

FEBRUARY

In 1996, Ratby's two partners-in-rime, 'Orrible 'Oz' and February 1st is St Bride's Day, also known as St Brigid Awful Aud' had between them, twelve poems published in Ireland and the Isle of Man. nationally including the following which is appropriate to his month.

THE HAPPENING

February sneaked in like a Prophet of Doom. Leaden skies matched my gathering, grey, gloom. Don't want to stir from my cosy, warm, room in February.

The grey world outside does nothing to cheer this gloomy, grey, galling month of the year. Downright depressing, deep forebodings of fear through February.

Oh dear me no, so it's going to snow? That's all I need ! So I'm going to go back into my shell. I don't want to know about February.

The Spring's far away, too far to see through the gloom and depression encircling me. When will it all end and let me be free from February?

Then it happened. A friend made a 'call. See you tomorrow ? No trouble at all. As she stepped through the doorway hugged me in the hall ! Where's February ?

Cas Annliance

Hoz

St Bride and Candlemas Eve

This date is also Candlemas Eve, when Christmas decorations were taken down. If a leaf or a berry was found after this day it was thought that whoever found it would die.

Robert Herrick wrote, in 1648 :-

Down with Rosemary and Baies, Down with the mistletoe: Instead of Holly now upraise The Greener box for show

The decorations were replaced with branches of box.

The traditional food for this day was oat-cakes.

On Candlemas Day, February 2nd, candles were thrown away. Parishioners would attend Church, wax candles and tapers were consecrated, and carried in procession to guard against evil spirits and storms. The bigger the candle and brighter then the greater the protection. This festival is held for the commemoration of the purification of the Virgin, and was particularly important to women.

In Scotland, it is the first quarter day when payments of rent is due.

> "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.

6 Sawang Disa Dathy Laicester LE6 ONE



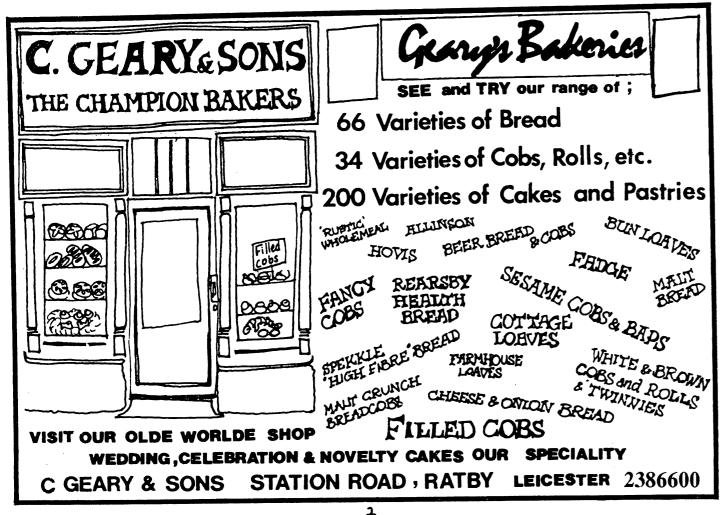
Rathy Village Society



reported in the December issue of WOT, the Society was correct spelling. Ordnance Survey maps have always able to send a donation of £50.00 to the Rainbows shown it as Old Hays and there are many headstones, and Children's Hospice.

villagers in the Woodland Trust tree planting event as the Area Officer of the Woodland Trust advised us that part of National Tree Week. The site was the second written into the solicitor's conveyance, for the purchase parcel of land acquired by the trust in 1995, which is of the land, the spelling is Hayes. bounded by the Burroughs Wood Deer Bank, the Thornton Bridleway and the access road to Old Hays A seemingly common mistake which, it is hoped, the good farm. Apart from the many hundred trees planted that folk of Ratby will reject wherever it appears. day it was a surprise, and delight, to discover that the Woodland Trust had already made a start there on the The February meeting of the Society in the Welfare Hall creation of the new wood. A competition was held in conjunction with the event to choose a name for the area. The Ratby Village Society had previously agreed that, for It is hoped that Fred Willis will be recovered sufficiently geographical and historical reasons, our choice for entry would be 'Old Hays Wood'.





Following the November Village Quiz, which was It seems a pity that there is still controversy regarding the memorials, in Ratby churchyard to deceased occupants from the farm which are inscribed Old Hays. A hay, by On 30th November a group of members joined with other dictionary of definition, is a hedge or fence. However,

will be the Annual General Meeting on the 18th.

from illness to give his talk on 'Aspects of Africa' on March 18th.

