



WOT!

About Ratby

PUBLISHED BY RATBY SCOUT GROUP



APPLE DAY IN RATBY

Father Rufus and Father Joseph from Mount Saint Bernard's Abbey were the special guests for Apple Day at the Community Orchard on October 22nd. They had been invited to officially unveil the two new interpretation boards at the site.

The link with the Abbey was established a year ago, when the Orchard group was looking for local apple varieties. They discovered that the monk after whom it was named had propagated a 'St Ailred' apple at the Abbey. Sadly, there were no longer any trees of this variety at Mount Saint Bernard.

The group obtained two cuttings for propagation from the National Apple Collection at Brogdale in Kent. One of the young St Ailred trees was presented to the Abbey; the other planted in the Community Orchard. See page 2 for picture!

The unveiling of the Boards was the highlight of the event, which included apple tasting, freshly pressed apple juice, and a chance to try home made apple pies. The more adventurous could attempt to shoot the apple from Isaac Newton's head.

Ratby Community Orchard group needs your support. Contact the Parish Council on 239 0164 for more information.



Pictured is Father Rufus, on the left, and Father Joseph, on the right, with the Information Board.
Photo by Alan Withers

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Members of Ratby Community Orchard Group with Father Rufus at an orchard at Mount St. Bernard's Abbey.

CHURCH SECRETS REVEALED

During restoration work in Ratby Parish Church several interesting discoveries have been made which give an insight into the history of the building.

To solve the problem of rising damp, plasterwork below window cill level has been removed, and the stone work is being pointed to give a more pleasant appearance. A panel of pre-Victorian brickwork was revealed below the central window in the north wall. Could this have been a patch repair to the stonework after the fire of 1815? If so, why was matching stone not used?

On the east wall of the tower, built c 1230, the differences in stonework show clearly where the original north wall joined the tower. This confirms theories that the former nave walls were no wider than the tower itself. The original lancet window, which matches those on the north and south sides of the tower, has been uncovered, giving us a clue to the height of the original roof.

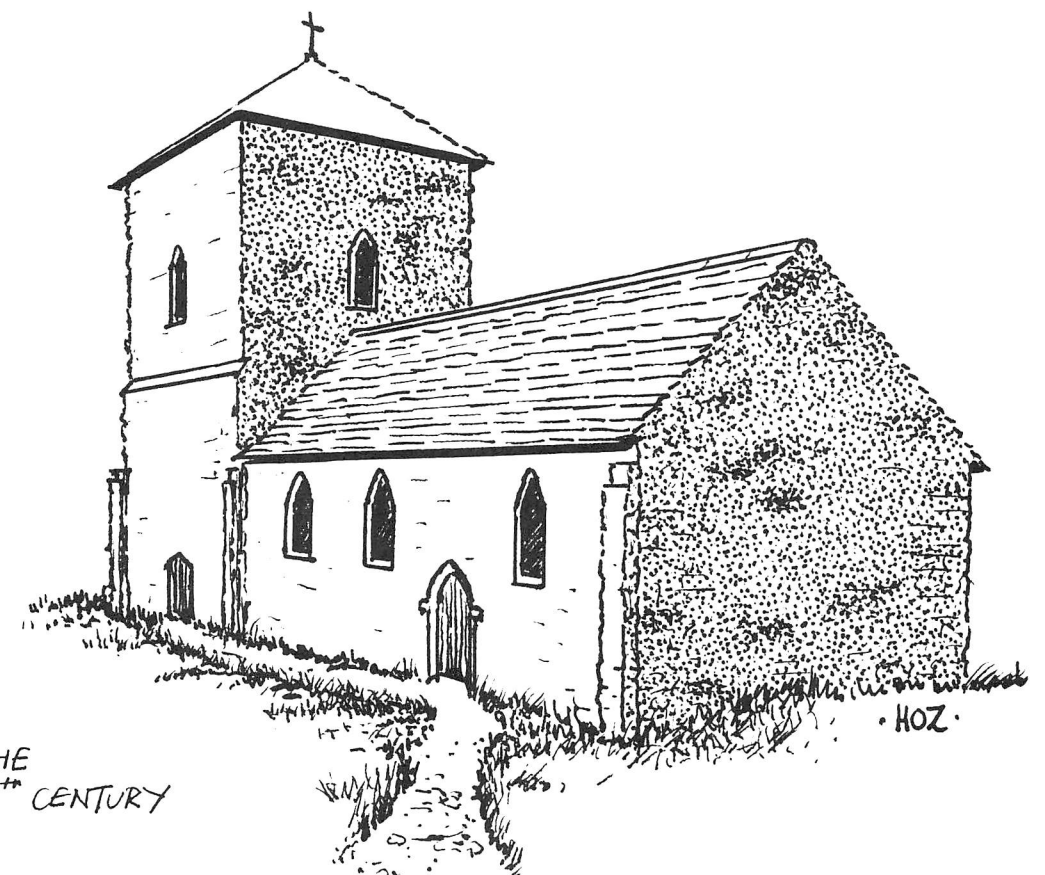
The drawings here show how the church may have looked before it was rebuilt in the 14th century.

