

DANGER!

For a long time Ratby people have been expressing concern about the dangers of increased traffic through Ratby, particularly through the village centre, along Markfield Road and Danehill.

Recently, yet another collision occurred on Danehill. Fortunately, no-one was injured. But as one resident said - "it is only a matter of time before a swerving car mounts the pavement and a child is killed".

The National Playing Fields Association has now launched a campaign to stop the serious loss of playgrounds and recreation space to the developer.

The Association's Chairman, Giles Brandreth says "Recreation space is disappearing at an alarming rate. In some cases the consequences are fatal. More than 20,000 children are killed or injured in our streets every year, mainly because they have nowhere safe to play." Pedestrians and cyclists make up 40% of annual road deaths.

We are lucky in Ratby in having plenty of recreation space at present.

However, children need to walk to school, and pedestrians need to feel safe to cross the roads when out shopping in the village.

Many of us will remember our childhood - street games, when perhaps you may not have seen a car all day. Many parents face a dilemma now - afraid to let their children venture as far as the play area. Sometimes the children themselves may

be unwilling to go because of bullying by older children. Gardens may be too small and streets unsafe.

The County Council view is that it is the job of the police to enforce speed regulations. This is of course unrealistic as they do not have the man-power.

Many other countries have begun to 'give back' the streets to people, by introducing speed inhibiting factors such as road humps or landscaping. This slows down traffic in residential areas and reduces the use of roads such as Danehill as "rat-runs."

What are your views on this? Write in and let us know.

SCOUTS

On Sunday 10th June the Scout Group is looking for more parents, relatives and friends to get sponsors and walk, with members of the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Ventures, at our Annual Woodland Walk. We have the opportunity to build a Scout Headquarters, sorely needed to maintain and extend the activities of the group.

The Group survives on the hard work of all of the leaders, assistants, helpers and committee so why not support them a little more this year and have an enjoyable walk around the woods, and provide additional funds for this venture. Surely the leaders need an headquarters of their own to continue their excellent work!

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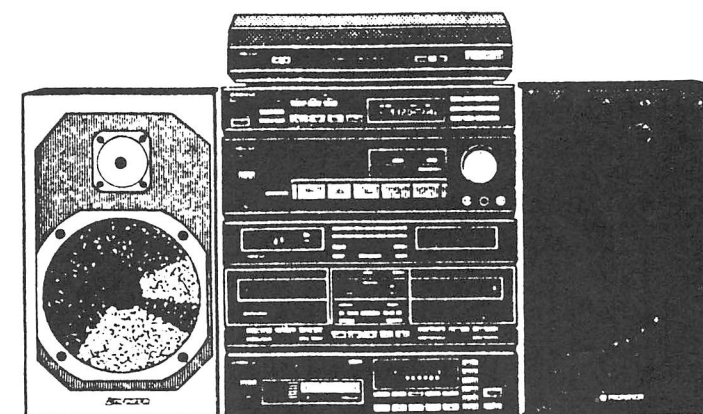
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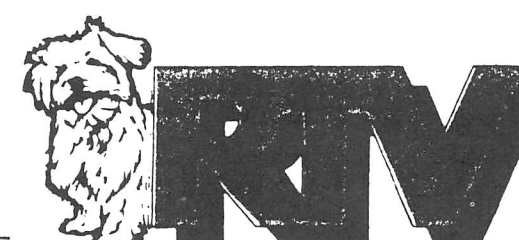
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— CLOSED WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS —



GARDENING IN JUNE

It seems fairly certain that gardens in this area will be suffering from drought again this year. If the soil is not saturated by late Spring even heavy rain will not make up the deficit because it evaporates too quickly in Summer.

Drought conditions in the garden can be caused by two things, a very free draining soil which does not hold moisture and very low rainfall. To remedy the situation we can make the soil more retentive and add water by irrigating.

Adding humus of any kind to soil helps it to retain moisture rather like a sponge, so we should be adding manure, garden compost, forest bark, peat or anything else available. If this is spread over the surface before the ground dries up it acts as a mulch and helps to prevent water loss. One well known gardener uses straw between shrubs, I find it works well between soft fruit bushes.

Plastic sheeting can also be used successfully as a mulch but obviously will not improve the water holding capacity of the soil. It works well around vegetables and of course prevents weed growth as well. In the flower garden it can be disguised by covering it with grit or chippings.

At the best of times Leicestershire is a low rainfall area so watering is likely to be required. The important thing to remember is always to put on a

lot of water at one time. A sprinkler needs to be left in one spot for several hours to be effective, small shrubs need about two gallons each, bedding plants a gallon to two to three plants.

Another approach to the problem is to concentrate on plants which enjoy dry conditions. Most grey leaved plants such as lavender, artemesias, cotton and globe thistle are able to withstand drought. Aromatic plants such as sages and thymes are similarly adapted to dry areas as are fleshy plants like Sempervivums and Sedums.

For further ideas on dealing with dry situations recommended reading is

The Dry Garden by Beth Chatto
(published by Dent.)

* We cannot recommend the use of peat any longer. Mechanical peat cutting is destroying the wetland home of rare species such as the nightingale and crested newt.



Sedum Spectabile
Its pink flowers attract butterflies

The Best of Times, The worst of Times

I started a paper round at the age of thirteen, in 1927. In those days we lived where St. Margarets Bus Station is now (our house is under it!). I left home at 6.30am to get to W.H.Smiths to collect the papers. These were put into rounds by the head news-boy.

