

Wot!

About Ratby

PUBLISHED BY THE RATBY SCOUT GROUP

Issue 74 February 1999

RATBY COMMUNITY ORCHARD PLANTED



Steve Brown of the Ratby Community Orchard Group shows a local family how to plant an apple tree

The people of Ratby can now be proud that they have a community orchard. On the crisp, bright sunny day of Sunday 6th December 1999 over 30 volunteers; one having "raced" down from Edinburgh; planted 30 fruit trees, 100 whips, (small shrubs and bushes), and nearly 400 bluebells. Some had planned to come and lend a hand, others just got involved when they were walking to have a look at the pond and the totem pole.

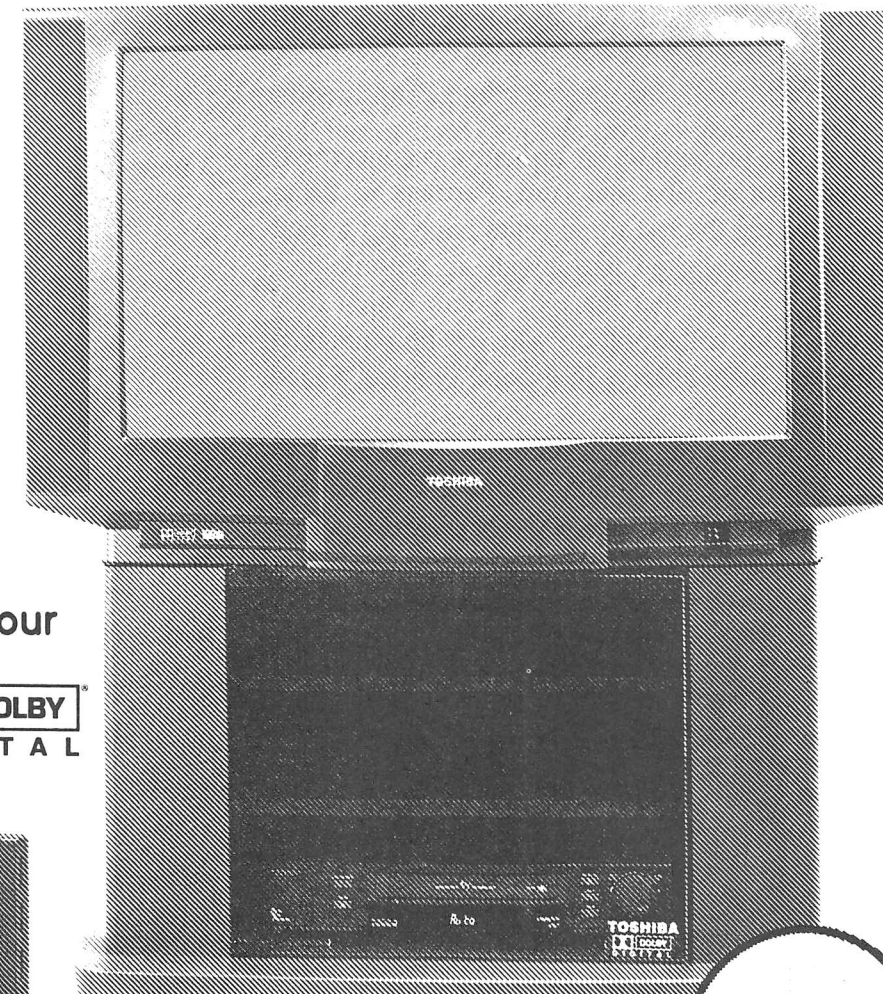
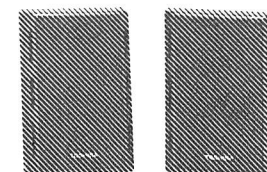
Careful planning had gone into the day, the Group had researched and chosen 26 different English apple varieties and a crab apple, a medlar and a quince tree. All the trees have been labelled with their names so if you go down to have a look, you can find such delights as the Ard Cairn Russet, tasting of bananas or the Gladstone tasting of raspberry or red currant. There are lots of varieties that taste of apples too. After two or three years of careful tending, the first fruits should begin to be available for the people of Ratby to sample

The Community Orchard is real group effort. The project has received invaluable help from the British Trust For Conservation Volunteers who did a lot of the fencing and the construction work and managed to secure funding from the Barclays Bank Site Savers Scheme. The Project is on land gifted to the Parish Council by Cawrey, the Builders, who also helped with the loan of heavy equipment. It is supported by Ratby Parish Council, and the Village Society.

