ISSUE 112 JUNE/JULY 2005



# SCOUTS WOT!

**About Ratby** 

PUBLISHED BY RATBY SCOUT GROUP

# **CHANGES!**



# THE VILLAGE IS TRANSFORMED AS TRAFFIC **CALMING MEASURES ARE COMPLETED**

Throughout the village new road markings, warning signs and speed tables have been installed to slow drivers down, making Ratby a safer place. What do you think of these measures? Are they working? Villagers have campaigned for many years to make Ratby safer. Write in and tell us what you think. Do you feel children will be safer now when they walk to school? Bus travellers and drivers, what do you think?

Work underway on Danehill to install one of a series of speed tables, part of the Traffic Calming Scheme.

A plethora of new signs as we enter Ratby from Kirby Muxloe.



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# **ELECTROLUX**

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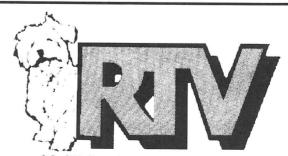


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#### RATBY COOPERATIVE BAND

The Band organisation has been spreading the village name far and wide again, hosting a very successful visit of 40 people from O.N.D.A. Band, Holland to the village, giving a very creditable competition performance in Blackpool, and not forgetting the enjoyable, event-filled Musik Fest at Groby College.

The Birthday Concert for the Youth and Training Bands was held in May, as was the very popular Senior Band Concert held in St Peter's Church, Thornton.

The Ratby Band Summer Spectacular will be held at Braunstone Civic Centre on June 12<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are available from Malcolm on 238 6749.

During July, the Band will be representing the village, County and Country at the World Music Festival in Kerkade, Netherlands.

# **VE DAY**

We'd love to hear your VE DAY STORIES!
What do you remember about the time?
Please phone Sue on 239 4873 or post your tales to
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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I would like to take this opportunity to say, 'Thank you Ratby.' When I moved here with my guide dog Aden (a black, flat coat retriever) the area was new, but everyone has been very kind and helpful.

Aden has now retired and enjoying life as our family pet. However, I am now mobile again as Guide Dogs have found me a lovely golden retriever called Wheat.

Once again, my thanks to the people of Ratby for making me feel so welcome.

Linda Jones.

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#### **MORE CHANGE**

A crane lifts away the former Library Mobile Building, in preparation for building work to get underway.

Thank you to **Hoz Gamble** for sending in this photograph.



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## **RATBY BADMINTON CLUB**

Ratby Badminton Club was established as a local sporting amenity when the new School Hall was built in 1974. It was very well supported, so much so that when the opportunity arose in 1991 it moved to Bosworth College where two courts were available.

Not withstanding that the Club's weekly meetings have flourished, there are currently vacancies for new members with or without experience.

The Club does not take part in tournaments or competitive matches but only plays friendly social badminton and is ideal for accompanied youngsters through to Grandparents. Shuttles are provided and Club racquets are available for beginners, so why not give it a try?

For further details telephone Roy or Brenda on 0116 2393746

We've had one response so far to our request for genealogy stories. An article is promise3d for the next issue. If you have an interesting story about your research, especially if it is local, why not give us a ring? Contact Sue on 239 4873.

# HELP

Please would any reader of WOT who is aware of the welfare and/or whereabouts of Mrs Violet Betteridge, previously of the village, kindly help me contact this lady.

Many thanks - Dennis Green. Telephone 2386437



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# RATBY LOCAL HISTORY **GROUR**

Our March Meeting - The main talk of the evening was given by Gareth King and was entitled "The Mediaeval Manor". From the outset, Gareth entered into the spirit of the occasion, dressed as a 13<sup>th</sup> century peasant, albeit of the "better-off" kind. He gave a vivid description of the life and times and was superbly aided by a variety of articles which were typical of the items in everyday use at the time. We were told of the distinction between "freemen", who could leave the village and work independently of the "Lord of the Manor" and the "serf", who owned only his belly and was bound to the Lord for almost everything else. He even had to pay the Lord to get his daughter married. Amongst many other topics, we learnt about the "everlasting stew" in which a mixture of meat and vegetables not immediately consumed, would be overlaid by the next day's stew, such that the bottom of the pan might contain residues of food many years old. It is believed that the incidence of gastro-enteritis was not high due to the constant reheating killing off most of the bugs! It also cut down on the washing up with possibly contaminated water.

