

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2011

ISSUE 150



WOT!

About Ratby

PUBLISHED BY RATBY SCOUT GROUP

RATBY'S FIRST ANNUAL SHOW

IT'S GOING TO GROW AND GROW!



Ratby's first ever Annual Show was held on Saturday August 13th in the Church rooms. Exhibitors had an opportunity to display their entries for competition during Friday evening, and again on the morning of the show. Then at 11 o'clock the hall was cleared and judging commenced.

At 2 o'clock the doors were opened to the public, and the crowds streamed in to admire the exhibits.

This wonderful occasion ended with local business man John Cawrey presenting the trophies to winners.

The idea for an Annual Show came from four enterprising local women, Faye Stevens, Chair of the Village Society, Jean Vann, Carol Hall and Jane Rayne. So determined were they to make a success of the event that they contributed a large sum of their own money to make it happen. They can feel justifiably proud, as the Show has been much applauded throughout the village, with visitors praising the atmosphere and organisation. The winner of 'Best in Show,' was Jean Vann for her poem. (we hope to publish this in a future issue) A list of winners is printed on page 2.

Turn to centre page colour section for more pictures!



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ANNUAL SHOW RESULTS

The judges were unanimous in awarding the Best in Show trophy to Jean Vann for her poem about Ratby.

Vegetable Section

1st - S.D. Reid

Most exhibits - Phil Dews

Fruit Section

1st Michael Byrne

Floral Section

1st - Rosemary Chapman

Container Plant Section

1st - Nigel Chapman

Flower arranging Section

1st - Kate McLeod

Preserves Section

1st - Chris Talbot

Wine Section

1st - Iris Hannaford

Cookery Section

Loaf of bread, 1st - Michael Byrne

Cookery 57-62 - 1st - Faye Stevens

Most cookery exhibits-Kate Pendery

Handicraft Section (Adults)

1st - Paula Tenwick

Poetry Section (Adults)

1st - Jean Vann

2nd - Joan Stevenson

3rd - Kathy Byrne

Young People's Poetry

Daniel Banner and Lucie Vaz

Young People's Section

1st - Breanne Frid-Pearson

Best Overall Contributor

Ist Ratby Girls Brigade

Best in Young People's Art

William Scowen

'PUDDLE' DIPPING At Ratby Community Orchard.

The long period of drought has had an impact on the village pond this year, and families who came along for the annual pond dipping on August 3rd were disappointed to find there was only a small patch of water. Neill Talbot from Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust was present again to help us identify our discoveries. He told us that the drought would have the most impact on damselflies and mayflies.

This year's new discovery was a goldfish, something we don't want in the pond as it will eat a lot of the wildlife. The goldfish was removed and taken to a garden pond. Please villagers, **Do not** dump domestic fish or pondweeds into this natural wild life pond, as it will destroy the environment.



Pictured are Laura and her Dad, Tim Adkin.

Orchard Notice Board

New information had been produced for the extended board at the Orchard, but sadly the structure has been vandalised again.

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The winning poem about Ratby from the first Annual Show.

I Feel It in My Bones

Walk from the bluebell woods and drop down, between old hedge and furrows, to view a village set below a tower's top, along an ancient trackway called the 'Burroughs.'

Hear the slow, soft tread of past inhabitants that hovers in the air, from Bury Camp to Vikings, Romans, ploughmen who once upon this fertile ground did set their stamp.

Feel the rhythm of the living village, the swell of children's voices raised in play, Morris men in all their gaudy plumage, the Band in stately progress on Remembrance Day.

Savour the sound of cricket ball on bat, The peal of bells upon a Sunday morn, the chance to stop and chat and more than that, Be thankful for the place that you were born.

For many folk still bear the family names that can be found in records and on stones. But newer residents can feel the same belonging - they can feel it in their bones!