What remains a mystery is when the north porch was added. The main door of the majority of English churches is always on the south side. The south door at Ratby still exists, and may become the main entrance again in the future.

The Grey family, Lords of the Manor of Groby, continued to worship in Ratby during visits to their Stewards Hay hunting Lodge, following their removal to Stourbridge. Perhaps the north door, closer to the road gave more convenient access to Henry Grey as he alighted from his carriage. The porch is shown on a plan dated 1775.

This would have avoided the windswept walk around the tower to the south door!

HOZ



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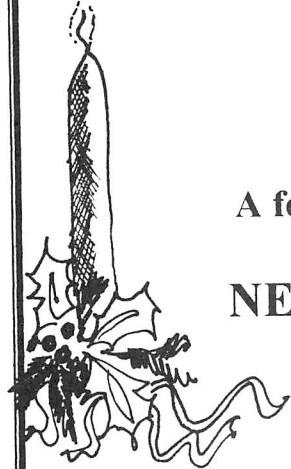
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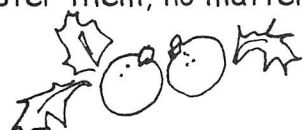
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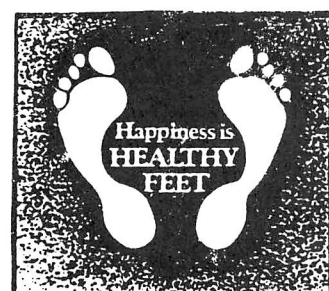
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CHRISTMAS SHOPPING SUGGESTIONS

Presents for Mum

To plant in pots (5).....
City goal keeper (7).....
Jewellery article (7).....

Presents for Dad

A draw (3)
Has 365 pages (5)
'Resplis' anag. (7).....

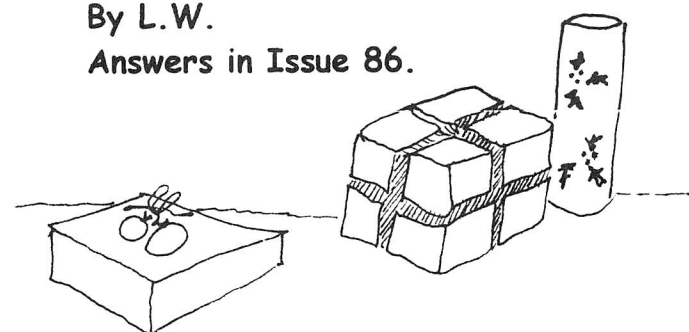
Presents for Daughter

Fragrant liquid (7)
Scotch BX or TDK (8).....
Chemist (5).....

Presents for Son

3 hours of entertainment (5+4)
Hand covers (6)
T, Striped or plain (5).....

