

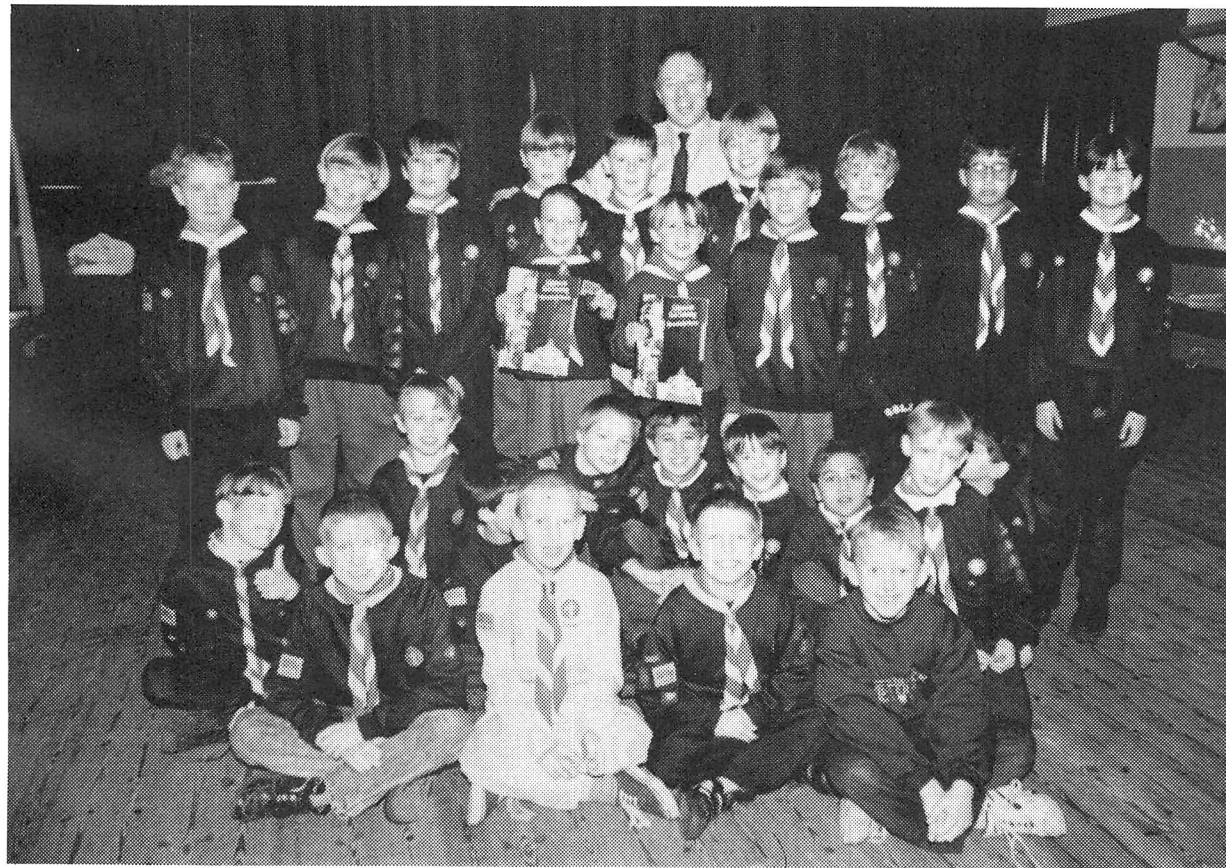
Wot!

About Ratby

PUBLISHED BY THE RATBY SCOUT GROUP

Issue 56

February 1996



HISTORY IN THE MAKING

Scouts from Leicester West District have welcomed their first ever female cub scout.

The historic event took place at the 1st Ratby Swallows Cub pack in the Methodist School rooms on Chapel Lane.

Emma Glenister, 9, of Ferndale Drive was invested by cub leader Brian Cross, in the presence of her proud parents and brother Andrew, also a cub.

Our picture shows Emma, centre left, and new cub Michael Lyon, aged 8, centre right, who was invested on the same night, proudly showing their new badges and books.

