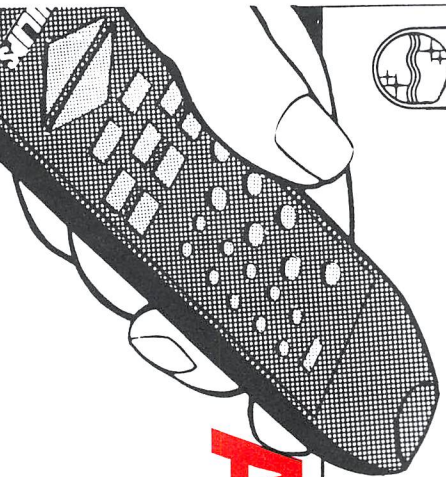




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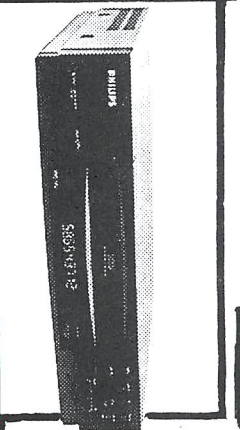


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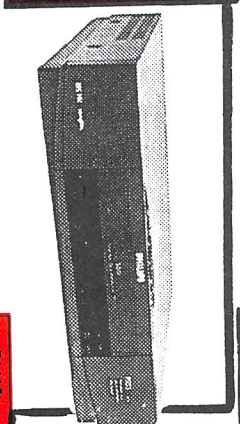


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DECEMBER
1993

Wot! About Ratby

ISSUE 43

Season's Greetings

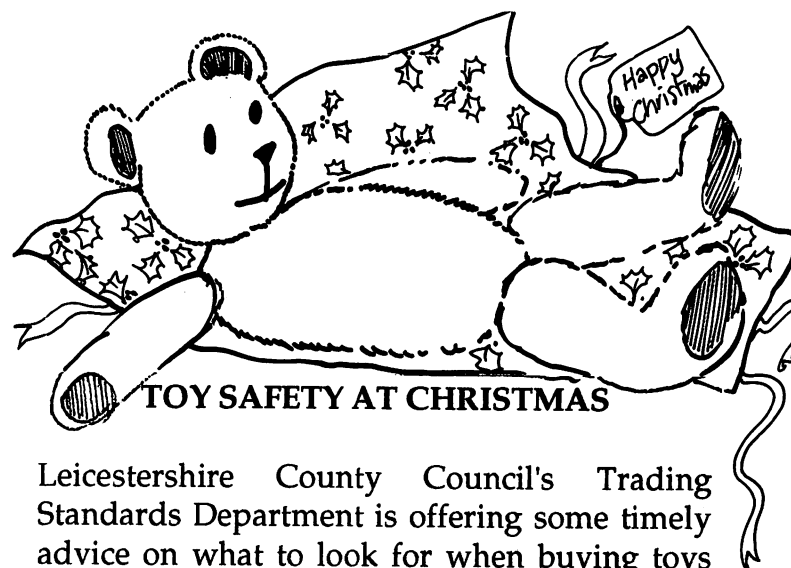


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TOY SAFETY AT CHRISTMAS

Leicestershire County Council's Trading Standards Department is offering some timely advice on what to look for when buying toys this Christmas.

The Department, which seeks to ensure that only safe goods are sold by traders in the County, warns that whilst most toys on the British market are carefully made and safe to play with, there are a number of common sense precautions that people should take when buying toys.

The County Council advises:

- Go to a reputable seller
- Be cautious of cheap toys - they are not always a bargain and many of the unsafe items discovered have been cheap novelty imports
- Look for recognised symbols of approval such as the Lion Mark which should normally ensure that the toy is safe and of good quality
- Buy toys suitable for the age of the user - warnings on packaging about the suitability for particular age groups should be taken seriously
- Check soft toys for sturdy, well sewn seams. Be certain that eyes, noses and button noses are securely fastened and cannot be bitten off or pulled off by inquisitive fingers
- Shop around for value for money. The price of the same toy can vary significantly between shops.

They also strongly advise that broken or damaged toys be relegated to the dustbin and not passed on to others at car boot sales or similar events.

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PABARI'S RATBY NEWS

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Merry Christmas THE RATBY CO-OPERATIVE BAND

What a year the Junior Band have had. It began with qualifying for the National Youth Brass Band Finals in March at which the Band were placed 3rd. We held a Solo Contest at the bandroom in June which was very successful and also members of the Junior Band entered the Leicestershire Brass Band Association Solo Contest and came away with prizes for solos and quartets.

A few weeks ago the Junior Band entered the "Child of Achievement, Music in the Community" competition and were chosen to compete in the Semi Finals. The northern area semi final was held on Wednesday 10th November and a coach full of excited children and parents left Ratby early in the morning to travel to Harrogate. We had a wonderful day meeting lots of other children who had also qualified for this competition. There were jazz bands, brass bands, small groups from schools, solo items and an Angklung band. As a result of the semi finals the Ratby Junior Band have qualified for the National Finals of the Child of Achievement competition and we now have to travel, along with the successful finalists from the southern area (which has been held in Brighton), to London. The final will be held at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Center, Westminster on March 30th 1994.

The band have recently taken delivery of 9 new instruments due to the fact that we have been awarded a grant from the Foundation for Sport and the Arts.

We are pleased to announce that our Annual Christmas Concert, held at Groby College is a complete sell out but we would like to invite you to our Christmas Coffee Morning which is being held at the Bandroom on Saturday December 4th from 10am to 2pm.

If anyone would be interested in joining our 200 Club then we have a few vacancies at the moment. We have a monthly prize of £50.00 and at the Christmas Concert we have a Grand Prize Draw with prizes of £500, £250, £100, £50 and four £25. If you would like to be included in our Christmas Draw then please phone Rachel Horsewood on Leicester 877536 for more details.

We look forward to seeing you around the Christmas Tree on Wednesday 22nd December and no doubt you will be hearing us at various other times over the festive period. From all members of the Ratby Co-operative Band we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

SECRETARY:- Mrs. L. Plant, 12 Oxford Road, Desford, Leicester LE9 9JN Tel: Hinckley (0455) 823883

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ABTA TOUR OPERATORS!



