

OCTOBER IN THE GARDEN

October marks the beginning of winter in the garden, by the end of the month the days are short and the soil usually wet. There are frequently some fine days in the middle of October, the so-called St Luke's summer when outside jobs can be finished.

Lawns no longer need cutting but there are fallen leaves to pick up instead. Netting can be used to cover ponds to keep leaves out or wire mesh can be positioned on the windward side of the pond so that leaves collect against it, this method can also be used to protect borders. Leaves collecting on small plants need clearing away. All dead leaves should be composted, not wasted by burning.

Wallflowers need planting out as soon as possible so they have time to make new roots before the cold weather. Bulbs, except Tulips, should also be planted as soon as possible, Tulips are better left until next month.

Gladioli and Dahlias should be lifted and stored. Gladioli can be lifted in the middle of the month, the tops trimmed and the corms dried and stored. Dahlias should be left until the frost blackens them, then lifted, the tops cut off and the tubers hung stems down to dry before storing.

October is the time to pick apples and pears and store, apples should not be picked until the fruit comes off when lifted gently. Cox's and Laxtons's Superb and other keeping apples are usually not ready until towards the middle of October in spite of the fact that greengrocers sell them from early September. Handle the fruit carefully and store perfect specimens in frost-free but cool place.

Cuttings of currants and gooseberries taken now will root easily. Cut off shoots 8-9" long and put them in a shady border outside, they will root by the spring.

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In the vegetable garden it is time to start winter digging before the soil is too wet. Broad beans for an early crop can be sown, choose a hardy variety such as Claudia Aquadulce. Lettuce can be sown under glass for an early crop, Plus is a good variety.

In the greenhouse make sure there is plenty of ventilation whenever possible to keep down mildew. An electric fan left on permanently is useful to circulate air. Cut down on watering and do not spray over foliage.

House plants need less water and no more feeding from the middle of the month. Make sure they are not too close to windows on cold nights.

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THE BULLS HEAD

The Early Years, and the arrival of the
Freeman family in Ratby.

In 1658 the Manor Court Rolls for the Manor of Groby records the lease of a pasture of 6 acres of land called 'Nuns Meadow' in the Parish of Ratby. The undermentioned lessee was one Joseph Freeman, son of Richard Freeman, a master baker of Market Harborough. This single entry records the arrival of the Freeman family into our district.

For the next 150 years the family prospered, although throughout this period the Freemans were essentially Groby folk.

In 1823 Henry Freeman of Groby took over the tenancy of one of the Ratby farms of the Bradgate Estate.

Prior to Henry Freeman's arrival in Ratby the family had been cattle graziers in the district (a tradition to be carried on by Henry's grandson, the first of the Ratby Butcher/Graziers).

Henry Freeman continued this family tradition, but also, like his farmer neighbour Daniel Marvin at the Plough Inn, opened part of his farm as an ale-house, trading under the sign of the 'Bulls Head'.

By 1828 the two ventures were becoming a profitable concern. It was in that year that Henry Freeman, with the help of his landlord, the Earl of Stamford converted part of the farm as a purpose-built ale-house. The conversion, carried out 150 years ago this month, cost a total of £324. During the re-building, the records of the buildings accounts indicate that craftsmen were brought in from all over the Bradgate Estate.

It is most probable that the Bulls Head is the only public house in England that was initially financed by one of England's most famous Baronial families, the Greys of Groby, of which Harry Grey, the Fourth Earl of Stamford was a descendant.

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THE DROP IN 10 - 12 am WELFARE HALL

As you all know for a long time the village fought and finally succeeded in getting a library but when this happened the Welfare Hall lost a valued customer and income, so money was short.

It is an ill wind that blows no good!

One day myself and a few friends were chatting in the Co-op.

"We have nowhere to have a chat and a cuppa lets start a **DROP IN**" said I.

"What about a white elephant stall also" said another.

Wheels in motion - the following week at the WI meeting I asked for volunteers to help run the **DROP-IN** and as per usual the WI turned up trumps. A rota was formed and its gone from strength to strength.

It is a lovely feeling when you walk through the village and you hear people say:

"See you at the **DROP-IN** on **THURSDAY**".

So you folks out there if you have not been yet, **DROP-IN**. The atmosphere is very friendly. We always say nobody need be lonely. The **DROP-IN** also has its own "outings" organised by Jean Richards, watch out for more detail!

I want to thank everyone who has supported us because without you there is no **DROP-IN** and no **WHITE ELEPHANT STALL** or **OUTINGS**.

Remember when you have a sort cut please don't throw anything away, "lets be having it!"

So why not **DROP-IN** and have coffee and biscuits with us on **THURSDAY**?

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Dear WOT,

A big thank you to all those generous people who so willingly bought programmes for Ratby School's "It's a Knockout"

So many of those people had no connection with the school, but straight-away delved into their pockets or raided piggy banks!!

It's not easy plucking up courage to knock on doors and sell something, especially when there are so many demands on our money nowadays.

So thanks again to those generous people - it made our job so much easier, and a pleasure instead of an ordeal!

Yours gratefully,

Footsore Programme Sellers!

Dear Editor,

My son Mark recently had an accident which resulted in his undergoing an operation at the Queens Medical Centre, Nottingham.

Fortunately, there was no permanent damage and he is now perfectly well.

