

JUNE/JULY 2003

ISSUE
100



WOT!

About Ratby

PUBLISHED BY RATBY SCOUT GROUP



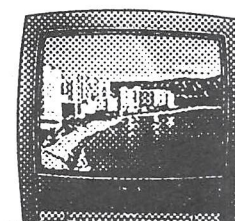
WE ARE PROUD!

100th EDITION OF WOT and
GROUP SCOUT LEADER COLIN PAYNE WINS A MEDAL

Colin was awarded his Medal of Merit on April 10th at the Guildhall. He has put many hours of his time into scouting over the years, and The Scout Group are proud that he has received this well-deserved recognition.

Colin started in the Scout movement as a Cub at 60th Braunstone Pack. He later joined the Scouts, helping the Venture Scouts in Desford, giving talks to the boys on different topics. He developed his skills at Groby with Bosun, (David Haynes) and was assistant leader at the inaugural meeting. At this time he picked up his knowledge of camping, which he and his family still enjoy.

BIG CHOICE AT SUPER PRICES!



£169.99

PHILIPS TV/Video Combination

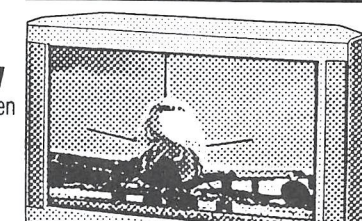
- 14"/34cm Visible Screen
- PDC
- Digital Studio Picture
- Child Lock
- NTSC Playback
- Front A/V & Headphone

Model 14PV111

JVC Nicam Widescreen TV

- 28"/66cm Visible Screen
- Auto Aspect Switching
- 2 x 10 Watts Full-Range Speakers
- T-V Link ● Fastext
- Supplied With Deluxe TV Stand

Model AV28CT1EKBC



£449.99



£249.99

BENDIX Washing Machine

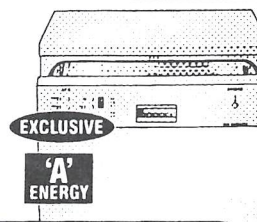
- 1000rpm Spin Speed
- 4.5Kg Load Capacity
- 'A' Wash Rating
- 13 Programmes
- Large 30cm Porthole
- Dimensions: H 850mm x W 600mm x D 580mm

Model BIW103W

AEG Dishwasher

- 12 Place Settings
- 5 Programmes
- 'A' Energy Rating
- 3 Temperatures
- Residual Heat Drying System
- Dimensions: H 850mm x W 600mm x D 600mm

Model F50610



£269.99



£399.99

LG Washing Machine

- 1100rpm Spin Speed
- 7Kg Load Capacity
- 'A' Energy & 'A' Wash Rating
- Quiet & Durable Motor
- Various Wash Programmes
- Dimensions: H 850mm x W 600mm x D 500mm

Model WM1171FHB



£479.99

AEG Washing Machine

- 1600rpm Spin Speed
- 5Kg Load Capacity ● 'AAA' Rating
- Various Wash Programmes
- Advanced Fuzzy Logic Control System
- Dimensions: H 850mm x W 600mm x D 575mm

Model 76689W



RATV

23-27 Station Road, Ratby,
Leicestershire LE6 0JQ
Tel: Leicester (0116) 2394544

We are an independent retailer - with friendly local service and personal attention - but we're also members of EURONICS - Europe's biggest independent electrical buying group, which means we can offer you the very best deals on the highest quality brand names!



- TOP BRANDS AT LOW PRICES
- SPECIAL OFFERS
- LOCAL DELIVERY
- GUARANTEED AFTER SALES SERVICE
- EXPERT STAFF

EURONICS CENTRES

Making your money go further!

'WE ARE PROUD' continued from page 1

Our 1st Ratby Group was formed in 1984, with the first meeting held at the Church Rooms. Only a small group for a start, but word soon spread and numbers increased.

It was decided that Colin would take on the role of GSL in January 1986, and he completed the first of the many training courses in May that year. For a time he ran the group on his own.

The first camp was held at Buckmoor Park in Cheltenham. Colin still goes along to most camps, helping Paul Clarke with the catering. Amongst his many tasks is keeping the van in safe running order so that the group can set off on canoeing, climbing and a range of other trips. Another important task is visiting Scout's families when needed, as well as the difficult task of trying to recruit new leaders and helpers.

Colin has been a member of the District Executive Committee and Selection Committee.

His role as what is now known as Group Manager requires him to keep up to date with the latest developments in the Scout movement.

The above shows how much Colin, with the complete support of his wife Carol, has been able to achieve. A great job for our troop! 'DONE YOUR BEST' Thank you Colin. GH

RATBY VILLAGE SOCIETY

At the March Meeting member Mr Derek Seaton delivered a detailed, illustrated talk on the history of the properties, dating from about 1860 onwards, which line London Road, in Leicester. He began with the Old Toll House near Victoria Park and ended at the Stoneygate Tram Terminus.

The large, architect-designed villas were mainly occupied by families whose prominent heads were owners of manufacturing businesses, commercial enterprises, or were professional people. These included Thomas Cook, and Mr and Mrs Ezra Astill, formerly of Ratby, whose son Ewart was a first class cricket player for Leicestershire and England.

During the last fifty years or so many have been turned over to commercial use or demolished in favour of blocks of flats.

In its heyday London Road was said to be the second wealthiest road in Europe.

The Royal Mail

It is not widely realised that services for the general delivery of mail did not commence until 1635, during the reign of Charles the First, when the Royal Mail was opened up to all- at least those who could afford it! Formerly it was for the use of the government only.

