

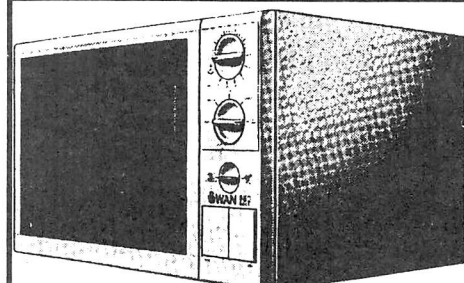
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FEBRUARY 1993

PUBLISHED BY RATBY SCOUT GROUP

ISSUE 38

One down, millions to grow!



Photograph by Sylvia Gant

National Forest

It is ironic that most of Ratby parish is now included in the National Forest, when we have just lost our most prominent village centre tree!

A recent map of the National Forest shows the Forest Boundary enclosing Martinshaw Wood, running along Groby Road, Main Street and then westwards, to surround all the area of outstanding natural beauty to the west of the village.

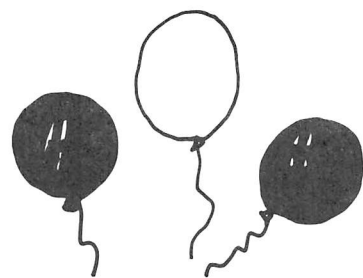
STOP PRESS

ROAD CLOSURE

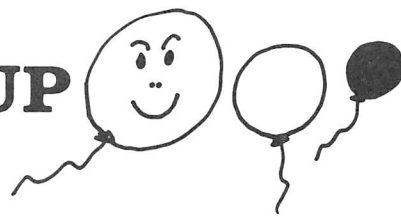
By the time you read this Station Road will have been totally closed for a week.

P.C. Brian Moore has been helping with the school crossing patrol on Danehill, but he cannot guarantee that he will be there every day. He has been helping the children to cross every morning, even on days when he is not officially on duty! We are lucky to have such a dedicated police officer!!

See Page 12 for information



RATBY PLAYGROUP



Playgroup's annual Christmas party has once again been and gone, and all the adults present at the event have once again survived without too much permanent damage. Some Mums even volunteered to come along to help. Why? We ask ourselves, will we see them again, and why no Dads? Maybe they have more sense or are they cowards?

The action started at 9 o'clock when 65 chairs and place settings had to be arranged around loads of tables, hundreds of sandwiches, cakes, biscuits and crisps prepared, jelly and ice cream stacked up in the refrigerator. Things were going well, it was only 10.30, everything was ready and the children weren't arriving until 11.30. Hadn't we done well! Pardon? Did someone say 11.30? Surely you mean 11 o'clock? I've booked the Magician to start at 11.15! A stunned silence.

How we managed to get around all the houses to let parents know of the change of time will remain a mystery, but only three children didn't arrive until 11.30, and they lived outside the village, the remaining 62 were at the Church Rooms promptly at 11 o'clock, looking ready for the party in beautiful dresses and ribbons, suits and bow-ties. After that everything was a doddle.

The Magician was superb as always (and rebooked for the correct time for 1993); the food and drink eaten and drunk with relish and very little mess; the games played enthusiastically and fairly, apart from one Mum who refused to be out! (I won't name her, this time!); and Santa was magnificent as ever. Maybe having 65 three and four year olds together for 3½ hours isn't so bad after all!

These events couldn't be done without help, and our grateful thanks go to all those Mums who gave up their time to assist. Especially those who literally ran round houses to let them know of the change of plans. Also to Helen Taylor for the P.A. system, without which, Lynne Evans and I would probably have laryngitis for the whole of the Christmas period, and once again to Geoff Widdowson for his splendid annual performance as you-know-who. I have yet to see a more convincing one in any of the stores in town. Thank you everyone.

3

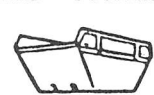
With Easter fast approaching we will shortly be making up the new Playgroup register. If anyone is unsure whether their child's name is down to start and they are 3 before 30.4.93, please telephone me, Lesley Chevin on 386605 or Lynne Evans, 386347 as soon as possible please.

Lesley Chevin

Just one date

Rummage sale, Welfare Hall 27th February 1993
2 o'clock. Please save us your Rummage.

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 Friday, 19th February, 1993
 8 p.m. till midnight
 Late Bar Cheap Drinks 8 till 9
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Did you notice one of the errors in the last issue of "WOT"
The snowy photo. There was no snow in February 1992. The photograph was taken in 1991.
Sorry Horace.



COPPERS CORNER



1992 A REVIEW

I would like to take this opportunity to look back over 1992 and give you a report of some of the achievements that have been gained by all of us living or working on the Beaumont Police sub-division this year.

Auto-Crime Campaign

As no doubt you are all aware by now, 1992 was designated by the Home Office car crime prevention year. The aim of this was to heighten the awareness of everyone to the problems of auto-crime and to try and reduce this by promoting crime prevention. As a result of everyone's effort on this sub-division including, you the public, the agencies and ourselves, we have seen a reduction in thefts from vehicles of 13% and a reduction of theft of vehicles by 4%, both compared to 1991.

