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3 Great Years!

published by Ratby Scout Group

1986

Wot!

1989

ISSUE 18

OCTOBER 1989

Sue Beardsmore Drops In !

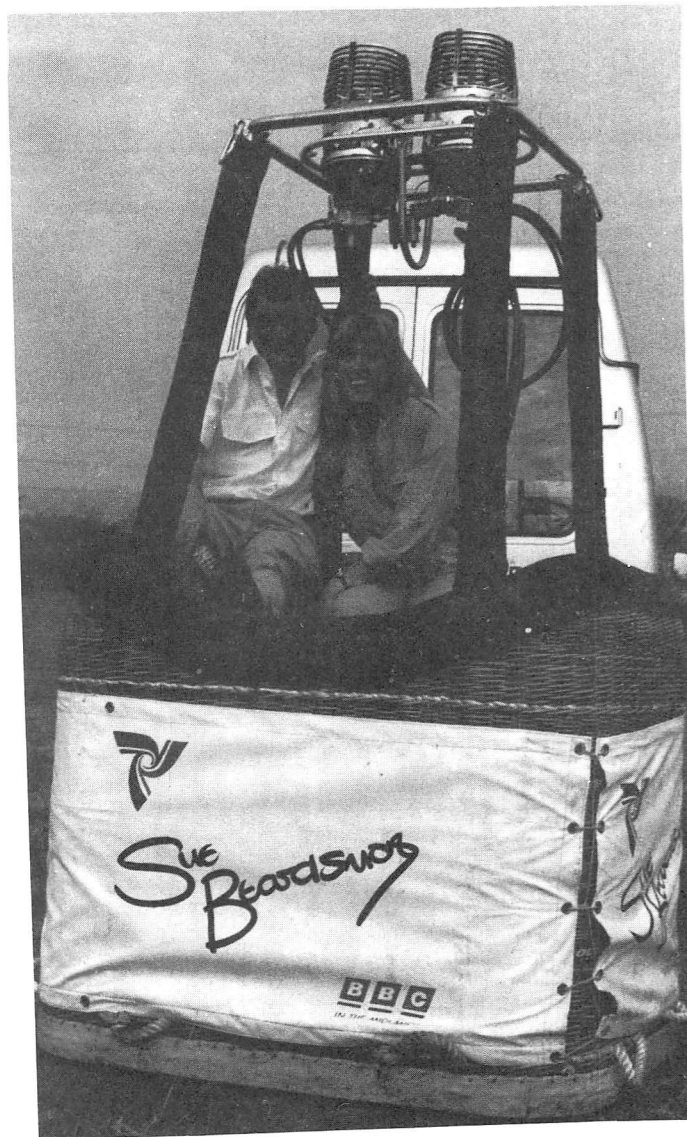


Photo : Steve Bond

Residents of Ratby are getting used to seeing Hot Air Balloons flying over. On Thursday 7th September one actually landed!!

This was no ordinary hot air balloon. Emblazoned on the bright red and purple fabric of the balloon was the logo of the BBC. Underneath it in her autographed basket was Midlands Today presenter Sue Beardsmore and her pilot Mike Kendrick.

On the ground chasing them round the countryside was Producer David Nelson and his crew with the engineers from the Airship and Balloon Company, the Telford firm who owned the balloon.

They landed in a field opposite Kirby Muxloe Parish Church. A WOT reporter sped on his bike to cover this amazing scoop!

They were all in the throes of making a documentary for BBC 2 provisionally and excitingly entitled 'The Balloon'!

David Nelson said the idea of making the programme was 'to show the Midlands from the air and to show Sue Beardsmore learning the art of ballooning!'

That day they had taken off from Kirby Muxloe Castle and were pretending to fly to Groby 'Pick your own' farm.

Unfortunately, the wind was not strong enough and they had to land before flying over our beautiful village!

continued on page 13

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EDITORIAL

Yes, a different front cover but we make no apologies. This is issue 18 of WOT published by the First Ratby Scout Group - it's third birthday issue.

During the three years we have had complaints, mainly about non-arrival of the magazine, some about costing people money and even one about losing the village the doctor.

Still three years of issues - do you remember the first (a collector's item now) with a photo of Gwen Holloway handing over a cheque for £1100 from the Scouts organised Woodland Walk to a representative of the Woodland Trust, (the largest donation from any group in the area).

We also carried an article about the, then new library and in the 'welcome to WOT', we set out our intentions and hopes that all the village would be involved in the content of the magazine. We thought that you would want the village organisations to inform you of their activities ... this certainly hasn't happened.

We also felt that the views of you, the Village people, would present interesting reading - they certainly have - and caused the editor many sleepless Sunday mornings!

One good thing about the first issue, there were no articles from, "the Mellors", our most prolific writers.

And do you remember those super cricket and nature articles in the early editions, plus the picture of me and we seem to have had a lot of doggie articles - none in this issue I hope.

We have also covered new building schemes affecting the village and encouraged over 160 of you to write letters to the Department of Transport regarding the still-to-be-finalised A46 Leicester Western Bypass. I think that we also moved things along, or caused serious questions to be asked about the school crossing.

We hope that you have enjoyed the first three years of WOT and will continue to keep sending the £5 notes. But should you not be able to send £5 your ideas and comments are always welcome.

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1st. Ratby Scout Group



1st Ratby Scouts Troop

The scout troop is presently experiencing what can only be termed as a period of change. We seem to have gone full circle in that the majority of boys are now in the eleven year old age group. Fairly inexperienced but eager to learn. To the older lads who have left us we wish them well. For those that have gone on into Ventures, stick with it. You are laying the foundations for those that follow.

Change has meant new patrol leaders and assistants. For them we will be organising extra training during the Autumn months.

This year the troop has managed two organised camps. During May we visited the Buxton District Scout site at Gradbach, Derbyshire, a successful camp with Lions coming out on top to win the annual camp trophy with 146 points from Osprys with 142½ points. More recently we had a late summer camp especially for the younger scouts at Belton-in-Rutland. Many thanks to Susan and David Rennick of the Old Rectory who gave us the run of the place. Leaders wives and families were able to come along as well! Even Peter managed

to coax Cheryl into coming along, promising her an idyllic day by the river as we enjoyed our canoeing.

Alas this was not be be, because it was a touch of the "Wot' no water". It looked like somebody had pulled the plug out with barely a trickle in the bottom and plenty of smelly mud. Disappointment turned to fun as we hit the local swimming baths. Other events during camp include pioneering, camp crafts, various ball games and wild games. A day expedition into "Wildest Rutland" followed by a Barbecue. Not forgetting our regular camp fire where everyone can? (well I'll leave the comments to those that were there) let their hair down. Surfice to say, one Paul Haezwindt alias Colin Curley!!! achieved his entertainers badge for his antics. Well here's to next year's camps, they can only get better. Oh and we must not forget, a big thankyou to the ladies, Carol, Jacinta and Cheryl for their invaluable help. Especially Carol Payne, she's the one that feeds us. A very, very nice lady!!!

