is now situated. His Dad brought home flags and they strung them up across to the bus shelter. He says that his grandmother in Leicester hung up a German flag that had been sent home by her son, away fighting in Italy. Everyone was encouraged to spit on it as they went by. During the war even children were encouraged to regard the German enemy as evil. Everyone had to bring their own knives, forks and spoons to the party. Even in the days of rationing, mothers had managed to produce jellies and custard, and fish paste sandwiches. There was plenty of tea. Mr 'Tubby' Green gave a recital on the kettle drums. The adults enjoyed it, but it was not much appreciated by the children.

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Two of John Marvin's mates didn't bother to go to the party, they thought it was a waste of time. Later on they regretted that decision, and made sure they were at the VJ day celebrations in August!

A bonfire was lit on the field next to the Bull's Head, and there were fireworks. The pub was probably open all day.

The grocery shop in the photograph was run by Nellie Marvin. It was a big shop with a massive counter running the whole length of the side and back of the shop. But there was never much on sale, just the basic rations for those who were registered at that shop. Across the road was a grocery shop run by another Marvin. George Marvin was formerly a boot and shoe repairer, and when he died in 1944 his widow opened a grocery store. People registered with a particular shop for their groceries, and also with local farms for milk and eggs. The farmer used to come round with the goods on a cart.

In the photograph, John Marvin himself is standing behind the table, 5th from the left. Next to him is Brian Carlton.

Some of the children are wearing red, white and blue rosettes, which went on sale as soon as the war was over. There are of course no men in the picture!

John Marvin tells us that his father's cousin was non other than Albert Marvin, who kept the Railway Inn in the 1940's. Readers may remember the articles about the Railway Inn in 'Wot' issues 40, 41 and 42, 1993. John Marvin was surprised to discover the whereabouts of a relative he didn't know existed. He wrote to Stan Marvin following the articles!

We are still interested in photographs and memories of VE and VJ day!

Those of you who wisely keep your old copies of Wot, can look back for photographs of VE day parties in Markfield Lane in Issues 40 and 42!!



London Marathon Runners

Mike Percy 40, and his brother Duncan 36, are appealing for sponsorship for L.O.R.O.S. when they run the London Marathon on Sunday, 2nd April.

Fellow Desford Strider running club members Sam 29, and Nick Taylor 27 of Leicester Forest East are running with them for the Red Cross. Anyone wishing to sponsor them can contact Mike Percy at 12 Nicholas Drive, or on Leicester 0116 2388119.

"RATBY All our Yesterdays"

Two local men, Rod Atkins and John Stone are currently preparing an album of local photographs, to be published before Christmas. Any profits from the sale will be donated to local charities.

To complete this project they do require additional material. Can anyone loan any photos of bygone Ratby for this venture? Pictures of any aspect of village life are required and any loaned, any size or any condition will be fully insured and returned.

The producers cannot guarantee that every picture supplied will be included but the album will present the best selection to show, "village life of yesterday".

Please contact Rod, or John who is on 2394654.



BUS NEWS

LEICESTER CENTRE - GROBY - RATBY CIRCULAR SERVICES 113/114/115/116 by MIDLAND FOX: A revised route and timetable to serve additional roads in GROBY and RATBY will commence on MONDAY 3rd APRIL.

ON THE RIGHT TRACK !!

Locomotives of the inside cylinder 0-6-0 type were the most numerous to be employed in this country - several thousands of them having been built over more than a hundred year period.

'Atlas' the very first one to enter service, in 1834, was to the design of Robert Stephenson, the engineer of the Leicester & Swannington Railway. It was stationed at Coalville for 25 years before being sold to a colliery.

The L&SR was taken over by the Midland Railway in 1847 and became a prolific user of the 0-6-0 type. Matthew Kirtley, the Midland's locomotive superintendent, designed and ordered over 400 examples from 1853 onwards. He was followed by Samuel Waite Johnson who improved upon the design and under his direction over 450 were built between 1875 and 1902, classified 2 Freight.

