



Cover design by David Chevin (aged 6)

A HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR READERS

About Ratby

DECEMBER 1989 Published by Ratby Scout Group ISSUE 19

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RATBY PLAYGROUP



Bonfire night with all its dangers for small children gave us an idea for Playgroup. To drum home the danger of burns to the children we organised a trip to the Fire Station at New Parks.

The reception we got from the firemen was very good, although we took them by surprise, as they thought that when we said to expect a large group of children, it would mean approximately 20, NOT 58. However a great time was had by all.

The children had a ride round the block in a fire engine, wore firemen's hats, had a go on the pole and were even allowed to squirt water out of the hoses (not a lot due to the water shortage), but the firemen weren't daft, what water was squirted went over their cars in their car park to wash them down!!

All the children had a lovely memorable morning, and some are still pretending to be firemen at Playgroup now.

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Ratby Primary School Association Christmas Curtain Raiser

What better way to get into the festive mood than by coming along to this event!

There will be games and activities all with a Christmas theme, and stalls selling competitively-priced crafts, books and toys. You don't have to leave Ratby to go present hunting! Forget about the city centre crowds! Instead, enjoy a relaxing afternoon or evening in Ratby School Hall, admiring the decorations and children's art work. Sit back with a hot mince pie and a coffee and enjoy the entertainment. During the afternoon session (2.30 - 4.30) the school choir will be singing, and in the evening (6.30 - 8.00 pm) you will be able to hear the school band perform!

Write this date in your diary straight away - Friday December 8th and don't miss it!

Timecraft

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WELL DONE - RATBY FOLK

For services rendered to the community
Thanks a million and a Happy New Year.
For:-

Service to the Young

To Governors Teachers & Parents Association
Leaders & Helpers of our seven levels of
Scouts and Guides.
Play Groups & Non-uniformed clubs & Teams.
Parents who encourage membership.
Referees who turn out to see fair play.

Precious Stones

To the friendly who say "Hello" in the
street
All who keep their patch attractive,
The many kids who don't break or vandalise.

Community Spirit

To all who serve the village organisations
of British Legion, the Churches, drop ins,
Pedlars, Sports Club, Village Society,
Welfare Hall, Womens Institute, Working
Mens Club.

Mine Hosts, Shopkeepers, Roundsmen

To all who keep a varied and friendly
service in Pub, Shop or on the doorstep.

Industrialists

To the heads of village industries which
provide employment.

Political and Pastoral

To County, Borough and Parish Councillors
Political Agents of all shades
Ministers of the cloth
The Village Bobby
Carers for the sick and elderly.
All who work, collect or give to charity.
Lollipop and Litter ladies.
Doctor and librarians.
All good neighbours.

Village Idiots

To the few vandals and spoilers who are
a bit short on goodwill.

Communications

To the producers of WOT for their time,
patience and expertise.
Subscribers all, Press Agents & Paper Kids.

The Veterans

To all who have served the community so
well in the past, who now sit back & watch.

And may 1990 bring you all success in
proportion to your effort.

Anon.



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Prawn Cocktail Selected prawns, topped with Marie Rose and served with brown bread and butter	£1.75
Stuffed Mushrooms Fresh button mushrooms prepared to our Chef's high quality cuisine.	£1.40

HOT PLATTERS

Prime Gammon Steak Thick and juicy and served with a hot pineapple slice or egg	£3.25
Golden Scampi Selected scampi, breadcrumbed and deep fried and golden brown. Served with a lemon wedge and tartare sauce	£2.95
Sirloin Steak An 8oz prime steak grilled to your liking and garnished. Served with button mushrooms, grilled tomato, and onion rings	£5.40
Roast Chicken A half of crisp and tender roast chicken served with a traditional stuffing and savoury gravy	£3.50
The Plough's Mixed Grill An array of different meats to satisfy even the heartiest of eaters, served with button mushrooms, and onion rings	£4.95

Deep Fried Plaice Fillet of plaice breadcrumbed and deep fried until golden brown. Served with a lemon wedge and tartare sauce.	£2.95
Rump Steak An 8oz prime steak grilled to your liking and garnished. Served with button mushrooms, grilled tomato and onion rings.	£4.95

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To FOLLOW

Home Made Fruit Pie A delicious pie in feather light pastry topped with cream	75p
Peach Glory A sundae of peach halves, ice cream finished with whipped cream and wafer	95p
Banana Split Ripe Banana with a portion of mixed fruit, ice cream finished with whipped cream and wafer	£1.10
Gateaux The chef's choice of gateaux to compliment your meal	£1.10
Cheesecake A superb choice of cheesecake finished with whipped cream	95p
Caramel A light and fluffy caramel topped with whipped cream	75p
Ice Cream A double filling of Vanilla and Strawberry ice cream topped with whipped cream & wafer	75p

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CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Chefs' Homemade Vegetable Soup with Croutons

Local Roast Turkey

served with Savoury Stuffing & Chipolatas and Bacon Roll, Brussel Sprouts, Glazed Carrots, Roast Potatoes & Croquette Potatoes

Christmas Pudding with Rum Sauce

Coffee and Mince Pie

IS IT GOODBYE TO OLD FRIENDS ?

