

# WOT!

## About Ratby

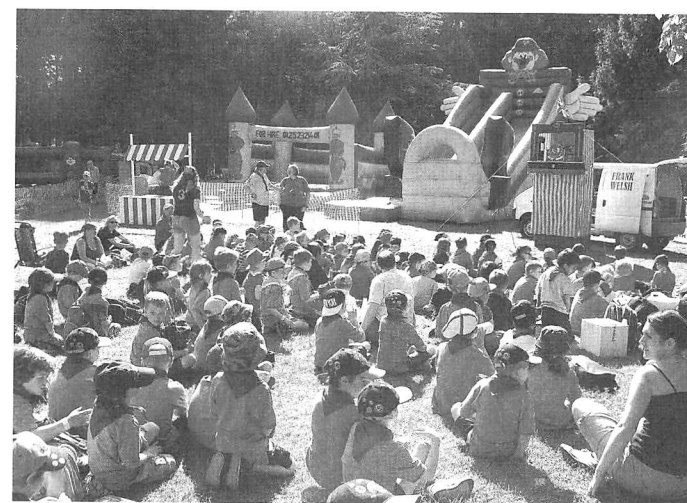
PUBLISHED BY RATBY SCOUT GROUP

### Willesley by the Sea!

#### District Camp 16th-18th May 2014

This year 1st Ratby Scouts and Cubs all took part in our seaside themed District (South West Leicester) Camp at 'Willesley-by-the-Sea' camp site, Ashby de la Zouch. About 400 cubs, scouts and explorer scouts from all around the district camped together as well as their leaders and helpers.

Each group was given a seaside town to be and we were Weymouth. We made a gateway and banners to decorate our camp. Unfortunately Ratby didn't win the best campsite entrance competition but we got some really good ideas for the next camp!



More on centre pages.



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## WILD LIFE in RATBY CHURCHYARD

Following a fascinating talk by David Nicholls of 'Naturespot' about the wildlife that can be found around the village, a group of enthusiasts led by the Church Eco group joined him to explore the churchyard on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April.

We began by surveying the two areas that have been left unmown to create wildlife friendly patches. Already the pale mauve flowers of Lady's Smock could be seen standing proud to celebrate their reprieve from the mowers. Most of the Churchyard was explored, including walls and boundary trees. And we were helped by visiting specialists Steve Woodward, who has been surveying Leicestershire Churchyards for many years and Helen Ikin who has expertise in bee identification.

The weather was cool and wet, so we did not see many insects or Lepidoptera. A further survey is proposed for August, so we'll hope for some sunshine.

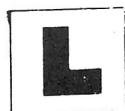
To see the full list of species found visit the Naturespot site: [www.naturespot.org.uk](http://www.naturespot.org.uk)

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## BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Ratby Band Youth Section 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday Concert on 28<sup>th</sup> March was a huge success, filling Braunstone Civic Hall so that extra tables and chairs had to be found.

Old photographs were projected onto the rear wall (seen in the photograph) during the concert.

The Band invited the original founder, Betty Anderson to the celebration, and she conducted one piece.

Braunstone Town Mayor, Miss Amanda Hack was in attendance, and funds raised from the sale of teas, coffees and cakes were given to her chosen charity – Wishes 4 Kids.

During the Massed Band section we had former players and conductors come up and take part. The evening was rounded off with 'Happy Birthday' and a celebration cake.

We enjoyed watching video footage of the band through the years.



## RATBY CHURCH CHOIR

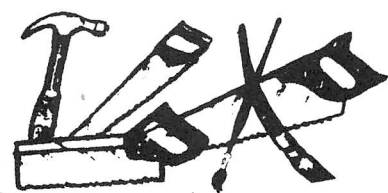
The choir is looking for new members. If you have an enthusiasm to sing please give Choir Leader Christopher Banks a call on:

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## FUN and FITNESS

On Monday mornings a group of women get together to enjoy an hour of aerobics! It's not just any session, it's especially for the over 50s, and it's not only about fitness, it's also about sociability and fun.

Melanie Tee, who runs the sessions is a qualified gym instructor, and a GP referral instructor. (GPs can refer patients to help with ailments such as arthritis, high cholesterol and stress.)

