

DECEMBER 09/JANUARY 2010

ISSUE 139



# WOT!

## About Ratby

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### MEMORIES OF CHRISTMAS IN RATBY IN THE 1940s

After tea on Christmas Eve the fire would be laid with wax paper, sticks and a bucket of coal fetched in ready for the morning. We had a fire on all day at Christmas, banked down at night with slack (fine coal dust) hopefully to keep the room warm all night and making the fire easier to start on Christmas morning. At bedtime I was given a clean white pillowslip to hang on the bed rail at the bottom of the bed. There was no saying: 'I want this or that,' so it was exciting to discover what might be inside the pillowslip on Christmas Morning.

There would always be an apple, orange and some nuts. The gifts I can remember having at various times were a post office set, a sweet shop, a Rupert Bear Annual, a book called 'Jill and Judy in the Playhouse' which I still have, and a pot doll with the name 'Rosamund' on it. Sometimes there were games, Snakes and Ladders, and one called 'Puzzle Corner.'

Over the Christmas period we exchanged visits with two other families, each taking it in turns to provide supper. The evenings were spent playing games, singing carols and songs with piano accompaniment.

We always went to see my Grandma and my father's brother and family, who lived in Barrow-on-Soar. On our way we would travel along Slash Lane. The gypsies always camped there for the winter months. I believe they used the wood from the willow trees to make clothes pegs. My father would always take sweets from the shop to give to the children.

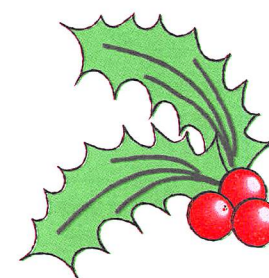
We had tea at my Auntie's house. We would have sandwiches, tinned peaches with evaporated milk and seed cake, which she bought from a shop in Barrow.

If the weather was cold there would be ice on the inside of the windows, and a small Kelly Lamp would be lit in the outside toilet to stop the water from freezing in the tank.

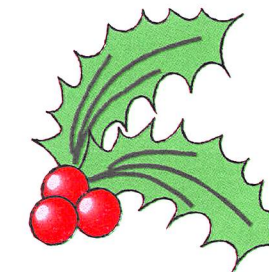
There was no central heating, no refrigerator, no TV, DVD or I Pod. Just the magic of Christmas.

Kathleen Hurd

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## News from St Philip and St James

The church was packed once again for the Remembrance Sunday service followed by the laying of wreaths at the memorial. It does seem that there has been a lot more support for this event countrywide this year, which I can only suggest is due to the situation in various parts of the world.

November is a month for remembering – All Saints; All Souls; Bonfire night; Remembrance Sunday all come close together. Next month, of course, there is more remembering as we celebrate Christmas. There will be carol services and nativity events happening details of which will be on the church website and hopefully on the cards you will receive through your door. I'm sure I speak for the churches in the village when I say you will be most welcome at any of our events. Why do we celebrate Jesus' birth? Perhaps this poem called 'One Solitary Life' might help explain. Happy Christmas.

He was born in an obscure village, a child of a peasant woman. He worked in a carpenter shop until He was thirty, then became an itinerant preacher. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never did one thing that usually accompanies greatness. He had no credentials but Himself. While still a young man, public opinion turned against Him. His friends ran away. One denied Him. He went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves. His executioners

gambled for His only piece of property - His coat. He was laid in a borrowed grave. Twenty centuries have come and gone. Today He is the centrepiece of the human race. All the armies that ever marched, All the navies that ever sailed, All the parliaments that ever sat, And all the kings that ever reigned put together, have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as that One Solitary Life. (Author Unknown)



Views expressed in articles and letters do not necessarily represent the views of the Publishers. We cannot be held responsible for information in

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

On the 4<sup>th</sup> November I attended a social evening organised by Jayne Rayne and Chris Talbot held at the village hall. This was to thank and show appreciation for the 19 litter pickers of the Ratby village society who give there valuable time to make Ratby a cleaner and tidier village. I had a lovely evening and it was a pleasure to meet so many committed people.

Michael Earl

Ratby Parish Council.