Then we waited --- we couldn't, by law, leave the pavement outside the shop until 7.00 am. There we were all lined up and ready to go. On the stroke of 7.00 by the Town Hall clock, we dashed off, me to go through the market place to Woolworths on Gallowtree Gate, to catch the tram that left the Clock Tower, also on the stroke of 7.00. It could be a near thing sometimes as to whether I caught it.

My round was out in what was then the countryside, out past the tram terminus (near the Leicester race course), in Oadby. It was a quarter of a mile from where the tram stopped, to where I started my round, at Meadow Court Road. I carried on from there in a wide circle back to the tram terminus. My last paper was at Mr Scott's house (he had a woodyard in town). The house was called Glenarbor and was in Glebe Road.

Then it was back onto the tram. Dashing into the house, there was time

for a quick wash (no time before I started the round and onto school for 9 o'clock. It was the cane if I was late!

This happened if the head news boy was late putting up the rounds, then so would we, the newsboys be. Then it was one of the best from the master.

Before you could start as a newsboy, it was off to Richmond House for a medical. No medical - no job. To prove you'd passed the medical they gave you a badge to wear. As I was small for my age, the doctor said I could do the job but my dad had better put me in the greenhouse - to grow!

A morning round paid 4/6d a week, out of which I eventually saved enough to get a bike from Curry's at 1/6d a week.

Family holidays at a chalet in Swithland Woods gave me a problem, as it meant that I'd have to bike from there into town to do my round and then back again. But at least there was no danger of getting the cane on those days.

When I gave my notice in, the manager told me I was the first lad to do so.

Horace (Oggy) Payne.



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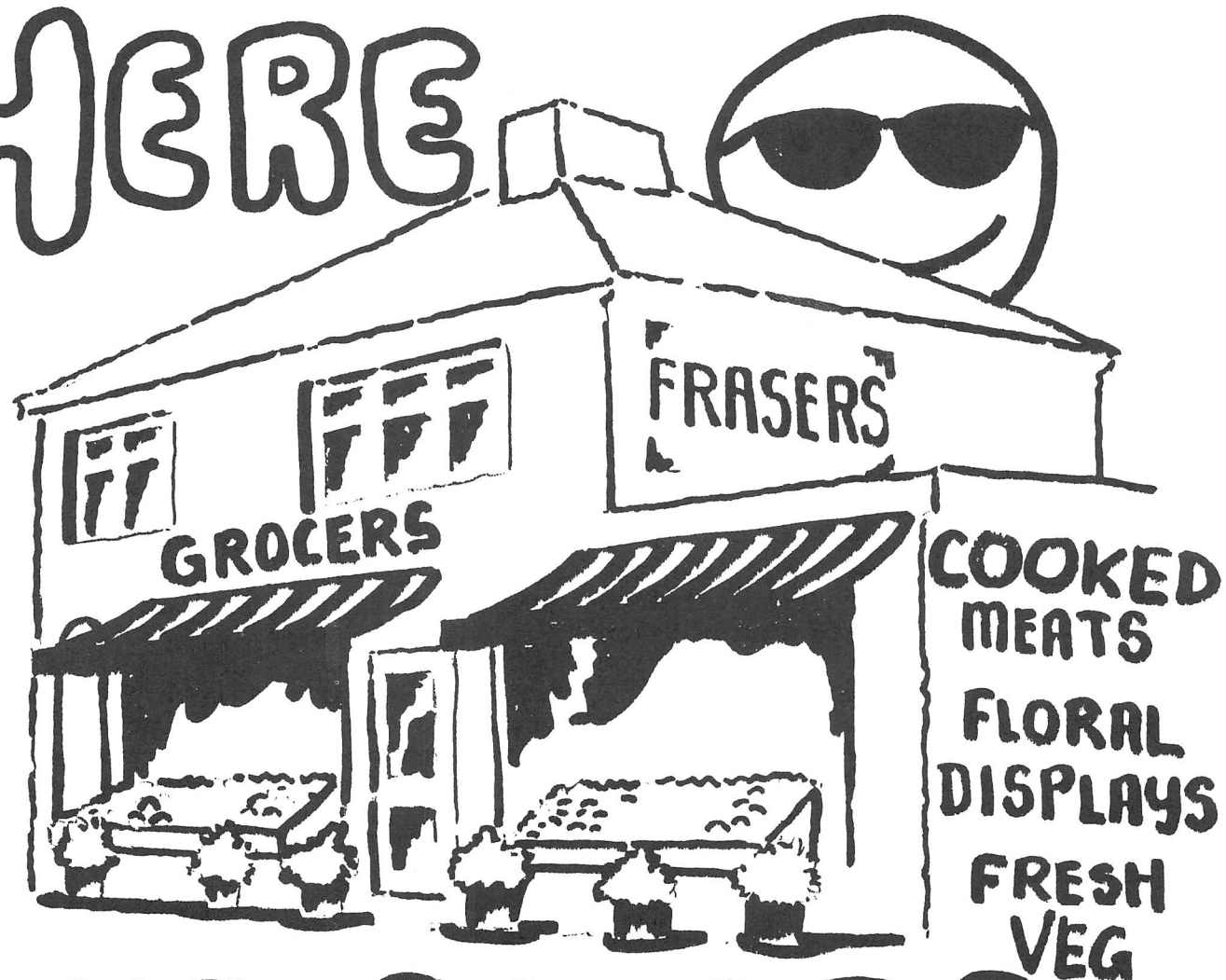
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FROM POVERTY TO PROSPERITY The coming of the factory system to Ratby

During the 1840s there was much poverty in many of the villages in Leicestershire. The once thriving domestic stocking making trade was in decline.

