

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2005

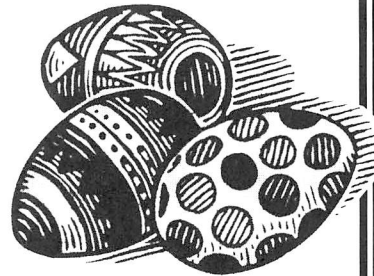
ISSUE 110



# WOT!

## About Ratby

PUBLISHED BY RATBY SCOUT GROUP



### ASIAN TSUNAMI APPEAL

## WELL DONE SARAH and LORNA!

It was a cold and wet Sunday afternoon but people both young and old still turned out to place a coin on the Tsunami Money Trail in Windmill Close.

Some came alone; some with family, friends, dogs and even men took time out from the big match on TV!

As the trail of money grew and grew we were overwhelmed and often moved to tears by the generosity and support from neighbours, friends, family and villagers. Many stayed to chat as the trail of money kept growing. A total of £925 was raised in just two hours, and still the money kept on coming from people who did not make it on the day, making the total raised a magnificent **£1037**.

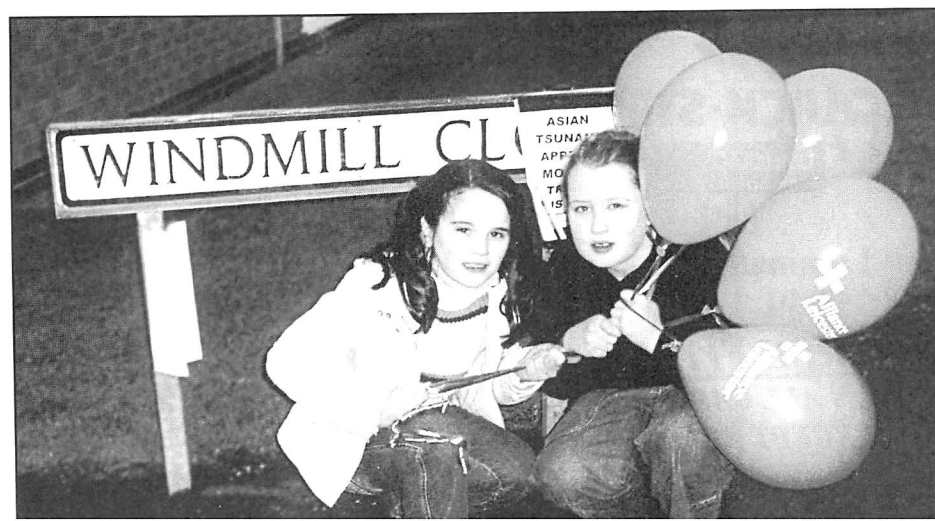
On behalf of Sarah Bedder and Lorna Cooper, we would like to say a huge thank you to you all for coming out and supporting this appeal, despite the wind and rain.

But as the girls said, "we all have a warm home and family to go back to".

Many thanks again

Eve Cooper and Nicola Bedder.

The cheque was sent to the Leicester Mercury/UNICEF's Asia Earthquake Children's Emergency Appeal.



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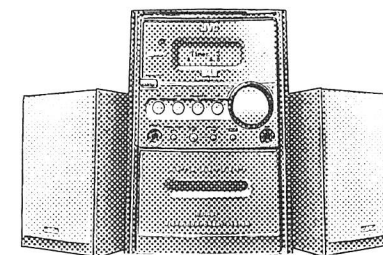
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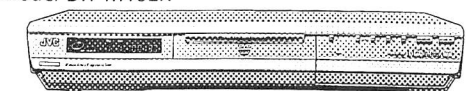
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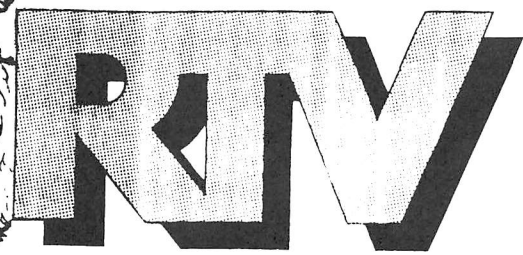
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From Page 1

## The Tsunami Appeal gets underway on Windmill Close



## St Philip and St James

Where does the time go to? Here we are three weeks after Christmas, the trees and decorations all put away, and can we still remember what presents we had and from whom? However, one thing which does stick in the mind are the services we had which were attended by so many from the village. It was great to see everyone at the carol service, Christingle service, Midnight Mass and on Christmas Day itself. Please remember though, a church is for all year not just for Christmas!!

