

JUNE/JULY 2008

ISSUE 130

# WOT!

## About Ratby

PUBLISHED BY RATBY SCOUT GROUP



## DOWN TO EARTH

Ratby Parish Church was packed on the evening of April 17<sup>th</sup> for a live recording of the popular Radio Leicester programme 'Down to Earth.' What a fascinating and entertaining night it was.

Presenter Dave Andrews kept the pace going as the team responded professionally to a wide range of questions, enlivening the proceedings with some good natured banter. The first questions came from the appropriately named Elaine Root and Jessica Peach, and as the evening slipped away we learned about vegetables for small gardens, the identity of a mystery plant, and the culprit (wireworm) tunnelling in potatoes.

Refreshments and a raffle in aid of Church funds rounded off a 'blooming' good evening.

Pictured are the 'Down to Earth' Panel.



### MAY DAY CELEBRATION

The 1972 May Day Celebration photographs in our last issue certainly brought back happy memories for Mrs Mitchington. Her daughter, Beverley Green was the little girl second from the right in the photograph of the May Queen and her attendants.

Mrs Mitchington made the dress from her Christening robe.

It was a good year for Beverley as she had previously won a painting competition with a prize of some sweets from Mrs Muton's shop.



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## ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

As predicted in these pages the meeting took place on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2008. Thirteen electors and two guests attended.

After an unusually short presentation by Mr Michael Ball on the workings of the Sacheverell Charity from 1620 to the present day, the meeting agreed that the Chairman should sign the Charity's accounts. *For those who don't already know, this charity has a parcel of inaccessible land in the parish – about 11 acres – from which it derives a rent. The proceeds are dispensed to certain residents of Ratby and Groby who are over the age of 80.*

Then the Chairman of Ratby Allotment Association, Dr Andrew Simmonds, put a resolution to the meeting which called upon Ratby Parish Council and Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council to give high priority to the provision of allotments in Ratby. After much stimulating discussion the resolution was overwhelmingly carried. *This resolution will be forwarded to the Chief Executive at Hinckley & Bosworth and to the Clerk of Ratby parish Council. This is not a guarantee that more allotments will be forthcoming – but if you want an allotment you would do well to send your request to the Parish Office and it will be forwarded to the Allotment Society.*

Next Mr Dennis Brookes explained the aims and needs of neighbourhood watch. The watch has three aims: to reduce crime by deterring miscreants, to establish small communities within the parish for mutual protection, and to keep people informed. The watch is not about being nosey but about helping your neighbours. *Ratby Neighbourhood watch needs more co-ordinators particularly from the "newer" streets in the village; if you want to get involved then why not turn up at the next meeting in the Church Rooms or talk to your Beat Officer.*

The VDS (Village Design Statement) is progressing steadily according to its co-ordinator Mr Ian Vernon. Ian gave a detailed report of activity to date. He expressed his appreciation of the contributions of all residents attending the VDS meetings and walks and in particular the group leaders, publicity team, recorders, and photographers. The VDS...

Finally, Sally Crossfield who is the Rural Issues & Events Officer at HBBC bravely told the meeting about her responsibilities. Two things provoked discussion. First the events toolkit: **Whether the event you are planning be large (Crow Pie) or small (pond-dipping, wassailing) if it's to be held on council land there are rules and regulations with which you must comply.** Additionally, if you are going to parade or process on the highway you may a traffic order. Sally's advice is that you *get in touch with the Clerk in the parish office well before you plan to hold the event to see if the land may be used and to satisfy the rules and regs in the toolkit.*

And second the free swim time contract for people over 60 years of age. Those of us who qualify pointed out that we would love to use Braunstone Leisure Centre for free because it is accessible to us at the end of a short 'bus ride'. The contract for free swimming does cover BLC but we have to go to Hinckley Leisure Centre to be identified first and this is two 'bus rides and a walk away. We felt this was a serious shortcoming of the contract negotiated by HBBC with the private company who run Hinckley Leisure Centre; a shortcoming that seriously disadvantaged those of us who live on this side of the Borough. *So, the meeting gave us a good opportunity to get across to HBBC the message that Ratby really does exist!*



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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