These were hungry years for the stockinger trying to compete with the larger factory units which were springing up in the towns of Leicester, Loughborough and Hinckley.

The trade had been in decline since the Napoleonic war. In many areas of the East Midlands attempts to prevent the mechanisation in larger factory units failed. Between 1812 and 1816 stockingers' wages fell from 12/6d per dozen to 7/0d. Luddites, groups of workers who combined in secret to smash the new factory machinery, brought misery and despair to the domestic trade. Many workers who were caught in acts of framesmashing were either imprisoned, hanged or deported to Australia.

Many villages in Nottinghamshire became threatened by the acts of nightly vandalism by the Luddites which caused the Home Secretary to bring in the local militia. The Luddite outbreak came to an end in 1816 when several men were hanged in Infirmary Square for the smashing of lace making machinery and the death of the night watchman at Heathcotes factory in Loughborough.

For the next twenty years the cottage trade struggled on. A workers friendly society had been founded in the very month in 1833 that farm labourers of Tolpuddle in Dorset had rebelled against low wages and formed an illegal trade union.

The establishment of such workers' co-operatives which guaranteed work for all did much in Ratby to stem the tide of low wages and unemployment.

By 1860 the cottage trade in Ratby had survived by the skin of its teeth and the first frameshops employing several workers in one building was begun by Richardson Bros: at the bottom of Stamford Street.

Ten years later Tyler of Leicester had established their factory unit at the top end of Stamford Street.

During the next one hundred years this factory provided employment for many of the local populace. In 1922 Tylers amalgamated with Walker Bros of Fleckney to form the once famous Leicestershire Hosiery company of Wolsey.

Michael T. Ball.

Tylers Factory (photograph by courtesy of Mr Gardner of Stamford Street.)



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LETTERS

Dear Sir,

As a member of the Bradgate Lions, with our headquarters at the Plough in Ratby, I wondered if the people organising various fetes etc., through the coming year would be good enough to contact me, so that we could possibly have a stall for our fund raising at these functions.

Perhaps the editor could organise a diary to be published each edition, but he would need information from the various committees. Don't forget, it pays to advertise.

Yours faithfully,

D.E.Piggott.

29, Park Road,

Editors note

We have tried to organise a diary in the past but the local groups were not forthcoming with their events. So the cost in time and phone calls chasing everyone up didn't justify the the end result!

15 Firtree Walk
Groby
LE6 0FN

Dear Sir

At a recent meeting of the Royal British Legion, one of the members brought to our attention an article in WOT written by Old Bill. The article, "Lest we Forget" gave names of Ratby men who fell in the 1914-18 War. All but one have their names on the War Memorial.

The man in question is Cpl Colin Kinton Smith 22322, who was killed in action 17th September 1918. I am interested in family history and have, on behalf of The Legion, taken up a search for any surviving relatives of Cpl Smith and am at present trying to find out his date and village of birth.

I have found that a Colin William Kinton was born in Glenfield in 1878. Now as "Colin" was an unusual name in late Victorian times, could this be our man? His name is not on the Glenfield War Memorial.

Obviously, we would like to get to the bottom of this mystery and certainly this is what The British Legion is all about. So if anyone can possibly throw any light on this, we would be most grateful.

Brian Leader.

A POINT OF INTEREST

Since our last edition our Assistant Scout Leader, Dennis Brookes, has entered a National Paintcraft Competition run by I.C.I. Dulux. This competition was open to all sections of the trade from trainee apprentices to experienced trade persons. It was designed to enhance the more decorative skills of today's craftsmen & women.

Dennis has reached and won the regional final for the East Midlands, for this he received £25 worth of paint brushes a certificate and a cheque for £250.

The regional final took place at Southfields College, it consisted of completing a six hour piece of work to the highest of standards which included setting out, two types of marbling, rag rolling effects, "cutting in" exercises and glossing a flush door, all of which was done to the entrant's own colour scheme.

By winning the regional final Dennis now goes on to complete in the National final to be held in June over two days at I.C.I.'s headquarters. There will be eight regional winners all trying for the first prize of £2,000.

Being over two days the finals will be more extensive, incorporating graining, marbling, broken colour work, sign writing, rag rolling etc, all to own colour schemes.

We wish Dennis every success in June and should you want Dennis to paint your name on the scout's van it will cost you a donation!

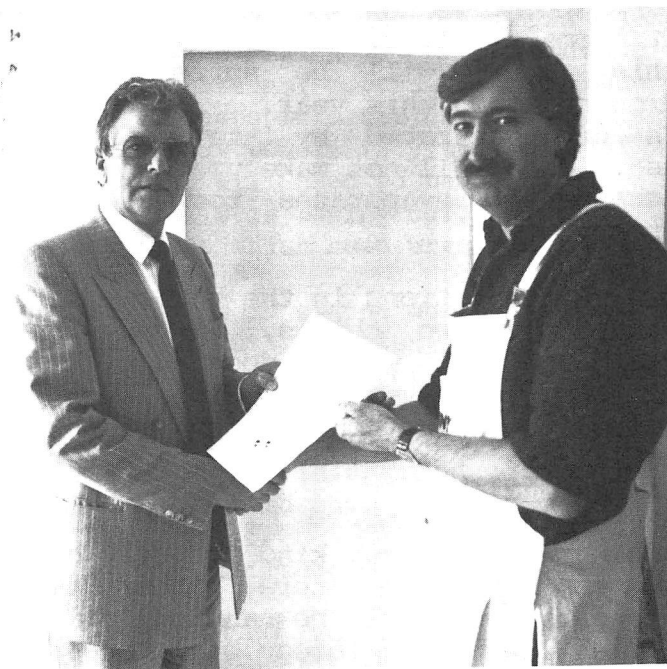
Eds note:

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Dennis receiving his prize.

