**May 22nd – Your Chance To Vote**

Thursday May 22nd is an important day for Bentham because there will definitely be two, and possibly three, elections in the town.

On that day we will be able to vote for one of our Craven District Councillors, our Member of the European Parliament and maybe our own Town Council. We will not know whether enough candidates have put their names forward to bring about an election for the Town Council until April 28th, which is well past our deadline. However, if we do have a Town Council election, it will be the first contested election for town councillors in High Bentham for 16 years and in Low Bentham for 8 years.

That’s quite special, so Bentham News urges all its readers to come out and vote on May 22nd – Bentham’s day of decision. Voting will take place in the Town Hall for High Bentham and in the Victoria Institute for Low Bentham from 7:00am to 10:00pm. (See page 5 for more details on how to vote.)
Elizabeth Pafford, Née Ford

Elizabeth Pafford, pictured left a few years ago, was born Elizabeth Ford, daughter of Charles Ford, the owner of the silk mill in Low Bentham. She recently passed away aged 103, and maintained her links to Bentham throughout her life. Peter Phillips tells us her story on page 32.

‘Look And See’ At Looking Well

The photograph below was taken by Peter Rollinson on the edge of Kettlewell. Peter Rollinson’s photographic work is being displayed in an exhibition at Looking Well in High Bentham, which is available to view this month. The exhibition of this local artist’s work includes images in and around Bentham as well as further afield.
April Town Council
By Trevor Blackwell
Cllrs Gareth Adams, Nick Armstrong, Chris Barnes, Tony Burton, Brian Handford, Felicity Hey, Gerald Hurtley, Thomas Marshall, Tim Stannard and John Vendy were present, together with CCllr David Ireton, DCllrs Lin Barrington and Linda Brockbank and three members of the public.

Just before the beginning of the Council meeting the mayor, Cllr Marshall, presented Cllr Burton and Sue Yardy a cheque for £2,417 for the Youth Cafe. This is the money raised by this year’s very successful Bentham Calendar, which has completely sold out.

County Councillor Ireton reported that North Yorkshire was making available another £350,000 to repair potholes in Craven. Welcome news, but, of course, not enough. Cllr Hurtley suggested that this would work out at about 50p a pothole.

Under planning applications an extension to the Bentham Balti was approved (“Nice take-away!” commented a clearly satisfied Cllr Barnes), but councillors were unhappy about a proposal to change planning permission on Bull Copy Cottages on Tatterhorn Road from holiday cottages to residential, as the properties lay outside of the development area.

Cllr Adams reported on consultations about the parking problems at Crow Trees in Low Bentham, and it was decided as a first step to paint “Keep Clear” across the entrance.

Because of the elections on May 22nd the Council has been advised to postpone the Annual Parish Meeting to a date between May 26th and July 31st. Councillors agreed to comply, but this set them to thinking that they might not be on the Council after May 22nd! Some wondered what would happen if Cllr Marshall was voted out – how could he then chair the Parish Meeting? Cllr Marshall reassured councillors that even if he were not elected he could still chair the Parish Meeting as he was the previous chair, and he would liaise with the town clerk about a suitable date. It was agreed that precept grants would be sent out prior to the Parish Meeting.

Cllr Adams introduced a lengthy re-discussion of how best to distribute the Neighbourhood Planning Questionnaire. It was decided that councillors would hand-deliver the questionnaire themselves, with outlying houses being reached by post. However each questionnaire will come with a pre-paid reply envelope to encourage a good response. People can also return their questionnaires to the Tourist Information Point in the Town Hall. Cllr Handford stressed how important it was for people to return their questionnaires, and Cllr Marshall commented that if we didn’t work out our own neighbourhood plan for Bentham everything would be imposed on us from the outside.

Councillors discussed the CARnival Bentham By Bike’s request to use the town hall for free if it rains on Carnival Day, May 31st. Some councillors thought agreeing to free use of the town hall would set a dangerous precedent, but Cllr Hey argued strongly that “This is supporting Bentham – let’s do it”, and the Council agreed.

Cllr Burton reported that the Youth Cafe was being very successful, and had just been awarded another £500 from the Craven Dragon’s Den.

A letter has been received from Low Bentham Women’s Institute offering to pay only part of the cost of repairing accidental damage to a kitchen surface in the town hall. Council decided that the W.I. must pay the full cost otherwise a dangerous precedent would be set. I tremble for the town council. Even cabinet ministers think twice before taking on the Women’s Institute.

The next Council meeting will be, unusually, on a Wednesday, May 7th, at 7.30pm, preceded by a Drop In session at 7.00pm. All are welcome to what will be the last meeting of the present Council.
Gardening Tips

By Joyce Knapp

As gardeners, we may have spent time during April sowing/planting both vegetables and flowering plants, so now, as we move into May, we can take a look around to see what other jobs are awaiting our attention.

Firstly, the fruiting plants may appreciate a little tender loving care and we can start by checking over any strawberry plants we may have in our gardens or pots/roughs. After removing all the dead/decaying leaves and looking for, removing and destroying any slugs and snails we can apply a straw mulch around each plant.

This layer of straw will not only help keep soil splashes off the developing fruit, it will also help to retain moisture in the soil, which will increase the over-all size of the fruits, whilst reducing the need to water. It may also be necessary to put some form of netting over the plants as birds are rather partial to the delicious red fruits of the strawberry plant!

Another fruit we can help out in May is the good old, reliable rhubarb and all that is needed to keep it producing a profusion of juicy, edible leaf stems is to remove any flowering stems as near to their base as possible.

Fruits that may need a little more time and consideration this month are damson and plum trees as this is the best time of year to prune them. The main aim is to thin out any over-crowded branches by removing one or two at/near their base and to cut out any “die-back” spurs. Having done this, we can then shorten/remove any “whip-like” stems that have grown straight upwards as this will encourage fruiting on the remainder of the tree.

The branches of a damson tree can become extremely congested, so we may wish to thin out some of the growth from the centre of the tree. By doing this we are likely to get slightly less fruit, but they will be bigger, ripen more quickly and be easier to pick.

Having taken care of the fruiting plants in our care, we can return to any vegetable and flowering plants that we started off in seed trays or pots. It is always preferable to gradually get plants used to being outside before finally planting them out and this can be achieved either by putting them in a cold frame for a week or two, or by simply putting them outside by day and taking them in at night, particularly if any late frost is forecast. ©

Nature Notes

By David Fisher

The noticeable events in April included a queen wasp who spent a long time on a daffodil head, and early bats at Bentham Station bridge flying at height over the railway tracks.

I also saw nesting Sparrows taking material away in their beaks and two Angle Shades moths out early from their chrysalis. There were collared doves mating outside and Curlews are now back in the country—on Burn Moor. There are also five-spotted ladybirds around.

The fishing season has also started, with the main fishing on the Lune being spring salmon, and that started in January.
May 22nd – Your Chance To Vote

By Trevor Blackwell and Shirley Brown

It’s a bit like that old joke about London buses, you wait for hours for a bus and then suddenly three buses come along at the same time! We’ve waited 16 years in High Bentham, and 8 years in Low Bentham, for a contested election for our Town Council, and now we have one (we hope!) and two others, all on the same day.

Each election is a bit different.

(1) If there’s an election for the Town Council (and we won’t know for definite until 28th April) there will be separate elections in High and Low Bentham. In High Bentham there are 8 vacant seats on the Council so you can vote for up to 8 candidates. However you can vote for any number up to 8, even just one, so you can vote only for the people you particularly want to support or see elected. Similarly in Low Bentham, there are 3 vacant seats on the Council so you can vote for up to 3 candidates. You vote by placing a cross next to the name of your chosen candidate.

(2) You will also be able to vote for a Craven District Councillor. This year Linda Brockbank’s 4-year term of office has come to an end and she is standing for re-election. You have one vote in this election.

(3) Finally, there’s the election of a member of the European Parliament to represent Yorkshire and The Humber. Both political parties and individuals will be seeking your vote. Again you have one vote in this election.

On Thursday May 22nd you can vote in person at the Town Hall in High Bentham or the Victoria Institute in Low Bentham, between 7am and 10pm. If you find it difficult to get to the polling station on the day, and want to vote by post for the first time, you need to download a Postal Vote Application Form from the Craven District Council website and return it by 5pm on Wednesday 7th May. If you have any problems with this contact the Electoral Officer on 01756-706241.

It’s really not that difficult. It really doesn’t take long. It actually does matter. Please use your chance to vote.

Ewecross Historical Society

By Mary Taylor

Peter Donnelly from the Kings Own museum in Lancaster gave a comprehensive, illustrated talk on The King’s Own Regiment 1680-1959 to the Ewecross Historical Society in Bentham Town Hall on Monday 31st March.

He showed slides of paintings and photographs of the soldiers and battles from 1680 to the 1950s; these included the Crimean war, Boer war and Korean war. The cap badge is the Lion of England and the colours are blue and orange from William of Orange. Soldiers are not only fighting men, but also the support troops; a cook was awarded a medal for providing hot food for the soldiers at the front for several days.

Chairman Sir John Kerr thanked the speaker who answered many questions.

This was the last meeting of the winter season.

St John’s Church

Remembrance Garden

By David Channing

The Parochial Church Council of the new Parish of Bentham recently discussed the problem of maintaining the Remembrance Garden at St John’s Church used for the burial of ashes. The present situation with remembrance stones makes it difficult to cut grass and so keep the area looking presentable. To overcome this problem the PCC proposes to lay gravel around the existing stones, with a kerb stone surround.

