



# WOT!

## About Ratby

PUBLISHED BY RATBY SCOUT GROUP

### RATBY 2000 BOOK IS LAUNCHED



Pictured are the volunteer members of Ratby Millennium Photographic Project group.

Front row: Ratby Parish Council Chairman Elaine Moore and Alan Withers, the Project Leader with the book.

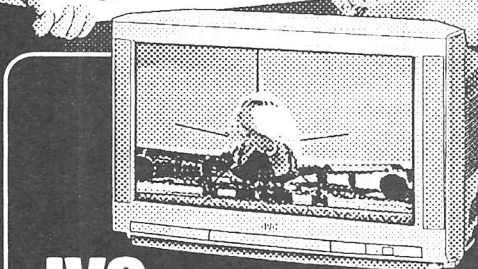
Back row: Left to Right, Sylvia Gant, Dorothy Smith, Keith Wevill (Computer Graphics and Producer), Hoz Gamble (History Co-ordinator), Mary Gowdrige, Mick Jewell, Bob Lee and Sandra Slater.

Photo by Martin Canenhurst

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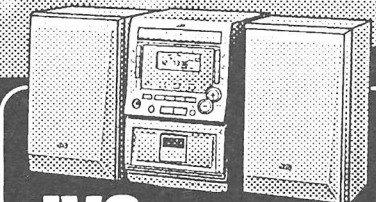


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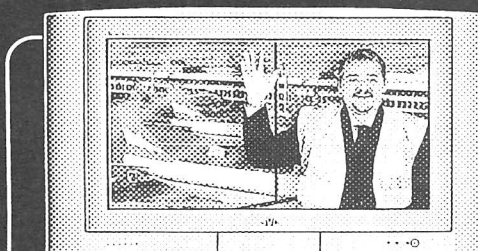
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## LAUNCH OF RATBY BOOK 1<sup>st</sup> FEBRUARY 2003

A steady stream of villagers popped into the Methodist Chapel to see the finished Ratby 2000 Book. On display were two copies of the book, as well as panoramic views of the village, and a computer slide show of photographs. Volunteers who had worked hard to produce the book were on hand to give information, and of course there were delicious homemade scones and refreshments on sale.

A copy of the book is available for study in Ratby Library.

If you would like a copy of the CD ROM, at £5.00, please contact Alan Withers on **238 6274**. The CD contains material additional to the book as well as music from Ratby Band and the sound of Ratby Church Bells.

Adobe Acrobat 4 or 5 is needed to read the book on CD.

Keith Wevill can produce a CD of just the photographs which will play on DVD players which will play VCDs. Price also £5.00.



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## NEWS FROM ST. PHILLIPS and ST. JAMES

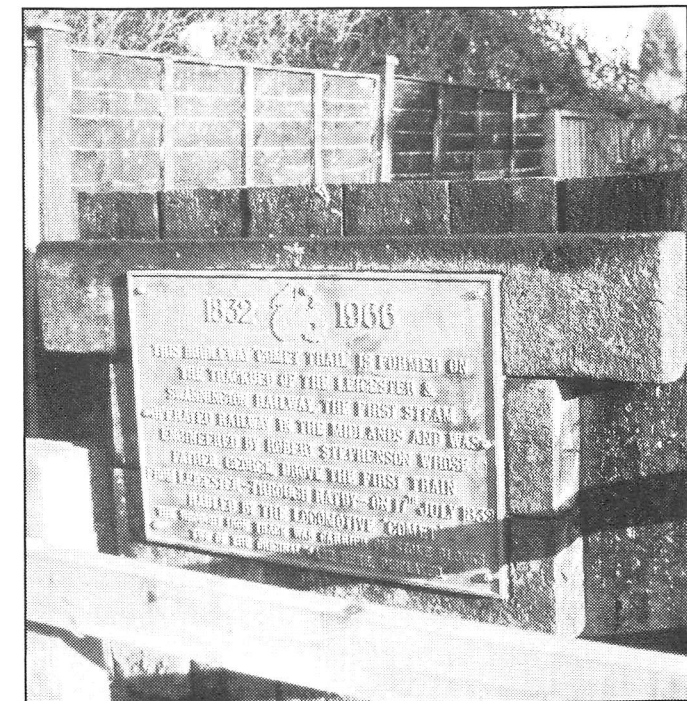
In our all-age Worship Services this year we have been thinking about what it means to be a Christian in today's world. We started in January by thinking about what should make us distinctive to other people. If we believe we have something wonderful in our lives, how well would other people have to know us to see it? If we were taken to court would there be enough evidence to convict us as Christian?