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Members of Ratby Royal British Legion occasionally hear of the death of an ex-Service man or woman, sometimes after an illness and we are told that no one from the Legion had visited them. This is most unfortunate as this Branch, which covers a very large area geographically, is organised to visit sick or distressed ex-Service people. In the event of death, the Branch will provide a representative or the Standard Bearer if requested, to attend the funeral. To make this possible we do need to be informed by relatives or friends, who are asked to get in touch with one of the Branch Welfare Officers listed below:-

Groby J.R.Brown
Leicester 876708

Kirby Muxloe A.H.Brigstock
Leicester 395359

Markfield T.H.Pickett
Markfield 244306

Ratby F.W.Willis
Leicester 392128

Stanton-under-Bardon J.Blackett
Coalville 243492

Could anyone shed light on a superb shield given to a recent rummage sale at the Chapel? It had the Gurkhas KUCKRIE badges on.



DUCK RACING CLUB

Now we know from recent surveys carried out in the village that not many of you believed our article about the ancient sport of Duck Racing.

Well you must believe it now as during May two of the founding members of the Ratby Duck Racing Club, Dereck Johnson and Mike Nolan, appeared on Radio Leicester!

Dereck informed the listeners that Duck Racing was nearly as old as the village itself even though the club in Ratby had only recently been formed.

He explained that duck races were governed by the rules laid down by the Duck Racing Association of Great Britain, a two and a half chain course, weight of the duck and height of the hurdles. It appears that four ducks, with names such as Duckular Empty Hen, Captain Duck, Marmaduck, Francis Duck, Jaffaduck, Crocobill and Meduck race at a time. Not always' does the most athletic duck win - it's usually the duck with the greatest motivation - as there are no inducements as in greyhound racing.

The hurdles are two and a half inches high and the ducks have to wear jackets to restrict their wing movement - to prevent them flying the length of the course.

The current champion duck is Cob-one who is fed on Rearsby bread and Marmite - unlike many of the others who eat stale bread!

There are special duck trainers and Dereck's ducks are trained in Yorkshire where the racing it is assumed is taken more seriously than here in Leicestershire.

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It appears that the sport has no real centre as it is operated by secret societies and it is very difficult to ascertain its exact nature, but it does seem that the original sport was racing stolen ducks - hence it was a no cost sport so the race goers were able to provide services and assistance to the local communities.

There are seven race meetings in a season but these are only secondary to the main theme of the club - to raise as much money for charity as possible.

Since their formation at the Plough they have raised over £1500 and their favoured charity this year is Western Park School for Delicate Children. To this end the Club are willing to accept any challenges provided that there is money for their charity in it!

SO GET CHALLENGING



PABARI'S RATBY NEWS

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|---|---|
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| 2 NOT SNOOKER OR BILLIARDS IN DEVON | 8 DIP THOSE WOOLLY THINGS IN NORTHUMBERLAND |
| 3 NOISY DOGS IN SUFFOLK | 9 A PLACE FOR OLD MAIDS IN WEST YORKSHIRE? |
| 4 TEACHER FINDS IT USEFUL IN KENT | 10 A PLANE IN DERBYSHIRE |
| 5 HE OFF-LOADS THE CARGO IN LANCASHIRE | 11 A DRYER IN DYFED |
| 6 A PUPIL IS FOUND HERE IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE | 12 NEEDS PROTECTING IN SHROPSHIRE |

L.W.

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Ratby Parish Council



Traffic and Roads

As usual complaints were regularly being received about the condition of roads in the village. County Councillor Mrs Pat Butler pointed out that most villages were suffering from similar problems, but that she would take the matter up.

P.C. Alexander assured the Council that problems of parking in the village, particularly with regard to 'Casepak' lorries were regularly being monitored.

Neighbourhood Watch and Police

More reports had been received of 'break-ins' in Ratby, P.C. Alexander reported that Neighbourhood Watch representatives were keeping villagers informed.

The Police were thanked for a recent operation which was successful in clearing motorcyclists from local fields.

Inspector Lea, Senior Office of Rural Villages for this area attended the May 1st Parish Council meeting, and presented the Council with the Annual Report for Beaumont sub-division 1989.

Village Improvements

There had been a complaint that ratepayers money was being wasted on providing hanging baskets. The Council agreed that favourable comments were in the majority, and that the intention of the scheme to encourage voluntary participation in village improvements had been achieved. This year most retailers would be undertaking their own basket replanting, so the cost to the ratepayer would be minimal.

The Council have agreed to purchase planters for siting at the four entrances to the village. Mr Mould, the maintenance person would be asked to arrange this.

Landscaping

A tender from the City Wildlife project, (part of the Leicestershire Ecology Trust) has been accepted for the landscaping of a meadow and improvements to the brook at Ferndale Drive Play Area. Planning permission has been requested for the construction of a footbridge. It is the Parish Council's intention to undertake landscaping work and tree planting at Ferndale Drive to ensure more creative play facilities for children, and more attractive amenities for people of all ages.