The past quarter of a century has seen what the human population of England have believed was progress. Many have accepted extensive building on green field sites without question, the loss of vast quantities of trees and the removal of 190,000 miles of hedgerows. But at last it is obvious that people are beginning to think about the damage caused to our environment, and are fast realising that in another quarter of a century if we continue in this way, we may all be living a desert existence.

There are many more creatures who have a right to live on this earth than just we humans, but who has given a thought to them.

One of the most delightful of these is the Barn Owl. Its dark piercing eyes with an inquisitive look and the strange way it can almost turn its head full circle, the distinctive marking of its face and beautiful golden colouring with darker speckles. When hunting for food it swoops low to the ground leaving its perch after spotting small rodents.

The Barn Owl is threatened due mainly to the loss of its natural roosting-barns and old buildings. These have mostly been demolished to give way to residential and other development. Nature can also be unkind as the small rodents, the main source of food for the Barn Owl, can be lost in vast numbers when we have very severe winters. But by far the most significant factor is the loss of many miles of hedgerows which gave shelter and nesting areas for small mammals. The intensive methods of farming has attacked the harvest mouse, occupied nests destroyed at a most vulnerable time, due to the earlier harvesting now practised and the heavier modern machinery used.

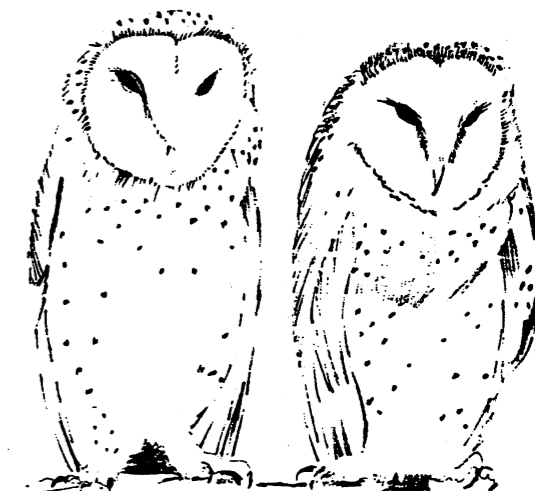
A survey has been carried out by the Hawk Trust and the horrifying figures produced reveals that since 1932 owl numbers have dropped from 12,000 to 3,700. The R.S.P.B. say that Barn Owls in Leicestershire have dropped in number by 89% in 30 years and the county is rated the third worst in England for the owls decline. When we think that Leicestershire is the second lowest county

Because of the way the Barn Owl hunts, close to the ground and the fact that in many parts of the land the only hedges available are on the road side, the owl is in constant danger from fast moving traffic. Many are lost this way. We all notice when a hedgehog lies dead on the road side yet one more victim of motor vehicles, but would anyone believe that an estimated 5,000 Barn Owls are lost in the same way each year.

Past farming practices ensured that copses of trees and strips of land were left providing roosting sites and hunting grounds for owls. We obviously cannot encourage the owl to change its method of hunting as easily as the fox has changed its method of scavenging for food. But perhaps we can persuade farmers to leave barns for nesting and replace grassland, hedgerows and trees away from the highway to give the owl a sporting chance.

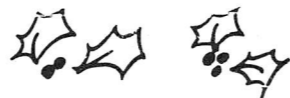
It is a sobering thought that due to our greed, probably in the next decade the only time we will see a Barn Owl will be in a natural science museum or in a wild bird sanctuary, but never in its natural surroundings. We might never hear its call again in the open countryside or in our village as we once did. It may already be too late, but it remains our responsibility to try and recover the situation.

OMS.



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Parish Precept

This is the amount of money required by the Parish Council for its own spending in your Parish. It has formed part of the rates and from April 1990 will be part of the new Community Charge. At the Parish Council meeting on November 7th, it was resolved to hold the Parish Precept at the same level of £9450 for 1990/91, as it has been for this year. This money will be spent to the best advantage of Ratby.



Christmas in Ratby

- (1) Shop Windows The Parish Council have again decided to hold a "competition for the most attractive and imaginative shop window display." Judging will take place between Friday 15th and 22nd December.
- (2) Hanging Baskets Now that the summer display is over, may we suggest brightening up dull winter months with displays of ivy, and winter-flowering heathers or pansies in hanging baskets?
- (3) Carol Service Ratby Junior Band will be providing the music for the annual Carol Service around the Christmas Tree. The service will begin at 7.30 pm, on December 20th. Everyone is welcome to join in.

Play Areas and Village Improvements

The Parish Council has ordered new impact-absorbing toddler swings for Ferndale Drive Play Area, and has requested a range of repairs to be made to equipment here and at the Burroughs recreation ground.

Plans drawn up by the City Wildlife Project and the National Playing Fields Association will be further considered at the next meeting on December 5th. Recommendations being discussed will ensure great improvements to landscape and amenities for the benefit of all ages. The projects will be pursued over the next two/three years.

DEADLINE FOR LETTERS, ARTICLES AND ADVERTS FOR

The February issue of WOT is Thursday January 18th

ADVERTS PHONE 395179
ARTICLES PHONE 393279
EDITOR PHONE 393367

LETTERS CAN BE LEFT IN THE LIBRARY

HOTLINE!! Phone us on 394873 or 395179 with interesting news

Fireworks and Hallowe'en

Many complaints have been received concerning firework misuse.

