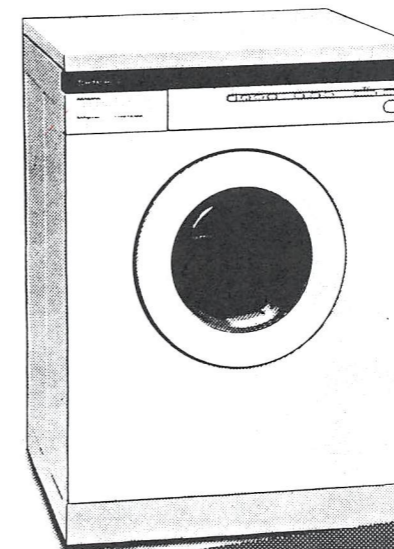


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## NOT THE 1st RATBY GANG SHOW

"Raise" a laugh well he, certainly is!

Little did I realise what joy and pleasure was in store for me as I bundled through the Chapel Rooms door on the evening of Thursday 15th November.

The room was packed, had I misread the little note which my son had brought home last week? What were all these people doing at a "Scout do"? I had expected to wander around the room to look at the work which the boys were doing and to be entertained for half an hour or so by "scouts" doing a few sketches.

But no!

There was stage, a compere, to "raise" expectations and some curtains! And what curtains there was even a "bunyip" to let the compere know when everything was ready behind the curtains. In one case the audience were most thankful that the "bunyip" appeared when it did. Mother-in-law jokes!

The full cast appeared initially -- a cast of some ninety I would think. There followed some super sketches, songs, dance, music and gags -- no one will forget the "Sixer's Inspection" "Crossed Wires" "Penguins" "Super Glue" "Dry Bones" "Antenatal Clinic" although I would have thought that it was the postnatal clinic -- who was that big baby in his nappy, bonnet and dummy? Don't worry T"£\$%^&c I won't tell anyone. And how did those sausages get inside that boys tummy. By the way I have checked that boot was actually an heart!

Lights, curtains and compere were always co-ordinated even at the interval when drinks were served free -- by the way where was the contribution box? Two hours of entertainment FREE!

The evening was rounded off with songs around the camp fire, (words of the songs spotlighted by a thoughtful torch carrying parent) and an introduction to all the,

backstagers ---"big boys!" A really thought invoking night.

Although we hadn't better say too much or else the whole cast will have to go on tour around the village.

Ray certainly is a laugh! Thanks very much Ray for all your hard work and efforts.



Photo by S. Grant

## THE RATBY CO-OPERATIVE BAND

wishes to announce  
that this year they will  
be playing Christmas Carols  
around the village on  
**SUNDAY 23RD DECEMBER**  
from 10.00am  
instead of Boxing Day.



This is at the request of many  
villagers who are normally away  
from Ratby over the Festive period.

A small group from the Band  
still be playing Carols around  
the village on  
Christmas Eve as usual.



## 1st Ratby Beavers

We started the new term with Leslie (Rabbit) being presented with her warrant, well done Leslie. Also with three "Kits" new Beavers, who soon got into the spirit of our Motto "Fun and Friends".

This term we hope to do some travelling, we have made passports, which include a photograph, personal details, dates and places visited.

Our first destination, Australia. The Beavers found pictures of maps, animals, stamps and places of interest, all of which we still have to put together for our brochure. We made a Boomerag, which sometimes didn't come back to us and had stories about the natives, well yes and "Neighbours".

Where we will travel to next? (Sorry if some of your sons thought we were really going to Australia, but Scout funds don't stretch that far yet, but who knows with all this fund raising!).

During the next month we have a busy beaver schedule. We are hoping to help with the Tree Planting in the Village, attend our 4th Christingle Service in aid of the Children's Society and our special Christmas treat, a ride on the Santa Express. These are all items outside our usual meeting nights, so we will still have time for lots of .....

## FUN AND FRIENDS

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SPECKLE 'HIGH FIBRE' BREAD COTTAGE LOAVES  
MALT CRUNCH BREAD COBS FARMHOUSE LOAVES  
CHEESE & ONION BREAD WHITE & BROWN COBS and ROLLS & TWINNIES

## FILLED COBS

## Spice of Life

Mrs Farida Mukaddam of Gillbank Drive has been busy compiling an exciting collection of recipes. Her cookbook with a difference is being written in response to the increasing demand for healthier food. All of the recipes contain the herbs and spices that have been traditionally used for their health-giving properties. Many of you will know that regular consumption of garlic has been proved to lower blood cholesterol levels. But did you know that fenugreek is recommended for lowering hypertension? "What is fenugreek?" you may be asking. This is just one of the many herbs carefully researched and described in the book.

Apparently, in Victorian times spices such as saffron, cardamon, ginger and cinnamon were widely used by wealthy families here. We have probably all heard of the spice trail. Then came the Industrial Revolution, with its increase on pressure on peoples time, and imaginative cooking seemed to lose favour.

Nowadays herbs and spices and exotic vegetables and fruit are readily available. But we may not always know how to cook and use them. So if you are interested in adding spice to your diet and helping your health at the same time, this could be the book for you.

Farida has also found time to demonstrate her cookery throughout Leicestershire. She is currently promoting a special Christmas Turkey recipe with extra dishes such as felafel for vegetarians.

To keep us happy until the book is published next spring, Farida has kindly agreed to let us publish one of the recipes!

## K&M FASHIONS

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AT COMPETITIVE PRICES  
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Farida is picture demonstrating her cookery to the Oakham Cooperative Wives Social Group.

## Recipé

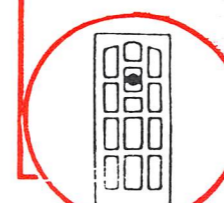
### Prawn Curry

1 kg peeled prawns (preferably king prawns)  
1 large onion (sliced)  
100 g creamed coconut (or fresh coconut milk from 1 freshly grated coconut)  
150 g tomato puree or 300 g canned or fresh tomatoes  
1 teasp. turmeric powder  
1 tablesp. coriander powder  
1 teasp. cummin powder  
½ teasp. cayenne pepper  
2 tablesp. garlic paste  
sea salt to taste  
chervil for garnish

Fry the onions in the olive oil until golden brown. Add the chopped up creamed coconut and the ground spices. Fry the spices just for a little while and add the fresh tomatoes, prawns and the rest of the ingredients. Add enough water to cover the prawns and cook for fifteen minutes.

### RATBY BRITISH LEGION

At the Annual General meeting of Ratby and District Branch of the Royal British Legion held on 14th November, the Branch President, Major W P Fogarty MBE, presented Certificates of Appreciation to Mr F W Willis of Ratby and Mr T E Tulley of Kirby Muxloe. The awards recognised the long service and great contribution to the Branch made by the two members and also the high regard in which they are held by their fellow members.



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Happy Christmas Everyone!

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## Ratby Parish Council

### Christmas in the Village. Carols around the Tree

Ratby Junior Band will be playing once again for the traditional carol singing around the Christmas Tree.

The time - 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday 19th December at Ratby Memorial.

Reverend Blackman and Mr E Keeley will lead the singing.

Everyone is welcome to join in and enter the Christmas spirit.

### Santa in Ratby

Members of the Leicester City Fire Brigade Museum Society will be touring Ratby on 19th December to collect good quality toys and donations for less fortunate children in Leicestershire. Santa will start his tour at 7 o'clock from the Christmas Tree. Be generous please!

### Christmas Windows Competition

This will be the third year of the successful competition. Judging will take place between 14th and 21st December. This year prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places.

