

# Wot!

## About Ratby

PUBLISHED BY THE RATBY SCOUT GROUP

### RATBY OLD PEOPLES WELFARE HALL



#### £1,000 boost for Ratby Old Peoples Welfare Hall

The Midlands Co-operative Society has donated £1,000 to Ratby's Old Peoples Welfare Hall Committee as part of its Co-op Community Dividend reward scheme. The money will be used towards the improvement of the hall for the Millennium. Lisa Koeber, sales assistant from the local village store presented the cheque and a special certificate to Welfare Hall Committee members Pat Willis and Jill Grey at "The Drop In", Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September. Said a delighted Pat, "we are very grateful to the Co-op for this award it will help us start the funding for the modernisation of the hall."

Any donations would be welcome, our treasurer is:-



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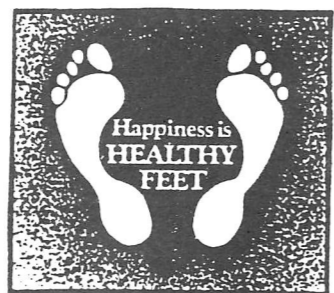
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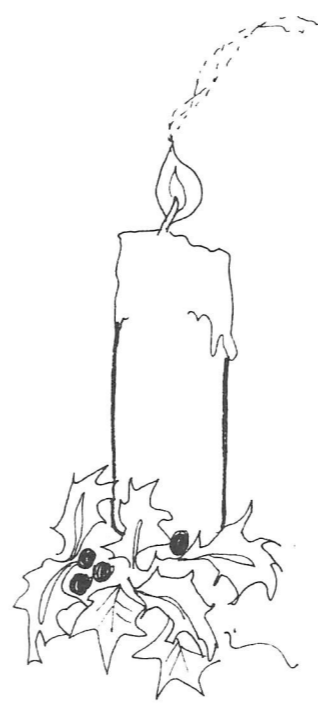
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**CHRISTMAS SERVICES 1998 RATBY**

**METHODIST CHURCH**

13 DECEMBER 4.00 PM  
 24 DECEMBER 11.30 PM  
 25 DECEMBER 9.30 AM

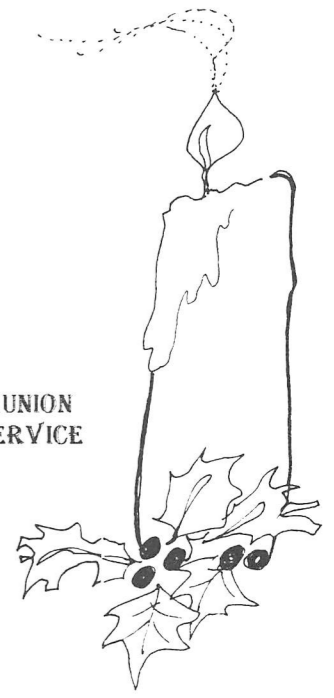
CAROL SERVICE  
 HOLY COMMUNION  
 FAMILY SERVICE

**PARISH CHURCH**

20 DECEMBER 10.30 AM  
 6.00 PM  
 24 DECEMBER 6.00 PM  
 11.30 PM  
 25 DECEMBER 8.00 AM  
 10.30 AM

NATIVITY PLAY & HOLY COMMUNION  
 UNITED CANDLELIGHT CAROL SERVICE  
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**Ratby Parish Council**

