

BENTHAM NEWS



CHRISTMAS FAIR DRAWS THE CROWDS

By Peter Phillips

On 11th December, in the early evening, Father Christmas arrived in style at the Town Hall, in a horse drawn carriage for the opening of the Christmas Fair organised by the Tourist Information Point.

The fine weather encouraged a good turnout of families for a thoroughly enjoyable evening's entertainment. On stage was the Bentham Recorder Group and the Churches Together Choir with a selection of Carols for us. Around the floor were many stalls selling a variety of Christmassy items.

Parents queued with their children to visit Santa's Grotto and when people had tired of looking around and buying there was tea, coffee, cakes and mince pies available downstairs served by members of the Tourist Information Point.

Thanks go to the following for contributing towards the success of the evening: Tuesday Craft Club, Little Red Bus, High Bentham W.I., St. Margaret's, Bentham Pet Rescue, Phoenix Cards, Pigtails, Nuffin-2-Wear, High Bentham School, LASRUG, Helen Howard School of Dance, Carol Sinclair Cards, the Bowling Club, Stonegate Glass, NSPCC, Cancer Support Group, Colette Knowles, Bentham Calendars, St. John's – for Father Christmas and to Arthur Harvey for Santa's horse.

WELCOME 2010

By Olive Calverley

The old year has ended, and new year
begun,

Let's throw out the sadness –
Begin to have Fun!

Give thanks for the good times you've had
in '09

And greet each new day with the thought
'Life is Fine'.

Forget all the grumbles and upsets you've
had

Come on now – agree that life isn't so bad!
Look up in the night sky and see the stars
shine -

Look round at your friends and say 'All
these are mine'.

Start each day by smiling – Yes – give it a
try.

A Happy New Year to all Readers –
Goodbye!

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HOW TOUGH IS YOUR WHEELIE BIN?

By Mike and Simone Pridmore



We took these photographs on Friday, 4th December, after two cars crashed just outside our garden. The wheelie bin obviously suffered much less damage than the car, pictured above. Tough wheelie bin!

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DECEMBER'S TOWN COUNCIL

By David Johnson

All the Cllrs were present except Cllr Barnes and Cllr Taylor.

Prior to the Town Council Meeting Cathy Hopley gave a presentation about the work of the Forest of Bowland.

Police

The police gave a brief but rather disturbing report of several incidents during November; some related to criminal damage and theft. A very serious assault took place on 27th November on Goodenber Road; the assailant has been arrested and is about to be brought to court.

County and District Cllr Reports

County Cllr Ireton said that North Yorkshire will lose its Chief Executive in April; that progress is being made for the construction of a waste processing plant within the county and that negotiations are taking place for the purchase of land for the new Primary School. District Cllr Camacho said that a concordat has been reached between Craven, Harrogate and Selby to share some resources to improve efficiency and reduce cost. Cllr Barrington confirmed that the District Council Monday morning information sessions would continue. Some Cllrs were sceptical about this and so she promised to make further enquiries.

Planning Gain

The Cllrs received encouragement from Craven District Council to implement planning gain when applications are made to erect new property regardless of the number of proposed dwellings. Planning gain could require the applicant to fund onsite or offsite facilities for community benefit.

Highways

The official footpath at the Ridding was rerouted on 13th October. Cllr Yaman reported on a site meeting Wenning Avenue. Despite being invited United Utilities decided not to attend. They discussed the improvements needed between Hillcroft and Millholme Drive. A meeting of 40-50 residents was later held in the Town Hall at

which it was decided to try to take the initiative forward. Cllr Yaman reported that many were more upset about the state of Millholme Drive and that a letter had been sent to the contractor's solicitor requesting action. A letter was read out from a resident of Summerhill complaining about speeding and noisy cars. The Cllrs thought they could do very little to help as vehicle noise was beyond their powers and that the police had already carried out a survey of the traffic and found that 85% of all vehicles were travelling within the speed limit.

NYCC Budget and Council Plan

The Cllrs requested value for money suggesting enormous savings could be made by employing local firms to carry out council work. The point was illustrated when it was disclosed that the white lining team travel to our area from County Durham! They also suggested that the process by which local firms have to apply to be included on the County list of approved contractors should be simplified to make it a more practical proposition for small firms.

Barriers on School Hill

Arrangements are being made to redesign new gates for School Hill. They will have a chicane arrangement to slow children down and prevent them from dashing onto the road. Cllr Wills offered to check with the Primary school before work commences to see if the school supports the idea.

Low Bentham Rose Garden

It has been suggested that the Rose Garden, on Burton Road, Low Bentham could be made into a small car park. The comment has been made that nobody ever sits there and that it could be used to ease congestion on the hill. Cllr Barrington said she would approach North Yorkshire to assess their attitude before investigating the matter further.

Allotments

Correspondence has been received stressing the desire of many to rent an allotment. Some Cllrs thought a landowner could receive about £600 p.a. for a half-acre plot. It was decided to post the letter on the Auction Mart notice board.

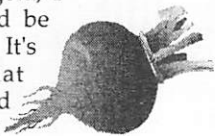
GARDENING COLUMN

By Joyce Knapp



As I sit writing this on a wild, wet, windy December day it is difficult to cast my mind forward to January and to what we may be getting up to in the garden, or perhaps not, depending on the prevailing weather conditions and our ability to bounce back from all the excesses of the Christmas holidays. Years ago, when I first had an allotment, I used to get great pleasure from starting to dig over the vegetable beds on New Year's Day. This served a dual purpose, it got the new year off to a very positive start and also allowed me to break out from all the household commitments of the holidays. Anyone who wishes to follow this pattern can do so, if they are fortunate enough to grow their crops at home; sadly I have had to forego this pleasure since it's not advisable to drive having had a wee tiddle the night before.

A word of warning to anyone who has stored vegetables this winter; we may need to be extra vigilant regarding checking their condition and likelihood of rotting, due in part to the extremely wet conditions during last year's growing season. Adaptations have also come into play regarding the methods of storage, for instance, I have not been able to hang my onions up this year, as I had to remove most of the stems which had become somewhat wet and slimy. The most successful crop to be stored this season, I have found, is the good old beetroot. Having lifted them in October and removed all but the last two inches of stem, they were then put into a big plastic bucket between layers of damp, sharp sand and when brought out to use they appear to be in very good condition. Given that the humble beetroot has so many health-giving properties, ranging from cleansing the liver, to containing an enzyme that is an important anti-cancer agent, I firmly believe it should be listed as a 'super-food'. It's also worth noting that beetroot is often shunned by slimmers because of



its high level of natural sugars but, in reality, it can actually help with weight loss, possibly due to the positive effect it has on liver function.

The added benefits from growing our own beetroot would be that we could enjoy fresh, young, sweet roots straight from the ground, knowing that no chemicals had been used in their production; all-in-all it is a very worthwhile crop to grow.

NATURE NOTES

By David C Fisher

Bats and their habitat



There is a number of sites that accommodate hibernating bats, such as under the eaves of modern houses, to 'bats in the belfry', an old saying, or underneath big bridges. One known place near Benthams is the bridge you cross over to get to Tatham Church where a number of bats roost over winter.

