

BENTHAM NEWS



A New Lake Appears In Bentham

By Shirley Brown

This tranquil, attractive scene is deceptive. This new lake along the Low Bentham Road appeared between 4th, 5th and 6th December, when Storm Desmond hit Bentham. For two days and nights the heavy rain, gales and strong winds never stopped, bringing floods, collapsed roads and destruction to our town. Because we had had heavy rainfall for a week or so, fields were already saturated and the Wenning was full to bursting when the storm arrived. People who have lived in Bentham for many generations, say this is the worst storm they have ever experienced, and we have included photos and stories of Bentham after the storm on pages 2, 3 and 4 to reflect the severity of what happened in our town. Thanks to the many people who sent in their photographs.

January 2016

Issue 351



River Heights

Environment Agency website

The Wenning at Bentham Bridge reached 2.79m on 5.12.15. A record. Previous highest was 2.47m and the usual level is between 0.35 and 1.14m. The Wenning at Low Bentham reached 3.04m. Previous highest recorded was 2.46 and the usual level is between 0.51 and 1.20m.



A tree across the B6480 top, the Wenning at Greystonegill and below the River Wenning bursting its banks and the river at Low Bentham. Pictures by Shirley Brown, Peter Phillips, Iain Henshaw and David Channing.





The B6480 collapsed between Benthams and Wennington. The road is closed 'Until Further Notice' as major repairs will be required to the banking and the highway; (the gas pipe for Benthams is clearly seen floating in the flood water!) work which will not be attempted until March at the earliest. This is causing a great deal of inconvenience to road transport and means that many people are now by-passing Benthams, which is of concern to residents and businesses alike.



The Bridge at the Punch Bowl, above. The Car Park was under water which was up to the wall of the outbuilding. Left Wenning below Linghaw .



Wade in the Water: A Personal Account

By Howard Matthew

It all began on Saturday morning. We were getting ready to spend a weekend in the Lake District and I was making breakfast. Suddenly there was the sound of anxious knocking on the front door. It was one of our neighbours whose kitchen was being flooded and had noticed that our back yard was covered in water.

It didn't take long to realize that the water was rising quickly towards our back door. We rang the Fire Service who were there within minutes and began pumping water from the yard. The flood was caused by water backing up through the drain, and as we found out later, due simply to the

volume of rainwater. Luckily Gareth Adams appeared from nowhere with a pile of sandbags which were placed in strategic positions. The Firefighters were brilliant and pumped the yard clear but by this time the water had reached the house and had flooded both the lounge and diner kitchen.

The Firefighters had to leave on other calls so I looked in on some of our neighbours who were desperately pumping and diverting water. When I got back the yard had filled up again, and water was pouring into our neighbour's kitchen, so we called the Fire Service. This time we had a crew from Ripon, again they worked hard and although they couldn't stop the flow of water they opened a sewage inspection hatch which prevented the water reaching too high a level in the yard.

By teatime there was little else we could do. We marked the water levels on the walls for insurance purposes (around 8 inches) and then moved upstairs. When I returned Liz was listening to the news on her tablet I heard the words Lancaster. "Is that the local news?" I said, "No the National. The Prime Minister is coming to visit the affected areas". I made a mental note to check we had enough biscuits.

On Monday it all went crazy, the phone never stopped ringing with some local people kindly offering us help and support. Then there were the visitors. Insurance Companies, Risk Assessors, delivery men with humidifiers, plus visits from United Utilities and the Flood Emergency Team.

By this time the water had gone down. We just needed to get away for a while so we rang my sister-in-law in Morecambe. "Forget it" she said, "the power's off, the shops are shut, the roads are flooded and all the bridges across the Lune are closed".

Now things are slower but we still have work to do, making lists of damaged belongings, filling in claims forms and arranging Christmas. It's going to take some time to get back to how we were, if we ever do.

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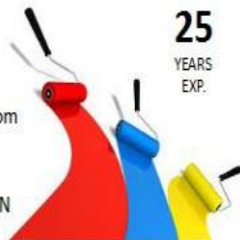
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A Tribute to the Life of Mary West

(part of the eulogy at Mary's funeral by Revd. Bryan Yardy)

By Jane Proctor

Mary was born on the 26th September 1930 to John and Mary Sutton. The family home was Lawsings Farm, Clapham where Mary grew up with her two sisters Agnes and Annie, and her brother John. Mary helped out on the farm from an early age.

Mary's childhood was during the turbulent years of World War Two - and one lasting memory she shared was of a German airship once going over the farm, quite a spectacle for a young child. Of course, rationing was the order of the day then - and Mary said that the thing she missed most was sugar - which is not surprising as everyone knows that Mary had a very sweet tooth!!!

Mary attended Eldroth School, walking there with her brother and sisters. Mary recalled that, because of the war all the children in the school were taught how to make their own clothes. It was there she learned to knit - a skill she continued throughout her life - making baby clothes for the new arrivals in the family and also for friends.

Mary left school, as most people did in those days, at the age of 14 and continued working on the family farm. Those were the days of horse power, but when the farm acquired a tractor - Mary was the first person to have a go in it - and, according to her brother John, Mary was the best tractor driver in Clapham.

Mary worked at Lawsings until getting married and then moved to Grove Cottages in Bentham.

Mary's first job upon arrival in Bentham, at Campbell Hatcheries, was very brief. She started work - turning the eggs to keep them warm. No smoking was allowed- but Mary, and some other workers, would often sneak off up in the attic for a crafty cig. One



day they were up there and Mary lost her footing on the rafters - and came crashing down through the ceiling. Feathers flew everywhere and that was the end of that job. Mary was a hard worker, and it did not take long for her to get another job.

Those who know Mary will remember that her main line of work was in the pubs of Bentham. She was a barmaid at The Royal Oak Hotel (now Turners), also at The Brown Cow (now the Coach House), and finally she worked as a stewardess at Bentham Club - where she became a life-long honorary member.

It was while the Brown Cow was being renovated and changing over to the Coach House that Mary received her nickname 'Mary Mop'. She had a tightly permed hair-do and one of the builders renovating the pub spotted her with mop in hand and said, "Eee, you can't tell the difference from yer head to yer mop!" And the name 'Mary Mop' has stuck ever since.

Mary loved her family. She had three children, Angela, Mick and Michelle, seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren and Christmas was always a special time of the year for her. All the grandkids would look forward with eager anticipation to the big day when Mary

would literally turn up on the doorstep with bin bags stuffed full of presents for everyone. And, although never the best of cooks, her Christmas trifles were famous and will be missed by all the family.

It's true that Mary was quite a clumsy person – and she would be the first person to say so herself. It is told that on one occasion Mary decided to wash out her wheelie bin, and during the process she somehow slipped and fell inside – and then ended up rolling all the way down the garden in it!!!

Other than knitting Mary had other interests and hobbies to keep her occupied. She loved her garden, and always had Jack Russell dogs to keep her company. Mary also bred pigeons. By all accounts she was a very keen pigeon racer, but most of all Mary loved people.

You would find her at the Town Hall coffee mornings every Saturday (winning all the raffle prizes); you would find her playing bingo at the club; you would find her every Friday at Age Concern - enjoying the company of other folk; you would find her playing dominoes at Welcome-In on Thursdays at the Methodist Chapel; on Wednesdays you would find her at the Chapel coffee morning too. Mary was also a part of the congregation at Bentham Methodist Church - attending Sunday services and always supporting chapel functions or events.

If something was going off in Bentham – Mary would be there supporting the event. So it's not surprising that everybody in Bentham knew Mary West.

So, as we say farewell to Mary we hold in our hearts these memories and qualities of Mary – someone who said it as it was and could chat for England; but also a loving, caring soul who would do anything for anybody.

I'm sure you will all agree Bentham has lost one of its best loved treasures in Mary West.



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January Gardening

By Joyce Knapp

In the December issue of Bentham News, I mentioned using gardening



as a means of reducing stress in the run up to the festive period. Now that the holidays are over, we can again use it to our benefit, not only as a means of shifting any extra pounds we may have gained over the holidays, but also to lift our spirits on these short winter days.

The best place to start is probably to just walk around our garden and take a good look at what has survived the battering it received during the relentless storms in December, assessing any damage and considering which plants will now need replacing. Most of the perennial plants should be alright as they have developed ways of surviving the harsh winter months, usually by dying back to below ground level and only starting into re-growth when spring arrives. It could be that some of our trees and shrubs have taken a battering but many of them can be saved by ensuring that the roots are firmly in the ground, to stop them toppling over and to reduce damage to the roots from frost. We can then proceed by removing any damaged or split stems, cutting them back either to a new, well-placed side-shoot, or bud or right back to where they join the main stem, making a clean, straight cut.

