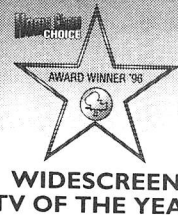


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PHILIPS

ISSUE 61

DECEMBER 1996

# Wot! About Ratby

PUBLISHED BY THE RATBY SCOUT GROUP



## A STITCH IN TIME

When a plea went out from St. Philip and St. James Parish Church for help with the replacement kneelers project, local teacher Lynn Mellor responded with an inspired idea.

She has organised every pupil and staff member to make their mark by adding a few stitches to a kneeler sponsored by the school.

"When people see the kneeler with the school's name on it they may remember when they were at school, and perhaps think about all the people who have been through the school since 1873", said Mrs Mellor. "We are hoping to present the completed kneeler to the Reverend Michael Hardy during a school assembly".

Many individuals and local organisations have already completed sponsored kneelers for the church. If you would like to help by sponsoring a kneeler for £18 or make one yourself using a simple tent stitch, please contact Mr. Peter Oswin on 0116-287-6049. All materials will be provided for you in the appropriate colour. The initials on the tapestry will be of your choice, your own, or perhaps someone who you wish to remember.

Completed sponsored kneelers will be framed and delivered by Mr Oswin.

Sylvia Gant.

Proud stitchers are from left to right Hannah Baillie, Nicola Jarvis, Sarah Chantri, Jacob Mirza and Ben



Dear Editor,

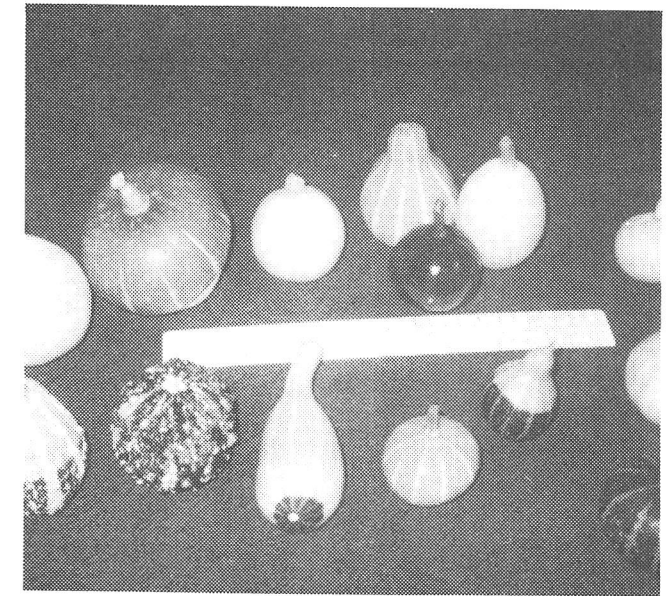
I would like to thank 'Wot' for pointing out the hazards regarding the new so called traffic calming roundabouts.

There is so much more they could have done with the money. We have waited for a zebra crossing outside the school for years and before the roundabouts, speed bumps should have been installed along Danehill.

The new roundabouts have caused even more traffic to cut through via Danehill, they whiz along not giving a thought to the many children living within the estate. This, along with the people insisting on parking on both sides of the road and on the bend (the council has already put posts in to stop the parking, pushing it further into the road) is an accident waiting to happen.

Thanks for listening.

Mrs C. Chapman



Dear Editor,

Thank you for publishing the article regarding the RATBY GOURD SOCIETY.

The generated interest was so great I have enclosed some photographs of the gourds.

Do you know that whilst one member of the society was at Heathrow Airport he was accosted by a member of the public and shown a gourd! It was not up to society standards but the person asked if they too could join the group.



Dear Editor,

In 1985 I moved to Ratby, and was made very welcome by a friendly village community, and enjoy the village environment.

During the past eleven years I have enjoyed watching the changing seasons, taking walks along the numerous public footpaths through fields and woods. In particular the Burroughs looking at the blue bells and lambs.

How much longer will we be able to do this, when Hinckley and Bosworth Council pass plans allowing more building to take place within the green belt area. How many more hedgerows will be rooted up, destroying the natural habitat of birds and wildlife.

