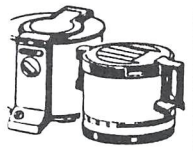
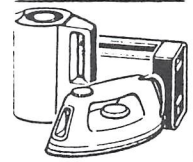




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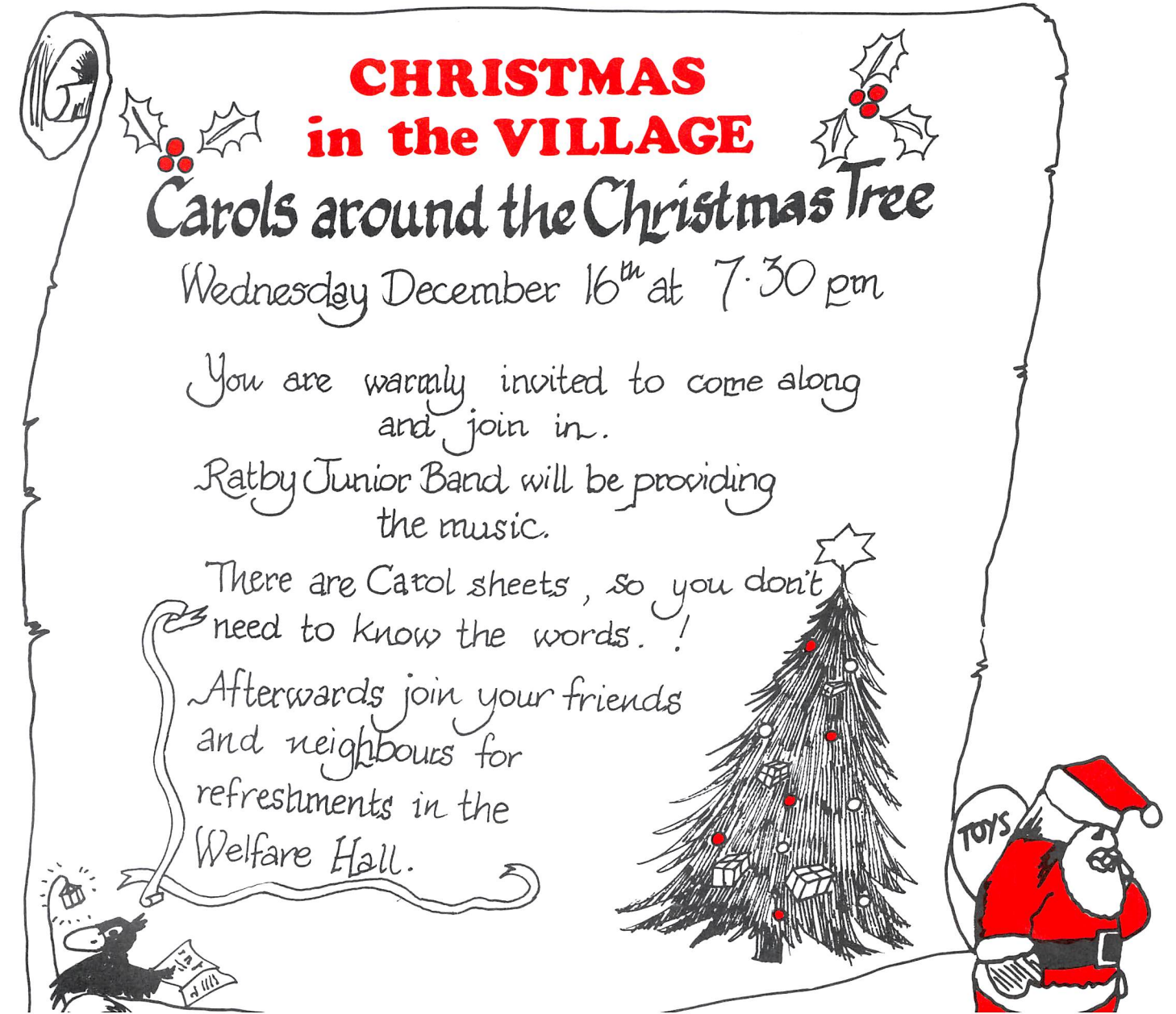
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"WE ARE THE RAINBOWS"

who are we?

"THE FIRST RATBY RAINBOW GUIDES"



LEFT TO RIGHT - TOP ROW ; Charlotte Kowal, Emma Glenister, Rebecca Mckedican, Natalie Root.

CENTRE ROW : CARLA BARRY, RACHEL MOORE, ANASTAZJA KOWAL, NICOLA JARVIS, EMMA ALCOCK, COLLETTE SMITH.

BOTTOM ROW : Elizabeth Tyler, Rebecca Jones, Claire Astill, Melissa Clarke, Sara Laywood.

The familiar chant of 15 5 - 7 year old girls opening our once weekly meeting in the School Hall, sets the scene for what one can only describe as an hour or so of frenzied, frenetic fun. But as always the girls love it.

Each week is based around a theme, which includes games, stories, songs and of course a central activity. Essentially Rainbow-Guides is fun, and gives the girls that feeling of belonging to something designed specifically for them.

This Autumn term we have been on a Treasure Hunt, sewn some simple purses, made very sticky decorated sandwiches, discovered "Our World", and made Autumn collage pictures -

departure of Judy Brookes, she had been with the Unit since it's inception in 1988. We felt her loyalty and commitment over the past 4 years deserved some recognition, so a surprise presentation was organised and took place on 12 October. The girls presented her with a book of pictures - drawn by themselves and a basket of dried flowers. Judy's departure and the imminent departure of Tracey Jarvis, leaves us in desperate need of extra voluntary help (preferably someone who is prepared to go into uniform).

If you think you could spare us an hour and 15 minutes on Monday evenings (5.30 - 6.45 pm) I would love to hear from you

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A walk into my garden
Usually fills me with delight
But when I went the other day
I got a nasty fright
I thought that I would tidy up
The flowers and the leaves
And then I noticed someone
Had stolen one of my trees
It may have been a childish prank
Suppose I'll never know
But as it was a dwarf tree
It'll take ten years to grow
These trees cost lots of money
And I'm sure I will replace
So why do people steal things
It's just an utter disgrace.



PAUL GOODWIN

PAINTER AND DECORATOR

PLEASE RING LEICESTER 387252

LIBRARY CLUB

This year the Library Club children will once again celebrate Christmas with a performance of songs etc, on Tuesday 15 December; instead of a "normal" session, parents friends relatives will be invited to attend other library representatives will also be present.

No doubt there will, of course be one or two surprises for the children. Refreshments will be served to everyone afterwards.

Any parents wishing to attend the afternoon's activities should let Bernie or Jayne know by Tuesday 8 December so that the seating and refreshment facilities can be arranged. The afternoon begins at 1.30 pm and finishes at 3.00 pm.

From next term a volunteer parent helper will be needed to cover for possible emergencies, such as sickness etc. The preparation work will have already been completed in time to help run the session - if anyone is interested in helping would you let Bernie or Jayne know as soon as possible. This request also applies to the parents of the new children due to attend next term - letters will be sent out during the next few days.



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FAMILY PRIZES - A research enquiry desk

Question: What type of computers and software are available that would assist me in the compilation of my family research?

Answer: This is a very broad subject indeed. However, at a simple level any computer with a wordprocessing capability can be used to record your family history work. Whilst standard databases can be adapted to record all sorts of researched material.

