

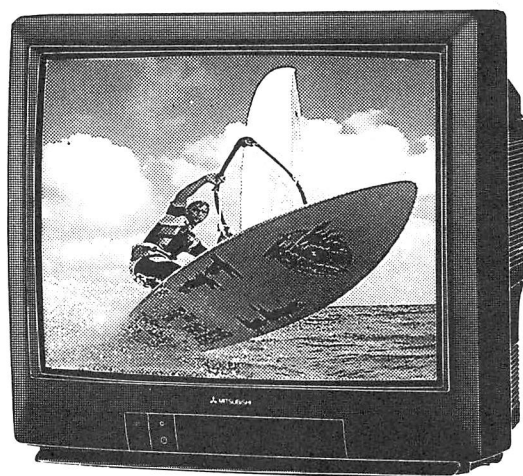
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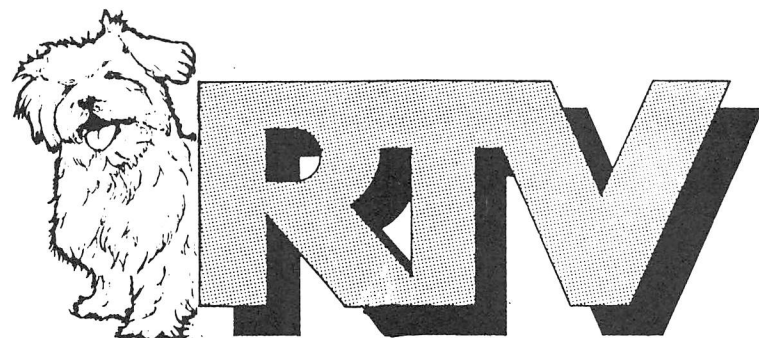


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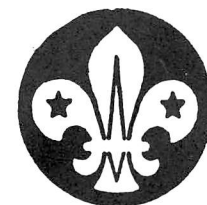
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About Ratby

Issue 54

PUBLISHED BY THE RATBY SCOUT GROUP

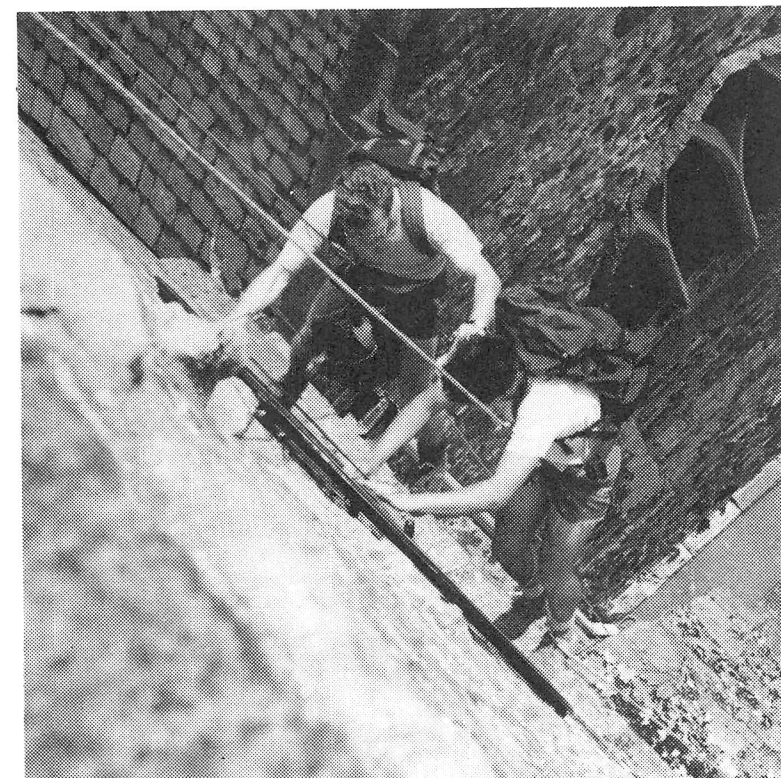
October 1995

Ratby Church Clock

In April this year the church clock was stopped and the hands from the three clock faces were removed, this was the start of the restoration work to the clock faces, which had been kindly donated as a gift to the church and the village by Simon and Sharon Michlmayr, recently married at Ratby church. By trade Simon is a clock restorer and also a keen rock climber and abseiler, the latter of which is very useful when working on church clocks. Being based in Norwich it was only possible to visit Ratby once every two weeks to work on the faces, which would also be dependent on the weather.