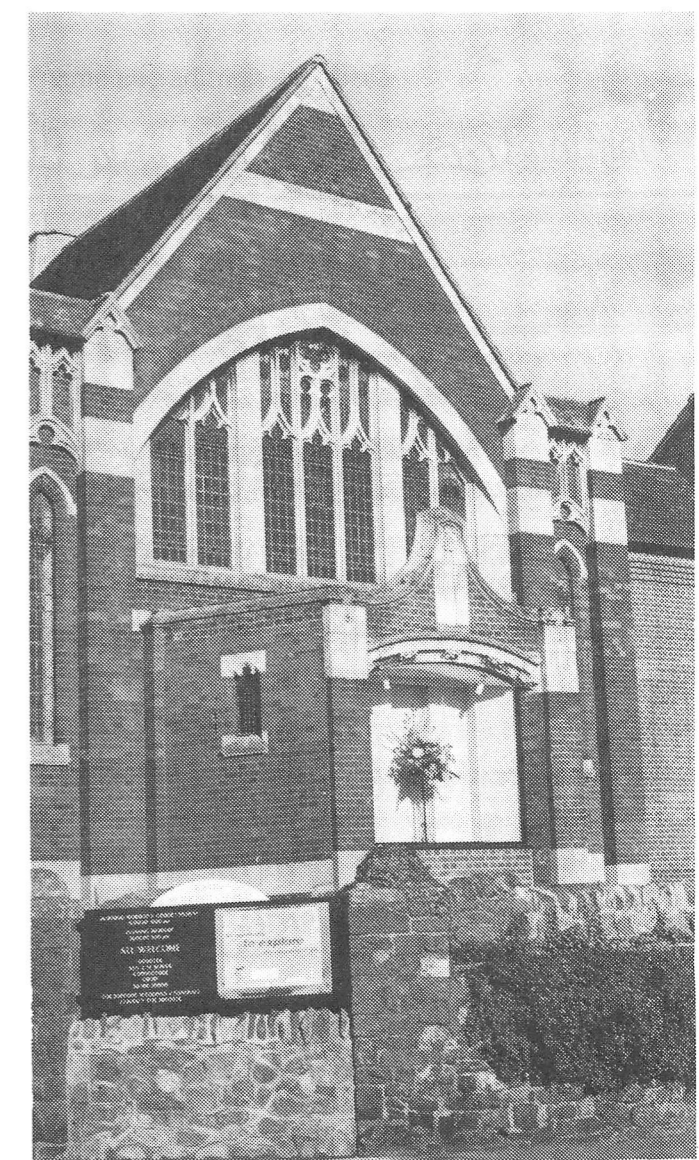
**STEPPING STONES PROJECT**

The Stepping Stones Photographic Project has now been completed. Many thanks to the Stirling work of Horace Gamble whose knowledge of Ratby was of tremendous help. Thanks also to Jill Gray and Sue Boud who finished the project by producing the collage. Jill also produced an excellent second collage which will be framed to hang in the Library for everyone to see - this was produced out of the balance of the photos that had been cut up to produce the original collage.

**PROPOSED MILLENNIUM PHOTOGRAPHIC PROJECT**

In the last two *WOT* issues there have been appeals for volunteers who would assist in taking photographs of events and changes in our village in 1999 and 2000. To get funding we need 12 people who are willing to assist with the project. Included in the funding will be a workshop to give volunteers a better knowledge of photography (should they need it). Please note, we are not looking for 'David Bails'

In the past 4 months we have not had anyone express an interest in the project - all we need is 12 out of a total population of approximately 3,700!! Do you want to turn Ratby into a dormitory village or **retain a village of identity?** The choice is yours. Please telephone the Parish Clerk on 239 0167 and be part of this worthwhile project.



Here's a photograph of the newly refurbished Methodist Chapel to start the Millennium Project off!

**CELEBRATION CONCERT**

Ratby Co-operative Band once again delighted an appreciative audience at their annual celebration concert. The event was held at Groby Community College on Saturday October 3rd. Music both familiar and new ensured a varied and entertaining evening.

The Senior Band began the concert with some well loved favourites, 'The Yeoman of the Guard', (Sullivan and Sargent), "Nessun Dorma", and "Brillante", a Fantasy on "Rule Britannia".

The relatively new Mid Band presented a lively lead up to the interval, with perhaps "Singing in the Rain" an entertaining highlight.

The second half surprised us with a change of mood, as The Big Band, complete with bright waistcoats and jazzy stands played what were clearly very popular and swinging hits; "Maple Leaf Rag",

"Sugar Blues", and "St Louis Blues March", to name just three.

Go and hear this Band when you get a chance if you have never done it before. You won't regret it!

The Junior and Training Bands will be performing a Christmas Carol Concert at Ratby Church Rooms at 6pm on Saturday December 5th. Tickets £2.

The Senior Band are performing at Snibston Discovery Park on Saturday December 12th.

Don't forget the CHRISTMAS CONCERT at Groby Community College on Sunday December 13th.

The Bands will be playing carols around the village on Sunday December 20th.



