

RTV RATBY Television

THE BEST IN LOCAL SERVICE!

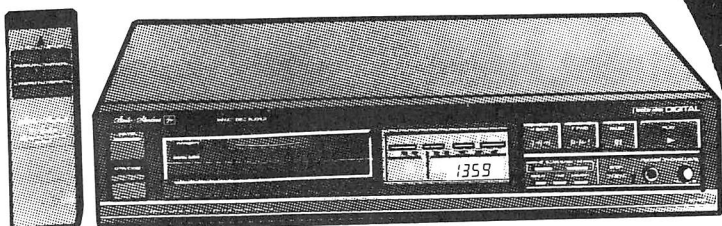
27 Station Road · Ratby · Tel: Leicester 394544
106 Main Street · Markfield · Tel: Markfield 245221

SALORA

SV-8600.

£399.99

INTEREST FREE CREDIT
Over 9 Months



High Quality Circuitry • Automatic 'power on' • Automatic playback and rewind • Fool-proof ejection when using programme recording mode • Memory stop • Two video heads, clean still frame • Noiseless frame advance, slow-motion playback • 8-programme timer • New OTR facility • Voltage synthesizer tuner with 30-channel memory/cable TV bands • Multifunction display • Wireless remote control with 27 functions including direct channel selection • Diecast aluminium chassis unit



RTV RATBY Television

27 Station Road · Ratby
Tel: Leicester 394544

SALORA Scandinavia's largest TV manufacturer



Wot!

About Ratby



February 1987

Published by Ratby Scout Group · Issue 2

EDITORIAL

The second edition! The first edition's editorial ended with a plea for articles, information and responses.

Well here we are again so the plea did do some good, more articles, more information and we have had a reasonable response to the Village Quiz and the Children's Page. We trust, too, that the advertisers have had a favourable response. I certainly know of one advertiser who had made a direct sale because of WOT.

In the first edition we did not have space to thank all the advertisers, sponsors, sellers, writers, wordprocessors, illustrators, photographers, collators and delivery boys but we do now. THANKS VERY MUCH with special thanks going to the printers (C & R Printing Services) for without their help we could not have possibly produced the first edition.

The proof readers also need special thanks, a selected prize to the first person to list six errors from the first edition. Did you read it that well?

Finally a belated Happy New Year to all our readers.

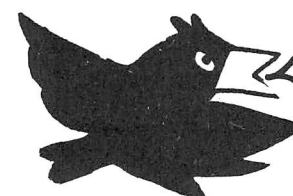
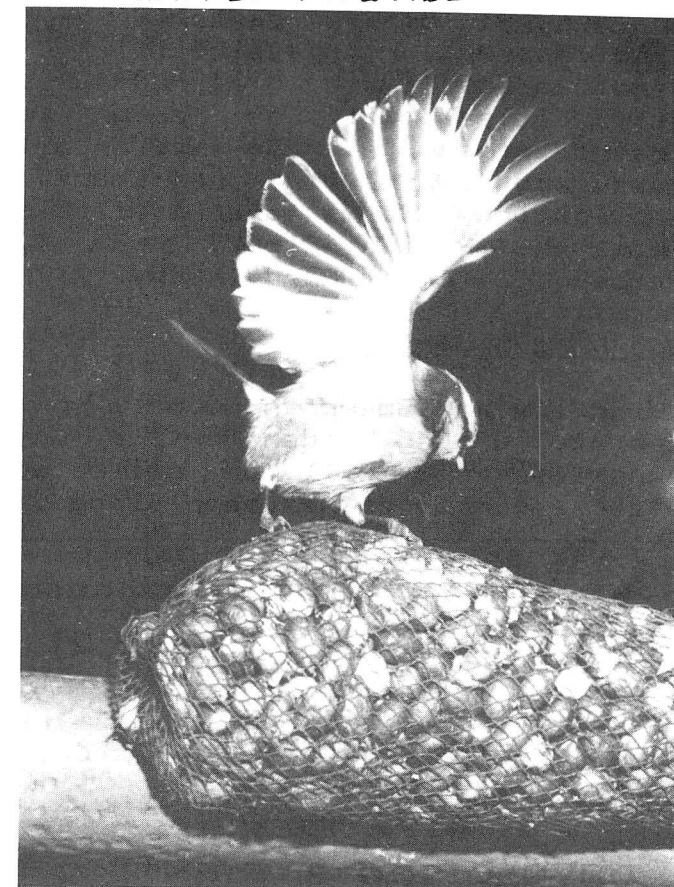
WANT TO KNOW ABOUT NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Then come to the Welfare Hall on TUESDAY the 24th. of FEBRUARY at 7.30pm.

At present RATBY is the only village this side of the city not operating a neighbourhood watch.

So to find out what it is and if it can benefit you, come to the Welfare Hall.

PHOTOGRAPH BY M. BALL



Feed
the birds!

