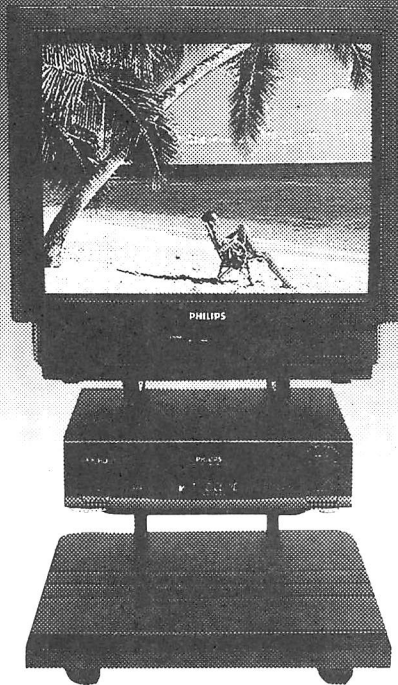
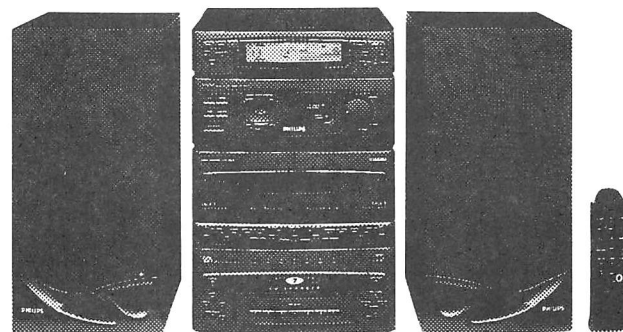


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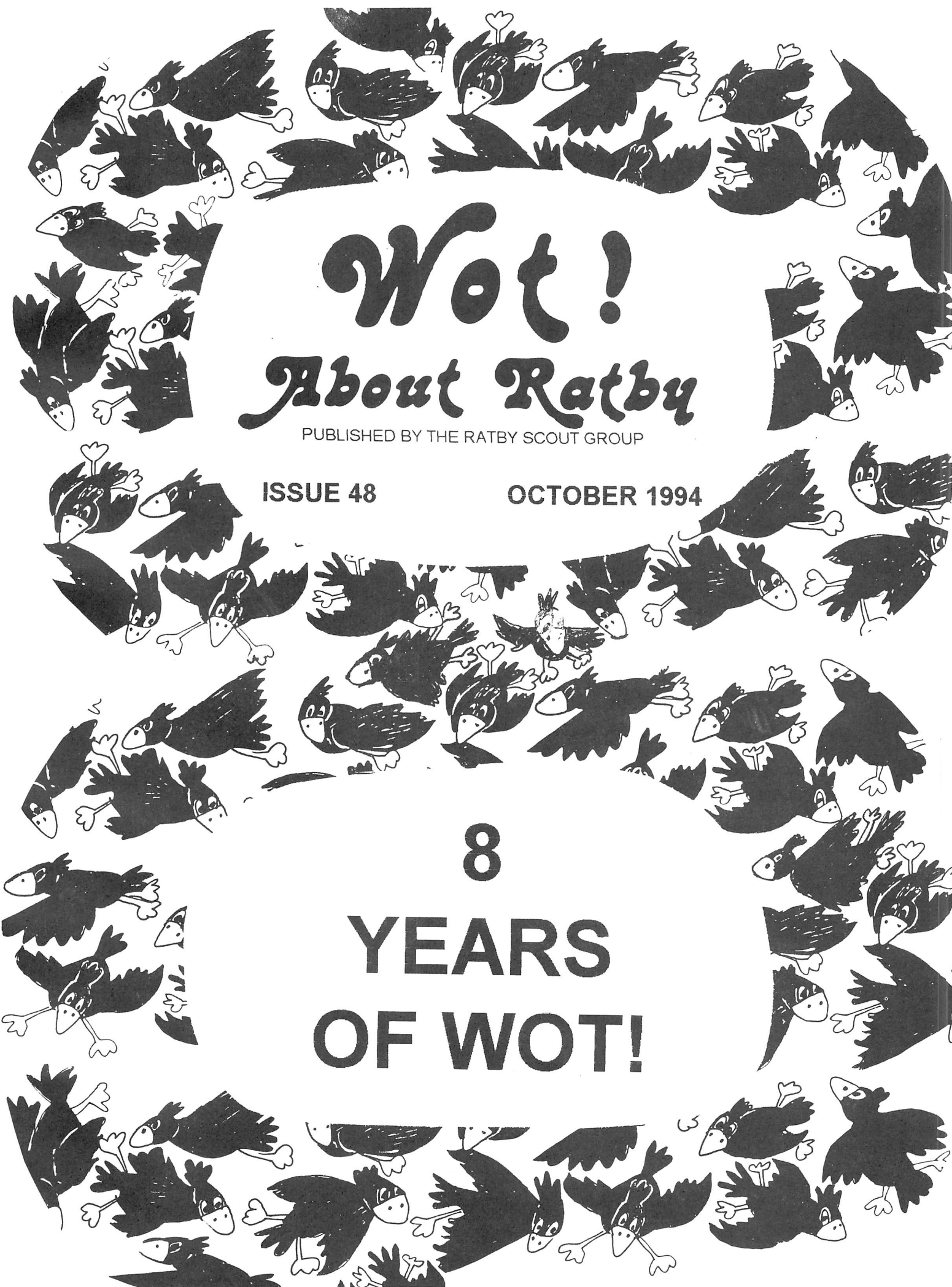


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PHILIPS



Wot! *About Ratby*

PUBLISHED BY THE RATBY SCOUT GROUP

ISSUE 48

OCTOBER 1994

8 YEARS OF WOT!

Ratby Village Society

It is salutary sometimes to be challenged, or even shamed, into realising that one does not do enough for deserving charities. (This cannot be levelled at the Ratby Village Society which certainly does its share!).

At the end of the August meeting members were full of admiration for what Mr Barry Meades had achieved in not only completing the 26 miles of the London Marathon at the first attempt but in what he had raised to help the 'Rainbows Hospice for Children' fund.

His compelling reason for taking on such a daunting task was to honour the memory of his son who had died at the age of 18. Having had no previous running experience he joined the Huncote Harriers for training which was more demanding than he had imagined and he began to wonder why he had started at all.

The original target was to raise £1,000 but his friends started seeking sponsors for £2,000; after that there was no turning back. Each year some 2,400 runners are selected from applications for several thousand more than this so that there is no guarantee of a place on the starting line. The race for which he had applied was to be held, appropriately, on the first anniversary of his son's death, so it was with bitter disappointment that he learned that he had not been accepted. His story had been given publicity in the Leicester Mercury which had a Marathon entry in its own right and they magnanimously gave their place to him. Consequently his allotted number was way down in the 3500's which he wore with pride on his COPE tee-shirt.

The highest numbers are reserved for the professional runners who are allotted 'pole position on the grid' and so start on time. Barry Meades did not even cross the starting line until nine minutes after the front runners!

