Issue 72









RATBY OLD PEOPLES WELFARE HALL OPENED MAY 31<sup>ST</sup> 1958



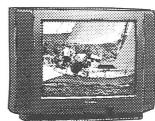
#### History

In the 1950s, a committee was formed, it met in the Methodist Church Schoolrooms. Its chairman was the then headmaster of Ratby School (Mr Ballard). Various events were arranged to raise money and eventually to construct a building on the site of the Bulls Head car park.

A local builder, Mr Hession was chosen to erect the hall, whilst members of the committee did various tasks and the hall was built and officially opened on May 31st 1958. Its use was for the elderly people of the village.

Over the years the hall has been put to many uses including annual garden fetes, flower shows, the first of which raised £75.18.11. Other activities over the years have included whist drives, chiropody services, baby clinics, library service, arts and crafts shows, tabletop sales plus many youth activities. (Continues page.)

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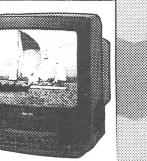
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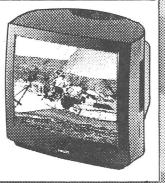
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#### Present

At present the Evergreen Club meet every Thursday afternoon, whilst a Drop In is held on Thursday morning, where everyone is welcome.

Monday evening BINGO takes place and on other days there are keep fit, dancing classes and a mother & toddlers club. The hall is also booked for children's parties with many other village activities taking place, including W.I., Parish Council and Village Society events.

#### **Future**

The hall is now in need of major refurbishment. Plans have been put forward to modernise the building to better serve the community plus giving suitable access for the disabled.

It is the aim of the current committee to upgrade and modernise the hall for use well into the future. To this end a grant application been made to the National Lottery Charities Board.

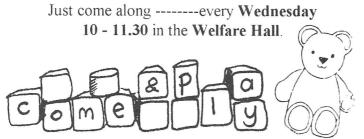
Anyone who feels able to help at this exciting time would be made very welcome to join our committee.

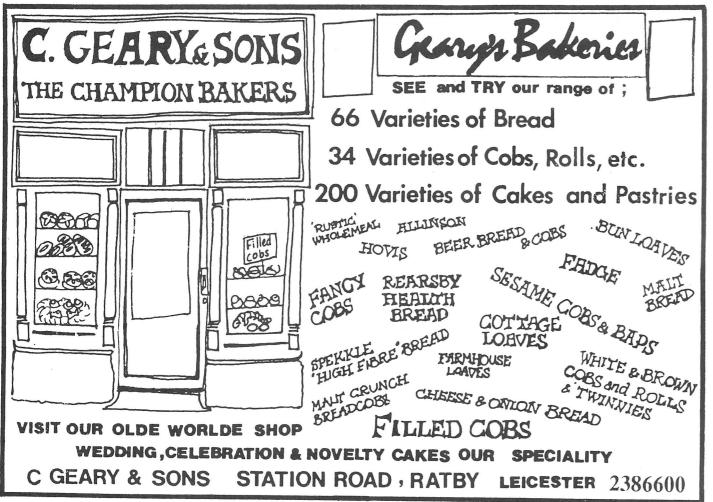
# RATBY PARENT AND TODDLER GROUP

Are you at home with young children or a baby? Why not come along to the Parent and Toddler group on Wednesday mornings? You will receive a friendly welcome, and you and your children will make some new friends!

Every week there are craft activities for your child, a chance for you to join in with them and learn together---and it's fun!! There is plenty of space to play and lots of activities; playdough, games and toys. Children have a chance to develop those important skills of learning to play together, talking and listening. You'll have a chance for a welcome break and a chat.

Refreshments are included in the session cost of £1.00 a morning.





## Ratby Parish Council

#### **DOG FOULING**

It has been noticeable in the last few months that dog fouling appears to be on the increase around the village - despite new legislation making it a legal offence for dog owners not to clean up after their pet in public areas. The problem is a particular nuisance in the Ferndale Drive and Burroughs Road play areas where dog waste poses a health hazard to children.

Would dog owners please clean up after their pet and use the dog-waste bins which are situated around the village.

#### **PARKING ON GRASS VERGES**

It would appear from walking around the village that certain people take a delight in vandalising the grass verges of our village with their irresponsible parking. Why? - when we have adequate road parking and no single/double lines. Parking on the road-side instead of the grass verge can act as a speed deterrent - this could be particularly helpful on roads which have a problem of speeding or heavy traffic such as Danehill

## PROPOSED MILLENNIUM PHOTOGRAPHIC PROJECT

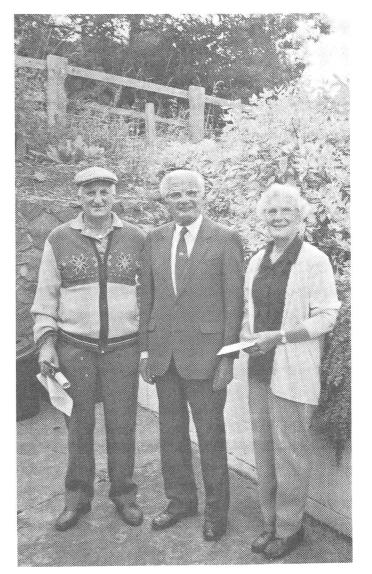
In the last "WOT" there was an appeal for residents who would assist in taking photographs of events and changes in our village in 1999 and 2000. In order to obtain funding we must prove that village residents are willing to give up their time - anyone who is interested in this project should contact the Parish Clerk on Tel: 239 0167

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O.A.P'S GREEN TOKENS TAKEN



photograph by Alan Withers

Mr and Mrs Hall pictured after recieving their certificate from Councillor Charles Rogers.

#### FRONT GARDEN COMPETITION

The winners of the 1998 Summer Front Garden Competition were as follows:

1st Prize of £25 of garden centre gift vouchers - Mr & Mrs Hall, 56 Markfield Road; 2nd Prize of £15 of garden centre gift vouchers - Mr & Mrs Riley, 1 Lockley Close; 3rd Prize of £10 in garden centre gift vouchers - Mr & Mrs Dalby, 3 Groby Road. Highly Commended - Mr & Mrs Woolley, 4 East Walk. Our congratulations to the winners and thanks to all who took part.

#### ASSISTANT MAINTENANCE PERSON

We have appointed Simon Ingall as the Assistant Maintenance person.

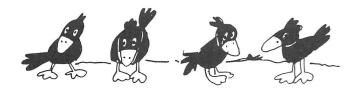
# Rathy Village Society

July is the month during which the RVS does not have the normal meeting but usually manages to organise an outdoor event of some kind. This year it was quite special. We would dearly like to know how one can describe adequately, and exactly, the experience of visiting the Les Oakes collection at Hales View Farm, Cheadle, Staffordshire. To say that it is unique is an understatement! From the outside it is obvious that one of life's rare characters is involved by the sight of the large buildings into whose facades he has built miscellaneous pieces of stonework salvaged from churches, schools and public buildings. The ground round about is liberally scattered with monumental ornaments of all description and size. It is inside of these three large halls that incredulity strikes home. For thirty years Les Oakes has collected in vast quantities almost everything under the sun, which one might describe as horded rather than displayed, neatly and logically, as in a museum. Size and quantity of each object is practically unlimited, from doll's house furniture to farm carts through loo chains, sewing machines, road and railway signs, antique prams, tractor seats (!) and even a Co-op shop fascia. An inventory would take weeks to prepare and insurance surely impossible because most of it is priceless. At the rear is an enormous area which resembles a builder's yard of used doors, windows, sinks and baths. Many members purchased various oddments with which to adorn their gardens or patios.

And there is a commercial side. Excellent reproduction and pine furniture is made and displayed in separate workshops.

One comes away with a sense of joyful and wondrous amazement.

The August meeting was in complete contrast, although a very serious subject had its lighter moments, when Chairman Jack Haywood related the story of his family's escape from France in front of the Nazi invading army in 1940. Born in France of



an English father and French mother he was a schoolboy in September 1939 when the second World War broke out, which as history recalls, was a relatively quiet affair until the spring of 1940 when Hitler stepped up the pace. The allied armies were not so well equipped as the Germans and once the momentum got underway advance was rapid. Jack's parents together with his younger brother and eighty five year old great grandmother crammed into the family car, with whatever possessions they could muster -including a comode! -drove from the north of the country to the south west hoping to return home after a while. It was not to be. After keeping one day ahead of columns of refugees, air raids and the advancing enemy they were able to obtain food and petrol until they reached a farm where they were given shelter for a week or more until it became obvious that evacuation to England was imperative. Somehow they obtained intelligence that British ships were still using the port at La Rochelle and, obtaining as much petrol as possible, while using the comode as an extra storage tank, they made the long journey safely. Once again luck was on their side and they were taken aboard a Royal Navy patrol boat, H.M.S. "Maid Marion", - a requisitioned luxury yacht. After an exciting passage, which included dropping depth charges because of a shadowing U-boat, they arrived in Plymouth where the final ignominy was to be classified as aliens!

The first hand personal account was more vivid than any book, or film, could portray of such a dangerous and uncertain situation

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#### RATBY PARISH CHURCH DRY ROT.

We have recently discovered a severe outbreak of Dry Rot in the roof of the Parish Church, which is causing us great concern.

As the Parish Church is a listed building, repairs have to be of a high standard and in keeping with the nature of an ancient structure within the village conservation area.

The finance needed has to be found by the parish and we are in the process of preparing applications for grants from various bodies, including English Heritage. In the meantime we have started fund raising ourselves the Jazz concert and the recent Auction have provided £1700 during August. Other events are planned during the Autumn.

The estimates of the costs of repair vary between £35000 and £100,000, so we have a long way to go. The village has been very supportive in the past, and I am sure will respond to our need when requested.

Mr. George Hurd has agreed to head up our fund raising, and would be pleased to hear of any suggestions.

A further report will be made when we have more

Michael Hardy.

Vicar.



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# CASTLE OPTICIANS

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Having to drag the children into town after school?

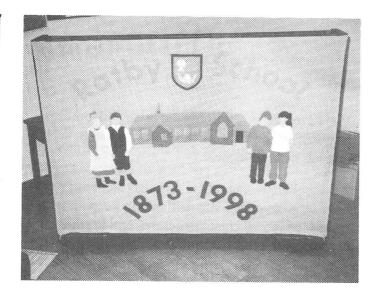
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#### **MEMORIES**

Our roving reporter called in to the "DROP IN" recently and heard some fascinating recollections of long ago school days. Miss Govett, who has featured more than once in Wot! this year was remembered as a good teacher, strict but fair and friendly. She also ran the Girl's Life Brigade in the Chapel Rooms. A group of girls joined up with the Kirby Brigade for a holiday in Newquay, Wales. Their first chore was to make a bed with sacks and straw! The Kirby girls are remembered for forgetting to add sugar to the rice pudding they cooked.

On another occasion Miss Govett managed to break her arm during a game. Blindfolded, she was asked to sit on a board held by two girls, the board was raised a few inches. Told that she was several feet in the air now she was asked to jump, with unfortunate consequences!

#### MR. SCROOGE

Unlike her brother-in-law, headmaster Mr. Baker, Miss Govett did not frighten the pupils. One interviewee still remembers her horror when caught arriving a few minutes late one day. "One of my most trusted pupils" he had said. Every Christmas Mr. Baker read "Christmas Carol" to the school. There were some who felt he was not unlike Mr. Scrooge himself. One notoriously "naughty" boy once appeared in Mr. Baker's class and was sent straight to stand in the corner. It was discovered later that he had been sent by his teacher with a message! A different side of Mr Baker was seen however, whenever a pupil celebrated a birthday in school. They would be sent to his classroom to choose a liquorice roll or a Peg Bar (a hard chocolate bar)

These memories show what a strong sense of justice children have!

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#### SINKING AND SWIMMING

Starting school at the age of four, children enjoyed an afternoon nap on straw mats. There was no playgroup to introduce social skills in those days. One person, an only child, recalls her first day. She went home at playtime, saying, "I'm not stopping with that lot!". She had not enjoyed the noise and bustle of the playground.

Pupils walked to a hall in Kirby Muxloe for some lessons, woodwork for boys, cookery for girls. One person, who prefers to remain anonymous, always threw her rock cakes into the brook at Blood Hill on the way back. They always sank.

Everyone went into Leicester for swimming lessons in those days.

The Bell Room was used for inspection of hair by the school nurse. Pupils sat on the heating pipes in here too, waiting for the dentist to examine their teeth. They were rewarded with a cone paper of sweets!

Everyone had to learn their times tables, and most can remember them today. Reading was taught with pictures and words

It was not all hard work. There was time off to watch the Hunt meet and one person remembers all the children coming out to watch the R101 airship fly over.

In those days summers were always hot, and children often walked to Bradgate Park. Winters were cold, and on snowy days the daily third of a pint bottle of school milk was replaced by a mug of hot cocoa.

What will today's children remember most about their school days? It may not be computers, or calculators, the curriculum and SATS.....more likely it will be similar recollections of feelings and friendships.



photograph by Sylvia Gant

ce ester 6 Saxons Rise, Ratby, Leicester LE6 9NF. Tel: Office 0116-2393662

# Sorry no GOURDS this year. Something gone wrong! Any ideas??

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7

# RATBY TOWN CRICKET THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN!

Thomas Jayes, born on April 17th 1877 "was possibly the best fast bowler ever to play for Leicestershire". In 1909, following a period of absence through injury, he returned to his best form and achieved the best figures of his career, 109 wickets with an average of 20.74.

A nephew of Jayes, William Ewart Astill was born in Ratby on March 1st 1888. He was "a mainstay of the County side for season after season", and was one of the greatest players to play for England v Australia. In 1925 he was top of the Leicestershire batting averages with 1382 runs, average 33.7, and was also second in the bowling.

William Shipman, born March 1st 1886 will, according to Snow, be remembered as "a most popular lion-hearted fast bowler". Altogether he captured 366 wickets for Leicestershire. "Probably his most outstanding performance was achieved at The Oval in 1910, when, on a perfect wicket he clean bowled six Surrey men".

William's Youngest brother, Alan, born in 1901, continued the tradition as a fast bowler. He was also an excellent batsman. "He played many useful innings, including 15 centuries, with a highest score of 226 against Kent in 1928. Following his retirement through injury he became landlord at The Bull's Head in Ratby. In 1951 he was elected to Honorary Life Membership of the Leicestershire County Cricket Club.

Frederick James Bowley, born in 1909, was a left arm slow bowler, who, Snow writes, proved deadly in club cricket and minor county games. His younger brother Herrick was a right hand batsman who made some large scores for the second eleven, and was a good wicket keeper.

Joe Toon played occasionally for the County until 1909. He was a useful right-arm medium paced bowler.



#### A magnificent effort

Way back in April we reported that former Ratby Scout leader Chris Woodward was joining forces with seven police colleagues to under-take a sponsored cycle challenge in Iceland. Their aim was to raise funds for The British Heart Foundation.

Several months and 243 miles later, Chris can look back with pride. He personally raised £2751.50.

Averaging 50 miles a day, the team pedalled through some spectacular scenery, past glaciers and geysers, and across country covered in lava ash from the island's volcanoes. The route took them over a rough, boulder strewn terrain, yet amazingly there were only 3 punctures amongst 39 bikes!

"I would love to do it again," says Chris, "preferably in a four wheel vehicle"!

