

APRIL/MAY 2002

ISSUE 93



WOT!

About Ratby
PUBLISHED BY RATBY SCOUT GROUP



RATBY SCHOOL ACHIEVES SILVER ECO-AWARD



As reported in the WOT, we are working towards achieving the Green Flag Award to show that we are an environmentally conscious school. Karen Letton, from Environ, is supporting us with this work, and the Eco Committee of staff and children meet regularly.

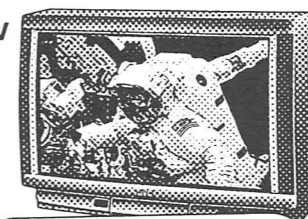
In January, we were awarded the Silver Award because we have successfully completed all the criteria in the following areas:-

- Setting up an Eco Committee that meets each half term.
- Carried out an environmental review and planned action.
- The committee reviews and reports progress.
- Aspects of environmental work are covered in our curriculum.
- The whole school is involved in the activities and reports made to the local community.
- An Eco Code has been produced.

This term we are grateful to the Ratby Orchard Group for donating 2 Apple Trees and to the Leicester and Rutland Ornithological Society for donating a bird table. Both of these help us

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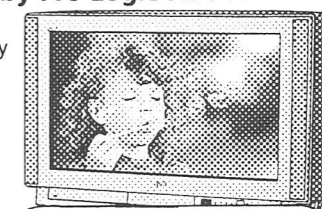
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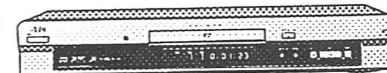
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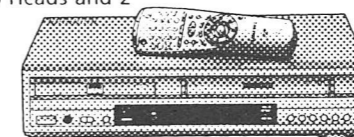
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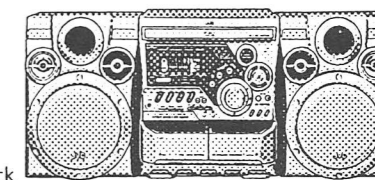
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SILVER AWARD continued;

All the children have been making suggestions about what they would like to improve the outside of the environment of the school. This includes play equipment, murals, seating and plants.
What would you like to see as you pass by the school?

Extra litterbins have been installed to encourage children and adults to put their litter away!
We are still recycling paper, as well as our Christmas tree and cards. We collect stamps for charity.

We would still like to have a member of the village community on our committee, so that the work we do could include helping the village too. If you are interested in environmental issues please phone school and we'll let you know the date of our next meeting-0116 239 3610.

1st RATBY SCOUT GROUP 100 CLUB Last year's winners

Month	Number	Winner	Prize
April	63	Carol Shapland	£40
May	43	Gwen Holloway	£40
June	70	D.Mackintosh	£40
July	24	Lorraine McBean	£40
August	53	Judy Brookes	£40
September	32	Pete Fowler	£40
October	18	Dawn Macleod	£40
November	15	S. Steedman	£40
December	15	S. Steedman	£40
December	23	T.W. Bailey	£50
December	27	Betty Hulme	£70
January	6	Peter Mackintosh	£40
February	42	Rita Sims	£40
March	3	Darren Bee	£40

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK MAY 12th – 18th 2002

A House to House Collection will take place in Ratby.
If you would like to help please ring 0116 2392357,
as more collectors are needed.

RATBY'S SPORT HERITAGE

Ratby Sports Club recently received the deeds to their property from the brewery. Mike Webber, Club Treasurer has sent us this interesting article.

The Earl of Stamford's Estates.

In 1875 The Right Honourable George Harry Grey, 7th Earl of Stamford and Warrington, owned large estates in Leicestershire, amounting to almost 6000 acres. They included Bradgate Park, and a Gas works in Groby, which for that time must demonstrate very up to date thinking!
He also owned land in northwest Leicestershire, and received annual rents of £10,000 an enjoyable income.

