

DECEMBER 2007 / JANUARY 2008

ISSUE 127



WOT!

About Ratby

PUBLISHED BY RATBY SCOUT GROUP



CHRISTMAS PAST

Village memories c 1910-1920, as told by Alf Hunt
to Ratby History Group

Alf was born in Berrys Lane Ratby in 1904.

'I used to go with my mother to Leicester in a brake pulled by two horses, and because there were too many people inside I would sit on the top whatever the weather, along with my brother and friends. My mother used to shop at Leicester Market for lunch, which was usually a cockerel and a variety of vegetables. She made the Christmas pudding herself and put a silver threepenny piece in for the lucky one.

I remember we sang carols and had the Christmas stories at Chapel and school. I used to go Christmas sensing along with a few friends to Kirby Muxloe, to "the big houses." The "toffs" were more generous on Christmas Eve, possibly because they were quite happy after a few drinks. On one occasion me and my friends were invited inside to sing, and I remember they had a lovely big fire and it was very posh. The money we received was spent on chocolate from a machine on the wall at Ratby railway station.

When I first started working at the pit, aged 14, I remember on my first Christmas, walking home with a crowd of miners. They stopped at a Botcheston pub, (probably 'The Greyhound') and because I was too young I had to sit outside guarding the presents they were taking home for their families. I remember they came out of the pub very merry and sang carols all the way home. I had two brothers and three sisters, and we each used to hang up a long stocking on Christmas Eve. On Christmas morning there would be an orange, an apple and some chocolate inside each one. We were never given toys as my Mum and Dad couldn't afford them. We didn't give each other presents either.

Sometimes we would visit our grandparents in Stamford Street on Christmas Day. I don't remember doing anything really special over the Christmas period. Boxing Day meant the left over cold meat to which they added pickles. The Quorn Hunt used to meet sometimes and we used to follow them up the Burroughs.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS and A HAPPY NEW YEAR

To all of our readers from the 'Wot' team, our
Contributors and advertisers



RTV of RATBY SALE now on!

*LG 42" Plasma TV	£699.99
*PANASONIC TH37PX70 PLASMA TV	£999.99
*TOSHIBA 42" LCD +Glass Stand and DVD player	£1499.99
*DYSON DCO7 Animal	£249.99
*TOSHIBA DVD Recorder DR 160	£139.99
*BOSCH 1600 Spin WFR3268B	£499.99
*SHARP 46" LCD +glass stand.	£1299.99
*SONY 32" LCD +glass stand and DVD Recorder	£999.99
*CREDA TR322 Dryer	£139.99
*BOSCH KTR 18424 Refrigerator	£199.99

AND MANY MORE OFFERS!

Prices include local Delivery

* All Christmas Lights now ½ Marked Price *

CALL 239 4544 NOW!!!

Or visit our showroom
at 23-27 Station Road, Ratby

A. GOODWIN

CARPENTRY, JOINERY &
PROPERTY REPAIRS

0116 2387316 OR
MOBILE 0777 987 2211

FITTED KITCHENS, BEDROOMS & BATHROOMS

PLUMBING

TIMBER & UPVC WINDOWS / DOORS &
PORCHES

FENCING & GATES

DECORATING, FLOOR & WALL TILING

PLASTERING & COVING

FASCIAS / SOFFITS & GUTTERING

SOLID & LAMINATE FLOORING

RADIATOR COVERS

PLUS ALL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE & REPAIRS

NO JOB TOO SMALL

**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



RATBY CHEMIST LTD.

58 MAIN STREET LE6 0LL

***FREE PRESCRIPTION COLLECTION
SERVICE! ***

From surrounding surgeries.
JUST PHONE US ON 239 3139 with your
requirements. We will process your
prescription with the surgery.
All you do is **COLLECT IT** from us, or we can
deliver to your home if needed.
You can e mail us with requirements;
Ratbychemistltd@aol.com

News from St Philip and St James.

For those of you who are a similar age to the writer – deduct 30 from whatever number came into your mind I'm still young at heart!! – you may be able to remember one of the old BT adverts encouraging us to keep in touch which went 'It's good to talk'. Well, I've been thinking about communication which is a two way thing. At the beginning of October we had a super Harvest Festival when we gave thanks for all the good things we have around us. After the service several members of the congregation took the harvest produce out to people in the village as a gift, and just to let them know they weren't forgotten. I don't know who enjoyed it the most – the recipients or the deliverers!

At the same time, the facility for people to get in touch with us and to be aware of what we're doing is being used more and more. I'm talking about our website of course. Have you looked at it yet? If not, and you have access to a computer, you can go to www.bradgateteam.org.uk and there you'll find loads of information about what's happening at your parish church. Soon you'll be able to find information about our Christmas events when we hope to see many more people from the village as we celebrate this great time together.



