



WOT!

About Ratby

PUBLISHED BY RATBY SCOUT GROUP



GOODBYE MR. and MRS. CHIPS! THE END OF AN ERA



After 35 years at Ratby Fish Bar, Lynne and John Millington fried their last fish on Saturday 31st January. Flocks of customers came in for their last suppers, and to wish the couple well.

Over the years they've delighted customers from far and wide with their traditional fish and chips, and special service. 'Where are we going to get our double dipped chips now,' bemoaned one couple. And where else can customers get such individual service? Lynne and John were prepared to meet those special needs, such as popping fish in the microwave for a customer who couldn't eat wheat-based products.

They've had a few celebrities calling in too, Austin Healey, Willie Thorne, former Leicester City Manager Duncan Hamilton, East Midlands News reader John Mitchell, and even a member of Showaddywaddy!

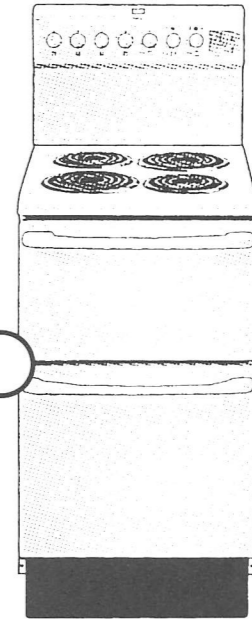
And they became celebrities themselves when the Ratby Fish Bar was featured in a National Guide to the best 'Fish and Chips.'

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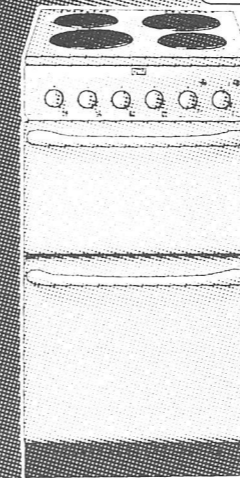
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Goodbye Mr and Mrs Chips, continued;

Amongst their most memorable times were the large orders, such as 'Sausage and chips' for 225 people, and the power cut in 1991, when stranded motorway travellers called in for sustenance. Lynne and John often wonder whether the couple who met in the queue and exchanged phone numbers got together again!

The couple are already missing the contact with people, although they are enjoying relaxing, spending time with family, and their new grandson. John is planning to develop his wood turning.

What they don't miss are the late nights. It was after 3am when they got to bed on Sunday mornings! It was not unknown for the Police to call in and see if all was well after spotting their lights still on.

John and Lynne have been invited to try the first meals when the refurbished shop re-opens for business. The new owners were so impressed by how clean the premises had been left!

DEADLINE For JUNE/JULY ISSUE

No 106

FRIDAY 14th MAY

Editor 239 3367

Adverts 239 3279

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RATBY COMMUNITY ORCHARD

Members were busy in March pruning, and weeding around the trees to get them off to a good start to the year.

A meeting will be held in April to plan the programme of activities for the year.

If you are interested in joining, please ring the membership secretary, Sue, on 239 4873 for details.



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GOLDEN COUPLE



Ratby Co-operative Brass Band

Famous Ratby Couple Celebrate Golden Wedding


Philip Plant and his long-suffering wife Violet, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on the 26th March 2004 - true to form with a concert by the Ratby Band!

Mr & Mrs Plant, who married in Whitwick on 26th March 1954, have lived in Ratby for nearly 50 years. Instrumental in re-energising and indeed populating Ratby Brass Band, they are proud to have a total of 9 family members playing in bands, 7 currently within the Ratby Band organisation


Violet, a leading light in the Friends of Ratby Band, runs an excellent raffle and with Band President Philip has helped to raise tens of thousands of pounds for Ratby Band and other charities over the last 4 decades.

El Presidente, as he is also known, has arranged many enjoyable band tours abroad, including Spain, Holland, Germany and Austria. Ratby's next tour is planned in 2005 when the Band will be representing the UK at World Music Fest in Holland.

Ratby Band Chairman Jeff Plant (no relation) said "We have total respect and admiration for both Phil and Violet - without their hard work and dedication Ratby Band and indeed Ratby village would be a poorer place."



