

# WOT !

## About Ratby

PUBLISHED BY RATBY SCOUT GROUP

### CHRISTMAS CAME EARLY THIS YEAR!

1<sup>st</sup> RATBY BROWNIES PACK HOLIDAY 2001.

'Christmas in August! Isn't that a bit stupid?' asked my daughters. But Julie and I had decided that Christmas was going to be the theme for our pack holiday. So on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> August, 15 Brownies, 2 Guiders, 1 parent helper and 3 daughters set off for Johns Lee Wood Scout Camp for 4 days of fun and excitement, as we prepared for Brownie Christmastime.

The girls were split into three groups, Angels, Snowmen and Reindeer, and each group shared tasks on a rota. Leaders became Santa, Fairy and Rudolph, with Tinsel, Star and Santa's elf helping.

Continued on page 2

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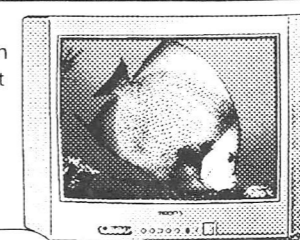
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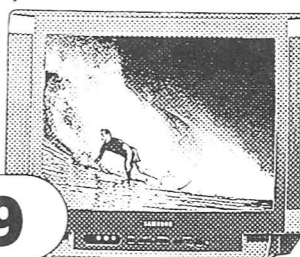
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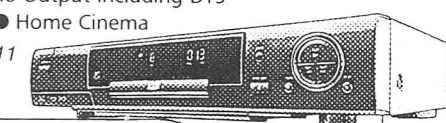
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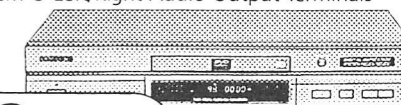
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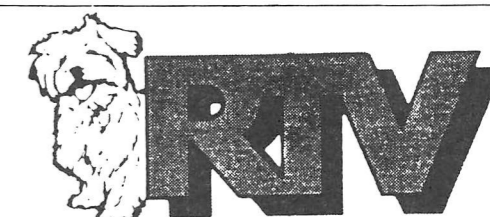
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## RATBY BROWNIES HOLIDAY

There were plenty of craft activities to choose from, but we decided to make felt stockings, clay nativity sets, silver angels, table decorations and crackers, as well as the usual camp essentials such as placemats. The girls enjoyed the activities and produced work of a high standard.

There was plenty of time to do their own thing too... playing rounders, bingo in bed, and bedtime stories.

On Wednesday we enjoyed a huge roast Christmas dinner and chocolate log pudding. Santa managed to visit whilst 18 children slept, and filled stockings with presents.

Although these little girls are individuals, with their own characters, they got on really well. They were a pleasure to take away, and I hope they enjoyed it as much as we did.

On Thursday morning some of the girls made mince pies for the parents, who joined us for refreshments, and to admire our decorations.

Then it was time to give out awards and pack away for leaving.

A lot of work goes into these holidays, planning and preparation, the week away and all the clearing up. But it is always worthwhile when we have such a lovely time.

As usual it wouldn't be possible without my faithful friend and assistant, Julie. Thanks to Alison and Helen for their help on camp. Thanks to Di and Mick Porter for transporting the kit there and back.

Despite the wonderful times I've had with Brownies for 13 years, the time has come for me to finish. Julie is also finishing at Christmas after 6 years. Without leaders the pack will close, and there will be no more meetings and holidays. If you are interested in running the pack please get in touch.  
Marylyn Smith.

