

**DOGS
DIE
in hot
CARS**

Don't leave your dog in the car in warm weather

Wot!

About Ratby

THE WELSH CONNECTION
Pages 8 & 9



ISSUE 29 PUBLISHED BY RATBY SCOUT GROUP

AUGUST 1991

LIBRARY CLUB



Visitors to Ratby Library will have admired the collage picture of "Mrs Mopple's washing line", in the children's corner.

This was made by children during the last session of the Library Club for under 5's. "We had great fun" said Mrs Bernie Moore, one of the two parent volunteers who have set up the club, "the children worked really hard".

The Club has been a resounding success, with 14 children attending each session. There is a long waiting list too! And membership is free.

The Club began with a dressing up theme and stories about "Doctor Sean", and "Nini at the Carnival". Children made masks and carnival streamers. Then followed sessions with stories about "Postman Pat" and "Teddy Bears go shopping".

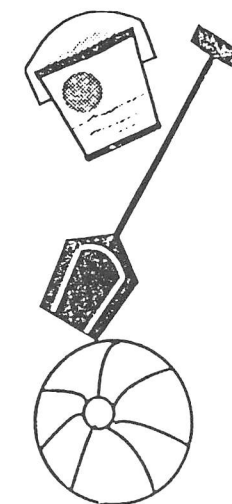
in the family. A story follows, then crafts and art work for the children to take home. The afternoon ends with poems and rhymes.

This successful formula will be repeated in the Autumn when the Club re-opens on Tuesday September 3rd.

All of the children have now joined the library, and will be able to borrow the books and hear the stories again at home.

Recently there has been a lot in the Press about falling reading standards. Research has shown that too many children are spending 2 or 3 hours each day watching television and too few are reading or listening to stories.

Children who start to enjoy books at an early age are most likely to become good readers and remain avid readers too!



*Holidays
or
at home*

SUMMER SAVERS ON SALES AND RENTALS

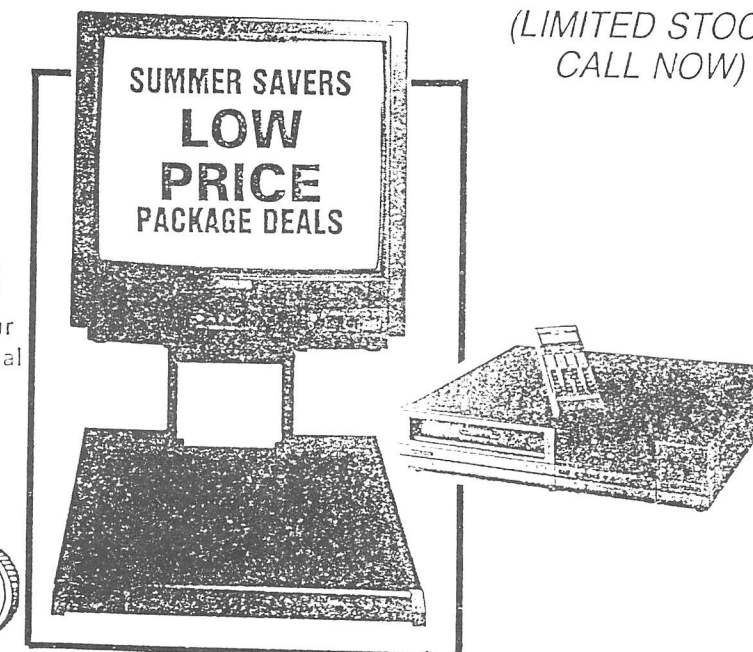
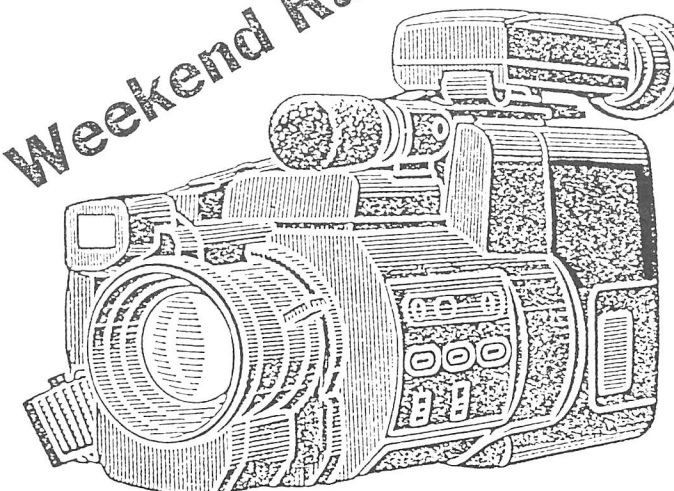
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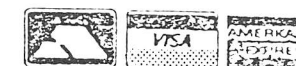
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COPPERS CORNER



Its holiday time again, so if you are going to be sunning yourself in Skeggy or basking in the Bahamas you all need to take some basic crime prevention measures to prevent any nasty surprises on your return. You need to plan ahead and not leave everything to the last minute, so use this checklist to help you.