Dear Editor,

A bouquet to the mum walking her children home from the primary school who was overheard explaining to her young charges that if they didn't see a waste bin they should fold their empty crisp packets and put them in their pockets, ready to dispose of once they got home.

A bouquet to the tallish, slim lady with glasses spotted picking up a piece of litter on Main Street and placing it in the waste bin.

Both of you have set a wonderful example to us all. Thank you.

Jane Rayne

Village Society Anti-Litter Group



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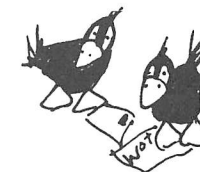
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Dear Editor,

Arriva 26 Bus



I regularly catch the above bus from St Margaret's bus station at 17.28 pm, although most nights it is late.

There is an issue with the '10 trip' tickets. I bought one from a 26 driver which I used on both 26 and 27 bus journeys. But two Inspectors got on one of the 27 journeys, had a good look at my ticket and told me it was invalid on the 27 route, and took it off me.

I checked with a 26 driver this week and he told me that I should be able to use their £20 '10 Trip' ticket on all Arriva Routes. The same ticket from a 27 driver costs £14.

Hope the above information is of some use.

Yours faithfully

Janet Cookson (Mrs)

Address Supplied

**We have contacted Arriva for a response to this letter, but at the time of going to press have not received a reply.**

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## VILLAGE SOCIETY ANTI-LITTER GROUP

The group welcomed Councillor Keith Nichols, Mayor of Hinckley and Bosworth, and Mayoress Mrs Lorna Nichols as guests of honour to our Social Evening held in the village hall. The evening was organised to show our appreciation for the work our nineteen socially responsible, volunteer litter pickers do for the village. They don't make a fuss about what they do, but quietly go about helping to keep Ratby a clean and tidy place for everyone to enjoy.

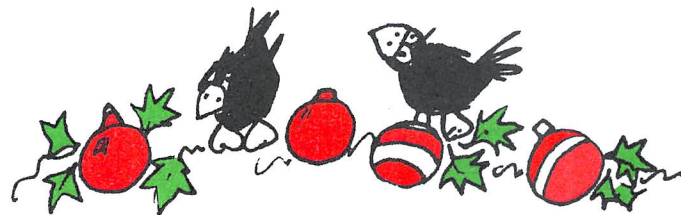
Mr Nichols expressed his sincere appreciation for the work of all volunteers, and stated that their invaluable contribution made a positive contribution to village life today.



## THIRD ART EXHIBITION

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December 11 am – 3 pm

Don't forget to come and join us in the Church Rooms for this annual event. Free admission, Refreshments and raffle. A great opportunity to buy unusual gifts, or just admire the work of local artists and craftspeople.



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## RATBY METHODIST CHURCH

We have now ended our efforts for 'The Smile Train' and are delighted to say that £2,440 has been forwarded to the charity. We have been joined in our efforts by many folk from the village and beyond and we are grateful for all the support we have received. Thank You!

We look forward over the coming months to our events in support of the **Derbyshire, Leicestershire & Rutland Air Ambulance**. We hope you will be able to join us, whenever possible, and look forward to seeing you.

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2010**  
**Jumble Sale from 10.00 am to 12.00 pm**

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2010**  
**Supper Serenades at 7.00 pm**

A very popular event last year, this is sure to be well supported. The evening will include a delicious cold buffet and you will be entertained by members of the Chantry Choir and guest



soloist Kate Watkiss. Kate is no stranger to the musicals' stage and she will join the choir in a selection of 'Songs from the Shows'.

**Looking further ahead;**  
**Some dates for your diary!**

**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2010**  
**Beetle Drive at 3.00 pm**

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2010**  
**Afternoon Tea at the Ratby Ritz at 3.00 pm**

read more about these events in the next issue of Wot!

## RATBY VILLAGE SOCIETY

Ratby Village Society will be meeting at 8pm in the Village Hall on:

**Tuesday 19 January 2010:** A musical evening with Ginny Beresford.  
**Tuesday 16 February 2010:** AGM followed by supper.

