

## GOLF COURSE IN RATBY?

Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council have approved a change of use for a golf course, subject to approval of an access road. This road and its junction with Markfield road has to be approved before planning permission can be granted.

If it goes ahead this road could create a new, artificial boundary to the village, and might inevitably attract a bombardment of applications from builders to "fill the gap".

The rural character of our village is threatened once again. There will be a more detailed article about this plan in February's issue of WOT.



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## YOUR COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

We are all waiting with considerable anxiety to know the outcome of the Public Inquiry into the proposed Western Bypass.

I have been in touch with the Department of Transport who say they are not expecting to receive the Inspector's Report until January and they will need three months to study it themselves. We must hope that the Inspectors lengthy deliberations indicate that he recognises our particular problems and recommends accordingly.

The traffic build up in the village seems to increase almost daily, some of this is undoubtedly due to the long tail back on the A.50 which makes commuters turn off at Field Head and travel city wards through Ratby or Newtown Linford. The Western Bypass will do little to relieve this traffic. The M.1 in our area has had an increase in its traffic flows in the order of 40% in five years, a staggering figure.

A Planning Application to the Borough Council for 210 houses off Sacheverell Way, adjacent to the Groby development but in the Parish of Ratby (another 200 - 300 cars to clog our roads!), first raised its head at the examination in Public of the Structure Plan three years ago. I attended the Inquiry everyday for the ten days it lasted and opposed the proposed development vehemently (as did the Borough and Parish Councils). The result of our efforts was that this area was specially excluded from the Structure Plan. Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council have turned the application down but the developer is going to Appeal. As it is contrary to the Structure Plan the Borough Council will receive the full backing of the County Council at the Public Inquiry in their opposition.

Pat Butler



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## A LETTER TO ALL MY CLIENTS

Its great to think that Christmas is almost here. A season of gifts, cheques, credit cards and goodwill. Well, I mean its my busiest time of year. Almost every house has a pile of goodies just waiting for me.

They call me a villain but I only help myself to things people leave lying around. I'm sorry about the shock and anguish caused to my "customers" but I've got a living to make.

When I'm about my manor at Christmas I don't want a lot of hard work so I go for those homes where they leave a window or door unlocked. I'm not too keen on these go ahead people who are fitting extra security devices. They are making my life harder.

Popular legend has me as an expert locksmith but I'm only really any good with the simple well known ones, I don't like:-

Window locks (easy obtainable from hardware shops). Puts a stop to me breaking a small pane of glass then reaching in and unlocking the windows. Worst of all they make them for all sorts of windows these days and anybody who is handy can fit them. Where I can see these are fitted I tend to go and look for a house without them.

Patio doors me and my crowbar do good business in houses with these except for those tiresome people who fit top and bottom locks.

The real pains are those who incorporate an anti lift device into the door mechanism, they're so easy to fit but they beat my crowbar.

[This can usually be fitted in the form of a strip of metal screwed to the inside edge of the door adjacent to the frame. The device is positioned close to the top of the door with just enough clearance to allow the door to slide but not to be lifted off its rails.]



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After an easy window or unprotected patio door, I go for the front or back door. Most have low cost locks, I break the glass, reach through and open the door, but the confounded security deadlocks, the worst for me, can be locked so that the door can only be opened by using the proper key - aghhh!! I mean even if I get in by another route I can't get out with the big valuables - have a heart.

[The mortice deadlocks (5 lever type especially) which fit into the door and/or a rim deadlock which screws onto the door are very good value.]

I've had to smarten myself up, now that so many people are fitting those door viewers and can clock me before I've got my foot in the door. The security chains are as bad especially those that the ends lock into place - stops me reaching round and sliding the end out. However where the chains are too long, I can still slide them out.

Worst of all is the house where they've got the chain, door viewer and a night light fitted outside their front door [usually best installed by an electrician].

People are funny you know whatever time of year they go on holiday they tend to leave tell tale signs:-

milkbottles, letters or newspapers (especially free ones) sticking out of letter boxes. Paper boys who don't push them through help me here! Good lads.

Some people use an automatic timer that switches a table light on at odd times, the plug in type are really easy to use and some even have a 7 day cycle. I never know if they are in or out.

[Whilst you are away, ask your neighbour to keep an eye on your home and if they will cut the grass, collect the post etc. They might be keener if they know you will return the favour later.]

Sometimes its like my birthday, all those ladders lying about or useful tools for breaking in, great! The old shed is my favourite no lock or one so old I can blow it off.

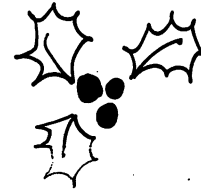
[If you want advice about any security matter why not join or start a local neighbourhood watch scheme. Or phone the police, your local station is 530066 (ext 4222).]

**SEE YOU SOON!**

Q 1 H P 1



## 1st. Ratby Scout Group



### SCOUTS REPORT

Here we are again in December! However November was quite an eventful month for THE SCOUTS, we have had six Cubs moving into the Troop with more to follow later during the month. They seem to have fitted in very well, but there again it is what they make of it. We can only organise the events, it is up to them to take part.

We have had two main activities this month, up to going to press, the first being a night hike to Newtown Linford (we didn't lose anybody!) and then across to Coalville spending the night at Charnwood Scouts H.Q..

They managed to get to sleep at about 2 a.m. there were a few bleary eyes at breakfast but I think that they all enjoyed themselves.

The second event was a request by Groby Scouts to go to Donnington Park to participate in a collection for the Wishing Well Appeal for the Great Ormond Street Hospital for children. We did very well raising approx: £700. An excellent effort by all involved.

Thanks very much.

Your in Scouting,

Colin Payne.

\*\*\*\*\*

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### SWIFTS REPORT

Having missed the deadlines for the past two WOTS, I'll do a general round-up of all we have been doing for the past few months.

In June the two Cub Packs went to Oaks in Charnwood for our Summer Camp. For the second year running the weather was beautiful. On the Saturday the Cubs entered the District Sports Day at Glenfield, where both Packs came away with certificates.

On August 11th both Packs made a visit to Cadeby for the steam trains and brass rubbings. Tony Mellor took the Cubs on numerous rides on the trains, helped by Sarah, while Mrs. Boston was helping Cubs in the church with the brass rubbings. Our thanks to Tony, Sarah and Mrs. Boston for a very enjoyable afternoon.

