

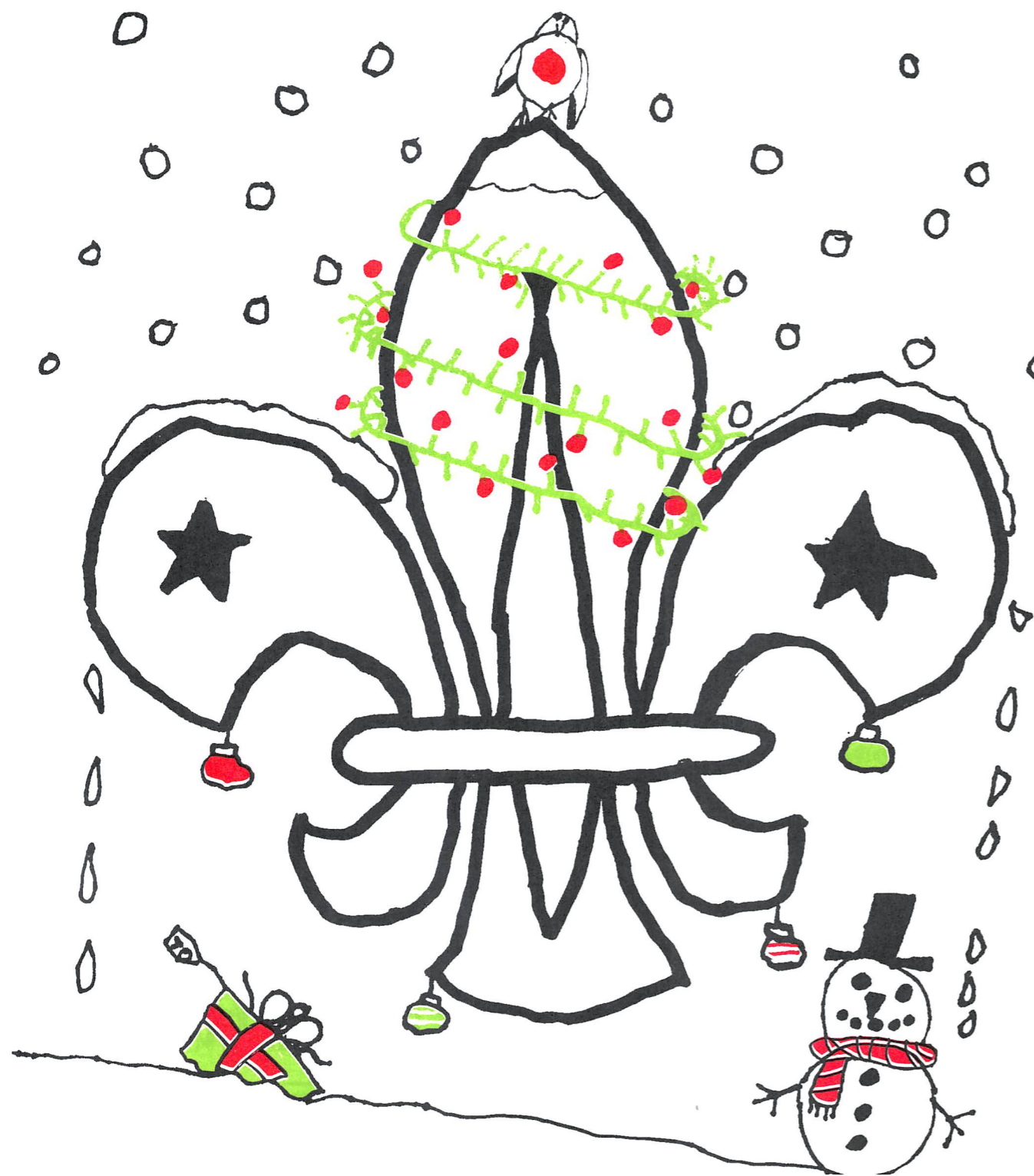
DECEMBER 2010/JANUARY 2011

ISSUE 145

WOT!

