

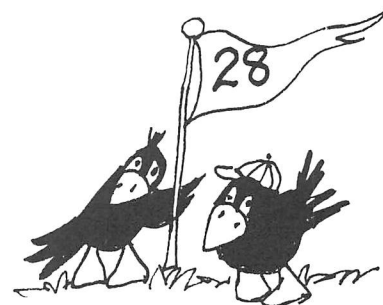
JUNE/JULY 2007

ISSUE 124

WOT!

About Ratby

PUBLISHED BY RATBY SCOUT GROUP



100 YEARS OF SCOUTING 28 in RATBY

This is a special year for all in Scouting, with many celebrations planned around the world. Villagers, especially newcomers, might like to know about our own group, 1st Ratby Scouts.

The group was first registered on 9th November 1984. Before this the cub pack in Ratby had been running for some five years affiliated to the 73rd Groby Scout Group.

The first Scout leaders were Andy Joyce, Pete Smith and Colin Payne, who for the last 23 years has been Group Scout Leader and stalwart of the Group.

The original committee comprised; Carl and Alison Newberry, David Gould, Alan Sims, Colin Payne, Mervyn Bee and Ray Lander, an advisor.

After many years dedication, Colin Payne and David Gould retired earlier this year, Alan Sims is soon to follow. Colin still attends the monthly executive meetings. He and his family have kept the group going for years, wife Carol, did book work, ran the 100 Club, both sons have been leaders and a grandson is just starting at Beavers.

We have some 'young blood' taking over and numbers in the groups are gradually growing, which is very pleasing to us.

Clive DeMello and Jackie Edwards run the Beavers on Wednesday nights in the School hall, 5.45 - 7 p.m. for children aged 6-8 years.

Justin Garratt as Akela, runs the Cubs, with helpers, at the Church Rooms on Mondays, 6 - 7.30, for children aged 8-10 years.

Lara Foster, Tom Hickey and Steve Pemberton run the Scouts in the Church Rooms on Thursdays 7 - 8.30, for 10 years and upwards.

Subject to approval from HQ, Tom Hickey will soon be our Group Scout Manager and David Payne will become the Chairman following Alan's retirement after 23 active years.

GH

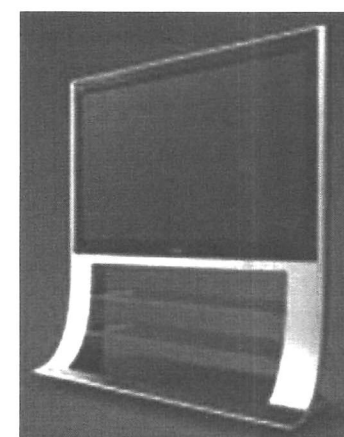


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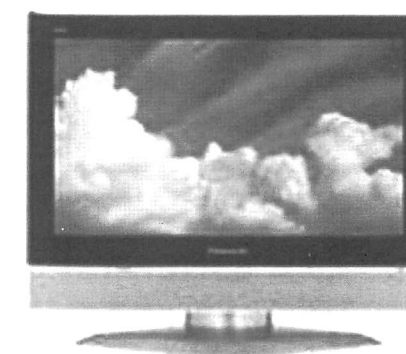
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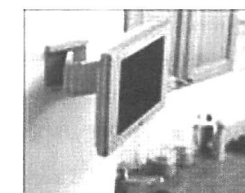
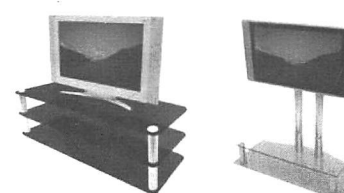
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Village Society Notes.

February saw us gather for the A.G.M. Business was conducted speedily and efficiently and the Committee members were re-elected unopposed, as follows:-

Jack Haywood (Chairman), Carol Measures (Secretary), Betty Hulme (Treasurer), Eileen Parker, Cyril Hoyle, Ruth Johnson, Jean Vann and Andy Cereseto.

The evening concluded with a buffet supper, much enjoyed by all.

