
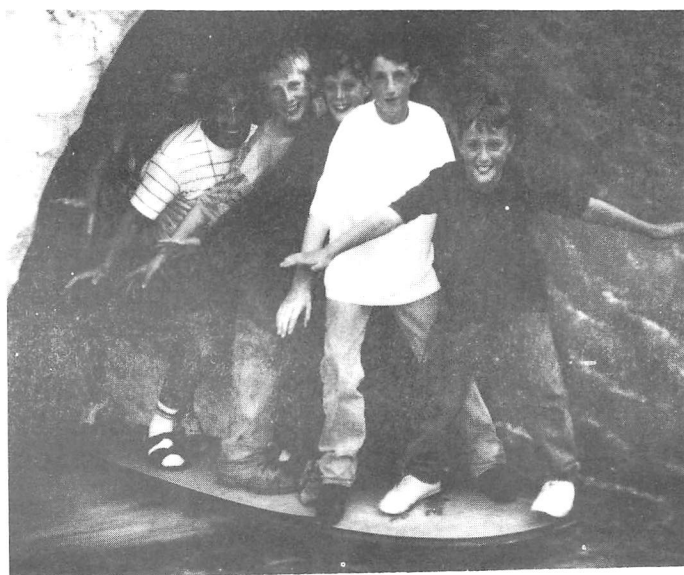


Wot!
About Ratby



OCTOBER 1992
PUBLISHED BY RATBY SCOUT GROUP
ISSUE 36

SCOUT CAMP



we tried to combine both Scouting and Leisure skills.

Various activities were on offer on site and we availed ourselves of the Archery, rifle and pistol shooting, climbing and abseiling, orienteering and swimming.

Canoeing on the local river the lads seized on the opportunity to give Richard who had come along to help a 'ceremonious ducking'.

Negotiations with a local riding school saw us all sitting tall in the saddle for an afternoon. Some of us taller than the other. Harvey, that was the huge specimen I found myself sitting astride didn't appear to have much sympathy as I battled to avoid low branches and keep myself in the saddle. As well as having a good laugh, all those present attained their horseman's badges.

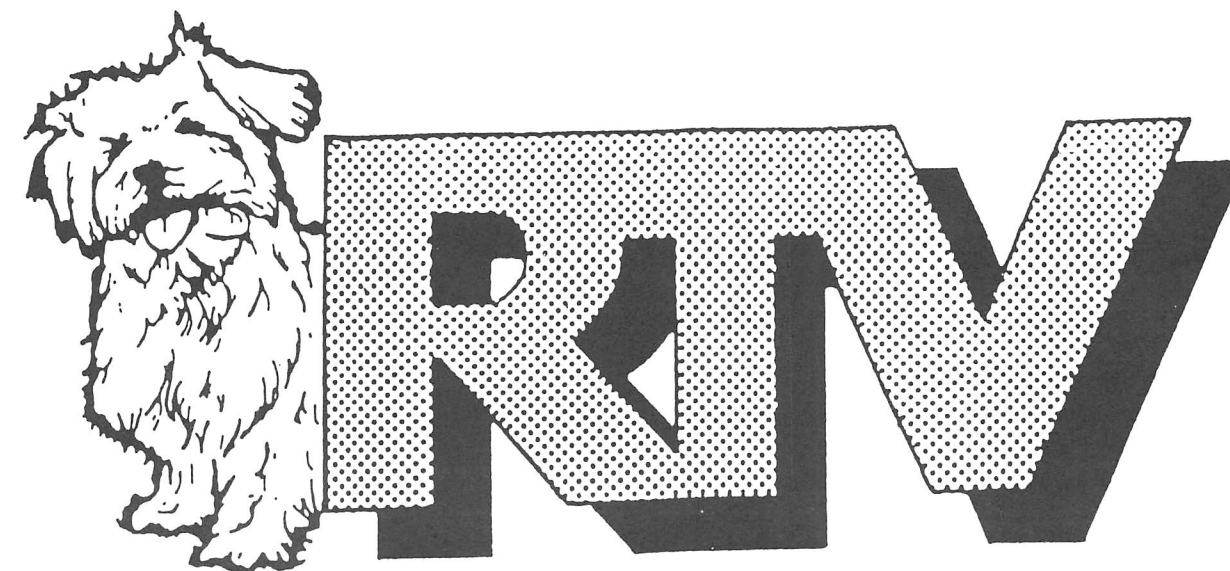
The following day as a special treat we spent the day at the 'American Adventure' theme park.

The antics are beyond explanation besides everyone enjoyed themselves. As with all good things they come to an end and as if on cue by the time we left for home it was raining.

Stags patrol won the camp trophies with Lions and Ospreys picking up the runners up prizes. The lads showed their apprec-

As if to order, the clouds parted and the sun shone whilst the scouts enjoyed an action packed annual camp. This time travelling close to home we stayed at the Walesby Forest Scout and Activity Centre, situated amongst the tall tress of Sherwood Forest, it wasn't long before we were visited by two of you know who's merry men extolling the metrits of the nearby Robin Hood visitors centre.

There followed an impromptu demonstration of sword and axe fighting. Not for the squeamish, they obviously knew what they were about, Although I doubted their sanity when asking one of the scouts to hold as hard as he could with



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"Jacques a dit... sautez, Jacques a dit... asseyez-vous..." "Simon says...jump, Simon says....sit down..." In the village Hall at Ratby, 10 happy five to ten years old respond quickly to the French commands.. "Jacques a dit" is one of the favourite games in the many fun ways that the children are taught French.

The first Club was started last September, and 6 weeks later, another one followed. In March of this year, by popular demand a new beginner's Club was started every Tuesday after school 4.15 to 5.15pm.

Evelyne Maher, the French teacher puts the success of this venture down to one main reason. "Parents are anxious" she says "that the children should learn a language as early as possible, they recognize that most of them are ready to learn and at that age they are enthusiastic and without any inhibitions".

In this country most children study one foreign language from 11 to 16 - which most experts agree is starting late. This probably accounts for the poor showing in a recent EC survey of 15 to 24 year olds which showed that 62 per cent of Germans and 53 per cent of French people could speak English, while only 31 per cent of Britons spoke French and a mere 8 per cent spoke German.

As one of the children explained "when I go to the big school, I'll be the best in French....".

A beginners group started in September, a waiting list is in operation. Only a few places are available, so if you are interested in enrolling your child into "Le Club Français", please contact Mrs

And what about you,....

Do you think it is too late to learn a language, did you learn French at school for three years some 15 years ago and think you have forgotten it all, imagine being sandwiched between two lorry drivers in France... What a nightmare!... How would you survive.

Evelyne Maher also runs an adult class in the Welfare Hall in Ratby every Friday night between 7 and 8pm. "It is not like enrolling into an evening class at college, it's very relaxed, we concentrate on speaking the language, you write as little or as much as you like, we go at your pace, there are no exams to take at the end of the year" explains Evelyne. The lessons cost £3.00 per hour but if the response is good, the price will come down to £2.00 an hour.



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2nd Ratby Brownies

Jackie Roach and Barbara Winfield would like to wish Denise and Tracey, the new Brown and Tawny Owls all the best in the taking over and running of the 2nd Ratby Brownies. We hope that they will enjoy, as we did all the various activities, such as craft, whether the item turns out as expected or not, we hope the recipients realise that the Brownies have all done their best and made it themselves.