Mr Derek Smeathers from Northampton gave a most informative talk at the April meeting. In 1840 the standard rate of one penny for any distance was introduced. At first letters had been charged on the distance involved and the number of pages. Envelopes were not in use at this stage, and it was the recipient who paid the charge!

Letters were delivered by a man on horseback at an average speed of 1-½ miles an hour. This was increased to 10 mph when mail coaches were introduced in 1784, but these were short-lived, because by 1845 the faster railway trains secured a monopoly for carrying the mails. Research into the date of Ratby's first Post Office is still ongoing.

SCOUTS KEEP ON GOING UP

Here we are at the 100th edition. I can remember delivering the first issue along Station Road with my friend 17 years ago, when I was a Scout. (OUCH-makes me feel old)

With the implementation of the new National Programme the Scout Troop is going from strength.

We have fortified the team with several new leaders, Lara Gumley, who has moved into the Scout section after many years running the Cub Pack, and my brother, David Payne, who has been our canoe instructor for some time, and has decided to be involved on a weekly basis. Matt O'Shea, who was a Scout with the group over 6 years ago, has come on board, and after many years travelling the world, Claire Holloway has returned to the area. I would personally like to thank the team for giving their time and injecting new enthusiasm into the group.

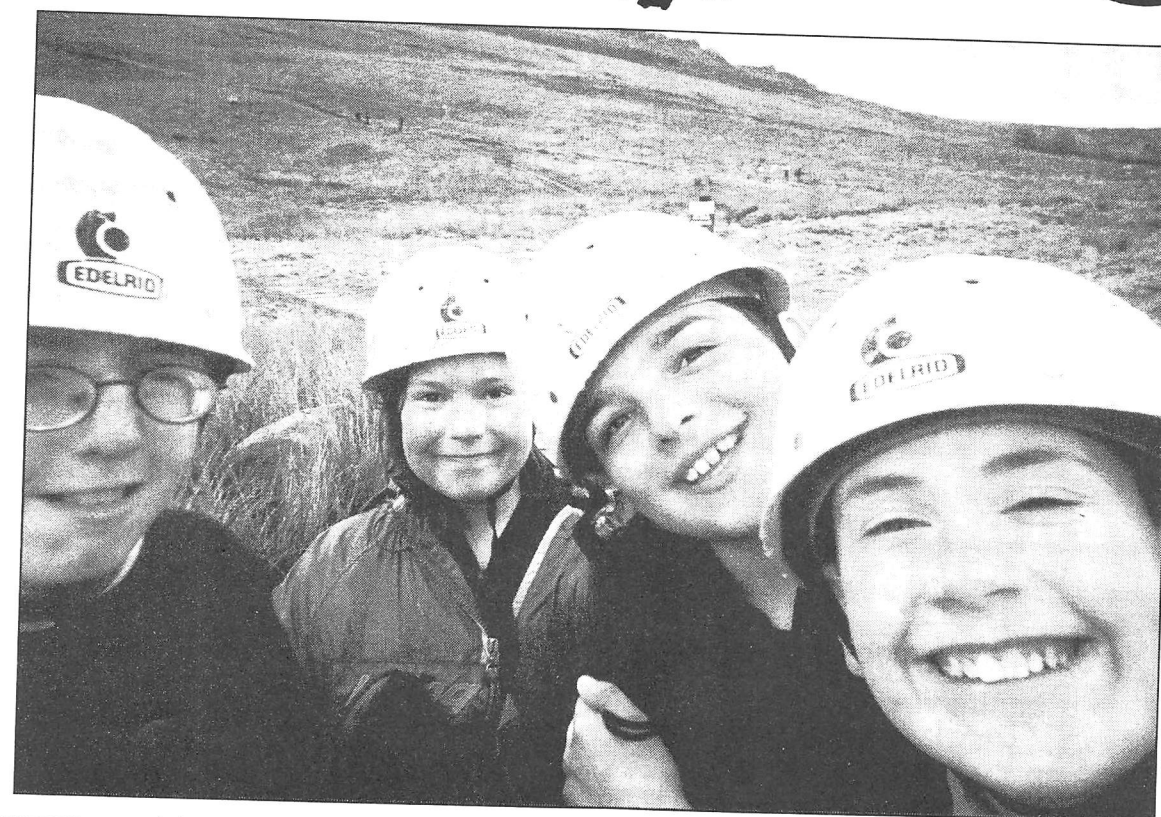
We have many exciting activities planned for the troop this year, including camping, canoeing and sailing.

Lara and her husband Christian recently took six scouts to Hathersage in Derbyshire to take part in a rock-climbing weekend organised by the County Mountain Team. They were working towards the Climbing Level One Badge.

All the scouts did very well, tackling climbs ranging from 'hard' to 'very hard' All of them will no doubt achieve the award, not to mention the fun they had doing it. (See photo below)

If you are aged between 10 and 14, and would be interested in coming along, please contact me on 239 0427.

Yours in Scouting. **Bob.**



PICTURE FRAMING

LOCAL BESPOKE

PICTURE FRAMING SERVICE

FREE HOME COLLECTION, DESIGN

AND DELIVERY

GALLERY STANDARD

at AFFORDABLE PRICES

CALL CHRIS on 0116 287 0432 ANY TIME



MELSWAY DRIVING SCHOOL

Mel Shipley D.O.T. A.D.I. M.I.A.M.

All ages welcome....and nervous pupils.

Learn to Drive with MELSWAY.

Telephone 238 6149

3 Barton Close, Ratby.



DEADLINE For AUGUST/SEPT ISSUE

No 101

FRIDAY 25th JULY

Editor 239 3367

Adverts 239 3279

Articles may be sent to 3 Ingle Drive LE6 ONN

Phone 239 4873



OAKLANDS RIDING SCHOOL



WE CATER FOR EVERYONE FROM
THE NOVICE TO EXPERIENCED RIDER

All weather riding area

Ring Julie on 238 7570

VILLAGE DARTS TEAM HIT THE FUNDRAISING BULLSEYE!