Play Areas

A planning application has been submitted by the Parish Council for a proposed 'Toddler Play area' at Ferndale Drive.

Shock-absorbing swing seats have been ordered for the Burroughs Road play area.

A post and rail fence will be erected at the eastern boundary of Ferndale Drive playing field.

The Annual Parish Meeting

This meeting was held on Thursday April 19th in the Welfare Hall.

Minutes of this meeting can be read in full at Ratby Library.

Chairman's Report

John Smalley outlined the Council's achievements during the year, and expressed the Council's frustration at the recurring issues, particularly with regard to increased traffic and road safety, which despite the Parish Council's continued efforts, are largely unresolved.

The Chairman emphasized the Council's endeavour to take a balanced overview when considering planning applications.

Mr Smalley concluded by reporting that the Council has continued to respect the financial limitations of the people it represents, and has set its precepts within the new Community Charge at the same level as the last year under the rating system.

County Councillor's Report

Mrs Pat Butler reported that she is now in her fourth term and is therefore a Senior Councillor, with increasing responsibilities serving on a wide range of committees and working parties; Police, Environment, Planning and Recreation, Social Services, Equal Opportunities and Employment. Mrs Butler regards her role on the Highways and Transportation Committee as her most important specialisation and she expressed concern about the inevitable pressures arising from the construction of the Leicester Western By-pass.

Presentation of Accounts

The Parish Council accounts for 1989/90 were presented and accepted.

A46 Leicester Western By-Pass

The Department of Transport finally announced on April 6th that the A46 Leicester Western By-pass would be constructed.

Ratby villagers who attended the Inquiry or submitted evidence will have received copies of the Department of Transport decision, and the findings of the Inquiry Inspector, Air Vice-Marshal W.E. Colahan.

The Inspector favoured the D.O.T. published plan for the junction of the By-pass with the M1 at Kirby Muxloe. In his findings he comments that alternative B (a link road to the By-pass along the Rothley Brook) would mean that:-

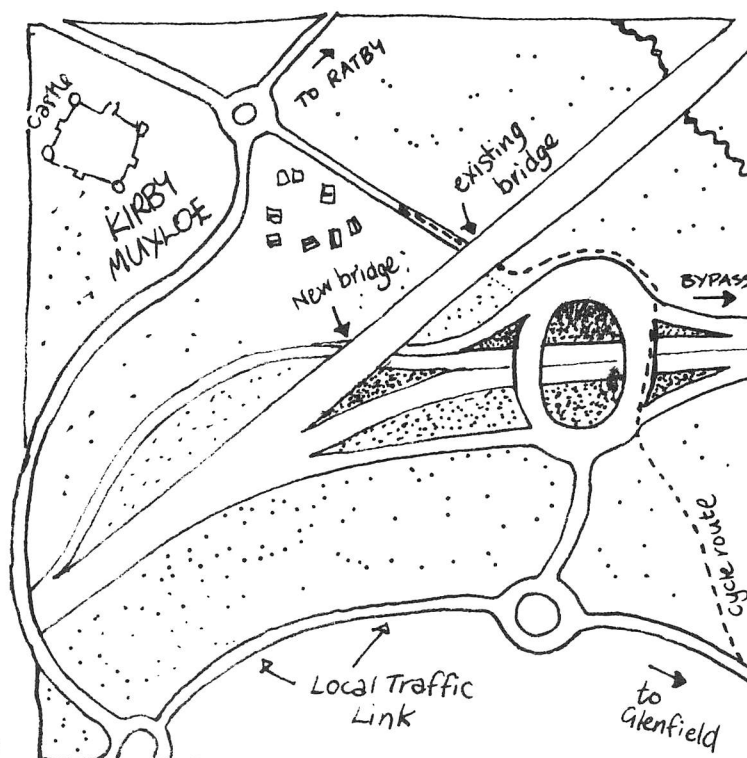
"The village of Ratby would be adversely affected by the increased traffic levels. Unlike Kirby Muxloe, Ratby has no existing roads suitable for improvement to take greater traffic volume."

A point worth noting for future campaigns!

However, the D.O.T. have published a revised junction at Kirby Muxloe. This will cater for revised traffic forecasts, and has

"Been designed so that the Motorway can be widened in the future without serious disruption to traffic"

SKETCH MAP OF JUNCTION



The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday May 1st

Mr Smalley was elected Chairman for the ensuing year. Mrs Smalley was proposed for Vice Chairman, but wished to decline. Mr Rogers was then proposed and elected. Mrs Smalley was elected as Chairman of the Planning Sub-Committee, with Mrs Stanley, Mr Rogers and Mrs Bouds elected to this Sub-Committee. Mrs Boud agreed to continue writing the Council Newsletter.

Mrs Smalley advised that she did not want to be nominated as representative to the Leicestershire Association of Parish

Councils this year. Mr Rogers and Mr Rae were elected. Mr Rogers and Mrs Smalley would continue to attend police liaison meetings. Five councillors agreed to form the playing fields and recreation sub-committee, Mrs Bound, Mr Rogers, Mr Ball, Mr Smith and Mrs Stanley. Mr Rogers and Mr Ball would continue to oversee footpaths.

The North Eastern Parishes Local Plan

The Public Inquiry will be held at the Council Chambers, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, commencing 30th May 1990. The Parish Council intends to send representatives to the Inquiry.

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Open Morning

Ratby Playgroup invites everyone, young and not-so-young to its open morning on Saturday 16th June, Ratby Church Rooms, 10 - 12 o'clock, when play equipment and refreshments will be available to everyone.