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Stuffed Mushrooms	£1.40
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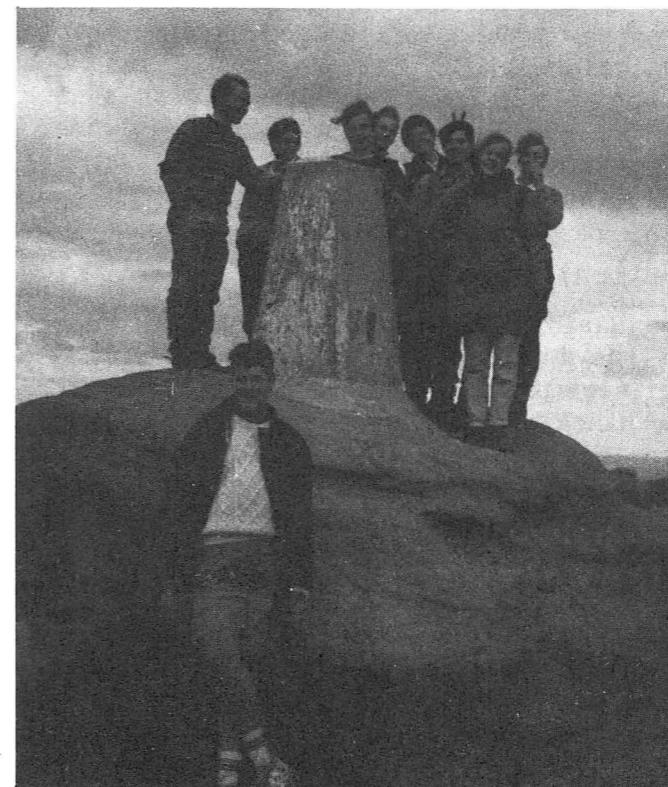
Deep Fried Plaice	£2.95
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Rump Steak	£4.95
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To FOLLOW

Home Made Fruit Pie	75p
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Peach Glory	95p
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Banana Split	£1.10
Ripe Banana with a portion of mixed fruit, ice cream finished with whipped cream and wafer	
Gateaux	£1.10
The chef's choice of gateaux to compliment your meal	
Cheesecake	95p
A superb choice of cheesecake finished with whipped cream	
Caramel	75p
A light and fluffy caramel topped with whipped cream	
Ice Cream	75p
A double filling of Vanilla and Strawberry ice cream topped with whipped cream & wafer	

VENTURE SCOUT REPORT



Our main activity this summer has been our first camp at Edale in Derbyshire where although the weather wasn't the best we've had this summer, it was dry enough to allow us to go hillwalking on both the Saturday and the Sunday. The photograph shows the unit on the triangulation pillar at Kinder Low on the Kinder Scout Plateau.

With the Autumn now seemingly descending upon us especially with the nights drawing in our programme for the next few months is going to take a slightly less active



DIARY DATES

Ratby Band Celebration Concert
Saturday 14th October, 7.30 pm
Groby Community College Theatre
Tickets £2.50

.....

Ratby Village Society October 17th
8 pm in the Welfare Hall
Colin Green on "Our Four Legged Friends"

.....

Rummage Sale in Aid of Ratby Church
Saturday October 21st
2 pm in the Church Rooms



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form, but still I hope interesting with the possibility of a visit to a local climbing wall, swimming pool - canoeing, visits to places of interest, guest speakers and a camp at a barn.

The Unit functions as its own programme organising body, usually evenings are planned by the members not the leaders. If you would like to try something new, are aged between 15 and 20 years old (especially ex-Scouts and Guides) and are not scared of a little commitment, come along on a Tuesday evening, 8.00 pm at the Church Rooms.

Mark Hardy
Venture Scout Leader

RATBY SCOUT FETE

On Saturday 16th September the 2nd Annual Scout Fete was held. Unlike last year the weather decided not to play ball and steady drizzle prevailed. However a constant flow of people attended and made it into another successful event.

A display of Silk Flower Arrangements was a new feature. A Scouting Display was mounted on the newly cut grass at the rear of the Church Rooms. For those who did the cutting it was a hard whole day's work, thanks to Paul Clarke, Chris Woodward and Horace Payne.

The raffle proved very popular with the winner "walking off" with a brand new T.V. Many thanks are due to all those who helped, the organisations that donated raffle prizes and those Ratby villagers who supported the event. It resulted in a useful sum raised towards purchase of new equipment for use by the Venture Scouts, Scouts, Cubs and Beavers.

Ratby Parish Council

Road and Traffic Problems

The Parish Council has written to Leicestershire County Council for news of any decision regarding improvements to give better safety at the school crossing.

Parking and traffic complaints were as usual brought up at the August and September meeting. The matter of vehicles speeding along Ferndale Drive to the playing field was considered and will be referred to the Sports Club and Police.

Drivers please consider pedestrians, and do not park on pavements.

Ratby Youth

Following an informal meeting between the Parish Council and representatives of village organisations working with Youth, a working party has been set up to look at needs and to see whether these needs can be met by the Council.

Police

The village Policeman, P.C. John Alexander has already been making his presence felt around Ratby. At the 15th September meeting of the Council, he reported on

various issues with which he had been involved, and made particular reference to a determined effort to combat the growing menace of drug trafficking and addiction in our community.

Cottagers Walk

The Parish Council has requested that a second street lamp be sited on Cottagers Walk to improve pedestrian safety.

Public Meeting

The Parish Council called a Public Meeting on the 6th September, to enable villagers to see plans which have been submitted to Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council for a development at Old Hayes Farm. Around fifty local people came along, and were informed that the proposal involved a 120 bedroom hotel, plus 40 time-share units and other buildings.

The Parish Council has recommended to the Hinckley and Bosworth planning committee that the proposal be refused on the grounds that it would be both inappropriate and an over-development of the site, contrary to the Leicestershire Structural Plan and the Ratby District and North Eastern Parishes Local Plans.

Play Areas

The Parish Council agreed to site two

litter bins at the Burroughs Road recreation ground, and at Ferndale Drive play area. Costs are to be obtained for the replacement of damaged Toddler swings at Ferndale with new, safer impact-absorbing swing seats. Despite more recent vandalism, the Parish Council will not be deterred from consideration of landscaping plans and proposals prepared by the City Wildlife Project, and the National Playing Fields Association. The Council is considering an increased wage to attract a play area maintenance person.

Christmas Arrangements

Already preliminary arrangements are under way for the traditional Carol Sing-a-long around the Village Christmas Tree. We also hope that Santa can make his usual rounds to collect gifts for children in hospital or in need.

Village Improvements

Severn Trent Water Authority and the County Council have been urged to properly reinstate our roads, footways and grass verges after the waterpipe relining work is complete. Although it is an uphill battle, the Council is resolute to improve our village appearance as much as possible. This does however depend upon all residents being proud of Ratby and wanting a better environment.