*Planting trees, shrubs and wild flower bulbs*

**The Plough Inn**

**Burroughs Road Ratby**

*Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our Customers.*

*Don't be left out in the cold!*

*Bookings still being taken for Christmas*

*Two for one menu running through December Lunchtimes Monday to Friday.*

*Don't forget IRISH NIGHT every Thursday with Ned O'Grady!! Free Irish Food*

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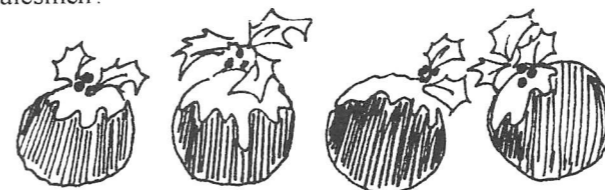
**Ratby Village Society**

David Grimshaw, from Earl Shilton, is so enthusiastic about collecting and repairing clocks that he initiated the Old Clock Club for like minded individuals. The passionate love of his hobby was well demonstrated by his lively and amusing commentary on his selection of slides which he presented at the September meeting. Although it was entitled 'Antique Clocks' it also embraced some as late as the 1950s for the simple reason that plastic clock cases, which because they were cheap and undistinguished looking, were soon discarded and those surviving are now valuable collector's items! Many and various are the materials which were used in the past for their manufacture from wood, porcelain and metal even gold! The designs are innumerable from the elegant to the bizarre and his favourites are the wooden cased Black Forest clocks, ornately carved, usually with animal motifs and including the cuckoo clocks. Even if one has no interest in the aesthetics of the domestic clock, but merely for its use as a timepiece, the fascinating spectrum of the clock-makers art was enough to remind one how soulless and mundane are the modern digital creations.

Another enthusiast, but this time for the brilliant portrayal on slides of flowers, is Mr Peter Barton of Cropston. His subject at the October meeting was 'Herbs Ancient and Modern', an extremely wide field embracing the culinary, aromatic and medical varieties of well known, and the more obscure, cultivated, and wild plants which can be put to good use rather than exist just for ornamentation. There were some surprising inclusions, a few of which are often thought of as weeds, which have most useful properties given the right knowledge of the subject.

If one were rash enough to believe, in total, the writings of the 17th Century herbalist, Culpepper, there is no known ailment under the sun, and a few more besides, which cannot be cured by employing the right recipe concocted from the appropriate plants - from dandelions to sunflowers! The one which stretched incredulity beyond all limits were certain berries which if rubbed on the neck would be guaranteed to deter unwanted guests from outstaying their welcome.

One wonders whether it might work on double-glazing salesmen?



**Letter to the Editor**

Dear Editor,  
Thank you for the recipe for Yum Yum cakes in the October Wot!. My friends and I cooked them. They certainly live up to their name!  
Could Scrivener send in more recipes for students please?

Thanks again,  
Not so starving student.

(name and address supplied)



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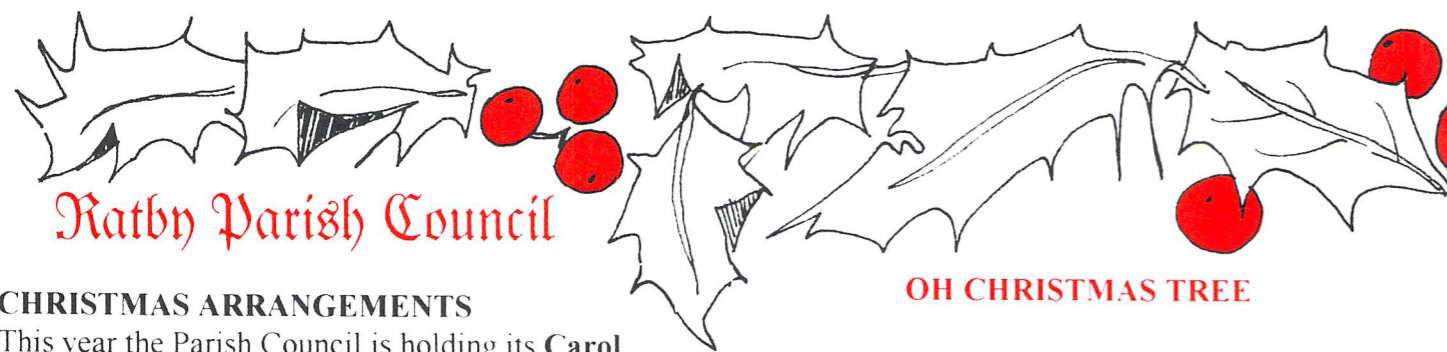
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## Ratby Parish Council

### CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS

This year the Parish Council is holding its **Carol Service on Wednesday, 16th December at 7.30**. The Ratby Co-op Band will provide the musical accompaniment. Once again the Governors of Ratby Primary School have kindly given permission for the service to be held in the school grounds. Please note that car-parking is not allowed in the school grounds.

