

WOT!

About Ratby

PUBLISHED BY RATBY SCOUT GROUP



WOLSEY MORE ABOUT THIS LOCAL BUSINESS FROM Mr ERNEST HILL

I was an employee of Wolsey Ltd for 46 years. After the War I became manager of the Printing Dept., so dealt with all 16 Wolsey Factories in the British Isles.

Ratby, and King Street in Leicester were originally 'Sydney Tyler's hosiery Manufacturers,' later amalgamating with Walker Ltd, and all factories took the name of Wolsey.

Ratby made underwear and socks. Mr Lawson Moore was manager, he was an excellent boss, knew all his work force by their Christian names, and he took an interest in their well being. He was a popular man in the village, a Parish Councillor, and fondly known as 'The Lord Mayor of Ratby.'

Ratby had their own cricket team, as did my printing dept. Mr Moore arranged a match for one holiday. When we arrived we were welcomed by Ratby Brass Band and almost all of Ratby turned out to watch, a very festive occasion.

A Mr Fretter, mechanic at Wolsey Abbey Park Mills sometimes went to service machines at Ratby, I wonder if this could be the Mr Ferritti mentioned in the magazine?

In 1970 Wolsey was taken over by Courtaulds Ltd and several Wolsey factories closed.

What was £10 worth in 1931?

In 1931 the sum of £10 would pay for 2 people for a weeks holiday. Train fare to Yarmouth was £1 and 5 shillings, with a shilling extra to book your seat, £2 for full board at a boarding house, £1 and 14 shillings to spend; a holiday for £5 each. This was when ice creams cost just one old penny.

The best seats in the cinema were one shilling and sixpence, dances 2 shillings or half a crown. Wages averaged £2-5s to £3 for a 48-hour week.

A weeks groceries for two people would be about £1 to £1-5s. A rented house 7s-6d to 10s weekly. Not much left from one wage, but I think we enjoyed ourselves, perhaps more than people today when money is a little more plentiful.

Editor's note.

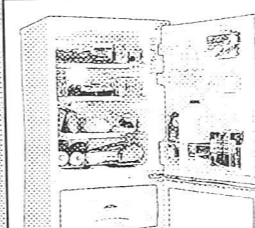
Thank you for those fascinating details. Food for thought there, does an increase in money really buy us extra happiness, in a country where we work longer hours than the rest of Europe? Any views?



FROM WOLSEY TO WOOLLIES!

Lambs were once a regular sight in the centre of the village. The field opposite the Post Office where they once grazed is now overgrown. And do you remember when the cows came home along Main Street? Does anyone have photos or memories to share?

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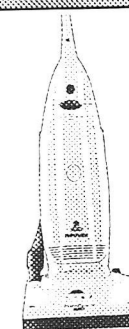
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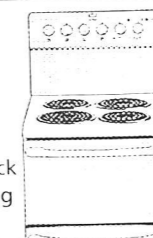
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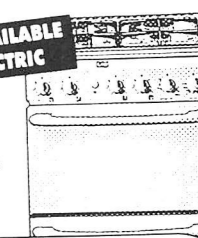


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'WOT'S HAPPENING WITH RATBY PARISH CHURCH?'

The roof is finished! But inside it is a different story. The floor (which was taken up during the dry rot works) is to be relaid in June/July after the installation of new heating pipes and radiators. We will then have an empty church with bare plastered walls awaiting pews, chairs - and DECORATING!! This is where we hope the skilled people of Ratby will come in!

One recurring question over the past 2 years has been why local skilled people were not being given the opportunity to volunteer their time and help with the restoration work, as has happened in the past. In fact this was not possible, due to the scale and complexity of the task and the need for expert eradication of the dry rot. However, the essential redecoration work does now provide the opportunity for local involvement. *So, anyone with experience of decorating at platform/ladder height is invited to form a decorating team during the late summer/autumn. This is your chance to be practically involved!*

Even with the decorating complete, there is still the need to reinstall pews and furniture, construct an internal disabled access porch and deal with the half-blocked up South West window that has been sadly vandalised in the spring. Whilst informal use of the church may begin in September, formal reopening is still unfortunately quite a way off. There will, however, be an opportunity to view the empty floorless church on the afternoon of Sunday 17th June when we will be giving restricted access during our strawberry cream teas afternoon, starting at 3.00pm.

