

ISSUE 44

Wot!

About Ratby

PUBLISHED BY THE RATBY SCOUT GROUP

FEBRUARY
1994

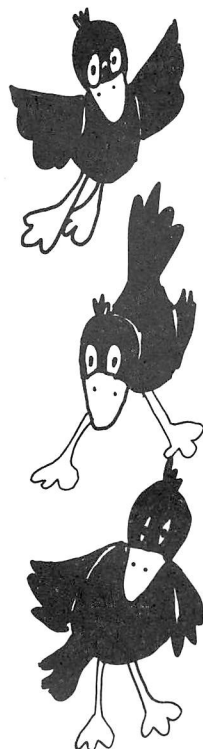


Photo by Sylvia Gant

Ratby WI's are a Wizz in the Quiz

Radio Leicester's 'Wizz' Quiz came to Ratby on Wednesday 19th January!

The Welfare Hall was packed and the atmosphere electric as the team from Ratby W.I. stormed to victory.

Dave Kirkwood was the question master, and we are told that the questions get harder every year ... But the challenge was ably met by the Ratby four!

The final score was Ratby 125 points, Nailstone 115 and Kirby Muxloe 95 points

Tea and biscuits were served by Ratby W.I. members. Some of the success may be due to the support from Sam the Crow, the team mascot. Lynn Mellor bought 'Sam' at the Cadeby Steam Railway, and he has helped Ratby at three quizzes now!

Congratulations to the Ratby team!

The programme will be broadcast on February 20th at 9.30 a.m. with a repeat the following Saturday, February 26th at 1.15 p.m.

Pictured, from left to right:-

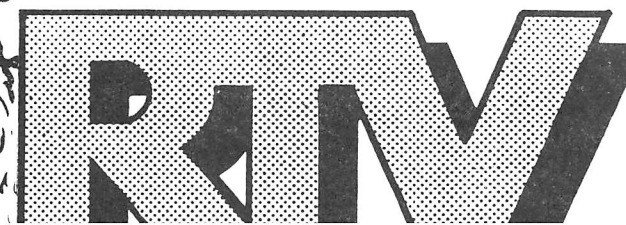
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The Swifts Cub Pack

1994 promises to be an exciting year for all 8-10 year old boys in the Swifts Cub Scouts.

Special activities currently planned are a day camp at John's Lee Wood (real camp fire cooking and all that), a night hike round Beacon Hill, and a day hike at Dove Dale. We will hold a full weekend camp in June, the same month in which we will challenge the Brownies to rounders.

Late October is very special as 2000 or so Leicestershire Cubs will take over Bultins at Skegness for what promises to be a brilliant weekend.

A fund raising parents evening at Easter gives us a chance to entertain friends of the pack for an evening. As well as all this will be the usual sports day, cross country, five-a-side football and swimming gala.

During the regular one and a half hours each Thursday pack night, our cubs will learn a very wide range of subjects and play many individual and team games. Above all, our boys will have fun as well as learn lots of ways to keep having fun.

If you are a parent with a boy aged 8 or 9 who might like to be a cub scout, or you are that age yourself and you like what you have read, please give Trevor Sleath a call on 395606.

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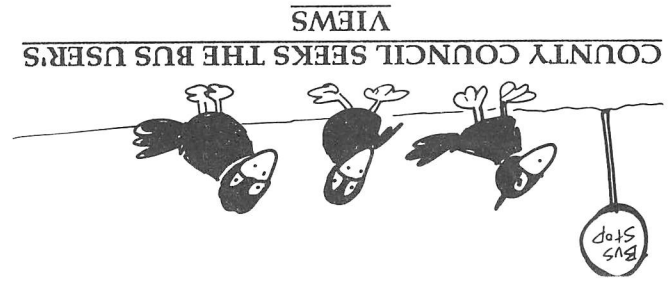
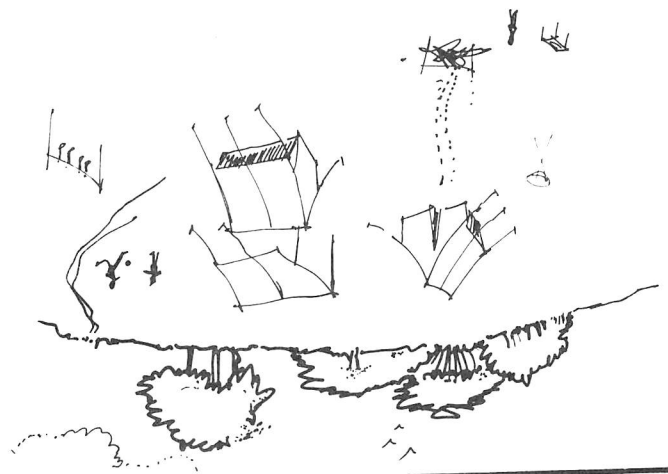
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COUNTY COUNCIL SEEKS THE BUS USERS VIEWS

Leicestershire County Council is inviting applications from regular bus users to join its Bus Users Panel and influence the way bus services in Leicestershire are operated.

County Councillor Ron Adams, Chairman of the Panel, explains :

" The Bus Users Panel has been operating successfully for two years, helping the County Council to understand what bus passengers really want from their services. Panel members tell us their views on a whole range of concerns, from such things as bus drivers giving change right through to helping partially sighted people use St Margaret's Bus Station. Bus company representatives serve on the Panel and many problems can be taken up by them straight away; other matters go back to the County Council to consider. "

" Now we are looking for some new members to serve on the Panel. Anyone can put their name forward; all they need to be is a regular bus user (using buses at least once a week) and willing to come to early evening meetings in the centre of Leicester four times a year. In return they will have the opportunity to express their views and help bring about improvements in the county's bus services. I hope plenty of people will put their names forward. "

Anyone interested is asked to contact Geoff Cave in the County Secretary's Department at County Hall on Leicester (0533) 656016.