Jean Vann

ART EXHIBITION and CRAFT FAIR

Ratby's Fifth Annual Art Exhibition and Craft Fair takes place in the Church Rooms, Church Lane on Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th November from 10 am to 3 pm both days. Unusual and unique crafts, Christmas gifts and paintings will be on display and for sale. Refreshments will be available all weekend. An additional exciting new venue for the Saturday is the Parish Church. Craft workers will be showing many new and delightful items of work in the church and two talented artists will demonstrate their painting techniques to visitors during the course of the day. In addition, two guided tours of this beautiful church, built in 1230, will take place on Saturday at 11 am and 2 pm, led by a member

MEMORIAL SEAT OPENED

On August 1st at 2 pm a group of villagers and local councillors Boothby and O'Shea gathered to perform the official opening of a seat at the junction of Main Street and Markfield Road. The seat has been provided by Ratby Parish Council to commemorate local man Dougie Jordan who sadly passed away in April this year. Local Councillor Chris Boothby and neighbour of Dougie came up with the idea, and the plaque reflects local respect for Dougie; 'A real character of the village.'

Dougie's daughter Sue Peach, Stephen, son in law, and grand daughter Jessica were present, with Sue cutting the official ribbon to 'open' the seat. The family chose the words for the plaque. Jessica made a short speech, describing how the seat was a fitting memorial to Dougie who had loved to sit on the corner. The Leicester Mercury attended and reported the event.



Pictured is Sue Peach cutting the ribbon to 'open' the bench, watched by husband Stephen and daughter Jessica.

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News from St Philip and St James

It's interesting how many times we celebrate the start of a 'New Year'. There's the calendar one, of course, in January, the church one which starts four weeks before Christmas, the school academic year which starts at the beginning of September, along with birthdays and anniversaries. So as Wot celebrates 25 years and begins another new year in its life, the congregation at St Philip and St James would like to offer every good wish for the hard working publication and distribution teams. We appreciate all you do for the village.

Here at church we are preparing for a 'Celebration of Harvest'. This will be taking place over the weekend 30th September to 2nd October. Friday and Saturday the church will be open 10am – 4pm and Sunday 12md – 4pm. There will be a display of harvest flower arrangements in the church along with a display of past harvests in Ratby. We hope to have old farm implements on show in the church. Refreshments will be available and entrance is free so we look forward to seeing you.

RATBY VILLAGE SOCIETY

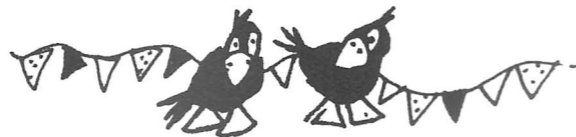
Our meetings are held in the Village Hall, Main Street at 8pm on the third Tuesday of each month. (no meetings in July and December) Admission £1.60 members, £2.60 visitors. Refreshments included. Everyone welcome, please bring a friend.

18th October- 'Murder Most Foul' a talk by Virginia Wright, with slides. Notorious local murders up to 1920, including the 'Green Bicycle Murder.'

Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th November. Two day event this year!

Art Exhibition and Craft Fair in the Church Rooms, Church Lane, 10-3 pm. each day. Many beautiful items for sale.

15th November- 'How the Hokey Pokey Men came to Leicester.' Arthur Beyless's well researched slide talk about the Italian people who travelled to Leicester in the late 1800s to early 1950s. Seasonal mince pies to follow.



VILLAGE SHOW PLAUDITS

Ratby Village Society would like to thank everyone who took part in their First Annual Show. The volunteers on the day did a splendid job, whether it was registering the exhibits, moving furniture about, or helping with the catering. Special thanks go to the judges, including Alvar Johnson of Groby. Perhaps some of them felt a little nervous about the responsibility to begin with, but they soon took it in their stride and made the organising team feel proud of their efforts to get this show off to an excellent start.

John Cawrey made an excellent job of presenting the trophies, which were all donated by Ratby businesses or individuals. Thank you to them and to all the people who came along and supported us.

The poems submitted to the Show are now on display in the Library.

