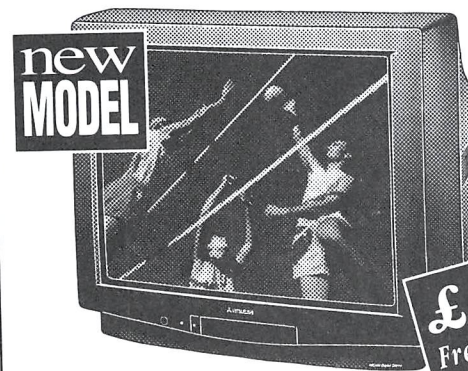


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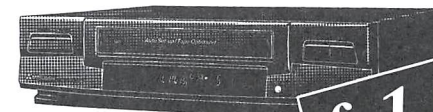


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# **Wot!**

ISSUE 49

DECEMBER 1994

## **About Ratby**

PUBLISHED BY THE RATBY SCOUT GROUP



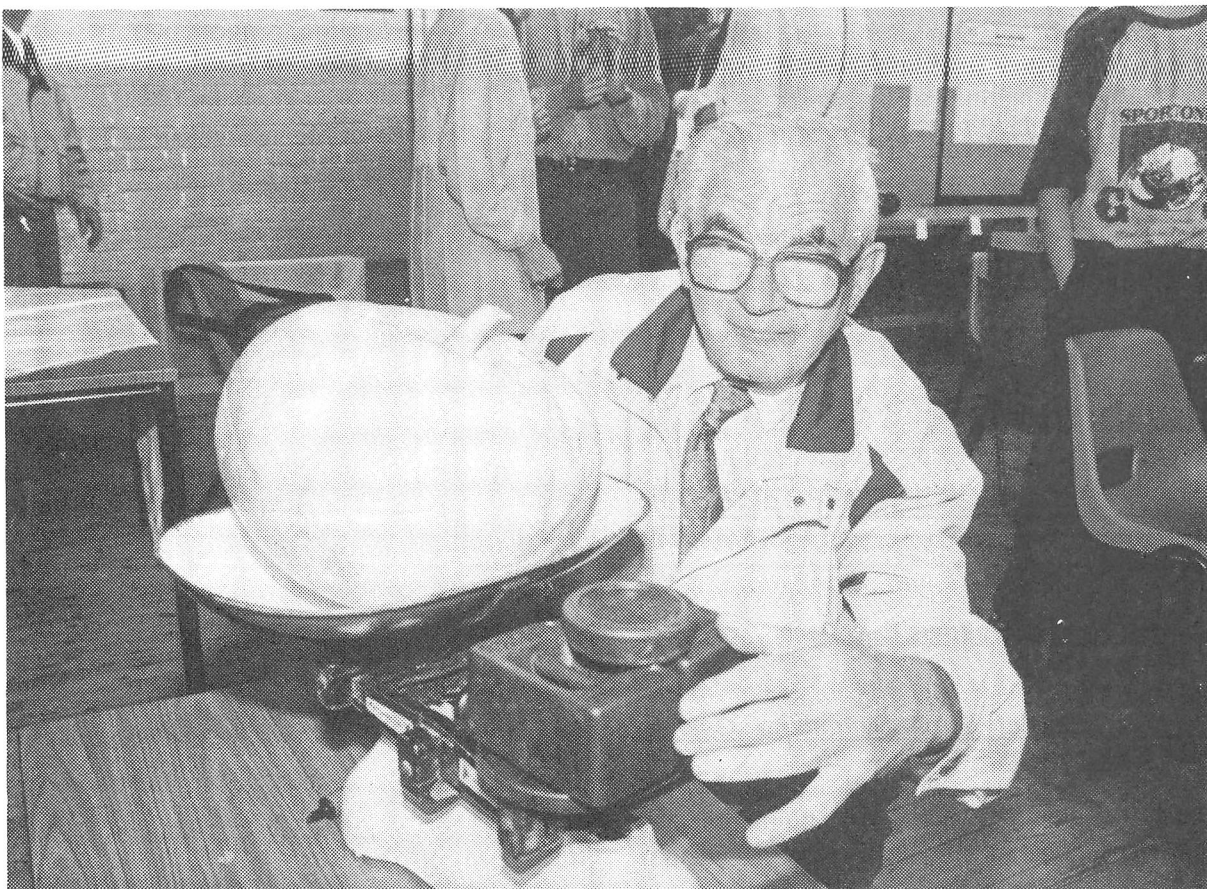
## **Merry Christmas**



Photo by S. Gant

Our Christmas Card shows Santa (Horace Ball) at the recent Church Bazaar. On his knee are Helen Jewitt and Mrs Mary Ward.





## Methodist Church Pumpkin and Marrow Event

Pictured is Chairman of the Parish Council, Charles Rogers with the winning pumpkin. It weighed 15lb 7½ oz, and won gardeners Phillippa Brown and her children Georgie 9 and Nick 5 the first prize in the competition.

Winner of the largest marrow competition was none other than Wot editor Alan Sims.

The judging day was also a warm, friendly social gathering. There was an air of relaxed anticipation as spectators drank tea whilst watching

the judge carefully weighing and measuring each entry.

Congratulations to all who entered - especially the sporting person who brought along a marrow small enough to perch on a toy car. We should also mention those disappointed people who submitted poems lamenting the failure of their plants!

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### BUS NEWS

Leicester- Ratby- Groby Circular service 113 by Midland Fox: The 5.52 pm journey from St. Margaret's bus station on Saturdays will depart at 6.12 pm and operate 20 minutes later throughout commencing from Saturday 12th November.

## CO THE RATBY CO-OPERATIVE BAND

### The Ratby Co-operative Junior Band

On Sunday 9th October 1994 several members of the Band took part in the Leicestershire Brass Band Association's Music Festival at the Groby College. We are very proud to be able to announce that out of the ten sections entered and over 160 entrants in total, the Band gained SIX FIRST PRIZES and TWO THIRD PRIZES. This is a wonderful achievement by the youngsters and we congratulate everyone concerned.

