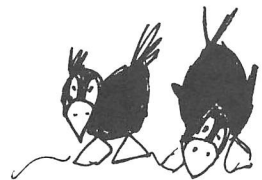


JUNE/JULY 2009

ISSUE 136



WOT!

About Ratby

PUBLISHED BY RATBY SCOUT GROUP



SCOUT CAMP!



We went on Scout camp, we set up camp and later on we went on a walk, it was 4 miles there and back. Also while we were there we did a Pioneering Project, Pedal Go-Karting (where everyone crashed into everyone) and a Wide game where the Explorers hid and we had to find them. We had food and drink that was delicious and we watched a re-enactment of the battle of Hastings in 1066.

James

Camp is the best thing we did, Fantastic!
Lewis

As I walked on camp
I smelt the smell of bacon
and fresh cut grass
I saw the sun burn the clouds as I walked on by.
I then set the tents up by the rope swing that was being pushed by the wind
The smoke from the camp fire soon crossed.
My sense of smell that was overcome
The camp fire went out and the darkness was overcome.
Fran

Turn to the centre pages for news from Ratby Scouts.



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RATBY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

In March we were visited by Bill White who makes amazing flowers using floristry ribbon. He gave an entertaining demonstration and then with great patience helped the members to have a go. Bill and his wife give demonstrations and sell the flowers in order to raise money for charity.

Our April speaker was Margaret Dover who runs an emu farm in Leicestershire. Her talk was both entertaining and informative, and at the end of the evening we were able to sample some of the emu oil skincare products and admire carved eggshells.

May's meeting started with our annual discussion and vote on the Women's Institute Resolution, which this year urges the Government to increase funding for research into Bee Health. Voting was followed by a fun quiz and supper.

If you would like to know more about Ratby WI, please contact the President on 0116 238 6398.

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Forthcoming open meetings of Ratby Village Society

16 June 2009: another round of *Personalities Revealed* by Andy Cereseto.

18 August 2009: *Roses for Pleasure* a talk by the President of the National Rose Society Mrs Ann Bird.

4th July We invite you to play games of skill on Fun Day, 1pm to 5pm, at Groby Community College

15th September 2009: A talk by the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland YOS, Interventions Team mentoring manager.

Visitors and new members will receive a warm welcome.

RATBY COMMUNITY ORCHARD ANNUAL POND DIPPING

Bring your wellies, nets and white tubs, and join us for our exploration of the pond at Taverner Drive!! Will there be anything new this year?

We will be joined again by our pondlife experts, Neil and Kay from the Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust.

Wednesday August 12th at 7.30 pm.



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RECYCLING IN RATBY

The recycling sacks for plastic and cardboard are lightweight even when full. On collection day the sacks from several households are gathered together on the pavement to await collection.

Because the sacks are so light the draught from passing vehicles whips them up, sometimes taking them into the road. If each sack is not tied securely at the top the contents are strewn about, causing more problems than they solve.

Ratby Village Society Anti-Litter Group has contacted the Borough Council to ask if the system can be improved. We received an immediate, courteous and helpful response, saying that time is needed if the system is to be fairly judged, but they will be reviewing it in twelve months. We suggested collection boxes, similar to the ones used for glass, but it was explained that the cost of these would need careful consideration and nothing can be promised.

From the recycling point of view it is working extremely well. It will help enormously if villagers would please tie up their sacks securely. Our suggested method is to tie the tabs at the top in pairs diagonally.

Jane Rayne

We'd like to hear reader's views on recycling: do you think the bags are a good system? Perhaps you have issues with the blue boxes? Write in and let us know
Editor

HIS and HERS

LADIES AND GENTS

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RATBY WOODLAND GROWS

Woodland Trust's Burroughs Wood and Pear Tree Wood have recently been complemented by the newly planted Old Hayes Wood, covering some 12 hectares (30 acres) of land at Old Hays Farm.

In partnership with the National Forest and Forestry Commission four like-minded owners of the land conceived the scheme, which they now manage.