At a more serious level many researchers prefer to acquire a computer that is compatible with the majority of machines which are now in use both within the home and the workplace. So called IBM compatibles. There are many types of software programs available for these machines, many of which are available as shareware. The monthly "Family Tree Magazine", available through newsagents, normally contains many advertisements for such software.

An example of one of the popular types of shareware programs that are available is 'Brother's Keeper'. This menu driven program, which receives regular updates, is an integrated package which allows researched data to be entered into readily understandable data screens. Information

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is entered in the form of family groups. This powerful software enables the user to produce many types and styles of family tree, data listings, and family group sheets, these can be customised as desired. The package incorporates the 'Genealogical Data Communications' system (Gedcom) which allows the transference of data to and from other family history programs of a user's choice.

One of the limitations of many of the powerful family history packages that are available is their program size, for practical purposes many computers would have to be equipped with a hard disk storage system.

TO SEEK THE PAST

In the last edition of this magazine we introduced the exciting subject of Genealogy, the tracing of one's family tree. For those wishing to embark on their own personal voyage of discovery we suggested that one might first try consulting some of the many excellent publications which are available through the Leicestershire Libraries Service. However, some readers have asked about the availability of books for purchase. So, with the festive season drawing near here are the details of a few highly recommended titles which should be available through most reputable book shops.

'Discovering Your Family Tree', by David Iredale, published by Shire Publications Limited. This book would be an excellent stocking filler.

'In Search of Ancestry', by Gerald Hamilton Edwards, published by Phillimore. A classic work on the subject.

'Tracing your Ancestors', by Anthony J Camp, published by John Gifford. A really concise and instructional work.

'Tracing Your Family Tree', by Stella Colwell, published by Faber and Faber Limited. A useful book illustrated with research examples from the author's own work.

Of course, readers will find that prices of books will vary, anything from a couple of pounds to twenty five pounds can be paid. However, you can be sure that most of the books available will provide the essential information for constructing a family tree. The Federation of Family History Societies also produces many fine books for use by the fledgeling family historian, the most notable of which is:-

'Beginning your Family History', by George Pelling, published by FFHS.

This book can be purchased through the "Leicestershire and Rutland Family History Society", price £2.65 (this includes post and packing), by writing and send a cheque (payable to the society) to:

on genealogy recommend is a search for family documents. This may include the location of old birth, marriage or death certificates; baptismal certificates; school reports and prizes; apprenticeship papers; old letters, telegrams, post and birthday cards; and army discharge papers, to name but a few of the many types of material which may have been preserved. Often such items may not be directly held by the researcher. It may be necessary to ask one's grandmother, a maiden aunt or a cousin twice removed whether they have such things. One should always remember that items held by an owner may be sentimental treasure and not necessarily pieces with which they would wish to part. However, if documents are borrowable, it is quite practical to make good quality reproductions of them by photocopying or photographic means. Always remember to return borrowed items as quickly as possible a relative is far more likely to lend other pieces of family interest if this maxim is followed.

THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENT,
WITH THE NUMBER OF THEIR CHAPTERS.

THE OLD TESTAMENT

BOOK	CHAPTERS	PAGES	BOOK	CHAPTERS	PAGES
GENESIS	1	11	1 PETER	5	111
EXODUS	40	280	2 PETER	3	119
LEVITICUS	27	246	3 PETER	9	127
NUMBERS	36	312	4 PETER	1	135
DEUTERONOMY	34	302	1 JOHN	21	143
JOSHUA	24	214	2 JOHN	13	151
JUDGES	21	181	3 JOHN	13	159
RUTH	4	36	REVELATION	22	167
1 SAMUEL	31	267			
2 SAMUEL	21	181			
1 KINGS	22	196			
2 KINGS	25	214			
1 CHRONICLES	29	254			
2 CHRONICLES	36	312			
EZRA	10	86			
NEHEMIAH	13	114			
ESTHER	10	86			
JOB	42	378			
PSALMS	150	1366			
PROVERBS	31	267			
ECCLESIASTES	12	102			
SONG OF SOLOMON	8	68			
ISAIAH	66	574			
JEREMIAH	52	452			
LAMENTATIONS	5	41			
EZEKIEL	48	408			
DANIEL	12	102			
HOSEA	31	267			

Family Birthdates are often recorded
in the Family Bible.

The above described documents are not the only items worthy of location, most family historians dream of locating the long lost family bible, examples of which may be hundreds of years old, and some of which may have the names of family forebears inscribed within. More tangible pieces which can be enquired of are: war medals and society medallions, these are often named to the recipient; and sporting or agricultural prizes, named cups, shields and spoons can be found. Even humble things such as woodworking tools may be marked with great grandad's name. Essentially, one must try to locate as many items as possible that might supply the names of individuals or clues as to where they were

*Hannah Lambert
born Feb 22 1866*
*Thomas Lambert
born December 1870*
*Florence Amy Lambert
born January 1872*
*William Lambert
born November 1871*



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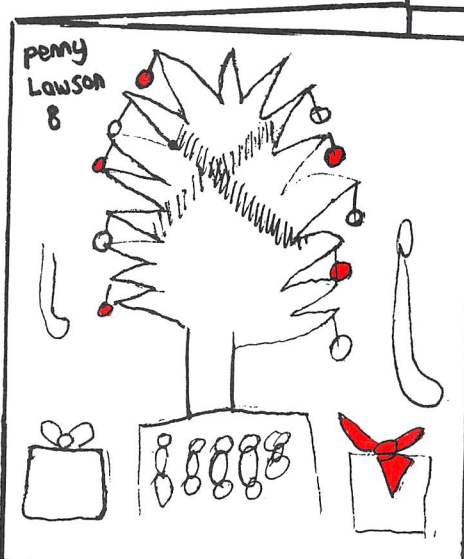
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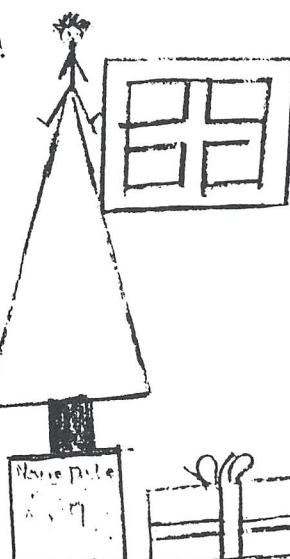
Children's Page
"compiled by William Boud"



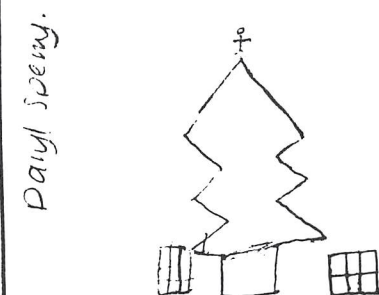
Who delivers cat's
Christmas
Presents?

Santa Paws!!

Did you hear about
the boy who got
a waterproof, shock
proof, anti magnetic
watch for Christmas?
He lost it



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Ratby Parish Council

Leicestershire Bridleways Association

In September bridleways were inspected and improvements were noted. All but one of the seven are passable and easy to ride.

Within a 2 mile radius of Ratby Burroughs there are 50 houses, 90% of them regularly using tracks in the area.

Members would like to see Ratby retain its rural identity. The Ratby Burroughs area, if properly managed, could provide opportunities for leisure facilities perhaps designated as a Country Park. Traffic calming measures would help riders and cyclists.

The dismantled railway line could be improved to form a bridleway, for use by cyclists, walkers and riders and could link into other routes eventually.

