

Wot!

About Ratby

ISSUE 16

PUBLISHED BY RATBY SCOUT GROUP

JUNE 1989



IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE!!

Thanks in the main I am sure to the advertisement placed in the last issue of WOT the response to the Garage Sale held at 35 Danehill in April far exceeded expectations.

William and Amy Boud, Daniel and Heather Fretter are pictured here holding a cheque for £81.02 raised in aid of C.O.P.E.

Thankyou to everyone who made a donation or supported the sale, with particular thanks to Ernie White who attended in his capacity as Pearly King.



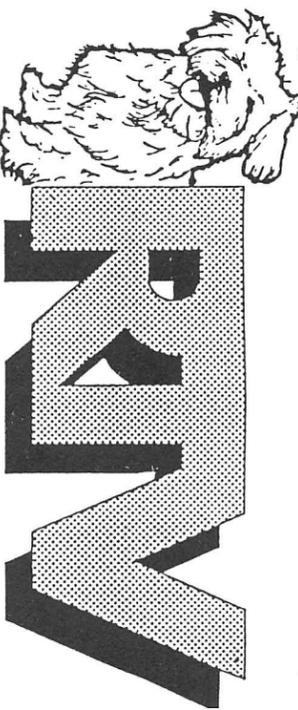
Last summer holiday there were fund raising activities on Nicholas Drive when Laura Murch, Kerry Richardson and Iain Mellor decided to have a mini-bazaar at 11 Nicolas Drive to raise funds for the local branch of the RSPCA as well as selling goods there was a raffle, games and teas served to customers on the lawn! Over £17 was raised and presented to the Chief Kennel Maid at RSPCA, Scudamore Road.

It was hard work but fun so look out for posters announcing this summers 'event' to be held on Tuesday 15th August between 10 - 12 a.m. at 13 Nicholas Drive.

Come on support these enthusiastic youngsters!

PHOTO Kerry, Laura and Iain

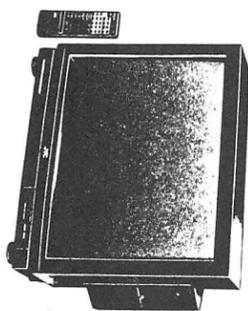
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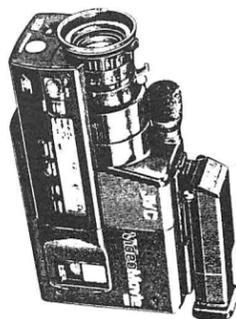
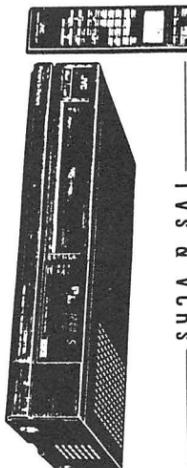
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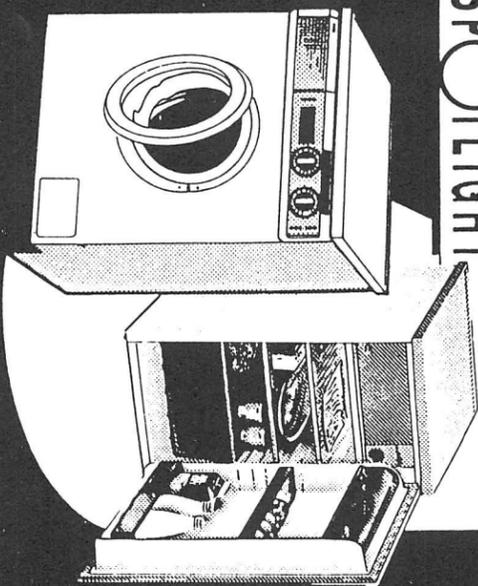


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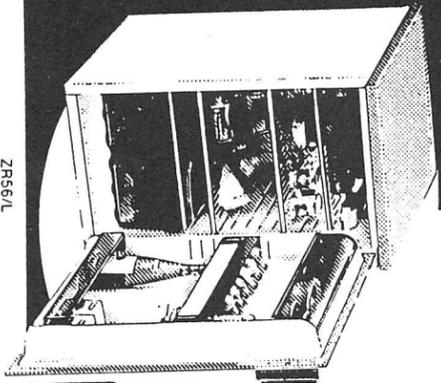
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BREAST SCREENING IN RATBY

'WOT' an amazing response we had from the women of Ratby! Of the 120 women invited for breast screening 100 (over 83%) attended, 13 cancelled and only 7 didn't respond.

The screening staff were surprised and delighted by this response.

My thanks to 'WOT', the W.I. Drop-In, and all who have helped to encourage such a good response.

If you are a woman aged 50 - 64 and registered with a Doctor's practice in the Glenfield area your letter and appointment should be arriving in the near future. If you would like to know more about it, local chemists, libraries and Post Offices in the area should have leaflets about the Screening Service, or you could telephone the Screening Office - Leicester 340414 or Caroline Harding, Leicester 625733.

ON THE STREET WHERE YOU LIVE

Berrys Lane

The origins of Berrys Lane would be to the average villager obscure. It's name is enshrined in the depths of time and date back to the years towards the end of the reign of Elizabeth the 1st.

In the village at that time were several blacksmiths, one of these men was John Berrie, born in Ratby in 1629. He lived in a cottage at the top of the lane with his wife Isobel and from there carried on a family business that continued over three generations. He had a son, John who we are also told went into his father's trade. A register of the apprentices of the City of Leicester records that John Berrie son of John of Ratby was apprenticed to John Marshall of Leicester on 25th March 1647. A later entry records that John Berrie was asked to make 'Iron Fetters' for Royalist prisoners captured after the battle of Naseby.