On October 22nd we took our Pack for a Day Camp to Martinshaw Woods. After a terrible week of wet weather, the day was much better, thank goodness! The Cubs made a map of the area, and then they built themselves a shelter from anything they could find in the woods. We had dinner cooked on a halter fire (helped by the Cubs), followed by lots of different sports. They went home very dirty, as no doubt all the Mums will bear me out.

And last, but not least, we were very sorry to say Goodbye to Paul Clark, who was a great help to me when I started in the Cubs. He gave the Cubs hours of enjoyment with his knowledge and ideas.

Thank-you Paul from us all.

Akela.

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### 1st RATBY BEAVERS

Christmas always conjures up a picture of happy children's faces, full of the excitement and magic of this special time of the year. As beaver leaders, we have the pleasure of seeing the enjoyment on our Beavers' faces innumerable times, which is what makes it worthwhile.

Planning what to do at our weekly meetings is a bit like planning a child's birthday party — and every parent knows how difficult it is to come up with a bright idea every time! However, judging by the reaction of the boys, our efforts are usually appreciated. We try to provide a balance between noisy games, quieter games, songs, handicrafts and serious topics such as road safety and helping others.

On the theme of helping others, all the Beavers of the Leicester West District have been asked to raise money for The Childrens Society. During the last two weeks in November the 1st Ratby Beavers will have been asking friends and relatives to make a donation towards this worthy charity. If you have supported us then thank you very much for your generosity.

If you have a son aged between 6 and 8 years old, or who is nearly 6, and you think he would enjoy a weekly get-together with his friends, why not come to see us in action? We meet at the School Hall on Wednesdays (in term time) from 5.30 to 6.45p.m. The invitation is also open to anyone who would like to help in any way — 24 — lively lads need a lot of attention!

For further details contact: R. Bent 364398  
J. Harrison 393871  
or J. Hawksworth 870134

### VENTURE UNIT REPORT

Ratby now has its own Venture Unit which has been running since late September.

Our programme over the last few weeks has included discussions on current affairs, map reading, a games evening and making model hot air balloons — most of which burned very well!

Our future programme will include backwoods cooking, first aid and a visit to a butchers shop in Leicester.

Next year, hopefully, a more outgoing programme will be run, organised by the Unit members, and possibly the fulfillment of a number of Venture Scout Awards and/or Bronze Duke of Edinburghs' Awards.

Finally, if anybody other than me reads this, may I wish you a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year from the VENTURE UNIT.

Yours  
Mark Hardy V.S.L.

### THANKS AND PLEASE

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all leaders and the many instructors who turn out every week, rain or shine, to run the different sections.

As I am sure that their enthusiasm filters through to the boys and makes for a good strong group.

They cannot do it alone.

They need the help and support of you the parents, without this help, it does make it very hard work.

So, come on you parents what about some support!

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## NATIONAL CHILDREN'S HOME

Since 1869 the National Children's Home has been concerned about the welfare of children and young people. In today's world these young people find themselves victims of homelessness, broken marriages, incurable diseases, unemployment, crime, drug and alcohol addiction, poverty and abuse, and, so often, it is as a result of situations beyond their control.

I cannot possibly begin to tell you of the widespread work that NCH does, except to say that it seeks to care for these individuals in a very personal way, whatever their circumstances. I could give you many examples but space does not permit.

In order to keep caring, NCH must have the financial resources, and this means relying, almost entirely, on voluntary funding. Approximately 30% is brought in by street collections, so you can see that your giving is a vital part of the total income. To reassure anyone who wonders where their £1 goes, 85p is devoted to the maintenance and care of children, 7p to advocacy, and only 8p to administration and other expenses.

Please remember that all collectors are volunteers, and their only reward is knowing that their time and efforts help so many children in need. They will be back again next year, so treat them kindly - collecting is done in their spare time and in all weathers. Their efforts, combined with the generosity of the people of Ratby raised £443 this year. I offer sincere thanks, on behalf of NCH to you all.

### JOY PARKER

#### LOCAL SECRETARY

##### Rugby Union

Anyone interested in forming a Sunday Rugby Union Club? Contact Michael Murray at the Railway Inn! Tel 392493

#### PRE-SCHOOL LIBRARY

Ratby Primary School has started a library for children aged 5 and under. There is a wonderful selection of brand new picture books that you will enjoy reading with your children.

Everyone is welcome, including parents who have no children in school at present. The Library is open every Wednesday at 3.15 p.m. til 4 p.m. in the SCHOOL LIBRARY. And it's FREE!!!

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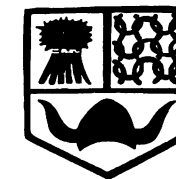
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## Ratby Primary School Association



Those of you who have children between the ages of five and eleven will know all about the School Association! For those who don't, we are a group of parents and teachers who raise funds to help make Ratby Primary School such a cheerful and well-equipped place for our children to learn. Our fund-raising events are extremely well-supported by those directly connected with the school, by our local businesses and by many other individuals. We should like to take this opportunity of thanking everyone who has supported us in any way over the last year.

As well as raising money, our functions are always very sociable occasions. This is especially true of our most recent event - It's A Knockout-held on 25th September. The competitiveness of the participants, the ingenuity of their costumes, the enthusiasm of the spectators and the fact that it didn't rain all helped to make it a very enjoyable afternoon. Financial success was assured once again by the generosity of our local shops and industries. Especial thanks must go to the Sports Club for the use of their field and clubhouse.

One of the aims of our next event is that of providing an opportunity for people who live in the village to meet and have a chat over a cup of tea or coffee and a mince pie - it's our Christmas Curtain Raiser on Friday 9th December. The afternoon session is from 2.30 to 4.30p.m. After a break for tea the evening session will start at 6.30 and finish at 8.00p.m. There will be several stalls selling a variety of gifts, games for the children to play, refreshments and carol-singing to round off the evening. This is also an opportunity to see the work of the children displayed in the School Hall.

Finally, we should like you to make a note in your (new!) diaries of two events to be held in the New Year. The first is a Rummage Sale on Saturday 28th January at the Welfare Hall. Our Rummage Sales attract customers from far and wide, so they must be good! The second is our Valentine Disco which will take place on Friday 10th February at school. Last year's Disco was a resounding success so if you couldn't make it in 1988, make sure you book a baby-sitter now! More details later.