After the interval, Doug Harwood described the "Toils and Troubles' of a Ratby Schoolmaster". The talk was based around the lives of Francis and Harriett Pittman, who were Master and Mistress at the school between 1875 and 1879.

Our last meeting – Was on Friday May 20<sup>th</sup> when the first part of the meeting took the form of the Group's AGM.

This was followed by a talk given by Michael Ball entitled "Marking the Centenaries: Ratby in the years 1605 and 1805". More details about this talk will be given in the next "WOT".

**Ludlow outing -** By the last count, we had 2 seats left on the coach going to Ludlow on June 18th 2005. Please telephone 0116 2394168 if you are interested in taking any of these last places.

Our next meeting – This will be on Friday September 30<sup>th</sup> at 730pm in the Village Hall, when Bob Jerrett will talk about the "History of the English Inn".

# PLAYGROUP TOTS TODDLE

Ratby Playgroup children will be 'Toddling' around the Danehill Area on June 18th to raise much needed funds for the Children's activities. At the end of their walk they'll be rewarded with a bouncy castle and ice creams. Watch out for them, and cheer them on! Donations are welcome, please ring Sarah Godrich, Chair of the Playgroup Committee on 07815 554450.

Ratby Playgroup meets on mornings and afternoons in The Church Rooms throughout term time, for children aged 2 ½ to rising 5. Children are eligible for a free place from the term following their 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday.

Contact the Playgroup Leader on 238 8126 The Committee are looking for new members too, so if you can help, ring Sarah. It's friendly and informal, no experience needed!







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**RATBY RAMBLES** 

A few people have recently come together in Ratby v to form a walking group, and are looking to attract more members.

Walks take place on most Thursday and Friday mornings, and distances vary from short local rambles to walks of approximately 4/5 miles.

If you think you would like to join us, or would like further information, please contact; Jill Grey, 239 5298.

#### **MURDER MYSTERY**

Bradgate Twinning Association will be holding a Murder Mystery evening in Newtown Linford on Friday 24th June at the village hall. The play will be performed by the Markfield Players and you are invited to what will be a good evening's entertainment. The audience will be divided into table size teams and be given certain times to ask the cast questions about the for a prize by identifying the murderer. A supper will be provided and there will be a bar. For more information and tickets contact the Secretary on 0116 224 4290

performance. The idea being for teams to compete



#### NEWS FROM ST PHILIP AND ST JAMES

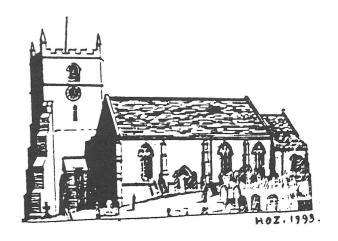
For a change this month, instead of reporting about what's going on inside church a change to what's going on outside church. Glowworms is a group run by Christians in Ratby for 10-14 year olds. They meet fortnightly, on a Friday between 7.15pm -9pm, in the church rooms. They meet to have fun, try new activities together such as Fairtrade games; treasure hunts; chips and chat, and still have time to think a little about God at the end of each group.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> April, they were busy washing cars for charity outside the church rooms. The money raised was sent to Oxfam to give water purification equipment to families in Africa. The result was thinking about our use and plenty of water; a load of gleaming cars in Ratby and £50 sent to help families enjoy a better standard of life about something we often take for granted.

#### MEDIEVAL FETE

Don't forget the annual Garden Fete in the Rectory Gardens. Come dressed up and enjoy this year's MEDIEVAL THEME.

Saturday 25th June at 2pm.



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# **BACK FROM JAVA**

# Marvam Mirza writes about her experiences.

In October last year I spent 3 months in Birmingham, as part of the VSO World Youth Programme, prior to setting off for Java, with 8 other volunteers and our Indonesian Volunteer partners.

We lived and worked in Yogyakarta, a big city bustling with crazy traffic, and people.