The undercoat and the black finishing coat of paint was soon completed, the next part of the project was the more difficult task of adding the gold leaf. The weather had to be almost perfect, too much wind and the sheets of gold leaf would be almost impossible to handle. This part of the project was completed in July. The fitting of the hands required two people abseiling down the tower. Simon was assisted by Craig Baird another keen abseiler. The hands were fitted, the clock oiled and restarted on July 23rd, four months from when it was stopped, after several visits to the tower and some abandoned visits due to the weather.

I'm sure everyone in the village agrees how outstanding the faces now look and will join



Mavis Retires

Visitors to Ratby Library on Wednesday 19th July were surprised to find more librarians than readers! Ratby's assistants Pauline and Ann were joined by supervisor Mrs Maureen Moulds, and library assistants Sheila and Tracy from Markfield, to say goodbye and thank you to Mrs Mavis Fisher.

Mavis has retired after 15 years working for Leicestershire Libraries, the last 3 of them on Wednesday afternoons in Ratby. She says she will miss meeting the public and working with her colleagues. Most of all she will miss helping children to find books for their school projects. But she is looking forward to spending time relaxing with tapestry work or gardening.

Her colleagues presented her with a farewell gift of garden plants.

Best wishes to Mavis from all in Ratby.



LETTERS

Can I take this opportunity through our local "Wot" to thank people for their good wishes and gifts on my retirement. It's a grand life. Up at eight instead of five thirty. Lovely!"

Sheila Ross,
Ex Postie.

Sheila, "WOT" can find you lots of jobs to do we are always looking for volunteers. You could even deliver it! Not at five thirty though. Thanks for all the deliveries.



Dear Editor,

I have just come back from the village, I must write to you:- I saw two people in cars who had very young children sitting on them in the front seat! I know from personal experience that this is a very dangerous practice. It does upset me so when I see young children put in this position. With no control over their lives.

You probably were only driving around the village but most accidents occur within ten miles of your home - for obvious reasons but on any road an accident could happen.

If someone has to hold the baby it is much safer to sit in the back seats.

Please don't do it!

Dear Editor

I would like to thank and congratulate the bell-ringers on their magnificent effort for VJ Day. It was very enjoyable for us to listen to but must have been very hard work for the team.

It is lovely to hear the bells on the regular basis every weekend whether it be for weddings or services.

Well done everyone!

Gwen Holloway.



CAN YOU HELP WOT?

We have achieved nine great years of "WOT". To repeat this achievement we need you or your friends to advertise with us for the year to our tenth anniversary and many more years after so that we can provide interest, information and a service for all the village.

Advertising in "WOT" really does work people will support you because you support the village. You'll have the pride of knowing that your contribution has helped RATBY keep its community spirit alive, through the pages of "WOT".

Contact Dave on 2393279

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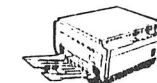
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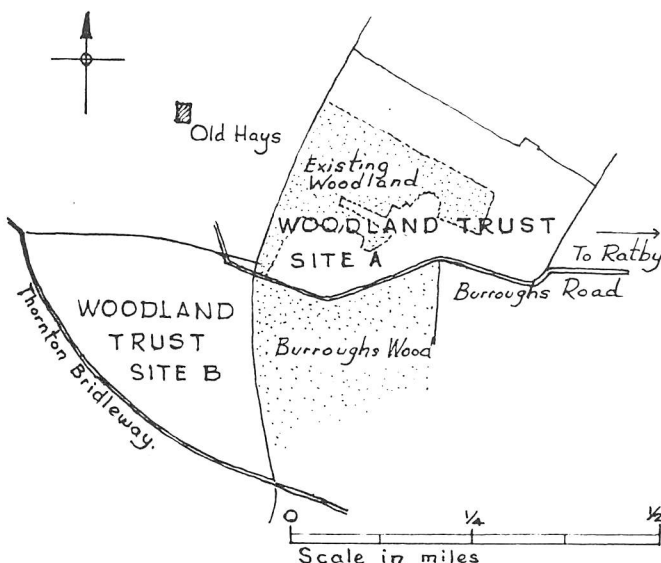
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Ratby Village Society