By L.W.
Answers in Issue 86.



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RATBY VILLAGE SOCIETY

FROM MONUMENTS TO A MOMENTOUS WIN!

'Northumbria' was the talk given by Fred Harding to Society members in October in the temporary venue of the Methodist Church. Much of the former county of Northumberland is wild and beautiful, embracing many ancient monuments, including Hadrian's wall, a marked contrast with the Tyneside conurbation of Newcastle and Gateshead.

Fred's excellent slides and inimitable patter covered a large area and a long time span.

Fred, with his wife Nancy was again to the fore at our first meeting in the refurbished and renamed Village Hall for the fourteenth Village Quiz. It was a momentous evening, with genial Peter Smith as ever in the quiz-master's chair, because not only did the Village Society narrowly beat the W.I. and the Methodist team, but their name will be the first to be engraved on the new shield. Fred and Nancy presented the shield in celebration of their 20th wedding anniversary. It was Nancy who donated the now retired (and retained by RVS) original trophy when the quiz began in 1981.

Thanks were given to Robert and Gill Hollyman, scorer and timekeeper and to Betty Hulme for the unenviable task of setting the twelve rounds of questions.
HG. 23.11.00

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Ratby Parish Council

The members of Ratby Parish Council would like to wish you all a

MERRY CHRISTMAS
And A
Happy New Year



The village Christmas tree will be by the War Memorial. Thanks to the Woodland Trust and the Scouts for their help.

The annual carol singing will take place on WEDNESDAY 20TH DECEMBER AT 7.30PM.

Come and join us!!!



Now on to more serious things...

Update on our Traffic Petition

By the end of October, 700 signatures had been collected on the petition to ask the Leicestershire County Council to look at our traffic problems. This is with a view to having a form of traffic calming on the route to school along Groby Road and Main Street. The reluctance of some people to sign the petition, as they do not want traffic humps in the village, has been disappointing. We appreciate this concern but we repeat, at this stage nothing has even been discussed and the method of any agreed traffic calming is a long

way from being decided. The petition is merely a way of calling attention to some of the problems we have in the village and we feel that the safety of the children should be the first issue to be addressed.

We are continuing to ask for signatures and our target is 1,000 names, which will be about a quarter of the population in the village. The next stage is for Councillor Rob Fraser to take this to the appropriate committee at the County Council – the next meeting is 12th December.

Snippets...

- Our Member of Parliament the Rt. Hon. Stephen Dorrell MP has made two visits to the village in recent months. The first was to the Parish Council meeting in August and the second was to hold a surgery in September. We hope to see him again in the not too distant future.
- Mr Dorrell is investigating whether there can be a change in bus route to take villagers direct from Ratby to Glenfield. He is waiting for a reply from the County Council and will also be in touch with the bus company. We will keep you informed of progress.
- At the time of writing, the plans for 51 Wimpey houses to be built on the Station Road site (garage, bus company and land behind) has not yet been discussed at the Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council planning committee.
- A POD may be arriving in Ratby – watch out for the signs.....

Ratby Parish Council

Conserving Ratby

Many of you will already be aware that part of the village is designated a conservation area. In the 1980s it was felt that some of Ratby's old village character was being lost through development, some of which was not in keeping with the original buildings. By making part of the village a conservation area it is intended to assist in the protection of its character. The conservation area covers virtually the whole of Main Street and the properties along it, including the school and the Bull's Head. Church and Chapel Lane, Berry's Lane and all the surrounding properties fall into this area, plus along the chapel side of Station Road as far as the Methodist Chapel itself. Obviously, conservation areas are not museum pieces but are living communities that change with time, but the need for change has to be balanced against the need to

conserve the area. The effect of this is that the Parish and Borough councils pay special attention to development of properties in this area.

