

7

Years!

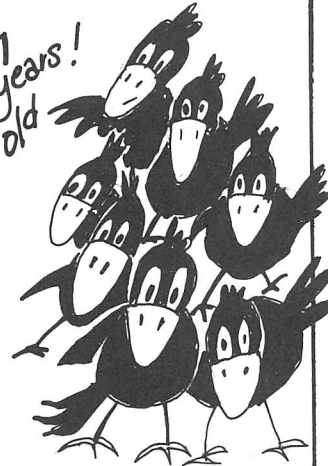
of Wot

Wot!

About Ratby

7 years!

old



OCTOBER 1993

PUBLISHED BY THE RATBY SCOUT GROUP

ISSUE 42

Farewell to the Rector

The Rev. Peter Blackman retired at the end of July as Rector of Ratby-cum-Groby after 33 years here. A Farewell Party organised by the joint parish was held on 24th July at Brookvale High School and attended by 300 parishioners and invited guests.

The proceedings commenced with the Rev. Peter Blackman and his wife Jean being collected from the Rectory in a white limousine and taken on a last look tour of both Ratby and Groby before being welcomed at Brookvale High School by the Ratby Band playing some of their favourite music.

This was followed by a magnificent buffet supper provided by the parishioners and a splendid iced cake with the compliments of Messrs Geary to accompany the Toast - to Peter and Jean - given by the Rev. Tony Leighton - Mr Roy Derbyshire said a few words on behalf of the Ratby parishioners and Mr Charles Rushby spoke on behalf of those in Groby, before making the presentations. These comprised books of Leicestershire (in pictures) and Sussex (a walking guide) together with a basket of flowers for Jean Blackman, and for Peter Blackman, a framed photograph showing an aerial view of Groby Church, a leather-bound copy of the ASB prayer book and a cheque for £950 generously contributed by the parishioners of Ratby and Groby.

Both Jean and Peter responded after which the Rev. Geoffrey Willett of Markfield (Rural Dean) deputising for the Bishop who was unable to be present, wished them both a long and happy retirement. Entertainment by the



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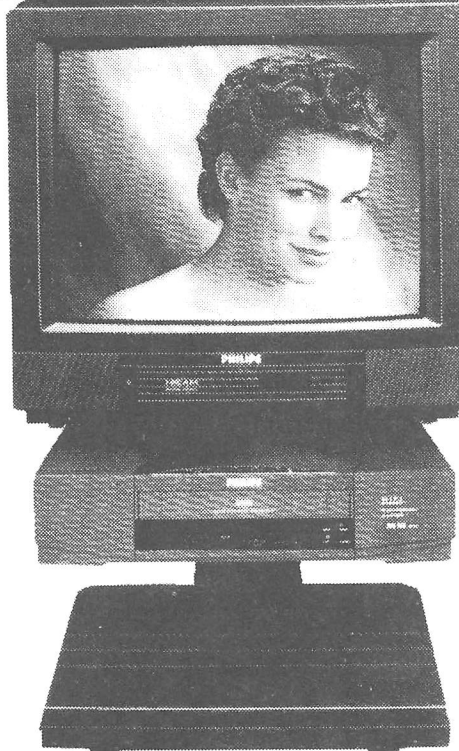
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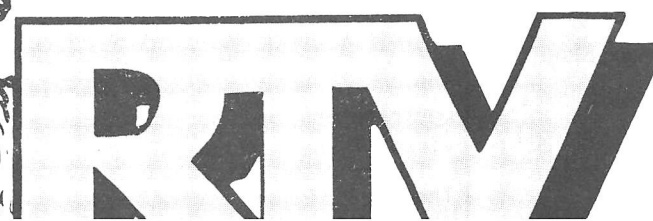
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Ratby writer to give talk

Redundancy was not the end of a career for Ratby author Lynda Page, rather the impetus to forge ahead in a new direction as a novelist. Now, with two successful books behind her, a third completed a fourth being written, Lynda is well established as a saga writer.

Lynda is to visit Beaumont Leys Library on 4th November at 7.30 p.m. as part of the second Leicestershire Literature Festival. She will talk about her work, her motivation and the process of writing a novel.

Free tickets are available from Beaumont Leys Library. For more information or to book tickets, please ring Adrian Wills or Nicky Morgan at Beaumont Leys Library 340143.



The Ratby Library Club would like to thank all the members of the Village Society for the recent donation in "recognition of the Library Club's services to the younger children of Ratby"; this will be used later in the year for what has now become an annual event, i.e. the Christmas performance by the children for relatives, friends, etc.

The Club enters its third year this term and can now accept those children born during 1991 onwards, onto the waiting list which is held at the counter in Ratby Library. The children are then guaranteed about 3 or 4 terms with the Club before school age.

The sessions are held very Tuesday afternoon in the library during the school term (1.45 p.m. to 3.00 p.m.) and there is still no charge!!

A different theme is chosen each week and the children listen to stories (and hopefully talk about them) which is followed by craft work relating to those stories; time permitting there are usually songs and games at the end.

So if any parent thinks this type of activity might suit their child, go down to Ratby Library and put his/her name on the waiting list now. Please note that the

VISIT TO RAF COTTESMORE



We wrote asking for a visit to RAF Cottesmore over a year ago, when I received a phone call one evening from Jim Stevenson who was to take us around, I promptly booked the van with Colin. Come the night we drove over to the base and were met by some soldiers with very big guns.

After we had booked in, Jim met us at the guard house and our visit started at the flight conference room, outside of which is a large scale model of a Tornado. The model does not prepare you for the real thing.

A Tornado aircraft up close is so big, the tail fin reaches 7 metres from the ground - the height of a house.

One by one we all took our turn to sit in the pilots seat and got the feel of how the pilot has to work.

It was a very interesting visit and one we hope we may do again.