Bats often come out at dusk to hunt for insects, moths and beetles. During hibernation, when bats sleep for long periods, most bats slow their heart beat down so as not to burn up their own food reserves too quickly. But on occasions when the weather is not too bad they can come out to feed on midges etc and then go back to the roost, keeping together in a group to save energy and keep warm.

Types of bats round here are: Common Pipistrelle, long-eared, Daubenton's whiskered and Brandt's.

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CRAVEN CONCERNS

By Cllr Manuel Camacho 015242 62074

manuel.camacho@btinternet.com

Fred Trueman statue to be placed in Canal Basin, Skipton

Members of Craven District Council last night (25 November) agreed that the statue to commemorate the late Fred Trueman should be erected on Council owned land at the Canal Basin, Skipton. Fred Trueman was regarded as one of the greatest fast bowlers in history. Known as Fiery Fred, he was the first man to take 300 test wickets, and later became a popular and outspoken member of the Test Match Special team.

The Council is supporting the scheme through a capital contribution of £15,000 and by providing a site on Council land. Members of Craven District Council agreed the contribution at a Policy committee meeting in March 2008. The contribution will be funded from a central government grant, the Local Authority Business Growth Incentive (LABGI) scheme.

Sponsorship and financial guarantees have been secured to cover the cost of the statue through a fund raising appeal created in 2007 by train operator Northern Rail in partnership with Craven District Council and Veronica Trueman, Fred's widow. The final event in the fund raising calendar will be a Gala Dinner on 17 March 2010 and the statue is scheduled to be unveiled in March 2010.

Planning permission for the statue will be sought early in 2010 and with the Council's contribution the funding will then be complete.

For those wanting more information on "Fiery Fred" and the art of fast bowling, here is a link you may find useful http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fast_bowler

Help for home owners with mortgage arrears

A new scheme has been set up across North Yorkshire including the district of York to publicise all the homelessness prevention initiatives available to home owners facing mortgage repossession action. The scheme, developed by a partnership of all the local

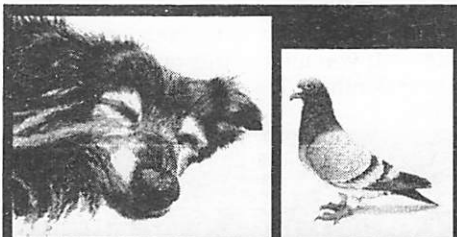
authorities across North Yorkshire will last for 12 months during which time it is hoped that as many home owners as possible will benefit from the advice readily available to them.

Wyn Ashton, CDC's Head of Strategic Housing said, "Given the current economic climate there has, over the last 18 months, been a steady increase in the number of households threatened with homelessness across North Yorkshire. This initiative seeks to prevent homelessness by ensuring that all the options available, across the county, are fully utilised to prevent people losing their homes."

Anyone with arrears who is concerned about losing their home can approach their local authority for advice about what housing options may be available to them, whether a home owner or a tenant.

Craven District Council and their partners Craven Housing Options service and Citizens Advice Bureau are available to offer advice and assistance and can provide information about free legal advice available in the district. They will also be able to look at whether any of the Mortgage Rescue schemes would be appropriate for individual circumstances.

Anyone wanting further information about this new scheme, or advice about their housing situation, can contact Craven District Council's Strategic Housing Team on 01756 706392 or Craven Housing Options service on 01756 704500 or the Housing Advice Resource Project on 01845 521458.



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A SPIRITED PERFORMANCE

By Septimus

If you missed it, you missed a treat: the Bentham Theatre Group's production of *Blithe Spirit*, ably directed by John Neal, was a delightful evening for all.

This classic Noel Coward comedy followed the research of Charles Condomine, well played by John Townsend, into the paranormal. He was looking for material for a new book but much to his dismay he becomes an "an astral bigamist" when his late wife Elvira reappeared to him but to no one else.

"At last - at last - a genuine materialisation," cried the delightfully dotty Madame Arcati portrayed perfectly by Anne Preston. Sue Halsall as his second wife was rather put out but Jane Learmonth as the elegant ethereal Elvira just pouted and rose above all the mayhem she created. The leading actors were well supported by Barry Hymer and Sue Bloxham who were very convincing as the local doctor and his wife. Laura Christman played a characterful cameo role as the poor put-upon maid.

Not only well acted, it was well staged too. The living room set designed and constructed by Jimi Ogden and Jane Learmonth captured the period to perfection. Many of the audience would like a sitting room just like that in their home. The backstage team was Jamie Campbell as Stage Manager, Sue Neal in the prompt corner, Mel Whitmore sorting the wardrobe with the help of the cast and Sue Ryder and Trevor Blackwell with the final curtain. In the gallery Gareth Adams and Iain Henshaw worked their magic with both sound and lights. If you missed this one - don't miss the next Bentham Theatre Group production in 2010.

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DiGi50+ MAKING THE DIGITAL WORLD WORK FOR YOU

By Nick Oldham

Digi50+ is a new initiative to support people over 50 and living in rural communities in North Yorkshire, Cumbria and Northumberland to get more out of computers, the internet and being online.

Funded by the government's Transformation Fund, it will offer workshops on getting started with a computer, using digital photography or video, making online albums or books or using the internet to develop your interests and hobbies such as local or family history. Bentham has been selected as one of the villages where the project is looking to work.

If you want to know how to share photographs with friends and family, create your own online photo albums or life story books, research your interests and hobbies or even do your online shopping and explore how computers, the internet and being online can help then DiGi50+ is for you.

We are running free informal introductory taster sessions at Bentham Library on Thursday 14th January, one starting at 10.00am and one at 2.00pm to show you what the exciting possibilities are.

If you're over 50 and want to find out what the digital world, computers and getting online can do for you, then come along and find out. DiGi50+ is a project for Adult Learners (50+) to make better and more creative use of computers, the internet and digital photography and video.

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POST OFFICE NEWS

By David Alder

Government Consultation on the Provision of Financial Services at Post Office Branches

The Department of Business, Innovation and Skills is currently running a public consultation exercise on the future range of financial products and services that could be offered by post offices. Amongst others, W.E. Gladstone, over 150 years ago with the Post Office Savings Bank, D. Lloyd George, over 100 years ago with pension payments, and A.W. Benn, over 40 years ago with Giro, successfully blazed trails in this direction which subsequent governments of various hues have sought to dismantle in whole or in part.

Partly as a result, and even though the Post Office still offers a range of successful services over 11,500 counters, the branch network has shrunk almost to a half of its size at its peak. Mr Mandelson has apparently somewhat belatedly realised this connection and this consultation, which is to be welcomed, is the result.

Further details of the exercise can be obtained by writing to: 'Post Office Banking', Shareholder Executive, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, 1 Victoria Street, London. SW1H 0ET or, by visiting the website: www.bis.gov.uk/postofficebanking or, even, somewhat encouragingly, by picking up a leaflet at your local post office - although supplies are limited!

Royal Mail Dispute

At the time of writing there has been no long-term resolution to the long-running dispute although talks are continuing and postal staff have been very busy as usual at this time of year in getting the Christmas post through to all corners of the country.