My work was with street boys aged 5-25. There are many children on the streets in the city, many of whom have never known their parents, and have come from difficult and traumatic backgrounds. Despite this they were positive and enthusiastic about the activities we organised. I worked in a shelter which was home to some of the boys; others came for the day, returning to the streets at night.



A drawing session with street boys at the shelter.

My work partner was a local boy, Cahyo. We taught cookery (fish and chips!), swimming and football. We did a lot of drawing and painting, re-painting the whole shelter with our creativity. We enjoyed learning about each other's culture through the activities, such as trying different foods. Their staple diet is nasi (rice) and tempe (soya beans)

They had a shelter rock band, and we organised several music events. I was persuaded to sing too! W e organised trips out, including one to the South Sea. The waves were very powerful and frequent, and we had to watch the boys closely as not all were strong swimmers.



Maryam, left, in her 'wedding' costume, with Ricka.

I was paired up with a Muslim Indonesian girl, Ricka, and we shared many experiences together, sharing time here in the UK, and in Jogyakarta, where we learned about the local community I know I will always have a sister in Java! I would get up with her for the first call to prayer at 4 am, and then we'd visit the market to buy fish and fruit for breakfast.

We all enjoyed shopping for interesting fabrics, and trying on Javanese costumes. I was chosen to take

part in a 'mock' traditional wedding ceremony. It took four hours to dress me up. A lot of powder make-up was used as it is considered beautiful to be white.

I found the Javanese people to be very polite and welcoming, hospitality is very important to them. I am still missing all the friends I made there, and can't wait to go back!

#### HOME THOUGHTS FROM ABROAD (Well, almost)

Oh to be in Ratby, now that April's here. For the class of '48, April was the birthday month for me, for Raymond Pendery, for twins John and Stuart Sinfield, and for Diana Marvin, the embodiment of 'Primavera' (a reproduction of Botticelli's famous painting hung in the school Drill Room, where Miss Govett, or perhaps even Miss Everard, would put us through our paces, having us loping and clomping around the room to the strains of Henry Hall's 'Hush, Hush, Hush, here comes the Bogeyman.'terrifying for a four year old.)

Fifty-six years later I now live with my family in the Isles Of Scilly, where I receive my copy of 'Wot', sent to me by my dear friend Win Baillee. I have often thought of responding to the editor's request for photographs of days gone by. I don't have many photographs, but I do have vivid images in my memory, sort of mental snapshots, arranged as a kind of A-Z, (not sure about the Z) of growing up in the village. Some topics; Albert Pickering's van, Bird (Miss) Burroughs, Bell ringers, Christmas Coronation, Chip Shops, Choir Outings, Garden Fetes, George Taylor, Harvest Festival. Hallowe'en, Majestic Cinema, Rock n' Roll, Skiffle Group, School, Youth Club, etc.

Perhaps others may be moved to share some of their memories too. Here are just a few headings. What do you think?

Regards

Chris Garratt.

Thanks for the memories Chris. Come on then villagers; where is the class of 48 now? Let's finish that alphabet! Someone's bound to know a 'Z'....even if it's just snoozing at school! More thoughts from abroad are always welcome.



# Rathy Village Society

What a treat was in store for the members who attended the March meeting, as it was not only entertaining but also educational. The duo known as 'Bitter End' (in reality Alan Hardy and Ken Hunnybun) took us back to days of life before the mast on square rigged tall ships, when a sailor's lot was a very hard existence combined with danger. Routine tasks such as hauling up the anchor, hoisting acres of canvas sails, and setting the yards were accompanied by work songs known as sea shanties, which Alan and Ken performed harmoniously with gusto, inviting the willing audience to join in with the choruses.

The third instalment of the story of the Postal Service, told by Derek Smeathers at the April Meeting, dealt with the period leading up to the 1<sup>st</sup> World War. Battalions were required to take part in regular training manoeuvres in parts of the country far removed from their regimental bases. Soldiers would find themselves billeted among the civilian population, and would keep in touch with their families by sending picture postcards. Following the outbreak of war, field post offices were set up near to the battle zones in France. Surprisingly, at the outset the serving men had to pay postage, and all mail was censored! An amazing amount of mail from this period has survived, coming down through soldier's relatives. Fortunately a large collection has been accrued by Derek, which he displayed at the meeting for our interest.



