



# WOT!

## About Ratby

PUBLISHED BY RATBY SCOUT GROUP



# TOYS and TINSEL

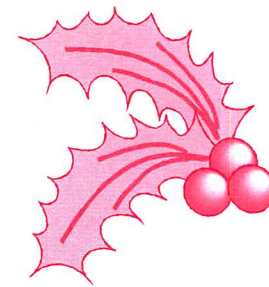
It felt as though Christmas was coming at the Methodist Church Toy Sale in November. The hall was buzzing with the happy sound of chatter and excited children's voices. Somewhere a child was tooting on a new found recorder, and the stalls were brimming with crackers and festive wrapping, children's books and a kaleidoscope of colourful toys. There was a traditional wooden Noah's Ark and a bright red fire engine alongside characters familiar to today's children. Bob the Builder beamed at shoppers from the soft toy stall, and Upsy Daisy lay waiting to be picked up. Hopefully someone cheered up Eeyore and took him home.

The 'café' tables were busy with folk meeting and chatting, catching up on the latest news. An overflowing hamper tempted those feeling lucky at the Raffle Stall.

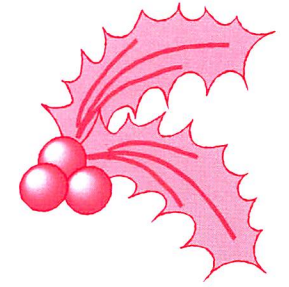
And all of this was in aid of the Church's chosen charity, **Gift of Sight**. £510.20 was raised. What better way to prepare for the real meaning of Christmas?

Thanks to all who supported the event.

What would you have bought from this wonderful array of donated toys and books?



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## WE NEED YOU!!

Ratby Village Society is seeking reliable volunteers of all ages to help with the organisation of village events, such as the forthcoming 'The Great Outdoors,' exhibitions and village shows.

You might be an unemployed person wanting to add new skills to your CV, a retired person looking for a new 'adventure,' or a young person wanting to contribute to village life. Whoever you are you will bring your own skills and maybe learn some new ones! And you'll certainly meet some new people and broaden your social life.

We need help with work such as producing and circulating posters, clerical tasks, or helping to promote events through contacting local magazines and other groups.

All we ask is that you are reliable, enthusiastic and willing to work!

Hours to suit yourself. We will be very grateful for any time you can spare.

Please Phone me on 0116 239 5350

Jane Rayne



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## COFFEE, CHAT & CHILDREN

We are a small, friendly group run by a group of mums in support of issues surrounding: Post natal depression, anxiety, stress, multiple births and low self confidence/self esteem. We can help with relationship problems, single parenting, isolation and if you are struggling with aspects of parenting.

This was once a Home Start group but they were unable to continue running it when funding was lost. Some of the mums decided to keep the group going by funding it themselves. We received donations from generous supporters which enabled us to keep the group running for several months. Earlier this year we put a bid together and were successful in securing some funding from Comic Relief. The best way to describe the feel of the group is through the thoughts of those that use it: "An understanding non- judgmental group of people who have been or are going through similar issues, we don't always find things easy, but knowing you are not on your own somehow makes it better."

Lots of laughs, silly chat, coffee, cakes and biscuits, arts, crafts and activities for kids, mum and child bonding session, what more can I say, oh and amazing friends made"

"It's the best group for all the mums who think 'I can't do groups', relaxed, non- judgemental, fun & friendly!!"

"I look forward to Friday mornings just knowing I'm not on my own"

"It's a wonderful, supportive group of ladies who have helped me through some very difficult times to which I am so grateful, I am so glad I found this group and would recommend it to anyone who needs support"

The group takes place on a **Friday morning at Groby Community Centre, Forest Rise from 9.45am to 11.45am.** There is free play and organised activities for the children including craft, snack time, music & movement, story time. Also time for parents to meet & chat with other likeminded parents over a drink.

If you think this group may be of benefit to you or someone you know, please contact one of the following – you will be assured of a warm & friendly welcome

Lisa: 07900 695728 Cath: 07795 421617

Tracey: 07989 109139

Or if you prefer to email:

## GADZOOKS FORSOOTH!

When was the last time that a medieval banquet was held in Ratby-that is, before October 5<sup>th</sup> this year?