Planting of native species such as oak, ash, silver birch, numbering almost 7000 trees began in December 2008 and was completed by the end of March this year. Over 300 of the trees were planted by the children of Ratby Primary School, assisted by teachers and helpers. They will be able to check on future growth through a system of numbering. Six wildlife ponds are being created on the site, which is bordered by improved public footpaths with bench seats and information boards, together with a number of bat and owl boxes.

This is a particularly praiseworthy gesture on the part of all individuals involved, to conserve and enhance the local countryside, not only for the benefit of wildlife but also for the many who appreciate and enjoy the beauty of nature.

HG



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RATBY CO-OPERATIVE BAND

Dates for your diary:

14th June Senior Band play at Curve, Leicester
19th/20th June MUSIK FEST at Groby College
20th June, Junior Band at Ratby Church Fete
11th/12th July WORLD MUSIK CONTEST in
Kerkrade, Holland.



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MEMBERS OF RATBY SCOUT GROUP SHARE THEIR MEMORIES OF SCOUT CAMP.

When we went on Scout camp we did pioneering, Karting, 4 mile hike and lots of fun and very exciting games. We really liked the food as we cooked over a open fire and learnt what we needed to do this. We also enjoyed the weather and were thankful that it stayed dry all weekend.

Joseph

We went on camp for the weekend. We arrived on the camp site at 9:00am on Saturday. First we put the tents up then we went to collect fire wood and a altar fire to cook our food on. Then we went on a tour of the camp site and watched some medieval re-enactors. After that we played a game in the woods where we were all tied up together and had to follow a course set out. Then we had lunch, after lunch I didn't feel well so i went into the tent and didn't come out until dinnertime. We had jacket potatoes, then we played a wide game, then I went back to bed, I awoke at 3:00am and stayed up chatting to other people in my tent until about 6:00am then we cooked breakfast and went on a 4 mile hike, then we packed up to go home.

Charlotte

When we first got to camp we set the tents up and collected some wood for the fire later that day. Then we watched some actors play a medieval battle. Also we did something called 'free time' where went into our tents and talked and ate sweets. After that we went Karting. I won three races and lost only one! Later we lit the fire and put our Jacket Potatoes into the hot embers to cook, two hours later we ate them. Then we played a game called manhunt at was great fun. After this we went to bed, we were up until Midnight. We had Sausages and Bacon for breakfast. 1 Hour later we went on a hike it was four miles long! After that we went home, we stunk like pigs!

William

ROUP SHARE THEIR MEMORIES OF SCOUT CAMP.

On the 21st of March I went on camp with Scouts at Willesley wood. It was great fun, first we were split into groups and then we started to pitch our tent. At night i had great fun staying up although I think I kept the Explorers awake. Overall it was great fun and I had a great time.

Ben D

On the 21st of March the local Scout group had to go on camp at Willesley camp site. When we got there we put up our tents and started to unpack our stuff. After that we had to go and find an altar fire so that we could burn wood and keep warm. The fire was very useful because we had to cook our dinner on it. We had great activities, we did Karting and Orienteering they were great fun. We played a wide game where a person runs off and the rest of the Scouts tried to find them. Some of us went off to the tuck shop to buy handfuls of sweets and while we were eating our sweets we watched a medieval fight. It was finally the last day and we put our tents down and met our parents.

Ben S

Scouts is Good.
But normally there's mud
In the Wood.

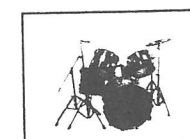
First we put up our tents. Then we collected wood for the fire. We had a hike around the camp site We played a game where we were all blindfolded and had to hold on to a piece of rope on a course. Then we went Karting!!!

Jack

More Scouting articles to come in the next issue.....from Edward, David, Lucy, Rebecca and Leader, Abbey.

