

BENTHAM NEWS

SEVERE WINTRY WEATHER DISRUPTED LIFE IN BENTHAM DURING DECEMBER AND JANUARY BUT PROVIDED MANY WITH RARE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PHOTOGRAPHY

The Bentham News has been inundated with photographs of wintry scenes, and some have been included in this issue. Thanks to everyone who submitted pics, and to Jon Brook, of Bentham Imaging, for the magnificent photograph, below, of the Ribblehead Viaduct.



FEBRUARY 2010

ISSUE 280



OVER £1,000 RAISED BY DALEHEAD "SANTA PAWS"

By Karen Aspinall

Thirty festively clad canines accompanied by over fifty plucky humans braved wind, rain and treacherous mud on Sunday 6th December, to raise over £1,000 in aid of Bentham and District Pet Rescue.

Dalehead Veterinary Group's Festive Charity Dog Walk departed from Bentham Surgery to enjoy the local scenery across Cowslip Hill returning via the banks of the River Wenning. Inspired by the promise of mulled wine and mince pies, and chews for the dogs, the group completed the walk with relatively few muddy incidents.

Dalehead would like to thank everyone for the fantastic response to the fund raising event, and would like to wish everyone a happy new year.

CAR WINDOW SMASHED WITH AN AXE IN LOW BENTHAM

By PC Barbara Parsons

At approximately 05:30 - 06:00hrs on Monday 18th January a black Vauxhall Vectra parked on Main Street, Low Bentham had its front passenger side window smashed with an axe. The axe was left in situ on the dashboard. The damage caused the vehicles alarm to sound.

If anyone has any information in relation to this crime or saw anyone acting suspiciously in the area at the time please contact PC 830 PARSONS, Ingleton Police Station, 08456060247 ex 3091.

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JANUARY'S TOWN COUNCIL

By David Johnson

All the Cllrs were present except Cllr Faichney.

County Cllr Ireton gave a fairly upbeat statement about the progress being made towards the purchase of the site for the new primary school. He said that the authority was preparing to go for a full planning application for the school.

He thought there was likely to be a 3.75% increase in the County part of the Council Tax. The authority has been hit hard by the fall in interest rates and rising fuel costs.

He assured Cllrs that there was plenty of grit available and promised to chase up complaints from the Cllrs about the poor gritting near the surgery and fire station and to look into the suspension of the service bus at Hornby because of the lack of gritting on Burton Hill.

District Cllr Camacho said he had managed to arrange a meeting with United Utilities to discuss some aspects of maintenance on Wenning Avenue.

Cllr Barrington has ascertained that the Rose Garden belongs to Craven District Council. In response to her request about turning it into a car park CDC indicated that such a move would require the purchase of the land at market prices and require full planning permission.

Planning

The Cllrs decided to recommend rejection of an application to change the stable building at Bull Copy, Tatterthorn Road into holiday let accommodation on the grounds that the site lies outside the development envelope for High Bentham.

They also opposed a plan to build a bungalow on the amenity land at Butterbergh. Several letters of objection had been received about the latter. Some Cllrs pointed out that the provision of the amenity area was part of the original planning consent. The clerk pointed out that there are four trees on the site protected by Tree Preservation Orders.

Parish Caretaker

The Council has been awarded a grant of £5,000 over three years from April 2010 to employ a Parish Caretaker. The Cllrs agreed to set up a working group to consider the most effective way of using the post. They considered approaching some neighbouring parishes such as Wray and Melling that already have experience in this area.

Grass Cutting Contract 2010-2012

An extended discussion took place about the merits of the various contenders and eventually the Cllrs voted to offer the work to Horton Landscaping.

Barrier on School Hill

Mrs Boocock, the Headteacher at Bentham Primary School, confirmed that in the interests of child safety the barrier should be replaced. The Cllrs agreed to proceed with the work.

Community Youth Project

The clerk announced that the Council had been granted permission from the Secretary of State to borrow up to £80K from the Public Loans Board. The Cllrs received a letter objecting to the purchase of the Community Centre and querying various aspects of the eventual cost to Council Tax payers. (The details of this letter can be read in the January edition of the Bentham News.)

The Cllrs reiterated points made at previous meetings namely that by taking advantage of the current low interest rates and by negotiating a two year extension it could complete the purchase and keep the current repayment level. The Youth Café will pay for any ongoing running costs and building maintenance.

Community Governance Review

This is underway. It is possible that the review may recommend a change in ward boundaries or the level of representation for those wards to try to maintain a fair balance between electors and Cllrs.

Fly Tipping

The Cllrs heard that fly tipping is becoming more common following the imposition of charges to remove large household items.

GARDENING COLUMN

By Joyce Knapp

As I sit writing this on a very cold, but beautiful winter's morning, I'm struggling to imagine what the weather may be like by the time we get into February.

The tasks in the garden at the moment seem to be centred around the prevailing weather conditions i.e. snowy by day and freezing hard each night. Recently, I noticed that the stems on my Mahonia were toppling over under the excessive weight of snow and I remedied this simply by using a yard brush to brush away the snow that had collected on the rather large rosette of leaves at the top of each stem. As it would take too long to clear snow from all shrubs in the garden, we need to be vigilant and just dust off those that show signs of strain, and thereby avoid long-term damage, without too much effort.

The recent extremely hard frosts have meant that I have had to rescue both beetroot and onions that were being stored in a shed. Even though I had covered both crops with thick layers of garden fleece, the frost had started to penetrate and some of the onions were starting to freeze and then rot and the beets were frozen solid too. Having brought them into the house, I allowed them to thaw for a day before discarding any completely damaged onions and separating any partly damaged ones to be used first. I then decided to store the remaining good ones in a cool part of the house to avoid any further loss. The beetroot were fine when I cooked some of them, although I doubt that they would have survived had I left them in the freezing conditions in the shed for much longer.

Having had a very wet spell in late November and early December, followed by a prolonged period of snow and ice from mid December through January, we gardeners will, no doubt, be raring to get back into gear and start getting everything into shape ready for the coming growing season. In the ornamental garden, this probably starts with a walk around to assess the state of the plants and the ground, only then can we judge



which tasks need doing most urgently. Usually, it is the perennials that need attention first, removing all the old growth from last year to allow this year's new growth to come through unhindered. Extra vigilance is needed here as it is only too easy to step on the emerging leaves of any bulbs growing between the perennials, so tread very carefully to avoid disappointment.

NATURE NOTES

By David Fisher

National Moth Night at Hoffman Lime Kiln is a place where the "cave spider" hides and where the "Herald moth" is found. Hibernating butterflies also rest up here for the winter.

Because it is dark inside the kiln, it provides the right conditions for the named species. Also, you find various bats which are seen to emerge from the vents located inside the walls of the kiln. Conservation work has taken place here, where the scrub has been cleared to help preserve this old building.

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CRAVEN CONCERNS

By Cllr Manuel Camacho 015242 62074

manuel.camacho@btinternet.com

Drains

When I was elected a councillor I took as much advice as possible and I will always be grateful to Ralph Atkinson. His advice was very good and on the subject of being a councillor in general he felt it was "mainly about drains!!". It hasn't worked out quite that way but close enough.