ACCESS & VISA WELCOME



Teatime Dances

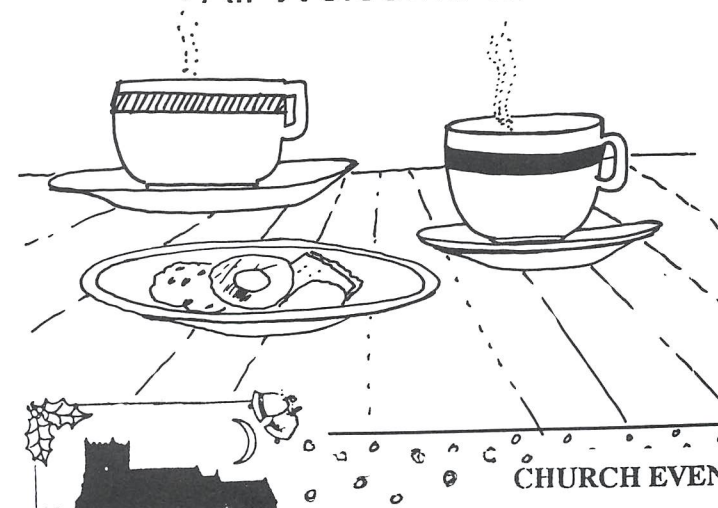
Teatime Dances are held every Wednesday Fortnight in the Church Rooms in Church Lane. All receipts are donated towards the new roof for the Church Rooms.

You can enjoy Ballroom and Sequence Dancing for just 50p including tea and biscuits.

Dancing time is between 2 pm and 4 pm. on each of the following dates:-

December 8th
December 22nd
January 5th
January 19th
February 2nd
February 16th.

All Welcome !!!



CHURCH EVENTS

1st Nativity Play Rehearsal in Church 10.00 - 11.00 am and thereafter each Saturday morning until 18th December.

5th December

Family Service

12th December

Nativity Play Rehearsal - instead of the usual Sunday School.

19th December

Nativity Play at the 10.40 Sung Eucharist Service - children to be at the Church Rooms for 9.30 am.

19th December

Children's Christmas Party. (3 - 5 pm)
Donations of cakes/biscuits would be gratefully received together with any volunteers to help.

19th December

Christmas Carol Service 6pm.
Accompanied Children welcome.

22nd December

Carols Around The Christmas Tree, at the Angel Memorial, Ratby (hopefully with visit from Santa Claus.) The Revs. Tony & Susan Leighton together with the Rev. Eric Keeley will be leading the singing.

24th December

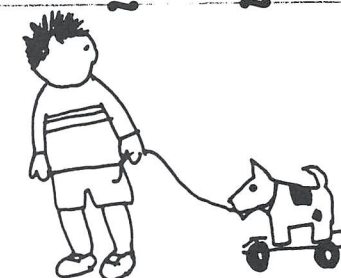
Midnight Eucharist Service 11.30 pm.

25th December

Family Christingle Service 11.00 am.

CHURCH NEWS

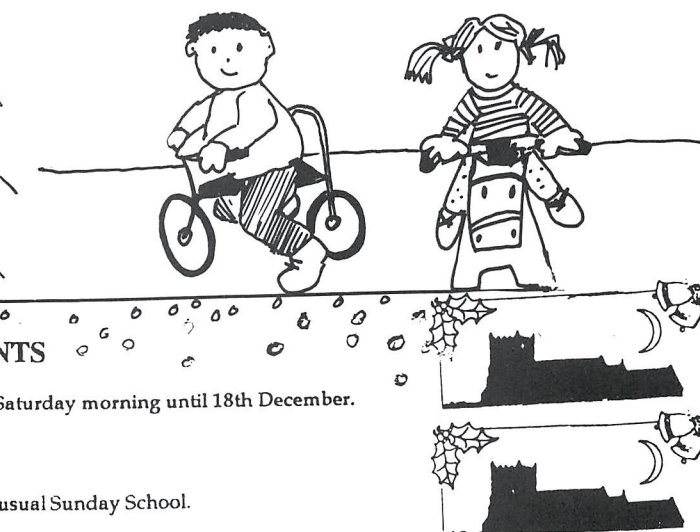
The licensing of Rev Tony Leighton as Team Rector and Rev Michael Hardy as team vicar takes place on Tuesday evening, 1st February 1994 at Ratby Church, by the Bishop of Leicester.



UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

It had been feared that Ratby's Tuesday afternoon Mother and Toddler group would have to close down at Christmas as we had been unable to find anyone to take over the running of the group. We are pleased to announce that Lesley, Lisa and Donna came forward at the eleventh hour and saved the day!

The group will now be starting up again in January and will be returning to its old time of 2pm to 3pm.



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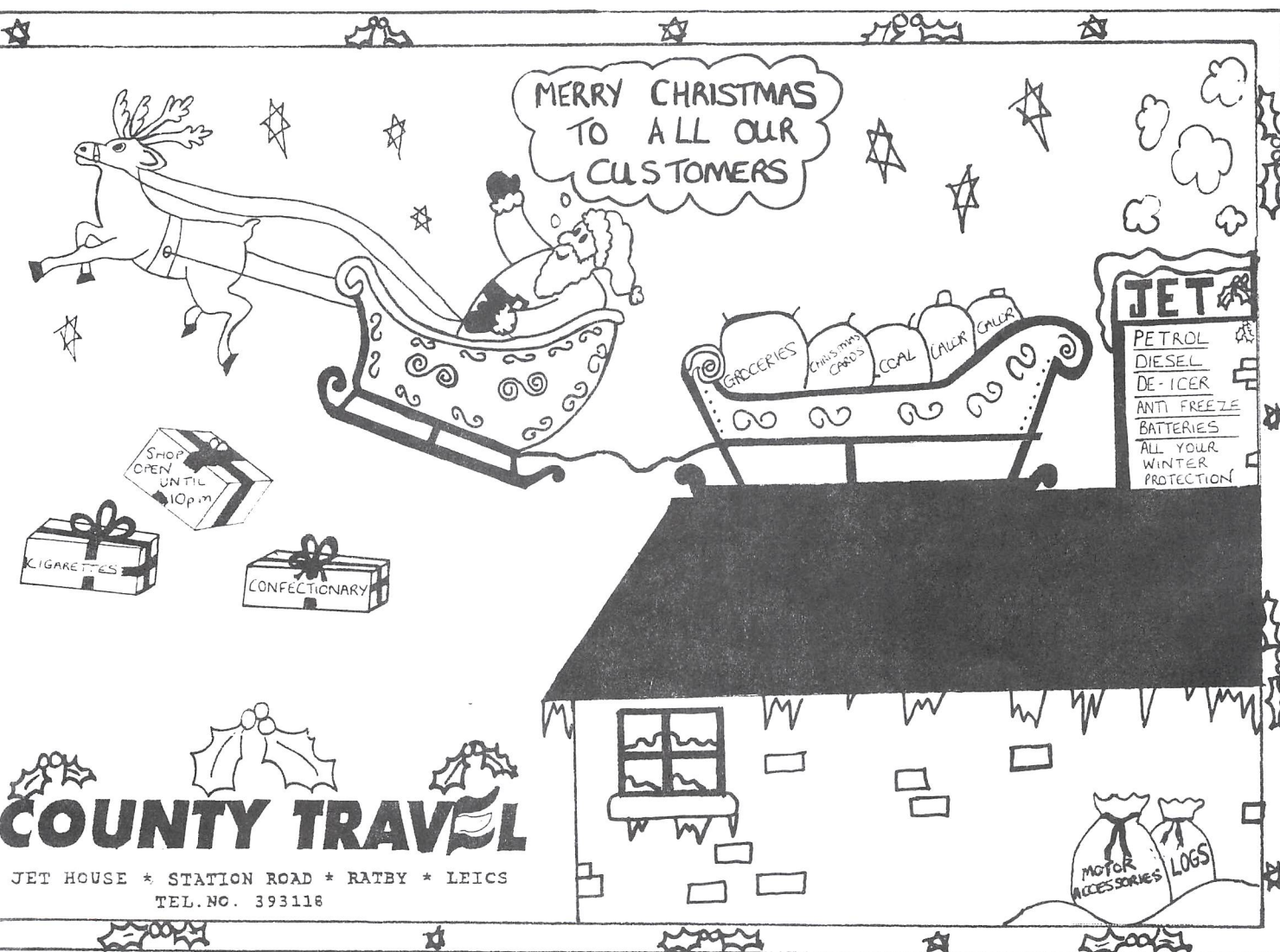