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Ratby Village Society

FEBRUARY & MARCH EVENTS

Tuesday 15th February at 8 o'clock ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, open to members of the public
Followed at 9.00pm by a Members Supper.

Thursday 31st March at 7 o'clock A visit by the Radio Leicester "Down to Earth" team to record a programme for broadcasting on Saturday 9th April
Visitors are welcome but please come early for a 7.30pm start.

Normal meetings in the Welfare Hall, Main St, Ratby at 8.0 pm. All welcome to attend.

3

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Ratby Parish Council

Bus Services

The Parish Council is very concerned at the recent changes and has been lobbying the bus companies to try and maintain good public transport services for the village.

Christmas Shop Window Display Competition

Results were as follows:

- 1st Johnsons Stores, Stamford Street
- 2nd Porters Carpets, Station Road
- 3rd Freemans Butchers, Main Street

Congratulations to all.

Spring Front Gardens Competition

Judging will take place during the week commencing Monday 11th April, this year. Nominations to the Clerk by Monday 4th April please, and nominees will be notified. Do not forget that the judge is not only looking for floral display, but good 'structural' planting of shrubs etc., condition of plants and a generally well maintained garden.

Hedge Laying, Tree planting and Bulbs

Work is nearing completion and the hedges at Cottages Walk and Ferndale Drive play area have been laid. Also many new trees have been planted in various corners of the play area, and around the village on grass verge areas. We very much hope that these will thrive and would appreciate the co-operation of parents in educating their children about the importance of not damaging trees and other plants. The Parish Council has purchased several new bulbs and gratefully acknowledge the work of the Village Society and other local groups in planting them. These will add welcome splashes of colour around the village for all to enjoy, so please children - don't pick them.



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New Mounds, Ferndale Drive play area

To provide better growing conditions for the new wild flower meadow, we were advised to have the top four inches of top soil removed from the land. After much debate, it was agreed not to remove the soil from the site (which would have been very expensive) but create the mounds. This will help separate the football pitch from the play equipment, provide a wind break and make the area more interesting, visually.

Planning permission had to be obtained for the mounds. The soil has now been consolidated and planting of a variety of bushes on the mounds is nearly complete. As the planting matures, it will also add variety to the wildlife habitats, providing shelter and food for birds etc.

The whole of the play area is the responsibility of the Parish Council and while every effort is made to keep it tidy and safe, any problems noticed by the public should be reported to the Clerk to the Council on Leicester 392817. Ruts in the grass will be levelled and re-seeded when the ground is dry enough. Dog owners are again requested to please clear up and safely dispose of dog mess from this area (and all public areas of the village).

Disabled Access Problems?

Any suggestions for improvements in the village would be welcomed, comments to the Parish Clerk please.

Parish Precept

The precept for the year 1994/95 has been set at £25,000.

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POLICE

The Beaumont Police/Community Consultative Committee will be holding a Public meeting at the St Peters Church Centre, Church Road, Glenfield on Wednesday 9th March 1994, 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. During the course of the meeting a presentation will be given on the Group 4 Escort Service.

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, Supt. P McHugh.

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NEW LOOK FOR ANNUAL REPORT

Leicestershire County Council has published its fact-filled annual report for the period 1992/93.

The report is full of information about the council and its services - but this year has been produced in a more popular magazine style. The report is easier to read and has a more attractive layout than previous years.

Copies of the annual report have been widely circulated throughout Leicestershire and are available from all libraries and County Council Service Shops. It has been produced by the Public Relations Unit at County Hall, telephone Leicester 656274.



Dear Sir

Reading "Wot Next?" in the December issue of Wot, I was horrified to read that Kirby Muxloe residents are calling for a road to be build along the Rothley Brook valley.

I know you will keep us informed and I, for one, will strongly oppose this, or any other new road. Ratby has had enough upheaval and I want the village kept as a village and any construction between the villages suggests a joining of villages in the future which must be opposed.

Yours faithfully

Mrs P J Harrison

Dear Wot,

Do you have any fond memories associated with the Ratby Church Rooms? Any special events/any photographs which could be borrowed?

In August of this year the Church rooms will be 100 years old. It would therefore be excellent if we could organise an exhibition, and possibly publish a booklet to celebrate.

A big thank you to everyone who helped with fund raising for the Church Rooms' re-roofing. We hope to refurbish both the interior and exterior over the forthcoming months. All help and donations gratefully received.

Thank you.

Please contact me:

Alan Spencer
Parish Church Warden
"Weatherbury"
45 Danehill
Ratby
Leics
LE6 ONG



Could I, through the pages of the "WOT", say 'Thank You' to the men who have worked so hard to tidy up our churchyard. It hasn't gone unnoticed and I'm sure there are many like me who appreciate your efforts.

Well done!

Margaret Green

Editors Comment:

Knowing what the work entails, an impressive job,

Dear Editor,

Urgent!

Is there an auditor in Ratby or surrounding area who would be willing to audit the books of the Old Peoples' Welfare Committee each year at a reasonable fee. Also found in the Welfare Hall a set of keys and a silver pen. Anyone lost these then please contact Mrs June Sharp the Caretaker on Leic. 395177.

Mrs C Lopez
Secretary

Dear Wot! Readers,

Buses

You have probably read in the Leicester Mercury that bus fares are to go up in February. This is as a result of the increased tax on fuel. The Government could have made Public Transport exempt from the additional tax. They chose not to, despite their claims to be environmentally friendly. Surely we should be doing everything possible to encourage the use of buses?

