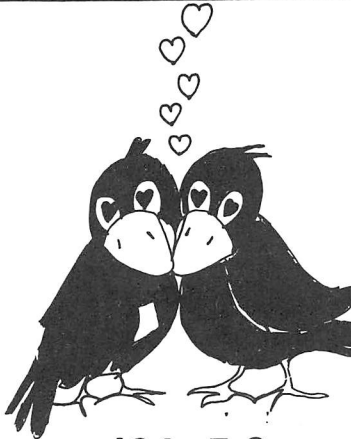


Wot!
About Ratby

FEBRUARY 1988 Published by Ratby Scout Group



ISSUE 8

PLACE OF WORSHIP ...WHAT'S HAPPENING

Following the article in the last issue concerning the plan of the Knighton Park Trust to develop the land at the rear of 182, Station Road, Ratby a petition of 1000 names objecting to the proposal has been forwarded to Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council.

At this stage the proposed development for a meeting hall has been rejected. However, it is understood that The Trust have two options, to either appeal against this decision or to submit revised plans. You will understand from this, that the matter may not yet be finished!

As stated in the December Editorial we sent a copy of "WOT" to The Trust inviting their comments, unfortunately to date we have not yet received a reply. We feel that this is a shame as this would have provided an opportunity for The Trust to explain who they are, and what they stand for. This could have provided facts for villagers to form their own opinions.

Such openness might have avoided the undoubted fears and speculation which has occurred within the village.

The Trust have been subject of a recent local newspaper report.

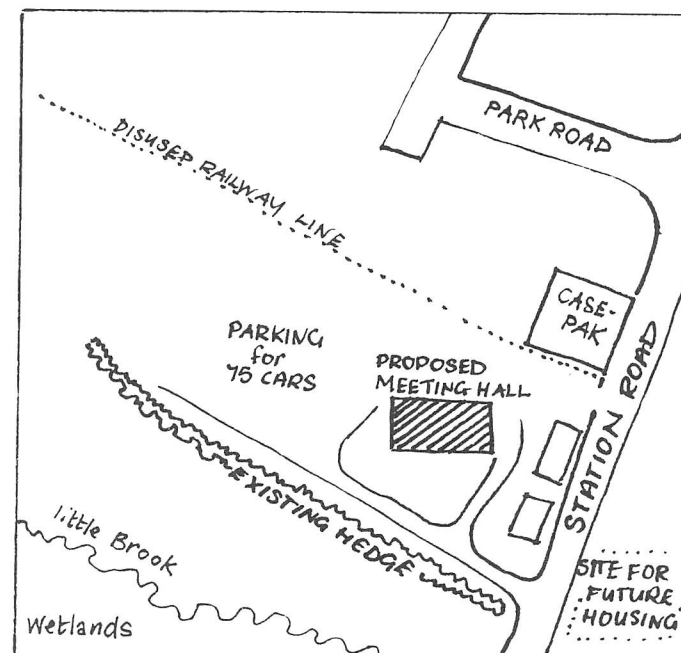
WE MAKE NO APOLOGY FOR REITERATING THAT THE GENERAL OPINION IN THE VILLAGE IS STRONGLY AGAINST ANY PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT ON OUR GREEN WEDGE.

Rest assured that we will keep you informed of any further developments which come to our notice regarding this matter.

However, in the meantime it is possible for you, the people of Ratby, to register your opinions on this issue by writing to your local M.P. or your District Planning Officer.

Right Hon. David Tredinnick M.P.
House of Commons
Westminster
London
SW1A 0AA

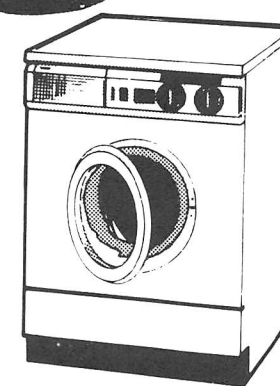
James E. Bailey
Director of Development
Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council
Council Offices
Argents Mead
Hinckley
Leicestershire
LE10 1BZ



ROUGH SKETCH MAP SHOWING SITE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT.

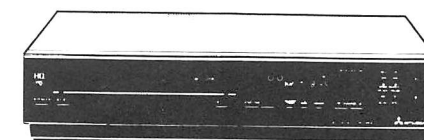
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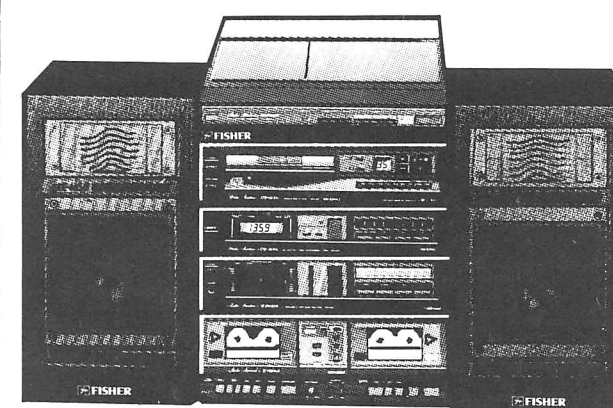
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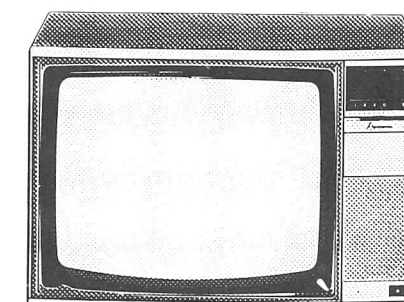
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EDITORIAL

Welcome to the first 1988 issue of WOT. We intend to continue to provide a forum within Ratby for all to advertise their activities and to discuss matters of mutual concern and interest.

