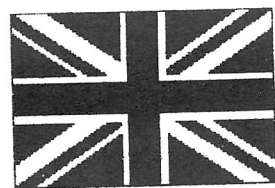
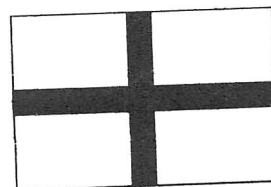


WOT!



About Ratby

PUBLISHED BY RATBY SCOUT GROUP



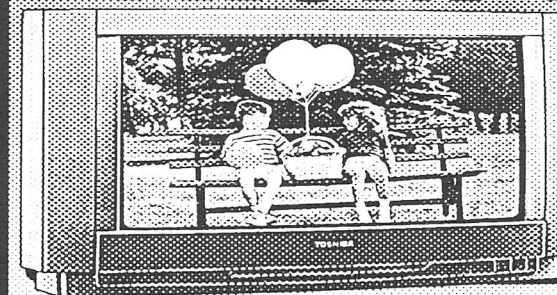
REMEMBERING THE CORONATION

Pictured below is Michael Copson digging in to commemorate the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1952. The much loved flowering cherry trees were planted along the Primary School's railings. Perhaps the School Environmental Group may be planning to celebrate the Jubilee by planting a new tree?



MORE ARTICLES OF HISTORICAL INTEREST INSIDE YOUR WOT! MAGAZINE

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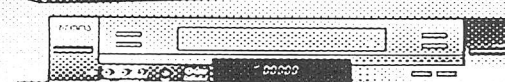
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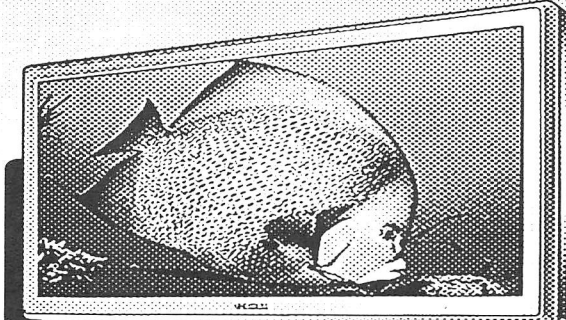


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RATBY VILLAGE HALL EASTER TEA

On Saturday 13th April 2002, at 3.45 pm we held our Easter Tea for the Senior Citizens of Ratby. This year's theme was The Queen's Jubilee. We decorated the hall with flags, and there were flowers on the tables.

Julie Thomkins made two super cakes, which we enjoyed with a glass of sherry after the tea.

The Reverend Richard Worsfold gave a toast to the Queen.

Afterwards David Price entertained us on the accordion. The afternoon ended with a song and a dance at 6 o'clock.

Jill Grey



1ST RATBY BEAVERS

On April 17th 2002 1st Ratby Beavers were 17 years old. Our first meeting was 17th April 1985. Twenty-four boys attended the evening with two uniformed leaders and four helpers.

To celebrate we took the Beavers to Wacky Warehouse at Rothley, where the boys fulfilled the Beaver's motto by having loads of 'Fun with Friends.'

A lot of steam was released while the leaders sat down and caught their breath. We all decided it is an ideal place to hold colony meetings. Many things have changed over the 17 years, mainly that 6-year-old boys need more adventurous things to do.

We cover a lot of activities, including science, acting, local community etc., however new programmes are soon to be launched. We have been informed that Beavers will now be able to gain more badges.

Whatever happens I am sure we will still be giving the boys a good time 17 years on, so anyone out there who wants to have an hours fun each Wednesday come along and be a helper and you too will enjoy motto, 'Fun and Friends.'

'Kit' Beaver Leader. (Jan Hawksworth)

