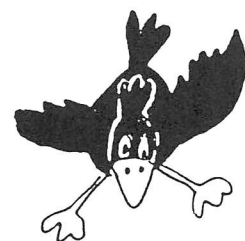


August 1997

Issue 65



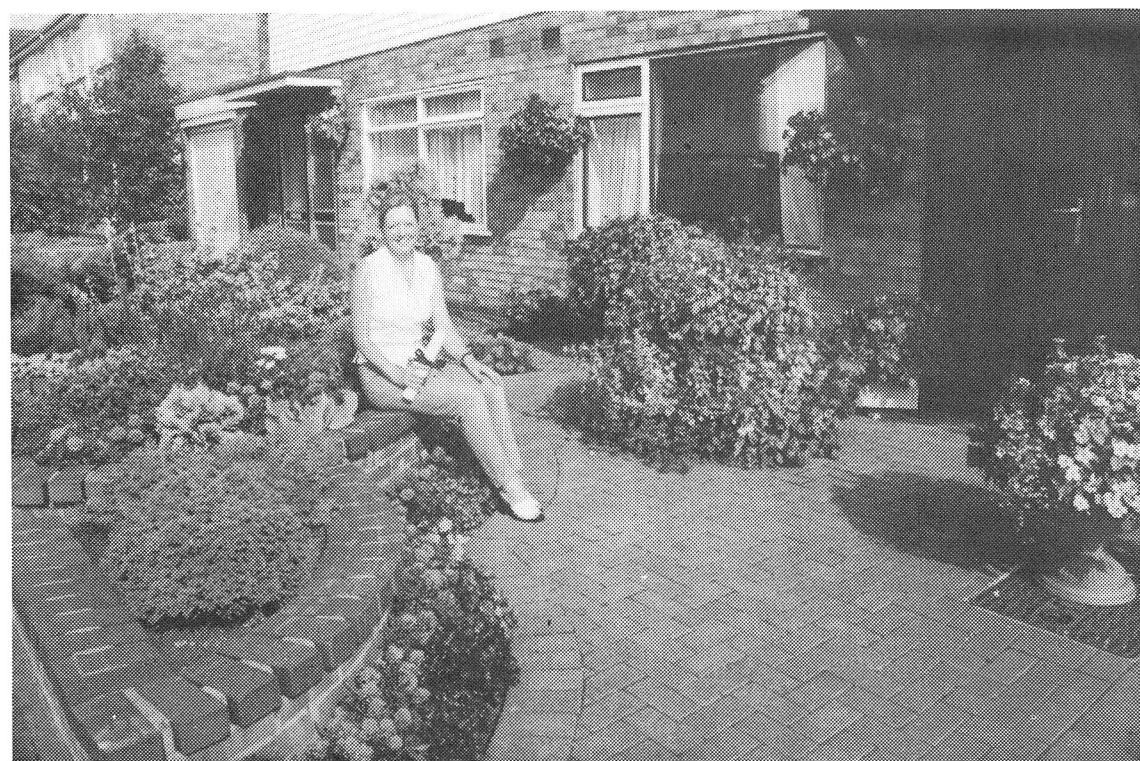
Wot!

About Ratby

PUBLISHED BY THE RATBY SCOUT GROUP



FRONT GARDEN WINNERS



Ratby Parish Council 1997 Summer Front Garden Competition Winner, Mrs Angela Saunt is pictured sitting in the landscaped flower-filled garden that she and her husband Michael created.

The couple have previously been awarded 2nd and 3rd prizes in the competition. Angela says that their success began in 1994 after Michael built the brick planting boxes to her design, where previously there had been grass.

When you have a spare evening why not take a leisurely stroll around this colourful village of ours and admire the many lovingly cared for gardens that are awash with colour and design.

Report and picture by Sylvia Gant

Turn to page 5 for full details of competition winners.