Don't forget!

FRIDAY 9TH DECEMBER  
2.30 - 4.30 and 6.30 - 8.00

CHRISTMAS CURTAIN RAISER  
School Hall

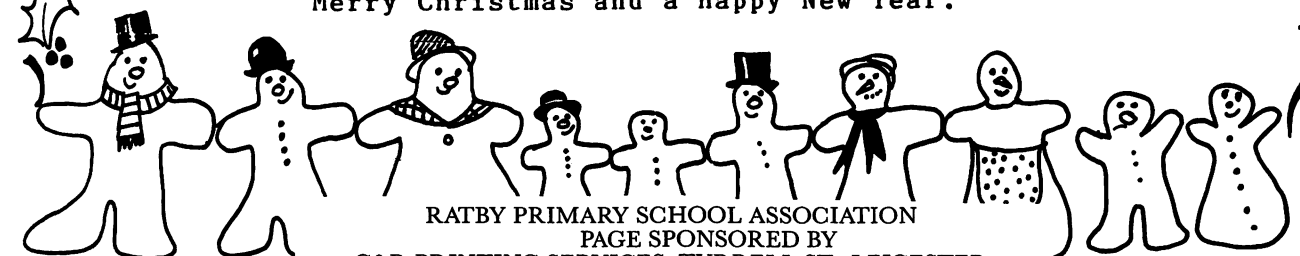
SATURDAY 28TH JANUARY

RUMMAGE SALE  
Welfare Hall

FRIDAY 10TH FEBRUARY

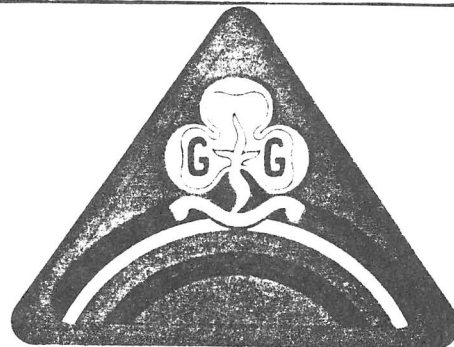
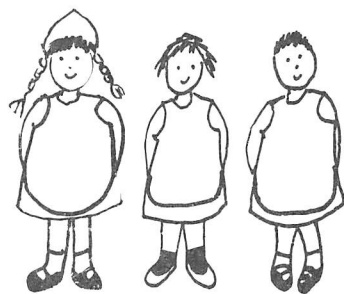
VALENTINE DISCO  
School Hall

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

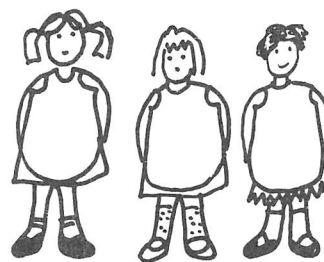


RATBY PRIMARY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION  
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## RAINBOW GUIDES



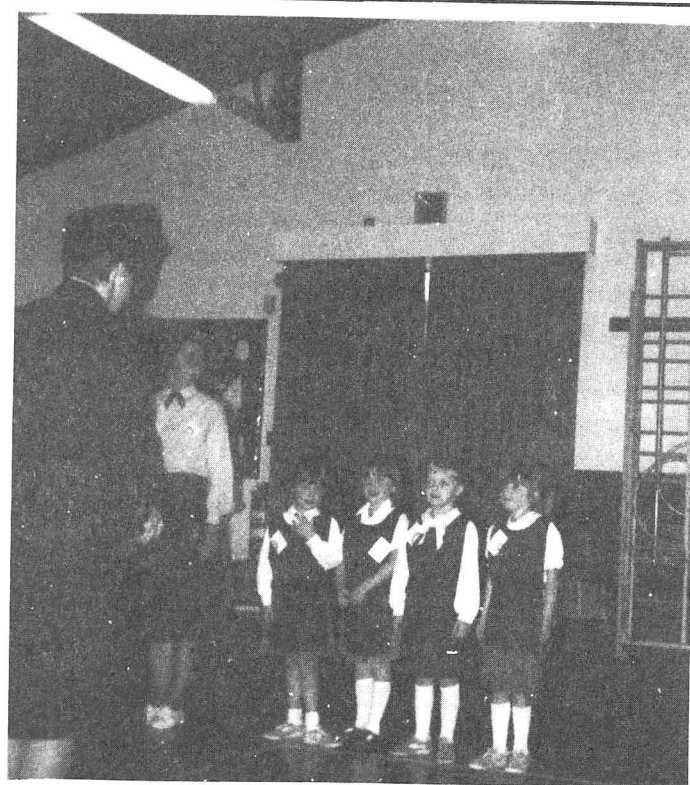
It is nice to think that Ratby was in "at the beginning", when the Ratby Rainbow Guides Group was formed. The girl guide association, having realised that girls aged 5 - 7 were being left out, decided that September '88 would see the formation of a new section - Rainbow Guides. The group runs on Monday evenings from 5.30 - 6.45 in the School Hall. The group is running with the maximum number of 15 girls and has a waiting list of a similar number, so it is already feasible that a second group could run if more helpers were available. If you are interested, please ring Janice Coulson on 386334.

The weekly meetings have been great fun so far, each week the "Rainbows End" lands in a different country and we try to find items from or representing that Country.

The activities that we do have included a mini olympics where the three groups of five girls competed for bronze, silver and gold medals, by completing a series of events which included skipping, long jump and skittles. One meeting was called "Dance Night", and Twinkle, Sparkle, Glitter and Orange (the leaders) all doing the twist and the conga etc. must have been as sight to behold!

Halloween fell on our meeting night, so we could not resist making witches outfits, apple bobbing, eating pumpkin pie, and sitting round a lit pumpkin in darkness and letting parents find their own little witch! (Did we really do this in 1½ hours??)

I would think that Ratby now has the best fed birds in the country since the girls learned how to make bird cake (which consisted of mixing breadcrumbs, cooked rice, seed, nuts and sultanas in melted fat and leaving it to set).



This photograph was taken by Tracey Reynolds on the evening of the first investiture of Rainbows in Ratby.

The girls are also producing their own version of Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer as their contribution to the District Carol Concert.

