



Wot!

...Reading Riot!
in the Library!

About Ratby

PUBLISHED BY THE RATBY SCOUT GROUP

August 1998
Issue 71

SOMETHING TO CROW ABOUT

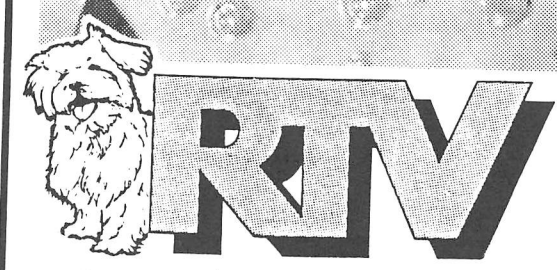
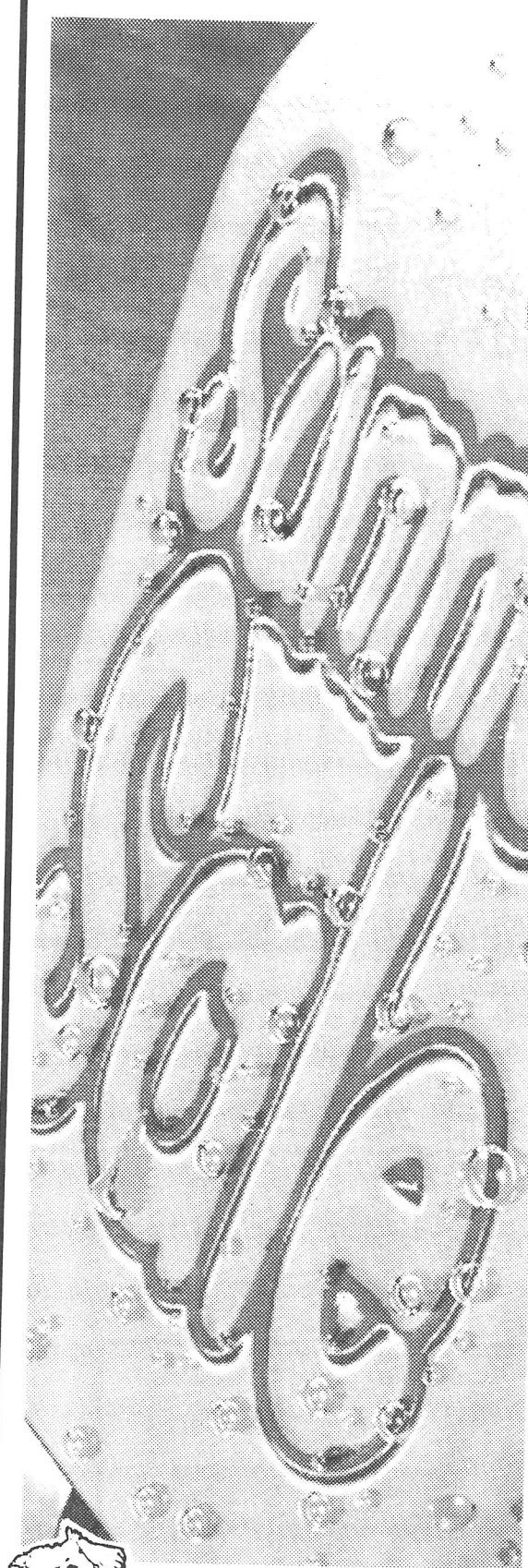


Photographs by Alan Withers

Grey skies and rain showers did not dampen the spirits of Ratby people who turned out to join in with the Ratby Parish Council "Totem Pole Carving Event". A variety of traditional country crafts and activities were set up at Taverner Drive during the weekend of June 12th to 14th. The culmination of all the effort was the erection of the totem pole, topped by a Ratby crow, on the Sunday afternoon.

Pictured are some of the villagers, Parish Councillors and B.T.C. Volunteers who joined sculptor Paul Wood for the celebration.

The story continues in the centre pages.



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MASSIVE SAVINGS WITH ZANUSSI'S SUMMER SALE

SCHOOLS 125th CELEBRATION OPEN DAY VOTED A GREAT SUCCESS



The day had arrived for many eager villagers when they could step once again into their past school days. On entering the school, books of past punishment and attendance records were arranged on tables for all to see. Many people gathered around the books looking for familiar names and old school friends. Every now and then the sounds of recognition were to be heard when "that's our mams sister and "oh look Burts brothers name" and "that's aunt Florrie"

The punishment book was viewed with less enthusiasm but with knowing sounds when pupils names were spoken. Photograph displays were studied too for past friends, relatives, neighbours and much chatter resounded throughout the school as old friends met again.

