

# Wot!

## About Ratby



JUNE 1988

Published by Ratby Scout Group

ISSUE 10



### LOOK OUT! LOOK OUT! THERE'S A JAMMER ABOUT

The 21st May appeared to be an ordinary Saturday in Ratby but at 12 noon a drastic change occurred in our village - "The Jammers" - arrived at the "Railway Inn" and the sound of fiddles and melodians, bells and dancing feet could be heard! You've guessed - the Leicestershire & Rutland W.I.'s Ladies Morris Dancing Team had arrived to perform English dances for the delight of the local population.

The bright red and green costumes of both dancers and musicians could hardly be missed and the spirited performance of dances such as the Lancaster Garland and the Shrewsbury Flourish was greatly enjoyed by all. The team is very much a family as well as a W.I. affair, with mothers and daughters dancing and fathers and brothers providing the musical accompaniment.

Perhaps this is one W.I. group able to claim it has female and male members! If you're wondering about the term "Jammers" (in full it reads Jerusalem Jammers) then think of the W.I. - Jam and Jerusalem - then turn it all around - rather like the dances - and thats how the teams' name came about!

If you missed this visitation do not feel cheated, do not despair as we shall be making tracks to the "Railway Inn" soon, so look out for posters and turn up at the appointed hour to enjoy English traditional dancing (and there is nothing to stop a visit to the interior of the "Railway" when you've worked up a thirst watching the exertions of the dancers!)

1 Lynn Mellor - the "Jammers" chief stirrer!

HITACHI · HITACHI · HITACHI · HITACHI · HITACHI · HITACHI · HITACHI · HITACHI ·



Buy a selected small or large screen Hitachi television from May 1st to June 12th and Hitachi will give you a voucher worth £20 or £50 to put towards your next purchase from their impressive range of consumer electrical products.

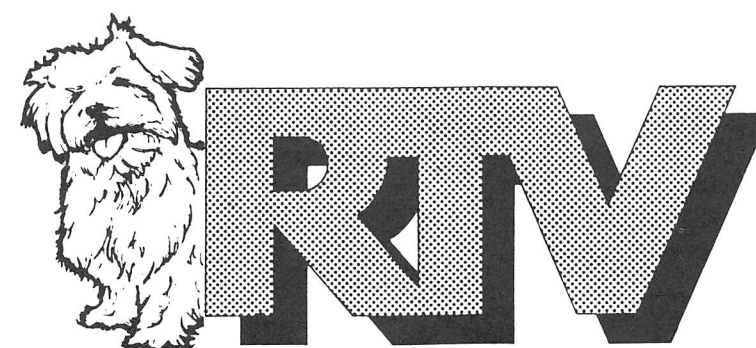
But ensure you call in to our showroom before the offer ends to take advantage of this generous offer.

Full terms and conditions available on request.

Offer applies while stocks last



## THEN SPEND THIS



27 Station Road, Ratby · Tel: Leicester 394544  
106 Main Street, Markfield · Tel: Markfield 245221

...better buy Hitachi.

HITACHI · HITACHI · HITACHI · HITACHI · HITACHI · HITACHI · HITACHI · HITACHI ·

WOT IS PUBLISHED BY RATEY SCOUT GROUP AND THE VIEWS EXPRESSED ARE THE VIEWS OF THE INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTORS AND DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE VIEWS OF SCOUTING ORGANISATIONS OR THE PUBLISHERS

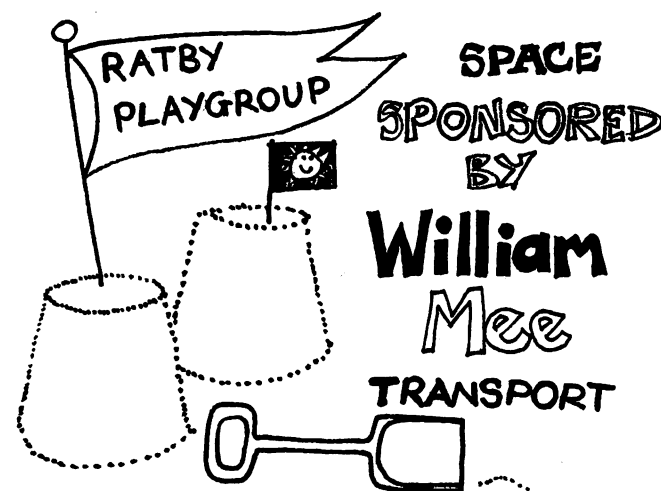
At last, a group of 'experts' have come up with some good news for hard-pressed mums and dads. When it comes to encouraging language and understanding not only, it seems, did we parents get it right all along, but the professionals could learn a great deal from us.

These are the conclusions of an unusual research project led by psychologists in London. A team of them were 'flies on the wall' in the homes of a group of pre-school children who were approaching their fourth birthdays. They watched how the children communicated with their parents and compared this to the way they talked with teachers at nursery schools.

Topics of conversation with Mum and Dad ranged from work and the family to birth, death and growing up; they shared memories of things they'd done together in the past and plans for the future; and puzzled over knotty problems like the shapes of roofs, the nature of Father Christmas and whether or not the Queen wears curlers in bed! By contrast the toddlers' conversations with teachers were much more limited and one-sided. The richness, depth and variety of the home conversations was sadly missing.

This isn't meant, obviously, to knock pre-school groups, which have an important role in introducing children to others and to the wider world outside home, and to gain a little independence, but when it comes to stimulating language and aiding understanding, Mums and Dads have the edge.

Children learn such a lot simply by being with their parents; discussing what each has done, what they will do next; arguing with each other and above all endlessly asking and answering questions. So please, Mums and Dads, carry on talking and keep up the good work!!



# PORTER'S DISCOUNT CARPETS

121/3 STATION ROAD, RATBY, LEICS  
SHOP AT HOME SERVICE TEL: 393238



**\*Patterned lounge quality**  
**\*Bedroom quality**  
**\*American Sculptored**  
**\*50/50 WOOL berber**

**FREE FITTING**  
(MIN 10 sq yds)

**\* Cushionfloor \***  
**Scotchguard kitchen carpet**

**\*ALL CARPETS ARE GUARANTEED\***

**THE FAMILY BUSINESS BUILT ON RECOMMENDATIONS**

**ALL AT  
COMPETITIVE  
PRICES**

JOIN THE PARADE ON FOOT, ON HORSEBACK, BY LORRY, CAR, TRACTOR, PUSH CHAIR, PUSH BIKE, STILTS, SKATES - LET'S ALL BE IN.

Our overseas guests this year are the Dutch Jazz Band "VENLO JAZZ"

Lets give them a real Ratby welcome. There'll be a jazz night at Groby College on Saturday Evening for Jazz Buffs and on Sunday 14th August we are holding a massive Car Boot Sale at Glenfield Superstore, so all in all a great week-end.

