

DECEMBER/JANUARY 2008-2009

ISSUE 133



# WOT!

About Ratby

PUBLISHED BY RATBY SCOUT GROUP

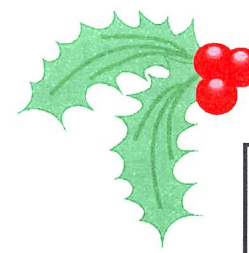


## NINETY YEARS

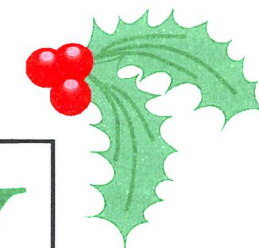
There was a good turn out for this year's Remembrance Day service at the Church and Ratby War Memorial.



Photograph by Jane Rayne.



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and A Happy New Year



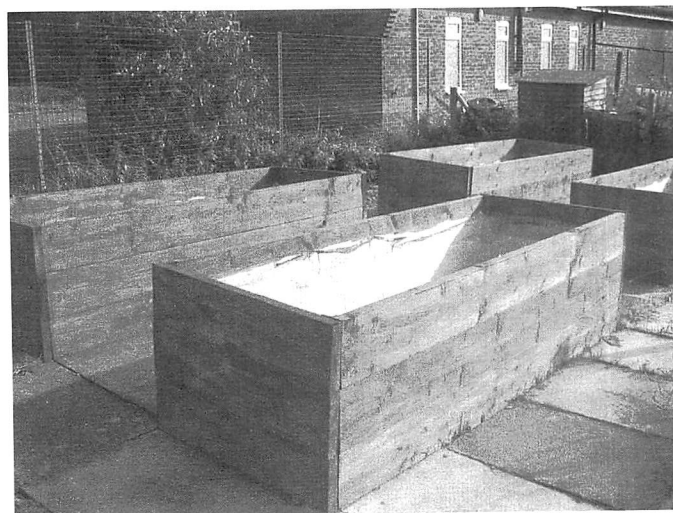


## RATBY ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

Four deep raised beds 8' x 3' x 27" high have been constructed at the Taverner Drive site, and will be filled with soil. They are ideal for growing carrots as the carrot fly cannot fly higher than 20" from ground level!

Are you a less able gardener who would like to rent one of these beds? There is wheelchair access.

Please contact the Secretary on **238 7300**



## RATBY VILLAGE QUIZ

Five teams of three competed for the Fred Harding Shield at Ratby Village Society's Inter Group Quiz held in front of an enthusiastic audience in the Methodist Church Rooms. After a very entertaining battle of wits, the winners, with fifty one points, were the Methodist Church team consisting of Jean Vann, Ian Freeman and Howard Parker. They narrowly beat the History Group with fifty points. Third were the Parish Church (46), followed by the Village Society (40) and the Parish Council (32)

We were privileged that Fred Harding attended the evening and made the presentation of the shield to the winners.

Questions had been devised by Betty Hulme, and the position of Question Master was ably filled by Peter Smith, former Headmaster of Ratby School.

The exacting work of scorer and time keeper were carried out most professionally by John James and Molly.

Well earned refreshments were served by the hard working team behind the scenes before everyone went home. **Jane Rayne**

**Fred Harding presents the shield to Ian Freeman of the winning team.**  
Photo by Hoz Gamble.



## APPLE DAY

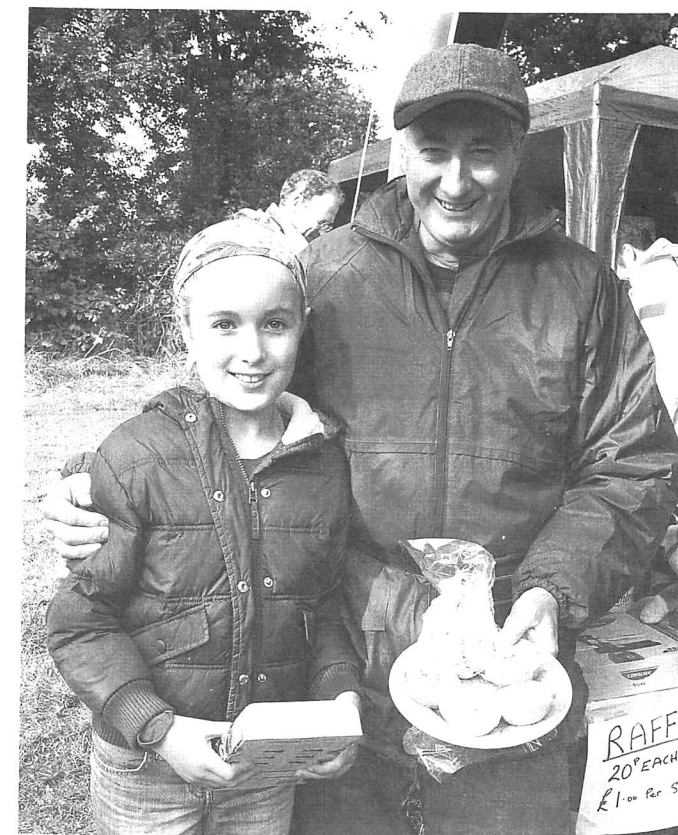
Gloomy weather did not deter a good crowd of villagers from visiting the Community Orchard to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the tree planting.