RATBY W.I.

to cancel

Having just had our A.G.M. meeting, we, the W.I., look towards an interesting year with such speakers as: Feb. - A Taxidermist; March - Scrolling and April - Humour & Pathos in a Magistrates Court.

Our members are varied in ages as well as interests from Rounders, participants at quizzes to Chinese Brushwork, what more could you ask for from such an active group. We meet 7.45 p.m. every second Wednesday at the Welfare Hall and welcome visitors and new members.

Cut this out for reference

B. T. KEYMER

18 Parklands Avenue, Groby
Tel: Leicester 876926

**WASHING MACHINE &
CLEANER REPAIRS**

TO MOST MAKES

PROMPT, PERSONAL SERVICE

25 YEARS
EXPERIENCE

RATBY POST OFFICE

Main Street, Ratby

**Newsagent . Confectionery.
Tobacco.**

PHOTOCOPY SERVICE GREETINGS CARDS

Hallmark, Rustcraft etc.

SHOE REPAIR AGENTS OPEN 7 DAYS

Tel. 393001.



**JULIE'S
HAIRDRESSING**

**Main St,
RATBY.**

**Traditional & Modern
Styling**

Tel: 392406

**PETER D. SPENCER
DECORATOR**

35 YEARS EXPERIENCE

80 Westover Road,
Leicester.
LE3 3DW

FREE ESTIMATES
Tel. Leicester
899553

ANSWERS TO QUIZ

1. Stattee is a local term for the Statute Fairs, which were held on the land twice a year during the 17th and 18th century. The fairs were held for hiring craftsmen and women, in May - "the Crow Pie Fair" and October - "the Statute Fair".

2. The earliest reference found to the Plough Inn is 1695. An inventory for the inn is shown in the County Records for that year.

3. Very easy. The Bulls Head. If you were to go into the front lounge you would see a picture of the rear of the building and the yard very reminiscent of farm dwellings of early 20th century.

4. Harry "Drummer" Barratt's fish and chip shop can still be seen on the left hand side of Burroughs Road before you reach the Plough. Have you ever noticed the "little shed", and what happened to the "stuffed pike" which he had there?

5. The oldest house in the village is the one between the school and the Fish and Chip Shop. It was built during the 15th century. At the time a gable end was built facing the road, this changed during the 16th century when the building was turned through 90 degrees so that the front of the house faced the road. Don't ask how this rule of thumb works today!

The prize for the first correct answers received has been given to Florence Muton.

There will be another village quiz shortly.

Should any groups require photographs taking for village posterity, Michael Ball of 26 Cottage Close will be glad to take, develop and print them.

**RATBY PARISH
COUNCIL
NEWSLETTER -
JANUARY**

Bus Services

Mr. Holden from L.C.C. attended the January meeting of the Parish Council to answer residents' questions concerning the new bus service. He was able to give those present two welcome pieces of advance information: from early February buses (except during rush hours) would be re-routed via St. Margarets Bus Station and a regular evening service to Groby will operate. Apart from these amendments he was not able to offer any hope of further improvements.

Mr. Holden also mentioned the time-keeping problems experienced by the combined Leicester City Bus and Midland Fox services. He advised villagers to contact the bus companies and lodge their complaints if they find no improvement once the buses return to St. Margarets.

Concessionary Bus Fares

A concessionary bus fare scheme will be launched on February 1st in Leicestershire. After that date those who are registered blind, profoundly deaf, mentally handicapped or physically handicapped (with walking difficulties) will be able to travel free or at half fare on all buses and trains in the County. Application forms are available from the Parish Clerk, Mrs I. MacLeod, 24 Groby Road, Ratby.

Dog Warden Service

Hinckley and Bosworth Council now operate a Dog Warden Service. Any ownerless dog will be collected after a complaint has been placed.

**BABY AND TOILET REQUISITES
HOME & HOMOEOPATHIC MEDICINES**

**K. E. ELLIS M.P.S.
CHEMIST**

58, MAIN STREET, RATBY.
Tel: Leicester 393139.

**AGFA FILMS
DEVELOPING & PRINTING**

ASTILL & JORDAN LTD

The Garage, Station Rd,

Ratby

**Bus and Coach Hire
for All Occasions !**

Phone 393118

MICHAEL & CO SOLICITORS

Real Estate Section

**THE
COMPLETE
PACKAGE**

★ Estate Agency
service

★ Conveyancing

★ Arrange mortgage

★ Arrange insurance

★ Free initial advice
and quotation

Inclusive fee for selling your
house and dealing with your
conveyancing.

Everything you need under one roof
Written quotations provided on
request.

STERLING HOUSE, 2 DE MONTFORT STREET
LEICESTER LE1 7GA
Open 6 days a week Monday-Saturday
9 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.