His greatest memories are of the spontaneous friendliness and support

engendered between the competitors, of the assistance given by those who administered Ralgex to alleviate cramp en route and of the tremendous encouragement by the throngs of spectators lining the roads.

Towards the end of the course fatigue of body and mind had set in with the feeling that he had become a remote-controlled robot. After crossing the finishing line his legs automatically kept on going! He had the satisfaction of knowing that he had done what he had set out to do, but more than that he raised well in excess of £4,000!

The October meeting will be held in the Welfare Hall at 8 p.m. on Tuesday 18th when the subject will be "Some Recent Archaeological Excavations in Leicester" by Mr Richard Buckley.

On November 15 the meeting will be held in the Methodist School Rooms, Chapel Lane at 8 p.m. This will take the form of a Village Quiz between the RVS, the Ratby Women's Institute and the Methodist Monday Circle. The Quizmaster will be the former Head of Ratby Primary School, Mr Peter Smith, and the proceeds will go to Charity.

Visitors are always welcome to meetings.

Horace Gamble



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Pumpkin-Marrow Show

In the April edition of W.O.T., the idea of such a competition was floated. In the event, thirty-eight folk took up the challenge to donate a pound coin and attempt the grow the biggest (or smallest) of either species.

Like justice, the wheels of fortune also grind exceedingly slow and almost six months later on Saturday October 8th at 11.00 am, in the Methodist Schoolroom "up the steps", the results will be judged by Mr Charles Rodgers, Chairman of our Parish Council. The small profits of the competition will be shared by Methodist, Brownies and Cubs.

You don't need to have been a competitor just to come and have a look and perhaps a giggle, for we warmly invite you to do just that. No charge and we will be pleased to give you a cup of coffee just for the pleasure of your company.

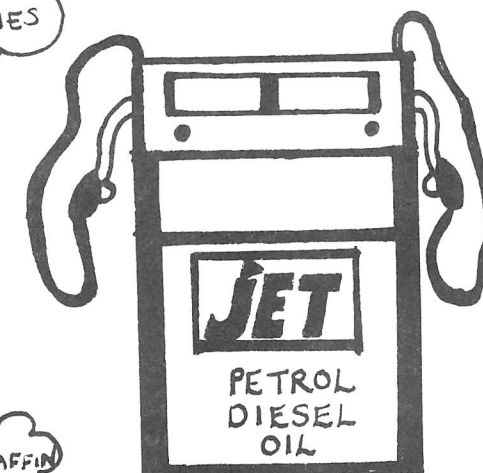
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Dear Editor,

I have been repairing domestic appliances in Ratby for 35 years and have advertised in your excellent Ratby WOT since the first edition, I would recommend it to any small business.

I have now retired and wish to thank the people of Ratby for their support and custom over the years.

I have never known a village to be so popular and friendly to strangers and newcomers alike. Every one is made welcome.

Although we live outside Ratby my wife and myself consider ourselves to be "locals".

I have thoroughly enjoyed working with you all. Thank you again.

Your faithfully,

Barry T Keymer.

Editors comment.

Thanks for the letter Mr Keymer, we have appreciated your support of WOT in all its issues. Thanks also for the kind comments regarding Ratby, certainly your services, attitude to life and reliability will be missed by many Ratby people. Have a good retirement, we hope to see you in the local hostelrys now and again.



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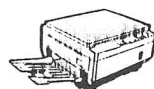
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"WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD"

This was the theme of the Flower Festival held in Ratby Methodist Church during the weekend of 23rd, 24th and 25th July and what a wonderful occasion it turned out to be.

Many hours of hard work were put in by all those who helped - those who selected, prepared and arranged the flowers so skilfully, those who worked in the kitchen producing a constant supply of refreshments and those who manned and stocked the various stalls. It all proved to be most worthwhile.

On entering the church, one was immediately struck by the colour, the fresh aroma and the effect of a room full of flowers. A closer inspection revealed the beauty and charm of the individual arrangements, each one quite different in content, style and over-all effect. I feel sure that every visitor must have come away feeling up-lifted and with some memories to treasure.

The money raised over the weekend reached the magnificent total of £1460 and as a church we sincerely thank all those who visited and supported our scheme, not only with money but also with their interest and encouragement.

We also thank the creator of our "Wonderful World" who produced the raw materials for our display, bestowed the gift of artistic talent on our flower-arrangers and supplied the strength and inspiration to all those who helped.

V.I.P.

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PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

SUMMER FRONT GARDEN COMPETITION

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

Mr Hartley of the Leicester Judges Guild commented that the overall standard was good, and the entrants compared well with those in other villages. Some gardens he had seen around Ratby, which were not nominated could, with a little more attention be prize winners.

The marking scheme allowed a maximum of:

- 25 points for general cultivation and cleanliness
- 15 points for layout and overall planting, including condition of lawns and paths
- 5 points for colour when judged
- 5 points for special features.

Mr Hartley also offered some additional advice which may be helpful:

Baskets and containers were generally of an excellent standard.

When choosing plants for borders, he suggested varying the heights of plants and their form - e.g.



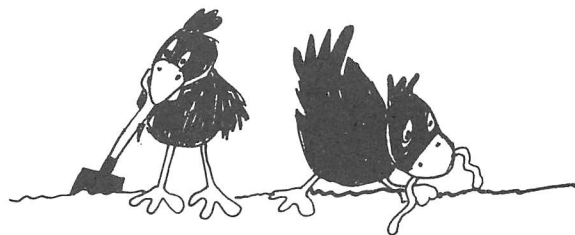
spiky, glossy, bushy. He recommends that borders should be fairly densely planted, some gardens were spoilt by too much bare earth. Clashing colours should be used with care.

Gardens should be well maintained, Several plants, particularly roses, were in need of dead-heading.

Lawns should be neatly edged and reasonably weed-free, though allowances are made for drought!

Don't forget the permanent planting, trees, shrubs and perennials.

9 Calverton Close, which took 3rd prize, was particularly pleasing, being different from the traditional lawn with borders which can look like a municipal park. Mr Hartley complimented this garden as being well designed, constructed and planted. The other prize winners he considered excellent, awarding them 40 and 39 points out of a maximum 50. A close run competition! The thunderstorms did not seem to affect the quality of gardens! Congratulations to the winners! Let's hope that you will feel inspired to enter next years competitions.



From left, Mr and Mrs Woolley, Councillor Michael Ball, Mrs Baillie, Mrs and Mr Saunt

Photo by Sylvia Grant

Ratby Parish Council

SUMMARY OF INSPECTORS' REPORT ON APPLICATION FOR FOUR DWELLINGS WITH ACCESS FROM CHAPEL LANE

The Inspector wrote, "The proposal has aroused numerous objections from neighbours, and I have given some weight to those which deal with the impact of the project on the conservation area."

He added that "The conservation area gets much of its character from the imposing and ancient retaining wall," and concluded that a large portion of this wall would have to be removed to achieve satisfactory access to the site, and noted that disturbance to the wall could result in similar consequences to the section of wall which had required pinning.

