



Wot!

About Ratby



ISSUE 77

PUBLISHED BY THE RATBY SCOUT GROUP

AUGUST 1999

STRAWBERRY FIELDS FOREVER!

A PICTURE FROM THE PAST

A group of Brownies enjoyed a strawberry picking trip to Groby around ten years ago. Are you in this photograph taken by Sylvia Gant?



In this issue; Parish Council page 3 and 8, Village Society page 12, Church News page 7, Neighbourhood Watch page 10, Police Report page 14, Ratby...

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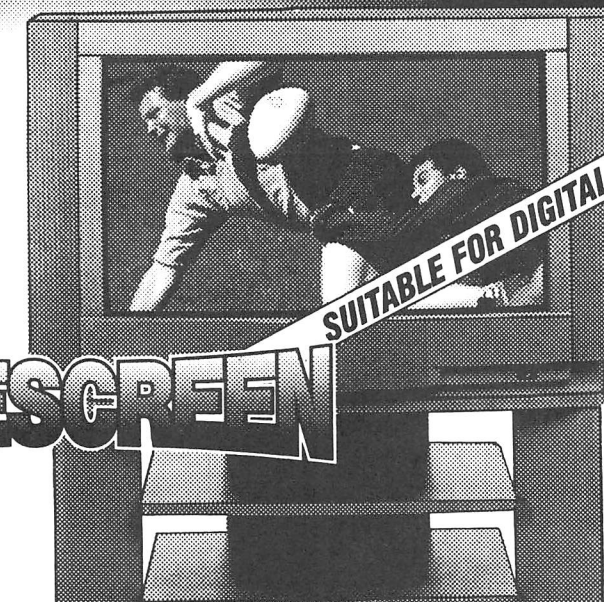
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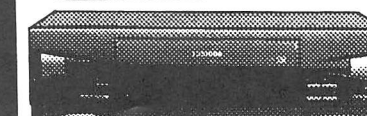
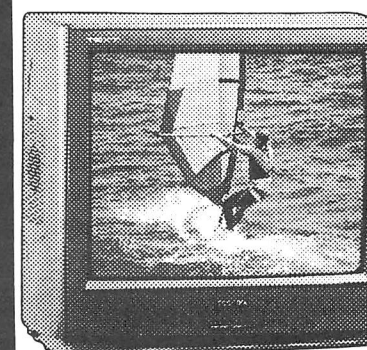
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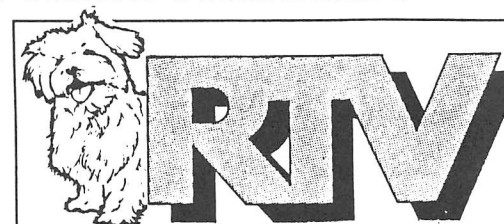


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EURONICS CENTRES

Make Renting Easy

Chairman's Report for the year ending 31st March 1999.

Your Parish Council have been seeking premises for use as offices during this last year and have been successful in purchasing No 13 Station Road, Ratby. After refurbishment our clerk will move in together with filing cabinets, computer and all other office equipment now necessary to bring us up to the required standard for Parish Councils. Having offices conveniently near the centre of the village will enable closer contact with all members of the Parish and hopefully we will be able to serve the community ever better. Unfortunately due to the initial expense of refurbishment the Parish Council were unable to avoid raising the rate precept for this year.

The Burroughs Road play area is in the process of being equipped with children's play equipment and would have been completed earlier but for the bad weather. This, together with the extension of the Woodland Trust plantings, makes the Burroughs Road an attractive family recreation area.

The maintenance staff work extremely hard caring for the grounds and equipment controlled by the Parish Council and they are very appreciative of any help the general public can give them in combating vandalism and misuse of the public properties.

The Leisure and Recreation sub-committee have been working with volunteers developing the area of land on both sides of Taverner Drive. They have dug a pond and planted trees, including a variety of fruit trees which will mature into a community orchard.