"We ask that the needs of horse riders be given due consideration, and that we can continue to ride in the area surrounded by trees and woodland not tarmac and buildings!".

Ratby Methodist Church Council

Members were against further development. No new houses need to be built. Safety in play areas was discussed provision of safety surfacing, action on dog fouling. Concern expressed about youths hanging around play area in the evenings.

Suggest a bicycle track in play area. Favourable comments on picnic and wildlife area suggestions.

Shopping

Well served with current shops. Ringroad would have detrimental effect on shop trade.

Parking, Transport, etc.

Parking can be a traffic calming measure. No restrictions needed, except by school.

Traffic calming a good idea.

Ratby Parochial Church Council

Green wedges should be retained.

If further housing cannot be avoided this should be social housing. Members would have welcomed link road between Markfield

Road and Desford Lane could improve traffic problems in village.

Unless there is provision for an industrial allocation, Ratby will become even more of a commuter village. Current shops should accommodate small development increase.

Leisure Interests

Consideration of leisure interests should not be limited to playing fields. Village halls have financial difficulties and are essential venues for village activities.

Ratby Playgroup and Girl Guides

Questionnaire given to members.

No substantial increase in housing would be needed. A second school would split community, and community spirit would be lost. No further shops required.

Recreation and Leisure

No more allotments needed at present possibly in future. Village pond and picnic area a good idea. Safety of children in recreation area should be a priority safety surfacing and restrictions on dogs. Insufficient leisure facilities for local teenagers. Traffic a problem, especially in certain areas. Traffic calming in Main Street and Danehill a good idea.

Ratby Primary School Association

Questionnaires were issued to members.

Protection of Ratby's heritage important, especially countryside to west of Ratby.

Most wished for no further development. Others thought that existing industry should have chance to expand or develop more appropriate sites. Light industry might help village to prosper.

Leisure centre (swimming pool would be a benefit). Majority said they would not make use of allotments. Irresponsible dog owners a problem. Play area should be fenced. Separate dog walks provided. Shopping adequate. Ring road and further shops not needed. Everyone in favour of traffic calming measures. It was hoped by all that Ratby would remain a rural village and that any changes would benefit the village.

continued

Ratby Parish Council

Christmas Arrangements

Carol Service around the tree. This year's carols will be sung around the Christmas tree on Wednesday December 16th, starting at 7.30 p.m. Ratby Junior Band will be there, and the Reverends Blackman and Keeley will lead the singing. We hope everyone will come along and make this a special event.

Refreshments will be served in the Welfare Hall at the end of the service.

As usual the Leicester City Fire Brigade Museum Society will be touring the village with Santa and his fire engine to collect money and toys for needy children.

Christmas Shop Window Competition

Once again the Parish Council will be holding this competition. There will be three prizes of £25, £10 and £5. Judging will take place in the week beginning December 12th.

Village Views on Ratby's Future

Representatives from organisations in the village or organisations representing interests of village people, attended a Parish Council meeting to report views of their members on Ratby's future. The meeting was held on October 15th in Ratby Primary School.

A summary of each organisation's report is here printed for your information.

The Parish Council welcomes views from all residents of the village. It is important that everyone contributes to future planning.

Ratby Cooperative Band

Mr Plant reported that Ratby's future had been discussed at great length. The main view was that people did not want alterations, unless to Ratby's advantage. There was concern about employment, particularly amongst the young.

Ratby Scout Group

The overriding view was that Ratby should remain a village. More commitment was necessary from the Borough Council to support views of villagers.

It was felt there should be a halt on development to prevent loss of identity.

A single school helps preserve the community feeling more development might mean more schools.

Employment

It was felt that most people now travel to work in Leicester or other areas. Could not agree to major industrial development.

Transport

No justification for more road building, such as ringroad proposed as part of development plan last year, traffic calming measures preferable.

A46 Bypass

Suggested traffic counts to see whether it does reduce traffic in village. Must remain vigilant to resist pressure for development.

M1 Widening

Must be kept fully informed of latest proposals.

Ivanhoe Line

Should consider how the line can be used to best advantage. A Ratby station as part of a largescale development would be too high a price if ever it were proposed.

Buses and Other Transport

Improvements in quality needed and promotion to encourage more use of buses. More bus shelters on pavements widened for traffic calming. Cycle route on old railway line a good idea.

Environment

Green wedges essential. Countryside west of the village (around Ratby Burroughs) could be designated as area of local landscape value? Washlands also important.

New National Forest could be extended - linking Martinshaw Wood to Burroughs Wood? Front garden and pub garden competitions a good idea.

Allotments

A need expressed but only if secure from vandalism.

Greetings from Ratby Methodist Church

We warmly invite you to celebrate Christmas with us at the following services:

Wednesday 2nd December at 7.30 p.m.

A feast of Christmas music with a sprinkling of verse to be presented by the church choir, followed by seasonal refreshments.

Sunday 13th December at 4.00 p.m.

Carol service, conducted by Rev. Eric Keeley

sunday 20th December at 10.00 a.m.

Christmas service with carols.

Christmas Day at 9.30 a.m.

Family service conducted by Rev. E Keeley.

You are also most welcome to join us at our services and activities throughout the year:

Sunday Morning Worship at 10.00 a.m.

Including a Sunday school where our younger meetings are held throughout the week. For further details concerning these and other church matters, please contact our Minister - Rev. Eric Keeley, 4 Spinneyside, Groby. Tel No. Leic 376035



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Ratby Parish Council

Ratby Village Society

Members of the Village Society would be willing to support any further action to protect village views. Wish Ratby to remain a village within its present boundary. Countryside and green wedges should be protected. Traffic calming should be a priority.

A Village Hall/Community Centre could be an asset. Opinion divided on new shops. Hardware suggested. Felt that village cannot support further industry. Some suggestions were put forward by a small minority of members, a ring road, extensions to bus services and more tree planting on verges for example. 50% of members have used local footpaths this year.

Ratby Women's Institute

Letters from members show that people do not want any more development.

Traffic always a problem. Parking restrictions suggested at certain points.

A ring road could bring some benefit, but it would open up area for development.

A dogwalking area a good idea with poop scoops. Nature walks and village pond felt to be a good idea.

"Many people wouldn't write to state their views as they think we have an excellent Parish Council, but when it gets to Bosworth no notice is taken of what the Ratby people think".

These reports were followed by open discussion.

You can read the full reports in Ratby Library.

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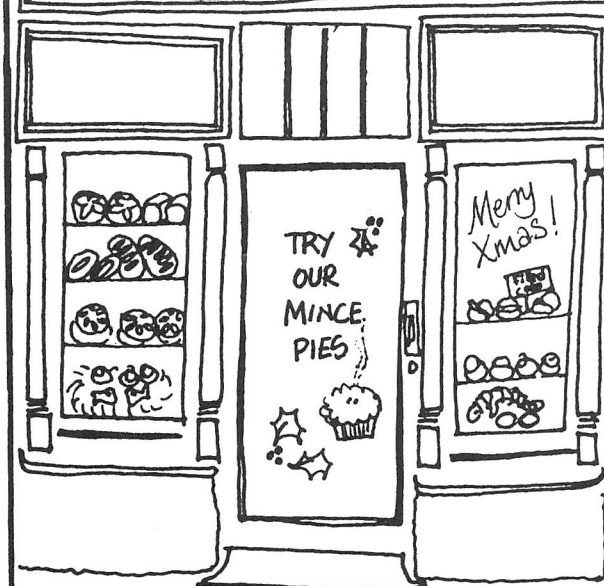
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COTTAGE LOAVES

FARMHOUSE LOAVES

CHEESE & ONION BREAD

BUN LOAVES

FUDGE

MALT BREAD

WHITE & BROWN COBS and ROLLS & TWINNIES

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THE RATBY CO-OPERATIVE BAND



On Saturday October 10th The Ratby Co-operative Band presented their 19th Celebration Concert at the Groby College. Due to unforeseen circumstances the venue had to be switched to the sports hall at the last minute but this did not deter the band. The concert went ahead and was a great success.

