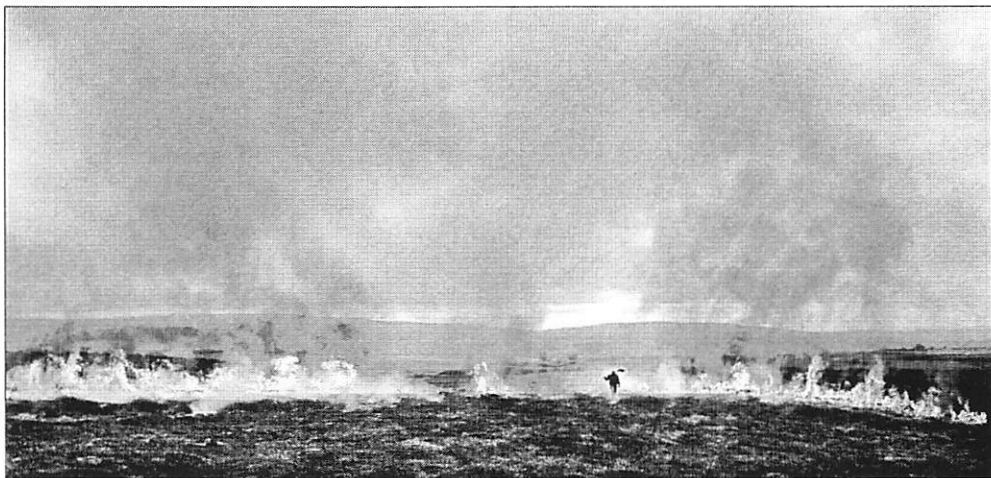


BENTHAM NEWS



HEATHER BURNING

By Jon Brook

At this time of year it is common to see huge palls of smoke rising into the air from the moorlands around Bentham as the controlled burning of the old heather takes place. Grouse like the cover and protection provided by heather, but they also love to eat young heather plants. To promote the growth of the new heather, whilst at the same time keeping areas of taller heather for the grouse, the old heather is burnt in strips about 30 metres wide, any wider than this and the grouse are reluctant to venture from the cover of the taller heather to feed on the younger heather as they would be too exposed to predators.

The photo has been supplied courtesy of Bentham Imaging.

DRUG RAID ON BENTHAM FARM

We have heard that rumours have been circulating about a major police raid on a farm in the Bentham area. When we contacted the police to get more details they informed us that a raid had been carried out and provided us with the following statement.

"On Monday 1st March, North Yorkshire Police executed a warrant at a farm in the village of Bentham.

Officers arrested a 72 year old man on suspicion of theft, being concerned in the production of controlled drugs, handling stolen goods and causing unnecessary suffering to a protected animal. He has been released on bail while enquiries continue.

Police seized suspected stolen goods and items suspected of being connected to drug production. Due to operational reasons we cannot release any further information at this stage"

The North Yorkshire Police Press and Communications Officer, Adam Love, has agreed to send us further updates in due course.

HIGH BENTHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

By Mrs C.A. Boocock

Residential Visit to Malham Youth Hostel

Our Y3/4 children enjoyed two great days in Malham staying overnight at the Youth Hostel with children from Hellifield Primary School. They had lovely sunny weather which added to the enjoyment of the visit. In Malham Gorge they were fortunate to meet two celebrities! – Rob Brydon and Steve Coogan who were filming for a new series in which they visit six of the north's top restaurants!

The children enjoyed a variety of activities including two super walks, fossil and candle making, playing games and exploring and using map skills on the village trail. Many thanks to all the staff, parents and students who came along and ensured that the children had an exciting visit.

Cluster sports

We are very fortunate in North Craven to have excellent support for sports events and our children have had the opportunity to take part in football matches, a skittleball festival, cross country and tag rugby training this half term.

World Book Day

The children had a great day dressing up as book characters for World Book Day and finding out about some of the plays that Shakespeare wrote!

The photo shows Mary Brownsord and Katie Abbott from Year 5.