Mr Crockett of the Leicester City Fire Brigade Museum Society has agreed to do the Santa run and after the Carol singing the Ratby Old Peoples Welfare Committee will, once again, offer refreshments in the Welfare Hall to all those taking part.

A special word of thanks to Colin Payne and the First Ratby Scout Group for their Trojan work with the Christmas tree and lights, and to John Cawrey for assistance with erecting the tree.

Thanks also to the Girl Guides for adding festive decoration to the tree.

The evening should be an excellent start to the festive season.

**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our residents.**

### CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

If you use a **natural tree** this year please note that the Borough Council will again be operating a Christmas Tree recycling scheme. From Twelfth Night until Sunday, 17 January 1999 the site at the Sports Club car par, Desford Lane will be available.

**L** **BEST WISHES FOR CHRISTMAS**  
**A HAPPY NEW YEAR from MEL**  
**to all past present & future clients.**

**MELSWAY DRIVING SCHOOL**

### OH CHRISTMAS TREE

When Queen Victoria and Prince Albert decorated a tree at Windsor in 1841 they started a new fashion. It was a revival of the ancient tradition of bringing greenery into the home. As far back as the Iron Age trees were 'dressed' and evergreens decorated for The Winter Solstice.

The Norway Spruce is the traditional festive tree, its needles lingering in carpets until almost the next winter. In his fascinating guide, 'Flora Britannica', Richard Mabey includes a greeting from a London industrial cleaning firm. The rhyme was printed on a Hoover bag:

On the Trail of the Lonesome Pine Needle

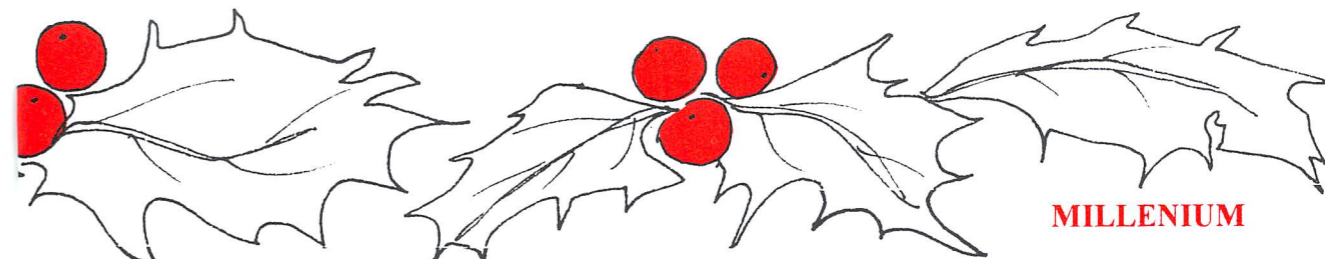
You'll find them in the budgie's cage,  
and in the baby's cot.

You can afford to leave no stone  
Unturned, no tender foot unsocked.

It's mid-July, you call out, "Waiter,  
what's this in my soup?"

He replies "Norwegian Tarragon  
according to the cook".

Nowadays there are a range of strategies for preventing this problem, sprays to fix the needles, new varieties of evergreen trees which retain their needles longer, and of course, artificial trees. In these days of environmental concerns, it could be argued that artificial trees, stored in the loft for years, are more environmentally friendly. But is there a case for the real tree? There may be a benefit in planting the trees, and growing them for several years before cutting. Afterwards they are sometimes planted in the garden, or shredded to make mulch. What are the processes involved in manufacturing artificial trees, and what happens to them when they are discarded in landfill sites? Perhaps there are environmentalists in the village who can enlighten us.