When the railways were nationalised in 1948 there were still almost two hundred of Johnson's rebuilt 0-6-0s at work including those at Coalville for working the former L&SR line. It is one of these which is depicted on the pub sign at the **Railway Inn**. They also worked the passengers trains which were withdrawn in 1928, when Ratby station became a goods office.

The last three survivors (built in 1876) eked out their declining years on the thread branch until 1963 as there were no other existing locomotives suitable to the narrow bore of Glenfield tunnel. Unfortunately none of the class were preserved. Anticipating their demise a 170hp diesel loco was given a trial but was found wanting for adhesion. Consequently, two modern (1950s) BR built outside cylinder 2-6-0 locomotives were adapted by lowering the cab roofs by 3" to clear the tunnel. These two had a short working life on the line through Ratby as it closed when traffic was withdrawn in April 1966.

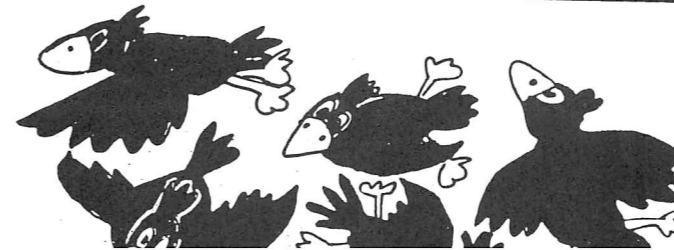


In our last issue, Horace Gamble sent in a letter praising Everards for the new "Railway Inn" sign!

So here it is for those of you who haven't noticed it!

We can now reveal that it was in fact landlord Mick Thornton who fought to get this sign painted from the moment he arrived in Ratby!

Horace has kindly added some notes about this class of locomotive!



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Winter Scout Group - John's-Lee-Wood
17th - 19th Feb 1995

'Stayed fine had a good time'

That's about all the feed back you get from a Scout when asked about camp. So I thought it would be a good idea to outline the weekends activities for all those interested parents and grandparents, that got little more than a grunt from their son when asked about camp.

Friday evening was taken up by playing games organised by Ray Lander (many thanks Ray) which included a wide game (outdoor) Beetle Drive and a card game called 07! (similar to Bingo). Also throwing the bean bags over the net.

Saturday morning the Scouts were set a mini challenge which consisted of a Backwoods Trail, Observation Test and Orienteering. They were also instructed on the Axe-mans badge.

After lunch each patrol was asked to make a container out of tin foil and twigs, light a small fire and produce a cup of tea! Yuck. Then 'Its a Knockout' was organised by yours truly. A camp fire and songs was followed by dinner, badge work, a wide game and bingo. I was asked to tell them more ghost stories, as I did on Friday night to help settle them down. (It was more like 2.00 am Saturday morning if the truth be told).

Sunday morning was taken up with the District Orienteering Competition, everyone took part, we are awaiting the results.

Lunch was then served by Colin and Paul, who I would like to thank for the tremendous help they gave us by preparing and cooking all the meals, so that it freed Chris, Pete and myself to organise the rest of the programme.

