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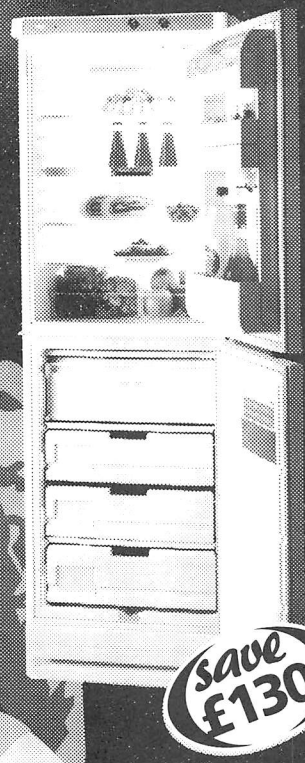
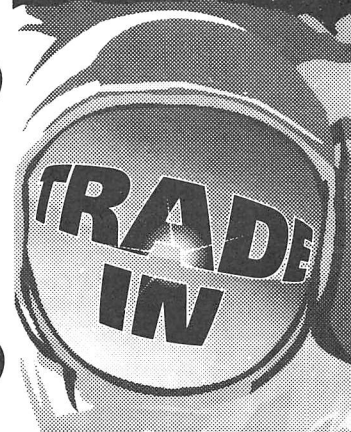


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Wot! About Ratby

April 1996

PUBLISHED BY THE RATBY SCOUT GROUP

Issue 57

High Adventure 1996



This year's Venture Scout mountain walking and survival competition was on the second weekend in March. 1st Ratby Venture Scout Unit entered a team of six, who set off on the West District's coach on Friday evening, destination unknown. The venue turned out to be near Bed-Gelert in Snowdonia, but this was a closely guarded secret until the competitors and support staff arrived, in the middle of the night.

The weekend is an annual event, expertly run at a County level and supported by the Leicestershire Mountaineering team. Forty-one teams entered this year - their task to visit as many checkpoints as possible during a fixed amount of time. Twelve hours were allocated in all, seven hours on Saturday and five on Sunday. Different points values were allocated depending on the location of these checkpoints and penalty points were suffered by those teams who were late in reporting to a base camp at the end of each day.

The teams stayed overnight at a remote base camp, using only equipment carried in their packs, which had been carefully checked beforehand by members of the mountaineering team. They were required to prepare themselves a cooked meal on Saturday night and a hot breakfast on Sunday morning.

Competition was stiff, but Yousaf, Nick, Tim, Alex, David and Stuart - the 'Swamp Donkeys' - gained an impressive 222 points in total, which was sufficient to put them about halfway up the table - a good result in only the second year in which the group have entered the event. Well done to the winners, who were 'Dolly Wagon 'A'' from Melton Mowbray, and well done to all the teams who successfully completed the challenge.

Paul Aston (AVSL, 1st Ratby VSU)

photo by Sylvia Grant



1st RATBY SWALLOWS CUB PACK



Can I take you back to 16th November 1995. This was the night when the Swallows presented their Family Evening entertainment. We had bingo followed by jokes, sketches, mimes, magic, monologues, keep fit, football tips and a live mexican band. All the Cubs and Leaders were involved.

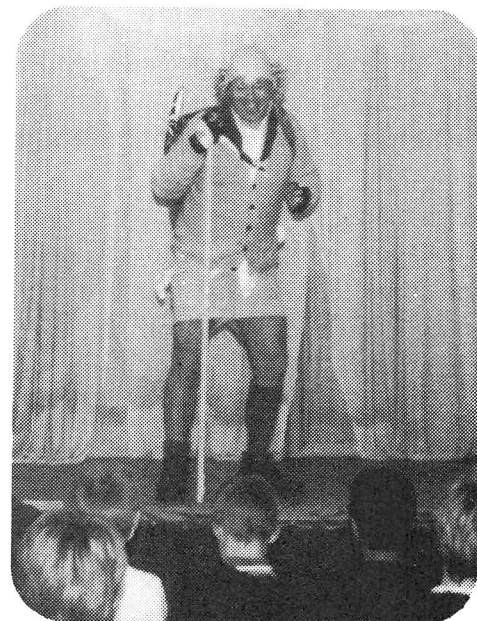
The hall was packed and we finished with our finale of camp fire songs.

Thankyou to all the Parents for coming along and supporting us on the night.

The evening raised just over £40.00 which we spent on the Christmas Party. Our special thanks to Santa Claus who made a surprise visit at the party.

Akela has more pictures of the Cubs in action should anyone want a memento of the show.

We also have a video for hire for those who would like to experience the night again.



Akela.... as The Old Hiker



1st Ratby Swallow Cub Pack February 1996

We were very pleased to be the very first Cub Pack in this district to welcome into the pack a young lady "Emma Glenister". Here you see Emma with Michael Lyon just after they were Invested with the rest of the Cub Pack.

We also now have another girl in the Pack, Miss Rebbeca McKellican. So don't be shy girl's, why not try Scouting with the Cubs, lots of new things to learn and do on a Thursday night and its FUN to. We meet in the Chapel Rooms from 6.30pm till 8.15 every Thursday. For more details ring Brian Cross on 238-6506

On the 10th February this year, the District Team organised the annual Chess and Draughts competition and I was pleased that the Swallows were again represented by four members of the Pack: Emma Glenister, Andrew Glenister, Matthew Reedy and Alistair Richards.