We have been awarded grants totally some £160,000 for the urgent repair works, but this does not cover items such as redecoration, which is why volunteer decorating help and support for fund-raising events (such as the vicarage evening Jazz Concert on 7th July) is crucial.

If you think you can help with the redecoration project, then please contact either Revd Richard Worsfold (239 3009) or one of the churchwardens, Stuart Tyler (238 7036) or David Willis (239 0010).



RATBY COMMUNITY ORCHARD

The latest addition to the Orchard is a 'Tettenhall Dick' pear tree. As its name denotes, this was originally a Black Country variety. The tree was grown by Paul Hand, and donated to the Orchard Group at a recent Environ event.

The orchard and wildlife areas continue to develop. There were bluebells this spring, and the pond is teeming with tadpoles and other aquatic life, its banks brightened by golden Marsh Marigold flowers.

The pink Ragged Robin is flourishing on the stream banks of the Ferndale Drive meadow.

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RATBY SENIOR CITIZENS WELFARE ASSOCIATION RATBY VILLAGE HALL

We held our first Easter Tea following the refurbishment of the hall on Saturday 21st April and our guests were very impressed.

The tables had white cloths with terracotta napkins and a vase of spring flowers, and with the new blue chairs it looked very welcoming.

The senior citizens of the village seemed to enjoy it very much.

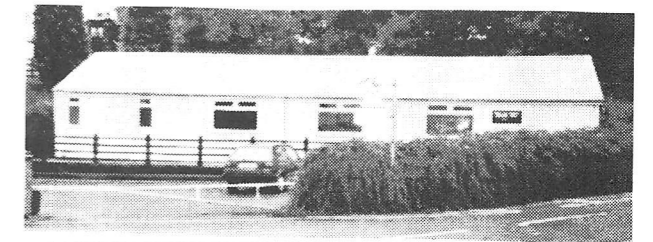
After tea we had four games of Bingo, run very kindly by Albert Hargreaves and Muriel Palmer. Geoff Pullen, Chairman of the RSCWA opened the proceedings and said grace. At the close of the afternoon he thanked groups that had donated funding, including the Lottery, and gave thanks to the committee and helpers, especially Margaret Edwards and Janet Peaks. Albert Hargreaves and Win Baillie thanked the RSCWA on behalf of the senior citizens.

The modernised Village Hall is for all members of the community to enjoy.

New members for the committee are needed, especially from groups that use the facilities. Their input would be gratefully appreciated. We meet just once a month for updates on maintenance and to

plan future fund raising. We are a friendly committee and welcome new members. It would be a great shame if we couldn't go forward into 2002 because of lack of support.

Our lettings officer is Julie Tomkins 0116 238 7052



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RATBY CO-OPERATIVE BAND

What a start to the Contest Season! After a fine performance by our Junior Band in the National Youth Championships two of our other bands gained promotion in the National gradings.

On Saturday 3rd March the Ratby Co-operative Band conducted by Kevin Steward defended their title as Midland First Section Champions. They were pipped by one point, but their second placing ensured them of an invitation to The National Finals at Preston in September, and they will return to the Championship Section of the National Contests from January 1st 2002.

On the following day our Mid Band (Geoff Newman) took part in the fourth section of the Midland Championships. Although not finishing 'in the frame', their position and aggregate over preceding years has resulted in an invitation to join the Third Section from next January.



Sunday 3rd June, Mid Band in Hollycroft Park, Hinckley.

Saturday 9th June, Senior Band Concert at Woodhouse Eaves.

Saturday 16th June Senior Band Concert at Thornton Church

Sunday 17th June, Mid Band in Melton Park, Melton Mowbray.

Friday 29th July Senior Band leaves for Kerkrade, Holland for the International Music Competition.