On Saturday 20 August we play at Wigston for the Marriage of Cornet player Richard Stone - we always play for our player's weddings, it's one of the perks of being in Ratby Band - sorry Ratby Co-operative Band!

The rest of the year is packed with engagements with every single night booked throughout December and lots of bookings already for 1989.

September however, holds a different prospect for us, something that was only a far away dream until now - The Band Hall will be a reality. The outline building is planned to be built during September, the remaining work to be done as money becomes available.

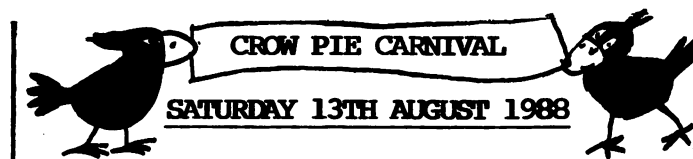
Costing around £35,000 in total this is a colossal task for a voluntary organisation to undertake and says volumes for the members of Ratby Band. Applications for financial help from various bodies have all been refused but the show must go on - then there'll always be a Ratby Band. The work is being done by local labour, we consider this to be the proper way.

The money is being raised in the village so it's being spent in the village. We have raised about half the capital required by sheer hard work and will go on working. We would very much appreciate any offers of help however small to make sure of a Home for Ratby Band. How about it?

Philip Plant  THE RATBY CO-OPERATIVE BAND

**H. FREEMAN & SON**  
 Family Butcher  
 88 MAIN STREET RATBY  
 MOBILE SHOP  
 DELIVERS  
 TWICE WEEKLY  
 Telephone: Leicester 393124





Procession will move off at 1pm with assembly for judging in Park Road at 12.30.

Theme: Latin America

Entry is free

Organisations wishing to enter should fill in their name below.

..... wish to enter a float in 1988 carnival procession.

To: P.H. Plant  
 28 Bradgate Drive  
 Ratby  
 Tel: 386510

## PABARI'S RATBY NEWS

FOR A LARGE SELECTION OF  
 WINES, SPIRITS, BEERS, CIDERS AND  
 SOFT DRINKS

ALL AT COMPETITIVE PRICES  
 GREETINGS CARDS, STATIONERY  
 AND  
 A VAST SELECTION OF  
 CONFECTIONERY  
 NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES  
 DELIVERED DAILY  
 (INCLUDING SUNDAYS)  
 SELECTION OF THE LATEST VIDEOS  
 NOW ON HIRE

OPEN TILL 10.00 p.m. MONDAY to SATURDAY  
 and TILL 2.00 p.m. SUNDAY  
 7.00 TILL 9.00 P.M. SUNDAY EVENING

## JULIE'S HAIRDRESSING

MAIN STREET, RATBY  
 Traditional & Modern  
 Styling

Telephone: 392406



## Ratby Parish Council

### The Annual Parish Meeting

This meeting was held on Wednesday April 20th. The Parish Council Accounts for 1987/88 were presented, and also those of the Sacheverell Charity.

The new Ratby/Groby Policeman, P.C. Birch attended to discuss crime prevention.

He re-emphasized the need for residents to inform the Police of anything suspicious. He also explained the correct procedure for developing a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.

### The Annual General Meeting, May 3rd

Councillor Mr. J.F. Smalley was re-elected Chairman, and Councillor Mrs O.M. Smalley as Vice Chairman. Mrs Smalley also agreed to continue as Chairman of the Planning Sub-Committee. Members were also elected to serve on the L.A.P.C. Branch.

### Parish Council Notice Boards

The Parish Council is legally bound to display notice of meetings and other official notices on it's Notice Boards. So please note that these Boards should not be used for other local organisations.

### Police

Sergeant Hall and P.C. Birch attended the A.G.M. A meeting for Neighbourhood Watch Scheme contacts is to be arranged at the new Beaumont Leys police station.

Parking on Station Road is an increasing problem. It was suggested that residents could be encouraged to park on one side of the road only. A similar voluntary arrangement has worked well for a number of years on Stamford Street.

## **RATBY POST OFFICE**

**Main Street, Ratby**

**Newsagent . Confectionery.  
Tobacco.**

PHOTOCOPY SERVICE GREETINGS CARDS  
**Hallmark, Rustcraft etc.**  
SHOE REPAIR AGENTS OPEN 7 DAYS

**Tel. 393001.**



### Best Kept Village

Ratby has been entered for this competition, so come on everyone, lets all make an effort to brighten up the village and keep it tidy. The competition is for the Best Kept Village not necessarily the prettiest!

### Play Areas

A maintenance person has been appointed, and repairs to the wooden fencing at Ferndale Drive have been completed. However, the recently repaired perimeter fencing has again been damaged.

### A46 Leicester Western Bypass

The Chairman informed the meeting that he had presented the case on behalf of the Parish Council to the Public Inquiry, as Mrs Smalley had been unable to obtain leave of absence from her employment with the Health Authority. He also advised that he had made a number of trips to the Inquiry to deliver letters from Residents and a petition, all expressing objections to proposals which adversely affect Ratby.

The Council expresses thanks to all those who contributed.

### BBC Radio Leicester 'County Questions'

Any individuals or groups who would like to enter this quiz on behalf of Ratby, please phone Michael Ball, 395654, as soon as possible. Recordings will commence on Tuesday August 2nd.

## **HOLMAN SECURITY SYSTEMS**

► Installers of Quality ◀  
Burglar Alarm Systems

- Your Local Alarm Co.
  - Free Quotations without oblig.
  - All Systems to BS.4737
  - 24 hr. Callout Service
  - Reduces Insurance Contents Cost
  - For All Your Security Needs and Prompt Attention
- Ring Alan on 386187 (Ratby)  
or Head Office - Hinckley 251025  
► MEMBERS OF IAAI ◀



## THE RATBY CO-OPERATIVE BAND

1988 is proving to be a significant year in the long history of the Band.

The total membership is the highest it has ever been and the calendar is absolutely full of action.

An offer of help from the Leicestershire Co-operative Society in the form of concerts around the County and in Northants as well as various other offers was carefully considered and in February we added "Co-operative" to our title. Concerts for Ratby Methodist Church and Kirby Muxloe Free Church funds were well supported as was our concert in Ratby Working Men's Club. With top prize at Kirkby in Ashfield contest we had made a cracking start.

The annual Bavarian night was again a huge success in March as was our Giant Flea Market and Car Boot Sale.

April saw the Band playing in Melton Bell Centre, Wigston Guthlaxton School, Anstey, Woodhouse Eaves and St Margarets in Leicester. Another first prize in the North East Midlands Championships and a very happy Millionaire's Night at Groby College were followed on the last day of April by the installation of a pair of gates marking the beginning of the Band's biggest project ever.