Many of the visitors dropped into the classrooms to have a chat with pupils, to admire present technology whilst marvelling at the bright and lively painted classrooms with, "carpets", all a change from the dark colours and floorboards of their day.

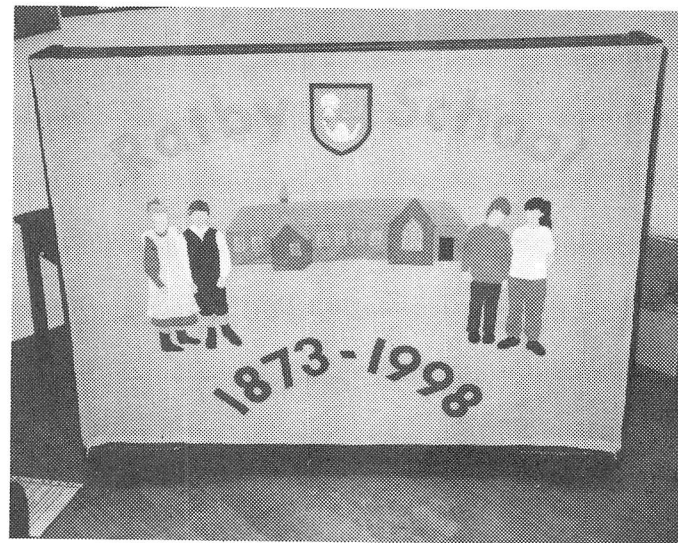
Much planning had taken place for the 125th anniversary of the schools opening. A magnificent cake in the form of the school complete with bell tower had been made by the school cook and decorated by teacher Mrs Lindsay Edwards. It was cut by the chairman of the school governors Mr Micheal Ball in front of a school hall bursting at the seams.

The schools newly formed brass band played to an excellent standard, continuing the schools link with Ratby Co-operative brass band held over many years.

The nimble fingers of teachers Mrs Lynn Mellor and Mrs Lindsay Edwards had been busy creating a decorated piano back cover, depicting the school and its dress from the early years to the present day.

With the overwhelming response to the schools 125th one wonders what the 150th anniversary will bring.

Sylvia Gant



In the October issue of Wot! we will be featuring recollections of long-ago school days.



BEAVERS

Another birthday! Ratby Beavers celebrated 13 years with a party theme night. balloon games. Musical chairs, songs, pass the parcel with a 1998 prize of money.

Fun Fun and more fun.

It doesn't seem possible that we have been going that long! But the boys (and leaders) keep turning up week after week, so its still working somewhere along the line. Things have certainly changed over the years. the main one being that the boys require more and more. They are very grown up now at the age of six and although for a week or two are quite low key, they soon find their feet (and lungs!) would we have it any other way? Well yes sometimes!!

We are still only running at 12 boys even though we do have 39 on the waiting list, 14 of which are old enough to join. We would like to welcome Lynne Harris, who has agreed to go into uniform, so who knows perhaps next year we can inform the ACM that we are running a full 24 colony! Over the year we have ran a very varied and full programme covering our theme chart.

We have just held our Beaver District Fun Day, when 106 Beavers, Leaders and helpers converged on Ash End Farm, Tamworth. Despite the dreadful weather early morning, by the time the buses arrived, the sun was shining, the animals were waiting (for home time!) and a lovely time was had by all. According to the beavers the best part was the two adventure playgrounds, feeding the lamb his bottle, feeding the sheep, the goats, the ducks, holding the day old chicks and ducklings, pony rides, and picking their own egg from the hen house, and taking it home for tea. (106 eggs travelling in paper cups but no accidents, that alone deserves a badge. Oh nearly forgot milking the cow, good job it was a cardboard cow!! Plus all the games available, like giant draughts, skittles, knock down the milk bottles. A great day enjoyed by all.

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St. George's Parade, unfortunately due to family arrangements we were unable to attend this year, and what a shame as we were going to parade the whole route, but from what I hear, the beaver scouts proved themselves as good as the rest.

Our next event is the September sing a long, always a favourite, followed up by the christingle in December

As in previous years I would like to thank David and Lynne for their support and help in keeping the colony running, and if there is anyone out there who is bored and has A LITTLE time to spare, come along to one of our Fun and Friend evenings.

Kit Janet, Ku David, Rabbit Lynne

Sounds like a familiar cry!! 14 guys out there wanting to join in now but not enough helpers to introduce them all the events mentioned and planned!

