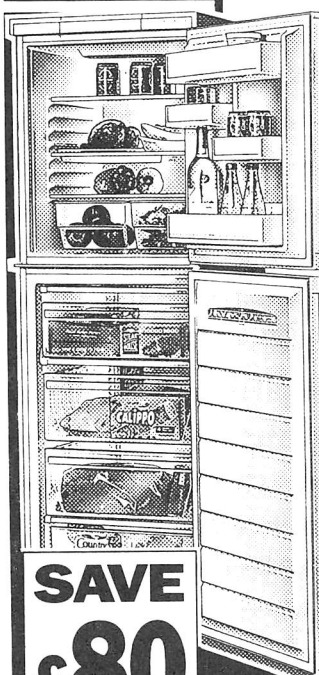


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Issue
 No

50

Wot!
About Ratby

PUBLISHED BY THE RATBY SCOUT GROUP

**SPECIAL
 WOODS
 ISSUE**

**February
 1995**



"WOOD" YOU HELP

RATBY FOLK STUMP UP FOR WOOD

Over a hundred people turned out on a windy cold January 31st night to hear about plans to create a new woodland in Ratby. The Woodland Trust had called the meeting to explain their plan to buy 16 acres of woodland and 75 acres of grassland at Old Hayes Farm.

Amanda Callard, the National Forest Woodland Officer and Stephen Webb, the local fund-raising officer, both of the Woodland Trust told the packed Welfare Hall that there had been a tremendous response from the people of Ratby. The target had been to raise £60,000. Already by the time of the meeting 170 local people had pledged an average of £33.00 per head. Special mention was made of the efforts of Horace Gamble and the Village Society who had persuaded 50 people to pledge between £700 and £800.

The Countryside Commission had offered to increase their first offer of 50% to a 75% grant.

Both the Parish Council and Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council had pledged money to the appeal, £5,000 and £17,000 respectively. Stephen Webb said that these grants were well above the national average.

The County Council would be considering giving some money at their meeting in mid February.

The Woodland Trust only needs to raise another £8,000 to buy the land and preserve it for future generations to enjoy.

Everyone agreed with Stephen Webb when he said that it would be a great shame to let this opportunity go.

If you want to help buy this land you can help in all sorts of ways. You can pledge money yourself. You can persuade others to do so. You can write to Robert Frazer, County Councillor to express your support for the Council's proposed contributions.

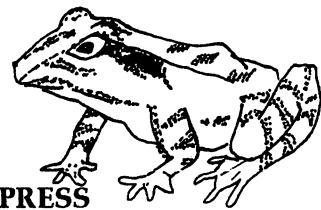
You need to act fast, time for decision is mid-February. Join those villagers who will be able to say proudly to their grandchildren "I helped to create that wood".

Useful addresses of people to contact:

Stephen Webb
 Woodland Trust
 The Gate Lodge
 Hungerford
 Berks, RG17 0TY

Robert Frazer County Councillor
 County Hall
 Glenfield
 Leicestershire.

More woodland news on centre pages.



FROGSPAWN - STOP PRESS

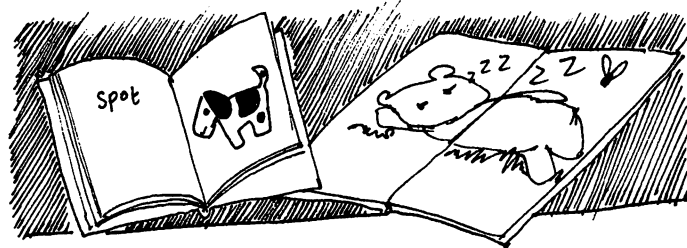
Many Ratby residents find large quantities of frogspawn in their garden ponds each spring. Previously it was considered an environmentally friendly option to transport the surplus to local brooks or wild ponds.

However, a worrying virus is affecting both wild and garden frog populations around the country. Known as "red leg disease" it is fatal and the means by which it is transmitted is not understood fully. A university research program, the 'frog mortality project' are currently advising that frogspawn should not be transported, even between garden ponds to limit virus spread. Excess frogspawn may be left in the pond as natural competition and food availability will limit numbers reaching maturity. In extreme cases spawn may be put on the garden compost heap at the earliest stage possible, but not down the drains!

The disease is characterised by very red colouring of the frog's legs and underside, with unpleasant sores and puffiness and they are obviously very ill. If you find a sick frog like this, please take it to the vet or PDSA for humane destruction. Dead frogs, if found with these symptoms, should be buried in the garden. In either case please help the research project: Jenny Bowen at Environ (tel. 856675) or the County Ecologist (tel. 671950) will have survey forms for the disease. Sometimes frogs naturally have reddish brown markings but it is apparently easy to tell the difference.

Fortunately toads and newts are not affected by the disease. Natterjack toads and great crested newts are protected species, and should not be moved at any stage of their life cycle. If you have smooth newts or common toads in your garden pond and can spare some eggs we would be interested for our garden pond. Generally, Environ advise that no creatures from garden populations be introduced to wild ponds or brooks as this can upset the balance of existing populations.

Iris Hannaford 393672.



STORY TIME in RATBY LIBRARY

Two story and puppet sessions were held in Ratby Library during November. One Tuesday afternoon our librarian Ann Day welcomed library club members and others to the special session. Senior Children's librarian Paul Gobey and colleague Jean delighted children. Jean dressed up as a bear for the popular story "Wake Up Mr. Bear", more stories and rhymes followed. On Wednesday morning it was Pauline's turn to welcome the visitors. This time Paul was joined by librarian Sandy to entertain the Playgroup children and other families with the blend of story, rhyme and puppets.

Both sessions were hugely successful they ended with art and craft activities.