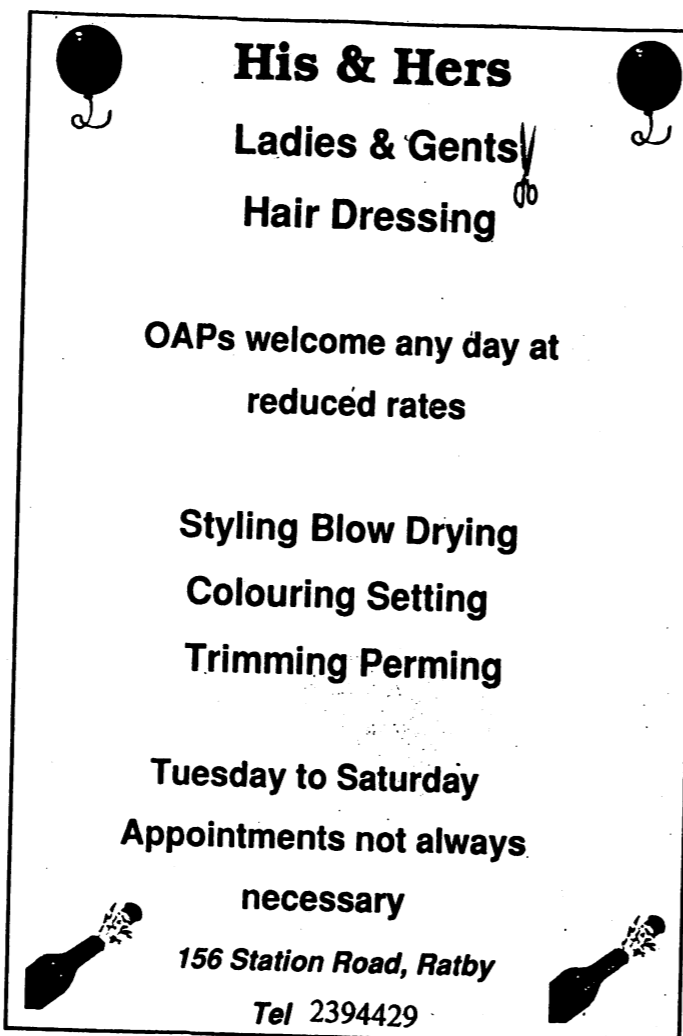
After lunch it was pack up and back home to Mum and Dad and into that nice hot bath. Ah!

Yours in scouting

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Vive Le Chunnell

Until recently I was a Euro Tunnel sceptic. Like thousands of other people the thought of travelling thirty one miles in tunnel under the sea did not hold any attraction in spite of my love for trains. When two friends, who had booked a return trip on Le Shuttle, invited me to accompany them I did not jump immediately at the chance but gave the idea some time to sink in. Being an inveterate photoholic, especially of railways, I capitulated unable to resist the lure of some new camera fodder.

The whole experience is simplicity itself. Driving off the M20 motorway into the Cheriton (Kent) terminal tickets are checked, or fares paid, at a car park type kiosk. Then one can either drive direct to the customs or to the splendid terminal building for a meal, shops or to change currency. On then to the customs, first the British then the French, where cars may be searched, so that you are officially in France even before boarding the train! Marshalls in yellow jackets and overhead illuminated gantries guide the lines of cars to the loading platforms. Vehicles on one side of the train enter through a roller shutter door and are guided through the length of the carriages on the lower deck while those on the other side of the train proceed up an internal ramp to occupy the upper deck. When five cars are in position on each deck fireproof shutters separate the compartments but side doors may be push-button opened to allow passage into the next carriage. There are toilets in every third carriage.

A complete train holds up to 200 cars. Trains of lattice sided deck wagons can carry twenty four HGVs and over one thousand are now being transported daily. Single deck rolling stock to accommodate coaches and caravans is now coming into use. The carriages are air conditioned, sound proofed and well lit enough to take photographs without flash - which is not allowed. Messages in English and French are relayed through loudspeakers, by overhead electronic strip display and Le Shuttle Radio, providing music and announcements, can be received over car radios.

Two 6000hp electric locomotives (built by Brush at Loughborough) one at each end of the train make a leisurely entrance into the tunnel and, without any sensation of movement inside the train, are soon running at 90mph. The exit on the French side at

Coquilles is equally leisurely and, before unloading, the train runs through a complete circle so that it is facing in the right direction for the return journey. There are no customs formalities to be faced and one drives straight off the platforms and on to the A16 motorway.

My companions and I stayed overnight in the small seaside town of Wimereux before returning home the next morning. The procedure is the reverse of the outward trip. We timed the train's passage through the tunnel as 24 minutes 2 seconds, an average of 78 mph. On unloading at Cherton, one can drive straight on to the M20 motorway or if a meal is desired a five minute drive brings one to the exhibition centre and cafe. An observation tower overlooks the whole operation and, apart from some of the machinery used to build the tunnel, the working scale model of the two terminals is most fascinating.

Euro Tunnel operate Le Shuttle car, coach and HGV trains; European Passenger Services are responsible for the foot passenger's Eurostar trains between London and Paris or Brussels, and the main line railways operate the freight traffic. When fully operational, in the months to come, there will be 20 trains per hour, in each direction, using the tunnels as a headway of 3 minutes making it the most intensive railway operation in the world!