Emma has already made a name for herself by beating the boys in a recent breast-stroke swimming event

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PEN-STYLE GLITTER GLUES - HAZARD WARNING

The County Council's Trading Standards Department has today issued a warning to parents to be on the lookout for pen-style glitter glues with caps that are not designed to let air past or through them, if they are swallowed.

Acting Director of Trading Standards, Richard Peck said:

We certainly have no wish to stifle these creative talents, but would advise parents to examine the caps on the glue pens to make sure that their child would still be able to breathe if he/she accidentally swallowed a top.

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THE LITTLE BIRDS SING

"It will soon be spring
Come out to play
It's Valentines day.
Now we can mate
and build at a rate
a warm wee nest
for our chicks, the best.
Hurray, hurray
for Valentine's day."



Leap Year 1996



Greedy old St Valentine...
Feb 14 and 29...
His net is cast both far and wide.
Is he never satisfied?
So men just look before you leap
or else you may have cause to weep!

Anon.

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SUPPORT
YOUR LOCAL
PHARMACY

Ratby Parish Council

Ferndale Drive Recreation Area

New fencing and gates have now been installed around the car park. This replaces the badly damaged wooden fencing which was not considered repairable. The car park entrance is to have a vehicle gate installed to stop night parking.

Objections to HBBC plan for additional housing in Ratby

204 objection forms bearing 234 signatures were delivered to the Borough Council offices and these will be made known to the Inspector at the Public Enquiry.

Tribute to PC Brian Moore

PC Moore was invited to attend the January meeting of the Council and the thanks of Ratby residents for his four years of excellent service in policing the Village was conveyed. An engraved tankard was presented to him on behalf of the Parish Council and all our villagers who benefited from his dedicated work. In reply Brian said that he enjoyed his work in Ratby and wished his duties here could have continued.

Vehicle Speeding

The police have advised that complaints of excessive speeds of traffic in the Village will receive attention.

Replacement Trees

New and replacement trees are to be planted in Ratby following an inspection by the Highways Department. The first trees have already been planted.

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Refuse Collecting

The contract for refuse collection has been awarded by HBBC to SITA who will replace FOCSA. To be considered is the limiting of free collection of garden refuse to one bag per week with any extra bags being subjected to a charge. The Parish Council have expressed great concern because of the possibility of an increase in illegal dumping of garden rubbish in the countryside. We are insisting that standards of service must not deteriorate following the change of contractor.

Councillor Mrs Muriel Stanley

Following their move to Groby, Muriel has decided to resign from the Parish Council. Her dedicated work on behalf of the Community has been greatly appreciated and we offer our thanks and best wishes to Muriel and Dennis in their new home. The vacancy on the Parish Council is to be filled by Co-option and invitations are extended to anyone who wishes to fill this post.

Parish Council Clerk

Following consideration of the applicants for the vacancy of Clerk which followed the resignation of Mrs Linda Laywood due to extra personal commitments, we are pleased to welcome Mrs Geraldine Aldwinckle of 8 Desford Lane, Ratby to her appointment as Clerk to Ratby Parish Council. She took up her duties on 1st January 1996 and we wish her a long and successful future in her work. We repeat our sincere thanks to Mrs Linda Laywood for her valued contribution to the Council and Village during her six year term of office.

Assistant to Maintenance Man

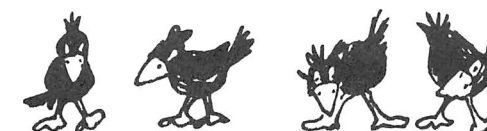
It has been decided to appoint an assistant to work for a few hours a week. Anyone wishing to apply for this should write to the Clerk giving details of themselves. Full details of the work, hours and remuneration will then be advised.

New Year

The Chairman, Councillors and Clerk extend their best wishes for a Happy New Year to everyone.



We apologise to Ratby Parish Council for the disappearance of part of their December Newsletter. A Christmas elf or gremlin was certainly at work!