We have a representative on the Millennium Committee. Plans have not as yet been finalised, but we will be supporting them and look forward to joining in the celebrations.

Iris Hannaford, Charles Rogers and Mr T L "Skip" Rae have decided not to re-stand for Parish Council this year. Iris has served for 8 years while Charles and Skip have sat on the Council for 12 years each. It is with great regret that we accept their decisions and thank them most sincerely for all their hard work on behalf of the village.

Finally, I would like to thank all my fellow Councillors for their hard work and dedication to the good of Ratby and wish to assure the public that the Parish Council will continue to do the best it can for the good of the village.

WJA Daly
Chairman, Ratby Parish Council



Woodland
Trust
Planting
Event

THE PLOUGH INN

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Fondest memories of
Jacob, our local pal
who passed away on
27.7.99
from all at The Plough
Thinking of you Pete

Customers required at Lunch times.....no experience necessary!!

RATBY LIBRARY

Since our article on Ratby Library in the June issue of *Wot about Ratby* it has come to our notice that Leicestershire libraries are under review. The Parish Council was concerned that there may be closures, and that Ratby Library could be vulnerable, so they wrote asking for information. They were informed that a review had been completed in January of this year, and that modernisation of the service was planned. Communities which fail to meet criteria for a fully funded library will be consulted for provision of a service provided in partnership with other organisations.

The Assistant Chief Librarian's response to the Parish Council stated:

'Criteria used for assessing the libraries and planning the revised network are:'

- Size of population (generally a minimum of 4,000)
- The type of community, e.g. whether it acts as a focal point for the surrounding area.
- The distance from the nearest similar or next level static library in miles and travel time. (no further than 20 minutes travelling time on foot or public transport.
- The size of building, no less than 100 sq. metres.
- The present usage; an average for a level C library of issues of 32.8 per hour, 4.25 per book, 5.67 per capita.
- Running costs and costs of upgrading.

It seems unlikely that informal use such as that described in last month's article will be taken into account. Will the children's Library Club be valued in this process? Other libraries in the area are currently being computerised, but not Ratby. This seems to indicate a loss of service here.

This is at a time when the press is full of articles about the value of libraries as centres of learning. Chris Smith, Secretary of State for Culture has said in the Times Educational Supplement of July 23rd, that 'libraries will have an important role as street corner

universities, a role for which they are particularly well suited because they are unthreatening and welcoming institutions.' Funding has been made available for the development of IT in libraries, but there is no new money for maintaining existing levels of service.

Residents in Camden recently fought a campaign to prevent closure of three libraries in that London district. They succeeded in delaying closure. However, consultation on closure is still progressing, and Chris Smith has apparently decided that the campaign group's argument that closures would breach the 1964 Libraries and Museums Act was unfounded.

Do we want our children to lose this local resource, or have to make do with a reduced service? Many children use the library for school project work, sometimes working with reference books in the library itself.

Would we want to travel to nearby villages to use a library? Public transport at present will make this difficult. Would we like Ratby Library to be computerised and have access to The Internet?

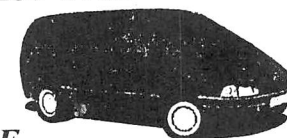
We'd like to hear *your* views. If we want to keep our library at the current level of service we need to make better use of it! It is a case of USE IT or LOSE IT. It may already be too late. You can leave us your letters and comments in the Library!

The Editor

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CAN YOU HELP ?

MARTINSHAW WOOD CAR PARK

Two years ago, The Woodland Trust constructed a car park at Martinshaw Wood to cater for those visitors to the Wood who travel by car. Increasingly, The Trust was getting understandable complaints from local residents about visitor's cars blocking access routes. With local consultation, the car park was designed and constructed to alleviate this problem and it has worked well.

