

WOT!

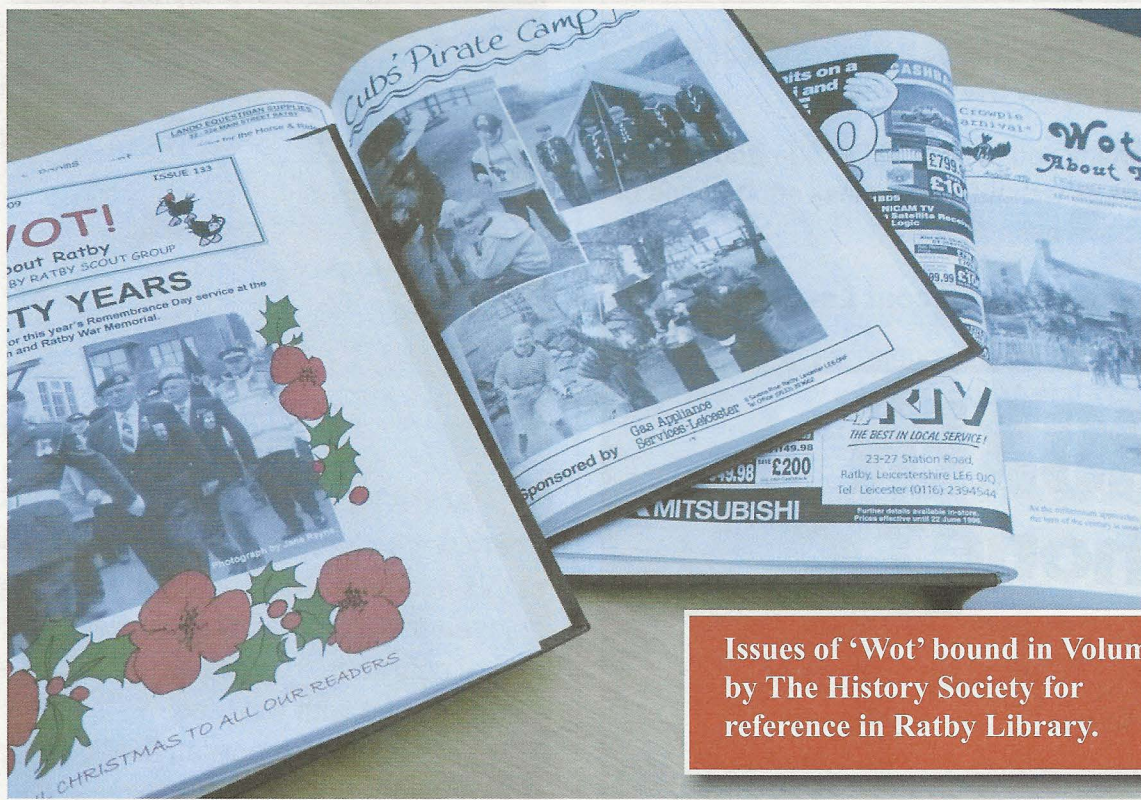
About Ratby

PUBLISHED BY RATBY SCOUT GROUP



GOODBYE 'WOT'

A VIEW FROM THE SCOUT GROUP



Issues of 'Wot' bound in Volumes
by The History Society for
reference in Ratby Library.

WOW! WOT has been going for 30 years. It doesn't seem 5 minutes since the then Group Scout Leader, my Dad Colin, used to remind us all on a Friday Scout evening "WOT delivery this Sunday". Early on the Sunday morning Dad and I would count the WOT's out into rounds as Mum cooked breakfast and the first few eager Scouts would arrive to collect the easiest rounds.

As the morning wore on the numbers would thin out and I would have to start ringing round to get everyone down. The Patrol leaders Mark Wallbank, Nathan Dickman, Daniel Sims and I were keen to get as many of our Patrols to deliver as many rounds as possible, as we all gained team points for each round as well as personal points towards the annual trip, some Scouts would deliver 3 or 4 rounds. Every year Dad would take a minibus full of those who had delivered enough to go on the annual trip, which for many years was the Alton Towers bonfire night firework display, we all had a great time and many fond memories.