1. Leave small valuable items, like jewellery, on deposit at a bank or consider installing a small floor safe.
2. Make sure all valuable items left in the premises are marked with your postcode (followed by the house number). Most D.I.Y. shops sell property-marking kits and stickers are available from the police station to advertise "postcoded property".
3. Cut the lawns before you leave.
4. Cancel milk, papers etc. discreetly (only tell people who need to know).
5. Try and make your house look occupied, consider automatic time-switches on lights and a radio downstairs.
6. Don't leave valuable items visible through windows.
7. Lock garages and shed with proper security locks and make sure ladders, tools etc. are secured away.
8. Don't put your home address on outward luggage labels.
9. Make sure all outside doors and windows are locked. If you have a burglar alarm, set it and inform the police who the keyholder is.
10. Ask a neighbour to keep an eye on your premises. There is a leaflet available from the police station called "Peace of mind while you're away". This has further information and also a tear-off card to give to neighbours requesting their assistance.

Finally - have a good holiday!

Sgt. Andy West
Crime Prevention Officer

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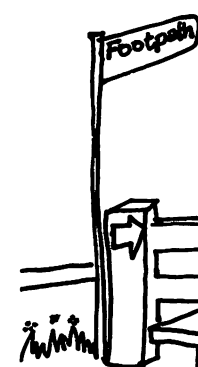
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LEICESTERSHIRE WAYMARK 2000 BETTER ACCESS TO THE COUNTRYSIDE



A new scheme to waymark and improve the entire network of footpaths, bridleways and byways within the county was launched in July by Leicestershire County Council.

The "Leicestershire Waymark 2000" project aims to put in order the county's 3000 miles of rights of way by the year 2000.

The County Council is running a widespread programme of waymarking but needs help to achieve a fully accessible network by the end of this century. A leaflet entitled "Leicestershire Waymark 2000" has been produced to show how Parish Councils, local groups and landowners can work with the County Council to provide better access to the Leicestershire Countryside.

Some Parish Councils have taken a special interest in local paths and have waymarked them with materials provided by Leicestershire County Council.

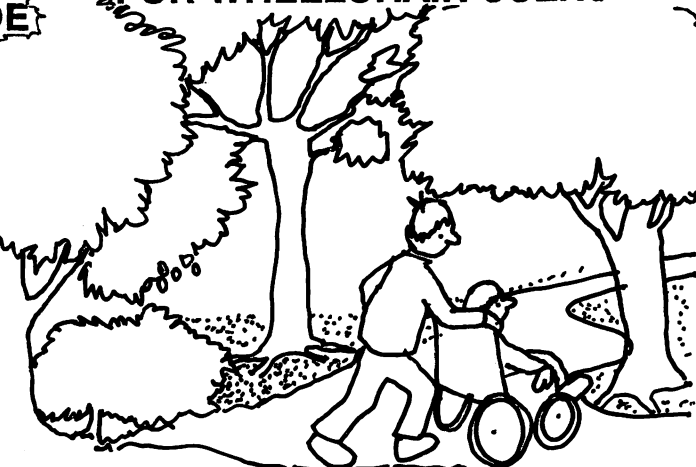
With the help of local people the County Council is also producing a series of leaflets entitled "Parish Walks and Rides in Leicestershire", in areas that have been waymarked.

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WOODLAND TRAIL FOR WHEELCHAIR USERS



A new woodland trail, has been designed for use by walkers and wheelchair users, in Martinshaw Wood.

The 1.5km (1 mile) circular trail begins at the public footpath leading from Groby Community College. It has been constructed from well compacted limestone to made a smooth surface which allows easy access for wheelchairs and baby buggies. Part of the car park at the college is available for disabled drivers.

Martinshaw Wood, covering 254 acres, is owned and managed by the Woodland Trust, Britain's largest national charity concerned solely with the conservation of native and broadleaved trees and woodland.

The trail passes through areas of broadleaf and conifer woodland that is rich in wildlife. Visitors may catch a glimpse of birds such as goldcrest, coaltit, and sparrowhawk as well as plants such as primroses, wood anemone and lily-of-the-valley.

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"Absolutely wonderful best we've had for years the sheer cleanliness is a treat. And a lovely doorbell - haven't seen one like it for years."

That was the view of just one of the many regular customers to the newly-refurbished Stamford Street Stores. And it's a view that really sums it all up!

The olde fashioned door bell is just one of the traditional features restored to these Victorian premises.

Woodwork has all been stripped and varnished and beautiful Laura Ashley curtains on a brass rail grace the windows and tempt you inside.

Mrs Mavis Johnson, who runs the shop with her daughter-in-law Susan, are aiming to re-create the traditional friendly grocers shop

They have already made a good start, and have earned a reputation for their patience with young children, and their consideration for older customers.

The family, including 8 month old Rebecca

are from Wigston Magna, where they are selling the family home to get the business going. The whole idea was Mavis's. Looking through the paper one night she said "I'd love a little shop". Son Karl said - "Sue and I will go in with you". And that is how it began.

They have found Ratby to be a friendly place unlike Wigston, which they say has grown so large "that you hardly know anyone anymore".

Mr Charles Johnson and his son Karl are both still working, involved in a business making percussion instruments, but they have had a large part to play in transforming the shop premises.


As well as general groceries, bread, green grocery and off licence sales, they have a wide selection of traditional sweets, displayed in their jars along window shelves

We wish them lots of luck with the business - they really deserve it!

