

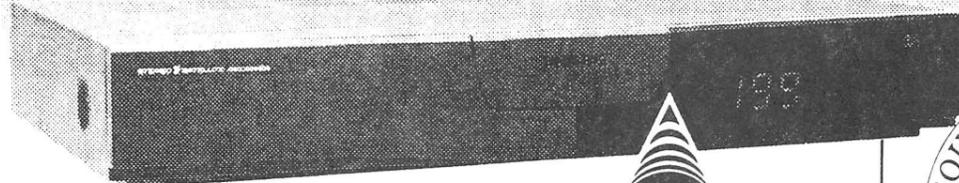


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PHILIPS INVENTS FOR YOU

Wot! About Ratby

ISSUE 47

AUGUST 1994

PUBLISHED BY THE RATBY SCOUT GROUP



A BRIDGE TOO FAR GONE

Many Ratby residents were woken early by a loud boom as Ratby bridge on Blood hill was blown up at 6 a.m. on Saturday July 16th.

The demolition work has attracted a great deal of interest, with an almost continuous group of people watching and taking photographs.

One bystander was heard to remark, "they could make a fortune charging us to watch this". He received the reply "we're already paying for it".



THE DUCK WHO CAME TO DINNER

At the beginning of his adventure in Ratby 'Donald' is pictured being carefully held by Joe. His story is told, beginning on page 20.



'Arlecchino'
(Harlequin)
costume.

The Taming of the Shrew

Theatre set-up once again brought their annual production of a Shakespearean Drama to Kirby Muxloe castle. A large crowd turned out as usual (many of them from Ratby) with picnic hampers and chairs or blankets.

It was a fine, dry evening, so woolly jumpers were only needed much later on! Concentration was difficult at first, as the wind brought the noise from the motorway in our direction, not to mention the aroma from nearby poultry sheds. Perhaps the smells added authenticity to the performance? Our perseverance was rewarded by an enjoyable, and often very funny performance. Theatre set-up presented the play in the style of an eighteenth century Harlequinade. The programme suggested that Katherina's final speech was not merely a submission to her husband at the end of the 'taming process', but more a negotiating, with Petruchio agreeing to her terms too. This, say theatre set-up is "very similar to the adjustments being negotiated between people today".

Women members of the audience were not convinced that this message came across. The visual image of Katherina being dominated by her

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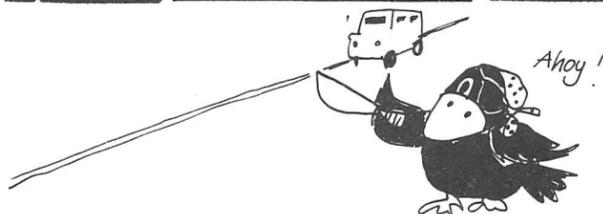
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The bus picks up from any bus stop on Main Street at around 10.22. Apparently it will also stop on Danehill, 10.24.



Ratby Village Society



Those ladies who saw Mr Eric Snowdon give his talk on "How To Take Better Photographs" at a W.I. meeting last August will know what an excellent show the Ratby Village Society enjoyed at Mr Snowdon's second visit to the Welfare Hall, in May this year. For a deaf man in his mid 70's who not long ago was blind for several years, to be so highly entertaining and so professionally skilled is something remarkable. A more well known, but younger photographer also called Snowdon had taken his name, he quipped! He claimed to have started his entertainment career at the age of six and it had stood him in good stead for about seventy years. A series of colour slides showing the problems which can (and do) beset the amateur photographer together with how to overcome them in future provided sound instruction and amusement. Then with the aid of audience participation good advice was given on how to pose people, singly and in groups, so that they do not appear like guardsmen on sentry duty when the photographs are taken. Finally, we were shown some delightful portraits of brides and children, taken in his Oakham studio. Here he related that the professional photographer's worst enemy is the child's mother 'who always knows best' but his method is to forcefully banish doting parents from the room while he gains the subject's confidence even to the extent of crawling on the floor with toys! A question and answer session after the tea interval provided beneficial to many anxious to improve their own photographic abilities.

On the longest day of the year, which all had hoped would provide a pleasant summer evening,

twenty hardy (some would say foolhardy) souls, plus a Hardy Reverend, three children and a dog, set out for a country ramble led by John Day on a dull windy evening following a day of fitful rain. Fortunately there were no further showers neither had there been enough rain to turn any of the chosen route into muddy patches. On leaving the village we followed in the footsteps of the famous engineer Robert Stephenson who had surveyed for, and built, the Leicester and Swannington Railway, through Glenfield and Ratby, in the early 1830's. Along the old trackbed - after passing under the M1 motorway - the ramblers came to the construction of a more modern and massive undertaking, the A46 Leicester Western Bypass. After leaving the still growing Glenfield industrial estate we turned off the line of the former railway and on to the footpath, designated R51, which recently has been severed by the building of the bypass. Crossing the unfinished dual carriageway on the level, the party made its way through cornfields, then passing over the motorway and back into the meadow bordering Ferndale Drive an hour and a half after setting off. No one, including the children, had fallen by the wayside while some had wallowed in nostalgia, but most were ready for a rest and a drink, after such an enjoyable walk along with convivial company.

H.A.G.

The next events to be held in the Welfare Hall, Main Street at 8.00 pm are :-

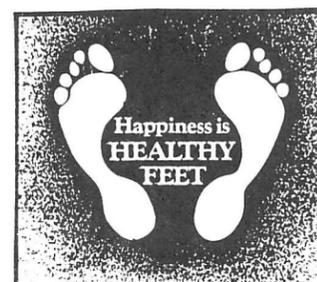
- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| Tuesday 16th August | A talk by Mr Barry Meades entitled "Running the London Marathon" |
| Tuesday 20th September | An illustrated talk by David Hulme and Horace Gamble on "Trans Canada 93" |

Everyone welcome.

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Ratby Youth Work

As you may have noticed - there have been buses and barbecues about recently - the Community College at Groby have been able to continue funding one evening's youth work a week in the village.

Katy has been working for a year now, following up ideas and recommendations from young people in Ratby. Heather started in May, and is getting to know the village.

