

Wot!

About Ratby

PUBLISHED BY THE RATBY SCOUT GROUP

"Peace on earth and goodwill to all."

*We wish all our readers
a very happy Christmas
and a
peaceful New Year.*



By Nad AM
Adfan Ste.

Issue 55
December
1995

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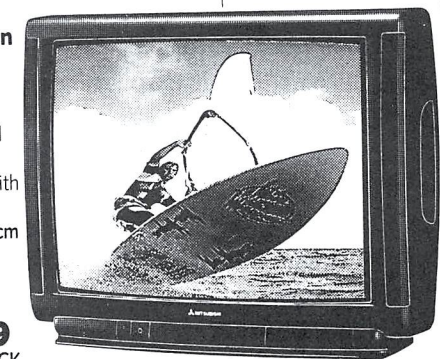
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A Newcomer's Perspective

I needn't have worried!

So . . . here I was - a new house, a new village.

As a bell ringer since the age of ten, an obvious specification when looking for a new house was a handy church with bells!

I found it in Ratby!

During my first week, I contacted the Vicarage to enquire about bell ringing here. As it turned out, both the Vicar and his wife were ringers and could give me all the details!

It was with some trepidation that I ventured down to the church on that first Friday evening.

I hit upon an immediate snag - where was the door?!!

Having found the entrance, I climbed the stairs. They were already ringing, I hovered nervously in the doorway.

"Hello", I said when they stopped.

"I'm Lucy and I've just moved here."

"We were expecting you", they said. "What would you like to ring?"

So, that was how it all began!

I was made very welcome and quickly felt part of the team.

This was two years ago, and I haven't looked back since!

I enjoy the Friday evening practices (although I'm always five minutes late because I can't bear to miss the end of 'Coronation Street'!!) and I ring for Sunday services and weddings whenever I can.

I would like to thank all the Ratby ringers for making me so welcome and I look forward to spending much more time with you!

LUCY CLARKE.

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Hello there again. After my reminiscences about Ratby Athletic I was asked if I could do the same for Ratby Town CC. I said that I'd try, but added that I might find it a little more difficult as the tales are a little more personal. Anyway here goes and also here's hoping that my tales don't offend anyone in their telling.

First a few lines about the Town's cricket ground itself; the Town's hallowed turf. The pavilion. When I played, back in the 50's and 60's, the pavilion was over in the corner where the bottle bank now stands, and before that it stood almost on the spot where you drive into the present day car park. It really has been a much travelled structure. But back to the pavilion in the corner. It really was quite a nice looking affair for its day. There were two dressing rooms at the one end with the rest of the building being given over for teas and the like.

Around the front of the pavilion was a wooden fence and in the fence was a small hand gate which one entered before nipping up three wooden stairs into the main room. Other features were a little sparse to say the least; no loo I'm afraid but surprisingly the nettles behind the pavilion always seemed to do well each season. The water for teas was boiled in a 'gas copper' around the side of the building and, when hot enough, was ladled into a tea urn. What luxury you have now lads! But enough about our 'Long Room', it's time for one or two match reports.

I'll start with a tale, the events of which, at the time, were very amusing to all concerned. It was the beginning of the season and we'd performed the usual pre-season rituals of rain making and knocking in of the stumps and true to form we'd only been playing about 90 minutes before, yes you've guessed it, rain stopped play. Having returned to the pavilion all and sundry become involved in their own conversations.



Back Row

P. Wigglesworth
C. Prentice
T. Toon
H. Priestnall
L. Prentice
A. Geary

Sec. Row

W. Shipman
B. Willet
G. Marvin

Front Row

J. Parker
K. Moore
T. Briggs

In the pavilion Mrs Sis Green was preparing the teas, which she generally did most Saturday afternoons, and was stirring the tea urn with an old cricket stump, it added that extra flavour you understand, when Wilf Shipman, who was discussing someone's merits in fine detail, happened to say '... he's only a farm labourer.' Oh dear me Mrs S Green's hackles went up on account of her husband Sis, being a 'farm labourer'. Wilf then received a straight from the shoulder lecture on the relative merits of farm working, having to apologise right away for his remark immediately or else tragedy would strike. The tragedy being that Mrs Sis Green would down stump and leave the pavilion there and then and there'd be no teas. Thankfully Wilf apologised.