The Trust now recognises a new problem - the car park being used by bored youths in the evenings, congregating with cars and motorcycles. A possible answer to this might be to construct gates across the entrance, which can be closed after the last visitors have gone and opened before they arrive again in the morning. This requires a reliable gatekeeper to undertake this task. The Woodland Trust does not have staff who can do this and the Parish Council have similarly been unable to undertake the commitment.

Therefore, The Woodland Trust and Parish Council together are appealing for volunteers who would agree to lock and unlock the gates during the hours of darkness, possibly on a rotation with others. It would require liaison with both organisations as well as with visitors to the Wood and with the Youths at times.

Volunteers should contact Susan Potterton at The Woodland Trust Head Office on 01476 581111. We welcome hearing from you.

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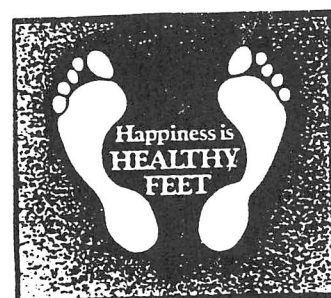
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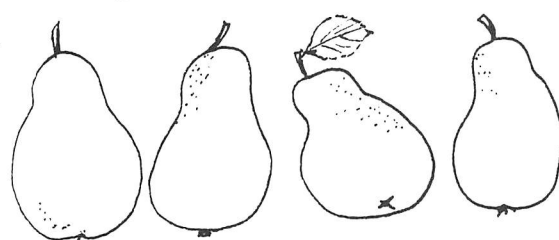
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flow by

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quickly draining
ever faster
than before

sand scouring
rust encrusting
incommutable impermeable
gold

time clacks
black cracks
appear

orb devolves
pear shaped

HOZ



Stories and Activities
for 5 - 11 year olds
in Ratby Library
THURSDAY 12th AUGUST
2.30 - 3.30 p.m.

don't forget the reading
challenge and competitions
pick up a leaflet in the
library

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SUMMER EVENTS at RATBY VICARAGE

In Aid of the ROOF FUND

Teddy Bear's Picnic

Saturday August 21st 3 - 5.30
for pre-school and infant (year 1 and 2
children)

- Best dressed teddy bear competition
- Traction Engine rides
- Sponsored Bear Hunt...can your child brave it through the swishy grass and the dark dark forest? Bring a picnic (ice cream/drinks for sale.) Tickets £4 adult * £2 child



Saturday August 28th at 7.30 p.m.

'JAZZ in the GARDEN'

featuring:

THE NEW ORLEANS HOT SHOTS

Floodlit evening of traditional jazz
Bring your own rugs/garden chair and refreshments

Limited seating at front

*Tickets £5 in advance £6 on night

Sunday September 5th 12.30

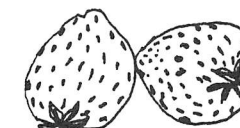
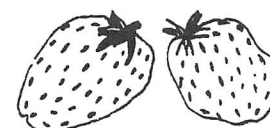
VICARAGE BARBECUE

following 10.30 am Worship for All
Service

Tickets; Adults £4 Children £2

Tickets for these events from;

- Richard Worsfield 239 3009
- George Hurd 2394241
- Irene McLeod 239 4803
- Alliance and Leicester, Main Street (for jazz concert)



CHURCH ROOM EVENTS

COFFEE MORNINGS

Come and support us from 10-12 on
Saturday mornings. It's a chance to sit
down and have a chat.

August 21st and September 4th are
the next two dates.

TABLE TOP SALE

SEPTEMBER 18th

£5 a Table

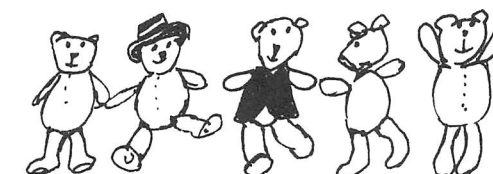
Contact Irene McLeod 239 4803

LINE DANCING

SEPTEMBER 11th

Tickets from;

- Mary Priestnall 239 5572
- Pat Willis 239 2128



STRAWBERRY TEAS

July 25th was a fine afternoon for the
strawberry teas which were enjoyed
by the many visitors outside in the
grounds of the Church Rooms.

