

# WOT!

## About Ratby

PUBLISHED BY RATBY SCOUT GROUP

# FROM TWO-STEP to TANGO



Eddie 'the Collector' is back again at Ratby Sports Club for 2014 to host the Wednesday afternoon Tea Dances.

The sessions run from 2 pm. Until 4 pm. with refreshments included in the modest cost of £2.50 per session.

Just come along on the first and third Wednesday of every month, put on your dancing shoes and get onto the floor!



Eddie tells us that he started his career in the world of music as a Disco DJ. Then he and his wife took up ballroom dancing, and he decided to make the change and start hosting dances around the county. He can be found in a variety of venues, both evenings and daytime.

His aim is to provide more up to date music that appeals to the wide range of people who enjoy ballroom dancing.

There's a relaxed, laid back atmosphere, enhanced by subdued lighting and a glitter ball. Everyone is made welcome!

It's a perfect way to fulfill that New Year resolution! What better way to get fit whilst



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## PEAR TREE OFFICE PARK WINS PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

The Cawrey Ltd. Pear Tree Office Park, at Desford Lane in Ratby has been given the Sustainable Development accolade at the ProCon 2013 Awards.

The nine offices/business units on the site feature green sedum roofs, natural ventilation and high levels of insulation. Under floor heating is produced with locally grown willow coppice to fuel a Bio Mass boiler. The high number of sustainable features will help to minimize the running and occupation costs for businesses, whilst also looking after the environment.

They have been designed for small to medium local businesses, and they provide a high quality work space.

'We are surprised and delighted to receive this award,' says John Cawrey. 'We were up against strong competition. We hope it will encourage more businesses to think about going green.'

This success follows the Company's achievement in 2012, when ECO Housing at Fielding Meadow in Ratby made it to the final in the awards.

## JOIN THE ADVENTURE.

1st Ratby Explorer Scouts  
Open to girls and boys aged 14-18,  
Call 07527246915 or email [chair.ratbyscouts@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:chair.ratbyscouts@tiscali.co.uk)

## GROW YOUR OWN!

Would you like an allotment in the village? There is a short waiting list at the moment, so it's worth adding your name.

And who knows, you might win a prize at a future Ratby Show. Current sites are at Longmeadow on Taverner Drive, and Pear Tree on Desford Lane.

Contact Andrew Simmonds  
on 239 2845



## GOODBYE JULIE and THANK YOU!

'Julie's Hairdressing' was one of the first businesses in the village to advertise in Wot about Ratby, and it has featured in every issue since number 1. Julie tells us that customers, especially people new to the village, have come in after seeing the advert in 'Wot.' So it was especially sad for us to learn of Julie's imminent retirement. And fitting too that we celebrate her support for the village over all the years.

Julie opened the Ratby salon in 1972, and when the premises came up for sale in 1984 she bought them. She refurbished and extended the salon and has run the business successfully ever since. Apparently the cottage was built on four large boulders, which were revealed when work was done on the floors. Pictures on the salon walls reveal that it has a similar business for many years. In 1910 it was a Barbers.

Having trained in Lancashire, Julie moved down to Leicestershire with her family, and she has been transforming women's hair for fifty years. Michelle has worked with her for twenty six of those years, since leaving school, and can't imagine what she'll do without Julie.

'I'll miss it,' says Julie, 'but I've been thinking about it for a while, and finally made up my mind. I've enjoyed meeting people, working with Michelle. We have a laugh. In the early years,' she says, 'there was a stronger sense of community in the village. All sorts of folk used to pop their head round the door just to say hello.'

(In fact someone did just that during our interview!)

'Customers came down from 'The Wolsey' on Saturday mornings and we all had a chat and a joke.'

Julie recalls the customers expected from Cardinal Brooch on Station Road, who rang at Christmas to say 'We're just having a drink, be up in a bit.'

As well as the salon, Julie and Michelle have made home visits to elderly customers who can no longer get out.

Don't worry if you are one of Julie's clients. She tells us that she will still be in business until the premises are sold! But we hope for her sake it won't be too long.

Many of Julie's clients have been coming since she opened, and are now in their 80s and 90s. Mainly women, but she and Michelle occasionally cut client's husband's hair. And people come from not just Ratby, but surrounding villages too.