Another time we were playing Burbage at Ratby and Burbage were batting. Now, on this occasion we had a young lad, by the name of Trevor Stevenson, bowling for us. Trevor was the fastest bowler I ever stumped to while keeping wicket for the town, he was also the most erratic this particular match.

continued on page 4

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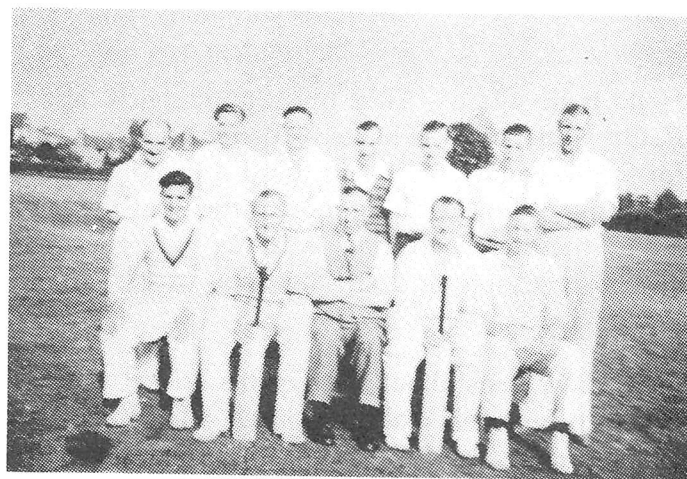
Trevor opened the bowling from the 'willow end' and the first ball never pitched ... straight into my gloves. Trevor ... 'Sorry batsman'.

The next ball, short of a length, nips through and tickles the batsman's rib and I think he probably still has the bruises to this day. The next ball was the same, short! But this time the ball was fended off to short square leg where John Shipman took a dolly catch, it had to be a dolly or John wouldn't have held it, not his strong point catching. The batsman tucked his bat under his arm departing with the curt remark that he'd never been so bloody pleased to get out in his whole life.

Just one more little tale and then I'll close. Ratby were batting and Wilfred Mott, or Sonny to us, was at the wicket with Raymond 'Jackie' Herbert. Now although Jackie had quite a turn of speed on the right wing for Ratby Athletic during the winter months, he was always a bit slow off the mark when it came to running between the wickets. Now Jack cut a ball down towards third man and Sonny shouted for a run and was off like a shot. Well he was down the wicket and in Jack's crease in no time. 'Go back', says our Jack.

So in a spurt of dust, yes it was a dry day, Sonny returns whence he came and having completed two runs and recorded none. I tell you it's a good thing we didn't record the comments that were communicated to Jackie!!!!

A. Geary.



Back row
T Price
G Forryan
G Bennett
A Spencer
J Parker
C Prentice

Front row
A Geary
B Gimbert
Mr D Barton 'Comm'
S Johnson
R Herbert

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RATBY LIBRARY CLUB

Caroline Packer, Donna Riley and Chris Dunmore have decided to finish running the Ratby Library Club as from December 1995.

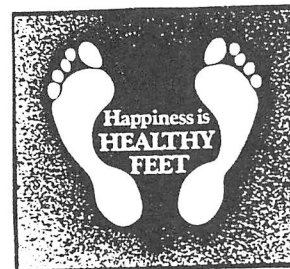
We have thought long and hard about this decision and because we all have full and busy lives we feel that we cannot give 100% that it deserves. We all three have enjoyed being involved in the club for the last eighteen months and we have met and worked with some lovely children and parents. We have also gained lots of new experience and ideas.

As yet nobody will take over but if anybody is interested they could contact Caroline Packer on 2395472 or ask for info in the library.

Thanks to everyone for all your support.

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THE RATBY PARISH CHURCH BELLS

A brief history

Anyone who has heard the church bells ringing on a Friday evening, Saturday afternoon or for Sunday services will more than likely have heard all eight bells ringing, however this has not always been the case!

The present ring of bells has a Tenor - The deepest toned, heaviest bell - weighing around 9 cwt (nearly half a ton) tuned to the key of G. Had this bell not become cracked and recast by Messrs. John Taylor, Loughborough in 1896, it is believed to have been cast in Leicester around 1290 making it once one of the oldest bells in the county!

By 1636 the tower contained at least four bells, cast by various Leicester bellfounders and in 1896 a further two bells were cast at the same time as the cracked Tenor bell by Taylor's of Loughborough. These six bells were in continual use and amongst other things a "Long Length Peal" was rung on them, Easter Monday, 1911. Amongst the ringers from this area, one Mr Ernest Morris from St. Margarets, Leicester! the details of the peal are recorded on a board in the church porch.

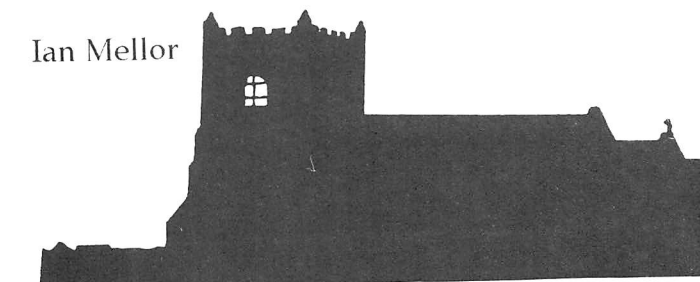
In the late 1920's the local ringers began to discuss with Rev.F.T.Ingle the possibility of augmenting the six to a ring of eight with the addition of two new front bells to make a complete octave. Within two years the, "New Bells Fund" contained a sufficient amount of money for the casting, on December 8th 1931, of the two new treble bells. The first peal on the new eight bells was as follows:-

January 23rd 1932. In 3 hrs 13 minutes a peal of Plain Bob Major was rung by the following ringers:

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1. G. Priestnall | 5. H. Spencer |
| 2. C. Allsop | 6. A. Priestnall |
| 3. E. Gardner | 7. H. Bowley |
| 4. W. Ball | 8. P. Ingram |

H. Bowley incidentally went on to become the Tower Captain at Leicester Cathedral! The bells are still regularly rung and hopefully this situation will be maintained for a further Three Hundred Years.