SWIMMING FOR ALL

The last of the four swimming sessions at Bosworth College at Desford will be on the:-
22nd August, at 1 o'clock to 2 o'clock
at a cost of £1.00 per person.

Payable on the day.

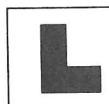
Don't forget it's for Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and their parents and friends.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SCOUT GROUP SOCIAL EVENTS

Weds. 16th September; GHOST WALK & SUPPER
Sat. 31st October; ****HALLOWEEN PARTY****

Contact David on 2394472 for details.



Free 1st Hour

Melsway Driving School

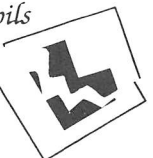
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e.g. Order at 6.30 and pay £6.30!
7 o'clock - pay £7.00!

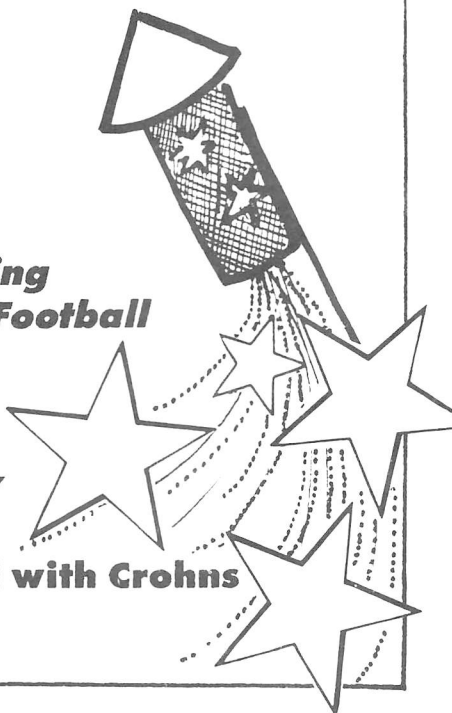
BANK HOLIDAY EXTRAVAGANZA!!
August 29th

Live entertainment
Kiddies Rides
Ice Cream
Raffle

Bungee Running
Human Table Top Football
Candy Floss
Sumo Wrestling

PROFESSIONAL FIREWORK DISPLAY

All profits go towards sending a young lad with Crohns disease to Disneyland.



RATBY METHODIST CHURCH

OPEN DAY SATURDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER

10 am until 4pm

Normal Services resume Sunday 20th September at 10 am and 6 pm

We are particularly grateful to Wot! in allowing us the space to share with readers the very exciting times in which we find ourselves, and to offer a very special invitation. It seems akin to history now, yet just six years ago we faced the choice and challenge either to renew our ageing premises to modern standards or continue the uninspiring task of patching up the old and hoping for the best. With hindsight we thankfully chose the former, and in 1993 accepted a feasibility study.

After several years of hard work and with a cup "full and running over" with community goodwill, we had accumulated enough funds to at least start the project off. On vacating the Chapel in May 1997, we were invited to share the services of the Parish Church, an invitation we were very pleased to accept. We have made new friends, experienced differing ways of acknowledging the same God, and we will be ever grateful for the welcome extended to us.

At that same time the contractors and builders began their work. Readers will have noticed the chaos that reigned as they progressed. This work is now almost complete and you just would not believe the difference they have made. We might also add that there cannot be an Act of Parliament, British Standard, or E.E.C. Regulation that hasn't been complied with. Even the VAT man has taken his 18%. (All we need now is planning permission!)



LOST PROPERTY

A tartan umbrella is waiting for a rainy day and an owner to collect it from Ratby Library.

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Our vision is twofold. First, that our premises will continue increasingly to serve as the spiritual home of Methodism in the village, where all who wish may learn of the teaching of Jesus. Secondly, that our more accessible building may be found convenient for community use for those prepared to enjoy and respect it. Come and see for yourself!

Whether you consider yourself to be "Chapel", "Church", Catholic or Non-Conformist, Russian Orthodox or Trappist Monk, we most cordially invite you to call in at the Chapel on Saturday 5th September, anytime between 10 and 4 o'clock for a free and easy viewing of our versatile and self-contained new interior.

Please come, share our excitement, and allow us to share your own company on the day. We'll be pleased to give you a cup of coffee, and if you wish, a light "cost-price" Ploughman's lunch between 12 and 2.00pm. Look forward to seeing you. Just come as you are. God Bless.

We are honoured to include such important accounts of village events. We like to think that this magazine might play a small part in recording historic moments for posterity. Perhaps a few copies of each issue may escape the blue bags and be read in a few hundred years time! Editor.



