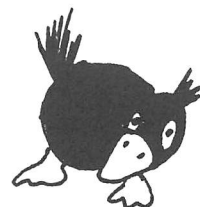




WOT!

About Ratby

PUBLISHED BY RATBY SCOUT GROUP



CHURCH GARDEN FÊTE A WINNER!

This year's topical theme was 'Football Nations of the World.' The stalls were festooned with national flags, and of course there were the ubiquitous Penalty Shoot Outs.

The sun shone, and the crowds were treated to a range of interesting stalls and entertainments. Ratby Co-operative Band welcomed us in, and this year a Brookvale College student band, 'No Apparent Reason' played. 2B Dance Productions were here again, followed by the popular children's races.



Pictured are the Tea Garden Ladies with their delicious display of cakes.

IN THIS ISSUE;

Page 3...Crowpie Carnival

Page 4...Parish Council and Leicestershire Constabulary

Page 7...Ratby School

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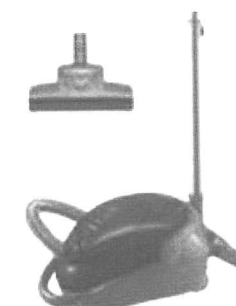
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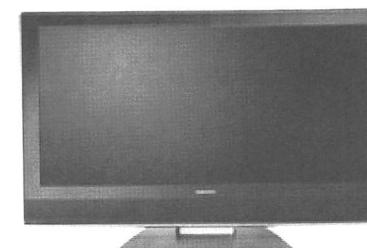
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PICK A HOT SUMMER READ AT YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY THIS AUGUST!

Why not relax with a good book this summer borrowed for free from your local library.

Did you know that you can borrow 12 books for free from your local library for 3 weeks? It is simple to join too! Just pop in for a form and bring it back with a piece of identification like a driving licence or utility bill and we will be able to complete your membership in just a few minutes.

Libraries don't just have books we have computers with the internet, photocopiers, books on tape, special activity sessions for children including monthly storytimes for the under 5s called Wiggly Readers. Read on to find out when these are on ... And all summer children aged 4-12 can join this year's reading challenge: The Reading Mission

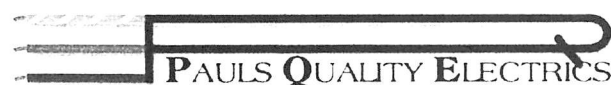
**Tuesday 22nd August Reading Mission
Activities for 4-12year olds at Ratby Library
2-3pm**

**Thursday 24th August Wiggly Readers at
Ratby Library 2pm**

STOP PRESS: TOP SECRET READING MISSION NEWS

Don't forget to read all of your 6 Reading Mission books by Saturday September 9th to claim your spy pen and completer's certificate. Plus this year complete the scheme and be entered into a free prize draw and be invited to a special party in September.

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Ratby Pre-school is primarily intended for your child's enjoyment, promoting an opportunity for him/her to learn a wide range of skills. Whether it is free play or structured play there is always an opportunity for children to encounter new and stimulating experiences in a safe, happy and caring environment. We also need caring parents to help on the Committee, so that the Pre-school can continue to run and provide an early start for your children in your village.

If you are interested in helping, or you have children 2 ½ and upwards please contact: Ratby Pre-school on **0116 2388126**.

Also, a BIG thank you for all who assisted in the running of the Summer Fayre. The support the village gave us made it a great day and a lot of fun was had by all. Congratulations to all competition winners on the day. See you next year!!!!

Please also come and support us at the Crow Pie Carnival on August 12th

PARENTS EVENING/AGM - NOVEMBER 2ND -
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CHURCH FETE, continued from page 1



'No Apparent Reason' entertain the crowds.

PABARI'S RATBY NEWS

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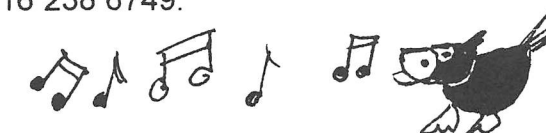
RATBY CROW PIE CARNIVAL

Ratby Crow Pie Carnival is coming up on Saturday 12th August and we're looking forward to a fun-filled day in the village. Look out for the parade which starts in Markfield Lane at 10.30 am and winds its way with bands and dancers down to the Ferndale Drive playing field.

Once arrived, there will be a karate display, dancing groups, a marching band and a brass band. Check out the crafts, plants and bottle stalls, the vintage car display and of course the tea tent, and for the kids there are bouncy castles and candy floss too. There's even Welly Wanging and a Coconut Shy! We look forward to seeing you there.