To this end we carried in our December issue wide coverage of the A46, Leicester Western Bypass, and as a result over 160 letters of objection have been received by the Department of Transport (D.O.T.) in Nottingham..... Thanks very much - but Kirby Muxloe residents have sent, in excess of 300 letters of objection to the D.O.T. proposed scheme at Bloods Hill.

We should be able to do better so those of you who forgot please send your letters to:-

The Department of Transport,
Cranbrook House
Cranbrook Street
Nottingham
NG1 1EY

It is not too late.

The original scheme proposed by the D.O.T. was the one displayed at County Hall last year and is the one which the Parish Council supported - provided that the need for the entire BY-PASS scheme was proved.

The major point of the D.O.T. scheme was that the junction was at Bloods Hill (near to the Airmans Rest), this upset a number of Kirby Muxloe residents who have since formed a very active Action Group. They have encouraged the County Council to draw up a different scheme with the major junctions and links to the motorway in between Ratby and Kirby - encroaching on the "green wedge" of land between the two villages.

You still have time to object and everybody who does write will receive notice of the public inquiry into the development which must now take place. Before the inquiry, which is likely to take place in the spring of this year all the alternative schemes will be published, keep your eyes open in the local press and libraries. Talk about it!

Objections to schemes are usually based around:

Costs
Economic Benefits/Performance
and Environment Impact

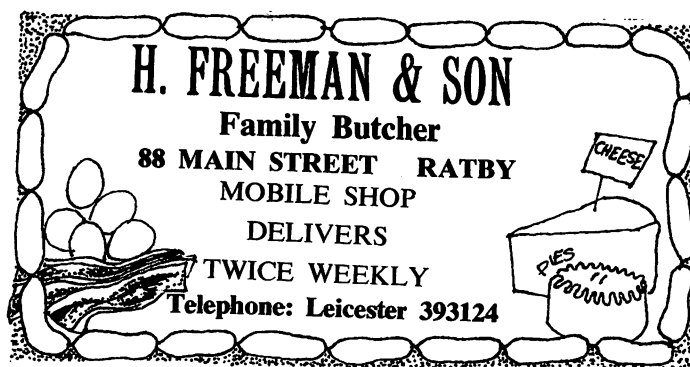
All relevant points to the proposed schemes are given to an Independent Inspector who considers all cases and makes a recommendation to the Government Minister concerned. This does take a long time but be aware that your village's environment could drastically change.

160 out of a possible 1300 is not good enough.

Do something about it - be aware - and object to the alternative suggestion made by the Leicestershire County Council.

Phone one of the editorial numbers if you need a letter to send.

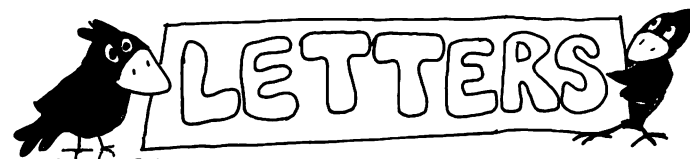
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Dear Editor,

On behalf of the people of Ratby I would like to thank these ladies for helping with our petition against proposed "Place of Worship", at rear of 182 Station Road. Namely Jean Wake, Shirley Platt, Sue Boud, Ruby Stevens and Elaine Spiby.

We would like to think for all our efforts that this petition had some bearing on the plans being turned down by Hinckley & Bosworth.

Having said this we must not rest on our laurels but always be aware of what might happen in the future.

Muriel Stanley



Dear Editor,

May I take the opportunity of congratulating the organisers of the Scouts New Year's Eve Disco. It was a great evening for both children and parents. A lot of hard work was obviously put into the layout and decoration of the Church Rooms, also the lovely buffet.

Well done!

Janet Hawksworth

SECOND RATBY BROWNIE PACK

We now have a Brown Owl and a new Tawny Owl.

During the Christmas Period we joined up with the first Ratby Brownies for an exciting ice-skating trip, discovering how many different ways you can fall onto your bottom!

Everyone is welcome at our coffee morning on Saturday February 6th, from 10 until 1 p.m., at 16 Bell Close. Some of the Brownies are helping to organise the event as part of their badge work.

So please support us!

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TO BE A FARMERS BOYTHE LATE 1930's



As space permits, we offer a light hearted tale or two from memory, with perhaps a touch of recent village history.

THE SETTING

Of the 13 very active farms within the parish boundary the writer was, in retrospect "privileged" to serve at 'WOODLEY' the middle of 3 farms which faced the rear of the churchyard. Nook Farm (still there) and Church Farm (alas now gone, save the wall) being the other two.

Joseph and Emma Ball were 'boss' and 'Mrs, father was one of three farm labourers and I was "the lad" at 10 or 11 years old.

