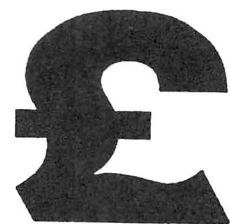


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Wot! About Ratby



AUGUST 1990

Published by Ratby Scout Group

Issue 23

CHURCH FARMS - VISIONS OF THE PAST



PHOTOGRAPH BY COURTESY OF MR GARDNER OF STAMFORD STREET

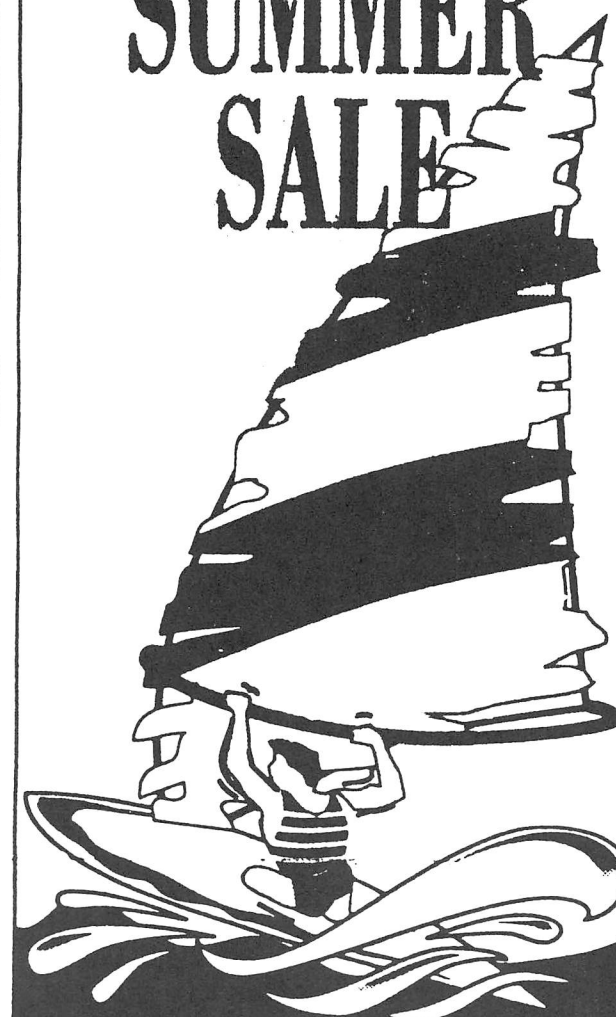
Amongst the preserved documents of the Bradgate Estate, are the extensive records of the farms that once surrounded the southern and western side of the Church. The earliest records begin in 1590 when the first rentals are recorded. The families that dominated the early rolls of the farms and crofts referred to in the records as "Rectory lands" were the Jordans, Fletchers Leas and the Hunt families.

kings. By the eve of the civil war many of the farms had been much improved, and Church Farm illustrated in the photograph is typical of the new building improvements which included the addition of a separate kitchen and the lofting over the hall and parlour to provide bedrooms above.

By the reign of Charles the I other families joined the elite of Ratby's farming community. The Furness family who used

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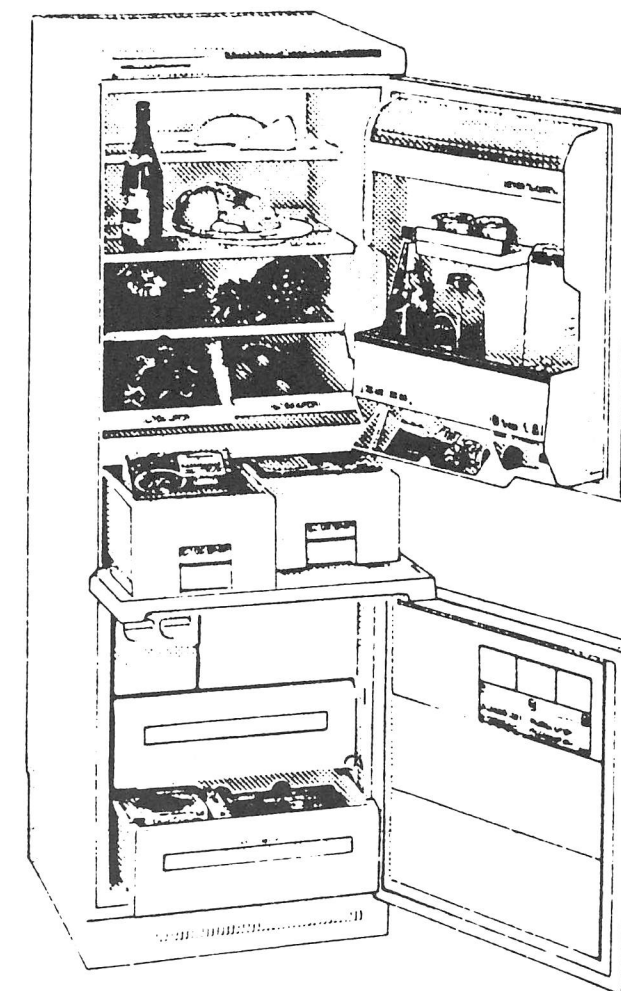
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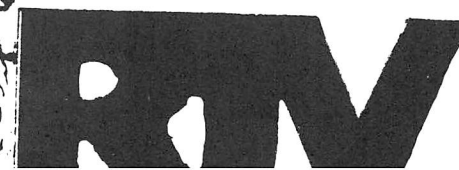
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LETTERS

15 Firtree Walk,
Groby,
Leicester.

10 July 1990

Dear Editor,

Attention Japanese Labour Camp Survivors

The Jap Labour Camp Survivors Association is currently preparing a claim to be presented to the United Nations Court of Human Rights, which they hope will be heard in August 1990. Following the application for compensation made by Canadian P.O.W.s, British, Dutch, New Zealand and Australian P.O.W.s are now seeking reparation from the Japanese Government for their imprisonment and subsequent suffering. Many of those held in Japanese P.O.W. camps were from East Anglia, so this claim will be of particular interest to ex-service personnel in this area.

The J.L.C.S.A. is hoping to secure £10,000 for each labour camp survivor or their next of kin. They are therefore compiling a register of Japanese P.O.W.s which they can present as part of their case in Geneva. Only those registered with the J.L.C.S.A. will be eligible for any compensation.

The J.L.C.S.A. is different to the National Federation of Far Eastern Prisoner of War Clubs and Associations (N.F.F.C.A.), which is an umbrella group for a variety of organisations. The J.L.C.S.A. was formed specifically to pursue the claim for reparations.

For further information contact the J.L.C.S.A.:

Mr C W Holtham, Hon. Chairman, J.L.C.S.A.
100 Pinewood Avenue, Eastwood, Leigh on Sea, Essex SS9 5PB. Tel: 0702 524613

Alan Norman
113 Main Street, Ratby Tel. 395394

APOLOGIES

In our last issue we wrongly quoted the opening times of the Library

We trust that these are now correct and apologise to both staff and customers for any inconvenience which may have been caused.