A good crowd turned out for the
guided tours of the Church. Four
knowledgeable guides shared some
fascinating facts about the history of
this wonderful building. We discovered
why the carving is not finished, and
how the font came to be in the
Church, as well as learning about the
yew tree outside the front door.

If you missed the event why not buy a
guide book and discover for yourselves
the secrets of Ratby Church? You'll be
helping the Roof Fund too!

Letters

Millennium Project -

Photographic Record of Ratby

A team of seventeen residents is taking part in recording on film the village, its people and events over the turn of the century. Some 300 photographs will be mounted in a large album, which will include scenes from past eras together with some written reminiscences.

We **urgently** need, to borrow only, old photographs which will be copied on a computer scanner and then returned to their owners. If you have any such photographs which you are willing to loan please take them along to the Assistant Project Leader, Hoz Gamble, 14 Calverton Close (Tel 238 7240) or, alternatively, ask for them to be collected. Closing date is 1st November 1999. Please write on the backs of all photographs details of when and where they were taken and on the envelope write your name, address and telephone number. A sub-committee will then be formed to decide which photographs are to be included in the album.

The success of the project depends not only on the project members but also on the willingness of villagers to sort out and loan to us your historic pictures of by-gone days

Vandalism to Village Property

Villagers should be aware that during the past month vandalism to play equipment at Ferndale Drive recreation area has caused over £1000 of damage. The Totem Pole at Taverner Drive, a unique creation featuring designs by Ratby school-children, and made possible by a lot of volunteer work, has also been badly vandalised.

Someone must know who is responsible for these acts of vandalism. Anyone with any information please contact either the police on Tel 222 2222 or the Parish Council Tel 239 0167. The Parish Council is offering a reward for information leading to a successful prosecution.. All information will be treated in strictest confidence.

Waste Bags

Would all villagers please note that waste bags for the 'dusty bin' men should be tied up to prevent cats, dogs, etc. rummaging around - lets keep our village tidy please!

Dear Editor

CHRISTIAN AID

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the House to House collection in May. A total of £757 was collected in the village. If anyone would like to help next year or want further information please ring 2392357.

With thanks,
R Johnson





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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

THE SECOND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH

August 11th
"Inland Waterways" Mr G. S. House

September 8th
"Napoleonic Prisoners of War Ashby de la Zouch"
Paul Monic Ashby Museum

October 13th
"Grave Moments Welford Rd Cemetery Derek Seaton

Can you work out what song this is?
Prize for the first correct entry!!

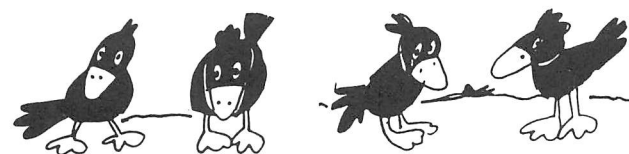
BIRD-SONGS AT MORNINGTIDE A Sunrise Sonnet

O, Joyless bird
haven't you heard
that the dawn chorus
should DO something for us?
Dulcet tones of the sparrow
chill me to the marrow.
I don't care a smidgen
for the wood pigeon.
As for magpie
why don't they all die?
But the chattering starling
just gets me snarling.
So, pull sheets on the bed
right over my head.