About Ratby

PUBLISHED BY RATBY SCOUT GROUP



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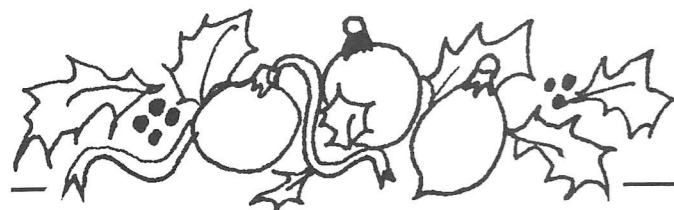
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Ratby School has a new Headteacher :
Miss Lisa Aitken.

Miss Aitken began her teaching career 12 years ago and has taught in 3 different schools, working in every year group from Foundation to year 6. For the last 4 years she was the Deputy Headteacher of Ravenhurst, a very large Primary School in Braunstone. She is a keen cyclist and has cycled widely in Leicestershire and Rutland. She enjoys photography, IT and reading crime novels. Foreign travel also features strongly among her interests as is shown by her visits to New Zealand and America.

The staff and governors are delighted to welcome Miss Aitken to Ratby and to share her vision for the future success of the school, building on the firm foundations which are already in place. We hope that it will prove to be a fulfilling and rewarding experience for her.



RATBY LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

The next meeting of Ratby Local History Group will be in the Village Hall, Main Street, Ratby at 7.30pm on Friday 28 January 2011 when Dr. Margaret Bonney, Director of the Wigston Record Office, will talk about "Prisoners of War in Leicestershire: 1943-48".

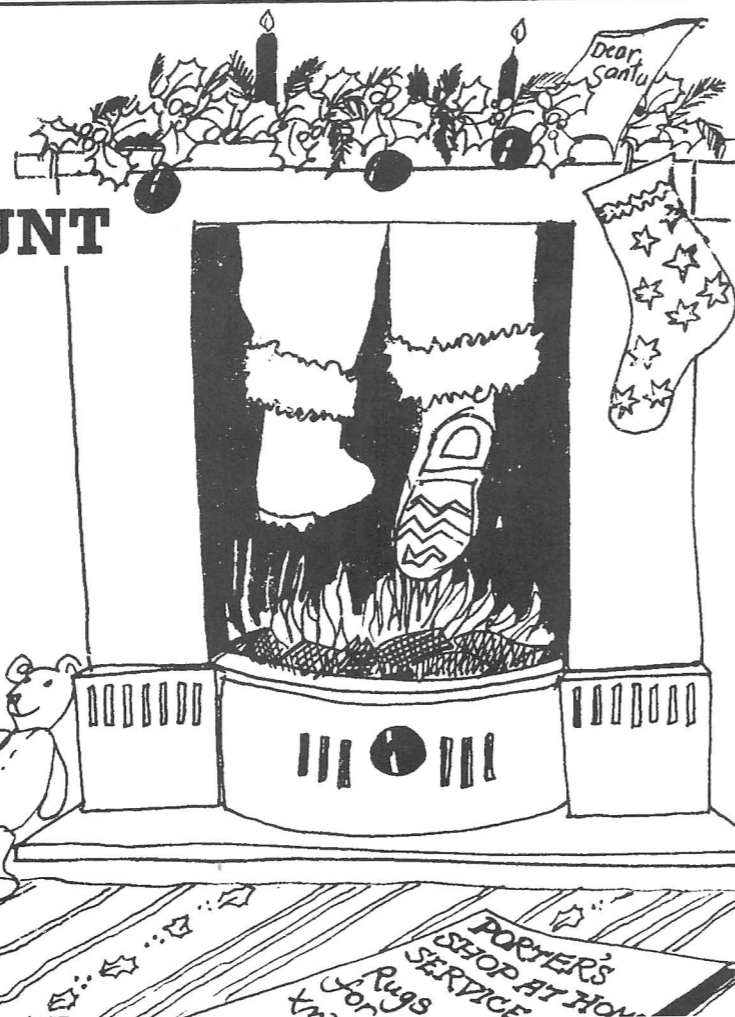
After coffee, there will be an opportunity for people to share their memories of "prisoners of war in Ratby".