Monday		2.00 - 7.00
Wednesday		2.00 - 7.00
Thursday	10.00 - 12.30	2.00 - 5.00
Friday		2.00 - 5.00
Saturday	10.00 - 12.30.	

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from front page

The family had over a period of eighty years, bought extensively into the leases of many of the small woodlands on the Bradgate Estate and by the end of Charles II reign had acquired the farms at Bondman Hayes, Church Farm and Woodley.

Like any other family of then and now life was not always easy to the families who farmed the Church farms. In 1637 William Fletcher, the parish clerk lost his wife in an outbreak of plague. The Fletchers farmed a croft no longer standing that lay on the line of the present Cottagers Walk. Some years later William Lea, the elder son of John Lea of Nook farm was the subject of a village scandal when he put out his wife Ann (nee Fletcher) and took a young housemaid Jane Middleton of Groby as his common law wife.

Starlings

Have you been troubled with Starlings' nests in your roof? Well beware, you could have worse trouble to come. Nests can become infested with small mites, which then get into your house.

Detergent or disinfectant will kill them, or phone Environmental Health and they will come out and fumigate the nest area for £12.00

But perhaps the most famous story is the legend of the Grey lady or Silk lady. This story has for the best part of one hundred years formed a major part of Ratby Folk history. During the past few years the author has spent some considerable time trying to track down the real life characters that formed part of this legend. Although it was not possible to find a sudden death that might have given rise to the story of a young girl caught and accidentally killed whilst attempting to elope with her lover. Information from a series of wills of the Bunney family who held two of the Church farms including Church Farm itself, may give some clue to the legend. A rift appears to have occurred between two brothers Thomas Bunney who held Bondman Hayes and his brother Abraham who farmed Church Farm. In the spring of 1745 Thomas the younger of Bondman fell in love with his cousin Philipi. The evidence for this comes from the later will of Abraham Bunney in the recognition of a great ill he did to his daughter. The love match though not approved by both families did not lead to the blood bath spoken of in the legend of the Silk lady, but elopement did take place and a clandestine marriage was performed between the young Thomas Bunney and his cousin Philipi at Mountsorrel in the Summer of 1745.

Michael T. Ball

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THE RATBY CO-OP BAND

Once again, the time came round for the junior members of the band to show off their prowess. On Sunday 3rd June, the band held its inter-band solo contest. There were 41 members of the junior band, drummers class and beginners class, playing in seven groups. It was a very successful afternoon for everyone. The adjudicators were, for the brass players Mr Brian Clarke and for the drummers class Mr Stephen Plant.

The results were as follows:-

Group 1 Drummers

1st Matthew Bartram
2nd Mike Marshall
3rd Mark Concar & Clint McDowell

Group 2 Beginners

1st Timothy Smith
2nd Kerry Smith
3rd Keith Tyler

Group 3 Training Band 1

1st Karen Cadle
2nd Shelley Gant
3rd Angela Pinnick

Group 4 Training Band 2

1st Liz Gumby
2nd Richard Kenney
3rd Kerry March, Philip Day & Glen Barratt

Group 5 Junior Band 1


1st James Bristowe
2nd Stephen Bland
3rd Lisa March, Rachel Flower & Alex Calvert

Group 6 Junior Band 2

1st Andrew Joyner
2nd Adam Bakewell
3rd Rebecca Plant & Chris Bailey

Group 7 Junior Band 3

1st Charles Brown
2nd Debbie Whitehead
3rd Julie Plant



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FOUND

On Ferndale Drive play area

Girls blue sandals, size six,
and White socks
with pink and blue spots
Phone Sue, 394873.

Fund raising for the Church Repair Fund

As a result of Mrs Smalley's article in Ratby Wot!, Darren Burniston of 3 Berrys Lane who hopes to be married in Ratby Church next year, has offered to give the money he raises by taking part in the sponsored Barnsley 6 Road Race at the end of August, to the Ratby Church Repair Fund. Sponsors please?

There will also be a sponsored cycle ride/walk for historic churches on September 8th.

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PAT BUTLER REPORTS

Fearing more development in Ratby I have worked with successive Parish Councils since 1977 in opposing the Western Bypass, which was initially intended to link into the M1 in Ratby.

We had seen large areas of Martinshaw Woods taken for the M1 and knew that a new junction would inevitably bring pressures on the fragile "green wedge" separating Ratby from Kirby Muxloe, Groby and Glenfield.

While in the best interests of the village, I have continued to oppose the Western Bypass, the unprecedented growth of traffic since 1977 (particularly in the last few years) has made it increasingly apparent that a road was needed.

In spite of numerous alternatives, the Inspector at the Public Inquiry accepted the published plan but over-ruled the D.O.T. on the all important junction, which will now be on the Glenfield side of the M1 and completely re-designed. There will be:-

- 1) Two new bridges.
- 2) Easy access from the Scudamore Road Industrial Estate.
- 3) No link into the M1 north.

The new scheme will cost about 12 million extra - new bridges are expensive. The high cost was a major reason why the D.O.T. tried to utilise the existing bridges.

While we lost the fight we have gained something - environmentally the new design is more acceptable.

THE D.O.T. CLAIM THAT THE NEW ROAD WILL SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE TRAFFIC IN RATBY.

Extra land will be required and it is possible that a Compulsory Purchase Order will be required. If so this would lead to another Public Inquiry. However, on this one area only, it would be likely to be short (I attended the last one on most days of its five long weeks!)

I understand that the D.O.T. are still hoping to start construction in APRIL 1992.

TRAFFIC ON DANE HILL

Conscious of the considerable concern of the Parish Council and villagers (highlighted in WOT), I have written to Mr Thompson, Director of Planning & Transportation, requesting a meeting to include the police.


It should be borne in mind that a highway can only be legally restricted where an alternative exists. Many of my earlier days as your County Councillor were spent getting New Parks Way constructed, thus giving the Scudamore Road Industrial Estate access to the A50 without coming through Ratby. From that I was able to get the Weight Restriction Order.

Local firms, of course, always have right of access for their vehicles. There are others, however, who break the Order indiscriminately. Their numbers should be taken and reported to the Police. -I have done this myself, resulting in a successful prosecution.

The meeting will explore any traffic management measures that can help the situation.

C. GEARY & SONS

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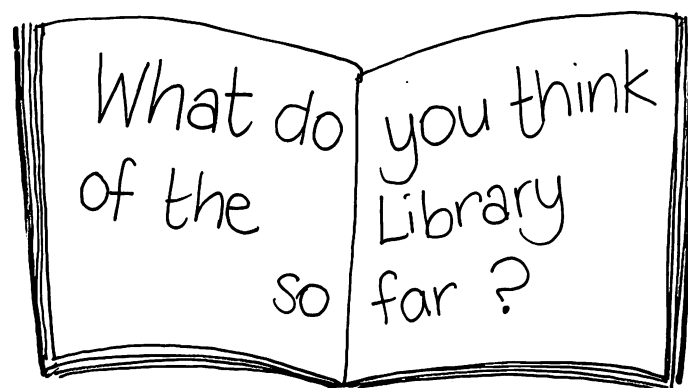
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FILLED COBS



It is nearly four years since the new library opened in Main Street, opposite the school. In that time it has registered over 1500 readers, who have borrowed more than 120,000 books and 5000 records and cassettes.