Many factors contribute to this success including, I am sure, the 10,000 people locally who have joined the 'vehicle watch' scheme. Also at least 20,000 of you obtained advice whilst visiting our 'crime free' car (kindly sponsored by Peugeot U.K.) at the 31 events it was in attendance at during 1992.

Neighbourhood Watch

1992 also saw a neighbourhood watch scheme on our sub-division collecting the award for being the best scheme in the country. This was the result of a combined effort by the Police and local residents to reduce crime and improve community spirit. We have also seen many other Neighbourhood Watch schemes commence on the sub-division this year and it is true to say that those that have endeavoured to reduce crime have had a high level of success.

Summer Soccer Tournament

In August over 1000 local children took part in a soccer tournament at Babington College. This was organised


by the School Liaison Officer, P.C. Steve Parker, and a good time was had by all! Whilst the tournament was being held there was a significant decrease in reported incidents to the police involving youths on the sub-division. It is planned to repeat this event in 1993.

I have mentioned above only three of many successes that have been achieved during 1992 involving co-operation between the police and yourselves, the public.

On behalf of all the officers on Beaumont sub-division I thank you for your help and support during 1992.

Sgt. Andy West
Beaumont Police Station

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ALL LEVELS OF FITNESS WELCOME

2

Ratby Co-operative Band

The festive season got off to a great start for the Ratby Co-operative Band when the junior band made the long trek to Scunthorpe to compete in the National Brass Band Association's youth area contest in late November. Despite the early start and a draw which meant the band did not play until last, the juniors under their conductor, Geoff Newman, turned in an excellent performance, winning the regional contest. The result guarantees the band a place in the national brass band finals at Manchester in March.

The very next week saw the senior band competing at Leicester's De Montfort Hall. The band suffered another late draw but managed a respectable sixth place in a very tough section of 18 of the top bands in the country.

Over the Christmas period the band played in a variety of venues including the Shires, Ratby and Groby Christmas trees, 'Old Peoples Homes', and at St Stephens Church in Leicester. The playing came to a climax on December 13th when 360 people watched the band's annual Christmas concert in two performances at Groby College. The concert featured all the members of the band movement, the beginners group, the training band, the junior band and the senior band who played alongside the junior band in the first half of the concert under the leadership of Ian Bartram, the band's musical director. Available at the concert were copies of "On Tour", the band's exciting new cassette which features a variety of music ranging from Puccini to Rogers and Hammerstein. Copies of the cassette are available from Steve Concar (873769) and further details can be obtained from Phil Plant (386510).

Paul Gilder



The tradition of playing through Christmas Eve night was maintained despite the bitter cold which froze the valves.

An exciting and challenging year lies ahead, new ventures and new venues for our very young ambassadors.

Cambridge University Band will be joining us in Ratby Church on Saturday 13th March to raise funds towards the Sunday School Roof Restoration.

Look out for programmes on the village notice boards of future local events.

Thanks to everyone for your continuing support.

Phil Plant

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Another two boys have moved on to Scouts, as most do eventually, having reached the age when they are ready to try more exciting and adventurous challenges.

Andrew Pickard (11) and David Chevin (10½) had a great time at Cubs, and as two good Sixers in charge of their groups of boys, they will both be sadly missed, but it gives the opportunity for two more boys to have the challenge of being in charge and organising their group.

David did well to earn his Adventure Crest Award, one of the new badges in the new Cub Scout badge scheme. Gone are the Arrows of yester year, along with the ancient dib dib. To obtain this award he had to complete several tasks. He has enjoyed lighting a camp fire for a sing-song night at Johns Lee Woods for both Cub packs, digging over and looking after a piece of waste ground, running a Cub night on the theme of Italy when he organised games, pizza and Italian grape juice (sorry Cubs are not allowed wine) and taking an active part in the shows, as well as camping, running in Cubs cross-country events and

GUBS



swimming well in the annual Cubs swimming galas.

We're sure both Andrew and David will enjoy their next few years in Scouts for all the extra challenges they will be given the chance to try out.

Why not try Cubs? If you are aged between 8 and 10½ come along to see what we do. We have got plenty of activities lined up for the next few weeks including swimming, a night-hike, cooking (with candles), a show and a camping weekend. If you are interested ring Akela.

Either: Brian Cross (Swallows Pack) 386506
Meet at Chapel Rooms, Thursdays
6.30 - 8.15

Or: Trevor Sleath (Swifts Pack) 395606
Meet Church Rooms, Thursdays
6.30 - 8.00

Or just come along to see us.

Sorry girls, but at present we can only have boys at Cubs!

Lesley Chevin



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Cuts threaten Community Activity in the Area

The County Council are considering cuts to the Community Education Budget in the order of £2.3 million.

This would mean a 15% cut in the delegated community budget for Groby Community College. Many current activities will be at risk.