Part of this land was 3 acres 1 rood and 20 perches of pasture that was to become Ratby cricket field. On January 2nd 1883 the Earl died. In a will dated 26th June 1875 he left his Leicestershire estates to his widow, Lady Katherine Henrietta Venetia Grey. The estate was to be managed by 3 trustees, and she would receive the profits and rents. In 1905 Katherine died, and for the next sixteen years the estate management continued.

Charles Toon

It is not entirely clear whether Mr Charles Toon was a cricketer or not. He was a 'beerhouse keeper' of The Railway Inn, Ratby, and sporting teams do seem to have connections with beerhouses. Be that as it may, it is certain that by 1921 cricket had been played in the village for many years, forty at least. On 10th September 1921, a piece of land known as 'The Cricket Field' was sold to Mr Charles Toon for just £300. At the time the land was rented by Mr Joseph Ball, farmer, presumably for grazing. Maybe Mr Toon thought that as he now owned the field he could keep the cows off the land and avoid clearing the field of cow dung ever again. Charles Toon died on January 16th 1926, leaving the land to his nephew, Sidney Marvin of 31 Stamford Street. Executors of the Will were his son Thomas, Blacksmith of Ratby, and Thomas Hutchinson of Kirby Muxloe.

The CO-OP Connection

Sadly, only three years later on 22nd February 1929 Sidney died, leaving no Will. It was not until thirteen years later that letters of administration were granted to Alice May Warden, daughter of Sidney Marvin, and wife of William Henry Warden. Thomas Hutchinson, sole remaining Trustee for the estate had to give permission, and it took a further five months before he signed the agreement.

Just eleven days after becoming the owner, Alice sold the land to George Glover, manager and secretary of the Ratby Co-operative Society for the splendid sum of £400. One of the Co-op Committee members was Mr H Warden, presumably a relative of Alice through marriage? Six months later George Glover sold the land to his employer, Ratby Co-op for £465, signing the conveyance as both seller, and buyer in his capacity as secretary of the Society.

Ratby Town Cricket Club Take Ownership

By 1952 Ratby Town Cricket Club had been playing cricket on that field for nearly three-quarters of a century, presumably paying rent all that time.

However, the Trustees of the Club, Lloyd Sutton, Henry Freeman, Clifford Prentice and Thomas Wilfred Shipman were very ambitious. After much discussion and fund raising the trustees were able to sign a conveyance transferring ownership of the field to Ratby Town Cricket Club for £550 on 24th June 1952. They were to be the sole owners for 30 years.

In the early eighties, the Trustees, now Clifford Prentice, Michael Shipman, Stuart Briggs and Ian McLeod decided they wanted to merge with Ratby Rovers Football Club to form Ratby Sports Club. New Trustees were required, and these were Michael and Ruth Shipman, Clifford Prentice and David Gowdridge.

Ratby Town Cricket Club would cease to exist as a separate entity and so the ground was sold to the newly formed Ratby Sports Club for a nominal sum of £1.

The sale took place on 29th April 1983, the ownership of the cricket field passing to the Sports Club with whom it remains today.

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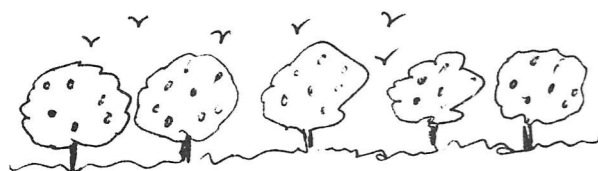
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RATBY COMMUNITY ORCHARD GROUP

The group have had a busy start to the year. Two apple trees were donated to Ratby School, and members went along to help with the planting. Pictured are Abbie Fletcher, Rebecca Lillystone, Nicola Root and Kyla Thorpe from the Green Club enjoying getting the hole dug. The varieties planted were Baker's Delicious and Beauty of Bedford. A first harvest is anticipated in four years!

On Sunday February 16th thirteen of us met up at the Orchard to receive valuable instruction on pruning from expert Noreen Jardine. With her guidance we all had a go at pruning. We were given strips of wool to tie onto the trees where we judged pruning was needed, and then following advice and a check from Noreen the cuts were made. The aim was to strengthen the trees and create healthy, easily accessible apple crops in the future. Damaged or diseased parts were removed, and one tree, which had, sadly, died, was replaced.