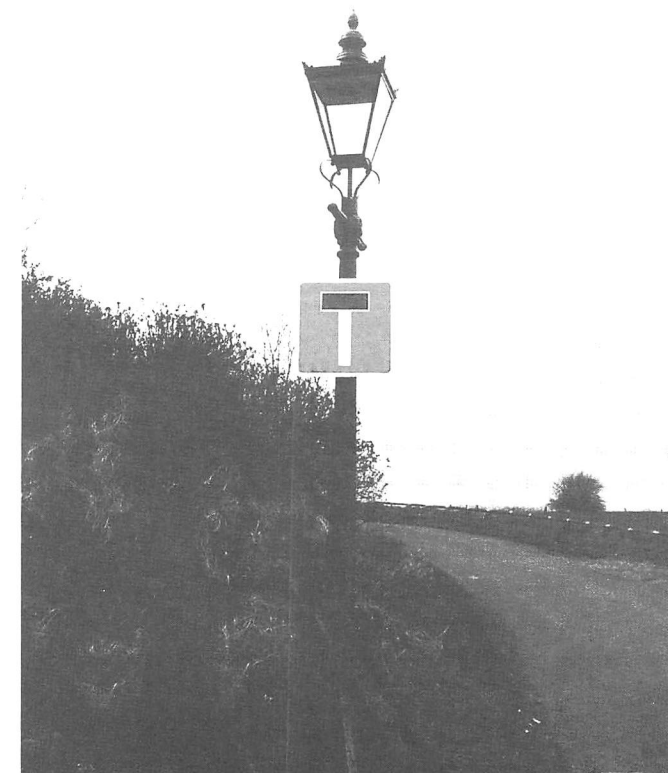
Dear Sir,

What price conservation when one authority erects beautiful Victorian Style lamp posts to enhance the village Conservation Area, whereupon a few weeks later a separate Authority defaces one of these with a street sign?

When the attention of the Borough Conservation Officer was drawn to it he remarked 'It's not us-it's Highways.'

Sincerely  
Hoz

Thank you for the letter and photo Hoz... comments please from villagers? Editor.



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A good letter re-printed from the Parish Magazine.

Dear Friends,  
I hope that wonderful man, Tony Hutchinson, who runs the Ratby hairdressers "His and Hers", will forgive me for saying this, but it is true. Tony is one of the, "Unsung Heroes". He truthfully saved my life when I had my recent stroke. By being there and acting promptly and unselfishly in my time of need. For many years he has also done so much for other people and is a life-line for many older members of the village community. On the behalf of everyone he helps and cares for I should like to take this opportunity to publicly thank him. God bless him.  
Sincerely  
Mary Ward.

Ed note: We publish this letter with permission of the Parish Magazine. Tony is a long time supporter of Wot and deserves all the praise that is given.

**LETTERS and ARTICLES**  
We welcome letters and articles, but reserve the right to edit them.  
Your name and address must be supplied, but you may ask for them to be withheld.



**POST OFFICE**



## VILLAGE SOCIETY NOTES.

At our April meeting Tony Jarvis, a retired doctor, spoke on behalf of "Intericare", an organisation which sends medicines to Africa. He has been involved with this charity for over thirty years, having been asked if he could let them have any drug samples to recycle.

The original idea came from Dr. and Mrs. Rosenberg who worked for "War on Want" in Africa and came across many small clinics, run by Catholic sisters, which had very few medicines. Their limited resources meant that much of the treatment provided was simply basic care. They decided that if they collected unwanted medicines they could be sent out to wherever they were most needed.

The system grew and developed and now they can support ninety-four units. D.H.L. delivers the parcels free of charge to the centre at Syston where there are three paid workers and about a dozen volunteers who screen and pack the medicines. The main cost to the charity is postage abroad. It operates only in ex-colonial countries as Britain set up the postal communications there and most of the clinic staff speak English, often having trained here. This includes Ghana, Cameroon, Sierra Leone,

Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia and Uganda. There are medicines worth £120,000,000 wasted in Britain every year. 40% of the packs have never been opened, others have only a few missing but they can be sorted and put together to make up a complete pack. The medicines have to be at least one year in date. They also have to be on the World Health Organisation list of drugs for third world countries and all basics. Some items collected cannot be used and have to be disposed of.

About a year ago the charity had to stop working as they discovered that they were breaking the E.U. regulations on industrial waste. However, they now have a Waste Management Licence and medicines come in from all over the country from participating doctors. It is hoped that, in the future, pharmacies will be able to take part in the scheme which at present is not possible.

Dr. Jarvis finished by saying that the main thing about the charity is that it contributes to the health of 2.5 million people, giving them the feeling that somebody cares and raising the morale of staff. There was a lively question and answer session at the end of his talk and it is hoped that he got away without too many mini-consultations!