### Landscaping and Tree Planting

A public meeting was held in the Welfare Hall on Tuesday 30th October 1990 at 7.30 p.m. Paul Vare from the Leicester Ecology Trust showed some beautiful slides of woodland habitats and wildlife and the community tree planting arrangements were discussed.

### Councillors Mr and Mrs J Smalley

A gift of garden vouchers was presented to Olive and John Smalley at the beginning of the Public Meeting on October 30th.

Councillor Rogers thanked them both wholeheartedly for their hard work as Parish Councillors and wished them every future happiness.

### Maintenance Person

Following the resignation of Mr Dennis Moulds, the vacancy was advertised. We are pleased to announce that Mr Owen Palmer of Ratby has been appointed to this post.

### Election of Officers until 1991

Following the resignation of Councillor J Smalley as Chairman and Councillor Mrs O Smalley as Chair of the Planning sub-committee, representative to the Leicestershire Association of Parish Councils and Governor representative for Ratby Primary School, the following were elected at the Parish Council Meeting of 6th November

Chairman - Mr C Rogers  
Vice Chairman - Mrs S Boud  
Planning sub-committee Chairman, Mr M Ball.  
Members of Planning sub-committee -

Mrs M Stanley  
Mr C Rogers  
Mr R Smith  
Mrs S Boud

Recreation sub committee chairman - Mrs S Boud  
Members of Playing Fields sub-committee

Mr C Rogers  
Mr M Ball  
Mrs M Stanley

Footpath Inspector - Mr C Rogers

Delegates to LAPC - Mr C Rogers, Mr S Rae

Newsletter writer - Mrs S Boud

Representative to the Police Liaison Committee - Mr C Rogers.

### A46 Leicester Western Bypass

County Councillor, Mrs Pat Butler informed the Parish Council that following objections by Kirby Muxloe Parish Council and Action Group to the revised junction at Kirby, the County Council had put forward recommendations which were to be discussed on Thursday November 8th.

The County Council is recommending to the Department of Transport that the roundabout at Kirby Muxloe be re-located slightly to the north to facilitate a future road link through the Rothley Brook viaduct and westwards.

The Parish Council expressed concern about the future implications of this plan - it was decided to arrange a meeting with the County Council and a representative from the Department of Transport to discuss this issue.

## Ratby Parish Council

### Pavement and Road improvements

Following a site meeting with Mr Wilkinson from the County Council, a variety of minor works were scheduled to be completed. These included re-surfacing of the service road on Markfield Road, steps to the school warning light on Main Street and improvements to pavements around the village.

Main Street is to be re-surfaced with chippings.

### Parish precept

At the meeting of November 6th the Parish Council voted to declare a precept of £17,550 for the year 1991 - 1992.

May we remind you that you are welcome to attend the meetings. Ten minutes is allocated at the beginning of each meeting for questions from the public to the chair and to the Police.

Letters may be sent to the Council c/o The Clerk, Mrs Laywood, 39 Groby Road.

The Parish Council would like to wish all villagers a very happy Christmas.

### Ratby Fish Bar

Traditional English Fish & Chips

392772

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.

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## COPPERS CORNER

### Vehicle Security

It is very difficult offering security advice without giving a list of dos and don'ts as lists tend to bore people and do not generally hold their interest. I would ask you though to risk boredom and hold back the yawns and seriously think about the advice that follows and bear in mind that this year up to the end of October, 17914 cars were broken into or taken in Leicestershire alone.

1. If you have a garage use it - ensure that garage doors are locked and secure.
2. If you have to park on the road at night, try to park in a well lit area.
3. When parking your vehicle, don't try to hide it out of the way. Leave it where it can be seen by as many people as possible.
4. When you leave a car, take all valuables with you. Try to ensure there is nothing on view that will attract a thief.
5. Fit a security cover to your radio, if you can delay a thief the likelihood is you will deter him.
6. Consider fitting locking wheel nuts, especially if your car has expensive alloy wheels.
7. Have your car windows etched with the vehicle registration number - it is a good deterrent because anyone wanting to steal the car to sell will have to change all the windows as well as the number plates.
8. One of the best security devices to deter the car thief is a gear shift/handbrake lock which can be purchased for about £18.
9. Consider a car alarm, especially if you have an expensive vehicle.

As you will see, with a little thought, you can do quite a lot to protect your vehicle at very little expense - just think about what you are doing when you leave your vehicle.

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Lastly, the 26th November saw the launch of Vehicle Watch in Leicestershire. This idea has proved very successful in other countries and involves members of the public "registering" their vehicles at their local police station and in return being given a bright "Vehicle Watch" sticker to display in the car window. If the vehicle is seen by the police, being driven during the night when it would normally not be in use it will be stopped and checked.

We are confident that the scheme will prove not only to be a good deterrent to vehicle crime, but will also assist police officers to identify possible stolen vehicles and assist in the identification and recovery of abandoned vehicles.

There is no charge for joining the scheme - what have you got to lose by taking part? If you would like to join the scheme please call into Beaumont Police Station, Mondays to Fridays between 7 pm and 9 pm - it could save your car.

Thank you for taking time to read this article. In the next issue I will deal with personal safety, but if you have any questions at all or feel that an article on any aspect of crime prevention or policing generally would be beneficial, please telephone me on Leicester 483274.

P.C. Jim Bott  
Crime Prevention Officer

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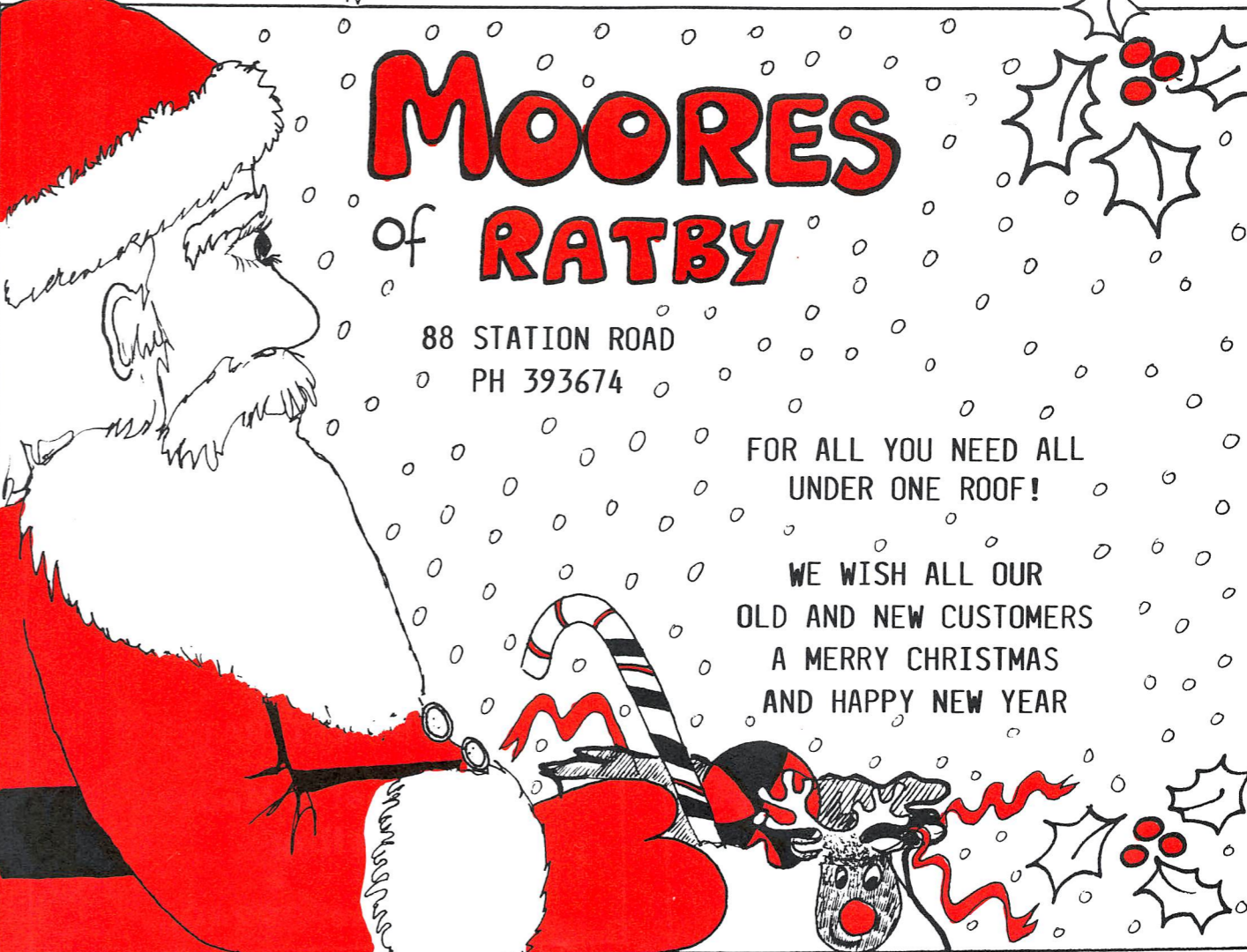
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TO ALL OUR NEW FRIENDS