The Railway Inn Ladies Darts Team have raised the fantastic sum of £525 for The Breast Cancer Unit at Glenfield Hospital.

Thanks to all who supported the effort by buying raffle tickets.

The Great Ratby Ping Pong Race

Sunday July 6th is the date set for first ever Ratby Ping Pong Race. Other villages like Anstey have their duck races (where little rubber ducks race down village streams), but since Ratby doesn't have a stream we've thought up something completely different! At 3.00pm on Sunday 6th July hundreds of ping pong balls will race down Berry's Lane and the first three to arrive at the bottom will win prizes for their owners. All this is to raise money for the new disabled access entrance in the Parish Church, which has just been completed.

Any one who wants to join in the fun simply has to sign up for a numbered ping pong ball by paying £1 and filling in one of the many sign up sheets in the Alliance and Leicester on Main Street or from church members. You won't get given a ping-pong ball there and then, but you will know or be able to choose the number.

After the excitement of the race, strawberry cream teas will be served in the gardens of the Church Rooms, followed by a short 'songs of praise' service in the parish church. More details from 239 3009.

RATBY PRE-SCHOOL (OFSTED Inspected) Church Rooms, Church Lane, Ratby

A safe, happy and caring environment for 2½ - 4+ year olds with qualified staff
(SENCO, Child Protection and Health and Safety)

Sessions are held: 9.15 - 11.45 am
and 12.50 - 3.20 pm
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday
Wednesday (morning only)
£3.50 per session

The pre-school is a committee run charity which covers all aspects of the curriculum to prepare your child for "Big School". It is primarily intended for your child's enjoyment, promoting an opportunity for him/her to learn a wide range of skills.

Contact Mrs Janet Simmonds
on 0116 238 8126, or call in and see us



Porter's Discount Carpets

121/3 STATION ROAD, RATBY

TELEPHONE 239 3238 or 239 5202. MOBILE 07860 551142

QUALITY AT THE
RIGHT PRICE



Laminated Flooring

FREE FITTING
ON ALL CARPETS
EXCEPT REMNANTS



GEORGIAN
CARPETS



RATBY CHURCH ROOMS

It is over 100 years since the Church Rooms were first built, primarily as a Sunday School, but has also served the village as a meeting hall, library (before the new library was built) and for social and entertainment purposes. At the present time it is used for Pre-School purposes on weekdays as well.

During its lifetime, the premises have been extended twice and improved to comply with current legislation and last month the car park was surfaced. The costs of these works have been made possible by the support of many volunteer helpers.

About 8 years ago, the garden area was given 'a make over', but the shrubs etc. have overgrown and a working party is proposed to tidy it up on Saturday mornings 31st May and 14th June which are also Coffee Mornings. Anyone interested in helping will be welcomed, with free coffee and scones. For further details please telephone 2393746.

CHAMPAGNE SUCCESS

Ratby Parish Council Clerk, Mrs Samantha Edwards has achieved the distinction of being the 3000th member to join The Society of Local Council Clerks. She was rewarded with a bottle of Champagne. Samantha is quoted in the Society's magazine, 'I am glad to have taken up this job, I find it very interesting, and I feel I'm helping my village a little by doing it.'



Accountancy, Payroll & Book Keeping
For The Self Employed or
Small Business.

Self Assessment Tax Returns, Vat, Computerised Payroll
Accounts & Book Keeping

Confidential Service, Reasonable Fees
No Job too Small

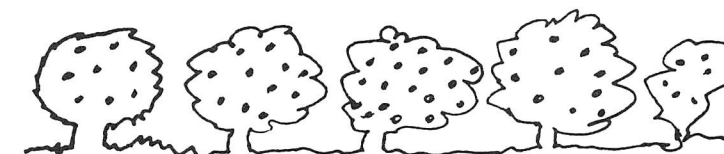
TEL. 01530 230 870

RATBY COMMUNITY ORCHARD

The Orchard Group would like to congratulate Wot! on achieving 100 Issues. We hope you'll still be around to report our fruitful harvests for many issues to come.

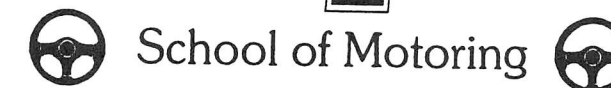
Orchard Tours

The group would like to offer village organisations the opportunity to have guided tours of the Orchard and Village pond sites. Contact Sue or Steve on 239 4873, or speak to any member of the group. We will be writing to all groups soon!



Learn to Drive at

FOWLERS

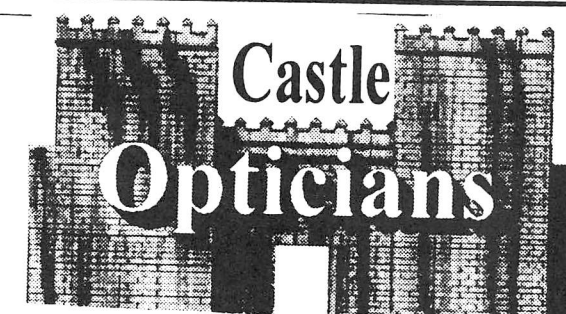


School of Motoring

All Levels of Tuition From
BEGINNER to MOTORWAY LESSONS
From Young to Old

Contact: Pete Fowler D.O.T. ADI

Tel: 0116 238 6165 Mobile: 07760 258700



AN INDEPENDENT PRACTICE

Eye Examinations

Frames and Lenses at Competitive Prices
Prescription and Non-RX Sunspecs
Daily and Monthly Contact Lenses
New Varilux Panamic Varifocals
Any Optician's Prescription welcome

NEW OPENING TIMES

Monday-Friday 9.30-1pm 2-5pm

Closed Wednesday

Saturday 9.30-1pm

47 Main Street, Kirby Muxloe
Tel: 0116 239 4288

GO FOR IT NEIGHBOURS

Two residents of Ratby, David Hulme and Chris Woodward, who just happen to be next door neighbours have each taken on separate adventure fundraising challenges this year.