He further writes:

"I am also obliged to take into consideration the development plan for the area. Policy NE/ENV 8 of the adopted North Eastern Parish's local plan requires that proposals for development in the Ratby conservation area should be in harmony with and contribute to the established character of the conservation area."

The Inspector concludes that the impact on the ancient wall would contravene this requirement, although the impact of the dwellings themselves could be resolved through the use of appropriate materials and landscaping. He says that he would not have dismissed the appeal on the grounds of the erection of dwellings at the site.

He also dismisses objections from neighbours concerning the levels of traffic, and adds, "I note that highway safety was not given as a reason for refusing the application, and provided appropriate conditions were imposed, the highway authority raised no objections."

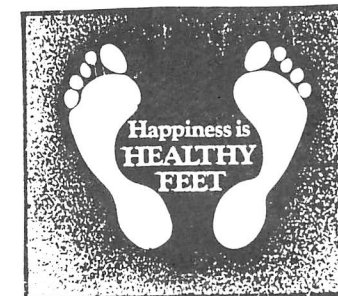
He finally reiterates his concern about the loss of the wall along Chapel Lane -

"I have given the issue of the wall much greater weight in my deliberations because of the significant and perceived contribution it makes to the quality of the immediate environment within this part of the conservation area."

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Yesteryear

The Rugby Match

In 1910, my father Tom Walton, a 19 year old Captain of Syston Street Old Boys Rugger Team was waiting for his team to play Premier Works Belgrave on Boxing Day morning. Only 8 old boy players turned up - no doubt they had celebrated Christmas too well - but Belgrave Premier were in full strength - 18 in all - that is 15 plus 3 reserves. Their factory boss TG Hunt was all set to win this match and clinch the title for the Alliance league.

Time to kick-off - still only 8 men on the Syston Street Old Boys side. Across the pitch strode T G Hunt - "I say Walton - it's time to start the match." "But we've only 8 men," said Tommy. "Will you let us have five of your men to make a decent game, - you can claim the points." "Oh no" said T G, "this must be played as it stands."

At this remark the Syston Street Old Boys gathered round my father. "Right Tommy - lets play 'em, we'll show them." My father considered these words and after reflection said "I'll kick off on one condition" "What's that Tommy? - What's that?" asked the team. Their Captain replied, "As soon as one of your opponents gets the ball, I want you all to stand still." "Agreed" they said. So the game started. When a Belgrave player received the ball, the Syston Street Old Boys stopped running and stood very still. The ball grounded under the posts and kick converted - and so it went on.

Half time score	Belgrave Premier	45
points	Syston St Old Boys	Nil

T G Hunt came up to my father white-faced with temper - "I say Watson - this is a farce!" "What did you expect" replied Tommy Watson. "Now can we have five of your players and make a decent game of Rugby this half?" "Oh very well" said T G Hunt.

The game finished on a better level to the players satisfaction on

	Belgrave Premier	60
points	Syston St Old Boys	32
points		

The Old Boys considered all round that they had won a Moral Victory.

*Thanks Les, another good one!
I've never played five short but with two short
I've been on the winning side.
(Any more rugby stories?)*

Editor



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October to November

The connection of apple trees with immortality is widespread. The Romans linked their Festival of 'Pomona' to the pagan Celtic Autumn Festivals.



The Wild Crab Apple

There are over 3000 named varieties of apple in cultivation, and they all originate from the wild crab apple. Try combining crab apples with blackberries, elderberries and even sloes for a delicious 'hedgerow jam'. Or make crab apple jelly. There are plenty of crab apples in our local hedgerows.

In Shakespeare's time crab apples were roasted, pulped and mixed with hot ale, sugar and spice to make a warming drink.

October

The word 'October' comes of course from the Latin 'Octo' meaning eight. It was the eighth month on the Roman calendar.

The Anglo Saxons called it 'win monath' or wine month.

If you were born in October popular tradition says that your lucky flowers are Dahlias, and your gemstone is Opal.

Ivy was traditionally associated with this month too, as was the boar, the beast of death.

November

This was the ninth month in the Roman Calendar, named from the Latin, 'novem'.

The Anglo Saxons called it 'wind monath' because it was the time when the cold winds began to blow.

Traditional November flower is the Chrysanthemum, and the gemstone is the Topaz.

Ancient traditions linked the 'reed' to November, and the Owl, which is most vocal on moonlit nights in this month.



The Seasons of the Year

The transition from October to November is marked by Halloween. Nowadays this night is associated with trick or treating, something we look forward to or dread, depending on our age. We think of trick or treat as a recent commercial activity imported from America, but its origins are far more ancient.

Beliefs and fears associated with this time were taken with them by emigrants to America. Masks were once worn to scare evil spirits, as was the tradition of going from door to door by torchlight.

The Celts regarded November 1st as the first day of Winter, and the New Year. They celebrated with the festival of Samhain (Summer's End). They gave thanks for their harvest, but it was also a festival of the dead. The Celts also believed in 'the little people', and thought you could be snatched away by fairies on Halloween. Fires were lit to frighten them away. The tradition of

"Guisers" with lanterns used to go from door to door, chanting songs, continuing the ancient Druid and Celtic tradition of rubbing bonfire ash onto their faces.

In some parts of the country it was known as 'Punkie night'. The punkie being a lantern made from a turnip or swede.

The Church tried to Christianise these ancient pagan traditions by creating 'All Hallows Eve'. Around AD 988 it was decided that November 2nd would be known as All Souls Day, when all faithful Christians who have died are remembered. Despite this, we still continue some of the ancient traditions.

Apples

The apple was the Celtic silver bough, and the fruit was a symbol of immortality, fertility and marriage. If you cut an apple across the core, you reveal the five pointed star believed to be magic.

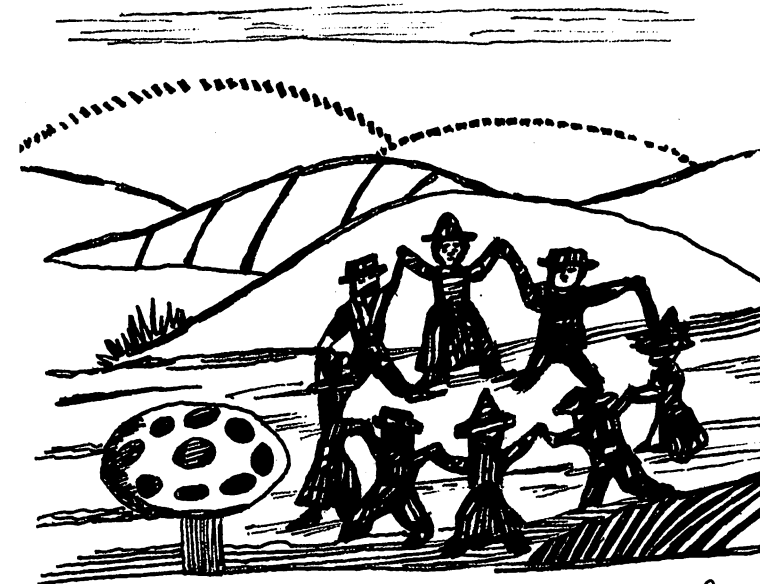
This belief continued with the popular fortune telling games of later years.