We work as "detached" youth workers - that is we do not have a base or a club. Many of the things that happen in youth clubs instead go on at the park or in the street. Young people can have a chat, discuss issues, organise activities with some support, get any information or advice they may need etc. In this way we can offer aspects of the youth service to people who otherwise cannot or will not use it. In Ratby this means providing something actually in the village, rather than in neighbouring ones.

Ideas people came up with included:

- more opportunities to socialise - discos etc.
- a space to meet, for activities and information
- form a youth committee
- involve sympathetic adults
- sort out being moved on by the police
- publicise existing groups better and future things
- information about parish and local councils work
- get teachers and college involved in publicity

The County Council, through the college, can fund 2½ hours youth work salary for 40 weeks of the year, and about £100 running costs. There is a small amount for summer activities.

We still need to find ways of young people becoming involved in village organisations, and for the youth team at the college and people in Ratby to work out how to act on the young peoples' ideas.

Over the last year 11 trips have been organised e.g. Alton towers,

skating, climbing wall. The Parish Council have made available £500 to help subsidise trips, hire rooms etc. This will be particularly useful over the winter!

Recently we have finally had the Desford Outreach Project in Ratby for a few Monday evenings. This is a double decker bus converted into a youth club. Many thanks to the DROP project and its worker Lynne Griffiths.

We also got a few hundred pounds to fund a weekend residential, from the County Council "summer activities".

Finally there are some young people interested in having a youth club in Ratby again. This would need a small organising group, ideally made up of young people and adults who could offer some support. We are holding a meeting on the 22nd August open to all - find out what is happening, make suggestions or offer help, e.g. fundraising, sports, trips, youth club.

We would like to thank, Andy, Mrs Crump, P.C. Moore, Sue Boud and the Parish Council for their help and support over the last 12 months.

We are around Monday evenings 7.00 p.m. - 9.00 p.m.!

Katy and Heather
Youth workers



See page 31
for more news
→

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Basketball Post

This has now been installed. The post is an (apparently) vandal-proof American design. We are awaiting the delayed delivery of a chain-link net.* The cost of the equipment was £595. It is already well-used and enjoyed by a variety of ages!

If the post continues to be a success and is in place still, the Council will consider precepting funds for a second post in 1995.

Summer Front Gardens

Don't forget - Judging will take place in the week beginning July 25th. Nominations to the Parish Clerk by July 21st please!

You can nominate your own garden too.

Draft Local Plan

You will all have received a glossy leaflet from Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council about this plan.

The Parish Council has noted that there is no exhibition relating to this plan scheduled for Ratby.

We strongly urge all Ratby people to read the plan, visit an exhibition and make your own comments about the future of the area.

Exhibitions will be at Groby Library between July 20th - July 26th and again between 17th August and 23rd August.

A copy of the plan is available in Ratby Library. A video outlining the major issues will be available on loan from the Library.

Buses

The Parish Council welcomes regular comments on bus services in the village. Are there any views on the revised 254 service, which now includes Markfield Road in its route?

The company has replied saying that they will replace the timetable board from the Station Road stop.

Midland Fox also point out that it "would be illegal for them to discuss the possibility of a pre-paid ticket with Leicester City Bus as the office of fair trading deem it anti-competitive".

The Parish Council has written to the County Council asking if they would initiate this scheme. This would enable travellers to purchase a pass or a pre-paid ticket allowing travel on any bus company bus.

Martinshaw Wood

The County Council have arranged for a contractor to repair or renew the land drains in the wood. These had become ineffective, causing large-scale flooding experienced last winter.

Police Consultative Committee on June 1st

This had been well attended by Ratby people and others. It was reported that crime was up 15½% over last year in Beaumont Division. Detection rate was approximately 25%. The next meeting will be held in Groby. Watch notice boards for details.

Motorway Bridge on Blood Hill

In the early hours of Saturday 16th July the bridge was blown up and the rubble removed during the weekend.

Did anyone notice the peace and quiet during this time of motorway closure? No continuous sound of traffic.

* STOP PRESS ... the chain link net has arrived

B.T. KEYMER

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**WASHING MACHINE AND
CLEANER REPAIRS
MOST MAKES**

Dear Sir,

As a Parish Councillor I would like to reply to "A Ratby Resident" whose letter of complaint about the Parish Precept was published in the last issue.

For many years the precept was maintained at a low level, with no annual increase. The council has a major responsibility for providing play and recreational facilities for young children and others.

Twenty years ago the efforts of a group of local parents enabled the recreation area at Ferndale Drive to be established. Until recent years very little was done to develop this site.

We now have a situation where much of this equipment no longer meets current safety standard. Several items have reached the end of their useful life. The Council is obliged to ensure safe play provision, which nowadays includes expensive safety surfacing for most items.

Play is essential to the physical, social and intellectual development of children. The Council has worked hard to provide facilities and improve the environment at Ferndale Drive for all ages to enjoy. We have sought grant aid to help with this, but have been informed that we do not qualify for grants for play equipment because the amount of money contributed by the local community through the Parish Precept is too low.

Compared to other councils such as neighbouring Groby and Glenfield, our precept is still low. Our progress in redeveloping recreational facilities and improvements to the environment, is, therefore, necessarily slow. At the end of the day the work needs to be done. As a Councillor I have to have the courage of my convictions and stand up for unpopular decisions I have voted for.

I often feel that I cannot win whatever happens. People complain about the lack of facilities, especially safety surfacing. Others complain about the expenditure on such items.

Next year there will be a Parish

Council election. Perhaps the anonymous "Ratby Resident" would like to stand for election, and have a chance to directly influence decision making.

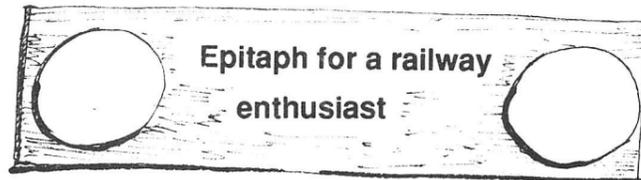
Yours sincerely
Sue Boud

Dear Editor

The intriguing and amusing verses on headstones, published in recent issues of W.O.T.! reminded me that over twenty years ago I wrote "An Epitaph for a Railway Enthusiast". As it is my wish to be cremated it will not be inscribed on a tombstone although it would be entirely appropriate for me.