Sleeping under canvas in a country where there is no darkness in summer, (only minutes separated sunrise from sun-set) made the challenge even tougher.

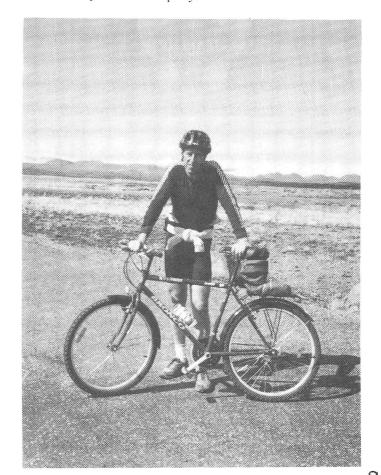
The experience was tough, but unforgettable, and "the most difficult challenge of all", says Chris, "was getting in the money".

He personally contributed £250, and had to raise a minimum of £2157.

The total raised by the team through sponsorship and events was £24,700.

A magnificent effort!

Chris is pictured with the bike which was provided by an Icelandic Cycle hire company.







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#### RATBY AND THE YEAR 2000

Representatives of various village groups have been meeting to discuss ways in which the 2000th anniversary of Jesus' birth can be celebrated and marked in Ratby - a "Millenium Forum"

Proposals already under consideration include:-

#### 1) Parish Council:-

- a) To improve the appearance of Desford Lane corner by the creation of a Millenium Corner.
- b) To create photographic and video displays of the village's Millenium activities.

#### 2) Ratby Co-operative Band:-

- a) All three bands to have a Grand March through the village on 1st January 2000.
- b) A special Crow Pie Carnival.

#### 3) Ratby Churches:-

- a) Parish Church bells will ring a peal on 31st December 1999.
- b) A Watchnight Service starting at midnight on 1st January 2000
- c) A unique service for those celebrating special anniversaries etc; in 2000
- d) Floodlighting the Parish Church if finance is available, (although the Dry Rot in the roof may now curtail this) proposal.

#### 4) Welfare Hall Committee:-

- a) Upgrading work to the Welfare Hall.
- b) A special Easter Tea.

Bring your spade and fork...

and come and help dig some
holes for the apple trees..

SATURDAY OCTOBER 10th.

Help to create E.3

RATBY COMMINITY ORCHARD

#### 5) Other suggestions:

- a) A Village Children's Party, coinciding with the Crow Pie Carnival.
- b) A Midsummer Market.
- c) A Party/Dance on 31 December 1999, this may be arranged by the Scouts.

The Forum wishes to learn of any other suggestions which readers may have, or of persons interested in taking part in the planning. The next meeting is on Thursday 22nd October at 8.30 pm in the Church Rooms

The convenors of the Forum are:-

Mr D Hulme and Mrs P Pollard, who would be pleased to hear from you! - Telephone numbers 2394472 and 2388271 respectively.





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#### YUM YUM CAKES

#### Base Ingredients

2 ozs (57 grams) brown sugar

3 ozs (85 grams) margarine

2 egg yolks

6 ozs (170 grams) self raising flour

1 teaspoon Vanilla Essence

#### Method

- Cream sugar and margarine
- Add remaining ingredients and mix to a stiff dough
- 3. Press into the base of a well greased (or parchment lined) Swiss roll tin

#### Topping

2 egg whites - beaten stiff

4 ozs (113 grams) castor sugar

1 oz (28 grams) chopped walnuts

1 oz (28 grams) chopped glace cherries

#### Method

- Beat egg whites until stiff
- Add half the sugar and whisk again
- 3. Add remaining sugar and fold in with nuts and cherries
- 4. Spread over the base
- Cook for 30 minutes at Gas Mark 4, Electric 350° F, 180° C.
  - Cover if browning too much.
- 6. When cold, cut into 24 squares and put into paper cases as they are fragile.

#### Scrivener

# Scouts Halloween Eve Party



Saturday 31st October

Hot Supper Included £5.00

Phone 2394472 for Tickets