The farm consisted of the house, cowsheds stables and dairy, more or less as seen today, plus a stack yard now almost gone, four horses, approx 25 milking cows and a bull, calves, pigs, scores of hens and plenty of mice. Never any sheep because they escaped too easily.

Equipment ranged from 3 legged milking stools and shoulder yokes to hay rakes, swathe turners and cob carts through to 3 & 2 share ploughs etc.

HORSE MANURE - PRAM WHEELS

In those rural days the domestic garden was something of a necessity, often supplemented by the extra allotment at Kitties Hill, Burrows Road or at several points along Markfield Lane.

Vegetables, equally necessary, were no problem to the farm labourer who's annual perk was a load of muck. His other perks were August Monday off (between milkings) usually to attend Market Bosworth show, as many mangolds as his family could eat, and half a pig every other year.

For other gardeners the cream was Horse Manure, or to quote the Hebrew, 'OSS MUCK', so much in demand it was practically legal tender and no self respecting kid of ten missed the chance to get into this very effluent market. A

wooden butter box from Mr Shipleys Off Licence, a dust pan, and a pair of pram wheels and you're in business. The product was free for the collecting either legally off the road, or otherwise for the farm lad, from the stable.

It is worth noting that pram wheels were gold dust in those days. A pair complete with axle could fetch as much as two sets of faggies, a dozen glassy marbles with castle of a set of snobs on the open market and large ladies were treated to the utmost courtesy with a view to the future.

Local Yokel

ON THE STREET WHERE YOU LIVE

Station Road

The south side of Station Road beyond the boundary hedge that runs alongside the road to Centurion Court, once lay in the Ecclesiastical parish of Glenfield. Up to recent years brides living in this area of Station Road, Park Road and Mill Drive had to seek special permission to marry in Ratby Church. The area which was very little occupied before the early 19th century grew to pre-eminence after the building of the Leicester Swannington Railway in 1832. In 1876 the old Station was built and this served the newly established Midland Railway Company until the line's closure in the mid 1960's.

Whittington Drive

Derives from the area known today as Whittington Rough. In medieval times, Whittington was the site of a thriving village of some 40 families.

By the early 15th century the village was dying. Probably the Black Death which ravaged Leicestershire in the previous century was the principle cause of this village's demise. In recent years these once quiet acres are now the holiday residence for Naturists groups who frequent the Charnwood Acres Country Club which was established some twenty years ago.

Michael T. Ball

Winter

by C. Coulson



As winter continues, it seems an eternity since the Swallows were wheeling and squealing against summer skies. Yet, in only a few more weeks the end of winter will be heralded by the return of these graceful birds.

Each Autumn large numbers of Swallows congregate in readiness for their hazardous journey south. They migrate to the southernmost part of South Africa where they spend their Winter.

In early spring these fascinating birds return here to breed, and all round journey of some 12,000 miles - an incredible feat of navigation for such a small bird.

Here during the summer, nesting in barns and outbuildings, they raise two or three broods of youngsters. With the increased demand for food, their low-level insect catching flight is a common sight showing great agility and grace.

As the days become shorter and the nights colder, adult and juvenile birds prepare for their long journey south - once again repeating the annual cycle.

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NATURE NOTES

THE MOLE

by Arthur Fallowfield

Hello me Deary O's

Well winters' here at last. Would you believe the mild winter we've had so far? Winter Jasmine in full flower, Forsythia sprouting vigorously and the bulbs of all varieties very advanced. The sunny weather has played havoc with the wild life as well, especially the Moles. One little blighter's moved into my garden and dug himself in for the winter. Most of my Polyanthus have been well nibbled and mole-hills are everywhere.

So one day last week I decided to put a stop to his little game. My cousin had told me that an oily rag soaked in creosote and plugged into the run was just the job for getting rid of the Mole. Just the ticket I thought.

I carefully inserted the rag into the run, set fire to the rag as instructed, only to see the rag some moments later disappearing down the hole. Mr. Mole evidently wasn't having any of it. He had got hold of my rag and had conveyed it to the top of an adjacent mole-hill where the little blighter neatly deposited the smouldering heap.

Consequently, Mr. Mole is still very much with me and I'm rapidly going out of my mind thinking of ways to trap him.



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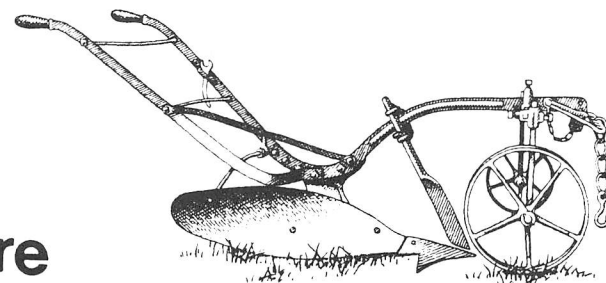
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CAPTION COMPETITION

The winner of the £5 prize is Sylvia Gant with the following caption: There must be an easier way to get to the loo!

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EDITOR ... 393367

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We are proposing to stage an Historical Pageant concerning Ratby in the church on the evenings of Thursday 28th, Friday 29th and Saturday 30th April with an additional performance on Sunday afternoon.

Mr. Michael Ball, who has done considerable research into our local history, finds that down the ages many local events have touched on our national history. A pageant of these events should be interesting and entertaining for many people as there will be about fourteen scenes spanning from the days of the Roman occupation up to modern times.

