

WOT!

About Ratby

PUBLISHED BY RATBY SCOUT GROUP



WASSAIL!

Ratby Community Orchard Group once again toasted the trees and poured cider at their roots to ensure a good crop of apples in Autumn!



COLIN GREEN in RATBY

Come and enjoy an **Open Evening** with Ratby WI on Wednesday 14th March at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall, Main Street.

Colin Green, the well-known Broadcaster and Presenter will talk to us about **'Wildlife through the seasons.'** Entry for visitors will be £2, which will include tea and biscuits.

Ratby Women's Institute meet on the second Wednesday of each month, in the Village Hall, at 7.30.

We enjoy a full programme of speakers and demonstrations, as well as social evenings. New members are always welcome.

RATBY RAMBLERS

We began 2007 with a walk from Ratby along the disused rail track into Glenfield for a celebratory drink at the Railway pub. Halfway there we met Glenfield Ramblers walking to Ratby, and so it was Happy New Year greetings all round.

In March we celebrate our second birthday. Most of our walks take place in Leicestershire, and we use local footpaths to Thornton and Groby, as well as the Burroughs area and Martinshaw Woods, both of which we are fortunate in having on our doorstep. If the start of a walk is away from Ratby we have drivers who are willing to car share, and passengers contribute to petrol costs.

The walks take place on Thursdays and Fridays throughout the year. We welcome anyone who would like to join in.

Jill Grey 239 5208



RATBY PARENT and TODDLER GROUP

We are open again in the Village Hall, under new management.

Come along on **Wednesdays** in term time, **9.30-11.30.** £2.00 a session.

Families and their under 5s are welcome!

Contact us for more information;

Donna Davies 239 5332

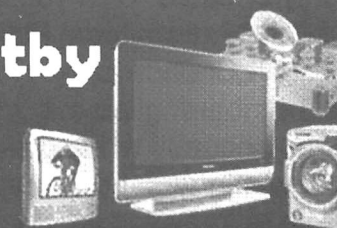


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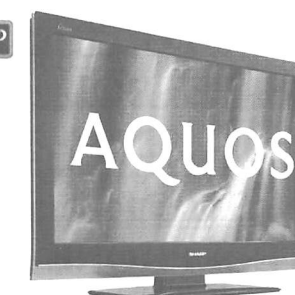
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Ratby Parish Plan Advisory Committee Wot about the Ratby Parish Plan?

Residents of Ratby will remember the work that a large group of people did to create the Parish Plan that was published in May 2004.

Well the group has not been idle. After the plan was launched more residents and representatives of village organisations joined the group and it became an advisory committee to the Parish Council. This meets the aim of the Parish Plan, which is to provide a forum for residents and village organisations to help develop the Plan's action points.

The group's achievements include;

■ Historical Map of Ratby

The information board that is situated at the junction of Main Street and Burroughs Road.

■ Litter campaign

The plan included concerns about the general tidiness of the village. Two members of the Village Society agreed to take this on as a campaign.

■ Youth Activities

The possibilities of providing a youth club for the village are being explored.

■ Basket trees

These have recently been erected in co-operation with the Ratby Parish Council. The first is situated at the Burroughs Road and Main Street junction and carries a memorial plaque to Sue Neilson who suggested the idea and the second is at the junction of Main Street, Station Road and Desford Lane.

■ Footpath leaflet

The Ratby Ramblers and the Ratby Local History Group are currently working on a leaflet about footpaths in a historical context.

■ Village Design Statement

A village design statement would become one of the supplementary planning documents having a part to play in the future Local Development Framework that will control planning issues in the Borough.

Want to know more?

Copies of the Parish Plan Report are available in the Parish Council Office or from Chairman, Ken Hunnybun.

Next Meeting....19th February in the Methodist Hall.



News from St Philip and St James.

Here we are half way through January and Christmas seems like some far off event which is now just a distant memory. A lot of people came to celebrate at St Philip and St James, both young and old, and it was great to meet everyone.

Although the decorations are now stored away and maybe New Year resolutions forgotten, this is exactly the time when the spirit of Christmas should be at work in our community.

The shepherds have gone back to look after their sheep – in the middle of winter we should keep an eye out for our neighbours. The wise men have returned to their homes far away – we should remember those who live far away from us and maybe get in touch before we send out the annual cards again. Mary and Joseph are now getting used to having another life to look after – as Christians we too need to think how we will develop our relationship with that baby who came to earth for each one of us.