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FOR ALL YOU NEED ALL  
UNDER ONE ROOF!

WE WISH ALL OUR  
OLD AND NEW CUSTOMERS  
A MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

## LEICESTER WEST DISTRICT

### CUBS SWIMMING GALA

10th November 1990  
Cossington Street Baths

Boys in the Team: David Chevin 8+  
David Cross 8+  
Adam Robson 9+  
David Smith 9+  
Daniel Fretter 10+  
James Cross 10+

Leader in Attendance - Brian Cross - Akela  
Helpers in Attendance - David Smith  
Lesley Chevin

Parents in Support - Mr Fretter  
Mr & Mrs Robson  
Mr Chevin  
Mr & Mrs Hammond  
and son, Karl  
Mrs Cross

### FINALS

under 10's Breast Stroke - David Smith  
- 4th - 3 points  
\*under 10's Free Style - David Smith -  
2nd - 5 points  
under 11's Free style - James Cross - 6th  
- 1 point  
under 11's In Kit - Daniel Fretter - 5th  
- 2 points  
under 10's Medley Race - David Cross  
Adam Robson  
David Smith  
David Chevin  
- 6th - 1 point

**Total Points - 11**

\* certificate awarded to David Smith for  
2nd place in under 10's free style.



## Scouts

All the boys did very well and swam their best. They were all tired at the end of the night and the parents had shouted themselves hoarse.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the boys for their fantastic effort I would also like to thank the parents and helpers for their support. Finally, I would like to thank Mr John Broome and his helpers for staging the event and progressing it so efficiently.

But my final word must once again be for the boys, you made us all **proud!**

Thankyou  
Brian Cross  
Akela

1st Ratby Swallows

We need a Winter in  
Ratby photograph for  
next Christmas issue  
of Wot!! Get snapping!



### 100 CLUB WINNERS

APRIL	71	LYNN MELLOR
MAY	56	MARTIN FRETTER
JUNE	77	Mrs ODELL
JUNE	18	Mr B.CLARK
JULY	31	A.FOLEY
AUGUST	37	P.SMITH
SEPTEMBER	69	Mrs J.HARRISON
OCTOBER	07	Mr H.PAYNE

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GIN OR SHERRY  
FRASERS HAVE IT TO  
MAKE YOU MERRY!!

## INNOCENT HUMOUR OF THE UNDER 5's

It had been Christmas story-time at Play School and Sally proudly presented her Christmas drawing to mum.

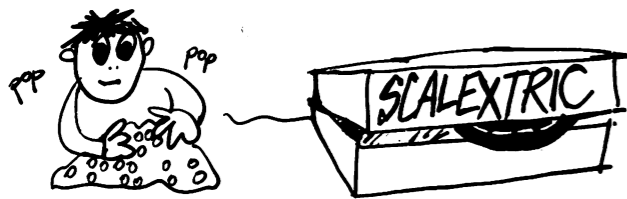
A matchstick Mary carried a matchstick Jesus and a matchstick cow looked on.

Mum enquired of the rings around Mary's head expecting them to represent a halo. Not so said Sally, it was the bandage for the cut on Mary's head

According to Sally, the teacher had read a story where "the sky was filled with angels and the light fell on Mary"



The grubby, chubby cheeked little lad entered the sweet shop and spent some time deciding what to buy from the penny counter. Eventually, one gob-stopper, a bunch of liquorice shoe laces and a wine gum snake were presented at the pay desk, to be asked "three pence please" by the assistant. Without a word, three pence was handed over, goods collected and tracks made for the door. Hey! what about Thank You, asked the assistant, You'll go nowhere if you don't remember your manners! A thoughtful little lad stopped, turned, spoke for the first time and said "Well I went to Skeggy last 'Satdy'".



"Don't know how babies are made, cos we don't do it till next term."

"Joseph made Jesus a hoopla for his hat because he was a carpenter. He made Mary one as well!"

Father Christmas brought Clive an expensive Scaletic track, Clive spent Christmas Day popping the plastic wrapping.

Grandma had been in hospital for many years, paralysed from the neck down, not able to move a muscle. Last year a great effort was made, with the aid of a Red Cross flat trolley, to take her to share 4 year old granddaughters birthday party.

Teatime came and Grandma of course, needed to be spoon fed, her jelly and ice cream. Little Helen watched this exercise with great interest, no doubt remembering the same thing happening to herself and eventually asked Grandma, "have you ate all your jelly?" "Yes," said grandma, to which Helen replied "THERE'S A GOOD GIRL, NOW YOU CAN HAVE A STORY."

Helen later asked why Grandma had to come in a wheel barrow!

**Ratby Primary School Association**

in the School hall  
**FRIDAY DECEMBER 7th**  
OPEN 2.30-4.30 and 6.30-8pm

gifts  
cakes  
Raffle for a Hamper  
Games  
toys  
Hot Mince Pies  
Crafts

Children Singing in the afternoon  
Carols round the tree in the evening.

**Christmas Curtain Raiser**

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Served Tuesday - Friday 7.30 - 8.15 p.m. Saturday 7.00 - 8.30 p.m.

**Appetize Us**

<b>Chef's Own Pate</b> Pork and chicken liver pate, flavoured with port and brandy. Served with toast and crisp garden salad.	1.50
<b>Traditional Home-made Soup</b> Soup of the day, made with fresh wholesome ingredients and served with croustons.	1.25
<b>Goblet of Prawns Marie Rose</b> Sea fresh prawns served on shredded lettuce and covered with the chef's mouthwatering sauce.	2.25
<b>Stuffed Mushrooms</b> Mushrooms filled with pate, breadcrumbed and deep fried. Served with garlic bread and with a choice of dips.	1.65
<b>Hot Peppered Smoked Mackerel</b> Hot mackerel served with crisp salad and horseradish sauce.	1.65
<b>Whitebait</b> A plateful of whitebait, served crisp and golden, sprinkled with our own seasoning.	1.65
<b>Melon and Orange Sorbet</b> Melon slice filled with orange sorbet and garnished with an apple chevron.	1.50
<b>Brie Fritters</b> Wedges of brie cheese coated in breadcrumbs, deep fried and garnished with crisp salad.	1.50
<b>Egg and Prawn Mayonnaise</b> A whole egg sliced and covered with marie rose sauce, and prawns. Garnished with a crisp salad.	1.75
<b>Mussels Marinere</b> A large helping of mussels poached in white wine and cream. Served with our own special garlic bread.	1.85

**Field Fare**

A giant amongst steaks, grilled as you require and a meal to remember.  
Plough Mixed Grill  
Grilled steak, sausage, lamb chop, gammon and kidney served with a fried egg, to tempt the heartiest of appetites.

