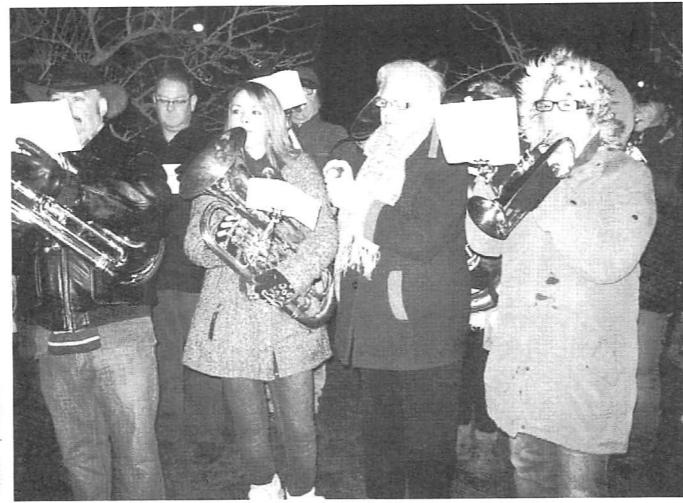


WOT!

About Ratby

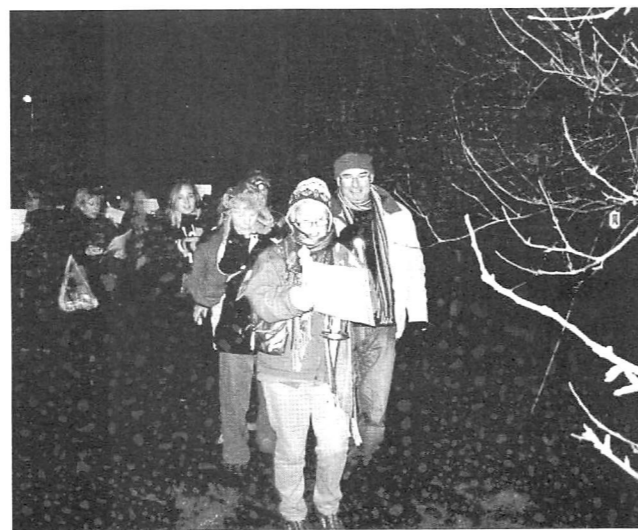
PUBLISHED BY RATBY SCOUT GROUP

WASSAIL! at the ORCHARD



Members of Ratby Cooperative Mid Band play us into The warm up Wassail songs at The Railway.....before playing again as we 'wassailed' the trees.

Ratby Community Orchard group were joined by other villagers and friends to perform the annual 'Wassail' on Saturday 12th January. Ten members of Ratby Band kindly provided stirring music for the Wassail songs; Geoff Newman, who arranged the music and conducted, Sheralyn and Emily Newman, Rob Hunt, Lynne Harris, Rachael Verity, Melissa Clarke, Jeff Plant, Katie Sephton and Mary Sibson. We 'toasted' the trees according to tradition, and passed around the wassail bowl to drink to their health for a good crop of apples.



If you missed the Wassail look out for publicity for our Orchard events during the year, or check out Ratby Community Orchard's Facebook page.

You can hear Ratby Cooperative Senior Band perform their annual New Year concert in Ratby Parish Church at 7.30 pm on February 23rd. Phone 238 6749 for tickets.



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Wot's on at the Village Hall?

The Ratby Senior Citizens Welfare Committee wishes to thank users of the hall for their patience throughout July and August 2012 when the hall was out of commission. The parquet flooring was replaced thanks to a generous grant from Awards for All and the contractor Sean Mangham who carried out the job.