Traffic and Parking

As usual many complaints have been received on these issues and some have been taken up by the Police.

County Councillor Mrs Pat Butler has requested a traffic survey in the village and has agreed to chase up the matter of the school crossing improvements as a matter of urgency.

Bulk Waste

Following enquiries from residents, Councillor Mr. J. Smalley has taken up the matter of bulk-waste collection from private residences with the Borough Council. There are no plans to re-instate this service.

Dates and Times of Parish Council Meetings:-

Tuesday December 5th

Tuesday January 2nd

Tuesday February 6th

at 7.15 pm in the Welfare Hall

The Parish Council wishes everyone a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Your Parish Council urges you all to ensure the welfare of your family and the safety of your home, cars and possessions over the festive season.

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Alistair
Ian and
Laura
handing
over the
cash to
Mrs Durden

SUMMER FUNDRAISING FOR R.S.P.C.A

Our annual fundraising for the R.S.P.C.A. took place on Tuesday 15th August 1989 at 13, Nicholas Drive with the organisers - Laura Murch, Ian Mellor and Alistair MacBean arranging teas on the lawn, games, raffles and stalls preceded by a saturation of the local area with posters to advertise their efforts. Thanks to all our supporters

the grand sum of £30 was raised and taken immediately to the R.S.P.C.A. at Scudamore Road - its a wonder we didn't come home with a car full of pets after a walk around the centre!

Well done! Laura, Ian and Alistair.

crackers and cooks

Do you need some new ideas to brighten up Christmas? Why not relax in Ratby library and browse through some books for inspiration. There are books about flower arranging, with all sorts of ideas for festooning with festive flowers! "The Flower Workshop" by Vera Jeffery has some Christmassy ideas, and instructions for making paper poinsettias and Christmas roses. Need some party ideas? You'll find several books with games and decorations. How about "Parties for Older Children" by Angela Hollest, which has clever ideas for 'theme' parties? Could be useful for New Years Eve.

There is an interesting book to help you transform your presents into something special "Gift wrapping - Creative ideas from Japan."

We hope you won't be needing "Families, and how to survive them" by John Cleese and Robyn Skinner. It does contain a useful section about the festive season, go and have a look?

with hints about how to avoid the all too common seasonal divorce!

If it's escape from pre-Christmas tension you really need, then borrow some novels from the fiction section, and lose yourself in fantasy. Or take home some travel books and dream about next summer.

When the holiday is over, take back your Christmassy books, and change them for some recipe books! Explore cookery from other lands, or for variety, sample the secrets of the rich and famous, in "Star Turns in the Kitchen", (published in aid of N.S.P.C.C.). You could try Margaret Thatcher's "Pears in Red Wine" (did she really mean 'red'?) or Lenny Henry's Killer Chilli". How about Edwina Currie's 'Carrot Cake' you only need 2 eggs for this recipe!

Whatever your interest, there'll be a book for you in the library - so why not



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Times Past Trains Past

In Ratby where I came to live
A year or so ago
I up and said I ought to give
The local pub a go.

The Bull, the Plough, The Railway Inn,
Ah, there's a choice of three.
Now which, oh which, shall I go in
To see if it suits me?

First the Bull - no, it's Bull's Head-
Stands on the Main Street, proud
And white as th' pillow on my bed,
But tends to overcrowd.

It took some time to track the Plough
(Out making ridge and furrows?)
But I know where to find it now,
A-lurking in the Burroughs.

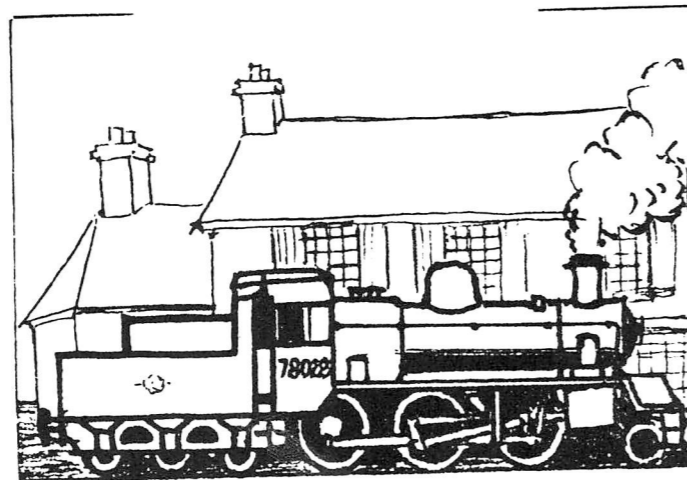
Then strolling down the Station Road
The Railway came in sight,
Through friendly portal in I strode.
Oh yes, this must be right.

I'm not a drinking chap, as such,
A point I ought to stress,
I really don't imbibe that much.
So sorry, I digress.

The pictures, hung about the walls,
Of trains were most emotive.
For me the sight which never palls -
A steam-clad locomotive.

And as I sat to meditate
On trains in days of yore
'Tis difficult to contemplate
They once ran past the door.

It was in 1832
The L & S began
To carry coal, and people too.
Unto West Bridge it ran.