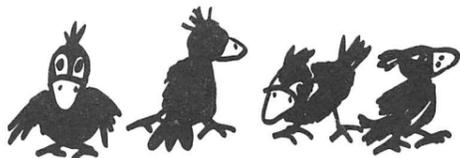
One work of explanation. Just as 'Twitcher' refers to bird watchers so 'Gricer' means trainwatchers.

Hoz



Here lies the frame
of old what's his name
Who built up a dream
Founded on steam
Steam in his soul, steam in his blood
Steam in his heart; it did him no good
For when steam arose
Right in front of his nose
It clouded his eye;
The world passed him by
Steam for his breakfast, steam for his tea,
Steam for his dinner; it filled him with glee
Ne'er did he stray,
From his permanent way
Gricing through life;
He scarce knew his wife
A narrow gauge mind, or so it would seem,
And now passed away like a man made of steam

Horace (Hoz) Gamble



Letters ooooo in reply

The 46th issue of "W.O.T" published a letter from "A Ratby Resident" which levied a charge of poor housekeeping by County and Parish Councils for the increase in the Council Tax for 1994/95. I must leave the Leicestershire County Council to account for their tax requirements but I will explain the reasons for the Ratby Parish Council increase.

This Parish Council levy had remained constant at £17,550 for three years, but it has become necessary for this figure to be increased to £25,000 for the year 1994/95 due to three particular items of cost.

Firstly, a significant area of the northern section of Ferndale Drive Leisure Area was unable to be used due to being overgrown with weeds and grass tussocks, brambles etc. It was decided to maximise the use of the area by having the ground cleared and a wildflower meadow created with a walkway.

Secondly, the play equipment had been in use for many years and in spite of ongoing maintenance work being carried out, have in instances reached the end of their safe and useful existence. Such items that fell into that category have been removed and a programme of phased replacement with new equipment is being undertaken.

Thirdly, an area of land adjacent to the Ratby Band Hall on the Tyler Road extension has been gifted to the Parish Council and funds are required to enclose the area with fencing and gates as a matter of urgency, particularly in view of the possibility of the land being unlawfully occupied by itinerant travellers (involving considerable Parish Council costs in having them removed.)

Due to the demand by a resident supported by the required number of electors, for a by-election to be held in late 1992 to fill the two casual vacancies on the Parish Council, we were invoiced in 1993/94 for £943.74.

Some of the costs of these items have already been met in whole or part, whilst others require to be met by work which will be undertaken in the near future.

Expenditure during the year 1993/94 totalled £25,109.54 and was offset by income of £4,583.82 leaving a net figure of £20,525.72 against a Council Tax Levy of £17,550. The shortfall was financed by funds accumulated in expectation of the costs referred to.

Ratby Parish Council remain committed to maintaining a pleasant rural village with the areas for which we are responsible kept clean, tidy and in an environment in which all our residents will be happy to live. At the same time, we also remain fully committed to keeping costs under strict control.

Charles Rogers
Chairman
Ratby Parish Council



Dear Concerned Parent

Like yourself, I too am concerned about children travelling in coaches and minibuses without seat belts. However, any time we travel on the road, statistically we must accept that we could be involved in an accident, so there is no guarantee that "our local children" would not be involved in such an incident.

As Chairman of Ratby Scout Group, I can advise you that our Group minibus is unsuitable for the major re-design needed to allow seat belts to be fitted. Currently, we are looking for a replacement minibus with all the necessary requirements, including forward-facing seats and seat-belt provision. Therefore, any donations would be gratefully received towards what is, for us, a very large outlay. This would help immensely in a speedier achievement of our objective.

In the meantime, any parent is quite welcome to take their children to venues and events in transport of their own choice.

All drivers of our minibus are volunteer leaders and helpers, they have not been trained specifically in driving minibuses. Fully comprehensive insurance is provided through the Scout Association's approved Insurers.

I hope the above has answered your questions satisfactorily.

Yours in Scouting

PUBLIC MEETING

The Beaumont Police/Community Consultative Committee will be holding a Public meeting at the Groby Community College, Ratby Road, Groby, on Wednesday 7th September 1994, commencing 7.30 p.m.

The object of the meeting is to provide an opportunity for people of the sub-division to air their views over policing issues which concern their Community. It is hoped that members of the community will go along and take an active part in the meeting to make the event a success.

The Consultative Committee is chaired by Councillor Mrs C E Brock. Senior Police Officers from Beaumont Police Station will be present to answer questions and discuss matters raised.

It is not within the Committee's terms of reference to discuss individual cases. These should always be referred to the sub-divisional Commander at Beaumont Police Station, Supt. P McHugh.



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Parish Council News

Ratby Parish Council had written to the Director of Planning and Transportation to enquire about the current progress of the proposed cycle route between Ratby and Glenfield, along the former Glenfield Lane.

The reply received states :-

"I can inform you that the opening of Glenfield Lane as a cycle way/bridle way is unlikely to take place before July 1995. This is due to the nature of works for the Bypass taking place in the area. It may be possible that, later in the contract period, some limited access will be feasible, at the current time I am unable to indicate when or if this is likely."

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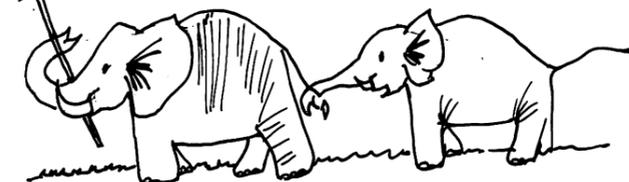
THE RATBY CO-OPERATIVE BAND

"The Ratby Co-operative Band are pleased to confirm the appointment of Kevin Steward as their new Musical Director. This comes after an initial settling in period with the Band qualifying for the Pontins Finals, winning first prize at the Chesterfield Invitation Contest and second Prize at the N.W.L.D.D. Whitwick Contest. The Band and Kevin are now looking forward to further success as a new tape is to be made later in the year.

