

# WOT!

About Ratby

PUBLISHED BY RATBY SCOUT GROUP

## RATBY on SHOW!

Kate and Chris Fitches swept the board with an array of different awards for the variety of items and produce they had entered in Ratby's Annual Show!



On the right of the photograph is Kate's spectacular floral tribute in remembrance of those who lost their lives in World War 1, beside an array of their prizes. The couple were fitting winners for the 'Wot about Ratby' award which is given for a participant who has shown a true community spirit in taking part. Says Kate, 'We entered because it's important to support the Show when so many people have put so much effort into putting it on.' She also remarked that it is not just about winning! And Wot has heard from the Show organisers that Kate has offered to help with next years event!



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# UK-German Connection

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## GROBY COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S GERMAN YOUTH AMBASSADOR

As part of my year as a UK-German youth ambassador, I was fortunate enough to take part in a conference in Berlin over the summer. The conference, with the other 49 youth ambassadors, both German and British, allowed us to share our experiences from throughout the year and evaluate our projects and achievements. The accommodation for the conference was just 20 minutes outside of Berlin and consisted of loads of amazing buildings and gardens! Over the two days we self and group assessed the year we had taken part in as ambassadors and even made videos including tips for next year's ambassadors. We not only worked hard but also had a bit of spare time, meaning we were able to explore a bit of Berlin for an afternoon which was brilliant. As well as doing the obvious tourist bits (the Brandenburg gate and the Reichstag building), the German ambassadors knew some of the quieter areas which were great to explore!

Throughout my year as an ambassador I organised a 'Great German Bake Off', helped out at a German Christmas workshop at Elizabeth Woodville Primary School and managed to set up a pen pal scheme for the year 10 (now 11) class. All the projects were really successful and I hope the pen pals will stay in contact! I've enjoyed every aspect of being an ambassador (even the few stressful bits!) and it's been great being able to promote something that I love, in terms of both the German culture and the language. I wish that I had another year to continue my ambassador role, but I definitely hope others from Groby Community College will consider applying this year as I can thoroughly recommend the experience!

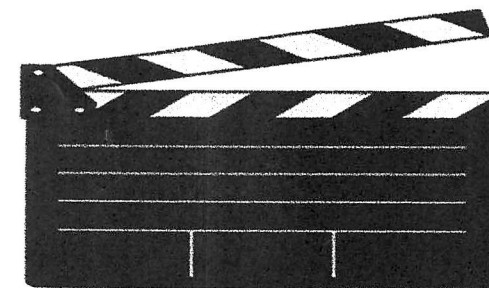
Emma Pye (Of Ratby)

## POND DIPPING DISCOVERIES

The weather was fine for Ratby Community Orchard's annual pond dipping on Wednesday August 6<sup>th</sup>.

A good crowd of families and interested adults turned out to explore what we might find.

After the pond clearance we were apprehensive. Although there were lower numbers we did find the usual variety of species, and were treated to a fly past by Southern Hawker dragonflies. Local wildlife experts Tim Adkins and Dave Nicholls were on hand to help with identification.



## Ratby Community Cinema

The cinema runs in church on alternate Friday evenings. We open from 6.00pm when food & drinks are available to purchase. The films start at 6.30pm and are **FREE**.

For up to date details follow us on Facebook, Twitter or go to our website [www.bradgateteam.org.uk](http://www.bradgateteam.org.uk)

### October

17th Pinocchio

31st Toy Story of Terror (short)

### November

14th Muppets Most Wanted

28th Mr Peabody & Sherman


### December

12th Christmas Special tbc

## ANTI-LITTER GROUP

Although Ratby Village Society has finished, the Anti-Litter Group are still going as part of the Parish Plan Group. Ratby's volunteer litter pickers will continue as usual in helping our village to stay clean and tidy.

Thanks to you all.  
Chris and Jane



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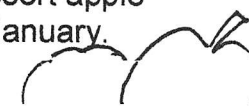
## BLENHEIM ORANGE A RATBY ORCHARD APPLE

A UK apple, discovered in 1740 by Kempster, at Woodstock in Oxfordshire. It was found growing against the boundary wall of Blenheim Park by a local cobbler or tailor who moved it into his garden, where apparently: 'thousands thronged from all parts to gaze on its ruddy, ripening orange burden.'