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CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

The house to House to House Collection will take place between May 9th and 15th. If anyone would like to help collecting please contact 0116 2392357.

THE RATBY CRICKET GROUND

Picture this delightful scene,
of figures white on emerald green.
I cannot find a better way
on a lovely summers day
to sit and while the hours away
and catch up on the state of play.
You see the batsman play a hook
and send the ball clear of the brook.
Hoping that we get good weather
to hear the sound of willow on leather.
The players come off for a rest,
knowing they have done their best.
I watch as they all walk past me
to sit and have a lovely tea.
Everyone should come on down
and cherish this jewel in our crown.
The sun shines down from up above
to bless the hallowed ground I love.

G M Copson



RATBY VILLAGE SOCIETY

The first gathering of 2004 was entertained by Fred Harding, who must be our most long-standing speaker on account of his endless supply of material.

This time we learned much about Anglesey, not one of the most popular holiday destinations, but an island full of history going back thousands of years. Ruins of ancient religious sites abound, and quarrying and mining have left their mark on the landscape.

Probably the best-known landmarks are the two remarkable bridges linking the island with North Wales, the road bridge engineered by Telford, and Stephenson's rail bridge. The latter has been rebuilt to carry additional road traffic. As a bonus we were treated to scenes from the mainland, including Caernarfon and Port Merion. The Annual General Meeting took place in February, when 38 people were in attendance to hear the various reports on another successful year-the 30th since the Society came into being in 1974.

Mr Andy Ceresto was elected to the committee to retiring David Willis, and the three officers, Jack Haywood (Chairman), Hoz Gamble (Secretary) and Betty Hulme (Treasurer) were returned unopposed.

The ensuing buffet was enjoyed by all in an atmosphere of joviality.

At the following Committee meeting Carol Measures and Ruth Johnson were co-opted as members.

Full details of the Society can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary on 238 7240.

Horace Gamble.



PROPOSED ROAD SAFETY SCHEME

PUBLIC EXHIBITION

You will probably be aware that there are proposals to introduce road safety measures in Ratby. An exhibition was held in 2003, in the Methodist Church Hall, which gave people the give their views and comment on the plans.

Following these comments minor modifications and improvements to the proposals are now being suggested. A public exhibition will be held at the Methodist Church Hall to advertise the revised scheme.

The Date Wednesday 12th May
Time 1.30 pm. Until 7.00 pm.

Staff from the County Council and Consulting Engineers, Waterman, Burrow Crocker will be there to explain and answer questions.

People who are directly affected by the proposed amendments will receive a leaflet explaining the changes.

All comments received from this, and the first exhibition will be considered by County Councillors, who will decide whether the scheme should go ahead.

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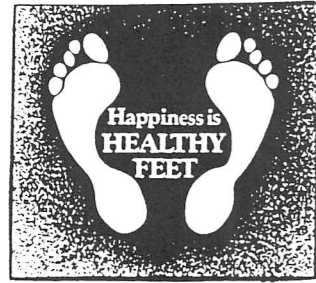
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RATBY PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



Council Tax 2004/5

Your Council tax bill includes Ratby Parish Council expenditure. The set at £58,300 for 2004/5 which is an increase of £5,300 from the 2003/4 precept. This increase is almost entirely due to rising costs of salaries, maintenance, services, administration and insurance. Other expenditure headings are the same or less than for the previous year including development expenditure on the two recreation grounds. A substantial increase is anticipated for the proposed developments to the Burroughs and Ferndale recreation grounds but the Council's budget will be enhanced by funding from charity and a Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council 'open space fund' that is required for housing developments in the village.

Fly tipping in Burroughs Road

Eric Porter the Regional Manager of the Woodland Trust was invited to address the Council regarding the fly tipping of rubbish on Trust land off Burroughs Rd. Mr Porter is seeking help as follows.

Request for help.

The Woodland Trust has three large areas of woodland within the Parish: Martinshaw, Pear Tree Farm and the Burroughs. We are experiencing problems of abuse within each of these woods and are anxious to report of incidents makes it easier for me to deal with them.