During May the Band helped to organise the Annual Musik Fest which was held at Groby College, in which many good performances were heard from various musical ensembles, (including Groups from the College in which our local youngsters performed). Special guests this year were the Sempre Crescendo Accordion Band from Holland who performed on both nights and the Angklung Orchestra from Lincoln who performed on the Saturday night. The event was a huge success and we would like to thank all those who supported us.

Both Junior and Senior Bands are now preparing for a very busy couple of months with the Garden Fete season upon us and the Junior Band are making a trip to Holland at the August Bank Holiday.

Don't forget **CROWPIE CARNIVAL** SATURDAY AUGUST 13TH. A parade will be going around the village and the Carnival will be held on the Ferndale Drive play area."



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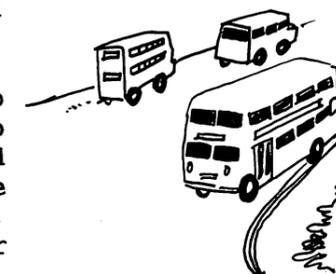


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Bus Stop Press!

Since the last article I have spotted more bus names Howard, Michelle, Soni, Mickey and Lisa.

Have you seen the Midland Fox Cub named "The Ken Grant"? According to Mr Horace Gamble this was named after a retiring member of the Planning and Transportation team, who had responsibility for regulating bus timetables.

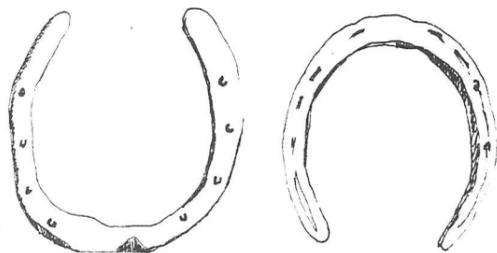


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Did you know?

Horse shoes

A horse shoe nailed to a house door was supposed to keep away witches. Legend says that the devil once asked St Dunstan to shoe his hoof. St Dunstan tied the devil to the wall, and purposefully caused him so much pain that the devil cried for mercy. Dunstan agreed to release him if he promised never to enter a place where he saw a horse shoe displayed. There are several horse shoes about the village. But is there any significance in which way up they are hung?

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Every time you borrow and read a book you can get a sticker for your map.



There is a prize for every child who reads 20 books and has 20 stickers on their map.

Colouring Competition for under 8's

... just collect your picture from the library. !!

pieces of eight



Story writing Competition

for all ages up to 12. Make up a story or poem (no more than 500 words) Put your name, age, address, phone number on the front and hand it in at the library.

Design a Cover for your favourite book

for 8 years old and over. Pick up a leaflet in the library...

Closing date September 9th



HAVE YOU JOINED THE PUDDING CLUB?

An Evening of Puddings
at Ratby Chapel School Rooms
8th October 7.30pm
in aid of Chapel Building Fund
Soup & a Roll
5 Puddings
by ticket only (£5)

contact Roy or Gwen Holloway

FLOWER FESTIVAL

*** ** * * * * *
And now a bit of up to the minute reporting.

To take a break during the final process of producing Wot! I have just wandered down to the Methodist Church Flower Festival.

It is some time since I last visited these premises. I took the chance to remind myself of the problem faced in providing good access to the church when it is altered. Quite some task given the height from the road! That alone must add a large amount to the monies needed.

A lot of effort had obviously gone in to the various floral displays which received glowing comments in the visitors book. I was 150th to sign despite going just past the half way mark on the first day!

The sweet counter offered a large variety. Books and crafts were on sale. The refreshment area was doing a roaring trade with teas but, bursting to get back to Wot!, a quick drink and a biscuit sufficed.

Various crafts were also on view including a 'live' demonstration by a very chatty lady whose friendliness typified what I saw as the most noticeable ingredient of the Festival. The 'Wonderful World' theme was apt for the displays but overall this was surely Ratby's version of 'a welcome on the hillside'!

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Fete Success

The sun really shone on the Summer Fete which was held in the vicarage garden on 18th June. The sun really brought the crowds out. The total raised at this event was £1,030.

Thanks are expressed to all those who supported it.

Check the time !

Please note there will be a change of service times.

The morning 10.40 a.m. services are now to be held at 10.30 a.m.

Sunday school will also be meeting at this new time, from September onwards.

The Book of common Prayer evensong to be held on every 3rd Sunday in the month (6 p.m.).

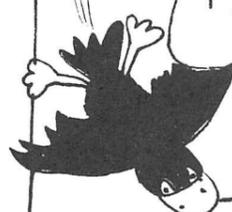
Crow pie

Children's page

What do you call a crow in a shell suit ?



Answer
An egg!



How do you make a Ratby bundstand ?



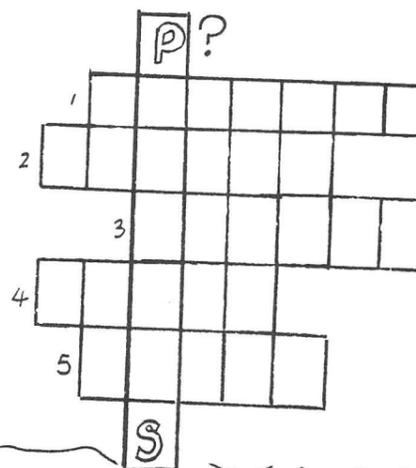
Take their chairs away!

By - Rachel Moore, Age - 8.

Yabba Dabba Doo !!

1. Where the Flintstones live.
2. Barney's second name.
3. The baby!
4. Fred's wife
5. She is married to Barney

Who is the mystery person whose name you will discover!?



Tell us what you've been doing during the summer holiday!
Stories, jokes and pictures can be put in the library box.

Pictures and jokes in this issue by Rachel Moore



AUGUST

River fish orientate themselves by this current too.

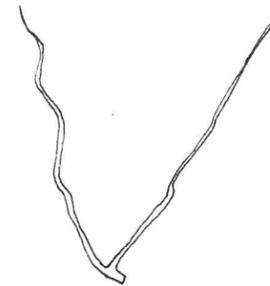
Dowsers usually believe that the underground stream emits a force which affects them. Others have suggested that there is an 'Earth Force'. One such dowser has said, "I feel the influence of a stream when still some distance from it. The point of the rod begins to move (some move up, others down). This pull increases in strength the nearer I come to water. When I reach it the rod 'loses power'.