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1ST RATBY (SWIFTS) CUB CAMP 12TH -14TH JUNE

The highlight of the year for the Cubs is the summer camp. Over the years it has been the other Cub pack, (Swallows) who have had rain and wet camps. Their camp this year was hot and sunny. This year it was the Swift's turn to have a wet camp, but we did not let it bother us, as we had a really enjoyable camp. There were one or two outside activities for instance, the absailing and water games, also the outside camp fire, which had to be cancelled due to the rain, but this did not deter the fun. The campsite held the campfire song in the building which we used for meals. We had approximately two hundred guests, *but they didn't have hot dogs like we had after!*

THE THEME FOR THE WEEKEND WAS "A CIRCUS"

FRIDAY NIGHT

After allocating the girls and boys to their tents for sleeping, we had a game of rounders. This was then followed by the children having to find the animals in the woods, as we hadn't any animals for the circus! After supper, we sorted out who wanted to play the part of horses, elephants, tigers and tumblers for the circus. Then they had to find out what the secret message was, and by then it was off to bed!

SATURDAY MORNING

We began with a run to loosen up, followed by the cubs having to cook their own breakfast of sausages, eggs and beans (which the kids love to do), on wood fires outside. After each meal they had to wash their own dishes and cutlery. Points were awarded for cleanliness, washing up, tent inspection and games. Points were deducted for misbehaviour. We had what we call a points table which was used over the weekend. The team with the most points at the end of the weekend won a prize, and they were really keen to win those points! The rest of the morning was spent making their animal costumes for the circus. After dinner, it was games, throw the dice on the target, archery, different relay games, roll the disc through the skittles, magnetic fishing, plus many more, up to teatime. After tea the Big Top had a blackout, so the children followed the rope to freedom, a blindfold walk through the woods. Then we had the camp fire sing song, a game of playing card bingo, which by then was bedtime. The children were shattered but happy!

SUNDAY MORNING

A loosen up run to start with, followed by breakfast cooked by the chefs, the "cubs own" was a little bit about religion, and they then built dens in the woods. After that they had to learn the routines to the performance of the circus. It was intended to stage the circus show outside, but due to the weather we had to hold it indoors. After lunch the children had their faces painted with special makeup. They then put on their costumes, and in front of their parents, the audience, all the children at camp put on a big show "The Circus" and they were absolutely brilliant (all was captured on video).

All weekend we could not have wished for a better bunch of kids. I would take them all camping again any time. My reward was to see them laughing and enjoying themselves so much.

Well done to Colin Payne & Paul Clark (the chefs who cooked excellent meals as good as the best restaurants around!). Well done to all the leaders, Lara Gumley, David Smith, David Gould, Paul Tunnicliffe and Mister McBean, for making it such an enjoyable weekend. Special thanks go to Tracy & David Payne, who came all the way from Market Rasen in Lincolnshire to help out.

All the cubs on camp over that weekend gained the Entertainer Badge.

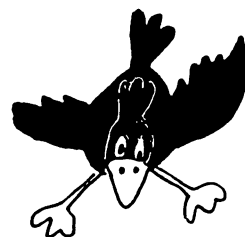
RAY LANDER

URGENT

Nine red/white 1st Ratby Scout Group T-shirts from the Swifts Cub Camp have not been returned. Could you please return them. An event coming up will mean that the "team" won't have shirts.

Someone obviously put a lot of hard work into the weekend, but I'm sure that it was all worth while. You should all be aware that Ray will be 70 on 5th August, and he is still helping help where ever there is a need within the group. It does say something about the support the group gets from the young parent of today.

Anyway, congratulations Ray on this special birthday many young and not so young people in the village will remember you and all your, "evenings, events and special bag of tricks". Thanks very very much for all your help and efforts. May they continue for many a long year.



Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir,

Firstly, I should like to thank all the residents of Groby Road and Danehill who contributed to a collection at the beginning of June on behalf of Amnesty International, raising nearly £30 in total.

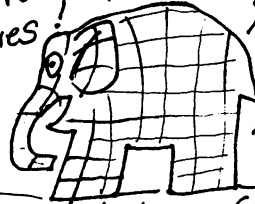
It was a pleasure to collect the envelopes as everyone was so cheerful and friendly. I should like to thank especially the lady with the fish ponds at the bottom of Danehill and yes, I shall come and see you again soon for more advice on garden ponds!

Secondly, congratulations to all the Wot team on producing what is always a very readable newsletter. Keep up the good work!