To find out more about the Ratby Community Orchard turn to the centre pages.

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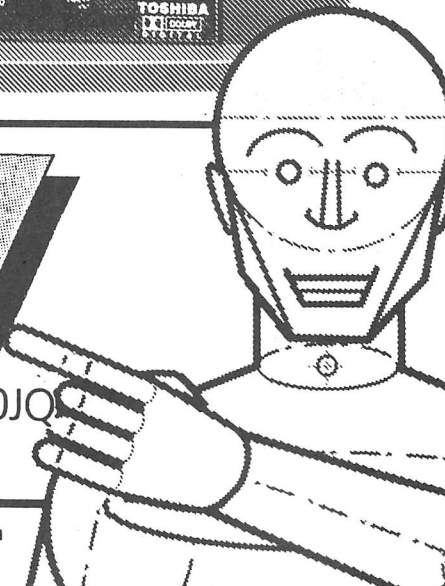


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RATBY W.I. NEWS

Ratby Women's Institute holds meetings on the second Wednesday of every month. Members gather in the village Welfare Hall and meetings commence at 7.45 p.m.

A wide and varied programme of outside speakers, "in-house" entertainment, and demonstrations is planned for 1999. Visitors and new members are always welcome. Why not come along to one of our Spring or Summer meetings to see what goes on? In March Liz Ward will speak on "The History of the Women's Institute". At the April meeting Olwen Hughes plans to tell us about the work of a Leicester Mercury illustrator and then in May we hope to run a Beetledrive.

If you would like further information about the W.I. please telephone:-

Mrs G. Hollyman [President]
2389407 or
Mrs B. Willis [Minute Secretary]
2390010

B. Willis

FAMILY PRIVATE HIRE

Ratby people now have two private hire companies to ring whenever they need a taxi!

John Foley and his family moved into Station Road in 1997. They felt they needed a change from their catering business at Fosse Park, and their own experience led them to feel that there was a enough work for another private hire business in the village.

So TARGET private hire was launched in mid-November. It is very much a family business, with John doing the driving, his wife Wendy taking bookings with help from their son Luke.

John is licensed to carry 6 passengers. You have probably seen his white Renault Espace around the village. John says there are no jobs he won't consider, and he will accept green tokens. He is right up to the minute with, "auto-router" on his personal computer to help plan those long distance trips.

You can ring TARGET Private Hire on 239 2980.
Or catch John on his mobile 0780 304 2018



RATBY PRE-SCHOOL PRAISED IN OFSTED REPORT

If your child is between the ages of three and four years old or less and not attending Pre-school, then drop in to Ratby Pre-School in the Church Rooms in Church Lane to either put their name down for when they are of age or to join the Pre-school. If you wish, you and your child will be welcome to stop awhile and sample the activities. A glowing report given by Ofsted inspectors during the last term can be read.

Leaders Janet Simmonds, Sue Poynor and Linda Evans will be on hand to welcome you in a warm and friendly atmosphere where children come first.

The Pre schools staff's approach to the curriculum covering all the learning outcomes was highly praised in Ofsted's report.

The school is open every weekday morning from 9.15am to 11.45am and 1pm to 3.30pm on Tuesday for all ages of Pre-school children. On Monday and Thursday afternoons 1.00pm to 3.30pm, children 4+ only are catered for, in a more structured environment preparing for entrance to Ratby school. At least four visits to the school are undertaken during their last term at Pre-school familiarising the children with the school and its teachers.

Thanks go to everyone who helped in any way with the inspection, staff, parents, committee members.

For more information contact Pre-school during working hours 0411 375 543 or Mrs Evans 01162 395897 after 6pm.



Some of the children wearing their Christmas Hats.