During our February service we had an enormous clock made for us to use, as we thought about how we spend our time. We had to think about what was important to us, how things had changed, and how we responded to them.

At our last service we heard how early Christians had to listen to God, and live according to his teaching and direction.

It is important to remember that no matter how difficult things get, we believe that we can turn to God to help us and bring peace into our lives.

It's been great to see more families coming along together, and we've been able to share in some baptisms, welcoming babies as the newest members to the Christian families.



### THE 'COMET TRAIL'

Horace Gamble has sent in this photograph of the commemorative feature now in place at the start of Ratby's 'Comet Trail.'

The memorial was funded by the Leicestershire County Council Heritage Grant, Ratby Parish Council and Everard's Brewery. It was designed by Hoz Gamble, and built by Cawrey Ltd.

The trail starts adjacent to The Railway Inn, which Hoz informs us was originally named 'The Whitwic Colliery Arms' from 1833, when it was built, until c. 1862 when it acquired its current name.

The plaque reads,

'1832-1966. This bridleway, 'COMET TRAIL,' is formed on the track bed of the Leicester and Swannington Railway, the first steam operated railway in the Midlands, and was engineered by Robert Stephenson, whose father, George, drove the first train-through Ratby- on 17<sup>th</sup> July 1832, hauled the locomotive 'COMET.'

The wrought iron track was carried on stone blocks. Two of the originals are here displayed.'

### CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

The Annual house to House Collection will take place between May 11<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> in Ratby. We do need more collectors and if you can help, however small a area, please ring (0116) 2392357 for further information.

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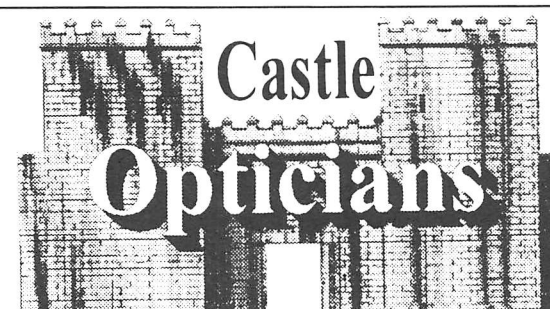


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## RATBY VILLAGE SOCIETY

### In the Footsteps of Hilary

The first meeting of the year saw the seventh appearance of Mr Brian Jeffs, presenting another of his spectacular audio-visual shows. Mr Jeffs is one of a small band of amateur photographers to attain the status of Fellow in the Royal Photographic Society, which guarantees stunning images on the screen-this time of a trek in the Himalayas.

He was one of a party of nine which needed two guides, four cooks and seventeen porters to accompany them from Katmandu to Sir Edmund Hilary's base camp at the foot of Mount Everest. The trek, which took nine days outwards was accomplished in two hours on the return, by air!

### Annual General Meeting

February is the traditional month for this meeting, in which 33 members took part. The Officers, Mr Jack Haywood (Chairman), Mr Horace (Hoz) Gamble (Hon Secretary) and Mrs Betty Hulme (Hon Treasurer) were re-elected for a further year, while Miss Jill Grey and Mr Ray Leavis completed their terms of office as committee members.

At the conclusion of the business part of the meeting, members enjoyed fellowship over a hearty buffet supper, and also supported the inevitable raffle!

Enquiries regarding the Society's activities can be made by telephoning 238 7240

## BRADGATE TWINNING ASSOCIATION ANNUAL BARN DANCE

Bradgate Twinning Association held their annual Barn Dance at Glenfield Memorial hall. 86 members and guests had a fun evening enjoying the dancing, perhaps not always to the callers requirements, which added to the merriment for both dancers and spectators. It was a very enjoyable time and the end came all too quickly. We are now looking forward to entertaining our French twinningers who will be visiting us at Easter and staying with local families. A busy program has been organised including a visit to Stamford and Burghley House.

Visit our website for a list of events and information about our Association.


Robert Hill

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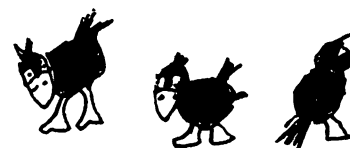
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**Gwen Holloway**



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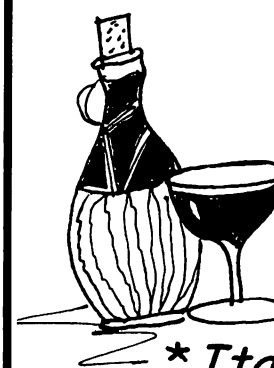
£3.50 per session

The pre-school is a committee run charity which covers all aspects of the curriculum to prepare your child for "Big School". It is primarily intended for your child's enjoyment, promoting an opportunity for him/her to learn a wide range of skills.

**Contact Mrs Janet Simmonds**  
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## THE PLOUGH INN

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**New Dessert Menu**  
**New Sandwich Menu**

**\*Italian Night\* Food and Wine 10th April**

**FOOTBALL QUIZ @ APRIL 20th**

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## Ratby Parish Council

### NEW CLERK



Those of you who have visited the parish office will already know that we have a new Clerk. The council is delighted to welcome **Samantha Edwards**, a young lady from Ratby who lives in the village with her partner and baby daughter. With all the new rules and regulations that the council is faced with in current times, it is a good time to join us...

US... (Ha, ha).

The office is open to the public from 09.00 until 12.00 Monday to Friday and by appointment at other times. It is sometimes necessary to close the office but messages left will always be dealt with as soon as possible.

### "RATBY 2000"

The long awaited photographic history of the village was finally launched at the beginning of February. The specially bound books are the work of the millennium photographic project team, led by Councillor **Alan Withers**. The project started with the intention of recording events that took place in the village during 2000 but developed into a pictorial history of the village, covering its long and colourful past for "the first 2000 years". **Horace "Hoz" Gamble**



has largely written the text, with contributions from local historians **Denis Green** and **Arthur Stevenson**. The huge task of compiling and editing the book fell to **Keith Wevill**, who has moved to Bradford since the project started. The book is a beautiful record of the village and can be seen at the library or at the parish office. Congratulations to all concerned!

### WAR MEMORIAL



We have reported previously that work is needed to repair, clean and refurbish the War Memorial. Unfortunately, the last time this was done the cleaners used a solvent that has caused pitting in the surface of the angel. We have received notification that our

application for a grant to restore the memorial has been accepted and we understand that previous damage can be reversed. At the time of writing we have not yet heard how much money we have been allocated but the parish council has already set aside funds to match the funding we are given. Work should start soon.

### SWANNINGTON RAILWAY



A permanent feature is now in place to commemorate the railway that once passed through the village. To remind you of the history...

In 1829 a Bill was passed in Parliament for a railway to be built between Leicester and Swannington, to meet the increasing demand for coal deliveries in Leicester from the mines in the north of the county. The contract went to Robert Stephenson and the first train travelled the route on July 17<sup>th</sup> 1832, the first steam railway to be operated in the Midlands. The locomotive itself was the Comet, driven by George Stephenson, Robert's father. The railway was finally closed in 1966 and the trackbed is now the bridleway

between Ratby and Glenfield. The wrought iron track was carried on stone blocks and two of the originals form part of the commemorative feature. This project to provide the village with something to act as a reminder of the railway's history has been led by **Alan Withers** and **Hoz Gamble**, who also supplied the design – our thanks to both.

It was hoped to have the bridleway named "Comet Trail" with roundels along the trail explaining the history. To do this we need the agreement of Glenfield Parish Council as the path goes beyond our boundary but at present they are reluctant to use this or any other name. We are continuing to pursue this with them.

## TRAFFIC & PARKING

After months of nagging, letter-writing and telephone calls to the county council we are now in the position of all the requested traffic improvements being at some stage of development or discussion:

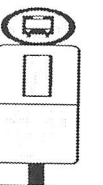
**Traffic calming on all through-routes in the village** – The council has discussed the initial plans and the emergency services will now be asked to comment. Your turn will come soon – watch this space.

**Parking in Church Lane, Chapel Lane and Berrys Lane** – Again, the council approved the draft plans and we are waiting for the version that will be discussed with the residents who are affected by the suggestions.

**Improvements to Main Street** – This is not progressing so well and (at the time of writing) a quick chorus of "why are we waiting" would not go amiss! Sadly, this work has not been finished off satisfactorily. Not only that, but the jutting kerb put in outside the Bulls Head is not in accordance with the agreed plans and is to be redone. Rest assured that the council is doing everything it can to speed up the work required.

**Irritating noises** – For those residents on Main Street and Stamford Street who are being driven slowly insane by the clanking loose inspection cover, please note that this has been reported and an inspector has looked at it...

**Star Trak** – We have been informed that we are to have one (possibly three) of the new style bus stops that supply computerised information as to when the next bus is coming.



## GETTING INVOLVED



There will be a public meeting to discuss the possible development of Ferndale recreation ground into a proper community park (e.g. seats, flower beds, new play equipment for the children). Part of the discussions will also centre on possible activities – such as the long awaited skatepark – and security.

The Parish Plan steering group will be issuing everyone a questionnaire, asking how you feel about different aspects of the village and asking what you would like to be changed or improved in the future.



Another public meeting will be held to discuss the traffic calming proposals.



And – of course – volunteers are always welcome, particularly for such projects as the "Ravishing Ratby" campaign to have more flowers in the village during the summer months.

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April

## Annual Parish Meeting

Village Hall 7.30 pm

Chairman's Report on the past year

Looking forward to this year

Come and discuss the issues that are important to YOU!

ALL WELCOME



## BROADBAND WON'T COME TO RATBY!

Enquiring a couple of weeks ago about signing up to AOL Broadband I was told this was not possible as BT had not undertaken the necessary system and information changes.

So I rang BT to be told that only 177 users via their Internet Service Providers had shown an interest in Broadband. The number must reach 200 before it goes on BT's list of jobs, and then it has to be prioritized.

It is therefore in our own interest to get as many Internet users to register an interest as possible. There is no cost, and no commitment to sign up once Broadband becomes available, but at least those of us who do want it will be in a good position to press BT for the necessary work to be done. PLEASE HELP!

Graham Stanley



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## Wriggly Readers in Ratby

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**who for:** 0 - 3 year olds and their grown ups.

**where:** Ratby Library

**when:** first Thursday each month, 10.30 - 11.00am

**why:** because books are fun for everyone!



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## RATBY LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

**Our January Meeting:-** During the first half of the evening, Dennis Green took us on an imaginary journey through Ratby as it was back in the 1930's. We 'travelled' the length of the village from Big Brook (Rothley Brook) to the Groby Turnpike. On the way we called at Bill Pickering's Grocery, where fruit and vegetables would be left out on the pavement overnight without any fear of them being stolen. Across the road was Mrs Toon's Tripe Shop. Past the notorious Billiard Hall and on to Billy Burton's Barbers Shop where there was a choice of styles to be had, either short back and sides or a basin cut.

We learned about French onion sellers, all berets and bike clips, and of the ostlers walking through the village alongside their immaculate stallions. We also met up with Mrs Holloway and the Travelling Theatre and then went on to the Bulls Head where the landlord, Teddy Wallsgrove, welcomed the Quorn Hunt with a traditional stirrup cup. There were lots of other interesting stops and tales on the way all presented by our expert local raconteur and historian.

During the interval, there was an opportunity to view a marvellous collection of old photographs of Ratby people. A display of recent archaeological finds and a copy of the 1770 Enclosure Map, plus aerial photographs of Ratby in 1969 were also on show.

Doug Harwood then concluded the meeting with a talk during which he used information from the Enclosure act to describe aspects of Ratby's landscape just prior to its implementation in 1770. The locations of the former village gates and of surviving pre-enclosure hedges, roads and footways were outlined.

**March Meeting ( Friday 28<sup>th</sup> ):-** At the time of going to press, Richard Mackinder is due to speak about the Archaeology of Bosworth Field and Doug Harwood is to continue with information about the 1770 Enclosure Act.

More about this will appear in the next WOT!

**Our Next Meeting –** This will be held on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May in the Village Hall at 7.30pm. The first part will be of our AGM, followed with a talk by on 'Episodes in a Village's History- Ratby', by Michael Ball.

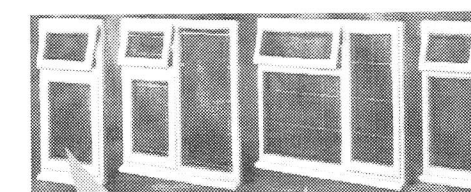


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## VILLAGE EVENTS DIARY



Here is an update about planned events taking place in the village during the next two months.  
All as previously submitted to the WOT team.

DATE & TIME	EVENT	ORGANISERS	VENUE	TEL No
<b>APRIL</b>				
Tues 1 <sup>st</sup> 7.30pm	Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators Meeting	N/ Watch Group	Church Rooms	2394450
Wed 9 <sup>th</sup> 7.45pm	Chernobyl Affected Children	Women's Institute	Village Hall	2387193
Sun 13 <sup>th</sup> 10.00am	Palm Sunday Procession and Service	Parish Church	Starts From Church Rooms	2393009
Fri 18 <sup>th</sup> 9.45am	Good Friday Activity Club for Children	Parish Church	Church Rooms	2393009
Sun 20 <sup>th</sup> 10.00am	Easter Day All Age Service	Parish Church	Parish Church	2393009
Tues 22 <sup>nd</sup> 8.00pm	Talk - Postal Services 1635 to 1840	Village Society	Village Hall	2387240
Sun 27 <sup>th</sup> tba	St George's Day Annual Lunch	British Legion	Royal Oak Kirby Muxloe	2870570
Mon 28 <sup>th</sup> 1.30pm	Young Families Toddler Group	Parish Church	Vicarage	2303009
<b>MAY</b>				
Sun 4 <sup>th</sup> 2.00pm	Parish Walk from Newtown Linford	Parish Church	N/Linford Church	2393009
Sat 10 <sup>th</sup> 11.00am	May Fayre	Methodist Church	Chapel	2386276
Wed 14 <sup>th</sup> 7.30pm	Neighbourhood Watch Meeting	N/ Watch Group	Church Rooms	2394450
Wed 14 <sup>th</sup> 7.45am	Resolutions	Women's Institute	Village Hall	2387193
Fri 16 <sup>th</sup> 8.00pm	Episodes in a Village's History and AGM	History Group	Village Hall	2394168
Mon 19 <sup>th</sup> 1.30pm	Young Families Toddler Group	Parish Church	Vicarage	2393009
Wed 20 <sup>th</sup> 8.00pm	Talk - The Special Constabulary	Village Society	Village Hall	2387240

## THE CUBS GO UNDERGROUND

Several members of the 1<sup>st</sup> Ratby Cub Pack, with some parents and helpers, went on a day trip to the National Coal Mining Museum at Caphouse Colliery in West Yorkshire. The trip was organised by Ray Lander, and the 57-seat coach was filled to capacity.

The highlight of the day was a guided tour of the 135 metre deep underground workings. This involved a 750-metre journey along some of the 'roadways' of this now non-productive colliery. Some members of the group managed to crawl through the typical mine-working tunnels in which the miners of old spent their working lives. The museum also has lots of above ground displays depicting the mining industry from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, and we found it interesting and enlightening.

The Museum is well worth a visit, and what's more, it is all free once you get there!

### DEADLINE DATE For JUNE/JULY ISSUE

**No. 100!**

**FRIDAY MAY 16<sup>th</sup>**

**EDITOR 239 3367**

**ADVERTS 239 3279**

**ARTICLES may be sent to 3 Ingle Drive LE6 0NN**

**Phone 239 4873**



## MELSWAY DRIVING SCHOOL

**Mel Shipley D.O.T. A.D.I. M.I.A.M.**

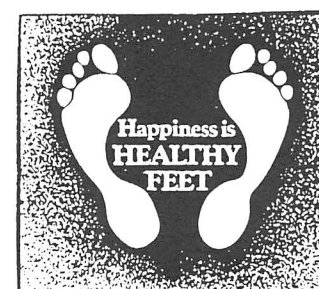
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## RECIPE

### HEREFORD APPLE CAKE

#### Ingredients

150g/6 oz raisins  
100g/4 oz sultanas  
50g/2 oz chopped mixed peel  
2 tablespoons medium cider  
225g/8 oz plain flour  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  level teaspoon bicarbonate of soda  
1 level teaspoon mixed spice  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  level teaspoon cinnamon  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  level teaspoon allspice  
100g/4 oz margarine  
150g/6 oz caster sugar  
2 large eggs  
225g/8 oz cooking apples, peeled and cored  
25g/1 oz ground ginger or chopped stem ginger.  
Grated rind of one lemon  
A few crushed sugar cubes

Well-greased 8" round cake tin

Set oven to 170 C/325 F/ 160 C Fan/ GAS 3

#### Method

1. Soak raisins, sultanas, peel in cider for 1 hour
2. Sift flour with soda and spices
3. Cream fat and sugar
4. Beat in eggs, one at a time, following each one with a spoonful of flour.
5. Fold in remainder of flour.
6. Fold in coarsely grated apples, drained fruit, ginger and lemon rind
7. Turn into prepared tin, level the top, and sprinkle lightly with crushed sugar lumps
8. Bake in pre-heated oven for 10 minutes
9. Turn onto wire tray until cold
10. Wrap in foil for 48 hours before cutting.

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