Before the Celebration Concert the Junior Band performed in the foyer of the college to raise money for Muscular Dystrophy. This event was called "Band-A-Thon" and was a national organisation for bands all over Great Britain helping to raise money this year in what ever way they could for the above charity. The Junior Band managed to raise £69.00 in total with the collection at the concert and sponsors.

Also during October The Band have recorded a new Cassette which will be available just before Christmas. What a good idea for a stocking filler! Phone Phil Plant for further details on 386510.

The Junior Band are entering the National Brass Band Association Youth Area Contest on Sunday 22nd November and will have to travel to Scunthorpe for the day and the Senior Band are entering the City of Leicester Festival Brass Band Contest on Sunday 29th November, but this will be held at the De Montfort Hall, Leicester.

As well as preparing for the above contest the Band are also preparing for the Christmas Season. Here are just a few of the events the band are performing at:

- Sat. 5th Dec. Junior Band are organising a CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING/BAZAAR between 10am and 2pm at the Bandroom on Station Road.
- Sun. 13th Dec. CHRISTMAS CONCERT held at Groby College, afternoon and evening performances. Further details from Lynne Plant on 93-823883.
- Wed. 16th Dec. Carols around the Tree, Ratby Memorial.
- Sun. 20th Dec. The Band are playing AROUND THE VILLAGE as in previous years.

Lynne Plant
Publicity Officer

SCOUTS RAFFLE WINNERS

- 1st prize Mrs Ashmore 394701
- 2nd Joanna 628953
- 3rd Rosemarie 871559
- 4th Richard 387664
- 5th T Bailey 873447
- 6th K Richard 386795
- 7th Derry Poolsman Station Rd
- 8th Bev Leics 628953
- 9th Nicola Hurd 784392
- 10th Jennie Hudley Stenville Rd
- 11th Mr & Mrs Veasey Heathbrook
- 12th J Carratt 386414
- 13th Mike Blakeman Worcester
- 14th Ken Sharp
- 15th Mrs Rosen The Huntings K.M.

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POLICE/COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

The Beaumont Police/Community Consultative Committee will be holding a Public Meeting at the Glenfield Parish Council Office, Park House, Stamford Street, Glenfield on Wednesday 2nd December 1992 commencing 7.30 p.m.

The object of the meeting is to provide an opportunity for people of the sub division to air their views over policing issues which concern their Community. It is hoped that members of the community will go along and take an active part in the meeting to make the event a success.

The Consultative Committee is chaired by Councillor Mrs C E Brock. Senior Police Officers from Beaumont Police Station will be present to answer questions and discuss matters raised.

It is not within the Committee's terms of reference to discuss individual cases. These should always be referred to the Sub divisional Commander at Beaumont Police Station.

If you have any queries regarding this press release, please contact Mr D J Ward, County Secretary's Department, County Hall, Glenfield, Leicester, LE3 8RP. Tel. 656028

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Christmas



GROBY POOL 0000

Whilst browsing in Ratby Library I came across some interesting stories about Groby Pool.

"There are one or two local proverbs connected with the pool. Though not used very much today, at one time they were very popular."

"I'll thatch Groby Pool with Pancakes" is said of a person making idle boasts. Walter Scott used the saying in his book, "The Heart of Midlothian";

"I hope there's no bad company on the road sir, said Jeanie.

'Why when its clean without them I'll thatch Groby Pool with Pancakes'.

Another proverb is 'When he dies there will be many a wet eye in Groby Pool' said of an unpopular person whose death few would mourn. The only eyes in Groby Pool belonging to fishes.

From 'Further Legends of Leicestershire and Rutland' by Susan Green

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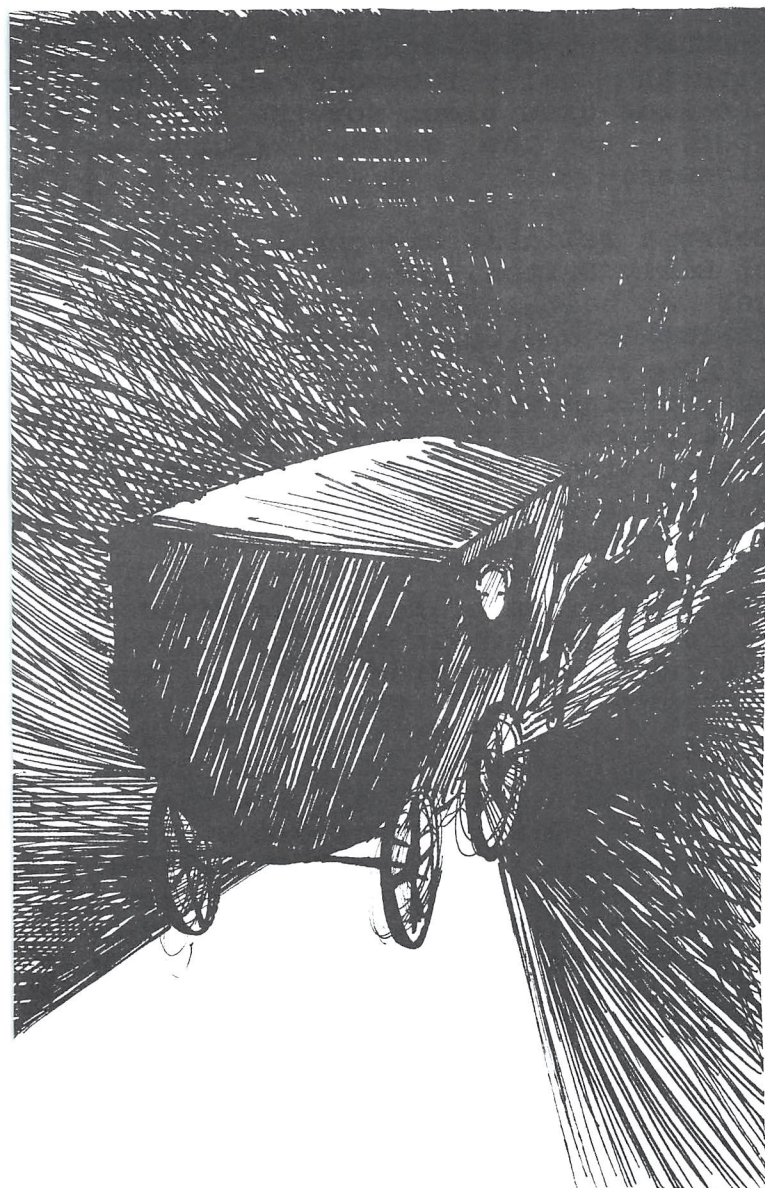
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I WILL LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING YOU

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Wordlessly we turned and ran down the road, Lady close by our heels.

In the car park, a ranger vehicle drew close, its driver peering at our huddled shapes. "You lot look as though you've seen a ghost", he joked.

I don't think he believed our story. but he gave us a lift anyway. "They do say", he remarked, "that Lady Jane Grey haunts this park, but I don't believe in such things myself".

