

ISSUE 30

OCTOBER 1991

So will the opinion of the villagers really count. 2'
BYGONE DAYS 1ST RATBY SWALLOW
LETTERS  **Valentin**

Wot! About Ratby

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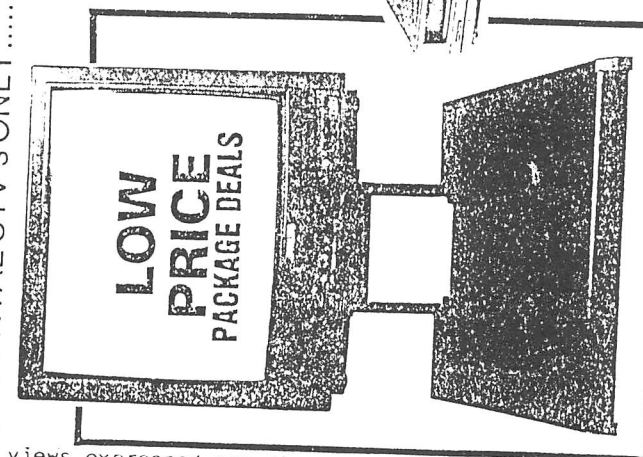
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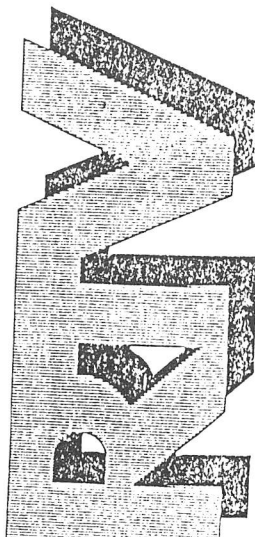
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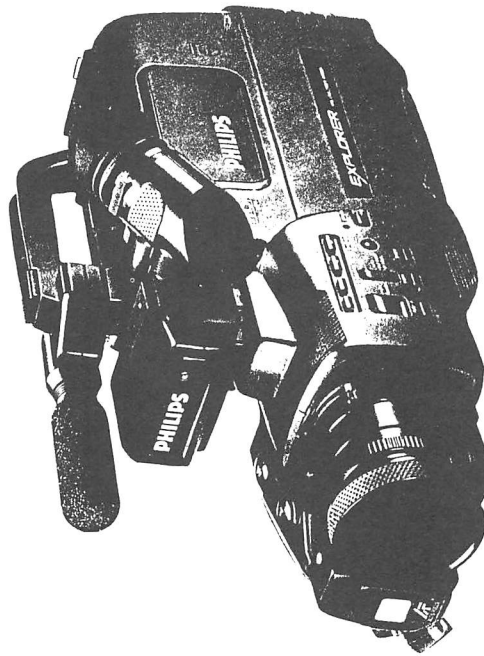
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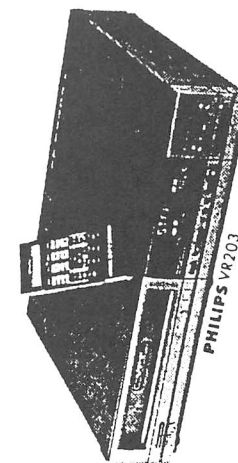
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COPPERS CORNER



Village Policeman

Welcome to our long awaited new policeman, a Ratby resident, P.C. Brian Moore, who started walking the beat on Thursday August 8th.

Previously P.C. Moore has worked in city centre areas and he says he is enjoying the challenge of meeting new people and building up relationships as a community policeman.

Villagers are welcome to approach P.C. Moore if they want to talk to him whilst he is in the village, or he can be contacted at Beaumont Leys on 530066.

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Environmentally Aware !!

A children's Design-a-T-shirt competition was recently launched by C.M.B Packaging PLC (Metal Box) about environmental awareness.

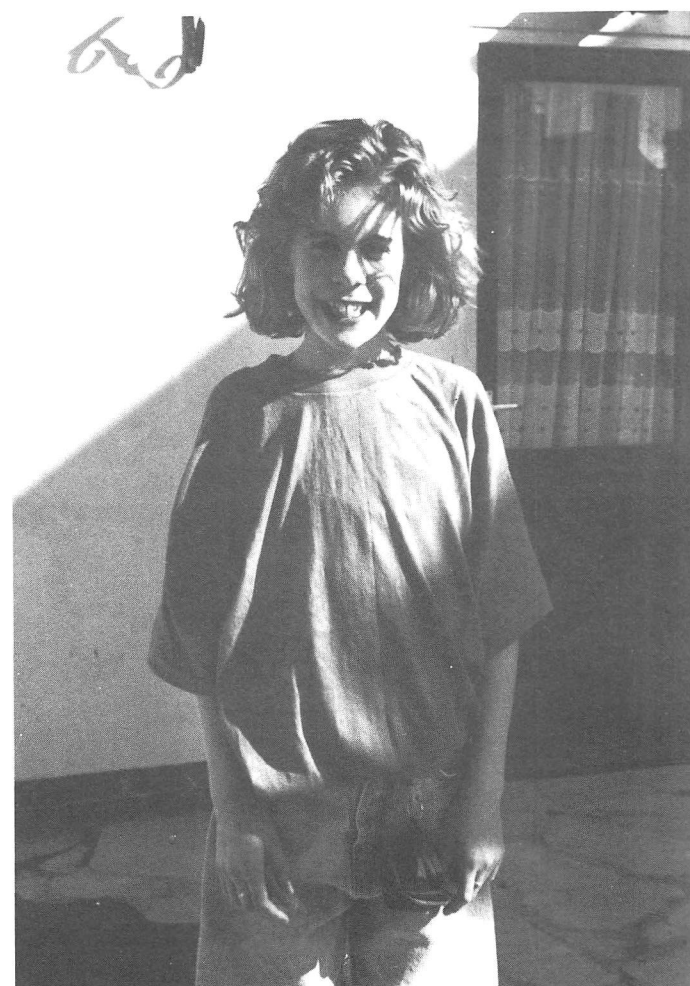
Vicky Timson, aged 13 years of Station Road, Ratby, and a pupil of Brookvale High School, was awarded second prize for her design, which includes a £20 W.H. Smith voucher and a Tee-shirt bearing the winning design.