MAJIC L
DRIVING TUITION

CHRIS ATKINSON FULLY QUALIFIED A.D.I.

- QUALITY INSTRUCTION AT AFFORDABLE PRICES
- EXPERT AND FRIENDLY TUITION ALL DRIVERS PUT AT EASE
- PASS PLUS REGISTERED
- THEORY TEST HELP AND ADVICE
- ONE HOUR, ONE AND A HALF, AND TWO HOUR LESSONS
- ONE TO ONE TUITION IN A NEW AIR CONDITIONED CAR
- MOTORWAY LESSONS

PASS PROMISE: SHOULD YOU FAIL YOUR FIRST TEST YOUR
NEXT TEST WILL BE FREE OF CHARGE WHAT HAVE YOU TO
LOSE CALL CHRIS ON 07958387633 OR 0116 2390199

LEST WE FORGET

Following our article on 'Remembering Ratby's War dead in the last issue, Phil Plant rang up to tell us a story about how he and late wife Violet set off to find where her Uncle Harry was buried. Thanks to a helpful bookseller they discovered his grave near to the famous Pegasus Bridge.

Ratby Band have played tributes for our local lost service men in both Netherlands' and Belgian War cemeteries.

RATBY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The ladies of Ratby Women's Institute invite you to join us. The Institute has been in the village for over 60 years, and we meet on the second Wednesday of each month at the Village Hall, Main Street, at 7.30.

We are a friendly, informal group, and we are a great way to get involved in village life and make new friends.

So if you would like an interesting and stress free evening out, phone us on **238 6398**, or drop into one of our evenings.

DID YOU GO FOR A WEEKEND AWAY LATE
OCTOBER?

DID YOU LEAVE YOUR WEEKEND CASE
PACKED WITH GREAT GEAR
IN MARKFIELD ROAD?
IF SO PLEASE RING
2392464

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

RATBY SPORTS JFC UNDER 6'S DEBUT MATCH

On Saturday 17th November Ratby Sports junior football club under sixes played their first friendly match against Ibstock under sixes. The club has 20 boys and played two teams.

The first match was a draw at 2-2 and the goal scorers for Ratby were George Cooper and William Dunlop. The game was very evenly matched with the ball at both ends; some great saves were made by Ratby keeper Daniel Allison that kept the scores level.

The second game kicked off shortly after and the goal scorers for Ratby were Matthew Bedder, Elliott Hodson, and Billy Jackson. The game was hard fought and Ratby had to dig deep, Ratby came from 4-1 behind to equalise the game at 4-4, but in the second half found themselves 8-4 behind. The game finished with Ratby losing 8-6 and a hat trick from Elliott Hodson rounded off a very pleasing result for their first game. Ratby's keeper Tyler Hobbs managed some good saves despite getting injured in the second half.

Ratby Sports JFC would like to thank all the parents, families, and friends for a great turnout to support our team, and also Paul Dawsell and Gary Brooks for stepping in as referees at short notice. Also a great big thank you to Mark Poulton from Pollsport for his hard work in preparing the new kit at such short notice. On a personnel note a big thank you to Garry Cooper and Daniel Barber for all their help with coaching the team each week and also Shaun Lang from the club for preparing the pitch.

We will be arranging further friendly games in the future, as the boys are too young to play in a competitive league, so please come down to the sports club and support our stars of the future.

**Sean Bown,
Team manager.**



RATBY PARISH COUNCIL

The LDF (Local Development Framework) certainly got a few people stirred up. So much so that HBBC decided they needed to make a special presentation in the village on the day before their travelling exhibition arrived at the library. The presentation was duly made immediately before the October parish council meeting. Judging by the numbers of people who had enquired in the parish office the council booked a larger room for its meeting and advertised the HBBC presentation throughout the village. Sadly only five people heard the clear explanation of the consultation process, the content of the various documents, and the likely affect on Ratby. It is to be hoped that more interest will be expressed in the Village Design Statement which starts shortly with a village meeting and results in a document which is an adjunct to the LDF etc.

Grounds Maintenance

The most high profile item of business for the council at present is preparing to go out to tender for grounds maintenance, both *mowing and tree work*, for which a specification is being prepared. All your contributions to this process

will be appreciated even though they may not appear in the final specification. *This council chooses to act on the basis of available knowledge*, so share yours with the Clerk by mid-November please. Our thanks to the three people who have already contributed.

Reduction in Disturbance

Our thanks go also to PC Justin Hayes and his colleagues for the reduction in drink related disturbance in the village. Please continue to be vigilant and report any drink or drug related incidents to the police on 222 2222 (ext 0344) including as much detail as you can. Did you know that PC Hayes is running a series of police surgeries in the village? No, we thought not because nobody turned up to the first one. This is an opportunity to get to know Justin and to tell him about the things that worry you – don't waste it.

