

APRIL/MAY 2010

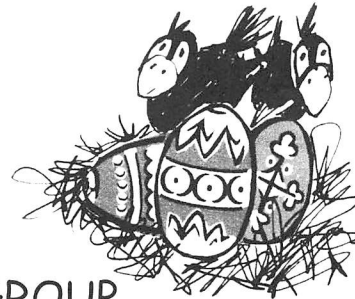
ISSUE 141



# WOT!

## About Ratby

PUBLISHED BY RATBY SCOUT GROUP



# 'ON YER BIKE!!'

There is a significant new arrival in Ratby this month and we have a picture! Ratby Parish Council is pleased to say to our beat officer "on yer bike".

The bicycle was purchased by the parish council to the specification of the police authority. The whole cost was met from the rates you pay to the parish council, the borough council, and the police authority.

We need to record our sincere thanks to Inspector Ward for his prompt and able assistance in the acquisition of this bicycle; to Chief Inspector Ball for his foresight in buying the officers kit, which is half the cost, before the credit crunch; to the HBBC CSP for providing match funding; and by no means least to Linda and Jane who are sorting out the transaction details.



Ratby Parish Council can be contacted at: 13 Station Road, Ratby, LE6 0JQ  
Tel: 0116 2390167 Email: [ratbypcouncil@btconnect.com](mailto:ratbypcouncil@btconnect.com) Your parish councillors are: Chris Boothby, Tony Daly, Mick Earl, Avril and Ken Hunnybun, Jayne Jana, Merle Joyce, Carol Measures, and Ozzy O'Shea.



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## WINDS OF CHANGE

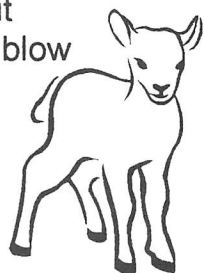
Raucous jet disrupts the night,  
U.P.S.or D.H.L.?  
Donington bound inward flight,  
Each plane diverse tales to tell.

Relentless, insistent tyre –tread hum  
24/7 assails the ear,  
thunderous Stobart on the M1  
shattering peace throughout the year.

Gone the sounds from village farmstead;  
bleating lambs across the Burroughs.  
Gone the cockcrow while we're still 'abed  
lowing beasts mid ridge and furrows.

Gone the vicarage garden fete,  
Geary's bakery has had to go.  
Time and tide for no man wait  
and wind of change will ever blow

HOZ  
January 2010



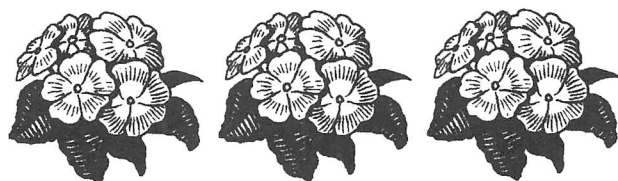
## RATBY VILLAGE SOCIETY

We welcome everyone to join us in the  
Village Hall, Main Street, at 8pm for the  
following meetings:

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April-'Plant Diary'** A year in the  
life of a garden, including the social history  
connected with this large Glenfield garden.

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May**-Julia Kent who runs the Art  
Class in Ratby will be demonstrating painting  
techniques combined with a talk on her  
experiences as a tutor.

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> June**-TV Producer and Director,  
David Lloyd talks about his fascinating career  
amongst the stars, including Catherine Zeta-  
Jones, Harry Secombe, Rold Harris, Timothy  
West and many more.



## LET'S DO BETTER THIS YEAR!

This year Christian aid week is from 9th to the  
15th May .Christian Aid is UK-based for  
international relief,(from disease and  
starvation) and development which is backed  
by a wide range of denominations and works in  
partnership with the world's poor without regard  
to creed or background

I cannot say watch out for the little red  
envelope this year however as they are  
changing it but the principle is still the same -  
not to finance weapons and corrupt  
governments but to save your fellow man from  
starvation and provide aid direct to where it is  
needed .

Last year the organisation was three million  
pounds down on previous years but I am proud  
to see Ratby was only one hundred pound  
down on 2008. So please my fellow villagers  
LET'S SHOW RATBY CARES.

And to the person who year after year fills their  
envelope with obsolete foreign coin and old  
metal washers - keep them - you've sprung a  
leak.

Seriously though we are as ever very short of  
collectors so if you think you can help please  
phone Margaret on 2392352 you will be  
gratefully welcome.

## RATBY METHODIST CHURCH

On **Saturday 3rd April** as well as the usual  
coffee morning from 10am to 12noon, we are  
holding an Easter Egg Hunt. Do come and join  
in the fun.

