

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2010

ISSUE 140



WOT!

About Ratby

PUBLISHED BY RATBY SCOUT GROUP



A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

In Autumn 2009 I was put up, (in other words, nominated) for an award to celebrate my achievements, even though I am learning disabled, by someone who works at Leicester College in the Student Liaison Team.

Then a few weeks later on November 20th I received an invitation to the evening in order to be presented with a certificate. The main problem was that I was only allowed one guest, but that problem was solved and I took my Dad to the event.

When I first looked at the invite I had tears of joy in my eyes, but I managed to calm down.

Even before the event, just thinking about this created a sensation of butterflies in my stomach, making my nerves flutter, and thus making me smile.

When I went to the evening there was a drinks reception before the certificates were presented. I shed a few tears of joy when I was presented with my certificate and had a photograph taken. Afterwards there was a buffet supper which was light, yet filling.

Miss Jessica Peach



In the photograph, left to right: The Chairman of the County Council, Jessica proudly holding her certificate, Jessica's Dad, Julie Sharma (Student Liaison Officer) and The Chairman's wife.



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RATBY PARISH COUNCIL

Ratby Parish Council hopes that you have all enjoyed a happy, peaceful and blessed Christmas.

We apologise to everyone who wanted to enjoy the lights on the Christmas tree. Someone put themselves at great risk of electrocution as they went to a lot of trouble destroying the display. **That person should feel thoroughly ashamed of their actions.** It was far too late to get replacement lights and all the associated kit in time for Carols around the Tree the following Wednesday. None of the equipment can be used again but rest assured the cost of replacement for 2010 festivities will not fall directly on us, the ratepayers, and your council will take whatever steps are necessary to recover about £1000 from the perpetrators. Our grateful thanks go to the anonymous person who reported the incident and to the police for their very prompt attendance. We must also record our sincere thanks to the council staff who having spent so much time putting the lights in place just a week earlier then had to spend time removing them and making sure that there was no residual danger to the general public.

Five parish councillors turned out on that cold wet Wednesday evening to lend their voices to the traditional Carols around the Tree and wish to express their thanks to Rev Anne Stratton for organising it, Mrs Husband for allowing everyone to move out of the rain into the school hall, to the school choir for their beautiful contributions, and to Ratby Co-operative Band for providing the music.

133 new homes? We must say a very big thank you to those of you who volunteered to, or allowed your arm to be twisted into, delivering letters around the village: some houses may have been missed but we know from the results that we didn't miss many. Thank you also to those who responded either directly to HBBC or to the parish office; all your responses have been registered. We would normally expect about 10% response to a petition of this nature and we achieved twice that – well done everybody. We are pleased to report that the Application has been refused.

Thanks must also go to the County Council highways team for the build-out at the bottom of Chapel Lane. Yes, we know some people don't like it and others ask why it wasn't done a long time ago; council is pleased that it has now been achieved and gives greatly improved visibility at that junction.

Council have accepted the donation of a second rare black poplar from Iris Hannaford, your Ratby Tree Warden, thank you Iris. As a matter of security we do not intend to say where it will be placed but those of you who know and love trees will recognise it straight away.

The Community Speed Watch really is coming shortly.

Council meetings in 2010 will be on Tuesdays: 9th March – 11th May – 13th July – 14th September – 9th November

Ratby Parish Council can be contacted at: 13 Station Road, Ratby, LE6 0JQ Tel: 0116 2390167 Email: ratbypcouncil@btconnect.com
Your parish councillors are: Chris Boothby, Tony Daly, Mick Earl, Avril and Ken Hunnybun, Jayne Jana, Merle Joyce, Carol Measures, and Ozzy O'Shea.