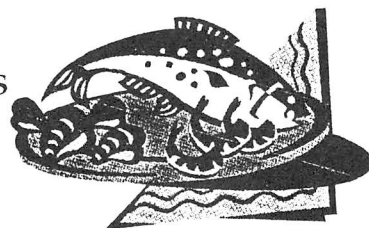
The Plough Inn

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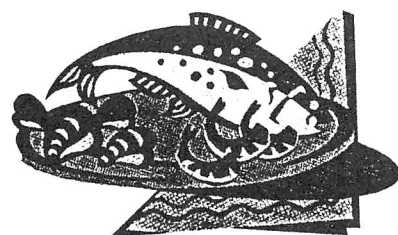
- ♦ 2 x 10 oz Rump Steaks
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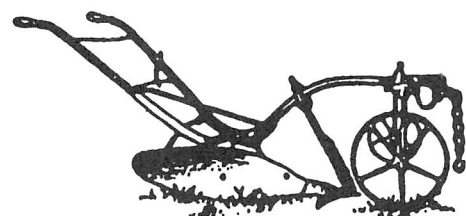
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Ratby School has said goodbye to teacher Mrs Alison Seddon after 10 years. She has taken early retirement due to family commitments in Lancashire.

Ex pupils remember her for her warmth, and as the person whose exceptional enthusiasm inspired them at an early age to achieve.

Before moving to Leicestershire, she had been an assistant head teach at a Lincoln school.

"When I first visited Ratby School I was struck by the feeling of warmth and caring", she says. "The children were lively and confident, and there was a good atmosphere of working together, parents, teachers and children".

During her time at Ratby she was the teacher representative on the School Association, helping to raise money through jumble sales, fetes and fairs.

At an afternoon assembly she was presented with a Royal Worcester flan serving dish and servers from the pupils. The members of staff gave her a painting of the view she has seen every morning on her drive to work across Charnwood Forest, which was the work of fellow teacher, Miss Jean Anness.

Sylvia Grant

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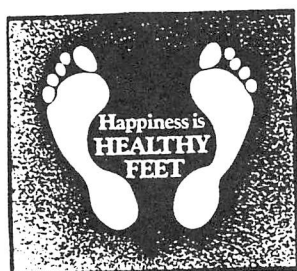
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1st RATBY SCOUTS "BIG" RAFFLE

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2nd Case of Tiger Bitter	A.Wade	B.T.
3rd Dreser Set	Mrs Tunnicliffe	Ratby
4th Christmas Cake	R.Hughes Taylor	Bloxham
5th Pot Doll	Mr Jordon	Ratby
6th Fox Mints	T.Sims	Ratby
7th Wine	E.Payne	Groby
8th Tube Sweets	Gill	
9th Cake	Hammond	Ratby
10th Cuddly Toy	C.Branston	
11th Rabbit Money Box	Mariam Forrester	
12th Cuddly Toy	A.Thompson	B.T.
13th Cuddly Toy	J.Lally	Ratby
14th AfterShave	M.Hargadon	Ratby
15th Picture Frames	P.Clark	Ratby
16th After Shave	Kirby Muxloe	
17th Purse	Hillary Mathieson	

*The Group would like to thank all of those who
contributed prizes, sold the tickets and arranged
this successful draw.*

JULIE'S HAIRDRESSING

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Ratby Village Society

'Trivia Quiz' was the subject of the November meeting, conducted by Mr Norman Eggington, and it was just that! Members huddled together in groups of four to give one another moral support in attempting to answer inconsequential and abstruse questions such as "Which British coin weighs exactly 5 grams?" and "What is significant about the dates 12th March 1945 and 23rd April 1956?" Guesswork paid off in a number of cases and after much frustrating mind searching, and not a little laughter, the winning team was declared, perhaps not surprisingly, led by the erudite Fred Harding.

(If you really want to know the answers to the two questions above they are :
the 20p - and the dates are the only two this Century to have consecutive numbers 12.3.45 and 23.4.56!)

Although the Society does not meet in December, it was active in support of National Tree Week by giving assistance to the Woodland Trust which had organised a tree planting event on one of its newly acquired sites at Old Hays. As the Society (a corporate member of the Woodland Trust) had taken a leading role in the raising of money locally for the purchase of the land one of its members took delivery, at this house, of 500 whips (tiny trees), a like number of plastic sleeves and some thousand support canes in readiness for the big event. At 9.00 am Peter Leeson of the Woodland Trust collected all of the above and on arrival at the site, north of Burroughs Road, he and the member marked out the area (approx 1 acre) to be planted. Then for the next 2½ hours the same member erected the canes at about six feet apart to mark the spots where the trees were to be planted. By 10.00 am the first volunteers had arrived together with another officer of the Woodland Trust who had brought with him enough spades to arm a battalion of the Pioneer Corps! At the height of the activity there were fifty adult volunteers which included some local residents, ten members of the Village Society plus a dozen or so children. Some of those who took part, including a couple from Shropshire, are regulars at these events wherever they take place - plantoholics or treedopholes?

