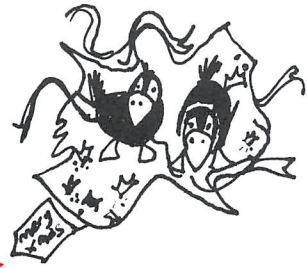


DECEMBER 2012/JANUARY 2013

ISSUE 157



WOT!

About Ratby

PUBLISHED BY RATBY SCOUT GROUP



CAMP TANZANIA



The Groby Community College Camp Tanzania team:

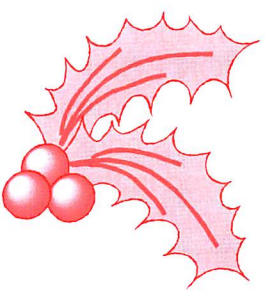
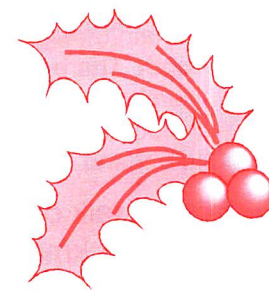
Daniel Whitmore, Mollie Reynolds, Bhargavi Alampalle, Sian Rimes, Megan Shuttlewood, Nathan Hiom, Zanny Taylor, Daniel Barber, Katie Mullings, Hannah Williams, Lorna Cooper, Sally Clarke, Sarah Bedder, Phoebe Whittington, Tom Flavell and Mr. Singh. (underlined names are students from Ratby)

Jambo! On the first day of the summer holidays, fifteen students and one teacher from Groby Community College embarked upon the adventure of a lifetime. Having fundraised tirelessly for over a year leading up to the trip, these brave Year 11 and 12 students were about to leave all their home comforts behind and spend the next four weeks in Tanzania! After scraping together money by organising bake sales, Christmas dinners, tribute concerts, parties and even a sponsored abseil, the team from Groby finally touched down on Tanzanian soil and were ready to get down to some serious project work!

Project work at Tanga was focused mostly on the local community. The first project was to build a house for one of the "mamas" who lived near the Camp

couple of tons of clay-like mud, which was then transported to the site where the house was being built. The messy bit came next, which involved mixing the mud with water and stamping on the mixture (barefoot!) until it was ready to be slapped onto the wooden scaffold.

Four weeks of hard work, mosquito bites and fun times with the local children had come to an end. Every student on the trip had an amazing experience and returned home with countless stories to share and lots of new lessons learnt. Camp Tanzania was an amazing experience for the team, helping those less fortunate than themselves was truly rewarding, and something they would recommend to anyone!



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Report by Sian Rimes (now in year 12):

I began fundraising by doing small things like cleaning, painting people's nails and selling old clothes. Then I went on to make my own tie dye tops and sold them. All the hard work fundraising paid off, words can't explain how incredible the trip was. When we were out there we did a lot of project work which included making benches for a school, cementing classroom floors and building a house for one of the Mamas. My favourite kind of project work was at the school because it was really rewarding to see the impact our work would have, we also got to meet a few of the children that our work would benefit. It was great to see them smiling and they loved doing the hokey cokey. Coming home it's made me realise how much we take for granted, we have so much and they have so little. It's made me want to do more charity work in the future, we went to an orphanage while we were over there and it'd be great to do some fundraising for them. If you get the opportunity to do this take it. It's was such an amazing experience.

Report by Hannah Williams (now in year 13):

Fundraising for Tanzania was a big part of the trip for all of us. Out there we helped out in the communities and villages where we were staying. We dug a hole to get mud to make walls for a home, planted seaweed, regenerated classrooms, cleared water holes and flattened roads. We also got our PADI open water diver qualification in the Indian Ocean, went on Safari and saw a number of different animals. Overall Tanzania was an amazing experience and I would love to go back!



We are sorry there is not room to include all of the student's reports on this inspiring visit.