The College would be unable to continue funding the Tuesday Club at Brookvale High School. This club is attended by many Ratby students. It provides activities that are unavailable elsewhere locally, and is important to the personal and social development of the students.

The College's support for youth clubs and other activities in surrounding villages would end. there would be no money to help Ratby Band provide tuition for young people in the area.

Many of the County Councillors are supporting the campaign to reduce the cuts.

Letters from local people can help.

Write to the:

Director of Education (Keith Wood-Allum)
or
Mike Halliday, County Councillor, at
County Hall
Glenfield
Leicester
LE3 8RF

You could ask them to:

"Please reconsider the scale of cut to the Community Education Service, bringing it closer to that for the school's budget and therefore preserving education opportunities for the whole community".

Or

"Within the reduced budget for Community Education please ensure that the delegated Community budget is protected at close to current levels in order to keep buildings open for community use."

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Members of the Ratby and District Royal British Legion occasionally hear of the death of an Ex-Service man or woman, sometimes after an illness and we are told that no one from the Legion had visited them.

This is most unfortunate, as this Branch, which covers a very large area geographically, is organised to visit sick or distressed Ex-Service people. In the event of death, the Branch will provide a representative or the Standard Bearer if requested, to attend the funeral. To make this possible we do need to be informed by relatives or friends, who are asked to get in touch with one of the Branch Welfare Officers listed below:-

Groby
P.S. Mensley Leicester 870570

Kirby Muxloe
A.H. Brigstock Leicester 395359

Markfield and Stanton-under-Barton
T.H. Pickett Markfield 244306

Ratby
J.H. Calder Leicester 873015

For contact only:
Thornton and Bagworth
Mrs Lena Riley Bagworth 230251

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ANSTEY £3.00
KIRBY MUXLOE £2 TO £2.80
L.F.E. £2.80
LEICESTER £4.50



With all the current holiday advertising, those planning to book this year's holiday will be able to look forward to peace of mind in the future - thanks to the new Package Travel Regulations which took effect from 31st December 1992.

Trading Standards Officers will be responsible for enforcing regulations which will provide full protection for the holiday maker without making them unaffordable. It is important that families do not end up paying more for less choice.

The tour operator, who according to the new regulations is now called an organiser, will be legally

responsible for everything that goes wrong on one of its holidays - even if the problem is caused by a supplier. If consumers do experience problems, they are advised to tell the supplier as soon as possible, as failure to do so may affect their ability to make a claim afterwards.

Holiday makers travelling abroad can now be confident that they will not be left stranded in a foreign country as has previously happened after the collapse of a holiday company.

If anybody requires further information about the regulations, it can be obtained by contacting the Trading Standards Duty Officer on Leicester 514415.



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Sensational Playtime !!

Grobby College Creche are planning 4 mornings of special sensational play. A chance for you and your children to experience some new 'sensory' experiences!

The sessions will be from 10 - 11.30, between Monday March 1st and Monday 8th March. (Please note - there will be no 'Come and Play' on these mornings).

Sign up for a session at the creche - cost will be £1.50 per family.

During the week there will also be fund raising events in aid of the Rainbows Appeal and the creche itself.

Come along and join in - paint some shiny shoes, play with some magical dough



Ratby Parish Council

SPRING FRONT GARDEN COMPETITION

Judging will be on Saturday
April 3rd.

The Judge will be Mr. Eaton
of the Leicestershire Horticultural
Judges Guild.

Nominations to be with
the Council Clerk by April
2nd....
35 Groby Rd.



FREE BUS SERVICE TO TESCO'S

Tesco funds a free bus service to Beaumont Leys. Insufficient people are using this service and Tesco are not prepared to fund in most cases.

They have just stopped a free service from Anstey!

PABARI'S RATBY NEWS

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Letters

Dear Editor,

Extra traffic in Danehill, Ratby

As a resident of Ratby, living on Danehill, I read with horror the full implications of the above, published in WOT!

Presently Danehill is used by:

Coaches, Lorries, Everyday cars, Cars which use it as a "rat-run" Youths who zoom around at excessive speeds, cassettes/music system "blaring" together with a souped-up engine and exhaust to create the ultimate LOUD noise.

We feel that after 16 weeks continual use more and more drivers will use Danehill as a short-cut, adding danger to our lives and those around us, adding to the noise pollution and adding to the fumes emitted from their engines!

We are also concerned about all the increased rubbish, which we perceive will be a problem.

At present we clean up our front garden almost daily and have a really good collection - Cigarette packets and cigarette ends, crisp packets, sweet wrappers, various tin cans which sometimes still contain pop and beer.

- To top the list last week we discovered a one pint glass!

It is a difficult exercise to teach our children to be tidy, especially when so many seem to perceive our front garden either as a waste recycling area or as a gigantic rubbish dump. - How can we ever hope to win the front garden competition?!!

I feel we should be compensated in some way - perhaps we have a good case for lowering of the council tax. I am sure we would have been the subject of a blight notice and awarded compensation had the road scheme been permanent or if a C.P.O. had been involved.

should be rewarded with the road being blocked up - as described by Horace Gamble in WOT!, (together with Ferndale Drive). This would then present a permanent solution to a problem which will otherwise get much much worse!!!