The fun and excitement of the annual Ratby Pre-schools Christmas Party was added to by a decorated Christmas Hat competition with the judging taking place by Bubbles the lady clown. Best girls hat went to Alice Jones and best boys to Zak Bailey. Santa, Horace Ball, made his annual visit to the amazement and wonder of the wide eyed children.

Sylvia Gant.

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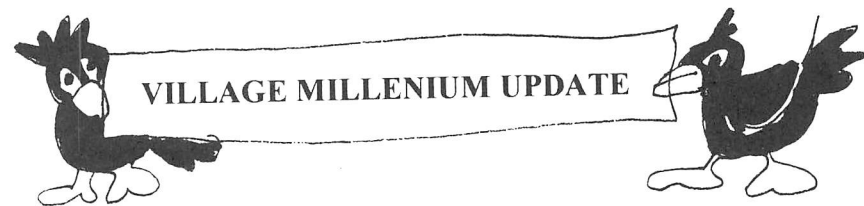
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VILLAGE MILLENIUM UPDATE

The Millenium Steering Committee recently met to understand the latest position with proposed village events. Many village organisations were represented with some noticeable exceptions.

The Photography Project:- where it is hoped that volunteers will assist, after training, in taking photographs of events and changes in the village; now appears to be progressing. Many thanks to those who have volunteered to record village history. For this project to be successful the team need to be aware of all events that will be held this year and next. Please contact the Parish Clerk on 239 0167.

The Church:- even with all the problems and costs caused by the dry rot in the roof the Church lighting scheme will go ahead.

The Candlelit procession will also be taking place.

The Welfare Hall:- Their committee is still progressing with fund raising, for the modernisation of the hall for the millenium. As reported in the last issue of "Wot" any donations would be more than welcome, ring Mrs E. Sharp, 0116-238 793

Crow Pie 2000:- will be organised by Ratby Coop Band, incorporating a village market, a procession, followed by a party for the children.

The Steering committee would be grateful for any funding from our local businesses for the Millenium projects. There are more ideas, "on the back burner" which just need a bit of funding!

The next Millenium meeting is on 18th March at 8.15 p.m. in the Church Rooms. All ideas welcome.



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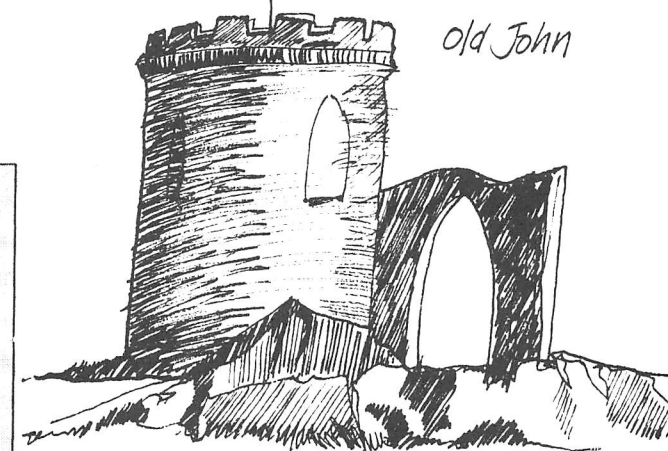
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LOCAL HISTORY BOOKS INVESTIGATED