An extraordinary amount of hard work by all involved ensured the tremendous success of this unusual event in Ratby Church.

The guests, many attired in period costumes, were requested to gather in the Church Rooms for an aperitif of mead.

The lights were extinguished, and the sound of a hand bell could be heard. A uniformed lantern bearer preceded a cowled monk; Brother Peter, bringing greetings from the priory of Nuneaton, administrator of Ratby's church of St George as it was then known. We followed our hosts into the Church where candles flickering on columns, tables and sills created a magical atmosphere.

A madrigal choir, 'Eight Misbehavin'" robed in black sang the Grace before the medieval hog roast meal commenced. Between courses we were treated to four medieval songs. At the banquet's conclusion we were gradually eased back into the 21<sup>st</sup> century with songs from a more recent vintage before making our way home through the prosaic world outside. All guests were appreciative of the convivial evening we had spent, serfs and serving wenches all on equal terms with the nobility. Great credit is due to the organisers and those who stayed behind to re-order the furniture for the next day's morning service.

Hoz the Varlet





## YOUNG PEOPLE

Hello!!! My name is Jamie Trusler. I am 16 years old, and I live in Ratby. I have been in St John Ambulance for 4 years, and am Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland District Cadet of the year 2014. I'm also a Sergeant and Trainer. I have trained 500 people in Basic First Aid in 1 day, which was nationally recognised. I have been invited to the Young Achievers Reception with Her Royal Highness Princess Anne next year.

This summer myself and 25,000 young people aged 16 to 17 years of age graduated from the National Citizen Service. The first week was residential, where participants are placed in localised groups with people you've never met before! Throughout the week you complete



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team building exercises such as canoeing, raft build, abseiling and climbing.

The 3rd and 4th weeks were the heart of the project. Groups go out to the local community and make a difference, whether it be painting a local park, or raising funds for charities! My Social Action Project was at Warning Zone, a Leicester charity whose objective is to teach young people in year 6 important skills, car, fire and railway safety and cyber bullying awareness. Warning Zone has great potential, a view shared with the Mayor of Leicester. Our job was to promote the awareness of this charity and raise money for it! We promoted it on the Leicestershire Constabulary Twitter page, as well as ITV and BBC News.

100 people were selected to be National Ambassadors for the National Citizen Service, 0.04% of the 25,000 graduates, that's 0.001% of 16 to 17 year olds across the entire country!

I visited the House of Commons where I met the Minister of Civil Service and many MP's. After this I was one of 10 who were selected to visit 10 Downing Street. We toured the building and had a huge three hour debate with the Prime Minister's spokesmen and the Minister of Civil Service.

The photo is of me outside 10 Downing Street, as you can see, I was a little excited! We also met many great people, members of the NCS Trust, MPs, Ministers, Lily Cole, and of course the other 99 National Ambassadors!

Now my job is to change that horrible stereotype of young people today. It's a big task, but I'm determined to make a difference!

If I were to ask you this question: "What do you think of young people today?" You'll probably say 'anti social, criminal and violent.' (As did many people I asked at the village Craft Fair)

I want to change attitudes so that when you see a group of young people you don't cross the road to avoid them!

I have spoken to members of the Ratby Village Society and they are willing to invite young people to help them organize the next village fete, so that both generations can work together, and learn from each other! I need to now find a group of willing 16-17 year olds who will help me change the media stereotype.



## ART AND CRAFT FAIR

The two-day fair attracted more than two hundred visitors across the threshold of Ratby Sports Club during the first weekend in November.

There was a spectacular array of different crafts to choose from on the many colourful stalls, and the WI was on hand to provide refreshments and delicious cakes.

In the centre of the room were displayed the paintings and art work submitted by local creative people.

The public were given the daunting task of choosing their favourite picture from the impressive display. The painting that took most votes was the evocative oil by Peter Griffin entitled 'Warhorse,' depicting a group of cavalry horses at rest during the First World War.

But as usual this event was not just about the art and craft. It was another of those lovely social occasions bringing together people of all ages.

Olivia Rowe with her Granny, Sue Busby.



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## RATBY TEA-DANCES

Tea-dances have begun and are scheduled for the first and third Wednesdays of the month.

2 - 4 p.m. at Ratby Sports Club, £2.50.