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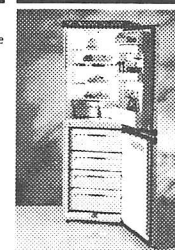


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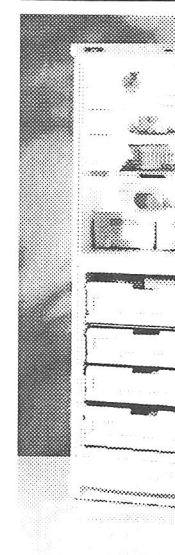


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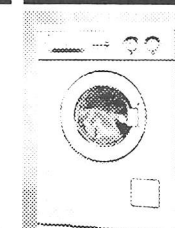


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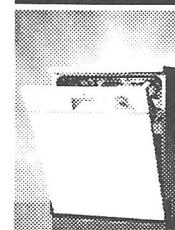


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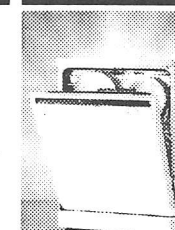


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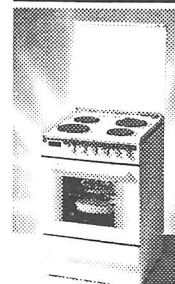


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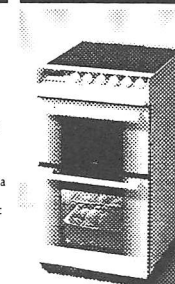


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Letters



RATBY BAND TRIUMPH

Dear Editor,

During the hot days, it's very easy to think - oh lets have the doors open, besides the windows. Well recently an elderly lady of Ratby had her back door open, unfortunately the chain was not on. The lady in question whilst in her lounge felt conscious of someone close. It was a double glazing salesman, who had entered, unbidden! So he got short shift.

No harm was done apart from a fright so please remember to put the chain on the door come hail or shine.

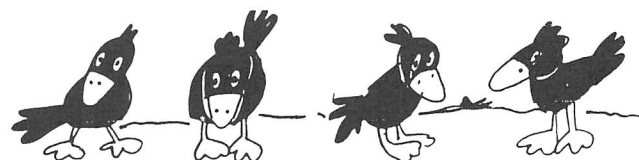
Sheila Ross.

Should you want to see your own typing in print. Articles for "WOT" should be typed in 3½ inch columns. Both left and right justified.

Ratby Co-operative Band were overall winners of the First Section at a top international competition in Holland.


The World Music Festival took place in Kerkrade and bands from all over the world took part. Ratby band achieved a gold medal with distinction for being judged the best band in the section, the sixth medal awarded to the band at this event.

This prize crowns the recent promotion of the band to the Premier Section of the National Brass bands championship league.



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FILLED COBS

100 Mile Canoe Test

How it all began for me and Ratby - by Ray Lander

Over the past thirty-odd years I have been lucky enough to canoe along the river Temes, Avon, Severn, Trent, Wye, Nene, Welland, Soar and Sence - not to mention canoe sea surfing which is great fun! It all started back in 1962 with the 91st Leicester Scout Group after being with the group as a leader for six years. I decided to take a break from scouting and became a member of the Leicester Canoe Club based at the Old Aylestone Boat House.

After being away from scouting for about six years, the East District Commissioner visited me to ask if I would consider returning again and if so, he would introduce me to the 95th Leicester Scout Group to get them motivated as they didn't do a lot!

After thinking about it for a couple of weeks I agreed, and three months later I said that with the scouts help I would be willing to build some fibreglass canoes as I had learnt how to do this with the Leicester Canoe Club. We built six canoes and I started teaching the scouts how to canoe.

The first 100 mile canoe test we entered was in 1977 - the Queens Jubilee Year! Whilst everyone was celebrating and partying in the streets, myself, five scouts and another scout leader joined up with the Leicester Boys Clubs to slog it out down the River Wye. We started at Glasbury Bridge and finished at Tintern Abbey and this was the start of an annual event for the scouts.

I left the 95th Leicester Scout Group when I came to live in Groby in 1980. A work colleague of mine, John Evans, ran the Ellistown Youth Club and he asked if I would teach him and his group how to canoe. He had the use of the swimming pool and canoes at Ibstock College. I agreed to take them on and a few weeks later the sports master at the college asked me if I would like to start a canoe club as he had some canoes which had been in storage for years. This was the start of Ibstock Ellistown Canoe Club and every year we entered the 100 mile canoe test.