Plans are also well in hand for our historic Centenary Concert on Saturday 16th September 2006 at the De Montfort Hall. A A During the afternoon we're inviting the many people who have played at Ratby Band over the last 100 years to come and join us for a Big Blow on stage at De Montfort Hall. Anyone who learnt at Ratby, who played with any of the bands or even who just helped us out on a tour abroad, is very welcome to come along and share some birthday cake! Call Becky Moss on 0116 225 9986 for more details.

All five Ratby Bands will feature in the evening concert and we're already practising brand new music we've commissioned, the opening fanfare and the massed band finale with all 115 players on stage. We've got local Mayors, past conductors and assorted VIPs coming to the concert. This stunning occasion is not to be missed and tickets are selling fast. To reserve yours, call Malcolm Pounder on 0116 238 6749.



LEICESTERSHIRE CONSTABULARY

Dear Residents of Ratby,

I hope that you are all well and enjoying some of the nice weather we have been having recently. This brings me to thefts of gardening equipment which is always prevalent at this time of year. It's a case of securing equipment and post coding it if possible, make sheds burglar proof with sturdy locks and an alarm. Also, secure boundaries, garden gates etc. This also applies to dwellings which become an easier target as the heat rises. I know that during the summer most people will have house windows open but please remember to shut them if you leave the property, especially ground floor windows and doors. It's the old cliché, 'prevention is better than cure.'

There still appears to be a handful of youths who insist on being a nuisance. In the summer holidays I would urge parents and guardians to be mindful of where their children are, not only on an anti-social level but a safety one. I appreciate that it's only a handful that cause problems and the majority of kids are good kids. On this note I wish everyone a very happy summer.

Shed alarms and other crime prevention measure's can be purchased from New Parks front enquiry office. As always I can be contacted via my voice mail on 0116 222 22 22 using my collar number Pc 4334.

PC4344 A. Dowey.

WATCH
BATTERIES
& STRAPS

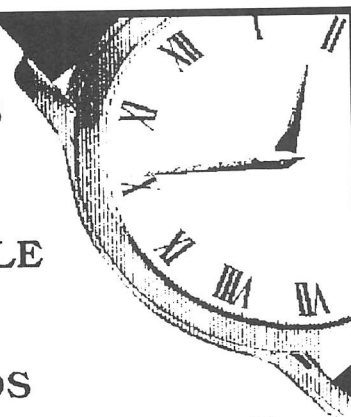
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RATBY PARISH COUNCIL

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There's good news and sad news from the Parish Council this month.

Sad because our excellent clerk Mrs Geraldine Aldwinckle has left us for greener pastures. At a small ceremony the whole council said a heartfelt thank you to Geraldine for her contribution to their work on your behalf, and wished her well in her new and exciting appointment. The good news is that there are lots of really great applicants for the vacancy she has left. By the time you read this we should be test driving our new Clerk!

It was also sad to have to say goodbye to Councillor Jacquelyn Batty who left us because of failing health. Jacquelyn, we hope that retirement will make your life more comfortable. And the good news is that we actually had a young volunteer come forward to fill one of the vacancies. We look forward to welcoming Mick Earl at our August meeting.

Then there's the sad news of further vandalism affecting Council property around the village. Again, repairs have to be made and graffiti removed and YES it is being done at your expense. Some of you may have seen the foul graffiti daubed on the 'bus shelter and elsewhere recently; if you didn't then count yourself blessed. The good news is that we know who did it and the individual will be dealt with. Your Parish Council has adopted a zero tolerance policy towards those defacing or damaging council property and will prosecute offenders wherever possible.

Finally, here's some good news about the equipment for Ferndale Park. We have ordered the multi-sport area and expect it to be installed in August. It probably seems to have taken far too long to reach this point but we had to make sure the money was to hand before placing the order. So let's rejoice about what is happening now and look forward to what is coming soon.



Ferndale Community Park Group

It is with sadness that I must inform you that the Ferndale Community Park Group (FCPG) was dissolved at a meeting held in April.

Prior to the group being dissolved we received two hastily written letters from Ratby Parish Council (RPC). One being an apology and the other a letter of support, we are not sure why. The apology contained so many errors in its detail that it was deemed worthless. The letter of support was seen as unconvincing.

The FCPG has tried to convince the RPC that the plans, drawings and costings previously agreed to, are adhered to at all times. However, some members of the RPC seem to think that they are qualified to change every aspect that they come across. They clearly are not! It is this unnecessary interference that gives us no confidence that the RPC will deliver the park that was professionally designed at a cost of £15,000 and hence our decision to dissolve the group.

