



WOT!

About Ratby

PUBLISHED BY RATBY SCOUT GROUP



CHRISTMAS IN RATBY

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COME AND SING CAROLS ROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE

Ratby Co-operative Band will be providing the music for the traditional Carol Singing around the Christmas Tree, outside The Primary School.

On Wednesday 15th December 2004

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With singing by children from the Primary School.

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS COMPETITION

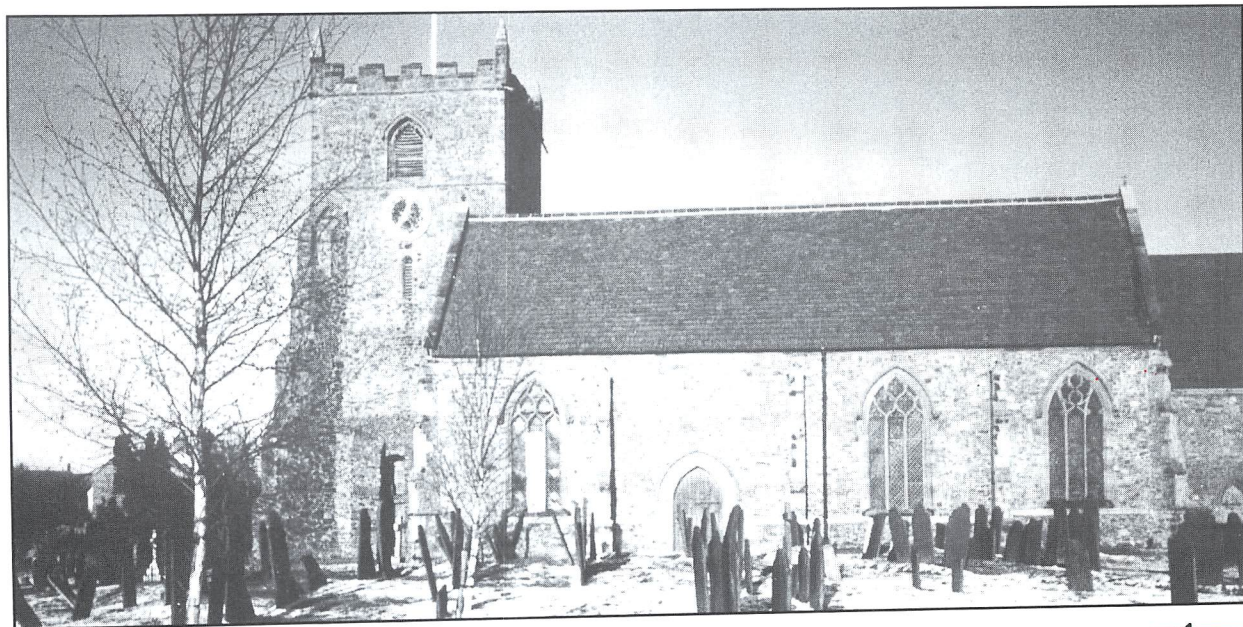
There will be two classes

1. Front of House
2. Front window

No need to enter, the judges will tour the village to view the decorations.

Judging will take place on Monday 20th December 2004

Prizes will be vouchers of £20, £15 & £10 For the first 3 in each class



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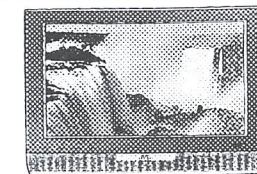
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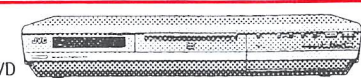
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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Parish Clerk

Residents of Ratby will have been aware that the Parish Council Office has not been open normally for some months due to the Clerk's extended period of illness. Business has been maintained as far as possible by opening on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings, staffed by the Chair, Merle Joyce and the Vice-Chair, Sue Neilson, assisted by other Councillors when required. This has not been an easy time for the Council but at the time of writing the Parish Council has advertised the post and applications are being received. The closing date is the 6th December 2004 and interviews will be held as soon as possible thereafter.

Allotments

More than 20 expressions of interest have been received from residents keen to rent an allotment. Meetings have been held and currently a group is engaged in setting up an allotment association. The intention is that the association will be open to anyone interested in gardening whether they have an allotment or not. For instance it will be possible to purchase cheaper seeds etc. through the association. Interested? Then contact the Parish Council office, leave your name, address and telephone number and Councillor Ken Hunnybun will contact you.