The line was built by Stephenson,
Likewise the engine COMET.
Here, once, the track it ran upon
Whilst fire and smoke did vomit.

But times move on - for none they wait -
The last train is long since gone
Drawn by Seven-Eight-O-Two-Eight.
The mem'ries linger on.

And now 'tis said maybe one day,
If sense and will prevail,
We'll walk a footpath "Stephenson's Way",
Or even "Comet Trail".

Horace A. Gamble.
RATBY Nov 1989.



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Exotic Turkey

This turkey or any other poultry is colour-
fully festive, aromatic, tasty and very
healthy.

Recipe from Farida Mukkadum, who is gaining
fame for her 'Middle Eastern' Cookery
course, running on Monday evenings at
Grobby College. Farida was brought up
in Tanzania, and her multi-racial background
in that country is reflected in her wide-
range of cookery. In her course, Farida
says she is trying to recapture the art
of cooking with spices, (something that
was once traditional in this country).
Her dishes are inspired by recipes handed
down from Arabia, Persia, Afghanistan
and India.

Ingredients

1 small turkey (skinned so as to reduce
fat content)

Marinade:

1/4 pint of natural yoghurt

3 cloves of garlic

1/2 inch fresh root ginger (available in
most supermarkets now a days)

juice of one lime or lemon

pinch of saffron

1 teaspoon of turmeric

1 teaspoon of ground fennel

1 teaspoon of mixed spice (garam masala)

salt to taste

1 green chilli (optional)

Method

Place all the ingredients for the marinade
in the food processor and blend until
you have a smooth paste.

Pour the marinade over the turkey making
sure you coated it all over.

Leave the turkey to marinade for approxi-
mately four hours or overnight in a cool
place. Preheat the oven to its maximum
temperature.

Place the turkey in the oven.

Keep turning the Turkey occasionally until
it turns golden brown. The cooking time
will be reduced considerably because the
turkey has been marinated. Serve it with
a tangy tamarind sauce and a festive salad.

Tamarind Sauce Ingredients:

1/250g Tamarind Pods

1/2 litre Water

1 tablespoon salt

113g Brown Sugar or Molasses

1 teaspoon Cayenne Pepper

Method:

Soak the tamarind pods in the water for
a few hours till they become soft. Add
the rest of the ingredients to it. Bring
to boil slowly stirring occasionally until
the sugar has dissolved then simmer gently
for 10 minutes. Rub the pods through a
fine sieve with a wooden spoon until all
the pulp has been sieved through. Garnish
the sauce with chopped coriander leaves.

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up the garden path.

As November trundles into December, there are some surprising sights to be seen in the garden. Rose bushes still blooming and bedding plants that look almost as good as they did back in August. A few trees and shrubs are reluctant to let go of their leaves and geraniums that have been left in continue to flower.

Plants like humans don't quite know what to make of our confused seasons. Its a pity for many of us, that the only time we see these sights is at the weekend. Winter's gloom is here!

For those brave enough to venture onto their garden nows the time to do the annual clearing up. Bedding plants cut down by frost to be removed. Shrubs that have grown too big for their chosen spot to be pruned. Soil to be turned, leaves to be cleared. Doesn't sound too cheerful, but on a crisp sunny morning all this makes for a healthy and satisfying job.

If you've invested in some winter pansies they'll be good colourful blooms during mild spells of weather, to cheer you up. (And make their high cost seem worthwhile).

Indoor plants can really brighten up a house and also solve some of the 'what to buy them for Xmas problems'. Xmas cactus continues to be a widely available and reasonably priced buy. Poinsettia with its colourful leaves (bracts) looks good, although it will probably cost a bit more.

A good investment is one of either the large or small flowered cyclamen. They can be temperamental, but if you follow a few basic rules they can be kept for many years. Don't water from the top stand them in a dish of the stuff - give them just enough to make them moist, not waterlogged. Don't put them in a warm dry room, they like a cool (not cold), moist position with a fair amount of light. Do give them a little liquid feed when in flower. After they have finished flowering (this should last a good few months), stop watering them and put them in a frost free garage to rest. There they can stay until new buds appear around August time. Then they will appreciate an increasing amount of water and light and perhaps repotting.

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Property Marking

We can advise you on how to mark your property to ensure you stand a chance of getting it back.

Personal Safety

Do you realise that by taking some simple steps you could greatly improve your own personal safety and confidence? (Young or elderly).

Neighbourhood Watch

Have you considered starting one? If you are interested contact us.

Business

Free advice is available on all aspects of your Business security.

Talks

We also give talks to local groups on Crime Prevention.

For advice on all these matters or any other aspect of Crime Prevention contact us at Beaumont Police Station on LEICESTER 530066 extension 3272.

FRIENDLY CHAMPS

The Players of the Railway Inn Darts Team were recently invited to a trophy presentation as Winners of Everards Men's Summer Darts League, Division 'B'.



Said team captain, Ken Gamble "Its very nice for us to collect a trophy, but more-over its a pleasure to team up with probably the friendliest bunch of dart players you could wish to meet."

Pictured with Ken are players Roger Morris, Kev Orton and John (Zeb) Geary.

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WE WISH EVERYONE IN RATBY
A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS
and a warm and cosy New Year !!