So, why not come along to see what the children get up to at Playgroup, and what is laid on for their use, or come along for a cup of tea or coffee while your children play with the equipment and toys set out. Admission is only 10p per person.

Happy Birthday!!

Believe it or not, (and most people involved with Playgroup can't) our village Playgroup is approaching its 21st birthday! A lot of changes of views and ideas have occurred in that time, but the main reason for Playgroup remains the same. To provide a friendly, stimulating environment for the little ones of our village. We are hoping to organise a special event to celebrate Playgroup's birthday, so if any of its past workers are interested in a get-together would they please contact Lesley Chevin at 5 Wesley Close, Ratby or ring 386605.

Ratby Playscheme

The Playscheme is currently being organised for 6th to 10th August. Booking forms are available at Playgroup, Monday to Friday 9 - 12.30 or from Lesley Chevin at above address. If anyone is interested in helping out at the Playscheme, be you a Mum, Dad, Grandparent, Aunt, Uncle, Teenager, please let us know. We need all the help we can get to make it a success for the children. Even just one morning session would be a great help.

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| DARK BLUE IN THE FACE | 9 HAS BEEN FALLING DOWN IN THE SONG |
| 3 CAN GET LOST HERE ESPECIALLY | 10 CHURCHMEN PLAY CRICKET ON THIS |
| AFTER A DRINK | 11 WHITE POWDER AMONG THE FIELDS |
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ACTIVE SCOUTS

At the time of my last writing I reported that we were preparing for our annual winter camp at Johns Lee Wood.

Once again it was a resounding success. My thanks to Colin, Ray Dennis, Horace and Paul for their hard work, in my absence due to work commitments.

Now with winter becoming but a memory we look forward to the fun, challenge and adventure of our Summer activities.

At the time of going to press we should be enjoying ourselves at Spring Camp, this year for the first time at Welesby Forest Scout Camp and Activity Centre in the middle of neighbouring Robin Hood country. Not too far to travel but with a wealth of Scouting activities to stretch the abilities of any young scout. To give you some idea of what's on offer there is an assault course, activity pioneering, orienteering, canoeing, fishing, hiking, horse riding, climbing, shooting and even a swimming pool with associated activities.

Hopefully the weather will be kind. Good use is being made of our newly acquired canoes under the watchful eye of Ray Lander, an accomplished canoeist himself. I wonder sometimes where he gets all his energy from.

The exciting news at the moment is that thanks to the Parochial Church Council of Ratby, we are looking towards building our Scout Headquarters to the rear of the Church Rooms, but at the same time retaining the use of the main hall for indoor activities. With associated landscaping and refurbishment the site will become more attractive and useful to people of the village.



COPPERS CORNER



On Sunday 10th June Beaumont Police Station is holding an Open day to celebrate 150 years of policing in Leicestershire. This will be held in conjunction with the Beaumont Leys Carnival and starts at 1 p.m.

There will be various displays, including the Army, Navy and Air Force. Also British Transport Police, British Motorcyclists Federation and St Johns. Police vehicles will be on display, and there will be stalls and competitions.

Please come along and have a look at us, visit the Custody Suite and have your fingerprints taken! It promises to be an enjoyable day.

J Rowden
Inspector

That's the good news folks, the bad news is we've got to find about £30,000 to help finance the project.

Yes, fund-raising has begun, and if there are any people out there with a few bob to spare let us know.

To leave you on another thought for the future: I'm actively getting applications from girls to join the group. All I can say is once the leadership is there and the group agrees then you will be most welcome.

With that thought I must leave you.

Yours in scouting

Chris Woodward

Timecraft

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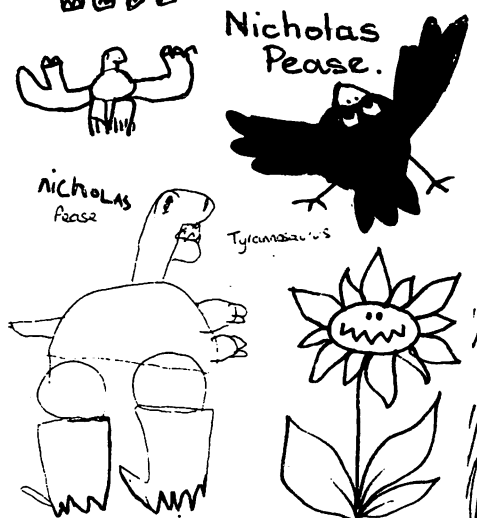
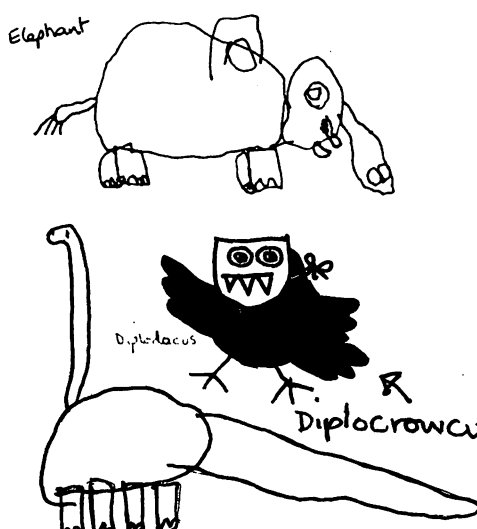


Children from classes 5J and 5C of Ratby Primary School seen examining an early motorcycle in Birmingham Science Museum. The children recently visited the museum during their project on "movement".