Ferndale Community Park Development Group

The meeting to have been held on 18th November 2004 was snowed off, but this will only briefly postpone the next stage of the development. The architect, Sarah Ashmead has now produced the details and costing for the first phase. This will include the main ground preparation, a re-sited toddlers area and the long awaited skate board area. The estimated cost for this is £45,000 and will be put out for tender as soon as the Development Group has given it the go ahead.

DEADLINE
FEBRUARY/MARCH ISSUE
No 110
FRIDAY 14th JANUARY
Editor 239 3367
Adverts 239 3279
Articles may be sent to 3 Ingle Drived LE6 0NN
Phone 239 4873

Ratby Parish Action Plan

It seems a long time since the Ratby Parish Action Plan was launched in June 2004 and you could be forgiven for thinking that nothing has been happening. Well nothing could be further from the truth. With the summer behind us a group, representative of a number of village organisations, met on 1st November, 2004. The meeting was given a review of the 24 Action points of which the first was this very meeting. It was agreed that The Ratby Action Plan Partnership (a suggested title) would provide an overview and promote procedures for setting up small, time-limited workshops with a specific brief to carry out particular actions. Membership of the workshops will only be for the period of its operation and it is intended that residents with appropriate skills, experience and enthusiasm will be recruited.

Not all action points need to be set up by the new 'partnership'. Some action is already underway i.e. The Ferndale Development Group, the Allotments Association and the Ratby Community Panel. There is no intention for the Partnership to 'take over' these groups but it will however be able to provide support and act as a link to these and any other village group, if required.

If you want more information contact
Ken Hunnybun on 0116 2388354.

CHARITY FUND RAISING

Bradgate Twinning Association's annual charity event raised money with their Gala Quiz sheet. This year £300 was collected, £275 being donated to Cancer Research UK and £25 to St. Francis Hospice.

Robert Hill, Publicity Officer

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WELCOME TO RATBY

A New Team at the Bull's Head

Phil and Marny Jones arrived at the Bull's Head in early September. With them came a great reputation (and a few regulars!) from The Swan and Rushes in Leicester. They hope to continue their tradition of great real ales and special events such as Beer Festivals. Look out for the Bull's Head in next year's Good Beer Guide! Phil has been in the trade for around 12 years, and says he 'loves pubs.' They were asked to step in when the previous landlord retired through ill health. Phil says, 'We like it here and can see the potential. A pub this size with so much history should be a focal point for the village.'

They aim to provide good, reliable food with occasional 'specials', such as themed nights, all with fresh ingredients. Their new chef, who has worked in Egon Ronay listed pubs, joined the team at the beginning of November, and he's improving the quality and variety of meals.

Marny is already planning some refurbishment, with the aim of creating 'a safe, happy, lively and friendly pub.' And they are hoping to encourage team activities, perhaps Skittles, Pool, cribbage or even dominoes.

Watch out for other new ideas too! Plans are afoot to establish a variety of live entertainment on Fridays, perhaps with comedians, and there are rumours of blues or jazz evenings.

Hurry and book now for your 3 course Christmas meal, all home-cooked! Or just pop in for a pint to enjoy the warm convivial atmosphere. Let's wish them good luck with their venture! SB.



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RATBY COMMUNITY ORCHARD

APPLE DAY

Despite the rain a stream of intrepid villagers came down to the orchard to experience Ratby's second Apple Day event.

The accent was on tasting! There were orchard apples to try, peeling and coring for apple juicing and toasting, and a variety of apple pies made from our local apples too.

Apple and cheddar soup was in good supply to warm us up.

A raffle helped raise funds for the orchard, and there were quizzes for those who really didn't mind getting wet.

Nineteen members and friends of the orchard group enjoyed a wonderful apple themed meal at The Bull's Head, and there were apple baguettes on offer at The Railway Inn for apple day. The week began with a sing-along at the Railway.

Thanks to everyone who helped make the week a success, not least those who turned out to support us in the rain!



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VILLAGE DIARY – 2004/5

The following details about planned events taking place in Ratby during December and January have been made known the WOT team.
There may well be other activities during the month that we have not been advised of.