Do you have a fascination for local history? Local teacher and historian Mr David Ramsey of Groby has spent the last 20 years researching material for five books entitled "Bradgate and its Villages." He has just completed the third paperback which he hopes will answer some of the frequently asked questions and hitherto unknown facts about the myths and legends of Old John, Bradgate and surrounding villages dating from 1086 to 1976. Ratby's labour force, then a large village compared to other villages in the area was used extensively with many familiar village names appearing in his book. Original maps, photographs and research obtained from the Dunham Massey papers the Nation Trust archivist at the John Rylands Research Institute at the University of Manchester bring to the reader fascinating facts. That Bradgate derived its name from a village called Broadgate which was sighted between the now Field Head and Markfield village, now the site of a newly built housing estate. That the bricks to build Kirby Muxloe Castle and Bradgate were made and fired on dimple fields now adjacent to Cropston reservoir. Shadowy remains can still be seen near to buildings. A gamekeeper was employed and responsible for the game in Ratby and the villages as far away as Hugglescote. That in 1902, 173 Ratby men worked at Groby quarry. Book two lists the extravagances of food and drink and of the enormous amounts of fish taken from Groby pool and the river Lynn and shopping trips to Cambridge to bulk buy. I personally could not put these books down and cannot wait to visit these areas in a new light and look for evidence from the past. Can't wait to read David's fourth book on local family surnames. His books £4.95 can be obtained from Malcolm Hornsby Antiquarian in Churchgate Loughborough, Newtown Linford Post Office, The Map Shop Shepshed, Coalville books or Mr Ramsay at Carmen Grove, Groby. My research into local history lead me to discover that David's wife Gloria was a teacher at Ratby County Primary School for many years; perhaps many of you will remember her friendly smiling face.

Sylvia Gant



It's Our Birthday!!

On February 23rd Dave and Carol are celebrating their first year at, "THE PLOUGH".

Come on down and enjoy the Party!!

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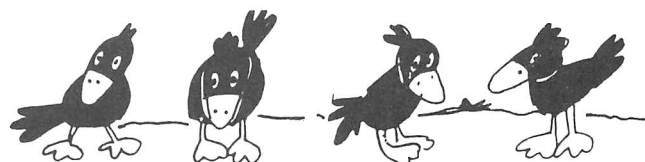
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COME IN AND SEE FOR YOURSELF



SCOUT NIGHT HIKE TO ELLISTOWN

On a very cold foggy night in January 10 scouts, Ray Lander and I set off from Markfield to walk along public footpaths and roadsides to Ellistown Scout headquarters where we were to spend the night.

The Friday before each patrol were given 6 figure map references from which they marked out the route they were to take. By following the route on the map they were able to note various points to look out for along the way, such as farm buildings, pylons, a footbridge, a moat, and a quarry.

But on the night the fog was so thick that it was very difficult to pick out anything more than 10 yards away. However, Ray having walked the path before hand, had the foresight to take compass bearings which he had given to each patrol leader. The patrol leaders in turn lead the way, with Ray and I keeping a watchful eye on the situation from the rear and as it turned out, became a very useful exercise. Well done to Andrew Robson and Christopher Ward for getting their patrols safely to Ellistown.

On our arrival at Ellistown Scout headquarters we were welcomed by Colin and Paul (who had gone on ahead with the personal kit, sleeping bags, a change of clothes and lots of other things!) with hot soup and bread for supper.

After supper Colin and Paul went home, Ray and I organised games including, bowls, card bingo and a beetle drive.

At 12.30 the scouts settled down into their sleeping bags and we put on a video for them to watch. This helped to quieten them down. They finally settled at about 2 am!

Colin and Paul arrived back at 7 am and cooked breakfast which consisted of eggy bread, bacon and beans. Which was enjoyed by all. We then packed, tidied up the headquarters and headed back to Ratby.

I would like to thank Ellistown Scout Exec Committee for allowing us to stay in their headquarters, Ray Lander for liaising with Ellistown organising and helping to run a very successful outing. My thanks also go to Colin Payne and Paul Clarke for coming along and making supper and cooking breakfast. Last but not least the scouts for conducting themselves in an appropriate manner throughout.

Yours in Scouting

6 Dennis Brookes. Scout Leader.

To this that v retire Where must only t fish w they v more forma Though for ev You c

Talk t

nk of it Dennis only signed up for six months and was nearly four years ago, and Ray was made to five years ago!

are all the young leaders, many in the village recognise the above tale "eggy bread" it's still the hing that my son can make. Oh yes, plus cooking a whilst up a tree! The scouts are doing things that will remember all their lives. Why don't we see adults coming along to help them in these five years?

