



Wot!

About Ratby



ISSUE 17

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AUGUST 1989

Children at War

Ratby September 3rd 1939

As day broke on Sunday September 3rd 1939 the weather was fine and sunny. In the fields of the village the harvest was in and the last stooks of corn were being gathered in ready for threshing

At Holywell farm that Sunday morning a Boys Brigade camp was preparing for church parade. My grandmother who had returned from visiting friends from Huddersfield the previous day had written in her diary "the Prime Minister is to speak on the wireless at 11.00 am tomorrow". That Sunday evening after returning from chapel she re-opened her diary and wrote the following words "War broke out with Germany today".

In the months that followed sometimes called the "phoney war" nearly a million children living in the large towns and cities were to leave their homes to become "Vaccies".

This is the story of three such children, "Philip", a boy from Balsall Heath in Birmingham; "Win" a girl from Liverpool and "Olive" an Eastender living on the outskirts of London at Hornchurch.

Philip who was one of thirty evacuees who came to Ratby in those early days of the war recalls:

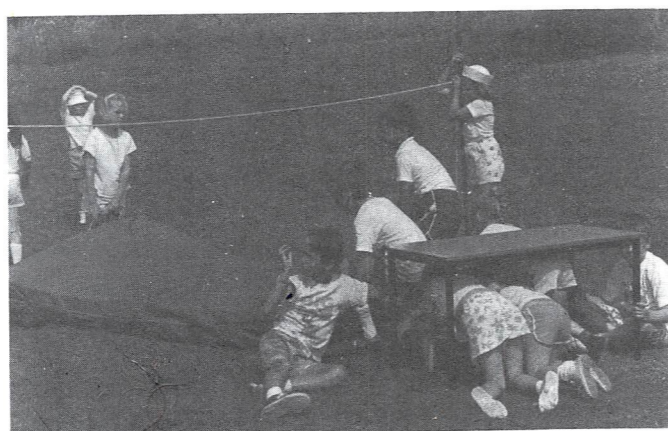
"I have so many vivid memories of my stay in Ratby. My stay with Mrs Copson (26 Station Road) couldn't have been happier, I was made so welcome by her daughter, Hersall and son Geoffrey who was just six months older than myself, but the greatest pleasure I had was being accompanied almost everywhere I went by the family dog, Peter.

continued on centre pages

Children at Play

SPORTS DAY

AT RATBY SCHOOL



The sun blazed down on Ratby School Sports Day, June 13th, and everyone had a chance to shine in a variety of different games and events. The children took part in mixed-age teams, with the older ones helping the little ones. None of that humiliation at coming last in traditional sports day races! A mid-day series of races for different age groups gave the more competitive youngsters a chance to show off their skills.



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SPECIAL OLYMPICS



turn to page 4.



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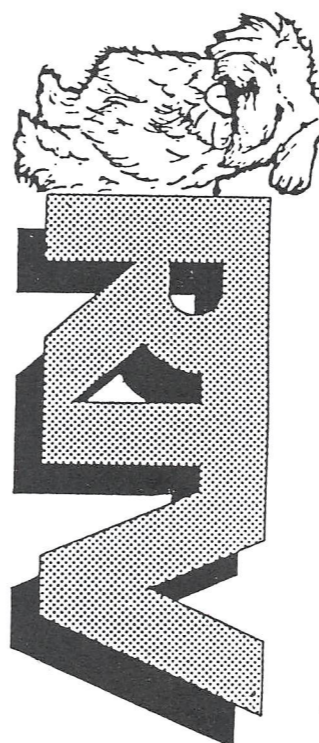
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RADIO LEICESTER WIZZ QUIZ

Having been approached by Lynn Mellor Captain of the Ratby W.I. Wizz Quiz team, to be a team member yet again, my heart came to my mouth. We'd managed to get through two rounds in previous quizzes, could we do better this time? Well, Lynn did her job and pressganged me, (Ros Gould), Andy Morgan and Jane Hargreaves into the team.


On June 8th in the Welfare Hall, we prepared ourselves for battle against Thurlaston W.I. and Desford W.I. Dave Kirkwood the Question Master explained the rules to us, by which time we were all nervous wrecks! Would we get to the buzzer first? Would our minds go blank at even the simplest question? It's always so easy to answer other people's questions!

We were never really "in the lead", so when it came to the end of the final round and we'd won, there was jubilation and a celebratory cup of tea!!

Now we're through to the 2nd round. Again, luckily, we've been drawn to play at home in the Welfare Hall on August 15th against Oadby Brookside W.I. and Cossington W.I. (an old adversary). So do come and support us. Everyone is welcome.

Ros Gould

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Photograph by Michael Murray

MORRIS DANCERS

The "Jammers" Morris Dance troop brought a splash of summer colour to an appreciative audience at the Railway Inn, Ratby recently

The morris dancers are largely Ratby-based and somewhat unique in that all the dancers are exclusively female.