### MILLENIUM

### The Holly Bears The Crown

That other Christmassy tree, the holly, is a native of our hedgerows, unlike the commercially planted Norway Spruce in Martinshaw Wood.

In ancient times holly was a fertility symbol, and a charm against witches. It was brought into the house at the winter solstice, with ivy and mistletoe, and usually taken down on twelfth night. In some parts of the country it was left hanging indoors until Shrove Tuesday, when it was used to make the fire for cooking pancakes.

In the Christian Church the prickly holly leaves came to represent Christ's crown of thorns, and the berries his blood.

### The Mistletoe Bough

Holly, ivy, and mistletoe were the traditional plants for kissing boughs and wreaths. Kissing under the mistletoe is probably the most widely practised of the ancient traditions, even when the plant is a plastic imitation. To our ancestors, this parasitic plant seemed magical, able to survive with no roots. It was believed to have amazing powers.

Although mistletoe grows on a wider variety of trees than was formerly believed, the loss of traditional orchards in recent years has deprived the plant of one of its favourite hosts, the apple tree. Much of the mistletoe on sale in our markets today is imported from Normandy and Picardy.

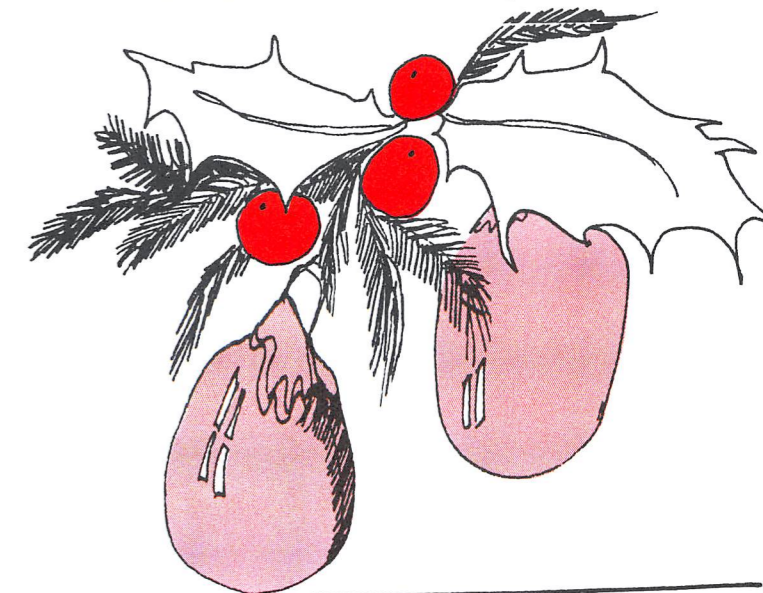
Perhaps when the Ratby Community Orchard is established we may have our own home-grown mistletoe?



Next year we want to create a special edition of Wot! .

Please let us know what events you are planning so that we can give them advance publicity. There will be a pull-out and keep special events diary...so your occasion needs to be in there! We also intend to feature every local business in a New Millenium good wishes display.

We could feature a historical review...so photographs and memories will be welcomed. And what about a "Ratby" in the future section? What would you like to see develop during the first years of the new millenium? Watch this space!



### 1ST RATBY SCOUT GROUP

**NEW YEARS EVE**

**BARN DANCE PARTY**

AT  
**RATBY CHURCH ROOMS**

**DECEMBER 31st AT 8:00PM**

**£5.50**

including Ploughmans



**WOTTA LOTTA ROT WE GOT**

Wot causes rot?  
Wet, that's wot.  
Dry it's not.

Yes no spoof.  
Still want proof?  
Ask the church roof!

We crowed like the cock  
when we fixed up the clock  
Now Fate's come to knock  
our finances to rock

So wot to do?  
Make appeal unto you  
folk good and true.

Please do not feel  
the urge to squeal.  
The need IS real!

HOZ.



**FAMILY VIDEO QUIZ**

Ratby Church will be holding a  
Family Video Quiz on Saturday January 9<sup>th</sup>.

Come and try out your knowledge of popular TV  
programmes, and help us raise funds for the  
roof.

Admission £5 per family, £2 per person.  
Refreshments available.