Also we hope they meet people like Mrs Kilminster, Mrs Boud, Mrs Mukaddam, Mrs Mellow, Mr Blackman, Mrs Skinner, Mr Veasey local policeman and the R.S.P.C.A. lady who helped whether in the taking of badges and or craft, cooking, giving a talk or video, escorting the Brownies around places such as the Church, Ratby itself, or the Police Station (we never did see the cells, they were full up!).

Jackie and Barbara would like to thank those helpers too and if we have missed



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any one out, we are very sorry, as we would have had a very dull time without you all.

We could not put this article in without giving a big thank you to our unit helpers Jane, without whose help at our beginnings we would have probably sank without trace! And Clare who never let us down.

Oh! and a wee mention for supportive husbands, Steve and John.

Thanks most of all to all the Brownies old and new who never failed to surprise us, please us, wear us out!! But most of all support us. Look after your new Owls, Brownies.

All we can say now is (no, not you must be mad!), good luck and enjoy yourselves.

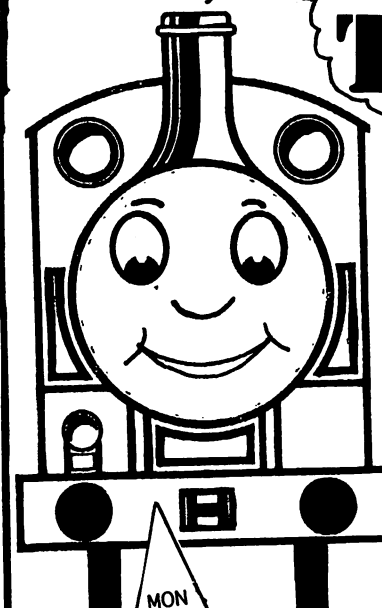
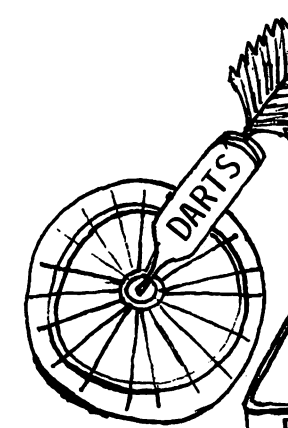

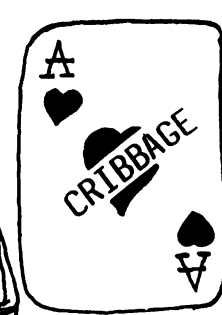
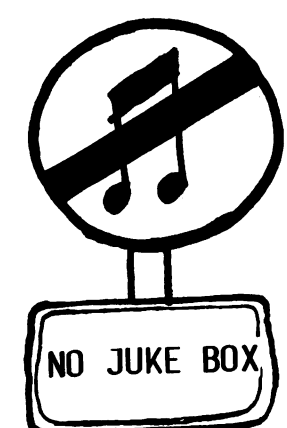
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TO SEEK THE PAST

Tracing your Family Tree



Where was I born? Were my parents born in the parish of Ratby? Did my grandfather go to fight for King and Country in the Great War? These are a few of the types of question that a person hoping to trace their family tree might ask, either of their self or a relative.

The pursuit of one's own family history is, perhaps, one of the fastest growing hobbies in this country. A pursuit you ask, well yes!, that truly explains the excitement of this most absorbing pastime. The family hunter will eventually travel into the uncharted realms of the past by making journeys to county and borough record offices, to reference rooms, registry offices and public and specialist libraries.

Research may reveal that grandfather was indeed killed on the first day of the Somme. You may find that great-great-grandmother Lizzie was transported to Australia for the theft of a shawl! It is possible that you might find an ancestor in a man like Arthur Hunt, labourer, of Ratby. He at the age of 18 years, during January 1887 enlisted locally into the Royal Artillery and, no doubt, then went off to garrison some far flung part of the Empire. Youths like John Harvey, stockingmaker, of Ratby, who enlisted into the Royal Marines in 1797, and served within the wooden walls of Britain's Men-o-war are also waiting to be discovered. There are also the records of those who fell on hard times, these records make Dickensian novels pale into the background when one reads sad accounts of people like Thomas Bown, his wife Mary and their three children who were forcibly removed

from Desford to Ratby as they had become paupers.

Is your appetite as yet wetted. If so then you will be pleased to know that in future editions of 'Wot' we hope to answer your questions and queries on the 'how to' and 'where next' aspects of family history research. We shall also be supplying you with some tips on how to enter the fascinating world of your ancestors. As a starter we would suggest that those interested in beginning their family tree should pop along to the local library and read one of the excellent publications which deal with the subject.

Further, to those who would like to meet others who are already heavily involved in tracing their own family history readers may care to contact the membership secretaries of the Leicestershire and Rutland Family History Society. They are:

Michael and Joyce Billings
33 Garland Crescent
Leicester
LE3 0BN

Mark

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Ratby Parish Council

Road Improvements

Station Road Widening

The Parish Council has received a letter from the County Council stating that our comments on the poor timing and traffic hazard on Danehill have been noted. the work has been rescheduled for January. It could not be deferred until Summer, as the money has to be spent in the current financial year.

Following the Parish Council suggestion, the County Council is investigating the possibility of a temporary traffic warden to ensure children can cross Danehill in safety.

Potholes on Ratby Lane

The County Council have informed the Parish Council that this road has been included in the provisional re-surfacing programme for 1993/94. Arrangements have been made to make the road safe until this is carried out.

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Traffic Calming

Following concerns from local residents and observations of a number of Parish Councillors, the Parish Council has written to the County Council asking whether traffic calming measures could be introduced in vulnerable areas of the village, particularly Ferndale Drive.

The County Council have introduced a Traffic Calming Programme. Money for this current financial year has already been spent.

Requests from councils or residents are evaluated on the basis of an assessment of priorities.....

The criteria used to prioritise requests are:-

- a) the level of road accidents, particularly in relation to pedestrians and cyclists.
- b) the existing average speed of traffic through the area
- c) The level of non-essential traffic within the area
- d) the type and intensity of frontage development along the route

Do schemes work?

The County Council schemes will comprise a variety of different features. Rumble strips have been used in various villages. In some cases villagers have complained about the noise increase. Monitoring of rumble strips in Braunston-in-Rutland has shown that vehicle speeds have not been reduced as drivers have become used to the strips.

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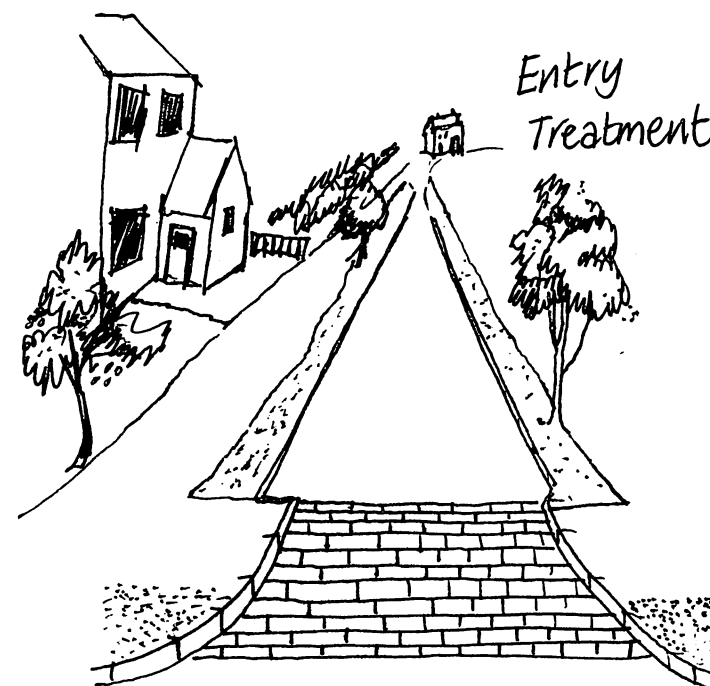


Ratby Parish Council

Other Traffic Calming Measures

Entry Treatment

Can involve narrowing, changing surface textures, or raising the carriageway.