Brian Cross, Akela Swallow Cub Pack

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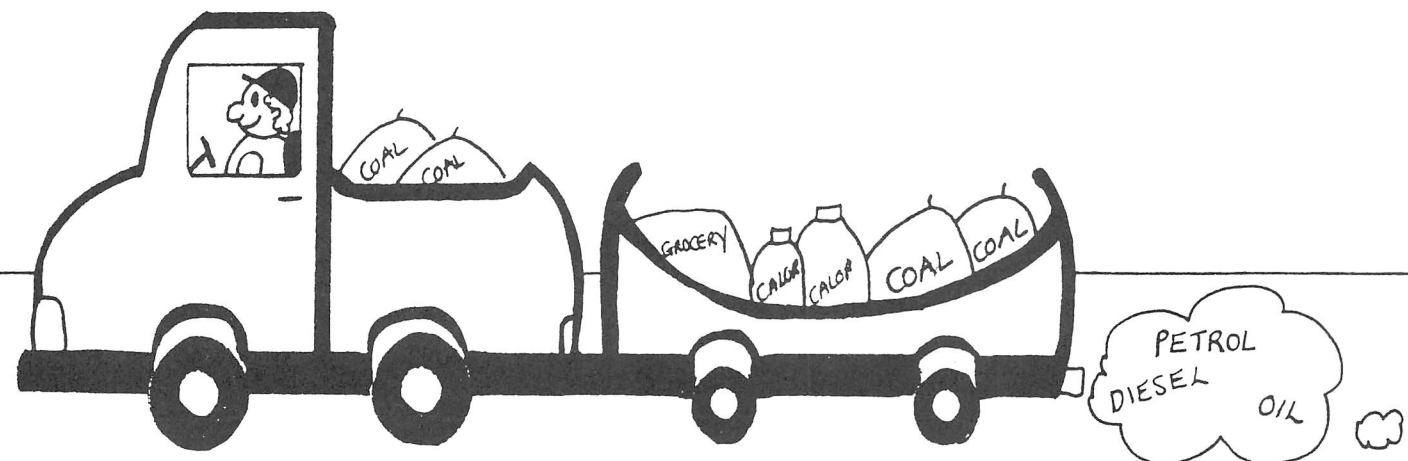
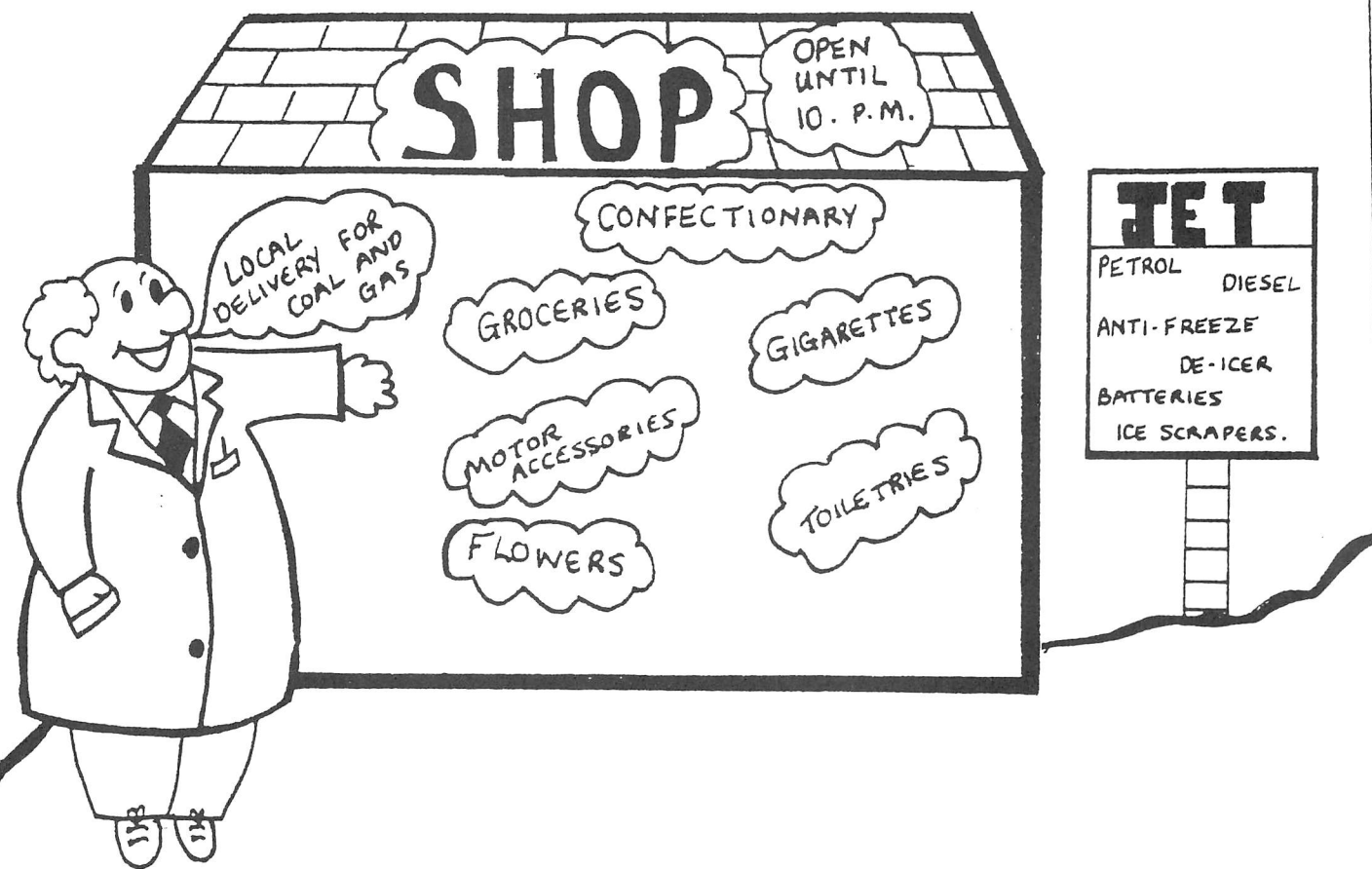
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Whitby Trip

Ratby County Primary School

6th - 10th September 1993

On Monday 6th September, 36 children, together with three members of staff, set off for Whitby in Yorkshire. The weather was fine and the coach was full of excited children armed with packed lunches and an endless supply of sweets!

We made a stop at the National Railway Museum which, as someone wrote in their diary was "mainly based on trains!" There was lots to see here including Victoria's carriage which for some of the children fitted in well with a project being done back in the classroom.

After many 'how much furthers' we arrived at the Langley Hotel and were allocated rooms. Four flights up with heavy cases was no joke.

On Tuesday we visited the interesting ruin of Whitby Abbey having climbed 199 steps to reach it. Then we saw the old church of St. Mary's, with its high pew sides and doors still intact. Our first walk on Tuesday was at Sandseid, it was quite a long one! I think getting lost may have compounded the miles.

Wednesday - we boarded the Steam Train at Grosmont and travelled to Pickering. We broke the journey for another long walk to and around Mallyan Spout at Goathland. A lot of climbing here. We had a full day which included a visit to Pickering Castle, where we had to be careful of steep drops

whilst walking along the castle walls. We then visited the Beck Isle Museum which was also most interesting.

Thursday brought the rain for us but we managed to spend a lot of money in Whitby on presents, venturing in and out of all sorts of shops. It was very pleasing to hear a number of shop assistants praise the behaviour of the children. One said "they are a credit to your school". We managed to keep dry until the visit to Robin Hood's Bay when we got drenched looking in rock pools and saving jellyfish from certain death on the seaweed. One group named themselves the R.S.P.C.J.F. (Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Jellyfish). Most of the children didn't seem to notice the wet and one or two did not even wear their coats in spite of endless suggestions that it might be a good idea.

We finally decided it would be wise to return to the hotel and find some drier occupations.

Friday came all too soon for some of the children and we prepared for our return journey. It seemed a long journey home and we were all a little tired. We had lunch in York and took the children in the Minster as a final visit.

Jean Anness

JEAN ANNESS
MARGARET
WEBSTER
AND
JENNY
WILSON
WITHIN SIGHT
OF THE
199TH STEP



PHOTO
BY
HEATHER
FRETTER

29th & 30th April ... The Scout Group Concert



CHARLES AND FIONA
ALIAS BRIAN (DOES IT RUN IN THE FAMILY) CROSS AND LESLEY CHEVIN

Nearly two weeks before the show all the tickets had been sold. As a result of last years over crowding, the leaders took a conscious decision to hold the concert over two nights and limit seating to eighty people per night.