To present this event we will require at least thirty adult performers, mostly men. Will all those who would like to take part please notify Mr. Horace Gamble, 14 Calverton Close, Ratby; telephone 387240.

We shall also need volunteers to help make the costumes. Gifts of materials, such as curtains which are plain or have "old fashioned" patterns, will be required for this purpose.

The Social Committee of the Church Council hopes to receive knowledge of the extent of the support by Monday 8th February to enable them to proceed further with the proposed pageant.

There will be a Valentine's Eve three course supper, with wine, and entertainment by members of the Women's Institute on Saturday 13th February at 7.30 p.m. in the Church Rooms. Tickets will be £3.00 and available from the Rectory, 15 Groby Road.

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On Saturday 5th March there will be a rummage sale in the Church rooms commencing at 2.00 p.m.

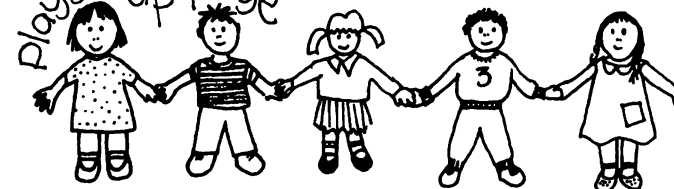
This year's Garden Fete at the Rectory will be held on Saturday 11th June and the annual church bazaar is on Saturday 19th November.

Please keep a note of these dates in your diary.

Sunday services at the Parish Church are held at the following times:

- First Sunday in the month
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion. Traditional Order. Said.
- 10.40 a.m. Sung Eucharist/Holy Communion and Sermon.
- 10.40 a.m. Sunday School in the Church Rooms.
- 6.00 p.m. Evening Prayer and Sermon (except the last Sundays in February, April, June, August, October and December when there is a United Service at the Methodist Church).

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As the children leave with their sopping wet paintings, not quite having the words to explain their masterpieces to their Mums, Dads or grandparents, spare a thought for this boy.

He was a little boy
And he was going to paint.
"What are you going to paint?"
Asked the teacher.
"The sky", replied the little boy
And he picked up the brush
And dipped it into the paint
And painted a blue sky
With a big yellow sun.
Then he turned around for
the teacher's approval
But she moved on
to another little boy.
Then the little boy
remembered the sky at dawn
With pink fluffy clouds
and a soft grey background
So he dipped his brush
Into the pink and grey
And painted the sky at dawn.
but he's seen other skies
the sky at sunset
All red and orange and purple
so he painted the sky at sunset
Streaked with red.
And orange and purple
And all the colours ran
Into each other
And the paper was very wet.
Then he painted the sky at night
And he dipped his brush
Into the dark blue
And studded the paper with
White stars and yellow moon
And the sky before a storm
Angry and grey and dark,
And then he put down his brush
And stood back
Looking at what he had done
And that the colours had all run
together,
All the blue and pink and red and
orange and purple and yellow
And had made a grey wet mess.
"Goodness" said the teacher
when she came back
"That doesn't look like the sky"
But the little boy didn't care
It was exactly how he wanted it
And he carefully put the painting
Away to dry.

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I do hope you enjoyed the story. Every-one at playgroup had a smile when they read it.

We would like to tell you about our forthcoming events, which are a Rummage sale on 13th February and an Easter Fayre on 26th March, please look out for posters in the village shops for more details.

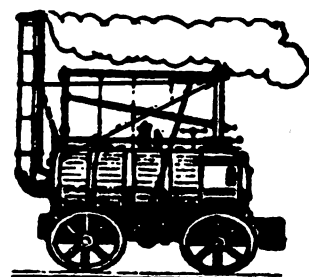
The playgroup will be requiring a new treasurer from April, the present treasurer will be standing down due to other commitments..

The new treasurer would need to be a volunteer and preferably have some book-keeping experience. We need HELP please contact Lesley Chevin 386605
Margaret Pickard 386795
Linda Evans 386347
Jacinta Woodward - 2 Ingle Drive

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Toy Library

We are hoping to form a small toy library for the use of local under 5s. In order to establish our first stock of toys, we are appealing for donations of suitable toys. We intend the toy library to be non-profit making, although a modest charge will be made to enable us to renew and extend our original stock of toys. We are particularly seeking wooden tray or lift-out jig-saws and other quality toys suitable for the 0-5 age range.

We are planning to open the toy library in a small way, depending on the response, at the beginning of April. Thank you to everyone who has given unwanted toys to the creche in the past. The toy library is our new venture and we would be grateful for any help. Donations please to Groby Community College.

A Happy New Year to all our friends, visitors, users, helpers, mums, dads, minders, nannies, grannies etc..... Best wishes, Lyn Smith, Dianne Hurst and Co.

1ST RATBY SWIFTS

Well here we are again, it hardly seems possible that two months have passed since the last WOT.

Since then we have had Christmas, which is a very hectic but very lovely time of the year.

Of course the Cubs have had their Christmas Party in which they made a lot of noise and ate a lot, but thoroughly enjoyed it.

