

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2010

ISSUE 143



WOT!

About Ratby

PUBLISHED BY RATBY SCOUT GROUP



DISCOVERING BURY CAMP

On Sunday July 18th a group of enthusiasts from Ratby and neighbouring villages set off down to Ratby Burroughs to explore the Iron Age Bury Camp and other fascinating historical sites. The event was arranged by Ratby History and Archaeology Society as part of the national Festival of Archaeology. The camp is on private farm land grazed by cattle and a bull, so special arrangements were made with the landowner.

Proceeds from the modest fee charged for the event were shared between the landowner and Ratby Church.

The group was led by History Group member Brian Lewis, who shared some interesting historical facts with us en route, and by Neil Glennister, Ratby's Local Heritage Warden. Current thinking is that the Bury camp was an Iron Age Hill Fort, with its earth work banks which would have been surmounted by wooden palisades. Neil showed us Iron Age pottery fragments that had been recently discovered in the area. The camp will probably have been an organised settlement, with houses, temples and granaries. Further evidence for this, in the form of iron age arrow heads, an axe head, a snaffle bit and chariot lynch pin, have been found in surrounding fields by Neil, and we were able to handle and examine these fascinating relics.



Pictured are the group examining artefacts at the Bury Camp

Continued on page 2



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BURY CAMP

continued from page 1

The camp and surrounding settlements were inhabited by the Corialtauvi tribe, whose lands covered a large area of the East Midlands. (formerly thought to be named Coritani) Neil showed us Corialtauvi silver and gold coins he had found locally that were created from earlier Coinage minted in Macedonia. Images of Philip of Macedonia and Apollo had been replaced by images of horses and wheels and other symbols important to the tribe.

Dowsing within the site had suggested gates and doorways, and a road, and these findings have been confirmed by a recent survey. Currently it is not possible to excavate the Bury Camp, but we can speculate that it may have been of greater importance than we have previously thought.

The camp was later used by the Romans, and local names, such as Change Spinney, (change meaning 'crossing') and the presence of old footbridges, suggest that the site continued to be a focus for many routes, perhaps a centre for a large area of the county. There is evidence that the Burroughs Road was a major route a thousand years ago.

The group also explored some of the history of the Medieval Deer Park, and nearby Old Hays.

Pictured are the group leaders, Neil and Brian.



The Bury Camp was probably the original site of the hunting park known as Burgh or Burrough which was likely to have been created in the thirteenth century. It seems to have been later expanded to include land at Old Hays.

The eroding park pale, mound and ditch can still just be seen at the western edge of the woodland.

To the left of the 'crossroads' where Burrough's Road continues as a bridle way to Thornton can be seen the Sacheverell Field. Sir Henry Sacheverell, who lived at Old Hays farm died in 1620 and left £100 to support the poor in Ratby. The trustees bought this field, and proceeds from its rental are still distributed annually to the elderly of the village. Henry's tomb can be viewed in Ratby Church.

If you missed this walk, or want to know more about the area we recommend purchase of a booklet produced by Ratby Local History Group:

'Ratby Walks in the National Forest.'

You can find copies for sale in Ratby Post Office.

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Christian Aid

Well our collecting is over again for another year and I am very proud and pleased to say we have done better than any other year. A great big thank you to everyone. A whopping total of **£1675.29** was sent to Christian Aid from Ratby

I have just read an extract from a magazine:-
"When you're having a bad day, put things into perspective by remembering that whatever you're going through, you're not a starving child in Africa"

Well we have reached out to help that starving child because we know that Christian Aid goes direct to source - no middlemen or corrupt government officials - really worthwhile.

This morning I received confirmation of receipt of our efforts from the Christian Aid Office which I'd like to share with you.

'The focus of Christian Aid this year has been to try and stop child deaths from Typhoid in Kenya as children play in open sewage and have no fresh water supply. Christian Aid and partner missions are working to build water and sanitation facilities and Catherine Nyaata from Kenya said:

"Without Christian Aid support I wouldn't be where I am today.'

Going door to door without shame just so someone in a slum in Kenya can change their life is amazing to me. I would like to thank them"

Makes you feel glad to be of service doesn't it, - to actually do something concrete to make a difference in the world.

Once again thank you all - collectors and contributors - and to my person with the washers, thank you for the donation this year and the token nut and bolt. It's good to have a sense of humour.