Girls used to stick apple pips on their cheeks, each pip representing one of her sweethearts. Gradually the pips would fall off. The one left 'til last was the sweetheart to keep.

Perhaps you have tried one method yourself. Peel an apple, making sure the peel is in one piece. Throw the peel over your right shoulder. It will make the shape of your future husband's initial letter.

The Celts believed in an 'apple land' called Avalon, where the immortals lived. Souls had to pass through water to get there. This belief is represented by the traditional Halloween game of bobbing or duck for apples.

In medieval Ireland, the apple was one of seven 'Chieftain trees'. The felling of these trees once carried a death sentence, later reduced to the forfeit of a cow.



From a seventeenth-century picture of the 'little people' dancing in a circle.

lighting bonfires continued as a means of scaring witches away, and continues to this day as 'Bonfire Night', confused with Guy Fawkes. Fire is a symbol of death and rebirth. Later, Halloween was also known as 'mischief night'. It was not unknown for people to have doors removed and even thrown into the village pond!

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T. TOON, I. VANN, R. JOHNSON.
CENTRE: D. FREESTONE, D. BARNES.
BACK: C. DUMFORD, H. SEAL, W.
KITCHENER AND M. FINNEY.

Can you tell us about this team? We would be interested in tales about the successes and failures, the players, the clubs beginnings and its fate, and, most of all, any funny stories.

Does the fact that this photo hangs on the Sports Club wall mean that the Club's footballing roots were in the church? Write to 35 Danehill or phone Martin on 395179.

Scout News in Brief

One of the Cub packs visited Watermead Meadows for an ecological exploration, whilst the other pack showed off their talents in a special show in the Chapel Rooms.

Coming up in November is a Winter Camp for the sixers and seconders. A trip to Laser Quest has been arranged for December.

However, more help is needed in raising funds, as the group is currently down 20% on last year's efforts.


e.g. Income from events such as Jumble sales and the Annual fete:

1992 -	£404
1993 -	£233
1994 -	£187 to date

More money is being generated by the covenant scheme, but this still does not cover running costs.

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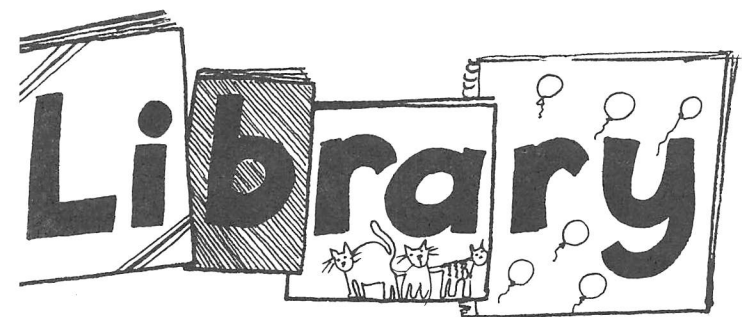
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13



Whos' who

Ratby is fortunate in having four regular assistants who work at different times.

Ann and Pauline always work together on Wednesday evenings, taking over from Mavis. Other sessions are worked on a shift basis with the help of Maureen, who is in Ratby on alternate Saturdays.

Ann began working in libraries by chance. Her daughter Sarah was once engaged to the son of someone working at Anstey library. She heard that there was a job going, applied, and was surprised to get it. Eight years ago she started working in Ratby library, which was still in the Welfare Hall at that time. She walked every day from Groby. Ann grew to like Ratby and its people so much that she moved into the village six years ago.

She says she really loves the job, meeting people and children. That's also the reason why Pauline enjoys the job! She finds people very friendly in Ratby. Originally she worked in Markfield for five years, before moving to Slovenia, where she lived with her husband for a year. Once back in England she began working in Ratby library. One of her skills is rescuing birds. She coped magnificently when a young starling somehow got into the library and flew around in panic! That was surely not in her job description.

Left: Mrs Marylin Smith and children heading for the Library Club.

Right: Librarian Ann Day with Callan Glover outside the Library.

New books coming in soon!

Each year two libraries are targeted for refurbishment in Leicestershire. This year it is the turn of Ratby library. The interior is already of a high standard, but repair work is being undertaken to the exterior.

Area librarian, John Bosworth, has been assessing the books. He has gathered information from readers through the comments in the library comment book and an appraisal of existing stock. New books have been ordered and should be on the shelves in late October or early November.

Books which are in poor condition, or out of date are removed from the shelves and may be sold off. Others are sent on to different libraries.

There will also be new children's books to coincide with the story-telling session.

We can look forward to more promotional events during the coming year, as well as book reviews.

Watch this space!



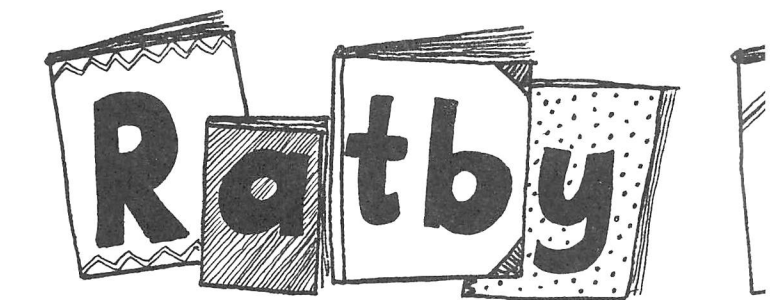
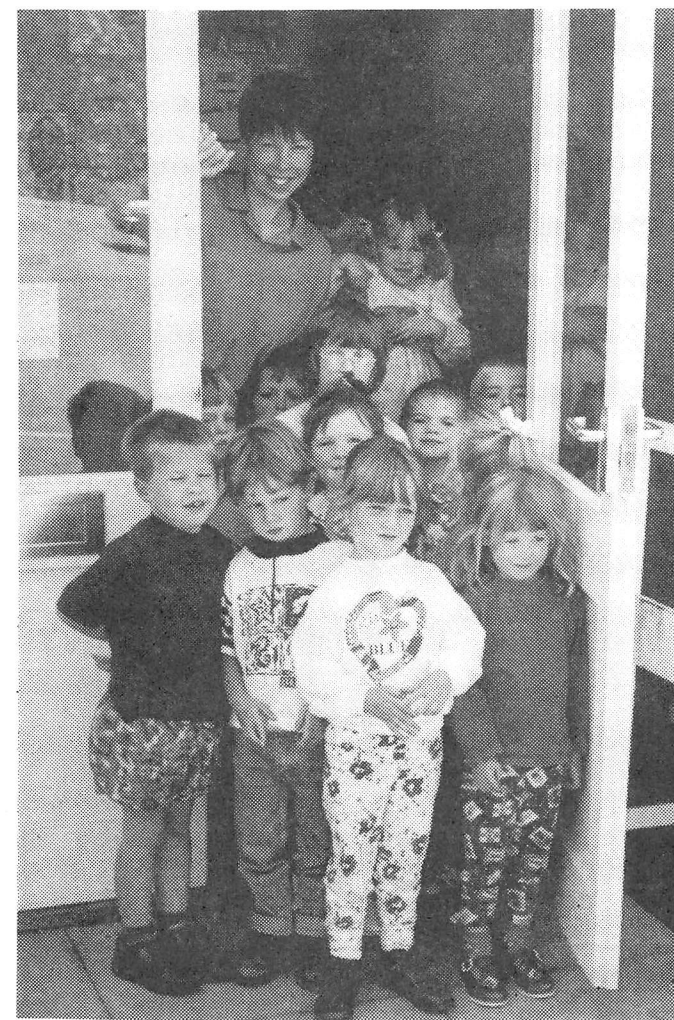
RATBY LIBRARY CLUB