Did you know that some of our Parish Councillors live outside of our village, and don't always see things as we villagers do?

The ratepayers of this parish need to put some pressure on the RPC to complete this project to the professional plans, drawing and costs already agreed.

Phone, write, email and visit the council office and demand that this park be completed. For the second summer running the children of Ratby have no equipment to play on in Ferndale Park. This is unacceptable for a village of this size.

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With your support we managed to raise over £600. This money has been handed to the council as a donation, for the specific use in the Community Garden aspect of the park. An area in the park for all to enjoy. The money will be held in the councils' accounts, for all to see. The account is accessible by the public on request.

The FCPG would like to thank all those who supported our events.

Nigel Burbage.

Editors note: This article has been amended

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RAY LANDER 1928 – 2006

We at 1st Ratby Scout Group are very sad to report that we have lost a fantastic member and friend Ray Lander.

He started scouting many years ago at St Barnabus Church with his wife Eileen. They were later involved at St Chad's, Coleman Road where, always ready to help out Ray would drive the van to camps.

In 1971 Ray set up a Scout Group in Ellistown, where he "acquired and did up" a hut for the group. Whilst doing that he also provided them with a mini bus. This is how Ray was, his whole life was for Scouts. The present Group Scout Leader said how much they thought of him, he couldn't find adequate words to describe what Ray had done for their group. Ray was definitely "the man" at Ellistown.

We all feel the same at Ratby. He was always at hand to help the group in every kind of way. He would do serious stuff, fun stuff, he would make fantastic games, creating all the equipment himself. He organised gang shows, his ideas were prolific and never ending. He taught boys and girls how to canoe (which was his thing) and also how to shoot rifles. Nothing was ever too much trouble for Ray.

Over the years Ray provided for the Ratby Group, 12 canoes, a mess tent and a container for storage. He spent many hours, "doing up" the hut in Martinshaw Woods for scout use, only to see it vandalised and burnt down.

People who knew Ray over the years in Scouting have all said the same, "what a super person he was, what an inspiration to the groups with which he was involved, always willing to help". A warden at Johns Lee Wood said, "he oozes with Scouting" it was so true.

During his long illness the Scouting Medal of Merit was arranged for Ray for his wonderful works to Scouting but unfortunately he passed away before it could be presented to him. The medal has now been passed onto his widow, Eileen.

We will be placing a plaque in Ray's memory in the Church Rooms, alongside that of another great Scouter, Trevor Sleath.

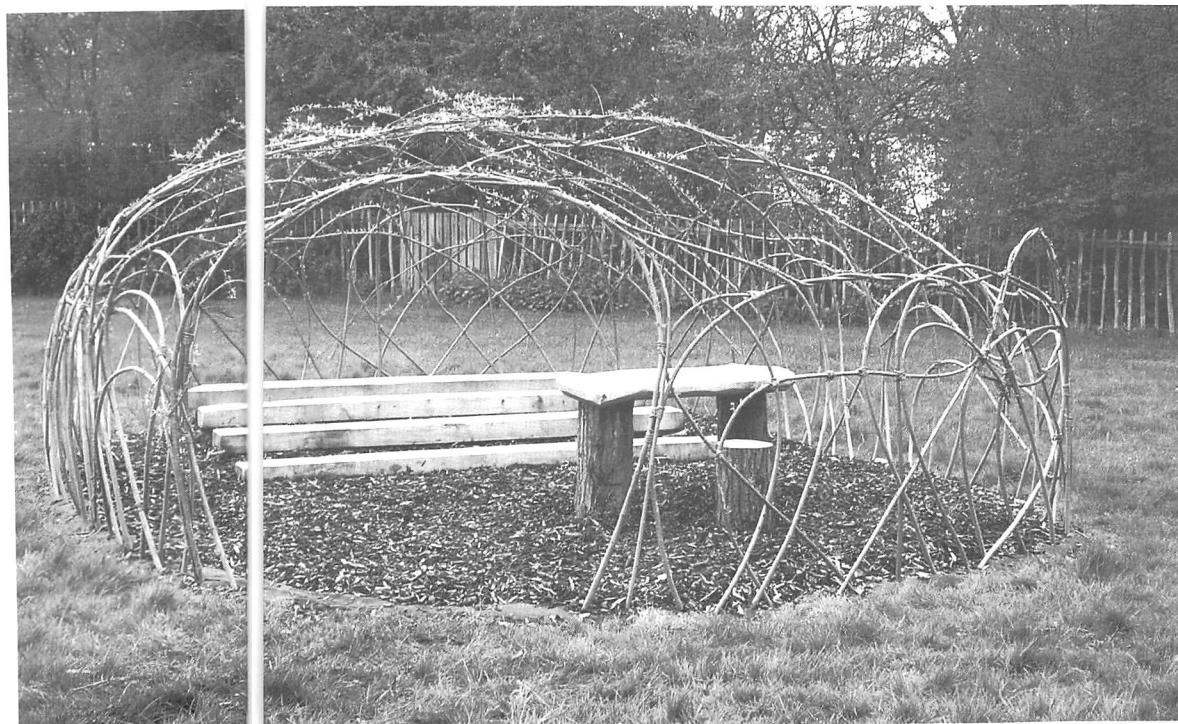
All in the 1st Ratby Scout Group will miss a genuine and dedicated man for everything he did for the children, leaders and group.