**23 BEAT**

Christmas is foremost in everyone's  
mind and presents are appearing and  
multiplying in most households. It is  
an exciting time for most of us and the  
giving of presents is thrilling.  
There are some people who like  
receiving these presents - even though  
they are not meant for them!  
Presents are often left on clear display  
in cars and at home. The temptation is  
too much for the would be thief or  
burglar and all too often Christmas is  
ruined when all your presents are  
stolen.....

Don't make it easy for these people.  
Keep presents out of sight and be  
security conscious over he Christmas  
and New Year period.

**GOOD NEWS!** Crime in the village  
has fallen dramatically over the past  
couple of months. The crime figures  
below are from 1/10/98 - 26/11/98.

- 3 Assault
- 4 Burglary Dwelling
- 2 Burglary Other Than Dwelling
- 3 Damage
- 3 Damage To M/Vehicle
- 1 Theft
- 1 Theft Cycle
- 3 Theft From M/Vehicle
- 2 Theft Of M/Vehicle

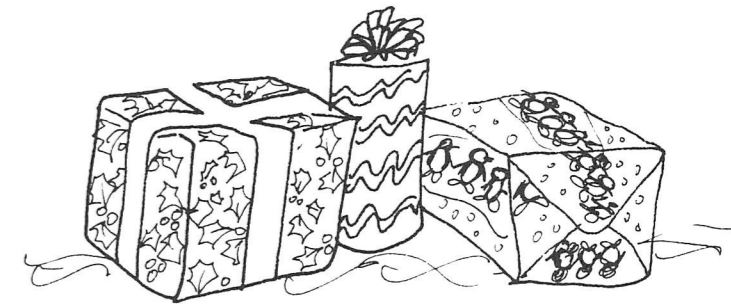
22 reported crimes over a 57 day  
period!

Neighbourhood Watch is continuing to  
expand in Ratby. However, some of  
the original schemes have lapsed and  
volunteer co-ordinators have not come  
forward. In such cases NHW signs  
have been removed from that Street or  
Road and are being used to supplement  
signs elsewhere. If you want to restart

a scheme then either contact myself or  
the NHW chairman Mr Barry O'Hare  
Tel;- 2386226.

Julia and myself would like to wish  
you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy  
New Year!

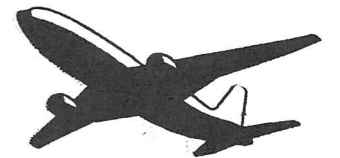
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Leicestershire  
Constabulary



The next meeting of the Braunstone Area Police/Community Consultative Group will take place at 7.30pm on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December at St. Mary's Social Centre, St. Mary's Avenue, Braunstone Town.

Members of the public are invited to come along and discuss issues concerning the policing of their area with senior officers. These include matters relating to traffic, local crime, Neighbourhood Watch and crime prevention. Individual cases cannot be discussed at the meeting, but they can be addressed to Inspector Steve Hastings at Braunstone Police Station.

Anyone wishing to have an item put onto the agenda can contact:-

Mrs. Kath Wallace, Chairperson Tel: 0116 2916692  
Insp. Steve Hastings, Braunstone Police Tel: 0116 2483414

### ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

THE PLOUGH, RATBY

MEET SECOND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH 7.30p.m.

SPEAKERS FOR JANUARY 1999 - JUNE 1999

Jan 13 <sup>th</sup>	THE MODERN ARMY	Sgt Chris Boothby Royal Logistic Corps
Feb 10 <sup>th</sup>	THE McMILLIAN CANCER RELIEF	Maureen Green
Mar 10 <sup>th</sup>	THE R.S.P.C.A.	Mr Ken Schofield
Apr 14 <sup>th</sup>	TOCH - H	Mr Frank Johnson
May 12 <sup>th</sup>	THE SIEGE OF LEICESTER	Virginia Wright
Jun	A WALK THROUGH VICTORIAN LEICESTER	Derick Seaton

Talks to be arranged!