W.I. Foundation Day

During the month of February the Foundation Day of the W.I. will be celebrated. A hundred years ago in Canada Ratby / Groby Karate Club had an excellent Christmas Adelaide Hoodless started the movement in Stoney Creek, grading. Dave Spicer the clubs founder and main instructor Ontario. One of her children died from what she believed was awarded 5th Dan Black Belt and Steve Cooper was was her own ignorance of hygiene, so she started classes awarded 3rd Dan Black Belt. for local woman on domestic science and it spread from there. Students also passing grades were:

There are roughly 8,350 institutes in England and Wales, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.. Ratby celebrated their 50trh birthday in 1995 with a special event, to which one or two original members were invited.

A commemorative Fuchsia has been introduced to mark the occasion.



LOCAL KARATE INSTRUCTORS GET 5TH AND **3RD DAN BLACK BELTS**

Alex Rose	Brown
Jamie Roach	Brown
Paul Foxon	Purple
Malcolm Rose	Green
Alex Vanderwheel	Green
Katy Roach	Green
Chris Fletcher	Orange
Holly Mee	Orange
Nicola Shenton	Orange
Chris Parker	Orange
Chris Ridley	Yellow
Matthew McClauy	Yellow

The club has been training in Ratby for 10 years but recently has had to move to Groby Community College due to the Chaple Rooms being sold.

Dave has been involved in Karate since 1957 and is a well known and respected instructor who gives the club a friendly atmosphere.

Anyone interested in coming along to train, keep fit or just to watch is welcome. Just phone Dave on 2334240 or Steve on 2386520

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A Magic Story !! A Magic

Local Teacher Alison Ward had a wonderful and unexpected surprise just before Christmas last year.

Last October the year five class that Alison teaches at Groby's Lady Jane Grey Primary School entered a story writing competition organised by Ladybird books.

"The initial work began in October," explains Alison, who is in her second year of teaching, "the children had to decide on a storyline which reflected Ladybird's set theme of 'Magic, myths, and legends.' The stories had to have a title and a maximum of five hundred words. Our school encourages the children to be creative, so it was no surprise that stories of enchanted forests, magic carpets and mysterious powers quickly emerged."

The enthusiasm of the children is reflected in the fact that a few of them became so involved in their work that rather than relishing the October break as a time for rest and play they actually chose to take their stories home for the week to develop them further! After lots of dedicated re-drafting, checking for spellings, capitals and full stops most of the stories were completed in time for the deadline.

"I was really impressed with my class," continues Alison "they all worked incredibly hard; re-drafting can be a laborious job, so I was really pleased with their efforts. I thought the quality of the stories was excellent, and they were also illustrated very well. In fact it was very tempting to keep them and not send them to Ladybird after all!"

As the weeks went by, Alison became resigned to the possibility that the children's hard work might not be recognised, but then . . .

"I couldn't believe it when Ladybird telephoned to say that out of over 1,200 stories entered from 43 schools we had actually won 2nd prize! It's fantastic that we did so well. Two of the stories from my class were picked out as outstanding - 'The Magic Note' by Sophie Jarzebowski and 'The Magic Football Boots' by Louis Dodds."







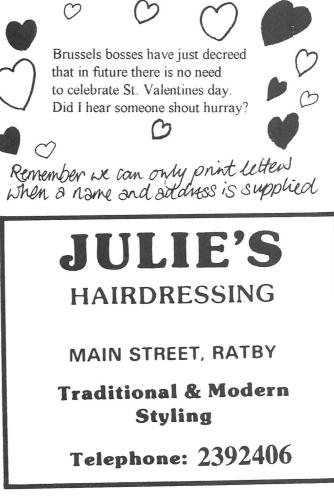
Dear Editor,

I feel I must call you to task with regard to the letter published in the last edition of Wot, LOROS LEICESTERSHIRE HOSPICE 1996 referring to the Ratby Gourd Society and a chance HOUSE TO HOUSE COLLECTION encounter at an airport. Not only were your facts regarding the airport incorrect, it was in fact East Once again the people of Ratby have shown their Midlands and not Heathrow, but the description of support for LOROS by their generous donations my gourd as substandard was both hurtful and during the recent House to House collection. inaccurate! This was of course only my "travel gourd" and as with all travel items such as irons and I am pleased to report that the House to House kettles was merely a small replica of the real thing! collection in Ratby amounted to £752.83. This enabled £4,509.75 to be raised in the Hinckley & I can assure you that my gourds are of the highest Bosworth Borough Council area. quality and are impressive in their size.

Yours Gourdially,

IVOR BIGUN.

Wot can I say. No wonder we are considered a Since the Hospice opened in 1985 over 9,000 third rate nation by many if English travellers are patients and their families have been supported, and it taking, "merely small replicas of the real things" abroad. We should be out there showing off the is only through the ongoing generosity and support of local people that LOROS has been able to finance real high quality, impressive ones. this care. To continue in the future we need to How can you explain to peoples beyond our shores increase the amounts we collect but can only do so that this is only a "travel" one, when no doubt they with the support of local people. The date for have one twice the size! Hinckley & Bosworth is 30th August - 13th C September 1997. If you can help please let us know, tel: Janet or John on 0116 255 5530.