March 9th the Swallows had a day camp in Martinshaw Woods, based around the Scout Hut. The Cubs were able to experience skills such as: Cooking on a wood fire, tracking and laying signs, shelter building, using natural materials and putting up a tent.

We also had time to play games, climb trees and take on the Dave Hardy's assault course. The afternoon finished with a camp fire sing-a-long. Hardly any of the Cubs went home clean, sorry Mums.

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Ratby Village Society

1996 commenced with a talk given by one of our "foreign" members Mr Fred Harding from Market Bosworth, always a good start to any year. Fred's excellent photography and relaxed style of delivery made for a very pleasant evening journeying along "The Oldest Road" - though not a road in the accepted sense.

The Icknield Way was established between Wiltshire and Norfolk in prehistoric times and was ancient even when the Romans came! It was a footway which kept mainly to the high ground for the safety of travellers. The talk which members enjoyed described two sections of the track, firstly from Goring-on-Thames, in Berkshire, to Ivinghoe, in Buckinghamshire, (known as The Ridgeway), then from Ivinghoe to Newmarket, in Suffolk, visiting country villages, pubs and churches along the route with the occasional interjection like the M40, the M1, the West Coast and East Coast main lines. We hope that, one day Fred will take us on the last stage, The Peddar's Way, from Newmarket to Kings Lynn.

Traditionally the Annual General Meeting is held in February and so it was planned for this year until Mother Nature decided otherwise and deposited a large quantity of snow just where, and when it was not welcome. The only recourse was to make last minute cancellations and postpone the meeting until March causing the cancellation of the speaker booked for that month.

The chairman Dennis Green, reviewed the past year with some pride because the Society had celebrated its 21st Anniversary, with a dinner at the Bull's Head; had played a significant role in the establishment of the Woodland trust's Old Hays site and continued a very good relationship with the Parish Council. Mr Green was re-elected Chairman, Horace Gamble re-elected Hon. Secretary and Mrs Betty Hulme re-elected Hon. Treasurer. There was one change on the Committee with Miss Jill Grey replacing retiring member Mr David Hulme. At the conclusion of the meeting the members enjoyed a magnificent cold buffet supper to the accompaniment of much good humoured chatter engendered by that warm feeling of friendship which permeates the Society.

Hos



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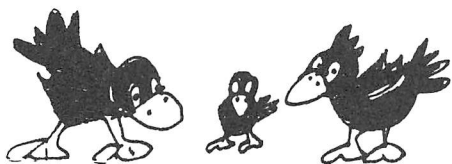
- Anyone over 18 - you could be working, unemployed or retired. Some of the most successful carers are over 50 - life experience counts for far more than qualifications.
- Carers can be single, married, separated or divorced
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LEMON DAINTY PUDDING

4oz sugar (113 grams) 2 eggs - separated
1oz flour (25 grams) 1 lemon
1/2oz butter (12 grams) 1/3 print milk

Butter to grease a generous pint dish

Method

1. Heat oven No4 (350F) (160C)
2. Rub butter into flour
3. Add sugar, lemon rind, juice & egg yolks
Beat with wooden spoon until smooth
4. Gradually beat in the milk
5. Fold stiffly whisked egg whites using metal spoon
6. Pour into prepared dish and place in middle of oven.
Reduce heat if browning too much.

Bake for 35-45mins.

Pudding will be golden brown sponge on top and lemon sauce below.

Scrivener

LETTERS

Dear Editor

I read with much interest 'Hoz's' article in February's Wot! entitled 'Ratby's Crowning Glory'

I would suggest that the dedication to St Phillip & St James has always existed and that Ratby Church never was named in honour of St. George.

The large manor of Groby once incorporated several other villages, including Ratby, Glenfield, Anstey, Bradgate the Newtowns (Linford and Unthank) Cropston, Swithland, Stanton under Bardon and parts of Desford, Markfield and Rothley.

In 1338 King Edward III granted to Henry Lord Ferrers and his heirs the right to hold at Groby a weekly Friday market and an annual fair on St Georges Day (23rd April). Both market and fair are long gone.

St Phillip and St James day 1st May, a date still celebrated by a fair or 'wake' in Ratby -though nearer 12th May since the 11 days adjustment of the calendar in 1752, when English dates were brought into line with Europe.

John Nichols' history of Leicestershire refers to Ratby Church as St Georges but in my opinion, Nichols researchers confused the regular fair at Groby with the Saints "wake" at Ratby in the same parish.

Sincerely yours,

Clive Edwards.

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Dear Editor

Ratby Parish Council would like to clarify its position concerning the proposed pedestrian crossing near to the Primary School.

We have for many years stressed the importance of improved safety measures at that location and fully support the proposed crossing. A strip of land in front of the Library Car Park was sold for a nominal figure to enable LCC to widen the footpath but this work has not yet been carried out.

The quoted cost of the crossing is £7000 but installation is unlikely before 1998/1999. The suggestion that the work might be brought forward if the Parish Council provide all or part of the cost is incorrect. The full cost would have to met by us.

The Parish Council precepts for 1995/6 and 1996/7 had already been finalised and do not include the crossing cost.

Improvements and maintenance of Highways is the responsibility of the County Council, who include the costs in their annual precept for Council Tax.

As the responsibility is not that of the Parish Council we feel it is inappropriate to levy an additional Charge to Ratby Council Taxpayers to meet such costs, and in any event we would be unable to do so until 1997/98. Such an additional levy could will be considered as paying twice for the work (to County and Parish Councils) which amounts to approximately £2.50 per taxpayer (£5.00 per household).