The dowser holds the hazel rod with palms upwards. This is the best position for allowing a reflex action of the muscles.

Hazel trees

In Ireland the hazel tree was so sacred that felling it was punishable by death. Later the death penalty was reduced to the sacrifice of a pig or cow. A long hazel wand

was associated with St James the Great. Such hazel wands have been found in a number of medieval burials. It is said that the length of the wand was equal to the length of the deceased.



A hazel dowsing twig

*August was once the traditional month to marry in.

*The colour brown (hazel nut brown) was also linked to this month.

*If you were born in August your lucky flowers are gladioli, and your lucky gem is the sardonyx.

THE MONTHS OF THE YEAR -

Today's western world calendar is based on the names of Roman months. The Romans had a lunar year of 12 months, starting in March.

In this issue we begin a series looking at the traditions and beliefs associated with the current time of year.

The Anglo-Saxons called August "Weod monath" which means 'weed month', because it is the time when weeds and other plants grow most quickly.

In the northern hemisphere August is the time when the grain ripens. Most rhymes and sayings about August are on the harvest theme -

"August brings the sheaves of corn
Then the harvest home is borne".

In Europe it is an important time for wine growers. One of the Hindu gods, Krishna is thought to have been born around August time. His birthday is called Janam Ashtami. On that day Hindus go up to the temple to pray.

August was once named Sextilis, the sixth month, at a time when March was the beginning of the year. It was later re-named in honour of Augustus, the first Roman Emperor.

August 1st is Lammastide. 'Lammastide' comes from the Anglo-Saxon word Hlafmaesse, which means "Loaf Mass". This is harvest-time, when bread was made and a loaf was offered in Church as thanksgiving.

Lammastide

Originally a pagan festival, later adopted by Christianity as Lammastide. The festival was celebrated by sports and athletic contests, which later gave rise to a fair at which men and women looked for marriage. It was also a favourite time for celebrations at wells and local shrines.

The Hazel tree is the tree associated with August. It was traditionally known as the tree of wisdom by the Druids, and in Celtic legends. The hazel nut is symbolic of wisdom, something sweet and sustaining in a hard shell.

In England it was a forked hazel stick that was used for divining water or buried treasure. In the seventeenth century it was also used for identifying those guilty of murder or theft.

Dowsing or water divining

Hazel twigs were chosen because of the belief that they contained 'life essence', as well as being tough and resilient.

Dowsers can only detect water which is in motion and connected ultimately with the sea. This is usually an underground stream which is under pressure and subject to friction.

A current of electricity flows from the mouth of a river to its source.

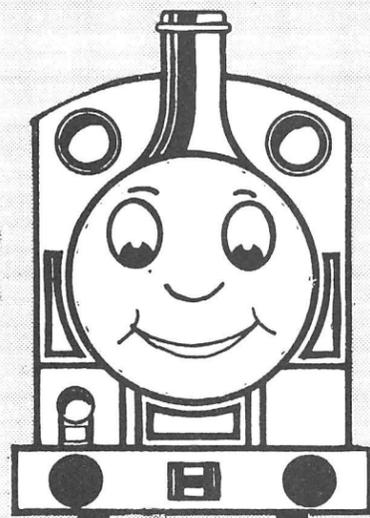
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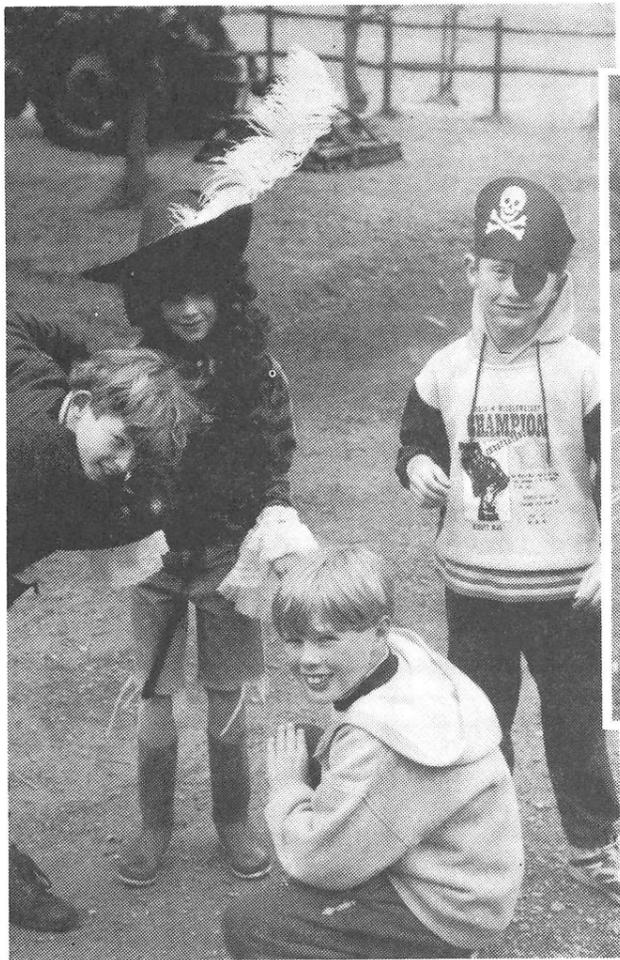
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Church Rooms Refurbishment



By the time you read this it is hoped that the grounds of the Church Rooms will have been levelled and cleared and the kitchen will look entirely different!.

It is hoped by the end of August that the gardens will be created.

Volunteers are urgently required to help with these projects.

Has anyone any shrubs/flowers which could be divided and which have a spreading nature that need little attention or plants which could be donated/potted on and planted in the garden areas?

Also has anyone any spare compost/old grow bags? Have anyone any old slabs which they do not need or crazy paving.

Help is also required from any green-fingered people who could lend a hand or anyone who is a "dab hand" with a paint brush.

Anyone interested in lending a hand or have any of the above to donate, please contact Diane or Alan Spencer on 394868.



Centenary!