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News from St Philip and St James

Thursday 14th January was a great day in the history of Ratby Church. This was the day when Revd Dr Peter Hooper was welcomed, instituted and inducted as Team Rector of the Bradgate Team of churches which are Ratby, Groby and Newtown Linford. It all sounds a bit of a mouthful but what it boils down to is the fact that we have a new vicar who is looking forward to working with the congregations and hopefully meeting you, dear reader! This won't happen at once, but will take time so don't be backwards in coming forwards if you see him around the village. Peter is already living in Ratby with his family, but will be moving to a modern rectory in the village once it's built sometime during the summer.

Going back to the welcoming service for a moment, it was great to see the church full with friends and supporters from Peter's last parish in Melton Mowbray, and further afield, the three churches in the team and other churches in the area with whom we work and worship together. Bishop Tim led the worship and gave an inspiring talk about what might be expected of Peter and the congregation. All in all, we couldn't have had a better start to 2010.

This might be a good point to wish you a slightly belated, but nevertheless well meant, Happy New Year. There will no doubt be good times and more trying times but if we can look out for each other we'll be able to deal with most things. Don't forget a chair is always kept ready for you – you just need to come and try it out!

RATBY METHODIST CHURCH

**Our Charity for 2009/10 is the AIR
AMBULANCE, join us in our
fundraising throughout the year!**

Friday 19th March 2010

Supper Serenades at 7.00 pm

This popular evening will include a delicious cold buffet with entertainment by members of the Chantry Choir and guest soloist Kate Watkiss. Music will consist of 'Songs from the Shows' and you will be invited to participate! If you feel inspired to "dress up" a little, you certainly won't be out of place!



Early bookings are advised and tickets at £6 each are available from Joy Parker (0116 2874042) (payment with order, please).

Other Events

Friday 5th March, 2pm, at the Methodist Church. There will be a Service for the 'Women's World Day of Prayer'. This is an ecumenical service with the Parish Church (we take turns to hold it) The theme this year is 'Everything that has breath praise

God' and was prepared by the women of Cameroon.

On the **6th March from 10am to 12noon**, as well as the usual coffee morning there will be a 'Nearly New' sale. Come and stock up for next Christmas!

On **March 14th** our 'Mothering Sunday' service, at 10am will be lead by the Rev Joseph Suray. This is a service for all to enjoy.





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LETTERS to the EDITOR

Dear Editor,

On a cold Friday evening a week before Christmas I boarded a 27 'bus with standing room only. A very young man seated behind the driver immediately asked if I would like his seat – an offer I readily accepted. I send my heartfelt thanks to that young man and wish him every blessing in 2010.

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MORE ABOUT BUSES!

You may recall a letter in our last issue regarding a villager who had had her 10 trip ticket taken from her by Arriva Inspectors. We contacted ARRIVA, and have now had a reply:

Dear Editor,

I am writing further to your comments regarding your concerns over our services. I can confirm that both the £20.00 (Midlands) and £14.00 (City Plus) tickets are valid on both the services mentioned (26 and 27 buses) The only difference in the two is that the City Plus version can only be used as far as Ratby. For journeys past this point you would need a Midlands TEN TRIP Ticket.

Your comments have been passed to the area manager who is responsible for our inspectors. They in turn will be spoken to and advised accordingly.

Please accept my apologies for any distress caused and thank you for bringing this matter to our attention.

Yours sincerely

Keiron H O'Kane.

Customer Service Supervisor, ARRIVA

DEADLINE for issue 141 APRIL/MAY 2010 FRIDAY 12th MARCH

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ADVERTS 239 3279

ARTICLES 239 4873

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FILMS, PLANTS AND PICTURES at RATBY VILLAGE SOCIETY

Ratby Village Society welcomes everyone to join them in the Village Hall at 8 pm for the following Meetings:

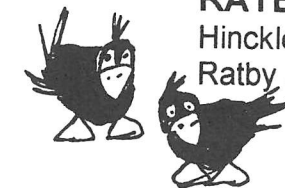
Tuesday 16 February –AGM, followed by supper.

Tuesday 16 March A variety of old films from the 1950s era will be shown. They are not DVDs or Videos, just old films; therefore the quality will be in character with the period.