The PCC are aware of the sensitive nature of what is being proposed and this article is an attempt to keep people informed. If anyone has any concerns please feel free to approach Rev. Mabel Parr or the Churchwardens, David Channing and Graham Almond.
Age Concern In March

By Liz Tonge

Well, after the relative calm of January and February we were back to our normal busy selves in March.

We kicked off on the 4th with a very enjoyable trip to Boundary Mill in Colne. The end of the sales was on and everybody managed to bag a bargain or three!! We just about had enough room on the bus for people and packages!

Our activity at the Friday drop-in on the 7th was to watch the BBC DVD of the Queen’s jubilee, which brought on a lot of oohs and ahs and was enjoyed by everyone.

On the 14th Colin Etherington came to talk to us about how he became involved with teaching exercise to the more mature person. Unfortunately Colin has had to give up doing extended exercise and we will miss him greatly. We would like to take this opportunity to thank him so much for all the pleasure he has brought to us over the years and wish him well for the future. In the meantime if anyone out there in Bentham News land would like to take up the opportunity to work with some fantastic more mature people, and put them through their paces with some extend exercise, we would love to hear from you.

On the 16th we started a new programme of Sunday lunches, whereby we take as many members as would like to come with us for Sunday lunch at a local hostelry. For our first venture we visited the Eagles Head in Nether Kellet and enjoyed a marvellous lunch with lots of good company and chat. We hope to make this a regular feature of our programme as it was a great success and enjoyed by all.

On the 21st Joanne Halliwell brought us Betsy part 2, and had us all in stiches for the afternoon. We can’t wait to see what Betsy manages to get up to next! Finally on the 28th we brought the month to an end with Derek Cressey giving a very enlightening talk with slides about the Isle of Mull. Some of the slides were breathtaking, and I am sure it gave us an appetite to go and see for ourselves just what this amazing place is like.

Of course our fantastic cook Eileen gave us delicious meals every Friday and we also did various quizzes puzzles and brain teasers, some involving prizes, others just for fun.

We really do have a good time. If you would like to be part of it come and join us on Fridays at the Masonic Hall, or if you need transport give us a ring on Friday mornings on 62821.

Blood Donation Sessions

Please call 0300 123 23 23 to book an appointment. Appointments can be made up to midnight the night before a session, and the next is from 1:45pm – 3:45pm and 5:00pm – 7:30pm on Friday 30th May at Ingleborough Community Centre, Main Street, LA6 3HG.
Are There Too Many Outdoor Sports Facilities Or Play Areas In Bentham?
From Craven District Council

Have a say on the open spaces around you by letting North Craven know your opinions about the provision of open spaces in our area. Do you think your parks and public gardens could be improved? Are there enough allotments in your area? If you are a resident of North Craven, please voice your opinion and fill in our questionnaire at [www.surveymonkey.com/s/Northcravenopenspace](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Northcravenopenspace) or visit the council offices and ask for a paper copy. The closing date is 16th May 2014.

**Bentham Summer DalesBus**
*By Richard Wilson*

DalesBus service 832/831 – The Northern Dalesman - will once again this year pick up in Bentham every Sunday and Bank Holiday from now until 19th October.

As in previous years, the departure times are: Low Bentham 09.49, and High Bentham 09.53. The route is: Ingleton, Ribblehead station, Hawes (connects with the Wensleydale Flyer bus service 856 to Leyburn and Northallerton) and past the Buttertubs into Swaledale, finishing in Richmond. You get back to Bentham around 18.45 (18.10 on Bank Holidays).

A new feature this year is an additional and earlier service back from Hawes d. 15.25 to Ingleton a. 16.05, though the connection home doesn’t leave Ingleton till 17.05 (plenty of time for a cup of tea!), arriving in Bentham about 17.20. The cost of a stress-free day exploring Wensleydale or Swaledale (both if you’re energetic) is the £8 price of a Northern Dales Day Rover ticket - FREE if you have a bus pass.

You can get timetables from the Tourist Information Point in the Town Hall, or online at [transportbentham.wordpress.com](http://transportbentham.wordpress.com) which also has links to information about every other kind of transport to, from and around Bentham.

BEST stands for Bentham Environmentally Sustainable Town. All meetings and events are open to everyone, and our next is in the Horse & Farrier Inn on 8th May at 7.30pm. Do come along and help make Bentham a greener town. If you’d like to know more, phone 63399 or check [www.greenbentham.org.uk](http://www.greenbentham.org.uk)

**Little Red Bus Phone Number**
*By Lin Barrington*

The North Craven Taxibus (formerly known as the ‘Little Red Bus’) is now run by North Yorkshire County Council.

To book a journey on the bus, please phone 08458 72 52 82 Monday to Friday between 10am and 12 noon.
Footpath Matters

*By Maureen Ellis*

The first walk of May with the Bentham Footpath Group is on Saturday 3rd, at 9:30 and is five miles, meeting outside the Horse and Farrier in Bentham. As we will be back at lunch time there is no need to bring sandwiches. First we go across fields to Green Lane and then across to Burton in Lonsdale, near Burton Woods, and then it’s up to Clifford Hall and return to Low Bentham. We then take the path along the Wenning and back up to Duke Street and the Horse and Farrier.

Sunday 11th is the seven and a half to eight mile Barbon Walk meeting at 9:30 at Lairgill. It starts from Barbon Village along a wooded track by Barbon Beck and then a track over Barbon Fell to Bullpot. The route then contours round the side of Barbon Fell, giving good views over the Lune Valley. Finally tracks are followed back to Barbon.

Friday 23rd is the ten mile Brock Bottom Walk, meeting at Lairgill at 9:30. We park at Delph Lane Quarry at Oakenclough, then walk back to Stang Yule and along the access road to Bleasdale Towers, with views to Fair Snape Fell and Parlick. We then continue towards Bleasdale School but turn to Weavers Farm, then follow the River Brock down to Brock Mill picnic site. Then it’s heading up to Calder Vale by way of Cobble Hey. From the village, it’s through the woods to Calder Vale Church and School. If we are lucky with the seasons there will be carpets of bluebells. From there it’s a short distance to the cars. If anyone wants a shorter five mile walk, they could join us at the picnic site, and walk the second half of the route and we will get them back there at the end of the walk.

Tuesday 27th is the five mile Feizor walk meeting at 13:00 at Lairgill. We go up through the flower woods down to Feizor village on the track, where if people want to buy an ice cream or coffee there is the cafe. It’s then back over the fields. Shorter Walks for Women continue, meeting at 9:20 for a prompt start at 9:30 on Mondays at Lairgill.
Dancing The Night Away

By Jenny Durrant

I would like to make an appeal to anyone who enjoys dancing or would like to learn.

We are a small group of line dancers who meet each Wednesday from 2-3pm at The Victoria Institute in Low Bentham.

We cannot continue if we don’t get enough people to pay for the room hire.

Everyone who comes enjoys the dancing. It is good weight bearing exercise, helps with balance and keeps the brain ticking over!

We have a fun time (nothing too serious to learn) and with coffee and biscuits after, it’s a great social hour.

If you would like to help save our little group and join us, please get in touch and call me on 62501.
Your Letters

Dear Bentham News,

I've been "Our Man in Bentham" for Tools For Self Reliance for a while now, and have enjoyed the work a great deal. Meeting people with tools and sewing machines surplus to their requirements, often having great sentimental value, and explaining how these things constantly transform the lives of people in Africa, offers them a perfect solution to the problem of what to do with once treasured items that now gather rust.

There is often relief that the tools will start another phase in a long and useful life, and be properly valued once again by people who, with the right equipment, will be able to support their families, help their friends, and establish their usefulness within their community. The structure of the charity has been carefully developed over the years, and is constantly refined by the feedback which forms an essential part of the work.

I've supplied our depots in Leyland and Windermere, where groups of retired folk with the ability to clean and fettle the donations, meet every week and bring the tools up to the best possible standard. These groups also have great value for the participants - being a social club with a purpose - and I always enjoy the visits when I take a trailer load of "rusty old stuff" knowing that every last ounce of value will be preserved, and whatever needs recycling will also meet an appropriate end.

I've found that most retired people will jump at the chance to do something useful, and it has been very satisfying to play a small part in a very, very good cause. To say I've got more out of it than I've put in would be no exaggeration, and though I don't want to leave the charity, I have to accept a less strenuous future, owing to problems with a shaky backbone.

Please think about this, if you feel you could replace me - I'll give whatever help and advice is needed to get you started, and ongoing support as best I can. If you have transport, and some storage space, then Bentham can stay on TFSR's map, and the work here can go on. So if you would like to explore the possibility of becoming part of something really wonderful - just let me know, on Bentham 61034, and I'll do the rest.

Thank you, Kerry Burns.

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FOR A FREE ESTIMATE
Happy To Be A Member Of The European Union

By Margaret McSherry

I would like to get a bit of a debate going about the European elections so I thought I would share my thoughts with Bentham News readers about why I believe the elections to the European Parliament in May are so important.

First, the European Union was founded by former enemies who wanted to build a Europe that would never again be torn apart by war. At its heart the European project is a peace project. Promoting peace in Europe has been built on dialogue and interdependence between states. Fundamentally, the EU was not set up for the purposes of defence. Rather its main purpose was twofold: the desire to control the amassing of armaments by individual nations and the removal of tariffs in order to maximise trade opportunities for all member states. Since the formation of the EU however, individual states have been involved in wars and the sale of weapons. Some, like the UK, are still involved in conflict. This is a unilateral decision, not a function of the EU.