**NEXT MEETINGS: Tuesday November 7th
" December 5th
in the Welfare Hall**



Our Rival!

Ratby now has a local correspondent for the "Bradgate Mail". Sylvia Gant would like to hear from you if you want to publicise your event in Ratby and surrounding villages. She needs 2 weeks notice. Phone her on 386428.

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We had twenty two eager Beavers, raring to go on the start of the new term, the long holiday break seemed to give them an even more enthusiastic come back, I am sure everyone in the village heard our opening ceremony!!

Our first three weeks back, due yet again to the good weather, enabled us to hold our meetings outside, with non stop football, rounders and Sporty relay games being the highlights of the evening. Then back inside to learn a few songs for our Annual Singalong which was on Saturday 23rd September at John's Lee Wood, when 1st Ratby Beavers were hosts to the Leicester West Districts Beaver Colonies. We had games, hot dogs and then our Singalong.

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WOT'S A NATIONAL CURRICULUM?

It's all rather complicated, but basically from September 1989 all schools have to teach 10 foundation subjects: English, Mathematics and Science, Technology (and Design), History, Geography, Music, Art, Physical Education and a modern foreign language. Only secondary schools need to teach this last one. Many schools will continue to teach History, Geography and Religious Education under the Humanities banner.

Is it all new? Not really most schools already teach these subjects.

What is new? Now Central Government determines what should be taught in each subject and at what stage in a pupil's education, although for this year this has only been done for Maths, Science and English. The government has made this a matter of law, schools are legally obliged to teach to the curriculum set out for these three subjects.

How does it affect my child? Right now, probably not a lot. Only those pupils in the 1st year of the primary school and the 1st year of secondary school are legally covered by the National Curriculum, as yet. With each passing year more age groups will be drawn into it and more subjects will have a government imposed curriculum.

I've read a leaflet, there seems to be a lot of jargon!

There is, but some of it is more important to grasp than the rest. Key stage is one: this refers to a period in your child's education. For instance key stage 1 covers children aged from 5 to 7 years. Key stage 3 children 11 - 14 years.

What's the significance of a Key Stage then?

Well, not only what a child should learn is legally laid down for each Key Stage but also that they should be formally assessed (tested) at the end of it.

I keep hearing about this assessment but what is it?

Children will in future be assessed (tested) four times in their school career: at ages 7, 11, 14 and 16 to see how far they have progressed through the National Curriculum. This will be done by a combination of:

(1) your child's teacher assessing

What on earth is a SAT?

It's a test or assessment task produced by commercial organisations for the government and all children will have to do them at ages 7, 11, 14 and 16 (they don't start until '91 for primary pupils, '92 for secondary pupils).

What will they tell you?

Well in each subject your child will have been tested on a ten point scale and you'll get to know where they are on that scale. What they know and don't know.

Still Puzzled?

Don't worry, so is the Government! It's still putting together the National Curriculum and working out how it's to be carried out, but by 1992 all children will be following the National Curriculum in all subjects.

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CHRISTMAS CAKE

I have used this same recipe for a number of years and there is still time for you to make one for this Christmas. On one occasion I kept a 'spare' cake (without marzipan and icing) until the following Christmas, by wrapping in a cling film and storing in a tin.

METHOD

Three days before you intend to make the cake, prepare the dried fruit and put in a large jar (or basin covered with cling film). Sprinkle over the brandy or rum, cover the jar closely and leave for 3 days, shaking it at intervals.

Line an 8" cake tin with 2 thicknesses of brown paper outside and a double thickness of greaseproof paper inside (I always use foil, cut to fit tin).

Add cherries, peel and nuts to soaked fruit, sieve flour with baking powder, cocoa, salt and spices. Cream the fat with a grated rind, add sugar and cream again very thoroughly. By hand, beat in the treacle, coffee essence and the eggs, beating the mixture very well between each addition. Fold in half the flour very lightly, then add the soaked fruit etc., and remaining flour. Add almond essence, put mixture into cake tin, hollowing from centre to sides.

Oven 300 (No. 2) for 2 hours, then reduce to 276 (No 1) for 1.5 hours; then leave cake in tin with heat off for 1.5 hours.

INGREDIENTS

0.5 lb currants
0.5 lb sultanas
0.5 lb raisins
½ lb butter
0.5 lb soft brown sugar
4 oz chopped peel
4 oz cherries
2 oz shredded almonds
1 tablespoon dark treacle
1 dessert spoon coffee essence
1 rounded teaspoon cocoa
1 rounded teaspoon mixed spice
1 flat teaspoon baking powder
10 oz plain flour
3 tablespoons brandy or rum
6 eggs
Large pinch of salt
Grated ring of orange
Almond essence



Recipe sent in by
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Ratby Playgroup



This summer saw the first Ratby Playscheme, organised by Playgroup in the Church Rooms for children aged 3 - 7 years.

We had lots of activities, including sewing, messy clay modelling, cooking, face painting, collage pictures, mod-rock, and a soft-play room where the children could jump around with a mass of soft shapes, kindly supplied by the P.P.A. Resource Centre.

We organised a long walk around Martinshaw Woods with a picnic. We were very fortunate to have good weather. Adults were glad to get back to the Church Rooms for a rest, but after walking for miles, the children all wanted another chance to go wild in the soft-play room! Where do they get their energy from?

We also had a day trip to Stoughton Farm Park which was enjoyed by all. Not one child was lost over the whole week, although not all the parents were pleased with this result.

All in all it was deemed a success, and plans are underway to organise another for next year. However, we will need



Photos : Lesley Chevin

alot more help, so come on Mums, Dads, Grandmas, Grandads, teenage brothers and sisters etc., why not give the Ratby Children's Playscheme a try next year, we're sure you will find it fun. Watch out for more details next year.

Playgroup Events

Rummage Sale - 14.10.89 - Welfare Hall
2 o'clock

Toy Sale - 24.11.89 - Welfare Hall
7.30 p.m.

Christmas Fayre 25.11.89 - Church Rooms
2 o'clock

Watch out for posters with more details and please do come along.

PLUS Action Research for the Crippled Child are having an 'Evening of Perfume' Wed. 18th October. Tickets on sale shortly

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The Knighton Park Trust have submitted a second proposal for "A Meeting Hall" on Station Road, Ratby. They are proposing to situate the hall on the site of existing terraced housing, which would be demolished. Last year's appeal was rejected by the Inspector on the grounds that it was an inappropriate development in a rural centre.

.....

Groby Community College are planning a "Story Evening" in November. Local authors and professional story tellers will be there! Watch out for more details.

"RHYTHM & RHYME" EVENING

SATURDAY 28th OCTOBER 7.30 p.m.

AT RATBY PARISH CHURCH

A cast of Ratby people will present a programme of poetry and music for your entertainment in support of Ratby Church Repair Fund.