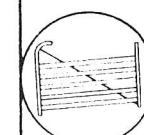
Both Mark and I were overwhelmed by the cards, messages and letters we received and I should like to thank everyone concerned for their good wishes. Mark didn't realise he had so many friends!

The consultant at the hospital was strongly in favour of children wearing helmets whilst riding their bikes. I am going to buy a helmet each for my two sons and would like to suggest a helmet as a possible Christmas present for any boy or girl who races around on a bike. I should hate any other parent to go through a similar harrowing experience with what could be tragic results.

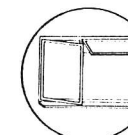
Yours faithfully,

Judith Harrison

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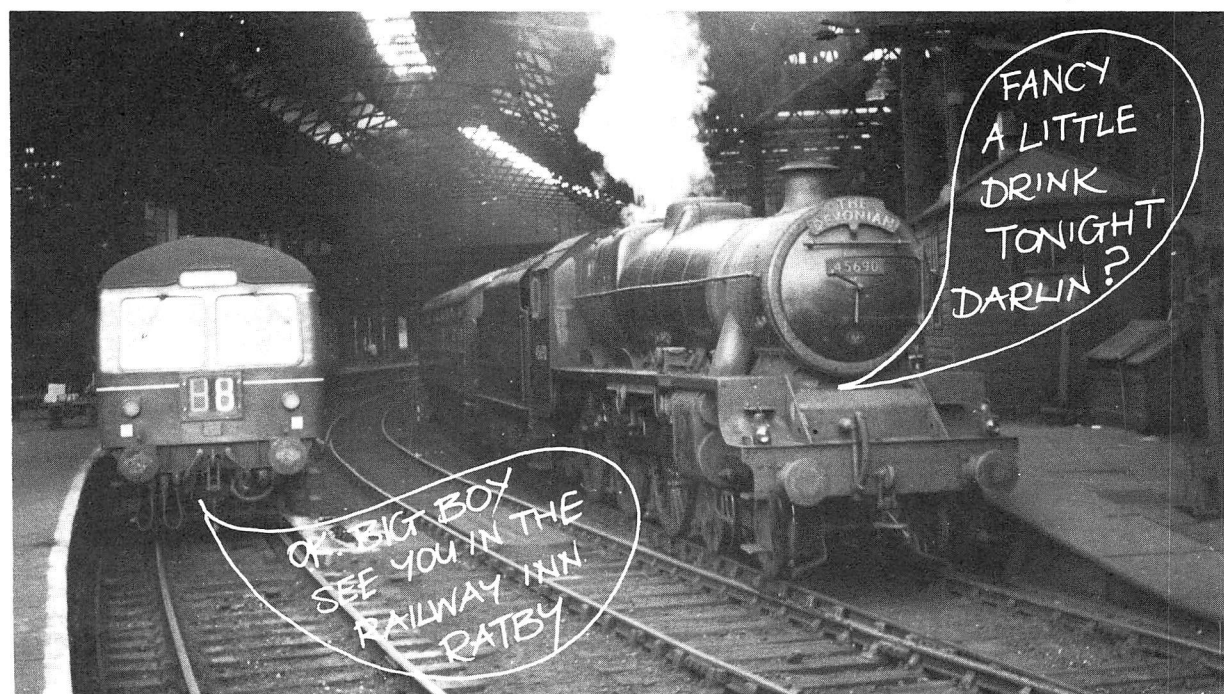
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HUNGARIAN RHAPSODY !!

Brookvale's Visit to Hungary

It all started with pen-pals! School children from Kecskemet wished to write to pupils in England in order to practise their English. Last July (1987) Mr Zoltan Poor (a teacher from the school) visited Groby and suggested an exchange visit where pupils would stay in families and be their guests. This meant that all food, travel and accommodation would be paid for by our Hungarian hosts. Educationally we all thought this offered our pupils a tremendous opportunity for they would be able to experience a culture so different to our own. During the year letters were written, passports and visas applied for, airline tickets booked, money saved and on 5 July 1988, 13 pupils and 5 staff boarded the coach to Heathrow. The journey to Hungary had begun.

Despite a short delay the 2 1/2 hour flight to Budapest by Malev Airlines went smoothly. We put our watches forward 1 hour and left the plane to be greeted by a temperature of 32° C. We passed through customs swiftly, found our luggage and went into the reception where Zoltan and Lajos Szepes (the headmaster) were waiting to welcome us not just with open arms but flowers too.

Our travelling had not ended for we boarded a coach to take us to Baja which is in the very south of Hungary near to the Yugoslavian border. Here we were to participate in an English Language camp attended by children from schools all over Hungary not just Kecskemet. The camp was housed in a hostel next to the River Danube but when we arrived it was too dark to notice our scenic surroundings. However, the rapturous welcome we received from the pupils and staff of the camp made up for the length of the journey. This greeting included a song from the children, presents from the town of Kecskemet more flowers and the custom of breaking bread together to symbolize friendship.

The next day we awoke to a temperature of 36° C and although not accustomed to the heat we proceeded with the English Language lessons. These were conducted in small groups and staff and pupils worked side by side. We were very impressed by the knowledge and expertise of everyone's English and at times felt redundant as teachers in the formal sense. However, many activities were introduced informally

which brought a new dimension to their understanding of the English way of life. Rugby and rounders were popular with the more energetic, scrabble and cards for the hottest part of the day and country dancing and singing were universally enjoyed. We were taught some Hungarian, given a tour of Baja and a boat trip on the River Danube. Swimming in the river was a regular feature each day owing to the heat and proved to be one of the most successful ways in which the children from both countries mixed together.