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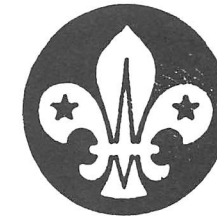
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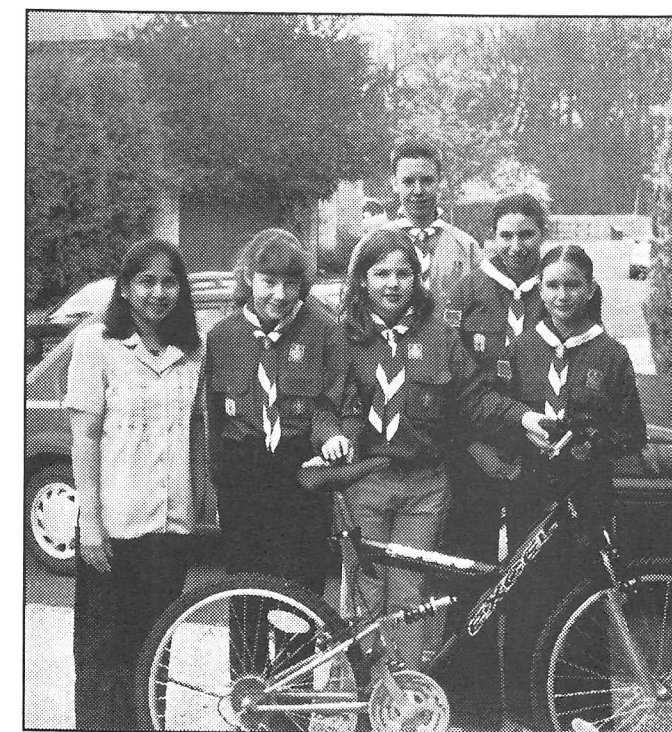
SCOUT BALLOON RACE

In December of last year the 1st Ratby Scouts organised a balloon release. We sold balloons around local villages and gave participants the opportunity to win a mountain bike.

We had a great response from people returning the balloon tags, the furthest being from North Lincolnshire.

The prize was won by Groby resident Mrs Sunitha Manunath, pictured below with her family and the prize.

Many thanks to all who took part.



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RATBY VILLAGE EVENTS DIARY

The following listings of events through to the end of August 2002 include updated details which have now been made known to the WOT team.

DATE & TIME	EVENT	ORGANISERS	VENUE	TEL No
JUNE				
Sat 8 th 7.30pm	Junior Band Birthday Concert	Ratby Band	Groby College	2386749
Wed 12 th 7.45pm	Patchwork	Women's Institute	Village Hall	2387193
Sat 15 th 7.30pm	Ratcliffe Chorale Concert	Parish Church	Church	2393009
Sun 16 th 2.30pm	Old Village Walk - Pt3	History Group	Parish Church	2394168
Sun 16 th 3.00pm	Strawberry Cream Teas & Songs of Praise After	Parish Church	Church Rooms & Church	2390010
Tues 18 th 8.00pm	For Valor - The story of the VC	Village Society	Village Hall	2387240
Fri 21 st 7.00pm	Music Festival	Ratby Band	Groby College	2386749
Sat 22 nd 7.00pm	Music Festival	Ratby Band	Groby College	2386749
Sat 29 th 2.00pm	Garden Fete	Parish Church	Vicarage	2393009
JULY				
Sat 6 th 10.00am	Table Top Sale & Coffee Morning	Methodist Church	Chapel	2394432
Sat 6 th 7.30pm	Jazz in the Garden	Parish Church	Vicarage	2393009
Sun 21 st 2.00pm	Outing to Calke Park	Village Society	Details Tba	2387240
AUGUST				
Sat 10 th Tba	Crow Pie Carnival	Ratby Band	Ferndale Park	2386749
Wed 14 th 7.45pm	Enigma	Women's Institute	Village Hall	2387193
Tues 20 th 8.00pm	August Meeting	Village Society	Village Hall	2387240



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PABARI'S RATBY NEWS

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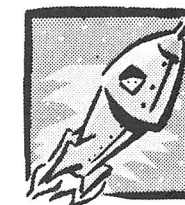
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Journey to the Reading Planet

Summer Reading Challenge 2002



Once again it is nearly time for your local library to launch into the summer reading challenge when all children between the ages of 4-11 are invited to come down to the library and get reading.

This year the challenge has a space-age theme - every child taking part will receive a 'Spacescape Folder' and as they borrow and read books over the holidays they will collect 6 sets of stickers to fill their folder. Every child completing the challenge will be awarded a Reading Planet certificate and a special medal.

As always, it doesn't cost a penny to join in, children can pick up a **FREE** collector's pack from Ratby library as soon as the schools break up for summer.

Living on earth is expensive, but it does include a free trip around the
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Below are a number of letters received from residents of Markfield Road. Full addresses were supplied. We have edited some letters because of restricted space in the magazine. The Parish Council news in this issue gives more information on this topic.

Dear Editor,

I moved to Ratby in 1983. I thought it was a nice village, but it seems every available piece of land is being built on.

Can the schools and doctor cope with this extra development?

To get out of Ratby for work between 7.30 am and 9 is a stop start journey with the volume of traffic. Do the feelings of Ratby people count in this matter?