Finally, the really boring but important bit your Parish Council has decided to meet on the first Tuesday of every month in 2008 at 19:15 at the usual venue. The only exception being January 2008 when the meeting will be held on the second Tuesday – if you check your calendars you'll be able to guess why.

PROPOSED PLANNING CHANGE

The current planning system allows people to be a part of the decision making process. We can have our say on proposals for major developments such as **roads, nuclear power stations, wind farms, airports, and incinerators**.

But reforms proposed in the Government's White Paper on planning will remove our democratic right to challenge projects at public enquiry. In fact it goes further: some planning decisions will be taken out of the hands of accountable politicians and handed over to an unelected, unaccountable new body called the **Infrastructure Planning Commission**.

Does this worry you? Then tell our member of parliament how you feel. He is

Rt Hon. Stephen Dorrell MP

House of Commons

LONDON

SW1A 0AA

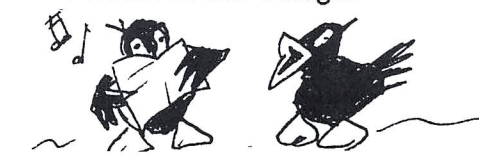
RATBY BAND IN FESTIVE SPIRIT

The Bands will be very busy during the season. As well as playing carols around the Ratby tree, members of the Band will continue their tradition of playing around the village from 10 a.m. on December 16th. There will be an evening of Christmas Music in Ratby, 7.30 on December 22nd, and the annual New Year Concert in Ratby Church on January 12th.

For details contact Malcolm Pounder on 238 6749

CHRISTMAS IN RATBY

Your Parish Council has arranged for a suitably decorated Christmas tree to be placed by the war memorial during the first week in December. We shall expect to meet you all around the tree for the traditional Carol singing on **Wednesday 19th December at 6.30pm**. Our thanks to all those who are contributing to the evening, not least the two churches, members of the Ratby Co-operative Band, the school, and the Village Hall committee who are serving a warming cup after the event. Let's keep this tradition alive and make a joyful noise in the heart of our village.



HIS and HERS

LADIES AND GENTS HAIR DRESSING

OAPs REDUCED RATES

Appointments not always necessary.

156 STATION ROAD, RATBY
239 4429

PORTER'S DISCOUNT CARPETS

121/3 STATION ROAD, RATBY
TEL. 239 3238/239 5202
MOBILE 0860 551142

*Wishing all of our
Customers a warm
Happy Christmas*



JULIE'S HAIRDRESSING

MAIN STREET RATBY

CELEBRATING 30
YEARS IN THE VILLAGE

Traditional and Modern Styling

Telephone 239 2406



OAKLANDS RIDING SCHOOL

WE CATER FOR EVERYONE FROM
THE NOVICE TO EXPERIENCED RIDER

All weather riding area
Ring Julie on 238 7570



MELSWAY DRIVING SCHOOL Est. 1991

*BEST WISHES for CHRISTMAS
And A HAPPY NEW YEAR
From MEL to all past, present and future clients*

Telephone 238 6149 3 Barton Close, Ratby.

VILLAGE SOCIETY NOTES.

In September John Ogleby spoke to us about his work with the Leprosy Mission Charity. He based his talk around the 'myths' surrounding leprosy.

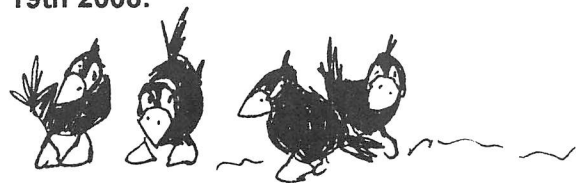
The aim of the Leprosy Mission Charity is to treat the disease, working towards a vaccine and to provide disability aids and support and training for sufferers. Over half the worldwide budget of £14,000,000 is raised in the United Kingdom. Members' purchases from a sale table went towards the cost of this work, at the end of an illuminating meeting.

The subject of October's talk was "Complementary Therapies and How They Work". After remarking on the vibrancy of the group awaiting her (apparently evident as soon as she entered the hall) Glynis Wilmore led us through a variety of therapies.

There is no meeting in December.

On January 15th 2008 Andy Cereseto will interview more local people in our "Personalities revealed" series.

The AGM, followed by a supper, is on February 19th 2008.



THE SERVICE GARAGE

MAIN STREET, RATBY
M.O.T TESTS
CARS (PETROL and DIESEL)

M.O.T. HOURS 9.00-4.15 Monday-Friday
Closed for lunch 1-2
TELEPHONE 239 4966

A.H.COLEY

Plumbing and Heating Repairs
New Installations, Bathrooms, Showers

For a full range of Services contact;
4 Saxons Rise
RATBY LE6 ONF
Telephone 239 4277

RATBY LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

At our November meeting Cynthia Brown talked about 'Victorian Christmases in Leicestershire' Members were invited to share their own memories.