Second, the major concerns of the 21st century are those of energy, climate change, the environment, food, security and our relationship with the global community. These issues are beyond the control of any single nation state and therefore require international effort to find solutions. European nations wish to belong to the EU because it provides a greater share of power and influence in the world than any one country could hope to achieve on its own. If the UK were to resign its membership, that sphere of influence would be denied and would leave us far weaker and with a much smaller voice.

Third, there are many misconceptions about what leaving the EU would mean. Around 50% of UK trade is with EU member countries. If we left the EU but still wished to trade with it, we would need to join the European Economic Area as Norway has done. We would then be required to make a very large contribution to the EU budget and to accept the vast majority of EU regulations but we would have lost our place in the European parliament and our opportunity to influence its decisions.

Fourth, the EU has made great advances by setting minimum standards of living and improving healthcare for working people. However Britain has chosen to opt out of many of the benefits of this Social Charter.

Fifth, many people in the UK mistakenly believe that the European Court of Human Rights was created by the EU. It was, in fact, set up by the Treaty of London and is an institution of whose achievements we can be justly proud. Every country from Iceland to Russia, excluding Europe’s last dictatorship, Belarus, abides by the court.

Sixth, the European Parliament is at least as democratic as our own and is perhaps even more so. In Britain, to be an MEP is seen as a lesser political career path, whereas most European countries send their best politicians to Brussels, politicians who can work at understanding the budget and getting the best deal for their own country. By contrast UKIP MEPs, who claim to be concerned to protect UK interests, have in fact served us poorly since the last election. Whilst being willing to claim thousands of Euros in pay and expenses, their absence from crucial votes and committee meetings has severely reduced UK influence. Only last summer it was revealed that our current UKIP MEPs have the worst attendance and voting record of any party in the European Parliament. We deserve and we need more effective and more enlightened service than this. We’d love to know what you think!

Join in the discussion on 9th May at 7pm in Bentham Town Hall.
Your Letters Continued:

Dear Readers

What a day! On the 22nd May we will have the chance to vote in 3 different elections. One is for our Members of the European Parliament. What to do for the best?

I used to work in Sheffield where the Bassets factory had 2 liquorice all sorts lines. One produced the lurid pinks and turquoise stripes that were still allowed in Britain. The other produced the more subtle, non-toxic, vegetable dye colours that were required for Europe. In all the talk of the bureaucracy of Europe we can lose sight of how much we have come to depend on the EU for regulations that keep our food safe, our water clean and our working conditions fair.

It's a global world and we are going to need continent wide policies to try and control runaway climate change, pollution, habitat destruction and the driving down of safety standards. As I write, the pall over the sun shows us how unable we are to stop smog pouring over the Channel by ourselves. We need to be part of a bigger bloc that can take wider action.

Another reason for voting in the Euro-elections is that your vote is more likely to count. The 6 MEPs for Yorkshire and The Humber will be chosen according to the total number of votes cast for their party. So I will be voting Green, hoping they will get the swing of less than 2% they need to get an MEP.

I know the EU is far from perfect. I’ll be voting for the candidates who support the work of Europe and a referendum and drastic reform to give us a more democratic, regionally flexible organisation.

A group of us have organised a meeting where you can come along and hear candidates or their representatives talking about Voting for Europe. It’s on Friday May 9th at 7:00 pm in Bentham Town Hall. Come along and make up your own mind.

Most of all, make sure you get along to the Town Hall on May 22nd and cast your votes!

See you there, Annie Neligan

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Did You Know ...

By Jane Miller

It has been estimated that almost every disposable nappy which has been used since they arrived in the UK about 35 years ago, is still, largely undecomposed, in the landfill sites. Because these nappies are usually rolled up after use and placed in a poly bag, oxygen is minimised so the contents cannot easily be broken down by the natural decomposition process. Added to this the absorbent material is largely made of a product which can take hundreds of years to decompose.

In these days of environmental awareness and the need to reduce the volume of waste going to landfill sites this is an area where families with babies and young children can make a difference.

Gone are the days of bulky terry squares and plastic pants. Today’s washable nappies are "nappy" shaped, very absorbent and often come in a variety of funky and fashionable colours and due to clever design, they "grow" with the baby.

Yes, the initial financial outlay is quite high (about £100) but when the cost of buying disposable nappies over 2-3 years is calculated at £5-7 a week, (this works out at £7 x 52 x 2 = nearly £750 over the nappy wearing life of the baby), the initial outlay doesn't seem so high.

So go on parents- Google "Washable nappies" and see for yourselves the financial and environmental advantages.

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CARnival Bentham by Bike
By Mollie Baxter

Saturday 31st May is the big day – and it’s nearly here! Thank you to all the local businesses and organisations who have contributed to this year’s event and the Yorkshire Festival sponsors for help with marketing. It promises to be a great family day out that’s full of music, fun, laughter and lots to see and do.

What’s happening?
Start the day by fish-spotting in High Bentham, check out the stalls and sideshows and get down to the railway station for the narrow gauge railway ride, museum exhibits and café. The family bike ride starts from the station at 11:45. Fish out your best decorated bloomers, pantaloons or knickerbockers, and peddle leisurely to Low Bentham to arrive in time for the Great Unveiling from midday. More seasoned cyclists can follow the fat sheep signs and finish the five mile ride at the clubhouse on Bentham Playing Fields.

The CARnival procession from the Horse and Farrier assembles at 13:00. Turn up in a costume and walk the short distance to the Black Bull with Bay Beat our CARnival band!

Themes for groups and individuals are:
The most original and funniest FISH – walking, wheeled or flying in the air; The best dressed CYCLIST; The fattest SHEEP on wheels; The most bizarre and the most beautiful BLOOMERS walking, dancing or riding a bike.

Or, if you want to keep it simple, dress up in RED (and black), or WHITE (and black) and join the courtiers walking with the Queens as they process through the town.

And please do something bizarre (or even just a little bit daft) to your car. Dress it up inside or out and park it for others to enjoy. For further details and help with ideas, go to facebook.com/carnival bentham or spot the posters around the town. We are expecting a lot of visitors so let’s show them what we can do.

If you want help, ideas or materials, come along to family ‘making workshops’ at Looking Well over half term. Every day from Saturday 24th to Friday 30th May from 14:00 to 16:00. Children with an adult please. Before that, you can get help making every Saturday from 11:00 to 16:00 and every Thursday from 13:30 to 16:30.

Finally, we are a very small team and we need volunteers before and on the day – from distributing leaflets and putting up signs to helping to steward the bike ride and carnival procession. If you enjoyed it last year, please do your bit this year and donate an hour or so of your time. To make contact, email carnivalbentham@gmail.com, drop in to Looking Well on Saturdays or phone Sean at Looking Well on 0762672. Follow us on facebook.com/carnival bentham.

Carnival Fun Fund Raising
By Marie Rayner

Calling all groups wanting to raise money for their cause!
Bentham Carnival is on Saturday 31st May and will be a fun filled, people packed day of events and entertainment. Space is available for stalls for you to raise money for your cause.

We are proposing having stalls in the auction mart car park alongside CarBizzare. There will be no charge to local groups, but we would be happy to accept any donation you would like to make towards the running costs of the event.

You would need to book your pitch with me (email marie@sole-to-soul.net) and let me know what activity you propose to undertake. There may need to be some negotiation so that we don’t have 20 tombola stalls!

You will need to bring your own table/chairs etc. and you will need to be set up by 10am. Space will be allocated on a “first come, first served” basis, so if you are interested, please contact me as soon as you can.
Bentham Passing Place – The Great Unveiling

By Ali Clough

This year CARnival Bentham by Bike is more than just a carnival. It is part of the Yorkshire Festival to celebrate the Grand Depart in Yorkshire and it is a celebration to mark the launch of the new Bentham Bike Loop, a five mile circular route from the railway station or, if you are cycling the Way of the Roses long distance route from Morecambe to Bridlington, it is a short detour into High and Low Bentham. Sustrans, the cycling charity who like to include public art on their routes, invited Pioneer Projects to work with them to create what they call the Bentham Passing Place. See map above.

A local steering group has been meeting over the last 2 years. Marjan Wouda was commissioned as the artist, and in 2013, workshops and a widespread consultation resulted in ideas and designs for a short cycling art trail around Bentham. The first public artwork will be installed this month and officially opened at midday on Carnival Day.

Make your way to the Punch Bowl in Low Bentham to find out what it is and why it is there. A second design has been incorporated into a waymarking sign for the Bentham Bike Loop, and a third has been emerging from community workshops at Looking Well on Saturdays. Called Spot the Trout, it can be viewed on Carnival Day from the Bike Loop near the river in High Bentham, in shop windows around the town and even in the carnival procession itself.

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Low Bentham WI

By Jennifer Watkinson

“We’re in for a good night” is how the president Christine Jennings introduced our speaker “Betsy” alias Joanne Halliwell and we were not disappointed. Betsy has been promoted from scullery maid to house keeper since she last talked to us. Gone were the clogs, apron and mob cap and instead she wore leather boots, a long skirt and black jacket and had a set of keys dangling from her belt. She now has her own bed instead of sharing with two others. Interacting with her audience she explained how it was that a misunderstanding had given this new job to her. Afterwards she read her poem "Ladies, I bid you good night". Joanne told us that she was working on a new sketch for Betsy where she marries and becomes mistress of her own house and is finally loved for who she is. We look forward to it.