The 20th August 1994 sees the 100th anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone of the Church Rooms.

As a celebration there will be a tea party for all ages (anyone young or old who has attended or been involved with the Sunday School).

It will be held between 3 - 4.30 p.m. and there will be the usual party games!

At 7.30 p.m. there will be a Barn Dance and barbecue. Tickets will be available in August from Church Council members or via Alan Spencer.

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The Glenfield Hospital

Summer Fete



The popular and well supported Summer Fete at the Glenfield Hospital is to take place a little earlier this year, on Saturday 13th. August from 2pm to 5pm.

Radio Fox will be there to keep everyone informed about the events taking place which are many and varied.

Vintage vehicles on display will include an old 'Citybus' and musical entertainment will be provided by Unity Brass Training Band.

A fancy dress competition for under 12's will take place at 2.30pm.

Children will find a Roundabout, face painting, Hook-a-duck, Bouncy Castle, Balloons, Wooden toys, and much much more.

Others may prefer the Refreshments, Beer Tent, Stocks, Bottle stall and Tombola.

I could go on but best to go and see what else will be there for yourselves. Lets just say 'And there's more!'.

Anyone wishing to make enquiries (or contribute) can ring Maggie Silver on L.871471 Extn. 3980.

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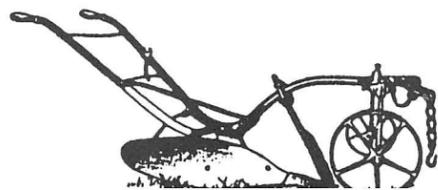
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For more information
please contact:

Ann Day on 395123
Jill Grey on 395208
Or Pc Brian Moore on 530066

ext 3777

I will endeavour to write an article for each issue of 'Wot!' to update the residents of the village on developments regarding Neighbourhood Watch.

When I became the beat officer for Ratby almost three years ago there was a small base of Neighbourhood Watch areas. During my time here some schemes 'folded' but numerous schemes have been set up with the net result that our base has increased by 100%

We have also had a change in the position of Area Co-ordinator, with Barbara Whipham standing down due to work commitments. The position of Area Co-ordinator is now jointly held by Jill Grey and Ann Day.

Co-ordinators meetings are held bi-monthly in the library and, during our meeting in January 1994, we decided to produce a monthly news sheet. The news sheet is distributed to Co-ordinators who do their best to distribute copies to residents in their Neighbourhood Watch area.

I have arranged for two visits, for Co-ordinators, to Beaumont Police Station on Tuesday 2nd August and Thursday 11th August 1994.

The Co-ordinators will be given a guided tour of the police station, including the cells and the control room, where the co-ordinators will have the chance of seeing the newly installed 'O C I S' computer system.

In the October issue of 'Wot!' we will report on the visit and, hopefully, some of the Co-ordinators will give their own reports.

In closing, just a word about crime. The majority of the crime we suffer is vehicle related, and statistically over 50% of the crime in Ratby is auto crime.

P.C. Brian Moore



will make guest appearances along with Filbert Fox. Eugene Waldron of Leicester Ryders and Keith Daniel from Central T.V. will also appear and several other very well known names have been approached.

Star attraction for me has got to be the R.A.F. supplied Flight Cockpit Simulator. How many chances do you get to try something like that!

Braunstone Motor Projects are organising a Mini Assault Course and Leicester will provide a Mini Fair. The Alliance & Leicester have again provided a Bouncy Castle and amongst the many other attractions will be a Laser Ship.

Sponsorship, by way of prizes, donations, refreshments and grants comes from a huge list of companies. I could not list them all but quoting a few might just hint at the 'flavour' of what is on offer. Walker's Crisps, Everards Brewery, Nestle UK, Olympus Sport, Toys R Us, Mattel, Cannon Cinemas, Walker & Son, Hoskins Brewery, Hoyes, Tesco's, McDonalds, British Gas, British Shoe Corporation, etc.

Please go along and support the teams. That is the Soccer Teams and the team from Beaumont Police Station who have put in an incredible amount of effort to make sure that, each day of the event, EVERYONE has the chance of a good time.

See you from the Cockpit!

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Once again the Beaumont police are running a Summer Soccer Tournament at Babbington Community College. This year it will be from 9th to 12th August.

Although we did not receive results in time to publish in Wot! last years event proved to be very successful. This year we hope to publish local team's results in our next issue.

SUMMER SOCCER TOURNAMENT

The teams involved will be ranged from age 11 to 18 and every competitor will receive a medal or plaque to commemorate their day. Winning teams in each age group will also receive a trophy.

If you have not already entered I am afraid that you are too late for this year, but you can still come along to check out the standard of opposition ready for an assault (sorry officer) on the silverware next year.

Leicester City players (I'm not even going to hint who they might be!)

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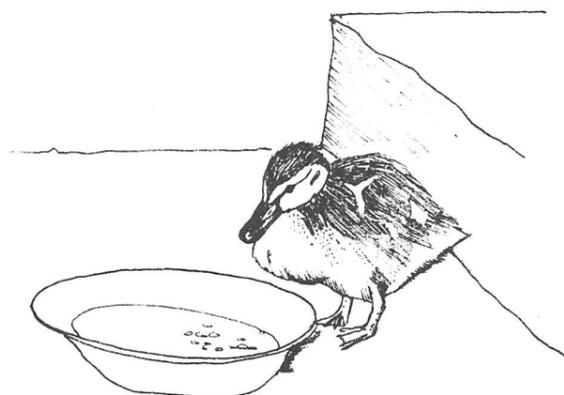
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my hair and settle down at the back of my neck. I suppose it was like being under his mother's wing. I think that was his favourite place when he was small. Obviously he soon grew too big for that and preferred to wander around. If anybody left the kitchen door open he would waddle into the living room. Sometimes he even climbed onto the settee and perched himself on a cushion and went to sleep (after that he had his own cushion). Cassie used to love filling the bath up so he could have a good wash. He would duck his head under and throw water all down his back. Sometimes you would hear one big splash as he lunged himself down and would swim under water. Then he would flap his wings to get the water out and we'd get soaked. By this time his feathers had started to grow and we realised that he was a she but the name Don had stuck, so that's what we continued to call her.