The shop is open Mon- Fri 7.30 am - 9.30 pm
Saturday 8.00 am - 9.30 pm
Sunday 9.00 am - 9.30 pm

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THE RATBY CO-OPERATIVE JUNIOR BAND

"You'll Never Walk Alone" and the Junior Band were joined on stage with the Training Band, Beginners Class and Tutors all waving football scarves. What a wonderful end to a superb concert.

After the event everyone stayed for a drink and chat to reminisce over the past 18 years.

On Saturday 22nd June 1991 the Ratby Co-operative Junior Band held their 18th Birthday Reunion Concert at the Bosworth College, Desford.

Many of the ex-members of the Junior Band were invited to the concert. Quite a few of the ex-players still play instruments so an 'Ex-Members Band' of 23 players performed during the first half of the concert and were conducted by three of the former conductors of the Band, who chose to play their favourite piece of music during their time with the band. These were Miss Betty Anderson, Mr. David Newman and Mr. Geoff Wood. One ex-member came all the way from Southampton to be reunited with his friends for the evening.

The concert was a tremendous success and also featured the Present Junior Band - conducted by Mr Geoff Newman, the Training Band - conducted by Mr Malcolm Greig and the Beginners Class - conducted by Mrs. Lynne Plant. In the audience of over 300 there were many ex-players and committee members who had all been invited from various parts of the country. The finale to the concert was the music

SECRETARY : Mrs. L. Plant, 12 Oxford Road, Desford, Leics.

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Bob Burns Cellar Competition

Everards, Leicester's largest independent brewery formulated this competition in the last decade to bring about an element of rivalry amongst their managed houses and tenanted estate.

This year 133 Everards' public houses competed through three rounds to come down to ten finalists.

Judging was based on four factors:

1. Hygiene - Beer pumps/cellar equipment/bar dispense
2. Handling - the main point in this category being product quality coupled with other areas of cellar expertise
3. General cellar condition - temperature, ventilation, drainage, cleanliness
4. Safety - gas equipment, stairs, etc.

The ten finalists were all visited over the two days 13/14th June and included Mr Jonathan Adnams of Adnams Brewery, Southwold Mr Graham Smith of Whitbread P.L.C. plus various department heads from Everards.

The judges were pleased to note that the standard was the highest they had seen in the competition to date.

(well-trained?)

Congratulations to Mick and Jacqui and all their staff at "The Railway Inn", Ratby for an excellent second overall.

Competition formulated and titled after Bob Burns, one of Everards longest serving public house managers (held licence for Shakespeare, Braunstone Lane) who later worked from Head Office until retirement.

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SAFETY ALERT

MS BRAND 3 PIN PLUGS

The Trading Standards Department of the Leicestershire County Council has issued an urgent warning to the public to be on the look out for potentially unsafe 3 pin mains electricity plugs.

The plugs, made in Hong Kong, are made of white plastic and on the face bearing the pins have these markings:

MS 5678 250V 13 AMP

A sample of these plugs has been tested by the British Standards Institute and they have found eight faults, some of them serious, on each of the plugs tested.

A nationwide alert has now been issued because Trading Standards Officers have established that 6000 of these potentially dangerous plugs have already been sold - they are either in use or in shops waiting to be sold.

If you have bought one of these plugs, or know where they are on sale, then please contact the Trading Standards Department on Leicester 514415.

All 3 pin plugs must by law be marked showing that they comply with the requirements of BS 1363 - you should look for this before buying. These MS brand plugs don't meet the standard and are not properly marked.

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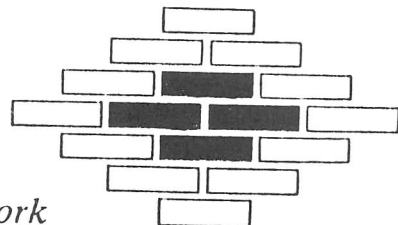
R. M. Deeping

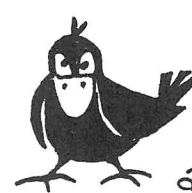
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stories!! We
print them
all.

Pen Friends

It all started in March when I changed my comic to the 'Bunty'. I saw pen friends advertised in it.

We were looking for a suitable pen friend in it, but there was not one.

When we went to Wales in May we met some relatives. I mentioned that I wanted a pen friend to Amy, one of my relatives who lives in Redditch. We decided to become pen friends.

While we were in Wales, Dad asked Helen who is a teacher in Wales if the children in her class would like to swap letters with children in my class who are in the same age group as the children that Helen teaches.

Near the end of term we received letters from the children in Wales and we sent some back.

I think you would probably like to know that Welsh is their first language, and English is their second language. The girl that I am writing to is called Rhiannon.

The class have sent some things to Wot as you will see on this page.

We were very excited waiting for letters to come and we hope to carry on for a long time.

Heather Fretter

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Ape



Charles Darwin

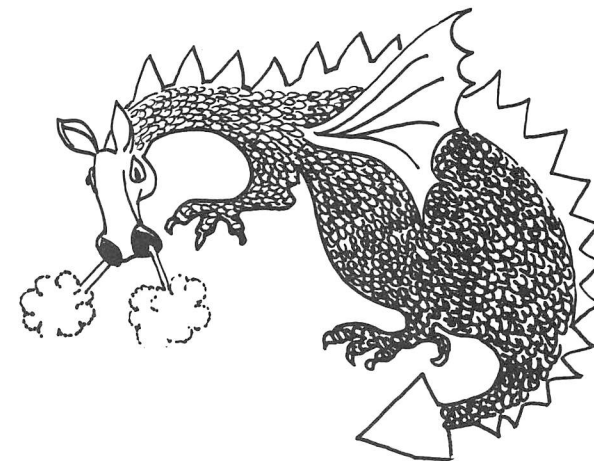
I drew this picture of Charles Darwin and the ape as part of our term's project on changes. We learned that people have changed over the years.