DATE & TIME	EVENT	ORGANISERS	VENUE	TEL No
DECEMBER				
Sat 4 th 10.30am	Christmas Bazaar	Methodist Church	Chapel Rooms	2386276
Wed 8 th Tba	Christmas Meal	Women's Institute	Tba	2392176
Sun 12 th 6.00pm	Carol Service	Methodist Church	Chapel Rooms	2386276
Sat 18 th 10.00am	Christmas Coffee Morning	Methodist Church	Chapel Rooms	2386276
Sun 19 th 6.00pm	Carols by Candlelight	Parish Church	Parish Church	2393009
Fri 24 th 4.30pm	Christingle Service	Parish Church	Parish Church	2393009
Fri 24 th 11.30pm	Midnight Communion Service	Parish Church	Parish Church	2393009
Sat 25 th 10.00am	Christmas Worship For All	Parish Church	Parish Church	2393009
Sat 26 th Tba	Walk & Celebration	Parish Church	Tba	2393009
JANUARY				
Tues 18 th 8.00pm	Talk – A Voyage Up The Nile	Village Society	Village Hall	2387240
Fri 28 th 7.30pm	Two Talks – A Tiger And A Fusilier & Groby's Railway	History Group	Village Hall	2394168
Sat 29 th 10.00am	Coffee Morning & Nearly New Sale	Methodist Church	Chapel Rooms	2386726

LISA'S IRONING SERVICE

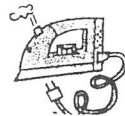
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RATBY PRE-SCHOOL In the Church Rooms

There are some places available at this popular group in January. Funding is available for children over three years old.
Sessions are held every morning and some afternoons during term time, for children aged from 2 ½ to 5 years.

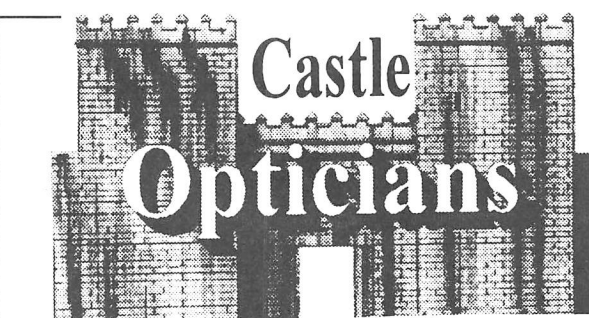
Contact the pre-school leader on 238 8126 for more information.



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Saturday 9.30-1pm

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Ratby Village Society

In September RVS Secretary Horace Gamble (AKA Hoz) presented an illustrated talk on that most romantic of cities, Paris, with its attractive river spanned by a succession of beautiful bridges. Passing by many famous landmarks, including Gustav Eiffel's Tower, the Louvre Museum and Notre Dame Cathedral, the presentation moved on to Mont Martre, dominated by the imposing church of Sacre Coeur, and the colourful square thronged with artists at work. In conclusion the Palace of Versailles, built 1662-1690 by King Louis XIV, and its extensive grounds were featured.

Village Quiz

The biennial quiz took place in October, a break with tradition, and was contested this time by four teams. Peter Smith, amiable as ever, posed the questions (set by Betty Hulme) assisted by Gill and Robert Hollyman as scorer and timekeeper respectively.

The outright winner was the Methodist Church team, followed by Ratby Local History Group, (a creditable effort on their first appearance) Reigning champions The Village Society, and Women's Institute were also rans.

The Harding Shield was presented by Fred Harding topically wearing a necklace of conkers! From this and other sources £100 will be donated to Rainbows Hospice.

FAMILY FUN AT THE BARN DANCE

The Church Rooms rocked with laughter and music as children and adults danced the evening away on Saturday November 13th. The music, provided by the Square Pegs was guaranteed to get you on your feet. Despite the skill and patience of the callers, Pip and Leslie, we had great fun getting in a muddle! How wonderful to see different generations enjoying an evening together. The children were all well behaved, and politely tolerant of adults getting it wrong!

Well done to the hard working organisers, and those who made the supper for a great evening. Hope it's not too long before the next one!



1ST RATBY SCOUTS NIGHT HIKE

On Friday 12th Nov around 7pm we arrived at John's Lee wood. The Scouts, comprising 5 girls and 4 lads pitched their tents and made beds by torch light. This was the first joint activity that the 1st Ratby Scouts had undertaken with the newly formed older sections now called Explorer and Network Scouts. Each Scout took with them a small bag with survival kit, containing extra clothing, first aid kit, a drink and most important of all chocolate and sweets. The Network and Explorers lead them on the night hike with Lara (Scout Leader) and Tracey (Parent helper) bringing up the rear. On arriving back at camp around midnight they were met with hot dogs, onions and a warm drink. It was a **very cold** night, in the morning the Network Scouts took everyone for an early morning run around the camp while the leaders cooked egg and bacon cobs, this was made especially difficult as the Calor Gas started to freeze, the only way to finish cooking breakfast was to put hot water bottles and blankets around the gas bottle to thaw it out. We struck camp and headed back to Ratby.