Yours faithfully,

Judith Harrison

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the
library.
brighten up Elmer's day... Colour him in!!

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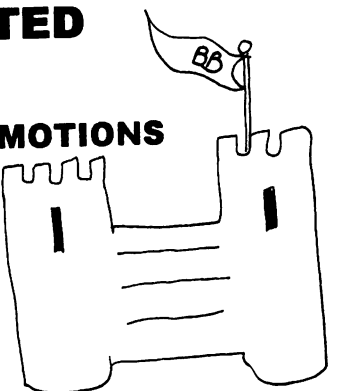
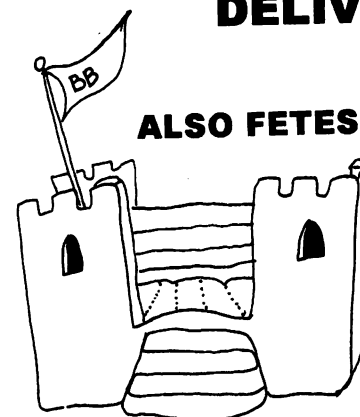
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A TOTEM TALE !

TURNING AND TYING

Peter Wood, who runs a workshop at Staunton Harold was demonstrating the craft of wood turning on a traditional pole lathe. Villagers were tempted to have a try, and proudly produced garden dibbers and rounders bats. There was plenty of opportunity to chat to Peter and discover more about the craft. The original "Bodgers" as they were called, worked in the woodland, sleeping in huts roofed with their wood shavings. They turned the green wood to make items such as chair legs to a traditional local pattern. As the wood dried it became oval in shape, an indication now of its antiquity.

Nicky Thompson, a volunteer with the British Trust for Conservation was passing on her tie-dyeing skills using natural dyes. A brilliant yellow patchwork of cloths soon covered the bushes as the turmeric- coloured cotton was hung to dry. Nicky told us that dyes made from natural materials such as leaves, berries and fruit were the original colouring for clothing. The most well known, blue Woad, was fixed using urine as a mordant!

Local sisters Paula and Linda, who run a Bouncy Castle Hire Business volunteered to paint faces, and provided an opportunity to escape the rain in their tent!

THE TOTEM POLE

The highlight of the weekend was the carving and erection of the Totem Pole. Children from Ratby Primary School had drawn wildlife designs; foxes, squirrels, hedgehogs and butterflies, and sculptor Paul Wood had worked with them to interpret the pictures for the pole. Carving continued at Taverner Drive, and visitors, including children were able to have a go. The pole itself had only recently been a tall oak, felled during clearing work in Martinshaw Wood.

Paul worked steadily all weekend, creating a magnificent crow to perch on top. At last on Sunday afternoon the Totem Pole was raised and fixed in position to mark the entrance to the soon-to-be- created pond.



SITE-SAVING

The event and wildlife project have been made possible with a grant from Barclays Bank Sitesavers Scheme. Co-ordination was undertaken by local man Neil Pilcher and the organisation he works for, The British Trust For Conservation Volunteers.

Thanks are due to everyone who took part, not least Cawrey Builders who provided a JCB and driver to bore a hole for the totem and then lift the pole into place.

Ratby Parish Council



Paul Wood is now working on pieces for a forthcoming exhibition in Sheffield. He undertakes commissions for garden sculptures in wood or stone and he can be contacted at the Knighton Lane Group studio in Leicester.

POND PUDDLING

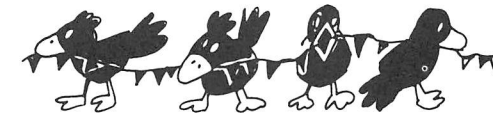
The next opportunity to get involved with this exciting project and make your mark in the village will be on;

SATURDAY AUGUST 8th

at 8.45 for a 9 o'clock start at Taverner Drive. Bring your wellington boots and old clothes and help us create the pond. This is an event for adults who want to help shovel lots of concrete ! Rubber gloves will be provided, and extra shovels welcomed.

NO MORE CROW PIE!

Brewer's Dictionary states that a totem was "a North American Indian word for some natural object, usually an animal, taken as an emblem of a clan." Hence the crow on top for "Crow Pie". Unfortunately the custom also decreed that one could not eat the creature borne on one's totem! Poles bearing a totem were placed before a dwelling.



GROBY CEMETERY

As you are aware, Groby Parish Council put in an application to move the Parish Boundary and so incorporate the new cemetery they are developing. This has been rejected by Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council.