Originally named Kempster's Pippin it was renamed Blenheim Orange after approval from the Duke of Marlborough. It was widely grown in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and could still be found in markets in the 1930s. Rarely seen for sale now, but it remains a valued amateur variety, found in old gardens.

It makes a strong limbed tree with very hard wood which was once used to make cog wheels for railways.

Can be harvested for cooking from early September, and as dessert apple October/December to January.



## 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 Publisher. We cannot be held responsible for information in advertisements, which we accept.





## CAMP TANZANIA 2014

The Groby Community College team at the Ngorongoro crater

On 14<sup>th</sup> July 2014, 23 students and 2 staff from Groby Community College set off for Tanzania. During their four weeks they contributed to the construction of a new classroom for a primary school in Moshi, at the base of Kilimanjaro. There was time too for a football match with the children, and dance and Swahili lessons. From Moshi the group travelled to Camp Tanga, overlooking the Indian Ocean where they worked on building another classroom, repairing desks, and seaweed farming, with time for SCUBA diving. At the final camp near Lake Manyara the students learned to make mud bricks for his house with a local man. Visits to a Masai village, and a safari to the Ngorongoro crater were the final highlights of the trip.

## 90'S COFFEE MORNING GET-TOGETHER IN THE CHURCH ROOMS.

Our lovely 90 year-olds were a delight to meet and talk to. One, Albert Hargrave, had brought with him lyrics, originally written by Charlie Garrett who lived in the 'Sunshine' houses, and which are sung to the tune of Auld Lang Syne. The words are a fitting tribute for our 90's 'group'.

*The birthday honours for today,  
We celebrate with you.  
And though the years go speeding by,  
You still come smiling through.*

*So here's to peace and happiness,  
And here's to joy and cheer.  
God bless you on this special day,  
And through the coming year.*

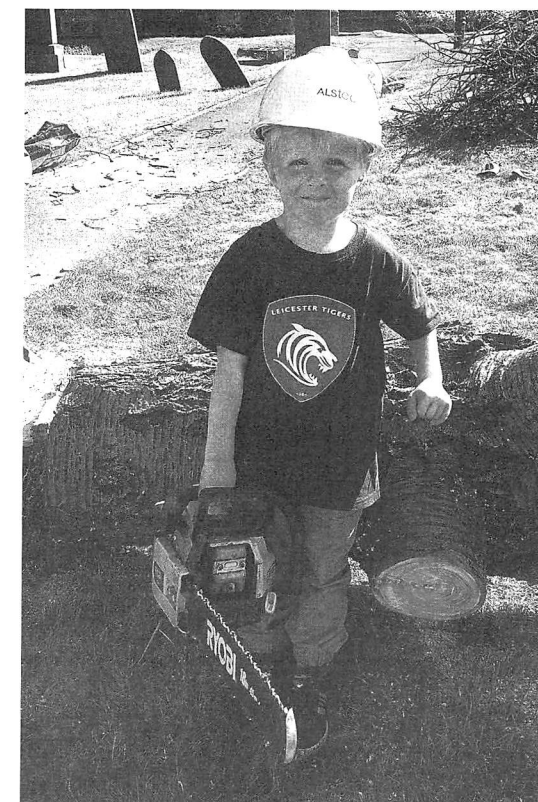
Thanks go to the volunteer drivers who made the occasion possible, and to everyone who joined in the fellowship morning.



## GOODBYE CHERRY TREE

Six year old Evan Grey and his grandmother Gill Grey were visiting Ratby Churchyard to take flowers when they spotted men at work taking down the deceased old cherry tree.

Evan found it fascinating, especially when he was allowed to wear a hard hat and then pose with a chain saw for a photograph.