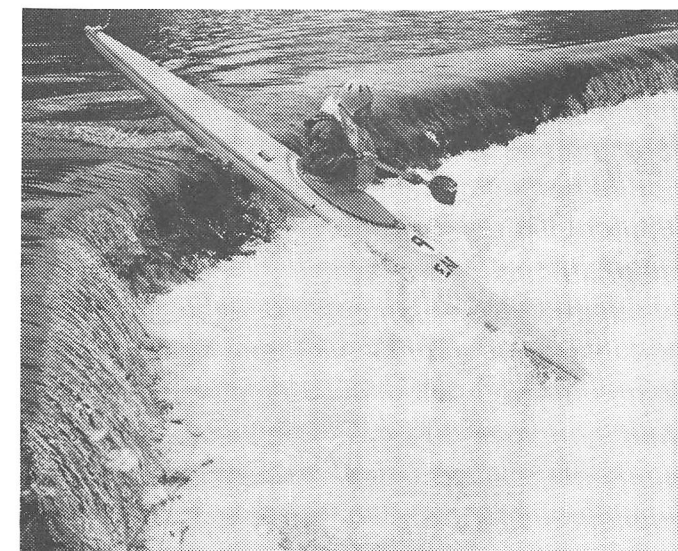
The headmistress at Ellistown Primary School heard that an ex-scout leader was teaching canoeing and asked John Evans to set up a meeting to ask if I would start a scout group in Ellistown. On the 22nd August 1981 the Ellistown

Scout Group was registered and I became the Group Scout Leader - but that's another story!

Being good friends with Joe Williams at the Quorn Hall Outdoor Pursuits centre, he offered me six old canoes on permanent loan for the scouts to use. I decided to resign as chairman of the canoe club to concentrate on the scout group work.

In 1989 I moved from Ellistown Scout Group to the 1st Ratby Scout Group and introduced them to canoeing. Every year in April, training commenced for anyone wanting to take part in the 100 mile canoe test and one night a week we would go for a paddle on the river for five to ten miles without a break (I was a hard task master!). On Saturdays we would go for a day's river trip, it must have paid off because I never had anyone drop out of the 100 mile canoe test (unlike many other groups!).

Three years ago, at the age of 66, I gave up teaching canoeing because David Payne and Matthew Flower had gained their canoeing scout charge certificates and I knew that the scouts would be in capable hands. I am sure they will carry on the good work and they are now B.C.U. Qualified Canoeing Instructors, along with Yousaf Mirza. With their keenness and a constant flow of willing paddlers I am sure that the tradition will continue for many years to come.



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Ratby Parish Council

At our AGM held on 6th May 1997 new officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows:
Chairman - WJA Daly was re-elected.

Vice-Chairman - MT Ball was re-elected

Planning Sub-Committee Members:

Mrs M Joyce - Chairman, C Rogers, TL Rae and M T Ball.

Leisure & Recreation Sub-Committee Members:

S Boud - Chairman, LJP O'Shea and Ms I Hannaford.

Delegates to LAPLC: TL Rae and C Rogers.

Sacheverell Trust Trustees: TL Rae and M T Ball.

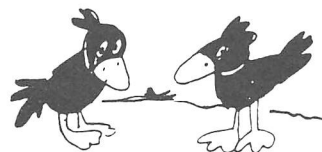
A vacancy currently exists on the Parish Council which is required to be filled by co-option. Those interested should apply in writing to the Clerk at 3 Grange Close, Ratby

The Parish Council recently held its **Summer Front Garden Competition** which was judged by Mrs B Tory of the Leicestershire Horticultural Judges Guild. She was accompanied by Councillor Ms I Hannaford on her inspection of the gardens nominated for entry into the competition. The results were:

First Prize of £25 in Garden Centre gift vouchers - Mr & Mrs Saunt, 9 Calverton Close.
Second Prize of £15 in Garden Centre gift vouchers - Mr & Mrs Chawner, 5 Grange Close.
Third Prize of £10 in Garden Centre gift vouchers - Mr & Mrs Baillie, 3 Mill Drive.

Mr & Mrs Woolly, 4 East Walk were highly commended. The Judge wished to compliment all on the standard attained and suggested if anyone is interested in further reading, the judging system is based on the RHS Judges Handbook and of course what is seen on the day. Congratulations to one and all.





1st. Rathby Scout Group



1st Rathby Swifts Cub Camp - June 1997

It was early evening of Friday 6th that 17 cubs plus leaders left Rathby for The Oaks in Charnwood for their annual weekend camp.

Unfortunately, owing to ill health I was unable to organise the camp this year and Ray Lander very kindly stepped in to help.

The activities and games that Ray organised were almost beyond belief. The camp theme was Knights of Old and 16 Knights in helmets and armour with swords and shields faced many varied challenges:

To start with all the cubs had to cook their own breakfast over an open wood fire. Cracking eggs without breaking the yolk proved more difficult than expected. Then there were the fun and games.

