

WOT!

About Ratby

PUBLISHED BY RATBY SCOUT GROUP



WASSAIL! WASSAIL!

There was a good turn out of over 20 members for the sixth Ratby Wassail at the village Community Orchard on Taverner Drive. We met at The Railway Inn before starting the traditional noisy procession to the orchard.

Leicester Orphean Orchestra musicians provided the music for the wassail songs as we circled the trees.

The traditional 'toast' was performed to ensure a good crop of apples in the coming year, and the group gathered round the wheelbarrow barbecue for roasted chestnuts and potatoes.

Then it was back to the Railway Inn to present the 'good luck' tray of evergreens to the landlady in customary style.

If you would like to join the Orchard Group and help us to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Orchard this year, please ring Steve or Sue on 239 4873.

Wassailers gather outside the pub before heading off to the Orchard.



VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT FOR RATBY

What is a village Design Statement?

It is a document which sets out clear and simple guidance for the design of any future development for Ratby, based on its character, history, and surrounding countryside. It is important that it represents the views of the village as a whole.

Who produces the Village Design Statement for Ratby?

The people of Ratby do. They research, develop, write and edit it.

What are the benefits to Ratby villagers?

By describing the character and distinctiveness of Ratby it will offer a positive way for local people to ensure that the nature and quality of development makes a natural progression from village past into the future.

How can I become involved?

A team of Ratby villagers are in the process of producing a Village Design Statement, and will welcome you to join them at any of the meetings. Frequency of meetings has yet to be finalised, but they are held in the evenings to enable working people to attend.

Please phone 239 5350 for details of future meetings.

Jayne Rayne

RATBY SCOUTS NEW DISTRICT NAME

The group is now to be called 'South West Leicester.' On November 19th our District Commissioner and his Deputy came along to the Beavers and Cubs to present them with their new District Badge. The new badge of the Hindustani Tiger was chosen from a Royal Leicestershire Regiment selection.

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THE LADIES CIRCLE

The Ladies Circle at the Methodist Church meet on the first Monday evening of each month at 7.30. We are a mixed bunch both in age and character who relax together for a couple of hours and follow a varied programme - all good fun. We welcome any lady to join us - you are sure to see a face you know so don't be shy.

The programme for the rest of the year is as follows:-

February 15th

Silent Auction

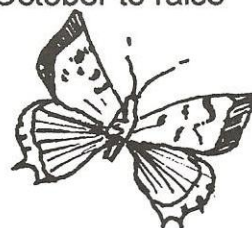
March 3rd

Planning evening for a

Forties night we are holding in October to raise funds for a charity.

April 7th

Beatle Drive



RATBY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

In December we held our Christmas party. We enjoyed a buffet supper and were entertained by a magician. The evening ended with members joining together to sing carols.

The New Year started with an informal meeting of tea, chat and a fun quiz.

Our next meeting is on 13th February at the Village Hall, Main Street at 7.30 p.m. If you are interested in joining us call in on the evening or telephone the President on **238 6398**

PABARI'S RATBY NEWS

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ART EXHIBITION AND CRAFT FAIR NOVEMBER 18th 2007

We would like to thank everyone who helped make this event such a success. From visitors who made an enormous effort to come despite appalling weather conditions, to those who gave their time and energy so generously and wholeheartedly.

Ladies from the WI did a tremendous job and were kept very busy serving cups of tea and home baked refreshments, and generally helping to keep the atmosphere friendly and relaxed.

The standard of art and craft work was excellent and such a delight to find so much talent locally.

Please keep up the good work and get started on a new piece, or enter for the first time (maximum of 3 pieces, £1 entry fee for each) at our next exhibition and fair.

This will be held in the Village Hall, Main Street, on **Sunday 16th November 2008**. Make a note in your diary now! Everyone welcome. We look forward to seeing you.

Ratby Village Society Anti-litter Group.

RATBY SCHOOL REUNION

Following the success of last year's get together, I am arranging another one for this year.

It will be held on **Friday May 16th** in the same venue; **Caterpillar Sports and Social Club in Desford.**

There will be a small charge of £1 per head towards the cost of room hire.

Come along and enjoy a chat, a look through old photos, and try to work out who everyone is! There will be drinks and nibbles. Help us to make it another enjoyable night.

Contact me on **01455 282504**, or mobile phone;

07770 863 061. Or e-mail me at;
John.cavendish@btopenworld.com

John Cavendish

SPRING IS COMING

We are looking for a village photo that captures the essence of spring for our next front page! Check the deadline on page 7 for contact details.