Our next meeting will be on Friday January 25th in the Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. We will be hearing from Tony Lenney all about 'What's in a name.' This will be followed by a test on the origins of local Ratby place names.

Christmas is coming! Why not treat family or friends to a copy of 'The History of Ratby: Volume 2'? The book contains Dennis Green's recollections of the village in the 1930s/40s; the story of Geary's, champion bakers; The Toil and Troubles of Francis Pittman, headmaster of Ratby Board School 1875-79; Annie Astill, the smallest sub-postmistress in England and an article about the effects of the Enclosure Act OF 1770 UPON Ratby's landscape and people.

161 pages for just £10 per copy! You can buy one at the Post Office, or by phoning **239 4168**



LETTERS to the EDITOR

Dear Editor

There is space in the village hall for five more women (or men if they've got the courage) of any age, to spend one hour from 11 am on Tuesday mornings moving to music. We don't try to be Camilla Dallerup (or Brendan Cole) we just have fun keeping fit & flexible. If we don't get some more people this village activity will cease at Easter. It would be great to welcome some new faces in 2008; so how about it? Turn up and try it!

Carol

Name and Address supplied

Dear Editor,

I was wondering if it was possible to put a small announcement & photo in the next magazine that my new baby daughter has been born. So many customers wanted me to let them know all the details and so thought it would be nice if i could let them know though the magazine in which they first discovered me & Paul's Quality Electrics!

Emily Jane Pauline Rumble was born on 22nd October 2007 at 2.55pm at LRI weighing 7lb 9oz.

Thanks in advance
Paul & Mel

(Think this is a first for 'wot!' Editor)

Here are the proud parents Paul Rumble & Mel Mantle With baby Emily.



Dear Editor,
'Mill Drive Post Box'



It is nice to know that the Parish Council is working for us. The old post box outside 'His and Hers' Hairdressing has been closed since March 2007 due to a defect in the wall. The clerk to the Council has repeatedly written to the Post Office asking for a replacement. This has now been done, with a box placed at the top of Mill Drive.

Many thanks from a grateful resident.
Name and Address supplied

**BATTERIES
& STRAPS**

**FITTED WHILE
YOU WAIT**

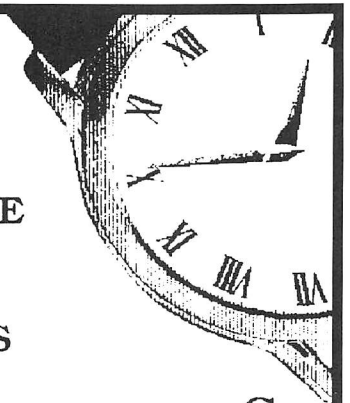
ALL BRANDS

SYKES JEWELLERS

8 Bradgate Road, Anstey

Tel: 0116 236 2510

www.sykesjewellers.co.uk



"Everything From A Blown Fuse To A Complete Rewire"

PAULS QUALITY ELECTRICS

Your Local, Fully Qualified City & Guilds
ELECTRICIAN



Upgrading Old Fuse Boxes - Rewires - Alarm Systems
New Sockets & Lighting - All Domestic & Commercial Electrics

Call Paul Rumble on: (0116) 2872338
MOBILE: 0798 0911 869 Website: www.pqelectrics.com

DEADLINE for issue 128
FEBRUARY/MARCH 2008
FRIDAY 18th JANUARY

EDITOR 239 3367

ADVERTS 239 3279

ARTICLES 239 4873

Articles may be sent to 3 Ingle Drive

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2008

ISSUE 128



WOT!

About Ratby

PUBLISHED BY RATBY SCOUT GROUP



WASSAIL! WASSAIL!

There was a good turn out of over 20 members for the sixth Ratby Wassail at the village Community Orchard on Taverner Drive. We met at The Railway Inn before starting the traditional noisy procession to the orchard.