### **- THE RATBY BAND HALL!**

May began with the Band playing at the Leicestershire Show on Sunday and Monday, a rather muddy experience but again very well received by the spectators.

A march through Market Bosworth on the 7th followed by a Saturday morning "Prom Concert" at Beaumont Leys set us up for the contest at Leeds on Sunday; a major National Festival where a creditable fifth place was gained. Many people came to our OPEN NIGHT at the School and it was a treat to see all the youngsters (about 70 of them) being taught to play and to read music by the older members. Those of you who missed it come along to the Junior Band Birthday Concert on Sunday 26th June where you'll see for yourself that not all the young people are "loonies".

On Friday, Saturday and Sunday we had Ratby's own MUSIK FEST, our contribution to the cultural activities of the district

with well over 350 artists taking part and setting Ratby firmly on the musical map. Playing at the Fun Run completes a very busy May to take us to an even busier June.

We begin with the Junior Band Solo Contest in the Welfare Hall on Sunday 5th at 2pm, followed by playing at Anstey. On Saturday 11th Ratby Church Garden Fete 2.30pm and in the evening from 8pm CARNIVAL BARN DANCE AT OLD HAYES FARM, IN THE BARN!. DANCING TO "DARGASON". All the usual facilities PLUS PICKING THE CROWPIE CARNIVAL QUEEN 1988 and HER ATTENDANTS. So come along girls - have a terrific night!

This is CROWPIE CARNIVAL year of course and the Barn dance marks the beginning of the festivities. Remember the theme "LATIN AMERICA" - viva Ratby.

Friday 17th June sees the Band at Kirby Muxloe with a concert for Kirby Muxloe Players and the rest of June goes as follows:

- Sat 18 am - Glenfield Co-op
- Sat 18 pm - Markfield Parade and Garden Fete
- Sun 19 pm - Groby Carnival
- Wed 23 - Loughborough Fearon Hall Concert
- Sat 25 - Markfield
- Sun 26 - JUNIOR BAND BIRTHDAY CONCERT
- 7.30pm - GROBY THEATRE TICKETS FROM BAND MEMBERS or ring 386510 (apply early it's usually a sell out)

During July the Crow Pie programmes will be ready and a really big prize draw with the First Prize a Week-end for two in Paris is now being run. OH-LA-LA!

The Band will be playing at the Co-op Gala, Birstall and at Walkers Crisps Gala at the same venue - Sat 2nd & 9th July.

August begins with Thornton Garden Fete on Saturday 6th then on

### **SATURDAY 13th CROW PIE CARNIVAL**

Parade assembles Park Road 12.30pm moves off 1pm. Theme - Latin America.

**LOADS OF ATTRACTIONS AT FERNDAL ALL AFTERNOON. SEE POSTERS**

# The ghost of the Silk Lady.

Legend has it that this ghostly lady is, or was "resident" in and around Woodley Farm.

Whatever your own views on this kind of thing, for the "Mrs", the lady was an accepted part of the normal routine.

Her conversations talked of bed clothes being unaccountably turned back, sticks and paper which she had spread on the hearth to dry overnight, being laid on the grate ready for lighting, one boot of a pair in daily use, being removed overnight from the hearth to the kitchen.

On the same subject; an old lady Eva Crooks, aunt of our present postman, and long since dead, used to tell of an experience as a child. She lived near to Woodley and with brothers and sisters, had one evening, been sent to fetch beer in a tall brown jug from an off-licence opposite the school playground and kept by

a Mr. Lemmon. On returning past the churchyard she was confronted with some phenomenon dressed in "long frilly white clothes". She told of dropping the jug of beer which broke, and running like the clappers.

Of Mr. Joseph Lemmon there is more to tell, beside being an off-licence he was one of several cobblers of the village. His family still live at the house which is now next to the library and his little low shop can still be seen at the top of the garden near to the house door, as can the Marston brewery sign. Also known to local kids as Mr. Stud, he had the unusual knack, as he worked, of being able to fill his mouth with tacks and still whistle "Darlin Clementine" all day. It was never good policy to stand in front of him to watch, for he could scar you for life at two paces.

Local Yokel.

## ALL ABOUT GUIDING

Guiding is .....

There is a world of difference between guiding and the cosy club of knitters and knotters it is sometimes thought to be.

Guiding is about helping girls to spread their wings and meet the challenges and pressures of life.

As well as being a great deal of fun, Guiding helps a girl to develop:

- Self-awareness, self-respect and self-confidence.
- The ability to relate to other people
- Values to give life meaning and direction
- A desire to work for the benefit of society

Any girl who has been a guide will have been encouraged to:

- Think for herself and make her own decisions
- Express herself and communicate with others
- Take responsibility for her actions
- Work by herself and in a team
- Discover how and why things work
- Look at, learn from, and care for the world about her
- Be sensitive to the needs of others

In plain and simple terms Guiding is about life-skills.

Local demand for places in the Brownies and Guides has grown to such an extent that additional help is now required within the existing units and also to form a new Guide Company in Groby.

Do you think you can help by giving some spare time and energy to the Guiding Movement?

"What about experience?" you may ask - well, no experience is necessary just a willingness to help and enthusiasm.

"How much time will be involved?" only a couple of hours a week.

Why not visit our existing Brownie and Guide meetings to see for yourself how things work. Anyone of age 16 to 65 would be welcome.

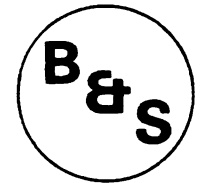
Please contact me, Angela Barbour, 4 Meadow Close, Ratby, Tel. 386557 for further information or if you prefer have a word with one of the following unit leaders:-

Groby: Mrs R Towers, Mrs E Maddocks, Mrs K Benney or Mrs T. Cliff

Ratby: Mrs S. Slater, Mrs J Roche or myself.

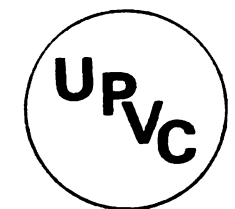
**Exclusive Made to Measure**  
**Denre** Ladies & Gents  
Leisurewear  
'phone 386338

10% Commission to Party Hostesses



**BEEBY & SIMPSON**

SUPPLIERS & INSTALLERS  
OF "UPVC"  
DOOR & WINDOW SYSTEMS



**LEICESTER** 386339  
**EARL SHILTON** 45826

FREE ESTIMATES ON ALL OUR DOUBLE  
GLAZED PRODUCTS IN:  
WHITE U.P.V.C.  
WOODGRAIN FINISH U.P.V.C.