In Martinshaw the main problems are horse-riders riding off the designated bridleway and spoiling the paths for walkers and BMX bikers constructing jumps within the wood.

In Pear Tree we again have problems with horse-riders not sticking to the designated bridlepath but the biggest headache is caused by fly-tipping and the dumping of rubbish along Burroughs Road.

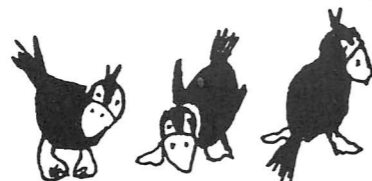
Could I ask those who use the woods to keep an eye out for those undertaking such anti-social activities. If you can take the registration number of suspicious vehicles or can describe the horse-riders and phone me on 01509 889308 I will do what I can to solve the problem.

Thanks for your help.
Eric Porter.
Contracts Manager

Police matters

PC Matt Bishop was present at the meeting and supported the action taken. There were 30 crimes in Ratby in the previous 30 days of which 19 were theft of, or from, or damage to, motor vehicles. Burglary, theft amount to 6 incidents and 11 minor incidents were also reported.

A suggestion previously put to PC Bishop, regarding a meeting to discuss ways of improving liaison between the Parish Council, the Police, Neighbourhood Watch and the residents of Ratby had been accepted and the first would be held on 2nd April 2004 at 7pm in the Parish Council Office. This is the regular police surgery evening and would be open to residents. The reporting of offences is the only way the police can get a record of criminal behaviour in the village. So please do not hesitate to call 2222 222 as soon as you can after (or while) an offence is committed. We know that the police cannot always attend immediately but getting it recorded is essential for managing future police activity.



The total amount has been £58,300 for 2004/5 which is an increase of £5,300 from the 2003/4 precept. This increase is almost entirely due to rising costs of salaries, maintenance, services, administration and insurance. Other expenditure headings are the same or less than for the previous year including development expenditure on the two recreation grounds. A substantial increase is anticipated for the proposed developments to the Burroughs and Ferndale recreation grounds but the Council's budget will be enhanced by funding from charity and a Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council 'open space fund' that is required for housing developments in the village.

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Allotments

20 applications for allotments have been received after the Council discussed the use of the newly acquired plot of land between the Ratby Co-operative Band room and the Severn Trent pumping station. The suitability of this area and the possibility of other sites in Ratby are currently being investigated.

Traffic Calming

Amendments have been made taking account of comments received when the plan was previously displayed in the village. The plan is due to be open for inspection again on Wednesday, 12th May 2004 between 1.30pm and 7.00pm. Residents that live adjacent to the sites of traffic calming will receive a leaflet but all residents of the village will be welcome to attend.

Free Trees

60 free trees have been given to the village by Stepping Stones. The trees will be used within a management programme for the area behind the totem pole field on Taverner Drive.

Burroughs Road Recreation Ground

New play equipment is being purchased for the recreation that will provide activity for the 6 - 13 year olds. The aim is to get this installed during April 2004.

Open Gardens

A suggestion has been made that an 'Open Gardens' day be arranged for Ratby residents. Similar events have been held in nearby villages. The arrangements would be co-ordinated by the Parish Council but help from residents would be appreciated. The question is 'How many residents would be willing to open their garden for viewing on one particular day during the summer?' Please contact the Parish Council and leave your name and address with Sam. A Councillor will then contact you to discuss details about it.

Ferndale Community Park Development Group

Following a public meeting a group has been formed to consider the development of Ferndale Recreation Ground into a community park. A draft architect's brief has been prepared with the help of officers from the Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council. The aim is to make the park a pleasant area for a variety of activities for all ages, whether it is just for sitting or for more strenuous pursuits.

Ratby Parish Plan Steering Group

A very good response to the Questionnaires has been received, 1,040 from the 1,800 dwellings in the village (individuals did a questionnaire each in some households.) This has been most heartening for all the members of the group who have given a considerable amount of time and effort already.

Many very useful and interesting suggestions have been made and the number of responses will give great weight to the action points that will be contained in the final report. The local Borough and County Councils and Service Agencies have agreed that these reports will be used to inform the services they provide in the village. The Parish Council will also find the suggestions immensely valuable.