As the girls promise to "Love God and to be kind and helpful" they have decided to support the Great Ormond Street Hospital

Appeal and are currently munching through dozens of packets of KP snacks. All in a good cause!!

**Janice Coulson**  
Rainbow Guider

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## THE RATBY PLAYGROUP

Well here it is again! WOT may I ask.  
The dark mornings and the dark nights.

At this time of year we should make our children aware of the dangers of the traffic on the roads. We should make sure their bikes have lights that work and have good reflectors. We should make sure they do not ride their bikes in the dark without lights. An unlit bike is very hard to see when you are driving a car or a lorry etc.

Moving on to even younger children, working at playgroup makes you aware of how unpredictable very young children can be. As a result of this we decided to invite a road safety representative to playgroup. Unfortunately she was only able to come on Monday and Thursday. Mrs. Crump very kindly came in to talk to the children on the other days. Mrs. Stapleford made a very good impression on the children, if only with her **Super Ted video!**

We should tell our younger children to watch out when crossing the roads, to look out for bikes. It is hard to judge the speed of vehicles in the dark. **So remember the GREEN CROSS CODE!**

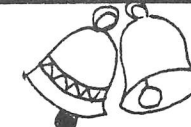
Thirty children under five will be hurt in road accidents **TODAY ... and TOMORROW** and the **NEXT DAY ... in fact EVERYDAY.**

So prepare them for the roads. Young children are generally injured within a short distance of their home. Teach them what traffic is. It may be simple to you but it is not to a small child. Children under five cannot see as much as an adult, because of their size. They are not aware of danger, and can be unpredictable. A moments carelessness can lead to an accident. Be careful where they play. Walk on the outside of the pavement, nearest to the road, with the children on the inside. Hold the child's hand. Please set them a good example. You should always try to cross the road sensibly and use the crossing facilities when they are available, and explain to the children why you are doing so.

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## RATBY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The Women's Institute movement began in Ontario, Canada in the year 1897. It was started by a Mrs Adelaide Hoodless, a farmer's wife, who was so appalled by her own (and other women's) lack of education and knowledge of fundamental hygiene and the housewifery skills that she decided this had to be remedied. The movement grew rapidly and by the year 1915 had crossed the Atlantic and taken root in Anglesey, Wales. There are now approximately 91,000 Institutes throughout England and Wales (with a similar organisation known as the WRI in Scotland). The interests of members are very diverse indeed and such is the strength of the organisation it is regularly consulted by Government on major matters of social concern such as Health, Education and the Environment.

Ratby Women's Institute was inaugurated in October, 1945 and in the last 43 years its members have been involved in the work of the Community. The meetings are held in the Welfare Hall on the second Wednesday of each month at 7.45 pm, so you ladies OUT THERE why not give that one-eyed monster in your living room a miss and come along to a meeting. We have the reputation among County Institutes as being one of the very FRIENDLIEST.

For information our January meeting will be given up to Maxine and Jill who will be demonstrating Hair Care, in February the Speaker is Mr Eggington with an Audio Visual Quiz and in March we have Mrs Forsyth on 'Liquid Painting'. No, I have no idea what this is (my painting is restricted to Walls and Woodwork'). Look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

**EILEEN M MACKENZIE**  
PRESIDENT

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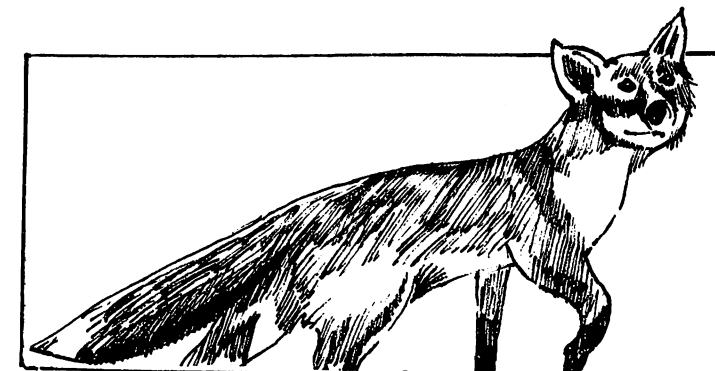
It was a cool still Autumn morning as Star crossed the ancient road which leads from the village to an equally ancient farmhouse at the roads end. Star, was back on his own ground and he knew his way around, although it had been some months since he was last here, but it was the place of his birth and he learnt alot of his vital young lessons here.

He was born in a cool deep earth under the rhododendrons in the wood where the giant horsetail and the marsh marigolds grow, the earth itself had been used by generations of foxes as a place to give birth and to seek refuge, not always successfully in either case, but Star and his family were lucky. The vixen, his mother also had the small patch of white hair above the left shoulder which gave Star his name, as did her father, the old dog fox from behind Bondman. Star occasionally came across his mother in his nightly rambles, but apart from a flash of teeth, which looked almost like a grin, no sign of recognition was shown.

In the wood of his birth Star learnt his early lessons, with his mother and 2 sisters he learnt how to survive, he sharpened his every sense to a razor edge, he learnt that the trees, and the bracken, and the blackthorn thicket were his friends, he learnt respect for his fellow wanderer of the night, the badger, and above all he learnt about his enemies, man, and his servant dog, to be avoided at all costs.

On this particular autumn morning however Star was content, he'd fed well during the night, he'd killed a big buck rat in the corn stubble, and found a wood pigeon unable to fly in the wood, this was a time of plenty, and Star didn't worry about tomorrow. Too soon would come the days when the hunger ache in his belly went unappeased, and he would have to scavenge around the edge of the village with its persistent scent of dog and man.

As Star slipped through the hedge near to the tree where the tawny owls nested he was spotted by a jay which immediately let out a screech like tearing calico, which



was echoed by his wife deeper in the wood, his was taken up by a blackbird who flew nervously down the hedge by the side of which Star was trotting. This blackbird had no tail, lost 2 nights before when she was nearly taken by a stoat hunting the hedgerows for roosting birds. Her nervous "pinking", and the jays screeching alerted 2 rabbits of danger nearby, they sat bolt upright like little dogs begging, every sense alert, but, on seeing Star something in his demeanour told them he wasn't hunting, and so they remained perfectly still although Star passed them by only 2 cow lengths away.