FIRST RATBY SWALLOWS

Sunday 14th May 1989 - Sponsored Walk in Martinshaw Woods.

The boys were keen and rarin-to-go, and at 9.30 am they attacked the course, which in certain parts, was so deep in mud it came over your wellies! After one lap it was obvious that plenty of broken biscuits would be needed to keep up the Cubs strength. More than one lad was seen disappearing into the Woods clutching a fistful of Bourbons or Custard Creams.

With nearly a 100 per cent turnout, and in spite of a very warm morning, most finished by midday in time for Sunday lunch.

WELL DONE LADS!

RATBY JUNIOR YOUTH CLUB

The youth club has been running since 2nd March and we get between 30-40 children/adults (I would better be careful what I call them) each week. At the moment we have one table tennis table, dart board and various board games, but are much in need of a second hand snooker or pool table as you can imagine one table tennis table between all those is not much. It takes a longtime to build up funds for buying equipment and it is hard to keep everybody occupied all the time.

We had 2 teams go to Coalville to a fun splash in April, they had various feats to perform in a swimming pool with ropes, dinghy, balls etc. We didn't win but a great time was had by us all. (I haven't shouted so much since I went to Leicester City in my youth).

Hopefully when the weather gets better and the nights lighter we will be able to have some activities outside.

Keep coming kids, this is for you and then possibly your younger brothers, sisters or friends will enjoy what you have started.

I would just like to add what a great bunch of helpers there are.

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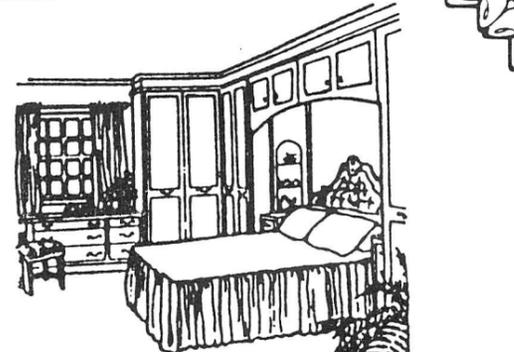
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TO ALL OUR ADVERTISERS AND CONTRIBUTORS

Due to continually increasing costs incurred by WOT, it will be necessary for our charges to rise by a modest amount.

These increases will come into force for issue 17, due to be published in August 1989.

WELCOME TO THE NEWCOMERS

Mr. and Mrs. Atul Bhavna took over the Alliance and Leicester Building Society on Wednesday February 1st. - Mr. Bhavna's birthday!! They are enjoying being in Ratby, and find people very friendly. Plans for improvement and expansion include the development of the Insurance side of the business. Insurance has been a family concern for eighteen years. Specialities will be car insurance, especially for the over 50's, and the arrangement of mortgages. The agency for Sketchley cleaners will continue to operate!! Up on Markfield Road, the Frasers have arrived to embark on their first experience of running a general store. They too are finding Ratby folks friendly. Immediate plans include the arrival of a new drinks cooler!! Rob Fraser would like to emphasise that under no circumstances will alcohol or tobacco be sold to anyone who does not look the appropriate age - i.e. over 16 for tobacco products, 18+ for alcohol.

'WOT' would like to welcome these enterprising newcomers who are keeping our village alive and hope that they'll get plenty of custom!

**JULIE'S
HAIRDRESSING**

MAIN STREET, RATBY

Traditional & Modern



It looks like Rainbows are coming out all over. Plans are under way to start Rainbow Guide Units at Groby and Markfield. It's nice to think that Ratby has led the way!

The 1st Ratby Rainbows go from strength to strength and have even included fund-raising for others in their programme last term. A sponsored "Bird Spot" round the Burroughs "netted" 10 species of birds (despite the chattering of 15 excited girls). The grand total of £67.15 was raised for the Royal Society for Protection of Birds Centenary Appeal.

The latest Rainbow activities have included; Teddy Bears Pancake Picnic, hairdressing, and brass-rubbing at the church. Our final few weeks of this term should include a treasure hunt and our annual outing.

The waiting list continues to grow, despite the recent move up to Brownies by 4 of our Rainbows which enabled us to take in some of those waiting.

Nevertheless, we strive to do our best for those who have a place, in the hope of setting the girls on the right road - hopefully one which will take them through Brownies and Guides.

Rainbow Guider

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**YOUR DOMESTIC
SERVICES**

JUNE IN THE GARDEN

June is a strange month for gardeners, we hope for long, warm days to enjoy the garden but what we really want is plenty of rain. Especially in a year such as this after a dry winter plants may have difficulty finding the water they need, up to 5 gallons per square yard every week. Deciding when to water can be difficult, plant roots grow down in search of water when it is short, watering will tend to prevent this and so many cause long-term problems. However, all recently planted items must be watched carefully and watered when necessary.

All bedding plants will be planted out at last but already it is time to think of next year and soon biennials such as wallflowers and sweet williams.

Roses need careful watching for aphides and for the diseases black spot and mildew, all these are easily recognised. It is best to vary the chemicals used if you chose to spray against pests and diseases, problems may arise if you always use the same ones.

Towards the end of the month cuttings can be taken from any shrubs and rooted in a

propagating frame or a pot enclosed in a plastic bag. I use a compost of half peat an half perlite, half peat and half sharp sand or potting grit also works well. Roses can be grown on their own roots by planting flowered shoots as the flowers fade in this compost in a pot enclosed in a plastic bag.

Herbs are at their best towards the end of June and can be harvested for storing. They can be dried in a very low oven with the door open or frozen after blanching.

Many house plants will be happy outside during the summer, usually they are best in the shade. Make sure they are watered and fed and not allowed to become covered in aphids.