Tel. Leic. 549254

or locally 5 CARDINAL CLOSE RATBY
Telephone 387017

DESFORD LANE PEDALLERS

The club started about ten years ago with just four friends living on Desford lane. We now have one hundred and fifty members living all over England, indeed we now have a member from Holland.

During the past year we have taken a "sabbatical", from local fetes and galas, and concentrated on riding our cycles for our own amusement.

In May we crossed the channel to France to take part in a rally held in the Loire district organised by "L'union Velocipedique Belle Epoque". The ride followed the course of some forty miles through the wine country sampling their produce all the way "HEAVEN!".

In July we were invited back to France to take part in the prologue to the tour de France. This stage of the race was held this year in Paris. We spent three days around the time trial venues, drinking and dining at press receptions, it was terrible!.

Our last trip was in August we went over to De-haan in Belgium to take part in their town celebrations, another fantastic long weekend.

At the end of August our French friends from the UVBE paid us a return visit and we all took part in the Abbey Park Horse Show. Despite the rain, a good time was had by all. The French left for home loaded with English beer and Geary's bread which they said was better than any in France.

The last run in 1986 that was any distance from Ratby was at Itchen Abbas, Hampshire. This ride was organised by Mike and Ro Whittaker who used to keep "The Plough Inn" their new pub is called "The Plough Inn" and it's a Marstons House would you believe".

Brian March, Secretary/Tour Organiser, 16 Desford Lane, Tel:393888, or attend DLPVCC informal meeting every first Tuesday of the month at The Bulls Head.

Have you any photographs or stories about bygone days in Ratby? Please phone 395179.

GROBY COMMUNITY COLLEGE L.879921

RATBY ROAD, GROBY. TEL: 879921

DAYTIME ACTIVITIES FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN

<u>MONDAY</u>	WOMENS P.E. 1.45 - 3.00 £2.00 (a term subsidised)
	YOGA 1.45 - 3.00 £10.00 (10 weeks)
<u>TUESDAY</u>	YOGA 1.45 - 3.00 £10.00 (10 weeks)
<u>WEDNESDAY</u>	CAKE DECORATING 1.30 - 3.00 £12.00 (10 weeks)
	STORY & CRAFT (UNDER 5's) 2.00 - 2.45 60p (per session)
<u>FRIDAY</u>	FRIDAY MORNING CLUB 9.30 - 11.30
	MUSIC & MOVEMENT (UNDER 5's) 2.00 - 2.45 60p (per session)

CRECHE AVAILABLE AT ALL TIMES 35p PER CHILD.

IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE TO JOIN SCHOOL CLASSES TO STUDY FOR EXAMS OR TO PURSUE INDIVIDUAL INTERESTS WITH STAFF SUPPORT.

COURSES BEGAN WEEK BEGINNING 12.1.87

AT LAST RATBY HAS A DOCTOR!

Dr. Paul Parwaiz started the new surgery on December 1st.

The Family Practitioner Committee forbids Doctors to advertise their services, so we cannot interview Dr. Parwaiz directly.

Instead WOT has been out on the streets finding out what you think!

Most people we have spoken to have signed onto Dr. Parwaiz books for convenience - they were unable to get to Doctors in other villages.

This particularly applied to the older people we interviewed. One elderly person we talked to said that he'd already had two home visits, another was pleased that there would be no more 'repeat prescriptions' without a consultation.

A middle-aged lady was amazed to discover that Dr. Parwaiz was not dismissive of her faith in homeopathic remedies, and that he regretted not knowing enough about it himself.

We spoke to someone else who'd asked about baby clinics, and had been happy to discover that Dr. Parwaiz was willing to consider home-births in the right circumstances. A health visitor has already been assigned to the surgery, and there will be ante-natal and baby clinics.

Another woman we interviewed was particularly impressed by Dr. Parwaiz's plans for the future. She had asked if he was able to arrange cervical smear tests, and was told that these would be arranged at special times, outside normal surgery hours, and that as the practice built up, Dr. Parwaiz hoped to establish a 'Well-Woman' clinic, and eventually engage a woman-Doctor partner.

There were of course people we spoke to who do not want to change doctors, because they are happy with their present situation ... we even found one person who admitted to having a crush on her Doctor!

GAILATEX KNITWEAR LTD.

3, Stamford St.,
Ratby,
Leicester.

Tel: 393103

Manufacturers of Mens & Childrens Knitted outerwear.

CONFECTIONERY Etc:
CAR WASH
M.O.T. WORK
PUNCTURE REPAIRS
TRACKING SERVICE
SERVICE & REPAIRS
ALL TYPES OF BATTERIES
LEADING MAKES OF TYRES
FINA MENU SERVICE £39.95
(Including Vat)
BLUEBELL SERVICE STATION
LEICESTER ROAD
GROBY (Tele: 876850)

J.T.LEE
32 Main St. Ratby
QUALIFIED WATCHMAKER
and JEWELLER
Tel. 395244

But without exception, those people we talked to who have joined the new surgery have said how impressed they were by the time Dr. Parwaiz had given them and by his enthusiasm for building up good caring relationships with his patients.