We hope both the Royal Mail and you all will have a Happy New Year!

LOW BENTHAM WOMENS' INSTITUTE

By Jennifer Watkinson

The well attended meeting, including three visitors, was chaired by the president, Mrs Ruth Sephton. She introduced Mr. Neil Simpson, a retired biology teacher, who delivered a most interesting talk about the Falkland Islands.

He and his colleague have visited the area several times to do geological and biological research. Before showing his collection of photographs, he displayed a simple world map showing the position of the treeless, sparsely populated islands. He mentioned the war, the harsh climate and the financial dependency on wool. The slides showed the unusual geological stone runs, the vegetation and the bird life as well as the well maintained public buildings, the war memorials and the houses.

The competition winners were 1. Edna Hewitt, 2. Sheila Brown and 3. Sue Cooper.

Four members attended the Ingleborough Group Carol Service at St. Mary's, Ingleton, where Barbara Vigour expressed her thoughts on Charity, the theme this year, and read a passage from Corinthians. Afterwards, coffee and mince pies were served.

Four members joined the Federation trip to Castle Howard, where they had a sumptuous Christmas lunch in the Grecian Room. Afterwards they toured the house and admired the magnificent festive decorations and the huge log fires.

Everyone enjoyed their Christmas meal at "Whitewells" in Hest bank. Afterwards Santa distributed gifts from his sack and the raffle was drawn.

Low Bentham members who attended Alan Bennett's talk earlier in the year were surprised by the amount of coverage they received on BBC 2's programme celebrating Alan Bennett's 75th birthday.

The next meeting, on 21st January, will be the Annual General Meeting. Please bring a wine glass. Supper will be supplied by the committee.

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HOE! HOE! HOE!

By Shirley Brown

In case you're wondering about the heading, that's the answer to "What did Santa say to his gardeners?" To carry on in a festive spirit, Bloomin' Bentham volunteers cleared up the debris that was left behind in a Beech Wood near the railway line after a party. It wasn't much fun actually, but the wood looked a lot better after we'd removed the bottles, cans and old duvet. We're not killjoys and are delighted that people are partying but would prefer it if they took their own rubbish away afterwards.

In the last month we've also reported fly tipping in both Nutgill and Tatterthorn Lanes. Somebody seems to have dumped the contents of their old bathroom in three different lay bys, and hopefully by the time you read this Craven District Council will have removed the debris. Thank you CDC!

We're continuing to look after the flowering tubs at the train station and look forward to seeing the bulbs come through in the New Year.

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WANDERING POOCH REWARDED

By *Steve Hastie*

A pub dog that frequently escapes from his home to walk the Yorkshire Dales Three Peaks has been given a special honour. Morris, who lives with his owners Sabena (correct) and Colin Martin in the Old Hill Inn in Chapel le Dale, regularly sneaks out to join groups of walkers as they leave to continue their hikes.

Now – in recognition of his love of exploring the fells – the 13-year-old pooch has been made an Honorary Friend of the Three Peaks, the group set up by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority as part of its newly-launched Three Peaks Project. Morris, whose favourite hill appears to be Ingleborough, has also received a medal from the Project to celebrate reaching the summit 32 times since Easter.

Three Peaks Project Manager Steve Hastie said: "We saw the story about Morris in some of the local weekly newspapers and we wanted to reward him for his enthusiasm. There are medals available for climbing each of the Three Peaks, so we might yet be back to celebrate Morris's further achievements.

"The Old Hill Inn is on the Three Peaks Challenge route and sees a fair share of walkers passing through. We want to get the message to as many people as possible so it's great that businesses are interested in helping. As well as raising income we are working to promote sustainable use of the area, and supporting local businesses is part of that."

Sabena and Colin have also signed up as

Corporate Friends, joining the growing number of local businesses supporting the footpath restoration and maintenance work of the National Park Authority in the Three Peaks area.

Corporate Friends promote the aims of the project to their customers, helping visitors to 'put something back'. Cash raised goes directly towards keeping paths in good order.

Alan Hulme, the YDNPA's Ranger Services Manager, said: "Morris is a professional escapologist but, generally, if you are planning to take your dog on a walk in the area, we would recommend that it is kept on a lead. It is especially important for the next few months because there will be a lot of pregnant ewes on the fells."

Background

The three-year Three Peaks Project was launched in April and aims to try to protect and conserve the area, which receives about 250,000 visitors a year and, in 1986, was judged to have the most severely eroded footpath network in the UK. Charities. Organisations and individuals are being asked to help in the maintenance and conservation of the network of paths crossing the fragile area of land by making donations of time, money or materials.

The Friends of the Three Peaks was formed by the YDNPA to support and raise money towards the maintenance of the footpath network around Wharfedale, Pen-y-ghent and Ingleborough.

For more information about any of this please contact Steve Hastie on 01729 825242 or mobile 07818 048767 or email him at threepeaksproject@yorkshiredales.org.uk

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By Cheryl Yeates

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Thank you to all those who helped me keep going in 2009 and a happy new year to you all.

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TO ALL OUR READERS*



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YESTERDAY IN BENTHAM

Keith Hartley takes a light-hearted look at Bentham and its people, as first seen through the pages of the Bentham News edition of twenty years ago.

January 1990

Happy New Year to you and yours! How frightening to think that the 1990s is now 20 years ago!

The front page of the new decade's first edition offered a list of "Our Hopes for Bentham in 1990," and reading through the list it struck me that a similar list drawn up today would contain many of the same "hopes." We would all hope, for example, that Kidde (Angus in 1990) will prosper and find the means to expand in Bentham; that houses will come within the financial reach of younger people; that farming will prosper in the area, and that it won't rain for Bentham Show!

My own Hopes List for the new decade would include poo-free pavements and a reversal of the iniquitous decision to close the town's toilets. 20 years ago BN invited readers to add to the list, so I'll do the same. Any thoughts?

Anyone who doesn't believe in reincarnation should be aware that in January 1990 Audrey Shallcross (President) announced the closure of the High Bentham branch of the Womens' Institute after 67 years. Although carrying a membership of 41 and an average monthly attendance of 32, the branch could not muster enough volunteers to form a viable committee so was forced to close.

However, never a group to let bad tidings ruin a good celebration, the closure meeting was immediately followed by the Christmas Party!

As the branch is alive and well today I look forward to reporting its rebirth in due course.

Sadly, there was to be no reincarnation for the Wenning Branch of the Royal British Legion, whose closure was also reported this month. Started in 1921, the branch had a membership of over 200 in the 1950s and 60s, but by 1990 this had fallen to less than 20, making closure inevitable.

A letter from one Cedric B Shipley of Dorchester began by thanking the BN Co-ordinator for posting copies to him each month. He went on to say, however, that on a recent visit to Bentham he attended church one Sunday morning and was disgusted to find "dust blowing around all over the place" (it happened to be the morning they were sandblasting the Town Hall). He said that since returning to Dorchester, he and his wife had decided that "Bentham does not now figure in our retirement plans, so please stop sending copies of Bentham News!"