Star was irritated by the birds, and angled away from the woodside across the open field, towards the place where Iron Age man once lived. Suddenly he caught a movement and instantly dropped on his belly to the ground, front paws, head, body and tail in a perfectly straight line, his ears were pricked and alert, and his eyes unblinking, watching acutely. The reason for his alarm was another fox whose territory Star was on.

The unwritten law of nature told Star he was in the wrong, and he didn't intend to fight unless he was forced, but the other fox didn't see or smell Star, and passed him by with head down on his way to his bed in the wood.

Star still lay immobile for half a minute or so, and when he finally moved it was on the run, with an occasional look over his shoulder, but this time he'd made it alright. He needed a drink, and the cool stream to his front eased his thirst, lapping like a cat he had soon drunk his fill. He found himself a nice dry bed beneath an overhanging willow, and curled up with his brush over his nose he went to sleep.

Jim Crow



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## ANOTHER TRUE VILLAGE TALE OF THE 1940's.

### Pol the Wayward

To follow this story you need to know that Pear Tree Farm is the farm with the steep yard, opposite the post office.

Readers may also care to reflect on that old Methodist saying:- "As clapped out as a Chapel Piano!"

From century to century chapel piano's wear out and when necessary a word of mouth appeal used to be sent out to the village for a replacement. On this occasion a lady who lived in Stamford Street just below the W.M.C. responded with one free for the collecting.

The set routine on those occasions was to borrow a horse and cart from Mr Ball at Pear Tree Farm, collect the piano and deliver it to its appointed place.

Everything was as before except this time the horse was to be Pol the daily milk-round horse.

With an apprehensive crew of four, Pol and cart were coaxed down the steep yard to the road and headed for Stamford Street, duly arriving at the front door of the donor.

Horse and cart were left in the street for the half hour or so it took to weigh the situation up and struggle the piano to the front door. On opening the door, shock number one, there was Pol and the cart, gone, not a sign.

Her daily routine was apparently to turn into the farm, up the slope to the yard to collect a further supply of milk for the bottom of the village, and she was not intending to alter her ways today.

What wasn't realised was that Pol who had walked the milk-round for many years with out command, knew every stop and how long to wait at each before moving on. Horse and cart were found, stuck in a half turned round position at the top of the street.

Embarrassment over, heavy piano loaded on to cart, the party continued on the return journey, rejoicing.

Down Stamford Street, by the school and memorial with a straight run to the Chapel, except that no-one had consulted Pol.

At the post office all was not well. No matter how hard the reins said straight on, Pol turned into the farm, up the steep yard with three fella's trying to stop a piano slipping off the back of the cart.

Eventually the journey continued to Chapel Lane and by now the crew were wise enough to realise that the chapel steps were not necessarily on Pol's daily stopping list. Precaution was taken to steer the cart wheel firmly against the kerbstone.

The piano was half on - half off when Mr Ball's son Ernest passed with another horse and cart headed south. One horse whinnied to the other, Pol took off to follow her mate and the piano fell to the floor, breaking off a leg.

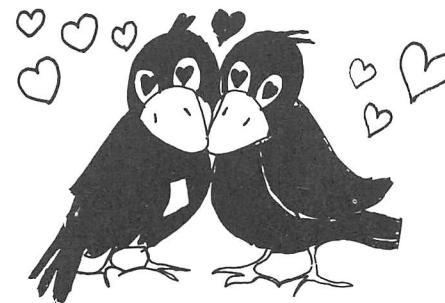
The point of the story is to enquire if any one desperately needs a three legged piano, mileage minimal, two owners only, one mortal.

Local Yokel

### Send a Valentine

A box in the February issue of WOT costs only £2.00. Maximum 25 words. Send your message with money to either, 35 Danehill, or 3 Ingle Drive by January 27th.

(Money sent with unprintable messages will be donated to charity).



### Quote of the Week!!

A local lady, often seen having driving lessons around the village was reported to have said "I didn't have a good lesson today .... my feet kept slipping off the steering wheel".



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## Christmas in Ratby

On Wednesday December 14th there will be traditional carol singing around the Christmas Tree (by the War Memorial).

Ratby Band will be there to play for us, and hot potatoes will be on sale to warm us up!

Come along at 7 o'clock and join in, everyone is welcome, and it's a good beginning for the Christmas season.

## Christmas Decorations

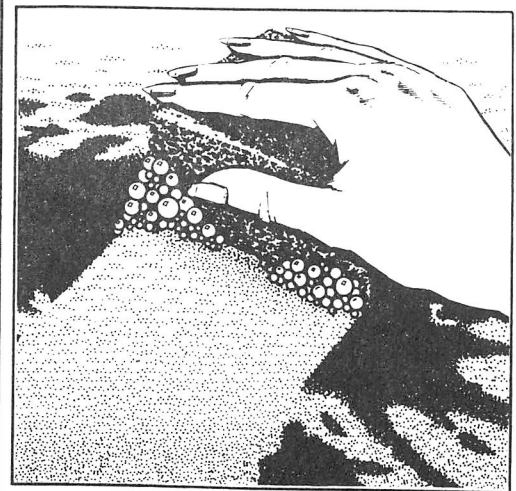
To encourage a really festive spirit in the village this year, the Parish Council have agreed to hold a 'Best decorated premises' competition.

A prize will be awarded to the retail premises with the most attractive decorations and display. Judging will take place early in December.

## Brightening Up the Village

The Parish Council congratulates those residents and business people who have made a real effort to enhance the village this year.

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## Ratby Parish Council

The hanging baskets at 'Julies' hairdressing salon, and on Mr. Root's dairy were particularly attractive. The display of dahlias outside the newly refurbished 'Bulls head' have been praised by many. We may not have won the 'Best Kept Village' Competition this year, but we are certainly improving.

The Parish Council have planted crocus corms on the lower slopes of grass banks on Main Street.

## Skateboarding

Many residents have expressed concern about the dangers of skateboarding on pavements. Some children have discovered the advantages of the old tennis courts at Ferndale Drive play area. Perhaps parents could encourage their children to use this site as there is less risk of harm away from roads, and pedestrians will feel able to venture onto the pavements again.

## Policing

As yet the ideal 'village bobby' has not been found. P.C. Williams is trying his best to cover both Groby and Ratby.

continued on Page 9.