Nine members attended the North Yorkshire West Spring Council meeting at Grassington Town Hall. The morning speaker was Susie Hart MBE who talked about her ten years in Iringa, Tanzania with her husband and family. Whilst there she set up a craft centre and café for the disabled which allowed them to work for a living. Due to its success she was able to build a much needed physiotherapy unit. Now resident in North Yorkshire she continues to fund raise for the charity. In the afternoon The History Wardrobe presented "Women and the Great War". It was a fantastic performance by Lucy Adlington and Meredith Towne. They spoke about the period and modelled authentic clothing of the time. We saw them in beautiful dresses, silk pyjamas and in ordinary period working clothes, these being particularly difficult to find. In some outfits they paraded around the hall for us to get a better view.

We visited the Bay Horse at Arkholme on Thursday 10th April for lunch. The food was excellent, very good value and the staff made us very welcome.

On the 15th May we will be travelling in a Bibby’s coach to Sizergh Castle. The trip has been arranged by Pat Burns and Kitty Ellershaw.

Tatham Fells WI

By Mary Taylor

Kristina Smith and Alan Shallcross from solicitors Birchall Blackburn Law spoke to Tatham Fells Women’s Institute members on Tuesday evening, 11th March. They stressed the importance of making or updating a will; and of creating power of attorney, outlining several distressing situations when this had not been done.

Jenny Batty thanked the speakers who also judged the competition for My Worst Present; winners were Mary Kidd, Carole Thurnham and Sue Dodgson.

President Carole Thurnham reported on the W I Centenary Baton change in Lancaster Castle tearoom, when she and Carole Butcher had joined members from other institutes.

Lancashire Federation Chairman, Mary Gibson had told of the progress of the Baton as it is passed round the country, this was the last exchange in Lancashire as it passed into Cumbria.

Members had enjoyed an outstanding performance of An August Bank Holiday Lark by Northern Broadside at The Dukes in Lancaster in March.

Jenny Herd reported on the latest walk, the Lowgill Loop.

Future events were outlined and the evening concluded with refreshments made by Jenny Batty and Olive Beard.
These Boots were Made For Walking

By Sarah Brewer

Groups from disadvantaged urban backgrounds can now enjoy exploring the countryside whatever the weather or time of year thanks to a donation from Leeds Building Society Charitable Foundation.

A donation of £960 was made to local charity Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust to fund the purchase of 16 pairs of quality walking boots that will be used for their outreach project ‘People and the DALES’.

The boots were used for the first time on a guided walk from Austwick to Settle, through scenic farmland and past the impressive limestone features of Giggleswick Scar and, although many of the footpaths were wet and muddy, everyone had fun and stayed warm and dry thanks to the new boots.

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Christian Aid

By Sue Yardy

During the week 11th-17th May a Christian Aid envelope will be put through your letter box by a volunteer. As last year these will not all be collected by hand. If you would like to donate to Christian Aid then you can take your envelope to the Post Office in High Bentham or put it through the letter box at 7 Main Street (Low Bentham), the home of Kay Piper.

There will be other collection points in local shops so keep an eye out for these as they are still to be confirmed at the time of writing. A list will be stapled to your envelope.
Bentham Memorial Centenary Restoration Fund

Article and photograph by Allan Hartley

The memorial was built in St Margaret’s church yard to remember the 56 men from High and Low Bentham who gave their lives during the Great War.

Almost one hundred years on and as the Centenary of the First World War approaches, Bentham’s memorial now looks uncared for and urgently needs some restoration work so that it can be re-dedicated in August.

If you would like to donate towards this work, please put your contribution in the collection jars that will be placed in the Town Hall, pubs, post office and shops.

Should you have any queries regarding the restoration work, Benthamers can call Allan Hartley 61173, Stan Wilkinson 62302, Jack Armstrong 61979 and Frank Bosman 61466.

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N.S.P.C.C.
By Susan Adams - Chairman
Firstly, a “BIG THANK YOU”, to all those who so generously gave during the recent House to House envelope collection in the area. We do not at the time of writing have a final total of the amount raised, but we will endeavour to publish this in next month’s issue of Bentham News.

The N.S.P.C.C. group in this area is primarily a fund raising group, and we have been in operation for well over 50 years. Some of our members, like me, have been involved for well over 40 of those, and we are always happy to welcome new folk who might be interested in helping. Perhaps you might like to go on a list offering to bake, help with coffee mornings or at the monthly waste paper collection on Lairgill car park. Some might even feel able to offer their time to be one of the small group who meet once a month to chat have a coffee and organise the fund raising events throughout the year. Just get in touch with me on 015242 61182 if you would like more information.

Our next major opportunity for raising funds will be at the Open Gardens at Clearbeck House Mewith (the home of Bronwen and Peter Osborne). This year will be the 25th year that the garden has been open, and to mark the occasion Bronwen and Peter have created a ‘Silver Rill’ running down the older avenue, along with a cobblestone mosaic. Bronwen and Peter will open their magnificent garden on Sunday 25th and Monday 26th May, and on the Sundays of the 22nd and 29th June for The National Garden Scheme charities. Our group will be on hand on the 25th and 26th of May providing refreshments, the proceeds of which will go to the N.S.P.C.C. Please come along.
The Western Desert Kidney Health Project: ‘Our People Our Story Our Way’

By Alison Clough

The Patient Representative Group at Bentham Surgery and Pioneer Projects are hosting a talk at Bentham Golf Club on Wednesday 7th May at 6:30pm; a rare opportunity to hear about a unique arts and health project in one of the remotest parts of Australia.

The Western Desert Kidney Health Project is a team of Aboriginal health, community development workers and artists aiming to reduce disease and diabetes in the vast Goldfields area. With the aid of two six-tonne trucks, the project covers an area about the size of Great Britain populated by almost 8,000 people whose expected life-span is 17 years less than that of non-Aboriginal people.

One vehicle is a mobile clinic for early detection and chronic disease management; the other transports artists and healthy lifestyle workers who work with the communities to promote good health.

The project is led by the two presenters of this talk who are in Bentham visiting Looking Well from 3rd to 8th May. Christine Jeffries-Stokes is a paediatrician and medical researcher. She has been in the Goldfields for 20 years, working in paediatrics and indigenous health. The project’s chief investigator is a respected senior Wongutha woman Annette Stokes of The University of Western Australia’s Kalgoorlie-based Rural Clinical School. Annette is a medical researcher as well as a visual artist, community arts practitioner and musician.

To be sure of securing a place, contact Sean by email sean@pioneerprojects.org.uk or phone 62672.
Police Report

By PC265 Adrian Hayes Ingleton Police Office

Over the past few months we have reported problems caused to the communities of North Craven due to crime being committed by persons travelling into the area to commit crime.

Recently there has been another spate of incidents in Burton In Lonsdale and Ingleton involving house burglaries and thefts from unattended motor vehicles. In all of these crimes either the homes, or vehicles were left unlocked.

Two men from the Blackpool area have been arrested in relation to these crimes having been arrested in Lancashire for offences and found to be in possession of property identified as being stolen during these incidents. They have been interviewed by North Yorkshire Police officers and are currently on bail pending further enquiries.

Please, please, please ensure that you lock your vehicles when they are not being used and do not leave valuables in them where they can be seen. If it has a monetary value then somebody will want to steal it. Make sure you keep your doors locked, even when you are at home. I cannot emphasise strongly enough the importance of people reporting suspicious activity to the police. Do not worry that it may not be important or relevant. A check of somebody going about their lawful business should not cause them any issues, however your call may be the one that enables us to check out the identity of somebody from away who has targeted our community to commit crime. If you think a crime is being committed then call the police using 999, you will not be criticised.

On a fairly regular basis the towns and villages of the area are targeted by persons going door to door offering items such as household cleaning materials for sale. That in itself is not illegal, however those doing so must have a pedlars certificate in their possession which has been granted to them by the police. We would only issue one to those who are of good character. Do not deal with them if they cannot produce this certificate. They will often produce to you a printed form with their photograph on and lots of writing on the back referring to all sorts of legal jargon. Do not be fooled, this is not a pedlars certificate. I have recently checked out two males in this area who had travelled all the way from the North East to come and sell dusters. They did not have a certificate and due to their criminal history would not be likely to be issued with one. I would question why they come all this way to sell dusters. What are they really up to. Is it possible that they are checking out and identifying potential crime targets? Also there has also been a more worrying recent trend in that there will often be several persons targeting an area at the same time. Would you be happy being confronted by several unknown persons trying to give you the hard sell? How would your elderly relative feel when being confronted with such a situation? If you should be called upon by such callers I would request that you call the police and report that they are in the area. We can then check them out and verify that they are in the area legitimately.

Sgt Mark Hill is currently collating information, intelligence and evidence in relation to theft of livestock from farms in the North Craven area. If any person has any information relating to these type of offences could I please encourage you to contact the police, either by contacting Sgt Mark Hill or myself by calling 101 or if you wish to remain anonymous by calling Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. You can also e-mail me at Adrian.Hayes@northyorkshire.pnn.police.uk
New Guys

By John Neal

There are new guys in town or new kids on the block. The block being our Main Street.