Her entry was chosen by the judging panel for the relevance and creativity of her designs and for the idea behind her phrase which states:

"I'm environmentally aware because I think pollution stinks and everyone should re-cycle cans".

The Official Presentation of Vicky's prize will be featured in the company's magazine, together with local media coverage.

Needless to say, congratulations Vicky!



Learning French is Child's Play !

Some future citizens of Europe will get a head start at learning about the French language and customs at the new Ratby branch of Le Club Francais, a rapidly expanding fun French Club for children under 10.

The Club aims to teach children French through songs, games, role-play and worksheets. The Club is the brainchild of Linda Ellis, a French graduate and qualified linguist from Winchester, who believes that children should be introduced to foreign sounds and culture as early as possible.

LE CLUB FRANCAIS has already been set up in over 60 centres throughout Britain, including Hampshire, Berkshire, North Devon, Cheshire and London and is now being launched in Leicester by Evelyn Maher who is herself a French National and has been living in Britain since 1978. She is a freelance translator and is already teaching French to adults in private companies in anticipation to the lifting of European Trade

Barriers in 1992.

"It's vital," she says "that children start learning languages at this receptive age to keep up with their European counterparts".

Each young member of the Club is given a badge displaying the Club's logo, a snail in French costume named Hugo Escargot and their own Club tape with all French songs and dialogue.

Parents are kept up to date with their child's progress, through work sheets, reports and newsletters.

The Ratby Club meets in the Welfare Hall every Saturday. One session between 9.30 a.m. and 10.30 a.m. is already full and a waiting list for a second Club from 10.30 to 11.30 is now in operation.

For more details, telephone Evelyn Maher on 392951.

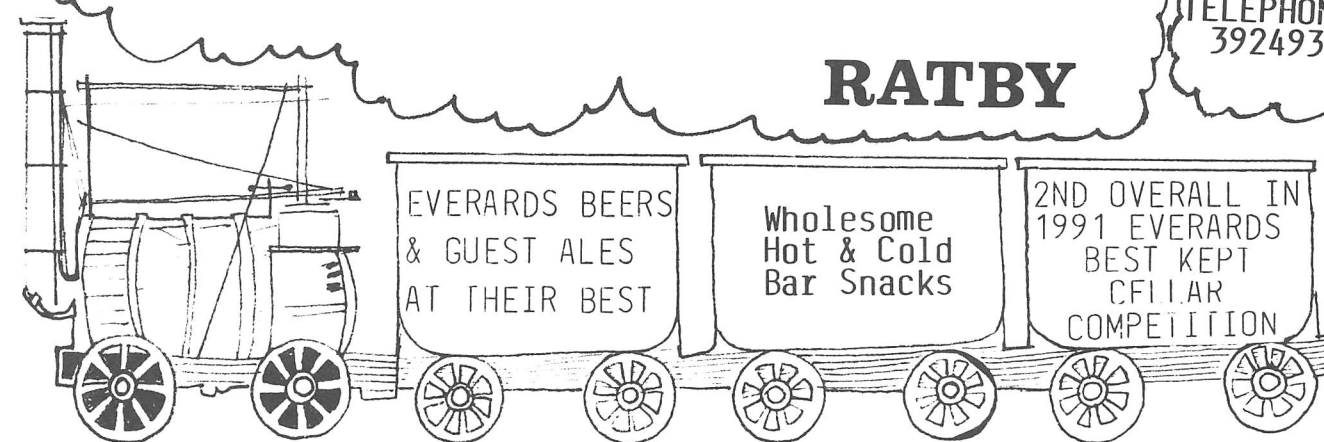
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KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE



There has been much publicity in the press recently highlighting stranger danger following the horrific murders of 3 young children in 5 days earlier this month. Many parents living in large towns and cities are usually aware of the dangers of leaving prams and pushchairs outside shops, which normally make provisions for parents by offering facilities such as floor-space for pushchairs etc. Children living in a village such as Ratby are not exempt from these dangers, children as young as 6 and 7 years of age have been seen wandering around Main Street after 6 o'clock totally unsupervised by anyone, let alone a parent, oblivious to all sorts of dangers which could arise, i.e. abduction. In the same context, pushchairs have been left outside the local shops with the baby or child inside, whilst personal possessions such as purses, cheque books and child benefit books are taken inside. Whilst it is very difficult trying to negotiate swivel wheels up 2 or 3 steps, it is not impossible, particularly with the help of the shopkeeper concerned who wants your custom, and are happy to oblige. Several expressed concern that parents do leave their pushchairs outside - they do not agree with this practice.