How many more public rights of way across open countryside will be lost, to be replaced by tarmac footpaths through housing estates.

This is sheer madness, once these open spaces are lost they can never be replaced, don't allow the Council to spoil the environment of Ratby, make your views known by writing to the Chief Planning Officer at:

**Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council  
Council Offices  
Hinckley  
Leicester LE10 1BZ**

We need to fight against the over development of our village now, once the bulldozers move in it is too late.

Jill Grey

Editors remark, if that attitude had been taken in the sixties many of us would not be here now!



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## GOLDEN WEDDING Walter & Brenda Finney

The years rolled back for Walter & Brenda Finney at a reunion and family party held to celebrate their golden wedding.

Among the guests were the original best man, Walter's twin brother George from Groby and bridesmaids Mrs Betty Toon (nee Hill) of Thornton and Mrs Ivy Robinson of Markfield. Whilst among the presents was a poster sized picture of their 1946 walk to the altar.

Walter (77) and Brenda (73) met at the Bricklayers' Arms in Thornton. They married at Thornton Parish Church and made their home in Ratby, for 15 years, living in a postwar prefab.

Although factory workers in engineering and hosiery they were country-lovers at heart, enjoying gardening, woodland walks and village bingo.

They put their successful marriage down to, "fresh air and helping each other".

The golden wedding couple have two sons, two grandchildren and a great-granddaughter born on New year's Day.

Then & Now:  
Walter and Brenda celebrate the years since their 1946 walk to the altar.

**Pabari's Ratby News.**

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**NEW YEARS EVE**

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**AT**

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**TUESDAY**

**DECEMBER 31st AT 8:00PM**

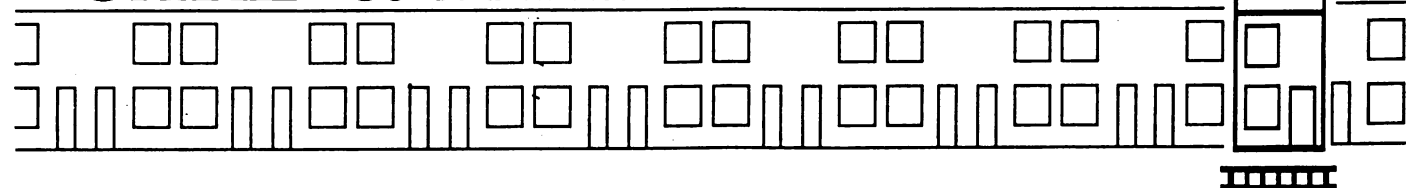
Adults £5.00

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Phone for Tickets:-

2394472 or 2395187 or 2393367

# CARE & REPAIR



Many older people want to stay in their own homes but may need help with maintenance and repairs to their property. We help people over 60 who are home owners or private sector tenants in NW Leicestershire and Hinckley and Bosworth. We receive funding from these two councils, the County Council and the Department of the Environment. Our housing advisers visit people in their homes, listen to their needs, give sensitive advice, carry out a welfare benefit check and organise repairs and improvements where needed. Work we have done ranges from easing stiff doors to total re-roofing. Care and repair cannot pay for the work but we can help sort out finance. The work is carried out by a builder chosen by the client from a list of tried and tested contractors.

We held a small exhibition in Ratby library recently and have put up posters around the village. We had only 5 referrals from Ratby last year and we know there must be more older homeowners who are unaware of our services.

Please phone us on **01530 839531, extension 226** or write to us: **Care and Repair**  
**Springboard Centre**  
**Mantle Lane**  
**Coalville LE6 3DW**

Mo Murray  
 Agency Manager



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 MALT CRUNCH BREAD COBS FARMHOUSE LOAVES WHITE & BROWN COBS and ROLLS & TWINNIES  
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Mince Pies  
 Merry Xmas  
 Mince Pies Filled Cobs

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## New Millennium Bid to connect everyone in the UK to the Internet through Public Libraries

Everyone in Leicestershire could have free access to the Information Superhighway at their local public library if a bid by **Information for All** for Millennium Commission funding is successful.