On **Easter Sunday 4th April** at 10am our  
preacher will be Mr. Steve Wadsworth. The  
evening service will be a united service at the  
Parish Church.

On **Saturday 15th May** we will be holding our  
**May Fayre**. It will be from 10am to 1pm. Lots  
of stalls and delicious refreshments and  
lunches.

Two events this year have boosted our funds  
for the **Derbyshire, Leicestershire & Rutland  
Air Ambulance** by £470.

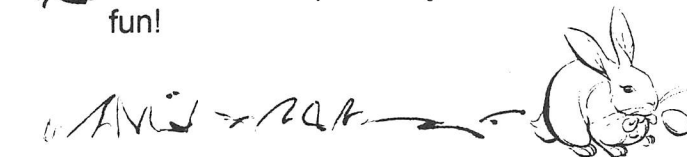
The well-supported **Jumble Sale** on  
23<sup>rd</sup> January realised **£150** and  
**Supper Serenades** on 19<sup>th</sup> March brought in  
another **£322**.

The Supper Serenades evening was a great  
success with over 60 people enjoying an  
evening of popular "Songs from the Shows"  
and an excellent buffet.  
Thank you to all those who supported either, or  
both, of these events.

Our remaining events for this year are:

**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2010**  
**Beetle Drive at 3.00 pm**

Come and enjoy an afternoon of  
fellowship at the Beetle Drive!  
No skill is required – just a sense of  
fun!



**DEADLINE for issue 142**  
**JUNE/JULY 2010**  
**FRIDAY 14th MAY**

EDITOR 239 3367 ADVERTS 239 3279  
ARTICLES 239 4873  
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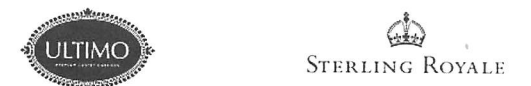
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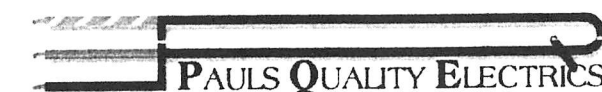
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## ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

It is a little known fact that every English Parish must have an annual parish meeting between 1 March and 1 June. No, this isn't a meeting of the parish council – nothing so dull. It's a meeting of the local government electors for the whole parish – or those who can be fitted into the named venue. The meeting may discuss and pass resolutions on the public activities and policies of any local authority, public body, government department or public service provided that they affect the parish specifically.

**The annual Ratby parish meeting will be held on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2010 in the Methodist Church building. Notice of the agenda will be posted on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010.**

We can tell you now that the local police commander will be our guest speaker.

As Ratby has a parish council the Clerk to the council will assemble the agenda. So, if you have items to raise please drop them into the Parish office before the publication date for the agenda. Thank you.

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## YOUNG PEOPLE TO BE HIT AGAIN BY CUTS.

'Arts in Education' is the Performing Arts Service of Leicestershire Education Authority, providing education in Drama, Dance and Music for 11 to 25 year olds since 1948. Each year they stage over 80 major performances and other opportunities for choirs and ensembles.

The County Council is proposing to cut funding to the service, (which is just 15% of the overall service budget) meaning that activities will be radically reduced, and charges increased. This could mean the end of education in the arts for hundreds of young people, particularly for those in families already at a disadvantage from redundancy and rising costs of living.

The recession and forecast reduction in Government funding has resulted in widespread cuts, but cutting education in the arts would be a huge loss. Performing Arts builds confidence in children, many of whom want to continue with dance, music and drama at University.

The uproar against this proposed cut has been astonishing, there are countless 'blogs', pages and petitions from young people, describing how Arts in Education has affected them and their futures. There are pages of petitions on the Internet, inviting you to sign up and support the work/condemn the cuts!

The County Council needs to decide what its priorities are, an education in the arts for young people, available at a realistic price that families can afford, or to lose the core of Leicestershire's association with music forever.

**Rebecca Harrison**

Lack of space forced us to edit your article. Hope we have kept the main argument. We'd love to hear from you again, particularly a letter about the impact of this on you personally! **Editor**

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EDITOR 239 3367  
ADVERTS 239 3279  
ARTICLES 239 4873

Articles may be sent to 3 Ingle Drive

LETTERS to the EDITOR

Dear Editor



My caravan has come back to Ratby and what do I find?

Colin Gilmore wishing that the village had remained in the 1970s. The rest of the world has changed in the last 40 years Mr Gilmore, shouldn't Ratby keep up?