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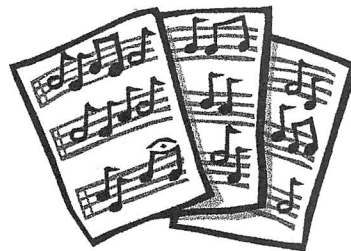
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## RATBY METHODIST INVITES YOU TO OUR CHURCH CAROL CONCERT SUNDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 10pm

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## RATBY SHOW

Once again the Village Show was a great success. There were a record number of exhibitors this year, 83 in total, aged between 3 and 85, and more entries from children.

The poetry competition had been judged before the day, and first prize went to Kathy Byrne, who told us, 'I'm delighted to win the first prize after previously coming 3<sup>rd</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>.' This year Kathy had been inspired by her new garden.

Sally Ann Waters took second prize, and Lianne Brookes third.

Judging took place in the morning. The judges were Stan Reed, who has been judging vegetables for 19 years, with Alvar Johnson and Graham Jackson, all of Groby Gardening Society, who kindly gave their services for free. At 2 pm the doors opened for visitors to flock in and view the exhibits. Once again folk could sit and enjoy a cup of tea and cake from the WI refreshment stall, or a drink from the bar whilst watching Ratby Town play Hinckley Amateurs on the cricket pitch.

Ozzie O'Shea presented the awards again at the end of the afternoon.

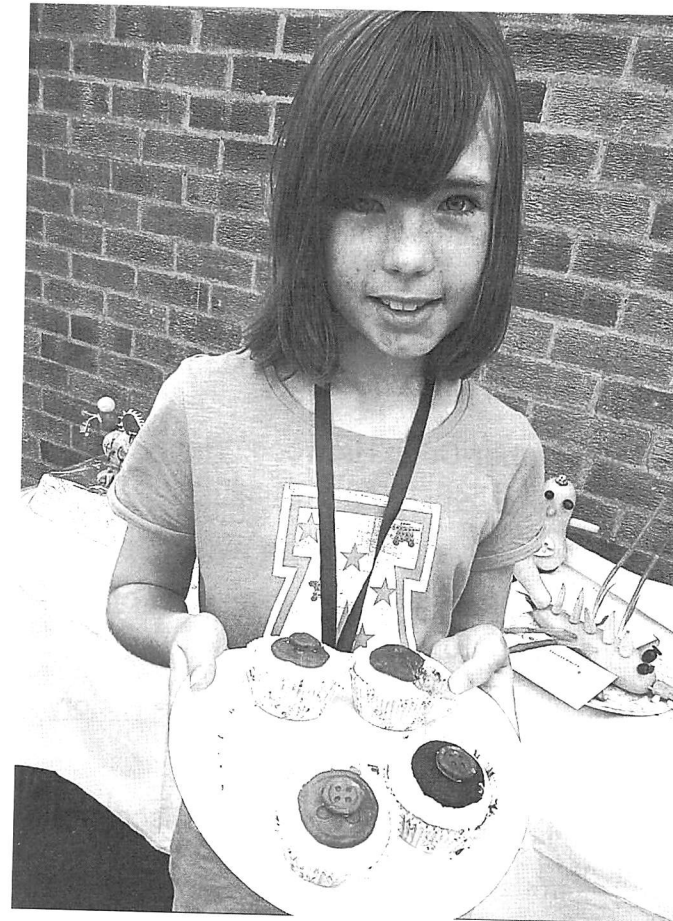
Although the Ratby Show was begun under the auspices of the now defunct Village Society, it will continue to be held each August in Ratby Sports Club.

'It's a typical village event that was missing from the calendar,' Chairwoman Faye Stephens told us. 'We wanted to put something on that everyone can enjoy, all ages, and which would bring the community together.'

Well they have certainly achieved that. Long may it last. If you've never taken part why not have a go next year?

Turn to page 9 to read Kathy's prize winning poem, 'Wondrous Thing.'

## RATBY CHILDREN WITH THEIR ENTRIES TO THE SHOW



Lucy with her prize winning cakes.



Liam with his prize winning 'Dragon'



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## BAKE IT!