On Friday farewells were said to those people not accompanying us to Kecskemet, and we boarded the coach and travelled north to this beautiful Hungarian city. We felt like celebrities when we alighted from the coach as television cameras and reporters were there to film our arrival. All the parents of the host children were lining the streets to greet us. Each British child were introduced to their family by their pen-pals and left with luggage in tow to spend their first night in Hungarian homes.

During the next week there were several common programmes organised but also free days where families entertained their guests. The common programme started with a sight-seeing tour of Kecskemet. This town is over 600 years old and has many historic buildings particularly churches and the City Hall. The tree-lined streets and pavement cafes lent a gracious air to the town and the Liberty cafe with its delicious ice-cream sundaes was everyone's favourite haunt.

PABARI'S RATBY NEWS

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BAND NEWS

Since the August issue the Band has been very active - and successful.

The Crow Pie Carnival week-end was marred by rain just at vital times, but nevertheless we made a success of it and just about achieved our target. As a matter of interest the cost of organising the Carnival, Bands, Prizes, Hire of this and that, Food, Printing etc was a staggering £2,321. When that is taken away from the proceeds it sure makes a dent in it. Our Dutch quests went away with happy memories of Ratby and want to come again.

It is very nice to be able to say we left the Play Area cleaner than we found it, an example, I hope, to others who use it. We even found Stewart O'Goodies false tooth the next day, so clean was the field.

The band have played at 2 weddings. A full week-end study course with eminent tutors was organised at Quorn Hall and many of our youngsters participated, working hard from morning till night, both days - real youth work and they loved it!

At the Leicestershire Brass Band Festival, the Band won the top prize in addition to a second prize and the juniors took 3rd prize in a Senior Section, a truly successful day.

We compete next in the Major National contest, at Leamington Spa on 24 September and at De Montfort Hall, Leicester on 27 November. With engagements at Knighton, Newbold Vendon, Glenfield Co-op, Anstey, Kettering, Market Harborough, and Ratby Working Mens Club before the next issue of WOT, we are in for a busy time.

Our own Celebration Concert at Groby College is on Saturday 15 October, when we welcome guest vocalist Gill Thompson. Gill has graced major concert platforms with top orchestras and we are very pleased to welcome her to Ratby. The next day our soloists will be competing in the Leicestershire Festival.

On Friday 28 October we are staging an old Tyme Music Hall at Brookvale High School.

Tickets for both these events are limited and are available from P H Plant, 28 Bradgate Drive, Ratby, telephone 386510.

The Bandhall project is under way in the capable hands of B. Shipman and Sons; more about that in next issue.

For all the wonderful support from people of Ratby.

THANKS, THANKS, THANKS.

Happy Listening!

Philip Plant



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Wot! About Ratby

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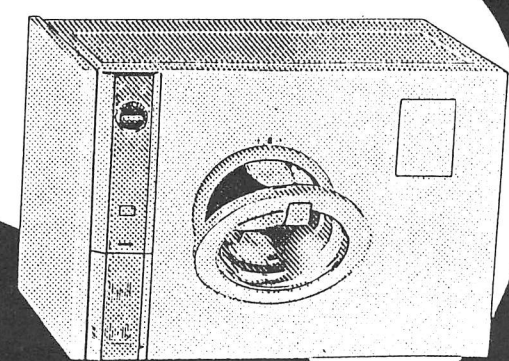
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ZANUSSI SPOTLIGHT

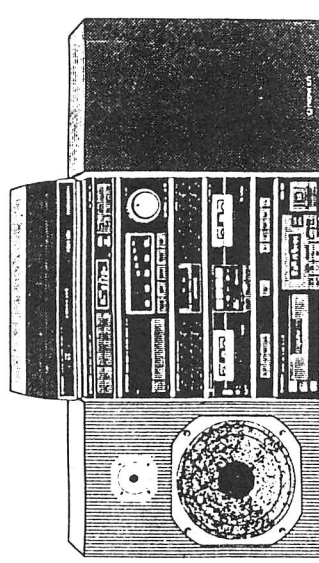


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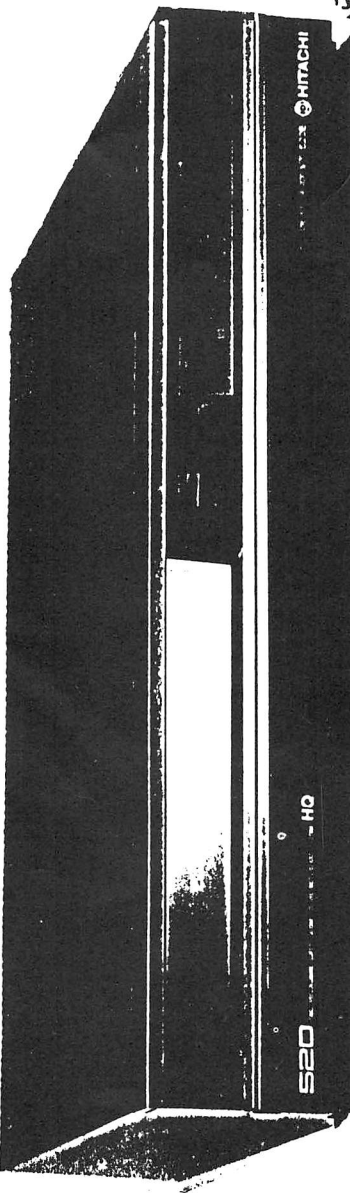


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A highlight of the week was our visit to Budapest on the Sunday. Many adjectives have been written about this beautiful city but our advice is to go and see for yourself. Our visit included Hero's Square, St Stephen's Cathedral, the Fisherman's Bastion, St Mathias's Church, the Crown Jewels and the Houses of Parliament.