If you didn't enter anything this year, then have a go in 2012. You don't have to live in Ratby. The show will be held on Saturday 11th August, and we'll have more classes to enter!

THEY DID IT!!



Pete Statham of Ratby and friend Rob Ferguson celebrated at Lands End after cycling down from John o' Groats.

The ride took them 63 hours over 11 days, supported by a back-up team including Sophie Wagstaff, Craig Lees and James Krych who took care of the camping and shopping.

They have raised over £1000 for the Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Rutland Air Ambulance. Congratulations to them all.

WHERE WERE YOU?

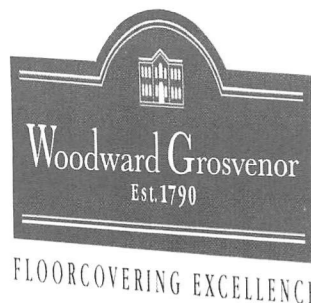
In the last issue we asked where villagers were in October 1986 when the Wot magazine was first published. Hoz Gamble tells us: 'On 9th October 1986 I made the best move of my life when I came to settle in the friendly community of Ratby, where I have lived in the same house ever since.'

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25 Years Celebration

May I congratulate the WOT team, past and present, on their 25th anniversary. It is an achievement to be proud of and I wish them well for the future.

The realisation that the magazine is 25 years old did make me feel a little ancient since I well remember its beginning.

As members of the Parish Council at the time, Malcolm Hill and I produced a village news sheet to inform the parish of current council affairs. This was an A4 sheet, copies of which were left in local shops for the public to pick up. Although it was a good idea in principle, we were concerned that information was not getting to enough people.

On a day just over 25 years ago the Parish Council received a letter proposing a village magazine and asking we would be prepared to support it. The initial reaction was mixed – didn't we already produce a news sheet and didn't we have a duty to spend public money wisely? However it didn't take long to realise that this was an opportunity to obtain the circulation required without increasing costs. The magazine was likely to be more interesting and readable than the council news sheet. Furthermore any profit that was made from advertising would benefit the local scout group and so it was agreed that this was a project to be supported.

I'm sorry to see that WOT does not carry a regular item from the Parish Council. This is a great opportunity to reach far more people than those who regularly attend meetings, or who would seek out and read the council minutes. Perhaps the editor could ask the council if they would be prepared to produce a small item for each WOT issue. I'm sure it would help promote interest in local affairs.

The WOT volunteers, from the editorial staff to the delivery team deserve a pat on the back for the sterling (and unpaid) work they have done over the years. When WOT first

their own (although we still have young people delivering newspapers) or perhaps it's because we're all busier than we were 25 years ago. Even so, it would be nice if more young people could be encouraged to help with the deliveries (just one round every two months). So if you are a Scout and don't deliver WOT - how's about it?

Well done WOT and I look forward to my 25th Anniversary Edition.

Ken Brown



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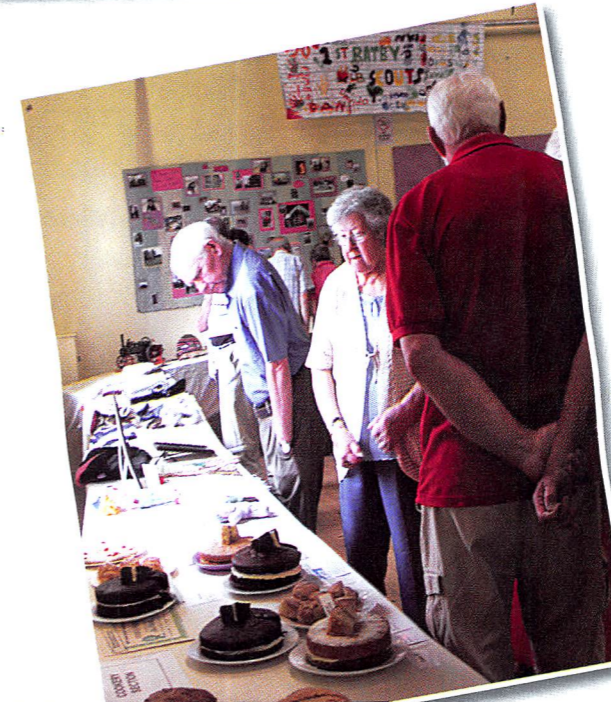
WOT!