The performance itself, as I'm sure all who saw it would agree, was highly entertaining and very funny. I would like to say that during rehearsals, the Cubs worked hard at their sketches and gave us many a laugh. When working with Cubs, there are always a few who stand out and I would like to pay my tribute to Michale Rule who plays the piano so well, also I thought David Root was very brave to play in front of a big audience. For me I think that the funniest sketch was performed by David Cross and his submarine crew.

During the Monster mash sketch, the special lighting effect came into play, it was spooky to watch, much was added by Andrew Glennister picking up the dance routine so quickly. My special thanks go to Lesley Chevin for her help in co-ordinating this routine. The three wheels on my wagon sketch was the brain child of David Hardy. Like the monster mash sketch, this also had quite bulky props which had to be built, and broken

their robot suits on, they had very limited vision, therefore, they had to learn the routine very carefully, we timed the recording so that at each change of music, the boys had to change position. The most difficult thing for them was they had to hold onto a full water pistol until the end of their sketch - before they could use them on the audience. We hope that you did not get too wet, but you know what Cubs are like!

Having now seen the video tape of the show, I would like to thank Lesley Chevin for her marvellous leading lady role in Charles & Fiona. There was one mistake, if you think you know it, write your answer on a postcard, together with your name and address. The winner will be invited to a night out with the Cub pack.

I should mention Justin, because without his help, our version of Swan Lake could not have been performed. If you noticed, he was the one in black who was my partner, but after lifting me up for leaps during rehearsals and the show, he now has to wear a support!

The Beaver section contributed well - it looks like a lot of good talent is on the way up.

audience in their Roman Gallery sketch, young Justin popping up again. The magic show was for me a great thrill to watch. Many people may not know that Trevor Sleath build the guillotine himself and tested it on the cat (well, it's got nine lives).

I was also pleased to see the Scouts performing various sketches, James Cross who played the part of John McEnroe, after all those rehearsals and both shows, had quite an, "egg ache".

And not to be outdone, the Ventures performed the classic piece, The Green Eye of The Little Yellow God (yes there was Justin again).

I enjoyed every minute of the preparation and the presentation of this years show and would like to thank Mrs Pat Sleath who played the piano for us, David Hulme for presenting the show, introducing each sketch and also for taking part in the Charles and Fiona sketch.

I would also like to thank Paul Clarke and Ray Lander for organising moving the scenery and props on and off stage. Thanks also go to the lighting team, the ladies who provided the refreshments at the interval, and special thanks to Colin Payne for his support selling tickets, and providing his home as a meeting point for the section leaders to meet and discuss the many varied aspects of the show.

Whilst packing away on the Friday night, after the show, Ray Lander summed it up - Teamwork! We have a good team of leaders in Ratby and I am proud to be part of that team.

The show could not happen without all the parents, friends and relatives who bought tickets, so finally I would like to thank you all.

Brian Cross (Akela)
1st Ratby Swallow Cub Pack



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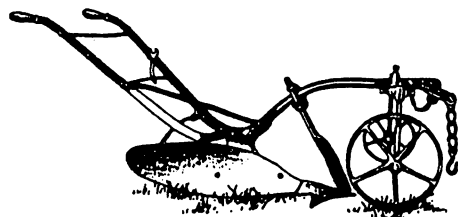
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LETTERS

Dear Editor,

Church Rooms, Ratby

I am writing to ask that through your pages we may thank everyone who has helped raise money for the re-roofing project at the Church Rooms. It is my great pleasure to announce that through fund-raising and grants we now have sufficient money to re-roof before Winter. Once water tight we feel it is important to look at the fabric of the building and general refurbishment/upgrading. To this end we ask that fund raising activities continue, and volunteers are found to help in the following ways:

Interior: Paint (silk emulsion types, gloss); plaster-board and woodchip type wallpapers; glue; timber for framing purposes; floor-coverings (cushion flooring and carpets); curtains; curtain-track; coat-hooks; pinboards.

Exterior: Equipment to move earth and flatten the ground at the rear; turf; slabs; gravel; shrubs; heathers; small fencing and gate; trees.

Most of all people willing to help and give their services to this worthwhile cause.

We appreciate that this list is extensive but as you can see we have plans to make the Church Rooms an asset all Ratby people can be proud of. It is also important to note that next August the Church Rooms will be exactly 100 years old, so instead of 'Challenge Anneka' lets have 'Challenge Ratby'. **We have just under a year**

If you can help in any way, please contact either ourselves, or members of the Church Council.

Yours in Christ

Alan Spencer,
 Churchwarden for Ratby Parish Church

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Dear Editor,

With regard to letter in last months W.O.T.

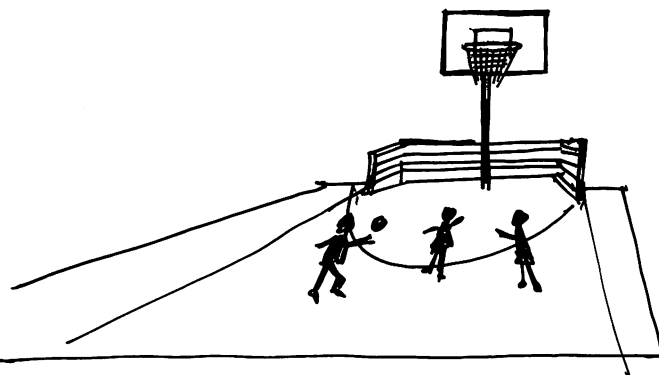
I strongly object to Calverton Close being mentioned as a place for children to play, the green outside our houses is not a Play Area and I feel people may get the wrong idea and start sending their children down to Calverton to play.

The point I cannot object to is the estate being called Sleepy and Peaceful, if this is the case then I am grateful for it.

We have managed for many years without bus's coming through the estate and I do not see why they should start now. There is a Bus-stop at the top of the estate and one close to the bottom, I know people especially elderly who have a lot further to walk when getting off a bus.

I feel the least amount of traffic running through Danehill the better considering the number of children on the estate.

Name & address supplied.



Dear Editor,

Please could you tell us why the tennis courts have been turned into **ANOTHER** football pitch down at Ferndale Drive Park. Now there are three football pitches and not one basket ball net. It wouldn't hurt just to put a couple of nets and backboards at each end instead of more **FOOTBALL PITCHES**.

Nick Gray, Job Mobbs, Hetam Jethwa,
 Gary Ford, Kevin Shaw, Liam Sargent,
 Nick Robinson

And probably the whole of Brookvale High School!

Ratby Parish Council knows that there is a great interest in basket ball. We are waiting for information about **strong nets** - the sort you may have seen in the film "White men can't jump".

TO SEEK THE PAST

There are hundreds of different classes of records that are open to the scrutiny of the family historian. However, one of the most important of these are the census returns. We are all familiar with the census. Yes, the questionnaire that asks about you and your family; the one that we fill out every ten years.

The first census to be taken in England was in the year 1891. That census was limited in scope, it was something of a statistical assessment of how many people lived in the hamlets, villages and the great towns and cities of the nation something which has remained the essence of the need for a census to this day.

It was not until 1841 that the census enumerators, those who travelled in village and parish collecting data, were required to record the names of individuals - men, women and children. Enumerators also recorded other details, principally the nature of a person's employment - basket maker, weaver, farmer, solicitor, etc. By the time of the 1851 census the details recorded had become more complex in scope. Accurate ages were expected to be assessed of each person in a household. The relationship of each person in a dwelling to the head of the house was supposed to be recorded. Also, very importantly from the point of view of the family historian, the parish or place where a person was said to have been born was recorded.