ALSO  
SUN LOUNGES & CONSERVATORIES

**C. GEARY & SONS**  
THE CHAMPION BAKERS

**Grays Bakeries**

SEE and TRY our range of ;

**66 Varieties of Bread**

**34 Varieties of Cobs, Rolls, etc.**

**200 Varieties of Cakes and Pastries**

'RUSTIC' WHOLEMEAL ALLINSON  
HOVIS BEER BREAD & COBS BUN LOAVES  
FANCY COBS REARSBY HEALTH BREAD FUDGE MALT BREAD  
SESAME COBS & BAPS  
SPEKKLE HIGH FIBRE BREAD COTTAGE LOAVES  
MALT CRUNCH BREAD COBS FARMHOUSE LOAVES  
WHITE & BROWN COBS and ROLLS & TWINNIES  
CHEESE & ONION BREAD  
**FILLED COBS**

VISIT OUR OLDE WORLDE SHOP

WEDDING CELEBRATION & NOVELTY CAKES OUR SPECIALITY

SPONSORED BY SAUNT





### MAY TRADITIONAL CELEBRATIONS

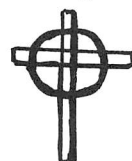
May traditional celebrations are very old and wide spread. They date from a time when life was governed by the seasons. May was a time of festivity because the weather would be improving and life would be getting easier. There are so many different customs associated with May that it's only possible to mention a few in this article.

### MAY HORNS

Horns of all sorts including cow horns and tin trumpets were blown from dawn onwards. Gangs of boys went around the villages making enthusiastic and merry "music". They expected to receive gifts of money for welcoming in the summer (perhaps they received such gifts in the hope they might go away!)

### MAY GARLANDS

Meanwhile the girls were busy carrying their garlands around to collect gifts. Rival gangs would often meet and fight it out to see who could get the right to visit the 'big' house. Despite the mercenary motive the garlands were often very beautiful. Mr Gibson who used to teach at Ratby remembers garlands in his village near Ashby in the 1930's. The Leicestershire garland was a central cross with a circular garland around it.



The whole would have been covered in real flowers

Ratby Primary  
School Children  
Performing  
Traditional Dances



### MAY HOBBY HORSES

There were several different types. Possibly the most famous is the Old Oss from Padstow who can still be seen in present day May celebrations. The Oss sets off early in the morning. He capers and dances through the streets, chasing the girls - if they are caught they will be married within the year or if already married they will have a baby. Throughout the day the Oss regularly dies and has to be coaxed back to life.

### MAY POLE

In the darkness of early morning the young people went out to the forest and cut down a tall young tree. This was brought back to the village where it was decorated with flowers and garlands and set up on the village green. The church of St Andrew Undershaft in Leadenhall Street, London was named because of the May pole which stood annually near its South door.

People danced around these old May poles but did not hold ribbons. They performed ritual and community dances that were part of everyday life. Ribbon patterns came from Europe only about 100 years ago.

There are lots more May traditions. We tried to show some of them during our May celebrations at Ratby Primary School on May 6th. The most important part of the celebrations was that everyone should join in and have a good time. We hope that this came over to everyone who came to celebrate with us.

If you are interested in May and other traditional customs a good book to read is "British Folk Customs" by Christina Holt.

## MOUTHWATERINGLY

### ★ FRESH ★ COOKED MEATS and CHEESES

.....

HAM "OFF THE BONE" - ROAST BEEF  
ROAST PORK - TONGUE - PORK PIE - PATÉ  
RED LEICESTER - DOUBLE GLOUCESTER  
BLUE STILTON - CATHEDRAL CITY

ALL FRESHLY CUT FOR YOU

\*FRESH CREAM CAKES DAILY\*  
\*FRESH FRUIT & VEG\*  
\*GROCERIES AND PROVISIONS\*

\*WINES, BEERS AND SPIRITS\*

LUTOMER AND TIGER MILK (1 ltr) £2.99  
BULLS BLOOD £3.11 NEWQUAY STEAM LAGER £1.29  
BLACK TOWER £3.37 COUNTRY MANOR £1.83  
SKOL - CARLING - HEINEKEN - XXXX -  
STELLA - MILLER - NEWCASTLE - GUINNESS  
JOHN SMITHS BITTER - RED CROWN  
GOLD LABEL - MANNS  
WHISKEY - GIN - RUM - VODKA - BRANDY  
CIDERS IN CANS AND BOTTLES

SUTTONS SEEDS IN STOCK

JOIN OUR VIDEO CLUB  
MEMBERSHIP FREE

### SPECIAL OFFERS - GROCERIES

EGGS GRADE 2 - 85p doz.  
McDOUGALLS FLOUR 53p  
CLOVER 48p FLORA 31p GOLD 43p  
ANDREX TWIN PACK 72p  
HEINZ BAKED BEANS 22p  
SHREDDIES 80p  
WHISKAS (LARGE) 38p PEDIGREE CHUM  
(LARGE) 34p  
CIGS STILL AT PRE-BUDGET PRICES  
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

### DON'T FORGET YOUR PETS!

PREPACK HAY - SAWDUST - STRAW  
LOOSE RABBIT FOOD - PREMIUM 20p 1b  
LOOSE HAMSTER FOOD 20p 1b  
VALUMIX COMPLETE DOG FOOD 28p 1b

ALL OFFERS SUBJECT TO STOCK AND  
MANUFACTURERS PRICE INCREASES

\* ORDERS DELIVERED FREE\*  
TELEPHONE 393241

NEAREST NOT DEAREST

STAMFORD STREET STORES

## A46 WESTERN BYPASS

The Inquiry finished on Thursday May 12th, with the Department of Transport summing up. The DOT have re-emphasised their commitment to the published route, and their opposition to all the proposed alternatives.

A representative from the DOT told me that they were "reasonably optimistic of partial success, but that consideration would be given to the objections particularly from the County and City Councils, since they are meant to represent the electorate.

This has worrying implications for Ratby of course, since it was Leicestershire County Council who proposed alternative D.

It may be that a further Inquiry is held to look at controversial junctions.

A total of 230 objections were received for Alternative D, most from Ratby. Similarly, there were 206 letters opposing A, 273 against F, 201 against N, and 106 against P. (Only 36 were received opposing B, which runs along the disused railway in Ratby).

So thanks to all who made the effort of writing, it really does count - especially to Ian Reeve!!!

Councillor John Smalley accompanied the Inspector on his site visits in Ratby and Kirby Muxloe on Monday May 16th, to point out locations referred to in Parish Council evidence.

Air Vice Marshall Colahan now has to write his report, which will contain a précis of all submissions to the Inquiry. It is expected to take at least 8 months. All objectors will receive a statement of his recommendations, and a full report will be available for inspection at Cranbrook House in Nottingham.