If you missed the story telling this time -- be sure to look out for the next opportunity! Let's hope we don't have to wait too long.

EVERYONE'S JOINING NOW!

Paul Gobey has also spent some time introducing the library to Ratby School children. Every class was taken across the road to the library so that Paul could explain how the library works.

As a result of all this excitement more and more children have been joining the library. The special book display was on show for four or five weeks and the large collection of new books is still there for borrowing. If you haven't joined you are really missing out!

Wouldn't it be great if EVERY child in Ratby was a library member. We might even make it into the Guinness Book of Records!

Lets work on it.

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ISSUE number 50

Wot a milestone, "50 deliverables". I knew eight years ago that it would be a success and always insisted that for anyone involved it would be a long term project.

Does 50 issues mean that Wot is a success? No not really, not enough people in the village are involved. To ensure that we produce another 50 issues, we do need more articles, features and input from the village.

We are very grateful to all of you that have contributed but many 100's enjoy the magazine and never put anything back into it. Whatever you have, I am sure it can be used, you'll even find some "sleaze" in this edition. People are interested in many topics and we do have, "correspondents" who will gladly help you put your thoughts into words. Help keep the magazine going for another 50 editions.

Many of you are quick to complain when you don't receive a copy please be quick to help when we need "copy", like now! Contact numbers are listed throughout the magazine and "the box" is still in the library.

On this momentous issue we wish to thank all the advertisers who have supported us throughout some very tough economic years. Some have been "with us" from issue 1

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Please support them as they have supported us. Many people have been involved with the magazine in various capacities over the years, providing photos, articles, collecting money making court appearances - we thank you all.

However, one couple have been involved since issue one and have unfortunately decided "to call it a day" Gail & Martin Fretter. Special thanks go to Gail and Martin for all their hard work and long hours. Their efforts have made Wot available to you all during the last eight years.

The title "Wot about Ratby" was coined by Martin - so Gail and Martin thanks once again for your help, without you the magazine wouldn't be where it is today, The Scouts certainly wouldn't have had six "Wot" canoes plus many other items for Scouting, I wouldn't know about the small claims court and the Village wouldn't have a public voice. Thanks very much.

Alan Sims, Editor



Congratulations to Ratby "Wot" on your 50th edition, it must be fun living in Ratby being amongst so many interesting people - we have a good giggle whilst typing up some of the funny articles:-

For instance - Hmmmmmm - sorry we couldn't find any.

Whilst pointing a gun at our temple, "your editor", (actual name edited!) passes on to us crumpled up scribbled on bits of paper - still warm from his pocket - and expects us to make sense of them - still we don't often make mistakes mind yue he doesn't notice cause he can't spill eiver.

We'd like to join Beavers if there's any vacancies, especially for the Bar B Q and to see Alan in his short trousers.

The Super Secs from Shirley.

**DEADLINE FOR LETTERS ARTICLES
AND
ADVERTS FOR THE APRIL EDITION
OF WOT! IS THURSDAY 16TH MARCH**

**EDITOR 393367
ARTICLES 394873
ADVERTS 393279 or 394873
LETTERS ETC. TO THE LIBRARY,
3 INGLE DRIVE or 10 GROBY ROAD.**

The views expressed are the views of individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the publishers.

The inclusion of an advertiser in the magazine does not imply a recommendation by Wot! or it's organisers.

Sarah's Mission of Mercy to Romania

WOT readers may have been wondering what happened to Sarah Mellor, whose planned trip to Romania was reported last year. It was the generosity of Ratby people, and 'Mum' Mellor, who lost a few pounds in a sponsored slim that made Sarah's mission of mercy possible.

I hope my account of Sarah's month of harrowing experiences will move others to help those less fortunate than ourselves.

Sylvia Gant

When third year B.Sc. student nurse Sarah Mellor (20) of Nicholas Drive, Ratby left Birmingham University to undertake a mission of mercy and to give up her months holiday in August 1994 to work in a Romanian orphanage, little did she know of the poverty and suffering of the children she was to encounter at Siret.

Sarah discovered that children who can't walk or are disabled in any way and cannot work are not valued by the poor Romanians, so when they took them for walks the children were spat upon by the local people who regarded them as evil.

Sarah said "the 'Infermiaries', the Romanian woman who looked after the children were reluctant to change and implement the feeding programs and supplement the food given to the children with ages ranging up to 22 years which had only been plain tea, no milk or sugar, with added bread at every meal."

"Some children could not walk because at some of the orphanages it had been the practice to tie the children's legs behind their heads and they were left tied for years to make it easier to change their nappies. That had resulted in the children having permanently dislocated hips. One week after her arrival at the orphanage in Siret featured, in the BBC's Challenge Anneka program on television, 'Jacobs Well' the organisation at the orphanage closed down their operations there leaving Sarah and seven other students she met on arrival at Siret to frantically look for another orphanage before being deported.

Eight hours later traveling with goats and chickens, closed windows and unwashed Romanians in a stifling hot railway carriage at 40 degrees centigrade, they arrived in Negro Voda Constanton on the shores of the Black Sea.



Sarah Mellor (20) with Georgie (5) HIV positive playing with 'Sooty' a glove puppet donated by Sarah's brother Ian (15)

"Ray of Hope" and "Babies in Romania", an Irish charity were the only British charities of the 70 in the country giving help and guidance in the 700 orphanages in the country.

Ray of Hope workers met them and introduced Sarah to even more poverty, depravation and cruelty than she had encountered at Siret. Living in a porta cabin with 12 bunk beds infested with flies, a kitchen and shower for the first time, Sarah spent her long working hours playing, talking and teaching the children how to play happily together and teaching the Infermiaries who thought it didn't matter if the children were bored, hurting each other or themselves, to care and be kind to the children.