'Jesus is for life, not just Christmas'

Village Society Notes

Our November meeting was entitled "Hong Kong and a taste of China" It was a talk by Sid and Anne Jordan about their recent trip to visit family. Their accompanying slides showed the real contrasts of east meets west, with modern skyscrapers towering over local flower and bird markets, wide boulevards and tiny alleyways. There were fascinating glimpses of the boat people thronging the harbour area. While they were in Hong Kong a trip was made into China. They visited a workshop making Ming-style vases, using centuries-old methods. They explored Beijing and walked on the Great Wall - not too far though, as it is steep and the air is thin. The last slides showed the panoramic views from The Peak across Hong Kong at night - a breathtaking display of lights.

Forthcoming meetings.

Feb. 20 A.G.M. and Supper.

Mar. 20 "Emus for Pleasure and Profit".

Apr. 17 "The Morris - An Enduring Tradition".



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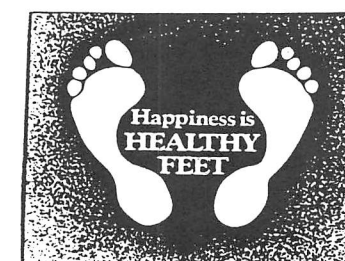
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ASTILL and JORDAN

The article in the last edition has certainly
made people remember the staff party held at
the Goscott Hotel in Birstall, during December
1961 / January 1962.

Both Colin Lissaman and Bob Pendery have
helped by telling the story and putting names to
the faces.

Staff travelled there by bus (how else?) and
Bob Pendery was the driver. It was a dinner
dance with music supplied by the "Melody
Boys" dance band. A band of some repute
having played at the Palais de Dance in town.
Sidney Astill, the owner of the company, along
with Winston Stevenson the Village
Newsagent, both played the saxophone in the
band.



In the picture we see:-

Back row standing:- Mrs Ethel Lissaman, Miss
Shirley Chambers, Mrs Elvira Astill (married to Sid
Astill), John Moore, Bob Pendery, Miss Diane
Chambers, Eddie Chambers (manager from
Glenfield) and Fred Eyre.

Middle row:- Arch Lissaman, Mrs Violet Chambers,
Miss Dorothy Chambers, Mrs Clark, Lawrence Clark
and Miss Clark.

Front row:- Anne (nee Gray) and Colin Lissaman,
Mrs Brenda Pendery and Henry Cooper.

HIS and HERS

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A DAY OUT WITH ASTILL and JORDAN....THE RETURN TRIP PART 2 of CHRIS GARRETT'S STORY

The Clock Café, 4.30. The restaurant buzzing
with sandy daytrippers straggling in after a day
of cricket on the beach, Greg Johnson the Man
of the Match. Earlier, the men paddling in rolled
up trousers, the bolder women with their cotton
dresses tucked up, others planted in
deckchairs for the duration surrounded by the
smaller children making sandcastles. Alan
Sutton, the Marstons, Johnny Hulbert the
Sinfields and me looning around the boating
lake in pedal boats - little Michael "Taz" Towers
, God rest him, fell in - or was he pushed?
Anyway it was only 18 inches deep. The
fairgrounds, the big dipper, the slot machines
... we all converged from our various fun-
packed day for tea - fish chips and peas,
(alternatively ham and tongue salad), bread
and margarine, massive pots of tea - fantastic.
Then back to the coach park by way of the gift
shops - impractical pottery ornaments, "a
Present from Hunstanton", sticks of rock... for
some reason, our little gang of choirboys all
bought brown rubber swimming goggles. On
the way back a man was standing in the street
dangling a dancing cardboard clown which he
operated with no strings attached. Magic. I
bought one and, opening the packet later, read
the instructions: "attach black cotton to the
arms and legs". I should have known.
Back at the coach park, Astill & Jordan
coaches - was one a Vulcan and another a
Crossley? I remember those names from
somewhere - were already filling up with tired
trippers; star soprano Florence Pickering and
her friend Miss Gardner, your Spirella
corsetière, already aboard. The last few
stragglers found their way back and off we set
for the long trip back to Ratby. The shadows
lengthen and the evening falls, the busy world
is hushed - but not on this trip. The coaches
buzzing with laughter and chatter, the children
running up and down the aisles, the older boys
commandeering the back seat and enticing the
choir girls to join them. We younger ones could
only watch in envy, although I remember John
Sinfield, always the guy with that certain savour