On the evening of March 20th. members came to the Village Hall to hear Margaret Dover speak about 'Emus for Profit and Pleasure'. She keeps nine birds on her land at Kirkby Mallory, which produce fresh eggs for sale, to sell as breeding stock, or for decorative purposes. The eggs are dark green in colour and can be eaten. They are large enough at 50g. to contain the equivalent of a dozen chickens' eggs. A one-egg omelette measures about ten inches across!

We learned many interesting facts about these birds which are evidently no more difficult to keep than chickens.

At our April meeting we heard from Pete Johnson, one of the Leicester Morris Men. His talk, entitled "The Morris - An Enduring Tradition", covered the history, notable characters and present day performances of the Group.

With contributions from a few colourfully - dressed fellow dancers, Pete told us of the earliest written references to Morris Men in the fifteenth century. The actual origins of the customs however are debatable. It was interesting to discover that one William Kemp was responsible for the phrase "a nine day's wonder" when he danced from London to Norwich in nine days, as a publicity stunt.

RATBY COMMUNITY ORCHARD

The Orchard Group recently challenged the Allotment Society to a Skittle's Match in the Bull's Head. A great time was had by all, with the Orchard group coming out top.

Highest score was Dennis Brookes for the Orchard group.

A raffle raised funds for both groups.

JUNIOR FOOTBALL

For those of you who visit Ferndale Park on a weekend you will probably see a good number of kids playing football on the park areas, we currently split them into under 7's 8's 9's and 10's. Saturday mornings from 10am to 11.30 a.m. is for training, which is open to anyone, so feel free to come down and join in with us, if you have friends from outside the village then bring them as well. Sunday is Match Day, and all the teams are registered with the local football association in the Mutual Leagues, playing against kids from all around the city and county in their respective age groups. This season has been a very successful one for all our teams, the current under 7's won there league. Congratulations to them!

As for the set up, we are a self funding club, with all the money that we do raise from various sources and events going straight back into the pot, so that we can then purchase all the relevant kit and equipment for our teams. All of our coaches are very dedicated to helping the kids, they have all been Police C.R.B. checked and all hold or, are currently working towards the recognized level 1 certificate in coaching football standard. We are all volunteers and do this not just for the love of "the beautiful game" but to help the kids to do something positive rather than hanging on street corners, even the likes of Leicester City and other major teams come to visit us, some of our kids our now attending the City's Academy school of excellence. Now if that's not a positive then what is? We could not do all of this without the help of many dedicated volunteers, too many to mention, but we would like to especially thank the local Parish Council who have been very co operative in letting us use the facilities of Ferndale Park.

Feel free if you would like to ask us any questions, or if not then get you boots on and we will see you down the park!

Gary Brooks.



A HISTORIC CORNER OF RATBY



Many people will recognise this cottage as it stands today without the thatch. You may even remember the picture, as it was on the front cover of Issue 59 of Wot in August 1996. So you might be interested in a little of its history. At the time this photo was taken, on the 18th June 1917 at 4.48 as the church clock shows, the cottage belonged to my great-granddad John Shipman. He was the village carpenter. Part of his work was making coffins.

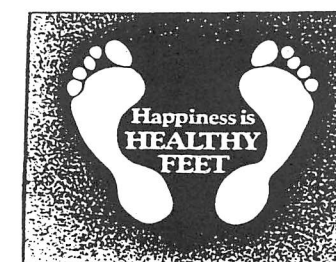
My grandmother, Alice Herbert (nee Shipman), was born in the cottage along with her siblings, Ethel, Clara, John and Annie.

Grandmother Alice told me many times they all hid in the coffins her dad had made to avoid the bailiffs when they called!

There are still many descendents of the Shipman's residing in the village.

Diane Hill (nee Herbert).

Peter Comley, MSSCh. MBChA.
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

I was intrigued by the choice of cover photograph on the April/June issue of 'Wot!' If it was intended as an April Fool's joke, then it was a few days late, or possibly a weather forecast for the Easter weekend, in which case it was very wide of the mark?

Sincerely,
Hoz

We confess it was neither of your suggestions, merely a wish to record for posterity a weather event in the village. It is hard to be topical in a bi-monthly magazine!
Editor

We welcome your letters. Name and address must be supplied ... but you can choose to remain anonymous.

Churchyard Volunteer Day Fri/Sat 3rd/4th August

Following the successful volunteer working party in March to clear the ground for the new section of village churchyard, we are hoping to complete the task on Fri/Sat 3rd/4th August.

