

SAD NEWS COLIN PAYNE PASSED AWAY



The 1st Ratby Scout Group is sad to inform you that Colin, an extraordinary member and friend passed away on 21st September 2009.

Colin was the driving force in the formation and on going development of the 1st Ratby Scout Group. He led by example and sheer hard work. As Group Scout Leader he immersed himself in every aspect of Scouting. He made sure that Ratby Scouts flourished. He gave unstintingly of his time to achieve this, guiding other helpers to make full use of their talents. Colin's constant involvement meant that he spent much of his time working for the group and all the boys and latterly girls, who passed through the various sections. There are many young people in the village, and now far afield who learnt their skills and love of the outdoors from Colin, his teachings, convictions and inner strength, a man who showed great warmth to all young people.

In the 100th issue of Wot we were proud to report on Colin's Scouting Medal of Merit one of the top medals in Scouting, one of

the many Scout awards that he received. However, Scouting was not Colin's only pastime, he was a keen member of the Camping and Caravan Club and an active member of the Leicester Speedway Supporters Club.

The time and effort that Colin put into all his commitments will be sadly missed, as will his ever present warm welcome to 'come in for a cuppa', plus his never ending cooking at every Scout camp.

All in the 1st Ratby Scout Group will miss a genuine and devoted man - Colin, a true Scout.



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RATBY PARISH COUNCIL PRESS RELEASE 8 September 2009:

August has been a month of community involvement in many different things: 'bus services, and planning applications being prime examples.

Ratby Parish Council is extremely grateful to all its friends who delivered letters to every house in the village. One letter told you about a planning application which would have extended the village settlement boundary to our border with Groby making one village out of two. The second letter gave each of you an easy opportunity to oppose the plan if you wanted to. Not everyone wanted to oppose it but we were able to send more than 150 objections to HBBC before the deadline. Special thanks to the Clerk for taking those objections to HBBC personally. The application has been withdrawn but do not think for one moment that this is the last you will hear of it! When the application returns in different form those who want to object will have to do so again and we will provide you with that opportunity.

Ratby Parish Council recognises the leadership displayed by Lynda Ince in the village's recent efforts to retain the X1 'bus service. We lost the X1 and with it that vital link to services in LFE. At the same time residents in the lower part of the village found their bus service reduced from four buses an hour to just two. Lynda is continuing to work for a public service link to LFE.

Now, it seems a long time ago, but do you recall Council's efforts to support the local beat officers and PCSOs by providing them with a specially fitted out police bike? There were a number of problems to be sorted out before it would be <u>legally</u> possible for the Parish Council to give your money to what seemed like a good cause. The matter was not pursued by the LPU commander at the time because one of the problems was the long distance officers would have to cycle from the nearest police station in Market Bosworth; now that the beat team operate out of Markfield which is somewhat nearer the Council has re-opened discussions with the new LPU commander and hopes for a positive outcome. We all have to understand two



things: first that we cannot dictate how the police use the bicycle and second that it would be for use on the whole beat not just in Ratby, nonetheless we are looking

forward to the prospect of seeing Russ and his colleagues using pedal power.

Finally, Ratby Parish Council is looking for people to get involved in the building and maintaining of a community garden on Ferndale Park.

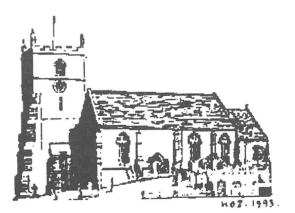
Ratby Parish Council can be contacted at: 13 Station Road, Ratby, LE6 0JQ Tel: 0116 2390167 Email: ratbypcouncil@btconnect.com Your parish councillors are: Chris Boothby, Tony Daly, Mick Earl, Avril and Ken Hunnybun, Jayne Jana, Merle Joyce, Carol Measures, and Ozzy O'Shea.

Afterthought: the village Christmas tree has been ordered already, and

News from St Philip and St James

Good news! We've recently heard that we will have a new Rector early in the New Year. We are pleased to announce the appointment of the Revd. Dr. Peter Hooper as the next Team Rector of the Bradgate Team. Peter was born in Redcar, educated in Lancashire, and obtained a BSc. and PhD. in agriculture at the University of Newcastle Upon Tyne. Before ordination, he worked in France for 11 years as a Managing Director and Director in two companies engaged in agricultural forage products. He trained for ministry at the Institut Catholique de Toulouse and the University of Nottingham and was ordained in 2006 in the Diocese of Leicester. Peter is married and has a son and daughter. We look forward to welcoming Peter and his family to the team parish in due course.