The names of the prize winners are Stephen Bland, Becky Plant (plus duet award), Rachael Garratt, Julie Plant (plus duet award), Mark Concar and two quartets which consisted of David Smith, Stephen Bland, Becky Plant, Rachael Garratt, Stephen Bland, Tom Ashby, Joanne English, Marc Nethercot.

The weekend of Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd October saw the Senior Bank competing in the Pontins Brass Bank Finals held at Prestatyn, North Wales. The Band made a weekend of this event by staying overnight in Llandudno and then having a day out at the Granada Studios on the Sunday.

On Saturday 29th October we performed a concert at the Hinckley Concordia Theatre and on Sunday 6th November in the Grand Charity Concert at the Haymarket Theatre, Leicester, which was organised by the Leicestershire Co-operative Society.

Sunday 13th November sees the annual Armistice Parade and Service of Remembrance at the St Philip and St James' Church, Ratby. The Band will then be entering the City of Leicester Festival competition, at the De Montford Hall at the end of November. This will lead up to the Band's busiest time of year - Christmas!

On Saturday 10th December the Junior Band will be holding a Christmas Coffee Morning at the Bandroom from 10am to 2pm. They will also be performing for the Carols Around the

Tree at Groby on Tuesday 20th December and at Ratby on Wednesday 21st. We will be performing in various groups around the village on Sunday 18th December.

A date for your diaries for 1995 is SATURDAY 21ST JANUARY when the Band will be presenting a New Year Concert at St Philip & St James' Church. Tickets will be available from the Church or Phil Plant from early December 1994.

January

The name 'January' comes from the Roman God 'Janus'. He has two faces, one to look backwards to the old year, and one forwards to the new. He was the spirit of 'opening'.

Anglo Saxons called it 'Wulf monath' or wolf month, because the cold brought packs of wolves into towns and villages to search for food.

If you were born in January, your lucky flowers are traditionally carnations and snowdrops. Your lucky stone is the garnet.

### SANTA TO VISIT RATBY

Bradgate Lions will once again be escorting Santa Claus when his float tours the Dane Hill Estate on Wednesday 14th December.

Santa will be starting on the junction of Groby Road and Dane Hill at 6.00 p.m., he will visit all the roads on the left of Dane Hill on the way down to Station Road and return via the roads on the right.

Bradgate Lions will as usual be collecting for a local charity.

Bradgate Lions Club is always on the look out for new ways to serve its local community, both financially and with practical help. So if you know of any way we can serve, please contact Lion Vernon Callis on Leicester 873087 or if you would like information about joining the Bradgate Lions please contact Lion Alan Purser on Leicester 393152.

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## High School Awarded High Marks!

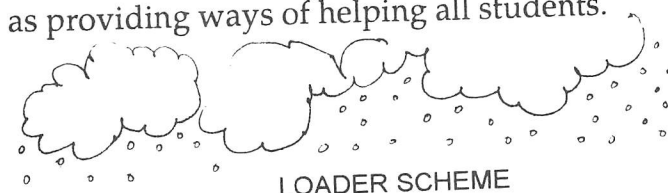
Brookvale High School, Groby, received a resounding "thumbs up" following its recent Ofsted inspection. The school became the first in the Groby area to undergo a full week of inspection under the new Government arrangement whereby all schools in the country will be inspected over a four year cycle.

In the inspectors final report, the school was highly praised for many aspects of its work. The report states that overall standards achieved by students matched or exceeded national levels, and the quality of teaching was sound or good in almost 90% of lessons a figure well above the National average. The Registered Inspector, Nigel Jackson stated, "Brookvale is a good school with many strengths and a popularity which extends beyond the immediate catchment area". Among many favourable comments contained in the report, the school was commended for its impressive range of extra-curricular activities, the quality and dedication of all the staff and the excellent relationships that exist between staff and young people. Of particular note was the inspectors praise of the atmosphere within the school "Staff and pupils work within a framework of mutual respect and common purpose. It is an orderly community with a strong and caring ethos".

This report concludes the school has strong leadership, is well organised and effectively managed.

The school however, says it is not content to rest on its laurels. The staff, governors and senior management are working hard to draw up a post-inspection plan of action.

The will involve reviewing the range of teaching and learning strategies in order to provide more opportunities for the students to examine the spiritual dimension of the curriculum and to develop a range of activities that challenge the more able students as well as providing ways of helping all students.



LOADER SCHEME

Anticipating the possibility of severe weather during the approaching winter, Leicestershire County Council will be continuing the Leicestershire Owner and Driver (LOADER) scheme for the owners of 4-wheeled-drive vehicles.

The schemes object is to identify and maintain a register of such drivers who might be asked to assist with such tasks as getting, "meals on wheels" or other welfare assistance to the elderly or others at risk when snow or flooding make roads impassable to normal transport. In an emergency any such tasks will be given to local drivers who will not be expected to place them selves or others at unusual risk but will work with local

## A.J. WALDRAM

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### 1st. Ratby Swallows Cub Pack

19th November 1994

Leicester West District Cubs Swimming Gala at Cossington Street Baths.

I would like to thank the following Cubs who represented the Swallow Pack in this event;

Under 9's Breast Stroke.	Chris Ward	4th Heat 1	37 secs
Under 10's Breast Stroke	Jamie Jackson	2nd Heat 1	30sec
Under 11's Breast Stroke.	Jacob Mirza	2nd Heat 1	36sec
Under 9's Freestyle	Alistair Richards	3rd Heat 1	35secs
Under 10's Freestyle	Jamie Jackson	4th Heat 1	30scs
Under 11's Freestyle.	Gary Root	4th	29secs
Under 11's Pyjamas	Matthew Reedy	5th	59secs
Under 10's Relay.	Jacob Mirza	(Back Stroke),	
	Chris Ward	(Breast Stroke)	
	Alistair Richards	(Freestyle)	
	Gary Root	(Freestyle)	
	4th in the Heat's		
Under 11's Relay.	Sam Laywood	(Back Stroke),	
	Matthew Reedy	(Breast Stroke),	
	Jamie Jackson	(Freestyle)	
	Jacob Mirza	(Freestyle)	
	5th in heat's.		