I only hope none of them were sick, if they were I apologise.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all Parents and Cubs A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR from all the leaders at the Swifts.
Akela

THE SERVICE GARAGE

MAIN STREET, RATBY

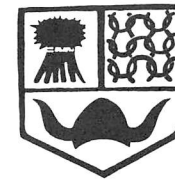
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Ratby Primary School Association

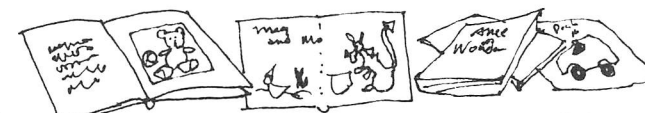
Christmas Curtain Raiser

Thank you to everyone who supported this event. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we organisers did! Apart from being a social success, we managed to raise over £200 for School funds.

BOOKS! BOOKS! BOOKS!

This term the Ratby School bookshop will be open on WEDNESDAY evenings from 3.15, in the School Hall. All parents, grandmas & grandads, aunties and uncles are welcome to come and buy books - so why not come and take a look - solve those present buying problems.

There is a good selection of reasonably priced paperbacks for ages 5 - 12.



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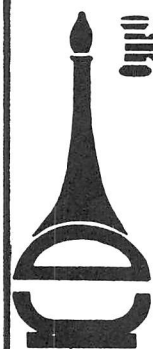
MORRIS at the PLOUGH

Traditionally on a Plough Monday, local 'ploughboys' would have performed plays or danced to make money at a lean time of year. The men donned rag coats, or wore their own clothes inside out, and reddened their faces with sheep raddle to become "The Morris".

Leicester Morrismen upheld this tradition on Sunday January 3rd, entertaining patrons of the Plough Inn with traditional Border Dances, similar to those performed originally in this area.

If you missed them they'll be back later in the year!!





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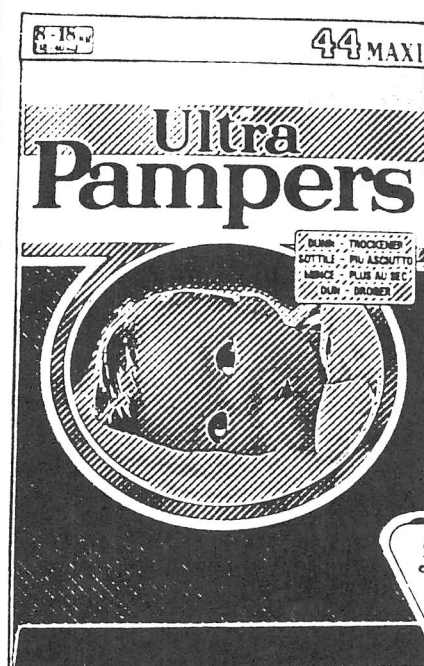
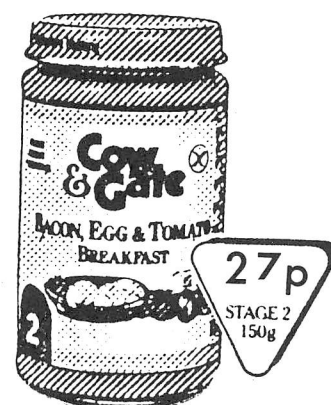
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Ratby Parish Council

Local Structure Plan

Mr. Dunnett, the District Planning Officer, and Mr. Chapman from Hinckley and Bosworth Council attended the December 8th meeting. They informed us that a revised structure plan for the North Eastern Parishes, which includes Ratby, was being drawn up. This will cover topics such as Housing, Transport and Employment. A final draft will be completed for Public Consultation early in 1988. Public response and comments would be noted, and objections could lead to a Public Inquiry.

Police

Inspector Warraker attended the December 8th meeting. Sgt. P. Hall is to be responsible for a new area which includes Ratby, Kirby and Braunstone. There will be an increase in police traffic through the village. Policewoman Sue Henderson introduced herself at the January 5th meeting. She reported that action could only be taken if she saw offences being committed, following complaints of nuisance around the Markfield Rd. bus shelter. Damage had been done to one resident's fencing. P.W. Henderson would keep a watch on the situation.

Neighbourhood Watch Contacts would all be receiving a personal visit.

Dogs

Residents complained about dogs fouling pavements. This is an offence against the bye-laws. Dog-owners could be reported and taken to court if residents were prepared to act as a witness. Hinckley & Bosworth council are trying to extend Bye-laws to include grass verges and playing areas as well as pavements. (On a positive note, the lady with a Great Dane always carries a 'Poop Scoop', £2 from Pet Shops).

Bus Shelters

Bus users are requesting a bus shelter to be erected on Station Road. Markfield Road want theirs' removed to discourage nuisance from youngsters congregating there. (Since the last meeting this shelter was damaged during the night of Friday 8th January, and had to be dismantled).

Amenities such as shelters, litter bins and seats are appreciated by the majority of people, yet their provision is threatened by an anti-social minority who show little consideration for others.

Chapel Lane Footpath

It was decided that no satisfactory conclusions had been reached regarding footpath provision. An Officer from Leicestershire County Council would be invited to meet with residents and Parish Council.

The Parish Council have asked for an 'ACCESS ONLY' sign to be erected to stop drivers using Church Lane as a By-pass.

Bollards

These will be erected between Nook and Woodley Close at a cost of £226.

Footpaths

Previously obstructed gateways and stiles had now been re-opened.