A rare treat was in store for 22 members (and the inevitable dog) who set off from the library car park on a perfect summer evening in August to walk along the Burroughs Road to meet Peter Leeson, a landscape designer, of the Woodland Trust. Peter who lives in Cumbria had driven down from Manchester specifically to give us an insight into the proposed plans for the two areas of land near Old Hays which were purchased by the Trust earlier this year. As with Martinshaw Wood, under the same ownership, the sites will be maintained as public amenities in addition to providing a habitat for wild life. Initially over 16,000 trees will be planted -- when conditions permit -- some of the work to be done by volunteers.

The first area to be developed will be Site A to the north of Burroughs Road part of which contains well established woodland. New planting will be mainly around the perimeter but landscaped to afford views from the open spaces across to Old John and Ratby Village.

The second area adjacent to the Thornton Bridleway, Site B, which is at present grassland will be almost totally planted as a new wood, retaining some open ground lying north to south alongside Burroughs Wood. Footpaths will be laid out through the trees and existing rights of way will be maintained.



Peter Leeson's expertise, enthusiasm and communication skills were well evident which made for an extremely pleasant informative meeting.

On a previous occasion when Roger Ivens addressed the Society he told of his experiences during a holiday in Iceland so that the talk given in September could not have been a greater contrast. During the late '60s and early '70s he was working in the Cameroons, West Africa, for a mission based in Basle, Switzerland, part of whose work was building hospitals and dispensaries and even at one stage an airstrip. Because communications were so poor the natives had to carry building materials for three days to reach some of the more remote sites!

The villagers lived in houses built of mud with thatched, or corrugated iron roofs, and in the main, were engaged in farming. The men carried out the heavy work such as tree felling and the women -- beasts of burden -- did everything else. Produce included rice, cocoa, coffee, pineapples and coconuts but in some cases commercial interests had taken a hand. For instance the growers were not allowed to process their own coffee beans but could purchase it as jars of Nescafe in the shops!

It is difficult to imagine what it is like to have each year, without fail, five months of rain followed by five months of drought and his slides gave great insight into the different environments from grassland to rain forest. We also saw a glimpse of the culture of this slowly developing nation.

After the talk Mr Ivens displayed some highly colourful and ornate ceremonial dress. The Chairman, Mr Dennis Green, was prevailed upon to, "model" for the audience a Chief's robes - and hat. We were assured that Dennis had not got 85 wives as had the Chief we had seen on the screen. Yes, there was a similarity between Iceland and the Cameroons as both have a sometimes active volcano!

Forthcoming meetings will be October 17th with, "The Bradgate Story" by "Hoz" and on November 21st a Trivia Quiz with Mr Norman Egginton.

Robin Hood in Ratby

Robin Hood and the Sheriff of Nottingham forgot their usual quarrel to come and tell stories in Ratby. The event, on Wednesday 2nd August, was part of Leicestershire libraries summer scheme on the theme of legends. Children could take part in competitions and games throughout the summer, and, if they had read 10 books, were given a numbered sticker to place on a Treasure Map! The sticker nearest to buried treasure wins its owner a prize.

The story session itself will surely become a legend, as 65 children took part! This is the largest number so far to have attended a story session in the county this summer. Robin Hood (Paul Gobey) told stories from the newly published "The Adventures of Robin Hood" by Marcia Williams.

This was followed by the Sheriff (Hema Acharya), who couldn't resist 'scaring' children with the story and pictures from "SHHHH....." by Sally Grindley.

Afterwards children made bookmarks, shields and castles, helped by the two librarians, with Ann Day, and Caroline Packer from the Ratby Library Club.