On Wednesday we visited the museum of Folk Art and Rural Life and the Toy Museum, where we learnt how to make traditional toys. Thursday was a delight for horse lovers for we travelled to the Kiskunsag National Park where we were treated to a wonderful display of equestrian talent. Some of the braver pupils even had the chance to ride the horses. This was followed by a superb lunch of goulash and pancakes. Hungarian goulash is far superior to the pale imitations offered in this country and this was borne out by requests for more helpings! Whilst eating in the open air we were serenaded by folk musicians who also demonstrated the traditional dance Czardas.

On the free days a variety of activities were undertaken. Some pupils were lucky enough to be taken to Lake Balaton in Western Hungary, others returned to Budapest or visited the University town of Szeged. On Wednesday evening the staff were given a civic reception by the Lord Mayor and we presented the town council with a gift, which was 3 framed prints of Groby.

All too soon the last day arrived and a farewell party had been organised at Toserdo. Three top chefs came to cook lamb stew over a traditional camp-fire for our lunch, whilst we enjoyed ourselves playing games in the morning and rowing on the river in the afternoon. Speeches of thanks were made and further gifts exchanged.

What we have described above gives you an outline of the places we visited. It can not convey the warmth and hospitality shown to us by everyone in Hungary. New friendships have been made and we are sure they will continue. Our thoughts are still with Zoltan and his colleagues who made our stay so enjoyable. It might be a cliché but once you have visited Hungary you are bound to return. Although people in England may be wary of holidaying in the Eastern bloc, they need not have any fears about Hungary, where we found the atmosphere to be relaxed and very liberal.

Next June (1989) we have the opportunity to extend hospitality to those who graciously hosted us this year. Can the "glasnost" of Brookvale's catchment area match that of Hungary? Whilst all the accommodation has been arranged we need the support of the villages to make the Hungarians visit memorable. If you can help us either by supporting fund-raising events or in any other way eg sponsorship or presentation of gifts, please contact us at Brookvale (877551).

Lesley Stringer
Katie McGovern
August 1988

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Fund Raising Group in Action Again!!

Ratby's "Action Research for the Crippled Child" group are getting going again this autumn with an event you mustn't miss!

A Lancome Consultant from Fenwicks will be demonstrating make-up and showing us the latest Fashion Products.

There will be FREE sample products. Tickets are limited, so make sure you get yours as soon as possible!!

The Demonstration will be on Wednesday October 26th at 8 p.m. in the Welfare Hall. Everyone is welcome, and it's only £1.50 - including wine!!

All proceeds to Action Research of Course!

Ratby School Bookshop

This term the School Bookshop will be open on Friday lunchtimes, 12.15 until 1 p.m., in the Reception classroom (unless of course it's really bad weather and all the children are indoors there just isn't room for a book shop too).

Parents are welcome to come and buy. Each term there will be a large evening booksale - watch out for one just before Christmas a good time to get all those presents!!

Ratby Fish Bar

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BROWNIES ON PARADE



The picture is of the 2nd Ratby Brownies waiting to march on their Division Parade at Ratby in June.

It was a sunny but very windy day. As well as wishing we had superglue for our hats we hoped that the flag bearers would not take off like "Mary Poppins"!

Apart from the weather we all enjoyed the parade and thought that the 1st Ratby Brownies were the best when they performed their 'piece' in Church.

We enjoyed (dare I say even more) the Brownie Revels held at the Community College, Groby in August. The theme was "clowns" and we had an hilarious time dressing up and playing different games relating it to clowns. Getting made-up and making wizzers etc I cannot speak for Brown Owl but this Tawny drew the line at backward and forward rolls. We all ended up with a great sing-song.

At our second meeting this term we enrolled 3 more Brownies. We hope they enjoy being in our pack as we will their company.

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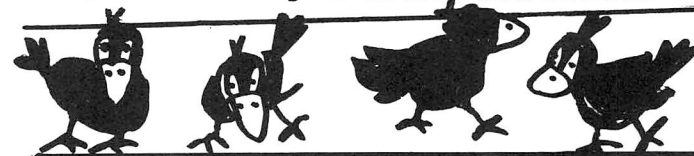
COMING SHORTLY ONE OF OUR FAMOUS COFFEE MORNINGS.

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May I round off this report by wishing the newly formed 'Rainbows' every success.

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In Britain bells are rung in changes, and each and every bell strikes once and only once in a change. The bells in a peal are numbered consecutively, starting with the treble and ending with the tenor, so that in an eight bell tower we have 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8. When the bells strike in this order they are said to be ringing 'rounds'.