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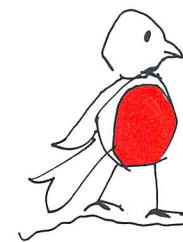
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Wot! next ?



Looking back through this year's issues of Wot! it seems that our lives have been dominated by roads. The road widening at Station Road and the question of buses along Danehill aroused a lot of interest. It all seems a long time ago now. Have we got used to this new stretch of road? How soon will the cedar tree we lost be forgotten? The loss of that one tree caused concern. Little did we know then how our surrounding landscape would be despoiled by the bypass construction, and by the destruction of ancient hedgerows between Ratby and Groby.

Those of you who read the Bradgate Mail may have noticed a report on the concerns of Kirby Muxloe residents worried about the effects of the bypass junction and the imminent widening of the motorway, they are calling for a road to be built along the Rothley brook valley between our villages. Can we then be looking ahead to another year dominated by the threat of more tarmac and traffic?

During the year we said farewell to Mr Peter Smith, headmaster of Ratby Primary School, and to the Revd. Peter and Mrs Jean Blackman.

We reported the retirement of Margaret Edwards, the well-known Ratby post lady, and of Mrs Margaret Crump, the school crossing warden.

But it was not all doom and gloom! We also reported on the successes of local celebrities such as Lynda Page, the achievements of Ratby Band, and the adventures of local young people. The scouts went abseiling and organised a concert.

We were able to publish some interesting old photographs which sparked off responses from near and far, and we included some articles and poems from writers new to the magazine.

If Wot is to continue as a successful village magazine we need your stories and letters!

Have you got news for us?

Come on village organisations and individuals, send us your reports and events diaries!

The 'Wot' team are hard-pressed volunteers - we don't have time to rush around and phone you up. Newcomers are moving into the village all the time. They need to know you are out there!

So make a New Year Resolution to report regularly for Wot!

And thank you to those who have regularly contributed news, articles, letters and photographs.



Stories

Drawings

Poems

fund raising

?

Success!

News

Letters

Events

Photos

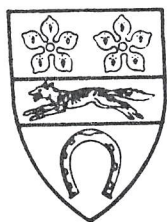
Memories

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Copper's Corner



Private Security Patrols

The police have never told people **NOT** to employ private security firms to patrol their streets or homes, but we do have several concerns which we would suggest people ask if they are approached by a firm offering patrols.

1. Who are they accountable to?

Not to the police, not to the Council, not to any Government.

2. Who are they? Can you be confident in their credibility and integrity?

No police checks are carried out on employees. There is no requirement to register the activities.

3. What evidence can they offer of the effectiveness of such patrols?

4. Are you prepared to continue paying if nothing happens or the price increases?

5. What checks of their performance will they provide you?

6. What will they do if they see anything suspicious?

Call the Police.

7. What are the alternatives?

Local people can join Neighbourhood Watch schemes. They can mount their own patrols (simply to look and report). They can lobby their local Council to get help in funding/organising local schemes.

Inspector P J Bruton

Did you Know?

The New Year

The Roman Emperor Julius Caesar set the date of New Year at January 1st. when he introduced his new calender in 46 BC. The New Year celebrations were known as the calends. During the festival the rules of society were turned upside down - slaves changed places with their masters.

Perhaps this is why we dress up in fancy dress for New Year Parties.



Consultative Committee Meeting

The Beaumont Police/Community Consultative Committee will be holding a Public Meeting at the Babington Community College, Strasbourg Drive, Leicester, on **WEDNESDAY 8TH DECEMBER 1993**, commencing at 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 Mr A K Devani. 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, Superintendent P McHugh.

A Warm Welcome Awaits You at

THE RAILWAY INN

from Jacqui, Mick and all the Staff.

RATBY

TELEPHONE 392493

WEEKDAY LUNCHEES

THURS DEC 16TH DAILY
FRI DEC 17TH XMAS
MON DEC 20TH FAYRE
TUES DEC 21ST
WED DEC 22ND SPECIAL
THURS DEC 23RD

SUNDAY LUNCH IN DEC.
XMAS MENU AVAILABLE
DEC 5TH
DEC 12TH
DEC 19TH
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P.S. JOIN US FOR OUR USUAL XMAS EVE KNEES UP WITH CAROL SINGING AND A VISIT FROM SANTA CLAUS.

MERRY XMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR from MICK, JACQUI & ALL THE STAFF

OUR NEW YEARS EVE PARTY IS FANCY DRESS

CHAPEL EVENTS

Sunday December 12th 4.00 pm Carol service
 Sunday December 19th 10.00 am Family service
 Carol practice with Sunday School
 Christmas Day 9.30 am Family service
 Boxing Day 10.00 am Service - Preacher J. Burrows



make a snowstorm



Find an empty screw top jar. Glue a toy plastic penguin... (or a snowman or Father Christmas) onto the lid.)
 Fill the jar with water.
 Sprinkle some silver or white glitter into the jar.

Replace the lid very tightly and shake! Turn upside down and watch the snow storm !!

