AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2003

ISSUE 101



## WOT!

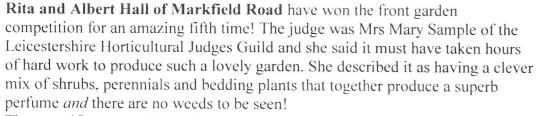
## About Ratby

PUBLISHED BY RATBY SCOUT GROUP

## **RATBY PARISH COUNCIL** FRONT GARDEN COMPETITION

## WINNERS FOR THE FIFTH TIME!

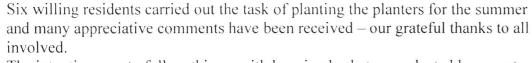




The magnificent containers also won Mrs Sample's praise so it is no surprise that Rita and Albert also won the hanging basket competition, displaying a well planted basket with no gaps and nice trailing finishes.

Second prize in the garden competition was awarded to Mr and Mrs Bourner of Main Street who also received compliments for their clever mix of planting and colour combinations, with Mr and Mrs Butcher of Dane Hill wining third prize for their impressively neat and tidy garden, again with a good use of colours. Mrs Mawby of Grange Close won second prize in the hanging basket competition with Mr Riley of Lockley Close in third place.





The intention was to follow this up with hanging baskets on selected lampposts but, as ever, rules and regulations (that protect the public) have to be taken into account. There is also the planting to consider and, once in position, the watering to organise. Negotiations are still under way with Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council (that offer a service to Parish Councils for this purpose) but it looks as if it may be too late to organise this for this year.

At present the planters are at the entrances to the village from Groby and Kirby Muxloe and also at the junctions of Main Street with Markfield Road and Desford Lane. Material is still available for the erection of another planter and we hope to organise this ready for the winter planting. Suggestions for an appropriate site will be welcome.

More Parish Council news and information on pages 7 and 8

# BIG CHOICE AT SUPER PRICES!



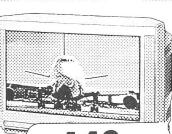
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#### RATBY VILLAGE SOCIETY

Two local speakers graced the programme in May and June, in the persons of Mr John Weston MBE (Groby) and Mr Dennis Green (Ratby)

#### **Special Constable**

Mr Weston joined the Special Constabulary in 1947, shortly after leaving the wartime army, and retired in 1994 having attained the highest rank of Commander in Chief.

It was, and still is, a voluntary service with duties being performed in the evenings or at weekends at the end of ones normal daily worka bicycle being an essential part of the equipment!

There were originally eight divisions in Leicestershire, comprising some 800 men, nowadays rationalised into four divisions with but a fraction of the manpower to cover the county in their assistance to the regular police force.

The job was never dull and boring, and many tales were told of hilarious and sometimes embarrassing situations in which John was involved.

#### Ratby Life

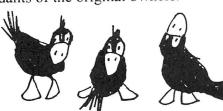
Dennis Green, of course, is well known to many local groups as a raconteur par excellence of varns concerning life in Ratby before the last war, and the characters who lived in the village, then surrounded by thirteen farms.

Those of us who did not live in Ratby in those days were enlightened by a vivid word picture of a self sufficient, tightly knit rural community in which everybody knew everybody else, and where a diversity of local shops supplied everyone's needs.

Perhaps his most surprising revelation was that as a young boy, his only absence form the village was a once a year visit to Leicester with his father to buy Wellington boots!

#### Stanford Hall

The July afternoon outing, which attracted 18 members, was to the delightful Stanford Hall, built in 1690 to supersede the previous nearby Manor House, and which is still occupied by the descendants of the original owners.



## **COMMUNITY ORCHARD GROUP** POND DIPPING

On the evening of Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> June a group of members met at the Orchard for the annual pond dipping.

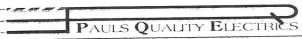
This year the experience was very different. The water level was very low, and our finds were a little disappointing. Compared to last year there were very few newts, and less dragonfly larvae.

We noted the pond life that we did find, and recorded the plants around the margins. Some willows are establishing themselves around the pond, and there were willow herbs and sedges that had not been planted by the group.

Despite the strimming damage, the orchard trees continue to thrive, and passers-by will have noticed the blossom earlier this year, and now the fruit forming.



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#### **Pond Management Course**



Have a splashing Saturday with the Stepping Stones Countryside Management Project and BTCV on a one day Pond Management Course.

The one-day course will be held on Saturday 20th September 2003 at Forest East Park, at the end of King's Drive, (off the A47 Hinckley Road), Leicester Forest East. The course will start at 9.30am start and

finish at around 4.30pm. The course fee is £10.00 per person.

