

1ST RATBY BEAVERS

April 1st was a special night for the first Ratby Beavers as Mrs Harrison (Squirrel) and Mrs Hawkesworth (Kit) were invested as Assistant Beavers Leaders by Mrs Tyler who is A.D.C. Beavers for Leicester West District.

At the end of the Winter term Mrs Jemmet (Badger) left the Beavers and we would like to thank her for all the hard work she did for us. Mrs Keogh (Otter) has taken over as a helper.

On Wednesday 8th April we had our first Open Evening to raise funds for Beavers, it was also our 2nd Birthday.

The evening was very successful and we raised around £35.

There was a display of work done by the Beavers and the parents were able to see some of the activities and games that take place on meeting nights.

We would like to thank everybody who came and supported us.

The raffle was won by Mrs Wallbank who is Akela at the Swift Cub Pack.

A special thank you to her for donating the prize back to the Beavers (it was a cake). They all had a piece the next day.

The other prizes were won by:

Dawn Keogh - Whiskey

Mrs Bailey - Wine

James York - Tee shirt

Mrs Stokes - Easter Egg

We would also like to thank Mr Smith for letting us use the School Hall and especially Rod Atkinson (the caretaker) for putting up with us every week.

1ST RATBY SWIFTS

The Swifts entered the six a side Football Competition held at Groby Community College and did very well, they were very unlucky not to go through to the next round, they were pipped at the post by one point.

The St. Georges Day Parade on Sunday 26th April was quite well attended. Julian Mills did a very good job of carrying the flag for both Cub packs.

MARTINSHAW

SPONSORED WALK

The Scout walk around Martinshaw Wood seems set to become a permanent event, if this years turnout is any guide. Scouts, Cubs, Beavers, Leaders and Parents arrived in force, early on a dry if cool Sunday in May.

All of the boys gave of their best and as always the Beavers impressed with their sheer enthusiasm and determination, tackling a course which for such small legs represented a real challenge. Plasters weren't too necessary this year, but an absolute lake of orange juice kept the walkers on the move (blue tent to the left!).

The style of the boys this year varied from those who were determined to finish first and those who walked at a more leisurely pace enjoying the occasional burst of sunshine and the leafy surroundings. Quite a few lads decided to do an extra lap and two cubs had to be restrained from doing two laps of honour.

One of the most impressive walkers was the Beaver who had to go home with his mum after six laps, with tears in his eyes. Half an hour later, he was back, with his dad and a big smile on his face to polish off the remaining laps!

I would like to thank all the boys who took part, their parents who came along and supported them and all those who helped to make this a safe, enjoyable and worthwhile event.

The money raised will go towards scout funds plus a donation to the Woodland Trust for kindly allowing us to use their splendid wood.
David Gould

EDITORIAL

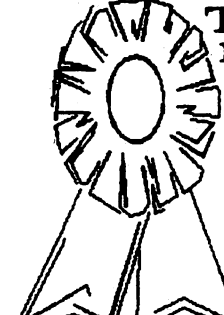
WOT to write for this, the fourth issue, we are in England and it is the June issue so it has to be about the weather, are we going to pay for this gorgeous weather later on in the year - lets hope not. Was it two years ago we had a sharp frost on June 1st? Lets hope this doesn't happen again I couldn't stand another childrens page of snow.

Whether or not the weather changes there has been a lot happening in the village over the last two months, did you get involved? Easter and two other bank holidays came and went but unfortunately there were no Parish Council Elections - is no one willing to help be the voice of the village? Don't leave it to someone else!

WOT appears to be successful in its stated aims of being a village magazine with most groups using its pages to inform and enlighten the rest of the village of what they are doing. The band were "out" no less than 181 times during the year - thats amazing but I suppose that the cricket club might beat that record!

The ads also appear to be working; although I could remind advertisers that an advertisement needs to be read more than eight times before its message sinks in!

We have (I hope) in this issue published all of the items and articles which we had to leave out of the April edition.