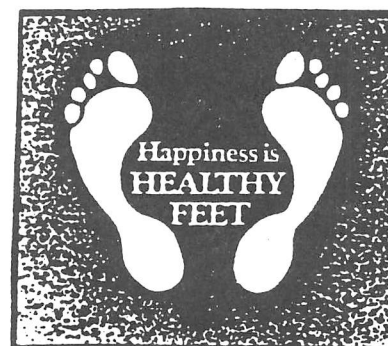
ghts, ideas, experiences which will stay with them er.

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RATBY COMMUNITY ORCHARD NEEDS YOU

Pond Puddling and Tree Mulching Day,
Saturday 20th. February 1999,
10.00am to 4.00pm. Taverner Drive.

The work done to create the Ratby Community Orchard has only just begun. We now have an orchard, a wildlife pond, a totem pole, and an improved woodland edge with blue bells. The next step is to finish off the pond by pumping out the water and lining it with sub soil. We also need to mulch the apple trees with rotted manure and to plant the remaining flower bulbs. It is planned to do all this on Saturday 20th February. In the longer term we will need to plant the pond and when the trees have grown, do some pruning.

Ratby people are welcome to come along and help out. There are lots of different ways to get involved. Its not all getting dirty and heavy digging! You are also welcome to come along and have look on the day and not do anything. We welcome your interest and support!

If you are unable to come on the day and want to support the Project, cut out the coupon and let us know. We'd like to hear your comments and suggestions as well!

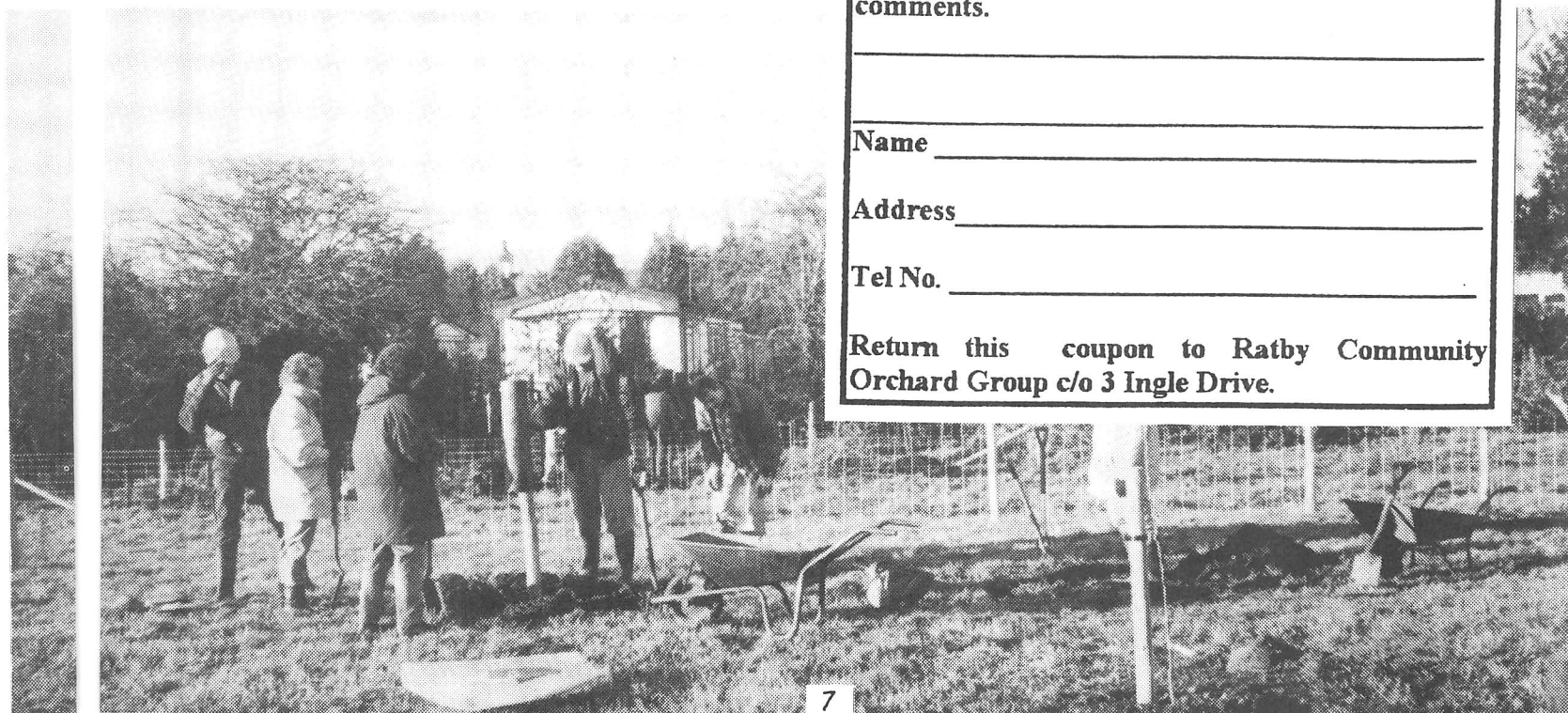
Yes, I would like to support Ratby Community Orchard. I have the following suggestions and comments.