Later, as we sat quietly around the fire, eating our mince pies, someone said, "I



A ghost story for Christmas

It was Christmas Eve and the first time we'd been at home for several years. Snow had fallen during the night, and we decided that a walk in Bradgate Park would be a wonderful start to the celebrations.

We parked near Old John. Ours was the only car to be seen. Wrapped up warmly we strode up the hill making the first footprints in the snow, our collie, Lady, barking excitedly around us.

The sun was low and the snow sparkled brightly as far as we could see, tempting us to walk on across the open park. We'd head for a distant clump of trees, then turn back.

What a relief to be away from the motorway and traffic jams of London which were our usual fate on Christmas Eve. Up here the air was clear and fresh no traffic fumes and impatient horns. Even Lady had calmed down, padding softly ahead, nose to the ground. Occasionally she glanced back and grinned at our snowfighting silliness.

As we neared the trees, Lady was swallowed up into the darkness.

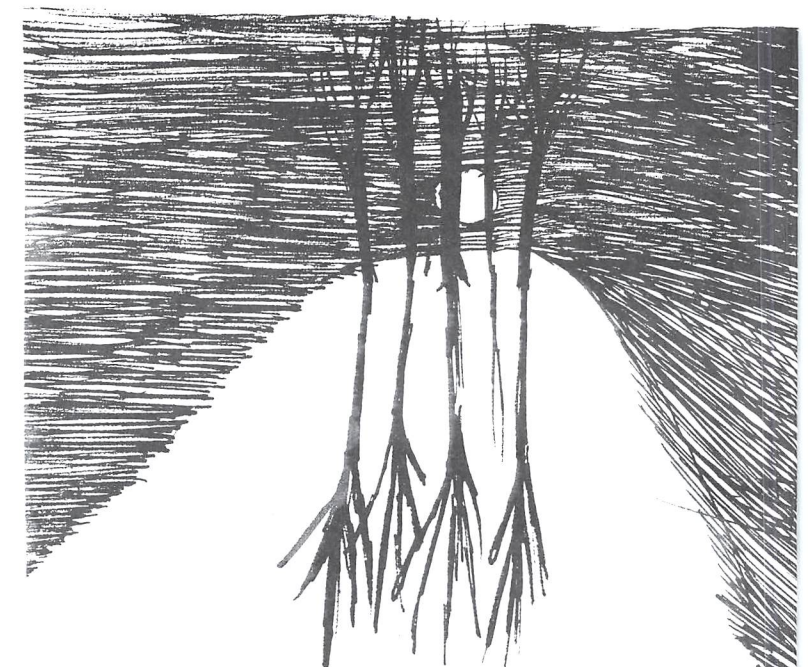
We called and whistled. There was no response. Standing quietly we were aware for the first time of the silence. the sun sank lower, and the dark fingers of the trees' shadow reached out towards us.

Shivering, we carefully skirted the wood. No collie. Only a trail of paw prints heading down towards the ruined buildings. Alongside them the animal tracks that had lured her away.

We trudged reluctantly after her. Night spread its dark cloak across the sky and the peaceful quiet became an ominous stillness.

Heedless of the snow's beauty now, our thoughts were of home as we scrambled towards the ruined house.

Suddenly an eerie wailing sound pierced



A peacock strutted out from the shadows. We fell apart and laughed in relief. No ghostly haunting, just a noisy arrogant bird.

We stumbled onto the road as the darkness totally engulfed us. Out of that darkness came Lady, running towards us, tail between legs and whimpering. "You should be ashamed of yourself too", I said, as she cowered against my legs.....

Feeling more cheerful now, we strode briskly along thinking about the mince pies waiting for us back home.

a darker shape loomed towards us. "Must be a park ranger he'll give us a lift for sure".

But this was no familiar landrover. We stood transfixed as soundlessly the shape drew nearer. The blackness formed itself into four horses horses with no heads, that rushed towards us pulling, what looked like, an old coach cold fear gripped me and sharpened my senses.

I felt a wave of sorrow engulf me as my eyes met those of the passenger. Her white face stared sadly out of the darkness. I experienced an overwhelming sadness.

COUNTY TRAVEL

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MERRY CHRISTMAS
TO ALL OUR CUSTOMERS



MRS FINNEY'S PUMP & BARBER BURTON

Being surprised that material for the above had not been forthcoming may I take the liberty to share recollections with your readers.

Mrs Finney's solitary petrol pump was situated on the very corner of the small front garden of what is currently No. 66 Station Road.

When petrol was required, a knock on the back door would alert a very polite Mrs Finney to the action station at the pump.

Memory suggests that a handle was inserted at the side of the machine and turned until petrol filled a glass tank to the appropriate level. To transfer petrol to car or can the handle action was reversed, the spirit passed from glass tank to customer.

I think the same good lady sold Blue Paraffin, as different to the Pink sold at the Co-op.

Billy the Barber

The Burton residence was next door to the pump, just across the passage at No. 70, and the establishment gave two vital services. You could either have your hair cut or your accumulator charged, and in order not to confuse the local tribesmen, both services commanded the same price, thre'pence for a small and sixpence for a big 'un.

Since the scene is set in the late 1930's it should perhaps be explained that an accumulator was not three winners in a row but a gadget that made your wireless work.

The predecessor of the dry cell battery, or for that matter, electricity, the accumulator was usually a glass jar, similar in size to a one pound or a two pound jam jar, but square.

Made up of layers of lead with positive and negative terminals, it was filled with acid and when fully charged would keep the wireless going for approximately a week, according to size.

The wireless plus accumulator, placed on the sideboard, would be loud and clear at the beginning of the week but the sound got weaker as Wednesday approached. From then on, the family sat nearer and nearer to the set and despite heating the accumulator up on the hob or giving it a clout or two with the family Toby Jug, by Friday the kids drew blood for the nearest spot, to the set. (But we digress)

Being a reliable bi-annual customer of Billy Burton, I was required to get a hair cut twice each year, Christmas and Chapel Sermons.

The routine was always the same, thre'pence in my hand and instructions from "me mam" (Tell Master Burton ta gi yer a laster and remember yer manners).

The front room of No.70 was divided by a long curtain to separate the cutting chamber from the waiting customers. Odd things spring to mind, like gingham body cloths and hand manipulated clippers which plucked rather than cut. A choice was given between a squeeze of posh Brylcreem or a cupped handful of runny brilliantine which ran down the neck and forehead. The acid test for the exercise, if your Dad recognised you when you got home, you hadn't had your money's worth!

Please Mr. Editor, may I wish sincerely, both to those who remember the older, smaller village and to those more recent villagers who have the increasing responsibility of keeping its friendly identity.

A very Happy Christmas and a great "each for all" New Year.

Local Yodel

Editor's Note

A number of pieces of information have in fact been received and when all of the information is collected it will be used in a future article. Any further information is welcome.

TIMESHARE - TIME TO THINK AGAIN



There's good news for anyone considering buying a Timeshare. The Timeshare Act, which came into force on 12th October 1992, provides for a cancellation or "cooling off" period of 14 days for all timeshare agreements covered by it.

In providing the purchasers with a 14 day period in which to withdraw from a timeshare agreement, the Act provides substantial protection for many people that complain to the Department of Trading Standards each year, who feel they have been unfairly induced to buy a product which they either "did not really want or could not afford."

