

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2008

ISSUE 131



# WOT!



About Ratby

PUBLISHED BY RATBY SCOUT GROUP

## AROUND THE WORLD IN ONE AFTERNOON

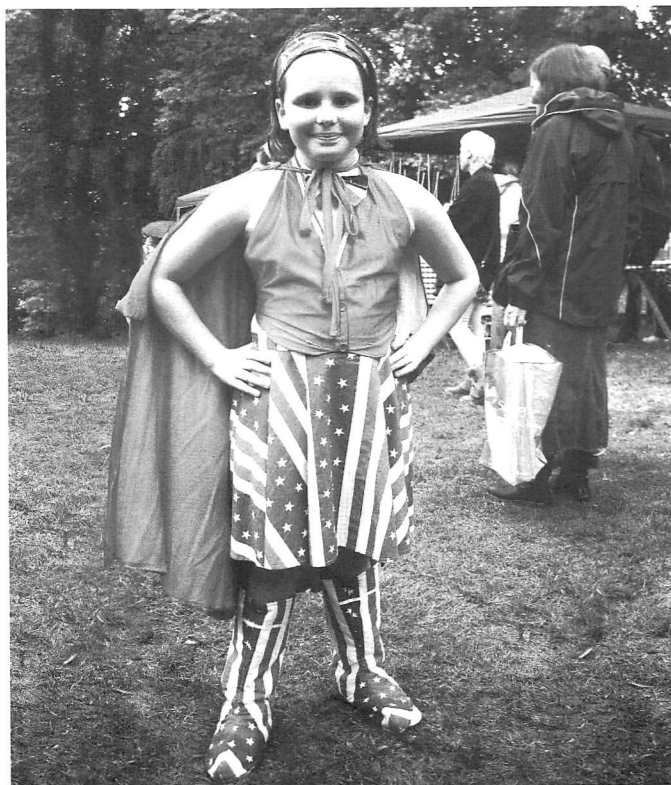
### RATBY CHURCH GARDEN FETE

There was an international flavour to this year's fete, with flags from different nations adorning the stalls, and games with a global theme. Visitors were not discouraged by the gloomy weather, turning out in force to enjoy the stalls and entertainments in the beautiful Rectory gardens. The Village Design Exhibition attracted a lot of interest.

More pictures in the centre pages.



A Caribbean flavour in the refreshment tent.



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## VILLAGE SOCIETY NOTES

At our June meeting members enjoyed a talk by Virginia Wright, a Blue Badge guide, entitled "In the footsteps of Susannah Watts". Slides showed the Leicester of two hundred years ago to illustrate the guide book which she wrote in 1804 (anonymously, because lady authors were not encouraged at that time).

Susannah came from a comfortable background but the family's investment in the 'South Sea Bubble' and her father's subsequent death meant that their home (Dannet's Hall) was sold and they moved to a smaller house. She had to earn a living writing poems and doing translations. She was widely read and developed a social conscience, concerning herself about the poor and becoming involved in the abolition of the slave trade.

The slides, showing Leicester in Susannah's time, made one realise how much the city has lost since then. Early photographs of the Assembly Rooms, theatres, markets and streets were fascinating. The Roman milestone, which workmen found being used as a garden roller, proved that Leicester had been a Roman camp. The Jewry Wall would not have been seen as clearly as today. Buildings were clustered around it and Susannah wrote that it "would have to remain an interesting mystery" as its use was not fully appreciated then. An interesting old drawing of the Shambles (butchers' shops) was shown, with one house dated 1646. This area is now part of St. Nicholas Circle. The Victorians pulled down a lot of old houses and modern development has removed much more. St. Margaret's Church, built with money raised by putting a farthing on all hearths in Leicester, was nicknamed the 'Smoke Farthing'. A drawing of High Cross Street showed cobbled streets, narrow pavements, old buildings, the County Prison and the Free Grammar School. Susannah would have known Daniel Lambert, son of the Bridewell Keeper, and the old Guildhall. Little thoughts and asides crop up all through her book and she obviously did not think much of Richard 111, describing Bow Bridge as where "the monster Richard really passed".

Susannah Watts was buried in the churchyard of St. Margaret's, where her family

into old Leicester and provided an interesting talk and a lively discussion afterwards, much enjoyed by all.

### Forthcoming Meetings:

'A Patchwork Story' by Jill Cawrey. 19<sup>th</sup> Aug.  
'Stilton Cheese, past and present.' By Jean Morris. 16<sup>th</sup> September.



## RATBY HISTORY GROUP

Our annual outing was to Lichfield, where we enjoyed a guided tour of the Cathedral, followed by a visit to the National Memorial Arboretum in Alrewas, Staffordshire. Thanks are due to Bryan Lewis for his part in organising such an interesting and enjoyable day.

Whilst at the Arboretum we were very proud but sad to see the memorial inscription for Ratby's own hero, Private Chris Gray on one of the huge stone panels.

**Pictured are some of the Group viewing the Memorial.**



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Do you want to grow your own fruit and vegetables? Is your garden too small? Why not use an allotment?

Ratby's allotments are situated beside the churchyard, and in Taverner Drive, opposite the Community Orchard.

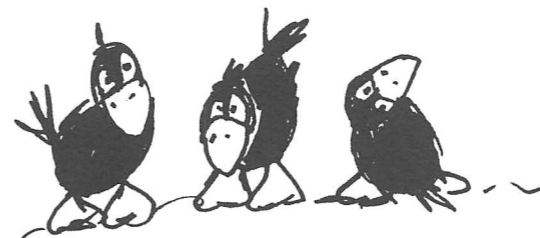
The Association's objectives are to negotiate with the local authority and private landlords for land to use as allotments, and to take joint action for the benefit of members. We are continuing to actively seek additional land for allotments. If you own, or know of suitable land we would be pleased to hear about it. Please contact me, Andrew Simmonds, Chairman, on **239 2845**.