We are a small, friendly group who have lots of fun, meeting every Tuesday 2.00pm - 3.00pm in the library, term-times only. Our aim is to show that using the library and looking at books is both very stimulating and enjoyable. The children also have the opportunity to develop social skills, gaining experience of relating to other adults. If you have a 3½-5 year old bring them along, join in and have a great time.

Every week we have a new topic and have included the seaside, snowmen, animals, Autumn, colours, Christmas and parties, for which we all enjoy the associated painting, gluing, cutting-out and display work. We have at least 3 stories on the activity of the week and sing various nursery and finger rhymes and always ending the session with action songs parading around the library.

So why not pop into the library, put your child's name onto the library club and join in the fun. The Library Club is free. Caroline and Donna look forward to meeting you.

Caroline Packer



Under 5's Activities

Positive and stimulating early experiences are vital for young children. Encouraging an interest and love of books and stories is a vital preparation for reading.

At Ratby Library we will be having two special activity sessions with storytelling, rhymes and puppets.

These will be held on Tuesday 29th November from 2 - 3 p.m., and Wednesday November 30th from 10 - 11 a.m.

Both sessions will be free, and are for under fives with their parents or carers.

Children who normally attend the Tuesday Library Club sessions may be left as normal. All other children must be accompanied by an adult.

As well as the activities there will be displays, and of course many books specially selected for the under fives.

If you would like to know more, please ring me at Beaumont Leys Library on 340143.

Paul Gobey
Senior Children's Librarian

Caroline Packer and children welcoming more arrivals to the Library Club.



We had a look at how fingerprints are taken on the tour, it appears to be quite an art to get them taken right, it seems so easy watching "the Bill"!

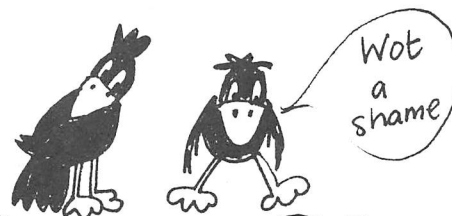
At the end of the tour Brian talked a little about police work in general, showing how various departments worked, most of them seemed very busy. The amount of paper work involved with just minor incidents seemed to me to be quite staggering and I am sure a policeman's day would contain a fair amount of paperwork. Brian also talked his specific community role and how this fitted in with all the other departments. He also spoke about how he sees things developing.

At the end of the evening I felt we had a better insight into how the force worked and felt the police do a good job in difficult conditions.

Steve Newby

QUIZ

Nobody entered the quiz in the last issue and it does not therefore seem worth printing the answers or running another. Thanks are due however to the RATBY FISH BAR for supporting us in trying to get off the ground the idea of regular prizes being available to Wot! readers.

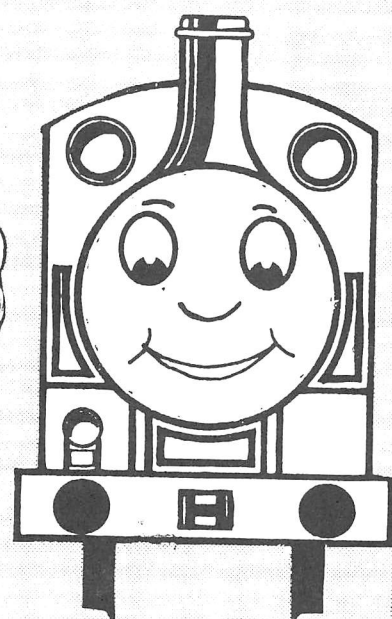


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VISIT TO BEAUMONT LEYS POLICE STATION (TRIP TO COP SHOP!)

As you may or may not know the co-ordinators of the neighbourhood watch scheme in Ratby have regular meetings. As I am one of the co-ordinators I attend these meetings. They are quite lively meetings where all the co-ordinators discuss various aspects of the scheme in the village.

Brian the community policeman, also attends these meetings to add the professional touch (a bit like Bodie and Doyle!!). He also reports on the latest happenings and news that he feels we need to be aware of concerning crime in and around the Ratby area.

Instead of the usual meeting for July we were invited to Beaumont Leys Police Station for a look round and tour. This would give the co-ordinators an insight into how law and order are maintained in Leicester and moreover how a neighbourhood watch fits in with the overall scheme of crime prevention. This was attended by most co-ordinators over 2 nights. The tour took about 2 hours and covered all departments based at Beaumont Leys.

The first department we visited was the Control Room. This was staffed by 2 civilian personnel (an increasing phenomenon within the Police Force) and 2 police officers. The technology used was very advanced and sophisticated, using touch screen computer telecom systems. The Police Officer we spoke to explained that she had to listen to 3 people at the same time through a headset. Many people have difficulty in just listening to one at times!! She also explained that it was her job to speak to people ringing up and then assigning a policeman to a specific incident, she therefore has to gauge how serious the situation is and then decide who should deal with it. She also has to co-ordinate ongoing situations as they happened. Whilst watching the officers doing this difficult job it was clear to me how patient and professional these officers are dealing with extremely distressed people. It also showed us how any call we made to the police would be dealt with.

Another department using state of the art equipment was where photo fits were composited. Due to confidentiality we were unable to see this in action but results with this system are promising.

Throughout the whole tour the amount of computer equipment that was present and very obviously being used was quite staggering.

We had a trip to the cells that was quite interesting and most co-ordinators felt that comfort in these places was definitely non-existent. There were no colour televisions here and no natural light and definitely no rooms with a view. We did not loose anybody down here!

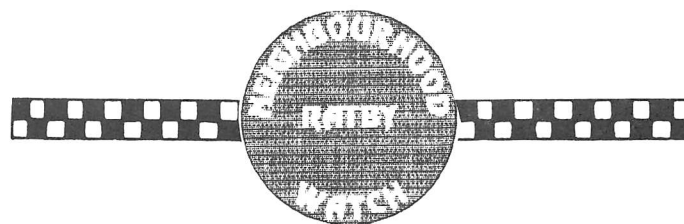
Neighbourhood Watch Visit to Beaumont Leys Police Station

On a rainy Thursday 11th August evening, 8 neighbourhood watch co-ordinators and myself set off from Ratby for a visit to Beaumont Leys Police Station with P.C. Brian Moore, where we spent a fascinating 2½ hours. The tour was both interesting and informative.