In the meantime, Peter would be well aware of the need to celebrate Harvest which we will be doing over the weekend of 3rd/4th October. We have a Barn Dance on the Saturday evening and celebrations in church on the Sunday. You will be made most welcome to join us as we say 'thank you' for all the good things we have and often take for granted.



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ART EXHIBITION and CRAFT FAIR

Ratby Village Society Anti-Litter Group is holding this annual event on **Sunday 6th December,** from 11 am until 3pm.

It is a new venue this year, the Parish Church Rooms on Church Lane.

Admission is free and refreshments will be on sale.

Talented local artists will be displaying and selling their work.

Craftworkers will be selling jewellery, woodturning, cloth dolls, decoupage and cross stitch cards, quilting, felted work, textiles, crochet and knitted items.

The raffle is full of Christmas spirit. Why go to John Lewis when you can get all you need for Christmas from Ratby.

Ratby Calendar

Don't buy a calendar until you've seen Ratby's own, containing twelve beautiful full colour photos taken around the village. It comes complete with an envelope, and makes an ideal Christmas present to post to friends. They are available from the Post Office or Jo Mangham on 239 5218.

(Thank you for the £10 donation for Wot! Editor.)

RATBY NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

COME AND JOIN US

The neighbourhood watch team will be holding their next meeting on Wednesday 28th October The meetings are held in the Church Rooms and commence at 7.30pm.

HIS and HERS

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RECIPE LOCKLEY APPLE SCONES

Ingredients

One medium sized cooking apple, finely chopped
75g (3oz) butter
225g (8oz) wholemeal flour
One level teaspoon baking powder
75g 93oz) caster sugar
Small amount of milk to bind together

Method

- 1. Mix dry ingredients together and rub in butter.
- 2. Add the chopped apple
- 3. Bind with milk to a soft but not sticky dough.
- 4. On a floured board, roll out and cut into rounds 2cm (3/4 inch) thick
- 5. Place on a greased tray and bake for 10-15 minutes at 400F/200C/GAS 6

Split and serve with butter.

LETTERS and ARTICLES

We welcome letters and articles, but reserve the right to edit them or deny publication. Your name and address must be supplied, but you may ask for them to be withheld. Views expressed in articles and letters do not necessarily represent the views of the Publishers. We cannot be held responsible for information in

advertisements, which we accept in good faith.

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RATBY CO-OPERATIVE BAND

Concert Programme-dates for your Diary:

October 4th LBBA Solo and Quartet Contest

At Groby College

December 1st Carol Concert in Ratby Church January 16th 2010

Senior Band Concert in Ratby Church

For tickets ring Malcolm Pounder on 238 6749

World Music Contest

The Senior Band took part in this contest in Kerkrade, Holland, against 9 other bands in this section, and achieved a second place Silver medal!

200 CLUB

There are still some numbers available. The cost is £18 a year, (£1.50 a month) and you could stand the chance of winning £500 in our bumper Christmas draw. Please ring Malcolm Pounder as above.



AN AUGUST SPLASH! RATBY COMMUNITY ORCHARD

Gloomy summer weather failed to discourage the intrepid Community Orchard group and other villagers from coming down to Taverner Drive for the annual exploration of the pond. Neil and Kay from Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust joined us again to help with the identification of species.

Each year we seem to make a new discovery, and this was no exception. We found two varieties of water beetles, broad bodied chaser dragonfly larva and a southern hawker dragonfly.



Neil spots an interesting discovery



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

May I take a column inch to encourage all members of Ratby Parish Council to ignore the brickbats and keep up the good work.

Remember that when William Booth was spat upon while addressing a crowd, he said to his aide, "Don't wipe if off; it's a medal".

KMG

(Name and address supplied.)

Note: The earliest sense of *brickbat*, first recorded in 1563, was "a piece of brick." Such pieces of brick have not infrequently been thrown at others in the hope of injuring them; hence, the figurative *brickbats* (first recorded in 1929) that critics hurl at performances they dislike.

The X1 Bus

Dear Editor

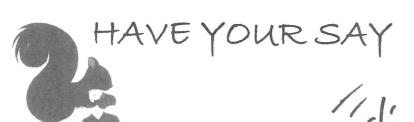
Of course we are all 'up in arms' about the X1. It has truly incensed me, but we also know that the petition wasn't worth the paper it was written on and once Arriva have made their mind up, we are nobody. They just don't care do they? I wonder why on earth the X1 travels the way it does now, there are no houses to pass on Sacheverell Way and then it carries on the same route as all the others. Now we have to travel on the 27 don't we, and because it is now every 30 minutes, it's packed and personally I feel claustrophobic.