Play Areas

Wooden steps had been installed for the new slide at Ferndale Drive, and the broken roundabout is at last removed.

Burroughs Road Recreation Ground

The Council would write to the Plough Inn asking customers to stop parking on the field. A litter bin would be provided near the swings.

As the present Ferndale Drive Play Area Supervisor wished to resign, it was decided to advertise for a new Maintenance person.

Quarry Rail Link

Mrs Pat Butler, County Councillor, reported that a rail-link for Groby quarry was being considered. This could have implications for Ratby.

Tree Warden

Ratby trees urgently need a Tree Warden to keep an eye on them and report any damage. This is a voluntary post with the incentive of invitations to talks and guided walks! Ring the Clerk on 394803 if you are interested. (Does not include Martinshaw Wood!)

Rate Precept for 1988/89

It was agreed that a precept of £9,060 be asked for. This will hold the Parish Council part of the total rate at the same level as last year. The county precept and borough parts of the total have yet to be decided.

PLAYING FIELDS' CARETAKER

A PERSON IS REQUIRED TO REGULARLY TIDY AND UNDERTAKE SMALL MAINTENANCE JOBS AT THE FERNDAL DRIVE AND BURROUGHS ROAD PLAY AREAS.

FURTHER INFORMATION FROM THE CLERK TO THE COUNCIL, 24 GROBY ROAD, TEL. 394803. APPLICATIONS TO BE IN BY MARCH 1ST.

JORDAN SPECIAL

Our roving reporter happened to be in 'Freemans the Butchers' one day, and overheard a customer describing his favourite recipe using tripe!! So here it is - setting the ball rolling for your recipes!! Get busy sending us your favourites.

Ingredients

1 lb Tripe
Onions
1 leek
parsely
¾ pint milk

Cut tripe into strips. Melt a knob of butter in an ovenproof dish.

Put layer of tripe in the bottom and cover with sliced onions.

Then follow with a second layer of tripe topped with sliced leek.

Pour the milk over.

Bake in a moderate oven for ¾ hour.

You can top it with a layer of creamy mashed potatoes for the last ten minutes of cooking.

Serve when nicely browned.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

25TH MARCH - DANCE AT NEWTOWN LINFORD
22ND APRIL - ANNUAL DINNER DANCE
7TH MAY - SPALDING BULB FESTIVAL TRIP
5TH JUNE - BOAT & BUS TRIP
7TH AUGUST - MYSTERY BUS TRIP
24TH SEPT. - "TURNERS"
18TH SEPT. - HARVEST FESTIVAL
19TH OCT. - SKITTLES AT MARKFIELD

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MOORES OF RATBY

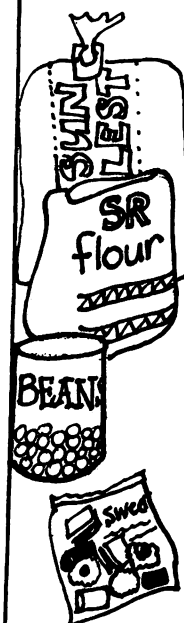
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SOME OF OUR SPONSORS

You will have noticed that a large part of your magazine is produced as a result of the generosity of a number of sponsors.

One of these **D.J. Graham Haulage** recently organised a Christmas Dance to raise funds for the childrens ward at the Leicester Royal Infirmary. Some 120 people attended an excellent event, which proved very enjoyable (eat your heart out those 20 who bought tickets and didn't come but thanks for the funds) and some £170 was raised.

This much needed money has been added to that made from the efforts of The Shakespeare Inn Braunstone Lane, who have recently ordered, for the ward 2 Breathing Monitoring Machines, at the cost of over £700 - hopefully for delivery in April.

Since the February 1987 issue a small local company, **Gas Appliance Services**, has given strong support and sponsorship to 'WOT' and in particular to the 'Village' page.

Fours years ago Alan and Chris started the Company which installs heating and plumbing systems; repairs and services existing systems and appliances. Hard work and long hours (understatement!!) has brought the Company it's present success.

Since September of last year they have also run a D.I.Y. centre in Main Street, Newbold Verdon, which houses kitchen and bathroom displays; a large array of D.I.Y., plumbing and heating materials, tools and spares; giftware. More extensive garden need are becoming available shortly as will petfoods. Browsing around with no obligation to buy is at the end of a short drive from Ratby - well recommended!

William Mee Transport our very first sponsor not only moves some 15 million bricks a year; enough to build 1,875 houses; but also found time for two of their men to take down the village Christmas Tree. The village says thanks to Bill, Pete and Clive.