### F I N A L I S T ' S

Under 10's Breast Stroke	Jamie Jackson	2nd	31secs
Under 11's Breast Stroke	Jacob Mirza	6th	37secs
Under 9's Freestyle	Alistair Richards	6th	34secs
Under 10's Freestyle	Jamie Jackson	6th	30 secs
Under 10's Relay	Jacob Mirza, Chris Ward,		
	Alistair Richards and Gary Root		
	6th place.		

The team finished in 8th position out of 11 packs with a total of 9 points.

Well done to you all.

Thank you to all the mums, dads, brothers and sisters who came along to support us, also to David Cross for your help with the Team.

Thank you to te District Staff for organising the event.

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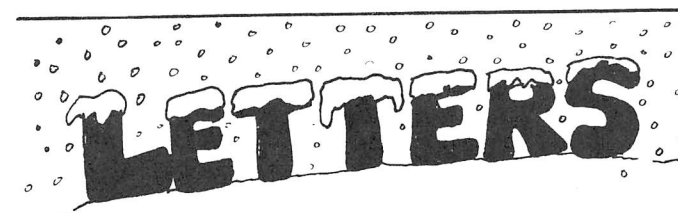
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Card game	Nose
Making words	Short rest
Sunny	Verdict
High kick	River boat
Tree	Large container
River side	Nat West
Soldiers morning	Black & Decker

By kind permission of Les.



Mississauga, Ontario  
Canada

Dear Editor

'WOT' a surprise to have recently received a phone call from my father, Horace Gamble, to tell me I had won 'The Balloon Race', which was part of the fun at 'The Crow Pie Carnival' in August. One balloon entered and it travelled so far, WOW! May thanks to the sponsors of the race and the Carnival.

As I grew up in the 'big' City of Leicester, I had been led to believe villagers, almost everywhere were cold to 'outsiders'. I have never had that experience in Ratby. I have visited your lovely village three times over the last six years and have found everyone to be most welcoming and friendly. Its like coming home.

My daughter and I enjoyed ourselves at the carnival, not only the games but also the dancing display, The Ratby Co-operative Band and seeing folks having fun.

I'll wish you and all your readers a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Best wishes from Canada.

Shelagh Horvat

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Dear Editor

Congratulations to the Scout Group on eight years of publications of WOT.

No one in the village should complain that they do not know what is happening here as WOT covers, among other articles, reports from the Parish Council, the Police, the Youth and Junior Organisations, the Library, the Ratby Band, the Village society and the churches, (which should be the centre of village life but nowadays sadly not).

Friends from Groby recently were astounded at the (free) publication of such an interesting and informative magazine which, of course, is all done by the dedication of willing volunteers.

Last, but not least, thank you to the person (a lady, I believe?) who is responsible for the delightful artwork which makes the magazine so attractive.

Long may it continue.

Sincerely

'Hoz'

*Editors Note*

Hoz

*Thanks for the congratulations, it's good to know that the teams efforts are appreciated. Many people tend to forget that all of the work on the magazine is undertaken by unpaid volunteers.*



## Autumn Exhibition 1994

From 21st to 28th November saw a display of a large collection of the work of local artist Mark Wilde at Dominoes Art Gallery.

Mark Wilde was born in America and was raised and educated there. He studied under two famous American artists: southwestern watercolourist Joe Toledo and noted oil painter Stanton Englehardt.

Mr Wilde has had work displayed in galleries through the U.S.A. He has also had a successful career as a singer-songwriter, touring extensively with major groups and performing on M.T.V.

He has lived in Leicester for four years and now concentrates on watercolours.

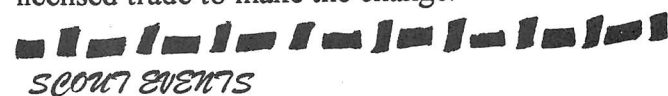
He says, "I've always been inspired by English subject matter. English literature, art and music have been a wealth of influence for as far back as I can remember."

## SPIRIT AND WINE MEASURES GO METRIC

Consumers may already have noticed spirits being sold in some licensed premises in metric quantities. From the 1st January 1995, the option to sell some spirits and all wines, which are consumed on the premises in imperial or metric quantities will end.

On that date, whisky, gin, vodka and rum must be sold in either 25 or 35 millilitre quantities or multiples of these quantities.

The metric quantities for spirits are slightly larger than the imperial quantities so customers will be getting a little more than before. Over the past six months the Department has been testing and stamping as lawful for trade use considerable numbers of metric spirit measures to enable the licensed trade to make the change.



Just a few of the recent events undertaken by The Group.

Cubs district Cross Country, during October.

Beavers Cringle Service at Ratby church 5th December. 6.30pm.

Beavers treasure hunt & camp fire at John's Lee Wood, September.

## TONY COLEY.

Our congratulations to you on your 50th, the 2nd year running.

Happy Birthday from the Neighbourhood Watch!



## Tea Dance

Are you at a loose end on a Wednesday afternoon?. Do you like dancing? If the answer is yes to both these questions, then why not come along to the afternoon Tea Dances held in the Church Rooms every Wednesday fortnight.

The admission is 50p and they are held between 2 and 4 p.m. The admission charge includes tea and biscuits.

Both ballroom and sequence dances are included in the programme.

All receipts are donated to the Church Rooms Refurbishing Fund. So far a sum of £800 has been raised.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those good people who have given their regular support to our dances and especially to those ladies who supply our needs at the tea break.

These dances are very informal and all are welcome.

Please put these dates in your diaries!

