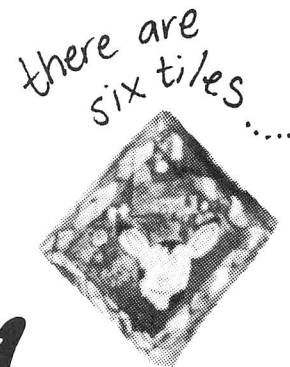




Wot!

About Ratby

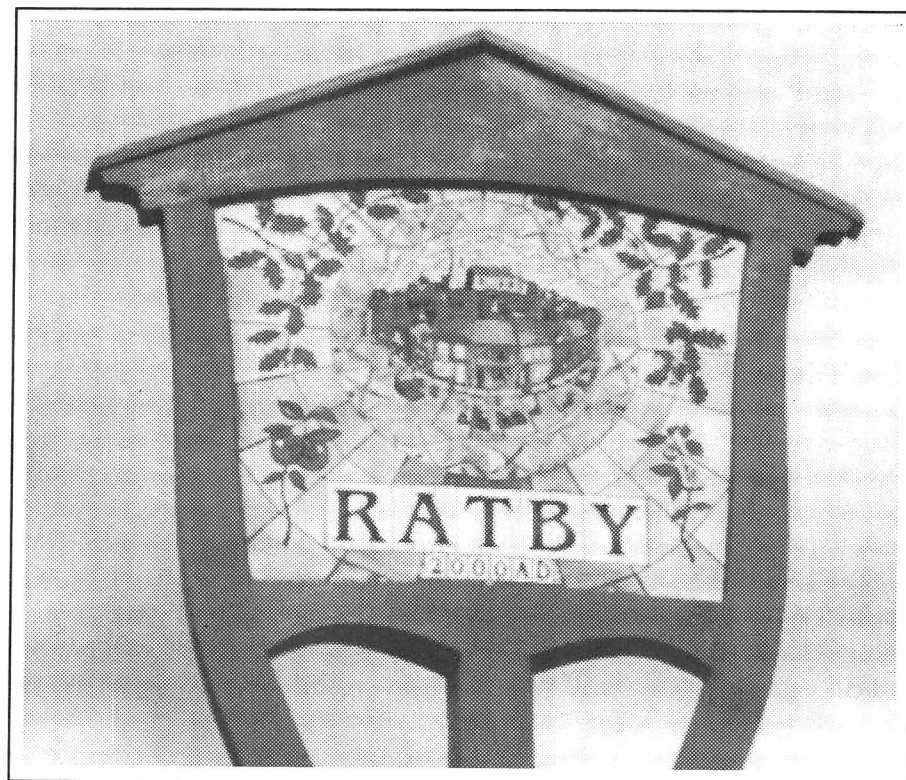


ISSUE 81

PUBLISHED BY THE RATBY SCOUT GROUP

APRIL 2000

RATBYS HISTORY AT A GLANCE.



Visitors to Ratby can now gain an insight into the past, present and future when visiting our splendid village sign at the corner of Desford Lane, Main Street and Station Road. It took many months in the planning, fund raising and construction. In the presence of more than one hundred people, including one of our youngest, Joseph Freeman, born on 6th March, Ratby's oldest resident Mrs Hannah Foulds, 96, unveiled the village sign to the world.

The two sides of the sign have a wealth of information about the village depicted on them. The six tiles set in the base were designed by 8-9 year old pupils in Mrs Edward's class at Ratby Primary School. The base itself represents the pinfold which originally stood on this corner. This was a walled pen in which stray farm animals were kept until claimed.

The sign is constructed of Iron Wood, a type of oak, and is set in a one metre square of concrete for protection against wind and weather. The wall is locally quarried granite, in which a plaque marks the boundary of The New National Forest.

Turn to page two for more pictures.

By Sylvia Gant.