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PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Effort rewarded

On a cold winter evening two intrepid parish councillors toured Ratby seeking festive decorations which would appeal most to children. The displays chosen by the "Ratby two" have received a small token of appreciation for their contribution to the festive spirit. Congratulations go to Mr & Mrs Murray of Markfield Road and Mr Kiffin of Nicholas Drive; Mr & Mrs Scowan of Church Lane and Mr Parker of Brook Drive; Mr & Mrs Greening of Markfield Road, Mr & Mrs Marston of Middlebrook Close, Mr & Mrs Cullen of Dane Hill, and Mr Tate of Station Road.

Joyful noise

Churches Together and Ratby Parish Council are pleased to report that the traditional Carol singing round the Christmas tree was well attended; once again our thanks go to those who contributed to the success of the event. A collecting tin was passed around and a donation of £52.46 for Scope was received; this is an excellent result. We kept the tradition alive, we made a joyful noise in the heart of our village, and we helped someone else along the way. Shall we do it again next year? And if we do, will you bring a friend?



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Annual Parish Meeting

The Local Government Act 1972 decrees that every English Parish must have an annual parish meeting between 1 March and 1 June. A parish meeting is not a meeting of the parish council it is a meeting of the local government electors for the whole parish – where will we find a room large enough to hold such an event?

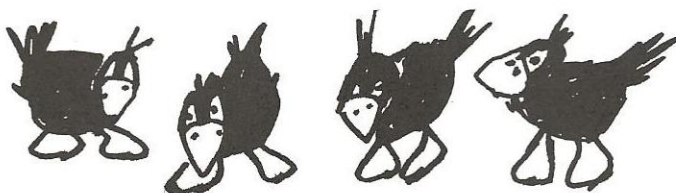
A parish meeting may discuss and pass resolutions on the public activities and policies of any local authority, public body, government department or public service provided that they affect the parish specifically.

If the parish has a parish council then the Clerk to that council will assemble the agenda which must be published up to 28 days (depending on the nature of the discussions) before the meeting.

The annual Ratby parish meeting will be held on Wednesday 23rd April 2008. Notice of the agenda will be posted on Wednesday 26th March 2008.

Ratby Rates

The parish council has agreed to ask for a precept of £93,000 for the forthcoming year 2008/2009; this is an increase of just 28.61p per elector for the year.



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Village Society Notes

To round off 2007 we all enjoyed a "bring and share" supper, followed by team games which involved some mental agility and mirth. We were also pleased to welcome P.C. Justin Hayes and colleague who spent some time getting to know us and vice versa.

At the start of the New Year Andy Cereseto presented another of his very successful "Personalities Revealed" interviews. "Volunteers" to be interviewed came from suggestions by Village Society members and proved to be a most interesting choice. Their lives, interests and achievements were revealed by Andy's careful questioning.

Horace Gamble was the first in the chair. Born in Leicester, he has lived in Ratby for twenty-one years. He talked about his work as a draughtsman and architect, with a short break for National Service in the Navy. His early interest in drawing and railways continued in later life as he became a keen painter, photographer and founder of the Leicester Railway Society. He has also been very active in the Church community, serving as Church Warden among many other duties.

Brian Rayne was also born in Leicester, into a family whose roots were in the north-east of England. After serving an apprenticeship in engineering he worked for various companies as a precision engineer and became works manager. His interest in motor bikes led to a job in a motor-cycle shop and membership of the Vintage Motor Cycle Club. Latterly he worked at Glen field Hospital, progressing to Head Porter. His enthusiasm for this work was obvious. Other interests include playing in a brass band but there was no time to explore this avenue as our next "victim" was waiting in the wings.

MAY DAY in RATBY

Do you have memories and photographs you'd like to share about May celebrations in Ratby? Perhaps you were crowned May Queen or remember dancing around the Maypole?
Please get in touch...we want your stories for the next issue!

The life of a vicar's wife must be very busy but Jenny Worsfold still finds time to work as a Speech Therapist, helping adults with learning disabilities. She originally went to Durham University to study Chemistry. She loved the city but not the course and after a post-graduate course in London (where she loved the course, but not the city!) she began work as a Speech Therapist in Wirksworth in Derbyshire. Since arriving in Ratby she has been able to pursue her passion for youth work, among many other Church activities and spends quieter times gardening, knitting and walking with her family.

We thoroughly enjoyed glimpses into the lives of some of our village characters and thank them and Andy for their contributions and their bravery

THE CHANTRY CHOIR

Once again the Chantry Choir entertained us at the Chapel on 21st December. If you have not been to one of their concerts, next time it is advertised get yourself a ticket. They are fantastic!