**Pork Escalope Cumberland**  
Two escalopes of pork, shallow fried and served with a delightful Cumberland sauce made to an original recipe.

**8oz Peppered Fillet**  
Fillet steak cooked to your liking and served with a sauce of white wine, brandy, green peppercorns and cream.

**10oz Gammon Steak**  
A juicy piece of gammon grilled and served with a slice of pineapple or fried egg.

**3 Grilled Lamb Cutlets**  
Lamb cutlets grilled and served with parsley butter and mint jelly.

**8oz Fillet Steak Rossini**  
Fillet steak sautéed to your requirements served on a croust covered with a slice of pate and smothered with a rich Madeira sauce. Garnished with a turned mushroom.

**8oz Sirloin Steak**  
A tender steak grilled as you like it and served with parsley butter.

**Sauces available with above grills:**

**Silton Sauce** A rich creamy sauce with a hint of Blue Silton. Makes an interesting change.

**Diane** A sauce of brandy, cream, french mustard, and sliced mushrooms, made with the chef's own expertise.

**Peppered Sauce** A sauce of white wine, brandy, green peppercorns and cream.

**Chasseur** Tomatoes, onions, mushrooms, white wine and tarragon make this a favourite sauce for all.

**Bordelaise** A full bodied red wine sauce which has a delicate flavour of thyme.

All grills are garnished with grilled tomatoes, mushrooms and game chips.  
All main courses are served with seasonal vegetables or a fresh crisp garden salad.

**For the Biscerning Vegetarian**

**Home-made Spiced Chili**  
Diced peppers, onions, red kidney beans, peas, mushrooms, tomatoes in a spicy chili sauce and served on rice.

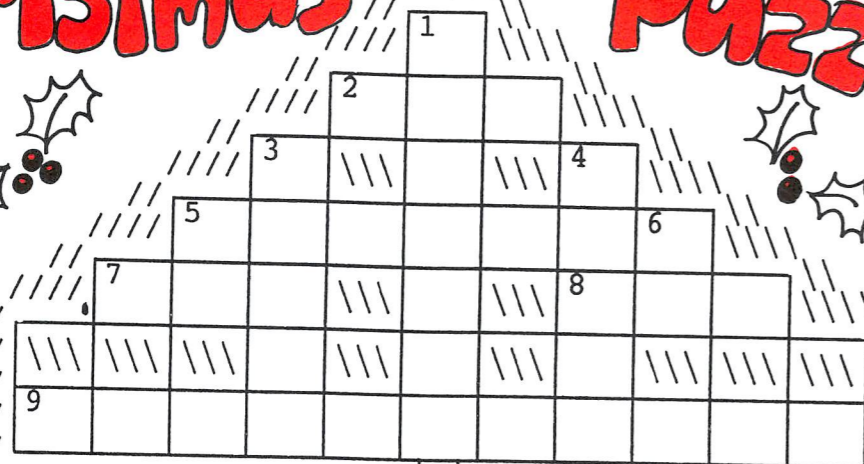
**Home-made Lasagne**  
Courgettes, aubergines, onions, tomatoes, garlic, between sheets of lasagne and white sauce.

**Stuffed Aubergines**  
Aubergine stuffed with onions, tomatoes, mushrooms and cheese, sprinkled with fine bread crumbs and baked.

All served with seasonal vegetables or with a fresh crisp salad.

20oz T-Bone Steak	9.95
Plough Mixed Grill	5.95
Pork Escalope Cumberland	5.95
8oz Peppered Fillet	7.95
10oz Gammon Steak	4.75
3 Grilled Lamb Cutlets	4.50
8oz Fillet Steak Rossini	7.95
8oz Sirloin Steak	5.75
Silton Sauce	0.95
Diane	0.95
Peppered Sauce	0.95
Chasseur	0.95
Bordelaise	0.95
Home-made Spiced Chili	4.50
Home-made Lasagne	4.50
Stuffed Aubergines	4.50

# Christmas Puzzles



ACROSS

2. Taken after Christmas dinner
5. A ..... Tale
7. You hang up your stocking before you go there
8. The boy ... the mince pie
9. Knocks on the door on Christmas Eve

DOWN

1. Plenty of these take place at Christmas
3. Settle down to watch this
4. Early models were clockwork
5. Us
6. Stephen was one

## SORT OUT THE PRESENTS

- 1 WHEELS UNDER THE ROAD
- 2 LITTLE FOOTBALLERS ON A TABLE TOP
- 3 FOLK NEXT DOOR OLD SPORT
- 4 DOES NOT HANG ABOUT IN A BELFRY
- 5 OLD FAVOURITE FOR BUILDING ENGINEERS
- 6 SPORTY OUTFIT FOR HER  
RECALLS THE SEA SHORE.

By L.W.

ANSWERS ON PAGE 27!

15

# CROW PIE

Childrens Page



Snowman by Jacob Mirza

happy Christmas!!

Christmas Tree  
by Joanne Kinton



What do policemen have in their sandwiches?  
Truncheon meat!

Send us your best cracker jokes!!

Send in your 'Outer Space' pictures for the next Wot!!  
Remember - pencil or black pen drawings please.

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FLAT ROOF SPECIALISTS  
Earl Shilton 848769

We can't print colour!  
Leave your pictures, jokes and stories in the Library box!!

by Shelley  
Age 10



TOYS

bang!!

What do ghosts have for dessert?  
Boo-berry pie and scream

Why not send us your Valentine for the next February issue!!

# The Green Slimy Footsteps

The site of the Ratby Gibbet was in the fields between Ratby and Groby, known as the Hangman's Tree.

This area was also known as 'The Ponds' because of the five ponds that lay between Hangmans Tree and The Cottages.

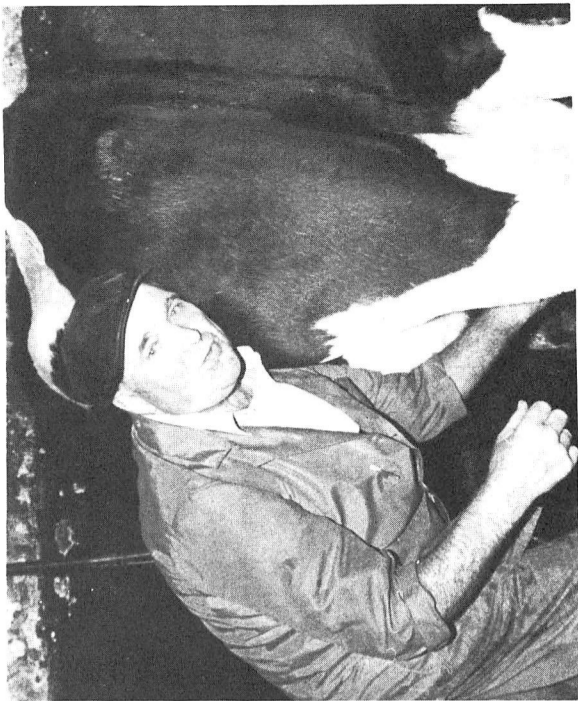
There is one ghostly legend associated with the area.

The legend of 'The Green Slimy Footstep' tells of a felon who had been recently hanged and was later 'seen' walking across the fields to his cottage by Nook Farm.