Sunday was Remembrance Day and at 10am the Cubs, Scouts and Brownies joined the Royal British Legion at the top of Dane Hill for the start of the Remembrance Parade. It was a good turn out from all sections.

An enjoyable and memorable weekend was had by all.

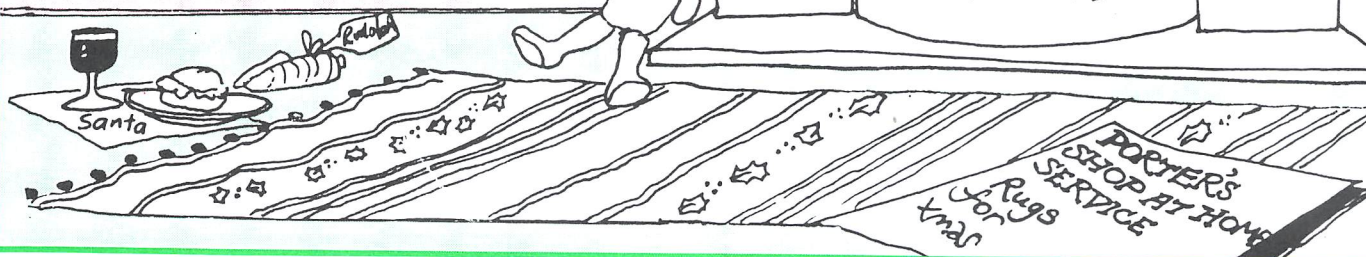
Carol Payne



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MEMORIES OF CHRISTMAS 'Up Sunshine' in the 1950s and 60s

Firstly the three bakers came with their vans of goodies, the Co-op, Freers and Geary's. Then Albert Pickering with his lorry load of fruit and vegetables, small Christmas trees, holly and mistletoe and much else.

Later on in the evening came Henry Freeman the butcher, and as the years went by, David and Nigel took over.

From the open doors the smell of delicious food on the cookers, and Oh! the Merry Christmases between neighbour and neighbour.

At midnight the Christmas bells rang out and around 1 am. Members of Ratby Band came and played a carol under the street lamp outside our house. What a lovely atmosphere.

My Ratby days are not forgotten and I would like to wish all my friends and former neighbours a very Happy Christmas and a Good New Year.

Eileen M. Mackenzie.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Are you stuck for ideas and time this year? Can't face the crowds in town? Why not shop locally, or even from home?

You can buy Fairtrade goodies such as chocolate and coffee from Ratby Rectory and Church. Perfect stocking fillers! Village shops such as Ratby TV, The Pharmacy and Ratby Co-op have a range of products that make ideal presents. Buy your cards and wrapping paper in Pabari's or the Post Office. For those people who have everything, why not buy them a gift for those who don't. The Children's Society, Oxfam and other charities have catalogues full of ideas. You could buy a flock of hens, or water buckets, and even a goat! Your friends and family receive a card telling them about the gift.



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RATBY LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Our First Publication - Are you thinking about what presents to buy for Christmas? Why not send a copy of our book about Ratby's history to relatives and friends who no longer live in the village.

THE HISTORY OF RATBY : BOOK 1

Edited by Doug Harwood

It has 110 pages, 80 photos and maps including aerial drawings by Arthur Stevenson and includes articles on:-

Memories of Desford Lane Corner 1920-45.

Samual Deacon: clockmaker and son of Ratby.

The Story of Ratby's Railways.

Memories of Ratby's Railways.

Ratby in 1770 on the eve of the Enclosure Act.

Cost : £8.00 per copy.

Available from Ratby Post Office
or by telephoning Doug Harwood (0116 2394168)

Our Last Meeting - Mr Alan Reed came along on October 1st and gave a very entertaining and informative talk on the ways the Victorian Music Hall reflected social issues in the UK between 1850 and 1900.

Alan explained that Music Halls evolved after 1843 when the laws controlling drinking and smoking in public were relaxed. This led to concert halls being established alongside pubs and later to the introduction of purpose-built music halls.