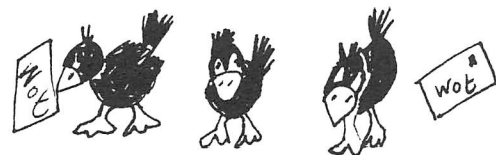
Not a happy Ratby village member.

M K Richardson

Dear Editor and Readers,

Please consider what any expansion to this village and community would have on you and your children. Countryside, wildlife and escapism are very precious and Ratby people have this if only we stay as a unit and fight any developers. Say **no** to any more devastation and enjoy village life.

Mrs Lisa D Howkins



Dear Sirs,

Re Proposed Development

Having recently been made aware of a proposed development in the village we are once again left asking the question, **why?**

The optimum approach as proposed by Cawrey Ltd. details a 30% increase to village size and population. We must therefore assume a 30% increase in traffic.

With the Primary School recovering from a less than favourable Ofsted Report, average class size of 28.2, this population increase would only have a detrimental effect on pupil's education.

We must question the usefulness of recreational areas. Ratby youth seem to play ball everywhere except designated areas, damaging gardens and property.

Let's hope Ratby is not just a dumping ground for new development. We can only hope that the thoughts of Ratby People are considered before external influences dominate.

Name and address supplied.

Dear Editor and Readers,

I have great concerns about Cawrey's plan to extend our village by 30%. Firstly, the fields around the Burroughs are walked along by many of us. Two; 30% more cars trying to get out of the village between 7.30 and 9 am will be even more of a nightmare. Three; will he ever leave our countryside alone? Four; will our schools cope with the extra children?

I think Ratby villagers should say 'enough is enough,' make your small town somewhere where it is needed.

Yvonne Murray

Dear Editor,

WOT!!- More proposed plans for developing Pear Tree Farm, this time with up to 500 dwellings plus industrial units.

This village cannot cope with the increase in traffic; you only have to look at Main Street to substantiate this.

The proposed development will take place over ten years. Can residents imagine the disruption during that time?

Also let's not forget the loss of our beautiful countryside, home to many birds and wildlife. Let's keep what is left of Ratby GREEN.

A concerned resident.

A Sutton.

We are hoping that Cawrey Ltd. will write an article for the next issue of WOT.



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RATBY IN THE FIFTIES

The History Society has found these photographs of village activity in the 50's. Groups of Old and Young are enjoying their leisure time. If you have memories and photo's of the Coronation and early fifties The History Society and WOT would love to hear about them. Were you in these photographs? Please tell us!