A notice of the intended installation has been put on display at the site by LCC and we hope that they may be able to carry out the work earlier than anticipated, although it is recognised that priority is given to the locations at highest risk. On assessing the requirement for our crossing, LCC found we were slightly below the minimum criteria but were able to recommend and authorise its inclusion on their work list.

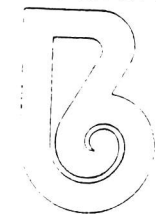
Charles Rogers Chairman Ratby Parish Council.
March 1996

RATBY METHODIST CHURCH

Would like to take this opportunity to express grateful thanks to everyone who contributed to the Gift Day held on Saturday 2nd march. The splendid amount of £2,467 was raised during the day. This brings the Development Fund total raised so far to £58,000.

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Ferndale Drive Recreation Area

A gate to the entrance of the car park has now been installed. Agreement has been reached to replace the "Sputnik" which was removed due to its poor condition. The new Sputnik should be available for the summer and will be in the "Infants" section which is due to be enclosed with a dog-proof fence and self shutting gate. Will parents please supervise children entering and leaving this area to avoid accidents.

Presentation to retiring Clerk

A pair of Wedgwood Spode plates was presented to Mrs Linda Laywood at the February meeting in recognition of the six years excellent service to the Council. A floral bouquet was also given to Linda.

Dog Fouling

Complaints from residents are still being received concerning the increasing incidence of dog fouling of footpaths and narrow grassed verges. This thoroughly objectionable practice is unsightly and frequently results in children treading the mess into their homes. It is an offence to permit dog mess to be left unremoved by their owners, whether the dog is accompanied by its owner or not. Anyone who sees such an offence taking place should telephone the Environmental Health Officer at Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council who will initiate proceedings to bring the owner before the Courts.

Borough Council's Council Tax increase

Councillor Robin Bennett was questioned about the exorbitant increase in the Borough's Council Tax charge for 1996/1997. His explanation that this was due to "inflation" and the reduction in the Government grant" was not accepted and he was requested to object strongly at the Borough Council's meeting on Thursday 7th March when voting was due to take place. The Borough Council charge has been increased from £4.92 (1995/1996 charge) to £32.04 (1996/1997) an increase of **£27.12 (651%)** to be paid by every householder in the Borough. This is the first Council Tax levied by the new Council elected in May.

Wildlife Survey

The Parish Council support the forthcoming survey and although the Parish Council will not be involved, several Councillors have indicated their intention to participate as individuals.

Youth Activities

The Parish Council are holding a second meeting with the Youth Officers, and interested parties including Youth Representatives on 26th March to discuss proposals for future activities.

Senior Citizens Bus Passes

Leicestershire County Council advise that a charge of £2.50 per pass is being introduced for the year commencing 1st April 1996.

Litter Picker

A vacancy exists for a Part Time Litter Picker in Ratby. The duties involve 2 hours per day for 5 days each week and the rate of pay is £3.45 per hour. This is an excellent opportunity to supplement SITA's regular team to keep the village free of litter. Interested persons should apply to the Clerk to the Parish Council, 8 Desford Lane, Ratby and their applications will be forwarded to SITA.



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Winter Scout Camp 16-18th February 1996

John Lee's Wood

At 7.30 on Friday evening we arrived at John Lee's Wood on time (that's a first) after sorting our patrols, 15 scouts into 3 patrols. Red, yellow and blue or as the scouts preferred to call themselves 'The Red Hot Chill Peppers' the 'Mellow Yellows' and the 'Moody Blues' they were allocated sleeping quarters, bunkbeds no less (that's also a first).

Then Ray Lander who very kindly organised the whole programme for the weekend 'thanks Ray', organised indoor team games for the rest of the evening, the most popular being non-stop cricket.

Although the scouts went to bed about midnight it was 3am before they settled down, then up at 7.00am to wash and get ready for breakfast.

Breakfast was cooked and served by Colin and Paul as were all the meals. I must thank them for the superb standard they achieved as usual.

After flag break and inspection the patrols split into bases going to each one in turn, the bases being bow saw and axe manship, personal performance and building an obstacle course. Then after lunch each patrol was timed over the obstacle course.

Bases were again used in the evening with, find the clue, orienteering race and first aid incident. The patient being yours truly. I am awaiting offers from Casualty, Code Red and a nomination for an Oscar!

Finally to bed, not so bad tonight they settled about 1.30am.

Sunday was taken up by each patrol making up their own prayer, followed by a talk from Ray, on the understanding of the Scout Law in relation to every day life. Completing this session was the making of camp gadgets (Backwoodmanship).

Also on site were a group of Air Cadets, they invited us to cross a rope bridge they had constructed over a pit (about 15ft off the ground). It consisted of a single rope between 2 trees and a double rope to a 3rd tree. Because of the difficulty only 4 lads managed to complete it although many tried.

After lunch it was time to pack up and tot up the points. The patrols were competing for the camping trophy. Points were awarded throughout the weekend on games, activities, inspection etc. Points were also deducted for bad behaviour.

The Red patrol won 'well done reds' closely followed by the yellows and bringing up the rear the blues 'Lost too many points blues'. After the presentation of the trophy and goodies supplied by Ray it was time to go home to a nice relaxing bath ahh!

Last but not least I would like to thank again Ray Lander for organising the weekend, Colin Payne and Paul Clark for cooking and Peter Fowler and Viv Frogett who assisted me throughout.