Not that Caroline, Bryan or Greg would regard themselves as kids, but they have a youthful energy and enthusiasm for taking on two shop fronts in town.

Caroline Atkinson has been running her clothes, shoes and jewellery shop for some time in Station Road, but she's very keen to expand and now has the luxury of what was the former estate agents' premises next to Barclays Bank.

"I'm really excited at the move. There's more room for the stock and it will be lovely to be creative with an eye-catching window display," she says.

Caroline has an Aladdin's cave of clothes and accessories. She took over the business from Kathy Tiemewell and she has quite a few items left by people for Kathy to sell on.

"Kathy only left me the initials of some of these customers on a list and that's all I have to go on. So, if anyone has left anything here for sale some time ago, perhaps they could get in touch," she says.

Enthusiasm and confidence is also something not lacking in Greg Wilkinson who's taken over the cafe, formerly known as The Nosebag and latterly 37 Main Street, with business partner Bryan Jeffs. It will become known as Café Culture with the prospect of opening seven days a week.

"We've plans to open Friday and Saturday evenings and even offer Sunday lunch," says Greg. "There'll be the same high quality service and food but we'll make our own mark on the place. I'll be looking after the daily running of the place and Bryan has plans for the evening and Sunday openings".

Greg has plenty of experience in catering and knows Bryan well as both are members of Bentham's fire fighting team. He says reassuringly, "We're on a rota so there's no chance of me suddenly downing kitchen utensils to get to the station."

Seeing him on the regular Sunday charity car wash at the fire station is not the only sighting you may have had of Greg. He still gets comments from customers complimenting him on his performance as the camel in Bentham's pantomime Aladdin a few years ago. It must have been his powerful stage presence since he was encased in a very impressive costume at the time.

Another change in our ever evolving Main Street is the arrival of Exclusive Home Improvements. Their head office is in Bury but the potential in Bentham and district for providing new windows, conservatories, doors etc. has been recognised.

And in Station Road, what was The Black Bicycle is now to become a furniture shop, extending into the premises next door once filled to bursting with Caroline Atkinson's cloth racks.

So, where other high streets seem incapable of any kind of rejuvenation, Bentham is staying self sufficient thanks to the energy and enthusiasm of its own people.
Events in May

Fri 2nd 
Looking Well, 10:30am-1pm, Art Skills Development. And every Fri.
Bentham Town Hall, 11am-12:30pm, Craven Customer Services. Also 16th.
Victoria Institute, 10am-12noon, Post Office Services. And every Fri.
4-7pm, Helen Howard School of Dance. And every Fri.
Masonic Lodge, Age Concern, An RAF Chaplin by Rev Ian Greenhaigh.

Sat 3rd 
Looking Well, 11am-4pm. Warm Weekends at Looking Well. Includes lunch, all welcome.
And every Sat.
Town Hall, 10am-12noon, St John’s Coffee Morning.

Bentham Footpath Group,
Clifford Hall, no lunch, 5 mls, Leader David Fisher, 015242 61449. Meet at Horse and Farrier 9:30am.

Fresh Air! See page 39.

Mon 5th 
Lairgill, 9:30am, Walks For Women. And every Mon.
Looking Well, 10am-1pm, Own Now, For people with memory loss and their carers. Also 12th and 19th.

Tue 6th 
Looking Well, 9:30-11:30am, Light Leg Stretchers — walking group for men and women.
10:30am-12:45pm, Community Tuesday@Looking Well.
And every Tue.
11am-1pm, Creative Writing Group. And every Tue.
12:45-1:30pm, Community Shared Lunch. And every Tue.
Town Hall, 10am-12noon, Craft Club. And every Tue.
10-11am, Zanna’s Mature Movers. Also 13th and 20th.
7-8pm, Aerobics. And every Tue.
Victoria Institute, 10am-12noon, Office Open. And every Tue.

Wed 7th 
Bentham Methodist Church, 10-11:30am, Coffee Morning. Donations to local charities. And every Wed.
1:30-3pm, Welcome Wednesdays for families with preschoolers, run by North Craven Children’s Centre. And every Wed.
Looking Well, 9:30am-12:30pm, NYCC Adult Learning Work Club. And every Wed.
2-4pm, Art for All. And every Wed.

Town Hall, 7:30pm, Council meeting. Drop in from 7pm. All welcome.
Victoria Institute, 10am-12noon, Post Office Services. And every Wed.
11:30am-2:15pm, Community Link Cafe. And every Wed.
2-3pm, Line Dancing. And every Wed.
4:30-8:15pm, Helen Howard School of Dance. And every Wed.

Thur 8th 
Bentham Methodist Church
Welcome-In 2pm. dominoes and tea, Methodist Church Hall, transport contact Anthony 63156. Also 15th and 29th.
Looking Well, 11am-1:30pm, Bentham and District Cancer Support Group Drop In, art session lunch and therapies. Also 22nd.
1:30-4:30pm, Community Art Shed. And every Thur.
Victoria Institute, 10am-12noon, Bat ‘N’ Chat. And every Thur.
10am-1pm, Art Group. And every Thur.
1:30-3:30pm, Piper’s Painters. And every Thur.
4-7pm, Helen Howard School of Dance. And every Thur.

Fri 9th 
Settle Victoria Hall, 1-2pm, Julian Smith, MP for Skipton and Ripon, Constituency surgery. Call 020 7219 7145 to book an appointment.
Fri 9th Town Hall, 7-9pm, Euro Elections Meeting. See pages 11 and 12.  
Masonic Lodge, Age Concern.  
Sat 10th Town Hall, 10am-12noon, Age Concern Coffee Morning.  
Deadline for BN Cover Pages.  
Victoria Institute, 10am-12noon, Book Swap.  
Sun 11th Bentham Footpath Group, Barbon, 8 mls, Leader George Sheridan, 015242 51779. Meet at Lairgill 9:30am.  
Mon 12th Bentham Methodist Church, 10-11:30am, Toddle-in for parents and carers with children 0-4. And every Mon except Bank Holiday. 3:45-4:45pm, Adventurers for children aged 4-6. And every term time Mon. 6:15-7:30pm, Springboard for children aged 7-11 years. And every term time Mon.  
Looking Well, 7-9:30pm, Mindfulness Meditation Group. And 26th.  
Town Hall, 10-11am, Zanna’s Adult Ballet. Also 19th.  
Bentham Community First Responders, Training at Burton.  
Wed 14th NSPCC monthly meeting at Lingfield, Robin Lane 7:30pm.  
Victoria Institute, 10am-12noon, Office Open. And every Mon. 12:15-2:15pm, Community Link Cafe. And every Mon. 6:15-7:45pm, Tai Chi. And every Mon.  
Thur 15th WI trip toSizergh Castle. See page 16.  
Deadline for BN Main Pages.  
Fri 16th Town Hall, 8pm, Bentham Film Group, 12 years a slave. Tickets £5. See page 40.  
Masonic Lodge, Age Concern, Martha’s Memories  
Lairgill, 8:30-11am, Waste paper collection. Proceeds for NSPCC.  
Sat 17th Victoria Institute, 11am-2pm, receiving goods for Trash and Treasure.  
Town Hall, 10am-12noon, Conservative Party Coffee Morning.  
Sun 18th Victoria Institute, 11am-2pm, Trash and Treasure. Bargains galore.  
Tue 20th Town Hall, 6-7pm, Yoga. Also 27th.  
Thur 22nd European, District and Town Council Elections. See page 5.  
Fri 23rd Bentham Footpath Group, Brock Bottom, 10 mls, Leaders Sheila and David Longton, 015242 61838. Meet at Lairgill 9:30am.  
Masonic Lodge, Age Concern, History of the gramophone by Jack Warbrick  
Sat 24th Town Hall, 10am-12noon, Bentham Beagles Coffee Morning.  
Sun 25th Town Hall, 10am-4pm, St Boniface Lunch.  
Tue 27th Bentham Footpath Group, Feizor, 5 mls, Leader Joan Clapham, 015242 64906. Meet at Lairgill 1pm.  
Fri 30th May Bentham News Distributed.  
Masonic Lodge, Age Concern  
Sat 31st Town Hall, 10am-12noon, FOBL Coffee Morning.  
CARnival. See pages 14, 15 and back cover.  

**Annual Parish Meeting—Change Of Date**  
By Jo Burton Town Clerk  
This meeting was scheduled to be held on Monday 28th April, however due to the late date of the local elections this year, the DCLG says that this meeting must now be held after the election, between 26th May and 31st July.  

Therefore the Annual Parish Meeting for Bentham Town Council will now be held on Tuesday 3rd June in the lower Hall of the Town Hall at 7pm.
Bloomin’ Bentham Litter Picking

By Shirley Brown
T: 015242-61608 M: 07771-746100
E: shirleybrown1@btinternet.com

Over the winter months Bloomin’ Bentham volunteer community gardeners have been quietly going about their activities. We’ve done some work clearing the banks of undergrowth, mending fences and planting bulbs round the railway station but mostly we’ve been litter-picking from the hedge-rows and ditches around Bentham, especially all the approach roads.

We sometimes wonder whether to put up notices saying that these roadsides have been litter-picked by volunteers and reminding people that throwing litter from cars is actually a criminal offence for which they could be fined up to £2,500…but then we wonder if it’d be worth the effort and whether it would make any difference.

We work on the principle that ‘litter invites more litter’, so hopefully keeping our roadsides looking lovely might discourage those who chuck crisp bags, cigarette packets, plastic bottles, tin cans, used tissues and nappies (sorry, too much detail!) from their cars.