The Local History Group has recently produced a pamphlet in conjunction with Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council on "The Lost Yards of Ratby". This is displayed in Ratby Library where copies can be obtained, subject to availability.

MINCE PIES



Did you know that Mince Pies were originally oblong shaped to represent Jesus' crib? They contained 3 spices, cinnamon, cloves and nutmeg for the three gifts that were given by the Magi. It was thought lucky to eat one pie each day of the twelve days of Christmas!



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A VERY IMPRESSIVE SHOW

Artists and craftspeople from the area made an impressive showing at the fourth annual Art Exhibition and Craft Fair held on 7th November. A very good attendance made for an exciting afternoon, with many stalls bursting with high quality, hand made gifts. On display were paintings, drawings and needlepoint by local artists as well as some 3D work by two craftswomen.

I especially enjoyed the use of light in 'The Artist's Daughter' by Peter Griffin, a very accomplished oil painter. A well observed pencil sketch by Ken Hunnybun, 'A Venice Backwater' also caught my eye. Watercolourists were well represented. Julia Kent's 'Autumn Country Lane' featured a superb use of the medium, and Don Fell's peaceful lake scene, 'A Still Day' included gentle, cool colours to create atmosphere. Janet Mayo's 'Embleton Beach' had lovely evening light, while Paul Roger's 'Grip of Winter' created a cold, quiet, winter feel.

Other work worth mentioning were Chris Talbot's 'The Old Ash Tree' with its strong light, a dramatic 'Houses of Parliament' by Cynthia Hunt, some good reflections in work by S.K. Mason, pastels by Jean Vann, and some clean, colourful watercolours by Sid Jordan.

The exhibition showed a good selection of styles and subject matter. Everything was well presented and professional looking. Everyone involved should be proud of a very impressive show.

Mark Wilde, Artist.



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CHRISTMAS at the METHODIST CHURCH

As you read this the Methodist Church will have, I am sure, had a successful Christmas Bazaar. We always enjoy the atmosphere and goodwill that it brings.

On Saturday, 11th December we will be holding our Christmas Coffee Morning, with mince pies (and our usual scones and tea-cakes if you prefer) along with some Christmas music for you to enjoy.

Sunday, 12th December there is a joint Junior Church, Nativity play at the Parish Church. 10am

Sunday, 19th December at 10am will be our Carol Service. This will be conducted by members from our Church and will be a Family Service.

On Christmas Day we have a Family Service at 9.30. With our minister Rev Joseph Suray. May I on behalf of the Methodist Church wish you all a great and Blessed Christmas and God's strength and blessings to take you into the New Year.

We usually have a coffee morning 10am to 12noon every fortnight alternating with the Parish Church. Our coffee mornings next year will commence on the 9th January. Please come along to either venue. You will be sure of a warm welcome. We both have a book stall and a 'bring and buy' etc.



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REMEMBERING

This year marked the 90th anniversary of the unveiling of Ratby's War Memorial by Earl Haig. This milestone was referenced at the annual Remembrance Day ceremony in Ratby Church. There was a poignant moment when The Flag of the Ratby Branch of the Royal British Legion was 'laid to rest' in the Church. The Branch has been forced to close due to a lack of members. At the same time the original Ratby Scout Group flag was given to the vicar for safe keeping, "for ever". The flag relates to the time when the group was the 73rd Leicester (Ratby), it has long since been the 1st Ratby group and continues to thrive. BBC Cameras were in the village to record the events, and you may have seen the lengthy report and interviews on East Midlands today, Sunday 14th November

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Letter to editor:

THIS CHRIST - MAS - LET THE SON REALLY SHINE
WOT! A landmark issue WOZ your latest edition, even dare I say it when deficient of Hoz. Yes I feel that issue No 144 marked a major (gross) turning point in Ratby journalism. **CHURCH OPENING - LET THE PEOPLE IN**
The letter from Rebecca Harrison rightly urges us to hang on to the facilities that encourage and afford fellowship in Jesus (Christ). I am in support of Rebecca and I suspect the majority of the congregation and most citizens of Ratby when exactly, incisively she asks, questions since when did income determine the value of these buildings (key facilities) to their communities?

CLEAR IMPERATIVES

A Parish Church should wherever possible be open to all at least during daylight hours. (Doctor) Peter Hooper is encouraging a rota of its members who can watch over security on the behalf of the whole community. Aren't we all in need of a quiet, holy place; space sometimes for silent, personal reflection and prayer. Picking up the torch from our fellow parishioner, the late Dennis Green, we owe it to God and to ourselves, to honour, save and protect, that which is good.

HARVEST HOME

With regard to the photograph possibly taken at Ratby Working Men's Club I can only confirm your thoughts. As the drummer playing with two dance bands in the WMC hall in the late, "sixties" (that of Dave Green & Frank Woodford) I certainly recall the gentleman on the left as being an, "official" or steward of the club, though the other two Ratbywood stars elude me. David Rowe, Drummer.

Christmas Carols.

There will be a Christmas carol service around the village Christmas tree on Wednesday 15th December 2010 from 6.30pm. And a warming cuppa will be served in the village hall afterwards. Bring some money - there's usually a collection for charity.

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POLICE REPORT

Well it's nearly that time of year again, it will soon be Christmas and decorations will be going up and we can all enjoy the festivities. This time last year we suffered a lot of vandalism in the village and in particular to the Christmas lights at the war memorial. I hope there will be no repeat of that this year, we are very lucky in Ratby to have a Parish Council who provide these things for the village so I would ask that if you do see anyone vandalising property that you report it to myself or PC Justin Hayes so that we can take the appropriate action.

I have also been asked by quite a few residents to make mention of the parking on Main Street, please make sure you park well clear of junctions and zigzags and check your mirrors before opening your car door. There have nearly been a couple of accidents recently where pedestrians were almost knocked over by car doors being flung open.

On a brighter note the beat team have continued to work hard in the to improve road safety in the local area and have been conducting high visibility patrols at school times as well as utilising speed detection equipment in order to make sure the roads are safer for us all to use. We are also continuing to work with local schools to educate children on both the subjects of road safety and anti-social behaviour.

If you have any concerns that you would like to make us aware of please contact either myself PCSO 6128 Russ Leech or PC 0334 Justin Hayes on 0116 222 2222 Ext 5675. We will be glad to try and help you. It is important you tell us about problems in the village in order for us to be able to take positive action and make sure that Ratby remains the wonderful village that it is.

Kind Regards, PCSO 6128 Russ Leech

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. Views expressed in articles and letters do not necessarily represent the views of the Publishers. We cannot be held responsible for information in advertisements, which we accept in good faith.

THANK YOU JENNY

Jenny Hayes has retired after fourteen years as Treasurer for Ratby Scouts. She was presented with a 'Thank You' badge and a bouquet of flowers at a recent committee meeting.



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Ratby Co-operative Band Christmas 2010 Events

The Band Organisation has a very full and varied calendar for and December and we hope this gives everyone chance at some point to hear us during the Festive Season.

Below is our current diary, tickets for all Band concerts are available from Malcolm on 0116 2386749 or from any Band Member.

One change this year will be when you can hear the Band as we tour Ratby before Christmas. Traditionally this has been on the weekend before Christmas Day but this year we are trying something new. Different parts of the village will be covered by different parts of the band on different days. The Youth Section will be coming around the village on the normal Sunday morning but the Mid and Senior Bands are trying something new this year. Christmas carols will be played around the village on Tuesday 14th and Wednesday 15th December in the EVENINGS starting approx 7.00pm. We hope that the village will join in with the Band's on these dates as it is hoped that it will bring a touch of Christmas atmosphere during these two evenings to our village, please look out for us down your street.