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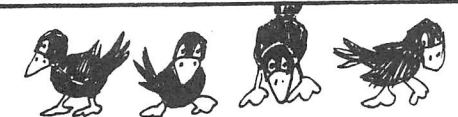
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Gone Fishing or That "Selective" Wind of Change

It was 1935, I was eight years old.

The August day was a scorcher, just the day for fishing and me-dad had tied a string handle round the neck of a jam-jar to hold the catch.

I set off for the walk to Boneo, a good fishing spot just a few hundred yards up the Desford Lane brook. My farm yard wellies afoot, a Corona bottle with a wired cork, half filled with cold tea and threpance-ha-penny in my pocket (my Saturday penny from Granny, plus the rewards from various errands and my oss-muck round.

First stop, the paper shop, opposite the cricket field, where Mrs Stevenson sold me a fishing net for tuppence and a Kalie Sucker with a liquorice sucking tube for a ha-penny. "Penny left for another day".

Down Desford Lane and along the brook to the little bridge, "one plank and a very dodgy hand rail". On the way, unable to resist using the net to catch the odd bee or butterfly, of course the net came away from the cane and needed to be fixed. "Was it always so?"

Ready now for bully-heads and sticklebacks, and wading and damming, and getting wet! Refreshment was taken at frequent intervals, supplemented now by fresh water-cress and ice cold water from the miracle of the spring in the corner of the field.

It was 1995, I was sixty-eight years old.

The August day was a scorcher, just the day for fishing. I had promised my four year old granddaughter that one day I would take her fishing where granddad used to fish. This was to be that day.

She arrived by car, complete with fishing net purchased from a local supermarket for sixty-five pence and a plastic bucket with Disney, California emblazoned round the side, to hold the catch.

We set off for Boneo, she with trainers afoot "which lit up at the back as she walked", me, equipped with haversack, cans of 7up and Coca Cola, a lion bar apiece and a towel in case we got wet. Into the car for the long drive from the middle of the village to the Sports Club car park on Desford Lane!!

Down the lane and along the brook to Boneo and its bridge, now two planks wide with a hand-rail that would do justice to the Forth. En route we tried to catch bumble bees and butterflies, and the net came away from the cane. "Wasn't it always so." It did occur to me that we can send men to the moon, watch cricket from Australia as it is played, and make millionaires at the press of a button, yet sixty years hence, we still can't make a fishing net that'll stick to its cane.

We fished, we caught minnows and water-boatman spider, no bully heads or sticklebacks now. We dammed, waded and got wet, ate our goodies, tasted the watercress, and drank ice cold water from the miracle of the spring in the corner of the field.

Local yokel.

PS. After four hours of adventure, with neither television, video or computer game in sight, the little child asked "Granddad, can we go again a morrow".