J.T.LEE

32 Main St. Ratby

QUALIFIED WATCHMAKER  
and JEWELLER

Tel. 395244



Sponsored by

Gas Appliance  
Services-Leicester

6 Saxons Rise, Ratby, Leicester LE6 0NF  
Tel: Office: (0533) 393662





TO THE WOODS

Sunday 15th May turned out to be a good day in more ways than one for the 1st Ratby Scout Troop. Martinshaw Wood was bathed in sunshine (unlike the previous Sunday!) and the walkers on the 3rd annual fund raising walk, welcomed the cooling breeze.

Beavers, Cubs and Scouts gamely trekked 25 kilometres through the wood to help raise money for a Scout Mini Bus and the Woodland Trust (who kindly gave us permission to use the wood).

Due to the incredibly muddy state of some of the rides and paths, a new route was found, which seemed to please the walkers. Despite a smaller turn out, those who turned up enjoyed a pleasant day in the fresh air. Walking styles varied from 'the marathon runners' to those who took off their shirts and soaked up all the sun's available rays. All were determined to walk the whole distance and it was nice to see so many parents turning up to support their sons.

Once again many supporters gave of their time to help with refreshments and marshalling the course. The latter were pleasantly surprised to find that the organisers had found a sunny spot for all (in previous years the marshalls who drew



SPONSORED BY  
**ROWLETT BROS.**  
PAINTERS AND DECORATORS  
42 Station Road, Kirby Muxloe  
Telephone: Leicester 393403/386606

the short straw found themselves in the darker remote parts of the wood, too close for comfort to the buzzing and biting permanent residents of the place!)

Many thanks to all who helped and to the walkers, without whom nothing would have happened.  
David Gould  
Organsier

1ST RATBY CUBS

Since the last WOT the cubs have taken part in a couple of District Events.

The first one was the Chess and Draughts Competition, which we did very well in. Julian Mills was second in the under 11's Chess and Alexander Wheldon was second in the under 9's Draughts, congratulations to both of them. I would like to thank Rob Timson and also Moby for helping to coach the cubs and also for coming along on the day.

The second event was the Six-a-side football, and once again I would like to thank Cliff Mallard for coming to coach the cubs and pick the team. Unfortunately we were knocked out, but the boys taking part put up a good fight and were full of enthusiasm.

Bye for now  
Akela, Swifts

Ratby Cubs  
on duty in  
New Walk on  
St. Georges Day

SPORT AID 1988

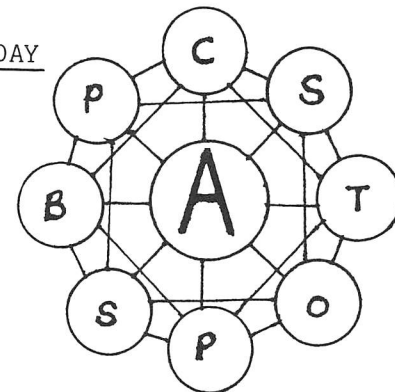
Good luck to all the children who will be running in Ratby Primary School's 1000 metre Fun Run, on Tuesday 28th June.

Schools all around the world will be taking part to raise funds for Sport Aid.

It should be quite an entertaining spectacle as the children will hopefully be running in fancy dress.

Make a date in your diary. Come along and support the children.

RAINY DAY



PUZZLE

How many words of four letters or more can you make by moving along the lines in any direction. You can start anywhere and need not use the central letter. No plurals please. Please hand in your efforts to the Library and let us know if you would like more puzzles.

NOTICE TO OUR ADVERTISERS

As you know we now have a "Crew Bus" for which we are looking for sponsors whose names will be painted on the side of the bus.

We will not be officially approaching you for sponsorship as you already support the "WOT" magazine. Thanks very much.

However, should you wish to be a sponsor for the bus, on an annual basis, please let us know and we will make the necessary arrangements.

Appliance Servicing  
and Installation

Breakdown and  
Repair Services

Plumbing and  
Heating Installation

Quality Guaranteed  
by Experienced  
Engineers



Gas Appliance Services

6 Saxons Rise, Ratby, Leicester LE6 0NF

Telephone: (0533) 393662

Free Estimates

**A full Design, Supply and Installation  
service is now available from our  
Showroom and DIY Centre**

- KITCHENS ● BATHROOMS ● REPLACEMENT WINDOWS
- COMPREHENSIVE HEATING, PLUMBING & DIY PRODUCT RANGE

SHOWROOM AND DIY CENTRE AT:

90 Main Street, Newbold Verdon, Desford, Leicester LE9 9NP

Telephone: Desford 2536

OPEN MON-SAT 9 a.m.-5.30 p.m. WEDS 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

# LETTERS

Dear Mr. Sims,

Thank you very much for the copies of "WOT about Ratby", I enjoy it very much, after reading it, I then post it on to my Ratby friends at Sutton-on-Sea, who also look forward to it. Please accept a small donation, and once again thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Linda Preston

## EDITORS NOTE

Linda wishes to be remembered to all her friends in Ratby.

Dear Editor,

I would like to take this opportunity to reply to the Knighton Park Trust's accusations made in the April newsletter.

I consider that our petition was conducted in a fair and proper manner.

At no time did I or I'm sure my helpers suggest they were "hippies" or a "psuedo religious group". How could we when they hadn't revealed their true religion to anyone.

On the other hand I did have suggestions made to me but my answer was "I didn't know".

This petition was hard work and was only done with the interests of Ratby people at heart.

May I close by saying that with a second quickie petition people still signed and out of approximately three hundred signatures only one person refused.

Yours faithfully,

Muriel Stanley.

Dear Mr Sims,

My friend Mrs Linda Preston of Leicestershire sends me her copy of "WOT about Ratby" after she has read each issue.

I am Ratby born and bred having lived in the village for 60 years until we retired to the east coast 3 years ago. I read and enjoy every word and save every copy. Would it be possible to have a copy sent direct to me. I would gladly pay the postage.

It would be interesting to know how far the magazine travels to ex-Ratby folk.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. W. Poulter

Shouldn't  
acquaintants  
need a Wot  
they should  
not be  
denied

## His 'N' Hers

Ladies and Gents Hairdressing

156 Station Road, Ratby.

OAP's welcome any day at reduced rates

Styling	Blow Drying
Perming	Colouring
Setting	Trimming

Appointments not always necessary

Tuesday to Saturday

Competitive prices and Friendly Service

For Appointments

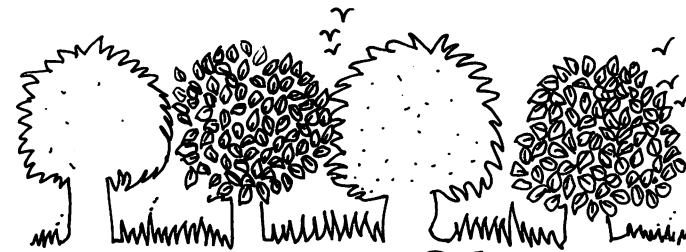
Phone Leicester: 394429

## RATBY PRIVATE HIRE

ANY DISTANCE  
PARCELS ... AIRPORTS

PENSIONERS TOKEN SCHEME

tel. 386905 OR 0860/538355



## FOREST ALERT

Leicester Friends of the Earth are organising a 'Forest Alert' on Sunday June 12th at Groby Community College. There will be stalls and entertainments, as well as guided walks around Martinshaw Wood. Last year's event was really successful, so why not join in this year!