Timetables for our circular route are also to be changed on 7th. February, to reflect the increased journey time around the new By-pass roundabout. Midland Fox are no longer including Markfield Road in their route because it is not profitable.

None of this continual change inspires confidence in the bus service.

I for one am writing to our M.P.

Sue Boud

GREEN
TOKENS
TAKEN

PIP'S

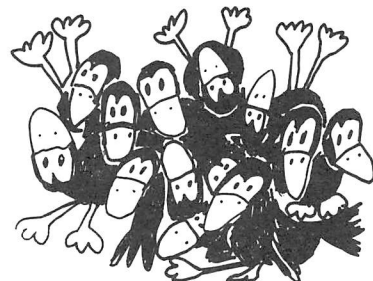
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LUTON AIRPORT	£31	CROMER	£68



A conversation that took place in the last few weeks may just be of interest to you, and therefore worth reporting. In a nutshell, the question being asked was whether Wot! is coming to its natural end. The reason for the question is that the few who 'do it' are, like many others, very busy people and do not have the spare time to both put the paper together and either write most of the articles or spend endless hours looking for and chasing to get articles in on time from 'pressed men' (and women). Could you provide an article, or even a regular column, which is of interest to people in the village (not just a list of your groups forthcoming events) or report on things that have happened locally? If you feel you can please phone Martin on 395179. Without input the answer to the enquirer's question is YES!

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Ratby Primary School Association Christmas Curtain Raiser

Pictured are a group of children from the Infant classes who sang a selection of Christmas songs to entertain the customers!

A total of £460 was raised from the stalls and games. Father Christmas was present, and every child had a chance to talk to him!

The money raised will go towards providing new play equipment in the playground.

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Thankyou!



The Annual Brookvale sponsored walk held late last year has now been proved to be a great success. Over 600 students and teachers took part on the long walk from Brookvale to the ruins in Bradgate Park and back.

All of the proceeds were to go towards buying new lockers for the students. With all of the money now in the final count showed that over £2000 was raised! Well done to the participants and thankyou to all of their sponsors!



Photo by Sylvia Grant

The Plough Inn

FEBRUARY SPECIAL

A MEAL FOR TWO

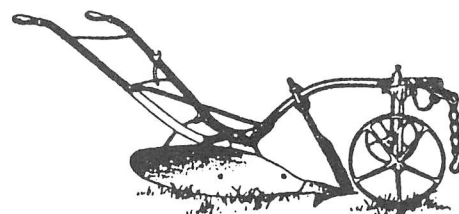
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Ratby Co-operative Band "Crowpie Carnival"

August 13th 1994 at 2 p.m.
on the Ferndale Playing fields

There will be a parade from 1 p.m. around the village and any organisations wishing to take part or would like further information should contact the following: Kaye Root on 386989 or Dave Marshall on 874430.



Mums and Toddlers

A group of five Ratby Mums have taken over the Mother and Toddlers Club! Everyone is welcome to come along and bring their young children to play. The club is held every Tuesday afternoon from 2 p.m. - 3 p.m. in the Church Rooms, Church Lane.

Pictured are, Lisa Howels, Lyn Holt, Carol Agar, Helen Bird and Lesley Allen, with their children at the Christmas Party.



Photo by Sylvia Grant

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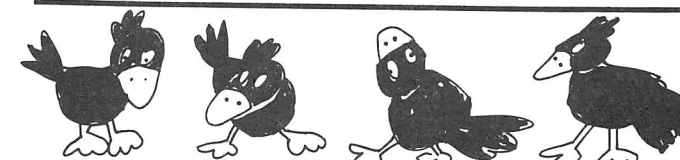
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Janet's

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After Christmas came the New Year and resolutions.

One of mine was all tied up with some of my Christmas reading, the book responsible was "Over the Hills" by W. Keble Martin. It is the autobiography of the Vicar who's life work was "The Concise British Flora in Colour". There are 1486 species illustrated on 100 plates, all completed by one man!

