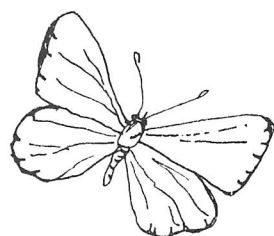


Wot!

About Ratby



JUNE 2000

PUBLISHED BY THE RATBY SCOUT GROUP

ISSUE 82



RATBY LOCAL FETE 1932

This photograph was kindly lent to us by Mr John Freeman, who is pictured on the left dressed as Little Boy Blue. Also pictured are, from the left, Margaret Green (nee Freeman), Stella Geary as Little Bo Peep, Rose Geary and an unidentified Groby lady.

Does anyone have memories of this occasion? We'd love to hear them. Have you read the letter in this issue about Crow Pie Carnival in 1938? If you can help, don't hesitate to ring!



PIANO MARATHON

Richard Worsfold (Team Vicar) and John Moore
will be playing the piano NON-STOP for 24 hours to raise money for the

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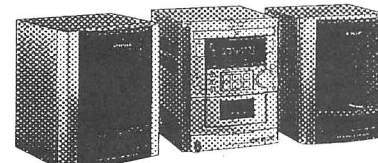
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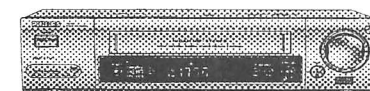


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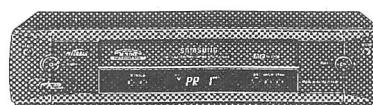


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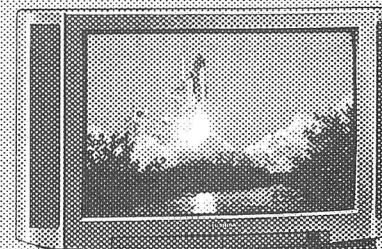


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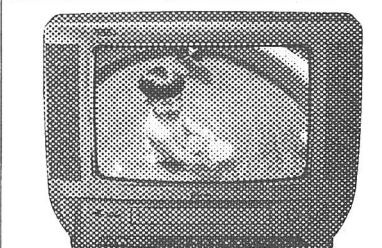


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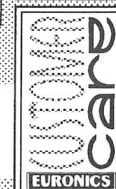
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VILLAGE MILLENNIUM UPDATE

Children's Tea Party – All of the children who go to Ratby School have been invited to attend the Crow Pie Carnival Parade and Children's Tea Party in fancy dress on Saturday August 12th. If you live in Ratby and have any children who are aged between 5 and 10 years old and **do not go** to the Ratby School, please let us know if you would like them to attend this special millennium event. We need to know before the last week of June! Telephone – 2394472 is the number to call.

A Chance of a Lifetime – Ratby's very own Iron Age 'Bury Camp' is being opened to the public for the first time in over 70 years. Guided tours of the site will be available during the two weekends of June 10/11th & 24/25th. These tours will also include a visit to the grounds of the moated farmhouse at Old Hayes. All is in aid of the parish church restoration fund. Telephone – 2394168 for full details.

Diary of Events - The following planned events have been made known to us :-

June

Weekend 10/11th – Bury Camp Open Days.
Wed 14th – WI Flower Arranging at Welfare Hall
Sat 17th – Concert of Light Music
Tues 20th – RVS Storyteller at the Welfare Hall.
Wed 21st – Tea Dance at the Methodist Chapel.
Sat 24th – Coffee Morning at the Methodist Chapel
Weekend 24/25th – Bury Camp Open Days.
Sun 25th – Strawberry Teas at the Church Rooms.

July

Sat 1st – Garden Fete at the Vicarage.
Fri 7th – 24hr Piano Marathon at Church Rooms
Sat 8th – Jazz in the Garden at the Vicarage.
Mon 17th – Garden & Hanging Basket Competition

August

Wed 9th – WI Corn Dollies talk at the Welfare Hall.
Sat 12th – Crow Pie Carnival & Children's Tea.
Sun 13th – Band Concert at Groby College.
Tues 15th – RVS New England talk at Welfare Hall
Sat 19th – Teddy Bears Picnic at the Vicarage.

Please watch the notices for full details of all of these events!



Ratby's New Beat Officer



**I am PC 228
'Reg' Varney**

I have been with Leicestershire Constabulary for five and a half years and have previously worked as a general duty officer at Market Harborough and Braunstone LPUs (Local Policing Units).