RATBY JUNIOR CO-OPERATIVE BAND

The Ratby Junior Co-operative Band enjoyed a most successful weekend workshop at Quorn Hall in October and made the most of the opportunity to polish their performance of **CERAMIC CITY FESTIVAL** which was to be their contest piece at the Welland Park Contest at Market Harborough. The extra work obviously paid off, as the Junior Band were competing against senior bands, and certainly played well.

Since then the young people have entertained patients at Gorse Hill Hospital and are all geared up to playing Christmas Carols at:-

9th Dec Glenfield Co-op 2 - 4.00pm
10th Dec Christmas Concert Groby College 3.00pm & 7.30pm
16th Dec Lawnwood shops, Groby 3.00pm
17th Dec St. Stephens Church Leicester 6.30
19th Dec Groby Christmas tree 7.15pm
20th Dec Ratby Christmas tree 7.30pm
21st Dec Blue Lion Pub, Witherley 6.30pm
23rd Dec Glenfield Co-op

Please feel free to join us on any of these occasions! What a busy time ahead of us all! The culmination of our year being the Christmas Concert at Groby Community College on Sunday 10th Dec. There are two performances, one matinee and one evening (see above), and tickets are £2.00 and £1.75. This year is going to be better than ever, with lots of fun, good music and of course the **200 CLUB** draw. Could you be the lucky winner of the **£500 prize**? For concert tickets ring **393279**.

We have reached the end of an era in more ways than one this Christmas. Geoff Wood who has been Musical Director of the Junior band for the past year is leaving us and we wish him well for the future and thank him for his hard work with the young people; they will miss him. A new Musical Director is to be appointed, by which time we shall have moved into the Band's own premises on Station Road and a Happy and Prosperous New Year should be ensured for the **RATBY CO-OPERATIVE BAND**. So we wish one and all the same sentiments!

RATBY METHODIST CHURCH CHRISTMAS SERVICES

"Behold, I make all things new"
Special Services for Advent on Sundays
3rd, 10th and 17th December at 10.0 am.

Christmas Carol Service:
17th December at 4.0 pm.
Children's Carol Service (adults welcome):
24th December at 10.0 am.
Christmas Day:
"O come, let us adore Him"
Family Service at 9.30 am.
(Children bring their new toys)
A warm welcome to all of these services!

BEAVERS

We are pleased to welcome six new Beavers to the colony, our waiting list has reduced slightly, enabling us to take the boys as they become six years old, but it is still advisable to put their names down early.

The Beavers seemed to enjoy our Halloween meeting, when they had to bite the doughnut hanging from the string, they ended up rather sticky but that only added to the fun.

We tried a music evening!! I'm not sure what type of music we made (if any) but the Ratby band have no need to worry about Beaver competition!

We attended the 3rd Leicester West Beaver Christingle on the 24th November in aid of the "Childrens Society". The Beavers enjoyed the Service especially the part when we made a large circle and lit the Christingles, it was then that they started to nibble at the sweets.

We wish you all a merry and restful (!) Christmas.

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RATBY PARISH CHURCH

CHRISTMAS 1989

On Sunday, December 17th
At 10.40am The Sunday School will present a Nativity Play at the end of shortened Eucharist.
The children will have their party during the afternoon;
At 6.00pm The CAROL SERVICE will be held in Church. There will be an augmented choir. Mrs Prudence Goldsmith will be at the organ

On Sunday, December 24th
The Services will be as usual at 8am, 10.40am and 6pm.
The Christmas Midnight Eucharist begins at 11.45pm.

On Monday, December 25th
At 8.00am Holy Communion
At 10.40am The "Christingle" Service.
This is a special service to provide for children the opportunity to give thanks and worship for the birth of Jesus in an interesting and memorable way on this great festival day.

Ratby W.M.C.

Ratby WMC held their annual senior citizens party on the 16th November. After the President, Mr. Harry Smith had toasted everyone's good health, the 166 guests sat in the comfort of the club's recent refurbishments, to a delicious three course meal. Later they danced the evening away to a three piece band.



COME AND MEET
FATHER CHRISTMAS
at **BABYFITS** 32 MAIN STREET, RATBY

IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR CHILD/CHILDREN TO MEET FATHER CHRISTMAS, AND FIND THAT HE HAS A SURPRISE GIFT FOR THEM, THEN COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING:-

Take this form and £1.99 to Babyfits before Monday 11th December, and there will be a surprise waiting for your child on the 16th!!

I would like to meet Father Christmas

My name is

I live at

My age is

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Christmas


CROSSWORD CLUES

ACROSS

- Edmonds at Christmas
- A travelling person
- Rhymes with paw
- Definitely merrily on a high place
- Mince pies taste better this way
- A way of controlling your liquid intake
- Goes with mellow fruitfulness
- Wife in capital slang!
- When frying chips
- A good place to get your presents
- Vicars know all about these

DOWN


- You could wink or _____
- When it comes to records you can't beat the _____
- A Xmas tree needs some of these
- Not all gold!
- Save your lemons, sailor
- If your young and rich you can be one
- Information Technology
- Goes with drink
- Hesitation
- American father
- Butterflies can find themselves in this



Crossword

1	2		3		4		5		6
7									
8									
			9				10		
			12			13	14	15	
16		17			18				
19									

It's Christmas! A five pound note will be given to the first correct entry taken "out of the bag" at the Scouts Exec. meeting on Monday the 11th Dec. Entries will be received up 'til 7pm at the Library.
HAVE YOU BEEN THERE LATELY?