Jane Rayne, Village Society committee member and initial co-ordinator, told me the idea came from the Society. Ratby Sports Club wanted to offer its premises; residents Janet and Frank Cookson knew a DJ; and Jane put them all in touch.

Eddie "The Collector" is the DJ and host.

Dancers are invited to request favourite tracks or dances. From Pat Boone to Cher, Eddie will grant your wish. Waltz, rumba, cha cha cha, quickstep samba, jive, or argentine tango - all are available. Interspersed with ballroom and latin dances are the sequence dances, for example White City Waltz, Sindy Swing, or Square Tango. In sequence dances, all couples dance a repeating set pattern of steps. At the second tea-dance it was a pleasure to see nearly everyone on their feet. Over the 10-minute refreshment break, two Glenfield ladies said they had definitely not come to dance, but to listen and watch. (They were later up and rockin' to "Blue Suede Shoes").

Eddie "The Collector" told me, "Being a dancer myself, it's really great to find a new venue for dancing. Ratby is very lucky to have such a facility and I'm glad I can help to see it utilised more. And I think the wooden floor is really really nice to dance on. So come and give it a try!!"

Rieta Simmonds

## WASSAIL!

Ratby Community Orchard will be holding the annual Wassail at the Community Orchard on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> January. Meet at the Railway 7.30 pm to process to the Orchard. Bring something to bang en route! And a torch!

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## HORSE of the YEAR SHOW

Following the article about Emily and Karenzer in our last issue, we can report that Emily and her team, The Atherstone Hunt Pony Club came third in the competition at the Horse of the Year Show!

Six teams qualified for the Pony Club Games. The Atherstone Hunt team were in fourth place at one point, and went through with three others into the final. Well done to them all for a great achievement.



## M.O.T.s in RATBY

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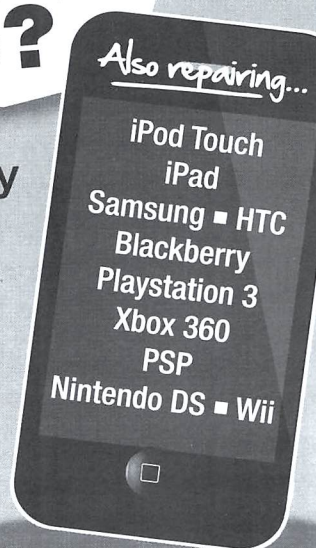
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## RATBY VILLAGE SOCIETY

The annual membership fee is £5 per person.  
Cost of attendance at meetings: £1.60 for members, £2.50 for guests, including refreshments.  
There is no meetings in December. You don't have to live in Ratby to attend. Everyone is welcome!  
**Meetings in Ratby Village Hall, Main Street 8 pm start.**

### January 21<sup>st</sup> 2014

A talk entitled 'Preserving your family's inheritance.'

### February 18<sup>th</sup>; AGM and supper.

March 18<sup>th</sup>; A talk on Egyptology by Susan Tebbby, with exhibits.

April 15<sup>th</sup>; 'Technology of the English Country House,' with Wendy Freer.

## RATBY on FACEBOOK

Lynne Cox, who has set up this site, is thinking about creating an archive of village photos, documenting changes in Ratby.

If you are interested in this, and perhaps have photograph already that you would share please contact her on;

[lynne@lynnecox.co.uk](mailto:lynne@lynnecox.co.uk)



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## LINDA PRESTON

It is with great sadness that we report the death of **Linda Preston (nee-Devereux)** on 7 November 2013, aged 98 years.

Linda, daughter of John Tom and Maud Elizabeth Devereux (nee-Hunt), was born in Stamford Arms Yard, Main Street, Ratby on 29 April 1915. She contributed much to the work of the History Group through recordings of her vivid memories of her early life in the 'garrett houses' (long since demolished) in Stamford Arms Yard. These were fully reported in Volume 4 of "The History of Ratby" series (ps. 46, 50, 51, 116-122). She married Owen Preston and they lived in Stamford Arms Yard, the prefabs and Stamford St. for most of their married life. Together, they were very involved with Ratby Band.





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MERRY CHRISTMAS to ALL

## LETTERS and ARTICLES

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**DEADLINE for issue 164**  
**FEBRUARY / MARCH 2014**  
**FRIDAY 10th JANUARY**

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