"Some of the children are teenagers but looked like toddlers because they have never had the nutrition needed to reach puberty and are always going to be small." Said Sarah.

continued on page 6

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**ERIC KEELEY
THE METHODIST MINISTER**

I suppose some of you are wondering why our Methodist Church Minister has had to leave and take early retirement. Over the last 2½ years Rev Eric Keeley has had three serious illnesses and also suffered with shingles. With not being able to gain the necessary health and strength over that time, and still not being able to fulfill his role as a Minister should, he was advised by his Doctor and the Surgeon also the Chairman of the District, Rev E Lacy, to take early retirement, to enable him to build his health and strength back up again. He will still have to have hormone injections for the rest of his life. He would have normally retired next August.

We shall never forget his concern, his love and the time he gave, not only to Church Congregations, but to everyone he met through his work in the ministry.

What will happen now that Rev Keeley has finished and we have no Minister of our own? Well, the two Minister's and the Deaconess left in the Leicester West Circuit will oversee the main functions of our 13 Churches. Three Lay Workers, all Methodist's Local Preachers, will cover most of the pastoral work for each Church in their locality.

Dr. John White will cover Markfield; Mr. Eddy Hughes will cover Anstey & Thurmaston; I will cover Ratby.

All enquiries for Ratby Methodist Church, Baptism's etc., please ring or see Mr. W E Jones, 26 Charnwood, Ratby Tel. 0116 2394432 after April 16th, or until then, 394432 and I will do my best to fulfill your own personal desires and requests.

A new Minister has now been appointed but will not be able to take over his duties until Sunday 3rd September, his name is the Rev Bower, he is 52 years old and comes from Sheffield.

Yours sincerely

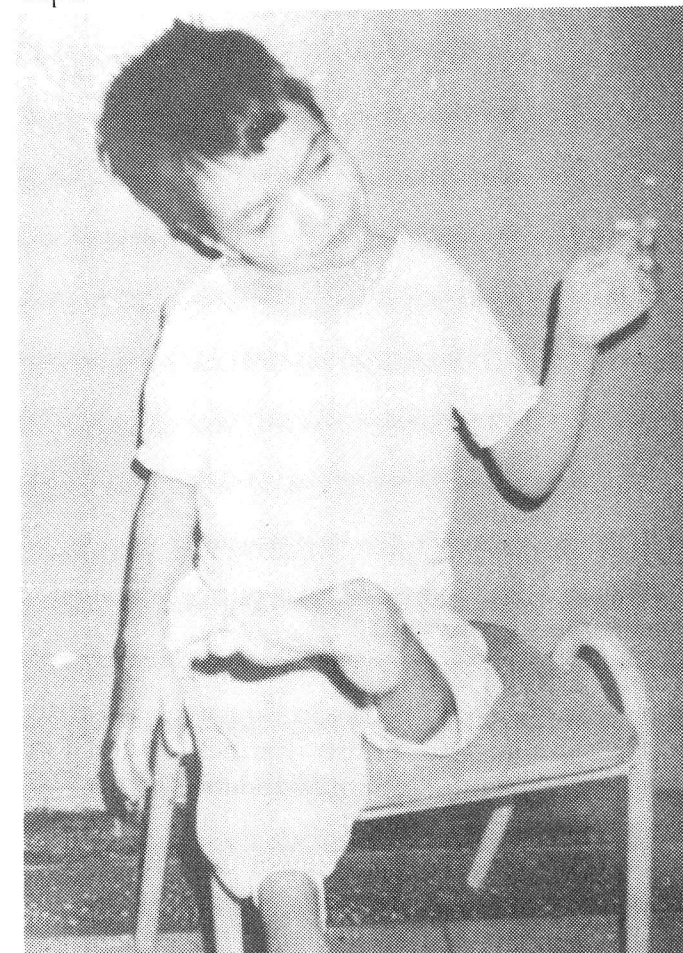
W.E. JONES



A child with Cerebral Palsy which causes body tremors had been punched in the face by an Infermiere for not keeping her head still while being fed, was comforted by Sarah. Later the Infermiere was dismissed.

In a bid to keep three children, who were well enough to read and write at a boarding school for three months longer, Sarah raised 360 dollars in sponsorship by having her hair shaved off for them.

Niki (15) at Negro Voda orphanage unable to walk because for many years his legs were tied behind his head. He now has dislocated hips.



Sarah said, "The children are not fed enough and are lethargic from their poor diet and are always hungry. It is very difficult for them to survive in these type of conditions, where there is a high infant mortality and women often die in labour.

"If I saw children trying to eat a dead animal, a dog which had been run over in the middle of the road in England I would be ill, but in Romania I was anaesthetised. "I have just dealt with it and didn't think that it was strange at all, I even found myself looking around at the incredibly beautiful countryside and thinking oh it's not too bad at all; I coped by not realising how bad it was until I returned to England and thought how awful it was."

Sarah said, "Basically, we need to educate the people as a whole, volunteers want to do so much and only have a short time there. They are only a drop in the ocean really."

My goal in the future after my graduation is to be a permanent volunteer in the under developed countries of the world."

Sarah's footnote is, anyone, whether trained or not, man or woman will be welcomed as a volunteer. If you can spare your time or offer other ways of help, clothing, first aid equipment, surgical gloves and more, contact Ray of Hope, 48 Wimbourne Road, Southsea, Portsmouth, Hants.

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LOTTERY STATISTICS

After twelve weeks of the National Lottery analysing the **six numbers** drawn each week we note that :- 11 numbers have yet to be drawn, i.e. 38 different numbers have been used, however a new number has been picked each week. The 11 unselected numbers are 8, 10, 18, 19, 24, 28, 33, 34, 41, 45, 48.