Once we have dealt with any storm damage, we can remove remaining weeds and fallen leaves and rake or fork over the soil. It is a good idea to check for, and dispose of, any slugs that tend to be found lurking amongst the debris, especially where there is much moisture. Snails, on the other hand, are usually to be found clinging to dry surfaces, especially under ledges in stone structures and these too can be disposed of, reducing the incidence of damage to our precious garden plants next summer.

One last task for January. Those of us who aim to grow some of our own food this year could begin to plan what to grow and decide what seeds to buy. The best place to start is by thinking what we most enjoy eating! Happy gardening and Happy New Year. ©

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December Town Council

By Jane Proctor and Howard Matthew

Although these are not the minutes of the meeting held on 14th December 2015, hopefully they are factually correct. The length of the meeting reflected the meaty topics under discussion by Cllrs. Adams, Bridgeman, Cowling, Marshall, Pritchard, Stannard, Townson and Vendy. CCLlr David Ireton and DCllr Linda Brockbank were also in attendance.

The "Drop in" session had been attended by a number of Burton-in-Lonsdale residents requesting the council to reconsider its views on the Waterside Potteries planning application. It will take a request from four councillors for this to happen, and no decision on this was taken at the meeting.

CCLlr Ireton spoke briefly about the rain-water leaks at the new school describing the new build as a "disaster", and the town council were concerned at the short notice given to parents that the school was closed on 7th December. The matter will be pursued with the governing body.

North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) is waiting to hear from central government about their settlement, but is expecting funds to be very tight going forward. This added to the town council's fury over what is seen as a waste of resources in NYCC's attempt to repair the road at Lanefoot. Since work started in October some 300 tonnes of washed limestone, intended to divert the flow of the river, have been washed away, and in the last few weeks only a few days work has been achieved. A job, which was originally scheduled to take 8 weeks, will now not be completed until the end of January 2016 at the earliest. Councillors felt it was a pity the workforce could not have been deployed in cleaning clogged up ditches and drains whilst they were unable to work on the river banking.

Concern was also expressed about the effect of the closure of the B6480 on Bentham's trade as traffic now effectively bypasses the town. Pressure will be kept on

Lancashire County Council to effect repairs as soon as possible.

DCllr Brockbank reported on Craven District Council's plans for future house building. Over the next 15 years, apart from Skipton, Bentham will have the greatest growth in housing in Craven with 483 new residences to add to the existing 1514. Curiously though Craven's plans for the town do not include any employment land, which caused concern for the town council as the area's economic growth depends on developing local employment opportunities. As part of the "Spatial Planning" exercise local residents proposed an area of land to the east of Station Road and north of the railway as a special Local Green Space. When the plans are formally published the time for response to Craven's Local Plan is likely to be minimal with final decisions being made in March 2016 which will shape the future of our town into the 2030s.

Whilst the number of residents is set to increase the social infrastructure for them may shrink. Much of the council's meeting was taken up with the future of Bentham Library. NYCC are to close the existing library in 2017 and there were impassioned pleas from both Friends of Bentham Library (FoBL) and CCLlr Ireton for the town council not to let the town lose its library facilities forever. It was pointed out the library with its 400 users is more than just a book borrowing facility and also provides classes for computer skills, access to the internet, reading challenges, story times, family history (continued overleaf)

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research and much more. Leaving the library in the existing building was considered too expensive, but discussions are ongoing about an alternative venue. The town council felt unable to make an actual commitment without a firm proposal on the table but did resolve to support the continuation of a library facility in Bentham and would be prepared to make a financial commitment. This is work in progress for FoBL.

The recent floods were discussed, with 5th December seeing the Fire Service receive 36 calls from the Bentham area in one hour. 300 sandbags were used, without which the flooding in Wenning Avenue would have been much worse. If you want to return sandbags please contact Cllr Adams.

Town Council

Planning Matters

Planning applications received

1. Proposed kitchen and bedroom extension at Lingstead, 3 Springfield, High Bentham
2. Replacement porches at 1 – 9 Collingwood Terrace, Mount Pleasant, High Bentham.

Planning applications granted since last town council meeting

1. Listed building consent for internal works to subdivide an existing church to provide 2 dwellings at St Margaret's Church, Station Road, High Bentham
2. Two additional touring caravan pitches at Lowther Hill Caravan Park, Clapham Road, Bentham
3. Outline application for the development of 4 dwelling houses, all matters reserved except access, on land at Greenfoot Lane, Low Bentham

Planning applications refused since the last town council meeting

1. Installation of a solar farm and associated infrastructure (with a potential capacity of 3.8MW of electricity at its peak) Resubmission, on land at Ravensclose Brow, Low Bentham
2. Interior subdivision of existing church into 2 dwellings, with additional drainage to septic tank at St Margaret's Church, Station Road, High Bentham

Want To Talk To Your MP?

By Rowena Garton

If you want to talk to your MP, Julian Smith, he'll be holding surgeries at Bentham Town Hall and at the Victoria Hall in Settle on Friday 29th January. These are his only surgeries in this area until mid-March, so if you want to make an appointment please contact 01756-795898, or email julian.smith.mp@parliament.uk.

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High Bentham

By Jill Noble

It was a wild and wintery evening on 3rd December when members of High Bentham WI braved the elements to join their friends for a Christmas meal. The Coach House Bentham welcomed our group into a warm and cosy dining room where the friendly staff served a delicious festive feast. Good food and good company, a combination that made for a very pleasant evening that was enjoyed by all. Sadly Father Christmas was otherwise engaged with his own celebrations, but our very own, colourful president Sue Camacho, stepped into his boots and shared out presents.

A happy new year to all our members and we look forward to meeting throughout 2016 with new members and guests always welcome. We start the new year off on Thursday 7th January at 7.30pm in the lower room of the Town Hall with something to brighten those dark evenings, "Colourful Cuba" with Cecile Nock.

Low Bentham

By Pam Warbrick

The second half of November gave us inspiration for Christmas catering when we visited Long Preston W.I. They had invited Federation Chairman, Julie Clarke, and her sidekick, Anne Harrison of Denman College, to give a festive food demonstration. Stuffed partridges, salmon parcel, pasta primavera and mustard-glazed roots were put together amid their lively banter. Sweets such as Black Forest gâteau, Bakewell tart and mango-and-raspberry chocolate heaven completed the menu. The dishes were divided and raffled off, giving a dozen or so of us an added bonus at the end of an entertaining afternoon.

At the speaker's meeting on November 19th Major Watkins of the Salvation Army gave us a full account of his working life. 23 years working for BT, then his calling, together with his wife, to train as an ordained minister and commissioned officer within their church. He said that the financial sacrifices they had made meant nothing when compared with the sense of fulfilment they had gained in their service. He told us about the Army's many practical humanitarian



projects over the years, from General Booth's promotion of the safety match to stop workers in the match factories suffering from phosphorous poisoning to assisting alcoholics and the dispossessed and, more recently, finding secure refuges for people who have been trafficked for slave labour and prostitution.

At Burton-in-Lonsdale church on December 6th the theme of the group's Christmas service was hopefulness. Our contribution was a reading by Jacqui van Ryssel of 'A Letter from Egypt' by Moira Andrew, an expression of Mary's thankfulness as a homeless refugee for the gifts she and her child had received and her consequent hope. Jacqui was prompted in her choice of reading this year by having seen the impromptu town of refugees' shanties at Calais on a recent Channel crossing.

We would be very happy to welcome new members to our AGM on 21st January 2016, when a Jacob's join supper will be provided by members of the committee. If you are thinking of giving the W.I. a go, why not come along for a chat and a free supper?

Tatham Fells

By Mary Taylor

Members of Tatham Fells Women's Institute had a very enjoyable party at Bentham Golf Club on Tuesday evening, 8th December. We all raised our glasses in a toast to the late Eileen Dafforn, a valued WI member who died recently aged 95. Eileen was a founder member almost 40 years ago, a past president and a committee member for many years.

President Margaret McIntosh presented the year's competition prizes to Jenny Herd and to runners up Carole Butcher and Olive Beard and all exchanged Christmas gifts of a Christmas tree ornament. After dinner four teams, one for each table, all in the party spirit, tried to solve several competitions compiled by Brenda Burrow. Following much good-humoured discussion and singing of Christmas carols to remember the second lines, Ann Dawson's table won by a small margin.

