

April 1997

Issue 63



Wot!

About Ratby

PUBLISHED BY THE RATBY SCOUT GROUP



Band Put Ratby On The Map



Ratby Co-operative Band have just won First Prize in the Midlands Championship. They were competing against 22 other bands from across the region in what is the equivalent to the first division in football! They will now be playing in their National Brass Band Championship Finals in Birmingham Symphony Hall on September 28th. Congratulations from 'Wot' for a well-deserved win!!

~~~~~

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## 1st Ratby Swifts Cub Pack



The Swifts Cubs meet every Thursday at the Church Rooms between 6.30 pm and 8.00 pm. We are not a youth club. Boys and girls between 8 and 10 can become cubs and as cubs we aim to teach them how to enjoy themselves safely. How to stretch their abilities in areas they may not normally think about. We try to teach youngsters to develop in a positive way by thinking of others and helping each other.

This past few months has seen the Swifts undertaking many activities. To help celebrate the cub's 80th birthday, (yes we are all getting older) we went round the world in 80 days. Not literally but through theme nights. We held an indoor cricket tournament for India; Camel racing for Egypt; an all day cycle challenge for France; a gladiator challenge representing Italy, and Livingstone's adventure for Tanzania.

Mid June finds the cubs at summer camp. Last June we spent the weekend in tents at the Oaks in Charnwood. The theme was Escapees and one competition for the worst dressed cub went down particularly well. Of course, cub camp gives the boys the chance to cook their own breakfast over a real wood fire, and a chance to sleep in a tent and learn about looking after themselves and their friends away from home. As well as the summer camp we have one or two day camps where we camp for the day only.

The Swifts attended the district swimming gala this year at Cossington Street Baths and this year we will again go for the District Sports day at Glenfield. Last time we entered we came third out of 11 packs. Not bad.

To help the cubs understand more about their community, we visited the RSPCA; the Police, and Fire Station that support Ratby. During the Fire Station visit there was an emergency and a full team plus engine turned out apparently to rescue a hamster that got trapped in a boiler. Sadly we believe the rescue attempt failed.

Apart from the above events, the Swifts spend time in Martinshaw woods. We are lucky to have this facility as the boys can learn about rope climbing; nature; night walks and games that can only be played outdoors in woods.

During the times when we meet in the rooms we have games nights and activity nights all geared towards badge work for cubs. We cook pancakes over candles, have

paper plan competitions, have technical challenges using paper and cardboard to make the fastest rocket ship, or the highest tower.

Occasionally, we hold parents evenings, and the next one we will be planning we hope will be to support this year's Special Olympics to be held in Portsmouth in July.

The Swifts cubs have fun. If you are between 8 and 10 or know of someone and you think it might be worth while learning about cubs and joining, then please come along to the church rooms on a Thursday or contact me the Akela by phoning 2395606 or call at 14 Danehill, Ratby.

**Trevor Sleath**

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# Scouts

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## 1st Ratby Scouts - Recent Events

### Fire Station Visit

After visiting Leicester West Fire Station for three consecutive Friday evenings learning about fire prevention and what to do in the event of a fire, twelve scouts gained their fireman's badge. Well done to Steven Chevin, Stuart Foxon, Daniel Charnock, Andrew Robson, Andrew Taylor, Russell Foxon, Tom Fowler, David Chevin, James Coltman, James McKellicon, Mark Chevin and William Fowler.

### Scout Disco

A scout disco was held for cubs, brownies, guides and scouts, prior to the Christmas and Easter breaks.

The music was loud, the lights were flashing, the strobe lighting making everyone look funny and the tuck shop was open for drinks and sweets. There was even a free raffle and all for 50p. What a great night!

Hopefully these will be the first of many.

My thanks go to the 'Chevins', Chev for sorting out the equipment, David for playing the music, Steven, Mark and Lesley who helped organise the tuck and raffle. Also to all those scouts who lent CDs and to all those other helpers I have not already mentioned who made the whole event a success.

A special thanks must also go to Nick Taylor who very kindly lent us some of the equipment.

### Winter camp

Winter camp was held at John Lee's wood in mid March.

The scouts were billeted in the new dormitory block adjacent the walker cabin, which we used for indoor activities.

Ten scouts came along and thoroughly enjoyed themselves, some of the activities were as follows: games, compass work, personal performance (ie throw the cricket ball, shoot for goal, put the weight, throw the darts and boxing.) The boxing was basically played by tying a balloon on a piece of string to each opponent's ankle, on the blow of the whistle each had to burst their opponent's balloon before their own. Good fun, even Pete and I took part. I lost.