Red, white and green costumes and matching regalia make the ladies, members of Leicestershire and Rutland W.I., a most attract-

Ratby Parish Council

Play Areas

The Parish Council is undertaking an appraisal of the two village play areas. Expert advice is to be given on equipment and safety surfacing by a representative from the National Playing Fields Association. The "City Wildlife Project" are giving advice on landscape improvements

The eventual aim is to create recreational areas that can be enjoyed safely by all ages.

The Council has asked Wicksteed Leisure Ltd. to carry out the annual inspection of playground equipment.

A recent report on playground safety has found that most accidents are caused by inadequate supervision of young children. Head injuries caused by a child walking into moving equipment such as a swing, are very common. Parish Council play area supervisors have therefore been concerned at seeing children as young as four and six playing without adult control.

Wooden fencing at Ferndale Drive has had to be repaired again, a constant drain on limited resources.

Police

A warm welcome from all of us to our new local policeman, P.C. John Alexander. We hope that his time in Ratby will be long and happy!

It was reported at the June 6th meeting of the Parish Council that the police are intending to set up more radar speed traps in the village. So far 13 drivers have been cautioned, 11 have been fined the fixed penalty, and one driver has been summonsed.

County Councillor's Report

A46 Leicester Western Bypass

Plans to widen the M1 motorway have affected the proposed Bypass. We are unlikely to hear any news before October now.

Railways

At the June 6th meeting, Mrs Butler reported that she had been re-appointed to the Midland Main Line Forum, and would continue to press for electrification.

There are hopes of a Section 56 grant from the Government towards the cost of the Burton-Loughborough rail link.

Parish Council Meetings are normally held on the first Tuesday of each month, at 7.15 p.m. in the Welfare Hall. Ratby villagers are welcome to attend. Details are always displayed in the Parish Council Notice Boards, located around the village. Although the Public cannot participate in the business of the Council, there are two "spots" allocated for the Public to raise questions, one is "Questions to the Chair", the other is "Questions to the Police". If a member of the Constabulary is not present the Clerk takes note and writes to Beaumont Station.

HAVE YOU GOT A COUPLE OF HOURS A WEEK TO SPARE?

The Parish Council is still seeking an active person to help maintain and regularly check equipment on the village recreation grounds. Light duties include oiling play equipment, painting etc.... Please phone the Clerk on 386334 for details.

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RATBY PRIMARY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

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2.30

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Summer Fête

Thank you to everyone who helped at or supported the Fete on June 3rd. A total of £1117.35 was raised. This will be used to buy books and equipment for the school.

Despite the cloudy weather a good time was had by all a pleasant and relaxing afternoon.

RATBY PRIMARY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
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BREAST SCREENING

I was one of the 120 ladies who had a mammogram at Glenfield earlier this year. On our first visit it was like a Ratby outing, everyone knew each other. Unfortunately, I was called back for a second test and I'm not saying I wasn't worried - I was - I duly went along and there was something that bothered the doctor slightly so it was decided I had some more tests, just to make sure. So I went into hospital for two days. Everything turned out OK (my prayers were answered). The Doctors and Nurses were wonderful. I felt I must tell any ladies who will receive a letter to PLEASE GO it's the WISEST THING TO DO.

A friend

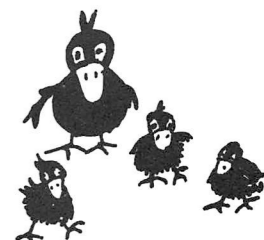
STAMFORD STREET STORES

A belated welcome to Mr and Mrs Boparai and their two year old son Danny who took over Stamford Street Store in March. They moved up here from Essex, and are enjoying living in the village.

They will be extending the opening hours from 8.30 until 10 p.m., and have introduced a range of greetings cards. Postage stamps are on sale too, so it's a really handy place for those last minute cards!

INCREASED COSTS

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SIXTH PAGE	11.50
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We realise our contributors themselves face many increasing prices and we regret to have to add to them but it is our hope to keep these prices stable (barring force majeure!) as long as possible.

*The higher increase on this size reflects the fact that much the same work is required regardless of size of advert.

AN APOLOGY

Sincere apologies to Mr and Mrs Jobanputra at the Leicester Alliance Building Society for getting their name wrong in the last issue!

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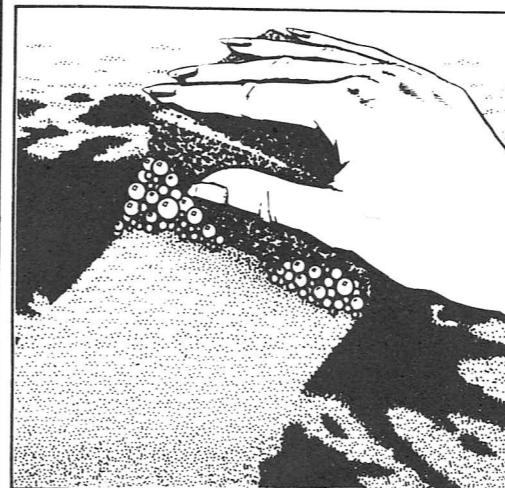
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LETTERS

3 Ingle Drive

Dear Editor,

Recently, I happened to be in the Ratby park with my small children, at about 5.30 pm on a mid-week afternoon.