Your Letters

Dear Bentham News

I would like to add a few details following Shirley Brown's interesting contribution (December issue p40) about the letters exchanged between the famous mountaineer George Mallory and Eleanor Marjorie Holmes, a teacher at Bentham Council School.

Somebody drew my attention to the Daily Telegraph article just after it was published and I was puzzled because I found it hard to believe that the Miss Holmes I have had described to me (the lady who features in the photograph), with the Miss Holmes described in the Telegraph article! It just did not seem to fit!

Nowadays schools are no longer required to keep a log book (a diary and record of events occurring at a school) but the value of these records is demonstrated here. We are fortunate that all the log books for High Bentham School C.P. have been retained by the school.

The log books show that in 1911 High Bentham Mixed Council School was divided into two departments. There was an Infant department where Miss Mary Holmes was the Headteacher. This was located in what we know today as the Town Library and there was a Junior Department under the leadership of Charles Frederic Birchall in the other part of the school.

Looking at the log books for that period it is a curious coincidence that there were two Miss Holmes working at the school. Mary Holmes served as an assistant teacher and later a much respected Headteacher of the infants department between 1901 and 1929. Eleanor Marjorie Holmes, the lady described in the Telegraph article, served as a probationary teacher from 3rd September 1923 in the Junior department with Mr Birchall and terminated her contract on 3rd September 1924.

Mallory died on Everest on either June



8th or 9th 1924. Did his death prove too much for her to bear and prompt her to leave her teaching post and look for a new life elsewhere? That's another piece of research for somebody.

David Johnson, Low Bentham



Eleanor Marjorie Holmes

Dear Bentham News

Metal Detectorist Needed!

Is there anyone out there who could help us find a missing drain at Bentham Station? Following the BBC4 series 'The Detectorists', which has recently finished, it occurred to us that, though it might not be as exciting as searching for a Viking hoard, maybe someone with a metal detector could help us out? If you think you might be able to help, please give us a call at Bentham Station on 015242 98940 or e-mail me at linbarrington@live.co.uk

Thank you

Lin Barrington, Low Bentham

Dear BN

If you'd like to know why your Council Tax will increase in April, look no further than the lay-by on Dumb Tom's Lane.

The Bentham Volunteer Litter Gang had a Christmas lunch together to celebrate our achievements. (You'll have seen our on-the-job photographs published in several previous editions of BN). Celebrate is the wrong word; the meal was rather to mark the fact that over time, we had collected and dispatched 100 sacks of litter, laboriously scavenged from the verges around our town.

You may imagine our disgust at seeing that this lay-by, which we have cleaned up twice in recent years, has now become a small land-fill site, disfigured with old tyres, cement, tiles, broken paving slabs, a heap of soggy cardboard and sundry bits of plastic.

We will of course take it upon ourselves to report it, and CDC will send a couple of men and a pick-up truck to clear it up, adding the bill to our collective council tax. If you're reading this, you're almost certainly not guilty, but please note that fly-tipping and littering are criminal offences and so are punishable in the courts.

Our thanks and appreciation to all the drivers who give us a toot as they pass us while we're litter picking! It's very encouraging, but let's make it a new year resolution to Keep Bentham Tidy and so put us out of a job.

Anthony Smith

Brosnan Quiz

By Helen Handford

We would like to thank everyone for taking the time to enter our Brosnans Baubles and Bells Competition in December. There were 150 items in total in the 4 jars. The lucky winners with the nearest guesses were:-

First Prize: Simon Ward (149)

Second Prize: Ian Sedgewick (142)

Third Prize: Mavis Denby (160)

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Star Quiz answers by Judith Johnson

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Lest We Forget - Charley Gordon Eccles

Word by Allan Hartley

Research by Marilyn Hartley



Charley was born at Lynwood in Lower Darwen on 19th April 1888 the son of Richard [JP] and Jean Eccles.

By 1901 the family had moved from Darwen to St Annes on the Sea which is where Charley started his education, first at Sandy Knoll Primary School in St Annes then making a natural progression to Rossall School [www.rossall.org.uk] in Fleetwood where, being a keen athlete, he played in the school football and cricket teams, leaving the school in 1907 and then finally completing his education at Kings College Worcester.

After graduation he first worked at Lloyds Bank in Manchester, accepted for a job at Bhicampore in India where he worked for a couple of years 1910-12, for Mr Richardson on a sugar plantation. Charley did well in India and served as a volunteer in the Behar Light Horse. Charley then moved to the Malay States in 1913 being employed as an Estate Manager on a rubber plantation for Messrs Guthrie Company based in London.

At the outbreak of the war Charley came home immediately to enlist, receiving a commission with the Queens Own Royal West Kent Regiment on Boxing Day 26th December 1914. After Officer training he went out with his regiment as part of the British Expeditionary Force in October 1915 with whom he served up to July 1916 leaving just in time before the onslaught of the Battle on the Somme began. During this period aviation was coming to the fore and Charley made a successful application to train as a pilot with the Royal Flying Corp at Netheravon and Upavon.

Charley got his WINGS in December 1916 and was immediately posted to France in January 1917, being on active service until April when he got some respite and managed to secure some home leave¹ before returning to France and the Front at the end of April.

Being an experienced pilot² he was transferred to the 41st Squadron and promoted to Flight Commander where he flew many dangerous missions as a Scout Commander in sin-

gle seated aeroplane made almost entirely of wood and stretched canvas cloth. On the 25th May flying another mission he was shot out of the sky by cannon fire from the ground receiving a direct hit falling out of control and crashing near the German Front Line. Charley did not survive.

His commanding officer wrote " Lieutenant Eccles was most splendid, NCO's and men would do anything for him, he was immensely popular for the best reasons. He was a Flight Commander who was tremendously reliable. He was also not only a most efficient Officer, but a brave and gallant pilot. We have all lost a true friend." Another wrote "Absolutely intrepid, he died a hero's death".

Charley's body was recovered and he is buried in Flanders at the Messines Ridge British Cemetery, Belgium, Grave II F.20.

A memorial service was held in November at St Margaret's Church High Bentham with the Rev G.C.H. Bartley officiating commenting that a finer young man you couldn't wish to meet.

Charley is commemorated on the memorial plaque on Station Road in the middle of the centre left hand column, the Roll of Honour at St Margaret's Church and on the Worcester Kings College WWI Memorial, and the Worcester Cathedral commemorative window.

Charley was the 18th Bentham man to be killed, he was 29.

Sadly we do not have a picture of Charley.

1. *The Craven Herald* reported that Charley was on home leave at the end of February 1916 for two weeks at Chesham [Mount Pleasant] High Bentham. Given Charley's career history and service overseas prior to the war we are not sure of what connection Charley had with Bentham as a whole. It is possible that his parents moved to Bentham whilst Charley was at Rossall School or maybe when Charley was overseas. Given the Eccles' family history as mill owners we think Charley's parents moved to Bentham to work at the Wenning Mill High Bentham but we don't know. What we do know is that Charley's father was also in the army as Capt RH Eccles, also in the Queens Own Royal West Kent Regt up to the end of 1917 when his address is given as Melrose, Roxburghshire from where his mother originated.

2. *The expected length of service as a pilot flying continuous missions during the First World War was two weeks.*

Bentham People page

Charity Thanks

Butterbergh Christmas Lights.

We would like to thank everyone who braved the appalling weather for the "Butterbergh Lights Big Switch On". We had a brilliant time, raising £106.24 for Goodenber Play Area. We would also like to thank our brilliant neighbours, who, every year, join in with our mad cap ideas!! A special big thanks to Ewan and Father Christmas, who between them made the evening more eventful!!

Viki & Paul

Bentham Methodist Church thanks everyone who supported our Christmas Fair which raised £860, our best total to date. Many thanks and kind regards, best wishes for A Happy New Year.

The Bentham Line Dancers held their Christmas party with a Jacob's Join at the Looking Well on December 10th.

After we had all tucked into the lovely offerings we held a raffle and raised £21 to add to the "pot" for a charity (to be announced). Everyone then danced the calories off!

Thank you to all of you for my lovely flowers. Your support and friendship is very much appreciated.

Jenny Durrant

Personal

New Year Wishes

Kay and Frank Piper wish all their friends in Bentham a "Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year. God bless you all."

Rowena Brayshaw wishes to send all her friends and neighbours a happy and peaceful New Year 2016.

Howard and Liz Matthew would like to thank all those people who offered help and support when their house was flooded on Saturday 5th December. In particular Councillor Gareth Adams, The Fire and Rescue Crews from Bentham and Ripon and Disaster Care Platinum.