## RATBY SUCCESS IN RADIO LEICESTER COUNTY QUIZ

On Tuesday 22nd of November a team from Ratby successfully won through to the quarter finals of County Questions, the BBC Radio Leicester Quiz. The successful team lead by their captain Lynn Mellor included County Archivist Kate Thompson, Irene MacLeod and bringing up the rear was Michael Ball the sole male representative of the team. It was definitely a night for leaving it to the ladies. A quick fire identification of a famous Leicestershire land mark identified by Kate Thompson within seconds of the first clue being given gave the team an easy 25 points. Irene MacLeod made short work on sporting questions and captain Lynn Mellor and Michael Ball picked up valuable points on the subject of Name the Year.

The team aided by their mascot Sam Crow successfully beat off the opposition from Anstey and Leicester Forest East with the high score of 240 points. This we were informed was the highest score achieved by any team in this year's competition.

Ratby can hear how their team won through by listening to Radio Leicester on Sunday December 4th at 9.30 a.m. **YOU'VE JUST MISSED IT!**



## DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE

January 27th.

Valentines ..... issue will be delivered on the 12th ... So send in your valentines £2.00

ADVERTS - PHONE 395179  
ARTICLES - PHONE 393279  
EDITOR - PHONE 393367

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## LETTERS

Dear Editor,

Is it possible to extend my sincere congratulations for the turn out on the Armistice Parade by the Scouts, Guides, Cubs, Brownies, Swifts, Rainbows in the Ratby WOT.

I have taken many parades in the past and I must say that this was one of the best, also many thanks to the seniors in charge, they do a wonderful job.

F.W. Willis, Ex W.O.1

Ratby and District Royal British Legion

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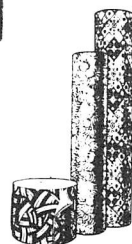
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Sgt. Hannon informed the Council that he would look into parking problems at the Junction of Station Road and Desford Lane. Parking is available at certain times in the Sports Club car park.

Residents have complained about firework nuisance. Police said this was a nation-wide problem.

The councillors felt that the problem was exacerbated by some shops selling off fireworks at half price.

#### Play Areas

Perimeter fencing at Ferndale Drive has again been damaged. This is a monthly problem. Could parents encourage youngsters to use the gateway access to this site and refrain from breaking down wooden fencing.

Do any residents have left-over pots of emulsion paint which they could donate to the council for covering graffiti on play equipment? Please phone 394873 if you can help.

At last the long-awaited metal seats have been erected at Ferndale Drive play area. The Council is grateful to Mr and Mrs Moss for their electricity supply which made fitting of these seats possible.

#### Maintenance Person

Ratby Parish Council are still seeking to appoint a maintenance person whose duties will include minor repairs and maintenance of play equipment, and some gardening and landscaping.

If you like the outdoors and want to contribute to village life please contact the Parish Clerk on 394803 for more details.

#### Street Lighting

If you know of any street lamps not working properly, please phone the clerk on the above number. Don't wait for the next Council Meeting.

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### DECEMBER IN THE GARDEN

December is a quiet month in the garden. The weather is often variable. Fine, mild spells are common but so are bright, frosty days. Tradition has it that mild weather in December is a bad omen for the rest of the Winter.

One important job if there is snow is to see that it is shaken off the branches of evergreens before it has a chance to do any damage. Narrow conifers are particularly liable to be pulled out of shape by snow.

Another problem is caused by frost, newly planted items are lifted out of the ground by alternate freezing and thawing and unless they are firmed in again will dry out and die.

Holly bushes come into their own at Christmas and there are many varieties. Probably the oldest is a prickly little one called the hedgehog holly, the leaves are most attractive, small and with an extra row of prickles but it has no berries. Wild holly bushes have male flowers on one plant and female on another, only the females have berries. The hedgehog holly has a silver edge form which is even prettier,

it is often sold as *Ilex aquifolium ferox argentea*.

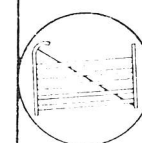
Golden King is a much larger gold variegolia holly that has berries, strangely enough Golden Queen does not. A lovely dark green one that has few prickles and berries as well is J.C. van Thol.

Many people have flowering pot plants over the Christmas period and the hardier kinds such as Cyclamen and Poinsettia benefit from being given a recovery period in a cooler room such as a bedroom after a few days in a hot, dry living room.

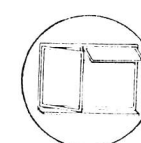
Outside work is very dependent on the weather, never work on really wet soil. If possible finish any digging, leaving the soil rough for frost to break it up.

Another December job is the Winter pruning of fruit, especially apples, pears, redcurrants and gooseberries. Pruning is a complicated subject but it helps to remember that the harder you prune in Winter the more growth will be made next Summer. To restrict growth you need to prune in late August to early September.

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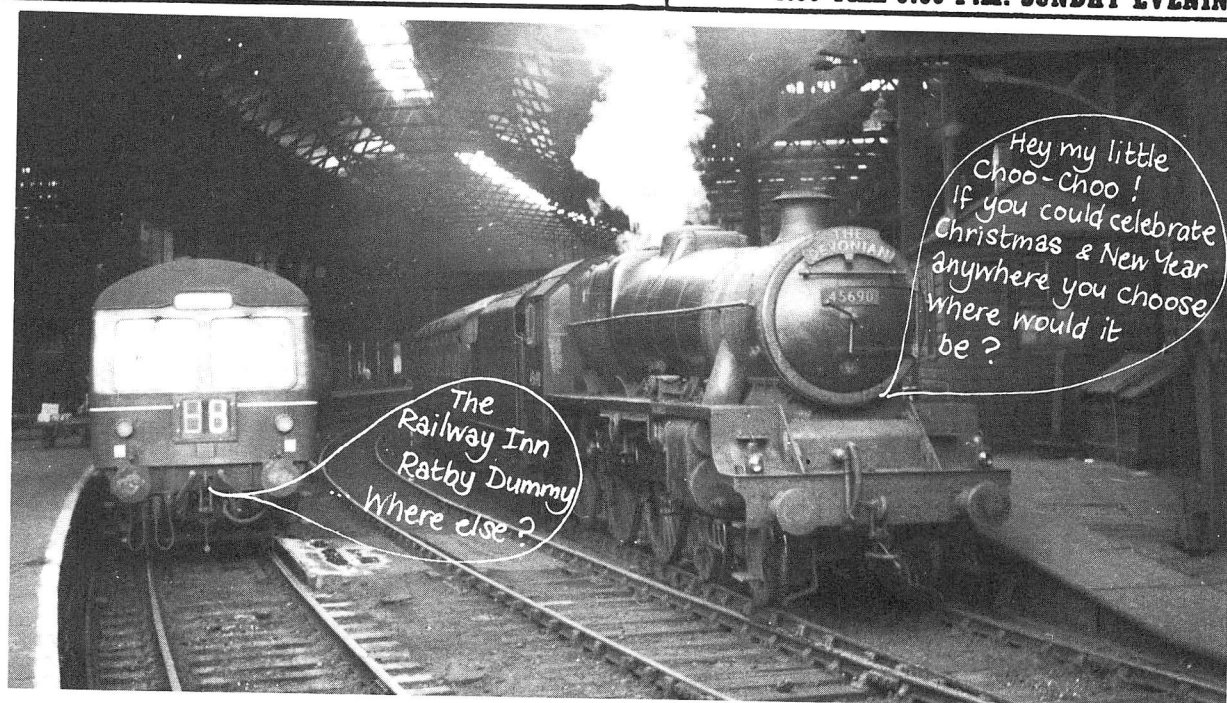