The bid aims to give all citizens in the UK access to a wide range of public and commercial information delivered electronically through high speed communication networks. This would connect even the smallest and most remote library to the Information Superhighway, giving everyone an equal chance to be part of a society increasingly reliant upon electronic information.

The project will put people in touch with the world of publicly available information at international, national and local levels. It will also directly support :

- Lifelong learning through access to learning resources
- marketing and business information for the business community
- careers and job seeking

- heritage, tourism, the arts, entertainment and leisure
- development and support of vocational and professional skills
- putting isolated communities in contact with the rest of the county
- development of electronic publishing

Provision of electronic information through libraries will ensure that a balance is maintained between traditional printed information and information in the new media.

Libraries are also an ideal place for everyone in the community to get to grips with new technology. They offer unrestricted access and a welcoming environment in which people can experiment and learn with the support and supervision of trained staff.

As part of the project, there is a letter writing campaign aimed at encouraging library users and others to write to their local MPs and Councillors expressing support for the concept of Internet access for all. Members of the public wishing to participate in the campaign should go to their local library for more information.

# RATBY

## Working Mens Club.

### Stamford St, Ratby.

Tel; 0116 2393414.

ENTERTAINMENT BACK ON SATURDAY NIGHTS

JACK POT BINGO ON WED-FRI-SAT-SUNDAY NIGHTS  
 ALSO SUNDAY DINNER.

NOT FORGETTING YOUR CHRISTMAS/EASTER BINGO

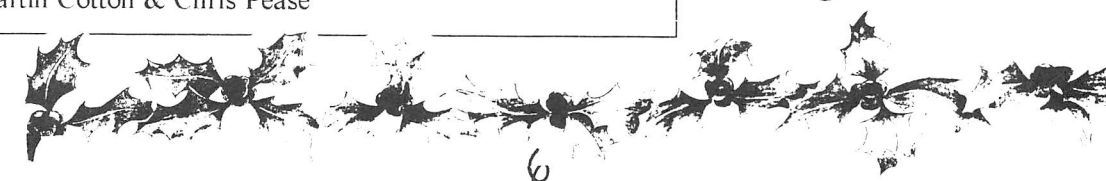
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 SKITTLES AND TABLE GAME'S etc..





Merry Christmas  
from  
Ratby Band





# y Christmas

## CHRISTMAS NOVELTY SHORTBREAD

To get into the Christmas spirit, why not try these delicious Christmas biscuits? Or, to make your Christmas tree look extra special, why not hang them up, using brightly coloured ribbon.

Makes approximately 40 biscuits:-

- 8 oz (225 gr) plain white flour
- 4 oz (115 gr) cornflour
- 4 oz (115 gr) icing sugar
- 8 oz (225 gr) butter or margarine

- 1 Preheat the oven to 180°C/350°F/Gas mark 4. In a large basin, sift together the flour, cornflour and icing sugar. Add the butter or margarine and rub into the flour mixture, using your fingertips. The mixture will at first become crumbly but continue, until it binds together.
- 2 Turn out onto a lightly floured surface and kneed lightly. Roll out to 3mm/ 1/8<sup>th</sup> inch thick.
- 3 Cut out festive shapes e.g. snowmen, stars, Christmas trees etc. You can do this by either using Christmas cookie cutters or cut them out yourself using a knife. If you are going to hang them up on your Christmas tree, make a hole in the top of each biscuit, using a drinking straw.
- 4 Transfer to a greased baking sheet and place in the centre of the oven for 15 - 20 min, or until golden brown. Leave on baking sheet to cool.
- 5 Decorate with glaze icing, using red, yellow and green food colouring, if desired. Thread ribbons through, if hanging on your Christmas tree.

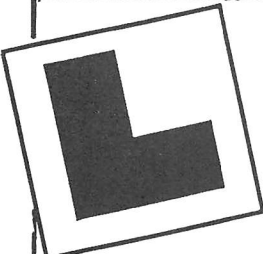



## An Eye for a Pie

Spoon and basin  
Anticipation  
Mince Pies  
Delight eyes  
Eat and eat  
Quite replete  
Raises question  
Indigestion  
Sleep evaded  
Serenaded  
By the radio  
On at four O'  
Clock in the morning  
Daylight dawning  
Was it worth  
Increasing girth  
With festive fare  
Without due care?  
YES!