On Saturday afternoon there was a race over the obstacle course, first individually and then as patrols.

In the evening the patrols visited six bases in turn, the tasks being:

- 1 name ten items you would take on a two day bicycle ride
- 2 traffic lights
- 3 fit and name traffic signs
- 4 set a compass bearing
- 5 light the green light to go
- 6 make a tent.

Sunday morning the scouts performed a 'scouts own' the theme being Easter, followed by making pictures with branding irons.

The camp was again very successful and my thanks must go to Ray Lander who organised the programme and also make some of the ingenious equipment used in the activities. To Colin Payne and Paul Clark for cooking all the meals 'superb as usual' and also to my ASL Pete Fowler who ably assisted throughout the weekend.

Yours in scouting  
**DENNIS BROOKES**  
Scout Leader

*This toy bear and her friend the cuddly rabbit are still waiting for their owners in the Library! Do they belong to you?*



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## Ratby Village Society

The New Year started on the usual high note with a (by now traditional) talk by the ebullient and inimitable Fred Harding who was in his element - because he hails from those parts - speaking about the City of London, otherwise known as 'The Square Mile'. With the re-location of such famous institutions as Smithfield, Covent Garden and Billingsgate to other parts and their replacement by yet more financial establishments it might almost be called the Golden Mile. That is if a Lancashire seaside town had not thought of it first!

There seems to be more history and pageantry crammed into this corner of London, together with magnificent architecture, than in all the rest of the Capital, from the Mansion House and Lord Mayor's processions, the College of Arms, Stock Exchange, Law Courts, Lincolns Inn and Lloyds to St Pauls.

There are still fifty churches in the City many of them of splendid Wren outline, two of which had, at one time, famous incumbents - the founder of Toc H and the founder of the Samaritans. It was ninety minutes packed with fascinating revelations ably illustrated by Fred's slides.

The Annual General Meeting took place on 18th February at the Welfare Hall. It was a momentous occasion for the Society because Dennis Green, the Chairman for the past seven years, has decided to retire this year (by twelve months prior notice!). Dennis was a founder member of the RVS in 1974 - at first known as the Ratby Improvement Committee - also a long serving President and latterly as Chairman. In his Annual Address he reviewed the past year's events and the involvement of the Society in local affairs at Parish, Borough and County level. He also expressed his appreciation of the loyalty of members and the hard work undertaken by the Committee.

Dennis Green's last duty was to conduct the election of a new Chairman namely Mr Jack Haywood who then called for nominations for the post of Secretary (Horace Gamble was re-elected), Treasurer (Betty Hulme was re-elected) and Committee members. David Hulme was elected to the Committee after an absence of one year.

At the conclusion of the business part of the meeting Mr Green made a farewell speech

emphasising his reason for supporting the Society since its inception, this being the wish to foster the friendship and community spirit for which Ratby is locally renowned. This certainly has been done with good humour and a cheerful spirit which have endeared him to members. These sentiments were expressed by Mrs Ruth Ball who presented Dennis with a padded garden lounge chair, a framed Ratby illustrated history document by local artist Sally Nicholls, and a cheque for £56.00, a reflection of the affection which he richly deserves.

His wife, Margaret, was presented with a basket of flowers. Then followed the traditional buffet supper, always a happy highlight of the Society's year. The meeting in April, on Tuesday 15th, will be an illustrated talk on 'Round and About in Great Britain' by Michael Palmer and on May 20th Mr Peter Barton will show us 'Some Gardens Great and Small'. Everyone welcome to attend.

HG



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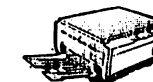
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## FUND RAISER MOVES TO RATBY.

Local mother of three Mrs Lynn Taylor and her husband Ian, of Ferndale Drive has asked through WOT, to express their sincere thanks to the people and organisations in Ratby for the warm welcome they and especially their first born, 7 year old Sam, have received since they moved from Glenfield.

Sam, who has Downs Syndrome, in five years has helped; with the dedicated fund raising efforts of Mrs Pam Haynes and her staff at the West Coats Day nursery on Braunstone Lane; to raise over £6,000 for the Downs Syndrome Association.

Sam attended Ratby Playgroup, he now attends Ratby County Primary School and unlike 90% of Downs effected children, was born without any health problems.

His fund raising efforts have seen him taking part in:-

a sponsored walk,  
a children's fashion show, walking down a cat walk at the Y.M.C.A. theatre

attending a:-

sponsored parachute jump by Policewomen.  