ARBURY HALL

If Marjorie who wrote the superb article about Arbury Hall would like to make contact with Mr. Willetts of 14 Wolsey Drive, Tel. 387747 he would enjoy the opportunity of swapping Arbury tales. He was involved with the Hall in the same period.

If you do, please let us know. (395179)

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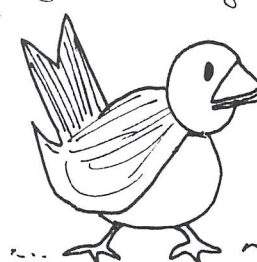
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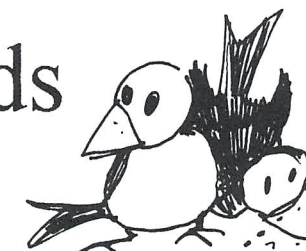
Mel Shipley, D.O.T., A.D.I. M.I.A.M.

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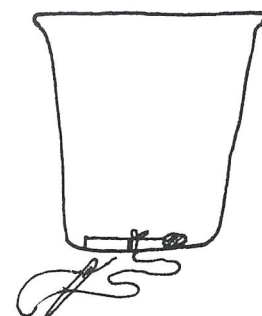
Feed the Birds



Don't forget the birds in cold weather. Make sure they always have access to water in freezing weather. Hang up peanuts, you can buy them in the village, or put out crusts of bread broken into pieces and soaked in water. (Dry bread expands in birds stomachs).

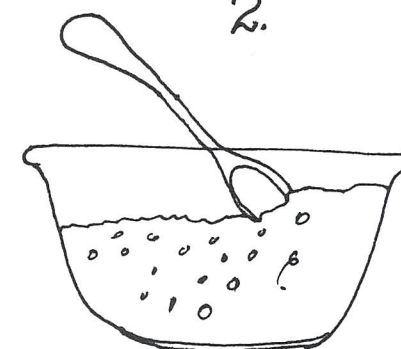
Try making this food bell for the Bluetits

1.



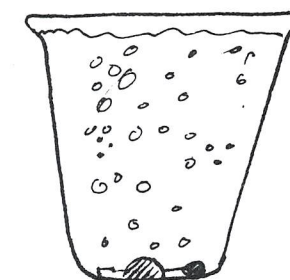
Thread a piece of fine string through the bottom of an empty yoghurt or cream pot. Tie it onto a used match

2.



Stir up a mixture of dried fruit, bread crumbs and household scraps like cooked potato, cheese and bacon fat.

3.



Put a lump of plasticine over the hole in the pot, and fill the pot with your mixture.

4.

Ask an adult to melt some lard in a saucepan... but don't let it get too hot. Fill the pot with the melted fat and let it set.

5.



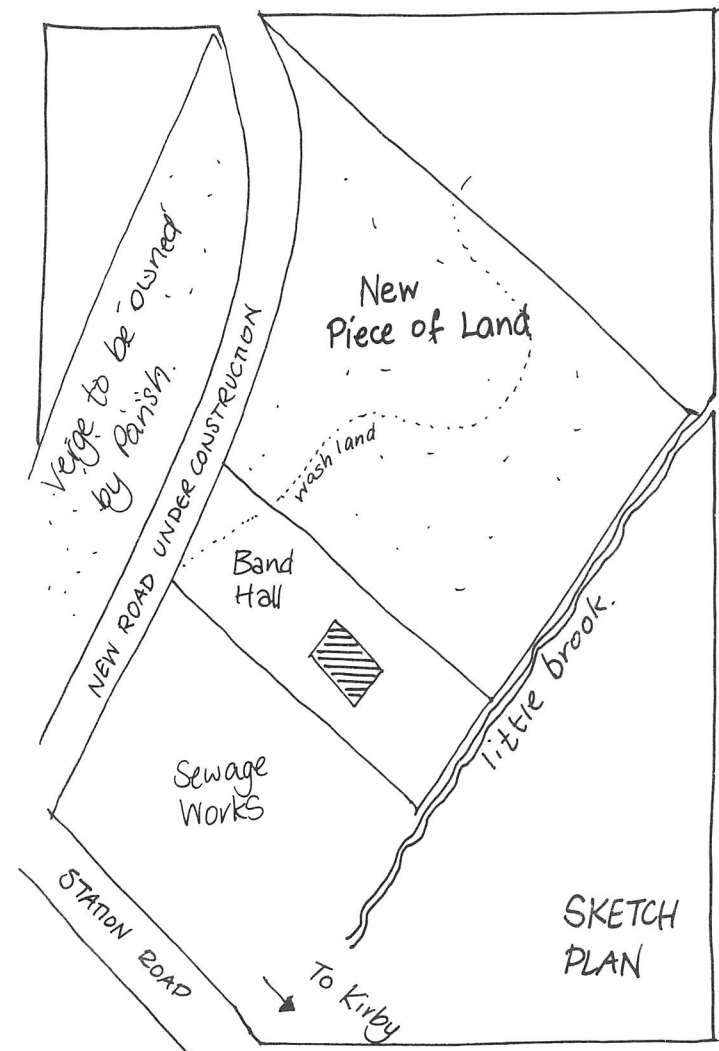
When set and cold, hang your 'bell' in a tree.

New Parish Land

The extension to Tyler Road linking to a new junction with Station Road (next to the Severn Trent works) is under construction. The Parish Council has been given a piece of land next to this road, between the Ratby Band building and Cawrey's new rainwater balancing pond.

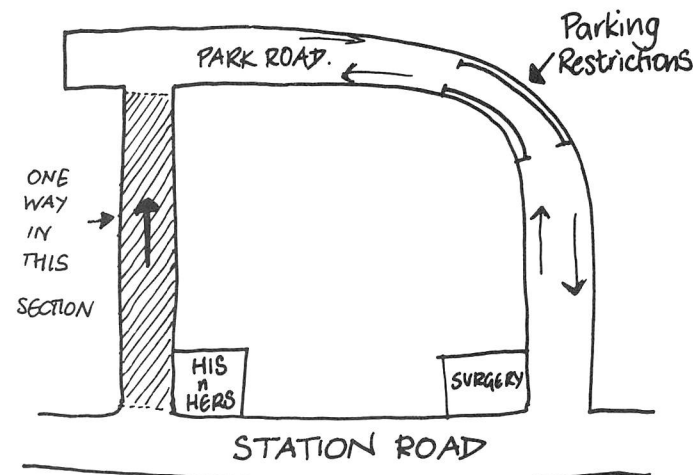
We would welcome suggestions from residents as to how this land could provide most benefit to the village. Please bear in mind that any development could be limited by cost and restrictions of being in the Rothley Brook flood plain. Many trees in this area are protected by Preservation Orders, and already provide a valuable wildlife habitat.