We hope you will encourage our Band members along on their way and if you wish to join with us then your help with our collection would be wonderful. If you have a favourite carol please let our collectors know and our players will do their best to play it for you.

From the Ratby Co-operative Band to our village we wish everyone

A very Merry Christmas and thank you for your kindness and support throughout the year.

RATBY BAND FESTIVE EVENTS 2010

Tue 7 th December	Youth Section Carol Concert Ratby Parish Church	Youth Section	7.00pm
Sat 11 th Dec	Marks & Spencer's Fosse Park	Mid and Senior Bands	10.00am – 4.00pm
Sun 12 th Dec	BAND CHRISTMAS CONCERT Bosworth College Desford	All Bands	7.00pm * ticket only 0116 2386749
Tue 14 th Dec	Carols around Ratby	Mid & Senior Bands	6.30pm
Weds 15 th Dec	Carols around Ratby	Mid & Senior Bands	6.30pm
Weds 15 th Dec	Ratby Christmas Tree	Senior Band	6.30pm
Fri 24 th Dec	Traditional Ratby		10.00pm



A Christmas Letter

This copy of a letter, from Freda Weston to her Mother, written in 1928, was kindly sent in by The Ratby History Society. How many children today would ask for a handkerchief for Christmas!

*Council School, Ratby. Nr Leicester.
December 18th 1928*

Dear Mother,

*I am writing this letter to wish you a very
HAPPY Christmas and a Bright New Year.
I hope you are ready for Christmas.*

*We are going to trim our classroom up at
Christmas. I would like a handkerchief.*

Hoping you will like my letter.

I remain your loving daughter

Freda.

It is also interesting how formal the letter seems today. It is December 18th, and yet they do not seem to have 'trimmed up' the classroom yet!

CHRISTMAS PAST



CAROL SINGING

CHRISTMAS 1940

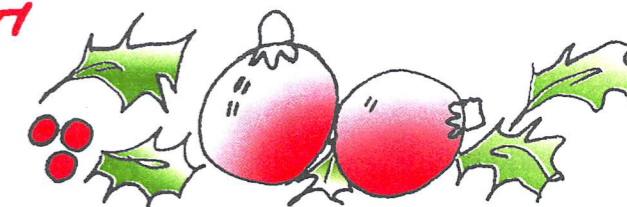
It was a beautiful. Cold, clear moonlit night, so my brother Francis and I decided to go carol singing along Markfield Lane. Back in 1940 there were houses only down one side of the lane, no street lights, and all the houses had blackout curtains owing to the War.

Off we set, gas masks over our shoulders, giving the 'lane' a once a year treat of our rendering of 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing' and 'Away in a Manger.'

We arrived at the bungalow on Groby Road, (now a riding stables) and began the first verse of 'Silent Night' just as the air raid sirens blared.

Francis and I took off for home up Markfield Lane at a fair rate of knots, but funnily enough we never saw or heard an aircraft that night. Was somebody trying to tell us something?

Arnold Geary



Win Baillie, her husband and daughter lived in an 18 foot caravan on Ratby's caravan site when they first arrived in Ratby in the 1950s. Here is a Christmas memory:

Our daughter Doreen slept at the end of the caravan. When she went to bed a table had to be folded down and replaced by the bed made up with cushions. She never liked to be completely separated from the rest of the family, so the partition was only ever partially closed.

This could be a problem at Christmas, when I was trying to keep her presents secret. One particular year she wanted a black doll, which was very popular at the time. I had bought the doll, and planned to knit its clothes while Doreen was asleep. The trouble was that I would be quietly getting on with this task a few feet away from her bedroom, when she would suddenly shout out that she wanted to go to the loo.