Incredibly by shortly after midday all of the whips had been planted whereupon Peter Leeson produced a large bag of acorns, enough to complete the planting of the area. By one o'clock the job was done in a heartening spirit of co-operation and good humour. It was satisfying to know that we had done a little towards replacing the County's tree population after all that which had been lost during the construction of the Western Bypass.

The Annual General Meeting and Members Supper will take place on 20th February. New members always welcome to join.

On Tuesday 19th March an illustrated talk 'Gardens Large and Small' will be given by Mr Peter Barton at 8.00 pm in the Welfare Hall.

Hoz.

Woodland Trust Tree Planting



Photograph by Horace Gamble

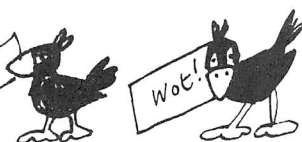
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Letters



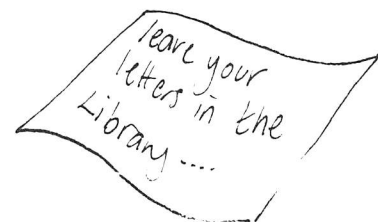
Dear Editor

I have read that Ratby Primary School is not getting it's crossing point until 1997/98 and that it is expected to cost about £7,000. If they can afford to spend public money on 3 humps and a mini round- about at Groby School, they can put the crossing point outside Ratby School.

I am the Ratby School lollipop lady between 8.30 and 9.10 and again at 3.10 to 3.30 the traffic is very bad. I am sending the cutting, from the Herald Post 6/12/95 to my M.P to see if he can help.

Yours sincerely

R M Devereux



"THANK YOU" FROM SANTA AND HIS HELPERS

Santa and the BRADGATE LIONS CLUB were very pleased with the result of the visit they made to the Dane Hill area before Christmas. £177 was raised for the Rainbows Hospice. This has been added to the money we raised from the other villages in our District to make a total of £1226.

"Thank you" again for being so generous. We hope the children enjoyed meeting Santa, see you again next Christmas.



We are always pleased to welcome new members to the Club and finding different ways of helping in the community. Please contact Lion MIKE SMITH on 0116 239 2944 to find out more about the Lions.

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LOROS LEICESTERSHIRE HOSPICE 1995 HOUSE TO HOUSE COLLECTION

Once again the people of Ratby have shown their support for LOROS by their generous donations during the recent House to House Collection.

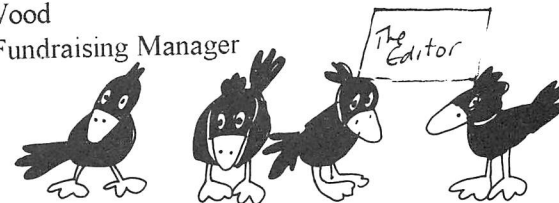
I am pleased to report that the House to House Collection in Ratby amounted to £140.93. This enabled £43,057.83 to be raised in total throughout Leicestershire and Rutland.

On behalf of LOROS, may I thank everyone who so generously contributed, and special appreciation to the many dedicated collectors who so willingly gave their time to deliver and collect the envelopes.

Since the Hospice opened in 1985 over 7,000 patients and their families have been supported, and it is only through the on-going generosity and support of local people that LOROS has been able to continue to finance this care.

Thank you all so much for helping LOROS to give a better quality of life to terminally ill patients.

Carole Wood
PR and Fundraising Manager



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Letters

Dear Editor

Thank you publishing my Ratby library poem in the December WOT but for some extraordinary reason my title of 'Ticket to Read' was changed. 'Ticket to Ride' was coined by a much more famous and wealthy man than I many years ago.

Whoever was responsible for the change of title has left themselves wide open! It is he/she who needs to be taught to read, not I!!