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.

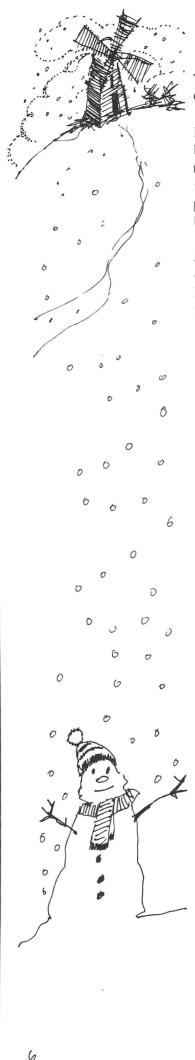
Thank you all so much for helping LOROS to give a better quality of life to terminally ill patients.

Your continued support to our Charity is gratefully appreciated.

Janet Griffin Community Fundraiser







Grandpa's Ode to his Grandchildren

This poem has been kindly contributed by Mrs Janet Gutteridge (nèe Shipman).

It was written in around 1937 - 193{ 3 for Janet and her brother John. As children they often spent holidays with their grandparents at the 'Curzon Arm s', the pub they ran in Woodhouse Eaves. The wind mill was recently pictured in the Leicestershire Mercury . It was destroyed by fire on the 15th April 1945.

Janet and John's father was the renov wned Leicestershire cricketer, Alan Shipman. He and his wife ran the 'Bulls Head' in Ratby for many years follo wing his retirement from cricket due to injury.

> They Fetched us in the car fi om home. *Our eves danced with deligh* 1. As through the lanes and fie lds we went, We saw many a pretty sight.

And so we got to Woodhouse ? Eaves. In Grandpa's nice new car. You would have smiled as we escrambled out. To kiss our Grand Mama.

Next day we went a hunting. And saw the hounds afar. And so on to the Reservoir. In Grand pap's new car.

Then suddenly we heard a b ell. A ringing O'er the water, So asked Grandpa to take u. 5. His Grandson and Grandda ughter.

To see the Holy Fathers, And see the House of God. Built by the Holy men thems elves. And cut out from the sod.

Good Morning father, said Good Morning Son, Said he I'm very glad to see you her e. And what might your name be.

young John,

d prav.

d tight.

t.

So when he said his name w as John. The Father he did say. Saint John was our Lord's clear friend. And hoped young John cou

So John stood in the corner With eyes and hands claspe And in that very holy place. He prayed with all his migh

The father gave his blessing, His emotion tried to hide, And gave John a lovely medal. With our Lord stamped on the side.

When we got up next morning, Our faces all aglow, And from our bedroom window. We saw quite a foot of snow.

Grandma helped us on the lawn. To make a big snow man, Uncle Ted advised us. As only big men can.

Then cousin Doreen took us to. The famous Windmill Hill. Where rollicking Winter breezes blow. And our young lungs we fill.

Now down the hill we scamper. Our faces all aglow. And so back to the Curzon Arms. A nestling down below.

To gather round the table. Auntie Bet had set for tea. We ate all that we were able. Of the fruit and cakes we see.

And when it came to evening, Upstairs we sped to bed. And on our knees we thanked our God. As evening pravers we said.

We saw relations by the score. All upright and manly. Uncle Cotton, Snow and Ben, And Great Grand papa Standley.

And so our Xmas holidavs close. For when alls said and done. There's no place at all like home. And our darling Dad and Mum.

So thank you Grandpapa and Ma, And Uncle Ted and Bet, For the loving care you gave to us, We never shall forget.

the time we had at Woodhouse Eaves, In fine weather, snow and rain. We spent them all in happiness, And hope we shall again.





Leicestershire

Constabulary

Hello Evervone.

A belated Happy New Year to all in Ratby. I am just recalling some incidents that happened over the last year and would like to make some comments about things that occurred.

In relation to some of the Neighbourhood Watches they need a resident to act as a coordinator/contact person, so if you are able to do this, please come forward. Also if any area is interested in forming a Neighbourhood Watch then please contact me for details. It is a worth while thing to do but it does mean that people in a Watch have to play an active part in Crime Prevention. This can be upgrading one's security to taking note of suspicious persons or vehicles, to detaining suspects but in all cases there is liaison with the Police. A healthy Neighbourhood Watch is one that is alert to things happening.

I hope during this year that the N.H.W. can play a bigger part in the prevention of crime in Ratby, by being active and passing any information on to me or Beaumont Control in order that it can be acted on promptly.

Phone Numbers-- Control......0116 222 2222. My Voice Mail..0116 2485675..press *..press 1..press 719#.