All suggestions will be considered for feasibility and cost, and no work would begin before roadworks are completed. Imaginative ideas please, to the Clerk of the Council, 35 Groby Road, Ratby.



New Bridleway

The old mineral railway line linking the Railway pubs in Ratby and Glenfield is under consideration as a new bridle way. The County Council has published official notices, and the idea has the backing of both Parish Councils. Provided the legal procedures are completed without problems, this route could be officially open to walkers and horse riders for the first time next year.



Park Road traffic alterations

Under recent proposals and the County Council public notice, these alterations should improve road safety and traffic flow.

- One way section - effectively no exit to Station Road from the hairdressers end, shaded section only affected.
- Parking restrictions both sides of the road, fronting industrial premises.

Leicester Western Bypass v pedestrians

A petition of over 900 signatures was collected by Ratby and Groby councils, requesting the provision of bridges over the new road for the public foot paths. A protest walk with the support of the MP for Blaby was attended by approximately 150 residents and councillors from Ratby, Groby and Glenfield.

The lack of footpath or cycle track from Kirby Muxloe along Blood Hill has

also been a source of complaint by Ratby Parish Council.

Recycling Facilities

In addition to the bottle banks, we now have a paper bank on the car park at the Sports and Social Club.

Charity Collections

Many houses in Ratby recently had bags delivered, with an invitation for residents to leave out donations of clothing for the 'third world'. These leaflets had no charity name, contact address or telephone number.

Trading Standards Department have been contacted about this - they were very concerned, as this practice may be fraudulent and are investigating.

We would encourage villagers to support charity collections, but only bona fide ones, genuine collectors should be happy to provide details of the charity.

Possible re-development - Alexandra Stone

Outline planning permission has recently been granted by Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council for complete re-development of this site into seven industrial units, totalling 8000m² of floorspace. Also on the site would be 162 car spaces and 21 lorry parking spaces.

The Parish Council and Borough Councillor Fraser unsuccessfully opposed the application.

THE SERVICE GARAGE

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Christmas Festivities

Wednesday 15th December - Santa collection

A vintage fire engine and sleigh will be collecting money for the Leicester City Fire Brigade Museum society, (registered charity) organised by the Hon. Sec. Mr Ivan Crockett.

Wednesday 22nd December - Carol Singing

Refreshments available in the Welfare Hall from 7.00 p.m. Rev. Leighton and Rev. Keeley will be leading the carol singing around the Christmas Tree from 7.30 p.m. onwards. Musical accompaniment by the Ratby Junior Band.

Come along and join us!

Ferndale Drive Recreation Area

Wildflower Meadow & Environmental Improvements

Work has started on the Wildflower meadow. The ground has been prepared ready for planting in the spring. Several organisations have offered to grow plants from seed for the meadow.

During the winter months a programme of hedge laying will begin.

The Parish Council is able to obtain grants from the County Council to help pay for this work.

Play Equipment

A new roundabout with safety surfacing has been installed.


Money has been precepted for 1994 to enable improvement work to continue. Safety surfacing will be installed beneath the senior swings.

Basket Ball Post and Net

Money has been precepted to provide this facility in the coming financial year.




The Holly and the Ivy



At Christmas time we 'deck the halls with boughs of holly' and bring in ivy and evergreen to make wreaths for our home. This tradition, together with the 'Yule Log Fire', and the giving of presents is a remnant of our Anglo Saxon past.

Holly, with its red berries and prickles was a male symbol, and Ivy, smooth and clinging, the female. ('Just like the Ivy, I'll cling to you'). Both plants were also associated with the Roman Saturnalia, the festival of Saturn, which was celebrated on the 17th, 18th and 19th of December. Saturn's club was the holly, ivy was the nest of the Gold Crested Wren.



On Yule morning, the last of Saturn's reign, the first foot over the threshold had to be that of Saturn's representative - a dark man called 'the Holly Boy'. Elaborate steps were taken to keep women out of the way.

'Holly Boy' and 'Ivy Girl' were opposed. In parts of England the last sheaf of corn to be brought in was tied around with ivy and called the 'Harvest May' or 'Ivy Girl'. The farmer who was last to get in his harvest was given the 'Ivy Girl' as a penalty - a symbol of ill luck.

So the carol "the Holly and the Ivy" once represented the battle of the sexes.

From AD600 the Christians began to eradicate these pagan beliefs and the Anglo Saxon Gods. The clerics, who were the only people who could write changed the pagan words of songs and gave them Christian meaning.

Holly had also appeared in the ancient Irish romance of Gawain and the Green Knight. The Green Knight is a giant with a 'holly bush' club. He and Gawain, the Oak Knight, made an agreement to behead each other

alternately on midsummer and midwinter. The Holly Knight spared the Oak Knight. With the coming of Christianity the Oak Knight became John the Baptist, who lost his head on St Johns Day, and Jesus took on the customs of the Holly Knight. The holly was more glorious than the oak -

"Of all the trees that are in the wood the holly bears the crown".

The holly became associated with the crown of thorns. The Christian church allowed holly and ivy to be brought in to decorate the church, but not mistletoe. Mistletoe is still regarded as pagan today, because of its well known association with Druids.

Mistletoe was known as "all heal" and the berries were highly prized as an aphrodisiac - hence the continuing tradition of kissing under the mistletoe bough.

One theory suggests that the plant has mystic virtue because of its fresh new green winter growth.

Robin Redbreast

Robins are a favourite image on Christmas cards, sometimes with a wren, and often with holly and ivy too.

The Robin was the Druid's King bird, and the Wren, the Queen bird.

On the 25th December, the day of the sun's return, the King, Robin, hunted for the Queen, the wren, in the forest.

This story is celebrated in many ancient songs and rhymes, such as "Hunting the Wren".

Images and symbols were shared by many cultures throughout the world. Birds have often represented humans.

Robin, with his red breast, 'cock robin', has long been the husband of 'Jenny Wren', with her little round next which might be lined with ivy.

The traditional Christmas song, "The twelve days of Christmas", was originally a song for the 'New Year', or winter solstice. The partridge, with its red legs was a male symbol, and the pear tree female. It is still apparent today that the song was about love gifts, and it was therefore linked to pagan fertility rites.

The oak tree is the Druid's tree and the wren 'the soul of the Oak', and the bird of the Druids.

These two birds also appear in other folk songs and nursery rhymes.