BUS SHELTER

So far no residents have contacted the Parish Council regarding the replacement of the bus shelter on Markfield Lane. We want to hear your views. Please contact the Clerk on 2390167.

BURROUGHS RD. RECREATION AREA

The Leisure and Recreation Committee of the Parish Council are currently reviewing this site and planning the provision of new play equipment. Suggestions welcomed.

THE URBAN FRINGE STEPPING STONES PROJECT

This exercise, being run by The Leicester Urban Fringe Countryside Management Project aims to create a picture of how the urban fringe around Leicester looks before the Millennium. Parishes have been asked to photograph the access routes into the local countryside, using film that has been made available. In a joint venture between Ratby Village Society and The Parish Council, photography has been carried out by Councillor Alan Withers and Hoz Gamble.

A small number of photographs will be selected to form a collage, whose outline will follow the Parish boundary. All of the completed collages will be mounted to form the Leicester fringe, which will then be displayed around the county before being added to the archives. Work on the collage will be undertaken by Jill Grey and Sue Boud.

It is hoped that as part of the Millennium celebrations a photographic record of interesting features of the village and surrounding countryside can be set up, together with written stories and histories of the locality, which might possibly be kept in the library. This will need the co-operation of a group of interested and willing residents if grant aid is to be sought and won.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION
THE PLOUGH, RATBY
 MEET SECOND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH 730 p.m

SPEAKERS FOR AUGUST -- OCTOBER 1998

Wednesday August 12th
 "Harold Jackson" George Gamble
 "WW. I. Hero" David Jones

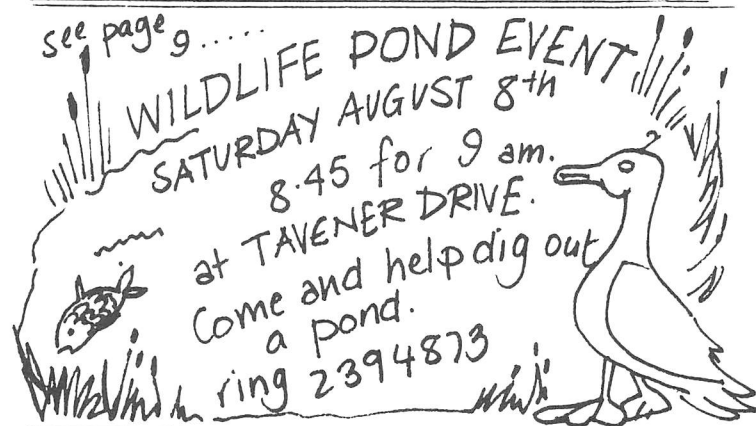
Wednesday September 9th
 "Ex Service Personnel Welfare"
 Denysa Edmonds

Wednesday October 14th
 "The Modern Army" SGT Chris Booth
 Royal Logistic Corp

TALKS FOR 1999

"WELFORD ROAD CEMETERY"
 "THE MACMILLAN FOUNDATION".
 "TOCH H".
 "SEAFORTH HIGHLANDERS ASSN"
 "R.S.P.C.A."
 "NATIONAL FOREST"
 "THE SALVATION ARMY AND THE ARMY FORCES"
 "NATIONAL HISTORY"
 "FUNGI"
 "VICTORIAN LEICESTER"

see page 9.....
WILDLIFE POND EVENT
SATURDAY AUGUST 8th
 8.45 for 9 am.
 at TAVENER DRIVE.
 Come and help dig out
 a pond.
 ring 2394873



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 sq. yd.

FREE FITTING



23 BEAT

You might be wondering why you have only been seeing Julia on the beat over the past few months. My absence has been due to the fact that I've been seconded to cover Groby until the 3rd August when a new beat officer will be starting allowing me to return to the village.

There have been a few theft of pedal cycles in the village recently from outside shops etc. Can I remind you that if you leave your cycle anywhere then you must lock it with a heavy duty lock. A thick chain, cable or purpose made 'D' lock would be ideal. Preferably lock your bike to something such as a lamppost or railings. Is your bike post coded ?

The pilot scheme for the police surgery has been quite successful so we are going to keep on with the surgery which will still be held at the Library on the FIRST Wednesday of each month from 2.30pm till 4.30pm and the THIRD Wednesday of each month from 7pm till 8pm. Don't forget if you need to speak to either Julia or myself, for whatever reason, then just pop in to the library during the above times and have a chat. Everything you say will be held in strict confidence.