Continued on page 2

30 YEARS OF 'WOT' continued from page 1

As the years went by I went from delivering the magazine to collecting and counting them out with my wife and children who have all helped to deliver over the past 17 years (my son Dan and I will be delivering our round of this last issue)

We started to struggle to get the Scouts to deliver to our ever growing village; it was at this point that the adult delivery team was started. This team of dedicated adults have been helping to get the magazine out to all no matter what the weather.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all that have helped deliver and produce the WOT over the years as well as all that have written articles and supported us with their adverts as this has raised a great deal for the Scout Group. (£21,500)

We are indebted to Willday Printers too for their patience and loyalty over the years!

A special thank you to Alan Sims, Sue Boud and David Gould as without their tireless efforts none of this would have been possible.

David Payne, Group Scout Leader

AUGUST POND DIPPING

Ratby Community Orchard's annual pond dipping took place on Wednesday August 10th. As usual we were joined by a number of enthusiastic families, some of whom come every year. Tim Adkin came along to help with identification. We found a good variety of species this year, including several tiny frogs. Sadly they are too small to survive the winter and will end up as food for other fauna.

Overall though the quantity of specimens we found was smaller than in previous years. And there were no dragonflies staging a fly past.



APPLE DAY

At RATBY COMMUNITY ORCHARD

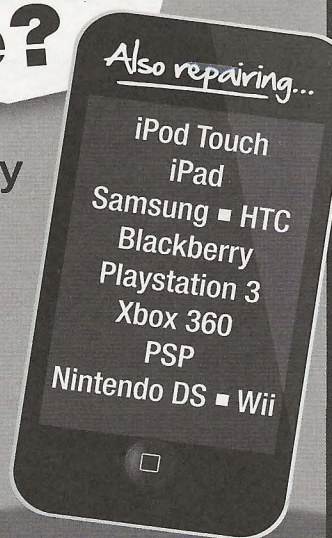
There were plenty of apples to taste and juice at this event on Sunday October 9th. Visitors enjoyed the usual range of activities and games and of course there were scrumptious apple cakes served with the teas.

This year Ratby Co-operative Mid Band joined in to provide the music.



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VINTAGE TEAS

Visitors to Ratby Library on Saturday 8th October were treated to a very special event. The occasion was a special 1940s themed 'Vintage Tea' with all volunteers dressed appropriately, and a special visit from the 'Army.' There were stalls selling all manner of crafts, jewellery and vintage clothing. And of course there were the sandwiches, cakes and teas all served on vintage china. Councillor Chris Boothby and Parish Council Chairwoman Merle Joyce were there to officially launch the event.

Annette Roche was the driving force behind the day. Thanks are due to the Convenience Store on Markfield Road for donations of provisions for the refreshments.

Thanks too to all of you who supported the event and helped us to bring in over £200 for Library Funds.

Well done all. We look forward to the next time!



RATBY METHODIST CHURCH CHRISTMAS FAYRE

This year's Fayre will be held on Saturday December 3rd from 10 am until 1pm, and it looks like being an event you can't afford to miss!

There'll be all kinds of traditional festive activities such as Tombola, White Elephant stall, Lucky Dip, a Raffle, Books and Toys and Children's' Craft Corner.

Cards and wrapping will be on sale and a range of products that will make ideal gifts, such as Preserves and 'Body Shop.'

And who could resist the home made cakes?



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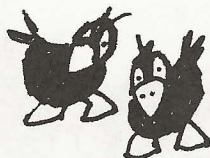
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LETTERS



Dear Editor

Thank you Ratby Scout Group, and the 'behind the scenes' volunteers, for 30 years of WOT! About Ratby. You have done a grand job.

Ratby's Annual Show will continue into the future led by the 'Show Girls' Team with support and co-operation from Ratby Sports Club which provides the venue for this annual fixture in Ratby's social calendar. The date for 2017's Show is Saturday 12th August.