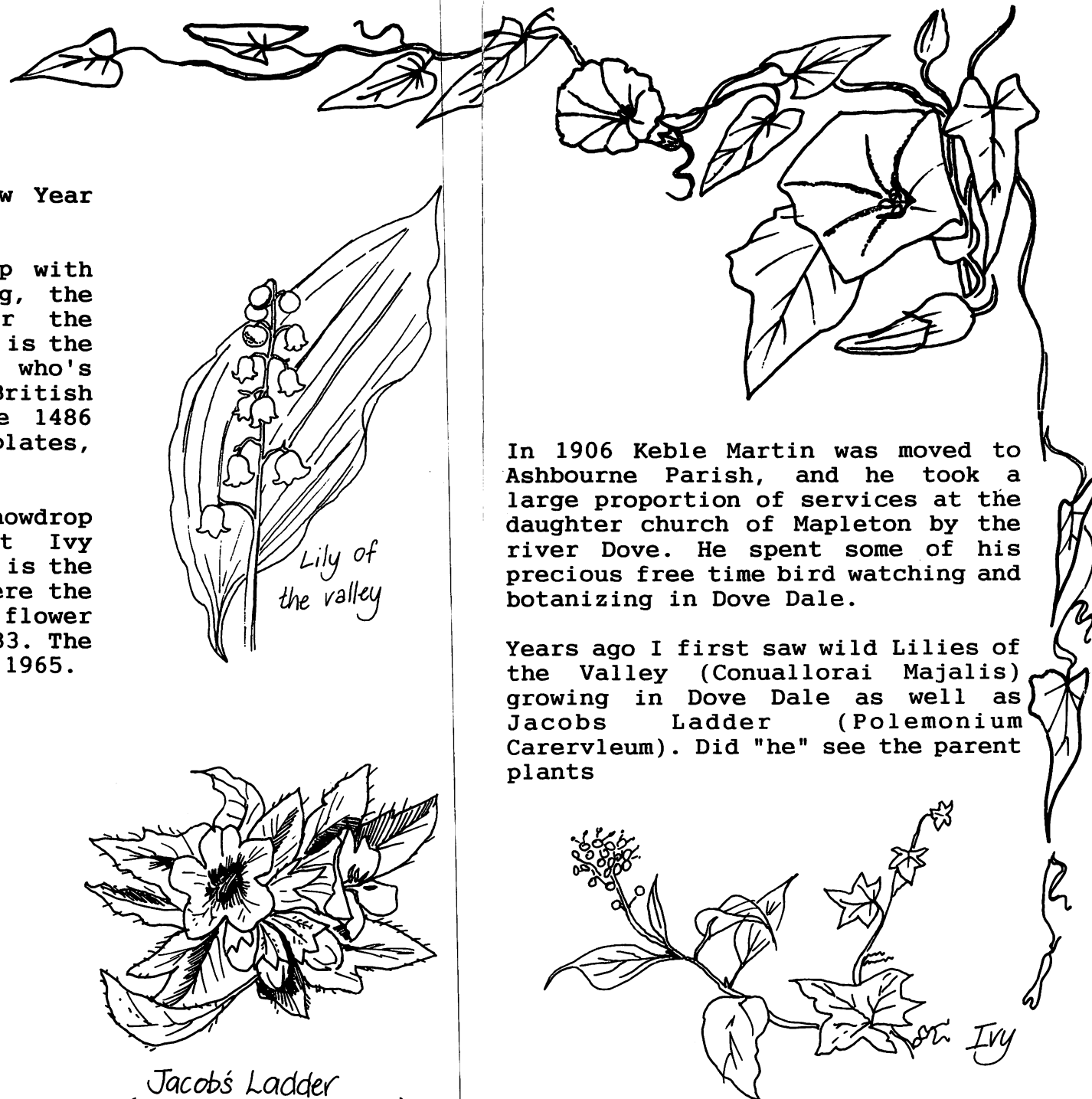
The first drawing of a Snowdrop (*Galanthus Nivalis*) against Ivy Leaves was made in 1899. This is the only drawing in the flora where the leaves are not related to the flower and it may be found on Plate 83. The flora was first published in 1965.



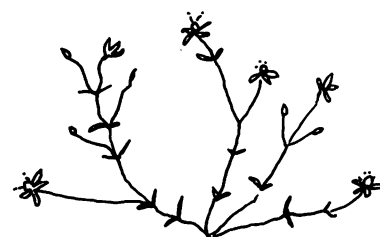
Snowdrop

I was fascinated by the autobiography. Well known place names kept appearing in the text, hence my resolution, to visit these places at the appropriate time of year to see if I too can find the plants in situ.

On plate 16 are 8 pearl worts, Ciliate Pearl Wort (*Sagina Ciliata*) was found in Nanpanton woods, on a



Jacob's Ladder
(*Polemonium caeruleum*.)



In 1906 Keble Martin was moved to Ashbourne Parish, and he took a large proportion of services at the daughter church of Mapleton by the river Dove. He spent some of his precious free time bird watching and botanizing in Dove Dale.

Years ago I first saw wild Lilies of the Valley (*Conuallorai Majalis*) growing in Dove Dale as well as Jacobs Ladder (*Polemonium Carervleum*). Did "he" see the parent plants

This year I have already seen Snowdrops and Aconites in flower. The Snowdrop is the flower that represents purity. Have you noticed some church yards are covered with these beautiful flowers and some others none at all, even if the foundation dates of the churches are similar. Could this mean the churches with Snowdrops growing have monastic origins and the ones without Snowdrops have manorial origins; or is it due to the acidity of the soil in specific areas? How I



BUYING A USED CAR

The Leicestershire County Council's Trading Standards Department has recorded an increase in the number of consumer complaints relating to second-hand cars. In the last six months they have received 484 complaints which is an increase of 13% on this time last year.

The complaints range from vehicles having relatively minor faults, to vehicles being unroadworthy and even two different vehicles being welded together.

The Trading Standards Department advises consumers to be careful when purchasing second-hand cars; they should try to take someone with them who has mechanical experience or even purchase a report from a motoring organisation who will conduct a check on the vehicle for a reasonable cost. The Department stresses that a modest examination fee is a relatively low price to pay when you may be investing hundreds or even thousands of pounds on your purchase.

The Department advises consumers to ask questions relating to the car's history such as :-

has the vehicle been in a major road accident?
has the vehicle been an insurance write off?
is there any outstanding finance?

Consumers should be aware that when they purchase cars privately they reduce their protection drastically and are only able to rely on misrepresentations such as "Excellent condition for year" when clearly it is not when compared with others of the same year and similar mileage.

Auctions are another area where the private consumer can find their rights taken away, this is because auctions are not considered to be retail sales and the auction can place restrictive terms on the agreement. It is also more difficult to trace the seller if things are wrong with the car.

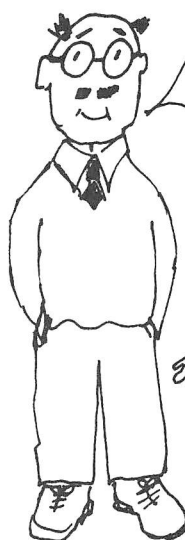
The Trading Standards Department has advisory leaflets entitled "Used Cars" and "What Shall I Do Now?" which are available to consumers free of charge; these can be obtained from the Duty

children's
page

Where was Grandma
when the lights went
out?