This course gives a sound background to the reasons for and history behind the management of ponds. The course aims to cover the key aspects of planning and managing ponds including surveying, identifying aims and objectives, work plans and evaluation. The course will also cover site preparation and aftercare. Everyone who attends the course will receive a certificate of completion. You will need to bring suitable footwear and waterproofs, packed lunch, notebook and pen.

BOOKING is ESSENTIAL. For a booking form please contact Samantha Forster at the Stepping Stones Countryside Management Project on 0116 265

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## The Reading Maze

Join in the 5th Annual Summer Reading Challenge for children!

The Maze continues at Ratby Library until September 6th

Every child taking part will receive a FREE collector folder that opens out to reveal the Reading Maze.

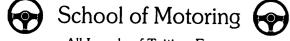
As children borrow and read books over the summer they will receive six different sticker sheets with characters and objects to add to the folder. Each child completing the challenge will receive a certificate and medal, and be entered into a prize draw to win a £5 book token.

Visit the Reading Maze at www.readingmaze.org.uk and meet some special authors. All libraries have computers for children to access this website.



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Recruiting Seminars will be held at FHQ throughout the year.

7.30 pm-9.30 pm Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September 9.00 am-11.00 am Saturday 16th October 7.30 pm-9.30 pm Thursday 13th November 7.30 pm-9.30 pm Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December

Interested in Joining the 'FORCE' behind the Success? Log on; www.leics.police.co.uk Or call 0116 222 2222 extension 2657



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## **VILLAGE EVENTS DIARY UPDATE**

The following details about events taking place in the village during the next three months were available to Wot when we went to press.

DATE & TIME	EVENT	ORGANISERS	VENUE	TEL No
AUGUST				
Wed 13 <sup>th</sup> 7.45pm	Wormery	Women's Institute	Village Hall	2387193
Sat 16 <sup>th</sup> 10.00am	Coffee Morning	Methodist Church	Chapel	2386276
Tues 19 <sup>th</sup> 8.00pm	Ships in Bottles	Village Society	Village Hall	2387240
Sat 23 <sup>rd</sup> 10.00am	Coffee Morning & Clothes Sale	Parish Church	Church Rooms	2393009
NB :- Coffee Mornir	ngs are to be then held on a	lternate Saturdays at t	he Chapel and Chu	irch Rooms.
Tues 27 <sup>th</sup> 7.30pm	Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators Meeting	Neighbourhood Watch Group	Church Rooms	2394450
SEPTEMBER				
Wed 10 <sup>th</sup> 7.45pm	Asian Customs	Women's Institute	Village Hall	2387193
Sun 14 <sup>th</sup> tba	Guided Village Walk	History Group	Village tba	2394168
Tues 16 <sup>th</sup> 8.00pm	Malta and Gozo	Village Society	Village Hall	2387240
Sat 20 <sup>th</sup> 2.00pm	Guided Walk Around Earls Barton	History Group	Leave from Ratby tba	2394168
Wed 24 <sup>th</sup> 7.30pm	The Next Four Years	Parish Church	Parish Church	2314419
Fri 26th 7.30pm	Talk - Braunstone & Desford Airfields	History Group	Village Hall	2394168
OCTOBER				
Sat 4 <sup>th</sup> 7.30pm	Harvest Barn Dance	Parish Church	Church Rooms	2393009
Sun 5 <sup>th</sup> 10.00am & 6.00pm	Harvest Thanksgiving Services	Parish Church	Parish Church	2393009
Tues 7 <sup>th</sup> 7.30pm	Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators Meeting	Neighbourhood Watch Group	Church Rooms	2394450
Wed 8 <sup>th</sup> 7.45pm	AGM	Women's Institute	Village Hall	2387193
Tues 21 <sup>st</sup> 8.00pm	Southern Ireland Audio Visual Show	Village Society	Village Hall	2387240
Fri 31 <sup>st</sup> tba	Youth Event for All Saints Eve	Parish Church	Church Rooms	2393009

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## VILLAGE EVENTS DIARY; REGULAR ACTIVITIES

#### Other regular village events include :-

Bingo with the Evergreen Club on Monday evenings in the Village Hall

Indoor Carpet Bowls on Wednesday afternoons from September to April in the Village Hall.

Afternoon Tea Dances on alternate Wednesdays in the Church Rooms.

'Drop In' Coffee Mornings every Thursday morning in the Village Hall.

Evergreen Club Meetings on Thursday afternoons in the Village Hall

Coffee Mornings are held on most Saturdays alternating between the Parish Church and the Methodist Church.

The British Legion (Ratby & District Branch) meet on the second Wednesday of each month at 8.00pm at the Groby Ex-Servicemans Club



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## THE SERVICE GARAGE

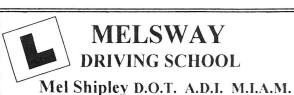
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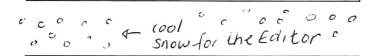


## **HEATWAVE!**

This summer has been the hottest since records began. We'd love to hear how you enjoyed the weather, and about your organisation's summer events for the next issue.