We realise from reading the Craven Herald that communities all over the area organise occasional litter-picks. A recent mass litter-pick around the Bolton Abbey Estate filled 172 bags and around Ullswater 30 local volunteers walked the lakeshore and took to canoes to clean up the area. Bloomin’ Bentham’s efforts are less ambitious but usually between 4 and 8 volunteers join forces and feel quite pleased to gather litter into a pile of 6 or more bags which are then collected by the very helpful Craven District Council employees.

In the next month or so we’re hoping to walk from Clapham to Bentham clearing litter from the roadsides on the moor. The more people who can join us the more enjoyable and less back-breaking it is, so if you’d like to know when this annual event is taking place just phone or email me and I’ll add your name to our circulation list. It’ll be on a weekday and at fairly short notice, as we keep a weather eye on the forecast for a few days’ ahead and we don’t litter-pick in high winds and heavy rain.

The Folly In Settle

By Glen Preston

The Folly is now open and The ‘Make it Slow’ exhibition is a real treat with lots of beautiful arts, crafts and events. During the 3rd, 4th and 5th May we are having a free entry weekend for readers or buyers of the Craven Herald. On the morning of Sunday the 4th May we have a Pop-Up Studio and on Wednesday 28th May, to tie in with the ‘Make it Slow’ exhibition, the artist Aimee Betts (contemporary embroiderer) is running two workshops.
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Bentham residents to get ready for battle on No Smoking Day

By Shelley Thwaite Photograph of pupils at Wennington Hall School, in front of one of their displays.

Smokers in Bentham were urged to prepare for battle and attempt to give up cigarettes for good on ‘No Smoking Day’ which took place on Wednesday 12th March 2014.

This year’s ‘No Smoking Day’ had a ‘V for Victory’ theme which is set to inspire hundreds of thousands of smokers to win the fight against cigarettes.

The campaign helps smokers on the road to victory, providing information, support and encouragement to put together a personal battle plan so that they are in the best possible position to make a successful quit attempt on the day.

A competition was launched at Wennington Hall School as a cross curricular activity, pupils had to design a poster to bring home the dangers of smoking. This was then judged, and the six winners got to see their design adorn Bentham Medical Practice in three different locations.

Mr Joe Prendergast, Headteacher of Wennington Hall School said: “No Smoking Day is a great opportunity for us to encourage and support pupils and to send the message to the people of our local community to realise the dangers of smoking and for them to quit alongside hundreds of thousands of other people across the UK”.

“We know that quitting isn’t easy but we want to reassure smokers that support is available to them and that they can win the battle against cigarettes”.

“There is a much higher chance of succeeding with support and this is why Wennington Hall School and Bentham Medical Practice is spreading the word to smokers about the range of services and resources which are locally available to them. Our activity is crucial to helping smokers on the road to victory and towards a healthier and wealthier smoke-free life.”

The annual campaign is run by the British Heart Foundation (BHF) and encouraged one million smokers to make a quit attempt last year.

For more information and support to help you quit as well as an online forum where you can talk and get motivation and support from thousands of quitters, visit nosmokingday.org.uk
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tonybennett242@btinternet.com
Craven Concerns
By Craven District Councillor Lin Barrington
015242 61034 linbarrington@live.co.uk

Council Tax – Why?
Of every pound we pay, 10p goes to Craven District Council, 63p is passed on to the County Council, 13p to the Police, 4p to the Fire Service and 4p goes to the parish councils in North Yorkshire.

These organisations receive grants and/or other income, but this doesn’t cover all the costs of providing services, so the balance is made up by the Council Tax we pay. What Does Council Tax Pay For?

Here’s a broad-brush explanation of what the money is spent on. We all know more or less what the Police and Fire Service do, but what about the Councils? The County Council provides the following services:
• schools, children’s centres, children’s social care including adoption and fostering;
• adult social care services, adult education, youth services;
• libraries;
• roads and public rights of way;
• public transport and concessionary fares;
• street lighting;
• trading standards and consumer advice;
• registration of births, deaths and marriages;
• disposal and recycling of household waste;
• emergency planning.
• heritage and countryside management;
Craven District Council provides
* Planning services
* economic development support
* parking
* recreation and arts
* environmental health
* refuse collection
* housing benefit and housing services including emergency housing
Watching the Tour de France
It’s estimated that around a million spectators will view the event on each day!
On Saturday July 5th Stage One of the Grand Départ will start outside Leeds Town Hall. The route will pass through Harewood, Otley and Ilkley before entering Skipton. The route then passes through the Dales, via Threshfield, Kettlewell, Buckden and Hawes, then Muker, Reeth and Leyburn. It then goes from Masham to Ripon and then concludes at Harrogate. Stage One is around 190 km in total.

If you’re interested in the Tour, you may want to find a spot by the roadside to watch from, but many visitors will gravitate towards towns and villages where there will be additional activities and attractions. There will be spectator hubs at Skipton, Grassington, Kidstones, Leyburn and the Stage finish at Harrogate; they will offer live coverage of the race, refreshments and entertainment.

There will of course be road closures; you can find out when and where on the Welcome to Yorkshire website www.yorkshire.com by clicking on ‘le Tour Yorkshire’. While you’re on the website you could also click on the ‘Cultural Festival’ and see Bentham on the map for ‘Carnival Bentham by Bike’ on Saturday 31st May.
Losing A Friend I've Never Met

By Peter Phillips

Quite recently I lost a friend, a person who I never met but with whom I had corresponded and spoken to on the phone for six years. She was Elizabeth Pafford, born Elizabeth Ford, the daughter of Charles Ford of Ford Ayrton Silk Mill in Low Bentham. She lived at Sandy Croft, later named Ford House, from her birth in 1911 until her mother died in 1917 when she went to live with Marjorie Warner at Felstead. (Mrs Warner’s brother, George Sowerby was a manager at George Angus.)

She attended High Croft, a school in High Bentham run by Mrs Lamb and Miss Ralphs. After her father remarried she moved back to Sandy Croft. The family were Quakers and she went to the Meeting House at Calf Cop. Later she went to a Quaker school in York and was an early female student at Bedford College, part of London University, studying sociology.

Working in London as a medical secretary in Harley Street she met her husband, Jack, and spent the war there, Betty working for the Friends Ambulance Unit during the Blitz. They retired to Bridport, Dorset, and Betty moved to Bexhill in 2009.

She was still typing letters at 100 years old and in one she wrote “I cannot end these reminiscences without saying how happy my dear father would have been if he had known Bentham as it is now and so grateful he would have been to all who have made it like this”. She took out a subscription to Bentham News and enjoyed the Bentham Calendar. Learning of the threatened closure of Bentham Library she sent a donation to help in keeping it open and she was also generous to other Bentham institutions.

My connection with her came through my interest in the history of the Silk Mill. She was delighted when I contacted her and always spoke of her love of Bentham and Ingleborough in particular. Once she completed the Three Peaks walk. She quoted a poem in one letter –

“Pennyghent, Pendle Hill and Little Ingleborough,
You’ll never find such bonnie hills if you seek all England through”.

Sadly she died recently and her daughter Katherine Ford sent the following reminiscences:

“My mother, who has died aged 103, was born at Sandy Croft, Low Bentham and loved Bentham all her life. I remember her stories of going down to the village in a pony cart, crossing the fields to paddle in the river, cycling to Yealand, and of all the farmers coming to market in High Bentham.

I can also remember holidays in Sandy Croft in the 1950s; going down to see the mill (Ford Ayrton) humming with activity, and my grandfather who read from the Bible every morning before breakfast and had an old railway carriage as a workshop in the garden. I also remember visiting Miss Dowbiggin who lived in High Bentham and Will Bruce in Low Bentham who had worked at the mill.

We are coming up to inter Mum’s ashes at Calf Cop in the summer and I am very much looking forward to showing my husband and daughters the lively villages of High and Low Bentham and the beautiful country around.

Over the last five years Mum took great pleasure in reading the Bentham News and looking at the lovely photos in the Bentham Calendar which hung on her wall.”

Her spirit will remain in the hills and dales surrounding her beloved Bentham. I shall miss her letters.
Transport Survey

By Rebecca Hall

Dales Integrated Transport Alliance have created a Transport Hub within the Tourist Information Centre in Settle. This ensures that all aspects of local travel can be accessed and the team in the TIC is available to help with enquiries.

We now have funding to undertake a questionnaire aimed at asking everyone living in Settle and surrounding villages their views on existing services (gaps in services/new ideas etc). This is particularly important now the Pennine Bus Company has gone into liquidation.

We would encourage as many people as possible to complete the questionnaire online and don’t forget there is a prize of a one day pass for 4 on the Settle Carlisle line and the second prize is a return ticket for 2 on the Settle Carlisle line. Visit www.surveymonkey.com/s/settleTransportSurvey or collect a leaflet and questionnaire from Settle or Bentham T.I.C, in the Library, Post Office or the Low Bentham Victoria Institute. Entries to be submitted by 31st May 2014. You can also contact the Settle Tourist Information Centre on 01729 825192 or myself in the Town Hall, Settle.

Faster Than The Tour

By Nick Oldham

Visiting world-famous Tour de France cyclists will be facing some stiff competition in the speed league tables – Peregrine falcons. The birds have recorded speeds of more than 200 miles an hour, earning themselves the title of the fastest animals on the planet and once again, a pair is nesting in Malham Cove.