The 'Show Girls'



Dear Editor

It was with a sense of sadness that I learned of the impending demise of Wot after thirty years of admirable service to the village.

October 1986 was the date when I came to live in Ratby, coincident with the first issue.

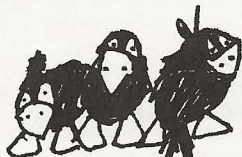
Soon afterwards I became a contributor and then volunteered to be a distributor; probably over the years walking many miles around the Ferndale Drive area.

The time has come to submit a tongue in cheek valedictory poem.

Hoz Gamble

LAMENT for WOT

Lament for Wot?
Wot's Wot?
Filled a Slot
Hit the Spot
Never Rot
Sometime Hot
Not a Lot
Maybe a Jot
But Wotta we Got?
Lost the Plot
Gone to Pot
So Wot?
That's Wot!



Dear Ratby Villagers,

We, Mr Mahadev and Mrs Usha Desai have retired from the pharmacy. Sorry we could not inform you earlier but we would like to thank you for all your support and loyalty over the past 25 years. Ratby was our second home and many of you became our friends. We wish you all the best for the future.

Dear Editor

Sorry to hear this will be the last 'Wot' magazine. I would like to thank everyone who has been involved in producing it. I shall miss reading it. Best wishes to you all.

Julie

(Julie's hairdressing)

Dear Editor,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all my customers, past and present for their custom, friendship and loyalty over the forty four years I've worked in Ratby.

A special thank you to Michelle who has worked with me since starting as a Saturday girl. I could not have done it without her.

I shall miss everyone, but it is time for me to retire.

With thanks to you all,

Julie

(Julie's hairdressing)

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Dear Editor,

Having made the decision to resign as chair owing to my wife's health I am urging residents to get behind Ratby Library & Community Group and fully support its endeavours to keep our village library open long term.

Guaranteeing the future of the library has always been dependent upon the support of local people, in Ratby's case by using the café, where the volunteers offer an exceptional and friendly service. Those who have used it find the environment bright, cheerful and restful with a range of teas, coffees, soft drinks and snacks at very competitive prices, delivered to your table.

The numbers using the café is below budget expectations. So -

- If you've yet to visit, please do so soon and often.
- If you use the library's private car park - drop in before you leave and use the café, remembering that if the library disappears so will its car park.
- If you visit to borrow, read books or use the library's IT, stay a while longer and chat over a cuppa.

The library building can be a great village space for all ages and can offer a much wider variety of events and activities. With 25+ volunteers giving freely and willingly of their time it's beholden on the village to show how much they value this amenity.

So please support the library project; if you don't use it, you will lose it!

Graham Stanley

Explorer Scout Unit is to enter its third year.

Since our Explorer Unit returned to the village, numbers have remained pretty constant with members from Ratby and neighbouring villages.

Last year's programme included Air Rifle shooting, Cooking competition (a two course meal for 2 for less than £6 cooked on Trangia stoves), laser tag, Survival skills camping, dry slope skiing and tubing, Bell-Boating. We had an evening at the local Scout wood with hot-dogs and wide games.

We are looking forward to County Mission Survive weekend in November and a District Quiz night as well as working towards our Chief Scouts Platinum Awards.

The Scouting movement open to all young people aged between 14 and 18.

Interested please contact 0116 2390774

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90S COFFEE MORNING

Many thanks to all the volunteers at the Church Rooms for the 90s COFFEE MORNING which was held on 6th August.

In particular to Ros and Joan who distributed details of the monthly Sunday lunches, together with a beautiful booklet celebrating the Queen's 90th birthday.

This special annual coffee morning for those villagers aged 90 or more will be held as usual in 2017.

Hoz Gamble has written to 'Wot' to tell us that by a quirk of circumstance all three of the gentlemen pictured served in the British Pacific Fleet post war, based in Hong Kong, 1945/6.

They are left to right, Sid Hickenbotham (HMS Moon; Algerine Class minesweeper), Horace (Hoz) Gamble (HMS Hare; Algerine class minesweeper) and Bill Jones (HMS Victorious; Illustrious class aircraft carrier.)