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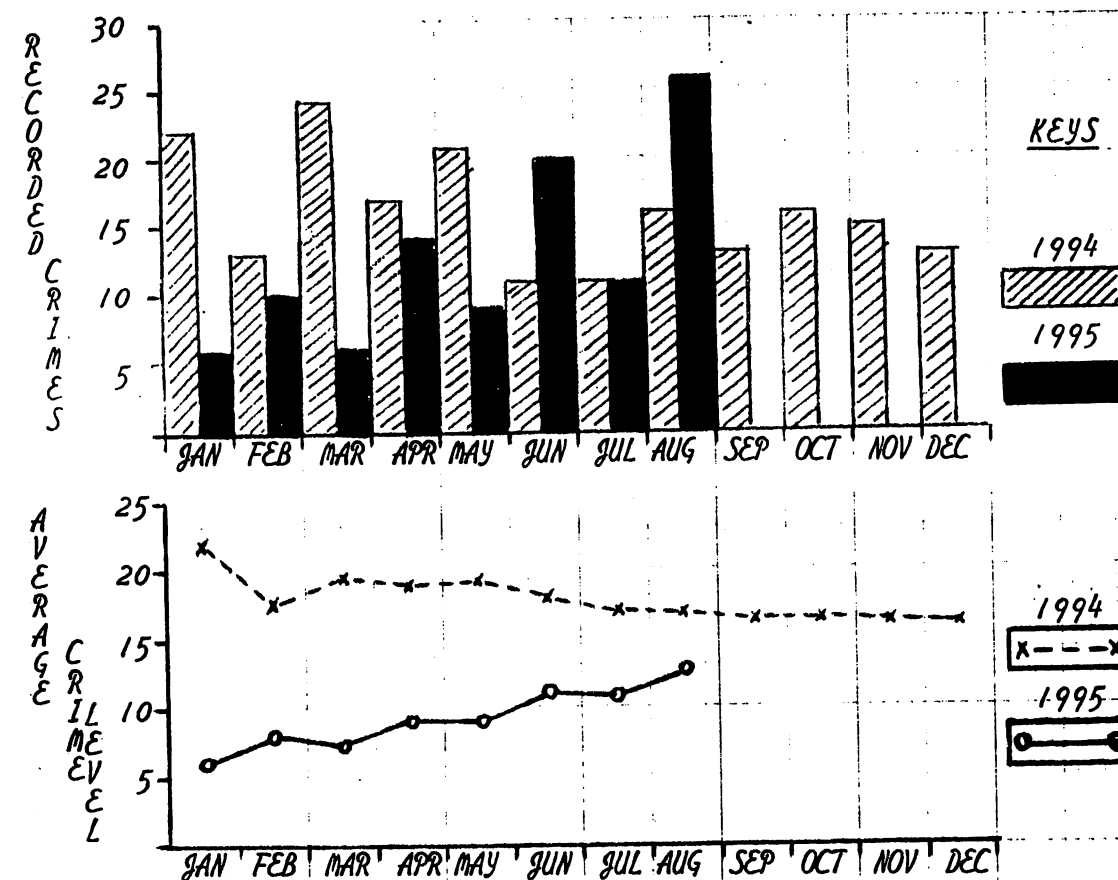
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Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators have freely given their time in recent weeks to fill and deliver to homes in Ratby packs of marker pens and literature promoting crime prevention. However the rate of crime has risen this year. The graphs below show the trend last year and this and its worsening state since April when policing of Ratby was altered to "improve" things.



Neighbourhood Watch is disappointed to be losing its community policeman PC Brian Moore; a villager himself, he has shown a tremendous commitment to holding down and reducing crime with some success. His successor has much to do to reverse recent trends. We wish Brian every success in his new duties which we know he will approach diligently as always.

RATBY NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

PEALS IN LEICESTERSHIRE RUNG FOR V.E. & V.J. DAY

This year was always going to be a very busy year for teams of bellringers all over the country, with so many events arranged to celebrate the end of the second world war.

Bank holiday Monday 8th May was the day the nation would celebrate the victory in Europe. To mark this day a full Peal had been arranged at Ratby, which would start at 2.30pm. In the morning a full Peal had been arranged at Leicester Cathedral. The Peal at the Cathedral started at 9.30am, the ringing on this superb ring of 12 was completed after 3 hours and 24 minutes of very good ringing. The Peal at Ratby was completed after 2 hours and 50 minutes of ringing. If all of that wasn't enough it was back to Ratby tower at 8.30pm to join in the nation ringing bells at 8.41pm!?, after the Queens V.E. day speech in London. We were unsure when to ring as we listened to a radio in the belfry and at 8.41 $\frac{2}{3}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ the Queen was still in full flow. Fifteen minutes ringing followed soon after, and then it was up to the tower roof to watch the Beacons that had been lit. The day ended with the usual adjournment to 'The Plough'.

August 15th was the 50th anniversary of the end of the war in Japan. This was a Tuesday and normally it would be impossible to get a band of ringers together during the day. However, it was decided to arrange another full Peal as people were prepared to take time off work in which to do so. Again like 8th May Ratby and Leicester Cathedral would be arranging Peals to mark the event. The Peal at Leicester Cathedral was rung on Monday evening, which started at 6.15pm and finished at 9.45pm. Another success followed at Ratby, the Peal ending after 2 hours and 52 minutes of superb ringing.