But, be warned - at the moment this Act only covers timeshare agreements entered into under UK law or where one or both of the parties to an agreement are in the UK when it is made. Unfortunately, there is no automatic right to withdraw from a timeshare agreement which is signed overseas.

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NO JOB TOO SMALL

Janet's Jottings

Quite recently two friends joined Black and White Bess and myself for a walk through Martinshaw Woods. We ambled around the little wood which is to the west of the motorway, and saw such interesting things. I was jotting and reading for days afterwards. Here are just a few of my observations.

Black and White Bess showed us some of the pathways belonging to the Grey Squirrel. She picked up the scent from beside their "dinner tables" and then pointed out the particular tree which was used as a stairway to their highways of the Woodland Canopy.



A pine cone which
has been handled
by a grey squirrel.

Close to the paths there is evidence of how forests used to be managed in previous centuries. The Hazel bushes, for instance, grow in clusters. This made for easy working. Each cluster would be coppiced on a regular 5 or 7 year rotation. The resulting poles were used for fencing, hurdles, laths to hold thatch in place and the small off cuts would be bound into faggots for the cooking fires. When the bushes had regrown for about 4 years good crops of nuts could be harvested.

The woodland animals harvest Hazel nuts as well as humans. Each type of animal has its own distinctive way of opening the shells.

Here are some examples

Hazelnuts showing handling by
different woodland creatures



Adult
Squirrel



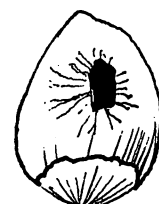
Young
Squirrel



Wood
mouse



Nuthatch



Great tit

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Growing quite close to the Hazel bushes are Oak trees. These too have been previously coppiced but at much longer intervals of time. The stools, from which the present young trees are growing, are often hidden by grasses, mosses and even fungi. Take a peep at the stool and see just where and how large the original oak was. If I tell you that it takes about 100 years for an oak tree trunk to grow to approximately 1 ft diameter at eye level, I guesstimate that in Martinshaw Wood Oak was last coppiced around the turn of the 20th century. Are there any of you out there who know the records of the management of the wood so that I can check my guesstimate?

A very modern crop grows alongside the oak and hazel, the conifers, these too were planted as a crop to be harvested, I wonder when?

As we wandered along the paths we wondered, Did our direct ancestors walk along the same paths? Will our direct descendants walk the same paths in future centuries? That is up to us NOW!

LEARN TO RESPECT THIS FABULOUS HERITAGE!



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CONTINUED-

THE

HUBERT

SUTTON

STORY

It was our job to stop supplies reaching the Japanese in North Burma. We did this by blowing up road bridges and making sure that nothing got by on river or railway.

There were four strongholds, White City, Blackpool, Aberdeen and Broadway, with 4 regiments in the Brigade - the Blackwatch South Staffordshire, the Yorks and Lancs and the Leicesters.

It was not long before the Japanese came looking for us. They tried to take the strongholds but they never did.

When the Chindits were formed, Wingate said no man would be in Burma more than 3 months at a time. That soon fell through. Wingate was killed in a plane crash and by now the monsoons had started. Lord Mountbatten said the Chindits would fight through the monsoons.

I can say it took its toll for we were losing almost as many men through illness as we were through fighting. But the Japanese were feeling it more. They were short of food, clothes and ammunition. It was not long before they were giving themselves up to anyone who would take them.

After five months in Burma the Chindits job was finished. We flew back to India. The 14th army moved in with tanks and artillery and the RAF, and soon Burma was once more a free country.

We went on a month's leave. I went to Bombay for 2 weeks and Bangalore for 2

weeks. I was asked if I would like a job in the Sargeant's mess until I went home. I took it and was told to report to P.T.E. Broome in the cookhouse. He also came from Ratby and I knew him well.

I sailed for home in November 1945 and got home in time for Christmas.

After leaving the Army I started work again at the Glenfield Brickyard, until it closed down in 1957. Then I went back to the plastering with Herberts until I retired in 1977.

I was married at Groby Church on 27th December 1947 to Dorothy Dumford of Groby. Our daughter Glennis was born in August 1949.

I often wonder at the change in people's lives today. People own their own homes with all the latest things. They have cars and go on holidays abroad. All this must be for the better, but I wonder how much better. You only have to read your paper, another bank robbery or another murder, old ladies conned and robbed by young girls as young as 10 or 12, and in the towns it's hardly safe to go out at night.

I can say for sure that none of these things happened when I was younger. You could go out all day and leave your door open and you would not have the burglars.

I have just been reading that the Government want to go back to teaching the children the BASICS - reading, writing and spelling. I was taught those when I was 10 years old at the Ratby County School before some of the MPs were born.



DOROTHY SUTTON
CIRCA 1938
AT GROBY POOL



LEFT TO RIGHT, DOROTHY SUTTON
MINNIE (HARRIS) WOOD, APPROX 1939 AT
CLEETHORPES



HUBERT SUTTON
HOLDING DAUGHTER
GLENIS 1950

PABARI'S RATBY NEWS

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7.00 TILL 9.00 PM SUNDAY EVENING

AFTERNOON TEA DANCES

Afternoon tea dances are being held every Wednesday fortnight 2-4 p.m. in the Church Rooms in Church Lane.

Admission is 50p. A cup of tea and biscuit is provided which is covered by the 50p admission fee.

The money raised from these fortnightly dances is going towards the 'Parish Church Rooms Roof Fund'. The next dance will be on Wednesday 9th December.

The dancing includes ballroom and modern sequence!

What a wonderful way to raise funds!!

Ratby Village Society

DECEMBER & JANUARY EVENTS

DECEMBER	No meeting
JANUARY 1993	Member's slides evening

Members are invited to bring along a maximum of twenty slides of their own taking for showing on the big screen.

Normal meetings in the Welfare Hall, Main St, Ratby at 8.0 pm. All welcome to attend.

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Letters

Dear Editor,

Looking back through my old copies of "WOT", I came across an interesting article in issue 9, April 1988 -- the Knighton Park Trust letter. This stated that the Trust offered to provide a wildlife lake with associated footpaths which would be given to the village of Ratby. I note now that the hall appears to be in full use, are the footpaths also available? Name & address supplied.

Dear Editor,

Two items in the last issue of WOT! prompt me to write. Firstly photographs of Ratby in the snow are requested. Enclosed is the only black and white photograph I have, but you are welcome to use it if you wish.

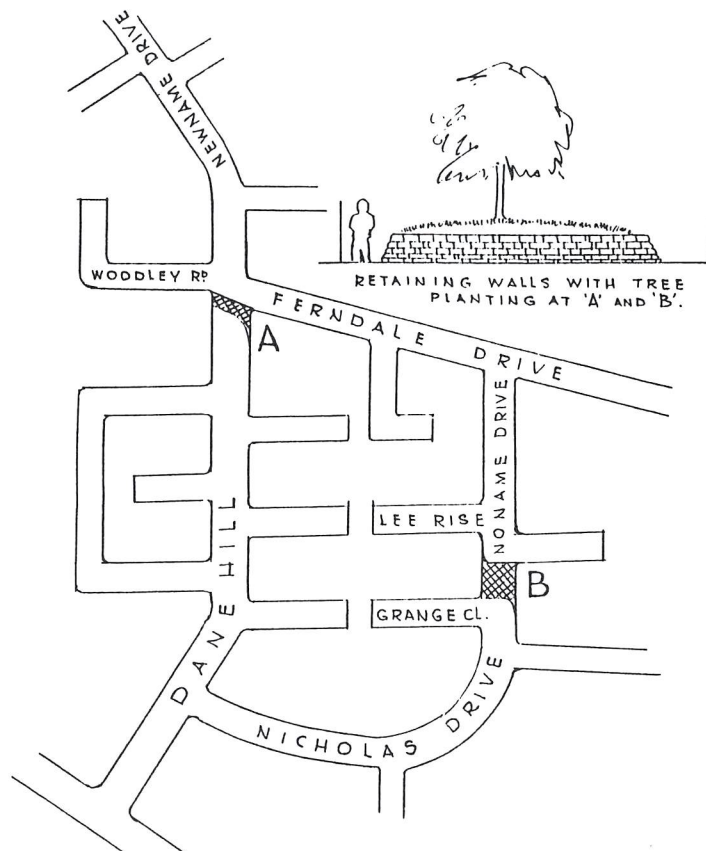
The other topic, Traffic Calming Measures, is a controversial one of which I might be well advised to steer clear, but as I'm getting stupid in my old age, I'll stick my neck out.