He adds that 'the ladies seemed to enjoy the company of those old 'Sea Salts' and all appreciated the kindness of the event organisers and providers of transport. Gold medals all round!'



Marion, Betty and Joan



Sid, Horace, Bill

RATBY'S SEWING 'BEES'

A successful dressmaking class was held on Tuesday July 12th in The Chapel Rooms. The session was led by Heather Jacks, a former winner of BBC's 'Great British Sewing Bee' in 2014.

All the participants were making a garment during the day, and there was certainly a relaxed atmosphere of concentration and industry!

The workshop was organised by Jeannie MacGregor of 'Quilteez' in the village, and is one of many she has set up.

Heather believes that sewing is a real life skill, and that it is easily transformed into a business. She says she was a 'secret closet sewer' before almost accidentally entering the Great British Sewing Bee whilst watching on iPlayer and clicking on the button for potential contestants. It was the most difficult thing she has ever done, with long days in the recording studio, and the pressure of 'trying not to look an idiot.' Her aim was to beat one person a week to stay in the contest, and of course, she succeeded!

Since then Heather, who lives in Leicestershire, has been busy giving talks and running courses like this one. She's enjoying passing on her skills and knowledge, enabling people to discover that it's a fantastic hobby.

Pictured is one of the course participants, Megan, who was making a patchwork dress with contrasting pockets. She told us that it was very adventurous, but she was really enjoying it.

Similar courses are regularly held in the village. Pop into 'Quilteez' on Main Street and ask Jeannie!



Megan with Heather Jacks



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RATBY CO-OPERATIVE BAND

The band said a big thank you and goodbye to Mike Fowles in May after his twelve years as Musical Director. His final performance with the band was a very creditable fifth placing at the Spring Festival Senior Cup held at Blackpool Winter Gardens. The band has made enormous strides during his tenure.

The Trustees recognised that Mike would be a hard act to follow, and decided a different approach was appropriate. A new conducting team of Mareika Gray and Dave Purkiss will now lead the band. Under Mareika the band has already achieved a third place at the All England International Masters Competition. Dave has previously played with the band as a virtuoso cornetist.

The Mid Band has had to say goodbye and a massive thank you to Geoff Newman who has conducted them since he formed the band in 1997.

Catch the bands at these forthcoming events;
Sat. December 3rd Joint concert with school choir in St Philips and St James Church.

7.30 pm. Tickets from Emily Newman on 07557 383944

Sun. December 11th Christmas Concert at Beaumont Leys School. 6pm.

Tickets: 0116 4314511 or 2386954

Friday December 16th Festive Music and Carols at Braunstone Civic Centre. 7.30.

Tickets from Emily as above.

Leicester Morris entertained at The Plough in Ratby on August 17th.



RATBY MUSIC AT THE PLOUGH

The Open Mic night will continue at 8.30 on the second Monday of each month. Why not come down and brighten up those wintry evenings with a sociable drink with friends and listen to a wide range of music? Support the musicians who give their time for free to entertain us!



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1st RATBY GIRLS BRIGADE

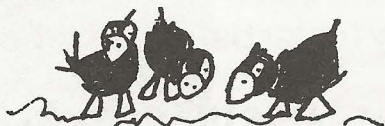
We are a Christian based organisation meeting on a Tuesday evening from 6.00 pm to 7.30 pm during term time at Ratby Methodist Church, Station Road, Ratby. We are pleased that our Company is thriving, having 43 young people on our register.

Our girls and boys are all very busy on a Tuesday night, working towards their badges which cover a vast array of topics. Our young people enjoy many other activities such as crafts, cooking and games. This year we entered the Ratby village show and won trophies and medals for the birthday cards which were made for the Queen. These have been sent to the Palace and we look forward to receiving a reply.

We have purchased and are still fund raising for our 17 seater minibus which is a wonderful asset to the company, enabling us to offer more varied activities and joining in on organised outings by Girls' Brigade Leicestershire District

With the support of Ratby Methodist Church, Leaders and Helpers we are a very happy and lively company and if you wish to join us as a young person, a much needed helper or to help with our fundraising to continue our activities, then please contact me on the number below.