Coffee Morning We have been asked to help out and hold a coffee morning on Saturday 9 January 10am-12noon due to a cancellation. Usual stalls—cakes, tombola,

raffle. Happy New Year. Also—we are holding a Jumble Sale on Saturday 27th February 12–1pm in the Bentham Methodist Church Room and would be grateful for your jumble. Many thanks

Sarah Wallbank, Chair of The Friends of Tatham Fells C of E Primary School

General help needed by disabled lady, Ingleton. Two hours weekly. 015242 41328.

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Choosing The *Fitness* Right Personal **FiX** Trainer

By Andy Mouncey from
Fitness Fix in the

icentre, Ingleton 07799 063115 with Andy Mouncey
andy@bigandscaryrunning.com

Window Shopping

You only really get to know someone by spending time with them and you should do the same choosing a trainer. This is because your success will depend on how well you both get on as well as the technical skills and knowledge the trainer will bring to the party. These days you can do your homework on-line in advance but there is no substitute for getting up close and personal. E.g. can you meet them first without fee or obligation and do they take a class where you can go and see them at work?

Know (At Least Something) Of What You Want

Relax - most folks don't go into this with a full person specification for their trainer of choice but it helps to have at least some idea of what you're after: male or female, younger or older, with family, into the latest tech or more old school, someone who looks toned or are you not that bothered, someone who works out of a gym - or not?

A Little Bit Like You

It helps if they are a bit like you. Laugh at the same things you laugh at, think a bit like you and value similar stuff. Why? Because people like people who are (a bit) like them - and if you like each other there is more chance that the professional

relationship will work.

Get The Mountain To Come To Mohammed

Some trainers won't advertise widely because they don't need to. So ask around, ask on-line, or even place your own 'Desperately Seeking...' local advert.

Qualification Is Something - But Not Everything

Sure you want someone who is professionally qualified and insured, and you should ask to see evidence of this, but that's only part of the story. The truly effective trainers will have honed their craft over years so they can do more with less and make it more interesting more often.

Horse To Water

Getting value from your trainer is in the end down to you. You should expect homework and you have to do it. You will spend most of your week without your trainer and it's what you do when teacher is away that will make the most difference.

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Bentham Film Group

By Stella Hall

Our first film of the New Year to be shown in High Bentham Town Hall on Friday 15th January at 8pm will be A Little Chaos (2014, Cert R).

Directed by, and starring, Alan Rickman, this romantic drama follows Sabine (Kate Winslet), a talented landscape designer, as she helps to build a project in the garden at the yet-to-be completed Palace of Versailles for the Sun King, Louis XIV. Having little time for the classical, ordered designs of the man who hires her, the famous architect Andre Le Notre, (Matthias Schoenaerts) she manages to overcome the challenges she meets.

As usual, the film starts at 8pm and tickets cost £5 on the door.

There will be a raffle and refreshments in the interval.



tim wheildon

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Craven District Council

Craven Concerns

By D.Cllr Linda Brockbank

Cllr.LBrockbank@Cravendc.gov.uk

Tel: 015242-61598

Local Plan For New Homes

CDC has agreed a target of 5,120 new homes across Craven between 2012 and 2032. The majority of these will be concentrated in the three market towns of Skipton, Settle and Bentham, with Bentham having to accommodate 483 new homes over the next 17 years, at a preferred rate of 28 per year. 40% of houses on new developments over a certain size must be affordable. Currently there are 1,514 homes in the parishes of Low and High Bentham, and the actual sites and type of new houses has yet to be agreed. Consultants have produced a Strategic Housing Market Assessment which says that by 2032, even after building 154 houses per year, Craven would experience a loss of 4,600 people aged 16-64 while at the same time having a dramatic increase of 7,500 people aged 65 and over. Such a loss of workforce would have a dramatic effect on business as employees would have to be recruited from further afield. CDC is required to plan for enough housing to support the district's economic potential and so will need to encourage more families into the area.

Fly Tipping

If you find some refuse that has been dumped, or spot someone fly-tipping, please note as many details as possible (location, vehicle registration, type of waste being tipped) and report it to CDC's Environmental Health team by calling 01756-706255.

Grants By Councillors

CDC has approved a one-year pilot scheme, to begin in April 2016, to give each councillor a £1,000 budget to support projects run by community groups in their wards. At present the Community Grant Committee makes all such grant decisions. I will tell you more about how this will work nearer the time.

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What Has Your Town Council Been Doing In December?

By Cllr John Vendy on behalf of Bentham Town Council

Buildings Committee:

We discussed completed and outstanding works on the Town Hall and decided on the content of a risk assessment for the rescue of people stuck in the lift (in the unlikely event of a lift breakdown). We also prioritized decorating jobs and maintenance for the next year. Damp problems in the Town Hall and Community Youth Café building were discussed and we decided to get both assessed by an expert in the field.

Extra Meeting:

An extra meeting was held to discuss a planning application for a solar farm at Fountain Lot (junction of Dumb Tom's Lane and Bentham Road) and to consider NYCC's options for grass cutting around Bentham. We also considered ways to respond to CDC's request for suggestions of designated green spaces for inclusion in the Local Plan.

Low Bentham Old School Playing Field:

Council are pleased to announce the completion of the purchase of the Low Bentham school playing field (not the building) from NYCC and a new fence is already in place on the boundary. We have a fund to install play equipment on the site, and aim to consult with residents on the type and style of equipment to be used.

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CRIME INCIDENT

Between 17:00hrs Sunday 20th December and 09:00hrs on Monday 21st December 2015 graffiti was sprayed on the front door of a house on WENNING AVENUE. Offensive images and the letters 'BTS' and 'YA' were sprayed on the door in gold spray paint. The victim heard noises at around 02:00hrs but nothing was seen. Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to contact North Yorkshire Police on telephone number '101' or Crime Stoppers 0800 555111 quoting crime reference 12150225863.

Library News

By John Frankland

Computer problems? Help is at hand!

Have you been bought a laptop, tablet or smartphone for Christmas by a well-meaning friend or relative? Have you switched it on since Boxing Day? Are you ready to chuck it in the bin?

If this sounds like you, then come along to Bentham Library's Computer Club where library staff and volunteers from Friends of Bentham Library (FoBL) can offer practical advice on using your new device, and contacting friends and family, staying safe, shopping online or browsing the web without any confusing jargon.

The Computer Club is a free, friendly, and a great way to build your confidence in using the internet. It meets on the last Thursday of every month - No need to book - just drop-in; everyone is welcome. The next event will be on Thursday 28th January 2 - 4 pm.

Reading Group

Did you know that Bentham Library has a thriving reading group? It usually meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 2 pm. We cover a wide range of authors and talk about new and old books. The next meeting is on 12th January where the group will be discussing *The Hundred-Year-Old Man who Climbed out of the*

Window and Disappeared by Jonas Jonasson. If you would like to read the book in advance just come along to the library with your card and ask a member of staff for the latest book group book.

Story and Rhyme time

StoryTimes sessions for Under-5s, led by volunteer Lydia Bennett, will continue to take place weekly in term time and will resume on from Monday 11th January 2.30 - 3 pm and include rhymes and singing as well as stories. These sessions are completely FREE, and all are welcome.

Library Opening Times

Monday 2.30pm-7pm
Wednesday 10am-4pm
Friday 2.30pm-5.30pm
Saturday 10am-12noon

Please contact John Frankland at Skipton Library 01609 534547.

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Events in January

Town Hall Codes: TB Ballroom LH Lower Hall WR Wenningdale Room

Fri 1st Town Hall 9:30-11am, Little Stars Toddler Group. And every Fri. TB.

Mon 4th Victoria Inst., 10am-12noon, Office Open. And every Mon. 12:15-2:15pm, Community Link Café. And every Mon.

6:15-7:30pm, Tai Chi. And 11th.

Town Hall, 9:30-11am, Zanna's Adult Ballet. And every Mon. LH.

1-4pm, Indoor bowls, All welcome. For details ring Sue Park 62099. And every Mon. TB.

1-3pm, N Y Horizons. And every Mon. WR.

7-8pm, Boxercise. And every Mon. TB
8.15-9.15pm, Boxercise. And every Mon. TB.

7.30pm Full Town Council Meeting
LH

Tues 5th Victoria Inst., 10am-12noon, Office Open. And every Tues.

4-8pm, Helen Howard School of Dance. And every Tues.

Looking Well, 9:15am, for 9:30am start, Light leg stretchers walking group.

10:30am-12:45pm, Community Tues day—coffee, newspapers and chat. And every Tues.