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Ratby Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting

Held at Ratby Primary School on Thursday April 13th. 21 members of the public were present.

The Parish Council Accounts for 1988/89 were presented, and accepted. Councillor Michael Ball, Clerk to the Trustees, presented the account of the Saceveral Trust and these were accepted.

Chairmans Report

The chairman reported that problems of parking and traffic management had been discussed at virtually every Council meeting. It was emphasised that whilst the Parish Council has no statutory responsibility for providing solutions to these problems, Parish Council members have carried out their duties as local representatives to seek action from those Authorities with responsibility. Unfortunately, because early results have not been obtained this has caused some unfair criticism of the Parish Council.

A total of 45 planning applications had been considered during the year. Again the Chairman emphasised that the Parish Council does not make the decisions regarding planning approval, but is a statutory consultee. Parish Council comments have been noted by the Planning Committee of the Borough Council, and occasionally modifications to plans have been required, to the benefit of the Community. Recommendations rest with the whole Council, not just any one individual member.

There have been full consultations with the Borough Council Planning Department on the preparation of the N.E. Parishes Local Plan.

During the year the extension to the Ferndale Drive Play Area was transferred to the Parish, and became a football pitch. The Council is still seeking a Play Area Maintenance person. Play equipment is regularly inspected by professionals and repairs are continually being undertaken.

Footpaths in the Parish are regularly checked and adverse comments sent to County Hall for action.

The Parish Council lodged formal complaints about illegal encampments during the year. The difficulties of ensuring removal of itinerants at Ben's Hut have been aggravated by similar problems in Bagworth, which were the subject of a court case. Our local M.P. has been involved to try and amend legislation.

The Parish Council has kept in touch with neighbouring parishes as well as County and National matters, through the involvement of Councillor Mrs Smalley in the Hinckley and Bosworth Branch of the Leicestershire Association of Parish Councils (L.A.P.C.) and as the Branch representative on the County Executive.

Youth Groups

A proposal was put by a representative of Ratby Scout Group that Ratby Parish Council "do make land available for development by youth in the village".

Ratby Parish Council

A second proposal was made that the Parish Council should meet with interested parties regarding possible use of land.

Both proposals will be considered by the Council at a future meeting.

A copy of the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting and the accounts may be seen in 'Ratby' Library.

Parish Council A.G.M.

The following appointments were made; Councillor John Smalley was appointed as Chairman to the Parish Council. Councillor Mrs Olive Smalley was appointed as Vice Chairman, and Chairman of the Planning Sub-Committee.

Representatives to the Leicestershire Association of Parish Councils Branch, Councillors Rogers, Rae and Mrs Smalley.

Councillors Mrs Smalley and Mr. Rogers are to continue as representatives on the Police Consultative Committee, plus others who wish to attend. Planning sub-committee members are Councillors Mrs Stanley, Mr. Ball, with Councillors Mr. Rogers and Mrs. Boud as reserves.

Park Road Parking Problems

24 replies have been received to the Parish councils survey. There were nine letters in favour of a voluntary unilateral parking arrangement. 15 letters opposed the suggestion, some of these were supporting parking on the 'even-no.' side. As many Residents appear to be confining parking to the 'even-no.' side of the road, perhaps that could form the basis of an arrangement. The results of the survey have been forwarded to the Police for their observations and advice.

School Crossing

After more than a year of consultation between the Parish Council, the County Council and the Police, there has been a site visit to examine the situation which has been worrying many parents.

In attendance were Inspector Dixon, (of City Police Headquarters), Mr. Wills (Libraries), Councillor Pat Butler, Mr. Hodges (Planning and Transportation), Councillor Mr. John Smalley, Mrs. Coulson (Clerk to the Parish Council), two uniformed police officers, and Mr. Peter Smith (Headmaster).

Inspector Dixon was apparently horrified by the volume of traffic travelling

through the village. Following this site visit, further consideration is being given to various options. It seems likely that the 'zig-zag' parking restriction lines alongside the School will be extended, and that a second flashing 'warning signal' will be installed.

The Parish Council has received seven letters from the public on this matter, most of them calling for the pavement to be widened.

Some letters commented on the numbers of cars being used to collect school children, which the writers felt exacerbated the problem. Other comments have been received expressing concern at inadequate parental control over young children.

Until a satisfactory solution is reached, the Parish Council urges parents to show maximum consideration when collecting their children from school. The Green Cross Code strongly advises parents to firmly hold children's hands alongside busy roads.

Again criticism has been levelled at the Parish Council, when in fact they have been beavering away at this problem since March 1988.

The Parish Council agreed to write to the Chief Planning Officer expressing concern at the increasing volume of traffic in the village, which will inevitably increase as housing development continues, and if current planning applications are approved.

Refuse Collection

Refuse collectors have been asked not to leave rubbish on driveways prior to its collection.

Play Areas

The Council were disappointed that quickthorn hedging ordered for Ferndale Drive play area can not now be planted until Autumn. Again the wooden fencing is in need of repair.

More details and practical experience of playground safety surfaces are being sought by the Council. Estimates are being obtained for repainting of equipment.

Four Councillors, Mr. Rogers, Mrs. Boud, Mr. Ball and Mr. Smith were appointed as play area supervisors at the Annual Parish Meeting.

TASTY, WHOLESOME, BUT

INEXPENSIVE PUB FOOD...

MONDAY - SATURDAY
LUNCHTIMES

RAILWAY INN

STATION ROAD, RATBY



GETTING TO GRIPS WITH THE NEW CURRICULUM

A view of Ratby School in late Victorian England

The opening of the new school in Ratby in 1873 should not have caused the apparent shock to the local community that it did.