Ian Mellor



Ratby Parish Council

Precept for 1996/97

The Parish precept for next year will be £24,026. This is approximately 5% lower than this current year precepts which amounted to £25,289.

Broken Glass Danger

Yet again, we have to report ongoing incidents on a daily basis of glass bottles being broken in the car park, recreation area and the adjacent brook at Ferndale Drive. The maintenance man regularly spends hours removing the glass. It should be obvious that this glass breaking constitutes a great danger to those visiting the area and it is with deep regret that we were advised of a child sustaining a bad cut recently. We would ask for the co-operation of all parents to warn their children (of all ages) of the danger involved in these activities, as it is vital that this ceases at once. Please help to pass the message before further accidents occur! After all **IT COULD BE YOUR CHILDREN WHO MAY SUFFER AN INJURY IN THE FUTURE.**

Parish Council Clerk

Due to family commitments Mrs Linda Laywood is resigning from her office as clerk. Linda has filled this post for six years and during all that time she has been extremely conscientious and capable. Having quickly learned the duties of Clerk to the Parish Council, she has provided a valuable contribution to the Council in its day to day business. Her cheerful disposition has always been in evidence. We thank her for all she has done for the Parish Council and residents and wish her well for the future. Interviews will be held with the applicants for the vacancy and it is hoped that a new appointment will be made in November.

Christmas Greetings

The Chairman and Councillors wish all the residents of our Village a very Happy Christmas and a bright New Year.



TICKET TO RIDE

A place I always like to be
Is in the Ratby library.
Those two smart assistants there
Are really such a clever pair.

One's Pauline, the other Ann,
Of them both I'm quite a fan.
I now they often ease my mind
By finding books I cannot find.

For them it's such an easy task
To produce just what I ask ----
Be it history or fiction
Or verse or railways or French diction.

They listen with a ready ear
To tales of woe, or of good cheer,
From villagers who stop to chat
And share gossip. Nowt wrong in that!

They're good with kids and seniors too
Without them what would Ratby do?
I hope one day they will succeed
In teaching me to write ---- and read!



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DANGEROUS NEW CRAZE?

Schools and parents of young children are being warned of the potential dangers of the latest craze sweeping the County. The game involves throwing a metal disc, "a slammer", which may have a serrated tooth edge resembling a mini circular saw blade, onto "pogs" laid out on a flat surface with the aim of turning the "pog" over.

The metal discs are quite heavy weighing about 25 grams, are about 4cm in diameter and have the appearance of a martial arts star, therefore making them potentially lethal if used incorrectly. This is NOT the genuine product of "POGS" produced by Waddingtons, but an imported version of the game.

Example of, "slammer" in question.



A. J. WALDRAM

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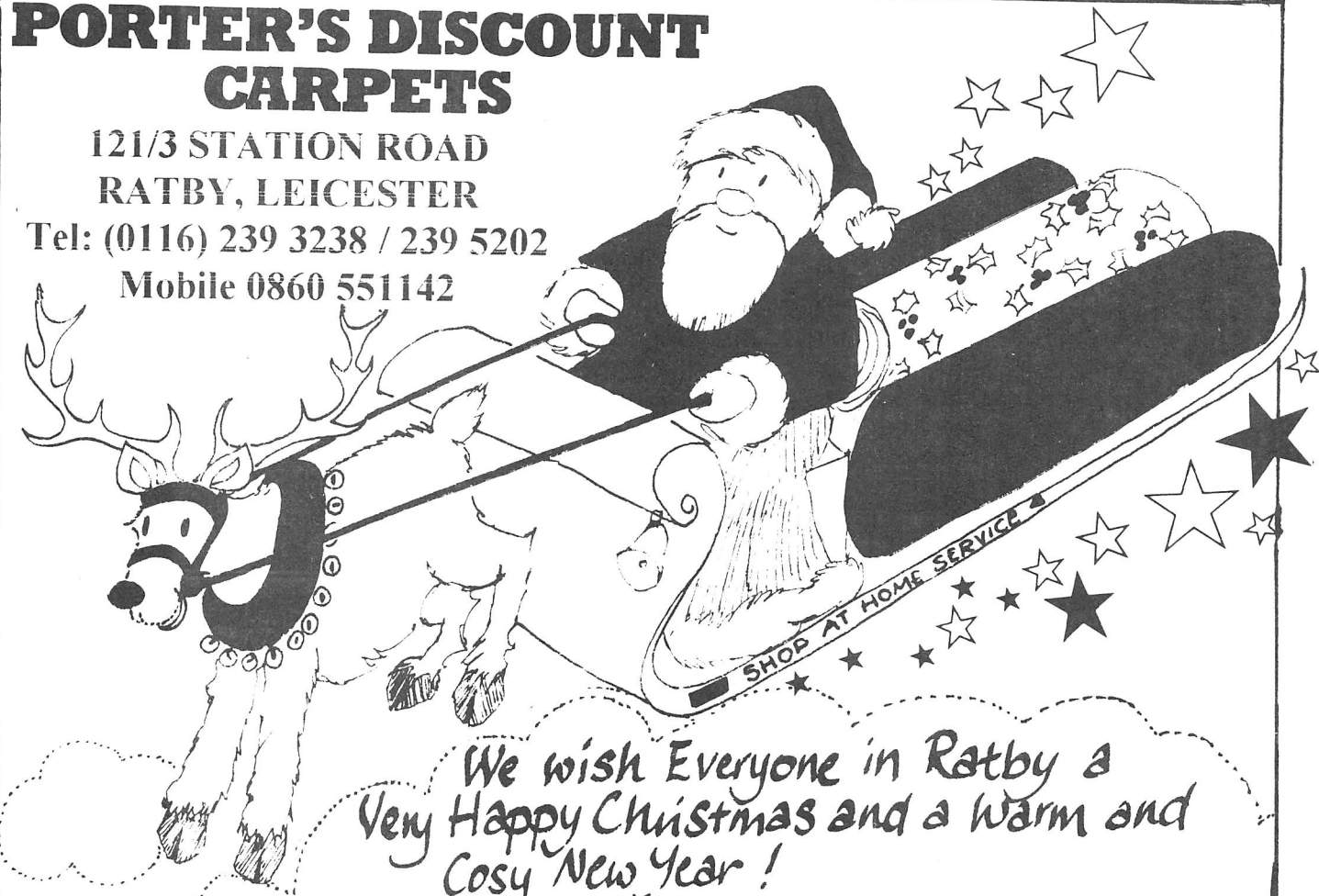
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Editors note:- Doesn't look like the ideal Christmas present. If my children were anything to go by.