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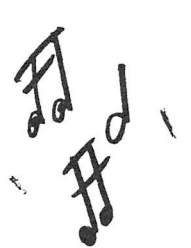
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Ratby...Just a Name

"Morning" and "Good Morning." These were the words that greeted me on my very first day, taking my two boys aged five and seven to Ratby Primary School.

I have never forgotten that day. It has flowered the way I feel about this village. I'm quite a newcomer really; I only came here thirty years ago. My two sons however are real Ratby chaps! One more than the other 'cos he still lives in the village. Still, the other one is only down the railway line in Glenfield. I'm glad they grew up here with happy memories. (Not without trouble though, like all kids)

We are so lucky here in Ratby. We have wonderful walks all around us, woods that are the best kept secret in Leicestershire, especially in spring when you can stand knee deep in scented purple and mauve bluebells. Aaah, complete magic!

I remember the December weekend we moved here, furniture brought in a friend's work van, to a house with lovely big windows but no heating. Still, we had warm clothes, plenty of 'grub' and a gas fire in the lounge. The garden was large, but had to be dug over a few times by dad, and started from scratch. We rolled up in a battered old mini van, me and him, two kids and a very large Alsatian dog. (Wonder if our neighbours still remember?)

A lot of water has passed under the bridge since then and things have changed a little here in Ratby. The village is a lot bigger; we have a proper bus service, a doctor, and our own policeman. Mind you, the bread's still good, and above all,
THE FOLKS ARE STILL FRIENDLY!

Wendy

ANOTHER
CHUCKLE

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Because the Tear ducked!

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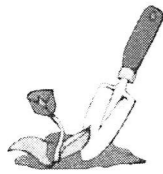
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SUMMER NEWS

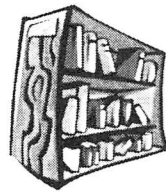


Lets make this a colourful summer with lots of flowers in the village! There will be planters at the entrance to the village coming from Groby, Markfield and Kirby Muxloe and another one in the centre of the village (near the village sign). There will also be rose bushes planted in beds along the Markfield Road. The rest is up to you.

It would be nice to have more entries than ever before in the **Garden and Hanging Basket Competition**, which will take place during the week starting 23rd July. You can enter at the Parish Council office or you can hope to be nominated, but please take part. And make the village look attractive in the process.



Come and have some fun and maybe make some new friends. The **Summer Sports Roadshow 2001**, organised by Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council, will be visiting Ferndale Drive recreation ground on July 19th and 26th and August 2nd, 9th and 16th (all Thursdays) from 1.30pm to 3.30pm. Coaching will be offered in a variety of sports and there will also be the chance to take part in team games.



There is something to do, even on the rainy evenings (although we hope there aren't too many of those this summer!). The **library** is stocked full of **books to suit all types**. There is bound to be at least one there that you just *have* to read! Don't forget there is also the newly installed **computer** through the Skills Point scheme giving you the opportunity to surf the World Wide Web, send emails to your friends or prepare personal documents. The library opening hours are as follows:

Monday - 2pm to 5.30pm; Tuesday - Closed; Wednesday - 2pm to 7pm;
Thursday - 9.30am to 12.30pm; Friday - 2pm to 5.30pm; Saturday - 10.00am to 12.30pm.

REPORT OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The annual parish meeting was held at the village hall on April 24th and started with the Parish Council Chairman, Tony Daly, welcoming all those present and giving his report for the year ending in April. He reminded listeners of some of the activities and functions of the Parish Council, including support for local organisations.

One of the things the council has concentrated on this year is traffic and parking (see separate report). Special mention was made of PC Reg Varney and how welcome it is to have a local policeman who is regularly seen patrolling the village. The crime figures reported for the year show that Ratby is in a better position than neighbouring villages with regard to the overall level of crime. Later in the meeting a presentation was made on behalf of the local Neighbourhood Watch, another organisation supported by the Parish Council.



It was pointed out that Ratby is earmarked for growth in the Borough Council future development plans. All planning applications are submitted to the Parish Council for comment and *every site* is visited before the Borough Council is given our recommendation. Unfortunately, the Borough Council do not always listen to our opinions and it was sad to see the garage, shop and car-wash go, but at least the Parish Council were able to influence the final number of Wimpey houses to be built and preserve some of the wetland.