Yours in scouting
 Dennis Brookes A S L



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The Hole in the Wall

It was a circular opening in the base of a wall near the brook, an outlet for storm water.

We decided to explore the hole, it was a sunny morning so we equipped ourselves with torches, candles and matches, waterproof boots and old clothes. George led the way crouching down torch in hand, followed by Frank and Alfred with me bringing up the rear.

Bent double, trying not to slip on the slimy bottom of the drain we edged our way forward - the candles giving strange shadows on the walls. Half an hour later we came to a halt - George pointed his torch where a large chamber opened out and we could stand upright. There was a ledge below and pools of water where we wondered if there might be rats about. At the far end of the chamber there was another hole - much greener and wetter than the first. We had a conference and decided to leave that for another day.

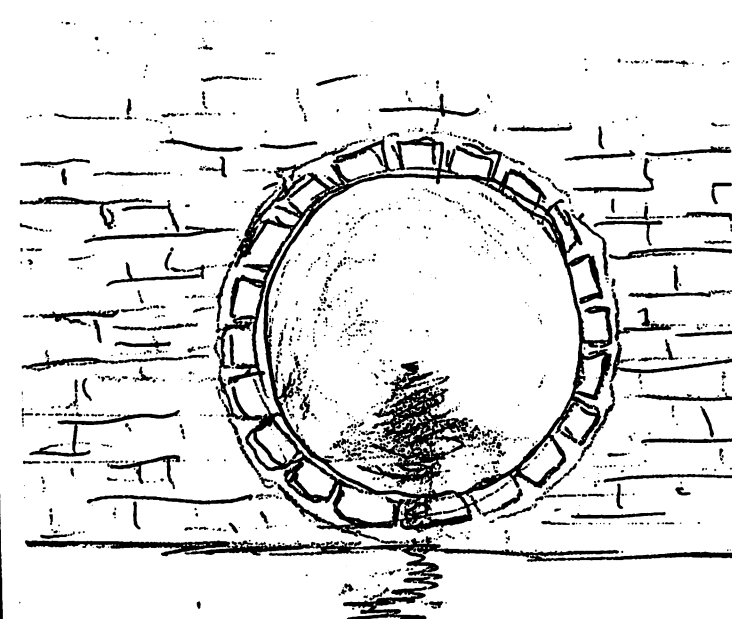
We retraced our steps, very tired and glad to get out in the fresh air. Next thing we all agreed was a bath and change.

That afternoon there was a violent thunderstorm. I reckon we were lucky lads that day!

True story of one morning in 1925 about the writer and his three friends - all aged 8 years.

L.W.

Children no fear! Still we all do silly things don't we?



Round the Next Bend (An Extract)

On 22nd May 1994 Gordon Dale and his wife Grace made a tour of Great Britain by car starting from Ratby to Yarmouth and down the East Coast, keeping a journal daily, noting unusual pub names.

Among their notes of the journey we include some here - "Getting through London via the M25 - no trouble at all." Enjoying a trip on the Condor Ferry from Weymouth to Jersey and visiting their son Steven and wife Doreen at a large residence. Splendid views crossing over the Tamar Bridge.

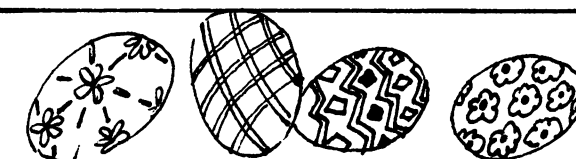
Not waiting to be "ripped off" at the car park down at Lands End. Taking a wrong turn on the M5 and managing to get to Weston-Super-Mare via a cart track. Most enjoyable part on the Heritage Coast. Having a 5 star treatment at a little cottage at Crewtown in Scotland. Staying at a B&B farmhouse belonging to an eccentric gent who possessed a thirty year old Rolls and highland cattle.

Some of the overnight stays were nominated as "Grotbags" but mostly were up to standard. On the 13th day they got to John o Groats and the Shetlands. Going south then through Catherine Cookson County and Yorkshire the last coastal place being Skegness.

Through Melton Mowbray and finishing back at Ratby - total miles clocked - 2900 after 18 days.

Grace had noted 38 unusual pub names throughout the trip (not necessarily entering some).

A fully detailed account of the journey is on display at present in Ratby Library.



Volunteers are required

To help the Disabled people of Leicestershire and Rutland by sparing a few hours collecting cash on either a Flag day or House to House collection during the period Saturday 18th May to Saturday 23rd May.

Your time and effort will be greatly appreciated - lets make it a bumper year!

Please contact: Jane Kelham at the Leicestershire Guild of the Disabled
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the Reservoir*

EMPORIUM

Michael and Karen Cotton of the Plough Inn, Ratby, are pleased to announce that their company, Emporium Trading Limited has taken over the licence of The Reservoir Inn at Cropston.

Michael and Karen have been at The Plough Inn for over four years now and have built up a thriving business.

They have always shared an ambition to wait for the right opportunities. So a drive and spotted The Reservoir Inn for them.

At last the dream has come true, they have opened and refurbished. Their aim is to create a new image and get back to traditional values. These are no juke boxes, pool tables or TV's in either The Plough or The Reservoir. But The Reservoir has something new that you won't find just anywhere, a quiet non-smoking room.

The separate restaurant at The Reservoir means that tables can be reserved. Judging by the success at Ratby booking tables may become essential here!