The next few seconds were crucial as I scrambled to hide the doll before she pulled back the partition. How we managed to keep the doll a secret until Christmas morning I shall never know!

Wriggly Readers

Don't miss these lovely sessions for children aged 0-4 years with their 'grown ups.'

There's a Christmas Special on
December 23rd.

The sessions will continue in 2011 on the fourth Thursday of each month:

January 27th
February 24th
March 24th.



TRADITIONAL VALUES in a LOCAL SERVICE

Born on Markfield Road over four decades ago and still living in the Sunshine Houses, I have been married for 27 years and brought up three children in the village. The children have now flown the nest so I find myself returning to my chosen career as a funeral director. I started as a funeral administrator for a large National Company, where I was trained to a very high standard. I took all pressure off families, organising all aspects of the funeral for them, before graduating to become a funeral director where I conduct on the day.

My experience has included dealing with repatriation to and from the UK, organising non-religious funerals, funerals at Natural Burial grounds. I can arrange the use of a horse drawn hearse or motor cycle hearse.

I am available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to support families. I realise that funerals have become a commercial industry, so I am keeping to traditional values and offer a funeral customised to your needs.

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RATBY VILLAGE SOCIETY

There is no meeting in December, but we look forward to seeing you in the New Year, when we welcome everyone to join us at 8pm in the Village Hall, Main Street, for the following meetings:

Tuesday 18th January- Sue Kibble will talk to us about the benefits to be gained by using complimentary therapy and massage. Sue's career began when she discovered that aromatherapy massages and reflexology helped ease her own medical problems. After finding that these treatments worked so well for her, Sue decided to go to college, where she gained diplomas in Indian Head massage, Aromatherapy, Hot stone massage and Reflexology. Sue has been running her own extremely successful business for three years and is professionally qualified in all of the therapies she offers.

Tuesday 15th February is our AGM. Please come along and support your committee who are working hard on your behalf. The supper that follows will be well worth coming to, and it will give you a chance to socialise with friends and neighbours, and to pick up a copy of our brand new programme for the year ahead.

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What is Neighbourhood Watch?

It's one of the biggest and most successful **voluntary crime prevention initiatives** ever. Sometimes known as Home Watch, it originated in the United States and then in the early 1980s it came to the UK, where it rapidly became very popular – except, it seems, in Ratby.....SO....

....I thought that bit by bit I'd let you know why you want to join us.

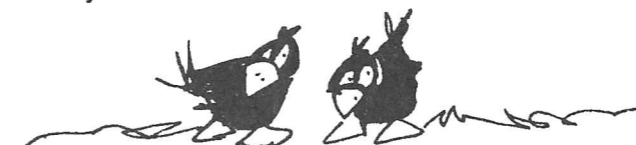
Neighbourhood Watch is based on the idea of an active community working in partnership with the police (and other partners such as Justin's hunky fireman), and on our shared values of bringing local people together.

At its most basic level, Neighbourhood Watch consists of a group of like-minded neighbours getting together to help reduce crime where they live and make their communities safer.

My grateful thanks to ACPO for most of these words!

saltbox39@keme.co.uk keeping an eye on

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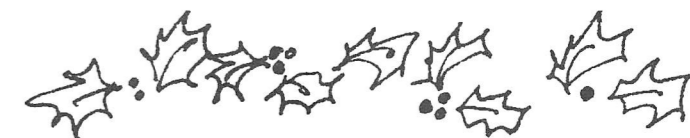
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ST. PHILIPS and ST. JAMES

Work continues to make the church a focus for the people of Ratby and beyond. 'Open Church' every Saturday between 2pm – 4pm is proving successful for people wanting to visit to look at an historic building, find someone for a chat, or spending sometime in peace and quiet. By the time you read this the Church will have been packed once again for our Remembrance Sunday observance. This is always an important time to recall what has been done, and continues to be done, on our behalf to maintain the freedoms we often take for granted.