Laura Jones

Charcoal drawing
by Laura Jones
who is eight years
old.

Ysgol Gymraeg Rhos Afan (Rhos Afan Welsh School) Port Talbot.

Our School is a big School with over 300 children in it. We all speak Welsh in Rhos Afan, Port Talbot, and there are 10 classes in our School. The children come to our nursery at 3 years old, and leave at 11 years Old. We are looking forward to having Pen - Pals in Rothby Primary School Leicester.



From left to right:-

Back row

Mrs Helen Rowe, Neil Allen, Rhys Griffiths
Richard Williams, Neil Crocket, Rhodri Lewis
Gavin Thomas, Gareth Eves, Barry Roberts
Mrs Violet Williams, the Headmistress

Middle row

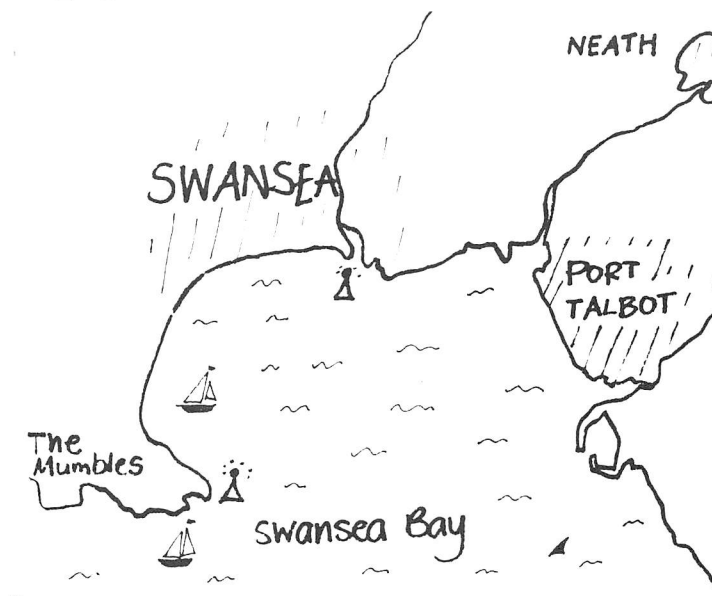
Eleanor Hughes, Kelly Robbins, Catrin
Richards, Rhian Liddiard, Kirsty Waters
Ria Mainwaring, Rhian Ogilvie, Lian
Sheppard, Eve Hanford

Front row

Justine Hare, Louise Prosser, Bronwen Hall,
Laura Jones, Amanda Prescott, Meleri Davies
Taryn Kappen

Girl sitting on grass - Rhiannon Hendley

Write in and tell us about
your penfriend !!





Police

Inspector Lea from Beaumont Leys attend the Council meeting on July 16th.

He confirmed that the new village policeman, Ratby resident P.C. Moore will commence duties on August 5th.

A third policeman is to be appointed to help in the Groby/Ratby area.

Village Improvements

Markfield Road Corner

The County Council will be planting shrubs at this site in the Autumn planting season.

Landscaping and Village Play Areas Ferndale Drive

Safety surfacing has now been installed around the log cabin slide at Ferndale Drive, in response to requests from residents, cost £3,726.

Local firm, Bennetts are producing cost price prepared wood to enable a sheltered seat to be provided. Parish Councillors will be working with local youth to construct this. The Maintenance Worker, Mr Owen Palmer has been doing a magnificent job repairing and re-painting equipment. It is a pity that much of his time is spent repairing vandalised equipment.

The Parish Council has entered a competition run by the Herald and Post Newspaper, in conjunction with Shell U.K. We are hoping to win a prize for the community tree-planting project.

A letter from the County Council indicates that we may received some grant aid for the proposed wild flower meadow. A meeting on site is to be arranged.

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Gardens and Floral Displays

The Parish Council would welcome help from any residents or local groups in planting bulbs and shrubs around the village in the Autumn. Please contact the Clerk or Councillors if you can help. We can all help to make Ratby a brighter place.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Garden Competition

Next year the Parish Council will be launching a "Best Kept Front Garden" competition which will open to all residents in the village.

An award and prize will be given for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places.

Gardens will be nominated by their owners or by neighbours!!

So get busy preparing now, everyone!!

There will be a Spring Garden competition in March - April, and a further summer event

Watch for more details!

Community Notice Board

A notice board has been provided by the Parish Council outside the library. Village organisations are welcome to advertise events on this board.

Road Widening

Road widening on a section of Station Road near the junction with Desford Lane, will begin in April 1992.

Widening of Pavement on Main Street

Parents concerned about the safety of their children will be pleased to hear that this work is to go ahead. The pavement will be widened from Church Lane to the Library car-park entrance. The necessity to purchase land from the Parish Council and Libraries will cause more delay as you will appreciate

County Councillor

Because of ill health, Mrs Butler has been unable to attend Parish Council Meetings. However, Mrs Butler has presented a petition with over 1300 signatures to the County Council opposing plans for the large scale development in the village.