In their book, "The Oxford Dictionary of Nursery Rhymes", Iona and Peter Opie write, "the overwhelming majority were not composed for children, but were remnants of ballads, folk songs and romantic lyrics of a decidedly free nature".

The Victorians changed many of the original words and symbols, so that we are left today with many nonsense rhymes whose original meaning is lost. So the 'robin' and 'wren' of nursery rhymes are merely birds now, and no longer the symbols that our ancestors would have recognised.

Sources:

"The White Goddess", Robert Graves (Faber)

"The Restoration of Cock Robin" Norman Iles (Hale) - available in Ratby Library

"The Oxford Dictionary of Nursery Rhymes" Iona and Peter Opie

Janet's

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In July I walked from the church to the school and counted ten different flowering weeds weeds, what are weeds?

Are they just plants we pull up and consign to the compost heap, or are they the beginnings of our garden flowers, are they the base of medical cures or are they food plants?

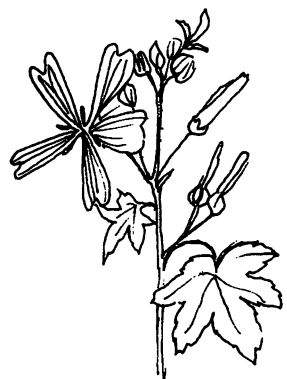
Yes a weed can be any or all of these things.

The grass in the church yard was ready for mowing so I could quickly spot two kinds of Hawkweed, Shepherds Purse, Ribwort Plantain and creeping Buttercup. Over the road and down Church Lane Rosebay Willow Herb was growing amongst the tall grasses, further along and rooting under the fence, safe from strimmers and the like, grew common Mallow, Dandelion, Groundsel and Pignut.

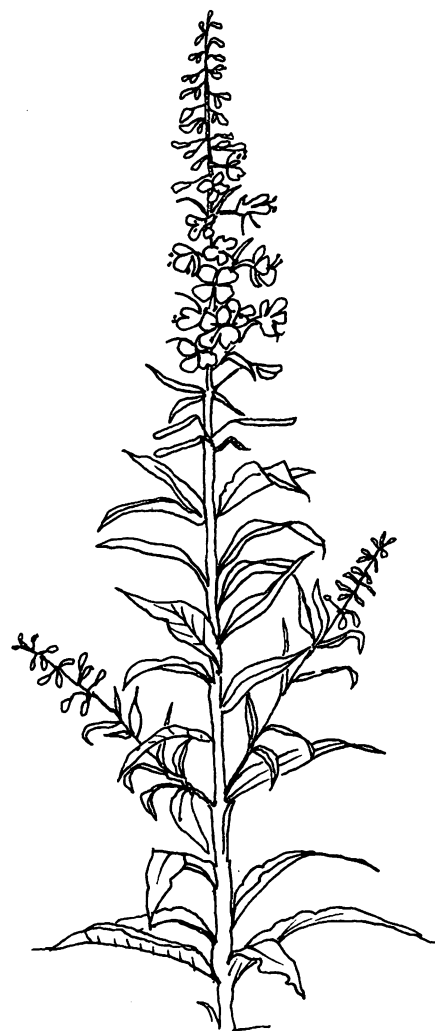
In the cement of the school wall ivy leaved Toad flax was growing. This plant has a cousin growing in most of our gardens during the summer months. It is the Snap Dragon or Antirrhinum. The Snap Dragon is so vivid, proud and upright. The Toad Flax flower is modest, delicate and retiring but when the flower is closely examined you can see the delicate mauve colour veined with deeper violet and the centre of the flower is yellow.

Rosebay Willow Herb is definitely considered a nuisance by today's gardeners, yet in the first Elizabethan period it was cultivated and thought of as "a very handsome plant". Its other and more recent name is Fire Weed. During the last war it colonised the bomb sites thereby hiding the scorched black ruins. Now you can find it growing freely where bonfires have been or where forest clearings have been burned.

Whilst we are considering garden flowers the Orange Hawkweed is another case of a weed encouraged to grow in gardens and then when bigger and brighter plants have developed the original again consigned to the road side.



Common Mallow



Rose Bay Willow Herb.



Ivy-leaved Toadflax

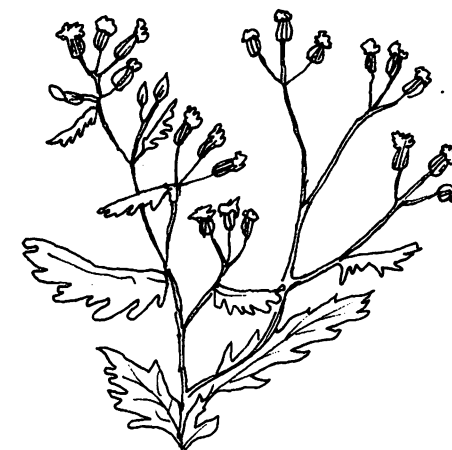
Shepherds Purse is botanically classified as a crucifer, so are all cabbages and cresses. So of course the leaves of Shepherds Purse can be used in salads.

It must be very many ages since Pignut was eaten but I do assure you the small hard lumps that form on the roots do taste like peanuts, but it would take a very long time to harvest enough to make just one nut cutlet, let alone feed a herd of pigs.

Ribwort Plantain - sorry but I haven't yet found out about its history and Creeping Buttercup I have already jotted about. That leaves Groundsel, Dandelion and Mallow and each of these plants have medicinal properties.



Ribwort Plantain
'Cocks and Hens'



Groundsel

Culpepper recommended Groundsel on hot places on the body. The name groundsel has descended from the Anglo Saxon "groundswelge" meaning earth glutton or ground devourer.

In the past groundsel has been grown as a crop for feeding pigs, goats, rabbits and poultry. It also makes very good compost, having iron and other trace elements that can easily return to the soil, also once unrooted it will die.

We all know that the Dandelion flower makes good wine, the leaves add to any salad.

During the last war the roots were harvested, dried and roasted then ground and the resultant brewed like and often called ground coffee!!

I have drunk the substitute concoction. My comments "please may I have a cuppa instant".

Common Mallow was considered a gentle flower and so used to aid a gentle woman's complexion.

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**St.
Nicholas'
Day.**



Did you know that the 6th December is known as St Nicholas' Day. It is in honour of a bishop of Myra (in what is now Turkey) who died on that date in about the year AD 326. St Nicholas was famous for his love of children and his generosity.

By the year 1200, the tradition of giving special presents on St Nicholas' Day was popular in many countries. In the Netherlands these were brought to children by St Nicholas himself, riding on a white horse, led by Black Peter with his bundle of sticks to punish bad children. The Dutch introduced St Nicholas into America when they settled there in the seventeenth century.