All the family helped to look after her. Graham and I continued to mop. Cassie was always changing the water in the baby bath and Joe, Lacey and Kristiane were always running down the garden with handfuls of duck pellets to feed her (much easier than worms). Besides the pellets Don was always willing to try whatever we were eating and you had to be careful if she was on your knee if you ate anything or you got a mouthful of beak.

We also had one or two laughs over things she did like running around the living room with a plastic carrier bag in her beak or chasing a plastic pop bottle round the room.

One evening Graham had brought her up from the pen inside his coat, put her in the kitchen and went off to

visit a friend. Whilst he was there a funny smell kept wafting round the room but nobody knew where it was coming from, until Graham took off his coat and discovered he was covered in duck muck (isn't that supposed to be lucky!). Over the couple of months that she had been with us Don was well and truly part of the family.

One evening my sister and her children came to visit and her daughter got into the pen and tried to catch her. Being a stranger Don took to her wings for the first time and flew over the garage and to our delight came into the back door. So a few days later when we were going out one evening, for an hour or so, we had no qualms about leaving her in the pen down the garden where she had been all day. On our return the kids jumped out of the car and went straight down there to show our friend's children. They came running back up and said she wasn't there. Thinking they were joking I went down to see for myself but sure enough she was gone. We spent half the night searching the gardens around us and fields with torches and shouting her name but to no avail. Something must have scared her, otherwise she wouldn't have flown away. She'd had plenty of opportunity to do so but hadn't.

All of us were really upset, especially myself because I thought after we had reared her she might not be able to fend for herself (Graham assured us she would).

Cassie kept thinking she would come home, she and Joe and her friend Kelly trudged through the fields in the pouring rain down to the brook to see if she was there but came back drenched and tearful because there was no sign of her.

Every morning for about a fortnight after, the first thing she did was to go into the garden shouting Don, hoping she would be there but sadly she never was.

We all hope that she is alive and well somewhere not too far away, and that she is not alone. Perhaps she has found herself a mate, away from any foxes so she can start a family of her own.

Arlene

THE DUCK WHO CAME TO DINNER

In a recent visit over the fields behind where we live, my husband, Graham and children came across a duck with her 10 babies swimming in the brook. On their return about a week later there was only 2 of the ducklings left.

Whilst they were there Graham spotted a fox strolling across the fields in the direction of where the ducks were. Obviously the fox was the culprit for the missing ducklings so everyone started to shout to scare the fox away. My husband decided that the only way the ducklings would be safe would to catch them and bring them home; the mother would take care of herself and fly away.

Cassie, Joe, Lacey and Kristiane all walked towards the ducklings to scare them into the field so my husband could throw his coat over them. On doing this they were able to get both ducklings but sadly had to let one go because the mother was getting too upset. The duckling that was left behind obviously did not stand a chance because the fox was spotted on his way back to it.

The duckling that came to live with us was of course named Donald, although we had now way of knowing whether it was a boy or girl! We did not even know if it would survive or not because it was only small and not more than a couple of weeks old.

Our first thought was to feed it bread and water because that is what you do when visiting the ducks at Groby Pool, but that did not go down to well, so after that we spent hours digging up worms at all times of the day and night.

Donald's bed was made out of one of Joe's toy boxes with a towel in it to keep him warm and snug. I would take it up to bed with me and he would spend the night at the side of my bed. He never made a noise or attempted to get out during the night and just accepted it was bedtime and that was that.

Graham made a pen so Donald could go out during the daytime with a baby bath of water for him to swim in. At

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first we couldn't leave him so we were in and out all day until he was big enough to defend himself.

When he was inside he had a long wooden box to wander about in, but it wasn't long before he could climb out and roam around the kitchen (not something I would recommend as ducks never seem to stop messing!). We had a mop and bucket as a permanent fixture.

Once he found his feet there was no stopping him. At first our two Jack Russells frightened him, although they were never really bothered with him (which surprised me). One day Jake did chase him around the kitchen and actually had him in his mouth. Luckily Cassie was on the scene and started screaming and shouting so Jake put him down and walked away.

After that I thought he would keep away from them but unfortunately he had found his feet (and beak!) and everytime they walked by him he would chase after them, pecking at their legs. Jessie would try and hide behind our legs out of the way but I think he took to Jessie and followed her everywhere. You could often see them asleep together on the mat in the kitchen.

In the evenings when we were watching t.v. he would sit on my knee wrapped in his towel. After a few minutes he would climb up into

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Dragons and Doubloons

A group of Ratby children aged from 3 to 9 recently enjoyed a story-telling session in the library.

They were 'mesmerised' by the story-telling skills of Senior Children's Librarian Paul Gobey, who told tales of dragons with a thousand teeth and read poems about pirate's treasure.

After the stories the children made dragon masks, and a collage dragon which is still to be seen on the library wall!

Local library assistant, Ann Day, was there to help, with Jean Burbridge from Leicestershire Libraries!



The event was held from 2 - 3.30 on Thursday July 14th.

If you missed it, there are rumours of future events!

Watch this space!