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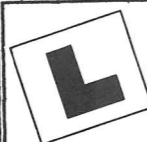


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RATBY VILLAGE SOCIETY

The year commenced with an illustrated talk by Mr Fred Harding on 'A Walk Along the Nene', starting from Northampton. The slides depicted habitations and interesting features along this quiet river until it reaches The Wash at Sutton Bridge.

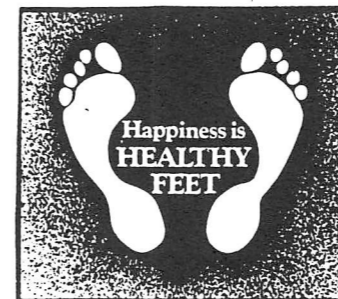
In February 37 Members attended the Annual General Meeting followed by the traditional member's supper. In his report the Chairman Jack Haywood spoke of another successful year in the Society's life, thanking those who had supported the work, in particular Janet Gutteridge and Jill Grey who have continued to maintain the flower trough at the War Memorial. Mr Haywood was re-elected as Chairman, Mr Horace (Hoz) Gamble as Secretary and Mrs Betty Hulme, Treasurer. Mrs Brenda Leavis stood down from the committee, which was made up to strength by Mr 'Skip' and Mavis Rae.

Three rivers were featured in the March presentation by Hoz Gamble who showed slides of the wine producing areas of Germany, along the busy Rhine, Neckar and Mosel, together with their historic towns and picturesque villages.

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still moving forward.'
Native American Folklore

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POLICE CONSULTATIVE GROUP

The next meeting of the Braunstone Area Police/Community Consultative group, which includes Ratby, will take place at 7.30pm on Monday 6th May. The meeting will be held at the Civic Centre, Kingsway, Braunstone. It will be the Annual General Meeting.

The A.G.M. will be followed by the regular meeting where the policing of the area can be discussed with senior officers.

This includes matters relating to traffic, local crime, crime prevention and Neighbourhood Watch. Individual cases cannot be discussed, but they can be addressed to Inspector Jason Masters at Braunstone Police Station.

Anyone wishing to have an item put on the agenda, or nominations for the A.G.M. can contact;
Mrs. Kath Wallace, Chairperson 0116 291 6692
Inspector Jason Masters 0116 248 3420

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LETTER to the EDITOR



VILLAGE APPRAISAL; WHERE ARE THE NEW FACES?

We thought we would attend the Village Appraisal meeting on 23rd January. The number of people there was around 30 out of approx. 4000 in the village. No one attended from any of the youth organisations (2 teenage boys came, *instructed to come, we believe*. They were not asked in the meeting what they would like in the village.)

No one came from the School, Chapel, and only Atul was there from any village shops.

So how can these things work if nobody is bothered to attend such meetings?

It wasn't what we thought it was going to be actually, just a talk given by a representative from the Rural Community Council to explain what we had to do for an appraisal. Of course it was the same people attending, it doesn't matter what goes on in the village, no new faces come along to help/organise anything. Just the same 'old' faces over and over again. These folk will be the ones doing everything yet again. **Why does this keep happening?**

We get no joy from scout's families; the Brownies are closing from lack of interest in running a pack.

There are so many new young couples and families in the village now, it would be good to see them help and come up with new ideas.

It was suggested we need a Youth Club. Why? We've had one before. No one wants to help run it, and it would probably be vandalised like the play areas. Perhaps the Police Constable could do more, but we hardly see him.

If the younger people/teenagers DO want something, then they need to make their point, **backed up by their parents, on the appraisal forms, which are meant to be circulating to every house in the future.**

We don't really need much more in the village do we? There are so many varieties of shops, churches, pubs, and sports club.