As early as 1841 we read of children recorded as scholars in the census returns of the time. However those children receiving education at that time were few in number. They were in the main children of the wealthier families of the community who could pay for basic tuition in the 3R's.

When the new 'Board School' opened in 1873 the principal teacher Richard Forroyan was full of hope for his new school.

He looked forward to a school of enthusiastic youngsters keen to reap the benefit of the new age of liberal enlightenment of late Victorian England.

Education for all was the watchword but from the onset the local populace considered this concept more of a nuisance and sometimes a positive hindrance to everyday life.

Miss Eliza Forroyan the principal teacher in the Infants department remarked in the log book on August 2nd 1873:

"Needlework amongst the girls is quite a failure at present. I fear they cannot hold a needle properly and all have a tendency to work backwards owing to their being "employed" at home in seaming hose."

The word "employed" was the key to the basic problem that beset the school at this time. Children were an important part of the local economy. Girls helped mum at home seaming stockings made by their fathers and elder brothers. If a family were behind with their commitment to a local hosier they would simply keep their sons and daughters away from school until the job was done. The potential loss in a weekly wage always was a priority in many households rather than the educational aspirations of their children. Agriculture was similarly affected by the immediate decline in the child labour market.

On July 11th 1874 Richard Forroyan records "several absent this week owing to children working in the Hayfields". Despite some mechanisation the agricultural

manual year demanded considerable year relied considerably on manual labour, particularly at harvest time. The extra 'manpower' required had prior to 1873 been made up by a large amount of child labour. Children were cheap to employ and guaranteed the farmer "a few extra bob in his pocket" if children were working for him rather than an adult.

There is also evidence to suggest that even the School Board of Governors on occasions frustrated Mr. Forroyan's educational aspirations. When Mrs Kirk came into school on Monday 1st August 1874 to say that her son William had gone into the fields and when told by Mrs Kirk that her son had been given permission by Farmer Branson, a governor of the school all the headmaster could do was to reluctantly agree.

Six days later the school broke up for three weeks "Harvest Holidays". In those days even the main summer break was originally determined by the readiness of the "corn in the fields" rather than the need for spiritual refreshment by the children.

PUPILS OF THE PERIOD



We would like to thank Mr. Peter Smith Headmaster of Ratby County Primary School for allowing us access to the School Logs book during the preparation of this article.

Michael T. Bell

ABSENT FRIENDS

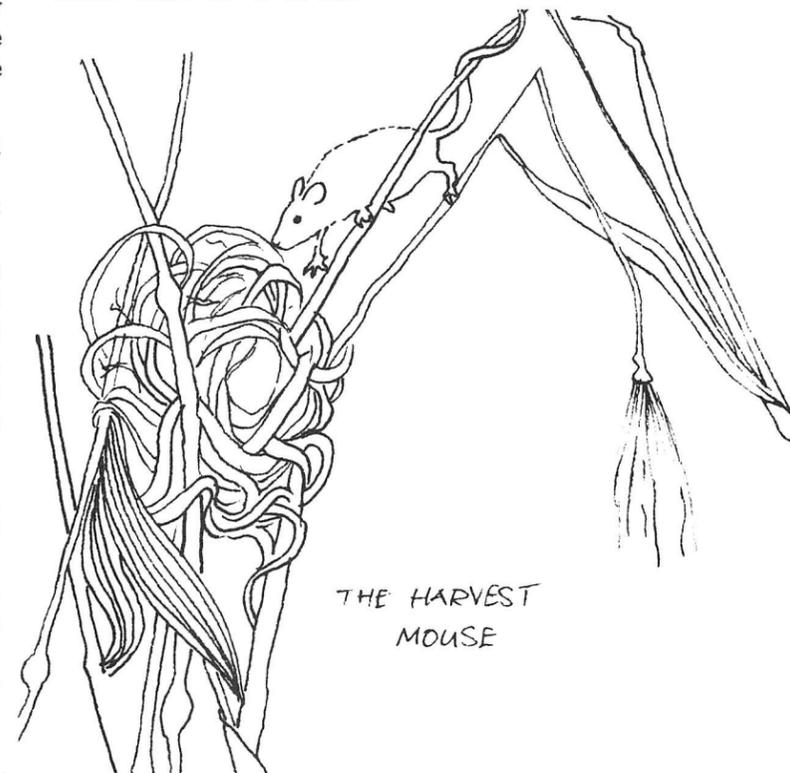
In the days before the Common Market quotas and Prairie Farming, one of the sights to be found in the Harvest field of thirty years ago was the tiny Harvest mouse. It's disappearance in many areas of the country was initially heralded by the introduction in the post war period of new strains of wheat and barley. These short strawed varieties grew to half the height of the old long straw wheats that were used to thatch the ancient cottages in Ratby. In the days before the second world war, children walking through the wheat fields of Ratby at Harvest time would often come across the neat little nests of these energetic little mice.

His head and body combined measured less than two and a half inches, although the scaly tail is almost as long. His tail is very useful; it is strong and supple and the mouse uses it as an extra hand to hold onto twigs and grasses. His eyes are black. He has a short blunt nose, rounded ears, little paws and a thick, soft fur which is of a yellowish red colour with a white tummy.

He climbs the stems of tall grasses and cornstalks, cutting off their ripe ears, carries them to the ground and then picks out the grain. He collects grain in the autumn to use during his periods of hibernation. During the winter he will either burrow into the earth or tunnel into a haystack.

The nest that the Harvest mouse builds is ball-shaped, about three inches round and knitted and woven with blades of wheat and grass. You will find it hung just above the ground between grass and corn-stems and inside there is just enough room for the mother mouse and between five and nine baby mice.