Village Society meetings are enjoyable social occasions at which visitors and new members

## CHRISTMAS in RATBY

**Saturday 12th December 10 am to 12 noon**  
Christmas Coffee Morning in The Methodist Chapel rooms, with mince pies and Christmas music.

**Sunday 13th December 10 am.**  
A joint service at the Methodist Church with the members of the Parish Church for both our Junior Churches Nativity Play.

**Sunday 20th December 10am** there will be a Carol Service, led by our Church members.

**Friday 25th December 9.30 am,**  
An informal and happy service for all ages, with preacher Alison Whitmore.  
We also have a Sunday morning crèche (for worshippers) and a Junior Church (from 10am) Look forward to seeing you all.



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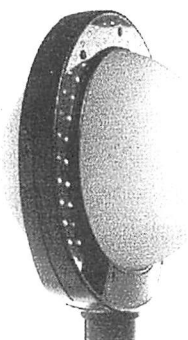
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Ratby is, we believe, the first village in the Borough and probably only the second in the County to be equipped with a Zebrite Belisha Beacon. If you have driven by the school after dark recently you cannot fail to have seen them. With their LED technology and vandal resistant cast aluminium construction they are not only much brighter but also cost less to maintain. However, the initial outlay is somewhat more than County Highways can afford so your **Parish Council is very grateful to Cawrey Homes for this very generous gift.** We were amused to hear that the County Highways staff arrived at the crossing before the contractors so that they could repossess the old globes and bulbs for recycling elsewhere – our gain benefits someone else too.



*Your Parish Council is once again exploring with County Highways the possibility of installing a light controlled pedestrian crossing on Groby Road to help young people on their journey to and from school. First, we are seeking their advice on the viability and appropriateness of a crossing in that position. Second, being aware that there is no money in the Highways fund for any further road improvements in Ratby, we are asking them how much it would cost. And finally, we are asking them when it could be scheduled into their programme of works even if that is ten years hence! When we have the answers we shall consider what to do next.*

*Your Parish Council is also looking at ways of illuminating areas on both Ferndale Park and the Burroughs Recreation Ground where vandalism occurs. We have a lot of technical matters to consider before going down this route and of course must decide if it is cost effective; we would welcome constructive comments from residents who might be affected by lighting in these areas.*

*You all know by now that the Community Speed Watch is up and running with a training session taking place this month and monitoring commencing shortly afterwards. Again, we must say thank you to those who have undertaken the task.*

Your Parish Council seems to have been very safety conscious this month but for those craving something a little more exciting - for the young at heart in the community - we have agreed to refurbish the BMX track on the Burroughs Road Recreation Ground and hope to be able to report some progress on it early next year.



*Finally, those who objected to the proposed new development on Groby Road Ratby, will have received letters from HBBC saying that if you still object to the revised application you have to re-submit your objection. It is our intention to send everyone a sample letter which you can sign and send into the Parish Council office by the 16 December 2009 so that we can take them all to HBBC for you.*

Ratby Parish Council can be contacted at: 13 Station Road, Ratby, LE6 0JQ Tel: 0116 2390167 Email: [ratbypcouncil@btconnect.com](mailto:ratbypcouncil@btconnect.com) Your parish councillors are: Chris Boothby, Tony Daly, Mick Earl, Avril and Ken Hunnybun, Jayne Jana, Merle Joyce, Carol Measures, and Ozzy O'Shea.

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## WHAT TO BUY FOR THAT PERSON WHO HAS EVERYTHING?

Perhaps you are new to the village and want to feel more a part of the community. Why not treat yourself or your partner to a local gift?

Just pop into The Post Office and browse the items produced here in the village:

For a fascinating insight into Ratby and its people, you can still buy copies of the local history books. Book One is now £8.00, and Book 2 is just £10.00.

For the more active there is more intriguing information in the local walks book: Ratby Walks in the National Forest, only £5.00.

And don't forget the Village Calendar, £3.95!!

### LETTERS and ARTICLES

We welcome letters and articles, but reserve the right to edit them or deny publication. Your name and address must be supplied, but you may ask for them to be withheld.

**DEADLINE for issue 140  
FEB/MARCH 2010  
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