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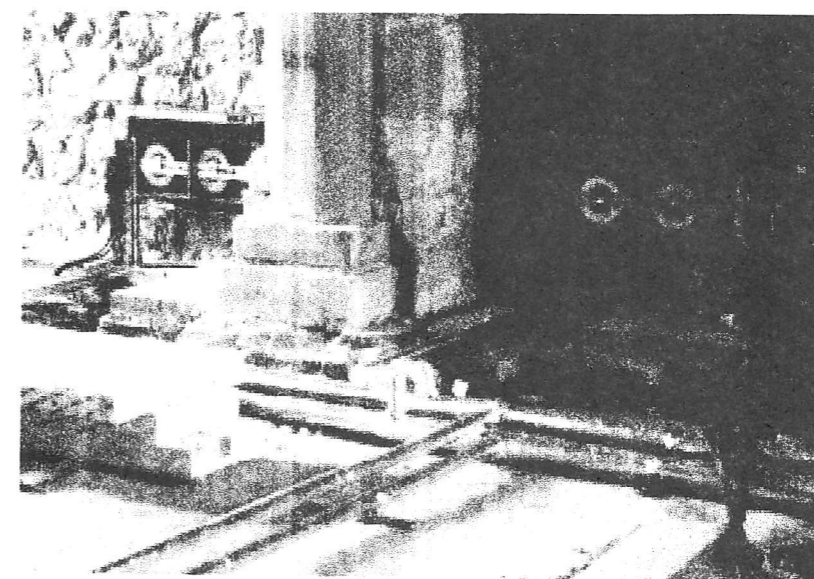
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By mid-October the heating system installation should be complete and the replacement floor should be down as well! This will finally allow the public access to the building again, in its empty and unfinished state. If you come and join us from the 21<sup>st</sup> October you will initially have to put up with plastic furniture, generously loaned from the recently closed Fosse Road Methodist Church! We are working towards reinstalling pews and purchasing comfortable matching chairs, but this will take some months.

Whilst a handful of residents kindly responded to the request for decorating help (see previous edition of WOT), there were not enough with the right qualifications to satisfy health and safety considerations, given the high level of scaffolding to be used. A professional team of decorators has therefore been smartening up the dust-covered plasterwork during September.

The church is holding a gift week in the week beginning Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> October as we seek to bridge the current shortfall of around £7,500. We shall then be giving people the opportunity to 'sponsor a chair or pew' as we work towards the internal layout of which plans are on display in the library.

It is 2 years since the launch of the '3 Steps to the Future' restoration

campaign and just 18 months since the building was closed. In that time, nearly a quarter of a million pounds has been raised to save the church. Whilst there is still a long way to go to complete the campaign, we now know at least that we have secured a watertight, warm and flexible building to serve the needs of the church and community for the next generation! Our thanks to all our supporters.

Rev'd Richard Worsfold, Team Rector

## UPDATE ON THE PARISH CHURCH RESTORATION

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## RATBY COMMUNITY ORCHARD GROUP

November is the best time of year for planting trees, the soil is still warm, and the dormant winter period allows them to develop a good root system.

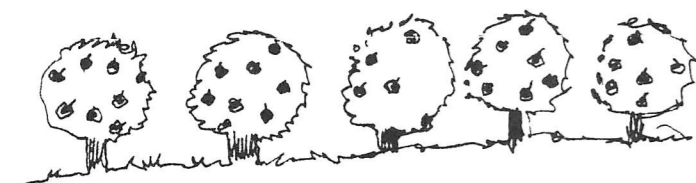
If you are thinking about introducing a tree to your garden, perhaps to provide shade, or as a visual feature, why not plant a fruit tree?

An apple, plum or pear, for example, will provide you with all year round interest. There is the blossom in spring, and the fruit to be harvested in the autumn. If you garden organically you will know there are no pesticide residues on your crop.

Native fruit trees provide a wildlife haven for birds and other creatures too.

Nowadays you can buy trees suitable for smaller gardens too, as well as varieties for training against a wall or fence.

And fruit trees are easier to grow than you might imagine. Contact the Orchard Group through the Parish Council for advice.



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## RATBY CHAMPION!

Vicky Sleath of Danehill in the village has been awarded no less than 5 Gold Medals in the 2001 Special Olympics.

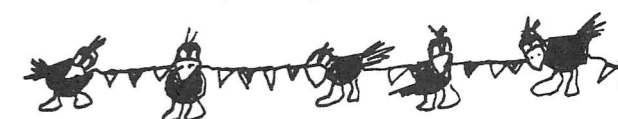
Vicky won a Gold Medal in each of the four classes for Rhythmic Gymnastics which she entered. The fifth Gold medal was awarded for Best All-round Competitor in her class.

She was invited to display her skills with the hoops, balls and ribbons to the audience at the Gala held on the final day.