Another new venture about to start during November is Ratby Community Cinema. Our Energize youth group is organising a Community Cinema in Ratby Church on Alternate Friday evenings beginning on Friday 19th November. Come and enjoy 'Café Church' from 6.30pm when hot dogs and snacks will be available to purchase before the film along with chat and music. The first film will be a comedy 'Cool Runnings' (PG) about a Jamaican Bobsleigh team. The film is **free** and is open to anyone to attend. Please support this and future events if you are able to do so.

If all this isn't enough, dare I say it won't be long before we begin special services on the run up to Christmas. A friendly welcome awaits everyone who comes along and we hope that many of you will come along to your Parish Church for a real celebration.



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PRESENTATION OF CHEQUES

Ratby's generous and good hearted residents helped to raise the magnificent sum of £800 for **The Royal Anglian Regiment Benevolent Fund**, when they supported a Garden Party held in the village on 30th May this year.

The cheque was presented to the Regiment at an evening event organised by Helen Gray, and held at the Forest Golf Club in Botcheston on 25th September.

The money will be used to help the disabled or severely wounded soldiers on their return home from Afghanistan, and will go some way to alleviating the financial worries of families when they are suddenly, and sadly faced with arranging a loved ones funeral.

**DEADLINE for issue 146
FEBRUARY/MARCH 2011
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COMMUNITY ORCHARD APPLE DAY

For once the sun shone down on our APPLE DAY juicing event on October 10th. There had been a good crop of apples this year, and we had some available for tasting as well as juicing.

The event was well attended by families and other local people, who enjoyed the process of chopping, 'scratting' (chopping up) and pressing the fruit, and most of all tasting the juice.



* TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN*

I'd love to pen a dithyramb
to a sassy girl like Pam.
It's a pity, though, that I'm
hopeless at romantic rhyme.....
but then again, it could be Jane.....
or if it happened to be Brenda
a bunch of roses I would send her.
Come now, Hoz, now's not the time
To pander to St Valentine.
So if it's all the same to you
I think I'm going to stick with Sue!

Hoz

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'FOR EDUCATION THERE'S MASTERCARD'

**The government removes the cap on
university fees.**

With the current recession, the importance of university has risen drastically. Forty or fifty years ago university was not an option for many, who left education due to the expenses involved and the pressure to enter work. Today university is the next step in education, and the only way to be sure of a well paid job in the future.

The government announcement to remove the cap on university tuition fees has resulted in widespread discontent throughout the country. The proposal is to allow universities to charge up to £9000 a year, a staggering increase from £3290. Despite the fact that universities choosing to charge over £6000 a year will have to offer bursaries or other forms of financial aid to encourage students from poor backgrounds to apply, this is still a colossal blow to students everywhere wishing to continue their education. Tensions have begun to rise in the coalition government as a result of these proposals, as the Liberal Democrats have been campaigning to abolish tuition fees for six years. Lib Dem party members have permission to abstain from any vote that would result in increased fees, and although many members have claimed they will vote in opposition to the scheme, it is unlikely that this will be enough to have any effect on the plans, leaving students who voted Lib Dem feeling deceived.

It is evident, therefore, that tuition fees will rise. In addition the government has put restrictions on the amount of students universities can accept, and as a result university places will be harder to obtain.

As a student planning to go to university in 2011, the increase in fees may not affect me, however, the repercussions will. Universities are expecting a huge surge in applications from students trying to avoid the immense price the government has put on education. As a result more applicants will be turned away, leaving college students wondering what to do next. The proposal will have devastating long term effects. The demand for jobs will be higher, and as a result work will be harder to obtain, and companies will have higher expectations of their applicants.



Even the students who manage to get a place and take out a loan will leave university with huge debts that they will spend their lives trying to pay.

Who has the right to put a price on education? The government's plans will destroy the dreams of students all over the country. Education is now just something else the poorest families can't afford.

Rebecca Harrison



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