There is some misunderstanding about CDC's role regarding drains, sewers, culverts and watercourses. CDC do have a role to play but with the exception of drains on their own property they have no responsibility for upkeep or maintenance of any of the above.

Where CDC does come in, is for public health. Where drains have failed endangering health, then CDC can issue an order to require the immediate repair of the failed drain, in extreme cases they can organise the repair and bill the landowner. Craven take the view that the role is also advisory and frequently spend a lot of time helping to resolve issues arising.

The owner of drains is usually the landowner or in the case of sewers United Utilities, road drainage is taken care of by NYCC Highways department. So in summary if you spot a leaking sewer please report it to CDC's Environmental Health department who will advise and ensure that the responsible party fixes it.

Does your satellite dish need planning permission?

With the switchover from analogue to digital in the Granada region, Craven District Council is reminding residents that they may need planning permission to put up satellite dishes.

The Council's planning department is seeing an increasing number of cases where dishes are being installed without the necessary planning permission and/or listed building consent.

If you live in a Conservation Area you will need planning permission to put up a satellite dish on a chimney, wall or roof slope which faces onto, and is visible from, a

highway. Other restrictions may also apply and more information is available on www.planningportal.gov.uk/house.

IMPORTANT ELECTION NEWS FOR 2010

By Colin Iveson, Head of Democratic Services,
Craven District Council (T: 01756-706231
M: 07754834625 E: civeson@cravencd.gov.uk)

This year the District and Parish Elections will be held on Thursday 6th May. However, if the General Election is held on the same date, the polling day for the Parish Elections will be deferred automatically for three weeks. This would mean that contested elections would be held on Thursday 27th May.

The timetable for the District and Parish Elections will be:

- Monday 29th March – Notice of Elections published and Nomination Papers can then be delivered to the Returning Officer at the Granville Street Offices in Skipton.
- Noon on Thursday 8th April – Delivery of Nomination Papers to the Returning Officer closes. (In order to qualify for the elections, correctly completed nominations have to be delivered into the hands of the Returning Officer by this time.)
- Noon on Monday 12th April – Statement of Persons nominated will be published.
- Noon on Tuesday 13th April – Candidates can withdraw up to this point.

The dates shown in brackets from here on represent the revised dates for the Parish Elections if the General Election is called for 6th May.

- 5pm on Tuesday 20th April (or Wednesday 12th May) – Close of applications for postal votes, and close of applications to register to vote.
- Tuesday 27th April (or Wednesday 19th May) – Close of applications to Vote by Proxy.
- Wednesday 28th April (or Thursday 20th May) – Candidates to have appointed Counting Agents by this date.
- Thursday 6th May (or Thursday 27th May) – Polling Day

SINGING – A PRESCRIPTION FOR HEALTH AND HAPPINESS

By Elizabeth Dawson

Winter can seem never-ending at this time of year, and most evenings find me grumpy, exhausted, and capable only of slumping in front of the telly. But on Tuesdays I make a supreme effort to drag myself to the Looking Well for 7.30pm; and leave a couple of hours later invigorated, with a sense of achievement, and feeling at one with the world and my fellow human beings. What have I been doing?

I have been singing in harmony with a friendly local group, and reaping the physical, psychological and social benefits. The charity "Heart Research UK" (www.heartresearch.org.uk) cites research which shows that singing gives you a physical workout, improves your breathing and lung capacity, reduces stress, lifts your mood, and promotes a sense of community.

Our group is ably led by Noelle Thompson, who has an amazing capacity to make us all feel comfortable whatever our age or musical experience (or lack of it). This really is a group in which those who were told to mime in the back row at school can find their voices! We sing songs from all around the world: some are light-hearted, some are serious and moving. All are uplifting.

So if it feels as if spring will never come, give singing a try – we really would welcome new members. You don't need to read music; all songs are taught by ear; and we all help each other. I promise you, you'll leave singing.

Harmony Singing takes place at the Looking Well (tel: 62672) on Tuesdays, 7.30 - 9.30pm in term-time.



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HOW THINGS ARE

By Trevor Blackwell

After the snow fell during the night the fields and the sheep were shining in the morning, and the air tasted of Eden, so I dressed up warm and walked up to the Meeting House.

Going up the road Ingleborough stood high, covered in snow, white against a blue sky. The hill is always changing, but today the snow had etched the face more clearly, and there was a definite smile. Now many people see in the profile of Ingleborough the face of a sphinx – and I can see that – but more often it looks like a lion to me, a lion with a quiet smile. I turned left off the road and walked up the icy path towards the gate. The gate was closed, but boot marks in the snow passed through it. Then I walked through the inner gate and stood in the porch, which smells of wood and age and safety, and then walked round to the graveyard.

Usually I sit on the bench and watch the graves and the grass, but today the bench was covered in snow, so I walked through the plain grave stones to the wall and looked out over the white fields, and then over to the giant windmills on the horizon. There was a great quietness. Before I left I turned to see the grave stone of Richenda Towler. I never knew her, but once, in the library, I saw an old photograph of a woman dressed in very old-fashioned clothes and a bonnet, drawing water from a well at Mewith Head Hall, whilst a white horse looked over the wall. I later found out that this was a photograph of Richenda Towler, and she was a Quaker. So I remember her.

I retraced my snowy steps back to the front of the Meeting House and looked in through the window. There were some orange flowers on the windowsill, and in the centre of the room I could see a round table with some books on it. Silent, simple, still. As it always is. But as I turned away my eyes were caught by something new. One of the panes in the window was glowing in colour.

I stopped and looked. These were delicate but vivid colours – at the top of the pane red and purple and violet, then lower down green and gold. And all touched with a

strange light, a light not seen on sea or land, with colours that spoke of foreign richness. The colours reminded me of those pictures we used to make in primary school – I don't know what you call them – where you mix up oils in a tank and then you slip a sheet of paper into the fluid and it comes out covered with shimmering and exotic patterns.

I moved slightly and the colours shifted. Then I knew that I was seeing the sunlight reflected and refracted in the drops of water which were condensing on the inside of the glass. Indeed I could see a tear of water running down the inside of the next pane. The unearthly colours were produced by the sun and the Meeting House and the moisture and me doing what we did, being what we were.

So nothing special. Just the universe being. Just the world waving. Just how things are. Nevertheless I bowed to the Quaker stained glass. And I find myself bowing more and more often these days. Especially when the snow falls.

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LITTLE RED BUS TRIPS DURING HALF TERM

By Anne Yaman

Back by Popular Demand - We will be running a day trip to the Lowry Outlet Mall in Salford Quays in Manchester on Tuesday 16th February leaving Bentham at 9.30 a.m. The cost will be £7.50 per person. Please call either Tommy or Peter to book on 62753.

On Thursday 18th February we will be running a trip to Kendal Town Centre leaving Bentham around 9.30 a.m. Again, if you wish to go on this please contact Peter or Tommy. The cost will be £5.00 per person.