The Harvest mouse can also be found along ditches and hedgerows. Although he is timid and gentle he has been known to fight with his own kind. He makes a low chirping sound, something like that of a Wren.



Sadly the last recorded sighting of a Harvest mouse locally was in a wheat field adjacent to the Alexandra Stone Works in the 1960's. This animal together with the otter which was still to be seen in the village streams until the late 1940's are but two of the many animals and birds that have disappeared from the parish scene in living memory.

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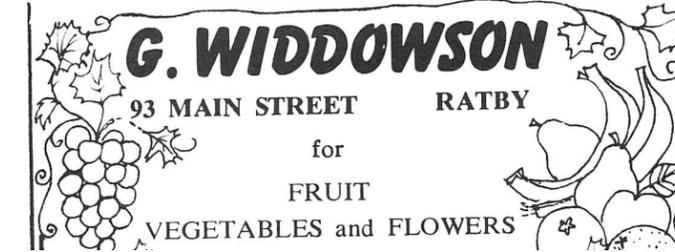
93 MAIN STREET

RATBY

for

FRUIT

VEGETABLES and FLOWERS



Dear Editor,
Re: Traffic Problems

With regard to the traffic problems of the village, one of the main points to consider is the right of everyone to choose where they live and work. If you choose to live in the Coalville area and work in Leicester Forest East, then the shortest distance between two points being in a straight line, you go through Ratby to work. Note the word through. If there is no traffic congestion you do 50 m.p.h. in the village. So if we put down double yellow lines to restrict parking, then the "through" people will appreciate it but not the residents. We should encourage sensible parking but "NO YELLOW LINES".

Casepak, if they are to stay in the village, should be encouraged to buy land behind the adjacent houses (a planning application for a church there was turned down recently, so the land must be available) they could then use it to park all the lorries off road with a mandate from the Police authority that none of their lorries is left on the road.

The same with County Travel, they have extended their parking area but with the buses though it is a different problem. They must be restricted to the main road and not run through the estate. It was fully agreed some time ago that the estate did not want a bus route through it due mainly to the numbers of small children playing outside.

As the numbers of parents waiting for school children is creating problems on the main road, would it not be possible to re-organise the playground so parents can wait in a separate area there and then they will be able to supervise their own children crossing the road and will then be moving and not blocking the pavements.

The minority of people in the village who must drive everywhere even for a few hundred yards would benefit from a walk, and the congestion in the village can only encourage the through traffic to seek another route.

We should campaign for a better traffic management system on the A50 that could benefit Ratby more than yellow lines.

Roy Holloway

Dear Editor,

Having read the April edition of "WOT about Ratby", I would like to voice my opinion of the chaotic situation of parking and danger not only in the main street, but also where I live, on the Danehill Estate.

I, personally, along with the majority, (I suspect) would like to see a total ban of parking in the Main Street. I would like to see double yellow lines along the whole stretch of road from the beginning to the end of the village. Drivers, I'm sure,

wouldn't be too inconvenienced by a relatively short walk from the library or Sports field car parks to the shops or school.

As a driver, I find pulling in and out of parked cars, whilst driving through the village, a most harrowing experience.

With regard to the school children, I think the photograph says it all. The dangers are so obvious.

I would like to stress another point regarding the turning heads on the roads of the new estate. I live in a cul-de-sac in Overfield Walk. Being a cul-de-sac, there is a very necessary turning head, there for obvious reasons but which people find convenient for parking and leaving their cars for a lengthy period of time. The danger here being, when delivery vans, dustbin lorries etc. come into the cul-de-sac, finding no means of turning, have to reverse quite a distance to the nearest side road in order to turn and get back onto the road.

This also is a very dangerous situation as we have many very young children playing in what should be a quiet, safe area, but due to the inconsideration of people, puts not only the children in danger, but is a hassel to the tradesmen as well.

Therefore, not only would I like to see double yellow lines in the Main Street, but also in the turning heads in the new estate. I'm sure the problem could be easily solved, so come on Councillors, please make Ratby a safe and happy place in which to live - say YES TO YELLOWS!

J.D. RAWLINGS



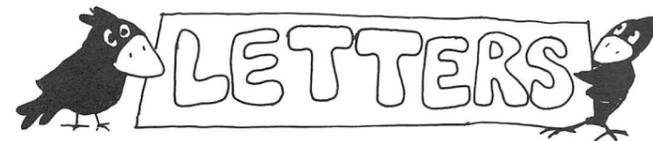
Dear Editor,

During the last few years I can remember only a few occasions when I felt there was a tangible dialogue between the Parish Council and the parishoners that elected it. Very often meetings are poorly attended by the public and the few times that parishoners attend council meetings the numbers are few and probably they feel the short period they have to air their views can often be frustrating rather than helpful.

However following the searching article on the problems of traffic management in the village centre-featured in the WOT Editorial, a great number of villagers wrote some most informative letters to the Council. Some days later the area in question was bristling with District and County Councillors and some high ranking police officers, which in all honesty as Councillor, I can only assume came about from the article. Keep it up WOT, well done, and readers keep the letters coming in to all quarters on village issues you feel need attention.

Michael T. Ball
Parish Councillor

(This letter reflects Mr. Ball's personal views, and does not necessarily reflect the views of the Parish Council).



Dear Editor,

The problems on the roads of Ratby are the same as those in the rest of the country. They are simply overcrowded and a population enjoying increasing affluence will go on making the situation worse.