Name _____

Address _____

Tel No. _____

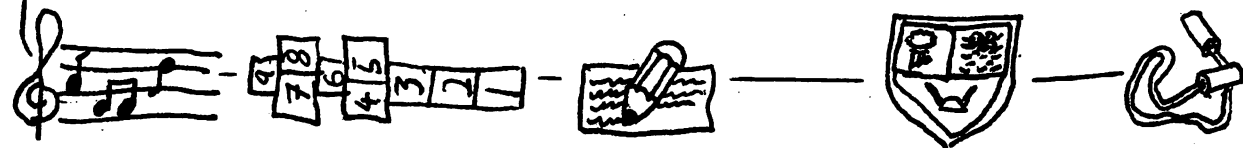
Return this coupon to Ratby Community Orchard Group c/o 3 Ingle Drive.



RATBY SCHOOLS FUND RAISING FOR OTHERS

Fund raising by pupils of Ratby School in the last term of 1998 has raised £233.31. The Royal British Legion received £43.31 from the sale of poppies. The sale of 100 Reindeer soft toys raised £100 and an exercise to cover an enormous Pudsey Bear in coins raised £90 for Children in Need. The School is appealing for help in collecting tokens from Walkers crisp packets; The Times; The Sunday Times; The Sun and News of the World to support the National year of Reading by receiving free books in return for the tokens. Tesco will shortly be giving vouchers in their supermarkets, which when saved by the school will enable more computer technology to be added to the school computer library. All these vouchers and tokens can be handed into the school's reception.

SYLVIA GANT



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AN ART, CRAFT AND HOBBIES EXHIBITION of local talent will be held, on April 24th 25th at Ratby Methodist Church.

If you have a particular talent that you would like to share, from knitting, needlepoint, model making, photography, drawing, model railways. The list is endless. Ratby Church would be delighted to display your "gifts".

Please ring the following persons for more details.

Ann Tipper 0116 2395093

Barbara Winfield 0116 2386276

Pauline Pendery 0116 2386223



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Ratby Village Society

1998 - an 'even' year - so time once again for the Village Quiz to be held in November. What an amazing event it turned out to be with the Welfare Hall full to overflowing, all chairs occupied and late-comers having to sit on tables! That apart, almost everything was normal except for a new scorer/timekeeper with Robert Hollyman making his debut in this role. The question master, as ever, was the irrepressible Peter Smith formerly Head Teacher at Ratby Primary School, whose easy approach makes for a very relaxed atmosphere. It would make a nice change to report that "a team other than the W.I. were the winners" (they scored 67) but at least the Methodist team were not in third place (with 54 points) leaving the RVS trailing on 48. Once again it was a very successful evening, thanks to Betty Hulme who devised the questions and to the audience whose support enabled a donation of £80.00 to be sent to the Rainbows Children's Hospice.

The next event will be the Annual General Meeting on 16th February followed on March 16th by a slide show by Mr Ken Day entitled "Venice - Its pleasures and Treasures".

From time to time the Woodland Trust gives an update on their local properties. The land at Pear Tree Wood, connecting Martinshaw Wood with Burroughs Wood, was planted earlier in the year except for some giant redwood trees which was the ambition of the late founder Kenneth Watkins. By the time this issue is in print the redwoods should have been planted.