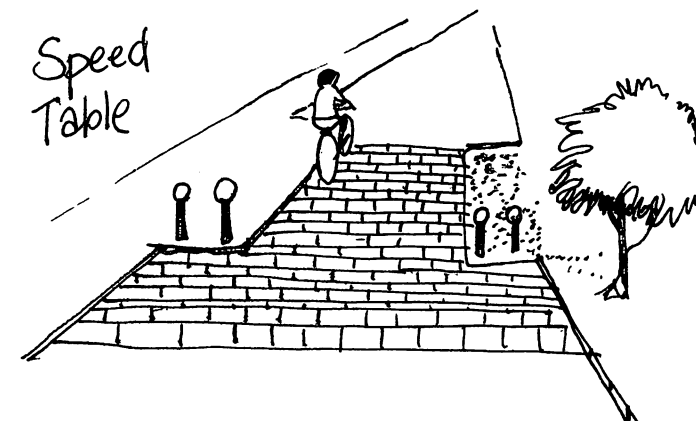
Sheltered Parking

Extending pavements to create on-street parking, and reducing width of the road to reduce vehicle speeds.



Speed Table

A raised, flat topped speed hump, perhaps with reduce road-width.



What do you think?

The Parish Council would like to hear your views. Let us know if you feel your road might benefit from some form of road calming.

Summer Front Garden Competition

Once again the standard of gardens entered in the competition was very high. Councillor Rogers, chairman of the Parish Council announced that the competition would again be held next year. Winners were presented with their prizes by Councillor Mrs Muriel Stanley at the Parish Council Meeting, Tuesday 8th September.

- 1st Prize Mr and Mrs P March of Ingle Drive
2nd Prize Mr and Mrs F Woolley of East Walk
3rd Prize Mr and Mrs S Hickenbotham, Ferndale Drive

Congratulations to the winners, and thank you to everyone who entered. Good luck next year!

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Ratby Parish Council

Transfer of Council Houses

Following the Parish Council letter noting our concerns about the transfer of council housing to a housing association, Cllr Halliday, Chairman of Hinckley & Bosworth Council Housing Committee had replied, enclosing copies of the letters sent to tenants.

Councillor Halliday attended the Parish Council meeting on June 30th. He mentioned that Ratby Parish Council was the only Council to ask for information on this scheme.

He informed the Council that:

- 150 houses will be transferred each year for the next 4 years to Orbit Housing Association.
- Funds generated from the scheme could be used to construct 300 new dwellings for council tenants, and major repairs to existing houses. No new houses were proposed for Ratby
- Tenants of Orbit housing would be nominated from existing council housing lists
- Rents in Orbit Housing would increase, but not more than 1% above inflation rates in the first five years.

Planning ahead

Consultation meeting with representations from village organisations

Fourteen members representing the organisations attended the meeting and were asked to report back to their groups.

The aim of the meeting was to outline current issues relating to the ucrrent Leicestershire Structure Plan and the proposed new local plan. The Parish Council has decided that a village plan based on the views of local residents and groups should be produced.

Countryside and Green Wedges

Councillor Ball described the landscape to the west of Ratby, emphasising its ecological and archaeological importance of this area and the Parish Council's view that it should be preserved.

Housing and Industry

Councillor Hannaford explained that the current Leicestershire Structure Plan allows for 300 more houses to be built in Hinckley and Bosworth. Leicester City Council are pushing for this housing to be within 5 miles of the city boundary. This could lead to pressure for more housing in Ratby or Groby. Such further increase could have implications for services such as sewerage and the provision of school places.

The strongest pressure in Ratby would lie to the west of the village, in the area of outstanding countryside outlined by Councillor Ball.

The A46 Leicester Western Bypass and Golf Course access roads could generate development proposals.

No land is designated in Ratby for employment use in the current plan.

Leisure Interests

Councillor Boud outlined current Parish Council proposals for leisure and recreation, and asked for views of representative groups on:-

- provision for dog walking
- use of the second football pitch area at Ferndale Drive
- use of area of land adjacent to the Band Hall ... a village pond?
- provision of allotments - is there a need?

It is important for the local residents themselves to determine what is needed and can viably be achieved instead of waiting for developers to tell us what we ought to have.

Shopping

Councillor Hurst, a shopkeeper in the village for 23 years stressed the need to support the existing good range of shops in the village. He emphasised that a ring-road around the village would have a detrimental affect on shops which rely on passing trade. The creation of new shopping areas would duplicate shops already in existence.

What do villagers think?

Ratby Parish Council

Parking, Lorries and transportation

Councillor Rogers pointed out that the Council is well aware of the difficulties and dangers caused by traffic on village roads.

Any extra planned development, including the provision of new roads will increase the traffic volume, and cause further encroachment on green fields heritage. The Parish Council would like to hear views of villagers on the subject of transport:- i.e. Public Transport, Parking, cycle routes and paths.

A46 Leicester Weteren Bypass

Mr Steve Boud, who had campaigned against Bypass at the Public Inquiry was invited to explain the implications of the road. He explained the changes for cyclists and pedestrians at the new junction proposed for Kirby Muxloe, and outlined the major changes in traffic flow through th village once the road is built. he stated that a Council for the Protection of Rural England report has shown that new roads generate new development, despite local plans opposing such development. he pointed out that we need to be vigilant if we want to stop large-scale development.

The Parish Council asked for feedback from representatives groups which could be brought to a second meeting later in the year.

The views of all residents on these issues are welcomed by the Parish Council.

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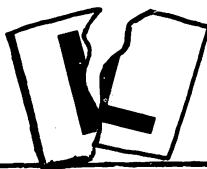


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Ratby Parish Council

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Ratby Parish Council now acts as a registration point for the above mentioned scheme. The Passport allows discount to a large number of City Council Leisure facilities such as golf, swimming, etc.

The Passport can be purchased for £10 by persons able to provide proof that they qualify to join the scheme. In the first instance, to obtain an application form, please telephone Leicester 392817. General enquiries about the scheme should be made by telephoning Leicester 527362.

If you are resident and fall into at least one of the categories listed below, you should be able to qualify for a Passport to leisure via Ratby Parish Council.

Unemployed	In employment training
YTS trainee	16 or 17 years old
18 years old and at school or college of further education	
Aged 60+	
Have taken early retirement	
Disabled	
Receiving invalid care allowance	
Single parent	
Receiving Poll Tax rebate	
Receiving Housing Benefit	
Receiving Family Credit	
Receiving Income Support	

Unwaged adult dependents of the above are also eligible and should apply at the same time as their partner.

Get Alarmed!