Both trips will be on a first come, first served basis and will be dependent on a minimum number of 6 people for the trip to run.



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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.

February 1990

The local rail service was the subject of speculation and dismay, as rumours spread about the possible closure of the line. It was believed that the deteriorating condition of the Melling Tunnel would provide economic grounds for the closure, and the announcement of a 30% reduction in the service appeared to support the concerns about British Rail's intentions. However, this month's Bentham News was able to report that work had started on structural repairs to the tunnel, and was thus able to dispel the fears of local rail users.

Panto fever had hit Bentham again as the town girded its loins for the opening of *Sleeping Beauty*, the Panto Group's tenth production. New local stars *Caroline Millard* and *Melanie Emmott*, as "Beauty" and her Beast, headed a cast which included *Hannah Campbell*, *Paul Morphet*, *Stephen Smith*, *Keith Dixon* and, of course, the flowers, ladybirds, bees and butterflies that were Bentham's children.

North Yorkshire Police were looking to appoint a number of Special Constables to assist in the policing of local areas, and were reported to have had several applications from the Bentham area. *What happened to them?*

This month's Town Council meeting, with the Councillors again outnumbered by members of the public, was devoted almost entirely to the problems of hiring out the town hall for private functions. Saturday night discos were of some concern, with underage drinking and rowdy behaviour identified as consequential problems. Predictably, the town's young people took the largest amount of flack for this, and the failure of the organisers to take their responsibilities seriously was mentioned only in passing. In reality the biggest

problem was the mess left behind after the discos, and this was largely caused by the flimsiness of the plastic "glasses" which, as Kate Steele reported, needed only a squeeze "to be well on the way to providing Bentham with its own swimming pool!" The police were said to favour seeing an end to all discos in the Town Hall, saying (quote) "They make more work for us."

Shame on them! But from the number of Saturday discos we have in Bentham these days it would seem the police had their way.

The sports page this month contained what I think must be one of the shortest football reports on record: *Dynamos 10: Craven Wanderers 0. No Comment!*

At the Springfield Bowling Club AGM, a one-minute silence was observed in respect of *Tom Cardus* and *Gladys Haigh*, both of whom had passed away during the previous year.

One of the things I remember about my first visit to Bentham some years ago is having a coffee at the *White Rose Restaurant* on Main Street. This of course no longer exists, but seeing their advert in the BN edition of 20 years ago led me to thinking, as I have often done before, how many local businesses have vanished over recent years. For interest, I counted all the adverts in the same edition and found that of the 35 businesses advertising, only ten are still trading today, with names like *Frost*, *Bruns*, *Stonegate House*, *Pop and See* and *Mary Thornborough* having now disappeared. I was starting to feel a little sad until I realised that they have mostly been replaced by businesses of at least equal value and interest such as *Asian Spice*, *Nuffin2Wear*, *Oakroyd* and *Flowerfields*.

And Sue Ryder still ensures that Bentham remains well-dressed, well read, and has the best-furnished dolls' houses in Yorkshire!

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BENTHAM GOLF CLUB

By Thomas and Jane Marshall

Bentham Golf Club has new owners – The Marshall family from Riverside Caravan Park. The golf club was previously a members' club owned and run by its members and a board of directors. The Golf Club will complement the existing business of holiday homes, touring caravans and self catering holiday cottages but will be run entirely separately. As many of you know Riverside is a local family business that has been operating within the leisure industry since its creation by Bateman Marshall in the late 1960s.

Riverside Caravan Park employs local people and uses local businesses for services and supplies; a philosophy that will continue with the golf club. With a fantastic location, course and a loyal membership, we as a family are looking to a bright future at Bentham Golf Club. All the staff have been retained, and with their golfing experience and expertise the family hope to move the golf club forward. Increasing membership, visitor numbers and improving the facilities are the main objectives over the coming months. The golf club will be promoted locally and further afield to attract day visitors as well as golfing parties to accommodation in the area. A programme of maintenance has begun to spruce the club and course up.

There remains a members' club with various sections; Juniors, Seniors and Ladies. The members will continue to operate a full calendar of golfing competitions and team matches as well as running an active and vibrant social section with a variety of functions throughout the year. New members are welcome – no joining fee is charged; we welcome members from all walks of life and all ages. As in the past, there are various Open competitions throughout the year for anyone with a handicap to take part in.

The Junior section at Bentham has always been a strong one and we want this trend to continue. The junior price structure for membership has had an overhaul, hopefully making golf more accessible for children at the grass roots level. This year we hope to have a full calendar of junior events

including more competitions, the major ones being staged during the various school holidays, as well as competitions on Monday nights. These will be run as a league, with prizes on the day and for the overall winners at the end of the year. We will have the usual under 18s junior league matches, along with some junior fixtures for the under 13s. Junior Golf coaching will now be run at weekends and will be supplemented by the various competitions during the season. As well as changing the junior pricing structure, we have introduced a "Buddy Membership" where a parent can join at a reduced rate alongside their child.

In our effort to attract younger members, the intermediate section has been revamped with reduced rates for golfers under the age of 25. Country membership continues to be available to those whose residence is more than 30 miles away and wish to play occasional golf at Bentham.

The clubhouse lounge, with its beautiful views of Ingleborough and the surrounding hills, has a fully licensed bar. It can be used as a function room with seating up to 80 guests and catering to suit your requirements. Our catering manager will be available to discuss any catering requirements, from a cup of tea or coffee to a meal with wine for whatever celebration you require.

The club pro, Chris Cousins, is available for lessons (group or individually) and operates a well stocked shop for all your golfing requirements. He offers professional, impartial advice on choosing the right equipment for your game. A range of golf club repairs and club hire are also available. The pro shop is open 7 days a week for the payment of green fees, buggy hire, competition entries and to check tee time availability.

We hope to keep Bentham updated with goings on at the golf club with regular spots in the Bentham News; or feel free to check out our new website which will offer the latest news, as well as the ability to book tee times online. If anyone wants more information, don't hesitate to get in touch.

Happy Golfing for 2010,

The Marshall Family

tel: 015242 62455

e-mail: golf@benthamgolfclub.co.uk

web: www.benthamgolfclub.co.uk

BURTON UNDER FIVES

By Viki Hindle

Burton Under Fives would like to invite you to come along to our toddler sessions. These run on a Tuesday and Thursday afternoon from 1pm until 3.30pm. We have a dedicated toddler worker who is here to help guide you around the room and access facilities and equipment we have available. These include computers with full internet access, (for you or your children!!) messy play, small world, role play, sand, water, secure free flow outdoor area and much much more. Why not come along to have a look at what we have to offer? The cost of our toddler sessions is £1 per family, including drinks.

During these long, cold winter months, it can be difficult to get pre-school children out to do any physical exercise. Burton Under Fives may have a solution for you. Starting on Tuesday February 16th we will be running Burton Boogie Tots, a dance class for pre-school children. This will be run by a

member of our team, Miss Laura from Helen Howard's School of Dance.

The cost will be included in the price of our toddler session. These sessions will continue on the *third Tuesday* of every month.