Margaret Fee

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News from St Philip and St James

There's been some changes to the clergy team at St PJ's during the past months. You may recall that Revd Anne Stratton left for pastures new in Derbyshire during April. Well, we've now been joined by Revd Helen Hayes who became part of the team on 4th July. Helen, and her family, lives 'next door' in Thornton so she knows the area well. On 4th July she was ordained as a Deacon at Leicester Cathedral and, if all goes well, she will become a priest at this time next year. Over the next few weeks she will be feeling her feet as she meets congregations and villagers across the Bradgate Team.

During this time we've also celebrated another big event in our church calendar. In June we enjoyed a successful summer fete in the church grounds. Those of you who thought the bell ringers were practising their fire drill down the side of the building were mistaking brave souls who had paid (!!) to abseil down the tower.



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RATBY VILLAGE SOCIETY

We welcome everyone to join us at 8pm for the following events and meetings:

Tuesday 17th August in the Village Hall, Main Street. 'Caring with Confidence.'

If you are caring for a family member who experiences health problems then this is the talk for you. Pamela Thompson is a mine of information on the range of benefits available to help you.

Tuesday 21st September in The Methodist Rooms, Chapel Lane. Come along and join in with the fun with the entertaining Village Quiz. Proceeds to Rainbows Children's Hospice.

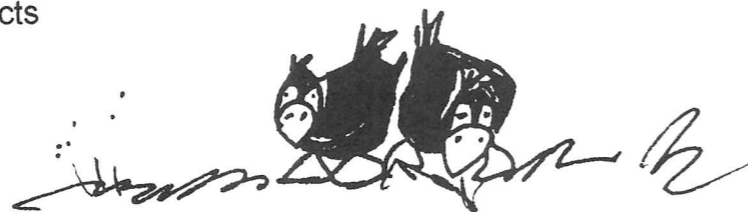
Tuesday 19th October in the Village Hall. David Greatwood, the senior valuer from Hanson Auctioneers in Derbyshire will talk about his life in antiques and will value objects brought in by you, the audience.

Tony Hutchinson

Clarice, Clive and Tony's partner Di, would like to thank the kind people of Ratby, and the surrounding villages, for their kind donations given in Tony's memory to his chosen charities. It is heart warming to know that so many of you felt so highly of him, we know many of you, like us, loved him dearly.

We would also like to add our thanks for all your messages of condolence; it certainly helped us, and is still helping us, through a very difficult time.

The monies raised were: £144 to Charnwood Oaks (which was the Nursing Home Tony helped at on his day off on Mondays) and £270 to Rainbows Hospice for children and young adults. So, once again, thank you.



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Extravaganza of Wedding Anniversary Flowers and Wedding Dresses

During three days in September our beautiful village church of St Philip and St James will take on a wedding anniversary theme. Each wedding anniversary will be represented by beautiful and original floral displays starting with the 'paper anniversary' marking one year of wedded bliss through to the diamond anniversary which celebrates 60 years of marriage. Amid the flowers there will be displays of dresses from yesteryear weddings, some of which took place in the church, interspersed with other more modern day gowns.

The weekend will see two special events in addition to the general viewing times. On Saturday evening there will be musical entertainment to enjoy as you marvel at the displays along with a complimentary drink. On Sunday afternoon you are invited to join a Service of Wedding celebration where many favourite wedding hymns will be sung. It is very much hoped that the church will be bursting with wedding couples new and old, many who may have made their wedding vows at St Philip and St James.

Saturday 11th

10am-5pm Viewing and refreshments, entry £1

6pm-8pm Entertainment and complimentary drink, entry £2

Sunday 12th

12-4pm Viewing and refreshments, entry £1

4pm Service of Wedding Celebration

Monday 13th

10am-4pm Viewing and refreshments, entry £1

Further details:

Tel 0116 239 0010 or 0116 239 5572

LETTERS and ARTICLES

We welcome letters and articles, but reserve the right to edit them or deny publication. Your name and address must be supplied, but you may ask for them to be withheld. Views expressed in articles and letters do not necessarily represent the views of the Publishers. We cannot be held responsible for information in advertisements, which we accept in good faith.

PHILLIP PLANT MEMORIAL CONCERT

Ratby Co-operative Band will be holding a memorial concert in memory of Ratby's Phil Plant on Saturday 11th September. Most villagers will know that Phil was associated with the Band for many years, most recently as President. He was particularly known for forging relationships with other bands, both here and in Europe. Brass Band Middleburgh from Holland will be at the concert.