POLICE ADVICE

Autocrime Campaign - Alarm versus Immobiliser

With the 1992 car crime prevention campaign still on-going, I know many of you are considering upgrading the security of your car. With so many security systems on the market it is essential you obtain some expert advice before spending your money.

One regular question we get asked at the moment is, "Should I buy an alarm or an immobiliser?". I intend in this article to discuss the various merits of both systems, which will hopefully assist you in deciding which to purchase.

Alarm System

Vehicle car alarms have been available for a long time and I am sure there is not many of you who have not heard one going off in a car park with no one near the vehicle. This 'unreliability' of some systems has given them all a bad reputation. This is not really the case; if you have a recognised system professionally fitted to your vehicle it should provide a good level of reliable security.

An alarm can work in several ways; it can be fitted to the doors so that if they are forced open it will be activated. It can be connected to the wing panels so that movement of the vehicle can set it off, or you can have detectors fitted in the car to be activated if a window is smashed etc. You can have a combination of these and they can also be linked to an immobiliser so that when the alarm activates the engine will not start.

The benefit of an alarm system is that it is a loud audible deterrent if someone is trying to break into your vehicle and will hopefully scare them away before they have chance to steal it, or steam from it.

Immobiliser

Independent immobiliser systems are quite a new, but very effective, product. They do not usually have an audible alarm as they have nothing to activate. They work by disconnecting the engine/ignition so that the vehicle will not start until a special coded key is fitted or a remote control is activated (depending on the system).

These are very difficult systems to bypass and they make your vehicle very difficult to steal. They are usually cheaper than alarm systems. As I mentioned earlier, if you have a system professionally fitted, whether it be an alarm or an immobiliser, it can be a very effective deterrent against autocrime. It is important to protect your vehicle and that we all work together to 'Crack Crime'.

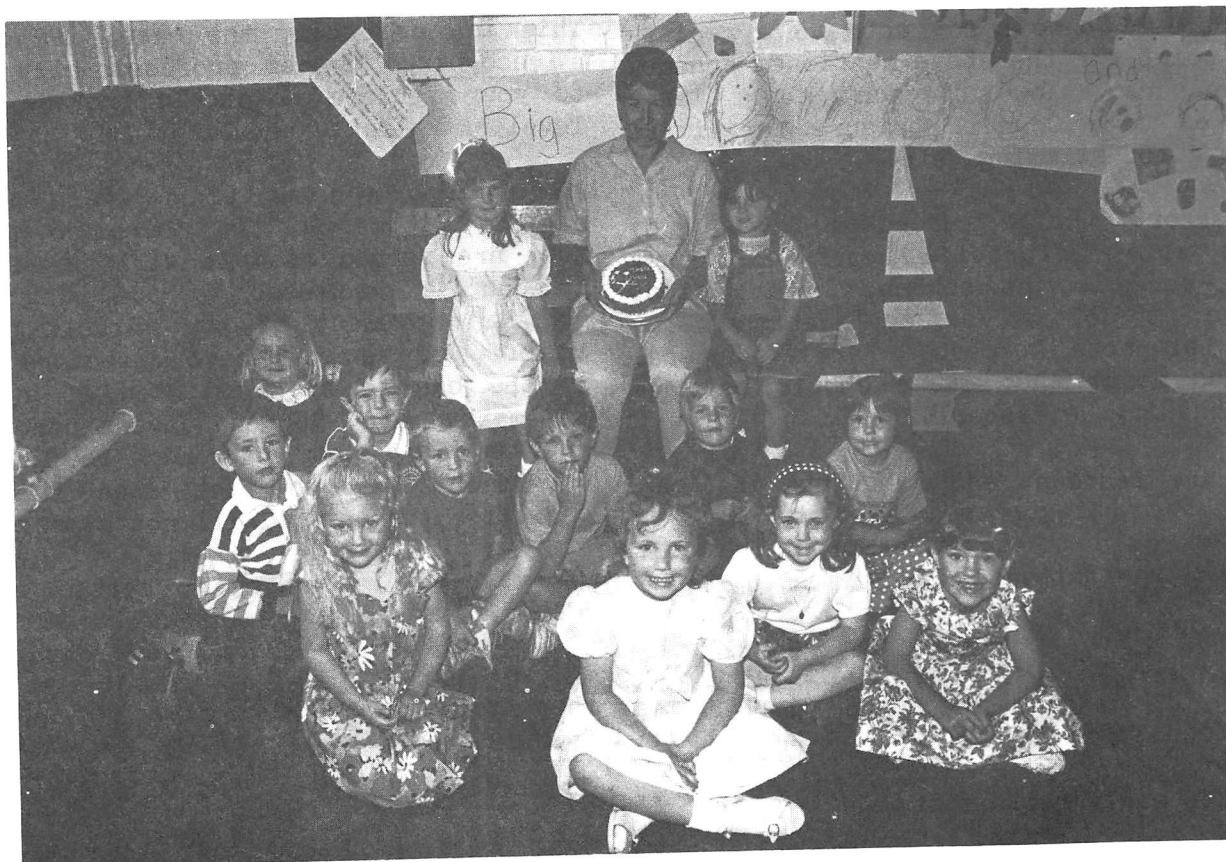
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RATBY PLAYGROUP



Photograph by Sylvia Grant

Another group of children were ready to leave us to start school. It didn't seem that long since they were walking through the Church Room doors for the first time as three year olds; shy, apprehensive and nervous. There they were, ready for the next step of their young lives. The photograph was taken at the leaving party (in June) which we have at the end of each term for the children finishing at Playgroup before going to school. On this occasion the playgroup staff were presented with a delicious chocolate cake by Kirstie Smith as a thank you for her time spent at Playgroup. The cake had been made by her Mum and was divided up amongst the workers. Thank you, Mrs Smith, it was lovely and not a crumb was left.

It is nearly time for the Playgroup register to be sorted out for the January term (sorry to remind you that Christmas is not too far away) so if you are unsure of whether or not your child's name is on our waiting list, and he/she was born between 1.9.89 and 31.12.89, please contact Lesley Chevin 386605 or Linda Evans 386347 as soon as possible, or call into Playgroup at the Church Rooms any morning, Monday to Friday.

We have a couple of fundraising events coming up, and we do rely on the Village to support us in order that we are able to obtain the necessary equipment for the children, so please do come along.

Saturday 31st October 2 p.m. Welfare Hall - Rummage Sale

Saturday 5th December, 10.30 a.m. - Church Rooms - Christmas Fayre



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Railway Heart Link

The Charity Appeal started in September 1991 with a Darts evening with the Leicester Charity Darts Team who do all their fundraising for Heart Link at Groby Road Hospital. This was followed by various activities over the past twelve months resulting in a cheque being presented on behalf of the Railway Inn by Peter Wheeler, ex Tigers and England rugby player to Mr Firmin, Chief Surgeon at Groby Road Hospital.

Another £500 was presented to the Lord Mayor towards the 'Lord Mayors Appeal'.

This money was raised from four skittle and barbecue evenings. The Lord Mayor and his wife attended three of these fund raising evenings.

Incidentally, the Railway Inn has again come second in the 'Best Kept Cellar' competition. They also managed to reach the area finals in their section (Borders and Patios) in the Spencer Memorial Garden Competition!