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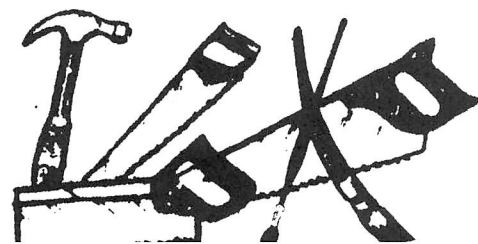


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WHEN? - Every Monday

TIME? – 11-12pm

COST? - Only £4

Don't dump it, donate it!

The build up to Christmas and the New Year is causing acute problems for Age UK Leicester - shire & Rutland. Whilst their shops are doing particularly well on sales, they are running into problems with donations of saleable items and are desperately short of stock, particularly furniture and bric-a-brac but also books and clothing.

During and after the festive season, many people will be contemplating how they will make space for their presents or dispose of household furniture in order to accommodate new purchases made in the sales. Our motto

is: 'Don't Dump It, Donate It!' "says Peter Ralphs of the local Age UK.

"All I can say is that we desperately need help from the public so that we can continue to help needy local older people through the money which is taken through our shops. All of our 23 charity shops around the two counties will gladly accept donations whilst furniture can also be collected from homes by calling **0116 2781208.**"

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**RATBY RAMBLERS'
MALVERN ADVENTURES**

On 14th October 12 members of Ratby Ramblers set off for the Malvern Hills on a holiday organised by Jane Rayne. The plan was to enjoy walks arranged by Liz Toomey and coach trips to Gloucester and Tewkesbury. We had three wonderful days of walking. We reached the Beacon on our first day, the highest point in the hills, despite misgivings from Marjorie who had not walked recently and myself, who had a problem with heights. (Must get those blinkers) The reward was tremendous views over two counties. We celebrated later with a glass of wine, which we told ourselves we fully deserved. Any excuse! This became a daily ritual.

On day two we were lucky to visit the rarely open Picton Gardens at Colwall, and walked back along footpaths to Malvern. We set off from Colwall on day three to climb up to British Camp in extremely windy conditions.

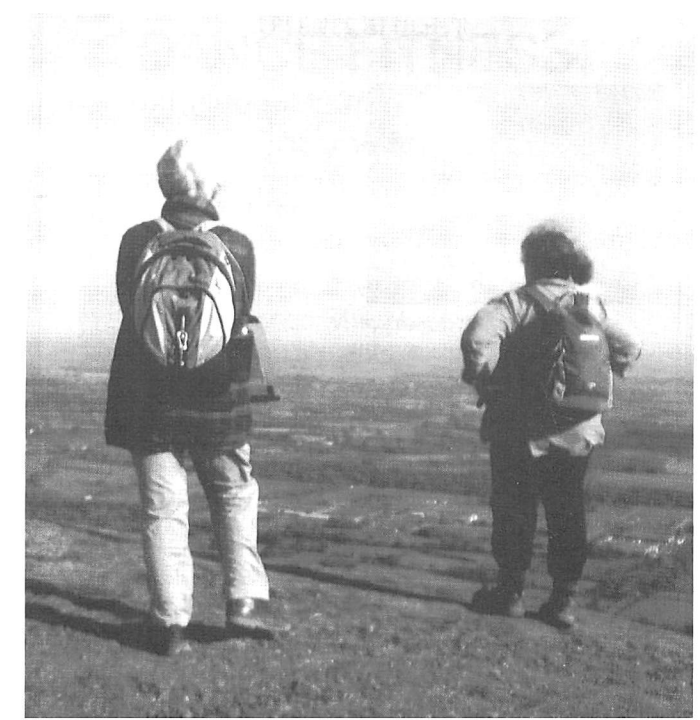
In the evenings we enjoyed quizzes set by members.

We all came back feeling a lot fitter after having had a fantastic time.

Anyone who wishes to become a member of the Ratby Ramblers is very welcome. Walks take place on Thursday and Friday of each week. Phone Jane Rayne on 239 5350 for more information.

Patricia Humphries

Jane and Liz admiring the view from British Camp.



RATBY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

We are a friendly group of women who meet on the second Wednesday of the month at the Village Hall, Main Street at 7.30pm. We enjoy speakers, demonstrations and social events.