Alison Whitmore
Team Leader
07853216572



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VILLAGE SHOW RESULTS

Vegetables and Fruit

Best exhibit; vegetables	Steve James
Most exhibits; vegetables	John Southwick
Best exhibit; fruit	Sue Busby
Most exhibits; fruit	Stan Reed
Most unusual exhibit	Susan Hammond

Floral

Best exhibit	Alvar Johnson
Best container plant	Alvar Johnson
Best flower arrangement	L Brooks

Cookery/Wine/preserves

Best in preserves	Philippa Brown
Best in wine	Iris Hannaford
Best in non- alcoholic beverage	Alvar Johnson
Best in Bread	S Garrett
Best in cookery	S Garrett
Most exhibits in cookery	Sally-Ann Walters

Crafts

Best in handicrafts/cloth/yarn	S Richardson
Best in handicrafts/metal/ceramic	M Leverton

Best in Poetry Sally-Ann Walters

Best in photography Graham Stevenson

Under 16 Prizes

Best miniature garden	no entries
Best photograph.	Ruth Showell
Best cupcakes.	Isaac Garrett
Best 'Monster'	Isaac Garrett

Birthday Card for the Queen Patsie Savage

Any other craft not specified in 95 to 99

Jessica Bowyer

Best overall exhibit Patsie Savage

Best exhibit in show L Brooks for flower arrangement in teapot.

Most exhibits John Souhwick for total of 21

Most unusual exhibit Sandra Slater for necklace made from wrapping paper.

Best overall contributor The Show Team; Faye Stevens, Jane Rayne, Jean Vann, Carol Hall and Jenny O'Shea, together with some of their husbands!



RATBY VILLAGE SHOW KEEPS ON GROWING!

A record number of 92 people entered items at this year's show, which was held on Saturday August 13th at Ratby Sport's Club. And once again the weather was kind as visitors arrived to view the displays and see the trophies awarded. There was a cricket match in progress too; Ratby Town playing Broughton Astley for those who wanted to linger for a drink and enjoy the sunshine.

Entries were accepted on Friday evening and from 8.30 on Saturday morning before the judging began. This year's RHS judges were Jim Drake, Barry Tuck, Graeme Jackson and local man Neil Harris who is currently undertaking the course to become an RHS judge.

Reverend David Lawton from Ratby Methodist Church presented the trophies with enthusiasm and humour creating a perfect end to the day.



Pictured is Isaac Garrett proudly displaying his prize winning entries; A Vegetable Monster, and some delicious 'flowerpot' cupcakes. He is wearing his winning medals and holding his winner's cup.

Beyond you can see the cards created by young people for the Queen's 90th Birthday. These have been sent to Buckingham Palace for the Queen, and

an acknowledgment letter is expected later in the year.

Full details of all the prize winners are printed on the next page. Next year it could be you winning one of these splendid trophies!

Why not have a go? There is a range of categories, from fruit and vegetables, to crafts, cookery, preserves, poetry and photography. This year the 'Wot about Ratby' shield was given to the team who have organised the show for the last six years. Well done to them all.



Ratby Library and Crow Pie Café

We regret that this will be the last edition of **Wot about Ratby** a well-loved Journal. For many years it has provided news and entertainment for the village and we are sure it will be missed. We must thank those that have kept it running for so long by their creativity and considerable effort.

Thank You All Very Much

The Good news is that it will not disappear because the Ratby Local History Group has provided four bound copies with indices. The fifth is on its way. All available at the Ratby Library. We will be seeking to make the digital version available on the Library Web site. The site needs updating at present but the address is www.ratbycommunitylibrary.org.uk. Do have a look. Comments about the site welcomed.

The Library and Café may provide some of the other items that may be missed and we will be talking with the Wot staff to find ways of doing this. Our website already contains information about village organisations and there is a diary where information can be entered to publicise village events.