The Christmas story is one of joy and tragedy, and we saw that reflected in the world again with the terrible earthquake and tsunami on Boxing Day. One thing we were able to (and still do) was to pray for those suffering more than we can perhaps imagine, and to be grateful for those things we so often take for granted. It sometimes feels easier to pray in church, but we can pray anywhere and anytime, so do take a moment to look at family and friends around you and give thanks for them.

During January we will be welcoming Bishop Tim who will be worshipping with us along with the congregations from Groby and Newtown Linford.

## WASSAIL! WASSAIL!

Once again members of Ratby Community Orchard Group have performed the traditional 'Wassailing' of the apple trees. The event took place on January 8<sup>th</sup>, being the Saturday between Epiphany and Plough Monday.

The group gathered for wassail songs at the Railway Inn, where they were joined by musicians from the Leicester Orphean Orchestra. The Orchestra has been in existence for 44 years, playing as a full concert orchestra, or a small group on a donation basis, usually to raise money for other causes. Members give their time for free. They will play at weddings and other functions too, for a donation.

The 'Wassail' musicians were Charlotte Rafaluk and Wesley Hawryliw (both of Ukrainian descent), Russell Leighton - Whyte and Helen Sullivan.

The musicians led the group as they sang and played their way to the Orchard, where the Wassail was performed using the traditional Wassail Bowl filled with mulled cider.



Singing The Gloucestershire Wassail'

Baked potatoes and chestnuts were enjoyed around the 'wheelbarrow barbecue,' after which the Wassailers returned to the Railway Inn to complete the evening's festivities and present the traditional 'good luck' gift to the landlady. This is a tray with evergreens, usually yew, to symbolise longevity, nuts for fertility and a candle for 'the love she brings.'

Thank you to the landlord, landlady and customers of the Railway Inn for their hospitality. Thank you too to the musicians who made the evening so special.

You can hear the Orphean Concert Orchestra at their "play-in" in aid of the Tsunami appeal. This will take place on Sunday February 6th, 11.30- 2.30, at 66 Laburnham Road, Humberstone Garden City, Leicester. They will be playing a selection from their concert repertoire, and taking requests.

They are inviting people to join the audience and even bring along an instrument to play.

Details from Avis Fawcitt Tel 0116 2596354.



Pictured are the Orphean Musicians in the

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## AN ARTICLE FOR WOT?

Every village non-profit-making group may have a quarter-page free in each issue of the magazine.

This is approximately 150 words.

We can do the typing for you. If you prefer to do it yourself, please use font size 12 and Times New Roman.

We reserve the right to edit when necessary.

Individuals and groups are invited to produce articles of general interest to the village. This may be a historical account, a recipe, a poem, story, a nature report, gardening article etc. (Something which is not promoting your own business directly.) Or you may ring us to see if we have time to come and interview you.

There is no charge for this type of item. Again we may need to edit or hold over to the next issue.

We are grateful to those groups and villagers who send in copy for us. There are groups out there who are missing the chance to promote yourselves....why not have a go?

### What is an Article?

It is written as an interesting account....not an advert in a box. Articles are usually more effective for promoting events than an advertisement.

### Photographs

These are essential for brightening up Wot! Where there is space and the quality is good enough we will try to include photos with your articles at no extra cost. Please remember they need to be clear, with contrast so that they look good in black and white.

If you send us an article please include your contact name and phone number in case we need to talk to you.

Articles may be sent to 3 Ingle Drive, through usual contacts, or via email to [sueboud@hotmail.com](mailto:sueboud@hotmail.com)

## THINKING OF ADVERTISING?

Contact us if you'd like to advertise in Wot! About Ratby. We may have space for you, or can put you on a waiting list. Our advertisers tell us they get a good response from the magazine publicity.

See the DEADLINE on page 11 for phone numbers.



## RATBY WEBSITE

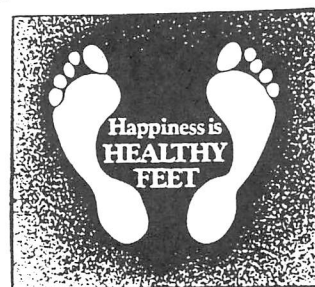
If you haven't seen it yet why not take a look at Ratby's very own web site? Webmaster Mick Morgan has created an attractive and interesting collection of information about the village, following the original initiative by the Parish Council.