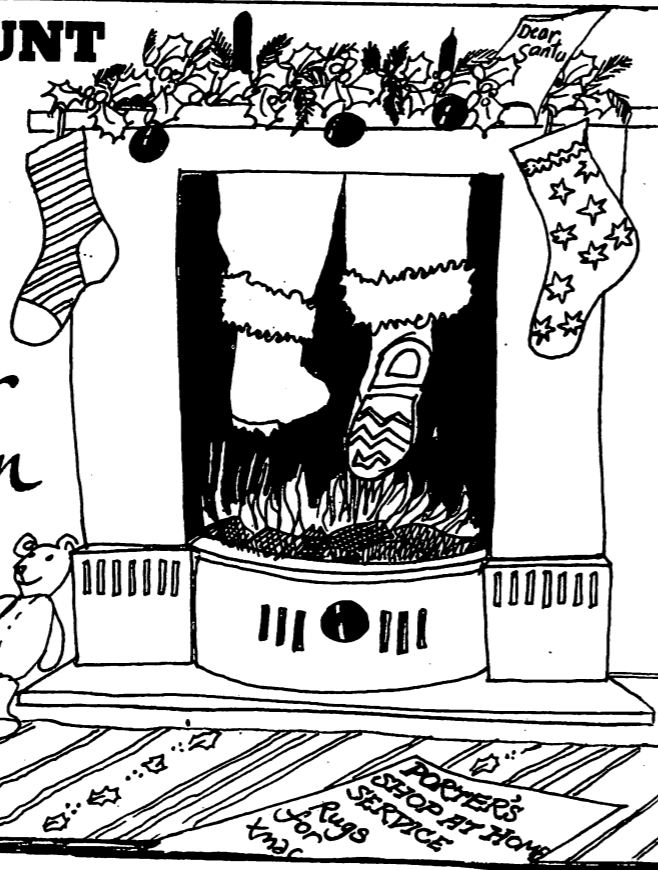
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Christmas*



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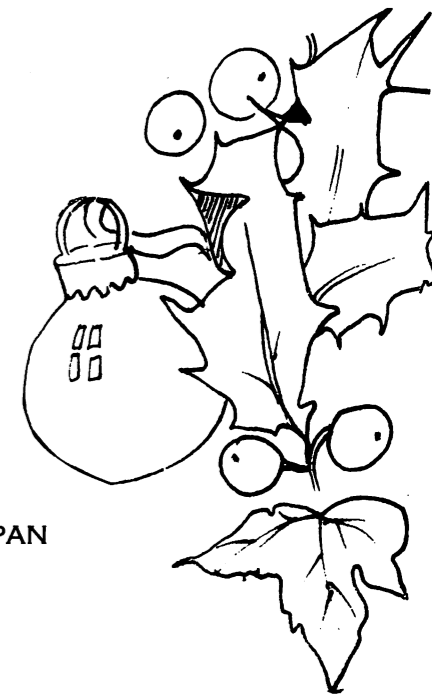
### INGREDIENTS

- 1 LBS (454 G) GRANULATED SUGAR
- 1 OZ (28 G) GELATINE
- 1/2 PINT (10 FLUID OZS) COLD WATER
- 2 TEASPOONS ORANGE FLOWER WATER
- +2 TEASPOONS CORNFLOUR - BLENDED WITH 2 OR 3 TEASPOONS COLD WATER

### METHOD

- 1 FILL 7" SQUARE TIN WITH COLD WATER
- 2 PUT 1/2 PINT COLD WATER INTO LARGE SAUCEPAN SPRINKLE GELATINE ON AND LEAVE TO SOAK
- 3 PUT OVER VERY LOW HEAT TO DISSOLVE
- 4 ADD SUGAR - STIR UNTIL DISSOLVED
- 5 BRING TO THE BOIL - BOIL FOR 6 MINUTES STIRRING OCCASIONALLY
- 6 REMOVE FROM HEAT - STIR IN BLENDED CORNFLOUR. REBOIL FOR 1 MIN. REMOVE FROM HEAT
- 7 ADD VERY LITTLE AMOUNT OF COLOURING - PALE PINK
- 8 EMPTY COLD WATER FROM TIN & POUR MIXTURE IN
- 9 WHEN QUITE SET, CUT INTO SQUARES & TOSS IN MIXTURE OF ICING SUGAR & CORNFLOUR
- 10 LEAVE FOR 2 DAYS TO THOROUGHLY DRY.

VARIATIONS INSTEAD OF ORANGE FLOWER WATER  
LEMON JUICE - COLOUR PALE YELLOW  
PEPPERMINT OIL OR ESSENCE - PALE GREEN



*Scriver*

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