As in previous years, RSPB and Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority staff and volunteers will be manning a special, free viewing point where visitors can watch them through high-powered telescopes. The viewpoint will be open from Saturdays to Wednesday inclusive between 10:30am and 4:30pm (weather permitting) until August 2nd.
Dear Bentham News,

Thank you very much for your support of CARnival Bentham By Bike. Your support is much appreciated especially as this year we have achieved National and International coverage thanks to our inclusion in the Yorkshire Festival programme.

We need all the help we can get, and would like to thank everyone who has already donated time or money to this year’s event. As a small community we have set ourselves a big task, but let’s bring people to Bentham and show them what we can do.

Yours sincerely, Mike Redfern on behalf of CARnival Bentham Group.

Dear Bentham News Readers,

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who attended our Carwash on Saturday 29th March. We raised the fantastic amount of £365 for the Firefighters Charity. Many thanks to all our regular attendees and anonymous donors. See you all again in September.

Bentham Fire Station.

A request from Age Concern Bentham

If there is anyone out there who could give just one hour of their time on a Friday to give a talk or show a skill to the ladies and gentlemen who attend then you are just the person for us.

We are looking for some new ideas for talks or maybe you do rag rugs, painting, flower arranging or anything else just for half an hour to three quarters of an hour on Fridays. You would start at approximately 1pm. If you come at 12pm you would even get a very nice lunch and tea and biscuits afterwards. If you need more information please contact Christine Pearson on Bentham 62763. Thank you.

Wanted! Volunteers!

By Timothy Fox

The Farming Community Network needs people to walk alongside farmers and farming families who ask for help, to be a listening ear, to help them see what options are available to them, and to point them in the direction of ‘experts’ as necessary. Could this be you?

FCN has a definite Christian ethos, but responds to calls for help from anyone regardless of their beliefs.

FCN volunteers are organised mostly as county groups who include a coordinator who receives referrals and allocates cases to one of the group. The county group and the region offer support, advice and training to the volunteers and there is a comprehensive handbook.

Anyone interested in finding out more – call the FCN national office on 01788 510866, or e-mail mail@fcn.org.uk. Or ring Timothy Fox, 015242 62575.

FCN helpline – ring 0845 367 9990. Or email: chris@fcn.org.uk

Personal Thanks

Hello Bentham news,

I was wondering if it would be possible to use your magazine as way to say thank you to a group of people that stopped to help me after I spun my car off the road across Bentham moor on a Friday night in March. I would just like to say that I am extremely grateful for their help and support and for stopping on such a rubbish night when they all had better things to be doing. As one of the lovely people said "when things like this happen and people stop to help it really restores faith in mankind."

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A vacancy has arisen at the above almshouses and applications are invited from people of pensionable age who are residents of High and Low Bentham or with close Bentham connections.

Application forms and further details can be obtained from the Clerk and Trustee, Mr Ian Wood. Please ring 015242-62656 (evenings) or 07793281156 (mobile).
A simple pasta

By John-Francis Read, from 3 Borders Pantry

As I write this, half gazing out of the window and looking longingly at the sunshine, it is evident that spring and maybe even early summer is upon us. The weather is stunning!

It’s at times like these when my belly is rumbling, my thoughts often shift towards the Mediterranean. At least in a food sense anyway.

I want food that is fresh, with punchy summery flavours that will fill me up but not stick too keenly to my ribs. I want something warm for tea but something that will have me looking forward to the flavours of summer, not back to the wonderful winter ones. On these days, a good pasta dish usually hits the mark.

A good pasta dish is, to me, a wonderful thing. The trouble is making sure that it IS good.

Out of how many people’s mouths have you heard that eternal phrase? ‘I don’t like pasta!’ Usually delivered with belligerent pride.

We are not historically pasta eaters. Once we were not potato eaters either but look how well that caught on.

There are a few things that are vitally important when cooking pasta dishes. These can mean the difference between a resounding success and a complete disaster.

Firstly, DO NOT OVERCOOK YOUR PASTA. This is the main reason that pasta can be awful, and it truly can be.

Secondly, ALWAYS ADD COOKED PASTA TO THE PAN WITH THE SAUCE. Coat the pasta in the sauce instead of pouring sauce over a plate of plain pasta.

Follow the time guidelines on the packet of whichever pasta you choose and set a timer. Use a large pan and lots of furiously bubbling, well salted water (you won’t consume all this salt but you need it to make your pasta taste of something).

Don’t bother putting oil in the water as
is sometimes recommended. It is a waste of an expensive ingredient and isn’t really authentic. It shouldn’t stick together if you use enough water and stir it once after a minute or so.

Test the pasta a couple of minutes before the time is up. It should be cooked through but not mushy. Strain it, reserving a bit of the cooking water for later.

Whilst the pasta is cooking you can make the sauce. To feed four you will need:
1 large onion, diced
100g approx. salami / chorizo / pancetta / bacon etc.... diced, sliced or roughly chopped
4 cloves of garlic, roughly chopped
1 tbsp tomato purée
250g cherry tomatoes halved / equivalent diced regular tomatoes
1 tbsp wine vinegar
Fresh basil and /or parsley torn up
Extra virgin olive oil
Parmesan (optional)
Chilli flakes (optional)

A squeeze of lemon

1. Warm 3 tbsp of oil in a broad, deep frying pan on a medium heat. Add the salami or alternative. Cook for a few minutes stirring occasionally. Stir in the garlic and cook for a further minute without letting it brown.

2. Now add the onion and chilli (if using) and cook until it turns translucent, around 4-5 minutes. Add the vinegar and allow it to evaporate.

3. Add the tomato purée and cook for a further 3-4 minutes adding around 3-4 tbsp water or enough to turn it into a kind of 'dry sauce'.

4. Add the tomatoes, torn herbs, a couple of tbsp of the pasta water and a squeeze of lemon. Shake the pan then taste the sauce. Add salt to taste and a pinch of sugar and a glug of olive oil if it is too acidic.

5. Now add the pasta, stir through and serve immediately.

Salad and garlic bread make nice accompaniments. Bring on the sunshine!
Celebration Lunch

By John Bearpark, photograph by G.Townson

This year the annual Spring Lunch for committee members of the Lancaster & Skipton Rail User Group was a special one to mark the group’s 25th anniversary. The lunch was held as usual at the Brief Encounter buffet at Carnforth station and some of those involved in the founding of the group in 1989 came as guests.

The photograph above was taken under the famous clock at Carnforth station and shows four original members of the LAS-RUG committee back in 1989, after enjoying the 25th anniversary lunch – (left to right) Pam Warbrick, Colin Price, Jack Warbrick (first Chairman) and Margaret Cowling. Jack and Margaret are still members of the committee today.
Fresh Air!

By Zanna Dennis
If the photo inside the back page has intrigued you or whetted your appetite read on!

It’s not easy to explain exactly what Fresh Air! is about because it will change as the day progresses. But what we do know is that it is a brand new project that has been uniquely designed for Bentham, about Bentham and will be led by the community of Bentham. We invite you to be part of it!

As Fresh Air! is an inter-generational pilot project, we are asking anyone aged 8-88 years to come along. It’s absolutely free to take part! We’ll be working in and around Unit 2a, High Bentham Business Park from 10am – 5pm on Saturday 3rd May, mostly outdoors (unless the weather is extreme) so please do dress for the conditions.

Throughout the day you will have the opportunity to work with hop.skip.jump to explore and create dance and movement. And/or you can work with Art Locates Me on film making, photography and projection. Art Locates Me is a digital arts organisation based in Cumbria, and funding has been made available for this project from the Ideas Tap Innovators Fund.

Throughout the day you will have the opportunity to work with artists, teachers and choreographers to use ideas in response to our surroundings, landscape and community. You can have a go at any aspect of the work or just concentrate on one, it’s up to you. No previous experience is necessary.

It’ll be a fun and friendly day exploring the creative arts and a fantastic opportunity to experience working with high quality artists and meeting new people. Don’t miss out! Places are strictly limited and signing up is essential. So if you want to take part please contact me now (a.k.a. Skip) on 07896-133716 or email skip@hopskipjumpdance.org.uk

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**Bentham Film Group**

*By Stella Hall*

The film 'Twelve Years a Slave' (Cert12A) will be shown by Bentham Film Group on their BIG SCREEN at Bentham Town Hall on Friday 16th May 2014, commencing at 8pm.

Based on a true story about survival and slavery, this powerful Oscar-winning film relates how Solomon Northup, a New York State citizen, was kidnapped and made to work on a plantation in New Orleans in the 1800s. Steve McQueen directs, Chiwetel Ejiofor plays Solomon and Michael Fassbender, Brad Pitt and Benedict Cumberbatch co-star.

Tickets cost £5 on the door and there will be a raffle and refreshments in the interval. Everyone is welcome.

**4 for 4**

*Four things to do with your preschooler this month  
By Alice Ellwood*

Now that there is lots growing in the garden and parks, you could get little ones picking (selected) flowers. Even daisies and grass can be made into pretty patterns on the floor, popped into the holes of a colander for a table display or sorted for size, length, and colour.

Going to the beach on a sunny day, before the summer really starts, is good fun too. The different textures of sand and stones to pavements and floors is a great experience for children and walking over them helps to improve balance. If you want to get a bucket and spade out there is lots of fun to be had, but writing and drawing with a stick, or feeling the wet sand at the water’s edge can be just as good. Morecambe is one place where there is also a great path along the shore for learning to ride your bike on.