Do you have a burglar alarm ? Approximately 90% of houses that are burgled do NOT ! If you do not have an alarm it may well be worth considering getting one. but remember, as with everything, shop around first and get an alarm that suits you and your property. Don't be pushed into something that you don't want or more importantly don't need.

If you can't afford a full alarm system, then think about having a 'dummy' alarm box. You can even get a box that has a flashing light in it so that it looks just like the real thing.

One thing you must all remember is that if you already have an alarm or are about to have one fitted then choose who will have the keys to your property and instructions to your alarm when you are away give their details to the police so they know who to call out if the alarm is activated.

A leaflet is available FREE from the library regarding security of your home while you are away on holiday. Call in and get one for yourself and a friend or neighbour.

The following crimes have been reported to the police between the 1st June and the 16th July:-

- 6 Burglary dwelling
- 2 Burglary other than dwelling
- 2 Damage
- 2 Theft
- 2 Theft of pedal cycles
- 8 Theft from motor vehicles
- 4 Theft of motor vehicles

PC 1063
 Rob Showell



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RATBY NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Ratby Neighbourhood Watch has been successfully re-launched due to the hard work and efforts of Ratby's local police officers, WPC 4075 Julia Showell, PC 1063 Rob Showell and the police Community Co-ordinator, Caroline Wagg.

Ratby Neighbourhood Watch held its second meeting on Tuesday 28th April 1998. There was an encouraging and positive response from local residents attending the meeting. However, more schemes need to be established in Ratby so if you have a little spare time and are interested in starting up a scheme in your road or street, then please contact Caroline Wagg on Tel:- 0116 2483478.

Recently, there has been an increase in theft from and of motor vehicles in Ratby and surrounding villages. If you are a car owner then please make sure that your vehicle is left secure at all times and that all property / money etc...if left in your vehicle is out of sight.

Now that the warmer weather is approaching, holidays and weekend breaks come to mind....Can we remind you that you cancel your papers / milk and inform a friend or neighbour that your property is being left unoccupied. Your NHW co-ordinator has a leaflet on home security over the holiday period which also includes information on securing your shed and other valuable garden items.

It is a proven fact that areas where NHW is active, incidents of crime can be greatly reduced. YOU can make a difference....Become a NHW co-ordinator and start helping yourself and your neighbours by improving the quality of life that you all deserve. Some insurance companies offer a discount against their premiums for active NHW scheme members... B. O'Hare (Chairman)

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Trevor

Sadly this June Trevor Sleath passed away after a long battle with cancer. Many of you will know him as the Akela of the Swifts Cubs Pack, which he ran for almost ten years.

Trevor made a big commitment of time and effort to make the Pack highly successful. Numerous camps, days out and special events helped. But it was his particular skill of knowing just how to help youngsters with problems to fit into and benefit from Pack activities. His patience and kindness, almost always succeeded in drawing a positive response from such youngsters.

Leaders and helpers will remember, especially, his skills in the area of planning (particularly the choice of venue and his humorous stories).

At cub events, Trevor was rarely without his video camera, recording for posterity those special moments that make leaders realise why it is they give up their free time to cubs. He was also adept at editing (Cecil B. de Mille eat your heart out!), many ex cubs will possess a video of their exploits.

He will be greatly missed by us all and our sympathies go to his wife, Pat and daughter, Vicky.

Ratby Village Society

The programme this year includes much 'home grown' talent, the stars of the May and June meetings being no exception. 'Local Yokel' Dennis Green entertained a large audience in the Welfare Hall with his tales of Ratby in the 1930s when he took us on a verbal tour of the village starting at the Big (Rothley) Brook and then describing the shops, trades and colourful characters along the way. For those contemporaries of Dennis it was an evening of pure nostalgia as their memories were stirred recalling names and sights from the past. Even those who never knew Ratby in pre-war days found it a fascinating and revealing story laced, of course, with Dennis's inimitable wit and humour. Unfortunately there was only sufficient time, during the evening, for half of the village to be covered but such was the pleasure engendered it was agreed that the story should be continued next year. Two bites at the cherry cannot be called unfortunate!

Perhaps a walk around a burial ground is not everyone's ideal way of spending a pleasant summer evening but those members who took part in the guided walk in Leicester's Welford Road Cemetery with Derek Seaton, in June, agreed that it had been a most enlightening experience. When the cemetery was opened in 1849 it was way outside the town -- the gaol being the nearest building -- and many people would use its peaceful leafy setting for picnics. Apparently some still do!