Twenty years ago I lived in a district of Leicester where extended pavements, to create onstreet car parking and to reduce traffic speeds, were introduced. While it achieved the second objective it created other problems such as parking on pavements, driving on pavements and the (motorists) destruction of decorative trees. Had the extensions been built two feet (60 cm to young readers!) high then it could have been more effective. In the days when I was also one of the motoring fraternity rumble strips had the desired effect on me but apparently they do not work for everyone, least of all those who live adjacent to the things and are disturbed by the noise they create. Speed tables together with reduced road widths seem to work extremely well in Belvoir Street, Leicester.

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However, I have dreamed up a much more drastic scheme by making Danehill and Nicholas Drive 'No through routes'. But that is going to put a lot more traffic on to Main Street, I hear you say. Yes, but traffic which is bumper to bumper is not likely to be doing 40 to 50 miles per hour as at present. The real solution is the one favoured by a gentleman at the Parish Consultation Meeting who (with tongue in cheek) favoured the driving of a herd of cows along Main Street every day at peak periods!

..... And when you have sorted out the 'Traffic Calming Measures', please may we have some 'Teenager Calming Measures' too?

Horace Gamble

B.T. KEYMER

18 Parklands Avenue, Groby.
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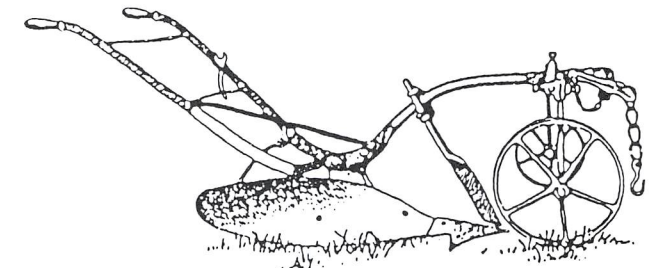
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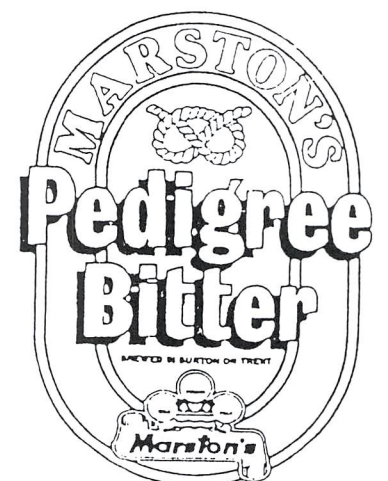
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by Jan 1st 93 the Hedgehog
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HOSPITAL

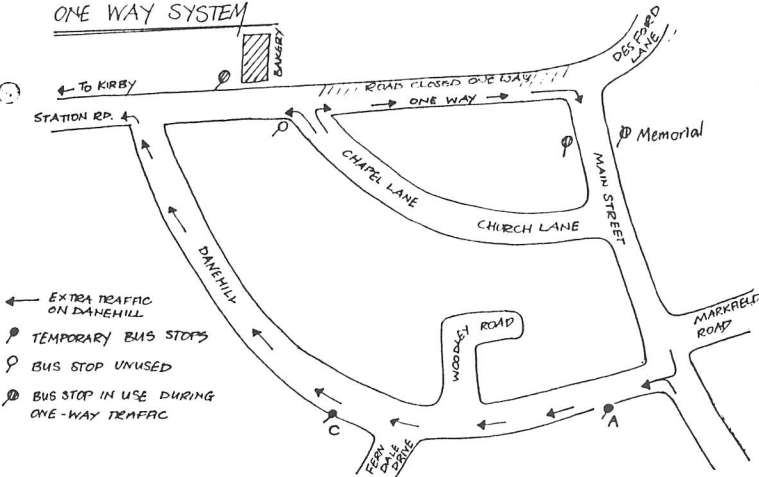
392103



Pams Coach on Thursday to Beaumont Leys

Outward journey along Station Road as normal. Return journey via Danehill.

- * Notices will be placed on stops which will not be in use, to advise travellers of alternate temporary bus stops.
- * Letters will be sent to residents adjacent to proposed temporary bus stops
- * Diversion signs will redirect traffic
- * There will be liaison between contractors and residents in Station Road during work.
- * Bus companies may be providing information leaflets. Regular travellers are advised to seek further information.



Safety

Residents are advised to avoid parking on Danehill during the period, especially near to junctions at Groby Road and Station Road.

The Parish Council have asked for a school crossing warden on Danehill. Patrol signs would be erected if this is successful. However we have been informed that there is a current shortage of crossing wardens. Danehill is to be included in a winter road gritting scheme as a priority.

Access

Pedestrian access along Station Road between Desford Lane corner and Chapel Lane corner will be maintained at all times.

Vehicle access to businesses and houses should be maintained within the constraints of improvement work. Liaison with contractors is essential.

Church Lane and Chapel Lane will be unaffected. Diversion signs should discourage extra traffic from using this route as a short cut.


EMPLOYING YOUNG PEOPLE

Employers of young people still at school have responsibilities towards them in law. If they break the law they are liable to prosecution. These are a summary of the laws relating to Ratby:-

- Aged 13 - 16
 - 1 hr From 7.00am - 8.00am
 - 2hrs After School between 4.30pm - 6.30pm
 - 4hrs On Saturday between 7.00am - 7.00pm
 - Max 20 hpw During school holidays
 - 2 hrs On Sunday between 8.00am - 10.00am
- (solely for the purpose of the delivery of milk & newspaper.)

CAN YOU HELP?

A local dance school is having trouble finding the following music for a forthcoming show.
Music from 'Cabaret'
A tune entitled 'All that Jazz'
Music from 'Gipsy'
If you can help, please telephone Martin on 395179



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The inclusion of an advertiser in this newspaper is not a recommendation by Wot! or its

ROAD WIDENING AT STATION ROAD

Two Parish Councillors attended a site meeting on 24th September, with representatives from the County Council, Police and Leicester City bus. The proposed road widening and closure of Station Road was discussed.

Following this meeting, information has been received by the Parish Council and the following report drawn up.

Closure of Station Road and redirection of traffic and bus routes

Temporary orders will come into force on 11th January and last for 16 weeks. It is expected that the complete closure of Station Road will last for 4 weeks. The oneway order (Kirby → Groby direction) will operate at other times.