It is therefore clear that the census enumerators had to reach very private details about individuals and their families. Because of the personal nature of the information that was expected to be supplied, the government gave an undertaking that the census details would remain closed to public scrutiny for one hundred years. On this basis the latest census that is presently available is that taken in the year 1891. A typical entry from that census reveals the following type of information:-

1891 Census (Public Record Office Reference RG12/25071)

Ratby, folio 133, entry 134.

Stamford Street. 1 Inhabited House.

William Jordan	Head	married	21	Stone Quarryman
Leicester Ratby				
Eliza Jordan	Wife	married	22	Framework knitter
Leicester Ratby				
John Foulds	Uncle	single	40	Quarryman Stone
Leicester Ratby				
Eliza Foulds	Grand Mother	widow	71	Retired
Dressmaker Leicester Ratby				
Percy Jordan	Son	4 months		Leicester Ratby

As can be seen the names of all of those living in a house on the night of the census are given, together with their

relationships, marital status, ages, etc. Also, recorded but not shown in this example are details of whether the individuals were employers or employed. Physical disabilities of individuals were also often given, such as blind, lame or dumb.

The detailed recorded in a census can be used to pin point the parish where a person was born. This allows one to use the records of that parish to build up a greater picture of the person's life. The surnames mentioned in a census can lead a researcher into new realms of study. Of course, one has to have an indication that a person was living in a particular parish at a certain point in time for a search of masses of census returns for an individual person could be a lifetime's work. It is therefore fortunate that the various family history societies in Great Britain have compiled indexes of some of the returns. The Leicestershire and Rutland Family History Society has produced a number of index booklets of the 1851 census. The first in the series, volume 1, is an index of the Ibstock Sub-District of Market Bosworth, the area in which Ratby lay. Copies of these indexes are now to be found in some of the libraries around the county, although copies of the returns themselves, together with indexes of course, are held in the County Record Office at Wigston.

Census returns for other parts of the country are normally held by the respective

county record offices. However, copies of the returns and, indeed, the original documents are held for the country as a whole by the Public Record Office in London.

The details recorded in a census should always be treated with a certain amount of care, if not suspicion. The ages of older people are often exaggerated. Whilst women often lied about their true age. Sometimes one may find that the details given were utterly misleading, often, in particular, an individual may have presupposed their place of birth.

Despite the drawbacks of the census, which are usually explained in greater detail in family history publications, the census allows us to glimpse something of the life of our forebears in a snippet of distant time. In fact, for a village like Ratby the make-up and status of the whole community can be explained. A fascinating undertaking in itself.

QUERY DESK

My grandfather was a policeman in the Leicester Police Force. Are any police records available?

The simple answer is yes. However, the questioner failed to specify whether her grandfather was in the Borough or County Constabulary. However, since the two forces combined to form a single force the records were and are maintained by the Leicestershire Constabulary. Many of the force records have now been transferred into the safe keeping of the County Record Office, Wigston, which is where the initial enquiry should be placed. Of course, later records may still be in the custody of the force. In which case a letter should be addressed to the force historian, Police Headquarters, Enderby.

Police Records, like any public records may be covered by periods of closure, especially where personal details are concerned. It is often necessary, therefore, to express the particular nature of one's enquiry.

Mark



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WARNING ABOUT BOGUS 'RAG MAGS'

Beware of bogus fundraisers selling 'rag-style' magazines.

Complaints have been received about collectors in Leicester posing as students who pretend to run official 'rag-mag' collections for charitable purposes but in fact are retaining much, if not all, of the money for private profit.

The term 'Rag Mag' has never been legally defined, it is a term generally understood to mean a magazine produced by students for charitable purposes. However, complaints have been received that a few businesses operating nationally are cashing in by using collectors posing as students to sell rag style magazines for their own gain.

If you are approached by a collector who appears in any way suspicious you are advised to-

- * Ask for the person's Street Collectors or House to House Collectors licence.
- * Ask which charity will benefit from the sale of the magazine and how much will be donated.

You are advised not to give to collectors who don't have a sealed collecting box.

DANGEROUS BEAD NECKLACES

Leicestershire County Council's Trading Standards Department is warning people who may have purchased Guatemalan bead necklaces from local Oxfam shops to immediately return them.

The necklaces are about 18 inches (45 cm) long and are made of a variety of different seeds, a few of which are castor seeds which contain a toxic substance, ricin. These particular seeds are oval, approximately quarter of an inch (6 mm) long and are of various colours with a mottled appearance. Each necklace bore a ticket with the number 35890 and retailed for 75p.

The department are concerned that some people who may have purchased these beads are unaware of the potential danger. 35 such necklaces have been purchased from shops in Leicestershire and several are still unaccounted for. Anybody who has purchased a necklace of the type described should return it without delay to either their local shop, where their money will be refunded, or to Leslie Durham, Oxfam's Customer Services Manager at 274 Banbury Road, Oxford, OX2 702, enclosing their name and address when a refund will be sent to them".



photo by Sylvia Grant

Introducing the new Headteacher at Ratby County Primary School

Mrs. Glenys Lewis has taken up the appointment of Headteacher at Ratby County Primary School. She was formerly the Headteacher at Gaddesby Primary School.

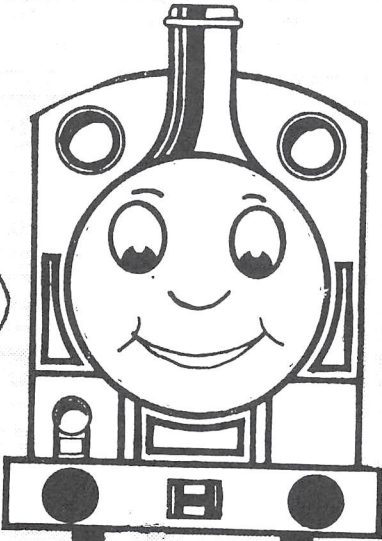
I am sure everyone will join us in wishing her much success and happiness in her new post.

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The Brook - August 1953

We squished and squelched in mud-green wellies,
Hands plunging deep to form the
Mound of mud which built our dam.
A surge of rippling water gathered,
Revealing sticklebacks and broad bullheads
To our gleam-gilled, glinty eyes.

"The nets, Jackie, the nets"
You whispered, afraid the sound would
Scare the silence - and the fish.