What about those long ago childhood sunny summers? Tell us your memories!

Was a hot summer always followed by a very cold winter? What do you think?



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## Ratby Parish Council

## NEWS, VIEWS AND UPDATES

#### BMX / Mountain Bike track



A request has been made by several young people in the village that we provide a track for BMX / mountain bikes. The current plan is to use some of the land at the back of the Burroughs Road community park for this purpose. The council rents this land from John Cawrey who is supportive of the scheme and will prepare the land for use if the scheme goes ahead. Our insurers have given their approval, providing the Royal

Society for Prevention of Accidents also approves the scheme. Details are being drawn up by an appointed committee of young people, working with Parish/Borough Councillor Ken Hunnybun.

#### Skatepark delay

There has been disappointing progress in providing a skatepark in the village. The only site that seems suitable is at the Ferndale community park, but in order to be far enough away not to be a nuisance to local residents, it puts it in a more deserted spot that may not be appropriate for safety and security reasons. We are hoping to have a public meeting to discuss the development of Ferndale as a community park (as reported in earlier editions of WOT!) and the siting of a skatepark will be one of the issues raised at that meeting.



#### Play Equipment Safety



Each year, the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents carries out an inspection of all the play equipment at Ferndale Drive and Burroughs Road, to check for anything, however small, that could cause an accident. We are currently working through their latest report and we are rigorous in ensuring that all their recommendations are carried out, even those marked as a low priority. In addition to this, we carry out our own daily visual inspection and weekly physical check to ensure that the equipment is kept safe for use.

#### **Severn Trent Land at Taverner Drive**

The council is about to complete the purchase of a piece of land at the back of the Severn Trent pumping station. The next stage will be for us to decide how the land could best be used and we would be interested to hear your views. Please either contact the parish office or come to one of our council meetings.



(NB It is not possible for Severn Trent to sell the remaining piece of land that fronts on to Station Road but we will be making representations to them that it is kept a little tidier.)

## WHITTINGTON DRIVE DEVELOPMENT

7



Many of you will be aware of the proposal to build Affordable Housing on the site of the garments factory in Whittington Drive. The draft

plans include a proposal for a three-storey building, which the council do not feel is appropriate in this area and have accordingly made strong representations to that effect to the Borough Council. At the time of writing the position is unclear as it is reported that permission for the dwellings has already been given - including the three-storey building - and the council is investigating further. If the development does go ahead, the next issue for the Borough Council will be to decide who lives there. If there is to be Affordable Housing in the village we must try and make sure that local people are given priority. The survey recently issued to all residents will provide this information and if people are identified who need this type of housing it is important that everything is done to ensure that they are allocated the dwellings before people from other areas.

## Ratby Parish Council



Two suggestions have already been made for new events next year. The first is to have an **Open Gardens Day** when people pay a small sum to tour gardens in the village, the money raised being given to a chosen charity.

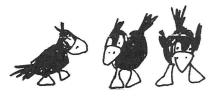
The second is to have a **vegetable competition** (possibly at the Crow Pie carnival) where the best vegetables can be judged or, to keep it more light hearted, there could be competitions for the largest marrow, the longest runner bean, the oddest looking potato – well, you get the idea!

Let us know what you think of these suggestions and let us have your own ideas...

## SNIPPETS

**Traffic calming** – The public exhibition provided the opportunity for people to give their opinions on the draft scheme for traffic calming in the village. It will be a few weeks before we hear the effect of all the comments made – positive *and* negative. *Watch this space!* 

**War memorial** – Work has started to restore the memorial to its former state, including repairing the angel's fingers. We would like to thank those who helped us with this project, especially the Village Hall committee, who assisted by providing a water supply.





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## **NEW OPENING TIMES**

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47 Main Street, Kirby Muxloe Tel: 0116 239 4288

## POLICE CONSULTATION

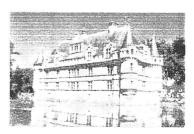
If you'd like to put questions to or discuss issues Concerning policing in this area you are invited to the next Police Consultative Group.
This will be held at 7pm on Monday 8<sup>th</sup>
September, at Manor House Neighbourhood Centre, Haddenham Road, off Narborough Road, Leicester.

# CRIMESTOPPERS FREEPHONE NUMBER 0800 555 111

DEADLINE
For OCTOBER/NOVEMBER
ISSUE 102
Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September
Editor 239 3367
Adverts 239 3279
Articles 239 4873

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# The state of the s

## RATBY LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

June Outing:- On Sunday June 15<sup>th</sup>, several members of the Group made a trip to Chipping Camden. This involved a guided walk around this very interesting old woollen town plus a superb tea. provided in a local meeting hall. The whole visit was enjoyed by all!