Borough Councillor

Mr Fraser attended the Parish Council meeting on June 4th. He informed us that he had been elected on to the Housing Committee and the Planning Committee at Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council. He confirmed that he would be pleased to work with the Parish Council and attend meetings to present a report on Borough Council matters. Comments by the Planning sub-committee of the Parish Council would be delivered to Mr Fraser to keep him informed.

Dogs

Complaints about dogs are often received by the Parish Council. They have also featured quite a lot in National news recently.

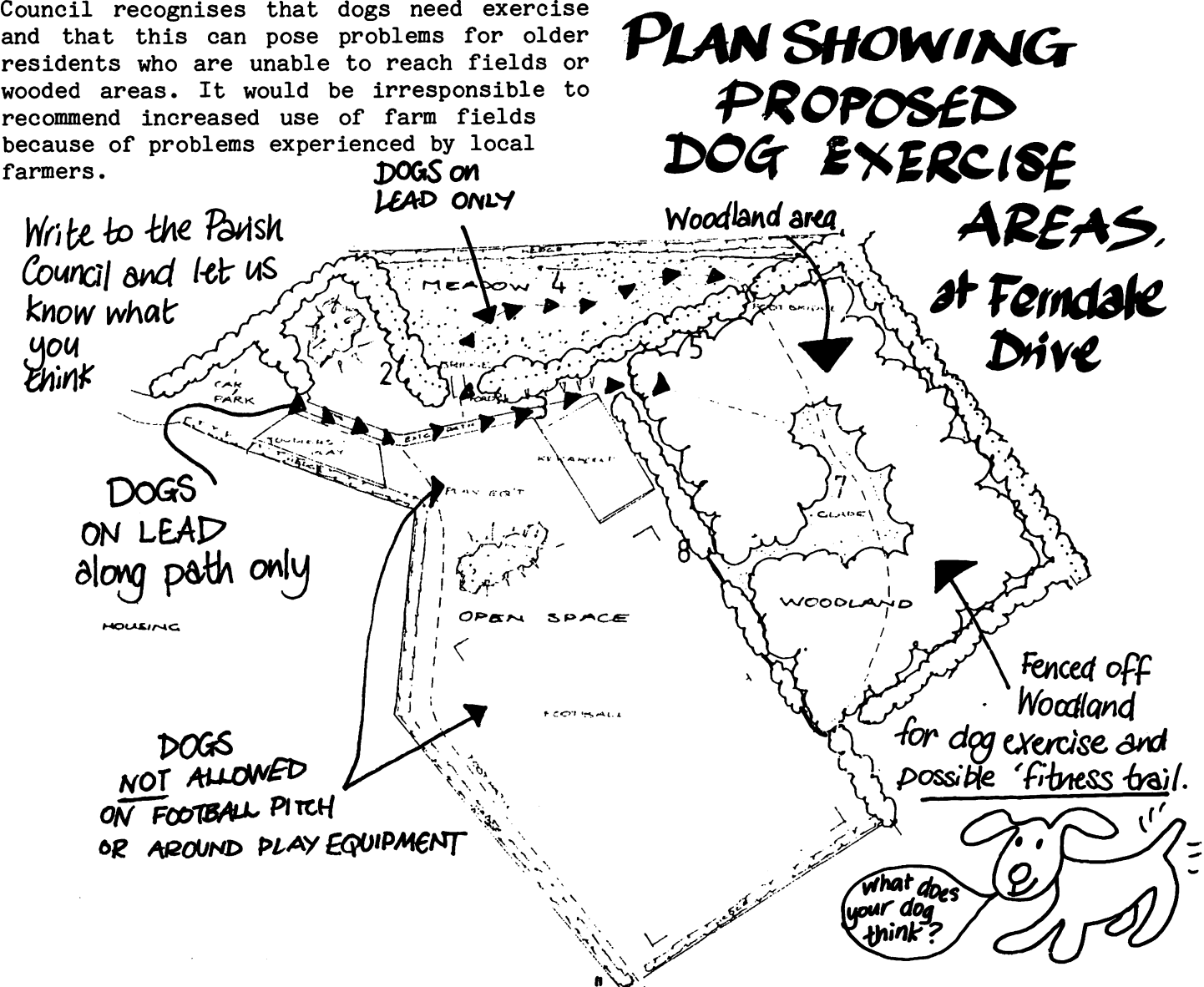
The Parish Council feels that the suggestion to impose bye-laws banning dogs from the Recreation Areas would be impossible to enforce without 24 hour supervision. The Council recognises that dogs need exercise and that this can pose problems for older residents who are unable to reach fields or wooded areas. It would be irresponsible to recommend increased use of farm fields because of problems experienced by local farmers.

We are proposing therefore that:

1. Dogs must be kept on a lead in the area where play equipment is provided. This area would be marked out by attractively painted posts.
2. Dog owners should be expected to clear up after their dogs anywhere in the village and recreation areas. Some owners already do this.
3. The field currently in use as a second football pitch could be designated as a dog walking and exercise area. The Council has already proposed tree planting on this site.

It has also been suggested that equipment for adults and youth, perhaps a keep-fit trail could also be included in this area.

WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR VIEWS - Dog owners and everyone. Pensioners or children.