Others have said that on Christmas Eve the ghostly trail can be seen along the path leading to the Church. Several people have sworn that they have seen green slime in the shape of a man's foot.

Whatever the truth in this old story, the facts behind the legend can be read in the Old Constable's Book for the Manor of Groby, together with many other interesting events in our village's history.

Michael T Ball



Mr Ernie Ball getting one of his Friesian cows ready for milking for the last time. The dairy herd was auctioned at Pear Tree Farm on Thursday November 15th so the once familiar sight of the cows coming down to the farmyard will be seen no more.

Photo by Sylvia Gant

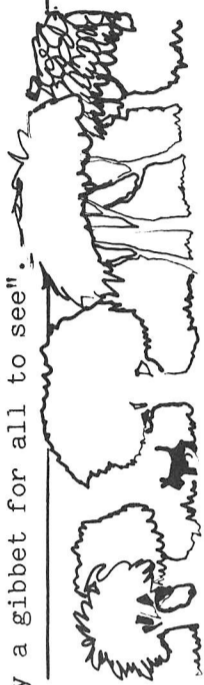
On the 20th December 1805, the Constable's account made reference to a 'stranger' being given lodgings at the house of Mr Damaske, a shopkeeper who lived near to the present Earl of Stamford Arms in Groby.

Two days later there is a second reference; - "Found by Mr Freeman's men whilst cutting snow on Ratby Lane, the body of a stranger".

An inquest was held and it was concluded that the man had been murdered by persons unknown.

Two months later, Henry Fletcher of Ratby was committed to the County Gaol on a charge of unlawful killing of the stranger 'John Adams'.

Fletcher was tried at the Spring Assizes and sentenced to death. Records indicate he was one of several men hanged on April 10th 1806 in the Castle Yard, adjacent to the present day County Magistrates Court and St. Mary de Castro. The Law of the day requested that his body was to be discharged to the High Constable and taken back to the Parish in which the felony had been committed, "and there to hang by a gibbet for all to see".



## Walks in the Woods

We've been for a walk in the woods today  
My dog Jack and I  
And hes barked at all the other dogs  
That chanced to pass us by.

Hes galloped after squirrels  
Who laughed at him in glee  
And sat there looking down at him  
From the safety of a tree.

They know that hes short sighted  
And really rather dim  
We love these little walks each day  
My dog Jack and I

He wags his tail with pleasure  
And if I could, so would I.

Jenny Mott

## Water Sport

### Lemon Sole Meuniere

A whole lemon sole grilled and served with lemon and parsley butter.

£ 5.95

### Swordfish Thermidore

A swordfish steak. Poached in white wine and brandy. Covered with a rich mustard and cheese sauce.

£ 6.25

### Halibut Provençale

Poached and served with a sauce of tomatoes, onion, peppers and white wine.

£ 6.25

### Breaded Scampi

Pieces of tender scampi deep fried and served on crisp lettuce hearts.

£ 3.95

### Monkfish Vol-au-Vent

Medallions of monkfish poached in pernod and cream. Garnished with button mushrooms, and served in a large vol-au-vent.

£ 5.95

### Salmon Marcel Prevost

Poached salmon served on a bed of buttered spinach covered with a butter sauce garnished with mussels.

£ 4.95

### Trout with Cucumber and Almonds

Local caught trout baked whole and served with sautéed cucumber and flaked almonds.

£ 4.50

## Feather

### Duck à l'Orange

Duck breast roasted and served in a mouthwatering orange sauce garnished with segments of oranges.

£ 5.95

### Quail Vigneronne

A whole boned quail wrapped in bacon, roasted and served in a sauce of brandy and grapes. Garnished with game chips on a bed of braised red cabbage.

£ 6.50

### Chicken Supreme Chinese Style

A supreme of chicken sautéed in butter and garnished with spring onions, garlic and ginger, with a light soy sauce.

£ 5.75

### Poussin au Marron

A baby chicken roasted and filled with chestnut stuffing, served with game chips and a rich Madeira sauce.

£ 6.45

### Duck à la Johnson

Duck breast served with a port and red wine sauce, garnished with cranberries and mushrooms.

£ 5.95

### Supreme Chicken

Poached chicken with a sauce of mushrooms, prawns and cucumber lovingly poured over the top.

£ 5.75

### Pheasant Burgundy Style

Roasted pheasant served in a sauce with glazed button onions, button mushrooms and diced bacon, flavoured with red wine.

£ 9.75

## The Plough Inn

## Sweet Tooth

### Pineapple & Coconut

A slice of fresh pineapple filled with a scoop of exotic coconut ice cream with slices of kiwi fruit and cream.

£

1.50

### Cheesecake

A cheesecake of the chef's choice served with lashings of cream.

£ 1.50

### Raspberry Vacherin

A meringue nest with raspberries and ice cream and covered in whipped cream with raspberry sauce on top.

£ 1.50

### Brandy Snap Basket

A home-made brandy snap basket filled with three different sorbets served on a kiwi fruit coulis.

£ 1.50

### Lemon Meringue Pie

A traditional dessert which is a favourite of all the family.

£ 1.50

### Chocolate Roularde

A rich chocolate and vanilla sweet wrapped in a thin biscuit base.

£ 1.50

### Cheese & Biscuits

A selection of cheese picked by the chef served with an assortment of biscuits

£ 1.50

### House Gateau

A gateaux of our own choice to tempt you to put on a few extra pounds.

£ 1.50

### Raspberry Cranachan

A mixture of cream, raspberries, oats, sugar and whisky whisked together to create a Scottish sweet served in a chocolate cup.

£ 1.50

### Bavarian Black Cherry Coupe

Hot black cherries served over ice cream and covered with whipped cream and grated chocolate.

£ 1.50

### Ice Cream

A selection of ice creams to satisfy most tastes.

£ 1.50

### Apple Strudel

A Danish sweet with apples, raisins and cinnamon served hot or cold, the choice is yours.

£ 1.50

## Liqueur Coffee

### Floater - Non Alcoholic.

£ .95

### Parisienne - Brandy.

£ 1.70

### Gaelic - Irish Whiskey.

£ 1.70

### Highland - Drambuie.

£ 1.50

### Caribbean - Rum.

£ 1.50

### Riviera - Cointreau.

£ 1.50

### Calypso - Tia Maria.

£ 1.50

## The Plough Inn

# Ratby Playgroup

Ratby is growing rapidly! I'm sure it has been noticed already by most residents but it is becoming more and more obvious to us at Playgroup. With more new houses being built, more people are moving into the village and particularly families with small children or young couples planning to have children in the near future.

Unfortunately, for the children, Playgroup is not allowed to grow. We have to abide by the rules and regulations laid down by Hinckley and Bosworth Social Services and these stipulate that we can not have any more than 24 children on the premises during a Playgroup session. Each term it gets more difficult to find the places for all the children wishing to come to Playgroup.

Therefore we have to strictly limit the number of sessions that children can attend Playgroup, which seems very unfair when compared against the provision of sessions laid on for children in the City and even elsewhere in the County. We do our utmost to let every child who wants to, come to Playgroup at least once a week and most children can have two weekly sessions.

To parents of children approaching the age of three, all we can say is that we do our best to make sure that the children get the most out of their short time with us at Playgroup. It is also a good idea to ensure that your child's name is put on the waiting list in good time, well before their third birthday.

Any enquiries about Playgroup please contact

Lesley Chevin 386605  
Linda Evans 386347

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## WELCOME to RATBY

Mick and Jacqui Thornton and their two sons have arrived in Ratby to run the Railway Inn. Mick was born in the North East, where he worked as a Club Steward. He moved to the East Midlands 28 years ago and has worked in the motor trade. He has always kept in practice with bar work, helping out friends with pubs and has finally realised his ambition to run his own pub.