44 & 38 have been selected four times and eight numbers have been used three times, 3, 5, 16, 17, 30, 31, 32, 42.

A number has, "come out" two consecutive weeks on 5 occasions and on three consecutive weeks once.

Grouping the numbers 1 - 9, 10 - 19, 20 - 29 etc.:

We see that 30 - 39 has provided a number each week, totaling 17, 23.61% of the 72, 1 - 9 has provided 16 but has two weeks where no number came from the range. 40 - 49 has provided 14 20 - 29 13 numbers and 10 - 19 12.

Groups 10 - 19 and 20 - 29 have had four no show weeks.

30 - 39 has provided the highest ratio of the actual numbers chosen with 44.74, with 1 - 9 being the next highest with 42.11.

Should we include the **bonus** or 7th number some what different stats are shown.

Only 8 numbers have not been selected, 8, 18, 19, 24, 33, 34, 41, & 45.

Five numbers have come out four times 16, 30, 31, 38 and 44. Seven three times 3, 5, 6, 17, 21, 32 and 42.

Grouping the numbers as above:-

30 - 39 has provided	20	23.81% of 84
1 - 9	18	21.43%
20 - 29 & 40 - 49	16	19.05%
10 - 19	14	16.67%

Not only that, its cost my family £44, we have won £20, it's totally random so the above means nothing!

Ratby Fish Bar

OPENING TIMES

Traditional English Fish & Chips 392772	<table> <tr> <td>Mon</td> <td>6.00 - 11.30 p.m.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Thurs</td> <td>6.00 - 11.45 p.m.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fri</td> <td>11.30 - 1.30 a.m.</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>5.00 - 12.00 p.m.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sat</td> <td>12.00 - 1.30 a.m.</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>5.00 - 12.00 p.m.</td> </tr> </table>	Mon	6.00 - 11.30 p.m.	Thurs	6.00 - 11.45 p.m.	Fri	11.30 - 1.30 a.m.		5.00 - 12.00 p.m.	Sat	12.00 - 1.30 a.m.		5.00 - 12.00 p.m.
Mon	6.00 - 11.30 p.m.												
Thurs	6.00 - 11.45 p.m.												
Fri	11.30 - 1.30 a.m.												
	5.00 - 12.00 p.m.												
Sat	12.00 - 1.30 a.m.												
	5.00 - 12.00 p.m.												

Mothers Pride



Photo by Sylvia Gant

Margorie Smith of Stamford Street proudly holds a framed photograph of her daughter Mrs. Sharon Warner (29) of Thornton Lane Markfield who has been awarded her B.Sc. Hons degree in Visual Arts at De Monfort University.

Educated at Ratby County Primary School, Brookvale High and Groby Community College. Sharon settled down to married life at the age of 19 while working in the office at Gearys Bakery.

However, with the backing of husband Lee and parents Margorie and Ray Smith she has realised the first step of her dream towards an artistic future.

The Plough Inn

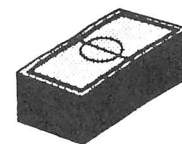
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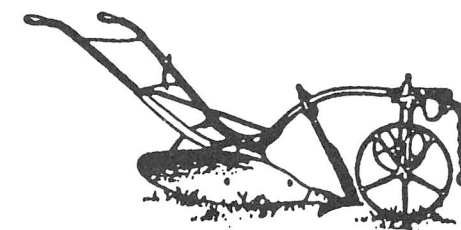
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LEICESTER SWIMMING CLUB

Leicester Swimming Club currently has vacancies for new members. Children of all ages are welcome to join, and can swim with the club six evenings a week. The best swimmers will represent the club in galas. Our members have the opportunity to make new friends within the Club and through our exchange programme with a Dutch club. Parents are encouraged to join in the various activities and participate in running the club. Sessions are held at Spence Street, St Margarets, Winstanley and Barrow upon Soar.

For further information contact:

Alan Fenton, 0533 875398 or
Andrew Morris, 0533 875694



Special Events 1995

The new publications giving details of events in Leicestershire throughout 1995 have been launched by Leicestershire County Council's tourism section.

What's On in Leicestershire has a month by month diary as well as sections on Festivals, Arts Theatre and Sport. There are also details of events in the Civil War Commemoration later this year.

Local Events in Leicestershire is a regularly updated sheet outlining village events such as Open Gardens, Carnivals and Fetes. The tourism section is always interested in hearing about local events, including those in towns.

Both events lists are available at county tourist information centres or from County Hall, telephone (0116) 265 7039.



Christmas Windows Competition

Congratulations to this year winners.

First prize went to Porters for their lovely snow scene.

Joint second were Freemans, and Johnson Stores, and last but not least, Moores.

Christmas Thank Yous

Thank you to Woodland Trust for the supply of a Christmas Tree, to Mr K Mangham for transporting the tree, and to Ratby Scouts for putting the tree in place.

Thanks are also due to Ratby Band and all the villagers who joined the carol service.

Once again the Old Peoples Welfare Committee provided some warming refreshments.

Ratby Parish Council



Proposed Development at former Dunlop Sports Ground

Ratby Parish Council has opposed this plan, and is therefore supporting those who have petitioned against the proposal. Councillor Fraser reported that he had submitted the petition to the full Council meeting on 30th November.

Parish Councillor Iris Hannaford reported on the public meeting held at Groby which focused on the preservation of green wedges. Developers had apparently requested the release of land, particularly the section which will lie between the old and new line of the A50, for housing. Other sites identified by developers are situated between Sacheverell Way and the A46 Leicester Western Bypass, and between Brookvale High School and Sacheverell Way. These two sites would be a contravention of Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council policies.