Volunteers would be welcome to help with a number of tasks, including erecting a new boundary fence and rotivating the soil to prepare for grass seeding.

Anyone who can help on either day (or at any other point during the summer) please contact David Willis on 239 0010.

SUMMER FAYRE

The Ratby Pre-school Summer Fayre will be held on **Saturday 7th July, from 12-3pm** in the Church Rooms.

There will lots of attractions and games on the day as well as plenty of stalls and refreshments. There is also a raffle with top prizes!

A fun day for all the family and everyone is welcome. If you are interested in hiring a table to sell goods please contact the Pre-school on **238 8126**

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RATBY CO-OPERATIVE BAND

Musik Fest

This famous event returns again at Groby Community College, on Friday 29th and Saturday 30th June, and an exciting line-up is being planned. Each night five or six musical groups entertain the audience in a 'German Bier Fest' style.

For tickets contact **Malcolm Pounder** on **238 6749**

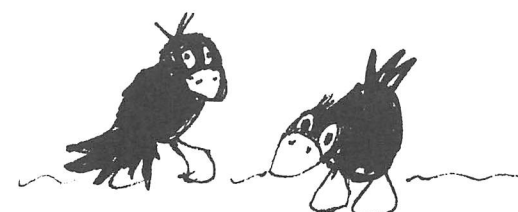
Contests

The Senior Band were delighted with their 4th place in the Championship Section of the Midlands Regional contest in March, the highest ever achieved.

The Mid Band also performed well, and were unlucky not to get a higher placing.

France

The Youth Band's Summer Tour will be based around Euro Disney.



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VISITORS FROM CHINA

Brookvale High School in Groby welcomed Headteacher, Mr Zhou, and Head of English, Jenny, from their partner school in China, Chengdu Railway School. Chengdu is within the Sechuan Province that is partnered with Leicestershire.

Mr Zhou and Jenny enjoyed a full programme of activities at the school, plus tea with the Chairman of the County Council, Brian Garner and his consort Sue Human. Denise Hills, Brookvale's Head of Languages said, "Our students instantly warmed to our Chinese visitors and were keen to try out the one or two Chinese words they know such as ni hao which means hello."

During the visit Katie Rush, Headteacher at Brookvale, and Mr Zhou cemented the partnership between the two schools by agreeing another visit in September, but this time with 30 Chinese students from Chengdu Railway School. The Chinese students will stay at Quorn Hall, and get a taste of life and school in England.

Brookvale, together with Groby Community College, is a Specialist Language College, and the Chinese visit coincided with the news that the schools have been successful in their joint bid for a further four years funding for their specialist status. Viv Evans, Director of the Language College, said, "We are all delighted to have secured funding for the future that will allow us to continue to offer enhanced opportunities in Languages and across the curriculum in both schools."

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every issue ... (when space allows!)
See the Deadline on page 7.

'AN ENGLISH COUNTRY GARDEN FETE'

Ratby Parish Church's 'An English Country
Garden' fete will be held on **Saturday 23rd
June 2pm-4.30pm.**

Attractions include The Ratby Senior Band,
2b Dance Group, Morris Dancers (hopefully),
stalls, teas, hot dogs, and prize draw.

This year's Games have an environmental and
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RATBY PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION RESULT

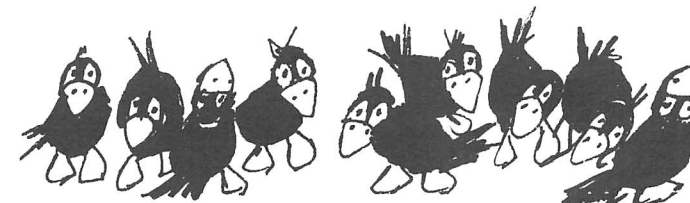
Nine people have been elected to Ratby Parish
Council:

- **Blanchard Alan Edward**
- **Boothby Christopher William**
- **Daly Tony**
- **Earl Michael Robert**
- **Hunnybun Ken**
- **Joyce Merle B.**
- **Measures Carol (Chairman)**
- **O'Shea Laurence**
- **Sutton Avril M.**

They are all contactable through the Parish
office at

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