Whilst there are parents who are always aware of these and other related problems, unfortunately there are some that are not.

We need to educate ourselves to enable our children to learn to deal with danger WITHOUT FRIGHTENING THEM and to help them learn about their own personal safety without fear.

Ratby Library contains several books on these and other related topics; in addition there are several leaflets which can be obtained from the Crime Prevention Unit at Beaumont Leys Police station (tel. 530066).

Alternatively KIDSCAPE, a registered charity founded in 1984, devoted to the protection and safety of children, have recently published a booklet which has ideas about what children may need to know to stay

safe from a variety of dangers, but these are kept low-key and **non-sensational**. The booklet is entitled "KEEP THEM SAFE" and is obtainable from this address (enclose a S.A.E.)

KIDSCAPE
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Above all there is need to instill panic or fear into our children, but like any other type of education, stranger danger and danger from known adults are certainly topics which they need to be aware of. Our children have certain rights, and one of them is the right to be safe!

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Never go anywhere with a stranger.

If a stranger talks to you tell your parents



Don't let a stranger join in your games

Be safe
Say **No!**
to strangers.

If a stranger tries to grab you - yell and run away

If you are lost tell a policeman or a lady with children.

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The Parish Council welcomed P.C. Brian Moore who attended both the August and September Meetings. He reported that he had been very busy contacting local people and following up problems of parking, traffic and vandalism.

Speed Checks

Regular police radar speed traps have been successful through the village. Results of these checks will be displayed each month on the Parish Council Notice boards.

Community Notice Board

This board is located on the library site. all village organisations are welcome to advertise their events here. But please take away your notice after the event, and please make sure that your notice is no larger than A4 size, so that others have a chance.

Waymark 2000

A meeting has been arranged for **Tuesday 22nd October at 7.15 p.m. in the Welfare hall** to find out more about this project. The footpaths in Ratby are already being improved and waymarked. If you want to find out more about what is happening, you are welcome to come along to this meeting.

Vandalism

The Council is concerned about the level of vandalism that has occurred during the summer. Much of the damage costs less than our minimum insurance cover, but altogether adds up to a considerable sum - money which comes out of Parish Funds - **FROM YOU**, the Community Charge payer. This means that everyone is having to pay for damage caused by a small minority. Some of these vandals are young children living in Ratby. Do you always know where your children are, and what they are doing?

Wildflower Meadow

The Parish Council is intending to apply for a grant towards the cost of creating a wildflower meadow, following a successful meeting with representatives from Leicestershire Landmark Project

Dogs

Following a positive response to our proposed scheme, published in the last issue of WOT, the Council has decided to put the plan into action immediately.

Dogs owners please note: Dogs should be on a lead through the area of play equipment, and owners are expected to clear up after them. Posts will be erected to mark a dog free area at Ferndale Drive Recreation Area.

Borough Council Report

Councillor Fraser reported on Planning Issues, and told the Council that he would be fulfilling some of the duties of County Councillor Mrs Pat Butler during her absence through illness.

Councillor Fraser expressed interest in being involved with the Council's discussions on youth issues.

Allotments

Would you like an allotment if any were available in the future?

The Parish Council would like to know. Send your name to the Clerk, at 35 Groby road, marking the paper 'Allotment'.

Bullocks Grazing

A local resident has expressed concern about a notice at the entrance to a footpath. The sign on the gate to Holywell Farm warns of bullocks grazing. This sign is intended only to alert walkers and remind them to close the gate. The bullocks are not dangerous.

Under age drinking

This Council and other local people are concerned about the increasing numbers of very young people drinking alcohol. This is sometimes taking place in the village streets and play areas.

The police are obviously concerned. Local shopkeepers sometimes have problems identifying the age of young people, and in any case, older youths sometimes buy drink to share amongst a group.

Local schools, Brookvale High School and Groby College have education programmes to discourage alcohol drinking. BUT the ultimate responsibility lies with you, the parents. It should not be too difficult to discover whether your young children or students are involved, and prevent it from happening again.

6 Schools would be only too pleased to offer advice.

Flower and Music FESTIVAL

A lot of people worked hard on August 31st 1991 to ensure that the Ratby flower and Music Festival was a resounding success.

Village organisations such as the Womens Institute and British Legion as well as many individuals produced some striking floral displays in the Church, all on the theme of music.

There were harmonious arrangements of instruments and flowers, and the children's corner featured a wide range of different instruments.

The Musical evening in the Church with Ratby Co-operative Band was a great success.

Altogether a total of almost £600 was raised for the Church and the Band.



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PEOPLE AND PLACES

Cliff and Elsie Lissaman

The Lissamans were both born and brought up in Ratby, and both worked in the hosiery industry.

Elsie worked in the Wolsey factory on Stamford Street from leaving school. She was a 'runner-on' for Bradley Moore. Working hours were from six in the morning to six at night, for 25 shillings a week.

She recalls that her fingers used to get red raw and that they all had a job keeping up with Bradley Moore and Wilf Marvin. Occasionally they would deliberately make a mistake so that they could stop for a rest! Joyce Bott, Norah Stubley, Carol and Diane Plane and Elsie all worked on the same lot together. Once, Lawson Moore, manager at the Wolsey leaned over to fix a machine and got his tie caught. The girls cut it off! Working there was like being part of one big happy family, and they enjoyed lots of laughs together.