So, for information the Practice times are

The Ratby Surgery
122 Station Road
Ratby
Tel: 394960

MONDAY - FRIDAY 9 am - 11 am
4.30 pm - 6.30 p.m.
7 SATURDAY 9 am - 10 am

CHAIRMAN

Mr. M. Shipman
Leics. 394784

"SPORT FOR ALL THE FAMILY"

SECRETARY

Mr. I. Carman
Leics. 386257

For this Issue of 'WOT! About Ratby' we present an article from the Cricket Section.

RATBY TOWN CRICKET CLUB

To write an article on the Ratby Town Cricket Club is an awesome task. The beginning is easy, the years that followed could form the basis of a very interesting book of feats achieved by players born in Ratby who have graced the field at the corner of Desford Lane! The Ratby Town cricket club was formed in 1881 and no village can equal the record of producing seven men who have played for the County side namely Astill, Bowley (F.J.), Bowley (H.B.), Jayes, Shipman W., Shipman A.W, Toon J. and indeed we should mention some of their exploits in more detail.

Thomas Jayes was one of the best fast bowlers ever to play for Leicestershire, in his first season as a regular in the side he took 102 wickets and was chosen to play for England against the Australians. In 1909 he again took over 100 wickets in the season and again was selected to play for England against the Australians at Lords but for some reason was omitted at the last minute and England took the field on a hard wicket with no pace bowler. Thomas Jayes was the complete fast bowler easy action

good length and could move the ball in the air and off the seam in both directions. He was also a good attacking batsman and scored a hundred against Warwickshire. Unfortunately illness took its toll and this brilliant cricketer passed away at Ratby in 1913. It is significant to know that both his son and his grandson played cricket for Ratby and were both members of championship winning teams.

William Ewart Astill was a nephew of Thomas Jayes and was probably one of the greatest cricketers never to play in a test match in England. He was first chosen to play for Leicestershire at the tender age of eighteen and the following season he topped the bowling averages. He was like his uncle an allrounder a good sound batsman and brilliant offspin bowler and he completed the double every season from 1920 to 1930. He toured abroad to the West Indies, India and South Africa with the M.C.C. and played in every test match in South Africa finishing third in the bowling averages. In 1935 he was appointed Captain of

Leicestershire and was the first Leicestershire professional to be so honoured. In his first class career he scored 22,740 runs and 2,433 wickets and in the 1933 edition of Wisden was included in the Cricketers of the Year. It is worth mentioning that he also excelled at billiards and did win the Leicestershire Billiards Championship.



WILLIAM EWART ASTILL

William Shipman was a born fast bowler standing well over six feet with a fine physique which enabled him to bowl at an extremely fast pace. His most notable performance came at the Oval when on a perfect wicket he clean bowled six Surrey men, including Hobbs, Haywood and Hayes, finishing with an analysis of 9 for 83 and probably one of the highlights of his career was to receive a place in a test trial match at Lords. William Shipman did the hat trick against Derbyshire and on his retirement from first class cricket had engagements with Nelson and Smethwick in the highly competitive professional leagues. He died suddenly at Ratby in 1943 and the whole county indeed everyone who knew him mourned one of the finest sportsmen and gentlemen who ever played cricket.

So concludes part one of the Ratby cricketers.

ANYONE INTERESTED IN JOINING ANY
ANY FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE
OR CALL IN AT THE CLUBHOUSE

OF THE CLUB SECTIONS OR REQUIRING
CONTACT THE SECRETARY OR CHAIRMAN
AND HAVE A CHAT WITH US

JANUARY PLOUGH CELEBRATIONS

This year Plough Sunday was celebrated in Ratby after a break in this ancient custom of well over forty years. The First Ratby Girl Guides performed a Guisers play collected from Mr. Charles Garrett and together we celebrated the commencement of the Spring ploughing - unfortunately inclement weather would have prevented this taking place the following day, Plough Monday, this year!

Plough Services and Plays have, for many centuries, been celebrated in rural communities on the Sunday and Monday following Epiphany as in the days of the openfields system of cultivation, this was the time when the occupants of the fields would bring together the communal oxen and parts of the plough to begin cultivation. Ploughs would be cleaned and decorated then hauled to the church to receive the blessing "God spede the plow" and for prayers to be offered for a good harvest, before the start of the seasons work. The various Ploughmens Guilds often maintained a Plough Light in the church throughout the year and money was collected after the performance of the Guisers or Mummers play to pay for the upkeep of these candles. Collections in recent times often go to Charity.