That's probably the worst decision he ever made, but perhaps a good one for Bentham!

This month's edition carried a notice regarding a collection being made in Bentham with a view to placing a "simple memorial" beside a local footpath in memory of Joan Atkinson, a prominent walker whose obituary I reported last month. This all happened before my time in Bentham, but having walked the Heritage Trail several times and paused for a breather at *Joan's Seat* above Staggarth I have found it very interesting to make the connection, and almost feel as though I knew Joan personally.

Joan's Seat is in a stunning location and well worth a visit. Heritage Trail guide leaflets are readily available at the Tourist Information Office (Town Hall).

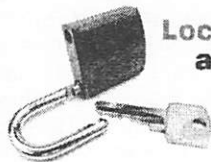


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Due to the crime rate rising I would like to advise everyone to be more aware of your security, ie, making sure your doors & windows are locked securely at all times, and that your locks also comply with the new insurance regulations. Any questions please contact Mark on the above number.

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"WHERE THERE'S MUCK THERE'S BRASS" - IT'S JUST A LOAD OF RUBBISH

By Susan Adams, Chairman N.S.P.C.C.

Come the new year we are being encouraged by the District Council to recycle more of our rubbish, and rightly so.

The new timetable for various collecting dates for the different types of waste we generate will soon be implanted upon our brains.

Can I remind everyone of the monthly collection on Lairgill car park every third Friday in aid of the N.S.P.C.C. We collect all household waste paper, cardboard and also telephone and trade directories. Perhaps you can add us to the list of what to recycle and when and remember to pop your paper down to us once a month. The money generated from our waste paper collection can then help the N.S.P.C.C. who have recently taken over Childline, the charity set up by Esther Rantzen. It will also help the council and therefore our pockets through the rates if they don't have as much waste paper to collect. Please make this one of your new year resolutions.

Thank you to all who have supported us during the last year at our various fund raising events, the last one of which was the Christmas Fair in the Town Hall on 11th December. The competition winners on the night were: Rabbit's Birthday, (29th November) - Bluebell Williams; Whisky - Sheila Percy; Christmas Tree (25) - Sue Park.

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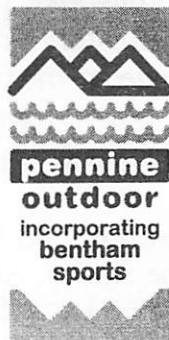
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BEST NEWS

By Annie Neligan

Give and Take

That chair you never liked, that guitar you never learned to play, that extra watering can, that bike they've grown out of. You can't use it? Maybe someone else can.

BEST is running another Give and Take day so you can get the year off to a good start by clearing out your cupboards, your attic and your shed and bringing unwanted stuff along to be discovered by someone else.

➤ Everyone is welcome to come along looking for treasures – you don't have to bring anything along to exchange. And everything is free.

➤ The idea is that we re-use as much as we can and save on sending waste that isn't really waste to landfill.

➤ So it's like a glorified free jumble sale – but with no clothes (take them along to the charity shop) or items that are too large to go in the Town Hall lift.

➤ Electrical items in reasonable working order are welcome. Iain Henshaw will be on hand to check that anything you want to take away is safe.

➤ The Energy Saving Trust will be handing out reusable cotton bags in exchange for your unusable plastic bags, and will also provide free, impartial advice on reducing waste and saving energy.

Come along on Saturday the 23rd January. If you have things to give away it would be good to bring them along any time from 9.30 am and before 11 am. If you are just looking, you are welcome up to 1 pm.

Tools

We are especially keen for you to bring along tools that could be used by joiners, plumbers, builders, electricians, blacksmiths or tailors. We will send them on to a project in Northallerton, called Tools for Self Reliance, which repairs them and sends them to developing countries where they can be used by people to make a living. If you have such tools, can't bring them along on the day and would like them collected, ring Annie on 64886 – or for any information.

10:10 Campaign

Coming to the Give and Take day might be a first step for some of us in our efforts to cut our carbon emissions by 10% in 2010. This resolve was spurred on by watching the film *Age of Stupid* and we're looking for any ideas about how to do it. Not buying new things that someone just down the road has finished with is one way. If you want to join us, get in touch (contact info below).

BEST stands for Bentham Environmentally Sustainable Town.

The next BEST meeting will be on Thursday 7th January at 7.00pm in the Horse and Farrier Inn, Main Street. All meetings and events are open to everyone; do come along and help make Bentham a greener town. If you'd like to know more about BEST, phone 63399 or check out <http://www.bentham.net/Community/BEST.asp>



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NOSEBAG – CAFÉ AND WINE BAR

By Shirley Brown

How do you think it feels for one owner of a business to leave on a Friday, and for another owner to take over a new business on a Saturday, and open to customers at 9.30am? Tough? Challenging? Exciting? Daunting? All of the above?

This is what happened when Denise Aspinall took over running the Nosebag Café on Saturday 12th December. In between decorating and giving the café a facelift, she's been serving drinks, snacks and lunches and is relishing the challenge. Denise lives in Settle where she's been working until recently at the Thirteen Wine Bar. She says she's been looking to run her own café for ages and was delighted when the opportunity came along to run the Nosebag Café. She trained as a cook as soon as she left school and has also done some work in accounting, which will now come in very handy. She has two children aged 17 and 20

and a 'very supportive partner'. Her daughter, Becca, will work at the café when she's not at college.

Loyal customers will be pleased to hear that lots of things will stay the same – Clare and Joe will still be there and Zoë on Saturdays. There'll be daily specials as well as high-class coffee and cakes, private bookings will be taken and outside catering on request.

Denise will be sourcing her ingredients from local suppliers wherever possible. But there will also be changes. Opening hours are extended to 9.30am to 5pm six days a week and later on Friday and Saturday evenings.

Denise has applied for a license to sell alcohol so it will be possible for customers to relax over a glass of wine. If all goes well Denise will be looking for more part-time staff in the New Year, so if you're interested in being part of this new and expanding venture, just call in and have a word. We wish Denise every success.

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LOCAL EVENTS IN JANUARY

Sat 2nd Bentham Footpath Group walk, Arkholme, 6 miles, leader Cherith Metcalfe 61742. Meet at Lairgill at 9.30am.

Badminton Club coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10.00am-12.00noon. 

Mon 4th Craven Customer Services at the Town Hall, 10.00am-12.30pm. Every Monday.

Indoor Bowls at the Town Hall Ballroom, 1-00-4.00pm.

Town Council meeting at the Town Hall, 7.00pm.

Drop-in at the Victoria Institute, Low Bentham, 10.00am-12.00noon and every Monday.

Community Link Café 1.30-3.00pm at the Victoria Institute, and every Monday.

Slimming Group at the Victoria Institute 5.30-6.30pm and every Monday.

Tai Chi at the Victoria Institute 6.15-7.15pm and every Monday.

Peak Fitness at the Victoria Institute, 7.30-8.30pm and every Monday.

Tue 5th Craft Club at Wenningdale Room, Town Hall, 10.00am-12.00noon, and every Tuesday.

Yoga at the Lower Town Hall, 6.00-7.00pm and every Tuesday.