Summer Holiday Playscheme Grants

The County Council has funding available for summer holiday playschemes. If your organisation is interested in holding a playscheme, contact Sue Talton, Senior Assistant, Commissioning Unit, Social Services Department, County Hall, Glenfield (2657573). A meeting for applicants will be held in this area on Wednesday, 15th March. Time and venue to be announced.

Woodland Trust and Old Hayes

Ratby Parish Council voted to pledge the £2,500 village improvement funds remaining from the 94/95 budget, as well as the £2,500 presented for village improvements for 95/96. The council believes that this will reflect the views of the majority of villagers. If the Woodland Trust are successful this ancient woodland and sites of historic interest will be safeguarded for community use.

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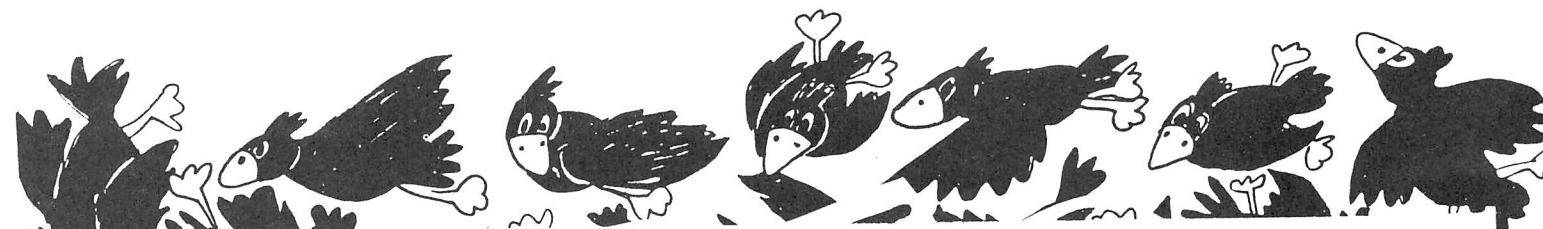
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FANCY COBS REARSBY HEALTH BREAD SESAME COBS & BAPS FUDGE MALT BREAD
SPEKKLE HIGH FIBRE BREAD COTTAGE LOAVES
MALT CRUNCH BREADCOB FARMHOUSE LOAVES WHITE & BROWN COBS and ROLLS & TWINNIES
CHEESE & ONION BREAD

FILLED COBS



A Public Exhibition will be held to show plans for traffic calming proposals for the main roads through Ratby. The Exhibition will be held on Tuesday, 21st February, 1995 in the Welfare Hall, Main Street, Ratby from 3pm until 7pm.

MARTINSHAW WOODS - FORESTRY WORK

Until the end of March, contractors appointed by the Woodland Trust will be working to thin conifers in the smaller part of the wood on the Ratby side of the M1.

A lively meeting on 28th January was attended by 20 members of the public, who all understood the need for this work. The aim is to clear some of the commercial tree crops which are shading out native broadleaf trees. This will enable the oak, ash, birch and hazel trees to have more light and space to develop to their full potential. Wild flowers and other ground flora will also have the opportunity to thrive, as will new tree seedlings. Less thinning will be done close to the motorway to retain a sound and wind break.

The work will be carried out using chainsaws, tractor and trailer, within areas clearly signposted to warn the public. Though the woods will look temporarily untidy, working at this time of year will minimise disturbance to wildlife.

Over the next four winters, conifers will be thinned from areas on the other side of the motorway, working to a long term plan agreed with the Forestry Authority.

Any small balance of money from offsetting sale of timber against the contract cost (careful selective thinning costs more than 'harvesting' large areas) will be reinvested in future woodland management work by the Trust.

Other issues raised by members of the public include:

- Numbers of cyclists and orienteers** - grants from the Sports Council which enables woods to be purchased, were conditional on limited sports access.
- Flooding** - considerable work done last year on drain clearance. As problems have obviously not been solved, further investigation will have to be carried out with the County Council.
- Litter** - particularly a problem to the rear of Groby College. Woodland Trust to correspond with schools on this matter. Meanwhile it was hoped that everyone would help to reduce this problem.

- Car park, Markfield Road** - valid arguments for and against creation of a new car park. No decision to be made yet.
- Creation of new paths** - great concern expressed that proliferation of new paths and diversions around muddy patches was damaging new areas of ground flora and would affect native tree regeneration. Perhaps people, particularly cyclists, would consider voluntarily restricting their own access in muddy conditions (rather than going off the well marked paths) to help reduce this problem. At present funds do not permit extension of the stone paths.
- Ride and ditch maintenance** - some work to be done by contractors, but due to limited funds, the possibility of volunteer work was discussed. Anyone interested in an occasional day's unpaid hard labour? Please phone us on Leic. 393672 (answerphone) and if enough people available we could discuss details of a volunteer program with the Woodland Trust.

Any concerns about the contractors work should be addressed to Amanda Callard at the Woodland Trust/National Forest office tel: 0530 273816.

Should anyone be interested in joining us as volunteer Tree Wardens for Ratby, we would be happy to give further details.

Steve Brown and Iris Hannaford tel. 393672.



continued from front page

Amanda Callard told the meeting about the work of the Trust and how the proposed newly developed woodland would be managed. The first objective would be to provide for access to the site. People would be free to walk on the site and use it for other leisure and recreation purposes. The Trust would enhance the nature and conservation of the site and improve the landscape. Only after all this was done would there be any timber production.

Local people could be involved in all sorts of ways, from commenting on how the site should be designed to helping with planting and being voluntary wardens.

There would be paths and areas of open space for picnics.