Where the stream runs through the site it was planned to create a wetland area, but this has not been successful. It has been suggested that a wildlife pond is formed by damming the stream. Now the Trust would like to hear the ideas of local people on this topic. If readers of WOT have any suggestions please pass them to the RVS Secretary at 14 Calverton Close, Ratby.



Ratby Parish Council

PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE

For the past 18 months to 2 years the Parish Council have been looking to purchase a building that would be suitable to convert into an office. Considerations taken into account was the purchase price and annual running costs.

We are pleased to be able to tell you that we have purchased 13 Station Road without having to seek any outside loans as we have had money set aside for just such a project.

PROPOSED MILLENNIUM PHOTOGRAPHIC PROJECT

In response to December's *WOT* appeal for volunteers to assist in this project we would like to thank the people who have come forward - we now have between 12 and 14 photographers.

To all those who replied we will be getting in touch shortly to set up a date and a workshop - which the Parish Council has kindly agreed to fund - to get the project up and running. In the meantime we are sorting out funding for the rest of the project.

BURROUGHS ROAD RECREATION GROUND

In the August 1998 issue of *WOT* we asked for your views but have not had any response.

NEW NAME!

Ratby Old People's Welfare Committee would like to announce to the village that from now on they will be known as:-

"Ratby Senior Citizens Welfare Association".

DOG FOULING (October 1998 issue of *WOT*)

Thank you to all those dog owners who use the bins provided for dog waste. However there are still a few who do not clean up after their dog - **please use the bins!**

PARKING ON GRASS VERGES (October 1998 issue of *WOT*)

A substantial number of people took note of our request not to park on grass verges - thank you!

COUNTY QUESTIONS 1999

BBC Radio Leicester is to record the 21st series of the inter-village general knowledge quiz competition "County Questions". The Midland Bank has offered "Village Improvement Awards" for the three villages that win through to the final.

Teams comprise of 4 individuals - but membership of teams may change between rounds. For anyone wishing to take part more details are available from the Parish Council - Tel 239 0167

The closing date for entry is Friday 19th March and recordings start on Monday 10th May 1999.



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* THANK YOU *

With the retirement of Ratby's vicar, on 31st January, the village has lost two of its most endearing and hardworking characters in Michael and Audrey Hardy. During their five year residency here hitherto undreamed of accomplishments have been wrought not only with the church but also in the social life of the village. Apart from involvement with the Old Peoples Welfare, the school, the British Legion, the W.I., the Village Society, not to mention co-operation with the Methodist church. Such events as auctions, skittle matches, concerts, the vicarage 'restaurant' evenings, jazz in the garden and the prestigious weekend Exhibition of Talents are but a small testimony to their unceasing efforts over and above the call of duty.

Also at an end (at least as far as Ratby is concerned) is the old firm of Hoz and Aud, Partners in Rime Ltd. who during the last three years have had a total of 26 poems published nationwide in anthologies. Perhaps it is ironic that the only poem which they wrote as a joint collaboration will not be published until the end of February, in a book entitled 'Peace and Harmony'. These might well be apt sentiments to express to Michael and Audrey as they begin a well earned retirement in their comfy cottage at Oakham. It is doubtful whether Ratby will ever see their like again.



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4 oz (110g) Shredded Suet (or firm cold butter or margerated)
Little cold water to mix

Filling

1 Onion Finely chopped
5-6 Rashers of streaky bacon - chopped
1 tsp Mixed dried herbs (or 2 tps fresh herbs)
Shake of Black Pepper
Little Salt

Method

Oven Temp Gas 6, 200C or 400F

1. Mix flour & fat with little water to make soft (not sticky) dough
2. Roll into oblong about 8 x 7 inches
3. Lightly fry filling ingredients for 5-7 mins and spread over pastry
4. Roll up like a Swiss Roll
5. Seal ends with a little water
6. Wrap loosely with foil and place on greased baking tray
7. Bake for 30 mins
8. Open up foil to allow pastry to brown, and bake for further 5 mins
9. Serve with hot vegetables or crispy salad

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