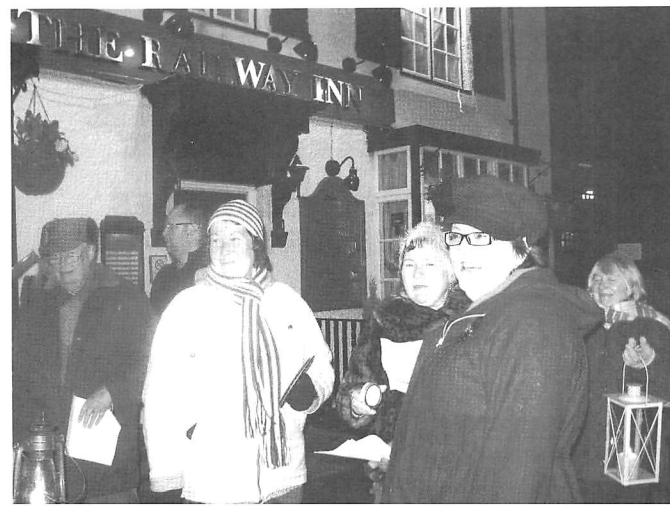
Leicester Orphean Orchestra musicians provided the music for the wassail songs as we circled the trees.

The traditional 'toast' was performed to ensure a good crop of apples in the coming year, and the group gathered round the wheelbarrow barbecue for roasted chestnuts and potatoes.

Then it was back to the Railway Inn to present the 'good luck' tray of evergreens to the landlady in customary style.

If you would like to join the Orchard Group and help us to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Orchard this year, please ring Steve or Sue on 239 4873.

Wassailers gather outside the pub before heading off to the Orchard.



VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT FOR RATBY

What is a village Design Statement?

It is a document which sets out clear and simple guidance for the design of any future development for Ratby, based on its character, history, and surrounding countryside. It is important that it represents the views of the village as a whole.

Who produces the Village Design Statement for Ratby?

The people of Ratby do. They research, develop, write and edit it.

What are the benefits to Ratby villagers?

By describing the character and distinctiveness of Ratby it will offer a positive way for local people to ensure that the nature and quality of development makes a natural progression from village past into the future.

How can I become involved?

A team of Ratby villagers are in the process of producing a Village Design Statement, and will welcome you to join them at any of the meetings. Frequency of meetings has yet to be finalised, but they are held in the evenings to enable working people to attend.

Please phone **239 5350** for details of future meetings.

Jayne Rayne

RATBY SCOUTS NEW DISTRICT NAME

The group is now to be called 'South West Leicester.' On November 19th our District Commissioner and his Deputy came along to the Beavers and Cubs to present them with their new District Badge. The new badge of the Hindustani Tiger was chosen from a Royal

RTV of Ratby CLOSING DOWN SALE EVERYTHING MUST GO!

TVs, DVD Recorders, Washing Machines,
Freezers, Fridges, Kettles, Toasters etc.

All stock to be sold by 26th February 2008

CALL IN OR PHONE 239 4544



Fitness Through Movement, Exercise and Dance

KFA Body Moves®

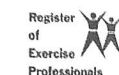
- Move your body, challenge your mind and meet new friends at the same time
- Body Moves classes are planned and taught by fully qualified KFA teachers, providing a well balanced session of workouts that really do get you moving
- No experience required, just the willingness to take part
- A whole body approach to keeping healthy and one that has to be experienced by all ages

Contact Mo Watson

Tel: **0116 2669358**

Classes at:

Barkby Village Hall	Monday 7.30-8.30pm
Ratby Village Hall	Tuesday 11.00-12.00 noon
St Crispins Church Hall	Tuesday 8.15-9.15pm



KFA Body Moves is a registered trade name of The Keep Fit Association. The KFA is supported by Sport England, is a member of the Register of Exercise Professionals and is a Training Provider for NCFE accredited courses in teaching Fitness through Movement and Dance to Level 3. Visit us at www.KeepFit.org.uk



JULIE'S HAIRDRESSING

MAIN STREET RATBY

Traditional and Modern Styling

Telephone 239 2406

MAJIC L
DRIVING TUITION

CHRIS ATKINSON FULLY QUALIFIED A.D.I.

- QUALITY INSTRUCTION AT AFFORDABLE PRICES
- EXPERT AND FRIENDLY TUITION ALL DRIVERS PUT AT EASE
- PASS PLUS REGISTERED
- THEORY TEST HELP AND ADVICE
- ONE HOUR, ONE AND A HALF, AND TWO HOUR LESSONS
- ONE TO ONE TUITION IN A NEW AIR CONDITIONED CAR
- MOTORWAY LESSONS

PASS PROMISE: SHOULD YOU FAIL YOUR FIRST TEST YOUR NEXT TEST WILL BE FREE OF CHARGE WHAT HAVE YOU TO LOSE CALL CHRIS ON 07958387633 OR 0116 2390199

A. GOODWIN

CARPENTRY, JOINERY &
PROPERTY REPAIRS

0116 2387316 OR
MOBILE 0777 987 2211

FITTED KITCHENS, BEDROOMS & BATHROOMS

PLUMBING

TIMBER & UPVC WINDOWS / DOORS &
PORCHES

FENCING & GATES

DECORATING, FLOOR & WALL TILING

PLASTERING & COVING

FASCIAS / SOFFITS & GUTTERING

SOLID & LAMINATE FLOORING

RADIATOR COVERS

PLUS ALL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE & REPAIRS

NO JOB TOO SMALL

THE LADIES CIRCLE

The Ladies Circle at the Methodist Church meet on the first Monday evening of each month at 7.30. We are a mixed bunch both in age and character who relax together for a couple of hours and follow a varied programme - all good fun. We welcome any lady to join us - you are sure to see a face you know so don't be shy.