Carol Handley  
musical evening, when his father who is a member of the Balestone Victoria Brass band played during the evening.

The most recent event, in late 1996 took place at the Haymarket Theatre when top West End performers gave their time free and raised £5,600.

Mrs Jayne Shuttlewood of Leicester Downs Syndrome Association was presented with a cheque for £4,000 and St Helons International Special Needs Dance Company, who took part in the show were presented with £1,600 by Sam.

SYLVIA GANT

\*\*\*\*\*  
As our "April Fools Joke" we have produced the magazine late. But it appears that the joke backfired, no-one noticed!!!  
\*\*\*\*\*

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## Ratby Primary School



## ARTS WEEK!

During the week beginning April 21st a variety of exciting and stimulating activities have been planned. Perhaps the highlight of the week will be a 'flying' visit by a helicopter.  
'HELIPHOTOS' will be taking aerial photographs of the school before landing on the school field. Helicopter demonstrations and class photographs with the helicopter will take place in the afternoon. The aerial photographs will prove a useful educational resource.  
A Book Fayre will be available all week so that children and parents can choose books to buy. Visitors such as staff from Brookvale High School will be calling in to tell stories.  
On Tuesday a Leicestershire Librarian, Lisa Goodwin King will be running story and poetry telling sessions with the Infant children.  
On Friday the juniors have a chance to work with local author Rose Impey, well known for stories like "The Baked Bean Queen". The week comes to a climax with a special performance of "Why the Whales Came" by a visiting theatre group.

### RESIDENTIAL VISIT

Children from years 5 and 6 are setting off to Boreatton Park on April 28th for a five day residential visit. They will be enjoying a range of outdoor activities.



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### DR. BARNARDO'S

Children in the school have recently been sponsored to raise funds for this charity. A total of £630.65 was achieved!

### CLASS VISITS

On May 30th children in classes 1D and 1H will be visiting Whitepost Farm in Nottingham.  
The Great Central Railway is to be the destination for classes 2BM and 2W.

### SUMMER FETE

This year the fete will be held on June 7th. Make sure you put that date in your diary now! Everyone is welcome to come along and help raise money for the school whilst having fun!



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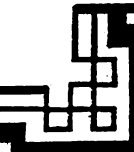
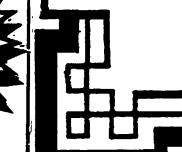
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# THE RATBY CO-OPERATIVE BAND

Ratby villagers were recently invited to a free Brass Band Concert in the Working Men's Club on Stamford Street. The Band, from Ghent in Belgium treated us to a wide ranging programme of music, from the Flintstones to a wonderful Flugel Horn solo by conductor Paul Foot.

The Ghent musicians had been scheduled to play in the West Midlands, but plans had fallen through. They wrote to the "British Bandsman" magazine asking for alternative hosts. Phil Plant saw the letter and invited them over. Despite taking the A1 instead of the M1, they found their way to Ratby to brighten up a dismal winter evening with their music.

### European Ambassadors

Phil Plant has gained a national reputation for his European contacts. Over the years Ratby Co-operative Band have played all over Europe, and bands have come here to play. The Band are off to Holland this July to compete in the World Music Contest. But when Phil and Violet first got involved with the Ratby Band in the 60's no-one could have dreamed of such success.

Their son Stephen, aged 6, waited to join the Band, so they took him to see Mr Bancroft, Bandmaster at the time, who was just getting ready to retire from the Pit.

He took a look at Stephen's teeth . . . . . and asked what he'd like to play. "The side-drum" said Stephen.

The Band was at a "low ebb" at the time, and Phil and Violet got roped in to help. Committee meetings and Band practices were held in the stoke hole around the back of the working men's club. Everyone sat on the coke.

### From Coke To Trailblazing !!

Phil realised that what the Band needed was someone to get things sorted and raise some money. All the instruments needed replacing. The Band were always advertising for cornet players, but no-one wanted to join. It was decided to adopt a Youth Policy to encourage new, young members and build up the band. The first band to form a Youth Section!! At the time they were at the bottom of the 4th section, and the aim was to achieve the 2nd section in 20 years. They actually did it in 12 years!!

One of the first things was to get the Band together to earn some money. There was only £2 in the kitty (but the band had no debts . . . and never has!). They played Shelthorpe Club in Loughborough for a fee of £10.

Old Jack Bancroft said "I don't know how you durst charge all that", remembers Phil. They played a club each month, and started up a Tote which went up to £50 a week before the end of the first month. Profits all went on buying new instruments, over a period of four years around 1966/67.