There was a slippery pole where two Knights faced each other with soft weapons to try to knock each other off. Target practice with catapults and balloons proved popular as did the archery lesson organised by the camp. Both leaders and cubs spent some time in the stocks being pelted with wet sponges. There was jousting, on a horse that was so realistic that some were tempted to feed it, but the highlight was probably the final game based on the Royal Tournament where teams challenged each other to taking a cannon round an obstacle course, dismantling and reassembling it and firing it to be the winner.

It was a pleasure to see all the cubs enjoying the camp so much. During the weekend I didn't witness a single incident of falling out between anyone including leaders. Perhaps the fact that we had 6 girl cubs at the camp helped to calm down the more boisterous boys. The Swift pack has not taken girls to camp before but they were all a credit to themselves.

I would like to thank Paul and Colin for their endeavours in providing all the meals and feeding us all so well. I would like to thank all the leaders for their efforts in making the camp flow so easily. Ray deserves a medal for the hours and days of time he must have spent developing the games, and of course we would all like to thank the cubs for making the camp so enjoyable for everyone.

I did take a video of the camp which is available to parents and friends. All I ask is that you provide a blank tape and a £1 donation to cub funds and I will make a copy for you.

Yours in scouting

Trevor Sleath, Akela



Scouts 'Fun Day'

On Saturday 10th May the scouts invited the cubs and beavers to Martinshaw Woods for a fun day.

The scouts started on the Friday evening when they met to erect tents and equipment. They also slept overnight to keep an eye on things and make sure they had an early start in the morning as there was still a lot to do.

The cubs and beavers arrived at 10am and were divided into groups each group consisting of at least 1 scout 2 cubs and 2 beavers a total of 44 in all took part.

It was then up to each group to visit as many games etc. as they could. There were prizes for everyone the higher the score the better the prize. The games were as follows: -

Shoot for goal, catapult the balloon, Fishing games, water canoes, hoop-a-la, bagatelle, throw the darts at the board, golf, knock the tins off the stand, blindfold rope trail, backwards sign trail, build a bivouac, find the bird in the tree, (well done Christopher Ridley the only one to find it), for all those who didn't it was a brown owl.

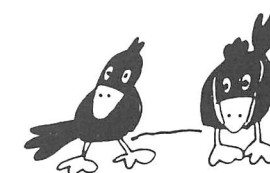
After hot dogs and burgers it was then time for team games, beavers against beavers, cubs against cubs and scouts against scouts. Most of the games were in the form of relays e.g. slalom hockey, sack race etc. the exception being throw the cricket ball and throw the discus. The last event of the afternoon was the assault course by which time many of the mums and dads were beginning to arrive and were able to watch.

Then it was prizes for the winning teams and then home to a nice hot bath.

Although the weather wasn't very good (it rained quite a lot) I know everyone enjoyed themselves and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped to make the day a success and a special thanks to Ray Lander who as usual spent a lot of time and effort making props and helping to organise the whole event.

Yours in Scouting

Dennis Brookes (Scout Leader)



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June 11th	Escape from France 1940" Mr Jack Haywood ex RAF
July 9th	"Military Music and its History" Mr Sid Kent, ex Bandsman, The Buffs
August 13th	"Siberia" Alexandra Menshikova, Russian English Teacher
September 10th	"Berlin Aircraft Association" Mr John Collier, ex RAF
October 8th	"Nelsons Battle of the Nile" Mr George Gamble, ex-Tigers

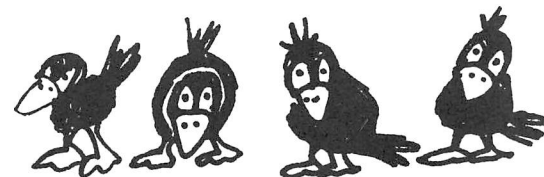
Speakers for 1998

January 14th	"Antique Clocks" David Grimshaw
February 11th	"Crime and Prevention" PC 719 Stuart Mason



Talks to be arranged for 1998

- "Womens Land Army Ass'n" - St John's Ambulance"
- "The Sealed Knott Society"
- "Thomas Cook"
- "The Grays of Bradgate"
- "Loros"
- "Victorian Society"
- "Seaforth Highland Ass'n"



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Opportunities for all at Countesthorpe College

It is not too soon to be thinking about educational opportunities that begin in September. In particular, adults considering vocational subjects need to gather information and make informed choices.

One way of thinking this through could be by arranging an Educational Guidance interview. Our tutor Dee Yorke offers this impartial service throughout the year to support adults considering returning to learn, or continuing their education.

Many local adults return to the classroom at Countesthorpe College in the daytime and evening, both to build upon their educational achievements, but of course also for pleasure.