Julie intends to enjoy more holidays and find time for her hobby of Cross-stitch. She would like to thank all of her customers for their loyalty over the years. 'I'll miss them,' she says.

And we thank her for her support of this magazine, and wish her a happy and healthy, much deserved retirement.

Pictured are Julie and Michelle in the salon.



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## WASSAIL !

On Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2014 members of the Ratby Orchard Group were joined by the Ratby Co-operative Band, friends and guests to enact the ancient rite of **Wassail** at the Community Orchard, Jubilee Green, Taverner Drive. **Wassail** is an ancient southern England ritual that is now becoming a tradition here in Ratby. The purpose of **Wassailing** is to awaken the apple trees and to scare away evil spirits to ensure a good harvest of fruit in the autumn.

Yes it sounds a little strange I know, and my family nodded sympathetically when I explained what happened. What do you think? The event started with a gathering at the Railway Inn on Station Road. (Originally the ticket office of the Ratby Railway Station on the Leicester to Swannington Line). The wassailers then processed to the orchard behind the **Wassail King**, Steve Boud. Shouts of **Wassail** from the King received shouts of **Wassail** and the banging, blowing or rattling a variety of instruments by the assembly.

Once in the Orchard a circle was formed around a designated tree and the King recited the toast to the tree.

Here's to thee old apple tree,  
That blooms well, bears well.  
Hats full, caps full, three bushel bags full,  
An' all under one tree. Hurrah!  
Hurrah!

This was followed by the singing of two wassail songs, Gloucester Wassail and the Farmer's Anthem, accompanied by members of the Ratby Band. Mulled cider was then passed around in a sycamore wood wassail bowl. Each drinker shouting wassail and flanked by sentries who turn their backs to the drinker. All present then joined in the shouts of '**Wassail**'. The final act was to place pieces of toast in the trees and to fire a shotgun to wake the trees up. No! of course we didn't have a shotgun, but some extremely good replicas of a Winchester Rifle made by Alan Sims. The shots? Well these were a party popper fixed to the barrel and a number of Christmas Cracker snaps tied to the finger guard. The mulled cider was finished off and an orderly retreat made for a few more drinks at the Railway Inn. All agreed that it had been a lot of fun.

Members of the Group have carefully tended the Orchard since it was planted 10 years ago. This harvest is open to Ratby residents to pick when the fruit has ripened.



'Toasting' the trees

A board with information regarding each tree and when the apples are ripe enough to pick, is situated in the orchard. The committee wish to thank the members of the Ratby Co-operative Band for their support and all the 'wassailers' for attending.

The Ratby Local History Group committee is delighted that the tradition is being kept up and Michael Ball commented that one of his ancestors when arrested for discharging a firearm in the village, claimed in his defence that he was celebrating Wassail.

Ken Hunnybun

### ECO TIP

Please bring your empty aluminium drink cans (not food cans) to Ratby Church and place them in the grey bin, found in the kitchen area at the back of church. Each can recycled makes 0.5p for local charities – including our church.

## GROBY ZUMBA DANCE FITNESS!

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## RATBY W.I.

'Is there a W.I. in Ratby?' a member heard someone say.

The reply was; 'Yes there is!' In fact there has been an active Women's Institute in the village since 1945.

The group meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 7.30 pm. in the Village Hall, Main Street. (next door to The Bull's Head car park.

A warm welcome is given to anyone who'd like to come along as a guest one evening to see what we do. Our talks for the next three months are as follows;

**February 12<sup>th</sup> 'Health Matters in the Community.'**

**March 12<sup>th</sup> 'The Work of a Magistrate.'**

**April 9<sup>th</sup> 'Leicester's Prefabs/Village Cinemas.'**

Just turn up on the night, or if you'd like more information ring the President, Viv, on 0116 239 3738



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## PRAYER in RATBY



Would you like us to pray for you or someone you know? Sometimes we find ourselves in distress or with a problem that we cannot solve. It might be personal or it might be a relative or friend who is in trouble. On the other hand you might want to thank God when good things happen or prayers are answered.

The **Ratby Prayer Chain** is a small group of individuals who truly believe in the power of prayer and pray on a regular basis. Our prayers are based on need — from individuals to world events — or thanksgiving. We would like to pray for you. All prayer requests will be treated in the strictest confidence and can be anonymous if you prefer.