Tickets at £2.50 with concessions (light refreshments included) can be obtained from 9 Ingle Drive, Ratby.

I'VE GOT YOU IN A BOX

You don't know much about me
To you I'm a name on the register,
A presence in the classroom,
A shape around the school.

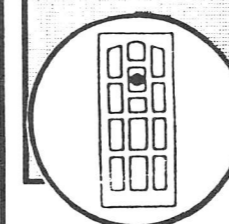
When we do sums, the numbers
Scuttle round my head like crazy crabs
And come out sideways,
So you've put me in a box marked stupid.

When we play games, the ball
Leaps from my fingers like a hopeful
frog.

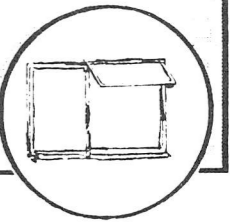
It stays in anybody's hands but mine,
So you've put me in a box marked clumsy.

And when we talk
I cannot tame my tongue
It gabbles out wild things I never meant,
So you've put me in a box marked cheeky.

I wish you'd try to know me.
You'd find I do not fit into your boxes.
But their lids are too tight shut
For you ever to open them.
I've got you in a box marked careless.



COUNTRY STYLE WINDOWS



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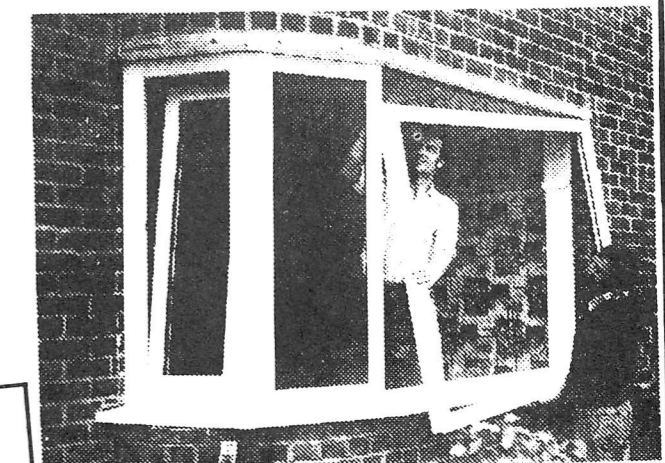
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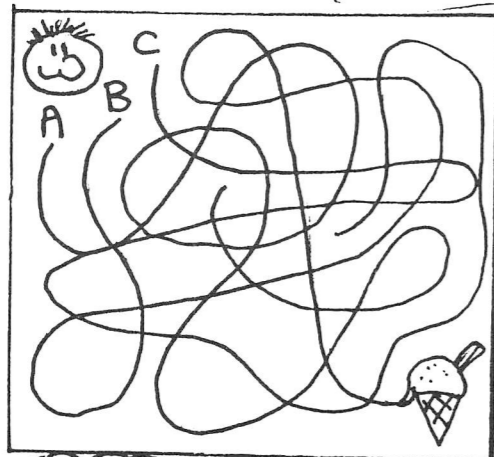
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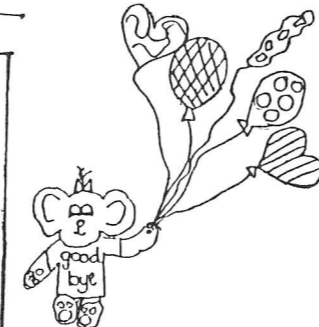
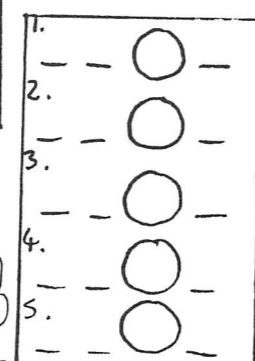
Puffin GREAT PICTURES
KIDS KEEP EM
COMING!!!



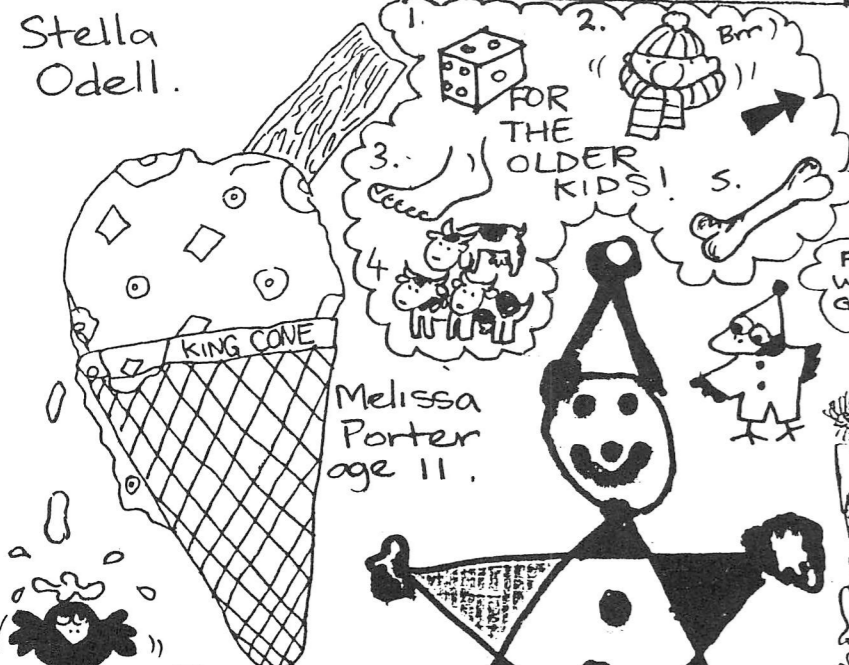
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all that steel wool
home



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Stella
Odell.



Melissa
Porter
age 11.