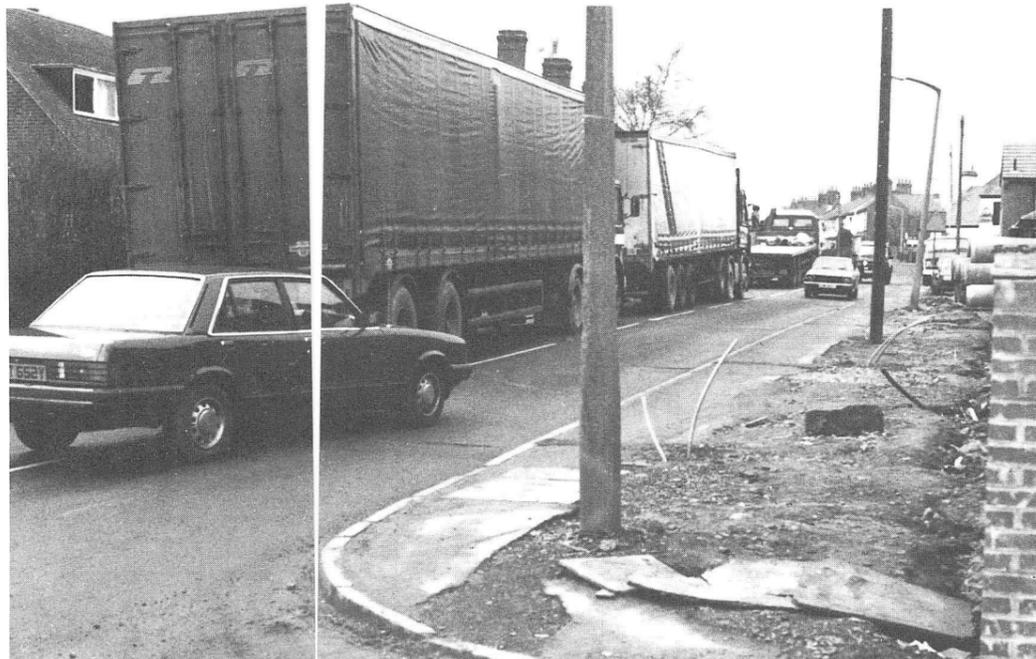
Any solution suggested will raise the hackles of someone in the community, that is the nature of people, but by using the facilities we have to the full and with little extra cost some of the problems could be alleviated. Some people may object initially, with good cause, but any improvement in our traffic situation will benefit all of us.

Some areas for investigation would be:

- enforcing the weight restriction regulation. This would reduce the number of H.G.V.'s snarling up the traffic, with the help of badly parked cars, resulting in freer moving traffic which causes less consternation.
- Enforcing the obstruction offence on the owners of offending vehicles. Again the result would allow free passage for vehicles.
- Create a clockwise one-way system using Dane Hill as the connection between Groby road and Station Road. This would facilitate parking on one side of each of the roads incorporated in the system without obstructing the traffic flow. Access for delivery vehicles would be easier and pedestrians would be a little safer with traffic travelling in one direction only.

I could go on boring you with ideas on enforcement of rules and regulations, restrictions etc. etc. but would it not be simpler for everyone to consider the effect on others their actions are likely to have before they act and if it is going to inconvenience then don't do it? I believe it's called Courtesy and it is sadly lacking in many of us today.

Monty Vann



Dear Editor,

On the subject of traffic in Ratby, may I raise a point not mentioned in the WOT article (April 1989).

I am very concerned about the problem of vehicles parking on the pavement, often making it quite impossible to get a pushchair past without going round the vehicle onto the road. I have particularly noticed this along Station Road between the newsagents and Ratby TV, and also outside the Service Garage where there is sometimes no space through which to push a pushchair. (Two cars parked side by side effectively block the pavement).

Sometimes vehicles are parked so as to leave no space even for a person to walk along the pavement - a real hazard for children on their way home from school.

On the subject of the pavement outside the Library carpark - why not widen it to allow parents more space to wait for their children? A small area would not make that much difference to the landscaping - far less of an eyesore than the car park is itself! About the coaches run by County Travel - the exit there is at a better place from the point of view of visibility for drivers than the Casepak exit, so maybe we can't object to this too much, though the car park does spoil the view from our house! (And there seems to be no time when there isn't something parked there).

I would urge the Parish Council to consider very carefully whether they should agree to the renewal of Casepak's licence, for the reasons stated in WOT. Also, lorries come in and out (sometimes reversing) on what is already a dangerous corner - a real hazard for traffic and pedestrians.

Sarah Boothroyd

Dear Editor,

Traffic Problems

I read with interest your article concerning the traffic flow through our village. Firstly may I say what a courageous lady Mrs. Crump is. What would we mums do without her now that the traffic has reached mega proportions at peak times. With regard to Casepak, lorries are parked dangerously along Station Road, belching out fumes and giving Ratby an extremely unsightly appearance from the Kirby approach to the village. Perhaps the owner of Casepak would care to take his lorries and park them in front of his neighbourss homes in Kirby Fields -

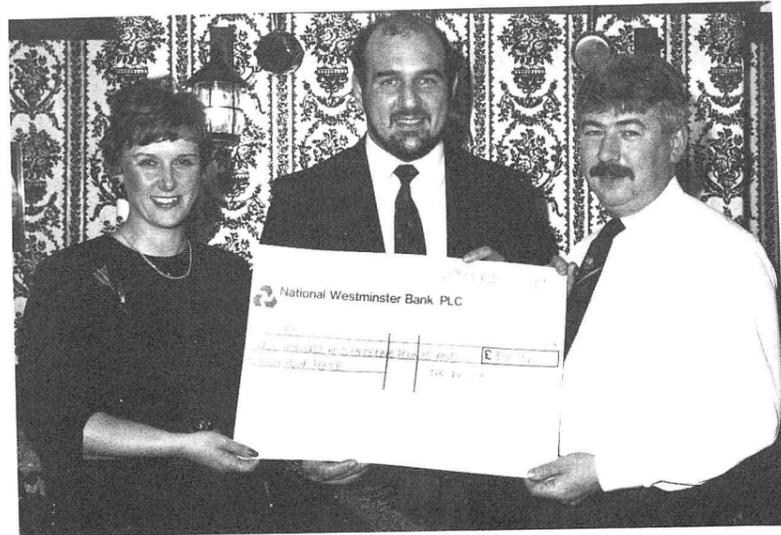
I'm sure they wouldn't object! Hinckley & Bosworth have received many complaints but still persist in allowing this problem to continue. Whatever their reason surely action must be taken by either finding an alternative site on an industrial estate or offering a suitable area to park these iron monsters away from the highway.