Melanie has been teaching aerobics for twenty years, and five years ago she started specialising in work with the over 50s. She says,

"I find the over 50s sessions very rewarding. I know the health benefits for those who attend regularly, and these women are more reliable, making the session a priority in their weekly routine. Regular exercise as we grow older can help boost energy, maintain independence and help to manage symptoms and pain."

Exercise can even reverse some symptoms of ageing, and helps with balance, co-ordination, motor skills and confidence.

Melanie aims to make the classes enjoyable, with music from the 60s and 70s. It's a great way to meet people too!

The class runs on Monday mornings at Ratby Sports Club, 11.30 to 12.30.



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## DARTS TEAM TRIUMPH!

The Railway Yoyos Darts Team has won the Beacon Division of the Everard's Ladies Darts League. In addition to receiving trophies for this success, two team members scooped awards for individual achievement. Janice Dean won her prize for scoring 180 and Caroline Dunckley for the most scores over 95 during the season. Congratulations to the Yoyos for putting Ratby on the sporting map! The Railway has two teams in the ladies winter league, playing on Wednesday evenings from April to October. If you are interested in joining please contact landlady Gail Frearson. **Tel. 239 5808**

Pictured is the team on presentation evening, with team captain Iris Hannaford holding their trophy.



## POND DIPPING

Come and join Ratby Community Orchard members for our annual pond dipping. Meet at the pond on Taverner Drive, 7pm On Wednesday August 6<sup>th</sup>. Weather permitting! Wear your wellies! Nets and trays provided, but bring your own if you'd like to.



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## TWILIGHT WALK

On 26th April, Mick Porter's wife Di, daughter Melissa, daughter in law Elaina and twin granddaughters Holly and Amber along with 10 friends took part in the LOROS Twilight Walk. The theme this year was '999 Emergency' so the group of 15 dressed up as nurses, fire women, surgeons and even a police woman-with a robber in tow!!

They would like to say a huge huge thank you, to the people of Ratby who were very generous in making donations in memory of Mick, towards this very worthy cause. Great fun was had by all and the most important thing was a fantastic group total of £2100.00 was raised!! Thank you once again.

## LETTERS and ARTICLES

We welcome letters and articles, but reserve the right to edit them or deny publication. Your name and address must be supplied, but you may ask for them to be withheld. Views expressed in articles and letters do not necessarily represent the views of the Publishers. We cannot be held responsible for information in advertisements, which we accept in good faith.

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## RATBY BROWNIES

Would you like to learn new skills, such as leadership, event management, marketing and budgeting? Would you like the opportunity to take part in outdoor adventures or international travel? Would you like to make new friends, have fun?

Ratby Brownies needs new leaders! One of our leaders, Kirsty, who has been guiding for over 8 years is leaving at the end of the summer term to have a baby. Sue has been involved for 12 years and has now decided to take a very well earned rest.

We will need a leader to take responsibility for this unit and at least two helpers to take the unit forward. Brownies are girls aged between 7 and 10 years. They meet on a Tuesday between 6pm and 7.30pm at Ratby Church Rooms, Church Lane. Regrettably unless volunteers come forward to help this unit will have to close. This would be a last resort so if you can help in any way, or know of someone who could help, please get in touch.

You don't need any special qualifications to be a leader or a helper, you don't need to be a parent and you don't need to have any previous experience. We need people who can give up a couple of hours of their time on a regular basis to help keep our Ratby Brownies alive. Brownies in Ratby is very popular and has been running for over 40 years. It would be a real shame if the unit were to close and the village lose another asset.

Anyone over the age of 18 is welcome. If you can help or you would like any further information please contact one of us or have a look at the Girlguiding website [www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk)

Sarah Holt [grobyguides@gmail.com](mailto:grobyguides@gmail.com)

Ann Downs [anndowns59@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:anndowns59@hotmail.co.uk)

**DEADLINE for issue 167  
AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2014  
FRIDAY 11th JULY**

EDITOR 239 3367  
ADVERTS 239 3279

ARTICLES 239 4873  
Articles may be sent to 3 Ingle Drive  
Or Email: [sueboud@hotmail.com](mailto:sueboud@hotmail.com)





# Willesley by the Sea

## District Scout Camp

I shared a patrol tent with 7 other scouts and several species of insect, which was cramped but warm and it was fun to have a midnight feast of sweets with everyone. On Saturday we woke about 5am (noisy cubs) and got ready for our breakfast, we had eggy bread, beans and bacon and cereal if we wanted it.