LE SAVANT

A Frenchman arrived in England after six years of study in English. He considered himself a master of those awkward words ending in OUGH.
He remarked to the Customs Officer that he had survived a ROW crossing on the ferry, but had plenty of DUFF to spend on duty free spirits to cure his COW.
Landing at Dover he asked where he could find the Broken BUFF Inn. After two hours of frustration he decided to call it a day as he'd had ENOW of the English, so made his way THRUFF the boarding gangway, muttering to himself that 'English speaking is too TOW.
LW

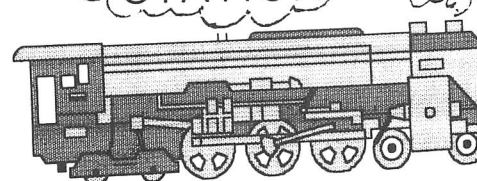


GOING GREEN

John Foley of TARGET Private Hire in Ratby has recently converted his business vehicle, a Renault Espace to run on Liquid Petroleum Gas. He says, 'I saw an article about conversion in the Leicester Mercury and decided to check out the possibilities.' The Espace now runs on a Bi-Fuel system, a flick of a button changes from the gas to unleaded petrol.
John says this is, 'An investment in the future. When you are doing 1000 miles a week in this business the effect on the environment has got to be a concern.' Gas is 95% emission free, one of the cleanest fuels, something that's important when considering the health of children in particular. And John tells us that he has found no difference in performance.
The price of gas is competitive, frozen to encourage conversions. Did you know that grants are available for conversion to gas fuel in vehicles for business use?
There are an increasing number of outlets for the gas.
This has got to be the way forward. Well done to John for his pioneering spirit!

SB

THE CUTTING STATION



GENTS and BOYS BARBER SHOP

32a Main Street RATBY

No appointments
needed
Information 239 0009

RATBY NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Please spare the time to be a good neighbour! Ratby NHW is active but still covers less than half of the village. Our ultimate aim is to have each street involved with its own co-ordinator. If you are aware that your area is not covered and can spare as little as an hour a month please ring 2394450 and be welcomed to our next *informal* committee meeting.

Our aims are simple; to encourage residents to be vigilant, reporting any suspicious activity to co-ordinators, promoting home security, and assisting in the process of reducing the public fear of crime. By volunteering **you** could make a difference.

Property Marking

During this summer National Neighbourhood Watch are promoting a campaign aimed at persuading people of the value of property

marking. Locally we would urge people to protect their property in this way.

Marking your possessions with your postcode followed by your home number using an ultra-violet pen positively aids the police in identifying stolen or lost property. It also helps the police if property found in a burglar's possession can be proved through such marking to belong to somebody else.

Police Presence

It is sometimes felt that there is insufficient Police presence in the village. We are however advised that our local constable, PC Rob Showell does walk this beat, and that other police officers regularly patrol the village in vehicles.

In his article for this issue of Wot he reports on the proposed changes to the police surgeries, and tells us how to contact him via his new mobile phone.



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VILLAGE MILLENNIUM UPDATE

As reported in earlier editions of WOT, various village organisations are still working together to plan and co-ordinate many of the activities and events which are due to take place in Ratby as part of the millennium celebrations.

An update of proposals previously covered in WOT include the following :-

The refurbishment of the Welfare Hall.

Floodlighting of the Parish Church.

A Scouts function on New Years Eve.

The Village Society's end of century and 25th anniversary celebration meal and social at their November 1999 meeting.

500 Millennium Candles available from the Joint Churches in exchange for a donation.

A joint Church service preceded by a village procession led by the Ratby Band on Sunday January 2nd.

The Parish Council's photographic project, to create a permanent set of mementoes of Ratby interest.

Crow Pie 2000 carnival with a parade and young children's tea party on Saturday August 12th.

There are other schemes which have now been put into the pipeline, such as :-

The refurbishment of the Primary School's Nature Area.

A monument could be erected by the Parish Council, which is being considered for location by the railway track bridleway.

The staging of Handel's Messiah at the Parish Church, to be held in October 2000

Our own 'Mini Trafalgar Square' gathering in the village centre at midnight on New Years Eve. This could be a spontaneous event.

In addition to these, it is expected that all of the known Fetes and Bazaars etc. will feature in a Ratby 2000 events diary due to be published in Wot later in 1999.