My children were playing in the safe confines of the park, in total freedom, when their games were abruptly disturbed by the arrival of a dog owner, who promptly allowed his dog, a large German Shepherd dog, to run free near my children and, frankly terrify them. Although the dog meant no harm it never the less caused much distress to them.

If this was not enough, a second dog owner proceeded to let his animal, a Doberman, also run freely again frightening my children. It is quite clear that it appears to be a common practice for dog owners to "exercise" their animals in the park, upon their return from work, with little regard for other people. Both these occurrences took place during a time when there had been a nationwide spate of dog attacks, and to see such large animals chasing around unleashed was, to say the least, disconcerting. Does it not seem reasonable that dog owners should leash their animals and only be allowed in to the park under sufferance, and away from children?

Another feature of Ratby's dog problem is the copious amount of excrement found not only on public footpaths but also on driveways and lawns of houses. Not all of this is directly attributable to free roaming animals but some is "deposited" in full view and with the consent of their owners!

Would it be too much to ask, (exp.), a more responsible attitude from such dog owners, who should confine exercising their dogs to areas not occupied by small children, keep their animals leashed, and clean up their animals excrement? We can but hope

M.R. Chippendale

Dear Editor,

Can anyone in Ratby help? Our great granny who is 94 has been using Revon 'Charlie' rouge, in a shade called "Cheeky Cherry". Unfortunately, this shade is now discontinued, and the makers cannot help. Has anyone got any, unused and lurking in the back of a drawer? She needs cheering up as she was recently burgled by a bogus 'water-board' worker.

Yours faithfully,

Sue Boud

The subject of dogs fouling our village has inspired more people to write letters than any other problem. So far no response has come from dog owners, responsible or otherwise. Come on, lets here from you.

In the coming months an interview with George Smith of Casepak will be featured in Wot! If you have any questions suitable for inclusion in our interview please send them in by 31st August and we will try to oblige.

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The October issue of WOT is Thursday September 21st

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BIRDS OF PREY

Hawks, Buzzards, Kites and Falcons were once common place birds in the local landscape. Today only the Kestrel is a common resident within the parish, and thrives on the rich pickings of small rodents on the banks of the M1 motorway.

Before the war sparrow-hawks were to be seen in the fields between the brooks. I remember being shown the prize, an egg proudly displayed in biscuit tin packed with sawdust and collected from a nest near the junction of the old quarry line and Leicester-Swannington Railway line at Glenfield. In the last century a Leicestershire naturalist reported the presence of Common Buzzard in Martinshaw woods. Today we would have to travel to the Derbyshire peaks to see this handsome bird. In medieval times Red Kite were common-place in the district and are even celebrated in local place names. In the fields beyond Groby and Sheet hedges wood is the road to Anstey. In the medieval period a small farm was established at a place called Kites Brig. In the late 18th century the farm was then in the possession of Joseph Freeman an ancestor of our Ratby Freemans.

Joseph ran an ale house there called the Horse and Trumpet. Also at Ratby the allotments commonly called "Kitty's Hill" were originally established on a parcel of land which the medieval court rolls refer to as Kites Hill. Evidently the original meaning of the place has been lost in the depths of time.

Other clues to local involvement with birds of prey in the days before foxhunting became popular was discovered by a local metal detector. In the field in the vicinity of Heathbrook Drive and Tyler Road is the site of the old mill field. It was here that my friend discovered a silver hawking bell. It is said the sport of falconry was introduced into the county by knights returning from the first Crusade. They learnt their skills from the Arabs who by the 12th century had established hawking into a fine art. However the presence of a hawk in the hand of William the Conqueror illustrated in the Bayeux Tapestry suggests a 10th century date for the introduction of the sport into Western Europe. If hawking was the sport of kings then the peregrine falcon reigned supreme as the

NATURE NOTES

A KESTREL as seen in the garden at Stamford Street.



by William Bond

bird greatly favoured by the nobility. It is regrettable that many of these fine birds that once graced the landscape are now confined to the presence of a single species and as for the remainder they are either completely lost or at best can only be seen at falconry displays.

Michael T. Ball.

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Saturdays 1st Aug - 2nd September

Saturdays 1st Aug - 2nd September

Saturdays 1st Aug - 2nd September

Saturdays 1st Aug - 2nd September

Saturdays 1st Aug - 2nd September

Saturdays 1st Aug - 2nd September

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August Bank Holiday (28th August)

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THE POST OFFICE, 30 MAIN STREET, RATBY

UP AND COMING

Jevon Payne and Mick Duffy have launched their first business venture "Soccer Express". Both play semi-professional football for Leicester United and Corby. Mick is an ex-professional footballer with Leicester City and both have been involved with Leicester City Council in the leisure field.