New members would be most welcome in the New Year.

For further information please contact the President, Viv on 0116 239 3738.

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ART and CRAFT EXHIBITION

Thirty two craftsmen and women filled the church and rooms with their brightly decorated stalls for Ratby's community weekend of arts and crafts at the beginning of November.

From cards, jewellery, handcrafted scarves and textiles, to bread, cakes, chutneys, spinning and woodturning, there was something to delight and inspire everyone.

In the church rooms there was a fantastic display of forty-eight paintings and drawings by artists from around the area, including several local scenes and a pencil sketch by Paul Rogers of the late Dennis Green showing his typical broad grin, entitled 'The Local Yokel.' The 'something different' was provided by Pat, with her charming knitted characters and John with his splendid photos.

With thanks to everyone who gave their time to help, and of course to the ladies of the Ratby Women's Institute for their constant supply of hot tea on a very cold day.

Jane Rayne



4 Cheers for Ratby Mid Band

FOUR cheers rang out over Hardraw Scar in Yorkshire on the 9th September as the RATBY CO-OPERATIVE MID BAND returned in an attempt to repeat their 2011 success and defend trophies.

In fact the band again gained THREE TROPHIES much to their joy - to top the celebrations of the band's 15th Birthday that weekend, which included an overnight stay in the picturesque village of Kettlewell.

This year the band gained a trophy for the BEST BASS SECTION in the contest against 13 other bands; BEST HYMN (Be Thou My Vision, featuring Graham Hutchinson, principal cornet); and SECOND PRIZE in their section. Last year's contest was a battle against wind and rain - this year they played to capacity crowds bathed in bright sunshine in the unique contest held at the Green Dragon Inn in the Yorkshire Dales at the foot of the highest free waterfall in England: the famous Hardraw Scar itself.

Whilst disappointed not to achieve the Soloist prize for ANDY ELLIS' trombone version of 'Swing Low, Sweet Chariot', with its emphasis on the word 'swing', the band was overjoyed with the collection of their 7th trophy in a year!

The Youth Training Section Band will be performing at the annual Carol Concert in Ratby Church on December 4th at 7 p.m.

Contributions to Wot!

We welcome items of interest to villagers.

For 8 page issues space is limited so please keep your word count down to around 400 to 500 words. For 12 page issues we can accept longer articles. Village groups can pay for inclusion of longer items at our current article rate. Phone for a dialogue on this if you wish!

See deadline date box for contacts.

We reserve the right to edit articles or indeed refuse to print them where they are not consistent with our policy or may cause offence.

Articles and advertisements do not necessarily reflect the views of the publishers.

RATBY METHODIST CHURCH

CHARITY EVENTS

Coffee, Cakes & Crafts!

Saturday 16th February 2013

10.00 am to 12.00 noon

Come and spoil yourself!

Indulge in a delicious cake!

Enjoy browsing round the craft stalls.

All in support of this year's charity



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MONTHLY TEA DANCES IN HINCKLEY

Monthly tea dances are now taking place at Hinckley Leisure Centre, under the watchful eye of experienced instructors from Burbage Dance Studios.

The dances are being held on the last Friday of every month (from 2pm to 4pm) at a cost of £3 per session, and no experience or partner is necessary.

For further information contact Hinckley Leisure Centre on 01455 610011.

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Ingredients:

50g (2 oz) margarine
110 g (4 oz) caster sugar
2 medium eggs
Juice and grated rind of one lemon
50 g (2 oz) self raising flour
150 ml (1/4 pint) milk

Method

1. Separate the eggs, reserving the yolks and beat the whites until they form stiff peaks.
2. Beat together the butter and sugar until creamy. Add the egg yolks, flour, lemon juice and rind, beating well.
3. Gradually beat in the milk.
4. Fold in the egg whites.
5. Pour into a well greased oven dish (1 1/2 to 2 pints capacity)
6. Bake for 45 minutes at GAS 4/350F/60C

Serves 4

Graville

This would make a great post Christmas treat after all the traditional fare.