Sincerely

Hoz

PS. I corrected 120 copies of WOT before delivering them

(Sorry slapped wrist! We just can't get the staff these days.)

HIS & HERS



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Ticket to Ryde

I once bought a ticket to Ryde,
in shades of bright red and blue
(two colours I cannot abide)
but it seemed the right thing to do
at a time when I hadn't a care
- though its cost was far beyond reason.
And what would I do if I ever got there?
Mermaid baiting was well out of season.

It bugged me so much that soon I became
a victim of chronic depression.
Those hated colours set me aflame
with desire to create the impression
that Ryde is really the 'in' place to be.
To be rid of that ticket became my ambition
so it was offered for sale, and even for free,
but my efforts were met with derision.

The whole episode seemed much too absurd
for me to regain any sanity
and nightmares had my sweet dreams disturbed
which induced a bout of profanity.
My life now was blighted and in total ruin,
how to end it I had to decide.
So I swallowed the ticket (which took some doin')
and I'm left bereft still wondering why I'd
..... bought the damn silly thing in the first
place!

Hoz



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Poem for Wot

Wot about Wether

Copy of an article relating to the toast to John O'Gaunt.

They'll drink a toast to John O'Gaunt

Enderby villagers will gather round a hogshead in the local pub on Bank Holiday Monday, smoke long clay - pipes, bid hard cash for a crop of grass - and drink a toast in beer to a famous figure from 14th century - England.

These curious goings - on are part of the annual sale of the, "wether" ---- which is a two acre piece of common land in Enderby. It was given to the villagers of Ratby in 1390 by John O'Gaunt as a reward for entertaining him at their spring fair.

Since then for nearly 600 years the ceremony of selling the grass crop of the two - acres has continued. Nor do the villagers forget their medieval benefactor -- they drink the health of John O'Gaunt

The bidding continues each Whit holiday with a minimum stake of £4. last year the "wether" went for £5.

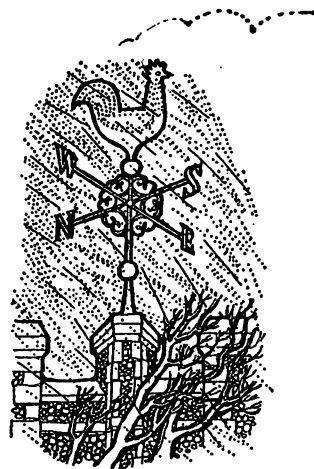
"An old coin was passed round -- it's always the same coin - and when a bidder holds it he can bid. This ceremony takes place at the Nag's Head, Enderby. Traditionally a boar's head is cut up into sandwiches which are eaten when the bidding finishes. 10 inch

churchwarden clay pipe s are also smoked after the sale. The feast was first held in 1821 at the White Lion in Leicester, until 1859 when it moved to the Nag's Head.

Do any of WOT readers know more about the 'Wether'.

Does the ceremony still take place? Please let us know.

Chas.



February Fill Dyke

Several weather rhymes are specific to February :-

*'Much February Snow
A fine summer doth show!'*

*'Rain February is worth as much as manure'
'All the months in the year
Curse a fair Februeer!'*

There can be no doubt this year with our near-empty reservoirs that we would love February to fill the dykes!

Another rhyme tells us

*"Wherever the wind is on Candlemas Day
There it will stay till the end of May!"*

Candlemas Day, February 2nd, was the day when candles were consecrated and carried in procession to guard against evil spirits and storms. It was also once known as 'Wives Feast Day!'. There are many other rhymes about this day; . . .

*"If Candlemas be fair and clear
We'll have two winters in one year"*

or

*"If Candlemas day be fair and bright
Winter will have another fight.
If on Candlemas day it be shower and rain
Winter is gone and will not come again!"*



Indoor Barbecue Chops



BUS USERS HAVE THEIR SAY

4 lean chops - lamb or pork
25g (1oz) butter
1 teaspoon oil
1 small onion (chopped)
4 tablespoons tomato ketchup
2 tablespoons vinegar
2 tablespoons brown sugar
1 tablespoon worcester sauce
1 teaspoon made mustard
Salt and Pepper to taste