So if you are out and about in Charnwood, or visiting the nearby Central Railway station, why not round off your day with a visit to The Reservoir? You know that you value for money that you've experienced at The Plough.

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Monday - Saturday

11.00 am - 3.00 pm

6.00 pm - 11.00 pm

Sundays

12.00 pm - 3.00 pm

7.00 pm - 10.30 pm

Watch out for the

The Reservoir Inn

TRADING LIMITED.

gh Inn, Ratby, are pleased to announce that limited has taken over the licence of The

lough Inn for over four years now and have

o run a chain of pubs, it was just a matter of time. Soon after arriving in Ratby they went out for a drive. Karen felt then that it was the pub for them.

opened on March 14th, after re-decorating to create a new image and get back to traditional values. No pool tables or TV's in either The Plough or The Reservoir. But something new that you won't find just anywhere.

ervoir means that tables can be reserved. Judging by the success at Ratby booking tables may become essential here!

ood, or visiting the nearby Central Railway station, why not round off your day with a visit to The Reservoir? You know that you value for money that you've experienced at

No Pool

No TV's

Food Available

Lunch

12.00 noon - 2.00 pm

Evening

6.00 pm - 9.30 pm

(Sunday 7.00 pm)

Last Orders 9.30 pm

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The Reservoir**

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Early Bird Menu

2 x Main Course for £15.00

Mon - Sat

12.00 - 2.00pm

6.00 pm - 7.00 pm

See the Blackboards inside!

CHIEF SCOUT AWARD

Congratulations to James Cross who has achieved one of the highest accolades in Scouting, that of gaining his Chief Scout Award.

Over the last eighteen months James has had to produce a project with illustrations and photographs of at least twelve activities from the Chief Scout Section in, "The Scout Record Book".

- e.g.
- Organise a camp for your patrol.
 - Organise a patrol pioneering project.
 - Help out at a Cub pack over several weeks.
 - Contact & visit a Scout group in another country.
 - Prepare & cook a backwoods meal for four people.
 - Take part in a two night survival exercise.
 - Reach two star level in a canoe.
 - Pass off a proficiency badge not previously gained. e.g. advanced swimmer, Man at Arms.

James was one of five scouts who Ray Lander took under his wing giving them advice and encouragement along the way. (Thanks Ray).

Sadly James was the only one who managed to complete the tasks in the allotted time. The Chief Scouts Award has to be completed before the scout reaches fifteen and a half.

James received his certificate from the Chairman of the County Council, Mr Ernie White at a ceremony in the Council Chambers at County Hall along with other Scouts from around the county, with his proud parents, Ray and myself looking on.

Brian Walters, the district Commissioner for Leicester West presented James with his badge at Scouts

Well done James.

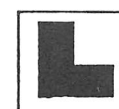
Dennis Brookes.
S.L.

Your in Scouting



Concessionary Travel For Elderly People

Leicestershire County Council travel concessions for elderly people (half fare passes and green travel tokens) are due for renewal. Both types of photocard expired on 31st March 1996. Users should renew at post offices up to Saturday 27th April 1996. A charge of £2.50 per concession has now been introduced; this is thought to be the best and fairest way to control the scheme's growing cost. The charge also applies to disabled people's concessions. The concessionary travel helpline on Leicester 265 7177 is available for any queries.



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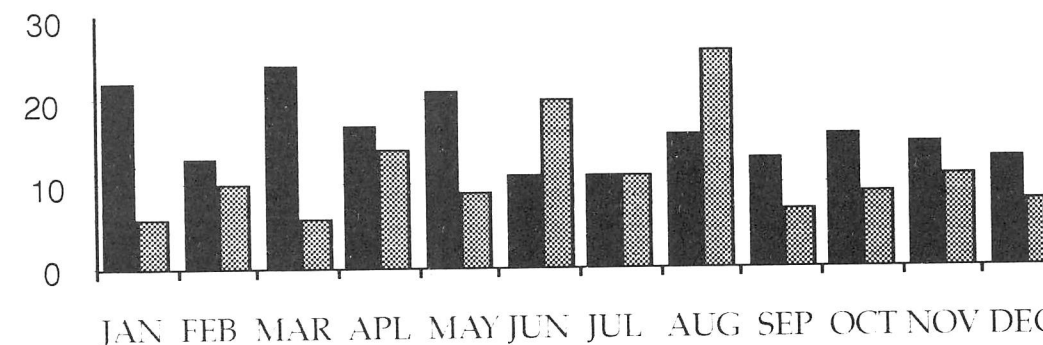
p.s. Written Test starts
July 1996.



RATBY NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



RECORDED CRIME 1994/ 1995



In this months article we report that Ratby has suffered several Burglarys specifically at the Co-op, Frasers and at the Post Office. In January a total of 20 Crimes were reported.

As most people will know our new village Police man is Constable Stuart Mason and if you have anything to report to him you can leave a telephone message on his voice messaging system on telephone number **0116 248 5675**

After the greeting please press the **STAR** key on your telephone. The system will then ask you to press **1** if you want to leave a message for an officer.

When prompted enter Stuarts number **719** followed by the **HASH**. Listen to Stuarts personal greeting and then record your message which is held confidentially for Stuarts attention.

The next meeting of Ratby Neighbourhood Watch will be held in the village Library on **Tuesday 16th April at 7.30 pm**.

We will have a guest speaker Mr Kevin Lewis of Harboro Portas joining us to talk about our scheme and how local people can benefit from the favourable rates his company can offer for home insurance. This is a open invitation to all local people to attend.