CHRISTMAS IN RATBY

Ratby's Christmas tree will be set up on December 9th this year, and will be the focal point for the annual 'Carols around the tree' service.
Carols will be sung on 19th December 6.30-7.30 with music by Ratby Co-operative Band. Listen out for the Band playing carols around the village from 10 am until 12 noon on December 23rd.



DECK THE HALLS

CHRISTMAS MEMORIES of a 1940s CHILDHOOD in RATBY

Having been gathered from the local hedgerows holly was placed behind the picture frames and over the top of the mirror which hung over the fireplace. Coloured crepe paper was cut into wide strips, twisted and then hung from the corners of the room and tied to the central light flex. Both the living and front rooms were decorated in the same way.

Our Christmas tree, which was artificial, was approximately three feet high with very stiff arms which had to be pulled down. We decorated the tree with shiners and large coloured lights. The tree was then placed in front of the window on a table.

We had large paper balls in different colours which hung from the ceiling on a string fixed with a drawing pin. Christmas cards were carefully positioned on a string fixed by drawing pins along a wall in both rooms. The string was hung in a position relative to the wallpaper patterns so that cards would not leave a mark when they were eventually taken down.

There was carol singing with my friend, hoping for pennies at every door, and I remember the Church Sunday School parties. One year I was given a book called 'How far to Bethlehem' which I still have. It is a treasured book as I never had many books, being a child of the 'forties.'

Another party I remember was my father's works do. My mother made my dress. It was red with white bias binding trim and a white collar. I have a photograph showing my father playing the drums, and I am behind the Christmas tree because I cried and wouldn't sit with the other children for my tea.

Our Christmas food was always prepared in the days before and up to Christmas Eve. Chicken was a luxury in those days, and only eaten on Christmas day. My mother would kill one of our chickens, or a cockerel, pluck the feathers off and prepare it. A loaf of bread was left out to go stale for making stuffing, with some crumbs left for the bread sauce. My parents grew vegetables so there were carrots, swede and Brussels sprouts, perhaps potatoes, unless they came from a local farmer. The Christmas cake would have been made at the beginning of November and the puddings at the beginning of December. We all had a stir and a wish before the mixture was put in the basins. The suet came in one piece from the butcher, and had to be grated for the puddings.

My mother would buy a fresh tongue, cook it, and transfer it to a cake tin with heavy weights from the scales to compress it.

Finally the pastry was made. I remember the cooling tray on the table, laden with mince pies, jam and lemon curd tarts. Now we knew that Christmas was near!

Kathleen Hurd, nee Dilks, who was born and brought up in Stamford Street.

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Science Success at Groby Community College

Over the last few months students from Groby Community College have been picking up a number of major Science achievements and awards.



Katie Severn, currently in Year 13 and studying for her A Levels this year, was nominated for a Leicestershire Physicist of the Year award just before the summer holidays. Katie was invited in September to Leicester University to collect her award where she was able to hear a range of inspirational talks about working in science.

Another Year 13 student Banisha Mistry was lucky enough to gain a Nuffield Bursary which involved completing a four week placement at Babcock Systems and Engineering. Banisha spent the summer holiday working on a project designing defence mechanisms for the Eurofighter Typhoon aircraft. Banisha said that the project was 'amazing as it enabled me to gain first hand engineering experience'. Banisha is currently planning to apply for an engineering degree which she will start in September 2013.

Head of Physics at Groby Community College, Mrs Sue Woolhouse said that she was thrilled by the success of Science students at the college. She also said how fantastic it was for female students like Katie, Banisha and Rebecca Broad (another bursary winner) to break into traditional male dominated fields such as Physics and Engineering. She is extremely proud of the students who are real ambassadors for the college and young people in general.

Oh what a night!

Groby Community College 1st Annual Awards Ceremony

The first Annual Awards Ceremony for the college was held on Thursday 27th September as a celebration of the success of the students from the GCSE Class of 2012. Nearly 100 students returned to college to collect awards for their achievements during Year 10 and 11. It was a tremendous evening, enjoyed by students past and present, parents, carers and staff from the college. Ex-student Michael Walker, actor and puppeteer, delivered an inspirational speech in which he encouraged all of the students to grab every opportunity that comes their way. Michael is now best known for his alter ego – Basil Brush!