### Ratby Methodist Church

Invites you to

*Afternoon Tea  
At The Ratby Ritz*



Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July  
3.00 pm to 5.00 pm

£4.00 per person

Bookings are preferred

Please telephone:

0116 2874042

or 0116 2392352

for reservations

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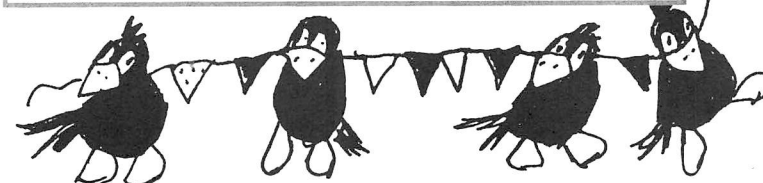
*A warm welcome is assured.*

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## RATBY CO-OPERATIVE BAND'S CROWPIE CARNIVAL

This year's Carnival starts with the PARADE, 12.30pm FROM MARKFIELD LANE everyone invited to join in. Parade arrives at Ferndale Play Area 1.00 to start the Carnival which will finish at 4.30.

The Theme this year is **WILD WEST**.

There will be lots of fun stalls, Dance Sensation School of Dance, Line Dancing, Fire Service, Police, Bob's Bouncy Castle and the ever popular Children's Fancy Dress. A Marching Band will provide music while you enjoy refreshments.

If you would like to have a stall (no food or car boot, thank you) please contact **238 6461**. The cost will be £6 for village organisations, £12 for non-village.



## Ratby Primary School Summer Fayre

Saturday 28th June \* 2 - 4.30pm

**Don't miss this event and the chance to help raise funds for the School.**

**Variety of Stalls & Games, Penalty shoot out, Panning for gold, Bottle Tombola, Gift stalls, Raffle, Refreshments, Plants, Lost Teddy Stall, Cakes and lots, lots more.**

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## RATBY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

In March we were visited by Hazel Jacques, who delivered her talk entitled 'Scattered Scruffs.'

The talk was based on her book of the same name, which details her life during the 40s and 50s when following her parents' deaths from tuberculosis, she and her brothers and sisters were taken into care.

There was no complaint or self pity in her story, just an honest account of what happened to her family

Joyce Rockley entertained us in April with 'The magic of the Ballroom,' sharing with us her joy of dancing and teaching dance.

Our August meeting will be 'Crystals and Crystal Healing,' and in September 'The Salvation Army.'

If you would like to visit us at either of these meetings, or would like more details about the Ratby WI please contact the President on **238 6398**.

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## CRIME WARNING

This is a general crime prevention warning to all Watch members and residents within the South Basic Command Unit (BCU) which covers a large area from Market Bosworth and the town of Hinckley in the west, Blaby, Oadby and Wigston in the centre and Market Harborough Lutterworth in the east.

Over the past few weeks the south area of Leicestershire has seen an increase in the number of car key burglaries. When committing these offences the offender(s) will enter the occupants house with a view to stealing their vehicle keys, the vehicle will then be taken from outside. Most of these crimes take place when the occupants are at home and they tend to take place in the late evening or overnight. This type of offence is becoming more common as vehicle security systems become more advanced.

Having completed a recent review, it has been considered that many of these offences are preventable. In about half of all cases the offenders gain entry to the house via an insecure door or window. Other offences have occurred where car keys have been left near to the front door and implements have been used to remove the keys via the letterbox.

Residents are reminded to keep their properties secure both during the evening and overnight even when they are at home. I would also urge residents to take their keys upstairs with them when they go to bed or failing that hide them in a location that would not be obvious to overnight thieves.

Anyone with any information regarding these offences please contact DS 1577 Granger on (0116) 222 2222 Ext 3251. Alternatively call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111



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## APOLOGY

Sincere apologies to our loyal supporters, Julie's Hairdressing and A H Coley, for omitting their advertisements in the last issue of Wot!

At first we thought our 'paste-up' volunteer had lost her marbles, but the problem turns out to be a mysterious gremlin the printing process. This is the first time such an error has occurred in 22 years.

Editor.

Congratulations to Rob at the Printers, his wife gave birth to a baby boy on May 8th. He apologises for last months issue his mind was on other things.

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AUGUST/SEPT 2008

FRIDAY 18th JULY

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ARTICLES 239 4873

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Sunday 7.30-2pm. 7pm-9pm

## RECIPE

### CALVERTON CREAM

Serves 4-6

### Ingredients

- ½ pint double cream
- 1 level tablespoon caster sugar
- Juice and grated rind of 1 lemon.
- 1 small tin of mandarin orange segments
- 1 orange jelly.

### Method

1. Melt jelly with 110g (4 oz.) hot water, and add drained juice from the tin of fruit + rind and juice of the lemon.
2. Make the liquid up to ½ pint by adding cold water if necessary, and leave to cool.
3. Whisk the cream and sugar together until fairly thick, and then gradually add the cooled jelly mixture.
4. Pour into a serving dish and leave in fridge to set.
5. Decorate the top with mandarin segments.

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