Plough Monday signalled the beginning of work after the long Christmas Eve to Twelfth Night. Work was not taken seriously on this day and finished early to enable young men to get dressed in coats covered with strips of paper or material, often with blackened faces, ready to perform their play. As in the play the actors represent good and the play is an attack on evil and darkness, they considered face blackening essential in order that the "opposition" visible or otherwise would not know them and cause harm or bad luck to befall! Also it was as well to go incognito if you were going to plough up the garden or dunghill of anyone stingy enough not to contribute after the performance!

The play has a central theme of death and resurrection: the triumph

of good over evil and characters vary only slightly from area to area. Most have a Saint or King George and a nasty piece of work called Bold Slasher, the Turkish Knight or Old Guy and the duel between these two is the central drama with help or hindrance from other characters such as a keen and boastful Doctor, Beelzebub (he has the collecting dish) and sometimes a man/woman Betty and even Father Christmas! Audience participation is essential and all should cheer or boo as the story unfolds. Some teams also sport a Morris dance or Sword dance during the play (English Sword dancing being very different to the Scottish variety!)

The history of these plays is very old, probably dating back to the Middle Ages when Morality Plays were acted out and these stemmed from religious dramas with the concept of battle between good and evil, light and darkness common to both. This theme is even more ancient and probably goes back to pre-Christian times when, in the depth of winter, reassurance was needed by the community that light and the spring growing season, so essential for survival, would come round again. How many times have you wondered if the bad weather was going on for ever?

Men usually perform these plays and dances but in recent times we ladies have helped to keep the traditions going and it is to a great extent the female of the species who preserved Morris traditions after the First World War, when a generation of dancers were lost on the field of battle, and collectors such as Cecil Sharpe recorded dances and plays as recalled by women and the elderly members of the rural communities. Songs, dances and plays had seldom been written down, being passed on through generations by word of mouth. Mr. Garrett's play is now recorded for posterity!

Mummers or Guisers plays are one of the oldest forms of folk plays still being acted so if you get the chance - go and have a look, enjoy the fun and remember its all part of your English tradition and BE PROUD OF IT!

LYNN MELLOR

THE VILLAGE CONSTABLE IN THE EARLY 19TH CENTURY

The duties of the Ratby Parish constable at the beginning of the nineteenth century were a far cry from the work of the village policeman of today.

The office of Parish Constable is an ancient one dating from the late 13th century. From this time on the person holding this office was regarded as the head man within the community. Like other Parish officers such as the Church Wardens and Overseers of the Poor, the constable was elected annually. Prior to the Enclosure of Open fields the election took place at the manor court. By the late 19th century the Parish meeting assumed some of these responsibilities including the election of the constable.

In future articles various aspects of the constable's duties will be examined using contemporary documents to illustrate aspects of the constables duties. This particular article will however explore perhaps the most surprising of his duties.

Prior to the enclosure of the village open fields the Crow catcher was appointed to keep down vermin within the Parish. Following enclosure this office was abandoned and the responsibility for this work was administered by the constable. The constable was empowered by the Parish to pay any persons who brought to the constable any animal or bird considered as vermin out of Parish funds.

The surviving early 19th century accounts of the Parish Constable for the Manor of Groby suggests that by this date the Constable was elected alternately from within the two Parishes.

In 1807 Joseph Freeman of Ratby was elected Constable. In his accounts for that year there are several references made for payment to villagers from Ratby and Groby who brought in vermin of various kinds. It is interesting to note how often the humble Sparrow and

Hedgehogs figure in the accounts. However it must be added that the apparent high death toll at the hands of the local populus of this much maligned little bird was not peculiar to the Manor of Groby, similar accounts occur from many other Parishes. The absence of references to Crows in the accounts is surprising. Perhaps in this village famous locally for its Crow Pie delicacy Crows were to some extent a Protected Species.

Michael Ball

PABARI'S RATBY NEWS

FOR A LARGE SELECTION OF WINES, SPIRITS, BEERS, CIDERS AND SOFT DRINKS

ALL AT COMPETITIVE PRICES

GREETING CARDS, STATIONERY AND

A VAST SELECTION OF CONFECTIONERY

NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES DELIVERED DAILY (INCLUDING SUNDAYS)

SELECTION OF THE LATEST VIDEOS NOW ON HIRE

OPEN TILL 10.00 p.m. MONDAY to SATURDAY
and TILL 2.00 p.m. SUNDAY
7.00 TILL 9.00 p.m. SUNDAY EVENING

The Bull's Head

23 main st
Ratby Tel: 393256

FOR FINE BEERS TRADITIONAL AND KEG RESTAURANT NOW OPEN

EVENINGS TUESDAY TO SATURDAY PRIME STEAKS OUR SPECIALITY

FUNCTION ROOM NOW AVAILABLE FOR YOUR SPECIAL PARTY

SKITTLE ALLEY FOR HIRE

BAR GAMES - QUIET LOUNGE

YOUR FRIENDLY LOCAL FOR ALL YOUR NEEDS

SUNDAY LUNCHTIME SPECIALS
CHEAP WINES BEERS SPIRITS FREE RAFFLES
WIN FREE BEER FOR A WEEK

STOP PRESS
HAVE YOU SEEN THAT THE
SPORTS CLUB CAR PARK
IS OPEN TO THE GENERAL
PUBLIC AT SPECIFIED TIMES?