Men's Walking Group, leave Looking Well 9.30am, return 11.30am, and every Tuesday.

Tuesday Strolls, leave Looking Well 2.00pm, return 3.00pm, and every Tuesday.

Tue 5th Looking Well Garden, Enormous Turnip Club, gardening for all, 2.00-3.30pm and every Tuesday.

Looking Well Harmony Singing - led by Noelle Thompson, 7.30-9.30pm and every Tuesday.

Wed 6th Coffee morning at Methodist Church Hall, 10.00-11.30am, and every Wednesday. Donations to local charities.

Looking Well Café IN, 11.00am-1.30pm and every Wednesday.

Looking Well Art For All - beginners welcome, 2.00-4.00pm and every Wednesday.

Looking Well, Pilates - gentle exercise to help with posture, 12.00noon-1.00pm and 1.00-2.00pm and every Wednesday.

Looking Well Moving Well, gentle exercise to music, 2.00-3.00pm and every Wednesday.

Victoria Institute, Drop-in 10.00am-12.00noon and every Wednesday.

Victoria Institute, Community Link Café 11.30am-2.30pm and every Wednesday.

Victoria Institute Line Dancing 2.00-3.00pm and every Wednesday.

Victoria Institute Helen Howard Dance Group 4.00-7.30pm. and every Wednesday.

Thu 7th Looking Well Cancer Support Group Drop in, art session, lunch and therapies, 11.00am-1.30pm and every Thursday.

Looking Well swimming at Hornby for over 50s (men and women), leave 8.45am. For transport contact Barbara 62873 or Carol 61233, and every Thursday.

Welcome-in dominoes for all ages at Methodist Church Hall, 2.00-4.00pm and 21st January. For transport contact Nigel/Kath 62272.

Victoria Institute Bat 'n' Chat 10.00am-12.00noon. Gardening 1.00-3.00pm, Art Classes 10.00am-3.00pm, and all three every Thursday.

LISTING FOR LOCAL EVENTS

Date.....Time.....

Event.....

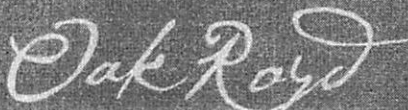
Venue.....

Contact Tel:.....

Name.....

Please return this entry to the Bentham Gallery, Station Road, High Bentham, by the 15th of the month for the following month's edition.

- Thu 7th Victoria Institute Helen Howard dance group, 4.15-8.15pm, and every Thursday.
- Fri 8th Yoga at the Town Hall, 6.30-7.30pm and every Friday.
Victoria Institute Helen Howard dance group, 1.00-3.00pm and 4.00-7.00pm and every Friday.
- Sat 9th Coffee morning, Christian Solidarity Worldwide, 10.00am-12.00noon. 
Bentham Film Group film at Victoria Institute 7.30pm. See page 22.
Looking Well, pantomime workshops, 11.00am-1.00pm and every Saturday.
- Sun 10th Bentham Footpath Group walk, Kentmere, 8 miles, leader D. Chamberlain 21436. Meet at Lairgill 9.30am.
- Mon 11th Toddler-in for parents/carers and babies/toddlers, 10.00-11.30am Methodist Church Hall, £1 per family. Every Monday.
Adventurers Group for 4-6 year olds, Methodist Church Hall 4.30-5.30pm and every Monday in term time.
Springboard for 7-10 year olds, Methodist Church Hall 6.15-7.30pm, 30p per child, and every Monday in term time.
Precept meeting at the Town Hall, 7.30pm.
- Tue 12th Bright Hour at the Methodist Schoolroom, 2.15pm. Speaker David Briggs.
Bentham Child Health Clinic at the Surgery, 2.00-4.00pm.
Looking Well Rag Rug Course - led by Joyce Knapp, 7.00-9.00pm and 19th and 26th.
- Wed 13th Looking Well, 11.00am-1.30pm Positive Futures Project and 20th and 27th.
Bentham Footpath Group open business meeting, 7.00pm, Wenningdale Room.
- Fri 15th Methodist Church Hall, 7.00-8.00pm GFI for school years 6, 7 and 8 and 8.15-9.15pm for school years 9+, and every Friday in term time.
- Fri 15th **Copy deadline for February Bentham News.**
- Sat 16th Bentham Playing Fields Association coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10.00am-12.00noon. 
- Tue 19th Bentham Footpath Group walk, Bentham circular, 5 miles, leader Joan Clapham, 64906. Meet at Lairgill 11.00am.
Thornton and Burton-in-Londale Mothers' Union Annual General Meeting in the Church Room, Burton, 2.00pm.
- Wed 20th Bentham First Responders meet at Looking Well 7.30pm. More volunteers are urgently needed so come and talk to us about joining.
- Thu 21st Lancaster and Skipton Rail Users Group meeting at the Wenningdale Room, Town Hall, 7.30pm.
Low Bentham W.I. Annual General Meeting in the Victoria Institute at 7.30pm.
- Sat 23rd Bentham News coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10.00am-12.00noon. 
9.00am-3.00pm BEST (Bentham Environmentally Sustainable Town) Give & Take at Town Hall Ballroom.
- Mon 25th Ewecross Historical Society meeting at the Town Hall, 7.30pm. Visitors welcome at £2. Annual membership £5. Speaker John Bentley - Ingleton. W.I. Federation Quiz Night at the Town Hall, 7.30pm.
- Tue 26th Bentham Child Health Clinic at the Surgery, 2.00-4.00pm.
Bright Hour at the Methodist Schoolroom, 2.15pm. Speaker Mary Hartley.
- Wed 27th Bentham Footpath Group walk, Lowgill/Hindburn, 8 miles, leader Mary Taylor 61672. Meet at Lairgill 9.30am.
- Fri 29th February Bentham News published.
- Sat 30th Lancaster and Skipton Rail Users Group coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10.00am-12.00noon. 



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Give and Take Day

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BENTHAM FILM GROUP PRESENT "THE SECRET LIFE OF BEES"

By Stella Hall

Bentham Film Group starts the New Year by showing 'The Secret Life Of Bees' (Cert 12 A) on Saturday 9th January.

This adventure drama is set in South Carolina in 1964. It tells the tale of Lily Owens, a 14 year old girl who is haunted by the memory of her late mother. To escape her lonely life she flees to a town that holds the secret to her mother's past. There, Lily finds solace in the mesmerizing world of beekeeping.

The show will start at 7.30pm in the Victoria Institute, Low Bentham. There will be an interval for refreshments and a raffle will be drawn. Tickets cost £5 on the door.

Don't forget those cushions!

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Bentham News,

I write to express my concern over the Council's proposal to purchase The Community Centre.

Whilst I support the provision of youth facilities I have to question in this instance the cost! It is already conceded that there is available capacity elsewhere and less than 2 years since a youth facility was completed at the Railway Station.

If the Railway Station is now considered inadequate there must be other existing buildings that could accommodate a youth facility. I am also at a loss to understand why the Council failed to support the Community Centre Committee prior to its closure, which surely would have cost less than the current proposal.