If you would like an allotment, please supply your name, address and phone number to: Jackie Oakley (Secretary), Ratby Allotments Association, 26, Conifers Park, Ratby LE6 0JB. Tel: **238 7300**.

### **CLIFF RICHARD IN KIRBY MUXLOE?**

You must be joking! Well maybe – just a bit. You see we never know when "the man" is going to drop in on a "Cliff as If" event so we just won't know the answer until 11 October 2008. I've booked the date in my diary – have you?

*Details of venue and ticket prices etc. will appear on posters in September.*



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### **"OUTSTANDING" RESULTS IN SCIENCE AND FRENCH PRAISED BY INSPECTORS**


Brookvale High School, in Groby, helps students "achieve well", whilst enjoying school, feeling safe, and making an "outstanding contribution to the community", OFSTED reported.

Brookvale was given a "good" rating overall, with "excellent progress" since its previous inspection, led by "the highly effective head teacher and senior leadership team".


Inspectors said: "Teaching is good and often outstanding, and the school makes very good use of its specialist language college status to enhance the curriculum."

Two areas for further development identified were to ensure all lessons challenge and engage students, and to ensure advice on how students can improve their work is consistent with best practice.

In the letter from the lead inspector to the students themselves, the students were told: "We were very impressed with how proud you are of your school."

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## RATBY CHURCH GARDEN FETE

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Ratby Co-operative Band



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## NEWS FROM SCOUTS AND CUBS

On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June, 1<sup>st</sup> Ratby Scouts and Cub's met at John's Lee woods for a weekend of camping and fun. On Saturday we did some caving and archery, later we walked to Bradgate Park where we met the 1<sup>st</sup> Ratby Beavers. We invited them back to the campsite to join our campfire, where we sang songs and acted out little plays. Afterwards we all enjoyed hot dogs.

Also invited to the camp were the Cubs from 145<sup>th</sup> scout group in Bristol. We have been on many camps with them before and thought it would be nice to invite them again. All the campers slept in tents and as it was the first time for cubs they really enjoyed it and thought it was great. Everyone had a really good time and we have all agreed it was the best camp of the year so far!!

Thanks for all the leaders and helpers work that made the weekend fun and exiting.

1<sup>st</sup> Ratby Scouts.

## BEAVERS

On Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June 1<sup>st</sup> Ratby Beavers met the Scouts and Cubs at Bradgate Park. We walked all the way to John's Lee woods where we ate hot dogs and sang songs around the campfire. My favourite song was 'found a peanut'! I am looking forward to being a Scout when I am older.

Daniel Payne -Beavers

## HIS and HERS

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## RATBY CO-OPERATIVE BRASS BAND

Don't forget the CROWPIE CARNIVAL on August 30<sup>th</sup>!

The parade begins at 12.30 on Markfield Lane, and will arrive at Ferndale Playing Fields for the 1pm start of the Carnival.

On September 7<sup>th</sup> the Mid Band will be playing in Coalville Park, and they'll be out again on the 13<sup>th</sup> September for Anstey Gala.

Congratulations to the Senior Band and their conductor Brett Baker, for achieving 6<sup>th</sup> place in the Senior Cup in the Brass Band Festival held at the Winter Gardens in Blackpool.

Don't forget, villagers....we'd love to have some Carnival photographs for the next issue of Wot! How about a scene from this year's event, or a past memory?

### LETTERS and ARTICLES

We welcome letters and articles, but reserve the right to edit them.

Your name and address must be supplied, but you may ask for them to be withheld.

## THANK YOU RATBY!!

'Thank you' Ratby for the tremendous response to Christian Aid week this year. We raised £1449 - 21 from the house to house and church collection in the village. It was so heartening to see on the Teletext that the first voice to say the people would suffer if aid was barred from Zimbabwe was Christian Aid. They really do get in with help immediately, whatever country. Once again thank you to all who donated and collected. You did something to help the world.

Regards Margaret

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## RECIPE

### SPICY INGLE CHICKEN

Serves 6

#### Ingredients

- 12 skinless, boneless chicken thighs.
- 3 level tbsp medium curry powder
- 2 level tbsp paprika
- 1 level teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 10 garlic cloves, crushed. (optional)
- 6 tbsp olive oil

#### Method

1. Scissor the chicken into large bite sized pieces and place in an ovenproof dish.
2. Add the curry powder, paprika, cinnamon, garlic and olive oil, and stir well, making sure chicken is well covered. Cover and chill in fridge for 30 minutes or longer to marinate.
3. Preheat the oven to 200C/400F/GAS MARK 6.
4. Uncover the chicken and bake for 35 minutes.
5. Serve with savoury rice or couscous, and a vegetable of your choice.

It is great placed in a sturdy foil dish to cook outside on a gas barbecue.

Graville.

## THE RATBY RITZ (A.K.A. RATBY METHODIST CHURCH)

Afternoon Tea was certainly different on 10th July. Many folk dressed suitably for the occasion with an array of millinery and dickie-bows! Guests were serenaded by The Serenitas Quartet whose programme created a relaxed atmosphere. The menu was good too, and excellent value.

The Bible, Faith, Fellowship group (together with one of the Junior Church staff) which organised the event thanks all who supported them and helped to raise £207 for WaterAid. This is the final event for this charity as we begin our new Methodist year on 1st September when our chosen charity will be the Smile Train. As everyone enjoyed the Ritz Tea so much it is hoped to repeat the occasion next year. We will look forward, once again, to your support.

## PABARI'S RATBY NEWS

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**DEADLINE for issue 132  
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Articles may be sent to 3 Ingle Drive