Sandra Gray

P.S. The photo. shows only 3 of the 5 lorries parked. As you can see there is no way I can get out of my drive without first telephoning Casepak to remove their lorries. It also shows just how easy an accident could happen.



Thanks for your
generosity



The generosity of the regulars at the Railway Inn, Ratby, has helped to raise a donation in excess of £350 for the local hospice, LOROS. Leicester Tigers rugby star, Wayne Richardson, a key member of the squad who faced Bath in the final of the Pilkington Cup at Twickenham, came along to present the cheque. Funds raised were from a variety of raffles, competitions and "pennies in the bottle". Wayne is pictured with Mike and Ann Murray, landlord and landlady of the Railway Inn, who congratulate both their patrons for their generosity and Tigers on their success.

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LETTERS

CONTINUED

Dear Editor,

A tinge of sadness overcame me when I noticed, recently, that another link with Ratby's past has disappeared.

No, they have not demolished the church for the redevelopment of the land (not yet). It is something very much smaller than that, less than one metre square, in fact. I refer to the pub sign outside the Railway Inn which now sports a very attractive painting of a Great Western Railway "King" class express locomotive. These were employed on the London (Paddington) to Wolverhampton - and to the West Country - main line trains but had no connection, however remote, with Leicestershire.

The previous sign was entirely in keeping with the railway line which used to run within a whisker of the inn itself, depicting one of the former Midland Railway goods locomotives first built in 1876. This class of locomotive was the mainstay of the line for both passenger and goods traffic until the former ceased in 1928 and until they were replaced on the latter in 1963 by two modern locomotives. 58148 featured on the old inn sign - complete with its correct trip-working target board 151 - was one of the three survivors of the class and based at Coalville for working the former Leicester & Swannington Railway Line, which closed between Desford and Leicester West Bridge in April 1966.

To the average passer by the new sign means nothing except that it has a railway connotation but to those with a feeling for local history it is rather irritating.

Horace Gamble

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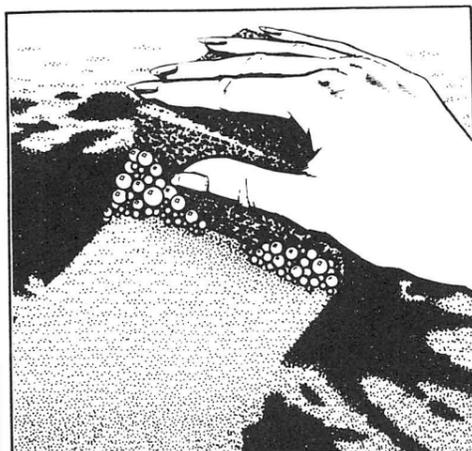
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Ratby Playgroup

Ratby Playgroup is run for the children of Ratby who are between the ages of 3 and 5 years. It is run by a Committee of Mums and a small staff of women (we do not deliberately discriminate against men, unfortunately we haven't had any offers from any to join us!).

The Playgroup was set up in 1971 in the absence of State Provision for pre-school 'education'. pre-school education is not a 'formal' type of education, but an introduction to the various skills needed in entering the education system. These skills are learnt naturally and enjoyably in the form of stimulating play. To this end Ratby Playgroup provides a variety of activities:-

Sand and Water play; Jigsaw puzzles; Wendy House; Painting, drawing, cutting and glueing; Climbing Frames, Stories and Songs; plus many more too numerous to mention.

The 18 months to 2 years that a child spends at Playgroup is probably one of the most important periods of their life, when they make new friends and develop new skills, and it is essential that these formative years are in a happy, healthy and stimulating environment. We are happy to welcome Parents to Playgroup and we also welcome ideas and constructive criticism from them.

As Playgroup is mainly run on a voluntary basis, we have to hold fund-raising events to raise the money necessary to maintain our high standard of equipment for the benefit of the children. Please look out for notices advertising our events. Your support is very much appreciated. We would like to thank everyone who supported Playgroup at our recent Rummage Sale, and Sponsored Wheelie Push. we hope to have a photograph of the latter in the next issue of WOT.

A plea to those parents who have children approaching Playgroup age. We do have a waiting list, and the register does take some organising, so if you want your child to come to Playgroup, please let us know as soon as possible, preferably not the term before their 3rd birthday!



Forthcoming Events

Friday 16th June 9 - 12 o'clock - Church Rooms. Coffee morning in aid of COPE appeal. Please come along.

August 7th - 11th. Church Rooms. Ratby Playscheme for 3 - 7 year olds. Please look out for notices about this.

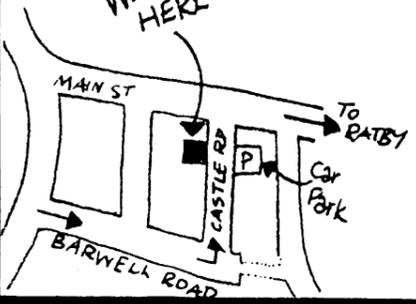
Any Playgroup enquiries to Lesley Chevin 386605, Lynne Evans 386347 or Margaret Pickard 386795.