RATBY SCHOOLCHILDREN'S WILLOW WONDER

Ratby Primary School's Eco-Committee decided that a willow structure in the grounds would provide many benefits. After a long time, the project became a reality and thanks to Tom Hare, a local environmental artist, the school now has an outdoor classroom, complete with an Oak-leaf shaped teacher's table.

Working with the artist left the school "buzzing." All children spent time with the artist, watching the process and hearing about the properties of Willow and environmental issues. A large number of children also took part in the actual classroom construction; shaping and placing the Willow rods. Some children learnt the weaving process by making individual fish or wind chimes that they were able to take home.

It was a most successful week. The school would like to express its thanks to Hinckley & Bosworth North Council for their Doorstep Challenge Grant and to their own P.S.A. for raising money through the Co-operative Community Dividend scheme, to whom we are most appreciative.



20 YEARS !! Wot about that!!

Our next issue will mark 20 years of the magazine in the village. Make sure your village group joins us for the celebration with an article!

RATBY COMMUNITY ORCHARD APPLE HARVEST EVENT

Come and join us at the Orchard on **Sunday October 1st**, at 2pm until 4pm Try freshly pressed apple juice and barbequed apple rings from the orchard trees. There will be a quiz, games, raffle for Orchard funds, and children's activities. After your free wildlife tour of the Orchard and pond sites you'll be able to enjoy a home made apple pie tea. **A Free Event!!**

Wot! About Ratby

Well here we are with issue number 119. Who would have thought we'd achieve so much? We can't do it without your contributions of course. We are always amazed that the articles keep coming.

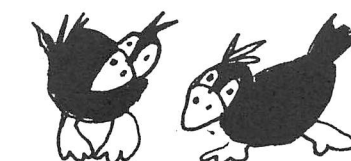
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Without your support we definitely could not have survived for so long. Thank you to also to other advertisers who have joined with us along the way.

A look back at the Wot issues gathered and bound by the History Group shows how the village has changed over the years, and how many businesses have been lost. So come on Ratbians... support these local people who help keep the community going!

Newcomers to the village would not, however, get a good overview of what happens in Ratby from the magazine.....articles are usually from the same few groups. Our volunteers can't get to every event and report on it. **So come on! Have a go. Send in a few words about your group or activities. Maybe you could write a few words about something in the village you went to see....a Band Concert, Jumble sale, Fete? Or phone Sue on 239 4873. She'll make a note and turn it into a review!**



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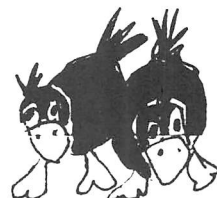
LETTERS to the EDITOR

Dear Wot,

I just had to write and say what a big smile the painting of the mini roundabouts in Ratby gave me as I went to work the other day. Some may say it's vandalism, but I think its patriotic, so well done to who ever did this smile- making act!

Anon.

Name and Address supplied.



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CHARITY DONATIONS

Bradgate Lions Club held their annual presentation evening on May 25th. Cheques were presented to fourteen different charities, including LOROS, Rainbows, Air Ambulance and Wishes 4 Kids. A total of £6800 was handed over, and another £2975 has been sent to other charities who could not attend.

VILLAGE SOCIETY NOTES

In May 26 members of the Village Society enjoyed a talk by Jacky Shepherd on 'Working with the National Trust'. Since retiring she has been a volunteer, mainly at Sudbury Hall in Derbyshire. Her time is spent variously, as a room steward, tour guide, in the shop or with the education team, as Sudbury houses the Museum of Childhood. The house is also famous for its staircase carving and plasterwork, every ceiling being different. Some of the slides showed the intricate detail and quality of this work.