Maybe we could have one or two more post boxes and phone boxes. I believe the youths would like a skateboard area. OK the traffic can be a problem, especially double deckers coming down Danehill. But if we had double yellow lines there would be nothing to slow cars down, and where would people park on Station Road?

On reflection we think our village has much to offer at present, but the youth organisations could do with much more parental support.

Gwen and Roy Holloway

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RATBY VILLAGE EVENTS DIARY

The following listings of events through to the end of June 2002 include updated details which have now been made known to the WOT team.

DATE & TIME	EVENT	ORGANISERS	VENUE	TEL No
APRIL				
Wed 10 th 7.45pm	Things My Mother in Law Didn't Tell Me	Women's Institute	Village Hall	2387193
Tues 16 th 8.00pm	Talk - New England	Village Society	Village Hall	2387240
Sat 27 th 10.00 am	Coffee Morning and Musical Weekend	Methodist Church	Chapel	2394432
Sun 28 th 2.00pm	Parish Walk to Newtown Linford	Parish Church	Church	2393009
MAY				
Sat 4 th 11.00am	Church Open Then each Sat to Sept	Parish Church	Church	2393009
Wed 8 th 7.45pm	Resolutions	Women's Institute	Village Hall	2387193
Sat 11 th 2.00pm	May Fayre	Ratby School	School	2393610
Fri 17 th 7.30pm	Aspects of Leicester and AGM	History Group	Village Hall	2394168
Tues 21 st 8.00pm	Craft Demonstrations	Village Society	Village Hall	2387240
Sat 25 th 6.00pm	Golden Jubilee Proms Concert in the Garden	Church & Band	Vicarage	2393009
JUNE				
Sat 8 th 7.30pm	Junior Band Birthday Concert	Ratby Band	Grobby College	2386749
Wed 12 th 7.45pm	Patchwork	Women's Institute	Village Hall	2387193
Sat 15 th 7.30pm	Ratcliffe Chorale Concert	Parish Church	Church	2393009
Sun 16 th Tba	Old Village Walk - Pt3	History Group	Village Tba	2394168
Sun 16 th 3.00pm	Strawberry Cream Teas & Songs of Praise After	Parish Church	Church Rooms & Church	2390010
Tues 18 th 8.00pm	For Valor - The story of the VC	Village Society	Village Hall	2387240
Fri 21 st 7.00pm	Music Festival	Ratby Band	Grobby College	2386749
Sat 22 nd 7.00pm	Music Festival	Ratby Band	Grobby College	2386749
Sat 29 th 2.00pm	Garden Fete	Parish Church	Vicarage	2393009

CORRECTION

February's Village Events Diary gave the wrong time for the ever popular Jazz in the Garden event which is being held this year on July 6th.

It should have read 7.30pm instead of 2.00pm. Please accept our compiler's apologies for this error.



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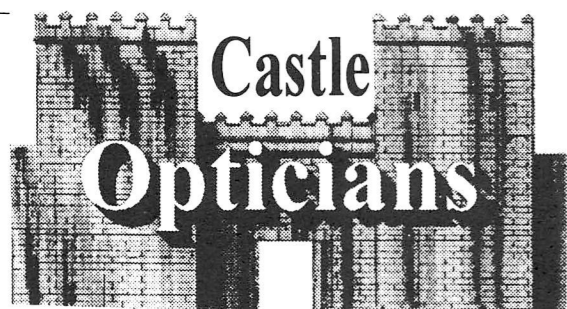
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RATBY CO-OPERATIVE BAND NEWS

Belated Best Wishes for the New Year to all our supporters. We have been rather busy both rehearsing and mopping up. Our preparations for the Contest season received a severe setback when we discovered that a burst pipe had flooded the Band room. Parts of the ceiling had fallen in and some instruments had been badly damaged. Fortunately we are insured and well on the way back to normality.

The Christmas season was busy. Thank you to all who attended the Christmas Concert or who contributed to the Carol Collection.

We have some interesting projects for 2002. Both the SENIOR and MID Band are to make Compact Discs. The Senior Band is off to Middelburg, Holland, in June, and the Mid Band will be visiting Domont, near Paris, in September.