If you would like any further information about these sessions or about Burton Under Fives in general, please do not hesitate to contact us on (015242) 62126, all call in during pre-school hours.

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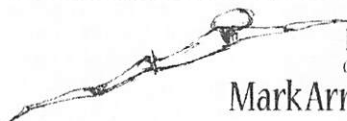
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Christingle Service at St Margaret's Church

To celebrate Christmas this year we were delighted to be invited by Reverend Clive Burgess to a special Christingle Service at St. Margaret's.

The whole school walked down to Church and the Key Stage 2 children all had their Christingles (made by members of the Church Community) lit during the service. Reverend Clive explained the meaning of the Christingle and made sure our Christmas celebrations got off to a stunning start. But this wouldn't be our only visit to St. Margaret's in December.

The picture shows Joe Wills, Joseph Macdonald and Adam White all in Year 5.

Christmas Concert

To ring in the changes this year, and to give our Key Stage 2 children a chance to learn some of the traditional carols, we had an old-fashioned concert in the last week of term at St. Margaret's.

Despite problems that worried the staff (not enough orders of service in the evening, and losing our accompanist the day before) the singing and readings were wonderful, with the performance of Guadete in Latin being a particular highlight. The PTFA served loads of tea and mince pies, and Miss Dowbiggin gave the children a tin of chocolates as a well-done present.

Special thanks must go to members of the St. Margaret's Community who allowed us to rehearse in (and rearrange) their Church, and especially to Stephen Dawson who at the very last minute played the piano for us!

Rachel Wills did a grand job selling hamper tickets at the Town Hall, helping to raise a staggering £408. So a big thank you and also many thanks to Louise Bruns for making up the hampers and to Tom Guy for displaying them in his shop.



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HOW ENERGY EFFICIENT IS YOUR HOME?



By Stephen Belfield

The New Year is a great time to start saving energy and money by doing simple everyday things at home.

For example, why not try the following:

✧ Borrow a smart energy meter from your local library to give you a clear picture of the energy you use in the home and where you could make some easy savings.

✧ Complete a free home energy check to find out how energy efficient your home is. Call the team for a free copy on 0800 512 012.

✧ Turning your thermostat down by 1°C – it could cut your heating bills by up to 10 per cent and save you around £65 per year.

✧ Replacing an old G-rated boiler with an A-rated condensing boiler and full set of heating controls can save up to £235 a year. With the recent government announcement regarding the £400 green boiler incentive scheme, there's never been a better time to replace your boiler. Call the team for further details.

✧ Your local Energy Saving Trust advice centre based in York offers free, impartial and expert advice on a wide range of energy efficient measures from home insulation to generating your own energy.

To start saving energy and money please call the Energy Saving Trust advice centre on free phone 0800 512 012 or email advice@estnyh.org.uk

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BEST NEWS

By Annie Neligan

A good planet is hard to find

This winter we may be finding it a bit hard to take 'global warming' seriously. That would be a mistake. 'Climate change' is a more useful description of what's going on, as the overall warming of the planet will affect us in many different ways. One possibility is that there will be too little cold water sinking in the North Atlantic to keep the Gulf Stream flowing. We would lose the benefit of the warm water and air from the Caribbean, and far from feeling warmer, would then face the weather of Northern Canada. Maybe, given the increase in floods, storms and drought, we'll start to call it 'Climate chaos'.

Whatever happens, we are going to have to make big changes. The 10:10 campaign was launched last year asking people to pledge to cut their carbon output by 10% during the year 2010. This could mean cutting your electricity or gas bill by 10%,

deciding against a long haul flight this year, travelling to work by public transport one day a fortnight, buying food that's produced locally – or whatever other ideas we can come up with.

The idea is:

- to encourage and support each other in reducing our carbon use and emissions;
- to feel more confident that by working together we can help keep the rate of warming down;
- to find ways of living that make us less dependent on sources of energy that are steadily running out;
- to persuade our political leaders (who have signed up to the campaign as individuals but not yet to taking the country with them) to tackle climate change with real urgency, whatever fudges are coming out of international talks.

Some of us who saw the film *The Age of Stupid* decided to get together and see what we can do in Bentham, individually or as a group. We are meeting at the Horse and Farrier at 7.00 pm on Thursday 18th February. Come along to find out more, share ideas, work out how you can measure as well as decrease your contribution to climate chaos. A good planet is hard to find – let's look after this one!

BEST stands for Bentham Environmentally Sustainable Town. 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 www.bentham.net/Community/BEST.asp



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BENTHAM YOUTH THEATRE GROUP SPRING PRODUCTION!

By Gemma Wright

Well it's that time of year again! When we start recruiting for our spring musical production. Last year we doubled our numbers from the Spring to Christmas terms. We hope all of those who took part will be joining us again this time as well as many more newcomers.

We accept ages 5-18 and our introductory session will be on Wednesday 24th of February at 5.45-8pm.

Come and join us!

For the term it's £30 and for new members £5 membership fee with a free BYTG t-shirt! This works out at approximately £1.50 a session! Just half the price of our last spring production.

We play games and teach new skills which will benefit them in the future so just come along and see! We will be working on musical/acting performance, technical and design skills so there is something for everyone! We also need volunteers with any skills they can bring!

For any more information or to add yourself to our database for updates email bytgs1b.com or call Gemma Wright on 015242 62689.

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LOCAL EVENTS IN FEBRUARY

Mon 1st Craven Customer Services, 10am-12.30pm at the Town Hall, and every Monday.

Indoor Bowls at the Town Hall, 1-4pm. and every Monday.

Town Council meeting at the Town Hall, 7.30pm.

10.00-11.30am Toddle-in for parents/carers & babies/toddlers, and every Monday.

3.45-4.45pm Adventurers Group for 4-6 year olds and every Monday in term time.

6.15-7.30pm Springboard for 7-10 year olds, and every Monday in term time. All three at Methodist Church Hall.

Gentle walks for women, leave Lairgill 9.30am, and every Monday.

Victoria Institute, Low Bentham, 10am-12noon Drop-in, also on 8th and 22nd. 1.30-3.00pm

Community Link Café and every Monday. 5.30-6.30pm Slimming Group, also on 8th and 22nd.

6.15-7.15pm Tai Chi, also on 8th and 22nd. 7.30-8.30pm Peak Fitness, also on 8th and 22nd.

Tue 2nd Bentham Footpath Group walk, Settle/Long Preston, 7 miles, leader Malcolm Burnett 64800. Meet at Lairgill 9.30am.

Craft Club, Wenningdale Room, 10am-12noon, and every Tuesday.

Carers Resource, Town Hall, 9.30am-2.00pm, and on 9th and 23rd.

Tue 2nd

Yoga at the Town Hall, 6-7pm and every Tuesday.

Aerobics Town Hall Ballroom, 7.30-8.30pm, also on 9th & 23rd.

Men's walking group, leave Looking Well 9.30am, return 11.30am and every Tuesday.

Tuesday Strolls leave Looking Well 2pm, return 3pm and every Tuesday.

Looking Well, Rag Rug Course led by Joyce Knapp, 7-9pm, also on 9th and 23rd.