Tuesday 20th April 'Plant Diary' - a year in the life of a garden. The talk will be illustrated with slides and includes the social history connected with the Glenfield garden. Plants and preserves will be available to buy.

Tuesday 18th May Julia Kent, who takes the art class in Ratby, will be demonstrating painting techniques combined with a talk on her experiences as a tutor.

RATBY'S VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT was formally approved by Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council in December. A copy can be viewed in Ratby Library, or contact The Strategy Team on 01455 238 141



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RATBY LOCAL HISTORY GROUP THE LOST YARDS

We are currently researching 'Ratby's Lost Yards,' and intend to include this topic in volume 4 of 'The History of Ratby.' We need help from any villagers who have memories and/or photographs of Harrison's Yard, Line Prop Yard, Pump Square, Sills' Yard, Stamford Arms Yard or Workhouse Yard.

If you can help please contact Doug Harwood on 0116 239 4168

Brought to Bed

At the next meeting of the History Group in The Village Hall at 7.30 pm, Friday 26th March, Shirley Aucott will give a talk on 'Brought to Bed: Maternity in Victorian Leicester and Beyond.'



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WASSAIL! WASSAIL!!

The snow and cold made Ratby Community Orchard's 'Wassail' event even more spectacular this year. Twenty nine members and villagers walked to the Orchard for the annual 'tree blessing' on Saturday 9th January. Musicians from the Leicester Orphean Orchestra provided the festive music and joined us in The Railway for warming drinks after the event.

The Railway's landlady is presented with the traditional Wassail gift of thanks.



PUB WATCH and PARKED CARS

Firstly I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy New Year!

I am pleased to report that Ratby and district Pub Watch has now been established for nearly 9 months and things are progressing well. The Watch, which includes Off Licences as well as Public Houses, wish to promote a safe, enjoyable environment which customers can enjoy. Those people wishing to cause trouble will find getting alcohol across the area more difficult. It is continuing to grow and now includes premises in Kirby Muxloe, Desford & Thornton.

The Christmas period has seen several vehicles broken into across the Ratby and Markfield area and I would like to remind you not to leave anything on display and remove all your valuables from your cars.

Finally I would like to say how disappointed I am at the increase in incidents of vandalism that occurred in the village over the Christmas period. Several parked cars were scratched and Christmas lights damaged at some properties, as well as at the War memorial in the village. I am sure many of you will be as unhappy as I am about these mindless acts, and I would ask that any of you who see anybody damaging property to report it to the Police Control room on 0116 222 2222 or a member of the beat team so that action can be taken

Remember, look out for your Neighbour and please report anything you feel is suspicious. We rely on you all in the fight against crime and anti social behaviour.

If you have any concerns that you would like to make us aware of please contact either myself PCSO 6128 Russ Leech or PC 0334 Justin Hayes on 0116 222 2222 Ext 5675. We will be glad to try and help you. It is important you tell us about problems in the village in order for us to be able to take positive action and make sure that Ratby remains the wonderful village that it is.

ART and CRAFT

The organisers would like to thank everyone who came along to the exhibition and fair on December 6th. We hope you thoroughly enjoyed the event in

RATBY CONSERVATION AREA

Did you know that Ratby is at risk of losing its conservation area status? In 2009 English Heritage conducted a national survey of conservation areas. 1 in 7 was found to be at risk from neglect, decay, or changes which spoil its character. Ratby is one of those at risk.

Why does it matter? It matters because conservation areas help to preserve the special character of places. It is about recognising the significance of that area and its irreplaceable distinctiveness.

What can be done? Property owners, the Council and community can all work together. Property owners can repair wooden windows instead of replacing them with plastic frames.

The Council can identify inappropriate street clutter and traffic calming, as well as neglected green spaces. The community can join a local amenity group to comment on planning applications, and advise the local authority on what needs to be done.

By pulling together we can ensure that Ratby keeps its conservation area status.

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