Stalls are to include plants, herbs, books and jewellery, as well as environmental goods. There will be face painting, and children will be able to make a badge for free.

Anita from Leicester City Wildlife Project will be organising childrens' 'Treasure Hunt' games in the wood. Ratby photographers note that there will be a photography competition on the theme of "Trees in Our Changing Environment".

The event is FREE and runs from 12 - 4 p.m. Don't miss it!!

## B.T. KEYMER

18 Parklands Avenue, Groby.  
Tel: Leicester 876926

WASHING MACHINE AND  
CLEANER REPAIRS  
MOST MAKES

PROMPT, PERSONAL SERVICE

\*\* 25 YEARS EXPERIENCE ! \*\*

## THE PLOUGH INN RATBY



Fine Lunchtime Fayre  
& Marstons Brewing Excellence

Our Winning Combination

M. M. & K. A. PLUNKETT  
CERAMIC TILING, FLOORS AND WALLS

Quality Tradesman  
Free estimate & advice

8 Markfield Road  
Ratby, Leicester  
LE6 0LP

Tel. Leicester 392464

## Gas Appliance Services - Leicester

Appliance Servicing and Installation Breakdown and Repair Services Plumbing and Heating Installation Quality Guaranteed by Experienced Engineers

6 Saxons Rise, Ratby, Leicester LE6 0NF  
Tel: (0533) 393662

SHOWROOM & DIY CENTRE  
90 Main Street, Newbold Verdon,  
Desford, Leicester LE9 9NP  
Tel: Desford 2536

YOUR DOMESTIC  
GAS BOILER SERVICED  
£2 OFF FOR  
SERVICING WORK  
UNDERTAKEN IN RATBY  
£15 inc VAT

## DEADLINE FOR LETTERS, ARTICLES AND ADVERTS for

THE AUGUST ISSUE of

WOT is THURSDAY

14<sup>th</sup> JULY

ADVERTS ... PHONE 395179

ARTICLES ... PHONE 393279

EDITOR ... 393367

HOTLINE !! PHONE US ON 386980 or  
395179 with interesting News for Wot !!





# SAVE MONEY AND YOUR SKIN

We all know now that Prince Charles has banned aerosols in his home. Not only will this help protect the ozone layer, but it will also save him some money. Aerosol sprays are the most expensive way of buying a product.

Many aerosols, including brand leaders Harmony and Sunsilks hair sprays and Impulse body spray contain a chemical propellant chlorofluorocarbon which some groups suggest is destroying the ozone layer and so allowing more harmful ultra violet rays to reach earth. This may be a possible cause of the increase in 'skin' cancers.

Makers of leading brands are intending to discontinue use of CFC propellants after public pressure.

In the meantime we can all help now. Ratby shops stock alternatives if you really can't do without aerosol sprays!

PRODUCT	STOCKIST
MR SHEEN spray polish	Stamford St. Stores, Moores, Co-op.
Pledge	Co-op (& Co-op own furniture polish)
Glade Air Freshner	Co-op (also Co-op own make)
Big D Air Freshner	Moores
Johnson Wax 'Shout' Laundry spray	Stamford Street Stores
Big D Fly Killer	Moores
Sanmex Fly & Wasp Killer	Stamford St. Stores
Big D De-icer	Stamford St. Stores, Moores
WD.40	Moores
Vivas Body Spray	Ellis the Chemist
Palmolive Rapid Shave	Stamford Street Stores
Palmolive After Shave	Moores
Gillette Foamy Shaving Cream	Co-op.

Information from Friends of the Earth.

## ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ FIELD HEAD TRAVEL

Private Hire Cars

Local or Distant

Markfield 242133

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

PLAY CRIB DARTS CHESS DOMINOES SHOVE HA'PENNY DEVIL AMONGST THE TAILORS

BARBECUE EACH SATURDAY 12 ... 2.00 PM

LIVE ACCORDIONIST WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

REGULAR GUEST ALES.

**RAILWAY INN. STATION RD. RATBY**  
A MEMBER OF EVERARD'S OLD ENGLISH ALE CLUB

# CURIOSER AND CURIOSER

Whether it is melting with the Maltesers in the Malta sun, finding illumination amongst one-armed bandits in Blackpool, or being on the piste in Switzerland, we hope your library may be able to guide you a little this summer. A well-appointed, completely finished building, with a friendly atmosphere, the staff will try to cater to your needs. And that will do nicely.

If you are using the car for your holidays beware of those irritating scrapes and bumps which seem to occur. To give you a fighting chance with insurance companies, employ the following (genuine) excuses:

"I collided with a stationary tram coming the other way" (If in Blackpool)

"If the other driver had stopped a few yards behind himself, the accident would not have happened" (If in a motorway tail back)

"Cow wandered into my car. I was afterwards informed that the cow was half-witted" (If in the countryside)

(John Dunne's Curious Collection)

Some more advice for parents, particularly if you take the children to the seaside: please remember not to embarrass them, especially if you have a sensitive intellectual like Adrian Mole:

"My father has gone back to his proletarian roots. He bought a 'kiss me quick, squeeze me slowly' hat and walked along the promenade swigging out of a can of lager. I wore my dark glasses and kept well behind him."

(The growing pains of Adrian Mole)

Going to France, peut-etre? Vous will succeed bien avec le franglais (Miles Kingston). But spare a thought for foreign travellers to these shores. How must they cope with a language that has 'tough', 'cough', 'bough' and 'dough'; or 'dread', 'bead', 'dear' and 'pear'? No such problems for the Portuguese, who have the benefit of an 1883 English-Portuguese holiday phrasebook, English as she is spoke, by Pedro Carolino, familiar phrases and proverbs include:-

"This hat go well" AND "for to wish the good morning".  
"The dog than bark not bite" AND "A take is better than two you shall have"

(The Book of Heroic Failures - Stephen Pile)

Whilst the library has a varied selection of travel guides, holiday brochures and hand-books, do beware of travel agentese. A 'converted country hotel', with an 'unconventional appearance', in a 'peaceful area' means of course that

- 1) the horses have just been re-housed,
- 2) the hotel is not yet finished and
- 3) it overlooks the cemetery.