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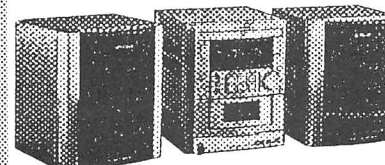
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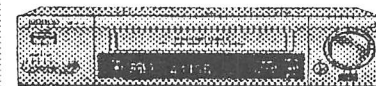


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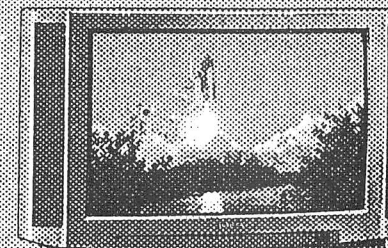


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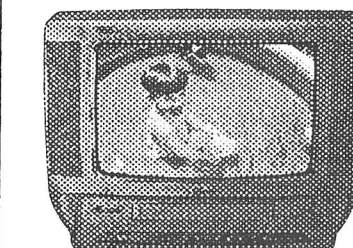


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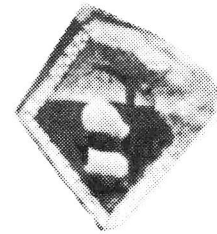
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RATBY VILLAGE SIGN



Mrs Hannah Foulds, 96 years old, and two-week old Joseph Freeman with his mum Elaine, after the ceremony.

Photographs by Sylvia Gant



The Ratby Sign Tiles

The pictures on the tiles were designed by the following children;

- Cow Gabriella Busko
- Bull William Varham, Stephen Armson, Nathan Macleavy.
- Horse Eleanor Gibson, Ella Richards
- Sheep Natasha Macleod
- Donkey Kyla Thorpe, Laura Mackintosh Kelly-Anne Featherstone and Melissa Statham.



Some of the 8 to 9 years old pupils of Mrs Edwards class who designed the plaques proudly stand by their work with other children from Ratby School.

left to right, Gabriella Busko, Kelly-Anne Featherstone, Ella Richards, designer of the sign and public artist Roger Hutchinson, Joshua Bottrill, Edward Marlow, Nathan Macleavy, Natasha Macleod.

Kneeling down Kyla Thorpe, Laura Mackintosh, Stephen Armson.

Ye Olde Coop Shop or CWS

Dear Editor

The last issue of WOT carried a photograph of a marching band with old shops in the background and you requested recollections of these shops.

Many older residents will recall the original Coop building, which occupied precisely the same site as the present "All Hours". The smaller shop along side being the newsagents, as now, the previous owners being Tom and Jemima Stevenson.

As these recollections came to mind, so also did personal memories of the old Coop. They may just tickle the memory of the older generation of Ratby folk who were customers during the dark days of the 1940's.

On leaving school at 14, the writer was given employment there between 1941 and 1951 (give or take a couple of years National Service) by Manager Mr George Neal.

If my memory serves me correctly, a date plate of the old building read 1830 and the property itself gave the impression of being converted from a block of two, possibly three, small cottages. Apart from the actual "shopping area", several small low, dark rooms each with a fireplace and mantle-piece could easily have been previous kitchen or living quarters. The building particularly upstairs was dark and dismal, the only light to some of the upper rooms being from small windows which themselves were low, almost at floor level.

The rear of the building, surely an extension to the original, provided a store room which, together with resident mice, housed pig-bran, oats, potatoes, cheeses as big as dustbins, giant blocks of salt for salting pigs, water-glass for preserving eggs, to name but a few.

Alongside the storeroom was the Bakery, above which on the rising ground the flour loft. Bakers within living memory include the oft celebrated pork pie maker 'Arrold' Awk, Author Simmington and George Chetwynd.

Adult male staff were called for war service, thankfully to return as hostilities ceased. One such local gentleman was Nev Lemon, still going strong at 89 (but not at the Coop!). Their war time replacements were village ladies, as the times demanded. Minnie Gardener (seamstress of Spirella Corset fame), Lily Hiron and Joan Sutton.