Ratby Parish Council

Mrs Marriott

The Parish Council has sent a bouquet to Mrs Marriott of Ratby to congratulate her on reaching her hundredth birthday.

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR PARENTS

- * Recently bottles of Toxic Cattle Worming fluid were found in the brook at Ferndale Drive. (They had been taken from a stolen car).
- * The Maintenance Worker has removed several **SYRINGES** from the car park adjacent to Ferndale Drive play area.

These items are **DANGEROUS**. Young children should always be supervised by an adult in the play area. Older children must be warned not to touch anything unusual.

We would welcome reports of such findings and will respond immediately.

DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

- 7.15 in the Welfare Hall - August 6th
- September 3rd
- October 1st



FRASERS

OPENING HOURS

MONDAY TO FRIDAY

8.30 AM - 1 PM & 3 PM - 10 PM

SATURDAY

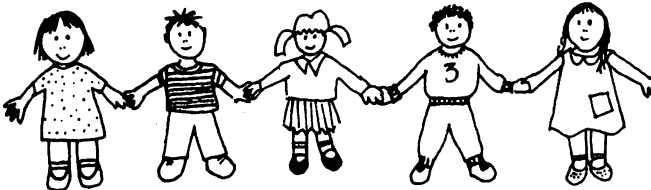
9 AM - 10 PM

SUNDAY

10 AM - 9 PM

RATBY PLAYGROUP

SUMMER PLAYScheme



The Playgroup playscheme has been inundated with applications for places. Sadly, some children have had to be put on a waiting list, due to a lack of space in the Church rooms.

There will be twenty three parents helping each day with activities such as sewing, crafts, cookery and story telling.

On Tuesday a trip is planned to Abbey Park for families (fully booked!)

This is the third year that playgroup have run the successful playscheme.

AUTUMN TERM

Playgroup re-opens on Monday September 2nd.

PLEASE parents, return your forms if you want to guarantee a place for your child.

This year Ratby children have no reason to be bored during the school holiday!

There are two playschemes in the village during August, run by Parents.

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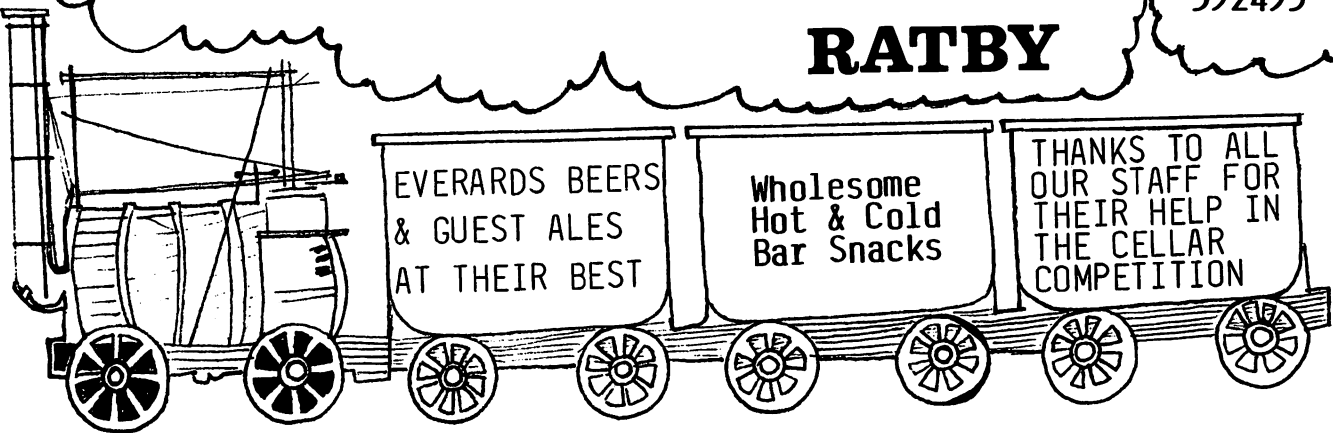
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SAT 11.30 AM - 3.00 PM/6.00 PM - 11.00 PM SUN 12.00 - 3.00 PM/7.00 PM - 10.30 PM

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Len and Margaret Crump

Mrs Margaret Crump is a familiar figure in Main Street. Known affectionately as the Lollipop Lady who has helped countless children (and adults!) across the road for several years now.

Not many people will know that she has led another equally busy life!

Margaret and her husband Len moved to Ratby in 1952. Mr Crump came to take up the post of projectionist at the Ratby "Majestic" cinema. For newcomers to the village, the cinema was situated where "Kenneys Plastics" used to be before the 'great' fire. For even newer-comers..... the site is where the new bungalows are for sale, next door to the Co-op. (A village can change dramatically in just a few years!)

Len Crump has always been interested in films and the cinema. As a boy he owned a projector the sort which used a candle for a light and highly inflammable film!

At the age of 16 he went to work as a re-wind boy at the Savoy cinema on Leicester Road in Syston. Both he and Margaret were born in Syston, and she too was employed in the cinema.

Margaret says she took a while to settle in at Ratby, missing the family and busy life, helping out in family-run shops in Syston. It would be difficult to imagine Main Street without her familiar smile ... so it is just as well she stayed.



Main Street, Ratby.

In 1952 when they arrived here, the cinema was managed by a Mr George Weston. It had been opened in the 1920's and was extended later to include a wooden dance hall (where many Ratby couples met and courted).