The programme for the rest of the year is as follows:-

February 15th Silent Auction
March 3rd Planning evening for a
Forties night we are holding in October to raise
funds for a charity.
April 7th Beatle Drive



RATBY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

In December we held our Christmas party. We enjoyed a buffet supper and were entertained by a magician. The evening ended with members joining together to sing carols.

The New Year started with an informal meeting of tea, chat and a fun quiz.

Our next meeting is on 13th February at the Village Hall, Main Street at 7.30 p.m. If you are interested in joining us call in on the evening or telephone the President on 238 6398

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

ART EXHIBITION AND CRAFT FAIR NOVEMBER 18th 2007

We would like to thank everyone who helped make this event such a success. From visitors who made an enormous effort to come despite appalling weather conditions, to those who gave their time and energy so generously and wholeheartedly.

Ladies from the WI did a tremendous job and were kept very busy serving cups of tea and home baked refreshments, and generally helping to keep the atmosphere friendly and relaxed

The standard of art and craft work was excellent and such a delight to find so much talent locally.

Please keep up the good work and get started on a new piece, or enter for the first time (maximum of 3 pieces, £1 entry fee for each) at our next exhibition and fair.

This will be held in the Village Hall, Main Street, on **Sunday 16th November 2008**. Make a note in your diary now! Everyone welcome. We look forward to seeing you.

Ratby Village Society Anti-litter Group.

RATBY SCHOOL REUNION

Following the success of last year's get together, I am arranging another one for this year.

It will be held on **Friday May 16th** in the same venue; **Caterpillar Sports and Social Club in Desford**.

There will be a small charge of £1 per head towards the cost of room hire.

Come along and enjoy a chat, a look through old photos, and try to work out who everyone is! There will be drinks and nibbles. Help us to make it another enjoyable night.

Contact me on **01455 282504**, or mobile phone;
07770 863 061. Or e-mail me at;
John.cavendish@btopenworld.com

John Cavendish

SPRING IS COMING

We are looking for a village photo that captures the essence of spring for our next front page! Check the deadline on page 7 for contact details.

Porter's Discount Carpets

121/3 STATION ROAD, RATBY

TELEPHONE 239 3238 or 239 5202. MOBILE 07860 551142

QUALITY AT THE
RIGHT PRICE



SHOP AT HOME
SERVICE



Laminated Flooring

FREE FITTING
ON ALL CARPETS
EXCEPT REMNANTS



GEORGIAN
CARPETS

PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Effort rewarded

On a cold winter evening two intrepid parish councillors toured Ratby seeking festive decorations which would appeal most to children. The displays chosen by the "Ratby two" have received a small token of appreciation for their contribution to the festive spirit. Congratulations go to Mr & Mrs Murray of Markfield Road and Mr Kiffin of Nicholas Drive; Mr & Mrs Scowan of Church Lane and Mr Parker of Brook Drive; Mr & Mrs Greening of Markfield Road, Mr & Mrs Marston of Middlebrook Close, Mr & Mrs Cullen of Dane Hill, and Mr Tate of Station Road.

Joyful noise

Churches Together and Ratby Parish Council are pleased to report that the traditional Carol singing round the Christmas tree was well attended; once again our thanks go to those who contributed to the success of the event. A collecting tin was passed around and a donation of £52.46 for Scope was received; this is an excellent result. We kept the tradition alive, we made a joyful noise in the heart of our village, and we helped someone else along the way. Shall we do it again next year? And if we do, will you bring a friend?



**OAKLANDS
RIDING SCHOOL**

WE CATER FOR EVERYONE FROM
THE NOVICE TO EXPERIENCED RIDER

All weather riding area
Ring Julie on 238 7570

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 238 4277

Annual Parish Meeting

The Local Government Act 1972 decrees that every English Parish must have an annual parish meeting between 1 March and 1 June. A parish meeting is not a meeting of the parish council it is a meeting of the local government electors for the whole parish – where will we find a room large enough to hold such an event?

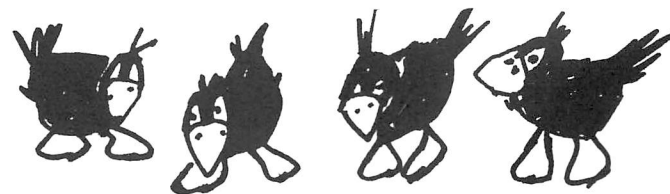
A parish meeting may discuss and pass resolutions on the public activities and policies of any local authority, public body, government department or public service provided that they affect the parish specifically.