11:30am-1pm, Creative Writing Group. And every Tues.

12:45-1:30pm, Community Shared Lunch. Home-made soup and bread. And every Tues.

Town Hall, 10-11am, Mature movers. And every Tues. LH.
10am-12noon, Craft Club. And every Tues. WR.

7-8pm, Aerobics. And every Tues. TB.

Wed 6th Victoria Inst., 10am-12 noon, Post Office Services. And every Wed.
11:30am-2:15pm, Community Link

Café. And every Wed.

3.45-8.30pm, Helen Howard School of Dance. And every Wed.

Looking Well, 2-4pm, Art for All. Art Group. And every Wed.

8-9.30pm, Singing for All. And 20th.

Methodist Church,
10-11:30am, Coffee Morning.
Donations to local charities. And every Wed.

Bentham Medical Practice, CAB,
1-3pm. And 20th.

Thu 7th Victoria Inst., 10am-12noon, Bat 'N' Chat. And every Thur.

1.30-3pm, Piper's Painters. And every Thur.

4-8pm, Helen Howard School of Dance. And every Thur.

Looking Well, 2-4pm, Art Shed, Community Art. And every Thur.

7.30-9pm, Bentham Line Dancers. And every Thur.

Town Hall, 9.30-10.30am, Pilates. And every Thur. LH.

7-8pm, Boxercise. And every Thur. TB.

Methodist Church Hall, 2-4pm, Welcome-In. Dominoes and tea for all ages, transport contact Anthony 63156.

Fri 8th Victoria Inst. 10am-12noon, Post Office Services. And every Fri.

3.45-7pm, Helen Howard School of Dance. And every Fri.

Masonic Lodge, 10am-2.30pm, Age Concern. And every Fri. Exercise.

Sat 9th Town Hall, 10am—12 noon,  Tatham School Coffee Morning. TB.

Victoria Inst., 10am-12noon, Book swap. And every 2nd Sat.

Sun 10th Bentham Footpath Group,

Ingleton Circular, 5.5 miles, Leader Kate Rowe, 51402. Meet Lairgill 9.30 am. *See page 30.*

Mon 11th Lairgill Car Park, 9:30am (meet 9:15am), Walks for Women. And every Mon.

Looking Well, Making Art. Ring 62672 for details. For those with

memory loss and their carers. And every Mon.

Bentham Methodist Church Hall, 10-11:30am, Toddle-in for parents and carers with children 0-4. Also 14th and 21st.

3.45-4.45pm, Adventurers, for children aged 4-6 years. And every Mon in term time.

6.15-7.30pm, Springboard, for children aged 7-11 years. And every Mon in term time.

Bentham Library Story time for under 5s. And every Mon. *See Page 20.*

Town Hall, 7.30 pm, Finance Committee Meeting (to be confirmed) LH.

Tue 12th Methodist Church, 2.15pm, Monthly Bright Hour.

Bentham Library Reading Group, 2pm. *See page 20*

Wed 13th Ingleton Community Centre, 10am-12noon, CAB. And 27th.

Methodist Church and Victoria Institute, Low Bentham, 10am-12noon, Collection for the Refugees. *See page 28*

Fri 15th Lairgill, 8.30-11am, waste paper collection in aid of NSPCC.

Looking Well, 10.30-1pm, Art Skills Development. For details ring 62672. And every Friday.

Methodist Church Hall, 6-7pm, Yoga. And every Fri.

Masonic Lodge, 10am -2.30pm, Age Concern. Flax Mills of Bentham , Annie Neligan.

Town Hall, 11am-12:30pm Craven Customer Services. LH.

8pm, Film Group, *A Little Chaos*, *see page 17.*

BENTHAM NEWS DEADLINE

Sat 16th Town Hall, 10am-12noon,  Christian Aid Coffee Morning. TB.

Mon 18th Town Hall, 7.30pm, Town Council Precept Meeting, LH.

Tue 19th Bentham Primary School Hall, 6-7pm, Yoga. And every Tues.

Bentham Footpath Group, Giggleswick Scar, 8 miles, Leaders Vicky and Graham Cooper, 62535. Meet Lairgill 9.30am. *See page 30.*

Fri 22nd Masonic Lodge, 10am-2.30pm, Age Concern. Favourite Poems - Dorothy Stubbs

Sat 23rd Town Hall, 10am- 12noon,  FOBS Coffee Morning, TB.

Sun 24th St Boniface's, 6.30 pm, Christian Unity Celebration at St Boniface's.

Wed 27th Bentham Footpath group, Canal/Levens Park, 7.5 miles, Leaders Sue and Ed Badley, 62502. Meet Lairgill 9.30am

Thu 28th Bentham Library, 2pm, Computer Club. (see page 20)

Fri 29th Masonic Lodge, 10am-2.30 pm, Age Concern. Quiz.

Town Hall, Clerks office, 2-3pm, MP Surgery.

Sat 30th Town Hall, 10am-12noon,  Community Link Café Coffee Morning. **Methodist Church**, 7.30pm, Kingdom Bound Gospel Trio.

Bentham News is published at New House, Mewith Lane, Bentham, by an editorial committee consisting of Shirley Brown, Alice Ellwood, Kathleen Kelly, Howard Matthew, Peter Phillips, Jane Proctor, Richard Wallace, Pam Woof and Denise Henshaw—co-ordinator, who can be contacted on 015242 61515. Every effort is made to ensure that information contained in the paper is correct, however Bentham News is an open access paper and views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the editorial committee. The committee reserves the right to edit contributions. We are willing to withhold names on request, but names, addresses and telephone numbers must accompany all items for publication. Please hand in to the Gallery, Station Road or email to info@thebenthamnews.co.uk, our new email address. Emails will still reach us on benthamnews@outlook.com. Copy deadline is 15 January for the February edition. We aim to acknowledge all emails, if you do not receive a reply to an email, please contact us again, as it may not have been received.

Bygone Bentham

By Bernard Townson

Continued from last month.

In the early 50's the double fronted building now housing Bentham Imaging, was, on the left looking at it Fisher's outfitters, and on the right Norman Slinger's Greengrocers. Upstairs was the Library. At that time, Edward Wrathall had his Corn Merchant's business, accessed through the huge double doors to the right of Slingers. At some point in the 50's he decided part time to operate as a greengrocer in competition with Slinger's next door. He erected a stall on the cobbled floor, probably some 20 feet inside the double doors, and piled it high and sold it cheap, well not so cheap.

We had two bakeries, the oldest being that on the corner down Station Road, owned by Peggy Reid, and later Marion Crawley, which was also a café. The other was Bernard Barwise's. The baker at Crawleys was John Alan someone, I think either Foster or Robinson. He lived in Cleveland Square, where Swifty also lived. Who remembers Swifty, and his daughter Nellie Luke? She had one of the two dance schools in Bentham, the other run by Babs Jackson with her daughter Barbara. Then for additional entertainment were Reg and Kathie Ward. How many Benthamers and people from the neighbouring towns and villages danced to their music on a Friday or Saturday night? Kathie played the piano and Reg the drums, and the dances at which they played were always well attended. The article mentions the fair and circus with Bentham Show, don't forget the Show Dance at night in the Town Hall, with tea, coffee, cakes, sandwiches etc to eat in the Lower Hall!! It seemed all dances in those days had refreshments. Both the Brown Cow and Royal Oak also had superb dance floors where many social events took place.

Don't forget also when remembering the stalls that came on a Wednesday to line the Main Street that one of those, up by the entrance to the Auction Mart was, yes, Reg



Ward with the Lakeland Laundry's trailer. Reg could also be seen on many a sunny summer Sunday afternoon selling ice cream from his van. All this in addition to his sweet shop!!

What about Hainsworth's Garage, where Spar is now, with the big red fire engine there ready to go out when the alarm sounded? It didn't have far to go when Leslie Reid's shop, burned down!! Who remembers Leslie Reid's old wooden shop next door to Kidds/Flemings Butchers, which burned down? He then moved across the road next to the Conservative Club.

Whatever happened to the old Hardcourt Tennis club, behind Goodenber Crescent? I remember learning to play Tennis there before taking up golf. There was also a private grass court down at the Doctors in the field between the access road to the doctors and the railway line. Golf, who remembers the "Holy four"? Mr & Mrs McGregor Wood, Mollie Thompson, and Jimmy Jackson, the Monumental Mason, played every Sunday, rain, hail, snow; whatever the conditions, at 1 o'clock. In the school holidays I would play during the week with Mr McGregor Wood, and he would have just one club; whichever club he had not used on the Sunday, or had used the least he would play the whole round with that club. Bearing in mind we had no sand bunkers in those days, and he would also putt with that club.