Soccer Express already operates throughout Leicestershire with about 100 members. Members receive advance notice of courses run by Soccer Express and have trips throughout the year as well as a membership card, diary and pen. Cost is £3.00 per year.

The business is in the stages of becoming F.A. approved and pride themselves on the standard of coaches they have working for them.

'Everyone who works for us is not only F.A. qualified but has also played to a high standard either as a full professional or top semi-pro level.'

Soccer Express launch their first venture in this area at the Groby Community College,

there will be a five day soccer coaching course for any interested player, boy or girl from the age of seven to fifteen, regardless of ability, included will be coaching in all aspects of the game plus the chance to take part in skills competitions, penalty action and five aside contests. Those paying their £25 course fee will receive a framed photograph of his/her coaching group, a certificate of attendance, a selection of programs, a Soccer Express Tee Shirt and a free trip to Notts Forest and Notts County.

The course is one of many which are to be set up in the future by Soccer Express co-ordinators Jevon Payne and Mick Duffy. The business has many aspects to it, including the previously mentioned membership club, coaching courses, one day trips, international tours and tournaments.

'We believe there is a need for quality coaching courses and we feel we can offer this.'

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MALT CRUNCH BREAD COBBS COTTAGE LOAVES
FARMHOUSE LOAVES WHITE & BROWN COBS and ROLLS & TWINNIES
CHEESE & ONION BREAD

FILLED COBS

PEOPLE AND PLACES

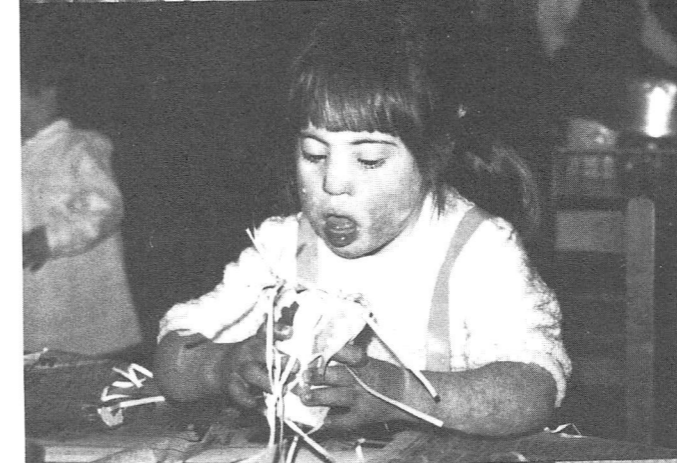
Desford Lane Main St Junction



This has always been an important part of the village centre, and until recently was dominated by the fine old Majestic Cinema and dance hall. In the 1930s Winston Stevenson, who until the early seventys ran the nearby newsagents shop, was a keen musician and for a few bob you could have a good night out, dancing to Winston's Melody boys. The main attraction however was George Weston's cinema, and the days before good bus services to Leicester you could get a good Saturday night out at the Majestic. However

any hanky-panky and George's father would clip the offending youngster around the ear, promptly removing him from the cinema with the words "Me lad yom barred".

In the 1930s an old thatched cottage stood, at the foot of the hill leading to the cinema. I am told that in the days when coffins were carried on foot to the church, the lady who lived there always provided a pair of trestles for undertaker and coffin bearer to pause on their journey to the church.



playgroup



The photographs opposite show a small part of the activities available at Playgroup. The sand, water and physical play is just as important.

Here is part of a poem written by Zena Warren who works at another Playgroup:

"Please don't expect too much of me
I'm learning more than you can see
Being simply here to enjoy and play
Means more to me than I can say
Please don't fret at the end of the day
If I have nothing to display.
I really gain so much from play -
Social skills and come what may
So when I come home empty-handed
From such a very busy day
Please don't say
"Haven't you done anything today?"

Lyn Evans
Playgroup Leader
Photographs by Sylvia Grant



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continued from front page

I cannot remember how many times he managed to escape after I had left to go to school and turned up in the School playground to search for me, sometimes he would find his way into the corridor outside my classroom, and the only way the Staff could get rid of him was for me to be excused from whatever lesson it happened to be, so that I could take him back home. I can still picture him jumping the garden gate. I wonder if the same gate is still there!

There was a boy aged about 10 who lived across the road from me, his name was Geoffrey Whittle, he used to let me visit to see his pet Rabbits.

I daresay all the houses in the Village now have toilets that flush and are connected to the main Sewerage System, but in those days there was a particular time when all the windows would be closed and a certain Corporation Vehicle would be given a wide berth whilst the Binmen emptied the Bins from the outside toilets, oh happy days!