Class 3 walked around Bentham with Tanya Graham from NYCC road safety team and investigated when to cross roads safely. They are also working each week with Mr Burge from the LA's Music Service learning basic skills in performing music. They are enjoying learning to play a wide range of musical instruments including cellos, clarinets, saxophones, guitars, trumpets, trombones and piano. So if you walk pass our school on Thursday afternoons you may hear the sounds of the orchestra playing!!



POLICE NOTES

By PC B Parsons

At the March Town Council meeting in High Bentham Town Hall it was reported that local residents of Low Bentham had expressed concerns over a number of incidents of disorder and antisocial behaviour involving youths from Evaglates and the number of police hours spent dealing with these incidents.

Local police confirmed that February was a particularly busy month for dealing with incidents at Evaglates, but that most of these incidents involved one female resident who has since been moved to a secure unit in a different County. We are anticipating a return to more normal levels of policing now.



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MARCH'S TOWN COUNCIL

By David Johnson

All the Cllrs were present except Cllr Taylor, Cllr Hurtle, District Cllr Camacho and County Cllr Ireton.

Prior to the meeting the Springfield Bowling Club was presented with a cheque for £2,298.02 from the proceeds of the Bentham Calendar. The Mayor pointed out that such a large donation was only possible through the generosity of the sponsors who covered most of the printing costs. Diane Chant thanked the Town Council for its generosity and promised the donation would be wisely spent, probably on further refurbishment. She said the club is thriving and that the members hope others will join the club.

PC Parsons reported a catalogue of offences including missing persons, criminal damage, nuisance on the Primary School field, theft and assault. One Cllr complained about staff at the Evagrades parking for long periods on the road and in the parking bays opposite rather than using the car park at the rear of the property.

District Cllr Barrington asked people to contact her if they would like a blue bin. She said further consideration was being given to the location of the proposed Puffin Crossing bearing in mind that the school location may change.

Planning. A letter of objection was read about the proposal to rebuild an existing agricultural building and a change to equestrian use at Burbles Gill. The correspondent was concerned about safe access and the proposed roof of the new building. Cllrs echoed concerns about access and asked that the Planning Authority examine the scheme. The clerk promised to investigate the non-arrival of a planning amendment to work at Todhill Farm.

Highways. The Cllrs received a letter about the Highways Departments failure to grit Back Lane, Wennington. The clerk said this was a similar problem to the one on Beckgrains Road but much of the problem was down to an acute shortage of grit. A highways superintendent is about to

undertake a survey of the condition of the B6480. The Cllrs compiled a long list of concerns about the roads throughout Bentham to send to the Highways Department. In answer to a query that arose at a previous meeting the Cllrs learned that there was no time restriction on the disabled parking bay on Station Road and that the law permits disabled badge users to park on single or double yellow lines for up to 3 hours providing they do not cause an obstruction.

Future Meetings. The normal pattern will be disrupted by Easter and a possible General Election. The April meeting will be held on Monday 29th March and if a General Election is called on 6th May the May meeting will be held on 26th April and the Parish elections on 27th May. (Hope you follow that!!) All nominations for the parish election will have to be handed in by 8th April.

Cleveland Square. The long complex issue wanders on. The Cllrs decided to try to renew a lease rather than being granted a licence both costing £425 p.a. The Council owns the north and east walls but they will not enter into an agreement until the square is put in good order.

Community Youth Project. The Council has received £5,000 towards the cost of the purchase of the building plus a further 10% of the purchase price and 80% of the refurbishment costs from Craven District Council and the LEADER Yorkshire Dales Fund. Cllrs asked the clerk to write expressing their thanks.

Allotments. The Council is investigating the two offers. Representatives were due to meet the following day to discuss planning issues and the relative merits of the two sites. They seemed to favour plots measuring 30 feet by 20 feet. The clerk agreed to ascertain the normal plot size. The list of plot holders needs to be checked and those who have already applied should be given priority.

Cllr Heigh said the Playing Fields committee were very concerned about people using the recreation ground to exercise their dogs. It was suggested that the dogwarden be contacted about the problem. She also pointed out that the Social Club at the Playing Fields was temporarily closed in the absence of someone to run it.