The site features a calendar of events, something all local groups should be using, as well as a village tour, with present-day and historical photographs. There is information about the Parish Council, where you'll be able to read minutes of meetings, and there is detail about local businesses and the churches.

Local groups are invited to submit information, so let's make sure we're all promoting ourselves! Families are also welcome to add their own family pages.

Just type Ratby Village into your search engine, and you'll find the pages! You can contact Mick through the site to send him information.

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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Editor "WOT!"

Dear Sir

### WHAT DOES RATBY LOOK LIKE - DO WE REALLY CARE?

As individuals we collectively spend billions of pounds on improving our homes, gardens and lifestyle apart from the essentials such as food and drink - And for why? We all have a sense of pride in what we own and in the image we like to project of ourselves as caring residents of the village.

What is it then that causes such a change in attitude towards the general environment in which we live? Maybe it is because we subconsciously feel that the world outside our front door is 'someone else's responsibility'.

But counter to this there is a strong sense of community in Ratby, renowned for its friendly atmosphere shown to native and newcomer alike. So why do we allow a thoughtless minority to spoil what we hold dear with unsightly rubbish, discarded food, fly-tipping and selfish parking.

Whether we are residents, retailers, employers or employees, school children, students or teachers - surely everyone in the village could make that little extra effort and take responsibility by example, to change Ratby into a clean and tidy place where we are proud to live.

We, in the Ratby Village Society, believe that a great transformation can be made if sufficient individuals, bodies and organisations make a concerted effort in a campaign of education to achieve this goal.

If people in the village would like to pledge their support with ideas and any help they can give, the Committee is keen to hear from them - please write or telephone:

Horace Gamble  
Honorary Secretary  
Ratby Village Society  
14 Calverton Close  
Tel.: 238 7240

Or email:  
[acereseto@bluechipassociates.co.uk](mailto:acereseto@bluechipassociates.co.uk)

Yours faithfully

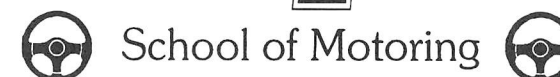
**The Ratby Village Society Committee**

Per pro  
13<sup>th</sup> January 2004



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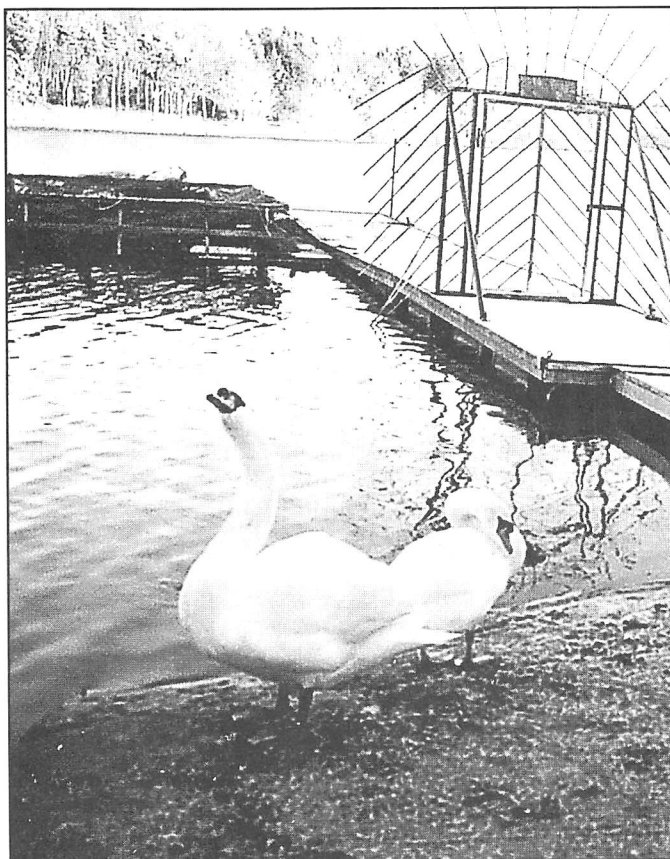
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A Winter scene at Thornton Reservoir

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## RATBY PARISH

### PARISH CLERK

The Parish Council is pleased to have appointed a new clerk, Mrs Geraldine Aldwinckle, in January 2005, and confirm that the Council Office at 13 Station Road will be open to the public Monday to Friday 9am until 12 noon. Appointments outside these hours for the viewing of plans can be made by prior arrangement by contacting the clerk on telephone number 239 0167.