25 years in RATBY

Over the last twenty-five years of 'Wot about Ratby' we have reported on a wide range of village events and concerns, from the A46 Bypass enquiry to traffic calming, from stories of Ratby's past to reports on current events.

We have provided space for village organisations to publicise their activities, and we have prioritised businesses in the village. Right from the start it was our intention to contribute to the sense of community in Ratby. We aimed to be a true community paper. We know that there are gaps, not all village groups have used our pages, and nowadays we are limited by space. There are fewer businesses to support us now, and it's hard to see how we can ever achieve the 24 page issues of the past. We are also constrained by lack of hard-pressed volunteer time! We keep on going, thanks to the many volunteers, deliverers and contributors, and our valued advertisers.

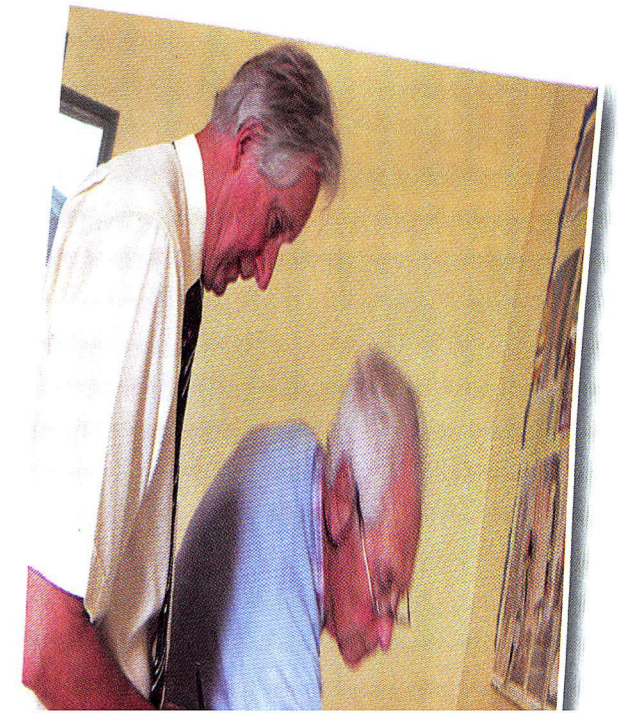
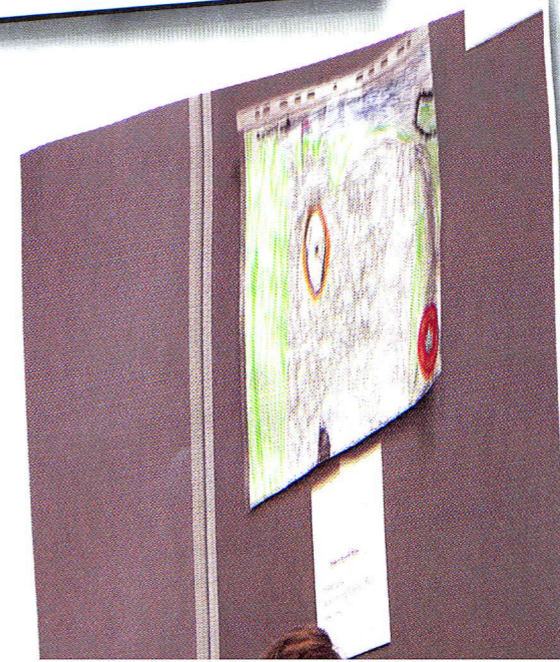
We make no apologies for featuring the Annual Show here and on the front page. This is an event which embodies that same desire to be a true 'community' activity that we have wanted to achieve. It is something that all ages and all backgrounds can come together and enjoy. Let's hope we'll be here reporting the Annual Show Silver Jubilee!