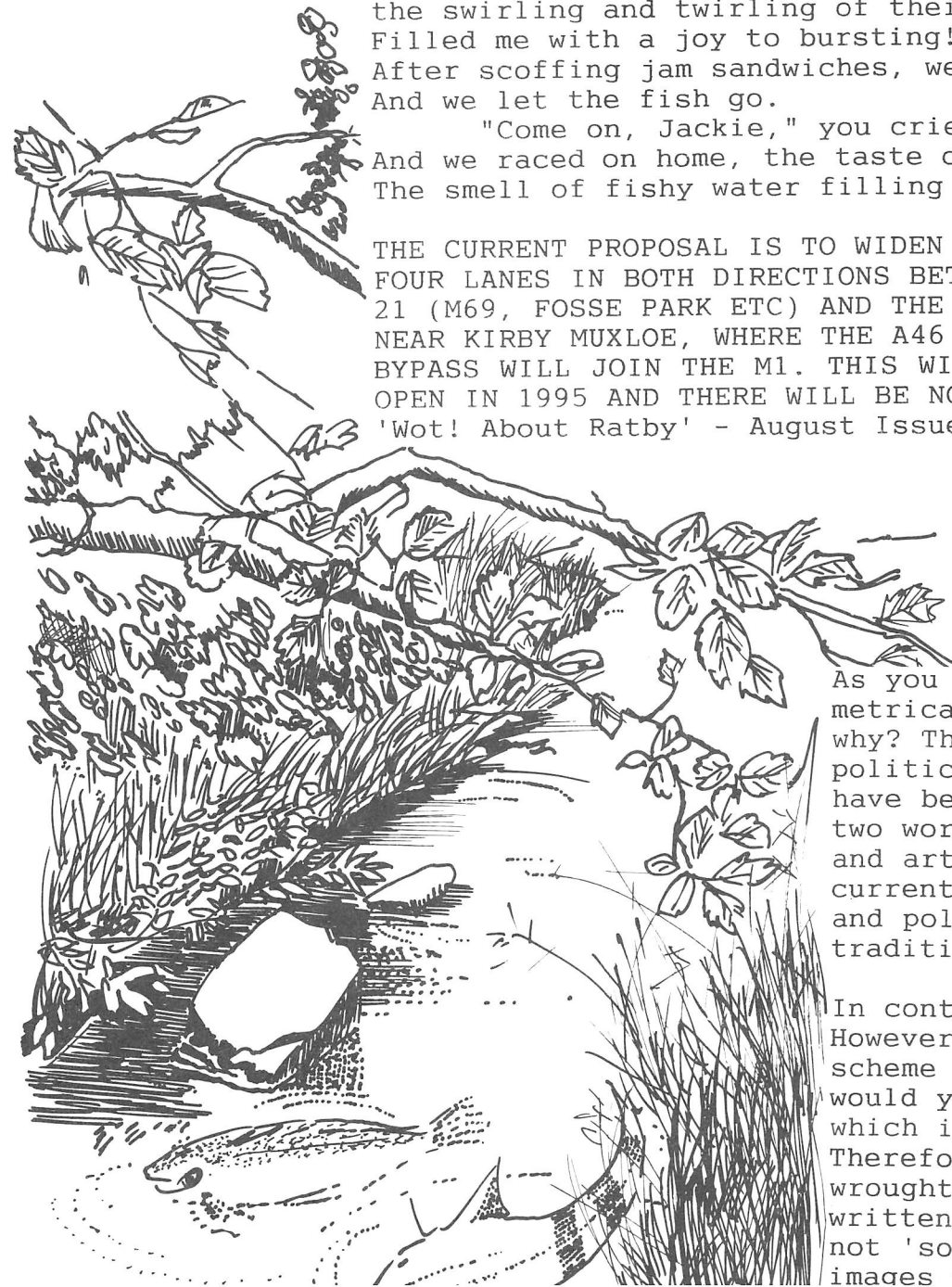
The string on the jam-jar hung, too long,
And fishy water sloshed over my new cream cardi.

"Aw, no, me mam'll kill me."
But I didn't care. The sight of those fish -
the rainbow shades of orange and bricky-red belly,
the swirling and twirling of their courtship dance -
Filled me with a joy to bursting!
After scoffing jam sandwiches, we pulled down the dam
And we let the fish go.

"Come on, Jackie," you cried, "Let's go."
And we raced on home, the taste of strawberries oozing -
The smell of fishy water filling our flying hair.

THE CURRENT PROPOSAL IS TO WIDEN THE MOTORWAY TO
FOUR LANES IN BOTH DIRECTIONS BETWEEN JUNCTION
21 (M69, FOSSE PARK ETC) AND THE NEW JUNCTION 21A
NEAR KIRBY MUXLOE, WHERE THE A46 LEICESTER WESTERN
BYPASS WILL JOIN THE M1. THIS WIDENING IS PLANNED TO BE
OPEN IN 1995 AND THERE WILL BE NO PUBLIC ENQUIRY.

'Wot! About Ratby' - August Issue 1993



The Tide - August 1993

Already, the new junction invades.
Beside gigantic graves, burial mounds of
Sludge heap the landscape.
Concrete dams and galvanised cages form the foundations for a
Stream of belching cars and pounding juggernauts.

"....and there will be no public enquiry."
Great shark-toothed excavators
Twist and tear at the earth's flesh,
While discarded tree-trunks abandon themselves to
Ash.

"....and there will be no public enquiry."
Rain pummels down on the tin helmets of the
Trudging workforce. It trembles in the
Din of a thousand engines - grinding, whining, never-
Dying.
Kato cranes chug round; their ladder-like arms reach up to the
Leaden, bursting sky. Still, the rain pelts down.
Sludge-bellied cars head on home - windscreen wipers
Frantic.

Upstream, his infested skin oozing with open ulcers,
A listless bullhead shifts against the endless tide of
Concrete.

DURING THE LAST SIXTY YEARS, ONE FIFTH OF THE LEICESTERSHIRE
COUNTRYSIDE HAS BEEN URBANISED. AT THIS CURRENT LEVEL OF
DEVELOPMENT, EXPERTS PREDICT THAT BY THE YEAR 2253, THE
WHOLE OF THE COUNTY WILL BE ONE HOMOGENEOUS, URBANISED
SPRAWL. THERE WILL BE NO PUBLIC ENQUIRY.

'Wot! About Ratby' - August Issue 2053

Is this Poetry?

As you will observe, these poems do not conform to traditional, metrical patterns and conventional rhyme schemes. You might ask why? The last two centuries have brought about vast social, political and economic change. The predominant causes of which, have been industrialisation, rapid technological advance and the two world wars. In the social context of these changes, poets and artists have had to find new forms and ways of expressing current concerns and issues. Thus, poetry became more socially and politically orientated and broke free from the literary traditions of its earlier stages of development.

In contemporary times, there are few 'rules' about writing poetry. However, the form of the poem (metre, style of language, rhyme scheme etc.) should support or enlighten its theme. For example, would you expect to read a poem about the stark realities of war which is written in lilting, melodious style? Therefore, my poems, which attempt to evoke the devastation wrought by the ever-advancing industrial machine, are mainly written without metrical melody and harmonious sounds. They are not 'songs' of celebration but metaphorical and realistic images which evoke my concerns for our changing way of life.