PARISH CHAIRMAN GOES ON THE AIR

Charles Rogers, Chairman of the Ratby Parish Council, went on Radio Leicester to promote the woodland Trusts plans for Old Hayes. Interviewed by Colin Green he explained the importance of this land. He said, "The farm is in a delightful countryside setting, and is of considerable historic interest." He told listeners that the area includes the Ratby Burroughs, which was classified as "an ancient semi-natural woodland" by the Nature Conservancy Council in 1983 and has also been identified as an ecological site, significant at County level. The woodland is all that remains of ancient woodland recorded in the Domesday Book in 1086. Charles urged listeners to pledge money for this appeal, and described the Parish Council's own pledge of £5,000 as generous, considering that there are just 2,800 people on the electoral roll.



Photo by Ray Gant.

Photograph taken looking along the top of the Medieval bank which once formed the park pale of a deer enclosure. To the left of the bank is a ditch and the Burroughs Wood. In the summer time harebells can be found growing on this bank. the sheep pasture sloping to the right of the bank forms part of the land the Woodland Trust is hoping to buy. Trees would be planted carefully to retain existing views and glades for picnicking created.

SALE ^{Special} Event

ST. PHILIP & ST. JAMES are holding an Auction Sale on March 18th in the Church Rooms. This is to be a major fund raising event for the church and we need all the support the village can muster!

So, please turn out your lofts, garages, glory holes etc., and look for all those hoarded treasures you no longer require. Items such as furniture, pictures, china, glass, ornaments, kitchen gadgets, garden tools, cycles will all be welcome, the list is endless, but please NO bedding or clothing.

The Auctioneer will be Mr. Matthew Hardy F.S.V.A. and the sale will start at 2.00.p.m., with viewing in the latter part of the morning. Watch out for posters around the village nearer the date.

Start looking now, and if you have any items you are desperate to part with that cannot wait until the week of the sale, please ring the Vicarage on (2393009) and we'll do our best to help.



VE Day will be remembered 50 years on this year, on the 8th May. We would like to mark this with a special issue of WOT!

Did you have a street party?

Where were you on the day?

What were you doing?

We need your memories and pictures.

Please get in touch as soon as possible if you have a story to tell or a photograph you could lend.

Chinese New Year



A story telling session with crafts and competitions will be held at Beaumont Leys Library on Saturday February 14th 10.30-12.00

ALPINE CLEANING SERVICES



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VALENTINES

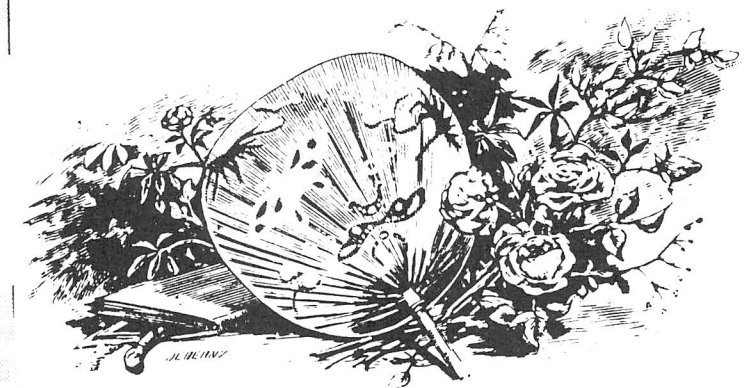
St Valentine's day
Gives the chance to say ---
Oh dear, I've forgotten
Now isn't that rotten?



As much as I wish that he'd go away
St Valentine is here to stay
He doesn't know that times are hard
and that I can't afford a card.



There was an old man called Hoz
Who fancied a lady named Ros
But he was too old
and she good as gold
'Cos Ros was much nicer than Hoz was!



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BEAVERS AND CUBS

I thought that I would treat my wife to a special night out. But where to go, all these modern women have done everything been every where -- but not to be beaten I took her to the PANTO at Groby, when the Beavers and Cubs made their annual visit the final dress rehearsal of the Groby Players presentation. This year it was Aladdin.

A traditional Panto in all senses of the word, everyone enjoyed the performance especially when, "Ping and Pong" gave out sweets to the audience. I won't tell the parents which were the most interesting sketches for the guys! But needless to say it revolved around football teams names.

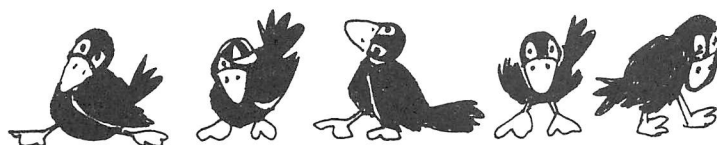
The leaders would like to thank Ruth Rolinson and all the cast for allowing them to attend once again, but I suppose the cast believe that if they can cope with the RATBY BEAVERS and CUBS that they can cope with anything.

I would imagine that not too many audiences actually drag the players across the stage to show them where the "mummy" ghost was going.

Thanks you once again Groby Players. Can we come again next year please?