It is very pleasing to be able to report that several local businesses have already responded to our joint appeal for help with funding. To date donations have been received from :-

Porters Discounts Carpets
Cadeby Homes
Cardinal Broach
Bennett Windows
Ratby Post Office
Midlands Cooperative Society
Forest Motor Company

Grateful thanks have been passed on to the above, and hopefully, further names can be added to our lists for future reports.



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Ratby Village Society

TALES OF RATBY

The eagerly awaited Part 2 of Dennis Green's 'Tales of Ratby in the Thirties' was unfolded to a large audience at the May meeting. It was worth the wait. Dennis is a born 'yarn-spinner with a remarkable memory, so necessary to make a picture of bygone days in the village become real to the many of us who are comparative 'newcomers.'

He started where he had left off last year, at the corner of Stamford Street, where the large house was once a Doctor's surgery shared by three doctors whose patients would queue separately in the street to await a consultation!

There were no roads leading off Stamford Street; the WOLSEY factory stood where now is Stamford Close. He moved on then to Markfield Road, once known as Markfield Lane, which is just what it was, a country lane with not a house in sight. On Church Lane there were three farms, Nook, Woodley and Church Farm, the second of which was well known to our raconteur because his father worked there. In fact there were no less than thirteen farms in the Parish, eleven of which supplied milk to the village.

From the Church to the vicarage was an unlit, secluded footpath, (now Cottager's Walk) which was ideal for a spot of courting so long as one, and one's intended did not mind standing ankle deep in what the cows had dropped behind them earlier!

BLACKSMITH AND SADDLER

There was a blacksmith's shop at the top of

Berry's Lane, and the old framework knitter's workshop on the corner of Chapel

Finally Dennis told us of the involvement the milkman's horse Polly in the losing of one castor from the Methodist's piano. Truly an evening packed with fascinating characters and incidents of pre-war days, told with relish and spiced with humour.

TREASURE HUNT

The June event took the form of a village walking treasure hunt, divided into two classes for those who like to walk and those who don't! Fourteen hardy souls opted for the first challenge, and twelve took part in the second category.

On the long walk there were 45 clues, 24 on the shorter route, which included such abstruse tasks as 'looking for animals at a zoo', 'finding missing seaside towns,' 'viewing hills which were not there,' and 'finding a wind-powered road vehicle.' Needless to say, members formed groups for moral support, and the long walk was won by the team of Jill Grey, Ann Day, Elsie Dodge and Doug Harwood. Jill Jordan and Joan Meakin won the shorter hunt.

Afterwards tea and biscuits were served in the Welfare Hall. Thanks to David and Betty Hulme for organising the event.

There was one note which spoiled an otherwise happy evening when two out-of-village members returning to the library car park found the windscreen of their

car smashed by vandals.

THE SERVICE GARAGE
MAIN STREET RATBY

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Post Cards

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& Cassettes

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Soft Drinks

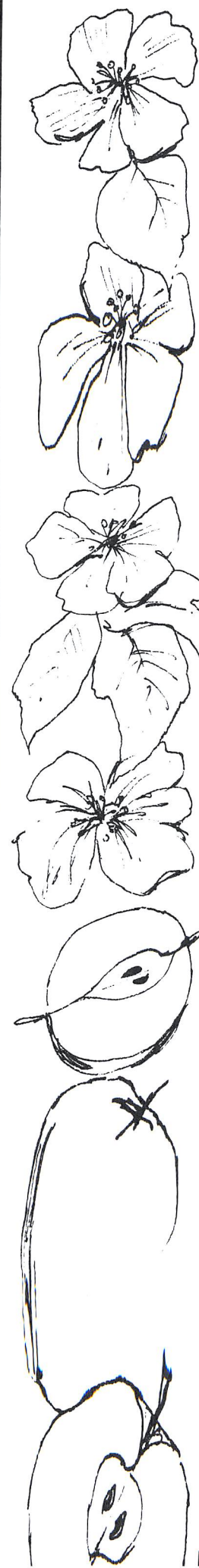
Cigarettes

Tobacco

Batteries

Dry Cleaning

Shoe Repairs



SUPPORT RATBY COMMUNITY ORCHARD

Did you miss this item in the June issue of Wot? We are printing it again in this issue to give you a second chance!