Method

1. Trim and season chops
2. Fry lightly to brown in hot oil and butter. Remove and place in casserole dish.
3. Lightly fry onion in pan.
4. Add all other ingredients to pan, stir well
5. When boiling pour over chops.
6. Cover casserole.
7. Cook for 10 mins in oven 200°C/400°F/Gas Mark 6.
8. Baste then lower heat to 180°C/350°F/Gas Mark 4 for a further 30 - 40 minutes
9. Serve with plain boiled rice or jacket potatoes and green vegetables

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

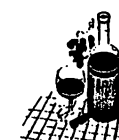
County Councillor Ron Adams, Chairman of the Panel, explains:

"Thé bus Users Panel has been operating successfully for four years, helping the bus companies and the County council to understand what the passengers really want from their services. Panel members give us their views on a whole range of issues: just at the last meeting we talked about network tickets and making buses more accessible for people with disabilities, amongst other things. Bus company representatives serve on the Panel and many problems can be taken up by them straight away; other matters the County Council looks into.

"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 improvements in the County's bus services."

Anyone interested is asked to contact Geoff Cave in the County Secretary's Department at County Hall on Leicester (0116) 265-6016. The closing date for applications is 16th February.

Scrivener



Pabari's Ratby News.

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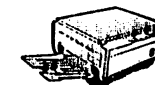
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Ratby's Crowning Glory

One does not have to come into Ratby to be aware of its dominating presence for it can be seen from miles around even by thousands of people travelling daily along the M1. However, it has stood on the same site for centuries before motorways existed and has survived the Wars of the Roses, the Reformation, the Civil War and the Commonwealth and, at some time unknown, a change of name. Just when St George's church was renamed St Philip and St James is lost in the mists of time or more likely by the loss of Parish Records during a fire in 1815. Certainly, the oldest part of the present church is the lower part of the tower built around 1230 and there was a vicar instituted some time before 1235. The church was rebuilt and enlarged during the 14th Century including the South aisle whose east window is architecturally unusual.

Sir Edward Grey of Groby Hall, Lord of the Manor of Ratby, whose family worshipped in Ratby Church obtained permission from the Archbishop of Canterbury to have a child christened in the private chapel of the Hall and it is believed that the font, which dates from this period and is still in use, was transferred to Ratby Church when Bradgate House was built. Sir John Grey, eldest son of Sir Edward, was married here to Elizabeth Woodville in 1457 and it is possible that the upward extension of the tower was built in celebration of the wedding. One of their two sons, Thomas later became the 1st Marquis of Dorset and built Bradgate House when Sir John was killed at the battle of St Albans, but three years later she married King Edward IV and was crowned Queen in 1465. She had seven more children which included King Edward V and his brother Richard, who were murdered in the Tower of London, and Princess Elizabeth who married King Henry VII the victor of Bosworth Field.

Upon the completion of Bradgate House the Greys worshipped in Newtown Linford church and so Jane Grey, the tragic uncrowned nine day Queen of England would have had no occasion to visit Ratby. After abandoning Bradgate House in the 18th Century the Greys used Stewards Hay as their hunting lodge and once again came to Ratby Church on Sundays.

By 1878 the church was in need of extensive repairs and there was a proposal to build a new church, as had happened the previous year in Glenfield, but the parishioners prevailed upon George-Harry Grey, 7th Earl of Stamford, to help fund the restoration which was completed in 1881. The balcony was removed, a new pulpit and new seating introduced and the organ chamber and Clergy vestry built. It is possible that the North porch also was added at this time. Sir Henry Sacheverel of Old Hays Farm, who instituted a Trust from which the elderly folk of Ratby still benefit, died in 1620 and his tomb in the chancel is another interesting link with the past.

A building of such antiquity, and of historic importance, deserves to be cherished and maintained as part of our county's heritage. Repairs are constantly required to the fabric due to weathering and improvements for the benefit of parishioners are becoming an urgent necessity. A recent Parish Funding Programme, although not reaching its target, has alleviated some of the financial worries of the Church Council. It would be a tragedy indeed that if, after over 750 years Ratby's crowning glory found itself, in today's harsh climate, unable to maintain its fabric and its ministry to the parish.

Hoz.