I am stationed at New Parks LPU and you can contact me via the voicemail system on (0116) 248 5675. You will need to enter my ID number which is 228 followed by the # key on your telephone.

I intend to give you some continuity as your beat officer and plan to stay in this post for the foreseeable future. It is my intention to get out and about in the village to meet as many of you as possible. When you see me walking around, if you have any questions or particular concerns, please don't hesitate to speak to me. I need to know what issues matter to you, the residents and businesses of Ratby, so that I can do my job effectively and to everyone's satisfaction.

Unfortunately, I have recently had surgery so am currently on light duties, working at the LPU. Rest assured that, as soon as I am fit again, which will be sooner rather than later, I will be out and about in the village whenever possible.

There's not a great deal more to add at the moment so, I look forward to meeting you all face to face out on the beat and welcome any comments that you may have.



RATBY SCHOOL'S NEW HEADTEACHER

Mrs Hanratty, former headteacher at Townlands Church of England Primary School in Earl Shilton recently took up her appointment as Head at Ratby. She has more than 26 years experience in teaching. Her husband is a Headteacher in Hinckley. Asked what she hopes to achieve at Ratby, Mrs Hanratty said, 'To move the school forward and improve standards academically and behaviour wise through working together with the staff to achieve these aims.' With input from pupil 'reporters she has produced informative, chatty newsletters covering many school topics. Hannah Williams was presented with a book for winning the competition to name the newsletter; 'SNIFY' (School News and Information for You.)

Pictured is Mrs Hanratty playing a Grand National Horse Race Game devised by (left to right) Laura, Abbey and Kelly.



Other School News

The school football team, managed by teacher Mr Barbour were jubilant when they won the Groby Area Schools Marconi Cup recently.

Children approaching 3 years old.

Please register your children with the school as apart from the Pre-school list the School has no way of knowing children reaching school age.

by Sylvia Gant

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A WELCOME BOUQUET!

Local woman Tracey Lewin's business is really blooming! Tracey, a Ratby 'Harris' family member opened her florist shop next door to the Post Office on April 15th, and her creations are already in great demand. She is currently working on a large order for Leicester University, as well as other special commissions for local businesses.

Tracey doesn't just supply special formal arrangements in real or silk flowers. You can simply pop into the shop and choose a bouquet from the range of fresh flowers always in stock.

Tracey will also devise imaginative wedding flowers, and arrangements for any occasion. She will deliver within 10 miles too.

Why not make time to drop into 'The Flower House'? You won't be disappointed.

CRIME CRIME CRIME
TOGETHER WE'LL CRACK IT TOGETHER WE'LL CRACK IT TOGETHER WE'LL

WARNING NOTICE!

If you receive a telephone call from someone who states they are an **AT & T Service Technician** conducting a test on your telephone line - **IGNORE IT**. They will say that to complete the test you must press nine, zero, the hash (90#) and then hang up. To do this gives full access to your phone line which allows them to place **LONG DISTANCE** or **CHAT LINE** calls billed to your account. The information has been checked out by the police and is correct.

DO NOT PRESS (90#) FOR ANYONE!

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Main Course only or Set 3 Course meal with a glass of wine.

MONDAY TO SUNDAY

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KARAOKE on the last Sunday in the month**

HAVE YOU SEEN THE SIGNS?

There have been many signs in Ratby recently, the most recent and exciting being the one at the junction of Main Street and Desford Lane announcing our place on the map! But there have been other signs which give me cause for concern and a sense of foreboding.

Have you noticed the signs concerning our village library?

- Repairs half completed in a very dilatory manner
- Book shelves disappearing with consequent loss of the books housed on them!
- Other village libraries 'on-line' whereas Ratby still has a manual booking system and no access to Fax or Computer links to other libraries.
- A recent list of opening times stated that Ratby library will be 'under review'

When I first came to Ratby 29 years ago the only library service we had was a visiting van once a fortnight, which was fine if subscribers were at home during the day, but no good to working folk. The staff were great, but 10 minutes to browse for books seemed to pass with the speed of lightening! We fought to get permanent shelving in the Welfare Hall and evening opening hours. After a campaign which seemed to be losing, when County Hall miscalculated the cost, our then MP, Adam Butler joined the fight and at last we saw the opening of our library at the very centre of our community.

