ISSUE 89

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2001



WOT!



About Ratby

PUBLISHED BY RATBY SCOUT GROUP

RATBY IN EUROPE

Pictured here is Ratby Band at the WORLD MUSIC CONTEST in Kerkrade, Holland Turn to page 2 for news of the Band's achievement from Sheralyn Plant.



.....and WORLDWIDE!!

Did you know that if you search for 'RATBY' on the World Wide Web you can access several sites? Ratby Band is there, along with the Primary School, Ratby Sports Club and a collection of photographs on a Leicestershire site. The Church is featured, together with information and village photographs on a Bradgate Churches site. Write in and tell us if you discover any others!

The Parish Council are setting up a web site too...turn to the centre pages for information. Perhaps 'Wot' should also be moving with the times!

EURONICS



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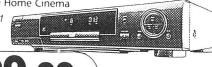
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RATBY IN EUROPE! RATBY CO-OPERATIVE BAND

I expect you will want to know how the band got on at the World Music Contest at Kerkrade, Holland early in July. It was a tough contest. We were drawn to play last and took the stage late on a very hot and sticky evening. We had to play two test pieces 'back to back'; the set piece 'Sinfonietta-The Wayfarer' by Eric Ball, and our own choice, 'Tallis Variations' by Philip Sparke. There were three judges, one Swiss and two Dutch. The Results;

1st Gold Medal with Distinction and first Division Champions....RATBY Co-operative Band. 92.33 points

2nd...Brass Band Uri, Altdorf, Switzerland 87 points

3rd ... Brass Band Merum, Roermond, Holland 84.33 points

Needless to say the celebrations went on well into

The following day the Band joined with Big Band 81 for an outdoor concert in Venlo. A good-sized audience rewarded us with a standing ovation. The Band has attended six successive contests at Kerkrade, a world record, winning a gold medal at each one.

DATES for your Diary;

August 11th Saturday.. Senior Band in St James Park, London September 2nd, Sunday, Senior Band in Hollycroft Park, Hinckley

September 9th, Sunday, Senior Band, Ashby Bath Grounds.

October 6th, Saturday, Senior and Mid Band Celebration Concert, Bosworth College, Desford. Tickets from Mr M Pounder 238 6749



LOCAL MAN 'MAKES' HISTORY NOTHING CHANGES!

Jeff Richards was born and grew up in Ratby. He will be well known to many members of the village community, especially through extended family, school and chapel links. Although he now lives in Hampshire and is Emeritus Professor at the Southampton Institute he has retained his local

He has now produced a meticulously researched and To Inspector of Taxes extensively illustrated historical biography of Thomas, Lord Grey of Groby (1623-1657). This work, called 'Aristocrat and Regicide,' provides a study of a major, but hitherto neglected local figure who rose to a position of national leadership. He was the youngest Parliamentarian General in the on, sat on, flattened out, and squeezed by the Income English Civil War, the only British aristocrat to sign Tax, Beer Tax, Super Tax, Tobacco Tax, Motor Tax, the death warrant for the execution of King Charles 1, and a key participant in the establishment of the English Republic or Commonwealth.



Local people can order a specially signed copy of the book, which has 548 pages, including 80 illustrations. It retails at £19.95 for the case bound edition, and £14.95 for the laminated paperback edition. Order by post, stating preferred edition from 17 Park Road, Ratby.

Jeff has published a further book; entitled 'The Siege and Storming of Leicester May 1645' This is rich in illustrations and links the past with present remains. You may order this for £12.95.

Mrs Janet Grudgings found this article whilst renovating an old desk bought at the Church Auction Sale last year. She feels it may have been written in the '50 s. Perhaps a Wot reader owned the desk and can enlighten us!

Dear Sir.

For the following reasons I am unable to meet your income tax demands; -

I have been held up, held down, sandbagged, walked Purchase Tax and every Society, Organisation and Club that the inventive mind of men can conceive to extract what I may or may not have in my possession for the Red Cross and every Cross and Hospital in the town and country.

The Government has governed my business until I do not know who the h*** runs it. I am suspected, Inspected, examined, informed and required and commanded so that I do not know who I am, where I am or why I am here at all. All I know is that I am supposed to have an inexhaustible supply of money for every need, desire or hope of human race, and because I will not beg, borrow or steal money to give away, I am cursed, discussed, boycotted, talked to, talked about, lied about, held up, rung up, robbed, and d**** near ruined

The only reason I am clinging to life at all is to see what the b***** h*** will happen next.....

Yours faithfully.....

We wonder was this letter ever sent, or perhaps just putting pen to paper served to vent the writer's spleen! Editor

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RATBY VILLAGE SOCIETY

At the May meeting the sad story of the English Civil War was outlined, concentrating on the two sieges of Leicester. Mr Paul Courtney commenced his talk by describing the development of weapons used in the centuries leading up to the Civil Wars. At that time the governing families in Leicestershire were the Hastings, based in Anstey, Royalists, and on the opposing side, the Greys of Bradgate, allied to Cromwell.

Henry Hastings became Governor of Leicester in May 1645 after the first siege by the King's supporters, who had captured the town. A second siege was begun shortly afterwards to regain the town, and after just 48 hours Hastings surrendered to Cromwell's Roundheads. Much of the fighting took place around the present Newarke House Museum, where evidence of the fortifications can still be seen.

BLOOMING JUNE!

The upsurge in television programmes devoted to gardening no doubt prompted a large attendance at the June meeting's talk on that subject, From the outset it was clear that the speaker, Mr Mick Eaton, was no ordinary individual by the appearance of his highly colourful floral waistcoat!

By trade a professional gardener of over 25 years standing currently employed by the Parks Department in Leicester, he entertained and instructed the eager and appreciative audience for over an hour and a half. Then, over cups of tea he offered help and advice to many who benefited from his wide knowledge.



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sometimes be. You may remember longing to have someone to talk to, to confide in or just to share a coffee and chat with.

Home-Start is looking for parents or grandparents who can spare a few hours a week to offer friendship to families who are finding it hard to cope.

We work with families throughout Hinckley and Bosworth, and are currently recruiting volunteers for a training course starting at the end of September. Please contact Ann or Chrissie on 01455 617678.

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BOOKS FOR UNDER FIVES

Ratby Library now has a collection of books for parents and playgroups to borrow which support the new Early Learning Goals for young children.

There are books on 'sharing' or 'getting dressed' to help with children's personal and social development, as well as books on counting and sounds and letters. They are easier to find on the shelves.... Why not pop in and have a look?



LETTER to the EDITOR

14 Calverton Close Ratby

Dear Editor,

I have a large number of surplus copies of 'Wot' between issue no. 11 and no. 71.

Anyone interested in acquiring back copies please contact the above address or telephone 238 7240 within the next month or two, after which the recycling bin will be graced by their presence!

Sincerely

Hoz



THE PLOUGH INN

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THE NET IS CLOSING IN...

It was mentioned in the last issue of WOT! that the work on setting up a Ratby Website had stalled due to lack of people and resources. The good news is that we now have a Webmaster and other people have also volunteered to help.

Our Webmaster is **Mick Morgan** and he has already done a lot of work on our draft site. Why not have a look – the working site address is www.btinternet.com/~mick.d.morgan/ratby If you don't have your own computer this is an ideal opportunity to go and have a look using the Skills Point computer in the library.

The site is very much a work in progress and your comments are welcome – this is, after all, the *village* website and you are entitled to have a say in what it looks like. The initial content will include a summary of our history, a pictorial tour of the village, business life, churches, amenities and activities. There will be links to other websites (for instance the school and local businesses) and there will also be a Parish Council page and a notice board for public use.

A lot of people are now getting involved but we still need **your** ideas and **your** input...

- If you are a member of a **club or organisation** and you want to be included, let us know. You can include *anything* that is of interest to others in the community (for instance the history of your organisation, contact details and current events).
- If you have a **business** and you would like to advertise it on the website, let us know. Again, you can include anything that is interesting, useful and promotes your business.
- If you have ideas about what should be put into the site or left out or just want to help, let us know.

Mick Morgan can be contacted by email at <u>mick.d.morgan@btinternet.com</u> or you can contact the Parish Council office for more information.

SAFE TO PLAY



13, Station Road

Health and Safety is very important, particularly where children are playing. Each year we arrange

for an inspector from the Royal Society for Prevention of Accidents to carry out an annual inspection of the play areas at Burroughs Road and Ferndale Drive. Each item of equipment is inspected and reported on, including the surrounding area. This year's report was excellent and the recommendations made have already been considered and acted on, where appropriate. However, the main problem in these areas is vandalism and although regular checks are carried out to keep problems to a minimum it is a difficult issue to resolve. Everyone is asked to be vigilant and to report any wrongdoing to the police immediately.

GOODBYE AND GOOD LUCK!

Our Parish Clerk will shortly be leaving us! Maureen Martin is returning home to Ireland with her husband Tim and son Declan. Maureen is an excellent Clerk – efficient, conscientious and always

providing a helpful and village only see a fraction of greatly missed! We are sure members of the Parish all the best in their new life

Bony wage

pleasant service to the public. People in the the work that she does and she will be that everyone will want to join with Council in wishing Maureen and her family together.

VILLAGE GARDEN COMPETITION

For an amazing fourth consecutive year Albert and Rita Hall of Markfield Road have won first prize in the best village garden competition and for the second year running they have also won the hanging basket category. Mr and Mrs Hall work together in



their garden and have created their masterpiece from nothing over the years. They have been keen gardeners since their children left home about 20 years ago. Having won the prize for the last three years Mr and Mrs Hall very generously opted not to enter the competition this year but, not surprisingly, someone else nominated them! The runners up in the garden competition were Beryl and Harold Riley of Lockley Close and third and fourth places went to Charles Rogers and Jayne and Stuart Wilson, all of Lee Rise. Stephen Cullen of Dane Hill was runner up in the hanging basket competition, followed by Jayne Copson of Overfield Close and Brian and Gillian France of Groby Road.

NOW YOU SEE THEM...

Recent issues of WOT! have explained that this summer there would be flower planters at each entrance to the village.

Observant villagers will have noticed that planters did appear and then disappeared again a few days later! Unfortunately, due to irreconcilable differences with the contractor supplying the planters the plan has come to a disappointing end.

There were several reasons why the decision

was taken to use a contractor but useful lessons have been learnt and in future we will do it ourselves.

We are now looking at other options for winter planting and we still intend to develop this project for next summer, when it is hoped people will be prepared to help so that villagers can run the project themselves. Thanks again to those people who did offer to help this year.

RATBY LINKED WITH...???

The Parish Council has condemned the recent proposal by Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council that Ratby should be part of the same electoral Ward as



Bagworth. There was no prior consultation with the Parish Council or Ratby residents about this proposal, made as part of the current Periodic Electoral Review.

This is a rolling review programme of every local authority in England and the aim is for each Borough Councillor to represent, as far as possible, roughly the same number of electors. In order to achieve this some changes are necessary to Wards within the Borough.

Our argument is that although the map supplied by the Borough Council looks very convenient, in reality Ratby is several miles away from Bagworth and the two villages have very little in common. Parish Council Chairman Tony Daly said, "Failure to consult with the residents or Parish Council is very disappointing, particularly as no account appears to have been taken of either the distance between the two villages or the fact that they have very different needs." Most people would say that Ratby has close ties with Markfield and Groby and to a lesser extent with Desford but hardly any links with Bagworth.

At a recent Parish Council meeting Rob Fraser, our Borough Councillor and County Councillor also spoke against the proposal and fully supported us in our views. We have submitted our comments to Hinckley & Bosworth who will make their final recommendations in September. (If it's any consolation, other villages in other Boroughs have the same problem...)

JAZZ IN THE GARDEN *

A magical setting for alfresco jazz
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delighting all who embrace joy.
So bring your tables, picnics, wine,
latch on to the happy soundNew Orleans, Mainstream, Blues and Boogiesix solid swingers strut their stuff.

When twilight falls the candles glow and flicker.

shimmering shadows stomp and sway, whilst moths join in the merry dance against the background's darkling trees. But then it's ended all to soon, a final encore and Goodnight.

Lightstepping homeward full of smiles, life's cares banished for another day.

Hoz July 2001

Editor's note:

Hoz has had a poem published in The Rutland Times on 6th July, and another is to appear in the November issue of Rutland Magazine.

ALL ABOUT CROWS



Did you know that a group of crows is called a 'murder'?

OLDER VOICES DAY HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH

FRIDAY 26TH OCTOBER 2001 9.30 am-3.30pm

This free event will give up to 200 people aged 50+ from across the Borough the chance to take part in a range of activities and discussions, with lunch and music laid on too.

We'll be looking at the part older people can play in their local communities, covering topics such as leisure, the environment, safety and health, as well as a look at how links can be fostered with younger generations.

In the afternoon you'll have a chance to try some new activities, from arts and crafts to computing. There will be stalls, information and advice.

The day will end with the Stanley Opera performing a selection of favourite songs.

Free transport is provided.

For information or bookings telephone:

Sue Savage at CVS on 01455 633 002

Or Celia Ryan on 01455 250 462.

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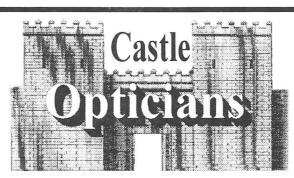
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DATE & TIME	EVENT	ORGANISERS	VENUE
SEPTEMBER Wed 12 th -7.45pm Tue 18 th – 8.00pm	Memories in a Photograph Hearing Dogs for the Deaf	Women's Institute Village Society	Village Hall Village Hall
Fri 28 th - 7.30pm	The A Stevenson File Part 2	History Group	Village Hall
OCTOBER			D - 1 - 01 - 1
Sun 7 th - tba Wed 10 th - 7.45pm	Harvest Festival AGM & Games	Parish Church Women's Institute	Parish Church Village Hall
Tues 16 ^h - 8.00pm	Arctic Fellowship Work	Village Society	Village Hall
NOVEMBER			
Sun 11 th - tba Wed 14 th - 7.45pm	Remembrance Day Service Talk/Demo – Gift Wrapping	Joint Churches Women's Institute	Parish Church Village Hall
Tues 20 th - 8.00pm	Social Evening	Village Society	Village Hall
Fri 23 rd – 7.30pm	Christmases In Ratby Past	History Group	Village Hall
DECEMBER			
Wed 12 th -7.45pm	Christmas Party	Women's Institute	Village Hall
Mon 17 th (to Fri)	Christmas Window Competition	Parish Council	Whole Village
JANUARY			
Tues 15 th -8.00pm	Illustrated Talk - Riverwalk Along The Nene	Village Society	Village Hall
Fri 25 th - 7.30 pm	Old Bottle Finds	History Group	Village Hall



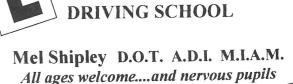
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BRITISH SUMMERTIME

It's that time of year again that we all remember from our distant youth when school has broken up and the long summer days seem to go on and on.

I would ask you to cast your mind back to the time when *you* were enjoying those carefree days. Can *you* remember being very careful around the roads and obeying the 'Green Cross Code' every single time? Me neither.

I am asking all of the motorists within the village to be aware that the children are on holiday. This means extra vigilance is required by all of the car/vehicle drivers within the village to adhere to the posted speed limits.

There isn't a more unpleasant job for a police officer to do than visit a parent and inform them that there has been an accident and their little girl or boy is in hospital (or worse). Whilst you are driving through the village, please try and imagine what it would be like to receive such news and then look at your speedo'. If it's high, Slow Down!

There are particular areas of concern within the village such as Danehill, Tyler Road and Markfield Road to name just a few. There is currently a National Speeding campaign so do not be surprised if you see officers with speeding equipment within the village. Subsequently, if you do receive a speeding ticket, which incidentally now costs £60.00, there can only be one person to blame. You, the driver.

'Reg' Varney Rathy Beat Officer

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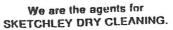
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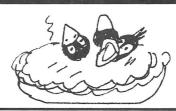
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DEADLINE FOR OCTOBER ISSUE

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Ingredients

110 gr. (4oz) medium oatmeal

50 gr. (20z) demerara sugar

25 gr. (1oz) butter

275 ml (half pint) double cream

4 tablespoons clear honey

4 tablespoons whisky

225 gr. (1/2 LB) raspberries

Method

- 1. Lightly toast oatmeal, sugar and butter until lightly golden
- 2. Whip cream and gradually add the honey and whisky
- 3. Fold in half of the oatmeal mixture
- 4. Put a layer of raspberries into a glass dish
- 5. Add layers of cream mixture then raspberries and oatmeal
- 6. Sprinkle cream mixture and raspberries on top
- 7. Chill for an hour, and then enjoy.

This can also be served layered into tall glasses.

Scrivener