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QUIZ

- When was the clock installed in the parish church?
 - What year was the Welfare Hall built?
 - Who was the headmaster of Ratby school on the eve of the 1st World War?
 - Where was the terminus in Leicester of the Leicester Swannington railway?
 - Who was the last miller to work the windmill situated at the rear of the mill drive?
- Answers to Michael Ball, 26 Cottage Close by 1st. July.

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Wot!

About Ratby

JUNE 1987

Published by Ratby Scout Group



YOUR COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

In April I attended the Annual Parish Public Meeting and heard the outgoing Chairman, George Hurd, give a report on his stewardship.

By any standards George has been an outstanding Chairman and it is reassuring that men of his calibre are willing to give their time and energies for the benefit of the village. We shall all miss him. A former Vice Chairman of Governors of Groby Community College, I hope he will continue in his valuable work as a Governor of the College.

George's last meeting was a time to re-cap on some of the successes of recent years. The Weight Restriction Order which was so long fought for: while the main street remains heavily trafficked: without the restraint on Heavy Goods Vehicles the position would be intolerable. Vigilant villagers can help by taking numbers of "cowboys" breaking the Weight Restriction Order and reporting them to the Police.

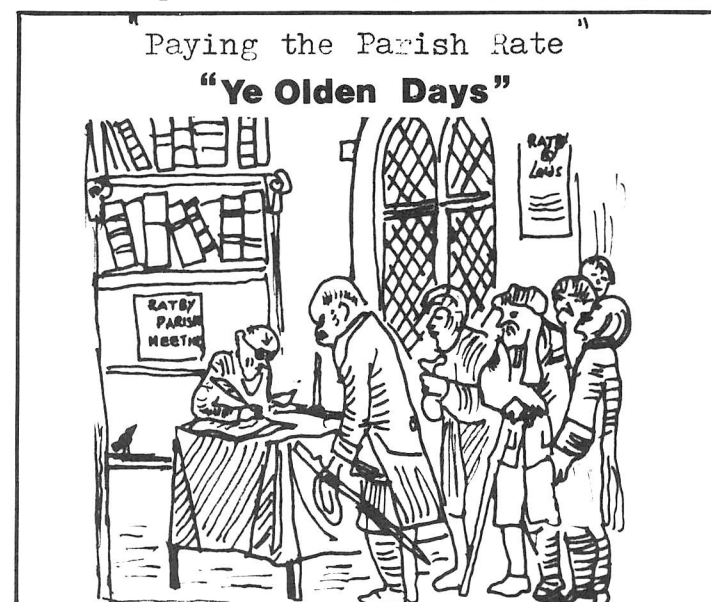
Martinshaw Woods, a major achievement and a superb community effort, hardly a man, woman or child in the village did not make some contribution.

The Library was something we have all worked for over the years, not least George Hurd himself. The final anxious days, when we feared all might be lost, then a determined band of W.I. ladies, descended on Sir Adam Butler's surgery in the village. We all pulled out all the stops for that final effort which was crowned with success.

Readers may like to know that the Library has become a "show piece". Officers and members of other County Councils have been to inspect what

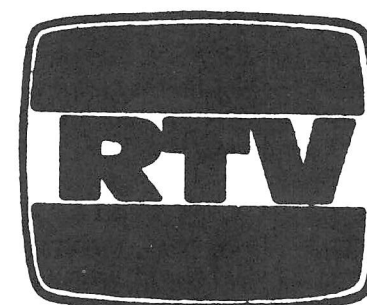
can be achieved with a temporary construction on a good, although difficult site.

Few of us will ever forget the night the Library was formally opened by the Vice Chairman of the County Council, Mr. Neville Hanger. This was the night when the chemical factory



went up in flames. A follow on from that very serious fire was a recent visit by the Severn Trent Water Authority officers. Always vigilant the Parish Council wanted to assure themselves of precisely where the water supply is situated and in what capacity. They now have detailed maps, an example other Parish Councils may like to follow.