In the dark!



What did the father ghost say to his son?

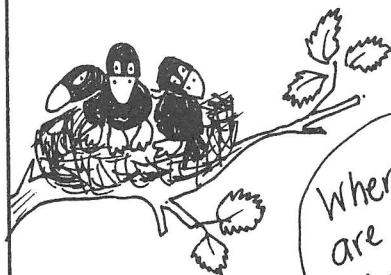


Spook when
you're
spooked
to!



What happened to the cat who swallowed a ball of wool?

she had mittens!



please
leave your
drawings in
the library box

Where are you going Mum?

To the doctors
- I don't like
the look of
your
sister

do you
know any
jokes
about
families?



A cartoon drawing of a boy with a surprised expression, saying, "I'll come... I don't like the look of her either".

I.A., I.T.E.C. and C.I.D.E.S.C.O. qualified.
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LAMBSKINS
BOWRON



**121/3 STATION ROAD
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The Rev. Michael Hardy and his wife, Audrey, have moved into the former Rectory and are settling down in their new home. Michael Hardy is a relative newcomer to the "Cloth" having been ordained in 1986.

He was born in London but has lived in Pembrokeshire, Northampton and Kirby Muxloe before ordination. Michael is a young 60 year old, having spent his "working" life at Woolworths, Wolsey Ltd. and Montfort Knitting Mills.

In 1984 he joined the Diocesan Board for Social Responsibility as Project Co-ordinator of the diocesan response to unemployment leaving there to attend Queen's Theological College in Birmingham. This is an ecumenical college where Anglicans, Methodists and Members of the United Reformed Church train together for the Ministry. Whilst at Kirby Muxloe, Michael was an active member of St. Bartholomew's Church serving on the Church Council and as Churchwarden.

After ordination he served at St. James the Greater, London Road, Leicester as assistant Curate and in 1988 moved to Arnesby with Shearsby and Bruntingthorpe as Rector. In 1991 he became Rural Dean of Guthlaxton I.

Michael is married to Audrey and they have 3 grown-up children, Matthew (married with 4 children), Joanna (married with one daughter) and Sarah who is shortly returning to England from Malaysia.

They are also pet lovers and own a tabby cat called Sam. Both Michael and Audrey enjoy walking, singing and amateur dramatics. Audrey being a former member of the Kirby Players is now a keen W.I. member, whilst Michael is an avid 'Tigers' supporter!

If you were unable to attend the licensing service on 1st February you are welcome to attend any of the Sunday Church Services (8 a.m./10.40 a.m./6 p.m.), where you will be able to meet your new vicar. Fellowship has now been extended after each family service (1st Sunday in each month) to include light refreshments in the Church Rooms after the Service. Additionally the Church has various group activities including Sunday School for 3 years plus.

The Church in Ratby is changing dramatically, the new team ministry will mean that all 3 clergy will work together with lay people to provide help and support for evangelism in the 1990's.

There is also to be a Valentine's Disco (70's style) on Saturday 12th February from 7.30 onwards. Prizes will be awarded for the best 70's outfits and everyone will be most welcome to attend. It is hoped that this will be another opportunity for parishioners to meet Michael and Audrey. The entrance fee is £1.50 adults/£1.00 children with proceeds going towards the Church Rooms' refurbishment - where it is hoped to start work on the kitchen soon!

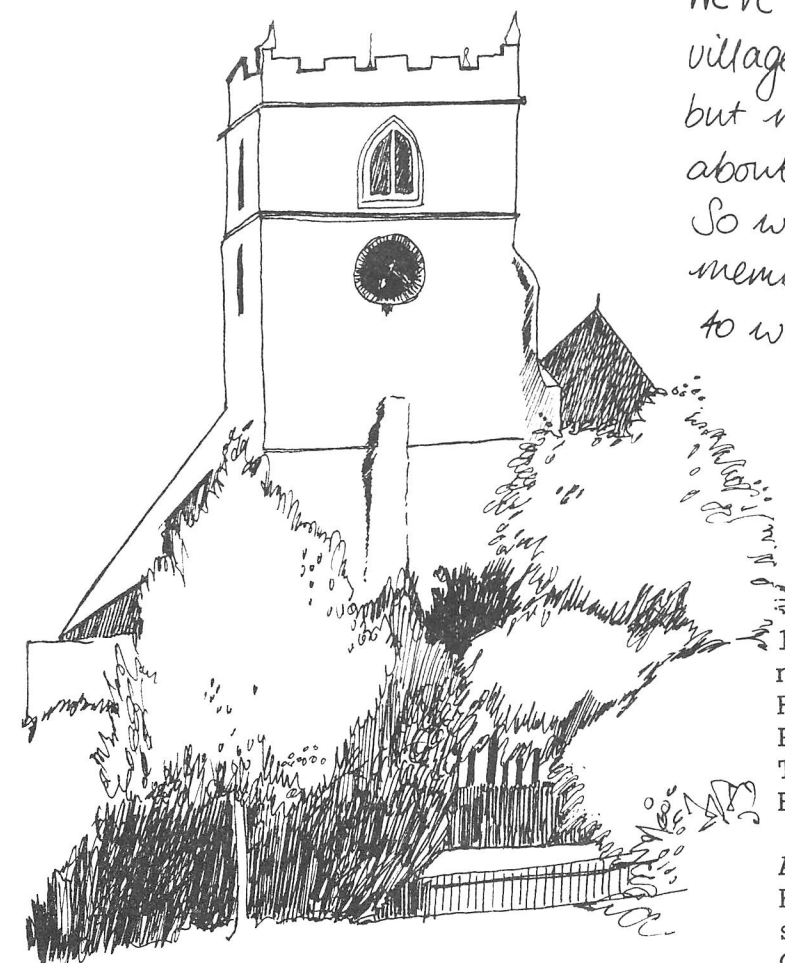
Later on 12th March Sunday School are holding their annual Spring Fayre, so make a date in your diaries for all these events.