Over the years, the staff at the library have received numerous comments (mostly complimentary!) from the people who come to the library, and all these have been used to try to ensure that the library provides what people want.

But now comes the opportunity to voice your opinions about Ratby's library. In this issue of Wot! there is a short questionnaire designed to give you your chance to say what you think about what the library does - and doesn't do. It only takes five minutes to fill it in, then you can drop it in at the library or hand it in at the Post Office or at Ratby News. (Apparently a gremlin got into the printing of the questionnaires - please return them by August 21st, not August 11th as stated). Spare copies of the questionnaire can be obtained at the library.

Your ideas and comments will be acted on, so make the most of this opportunity to have your say about your library.

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Where Have all the Children gone ?



It's the middle of the school holidays. You take a walk through the village. Where are all the children? There are a few riding bicycles, or playing football. You may see a girl skipping, or a couple playing tennis. Some are down at the play area kicking a football about or swinging on swings. But where have all the others gone? Are they all indoors watching T.V. or playing computer games?

Take away the continuous roar of motorway traffic, and imagine a summer fifty or sixty years ago.....

'Wot' went back in time through the memories of people at the Thursday morning "drop-in".

"We played in the street - there was no traffic then".

"In Park Road we played shuttlecock and battledore, or whip and top. We chalked patterns on the tops."

Or there were marbles and snobs, "we used to make snobs out of little boot buttons tied together". Some people played hoops with old bicycle wheels or made pram wheels into carts.

"At the top of Stamford Street we played Tin a' Lurky".

"This was a game in which the seeker had to chalk a circle on the road, or use a manhole cover. A tin was kicked down the street and the seeker had to get it and put it in the circle, then hunt the others who had all run to hide

If you were caught you had to stay in the circle. But you could be rescued by anyone daring enough to kick the tin away."

After dark there was 'Holler' a hide and seek game played around a lamp.

There were ice cream sellers, Wooldridge with a bike, or Rossa's horse and cart. an ice cream cost one or two old pence - a whole weeks spending money in 1938.

Sometimes windows got broken - but the culprit had to pay. "Adults were stricter then". One favourite game was to tie door knockers together, knock on the doors and hide

Children also had jobs to do - running errands. One Ratby lady remembers going to 'Toons' on Station Road to collect tripe. The tripe was kept in the cellar, and the sitting room above was buzzing with hundreds of flies.

Helping with hay making was more fun - and there was a ride home on the hay cart to look forward to. Everyone remembers that the fields were full of flowers, may blobs and cowslips. Some remembered picking salad burnett to make home-made wine.

But the fields were also a playground, especially around the Big Brook. Children from Ratby and Kirby took picnics and stayed all day. Jumping the brook, swinging on a rope swing or paddling and swimming were the games to be played. - But beware the whirlpool on the other side of the road.

Summers were always hot, and neighbours were outside talking to each other in the evenings.

Nowadays are we all indoors watching the telly?

What has happened to the old games - 'Run it Out, 123?', or ball games like Oliver Twist. Can anyone remember the old skipping games and rhymes? - Can anyone else recall,

"Mother, mother, the breads sticking....." a kind of tug of war, in which one team once got pulled through a shop window on Station Road?

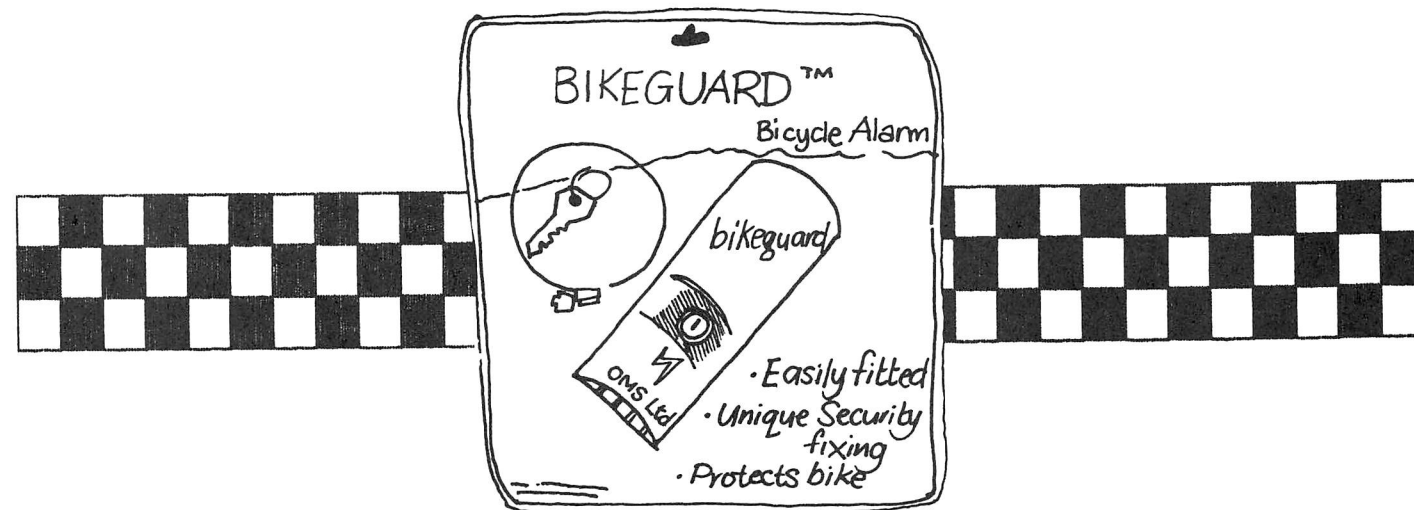
Perhaps those days are gone forever and the roar of traffic drowns out the words of old games, and people talking on their doorsteps.



Gas Appliance

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WIN A SECURITY ALARM FOR YOUR BICYCLE



A competition for the under 16's permanently resident in Ratby.

All questions have been taken from 'A HIGHWAY CODE for Young Road Users.' FREE copies are available from the Library.

- (1) Paint or draw a 'no cycling' sign. On the reverse of your picture write your name, age and address, and the answers to the following three questions. Entries must be completed and handed in at the Library no later than the 1st September. The winner will be notified within 21 days of the closing date.
 - (i) What sort of identification should you put on your bicycle?
 - (ii) What colour lights should you have on the front and on the back of your bicycle when cycling in the dark?
 - (iii) What must you wait for when using a crossing controlled by a school crossing patrol?

The Judges will be: P.C. Alexander
Annita Eddison
Martin Fretter

The Judges' decision is final!

The result will be published in the next issue of WOT!

INTERESTING CRIME FIGURES

Incidents involving theft of (or from) motorcycles and Cars and incidents of damage to them = (ROUGHLY!)

33 INCIDENTS (JAN. TO JULY)

VALUE OF THE LOSSES/DAMAGE

= £70,814

How much is your vehicle worth to you?