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Opening Times
Mon. - 6 - 11.30
Thurs. - 6 - 11.45
Friday - 11.30 - 1.30 a.m.
5.00 - 12 p.m.
Sat. - 12 - 1.30 a.m.
6 - 12 p.m.

Ratby Village Society

Roughly two years ago Ratby Village Society requested Leicestershire County Council (L.C.C.) to consider the purchase of the old Swannington/Leicester railway track from Station Road, Ratby, to Glenfield, with the prospect of creating a nature walk sometime in the future.

The Society felt that the village had lost much in the past to development especially countryside walks, most footpaths in the area of Church Farm are now just residential roads.

The idea of a nature walk was just one way of recouping a little of that loss.

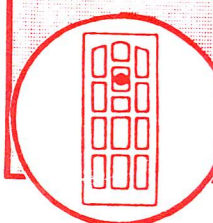
L.C.C. agreed that it was an excellent proposal falling into line with their countryside/rural policies. Unfortunately nothing could be undertaken due to "financial restrictions", as well as the owners reluctance to sell.

The developers of Church Farm Estate have had great difficulty obtaining a small section of the track to allow an extension to the estate road vital for the continuation of the residential development.

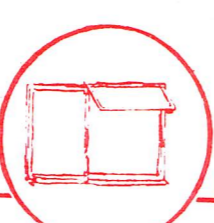
The newly formed Glenfield Environmental Action Group have similar aims but they wish the track to be defined a public footpath. This can pose legal problems as the land has no right of public access and there is a need for positive proof that the track has been continuously used as such for twenty years by walkers.

The Village Society has again this year contacted the L.C.C. asking if any progress has been made, but have received no response.

We shall pursue our aim with the support of Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council and the Parish Council.



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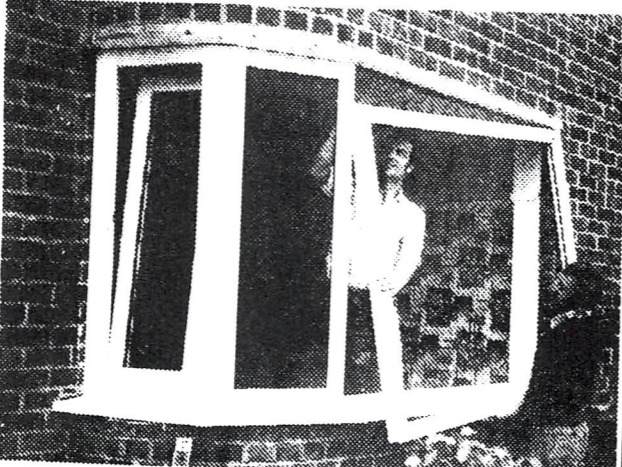
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LEST WE FORGET

Part one

On Saturday, November 13th 1920 at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, Ratby War Memorial was unveiled by Field Marshall Earl Haig G.C.B. OM GCVO, along with Sir Thos Cope (Chairman Leics C.C.) supported by Sir Samuel Faire, Bart and others.

Hymns were sung and with the November night fast approaching and being almost two years to the day of the cessation of hostilities the ceremony must have been particularly poignant, to relatives of the men whose names are inscribed on the memorial as given their all in the "Great War for Civilisation".

A tribute relating to those brave men will appear in subsequent issues.

Old Bill.



HE whom this scroll commemorates was numbered among those who, at the call of King and Country, left all that was dear to them, endured hardness, faced danger, and finally passed out of the sight of men by the path of duty and self-sacrifice, giving up their own lives that others might live in freedom. Let those who come after see to it that his name be not forgotten.

A reduced photocopy of a scroll which was given to the next of kin of all of those who lost their lives in The Great War.

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GROW PIE

CHILDRENS PAGE

ROBERT HARRIS
1ST RATBY CUBS.

Alexandra Evans. 7.

Merry Christmas!

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PLEASE REMEMBER
That all your pictures must be in black ink and don't colour them!

STEVEN T. AND RYAN Y.

SANTA'S SACK

DAVID BAILEY

SALLY SKINNER. 11.

Answer 15

THE MELLORS STRIKE BACK!

We (the Mellors!) dare the editorial staff to print the following article and put an end to the mean, stingy remarks made in the last edition of "WOT" concerning the proliferation of articles produced at the Mellor Manuscript Emporium!

What would you do without us - apart from saving paper!!!

A true tale of Strange Encounters of the Dromedary Kind!

During October we were fortunate enough to have the loan of a narrow boat - The Bodger- which enabled the Mellors to be afloat at half term. A journey to Coventry and back to the Oxford Canal was planned, with Mum and Sarah jumping ship Tuesday evening (work & homework called) leaving Dad and Ian spending the rest of the week navigating the canal system.

The weather was good for late Autumn as we journeyed down the Ashby Canal with a break for Sunday lunch at the "Limekilns" by Hinckley - can recommend the cuisine here! Up to this point all had gone well but as the Editor will testify nothing normal ever happens to us and this cruise

was to be no exception.