MOUTHWATERINGLY FRESH

COOKED MEATS and CHEESES

HAM "OFF THE BONE" - ROAST BEEF
ROAST PORK - TONGUE - PORK PIE
RED LEICESTER - DOUBLE GLOUCESTER
BLUE STILTON - CATHEDRAL CITY

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FRESH FRUIT & VEG
GROCERIES AND PROVISIONS
WINES, BEERS AND SPIRITS
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BLACK TOWER £3.11 COUNTRY MANOR £1.83
SKOL 51p - CARLING/HEINEKEN 53p
XXXX - 62p STELLA (½ ltr) 75p
NEWCASTLE 67p GUNNESS 90p (Btl)
GOLD LABEL 54p (Btl) MANNS 79p (Btl)
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STAMFORD STREET STORES
81 STAMFORD STREET RATBY

Crowpie Children's Page

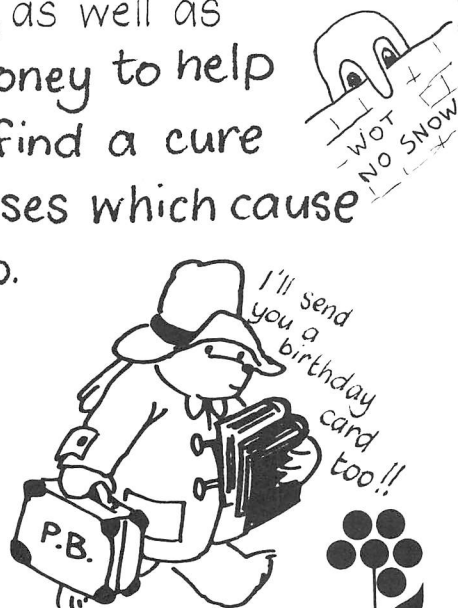
PADDINGTON'S ACTION CLUB

Have fun with Paddington and join his Action Club.

Many children are born disabled or hurt through accident or illness.

Paddington's Club helps to buy wheelchairs and special aids for crippled children, as well as giving money to help Doctors find a cure for diseases which cause handicap.

You can help by joining. Members receive newsletters, full of jokes, letters, things to do, a story and competition. There is a club badge and magazine. Phone Mrs Winfield, 386276 for details. !!



ACTION RESEARCH
for the crippled child



We need your stories, jokes, poems and drawings ... In **BLACK** Felt tip or pen or pencil ... We can't print colour. Leave them in the "Wot" box in the library !!

SPONSORED BY DJ GRAHAM HAULAGE

A LETTER FROM THE BAND

Dear Friend's,

1987 was a very busy year for the band, and we would like to take this opportunity of thanking you all for your wonderful support. When I tell you that the band met on 180 occasions during 1987 you will have some idea of the terrific commitment of the players. We had our fair share of success in contests and staged many new events. A very heavy Christmas programme was undertaken and on Christmas Eve the band played through the night around the village, thus maintaining a tradition which goes back over 60 years. Boxing Day lunch time saw the end of our marathon, and we would like to thank everyone for their generosity.

The 'Ratby Musik Fest' is now established and will be an annual event, providing an opportunity for various forms of dance and music making for local groups.

Many young players are in training through the various classes. The Junior Band is doing well and the Senior Band has a full programme planned for 1988.

The bandroom project is moving along nicely although there is a long way to go yet.

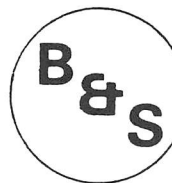
This year of course is Crowpie Carnival year. The theme being 'Latin America' giving plenty of scope - Viva Ratby! There will be a Barn Dance and Barbeque on Saturday 11th June at Old Hayes Farm, Ratby where the Carnival Queen will be chosen. Crowpie Carnival day is SATURDAY 13TH AUGUST.

This year we shall again be bringing something new to Ratby, negotiations are taking place with a German Band for a visit in April.

Friends of Ratby Band (FORB) set up last year has proved a great success and anyone wishing to join may do so and would be made very welcome.

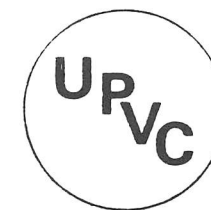
Our Whist Drives have already started this year. Look out for posters as there is one **EVERY** month, on a Saturday afternoon in the Welfare Hall. See Events Diary for dates.

Finally, we would like to wish you all a very happy 1988. - P.Plant
Secretary



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RATBY BAND 200 Club winners

The 200 club winners in the 1987 December draw were:-

1. £500 No. 99 P. Morris
2. £200 No. 61 N. Fathers
3. £100 No. 4 M. Jordan
4. £50 No. 12 L. Plant
5. £25 No. 60 G. Treadwell
6. £25 No. 93 G. Burrows
7. £25 No. 42 T. Blood
8. £25 No. 32 F. Cave

The winner of the November draw (£50) was K. Brown (No. 39).

There are still a few unallocated numbers in the 200 club. If you would like to take a gamble to be among the prizewinners of 1988, telephone Mr. C. Chambers on 538239 or Mrs. K. Hurd on 394241 for details.

MAKE A DATE WITH YOUR LIBRARY

Have you been true to your local library lately? Books on the shelves are ready (and willing) to be taken home and to curl up with you at bed-time. And so, with Valentine's Day in mind, it's far better to come in and look around, than not to come in at all, to coin a phrase. Your library is a pleasing harem of books, information, records and cassettes that catch the eye.

For the literary taste, the poetry of Shelley, the devious flatterer:

- What is all this sweet work worth
If thou kiss not me? (Love's philosophy)

Or the infinite love of Donne:

- If our two loves be one, or, thou
and I Love so alike, that none do
slacken, none can die (Good Morrow)

You can flirt with teasing curiosities

- The perfect hostess will see to it
that the works of male and female
authors be properly separated ...
(Etiquette)

- The longest courtship lasted 67
years. The couple married when both
were 82 (Guinness Book of Records)

Like your library, the best things in life are free. And whose heart cannot warm to the joys of Adrian Mole (aged 13½):

- Pandora and I are in love! It's
official, she told Claire Nelson,
who told Nigel, who told me.