These are just a few of the memories of Bentham and a few of the shops that come flooding back. I left to go to work in London in 1965, just before my parents moved to Banbury, where my father, who had been NFU Secretary for Bentham Settle and Hellifield, including Gisburn, took up the post of NFU Secretary in Banbury. Sadly he died less than four years after moving there, and my mother eventually moved back to the family home at Crosslands to look after her brother Max Garlick, with whom she lived for over 30 years. It was on 1st November this year that we interred her ashes into the family grave at St Margaret's Church, High Bentham, with a memorial plaque to her and Harry.

Perhaps another time, I can reminisce about the railway, the river, the quarry and the green fields; and who remembers Polly Clarke?

Ewecross Historical Society

By Mary Taylor

Bill Walker gave an absorbing and enlightening illustrated lecture on Waterloo Churches to the Ewecross Historical Society in Bentham Methodist Church on Monday 30th November. He said that following the final defeat of Napoleon at Waterloo in 1815, in a great surge of gratitude and euphoria, several rich and influential men instigated the building of 612 new churches. All Anglican, these were also called Commissioners Churches, many built with grants from the Government to the new Church Building Commission.

Mr Walker showed examples of these churches, the nearest being St Georges, Kendal, although most were from Lancashire south of the Ribble. All the new churches had to look like an Anglican Church and had to measure 99 feet from the reading desk, also used as a pulpit, to the back pew, so that the entire congregation could hear the service.

This outbreak of building gave opportunities for new and local architects and builders, as the top architects were too expensive. One of these new architects who built several churches was Thomas Rickman. The enthusiasm of these influential men proved a success as congregations filled the new churches and some are still flourishing today.

Chairman Sir John Kerr thanked the speaker who answered many questions. Andrew Jotischky will speak in January on Pilgrims to the Holy Land in the Middle Ages.






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Bentham Community Primary School

By Catherine Boocock, Head Teacher

Fund-raising: Our Christmas Bauble Lottery was a great success. Thanks to the Co-Op Bentham, Hairlines, Tim Wheildon, The Gallery, Farmstead, the Post Office, Blossom and Co., Toobys, Bentham Balti, B & CE Armstrong, Total Wellbeing, Naylor Myers, Morrisons and Asda in Kendal, Bentham Golf Club, Pennine Outdoors and Pigtales for their kind prize donations. The Friends of Bentham School have also been busy raising all important funds by hosting an Early Years Christmas Disco, a Christmas Quiz and 'Bentham's Bake Off'. We are grateful to this group of volunteers for their continued dedication and support. Our Christmas Craft session proved as popular as ever with children creating some wonderful homemade festive gifts for their friends and family, including tablet cases and quirky Christmas pudding tree decorations.

Remembrance: We were honoured to be invited to take part in Bentham's Remembrance Service on the 11th November. Our Head Boy and Head Girl, Matthew and

Louisa Hill, took great pride in laying a memorial wreath on behalf of the school in memory of all those lost and involved in wars.

Hall for hire: Our school hall is still available for hire at very competitive rates, with concessions available for community activities, so if you are interested in hiring this facility please contact Sally in the school office on 015242 61412.

Free Nursery Places: In January 2016 we are giving local parents a further opportunity to enrol their child at our free nursery, where sessions are currently held five days a week from 8.50am to 12noon. Experienced and friendly staff are happy to answer any questions you may have about this provision, and show prospective parents round the well-equipped, amazing classroom by prior arrangement.

Trips and swimming in 2016: We have lots of exciting visits and trips planned for the New Year, including a visit to the Houses of Parliament and a residential to Malham and Bewerley Park. January will also see our year 6 children start their weekly swimming lessons at Settle Pool.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy New Year.



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Bentham Quakers

By Joanna Dales

Quakers are most easily defined by way of negatives: we have no ordained ministry, no creeds, no consecrated places of worship. We do not use the symbolism of crosses or figurative art. Our 'meetings for worship' use no set forms of words or visible sacrament. These, the Quaker founding fathers and mothers in the seventeenth century taught, are all shadows of the reality that could only be found 'within'. So we worship in silence until such time as any one of us feels called upon to speak from that deep place 'within'. Many of our meetings are held in unbroken silence, although we enjoy a sociable time together afterwards!

George Fox and the early Quakers (or 'Friends') were convinced that Christ had come again in their time, not in visible form, riding on the clouds, but within the hearts of men and women. So Fox told the people to attend to the 'Teacher within'. When they began to question him or to hang on his words he left them, for fear they should believe him rather than their own inner promptings. We have largely lost that apocalyptic sense, but we still hold to the belief that there is 'that of God' in every person, an 'Inward Light', which takes precedence over even the Bible and is a sufficient guide for living. Attention to this Light, we believe, leads to lives dedicated to the service of others, to social justice, to integrity, care for the environment and to peace.

Quakerism is hard: none of us lives it to the full. Many of us, moreover, have strong links with other churches or with other faiths: we do not think Quakers have a monopoly in truth and righteousness. Yet we continue to be inspired by Quaker ideals and to find ourselves strengthened by our utterly simple meetings for worship. Come and join us some time at Calf Cop, between Low Bentham and Burton, at 10.30 on a Sunday morning.

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Winter Collection Of Goods For Those Most In Need In Bradford And Leeds



By Maggie Bruno

The Red Cross provides a Refugee Support Service Drop In at Bradford once a week, as part of its long tradition of providing practical and emotional support to vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers in the UK. I visited this Drop In Centre in Bradford for the day to see for myself the needs of asylum seekers and refugees, and met people from the Sudan, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Zimbabwe among others, and was able to see the advocacy work the Red Cross volunteers provide. I also saw the desperate plight of those relying solely on food and toiletry parcels and food vouchers as they fall into destitution while waiting for their claims to be heard, or fall between the Home Office support of £5 daily and being able to work or claim benefit when and if they are granted refugee status. All are vulnerable and traumatised, having fled persecution, war and famine. The Refugee Support Service provides them with short term emergency provisions – food vouchers, food parcels, toiletries and clothing; advice, advocacy and casework in the asylum ap-

plication process, and referral to other agencies and legal advice as appropriate; and helps them to adjust to a new life in the UK. Staffed almost completely by volunteers it is a lifesaving service and holds the thin line between survival and destitution for these people.

At its meeting on 9th December, Benthams's Refugee Support Group decided to hold a collection of goods for this Red Cross work.

Immediate needs are good quality

- warm clothes,
- blankets,
- hats, gloves, scarves,
- dried food items, tinned cans,
- sleeping bags.

Please bring any of these to Benthams Methodist Church on Wednesday 13th January 2016 between 10am and 12noon and also to the Victoria Institute, Low Benthams, at the same time, 10am-12noon and they will be taken straight to the Red Cross Centre.

And look out in next month's Benthams News for further information and events coming up about the refugee crisis. On 6th February we are holding a day of information and discussion, and in March there will be a fund-raising evening of music and performance. If you would like to perform, or want any other information, please contact us at

benthamsrefugeegroup@gmail.com.

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New Show Secretary For Bentham Agricultural Society

By John Dawson

Bentham Agricultural Society held its AGM on November 26th in the Town Hall. It was well attended with all sections of the show being represented. We recorded our thanks to the auction mart for its generous hospitality in allowing the show to use its facilities and in helping to make the event successful.

This year has seen a few changes to the office holders with our long serving, and possibly long suffering, secretary Val Lawson moving job to become our treasurer. We are very pleased that Val is continuing her association with the show in such an appropriate manner. Jillian Ashton has stepped down as treasurer after doing sterling work for the last twelve years. During that time the show has gone through some difficult times and Jillian has helped enormously by keeping an eye on the finances. She stays on the committee and looks forward to continuing to help. John Dawson was again elected chairman, mostly because no one else wanted the job, and Robert Garth was elected vice chair.

Our committee is very pleased to present our brand new secretary, Carolyn Lobb. She lives in Bentham and says this about herself:

"After completing a qualification in Rural Business Administration at Myerscough College in 2009, I have spent the last 5 years working as a self employed agricultural secretary. This involved book keeping, cattle passport and sheep tagging work, recording animal welfare data for Tesco milk supplies, recording health and medicine records and assisting with farm policy such as Entry Level Stewardship and Single Farm Payment. Having moved across the border to Yorkshire, I decided to find more local work and I now work at Watershed

Mill in Settle and run my own dog walking and animal care business called 'All My Animals'. I volunteered to take money at the gates at the recent show and heard that the show was looking for a new secretary. I thought it would be an interesting experience as the job is so varied. It would also be a way of getting to know local folk and it would still be a role that stayed within the realms of farming. The idea of trying to improve the attendance numbers on the day of the show is also a challenge and one that I particularly welcome."