With apologies to:-

Brain Cross (Akela Swallows Pack)

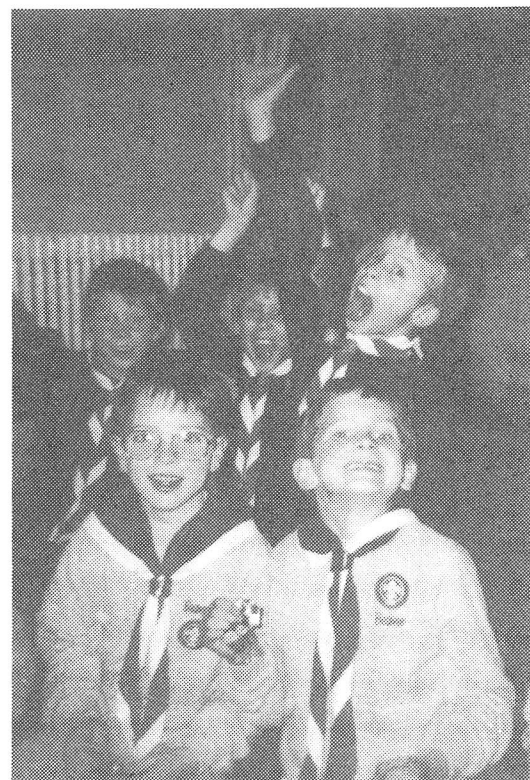


1st RATBY SWALLOWS CUB PACK

Readers may remember that in the last edition of "WOT" I made my report regarding our entry in the District Swimming Gala staged in November. Well I now have my pictures taken at this event and I am sure hat everyone will agree what a fine bunch of bodies we have to show.....



Gas Appliance



Some of the excited children at the Panto. You can see why the wife wants to go again next year.

AES



Left to right we have:-

Matthew Reedy, Jacob Mirza, Sam Laywood, Alistair Richards, Chris Ward, Jamie Jackson and Gary Root.

Brian Cross (Akela)

Neighbourhood Watch



The final quarter of 1994, ending 31st December, resulted in recorded crime of 16 in October, 15 in November and 13 in December.

Household burglary averaged 3 per month but vehicle crime continues to be the main problem in Ratby. November was a particularly bad month with 10 crimes (66%) being vehicle related, of this 7 were stolen, with the Rover group vehicles being the criminals favourite.

Another Neighbourhood Watch Group was setup, being the second scheme operating in Station Road. The section covers houses from Danehill to Cardinal Broach car park, including Bakers Court. The co-ordinator for the area is Ian Barry.

I wish all our readers a happy and crime free new year.

Pc Brian Moore.



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Dear Editor,

Sylvia Gants letter, regarding the 1991 Neighbourhood Watch Quiz and my subsequent verse, did not explain the reference to, "twisted pants".

Just in case an erroneous impression has been created I'll let you into Sylvia's secret! Before the quiz commenced she told the Beaumont team that they were certain to win because she had inadvertently put her pants on inside - out!

And incidentally the last line (of the afore said poem, printed in the last issue) should have read "That's why we won".

Sincerely

Horace Gamble.

Editors note

Horace's verse was printed:-

But Sylvia's Gants Twisted pants

Caused all the fun

That's the way we won!

I think "that's why we won" doesn't do justice to the actual events!

Perhaps we need an issue 51 just to complete the story of Sylvia's Twisted pants!

PALACES OF DISCOVERY

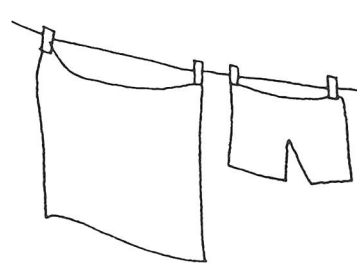
Explore and enjoy Leicestershire's rich heritage - the sixteen museums and sites of the County Council's Museums, Arts and Records Service, and a range of educational and

For a free copy of the new Guide to Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Records Service and a "What's On" guide to the events and exhibitions programme, please telephone



Marriage of Ratby Shopkeeper

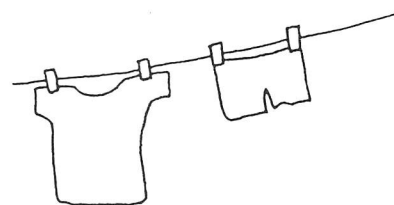
Mr. John Moore (Moore's of Ratby, Station Road) married Janet Pratt at Ratby Methodist Church on September 10th 1994. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Keeley. John has lived in Ratby all his life and Janet came to Ratby some eleven years ago. John has three children and Janet has two. We all wish them the best of luck in their new life together.



Clear out your wardrobes for Spring!

Ratby Old People Welfare Committee would be grateful for good quality clothing to sell at their Thursday morning drop-in at the Welfare Hall.

Drop them off at the 'Drop-in' or contact Mrs Pat Willis.



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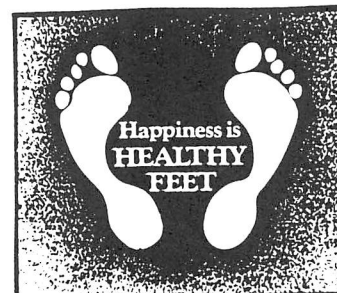
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Beaumont Police/ Community Consultative Committee Meeting

The Beaumont Police/Community Consultative Committee will be holding a Public Meeting at the Wycliffe Community College, Hamelin Road, Leicester, on Wednesday 8 March 1995, commencing at 7.30 pm.

The object of the meeting is to provide an opportunity for people of the Subdivision 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 Subdivisional Commander at Beaumont Police Station, Supt. P McHugh.

If you have any queries regarding this press release, please contact Mr D J Ward, County Secretary's Department, County Hall, Glenfield, Leicester LE3 8RP: telephone Leicester 656028.



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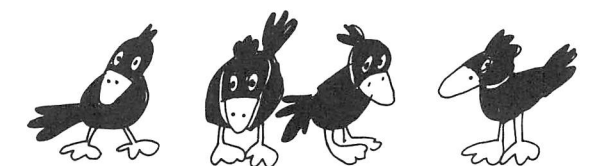
Class or private tuition.

Call Andrew Dent on
0533 392561 for more information.