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We wish Everyone in Ratby a
Very Happy Christmas and a Warm and
Cosy New Year!

Whilst the Scout Group is reaching its first decade yet another milestone has been achieved. Girls are now welcome to join and compete on equal terms in the Scout Troop. Historic indeed, and as with all new ideas which herald change, some have responded by voting with their feet. To those few young men who have left the group I wish you well, perhaps you will return. Girls could have been invited to join from March 1990 when the Scout Association accepted the principle of enabling mixed membership opportunities. Sensitivity to the needs of other organisations in the village and the opportunities they offer to girls has delayed the process. The Scout troop, which caters for 10 and a half to 16 year olds is not in competition with the Guide Unit, but seeks to offer girls more adventurous activities. These include canoeing, rock climbing and hiking.

holds. Watch this space!
Anyone wanting to join is welcome
to come and see us on a Friday
night at the Church Rooms. Or
contact myself, or Group Scout
Leader Colin Payne

Five girls have already joined and settled in well, and they are enjoying the programme on offer. The County District Executive see this development as a pilot scheme. Viv Froggat has joined as a Warrant Assistant Leader. Other female support has been offered. It is early days yet, so it will be interesting to see what the future

sailing, to name but a few. They will be able like the boys to achieve scouting awards, and become patrol leaders.

Chris Woodward
(Scout Leader)

Leader Colin Payne

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Scout

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JET

Neighbourhood Watch agreed, at the end of this meeting to vigorously oppose this development. We believe the village does not have the necessary infrastructure to support such a further development and we support other local organisations to have this latest plan overturned.

Three officers attended; Inspector Lloyd Wells, Sgt Bob Muncie and PC Stuart Mason who has taken over as our local policeman from Brian Moore. Neighbourhood Watchers made their views extremely clear on the subjects of under-age drinking and other socially-undesirable activities many of which take place at the Fernside Drive grounds. The police were asked to act continuously to remove these offenders and avoid the area becoming "no go" for many youngsters.

We had extended an invitation to the Unit Commander at Beaumont Leys to attend this meeting in order that he might explain what actions the police intended to take to combat the increased rate of crime noticed since the policing changes came into force on 2nd April.

After the formal presentation the discussion was extremely lively and included valuable contributions from Katy Wright (the village Youth Worker). We agreed that together with Katy Wright we seek to propose a scheme to attract funding from Crime Concern towards projects for on-going youth activity.

This meeting was called to allow Alan Bailey, Programme Manager for Crime Concern, to offer the experience of his organisation as to how local agencies could "enable" youngsters to apply their many talents towards improving their communities.

MEETING 14th SEPTEMBER



Bradgate Lions will be making their annual Santa Float visit to the Dane Hill area of the village on Wednesday 6th December. Santa will be starting from the corner of Dane Hill and Groby Road at 6 pm

This year all the money from our street collections is to be donated to the Rainbows Children's Hospice.