Mrs Diane Spencer



Letters can
be left in
the WOT! box
in the
library!

11 Lock Street, Beechworth,
Victoria 3747, Australia

Dear Scouts Magazine

We have just emigrated to Australia after living in Ratby for 36 years (on my part) and Wilf my husband was born there just over 60 years ago, so it has been a big decision.

We have come to live in a beautiful part of Australia, Victoria (they call it the garden state) to be near our son Alan and his wife and our grandson Rowan.

We wanted to say how much we have enjoyed life in Ratby and the friendliness of the people who live there, our wonderful neighbours and the post office staff and the vicar and Mrs Blackman, who we never saw without a smile, and last, but not least, our dear relatives Edna and Dennis, Margaret and Len.

We will be back for a visit one day and would like to wish everyone a very happy 1993.

From
Jenny & Wilf Mott
ex: 117 Markfield Road

P.S.
I wanted to write this letter before we left England, but we left in such a hurry we hardly had time to see all our friends. Also we



FAREWELL AND THANKYOU continued

step looking out over the fields and saying to me". "Hello, isn't it a beautiful morning".

There are other postal workers in Margaret's family.

"My uncle Johnny was a postman before and after the war seems as though he was always walking around the village. He had to fetch afternoon mail from Kirby Post Office".

"Auntie Thelma was also a post lady for a while".

So Margaret has retired with many happy memories, not least of which are the recent times working for the present Postmaster, enjoying the get-togethers over Christmas.

Margaret wishes to thank everyone for all their help over the years.

May we take this opportunity to thank her for all her hard work and wish her a happy retirement!

Next time we are in the midst of blizzards, spare a thought for the post and newspaper deliverers who have to turn out when we are still tucked up in bed!



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FREE GUIDE TO SERVICES AVAILABLE

A free guide to services provided by Leicestershire County Council is now available from local libraries.

This has over 300 entries, with contact numbers covering subjects as varied as adoption, bridleways and footpaths, debt counselling and recycling advice.

The guide also contains minicom phone numbers for customers with hearing difficulties.

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FAREWELL.. AND THANK YOU !



Margaret Edwards, a familiar sight around Ratby with her pram full of letters and parcels, retired from her job as 'post lady' last year after nearly 20 years service in the village.

"There were no aptitude tests or interviews in those days," she says, "just a phone call to the Post Office, said who I was, and one hour later had the job".

After two days help with sorting and delivery she was on her own.

She began work on the Church Farm Estate, when there were only a few roads then. In the earlier days the Christmas mail was much heavier, an extra afternoon delivery was needed.

"And," says Margaret, "there was always the cards that needed your brain cells so and so's mother married Mr so and so his mothers name was Miss? I'm sure its them"

"At the end of the rush we had them all sorted and taken to the correct address".

Weather always plays a part in a post lady's life, and Margaret has some memories

"One windy day, gale force winds took bundles of letters out of my hand just outside the Co-op. Mr Alex Scotten and myself were scrabbling around picking them up".

Once, her pram blew over outside the T.V. shop on Chapel Lane.

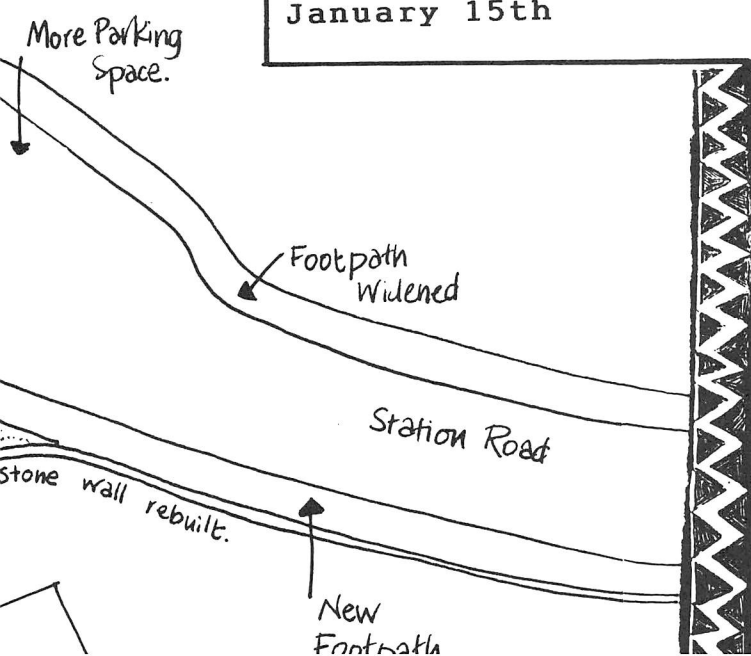
Margaret says she could stand wind, fog and frost but hated snow and ice. The worst winter was a couple of years ago, "think we could all have gone home and left it that morning".