Many of the awards that were handed out will be annual cups and shields. The students who received these awards were the first students to have their names engraved on the plaques which we hope will become filled with the names of successful students over the coming years. The main award winners were as follows:
Top Achieving Girl – Ellen Ormerod with 11 A* GCSEs.
Top Achieving Boy – Will Murfitt with 8 A* GCSEs
Pride of Groby – Bethany Brunson
Extra-Curricular Award – Sami Kissai
Most Improved Student – Daniel Brown
Excellence in Sport – Elliot Coring

A number of awards were given for the different subjects. These awards were presented by the Curriculum Leaders who were proud to congratulate the students who had achieved the most in their subject areas.

Well done to all of the students from Class of 2012.

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APPLE DAY AT THE ORCHARD

The sunshine brought out the largest crowd that we have had yet for Apple Day on October 14th. There were plenty of orchard apples to taste, and a poll on the day revealed Rosemary Russet to be the favourite variety. Children enjoyed the apple tree hunt and painting activities, and the ever popular 'bow and arrow game' was busy all afternoon.

There was apple scratting and pressing with different variety juices to try, apple peeling and coring and apple bobbing for the intrepid. And the tea tent did a roaring trade with customers enjoying apple bakes and cakes.

Apples for tasting



Smiling volunteers from the Orchard group.



WASSAIL

Watch out for posters advertising the annual wassail at the Orchard on January 6th 2013.

Bradgate Lions Club News

During the past month we have held a Blind-folded walk in Newtown Linford. This was in support of Lions Clubs International World Sight Day, and was to draw the public's attention to the plight of the blind and partial sighted worldwide. Our walk which was from the Bradgate along Main Street to the Bradgate Park main entrance and back, was led by the Deputy Mayor of Charnwood Borough Council and was supported by Lions Club members from Loughborough and Rothley and Soar Valley Lions Clubs.

We have also enjoyed a Fish and Chip Supper evening at the Fieldhead Hotel, Markfield, followed by a talk about Rainbows Children's Hospice.

Our "Children in Need" fund raising efforts started on November 10th with a bucket collection in Groby, followed by collections in public houses in the Glenfield area on the lunch time of the actual "Children in Need" day Friday 16th. November, and collections in the evening in the pubs in the Markfield and Ratby area's. On Saturday 17th. we held a bucket collection in Cropston Road, Anstey. On all these collections we were accompanied by Pudsey Bear.

If you would like further information about Bradgate Lions Club and their activities, please ring the membership officer, **Roger Gamble** on **01530 242912**.