Elsie's dad worked for "Shipman's", and in the summer holiday he and his workmates whitewashed the Wolsey factory walls.

Cliff's dad also worked at the Wolsey, and they lived just across the road.

For some years Cliff was very involved with the Working Men's Club. He was secretary there from 1948 - 1952, and again from 1957, continuing a family tradition. (His father was secretary before the war).



As secretary, Cliff was involved in organising club outings, such as the trip to Trentham Gardens (which featured in an earlier 'Wot') and the annual Christmas Dinner for the old people.

Cliff is also well known for his years as a Bosworth Borough Councillor. He feels that one of his greatest achievements was in representing villagers who were concerned about the dairy cattle being driven to milking along the Main Street. This stopped when a new farm-access route was created.

Cliff was also a member of Ratby Parish Council. Many people in the village still turn to him for help and advice.

Since their retirement, the Lissamans have finally found time for their own interests and hobbies. They are both involved in the Free Church in Kirby Muxloe, helping to run a Charity Shop, and Elsie enjoys making home-made wine. One of her favourites is traditional Burnet wine, made with Burnet picked from the fields.

But they must be most famous for their fuchias! Together with next door neighbours Tom and Joan Toon they have the most spectacular floral display in the village!

Both couples began 12 years ago, sharing cuttings of plants. Cliff's interest was started when a friend from Narborough, a fuschia specialist, gave him a standard fuschia. He has propagated or grown as many as 51 varieties. Tom and Joan have added Begonias to their display in recent years.

The Lissamans and Toons were neighbours in the old Ratby prefabs before moving next door to each other on Bradgate Drive!



Cliff is on the left. Taken at the Working Mens Club

WI's QUIZ

Ratby WI were the hosts for Radio Leicester's WI's quiz on Monday 16th September.

The Welfare Hall was packed to overflowing with supporters for Ratby and the other two teams, Barrow-on-Soar (the winners) and Huncote.

Ratby's team, Mavis Rae, Lynn Mellor Farida Mukkadam and Andi Morgan put up a good fight for Ratby, but were, sadly, defeated. They will be listening for Barrow-on-Soar in the next round of the contest.

This year the traditional 'extra' competition for teams was for a wall hanging which had to represent the team's village.

Ratby was the only team to enter a hanging. This was a beautiful village scene complete with railway to commemorate the Leicester - Swannington line, embroidered by Molly Sutton.

A member of Leicestershire's WI Executive came along on the evening to judge the wall hangings. As usual

the Ratby hostesses, (who are renowned for their friendliness and sense of fun!) were complimented for the wonderful tea and welcoming atmosphere. If you missed the 'live' recording, the quiz will be broadcast at 9.30 a.m., Sunday October 6th on Radio Leicester.

Ratby WI is 46 years old, with a thriving membership. The group meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7.45 p.m. in the Welfare Hall. New members and visitors are always welcome.

There are speakers at most meetings. Recent events have included brass rubbing and a walk around Cadeby.

The Ratby WI 'entertainments' group is well known for their highly acclaimed performances in village halls, old people's homes and hospitals!

Why not come along one evening and make some new friends?

By our roving reporter

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RATBY PLAYGROUP

Ratby Playgroup's third Playscheme at the Church rooms for 3 to 8 year olds was once again deemed a success. It was busy, it was messy, it was noisy, it was great fun and everyone had a good time, young and not so young.

Activities included sewing, cooking, glue-ing, painting, clay modelling, mod-roc plaster casting, face painting and letting off steam in the soft play room. There were two outings, one to Abbey Park and the other to Martinshaw Woods. They were both very popular and thoroughly enjoyed, which just goes to show you don't have to travel miles or spend a fortune to have a good time.

Thanks go to all the parents who gave up their spare time to help with the organising and running of the Playscheme. It is all done voluntarily by all involved in it. There were 33 adults helping at some stage during the week, and without everyone pulling together the Playscheme just would not have been possible.

STOP PRESS

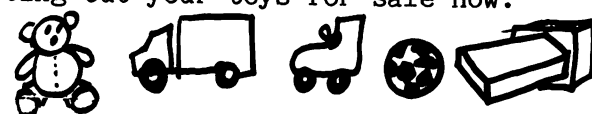
Unfortunately, a sheet of paper has been lost at Playgroup (only one? That's amazing!) However, there were a couple of children's names on it who wanted to start Playgroup.

Would any parent who came into Playgroup in June put their child's name on the waiting list please contact Lesley Chevin or Lynne Evans. If your child is three before January and you want to double check that their name is on the waiting list, please give us a ring.

Lesley Chevin 386605 Lynne Evans 386347

Diary Dates

Toy Sale Welfare Hall 15th November evening
More details on the Toy Sale later. Start sorting out your toys for sale now.



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PUZZLE

Fill in
the clues
to find
the missing
word down
the middle.

Answers at
the bottom

- | | | | | | |
|----|---|--|---|---|-------------------------------|
| 1. | | | | E | = Do this to a cake. |
| 2. | H | | | | = clutch tightly. |
| 3. | | | G | | = The opposite of day. |
| 4. | | | O | | = At the bottom of your leg. |
| 5. | | | L | | = I work with water and wind. |
| 6. | | | K | | = A Garden tool. |
| 7. | | | A | | = These are found on trees. |

Ferndale Drive Play Area.