A BIG THANK YOU FROM BRADGATE LIONS

All the members of Bradgate Lions Club wish to thank everyone in Ratby who supported the Clubs Santa Float Collection for the Leicester Royal Infirmary Children's Cancer Ward. An excellent total of £182 was raised on the night. This has been added to the money raised by the Club in the villages of Desford, Markfield and Leicester Forest East to make a grand total of £800. Thank you again.

Hopefully we will be back again next year.



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"You've got loose tiles....."



The trading standards department is advising people to be on their guard for roofers and builders calling unannounced and offering to carry out urgent repairs to property. The warning follows previous complaints at this time of the year that people have been, "conned" into parting with several hundreds of pounds for work which has been badly carried out or that should have cost far less.

Whilst it is sometimes difficult to check if repairs are needed there are a number of basic precautions which householders should take:-

- Don't be rushed into committing yourself and your money to the first firm you approach or which approaches you.
- Never succumb to high pressure selling techniques.
- Shop around for the best deal and obtain written estimates from at least two firms.
- Contact good local firms.
- Read any guarantee carefully, it will only be worth anything if it gives you extra protection to your legal rights.
- Don't rely on long-term guarantee -- the firm may have gone out of business long before the guarantee period is up.
- Be very careful about parting with money in advance and never hand over money to a trader you know nothing about

If a consumer finds that they have been misled or have received a bad deal at the hands of a building or roofing contractor they can obtain free advice from the Trading Standards Duty Office on Leicester 514415 or by calling at the County Council Service Shop 2-4 Market Place South.

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Ratby Parish Council

Spring Front Gardens

It's never too early to start getting your garden into shape for this annual event!

Judging will this year take place towards the end of the week beginning April 17th. Watch this space for more details!



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Crow pie

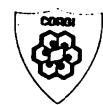
childrens' page

Can you find which crow has made the nest ?

Fill in the missing letters and name the trees ... and find out where they grow too

	i			O	N
			K		
	h			y	
a		d		r	
	a		h		

Send in lots of jokes for the April 'fool' issue of Not! ... you can leave them in the library box



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Ratby Village Society

Although November 1994 is already a long time ago it might not be out of place to report that the Village Quiz organised by the Ratby Village Society raised £84.00 which was donated to the Railbows Children's Hospice. The village society holders of the trophy, were defeated by 6 points by the victorious Ratby Women's Institute team led by Lynn Mellor, but were not disgraced considering that one of their team was jet-lagged having flown in from Singapore that morning and another was suffering a family bereavement. The third team, the Methodist Monday Circle, were, to put it kindly, some distance behind!

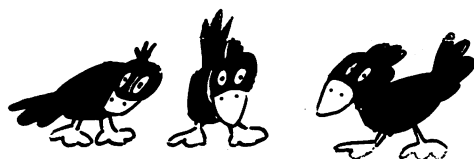
It was good to have Mr Peter Smith, former head of the Primary School back again to act as Quizmaster and to welcome Mrs Nancy Harding to present the trophy which bears her name.

Keeping it in the family Fred Harding enlivened the January meeting by showing a programme of superb slides on pub signs. These were many and various spanning the length and breadth of the country, embracing a whole range of subjects from the gruesome to the quaint and ridiculous each with a background story to be well told - from the 'Red Lion' (the most common of all) to the single example of 'I Am The Only Running Footman'. It would have been interesting to know by what abbreviation that was called by the locals!

Forthcoming meetings in the Welfare Hall at 8.00pm are:-
Tuesday, 21st March 'A Naturalists Year' by Mr J J Tinning
Tuesday, 18th April, 'The Holy Land' by Mr W R Thomas.

New members are always welcome.

Sincerely
Horace



Letters

Dear Editor

Some four or five years ago I wrote to WOT bemoaning the fact that the pub sign at the 'Railway' had been repainted to show a Great Western 'King' class locomotive which had no connection whatsoever with Leicestershire. It is pleasing to note recently that a new sign has re-instated the Midland Railway class 2F type locomotive which for over half a century worked the trains through Ratby - and moreover the sign also depicts Ratby station.

Well done Everards!

Sincerely

Hoz Gamble



Semper in excreta

This "poem" was written as a churchwarden's plea. It regards man's best friend and all those stray dogs which, though you throw sticks for them always leave logs.

All over grass verges
The green and the street
Which villagers endeavour
By hard work to keep neat
They'll keep you awake at night
With barking and howls
They mess up the pavements
With o'er active bowels,
E'en the Churchyard's not sacred
For when doing our bit
With mowers and strimmers
We're oft sprayed with most unpleasant substances.
So, if you're an owner
Keep everyone happy,
Do us a favour this year
And buy a nappy.

I saw this in a magazine in Northamptonshire and thought it was very applicable to Ratby.

M.N.Smith.
Station Road.
Ed comment.

Still it has been some years since we aired this topic!

This is "ace reporter" Debbie Farmery reporting from the rural Cheshire surroundings of my permanent "working" office. Having spent the majority of my time earning a crust in the grand offices of Unisys Limited, Altrincham, I think I know more about Ratby than I do about my home town of Heaton Moor.

The Ratby WOT magazine seems to keep residents well informed of all local events, including conservation of local areas, charity and gala events. Who's done what to whom, when, and how!!!!

Keep up the good work and congratulations on reaching the 50th Edition.

Cheers,
DEBS.

Alan,



I know what Deb in Manchester has said but here in the City of London it is difficult for me to understand how you live in Ratby.

I understand about traffic calming measures we have those in my street but buying a wood! How long is the tube trip to get there, what will you do when you're there?

I'm not surprised you're on your 50th issue everytime you come here I have to type pages of "£\$%^7, who's interested in frogspawn anyway? Still I suppose that there has to be life north of Watford!

Congrats. Clare.



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