After breakfast and washing up, each of us was given a timetable to show which activities we were doing during the camp. These included potholing, circus skills, a massive zip wire, survival skills, archery, fencing, backwoods cooking, canoeing, climbing, pioneering and air rifle shooting to name but a few.

On Saturday the beavers came to visit the camp and had a fun day trying some activities and playing on the bouncy castles and having donkey rides.

I enjoyed the whole weekend especially the survival skills, where I got to try different methods of fire lighting without matches! We ended the weekend together in the sunshine tired but happy and look forward to the next camp.

A huge thank you to all of the 1st Ratby team who worked so hard and made this weekend so enjoyable for everyone.

### 1st Ratby Scout

A few comments made by the children about the camp:-

*'I am most looking forward to learning survival skills like some of the people did on camp, they said it was really fun, and I want to have a go too. I also like all of the exciting games we play'* Max O

*'I enjoyed climbing the climbing wall and abseiling back down at camp, I also enjoyed the zip wire'* Thomas B

*'I liked it when I did the climbing and go karts because I have never done it before so it was*

*a change. There were bouncy castles there and I really enjoyed them because they were really bouncy.'* Toby C

*'I enjoyed camp because of all the different activities, especially sports and the inflatables.'* Ryan B

*'I enjoyed camp because of the activities, my favourite was the sports and the go karting.'* Jake M

*'I enjoyed camp because of all of the fun activities that we were allowed to do like climbing, archery, sports, circus skills and I really enjoyed survival skills.'* Emily A

*'I enjoyed camp because of everything that you could do there. I liked the potholing, climbing and drumming. I also really liked breakfast!!'* Neave W

*'What I liked most about camp was the midnight feast, the air rifles, the zip wire and being with my friends Matthew and Mia. I also like the games and the hot chocolate (mmm...) the survival skills, the circus skills, inflatables, and all of the food!'* Noah N

### Plus a couple of Cub comments:-

*'I enjoy cubs because we play lots of games and it's the opposite of school....fun!!'* Joe B

*'I enjoy cubs because we do lots of fun activities and games. I also like how you can make new friends and learn new things.'* Travis H

And not to forget the Beavers comments re the camp:-

*'I went on the Beaver camp day and rode on 2 different donkeys. I loved it and enjoyed myself.'* Emily Bland

*'I enjoyed the sandcastle building.'* Josh David Cockerill

*'I liked the craft, because you sprinkled sand and we did it one at a time.'* Laura Adkin.



### Thank you's

Finally we would just like to say thank you to all the children who went on camp and to mention how well behaved they all were. Plus a special thank you for everyone that made it happen: Lara Foster our Scout Leader and head chef on the camp, Chris Foster, our sous chef on camp and main heavy lifter, Abbey Murby, our Cub Leader and lead whistler to round up the troops, David Payne, our Group Scout Leader, also on the water team for the duration of camp instructing canoeing. Tracey Payne, our Explorer leader, also on the water team for the duration of camp. Steven Pemberton, Assistant Scout Leader and main gateway builder/master and finally Richard Scowen, parent helper for being there as additional help where and when needed. We also want to send a massive thank you for everyone on the district team for organising the event/camp and want to say that all of the children really enjoyed the camp and cannot wait for the next one!

### CHANGING of the GUARD

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Justin Garrett on behalf of 1<sup>st</sup> Ratby Scout Group. Justin has been with 1<sup>st</sup> Ratby Cubs for the past 14 years during which he has moved from assistant leader to Akela, a role that he has made his own for the past 12 years. During his time as section leader Justin has helped with the personal development of many of our village's youth and he is now passing the baton to one of our younger leaders.