If the parish has a parish council then the Clerk to that council will assemble the agenda which must be published up to 28 days (depending on the nature of the discussions) before the meeting.

The annual Ratby parish meeting will be held on Wednesday 23rd April 2008. Notice of the agenda will be posted on Wednesday 26th March 2008.

Ratby Rates

The parish council has agreed to ask for a precept of £93,000 for the forthcoming year 2008/2009; this is an increase of just 28.61p per elector for the year.



HIS and HERS

**LADIES AND GENTS
HAIR DRESSING**
OAPs REDUCED RATES
Appointments not always necessary.

156 STATION ROAD, RATBY
238 4428

Village Society Notes

To round off 2007 we all enjoyed a "bring and share" supper, followed by team games which involved some mental agility and mirth. We were also pleased to welcome P.C. Justin Hayes and colleague who spent some time getting to know us and vice versa.

At the start of the New Year Andy Cereseto presented another of his very successful "Personalities Revealed" interviews. "Volunteers" to be interviewed came from suggestions by Village Society members and proved to be a most interesting choice. Their lives, interests and achievements were revealed by Andy's careful questioning.

Horace Gamble was the first in the chair. Born in Leicester, he has lived in Ratby for twenty-one years. He talked about his work as a draughtsman and architect, with a short break for National Service in the Navy. His early interest in drawing and railways continued in later life as he became a keen painter, photographer and founder of the Leicester Railway Society. He has also been very active in the Church community, serving as Church Warden among many other duties.

Brian Rayne was also born in Leicester, into a family whose roots were in the north-east of England. After serving an apprenticeship in engineering he worked for various companies as a precision engineer and became works manager. His interest in motor bikes led to a job in a motor-cycle shop and membership of the Vintage Motor Cycle Club. Latterly he worked at Glen field Hospital, progressing to Head Porter. His enthusiasm for this work was obvious. Other interests include playing in a brass band but there was no time to explore this avenue as our next "victim" was waiting in the wings.

MAY DAY in RATBY

Do you have memories and photographs you'd like to share about May celebrations in Ratby? Perhaps you were crowned May Queen or remember dancing around the Maypole?
Please get in touch...we want your stories for the next issue!

The life of a vicar's wife must be very busy but Jenny Worsfold still finds time to work as a Speech Therapist, helping adults with learning disabilities. She originally went to Durham University to study Chemistry. She loved the city but not the course and after a post-graduate course in London (where she loved the course, but not the city!) she began work as a Speech Therapist in Wirksworth in Derbyshire. Since arriving in Ratby she has been able to pursue her passion for youth work, among many other Church activities and spends quieter times gardening, knitting and walking with her family.

We thoroughly enjoyed glimpses into the lives of some of our village characters and thank them and Andy for their contributions and their bravery

THE CHANTRY CHOIR

Once again the Chantry Choir entertained us at the Chapel on 21st December. If you have not been to one of their concerts, next time it is advertised get yourself a ticket. They are fantastic!

I am not sure how many choristers there are, I think about 20, half of whom are Ratby villagers, but my word they have such power in their voices. They perform a variety of music, and each item is wonderful.

The Choir usually donate the ticket income to charity, and this time they were supporting ADAPT, which is for premature babies.

Look out for them next time and support the Chantry Choir. GH

THE SERVICE GARAGE

MAIN STREET, RATBY
M.O.T TESTS
CARS (PETROL and DIESEL)
M.O.T. HOURS 9.00-4.15 Monday-Friday
Closed for lunch 1-2
TELEPHONE 239 4966

SCOUT NEWS

Beavers

We have 12 children in the Beaver Colony at the moment, and no-one on the waiting list. We need more youngsters to come along and join in the fun so that the group will continue to grow. If there are no Beavers, then there is no-one to move up into Cubs and then Scouts. Beavers have a great time, with games, projects for badge work, and recently they enjoyed an evening with wild creatures, and a ghost walk. They go walking and camping, and learn a lot.

Parents and children, call into the Church Rooms on a Monday at 5.15 to find out more! Or phone me, Gwen Holloway, secretary on; **239 4508**.

Cubs

17 cubs enjoy a range of activities on Monday evenings. They have recently finished their Artist Badge, and were involved in a project for the Church at Christmas.

Akela will be working with them next to achieve their Scientist Badge.

Twice a year Cubs go away for weekend camps.

Scouts

This is a good group again with a variety of activities each week. There is Badge work of course, camping, and recently a trip to see the bell ringing at the Church.