Hoz



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Ratby Village Society

The Annual General Meeting took place at the Welfare Hall on 21st February when the Chairman, Dennis Green, reviewed the past year's highlights and paid tribute to retiring Committee members Mrs Jill Jordan and Mr Horace Ball. Special thanks were given to Mrs Sheila Day, the retiring treasurer, who had held office since 1980. Dennis Green was re-elected Chairman and Horace Gamble was re-elected Hon. Secretary. The new treasurer elected was Mrs Betty Hulme. At the close of the meeting there followed the traditionally buffet supper, and raffle, enjoyed by all in a spirit of fellowship and good humour.

Now that it had been learned that the Woodland Trust has signed the Contract to purchase land at Old Hays for the creation of new woods, Ratby Village Society wishes to say Thank You to all those people who pledged money to this worthwhile project. They were not all members of the RVS. Some were relatives or friends and then there was the Primary School, the Drop In, the Sports Club and the Women's Institute. Altogether the Society collected 57 pledge forms amounting to £833.00 for which the Woodland Trust is extremely grateful.

Forthcoming meetings to be held in the Welfare Hall at 8.00 pm include:

- Tuesday 18th April 'The Holy Land'
by Mr W.R. Thomas
- Tuesday 16th May 'The Churches and Chapels
of 19th Century Leicester'
by Mr Derek Seaton

P.S. Being a peculiarly pedantic person I have spelled Old Hays without the 'e' for the reason that it is shown as Old Hays on the Ordnance Survey map and also on a grave-stone in Ratby churchyard.

THE DROP IN

It started from a chance remark in the Co-op when some of the village ladies were waiting at the counter and someone said it would be nice to have a coffee during the morning rounds! This happened in 1987 and from those few ladies, among them were some from the W.I., we have a regular place to meet for a drink, cake and a chat in the Welfare Hall every Thursday from 10 - 12 midday.

I'm told that it couldn't go on without loyal support, Pat Willis acknowledges this. Once a month - one can purchase food items, at a cheap rate, from the stall run by Margaret Fenton. Trips to places of interest are organised by Jean Richardson on a fairly regular basis, so there's usually something for everyone.

At Christmas there are mince pies and the usual fancy cakes - home made for anyone dropping in. As they indicate on the board outside, (typical in Ratby), "Everyone welcome".
LW.

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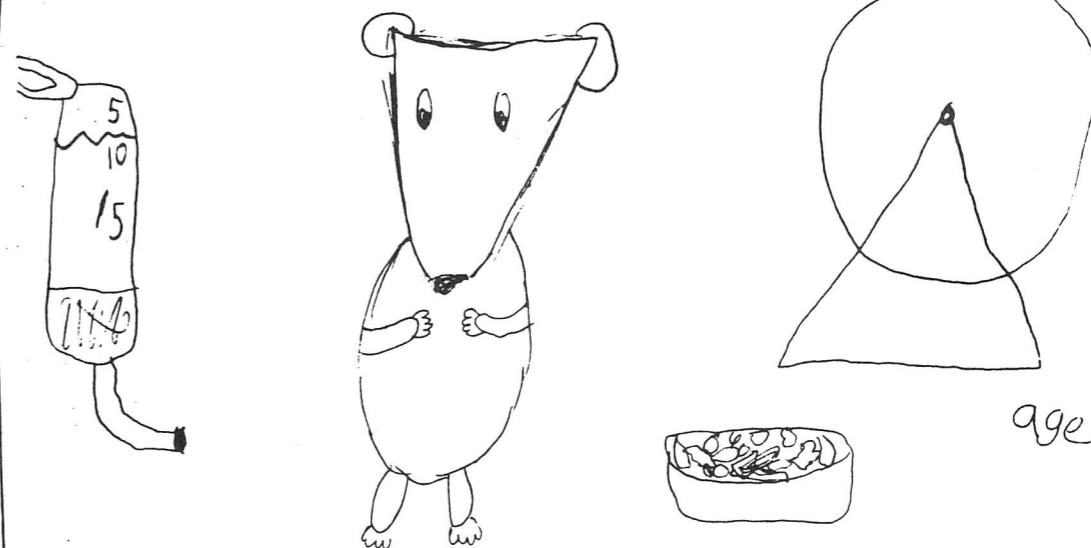
Whitsun United Service

Ratby Chapel & Church will meet for an open air service on Sunday June 4th in Ratby School Playground at 1030 am., led by the Rev C.Grey. This is to celebrate the birthday of the Christian Church and we invite everyone to join us. If it is wet we shall meet in the Welfare Hall.