Diane Spencer

Ratby Fish Bar

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We've heard people talking in the village about the arrival of the new vicar, but nobody seemed to know very much about him.

So we asked Mrs Diane Spencer, a member of the Parochial Church Council to write us this article.

May we introduce you to the Rev. Michael Hardy....

1st February saw the arrival of the new Team Vicar, Rev. Michael Hardy. Rev. Hardy was licensed at Ratby Parish Church, together with Rev. Tony Leighton as Team Rector by The Bishop of Leicester at 7.30 p.m.

After the Service, residents of Ratby and Groby who attended were served with refreshments at the Church Rooms.

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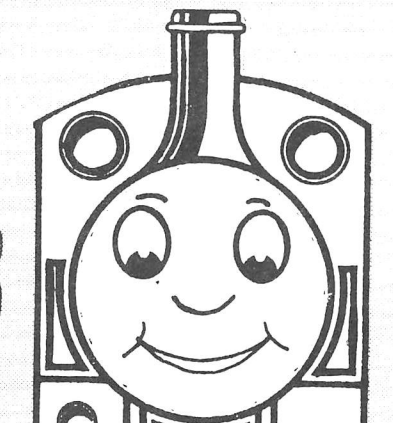
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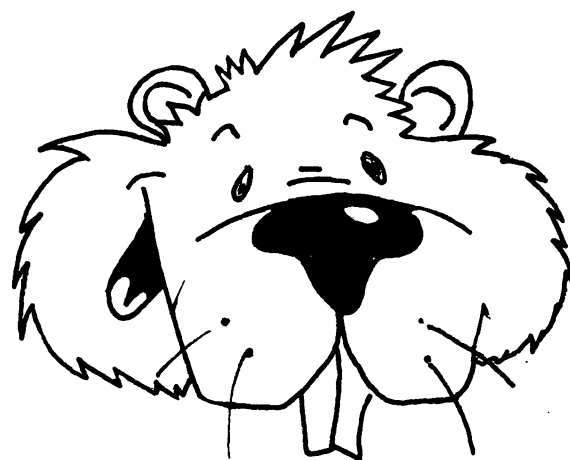
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1st RATBY BEAVERS

WATCH OUT CHEEKY CHARLIES ABOUT!



Welcome to 1994 but beware!

Ratby Beavers are joining in Charlies Crazy Colony Challenge.

Charlie's here to challenge all Leicestershire Beaver Scout Colonies and the crazier the challenge the better, we have to choose six challenges, either from the twelve Charlie has given us as a guide, or ones Beavers or friends choose themselves, of course the challenge must begin with a "C" i.e. Crazy Cooks, Crazy Creepy Crawly, Crazy Cosmic etc. You may be asked to join in one of our challenges, or you may be asked for a Crazy "C" idea. This challenge goes on all year round, so if you see a Beaver ask what crazy challenge he's doing. We want to be in the news, in the press, the more times the better, this hopefully will promote Scouting as a whole, so keep watching for Ratby Crazy Beavers, and if you can think of a really CRAZY challenge please contact us, let's have all Ratby involved.

From all the Crazy Beaver Leaders.

Kit Badger Rabbit Tiger Kaa Squirrel

CRAZY

OAK APPLE DAY

You may remember an article in the June 1993 issue of Wot! in which Mrs Margaret Green reminisced about her school days at Ratby Primary. She recalled: "On Oak Apple Day girls had an oak leaf pinned to their clothes. If they didn't wear one the boys were allowed to run them with a stinging nettle."

Browsing through my copy of Lore and Language of Schoolchildren* I came across a reference to this tradition. In parts of the North Country and the North Midlands this tradition was still upheld amongst children in 1959, when the book was published.

In some places a sprig of oak was protection, but, in others, it was essential for the twig to bear an oak apple.

In Cheshire, apparently, Twelve O'clock was 'legging down time' and for the rest of the day it was practice to trip anyone up who was caught unawares. The oak leaf was no longer protection!

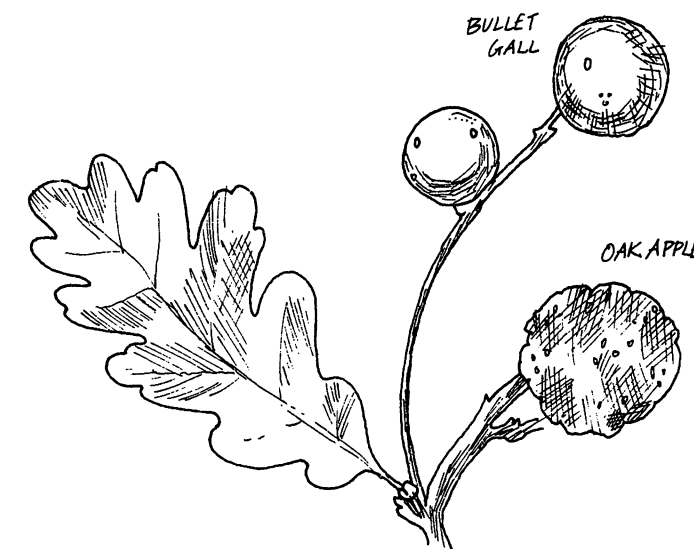
Children in some parts of the country used to chant:-

Twenty-ninth of May
Royal Oak Day
If you don't give us a holiday
We all run away

Who says children are naughtier today?