Members of the group are currently engaged in writing the report, which will be launched at a public meeting in the Ratby Primary School on Tuesday 22nd June 2004. Every one will be most welcome.

PARISH COUNCIL CONTINUED

Changes at the Parish Council

At the Parish Council meeting in December three Councillors resigned from the Parish Council. They were Chairman Elaine Moore, Vice Chairman, Atul Jobanputra and Councillor Kathryn Lupton. It came as a surprise not only to the remaining Councillors but also to each of the three who resigned because the decisions were all independently made.

To say they will all be missed is an understatement. Elaine Moore as the Chairman and prior to that as Chair of the Leisure & Recreation Committee had made significant changes in the way the Council carried out its business and in the range of activities that were undertaken. Atul Jobanputra as vice chairman and local businessman had been a fund of knowledge on financial issues. Kathryn Lupton was a recent elected councillor, previously the Parish Council Clerk, and was working on developing the recreation grounds. Their work will continue to be developed by the Council and they were thanked for their contribution to the village. A positive note is that they are not lost to the Parish and will be continuing to contribute in various ways.

Two new Councillors have been co-opted. These are, Jacqueline Batty who lives just outside the Parish Boundary (but within the statutory 3 mile radius) in Groby, and Sue Neilson a local resident. Both expressed a desire to work for the community of Ratby and Sue will be known as the Parish Clerk that preceded Kathryn Lupton.

The offices of chairman and vice chairman required an election and a stalemate occurred when two Councillors were nominated and voting was even. This was eventually solved by an informal agreement between the two, with Ken Hunnybun elected to the Chair for the February and March meetings with Merle Joyce as vice chair. Following Ken Hunnybun's resignation in March, Merle Joyce was elected as Chairman with Ken Hunnybun as vice chairman until the Parish Council Annual General meeting in May.

TAKE A WALK ON THE WILD SIDE

Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust works to protect and enhance the wildlife and wild places around the counties. One aim is to improve people's understanding and enjoyment of wildlife. A series of **free, guided walks** has been planned to give people a chance to appreciate the countryside.

Charnwood Lodge is the venue for several walks. Early risers can meet here at 5am on May 22nd to hear the Dawn Chorus. If that is too early, why not go 'Bats for Bats', from 8pm on July 7th, or join an insect Safari in September with Derek Lott, beetle expert, wit and raconteur.

Discover wild flowers such as orchids, betony and devil's bit scabious at **Lea Meadows** on June 13th or August 18th, or explore woodlands and heath, spotting butterflies and birds at **Ulverscroft** on August 11th, 7-9 pm.

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Contact Katie Glenn on **0116 272 0444** or e-mail info@lrwt.org.uk.

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Busy Spring for Bands

All three Ratby Bands have been busy with major contests.

The Senior and Mid Bands competed in the Midlands Contest on 7th March, in the Championship and Third sections respectively. The Senior Band's test piece was fiendishly difficult and they were delighted with 5th under the baton of Michael Fowles. The Mid Band's piece was no easier – they put in a creditable performance on the day but sadly were unplaced.

And the Youth Band competes in the British National Youth Band Championships over the first weekend of April. 28 youngsters will be travelling to the Royal Northern College of Music in Salford, so fingers crossed for them too!

Your next chance to see all three Bands is at Ratby Co-operative Band's famous **Musik Fest**, at Groby College on **Friday 23rd** and **Saturday 24th April**. Also there are the Seaforth Highlanders Bagpipe Band, Leicester Harmony Club, the Hot Shot Jazz Band and the True Blue Dance Crew. Waitress service is laid on, so drinks and light refreshments will be brought to your table! Book your tickets early before they sell out (call **Malcolm Pounder** on **0116 238 6749**) – we look forward to seeing you there!

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR



Dear Editor,

I am sure that many Ratby residents agree that the ever-increasing, continuous traffic noise from the M1 and the A46 Bypass have now reached an unacceptable level.

For many it is no longer possible to enjoy a once quiet garden, and even on the hottest days last summer it was often impossible to keep windows open at night.

With a possible fourth lane under consideration for the M1 this problem can only worsen.