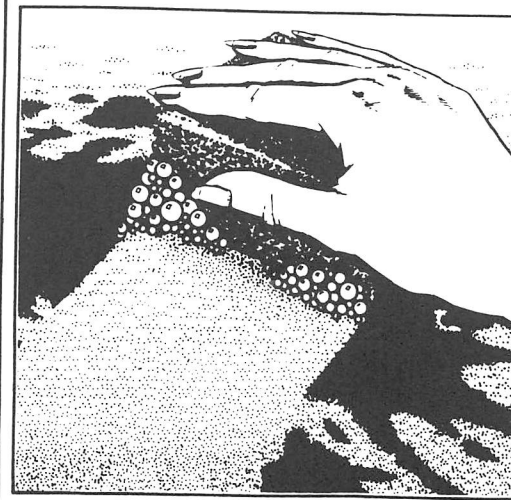
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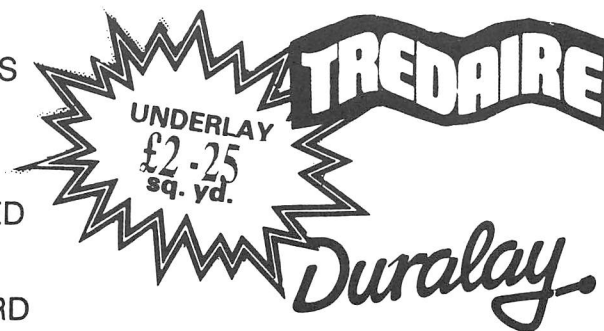
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THE HUBERT SUTTON STORY

"I was born on the 26th March 1912 and have lived all my life in Ratby. As a child I lived in Chapel Lane until I moved into this house on Markfield Road some 60 years ago.

I wouldn't say it was all that comfortable in Chapel Lane. The house we lived in was old. there was one room upstairs with a partition put up to make two small rooms. My sister slept in the same room as my parents, and my brother and myself slept in the part which was partitioned off.

I think that the rent at that time was 1s 9d a week. I was round Chapel Lane not to so long ago and the house I lived in and the one next door where mr and Mrs Bishop lived had been made into one house. It was up for sale for £89,000. How times change - I should think Chapel Lane must be one of the most pleasant places to live at the present.

I went to the Ratby Council School when I was four years old and left school when I was 14 years old. The headmaster at that time was Mr Baker. Another well known teacher was Mr Hunt, whose son still lives in Stamford Street. I am not sure who had the best education but I do know that there had not used to be the trouble that there is today.

When I was 13 years old and my brother 11 we joined the Ratby Town Brass Band. We were taught to play the cornet by Chris Tomlinson who was a member of the band and who was in the photo of the football team in the last Wot!.

At this time Ratby held the record for donating more per head to the L.R.I. than any other village in the County.

The money was raised by the village carnival and the Wake Sunday run by the Band. The band was invited to a tour round the hospital, and I believe a Mr Gamble, who was the Bandmaster was made an honorary member at the time.

When I left school we hadn't a lot of choice where we would work. It would be in the hosiery and the boot and shoe trade. Most of the lads who left school at the same time as I did went for the shoe trade in Anstey. There were four or five shoe factories - Palmers, Picketts, Masons,. Pollards and Wain were four of them.



HUBERT SUTTON AGED 14 IN 1926 WITH BROTHER GEORGE AND SISTER HILDA.

Ratby where Casepak now stands. I was taught one of the best jobs in the trade, that was a clicker. I was paid 10 shillings a week for forty eight hours work. I used to take my pay home on Saturday morning and my mother would give me one shilling spending money.

I worked in the shoe trade until I was 16, then we went on short time and I looked for another job. I was offered a job at the Glenfield Brickyard at 18 shillings a week. Things went alright 'til I was 18, then out of the blue came a shock.

Two other lads Arch Moore and Albert Plant the same age and myself were told we had lost our jobs. They set on 3 younger lads and paid them less money.

I was not out of work long. After losing my job on Friday I got another job in The Shoes on the Monday as a clicker at Tompkins, Mansfield Street in Leicester. It was alright for a time then the short

My father worked for W. Herbert and Sons Plastering Contractors at the time and I asked if he thought there was a chance of a job. He had a word with Mr Herbert and he said he would give me a chance. I am pleased to say I made it and was paid £2 12s 0d a week.

I think I worked on some of the best buildings around Leicester the Percy Gee building at Leicester University which was opened by the Queen, and what was classed as Herbert's masterpiece - The St Bernards Monastery at Whitwick.

I was now 20 and there was more to do in the village. We had a picture house. I was made a member of the Working Mens club in 1932, and I am number one in the books. The secretary then was Cliff Lissaman's father, Cyril. It was here that I met and started to go out with some of the best pals I ever had - Eric Preston, Sonny Reeves, Johnny Argyle and Albert Jordan. We had some great times and laughs together.

I was elected a member of the Club Committee, later the Stock Committee, and after the war Stock Secretary for a while, and later trustee. I resigned when I retired at age 65.



In May 1940 I had my orders to go for a medical at Ulverscroft Road, Leicester. I was passed A1 and it was not long before I had my papers to report to Glen Parva Barracks. I also had a postal order for 2s 6d to make sure I got there, which was stopped out of my first week's pay. The pay was 10s a week in the Leicester-shire Regiment.

When one gentleman in the club heard, he came up to me and gave me a Leicester-shire Cap Badge that was his in the 1914-1918 war. He told me to be sure and bring it back. His name - Bill Argyle, also known as Hampy. I have still got that badge.

After training I was moved to Norfolk and the 8th battalion was formed. It later became the 1st, to take the place of the battalion which I believe was lost at Singapore. Later the 1st were split up, and half joined the 7th battalion ready to go abroad.

We had 14 days embarkation leave. While we were marching to the station, german bombers paid us a visit and blowed the station up just before we got there.

We moved down to Liverpool and boarded the liner "The Capetown Castle" which was the flagship of the Convoy. We docked in Durban, S. Africa and were allowed off the ship for a short time.

Next stop was Bombay. We moved into barracks in Karachi. It didn't take us long to find out what India was like. The heat was between 90 - 100 in the day and 75 - 80 at night.

After a time our transport was changed to mules and we moved into the Central Provinces for Jungle Training, and it was warmer than ever. At least we knew where we were going. We were to be called the Long Range Penetration Force, better known as Wingates Chindits. It was not long before we moved to the airstrip at Lala Ghat. We were put into aircraft with 3 or 4 mules, and took off for Burma, each plane towing a glider.

We landed on an airstrip 200 miles behind the Japanese lines, about 10,000 of us and 1000 mules. This was a different kind of warfare. We relied on air supplies. Food was biscuit and 2 small tins of meat, 1 tin of cheese, 1 bar of chocolate (and 5 cigarettes). If the plane couldn't get through we had to make do with what we'd got.

During this summer I have spent quite a lot of time meandering around the Gower Peninsula which is a lovely unspoiled little corner of South Wales, only about 20 miles long and approximately 8 - 10 miles wide, this area was the first in Britain to be designated "an area of outstanding natural beauty". Nowadays the National Trust own about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the coast line and various "sites of special scientific interest" inland. This land is managed so that walkers, hikers, climbers, even the hang gliding fraternity can enjoy their hobbies, together with children playing as safely as possible on long sandy beaches and dabbling into rock pools.

Along the south coast of the peninsula, there are lime stone valleys - called slades - similar to Monsel and Lathkill Dales in Derbyshire, the one difference being, slades lead to golden beaches on Gower.