In the USA the Dutch Sinter Klaas

gradually became Santa Claus, and merged with the older figure of Father Christmas, but 6th December is still the day when American children write their Christmas letters to Santa. In the Netherlands, Sweden and parts of Austria and Germany children still wait for St Nicholas on 6th December and put out hay for his horse.

In the Netherlands people give small presents on this day, often with a short poem, joking about the person receiving the gift. This might refer to his sweet tooth, or to her quick temper.

In Germany and Scandinavia, people make gifts from marzipan or gingerbread, often in fancy shapes.

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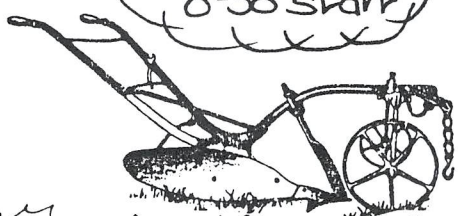
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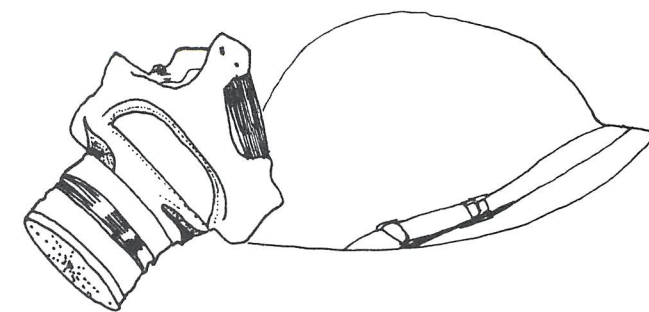
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L.D.V.



Although I was only a small boy at the time I remember them well. My dad was one of them, as were a number of other Ratby men, some of whom are still very much alive and kicking. To them I pay my respects.

Ratby was like every other hamlet, village, town and city in the country in responding to the radio broadcast by Mr Anthony Eden (Secretary of State for War) on 14th May 1940 calling for "large numbers of men in Great Britain who are British subjects, between the ages of fifteen and sixty-five to come forward now". They were to join what was originally called the Local Defence Volunteers but owing to such nicknames as "Look, Duck and Vanish", and "Long Dentured Veterans" the name was shortly afterwards changed to the Home Guard.

Volunteers were instructed to leave their names at their local Police Station and so keen was the response that many Police Stations were besieged by potential volunteers even before Mr Eden's broadcast was finished. Thousands more joined within the next few days.

A miracle had been achieved, a "citizens army" of hundreds and thousands of men had been formed overnight to defend the country from invasion.

Ratby's contribution to this "citizen army" was A. Coy, 3rd West Leics Battalion, whose Company Commander was Mr E Allcock, father of a well known present day bowls champion, 2nd in command was (I believe) Mr Laurie Smith.

Head Quarters would appear to have been above the Post Office. They had a hut in the field at the top of Woodman's Hill and the old barn on the Burroughs Road was a 'meeting place'. Like all good Home Guards they also met regularly and often in the local hostelrys, but their mission was deadly serious. They were there to defend Ratby from the



might of Hitler's Wehrmacht. They patrolled the lanes at night, they watched for incendiary bombs and aircraft in distress (one of which crashed up towards Old Hayes Farm). From a top the Church Tower, again at night, they defended "vulnerable points" and could set up road blocks at a few minutes notice.


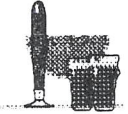
They trained hard. There was "field firing at Bradgate, gas training at Bestwood Lodge, and grenade training in Martinshaw Wood. There was, until the construction of the M1 a red brick building in Martinshaw Wood used for the throwing of hand grenades and other weapon training. There was street fighting and patrolling courses and drill in Ratby School playground under a sergeant who served with the Green Howards in the first world war. All this was after a long day working towards the war effort.



Their weapons were peculiarly Home Guard, P14 or P17 rifles (ex U.S. Army); Lewis Machine Guns; 76 (SIP) Grenades, "Sticky Bombs", Mills Bomb and the purely Home Guard Northover Projector (a type of grenade thrower); Blacker Bombard (29 m Spigot Mortar); and the Smith Gun (an artillery piece).



No one knows quite how the Home Guard would have performed under fire. They were never put to the test. But what is sure is that with the dedication of the Home Guardsmen they would have acquitted themselves well.

We were very pleased to receive this article and also offers of help from Mr Lissaman & Mr Barratt. May we ask that these gentlemen make some notes, or ask someone to help to do so, and that any other people who can shed any light on the Ratby Home Guard do the same and contact Martin (L. 395179). If you know any shy locals who could help please phone and we can give them a nudge! We want to build a full picture of this group.

Going away on a  or just off to the  to lie under the  ?

Perhaps a quick round of  ? Popping in for a swift  ?

A relaxing  for two ? It's Sunday, and you are off to your 

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EASY PARKING

New Vicar for Ratby

Ratby should be getting a
new team vicar in late
January or early February.

The Revd. Michael Hardy will
be based at Ratby. He is
currently the Rector of
Arnesby with Shearsby and
Bruntingthorpe. The new team
Rector for Ratby and Groby
will be the Rev. Tony
Leighton. He and his wife
will continue to be based in
Groby.

You may have heard Susan
Leighton discussing the
ordination of women, on
Radio Leicester a few weeks
ago.

.....
The Harvest Supper and Barn
dance made a profit of
£210.35 for the Church Rooms
Roof Fund.



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Neighbourhood Watch



Why not join an organisation that
doesn't cost you anything? No, there
is no catch - just an invitation to
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has benefits for both the individual
and the community.

Benefits include:

- * Most insurance companies offer
lower house insurance to
residents in a Neighbourhood
Watch scheme.
- * The creation of community
spirit.
- * You can feel secure knowing that
your neighbours are keeping an
eye on your property.

Neighbourhood Watch members are not
required to give up much of their
time, nor are they expected to patrol
the streets. All that is required is
that they are expected to be alert and
respond to what is going on in their
neighbourhood.

Basically it is good neighbour
relations and looking out for one
another, by reporting anything
suspicious to the police. It is in all
our interests with today's falling
social values and increase in crime.

The village has a good existing base
of Neighbourhood Watch schemes, but we
would like to see the entire village
covered. We do not have schemes in the
following areas:-

Cufflin Close
Journeymans Green
Wesley Close
Woodley Road
Overfield Close
Cardinal Close
Tyler Road
Chapel Lane
Robinsfield

Spring Close
Heathbrook Drive
Parkfield Close
Jordan Court
Martin Square
Windmill Close
Berrys Lane
Church Lane

and anywhere on the west side of Main

Street with the exception of
Whittington Drive.