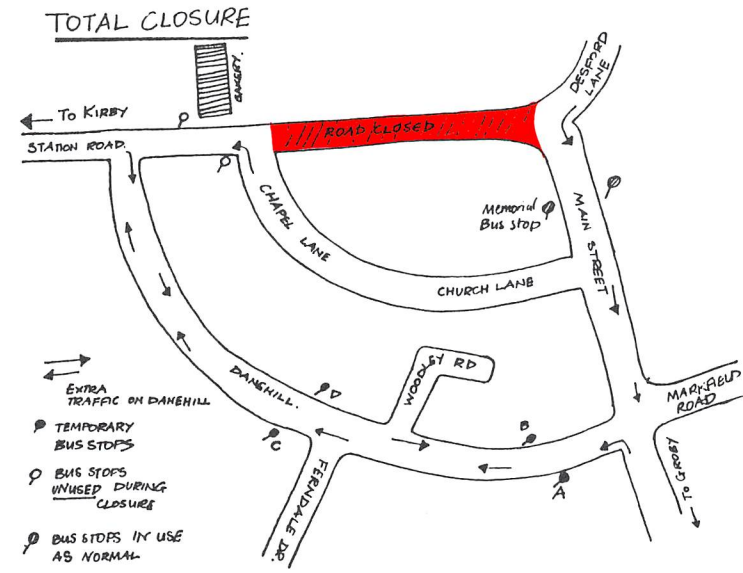
Exact dates will be advised in a press release and road traffic reports when the contractor is known and a work programme has been agreed with Highways Department.

Bus and Traffic Routes

Temporary bus routes and stops will be in operation and diversion signs will redirect traffic.

TOTAL CLOSURE

All traffic will be diverted, and Danehill will have an increased traffic flow.



Bus stops and signs will be provided at:-

- A. Verge by electrical sub station. Sign on new post
- B. Sign and stop at lamp column by 55 Danehill
- C. Lamp column near 18 Danehill
- D. Opposite C

Midland Fox 109

As normal

Coalville to Leicester LCB 254

re-directed up Main Street, Danehill and back to Station Road. Reverse journey the same.

Lloyds X74 Friday Service to Nottingham

Redirected along Danehill

Pams Thursday service to Beaumont Leys

Redirected along Danehill

DURING ONE WAY OPERATION

Traffic will be allowed along Station Road from Kirby Muxloe to Groby direction only. Reverse traffic will be diverted along Danehill, increasing the flow of traffic

Circular Route 111- 116

Clockwise buses will follow normal route through one way system (114 and 116)

The bus stop outside Geary's will be in use.

Anticlockwise buses from Groby will be directed down Danehill (111, 113, 115)

Midland Fox 109

As normal

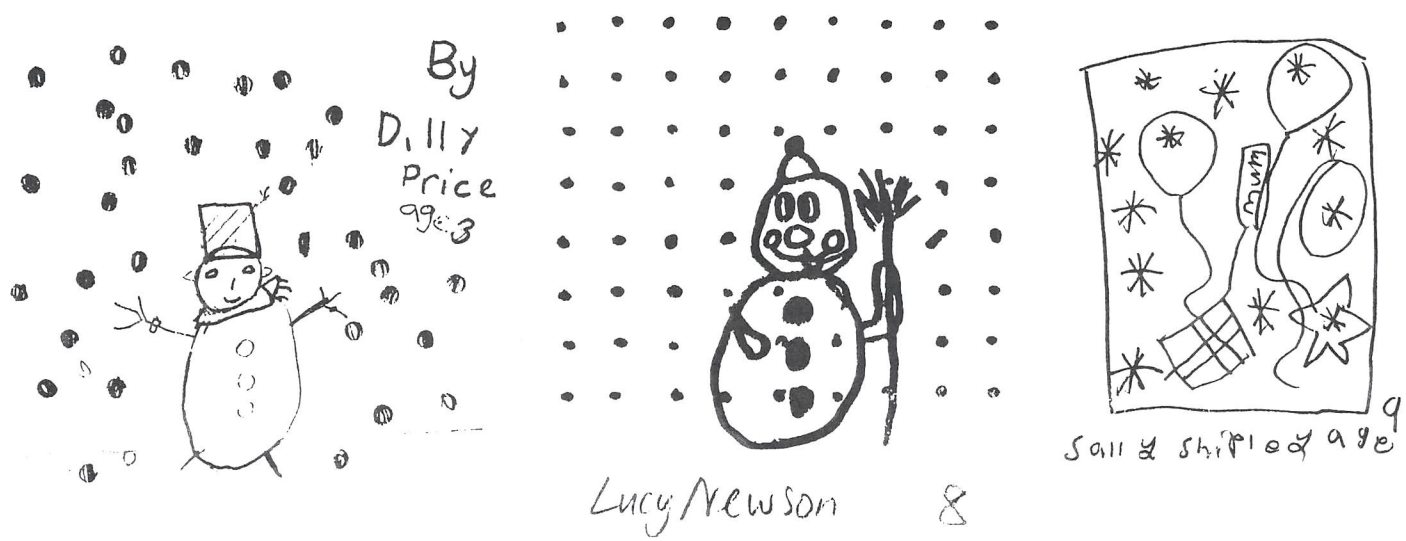
Coalville to Leicester LCB 254

The inward journey to Leicester will travel along Main Street, down Danehill to Station Road, then as normal.

The return journey to Coalville will use oneway route along Main Street and Station Road.

Lloyds X74 to Nottingham (Friday only)





WHEN SEVERE WEATHER STRIKES

Severe weather - heavy snow, blizzards, dense fog, gales heavy rain and widespread ice can greatly affect everyday routines and in some cases cause loss of life. L.C.C. has produced an updated 2nd edition of the leaflet "When Severe Weather Strikes". It explains the County Council's role in tackling problems caused by severe weather conditions. Topics covered by the leaflet include roads and accessibility, school closures and information sources. It also gives some handy hints for dealing with problems when at home or in the car. The leaflet is available from libraries throughout the county or by contacting the Public Relations Unit at County Hall. Tel: 656272, 656274 or 656284.



CALVERTON CLOSE/LEE RISE - FRIDAY 8TH FEBRUARY 1992
PHOTOGRAPH BY HORACE A GAMBLE

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250 YEAR OLD WORKSHOPS REBORN AT SNI BSTON DISCOVERY PARK

The reconstruction of the complex of wheelwright workshops dating from 1742 at Snibston Discovery Park, Coalville has now been completed. Fitting out of the buildings with the original benches, equipment and tools has commenced in readiness for the official opening of this exhibit later this year to mark the buildings 250th anniversary.

Building surveyors from Leicestershire County Council's Department of Property have undertaken considerable research into material used and various craftsmanship techniques from the periods of construction. This culminated in the successful supervision of the rebuilding which was undertaken by a contractor with previous experience in restoring industrial buildings of historic importance.

The buildings have been moved from their original site at Sheepy Magna and in order that characteristics were not lost during rebuilding they were dismantled in such a way

that each brick was returned to its original position - the walls thus retain all the internal and external features which give the workshops their unique aesthetic appeal and historical integrity.

The contract has taken 8 months to complete and has included the creation of the landscaped setting in which the buildings formerly stood. The siting of the complex on what is a "fill" site at Snibston necessitated the use of modern concrete piling techniques to provide foundations adequate to ensure the building's long term future.

Sympathetic strengthening of both brick and timber framed buildings was also introduced into the reconstruction to provide the level of structural integrity and safety required of buildings which are to open to the public. These structural improvements were achieved whilst maintaining the projects objectives of, as far as possible, identical reconstruction.

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" " "	£60,000	"	£108.00
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