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" " "	£60,000	"	£96.00
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" " "	£15,000	"	£60.00
" " "	£18,000	"	£72.00

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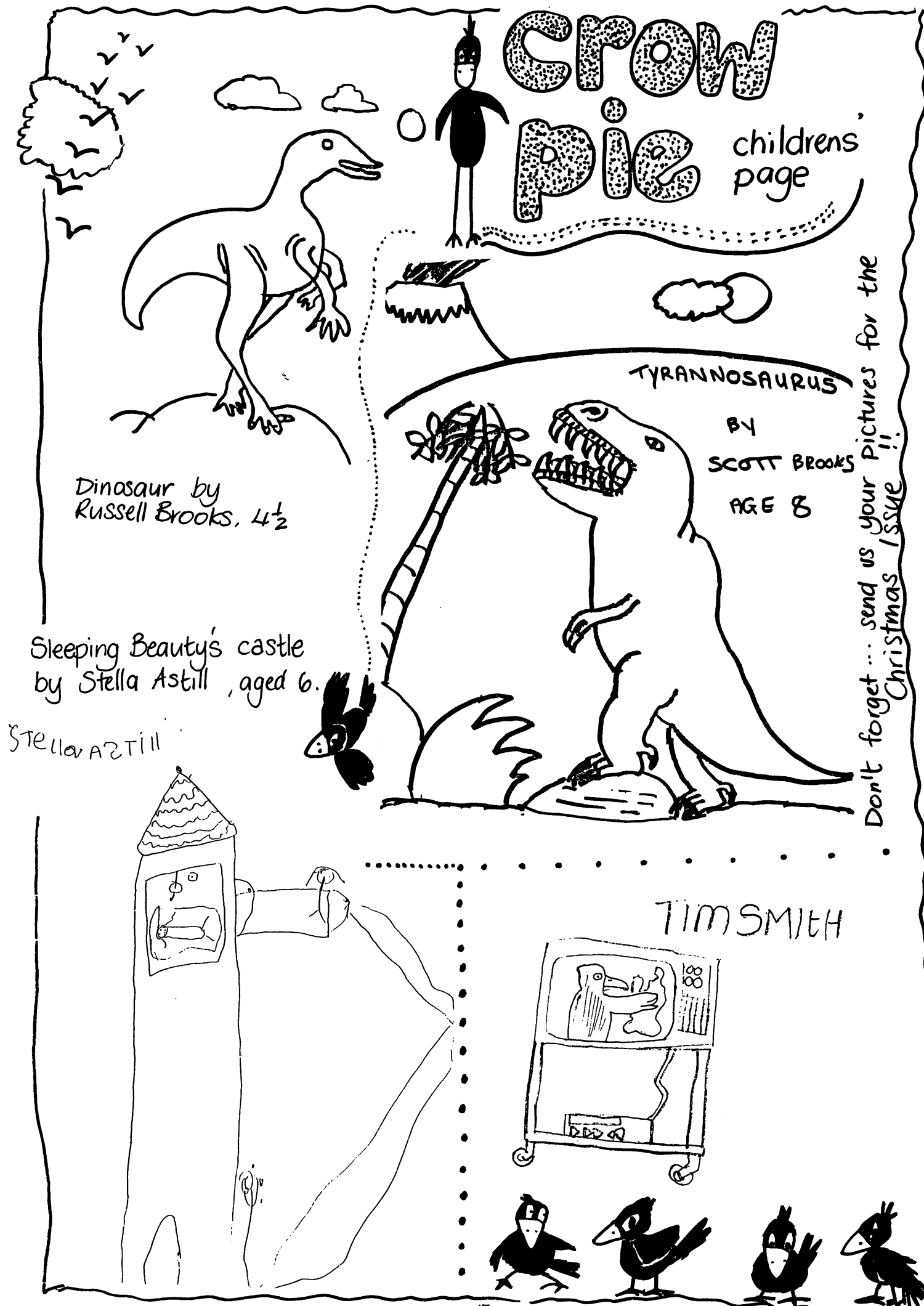
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WHITE & BROWN COBS and ROLLS & TWINNIES
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Ratby Parish Council

Fields between Sacheverell Way and the M1

Councillors and members of the public have been dismayed at extensive hedge removal work in this area of Ratby Parish, in one case making a public footpath impossible to follow. At present there is no legislation available to protect hedgerows, though the Government is considering this.

The hedges removed were more than ten feet tall, and believed to be more than a thousand years old. Areas of pasture land have been ploughed up - apparently for agricultural use, and drainage ditches formed or cleared out.

Footpaths Inspectors and Hedgerow Project Officers of the County Council have been contacted, and our MP has been urged to support the Hedgerow Protection Bill.

Recycling Facilities

Bottle banks have now been installed in the car park at Ratby Sports Club, with a wire cage litter bin for bags and boxes used to transport bottles. It is hoped that a paper bank and can recycling facilities will follow. The Borough Council have asked us to help publicise the correct use of the

facilities, as contamination could leave the whole container unsuitable for recycling.



Bottle Banks

1. These are for glass bottles and jars only. Plastic bottles are not to be put into the bottle banks.
2. Remove bottle caps and corks or jar tops, put these in the dustbin at home or in the waste basket on site.
3. Use the correct bank for the correct glass colour i.e. brown = brown glass, green = green glass, white = clear glass.
4. In the unlikely event of a bank being full, place any bottles of that colour on the ground or take them home, do not put them into a different coloured bank.
5. None of the following should be put into bottle banks:

Mirror or window glass, pyrex cookware, drinking glasses, metals, ceramic wares (e.g. cups) or litter.

Ratby Parish Council

Paper banks

1. These are for newspapers and magazines only.
2. None of the following should be put into paper banks: telephone directories, catalogue books, cardboard, envelopes or other gummed paper, litter or plastics.

The co-operation of the Sports Club is much appreciated, and it is hoped that residents will make full use of the facility, and help keep the area clean and tidy.

Wild Flower Meadow

Work has commenced in this area of Ferndale Drive recreation ground. Mound areas will be created and landscaped. An all-weather path (through this often wet land) will be created and improvements made to the ford. The existing bridge will provide access for pushchairs and those not able to hop over stepping stones!

Hedge laying work and additional tree planting will also take place over the winter. The works will naturally take sometime to mature, but within a couple of years should enhance the area.

Play Equipment

An order has been placed for a new

Ratby Fish Bar

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---	--

roundabout, with safety surfacing around, to be installed at Ferndale Drive at a cost of £3,588 + V.A.T. Also the redundant tarmac slide base is to be removed and the area turfed.

War Memorial

Cleaning of the memorial should be completed before Remembrance Sunday parades. Experts have advised against replacing the angel's damaged finger, so it is to be rounded off to resemble a knuckle.

Summer Front Gardens Competition

Winners were presented with their awards at the September Parish Council Meeting, and congratulated by the Chairman, Mr Charles Rogers.

1st prize: Mr and Mrs Woolley, 4 East Walk
2nd prize: Mr and Mrs Saunt, 9 Calverton Close
3rd prize: Mr and Mrs Baillie, 3 Mill Drive

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EASY PARKING



Left to right are Mr Woolley, Mrs Woolley, Charles Rogers, Mr Saunt, Mrs. Saunt & Mrs Baillie

1. BALL, M.T. (1980) - Evidence given to the Inspector for the Minister of the Environment during the Public Inquiry into the status of the R49 Bridleway in Ratby.
2. Chartes Rental (Bodley, M.S., Land 625).
3. C.P.R. 1307-13, P. 323
4. A. Hamilton Thompson, The Building Accounts of Kirby Muxloe Castle pp. 193-345. T.LAS vol 11
5. L.R.O. - Greys Papers VIII, 6/1-2, Box 7, original bundle 25/Holywell Farm

NEW PROGRAMME NOW AVAILABLE

The Career Credits Programme is now available at Leicester South Fields College.

The programme which is the first of its kind in the County is offered at 4 levels. Level 1 is a basic skills level, Level 2 an every day standard, Level 3 is equivalent to GCSE and Level 4 equates to A level. Subject areas offered are: English, Maths, Study Skills, Art Portfolio. There is also opportunity to gain an Access certificate, through a planned programme of study, for entry into Higher Education.