It is sad to know the cinema no longer exists. I went on a number of occasions, Geoffrey Copson used to help out in the projection room in the evenings. The one film that I recall seeing was called "the Prince and the Pauper". A story of a boy Prince aged about 12 and a pauper boy, an identical twin, the one who seemed to have everything, and the other from a very different background I remember identifying myself as such, which of course was a childish fantasy.

Ratby can be proud of its contribution to the mass evacuation of the Cities' children, children who were at an impressionable age when the importance of being placed in the right hands for their care and protection was paramount.

The special relationship between child and foster parent remained for many years after the children returned home. I am sure the bond between those Birmingham children of yesterday and the Village of Ratby is as strong as ever."
Two days before the outbreak of war the first great evacuation took place. Win now takes up her story.

On Friday September 1st 1939, I can remember standing on the platform of Edge Hill Railway Station, Liverpool. There seemed to be hundreds of parents and children all with gas masks, identity labels, and luggage, being guided on to various trains. Not being very well off we (my sister and I) could not have a case, so we had our possessions in a pillowcase.

Mother had spent her last few coppers on a few plums as a treat, these were divided between us, I have a vivid memory of this big red path in the corner of my pillowcase, where my plums had leaked through the paper bag causing this stain. I also remember being puzzled as to why all the parents were crying, of course to me anyway I was going on holiday, being far too young to realise what war was all about.



We finally left the station and all the parents behind, and set off for what was to be our point of arrival - Wrexham, North Wales.

We were taken by coaches to a huge cinema, quite excited because we all thought that we would be seeing a movie. But such disappointment when we were sent off again in various directions.

We arrived at the village school in Bersham still in North Wales, and then began the task of placing us with families. As time has gone by, and I reminisce I can only connect that experience to feeling like cattle at market. Standing in the classroom being looked over by all these people, the numbers seem to diminish, leaving my sister and I.

Now arrives this lady and gentleman, whether we had been allocated to them, or nobody else wanted us, I don't know. As each child went on it's way to it's new home, they were given a carrier bag of food, 2 of it's contents which I remember most was a tin of corned beef and the biggest bar of Cadbury's chocolate that I had ever seen.

By the time we left we were given 2 carrier bags each, to this day I have never figured out whether we looked as though we needed feeding or the fact that there were a lot of bags left.

Our journey took us to a farm, quite a big house, apparently it used to be an old monastery. Our bags of rations were taken from us. So that was the last we saw of our Cadbury's chocolate. The family consisted of father, mother, 2 small boys and an uncle. I remember feeling not very welcome by the family, but the farmhands and maid made up for that. They were good to us.

The reality of war came into Olive's life within hours of it's declaration. She recalls:

Children at War



"I remember waking on that Sunday morning with a sense of foreboding which had been in the air for many days. It was the morning of Sunday 3rd September and I was just nine years old.

My parents and neighbours were talking in hushed voices about "The War". Suddenly there came an awful wailing sound. That noise was to be a signal for a period of terror, noises and smells which to this day I have not forgotten.

In the next few weeks many hours were to be spent in air raid shelters without the support of my father who had been recalled to serve in the Royal Navy."

Following the fall of Dunkirk in May 1940 the whole might of the Luftwaffe fell on England. The first attacks were on radar stations in Kent and the Isle of Wight. By early June the Germans had turned their attention to our fighter stations. Hornchurch lay in the area of 11 group and were to take the brunt of the early attacks and are now vividly recalled by Olive:

"We lived just three streets away from Hornchurch aerodrome where some of the "few" were stationed. Our only relief in those days was the return of the Spitfires doing victory rolls signifying more enemy planes had been shot down.

Our payment for that pleasure was to be under constant fire from enemy aircraft, every day we were trapped in air raid shelters whilst bombs were exploding all around us. Eventually, from advice given by the police and Military Authorities we moved to stay with my aunt in East Ham. Our return to London however coincided with the early days of the Blitz. The move to my aunts now brought us constant danger from land mines, parachute mines, bombs and incendiaries. I remember the night the King George V docks were

attacked, the bombs began to fall shortly after some ships with cargos of sugar had arrived. They burned for hours and the smell was sickening.

In those days there was very little food. My mother would queue for hours for two bananas and perhaps four sausages, but somehow she kept us fed.

Eventually the authorities evacuated my mother, brother and myself to Troon in Scotland. My father's ship was under repair there and so we were to join him there.

The prospect of a train journey was an adventure for my brother and I but even then the Luftwaffe machined gunned the train as it drew out of the station. We lay under the seats for protection. It was an horrific experience. We arrived at Carlisle station. We waited there for our train to Troon, we were cold, tired and hungry.

I remember Troon as a clean and sweet smelling town. During our stay there I was seriously ill with Rheumatic Fever. The local people were very kind to me at this time. They found us extra food and picked wild snowdrops for me. Whilst we were in Troon our Essex home was bombed.