STOP PRESS

Sometime during the evening of July 19th the playhouse at Ferndale Drive was damaged. The floor shows signs of burning and it was surrounded by debris - paper, cigarette ends and broken loaves of bread, and a sodden pair of blue and white Reebok Trainers size 8.

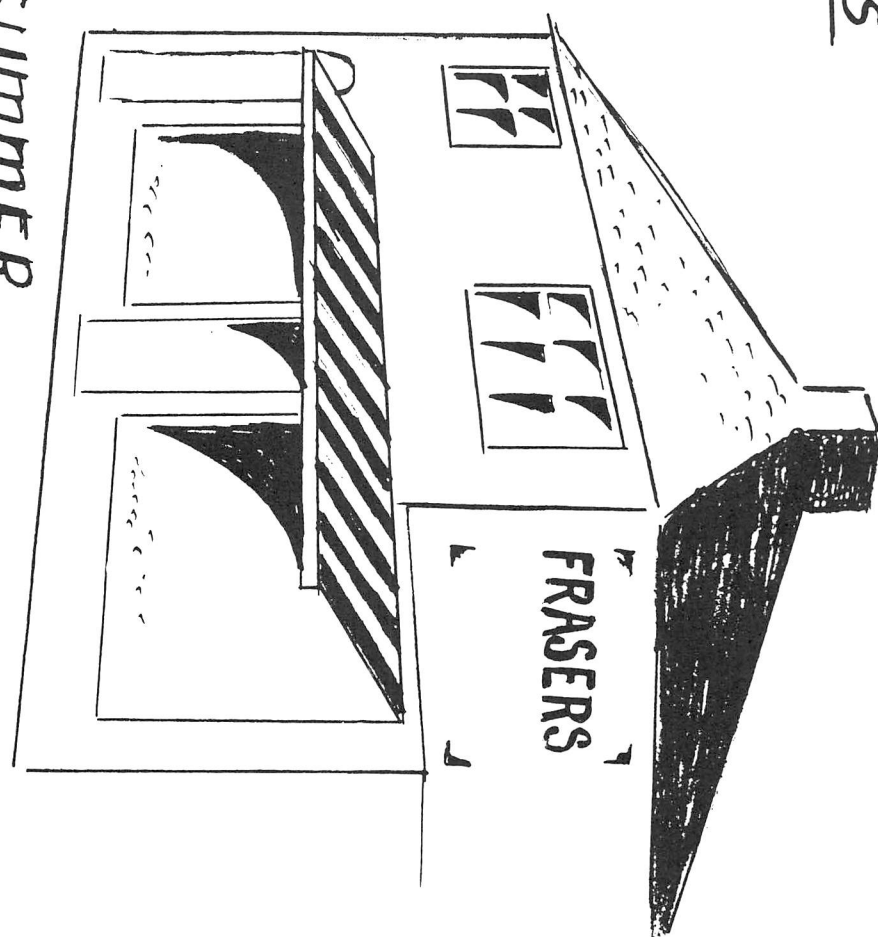
There is a small **REWARD** for information leading to prosecution of these vandals.
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Recreation Areas

Burroughs Road

The Parish Council has offered to buy this site on more than one occasion. The owner is unwilling to sell. Without future security of tenure, the Council cannot further develop the site for recreational purposes. Existing equipment is maintained regularly, and new shock-absorbing safety swings have been installed at a cost of £85.84. Already some of these have been damaged!

In Spring the equipment was painted and almost immediately defaced!

Ferndale Drive - An amenity for all ages.

The Council's long term plan is to provide an attractive amenity for all ages.

In 1989 the Council commissioned an appraisal of the site by the National Playing Fields Association. A programme of repairs and renewal has begun following the N.P.F.A. recommendations.

Safety

In 1983, many parents complained that their children were getting muddy on the play areas. The Parish Council tried but failed to get grant aid, and the cost of safety surfacing was prohibitive. Tarmacing was completed in March 1984 at a cost of £816. In 1987 estimates for providing safety surfacing under all items was obtained - a figure of £10,353.38. Grant-aid was not forthcoming. The Council obtained views of other Councils, and found that safety surfacing was proving expensive and prone to vandalism and not always effective.

In 1989 a report on playground safety was published:

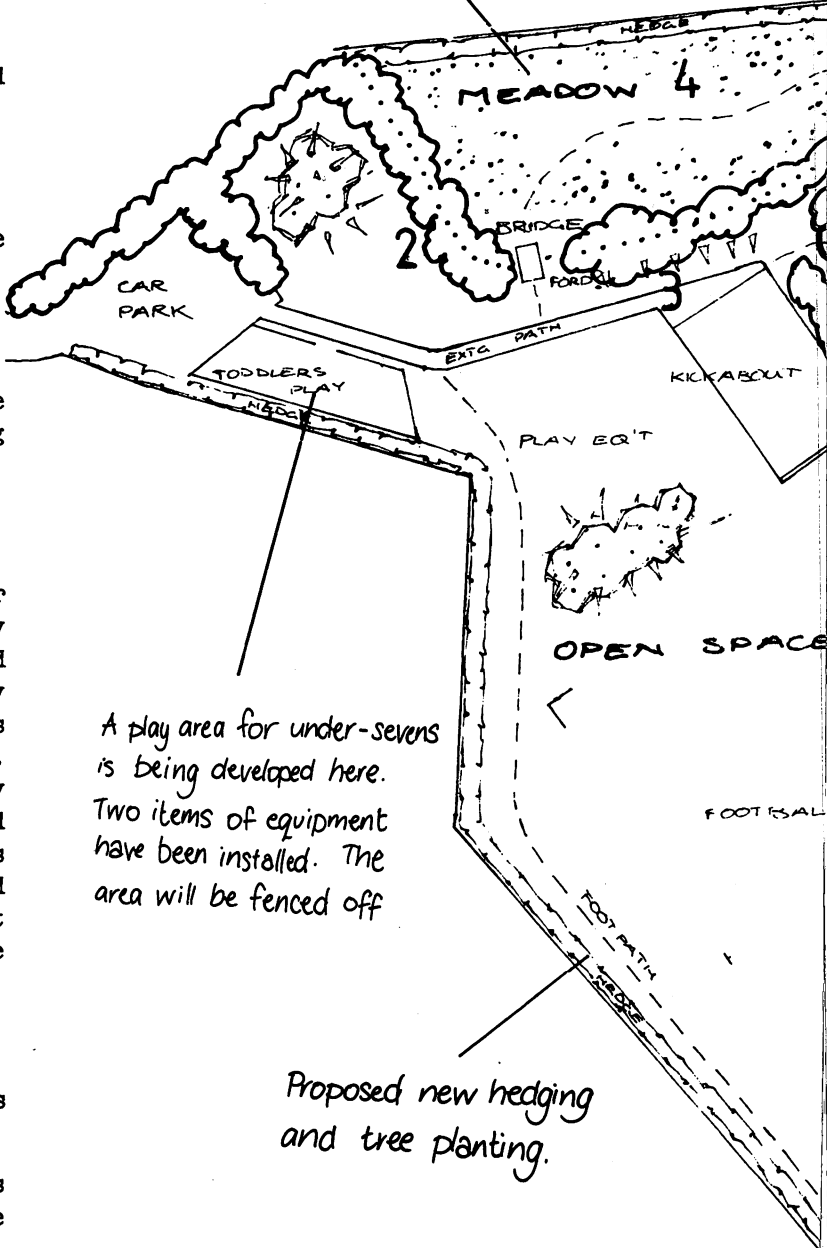
Expensive safety surfaces in children's playgrounds may not be the most effective way to reduce the number of injuries.