AH




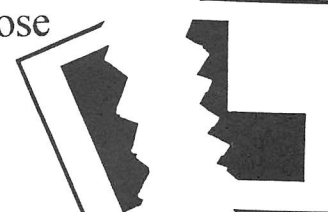
**BEST WISHES FOR  
CHRISTMAS**

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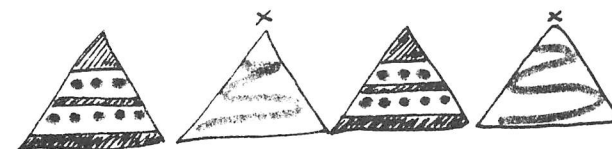
# We wish you a Men



## Santa and his Fire Engine

The Fire Brigade Museum Trust will be touring the Village on Wednesday 18th December. They will leave the Christmas Tree at 6.30 p.m. and tour the Village, collecting toys and donations for needy children.

The route is along Station Road, Park Road, Danehill and Estate Roads, Markfield Lane, and then back down Stamford Street. Santa will arrive back at the Christmas Tree in time for the annual Carol Service.





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6.00am - 12.30 Saturday

Appointments not always  
necessary

156 Station Road Ratby




## Carol Service

Everyone is welcome to join 'in' with this annual Christmas tradition around the Christmas tree at the Memorial.

Ratby Band will provide music for all the well-loved carols, and the service will be ran by Reverend Hardy and Reverend Bower. The Old People's Welfare Committee are providing warming refreshments in the Welfare Hall afterwards!

Put the date in your diary now - Wednesday December 18th at 7.30 p.m.

Ratby Parish Council wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

## Christmas Season Traditions

### First Footing

The New Year was traditionally greeted by a tall dark stranger who should enter the house with gifts symbolic of food, drink and warmth, and pass right through the house. A dark male stranger is meant to bring good fortune, but if your first footer is a woman, or fair, then ill fortune will follow. Why has this tradition died out, whilst Bonfire Night and Halloween continue?

### Twelfth Night

Twelfth Night begins the period when farmers used to 'wassail' their orchards. This was believed to charm the trees so that they would produce a good crop. Roasted apples, sugar and ginger and spices with wine or ale were mixed for the wassail bowl.

After the toasting, the remains of the Wassail were poured over one of the trees, and a great shout was given to drive away any evil spirits. Preparations for Twelfth Night included the making of a large, rich cake. A bean and pea were mixed into the cake. Whoever found the bean was elected King of the Bean, and whoever found the pea was Queen, and they enjoyed regal honours during the revelling.

Fires were once lit on Twelfth Night. Today we remember it as the day Christmas decorations are taken



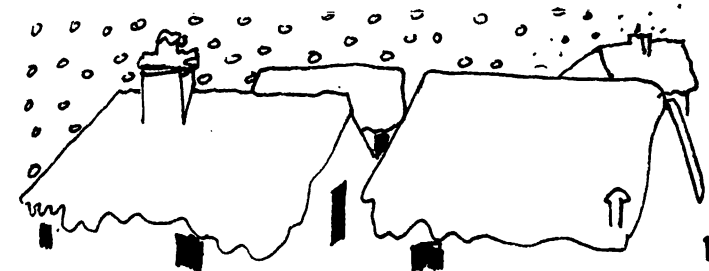
Cawrey Ltd have been building in Ratby for over 25 years and have completed over 600 dwellings on Church Farm Estate. The current rate of building is only about 20 houses a year. (A key statement considering what has happened to Glenfield, Markfield and Groby over a much shorter period of time.)

This pace of development allows families moving into the village to integrate into the community. The majority of sales at the moment are to existing owners already living in Ratby. So obviously people like the environment.