Methodist Church, Ratby

Our comments may seem a little remote, but the sequence of WOT publications did not allow us the opportunity to say an important thank you until now.

We refer to our Christmas Fayre, held late November 1996, gratefully at the Welfare Hall, when we received an unbelievable amount of support from village folk and others.

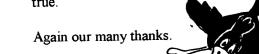
Our Development Fund benefited by over a thousand pounds from the occasion and our morale boosted by at least ten times that amount!

Raffle prize winners were :-

- Mr G Tomlinson of Stamford Street ĺst
- Mr R Johnson of Gilbank Drive 2nd
- Mrs A Higwell of Whittington Drive 3rd

and there were 98 sweets in the jar correctly guessed by Mrs M Green of Markfield Road.

We thank you most sincerely for your generosity and goodwill and trust that whatever 1997 holds in store for you, your faith which ever that is, will hold strong and true.





A word to the young people of Ratby and it's RESPECT. This, in today's meaning can be of a slightly different interpretation to that what parent or older people know. However, all in all, it has only one meaning and that is everyone should be concerned for the feelings and fears of everyone else. This ranges from being noisy at night to causing minor damage. One of the best ways of judging your own action is to think would your Grandparents like this thing you are doing.

On the point of causing damage, there were some incidents on Halloween of youngsters throwing eggs and flour at houses and cars. This sort of behaviour is not wanted, it's not a point of being a killjoy, but to do this sort of thing as a trick is OTT. It caused some distress to the people on whom it was inflicted. Again, would those responsible have liked their nan and granddad to have received such treatment, I think not. So in future, don't do it.

In talking about respect it should not be forgotten that the youngsters should also be given respect. I hope that all will give assistance to the setting up of a youth club/meeting place for them. At least then we will know the children are, as when they go out in the evening do you know where they are, other than hanging around street corners.

Finally, one further comment, and it's about the traffic in Ratby. There have been complaints made regarding the speeding, the mini roundabouts, and parking in and through the village. All I will say is that if local people comply, in their own cars, with speed and signs then this will make any cars following in the line of traffic comply, especially in relation to speed.

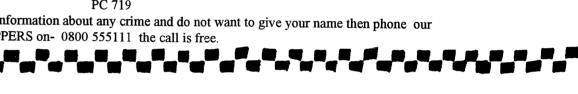
I will be hopefully counting on everyones help to keep Ratby a delightful place to live and work in.

Stuart Mason PC 719 P.S. If you have information about any crime and do not want to give your name then phone our CRIMESTOPPERS on- 0800 555111 the call is free.

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9

Modern Granny

The old easy chair is empty to-day For grandmother is no longer in it She's off in her car to her office and shops and rushes around every minute.

No one shoves Grandma back on the shelf She's versatile "with it" and dynamic -That isn't a pie in the oven you know, the baking she does now is ceramic.

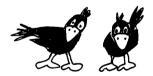
You won't see her retiring early to bed From her worn easy chair in the nook, Her computer clicks madly half through the night. For Grandma is writing a book.

To-day Grandma never takes one backward look, To slow down her steady advancing She won't tend the kids for you any more Your mother has taken up dancing.

She isn't content with crumbs of old thought with meagre and second hand knowledge Don't bring your mending for Grandma to do For Grandma has gone back to college.

Wonderful. I hope that s me in a few years! Me?

From Eileen M MacKenzie, Cosby who received the poem from a friend living in Canada. She wanted to share it with her, "Grandma" and friends in Ratby.



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Cornish Pasties

Short Crust Pastry

4 oz (110grs) flour - preferably plain 1 oz (25 grs) lard 1 oz (25 grs) block margarine Pinch of salt About 1 tablespoon cold water

Filling

4 - 6 oz (110 - 175 grs) fresh steak
(chuck, shoulder or shirt)
Cut into small pieces - no fat or gristle
1 medium potato - finely sliced
1 small onion - finely chopped
1 small pieces of swede - finely chopped (optional)
Pepper and salt to taste
Beaten egg to glaze

<u>Method</u>

- 1. Make pastry and leave in fridge for 15 minutes
- Roll out pastry cut into 4 equal rounds measure with saucer
- 3. Share out potato to middle of round
- 4. Layer meat on top add salt and pepper
- 5. Place onion and swede on top of meat
- Damp half edges of pastry and press gently but firmly together to seal
- 7. Crimp edge to form a rope like edge
- 8. Place on baking sheet and carefully brush with beaten egg
- 9. Relax them 10 minutes
- 10. Bake in top half of oven for 10 minutes on Gas No 7, 425F, 220C
 - Then lower to Gas No 4, 350F, 180C for further
 - 30 40 minutes

Cover with foil if browning too quickly

Scrivener

Relax them is this the time the sherry comes out?