### First Girls To Join The Band

Ratby Band was also the first to involve girls. Owen Preston's daughter was the first to join followed by Kathleen Pemberton, Sheralyn Plant and others. The girls used to call on Mr Bancroft on the way home from school to see if he needed any errands. One day they found him collapsed in the garden. He subsequently died, and it was the end of an era.

He was replaced as Bandmaster by Mr Springett, who Phil knew from working with him at Nailstone Pit. It was Mr Springett who taught the Band how to win contests, and he taught many young people who have become eminent players.

From then on the Band set out to win contests. They took part in the Bellevue Festival every year, leaving Ratby at 5.30 in the morning in two Astill and Jordan coaches. They were moving up through the sections, and gaining a reputation. So much so that other bands were poaching the good young players. They played in a National Final in London. A Dutch Band had been invited to the event. Phil came up with an inspired idea. He took the Dutch Band's secretary to the pub and made the first European connection! In two years time they resolved to play in Holland. No other bands did this at the time. It was just what was needed to keep the young players!

### Crow Pie Carnival Begun

The Band got to hear about the World Music Contest in Holland. They were determined to take part - but needed new uniforms. Phil came up with the idea of a Carnival. Mick Newman coined the name 'Crow Pie' and the first carnival, with 13 floats took place in 1976.

All three of Phil and Violet's children joined the band, and all three were in the National Youth Band of Great Britain, each of them winning the Trophy awarded annually for "most improved player".

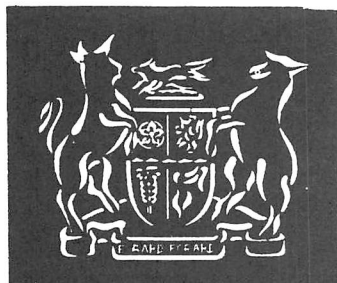
The Plants are justifiably proud of this success, Ratby folk should feel equally proud that the village has been put on the map by the remarkable achievements of Ratby Co-operative Band.

We wish them luck at The National Brass Band Championships!!



Pictured with their father Phil, are left to right, Kay, Sheralyn and Stephen. Phil has just retired from his post as secretary to the Band, handing it over to Sheralyn. He remains a trustee!!





# LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

TRADING STANDARDS DEPARTMENT

## NEW CONSUMER ADVICE NUMBER FROM 1st APRIL

The County's Trading Standards Service, now part of Leicestershire County Council's newly formed Regulatory Services Department, has a new consumer advice telephone number as from 1 April. Consumers living within the boundaries of the continuing County who need advice about problems with goods and services, should now ring the Trading Standards Duty Officer on:-

Leicester (0116) 2657979.

Changes due to Local Government reorganisation also mean that the County's team of Trading Standards' Duty Officers have moved from their City base, at the County Council Service Shop opposite the Fish Market, to County Hall in

Glenfield. Personal callers should now visit the Main Reception at County Hall where the Duty Officers will be available to deal with enquiries between:

8-30 am - 4-30 pm Monday to Thursday  
8-30 am - 4-00 pm Friday.

An answerphone service will operate outside these hours.

Apart from the change in location of our team of Duty Officers and the new advice line telephone number, services to consumers living within the boundaries of the continuing County of Leicestershire - that is not Leicester City or Rutland - should not be affected. However, as from 1 April, people living or trading in the City of Leicester should contact Leicester City Council's Consumer Protection Service for advice or information.

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## RATBY GUIDES

Girls from 1st Ratby St Philip and St James Guides were recently invited to design posters for 'No Smoking' Day on March 12th. The posters were displayed in the main Reception Area at Glenfield General Hospital.

Three prizewinners were chosen, and the winning girls each received a baseball cap and pen. First prize winner, Anastazja Kowal was presented with a £5 Gift Voucher.

The winning posters have been laminated and are on display in the hospital gymnasium.

The Guides meet every Thursday evening from 6.30 to 8pm during term times in Ratby School Hall. If you are between 10 and 14 years old and would like to join, or put your name on the waiting list, please contact the leader, Mrs Julia Kowal at 12,

Meadow Close or come along to a session at the school on a Thursday evening.



Pictured with Fiona McLeod, the Clinical Nurse Specialist for the Cardiac Rehabilitation Department are the three prizewinners.

From left to right; Charlotte Darby (10) 3rd prize, Anastazja Kowal (11) 1st prize and Clare Astill (11) 2nd prize.