Millions of pounds are being spent re-surfacing playgrounds in response to a campaign by the BBC television programme, 'That's Life', which highlighted the number of children suffering from head injuries after falling from equipment.

But a new study suggests that such accidents represent only a small proportion of the number of serious playground injuries.

Proposed wildflower meadow and circular nature walk.

A ford crossing with stepping stones has been created to provide a 'splashing' area for children, and access to the meadow



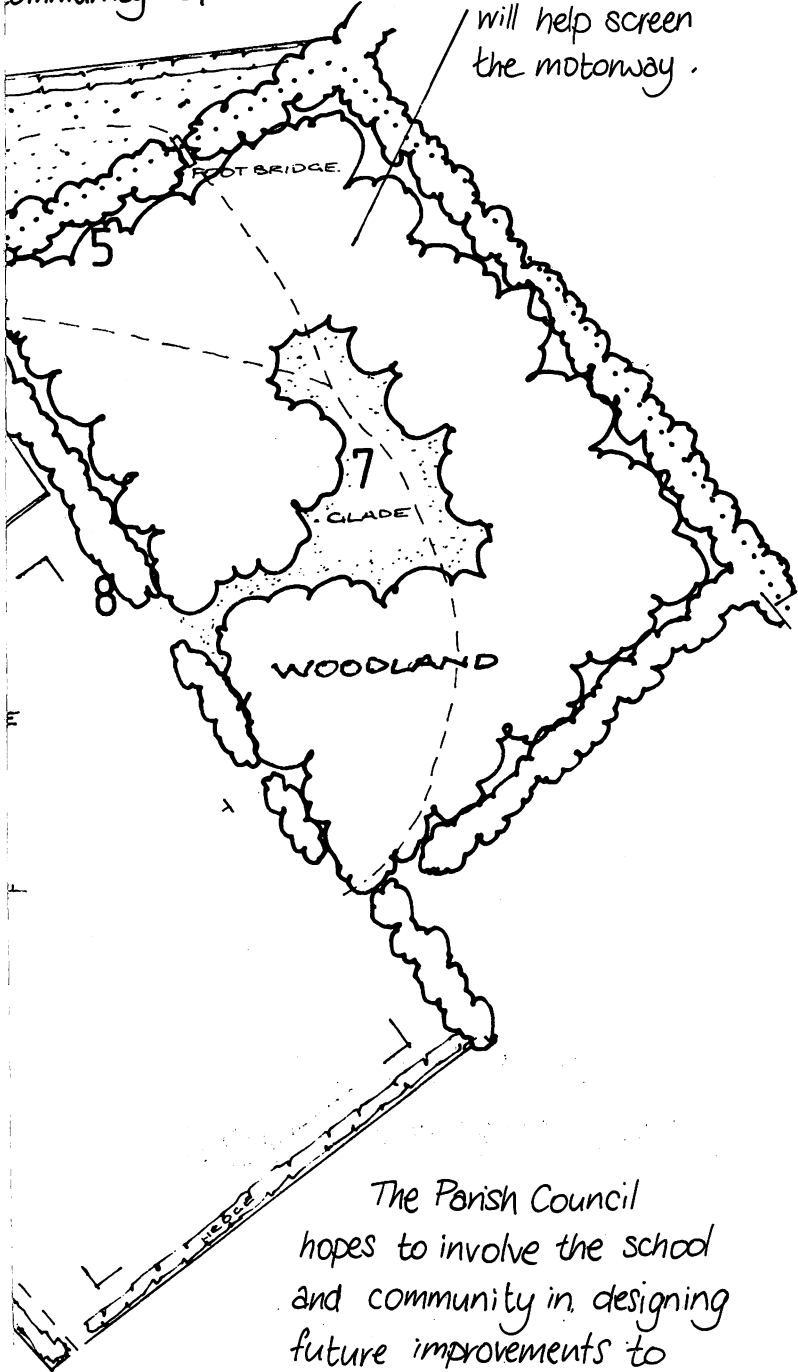
A play area for under-sevens is being developed here. Two items of equipment have been installed. The area will be fenced off

Proposed new hedging and tree planting.

FERNDAL
An Amenity

New hedging to be planted in the Autumn with community help.

Proposed woodland will help screen the motorway.



The Parish Council hopes to involve the school and community in designing future improvements to the recreation area.

FERNDAL DRIVE
for Everyone

Most children break arms or legs in falls or trips and safety surfaces may not help to reduce the number of such injuries.

Ms Karen King, co-author of the study, believes playgrounds could be made safer by spending more on equipment and improving maintenance. Children get hurt when they collide with one another or with equipment, or when they trip up, she says. And many serious head injuries are not caused by falls, but by children being hit by swings.

"I would estimate that local authorities will be spending, at a conservative estimate around £100 million over the next five years on safety surfaces," said Ms King. "But this is not the answer to preventing the majority of accidents."

Ms King asserts that equipment in some playgrounds is badly designed and criticizes wooden modular structures that incorporate swings and slides. "Swings should be sited in a space on their own because of the danger of swings hitting children as they pass in front of them."

On the whole, playgrounds are not dangerous places. The report estimates that in Britain one child in 100 is admitted to hospital after an accident in a playground. In a year, 500-800 children are likely to suffer skull fractures and a further 8,000 are likely to be admitted to hospital with broken bones. The figures show that children under four are more likely to suffer head injuries.

The report advocates more careful design of playgrounds and a reduction in the crowding in playgrounds. Instead of costly re-surfacing, money could be spent on improving adult supervision and ensuring equipment is well-maintained. Children should also be taught about the possible dangers involved.

The report suggests equipment should be labelled and designed for children of different ages and youngsters should be dealt with when they bully or intimidate others."

Report by Geraldine Hackett from the Times Educational Supplement.

The Council would agree that Parental supervision of children is essential, and would urge parents to teach their children playground safety.

" continued overleaf

continued from page 11.

Ratby Parish Council

The National Playing Fields Association had advised the Council that some of the playground equipment was nearing the end of its' life, particularly the large slide. It would therefore be pointless to invest in safety surfacing for such items. The Council is obtaining estimates for the removal of this slide, and for the purchase of a replacement.

Costings for safety-surfacing are again being obtained, and advice on durability and performance being sought once more from other councils.

The swing seats have all been replaced with sock-absorbing safety seats at a cost of £541.91.

Regular maintenance of equipment is undertaken by the Council's employee, Mr Dennis Mould. He has begun a repainting programme. Unfortunately, newly painted equipment has been rapidly defaced.