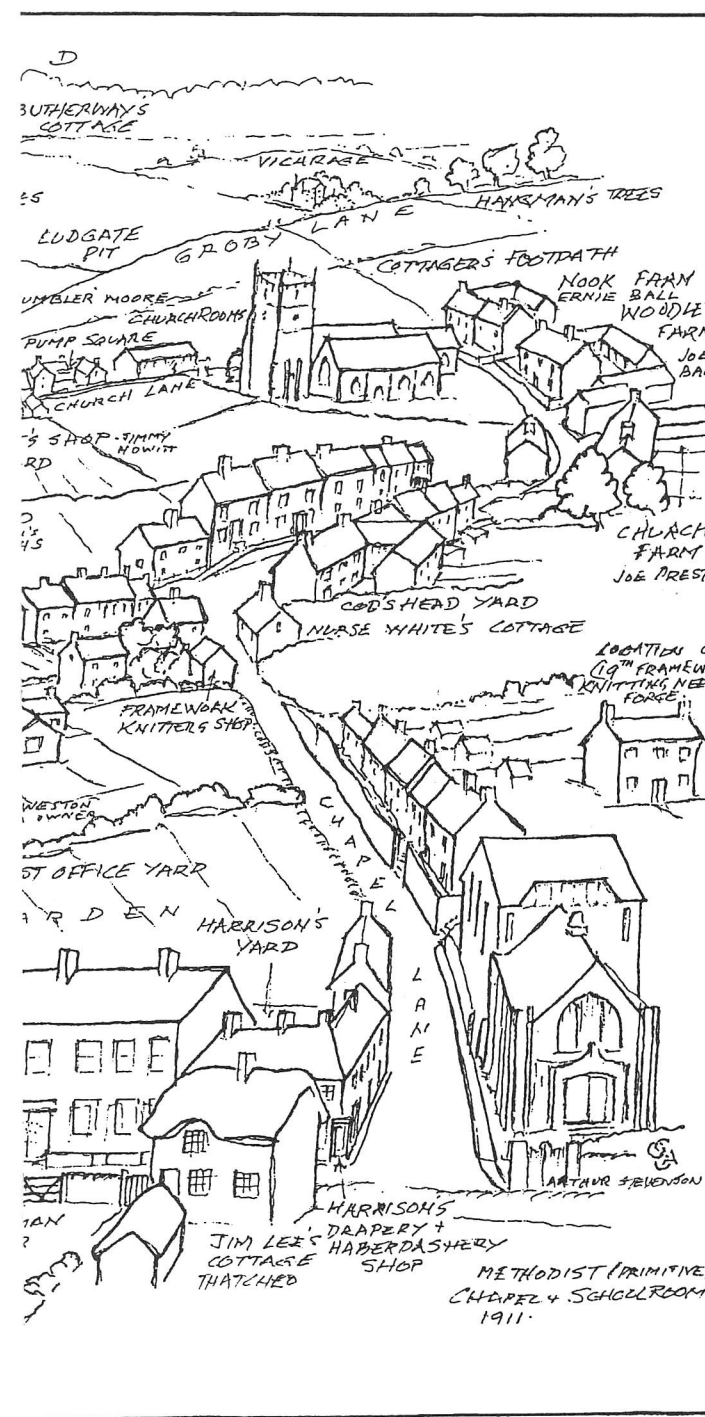
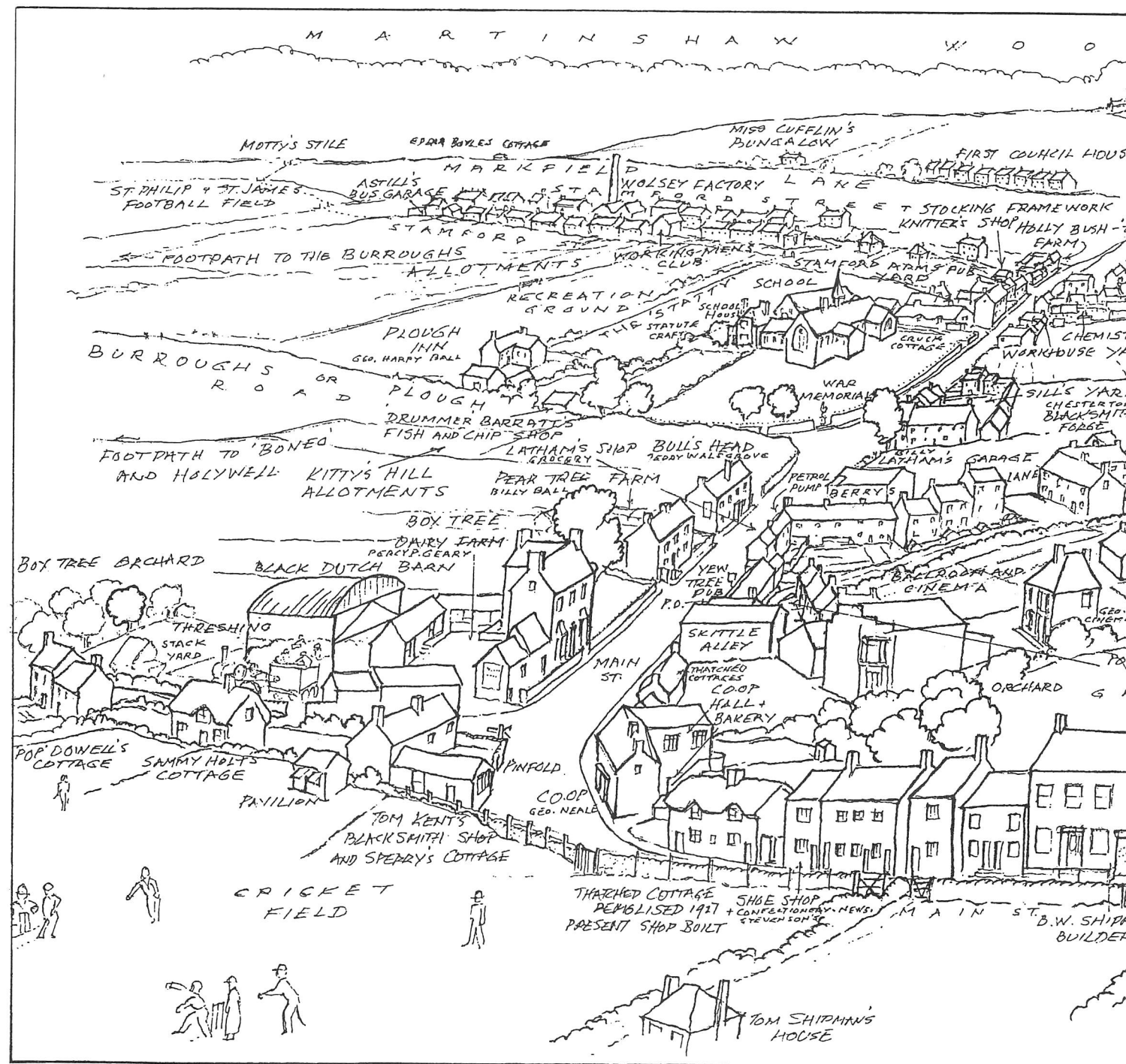
CUP WINNERS; RATBY SCHOOL SOCCER TEAM 1952