I am not sure how many choristers there are, I think about 20, half of whom are Ratby villagers, but my word they have such power in their voices. They perform a variety of music, and each item is wonderful.

The Choir usually donate the ticket income to charity, and this time they were supporting ADAPT, which is for premature babies.

Look out for them next time and support the Chantry Choir. **GH**

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SCOUT NEWS

Beavers

We have 12 children in the Beaver Colony at the moment, and no-one on the waiting list. We need more youngsters to come along and join in the fun so that the group will continue to grow. If there are no Beavers, then there is no-one to move up into Cubs and then Scouts.

Beavers have a great time, with games, projects for badge work, and recently they enjoyed an evening with wild creatures, and a ghost walk. They go walking and camping, and learn a lot.

Parents and children, call into the Church Rooms on a Monday at 5.15 to find out more! Or phone me, Gwen Holloway, secretary on; **239 4508.**

Cubs

17 cubs enjoy a range of activities on Monday evenings. They have recently finished their Artist Badge, and were involved in a project for the Church at Christmas.

Akela will be working with them next to achieve their Scientist Badge.

Twice a year Cubs go away for weekend camps.

Scouts

This is a good group again with a variety of activities each week. There is Badge work of course, camping, and recently a trip to see the bell ringing at the Church.

Leaders

Now if there is anyone out there who might like to consider helping us in the Movement please get in touch. You will obviously have to be 'Police Checked' as we all are. We would welcome you with open arms.

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News from St Philip and St James.

Well things have been rather busy since I last wrote. In November we had a new digital organ installed in the church. This is being paid for by individual donations rather than out of church funds. We held a celebration concert which was enjoyed by those attending. Outside of the church work has been carried out on the paths leading up to the church and the cemetery. This was for two reasons; firstly because pipe work was laid last year in readiness for toilets and a small kitchen to be installed in church. This meant the paths were even more in need of attention, but are now looking rather good. We are still trying to raise over £18,000 to complete the work but having much needed facilities will make the church a better venue. It does make one wonder what old Ratbarians (?) used to do 100 years ago!

With Easter being early this year, plans are underway for a joint choir service on the evening of 9th March in the evening. If you enjoy singing, feel free to come along any Wednesday evening at 7pm and see if you'd like to join us. There will be the usual children's event on Good Friday as well as special services on Easter Day at 10am and a Songs of Praise at 6pm. Remember, there's always one spare seat at church - because it's yours!!

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SPEED HUMPS!

Complaints about these have hit the National Press, with those in Mere Road, Highfields, Leicester making it onto the list of 10 worst!

Roy Holloway writes;

Drivers, especially bus drivers, who are complaining of neck pain, are getting more frustrated with speed humps.

According to research by an on-line car buying guide an overwhelming majority of motorists want to see them removed. The survey concluded that they result in an annual repair cost of £235 per car. 1 in 8 cars suffer suspension damage that can be directly attributed to speed humps. (figures from Warranty Direct)

The government claims that for every mile an hour cut from driver's speeds, the chance of an accident drops by 5%. However in Barnet the local council removed all speed humps and recorded 14.9% drop in accidents in the following first 6 months.

Is it not time that these humps were removed, and a 20 mph speed limit imposed in the village?

What do you think? Would motorists obey a 20 mph limit? We have heard complaints about the large number of road signs cluttering up the village entry routes. Have we gone too far? Editor.

A NEW SOCIAL GROUP

I am fairly new to Ratby, and don't know many folk. I'd like to discover if there are similar people, aged 50+ who would like to form a Social Group for days out, cinema trips, or just to meet for a drink in a local pub.

This would not be a 'dating club,' just a way for lonely people with similar interests to get together!

Please write in to 'Wot' if you have ideas or an interest in this, or send your contact details to 'Wot' care of 3 Ingle Drive to be forwarded to me.

Name and contact details supplied.

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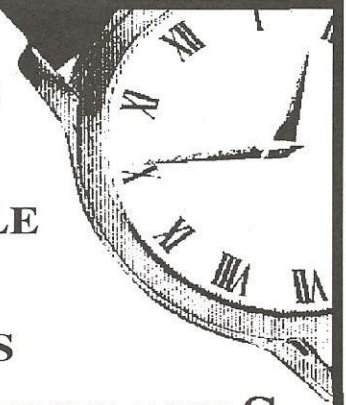
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APRIL / MAY 2008

FRIDAY 14th MARCH

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