The advantage of the council having its own office was mentioned and particular thanks were given to the Clerk to the Council, Mrs Maureen Martin. She carries out her role in an excellent manner and we are lucky to have her. Thanks were also given to Simon Ingall, the maintenance worker who is responsible for the upkeep of the play equipment at Burroughs Road and Ferndale Drive.

TRAFFIC AND PARKING

Traffic and parking was the main topic for discussion at last year's Annual Parish Meeting (2000). On reflection it quickly became obvious that the problems raised would not be easily solved, nor could they be tackled all at once.

In the last twelve months the subject has been much debated and the police have been consulted over the main problem areas. At the instigation of a local resident one particular course of action was a petition to request some form of traffic calming along Main Street, particularly round the bend leading to

the Primary School. We are still awaiting the outcome, following its submission.

More recently concentration has been on the area of Church Lane, Chapel Lane and Berry's Lane and a survey was carried out to find out what residents thought about the problems and to get their ideas for possible solutions. The results of the survey formed the basis of a report that has been sent to the Leicestershire County Council, the Borough Council and the Highways Agency to see what action they are prepared to take.

COMING SOON



Youth Activities: We are very aware that there is nothing for young people to do in the village and previous initiatives have, for various reasons, come to an end. It is important that we try and tackle this issue but in order to start something new we initially need two things - volunteers to help and a venue for young people to meet in. If you are interested in hearing more, in getting involved or know of premises where we could meet, please contact the Parish Council Office.



Ratby on the Web: Little progress is being made in preparing a website for the village due to lack of available time and willing volunteers. If anyone would like to get involved with this project please contact the Parish Council office.



Swannington Railway Feature: One of the earliest railways in the country went through Ratby, taking coal to Leicester from the mines in North West Leicestershire. Stephenson's Comet was the first train to travel the route, in 1832. This historical event is to be recognised with a special feature (incorporating old railway sleepers) at the sight of the track and the bridle path is to be renamed Comet Trail.



Millennium Photograph Album: This is a photo album with a difference as it charts the history of Ratby through word and pictures. Over 300 photographs were collected from which the final selections were made. The collection will soon be available for public viewing at the Library and the Parish Council Office and it will also be available on CD ROM.

Don't Miss Out! Don't Miss Out! Don't Miss Out! Don't Miss Out!

Did you know that you can buy a **Leisure Pass** for an annual cost of £15? This entitles you to discounts off a wide range of activities and facilities in and around Leicester (including leisure centres, fitness studios and most entertainment venues. There are several classes of eligibility including young people (16/17), those over 17 in full time education or other training schemes, people who are unemployed or registered disabled, people aged over 60 and those receiving certain Benefits.

Pick up an explanatory leaflet at the Parish Council Office.

RATBY VILLAGE SOCIETY

THE BEST OF CHINA

It was a husband and wife team, Graham and Dorothy Morton, which entertained an interested audience at the March meeting with their fascinating account of a holiday in China.

Graham showed his remarkable slides whilst Dorothy gave a running commentary on the party's travels. It was Travels with a capital T, covering all of the legendary places, from Shanghai to Beijing, the Forgotten City to the Great Wall, and a boat trip up the Yangtse River to view the colossal dam now under construction.

Much of what we were shown has not changed over thousands of years but what was revealing was the widespread wearing of western apparel in contrast to the plain drab uniforms of Chairman Mao's regime.

FAR-FLUNG FALKLANDS

At the April meeting Mrs Val Williams took us to the remote and desolate Falkland Islands for a thorough study of the wildlife, not forgetting, of course, that it was not long ago a battle zone. There are one hundred islands in the group, most of which are uninhabited, and some with only sparse populations. They are so exposed and windswept that vegetation is poor and one sheep needs ten acres for adequate grazing.

The varieties of penguins, seals, sea lions and birds are amazing, and Mrs William's skill with a camera showed them off to great advantage. Considering the barren nature of some of the islands, there were some beautiful, if stunted flowers.