And on our shelves, books ache for your attentions. You'll find love between the covers, in books by Denise Robins, Phillipa Carr and Lucille Andrews et al.. And for those with imagination, there is Molly Parkin and Harold Robbins So fall in love with your library today. The staff - Jenny, Carol and Ann - will be pleased to see you. Bouquets of red roses are not required

Iain Young
Community Librarian, Ratby

P.S. Look out for:

- The English in Love by Anne de Courcy
- How to love and be loved by Paul Hauck
- Past forgetting by Kay Summersby Morgan (Autobiography)
- Josephine and Napoleon by Margaret Laing (Biography)



The Traditional Way of Love

February 14th once again and a young man's fancy turns to thoughts of love (and a young woman's too in this leap year!) and believe it or not there were actually two St. Valentines, both martyred in the third century on 14th February (different years however) and this the eve of the Roman feast of Lupercalia when sweethearts were chosen and love tokens exchanged. Also the day according to country tradition when all birds choose their mates and the dawn chorus should be heard. Birds (the feathered variety) provide a good indication to the occupation of a girl's sweetheart-to-be for the first one seen on St. Valentine's Day indicate the following:-
Robin - sailor, Blackbird - clergyman
Goldfinch - rich man, blue tit - a happy man, Crossbill - an argumentative man and a Dove a good man!
A Woodpecker indicated no man at all and I don't think you'd have much luck if you were a poor bird spotter!

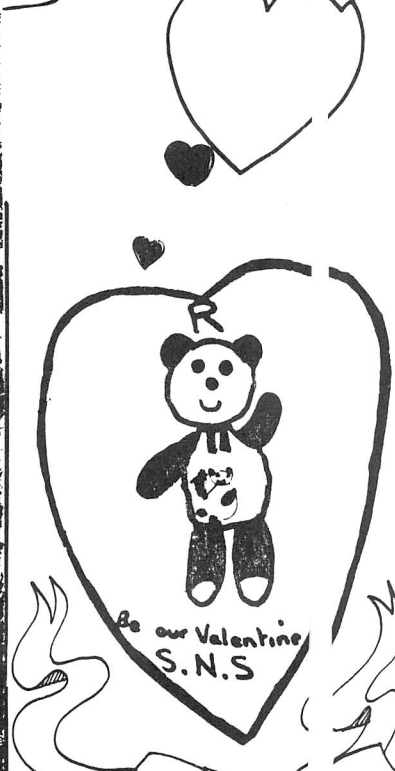
No man at all was also foretold if Snowdrops are brought indoors on February 14th and other flowers and leaves have important places in traditional lore concerning love and marriage. A bay leaf under the pillow on St. Valentine's night and the reciting of "St. Valentine be kind to me, this night may I my true love see!" is supposed to give a girl a dream of her lover. Lily of the Valley should never be exchanged between lovers for the flower heads hang down in sadness and they are said to bring sorrow. The daisy is a flower of romance as the following verse shows:-
Girls who wear a daisy chain, grow up pretty, never plain. And I'm sure everyone is familiar with plucking individual petals and reciting "He loves me, he loves me not". A gift of tulips gives some indication of romantic feelings with the red variety signifying affection and yellow ones, hopeless love. There are many other flowers significant, too many to mention here so let's get back to St. Valentine!

St. Valentine cards are really a substitute for the Valentine Gift traditionally exchanged between lovers and cards were at first handmade and decorated with lace, paper and flowers. Victorian cards are usually ornate and their popularity increased well into the 1880's. Popularity then declined until St. Valentine's Day was almost forgotten. In the 1930's the fashion for sending cards became fashionable and once again this custom has increased, upto the present day.

This year we have a leap year and I wondered if anyone knew why we ladies can propose on Leap Year Day? The custom is said to have originated from St. Patrick after a complaint from St. Bridget that proposing was a male preserve. St. Patrick is said to have allowed a once in 4 years opportunity for women and also stated that should the man decline the proposal he should offer a gift by way of apology! The gift of a silk dress was usual and St. Patrick is to blame again as this was his gift to St. Bridget when she proposed to him and was turned down!

Should you receive a letter and burn it, watch the flames - bright ones signify true love and small blue flames indicate love is fading! Also cast a glance over your tea or coffee cup as bubbles floating on the surface predict a kiss in the near future, so too does an itchy nose! (warning about this last one - itchy noses also indicate you might be going to walk into a post or shake hands with a fool!)

Happy St. Valentine's Day
Lynn Mellor



Flopsy Bunny

All my love

Timmy Tiptoes

Soporific stunned and still,
in Mr. McGregor's garden.

Michael

Didn't we do some
flashing on the dig?
(on and off the sod)

Be my Valentine
From your admirer

To Pam & Ros

Don't tell my wife but I always
remember the good times we had
once a month.

I Love you DADDY FROM GEE
I Love you DADDY FROM
DAVE
Happy Valentine's day all
our Love Dawn.

PATHMAN
NIGHTS IN WHITE STOCKINGS
NEVER REACHING THE END
LETTERS I'VE HOARDED
NEVER MEANING TO SEND
MOODY BLUE

Julie
Valentine
Secret
in America