### COFFEE and CAKE for MND

On Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September the Porter family organised a Bake It! Coffee and Cake morning at Ratby Church Rooms to raise money for the Motor Neurone Disease Association, in memory of Mick Porter, formerly of Porter's Carpets in the village.

They would like to say a huge thank you to the massive amount of people who came along to support them by buying cakes, cards, crafts and raffle tickets. In those two hours £875 was raised!

Along with other donations, some Ice Bucket challenge money and a wedding confetti bucket collection an amazing grand total of £1060 has been raised.

All monies will go towards helping and supporting other MND sufferers and their families.

A huge thank you also goes to those people who helped out during the morning, and local businesses who donated raffle prizes.



### NEW RATBY CO-OP STORE

There seem to be all manner of rumours around the village suggesting that the Co-op is no longer developing the Station Road site for a new store. These rumours are unfounded. There have been various delays which have not been the store opening. We hope to bring

## RATBY LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

### Programme for 2014/2015

All those interested in finding out more about Ratby's past will be very welcome. Meetings take place on Friday evenings in the Village Hall, Main Street, beginning at 7.30pm.

The charge per meeting will be £1.50 for members and £2.50 for non-members. Free for those in full time education.

**28<sup>th</sup> November**-Doug Harwood: 'Henry Sacheverell (1548-1620): recusant or reformed?'

ff by Michael Ball: 'William White: vicar of Ratby 1590-1610.'

**30<sup>th</sup> January 2015**- Gareth King: 'The History of Witches.'

**24<sup>th</sup> April** – Richard Buckley: 'The Discovery of Richard 111.'

ff by Michael Ball: 'Richard 111 and Local Families.'

**15<sup>th</sup> May**- AGM

ff by Michael Ball: 'What the papers said about Ratby in the 18/19<sup>th</sup> century: Part 2.'

### RATBY RAMBLERS

This walking group is still going strong, with two walks a week on Thursdays and Fridays. New members are always welcome.

Contact Peter Griffin on 0775 4085820 for more information.

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## Wondrous thing

A garden is a wondrous thing.  
At least that's what we thought,  
as we surveyed the plot around the  
the house that we'd just bought.

But it held a few surprises,  
this piece of land of ours.  
For half a ton of rubble  
lay hidden in the flowers.

Under swathes and swathes of ivy  
we found the garden shed.  
Dug almost to Australia  
to remove an iron bed!

Some of the garden's history  
whilst digging was revealed.  
Stems of clay pipes, a codswallop,  
from the time it was a field.

In my mind's eye I see the scene,  
the crops tall, sturdy, ripe,  
and striding out behind his team  
the farmer with his pipe.

He strides no more, this man of soil.  
For here now houses stand.  
And generations past have shaped  
and worked this plot of land.

We tend it now, as those before,  
In Summer, Autumn, Spring.  
But most of all we love it,  
this garden, wondrous thing.

Kathy Byrne



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## GIFT of SIGHT

Ratby Methodist Church has been supporting Gift of Sight, a charity which researches and restores eyesight.

Through various events over the past year, and the 'Penny Pots' an amazing total of £1850 has been forwarded to the charity.

The Church thanks all supporters, and looks forward to welcoming you all to the events for this year's charity, Rainbows Children's Hospice.



### What is Ratby Messy Church?

Messy church is church. This may not be in the traditional sense of the word but our aim is to have a safe, fun space where people can talk about God, ask questions as well as worship, develop friendships and share a meal together. We start off with a range of activities based on a Bible story; we have already looked at Creation, Noah, Abraham, Jonah and the Whale and Joseph. We then have a story and song time and finish with cake and sandwiches, as well as a well-earned cuppa for the parents, grandparents and carers.