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### FATHER CHRISTMAS'S LAMENT

He sat in his workshop surrounded by holly  
His face wore a frown which was usually jolly,  
His beard it looked matted - his suit was all black  
And sprinklings of soot were all over his sack.  
"Oh I do wish these children would just spare a thought  
For me and my clothes and the toys I have brought,  
If they'd get the Sweep their chimneys to clean -  
Just look at me - I'm not fit to be seen!  
It's the same every year, I don't like to complain,  
But about my appearance I've become rather vain.  
Still who knows next year there may be a change  
For I believe central heating's becoming the rage.  
With no chimneys to climb my job will be simple."  
He started to grin - producing a dimple  
And went into the parlour and fetched out his pinner  
Then sat down at last to his Christmas dinner.

Jenny Mott

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Merry Christmas  
Happy New Year

# A Very Merry Christmas!!

### SANTA IS COMING TO RATBY

Members of the Leicester City Fire Brigade Museum Society, and firemen from Wigston Fire Station will be in Ratby on December 14th with Santa Claus to collect your unwanted toys and donations for less fortunate children in Leicester and the county. The last collection in December 1987 realised £42.10p and a good quantity of toys. The Leicester City Fire Brigade Museum Society is a registered Charity and was formed in 1968. We attend various charity functions during the year, we are a non-profit making charity and money we receive from events is used for expenses to keep our vintage fire engines in perfect working order. Perhaps we can help you at your next event!

The route for the collection on the evening is as follows:-

Start at the Christmas Tree at 19-00 hours (7 p.m.) along Main Street, Park Road, Dane Hill, Markfield Road, Charnwood, Whittington Drive, Stamford Street, and back to the Christmas Tree at approximately 20-00 hrs (8 p.m.).

May I take this opportunity of thanking you for your past donations and toys.

Ivan Crockett  
(Secretary)

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### A KISSING BALL

Traditional and Victorian Christmas decorations are fashionable this year.

So why not make a Kissing Ball for your home? It need not cost too much.

Take two wire coat-hangers and pull them out until they are both roughly circular. (It doesn't have to be exact!)

One hook can be snipped off with wire cutters.

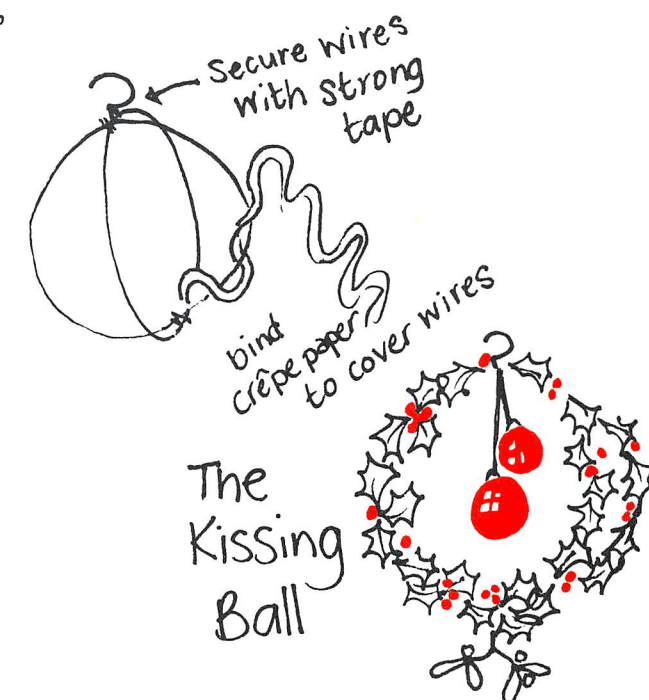
Fasten the hoops' together, using strong tape, such as electrical tape, to form a ball. Cut strips of dark green crepe paper, and wind them carefully around the wire, securing the ends with sellotape until all wire is covered.

Decorate with evergreens - holly and Ivy, or snippings from overgrown conifers. Tie the branches onto the wire with strong cotton - a prickly job!!

Hang 2 or 3 shiny baubles (red or silver?) from green ribbon in the centre, with a bunch of mistletoe. Or if you have high ceilings you can hang the mistletoe underneath.

Hang your Kissing Ball from a ceiling hook!!

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### RATBY PARISH CHURCH - CHRISTMAS SERVICES

#### Sunday, 18th December

10.40 a.m. Eucharist with a Children's Nativity Play.

6.00 p.m. Carol Service

#### Christmas Day

Beginning at 11.45 p.m. on December 24th. The Midnight Eucharist/Communion.

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (Said)

10.40 a.m. The Christingle Service. (A service of Thanksgiving on Jesus' Birthday in which everyone young and old can take part. Children who come are given Christingles).

6.00 p.m. Evening Prayer. (No Sermon).

The Rector and Church Council wish all readers a Happy Christmas and New Year.