Wednesday December 7th  
Wednesday December 21st Christmas Party

Thank you

Sidney Hickenbotham  
Dance Arranger

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# JULIE'S

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Firstly a review of crime during the year to the end of September 1994.

The first quarter of the year was the busiest with 22 crimes recorded in January, 13 in February and 24 in March. Vehicle crime was the highest category, and house burglary averaged three per month.

The quarter ending 30th June 1994 showed recorded crime of 17 in April, 21 in May and 11 in June. Vehicle crime was again the highest category, but during this period we had trends of cycle thefts and thefts from garages and sheds. House burglary averaged two per month.

The quarter ending 30th September had the lowest crime with recorded crime of 11 in July, 16 in August and 13 in September. House burglary averaged just under three per month.

The Co-ordinators visits to Beaumont Police station in August were well attended and well received. You will already have read the excellent reports by Elaine Hanrahan and Stephen Newby. The co-ordinators appreciated by the end of the evening how busy the Beaumont Police sub-division is, and how over-stretched the police resources are.

We have started a new scheme in Woodley Road and we are grateful to Margaret Copson for acting as co-ordinator. An interest has been expressed in starting a scheme in The Poplars off Bevington Close and a second scheme for Station Road. However, these two newly proposed schemes are not "up and running" as yet.

Having served neighbourhood watch as village co-ordinators for the past two years, Ann Day and Jill Grey are stepping down at the end of the year. Many thanks ladies for your efforts and devotion to Neighbourhood Watch. Elaine Hanrahan and Graham Stanley will be taking over as joint village co-ordinators and we wish them every success for the future.

The General Accident Insurance Company have promoted and supported Neighbourhood Watch, and held a "Neighbourhood Watch Week" from 5th to 11th November. Ratby Neighbourhood watch supported the week, and decided to involve children in their theme. After consulting with the Headteacher of Ratby Primary School, Mrs Lewis, it was decided to run a competition of drawing or poetry based in a Neighbourhood Watch theme. The winners were as follows:-

5-7 years - Drawing

- A. Kirsty Broad Age 6
- B. Jonathon Couling Age 5
- C. Kirsty Faver Age 6

8-11 years - Drawing and Logo

- A. Elizabeth Tyler Age 10
- B. Anthony Woodward Age 11
- C. Alice Marlow Age 9

8-11 years - Poem

Michelle Tew Age 10

In all there were 74 entries received. On behalf of Ratby Neighbourhood Watch, many thanks to the children for entering the competition; to Mrs Lewis and the staff of Ratby Primary School; to Ratby Parish Council for donating book tokens to the value of £25 as prizes and for judging; and finally to co-ordinators of Neighbourhood Watch for making the event a resounding success.

P.C. BRIAN MOORE

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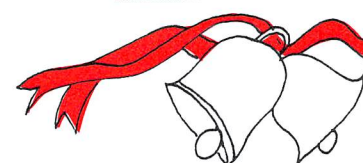
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Merry  
Christmas



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## Christmas Services at the Parish Church

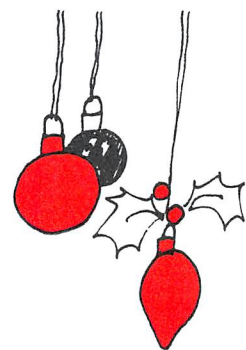
December 18th 10.30 a.m. Nativity  
by the Sunday School  
and Holy Communion  
6.00 Candlelight  
Carol Service

December 25th 8.00 a.m. Holy  
Communion  
10.30 a.m. All age  
worship and Holy  
Communion

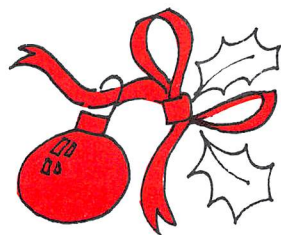
December 24th 6.00 p.m. Childrens  
Crib Service  
11.30 p.m. Holy  
Communion

Also on December 4th at 10.30 a.m.  
Family Christingle Service





At Christmas play and  
make good cheere  
Christmas comes  
but once a yeere



In the sixteenth century this rhyme was first recorded. A recent version adds to the cheer .....

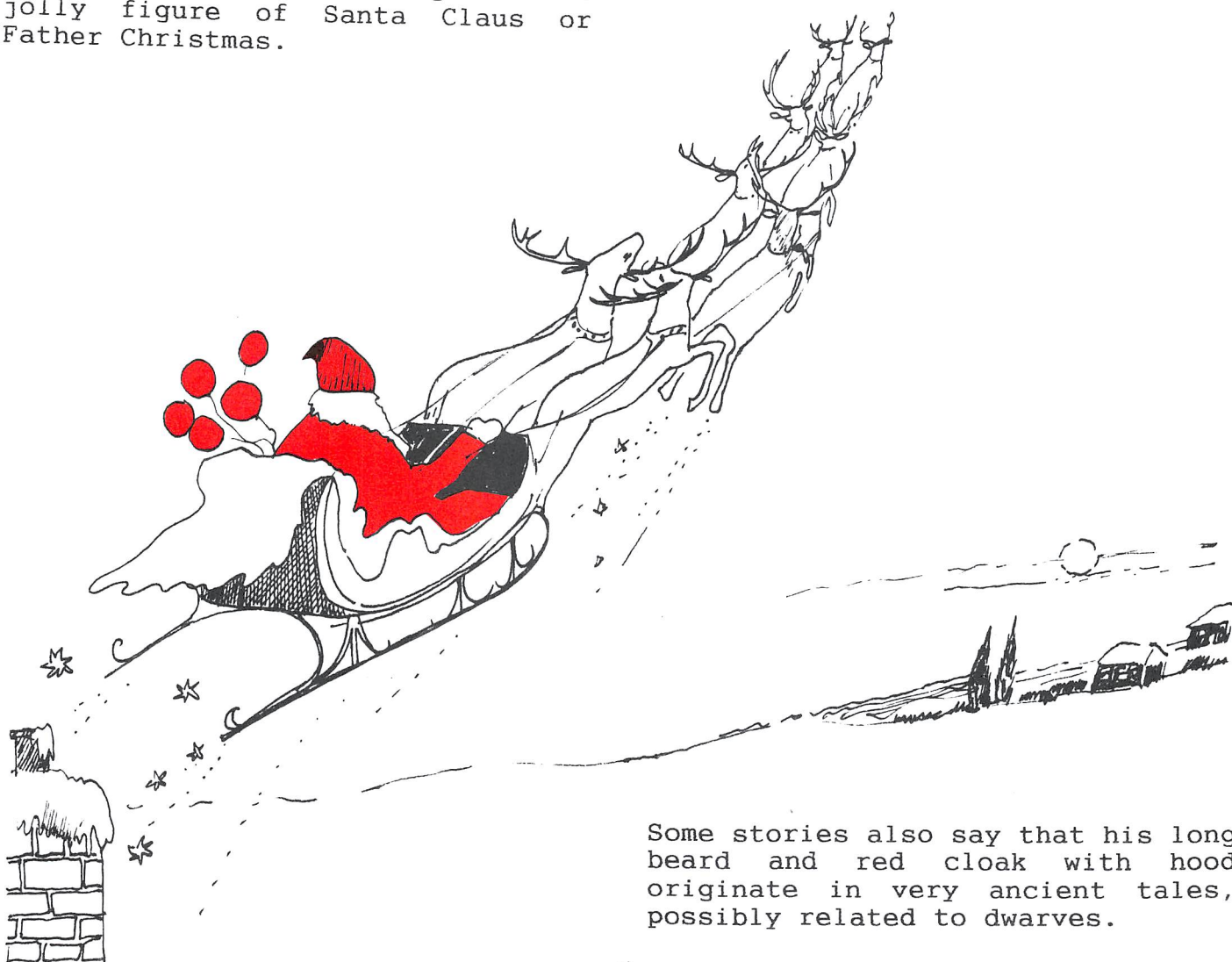
Christmas comes but once a year,  
And when it comes it brings good cheer,  
A pocket full of money, and a cellar full of beer,  
And a good fat pig to last you all the year.

Today's Christmas is a mixture of the Christian Christ Mass, the ancient Druid traditions of evergreens and yule logs, the Norse candles and wine from the Roman Saturnalia. To these ingredients we have added present giving and the jolly figure of Santa Claus or Father Christmas.

#### Father Christmas

Father Christmas and the traditions surrounding him are built upon a variety of stories and beliefs. The character is a mixture of Saint Nicholas, one of the first Bishops of the Christian Church, and the stories surrounding the Norse God Odin. People used to believe that Odin rode across the sky on a magic horse, and gave gifts to those who had been good at the end of December.

Odin's magic horse became reindeer and a sleigh under American influence.



Some stories also say that his long beard and red cloak with hood originate in very ancient tales, possibly related to dwarves.

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# Traditions

## Christmas Crackers

The popular cracker was made by Tom Smith, a confectioner, in 1840. During a visit to France he saw sugared almond 'Bon-bons' sold in twists of paper that were given as gifts. At the time sweets in this country were sold unwrapped.

Smith imported these Bon-Bons and later added love mottoes. The sweets were then replaced with toys or novelties, but somehow this didn't catch on. The 'cracker' was born when Smith noticed a burning log in his fireplace 'crackle and pop'. After a great deal of experimentation he came up with the 'snap' for the traditional log-shaped cracker. Apparently thirteen million crackers are made annually!

## Christmas Cards

The first card was apparently designed by John Horsley in 1843. It was made for Sir Henry Cole who wanted to send a Christmas message to friends and family.

## The Christmas Tree

Most people know that the Christmas tree was brought to this country by Prince Albert. He is said to have imported a tree from his German Homeland for the royal children at Windsor Castle. This became a fashion in the late 1840's and is now a firmly rooted tradition.

The German tradition is based apparently on the story of St Boniface, an English priest travelling as a missionary in Northern Germany. One night he came across a group of pagans in the forest. They were celebrating a festival which involved the sacrifice of a young boy to the oak tree god. St Boniface was enraged and chopped down the oak. The boy was saved.

St Boniface saw a small spruce tree growing through the roots of the oak. He decreed that this small evergreen tree should be a symbol of everlasting life.

It was once the custom to bring in the Christmas tree on Christmas Eve. The tree was then decorated with candles and baubles as a surprise for the children.

# Christmas 1

## Christmas food

The turkey dinner comes from America. Traditional meals were goose, duck or pheasant. In the days before refrigerators herbs and spices were important in disguising the deterioration of meat.

Nose, nose, jolly red nose,  
And what gave thee this jolly red nose?  
Nutmeg, ginger, cinnamon and cloves,  
That's what gave me this jolly red nose!

Dried figs, currants, raisins and nuts have always been important in Winter time, when there was no fresh fruit.

The blazing Christmas pudding is a relic of the Druid sun-worshipping ceremony.

Everyone who stirs the pudding three times can make a wish. Anyone finding a coin in their pudding in Tudor times could be 'Lord of Misrule' for the day.

## Fun and Merriment

Some Christmas traditions included the choosing of the 'Lord of Misrule', who thought up games and hokes or comedy plays.

We still have pantomimes at Christmas time. It was traditional to visit the pantomime on Boxing Day.

## Pantomime

Once upon a time mummers or travelling bands of players performed 'mimes'. They took over the early plays with the well established tradition of men playing the part of women. The pantomime horse or cow, played by two actors is based on the May Day Hobby Horse. The practice of a girl playing the part of a hero is more recent, and is probably more commercial in origin. Perhaps a glamorous hero with good legs and voice (nowadays probably a soap opera star or popular singer) would draw a good audience.

The early mummers plays included jugglers and performing bears, and this continues with similar interludes in modern pantomime, together with the noisy audience participation.





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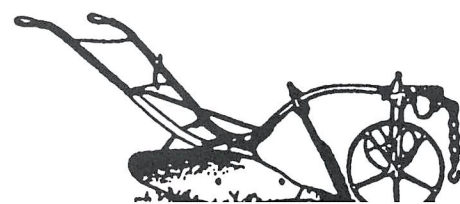
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Eve Nights*

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# Christmas Gifts and Kisses

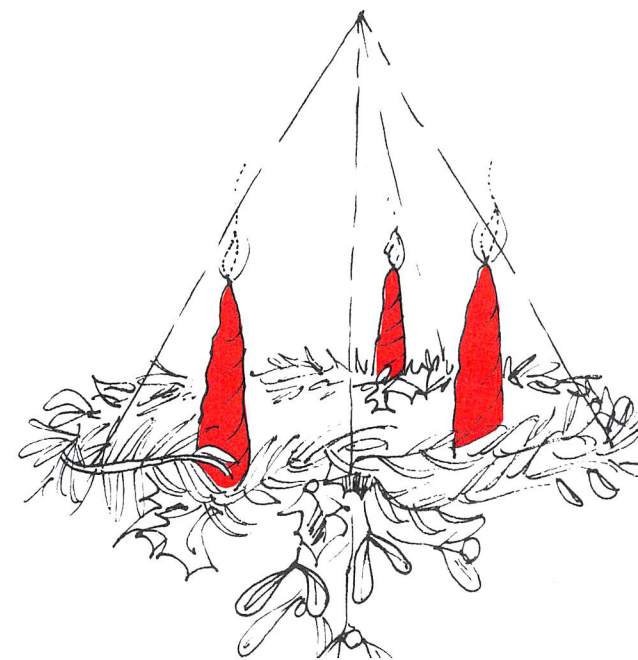
## Boxing Day

St Stephen's day, or Boxing Day, commemorates the death of the first Christian Martyr. St Stephen was believed to have 'looked after horses' hence the tradition of horse sports, hunting, or racing on Boxing Day. The name 'Boxing Day' may have come from the tradition of putting money in Church boxes for the poor. These were opened the day after Christmas.

## Kissing under the Mistletoe

Pagan ancestors believed that mistletoe held the life of the parent tree during winter, and was therefore sacred. It was cut by the high priest with a golden sickle. It became known as 'heal all', and was used as a herb to cure many common ailments. It was also a symbol of fertility.

Christians incorporated the symbol and it became a symbol of everlasting love.



## Christmas Gifts

Before 1900 only children from wealthy families were given toys at Christmas. These were usually hand made dolls, rocking horses, or lead soldiers and forts.

Most children received novelties such as sweetmeats, ribbons, paper novelties or home-made dolls. In the late nineteenth century manufacturers began to produce board games, books and jigsaws, and these became widely available.



## Christmas Stockings

The traditional stocking recalls stories of St Nicholas who gave gifts of gold coins in bags to the poor. It is said that one of these bags was thrown into a peasant's home by the saint, and it landed in a stocking hung up to dry by the fire. In some parts of the world stockings are still hung up on St Nicholas' Eve, December 5th.

It was always the custom to fill the toe of a stocking with a rosy apple, a symbol of health and happiness for the coming year. Only the rich could afford oranges. If you found a bright new penny in your stocking you were sure to have a prosperous



# Crow Pie Children's Page....

## poems about Neighbourhood Watch

Keep your eye open  
The policeman has spoken.  
Watch for the bad guys  
Listen for the girls cries.  
Pick up the phone and dial  
There's no time to walk  
down the aisle.  
Just watch out  
For the neighbourhood shout.

Sally Shipley, age 10.

Neighbours watching over the  
fence  
Seeing what they can see.  
Birds eating bread ... but  
then what a sight  
Boys with sticks and stones  
Breaking windows down  
Down the road, get the phone  
I said ... Phone the police  
and they took them away.  
So be careful when it  
involves your house.

Nicola Jarvis, age 9.

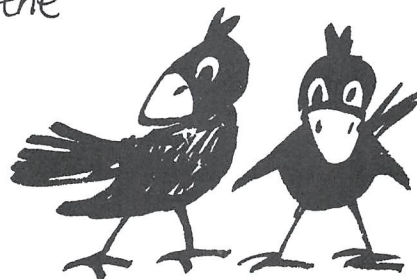
I looked out my window  
What did I see  
A boy upon my neighbour's tree,  
I said I saw that boy before...  
He burgled number eighty four.  
I ran down stairs in a rush  
To try and jump over the bush.  
When he saw me he had a fright  
and then he ran right out of sight  
I'm glad I helped my  
neighbourhood, because I  
feel I've done some good.

Catherine Woodward, age 9

Neighbourhood Watch is a really  
good thing  
You should care for people  
And not get into any trouble.  
Just please would you think  
about it and do it.  
I really would like it if you  
did it please.

Laura Ingamells age 10.

These poems were entries in the  
'Neighbourhood Watch Week'  
competition.  
Well done to everyone who  
entered!



## Coppers Corner

### School Crossing Patrol

This very necessary, but often thankless task, is performed very well in Ratby by Yvonne Pygott, and formerly by her mother, Margaret Crump.

The School Crossing Patrol duty recently received a great deal of media publicity nationally, following an incident in the North-West of England. There, the school crossing patrol, was assisting, in the main, old age pensioners, to cross the road. To most of us this practice would be viewed as kind hearted and public spirited, but complaints were made by motorists.

There are strict rules governing the school crossing patrol which state that the official must be dressed in full uniform including the white coat, cap and carrying the "Lollipop". In addition the official has the authority to stop traffic, but only to allow school children to cross the road. Parents may cross the road with children, but the school crossing patrol does not have authority to stop traffic to enable non-school children to cross the road.

If Yvonne has cause to refuse a request from an adult to be assisted across the road, she is not being awkward, but merely abiding by the rules!

### Parking

Numerous complaints have been referred to Highways department at County Hall regarding parking in Ratby.

One location is in Main Street and the other in Station Road. The problem in Main Street is outside the Chip Shop/Greengrocers, at the junction of Church Lane.

Motorists are parking outside the

businesses, and albeit that they are not parked for long, they are nevertheless leaving their vehicles in a dangerous position and causing an unnecessary obstruction. With the blind bend outside the butchers, there is potential for a serious road traffic accident due to the parked vehicles. There is ample free parking on the library car park or in Church Lane.

The problem in Station Road is near to the junction with Desford Lane, outside the telephone kiosk. Again there is ample free parking on the Sports Club Car Park or in the bay outside the Co-op.

Motorists persist in parking on the bend in order to visit the shops or to use the telephone, leaving their vehicles causing an unnecessary obstruction.

Motorists parking at these locations will in the future run the risk of a fixed penalty ticket of £20.00, rather than a caution.

P.C. BRIAN MOORE

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Plans to provide an interpretation board and leaflet for the wildflower meadow are under way. Students from Groby College will be involved in the design of these as part of their course work.

#### Development of Glenfield Sports Ground

Members of the Parish Council attended a Public Meeting in Groby to debate this issue. Ratby Parish Council strongly opposes any development on this site.

Many residents will by now have signed the petition placed in local shops by the Parish Council.

#### Christmas in the Village

##### Christmas Carols

Carols will be sung around the tree on Wednesday 21st December at 7.30 p.m.

The Service will be led by Reverend Michael Hardy. Why not linger for a warming Christmas chat in the Welfare Hall?

After the carols, tea and coffee will be served by the Old People's Welfare Committee.



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## 100 Years Of Parish History

Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Records Service is marking a hundred years of Parish Councils with a travelling exhibition using Parish Council archives from the Leicestershire Record Office.

Parish Councils, which represent the real grass roots of local democracy, were created by the Local Government Act of 1894. The first elections were held on 8 November 1894, and the new Councils began to meet in December of that year. There are now 284 parishes in Leicestershire: 188 have Parish or Town Councils while 96 have a Parish Meeting open to all electors. Parish Councils have powers to act, or the right to be consulted on a great many matters effecting the well-being of their communities; from rights of way to cemeteries.

The exhibition is touring parishes the length and breadth of the county. It will be displayed in local parish halls, schools, museums and libraries until the end of the year, and will enhance many Parish Council's own celebrations of their centenary.

#### Christmas Windows Competition

Shops and businesses in the village will once again be invited to enter the annual competition for best decorated window.

There will be three prizes of £25, £10 and £5. Judging will take place between December 12th and 17th.

#### Santa's Fire Engine

Mr Crockett and the Fire Brigade Museum Society will be touring the village on Wednesday 14th December. They will be collecting toys and money for needy children. Please give generously.



## Ratby Parish Council

#### Grass verges

The Council had telephoned and written to the County Council to express the outrage felt by villagers about the 'scalping' of grass verges at the beginning of October. The Council had apologised for this and sent an Inspector to view the damage.

#### Police Matters - Parking in Village Centre

P.C. Moore attended the October meeting of the Council and gave a breakdown of current crime figures. The dangerous parking which consistently occurs at the junction of Desford Lane and Main Street was discussed.

The Council agreed to write asking whether a traffic warden could regularly monitor this situation.

#### Charnwood Poultry Farm Concerns


Ratby Parish Council have been involved in the debate of this issue for a considerable time, and has consistently expressed sympathy with those residents who suffer from the overpowering smell. Following a recent report by an independent Inspector a meeting was held with residents and Markfield Parish Council on 20th September. This council has re-affirmed its resolve that proposals for development of this site should not be supported and that the matter should continue to be pushed on environmental issues.

#### Leisure and Recreation

The Council was disappointed when one of the new bouncy animals at Ferndale Drive was damaged, allegedly by 'two grown men'.

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# It's never too late !



Dear Editor

I note that a considerable amount has been written in the Wot about the efforts of the Neighbourhood Watch in Ratby, but Ratby's Neighbourhood Watch's greatest and current achievement has gone without note in the Wot.

Those who read the Leicester Mercury's free paper "Bradgate Mail" will note that in May 1991 a page lead read "Locals Win County Quiz".

Four members of Ratby Neighbourhood Watch represented Beaumont Leys Police sub-division which encompass Bradgate Park, Beaumont Leys, Fosse Park and Enderby Police Headquarters in a County Neighbourhood Watch Quiz at Leicestershire Constabulary Headquarters at Enderby and won!

Other teams representing the other sub-divisions of Leicestershire were Hinckley, Wigston, Rutland and Melton, Syston and Coalville.

The quiz was recorded by Radio Leicester and went out on the air for five days, the sixth day with the final.

Beaumont Leys members, all from a relatively small village, Ratby, compared with its overall area knocked out Coalville in the first round. then they beat Wigston in the semi-finals and went on to the finals against Rutland and Melton.

After a tense final round Beaumont were declared the winners and were presented with the winners shield by Leicestershire Chief Constable, Mr Michael Hurst.

Questions were based on home security measures, vehicle security, the highway code, past and present criminals of note.

Historical facts relating to the police force, Neighbourhood Watch weeks activities, the teams own areas of leicestershire, television



serials based on police forces in the world and explanation of the workings and use of locks and other crime prevention equipment.

The team who put Ratby on the map and are still undefeated are the then Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators: Barbara Whipham, Horace Gamble, Lynn Mellor and Sylvia Gant.

On reflection after the quiz, Horace Gamble put pen to paper to record the spirit of the event and penned this verse:

After thoughts on getting knickers in a twist at Police Interrogation

Barbara Whipham  
Took a grip on  
Her press-ganged crew  
At Police H-Q

Out of place  
Felt poor Hor-ace  
Who's never best on  
A forceful question

Then Lynn Mellor  
Did so well a  
round was scored  
which swept the board

But Sylvia Gant's  
Twisted pants  
Caused all the fun -  
That's the way we won!

So watch out there may be a thief about.

SYLVIA GANT

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It would seem that in this small village there are many who have relatives or friends in Canada and those who are attracted for other reasons to spend holidays there. Perhaps it is not so surprising when one considers that Canada is the largest country in the world with an extremely wide variety of landscapes and cultures.

A larger audience than usual attended the September meeting in which members David Hulme and Horace Gamble showed slides of their visits in 1993. David and his wife, on their first visit to the Dominion, travelled thousands of miles by coach and plane taking in, in rapid succession, such places as Toronto, Niagara Falls, Ottawa, Quebec City, Montreal, Calgary and on through the Rockies' breathtaking scenery via Banff and jasper to the west coast at Vancouver and Victoria. All very wonderful in their different ways.

Horace spent his eighth visit with a more leisurely holiday with his daughter living just outside Toronto and did mainly local tours by train including the essential Niagara Falls, which never fails to impress. He also coincided with David's itinerary by a short visit to the French speaking Montreal where his grandson was working. As David and Betty were to discover it was almost like visiting France so removed is it from the normal Norther American culture.

A very wet night outside the Welfare Hall was soon enlivened by the colourful pictures and narratives of such a fascinating country.

Coming nearer to home for the October meeting Mr Richard Buckley of the Leicestershire Museums Archaeology Unit delved beneath the surface of Leicester to explain and illustrate some of their recent 'digs' in Bonners Lane, at the Shires site, and at the rear of the Elfed Thomas Building. At a casual glance the sites look barren with a few potholes scattered around.

Potholes is perhaps an apt description for in recent years 20,000 pieces of pottery have been unearthed in the centre of the city! Not many years ago much of these would have been discarded, unless particularly large and rare but nowadays each one is examined thoroughly and recorded. Several new lines of Roman road have been discovered in unexpected places, in addition to wells, foundations of dwellings, and burial grounds. Of greatest interest to environmental archaeologists are the cess pits from which can be discovered the diet of the people by the seeds of fruit and vegetables which are still to be found even after many centuries buried under several feet of earth.

There is no meeting in December and the next one, on 15th January 1995 will be 'The Romance of Pub Signs' by Mr Fred Harding.

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## How to preserve a Tree with roots

In our ecologically conscious time it can be difficult to justify cutting down a tree and then discarding it, even if we take it down for recycling. We can 'be green' if we choose a small tree with roots that will grow for several years in a tub before planting in the garden.

Line the bottom of a tub with drainage crocks, fill with leaf mould, coco-peat or garden soil. Leave the tree in this tub outside as long as possible.

Whilst the tree is indoors give the tree a daily top up of ice cubes. These will help to ensure the tree is cool and moist.

During the summer months ensure that your tree does not dry out and it should last for several years.



## Pine Needle Essence

Collect fallen pine needles from your Christmas tree. Crush them and place in a screw top jar. Cover with corn oil. Add a teaspoon of Vodka. Stand the jar in warm water for a week. (Keep topping up and renewing water as often as possible). Give it a good shake regularly.

Strain the mixture to remove the needles. The oil will have a lovely pine smell, and makes a good bath oil!

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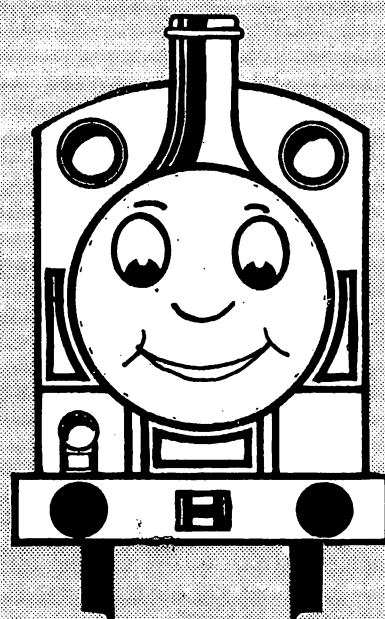
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*and all the Staff..*

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What do you call a  
deer with no eyes?

No idea.

What do you call a  
deer with no eyes  
or legs?

Still no idea.



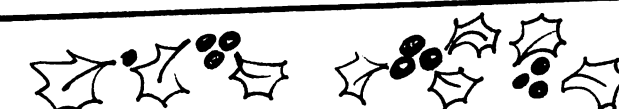
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Why did they let the  
turkey join the band?

Because it had the  
drumsticks.

# Happy New Year



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## Beaumont Police/ Community Consultative Committee Meeting

The Beaumont Police/Community Consultative Committee will be holding a Public Meeting at the Salvation Army Hall, Aikman Avenue, Leicester, on Wednesday 7th December 1994 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 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, Supt. P McHugh.

## SAD NEWS

We are sad to report that on the 12th November Albert Barton passed away. Many of you will have fond memories of Albert who was an active member of the village for many years.

Answers to What word links them.

Crook, bridge, spell, fine, punt, trunk, bank and drill.

Ed comment. I knew one would have a Rugby connection.

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## Neighbourhood Watch



Pictured :- Back Row, from left to right, Jill Grey, Parish Councillor Iris Hannaford who presented the prizes, and Ann Day.  
Middle row :- Elizabeth Tyler, Michelle Tew, Alice Marlow, Anthony Woodward.  
Front row :- Kirsty Favor, Kirsty Broad and Jonathon Cooling.



The Winning Poem, by Michelle Tew.

"If you go out or on holiday,  
Buy an alarm before you go away.  
Always look out for crime  
And help the Police save time.  
Ask your neighbourhood to watch  
your house.  
If you see a burglar be as quiet  
as a mouse.  
Go inside and ring the Police  
Then they will come and catch  
the thief."



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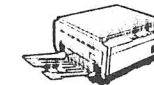
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