PEAL REPORT.

Leicester Cathedral.

Mon May 8th 1995 3h 24mins (25 cwt Tenor)
5088 Grandsire Cinques
Composed by T Hooley.

Treble Gail Wade.
2 Rupert Clarke.
3 Garry Mason.
4 David Carling.
5 Stephen Peverett.
6 David Westerman.
7 Mark Boylan. (Conductor)
8 Christopher Rudge.
9 Mark Pendery.
10 Terry Astill.
11 Alan Jacques.
Tenor Anthony Mann.

Leicester Cathedral

Mon August 14th 1995 3h 32mins.
5042 Yorkshire Surprise Maximus.
Composed by R.W Pipe.

Treble Anthony Fisher.
2 Gail Wade.
3 Garry Mason.
4 David Westerman.
5 Stephen Peverett.
6 David Carling. (Conductor)
7 Anthony Haywood.
8 Stephen Stanford.
9 Mark Pendery.
10 Rupert Clarke.
11 Alan Jacques.
Tenor Mark Boylan.

Sun August 6th 1995
1288 Grandsire Triples

Treble Mark Pendery.
2 Laura Murch.
3 Francis Fisher.
4 Lucy Clarke.
5 Ian Mellor.
6 Anthony Haywood.
7 Pamela Fisher. (Conductor)
Tenor Neil Simpson.

Rung to mark the completion
of the restoration work to the

Church Clock.



Mark Pendery. Tower Captain.

Ratby. (9 cwt Tenor)

Mon May 8th 1995 2h 50mins
5088 Yorkshire Surprise Major.
Composed by N.J. Pitstow.

Treble Gail Wade.
2 Laura Murch.
3 Lucy Clarke.
4 Francis Fisher.
5 Ian Mellor.
6 Terry Astill.
7 Mark Boylan.
Tenor Anthony Haywood. (Conductor)

Ratby.

Tues August 15th 1995 2h 52mins
5088 Lincolnshire Surprise Major.
Composed by C.J. Sedgley.

Treble Alan Jacques.
2 Lucy Clarke.
3 Gail Wade.
4 Garry Mason.
5 Ian Mellor.
6 Mark Pendery.
7 Stephen Stanford.
Tenor Anthony Haywood. (Conductor)

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THE RATBY CO-OPERATIVE BAND



The Ratby Co-operative Band organisation has had a very busy summer. The Senior Band had entered the "Whit Friday Marches" contest around the Saddleworth area and managed to perform the march "The Australasian" under contest conditions in 9 different villages. Perhaps the highlight of this event was that Ratby Band beat famous bands such as Grimethorpe Colliery and Wingates Band.

Both Senior and Junior Bands performed at 6 garden fetes, 3 parks, a concert for the Ratby Chapel roof fund, performances at the Grand Hotel in Leicester and Beaumont Shopping Centre. We also performed in Chesterfield on National Music Day. The Senior Band also took part in the parade and church service for the Ratby British Legion's 50th Anniversary of V.J. Day commemorations.

On Saturday August 12th two members of the Senior Band were married at Anstey Church and the Senior Band performed at the church service. They are Julie Kenney (tenor horn) and Mike Richards (euphonium).

The Band were fortunate to have received grant aid from the Foundation for Sport in the Arts. This has enabled us to purchase some new equipment including instruments for the Junior Band.

We are looking forward to our Inter Band Solo Contest on Sunday 1st October at the Bandroom from 2pm. During the afternoon we will be making the draw for the raffle we are running to help towards the purchase of new instruments & music for the Training Band and beginners classes. If you would like to support us please come along to the bandroom where you will be made most welcome.

The Senior Band are holding their Annual Celebration Concert on Saturday 7th October at the Groby College Theatre 7.30pm. This promises to be a special evening and tickets will be available soon from Phil Plant.

We are soon coming up to Armistice Sunday at which you will see the band on parade through the village and performing at the church. The Senior Band will have two more contests before the end of the year and of course we will be holding our annual Christmas Concert at Groby College on Sunday 10th December. If you are not able to attend this concert, but are interested in seeing the bands perform at Christmas time, we are also putting on a Christmas Concert on Wednesday 13th December at which all proceeds are going to the Neo Natal Unit at the Leicester Royal Infirmary. Of course the Junior Band will be performing at the Ratby Tree, Groby Tree and also in Kirby Muxloe the week before Christmas and the whole band organisation will be playing around the village of Ratby on Sunday 17th December.

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Ingredients

1 lb pork sausages
Half oz dripping, lard or oil
1 large cooking apple
1 level tablespoon sugar
3/4 rashers of bacon
2/3 tomatoes
1 teaspoon Worcester sauce/
1 small onion - chopped
Casserole with lid



Method

1. Light oven - Gas 4 - 350 degrees F - 180 degrees C.
2. Fry sausages in fat until lightly brown (not fully cooked). Drain.
3. Fry onion to soften slightly.
4. Peel, core and thinly slice apple and place in casserole.



5. Sprinkle sugar.
6. Put sausages and onion into casserole.
7. Season to taste.
8. Cover with sliced tomatoes.
9. Remove rind, rusk and bones from bacon - cut each rasher into four and cover tomatoes.
10. Baked covered for 45 minutes.
11. Remove lid and cook to crisp bacon for 5/10 minutes.

Scrivener

The Christmas Issue of "WOT" will contain a page of local services, PLUMBERS, ELECTRICIANS, CAR MECHANICS, BOOKKEEPERS, CARPENTERS, CLEANING SERVICES, on a pull out page handy to keep for reference during 1996.

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I feel quite ill
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Have you got a headache pill?
And a water glass to fill?
(Try not to spill).
My eyes are dim so please stand still
And cash my pension if you will.
Just shoot the loot across the sill
So that I may pay another bill.
Excuse me peering through the grille
I really think it is not Gill.
Ah, now I see that it is Phyl!

Forgive me Phyl,
I must be ill -----
My mind is going through the mill
By mistaking you for Gill.

Does it matter, Phyl or Gill,
Or Gill or Phyl, or Phyl or Gill?
All I know it is a thrill
To get confused by Gill and Phyl.....

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As in previous years it was held at the Thurmaston Scout Headquarters on the River Soar, on Saturday 11th June.

With conditions as wet as on the water nobody was going to stay dry for long as the intrepid crews battled up and down the windswept half mile course.

Out of the ten rafts entered Ratby came a creditable fourth gaining sufficient points to maintain what is now a joint lead at the top of the District Competition Trophy table.

Chris Woodward

Scout Leader.



Left to right
Scouts:- Anthony Woodward, James Cross,
Tom Fowler, Simon Coltman and Stefan Dawkins
Leaders:- Chris Woodward, Pete Fowler and
Dennis Brookes.

Ratby Parish Council

Summer 1995 Front Gardens Competition

Winners of this competition were:

First Prize: Mr & Mrs Woolley, 4 East Walk

Second Prize: Mr & Mrs Baille, 3 Mill Drive

Third Prize: Miss Ward, 33 Charnwood

Village Appraisal

The first stage of the appraisal covered the Conservation area. 25 items that need improvements were listed and letters sent to the parties concerned. A follow-up meeting will be held in October to evaluate the responses. Further appraisals will follow to cover the whole village.

R115 Bridleway

The Inspector of the Public Enquiry has issued his recommendations. The section of the dismantled railway between the Railway Inn, Ratby and the junction of the branch line to Groby should be classified as a Bridleway. The old track from Barrows Lane to the Railway Inn Glenfield also to be a Bridleway. However, the section between the Groby branch line and Barrows Lane, which includes the Mill Lane Industrial Estate, will not be a public right of way. The two sections referred to will complete a circular route from Ratby to Glenfield and beyond.

Ratby Police Officer

The Parish Council deeply regrets the posting to another district of our PBO Constable Brian Moore. Tributes were paid to him at the September meeting in recognition of his excellent work for all our residents.