If you are interested please contact
me in person or via Beaumont Police
Station (530066) or alternatively
either of the village co-ordinators -
Ann Day (395123) or Jill Grey
(395208).

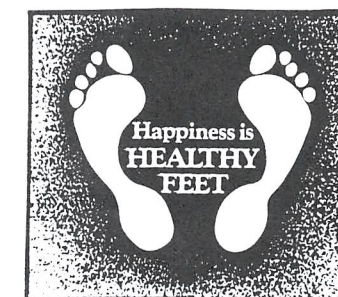
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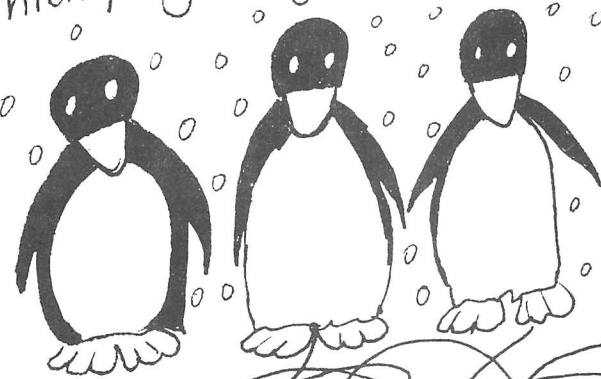
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Crow pie

children's
page

Which penguin gets the fish?



JOKES

A. Because they can't get the
wrappers off.

Q. Why don't elephants eat
penguins?

Q. What goes black white black white black white
A. A penguin rolling down a glacier.

Penny Penguin has got the words
all jumbled in her letter. Can
you work
out what
she would
like?



Dear Santa,
Please send me;-
cakesties
delges
crafs
glesogg
lotew
Happy Christmas
Thank you.
Love from Penny
Penguin

Question

What are;-
Macaroni, Fairy, Little
blue, Jackass and
Rockhopper?

Answer

They are all types of
Penguin

Answer:- Penny would like... ice skates, sledge
scarf, goggles and towel.

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Letters

Dear Mr Editor

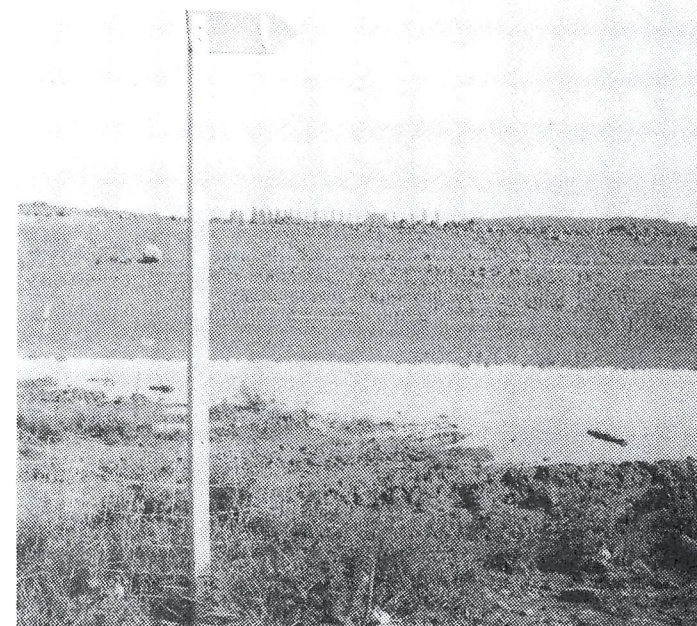
Full marks to Jackie Lee for her two contrasting
poems concerning the changing environment -
once peaceful and pleasurable, now devastated
and dreadful.

And for what? More roads mean less countryside
for man and nature to enjoy. More roads beget
more traffic, more noise, more pollution, more
damage to the ozone layer. More traffic begets
more roads and so the vicious circle rolls on
relentlessly. If only the 'authorities' could be made
responsible to make some restitution for the
damage they have caused, by planting hedges and
thousands of trees along both sides of the Western
Bypass, the charge of wanton vandalism might be
tempered by a verdict of diminished responsibility.

England's greatest poet, Shakespeare, used blank
verse four hundred years ago, and a few thousand
years earlier such a style was used in the Psalms,
so Jackie Lee had no need to apologise for using
that format.

Yours sincerely

Horace Gamble



PUBLIC FOOTPATH OR PUBLIC MUDBATH?
WESTERN BY-PASS,
KIRBY MUXLOE / GLENFIELD. 3.10.93.

PHOTOGRAPH BY HORACE GAMBLE



ABOVE: STAN JOINS MICK BEHIND THE BAR.
BELOW: SOME OF THE GUESTS WITH STAN & ELIZABETH.

A DAY TO REMEMBER

November 1st saw Everards Brewery fulfil their promise to provide a car to bring Stan and Elizabeth Marvin from Droitwich to Stan's birthplace, the Railway Inn, to meet friends from Stan's Ratby days and relatives living locally who Stan and Elizabeth do not see as often as they would perhaps wish.

Photographers from both the Leicester Mercury and Everards were there to meet them in, along with Mick and Jacqui and representatives of the Brewery, and when the couple had finally escaped the flashguns quite an air of expectancy had built up amongst the guests. I hope this helped to make them feel as special as we all felt that they were when they entered the room.

Many stories were exchanged and some photo's passed around before lunch. Mick and Jacqui worked hard to provide everyone with a meal of Roast Pork with apple sauce and all the trimmings. The reminiscing continued well into the afternoon until it was time for the Marvins to return to Droitwich.

Everyone seemed to have a good time and thanks go to those who came and made it a special day as well as to Mick, Jacqui and Everards. Could those who came tell us about the things they chatted about for future issues please, and for those who did not come a little competition. The first to successfully name everyone in these photos will win a bottle of wine for Christmas. Just phone Martin on 395179 after 10 am on Saturday Dec 11th.



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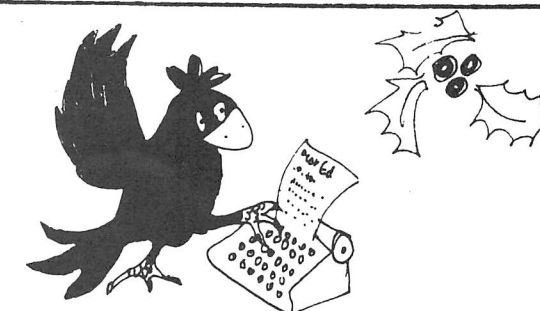
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