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## Worth Cottage

Dear Editor

I discovered some saucers in a charity shop, with Wheatcroft Rose designs. I would love to complete the whole set of 6. The saucers are Roslyn China, with artists name RS Dunber. The three I have are Virgo, Peace and Prelude. Does anyone have any others they don't want?

Yours sincerely

Mrs Janet Gutteridge



## A Little Local Colour

Did you know at the March production of Mikado by the Leicester Gilbert and Sullivan Operatic Society three people from Ratby took part.

Mrs Elaine Baker, a soprano of undoubted talent is a resident of Main Street, a lady contralto and gentleman tenor of the Chorus; live in Gillbank Drive and on Dane Hill.

# Letters to the Editor

Dear Wot

Please put another appeal in the next WOT magazine to all dog owners to clean up after them, especially through Cottagers Walk where we allow our children to run through. Us mothers find it difficult to clean our children's shoes before they go into school in the morning also when you walk through to take children to brownies, beavers etc with it being dark this time of year its so easy to put your foot in it. IT'S GETTING DISGUSTING.

So please clean up after your dogs.

Yours sincerely

All mothers, children and other villagers who are fed up with it

(Name and address supplied)

## BOROUGH COUNCIL IN TUNE WITH LOCAL NEEDS.

Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council have awarded a grant to the Ratby Co-operative Band to enable the purchase of a much needed tuba. Denis Bown, Chair of the Policies and Resources Committee, visited the Band Hall on Thursday March 27th to present a cheque for £1225. He was accompanied by Ratby Councillor Robin Bennett and Councillor Matthew Lay, who used to play cornet for the Junior Band.

This is the first time that the Council have given any grants to voluntary groups. The funding has come from interest accrued by monies originally set aside for the building of a crematorium in Hinckley. The fund is to help with Arts and Sports development throughout the Borough, and particularly in rural areas.

The post of Sports Development Officer has already been created, and the new officer, Graham Chilvers, has been in contact with the Ratby Parish Council Leisure and Recreation Committee to discuss a proposal for a Sports initiative during the summer.



Pictured presenting the cheque to members of the Junior Band are, from left to right; Councillors Denis Bown, Robin Bennett and Matthew Lay.

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## 1st Ratby Swallow Cub Pack



### Akela with the Team

This years Chess and Draughts team comprised Alistair Richards, Matthew Mclavy, Daniel Bourne and Mark Hubbard.

The competition was held at the 86th HQ on Saturday 8th February 1997 and as always was well attended by most packs in the District.

Alistair played Chess in the under 11's and finished up in the finals. Matthew played chess in the under 9's and although he played well, the competition was tough.

Daniel Bourne played in the under 10's Draughts and again faced stiff opposition. Mark Hubbard played in the under 9's Draughts and came first in his age group.

In the picture above you can see the boys displaying their certificates and Mark Hubbard was also presented with a winners medal.

So come on all you children, boys and girls aged 8 and above, try out Scouting with us, we meet at 6.30pm every Monday at the Church Rooms, Ratby until 8pm. We have an exciting programme with lots of interesting things to do and visits to make and people to meet.

Well done to the Team ..... Yours in Scouting , Brian Cross ( AKELA)



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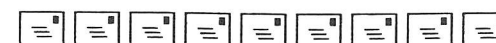
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### Rhubarb Charlotte

(4 Generous Helpings)

#### Ingredients

6oz (175g) fresh breadcrumbs  
2oz (50g) melted butter  
1lb (450g) rhubarb - young pink stalks  
2oz (50g) brown sugar  
1/2 teaspoon ground ginger  
1/4 teaspoon cinnamon  
1/4 nutmeg  
Grated rind of 1 orange or lemon  
2 tablespoons golden syrup  
2 teaspoons of lemon juice  
2 teaspoons of orange juice

#### Method

1. Toss crumbs in melted butter.
2. Spread 1/3rd in base of buttered 2 pint (1.2 litres) ovenproof dish.
3. Cut rhubarb into even dice and put 1/2 on to layer in dish.
4. Mix together sugar spices and rind and sprinkle half into pie dish.
5. Repeat layers with crumbs on top.
6. Warm syrup with fruit juices and pour over the Charlotte
7. Cover lightly with foil or greaseproof paper
8. bake in middle of oven 400F, 200C, Gas Mark 6, for 30 minutes.
9. Uncover and cook for a further 10 minutes until top is golden and crisp.

Serve with cream or custard.

Note: Apples or other fruit can be used instead of rhubarb.