We started off by following a maze of corridors which led us to the CID office, which unfortunately was devoid of CID officers at that moment, but their presence was very obvious by the mounds of paperwork over the desks. In fact, I think it was the sheer amount of paperwork which, not only the CID officers have to work through, but also the "beat bobbies" such as Brian Moore, which amazed me. Not only do they do their utmost to solve crimes but they are also expected to write a novel about them afterwards!!

Part of the tour took in the Custody area and I think I can say without hesitation if I should ever be on the verge of committing the "Crime of the Century" (which by the way Brian I'm not) the very brief 5 minutes or so that I was actually standing in the centre of the tiny, dingy female cell with the remnants of someone's "lunch in captivity" on the floor has certainly put me off for life!! I didn't even like to imagine what it must be like to have the heavily padlocked door closed behind me - I got out of there pretty quickly I can tell you!!

I think the most fascinating part of the tour for myself was the 20 or so minutes we spent in the Control Room. "Hive of Activity" would be an understatement to describe this room. We were given a very detailed talk by one of the officers describing how each incident is logged in on the main computer as it is reported. The calls are answered by the officers in the Patrol Cars in order of priority. If I remember correctly, we were in the Control Room at about 9.00 p.m. and since midnight of the previous night the station had received 140 calls ranging from burglar alarms ringing



to incidents with troublesome youths etc., all of which had to be answered at some point. How many of us have reported an alarm ringing on an empty property for example and have sat tapping our fingers thinking "10 minutes have passed, where are those boys in blue?" Looking at those 140 or so incidents on that computer screen certainly opened my eyes up to the work load of the police these days.

The last but certainly not the least office we visited was the Crime Room. this was where details of crimes such as burglaries, car theft etc. are reported. During this talk I think it came to light for me anyway just how lucky we are here in ratby to have a fairly low crime rate compared to that of our neighbours Groby, Glenfield, Anstey etc.

After all of this trooping from office to office and the very detailed descriptions of what each department did by Brian Moore and several other officers, there was only one place to head for - the bar. Here the drinks were on the house, or the force to be precise and we were able to discuss our tour in a very pleasant alcoholic - for those of us who weren't driving of course - background.

To sum up, I think apart from the extreme disappointment felt by myself and another female co-ordinator (who shall remain nameless to protect her reputation in our local library) at not being able to visit the single Policeman's living quarters, we all agreed our visit had been extremely enjoyable and informative.

I would like to end by saying I think we are very fortunate in Ratby to have a "live-in" policeman such as Brian Moore who, I am sure, does far more than we all realise to keep crime down in our village. Thank you, Brian for organising our visit.

Elaine Hanrahan

The Plough Inn

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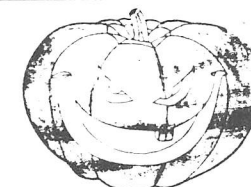
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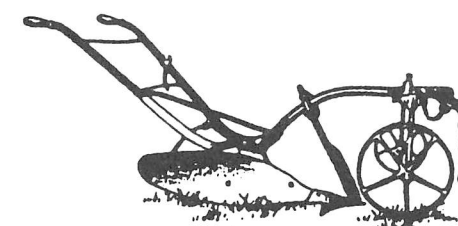
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100th Birthday Celebration

To celebrate the 100th birthday of the Church Rooms a children's tea party was held.

Various children of all ages took part in a fancy dress competition which was based on Victorian dress. The competition was won by Emma-Jane Hill. All the children that took part were rewarded with sweets.

During the party there were traditional types of games e.g. musical chairs.

'Plate-breaking' proved to be a very popular event. All the 'chipped' pots, plates and saucers were smashed!!

In the evening there was a barn dance and a barbecue.

Thanks must go to the Scouts who lent the barbecue equipment and to Nigel and Maureen Furlong for supplying cooked jacket potatoes and baked beans. Everyone brought their own meat which they had to cook on the barbecue. Salad, bread, fruit flans and cream were provided.

Everyone enjoyed the event and £118 was raised for the refurbishment.

Future Events

There will be a Rummage Sale in The Church Rooms on Saturday 15th October at 2 p.m. Rummage can be left at the Church Rooms on the day from 9.00 a.m.

There will be an Autumn / Christmas / Winter Bazaar held on November 19th.

On 18th December the 'Sunday School' will hold its annual Nativity Play.

On the evening of 2nd November there will be an All Souls' Service (with communion) in memory of people associated with the village who have died during the year.

The Service time has changed from 10.40 to 10.30 a.m. and there will be a service including the Book of Common Prayer the third Sunday in the month at 6 p.m.

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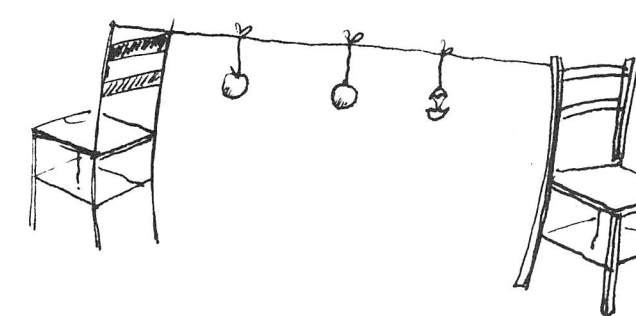
GROW UP

children's page

Try these traditional Hallowe'en games; -

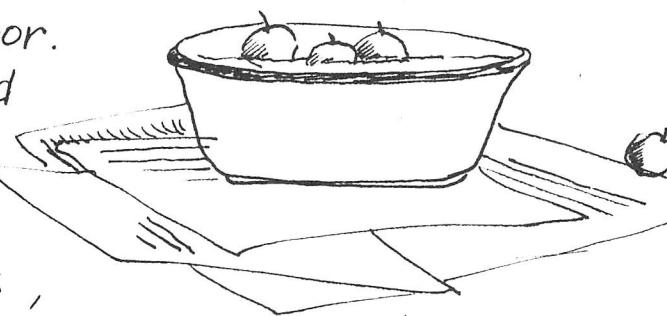
Ask your parents first !

SNAP APPLE



Tie a string between two chairs.
Hang apples on strings.
Kneel on the floor and try
to bite the apple. You
must keep your hands
behind your back !!


APPLE BOBBING



Put a good layer of
newspaper on the kitchen floor.
Fill a clean bowl of water and
float 3 or 4 apples in it...
Take turns to kneel with
your hands behind your back,
and try to get an apple with your mouth !

How to keep Witches away at Hallowe'en; -

1. Pin garlic or a rowan tree twig to your door.
2. Wear blue (Witches don't like blue)
3. Put a horse shoe outside your door. The witch can't come in until she has travelled every inch the horse travelled.
4. Put a new penny in your pocket.
5. Sew red cotton onto your clothes.



How do you make an apple puff ? A. Chase it round the garden !