Alison Tyler

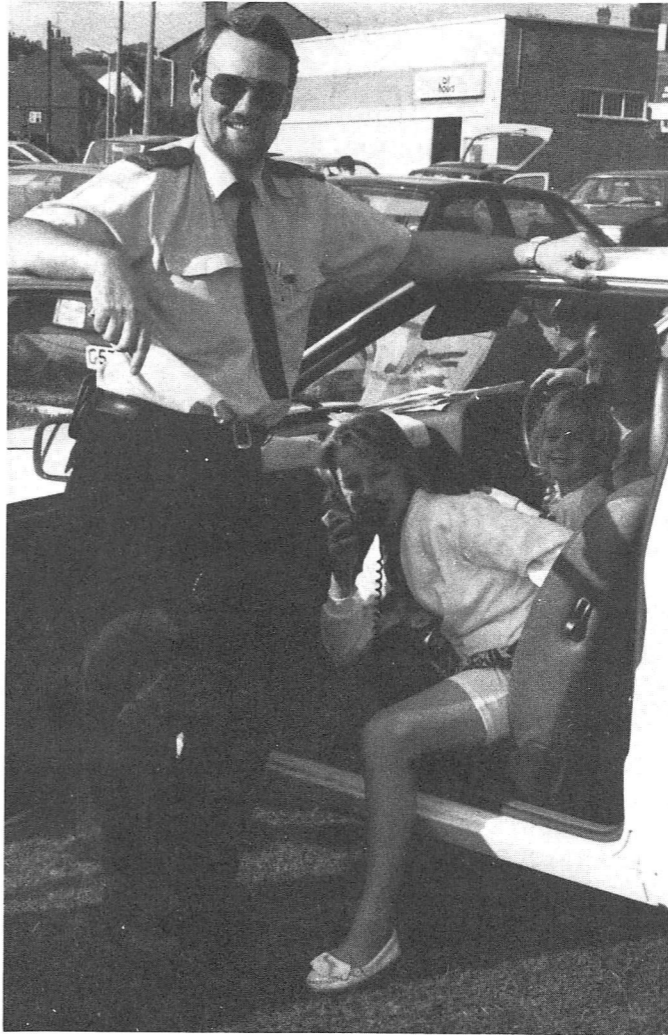
FIND THE
WORD
GOING
DOWN.

Emma Harding
age 10



Laura Stafford
age 10 1/2

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'ELLO, 'ELLO, WOT'S ALL THIS THEN?

Ratby's local 'Bobby', P.C. John Alexander is pictured here at the 'Knockout' giving guided tours of a Panda Car. He was also present to judge a colouring competition he had organised in Ratby School.

Formally a police dog handler, he is usually seen walking the beat in the village and has made his presence felt sorting out problems of vandalism.

John has already been busy contacting local people to revitalise the Neighbourhood Watch scheme in the village.

Timecraft

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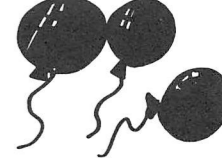
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Babyfits



Welcome to Annita Eddison who opened 'Babyfits' on Main Street on August 5th.

Annita started off making knitted garments just for her own son Joseph, three years ago. She says she found existing knitting patterns 'impossible', and has created her own method!

Eventually, with the help of an Enterprise allowance, Annita set up her own home-based business - 'Babyknit designs'. She sold garments through private commissions, and at craft fairs.

After a couple of successful years, the business grew Annita spotted the empty shop in the village, and 'Babyfits' began.

Next Spring Annita will be launching the BABYFITS COLLECTION of summer clothes, handmade garments in unusual and bright fabrics to co-ordinate with Babyknit designs.

In stock at present is a range of high quality handmade clothing, underwear and casualwear for 0-8 year olds, as well as a good range of haberdashery, Annita also provides an outlet for other craft workers - on display are handmade wooden toys, clocks and mobiles - just the thing for Christmas presents.

Let's hope Annita gets plenty of custom. We need enterprising people like her to keep the village centre alive.

Sue Beardsmore Drops In!

continued from front page

David Nelson said 'earlier in the year we filmed at Groby "Pick your own" farm. The film we have taken today will be used to show the balloon flying to Groby.'

BBC 2 is planning to broadcast 'the balloon' on six Friday evenings starting on 27th April. Each programme will last half an hour, so look out for the pictures of our area.

Only WOT readers will know that they did not really fly all the way from Kirby Muxloe to Groby.

Don't bother with the Radio Times. For the real facts behind the T.V. programmes read WOT!!

Stephen Boud

Ratby News.

Ratby Newsagent, Jay Pabari, was so pleased with his hard-working newspaper boys and girls, that he decided to reward them all with a free trip.

Thirty of them were bussed to Alton Towers for an exciting day out. Two of the lucky youngsters had recently retired from newspaper delivering, but Mr. Pabari felt that they still deserved to be invited!!

JULIE'S HAIRDRESSING

MAIN STREET, RATBY

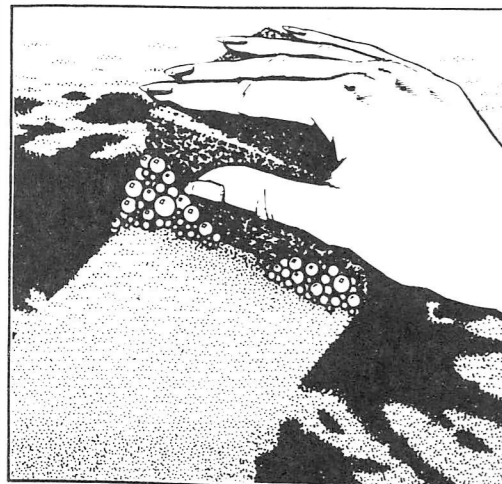
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LETTERS

Dear Editor,

WOT a shame dogs got such a bad press in the August edition.

It is as you say, a few thoughtless owners spoiling the village. As a dog owner myself, I am pleased to say I can take my dog anywhere, into town, on holiday everywhere, he is very clean and well trained, he's not allowed in the churchyard or to foul pavements, streets, other folks gardens etc. and he never does.

Also 'poop-scoops' can be obtained from the R.S.P.C.A. and pet shops.

Dogs give so much pleasure to so many people and the R.S.P.C.A. and other Animal bodies are crying out for homes for them, but you must be prepared to be responsible for them and not let them be a nuisance.

Jenny Mott

P.S. I wouldn't be without our Jack, doggone it!

Dear Editor,

A vote of thanks to the ladies who organised the Ratby Playscheme. It was well organised and safe play. The children enjoyed the activities. Ratby has alot of talent in this field of children's fun play. I feel they should be recognised
A big thankyou to all the ladies!!

Mrs K. Plunkett

Dear Editor,

I thought your readers would be interested to know that there is doubt over the obligatory nature of some of the questions they have been asked or may have already answered for Community charge Registration purposes.

Having read articles in the National Press throwing doubts on the legality of some of the questions on the Community Charge Registration forms being sent out by some local authorities, I wrote to the Data Protection Registrar and our local Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council to check the situation as it affects Ratby householders.

The Data Protection Registrar confirmed that they were investigating the forms but "were unable to comment on many forms including that of Hinckley & Bosworth whilst investigations are under way!"

They also said they had written to Registration offices "explaining how asking

of the 1st and 4th Data Protection Principles if the answers were held on computer. These Principles state that personal data held on computer must be obtained fairly and lawfully and must be relevant and not excessive in relation to the purpose for which it is held.

The District Revenues Officer of Hinckley & Bosworth also replied admitting that the 'Data Protection Registrar is questioning the Borough's canvass form in respect for the following information:

- 1) Section 1: Property type, house, bungalow etc.
- 2) Section 2: Age and date of birth for those aged 18. Name and address of School/College/University, title of course undertaken.
- 3) Section 4: future changes of residents
- 4) Section 5: When is the living accommodation likely to be occupied.