For those rainy days, lift the sentence of boredom and perhaps tackle the word games of either Gyles Brandreth or David Parlett. And if separate holidays are desired, then the Handbook for Women Travellers by Maggie Moss may appeal. It doesn't mention the Kitchen Sink once.

Whatever your tastes, pop in to the library and remember, your books can be given a loan extension to accommodate holiday plans. Wish you were here?

Tan Young  
Ratby Library

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**WE NOW GIVE BLUECHIP**

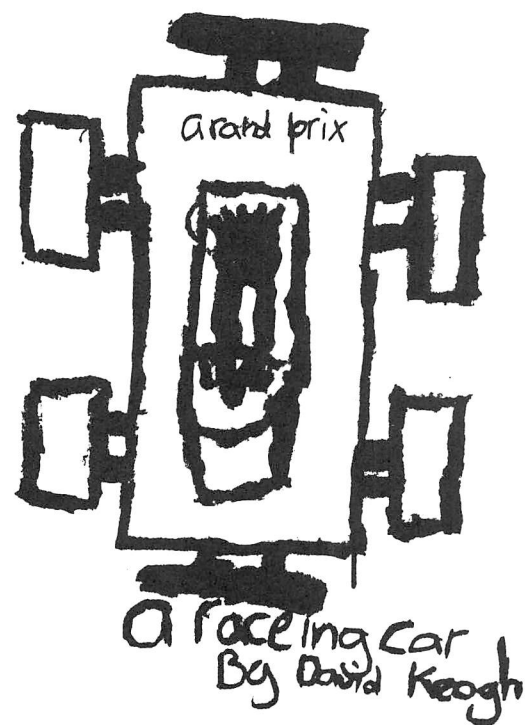
CONFECTIONERY DIS-  
CAR WASH  
M.O.T. WORK  
PUNCTURE REPAIRS  
TRACKING SERVICE  
SERVICE & REPAIRS  
ALL TYPES OF BATTERIES  
LEADING MAKES OF TYRES  
FINA MENU SERVICE £39.95  
(Including Vat)

**BLUEBELL SERVICE STATION**  
LEICESTER ROAD  
GROBY (Tele: 876850)

# Crow pie

Children's Page

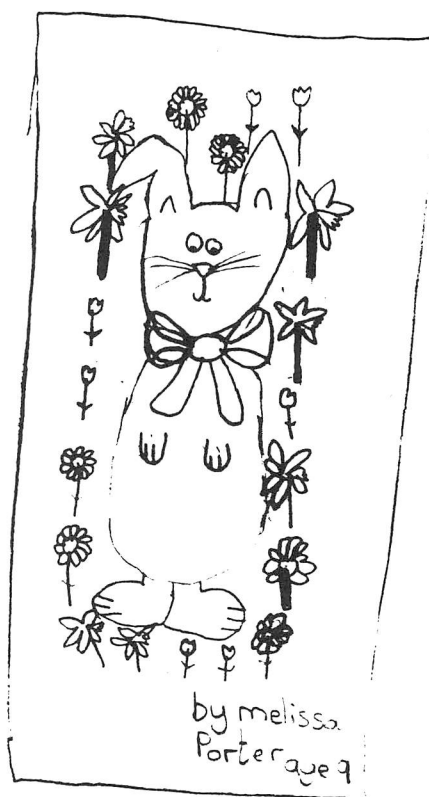
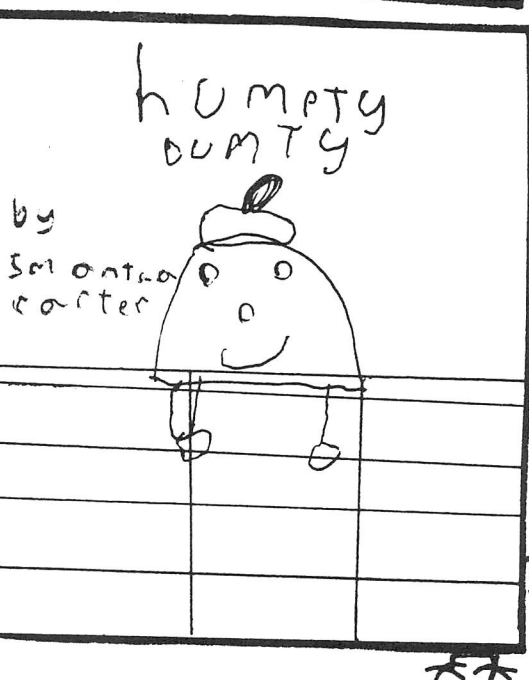
We haven't seen any jokes for ages...



No room for crows



SPONSORED by DJ GRAHAM HAULAGE



## ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

### WAR WIDOWS

#### Pilgrim Programme is Expanded.

The 1988 Royal British Legion and Government sponsored pilgrimages will this year take in visits to Kenya, Java and Singapore.

The programmes will also include Ambon, Italy, Belgium, Burma, Labuan, Cyprus, Malaysia, Egypt, Normandy, France, Germany, Somme, Holland, Sri Lanka and Tunisia.

Annually some 1000 people embark on a Legion Pilgrimage and since the introduction of the War Widows Government grant in aid scheme, pilgrimages have been arranged to places further afield.

With the Government scheme, widows need only find 1/8th of the cost. In the last three years almost 1200 widows have participated in the scheme, visiting 28 countries in Europe, Africa and the Far East.

Applications for 1988 pilgrimages should be addressed to:

The Pilgrimages Department  
The Royal British Legion Village  
Maidstone  
Kent  
ME20 7NX

Royce Watchorn  
Ratby & District Branch  
Chairman

## Recipé

### "Hermann" - 10 Day German Friendship Cake

Cupfuls of this cake mixture are circulating in the village at this moment ... Sarah Boothroyd has sent in an alternative recipe:-

When you get your 'Hermann' mixture, feed the same day with,

- 1 cup flour (plain)
- ½ cup sugar
- 1 cup milk, and stir well

Keep in a lightly covered, tall jar in fridge (it grows).

On Day 5 feed with the same mixture as day one and stir well.

On Day 10, take out 1 cupful of mix for your next cake, and one cupful for a friend.

Pour remaining mix into a bowl with

- 2 beaten eggs
- 3 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 cups plain flour
- ½ teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 cup nuts
- ½ cup corn oil
- 1 cup raisins or sultanas



Grease an 8½ inch cake tin.  
Pour mixture in.

BAKE 1 HOUR 180°C/315°F/Mark 4

Glaze To make glaze cook ½ cup butter, ½ cup milk, ¼ cup brown sugar for 2 minutes, then pour over hot cake.

## COACHES FOR HIRE

LUXURY COACHES FOR PRIVATE PARTIES  
SOCIAL OUTINGS ETC.