Repairs are carried out as soon as possible, but damage caused by misuse is a drain on resources, and means that there is less money for new equipment.

Young Children's Play Area

The Parish Council have recognised the needs of under-sevens, and two new items, a Play House, and a see-saw were installed on July 10th 1990 at a cost of £2249.40.

The Council intends to extend this area and fence it off when funds are available.

Vandalism

Two new litter bins were installed at Ferndale Drive, one was twice uprooted.

Within two hours of the new play items being installed on July 10th someone had defaced the play house with felt-pens graffiti. Steps have been taken to discover the names of the culprits, and further action will be taken. **The Police have been notified.**

The Council regards such damage as a serious matter and will prosecute whenever possible.

On Station Road a flower tub was torn-up and thrown over a fence.

The whole community needs to accept responsibility if we are going to stop vandalism

can be taken. Report to any member of the Council, the Clerk, Mr Mould or the Police.

If names are noted, or descriptions taken, then there is a greater chance of catching the culprits.

Children committing small acts of vandalism and getting away with it may move into more serious crime. They need to know that the Community is no longer prepared to put up with it.

Rubbish Dumping

Items such as radiators and old bikes have been found dumped around the play areas. This is a danger to people using the sites. anyone seen dumping should be reported, descriptions noted, car numbers taken. Do you know anyone who has been repairing a bright yellow vehicle with a narrow blue strip? Parts of this distinctive vehicle were recently found in the hedge at Ferndale Drive. Let us know if you have any information.

Dogs



The Council receives many complaints about dogs on the play area. A public footpath crosses the site, so that a ban on dogs cannot legally be enforced. Bans in other areas have been in effective. All dog owners should keep dogs on a lead, and **away from the play equipment.** Dogs should not be allowed to foul the site, as this has been proven to be a serious health hazard.

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Long-term Plans

In this issue of 'Wot' we are publishing plans for landscaping at Ferndale Drive which have been drawn up by Leicester Ecology Trust for the Parish Council. The long term aim is to create an attractive amenity for everyone.

Work has already begun, and a "splashing ford" with stepping stones created. This is safer than the original steep-sided ditch, and gives access to the planned wildflower meadow.

The Parish Councils' ideas are in the forefront of current thinking on children's play, and the protection of wild-life and the environment. The Council is hoping to involve local school children in planning and designing equipment and landscaping for the recreation area. Such landscaping is relatively inexpensive. Grants can be secured to cover the cost of trees and shrubs.

Research has shown that children play longer, more creatively, and less destructively with natural materials such as water, in trees, hedges and long grass (we adults recall the highlights of our childhood, we'll know this is true).

This recognition goes hand in hand with the up-dating of formal equipment. Villagers might like to inspect other parishes' play areas.. Ratby compares very favourably. Our equipment is well-maintained and there are no potentially lethal items.

If the Council is to succeed in providing these amenities for all age groups, then we need your help to overcome the mindless acts of vandalism. After all, it is your money which is being spent.

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Ratby Parish Council

REFUSE COLLECTION IN RATBY

From July 30th, collection days in Ratby will change.

Most of the village, including the Church Farm Estate will have rubbish collected on Thursdays. The following roads will now have a Friday collection:-

Desford Lane
Burroughs Road
Stamford Street
Stamford Close
Wolsey Drive
Ash Close
South Walk, East Walk
Bevington Close
Whittington Drive
Bradgate Drive
Saxons Rise
Main Street
Berry's Lane



For more information telephone 0455 233066.

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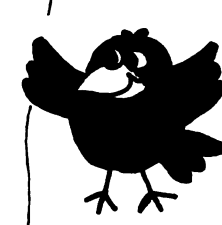
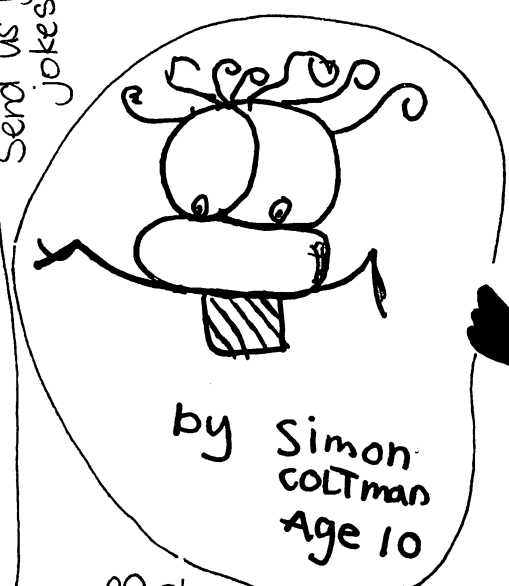
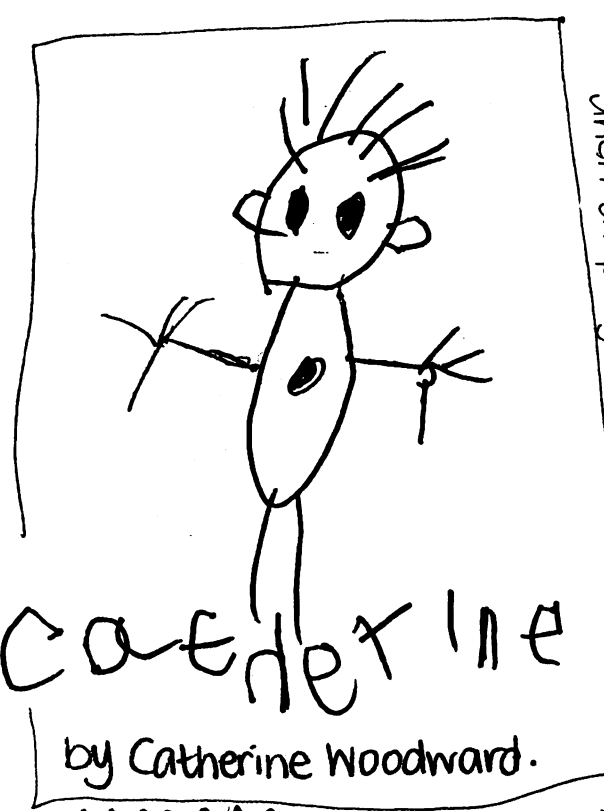
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Crowpie

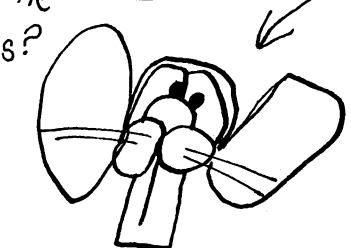
Send us your jokes

Children's Page

What's an overweight pumpkin called? A plumpkin!!



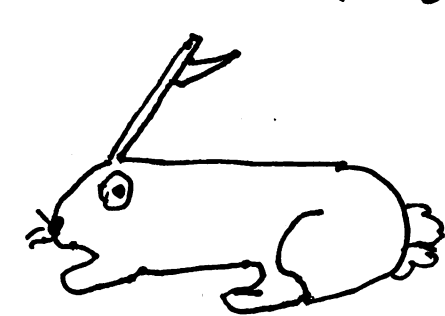
Vincent



by Gary Ford

AGE 10

This is my RABBIT



by Anthony Woodward

Why not draw your pet? Leave your pictures in the library...