He explains in the letter to me that the Council has written explaining why the above information is necessary. He also says that in order not to delay registration these questions may be ignored!

I suggest your readers who have not already completed their registration forms also write to the Council to check to see which questions they are legally obliged to answer and which are discretionary.

There is already far too much information kept about us on various computers, without local authorities using the excuse of a new tax to collect more information that they are not empowered to do.

Stephen Boud

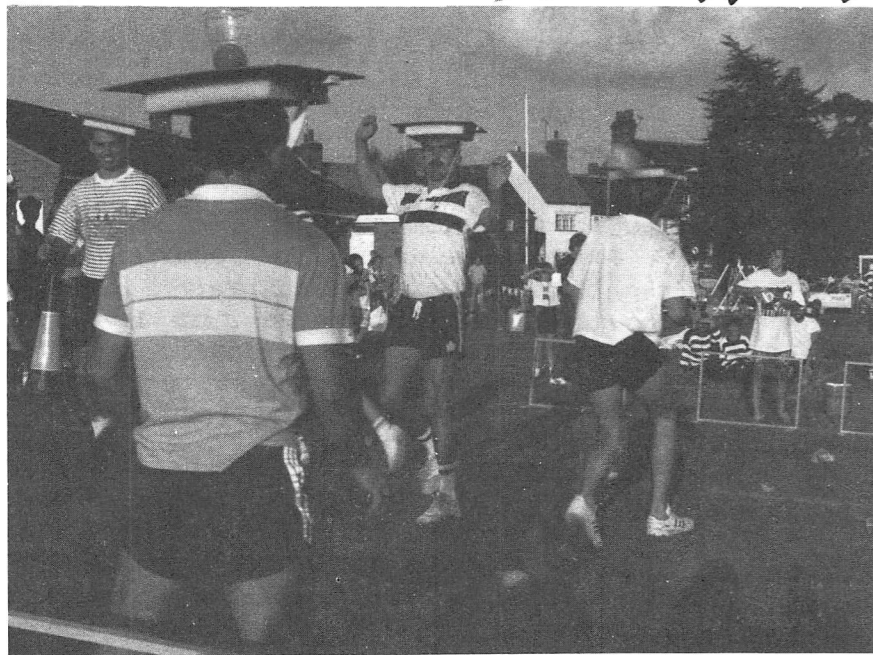
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It's a Knock-Out!!



For the first time in 5 years there was a draw for first place!! Buzzards Bullets and Groby Sport finished with 98 points each. Both teams sportingly agreed to a play-off ... a re-run of the Ski-Race. And it was Groby Sport who finally won the day.

They were presented with the "Healey Bearings Trophy" by Mr. Glenn Barrett, formally of Ingle Drive, who was one of the original Knockout organisers. A special trophy was presented to Geoff Pullen, in gratitude for his five years 'service' as Knockout co-ordinator.

Bright sunshine brought out the crowds to help make Ratby Primary School Association's 'Fifth Knockout' the most successful ever. Eleven teams competed this year in a variety of games, to entertain us, and proceeds look like breaking all records. Unfortunately no-one won the Metro (supplied by Clarks) but there were some winners in other competitions Emma-Jane Hill and Shelley Gant were awarded prizes for their colouring competition entries, and a bottle of wine goes to Linda Murtha for her Limerick:

"At the fifth Ratby Knockout one day
Wooden leg Bill came to play
He hopped round the track
With his leg on his back
WOODWORM was the prize of the day."

Get in touch Linda if you want your prize
Runners up Limericks

"At the fifth Ratby Knockout one day
Many spectators thought it was May
Some came in June
Others under the moon
But in fact the big day is Today."
Val Hipwell

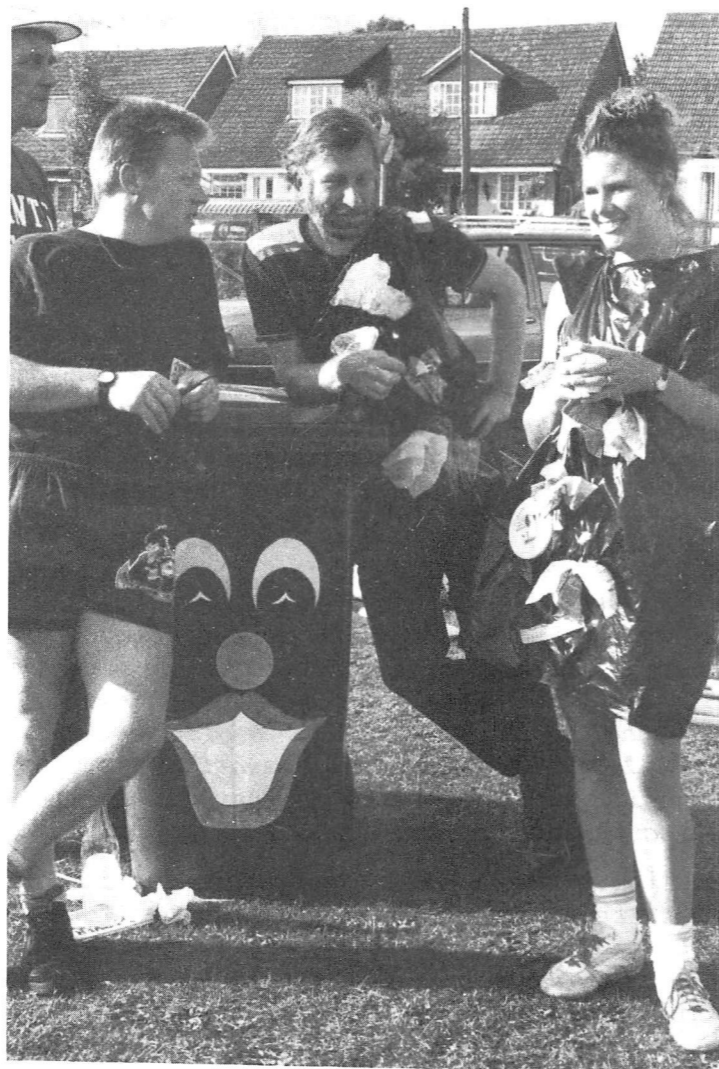
"At the fifth Ratby Knockout one day
I saw Anstey Nan on her way
She hoped she could play
In the games of that day
And make a few bob on the way."
Angela Jeggo

No-one cracked the "John says..." competition! ... Just for the curious, John is John Moore, and the answers' in his shop window!!

Highlight of the day
- The Waiter game!!



Pictured here are 3 of the triumphant team ... and their mascot!!



Photos: Sue Bond



TOP THE POPS

Many of you will remember the Morgans who used to live in Ingle Drive.

Well their second son Ian was instrumental in having a number one record in Top of the Pops.

It was SWING THE MOOD and was number one for five weeks. Ian is one of JIVE BUNNY & THE MASTERMIXERS.

The record is now in the hit parades around Europe and is soon to be released in America.