We eventually arrived home just as the Normandy invasion started. The terror and life in air raid shelters also became a common place activity during the early days of our return. We were constantly under attack by Hitler's new terror weapons. My brother and I saw the first of the doodle bugs. At first we thought it was a damaged aircraft but soon found out it was not.

Eventually VE day arrived and soon my father was home. It was a joyous occasion."

The loneliness of being separated from one's parents is finally recalled by Win, our Liverpool evacuee. She recalls:

"We used to lie in bed listening to the planes and I think I began to get homesick and realised what war could mean, listening to the news. I don't think I have ever said so many prayers as in those few months. I wanted to be taken back to my family, war or no war.

Now I am a parent myself I think I now know something of what my mother and other mothers were wondering as they stood on that Railway Station that Friday in September 1939. Would they ever see their children again. I can also understand the feeling of the people who had to accommodate us, if you had a room you had to take an evacuee."

Memories of war time evacuees provided by Philip Branson now living in Tamworth, Win Baillie, Olive Smalley and the diaries of the late Alice Harrison, grandmother of M.T. Ball who edited and narrated this article.



THE RATBY CO-OPERATIVE JUNIOR BAND



The members of the Junior and Training Bands held their Internal Solo Contest on Sunday June 14th in the Welfare Hall, Ratby. The afternoon was not only entertaining but proved that there are some very talented young people. The results of the Training Band Solo Contest were as follows :-

Group 1: 1st Joanne English
2nd Karen Ince
3rd Karen Cadle

Group 2: 1st Matthew Bottram
(Drummers) 2nd Mark Concar
3rd Mike Marshall

Group 3: 1st Carol Fish
(Adults) 2nd Glenn Barratt
3rd Judith Bailey

Group 4: 1st Rachel Flower
2nd Alex Calvert
3rd) Shelley Gant
) Rosalind Barrows

Group 5: 1st Nicholas Gant
2nd Edward Walker
3rd) Matthew Barratt
) James Bristow

Group 6: 1st Sally Skinner
2nd David Smith
3rd) Andrew Highton
) Lisa March

The results of the Junior Band were as follows:-

Group 1: 1st Rebecca Plant
2nd Chris Bailey
3rd Adam Bakewell

Group 2: 1st Naomi Barrows
2nd Colin Bennett
3rd) Nathan Barratt
) Andrew Bailey

Group 3: 1st Neil Kenney
2nd Debbie Whitehead
3rd Julie Plant

All the trophies were presented to the winners on the evening of the Junior Band Birthday Concert at Groby College. The winner of the Roy Flude Shield was Stuart Warriner, a relative newcomer to the Band; but as this shield is given for exceptional service to the Band, it was awarded to Stuart, who always seems to be where help is needed. Well done, Stuart! The winner of the Cleaver Dumford Memorial Trophy was presented to Neil Kenney, winner of the Senior Section of the Band. This was presented by Cleaver's widow, Dorothy.

Future bookings are:-

13th August - Ashby Park
19th August - Aylestone Bungalow Project
16th Sept. - A musical evening at the De Montfort Hall given by all the Leics. Co-operative Bands and Choirs. (tickets from the De Montfort Hall).
15th Oct. - Leics. Brass Band Assoc. Solo Contest - Groby College.
21st/22nd Oct. - Training and fun weekend (Quorn Hall)

Thanks to everyone for their support in the past and we look forward to your support in the future (perhaps at the De Montfort Hall?)

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POLICE INFORMATION

KEEPING YOUR CAR SAFE

In 1988, 13,745 vehicles in Leicestershire were either taken or had property stolen from them.

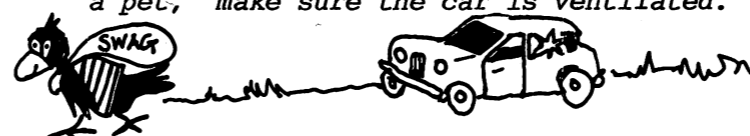
Nationally over 1.5 million cars are broken into or stolen each year. That's six cars every two minutes. If you regularly park your car in a city street, you have a one-in-four chance of having your car or its contents stolen. Followed by lots of inconvenience and maybe a lost no-claims bonus.

So always:

- lock your car when you leave it.
- take your valuables with you or lock them in the boot.
- close the windows completely - even the smallest gap is asking for trouble.
- make sure you park in a well-lit street.

For extra security, fit an anti-theft device such as an alarm or immobiliser. If you are buying a new car, it's a good idea to check the level of built-in security features, and engraving your registration number on the windows is a cheap and effective deterrent to professional thieves.

For safety's sake, never leave children alone in cars. If you must leave a pet, make sure the car is ventilated.