The library is not just a source of reading materials, and if you think it is, you haven't visited recently. It is used for research and is an information centre for local and national events and places to visit. The elderly can come into a warm, friendly atmosphere. For many it's a chance for a chat and vital contact with others, and with our librarians everyone gets a good cheerful welcome.

Placed opposite the school it's ideal for adults and children to visit, and can provide an extra source of information when homework has to be completed. Books introduced at an early age are fun for both reader and listener!

So we're 'under review' are we? I've heard those words before and I leave you to guess what they will mean. Already one letter to Chief Librarian Mr Peter Oldroyd has received a promise of 'a service' for Ratby in the future. I wonder if this means a library van visit once a fortnight? that would be a retrograde step.

What about users without their own transport? Public transport does not take Ratby residents anywhere near other local libraries. Has anyone at County Hall looked at a map and linked it with bus timetables?

Not everyone in the village is 'on-line' and the updating of the library with computer facilities would help a good many. We pay our Community Charges, but what do we see for it? Is our contribution going to fit out other libraries whilst we in Ratby are the 'poor relations?'

Well, I guess it's like post offices; 'use it or lose it.' If you are a user think about taking out an extra book, and if you're not a ticket holder then become one-it's free! You never know, reading might prove to be fun and a great release from 'the goggle box', or even a user friendly alternative to the computer screen!

If you feel as strongly as I do, please write to Mr Oldroyd at County Hall and let him know you care. It's no good complaining when they're sending in the crane and low loader to remove the building. If they get to that stage I'll be on the roof. Anyone care to join me?

Lynn Mellor

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RATBY

Road Rage at Parish Meeting

Where were the police?

Traffic and vandalism in the churchyard were the main causes for concern at the Annual Parish Meeting held at the end of April.

The meeting is for the presentation of the yearly review from the Parish Council and this year we included an open discussion to identify problem areas in the village, in particular with regard to traffic. The aim was to identify areas where action is felt to be necessary and to hear from the police what is realistic in terms of what can be done to alleviate the problems.

However, despite a specific invitation and plenty of notice, there was no police representative at the meeting. This not only created a feeling of dissatisfaction but salt was rubbed into the wound with the knowledge that a high ranking police officer and the local MP had attended a similar discussion in Kirby Muxloe.

Traffic troubles

Traffic and parking are probably the most talked about issues in the village. Over the years the Parish Council have tackled the problems through discussions and site meetings with the relevant authorities. This has led to improved road signs and a spate of mini-roundabouts but, in the main, the solutions put in place have not been effective.

Local residents pointed out the areas where there are problems. There was general concern at the level of speeding through the village, especially around the bend in Main Street (near Freeman's the butchers). Several comments related to not being able to see to pull out of side roads because of vehicles parked at junctions and it was also noted that vehicles exceeding the 7.5-ton weight restriction could often be seen in the village.

Ideas for solving the problems ranged from speed bumps and traps to a complete one-way system though the village. The view was also

expressed that an ongoing police presence in the village would do much to deter speeding and illegal parking.

Is nothing sacred?

People attending the meeting were shocked to hear of the damage that is being done in the parish churchyard. Recently, a small marble cross on a child's grave was smashed and a mature tree had its bark stripped off, which means it will die.

There is an ongoing spate of petty damage, normally to gravestones or trees, plus a constant litter of vodka bottles, lager cans, cigarette packets and other rubbish, mainly in one particular area of the graveyard. Roller blading across the graves and climbing over the trees into the Garden of Remembrance has also been seen.

This is not a new problem and the police have been informed on several occasions. Again, there was frustration that the police were not at the meeting to comment.

Since the meeting, the Chairman of the Parish Council has taken the following action:

- He has met with our MP, **Stephen Dorrell**, and it has been agreed in principle that a further public meeting will be held, which Mr Dorrell will attend. This is likely to be in September.
- Our **Borough and County Councillor, Rob Fraser** has been made aware of the feelings of the people at the meeting. He will also attend the proposed Public Meeting.
- A letter has been sent to the **Chief Constable** asking for his comments

It is *your* village. Come and give *your* views. Watch for the notices about the next meeting...

Other Council News

Parish Council 2000

At the Parish Council Meeting following the Annual Parish meeting, the Chairman Mr Tony Daly was re-elected for a further year. Mrs Merle Joyce was elected as Vice Chairman and she also retains the post of Chairman of the Planning sub-committee. Mrs Elaine Moore remains Chairman of the Leisure & Recreation sub-committee and Publicity Officer.