She once got stuck in the snow at Charnwood Acres, and had to put grass under the pram wheels to get it going. Margaret has worn a few prams out in her time, and even used a sledge once!

There have been many happier memories. She says that she has "enjoyed all the years, especially seeing the sunrise in the early morning. One of the things that sticks out in my mind is a 5 year old girl sitting on a



Lopping the last few branches on Friday January 15th



Traffic Count

Concern about the increased traffic on Danehill prompted Councillors to undertake a traffic count on Danehill and Station Road, between 7.30 a.m. and 9 a.m. on Friday 18th December. Many thanks to Mr Horace Gamble for helping with this task. It is intended to do a further count during the total road closure, and again when things are back to normal. This should help identify problems with increased traffic, and enable us to discover whether the diversion encourages greater use of Danehill as a rat-run in the future.

This first count has shown that the number of cars travelling from Groby towards Kirby is almost the same along Danehill - 342, as it is on Station Road - 346.

The conclusion is that the estate road is already well used as a rat-run - will it get worse?

Paint Ball Games

Following concerns expressed by villagers about the effects of paint ball war games at Burroughs Wood on riders and walkers, the Parish Council has written a number of letters to try and obtain different views on this matter.

'Rebel Paint Ball', the organiser of the games has given assurances that marshals would be in attendance on rights of way when games are in progress.

A letter from the Council for the Protection of Rural England expressed the concern that war games can "result in serious damage to rural character".

Extracts from the C.P.R.E. response to the Town and Country Planning General Development Order 1988, on temporary use of land, were included..... It is the view of the C.P.R.E. that war, fantasy, and adventure games should be limited to 7 days in a year.

The Royal Society for Nature Conservation is concerned about damage from such games to ancient woodlands.

The Parish council is concerned about potential damage to flora and fauna in Burroughs Wood, but current legislation permits such activities for up to 28 days a year.

Wildflower Meadow

It is hoped that work can begin this Spring

Ratby Parish Council

Christmas Windows Competition

Congratulations once again to everyone for some very attractive shop window displays. They really do brighten up the village on dismal winter days. As usual voting was very close.

- 1st Prize - Johnsons Stores, Stamford Street
- 2nd Prize - Frasers, Markfield Road
- 3rd Prize - Resorts Exchange International, Main Street

Christmas Tree and Carols

Thank you to everyone who helped with the annual Christmas Carol Concert. This year a larger than ever number of people turned out to enjoy carols around the tree. Music was by Ratby Junior Band and the carols were led by Rev. Blackman and Dennis Green.

Afterwards there was a chance to warm up with hot coffee in the Welfare Hall, kindly arranged by the O.P.W.C.!

Many thanks to the Scouts for obtaining the tree, which was donated by the Woodland Trust and for the job of erecting it, and then removing it after the event.

Thank you to Mr Mangham for transporting the tree to the Welfare Hall.

Parish Precept

A precept of £17,500 has been set for the coming year.

Hinckley Edition - Leicester Mercury

Pabari's now have copies of this edition for sale over the counter.

It is particularly interesting for Ratby villagers who are interested in planning, as applications are usually notified in the Hinckley edition.

A46 Leicester Western Bypass

Work has already begun on the Bypass. A construction exhibition will be held early this year. Watch out for details in the local press.

Tree Preservation Order

Groby Parish Council buys land in Ratby

Groby Parish Council have bought the triangle of land between Sacheverall Way and Ratby Road. For the time being this will remain as open space, and will be named 'Butler Field' in memory of Councillor Mrs Pat Butler.

Eventually the Council need to use the land as a burial ground, to replace land off Anstey Lane lost to the Bypass construction.

Road widening at Station Road

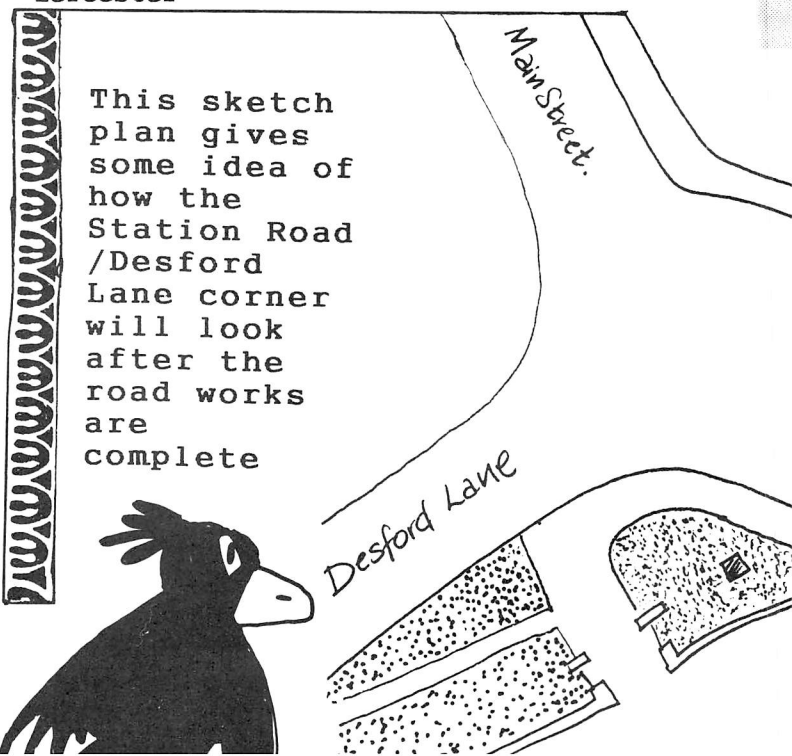
Many parents are concerned about the safety of children crossing Danehill during the road-closure in the village.