Send in your articles and photos

faire even at age 11, managed to join them.
The coaches stopped outside a pub in
probably Wisbech or Grantham. The men piled
in for modest halves and we sat around in the
last of the warm evening sun in the leafy beer
garden with lemonade and crisps, feeling like
kings. Back on the coaches - the dusk and the
soft singing, children falling asleep, rolling
through Lincolnshire past endless miles of flat
fields and the occasional aerodrome. Later, a
ribald chorus of "Stop the Bus we want to Wee-
Wee" to the tune of "Glory Glory Hallelujah"
came from the rear and we duly pulled in to a
layby. The coaches were no longer in convoy
by this time so we were humming down the
A46 on our own. Quieter now, dozing.
Somehow you didn't want the day to end. But it
did. As we turned in Ratby, dropping off Mr and
Mrs Wale, "So long.." Canon and Mrs Macleod
- "Goodnight all - see you in church tomorrow!"
and various others in Groby Lane; the
Stamford Street contingent, from Harold and
Annie Spencer and Ginny at the bottom to Mr
and Mrs Gardner and the Barnes family at the
top, through Charnwood (I think it was still
prefabs then) and into Markfield Lane. Mr and
Mrs Lemon, Mollie and Dan Palmer - "Cheerio
all" - and finally to the Sunshine Houses. As
we stood watching the coach rumble off into
the night, I saw the hall light was on. "To deter
thieves" said my dad. As if we spent all our
evenings sitting in the hall.

PABARI'S RATBY NEWS

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

I'm not sure what the rest of the village is like, but on Stamford Street the amount of human spit and dog mess that covers the pavements is unbelievable and unbearable. I, like a lot of families that reside on the street have young children and taking them to and from school has become a really unpleasant and difficult task, trying to dodge the mess everywhere. I would like these people to realise that I have now set up a camera looking on to the street and if I catch one of the culprits on tape I shall be sending a copy to both the police and the Council. The fact that these type of people don't care about what germs and diseases they may be spreading disgusts me!

Regards,

Ben Mathews



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Dear Editor,

I read with interest the misleading article in the booklet called "The Local" which I received last week headed Thumbs up to the new Ferndale Park.

As a long time resident and former Parish Councillor of Ratby, I am sure most of the parishioners, as I am, are delighted that the Park is almost finished and in use.

I am however disgusted at the way that the Chairman of the Parish Council is trying to infer that Borough Councillor Chris Boothby was the main person involved in the development of the park when in-fact neither of them showed absolutely any interest or gave any assistance whatsoever until they realised that it could be used for just such self praise. Until this time far from being helpful they were often obstructive, causing, apart from other things, the opening of the park to be about a year later than it needed to have been.

I feel however that if the Chairman did not for personal reasons want to thank Borough Councillor Ken Hunnybun the Chairman of Leisure and Recreation, Elaine Moore the former Chairman of the Parish Council, Avril Sutton, the Youth of the village, the Landscape Architect and The Ferndale Community Group who actually did the bulk of the work from the start on the project, would it therefore not have been so much better, and indeed honest to praise all of the present and former councillors and the public who helped on this project from its conception, and not to have mentioned any single person's name.

Why cannot the Parish Council be purely altruistic and put a stop this blatant opportunism.?

The Parish Council should be about leading the whole community, (not just one group), working together and therefore being honest and open and not closed and devious as it often appears. Isn't it about time these people tried to heal the rifts that exist instead of indulging in this petty point scoring.?

Alan Blanchard



RATBY NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

In Conjunction with Leicestershire Constabulary

As Father Christmas has left us with some valuable goodies such as Bikes, Electrical items and mobile phones, please consider the security of these. UV Property marking pens are available from local Police Stations, and the Parish Council have a few. Make a note of serial numbers.

Lock up securely when going out, even if only for a few minutes. Leave property looking occupied, time switches for lights and radio/TV can help. Net curtains or blinds help stop prying eyes from spotting saleable items. Hide Satellite Navigation Systems and holders away when leaving your vehicle. Don't leave items on display to tempt the thieves. You know that bag is empty, but the thief causes serious damage to find out!

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Operation Christmas Child

In November this year Brookvale Students took part in the operation Christmas Child Project run by the charity Samaritan's Purse. Each form was encouraged to produce a few shoeboxes, wrapped in Christmas paper and full of small gifts. These gifts would then be sent off to children around the world who would otherwise receive no present at all. The response from Brookvale students was phenomenal and by Friday 17th November the school had collected 73 shoe box gifts, some classes arriving at the drop-off point with arms full of boxes and individual students turning up with one or more boxes they had prepared with their family at home.

A GREAT CENTENARY YEAR

2006 was Ratby Band's 100th year, and we made it a good one.

There was a huge Centenary Concert at De Montfort Hall; 2 new CDs and a new piece of music written especially for us. We also celebrated by creating the Beginner Band which, with the Training, Youth, Mid and Senior Bands, makes it five Bands in all with about 120 players!

2007 kicks off with the Youth Section Training Day at Quorn in February, competitions in Burton on Trent in March,

We'd like to thank you for your support 2006, our Centenary year, and we look forward to seeing and entertaining you during 2007.

DEADLINE for issue 123
APRIL/MAY 2007
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