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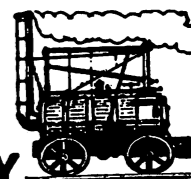
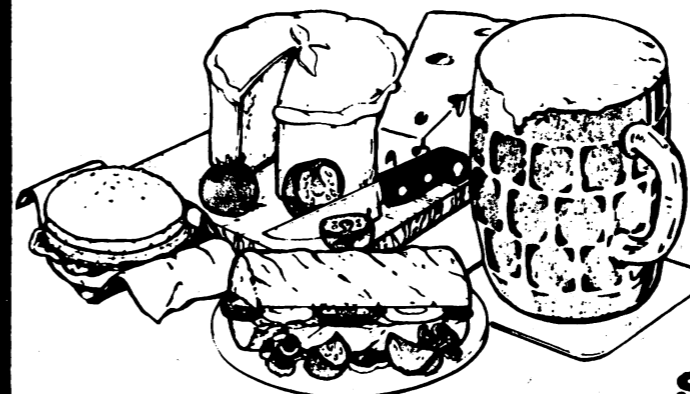
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MONDAY - SATURDAY
LUNCHTIMES

RAILWAY INN
STATION ROAD, RATBY



A member of Everards Old English Ale Club

"IN RATBY"

How nice it is as you come and go
For folk to turn and say "Hello"
In Ratby.

A church on the hill
So prominent there
Where people meet
to share in prayer
In Ratby.



The Welfare Hall
The Village Shops
Where old and young
and each one pops
To buy or sell
To ask, if all is well
In Ratby

Children running from the school
Their mothers soon to greet
Wait! shouts the lady crossing guide
This! is a busy street
In Ratby

There's so much, to see and learn
As down those lovely lanes you turn
to Geary's bakers
As someone said!
Oh! that gorgeous smell of bread
In Ratby

Mary Ward

GUIDING IN RATBY

Market Bosworth held it's annual parade in Ratby on Sunday June 4th. We paraded through the village to the church where members of different units took part in the service. This year's theme was "Our World" and we were fortunate to have as our speaker, a lady minister Mrs. Lesley McNeil. She gave us food for thought with an interesting talk about looking after our environment.

At the moment Guiding in Ratby is going from strength to strength. We have two new leaders at the Guide Company and would welcome any girls who wish to join them. The two Brownie packs and the Rainbows are thriving and have recently enjoyed many exciting activities. As a District 120 of us went to Alton Towers on June 10th. It was a special day for Guides and Brownies and literally thousands of them could be seen enjoying themselves. Following the success of this venture I hope to arrange more District events in the future.

Through the magazine I would like to thank all the Guiders and helpers who are continuing to keep Guiding alive in Ratby. Well done everyone!

Angela Barbour
District Commissioner

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The Theme for
next time will
be Autumn.



DOGGY-DO-DA

There's one group of people I can't understand,
They're called Dog Owners,
Some of them must be mad.

They take their dogs walking round
the village,
Then stop them on the side to do their business.

Now for example the other day,
I was walking home my usual way,
I came very close to my street,
When what should I hear coming from my feet,
But a squelching noise,
And a deep smell too,
Then I looked at the bottom side of my shoe.

A load of brown stuff did lie there,
Guess what it was but...
Doggy-Do-Da

The same thing happened at the park.

I got out of the car,
And walked slowly into the park,
I hadn't gone far,
When my Dad passed me my ball from the car.

We went to have a game of football,
And I was the Goal Keeper,
The thrill of it all.

I did a dive to save the ball,
I got Doggy-Do-Da all up my side,
I saved the ball,
That was great,
At least I didn't dive too late.

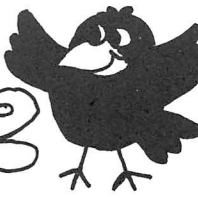
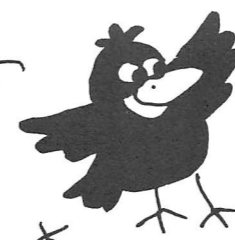
So next time there's a gentle breeze,
And you take your dog out and it does one with ease,
Consider the children who could be blinded or die from disease.

Which means the moral of this poem is to say,
When your dog's done it,
CLEAR IT AWAY!!

Salim H. Mukaddam
Age 11.

By
Caroline
Coulson

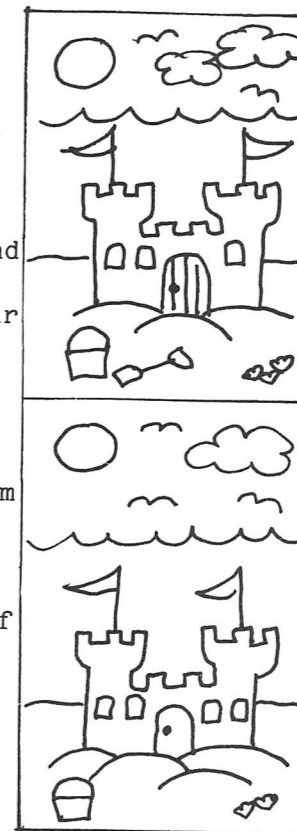
Hester Skinner's
Crowpie
Childrens Page!