Earlier this year, David decided that because of his experience with Prostate Cancer, he wanted to raise funds for a cancer related charity through an adventure activity. He is now beaver away on behalf of Cancer Research UK (registered charity number 1089464). He has been accepted to participate in one of the charity's 'Ultimate Challenges', the final part of which will see him in the Andes of Peru at the end of September. He will be with a group of fellow fundraisers and will be trekking for five days off the beaten track through the Andes and along the Sacred Valley alongside the Urabamba River. The route, between Cusco to Machu Picchu, reaches an altitude of around 4500 metres in places.

Several hundred people will be taking part in a series of challenges in different countries throughout 2003 and these are expected to raise over a million pounds for the charity.

David explained that his challenge is in three parts. First he has to raise at least £3,000 for the charity (he hopes to raise more). Then he is improving his walking fitness to a required standard through a personal training programme. Lastly, he will then take part in the exhausting five-day high altitude trek itself. Which for a 65 year old is not to be taken lightly!

As one of his fund raising activities, David's two daughters have produced a 'Towns & Cities' quiz sheet. Priced at £1 they can be obtained from Ratby's Alliance & Leicester Building Society. Also courtesy of the Rev. Richard Worsfold, David will have a Tombola-style prize stall at the Parish Church Garden Fete on June 28th.

Chris, who over the years has raised thousands of pounds for both local and national charities, is busy raising funds for 'UNISON's' 2003 Charity Appeal'.

One of 35 riders nationally he will be travelling to New Zealand's South Island in November to compete in a coast-to-coast mountain bike challenge.



Organised by UNISON Holiday Club in conjunction with UNISON Welfare the event will benefit three registered charities:

- UNISON Welfare (reg. Charity no. 1023552)
- Community H.E.A.R.T. (reg. Charity no. 10521817) and the
- National Deaf Children's Society (reg. No. 1016532).

Combining cycle training with his usual running; Chris said, "My route across South Island will involve covering an average of 58 kilometres a day over six days. There has not been any mention of the hills to date, but I know there must be a few. We have been spared going over the Southern Alps by bike, but the itinerary refers to a mountain road that's only open part of the year and New Zealand is famous for its undulating, albeit picturesque scenery! Why this challenge? For me it has to be the ultimate. Equally important is the fact that every penny raised will go to benefit children."

David and Chris are extremely grateful for the tremendous generosity that has been extended to them both in support of their respective causes including that from many local individuals and businesses. However both have a long way to go and if anyone wishes to support them by making a donation then please contact David or Chris on their respective phone numbers: (0116) 2394472 or 2395297.

"Everything from a blown fuse to a complete Re-wire!"

PAULS QUALITY ELECTRICS

Fully Qualified City & Guilds Electrician - RATBY

DOMESTIC • COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL

New Sockets - Upgrade Old Fuse Boxes - Lighting - Heating
Timers - Rewires - Alarm Systems etc.

Also: Shop Electrics - Industrial Control Panels - M/c Tool Wiring

Call Paul on: (0116) 2390642 or 0798 0911 869
Also see the new Website: www.pqelectrics.com

RATBY PHARMACY

58 MAIN STREET
LE6 0LL
Tel. (0116) 239 3139

**DISPENSING, FAMILY HEALTH CARE
and ADVICE, PHOTOGRAPHIC DEV.**

OPEN; Mon.-Fri. 9am -1pm, 2pm-6pm
Saturdays 9am-12.30pm

COLLECTION of PRESCRIPTIONS from
L.F.E. RATBY GROBY GLENFIELD SURGERIES

RATBY LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

March Meeting:- This was held on Friday 28th and during the first half of the evening we were enthralled with a latest digital technology presentation by Richard Mackinder on the subject of the Archaeology of Bosworth Field. Many aspects of the relatively small battle were dealt with, these included the subject of the logistics and support services required to get the armies to the area and then to keep them fed and watered. At the end of the presentation, we were left to ponder as to whether the recorded accounts relating to the battle are factual or not. In conclusion, it was really a question of 'watch this space'.

During the interval, there was an opportunity to view displays of photographs of Ratby people in the 1930's. A display of recent archaeological finds and a copy of the 1770 Enclosure Map, plus aerial photographs of Ratby in 1970 were also on show.

After the interval, Doug Harwood presented a case study of the Burrough Field in 1770. Maps and photographs were presented to show how the present landscape reflects the events of 230 years ago.

BOOKS ON WHEELS Library Service For The Housebound

Do you like reading but are housebound and unable to use the library? Ratby Library operates a service just for you. Volunteers will deliver books to you on a regular basis.

The Library has a good selection of books in Large Print for people who find ordinary print too small, and also a collection of Talking books on cassette. These are often read by famous actors and celebrities.

If you would like to receive this free service please contact Ratby Library on 0116 239 4530.

The Reading Maze

is coming to Ratby Library during July and August
Join in the 5th Annual Summer Reading Challenge for children!

May Meeting :- This meeting held on May 16th comprised of our AGM held during the first half.

The interval then allowed for displays of recent finds superbly arranged in the Group's new display cabinets by Neil Glenister.