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# Ratby Parish Council Other Parish News Sponsorship or Donations

If anyone would like to consider donating or sponsoring a bench, or a piece of play equipment for the village, perhaps in memory of a loved one, please contact the Parish Office to discuss your

# Appeal to parents, children and youth

Longer days, more playtime. Parents, do you know where your children are playing? Is it a suitable area, or could it cause a nuisance for nearby residents? Would you like it outside your house or in your street?

Please talk to your children and remind them to show consideration to those around them. Remember there are two large play areas in the village, at Ferndale Park and Burroughs Road in which to let off steam.

# Front Garden Competition

The Parish Council is running a FRONT GARDEN and HANGING BASKET COMPETITION which will be judged possibly around the third week of June. If you wish to enter, or nominate a neighbour's garden please contact the Parish Office on 239 0167 for full details.

# Dropped kerbs

Finally, please be aware that the tactile dropped kerbs installed around the village are designed to help people cross the road safely, especially the disabled and those with impaired vision. Please do not park across these areas.

A Date for your Diary Cycle Coding event, SATURDAY 2nd JULY at 11.30 am RATBY PRIMARY SCHOOL



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# Ferndale Community Park Progress Report

The Council received a progress report on the development of Ferndale Community Park at its meeting on 3 May 2005 and acknowledged the work of those involved in the scheme so far. The completion of Phase 1 was approved. These works consisted of landscaping ground works for Phase 2, the installation of a Teenzone Tower, a BMX track for the younger children and tarmac pathways.

Grants of £39,000 have been received and more grant funding is being sought. In addition funding is also being raised by the Ferndale Community Park Development group consisting of Nigel Burbage, Mick Earl, Lynda Ince, Alison Godwin, Lorraine Turner, David Wright and Ian Vernon who were thanked for their efforts.

Fund raising has already started and a Music Quiz in which sheets were sold at £1 each has already brought in £251 with more to come. Other fund raising ideas already being considered are:

- Walking Treasure Hunt 9/10 July
- Balloon Race
- A resident has offered to organise a sponsored walk.
- A general request will be made to seek donations of 'commemorative benches'.
- Grant funding will be sought from organisations that only deal with voluntary

These funds will be donated to the Parish Council for particular parts of the scheme.

THIS IS A RESOURCE FOR ALL RATBY RESIDENTS - PLEASE HELP - JOIN THE DEVELOPMENT GROUP OR ASSIST WITH THE MONEY RAISING EVENTS - THIS WILL HELP THE COUNCIL TO COMPLETE THE SCHEME SOONER - Contact Parish Council Office on 2390167

## Phase 2 of Groundworks and play equipment to be installed These are estimated costs and are laid out in this way because each item can be the subject of individual grant applications or self help projects

subject of individual grant applications of soil help projects.		
Groundworks Multi-sports Area – prepare surface and wearing course Finish formation of toddler area Crow Pie Community Garden Bound Gravel Paths Play Area fencing Softworks: Tress, Shrubs, Grass etc	£8,300 £200 £4,500 £7,000 £7,500 £8,500	£36,000
Toddler Area 2 Swings & Barriers, Inclusive Springie, Spring See Saw, Toddler Zone Unit, Dish Roundabout, Triple Twist Roundabout, Installation and safety surfaces	£17,190	£17,190
Junior Area Space net, low rotator, overhead rotator, 2 seat swings & barriers, Double Seesaw, installation and safety surfaces.	£27,849	£27,849
Additional Skateboard Equipment Multi Sports Area Goal Ends Basket Ball Goals	£22,000 £15,577 £1,033 £10,553	£22,000 £15,577 £1,033 £10,553
Cable Way  Architects fees	£5,750	£5,750



#### RATBY NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

#### **CRIMESTOPPERS**

During a single month this year, 'Crimestoppers' received 40 items of intelligence from members of the public in this area for a range of incidents. (drugs, robbery, traffic offences) These led to 9 arrests.