Vicky practices twice a week, and has had to qualify for her place in the team representing the East Midlands.

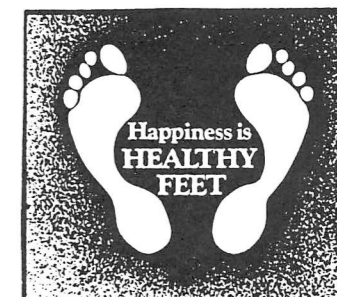
Her mum, Pat is justifiably proud of Vicky. She tells us that Vicky has already resumed training to try and qualify for a place in the next Special Olympics in 2005.

Well done Vicky, and good luck for next time!



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## HALLOWEEN



Nobody wants to stop young people having fun but in recent years there have been a few youngsters who have seen "Trick or

Treat" as an excuse to make nuisances of themselves and even damage property. Perhaps this year it will be all fun and no problems but – just in case - we offer the following advice, having discussed this with PC Reg Varney.

If you are harassed or damage is done to your property there may be something you can do to help the police...

The best way to identify the culprits is to keep a camera or video camera handy and *record them in action*.

Not only will this show the police who the culprits are but in cases where people have caused a mess (such as eggs being thrown at your house) there is a suitable form of redress. If you are *absolutely certain* you know who they are, they can be brought back at another time to clean it up!

And once we know who the people are who spoil things for others, perhaps we should go a stage further and name and shame them in WOT!!

## REMEMBER, REMEMBER...

Continuing the above theme of not spoiling the fun but obeying the law (and staying safe), remember that it is *illegal* to let off fireworks on the street (within five metres of the centre of the carriageway).

Despite the annual safety campaigns there is always someone hurt in accidents that happen at bonfire parties and firework displays. Always follow the safety rules and let us enjoy happy and fun-filled celebrations.



## SNIPPETS



Webmaster Mick Morgan is still waiting to hear from organisations, associations, clubs, businesses and individuals with their ideas and information for the Ratby village website. Please contact Mick at [mick.d.morgan@btinternet.com](mailto:mick.d.morgan@btinternet.com) or drop into the office with your ideas or details. The working site can be seen at [www.btinernet.com/~mick.d.morgan/ratby](http://www.btinernet.com/~mick.d.morgan/ratby)



The first Wimpey houses are starting to appear. The Parish Council is currently in discussion with H&BBC over the landscaping of the new development. We have been advised that the site is of a higher ecological value than had been advised in the survey carried out on behalf of Wimpey and we are doing all that we can to preserve the grassland (towards the rear of the site).



Although it is only September there are already signs of the forthcoming Christmas festivities so we feel it is okay to give early notification of a village competition during the week commencing 17<sup>th</sup> December. There will be prizes for the best decorated front windows (with different categories for shops and residences). Watch for the details in the village and the next edition of WOT!

## INTRODUCING...

The Parish Council is delighted to announce the appointment of a new Clerk to the Council. **Mrs Sue Neilson** has taken on the role from Maureen Martin, who has now returned to Ireland. We wish Sue all the best in her new role.

## NAILING OUR COLOURS TO THE MAST!

The latest problem facing the village is the proposed installation of two satellite (cell phone) masts. Legally, there is nothing to stop the applicants from putting the masts wherever they want and the Council simply received "notices of intent"

explaining that permitted rights were being exercised. We recognise that there is an increase in the use of mobile phones and that there are currently areas in the village where it is difficult to get a signal but the Council feels that the two locations chosen are inappropriate and a number of villagers agree. The first proposal is for a mast 10 metres high complete with antenna, dish and equipment cabinet to be positioned on the highway verge



of Groby Road. Not only would this be visually intrusive but it is also on a direct school route. A petition signed by 106 residents has been sent to the Planning Department at Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council.

The second mast is to be 15 metres high (again with antenna, dish and equipment cabinet) to be located at Ena End House Paddock. (In order to see the announcement giving information about the application it was necessary to walk through nettles to see the notice pinned onto the back of a post!) A mast in this position would be completely unnatural as it is a woodland setting and, again, it would cause a visual intrusion. A petition with 114 signatures has been submitted to H&BBC.