This play area is for all children in
the village, not just for those of
you who live on the Church Farm
estate.

Answers
1. BAKE
2. FOOT
3. NIGHT
4. FOOT
5. MILL
6. RAKE
7. SNAKE
BONFIRE

page by Ivan Mellor.



Ascent of Cader Idris



With summer almost at an end and this year's outdoor scout programme drawing to a close, it's nice to look back at what the troop has achieved over the past few months

July saw the troop's two mini buses complete with camp and canoe trailers and their happy load venturing off to Wales for the Annual Camp.

Staying at Talybont near Barmouth we were lucky to be only 300 yards from the beach.

With a lot of hard work from all concerned the lads were kept well occupied throughout Inland and offshore canoeing and walking in the nearby hills tested their resolve.

Perseverance on climbing Cader Idris was rewarded when on reaching the summit the clouds cleared to reveal magnificent panoramic views. Even though it was hard work, it was sad to return home and my thanks go to Roy, Jacinta and Lesley for helping make the camp a success.

A warm and sunny weekend saw the very first family camp at Willesley Scout Camp site near Ashby-de-la-Zouch.

Organised by Roy who although understandably concerned with the initial poor response, the camp proved to be a great success. There was Bingo, Beetle Drives, Volley ball, Crazy Olympics, a Barbecue and Disco and a treasure hunt to name but a few things to keep everybody occupied or you could just sit back and relax.

Lets hope there's another next year!

At Johns Lee Wood in September, Stags patrol were the winners of the group camping competition with 259 points. Runners up were the favourites - Lions with 204½ points.

Stags will be representing the troop in the West District Camping competition. We wish

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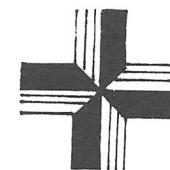
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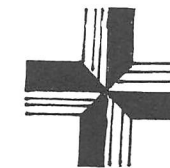
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UP THE BRICKYARD

Two hundred years ago a visitor to Ratby would have seen that the village consisted of some 80 houses. Mostly they were constructed of stone, clay, wattle and daub and thatch.

Before the middle of the 18th century perhaps the only brick built buildings were the Plough Inn and the building of Nook, Woodley and Church farms. Documentary evidence that exists makes no reference to brick making within the parish prior to 1774, when a disbursement is made to the Constable and Surveyor of highways for the building of a brick kiln on Ratby waste at a cost of 2 shillings and 6 pence. The location of the site of this kiln is not known but from later evidence to be presented, good sources of clay existed to the south of the parish on the lands between the present Church Farm Estate and lower Station Road.

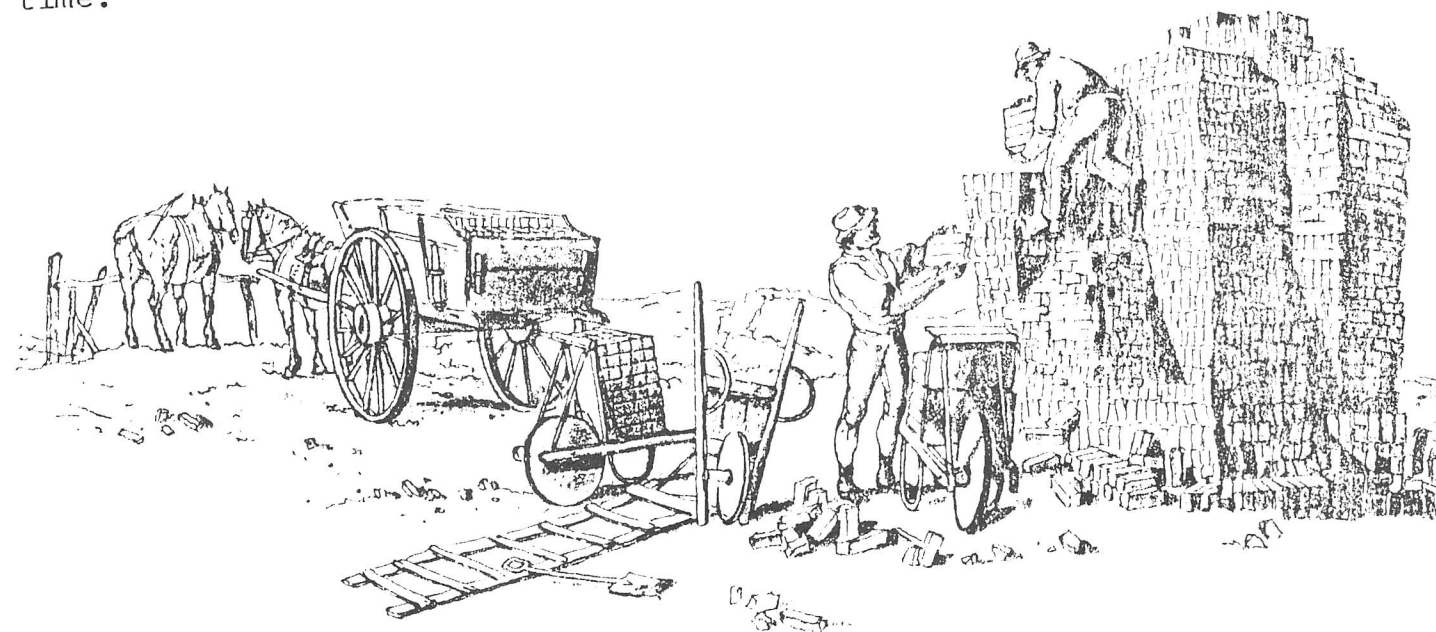
The first substantial evidence for brickmaking comes from a reference in the Bradgate Estate records. Between 1848 and 1857 the Earl of Stamford was making improvements to several of the Estate farms and cottages in Ratby. An earlier article in Wot related to improvements at the Bulls Head formed part of the building improvements at this time.