Many people have said they would like to support the orchard, not just by practical work. To help financially and

receive information about events,

please return this slip to Kate Nightingale, 11a Cardinal Close, with your supporters fee; Adults £2, Family £5, under 16 £1.

Thank you

I/We wish to support the orchard.

Name.....

Address.....

Phone.....

Fee enclosed.£.....
(please state amount)

signed.....



23 BEAT

In April Beaumont Leys Local Policing Unit officially split creating the New Parks Local Policing Unit. The officer in charge of this, "new area" is Inspector Steph Pandit. It is anticipated that a new Police Station will be built on New Parks Way near to the Leisure Centre later this year. Ratby falls under the responsibility of this new unit. If you need to contact the police, you can do so in the usual way by telephoning 222222 or in the case of emergency 999. Please note that although the New Park Unit is smaller, the service and amount of police cover given to Ratby remains unchanged.

Many of you will be aware that in the past Ratby has had two principal beat officers, my wife Julia and myself. Both of us working part time however, since May this year, I took on the responsibility of beat officer on a full time basis as Julia has taken a career break. At present two police surgeries are held at the library on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month. It is proving difficult to maintain this level of service so a surgery will now be held once a month. A suitable date for this has yet to be decided upon, I will notify you in due course when a regular date can be set.

Ratby Parish Council has kindly provided me with a mobile phone, for the benefit of the community, and as such you will be able to ring and speak to me directly. The phone will be on every time I am on duty whether in the village or not.

Please note that if you want to report a criminal incident then you should do so through the usual

police number 222222 or 999 in an emergency.

This way you will be guaranteed of a police response even if I am not on duty and your crime

will be recorded correctly. For non urgent matters

there is an answer service and you can leave me a message which will be nicked up when the phone is

Incidents of vandalism have recently increased mainly to play equipment and other objects that have been provided for your benefit and enjoyment. If you have any information as to who the offenders are then please contact me. All information will be treated in the strictest of confidence.

On a final note

Between Wednesday 25th November and Tuesday 1st December 1998, traffic data monitoring equipment was used on Groby Road, Ratby. This survey measured the speeds of some 68,000 vehicles travelling in both directions. The results published are as follows:-

Vehicles travelling at 0 mph – 30 mph	= 19,000
30 mph – 35 mph	= 28,600
35 mph – 40 mph	= 16,000
40 mph – 50 mph	= 5,000
50 mph & above	= 200

This clearly shows that less than a third of the vehicles checked were travelling at or below the legal speed limit for that road.

Most of the offenders will be residents of Ratby!! Please be aware that future speed checks may involve prosecutions.

PC 1063 ROB SHOWELL.



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OF WOT!
IS THURSDAY 16th SEPTEMBER.

EDITOR 2393367
ARTICLES 2394873
ADVERTS 2393279 or 2394873
LETTERS ETC. TO THE LIBRARY,
3 INGLE DRIVE or 10 GROBY ROAD.

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For further information

Contact Gill Tyler 0116 2879253

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RECIPE

CHERRY LIMOUSIN

Ingredients

500 gr (1lb) ripe cherries
2 eggs
2 tablespoons flour + pinch of salt
2 tablespoons caster sugar
Half a pint of milk
2 level teaspoons melted butter

Method

Light oven 220C /435F /Gas 7
Make batter with eggs, flour, salt, sugar and milk.
Wash, dry and stone cherries, and put them into a buttered Yorkshire pudding dish or tin, and pour batter over.
Drizzle over the melted butter.
Bake for about 25-30 minutes until golden and crisp.
The cherries will rise to the top when the dish is cooked.
Sprinkle with a little caster sugar.

Serve hot or cold.

Scrivener