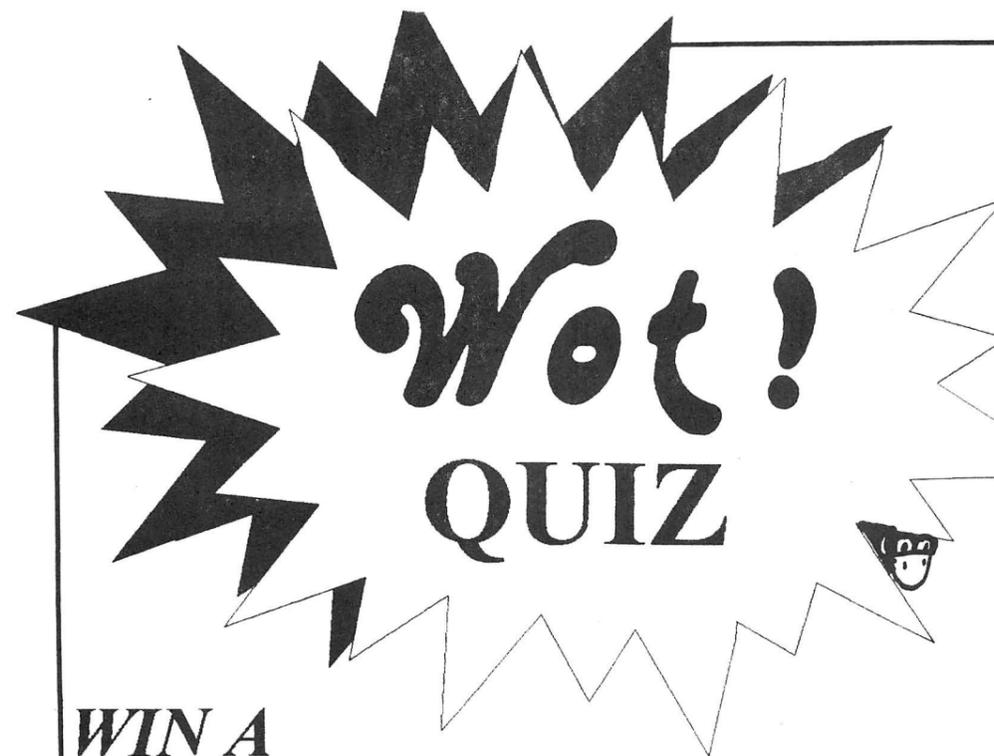
It is not too late to enter the competitions!

Why not go down to the library and collect some leaflets?

See the Children's page for more details.

back to → Page 12 !!

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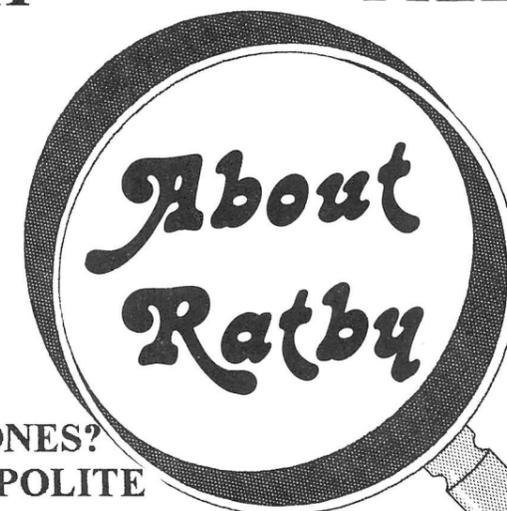


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4. WHO CAN YOU FAX THROUGH?
5. NO HORSES BEYOND WHICH POINT?
6. WHO SAID 'USE MORE GOOD MILK & KEEP FIT?'
7. WHAT HAS THE ANGEL LOST?
8. MATCHBALL SPONSORED BY WHO?
9. WHERE CAN YOU SEE SNOWMEN IN AUGUST?
10. WHERE IS THE FIREMAN'S SWITCH?
11. No. OF FOUNDATION STONES WITH NAMES ON?

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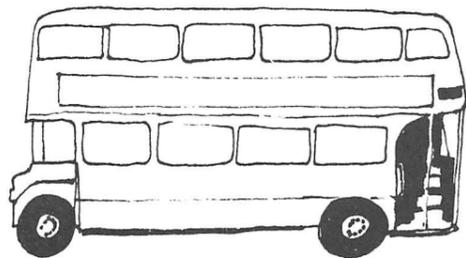


Camping in the
Vale of Belvoir

12th - 14th August

A camping trip is being organised to the Vale of Belvoir. The cost will be £20 which will include food, transport and canoeing.

If you are interested in a place(s) on this trip meet us at Ferndale Park 8th August at 7.00 p.m. or alternatively telephone 557770.



**"Young People
in Ratby"**

A meeting is going to be held to look at the possibility of a youth committee.

The date of this meeting is Monday 22nd August at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting will be held at either the DROP bus or a room somewhere!

If you are interested look out for posters!

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0533 392561 for more information.

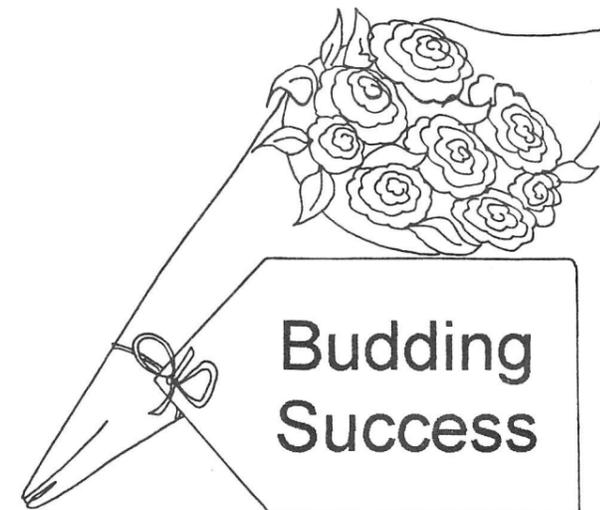
THE SERVICE GARAGE

MAIN STREET , RATBY

M.O.T. TESTS

CARS (PETROL - DIESEL)
AND
MOTORCYCLES

Hours 8.30 - 5.00 Monday to Friday
Saturday by appointment only
SERVICE AND REPAIRS UNDERTAKEN
TELEPHONE 394966



Enterprising local resident, Jane Caren of Markfield Road has opened a florist shop in Glenfield with a difference.

Not only on offer are the usual fresh, dried and silk flowers and plants there is a variety of choice giftware and helium filled balloons for special occasions.

The shop boasts a working water fountain which gives a relaxed atmosphere.

Everyone is catered for; with a special section for the bride-to-be where she can sit and choose her flowers; and also there is a cup of tea and a friendly shoulder if need be for the bereaved when selecting funeral tributes.

Advertising in Wot! WORKS !!!



The appeal for a vacuum cleaner in the last issue has resulted in the Anglican Church now having both an upright and cylinder cleaner.

Thanks go to Mrs Vann and Mr Bent for their generosity.

Last Chance !

The "Welcome Leaflet" is being compiled. This is the last chance for anyone who has not contributed but wants to. Please contact Diane Spencer on 394868.