Design standards and fashions have changed over the years, new house types have developed, the styles of building and site layouts change accordingly. In the older parts of the development there are public open spaces between dwellings which have lead to problems when used as informal play areas. The new estate layouts have almost eliminated these areas, public open spaces are larger, more readily managed and less subject to abuse.

Extensive measures are being taken to protect new development and the existing village from the effects of motorway noise. A noise bund is under construction and an acoustic fence has been erected adjacent to the motorway carriageway by Kirby Grange Farm. A strip of woodland planting has been established which will eventually contain over 2000 trees forming a ribbon in the green wedge between the motorway footbridge and the former Leicester/Swanington railway line which has now been designated as a bridleway.

The Public Inquiry into the Hinkley & Bosworth District Plan is underway and new areas of development have been proposed between land adjacent to Ferndale Drive already designated for development, and the motorway. These areas have been proposed by the Borough Council as they will have a minimal impact upon the village but still allow the Borough Council to meet the housing provision requirements of the Leicestershire Structure Plan.



There is likely to be a requirement for a proportion of these new houses to be affordable homes for rent or shared ownership. Ratby has been identified by the Planning Department as requiring the provision of 70 of these dwellings within the Plan period, only 20 or so of these may need to be included within the area of new development.

The Leicestershire Education Department have been negotiating with Cawrey Ltd regarding the school accommodation within the village. Cawrey Ltd are close to completing the first phase of their contribution in the form of a new Staffroom and Reception Office at the Primary School. This work has been carried, at Cawrey risk, (no new houses no additional school requirement) well in advance of the time that it may be required, as the, Education Department, School Staff and School Governors urgently needed to upgrade the school facilities.

As a company, Cawrey Ltd: are committed to improving the environment and facilities available to everyone living in Ratby.

They would welcome any suggestions which individuals, groups or the Parish Council may put forward which would improve the village and may be provided within the financial constraints of the development.

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## Ratby Primary School

### Christmas Fayre

Ratby Primary School's traditional Christmas Curtain Raiser will be held on Friday December 6th this year.

### Christmas Pantomime

Every child in the school has had the opportunity to go to the pantomime, "Aladdin" at the Haymarket Theatre.

### Christmas Production

Children from Key Stage 1 (infants) will be performing for families on December 10th and 11th.

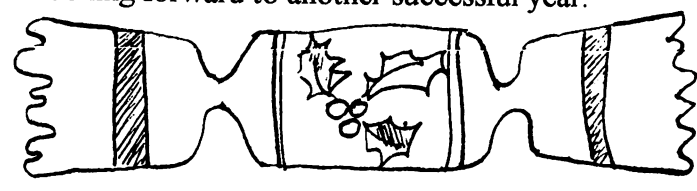


# Merry Christmas

Everyone involved in "WOT" wishes all our advertisers, writers and readers the compliments of the season.

And to those involved in the production, delivery and administration, thank you all for help during 1996, we wish you all a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Looking forward to another successful year.



## Ratby Village

## Society



"A Weekend in Paris" was the romantic title of the talk given to Society members and several visitors at the October meeting.

The slides shown by Mr Tom Whitman - though suffering from that bane of photographers, a lack of sunshine - gave support to the idea of Paris being a romantic city. The wonderful architecture, splendid gardens and the attractive river setting, especially at night, all gave the impression of a very beautiful capital. Mr Whitman's presentation was also first class, his stentorian voice delivered all the relevant facts and figures with deliberate precision from his notes while sitting near the screen because he had the advantage of a project operator - his wife.

He hoped that those who had never had the thrill of a visit to Paris would be encouraged to do so by his show. Here's one who has every intention of following his advice!

The Village Quiz in November produced its customary evening of fun and good humour thanks to the quick witted questionmaster Peter Smith, a former head teacher at Ratby School. His light hearted approach is always just right to relax the trepidation's of the most unwilling team "volunteers"!

This year the our regular scorer and timekeeper, Ken Stocks of Groby, was unable to be present because of illness and David Hulme ably stood in for him. The inimitable Dennis Green kept the laughter flowing right until the end with his jocular vote of thanks after which he presented the winners with the Nancy Harding trophy.