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Christmas

CHURCH SERVICES

17th December

- * Sunday School Nativity play and Holy Communion 10.30
- * Carol Service by Candlelight 6pm

24th December - Christmas Eve

- * Holy Communion at 10.30 am
- * Crib and Family Service 6pm
- * Holy Communion at 11.30 pm

25th December - Christmas Day

- Holy Communion at 8 am
- Family Communion at 10.30 am

CAROLS around the CHRISTMAS TREE

Wednesday 20th December
with Ratby Band

Refreshments will be served in the Welfare Hall afterwards

The Fire Brigade Museum

- Society will be touring the village with Santa to collect toys and gifts too

in Ratby

CHAPEL SERVICES

17th December

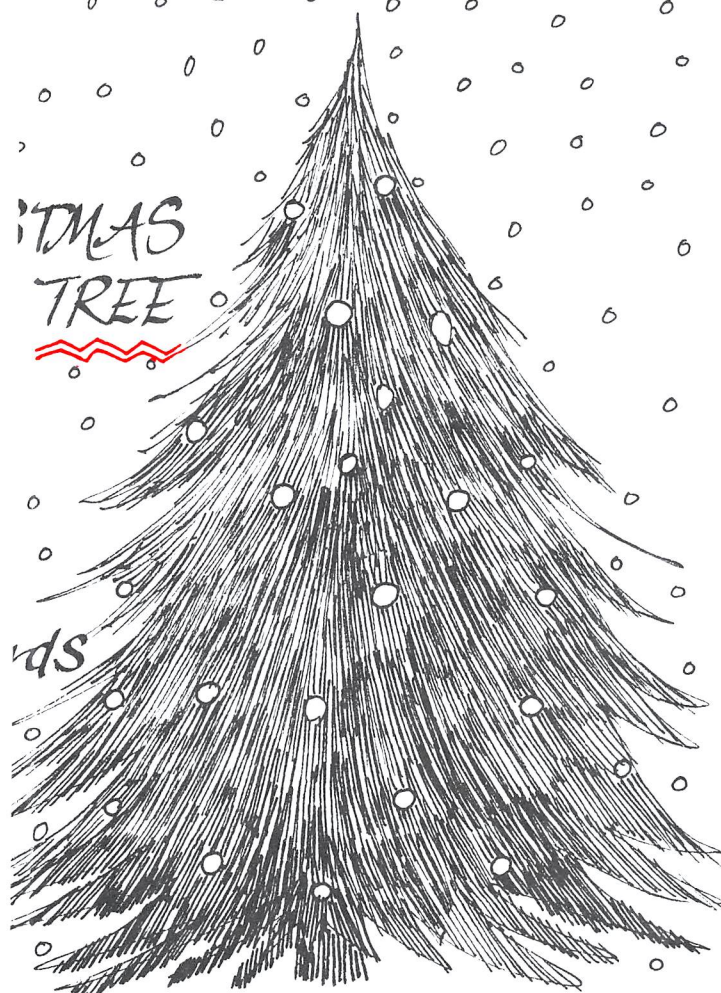
- * Carol Service at 4 pm

24th December - Christmas Eve

- * Children's Carol Service 4 pm

25th December - Christmas Day

- Family Service at 9.30 am
- Children welcome to bring along their toys to show.



Tarte Noël

Pastry - 7 Inch (18cm) flan ring

- 4oz (110g) plain flour
- 2 teaspoons caster sugar
- 2oz (55gr) butter or margarine
- 1 egg yolk (plus little cold water if necessary)

Filling

- 3-4 tablespoons mincemeat
- 3-4oz (75-110 gr) ground almonds
- 3oz (75gr) caster sugar
- 2 egg whites (approx)
- 1 teaspoon almond essence
- 2oz (55gr) flaked almonds

Glaze - Optional

- 1 tablespoon Apricot jam
 - 1 tablespoon water
- Heated and Sieved

Method

1. Make pastry, line flan ring - leave to rest 30 mins
2. Spread mincemeat evenly over pastry
3. Mix together ground almonds, sugar and essence with sufficient egg white (unbeaten) to make fairly soft mixture and spread over mincemeat - level.
4. Cover neatly with flaked almonds.
5. Bake in preheated oven 180°C/350°F/Gas no 4 for 35 mins
6. Brush with hot glaze when cooked

NB This will freeze well (if covered)

Scrivener



Best wishes for Xmas & a Happy New Year from Mel to all past, present & future clients.

p.s. Written Test starts

MELSWAY DRIVING SCHOOL

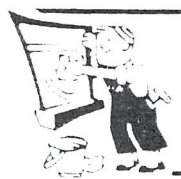
Mel Shiple, D.O.T., A.D.I., M.I.A.M.

TEL. LEIC:- 2386149

A46 LEICESTER WESTERN BYPASS

The long-delayed A46 Leicester Western bypass finally opened amidst a storm of controversy on Monday November 20th. Road Minister Mr John Watts, watched by spectators on the foot bridge above, cut the ribbon to open the road. He is quoted as saying, "The road will be taking through traffic from local communities" and that it was "an important step towards improving road safety, the quality of life for local communities and bringing much-needed traffic relief-for residents and motorists alike". Concerns about increased pressure through the roadworks on the M1 seem to have been realised, with longer tail-backs than usual. Suggestions that work on the new bypass was unfinished and that there were technical problems were challenged by Mr Tommy Thompson, the County Council's Director of Planning. He is quoted as saying, "The road is all ready for use. There are just a few minor points to be tidied up".