While much remains to be done a lot has been achieved, let us pause for a moment and thank the outgoing Parish Council, several of whom are not standing again, for their work over the last four years. It has been rewarding to work with them. Pat Butler



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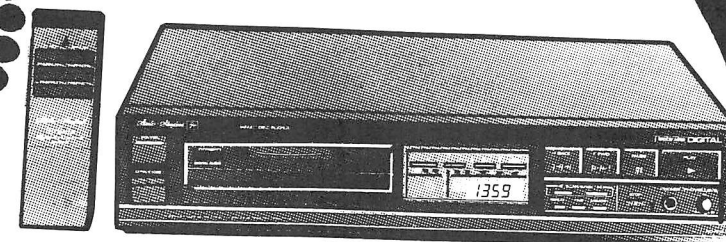
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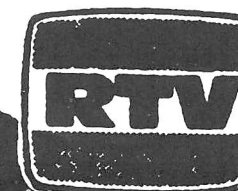
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Dear Parents,
You may be aware that for some time now we have been looking for new leaders for our Brownie Pack. We started the pack six years ago when the waiting list for the 1st Ratby Brownies was so long that some girls were unable to get the chance to become Brownies. Knowing that we would eventually leave, we began looking for replacements in good time, hoping that whoever came forward would work with us for some time before taking over. Sadly this has not been so and recent changes in commitment both to work and family, have prompted us to say that we will both be leaving at the end of June although at the moment we have no prospective replacements. This decision has not been taken lightly as should no one be found it means that the pack will be suspended until such time that new leaders can take over, and this is not what we want to happen.

So please if you think you could help in any way, know someone or a group of people who would be interested, contact us as soon as possible. Anyone who did volunteer would be assured of full support from not only ourselves, the Guiders in our District but all the Girl Guide Movement.

Yours hopefully,
Kathy Byrne and Ros Gould
(Brownie Guiders 2nd Ratby Brownies).

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- June 6. Ratby School Fete p.m.
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- 10. W.I. Microwave Cookery
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- 13. Royal Legion Trip to
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- July 8. W.I. Meeting as usual
- Aug. 12. W.I. Guided Walk by
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- Sept. 6. Ratby School Assoc.'s
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**VILLAGE FAMILIES
IN FOCUS — THE
BRUDGINGS, GEARY
AND FOULDS FAMILIES.**

The Brudgings family had arrived in the village during the early years of the 18th century. During the next hundred years the family prospered. Consequently by the time of the Parliamentary Enclosure, Josiah Brudgings was a lease holder of some ten acres of land. He also farmed a modest small-holding, with adjoining closes and an orchard.

During the early years of the 19th century one branch of the family appears in time to have turned their back on farming and joined the ever growing band of village stocking makers. In turn the sons of William Brudgings, Framework-knitter were by the year 1840 established village needle makers. From their premises in Dirty Lane (now Chapel Lane) hundreds of needles were manufactured each year for the ever growing needs of the Framework knitting trade.

Today the Brudgings original forge and outbuilding lie buried amongst the flower beds of David and Mary Bowdridge's cottage.

The first quarter of the 18th century saw yet more new arrivals. Shortly after the year 1715 the Geary family took over the lease of Old Hays farm. When John Geary died in 1769 he was described as an husbandman. Although his personal property and farming stock amounted to some £610 in value.

When his son William died in 1795 he was perhaps one of the most prosperous farmers of his day. In his inventory of March 1795 indicates the Geary family had now risen to the ranks of Gentleman. His contemporaries described him as an opulent farmer of some 200 acres with a farm in Ratby together with the lease of lands at Old Hays.

By the early years of the 19th century the stocking trade had expanded considerably. Dotted amongst the gardens and backyards of many of the cottages in the area of Church and Chapel Lane, also along the rear of the main street, were many small sheds, together with larger workshops belonging to the village

stockingers. One of the principle families associated with the trade at that time was the family of George Foulds. George's grandfather William had come to the village about the same time as Josiah Brudgings. William Foulds was perhaps one of the first of the villagers to take up the stockning trade. During the greater part of the next century George Foulds' son William and grandson Benjamin continued the family business begun by George's father.