He says that his target requirements for his ideal pub were,

"A brewery whose beer I was prepared to drink myself ..... needless to say I drank no draught beer in Nottingham, other than the "Sun Inn" in Gotham, an Everards house, naturally.

I wanted a pub whose size and atmosphere would attract me as a drinker to come back ..... in other words, an old fashioned local. Where else but the 'Railway Inn' Ratby."

Jacqui comes from Milford Haven originally. She has considerable catering experience, having taken a three year City and Guilds course in Cookery and run a mobile cafeteria. Jacqui has worked as a barmaid for eighteen years and has organised charity evenings and buffets.

Jacqui says "Catering in pub life does not always add up to good wholesome home-cooked food. My aim in the future is to provide a meal 'like mum used to' with a more interesting dessert than the run of the mill".

Welcome to Ratby, and we wish you good luck in your enterprise at the Railway Inn.

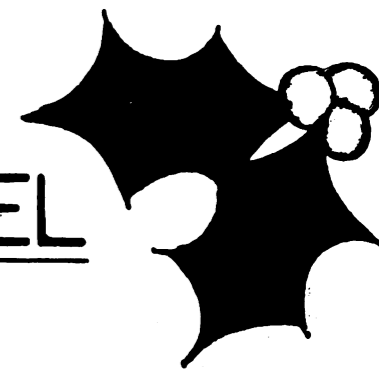
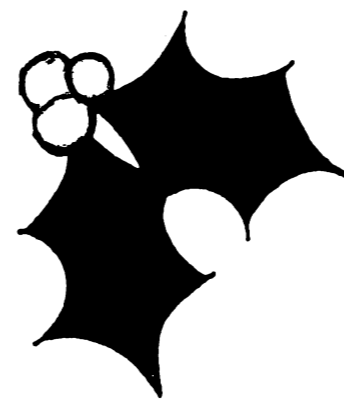
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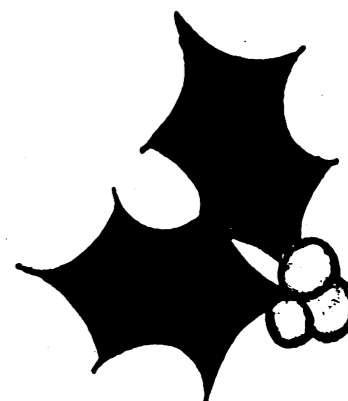
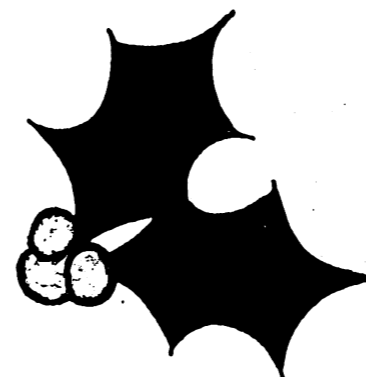


## COUNTY TRAVEL GARAGE

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equiped Service Shop

Our opening hours  
over Christmas are:

MON, 24TH:	0700 - 1900 HOURS
TUES, 25TH:	<u>C L O S E D</u>
WED, 26TH:	<u>C L O S E D</u>
THURS, 27TH:	0700 - 2000 HOURS
FRI, 28TH:	0700 - 2000 HOURS
SAT, 29TH:	0700 - 1900 HOURS
SUN, 30TH:	0800 - 1300 HOURS
MON, 31ST:	0700 - 1900 HOURS
TUES, 1ST JAN:	0800 - 1300 HOURS





Do you sometimes feel like that yourself? Not sure what to buy for children this year? Well you can't go wrong with a good book. What about a book with some special Christmas magic?

Raymond Briggs "Father Christmas" must be one of the all-time favourites, so check before you buy! That's him above ..... an amiable character whose Christmas Eve story is told in cartoon format.

For younger children picture books are best. "Spot's First Christmas" by Eric Hill is another favourite. Less well known is "Morris's Disappearing Bag," by Rosemary Wells. Morris is disappointed with his Christmas present ..... and then discovers a bag that enables him to disappear. Perhaps we'd all wish for one of those on Christmas Day!

Shirley Hughes' pictures are as usual wonderful in her picture book "Lucy and Tom's Christmas".

A familiar scene; - "Elizabeth only likes the wrapping paper on her present. She goes off to sleep in the middle of it like a hamster".

#### SURPRISE PARTY

It has been reported that a surprise 40th birthday party took place in Ratby on the evening of Saturday 24th November.

Many friends attended to the total surprise of Barbara ---- she wasn't even there! Still a good time was had by all and the naughty Father Christmas was really very nice.

Happy Birthday Barbara.



Local writer Rose Impey and illustrator Sue Porter have published a lovely story, "A letter to Father Christmas." A letter to Santa gets muddled with a shopping list, and ..... well, we're not going to spoil the surprise. This is an enchanting story with a surprise ending.

For older children "The Story of Holly and Ivy" by Rumer Godden brings the magic of Christmas alive. A story about a lonely orphan girl, a doll without an owner and a kind lady with a Christmas tree and no one to enjoy it. This is a young Puffin "Read Alone" story for first solo reading.

A world of wonder, magic and danger awaits you when you open "The Box of Delights" by John Masefield.

"An excellent book, full of magic and mystery" said one 12 year old, who has read the book about 6 times.

You may remember the book being serialised on BBC Children's TV a couple of years ago. Recommended for competent older readers

Happy Christmas and happy reading!



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## AN INTERVIEW WITH OLIVE AND JOHN SMALLEY

'Wot' succeeded in gaining an exclusive interview with Olive and John at the eleventh hour before they moved to Norfolk!

### When did you first come to Ratby and what attracted you to the village?

**John** - I have known Ratby for a long time. I was born on the outskirts of Leicester and this was one of the villages I cycled through in my youth.

In 1971 we were looking for a move out of Leicester and a chance outing brought us to Ratby. We walked around the village and were impressed by the friendliness.

**Olive** - I had been born in a city and then lived in Leicester. City life was impersonal. Coming to a small village people seemed closer. Everyone knew if you needed help. New people coming into the village have taken on this feeling.

We wanted to get out of the city and see green fields and space. When we first came here there were cows and sheep grazing just across Danehill and you sometimes saw hares or foxes in the street.

**John** - At the time we moved in cattle were still going through the village along Main Street to Balls Farm.

### How did you get involved in village activities?

**John** - There was a rumour about warehouses being planned - to be located roughly where Centurion Court is now. I went along to a Parish Council meeting. At first Councillors said they knew nothing about it. Later on in the meeting a plan of the proposal was unfolded. In 1974 a vacancy arose on the Council and I was co-opted, later being re-elected in 1976.

Politics brought me into the Borough Council. The rates had trebled in three years and there was a major controversy regarding the expectation that parishes should pay towards Hinckley Leisure Centre.

Within a year we had reduced the rates and improved planning procedures.

Although it is not a legal requirement, it is now the right of all parish councils in the Hinckley and Bosworth area to receive copies of all planning applications for consideration. Similarly it is now Borough Council policy to send out neighbour consultation letters, although not legally required to do so.

We have done a lot to improve council housing with funding from Central government and housing revenue, not from the rate payer.

continued on next page



Olive and John walking in Martinshaw Wood

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## Olive and John Smalley continued

**Olive** - I got involved with the Parish Council through my concern about problems caused by the expansion of housing in the village.