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WESTERN BYPASS

Dear Editor

Whilst reading the December WOT magazine, I noted that you were asking for people's opinion about the A46 Western Bypass.

Well, since the new road opened, traffic has increased between 50 to 60 per cent, on a Saturday, Main Street is like the motorway.

When the bypass opened, it was reported in the Leicester Mercury, on three consecutive days, that the new road would take a lot of the traffic away from Ratby. Well, it hasn't, it has made more come through, as the people in Ratby feared.

I have written to Mr T. Thompson at County Hall, regarding this matter to see if he can help.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Devereux

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The **CRIME RATE** this year rose to August but then saw a sharp decline. The graph shows the average rate reducing. We are seeing a lower rate than last year.

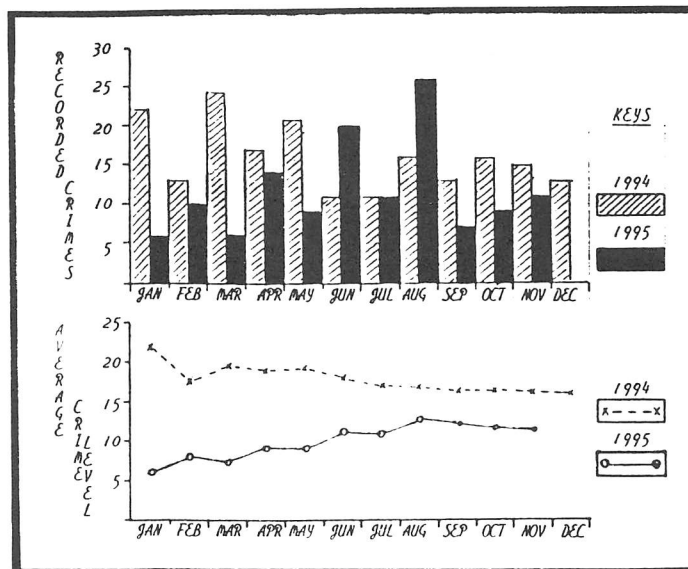
But be on your guard. The criminal fraternity will capitalise on any chance to take what we work so hard to enjoy. Do everything possible to deter the criminal...locks, lights, whatever... so the villains go elsewhere.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NEEDS MORE AND YOUNGER COORDINATORS

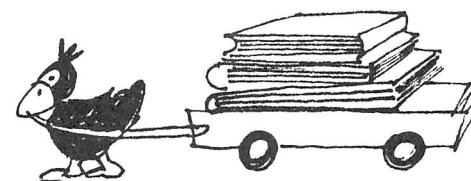
for Berrys Lane, Bevington Close, Markfield Road, East Walk, Nicholas Drive, Chapel Lane, Bradgate Drive, Heathbrook Drive, Main Street and Saxons Rise. A few of our more senior members have expressed a desire to retire to allow younger members to take up the challenge. That means we shall be seeking coordinators for Groby Road and the Danehill end of Ferndale Drive. And we need a new coordinator for Mill Drive. Please come forward; the time it takes is minimal and you have the satisfaction of playing an active role in helping to deter village crime.

DOG FOULING continues to plague our village. Not only is it against local bye laws but it is potentially dangerous to the health of younger children who are less discriminating than adults in what they touch. Dog owners should remember the social responsibility and take their dog mess home and dispose of it or let their animals foul at home and ensure the doggie walk is for exercise only and not to allow Rover to mess on others' front paths.

LITTER is increasingly noticeable and certain parts of the village are becoming eyesores. Youngsters are known to be emptying bins (eg outside the Sports Club). Ask them to stop and you get a mouthful of abuse and/or bad language. Do parents know/care what their little cherubs get up to?



RATBY NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



Library opening times

Monday	2.00 - 7.00
Wednesday	2.00 - 7.00
Thursday	10.00 - 12.30
Friday	2.00 - 5.00
Saturday	10.00 - 12.30

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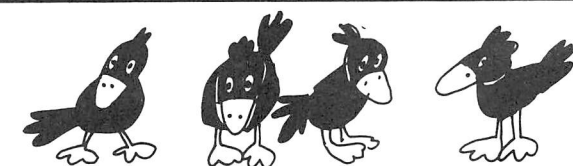
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