Has anyone noticed whilst waiting at St Margaret's, how many buses go to Groby/Coalville. It is definitely 4 (maybe 5) - different numbers but travelling within a few minutes of each other.

It doesn't seem to matter what we say, it will not make any difference, it has stopped elderly people (those with walking difficulties) going into town because of the distance from St Margaret's to the town and then of course returning, probably laden with goods. Roy & I realised that we cannot get to any adjoining villages because there isn't a bus to these places - LFE, Anstey, KM, Desford, Markfield, Glenfield (even the workers at the Glenfield Superstore have a

good walk don't they). I guess we will now call

Ratby 'THE LOST VILLAGE'.



Dear Editor,

You asked for the views of readers regarding the re-routing of the X1 bus service from Hinckley Road to Groby Road, and whether this had caused problems.

My views on the action of ARRIVA would, if written down, burn holes in the paper. The bare facts are that the alternative services via Leicester City Centre for villagers to reach the Forest House Medical Centre (some used the service to visit Braunstone Leisure Centre) now take a minimum journey time of 60 minutes, compared with the previous time of 5 minutes. Return journey much the same. While this, by Arriva's reckoning, may not

While this, by Arriva's reckoning, may not cause a problem it certainly gives rise to much unacceptable inconvenience.

Those folk who have recourse to bus travel are mainly senior citizens (some of us well into our 80s) who during the winter months will find waiting around in all weathers for buses-which do not always turn up-a very debilitating experience.

Not a prospect to be savoured

Yours faithfully,

Horace (Hoz) Gamble.

There were people who travelled from Ratby and beyond on the X1 to work destinations at Scudamore Road, along Hinckley Road and near West Bridge in Leicester. How are these people getting to work now? **Editor**



Residents of Ratby

I would like to thank all the people who returned the questionnaires (1000 plus). The returns we received represent the majority of the village and the figures we collated are fact not fiction. Ratby Action Group are a transparent residents group run by residents who have no hidden agendas, our only goal is to safe guard the future of Ratby and if possible to improve the infrastructure of Ratby and not to become a suburb of Leicester. We have on numerous occasions tried to work with Ratby Parish Council and our two elected Borough Councillors but I am sad to say that they have been more of a hindrance. The previous Ratby Parish chair called me delusional. When I asked her to explain what she meant, she stated in front of the village clerk that the majority of the villagers wanted traveller's sites in Ratby and that my take on the situation was in the minority. I appreciate some residents will want this but I know for a fact the majority do not.

We attended a Ratby Parish Council meeting and submitted our findings to Ratby Parish Council. A Parish Councillor who I will not name and shame stated, that the questionnaire results were pure fiction and he put little faith in them, the people who took the time to complete the questionnaires. I assure you that the information will be used to better the village.

The news letter we published regarding the proposed traveller sites was paid for by the kind donations of Ratby residents. We did ask Ratby Parish Council to pay but they refused. We ended up doing the job for them and paying for the privilege but it was a great success. We did receive one negative email but we agree that everybody is entitled to their opinion

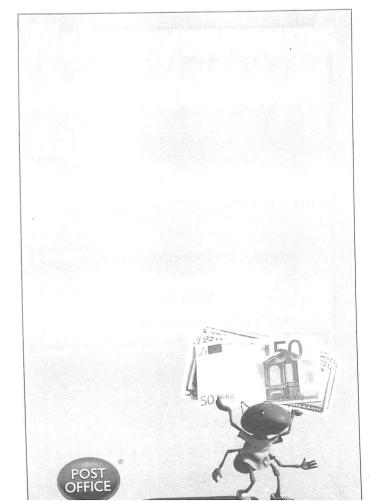
The Cawrey development on Groby Rd was a planning fiasco and we received little help from our two local Borough Councillors, if you have any questions. I would suggest you ask them yourself. I did raise some serious questions which still have not been answered. Why were 900 letters objecting to the development not mentioned to the Planning Committee other than by me.

John Cawrey responded by calling the 900 letters a red herring, I think the 900 people who took the time to write them might think

regarding new build and travellers sites. Their resident group contacted me to see if we could work together to fight Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council because it has become apparent that we are the dumping ground for the Borough. Ratby Action Group agreed to work with them and I must say they are a well organised committed group and a pleasure to work with.

Groby Parish Council set aside funds to cover the cost of printing the news letter you have just received through your door. I put in a request to Ratby Parish Council asking for 50% (£250) to cover our printing costs, again this was refused. I had to go back to Groby Parish Council and explain that Ratby Parish Council had refused to pay anything towards the cost (Which was very embarrassing) Groby Parish Council kindly agreed to pay the total cost. We are stuck with the present Parish Council until 2010 but hopefully we can get some younger people on board who have a better understanding of what is best for Ratby. Please email ratbyactiongroup@aol.com.