There were some tasty activities as usual: Apple Tasting, juicing, and barbecued apple rings.

The Apple recipe Baking competition attracted a good number of entries, and the various cakes and pies were served with refreshments after the judging. Thank you to Steve Foster of 'Truly Scrumptious' for coming along and judging at the event!

There were fun games, including 'Guess Where the Grub is' and a creative clay activity. For parents who wanted to know where to buy the clay, please ring Pre School Learning Alliance on 283 9449. (thanks also to PLA for lending us the gazebos.) £55+ was raised for Orchard expenses.

The Quiz sheets also proved popular, and raised £80 for the Orchard. Congratulations to Karen and Alan Roberts of Station Road who won the prize of £25.



**Pictured are Dennis Brookes and his Granddaughter Ella who won the junior Apple recipe Baking competition.**

Orchard Group members celebrated the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a special Apple Day meal at The Bulls Head. Gwen Holloway made a spectacular Apple shaped cake for us all to share.

We hope to hold our Annual Wassail once again on the traditional date, Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> January, meeting at 7.30 in The Railway. Look out for posters.

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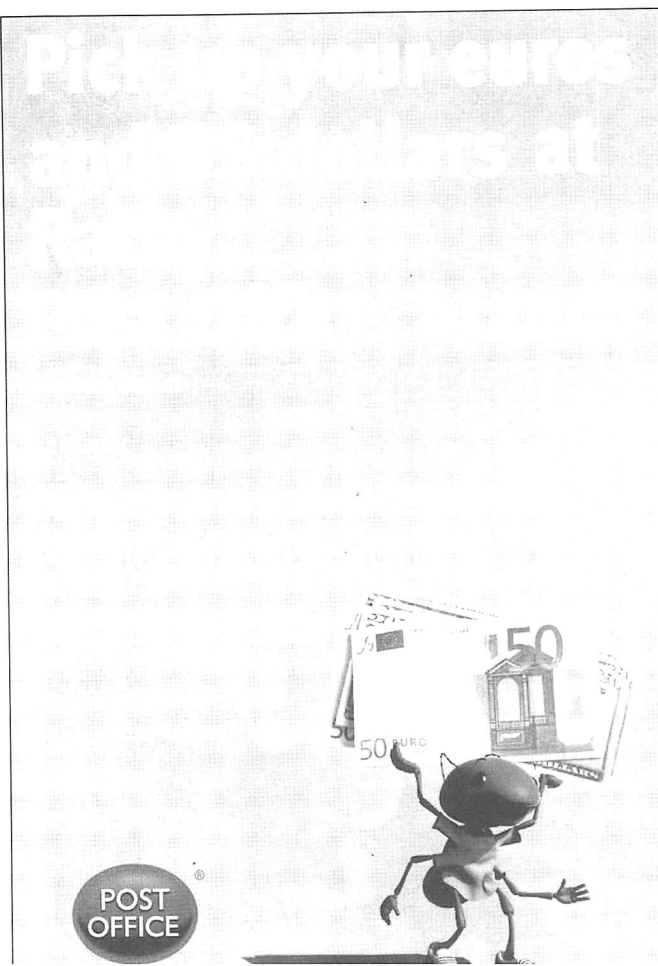
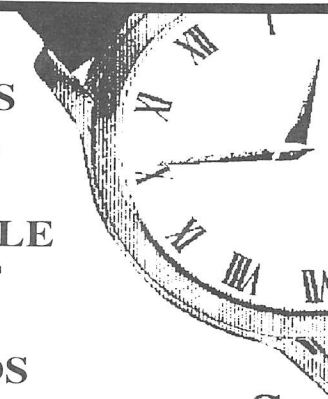
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## News from St Philip and St James

What a great turnout the village witnessed on Remembrance Sunday. There were about 350 people in church which was down to standing room only. There was a similar number afterwards at the War Memorial, which completely blocked the road. This was a fitting tribute to remember those who gave their lives – and continue to do so – to maintain not only the freedoms we enjoy, but to bring that to other troubled parts of our world as well.

Even as I write this article, work is underway in church to provide much need toilet and kitchen facilities which we hope will be available in time for our Christmas services. It makes one wonder how the people of Ratby coped over the past few hundred years! (there's no need to write in – I can guess).

At the same time we're preparing for all the special services we shall be holding during December. It would be good if we could welcome again all the people who came during November. There are all sorts of services to suit everyone, check out the village Christmas card or church website for details.