GARDEN PAGE

By Joyce Knapp

Hopefully, by the start of April, we will have seen the last of the very severe frosts of winter and can start to look forward to some serious seed sowing and planting. If we have been able to prepare the ground in advance, perhaps by forking it over lightly and applying a layer of garden compost, we should now be able to simply rake over the area to be sown with seed, leaving a fine crumbly textured soil. This is perfect for the sometimes tiny seeds to get established and also makes the removal of any weeds that dare to set seed in our vegetable garden to be removed.

I find that there is a lot of experimentation involved in gardening and, for that reason, I will be sowing some pea seeds straight into the ground, but will also sow a few in pots in the greenhouse. The plants grown undercover will gradually be 'hardened off' by putting them out into a cold frame for several days, before planting them out in the vegetable garden. The indoor grown plants are used as a form of insurance, in case the outdoor ones fall prey to mice (at the seed stage) or rabbits and birds (at the seedling stage). It will be interesting to see which method produces the best results as this can vary widely from year to year, depending greatly on the weather as well as ability to control/exclude pests.

One of the most productive and easy to grow vegetables is the good old onion (I am still using the remains of last year's crop). This is particularly so if, like me, you buy what are known as onion sets i.e. tiny bulbs that have been started into growth, then lifted and dried, so we can grow them on to maturity. All that we need to do is place these onion sets into the ground so that their top half is above soil level



and wait for nature to do the rest. We can even dictate, to some extent, how big the onions will grow, firstly by selecting different varieties (ask for advice when purchasing) and secondly by spacing i.e. those planted 6" apart will, on average, produce larger bulbs than those placed only 3-4" apart.

Whilst the vegetable garden needs quite a lot of time spending on it in April, the fruit garden appears almost self-sufficient, but there are one or two small tasks that need our attention. One such task that comes to mind is the removal of all flowering shoots from rhubarb plants thus enabling them to produce much more vigorous leaf stems for us to harvest and enjoy. ©

NATURE NOTES

By David Fisher

When it was cold during the winter I spotted two roe deer in the Lowgill area where they were clearly seen amongst the trees, visible because there were no leaves on the trees. I also noticed an old birch tree near to the Hyndburn Beck, that had a mature bracket fungus on its trunk.

One evening while I was going towards Wennington I saw a brown rat at the side of the road. The brown rat is larger and much more common than the black rat.



A pair of robins has been visiting our garden regularly but we have not yet seen the hedgehog, which is probably still hibernating until the weather warms up.

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CRAVEN CONCERNS

By Cllr Manuel Camacho 015242 62074

manuel.camacho@btinternet.com

Financial Improvements

Councillors have welcomed news that Craven District Councils financial situation has vastly improved. The good news announced at last night's (10th February) Policy Committee was attributed to the successful delivery of efficiencies introduced by the Council over the last fifteen months.

At the committee, members approved a revenue budget of £7,710,430 for 2010/11 which was confirmed at the Full Council meeting on 24th February. This budget reflects available funding sources which include a Council Tax increase of 3% (£3,401 million) which equates to an increase of 8.5p per week.

The authority has identified efficiency savings totalling £270K for 2010/11 which include the continued modernisation of the waste collection service, a review of IT contracts and improved shared working opportunities with other local authorities. These efficiencies are required to achieve a balanced budget.

The Council will not be dipping into its Revenue Reserves this year but instead will contribute £300K to them. Such a contribution will give a General Fund balance of 631K by 31 March 2011.

The Council is predicting a managed underspend of 250K for the 2009/10 financial year. This is in addition to achieving planned efficiency savings of £1.7 million. Balances and expenditures will continue to be closely monitored.

The above was taken from a press release which I edited slightly. While this is a good result for the district in one way, some services will suffer and there have been significant job losses, which is not so good.

Belle Vue Mills

8th March 2010: A new developer has been confirmed for Belle Vue Mills. Subject to final agreements, developer Rushbond Group, an

Award Winning Yorkshire property company which specialises in the refurbishment of heritage buildings, will develop the remainder of the Belle Vue Mills site on Broughton Road, Skipton in association with previous owners Novo Homes.

The Planning Committee agreed to delegate authority to officers which would result in significant changes to the development, including the removal of a glass atrium from the centre of the building. This will be replaced by a landscaped open space. The scheme provides approximately 80,000 sq ft of high quality office accommodation with cafe / restaurant units fronting the new landscaped piazza.