COR ! That's a good joke

What's bad tempered and goes with custard ? (Apple grumble)

CO-OP THE RATBY CO-OPERATIVE BAND

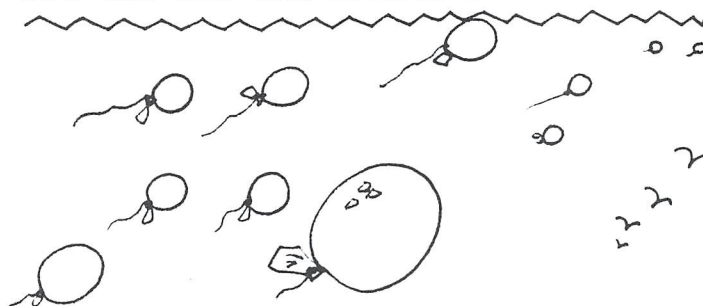
Ratby Junior Band

Ratby Junior band made a five day concert tour in Holland in August. 107 people left Ratby in convoy for the Continent.

Highly successful concerts were performed in Vlissingen, Domburg, Efteling and Rosendaal.

Of particular interest was the "Polar Bear" monument at Rosendaal to the Leicestershire Regiment who liberated the town with very heavy losses on 15th October 1994, just 50 years ago!

We took with us an 'old soldier' who actually fought in the street where the Band played. He told us it was 3 o'clock in the afternoon of that day when he was last there. It was a very poignant moment when he stepped off the bus and looked around!



The 10th Ratby Band Crow Pie Carnival

The carnival was once again a great success. Even the weather was kind this year.

Our grateful thanks go to the hundreds of people involved and to the various organisations and bodies who made it possible.

Over £1,500 was raised toward the Band Instrument Fund.

This will help us continue our work for the young people

Philip Plant

N.B. All the competition prizes have now been claimed.

Annual Celebration Concert

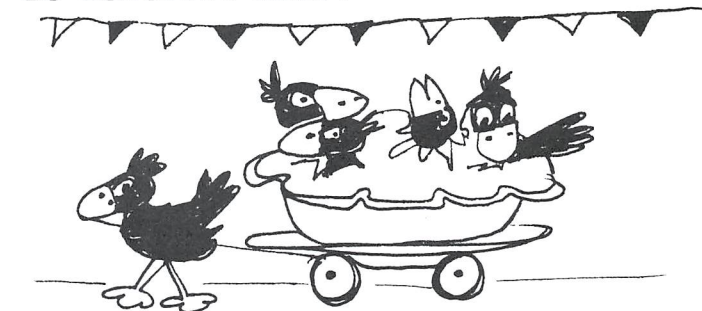
The annual celebration concert will take place at Groby College Theatre on Sunday 9th October at 7.30 p.m.

Two weeks later the Band will be in Wales for the finals of Pontins' National Brass Band Contest having qualified last Easter at Weston Super Mare.

On Saturday 29th October we celebrate 70 years with the Leicestershire Band Association with a concert at the Concordia Theatre, Hinckley and on Sunday 6th November the 150 anniversary of the Co-op. at Leicester Haymarket Theatre. With Choirs and Bands this promises to be a real treat!

The Annual Armistice Parade and Church Service takes place on Sunday 13th at 10.30 and in the evening the Band is playing at Wigston Royal Legion Club for the 25th successive year!

We end November with a National Contest on Sunday 29th, hopefully at De Montfort Hall.



CROW PIE CARNIVAL PARADE

Our thanks go to everyone who took part in the Parade. It was so nice to see young families joining in.

The street collection raised £76.47 plus one Spanish Peseta for the Neonatal unit at Leicester Royal Infirmary.

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SOCIAL SERVICES IS 'GETTING IN TOUCH'

A new booklet explaining its work with elderly people, people with disabilities, children and families has recently been produced by the Social Services Department.

Entitled appropriately 'Your Social Services Department - Getting in Touch' the publication provides general information about services for adults and their carers:- such as day services, home care and Occupational Therapy; and for children and families: including day nurseries, playschemes, adoption and fostering. The booklet also explains one of the most common misunderstandings - that the Social Services Department is not the same as the Department of Social Security.

Full details are available through libraries, community colleges, hospitals and GPS, as well as at Social Services offices - or contact Committee and Public Information Service Room 336, County Hall, Glenfield, Tel: County Hall exts. 657403/657404 (Direct line).



Sponsored Bike Ride

Alan Spencer organised a sponsored bike ride which was held on 10th September.

This is an annual event in which walkers and riders visit open churches in Leicester and Leicestershire.

Alan co-ordinated from Ratby where Alan himself, together with his son Christopher, Michael Callis, James York, Nigel Astill and Stuart Tyler cycled many miles in different groupings.

They hope to raise over £100 from this event. 50% of the money will go to Ratby Church, the other 50% to the Historic Churches Preservation Fund.

If any wishes to take part in next year's event, please contact Alan on

Harvest Service

The Rector led the service, with help from the vicar and there was a guest lay reader, John Raven from the local knitting company, who gave the sermon.

All the brownies in uniform paraded together with representatives from Rainbows and all children presented various harvest gifts.

The Church had been decorated with produce donated from Ratby School. On Monday 19th the gifts were distributed throughout the Parish.

Harvest Barn Dance

This year's Harvest was brought forward to coincide with the festivities at Ratby School, the Methodist Church and at Groby.

The event was held at the Groby Community College as a half way place between Groby and Ratby villages.

About 150 people attended the faith supper which was followed by a 'Barn Dance' supplied by Lynn and Tony Mellor.

A Literary First for Leicestershire

Leicestershire has appointed its first Consultant to co-ordinate literature development throughout the County. The Consultant, Michael Blackburn, will be based in the Central Library in Leicester over the next year.

Michael is a poet and publisher whose work has appeared in many books and magazines, including the Guardian and the Independent. He recently completed a four-year stint laying the foundations of Lincolnshire's Literature Project and Festival.

Over the next year Michael will concentrate on key areas, including the provision of advice and information to the County's writers, developing literary projects across the community and supporting small-scale publishing.



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Crow Pie Balloon Race

Over 40 replies were received from places in a direct line from Ratby to Dover. The first from the old Groby/Glenfield Railway line, on through Market Harborough, Desborough Northamptonshire, Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Essex, Kent to Lympne near Folkestone.

A further six were received from France, from Cambrai through to the Swiss Border near Geneva.

What a truly wonderful response!