Visit to Earls Barton – This is to take place on Saturday September 20<sup>th</sup>, further details can be obtained by telephoning (0116)2394168.

Our next meeting – is on Friday September 26<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. The main part of the evening will be a talk by Roy Bonser about Braunstone and Desford Airfields. This will be followed with contributions form various local residents about their involvement at the Airfields and other World War 2 memories. If anyone can offer something of interest to the meeting,

then please contact Doug Harwood on the number shown below.

This is also the evening when annual membership is open for renewal and new members are recruited. Membership details can be obtained by contacting Doug Harwood on (0116) - 2394168

## PABARI'S RATBY NEWS

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9

#### RATBY (JUST A NAME)

Here we are again, early summer, everywhere that lovely fresh green. Lawns all cut, bedding plants going in and hanging baskets appearing. Bluebells flowering in our wonderful woods.

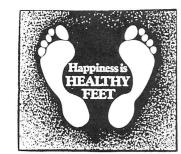
After being without a canine friend for twelve months (deprived sadness) I have found a new pal, Tess a super dog. She suits us down to the ground! Anyway, to cut a long story short, I'm finding all the great walks again here in Ratby. We really are so lucky to have so many places to walk. So, people, leave your cars and jobs around the home, chill out in the countryside on your doorstep. (Not too many of you at once-I like the solitude) Take yourself along the old railway track to Glenfield, see the old watermill and stop a while, listening to the rippling water and the ducks with their fluffy young, paddling against the flow. Then cross the meadows, knee deep in buttercups, and get back to where you started, it's all signposted in yellow!

At the other end of the village there's the Burroughs. The woods....into the woods! The smells, the bird song, the burnt out car (well you can't have everything can you?) Blot that out. It's well worth a visit. I love it. Kitted out in wet weather gear, it's just as nice with the rain dripping off the end of your nose, well nearly.

I haven't found a pond with frogs and taddies, there used to be a few when my lads were young (many moons ago) All the building has seen them off, such a pity. I would have liked the grand children to go taddying. Nothing remains forever, only memories.

Wendy

#### Peter Comley, MSSCh. MBChA.



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> Sessions are held: 9.15 – 11.45 am and 12.50 - 3.20 pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday Wednesday (morning only) £3.50 per session

The pre-school is a committee run charity which covers all aspects of the curriculum to prepare your child for "Big School". It is primarily intended for your child's enjoyment, promoting an opportunity for him/her to learn a wide range of skills.

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**COLLECTION of PRESCRIPTIONS from** L.F.E. RATBY GROBY GLENFIELD SURGERIES

## RECIPE SHORTBREAD

### Ingredients

6-oz/175 gr. plain flour, sieved.

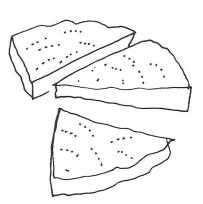
4 oz /115 gr. Butter at room temperature

20z /50 gr. Sieved caster sugar

1 heaped teaspoon ground rice or rice flour 1 generous pinch of salt.

#### Method

- 1. Set oven at Gas 3 /325 F /170 C
- 2. Line baking sheet with parchment
- 3. Mix dry ingredients in a large bowl
- 4. Rub in butter until dough forms
- 5. Divide mixture into two.
- 6. Pat each out into a round about  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch thick
- 7. Carefully place on baking sheet. Crimp edges with 2 fingers and thumb. Prick with a fork to keep flat
- 8. Bake for 25-35 minutes until golden.





### Steer clear of caravan crime

You know how valuable your own home is to you. You know how important it is to keep it secure. Imagine the feeling of loss and frustration you'd have if a thief broke

But what about your caravan? On holiday or touring, you rely on it as your home. Think how you'd feel if someone broke in or stole it.

Your caravan is a target for thieves. Whether it's on a site, parked in your driveway or you're just stopping for a short time in a lay-by or a motorway service station, it's important to protect it. A lot of caravan crime is the result of criminals seeing opportunities and taking them. But you can easily outsmart the thief.

Remember, most caravan crime is preventable. Don't give criminal an easy ride.

	Top Ten Tips	8	9	
0.5	2	3 = 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	5	6

- @ Hitch lock
- Number etched on windows

- @ Postcode marked on roof 1 Items inside marked with postcode Reliable alarm system
- @ Record serial numbers and descriptions

#### Information on your caravan

Make	Model	Year
Chassis or CRIS number		
Any other serial numbers		
Identifying marks		
1		

Stick photo of side of your

Stick photo of back of your