We listened to many old recordings of songs by famous artists of the day, many of which featured the variety of social problems prevalent within the 'working class' at the time; such as poverty, homelessness, unemployment and alcoholism etc.

The evening was enhanced by some spontaneous audience participation in many of the songs, culminating in a general sing-song at the end - a first for the History Group.

Our November Meeting - at the time of going to press, this is arranged for Friday November 26th Tony Squires will present "A New Appraisal of Charnwood Forest".

This will be followed by "The History of Geary's Bakery" by Charles Geary.

We hope to provide details of the talks in the next "Wot"

Our next meeting - This is to be on Friday January 28th at 7.30 pm. Derek Seaton will be presenting "A Tiger and a Fusilier" and David Ramsey will talk about "Groby's Railway"



50 YEARS OLD!

Ratby Senior Citizens Welfare Association

The organisation is a registered charity, and was formed in 1954 to help the elderly. Today, the village hall is used by all ages. A committee of eight is responsible for the smooth running and upkeep of the hall. We would welcome new members and offers of help. Booking Officer is Julie Tomkins tel. 238 7052 Secretary is Elaine Sharp, tel. 238 7193 A typical week is as follows:

DAY	MORNING	AFTERNOON	EVENING
Monday	YOGA 10.30-12		BINGO 7.15-9.30
Tuesday	BODYFIT 50+ 11-12		Monthly Village Society
Weds.	Parent + Toddlers 9-11	Indoor Bowls 2-4	Monthly Women's Institute
Thurs.	DROP IN 10-12	Evergreen Club 2-4	Martial Arts 6-7 Keep Fit 7.30-8.45
Friday	Computer Class 9.30-11.30	Computer Class 12-2pm	Fortnightly Craft Class 7-9 pm
Saturday	Spangles Dance Class 9.45-11.30		

The Hall is available for children's parties on Saturday afternoons and Sundays.

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RATBY BAND

The 120 players in the four Ratby Co-operative Brass Bands have a busy winter coming up. Already, 56 learners from the Training and Youth Bands attended a residential workshop at Quorn Hall. Mid and Senior Bands were both out on Remembrance Sunday and were joined by the Youth Band at Leicester Contest on 21st November. Everyone's out again on Sunday 12th December for our annual Christmas Concert 7.00 pm start, Bosworth College, Desford. On the 17th December the Mid band are playing at the Christmas Concert in Ratby Church, 7.30 start. Call Malcolm Pounder on 0116 238 6749 for all tickets.

Then look out for us carolling in Groby, Kirby, Broughton Astley and the City Centre, not forgetting round Ratby village on Sunday morning 19th December. And then, to bring in the New Year, the Senior Band will be back at their annual Church Concert at the Parish Church on Saturday 15th January (again, ring Malcolm for tickets). We look forward to seeing you out and about over Christmas, or in the New Year.



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NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Seasonal Warning :- It is unfortunate that each year at this time someone's Christmas is spoilt when thieves make off with presents after these have been left visible in cars or within sight through windows at home.

Please take extra care this year, have a Happy Christmas and don't be a victim!

Wheelie Bins and Tools :- Residents are asked to consider the use of wheelie bins as climbing aids, enabling criminals to gain access over fences and flat roofs etc.

Ladders and garden tools can also be used by criminals for this purpose.

Please take steps to ensure that bins are safely stored away out of sight at the rear of your property and that garden tools are locked away. **These simple steps may avoid you becoming a victim of crime.**

Burglar Alarms:- Police are warning residents not to buy burglar alarms from door to door salesmen or telephone canvassers, even if told that these systems have Police approval.

Reputable companies do not sell in this way. In some instances people have signed contracts costing thousands of pounds.

If in doubt, don't sign anything and make contact with P.C Rowlands on telephone No 0116 222222 ext. 4868.

Community Panel :- The Police have recently met with members of local groups and businesses at two meetings of the newly formed Ratby Community Panel Group.

The Group will meet at regular intervals to discuss issues relating to all aspects of local crime. If there is an issue that you feel should be aired at the next meeting, please pop into the Parish Council Office and put your name, address and telephone number on the list provided. A member of Neighbourhood Watch will then contact you.

All issues will be treated as confidential.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,
Recently I have come to live in Ratby. I have been receiving 'Wot! About Ratby' through which I have known about various shops and services in the area. It has been very useful for newcomers.
In most of the issues there is a recipe column, recipes that could easily be followed. I would like to make some suggestion on 'cooking with children' which I am sending you, and would be obliged if you consider printing.