Looking Well, Harmony Singing led by Noelle Thompson, 7.30-9.30pm, also on 9th and 23rd.

Wed 3rd

Coffee morning at Methodist Church Hall, 10-11.30am, and every Wednesday. Donations to local charities.

Looking Well, Café-IN, 11am-1.30pm and every Wednesday.

Looking Well, Positive Futures Project, 11am-1.30pm, also on 10th and 24th.

Looking Well, Art for all, beginners welcome, 2-4pm, also on 10th and 24th.

Town Hall, Pilates, gentle exercise to help with posture, 9.30-10.30am and 10.30-11.30am. Moving Well, gentle exercise to music, 11.30-12.30am. Also both on 10th.

Victoria Institute, Drop-in, 10am-12noon, also on 10th and 24th.

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

Thu 4th

Wenningdale Room, art class, 1-3pm and every Thursday.

High Bentham W.I. at the Town Hall, 7.30pm.

Victoria Institute, Bat n Chat 10am-12noon, Gardening 1-3pm. Both also on 11th & 25th.

Welcome-in dominoes, 2-4pm, Methodist Church Hall, for transport contact Nigel or Kath 62272. Also on 18th.

Swimming at Hornby, over 50s, men and women. Leave 8.45am. Contact Barbara 62873 or Carol 61233 for transport.

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 4th Looking Well Cancer Support Group Drop-in, art session, lunch and therapies 11am-1.30pm and every Thursday.
- Fri 5th Agricultural Society annual quiz, 7.30pm at the Town Hall, teams of four. £26 a team includes Hot Pot Supper. 7-8pm, GFI for school years 6, 7 & 8 and 8.15-9.15pm for school years 9+. Methodist Church Hall, every Friday in term time.
- Sat 6th N.I.S.C.U. Christian Schools Work coffee morning, at the Town Hall 10.00-11.30am. 
Farmers' Market at the Town Hall, 9.30am-1.30pm.
Pantomime prop workshops, Looking Well, 11am-1pm and on 13th.
- Sun 7th Bentham Footpath Group walk, Scorton/Forton, 8 miles, leaders David and Sheila Longton 61838. Meet at Lairgill 9.30am.
- Mon 8th Christmas Lights open meeting and AGM at The Byres, 7.30pm.
- Tue 9th Bentham Child Health Clinic at the surgery, 2-4pm.
Bright Hour at the Methodist Schoolroom, 2.15pm. Speakers Peter and Cecile Nock.
Nearly new sale at Tatham Fells School, Lowgill, 6.30-8.30pm. Children's items, school uniforms and much more. Contact Lisa on 07590 838883.
- Sat 13th Bentham Praise ladies choir coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10-11.45am. 
Bentham Film Group film, "Looking for Eric" at the Victoria Institute, 7.30pm. See page 24.
Hornby Institute, Ceilidh/Barn Dance - "Free Reed Band" 7.30-11.30pm. For tickets/details contact Ann, 015242 22090.
- Sun 14th Victoria Institute, monthly book swap, 10am-12noon.
- Mon 15th Copy deadline for March BN.
- Wed 17th Pantomime "Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves" at Town Hall. Curtains open 7.30. All tickets £3.50 from Temptations.
- Thu 18th and 19th. Pantomime "Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves" at Town Hall. Curtains open 7.30. Tickets £5.50 (concs £3.50) from Temptations.
- Fri 19th Waste paper collection at Lairgill car park, 8.30-11am. Proceeds to NSPCC.
Thornton & Burton Mothers' Union lunch party in the Church Room, followed by the Wave of Prayer.
- Sat 20th Pet Rescue coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10am-12noon. 
Pantomime "Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves" at Town Hall. Curtains open 6.30pm. Tickets £5.50 (concs £3.50) from Temptations.
"Jazz in Hornby" presented by the Village Trust. 8pm at the Institute. Doors open 7.30pm. "Hotcha" Parisian style jazz quartet. For tickets and enquiries contact 015242 22227.
Bentham Footpath Group walk, Crook, 8 miles, leader Bev Sim 61293. Meet at Lairgill 9.30am.
- Mon 22nd Ewecross Historical Society meeting at the Town Hall, 7.30pm. Mark Rand - The Settle-Carlisle Railway.
- Tue 23rd Bright Hour at the Methodist Schoolroom 2.15pm. Speakers Eric and Dorothy Brennand.
Bentham Child Health Clinic at the surgery 2-4pm.
- Wed 24th Bentham First Responders meet at Looking Well Centre 7.30pm. They urgently need more volunteers so come and talk to them about joining.
- Thu 25th Bentham Footpath Group walk, Wennington Ridge, 6 miles, leader Cliff Randall 62619. Meet at Lairgill at 9.30am
- Fri 26th Bentham News published.
- Sat 27th Bentham Junior Football Club coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10am-12noon. 
Children's Fun Afternoon for (4-10 year olds) at the Methodist Church Hall, 2-4pm. For details contact Liz Whitfield on 61230.

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LOOKING WELL NEWS

By Julie Vass

Below are some of the many activities happening at the Looking Well with brief descriptions from the tutors / group leaders.

Digital Image Manipulation

Beginning 24th February 7.00 – 9.00pm. What images interest you? What pictures do you like to take? You will learn how to process your digital images and be creative using Photoshop Elements: - Opening documents, naming files, basic tools and layers palette, combining images, manipulate and restore images, turning the image to black and white/sepia. Emphasis will be on one to one tutoring and going at your own pace. Designed for those who have very little knowledge of image manipulation but have some basic computer skills.

Men's Walking Group

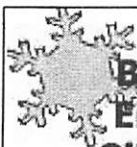
By Peter McCabe

A group of men go out walking from the Looking Well every Tuesday morning at 9.30am. We choose easier routes and enjoy one another's company. The pace is fairly easy and we stop to enjoy the scenery and wildlife. The males of the species are welcome to join us. Get your boots on and step out with us!!

Women's Walking Group

By Sue Badley

Short walks (Mondays, 9.30-noon from Lairgill), no further than three miles, are led by volunteers who choose routes over gentle terrain, avoiding too many stiles, at a pace suited to the group. Areas we cover include Bentham, Wenning valley, Austwick, Hornby, Roeburndale and Ingleton. The group is welcoming and sociable but we keep our eyes open too and are keen to observe our surroundings, especially noticing the effects on the landscape of the passage of the seasons. Helped by a small collection of reference books, we identify plants, birds and butterflies. There is no commitment to walk every week, though members say it's infectious, and you'll soon find you do.



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Dear Bentham News,
The following explains my feelings about the recent destruction on Streakber-Occupation Lane and begs the question as to what purpose?



*No shady canopy of dappled sunlight
No chorus of bird song -
a blossomless silent spring
No stick-throwing doggy walks
Nowhere for hide and seek children
No bagging of autumn blackberries
A breathing place, wild space
on our doorsteps - gone.*

Yours sincerely, Sue Pilkington.

Dear Bentham News,

Over the past week or so, I have been asked by quite a few people, if I knew what was happening in the lane by the golf club, so I decided to take a walk and look for myself.