Could someone explain why it was the girls who were chased and stung? If the game was revived today would the rules change to meet equal opportunity requirements?

May 29th, Oak Apple or Royal Oak Day is the anniversary of the restoration of King Charles II. The oak leaves are, of course, a reminder of the occasion when Charles II hid in an oak tree. This



Oak galls are caused by the Gall wasp. The female wasp pierces the tissue of twig, bud or leaf, and lays her eggs in the cavity. The gall forms around the eggs.

event took place on September 6th 1651, at Boscobel, near Shifnal in Shropshire. (Now a part of Telford.)

Charles II took refuge in Boscobel House, the home of Thomas Penderell and his four brothers, after his defeat at Worcester.

Apparently the brothers disguised the King in their clothes, and concealed him for several days in the house and the adjoining wood.

Whilst hiding in an oak tree he saw his pursuers passing by.

A tree, known as the Royal Oak, said to have sprung from an acorn of the original tree, is still standing in the wood.

* The Lore and Language of Schoolchildren by Iona & Peter Opie.

TO SEEK THE PAST

The majority of one's ancestors, most people will find, were humble folk. They were individuals whose lives passed from childhood to maturity and old age without them making a mark upon the history of the world. Their being is only testified to by the fact that they were our ancestors.

So how does the researcher learn anything about these unsung human beings, whose names are not recounted in the annals of the nation? How may the family historian discover the human chain that links us to the past? In previous editions of 'Wot' we have discussed how civil records and census returns can be used as an aid in establishing a family history. As explained, these records merely link us to the last century. In order to progress research further into the mists of time the avid genealogist will have recourse to the records of the parish church.

Parish records are very many, but here we will consider church registers alone, these may date from the year 1538. It was in that year that Thomas Cromwell, who was Vicar General to Henry VIII, made an order that all baptisms, marriages and burials which occur in a parish should be recorded. However, many parishes are unable to boast records from this date due to various Acts of Parliament which reformed and revised the keeping of parish registers, although a large number of parishes do have records which date from the reign of Queen Elizabeth I.

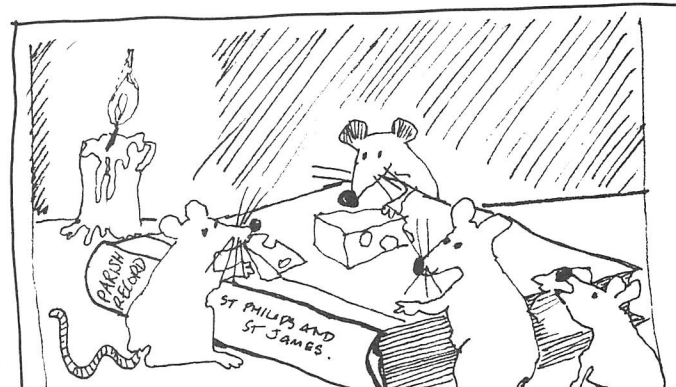
From 1598 the possibility of detecting a record of an ancestor is increased for a further Act required that register transcripts or copies were to be sent to the Bishop's office. Often these Bishop's transcripts have survived where the original registers have not. Parish registers were supposed to be kept secure in a parish chest or coffer. However, as today, sometimes records destroyed by fire or flood.

Today, we are fortunate that most surviving parish records are now carefully preserved as part of the nation's rich documentary heritage. The majority of Leicestershire parish records and Bishop's transcripts are now housed at the County Record Office, Wigston.

The time periods covered by parish records reflect on the past. Many registers were irregularly kept during the Commonwealth period, 1658-1660. In some parishes it will be found that register keeping was abandoned altogether in favour of an early form of civil registration. With the death of Oliver Cromwell (whose forebear, incidentally, took the family name as a devotion to Thomas Cromwell) and the restoration of Charles II, parish register keeping was again renewed.

Until the mid 18th century registers remained largely unchanged in format, that is baptisms, marriages and burials were recorded in one volume. However, the nature of individual registers varies enormously, both physically and in the type of detail they contain. Some parish incumbents took pride in their records, the handwriting at some times being most elegant and of a quality that any present day calligrapher would admire. Some vicars annotated their registers with details relating to notable events which occurred in the parish.

During 1771 the incumbent at Bruntingthorpe recorded details of how 'one morning the sarvent girl (at the parsonage) was heating ye oven and there was a crack in ye



VENTURE SCOUTS

Congratulations to David Hardy, Justin Garratt and Andrew Clarke who are the first Ratby Ventures to gain the Venture Scout Award. The award took over a year to complete and consisted of some quite difficult challenges. Not just camping and scouting things but working with the community, with the environment and organising the odd barn dance. Even though it was hard work I am sure that all three of them enjoyed themselves achieving the award.

So on the behalf of everyone at Ventures I would like to say, "well done" to David, Justin and Andrew. I hope there will be many more Ventures gaining this award in the future.

Thanks go to all who made their achievement possible.

Lara Gumley
Assistant Venture Leader.

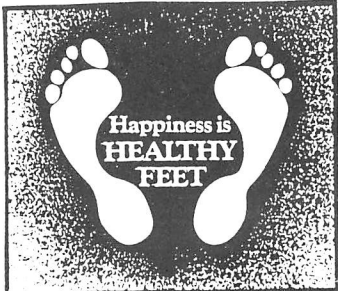
Editors note:-
Ventures age group is 15 to 20 years.
So they can't all be bad.
Hanging around street corners isn't compulsory!