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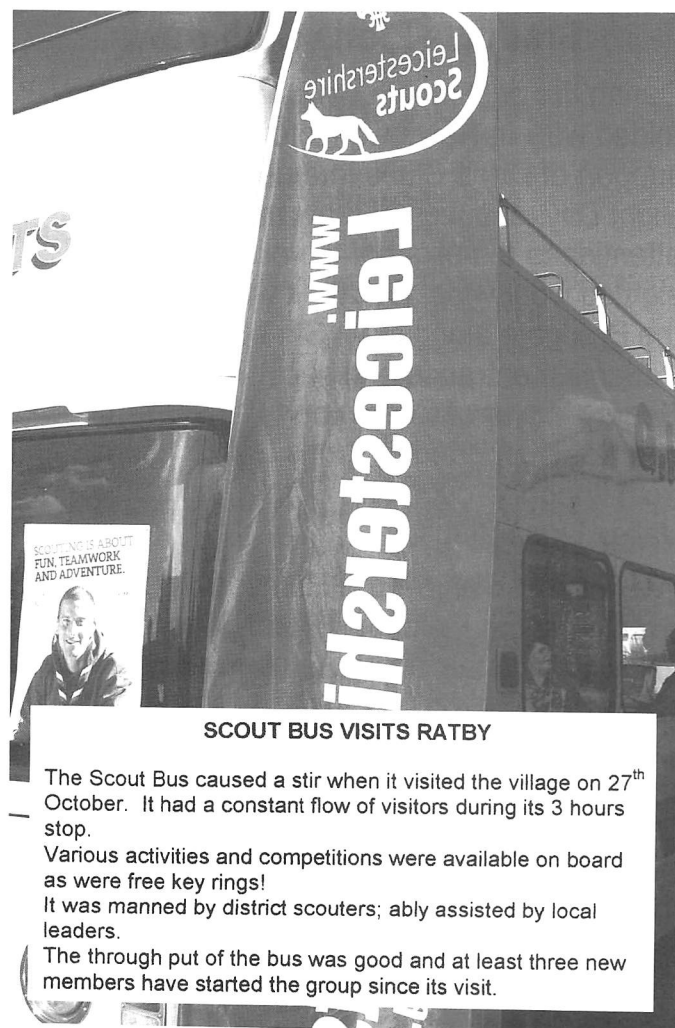
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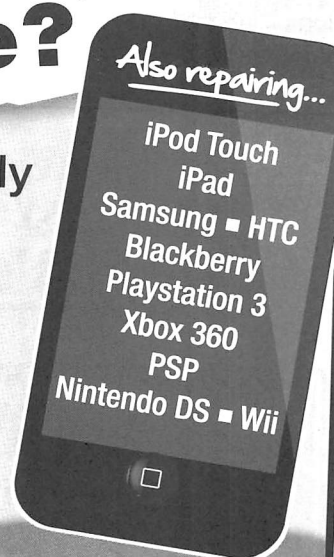


SCOUT BUS VISITS RATBY

The Scout Bus caused a stir when it visited the village on 27th October. It had a constant flow of visitors during its 3 hours stop. Various activities and competitions were available on board as were free key rings! It was manned by district scouts; ably assisted by local leaders. The through put of the bus was good and at least three new members have started the group since its visit.

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ANDREW'S ADVENT RUN-250 miles

My Dad, George Hurd, who you may know, suffers from Alzheimer's and I find it very difficult to help him and make his life any better. One big way I can help is to raise both awareness and funds for the Alzheimer's Society to help carers, provide support for families of sufferers, and for important research into the illness.

So, this year I've been thinking hard about a unique way to help and have devised an Advent Calendar with a difference:

Over the 25 days of the Advent Period I will run 400km (250 miles). The distance each day will vary with the shortest being 6k (3.75 miles) and the longest 26k (16.25 miles), average distance obviously 10 miles per day.

The twist to this is that each days distance will be hidden on an advent calendar so I will not know how far I have to run the next day until finishing the previous days run. My only stipulation is that the shortest distance is done on Christmas Day(!).

I appreciate that with Christmas just around the corner and in the current economic climate that this is an expensive time. However, I am really keen to raise awareness as well as funds and would appreciate anything you can do to help this incredibly worthy cause.


So, what I'd really love for Christmas is lots of support for my Advent Calendar Run. As you prepare for the big day, please tell as many people as you can about the 3 ways they can sponsor me which are:

1. Go to: justgiving.com/AndrewHurd1
2. Email me at andrew@askaccountancy.co.uk
3. Enter your details on sponsorship forms in the church or post to me at 4 Fielding Lane, Ratby.