Sorting clothes for summer, holidays or spring cleaning are chances to dress up and acting out your favourite stories. The zips, buttons and poppers are great practice for little fingers too. Older children might be able to tell you what things are best for winter and need to be put away, or what the best clothes for holidays in different parts of the world might be. Fluffy hats for the arctic?

Make sand and water play more interesting by adding some simple toys, painted stones, cardboard cut out trees, building blocks or toy cars and encourage children to create different scenes and places. They could find the ‘treasure’ at the bottom and hide it away too.

**Clapham Exhibition**

*By Hilary Richmond*

An exhibition of around 80 new and original paintings using different media and in a variety of styles, is being held at Clapham Village Hall. There will also be a sketch book corner and mounted unframed pictures and cards will be on sale.

Open daily 11am - 6pm from Saturday 24th May to Sunday 1st June inclusive. Entry cost 50p and children are free.
They Saved The Settle Carlisle Line

By Josephine Shoosmith. Photograph, below, of Michael Portillo by Simon Vine

On Friday 11th April, over forty of the original campaigners who fought to save the Settle-Carlisle Railway in the 1980s were brought together for the first time on board a special anniversary train. Michael Portillo, who made the historic announcement that the line would remain open in 1989, also joined the celebrations along with representatives of the railway industry, tourism bodies and civic dignitaries.

A total of six hundred passengers travelled on board a Direct Rail Services train hauled by three diesel locomotives on a return journey between Leeds and Carlisle.

Richard Morris, Chairman of the Friends of the Settle-Carlisle Line said:

"Not only was this a fantastic occasion in its own right, but it was also a springboard for the future. It brought together many of those who were instrumental in saving the Line from closure 25 years ago and those in government and the rail industry today who will determine the shape of the S&C for the next 25 years. We look forward to working with them to give England's most scenic railway the trains and rail service that it deserves."

Michael Portillo, former Transport Minister and now well known for his television programmes featuring Great Railway Journeys, said: "It was a great day. It was moving to see the hills, bridges and stations filled with people. What joy that we have the line still!"

The Settle-Carlisle Railway is carrying more passengers than ever before in its history. There has been a tenfold increase in passengers since the 1980s, currently standing at 1.3 million a year. Completed in 1876, built by navvies through unforgiving terrain, the line is a testament to Victorian engineering. Railways in the UK were incredibly difficult to build yet became incredibly easy to close - until it came to the Settle-Carlisle.

More information about the Settle-Carlisle Railway can be found at www.settle-carlisle.co.uk.
Bentham School Report  
By Catherine Boocock, Headteacher  
As the clocks spring forward, so does the academic year. April sees us launch into our Summer Term, which for some children will be their last term here at High Bentham C P School before they continue with their educational journey with Settle College or the Queen Elizabeth School (QES) at Kirkby Lonsdale. However, the next academic year will also be different for our other children here at the school, as we will hopefully be occupying our fabulous new school premises from January 2015. I genuinely hope that residents and visitors alike have enjoyed ‘peeping’ through the windows that Parkinsons have provided in the external fencing to the site.

The month of March proved to be as busy as ever for the school, with year 5 children participating in a residential visit to Bewerley Park. As with all residential visits no two experiences are ever the same, and this year’s group of ten boys and nine girls proved the rule. We are proud to be able to say that High Bentham School children are a staff favourite at Bewerley outdoor centre because apparently they make the most of every experience and have a ‘go for it’ attitude to absolutely everything. The infamous ‘Leap of Faith’ was once again conquered, and the rock scrambling, canoeing, orienteering, high ropes, low ropes, shelter building, night walk, games room and ‘hanging in the dorm’ experiences will be remembered forever by the children. It is all a memory making package!

Meanwhile year 3 and 4 children abandoned school for a couple of days to participate in their residential at Malham Cove. Whilst the weather may have proved a little disappointing for the children, it did nothing to dampen their mood. They all braved the inclement weather and achieved their four mile sponsored walk, battling against the elements and leaking waterproof garments!

During May our year 6 children will also be given the opportunity to experience a City Break in York, whilst Class 2 will be

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visiting the Gazegill Organic Dairy. Class 3, not wanting to miss out, will be visiting Ingleborough Nature Reserve, so April and May are already looking like they will be just as busy as March!

Our sporting achievements so far this year, have also given staff and children cause for celebration. On the track, Olivia Robinson and Kira-Paris Ryan took part in the Cross Country Running Regional Finals at Catterick Racecourse – both girls qualifying for this major event through their success at previous cross-country running events. Our sporting teams also do our school and community proud.

At the Johnny Walker Festival of Rugby which took place on the 14th March at Giggleswick Primary School, our TAG Rugby Team made up of Korben Coates, Travis Taylor, Seth Johnson, Olivia Robinson, Evie Slinger, Josh Park-Lea, George Tuohy, Becky Abbott and Joe Edwards were a credit to the school, and for their efforts were awarded ‘Fair Play’ award of the whole Festival.

Interviews for an Assistant Head took place on the 12th March at Ghyll Head Farm house (thank you to Mrs Esther Bate- son). There was an exceptional standard of applicants, and congratulations go to the successful candidate, Miss Claire Pearson, who will be joining us from September 2014.

Thanks again to our Governors for their continued support of the school, and we welcome onto the Board Mr Richard Bulger and Mr Aaron Robshaw, both of whom join as Parent Governor representatives. Thank you also goes to our wonderful PTF.

On Friday 16th May 2014 from 6:30pm there will be a Bottle Bingo event here in the School Hall. Everyone is more than welcome to come along and join in the fun. Our annual Summer Fair has been scheduled for Saturday 28th June. This year’s theme for the Fair is ‘Tour de France’. Finally, can I just remind parents that we still have places available in our excellent Nursery. For more information please contact the school on 015242 61412.
Bentham Juniors Football Club

By Lynne Askew

Well it’s that time of year again and Bentham Juniors held their annual Easter Chocolate Bingo Night at the Town Hall on the 5th April. Everyone who came had an egg-citing night, with many prizes on offer. On behalf of the committee, we would like to thank all the businesses in Bentham who donated either chocolate eggs or raffle prizes. There were some amazing ones this year. A huge thank you goes to Lynne and Mel for organising this event. Without their team efforts we would be lost! Also to say a big Thank You to Phil, for doing a brilliant job of the bingo calling and for being the DJ, everyone had a comical night. Here’s to another year of fundraising.

On the practical side, if you have a child who likes playing football but can’t find a team, then we at Bentham Juniors would be interested. We currently train an U10s team on a Saturday morning at Bentham Playing Fields 9.30 – 11am. Please contact either Phil 015242 62800/07834628370 or Lynne 015242 63055 or 07530791514 for more details.

We also have a vacancy for a club secretary or if you can help by being part of our committee, then please contact us on the above numbers for more details. You can also find us on facebook.

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Something Familiar
By John Neal

Neither hill
Nor mountain,
It rests, reclines.
Craggy face,
Sleek body,
Back legs
Tucked under.
Waiting, watching,
West not east.
Disdaining dales -
Too tame perhaps.
Or fondly guarding
Their well-being.
Sentry, a look-out,
With watchful
Warning stare
Towards distant
Fells, mountains,
Far West.
No danger
From there, yet.
Or yearning
To be in that
Grand vista.
Over there,
Where sun sets
And snow falls
And waters gather.
No, just here;
Here is respect.
And cloud and mist
For Ingleborough
To snooze in.
Lion’s head,
Pride of Lune.

Pioneer Projects
By Sean Sanderson

Pioneer Projects runs OWN NOW, a project that works with those with dementia to do creative arts in a safe and supportive environment. We have sessions in Bentham, Settle and Skipton. We had a successful Symposium (like an open day) last month in Skipton with over 90 professionals in the field of health and care attending. We showed films of our work, highlighting how working with arts brings confidence, pleasure and a chance to meet others.

Presentations were made by Clive Parkinson, Director of Arts for Health at Manchester Metropolitan University and Claire Craig, Senior Research Fellow at Sheffield Hallam University. The films and presentations can be seen on our website. www.pioneerprojects.org. For more information ring me on 015242 62672 or email sean@pioneerprojects.org.uk
New Players Needed Or We’re Snookered: Calling All Billiards and Snooker Players

By Stuart Mortimer

For several years there has been a billiards and snooker group playing on the table situated in The Victoria Institute.

Now the Institute committee has imposed a very substantial increase in the rent paid by the group (more than double) for the use of the room. The new level of rent is unsustainable with the present level of group income raised from the lights time clock.

In order to survive, more use of the table is needed and what is required are new players to join and play, or some of the present members who do not currently use the facility, to come and do so. We have a lot of fun so come and join in.

Anyone interested please phone the Institute on 015242 63162.
What are the hop.skip.jump dance collective up to? And why is it called Fresh Air?!

Bentham’s own Zanna Dennis and her two friends, Sarah Hall and Sarah Jane Lockwood, have been awarded grant funding to combine dance and digital photography in surprising and exciting ways to explore aspects of life in Bentham. And all this is happening on Saturday 3rd May from 10am to 5pm in the perhaps unlikely venue of Unit 2a in High Bentham Business Park.

To take part ring Zanna now on 07896 133716. Or come and see what they’ve created in a short performance at 4:15pm. Read more on page 39.
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