After the interval, Michael Ball gave an illustrated talk on 'Aspects of a Village's History'. He guided us with researched information through from the Domesday Book records of 1086 to around the 14th century. Many fascinating details about Ratby and nearby settlements emerged leaving the audience looking forward to the promise of hearing about the following five hundred years at Michael's next presentation.

June Outing :- On Sunday June 15th, the Group have a trip arranged to Chipping Camden. This involves a guided walk around the very interesting old woollen town plus a tea. Reports from our Chairman, who did the walk and tea last year, describes it all as excellent. Places are limited - Telephone 2394168 for details.



THE PLOUGH INN

Burroughs Road. Ratby
239 2103

FOOD SERVED

12 - 2 pm
6 - 9.30

Monday to Friday

ALL DAY
Saturday and Sunday

ALWAYS FRESH
ALWAYS WELCOME

WOT AN ACHIEVMENT

Wot About Ratby is
One Hundred
This month!

A

Birthday not to be
Overlooked

Under any circumstances.

Trumpet it abroad !!

Reader please applaud

A brilliant and dedicated production
Team

Because

You are impressed !!!

Hoz



PABARI'S RATBY NEWS

5 STATION ROAD RATBY
0116 239 3287

For the Largest Selection in Ratby of
BEERS WINES and Spirits

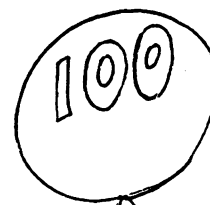
A VAST CHOICE OF CONFECTIONERY &
SOFT DRINKS

A LARGE VARIETY OF GREETING CARDS,
WRAPPING PAPER and STATIONERY

NEWSPAPERS and MAGAZINES
DELIVERED TO YOUR DOOR DAILY

We are Agents for
SKETCHLEY DRY CLEANING

Video rental and Photocopying
OPEN Monday-Friday 6.15-1pm. 2.30-10pm
Saturday 6.15-10pm
Sunday 7.30-2pm. 7pm-9pm



CELEBRATING 100 ISSUES of Wot About Ratby!



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

This really is the time to congratulate that small number of individuals who, together, form The Wot! team, and who between them have produced one hundred editions over the past eighteen years. As an instrument of village communication Wot! has proved invaluable in so many ways, from Parish Council information to the growing pains of village development, and has served many community organisations as an information device so very well.

Writing as one of those folk who's only involvement has been to retrieve the latest edition from the letter box, I must congratulate not only the workers but also those who take the trouble to feed the system.

How else would I have received help in filling my poll tax statement in 1989 (issue 18), or to know what a 'Jammer' or 'Beastlings' was. How would I have known how to prepare 'Indoor Barbecue Chops' if Scrivener hadn't appeared on the scene, or that a new Headteacher, Mrs Lewis, had taken up her appointment in 1993! More recently I learn of a new Nature Trail, 'The Comet Trail' Ratby to Glenfield, etc etc etc.

To all involved in this well-visioned and long-running venture, whether as part of the past, present or future team, the contributors (no shell-no canon!), or the advertisers who keep Wot! viable, many thanks from one of many who look forward to the contents of the next issue.

May I also add appreciation to the many other unsung voluntary leaders and helpers who wear a similar 'T Shirt' and keep our village organisations thriving.

Full Marks!

ANON

Name and address supplied.

'Thank you,' Editor
(Who was it that said we wouldn't last 6 issues?)

How many crows in all the issues?

AMAZING Wot! FACTS

David Hulme has kindly produced these intriguing statistics about our village magazine's first 100 issues!

- Number of pages 1804
- Number of articles 2812 (This figure includes each individual topic in Parish Council Newsletters)
- Number of Adverts 2276
- Number of Photos or illustrations 492
- Largest Issue No 47 (August 1994-32 pages!)
- Smallest Issue No 78 (October 1999-8 Pages.)
- Most Prolific Named Authors:
 1. Scrivener-32 Recipes
 2. H Gamble 25 Articles, Poems and Village Society News
 3. M T Ball 23 Articles
 4. Janet-13 Jottings
 5. Local Yokel-11 Articles.

(Special thanks to these stalwart contributors!)

We'd love to hear from your views readers about Wot! Tell us what are your favourite articles and features.

What new items could we include in future issues?

And Village Organisations...don't forget you can have a free quarter page article!

THE SERVICE GARAGE

MAIN STREET, RATBY

M.O.T TESTS

CARS (PETROL and DIESEL)

And

MOTORCYCLES

M.O.T. HOURS 9.00-4.15 Monday-Friday

Closed for lunch 1-2

TELEPHONE 239 4966

100 Issues of WOT

The first issue was December 1986 and we must thank those advertisers who have been with us since that very first issue.

Ratby Pharmacy, Julies Hairdressers, Pabari's the newsagents, Porter's carpets, Ratby Post Office and Ratby TV, without these stalwarts and others who have been supporting us for many years we would not be producing the magazine every two months.

In the welcome to Wot introduction of the first issue it stated that the magazine's intention and hope was for all the village to be involved in it's content, because Ratby was a village with a history and tradition second to none with considerable activities.

That issue was to be the first of many editions, it asked for support with articles, information and responses. Tell us what you think of the contents and quality. Please feed us with ideas.

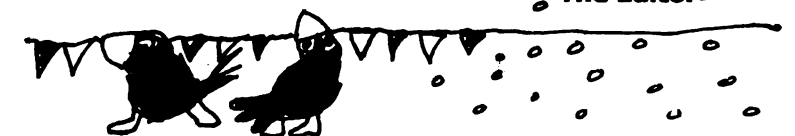
There were articles relating to the School Association, Cubs, the Band, the new Library, and Playgroup. Sports Club, Scouts, Brownies, Guides, Woodland Trust, Methodist Church, the Beavers and the Parish newsletter.