The programme is specifically tailored to the needs of adults in that anyone can come along at any stage in the academic year and start the programme. There is no time limit to the programme and no end exam. It is quite simply a method of learning whereby you are continuously assessed in workshop environment. As the student completes each module of learning they gain a credit.

Completion of the programme has helped adult students to brush up on their skills and gain

confidence which, in turn, has helped them to gain entry to other courses as well as helping to improve their job prospects.

Any adults wishing to gain the benefits of the Careers Credit Programme should contact Christine Palmer at Leicester South Fields College on Leicester 653139.

Buses

Buses on Danehill


Leicester City Bus have suggested that it might be possible to re-route one or two journeys a day of the 254, Coalville/Leicester bus to run along Danehill.

Any views on this? Write to the Parish Council.

Circular Route

City Bus will be running extra services on the anti-clockwise route, from October 4th onwards.

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LUTON AIRPORT	£31	CROMER	£68

COMPACT AND BIJOU THE PROPERTY MISDESCRIPTIONS ACT

This Act has come into force to protect house purchasers from false and misleading property descriptions.

Estate agency and property development businesses will have the same legal duty to use truthful descriptions as sellers of everyday goods and services.

This new law will control statements about the property itself such as size of rooms, fixtures and fittings, treatments and repairs such as damp proof courses and rewiring, its location, its outlook and even its new Council Tax payment. It also applies to the description of any nearby services or amenities such as shops, schools or leisure centres and to the proximity of those services.

Unsafe Child Locks

Child safety window locks made in West Sussex are being recalled nationwide. Tests carried out for Trading Standards Officers revealed that the locks break when subjected to forces which a three year old child could exert.

The locks, made of white plastic and selling for around £3 per pair, are made by Hago Products Ltd, of Bognor Regis, West Sussex. They are bubble-packed onto a card marked 'HAGO', 'WINDOW LOCK', 'REF.351'. They are designed to allow ventilation but restrict window opening. Some have been distributed and sold in Leicestershire.

The locks may be returned to Hago for free, metal window locks. Alternatively, buyers may return them to the shop where they bought them for a refund. Anyone requiring further help or info. should contact the Trading Standards Duty Officer at the County Council Service Shop, 2-4 Market Place South, Leicester. Tel. Leicester 514415

Some recent examples of potentially misleading statements that could be covered by this new Act include:-

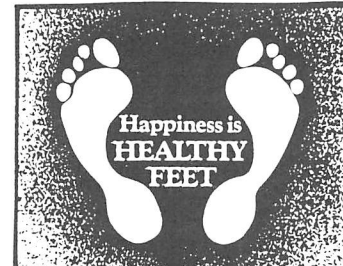
1. "Virtually Maintenance Free to the Exterior"
(the estate agent probably only meant the woodwork but what about guttering, slates etc.)
2. A photograph of a house which had been retouched to remove the gasholder that was clearly visible from the backgarden.
3. "Situated on Quiet Cul-de-Sac"
(this statement was literally true but failed to state that a busy dual-carriageway ran at the end of the backgarden!).
4. "Tranquil and Secluded Gardens"
(overlooked by at least three nearby properties).
5. One Third of an Acre Garden"
(stated by a chartered surveyor to be no more than 1/4 acre).

If you feel that you have been misled please contact the trading Standards Dept: on Leicester 514415.

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ROVER'S RETURN

Since the last issue I have received another letter from Mr Stan Marvin the main sections of which read as follows:-

"I was glad to receive your August issue and see my ancient memories in print. I wonder whether there are any other 'oldies' around who would be reminded of other old names and old times? I have been reminded already that I made one mistake. The name of the Postmistress was Concannon, not Duncannon.

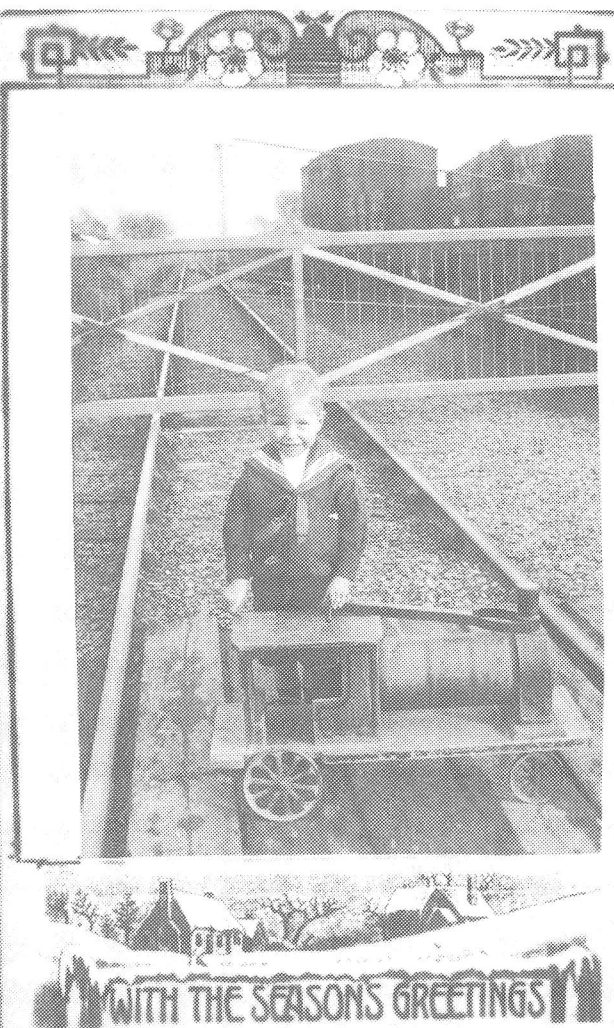
I must congratulate you on your 'Wot! about Ratby' which is a very readable magazine, bright and breezy - surely a great asset to the village. As a bit of a botanist myself I also appreciate Janet's Jottings(passed on to Janet).... May I also offer my congratulations on their recent marriage."

Mr Marvin also kindly asked for a botanical book to be passed on to Janet which is awaiting her return from honeymoon. I am sure it will be much appreciated.

As a result of our article a distant relative has also been put in touch with Mr Marvin who has tried to help with details of family history.

"I find Hubert Sutton's 'Life Story' in one issue absorbing. I am sure I remember him," continued Mr Marvin.

My wife and I were also able to welcome Mr and Mrs Marvin and a friend, Barry, who was kind enough



MR STAN MARVIN ON THE CROSSING

the exact date by the time this is published.

Local history is probably the most eagerly read subject in Wot! and I am sure that, over a period, Mr Marvin will recount a few stories of his youth in Ratby. I for one hope so.

It's amazing where Wot! gets to, and, Wot! happens as a result of an article appearing.

Here's to the next visit.

Martin

FOOTNOTE

Jotting Janet and John's wedding was the first in the 95 year history of the church. Will the register be known as the 'Janet & John' book. If you know what I mean, you are old.

to drive them, to the village over lunch in the Railway Inn. We thoroughly enjoyed the time spent together looking at old photo's etc. Unfortunately Mick and Jacqui Thornton were on holiday, as were one or two others who would have otherwise joined us. All is not lost however as Everards are offering to provide transport for a return to the Inn soon, and I am sure the Thornton's welcome will be a very warm one. Perhaps we will be able to find a few locals who do remember Mr Marvin and his family from 1922 or earlier to join us all. Please phone 395179 if you do. I should have been able to fix



V.E. DAY CHILDREN'S PARTY

You may recall the photograph, in issue 40, of the V.E. Day children's party held in Markfield Lane. This photograph, kindly loaned by Mr Barratt of Whittington Drive is of the other half of the party.