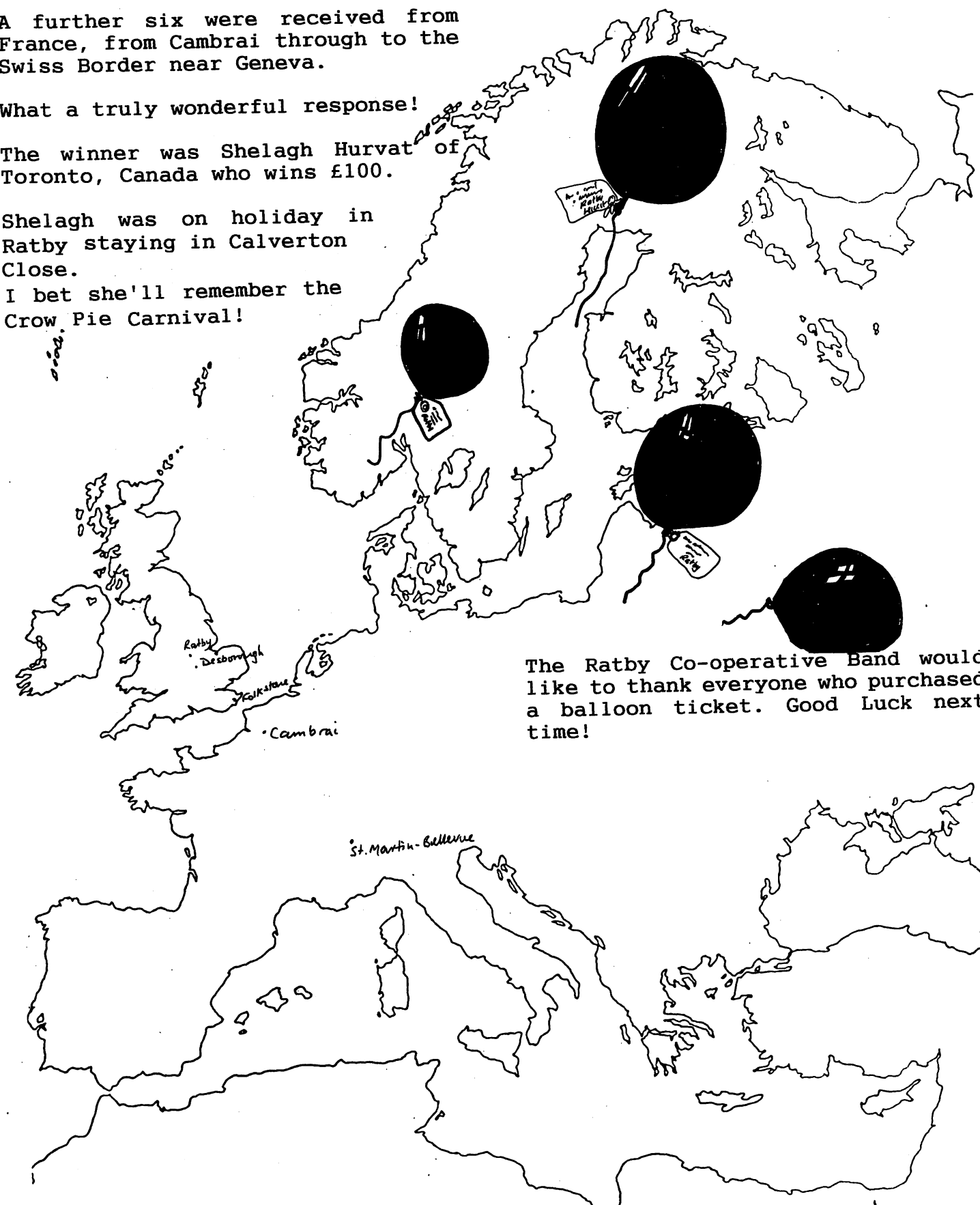
The winner was Shelagh Hurvat of Toronto, Canada who wins £100.

Shelagh was on holiday in Ratby staying in Calverton Close.

I bet she'll remember the Crow Pie Carnival!

Shelagh's balloon travelled to St Martin-Bellevue, France near the Swiss border. Other balloon labels going to France were:

C Brewin, Tourmont, Montrond
J Sturdy, Syam, Jura
R Brabbins, Gau Gain, Sarthe
P Luff, Cambrai
J A Reedy, Marboz, Dans le Jardin



The Ratby Co-operative Band would like to thank everyone who purchased a balloon ticket. Good Luck next time!

Pumpkin Prize hopes squashed

We can reveal that one of the hot favourites for the Methodist Church Biggest Pumpkin Bonanza competition has been stolen!!

Theft of cars is usually the most commonly reported crime. Could this be connected?

After all, we are nearly in the pantomime season. (Anyone lost any white mice recently?)

To end on a serious note, we hope this is not the start of a trend similar to the outbreak of leek thefts in the 1930's.

Parish Council Newsletter

Leisure and Recreation

The Council are currently drawing up a development plan for the recreation areas in the village. A castle rampart has been installed on the mound at Ferndale Drive to encourage imaginative play at a cost of £850. A heavy duty picnic bench with an extended table for wheelchair access has been sited at the edge of the wildflower meadow.

Traffic Calming by Brookvale High School and the Community College

The proposed scheme was recently exhibited at Brookvale High School. The speed limit will be reduced to 30 mph along the section where road humps are to be installed.

A-Z guide to Services now available

From adoption to zoology, from bus passes to youth training, the latest comprehensive A-Z of County Council services is now available.

The book contains 44 pages of information including a summary of the County Council's functions, and area and divisional office addresses across the county. It also contains a directory of almost 500 contact points for various aspects of County Council services.

Copies of the free booklet are available from County Council service shops, help points, libraries and other service outlets.

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The views expressed are the views of individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the publishers.

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

1st Ratby Swallows Cub Pack

On the 22nd September the 1st Ratby Swallows Cub Pack put on its 1994 "Talent Show". For six weeks all concerned had been rehearsing, building masks, back drops and other items of scenery and many different props.

A programme was published and the doors were open to parents at 7.00 pm, by 7.15 pm additional seating was being dragged out as the audience grew in numbers.

The first part of the show was the cubs version of The Jungle Book with all the Cubs singing and dancing to three main songs. After the interval, some of the Cubs worked together in groups and presented their version of "Pot of the Flops".

At the next interval we held a Raffle and would like to thank these people who kindly donated prizes.

We then moved onto the final part of our show during which we were treated to a visit by Boris the Spider and a Magic Show. Even the leaders did a turn with their version of Sooty visits the Cub Pack.

I would like to thank Michael Rule for volunteering his musical talents on the piano also David Chevin, James and David Cross from the Scout Troup who helped with props, lighting, sound and stage. Thanks also go to Helen Crankshaw (our prompter) for her help managing the refreshments. My special thanks to Lesley Chevin, David Hardy and David Smith for all their time and help with producing the show.

All the parents and friends enjoyed the show and we would like to thank them all for coming along and supporting us.

A really BIG THANK YOU to all the Cubs for working so hard. The Leaders and I are proud to award you all your Entertainers Badge.

Yours in Scouting.

Brian Cross (Akela)

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH WEEK NOV 5th - 12th

The local co-ordinators are trying to arrange a number of events, within the village and through individual schemes to mark this week.

Hopefully there will be significant involvement through the school with activities for the children to cultivate their interest in community based crime prevention.

Look out for local notices and get involved!

BARN DANCE SAT. 29th OCT - 7.30pm

A Barn Dance is to be held in the Ratby Methodist Church School Rooms on the above date. It is billed as 'an evening of fun, friendship and dancing, with plenty of fun thrown in.' Sounds like it should be worth trying!

Tickets cost just £3.00 and include a hot-dog supper. Further details are available from Mary on 394432.