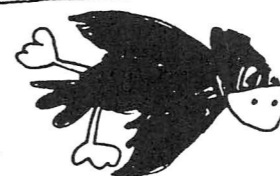
On the Saturday evening of June 3rd, we shall be celebrating by having a barbecue and barn dance in the Church Rooms. More details from Church and Chapel members.

Crow pie

children's
page

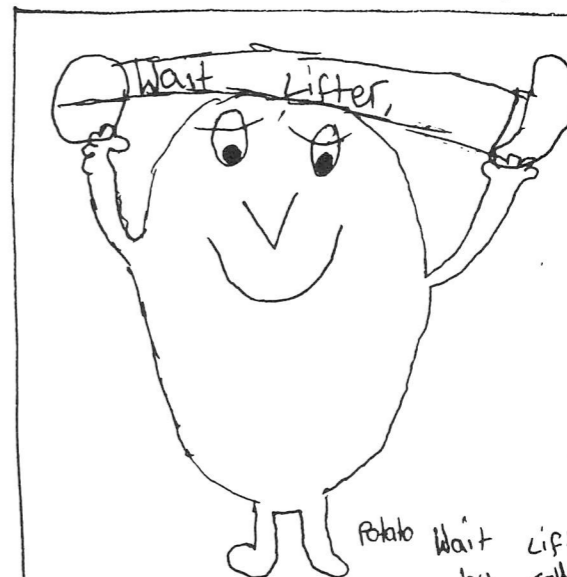


by
Lindsay
Froggatt
age nine



Well done to the
Children of Ratby
Primary School who
raised over £60 for
Comic Relief !!
They paid to wear
a hat for the day

Hats off
to them !!



Robo Wait Lifter
by Catherine Woodward
age nine.



H.G.

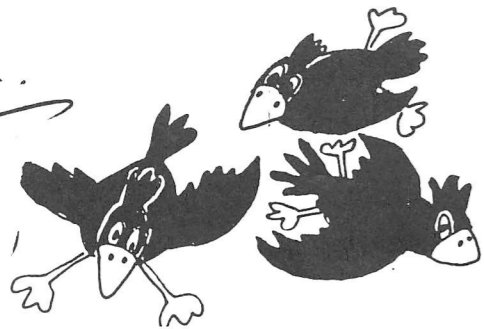




Photo by Sylvia Gant

Photo (L to R)
Nick Gant, Gregory Brooks, David Tunnicliffe, Alexander Weldon, Yousaf Mirza, Stuart Graham.

Venture Scouts 'High Adventure'

The first Venture Scouts to have started scouting in a Beaver pack, nearly 10 years ago came, "of age" when they undertook a Venture Scouts Annual Hill Challenge "High Adventure" over a weekend.

They had to be "prepared", after being driven for four hours to a secret destination to meet up with 43 other units from Leicestershire, to be totally self sufficient in food and shelter over the weekend. This they soon discovered was to be found in an isolated part of Snowdonia.

The intrepid six, lead by team leader Nick Grant battled over mountainous terrain through sleet and snow and freezing winds to find orienteering markers whilst all the time carrying their vital survival kits.

Their first challenge of this type, was rewarded when they received a shield for the "Best Newcomers in the High Adventure".

Yousaf Mirza, Stuart Graham, David Tunnicliffe, Nick Gant and Tim Sims who was unable to take part due to a shoulder injury are the first Venture Scouts to have been Beaver Scouts joining the movement when they were six.

The Beaver Scouts who's motto is "Fun and Friends" are to celebrate their 10th anniversary on Monday, 17th April. A section that mature Scouters all over the country said, "would not take off and would be more like a baby sitting section!" have been proved wrong as Ratby's constant waiting list over the ten years has shown.