The cinema was always packed and the programme changed three times a week. Cowboy films and musicals such as 'State Fair' and 'Carmen Miranda' were amongst the most popular.

In 1952, adult tickets cost sixpence or a shilling, and children had to pay just 3 old pence to get in for a matinee.

In later years after television became popular, the Majestic closed its doors for Tuesday and Sundays.

Margaret Crump and two other local girls were the usherettes at the Majestic - selling ice creams and drinks too.

Margaret and Len are going up north to Lytham St Annes near Blackpool to visit George Weston this year. He is now in his eighties. He will probably always be remembered in Ratby for the films he took of Ratby events the Quorn hunt meeting in the Bulls head car park in 1936, and the Ratby Carnivals. Len Crump has frequently shown these films at local events.

It is as well for Ratby that Margaret and Len are interested in both 'films' and the heritage of the village, or these films would have been lost.

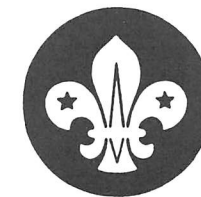


Station Road, Ratby.



Pictured are Ratby 'Swifts' Cub pack with their soap box which helped them to win their final.

75th BIRTHDAY



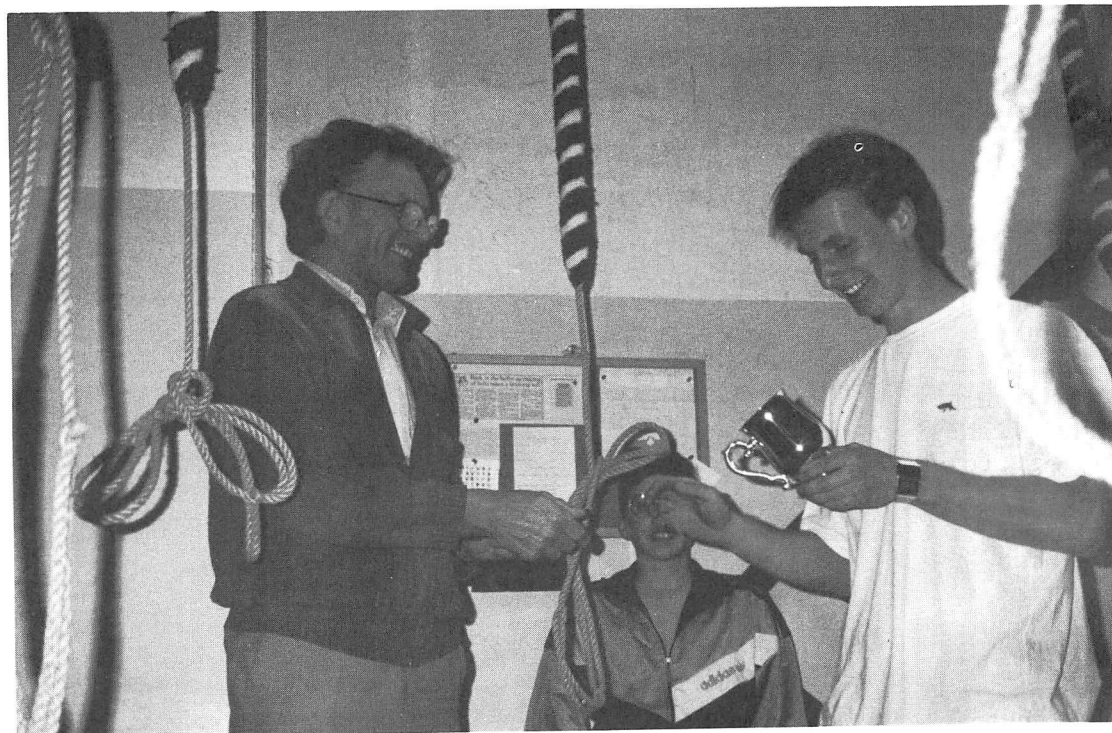
EXTRAVAGANZA

Ratby 'Swallows' cub pack showing their ingenious costumes!



Ring the Changes

Mark Pendry (Tower Captain, Ratby) receives trophy for Beginners Striking Competition from Leicester District Chairman Mr Barry Brown



Ratby Bellringers took the Learners Striking Competition trophy at a contest held recently by the Leicester District Guild of Church Bell Ringers at All Saints church, Blaby. The team led by tower captain, Mark Pendry consisted of Tracey Reynonds, Laura Murch, Matthew Fidler and Ian Mellor.

This was the first occasion the Guild had held a Learners Competition. It was scheduled immediately before experienced ringers from the Leicester District completed in the Annual District Striking Competition. Teams outrung by Ratby were from Groby, Knighton, Lutterworth and Willoughby Waterleys with our team scoring 27 faults and the closest opposition have 34 faults. A silver plated tankard was presented to Mark Pendry and the team, to be held for one year. A suitable reward after hours of practice by team members!

For the uninitiated - a striking competition is a contest between teams, judged from outside the church - the judges listening for the quality of ringing. Faults are incurred when gaps occur in the sequence of ringing or if two bells strike simultaneously (clipping). At the end of the competition, all faults are totalled, the team with the least being the winners. Much can be learned from the judges as they inform teams exactly where faults were collected during ringing!