## WHATEVER HAPPENED TO...

### PETITION FOR TRAFFIC CALMING

This petition was signed by people who would like to see some form of traffic calming along Groby Road and Main Street, particularly around the bend approaching the school (coming from Groby). This was submitted to the County Council last December (!) and we are still awaiting a response...

### TRAFFIC AND PARKING SURVEY

Following the survey of all the parking problems in Church Lane, Chapel Lane and Berry's Lane a full report was submitted to the County Council in April. This has been acknowledged and is to be discussed at a forthcoming meeting...

### PLANS TO MAKE THE VILLAGE MORE ATTRACTIVE

By the time you read this there should be stone planters at strategic points in the village, provided at a very reasonable cost by Alexandra Stone. There will be winter planting and plans are already afoot to make the village a very pretty place next summer...

**HELP KEEP THE ROADS CLEAR:** When visiting the village during the daytime, remember that you can park in the Sports Club car park.

*Want to have a go on the computer in the library but don't know where to start?*

**HELP IS AT HAND!**

A tutor will be available at the library on **FRIDAY OCTOBER 12<sup>TH</sup>** from 2.30 pm to 5.30 pm

Why not drop in for free advice on how to get started?



Please inform the Parish Council office if you would like to attend.

## RATBY VILLAGE SOCIETY FAMILY HISTORY

The traditional July Sunday afternoon outing this year attracted a record number of thirty participants. We travelled just over the border into Derbyshire to visit Melbourne Hall, a still occupied small stately home of charming proportions. It was the birthplace of William Lamb, a Prime Minister in Victoria's reign, who, as Lord Melbourne, gave his name to the city in Australia. In the 17<sup>th</sup> century Thomas Coke employed royal gardeners to create a garden in the French style, with walks and vistas in geometric patterns, having many statues, but few flowers. The gardens have been restored in this style once again. One of the splendours is the delicate wrought iron arbour of 1708 for which its creator, Robert Bakewell became much in demand for his craftsmanship. Nearby is one of the finest examples of Norman Church in the country, which has fortunately undergone very little alteration since it was built in the 12<sup>th</sup> century.



We were back indoors in August for a talk by Michael and Mrs Joyce Billings, who gave us a broad insight into what is claimed as the fastest growing hobby in the country, that of tracing family history.

A local branch of the Family History Society has over 3000 members and a website to assist those involved in the fascinating but often frustrating quest of tracing one's ancestors. Frustrating because many birth and marriage certificates are not always truthful. Those who gave details to the Registrar were sometimes anxious to cover up past misdeeds!

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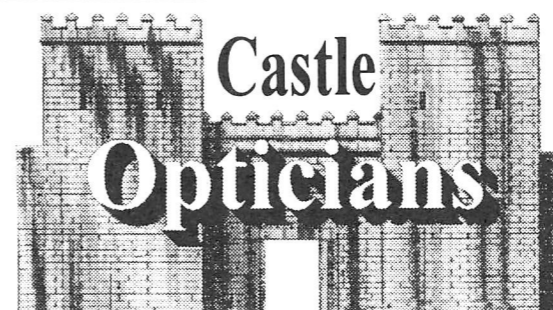
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## RATBY NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

In three years Neighbourhood Watch has substantially increased its coverage of the village, passing on information about local criminal activity through co-ordinators to their street members. With the full support of the Police (and in particular our local beat bobby PC Varney) we have been able, among other things, to offer ideas on how to keep homes secure, and how to deal with unwelcome doorstep callers.

Neighbourhood Watch has also fostered awareness of the need to look out for our neighbours, especially those living alone.

### Spreading the Word

However, in the firm belief that wider distribution of information must be beneficial, it is proposed that periodical Neighbourhood Watch Bulletins will be posted on notice boards and in some shops and pubs from September.

However, this is no substitute for your street being in a N.W. scheme with its own co-ordinator, and updates at regular meetings.

Dates of meetings are posted in Rathy Library. But the Bulletins will help to make information available to as many residents as possible.



### POLICE CAN YOU HELP?

Leicestershire Police now have a web-site with a range of information. There are pages on news and events, safety, local policing, careers, and race and communities.

You can also view appeals for help, on the Can you Help Page, which features pictures of people wanted for help with enquiries.