Messy Church is held on the third Sunday of the month from 3.30 -5.30. Everything is free. The next Messy Church is on October 19th and we will have lots of harvest themed activities. We would love to see you there!  
The Messy Church Team

**Messy Harvest**      **October 19th**

**Messy Moses**      **November 16th**

**Messy Christmas**      **December 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Ratby Parish Church, Church Lane, Ratby.**  
**LE6 0JE**

**0116 2394606**

**MessyRatby@aol.com** or **fb**



## BIRD FEEDERS CAN BE VIRUS BREEDERS

The Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust is asking people who feed birds in their gardens to be extra vigilant about cleaning their bird feeders after a severe case of Avian Pox was confirmed in Cropston. Avian pox is a skin condition that affects many bird species commonly found in gardens. It causes lesions, particularly on the face of birds, which look like warty tumours. In severe cases these lesions grow very large and can affect the bird's vision which ultimately results in a greater risk of predation or a slow death from starvation.

Neil Pilcher, Senior Conservation Officer said "This poor Dunnock was spotted in someone's garden hopping around under a feeder. From the photo we received it was clear that this was a severe case of Avian Pox.

The home owner in this case is very careful about hygiene issues with feeding birds and cleaned their feeders every week. This is excellent as it reduces the chance of the disease being spread to other birds using the feeders.

This case highlights the need for everyone to be vigilant as this was the first occasion that this bird had been seen in this particular garden. Therefore it is highly likely that it had been visiting other gardens and feeders in the area which are all at risk of spreading the disease if they are not regularly cleaned.

The Trust is calling on everyone who loves feeding birds in their gardens to get into the routine of cleaning their feeders regularly, ideally once a week. Infected birds are not always obvious and it is better to be safe than sorry. By feeding birds homeowners are encouraging birds to congregate in the same place time after time therefore increasing the risk of diseases being passed on. Simple good hygiene routines can allow people to carry on enjoying their garden birds without the risk posed by this and other nasty diseases."

The Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust recommend that the public should contact the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) for further advice or to report possible cases. The BTO are running a Garden Bird Health Initiative and they want people to report suspected cases to them so that they can track the disease across the country. They can be contacted at [www.bto.org](http://www.bto.org)



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## FREE ADVICE FOR THOSE AT RISK OF FALLS

A series of free workshops is being held across Hinckley & Bosworth for older residents at risk from falls.

The Falls Awareness Workshops are intended for those who have had a fall or for those who have a health-related condition (including poor hearing or eyesight) that can affect their balance. Carers are also welcome to attend.

The workshops have been organised by Age UK Leicester Shire and Rutland, together with Active Together.

The workshops will provide advice and information on:

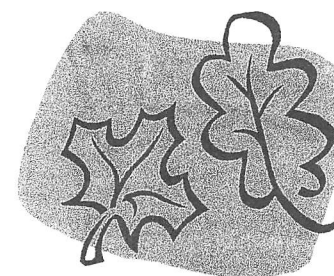
- hearing services;
- free eye tests;
- free postural assessments;
- alarm services;
- free Tai Chi taster sessions.

They will be held at the following locations:

- Market Bosworth Parish Hall - Tuesday 4 November (1pm to 5pm)
- Markfield Community Centre - Tuesday 18 November (1pm to 5pm)
- St Francis Centre, Hinckley - Thursday 20 November (12noon to 4pm)
- Age UK Senior Citizens Centre, Earl Shilton - Thursday 27 November (12noon to 4pm)

Free tea or coffee and a buffet is included, as well as free transport. Booking is essential.

For more information contact Emma Hopkins on 01455 255875 or 01455 619519 or email: [emma.hopkins@hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk](mailto:emma.hopkins@hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk).



**DEADLINE for issue 169  
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Articles may be sent to 3 Ingle Drive  
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## AGE CONCERN Handyman Service: Home Energy Check Programme.

We are delighted to announce that we have secured grant funding to deliver the EON Home Energy Check Programme. Whilst winter may still seem a long way off, it is reassuring to know that Age UK Leicester Shire & Rutland will be helping many older people to keep warm.

The grant will enable our Handyperson service to carry out an 'energy fit' check that will enable us to assess the energy efficiency of a person's home, offer advice on how to save energy and, where appropriate, install simple and practical energy efficiency measures. The equipment that can be provided includes low energy bulbs, draught excluders and cold alarms.

In order to qualify for a free check, you need to be over 55 years of age. You may know of someone who would benefit from this free service. For more information about our free energy efficiency checks, please contact: 0116 2992254

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