It is the intention of the Watch to re-instate the **Snowball Warning System**, but accurate passing on of the messages is required to make it work successfully. **Neighbourhood Watch** still needs people to be co-ordinators in various streets.

For the future, the West Police Area, of which Beaumont Leys is a part, is to use the Ring Master Computer. This is a modern system of automatic telephoning of Co-ordinators with information. There is no actual date for starting, but it is hoped to be in operation within six months.

DO YOU KNOW WHO YOUR CO-ORDINATOR IS IN YOUR STREET ?

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GAS IN SAFE HANDS

"WOT" Bonio

The 'Wot' about Bonio story in your last issue gave me quite a laugh and brought back many fond memories, which I am keen to share with you. Having spent many happy hours at Bonio myself damming the brook and fishing for minnows, I thought that I would relate to you some amusing times from my own school boy days back in the 1940's.

The first tale involved a gang of the lads from Markfield Lane; Jim and Peter Parker, J Herbert, R Plant F & A Geary and S Mott to name but a few. It was one day during the schools summer holiday that we made our way down through the cottage fields (now the Cawrey estate), along the footpath to our destination. We were heading for a stretch of water in Rothley Brook called 'little rush'. Brigg Hole, also a part of the same brook, was for the older boys.

On arriving there was great excitement, we couldn't change quick enough. All of us, well nearly all of us, had come armed with an old pair of trousers to use as our swimming costumes - no towels mind! Those without an older pair of trousers spent the afternoon in the 'noddy'. All in all it was a great afternoon of fun and laughter, everyone enjoying themselves having a wonderful time. But like all good things this one also came to an end, it was time to pack up and go home.

It's at this point that things began to get a little complicated because Ray Plant couldn't find his trousers anywhere (all short trousers then). Eventually though we did puzzle out the mystery of the disappearing trousers. What had happened was this: Jim Parker had taken his clothes off at such time as Ray had stripped down and unfortunately Jim had put on Ray's trousers thinking, mistakenly, that they were the old ones he used for swimming. Well we all though it was a great joke, all of us except Ray that is.



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15

On another eventful afternoon we were all in Martinshaw Wood playing around the 'Big Pit'. We had made a raft with two old oil drums and a couple of lengths of wood then we'd found somewhere and we were having a high old time of it. Peter Parker and Len Gumby were crewing the raft about a yard out from the bank when suddenly someone shouted "Bingy's coming".

Now Bingy Grudgins was, we all thought at the time, the gamekeeper and when 'Bingy was coming' you just didn't hang around. So we didn't and the raft crew abandoned ship at double quick time. Len was first off just about making the bank on one piece and dry, but in his rush to get off the raft and onto the bank he'd given the vessel a shove and pushed it a good foot further out into the pit and yes you've guessed it, and no, don't laugh, poor old Peter finished up standing in water that came up to his waist.

To make matters worse Bingy wasn't coming at all and the whole thing had been a big joke. **Happy days!**

Ratby Local.

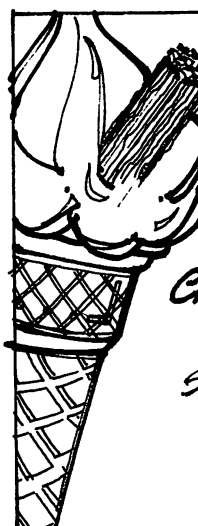


RAISING MONEY FOR RAINBOWS

Ratby man, Clive Coulson is running the LONDON MARATHON on April 21st in aid of the Rainbows Appeal (COPE).

Like many charities, Rainbows have experienced a drop in donations since the Lottery began. If you want to encourage Clive and sponsor him for this very worthwhile cause, please phone CLIVE on 238 6334.





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NIGERIAN FRAUD SCAM

Leicestershire County Council's Trading Standards Department is alerting the public to a scam know to be operating throughout the Country which could result in businesses losing significant sums of money from their bank accounts. The scheme involves a business proposition in the form of a letter inviting selected individuals to assist in transferring large amounts of money from the Central Bank of Nigeria into their UK bank accounts.

The money, five hundred thousand United States dollars, is claimed by the scam operators, to have resulted from an over-invoices contract paid for about five years ago by a foreign contractor. The proposal, which is described in the letter as 'risk free', promises a 25% return after the transfer period of 30 days, to individuals who allow the money to be paid into their bank account. The operators claim to be Civil Servants and are therefore forbidden to open a foreign account themselves.

*"Spring has come
when you can put
your foot on
three daisies..."*



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14

A Close Alliance

Bernie, Carol, Sandra and Sue
not forgetting Mrs J
What do those names mean to you?
It all depends where you go to pay
a very large, or small, amount
into your current share account.

The aforementioned bevy of beauty
can all be found on separate days,
whenever it is their turn of duty,
helping customers in different ways.
Which each of them do very well
in the Ratby Branch of the A&L.

But there's one thing which bothers me
all of that modern high tech gear.
I loathe myself CCTV,
while those computers seem to take a year
to make an entry in my book
which when done by hand only seconds took!

Hoz.

THURSDAY

It's Pension day so to the Pub
We wend our way towards the grub.
The car parks full, so then what now?
Best make for the Railway or the Plough,
Let's try and squeeze into the Bull
And get a table, use the loo (I'm bursting!)

Just like a mob from The Blue Army
These pensioners can send you barmy!