The 1849 reference refers to a kiln and drying shed to be built at a cost of £68 13s 0d. The specifications were drawn up by Thomas Rudkin of Groby who acted as agent for the Earl of Stamford for work of this type.

The document also makes reference to other craftsmen who were employed either in to building of the kiln and the drying sheds are listed below.

Richard Kinton of Berrys Lane, Blacksmith £3 11s 3½d. Wm Sills of Ratby, carpenter £1 0s 9d. Thomas Keen of Ratby, wheelwright £2 0s 5d. Thomas Johnson of Groby, carpenter £9 8s 2d. Other works were undertaken by William Herbert of Ratby for a clay mill, and to Thomas John Johnson of Cheapside Leicester ironmonger and Silversmith for miscellaneous irons, nails etc.

The actual site of the original kiln is unknown but some 200 years later the same site was occupied by the Walker family who are described in the 1857 census as brickmakers. The site of the clay pits and brick kiln operated by the Walkers - later known as the brickyard is now occupied by the buildings of Centurion Court.



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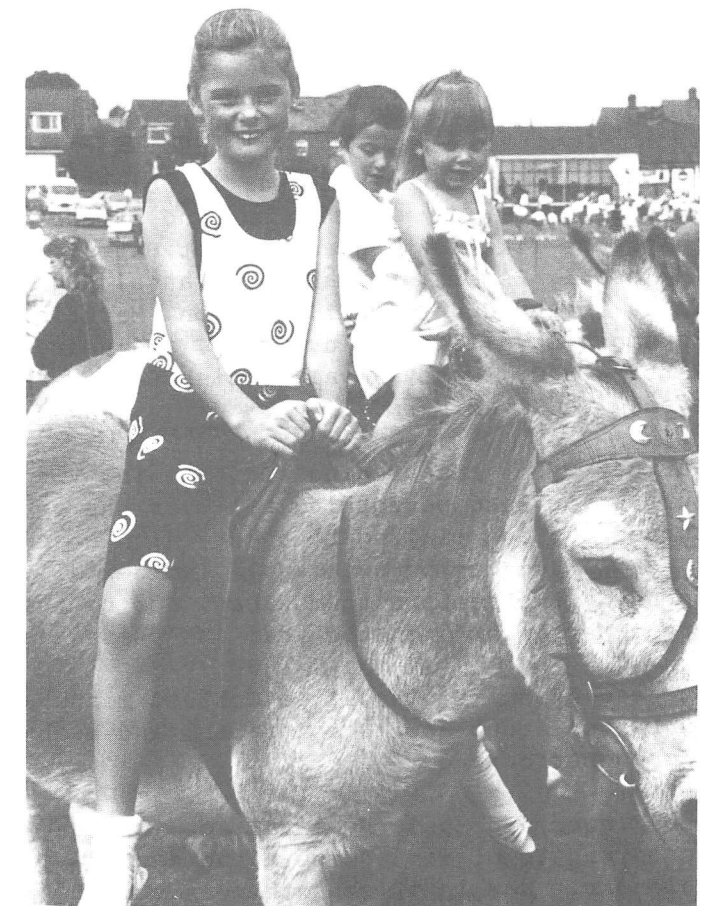
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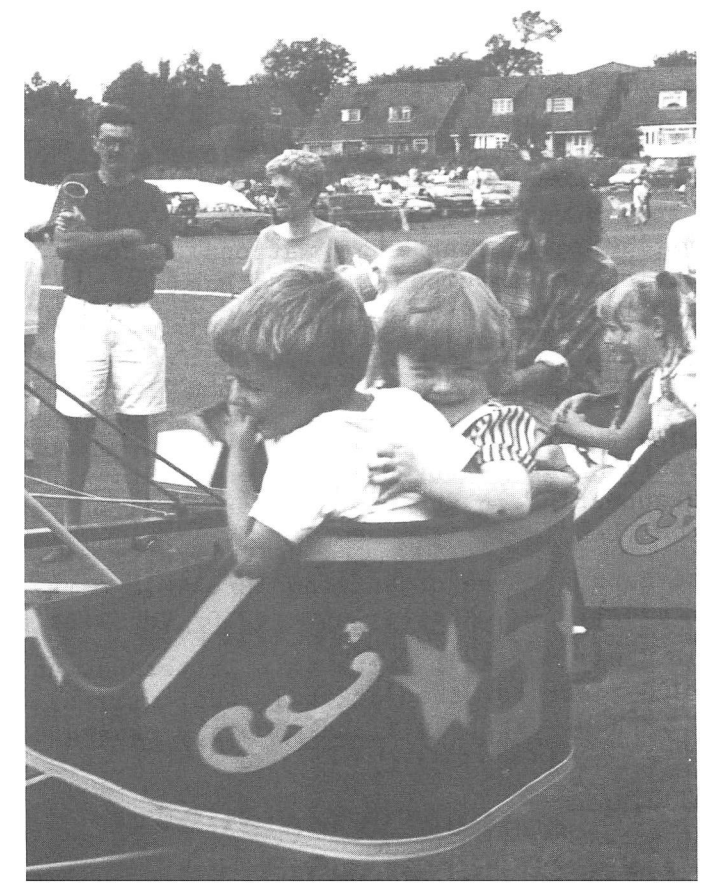
COME IN AND SEE FOR YOURSELVES