What does this all mean? Well 99 issues later I think that we can sing our own praises for once. Over the years all village groups have had articles published with one noticeable exception, the group had one letter sent to justify their coming to the village but nothing from there on. And there were certainly many more editions, plus you certainly told us what you thought. After those first deliveries on Sunday mornings my phone didn't stop ringing. I think that the most complaints that we receive are regarding none delivery so perhaps we are doing something right.

You will see from some of the articles in this edition how some things have changed over the years plus some interesting facts regarding Wot.

Another 100? Well, one at a time. Producing the last 100 has given much pleasure and tribulations. The blessing with the complete team is that no-one thinks that they do exceptional work. Perhaps that is why we are still producing and I am sure that we will for a few more editions.

The Editor



JULIE'S
HAIRDRESSING
MAIN STREET RATBY

CELEBRATING 30
YEARS IN THE VILLAGE
Traditional and Modern Styling
Telephone 239 2406

PARISH PLAN STEERING GROUP PROGRESS REPORT

The steering group consists of 25 active Ratby residents, with a smaller core group who have had more time to progress the work since the first meeting in February 2002.

The work is in two parts;

Parish Plan

The main feature of this is an appraisal that will be carried out by questionnaire. This project is supported by Hannah Ferguson from the Leicestershire and Rutland Community Council and financially by the Countryside Agency.

The group are now drafting the questions, using information gained by the Planning for Real project described below.

The questionnaire will be delivered to all residents, hopefully at the end of August, if drafts are received back in time from consultation with organisations such as Councils and the Police.

Offers of help to deliver and collect questionnaires welcomed.

The responses will be fed into a specially designed computer programme for analysis. Help with this also welcome.

The findings will be submitted to service providers and other relevant agencies to inform the future planning for Ratby.

Planning for Real

A second, but no less important exercise is Planning for Real, supported with funding and resources as well as practically by Nicole Ricard and the Leicestershire County Council Community Unit. Many villagers came to view the 3-Dimensional Map which was displayed in the Church from March 15th, and previously in Ratby School.

A total of 317 comment cards were placed on the map, many of which received approval or disapproval stickers from other villagers.

The comments have been sorted into topics. There were 121 responses on **environmental themes**, ranging from preserving the green environment to issues about waste bins.

93 cards were on **transport issues** such as bus services and traffic calming.

Problems with noise, drug misuse, policing and vandalism were the subject of 26 responses. There were only three references to **housing**, focussing on homes for the young or elderly.

There were requests for more **services for older people**, including chiropodists and hospital car service.

Village toilets and allotments featured in the 42 responses under the heading of **local services**. Other requests were for **sports facilities**, social security centre and community work space. **Young people's needs** were identified as a skateboard area and out of school clubs.

As you can see there were a wide range of concerns to be included in the questionnaire, creating a lot of work for the Steering Group! Help would be most welcome.

Ken Hunnybun,
Chairman, Ratby Parish Plan Steering Group

MOLLY MAID
Making a Difference

Have your home Cleaned by Professionals

We will CLEAN your home from TOP to Bottom with your individual needs in mind.

All done for a reasonable price.

FANCY FREEDOM? Call us now for a FREE NO OBLIGATION Estimate

Call Sue on 0116 223 8296

**GAS
APPLIANCE
SERVICES**

- Appliance Servicing and Installation
- Breakdown and Repair Services
- Plumbing and Heating Installation
- Kitchen & Bathroom Design and Installation
- Quality Guaranteed by Experienced Engineers



**YOUR DOMESTIC GAS
BOILER SERVICED**

6 SAXONS RISE, RATBY, LEICS. LE6 0NF

■ Tel: 0116 2393662



2003 VILLAGE EVENTS DIARY

The following details about planned events taking place in the village during the next four months have now been made known to WOT.

We anticipate that there could well be more still in the planning stage, further listings will be given in future editions.

Other regular Village events include :-

Bingo with the Evergreen Club on Monday evenings in the Village Hall

Indoor Carpet Bowls on Wednesday afternoons from September to April in the Village Hall.

Afternoon Tea Dances on alternate Wednesdays in the Church Rooms.

'Drop In' Coffee Mornings every Thursday morning in the Village Hall.

Evergreen Club Meetings on Thursday afternoons in the Village Hall

Coffee Mornings are held on most Saturdays alternating between the Parish Church and the Methodist Church.

The British Legion (Ratby & District Branch) meet on the second Wednesday of each month at 8.00pm at the Groby Ex-Servicemens Club

DATE & TIME	EVENT	ORGANISERS	VENUE	TEL No
JUNE				
Thurs 5 th 7.30pm	Parish Plan Steering Group Meeting	Parish Council	Church Rooms	2390167
Sat 7 th 10.00am	Coffee Morning	Methodist Church	Chapel	2386276
Sat 7 th 7.30pm	Band Concert by Ratby Co-op Mid Band	Parish Church & Band	Parish Church	2393009
Wed 11 th 7.45pm	History of Monologues	Women's Institute	Village Hall	2387193
Sat 14 th 10.00am	Coffee Morning and Clothes Sale	Parish Church	Church Rooms	2393009
NB: - Coffee Mornings are to be held on alternate Saturdays at the Church and Chapel Rooms				
Sat 14 th tba	Youth and Training Bands Birthday Concert	Ratby Co-op Band	Groby College	2386945
Sun 15 th tba	Guided Walk and Tea in Chipping Camden	History Group	Leave from Ratby tba	2394168
Tues 17 th 8.00pm	More Ratby Tales	Village Society	Village Hall	2387240
Sun 22 nd tba	Walk - A Transect Across Ratby's History	History Group	Village tba	2394168
Mon 23 rd 1.30pm	Young Families Toddler Group	Parish Church	Vicarage	2393009
Tues 24 th 7.30pm	Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators Meeting	Neighbourhood Watch Group	Church Rooms	2394450
Fri 27 th & Sat 28 th tba	Musik Fest	Ratby Co-op Band	Groby College	2386945
Sat 28 th 2.00pm	Church Garden Fete	Parish Church	Vicarage	2393009

PIP'S PRIVATE HIRE

0116 239 0909

GROBY * RATBY * KIRBY

B'HAM & E. MIDLANDS

AIRPORTS

LOCAL and DISTANCE

OAP TOKENS



2003 VILLAGE EVENTS DIARY

DATE & TIME	EVENT	ORGANISERS	VENUE	TEL No
JULY				
Thurs 3 rd 7.30pm	Parish Plan Steering Group Meeting	Parish Council	Church Rooms	2390167
Sat 5 th 10.00am	Coffee Morning with Indian Dancers	Methodist Church	Chapel	2386276
Sat 5 th 6.30pm	Proms Evening Concert and Fireworks	Ratby Co-op Band & Sports Club	Sports Club	2386945
Sun 6 th tba	Strawberry Teas & Ping Pong Race	Parish Church	Church Rooms	2393009
Mon 7 th 12.00 noon	Young Families The Big Picnic	Parish Church	Vicarage	2393009
Mon 14 th all week	Front Garden Competition	Parish Council	Whole Village	2390167

AUGUST				
Sat 9 th 2.00pm	Jumble Sale	Methodist Church	Chapel	2386276
Wed 13 th 7.45pm	Wormery	Women's Institute	Village Hall	2387193
Tues 19 th 8.00pm	Ships in Bottles	Village Society	Village Hall	2387240
Tues 27 th 7.30pm	Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators Meeting	Neighbourhood Watch Group	Church Rooms	2394450

SEPTEMBER				
Wed 10 th 7.45pm	Asian Customs	Women's Institute	Village Hall	2387193
Sun 14 th tba	Guided Village Walk	History Group	Village tba	2394168
Tues 16 th 8.00pm	Malta and Gozo	Village Society	Village Hall	2387240
Sat 20 th 2.00pm	Guided Walk Around Earls Barton	History Group	Leave from Ratby tba	2394168
Wed 24 th 7.30pm	The Next Four Years	Parish Church	Parish Church	2314419
Fri 26 th 7.30pm	Talk - Braunstone & Desford Airfields	History Group	Village Hall	2394168



Mobile Phone Top-Up Cards now available	Going Abroad? Don't forget we can offer the following	Remember you can cash cheques and make deposits for these Banks at your local Post Office	RATBY POST OFFICE
VODAPHONE	Travel Insurance	LLOYDS TSB	CO-OP
CELLNET	Foreign Currency	A & L	GIROBANK
T MOBILE	E111 Medical Forms		239 3001
ORANGE			

And we also sell stamps!!!

Ratby Parish Council

TRAFFIC CALMING

As has been reported previously, draft plans for traffic calming have finally been drawn up. This follows a long campaign that included a residents petition and many months of us pestering the county council. The plans cover the *whole* of the village, on the understanding that slowing the traffic on one route would simply move the problem elsewhere. The draft plan also tackles the problems with the roundabout at Taverner Drive and the difficulties when exiting Chapel Lane into Station Road. Over the last few months, the parish council and the emergency services have been asked to comment.

We are now at the stage where we need your views!

Although the proposals will be welcomed by many we do recognise that not everyone will give their support – one resident has already said, “Oh, but that means I will have to slow down through the village” – but this is the opportunity for you to find out what is proposed and to make your views known. Join us at the public display of the plans that is to be held at the beginning of July, when representatives of the county council and the consultants who have devised the plans will be on hand to answer your questions.

Watch out for the publicity telling you where and when this will take place...

“HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?”



Trowels and hoes to the fore! Now is the time of year green-fingered gardeners start planning and planting their summer gardens. We will be holding our annual **Front Garden and Hanging Basket** competition during the week commencing **July 14th**. You are invited to enter your own garden or basket or you can, of course, nominate someone else.

The judge of last year's competition commented that in addition to the winning entries, she saw a lot of lovely gardens and hanging baskets that she felt should have been entered in the competition and hoped that more people would enter this year. You can hope to be nominated by our own garden talent spotters or you can contact the Parish Council office for an entry form.

VILLAGE SIGN

The sign in the centre of the village was done as a celebration of the Millennium and depicts Ratby's history and development over the years. Sadly, it has not withstood the test of time or weather! You will probably have noticed that the post is at a very odd angle and the design on the tiles can no longer be deciphered. Unfortunately, the artist used a form of tile that proved to be unsuitable and the wood has warped.

The sign is now being redone, at no cost to the village, but as the materials being used are different (and longer lasting!) the design is not as detailed as before (and, dare we say, those people who have seen the new design have said they prefer it...). It will then be up to the carpenter to sort out the post. We look forward to the new sign being in place soon.

VILLAGE SYMBOL?

Although many of the various village groups have their own identities – either with a logo or just in the typeface they use – there is no symbol, or logo, that represents the village as a whole. We would like to find something that represents Ratby to you, the people who live here. This logo would then be used on all parish council correspondence, the village website and related publicity material. So what should our symbol be? (Ahem! Would it be nice to have something other than a crow?).

Suggestions already made include:

- ☐ The yew tree in the churchyard - this is certified as 2,000 years old and is something that has seen the village grow from nothing to its present state...A tree would also fit in with our connection to the new National Forest.
- ☐ The oldest house in the village or the village sign
- ☐ An aerial view of the Bury Camp



We would like to hear from you with your suggestions
Please contact the parish office on 2390167

Ratby Parish Council LOCAL ELECTIONS



Thank you to everyone who voted in the borough and parish elections at the beginning of May – we understand that about one third of people entitled to vote actually did so. The two newly elected borough councillors for the ward of Ratby, Bagworth & Thornton will have their work cut out in the months to come... First of all, they are from opposing political parties, **Chris Boothby** for the Conservatives and **Ken Hunnybun** for Labour. Secondly, they

are both from Ratby, which means they will need to manage their constituency in such a way that the other two villages receive the same level of service, particularly in terms of accessibility to the councillors. Thirdly, both Chris and Ken have also been voted on to our parish council! We congratulate them on being elected and wish them both every success. To complete the picture, **Rob Fraser** continues in his role as County Councillor.

YOUR NEW PARISH COUNCIL

The newly elected parish council has made the following appointments. **Elaine Moore** has been re-elected unopposed as chairman and **Atul Jobanputra**, known to most people as the local sub-postmaster, has been appointed vice chairman. The Planning sub-committee is set up with **Merle Joyce** retaining her role as chairman, working with **Laurance "Ozzie" O'Shea** and new councillor **Alan Blanchard**. Similarly, there has been no change in the chairmanship of the Leisure & Recreation sub-committee with **Ken Hunnybun** staying in the post, now working with newly elected councillors **Kathryn Lupton**, **Avril Sutton** and **Chris Boothby**,

assisted by Atul and Alan when their other duties permit. The council already have many plans for the coming year but, in order to succeed, the *overriding need is for the community to get involved...*

But no politics here!

An aspect of the council that is vital to its success is that it is *strictly non-political* and this will continue, even though the opposing borough councillors are both now serving on the parish council – they have agreed to leave their politics at home where parish business is concerned!

BUT WHAT DOES THE COUNCIL DO?

Despite the best efforts of the council's publicity officer, many villagers are still not aware of what the parish council actually does. If you want to know more, you are welcome to attend any of our meetings, which take place on the first Tuesday in every month at the Methodist church, starting at 7.15 pm. The minutes of our meetings can be seen at the Library or on the village website at www.ratby.info

RE-CREATION OF THE RECREATION GROUNDS

We are hoping people will get involved in the development of the two recreation grounds at Ferndale Drive and Burroughs Road, now renamed community parks under new terminology!

The borough council has set aside £1 million solely for the development of parks in the borough. The parish council has already heard a presentation at to what is possible and we want to take advantage of the assistance and grant funding that is available. The first step is to organise a *public meeting* at which ideas for

development can be discussed. The long awaited skatepark also needs to be discussed with the public, from an environmental point of view (i.e. noise) and we should also think about security (such as CCTV), as the parks are where the majority of anti-social behaviour in the village takes place.

We are also about to carry out a review of all the existing play equipment, most of which is either in need of replacement or refurbishment, and this too will be a project for the current year.

It would be a shame if these projects collapse due to lack of support from the community. Look out for the notices informing you of a public meeting. Come along, hear more and get involved...

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Well here we are again, almost summer and thoughts of holidays are in the air. Everybody needs one but you want to come home and find everything as you left it.

This holiday check list may help :-

Cut lawns before you go and if you plan to be away for a prolonged period why not ask your neighbours to help. You can return the favour when they are away.

Make sure that the house looks occupied. For a few pounds why not purchase an automatic timer that will switch lights on and off whilst you're away.

Cancel milk and papers but don't do this in front of a shop full of people.

Ask a neighbour to make sure that your mail is pushed through the letterbox. Or for a charge, you can get the Post Office to hold your mail.

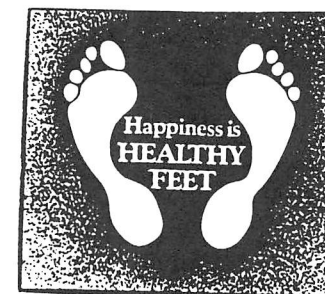
Keep items of particular value out of view, having made sure that they are all postcoded with a 'magic marker pen'.

Finally lock all doors and windows, set your alarm if you have one and it's then off to the sun with peace of mind!

Your home in your absence should look as inhabited as it does when you are there.

CRIMESTOPPERS FREEPHONE NUMBER 0800 555 111

Peter Comley, MSSCh. MBChA.



Visiting Chiropodist
A Convenient & Professional Home
Treatment Service – with over 10 years experience
Tel: 01530 244887
Registered Member of the British Chiropody Assoc.

RECIPE

LAMB with SWEETCORN

Ingredients

4 lamb chops, trimmed
450 gr (1lb) potatoes, peeled and sliced
1 large onion, peeled and sliced
1 teaspoon mixed herbs
¼ pint stock
300 gr (11 oz) can of sweetcorn
salt and pepper to taste

Method

1. Brown chops on both sides in a little fat and place in casserole dish
2. Brown slices of onion and potatoes and cover the chops
3. Cover with stock
4. Sprinkle over herbs, salt and pepper
5. Cover with lid or foil
6. Cook for ¾ hour in oven 175C/350F/Gas4
7. Add drained sweetcorn and cook for further 30 minutes.

Scrivener

APOLOGY to Scrivener and Cooks

In the last issue I made a typing error. The Hereford Apple cake should have been cooked for 1 ½ hours, not 10 minutes. It should then be cooled for 10 minutes in the tin.

I hope you cooks out there realised! SB.

A.H. COLEY

Plumbing and Heating Repairs
New Installations, Bathrooms, Showers

For a full range of Services contact;
4 Saxons Rise
RATBY LE6 0NF

Telephone 239 4277