At the time of his death in 1809 George Foulds was described as a master framework knitter. He was a freeman of the Borough of Leicester and a principle employer in the village hosiery trade.

Michael T. Ball

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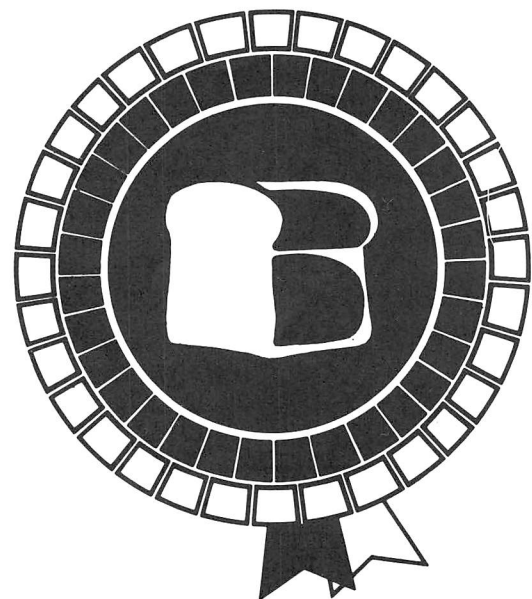
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FRIDAY MORNING CLUB

I should like to introduce you all to the ladies Friday Morning Club at Groby Community College

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For ladies who have small children or babies, there are creche facilities at the college.

Our prices are quite reasonable, entrance is 60 pence. If you have a child it is 95 pence and two children £1.15, these prices include the cost of the creche.

Our programme for this school term is as follows:

June 5th - Making a happy start to playgroup

June 12th - Handwriting analysis

June 19th - Victorian etiquette

June 26th - Caring for plants - houseplants and hanging baskets.

We start at 9.45 a.m. - 11.15 a.m.

Come along and give us a try we welcome everyone.

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SCHOOL DAYS AT RATBY SCHOOL IN THE EARLY 1930s.

Margaret Green



Here are a few of my happy memories of school days at Ratby School in the early 1930s. I think there were 31 pupils in my class. We had plenty of books, paper, writing materials and teachers who expected us to work hard. We walked to school clutching our two biscuits in a brown paper bag to be labelled and put on to a big table in the corner of our room. These were eaten at lunchtime together with a little bottle of milk with a straw. We came home at dinner to Mum who always had a hot dinner waiting (she would cook again at night for Dad). My handkerchief was pushed in a little pocket in my knickers and sometimes teacher would ask to see that we had a hanky, or a piece of rag, and also inspect to see that our wrists, necks and ears were clean! The toilets were outside, we didn't sit long in the Winter!

Shrove Tuesday was one of the highlights of the year and was a half day's holiday. The Quorn hounds always met on the Bulls Head Car Park this day at 11 o'clock and we were all allowed out to rush down and peer through the railings against the old lime tree. Many a fight as to who

would be at the front. No school after 12 o'clock that day so we'd rush home for a bottle of water and a sandwich and off we'd go either to the Burroughs or Marinslow in pursuit of the hounds. At this time we traditionally played whip and top, shuttlecock and battledore, marbles or ran along the road bowling a hoop with a stick. During the dark nights after tea we were allowed out to play Fox Hounds under the street lamp, but we had to be home by 7 o'clock and woe betide if it was 7.05.

We used to dread the visit of the school dentist who would set up shop in the drill room (aptly named). However if you had to have a filling or extraction you were rewarded with a 3 cornered bag of sweets. No doubt ensuring continued employment!

My spending money was 2d per week which I had to earn by scrubbing our outside toilet floor. Sometimes this was supplemented by my Grandma who would pay me for getting watercress from the brook in Desford Lane or collecting sheeps wool from the barbed wire fences for her to put round her always painful corns!



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MARTINSHAW WOOD

The Woodland Trust completed the purchase of Martinshaw Wood from the Forestry Commission on 1st November 1985. The Trust aimed to raise £217,000 in total to buy then manage the 254 acre woodland. The appeal was launched before the purchase was completed and the fund is still open for contributions. To date £165,200 has been raised, £75,000 in grants and £90,200 in donations and local fund raising events.