Sometimes the rules may seem silly; there was one case where the Borough Council wanted a damaged chimney pot rebuilt at a greater cost than a repair because it would change the look of the whole building! But there are other things such as renovations to windows (that are usually done in UPVC) where, although the benefits are obvious, they may not always be appropriate to the property as a whole. *All we would ask is that if you are planning renovations to your property that you try and make sure that they are in keeping with the overall character of where you live.* If you are not sure if you live in the conservation area, there is a map available at the Parish Council offices for you to check.



"Ravishing Ratby"

It cannot have escaped your notice that many villages look particularly pretty in the summer months. Up until now, it would be hard to say that Ratby belonged in this category but all this is going to change!! Other villages have been doing this for years and already have a system but it is dependent on volunteers to make it work.



Next summer it is our intention to have large floral displays at each entrance to the village and hanging baskets on every lamppost through the centre of the village.

All this, of course, costs money. We hope to receive Council funding for the capital outlay for all the baskets and containers and, certainly for the first year, for the flowers.

If we do this, the flowers will require watering and maintenance on a regular, probably daily, basis. *This is where you come in.* It would not be right for us to ask for funding for an employee to do this work and, like other villages, we need teams of volunteers to make this work. The more people who are involved, the less work there will be for any one person. If we don't get enough people to make this work we will have to cancel the whole idea.

If you are interested in helping to make our village more attractive please telephone the Parish Council office on 2390167.



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Would you leave your door unlocked or windows open when you are perhaps busy in the garden or retired for the night?

POLICE ADVISE IT DOES HAPPEN

Neighbourhood watch trusts that you will all take simple precautions, particularly over the festive season, to ensure that it is not a happy Christmas for criminals. Don't tempt thieves by leaving presents where all can see.

If your neighbours are away please keep an eye on their property.

In the past year Neighbourhood Watch has grown substantially. It is now recognised as a well-established part of Crime Prevention. With Police support, the aim is to advise residents in schemes of local criminal activities. Interested in joining? Please ring **239 4450** for details.

Have a happy and secure Christmas.

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DIARY OF EVENTS

The following planned village events have been
made known to us. Please watch the notices or
telephone the numbers listed for more details

Friday 8th December - This is the date when
the Ratby County Primary School is holding a
Christmas Fayre.
Contact No 2393610.

Wed & Thurs 13th & 14th December - The
School have their Nativity production on these
dates. A special invitation is extended to all
senior citizens to attend on the Wednesday.
The event starts at 2-00pm on each day.
Contact No 2393610.

Sunday 17th December - There is to be a
Carol Service led by the choir, this is to be at
the Methodist Church starting at 6-00pm.
Contact No 2393009.

Sunday 24th December (Christmas Eve)
A Special Crib Service is to be held in the
Church Rooms commencing at 4-30pm.
Also on Christmas Eve, The Midnight
Communion Service is being held at the
Methodist Church starting at 11-30pm.
Contact No 2393009.

Saturday 13th January - Is the date to nip
along and enjoy a Family Beetle Drive.
This is to be held in the Church Rooms
between 6-00 & 8-00pm.
Contact No 2393009.

Tuesday 16th January - The Village Society
have an illustrated talk covering 'A Hundred
Years of Cinema', this commences at 8-00pm
in the Welfare Hall.
Contact No 2387240.

Saturday 17th February - A Barn Dance is
being held in the Church Rooms from 8-00pm.
Contact 2393009.

Tuesday 27th February (Shrove Tuesday)
The Methodist Church has a Coffee Morning
and Nearly New Sale, this is to be held
between 10-00 & 12-00am.
Contact No 2386276.

RATBY BABY AND TODDLER GROUP

Is open again now!

Every Wednesday 9.45-11.15
In the Village Hall (formerly Welfare
Hall) next to The Bull's Head.