Click onto;  
<http://www.leics.police.uk/index.asp>

All is not lost if you are not on the 'NET' You can still contact our local PC Maurice Varney on 0116 248 5675, voice mail box number 228# or CRIMESTOPPERS, which is free and anonymous, on 0800 555 111

## VILLAGE EVENTS DIARY

We have been given a recent update covering the variety of social and other events which are taking place in the village over the next four months. Please watch out for more details of these events on individual notices as they appear around the village.

NB :- We are only able to publish details which have been made known to us.

DATE & TIME	EVENT	ORGANISERS	VENUE
<b>OCTOBER</b>			
Sat 6 <sup>th</sup> - tba	Celebration Concert	Ratby Band	Bosworth College
Sun 7 <sup>th</sup> - 10.00am	Harvest Festival	Parish Church	Parish Church
Wed 10 <sup>th</sup> - 7.45pm	AGM & Games	Women's Institute	Village Hall
Tues 16 <sup>th</sup> - 8.00pm	Arctic Fellowship Work	Village Society	Village Hall
<b>NOVEMBER</b>			
Sun 11 <sup>th</sup> - 10.00am	Remembrance Day Service	Parish Church	Parish Church
Wed 14 <sup>th</sup> - 7.45pm	Talk/Demo – Gift Wrapping	Women's Institute	Village Hall
Sat 17 <sup>th</sup> - 7.30pm	Barn Dance	Parish Church	Church Rooms
Tues 20 <sup>th</sup> - 8.00pm	Social Evening	Village Society	Village Hall
Fri 23 <sup>rd</sup> - 7.30pm	Christmases In Ratby Past	History Group	Village Hall
<b>DECEMBER</b>			
Sat 1 <sup>st</sup> - 2.00pm	Scouts Christmas Bazaar	Scout Group	Village Hall
Sat 8 <sup>th</sup> - 10.00am	Christmas Bazaar	Methodist Church	Chapel Rooms
Wed 12 <sup>th</sup> - 7.45pm	Christmas Party	Women's Institute	Village Hall
Mon 17 <sup>th</sup> (to Fri)	Christmas Window Competition	Parish Council	Whole Village
Wed 19 <sup>th</sup> - 7.30pm	Carols Around The Tree	Parish Council	Village Hall
<b>JANUARY</b>			
Tues 15 <sup>th</sup> - 8.00pm	Illustrated Talk – A River Walk Along The Nene	Village Society	Village Hall
Fri 25 <sup>th</sup> - 7.30pm	Old Bottle Finds	History Group	Village Hall

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## RATBY CO-OPERATIVE BAND A LITTLE HISTORY

It is uncertain when Ratby Band was first formed. Until recently it was thought that the Band came into being in 1906, but recently discovered archive material suggests that a band existed in Ratby over one hundred years before that date.

Way back then band members could never have imagined the current successes. In the 1960s the rise to fame began with a climb from the fourth to Championship Section in just ten years.

In more recent times Ratby Co-operative Band has been very successful, both at home and overseas. In 1988 the Band gained sponsorship from the Members Relations Department of The Co-operative Society, and a strong bond has developed. The Band Promotes the Society far and wide in exchange for solid support.

There are over one hundred Band members now, in various groups, and youth training remains an important priority.

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## RECIPE

### BAKED STUFFED LIVER

#### Ingredients

225gr (8oz) lamb's liver  
75gr (3oz) streaky bacon  
150ml (1/4 pint) chicken stock  
Stuffing  
75gr (3oz) breadcrumbs  
1 small onion, chopped  
1 large mushroom, skinned and chopped  
1/4 tsp. Mixed herbs  
1 tsp. Chopped parsley  
Salt and pepper to taste  
1 beaten egg

#### Method

1. Wash liver, cut into slices and toss in seasoned flour
2. Lay liver in greased baking tin
3. Mix stuffing ingredients and spread over liver
4. Place rashers of bacon over stuffing
5. Pour stock over
6. Cover completely with foil
7. Bake gently for 40 minutes in oven at 180 C/350F/ gas mark 4
8. Serve with jacket potatoes and baked jacket potatoes

#### Scrivener