However, I'm happy to announce that this is not the last we will see of Justin as he has accepted the role of Assistant Group Scout Leader. If he approaches this with half of the enthusiasm he had for his Cubs then the Group has a rosy future ahead of it.

Thanks again Justin, great job.

The new, younger leader of the Cub section is Abbey, who has been working hard to make sure her program is as good as Justin's. The cubs are currently working towards their Chef Badge, along with their Outdoor challenge, Campers Badge, and Backwards Cooking Badge.

**David Payne** Group Scout Leader.

### MEDAL of MERIT

During the District Camp a prestigious award, The Medal of Merit was presented to Group Scout Leader David Payne in recognition of his years of service.

Not only is he First Ratby Scout's Group Leader, but he has served as Chairman of the group committee, and been involved with Cubs and Scouts for many years, specialising in canoe training.

Congratulations to David!





## RATBY'S 4<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL SHOW

The show will take place on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> August in the Sports Club Room, Desford Lane, and is open to the public from 2 pm.

There is **no charge for entering exhibits**, and anyone can enter.

Bring exhibits to the Sports Club on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> August between 7pm and 8.30pm and/or Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> August between 8.30 am and 10.30 am.

Schedules of classes are in the Post Office, Library and other business around Ratby.

You may like to relax and enjoy a cricket match too! The bar opens at 2pm.

Refreshments of tea and coffee also available.

The committee of Ratby Village Society are very pleased to be associated with the team at the Sport's Club. Together we are doing our utmost to ensure the show stays as a permanent fixture on the village calendar. We hope that you enjoy taking part and we look forward to seeing you again at next year's show.

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## MESSY CHURCH

Whatever your age you'll be welcome at the monthly Messy Church event! It's a great new way to experience church.

Doors open at 3.30 pm, and there will be crafts and activities, Bible stories, music and drama. Later there'll be a buffet meal, typically sandwiches and cake, until 5.20.

It's all about creating, worshipping, developing friendships and sharing a meal together.

Starts Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> June in Ratby Church.

## SUMMER CONCERT

Don't miss Ratby Co-operative Band's evening of music on **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June**. The concert starts at 6pm, at Beaumont Leys School, Anstey Lane, LE4 0FL.

Senior, Mid, Junior and Beginner Bands will all be taking part in what promises to be a perfect summer evening event.

Tickets cost £8.00, concessions £7.00. Children go free. Ring **0116 2870423** for tickets.

## RATBY COMMUNITY CINEMA

ENERGIZE youth group proudly present:

20<sup>th</sup> June Cars 2

4<sup>th</sup> July The Lego Movie

Films start at 6.30 in the Church

Snacks from 6 pm.

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## RATBY METHODIST CHURCH

### Charity

The total amount raised during the past year for Gift of SIGHT has so far been £1467.55.

Following a vote, the charity chosen for the coming year is RAINBOWS.

### Girls Brigade

All three groups have been busy with badge work in the Tuesday evening sessions. Trips are being planned to Twycross Zoo and an indoor camp in Sheringham Norfolk.

We'd love to hear reports on these events!

### MIDGE is STILL MISSING

In our last issue we asked for help with finding Midge, a lost black and white cat. Sadly she has still not come home, and the owner is convinced she is alive and well in the village. Please ring 0776 3818484 if you have seen her.

## RATBY VILLAGE SOCIETY

The June meeting will again be held on a Thursday in the Ratby Sports Club, Desford Lane, starting at the earlier time of 7.30pm.

**Admission; Members £1.60, casual guests £2.50. Includes refreshments. Non members welcome.**

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June** Gill Smart from the Heart Link Charity, Glenfield Hospital, will deliver a talk with a display of photographs on the work of the Charity. There will be a presentation of monies collected for the charity throughout the past year by RVS members.



Age UK Leicester Shire & Rutland is calling for all knitters to join in The Big Knit. Knitters can get the simple knitting patterns online at [www.ageuk.org.uk/leics](http://www.ageuk.org.uk/leics) or by calling the Business Development Manager on 0116 2237344. Please arrange for your knitted hats to be at Age UK Leicester Shire & Rutland (Ref: BDM), Lansdowne House, 113 Princess Road East, Leicester, LE1 7LA by the end of September.