Robert James Ratby Action Group Chairman



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Studies show that walking can:

- Reduce the risk of coronary heart disease and stroke
- Lower blood pressure
- Reduce high cholesterol
- Reduce body fat
- Enhance mental well being

Walking offers a great way to help kids get the active habit. If parents express excitement about the prospect of a walk in the countryside, they are more likely to transmit this feeling to their children. It's important to treat the walk as an exploration or adventure and to go at the child's pace, no matter how often they want to stop and look at things; take treats to eat and plenty to drink; and head for some landmark that will appeal to them such as a castle, a playground, an ice cream van or a boating pond. If children experience walking as part of a fun activity they are more likely to want to go again.

So, how do you find out what is on offer? John Harris, a keen walker, got fed up with the lack of information on walks that were going on in the County. So, he decided that if he couldn't find what he was looking for he had better create it! So

www.walkinginleics.co.uk came into being.

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CRASH VICTIM

The following tribute, by his father is to a young former resident of Ratby, killed tragically in a car accident at mid-summer. Known by some here, especially at the Parish Church and the chip shop, he is Darius Dominguez, and he leaves a five year old son, Luke.

Heavenly Father

Here lies a dear, beloved son, brother and father Darius

Whom you made and gave to us, his family, and whom we love.

He has many, many fine qualities which the understatement of two lifetimes

For our season here on earth we are going to miss.

He shocked by leaving without a goodbye Like a library book on loan from Heaven, and even as the Police informed, technically legally Daz's personal car registration number, like every mark, actually is on loan (from the Driver Vehicle Licensing Authority)

So too our own earthly bodies-the frail flesh and blood, transient time tissue, sinew and bone, the mist blown tents-really quite tiny, uniquely individual moving hazes of this earthly existence

-which we call ourselves also come on loan-from God and can and will be called in by Him anyway, at any time.

Like Daz all of us are only passing-passing this way for a time.

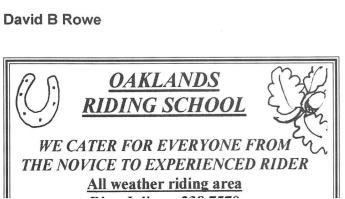
In the words of Helen Keller:

'The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched.

They are felt within the heart.

So let us hold out our hand to our loved one in goodbye - and hello as this fellow traveller and child of God goes before, and yes meeting Him, his maker master and eternal Father declares again:

This is my named child in whom I am well pleased. Formerly resident in Ratby, Leicestershire He is now a full citizen of the Kingdom of Heaven.



RATBY ACTION GROUP A ONE OFF OPPORTUNITY, TO SAY TO YOUR LOCAL BOBBY, 'ON YER BIKE!'

Does anyone remember, and it wasn't all that long ago, when Ratby was a quiet village? Even then our bobby used a bike to carry out his daily patrols. If it works why, change it? We felt safe then and had never heard of ASBO's, graffiti or 'joy riding' in stolen cars. It is doubtful if we can return to those good old days, but we can make it easier for our local bobby, by getting him a bike. Making it easier for him to police the village, giving him more time to interact with the residents and young people, but most of all by giving him one of the tools that are essential to preserve our peace.

Donations and contributions can be made at the Ratby Post Office or to any member of your residents' group.

Robert James

This is mentioned in the Parish Council News. Do we still need donations? Editor.







Do you know someone who finds it difficult or is unable to use public transport because they are elderly, mobility impaired/disabled or rurally isolated?

If so community transport is available for your area. Community transport can be used for getting to doctors appointments, visiting friends and relatives, shopping and social activities.

Have you visited our new website?

The site provides general information about community transport across Leicestershire with further links to providers. It is very simple to use and will help people to find information for themselves, family members or friends no matter where they live.

The site can be found at: www.leicestershirevillages.com/communitytransport



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DRUMMING UP THE **GOOD NEWS and CELEBRATIONS**

We've heard that the Drumming event held as part of 'Walk National Forest' was amazing and inspiring. Were you there? Write in and tell us about it!!

There is so much doom and gloom in the papers these days: too much of a focus on shallow celebrity and society's ills. Perhaps it is what sells papers.

In Ratby we can publicise the good news and joyful events, because the magazine is brought to you free thanks to the ongoing generosity and support of our advertisers!

So tell us about your good news and achievements! End us your photographs...let's try to create a feel good atmosphere.

Editor



Keep safe...and respect those who don't want to take part.

DEADLINE for issue 138 DEC/JAN 2009/10 FRIDAY 13th NOVEMBER

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