However, if the roads could be treated with the quieter surface being used elsewhere in the County the noise would be dramatically reduced.

The Highways Agency are currently conducting a survey of this noise 'Hot Spot', but similar surveys have resulted in remedial work being delayed until 2007, due to cost.

Ratby Parish Council have written to M.P. Mr Stephen Dorrell and the Highways Agency to support the need for the work to be carried out at an early date.

If you wish to support these efforts, please write to Mr P Whitehead, Highways Agency, 5 The Broadway, Broad Street, Birmingham B15 1BL.

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RATBY LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

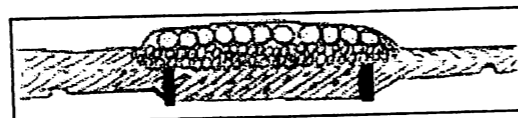
Our January meeting- This was on Friday January 30th. The main part of the evening was an intriguing illustrated talk on 'The Romans in Leicestershire,' given by Richard Knox. We were impressed by the way knowledge and understanding of Roman Leicestershire has expanded during the last 20 years, and we now realise that the county was more densely populated than previously thought.

We learnt that two Roman roads passed close to Ratby, one via the edge of Martinshaw Wood and Whittington Grange, the other running along the ridge above Blood Hill and through Kirby Muxloe. Albeit only low grade gravel roads, they can be identified as links between Roman settlements through surviving pathways, hollow ways and boundary lines.

After the interval Maureen Harris introduced us to the insights she has gained from close scrutiny of her property deeds dating from 1727.

Our March meeting- At the time of writing we are due to hear from a local 'Ratby lad made good.' Professor Jeff Richards of Southampton University will be back in his home village to talk about 'Lord Grey of Groby: Aristocrat and regicide.' Doug Harwood will then continue the discussion on the effects of The Enclosure Act on Ratby. We hope to provide more details in the next issue.

Our next meeting- This will take place at 7.30 pm. On Friday May 21st in the Village Hall. The first part of this meeting will be in the form of our AGM. After this Michael Ball will give a talk entitled 'The Tax Man Cometh.'



Cross-section of a Roman road

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ROADHOGGS

Are you interested in running to keep fit? The running club, 'Roadhoggs Leicester A C' are planning a Roadshow this summer to celebrate their 20th Birthday

The club will be visiting villages where there is no existing running club to give local runners a chance to join with others for their training and keep fit regime.

Roadhoggs will be visiting Ratby on Tuesday evening, 22nd June.

If you are over 16 and would like to join in free of charge, meet the group in the Library car park. You will be given advice and encouraged to be involved as appropriate to your level of fitness.

Ring the Chairman, Dave Swann for more information; 0116 291 9745

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We reserve the right to edit of course. For more information contact the Editor on 239 3367, or Sue on 239 4873.

To advertise in Wot and promote your company in this well-read magazine, telephone 239 3279.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

RECIPE

Spaghetti Bolognaise

Ingredients

1 onion
1 carrot
2 mushrooms
1 or 2 stalks of celery
all washed, skinned and chopped

6-8 oz. (170-230 gr.) spaghetti
1 oz (25 gr.) butter
2 tablespoons olive oil
2-4 oz. (60-110 gr.) chopped fat bacon
4-6 oz. (110-170 gr.) minced lean beef
2 tablespoons tomato puree or small tin of chopped skinned tomatoes.
 $\frac{1}{2}$ pint beef stock
 $\frac{1}{2}$ gill dry white wine or cider
Salt, pepper, grated nutmeg.
2 tablespoons cream
Grated Parmesan cheese
Chopped parsley.

Method

1. Heat butter and oil in large solid frying pan and sauté the prepared vegetables and bacon for 5 minutes.
2. Stir in minced meat to brown evenly
3. Add tomato, stock, wine and seasoning, and stir well.
4. Simmer gently for 30 minutes with well fitting lid. Stir occasionally.
5. Cook spaghetti in fast boiling salted water for 15-20 minutes. Then drain, refresh with boiling water and mix in a knob of butter. Keep hot
6. Remove lid from sauce if necessary to thicken slightly. Stir in cream
7. Serve sprinkled with cheese and parsley.

Scrivener