Divi was paid quarterly at between 15% and 25% of total cash purchases during the period, unless you owed! In which case the divi was taken off your bill.

Staff, between themselves, would refer to customers by their Coop number rather than name. For instance, No 6 referred to Geary, 406 to Foulds, 49 to Briggs, 326 to Green etc anywhere from 1 to 503. Although face to face, we would be privileged in most cases, to greet them by christian name.

When war was over, small quantities of long forgotten items of food began to re-appear, always to dilemma of the Manager. A 28 pound box of prunes, a large wooden crate from America containing 48 small hams, 36 tins of pineapple chunks!! How on earth do you fairly satisfy 500 customers? A rota system, based on Coop numbers was eventually the answer.

With thoughts of Rimso, Magnoma Tea, pepper in three cornered bags, Jack the railway man delivering sacks of loose sugar from Ratby station, its surely time to rest my case.

Be happy

Local yokel



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SCOUTS GET DIRTY IN DERBYSHIRE !

I mean really dirty! On the 18th March the Scouts tried caving for the first time. We travelled up to Matlock Bath in the minibus on what must have been the warmest, finest Saturday to date this year. What do we do? We go crawling around in tight, wet, cold, and more importantly, very dirty holes underground.

I must admit it was personally the worst thing I have ever participated in as a Scout leader. I can hand on heart say that caving should not be tried by overweight people with a dislike for confined spaces. The scouts thought it was brilliant though, and found the obvious distress of their leader quite amusing.

Only two hours were spent underground under the expert guidance of Tony Kendal's County Caving Team.

We arrived safely back in Ratby around five. Safely-although I couldn't walk for a week! This is an official Scout Leader's health warning;

Caving can seriously damage your health!

Other not so painful experiences have included a winter camp at Johns Lee Wood in Newtown Linford. (Although certain scouts found it necessary to keep their beloved leaders up until twenty past three in the morning, and then wondered why the same leaders would not let them go to sleep in the after noon.

Some exciting activities were undertaken, such as Patrol Hikes, fire lighting, pioneering and the obligatory camp fire

The hovercraft project will begin shortly, starting with a few fund raising events run by the scouts themselves. I believe a balloon release will be one of them.

There are still some numbers available for the 100 CLUB. If you are interested in having a number, call me on 239 0427. The first draw has been put back a few times while we try to improve the level of support. So I'd like to apologise to those people who joined early on and must be wondering what has happened to their money. The first draw will be in April.

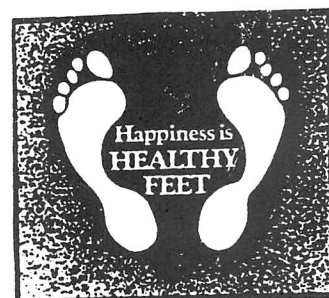
If you are aged between 10 and 15, and would like to have a closer look at what we do then please come along to the Church Rooms on a Friday night at 7.30 pm.

Yours in Scouting

Robert Payne.



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RIDE IN ALL WEATHERS!

Oaklands Riding School on Groby Road in Ratby has gone from strength to strength since opening four years ago. Julie Smith offers a range of different opportunities for everyone, from beginner to experienced rider. There are popular gymkhana days for children, run during the school holidays, when young enthusiasts can enjoy grooming and riding the ponies. You may have seen the School's ponies at the Church Teddy Bears' picnic last summer. There is a cross country course, working hunter course, and show jumping. The excellent facilities and competitive prices have all contributed to the success of Oaklands riding school. Julie is constantly improving the opportunities. The latest development is an all-weather riding surface. Contact Julie on 2387570 for more information

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

14 Calverton Close
Ratby

Dear Editor,

Please allow me to be pedantic with reference to the greetings on pages 8 and 9 of the February issue.

The village of Ratby as such, can be wished a Happy Millennium because the word millennium means a period of one thousand years. One cannot express the same sentiments to the villagers. Not one of us is going to live that long!

In reality the 21st Century does not begin until 1st January 2001 so maybe there will be another chance.....maybe!

Yours faithfully

Hoz Gamble

Wot about modern medical advances? Some of us may yet achieve 1000...you never know! Editor.

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Ratby Village Society

BRUGES COMES TO RATBY

The new Era opened with RVS member Hoz extolling the virtues of Bruges, the finest preserved medieval city in Europe, sometimes known as The Venice of the North. The purpose of the canals was, originally, to act as moats for the protection of the rich wool merchant's, and weaver's houses. Prosperity lasted for some 300 years, then decline set in after which no redevelopment took place. During the many European wars over the centuries, when Belgium became a battleground, the city was of no strategic importance. Bruges therefore escaped major damage, leaving us with the delightful tourist attraction we know today.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

February was AGM month. This year a record number of 50 attended and afterwards enjoyed a splendid supper. There was no change in the officers, Jack Haywood (Chairman), Hoz Gamble (Secretary) and Betty Hulme (Treasurer). Jill Grey stepped down from the Committee after her much appreciated allotted term.



VILLAGE SOCIETY IN ALL THEIR GLORY

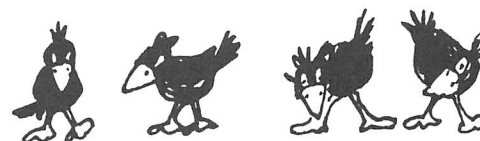
In the February issue we wondered if there might be any photographs of the 'dress other than normal' at the Society's Social event. Hoz Gamble has duly obliged with the photograph below, taken by Jack Haywood. Pictured from left to right; Janet Fenton, Eileen Parker, Jill Grey, Pat Willis and Ray Fenton.

THE RATBY & DISTRICT ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

We meet on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, at 8pm. in the Groby Ex-Servicemen's Club, Leicester Rd. Groby. All old and new members welcome.

MUSEUM NEWS

The Royal Tigers Gallery is a year old in April. The City Museum Service is making an appeal to all visitors and their relatives who have served with the Royal Leicestershire Regiment. You are asked to pick up a form to complete about your service so that the Museum can record interesting and vital military information. Brian Leader, 'Royal Tigers Gallery', New Walk Museum, Leicester.



RATBY COMMUNITY ORCHARD

The Orchard trees are growing well now following mulching and pruning last October.

Did you know that one of the varieties of apple, Annie Elizabeth, a cooking apple, was locally produced? It was raised in 1857 by Samuel Greatorex, a magistrates' clerk of Avenue Road in Knighton, Leicester. He named it after his baby daughter. It is sweet, and renowned for stewing.

Watch out for more news in the June issue of Wot!



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Is it A Waste of Space?

It is some time since we reminded ourselves why we have a Parish Council. So.....

What does the Parish Council do? It provides a voice for anyone who needs it in their dealings with the Borough or County Council. Think of it as a liaison role between the village and the (sometimes mystifying) corridors of local government.

Is it connected to the church? No. Although a parish is the subdivision of a diocese (having its own church and clergyman), the term refers to the smallest unit of local government in rural areas.

What is its role in village planning? Although the Borough Council has the final decision, it does ask for opinions and comments on planning applications that are

submitted to the Borough Council. The Parish Council is the mouthpiece for villagers who are opposed to any plans. We will argue the case at any public enquiry on major planning issues.

Does it have other functions? The Parish Council is responsible for the maintenance of the land it owns in the village. It is also there to make improvements to the appearance of the village and to give support to groups with suitable projects in mind.

Your Parish Council will do its best in continuing to help with resolving problems. It will continue to be your voice with the Borough and County Council. It will continue to try and improve the village in which we live. Come to the next Annual Parish meeting (see advert opposite) and have your say!

Meet the Council

There have been several changes to the Parish Council membership in the last year. The current members are set out below, with a few details about each person. To get to know us better, please come and meet us at one of our monthly meetings.

TONY DALY – Chairman

Tony gives his age as “over 21” and has retired (sort of) from his own telecommunications business (he still goes to Board meetings). He has lived in the village for 16 years, served on the Council for five years and been Chairman for four. He and his wife, Maria, have a smallholding and Tony enjoys whizzing around on his tractor... Not such a “small holding” is his family – six sons, four daughters and 13 grand children (so far).

MICHAEL BALL – Vice Chairman and member of Leisure & Recreation Sub-committee

Mike can trace his family associations with Ratby back to the reign of Queen Elizabeth I. He is well known to Wot! readers for his articles on local history which is one of his main interests, together with natural history and rural affairs. This is in contrast to his employment with De Montfort University at the Faculty of Science, specialising in pharmaceutical and biomedical sciences. He has served on the Council for almost 25 years and has outlasted 42 councillors and eight clerks!

MERLE JOYCE – Chairman of Planning Sub-committee

Merle was born in Coalville and has lived in Ratby for 45 years. She was finally persuaded to join the Council in 1996 and is also a local School Governor. During her working life she worked for the National Coal Board, Tubes Desford and GEC Marconi, mainly in payroll. She married a local lad, Colin and they have two sons and two grandchildren. Colin and Merle first met at a venue that was opposite Box Tree Farm and behind 10, Main Street – the Majestic Ballroom!

LAURANCE “OZZY” O’SHEA – member of Planning Sub-committee

Ozzy moved to Ratby in 1988 and has been on the Council since 1996. He is married with four children aged between 23 and 13 and has been a policeman for 25 years (so must have seen a great many changes in policing during this time). He also has a particular interest in education and has been a school governor at Alderman Richard Hallam Primary School for 14 years. As a contrast from all this (and probably to get away from it all), his interests include camping and caravanning.

ALAN WITHERS – member of Planning Committee

Alan is well known from his walks through the village, probably taking photographs! For many years a “postie” he finished his career as an Assistant Manager with Parcel Force. He has lived in Ratby for 13 years and joined the Council three years ago. His family also live in the village. His main interest is photography and he is co-founder of the Ratby Millennium Photography project. He can also be seen racing round the badminton court!

RACHEL DEVEREUX – member of Leisure & Recreation sub-committee

Better known as our “lollipop lady” Rachel is, of course, in charge of the school crossing patrol. She became a member of the Council last summer and is part of the Wot! delivery team. She has one son and two grandchildren and her interests include gardening and knitting. She has lived in the village for 35 years and has reached retirement age but we can still expect to see her and her lolly for a while yet!

KEN PICKARD – member of Leisure & Recreation sub-committee

Ken has lived in the village for 25 years and became a member of the Council last summer. How he finds time is a wonder as he is a busy sales executive with a printing company and is married with two boys. He is a very keen tennis player and an ardent Leicester City fan (but says he doesn’t paint his face blue!).

ELAINE MOORE – Chairman of Leisure & Recreation sub-committee

Elaine has lived in the village for 13 years and became a member of the Council in October 1999. She had to give up work because of her health but prior to this her career was in taxation, financial services and latterly she travelled all over the world preparing business plans for an international firm of insurance brokers. She is also a singer and is married to John, a musician. They met when John played the piano for Elaine to sing on a Radio Leicester concert!

ROBERT EMMERSON – member of Leisure & Recreation sub-committee

It was only last July that Robert and his wife Alison moved to Ratby from the North East of England because they “fancied a change”. Since then, he has quickly integrated himself into the village and its activities. Robert is a member of the Village Society and he became a Councillor in December 1999. He currently works in office administration and accounts and his interests are mainly practical – he enjoys DIY and gardening.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

WEDNESDAY 26TH APRIL 2000

Parish Council Chairman’s Review of 1999

Open discussion on traffic and parking problems in the village

WELFARE HALL at 7.30pm

ALL WELCOME

A NEW START FOR RATBY YOUTH ACTION

Ratby Youth Action was set up to identify and try to meet the needs of young people in Ratby by working with key agencies, local groups, individuals and young people. Since 1996 it has helped establish a Youth Club and begun a dialogue between youth workers and people in the village. It has also helped to raise funds for youth activities.

Recently, interest has waned, although occasional meetings have been held. The 2000 AGM will be held at 7.30 on Monday 15th May, at The Barn, Church Lane. There will be a report from the Ratby Youth Workers.

I will be standing down as Chairman. This will open up the opportunity for a new start for the group. It's work is as important as ever, with increasing opportunities for getting funds for youth

work projects which are community initiatives. Please contact me for an agenda.

Andrew Simmonds
46 Stamford Street.



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RATBY GRADUATE MEETS THE QUEEN

Twenty-four year old Caroline Freeman was invited to a reception at Buckingham Palace in recognition of her voluntary work. Her father, Mick Freeman of Gilbank Drive is justifiably proud of her!

Caroline, a Social Science graduate of Newcastle University runs a gardening club and girls football team in Scotswood, a deprived area of the city.

She was one of only seven hundred people from around the country who attended the event, and one of the few lucky enough to speak to the Queen. She had been chatting to Prince Andrew's Press Secretary, and he advised her where to stand for an opportunity to meet the Queen.

Caroline says, 'She was lovely. She asked me what I did. She was really interested and knowledgeable.'

At present Caroline is working with young people on crime prevention strategies. She has applied for a Youth Millennium Award to enable her to travel to Australia for experience with a youth project in Adelaide.

Well done & Good luck !! (Editor)

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WELCOME TO RATBY

A team of four, Paula, Dave, Sean and Chris arrived in November 1999 to take the Plough Inn forward into the 21st Century!

They are aiming to refurbish the Inn, starting with the interior this spring, and moving on to the exterior later.

Both of their previous pubs were award winners, 'CAMRA' (Campaign for Real Ale) Pub of the Year in Worcester, and an award for Good Pub Food in Northampton.

Sean and Dave, together with Ryan are the chefs. Their aim is to provide good quality food, with the emphasis on fresh ingredients, and excellent table service at a reasonable price. Fresh fish and game are promised soon!

Dave prides himself on the quality of his beer. There'll be regularly changed guest ale list in the summer.

We look forward to seeing The Plough back in 'The Good Beer Guide' once again!

If you haven't been down to The Plough recently, why not give it a try? You'll be pleasantly surprised.



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RATBY CO-OPERATIVE BAND; CHAMPION BAND of the MIDLANDS 2000

Three contests in four weeks and at least one prize in each! That was the record of the Ratby Co-operative Band at the start of the Contest Season.

The Band took second prize at the Association Contest at Derby on 6th February. Matthew Taylor was awarded a prize as best tenor horn.

One week later the Band took part in an Entertainment Contest at Milton Keynes, again taking the second prize. Mark Tarry, our flugel player received the prize for best soloist.

Only two weeks after that the Band excelled themselves in the Midland round of the National Championships. This time they walked off with the first prize, and an invitation to participate in

the National Finals at the Albert Hall in October.

Immediately after the Contest our conductor flew to New Zealand to work for a few weeks with a Band out there. Ratby Band, however carries on.

Coming Events;
Annual MUSIK FEST at Groby College Saturday and Sunday 13th -14th May. Special guests this year are The Sempre Crescendo Accordion Band from Holland. A great atmosphere with waiter service whilst you enjoy a fantastic variety of music and dance.
'The Greatest Free Show on Earth'; on June 16th two of Ratby's Bands will join over 90 bands on the Yorks./Lancs. border.

The Junior Band Birthday Concert will take place on June 27th at Groby Community College.

Just a few of the local events for the next few months. Don't forget the Royal Albert Hall.. If you would like tickets ring 238 6954. The bus will cost £10, and tickets start at £10. An event not to be missed!!



RATBY NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

HOW TO OBTAIN YOUR FREE 'PRIDE' ALARM

1. You must be 60 or over and reside in the Hinckley and Bosworth area.
2. If you are a victim of crime in the home on or after June 1st 1998 you may be eligible to have a PRIDE ALARM HELP CALL UNIT fitted free.
3. The PRIDE HELP CALL UNIT consists of three main parts;
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 - A small panic button which may be carried.

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A leaflet can be picked up in the Library for more information.

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Tel. 0116 239 4288

VILLAGE MILLENNIUM UPDATE

Calling All Parents - All of the parents of children attending Ratby County Primary School during this year's summer term should have received a letter inviting those children to join in the Crow Pie Carnival Parade and the special Children's Millennium Tea Party to be held at the Ferndale Drive Park.

This is to be held during the afternoon on Saturday August 12th.

The Tea Party will be free of charge, all paid for by donated funds which have been raised by the Ratby Millennium Steering Group.

A speedy reply has been requested to this letter in order to ensure participation and to allow time for full organization of this event.

Diary of events - Further to our pull out diary in the February issue, we have a couple of alterations for you to note:-

The Village Society's April meeting was not listed in the pull out, this is in fact to be the Members Slide Evening as shown for May. Their actual May meeting will be an illustrated talk to be given by Mr J P Brownlow, this is to be entitled '1863 Health and Life'.

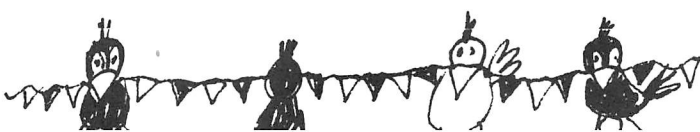
One of the dates listed for the Bury Camp Open Weekends has had to be altered. This is the one listed for May 27 and 28th.

These are now to be on the following weekends June 10th and 11th then June 24th and 25th.

Musik Fest - The Ratby Co-operative Band tell us that all of the arrangements for their Musik Fest are now finalized.

This is to be held at Groby Community College on the evenings of Sat / Sun May 13th and 14th.

Flower Festival - The Methodist Church have their Millennium Flower Festival which is being held over three days in late May, the dates are Sat, Sun and Mon May 20th, 21st and 22nd.



MILLENNIUM PHOTOGRAPHY PROJECT

The project is proceeding well with well over 150 old photographs of Ratby scanned into the computer. Some of these are being displayed in Ratby Library over the next few months. We still need photographs of past events, especially the Crow Pie Carnivals, the old railway, and the station. Does anyone have pictures of the Church Farm estate being built, or the fields it replaced?

Any stories or information on events or information about the pictures in the Library would be gratefully received.

Contact Hoz Gamble 238 7240

(Hopefully more of these pictures will also find their way into future issues of Wot! Ed.)



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MOVING OBJECTS

Ratby Library was the first venue for a new Leicestershire Museums touring exhibition. If visited the Library in February or March you will have seen the fascinating display of books and objects on the theme of Myths and Legends. Look out for the next event-we'll try to give you advance notice!

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KEEP RATBY IN THE NEWS!

If you read the Leicester Mercury you may have noticed that there is a regular section titled "Community News". Many of the villages and communities in the county are featured from time to time, but **Ratby never appears**. It is time we put this right!

If you are part of a group (for instance, Ratby Band, the Scouts, the WI) and are organising an event, don't you want people to know about it?

If you are fund raising for a charity or other good causes (like the church roof!), don't you want to take every opportunity to publicise what you are doing?

If you celebrate your Golden Wedding or a centenary birthday, wouldn't it be nice to share this with other people?

If you achieve something special (for instance, being presented with an award, passing professional examinations, winning a competition), wouldn't you want other people to know about it?

We can report on all this and more! **If there is something that other people might be interested in, then let me know.** I have taken on the role of Mercury Correspondent for Ratby and intend to submit articles on a

weekly basis. This means I will need a lot of news!

The starting point is for me to build up a network of personal contacts to supply me with suitable news stories. I have written to all the associations and groups in the village that I am aware of but if you haven't heard from me, get in touch! As for the individual successes, achievements and even tragedies, this is where you come in! **I can be contacted on 2394737 or by fax on 2388021.**

Obviously, there is no guarantee that all the material will be printed and as the Mercury has editorial control there may be changes to what is written. There is also no guarantee as to the timing of articles but the aim is to print them in the same week they are submitted, space permitting.

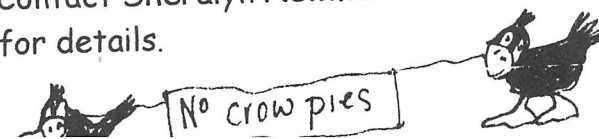
So come on, let's put Ratby in the news. Let's tell the stories about the people and the things that make this village what it is.

ELAINE MOORE

CROWPIE 2000 SATURDAY AUGUST 12th

Are you getting ready for the great Millennium Crowpie Carnival? All village groups are invited to take part. The parade starts at 1 pm. from the top of Markfield Road.

Big Band Vento 81 from Holland are our guests, and the theme is to be 'Nations of the World'. Contact Sheralyn Newman 238 6954 for details.



MILE OF PENNIES! CHURCH ROOF APPEAL

Great excitement! White lines weaving through the Churchyard, across Church Lane and into the estate and back again. Had lots of snails been leaving those silvery trails? No, we were getting ready for that mile of pennies.

Lots of people came, looking around, wondering where to put their coins down. The children were a great help, putting the money along the line for those who found difficulty with bending. The pennies snaked along.

Then came the collecting up. There was such activity, with brushes, dustpans, sieves, buckets and wheelbarrows. It really was a team effort, and must have looked quite funny to those 'not in the know.' The paths swept on a Saturday afternoon! Pavements were really paved with gold.

An actual mile of pennies was not laid, although the sum of money obtained, £902, was more than the equivalent of 80467 pennies. Higher denomination coins were laid, reaching the 1km. post.

Thank you to everyone who helped!



DEADLINE for JUNE ISSUE MAY 25th

You may leave items in the Library or send to 10 Groby Road or 3 Ingle Drive.

Editor 239 3367

Articles 239 4873

Adverts 239 3270

RECIPE

STUFFED GAMMON RASHERS

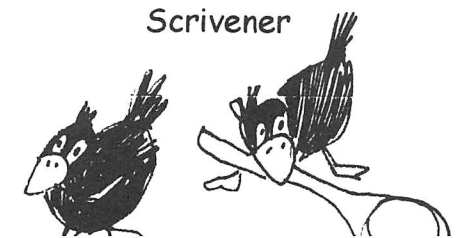
Ingredients

- 2 slices gammon 1/4- 1/2 inch thick
- 1 egg
- 3 tablespoons fresh bread crumbs
- 1 oz (25 gr.) margarine or butter
- 1 onion, chopped
- 4 oz (110 gr.) mushrooms
- 4 tomatoes
- 1 teaspoon chopped parsley
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- salt and pepper to taste
- 2 pieces aluminium foil

Method

1. Reserve 4-6 small mushroom caps for garnish
2. Prepare stuffing:
Melt fat in small saucepan and fry onion and remaining chopped mushrooms lightly. Add crumbs, parsley, seasoning with beaten egg, and bind together.
3. Prepare gammon; wipe, remove rind and snip the fat around the edge. Brush foil with oil.
4. Place mushroom caps on foil with gammon on top. Spread stuffing over. Fold and seal foil and place on baking sheet.
5. Bake in oven, Gas 6/200C/400F for 30 minutes.
Carefully open foil, place tomato halves over stuffing and return to oven for 5-10 minutes.
6. Serve on bed of rice or mashed potatoes.

Scrivener



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