THESE TIMES ARE DISPLAYED ON
THE NOTICE BOARD IN
DESPOND LANE.



Sponsored by

**Gas Appliance
Services-Leicester**

6 Saxons Rise, Ratby, Leicester LE6 0NF
Tel: Office: (0533) 393662



PORTER'S DISCOUNT CARPETS

121/3 STATION ROAD, RATBY, LEICS
SHOP AT HOME SERVICE TEL: 393238/395202

*Patterned lounge quality *50/50 WOOL berber
*Bedroom quality FREE FITTING
*American Sculptored (MIN 10 sq yds)

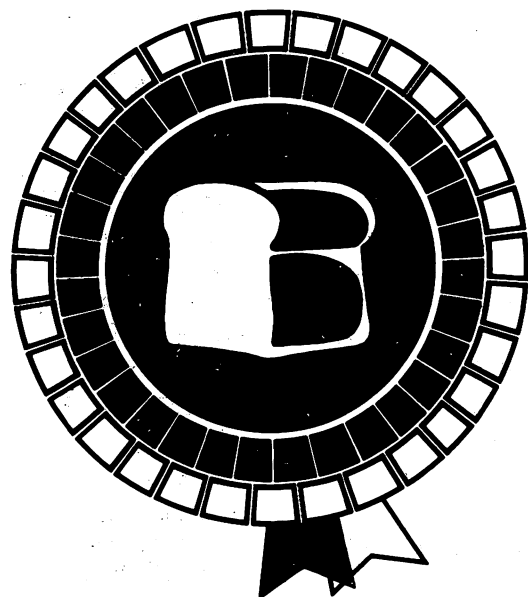
★ Scotchguard kitchen carpet ★

ALL CARPETS ARE GUARANTEED

★ Cushionfloor ★
ALL AT COMPETITIVE PRICES

THE FAMILY BUSINESS
BUILT ON RECOMMENDATIONS

YOUR DAILY BREADWINNER



Geary's bread has won more than 3,000 major National Awards. And we deliver top quality daily to shops, restaurants, hotels and canteens. Freshly baked bread, rolls and health breads — with specialities like wedding and birthday cakes to order. Champion taste and champion service from England's Champion bakers.

Always ask for...

GEARY'S BAKERIES

RATBY — TEL: LEICESTER 386600

Making a Will ?

Most people agree that it is a good idea to make a will but many have not done so. "Oh I'm not dying yet I'll make my will later." ... "I can't afford to see a solicitor about it." ... "I don't own enough to bother about a will."... are common responses. There are even some who believe that if they make a will they shall be tempting fate and will die prematurely shortly after the will has been signed. Of course there are rules for distribution of an intestate's estate laid down by the statute which are satisfactory in some instances but can produce hardship or even injustice in others.

As a responsible individual one would certainly wish to avoid argument and doubt as to the manner of distribution of one's estate following death. Making a properly formulated will is the only way to ensure one's wishes are carried out. Although it is possible to obtain a simple will form from the post office and arrange for it to be completed, the law as to the making and interpretation of wills can produce unfortunate results if the proper formalities are not strictly adhered to.

A will must be in writing although no particular form is required. Care must be taken however to ensure your wishes are clearly expressed and not open to doubt or an alternative interpretation. The testator must sign the will; or someone must sign it for him in his presence and by his direction; the signature must be at the foot or end of the will; the signature must be made or acknowledged in the presence of two witnesses, present at the same time; and the witness must afterwards sign in the presence of the testator. But beware don't allow any person interested under the will to sign as a witness because although they will make good witnesses to validate the will they will lose the benefit of any gift made to the under the will.

But truly if a decision is made to make a will why not see a solicitor, your legal adviser will guide you through the formalities

with the minimum of difficulty and at a nominal cost. The average fee for a will is approximately £15 per person or £25 for a married couple each making their own will, and if you have not got the cash and within legal aid limits you may even qualify for the will to be made free under the legal aid scheme.

His 'N' Hers

Ladies and Gents Hairdressing

156 Station Road, Ratby.

OAP's welcome any day at reduced rates

Styling	Blow Drying
Perming	Colouring
Setting	Trimming

Appointments not always necessary

Tuesday to Saturday

Competitive prices and Friendly Service

For Appointments

Phone Leicester: 394429

B & R MOTORS
THORNTON SERVICE STATION

THORNTON

Phone BAGNORTH 230289

M.O.T.	Cars	£8.00
	Motorcycles	£7.10

GARAGE

Servicing
Repairs
Bodywork
Resprays

SALES

Petrol
Diesel
Paraffin
Flogas
Solid Fuels
Oils

SHOP

Accessories
Parts
Potatoes
Cigarettes
Confectionary
Videos

INSURANCE WORK UNDERTAKEN

OPEN 8am to 8pm SATURDAY TO SUNDAY

HOME AND SCHOOL TOGETHER

I want to write a little about Home-school relationships, as this subject has been very prevalent in my thinking during the current severe weather. The problems caused by school closure do contain many of the elements which are present in other decisions likely to affect relationships between home and school.