The concert will be held at Groby Community College, from 6pm. Tickets, which include a buffet can be bought from Malcolm Pounder on 238 6749. Hurry...they are selling out fast!

BRADGATE LIONS CONCERT

Kirby Muxloe Village Hall was packed and rocking to the sound of Ratby Co-operative Band in their popular 'Big Band' mode in the first half of this concert, and only lack of space prevented the audience from getting up and dancing.

The second half of the evening had a more traditional 'Proms' feel, and once again the audience responded, this time with singing and humming along to the familiar music.

For more news of Ratby Band, check out their website; www.ratbyband.com



WATCH BATTERIES & STRAPS

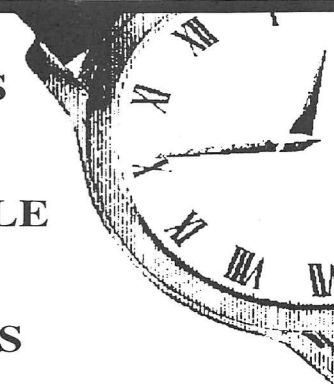
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RATBY COMMUNITY ORCHARD

The orchard is situated on Taverner Drive, and was planted over ten years ago for the whole community to enjoy. We are printing this guide to apple picking so that more people can enjoy the apples at their best.

A notice board at the site shows the location of each tree. Many have now lost their individual labels.

Please treat the trees and orchard with respect. Remember please that the orchard is a Community Orchard.....so don't take more than your share...other people want to try the apples too.

Other trees include:

- Crab Apple Dartmouth
- Medlar Nottingham
- Quince Bereczki (Vranja)
- Pear (Tettenhall Dick...for cooking or perry making)
- Syston Plum
- Walnut



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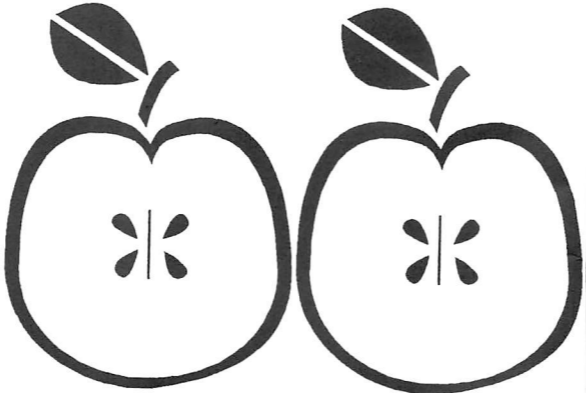
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RATBY COMMUNITY ORCHARD
APPLE PICKING GUIDE
CUT OUT and KEEP

APPLE VARIETY	HARVEST TIME
Dessert apples	
Gladstone	Late July
George Cave	Early to mid August
Irish Peach	Mid August
Duchess's Favourite	Early September
Lady Sudeley	Early September
Yellow Ingestrie	Early September
Worcester Pearmain	Early-mid September
St Edmunds Pippin	mid September
Lord Lambourne	Mid September
Bloody Ploughman	Mid September
Ellison's Orange	Mid-late September
Ard Cairn Russet	Late September
Ribston Pippin	Late September
Blenheim Orange	Late September
Cooking Apples	
Keswick Codlin	Mid-late August
Golden Spire	Early September
Lord Derby	Late September
Annie Elizabeth	Early-mid October
Newton Wonder	Mid October

Weather conditions can have an impact on the ripening of fruit, so before you pick just select one apple of the variety that may be ready, gently hold and give a gentle twist. If the apple is ripe it should easily separate for picking.