P.C. Moore has been helping children to cross safely but cannot always be on duty at the appropriate time.

The Parish Council tried hard to obtain a temporary school crossing warden for Danehill. This proved impossible because of a shortage of wardens and lack of funds.

Individual letters from parents may carry some weight. If you are concerned enough write to:

Mr T W Thompson
Department of Planning and Transportation
County Hall
Leicester



CROW

Childrens Page

PTE

by Daniel Fretter

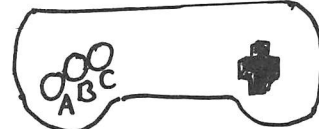
ANIMAL SOUNDS

1	2			3		4
6						

Across	Down
1. Baa	2. Neigh
5. Bleat	3. Oink
6. Cat Sound	4. Croak

tsfs ifs xts
ivoyso Xe Xts
afeooyefj ngzzds
iaafeo Jeyv
Otssn tefos
Keix nck
Msey xeiJ

Can You Crack the Code?



Guess

What

little marios-

I am in a film played by Bob Hoskins



Please send your small drawings funny jokes and puzzling quizzes in black and white to the library box. → Parents please note PENCIL WILL NOT COPY Thank you

What is the difference between cabbage and bogeys?

children wont eat cabbage!



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ELDERLY PEOPLE SERVICES

A booklet giving valuable information on support services for elderly people and their carers is now available. Titled "Services for Elderly people and those who care for them", the publication contains 40 pages of information on services provided by the County Council either directly or through the network of voluntary organisations on the County Council's behalf. The booklet is available from County Council libraries and other offices, the voluntary organisations, health centres and the reception of the district offices of East Midlands Electricity Board which has supported the production of the booklet.

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SPECKLE 'HIGH FIBRE' BREAD COTTAGE LOAVES
MALT CRUNCH BREAD COBS FARMHOUSE LOAVES
CHEESE & ONION BREAD WHITE & BROWN COBS and ROLLS & TWINNIES

FILLED COBS

A REMINDER FOR USERS OF THE VEHICLE REGISTRATION OFFICE

L.C.C. would like to remind people that the Vehicle Registration Office is no longer sited at County Hall, Glenfield. It moved, in 1989, to the second floor of the Rutland Centre, 56 Halford Street, Leicester LE1 1TT. It is open Mon. - Thur 9am - 4pm and Friday 9am - 3.30pm. Telephone enquiries should be made to Leicester 514510.

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POLICE

The Beaumont Police/Community Committee will be holding a Public Meeting at the Memorial Pavilion, Stadon Road, Anstey, on Wednesday 10th March 1993, commencing at 7.30 p.m.

The object of the meeting is to provide an opportunity for people of the sub-division to air their views over policing issues which concern their Community. It is hoped that members of the community will go along and take an active part in the meeting to make the event a success.

The Consultative Committee is chaired by Councillor Mrs C E Brock. Senior Police Officers from Beaumont Police Station will be present to answer questions and discuss matters raised.

It is not within the Committee's terms of reference to discuss individual cases. These should always be referred to the Sub-Divisional Commander at Beaumont Police Station.

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Janet's Jottings



HONEYSUCKLE

The weather was much better today so dog Bess and I went for a walk in the Woods. Beside the seat at the entrance I noticed the Nettle bed, it was tatty, wind blown and very dejected.

In the Woods I noticed the Honeysuckle leaves (*Lonicera periclymenum*), a lovely soft grey green. Could this be a unique plant? Its stem doesn't rot when old or dead. It flowers in the canopy, though it has no tendrils or suckers to aid climbing. It leans on or twists around any available support in its climb towards the sunlight. Sometimes it has to travel along the ground and then roots are produced, from the leaf nodes, anchoring the plant, ensuring another new beginning and also a very good trap for the unwary walker.



COMMON NETTLE

Whilst I was meandering, I was considering what I knew about Nettles. When I arrived home I picked up my pen and started jotting.....

First a poem I first heard in 1938!

"Gentle hearted, grasp a Nettle,
It will sting you for your pains,
But grasp it like a man of metal
It soft as silk remains.

This is like some common Natures
Treat them gently, they rebel
Treat them rough (as Nutmeg graters)
They in turn will treat you well

(author unknown)

Since then I have learnt the latin name for Stinging Nettle is *Urtica dioica*.