Leaders

Now if there is anyone out there who might like to consider helping us in the Movement please get in touch. You will obviously have to be 'Police Checked' as we all are. We would welcome you with open arms.

RATBY CHEMIST LTD.

58 MAIN STREET LE6 0LL

***FREE PRESCRIPTION COLLECTION SERVICE! ***

From surrounding surgeries.
JUST PHONE US ON 239 3139 with your requirements. We will process your prescription with the surgery.
All you do is **COLLECT IT** from us, or we can deliver to your home if needed.
You can e mail us with requirements;
Ratbychemistltd@aol.com

News from St Philip and St James.

Well things have been rather busy since I last wrote. In November we had a new digital organ installed in the church. This is being paid for by individual donations rather than out of church funds. We held a celebration concert which was enjoyed by those attending. Outside of the church work has been carried out on the paths leading up to the church and the cemetery. This was for two reasons, firstly because pipe work was laid last year in readiness for toilets and a small kitchen to be installed in church. This meant the paths were even more in need of attention, but are now looking rather good. We are still trying to raise over £18,000 to complete the work but having much needed facilities will make the church a better venue. It does make one wonder what old Ratbarians (?) used to do 100 years ago!

With Easter being early this year, plans are underway for a joint choir service on the evening of 9th March in the evening. If you enjoy singing, feel free to come along any Wednesday evening at 7pm and see if you'd like to join us. There will be the usual children's event on Good Friday as well as special services on Easter Day at 10am and a Songs of Praise at 6pm. Remember, there's always one spare seat at church - because it's yours!!

"Everything From A Blown Fuse To A Complete Rewire"

PAULS QUALITY ELECTRICS

Your Local, Fully Qualified City & Guilds
ELECTRICIAN



Upgrading Old Fuse Boxes - Rewires - Alarm Systems
New Sockets & Lighting - All Domestic & Commercial Electrics

Call Paul Rumble on: (0116) 2872338
MOBILE: 0798 0911 869 Website: www.pqelectrics.com

**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**

£30

6 SAXONS RISE, RATBY, LEICS. LE6 0NF

LETTTERS TO THE EDITOR

SPEED HUMPS!

Complaints about these have hit the National Press, with those in Mere Road, Highfields, Leicester making it onto the list of 10 worst!

Roy Holloway writes;

Drivers, especially bus drivers, who are complaining of neck pain, are getting more frustrated with speed humps. According to research by an on-line car buying guide an overwhelming majority of motorists want to see them removed. The survey concluded that they result in an annual repair cost of £235 per car. 1 in 8 cars suffer suspension damage that can be directly attributed to speed humps. (figures from Warranty Direct)

The government claims that for every mile an hour cut from driver's speeds, the chance of an accident drops by 5%. However in Barnet the local council removed all speed humps and recorded 14.9% drop in accidents in the following first 6 months.

Is it not time that these humps were removed, and a 20 mph speed limit imposed in the village?

What do you think? Would motorists obey a 20 mph limit? We have heard complaints about the large number of road signs cluttering up the village entry routes. Have we gone too far? Editor.

A NEW SOCIAL GROUP

I am fairly new to Ratby, and don't know many folk. I'd like to discover if there are similar people, aged 50+ who would like to form a Social Group for days out, cinema trips, or just to meet for a drink in a local pub.

This would not be a 'dating club,' just a way for lonely people with similar interests to get together!

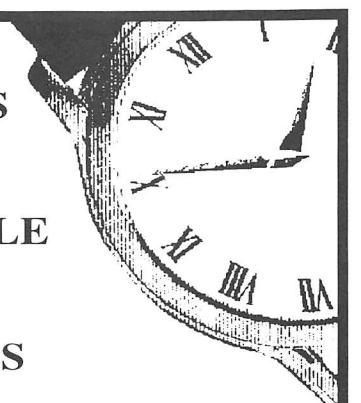
Please write in to 'Wot' if you have ideas or an interest in this, or send your contact details to 'Wot' care of 3 Ingle Drive to be forwarded to me.

**WATCH
BATTERIES
& STRAPS**
**FITTED WHILE
YOU WAIT**

ALL BRANDS

SYKES JEWELLERS

8 Bradgate Road, Anstey
Tel: 0116 236 2510
www.sykesjewellers.co.uk



DEADLINE for issue 129
APRIL / MAY 2008
FRIDAY 14th MARCH

EDITOR 239 3367
ADVERTS 239 3279
ARTICLES 239 4873
Articles may be sent to 3 Ingle Drive
Or Email: sueboud@hotmail.com

**Pick up your euros
and US dollars at
Ratby
Post Office branch**

30 Main Street
Ratby
Leicester

No commission to pay
No need to pre-order



**POST
OFFICE**