Though involved with the more serious aspects of security, health and safety regulations etc., it was obvious that the job had many lighter moments. Jacky said that she enjoyed talking to people and answering questions. The information which she had learnt about the house was often added to by knowledgeable visitors. We were all amused by her statement that the item most often appearing in the 'Lost and Found' category was 'my wife'!

With its flexible hours, pleasant environment and stimulating company, this would seem to be an ideal job. The only drawback is distance. The two nearest N.T. houses are Calke Abbey and Sudbury Hall; there are none in Leicestershire.

At our June meeting the talk was given by Fiona Ure. She is an ex-nurse who now works for the Leicester Museum Service as Assistant Keeper in the Home and Family Life section. She told us about 'Old-fashioned Remedies', through the ages, starting in the mediaeval period. At that time doctors dealt with the four bodily humours and treatment involved cauterisation with hot irons and blood-letting with leeches applied!

Many 'cures' were based on superstition as with laying a crooked sixpence on the gum for toothache, in the belief that the Devil cannot use crooked things. So we learnt the origin of the nursery rhyme 'There was a crooked man'. Herbal remedies were popular, with the

'wise woman' being a very respected member of the community, until the sixteenth century when many were accused of witchcraft. Apothecaries and barber-surgeons developed into the modern chemists and it was interesting to hear the history of Jesse Boot's shop which started as a herbalists in 1807 and was the first of a large empire.

Fiona brought with her many exhibits for us to handle, which led to much discussion as to their use and added to a fascinating evening. It was interesting to note that many old remedies such as herbalism and even maggots for wounds and leeches for swellings are enjoying a come-back in modern medicine. Perhaps there is something to be said for them after all.

Our next two meetings, on the second Tuesday of each

month, in the Village Hall at 8pm. are

15th. Aug. 'Smile please, Say Cheese!'

19th. Sept. 'British Hedgehog Preservation Society.'

New members are always welcome.

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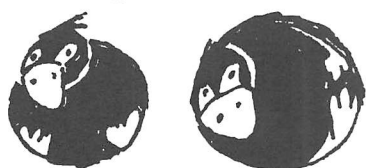
Kirby Muxloe Bowls Club are looking for new members, especially men. We have a super clubhouse with full facilities, bar and locker rooms. The green is one of the best in Leicestershire.

If you are looking for Friendship, Fresh air, Exercise and Competition, then Bowls is the game!

You will find us behind the Community Centre in Kirby Muxloe. Pop in and say hello to any member on any afternoon from April onwards and you will be warmly received. Or give us a call on **239 4251**

Free coaching and loan of bowls are available.

David Harding.



RATBY VILLAGE SOCIETY ANTI-LITTER CAMPAIGN

Tots from the Pre-School group coloured in a drawing each time they picked up an item of litter (under supervision) and were delighted with the 'Well Done' stickers they received in return.

Ratby Primary School pupils took part in 'My Good Ideas for Litter,' with many clever suggestions being submitted. The best eight were awarded prizes and certificates. Brookvale High School ECO Group students designed posters which were displayed in Ratby Library. Many of these are to be seen in shops around the village.

Finally we would like to thank all villagers who keep their property fronts litter free.

Jane Rayne

On behalf of the Campaign.



BRADGATE TWINNING ASSOCIATION.

Bradgate Twinning Association's (BGTA) annual petanque match with Glenfield Twinning Association (GTA) took place on Saturday 17th June.

This year BGTA were playing to retain the trophy and being on home soil or pitch possibly had an advantage. With GTA striving to win the trophy back, a very competitive match ensued. The contest was played in the right spirit and with a little luck and good fortune BGTA were the eventual winners.

A summer tea with liquid refreshments followed and coupled with the most excellent weather everyone was very sorry when it was time to pack the boules away for another year.

To find out more about Bradgate Twinning Association visit our website www.bgta.org.uk

We will be at the Anstey Gala this year and will have our French themed cafe open for snacks and drinks from midday. We will be serving rolls and cakes with soft drinks, tea or coffee, we will also be serving wine by the glass. Why not come along and have a snack with a glass of wine or just a cup of tea and take the weight off your feet for a while?

Look out for our popular Quiz Sheets. This year we are raising money for Loros.

We look forward to seeing you all on Saturday 9th September.

Robert Hill.



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