.....And the result? Almost (but not quite) a foregone conclusion that the Women's Institute team would be top. Their score was 73 followed by the Village Society's 61 and the Methodist Church with 53. As their captain said afterwards it was no disgrace whatsoever because they had braved the ordeal whereas the majority of the audience would never have had the courage to do so.

HG







Thanks to the efforts of many Ratby people, the Parish Council, Councillor Rob Fraser and not least Mrs Devereux the village Crossing Warden, the long-awaited pedestrian crossing is now helping to ensure the safety of children and villagers on Main Street.

Photo by Sylvia Gant.

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You'll be taking good advice.**

## bird Cake

Makes 2 to 3 feeds

500 grams of solid vegetable oil  
800 grams of wildbird mix (available LOCALLY)

- 1 Place the block of vegetable oil in a heatproof basin and melt over a large saucepan of simmering water.
- 2 When the vegetable oil has completely melted, add the bird mix and stir well.
- 3 Leave the mixture to cool for 30 minutes, then put in the fridge to set.
- 4 When the bird cake has set, break up into small and medium sized pieces.

The following foods will also help to keep the birds alive, over the winter months:-  
Bread\*, stale cake, raisins, sultanas, apple cores, unsalted nuts, seeds.

- Please soak the bread in water, before you put it out. This is particularly important in the Spring, when the birds are feeding their fledglings. Dry bread swells up in the throats of the young birds and chokes them.

*RSPB recommend that stale food and bread are cleared regularly and bird tables cleaned to help prevent illness in birds.*



## 1st Ratby Guides needs YOU

\* Do you enjoy working with girls aged 10-14?

\* Are you free between 6.30-8.00 p.m. on a Thursday evening (Term-time only)?

I have just taken over this small, lively unit with 14 girls. But I **URGENTLY** need a helper - no guiding experience necessary (just a whole lot of enthusiasm!)  
Interested? Call Julia on 2394663

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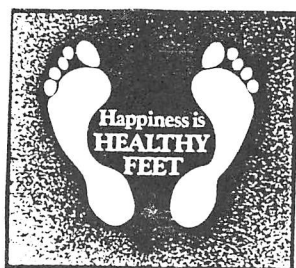
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# FLORENTINES



- 2 oz (50 gr) Butter
- 2 oz (50 gr) Caster sugar
- 1 teaspoon honey
- ½ oz (12 gr) Glace cherries
- 1½ oz (37 gr) Flaked almonds
- 1 ½ oz (37 gr) Chopped Almonds
- 1 ½ oz (37 gr) Chopped candied peel
- 1 Tablespoon Double cream or evaporated milk
- 2 oz (50 gr) Bournville chocolate (optional)

## Method

- 1 Melt butter in a saucepan, add sugar & honey and heat gently
- 2 Stir in remaining ingredients. Stir over gentle heat to mix
- 3 Leave to cool
- 4 Line baking trays with Bakewell parchment
- 5 Drop teaspoons of mixture onto prepared tins leaving plenty of space as biscuits will spread.
- 6 Cook for 20 minutes in oven 170°C - 325°F Gas mark 3
- 7 Halfway through the cooking draw the edges of each biscuit together using a round pastry cutter to give shape and prevent brittle edges.
- 8 When cooked leave on baking tray to cool slightly and then remove to cooling tray with sharp knife.
- 9 When quite cold, spread the smooth side with melted chocolate. When this is on the point of setting, stroke on wavy lines with fork or icing comb.

Good baking.

## Scrivener



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Last Orders 9.30 pm  
Seven Days a Week

OPEN  
CHRISTMAS  
DAY  
LUNCH  
FOR  
DRINKS  
ONLY

Please note the  
last quiz in 96  
will be on 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec.  
Starting again in the New Year

This year we will  
be offering food  
Christmas Eve night  
New Years Eve Night  
serving between 6 - 8 pm.  
A shortened menu  
last orders  
for food will be  
at 8 pm STRICTLY

MICHAEL & KAREN

AND ALL THEIR STAFF WISH ALL OUR CUSTOMERS  
A MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR