

WOT!

About Ratby

PUBLISHED BY RATBY SCOUT GROUP

JUBILEE IN RATBY



JUBILEE TREE PLANTING

To celebrate Her Majesty's Golden Jubilee in June this year, a white horse chestnut tree was planted near to the Community Orchard on Tavener Drive. In the absence of founder member Dennis Green, who was unfortunately in hospital, the tree was planted by a group of members led by Chairman Jack Haywood, helped by Tree Wardens Steve Brown and Iris Hannaford Brown.

Jack Haywood dedicated the tree in honour of the Queen's Golden Jubilee and for the enjoyment of present and future generations of Ratby residents.
Photo taken by Hoz Gamble



Festive Bunting on Church Lane
Photo taken by Janet Grudgings



Residents of Bell Close enjoy their Street Party

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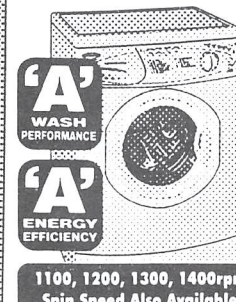
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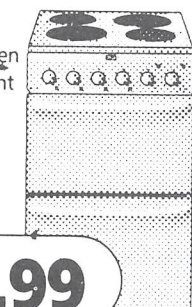
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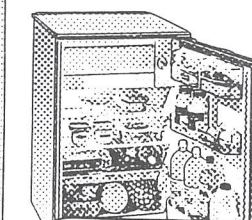
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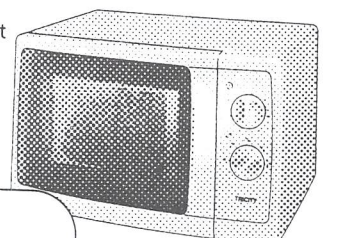
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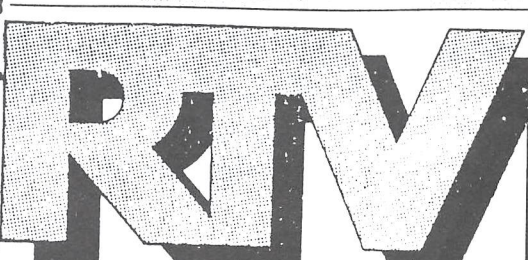


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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters about development proposals which appeared in the June issue of WOT! Have provoked a response. One resident wrote in favour of the proposals, and if a name and address is submitted we will print the letter in our next issue.

Ratby Primary School

Dear Editor,
I would like to reply to a letter in the June issue of WOT, with regard to comments about the school. **The school actually received a favourable Ofsted Report**, but in common with the majority of schools had a few areas where improvements could be made. These were addressed in subsequent Plans. We are continually aiming to improve the education on offer to the children.

As to the average class size, that of 28.2 as quoted is exceptionally good, many schools have far higher class sizes. Our present pupil: teacher ratio is 24.6: 1; in September it will be 24.2: 1.

Ratby School is here to serve the community. Staff and Governors work hard to ensure the best education possible for the future generations of Ratby, irrespective of the size of the village. If the village population does increase then the LEA in consultation with Governors will ensure that increased accommodation, facilities and staffing are resourced.

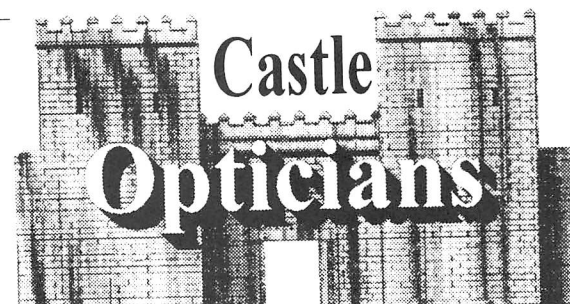
Yours sincerely
Mrs C.A.Hanratty
Headteacher

Ratby Primary School

Dear Editor,
As Chair of Governors, I was amazed to read the adverse comments made by an anonymous reader about Ratby Primary School. Since I was actively involved in the OFSTED Inspection I would like to set the records straight. I quote from the Inspection Report; -"This is an improving school. The weaknesses are outweighed by what the school does well." The weaknesses – and what school does not have some weaknesses? – have been addressed and progress will continue to be monitored.

It is very unfortunate when members of the public make ill-informed and derogatory statements like this, because they can cause irreparable damage to the reputation of the school. At the moment the school does not have its full quota of pupils and comments like this may well deter people from sending their children to Ratby in the future. The Headteacher and staff work unstintingly to improve standards and give the children a broad and well-balanced curriculum. Ratby Primary School is a happy and thriving establishment.

Yours sincerely
Mrs Maureen Harwood
Chair of Governors



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LETTER TO THE EDITOR



PEAR TREE FARM

In the last edition of 'WOT' there were a number of letters about future development proposals to the West of Ratby expressing concern about the long-term effects on the village.

Cawrey Limited have presented a discussion document to Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council setting out a plan for land between Desford Lane and Markfield Road. Our aim is to plan a sustainable extension to the village, which will provide improved community facilities for the benefit of all residents of Ratby. The design is intended to reduce traffic speeds with off-site road improvements and traffic calming to allow residents to use Markfield Road and Main Street more safely. New footpaths and cycle routes will be created to link the new areas to the centre of the village.

We have included an employment area to provide jobs within the village. Provision for schools and affordable housing for **Local** people will be made as part of the planning obligations.

The new homes will be built at a higher density to meet current standards, with open spaces and tree planting. Burroughs Road will remain as a green lane linking the village to countryside beyond. There will also be extensive tree planting to the western boundary, to reduce visual impact.

We will consult with residents as we move towards a detailed design, and welcome any comments. We need to know what facilities need to be included. This could be a community hall, sports or recreation spaces. **We need your input** Please contact us at the address below.

As a small locally based building company we will continue to invest in the community of Ratby. We are resolved to produce a high standard of development with facilities that meet the needs of the village and protect the environment.

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Managing Director

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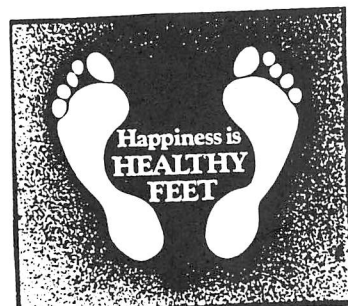
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RATBY VILLAGE SOCIETY

Local Crafts

For our May meeting several highly skilled villagers demonstrated a variety of fascinating hobbies. These ranged from decoupage and tapestry to gift box making and marbling.

For Valour

At the June meeting the author, historian and photographer Derek Seaton, RVS member gave a talk on the history of the Victoria Cross. Queen Victoria instituted the medal, the highest for bravery in battle, in 1854, since when there have been over 1300 recipients of this honour. Two men with local connections were singled out because they both had humble beginnings as children in Leicester Workhouse, and later pupils at Countesthorpe Cottage Homes. Private William Buckingham of The Leicestershire Regiment won his medal for 'conspicuous bravery' in March 1915. Sadly he was killed in action in September 1916. The other, Robert Gee, born in Leicester in 1876, initially joined the Hussars in 1893 and was almost immediately posted to the Royal Fusiliers whence he advanced to the rank of Captain. He was awarded the VC early in 1918. After the war he became MP for North Woolwich and later for the Bosworth Division. He lived to be 84, dying in Australia in 1960.

FRIENDS OF RATBY CAMPAIGN NEWSLETTER

Since the Public Meeting on 28th May 2002 our committee still meet regularly and correspondence is being exchanged with various societies and organisations.

The support offered since that last meeting has been overwhelming and we want you to know that we are still working on the campaign.

Having been misquoted in the Leicester Mercury of June 19th on some village amenities we hope readers realised there had been a total misunderstanding.

The next meeting will be advertised in Ratby Library from mid August

Working towards keeping Ratby Green.

The Campaign Committee

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RATBY LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Our Last Meeting – Took the form of part three of an Old Village Walk. This was led by Michael Ball, Maureen Harris and Arthur Stevenson.

Twenty two 'walkers' took over two hours to travel the short distance between the Church and the Chapel via Church Lane and Chapel Lane. The amount of historical details covered at the many stops en-route was amazing.

Many of the details of the points dealt with on this walk are contained in the Group's most recent newsletter, a copy of which can be obtained by telephoning 2394168.

Ratby in the 1950's Display – The display is now on show in the Parish Church. In addition to normal service times, the Church is open for viewing on Saturdays between 11.00am and 4.00pm through into August.

The display will also be on show at the Crow Pie Carnival on Saturday August 10th

Our Next Meetings –

Sunday Sept 1st – Part four of the Old Village Walk, starts from the Methodist Chapel at 2.30pm.

Sunday Sept 15th – Heritage Walk, starts at the Parish Church at 2.30pm.

Friday Sept 27th – Talks re Hinckley and Ratby Ghost Stories, in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Sunday Oct 13th – Walk covering the History of Ratby cum Kirby Muxloe, further details tba.

NB :- Places on the walks are limited to 25 persons please telephone 2394168 to book a place or obtain more details.



CRICKET IN RATBY

The article about our Cricket Field in issue 93 prompted a Toon family member to send in this photograph of St Philip and St James Cricket Club.

Left to Right.

Back row: F Herbert, H Preston, I Baker, F Tipper, H Moore, W Stephenson, C Toon, G Taylor, T Saunders.

Centre: J T Argyle, E Barratt, W Shipman, Rev Gilbank, Rev (Sandall), T Jayes, T Shipman, H Shipman, S Astill.

Front row: F Foulds, W Ball, H Brown, F Worth.

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VILLAGE GARDEN COMPETITION



The judging of the annual competition for the best front garden and hanging basket took place in the middle of July. First prize for the best garden was awarded to Jayne and Stuart Wilson of Lee Rise, who were commended last year. Second place went to Mr and Mrs Dyer of The Conifers and third to Mr and Mrs Grudgings, also of Lee Rise. The hanging basket first prize was awarded to Mr and Mrs Saunt of Calverton Close, second to Mrs Moore of Markfield Road and third to

Mr Gandy of Woodley Road. Commendations were given to Mr Bourner of Main Street for the garden and to Mr Smart of Nicholas Drive and Mr and Mrs Sides of Bradgate Drive for their hanging baskets.

The judge was Mrs Mary Sample of the Leicestershire Horticultural Judges Guild. She commented that in addition to the winning entries, she saw a lot of lovely gardens and hanging baskets that she felt should have been entered in the competition and hoped that more people would enter next year.

TO BUILD OR NOT TO BUILD...

Pear Tree Farm: The council realise that the prospect of development on this land is of great concern to many villagers. With this in mind we have prepared an information notice that is kept up to date as and when the position changes. This can be obtained from the parish council office.

In summary, if a planning application is made to develop this land it will be the subject of a full public enquiry and it is the job of the council to represent the views of the villagers. Until there is a formal planning application there is nothing to react to and we have been advised by Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council to take no action at this time.



Leicestershire, Leicester & Rutland Structure Plan: This document sets out the strategic framework for the use and development of land from 1996 to 2016. The draft plan was prepared in 2000 and following over 2,300 comments and an independent review, modifications have now been made on which further comments were requested in July. The plan sets out the targets for building in each locality within the overall area. In order to meet the overall target it will be necessary to release some green field sites and the amount designated for the whole of the Hinckley & Bosworth area stands at about 15 acres - actually *less* than the original draft of the plan. However, the council are taking no chances and felt that, if asked, the majority of residents would not want *any* further development in Ratby. We have therefore requested that Ratby be specifically named and excluded from that part of the plan.



NEWS AND VIEWS



The Golden Jubilee commemorative medals that we provided for all the children at the primary school and pre-school have been very well received and we have had many orders for more of them. If there are any still left they are available from the parish office or the post office, price £4.50.



Our thanks to the volunteers who built and planted the four flower planters at strategic points in the village. New councillor Ken Hunnybun actually built the planters with help from Roy Derbyshire and David Hulme and the planting involved Dorothy Smith, Mary Gowdridge, Alan Withers, Elaine and John Sharp, Pam Pollard, Rita and Albert Hall.



The Parish Plan project continues and the current initiative involves the building of a 3-D model of the village on which you will be invited to comment... More volunteers are welcome - please contact the parish office for more information.



The village website address is www.ratby.info - why not give it a visit?

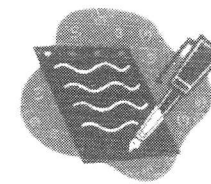
PARISH COUNCILS & CODE OF CONDUCT

In recent months there has been a lot of media coverage about parish councillors resigning over the new Government Code of Conduct that we are required to sign and adhere to. Much of this is the same as before (mainly acting with integrity and doing our best for the people we represent) but there is a new clause that requires each councillor to sign a declaration of personal and business interests in the parish they represent. Many councillors across the country feel this is too intrusive,

hence the resignations and the publicity. Ratby parish councillors considered the regulations in detail and have all signed the necessary declarations - we have nothing to hide. The Register of Interests is kept in the parish office and is available for inspection by anyone within normal office hours (or by appointment).

In view of all this, it seems a good time to look at a few of the myths and facts about parish councils...

What? The parish council provides a voice for anyone who needs it in their dealings with the Borough or County Council and generally looks after the welfare of the village and the people who live here. Unfortunately it has no actual power to change things and can only try and influence decisions. In the future, government initiatives will be giving more authority to those parish councils that qualify as "Quality" councils and we will apply for accreditation as soon as the new rules are formally introduced.



A sub-committee of the council reviews *all* planning applications that are made to the Borough Council; this includes a site visit in every case and the submission of opinions and comments to try and influence the decisions made at the Borough level. The individual views of the councillors are immaterial - it is the views of the villagers that matter and the Parish Council is there to represent the views of the villagers, particularly where there are objections to a particular application.



The Parish Council is also responsible for "leisure and recreation". Part of this is the maintenance of the land the council owns in the village - parcels of land are normally gifted or passed to the parish as part of new developments. As an example, this includes the two recreation areas at Ferndale Drive and Burroughs Road and all the play equipment. We also try to introduce new initiatives to improve our environment (such as the flower planters).

Who? The parish council is made up of *unpaid volunteers* - some would say "suckers"! - people who simply want the best for the village and who are prepared to give up their time for this purpose. The Clerk to the council and the maintenance staff are the only paid employees. The number of residents in the village dictates the number of councillors and we are currently allowed nine. Councillors are elected for a four-year term, or can be co-opted if there is a vacancy no-one has come forward to fill. The next elections for the whole council will be in May 2003. As there are only nine councillors there is a limit to what we can do and repeated requests in the WOT! for volunteers meet with little response. Please remember that fact if you feel tempted to have a moan about what the council is or isn't doing!!

When and where?

- The council normally meets on the first Tuesday in the month; meetings are held at the Methodist Church and start at 7.15pm.
- The Agenda is always put on the public notice boards before each meeting.
- There is nearly always a 10-minute slot for questions from the public and anyone is welcome to stay for the remainder of the meetings and see what we get up to!
- Sometimes part of the meeting is spent on a particular topic. For instance the September meeting will include a visit by a senior representative of the Planning and Transportation department at the Leicestershire County Council, who will be addressing our concerns over several traffic and parking issues in the village.

Ratby Badminton Club Celebrates 25 years Existence

The club was formed by a few teachers and friends to play Badminton in the newly built hall at: Ratby primary school in September 1977. There was only a single court which unfortunately was not full size due to the shape of the hall. So when the opportunity occurred in 1988, the club moved to Bosworth College, where in the main hall, there is ample room for two courts. This allowed for expanded membership and, if necessary, affords the opportunity of entertaining other clubs in friendly competition.

Over the years membership changes as older members retire and juniors grow up and find other interests. Only two of the original founder members are still with the club, which invariably has vacancies for new members, who can be experienced or former players. Others who have not played since school days but with a rudimentary knowledge of the game would also be warmly welcomed.

The club meets on Monday evenings from 7:30 – 9:30 pm. For further information please contact Roy or Brenda on 01162393746.



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RATBY CO-OPERATIVE BAND SUMMER 2002

For many years the Band organisation have enjoyed friendly relations with the Brass Band ONDA of Middleburg in Holland. This year the Dutch Band celebrated its 75th Anniversary. Our Senior Band was invited to take part in the celebrations. We left Ratby on 31st May and arrived in time to take part in a Brass Band Festival in the picturesque Market Square. Five Dutch Bands and ourselves gave continuous programmes from 12 until 5 pm.

On Sunday June 1st we gave a concert in a superb new Concert Hall. Monday was a free day, and we enjoyed a trip to the sea at Domburg, plus a barbecue.

Altogether a successful and enjoyable weekend.

Dates for your Diary
Saturday September 14th Senior Band Concert in Thornton Church
Saturday October 5th Celebration Concert at Bosworth College
Saturday October 19th Senior Band Concert in Swithland Church



RATBY COMMUNITY ORCHARD Pond Life

We've heard that some villagers have questioned the 'untidy and weed filled' state of the village pond. Well this is just how it is meant to be. It has been created as a wildlife habitat, not an ornamental feature.

Sadly there is too much of the wrong sort of weed, misguidedly put in by a no doubt well-meaning villager, but its removal would cause more harm. 18 members went pond dipping on July 11th. We discovered that the pond is home to a wide variety of native creatures... a great success!

There are dragonfly and damselfly larvae, shrimps, pond skaters, whirligig beetles, water boatman, and young newts, and, of course frogs.

Orchard Trees
The group were devastated when trees were recently damaged by strimming during routine maintenance of the site. A meeting has been arranged on site to discuss the problem.

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RATBY VILLAGE EVENTS DIARY

The following listings of events through to the end of October 2002 include updated details which have now been made known to the WOT team.
Please watch the various the local notices and posters for more details.



DATE & TIME	EVENT	ORGANISERS	VENUE	TEL No
AUGUST				
Sat 10th	Tba	Crow Pie Carnival	Ratby Band	Ferndale Park 2386749
Wed 14 th	7.45pm	Talk re - Enigma	Women's Institute	Village Hall 2387193
Tues 20 th	8.00pm	Illustrated Talk - My View of Florence	Village Society	Village Hall 2387240
SEPTEMBER				
Sun 1 st	2.30pm	Old Village Walk	History Group	Chapel Entrance 2394168
Wed 11 th	7.45pm	Harvest Supper	Women's Institute	Village Hall 2387193
Sun 15 th	2.30pm	Heritage Guided Walk	History Group	Parish Church 2394168
Tues 17 th	8.00pm	Illustrated Talk - Trek in Peru	Village Society	Village Hall 2387240
Sat 21 st	7.30pm	Barn Dance	Methodist Church	Chapel 2386276
Fri 27 th	7.30pm	Ratby and Hinckley Ghost Stories	History Group	Village Hall 2394168
OCTOBER				
Sun 6 th	10.00am	Harvest Festival Service	Parish Church	Church 2393009
Wed 9 th	7.45pm	AGM	Women's Institute	Village Hall 2387193
Sun 13 th	2.30pm	Walk - History of Kirby cum Ratby	History Group	Tba 2391468
Tues 15 th	8.00pm	Talk -Police Helicopter Unit	Village Society	Village Hall 2387240

REGULAR VILLAGE EVENTS INCLUDE:-

Bingo on Monday evenings in the Village Hall
Indoor Carpet Bowls on Wednesday afternoons from September to April in the Village Hall.
Afternoon Tea Dances on alternate Wednesdays in the Church Rooms
Drop In Coffee Mornings every Thursday morning in the Village Hall

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Sunday 7.30-2pm. 7pm-9pm

RECIPE HOT SOUFFLE

Ingredients

1 1/2 oz (40 gr) butter
1 oz (25 gr) plain flour
1/4 pint (150 ml) milk
2 eggs

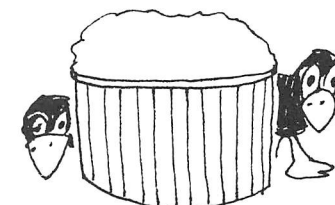
Filling

Choose from:

- 1 oz (25 gr) caster sugar
- Well flavoured fruit puree
- 2 oz (50 gr) grated cheese
- 3 oz (75 gr) cooked crab or prawns
- 3 oz (75 gr) cooked chopped ham or chicken

Method

1. Place baking tray in centre of oven at Gas 5/375 F /190 C
2. Melt butter in heavy saucepan over low heat
3. Gradually add flour while stirring; slowly add milk, keeping mixture smooth. Bring to boiling point, stirring constantly. Cook for 2-3 minutes, still stirring.
4. Remove from heat. Carefully stir in the chosen filling until smooth.
5. Mix in egg yolks.
6. Whisk egg whites in clean basin until stiff.
7. Mix one tablespoon of egg white into mixture in saucepan, and then fold in the rest until well mixed and smooth.
8. Pour into greased soufflé dish and place on heated tray in oven.
9. Cook for 35 to 40 minutes until firm, well puffed up and golden.
10. SERVE IMMEDIATELY!



Modern and Sequence Dancing at Ratby Church Rooms

The road to Hell is paved with good intentions, so the saying goes. A lot of fund raising support-groups fade away either due to lack of patronage or leadership. Fortunately this has not happened to the fortnightly Wednesday afternoon Tea Dances held in the Church Rooms, which were started 10 years ago by the Rev Peter Blackman and organised by Yvonne Crump who provided music and a cup of tea for a modest 50 pence. Subsequently Sid and Ann Hickenbottom took over and the popularity increased as sequence dancing was introduced. Sid's musical repertoire attracted dancers from the surrounding area, even from Coalville and Leicester. In due course Sid 'retired' and surrendered his Maitre de Dance to Marge Wilson who comes from Blaby with her music. Sid and Ann still attend and help with the well-known dance routines. Patrons now pay £1.00 which includes tea and biscuits plus a free raffle draw. The proceeds go to the Church Rooms for improvements, the next item is the surfacing of the car park. The next dance is on Wednesday August 21st from 2.00pm until 4.00pm and new faces will be welcomed.

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