Baking and crafts exhibits



The editor presents the 'Wot about Ratby' Award to the leader of Ratby Girls Brigade.





1st RATBY SCOUTS

Gwen Holloway



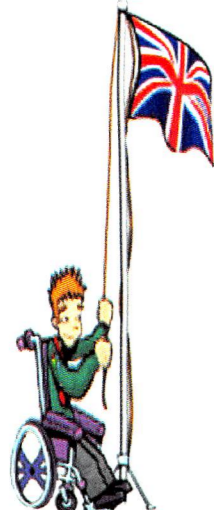
Gwen's picture was on the front cover of the first issue of WOT so it's appropriate that she is also in the 25th Anniversary issue. Gwen was pictured handing over a cheque from the Scout Group to Diana MacMullard, development office of the Woodland Trust to help towards the purchase price of Martinshaw Wood. It was the largest amount donated any by local group towards the purchase. After a quarter of a century given to Scouting in Ratby, Gwen is here shown receiving The Chief Scout's Commendation for services to Scouting from Graham Berridge, Deputy District Commissioner, Leicester South West.

In 1984 the 1st Ratby Scout Group was formed and Gwen took up the role of Cub leader in December 1985 and was an active Leader with the Cub pack until 1996 when she stood down and took on the role of Group Secretary. A role she has performed well over the years and held until earlier this month when she, "at last," left the village for seashores new.



Age Groups	Section Name	Meeting	Times
6-8year olds	Beaver Scouts*	Church Rooms	Mon 5:15-6:30
8-10year olds	Cub Scouts	Church Rooms	Mon 6:30-8:00
10-14.5year olds	Scouts	Church Rooms	Thu 7:00-8:30

(*this section has a waiting list)
For more information on any section call 01162390774



WOT: Advertisers and Contributors

When WOT was started 25 years ago, by the Ratby Scouts Association, its aim was to achieve 2 things. The first was to provide a platform for village groups and societies to reach a wider public. (The whole of Ratby!) and the second was to raise funds for Scouting in Ratby.

These aims would only be possible if the magazine was supported by such groups and advertisers.

Over the twenty five years, advertisers have come and gone as businesses have run their course.

This magazine has been grateful to all our advertisers for their contributions, but particular mention needs to be made of those who have been with us all the time.

Porter's Carpets
His and Hers hairdressers
Pabaris Ratby News
Ratby Chemist
The Post Office
Gas Appliances
Julie's Hairdressing

Scouting still thrives in Ratby in no small part due to the public spirited businesses that still support this magazine.

SO A BIG THANK YOU TO YOU ALL!

To make this truly a VILLAGE MAGAZINE and of use to all of us, we always need contributions from you, the readers. Whether it's your opinions on matters affecting Ratby or about events you're involved with or a report on an event that's taken place, advertising an

The address to send them to is: Sue Boud,
3 Ingle Drive, Ratby or email:
sueboud@hotmail.com

(P.S. WOT makes available one quarter of a page to all village societies; free of charge.)



ISSUE 150 A QUARTER OF A CENTURY 25 years of WOT about RATBY.

On this auspicious occasion WOT must thank **Willday Printers** for all their help and advice over the 25 years.

On returning to Ratby after 15 years away we were pleased to see that WOT magazine is still going strong. Congratulations on 25 years, keep up the good work, from Mike Karen & All the Staff at

The Plough Inn

CONGRATULATIONS!! and WELL DONE!! to WOT on reaching an amazing 25yrs!! I am pleased, if only in a small way, to have been a contributor for many years. Thanks for 25yrs of interesting topical articles about and from local village people. I hope your work continues for many years to come!!

**MELSWAY
DRIVING SCHOOL**

We hope that you continue the journey for another 25 years. Keep the presses rolling. Steve Paul & Team.