Between the slades are limestone cliffs with hidden caves. There are long lively beaches backed mature dune systems and all along the north coast a sea, marsh, wetland habitat, in winter a bird watcher's paradise.

There are hills too, no higher than Beacon Hill, that invite you to reach their tops where surely you will find remains of Bronze Age Burial Chambers and Iron Age hill forts.

I spend lots of time whenever I go to Gower, roaming about on Whitford Burrows. Each visit I seem to meet a plant I've not seen before, but I am equally thrilled to meet "the regulars". On each visit I expect to find at least 25 different species. here are some of my favourites.



Wild Pansy
(Viola Tricolor)

Wild Pansy (Viola Tricolor) and in the same family Sweet Violet (Viola odorata), Dog Violet (Viola riviniana) and Health Violet (Viola canina). The Wild Pansy has been given another name, Heart Ease. Was it as a tonic for an old heart or a symbol of the warm soft days of summer to come?

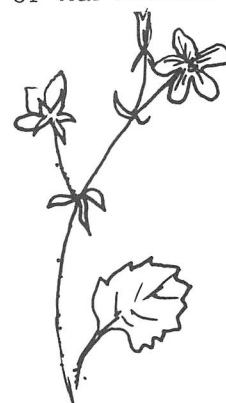
Janet's Jottings



Dog Violet
(Viola Canina)

Usually I find Lambs Lettuce. This plant was used in salads in the sixteenth century and in 1992 it was sold pre-packed in Tesco Stores!

Rue leaved Saxifrage (saxifraga tridactylites) is very tiny but a delightful plant. Its a second cousin to Meadow Saxifrage which can be found in the water meadows near to Mountsorrel and of course Yellow Saxifrage (saxifraga aizoides) can be found, in Spring, in some of the wet places of Martinshaw Woods.



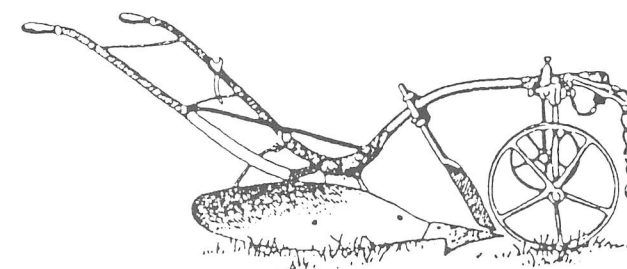
Meadow
Saxifrage

Another plant always to be found at Whitfords is common whitlow grass (Erophila verna). Its name contradicts today's distribution - it can only be found in very specific habitats, bare sandy, rocky ground. Dry stone walling was its common habitat. Its a member of the cabbage family as is the yellow whitlow grass (Draba Aiziodes), This plant is very very precious to the Gower, every year recording botanists count the actual number of plants found, one year only 14 plants were found! This is one of the plants that first flowered on Gower just after the last Ice Age and has managed to "hang on in there" up until now.

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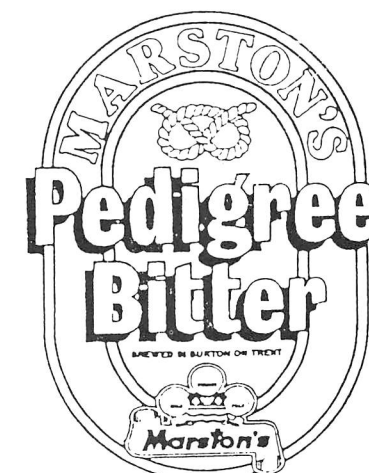
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CAN YOU HELP?

The last issue provoked the best response we have had so far in helping with providing photos and information about Ratby's past and its people.

Of the five photos printed under this heading in the last issue two (Nos 1 and 4) have been identified and will be the subject of an article at a later date. If you can help with the others please phone L.395179. Unfortunately photo No. 3 which was thought just might be Keen Sutton of Chapel Lane by one of our readers, has turned out not to be him. Never mind, it was well worth trying that line of investigation.

Information offered should also lead to an article about Slasher Hiron. More information or a photo would still be most welcome.

On the subject of a fatality occurring at the railway line, again some information has been received and more is welcome about this happening 30 to 40 years ago. Does any one know of or remember stories of a similar fatality much earlier than that?

Billy Burtons, the petrol pump, the old dairy, the bike shop and the 'lean to' on the house next to County Travel all require more detail and photos if you can help.

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A QUESTION OF PRIORITIES

Policing can only be carried out with the consent of the general public. With this consent, the police additionally require the assistance of the public. With the ever-increasing crime trend, the partnership of police and public is required to reverse the trend.

I would ask that people become more public spirited and report incidents rather than turning a blind eye. To prevent crime the public should have a broader view of their surroundings rather than being parochial or blinkered in their outlook.

People have reported incidents to me such as minor parking offences, or small children playing in the street; to the complainant these matters may seem very important. However these matters are low priority when compared with a burglary, or a car theft which can have a traumatic effect on the aggrieved.

People in the village have shown concern about the level of crime, and the heading of this article, may give you pause for thought.

To further prevent crime the public should make every effort to safeguard their own property. Despite the current spate of bicycle thefts, I still see bicycles being left unattended in the street, in open garages and at the side of houses on full view of everyone. Also with car theft still very common, few people prepared to fit any security devices to their cars, and I see a lot of ideal opportunities for thefts from cars, with owners leaving property on display for all to see.

I would ask you to help me by cutting out the opportunity for crime.

**P.C. Moore
Ratby P.B.O.**

Door to Door Sales

You will be aware that very recently door-to-door pedlars have been in the village. These pedlars have been selling household items including dusters, chamois leathers and tea towels. Such tradesmen should be in possession of a certificate to enable them to sell from door-to-door. The certificate is signed by the Chief Officer of Police or an officer authorised by him, in the district in which the applicant lives.

Householders should ask to see the certificate and if the trader is unable to produce a certificate then he is committing an offence and the public should refrain from conducting business with the pedlar.

Whilst some of the pedlars are genuine, others are not. Very recently an elderly resident of Wolsey Drive was burgled by men acting as pedlars. Two men asked the elderly lady if they could have a cup of tea in her home whilst selling their wares. Whilst distracting the lady, one of the men stole money from her home.

I would ask the public to exercise great care when dealing with these people, who visit the village quite frequently. If you are unsure about people at your door, do not be afraid to turn them away.

I am pleased to say that due to the excellent work by a neighbour, these men were subsequently arrested for this offence.

**P.C. Moore
Ratby P.B.O.**



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Tuesday 11th, we all hurried through breakfast and morning chores (dusting, tidying, sweeping floors, preparing evening meal and ugh-no! - cleaning the loos) so that we were ready to get on the coach at 10.00 a.m., armed with picnic and kagoules, ready for our trip to Elvaston Castle in Derbyshire. Some of the girls had been there before with the school, but some, like me, were newcomers. We spent the morning on one of the lovely nature trail walks - which the girls weren't very interested in, lunch at the playground (with the wasps) and then we were taken on a visit to the Victorian working cottage which everybody enjoyed. We watched the lady of the house doing the washing in the copper, mangling washing dry, making peg rugs, cooking on the range and had a good look round her tiny house. We were then all squeezed into a dray and pulled by a tractor round the park, before being introduced to the farm animals. Just enough time left for a nerve-racking session in the gift shop and a quick ice cream before setting off back to Oaks.