### TRAFFIC CALMING

As you will be aware, the much needed traffic calming improvements at various locations around the village began in January and will take a number of weeks to complete. The unavoidable disruption and inconvenience will be outweighed by the results.

### BURROUGHS ROAD

The damaged verges caused by the harvest machinery will be repaired and reseeded once the weather is drier, hopefully within the next three months. The Parish Council will monitor the situation.

### ALLOTMENT SOCIETY

At a meeting of the Allotment group on 21<sup>st</sup> November it was agreed to set up the Ratby Allotment Society. A constitution was approved, and while the Society was in its formative stage Ken Hunnybun was asked to continue as Chair AND Avril Sutton as Secretary. Megan Cooper was elected as Treasurer for the Society. The Society will be open to anyone with an interest in gardening. The initial subscription was set at £5 and will be reviewed when the allotments are available. The Parish Council welcomed this new development and agreed to donate £50 towards the initial administrative expenses. Andrew Simmonds is continuing to identify possible sites for allotments in and around the village. If anyone can help, please contact Ken Hunnybun on 238 8354.

## COUNCIL NEWS



### FERNDALE COMMUNITY PARK

The Parish Council adopted the recommendations of the Ferndale Park Development Group to accept a tender for Phase One of the Community Park from Willy Albans. This phase will lay out the basic ground works for the pathways and activity areas. The cost of this phase is £57,000. Grant aid has been received from a variety of sources to add to the £10,000 from the Parish Council Budget and £24,000 from housing developments in the village. Further grants are being sought and the Development Group will be arranging money-raising events in which villagers will be able to participate. This will further enhance the possibility of getting grants. The Parish Council thanked the Development Group and the architect Sarah Ashmead for achieving this position in such a short time. The group will welcome anyone who is interested to join them, particularly now that some practical work will soon be required.

### CHRISTMAS LIGHTS COMPETITION

It was a real pleasure for the judges to tour the village and see the wonderful collection of lights that residents had displayed. Thank you all very much!

The winners for the **Front Window Competition** were:

1. Marion and Brian Sutton, 196 Markfield Road.
2. Margaret Tiso, 7 Whittington Drive
3. Mr and Mrs Hill, 58 Stamford Street.

The Winners of the **Front of House Competition** were:

1. David and Maureen Brown, 21 Groby Road
2. Michelle McGarry and Richard Scowan, 37 Church Lane
3. Yvonne and Vaughn Murray, 154 Markfield Road.

The prizes were vouchers for £25, £15 and £10 respectively.

## A PLEA TO DOG OWNERS

The Parish Council has received numerous complaints about dog waste being left on footpaths around the village. This actually constitutes an offence for which there are heavy financial penalties.

The Council does not really want to take heavy-handed action and asks dog owners if they would please remove their dog's waste from the public areas in the village.

The Council is aware that the bins (10 more have been provided over the past 6 months) are not being emptied regularly, so an alternative contractor is being sought. In the meantime could you please use your own waste bin and not the general rubbish bins around the village?

### RATBY PARISH PLAN PARTNERSHIP

The Ratby Parish Steering Group has now been constituted as the Ratby Parish Plan Steering Group in order to develop the Action Plan that resulted from the questionnaire completed by many residents in the village. The Partnership will work in conjunction with the Parish Council and all other village groups. Anyone is welcome to attend the meetings, and the Agenda for every meeting will be posted on the village Notice Boards. Minutes of the meetings will be lodged with Ratby Library.

Activities for village Youth were agreed to be a priority Action Point from the Parish Plan. Four young people attended and shared their concerns that there was nowhere for them to go in the village where they could meet their friends in a warm and friendly environment. Members agreed to investigate possibilities to provide a Youth Club.

Mrs G Aldwinckle  
Ratby Parish Clerk tel. 239 0167

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## 'BREAKING THE AGEISM BARRIER IN EMPLOYMENT'

An exciting new project is being launched by Age Concern Leicestershire & Rutland, in conjunction with Job Centre Plus and funded by the European Social Fund. This will bring tremendous benefits to people over 45 who are seeking employment and who are unemployed.

The main aim of the project is to develop and enhance existing skills, build confidence, help with CVs, brush up on interview skills and help in finding the right job.