I have written to the Town Clerk requesting publication of the following: -

1. What will be the impact on the precept charge to all residents of purchasing this building for the next 5 years?
2. What is the expected maintenance costs over the next 5 to 10 years and its ongoing impact on precept charges?
3. How will the day-to-day running costs be funded?
4. Detailed research that shows, what facilities are available within the area, their suitability and the potential cost of using these facilities.
5. The number of youths by age group who will utilise such facilities?

I am sure BN will be delighted to print the response.

If we are to believe press reports increased taxation, which will undoubtedly include council tax, will be imposed in 2010 and now Bentham Parish Council intend to saddle us with more costs. Bentham has the highest precept charge for Parish Councils in Craven and possibly North Yorkshire and should surely be looking to reduce the tax burden not look for ways to increase it.

I believe the lack of a strategic plan for Bentham Parish Council continues to create ad hoc decision making with little or no consideration to the long term. We elect

Councillors particularly at Parish level to protect residents from remote decision making not to burden us with yet more taxation.

Michael Yeates, Millers Ford, Low Bentham.

Dear BN,

In October's BN Cllr Camacho wrote the following on the subject of parking charges: "...this is a Government and County Council policy which CDC are obliged to support. The policy is three part in intention, firstly to encourage the use of public transport secondly to encourage people to leave their cars at home for short journeys and of course to raise revenue. While the first item is not helpful in Bentham and the third unpopular the second has merit."

I decided to look up NYCC policies for myself to see what they had to say. A key document is the Yorks and Humber Plan, in particular: Policy T1: 'Personal travel reduction and modal shift', begins as follows: "The Region will aim to reduce travel demand, traffic growth and congestion, shift to modes with lower environmental impacts, and improve journey time reliability."

On Page 179, below Policy T1, is a key policy explanation: "13.3 Addressing traffic growth and congestion is a major issue for the plan. A key aim of integrated land use and transport planning policies is to reduce the need to travel and to reduce the length and number of journeys, particularly those made by private car."

Policy T2: 'Parking Policy' begins: "In order to help manage the demand to travel, support the use of public transport, and improve the quality of place, the Region will have a consistent approach to parking... Car parking provision based on the objective of reducing congestion."

So, would introducing car parking charges in Bentham further these highly commendable aims? Typically people will be driving into Bentham from the surrounding areas mainly to shop, some to work and a few to catch a train or bus. If car parking charges were introduced in Bentham most of these people living in the countryside will

(Continued on page 23)

LETTERS (continued from page 22)

still have to use their cars to shop because few will be near a bus or train, so they will more likely choose to drive to Lancaster or Kendal where supermarkets provide free parking, thus encouraging longer, not shorter car journeys, and greater traffic congestion en route, totally contrary to NYCC policies. Indeed, when you read the more detailed sections of these policies, there is talk about applying stricter parking regimes in towns and cities, not rural villages: "The maximum standards for the Regional Cities and Sub Regional Cities and Towns are for all parts of those urban areas but in some parts, including the city and town centres, significantly more restrictive standards than set out in Table 13.5 should be applied."

Such action in rural villages would have the reverse effect to that desired, discouraging people from shopping locally. Also, local residents would seek to avoid the GBP210 annual charge for parking in the car park by parking in nearby roads, so parking congestion would increase, not decrease.

A key successful outcome is identified in the plan as: "People are travelling shorter distances to access employment opportunities, services and facilities." Exactly. Drive to Bentham, please, not Lancaster, Settle and Kendal. If you must go there, why not leave your car in Bentham and take the bus or train? Public transport is already expensive and infrequent enough to put people off using it, so why discourage them even more?

Finally, Cllr Camacho seems to be implying that it is government policy that councils should use parking charges to plug holes in their budgets, and he describes this as 'unpopular'. It is in fact illegal. The Traffic Management Act 2004 (II) 14 & 15 includes the following: "... raising revenue should not be an objective of CPE [Civil Parking Enforcement] ... The objective of CPE should be for 100 per cent compliance, with no penalty charges." Government policy, in the form of Planning Policy Statements (PPS) and NYCC policy appear to both agree, that parking enforcement should be for environmental benefit, not revenue raising,

and CDC officers should be well aware of this, and have advised the councillors accordingly.

Peter Lennard.

Editorial note

See also the article about car parking charges on page 33.

Dear Editor,
Re Christmas Lights

I went into town to be cheered up, and enjoy the Christmas lights in our B.E.S.T. and what did I find?

The colour BLUE everywhere, the colour of unhappiness, despondency, grief, disappointment, and drove home in a positively blue mood, wondering why our town fathers even bothered. Certainly not the BEST by any means.

Yours disappointedly,

*Reg Gilroy,
Low Bentham.*

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BENTHAM YOUTH THEATRE GROUP REPORT

By Iain Henshaw

We have had a great year having staged Shake, Ripple and Roll in the Spring and our Christmas Variety show in December.

We've walked the streets raising funds, exhibited at Bentham Show and won a prize! We've face painted and run the refreshment tent at the fireworks. Not bad when you consider this is principally two people. Two people who owe a great deal to their partners for the support they offer, to the parents who have mucked in and helped, the traders who have sponsored, the general public who have donated and been in our audience - we need more of you!

A big thank you to Gemma Wright who has been a pillar of inspiration and dedication, somebody with a real 'can do', more importantly, 'will do', attitude.

We will be straight back after the panto. Watch out for next month's Bentham News, check the Community Centre fence and, who knows, we might just get the website updated. Happy New Year.

REMINDER RE EVENTS PAGE

Would secretaries/organisations wishing to have items listed on the events page please submit their programmes for 2010 by 15th January. Please also note that events should be listed in date order.



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BENTHAM PEOPLE

Thanks

Mrs. H. Guy. I had a bad fall on Friday 27th November. I wish to thank everybody who came to my aid, so quickly got the doctor and phoned for an ambulance. Thank you all.

Rowena Brayshaw would like to say thank you to all her friends and neighbours for their cards and kindness during her recent illness.



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Charity Thanks

Margaret Mason and Shirley Metcalfe would like to thank all those who helped and donated raffle prizes and items for the auction, and those who bid generously for them, at their Charity Dance on 4th December where a good time was had by all. Special thanks to Mandy at the Black Bull for £200 from the sale of her own jams and chutneys and £100 from the sale of a DVD player donated by Alison Murray. Also thanks to John Whitfield who acted as auctioneer for the goods and services promised which raised £1,500. A total of £3,410 has been given to Marie Curie Cancer Care and the Neuro-Surgical Research fund at Preston.

The Skate Park Project of Bentham Playing Fields has been kindly given a donation by Bentham Line Dancers, who wish them success with this venture.

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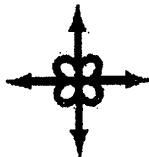
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BENTHAM FOOTPATH GROUP



By Maureen Ellis

Walkers in the Bentham Footpath Group try to share transport to the beginnings of walks, mainly to share the cost of transport but also not to take up too much space at what may be limited parking facilities. On several occasions I have experienced another more personal advantage to being a passenger in another driver's car (it's not so easy to talk if one is the driver and concentrating on the route). The intimacy or confinement of space has enabled me to get to know other walkers beyond their names. As an outsider to the area, I haven't been at the same school or lived in the same street or worked in the same office or establishments as local people and although we chat when walking, it's different sitting side by side in a car. I've had several magical moments getting to know people and the richness of their lives on the journeys to walks.