SPOT THE

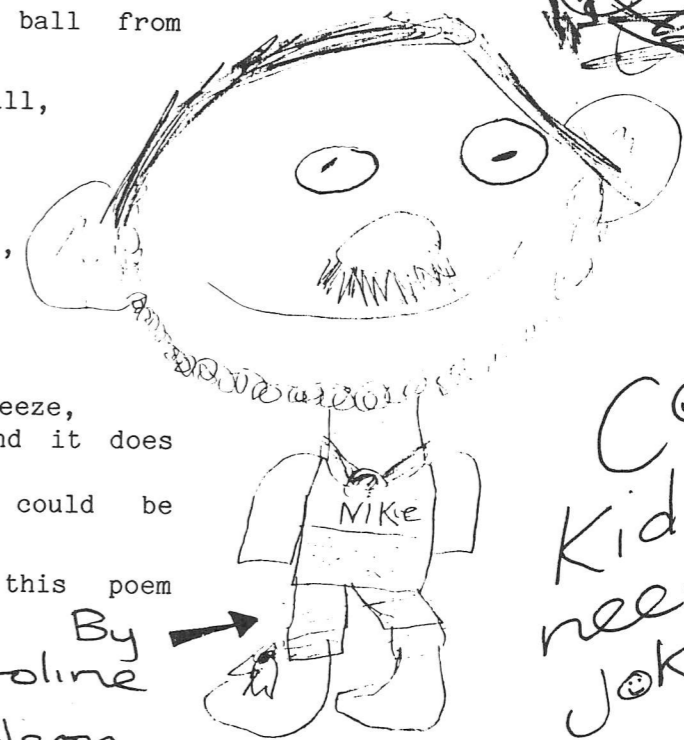
DIFFERENCE

8 differences
so get spotting



By
Jennifer
Coulson

Come on
Kids we
need pictures
Jokes and
Poems!!
(please)



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1st. Ratby Scout Group



Mark Wallbank and Daniel Sims receive their Chief Scouts award from Troy Thacker, Leicester tigers hooker, at a recent reception held at the Leicester Rugby Football Club

1st Ratby Beavers

Our last meeting before the holidays was a very sad night, as well as four beavers leaving to move to cubs, we also had to say goodbye to Squirrel (Judith). Judith has been with Beavers since we started in April 1985. On behalf of everyone Judith we would like to say thank you very much for all you have done and if you are ever stuck for something to do on a Wednesday evening 5.30 - 6.45!!!

Not a Beaver a Walker!



My friend's husband Kevin Taylor and colleagues played a 24 hour game of pool in aid of COPE on 10/11th June. £1,000 was raised. Our Scouts were represented there by helping 'set-up' the table after each game. Andrew Highton and Lee Bunting helped on Saturday, Nathan Pollard and Matthew Flower helped on Sunday, both pairs doing a stint of four hours. They received a shield from Kevin in token of their appreciation and I'm sure the Scouts were very pleased. WELL DONE LADS AND THANKS!

Gwen

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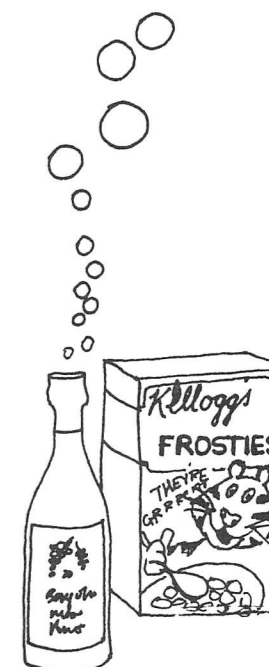
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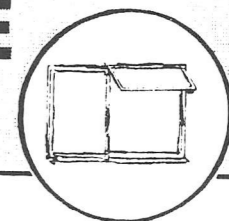
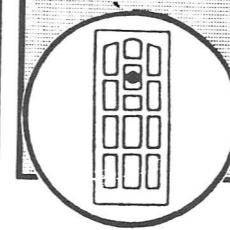
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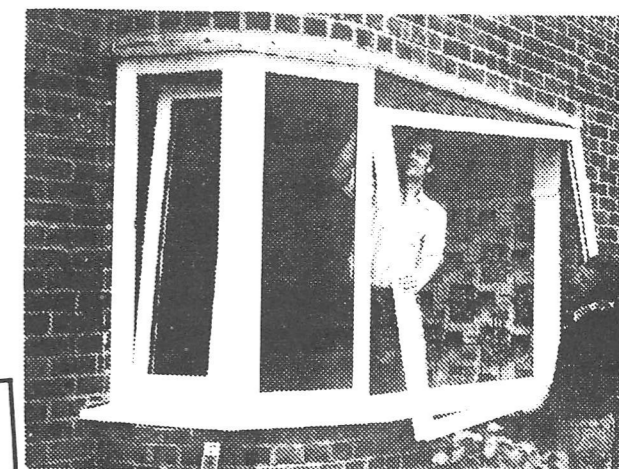
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