Within its confines are the resting places of many of Leicester's 19th century leading citizens -- Mayors, architects, businessmen many of which are now household names, others more obscure, but Derek Seaton had a tale to tell of all of them, and not without the lighter side. Among the former is probably the most famous, Thomas Cook, and also John Ellis who was responsible for bringing the first railway in the Midlands to Leicester. Of the latter the man who introduced Beethoven's music into Britain and the first Leicester man to be cremated were commemorated on memorials, some of which are extremely beautiful or highly ornate. It is depressing to see that vandalism has mutilated many of the most impressive of these. One wonders what sort of sickness affects morons whose delight is the destruction of hallowed monuments.

The next meeting in the Welfare Hall will take place on Tuesday 18th August when Chairman Jack Haywood recounts his experiences during his escape from France in 1940.

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Green tokens taken

Don't forget
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Saturday 8th August
Ferndale Playing Fields.

WELCOME to RATBY

Carol and Dave arrived at the Plough Inn on February 23rd this year. They had previously run The Queen's Head and The Coach and Horses in Markfield. They were married from here on April 4th, and Carol says they were thrilled that so many of their customers came to the wedding. The friendliness of Ratby people was one of the reasons they were attracted to The Plough. Invited by Marstons to come and have a look, they fell for the pub and its location straight away.

"We have both been in the trade for 25 years", says Carol, "and this is our last pub. We intend to retire here". So what are their plans for the Plough? Dave and Carol are aiming to improve and extend the garden area as a priority. They have already begun the charity fund raising activities for which they were known in Markfield. This initiative began following the sad loss of Carol's first husband. She threw a Caribbean Party to celebrate his life and raised money for a special Hoskins Bed for Glenfield Hospital. These special ripple beds provide comfort for patients and reduce the physical burden for nurses. At a cost of £1000 hospitals usually have to hire them.

£450 has already been raised at the Plough, thanks to the efforts of villagers like Terry Crooks, and nine year olds Kelly and Amy who made 21 from a sponsored silence. Carol says the response has been tremendous. Every Sunday a meat and wine raffle adds to the fund total. Don't miss the August Bank Holiday Extravaganza! Come along, join in the fun and help raise funds. Read The Plough Inn advert in this issue for more details.

Entertainment is now a feature at the Plough, when resident pianist John leads a sing along on the last Thursday of the month. On Wednesday August 14th there'll be Ned O'Grady's Irish Night to enjoy.

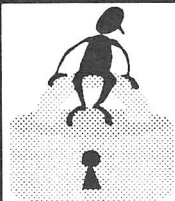
Carol and Dave are certainly getting off to a good start in Ratby. "We'd like to say a big Thank You to Kim and all the staff", says Carol. "We couldn't do all of this without them".

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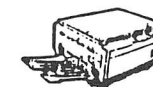
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SPICY VEGETABLE CRUMBLE

Ingredients

Base

1lb (250 grams) mixed vegetables; peas celery carrots
courgettes,(trimmed and chopped).
1 medium onion chopped
1/2 lb (225 gr) tomatoes, skinned and chopped.
1 tablespoon oil.
1/2 pint (275 ml) tasty stock.
2 tablespoons chopped parsley.
1 teaspoon mixed spices (according to taste)
Salt, pepper and a little mustard powder.

Crumble Topping

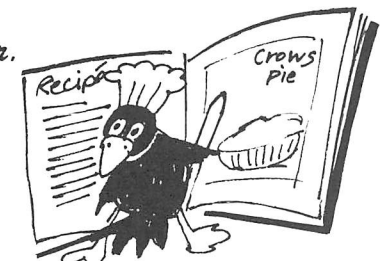
2oz (50gr) flourwholemeal is tastiest
2oz (50gr) butter or margarine
2oz (50gr) porridge oats
3oz (75gr) tasty grated cheese.

3 pint (1.70 litre) ovenproof dish.
Oven set at 190C/375F/gas 5

Method

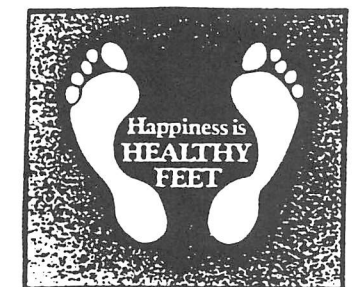
Heat oil in large pan and gently saute onion.
Add mixed vegetables and stir for 5 minutes
Add remaining ingredients and bring to the boil.
Simmer for 15 minutes on low heat.
Taste and adjust seasoning.
Transfer to dish.
Mix crumble and sprinkle over vegetables.
Bake for 25-35 minutes until crispy.

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