GROBY CABS

THE SERVICE GARAGE

Congratulations on your 25 years of publication. Your local MOT station, Main Street. Associated with motoring in Ratby for 66 years.

JULIE'S

Congratulations to all at, "WOT" on 25 years. May you keep going for another 25 years.

GAS APPLIANCE SERVICES

Congratulations on reaching a quarter of a century. We are very pleased to have been associated since the first issue.

Pabari's Ratby News.

During all of our 25 years in the Village we are happy & pleased to have supported WOT. Well done on reaching this milestone.

Belated congratulations to Bob, Jay, Phil and team at Pabs News who celebrated their Silver Jubilee in April this year.

Congratulations on reaching your 25th anniversary. I've always enjoyed reading WOT as it helps build the community and makes us proud of the village. The magazine has served the village well and my ad is very beneficial to my business. Plus you are always good to deal with.

**OAKLANDS
RIDING SCHOOL**

Glenfield Electronics

We have been repairing TV's for over 40 years so we congratulate WOT on reaching 25 years. Keep up the good work.

HIS and HERS

We are pleased to have continued the long standing association with WOT. Congratulations, keep up the good work.

A. GOODWIN
Hope you continue to build on your 25 years.

RATBY CHEMIST LTD.

Congratulations and all best wishes for your 25th anniversary. May the publication continue its success. Ratby Chemist 58 Main Street. ratbychemist@aah-n3.co.uk

**CAWREY
Homes**

Cawrey Ltd congratulate 'Wot' for helping the community of Ratby. Our buyers new to the area appreciate the magazine.

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We'll move you along to the future. Congratulations on reaching 25 years of publication.

**Ratby Post Office
& Newsagents**

WOT gets our stamp of approval! 25 years and still going strong. Congratulations

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are proud to have supported the 1st RATBY SCOUTS and WOT about RATBY for 25 years. Keep on Scouting.

CONGRATULATIONS to OUR VILLAGE MAGAZINE

Ratby Village Society would like to congratulate all the volunteers who have published and distributed Ratby's village magazine, 'Wot' over the last twenty five years. It takes a lot of dedication and hard work to keep over four thousand residents regularly informed.

And where were we in 1986 when Wot was first published? Our Chairman at the time, John Smalley, was able to report to members at the AGM that The Woodland Trust had been successful in their attempt to Purchase Martinshaw Wood, so saving it from possible development.

The news was well received as the Village Society, and in particular the Smalleys, had been a prime mover in the campaign to preserve the wood for future generations.



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RATBY PARISH COUNCIL

CASUAL VACANCY

The Parish Council is seeking to employ a **CASUAL SNOW WARDEN** to assist the Maintenance man during the winter months.

Any interested person, please contact the Parish Council,

13 Station Road, Ratby, LE6 0JQ, Tel: 0116 239 0167

The Parish Council would like to congratulate WOT on its 25 year celebrations and appreciates its valuable contribution to the village and looks forward to WOT issues for the next 25 years!

Many Congratulations.



RATBY METHODIST CHURCH

October sees the culmination of our Centenary Celebrations. On October 9th we welcome back Revd Jane Cassidy (formerly Hamblin), who was our minister from 2003 – 2008, to lead our service. Our final social event on October 22nd will be a concert by Coalville and District Male Voice Choir. (See posters for further details). There will be two services on October 23rd, the Sunday nearest to the anniversary of the actual opening of the church.

Our morning worship will be a Songs of Praise led by two of our own local preachers, William (Bill) Jones and Ruth Johnson. Revd Alison Tomlin, the outgoing President of the Methodist Church, will close our celebrations with a final circuit service at 4.00 pm to which all are invited.

Although October will see the end of our Centenary Celebrations it will not be the end of Ratby Methodist Church! We pray that we will continue to be a Christian presence in the village and beyond, reflecting God's love and bringing fellowship to all in our community. For "God has not yet finished with the people called Methodist!"

MELSWAY

Mel Shipley's car is a familiar sight around the village. He's been teaching villagers to drive for twenty years now, and advertising in this magazine for just as long!

Mel moved to Ratby in 1976, and following spells as a chef, van driver and Class one HGV driver, travelling all over Britain, he started his career as a driving instructor in 1991. It was the right move, as many of his pupils will testify! We have spoken to a few of his pupils, and what they like about him is 'his patience,' 'his sense of humour.' Satisfied customers have told us that he cares a lot, and is particularly good with nervous pupils, giving them 'confidence to take a test and pass.' And Mel's success is shown by his pass rate. The National pass rate is just 42%, Mel's pass rate was 76% in 2010.

In June of this year Mel reached the milestone of his 1000th driving test! It seemed appropriate to feature his achievements in our 25 year special issue. Some of Mel's current pupils are children of former pupils, and most of his work is in Ratby or within a fifteen minute drive.

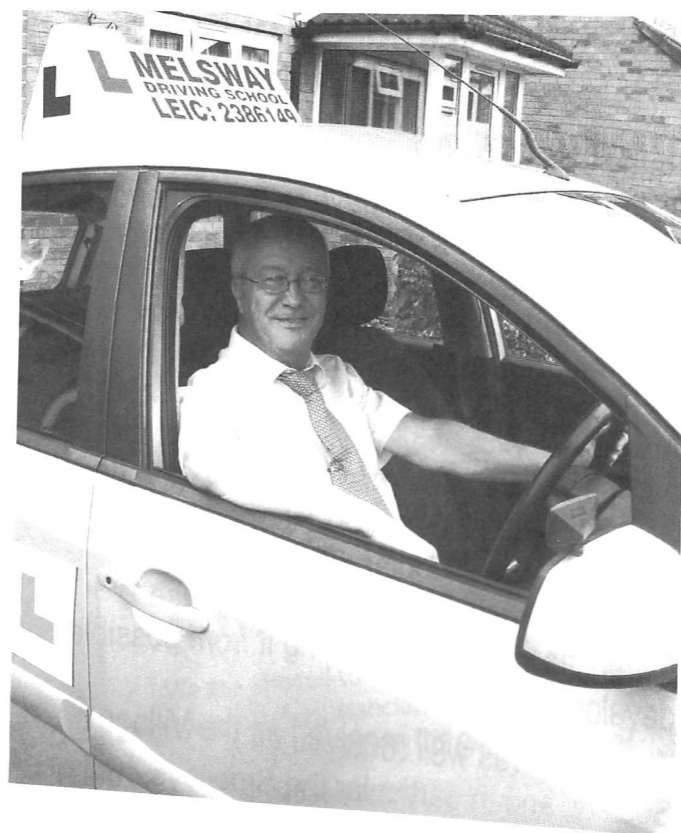
It's clear that Mel enjoys his work. He likes the flexibility, being his own boss, choosing his hours. He says the best bit is 'the sense of achievement, taking a non-driver all the way through to taking a test,' and he adds, 'even after all these years it gives me a buzz.'

The driving test has changed over the years, new sections have been added, a theory test. What hasn't changed is Mel's teaching skill. He also says 'having good communication skills and always starting feedback to drivers with a positive helps learner drivers to gain confidence.' And he keeps his knowledge up to date.

Mel has been married for 41 years, has two daughters and three grandchildren, with another on the way, and he still maintains he's only 37!

He has lots of stories to tell: the woman who paid for her lessons with Bingo winnings, a 75 year old who booked refresher lessons after twelve years off the road.

So if you're thinking of taking driving lessons, book some with Mel now! For the record he is a registered DSA.



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RECIPE

Silver Celebration Syllabub

Serves 4

Ingredients;

125g (4 oz) crushed ginger biscuits
50g (2 oz) pale brown sugar
Juice of one lemon
2 tablespoons sweet sherry
2 tablespoons brandy
300ml (1/2 pint) whipping cream
White of one egg

Method:

1. Whip cream with egg white until it holds its shape.
2. Combine remainder of ingredients and gently fold into the cream.
3. Divide between small individual dishes and chill.
4. Remove from fridge just before serving and decorate with chocolate shavings and/or glace cherry or slivers of stem or crystallised ginger.