The committee are pleased that groups have continued using the hall and have been joined by other activities since the reopening. All the groups are open to new members (except Art, which is currently full). So here is a list of what is available:

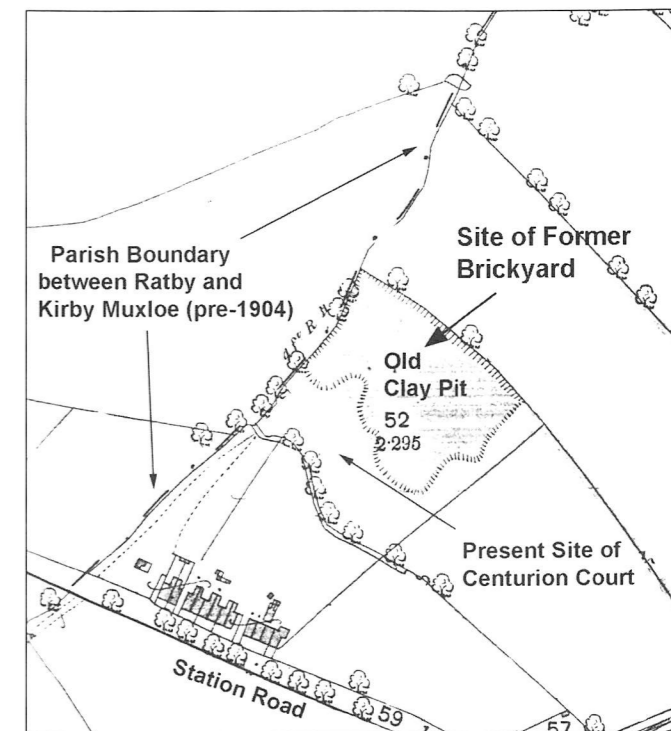
The Hall provides senior citizens with a Drop in On **Thursdays** followed by Evergreen in the afternoon and Bingo on Monday evenings. Regular lettings involve a wide variety of organisations and activities including; **Mondays** – Zumba and Taekwondo; **Tuesdays** - Mature Moves (Keep Fit), Art Class, Taekwondo and Village Society (monthly); **Wednesdays** – Parent, Toddler and Baby Group, Bowls Club and Women's Institute (monthly); **Thursdays** - Keep fit and Weight Watchers; **Fridays** – Ratby Local History Group (Bi-Monthly); **Saturdays** - True Blue Dance Crew.

The hall is also available for occasional lettings e.g. children's parties, commercial events etc. For further information please call Ken Hunnybun on 0116 2388354 or email ajmskh@aol.com

RATBY LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

The pathways between Station Road and Ferndale Drive have been given name plaques recently: these are:

- 1. Brickyard Walk:** In the late 19th century until c.1920, the former Kirby Muxloe/Ratby brickyard occupied the site of a clay pit to the east of Station Road (see 1886 map below). It is remembered by Ratby's older residents as a piece of derelict ground, by then used as an unofficial play area by the children. Michael Ball remembers that, in the 1950-60s, it was a haven for wildlife with a backdrop of willow trees and abundant dragonflies, butterflies etc. The section of footpath between Centurion Court and Tyler Road has been named 'Brickyard Walk', in order to keep this piece of village history alive.
- 2. Boundary Walk:** Before 1904, the boundary between Ratby and Kirby Muxloe ran from the Station Road/Park Road North junction to today's Ferndale Drive. It followed the line of a 4 foot drainage ditch (see 1886 Map below). Parts of Lower Station Road, including the brickworks (see above), the Railway Inn and the former railway station were in Kirby Muxloe until 1904. In the development plans for the Church Farm Estate (1970 - 2000), a footpath was created along the line of this former boundary between Station Road and Ferndale Drive. The section of the footpath between Station Road and Centurion Court was named 'Centurion Court' c.1980-90. The section between Tyler Road and Ferndale Drive has been named 'Boundary Walk' as a reminder of its former role.



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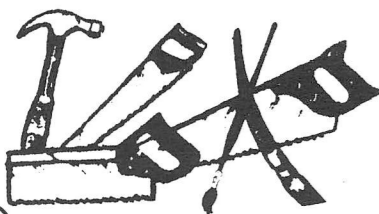
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RATBY VILLAGE SOCIETY

Meetings are held in the Village Hall, Main Street at 8pm on the third Tuesday of each month. Admission: Members £1.60, casual guests £2.50, including refreshments. You don't have to live in Ratby to come along, all are welcome.