Well done Ian we all look forward to your next hit and give our regards to Kevin who is principle trombonist of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra.

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single
is
out
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AUTUMN/WINTER DAYS OUT FROM RATBY

OCTOBER

		ADULT	O.A.P.	CHILD
Wed 11th	Mystery Tour with Cream Tea	£6.95	£6.50	£5.95
Sat 14th	Blackpool Illuminations	£6.95	£6.45	£5.95
Wed 18th	Malvern with Cream Tea	£7.95	£7.50	£6.95
Sat 21st	Chester	£5.95	£5.50	£4.95
Sun 22nd	Buxton and Matlock Illuminations	£3.95	£3.50	£3.00
Wed 25th	London	£5.95	£5.50	£4.95
Sat 28th	York	£5.95	£5.50	£4.95
Sun 29th	Betws y Coed and Swallow Falls	£6.50	£6.00	£5.75

NOVEMBER

Sat 4th	Calais Day Trip	£25.00	£25.00	£19.00
Sat 4th	Blackpool Illuminations	£6.95	£6.45	£5.95
Sun 5th	York Extravaganza	£17.95	£17.45	£16.95
Thurs 9th	James Herriott's Yorkshire	£7.45	£7.00	£6.75
Tues 14th	Wiltshire with Lunch	£12.95	£12.45	£11.95
Sat 18th	Milton Keynes	£4.95	£4.45	£3.95
Wed 22nd	London Cruise and Shopping	£8.50	£8.00	£7.50
Sat 25th	Birmingham	£4.45	£3.95	£3.45
Tues 28th	Hereford and Worcester	£5.75	£5.25	£4.95

DECEMBER

Sat 2nd	Shrewsbury Xmas Shopping	£5.95	£5.50	£4.95
Thurs 7th	Winter Cotswolds with Lunch	£12.95	£12.45	£11.95
Sat 9th	London Xmas Shopping and Orientation Drive	£5.95	£5.50	£4.95
Sat 9th	Telford Xmas Shopping	£5.50	£5.00	£4.75
Sun 10th	Petticoat Lane and Sightseeing	£5.95	£5.50	£4.95
Wed 13th	½ day Mystery Tour	£2.95	£2.50	£2.00
Sat 16th	London Theatre Trip - The Buddy Holly Story	£23.95	£23.50	£22.95
Sat 16th	Boulogne Day Trip	£25.00	£25.00	£23.00
Sun 17th	Lincoln Market	£4.95	£4.50	£3.95
Sat 30th	Aladdin Panto	£21.95	£21.50	£21.00

LONDON THEATRE TRIPS

Wed 11th Oct.	Aspects of Love	£36.50 or £31.10 (according to theatre seat)
Wed 27th Dec	Aspects of Love	£37.40 or £31.50 (according to theatre seat)
Sat 6th Jan '90	Anything Goes	£25.50

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think green

BRITAIN'S LEADING ENVIRONMENTAL FESTIVAL

Leicestershire is rapidly becoming Britain's most environmentally-conscious county, as we play host, for the third consecutive year, to the THINK GREEN Festival. Organised by Leicester City Wildlife Project, the event attracts both visitors and exhibitors from all over the country: all the leading conservation groups will be present, offering information, attractive displays and items for sale; various "green" businesses will be selling goods which do not harm the environment; leaflets and activities will be explaining what you can do to help save the planet; a programme of entertainments will be provided for your enjoyment; wholefoods will be available for the gourmets, and a concurrent children's festival, in a separate hall on the same site, will be providing fun and games with a strong ecological message to children of all ages. Whether you are already active in the conservation movement, or are a new convert to green thinking, it is virtually guaranteed that you will find THINK GREEN '89 an enjoyable and informative day out, whether you're nine or ninety.

The venue for this ecological extravaganza is Granby Halls Leisure Centre, Leicester, the date is 15th October 1989, and the opening times are 10.00 a.m. 5.30 p.m. Over 130 national and local groups have been invited to the Festival: some of these are regular contributors, like Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace and Animal Aid; among the new exhibitors are Ark, the Royal Society for Nature Conservation, the David Shepherd Conservation Foundation, the Ecology Building

Society and county trusts from the surrounding shires. This year we have also broken with tradition to allow exhibitor space to representatives from all the political parties, enabling them to state what their party is doing to protect the environment. We shan't allow them to make long speeches, but they will be available to answer your questions about conservation and party policies, whether on local issues such as allowing development on greenspace, or global issues like depletion of the ozone layer.

THINK GREEN '89 will be officially opened by Chris Packham, presenter of BBC TV's most popular junior wildlife programme, "The Really Wild Show", and we also hope to have the involvement of the "Blue Peter" team at the children's festival. Admission is still only £1.50 for adults, and 50p for children and other concessions. If you would like any further details about the Festival, or about its hosts, City Wildlife Project, please don't hesitate to call us.

Louise Marsh
Festival Organiser

NEWSFLASH: WESTERN BY-PASS DECISION

The Department of Transport state 'the Inspector's report on the Public Inquiry for the Leicester Western By-pass, has been received. We are now awaiting the Secretary of State for the Environment and Transport's decision on how the scheme should proceed, which is expected later this year.'

We await the decision with trepidation, in the meantime how about writing to Cecil Parkinson, MP to help in the decision making process!!

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RATBY AT WORK

Many people have been tempted to come and live in Ratby because of it's friendliness.

It is not just a massive, soulless housing estate, but a thriving community, with small industries and workplaces, a good range of local shops and a wide variety of clubs and societies.

In this series we will be looking at places of work, and examining the contribution of our local factories and businesses to village life, and society as a whole.

Casepak

The Beginning

Casepak started up in 1966, in a small warehouse to the rear of premises in Melton Road, Leicester.

Mr. George Smith was at that time working for a firm which made plastic soles for shoes. This firm bought unwanted 'butter' cartons to package their product. Aware of a surplus of such cartons, George Smith spotted a sound business opportunity, and set up a waste-paper merchants. He has never looked back since. Firms were clamouring for waste paper, and soon the Melton Road premises were outgrown.

In 1968 George Smith noticed a 'To Let' sign in Ratby. (The buildings were previously the first home of Bostik Ltd., and many older residents will remember the smell!)

Planning permission was applied for, and granted, no objects being raised. Mr. Smith himself admits that 'he should never have been given planning permission'.

Four or five years later the premises were purchased, and over the years many improvements have been made. There are now 40 employees, most of them from Ratby and surrounding villages, some of whom have been with the firm since it's inception.

Casepak is still very much a family-run business, despite being part of the Reedpack Group.

What happens at Casepak?

Casepak have installed 60 'compactors' at printers in the East Midlands, to collect their waste-paper. Casepak lorries bring the waste to Ratby, where it is sorted, graded, and compacted into one tonne bales, ready for recycling.