The show committee welcomed Carolyn. We know she has a hard act to follow but has set about it in the right manner and the meeting offered her their full support.

Our annual coffee morning was held in the Town Hall on November 28th when over £300 was raised for our funds. Sincere thanks from the committee to all those who helped make it such a success.

You may wish to note in your diary that this year's quiz will be held on February 5th in the Town Hall. This is a terrific community event and well worth supporting. It mostly involves eating, being entertained by our very own John Whitfield and answering a few questions.



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Footpath Matters

By Kate Rowe

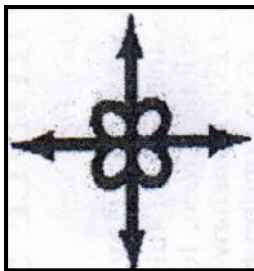
*"January brings the snow,
Makes our feet and fingers glow."*

It is almost a year since I started using the monthly poems by Sarah Coleridge, which I learnt, at school. I've discovered more about her: she was the daughter of the poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge and was born at Greta Hall, Keswick, in 1802, and would have been influenced by family friend, William Wordsworth. I wonder how she would write the poem now? "Chill December" was not chilly, and instead of those lovely crisp, frosty mornings, rain and floods dominated. Some may disagree about climate change but the weather does seem to be changing. Will January "bring the snow" and what weather will we get for our walks?

After the excesses of Christmas, why not make a New Year's Resolution to walk regularly? New members are welcome to join our walks which all start from Lairgill at 9.30am. The first walk of 2016 is the Ingleton Circular of 5.5 miles on Sunday 10th January is also a first for our group – crossing the new footbridge, which has replaced the stepping-stones at Raygill. After that the exact route will depend on conditions underfoot, but it could be muddy so poles are recommended.

On Tuesday 19th there is an 8 mile walk at Giggleswick Scar. From the layby at the top of Buckhaw Brow we will over the Scars to the back of Giggleswick Quarry and on to Stackhouse. We join the Ribble Way to go north to Stainforth. From there we go past Smearsett Scar to Feizor and thence back to the top of Buckhaw Brow.

The final walk is 7.5 miles Canal/Levens Park and is on Wednesday 27th. After taking the bus (remember your bus passes!)



from Crooklands to Barrows Green, we cross the fields towards Natland and join the dewatered Lancaster Canal at Larkrigg Hall Bridge and follow the towpath through Sedgwick. We then turn right and cross the Kent at Sedgwick Bridge where the river goes through a narrow gorge

and enter Levens Park by Copy Wood. Going through the park to the Hall and back to Hincaster Lane we should see the famed Bagot goats and the black Roe deer. After leaving the park we walk along the lane and rejoin the canal towpath just in time to view Hincaster Tunnel and pass over the lovely engineered horse track over the top of it. We return to Crooklands along the canal, and now there is water in it!

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Age Concern

By Mary Brougham

As I have just returned from a trip to Cyprus I don't have as much Age Concern news as usual.

We were all shocked at the sudden death of Mary West. She was a lovely lady, always ready with a story or two. Her funeral on 20th November was very well attended and the collection for Age Concern totalled over £500, a large amount for which we are very grateful and that would have delighted Mary.

Geoff Richardson, our local fire safety officer, gave us an interesting talk about the work of the fire service and how to keep ourselves safe in our own homes. He reminded us that the fire service provide free smoke alarms for anyone who wants one.

There was also a trip to Barton Grange. Although it rained all day everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves, the Christmas decorations were absolutely incredible and the wonderful cakes in the coffee shop went down pretty well too!

We had some birthdays to celebrate in November. One was for Kath, who has lived in Bentham for 35 years and been married to Nigel for 43 years. She often travels to America to visit children and grandchildren. Another was for Nancy who settled in Bentham 5 years ago after living all over England, travelling where her husband, John's work as a civil engineer took them. Nancy has worked both as an analytical chemist and a teacher.

A sad event for me in November was that Suki, my daughter's dog and my 'little old lady', died. So no more visits to see Clare at Café Culture. Silly I know, but I really do miss her. But looking to the future, I sincerely hope you all have a happy and prosperous New Year.

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Lancaster And Skipton Rail User Group (LASRUG) News—December 2015 Timetable

By David Alder

The Winter timetable came into force on Sunday 13 December and this will run until 14 May 2016, by which time a new train operator should have taken over the running of the Northern rail franchise. There are no changes to the times of trains on the Bentham line. For your convenience, departure details from Bentham station are given below:-

Eastbound (to Skipton and Leeds):

Mon-Fri: 07.37; 11.26; 14.18; 16.52; 19.53;

Saturday: 08.52; 11.26; 14.18; 17.09; 19.54;

Sunday: 13.17; 15.20; 18.31; 20.30;

Westbound (to Lancaster and Morecambe):

Mon-Fri: 06.21; 09.34; 11.39; 14.40; 18.04;

Saturday: 7.17; 09.39; 11.39; 15.13; 18.04;

Sunday: 10.06; 12.18; 16.17; 18.42.

Happy travelling in 2016!

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What No Cookery Page?

Yes there is no cookery page this month, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank John-Francis Read, who until recently was the owner and master chef extraordinaire at Three Borders Pantry for writing such tempting, tantalising and informative recipes for BN for such a long time. He has moved on in his career and is now working with product development in food manufacturing, tweeking existing as well as new products in the sauces, dressings and marinade sector. This is an interim position to get some more recent industry experience and a job nearer to home, alas.

He is sadly missed by all those in our community who loved his food, his enthusiasm and his chat.

Out of adversity comes opportunity, so here are a few questions for us all to ponder. Should BN have a Food/Cookery Page? If so, what form should it take? Who will write it? Should there be recipes or other food-related items? Would readers like to see their favourite recipes in print? Would cookery themes such as 'Cooking For One' or 'Cooking On A Budget' be popular?

Any thoughts, suggestions or offers will be gratefully received by Denise on 015242-61515 or info@thebenthamnews.co.uk.



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Missed Connection?

By Richard Wilson

The 5th December floods had the curious effect of drowning out any news of the World Climate Change summit that was going on in Paris at the same time. I say "curious" because scientists have been telling us for years that a warmer world will mean increased climate instability and a greater likelihood of extreme weather events. You'd have thought the link between the two stories would be obvious. Instead we got the unfortunate victims, and our politicians, talking once again about the need for more spending on flood defences.

Meanwhile in Paris, low-lying countries like Bangladesh and the Maldives were fighting for an agreement that might stop their entire countries going underwater - a treaty that will stop catastrophic (for them) rises in global temperature and sea level, by effectively limiting carbon dioxide emissions.

The two story lines are contrasting responses to the same problem. When the bath is getting full, do we (A) make the bath deeper? Or (B) turn off the taps? At the time of writing the noises from Paris suggest that world leaders may have realised that option B is better. If they act, it will change our lives, but what really matters is that it will change the lives of generations to come even more, and for the good.

The January BEST Green Café will be on Wednesday 27th at 8pm in Looking Well, King Street. Public transport in Bentham will be the discussion topic, and it's a hot one, following Lancashire's decision to end bus subsidies, and the announcement of the new Northern Rail franchisee. Come along, enjoy fine fare, and have your say!

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Will Our Leaders Save Us From Tipping Off The Tightrope?

By Alison Jones

The artwork shown above in the window in Main Street shows the tipping world theme. It is inspired by the Coming of Age 2015 project by 509 Arts (you may remember Ali Dix of 509 Arts who brought My Last Car to Carnival Benthams).

"Coming of Age: 21 Reasons To Change The World" has events and artworks at about 70 venues throughout the UK including Benthams bringing into focus issues about climate change. There are walks, talks, exhibitions, workshops, performances and much more. If you want further information you can go on the website comingofage2015.com

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CPR & AED Project For Bentham

Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation & Automated External Defibrillator

By John Vendy

The aim of this new project is to have an effective community of people in Bentham who are able to resuscitate people having a cardiac arrest.

A cardiac arrest is an emergency where the heart stops pumping blood and oxygen around the body. Immediate CPR can help to keep oxygen circulating around the body until an AED can be used to get the heart working again. Every minute without CPR and defibrillation reduces the person's chance of survival by 7-10%. The AEDs we aim to buy are designed to be used by anyone without training. Once switched on the machine tells you what to do!