The whole holiday seemed to run very smoothly - no arguing or falling out between the girls (or us), no illnesses, no accidents (other than the odd grazed knee and a couple of wasp stings), nobody homesick and other than the odd few incidents - no really naughty behaviour. Obviously, a lot of work goes into these holidays, which girls and parents don't realize. This camp wouldn't have been possible if Angela, Lyn and Gail hadn't helped so much in the organising as well as on holiday - so thanks again to all of you, and thanks to my own and other husbands who become involved whether they wanted to or not - making bits and pieces, photocopying, word processing, fetching and carrying, and of course childminding whilst we went off on our super, fun, pack holiday.

It really is worth the effort each year - its a wonderful, satisfying experience to see the Brownies having such fun - so come on Lyn or Denise (2nd Ratby Brownies) how about Part 1 of your licence next year!

1ST RATBY BROWNIES



Well, it was August again and 18 eager Brownies were ready to go on Pack Holiday. Nothing seemed to put them off and so Saturday 8th August, a quick wave to the Ratby Band on their carnival float, and we went to Oaks in Charnwood for our 'Disney' Pack holiday. Twelve of the girls had been with me before to Brownie Pack Holiday, but 6 were new to it, and all 18 very excited about being in the Dwarfs, Dalmations or Mermaids group, and being looked after by Minnie Mouse, Donald Duck, Pluto and Dumbo! I was very fortunate to be taking AngelaBarbour with us, who is very experienced at pack holidays, but had never cooked on one before, but offered to be our cook. (And what a fantastic job she made of it - from cooked breakfasts, to lovely roast turkey dinner!). Lynne

Evans (Tawny Owl) and Gail Fretter - a ?? volunteer mum!! also came along and took turns in assisting Angela with the cooking and me with activities etc. for the girls. We had a very busy timetable from the moment we set up the beds, to Wednesday morning when we packed, cleaned and came home. Activities were varied, but all with a Disney theme, including - Disney welliepgs, Winnie the Pooh felt pictures, Minnie Mouse boxes of sweets, Disney character pencil tops, games of 'Mickey' (beetle with a difference) and Disney bedtime stories. On Sunday 9th August we were very pleased to have Reverend Susan Leighton come out to Oaks to take a short 'Disney' based service for us - the girls thoroughly enjoyed singing along to her clarinet playing.

Whiting Kirby & Co

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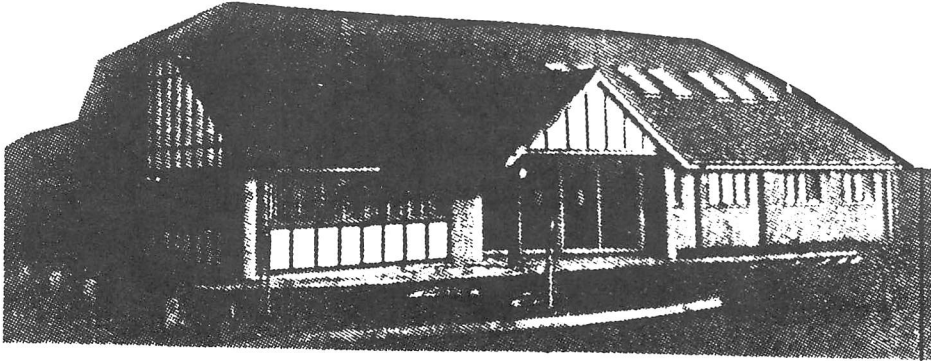
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Dear Sir,

As Phil Harris recited in a popular number some forty years ago "Woodman Spare That Tree". the present day plea is for the preservation of the fine Atlas Cedar in Station Road which is due to be felled in the autumn to allow for pavement widening.

Why make a fuss over only one tree? Well it is rather a fine example of a species which is not exactly common in the village and its presence will certainly be missed. It is not beyond the capabilities of modern technology to remove bodily trees with their roots within a root ball and to replant them on alternative sites. There are surely enough suitable places in the village where this tree would add to the visual amenities?

No, don't bother to answer We know it already - it would cost too much money.

Yours faithfully
Horace Gamble

Editor

History of a Tree

Mrs Christine Lopez has told us that this well-loved tree was her father, Mr Wilfred Shipman's Christmas tree. Her Grandpa, Thomas Shipman, planted the tree in his garden on Station Road after Christmas. It would have been in about 1919/1920.

The family will be very sad to see the tree go. After the blizzards of winter 1991, branches of the tree were bent low or broken over the road. The Lopez family received a letter from the County Council telling them they must properly maintain the tree and ensure that it did not obstruct the highway. But by this



You may be interested to know that Ratby Sports Club said they would offer a new home to this tree, if it could be moved. Iris Hannaford, parish councillor, asked her friend Ms Noreen Jardine for advice (You may remember that it was Ms Jardine who judged the Spring front gardens competition). Ms Jardine said that the tree, a common Cedar would be too well established, with its roots well under the road, to survive moving.

Tree Planting

Many Ratby people have been asking what is happening along the strip of land bordering the motorway between Groby road and Kirby Grange. Cawrey Ltd. have planted native hardwood trees such as Oak, Hornbeam and Birch to protect the village from the visual intrusion and noise of the motorway. A stand of faster growing larches will provide a protective barrier in the more immediate future. Although the trees are slow growing they will eventually form a more effective and attractive screen as well as a home for wild-life.

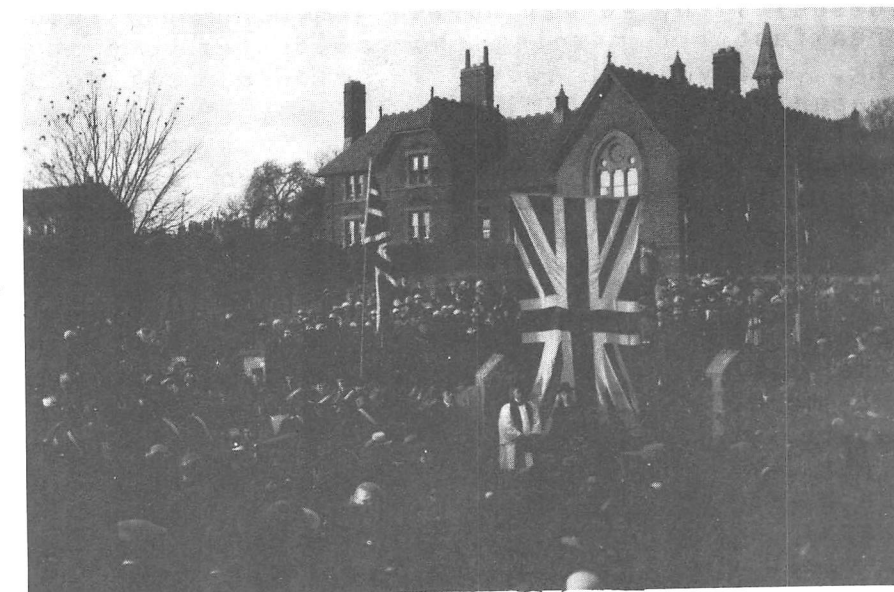
the land may eventually be taken



The Great War for Civilisation

On Saturday November 13th 1920 at 3 p.m. the War Memorial in Ratby was unveiled by Field Marshall Earl Haig G.C.B. OM GCVD. Can you tell us about this day? (See Issue 19 'Lest We Forget' by Old Bill).