19th March 'Life as a Curate' by Father Trevor Thurston-Smith

16th April A talk on LOROS, including a DVD tour of the hospice.

21st May 'Personalities Revealed.' An insight into the lives of local personalities.

27th May Ratby's Coronation Carnival at Ratby Sports Club 2pm to 5pm. Ratby Village Society Anti-Litter Group will stage and 'Art in Ratby' event and a 'Good Food Fair.'

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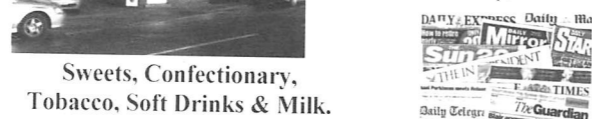
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LETTER to the EDITOR

Dear all,

As you are probably aware I ran over 250 miles during Advent in aid of the Alzheimer's Society. To date I have raised over £4000, and the money is still increasing.

During the run I burnt over 32,000 calories, took over 200,000 strides and ran for more than 40 hours over the days!

The money raised will go towards supporting sufferers, their carers and families. Hopefully it will make dealing with such a horrible disease more bearable for a significant number of people.

If you have sponsored me then thank you very much.

If you supported me throughout, then thank you very much. I could not have done it without encouragement.

If you were completely indifferent then thank you for not letting on.

If you would still like to donate please visit; www.justgiving.com/andrewhurd1 or send a cheque made payable to The Alzheimer's Society.

Kind regards,
Andrew Hurd

ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH

If you would like to help this worthy cause again there will be a HOT SUPPER and QUIZ at Ratby Methodist Church on Saturday 23rd March. Supper will be served at 6.30 pm, and a family quiz will follow.

Tickets £7.00 from Joy Parker 287 4042

Put the date in your diary now!!

RATBY COOPERATIVE BAND

The Senior Band under Michael Fowles achieved an impressive THIRD place in the first section at Leicester Brass Band Association Contest in November, with a piece entitled 'Sounds' by John Golland.

Mid Band conducted by Geoff Newman came a creditable 7th in a very large 4th section, playing Jacob De Haan's 'Oregon.'

The Youth Band under Becky Moss came second in their section.

Congratulations to all.

A new BEGINNER BAND will be forming under Geoff Newman, and players of all ages are welcome. Contact Geoff on 0781 564 5503.

Practices are held at 6pm on Tuesday evenings in the band room on Taverner Drive.

GROBY COMMUNITY COLLEGE ALLOTMENT NEEDS YOU.....

Groby Community College is appealing for volunteers with an interest in gardening and some spare time on their hands to help restore our allotment and help towards the ongoing maintenance.

Unfortunately our students haven't had enough time to spend in the allotment over the last year and therefore it has become overgrown. Once restored students will be able to grow flowers, vegetables, herbs and fruit, and also plan a wildlife area. We do have the necessary tools, a large greenhouse and plenty of storage, and any volunteers would be welcome to share in the produce.

If you would like to volunteer please contact Mrs Karen Shephard in the first instance
Tel: 0116 2879921 or Email: kshephard@grobycoll.com



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SUNDAY LUNCH CLUB

In October the Church Rooms had been blessed with a new state of the art kitchen. We challenged ourselves by asking how best to use this, and several church members voiced the same idea of offering a lunch to Parish residents. Sunday lunch has traditionally been a family occasion, but it can be a lonely time for many. We wanted to offer friendship to elderly or disabled people and those who live alone by inviting them to join us on the last Sunday of each month. We prepare and serve a three course meal which is well received. We are also able to link the invitation with our Bereavement Follow-up team so that along with pastoral care we can offer some practical help and support.

For those who need transport we have a band of volunteer drivers willing to pick them up. We are never short of helpers for these meals, to help prepare food, serve at tables and act as hosts.