The New Year starts for the BFG on Saturday 2nd January with the Arkholme walk of 6 miles meeting at Lairgill at 9.30am. With walking starting in Arkholme Village we go N.W to reach Locha Lane and then take the footpath to the farm called Gunnerthwaite in the Keer valley and then return by the fields to Arkholme.

On Sunday 10th it is the Kentmere walk of 8 miles meeting at Lairgill at 9.30am then driving to the Barley Bridge at Staveley for the beginning of the walk. From there we go to Kentmere Hall and then back to Staveley via Staveley Head.

The Bentham Circular of 5 miles takes place on Tuesday 19th and meets at 11 am at Lairgill. It will go to the outskirts of Ingleborough over the golf course and return via bye-roads because of the seasonal weather. It's then to Greystone Gill and back over the fields to Bentham.

On Wednesday 27th it's the Lowgill/Hindburn walk of 8 miles, meeting at Lairgill at 9.30am with walking starting from the Old School at Tatham Fells. We will

go across footpaths in a northerly direction to Fourstones and onto Burn Moor and Big Stone and then head south by road to Foss Bank Farm. It's then across fields to Brackenbottom Farm and on to Ivah (a group of buildings now) and continue south past Swans and then across the Hindburn to Thrushgill and on, heading northwards down the west side of the river, crossing it below Low Gill and then back across footpaths to the Old School.

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LOOKING WELL NEWS

By Julie Vass

Happy New Year from all of us at the Looking Well. Come and join us in 2010 to try something new, get out and about or explore your creative potential.

Gentle Walks with Women – Mondays led by volunteer walk leaders who suit the walk to the group and weather. Walks are no more than 3 miles. Tuesdays shorter gentler walks around Benthams, are usually just over 1 mile.

Men's Walking Group - These walks are at a moderate pace and aim to explore local favourite routes, taking in bird watching and nature.

Creative Writing Group – Come and join this inspiring group to discover or develop your creative potential.

Harmony Singing Group – Learning songs from around the world. All songs taught by ear, so no need to read music.

Café IN - Looking Well's Café IN is a welcoming, friendly, relaxing space for Information, Internet access, Informal help and use of computers. Whilst you are here try our delicious homemade soup, cakes or just a steaming mug of coffee/cuppa tea on a cold winter's day.

Pilates – Pilates consists of slow controlled exercises which work the stabilising muscles and control posture – great for bad backs!

Moving Well - Gentle stretching, toning & aerobic exercise to music, including armchair exercises.

We have new classes starting in Computing (with Confidence) and Digital Photography, beginning with 'Making the best of your Digital Camera' and 'Image Manipulation'. So come along and make the most of your computer or camera.

Panto Prop-making workshops – Saturday mornings from 11am, 9th Jan – 13th Feb inclusive All welcome – Children under 11 years must be accompanied by an adult.

Further details or information on other regular activities contact: Julie 015242 62672 or email Julie@pioneerprojects.org.uk

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BENTHAM PET RESCUE

By Val Marshall



Firstly, as we come to the end of our 13th year (how time flies!) may we wish you all, and your pets, a happy and peaceful new year. Thanks to the efforts of our new team and assistants this year has been successful for us. Due to some retirements however, we still need help up at the sanctuary in Burton-in-Lonsdale so if you are able to spare us even an hour or so a week please give Sanctuary Manager, Pat, a call on Bentham 63048.

Many thanks to the 50 or so brave dog-walkers who in December took their 30 dogs on the Sponsored Walk which was kindly organised by Dalehead Vets on our behalf. Although there was a fair amount of mud to get through, all this was forgotten when the end was reached with refreshments for the dogs and their owners!

If you are considering adding a cat or a kitten to your household, please have a word with Pat, on Bentham 63048, and she will give you details of those currently in our care. Some we have look forward to the company of children – or other cats – whilst others just like sitting by a fire or on a knee being fussed over! All local sanctuaries are full at present, largely with kittens so can we please remind you to have your cat neutered if you do not wish to keep any offspring. Cat Protection can often help with the cost of this operation. Our website, run by our Secretary, Pam Whitehead (01729 860235), is at benthampetrescue.co.uk and shows photographs of some cats seeking new homes.

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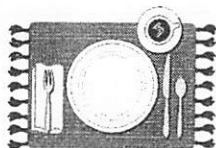
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COOKERY PAGE

*Edited by Patsy
Henderson*



Using those Christmas leftovers

Ham Rissoles - serves 4

Recipe

350g ham, cooked and chopped
1 onion, chopped
225g potatoes, boiled
1 tbsp chopped gherkin
1 tbsp chopped parsley
1 egg
50g fine breadcrumbs
1tbsp butter
1 tbsp oil
seasoning to taste

For the parsley sauce

425ml milk, 1 tbsp single cream
40g butter
20g plain flour
3 tbsp parsley, finely chopped
1 tsp lemon juice
seasoning to taste

Method

Put the ham, onion, potatoes, egg and parsley into a food processor and blend until the ham is finely chopped. Place this mixture in a bowl, stir in the gherkins and season to taste. Divide the mixture into 8 portions, shape into rounds and coat with breadcrumbs. Cool in the fridge until required. To cook, melt the butter and oil in a frying pan and cook the rissoles until golden, about six minutes per side.

For the parsley sauce, put the milk, cream, butter and flour into a saucepan. Heat the pan, whisking the mixture until smooth and thickened. Cook gently for about 5 minutes, then stir in the parsley and lemon juice.

Creamed Turkey en Croute

Recipe

350g cooked turkey, chopped
35g smoked bacon, finely chopped
25g butter
1 medium onion, chopped
75g mushrooms, chopped
25g plain flour
350ml turkey or chicken stock
2 tbsp brandy (plus 2 for the cook. It's Christmas time!)
75ml cream
1 tbsp fresh parsley, chopped
seasoning to taste
350g puff pastry, thawed
beaten egg for glaze

Method

Preheat the oven to 220C, gas 7. Melt the butter in a saucepan and cook the onions for about 5 minutes. Add the mushrooms to the pan and cook for 5 minutes until softened. Remove the onion/mushroom mixture with a slotted spoon, onto a warm plate. Put the bacon into the pan until cooked, then add the onions and mushrooms and sprinkle with flour. Stir until the juices are soaked up by the flour. Don't worry, it will look a bit odd. Now add the stock gently, stirring continuously to make a smooth, thick sauce. Then add the parsley, cream and brandy. Season to taste then remove the pan from the heat and allow to cool.

Roll out the pastry to give 30cm square and place on a greased baking sheet. Mix the chopped turkey into the cool sauce and put the mixture onto the centre of the pastry square. Glaze the edge of the pastry with beaten egg and then lift the corners to meet, and crimp all edges. Glaze all over with egg, decorate with pastry shapes, glazing them as well. Bake the pie for about 30 minutes, until golden. Serve with a salad or vegetables.