It is the hairs on the leaves that sting. The flowers hang in pale green racemes growing from the leaf nodes.

In Wicken Fen, Cambridgeshire, grow the Annual Nettle (*urtica urens*) a finer, lighter plant that hardly ever stings.

The Stinging Nettle is an indicator species, it does best in soil very rich in Nitrates. It often grows over old buried rubbish dumps and middens, both signs of previous

found fairies amongst them, instead hordes of Peacock Butterfly caterpillars are to be seen, during June.

Now a days the distribution pattern is upset - modern fertilizers contain Nitrates to enrich the soil and nettles are found more often in hedgerows. When organic husbandry becomes the norm again Nettles will subside again to specific areas.

Nettles make a good home brewed ale.

The young shoots make a good spinach like vegetable when lightly boiled - very rich in vitamin C.

Because of the distinctive leaf shape the word Nettle is used in other English plant names, even though the plants do not belong to the Urticaceae family which has only 5 members. Besides the two already mentioned, *Urtica dioica* and the *Urtica urens*, there are two Pellitories - Pellitory of the wall (*parietaria judaica*) and "Mind Your Own Business (*Soleirolia Soleirolii*).

Soleirolia Soleirolii is rare. I have only seen it growing once, beside the Latch gate of an old country church.

Pellitory of the Wall grows everywhere!! I have seen it as far apart as Turkey and Venezuela, Austria and Holland. It grows at

Editorial

Do you care what happens in Ratby?

In this issue there is a pull out survey all about what you think.

Take time to answer it and get your views known. We will publish the findings in a future issue of "Wot about Ratby".

You can take completed surveys to the Library, give them to any member of the Parish Council or to the Village Society.

Public Meeting

Ratby Parish Council are organising a public meeting in the Welfare Hall to give all villagers a chance to hear about planning issues that could affect the village.

There will also be a chance to put forward your own views.

So - don't miss these chances to have your say!!!

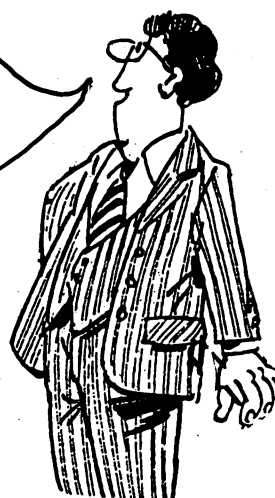
Public Meeting

Ratby Parish Council are organising a Public meeting on Tuesday March 9th, 7.30 p.m. in the Welfare Hall.

Come along and find out how current planning issues may affect the village.

Tell us what you think Ratby's future should be.

I'LL MAKE
SURE I GET
MY SAY !!



BELGRAVE HALL FACELIFT GETS GO-AHEAD

Experts within Leicestershire County Council's Museums, Arts and Records Service are currently refurbishing and upgrading one of the County's leading social history museums, Belgrave Hall.

The work will consist of redecoration of the interior rooms at Belgrave, redisplay of some areas to give a more "lived in" look and opening up of rooms which have previously been closed to the public.

RATBY PARISH CHURCH ROOMS RE-ROOFING FUND

After nearly 100 years the Church Rooms roof has to be re-slatted and it is hoped that this can be done very shortly. The cost is estimated at about £7,000 - most of which will have to come from fund raising activities. With this in mind a quiz has been prepared and to whet your appetite the first 12 questions (out of 100) are printed. The complete questionnaire on payment of a £1 entrance fee can be obtained from:-

The Rectory,
15 Groby Road.

Mrs. Hill
14 Church Lane

Roy Derbyshire
16 Groby Road.
Tel: 393746

His & Hers
Station Road.

One of the main objectives of the refurbishment is to show life "backstairs"; visitors will now be allowed a glimpse of the housemaid's cupboard and of the kitchen and back kitchen areas. The new displays at Belgrave will be tailored particularly to the needs of school children in line with the National Curriculum; teaching sessions will be arranged and handling collections such as replica period costume will be available for visitors to try.

The refurbishment of Belgrave Hall will involve the closure of the Hall from 18th January to 8th April, 1993 and will be re-opened in time for the Easter Holidays.

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I WILL LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING YOU

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Prize money amounting to 5% of the net takings will be awarded to the winning entry and in the event of more than one winner all correct entries will be placed in a draw to take place at a Barn Dance to be held in the Church Rooms on 27th March. The name of the winner will be published in the next edition of WOT.

Example: 1760 = Y in a M
(answer): Yards in a Mile
60 = YM for a DW
(answer): Years Married for a Diamond Wedding)

1	90 = D in a RA
2	12 = M of EC
3	1984 = B by GO
4	6 = L on an I
5	10 = CR of a T
6	651 = S in the H of C
7	15 = RB on a ST
8	14 = L in a S
9	3 = S in a W
10	13 = IM in a Y
11	63 = Y of QVR
12	

A Warm Welcome Awaits you at

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Parish Council Election

Mr Andrew Jones, of East Walk, and Mr John Hopwood of Berrys Lane were elected as Parish Councillors, and have joined the Leisure and Recreation sub-committee.