In essence, the task is that of trying to reconcile, where differences exist, parental wishes, children's needs, the school's needs and a variety of incidental factors. It would be very difficult, even if the individual needs of the members of each group were identical but, for example, there are three hundred sets of parents and, quite clearly, there will be a wide variety of views about any school decision which needs to be taken. Add to this the factor of human frailty, of which we all have a share, and it can already be possible to comprehend the difficulty in trying to find a common core of needs, when any decision is taken by the school. We all really know that the result is a compromise, which attempts to satisfy and reconcile as many wishes and needs as possible. Parents and schools often feel misunderstood or that they have been given insufficient consideration. I do not believe that this is so but a partnership requires more than both partners showing mutual consideration, it also requires each partner to trust and believe that they are being considered by the other.

We not only sincerely hope that we can serve your children well during 1987 and beyond, but also for parents to believe that it is our desire to do so, even though our wishes may not always coincide. We also hope that we can confirm a mutual respect which can encompass the reality of human imperfection.

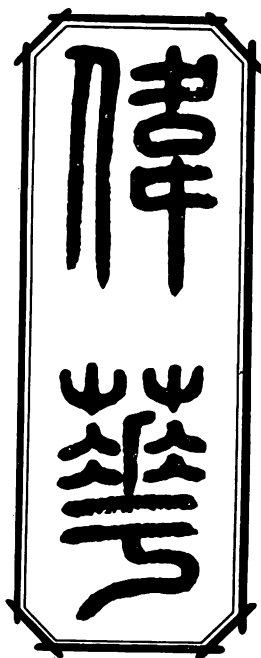
The staff and I wish you all a very satisfying 1987.

Peter Smith

THE WAY CHILDREN LEARN

Mr Peter Smith, headmaster of Ratby School will be organising an evening in the school to talk about the importance of Pre-School years, with some practical ideas for things parents can do to help their children. All parents, Mums and Dads are welcome even if your child is still a baby.

7.15 p.m. in School Hall
Wednesday March 18th
BOOK YOUR BABYSITTER NOW!



GREAT CHINA TAKEAWAY

36 Main Street, Ratby, Leicester
Tel: (0533) 394666

Telephone orders are welcome

Business hours
Monday:
Closed (except bank holidays)

Tuesday to Thursday:
12 noon - 1.45 p.m.
6 p.m. - 11 p.m.

Friday and Saturday:
12 noon - 1.45 p.m.
6 p.m. - 12 midnight

Sundays and Bank Holidays:
6 p.m. - 11 p.m.

Ample Parking Facilities

BBC RADIO LEICESTER WI QUIZ SHOW
3rd FEB: WELFARE HALL 7.30 P.M.

3

BEAVERS

BLUE PETER BRING-AND-BUY SALE
SATURDAY 29TH NOVEMBER

The tables were piled high with toys of every description, jigsaws, games, books, tins of food and plates of cakes. We even had a pool table for sale! Blue Peter price stickers were on every article (well, nearly every article!) and so at 10 o'clock the doors were opened.

Everyone who came received a Blue Peter sightsavers sticker and soon the hall was full. In no time at all the tables were nearly empty! By the end of the morning only a few items remained unsold and we added up the takings, which amounted to an amazing £130. Blue Peter have said that every £1 raised will save the sight of one person, so our contribution will be very helpful.

The 1st Ratby Cubs and Beavers, who organised the Bring-and-Buy Sale, would like to thank everyone who helped, either by bringing an article to be sold or by coming along to buy on the day itself. Mr and Mrs Millington deserve a special mention, as do all the children who decided to help somebody less fortunate than themselves.

DEADLINE for ARTICLES and ADS
FRIDAY 13th MARCH

Ads ... phone 395179
Articles 393279
Editor, Alan Sims 393367

YOUR LOCAL GAS ENGINEER & PLUMBER

Appliance Servicing and Installation | Breakdown and Repair Services | Plumbing and Heating Installation | Quality Guaranteed by Experienced Engineers

Gas Appliance Services - Leicester

6 Saxons Rise, Ratby, Leicester LE6 0NF
Telephone (0533) 393662

SERVICE WITH CARE

We're here to help you make the most of gas. Call us in whenever you need advice, installations, maintenance and repairs - we're sure you'll like the service we offer.

If you want a free, no-obligation quotation for work, get in touch with us. Don't forget to ask about our special deals on servicing gas boilers and fires in your home.