## PARISH COUNCIL

### CAROLS AROUND THE TREE

Ratby Parish Church has chosen the date for our traditional Carol singing - it is to be Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2008 at 6:30pm at the village school. So Ratby Parish Council has arranged for a suitably decorated Christmas tree to be placed by the war memorial during the first week in December. How about a super large turnout this year?

Our thanks to all those who are contributing to the evening, not least the two churches, members of the Ratby Co-operative Band, the school, and the Village Hall committee who are serving a warming cup after the event.

Don't forget the date **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30pm**. Let's keep this tradition alive and make a joyful noise in the heart of our village.



### MERRY CHRISTMAS

Santa waits patiently for visitors in his Grotto at the Church Christmas Fair on November 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Photo by Jane Rayne

This year Christmas trees decorated with TV Programme themes were on display in the Church.



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## Investment in Youth Reaps Rewards at Ratby Band

Ratby Co-operative Band celebrated a double success at the Leicestershire Brass Band Association Contest on 16th November. In the morning, its Junior Band won the unregistered section with positive remarks from the adjudicator on the band's command of the basics but especially that the players were having fun!

Then later in the afternoon, the Senior Band achieved success by winning the Championship Section contest against tough opposition from across the region and beyond. It rounded off a great end of the year for the organisation.

In early December every household in the village of Ratby will receive a free Christmas CD featuring recordings by all the bands made in October (mp3 excerpts are available from the band's website). This recording project was funded by YouthBank and continues our drive for player development, investment in our youth activities and building a band at the heart of a vibrant local community. For more information about the band please visit and hear us at [www.ratbyband.com](http://www.ratbyband.com)

Steve Greenall

Chair of Trustees, Ratby Co-operative Band

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## GUIDED WALKS IN RATBY

Ratby Local History Group has just published a new book entitled 'Ratby Walks in the National Forest.'

It includes a 'A Short History of Ratby's Rural Landscape' and descriptions of historical and environmental features on 6 guided walks within the Parish.

Altogether there are 136 x A4 pages, over 130 photos and illustrations, 33 maps and a coloured key to identifying selected trees and flowers.

It is available from Ratby Post Office @ £5 per copy.

At the next meeting of Ratby Local History Group, David Ramsey will talk about 'The History of the Leicestershire Slate Industry' including his own research on the Groby slate quarries. This will be followed by a short presentation on 'Slates in Ratby's architectural Heritage'

The meeting is at 7.30 p.m. on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2009 in the Village Hall, Ratby.

## THE SERVICE GARAGE

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## BURROUGHS SOUP

### Ingredients (serves 6)

50 g (2 oz) butter  
3 medium onions, peeled and chopped  
1 kg (2lbs) potatoes, peeled and diced  
1 kg (2lbs) leeks, sliced  
600 ml (1pt) chicken stock  
Salt and black pepper

To add when reheated for eating;  
300 ml (1/2 pint) chicken stock  
600 ml (1pt) creamy milk.

### Method

1. Melt the butter in a saucepan, add onions, potatoes and leeks and fry gently for 5 minutes.
2. Stir in 600 ml of stock and seasoning and bring to the boil.
3. Cover and simmer for 40 minutes or until vegetables are tender.
4. Whisk or puree in a blender.
5. At this stage you can either cool and freeze, or add the extra stock and milk, reheat and serve straight away.

A good soup to serve on a winter's day after a walk from the new Ratby Walks Book!!

Graville

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## RATBY VILLAGE SOCIETY

We meet on the third Tuesday of every month in the Village Hall, Main Street, at 8.00 p.m. Are you retired, on your own, feel that you would like to meet new friends, or just fancy an evening out? If so why not join us? You are sure of a warm welcome. We have various speakers on a wide range of subjects. There is an occasional light supper, and always a cup of tea and biscuits towards the end of the evening. If you have concerns about getting to and from our meetings alone on winter evenings we have members who would be willing to escort you.



### Ratby Village Society

NEW MEMBERS EVENING

Tuesday 15th January 2009

Telephone

Andy 2395457

Eileen 2387591

**DEADLINE for issue 134**  
**FEBRUARY/MARCH 2009**  
**FRIDAY 16th JANUARY**

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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,  
It is with some regret that I am giving up my practice to retire to France. However I am leaving you in the very capable hands of my successor Gordon Watson.

Gordon has been practicing for 23 years and I am sure he will continue to serve all my valued and loyal patients with the same professionalism. Gordon is looking forward to the transition and will commence on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2009.

Gordon can be contacted on my current telephone number 01530 244887 or alternatively on 01827 62079.

I would like to thank all my patients for their support during my 18 years of practicing and I take this opportunity to wish all my patients a happy and healthy 2009.

**Peter Comley**  
**Chiropodist MSSCh, MBChA**  
**HPC Registered**

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