### ASTILL & JORDAN LTD

The Garage, Station Road, RATBY  
Your local daily Bus Service  
\*\* Established over 60 years \*\*

Phone 393118

\*\*\* JET PETROL \*\*\*

(Attended Petrol Station)

## THE SERVICE GARAGE

MAIN STREET, RATBY

M.O.T.'S, SERVICING & REPAIRS

ACCIDENT REPAIRS, BODYWORK

Consult your Local Experts

FIRST CLASS WORKMANSHIP

AT COMPETITIVE PRICES

FREE ESTIMATES

INSURANCE WORK A SPECIALITY

Tel. 394966



The Wolsey Factory on Stamford Street now demolished to be replaced by cottage-style bungalows.



Things are happening fast in Ratby. The Wolsey Factory, which transformed the village at the turn of the century, has gone. In its place a housing development described as 'Mead Glade' by the builders.

The Swedish Chalets on Church Lane are gone, to be replaced by the intrusion of commonplace 'prestigious' executive homes in our conservation area. A chance has been lost to create a harmonious and individual development.

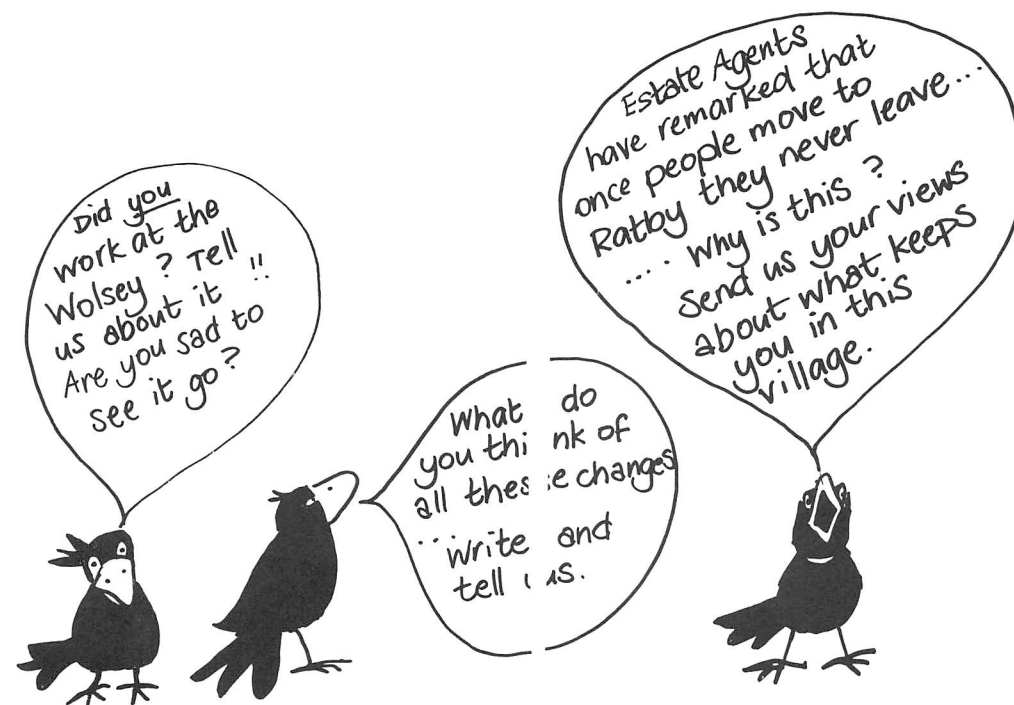
The caravan sales area is the subject of a planning application for 14 town houses .... a high density for such a small site.

Permission has been given to build two bungalows in a location encroaching on the green wedge.

The Parish Council, whilst recognising the need for housing, has sought to preserve the green wedge and recommend less intensive development which will conserve the character and heritage of this village.

Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council do not seem to have this local concern, and have, in our opinion, too often granted planning permission. Although they have recently refused permission to erect housing on the land between Sacheverall Way and Ratby Road, which is in the parish of Ratby.

## The Changing Face of Ratby



development in the green wedge be resisted? We have in previous issues highlighted the threat that will inevitably arise if the Leicester Western Bypass is built.

### Make Your Views Known

Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council have revised the North Eastern Parishes Structure Plan, which includes Ratby. The document will be available soon in Ratby Library, and can also be purchased for £3 from the Council. We have already exceeded the maximum number of dwellings that were envisaged in the previous structure plan.

No-one wants to see people homeless, but the quality of life is important. We want our children to grow up with a sense of neighbourliness and community. Nothing is achieved by creating a vast

anonymous suburbia, where no-one knows anyone, and where there are insufficient shops and local services.

Don't let's lose the impetus created by the By-pass Inquiry. We have proved that Ratby people care ... Let's go on caring and make our feelings known.

If we just sit back, then the day that Ratby becomes merely a suburb of Leicester will be here before we know it.

### REVISION OF THE RATBY LOCAL PLAN

Each household in RATBY should have received a leaflet containing the summary of the main proposals for the new Plan for Ratby. These are important to consider and get right because they will govern the use of land and the pattern of development in the period upto 1996. We already have overall pressures on both our Village and Parish of Ratby and so it is very necessary to bring our Local Plan upto date and cover not only the village settlement but also the surrounding countryside.

I am not so foolish as to say that a Local Plan gives a cast-iron guarantee but it does afford the best means of providing identification of areas of new development and areas of restraint, improvement and protection of the environment. Once these have been approved and officially adopted, the Local Plan sets out a clear guidance to developers and public and forms the basis for approval or refusal of planning applications.

A necessary part of the preparation of a Local Plan is consultation with residents as well as other Authorities. Your Parish Council will send its considered response to the Borough Council. Nevertheless you should go along to the exhibition in the Welfare Hall on 15th June and see the details for yourself. Any further questions you may have can be raised at the Public Meeting.

Bulldozers move in to begin the transformation of the Swedish Chalet site.



The meeting will be held at:

**Ratby Welfare Hall**  
on 15th June 1988 at 7.30pm.

The first Local Plan for Ratby was adopted in 1979 and has been of benefit to us. It is perhaps even more a requirement in 1988 to ensure that we obtain the right New Plan for RATBY.

I believe that the proposals put forward are what we want and I hope you will agree.

John F. Smalley  
Borough Councillor for Ratby  
Chairman - Ratby Parish Council.

## Ratby Fish Bar

for Traditional English Fish & Chips

Leicester 392772

Opening Times

Mon. - 6 - 11.30
Tues. & Wed. Closed
Thurs. - 6 - 11.45
Friday - 11.30 - 1.30 a.m. 5.00 - 12 p.m.
Sat. - 12 - 1.30 a.m. 6 - 12 p.m.
Closed Sunday