Photo. courtesy of Mr Furborough, now resident in Anstey.



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One of the biggest complaints we used to receive at the Community Consultation meetings was, how long we the police would take to answer the telephone at both Beaumont and Braunstone Police Stations.

With this in mind, we set ourselves the task of trying to reduce this waiting time in 1992 by setting a telephone answering standard. This is not an easy task when you consider we received over 32,000 calls at Beaumont Station in June alone.

These standards also cover the way officers and civilians answer the telephone where it is expected they will be helpful and courteous. Using these new standards we were able to answer 96% of the calls in under 45 seconds and, in fact, nearly 19,000 (57%) of the calls were answered in less than 15 seconds.

To ensure that you, the customers, are satisfied with this service, we have carried out our own telephone survey and discovered over 92% are satisfied.

Our aim is to keep an ongoing momentum in maintaining what are clearly very good results. It is hoped that this will give you a better service from the police in the future.

Sgt. West
Beaumont Police Station



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OWAF



CHILDRENS PAGE

Put your black and white
Drawings and jokes in
Ratby Libarys, "Wot Box"

Thanks to Ian Mellor for
organising the children's page.
He is 'retiring' now !!

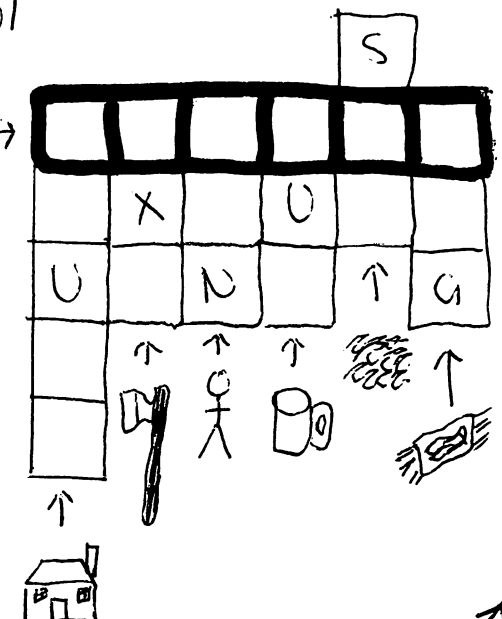
Where do Sick bees Go?
To the wasp-ital!
By Christopher Spencer.

Scott Brooks 7



Laora Moreh
14
KEEP Smiling!!

Work out the missing
tool



A FINE PEDIGREE?



For the last ten years Michael and Karen Cotton have somehow managed to find the time to participate with some enthusiasm in Afghan racing. All of the dogs that they have raced have been rescue dogs which is an option all potential dog owners might do well to consider. The dogs are raced under their pet names and Michael and Karen currently race 'Sasha Cotton' and 'Sultan Cotton'. Sultan, who has now officially retired from racing at national level as he is twelve next April, has been by far the most successful. For the second year running at the National Intertrack Sultan has won the Rameses Ellis Perpetual Memorial Trophy which is for the fastest dog or bitch of 9 years or old or more.

He is the first dog ever to defend his title successfully. Over his career he has won almost all of the major trophies and hundreds of rosettes. He has twice received the Top Dog Award and broke the 450 metres track record at Oxford in 1983 with a time of 36.78 seconds.

Although the Vintage Class in which he has been racing competes over 100 yards compared with as much as 800 yard races in his youth you can get some idea of the speed involved if you consider that Sultan has finished in under 6 seconds.

The Afghans have proved themselves good allrounders for the Cottons as they are excellent pets and have also been good guard dogs.

We hope you continue to get pleasure from them!

Ratby Village Society

OCTOBER NOVEMBER DECEMBER EVENTS

OCTOBER 13th	"Journey Along the Avon". An illustrated talk by Mr Fred Harding.
NOVEMBER 10th	Challenge Quiz for the Nancy Harding Trophy, between the RVS, Ratby WI and the Monday Circle. To be held in the Methodist School Rooms, Chapel Lane at 8.00pm.
DECEMBER	No meeting
	Normal meetings in the Welfare Hall, Main St, Ratby at 8.0 pm. All welcome to attend.

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ON SONG!

Former singer with the D'Oly Carte Opera Company Michelle Shipley has realised her life long dream of setting up her own school for singing and drama in Ratby.

She recently organised her first concert during which she sang three songs from Gilbert & Sullivan Operas. The concert was held at the Y.M.C.A. Theatre where the age range of the other performers stretched from four to 64!!

She will be organising two shows at Christmas, one in Ratby and one at the Y.M.C.A. Theatre.

WOT! FACTS

Early responses to a survey about Wot! in the village show that:-

It is kept for reference.
Local History is very popular.
Parish Council issues are considered an important part.
Many people fight to read it first in their household.

When complete, we will tell you more!

Wot!

OUT TO BEAT
THE RECESSION.
WILL YOU JOIN US?

As you can see Wot! has again been able to grow in size. This is because despite the recession the amount of advertising, which pays for the magazine's production has grown. The reason is that for the last three issues we have ourselves advertised for new advertisements.

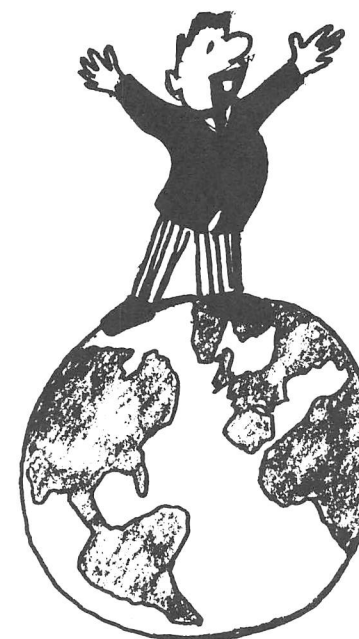
The first advertisement produced a small response, the second saw enough to allow us to grow from 20 pages to 24, and our third advertisement put us in a position to make this 'sixth birthday issue' 28 pages. What better proof could we produce to show that advertising in Wot! really does work. It generates good will and extra business. If you are in business will you help to support our efforts by placing an advertisement in our magazine? and enhance your image locally? Please ring if you can. If you appreciate receiving this magazine would you please join us in thanking those business people who make it possible. How? By supporting the businesses that support us. When you need to buy, buy their products and use their services and I am sure their support will remain with us and ensure a bright future for Wot!

PLEASE BOOK YOUR SPACE REQUIREMENTS (AND LET US KNOW IF YOU NEED RED ON YOUR ADVERT) EARLY FOR THE CHRISTMAS EDITION.

Thank you.

Christmas

Articles and photos are always welcomed from all quarters, but in particular at Christmas we are always in need of Seasonal material of any description. We would especially like to use photos of Ratby in the snow. Please help if you can by telephoning Leic 395179 or Leic 394873.



IF YOU DON'T
TELL...
YOU CAN'T
SELL !!

ADVERTISE IN WOT!
Phone 395179 - Now !!



DEADLINE FOR LETTERS
ARTICLES AND ADVERTS FOR
DECEMBER EDITION OF WOT!
IS THURSDAY 12TH NOVEMBER

ADVERTS 395179
ARTICLES 393279
EDITOR 393367

HOTLINE!! PHONE US ON 394873 OR
395179 WITH ANY NEWS ITEMS.

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The inclusion of an advertiser in this newspaper does not imply a recommendation by Wot! or its organisers.