BENTHAM NEWS is published at "Latharna", High Bentham, by an editorial committee consisting of Trevor Blackwell, Shirley Brown, Christine Hodson, Peter Phillips, Ken Robertson, John Vendy, Pam Woof, and co-ordinator, Bill Kennedy, who can be contacted on telephone 015242 62492, or Shirley Brown on 015242 61608. 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**, which should be handed in to the Gallery, Station Road, by the copy deadline, the 15th of January for the February edition. The Bentham News email address is: benthamnews@lycos.com.

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CAR PARKING CHARGES: IS NO NEWS GOOD NEWS?

By Trevor Blackwell

It looks as if Craven District Council is still planning to ignore the wishes of the people of Bentham and impose car parking charges at Grasmere Drive. Its next step would be to ask for a Parking Order at the North Yorkshire Craven Area Committee Meeting on Monday February 8th 2010. This meeting will commence at 10am at the Herriots Hotel, Broughton Road, Skipton, and if the Parking Order is on the agenda it's vital that people from Bentham are there to make their opinions heard. This would be our last chance to keep free parking in Bentham.

Contact with CDC Communications Officer

But it's not yet clear whether Craven will be asking North Yorkshire County Council for permission to introduce parking charges in February. When I contacted the Craven Communications Officer she told me that they were still working on the objections from the County Highways Department and the Police. She said: "Craven District Council is working with the County Council to resolve their objections before we ask them for a Parking Order. This is likely to be a long process, so we can't put a definite date on when permission will be sought." But she declined to reassure me that this "long process" meant that Craven wouldn't be ready to apply for a Parking Order on Monday, February 8th.

"Then how will we know", I asked, "so that we can protest?"

"North Yorkshire County Council call the meetings", she said. "Try them."

So I contacted David Ireton, our representative on North Yorkshire. Did he think that the Bentham Parking Order would be on the February 8th agenda?

"It's possible," he said, "but highly unlikely." Councillor Ireton then told me that he has major concerns about the effects of car parking charges in Bentham. He is especially concerned about the difficulties of access for the emergency services (particularly fire

engines and ambulances), and the probable displacing of parking onto residential areas. He feels that, at the very least, a full traffic impact survey is needed before any further steps are taken. And February 8th?

"The agenda for the Craven Area Committee meeting will be drawn up in January," he said. "And you can ask to be notified if the Parking Order is going to be on the agenda." Hallelujah!

The person to write to is Stephen Loach, Committee Services, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AD. You can ask to be notified if and when an application is made to the North Yorkshire Craven Area Committee for a Parking Order at Grasmere Drive, Bentham, as you wish to make representations. And, apparently, Stephen Loach will let you know!

I'm going to write on behalf of the Bentham News. And maybe it wouldn't do any harm if other people who are interested and concerned write as well. Then we will be ready to organise some cars and community transport to go and make our voices heard.

So is no news good news? I think it is. The fact that Craven is finding it so difficult to overcome the serious objections from Highways and the Police, and is talking about it being a long and lengthy process, is good news. The fact that Councillor Ireton of North Yorkshire is expressing such major concerns is even better news. But the best news of all – that Craven has decided to drop the whole idea – that news is still to come.



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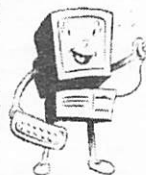
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CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

By Jayne Mann

Here we are at the start of a new year, and a new decade and we hope it will be a good one for all of you! We would like to say a couple of huge thank yous, first to Brain Lawson for coming to our aid with a cherry picker at short notice and secondly to Di Thornton for the tea and cakes on our work days - much appreciated!

It was fantastic to see so many festive shop windows. The competition judges - Ian Wood, Gareth Adams and Clifford Bentham were very impressed with the overall standard and thank all the traders for their efforts. The 1st prize went to Tom Guy, the 2nd to Sue Ryder Shop and 3rd to Nosebag.

We now meet on the second Monday of each month at 7.30pm at the Byres (they are closed on Mondays) and will be holding an open meeting on Monday 8th February to show our ideas for next Christmas, to which all are welcome. We didn't have a stall at the Christmas Fayre due to circumstances beyond our control but you can contact me on 64948 or Iain Henshaw on 61010.



A "DALESBRED" BUTCHER FOR BENTHAM

By Christine Hodson

Mark Paige has opened a butcher's shop on Station Road, High Bentham. He is working closely with Nathan Brown, a farmer, from Littledale, and buys all his meat from him. Nathan specialises in traditional breeds of beef, namely Aberdeen Angus, Shorthorn, Highland and Belted Galloway. Mark and Nathan both agreed it would be a good idea to move butcher and farmer closer together and work under the tradename 'Dalesbred'. The reason for the name "Dalesbred" is that all the beef, pork and lamb is reared in the Dale of Littledale.

All the cattle breeds are slow growing, and reared on the high ground in the Littledale area, producing high quality meat. Mark also makes his own sausages and cures his own bacon to sell in his shop. Although only open for a few weeks, Mark says that business is good and is very proud of selling good quality meat to a wide range of local customers. Mark enjoys working in such a 'nice little shop', serving the 'loyal and fantastic people' of Bentham. He wishes to thank everyone for their continued support

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HIGH BENTHAM COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

By Mrs C. Boocock, Head teacher

Thank You

A school like ours in the heart of the Community is enriched hugely by the contributions, donations and support of volunteers and friends.

This month we need to acknowledge the recent donation from Naylor Myers of more tiles to our slowly evolving Mosaic Masterpiece. Also Dave Bedford came in especially one night after school to put up all the lights in the Hall to make it festive for all the children. And the PTFA, who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes with decorations, Santa's Sleigh, parties etc have earned a well deserved rest.

A huge thank you to Wennington Hall staff and pupils, the PTFA, Father Christmas and all those who kindly gave us money as we travelled around Bentham with Santa's Sleigh! We raised over £288 which is great and this money will go towards the costs of trips and visitors which make school such an exciting place! We were so fortunate it was a lovely evening after all the weeks of rain! Thank you also to the SBC of the Horse &

Farrier pub who gave us a kind donation in December which we have already put to good use in booking a Puppet show for the summer term!

New signs freshen up the school

Over the past couple of weeks we have seen a number of new signs pop up around school. Some of them remind us all how to keep the children safe (closing gates) while others offer advice and stimuli for our learners. There are shapes, greetings, playground rules and reminders of good conduct.

Drums a'GoGo

The picture shows – Jack Garnett, Shannon Townley, Lewis Regan, Mrs Askew (student), Keaver Gilmore, Lara Macdonald and Kayleigh Atkinson from Class 3.

Drums a'Gogo from Harrogate, and the excellent teacher Alison, joined us with a Djembe drum for each child in class. Working across the day with children from class 1 to class 4, Alison introduced children to traditional Africa rhythms, songs and instruments.

At the end of the day (a noisy but fantastic day we all agreed) each class performed what they had learned in the Hall to stunning effect. Staff and children both had a truly fantastic day – and it was brilliant to see the motivation, enjoyment and enthusiasm from everyone involved.