A home for gnomes soon appeared on the port bow - gnomes of all sizes from the micro-gnome to the super, economy mega-gnome with the odd concrete squirrel, tortoise and rabbit filling gaps on a steeply sloping garden bordering the canal. Suppose they keep the weeds down!

After the shock of the gnomes we enjoyed the peace and tranquility of the "cut" and soon the engine house chimney at Hawkesbury Junction came into sight, our destination for overnight mooring. Ian was at the helm when the Captain shouted "Camel on the starboard bow!" Now it's everyday the captain has a breakdown and hallucinations, so before reaching for a straight jacket the female members of the crew decided to take a look and it was true - a large, brown, rather grumpy looking camel stood in the middle of a field watching us motor along the canal! Did he have the hump! Ugh! We moored on the opposite bank to the camel - well, we didn't have enough berths for an extra passenger - and discovered the following morning that the circus was in town, which also explained the appearance of three ponies and a goat to keep the camel company.

We left our desert friend on Monday and journeyed onto the Coventry Canal which due to the dry summer was very shallow and we had to "rock" The Bodger through a bridge by "Cash" weavers factory (interesting building with workers homes occupying ground and first floors and the factory the third level!) After a day out in Coventry we returned to Hawkesbury and our humpy friend!

Our journey back to Sutton Cheney to land the females of the party necessitated a stop for fuel at a little backwater called Charity Dock - the "Marie Celeste" had nothing on this place with piles of old card, fuel tanks, a dry dock, old engines, several toilets (not connected) and three hulls moored for fitting. Despite the Mellors splitting into two search parties no human help was found but the female searchers did encounter a rather nasty dog reclining in a derelict car and Sarah bravely sheltered her Mum as both withdrew, walking slowly backwards towards the safety of The Bodger (Sarah is sure her Mum actually jumped behind her when the dog snarled, so much for Mother love!) As the dog didn't seem inclined to serve us with fuel we left and stopped at Stoke Golding for diesel. Two days later The Bodger once again stopped at Charity Dock when the proprietor was found with two dogs and open for business.

After Mum and Sarah left, Dad and Ian set off for the Oxford Canal and had to pass that camel again - this time it had been joined by a llama! Well it makes a change to the water voles, kingfishers and herons usually seen from a narrow boat.

Over the next few days the weather changed during the evenings with squalls and rain but daytime cruising was dry and it was during this time that the trousers went missing! Boating can be messy and the aforementioned cords had been washed and hung over the seating in the bow to dry but Ian could not find them in the evening - this caused great amusement as they were his Dad's cords! Will anyone cruising along the Oxford Canal please keep a weather eye open for a pair of dingy blue cords?

Navigating Newbold tunnel and several deep locks whilst watching the clock as the locks were being "locked" from 3.30pm until 11am the next day to conserve water tested both Captain and crew as did being "buzzed" by the R.A.F.! At Braunston, 6 Tornados, 2 Phantoms, 2 Harriers, 1 Hawk and 2 A10 tank busters closely followed by 2 Hercules transports who should have known better, flew over the boat low

enough to read all identification markings and ruin the peace of the waterways. What was Ian cooking that required investigation? Perhaps the word got round and it was a search party looking for the missing pants!

Captain and crew returned tired, grubby but very content at the end of the week.

All events in this article are true and only the names, including that of the camel, have been changed to protect the innocent.

Lynn Mellor

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THEME - COWBOYS AND INDIANS

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Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year!

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TWO SWEDE DUO

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DIAMOND

★ NEW YEARS EVE ★
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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS INVITED



The Editor Wot! magazine.

Sir,

Wot! about apostrophes?

I enjoy reading Wot! as it keeps me in touch with what is happening in Rathy. However I should like to point out that someone (the copy editor?) has a mania for putting apostrophes where they should not go, i.e. in the word 'its' used in the possessive sense rather than as an abbreviation for 'it is'. Two examples from the recent issue (no 18, October 1989) will suffice, both from the article on page 20: it's friendliness, it's inception. In both cases the form should be 'its'. Please make a not so old lady very happy by getting it right!

Yours faithfully,
Kathryn M Thompson

Ed. I don't know how to take this. So please choose which response suits your mood.

1 Kate Thanks for your probing letter. It's great to see that you read the mag so carefully. But it is a pity your typewriter doesn't have " marks.

2 Kathryn I don't know what a copy editor does perhaps we should try to find ourselves one.

Would you volunteer, please.

3 We do put a number of such mistakes in each issue and this is the first one to be written about. We really will have to try harder. But what do you feel about starting sentences with "and" and "but"--- nobody commented upon these.

Dear Editor,

I have just finished reading an excellent school report of my daughter. Apart from the name I failed to recognise her as my own.

The child I know is a child who, given two simple commands, fails to carry out one or both.

A child who has yet to grasp the fundamental principal of time and can only tell light from darkness and whats on tele.

A child whose bedroom is used for a refuse tip design.

I have read the report with more than a pang of envy having reflected upon my own school reports where the words, average, and below average, appeared with monotonous regularity.

Once again an excellent report.