Parish Councillors 1995-1999

Following the May elections, three vacancies have been filled by Co-option. The new Councillors are Cllr Daly, Cllr O'Shea and Cllr Graham Stanley. Officers to April 1996 are:-

Chairman: Cllr C. T. Rogers

Vice Chair: Cllr I. Hannaford

Planning Sub Committee: Cllrs M. Ball (Chairman), I. Hannaford, T. Rae and Mrs M Stanley

Leisure & Recreation Sub Committee: Cllr A. Jobanputra (Chairman), L. O'Shea, W. A. Daly and Graham Stanley.

Play Areas

Maintenance and improvements are to continue. Incidents of vandalism and unsocial behaviour generally give cause for concern. The throwing of broken glass over wide areas presents a real danger to children. Arson, dog fouling and other dangerous practices are still evident and the Parish Council asks those responsible to consider the well-being of others and stop these practises.

Green Wedge Housing Development

A plan for an additional 117 houses to be built on two areas of land towards the western side of the M1 has been submitted and is being given favourable consideration by H&B Borough Council. The Parish Council will object strongly to the proposal as it is a flagrant breach of the Ratby District Plan, the Leicestershire Structure Plan, the Inspector of the Public Enquiry regarding this land, and Government Policies to preserve Green Wedges and to refuse development thereon.

FREE PUBLICATIONS

Telephone Leicester 0116 265 7031 or 7310 for a free copy of **Who's Who in Leicestershire**, a brochure full of useful names, addresses and telephone numbers of organisations that could help your business.

A free quarterly magazine, **Leicestershire Business Today**, is published quarterly. Regular features include Lawline, Eurodesk, Financial Account and Economic Trends. Local news and information relevant to Leicestershire companies is also included.

Also available free of charge is the **Leicestershire Industrial Property Bulletin**. Updated monthly this publication lists all known industrial workshop, factory and warehouse premises available in Leicestershire for rent or to buy.

An **Industrial Map of Leicestershire** is also available upon request.



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Sunday November 5th

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Open from 6.00pm.

BBQ, Sparklers etc.

see posters

in The Plough for details

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2 x Rump Steaks

2 x 16oz Gammon & Mustard
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2 x Vegetarian Special

All served with Chips & Peas
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Orders now being taken

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Mixed Seafood Cocktail
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Roast Turkey, Bacon Roll &

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Sage & Onion Stuffing

Roast Beef Sirloin & Yorkshire Pudding

Salmon Steak Balmoral

(lightly poached in lobster & brandy cream sauce
garnished with asparagus)

Nut Roast Italienne

All Served with Roast & New Potatoes &
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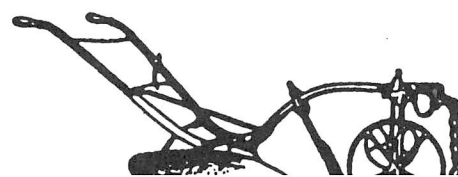
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CELEBRATION OF VE/VJ DAY ON SATURDAY 19TH AUGUST 1995

As I approached the Church Rooms, Ratby on
Saturday evening at 7.30 it seemed as though the
clock had turned back 50 years.

There were War time uniforms, Army, Nurses,
Scouts and a tall boy evacuee with name label
pinned to his jersey, all making their way in.

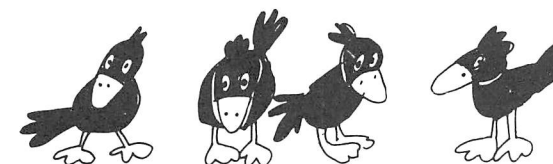
An evening of celebration with a supper consisting
of Shepherds Pie or Lord Whoston's Pie followed
by Spotted Dick and custard etc. Cooked and
served to perfection.

A Sing Song of the Forties followed and a roaring
finish of 'Land of Hope and Glory'.

Dancing continued to War time melodies.

Photographs taken by 'Derry' made it a 'Night to
Remember'.

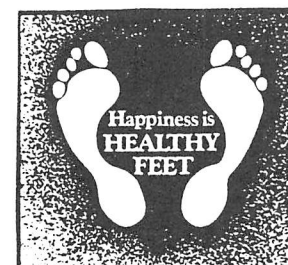
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