What weighs 20 stone and haunts Paris? The fat-tum of the Opera!!



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1990 Band - Gala Weekend of Sat & Sun 11 & 12 August
THEME - HOLLYWOOD ON PARADE



Our guests for the weekend are 'Musikverein Lyra Mettendorf' Band from Germany.

This year we are 'going green' and changing the format a little to enable more people to take part.

A big problem for many groups in the past has been getting lorries and transport for the parade so we have decided to turn the route round to make it easier for entrants by walking downhill through the village, assembling at the top of Markfield Road at 12.30 and leaving at 1 p.m. This means that many more people will be able to take part and with a nice theme giving a really big choice practically everyone can join in.

There is no entry fee for the parade and we have another 'first' for Ratby, a Band from Germany leading the parade, thus maintaining the International flavour the band has always provided for these occasions.

Of course those organisations who already have transport are cordially invited as always.

Ferndale Drive Play Area will be decked out with stalls, displays, bands playing etc.

The charity we are supporting this year on the parade is Gorse Hill Hospice.

On Sunday Evening there is an International Gala Concert at Groby College. Tickets are available now and are going well. Please ring 386510 for details.

Why Gala and not Crowpie Carnival? We feel that the Carnival has been somewhat overdone and is becoming just another event. It has always been the Band's intention that CROWPIE CARNIVAL is something special and so to that end we have decided to do it only every four or five years and ALL VILLAGE organisations will be asked to organise and run the event, thus ensuring continuity and popularity for the future.

See you all on Saturday 11th August

Phil Plant

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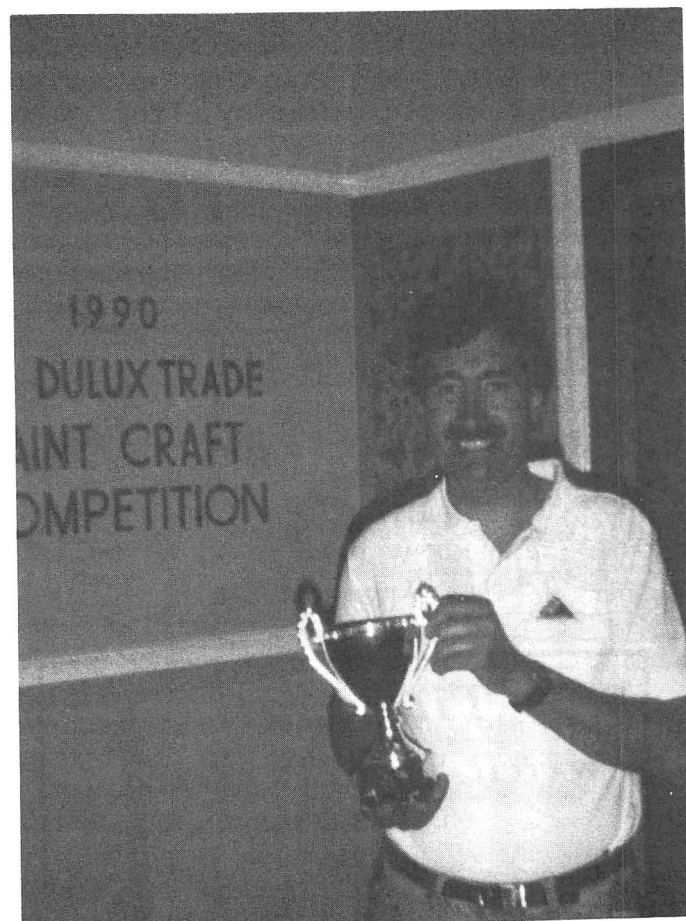
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WELL DONE DENNIS

In our last issue we reported that our Assistant Scout Leader, Dennis Brooks had reached the National final of the I.C.I. Dulux paint craft competition.

We are pleased to report that Dennis in fact won the competition and was rewarded with a cheque for £2,000 plus a trophy and £100 worth of paint brushes for his efforts.



DEADLINE FOR LETTERS,

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EDITOR 393367

HOTLINE!! Phone us on 394873 or 395179 with interesting news

SIMPLY "THE BEST"

Ratby Fish Bar has made it into the 1990 "The Gourmets' Guide to Fish and Chips".

It is one of only 6 fish and chip shops selected in Leicestershire.

Says the guide:-

"The building that houses this chippy dates back a century and a half - long before the M1 forged a barrier between Ratby and Leicester.

John Millington set up his fry house in the 3 storey building over twenty years ago. Comes highly recommended by Mr and Mrs L and W Hart who regularly make a 10 mile trek from Whitwick, because they say these fish and chips are simply 'the best'."

Author Pierre Picton is a former circus clown who travelled the road with Bertram Mills circus. He says, "I was definitely an authority on the best fish and chip shops around".

Out of 20000 chippies, he and fellow author Rod Harrod selected the best 500. The book was compiled to commemorate 125 years of the British fish supper.

Look out for the sticker in the window!

Well done John and Lyn!

You'd all better make sure you are first in the queue when the fish bar opens - it's going to get very busy when word gets around!!

(The Gourmets' Guide to Fish and Chips, published by Alan Sutton publishing, £6.95).

'The Sinister Devices of Doctor Horemheb'

Brookvale School's end of year production was a triumph. The really sinister Doctor Horemheb was finally outwitted after creating spectacular mayhem. The special effects were brilliant, and the acting superb. Several 'Ratby' actors were amongst the performers and backstage as technicians. David Hamlington was the stage manager.

Congratulations to all for a great evenings entertainment!



WHO OWNS THE ZEBRA?

This brain teaser can be solved by combining deduction, analysis and sheer persistence.

The essential facts are as follows:



- 1 There are five houses, each with a different coloured front door and inhabited by men of different nationalities, with different pets and drinks. Each man owns a different kind of car.
- 2 The Japanese lives in the house with the red door.
- 3 The Englishman owns the dog.
- 4 Coffee is drunk in the house with the green door.
- 5 The Norwegian drinks tea.
- 6 The house with the green door is immediately to the right (your right) of the house with the ivory door.
- 7 The owner of the Marina owns snails.
- 8 The Cortina is in front of the yellow door.
- 9 Milk is drunk in the middle house
- 10 The Ukrainian lives in the first house on the left.
- 11 The man who drives the mini lives in the house next to the man with the fox.
- 12 The Cortina is parked at the house next to the house where the horse is kept.
- 13 The Avenger owner drinks orange juice.
- 14 The Spaniard drives a Jaguar.
- 15 The Ukrainian lives next to the house with the blue door.

Now, who drinks water and who owns the zebra?

L.W.

REPAIRS TO HIGHWAY

By the time you read this the road through the village should have been repaired. However Groby and Ratby are to have Cable Television and that will bring another upheaval. Pat Butler



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Once again another school year comes to an end and we have to say goodbye to another group of children, who only seem to have been with us at Playgroup for a very short time, but who have grown in so many ways. We are always sorry to see them go. They all have their own little personalities and heart-warming ways, and they always look too little to be going to 'Big School', but go they must.