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## LETTER to the EDITOR

Dear Editor,

The news was disheartening, whilst the dull blustery weather gave rise to a feeling of déjà vu for an uninspiring, weary day ahead.

Suddenly in a flash that all changed! I stepped into the 'His and Hers' hairdressing establishment. A remarkable transformation had taken place, from a dull, outdated barber's shop into an elegant parlour.

Light and airy, in pastel pinks and greys, the fixtures and fittings all tastefully decorated in true 18<sup>th</sup> Century style. Ornate backed chairs in the waiting area beckoned, leaving me bowled over by the beauty of it all. The jewel in the crown being an exquisite, dazzling chandelier.

Marie Taylor is to be applauded for this initiative and inspirational design.

A minor change of name to 'His and Hers Regency Salon' might be appropriate?


Yours sincerely

Hoz.

### St GEORGE'S DAY

Ratby Scouts took part in the St. George's Day Parade in Leicester for the first time in many years. The weather was perfect and everyone behaved well.

The service in O2 Academy was pleasant and everyone saluted at the right time on the march back to De Montfort Hall gardens.



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## RECIPE

### SUMMER SALAD DRESSING

A quick to make dressing for a summer salad. Try tossing it with a bowl of mixed lettuce, sliced cucumber, radish and cherry tomatoes.

#### Ingredients

- 1 ½ teaspoons white wine vinegar
- 4 ½ tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
- 2 teaspoons clear runny honey
- 1 heaped tablespoon wholegrain mustard
- 3 tablespoons chopped chives

#### Method

Put all ingredients into a screw top jar, season with salt/pepper if desired, shake well and pour over salad. Toss and serve.



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## APPLE DAY

Ratby Community Orchard group are planning an apple day event on October 12<sup>th</sup> this year. It promises to be a great occasion now that we have some new equipment purchased with the grant given by The Co-operative Dividend Fund. We have a new press, scratter and peeler and corer.

All the usual games and activities will be there.

Put the date in your diary now! Watch out for more news in the August issue of Wot.

If you would like to help with the event please contact us by e mail ,

[Ratbycommunityorchard@gmail.com](mailto:Ratbycommunityorchard@gmail.com)

Or phone Steve on 0116 239 4873



### AN ORCHARD APPLE GEORGE CAVE



This apple was raised by George Cave in Essex in 1923, and was named in 1945.

Apples have a strong, sweet-sharp taste, more interesting than most summer apples, and reminiscent of the nonpareil family. Formerly a market apple, but now only seen in farm shops.

It is our earliest apple, ready for picking and eating in early to mid-August. It does not keep.

### RATBY ON THE INTERNET

#### Ratby Leicestershire Facebook Page

We have mentioned this before in Wot, and if you haven't done so it is well worth a look if you are interested in village history. Currently there are transcripts of Whites and Kelly's directories, as well as some Census pages for Ratby families. Should be interesting for family historians.

We noticed one anecdote with a plea for information that as yet has had no response, so we'll include it here in case anyone might know;

'Apparently during WW2 a parachute landed in the fields behind Park Road, and was then shot.'

If you know about this please reveal all either in Wot or directly on the Facebook page;

[www.facebook.comRatbyLeicestershire](http://www.facebook.comRatbyLeicestershire)



### ASTILL and JORDAN

It has been almost two years since Mick Gamble, in conjunction with the Leicester Transport Heritage Trust, published his first substantial volume covering the history of local independent bus operator Browns Blue.

In his second publication Mick covers the history of one of Leicestershire's oldest private bus companies Astill and Jordan of Ratby. Astills ran regular, reliable bus services from Ratby to Leicester and the surrounding areas as well as providing school transport, contract work, private hire, tour and excursion work, for a total of more than 65 years. Astill and Jordan finally sold out to Wreake Valley Travel (Midland Fox) in November 1988. Over twenty five years have passed since that time and Mick feels that it is time to record those memories before they are lost forever.

The book is published by Leicester Transport Heritage: [www.lttht.org.uk](http://www.lttht.org.uk)

Available from June 1<sup>st</sup> 2014. £ 28.00

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