Thank you and Happy Christmas! Andrew Hurd

Alzheimer's Society

Leading the fight against dementia



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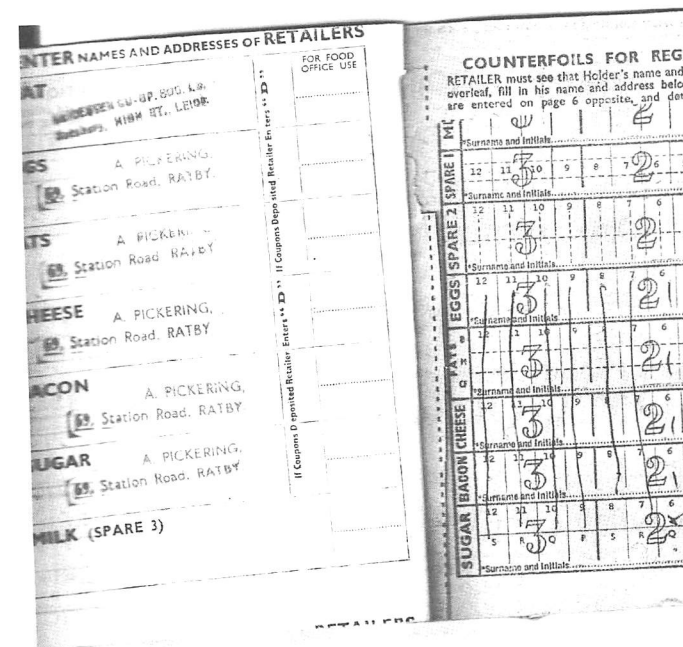
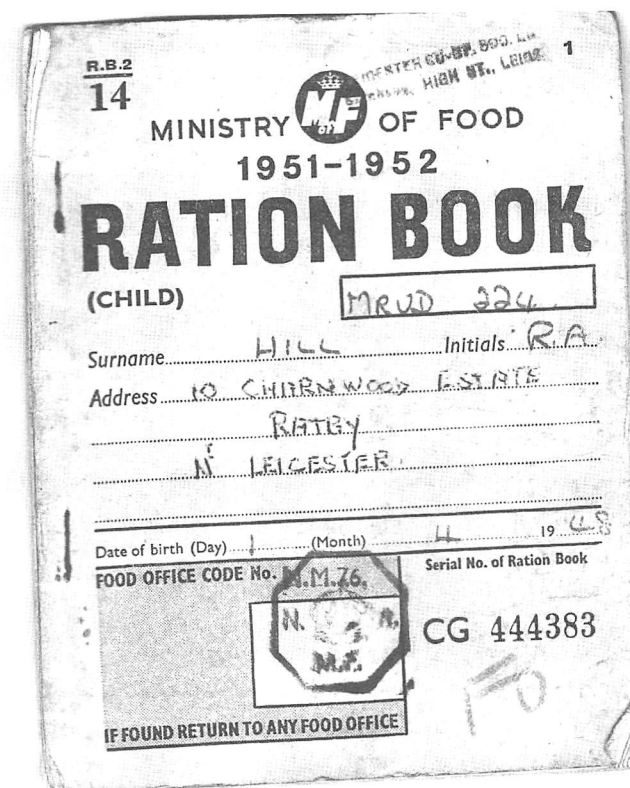
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A RELIC of THE PAST

Ratby villager Mr Rodney Hill has kindly lent us a RATION BOOK from 1951-1952 to evoke memories in our older readers. This was his own 'Child's book dating from when he and his family lived in the Ratby prefabs. Pictured below are the front page, and page 6 showing the 'stamps' from Mr Albert Pickering's store in the village.

We'd love to hear your memories of rationing!



HAPPY NEW YEAR
To our readers and contributors

RATBY VILLAGE SOCIETY

Meetings are held in the Village Hall, Main Street at 8pm on the third Tuesday of each month. There is no meeting in December. Admission; members £1.60, casual guests £2.60, refreshments included. Everyone welcome, and please bring a friend.

15th January 2013 – An illustrated talk on the Deacon Family of Leicestershire Clockmakers by John Thornton from Groby.

19th February – Annual General Meeting

19th March – Life as a curate by Father Trevor Thurston-Smith.

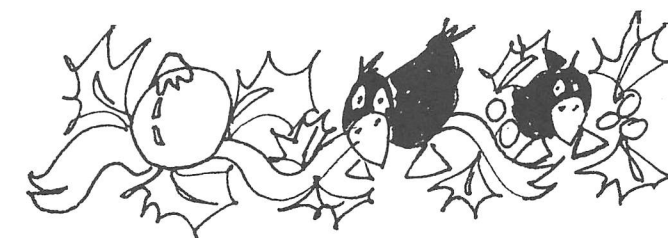
DEADLINE for issue 158 FEBRUARY/MARCH 2013 FRIDAY 12th JANUARY

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