And then there is RAG (Ratby Action Group) who seem to think there is a direct link between council tax and the provision of doctors and dentist surgeries. It isn't true!

Two different views of Ratby: Mr Gilmore doesn't like the village growing enough to support the facilities he wants and RAG, it appears, want their chosen facilities regardless of the growth needed to support them.

I love Ratby!

K M Goode

Address supplied.

Dear Editor,

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody for the wonderful turnout for Colin Payne's Funeral and the generous donations received. We were able to donate £326 to Diabetics UK and £325 to the British Heart Foundation.

**Carol Payne and Family**

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Dear Editor,

I would be very surprised if there are not numerous tributes paid to the late Tony Hutchinson, Ratby's long serving hairdresser, who died on 18<sup>th</sup> February at the premature age of 59, and so I will limit my appreciation to just a few words-gentle, humble, kind, considerate, compassionate, over generous, A skilled craftsman and dedicated worker, in short a man in a million who will be sadly missed by those who had the privilege of his acquaintance.

Yours faithfully,

**Horace Gamble**

Thank you Hoz. We know that many people share your thoughts, but you are alone in writing to us. Tony has supported this magazine from the first issue, and like you we are saddened and shocked by his death.  
**Editor**



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## VILLAGE POLICE REPORT

I am very disappointed to report that there has been vandalism at the Graveyard in the village, which I am utterly disgusted by. I would like to appeal to anyone who can provide any information on who has committed such a terrible and hurtful act to please get in touch with the Police so that we may bring these individuals to justice.

On a brighter note, I am pleased to announce that the Police Office based at the Markfield Community Centre is now in full use and some members of the beat team are now permanently working from there. This is an invaluable tool which will increase our visibility and accessibility on the beat.

Myself, and Justin have also taken delivery of a brand new mountain bike, which has been bought for us by Ratby Parish Council and Hinckley & Bosworth Community Safety Team.

The Beat Team continue to work closely with our local Schools including Ratby Primary, Brookvale and the Groby Community College in order to improve our relationship with young people and try to educate them on the effects of Anti Social Behaviour, drinking and drug use. We are also in the process of setting dates for the Police TAG Rugby initiative, where we work with Year 5 & 6 Students to provide an input on stranger danger.

We have been working closely with Markfield Community Centre and their Manager Dawn Beesley to improve activities for young people in the area. The centre holds a Junior Youth Club on a Wednesday night and a Youth Club on a Friday evening. Details of these will soon be advertised throughout the village and I would urge parents to utilise this great facility, which will include a Friday night bus.

If you have any information that you want to bring to the attention of the beat team please contact either myself, PC 334 Justin Hayes or PCSO 6128 Russ Leech. To report an incident please call the Police control room on 0116 222 2222 (non-emergency) or in an emergency dial 999.

**Russ Leech**  
PCSO 6128 Ratby/Groby/Markfield





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## Ratby's Art Works

Ratby's annual art exhibition on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2009 was an eventful and fun filled day, with an array of work from Ratby's Art Class and other villagers. Works were varied, with a vast range of genres, including Portraiture, landscape, animals, calligraphy, interiors and still life.

Having browsed the pieces myself I had the opportunity to meet a gentleman called Ewart Astill, an exhibitor himself, who was more than willing to discuss his acrylic painting of 'Main Street, Ratby.' It was a great opportunity to hear him reminisce about how the village had altered so dramatically.

Many of the pieces on display clearly demonstrated the time and effort that had gone into them, and their owner's pride at displaying them. Each piece of a high standard, with varying techniques applied.

Gerald Rowe's stunning watercolour, 'Sunset and Evening Star' demonstrated a strong atmosphere and excellent use of colour.

Cynthia Hunt's watercolour, 'Dovedale River, Thorpe,' gave a real sense of perspective and fantastic use of wet into wet painting technique for the stream.

Pam Tasker's 'Spring Daffodils' was very sensitively painted, and demonstrated a strong skill level in the overall composition.

'Whitby Marina,' by Marylin Harris showed an interesting arrangement with a gorgeous setting, great use of colour, and very intricately painted with careful use of mark making.

This is to name but a few: all the pieces on show revealed a collection of talented artist's/designer's work showing that they thoroughly enjoy what they do.

It was great to see that some of the works had been sold, emphasising the talent in the group!

I am sure we can all agree that seeing the works has been a pleasure, and we can look forward to next year's exhibition.

**Deborah Law** (Subject Leader in Art and Design, Groby Community College.)



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