AN OUTING TO THE WEDGEWOOD FACTORY



CENTRAL RATBY 1920 - 1930



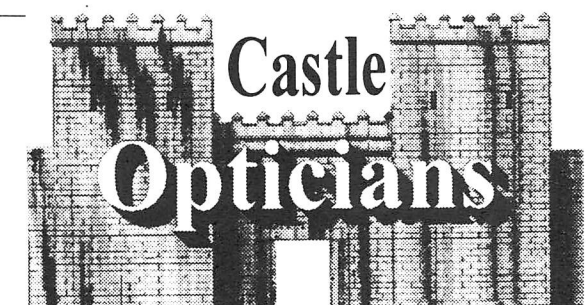
RATBY IN THE 1920's

Local history group member and artist, Arthur Stevenson, has recently completed a series of annotated drawings showing various aspects of Ratby in days gone by. One of these superb drawings is shown alongside.

The creation of this drawing was prompted by a 1909 coloured (or rather tinted) photograph of the village taken from the top of the Woodman Hill ridge from a viewpoint approximately behind the goalposts of the present day football pitch. Arthur was able to relate the photograph to his own collection of material and memories relating to our village, hence the start of the series.

Many of the buildings and features shown no longer exist or are now known by a different name. Careful study of the sketch will allow the reader to pick out up to 20 actual named buildings which have long since gone. See if you can identify which these are, the answers are given on page 11.

Also shown, are many interesting features, which will be covered during the third part of a guided walk around old Ratby. This walk starts from the Church South Door on Sunday 16th June at 2.30pm. Places are limited to 25 persons, if you are interested please telephone 2394168.



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WIRLYBONES WOOD

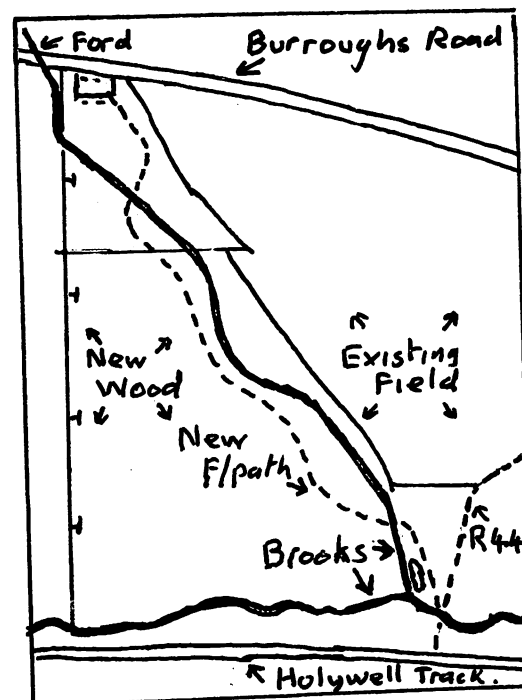
Take a walk along the Burroughs Road towards Old Hays and to the left as you reach the ford you will see a set of entrance gates to the new 'Wirlybones Wood'.

The sign alongside the entrance details this newly laid out landscape feature being created by Cawrey Ltd as part of the National Forest. Cawrey's have donated 6 hectares of land for community use and have been involved over the last few months with all of the various associated works. Around 11,000 native broadleaf trees have been planted on the site.

The name 'Wirlybones' is derived from the local name for the area where Burroughs Brook meanders close to the point where it joins the Holywell Brook. This spot is also referred to as 'Bonio' by some Ratby folk. One of our local historians suggests that Wirly relates to the old twisting and turning nature of the brook, although it seems that it does not meander nowadays to the extent that it used to. Also, buried bones may have been found there in days gone by.

The sketch plan alongside shows how the wood will finish up at completion during the summer months. A new path is shown for those who want to go along and enjoy this new woodland area. This path allows walkers another access route between Burroughs Road and the Holywell Track via the existing footbridge on the R44 footpath. There will also be a second permissive path and a bridle-way included in the scheme.