They can of course be rung in a different order, say 1,3,5,7,2,4,6,8. If a particular order is continuously repeated, then 'call changes' are being rung. Some call changes are particularly melodious, and are given special names. The one above is called 'Queens'. Ringers are told in what order to ring by a conductor, who is always one of the participating ringers. He will indicate when a different sequence is to be rung, and what the new sequence is to be. When he can handle a bell safely, a learner will spend some time ringing call changes to learn how to ring at the correct spacing from other bells in the tower.

If this was all there was to bellringing, it would be a very boring pastime. The real interest comes with the concept of change ringing, where the sequence in which the bells are rung varies continuously. One change is rung once, and immediately followed by a different change, and so on, at the rate of about one change every two seconds.

How many different changes are there, and how do the ringers all

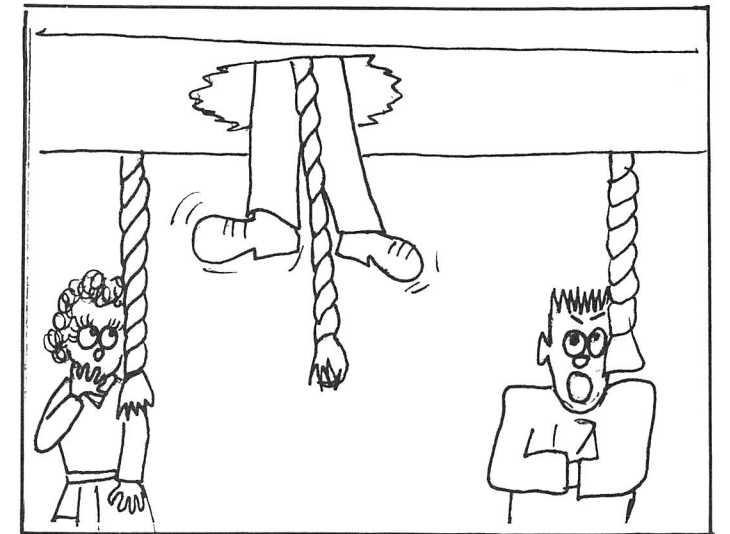
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know what change is coming up next?.

On six bells the number of possible different changes is 720 (=6x5x4x3x2x1), on seven the number is 5040, on eight it is 40,320, and on twelve a staggering 479,001,600. A full peal on church bells is considered to be 5000 or more changes, unless seven bells are being rung, in which case 5040 are expected. Using six bells or less, changes must of necessity be repeated to achieve the required number. A peal of 5000 changes takes between 2.5 and 3.5 hours to ring, depending largely on the weight of the tenor bell.

All of the ringers taking part in change ringing must know how to determine who to follow in the next change. The two seconds or so available between successive strikes of a particular bell does not allow a string of numbers to be called out, even if someone could remember them and make himself heard above the notes of the bells for three hours! - a totally impractical approach.

How then is it done?. The explanation would need several pages of Wot. Suffice to say that bellringing can provide a lifelong interest, with new challenges presented after each step forward. Societies provide opportunities to meet and ring with people from different towers, often resulting in achievements which could rarely be attained by a local band. If you are interested, and would like to know more about bellringing in this area, I shall be happy to talk to you.

Not an Effort !!

Some time back in May the Playgroup Committee organised a sponsored walk in aid of the "Wishing Well" appeal, for Great Ormond Street Hospital.

We have at last collected all the Sponsorship Money!!

And you will all, we are sure, be amazed to know that the efforts of everyone concerned including all the children and helpers raised the staggering amount of £872.00!!

The cheque was presented to the Area Representative of the Wishing Well appeal, Laura Wilson, by Abigail Veasey and Andrew Hinton who both took part in the event.

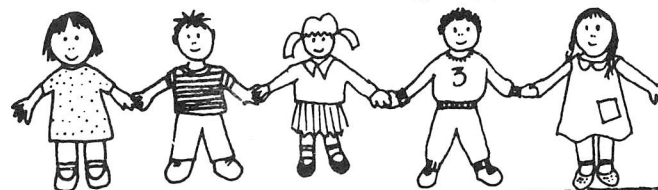
The Leicester Mercury were in attendance taking photographs of the presentation for future publication, you may have seen the article!!

P.S. The Playgroup Committee and Staff would like to thank all the people and children connected with the event.

STOP PRESS!! Another £51 handed in'.

This brings the total to £923.00!!!!

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CAMPANOLOGY

Commonly called bellringing.

Bells are a feature of churches throughout the world, being used to call people to worship. In most countries, one or more bells, each of a different note, will be found in a church, hung in such a way that they can be swung through a small arc sufficient to enable the clapper to hit the bell and make it sound. In Britain, and to a lesser extent in former colonies, many churches have 'peals' of from five to twelve bells, hung in such a way that they can be made to strike precisely relative to each other. The notes of a peel of bells are carefully chosen and set by the bellfounder to produce a harmonious scale. Bells are tuned by machining off metal to raise the pitch. If too much is taken off, there is no way that the pitch can be reduced, and its literally back to the melting pot. Fortunately in this age electronics can accurately measure notes, and computers decide where from and how much metal must be removed.