The first thing I saw was someone shredding tree branches, and as I walked on, what I saw can only be described as devastating. Whole trees gone, bushes chopped to the ground, piles of logs everywhere, great open spaces where beautiful trees had once stood. This lovely lane which so many people have enjoyed walking down, now looked so desolate, no thought given to the wildlife, the wild flowers and plants.

How can someone come along and do this?

The trees and bushes were also a protection from flying golf balls; now people will be afraid to walk there for fear of being hit. What next I wonder, TARMAC? It is a bridle path and by law can only be used by horses, people walking or pedal cycles, not motor vehicles.

Yours faithfully, Margaret Ball.

Dear Bentham News,

I would like to follow Mike Yeates letter with a positive proposal for the Community Centre. I agree that the costs involved to our community could be unwarranted if the building is used just as a youth club. I think there is a real opportunity for the council to develop the excellent community building for numerous uses without compromising the youth service.

What I suggest is a wish list of activities that could be provided, e.g. karate, toy library, after school activities, toddlers sessions, childrens' parties, drop in cafe, book exchange, parenting work, dance/music/art workshops, employment advice, drama club.... The centre is a great community nucleus where local people feel a sense of ownership and involvement. With this initiative the council would promote greater community activity and would cover the basic running costs by the users.

Brian Cowling.

Dear Bentham News

Christmas in Bentham

Snow, lots of it, a long journey to attend to an elderly relative who lived alone and had suddenly fallen ill, just before Christmas. There I was, almost a stranger to Bentham, snowed in, with barely a clue how to cope, and alone apart from my ailing Aunt. The only benefit was that she had a fully stocked cupboard in readiness for Christmas!

Alone at Christmas, or so I thought. I hadn't counted on the local community. Every day I had willing response to any call for help, and many of my Aunt's friends braved the snow in cars or walked miles to give their love and support when it was needed most. The support received gave me the strength to carry on. So, far from being alone, the real spirit of Christmas, love, help, care given freely by angels and wise ones from far and near. No commercialism, no expensive presents, just the priceless things you cannot buy.

The conventional Christmas story is about the birth of a child, sadly in this story my beloved Aunt gently passed away, but she was reborn into her own new life, something in which she fervently believed.

No names are needed in this account, the angels know who they are, and would probably be embarrassed if they were named. But angels they are, and I will be eternally in their debt for the truest Christmas I have ever experienced. God bless you all.

Peter Burton, Pershore.

Letters continued on page 23.

Ali Baba & the Forty Thieves

By Iain Henshaw

It's panto time again. It comes around so quickly - oh yes it does! This year we have an Arabian feel with the Bentham Theatre Group's production of **Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves**.

So jump on your magic carpet and fly to Bentham Town Hall. This year's pantomime runs from Wednesday the 17th of February to Saturday the 20th of February. The show starts at 7:30 (except on Saturday night, when it starts at 6:30), and tickets are the same price as last year, £5.50 and £3.50 (for concessions). Tickets will be on sale from the beginning of February at "Temptations" and, as a special treat, all our tickets on the opening night, Wednesday February 17th, will be priced at £3.50.

Come boo the evil thief **Wassim Notme**, and hiss the pompous landlord **Sheik Yer Booty**. Coo at the heart-felt romance between the brave **Ali** and the beautiful **Morgiana**. Laugh at the antics of **Jordan**, the only camel in the world with surgically-enhanced humps. And just where have you heard **Abba Baba's** musical lines before? There'll be loads of warm fun and laughter to liven up the cold February nights. Be there or be square.

The picture, top right, shows Eleanor Illston, Greg Wilkinson as the camel and Adam Hughes.



LETTERS (Continued from page 22)

Dear Bentham News,

I'd just like to say how pleased I am that things are getting back to normal in Low Bentham with the resumption of weekend paper deliveries. It's surprising how happy it makes you feel to see the Lancaster Guardian back on the doormat on a Friday morning. I'm also pleased to be able to take my custom back to the paper shop and support this local business again after a period of not being able to do so.

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BENTHAM FILM GROUP PRESENT "LOOKING FOR ERIC"

By Stella Hall

Bentham Film Group will be showing 'Looking for Eric' (Cert 15) on Saturday 13th February. Directed by Ken Loach and starring Eric Cantona, this is a heartfelt drama in which postman Eric finds his life in turmoil after a near fatal car crash. Seeking solace in drugs, the football-mad postman is visited by ex-Manchester United player Eric Cantona, with the charismatic Frenchman offering him advice on how to overcome his problems.

The show will start at 7.30pm (doors will be open from 7.00pm) 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.

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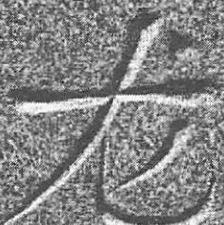
You can also arrange a party for your child and up to 10 of their friends to have a fun hour and a half of happy beading. Each child will make and keep their own piece of jewellery, using quality materials (all provided) for only £75.

To view my collection of bespoke jewellery or to book a party contact Louise on

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Birthday Greetings

Greenep Richard. Surprise, surprise!. Happy 60th, 2nd February. Love, Mum and Dad.

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Charity Thanks

Low Bentham Badminton Club Coffee Morning 2nd January.

We would like to say thank you to everyone who came to the coffee morning and supported our fund raising. We would also like to say a big thank you to the generosity of Bentham traders who gave us raffle prizes and donations as follows.

Armstrong's - Corkscrew. Byer's - Beer and wine. Chad - Milk. Chemist - Make up brush set. Dalehead Veterinary Group - Health check and vaccination for dog, cat or rabbit worth £30. Dalesbred Butchers - £5 voucher. Derek M Jordan - £10. Duxbury's - Diary. Fleming's Butcher - Gammon steak. Hairlines - £10 voucher. Haworth's Chartered Accountant - Box of Celebrations. Nuffin 2 Wear - £10 voucher. Pigtales - Cuddly horse. Post Office - Raffle tickets, Fun craft activity bag, Cartridge pen and 2 colouring pencil sets. Print Shop - Ream of paper. Spar - Box of Quality Street. Sue Ryder Shop - Diary and pen. 37 Main Street - Gardening Set. Tom Guy - Boy's or Gent's Haircut. Tooby's - Torch.

We raised well over £100. Happy New Year to all.

Bentham Agricultural Society - Thank you to everybody who supported our annual coffee morning in November. The amount raised was £300. At the AGM the following officers were elected: Chairman-John Whitfield, Vice Chairman-John Dawson, Secretary-Val Lawson, Treasurer-Jillian Ashton, Presidents for 2010-Mark and Doreen Lawson.

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BENTHAM FOOTPATH GROUP



Although all February's walks meet at 9.30a.m in the Lairgill carpark the areas and topography of them are very varied.

On Tuesday 2nd the walk will use old and high lanes from Settle to Long Preston, and will be 8.5 miles long. It will take us on a path past the pinfold over Hunter's Bank and into Long Preston; then over Langber Lane past Scaleber Force to Lambert's Lane and back to our starting point. On a clear day there are good open views to the Ribble Valley, Pendle and Ingleborough.