Thanking you,
Yours sincerely
G Ahmed

Brook Drive, Ratby.

Thank you for your appreciation and article. We hope you continue to enjoy the magazine! We are always happy to print contributions from villagers where space allows! We reserve the right to edit though! **Editor**

- **STILL NOT MADE A WILL?**
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COOKING WITH CHILDREN

There are many reasons why children should learn to cook. Cooking reinforces fundamental school lessons. Measuring ingredients and multiplying serving sizes is direct maths application. Reading recipes improves reading and understanding of language. Studying nutrition labels can be linked to health and health sciences.

'Porridge is a regular breakfast in my home,' says my neighbour, Jane. 'I never realised porridge is good for reducing cholesterol until Amanda told me.' Amanda, her nine year old daughter loves to help with the shopping, reading the labels and choosing meals and snacks.

Getting children interested in cooking isn't always easy. Activities such as computers and television compete for their leisure time. The key lies in making it interesting, allowing them to get on, dirty the kitchen and become engrossed in what they are doing.

Many children leave home when they are 16-18 years old, either to enter university, college or independent living. Cooking teaches children to have patience, manage their time and money. It can also be the right time to stress the importance of healthy eating. Children may have so much fun mixing a cake or chocolate chip cookies that they will forgo ready-made packets that may be filled with saturated fats and preservatives.

Resourceful parents fully involve their children in the act of shopping, cooking and meal preparation which will allow them to realise how much work goes into putting a meal onto the table. Families juggle many activities these days, and mealtime offers the ideal opportunity for all to gather together. Making children an essential part in the process of cooking will teach them to be at home at cooking time, to rely less on parents, and to value the work that is involved in preparing a meal. Parents can benefit too by getting assistance in the kitchen, and having children around the dinner table at the mealtime.

G Ahmed

THE RIDERS OF RATBY

On Saturday 11th September, 31 riders of all ages from Ratby set out on this year's sponsored bike ride. The youngest cycling participant was 7 years old with some retired folk joining in as well. The main group in the morning followed a circuit round Ratby, Glenfield, Anstey, Newtown Linford and Groby, visiting all the churches in each location. Amazingly Peter and Eileen Parker managed to get round on vintage cycles; the sight of Peter navigating the A46 Beaumont Leys roundabout on his massive penny farthing will stick in memories of the other participants (and a number of car drivers too!).

The main group in the afternoon set off to the West visiting many churches over towards Thornton, Desford and Kirby Mallory.

Over £400 was raised by the cyclists, which will be split between the Historic Churches Preservation Trust and the Ratby church tower louver window appeal.

A good time was had by all and many thanks to all the participants and to all our supporters.

R. V. W.



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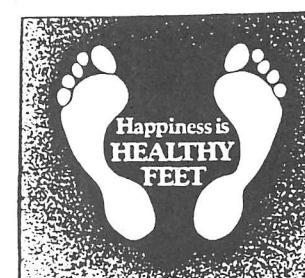
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RECIPE SIMPLE CURRY

Ingredients

- $\frac{3}{4}$ 1lb/340 gr. cooked lean meat
- 2 onions
- 2 cooking apples
- 2 oz/60 gr. Butter
- 2 level tablespoons curry powder
- $\frac{1}{2}$ pint stock, according to the meat
- 1 tablespoon gooseberry jam or marmalade
- 1 tablespoon of chutney
- 1 tablespoon soft brown sugar
- Juice of 1 lemon
- 1 oz. /30 gr. Sultanas or raisins
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt (optional)
- 6 oz. Patna rice

Method

1. Heat the fat in a large, heavy frying pan
2. Slice the onions, and fry gently to soften but not brown, about 10 minutes with lid on pan.
3. Add curry powder and fry to absorb the fat.
4. Add peeled, chopped apples, fry gently until soft.
5. Add stock and other ingredients (except rice +meat) and simmer for 20 minutes. Use as it is or strain if preferred.
6. Remove skin, bone and gristle from cooked meat, cut into cubes.
7. Add meat to mixture and reheat thoroughly until boiling. Then pour into a casserole.
8. Serve with hot, cooked rice, and pieces of lemon and a variety of chutneys in separate dishes.

Scrivener

Another idea for using that left-over turkey or goose!
Editor

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