Age Concern Leicestershire & Rutland can provide this support.

Tony Donovan, Executive Director comments:

*'This is another exciting opportunity for Age Concern Leicestershire & Rutland to break the ageism barrier and advise and assist those 45+ people back into employment. Outreach staff are out in the community, meeting with individuals, helping them through the process and linking them with employment services.'*

There are a number of surgeries held throughout the county on various days each week and appointments can be made on an individual basis. For more information contact:

Linda Fogg – 0116 223 7365 or  
Simon Nickson – 0116 223 7363



## CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Ratby Co-operative Mid Band entertained a large audience in Ratby Parish Church when they performed their Christmas Concert on 17<sup>th</sup> December.

There were some traditional carols, as well as more unusual pieces such as a theme from 'The Tales of Narnia.'

Refreshments were provided, as well as a raffle.



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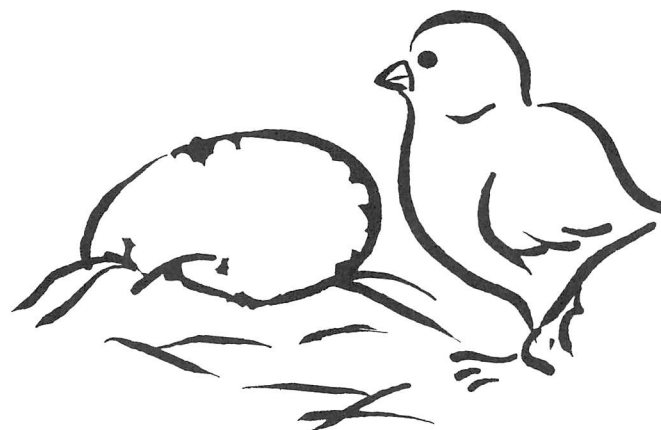
Ratby parishioners enjoyed a joint service with Groby and Newtown Linford on Sunday January 16<sup>th</sup>. Bishop Tim was in attendance on a pastoral visit. He was very impressed with the work that had been done in the church since his last visit. He talked about the Tsunami disaster, mentioning that 98% of people caught up in such tragedy are amongst the worlds poorest, and urged people to be generous. He reminded the congregation that when this disaster is long past there will still be poverty around the world.



## RATBY LIBRARY

A questionnaire is currently circulating asking for views about the proposed new library for the village.

If you have one, don't miss the deadline date for return at the end of February!



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## EASTER TRADITIONS

### Pagan Origins

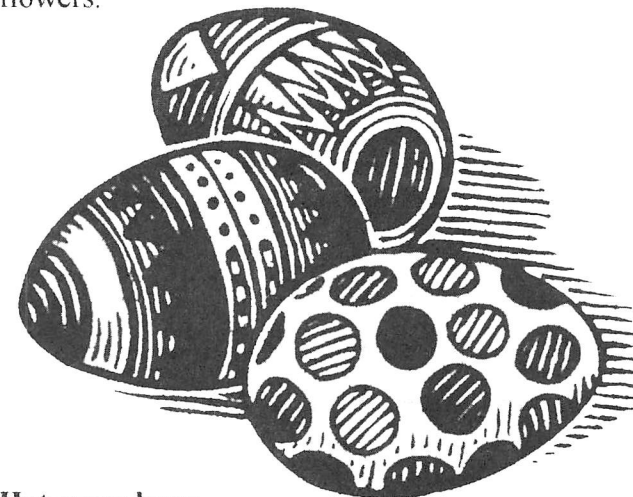
The word Easter is thought to have evolved from Eostre, the name of an Anglo-Saxon goddess of fertility and springtime. The date of Easter is determined, like its pagan festival equivalent, by the lunar calendar.

### The Easter Egg

Eggs have been associated with Easter celebrations since ancient times. The egg was a symbol of fertility and new beginnings, and Christians adopted this to represent the rebirth of Christ.

### Painting eggs

This tradition goes back to the Middle Ages and is still an important custom for many Christians. In Germany it's traditional to paint eggs green and eat them on Maundy Thursday while in Greek and Slavic cultures eggs are dyed red as a symbol of the blood of Christ. Decorations became more elaborate with colourful patterns, images of animals and flowers.



### Hot cross buns

Buns marked with a cross were eaten by the Saxons to honour their goddess Eostre - it is thought the bun represented the moon and the cross the moon's quarters. To Christians, the cross symbolises the crucifixion.