The wood was purchased by the Trust for all local residents to enjoy. Although there is only one public footpath through the wood, under the Trust's ownership the public can walk freely on all the paths and rides, but we ask that dogs should be kept under control (but not necessarily on a lead) so that the wildlife is able to flourish in the wood too.

One of the first tasks when the Trust acquired the wood was to recruit a team of voluntary wardens; people who wanted to visit the wood on a regular basis and who were prepared to act as the Trust's eyes and ears. A team of about 20 have been recruited; some walk the wood daily, others visit it less frequently but all play an important role in the Trust's work.

With the help of university students and local naturalists, the Trust is preparing a management plan for Martinshaw. Fortunately much of the woodland is a mixture of broadleaved and coniferous trees. Over the next 30 - 40 years the majority of the conifers will be removed to allow the broadleaves (particularly oak) to develop. Eventually we hope the woodland will be returned to its more natural form. Groups of conifers will be retained for their wildlife and visual interest and for local school children to identify! Martinshaw offers enormous potential for education of young and not so young, and we hope local schools will make full use of the wood.

Potato Magic with Free Wine

Wednesday June 17th 7.45
Welfare Hall.
Cookery evening with a
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Phone 386027 for details

Within the next few years the Trust aims to create a series of waymarked paths through the wood and provide a leaflet showing the guided walk. Part of the route may also be used for orienteering, a very popular sports use of Martinshaw.

Since the Trust bought the wood we have suffered from bouts of vandalism. The large hut used for storage has been broken into and the roof felt torn, trees have been hacked down, fires lit and tree huts and platforms built. Motorcycles and horseriders have been breaking fences to gain entry. The Trust welcomes the public to Martinshaw Wood but asks all visitors to respect the woodland; it was purchased by the Trust with your help: help us to look after it.

If you have any queries about the work of the Woodland Trust or about Martinshaw in particular, please contact Diane MacMullen, the Regional Officer, at the Woodland Trust, Autumn Park, Dysart Road, Grantham, Lincolnshire. NG31 6LL. Tel. 0476 74297.

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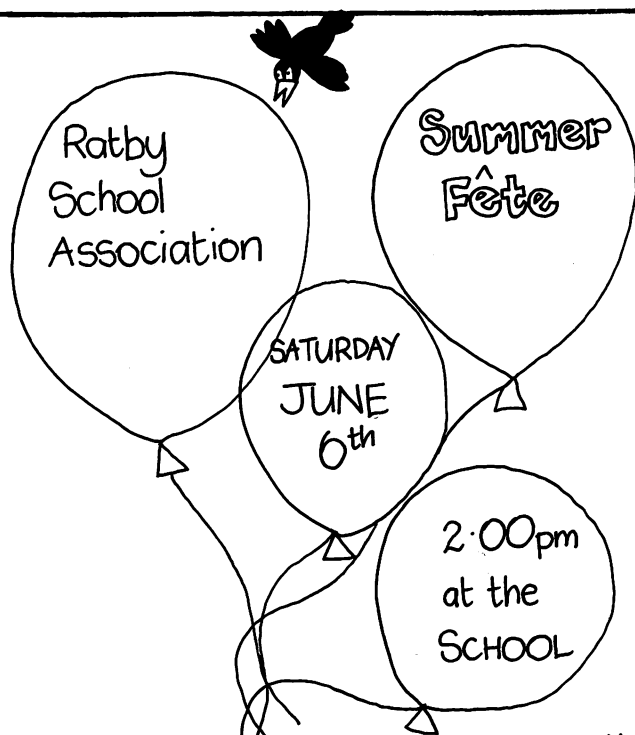
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THE PLAYGROUP

The issue on most parents' minds at the moment is the County Council's new policy for school admissions. Children will be able to begin school at the start of the term in which they will be five.

However, for the time being children whose birthday falls in the summer term will still have to wait until September before entering school. This means that some children will be almost 5-1/2 years old on starting full time education. Although educational research has shown that most children in this circumstance do catch up with their peers, parents are still naturally concerned and feel that their children are being discriminated against.