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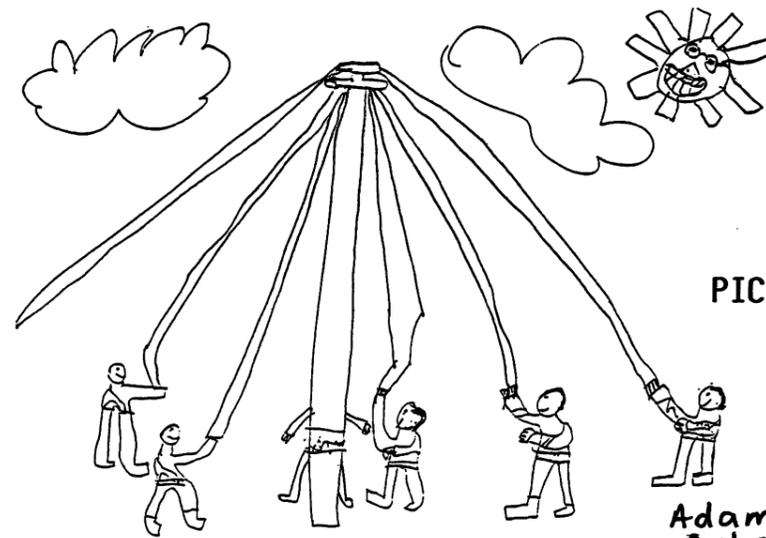
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1st. Ratby Scout Group

1ST RATBY BEAVERS

At Beavers, we try to draw up a balanced programme of games, songs, helping others, listening to stories, making craft items, etc. Obviously, 24 - six to eight year old boys need a lot of supervision and help! If you feel you would like to come along on a Wednesday, we'd love to see you. Even if you can't commit yourself to helping regularly, occasional help is greatly appreciated. We meet at the Primary School Hall every Wednesday in term-time from 5.30 to 6.45 pm. More details can be obtained from:

| | |
|-------------|--------|
| R Bent | 364398 |
| J Harrison | 393871 |
| J Hawsworth | 870134 |

The following extracts from the diary of a 1st Ratby Beaver will give you some idea of what being a Beaver entails.

Wednesday 5th April

Was really looking forward to going to Beaver's 'cos there hadn't been any meetings in the Easter holidays. Shouted my loudest when we said "Good Evening" to the leaders! Kit told us a story about St George and the Dragon and we all made a St George's flag. In a game I was a dragon and I was killed! Tried to play football sitting down like a person in a wheelchair would have to do, but it was very difficult.

Sunday 16th April

Went to a St George's Day ceremony at Desford. Lots of other Beavers there, all with the same uniform as us. I saw a St George's flag on top of the church! In church we sang lots of songs and then we had a drink and biscuit before coming home.

Wednesday 19th April

Was really excited because all the Beavers were going to McDonalds for a 4th birthday party. When we got there I saw my picture on a notice board. Before we had anything to eat Squirrel made us wash our hands, and we had a disco with a McDonalds lady. The chips and hamburgers were great! We

saw some men cooking the hamburgers and then we were give some bubble stuff before we came home.

Wednesday 26th April

Squirrel said it was "box" night at Beavers tonight. We all made a little box out of card and decorated it. I wanted to take mine home but Squirrel said I couldn't. The best game was building up huge towers of boxes - I couldn't reach the top and Moby had to help me! - and then knocking them down again. It was a sort of race.

Wednesday 3rd May

We had to put some icing and decorations on some little cakes and put the best cake in the box we made last week. Squirrel made us wash our hands before and after icing the cakes! We got in a line and walked down the road to a big house where some old lades live. We gave them the cakes and sang a song. We were very good. When we got back we had relay races on the field. We all had a cake at the end.

Wednesday 10th May

We played lots of games at Beavers tonight - catch the Beaver's tail; head it, catch it; stick-in-the-mud; cod, mackerel, herring; hot rice. The best game was having a grass fight on the field! When I took my uniform off at home there were bits of grass all over the carpet.

Sunday 14th May

Went on a Sponsored Walk this morning in Martinshaw Woods. We each had a card with lots of boxes on it which got ticked with different-coloured felt tips. There was a really muddy bit on the walk and my friend's trainer fell off! Some of the Cubs and Scouts ran all the way round. I could have run but Kit and Squirrel said I had to walk with them. When I'm a Cub I'm going to run. Each time we came to the table I had a drink and a biscuit. When my Mum came to collect me she didn't believe that I'd walked 20 kilometres, but I had! I was tired but I could've walked some more.

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An exhibition showing the proposals for the NORTH EASTERN PARISHES LOCAL PLAN (including Ratby) is currently in the Library.

If you have any objections to, or support for the Plan, they should be sent to the District Planning Officer before the 9th June, 1989. Objections should state the matters to which they relate and the grounds on which they are made.

A special form is required for any representation and may be obtained from the library.

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MEMORIES OF THE '40'S'

In our next issue we will be publishing some memories from PHIL BRANSON, who was an evacuee here in the 1940's. He is currently trying to arrange a reunion between former evacuees and the village of Ratby to give them the opportunity to say "Thank you Ratby".

The Vicar is already planning a "Service of Thanksgiving" for Sunday 3rd September.

Should anyone wish to contact Phil, his address is:

6 Swallowfield
Sageside
Tamworth
tel. 0827 68020

In the meantime you may wish to write to us and tell of your memories of the 1940's in Ratby.

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