A peel of church bells is different from those in a Carillon, and it is worth digressing briefly to describe the latter. A Carillon contains up to 47 bells varying in weight from a few kilograms to hundreds of kilograms, and they are fixed in a tower. The bells cover several octaves and are intended for tune playing. They are played from a keyboard, rather like a piano, by one person, the notes

being produced by striking the bells with hammers linked to the keys. The nearest Carillon is in Loughborough Memorial park, and it is played regularly on Sunday afternoons by the Town Carillonneur.

Weights of church bells vary over a wide range within a particular peel. The weight of the smallest of the eight bells at Ratby, called the treble bell, is 3cwt (153kg), and that of the heaviest bell, called the tenor, is 10cwt (510kg).

A peel of eight bells demands the services of eight ringers. There are a number of distinct stages to becoming a proficient bellringer.

The first is learning to actually ring a bell. This can take several months under the guidance of an experienced ringer. In the early stages the learner can find himself surrounded by a flailing rope if he pulls too lightly, or heading for the ceiling of the belfry if he pulls too hard and breaks a stay. Most let go before they hit the ceiling, and proceed very cautiously at the next practice session. If a learner fails to master the handling technique properly, he or she will not be able to strike a bell correctly relative to others, and a clamorous noise results. Notice that I have used 'he or she'. Bellringing is an occupation enjoyed by both men and women, and despite the large weights of the bells, little strength is needed to follow this pursuit.

INGLE DRIVES TEAM "MOPPED UP"
FIRST PRIZE FOR FANCY DRESS AT
THIS YEARS "IT'S A KNOCKOUT"!



Ratby Parish Council

Policing

At the Parish Council meeting on September 6th we were assured that Ratby would have it's own police officer again as soon as possible. In the meantime Sgt. Hannon informed the Council that Police were available twentyfour hours a day. Councillor John Smalley had had discussions on policing of Ratby with Chief Inspector Mrs. Caunt. Plans to introduce more Neighbourhood Watch schemes were discussed.

Play Areas

New seating for Ferndale Drive Play Area has been ordered.

Repairs to the fencing were still outstanding, and unfortunately there has been no response to appeals for a maintenance person to work at the two play areas.

There have been reports of damage to swings at Burroughs Road. Graffiti on Ferndale Drive Equipment would be painted over.

Many parents are concerned about dogs fouling the grass around play equipment. Some owners are considerate, and keep their pets away from playing fields, but there are obviously some who don't.

The dangers of disease have been widely publicised recently, so dog-owners, please be aware of this. There are plenty of good walks in this area well away from playing fields.

Best Kept Village Competition

Whilst we were not successful this year in the Best Village Competition, we shall try again in the future. In the meantime consideration is being given to what landscaping could be undertaken to brighten up the village.

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Every year hundreds of thousands of pounds worth of such property is recovered by the police, having been lost or stolen. Much of this is then stored and eventually disposed of because the owners cannot be traced.

A simple and easy way of helping to avoid this, is to "postcode your property".

This is done by marking each item with your post-code followed by the number of your house. Property can be marked by etching, engraving, die stamping or by using a special security marker pen which uses invisible ink which can only be seen under an ultra-violet light. Such a marker pen can be purchased at most D.I.Y stores etc.

All marking is best done on a hidden surface wherever possible.

In addition to this it is a good idea to keep a record or photographs of your valuables etc and even let a responsible person have a copy of the list or negatives.

In the next article we will look at ways of safe-guarding your house against intruders.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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SHELLFISH IN WINE SAUCE WITH PASTA

Recipe by Betty Hulme

This sounds exotic, but in fact was very simple to make, and inexpensive too!

SCALLOPS	1lb frozen, ready to cook
MUSHROOMS	4oz prepared and sliced as desired
WINE	1/4 pt dry, white
CREAM	3 tablespoons double
GARLIC	2/3 cloves (crushed)
FLOUR	loz plain
BUTTER	loz
EGG YOLK	1
SEASONING	
PASTA OF CHOICE	(we used shell shapes cooking as per basic instructions on the packet)

The scallops and sauce were cooked in the microwave. However, this recipe can be effectively adjusted for cooking by conventional methods.

1. Completely thaw scallops and drain off excess fluid.

2. Pre-cook for 2 mins in microwave at full power (our is 600 watt).
3. Drain off excess fluid again.
4. Cook mushrooms in butter and crushed garlic - 2 mins - stirring after 1 min.
5. Stir in flour and wine, cook for a further 3 mins, stirring after 1 1/2 mins.
6. Add scallops, cream and beaten egg yolk.
7. Stir in gently so as not to break up scallops.
8. Then season to taste
9. Serve this dish lightly mixed into the pasta for a delicious meal for 2 large eaters or 4 small eaters.

Although WE used scallops, this tasty sauce can be used with other suitable fish or white meat.



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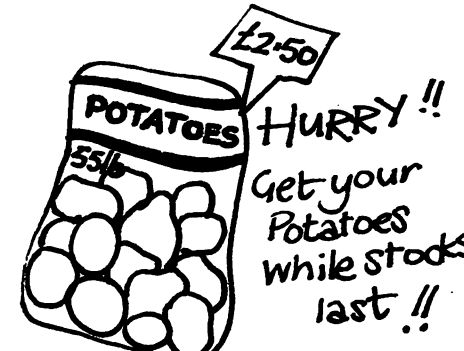
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OBITUARY

The death occurred on Saturday 17th September of one of the 1st Ratby Scouts Group founding committee members - Dennis Dickman who suffered a heart attack.