The Police emphasise how important such information is to them, and again wish to assure people that all calls to 'Crimestoppers' on 0800 555 111, will be treated as anonymous.

#### WELCOME NEWS

This year to date, thefts from motor vehicles in our area are down 20% However this still means that 27 incidents have been recorded. It is a sad fact that cars are broken into for as little as some visible loose change or a pack of cigarettes, with often extensive and costly damage to the vehicle. With the summer months coming it is worth remembering that leaving car windows or sunroofs open can make the thief's job much easier.

#### PROTECT YOUR GARDEN

Often the value of goods stored in outbuildings can be considerable. This is the time of year when thieves go 'shopping' for your lawnmower or barbeque, and sell them for quick cash. Please keep sheds and garages secure.

# JULIE'S

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# Ferndale Community Park Group.

I would like to thank, on behalf of the Ferndale Community Park Group, all the people and organisations who supported our first fund-raising effort to improve our park, in particular The Plough. The Bulls Head, The Sports Club and Julie's Hairdressing. We raised £274 with the Music Quiz. We hope that the people of Ratby will support our next event, a walking Treasure Hunt around the village on the 21<sup>st</sup> of August. Tickets will soon be available, priced at £1.50 for adults, purchased in advance, £2.00 on the day of the event and 50p for children. We hope that all groups, companies and pubs within the village will enter teams and support our efforts to make the park a place we can all be proud of.

# JUNE 21st **DID YOU KNOW?**

Famous for being the longest day, but did you know

Queen Victoria celebrated her Jubilee on this day in 1887.



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#### RATBY JUBILEE MUSIC FESTIVAL

The next event to be organised by the Ratby Jubilee Music Festival Committee is:

#### SUMMER BRASS AND VOICES.

The concert will feature The Chantry Choir, Ratby Co-operative Band and Mid Band, Heart of England Barbershop Chorus, Glenfield Co-operative Lady's Choir, with special guests, The Frauenchor Chorgesang Caecilia from Rachtig, Germany.

The concert is to be held at Groby Community College, 7pm Saturday August 20th. Admission is just £2.00. Tickets will be available soon, and will go quickly. Reserve yours by ringing 238 6749.

# **RATBY COMMUNITY ORCHARD TREASURE HUNT**

The Orchard group have planned a village treasure hunt for Tuesday 14th June. The different 'trails' and clues have been set by Roy Holloway, and it promises to be an interesting challenge.

There is a prize for the group with the most correct answers, and a special 'Mystery competition.'

Competitors will all meet up at The Bull's Head afterwards, for a Ploughman's Supper and prize giving.

Join us for the summer wildlife watch, meeting at the Orchard, Taverner Drive, at 7.30 on 17th August Bring a torch, because we hope to hear and spot some bats!

# MOBILE HAIRDRESSER MEN and WOMEN'S STYLIST

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# Rhubarb and Ginger Delight

## Ingredients

8 oz./225 gr. Rhubarb

2 heaped tablespoons chopped stem ginger

2 oz./50 gr. Brown sugar

1 oz./25 gr. Flour

4 oz./115 gr. Sugar

1 oz/25 gr. Butter

1/4 pint milk

2 eggs, separated

## Method

- 1. Heat oven to gas4/350F/160C
- 2. Remove skin from rhubarb, cut into even chunks and mix with ginger and brown sugar. Put into large pie dish
- 3. Rub butter into flour, add 4 oz. sugar and 2 egg yolks, beat with wooden spoon until mixture is smooth.
- 4. Gradually beat in milk
- 5. Whisk egg whites until stiff, then fold gradually into mixture with metal
- 6. Pour over rhubarb in pie dish, and place in middle of oven
- 7. Reduce heat slightly after 15 minutes.
- 8. Bake for 45 minutes until pudding is golden brown.

Scrivener



# **DEADLINE** AUGUST/SEPT. ISSUE No 113 FRIDAY 15th JULY

Editor 239 3367 **Adverts 239 3279** 

Articles may be sent to 3 Ingle Drived LE6 0NN Phone 239 4873 / sueboud@hotmail.com

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