On Sunday 7th there is the 8 mile Scorton/Forton walk. We will go through Forton; it's then level walking over to the canal and along the tow path to Cabus, and then crossing fields to a foot bridge over the River Wyre and on into the village of Scorton, and then via Cleveleys mere through Scorton and back to our cars.

On Saturday 10th we have the Crooklands walk of 8 miles which will go south on the Lancaster canal and maybe over Farleton Knott and on to the hamlet of Fowlstone; it's then west to Camsgill and Chatton Hall and returning to Crooklands. Much of the route will depend on the weather and the leader described it as 'straight up and straight down'.

The last walk, on Thursday 25th, is that of the Wennington Ridge and will be 6 miles. It will start at Wennington Station and go via Netherwood, Hindburn Bridge, Hunter's Barn and Robert Hall. The route may be altered according to conditions at the time.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

By Jayne Mann

Firstly we would like to extend our apologies for the lack of tree lights down one side of Station Road & from The Black Bull to Richard Turners on Main Street. This was due to a problem with the connections in the Town Hall & unfortunately out of our control.

In reply to Reg Gilroy's letter in January Bentham News, the only blue lights we used were the ones on the Bentham Imaging building, they were alternate with green & red bulbs. We would like to point out that we are a voluntary organisation and welcome any feedback, positive or negative and we are always open to new ideas, funding and help.

Our next meeting is at The Byres 7.30pm on Monday 8th February. This will be an open meeting to include our AGM, please come along, everyone is welcome. Refreshments will be available. Call me on 64948 or Iain Henshaw on 61010 for further information.

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CHURCHES TOGETHER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY



By Revd Clive Burgess

Rector of the Benthams

Rural Officer for the Ewecross Deanery.

The annual service for Christian Unity will be at St John's Church on Sunday January 24th at 6.30pm.

Dear Friends Lent – a good time to pray

Lent is traditionally a time when Christians take stock of themselves spiritually. They set aside extra time for prayer. So there you are, tentatively wanting to pray... Here are some helpful things to remember as you settle down to it:

People have been praying since Adam had a grandson named Enosh. At least the Bible tells us in Genesis 4:26 that it was during his days when "men began to call on the name of the Lord". They have been doing it ever since.

People have been answered by God since Genesis, too. But if you want to read some beautiful prayers – and answers to them, browse through the Psalms. Again and again the psalmist writes: "the Lord heard my cry". So – what do you need to bring to prayer? Just the tiniest amount of faith that God is even there.... Jesus assures us that even faith as big as a tiny mustard seed will be effective.

What gives you the right to come before Almighty God? Jesus does. The Bible is clear that "there is one mediator between God and men, the man Jesus Christ". (1 Tim 2:5)

The Bible makes clear that God does not stand on ceremony – he wants our personal, spontaneous prayers. Jesus was very matter of fact about it: "When you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you." (Matthew 6:6) The Bible assures us that prayer will bring us good things: "we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need". (Hebrews 4:16)

Above all, prayer must be made with a pure heart. "If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened." (Psalm 66:18) That simply means that if you know you are doing something wrong, and intend to keep right on doing it, don't waste your time praying.

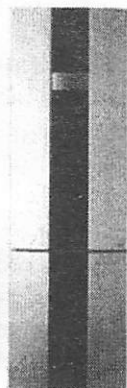
Finally, what can be the results of your prayers this Lent? Well, here are seven, for starters....

1. Joy and deep happiness. (John 16:24)
2. Relief from your worry, stress and tension (Philippians 4:6,7)
3. Wisdom and more mental clarity (James 1:5,6)
4. Protection and deliverance from temptations (Matthew 26:41)
5. An ability to share the Good News of Jesus to other people (Matthew 9:38)
6. Strength to persevere when you feel under spiritual attack (Ephesians 6:18)
7. A growing thankfulness to God, who is worthy of all glory (Revelation 4:11)

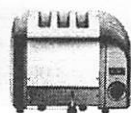
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CAR PARKING CHARGES: NOT YET - MAYBE NOT EVER?

By Trevor Blackwell

Craven District Council has assured the Bentham News that it will not be requesting a Parking Order to impose charges at Grasmere Drive car park in February. Craven Communications Officer Jo Fox told me: "Craven District Council has no plans to place a request for an Order for parking charges on the agenda of the North Yorkshire Craven Area District Committee meeting on February 8th".

So no need to get the fleet of cars and community buses organised for a trip to Skipton yet. And maybe not ever. Because Jo Fox went on to say: "Car parking charges in Bentham are not going to happen in the foreseeable future."

Now isn't that interesting? Of course it's not clear how long "the foreseeable future" is. And Jo Fox declined my invitation to agree that Craven has now abandoned its plans to introduce car parking charges in Bentham. So don't break open the champagne just yet. But it's beginning to look as though the people of Bentham might have won a famous victory.

****HELP HAITI****

Impromptu concert in the Town Hall to raise money for Haiti. Probably on FRIDAY 26th FEBRUARY at 7.30pm. Want to help or perform? Ring 64886

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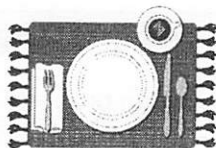
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COOKERY PAGE

*Edited by Patsy
Henderson*



Chicken Goulash - serves 6

Recipe

900g chicken meat
60g flour, seasoned with 1 tsp paprika, salt and pepper
1 onion, sliced
2 tbsp olive oil
25 shallots, peeled
1 red pepper and 1 green pepper, chopped
1 tbsp paprika
1 tsp rosemary, crushed
4 tbsp tomato puree
300ml chicken stock
150ml red wine
400g can chopped tomatoes
150ml soured cream
1 tbsp fresh chopped parsley for garnish
fresh bread and salad to serve

Method

Pre-heat the oven to 160C/gas 3. Coat the chicken in the seasoned flour. In a large frying pan, heat the oil and fry the shallots, peppers and onion for 3 minutes. Add the chicken and cook for a further 4 minutes. Sprinkle over the paprika and rosemary. Add the puree, chicken stock, chopped tomatoes and wine and bring to the boil. Transfer the pan contents to a casserole dish, cover and cook in the oven for about 90 minutes. Remove the casserole from the oven and allow to stand for 5 minutes. Add the soured cream and parsley garnish. Serve with warm bread and salad.

Syrup Sponge with Custard - serves 4

Great advantage - can be made in the microwave.

Recipe

1.2 litre microwavable bowl
150g plain flour
1 tsp baking powder
125g melted butter
125g caster sugar
2 eggs
finely grated zest and juice of 2 lemons
milk
vegetable oil, to grease the bowl
4 tbsp golden syrup or jam
1 tin Devon custard

Method

Sieve the flour and baking powder together. Put the flour, baking powder, butter, sugar and eggs into the bowl. Mix in a food processor to a paste. Add lemon juice and continue to mix, adding sufficient milk to make mix of dropping consistency. Spoon the mixture into the greased bowl. Cover and microwave on full power for 4 minutes. The sponge should be shrinking from the sides and be springy to touch. Stand for 3 minutes (during this time warm the custard), then turn out and serve with the golden syrup or jam and the warmed custard.