NO CALL-OUT CHARGE FOR LOCAL ENQUIRIES

RATBY PLAYGROUP

Why bother with the mess?

You may have seen young children (or more likely their mums!) struggling home from playgroup with soggy crumpled paper, painted black all over, or almost-glued together egg boxes. Perhaps you have wondered "what's the point?" Many of us must have shared that feeling as we have tried to clean glue from hair, and paint from shirt sleeves. "Wouldn't it be better to concentrate on "cleaner activities", like games to develop pre-reading skills?" Of course these activities are important in playgroup, and essential for developing the rational, logical thinking side of our brain.

But just as essential is our capacity for illogical and creative, emotional thinking. Through experimenting with paints, clay, glue, and other stimulating materials children can make discoveries for themselves, use their imagination and develop these creative skills.

Developing creativity is not just about becoming an artist or a musician. Alexander Fleming was a scientist but he was creative enough to wonder what had happened to his ruined experiment, investigated the rubbish bin and so discovered Penicillin.

We can't promise to transform every child into an Einstein or Picasso, but at least you'll know that their efforts will be all their own work!

So if your child is coming to Playgroup, get out all the oldest clothes, and don't forget to admire their efforts!



14



Left to Right Rebecca Shipman Nicola Davis
Charlie Garratt (centre) Helen Heighton
Emma Byrne Sarah Mellor

Well, he did say
we'd always have
a roof over our heads!!

IF YOUR FAMILY THINK THAT
THEY DESERVE BETTER

PHONE **Martin Fretter** L.395179

Abbey Life Assurance Company Limited

**THE PLOUGH
BURROUGHS LANE
RATBY**

**FOR
MARSTONS
BURTON ALES**

THIS VOUCHER IS WORTH FIFTY PENCE OFF YOUR NEXT ORDER,
IF BROUGHT WITH YOUR CLEANING NOT ON COLLECTION.

FLORENCES
34 MAIN STREET
RATBY

VALID UNTIL April 30th 1987

**50
OFF**
NORMAL PRICE ONLY

Sketchley

2ND BROWNIE PACK

Just taken time off from reading all the millions of applications our ad. in the last issue prompted!!! Maybe if you know a little more about us and our aims you could be tempted to investigate further.

The pack was born out of a desperate need to reduce a seemingly endless waiting list, which included our own daughters. Six years on, our own children having moved on, we would gradually like to hand over the reins. When a Brownie makes her Promise she says:

I promise that I will do my best
To do my duty to God

To serve the Queen and help other people, and

To keep the Brownie Guide Law.

(A Brownie Guide thinks of others before herself and does a Good Turn every day).

Not the easiest of Promises to keep, but as good a basis for life today as it was at the dawn of guiding 75 years ago. If you too submit to this philosophy, have a sense of fun, feel you would enjoy being involved with the Brownies, or just want to know more about us, either come and see us in action on Tuesdays between 6.15 and 7.30 at the Methodist Chapel Rooms or Tel: Kathy Byrne on 394621 or Ros Gould on 393279.

**SPONSORED BY SAUNT
BROS. TRANSPORT**

M. M. & K. A. PLUNKETT
GENERAL BUILDERS

Quality Tradesman
Free estimate & advice

8 Markfield Road
Ratby, Leicester
LE6 0LP

Tel. Leicester 392464

FLORENCES SECOND HAND

DISCRETE HOUSE CLEARANCE
ARRANGED STATE PRICE

ALSO WITH SPRING CLEANING IN MIND?

REMEMBER THAT I CAN SELL
YOUR UNWANTED ITEMS

Telephone 393574
34 Main Street Ratby.

Crow pie

children's page



Only Snow

Outside the sky was almost brown.
The clouds were hanging low.
Then all of a sudden it happened:
The air was full of snow.

The children rushed to the windows.
The teacher let them go,
Though she teased them for their foolishness.
After all, it was only snow.

It was only snow that was falling,
Only out of the sky,
Only onto the turning earth
Before the blink of an eye.

What else could it do from up there,
But fall in the usual way?
It was only weather really.
What else could you say?

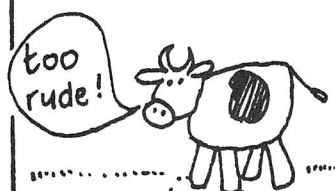
The teacher sat at her desk
Putting ticks in a little row,
While the children stared through steamy glass
At the only snow.

From 'Please Mrs Butler',
printed by kind permission
of Allan Ahlberg, the author

CONGRATULATIONS !!
Heather Gray, aged 6, is our
first prizewinner !!

What do you get if you
stand under a cow?

A pat on the head !!



Joke sent in by
Daniel Fretter



Good try Paul Marlow - but
you forgot your age !!
All stories, jokes etc... please
send in to library, cubs, scouts
brownies etc !!