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THE FUTURE OF THE VILLAGE - DON'T YOU CARE?

There are few things in life over which we can have any influence – we can't decide how much council tax we pay or set the rate of interest on our mortgages. So why, when there is an opportunity to have a say in what happens, do so few of us want to get involved? The general rule seems to be that we leave things to others and then say, "Oh we didn't want that" when the result is not quite what we would like! On the other hand, as soon as something is suggested that directly affects us we develop a bad case of "Nimbyism" (Not In My Back Yard) and are prepared to go to any lengths to put a stop to it.

There are approximately 3,800 people living in Ratby. Of these only 30 came to the public meeting held at the end of end of January (and two of those were children!) to discuss a village appraisal. Although we have set up a small steering group to develop this initiative (see below) we still need more people to get involved. We *know* that lives these days are busy and pressures of work, home and family leave little time for personal leisure, without getting involved in a village project, but it would be a shame if the work that we do doesn't reflect the views of the majority....

VILLAGE APPRAISAL AND PARISH PLAN

The proposal to carry out a village appraisal has moved on a stage as the steering group has decided there may be more benefits in



producing a Parish Plan. An appraisal will still form part of the project, when everyone in the village will be asked for their views, but the Plan gives more scope

for research into the concerns of the community and provides a better tool for planning for the future development of the village. The project has the full support of the Parish Council, which will act as the accountable body once funds are applied for. At the early meetings of the steering group

agreement was reached on a constitution and a committee was appointed. Elaine Moore was elected chairman, with Ken Hunnybun as secretary and Merle Joyce as treasurer. There are five other members of the initial steering group at this time and there are several people who have expressed an interest but have not yet been able to attend a meeting.

WOT! will be used to keep readers up to date with developments and there will also be reports in the Leicester Mercury and posters in the village advertising what is going on at future meetings.

Anyone who would like to hear more about the project is invited to attend the meetings or telephone Elaine on 2394737.

THE FUTURE OF THE PARISH COUNCIL...

There are changes in the air for the Parish Council! The entire organisation and management of local councils is gradually becoming more professional as the Government wants Parish and Town Councils to have a bigger role in the community and more "clout" in their dealings with Local and Regional authorities. Although this means more legislation and rules to follow there are advantages to be gained. One initiative is for

the Parish Council to apply to be accredited as a "Quality" council, which would give us more influence over *what* happens, *when* it happens and *how* it happens! Our Council already meets most of the criteria and this is something we are investigating. The Council is also preparing to sign up to a revised Model Code of Conduct and there will be more details of this in the next edition of WOT!

SKATEBOARDING



There are currently no dedicated facilities for young people in the village and this is one of the subjects that will be tackled in the village

appraisal. Approaches have been made to the Parish Council by two groups of enterprising youngsters who would like a skateboarding area. The Parish Council has started making enquiries about the viability of having such a facility in the village. These things cannot be organised overnight and there are several parts to our research at the present time.

The first is to find out the extent of interest in the scheme and a questionnaire was circulated for young people to sign. This has been returned with 72 names on it but it has to be said that a good many of the signatures are from Groby and Kirby Muxloe (which already has its own skateboarding area!). If there are people in Ratby who have not yet signed the petition, please call at the Parish Council office and add your name to the list. The other parts of the research are to do with cost of equipment, insurance and, most important, health and safety. We will report progress in the next issue of WOT!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

There are only nine Parish Councillors. With the best will in the world there is only so much we can do. Several ideas have been mooted and abandoned due to lack of resources and there are three current projects that need other people to help them move forward. Anyone interested in getting involved in one (or more) of the following is asked to contact the Parish Clerk:



We are having another attempt at arranging floral displays in the village during the summer. A small group of people will shortly be meeting to make the arrangements, which could include planters and hanging baskets (once the lampposts are licensed!).



The last issue of WOT! outlined the plans in the village for the Golden Jubilee. Volunteers are needed to help with putting up bunting in the village during May, ready for the Jubilee itself at the beginning of June.

It is important that we preserve the trees and hedges in the village. We need to identify the trees that ought to be protected and check the condition of those trees that already have Preservation Orders.



WATCH OUT!

There will soon be a new feature at the office of the Parish Council and it is certain to prove popular with residents. Local policeman PC Reg Varney will be using the upper floor when he is on duty in the village. This local people—there will be a sign saying PC Varney the opportunity to meet more should they arise. The new arrangement such as furniture, have been sorted out.



NEW ELECTORAL WARD

There was consternation in the village last year when it was announced that Ratby would be in the same electoral ward as Bagworth. Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council made the proposal in its initial review of electoral boundaries, undertaken as part of a national programme. Following consultation the new proposal is for Ratby to be joined with Desford and Peckleton, which is considered to be a more satisfactory solution.

RATBY LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Our Last Meeting – This was on Friday March 22nd, when Richard Gill presented us with a very interesting illustrated talk about Memorials of World War 1.

The early part of Richard's presentation covered many differing types of memorials located around the western front battlefields. We ended closer to home with a look at the Lutyens example in Victoria Park Leicester, together with other memorials in villages around Leicestershire. Unfortunately, he did not have a shot of Ratby's own version.

We also heard from Arthur Stevenson about his research on the 1921 sale of the Bradgate Estate Farms located in and around Ratby.

Neil Glenister, our local Archaeological Warden, displayed and described a Roman roof tile to us, this has recently been recovered by David Ramsey from a quarry location on nearby farmland.

Neil also reported on the recent finds of the fieldwalking group from fields near to Martinshaw Wood. A fragment of Roman pottery was found, but still not yet any evidence of the Roman Road believed to have existed close to the village.

Neil then updated us on the recent important discovery by Charlie Toon of an early 14th century Papal Bulla, only the second to be found in the Ratby parish. The other was found near to Holywell Farm during the early 1900's.

Golden Jubilee – We are still looking out for any memorabilia and photographs, which we can borrow or copy for our planned display about the aspects of Ratby at the time of our Queen's accession and coronation (1952/53). Please telephone 2394168 if you can help with anything.

Our Next Meeting – This is to be the Village Hall on Friday May 17th at 7.30pm, this is when we are holding our first AGM, plus a talk by Lynn Mellor about Leicester.



JULIE'S HAIRDRESSING

MAIN STREET, RATBY

Traditional & Modern
Styling

Telephone: 2392406

CARIBBEAN 'BAKEWELL' TART

Ingredients

Pastry

- 6 oz (225 gr.) self-raising flour
- 1 oz (25 gr.) custard powder
- 2 teaspoons icing sugar
- 4 oz (110 gr.) margarine or butter
- 1 egg yolk

Sponge

- 4 oz (110gr) castor sugar
- 4 oz (110gr) margarine
- 2 beaten eggs
- 4 oz (110gr) cake crumbs or ground almonds
- 1 tablespoon milk

Filling

- 2 tablespoons rum
- 4 oz (110gr) chopped dates
- 2 oz (50gr) chopped apricots
- 1 oz (25 gr.) chopped stem ginger
- 1 tablespoon brown sugar

Method

Set oven to 200C/400F/Gas6

1. Sift flour, custard powder and icing sugar.
2. Rub in fat, add yolk and a little water if necessary, to bind.
3. Roll out and line deep flan tin, pressing gently to remove air bubbles.
4. Cover with foil to keep flat
5. Bake blind for 10-15 mins. Remove foil
6. Mix filling ingredients and soak whilst making sponge mixture.
7. For sponge, beat sugar and marg. until creamy, then beat in eggs.
8. Add crumbs or almonds + milk and mix well.
9. Spoon rum-soaked fruits into pastry case, cover with sponge mixture and bake for about 40 mins. until golden brown. Cover with foil if browning too quickly.
10. Dust with icing sugar and serve hot or cold with cream or custard.

Scrivener