MARMALADE - SUNSHINE ALL YEAR ROUND

By Shirley Brown

In the cold dark days of February there is a ray of sunshine - the arrival of tangy Seville oranges fresh from southern Spain to our shops. They are available in Bentham. They're only here for a short time, but you can enjoy them all year round by making marmalade. Marmalade making has a rich history. The ancient Greeks combined quinces and honey to make 'marmelo' the earliest known forerunner of marmalade. In 15th Century Britain marmalade was a real luxury, only enjoyed by royalty and the super-rich. In 1980 a tin of marmalade from Scott's expedition to the North Pole in 1911 was found in perfect condition.

Marmalade is now quintessentially British. Why not keep this great British tradition alive by making your own marmalade this year?

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BENTHAM NEWS

EDITORIAL

COMMENT

Many people have contacted the Bentham News to express their sadness and anger at the chopping down of trees, and the severe pruning of hedgerows, on the path which leads from Robin Lane through the golf course and onto Tatterthorn Lane. This public footpath and bridleway, known as Streakber Lane, or Occupation Lane, is a popular walk, and, until Christmas, it was shaded by tall trees, and bounded by an ancient hedge.

In response to our readers' concerns we have tried to investigate this matter. The upshot seems to be that if this land is privately owned, the new owner, Thomas Marshall, is within his legal rights to chop down trees and severely prune hedges, unless the trees are protected by Tree Preservation Orders. In response to public concern Craven District Council's tree officer, Liz Jowett, has visited Streakber Lane, and feels that nothing can now be done, although if Craven had known of the owner's intention she would have considered placing Tree Preservation Orders on the trees if they had met the relevant criteria. Jo Burton, Clerk to the Town Council, says that the Town Council has not discussed the chopping down of the trees as they are on private land.

So what can those who feel shocked at what they see as the destruction of a local beauty spot do? They can write letters to the Bentham News (and other papers) making their feelings clear, and the Bentham News for its part will do all it can to reflect its readers' concerns and opinions. They can speak to their local town councillors, and make sure they are aware of their feelings -

feelings which town councillors who are standing for election and re-election this year will no doubt need to take seriously. And they can try to prevent this chopping down of trees happening again by learning how to apply for Tree Preservation Orders, an action which any member of the public can take. The number to ring at Craven District Council is 01756 706265.

For even those who do not own the countryside have a legitimate interest in its preservation.

FRENCH TWINNING - HOSTS WANTED

By Margaret Cowling

A group of French visitors will be coming from our twinned town of Chapelle des Marais, on Wednesday 12th May until Sunday 16th May. During their stay we will be organising excursions to show them our beautiful area, culminating with a meal and social evening on the Saturday. We are looking for hosts to offer accommodation for 4 nights. Don't worry if you can't speak French well, or at all, as communication just seems to happen and there are plenty of us around to help you out. If you would like to be involved, please ring me on 63175.



Play-group

High Bentham C P School has pre-school provision for children who are three years of age, or will be three during the current term. Playgroup runs on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons every week and the sessions are from 1.00pm until 3.30pm. Sessions are priced at £5.50 per session. For more information, and to reserve a place at this excellent pre-school play-group please contact High Bentham C P School.
Telephone : 015242 61412 or e-mail admin@high-bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk

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 February for the March edition. The Bentham News email address is: benthamnews@lycos.com.

ARCTIC BENTHAM

Did we get our moneys worth?

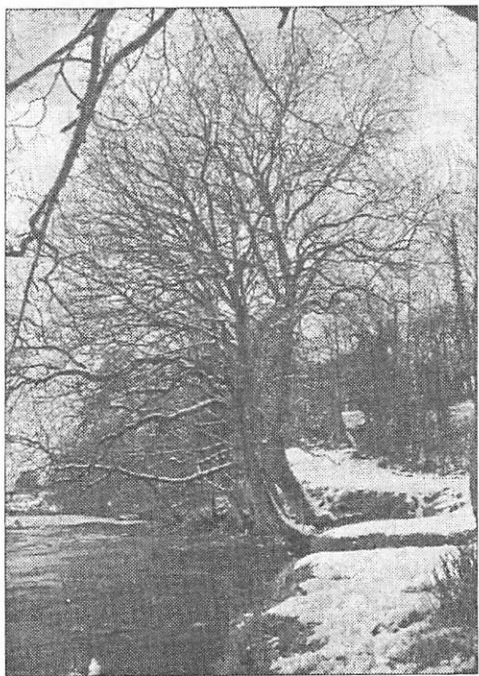
By Keith Hartley

Over the past few weeks I have heard more than a little criticism about the Craven District response to the arrival of a winter that has brought far more ice and snow than we would normally expect to see in this area. I don't believe all the criticism was justified because with the best will and organisation in the world, ploughs and gritters couldn't cover all the region's roads and paths at the same time. Having said that, I do believe the prioritisation of "secondary" gritting, i.e. on minor roads and in residential areas, could have been done rather more imaginatively. For example, whilst the presence of snow and ice on some roads was inconvenient, on others it was positively dangerous.

Banks Rise and Lakeber Drive are two such roads, yet they were left largely untreated for several days. I say *largely* because at one point the snow on the pavements was attacked by a toy snow plough which, with its blade set at least a couple of inches above the pavement surface, succeeded only in smoothing the top of the snow. Beneath the snow was a layer of ice that the "snowplough" was completely unable to touch, so the pathway actually became more dangerous.

More seriously though, and to me quite unforgivable, was the fact that the only road access to our surgery, Grasmere Drive, was left virtually untreated for over a week. My picture (top right) shows the condition of the road *seven days* after the first snow fell. I think it was something of a miracle if patients arriving at the surgery didn't present more problems than they left home with!

My hope is that whilst CDC can't turn the clock back to the first snowflake, lessons have been learned over the past few weeks that will help us to negotiate the next cold snap a little less painfully. Or is that not the way it works?





This selection of wintry pictures (pages 34 and 35) has been submitted by readers, and bears testimony to the unusually severe weather this winter. Page 34 (top) is Keith Hartley's picture of Grasmere Drive - see his article, (centre) shows a photograph by Peter Phillips of the Wenning River, frozen over.

Beneath that is a picture of "Joel" trying out his new driver on the 10th tee. Junior golfers never give up! We hope that he found his ball!

At the top of page 35 is a picture kindly sent in by David Johnson. It was taken on Robin Lane in 1940. We understand that the young girl in the centre foreground is Mary Butterfield. Now that was a real snowfall!

Below that is one of a familiar scene of Ingleborough, taken by Bill Kennedy.



These pictures were taken during rehearsals for the Pantomime, Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves (see Iain Henshaw's report on page 23).

In the top one all the cast are trying to raise the Town Hall roof to welcome you all in. The photo below features (l-r) Harry Wilkinson, Eleanor Illston, Greg Wilkinson (as the camel), Adam Hughes, Tilly Ogden and John Neal.