The funeral was held at Loughborough Crematorium on Friday 23rd where The Group was represented.

Dennis held the position of secretary from November 1984 and has set a standard in minutes, letter writing and report presentation which will be hard to surpass.

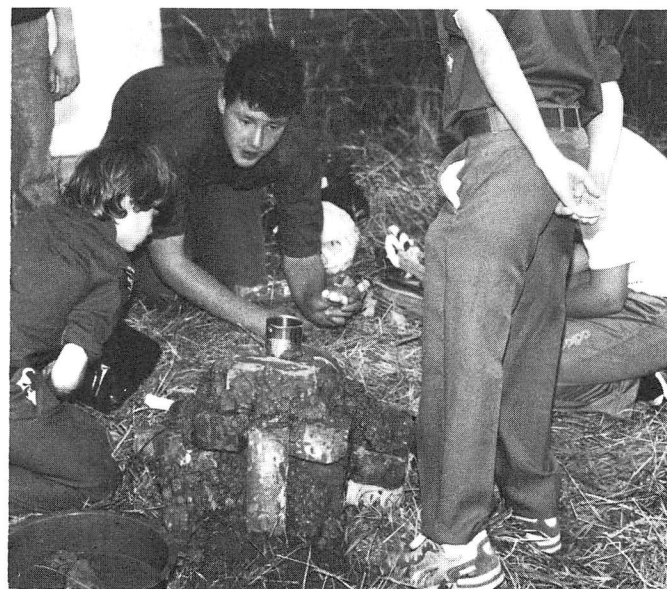
Outside of Scouting Dennis had many interests, photography, computers, building gliders and powered planes. He was a member of a local cactus club, secretary and just recently chairman of Jones and Shipman's Stamp Club. These hobbies he undertook after giving up more active participation sports such as rally driving and badminton.

His silent strength, dedication and the continual help which he gave The Group will be sorely missed.

Thank you Dennis for everything.

1st. Ratby Scout Group

COOKING SCOUT STYLE



During the next couple of months we shall be covering some of the topics necessary for the Beavers' badge work, although we shall find lots of time for songs, stories and games as well!

If you would like to come along one evening to talk about your job or a hobby then we should be very pleased to see you. We meet on Wednesdays in the School Hall from 5.30 to 6.45pm.

For further information contact:

R Bent 364398

J Harrison 393871

J Hawsworth 870134

PAINTERS AND DECORATORS

EDITORIAL

TWO YEARS OLD

From the humble beginnings in a dimly lit front room in which a small number of village people met to plan a new village newspaper came Ratby's very own WOT.

We are happy and proud (modestly to) to be bringing you the twelfth issue, which marks our second birthday (we still meet in the same dimly lit room).

The effort is not without its toll; our editor is an older and wiser man (claiming its made his hair fall out). Our much put upon printer has worked out how to cope with us. Our article gatherers are now well known - people run or hide when they see them!

The treasurer has at last given up counting on his fingers and toes - he kept getting a total of 21? Our staff writers who ferret out the news, have managed to avoid serious injury, except to the nervous system!

The Scout delivery boys have now become experts on letter box locations "why on earth did they put it up there?". On an even brighter note our artists have been promised that they will be hung in the Tate - by the thumbs. Oh and yes our photographer is still looking for the camera he lost.

More seriously we would like to thank our supporters, the folks who contribute the articles (over 200 from more than 50 contributors, most of them local).

Our advertisers and sponsors whose valued support has kept the show on the road.

Our collators who fold 6,500 sheets a session and the scouts who voluntarily deliver to over 1,300 houses.

The printer who copes with our demands and troubles with a patience born of experience.

And finally you our readers, who by your kind and constructive comments have encouraged us to continue.

We hope you have found WOT to be interesting, informative, topical and worth looking out for. (If not we would welcome all constructive suggestions).

Finally here's to another 2 years.

THE METHODIST CHURCH

Ratby Methodist Church are once again holding one of their excellent Christmas Mini Markets. Come along and browse around at your leisure amongst the various stalls. You may find some useful Christmas bargains and enjoy one of the welcoming lunches that will be served. So make a note in your diary for Saturday 26th November 11 a.m. - 1.30 p.m. in the Methodist Schoolrooms.

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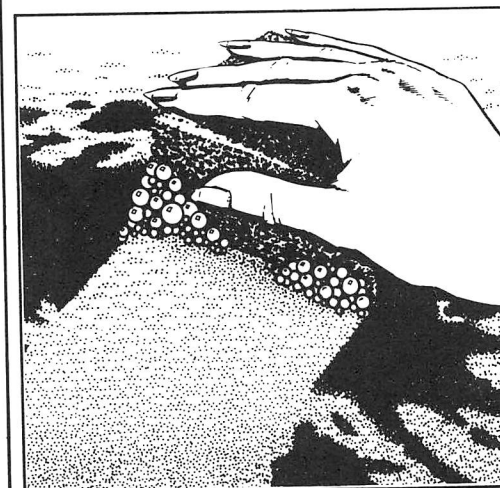
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Tales from Woodley Farm

Boxer, a giant of a horse was a massive, grey roamed, shire stallion. Eighteen hands to the shoulder, with a head like a portrait and feet like helicopter pads.