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Alex Evans and Kirsty Broad enjoying a donkey ride at the Ratby Sports Club Gala.

Marie Hamlington and Jonathon Evans having fun at the fair during the Sports Club Gala Day.





THE RATBY CO-OPERATIVE BAND



RATBY CO OPERATIVE BAND NEWS

A very busy and eventful year is going according to plan - well almost, there are three months to go yet! An ambitious and extensive concert programme featured the Band in places like Nottingham, Market Harborough, Blaby, Barkby, Kirby Muxloe, Rouen, Le Mesnil, Esnard, Normandie, France, Rugby, Syston, Buxton, Woodhouse Eaves, Ashby de la Zouch, County Hall, Wigston, Markfield, Knighton, Shepshed, De Montfort Hall, Beaumont Leys, Glenfield, Groby, and nearer to home, Ratby Church, Ratby Chapel, Ratby W.M.C., Ratby Royal British Legion, Ratby Red Nose Night at the Railway Inn, even, Old Hayes Farm.

Our policy of encouraging and training youngsters is proving highly successful with our Junior Band performing all over the county and indeed abroad - always impeccably turned out and playing to a very high standard, they are wonderful young ambassadors. A real credit to our village. Incidentally, the cost of these foreign visits are borne by the members themselves, not by the Band. Many old peoples homes and hospices are entertained over the year and these events are greatly appreciated.

Success at the Midland Area Contest means Ratby performing at the National Finals in London about now (October 5th) and much time and effort is going in to ensure a good performance.

The Flower and Music Festival was most enjoyable and The Ratby Musik Fest - our three nights of varied music and dance - is now firmly established in the musical calendar. Now in it's sixth year this event interested over eleven thousand people this year from a very wide area. 15th, 16th & 17th May are the dates for 1992.

On Saturday 12th October we welcome two bus loads of Dutch people in Ratby. The Polyhymnia Choir from Fijnaart are our guests and will be staying with families here. On this their second visit they will be singing with the Ratby Co-operative Band who are playing in the Groby College Theatre on Saturday Evening and in Ratby Methodist Church for the Sunday evening Service. In addition to the choir we have as our guest for the concert Murray Greig, principle trumpet, Opera North. A trip to the Black Country Museum and a tour of The Houses of Parliament (in Dutch!) are arranged for them. Concerts tickets are available from Phil Plant.

A busy November involving Ratby Armistice Sunday Parade and Service, Wigston Royal British Legion Club and a National Contest at De Montfort Hall takes us to a really hectic Christmas period. The Band is out almost everyday in December, starting with the 'John Brunt' Charity Concert at Kirby on Friday 6th. The outstanding Christmas Concert on Sunday 15th December is always so popular that afternoon and evening performances are necessary. Get your tickets early from members.

A new event this year is the staging of a Brass & Voices concert to launch the Christmas Festivities by Ratby Working Mens Club. The Ladies Choir, along with the Band will be appearing in the Club Concert Hall on Thursday evening 19th December. Tickets from the Club.

The Band will be organising 'Crow Pie Carnival' next year - Date Saturday 8th August, Ferndale. - Details later, AND Von Winklers Bavarian Evening is on Friday 27 March.

HOT NEWS! - As I write this letter new uniforms arrive through the front door, costing £3400 (just for the jackets), they will be worn for the first time at the National Finals in London. Ratby will be properly presented.

Phil Plant

SECRETARY: P.H. PLANT, 28 BRADGATE DRIVE, RATBY, LEICESTERSHIRE. TELEPHONE: LEICESTER 386510

Letters

Dear Wot

Before the Summer Holidays, my old class 3W received letters from a school in Wales.

We all wrote back telling them about our school, hobbies and families.

During the summer holidays I had a letter from a girl called Taryn. She sounded very bubbly and friendly. Then in the last WOT I saw a picture of Taryn and her class. I was very surprised and pleased.

Thank you

Felicity Chippendale
Aged 9

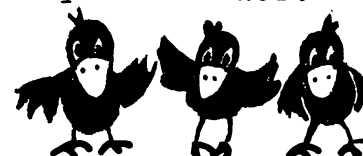
Dear Editor,

It was good to see, reported in WOT, that Councillor Mrs Butler had presented over 1300 signatures on a petition to the County Council in protest against the proposals by David Haynes to enlarge Ratby out of all recognition. This shows that the people of Ratby do not want this enormous development appended to our village but petitions carry far less weight than individual letters. We all know that there was a petition against the building of the Hall of Worship and we can all see the outcome in the monstrosity now dominating the entrance to the village. Appeals have been made to the Ombudsman whose office is making investigations to ascertain whether Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council was out of order in reversing their original decision of refusing Planning Permission. An official rebuke for 'Maladministration' may be the result. Had everyone who opposed the scheme written letters of protest at the outset the result may have been entirely different. As the Editorial warned, in the August issue, don't leave your biros on the beach because as someone, somewhere else, once observed "The pen is mightier than the sword". The village atmosphere of our community is still under threat so be prepared to fight - with your pen of course.