What do you have to do? Just put a written request in an envelope and put it through the letterbox at the Church Office (Church Rooms, Church lane) or leave your request at the Prayer Corner in church (which is open on a Saturday afternoon between 1400 and 1600 as well as for services). Then leave the rest to us.....and God.



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## CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Ratby Co-operative Band once again delighted a packed audience with their festive Concert at Beaumont Leys School on December 8<sup>th</sup>. The Bands had a chance to quite literally 'shine' during the evening. Players were dressed in Christmassy hats and tinsel, and some sported lights on their instruments. We were treated to a medley of Christmassy music and well loved carols for us to sing too. After the interval, when we enjoyed mince pies and coffee, all four bands, Training, Junior, Mid and Senior came together for a grand finale, with music ranging from 'Rockin' around the Christmas Tree' to 'Christmas Swingalong' by Ashmore.

We were all amazed when Santa appeared during the second half and presented parcels to the Conductors and lead players. Children from the audience were welcomed down to sing for Santa.

A great evening for all!

### ECO TIP

Don't leave the TV, DVD, Video, computer and other devices on standby, especially overnight. They consume lots of electricity even when they look innocently sleepy. If you're not using it, switch it off.

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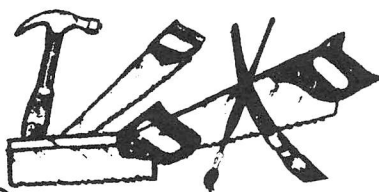
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## RATBY METHODIST CHURCH CHARITY EVENT

The next event for this year's chosen charity, *Gift of Sight*, will be a **Jumble Sale** on 15th February from 10.00 am to 12 noon.

The church will be open on Friday 14th February from 4.30 pm to 6.00 pm to receive donations.

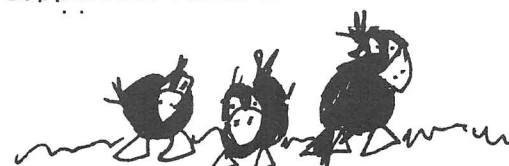
We look forward to your support, as always.

## THE 'GREAT OUTDOORS'

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April 10am - 4pm  
At Ratby Sports Ground, Desford Lane.

It is with regret that we have been forced to cancel 'The Great Outdoors' due to a lack of interest from some of those invited to attend. We would be unable to ensure the event will run as a viable proposition under these circumstances.

Thank you to those groups and individuals who did support the venture.



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## VALENTINE PEPPERMINT CREAMS

### Ingredients for 350gr /12 oz creams

- One egg white
- 12 heaped tablespoons icing sugar
- Few drops peppermint essence

### Method

1. Whisk egg white until just frothy
2. Beat in 10 Tbs. icing sugar
3. Beat in peppermint essence and remaining sugar.
4. Sprinkle a little sifted icing sugar onto a board and roll out the mixture to 1 cm thick
5. Cut into shapes using a heart shaped cutter if you have one. Leave overnight to harden
6. If they are a gift for someone special wrap in cellophane and tie with ribbon, or layer in a pretty box lined with tissue paper or similar.



**DEADLINE for issue 165**  
**APRIL / MAY 2014**  
**FRIDAY 14th MARCH**

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## CELEBRATING 40 YEARS

In 1974, Ratby Village Society was formed from humble beginnings. In 1995 they proudly produced a 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary 'Celebration Booklet.'

Another nineteen years have now passed, and in February the Society will celebrate its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

To commemorate this milestone they are producing another booklet. Members past and present have contributed memories of the Society, together with many wonderful anecdotes.

Please phone 0116 239 5350 for details.

## RATBY VILLAGE SOCIETY

Meetings are held in the Village Hall, Main Street, on the third Tuesday of each month, except for July, August and December when we do not meet. Admission; Members £1.60, casual guests £2.60. Refreshments included. Non members are very welcome.

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February** - AGM and supper, celebrating our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March** - 'Egyptology,' the architecture and mythology, together with exhibits.' A talk by Susan Tebby.

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> April** - 'Technology of the English Country House.' A talk by Wendy Freer.



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