GROWPIE

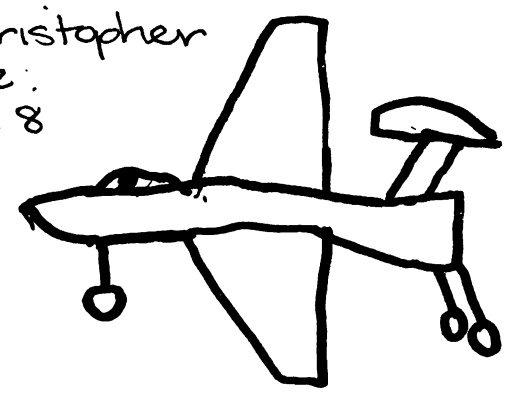
CHILDREN'S PAGE!

KEEP YOUR PICTURES COMING!
(Leave them at the library)
HAVE A GO!



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Christopher Mee Age 8



'Two biscuits were walking down the road. One got run over! What did the other biscuit say? (CRUMBS)'



St. Philip & St. James

Sometime in most peoples lives, they are taken into the house of the Lord. The majority of us are baptised when an infant. In the full beauty of womanhood, young women are taken to church by their fathers to be given away in marriage, the church usually ablaze with colour from flowers arranged in celebration of the happy event. In contrast, those who have departed this life, are taken into church on their last earthly journey before meeting the Heavenly Father.

For many hundreds of years, Ratby church has stood watch over the village, a sentinel watching over its domain. No matter from which direction one enters the village, the church of St. Philip & St. James can be seen on the horizon. In comparison with the size of Ratby's population, the church is cathedral like in its proportions. It has a tale to tell of unfinished stonework due to what is believed to have been the ravages of the black death creating a shortage of tradesmen and labourers during the 14th century. The Greys of Groby once worshipped at Ratby and during the Reformation, Ratby church in common with many other churches, was spoilt. In 1815, the church was damaged by fire, the registers and records being lost. Parliament made a grant of £400 for the repairs. From 1719, the head of the Grey family, the Earl of Stamford, lived in Staffordshire, but came back to the Groby area to hunt. During one such visit, the family coach was involved in an accident, and the Countess decided to avoid such dangerous trips in future to reach Ratby church, and the family built a church in Groby which was consecrated in 1840.

Many changes and additions followed over the years to Ratby church. But yet another disaster befell it in 1981 when the beautiful east window collapsed during a horrific snow storm together with high winds. It took £40,000 to restore the damage, the sanctuary being brought back into use at Easter 1983.

Somehow people expect their village church always to be there. But only the Church Council is aware of the ever increasing cost of ensuring it is. Each year brings more problems of deterioration of the fabric of the building and much time is spent at meetings discussing ways to raise the money for the repairs. The main source is the weekly offerings of the congregation, the fete and bazaar, the rummage sales and events organised by members of the congregation and village groups prepared to give their time and effort.

This year, the Church Council has to find something in the region of £16,500 to have caps to some external buttresses replaced before water seeps into the church; there is also a strong possibility that part of the bell tower will need to be rebuilt as one of the walls is bowing out, and there are other areas which need urgent attention.

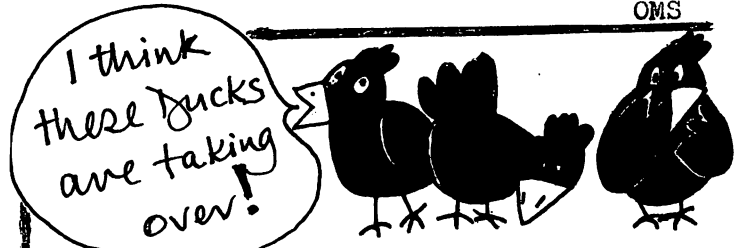
These are just some of the worries of the Church Council but they also have to bear in mind that the interior of the church must be kept clean and welcoming. Recently the electrical wiring was renewed and new lamps installed and other internal repairs and redecoration carried out.

This year the insurance premium for the church and church rooms was £1,500 an increase of £504.00 from last year and the Church Council was obliged to accept an increase in the Parish Diocesan Share from £4,947.00 last year to £6,624.00 for 1990. The cost of grass cutting in the church yard has also increased this year - we are lucky that the Parish Council helps us with this expensive item, but there will be quite a shortfall to somehow cover.

It is hoped that these few details will help the reader to understand the difficulties the Church Council has in maintaining this beautiful and historic building, to preserve and retain it for future generations to worship here and enjoy the companionship of the family in Christ.

To end on an optimistic note, our Sunday School is prospering in a most dramatic way thanks to the devoted Sunday School teachers and soon we hope to install a temporary sound amplifier system to help those hard of hearing the cost of this being covered by private donations.

God bless you.



Don't forget to visit THE LIBRARY to see/use the activity centre donated by the DUCK RACING CLUB.

You may visit THE LIBRARY on:-

Monday	2.00 - 7.00
Wednesday	2.00 - 7.00
Thursday	10.00 - 12.30
Friday	2.00 - 5.00
Saturday	10.00 - 12.30



WHY THE WOMENS' INSTITUTE?



Our dear Editor has done it again! Provoked me into chapter and verse by a chance remark in the last issue of "Wot": I quote, "Why the Womens' Institute?" and my answer is, that's how we like it! I'm sure males reading this article appreciate a night out with the boys - well, what's good for the goose, and originally we were founded by women for women, and all that started me thinking why I'm a W.I.