PLEASE COME AND JOIN US
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CONTACT: Sarah 239 2561 or Jenny
239 4025



BANG ON TARGET

Congratulations to Ray Lander on
passing his tutors N.S.R.A. (National
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RATBY CRIME UPDATE FROM PC228 VARNEY

In recent weeks there has been a marked upturn in offences of Burglary in Ratby. There have been reports from many locations throughout the village and, as a result, I would like to ask all of the village residents and businesses to raise their awareness to this crime.

On our part, you should have noticed an increased police presence in the village in an attempt to reduce the crimes committed. This has included targeting of suspects, and stop checks of vehicles travelling in and out of the village.

Clearly, since the clocks went back and the inclement weather has arrived, the days are progressively darker. This in turn naturally leads to us drawing our curtains earlier and being less likely to be pottering in the garden or out walking. As a result, the conditions become more suited to people who are up to no good or who do not want to be seen.

Another thing to bear in mind is we are now approaching Christmas and the more organised households may already have bought expensive presents for family and/or friends. Again these can be rich pickings for a burglar and force-wide historical figures prove that the amount of burglaries committed increases around the Christmas period.

I would ask that any suspicious people, vehicles or door-callers that you consider require immediate action are reported on 999. For less urgent reports, call the local police on Leicester (0116) 222222. Or, alternatively leave your Beat Officer, PC 228 Varney a voicemail message on (0116) 2485675.

Anybody wishing to give anonymous information relating to a crime, is invited to ring CRIMESTOPPERS on freephone (0800) 555111. This number does not show up on your itemised telephone bill. You can remain anonymous and if your information leads to a conviction you may be entitled to a cash reward.

Overall, there is no need for undue concern. With sensible, common sense measures we can vastly reduce the opportunities available to these people. Please be reassured that burglary is Leicestershire Constabulary's top priority, and the net is closing in on those responsible.

RATBY SENIOR CITIZENS WELFARE ASSOCIATION RATBY VILLAGE HALL

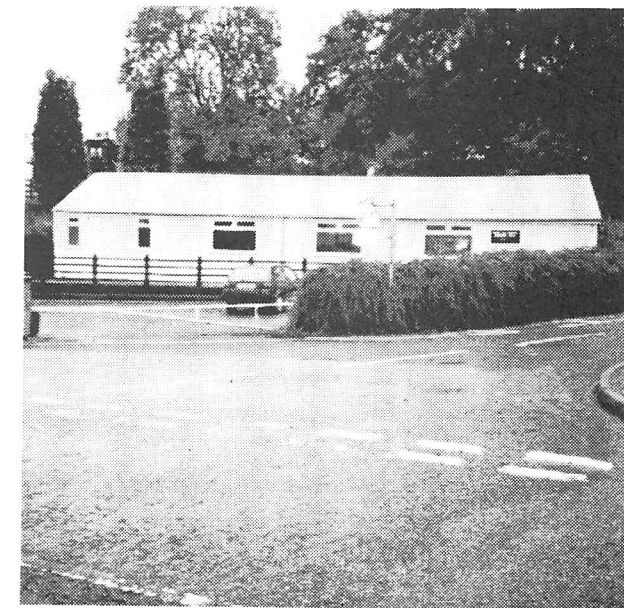
Welcome to our updated hall, now renamed 'Ratby Village Hall'. We held an open afternoon on Saturday 4th November. We hope you all liked the changes; new roof, heating, windows and refitted kitchen. So much cleaner and hopefully more welcoming.

We would like to thank all our user groups for their support and funding; Ratby Village Society, W.I., The Parish Council, Methodist Women's Group, Methodist Monday Circle, The Evergreens, Groby Wine Circle, The Ratby Millennium Project and all of the individual donors. It is disappointing that the Parish Council will no longer use the hall for their meetings.

Our first project is complete. We now need to start on Project 2, which entails obtaining new tables and chairs, kitchen equipment, outside maintenance and decoration.

New groups are welcome. We are available for parties, birthdays and all celebrations.

Our lettings officer Julie welcomes calls on 238 7052. Let's hope that together we can make the Village Hall a success for all groups.



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February/March
Issue
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