Altogether it was an evening of discovery and one of sheer delight.



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Two Ghosts met up in the Church Yard for a chat.

1st Ghost Can't get out of the habit of prowling around the streets - suppose it was my job when I was a Police Constable. Did 30 years until that flu epidemic finished me off.

2nd Ghost That's one of the things in the service long hours, cold and wet that 's the down side. I managed to pass my exams and got promotion. Retired and took over an Olde Worlde Country Pub until an accident with a barrel in the cellar finished me off. I still haunt the place though.

1st Ghost So you ended up being an
INN SPECTRE

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COME IN AND SEE FOR YOURSELF



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

10 Nicholas Drive
Ratby
Leicester
LE6 0NJ
26 4 01

Dear Editor,

I do so agree with 'another loss for Ratby' in the April/May issue of Wot! I even put in my last protest letter to Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council that it was obvious they were only interested in Hinckley and the surrounding area. Any application to build on any blade of grass in Ratby is accepted.

I recently received the Hinckley newsletter with an opinion form to complete and return to the Council, asking which of three choices I would like to form a Council committee. Needless to say this has been returned with comments regarding their lack of interest or concern for Ratby, apart from collecting the Council Tax.

I hope other residents will return these forms, as if enough are sent it may make a difference.

Unfortunately we can't opt out and join another Borough, so we must keep insisting that Hinckley and Bosworth Council take notice of the Parish Council and residents.

Yours faithfully

Mrs P J Harrison

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To the Editor of WOT!

I read with interest the letter on page 10 in issue 87. I served on the Parish Council as a co-opted member for a brief period a couple of years ago.

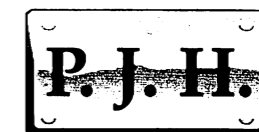
Members of the Planning sub-Committee of the Parish Council gave freely of their time to comment on various planning applications and they put in sterling work. But I cannot recall many... indeed any... occasions when the Borough Council did not overrule Parish Council objections to some important planning applications.

During my brief time on the Council I recall we had a Labour Councillor with a Labour Controlled Council, and I was never of the mind that he would fight for the best interests of the village. Maybe we have only ourselves to blame?

It's no surprise to me that the Borough Council has allowed the building of homes on the ground behind the, now defunct, garage. Either they have better information as regards the flood plain issue or they simply don't give a damn about the potential flood problems, the loss of the garage amenity to the village, the increased pressure on schooling and the extras traffic the estate will generate in that area.

The principle reason I resigned from the Parish Council was that I saw it as toothless, and with little hope of growing any. My time was too valuable to me to be continually fighting lost causes. But I applaud those who continue to try.

Name and address supplied.



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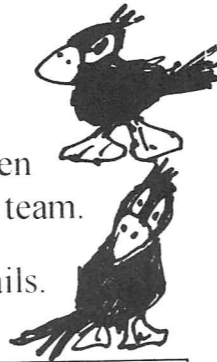
P. J. Hodkinson

0116 238 7509

RATBY VILLAGE EVENTS DIARY

The following details about planned events due to take place between June and the end of August 2001 have been made known the WOT team.

Please watch the various the local notices and posters for more details.



DATE	EVENT DETAIL	ORGANISERS	VENUE
JUNE			
Sun 3 rd - 12.00 am	Lunchtime Picnic	Parish Church	Vicarage Garden
Wed 6 th - 1 b a	Governors Annual Meeting	Primary School	Ratby School
Wed 13 th - 7.45pm	Poetry and Prose Reading	Women's Institute	Village Hall
Fri 15 th - 7.15pm	Guided Walk In Old Village	History Group	Main Street - 1 b a
Sat 16 th - 10.00am	Coffee Morning	Parish Church	Church Rooms
Sun 17 th - 3.00pm	Strawberry Cream Teas & Restricted Church Viewing	Parish Church	Church Rooms
Tue 19 th - 8.00pm	Talk On Gardening	Village Society	Village Hall
Sat 30 th - 2.00pm	Church Garden Fete	Parish Church	Vicarage Garden
JULY			
Sat 7 th - 7.30pm	Jazz in the Garden	Parish Church	Vicarage Garden
Sun 15 th - 1 b a	Melbourne Hall Gardens	Village Society	Outing / Visit
Mon 23 rd (to Fri)	Front Garden Competition	Parish Council	Whole Village
Wed 25 th - 7.30pm	Police / Community Liaison Meeting	Joint Groups	To Be Advised
AUGUST			
Wed 8 th - 7.45pm	Egyptian Dancing	Women's Institute	Village Hall
Tue 21 st - 8.00pm	Tracing Family History	Village Society	Village Hall