With reference to the previous edition of 'Wot', some enquiries have been made as to what a half muffled $\frac{1}{4}$ peal is, so here goes:

Muffles - are leather covers which are strapped onto one side of bell clappers. As the muffled side of the clapper strikes the bell, a muted note sounds contrasting with the bright note which occurs when the unmuffled side of the clapper strikes. The overall effect is of notes and echoes during the peal. This technique is used as a sign of respect when ringing for sad occasions.

$\frac{1}{4}$ peal - a full peal has 5,000 or more changes which are rung without repetition, therefore a $\frac{1}{4}$ peal consists of 1,200 or more changes without repetition.

Anyone wishing to indulge in the singularly British art is welcome to come to the tower on a Friday evening at 8 p.m. Regular attendance is essential as it takes time and patience on the part of both teacher and pupil to develop skills and awareness of safety for this most enjoyable of hobbies.

Maintenance and the safety of bells is most important and often it falls to ringers to "do it themselves", so be prepared to keep the ringing room clean and perhaps help with safety checks - bells come in tons and cwt and no-one wants these on their heads!

Be prepared to travel, as ringers often go out on tours of other districts, combining ringing with socialisation, the bell tower often being conveniently close to the local hostelry!

Mark Pendry and Lynn Mellor

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Ratby Primary School Governors and Parents Meeting

The Annual meeting was held on Tuesday May 21st in the School Hall.

The Governors' Report was discussed and there was an opportunity to look at some of the childrens work.

The teachers had worked very hard in presenting this attractive display to show how the work relates to the different stages as defined in the National Curriculum.

There were some particularly spectacular craft and technology constructions created by the seven to eight year olds.

After refreshments, Mr Smith entertained and enlightened everyone with a very informative talk about testing and recording in the School. Altogether an enjoyable and worthwhile event Don't miss next year's meeting!

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PABARI'S RATBY NEWS

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bird alert

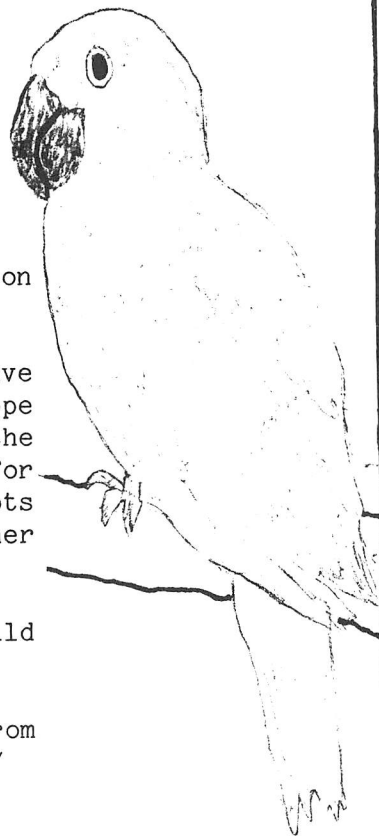
In 1989 184,600 wild caught birds were imported into the U.K. 4000 were dead on arrival and 19,500 died in quarantine.

Upto 75% of birds trapped in the wild have died before they reach a pet shop in Europe. Even endangered species are taken from the wild. Some rare parrots have been sold for as much as £25,000 in Europe. More parrots are exported from Argentina than any other country. For every imported bird that reaches a pet shop, 3 have died. So the message is please do not buy wild caught birds from pet shops.

The figures in this article are taken from the R.S.P.C.A. Animal World magazine May/June and July/August issues.

I think that birds should not be taken from the wild.

Amy Boud



Wot! About Ratby

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or put your letters
in the 'Wot' box
in the Library.

EDITORIAL

Our June issue was crammed full of your letters!

This issue - not one letter! What a contrast.

Everyone is relaxing - off on holiday or enjoying a break. Dare we say enjoying the sunshine?

We have no more news of the proposals which generated your letters. But don't forget - this is not an issue that will go away-

So don't leave your biros on the beach, you might need them again!

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Flower Festival

A spectacular flower festival is to be held during the weekend of August 31st - September 1st. This is a joint venture between Ratby Church and the Ratby Co-operative Band. There is to be a concert on the evening of Saturday 31st August in the Church, and the Junior Band will be playing at the Family Service on Sunday September 1st. Watch out for more details in the village.

Church Garden Fete

Despite the weather, the event was a great success, raising £764.78 for Church funds. Thanks to all helpers and supporters.

Ratby Primary School Association

Summer Fete

This year's fete was a great success as both a fund-raising and social event. A grand total of £1,537 was raised - (£138 more than last year!). So thank you to everyone who helped at or supported the Fete.

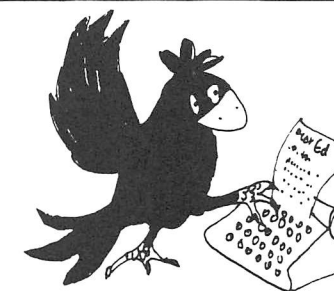
Printer Scanner

The school has bought a very useful printer scanner with money raised by the School Association.

If you would like to know more about the School Association, or, even better, get involved, then come along to the Annual Meeting on Wednesday September 25th. Put this date in your diary now.

Rummage Sale

The next rummage sale will be held on Saturday October 5th in the Welfare Hall.



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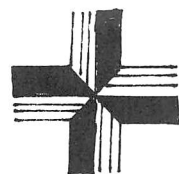
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