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1st RATBY SWALLOWS CUB PACK

LEICESTER WEST DISTRICT CUB SWIMMING GALA



At the gala held at Cossington Street Baths on 27th Nov the pack did very well, finishing in 3rd place. This is the highest position that they have ever achieved. The certificate received now hangs over the notice board in the Chapel Rooms.

A total of 12 cub packs took part with each team swimming in heats to determine the six fastest for the finals.

Team members, positions & medals.

NAME	EVENT	POSITION IN HEAT	POSITION IN FINAL	MEDAL
J. Jackson	U/9 Breast Stroke	1st	= 1st	Gold
P. Freer	U/10 " "	1st	2nd	Silver
A. Woodward	U/11 " "	2nd	3rd	Bronze
J. Jackson	U/9 Freestyle	4th		
P. Freer	U/10 "	5th		
D. Root	U/11 "	3rd	5th	
D. Root	In PJ's	4th	6th	
I. Macroe	U10 Relay			
J. Jackson	U10 Relay	2nd	3rd	Bronze
G. Root	U10 Relay			
J. McKellican	U10 Relay			
P. Freer	U11 Relay			
A. Woodward	U11 Relay	4th	5th	
S. Foxon	U11 Relay			
D. Root	U11 relay			

Many thanks to all the parents who came along and cheered the team on. Thanks also go to John Broome Assistant District Commissioner Cubs and his team for organising the event.

The leaders would like to congratulate the team members who certainly,

QUERY DESK

QUESTION: I have tried to find a gravestone in a large parish churchyard in the county, but have been unable to locate the same. The gravestone belongs to one of my forebears and is known to exist. It was seen by a relative some years ago. Since that time the gravestones have been re-arranged. Are plans of churchyards available?

ANSWER: Some years ago a number of county Women's Institute (WI) groups made plans of gravestones in their parish churchyards, together with transcriptions of individual details from each stone. Not all parishes were covered and some were catalogued more precisely than others. The Leicestershire Family History Society has also surveyed a number of church and chapel yards. The plans and details of which have been produced and are available at the County Record Office, Wigston.

Mark

HELP!



Preparations for the Brookvale Summer Fair on June 12th. are already well under way. A huge amount of advance planning and hard work goes into events of this sort to make them an enjoyable afternoon for all those who come along, as well as a successful fund raiser. Another essential ingredient is help from within the community. Could you perhaps pledge to provide a plant or two for the plant stall? If you can phone Martin on 395179. The PTA are also asking for anyone who can to accumulate all that they can to help. Perhaps by baking an extra cake for the freezer, collecting brick-a-brac, books etc. They also need bottles for the bottle stall, tombola prizes, raffle prizes and, of course, people willing to help on the stalls.

They would like to have a caricaturist, metal detectors, a pop corn or candy floss machine and groups who could put on displays.

If you can help with any of these things, or offer new ideas, please phone Trish Woods (L.876897) and tell her you are responding to the appeal in Wot! (With no Ratby parents offering to help on the PTA Committee they must wonder how much we care about our kids. This is a good way to show

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TO SEEK THE PAST

CONTINUED

oven and a woden post aganst it and so the fire catch the post and so set the whol house on fire'. Others recorded even more impressive occurrences. The vicar of Fleckney recorded that one pound thirteen shillings had been collected 'for the fyre at London, Nov. 3. 1666'.

Some clergy went so far as to record their own personal opinions about members of their congregation. Normally set against burial entries, such notes are often impolite. The vicar at Ashby Magna, during 1605, recorded the baptism of 'William Mallet, alias Patchet, ye sonne of an harlott'.

Whilst other snippets of information reflect that the records really do relate to flesh and blood people. Medbourne parish registers record on June 6th 1648 the burial of 'Elizabeth wife of Edward Goodman barbarously murthered by her husband, the 15 day in the morn for which he suffered Death at Leicester'.

Some registers may also be found carefully indexed, although indexes should not always be relied upon.

In 1754 Hardwicke's Marriage Act came into force, this aimed to regulate improper marriages, which were often being carried out in unsanctified places and in a lax fashion, often by dissolute clergymen. Two features of the Act were the requirements to notify an intention of marriage by the calling of Banns or the acquisition of a Licence. Banns were to be read in the parishes of both the bride and groom and recorded in a register held at each church. It is clear then that these books, where they exist, are useful as they record marriages which may have taken place in a far flung place, which in the normal course of research would be difficult to locate.

The next major alteration in the keeping of parish registers came

with Rose's Act of 1812. This required that individual registers should be kept for different events, i.e. baptisms, marriages and burials. From this time the researcher will find that most parishes began to use pre-printed registers within which details were recorded. The details being neatly formalised and of greater use to the researcher.

From the introduction of civil registration during 1837, national indexes of births, marriages and deaths are available to the researcher. However, as vicars and others were empowered as registrars for marriages the parish church records reflect that aspect of civil registration. The church marriage registers being of the same form and style as the civil registration document.

The information gleaned from parish registers should always be carefully checked. The availability of records can always be checked by telephoning the archive office which covers the area of the country in which one is interested. A very useful guide to the whereabouts of parish registers is the 'Phillimore ATLAS and INDEX of Parish Registers', published by Phillimore and Co. in 1984 (ISBN 0 85033 398 9). This is available in many larger libraries, or indeed for purchase from bookshops.

Mark

Nothing earlier than the Marriage Register from 1754 remains in Ratby apart from a few fragments. The earlier registers were destroyed in a serious fire in about 1753. A later fire caused water and smoke damage to the registers which remained. Baptism and Burial Registers began in 1783.

Ratby Registers from 1624-1812, transcribed and reconstructed by Jonathon Wilshire are available in Ratby Library, in the Local Studies section (929.3).