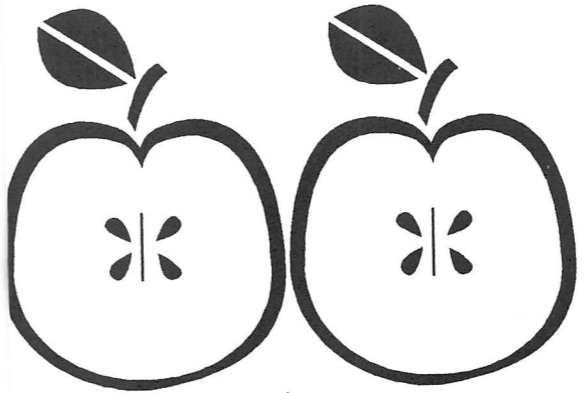


RATBY COMMUNITY ORCHARD
APPLE PICKING GUIDE
CUT OUT and KEEP



APPLE VARIETY	HARVEST TIME	STORAGE in Amateur conditions!
Dessert apples		
Gladstone	Late July	Eat immediately
George Cave	Early to mid August	Eat immediately
Irish Peach	Mid August	Eat immediately
Duchess's Favourite	Early September	September
Lady Sudeley	Early September	September
Yellow Ingestrie	Early September	September-October
Worcester Pearmain	Early-mid September	September-October
St Edmunds Pippin	mid September	September-October
Lord Lambourne	Mid September	September-November
Bloody Ploughman	Mid September	September-November
Ellison's Orange	Mid-late September	Late Sept.-late October
Ard Cairn Russet	Late September	Late September-December
Ribston Pippin	Late September	October-January
Blenheim Orange	Late September	Cooking-late September Dessert Oct.-Dec.
Cooking Apples		
Keswick Codlin	Mid-late August	Late August-Sept/Oct.
Golden Spire	Early September	September-October
Lord Derby	Late September	October-December
Annie Elizabeth	Early-mid October	November-April
Newton Wonder	Mid October	November to March

Weather conditions can have an impact on the ripening of fruit, so before you pick just select one apple of the variety that may be ready, gently hold and give a gentle twist. If the apple is ripe it should easily separate for picking.



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Ratby Parish Council
RATBY CONSERVATION AREA

Concern had been expressed at the Parish Plan Advisory committee meetings and shared by Parish Councillors that the Ratby Conservation Area was on the English Heritage "At Risk" list.

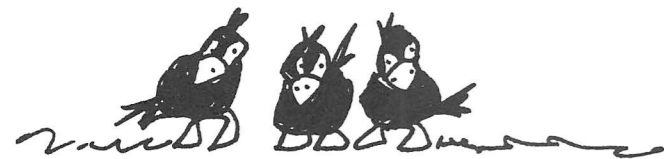
At the invitation of the Parish Council, residents and Parish Plan Committee members were joined by Mr Barry Whirrity (HBBC Conservation Officer) on a walk around the area. This took in Chapel Lane, Church Lane and parts of Main St. and Station Rd.

During the walk Mr Whirrity pointed out features that diminish the attributes of the conservation area, some of which pre-dated the creation of the Conservation Area in 1985. Most of the features are not covered by planning regulations because they may be replacements or repairs. The group discussed the situation at the end of the walk and it was agreed to encourage the status quo. In other words to maintain the state of the area so that the "At Risk" status can be held back, if not removed.

The Parish Council agreed with the proposal to provide a leaflet to distribute to all properties in the area. This would detail the features creating most concern together with advice from Mr Whirrity about appropriate action and possible funding availability.

We promised some seating and here are three of the four seats on Ferndale Park.

There will be more in the community garden.

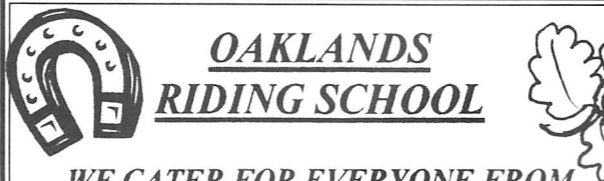


BOWLING ALONG

Are you looking for a new hobby, perhaps something to give you a little exercise in sociable company?

Why not have a go at Indoor Bowls? A local group runs sessions on Wednesday afternoons from 2pm until 4pm in Ratby Village Hall. It's a friendly group, and newcomers are always welcome, with a chance for tea or coffee and a chat!!

During the summer the group take a holiday break, but they'll be back again from mid September. Pop in and have a go!



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RATBY VILLAGE HALL

It's hard to believe that this small, unassuming low cream-painted building, tucked away behind the Bull's Head Car Park could host the range of activities that it does.....but it must be the busiest venue in Ratby.

Although the Hall is managed by charitable group Ratby Senior Citizen's Welfare Association on a non-profit -making basis, the clubs and activities meeting there are for a wide range of ages and interests.

There's the regular 'Drop-in' on Thursday mornings from 10 'til 12, where everyone is welcome to stop by for a coffee or tea and a chat, browse the book stall and find a bargain on the 'thrift rail.' If you would like to volunteer and help with tea making, just call in on a Thursday and you will be made welcome.