In my 16 years as a representative to the Leics. Association of Parish Councils, I was able to gather information which helped Ratby Parish Council to function effectively and in accordance with standing orders.

**John** - In 1973 the Parish Council agreed to support a Village Improvement Committee, which undertook a 'clean up' job in the village.

Ratby's version of the wombles, "The Ratby Roozles" were formed and we organised a children's competition to discover what a 'Roozle' looked like.

Photograph, courtesy of the Village Society, showing "The Ratby Roozles". (1975)



**Olive** - The Improvement Committee grew into the Village Society. We planted trees, including the Jubilee Oak at the end of Markfield road. The first oak was destroyed by Council weed killing spray.

I drew up a tree planting scheme for the village, which included the birch trees and chestnut tree on Main Street. The scheme won a competition organised by the Leicestershire Rural Community Council. Sadly many of the trees we planted, such as those at the end of Danehill have been broken and damaged.

### What principles and ideals have you tried to follow in your Council work?

**John** - You cannot keep Ratby just as it was. You need to recognise the need for progress without destroying our inheritance. It is important to preserve what is good. I am annoyed when people do not respect the conservation area.

I have always tried to be aware that Councils are spending other peoples money, providing services at a price people can afford and are willing to pay. I have always



## Olive and John Smalley

continued



tried to get the best for Ratby and generally we have avoided funding follies.

**Olive** - Having arrived when Ratby was a small village, I felt it would be a shame to see it spoilt by over-development, industry destroying the landscape. I have always been concerned to try and retain the rural atmosphere, the tradition of involvement with the farming community.

### What would you say have been the highlights of your village involvement?

**Olive** - Helping to keep Martinshaw Wood and preserve its wildlife has been the most important achievement for me.

Someone mentioned that they had seen an item in a gazette, reporting the intended sale of Martinshaw Wood. I succeeded in getting support from other neighbouring parishes to save the wood. After a lot of phone calls and letters the Woodland Trust came out to look and decided it was an important wood. They printed leaflets and the appeal was launched. A lot more people can now use and enjoy the wood.

Getting the Doctor's surgery has also been important to me. It involved a lot of hard work and a personal campaign with the family practitioners committee. I am glad to see that Doctor Parwaiz has been able to expand his premises.

**John** - The way in which the Village Society has blossomed has pleased me. There are now over 74 members, a mixture of old and new people.

I feel that Ratby is given better consideration now - full consultation on the District plan and the proposed A46 Leicester Western Bypass. Ratby has become recognised. We have warded off lots of threats to the Parish.

Working for the Council has given me the opportunity of meeting so many people and made my life richer. I have been able to offer some help, perhaps made a contribution to the lives of other people. There are some extremely lonely people. I believe I have helped people by gaining their confidence.

### Are there any regrets?

**John** - Looking back I realise that a lot of my life has been spent in committee meetings, leaving Olive at home.

**Olive** - You get used to disappointments, particularly with planning.

### What do you feel the future holds for Ratby?

**Olive** - We have been lucky in having Cawrey for a developer. The slowness of development has helped newcomers to integrate. Ratby has got something special. I hope newcomers go on feeling they are glad to belong to this community.

**John** - I feel concerned by some peoples attitude that growth is inevitable. There is a great danger of a physical link with our neighbours. The A46 will hasten this and there is danger of losing our rural environment.

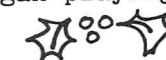
### What are your hopes for your own future?

**John** - We are entering the third phase of our lives. It will be completely different. We'll take up new hobbies, learn something new. We intend to be subscription paying members with no responsibilities. We're going to do all the things we've never had time to do.

**Olive** - I love the sea. It's the romantic in me I suppose. Heacham reminds me of Ratby. It has the same feel about it and I feel the same way about it as I do Ratby.

For the sake of my health I need a bungalow away from the 'Midland' air.

The external appearance of Heacham Church is very different from Ratby Church, unfortunately we have been unable to see the inside - that is something to look forward to. I think we will both regret leaving Ratby Church, it has been an important part of our lives and we have made many friends and hope to keep in contact with them. I am hoping to take up painting and have more time to enjoy my other hobbies such as organ playing.



Olive and John have worked hard for the village throughout their time in Ratby. Like anyone else who gets involved in the community and becomes well-known, they have attracted some criticism. But no one can accuse them of not trying their best. They have always remained true to their beliefs and convictions. This magazine will miss the regular contributions from Olive. How about a 'Coastal Diary' column? We wish them every future happiness, something they must surely have deserved.

## Balloon Race

Ratby Primary School's balloon race was a great success. Despite the gloomy weather, all the children were able to enjoy launching a balloon!

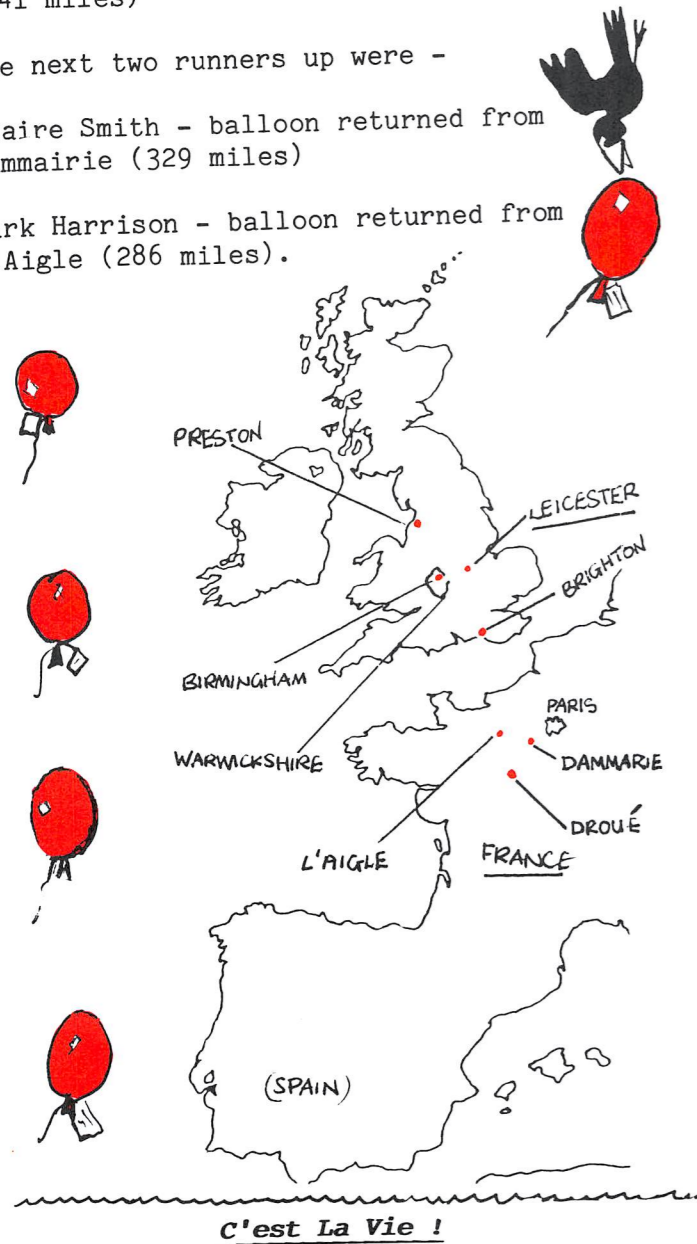
Winner was -

Michelle Tew - balloon travelled to DROUE (341 miles)

The next two runners up were -

Claire Smith - balloon returned from Dammairie (329 miles)

Mark Harrison - balloon returned from L'Aigle (286 miles).



Candle lit tables and wine helped create a continental feel at Brookvale School for a special evening of European entertainment.