Some goes to local mills, some is exported to Europe, and even the Far East. Exports are increasing. For example, one particular grade of clay-coated paper is in great demand in France - hence the French lorries arriving in Ratby.

The demand for recycled paper is increasing. In the U.K., over half the fibre used by the paper and board industry is recycled according to "Waste Paper News", the Waste Paper Industries' Newsletter.

At present only 30% of 'newsprint' paper is produced at home. Most can be imported more cheaply from America, where, as in much of Europe, the waste paper industry is subsidised. The imminent opening of two new paper mills in Britain will apparently increase home production to 78%.



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Charity Collections

The recent increase in environmental concern, with charities organising news-paper collections, has led to massive stockpiling of newsprint and magazines, for which there is no demand at present.

(Casepak has kept faith over the years with a number of Scout groups, and even several local children, who have regularly collected paper).

By 1994 there should be sufficient 'de-inking' plants operating in the UK to cope with the increase in newsprint waste. Mr. Smith is also optimistic that the European Community policies will have produced a levelling effect, with all waste industries being subsidised, or none. These changes should improve the balance of payments by reducing imports.

Problems of Noise and Traffic

During the last 18 years, Mr. Smith states that various means have been tried to alleviate problems. The original noisy machinery has been replaced with modern, quieter plant. Lorry drivers are constantly being reminded to lower skips carefully. Litter is collected every day, and lorries are sometimes parked at Mill Lane Industrial Site until there is parking on the yard.

Apparently sound-testing undertaken by experts from Loughborough University on the premises and in a neighbouring house, showed that noise from passing traffic and the motorway was higher than that emanating from Casepak.

George Smith states that ideas for reducing

FIELD HEAD

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wind-blown litter and noise have been submitted recently to Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council for consideration by planning officers, prior to a formal application. These proposals include a heavy industrial curtain across the entrance, and 'stadium-type roofing' together with soundproof walls to the rear of the premises.

Mr. Smith maintains that he has attempted to establish a dialogue with planning officers over the years, to find mutually acceptable solutions to problems. He recalled the Council have attempted to encourage re-location at Industrial Sites such as Hinckley Industrial Estate and Desford Colliery. However, the space has been insufficient. The present site area of 2 acres would be the barest acceptable minimum. A 3 acre site would ensure adequate parking.

George Smith states that if a suitable site were to become available in this part of Leicestershire, then re-location would be considered.

The Future

Given the upsurge in all things 'green', waste recycling will go on increasing. This will inevitably create more future dilemmas. Firms like Casepak are an essential link in the recycling chain. And yet their presence can have a detrimental effect on the neighbouring community.

Casepak is involved in setting up a new plant in Corby. Waste from that area will no longer come to Ratby. But any spare capacity will be quickly taken up by waste from local printers who are also expanding. George Smith sees no need for great expansion of the Ratby site, only the need to alleviate the problems. He emphasises that he recognises the firm's responsibility to local people.

Sue Bond

Lets hear some positive constructive views about this issue - Do you use recycled paper? - write in and tell us!!

ED.

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This year most of us are, like the farmers, well up-to-date with the work outside. There is more time than usual to think about structural changes in the garden.

Bulb planting should be nearly finished. Hyacinths and Narcissi in bowls for indoor decoration will have been planted early in September, small bulbs such as Iris danfordiae, iris reticulata, Crocus chrysanthus varieties, Chionodoxa and the small Narcissi are very successful in ordinary pots of compost. I use a soil-based one such as John Innes. Leave the pots outside unless the weather is exceptionally severe. When they flower bring them into a cool room, display them outside on a patio or even fill gaps in the border with them. After flowering put them in the garden where you want them the following year, it is often easier to arrange plantings in Spring than Autumn.

The dry summer has reminded us of the importance of adding humus to all garden soils. Compost, manure, peat or any other bulky organic matter helps to conserve moisture. In a small garden compost is best made in bins rather than heaps. Wooden containers can be built or plastic ones bought. At least two

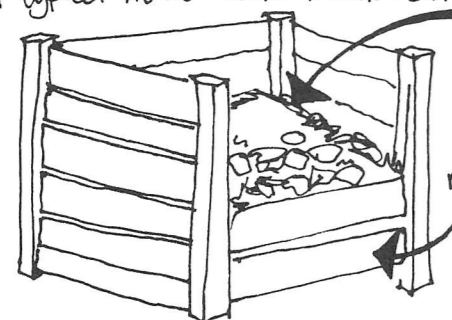
are usually needed, one to mature while the other is filled. A bin started now will provide useable compost by next Summer. Any soft plant material can be composted.

Many popular shrubs such as Forsythia, Potentilla and Weigela can be grown from hardwood cuttings. The best time for this is November, take shoots 25 - 30 cm (9 - 12") long and put about 2/3 of the length into the ground. They are best planted in a shady place, if the soil is heavy put a little sand at the bottom of the hole. Make sure the soil is firm and new plants will begin to grow in the Spring.

In the vegetable garden it is again time to start the annual chore of wheeling in any available organic manure and beginning the Winter digging on medium and heavy soils. Light sandy soils may be dug in the Spring but take care that in a mild Winter weeds do not seed.

Greenhouses will soon be cleared of the Summer's crop of tomatoes and this gives a good opportunity to wash down glass and aluminium or woodwork with a disinfectant to reduce the build up of pests and diseases.

A typical home-made wooden bin



Cover compost with a piece of old carpet to retain heat ...

removable slats make access easier

heat is essential to kill weeds.

There should be some juicy worms in there!



Thinking of retirement in Ratby?

Right in the centre of the village overlooking the sports ground



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THE NEW SEAT BELT LAWS

As from 1st September 1989, if seat belts or child restraints are fitted in the rear of a car, it is the driver's legal responsibility to see that children under 14 years of age use them. Not the mother's responsibility, not the father's, but yours as the driver ... even if it is the first time you ever gave a child a lift.

The seat belt or restraint should be appropriate for the age and weight of the child. If it is appropriate, and you have not ensured the child is using it you could risk a £50 fine. The child risks far more: over 60 children are killed and over 7000 injured while travelling unrestrained in the rear of cars each year.

The earlier law concerning seat-belt wearing for front seat passengers is still in force.

For children under 1 year old

For children under 1 year old, a carrycot which is itself restrained by straps or an infant carrier.

For children of 1, 2 or 3 years old

For children of 1, 2 or 3 years old, an appropriate child seat or harness or a booster cushion used in conjunction with an adult belt.

For children of 4 to 14 years old

A child does not have to be restrained if

all the available, appropriate restraints are being used by other children. In other words, not all children in the car have to be restrained, but all the available restraints must be used if they are suitable for the children in the car. This allows large families or groups of children to travel together without breaking the law.

If rear seat belts have NOT been fitted:

while the new law does not require rear seat belts or restraints to be specially installed, it is far safer for you and the children you drive that they should be, and be used. All cars built after 1981 already have the anchorage points in position.

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