ANON

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You're not going to believe this but someone put in the old **LIBRARY OPENING TIMES** in the last issue of WOT. (I wonder who that could have been? Ann is sure to know!)

Sorry, here are the correct **OPENING TIMES**.

MONDAY	2.00 - 7.00 pm.
WEDNESDAY	2.00 - 7.00 pm
THURSDAY	10.00 - 12.30 am
FRIDAY	2.00 - 5.00 pm
SATURDAY	9.30 - 12.30 am

*"Rain on Good Friday and Easter Day
A good year for grass, a bad year
for hay"*



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DRY FLOWER
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ACCEPTABLE
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RATBY METHODIST CHURCH

FLOWER FESTIVAL

Theme: Praise and Adoration

Saturday 27th April
10am - 7pm

Lunches served from 12.00 - 1.30pm

Teas from 3pm - 5.30pm

Sunday 28th April

2pm - 5.30pm

We will be holding a Songs of Praise Service
at 6pm

Monday 29th April

10am - 2pm

Homemade Produce Stall

Tea & Coffee served each day

RATBY CO-OPERATIVE BAND

At the Band's well attended Annual General Meeting, Band secretary, Mrs Sheralyn Newman gave an excellent report on the Band's activities over the past year. A very busy, highly successful and most varied programme was fulfilled and Sheralyn thanked the many people who had helped to make it so.

The Band had held 94 full rehearsals, 5 section (full day) practices and no less than 26 major concerts - all well supported. Contest at Nottingham, Chesterfield, Whitwick, Pershore and Leamington with very, very goods results, 2 first prizes, 2 second and 1 third, all against first class opposition. Our youngsters turned in some wonderful performances at Junior Festivals bringing home many first prizes. Four social events were organised by "Friends of Ratby Band" at the Bandroom. A full week in Dorset under canvas and a ten day tour to Austria by many of the Ratby Band members adding to their musical experience and education.

The annual Ratby Musik Fest was held in May at Groby College who continue their fine relationship with the Band and our latest (and greatest) cassette "Ticket to Ride" was produced for £4.50.

Just to finish the year off members were out carolling almost every night in December right up to Christmas Eve when the tradition of playing through the night was continued - and very cold it was too. A warmer climate obtained in June however, when the Band played in 10, yes ten villages on the evening of June 9th up on the Yorkshire, Lancashire border in the World Famous "Whit Friday Marches" contest. Over ninety bands from all over the world were out that night in 14 different villages with an estimated audience of a ¼ million.

A lot of people now know where Ratby is and in 1996 a lot more will for again a very busy and varied programme is going ahead. In addition to our regular concert programme we have in 1996 a choir from Rosendaal, Holland coming in May as guest of the Junior Band, a direct result of our Juniors playing in Holland.

We also have new bands coming to the Musik Fest in May along with many of our old friends. Some of our players will be off to France but the highlight of the year will be our trip to Spain in July, (at the individual members' expense I hasten to add), more details later.

Our continued youth policy over the last twenty odd years continues to thrive. We now have more than 80 youngsters in various stages of training and this is naturally a tremendous financial burden and we would welcome any form of sponsorship or patronage. A lot of money has been spent this year on new instruments mainly for the younger players and I mention here just two items from our 1995 balance sheet:

Music £915.88, Instruments/Repairs/Uniforms £23,503.64. A grant of £14,000 from the Foundation for Sport and the Arts was a terrific boost and we have been able to help Ratby Primary School to set up a brass music class, thanks to our keen new headmistress Mrs Lewis.

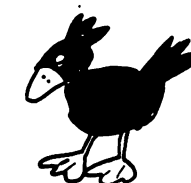
During the later months of 1995 and in January 1996 more than £1,500 has been raised by the Ratby Band organisation for the Neo-Natal unit at Leicester Royal Infirmary with concert performances and a special Charity Evening at Ratby Working Men's Club (who kindly provided the venue). Our sincere thanks go to all who helped in this great effort.

Finally a great big **THANKYOU** to all you wonderful people of Ratby and around for helping us to continue this great village institution

Some dates for your 1996 diary:

Saturday	20th April	Junior Band Birthday Concert, Groby College
Saturday	4th May	Dutch Choir and Junior Band Concert, Groby College
Sat & Sun	11th & 12th May	Ratby Musik Fest, Groby College
Saturday	15th June	Ratby Church Garden Fete
Saturday	10th August	CROWPIE CARNIVAL
Saturday	5th October	Celebration Concert, Groby College
Sunday	10th November	Annual Remembrance Day Parade & Service
Sunday	15th December	Christmas Concert

Keep an eye on the village notice boards for further events.