A large audience enjoyed watching slides of recent school visits to Europe.

Two Ratby students, Salim Mukaddam and William Boud were amongst pupils who entertained and amused with role-plays in French.

Music from an accordion and instrumental pieces by Groby College students enhanced the Continental atmosphere.



101 Stamford Street  
Ratby  
Nr. Leicester  
LE6 0JT

Sir,

With reference to the "Time to Remember" in issue 24 of Wot

I was Head Warden of Ratby at this time and we were out on patrol WHEN THE BOMB WAS DROPPED.

The aeroplane was apparently attracted by a steam engine that was drawing into Kirby Muxloe Station but there was also a dance going on at Markfield Sanatorium. There were lights showing from it, which was another source of attraction.

But for all the damage done, over 200 houses, there was not one person killed.

Yours respectfully,

J.E.Gardener

THE RATBY CO-OPERATIVE JUNIOR BAND  
present their

## CHRISTMAS CONCERT

on Sunday 16th December  
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afternoon performance as 3pm  
evening performance at 7.30 pm  
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*****							
CHRISTMAS PUDDING	BRANDY SAUCE	*****					
COFFEE							

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MELON BOAT

FRUIT JUICE

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*****											
CHRISTMAS PUDDING AND BRANDY SAUCE ... CHOCOLATE LOG	HOME MADE FRUIT PIE AND CUSTARD ... ICE CREAM AND HOT BRANDY SAUCE	BAVARIAN BLACK CHERRY COUPE.	*****								
MINCE PIE AND COFFEE											

£ 9.50

PARTY BOOKINGS FOR UP TO 40 PERSONS CAN BE ARRANGED

**A46 LEICESTER WESTERN BYPASS - LATEST NEWS**

Following objections by Kirby Muxloe Parish Council to the Dept. of Transport's revised scheme for the junction between Kirby and Glenfield, Leicestershire County Council have put forward new recommendations.

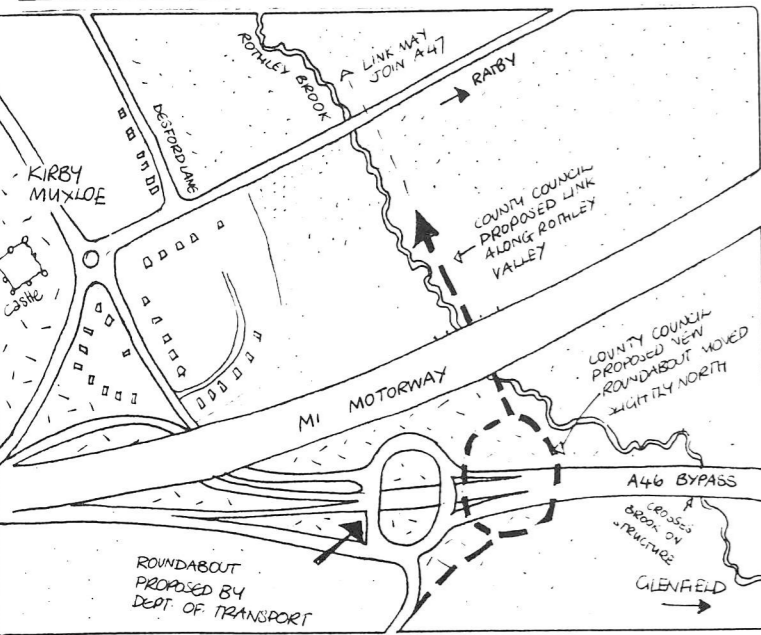
They are suggesting that traffic problems that could be experienced in Kirby and Ratby might be relieved if the junction is re-located again.

The County Council's recommendations state:-

1. The County Council re-affirms its support for the Leicester Western Bypass and welcomes the changes that have been made to reduce the impact on Kirby Muxloe, but maintains a holding objection until traffic information is available to enable a full assessment to be made of the traffic impact on surrounding villages.

2. The Department of Transport be requested to ensure that extra funding for the works on the County road system will be forthcoming to enable the associated works to be completed when the bypass opens to traffic.

3. The Department of Transport be requested to consider re-locating the roundabout junction and its slip roads slightly to the north of the proposed location so as to leave open the option of providing a link westwards through the Rothley Valley viaduct at some future date.



SKETCH PLAN SHOWING POSITION OF RE-LOCATED ROUNDABOUT AND POSSIBLE NEW LINK ALONG ROTHLEY VALLEY (The report also states that this link could be expensive because of its location in the flood plain. There is also a suggestion that the link could eventually be extended to the A47).

**THE SERVICE GARAGE**

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SATURDAY BY APPOINTMENT ONLY  
  
PHONE 394966

**What are the implications for Ratby?**

This paper believes that the people of Ratby should campaign forcefully against proposals to build a road link through the Rothley Valley. This road could:-

1. Destroy the green wedge between Ratby and Kirby.

2. Open up the possibilities of residential or industrial development between Kirby and Ratby. Plans such as that put forward by Vic Berry could have a greater chance of approval with a link that this road could provide.

3. Destroy the wetland wildlife habitat of the Rothley brook valley. So much of this valley will be despoiled by the Bypass. Shouldn't we do everything possible to preserve what is left? Water is an important feature in the landscape.

**NOW** is the time to make our views known, before the bulldozers start work.

Lets make it absolutely clear to the County Council and the Department of Transport that we in Ratby do not want any development along the Rothley Valley.

**WRITE NOW to:-**

The Department of Transport  
East Midlands Regional Office  
Cranbrook House  
Cranbrook Street  
Nottingham NG1 1EY

and

Mr T Thompson  
The Director  
Department of Planning and Transportation  
Leicestershire County Council  
County Hall  
Leicester Road  
Glenfield  
Leicester

**REPORT ILLEGAL DUMPING**

If you see illegal dumping help to stamp it out by reporting it! Telephone the new Wasteline Service run by Leicestershire County Council.

**WASTELINE (24 hours) 320251**

This 24 hour services uses an Answerphone. Wot! has discussed the fact that many people may be put off by this with Mr Winterton of the Waste Management Department of Planning and Transportation at County Hall. He accepts that this could be so and says that daytime calls direct to this department would be welcomed on L.323232.

Thankyou Mr Winterton!

Now lets help them help us!

**DAYTIME L.323232**  
**WASTE MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT**

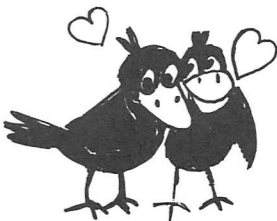
**Valentine**

This year we are offering to print your Valentines for FREE! How can you resist this temptation!!

Of course the offer is subject to space and editorial decision!

Please put your Valentines in the Library box by January 17th.

Oh --and do make them short and sweet!



**ANSWERS**

*from page 15*

**CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD**

Across	Down
2. Nap	1. Parties
5. Winters	3. Video
7. Bed	4. Train
8. Ate	5. We
9. Carolsinger	6. St.

**SORT OUT THE PRESENTS**

- 1 TURTLES SKATEBOARD
- 2 SUBBUTEO
- 3 NEIGHBOURS
- 4 BATMAN
- 5 MECCANO
- 6 SHELL SUIT



**DEADLINE FOR LETTERS  
ARTICLES AND ADVERTS FOR  
THE FEBRUARY EDITION IS**

**THURSDAY 17TH JANUARY**

**ADVERTS ..... PHONE 395179**  
**ARTICLES ..... PHONE 393279**  
**EDITOR ..... PHONE 393367**

**HOTLINE!! PHONE US ON 394873 OR  
395179 WITH ANY NEWS ITEMS.**