We are, however, very fortunate in Ratby in that we do not lose contact with the children as soon as they leave Playgroup.

The Primary School often welcomes Playgroup over to watch the infant children perform their plays. At these, the Playgroup children can watch their old friends do their short pieces and wonder at how even the previously most timid child now has the confidence to stand up and speak, dance or sing before an audience.

Playgroup is also allowed to take groups of children over to the School Sports Day and last term we had a couple of Teddy Bear's Picnics when we went over to school at playtime to enable the older and younger children to play together. It is funny to watch children who only left Playgroup the term before cluck around the current Playgroup children like protective mother hens.

In reverse, the infant children come back to Playgroup for our Sports Day and for our Christmas Play to lend their support to the little ones. It works wonders all round, but it especially helps to boost the confidence of the Playgroup children, for when it is their turn to be 'grown-up' and spread their wings a little to leave Playgroup for the 'Big School'.

We are so lucky in our village to be able to maintain the ties, and we at Playgroup certainly appreciate the friendly open atmosphere at the school which is so welcoming. The doors at Playgroup are never locked either, so anyone who wishes to visit us is very welcome to do so. Any enquiries please contact:

Leslie Chevin, 5 Wesley Close, Ratby 386605
Linda Evans, 13 Ferndale Drive Ratby 386347

A Tip

Summer is the ideal time for letting children experiment with messy things like clay and paint. If it spills on the grass, it's so much easier to remove than on the carpet!

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1ST RATBY BEAVERS

As we don't restart Beaver meetings until the end of August, we thought we would step back to April to let you know what we have been up to.

Unlike Cubs and Scouts, Beavers are not allowed to parade in the town's St. Georges Parade, but we will not be left out.

Leicester West Beavers have their own St. Georges Service, for the fourth year we have met at Desford Scout H.Q., marched over the road to Desford Free Church, had a very informal service by Rev. Peter Farrands, renewed our promise, then after marching back to H.Q., have enjoyed squash and biscuits before returning home. This year the collection raised £32 for C.O.P.E.

April 16th also happens to be our birthday, so this year our nearest meeting to that date was held at the Scout Hut, Martinshaw Woods, where we enjoyed games, hot dogs and lemonade, plus a super birthday cake made by Rabbit.

May 20th, Indians invaded Groby Scout H.Q., when Leicester West held their annual Beaver Fun Day, the boys really enjoyed themselves at the various bases, and even though 1st Ratby Leaders were manning the water pistol base, they were aiming at each other rather than us. Each colony was asked to make part of the totem pole, unfortunately no one was tall enough to place box on top of box, so we ended up with two, around which we all chanted our opening song.

June, the Martinshaw Walk was very well attended by the Beavers (and many parents who walked with them) they all walked extremely well especially in the time we allocated them, although all the money isn't in yet, I am staggered at the amount the boys have raised, well done lads!

Most of the boys now have their progress badge, which is placed on the back of the their necker, certain things have to be achieved by the Beavers to gain this, three most recent ones being:

- 1) sewing marigold seeds, looking after them for at least a month, then planting them. We planted them next to the railings at the top of the school steps, hope you have seen them. If not take a look when you next go to school.
- 2) A home safety night when Jacinta Woodward came along and talked about first aid in the home (the boys were very taken with the "kiss of life dummy") the boys were very interested, although I think we would end up with more patients than doctors.
- 3) A local knowledge treasure hunt, hunting around the village funding the clues to answer the questions, it is surprising what you learn.

Of course the summer term couldn't finish without our yearly cycle meeting, skill techniques and races, this year we didn't attempt the Red Devil cross overs, just a figure of eight. Our last meeting, with the help of Chris and Ray (SL and ASL) we invaded Bradgate Park, first with a race up to Old John, then Chris organised a game of Fox and Hounds, with lemonade on offer we lost no one, but then Rabbit decided to hide the ball, this proved to be a very difficult game of hide and seek, however we did finally manage to find where she had thrown it. Even with all the singing on the way home, the boys still managed a resounding "G.O.O.D. N.I.G.H.T." our closing ceremony, in the library car park.

So until August 22nd we say goodbye.



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Leicestershire Libraries & Information Service is conducting an opinion survey within the community and would greatly value your assistance. The Library service is keen to ensure that the services which are provided match your needs.

Please would you help by completing this form, which has been designed to take up the minimum amount of your time. Please circle numbers as appropriate, e.g. 1

	CODE	OFFICE USE ONLY
1. Are you a member of Ratby Library?	Yes.....1 No2	1
<u>If 'No'</u> Do you use any other library?	Yes.....1 No2	2
<u>If 'Yes'</u> please specify		
2. Do you use Ratby Library regularly?	Yes.....1 No2	3
<u>If 'Yes'</u> How often do you use it?	weekly.....1 fortnightly.....2 monthly.....3	4
<u>If 'No'</u> When did you last use it?	within last 6 months.....1 within last year.....2 more than 1 year ago.....3 don't remember.....4	5

6. If you have any other comments about Ratby Library, please write them here. 34

3. What did you use the library for?

(You may circle more than one number)

To borrow books.....1	6
To read newspapers, magazines, etc.....1	7
To use reference books.....1	8
To ask for information.....1	9
To find out 'What's On' (meetings, etc)....1	10
To study.....1	11
To visit an exhibition or display.....1	12
Other reasons (please write in which)	13

4. If you do not use the library, can you say why not?

(You may circle more than one number)

I don't know where the library is.....1	14
I don't have time to read.....1	15
Other interests.....1	16
I'm not interested in reading.....1	17
I can't read the books in the time allowed.....1	18
Overdue charges are too high.....1	19
The Library doesn't have books I like.....1	20
I prefer to buy books and records.....1	21
Too many rules and regulations.....1	22
The attitude of the staff.....1	23
The library doesn't welcome children.....1	24
The library is inconvenient to get to.....1	25
I have no transport available.....1	26
Physical disability.....1	27
The library doesn't open when I can use it.1	28
I don't know how to join.....1	29

5. It would be useful if you could give us the following facts about yourself:

Male.....1	
Female.....2	30

Please indicate the age group which applies to you:

Under 11.....1	
11-14.....2	
15-17.....3	
18-24.....4	
25-44.....5	
45-64.....6	
Over 64.....7	31

Are you:

(Circle one number only)

Full-time housewife.....1	
Part-time employed.....2	
Full-time employed.....3	
Unemployed.....4	
Retired.....5	
At school/college.....6	
Other (please specify).....7	32

Please give the Postcode of your home address

33

THANK YOU FOR HELPING US BY COMPLETING THIS QUESTIONNAIRE. IF YOU HAVE ANY OTHER COMMENTS ABOUT RATBY LIBRARY, PLEASE WRITE THEM OVER THE PAGE.

Please return this questionnaire by August 11 to:

Ratby Library
OR Ratby Post Office
OR Ratby News

P.T.O.