He recalls that the tables were loaned from the Bulls Head and that the houses in the background could only have been about six years old at that time.

Pictured here are:

Back row, left to right

Arthur Wood, Arnold Geary, Tough Un, Francis Parker, Mrs Plumb, Sid Devereaux, Sheila Bennet, Mrs Tomlinson, Connie Jordan, Mrs Ball, Mrs Bennet, Gert Lee.

Middle row, left to right

Rita Bingley, Sheila Brown, Bet Joyce, Ivy Plant, Iris Lissaman, Janet Plant?, Sheila Ball, Don't know, Rosie Toon, Marjorie Ball?, Jill Ball?

Front row, left to right
Don't know, Eric Timson, Sonny Mott, Colin Joyce, Terry Reynolds, Johnny Johnson, Edward Wood

If anyone can fill in the blanks, please let us know.



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My Experience at Arbury Hall

I have now lived in Ratby for over 50 years but during the 1930's I was "in service" at Arbury Hall in Nuneaton, you may be interested in my life at that time.

Living in Burton, my first step to obtaining a position was to put my name on a Registry book for "Domestic Service" as Mother called it. This cost 2/6 (12½p).

After a few days we heard from the agency that there was a vacancy at Arbury Hall. The Dowager, Lady Burton, was friendly with the agency and recommended it to Lady Newgate at Arbury Hall. So I was sent by train to Nuneaton where I was met at the railway station by a Chauffeur and a Lady's Maid who took me to the stately home.

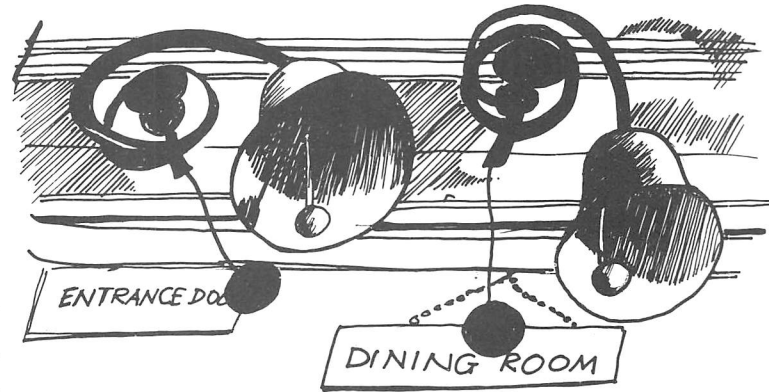
Next morning I met the lovely Lady Newgate on the back stairs, she asked if I was the new little girl from Burton, I answered, "yes Madame", she then said she hoped I would be happy there to which I replied "thanks Madame". She definitely was a lady!

A little while later I met the housekeeper, a tall Scot, with a long black dress plus a belt full of keys around her waist. She said "I hear you have met her ladyship so in the future you will say, "yes my lady" whenever she speaks to you.

I didn't speak to the Lady very often, except every other Sunday when the staff took turns to go to church all together in the big car. This meant Sir Francis, the Lady, the housekeeper or the Lady's maid, cook and a housemaid plus sometimes a kitchen maid.

Each morning the butler walked the hall ringing a bell for prayers. Upon hearing the bell we had to put on a clean apron and tidy ourselves up, to walk into the chapel. Sir Francis read a short lesson, we sang a hymn, said prayers then went back to work.

By the time of prayers, being a housemaid, I had already woken up the head housemaid at 6am with a cup of tea, the water for which had to be boiled in a large kettle on a stick fire in



the servants room. More often than not, the sticks were damp and "Marianne" was denied her early cup of tea. She would tell off the hall boy for not putting the sticks behind the radiator soon enough.

My next morning job before chapel was to clean the chapel, as there was no electricity in those days, I had to light two candles on the organ which I used to have a tinkle on. It wasn't heard upstairs as there were about four stories above the chapel.

One morning I awoke early, got dressed, went along to the maid's room - to be shocked at the time it was something past 2am. So I hurried back to my room in case I met Lady Jane Grey who was supposed to haunt the hall.

I hoped that the young grandson of Sir Francis wasn't awake as I had to pass his room - he would probably think that I was the ghost!

The dining room was elegant, one whole side was large windows looking out onto a waterfall. The hounds met there once, it was a lovely sight with the red coated huntsmen, snow and the waterfall.

The fire place was very large with life size figures of Adam and Eve, over head - two footmen had to clean these at spring cleaning time. (The fig leaves are still in place though!) Sir Francis had the pair given to him when he was Governor of Australia.

On Marianne's, the head housemaids, ½ day off, I had to help the second housemaid to draw curtains and turn down the beds in the main bedrooms which were off the gallery. It was very spooky walking in the moonlight with suits of armour all around.

Legend has it that on the main drive of the hall there was a very old oak tree which, "housed" Lady Jane's father when the Roundheads were looking for him.

One member of the staff told the soldiers to watch for a little dog carrying food in a basket for his master. The dog duly went to the tree, so of course the soldiers found him.

Another story is of soldiers tickling a baby to death in a room above the gallery and this put a curse on the family and that they would have no boys - the family had only two daughters.

Marjorie

EDUCATION ADVICE AND INFORMATION

Parents seeking advice and information about their children's education can visit or telephone Leicestershire Education Department's Parent Officer. If parents experience difficulties at any stage of their children's education, Lea Bedford, Leicestershire's Parent Officer will be happy to help. Whilst most problems can be sorted out by the school there are occasions when it is useful to talk the problem through with someone who is not directly involved. The service is completely confidential.

Educational issues which cause concern parents most concern are:

- Bullying
- Special educational needs
- Allocation of school places
- Student grants

Many people also call for information on:

- Adult Education
- Free School Meals
- School Transport
- Further Education

The Parent Officer is based at

The County Council Service Shop
2-4 Market Place South
Leicester
LB1 5HB

Telephone 0533 511222

The Service Shop is open from 9.30 to 5.30 on weekdays and 8.30 to 1 o'clock on Saturday.

ADVICE ON NEW-STYLE CREDIT AGREEMENTS

Leicestershire County Council's Trading Standards Department has issued advice to people who are thinking about buying a new car on credit terms.

We are currently in the middle of the busiest period for new car sales. This year many of the major car manufacturers are offering a new style of credit to consumers. These schemes, which are being promoted under a variety of names including 'Options', 'Choices' and 'Select', are a development of lease-purchase schemes which have been available to business users for many years.

These new credit schemes often look cheaper than conventional Hire-Purchase agreements. However, these new agreements are complex and consumers should make sure they understand all of the terms before signing up.

Sound advice to any consumer who is thinking about buying a new car using one of these finance agreements is to first obtain a leaflet about the scheme then ask the dealer about any charges that you are unclear about, e.g. excess mileage and final balloon payments, and to ask for a full written quotation, which the dealer must provide by law within a reasonable period.



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