The Library is currently experiencing change with trustees and the public computer setup.

Changes to Trustees

Ken Hunnybun and Nathan Dickman have recently been elected by their fellow Trustees to serve as Chair and Treasurer respectively. The previous post holders had resigned to spend time with family members suffering health problems. The trustees wished the families best of health and thanked Graham Stanley and Gaynor Reynolds for their involvement.

Ken Hunnybun is committed to continuing development of the Library building as a community resource for residents to meet and share common interests while continuing to maintain the Library. He can be contacted on 07720542295 or ajmskh@aol.com.

Nathan Dickman had only recently become a Trustee and the existing trustees were all pleased that he had accepted his nomination as Treasurer. Avril Hunnybun remains as Trustee and Secretary. Christine Reid has been a volunteer from the start and has joined the Trustees as volunteer representative.

Dan Green is continuing as a trustee having been Student Representative during his final year at Groby Community College.

New Trustees would be very welcome, why not give Ken a call to discuss how your skills and experience may help the building/Library/Crow Pie Café to develop. Within 6 years the enterprise has to be completely self-funding

Upgrading the public Computer system

The new system is independent of the County Hall system and consists of a new Wifi modem and 4 new laptops all linked directly into the internet. There will be no charge for the use of the Wifi or the computers and a new printer is to be installed with a reduction in cost per copy being considered.

We are confident that customers will have quick and easy access to the internet when they drop in to catch up on correspondence or surf the net. A memory stick is required to save the work and will be available for purchase at the library.



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The Crow Pie Café

This is already getting favourable reports as a very pleasant area in the library. There is no requirement to be a library member and it is open whenever the library is open – 10.00am to 5.00pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday; 10.00am to 7.00pm on Wednesday and 10.00am to 2.00pm on Saturday.

Space in the Library to hire.

The building is ideal for small group meetings of up to 15/20 or the room can be rearranged for larger gatherings of up to 35 people. Lettings can be for the room only or may include tea/coffee and biscuits in the hire fee. A screen can be available for use with the hirers own projector.

Volunteers

As most people now know the library is run by a group of volunteers which also includes the Trustees. I know I speak for us all when I say that time spent on duty is most enjoyable. Meeting people and knowing that we are providing a service that could have disappeared. But for those seeking employment the library can be a positive part of a CV and demonstrate to a potential employer that you have made an effort to keep up the habit of a work routine while making a positive contribution to the community.

There are two main roles for volunteers; to operate the library or the café, and most volunteers are happy to do either. There are 2 volunteers per shift, but as the café develops we will need three volunteers a shift. Rotas divide the opening hours into three and a half or four hour shifts and most volunteers manage to do two shifts a week but one is perfectly acceptable.

Volunteers own interests can also be harnessed to improve the service given to customers. Why not give Ken Hunnybun a call and have a chat about volunteering!!
Ken Hunnybun, Chair of Trustees
mobile 07720542295



THANK YOU WOT

Ratby Parish Council would like to convey its grateful thanks to WOT magazine for its support over the years. The demise of the magazine will be a great loss to the village and it is sad to see yet another village function cease, particularly as the Village Society and Neighbourhood Watch have also ceased to exist.

Over the years the magazine has been an excellent communicator, advertising events and keeping up with village news and reporting on the various achievements of the residents and groups.

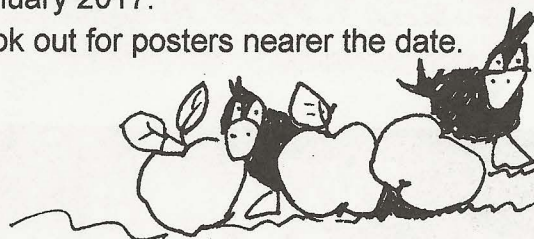
Once again, many thanks for all the hard work you have put in, keeping everyone informed.

Ratby Parish Councillors & Clerk

WASSAIL!

Ratby Community Orchard annual Wassail will take place on the traditional date, Saturday 7th January 2017.

Look out for posters nearer the date.



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