The food for the first meal was provided by members of the congregation at Ratby Church, but since then it has been entirely self funding. We do not charge for the meal, but the food and fellowship is so appreciated that our guests leave donations.

At our first meal we welcomed 21 guests, we now have 45 people who love to come to the lunch club. And I have to say we love seeing them each month as well.

If you would like to attend or know someone who would benefit please contact;
Joan Hawkins (Parish Pastoral Assistant)
 239 3130



FUND RAISING SUCCESS AT BROOKVALE HIGH SCHOOL

You may have seen an article in the Leicester Mercury, back in December 2012, about the £2837 raised by Brookvale High School for the teenage cancer ward at the Leicester Royal Infirmary. This ward has been provided by the Teenage Cancer Trust, and they needed £500,000 to finance the project.

I am so proud of the staff and students at Brookvale for raising such a large amount for this brilliant cause. Led by Harvey Singh (Maths Teacher) and Manraj Walia (Science Subject Leader) our students raised nearly £3,000 by organising a Halloween disco, a bucket collection at Christmas, a "Brookvale's Got Talent" show and a Year 9 sponsored walk.

Teacher Rachael Gowdridge and her husband raised money to take the total to over £3000.

Our school motto is 'Achievement, Care and Excellence,' and by raising this money our whole school has shown that we like to put our care for others into practice.

Katie Rush, Headteacher



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BRADGATE LIONS CLUB NEWS

What a successful Christmas Period we have enjoyed. Starting with bucket collections at Sainsbury's, Fosse Park and Budgens in Groby, where collectively we raised £409.00. During the three weeks in December leading up to Christmas we have also been out and about with our 'Santa Float'. Firstly on two nights during week commencing 3rd Dec: when we were in Anstey with the Woollen Hill PTA & Latimer Street Infants School PTA. Then during the w/c. 10th we were out twice collecting in Ratby, assisting the Girls & Lads Brigade there with their fundraising, and lastly on the 17th. and the 19th. December we were pounding the streets of Kirby Muxloe with the local Scouts group. Altogether £1162.78 was raised; this was shared between the local groups and Bradgate Lions.

We also have had 14 Christmas Prize Draw Baskets in various hostelrys in the district and these have raised approximately £1200.00 for our charity account, which along with other monies raised during the current year will be allocated out to various causes in May 2013.

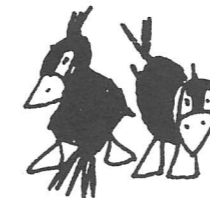
Besides fund raising we have also been representing 'Santa' at Martinshaw Infants School, Groby, Newton Linford Pre-school, and visiting some of the wards at Glenfield Hospital with the Groby Church Choir, entertaining with carols and giving out cards and gifts to the patients.

Bradgate Lions Club represents an area stretching from Desford and Leicester Forest East to the south, as far as Anstey and Newtown Linford to the North, and from Glenfield in the East to Markfield in the West, which is quite a large area, and so we are always looking for new members to help us cover the district.

The club holds a business meeting at Forest Hills Golf Club in Botcheston on the 2nd Thursday of each month starting at 7.00PM. And a social meeting at various venues on the 4th. Thursday, interested parties are invited to any of these meetings, to find out what we are all about, and to meet the members of our club.

To find out further details just give Roger a call on **01530 242912** who would be pleased to hear from you, and happy to assist.

Lion Roger Gamble



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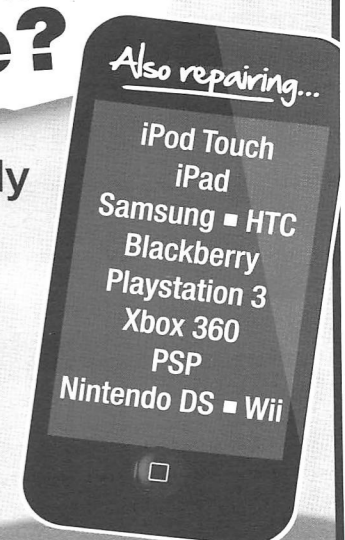


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