Finally, many congratulations to all concerned for 5 years of WOT.

Well done

H.A. Gamble



Dear Editor,

YES! YES! YES! to the proposed play area plans.^o

A fitness trail for us big kids would be just great, then us big kids could play, while the little kids play, that way we spend more time down the play area.

I do not have a dog but think someone has put a lot of thought into this and I hope it works out as it sounds fine to me.

Yours
Mrs T Broughton
Dear Editor,



I would like to congratulate your committee for managing to continue with the magazine over all odds. It has proved to be worthwhile and is obviously welcomed by all in Ratby and I certainly look forward to receiving a copy.

It must be hard work and frustrating at times when you are short of material, and therefore much praise is due to your committee.

Best wishes for the next five years.
Olive Smalley

Dear Editor

My daughter recently went into a shop in Ratby to ask them if they would put a poster in their window for 3 days, advertising a "CAR WASH" on behalf of Ratby Junior Band. When I arrived home from work I was disgusted to hear that they had charged her £1.00 for the poster for what is an organisation for the young people of Ratby, Groby and surrounding areas. This surely is just being greedy. Seven other shops were asked to put a poster in their windows. I was asked for 10 p from one shop and a donation for a charity box from another. The remaining five shops put the advert in free.
Disgusted parent

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THE RATBY CO-OPERATIVE *Junior* BAND

18th BIRTHDAY 1991

The Ratby Co-operative Junior Band have recently returned from their first trip to Holland and I would be grateful if you could publish the following report.

As part of the 18th Birthday Celebrations during 1991, the Ratby Co-operative Junior Band have recently been on a trip to Vlissingen, Holland. The Senior Band have made many friends in Holland over the years and as a result we were able to organise a trip with the Junior Band of the O.N.D.A. Christelijke Brass Band from Middelburg.

Two coaches were needed to transport the players, families and supporters and approx. half stayed in a hotel and the other half stayed at the 'Slobberduin' Youth Hostel.

The first couple of hours on the Saturday afternoon were spent on the beach with the O.N.D.A. Junior Band organising games for everyone, then we returned to the Hostel to have a rehearsal with the O.N.D.A. Juniors as we were to perform together at a concert on the Sunday. The owner of the Hostel put on a splendid bar-b-que in the evening to make the perfect ending to a very long day after all the travelling.

On the Sunday morning, after another session on the beach, we were given an interesting talk by Mr Engel Westveer which covered the different types of cheeses of Holland, St. Nicholas and the Delta Plan - the plan to keep the sea out! After lunch the Band went to Veere to perform a concert in a twelfth century church, which was now in use as an exhibition hall. Its height, which would be adequate for a cathedral, and the sheer size of the room, gave rather spectacular acoustic effects to the wide range of music displayed which included 'The Thunderer', 'Young Amadaeus', 'Pink Panther' and 'You'll Never Walk Alone'. During the second half, which was massed bands with the O.N.D.A. Junior Band, the music performed was 'Grand Canyon Galop', 'Margarita' and 'Disco Frisco' from the Easy Pop Suite. The Sunday evening had been left for the children to organise entertainment for the adults and they did a splendid job in the show that was produced. The finale to the show was a 'This Is Your Life' tribute to the Conductor of Ratby Junior Band, Geoff Newman.

On Monday everyone went to 'Efteling, a theme park, where the Junior Band played twice during the afternoon, but also had time to enjoy some of the many rides and attractions there. The last evening was spent with an impromptu disco and dance session and generally everyone was unwinding and exchanging addresses with their new Dutch friends.

We returned to Ratby on the Tuesday, very weary, but very proud that we had taken such a young, well behaved, Band abroad, representing Great Britain, and further cementing the friendship of the Ratby Band and the Brass Bands in Holland. We are looking forward to the O.N.D.A. Junior Band coming to Ratby next year.

Lynne Plant
Secretary Junior Band 12 Oxford Rd, Desford, Leics. LE9 9JN Tel. Hinckley (0455) 823883

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Hallowe'en is looming, and already people are worrying about 'Trick or Treat'. 'Wot' has heard about villagers barricading themselves in their homes, or going out for the evening to avoid the constant stream of frightening visitors.

Some families feel that we should not be 'celebrating' All-Souls night at all, and their views should be respected.

Why can't we adopt the system found in other countries? Children **only** visit houses by prior arrangement, or houses which welcome "visitors" display a pumpkin lantern in the window.

Most children are having fun. It is a small minority who spoil things.

So, parents - please follow the above rules and make sure you know where your children are, for their own safety, and the peace of mind of everyone else.

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Some houses have no letter boxes - some have letter boxes which are impossible to find. Scouts cannot be expected to deliver to a house with a ferocious dog running loose!

NAME:

ADDRESS:

Do you have a ferocious dog? YES/NO

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Is your letter box easy to find YES/NO

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