The Playgroup Parents Committee has written to the Council, deploring this discrepancy, and also asking for funding for an additional teacher. Although parents have every confidence in the staff of Ratby School, this increased intake means that resources will be stretched to the limit.

Parents may of course choose to wait until their children have reached compulsory school age before sending them to school.

It is interesting that both the "Plowden Report" of 1967 and the White Paper on Education, 1985, recommended that children do not start full-time education until after their fifth birthday, but that every child should have some pre-school education.

So far successive governments have chosen to ignore these recommendations, and we are left with a situation in villages like Ratby where parents have to raise all their own funds to provide some pre-school experience for their children.

The Playgroup in Ratby should not however, be denigrated because it is a voluntary effort, one of its main benefits is that it allows parents to get involved directly in organising an educational experience for their children.

It is to be hoped that whichever party comes to power in the forthcoming election will at last heed all this research and recognise the proven importance of pre-school education.

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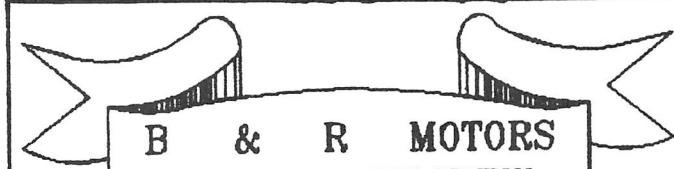
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1ST RATBY SCOUTS

SUMMER CAMP

The Summer Camp this year will take place at the Buxton and District Site at Gradbach, Staffordshire, between Monday 20th July and Saturday 25th July 1987.

Gradbach lies 8 miles southwest of Buxton on the borders of Staffordshire and Cheshire, near the

head of the Dane Valley. Being in the midst of some remarkable scenery of woodland, moorland and hills rising to 1800 feet above sea level. This site offers many attractions to the outdoor scout.

Chris Woodward Scout Leader



Your "WQT" Delivery Team

Front row L to R Chris Timpson, John Binley, Gary Crockett, David Hardy
2nd row kneeling Andrew Gamble, Craig Jordan

3rd row, Daniel Sims, Matthew Flower, Nathan Dickman, Robert Fenton, Jason Kilsby

4th row, Jeremy Freeman, David Payne, Daniel Cronin
Back, Mark Wallbank

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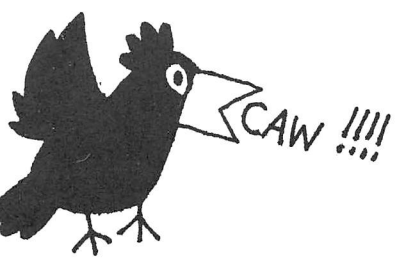
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Brian Logson



by William

A Winning Team?



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Knock Knock
whos there?

Boo
Boo who
No need to cry, it's only a joke.
(by Amy)

Why did the boy wake up in the morning?
Concorde in his bedroom?
Because he'd left the 'landing' light on!!



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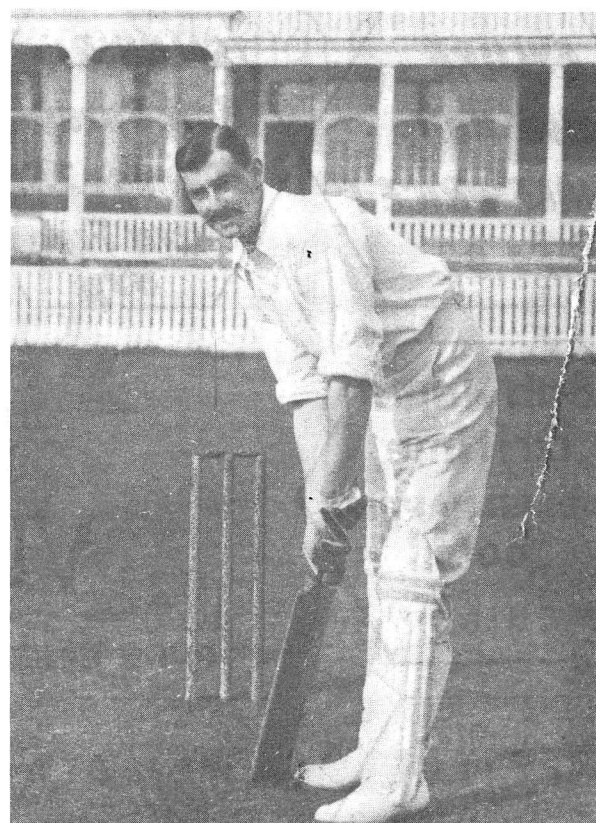
Our article for the June issue continues the Ratby Town Cricket Club story and we hope that it continues the interest generated by the previous articles. The previous cricket one caused quite a stir which resulted in telephone calls and letters from as far a field as Earl Shilton!