In the days when Gene Autry and Silver were the in-thing at Ratby's Majestic, Boxer was just the ticket to boost a young kids ego and no opportunity was missed to be seen in charge.

Times came when he needed to be shod at Jimmy Chesterton's smithy at the top of Berries Lane. This was about 200 yards from Woodley. He could easily have been led that short distance but that would have been sissy and he had to be ridden bare backed.

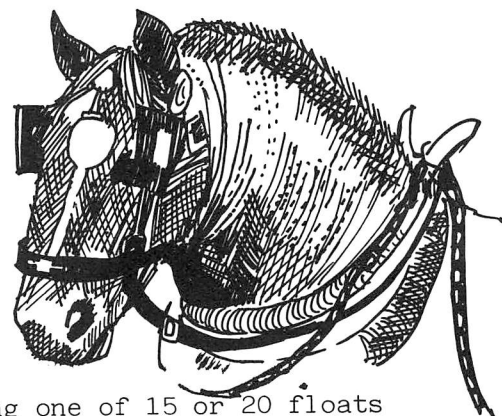
Mounting was always a problem and the five side mounting stone, still to be seen near to the road at the corner of Woodley's front garden was of little use.

The present farm gates were the answer, to be climbed and then jump aboard the horse as best as you could. Courting couples also found the same gates useful at times!

Down to the smithy, with pride, slide off, tie him up and give Jimmie's bellows a pump or two, then hold him for shoeing, the horse that is!

Because of his strength, Boxer had a special function as a geared-horse. When hay was carried from the nook and vicarage fields in Groby Lane, now the north bound motorway, the lads job was to take him to the bottom of Church Lane and wait at Mr. Freeman's butchers shop for the hayload to arrive there. When it did, Boxer was geared up front of the normal horse for the hard pull up the hill to the farm.

The annual galaday was the day that father and I used to toff the Beast up-to pull a dray in the village parade. Washed down and brushed, tail and mane combed, plaited and be-ribboned, hooves dubbined, magnificent! A 4 hour job that was worth every minute.



Pulling one of 15 or 20 floats and hardly a petrol fume in sight, one tends to wonder, 50 years later, where all the enthusiasm and energy went.

Local Yokel

ED'S NOTE

Ho Ho, tell me more about the farm gates!!

ON THE STREET WHERE YOU LIVE

Heathbrook Drive

In the early Medieval Documents, that record the Lands of the Leicester Forest there are frequent mentions to the great Hearth Brook or Heath Brook.

The large valley which extended from Bagworth and Thornton in the North, to Anstey in the East, better known today as the Rothley Brook valley, was in Medieval times an area of Heathland which separated the two great forests of Charnwood and Leicester.

The earliest reference to the Hearthbrook in Ratby comes from a record in the Hastings manuscripts. (Documents of the late 13th century). There it records that one, Simon Pakeman of Kirby had a half share of a water mill on the Hearth Brook in Ratby.

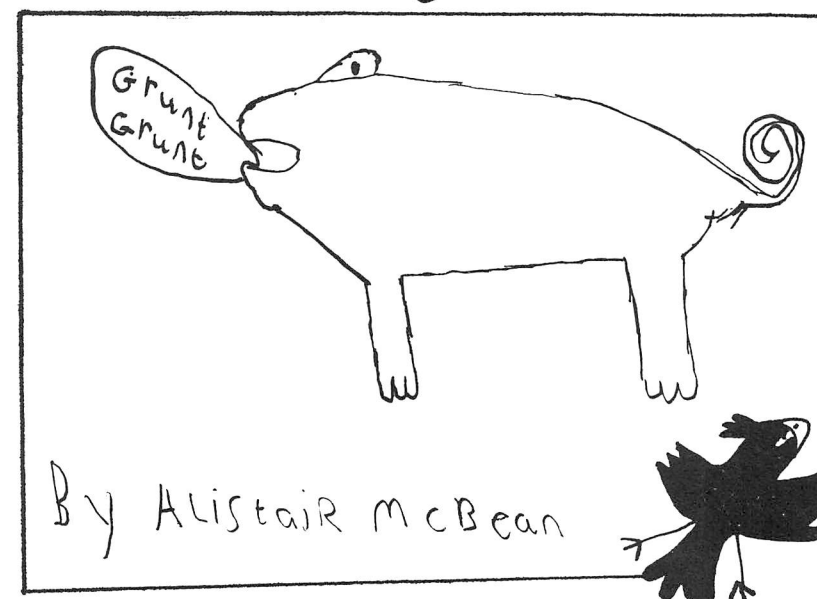
From this deed we have our first mention of a mill in our Parish. By the 18th century the old Medieval Mill which lay in the land of the Long Meadow adjacent to the present Church Farm Estate was superseded by a windmill owned by the Cufflin Family, which featured in an earlier edition of WOT.

100'S TO CHOOSE FROM

G FREE

Crow pie

Children's Page



By Alistair McBean



by Claire Smith



Keep sending us your drawings !!



COMPETITION
Design a Front Cover for the Christmas Edition of 'Not
Draw a Christmas picture with black felt pen or pencil.
Size 19cm x 19cm (7½" x 7½")
Write your Name, Age and Address on the back, and
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