The objectives of the project are;

-  To set up a committee of people to oversee the project including fundraising
-  To raise awareness, interest and commitment in the community
-  To organise and hold regular CPR training sessions within Bentham
-  To plan, purchase and install AEDs in agreed places around Bentham
-  To ensure that this project is a permanent part of village life.

The first committee meeting will be held in late January (contact us for details) and we will keep you updated in future Bentham News articles. We would like this to be a "whole community" project because it affects the whole community. If you would like to be involved or to know more about the project please contact:

Jill Noble (Jill.Noble@gp-b82061.nhs.uk) or John Vendy (015242 62083, john.vendy@benthamtowncouncil.co.uk).

If you witness a cardiac arrest now, you can increase the person's chances of survival by phoning 999 immediately and giving CPR while you wait for the ambulance to arrive. The ambulances all carry AEDs.

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"Sabriel" By Garth Nix

Teen book review by Imogene Henshaw

Sabriel is the first book in the Abhorsen Trilogy by Garth Nix, its two trilogies are called Lirael and Abhorsen and a prequel, called Clariel, has just recently been released. This book follows the story of Sabriel, a young schoolgirl, as she embarks on a dangerous quest.

The old kingdom is a place of magic and mysteries, a place where the dead don't always stay dead, controlled by malevolent beings called the greater dead. The only thing separating the magical world of the old kingdom from the non-magical land of Ancelstierre is The Wall, a wall of great magic and power, but sometimes even that is not enough, sometimes the dead can still pass through.

Since the age of five Sabriel has lived her life safe across the wall at Wyverley College but when, in her final year, she discovers that her father is dead, but not passed on, she must return to her childhood home in the old kingdom; to rescue her father from the afterlife and face an

old, powerful, enemy.

I really loved this book. The entire series is fantastic and I love the entire universe that these books are set in. Although the second book did drag on a little for me I enjoyed every book and hope that Garth Nix will write more books set in the universe of the old kingdom in the future.



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Longstaffe's Educational Foundation

By Clive Story, Chairman



On 29th November 2015, Longstaffe's Educational Foundation held its second concert in Bentham Golf Club. The first concert, featuring a soprano opera singer from Hamburg and an English classical guitarist, was held almost a year previously and was a great success. The Trustees had been regaled with requests to hold more.

The artists this year were Chris Newman and Máire Ni Chathasaigh who had the capacity audience enthralled with their virtuoso performance of 'Celtic Christmas Strings' on the guitar and Irish harp. Swing, jazz, adaptations of traditional carols and enchanting Irish melodies were interspersed with Chris's amusing anecdotes and background information about the duo's collaboration and how their music had evolved. A lively 'Three Ships from Sussex' combining the 'Sussex Carol and I Saw Three Ships' left the audience calling for more.

The event was completely sold out and attracted people from all over the area; some had travelled from as far afield as Manchester and Warrington! Bentham Golf Club is a most congenial venue with very good acoustics and excellent facilities.

Drinks and refreshments were provided as part of the ticket price. The Trustees are delighted to be able to provide cultural events of this kind, especially when any profit is destined for such a worthwhile cause, increasing the charity's ability to provide educational support for the young people of the two villages of High and Low Bentham.

Our intention is to stage annual concerts in the future which will be advertised in the Bentham News and on local notice boards.

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www.longstaffeseducationalfoundation.co.uk



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Bentham, The Place To Live: A Meeting With FisherHopper

By Howard Matthew

FisherHopper has now become an established Estate Agency in Bentham, but what makes them different is that they are a separate business in their own right. They were formed when the Lancaster Estate Agent Fisher Wrathall combined with the Dales based Agency of J R Hopper and set up their office in Bentham. The original agencies still exist independently, but this unique collaboration was seen to be more appropriate for the Bentham market.

"Our customers now have access to a wider market than the two individual companies could achieve by marketing through the parent companies," said Officer Manager Shirley O'Neil. "We cover a wide area ranging from Morecambe Bay to the whole of the Yorkshire Dales and the surrounding market towns."

I asked Alex Rogers if Bentham was a place people wanted to live. "The biggest advantage Bentham has", he said, "is that there are houses available for all price ranges, from the smallest cottages to the largest barn conversions, and people like the community spirit here".

Steven Thorn thought the improvement in communications made Bentham a commutable proposition, which could have a positive impact. The new motorway junction would make it easier to get to and from the Morecambe district. All this makes it sound as if Bentham is the place to live which can only be good for local shops and businesses.

Right Move has recently placed Fisher-Wrathall as top seller in the area so with this in mind I asked what was the most important factor in helping someone buy and sell a house? Here they were all in agreement – Communication. "Talking



with clients constantly", "keeping things moving", "identifying holdups in a chain", "being proactive and not waiting until someone has to get in touch with you."

And a final piece of useful information? There is a great demand for rented accommodation in Bentham.

(Excuse me whilst I clear out the attic).


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Photo credit: The Tree Council

Plant A Tree: Great Gift Idea

By Sarah Pettifer

(Marketing and Communications Officer for Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust (YDMT), based at Old Post Office, Clapham, LA2 8DP, Tel: 015242-51002)

National Tree Week was in December and is the UK's largest annual tree celebration, which launches the start of the winter tree-planting season. Each year The Tree Council's member organisations, such as local authorities, schools and community groups, support the initiative by setting up projects to inspire upward of a quarter of a million people to get together and plant around a million trees. 2015 marked the 40th anniversary of this annual festival, and YDMT planted 40 native sapling trees in Bishopdale to commemorate the occasion.

Pauline Buchanan Black, Director-General of The Tree Council, said: "With forty years of successful growth behind it, National Tree Week has become firmly rooted in the calendar." (Pun intended!!)

YDMT would like to invite people to do their bit to help tackle climate change on their doorstep by dedicating a tree in a recently planted wood in the Yorkshire Dales. All money raised will help to support on-going efforts to restore woodland cover across the Yorkshire Dales, to reduce soil erosion, absorb greenhouse gases and create vibrant wildlife habitats. Dedicating a tree would be a perfect way to mark the passing of another year, a special birthday, anniversary or to remember the life of a loved one. If you'd like to find out more about how to do this, please ring me or visit www.ydmt.org

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Extraordinary Callouts

By Geoff Blackwell (Watch Manager, Benthams Fire and Rescue Service, Tel: 61228)

Some jobs and days will stick in the memory for a lifetime. In an area renowned for low flying aircraft and helicopters that appear to hedge hop, you would hope that you are never called out to an incident involving one. On 15th November we received a call from control to go to the Hawes road to assist a coastguard helicopter that had developed a fault on landing near the road. The vibration from the fault had made the wheels sink into the ground and left the machine tilted at 13 degrees, which the pilot assured me was the absolute limit for a helicopter of that size. Already on the scene was the Cave Rescue Organisation which had been conducting a combined rescue with the coastguard. With their expertise in rope rescue, they had already made the helicopter as safe as they could with the equipment they had. We assisted the pilot by tying down the rotors in a very strong wind, and when the Heavy Rescue Unit arrived from Ripon, airbags were placed under the fuselage to counteract the tilt and make it a little safer. An appliance and the rescue unit stayed with the helicopter overnight until air fitters arrived from Wales. The recovery operation took four days due to the position of the helicopter and the weather conditions. A good result though, no casualties and a recovered helicopter that the pilot tells me is worth around £30 million.

Saturday 5th December: Oh for a lie in, no chance.

We were called out at 9.10am to the Ruposhi Restaurant on Main Street as the sign above the restaurant was waving about in a very strong wind and could cause serious damage or injury. We had to take the sign down which involved trapping it with a ladder and then cutting it away with an electric saw. It didn't take too long, but it took some catching! We had about half an hour then until the rain made itself felt in every corner of our area. We were called first to Wenning Avenue where a blockage in a drain threatened four houses. It took a while to sort and another crew went back later. By the time we got back to

Picture courtesy of The Cave Rescue Organisation



the station reinforcements had arrived from Settle, Skipton and Ripon. Ripon also sent their water rescue team. Kirkby Lonsdale and Hornby crews had also been out, until they were called away to look after their own areas. In all there were around 20 calls that required our attendance that day and many more that unfortunately we could do nothing with. Flooding causes such devastating damage and heartbreak to the people concerned. This corner of Craven was extremely lucky that we didn't suffer as badly as our neighbouring counties did.

We still require people to join us as fire fighters. If you'd like to find out more, come and see us at the fire station on a Monday night between 7pm and 9pm, or if you see us about, stop us and be one.

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