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Councillor Rob Fraser said that he had strong reservations about the bypass' effects on traffic flow through local villages. He is concerned that motorists using the village routes during construction disruption will continue the habit. MP David Tredinnick seems more positive. He is quoted saying that the bypass will "cut air pollution due to reduced traffic in villages".

In the April 1988 issue of Wot! we wrote, "If this bypass is built Ratby will rapidly become just a part of Leicester."

Our sense of community and village identity will be lost. Crime and vandalism may increase." We added that "a plan can never show the lighting glare, the noise and the visual impact this road and junction will have on Ratby."

Only time will tell us whether these fears are justified, or whether the bypass will prove to be a blessing.

The February issue of Wot! will include a special feature on the bypass.

What do you think? Have you changed your views since the long ago inquiry?

Let us know!



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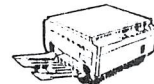
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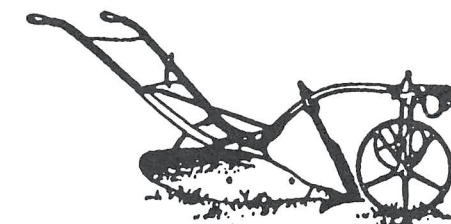
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EVE OR NEW YEARS EVE NIGHTS)

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PRIZE QUIZ
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Ratby Village Society

In February 1974 the first meeting of the Ratby Improvement Committee took place and two years later the name was changed to the Ratby Village Society. After twenty-one years of serving the village in various ways the Society celebrated recently the event in fine style with a dinner at the Bull's Head. Forty five members, and two honoured guests, sat down to a most excellent meal in a relaxed friendly atmosphere, which is one of the hallmarks of the Society - indeed of Ratby in general.

A toast to the Society was proposed by one of the guests, John Smalley, a former Chairman and founder member of which a reply was given by the present Chairman Dennis Green. There followed the ceremonial cutting of the splendid birthday cakes, supplied by the Champion Bakers Messrs Geary & Sons, which was performed by the second guest, Olive Smalley, a former secretary.

A commemorative booklet highlighting some of the Society's activities over the first twenty-one years, which had been researched and produced by Committee members Jack Haywood and Alan Spencer, was distributed to those present. A vote of thanks was given to the two hardworking waitresses, Mandy and Helen, for helping to make the evening a memorable success.

Have you ever woken up in the middle of the night and realised that you had forgotten something which you should have said on the previous day?

It happens frequently to the speaker who addressed the October meeting on the subject of the Grey's families fortunes and misfortunes under the title of 'The Bradgate Story' which was profusely illustrated with slides. Sir John Grey, husband of Elizabeth Woodville, lost his life at the battle of St Albans in 1461 while Lady Jane Grey with her father Henry and uncle Thomas lost their heads in the Tower of London in 1554. Succeeding members of the family acquired, through marriage, estates additional to the Manors of Ratby and Groby at Enville Hall near Stourbridge and at Dunham Massey in Cheshire.

Fortunes were probably lost by George-Harry Grey, 5th Earl of Stamford, who trained racehorses in Bradgate Park and built the tower on the top of Old John Hill in 1784 which was converted three years later to a lookout post for observing the horses under training.

The 6th and 7th Earls both continued to buy and train horses there on the circular course, traces of which can still be seen today. In fact it was in use by the residents of Hall Gates Farm until the Bradgate Estates were sold in 1925.

Who was it who forgot to tell the large audience about the 6th and 7th Earl's involvement in racing? Someone who hides (?) under the nom-de-plume 'Hoz'.

The Society does not meet in December and the January 1996 meeting will be held on Tuesday 16th when Fred Harding will give an illustrated talk entitled 'The Oldest Road'.

**There are a few TICKETS
left for the:-**



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A SAD FAREWELL

On September 30th, Mary and Geoff Widdowson closed the door of their greengrocery business for the last time, after almost 21 years.

The small shop had been a grocers and then a fish and chip restaurant before a Mr and Mrs Lee turned it into a greengrocery. When they retired it was Mary's sister Cynthia who talked the Widdowsons into taking it on. Geoff had just finished working in a printing business and wanted a change, so they thought they'd 'have a go'. It was a challenge.

Over the years they built up the business and made many good friends and loyal customers. Mr and Mrs Briggs of Markfield Road have shopped there every Saturday afternoon for the last 20 years, and they feel there is still a need for the shop. "Geoff is one of the nicest men that trades in Ratby, he's a total gentleman", said Mr Briggs.

Mary was born next door to the shop at 95 Main Street, and was a pupil at Ratby Primary School. Geoff was born and bred in Anstey, and had just come out of service in the Marines when he met Mary. They were married in Ratby Church on September 24th 1960.

It is not just for their fruit and vegetables that Mary and Geoff will be missed. For many villagers the shop was an important place for a friendly chat, or a rest on the stool half-way home up the hill. George Tomlinson has taken the stool home with him as a souvenir of happy times! This was one of a dwindling number of small local shops where customers receive friendly personal service and free home deliveries. Perhaps when we have lost them all, and have no choice but to visit out of town anonymous superstores for all of our needs, their true value will be realised - too late.

Geoff and Mary always supported local fund-raising events with baskets of fruit for prizes, gave flowers for the Church, and took part in a variety of village activities.

They will not be missing the long cold winter days, the increasing roar of passing traffic, or the early morning trips to the market. They are looking forward to more time spent together, more holidays, and a real Christmas break!

They will miss the friends they have made in Ratby, and hope to keep in touch. Both Mary and Geoff especially want to thank all those loyal customers who made it worthwhile to keep opening all those years.

Like their customers Mary and Geoff are now faced with the problem of finding a friendly greengrocer!

Things will not be the same in Ratby for many people. The many cards Mary and Geoff received showed just how grateful many were for their service.

Do you remember Geoff presenting the prizes at the School organised "It's a Knockout" competitions? And was he the Sheriff who presented prizes, "down" the play area on Station Road for the fancy dress competitions in the mid seventies?



Mary and Geoff pictured with presents and cards on the day the shop closed.

Photograph taken by Mrs R Devereux.



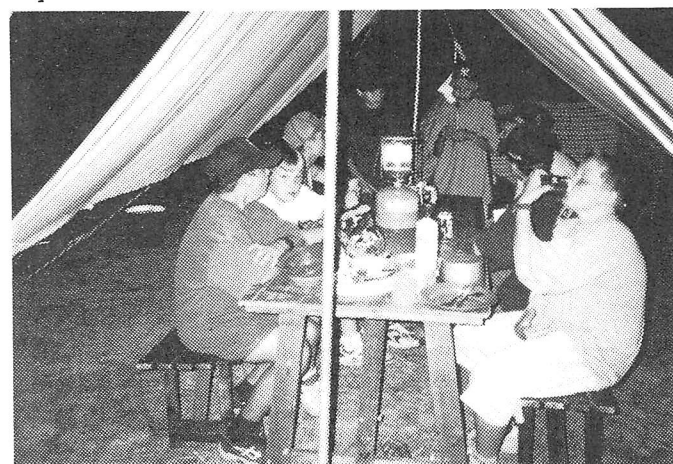
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IT WAS HOT IN WALESBY

Summer Camp this year took place at Walesby Forest Scout Camp Site in Nottinghamshire. Our arrival should have served as a warning, for worse was to come. Fire prevented us from venturing onto the tinder dry site for almost three hours whilst the local fire brigade did their stuff. A sweltering but enjoyable week followed with much use being made of the swimming pool. Archery, rifle and pistol shooting, horse riding and climbing were enjoyed to the full, but lying in the shade became an enjoyable pastime too. Sporadic fires had occurred most of the time without too much panic, so it was a shock when, at sunset on the last evening it happened. It started with a distant crackle and a plume of smoke. Within seconds a wall of fire swept towards us. No phones here. Two of our fastest runners were sent off to seek help. Everyone else assembled at the top of the field. Leaders and Venture Scouts dragged tents and property away and made safe the gas cylinders.



Miraculously the wind was blowing against the fire and it was unable to cross a wide path below our site.

Camp staff and fire brigade arrived in a blaze of blue lights. They were there for most of the night damping down.

Unfortunately what comes down in camping must go up so the lads got practice at re-pitching. As for the leaders we slept very lightly that night.

Sadly the day after we left the site the whole area went up in flames with many tents and equipment lost. Fortunately no-one was hurt.

Chris Woodward
Scout Leader.

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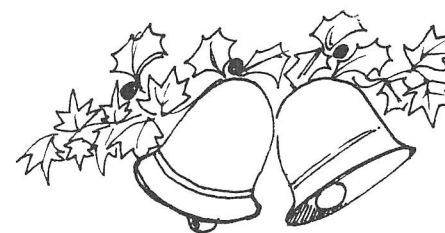
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Change-Ringing

The sound of church bells is familiar all over Europe, but only in the British Isles are the bells rung in the style known as 'change-ringing', rather than being swung at random or played from a keyboard as a carillon. The development of change-ringing began in England over 400 years ago, when the bellringers started to fit complete wheels to the axles on which the bells swung. Using a rope wrapped round the wheel, the bells could be swung through a full circle. This full-circle ringing allowed complete control over the swinging of the bell, hence when it range out. The bellringers found that they could now ring the bells in controlled sequences, and new sequences were soon invented, with names like 'Rounds', 'Queens' and 'Whittingtons'.

By the seventeenth century, the order in which a set of bells was rung was being changed according to set patterns, or 'methods', and change-ringing was born. In change-ringing, every bell must ring at least once in a sequence, then they all change their position for the next sequence which is rung. For example, six bells can be rung in the order 123456, then 214365, 241635 etc.

With 2 bells, only 2 different changes are possible. On 3 bells, $3 \times 2 \times 1 = 6$ changes can be rung, on 4 bells, $4 \times 3 \times 2 \times 1 = 24$ changes, and so on. With 7 bells, 5040 changes are possible, and if they are all rung without stopping or repeating any, then it is called a 'peal'. On 8 bells or more, a peal must consist of at least 5000 different changes, with the first and last changes having the bells ringing down the scale from lightest (treble) to heaviest (tenor). Using the popular change-ringing methods on 8 bells, a convenient peal can be made up of 5088 changes.

Change-ringing methods have names like 'Plain Bob', 'Grandsire Triples', 'Kent Treble Bob' and 'Cambridge Surprise Major'. Today, there are over 5500 churches with at least 5 bells where change-ringing can be done, most of them in England. Outside the British Isles, change-ringing has been introduced at about 150 churches in North America, Southern Africa and Australasia.

Anthony Haywood.

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COUNTERFEITERS GEAR UP FOR CHRISTMAS.

For the second time in as many months officers from the Trading Standards Department have seized a large consignment of counterfeit goods. The seized items, which could have stocked a counterfeiter's department store, included jeans, jumpers, coats, socks, sunglasses, watches and top name perfumes.

Over 4,000 items were taken bearing the names Pringle, Polo Ralph Lauren, Paul Smith, Timberland, Giorgio Armani, Chanel, Calvin Klein, Umbro and Ray-Burn. Amongst their latest haul were over 4,000 fake embroidered labels ready to be sewn into ordinary garments to turn them into counterfeits.

!! BE AWARE !!

The same thing was happening in
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LETTERS

On the 24th May 1952, we Eileen and Jim MacKenzie, put the key into the front door of 141 Markfield Road, Ratby (later to be No. 166) for the first time, and for the next thirty nine years lived happily 'Up Sunshine'. In due course daughter Isobel made her appearance, then Colin (who of course continues to live in the village with his family). Apart from the benefit of growing up in a friendly and caring village both Isobel and Colin attended the County Primary School and surely there is no better grounding for life than attendance at such a village school.

In 1991, the family having fled the nest, we moved to Cosby and again found ourselves in a lovely village whose inhabitants are just as friendly and easy to get on with as the Ratby folk so when we were fortunate enough to arrive at our 50th Wedding Anniversary we decided to have a 'bit of a do' bringing together friends from both villages, Leicester and around. This was held in the Cosby Village Hall and gave us an opportunity to say thank you to those many friends whose company we have so enjoyed over the years. Like everyone we have had our ups and downs but we do have the most pleasant memories of our years in Ratby. It is our hope Ratby never becomes one of those dormitory villages where no-one is interested in anyone. Thanks to Mrs Win Baillie, we see most issues of the WOT magazine so do keep abreast of the Ratby news and views.

Eileen M. MacKenzie



Dear Editor,

Please convey the concern of many mothers in Ratby with push chairs about the increasing dog mess through the village especially through Cottagers Walk, where we can allow our children to run through without worrying about traffic. Also the dog mess seems to be increasing along by the shops, much to disbelief and disgust.

"Please, Please all dog owners clean it up after your dog or take your dog some where suitable"

Thank you.

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Notices

We publish many of these during a year but a recent one, "Excessive chemical colouring agents found in food" made me stop and think. Where are all the European regulations taking us and who cares about LCC survey results?

It details the findings of a survey, "28% of food samples were found to contain certain chemicals used to colour food in quantities which breach European standards. In one case, - one case a chemical added to colour sweets was more than 3 1/2 times the permitted maximum limit! Six out of twenty one samples failed the EU tests, although all complied with current UK legislation. Of the six the excess colour found varied from 40% to a maximum of 360%. A good sample?

By the end of June 1996 these European standards will be made law in the United Kingdom. It appears that the, "standards were brought in after extensive scientific research and consultation in order to ensure that when colours are added, the food remains safe and fit to eat by consumers". I wonder if they actually measured how people would cope with eating foods without these, "colouring chemicals" which they have been used to eating over the years?

Any way I like GREEN MUSHY PEAS. Ed.

PS The editor has shown signs of a pale green sheen on his skin, perhaps he's been overdosing again! This sounds like a good EU regulation at last it might even return some of our food to its natural state. Carrots might be a little duller but nearer the colour and flavour we were meant to have and ditto for many other foods. Signed "Back to Basics"



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YOU CAN HELP!

"WOT" has now been produced for nine years quite an achievement, however we do need more people to write or tell us stories of -- anything!

Your memories, what work used to be like, how the world has changed, what was where in the village, what interesting things do you know, who did what to who and when. New sides to previously published stories/articles there are always people coming into the village who didn't read it first time round.

We do have, "staff" who will gladly come and talk to you, write down your thoughts and stories.

Don't leave it to someone else, your ideas and thoughts are as good as anyone else's, readers will find them interesting, give it a try.

**Help us to produce "WOT" for another
nine, eleven years?**

RING SUE ON 2394873

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