Peter R. Blackman

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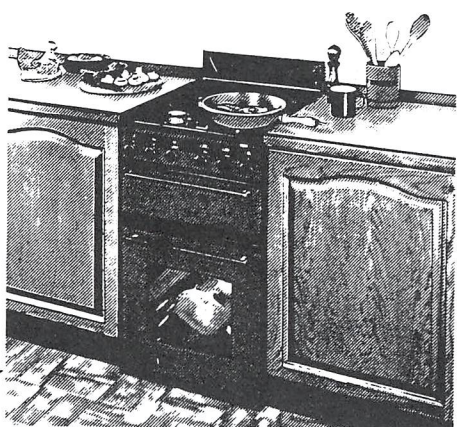
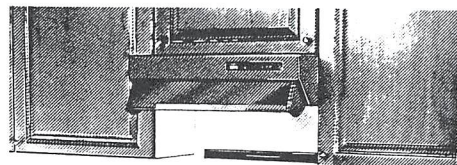


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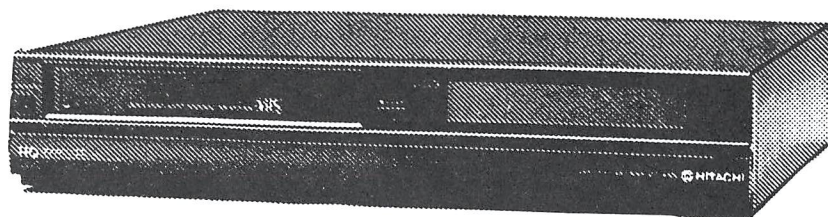
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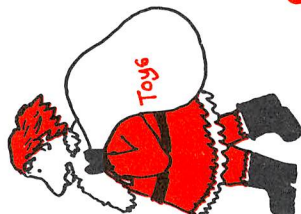
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# Wot!

# About Ratby



ISSUE NO. 13

Published by Ratby Scout Group

DECEMBER 1988



MERRY  
CHRISTMAS



by Kelly Snowball age 6

# Happy New Year and a





DECEMBER 1988

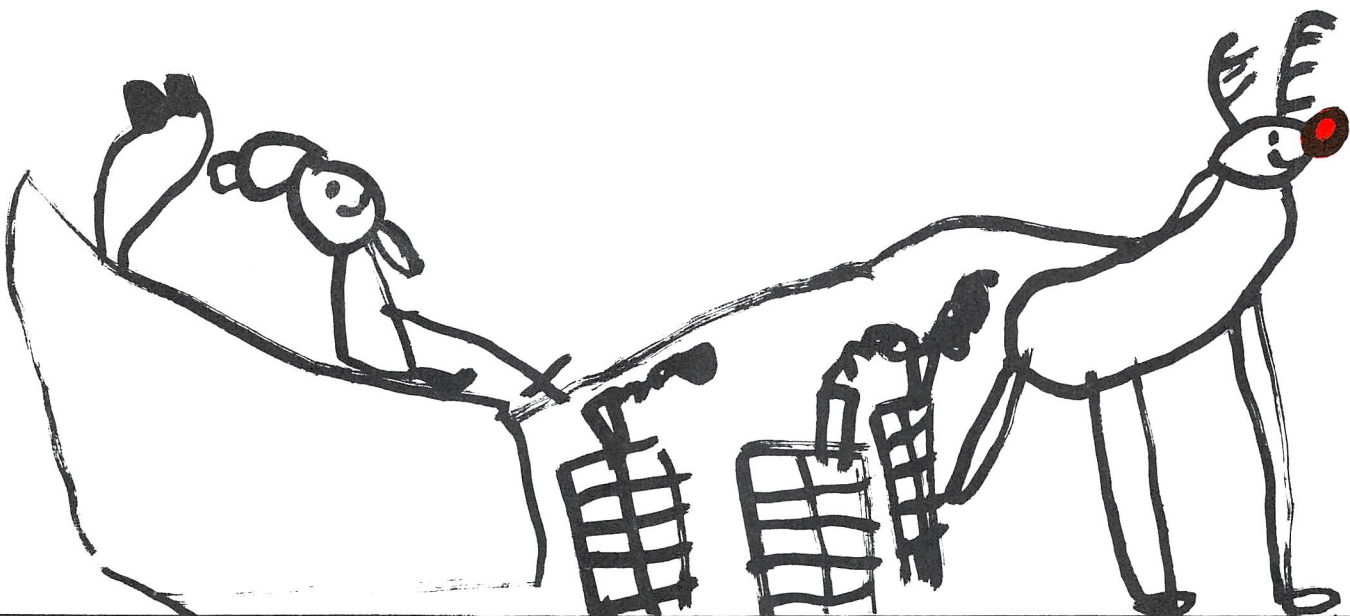
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Merry  
Christmas



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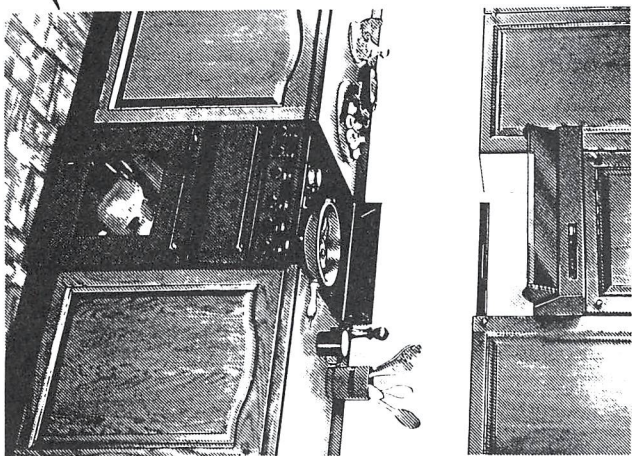
# and a Happy New Year

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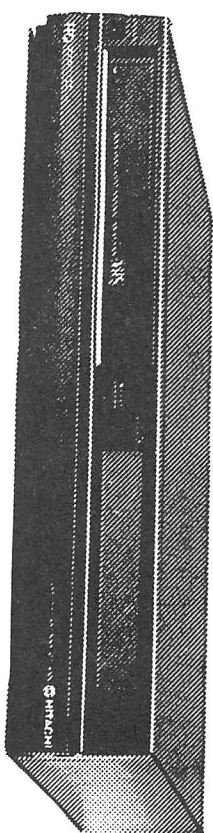
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