The wood will provide an ideal border and buffer feature to any future development of the village to the north and western areas of the parish.



The landscaping, designed and carried out by Greg Thurlow, includes two new bridges crossing over the Burroughs Brook, plus scrapes to the lower levels of the site. These scrapes will enhance the existing wet areas and encourage a rich marshy growth and form an ideal habitat for water birds and animals. A pond is to be created and deep pools are to be formed in the brook to cater for fish and amphibians.

There will be other features such as Raptor Posts for the likes of Hawks and Kestrels, plus cover for the large variety of small birds and mammals which will be attracted to the area. John Cawrey tells us that he has spotted Woodcock and Snipe already and the author saw a Hare ambling across the permissive path.

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Pump Square
Chemist's Shop
Workhouse Yard
Working Men's Club
Wolsey Factory
Astill's Bus Garage
Edgar Boyles Cottage
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LOROS LOTTERY

The Lottery has experienced a fantastic response to a recent mail drop in this area. Membership is now almost 16,000. LOROS is delighted to announce that from May 3rd,

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Ring **231 8430** to find out how you can join!

RATBY LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Our Last Meeting – This was on Friday May 17th the first part of which took the form of our AGM. We then enjoyed a wonderful illustrated talk by Lynn Mellor, all presented in her own inimitable and very amusing style. Lynn took us on a very enjoyable "Armchair Walk Around Leicester". David Ramsey followed on by describing his finds relating to the ancient local roof tile 'industry'. Neil Glenister then showed us his recent local finds.

Golden Jubilee – The group have recently staged a display of aspects of Ratby life and times during the early 1950s, with the emphasis on the accession and coronation of our Queen.

Part of the display included the showing of a video of the coronation celebrations in the village. The video was transcribed from a film of the events as taken by Alwyn Herbert.

The display was first shown on Saturday May 25th at the Proms in the Garden Concert, it can be made available to other groups for showing at their own meetings during the next six weeks.

Our Next Meeting – This is to be on Sunday June 16th and is the third stage of our Old Village Walk. The walk starts from the south door of the Church at 2.30pm. We are limited to 25 persons, so please telephone 2394168 to book a place if you want to come along.

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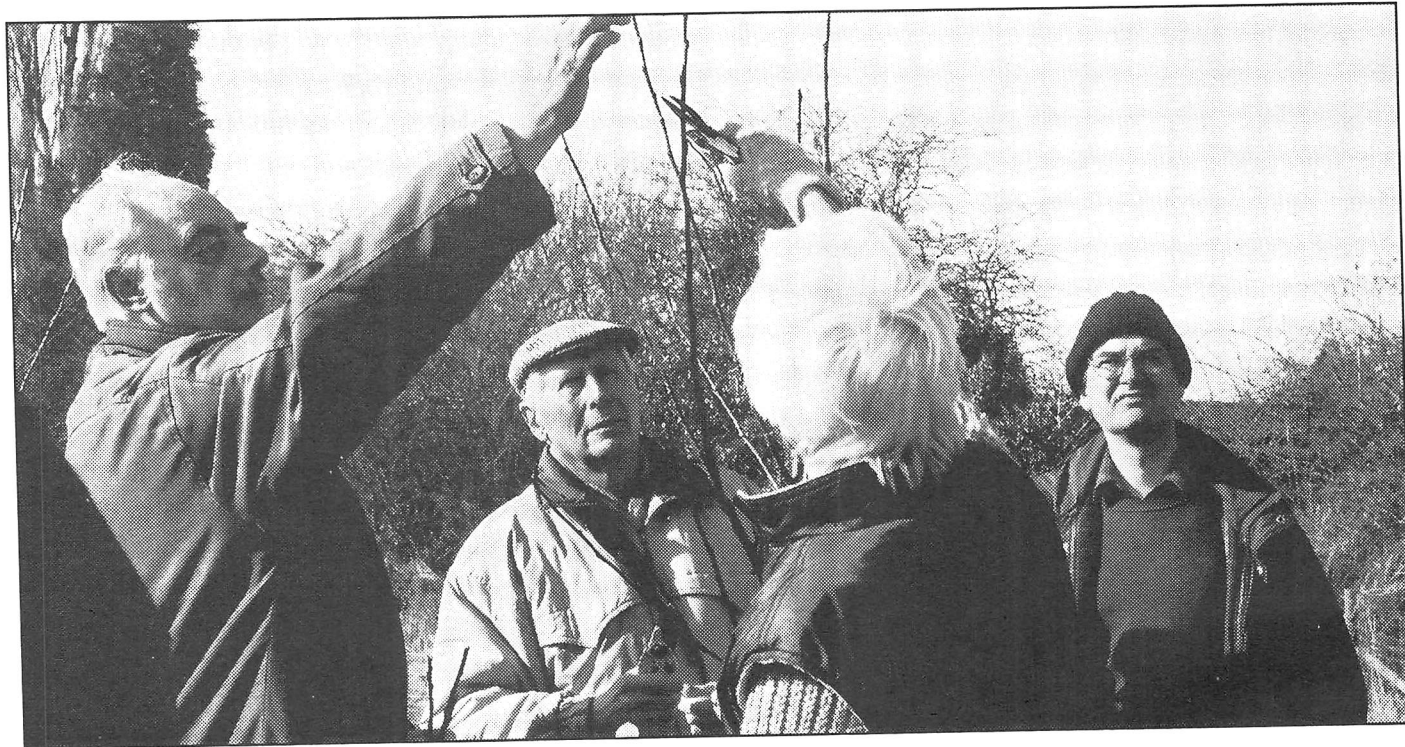
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RATBY COMMUNITY ORCHARD

On a recent stroll around the orchard site we spotted bluebells amongst the shrubs, and there was a good display of fruit blossom. Marsh Marigolds were just finishing flowering around the pond margins, and the yellow flag iris coming into bud. A solitary cowslip and red campions brightened the entrance area. There were more cowslips and ragged robin flowering along the banks of the brook at the Ferndale Drive meadow site.

Pictured are some of the orchard group busy watching Noreen Jardine demonstrating pruning techniques.



Ratby Parish Council

13, Station Road

Tel: 0116 2390167

NEWS UPDATES

Skateboarding – Progress is slow as we have been let down by third parties who have not provided promised information. However, we are continuing to push this ahead and hope to have more news in the next edition of WOT!



Traffic Calming – It is many, many months since a petition was presented to Leicestershire County Council asking for some form of traffic calming on the school route approach along Groby Road and Main Street. We have now been informed that this has been accepted as a “reserve scheme” which does not make it a high priority, but we are hopeful that this will still be actioned this year.

Parking Problems – A survey was carried out in April 2001 among the residents of Church Lane, Chapel Lane and Berrys Lane, looking for ways in which parking could be improved and, specifically, how to ensure that emergency vehicles are always able to get through. We have finally heard from the County Council on this issue and a site visit is to be organised at which the problems can be looked at again. More news (hopefully) next issue...

Parish Plan – The next initiative of the steering group could be to build – *with your help* – a 3-D model of the village! This will give people the opportunity to really see what the village looks like now and to comment on what they would like to see happen in the future and what additional amenities they would like to have. At the time of going to press the group are booked to hear a presentation on this subject at the end of May.



Posting Made Easier – If you live in Tyler Road, there is a new post box for you to use.

CHANGES IN PERSONNEL

Tony Daly has retired as Chairman of the Parish council after five years of keeping the councillors under control!! Having taken on the role in 1997 he has seen many changes in local and national government policy and has sometimes had to solve some tricky problems, raised by local residents.

One of the biggest changes he has overseen was the opening of our own parish office and the introduction of computerisation into our records! Not only did this provide the current clerk with more space in her house but it has also provided a centre for people to go with their questions and comments. He also was virtually single-handedly responsible for the decorative village sign in the centre of the village, doggedly canvassing for all the funds so that there was no cost for the village.

Whatever he has had to face he has always carried out his duties in a gentlemanly and charming manner and we are pleased he is staying on as a councillor.

Elaine Moore has been elected as the new chairman and **Merle Joyce** continues in her role as vice chairman. One other change is the co-optation of **Ken Hunnybun** to replace **Rachel Devereux**. The next issue of Wot! will remind you who the councillors are and what their respective roles are in the new council.

We also have a new Parish Clerk. **Sue Neilson** has retired, having taken over last September when the previous clerk returned home to Ireland. Her time as clerk was fraught with unexpected problems, such as a computer that was out of action for several weeks and gremlins in the accounting package but Sue never lost her sense of humour and was popular with villagers. We wish her well for the future.

Her replacement is **Kathryn Lupton** who took over in the middle of April. Kathryn lived in the village as a child and chose to come back here when she married. She and her husband have two young children and some people in the village will already know her through her role as chairman of the pre-school committee.

The Parish Council office is open to the public from 0900 to 1200 every Monday to Thursday or by appointment at other times.

THE PLOUGH INN

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PEAR TREE FARM

Misinformation and rumour are always dangerous and often distressing. By now, there are probably several stories circulating about future development in the village so this is to set the record straight:

- Cawrey Limited, Building Contractors and Developers, have drawn up a draft proposal for future development in the village on the Pear Tree Farm land that John Cawrey owns.
- Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council and Leicestershire County Council are aware of the draft proposals but these are only at an early stage and it will be several months before the proposals are in a form that will be ready to be presented to the public. However, John Cawrey is happy for people to see the proposals in their current state and can be contacted at his office – telephone 2390600.
- The Parish Council do not feel there is anything to be gained by having a public meeting at this stage as there are too many unanswerable questions and too much uncertainty over what will be the actual content of the final proposal.
- When the proposal is more defined the public will be given full opportunities to comment, including viewing the plans and attending a public meeting at which the proposal will be presented and views exchanged.
- The Parish Council is not taking a stand for or against the draft proposal at this time, as initial views are not unanimous and, again, we are waiting for the final proposal.
- We will keep you informed as the matter progresses.

“HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?”



Trowels and hoes to the fore! It will soon be competition time again so you are invited to enter or nominate someone else in the **Front Garden and Hanging Basket** competition. Judging this year will take place during the week commencing July 15th. You can hope to be nominated by our own garden talent spotters or you can contact the Parish Council office for an entry form.

The long awaited plans for flower planters in the village are proving more successful this year and by the time you receive this edition of WOT! you should be able to see planters at the entrances to the village from Groby and Kirby Muxloe, at the central junction in the village and on the corner of Markfield Road and Main Street. Our thanks to all those who have come forward to help.

GRASS CUTS AND CUTTINGS

There have been several complaints about the state of the grass cutting in the village. Apart from the land that is owned by the Parish Council, this is the responsibility of the Leicestershire County Council Highways Division. We contacted them to ask why the cut grass is not collected but left to die (which looks

a mess) and why the cuttings are often left on the pavement. The reply is that the grass is cut to Local Authority guidelines and there is no requirement to pick up the cut grass. However, they have agreed to an inspection to ensure that all the guidelines are being complied with.

KEEPING RATBY TIDY

We were recently contacted by the Ratby Primary School Eco committee. As part of their Eco project they carried out a survey and reported that we need more litter and dog waste bins in the village. We responded by asking them to suggest locations for the new bins and they involved the whole school in checking and

suggesting new locations – as you can imagine there were rather a lot! We are now involved in checking the locations and condition of existing bins, before we agree with the school where the new ones should go. We are then hoping to work with them to develop a campaign to encourage people to actually *use* the facilities that are there.

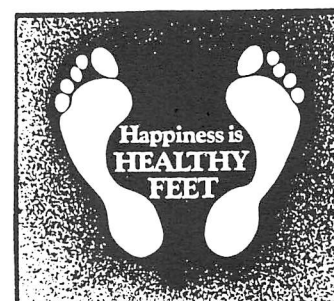
DEADLINE For AUGUST /SEPT ISSUE Is now MONDAY 29th JULY

Articles may be sent to 3 Ingle Drive.
EDITOR 239 3367
ADVERTS 239 3279
ARTICLES 239 4873

Every village non-profit making group may have a quarter page free in each issue. This is approximately 150 words. Why not promote your group? Or send in items for the Diary.
We reserve the right to edit if necessary.
We always want to hear stories of general interest, such as village history, individual or group success and celebrations.

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RECIPE MEAT LOAF

Ingredients

8 oz (225 gr.) lean minced beef
4 oz (110 gr.) pork sausage meat
3 rashers of streaky bacon finely cut up
3 oz. (75 gr.) fresh breadcrumbs
A little salt, pepper, grated nutmeg
Chopped parsley
Medium sized egg, beaten.

Method

1. Grease and line a 1lb bread tin with greased greaseproof paper, overlapping the sides of the tin.
2. Put beef, sausage meat and bacon into a large bowl with breadcrumbs and spices. Mix with a fork until evenly blended.
3. Add sufficient beaten egg to thoroughly moisten the mixture and pack into the prepared tin. Press well down.
4. Cover completely with the overlapping paper.
5. Cover with foil, firming the edges to prevent excess moisture.
6. Place the tin into a baking tin with 1 ½ inches of water, and place into a pre-heated oven, Gas 5/190 C/375F for 75 minutes. Can also be cooked by steaming for 3 hours.
7. Turn out when completely cold. Remove the paper and serve sliced with green salad, tomatoes and pickles.

Scrivener