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A Ratby Connection!

No, sadly we are not due to have a rail connection or the station re-opened! The Connection is with villager Horace Gamble. In 1939 Horace (Hoz) and four friends formed the Leicester Railway Society. In 2010 the Society was able to donate a substantial amount of money to the Great Central Railway plc, helping it to build a new café bistro at Quorn station.

The official opening ceremony on July 23rd this year was performed by Antiques Roadshow expert valuer Paul Atterbury, who also writes railway books.

GCR President Bill Ford introduced the local dignitaries, and Hoz introduced Paul Atterbury, who made a speech and cut the red ribbon to officially open the splendid forty six seater retro-style Butler-Henderson café. Hoz handed over the keys, and Paul then ceremonially unlocked the door.

Pictured is Paul Atterbury on the left with Hoz.




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David Bowie Experience Fri 7th Oct

Meatloaf & Rock Legends Fri 25th Nov

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OCTOBER SPECIAL

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Vegetable Lasagne

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Mon - Sun evening 6 - 9

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New Years Eve 31st Dec
Blue's Brothers Tribute
Entry by Ticket only £7.50

BOOK BOTH @ £10.00 per person.
(Menus available for Dinning)

LIMITED AVAILABILITY

A RATBY CHILDHOOD

Part One

My name is David Jones. I was born at 43 Station Road, Ratby on 9th July 1941. I lived there, along with my Mum, Dad and brother until 1962, when we moved to a new house a little further up the road.

Number 43 was an end of terrace House, with three bedrooms. Two bedrooms had fireplaces, rarely used unless someone was ill. I shared the middle room with my brother Brian, six years older than me. He left home to do National Service in 1953.

The back bedroom was used by Granddad's brother Uncle Jack (Pickering). I remember he had a wooden leg. When he died it was put into the cupboard in my bedroom. I used to be too scared to go into that cupboard, knowing it was there.

Downstairs were two rooms and a kitchen. The front room had a three piece suite, piano and sideboard. It was only used at weekends. The middle room had table, chairs and easy chair, and a chaise longue. There was a coal fired cooking range, a radio which ran off an accumulator, and gas mantle lamps in every room.

Our kitchen had a brown sink and cold water tap. In one corner was a brick and cast iron water boiler which was used on wash day and to fill our tin bath once a week. Outside we had a large wooden barrel for collecting rainwater for washing clothes. Next to that was a large metal mangle with wooden rollers and a zinc dolly tub with punch.

We had a coal house on the side of the house, and the coalman would drop the delivery in the yard, and my Dad and I would stack it all by hand into the store. Slack, the small bits of coal and dust would sometimes be mixed with vegetable peelings to bank the fire up at night, making the coal go further.

When I was very young we used to share the pan toilets which were in a block at the back of the house. Not a nice experience on a cold

PETANQUE NEWS

Results of the last county match Leicestershire v Chiltern was very close but Leicestershire came out on top, the final score was 27 games each but Leicestershire won by plus three points to Chiltern's minus 3 points.

The Plough Baggies Ratby, finished first in division 1 and won the Presidents Cup whilst the Plough Ratby finished 3rd in division 3 and runners up in the plate competition.

The inter regional championships took place 17th & 18th September weekend at Brean Sands, the East Midlands squad who play in division 1 have unofficially finished in third position.

Petanque practice night at the Plough is every Wednesday juniors 6pm-7pm adults from 7pm. Please call for details **please note you do not need your own boules we have spares which you can borrow.**

Check out:-

Leicestershire & Rutland Wildlife Trust
Who work to protect & enhance the wildlife and wild places of Leicestershire and Rutland.

www.lrw.org.uk

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