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TOKENS
TAKEN**

**GREEN
TOKENS
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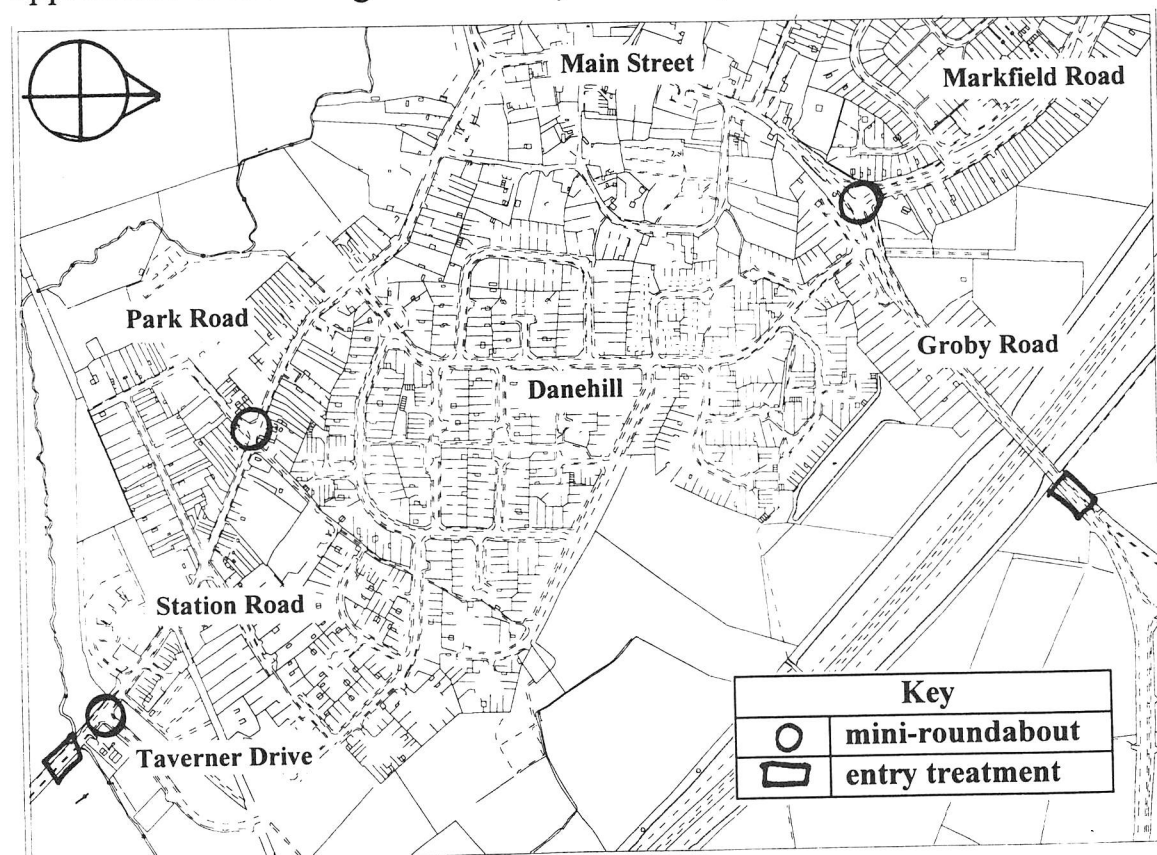
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MANCHESTER AIRPORT £55.00
GATWICK AIRPORT £76.00
SKEGNESS & SHERINGHAM £55.00
CROMER £57.00
GROBY - LEICESTER £ 5.00

RATBY SPEED REDUCTION SCHEME

Following consultations with the Parish Council and local residents, the above scheme was approved by the County Council, to reduce road casualties, and will be implemented starting on 18th March 1996 for a period of approximately 6 weeks.

The features of the scheme are:-

- mini-roundabout at Groby Road/Markfield Road junction;
- mini-roundabout at Station Road/Park Road junction;
- mini-roundabout at Station Road/Taverner Drive junction;
- village 'gateway' entry treatments (signing and textured surfacing) at the approaches to the village from Groby and Kirby Muxloe.



Wot! on the carpet ...

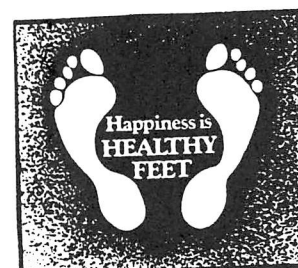
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YOUNG PEOPLE in the VILLAGE

Fifteen year old Dee Phillips is determined to make sure that something is done to meet the needs of Ratby's young people. She does attend girls groups activities at Groby College where she is a student. It was at one of these sessions that she was invited to attend a "Vox Pop" at County Hall on October 26th. 88 young people met with councillors. Issues they raised included the need for youth provision and better transport at evenings and weekends, in rural areas.

Dee says that there is no where in Ratby for young people to meet regularly. She feels that some young people may be at risk because they meet on the streets. Friends have told her that when they do gather to meet and talk in the street the police move them on because people have complained.

Some young people are of course involved in a range of activities such as Scouts, Guides or The Ratby Band. Adults have freedom to take part in a much wider range of social and leisure pursuits. They can drop into a pub to meet friends every night and of course, like young people, they are individuals and do not all go to the same pub or village activity. Young people do not have these choices. Lack of money and transport limits their possibilities even more.

Like Dee, many young people make an effort to organise activities for themselves. Some of the young people who meet up with detached youth workers Katy and Errol have organised fund raising events and planned trips and camping holidays.

Katy and Errol are targetting the young people who meet on the street, their aim is to respond to the needs of this group and to involve them constructively in the organisation and planning of activities and events.

In the summer of 1994 a group of these young people organised a sponsored basketball game, an event attended by Leicester Riders players. The funds raised were contributed to the provision of a second basketball post and net at the recreation area on Ferndale Drive. They have also organised camping holidays and a range of trips.

The detached youth work has been made possible because of a positive response to the needs of young people by the Youth Team at Groby College. Funds for youth work are limited, so we are lucky to have this project. The Parish Council itself has precepted £500 again this year to help meet the costs of work with young people. They have also planned a meeting of interested parties to discuss the needs of young people in the village. Information about this appears in the Parish Council Newsletter in the issue of "Wot". Perhaps this meeting will be the beginning of some positive action for young people.

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