THE SERVICE GARAGE MAIN STREET RATBY

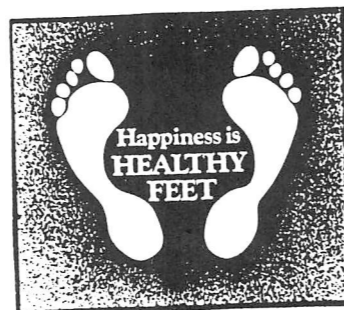
M.O.T. TESTS
CARS (PETROL - DIESEL)
and
MOTORCYCLES

M.O.T. HOURS 9.00 - 4.15 Monday to Friday
(Closed for lunch 1 - 2)

Telephone (0116) 2394966

QUALIFIED VISITING CHIROPODIST

Peter S Comley MSSCh. MBChA



Markfield 01530 244887
24 Hour Ansaphone

Offers a Convenient & Professional Service
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RATBY NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Unwanted doorstep callers are increasingly causing concern in the village, in particular to the elderly or people living alone.

With this in mind, Leicestershire Constabulary has put together a pack containing useful advice on this subject, together with appropriate door stickers. If you think you or one of your neighbours might benefit from this pack they are available free from Ratby Library or by ringing the local Beat Officer PC 228, 'Reg' Varney on his voice mail 0116 248 5675.

PRIDE ALARMS.

It is 12 months since Neighbourhood Watch brought the low cost, (and in some instances **FREE**) Security System to the attention of residents through the Wot! Magazine. Since then a number of people have had this installed, giving greater peace of mind. The scheme is still available. If interested leaflets are available from Ratby Parish Council Office, or by ringing retired PC Mick Studley on 222 2222 ext.3033.

PIP'S PRIVATE HIRE

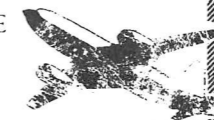
0116 239 0909

GROBY * RATBY * KIRBY

AIRPORTS * LOCAL & DISTANCE

* B'HAM & E.M.A.

* OAP PINK TOKENS TAKEN*



DEADLINE FOR AUGUST ISSUE

FRIDAY JULY 27th
ARTICLES MAY BE SENT TO
3 INGLE DRIVE.

EDITOR 239 3367
ADVERTS 239 3279
ARTICLES 239 4873

RECIPÉ RHUBARB FLAN

Ingredients

Flan Pastry

5oz (175 gr.) plain flour

Pinch of salt

2 1/2 oz. (80 gr.) margarine

1 oz. (25 gr.) caster sugar

1 egg, beaten

Filling

8 oz. (225 gr.) rhubarb

4 oz. (115 gr.) caster sugar

1 small egg

1/2 lemon

Caster sugar dredge.

Method

1. Make pastry, saving small amount of egg to brush. Save trimmings
2. Line a 7" flan ring with pastry, easing carefully to line firmly. Brush with egg and chill.
3. Wash, dry and trim rhubarb. Cut into small dice.
4. Put 4 oz. Of caster sugar and small egg into bowl and beat well. Add grated rind and juice of lemon gradually, and mix well.
5. Add rhubarb, mixing thoroughly to coat with sugar mixture and pour into flan case.
6. Use pastry trimmings to make a lattice on the top.
7. Dredge with caster sugar.
8. Bake in pre-heated oven, Gas MARK 6 or 200 C/400 F for 30 to 40 minutes until firm.
9. Cool for 5 minutes before removing the flan ring

SCRIVENER