During term time the Hall provides facilities for the Parent and Toddler Group on Wednesday mornings and the Art Class on Tuesday afternoons,

All year round there are activities such as Tae Kwon Do, Dance Classes, Exercise sessions such as 'Mature Movers' for the more mature ladies, on Tuesday mornings, and the Evergreens group.

It really is at the heart of Ratby's Community life.

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QUIZ COMPILER EXTRAORDINAIRE!

Mrs Betty Hulme has been putting together the questions for the Village Quiz now for several years. And there is a real skill involved. She says she has to get the balance of questions just right.....not too hard so that no-one has a chance to score, nor too easy...and that is a real challenge!

The Quiz also needs to be entertaining and sometimes amusing for the audience too. The questions are usually general knowledge, with specialist subjects in areas such as History, Geography or Literature. The 'Spelling' round is apparently the least favourite!

Betty says that she is always looking out for ideas for questions, perhaps spotting something on her travels, or noting an item in a book or magazine, or even a crossword puzzle.

The five teams draw numbers out of a hat to determine which table they will occupy for the evening, so that the order of questioning is random and fair.

If you have never been to this event, then you must give it a try...it's a great evening out!

Tuesday 21st Sept. 8pm in The Methodist Rooms, Chapel Lane.

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BRIBING STUDENTS TO CONTINUE EDUCATION?

The Education Maintenance allowance is a scheme aimed at encouraging students to continue into higher or further education. The student receives a weekly sum of £10-£30 depending on parental income, with £100 bonuses awarded bi-annually for good grades and behaviour.

From September 2010 the bonus will stop, and the Dept. for Education says that this will result in 80,000 additional college places for disadvantaged students becoming available. This has sparked widespread discussion in colleges as to whether the scheme was effective.

One student in receipt of EMA, stated that 'indirectly it helps you get better grades, it works as a good incentive.'

When asked if they would have left education without the incentive, they replied 'No, but I would be more inclined to skip classes if I didn't get my EMA.'

Some students admit that the money is not spent on educational materials, but on 'fags, booze and shoes,' and one student suggested that some people claim money they are not entitled too, when this could be better spent on 'The elderly... my nana lives on £109 a week, and that has to pay for all living costs.'

I believe that cutting the £100 bonus is a brilliant move by the Government. It is obvious that the money is being spent on wants, not needs. Obviously there will be exceptions, but these students are few in comparison to the great majority who exploit this system. The government has chosen to reduce the amount students are spending on top ups, rather than to let the country plunge deeper into the black hole of recession.

Rebecca Harrison.

Some interesting thoughts Rebecca. We had to edit due to lack of space. 2.2 million young people have apparently been helped since EMA was created, and evidence suggests that attainment in GCSE and A level by recipients of EMA has increased by 40%. How much would the cost have been if those young people had been claiming income support or job seeker's allowance of £60 a week?

Perhaps what we really need to be doing is looking at how we can restore 'education' to its rightful place in our society as something that is valued for itself, not just for 'outcomes' or as a means to economic success. Any views out there in the village? **Editor.**

POND DIPPING

Come on down to the Village pond at Taverner Drive for the annual Pond Dipping event. This year we are meeting at 7.30 pm on Wednesday August 4th, weather permitting! Please bring a white plastic pot to examine your findings in!

Let's hope the recent drought has not affected the pond life too much.



Ratby Community Orchard Group

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RATBY WEATHER

www.ratbyweather.co.uk

Take a look at this website, brought to you by local company itech Repair Ltd, to discover some fascinating facts.

Up until 15th July, the rainfall so far this month has been just 22.8mm, with 7.2 mm falling on 14th July, when you might remember the sporadic heavy downpours.

You can check out trends too. Since the records began on January 12th this year the highest recorded temperature was 31.7C on May 23rd. The lowest recorded was on February 9th, when temperatures plummeted to -13.4C !!

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- ♦ **Lunch Tours** – Meals can be booked for you and we can recommend a number of venues offering pensioners lunches and afternoon tea stops.
- ♦ **Days out** – We are only too pleased to offer ideas for suitable destinations for group visits.

Volunteering Would you like to help us by becoming a volunteer driver on our social car scheme? Volunteers use their own cars to take people to local activities and places, you will receive reimbursement for every mile travelled using your own car when driving for the scheme, and you can give as much or as little time as you want.

RESIDENTS in Hinckley & Bosworth have been praised for their recycling efforts after the latest performance figures showed that almost half of all the household waste produced in the borough last year was recycled.