### Simmel Cake

Lent is the period of 40 days which comes before Easter, beginning on Ash Wednesday. For many Christians, this is a period of fasting and repentance in preparation for Easter, culminating in a feast of seasonal and symbolic foods. In the late 17th century, girls in service brought a rich fruit cake called Simmel cake home to their mothers on the fourth Sunday of Lent. The cake was enriched with marzipan and decorated with 11 marzipan balls representing the 12 apostles minus Judas, who betrayed Christ.

## Wot! About Ratby Deadline Dates 2005/06

- Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March for April/May issue
- Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May for June/July issue
- Friday 15<sup>th</sup> July for August/September issue
- Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September for October/November issue
- Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November for December/January issue
- Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January for February/March 2006 issue

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## TSUNAMI VICTIMS BENEFIT FROM LOROS LOTTERY WIN

The winner of this year's £5000 top prize in the LOROS Lottery Bumper Prize Draw has donated some of her winnings back to LOROS, and has also made a generous donation to the Asian Tsunami disaster.

The Desford winner was overwhelmed when she heard news of her win on New Year's Eve. Lottery Manager Liz Singleton said, 'She had hardly had time to take in the news of her win before she was giving away.'

The Lottery makes a valuable contribution to the work of the Hospice. Members have a one in sixty chance of winning a prize.

If you would like to help LOROS by joining the Lottery, or becoming a paid/volunteer collector, just call Liz on 0116 231 8430 for an informal chat.



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## Ratby Village Society

The final meeting of 2004, in November, welcomed once again Mr Philip Shreeve, whose show of imaginatively photographed scenes on the islands of Jersey, Sark and Wight was one which delighted the large audience. The pictures were accompanied by a taped commentary and backed with suitably sympathetic but unobtrusive music. Such scenes of sun and sea are always appreciated in helping to dispel the darkness of a winter evening.

Mr Shreeve, as is his custom, donated his fee for the evening to the Rainbows Hospice. Over the years this has amounted to some £6000.

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## NEW LAW AFFECTS DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION WORK

As of 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2005 it is a LEGAL Requirement for electrical & non-electrical personnel carrying out domestic electrical installation work to comply with Part "P" of the building regulations. This affects everyone, all home owners, DIYer's, all tradesmen and all electricians.

Electricians registered with a government authorised competent persons scheme (i.e. The NICEIC) can self certify their own work. If an electrician or person is not registered then they must notify your local council BEFORE work commences and under go the relevant inspections which will entail a fee. (Similar to getting Planning Permission)

### This New law covers all these things:

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- ♦ Electric heating systems including floor and ceiling heaters
- ♦ Low Voltage lighting systems.
- ♦ Swimming Pools & Sauna's
- ♦ Very minor works (i.e. Changing a light fitting) are not covered by these new rules unless in one of the above areas. But work should still be tested and inspected fully with the proper test meters.

If the person installing electrics in your home is not registered then you must ask yourself the question why and are you going to risk a large fine and/or enforced re-work if they don't get council permission? Fines can be up to £5000 per non-compliance.

Thank you to Paul's Quality Electrics (NICEIC registered) for supplying us with this information.



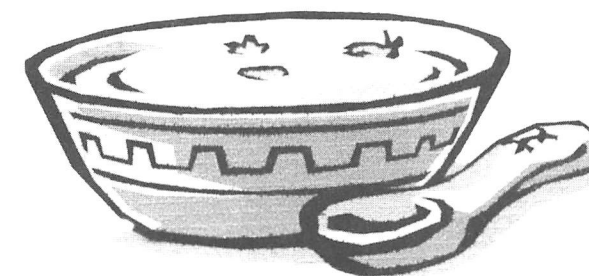
## RECIPE WATERCRESS SOUP

### Ingredients

12 oz / 340 gr potatoes  
1 medium sized leek  
1 oz/28 gr butter  
1 pint chicken stock  
Salt and pepper  
½ pint of milk  
1 bunch of watercress

### Method

1. Peel and cut potatoes into chunks
2. Wash and slice leek
3. Fry vegetables in butter for about 5 minutes to soften but not brown.
4. Add stock and simmer for 45 minutes with lid firmly on pan.
5. Remove from heat and stir in the milk.
6. Wash watercress and remove coarse ends of stalks. Chop.
7. Stir watercress into soup and season to taste.
8. Sieve or liquidise until smooth.
9. Serve hot with a swirl of cream in each bowl.



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