On their first evening Bobby Barratt, Ian Graham and Judith Harrison, leaders with Janet Hawksworth, Richard Bent and Paul Tunnicliffe set the ball rolling.

Ten years and countless Beavers later Janet Hawksworth is now the Beaver Leader and **appealing for helpers**. In return for all their good times, the Venture unit are to attend Beaver evenings in the school hall to help with activities, crafts and to organise games for the current Beavers.

Report from Sylvia Grant

DON'T FORGET TO ADD A "2" TO ALL LEICESTER TELEPHONE NUMBERS

21

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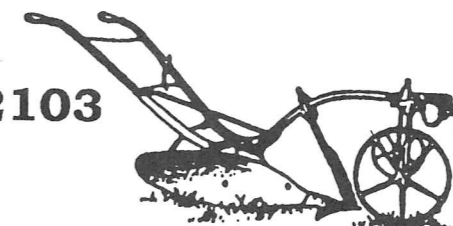
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1st Ratby Swifts Cubs

Just before Christmas, my wife and I successfully completed the St John's Ambulance First Aid course after 12 two hour sessions at night school and a final examination for the certificate.

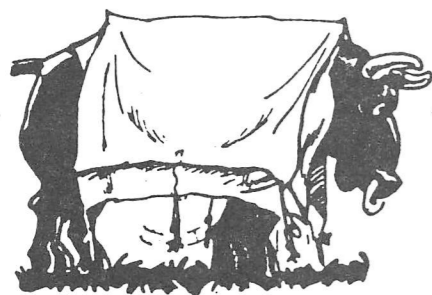
If nothing else, this course gave us both confidence in our ability to assist at any accident involving serious injury to a person.

I was impressed with comparative ease with which the basic essentials of first aid can be mastered and decided to pass on some of this to my cub pack.

So, for three weeks before Christmas the cubs were introduced to such activities as artificial respiration; resuscitation; recovery positions and slings. The boys didn't realise just how useful their neckerchiefs can be in first aid.

This short course has been completed by giving first aid sessions on Sunday mornings when all the topics of the cub first aid proficiency badge were covered.

By the time you read this article, hopefully most, if not all, the Swifts Cubs will have their first badge. They will not be experts in first aid but they should have some knowledge of how to treat serious bleeding; broken limbs; how to help a person who has stopped breathing or even whose heart has stopped.



Annual Family Camp

August 11th, 12th, 13th

For all of those who want a weekend of surprises !!!



Contact Pete Fowler
Leicester 2386165

Heaven forbid that any cub will witness or be involved in a serious accident but if that did happen, just maybe they would be a useful witness able to assist rather than just stand around as a curious onlooker.

At our next parent's evening, the cubs will be demonstrating their first aid knowledge to parents and friends.

May I in all seriousness suggest that everyone who cares for other people should seek to attend one of the recognised first aid training courses run by either the Red Cross or the St John's ambulance. They are good fun and invaluable.

Trevor Sleath - Akela
Swifts



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1st Ratby Swallows Cub Pack

Dear Readers

I would like to let you know how our chess and draughts teams performed this year in the annual event for cubs. The event was held on Saturday 4th February 1995, at the 86th HQ on Buckminster Road, Leicester.

Each cub pack is allowed to enter one cub in each age group for chess and the same for draughts. This year's team was :

Chess

U/9's	Alistair Richards
U/10's	Philip Dalby
U/11's	James Coltman

Draughts

U/10's	Andrew Glenister
U/11's	Christopher Spencer

Christopher Spencer did very well and was overall winner in his age group. Andrew Glenister was 4th overall in his age group.

Alistair Richards came 9th, Philip Dalby came 8th and James Coltman came 6th. 13 packs entered the competition and 1st Ratby Swallows were placed 10th overall.

I would like to say a special thank you to Mrs Diane Spencer who came down and supported us on the day.

I would also like to thank Mr John Broome and his team for organising this event.

A big thank you to the team from Akela.

BRIAN CROSS (AKELA)
1ST RATBY SWALLOWS CUB PACK



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