New Parish Council Office

By the time you are reading this the new Parish Council office will have been up and running for about a month. For those who have not yet noticed it, the address is **13, Station Road**. Mr Cawrey carried out the building work but that still left the decorating to be done. Nothing extra in the budget to cover such an expense so if you spotted several Councillors going in and out with paint and brushes you now know why.

The opening hours of the office are from 0930 to 1130 on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and from 1430 to 1630 on Saturdays. (The office will be closed all day on Wednesdays.) Arrangements can be made for appointments outside these hours. The office telephone number remains the same – 2390167.

Last word on the village sign

Many favourable comments have been received about the Ratby Millennium village sign, now a striking feature in the centre of the village. Changes have already been made. There is now a new signpost and the free car park sign has been moved so that the view of the sign is not spoiled in any way.

A question that has been raised is who paid for it? The answer is that it has not cost the village anything. The total cost was covered by grants and donations. We are grateful to:

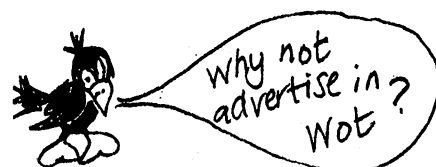
Geary's Bakery, Coach Europe Ltd, Jonella Fashions, Ratby Garments Ltd, The Village Society, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, The National Forest and all others who contributed in any way.

GARDEN & HANGING BASKET COMPETITION

Glorious gladioli?	Pert petunias?	Gigantic geraniums?
Radiant roses?	Crackin' chrysanthemums?	
Sturdy stocks?	Luscious lobelia?	Delightful dahlias?

Judging will take place during the week commencing
July 17th

Applications to take part can be made by contacting the
Parish Council Office for more details



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Ratby Village Society

FROM TRAVELS TO TRAVAILS?

No stranger to RVS audiences is Mr Brian Jeffs, whose audio-visual presentations are always welcomed for their quality and professionalism. Two slide projectors ensure a fade-in-fade-out continuum, synchronised with a commentary and appropriate musical backing. Among the sequences shown at the March meeting were visits to Cornwall, Italy, France and Norway, followed by an offbeat 'Advertisements at Night'

Newly co-opted committee member Alison Emerson was prevailed upon to give the vote of thanks.

Seven members showed selections of their own slides at the April meeting. From the Isles of Man, Wight and Skye we went to the exotic Cook Islands, New Zealand and Australia. Some fascinating glimpses of Ratby in the sixties contrasted with impressive English 19th C Church Architecture.

Somewhere in between we visited Wales, Rome and Yugoslavia.

May provided a talk by Mr J P Brownlow on '1863 Health and Life.' His script was taken from answers in what we now call 'Agony Aunt columns. The ingredients for many of the recipes and prescriptions included so many toxic substances that it seems a wonder anyone survived to see 1864. It was with feelings of relief that we compared our present lifestyle with that of the 19th Century.

RATBY SCOUTS

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April no. 32 Pete Fowler

May no. 27 Betty Hulme



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RECIPE FRUIT and NUT MUESLI and FLAPJACKS

MUESLI

Ingredients

- 4 oz (113 gr.) oats
- 1 oz (28 gr.) bran
- 2 oz (57 gr.) chopped dates
- 2 oz (57 gr.) chopped apricots
- 3 oz (85 gr.) mixed nuts (almonds, brazils, walnuts)

1 grated apple

Method

1. Mix first five ingredients in a bowl
2. Leave covered in refrigerator overnight
3. Serve with milk for breakfast, with added apple.

This will keep for 2 weeks if covered in the refrigerator.

FLAPJACKS

Ingredients

- 4 oz (113 gr.) brown sugar
- 4 oz (113 gr.) hard margarine
- 1 tablespoon golden syrup
- 1 egg, beaten

Method

1. Melt together sugar, syrup and margarine
2. Pour on to Muesli (not with apple)
3. Add egg and mix
4. Spread into lined, buttered tin 11"x7"
5. Bake in oven at 180 C/350 F/Gas 4 for 20 minutes until golden brown
6. Cool for a few minutes then cut into bars.

SCRIVENER

DEADLINE FOR THE AUGUST ISSUE OF 'WOT'

JULY 14th

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