Yours faithfully,

* To Michael (the flasher) *
* * * * *
* How I wish that you were here with me *
* to help me pull my crackers and to *
* take the goodies out of my Christmas *
* stocking. *
* * * * *
* Happy Xmas *
* Your Christmas Fairy. *

Sandilands
Lincolnshire

Dear Mr Sims,

Many thanks for sending my copies of "WOT".

I lived for sixty years in Rathy and now when we go back to visit I always feel I'm going home.

The sad part about it is I know so few of the young people who now contribute to the magazine but you are all doing a great job and long may you continue.

Many Thanks,
Mrs W. Poulter (NEE MOTT).

Ed. Many thanks Mrs Poulter for your kind donation. We will always consider publishing articles submitted, so perhaps you could help us find some from the people who (or should it be from whom -- we have to be so careful these days) you know in the village.

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2ND RATBY BROWNIES



The 2nd Ratby Brownies have had a busy time since our last report to 'Wot'.

The coffee morning reported in our last item in 'Wot' raised much needed funds for us and allowed us to sponsor an Athlete in the "Special Olympics". Owing to other commitments we could not attend the event. We did have a Guider from Groby, who came to one of our meetings to show the girls how handicapped people manage to overcome their disabilities and how awkward it is to play games if handicapped. We managed not to run each other over in the wheel-chair!! That was followed by an hilarious game with a parachute.

Some of the Brownies visited Alton Towers again, along with Brownies and Guides from our area and from further afield. We still needed cast iron 'tums' for some of the rides!

Our unit assistant, Jane Vann, retired this year. Brown Owl and Tawny would especially like to thank her for guiding (no pun intended!) us through our first few months as Guiders. Also a big thank you from your little Brownies.

We went on a litter pick with Mrs Kilminster, returning with a dust bin bag full of rubbish in half an hour. The Brownies have drawn some imaginative posters which Mrs Kilminster will judge. A very hard job. Thank you Mrs Kilminster for an interesting talk and an eye opening walk.

P.C. Alexander came and had a chat with us and on another day he took us around the Beaumont Leys Police station. The Brownies watched some interesting videos on 'Stranger Danger', the history of the Leicestershire Police (one Brownie on learning that the Police Force was about 150 years old said, quite solemnly, that that was the age of her Mum. The said mum is, and looks younger than me!).

We also watched a video on silly pranks and how they can misfire. We saw the control room, and made a fuss of an obliging police dog. No we did not get locked in the cells, they were full up. Our thanks to P.C. Alexander and his colleagues.

We enjoyed a fun packed, not too spooky, Halloween Party on the 31st October with apple "bobbin", lucky dip, jacket potatoes etc. We decided to hold a party as the Brownie Revels, held in September had a "Weird and Wonderful" theme, which not all our Brownies could attend, so we promised that they could dress up for Halloween instead.

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At the moment we are busy finishing off work for the Crime Prevention badge and Hostess, dancing and entertainment badges.

We attended the Remembrance Day Parade.

We are learning songs to sing at Centurion Court and one for the Carol Service at the Chapel on 3rd December. We are looking forward to these events and will also be attending the South Charnwood Guides and Brownies Carol Service at Bosworth College, Desford on Sunday 10th December.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to 'Wot' and it's readers.

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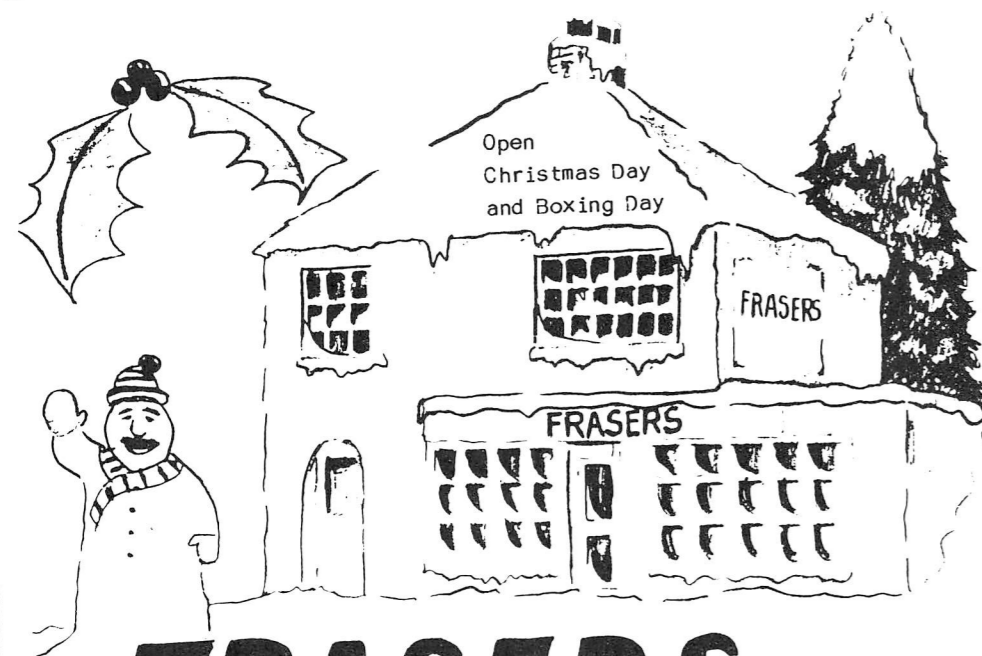
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