RATBY TOWN CRICKET CLUB

You will all recall that part one ended with a brief account of the exploits of William Shipman and therefore it might be significant at this stage to mention that he was one of six brothers who all played cricket for Ratby.

Thomas the eldest was an opening batsman and captain for many seasons, Clarence played regularly for Ratby, Albert was on the County staff but unfortunately he was killed at the age of twentyone during the great war and it is fair to say that he would certainly have been a first class all-rounder and the best of all the Shipman brothers. Harry played for the Leicestershire Club and ground and so we come to the youngest, Alan Shipman. Like his elder brother he first played for Leicestershire as a fast bowler, he took an exceptionally long run with a low slinging action, he could swing the new ball immensely with great pace off the pitch. In his early days he showed great promise as a batsman and it was not surprising that he was eventually promoted to opening bat. During his first class career he scored fifteen centuries with a highest score of 226 against Kent. He was chosen to play for the Players against the Gentlemen and also the North against the South.

Although a tall man his physique was too slight to stand the strain of continual quick bowling and this eventually caused his premature retirement from first class cricket, there is no doubt that had he been blessed with a more robust physique he would have been an even greater player. One feat worth



WILLIAM SHIPMAN

"One of six brothers"

mentioning is that at Kidderminster against Worcestershire on the first morning of play Alan Shipman bowled unchanged during the pre lunch period taking five for 30, after lunch he opened the batting and scored 183 runs and had the bad luck to be caught on the boundary off the last ball off the day, a feat as far as we are aware that has not been equalled in first class cricket. After his retirement he became the landlord at the Bull's Head Ratby and was appointed coach at the Tonbridge School in Kent where he coached a youth by the name of Colin Cowdray.

Fred and Herrick Bowley both played for Leicestershire, Fred the eldest was a left arm slow bowler with a nice easy action who proved quite deadly in the Minor Counties games.

Herrick was a superb wicket-keeper and attractive right hand batsman although he did not have great success in County cricket he made many large scores for the second eleven and was later to become a professional to the Dumfries club in Scotland.



HERRICK BOWLEY

"Superb wicket-keeper"

Over the years other players not actually born in Ratby but who played for the Ratby Town cricket club and Leicestershire.

Hayden Smith was born at Groby just a stones throw away. He was a medium fast bowler with a good action who could move the ball immensely in both directions. In the later part of his career he was called upon to bowl lengthy spells which did affect his final figures. Although he did not appear very high in the batting order he was no mean performer and very often his big hitting usually succeeded in getting the side out of trouble. He had the satisfaction of scoring a century against Worcestershire. He took over 100 wickets in five seasons and took 12 wickets in a match four times during his career. On his retirement from the first class game he became coach and groundsman at Ashby Grammar school.

The next gentleman is probably the most famous of all those who have played for Ratby Town cricket club but who gained his fame away from the cricket field. I introduce that celebrated Royal portrait artist Bryan Organ. Bryan was born at Glenfield, he was a superb attractive right hand bat and an immensely gifted spin bowler. He played for many seasons for the Ratby Town cricket club, including being elected to that illustrious post of captain and the writer had the pleasure and privilege to play alongside him in the whole of his career with Ratby.