Ratby Primary School Association

The Christmas Curtain Raiser made a grand total of £368.00. Thanks to all those people who came along and contributed.

Have you got a little spare time? We need more volunteers to either get involved on the committee..... or just help occasionally with events. Committee meetings are informal - almost a friendly social occasion!

If you feel you can help, please contact Margaret Robson on 386398.

Bradgate Twinning Society

Did anyone notice an article in the Bradgate Mail of November 12th 1992, under the heading - "Bradgate Battles for twin prize" ?

Apparently, the Bradgate Society is made up of 150 members, including some from Ratby.

Do you know anything about this? Are you a member?

If so, write in and tell us about it! Bradgate has been twinned with Plateau Est de Rouen, a similar rural area for 12 years.

Messiah

Well over a hundred people enjoyed a performance of the Messiah in Ratby Church on Saturday January 16th 1993.

The oratorio was performed by the Tudor Choir, and the Rutland Sinfonia, in the traditional Baroque style that would have been known to Handel.

The Rutland Sinfonia gave its first concert in 1977. It is a symphony orchestra with eighty players, and has built up a fine reputation.

Soprano Judy Dodd gave a wonder solo performance. Judy is the founder and Musical Director of the Tudor Choir.



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THANK YOU

Mrs Margaret Crump, Ratby's well-loved school crossing warden put down her 'lollipop' for the last time at the end of last term. She has helped children to cross the road to school safely for nearly nine years. Margaret has always managed a cheerful smile, even in the worst of weathers!

Her daughter, Yvonne has picked up the lollipop to follow in her mother's footsteps. We are lucky indeed that these intrepid ladies are prepared to undertake this dangerous job in today's traffic conditions!

Margaret would like to thank everyone for their generous gifts and good wishes.

And we would like to thank Margaret for her dedication over the years!



TIME TO REMEMBER

This photograph was sent in by Steve Roache of Markfield Road. Can anyone tell us about it.



Editorial Comment

Following the above advice is, I am sure you will agree, essential to our property's security whilst we are away from home, working, shopping or on holiday.

The reminder is also proved necessary as only yesterday I returned home to find the Herald and Post advertising my absence.

All those delivering free papers and leaflets (and I include Wot! of course) should remember that they are putting things through letter boxes which come unsolicited.

The point being that whilst we can control our ordered newspaper deliveries by cancelling them whilst away from home, we cannot control 'freebies'. Responsible delivery is therefore essential.

13. Now, please give some information about yourself

How old are you?

Under 20	21 to 30	31 - 40	41 - 50	51 - 60	61 or over

How many years have you been a resident of Ratby?

Under 3	4 - 10	11 - 20	21 - 30	31 or over

Which street/road do you live in?

Thank you for your assistance. A summary of the results will be published in a future "Wot about Ratby".

Andrew Simmonds

Please return the completed form to Ratby Public Library.

Survey of Residents' Views on Development in Ratby

I am studying planning at Nottingham University, sponsored by Leicestershire County Council Planning Department and doing a project about public consultation on planning proposals. Most people in Ratby will be aware of the suggested major housing & employment development on land around Burroughs Road. This survey will establish the views of Ratby residents on this development and other planning issues in the area.

My work has been carried out in consultation with the Parish Council, and the results of this survey will be made available to them. Your views will also be passed on to Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council to assist in the preparation of the new Local Plan for the District.

Please tick all relevant boxes

1. Were you aware of the major development? Yes

No

2. How did you find out about it?

Wot about Ratby

Newspaper

Petition

Other (write below)

3. Are you in favour of it?

Yes

Why?

New roads would bypass village

Industry would move to new sites

Pedestrianized shopping square

Other (write below)

No

Why?

Would damage attractive countryside

Would make village too big

Village would lose identity

Too much development already

Other (write below)

10. Are there any other things you would oppose?

.....
.....

11. How do you think the following will affect Ratby?

	Benefit	Neutral	Harm	Not Aware	Don't Know
Green Wedges					
National Forest					
M1 Junct. 21A Leics. W. Bypass					
Ivanhoe Line					
Countryside Priority Area					

12. How much effect on the future of Ratby do you think the following have?

	least effect		most effect		
	1	2	3	4	5
Individuals in village					
Parish Council					
District Council					
County Council					
Government					
Local landowners/ farmers					
Local businessmen					
Anybody else					
.....					

4. Did you sign the petition?

Yes
No

5. Did you take any other action? (write below)

.....

6. The developers promised a number of benefits for the village.
Do you think the advantages of the benefits would outweigh
the disadvantages of the development?

Yes
No

Why?
.....

7. Do you think the benefits could be achieved without the
development?

Yes
No

Why?
.....

8. How would you like to see Ratby change over the next
15 years?

Not at all

A small amount of further development

More significant development, but according
to a revised Local Plan

Major development as proposed

Why?
.....

9. Are there any other things you would support in Ratby?

.....
.....