When I moved to Ratby in 1971 I wasn't going to be a W.I. - even when I was asked to pass on some folk dancing skills to a group of members I still felt it wasn't for me - all that jam and flowery hats! The dancers showed no signs of flowery hats and we had great fun practising our dances on a member's driveway heckled by children and a large Dalmatian dog called Henry, who, by the look of disdain on his face, knew we mere mortals were absolutely crazy! I was invited to the Group Meeting to watch my dancing proteges and that was it, my fate was sealed and I became a W.I.! The friendships I made that night have endured and I'm proud to belong to an Institute which is known throughout the Leicestershire and Rutland Federation for its friendly atmosphere. Oh yes! The jam and flowery hats? Well we do make jam and have a fair smattering of other useful skills too, but the hats only seem to appear on the heads of the entertainment group when they are treading the boards!

I've gained so much since I joined - how to work on a committee and have a spell as treasurer, how to produce reasonable tatting (a form of lace) and patchwork, with lots of support from an expert on the subject who is also a friend and fellow member, courses at Brooksby that have whetted the appetite for growing heathers and conifers, and the chance to further my love of folk dancing as a member of the W.I. Garland Dance team. Also the chance to captain an enthusiastic quiz team (I say they are enthusiastic - they tell me they're press-ganged!)

The chance to help others is always strong, with local W.I.'s running the Thursday morning Drop-in and the Entertainment group having great fun and giving much enjoyment with performances at local homes for the elderly and hospitals (watch this spot for details of our new revue in the Autumn!) There is also a strong sense of caring for fellow members and their families when the need arises and I am most thankful for this fellowship and quiet strength coming from the movement. My children are lucky to have grown up with lots of W.I. friends and from an early age have accepted the W.I. as part of family life! They like the jam too!

75 years old this year, the National W.I. still upholds its original aims to improve the quality of life for country women everywhere by education and socialisation. Our local Federation offers courses throughout the year and nationally the W.I. has its own College, Denman near Abingdon, where a huge programme of week-end and week long courses are on offer - it's all there, National Government, computer studies, upholstery, yoga, public speaking, etc., etc.

We are also linked to the Association of Country Women of the World and our Pennies for Friendship fund goes to help women in third world countries help themselves to a better life style through education and practical aid.

ANSWERS TO

ON THE LONDON TUBE

- 1 SHEPHERDS BUSH
- 2 OXFORD CIRCUS
- 3 BARBICAN
- 4 MOORGATE
- 5 BLACKFRIARS
- 6 SLOANE SQUARE
- 7 BARONS COURTS
- 8 SWISS COTTAGE
- 9 LONDON BRIDGE
- 10 PARSONS GREEN
- 11 CHALK FARM
- 12 MILE END

L.W.

PLACES IN BRITAIN

- 1 SALE
- 2 POOL
- 3 BARKING
- 4 CHALK
- 5 DOCKER
- 6 EYE
- 7 MILTON
- 8 SHEEPWASH
- 9 SHELF
- 10 STANLEY
- 11 TUMBLE
- 12 BADGER

L.W.



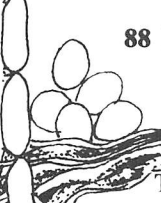

WOMENS
INSTITUTE
CONTINUED...

The monthly meeting is the heart of the W.I. and it always has a mixture of familiar and the unknown! Visiting speakers offer the unknown - until they have started you don't know what to expect and some are great and others not so inspiring but whatever it all makes the monthly get together interesting. Social time after the speaker is important too as armed with tea and biscuits it's time to chat, sign up for visits, bully the quiz team and sort out the 101 things we women enjoy. But don't take this too lightly - our resolutions to the National A.G.M. in London during June include a plea to preserve Antarctica safe from exploitation, and the use of BST on dairy herds. As one of the largest womens' movements the W.I. throughout its 75 years has acted as an important pressure group on National Government and raised many issues concerned with daily living and the environment, both locally, nationally and internationally.

So the next time you see me in my chariot of fire, be sure I'm taking my bow of burning gold to the Welfare Hall where we shall be endeavouring to preserve and improve England's green and pleasant land!

Lynn Mellor

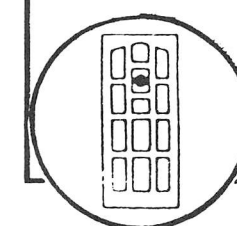
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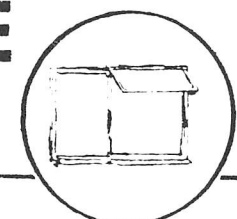
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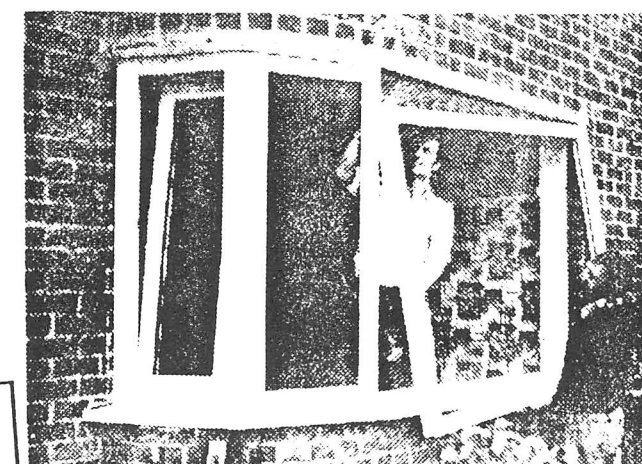
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