We have a strong tradition of adults, of all ages, joining our 16+ 'A' level and GNVQ school classes. Many people over the years have used this opportunity as a first step in regaining confidence and building on skills in preparation for Higher Education, or career change.

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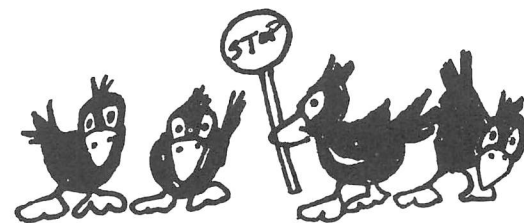
Ratby Village Society

Those of us who are amateur gardeners and not blessed with green fingers might have been green with envy at the colourful slides presented by Mr Peter Barton, from Cropston, showing 'Gardens Great and Small'. A large selection ranged from such enormous showpieces as Hampton Court and Wisley to some extremely ambitious, but beautiful, family dwelling house gardens of more modest proportions. Although this was not a talk on gardening, per se, it did give insight into what can be done with the most humble plot and also encouragement to those local gardeners who aspire to making their own patch a cut above the ordinary. Mr Barton's photography enhanced a relaxing May evening's enjoyment.

The June meeting was not quite so relaxing but nevertheless just as enjoyable when a party of twenty five members was met by Dr Helen Boynton, and her patient dog, at Bradgate Park where she gave a conducted tour and fascinating talk on the fossils contained in the 550 million year old rocks as well as pointing out the patterns made in the sedimentary layers by volcanic movement under the sea. Yes, Old John was once submerged and the volcanoes which deposited the ash and lava to form the well known rocks were at Whitwick and Bardon Hill. It is surprising that the first fossil was not spotted until 1963 since when fifty different types have been discovered, none of which can be identified relative to anything previously known. In fact so unique are these fossils that interested parties from as far away as Russia and America have been to Bradgate, accompanied by Dr Boynton, to view these amazing pre-historic phenomena.

After an hour and a half walking and climbing we came away very much wiser if a little bit wearier than when we arrived.

HG



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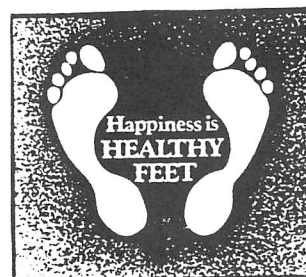
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So you want to be in the movies ?

The Leicestershire County Council Trading Standards Service is warning the public and businesses to be on their guard against some companies offering lucrative opportunities in the film industry.

In the past, complaints have been received from people who have paid agencies to 'register' them as film extras, only to be disappointed when no such work materialises.

In a new development, traders in the service industries - builders, taxi drivers, caterers, interior designers - are being approached in this and other areas. They are put on a register and promised the opportunity of work in the film industry at high rates - up to £700 per day - for their services. Firstly, however, they are asked to pay a large fee in advance.

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Geoff Wood

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Beef Lasagne

Ingredients

- 8 oz good quality minced beef
- 1 or 2 rashers of bacon
- 1 clove garlic crushed (optional)
- 1 onion peeled and chopped
- 1 carrot peeled and grated
- 2 or 3 mushrooms chopped
- 2 tablespoons tomato puree or
- 1 small tin of tomatoes
- ½ pint beef stock or
- ¼ stock & ¼ white wine
- 1 teaspoon mixed herbs
- Salt and pepper

Cheese Sauce

- 1 oz (25gr) butter or margarine
- 1 oz (25gr) flour
- 1 teaspoon mustard
- ½ pint milk
- Salt and pepper
- 4 oz (100gr) tasty cheese grated
- 3 oz (75gr) or 3 or 4 sheets of precooked lasagne
- 2 pint oblong ovenproof dish

Method

1. Fry chopped bacon for 5 mins, add onion, carrot, garlic and mushrooms for further 5 mins
2. Add beef, stir until separate and brown
3. Stir in tomatoes, stock, herbs and seasoning, bring to the boil and simmer for 30 mins to reduce
4. Cheese sauce - melt fat, off heat stir in flour and seasoning, cook over very low heat, gradually stir in milk, stir well until smooth and well cooked. Beat in cheese, saving a little to sprinkle on top
5. Put one third of lasagne in dish, cover with one third of meat and liquid then scant third of cheese sauce, repeat ending with generous amount of cheese sauce, sprinkle remaining cheese on top and cook in oven at gas mark 5 or electric 190°C or 375°F for 30 - 35 mins

S. C. Wener