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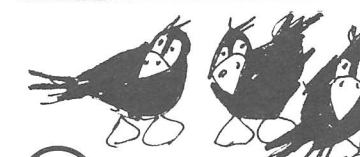
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SCOUT'S ANNUAL MEETING

"The Scouts had their Annual General Meeting on 8th April. This was attended by all Leaders and two District Commissioners, plus members. BUT there were no parents/guardians attending this one meeting a year. (We did have one couple in the previous two years) We all feel very 'put out' by this non-response to the meetings, it is usually over in an hour. All we ask is you come along to see what has been happening during the year for your children and maybe put some ideas forward. We need new ideas and help too. We are not a baby sitting service where you can just drop the children off at the Church rooms, to have your involvement and interest would be so much nicer for all involved in the group.

On a good note, we were very pleased and surprised to have two presentations on that night. Phil Evans our DC presented Colin Payne with a 20 year service certificate and 5 year service to Stephen Pemberton (ASL) Well done both!"

NEWS FROM ST PHILIP and ST JAMES

It's always a sad time when a friend moves on to pastures new and during June we will be saying 'Goodbye' to Richard our Rector who is moving to lead a city centre church in Leicester. However, before he goes we will be holding our annual summer fete. This will be in the Rectory gardens on Saturday 21st June. There will be the usual stalls we have come to expect along with displays by dancers and the Ratby Band. There will also be the opportunity to take part in a splendid raffle with a top prize of £100 along with loads of other prizes. Perhaps the most important aspect of the day will be the chance to spend time together chatting and being able to wish Richard, Jenny and the children every happiness for the future. Perhaps more than usually, this will be an event for everyone in the village not to miss, so please make a note of it on your calendar. Richard's last service in church will be on the following day when I'm sure he will be pleased to see as many friends there as possible. Your seat is already reserved so please make use of it!!

LETTERS to the EDITOR

We have received several letters responding to the views expressed in our letter's column, issue 135. Lack of space means we can only fit in one such reply. This is the first we received, and it encapsulates all of the views opposing the previous letter. There was one letter similar to, and supporting the original writer's views.

Editor

Dear Editor

I am 42 years old. I have been brought up in Ratby, I went to the local schools in both Ratby and Groby, and my children have also gone to the same schools. We have all grown up with traveller children and have no issue with them at all. I am therefore disgusted that I have been labelled '*prejudiced, ignorant and bigoted, akin to the Klu Klux Klan!*' My crime? I have attended meetings held by villagers opposed to the proposed increase in dwellings/traveller sites in the village of Ratby. How dare you!

For the very 'brave' villager (name & address supplied) who provided their opinion in last months Wot, I would like to give you some facts! Each household in the village received a letter outlining the proposals for the additional dwellings/traveller sites, and each household was asked to sign and return the letters to the local council, if they opposed these proposals. The council so far, has received over 900 signed letters in opposition, which equates to almost 2 in 3 households objecting! Certainly not the same opinion as '*name and address supplied*' would like you to believe! Whilst '*name and address supplied*' would like to think that the village has actioned a vociferous hate campaign, I can assure him/her that nothing is further from the truth! The village as it is, cannot sustain any further dwellings as the infrastructure can not support it. The local schools cannot support many more children and the doctors cannot accept any more patients. The local shops are already stretched and the amenities offered in the village, particularly for the young and the elderly are almost non existent!

LETTERS and ARTICLES

We welcome letters and articles, but reserve the right to edit them.

Your name and address must be supplied, but you

Perhaps '*name and address supplied*' would actually like to attend a meeting of the Ratby Action Group? They are not held 'behind closed doors', but in the local Sports & Social Club and the meetings are open to all villagers.

I would like the opportunity to say on record, that I am not prejudiced. I am not a bigot, neither am I ignorant or racist. I am however, a concerned villager and parent that would like my children to have the opportunity of growing up in a village environment, the same as I did.

So, to '*name and address supplied*', whoever you may be - shame on YOU, for being narrow minded enough to tar everyone with the same brush! Perhaps you should have done your research before you published such a hateful letter.

Karen Marston
Address supplied



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