The District and County Council are in discussion with Rushbond about moving to the building. Chief Executive Paul Shevlin comments, "the revised plans mean there will now be more space available for both Councils on the ground floor. We are keen to make the most of this opportunity and effectively use this space to make sure most public facing facilities are on the ground floor and fully accessible to our residents. In addition to the Reception area this could include the Council Chamber and wedding facilities, which weren't possible under the previous plans".

Paul Shevlin continues, "there is still some work to do to reach agreement on the lease but both Councils hope this can be resolved with Rushbond and we will be able to press ahead with the plans to rationalise existing buildings and jointly move into Belle Vue Mills in 2011, delivering significant efficiency savings for both Councils".

This was also from a press release, again lightly edited, mainly for dodgy grammar (it still isn't great).

The Final Word

As the next issue of BN is in May when there will be District elections, it is probably not appropriate to produce a "Craven Concerns". This is known as "political purdah" !

I do not intend to stand for re election, so for me, this is the final word.

PHOTO-WALKS IN UNDISCOVERED YORKSHIRE!

By Veronica Caperon

Here's something for all of you, your family and friends to do this summer - join our Photo-Walks with a professional photographer.

Part of the 2010 Festival Bowland and Bowland Arts Festival, these day walks take you into this little-known area of The Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Get to grips with digital photography, master the basics of taking good photos and go home with great photos!

These walks are on Thursday 3rd June, Friday 18th June and Wednesday 30th June; other dates are available for groups. More information at www.veronicasgallery.co.uk and click 'photo-walks'.

Across the road (the A65!) is the beautiful Three Peaks area of The Yorkshire Dales so you can make up a wonderfully relaxing and photogenic short break. We can recommend B&Bs, self-catering or camping to complete your little holiday!

LITTLE RED BUS TRIPS IN littleredbus APRIL

By Anne Yaman

We have arranged two trips during the Easter holidays.

➤ Friday April 9th - Skipton market leaving Bentham at 9.30am. £5.00 per head or £2.50 for children.

➤ Tuesday 13th April - South Lakes Animal Park at Dalton in Furness. A trip to see the animals and wander amongst them. Well worth a visit. For young and old. Concessionary entrance rates of £8.00, £8.00 for children and £11.50 for adults. Cost for bus £6.00 per head or £3.00 for children.

To book please call John or Anne on 62753 - first come first served. There must be a minimum of 6 people for the trip to happen.



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RECOGNITION FOR LOCAL PHOTOGRAPHER

By Bill Kennedy

Local photographer Jon Brook (Bentham Imaging) has recently been recognised for his work by two of the leading photographic societies.

The Society of Wedding and Portrait Photographers is recognised all over the world for its qualification structure and standards. In order to attain a qualification from the SWPP a photographer must show a consistent standard and competence. After submitting the mandatory 20 photographs to the society, a panel of judges who are amongst the most skilful practitioners in the world have awarded Jon a Licentiate of the society (LSWPP). Only 1 in 10 photographers who submit their photographs achieve this standard at the first attempt, including those who take part in the mentoring programme. The submitted photographs were featured in a double page spread in the Professional Image Maker magazine as an example to other aspiring photographers.

In February Jon also received a coveted Gold Award from the Society of Professional Image Makers in the Landscape Category. The award winning photograph was taken of the Ring of Brogar in the Orkney Islands on a visit to his in-laws who come from the islands.

Bentham now has a professionally qualified and award winning photographer.

Jon Brook frequently provides high quality photographs, at no charge, to the Bentham News.

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DEPRESSION AWARENESS WEEK APRIL 18TH-24TH 2010

By Dr Harding

The doctors at Bentham are very experienced in treating patients with depression. It is a common illness and one that we see very often, in people from all walks of life. Everyone feels sad or upset sometimes. Feeling low is a normal response to upsetting or difficult experiences, and these feelings usually pass.

However, if you are affected by depression, feelings of sadness either remain, or are so intense that they interfere with day-to-day living. If you think you, or a relative, may be depressed then please do not hesitate to contact us at the surgery (tel 61202).

We are also very supportive of the groups and support that is offered at the Looking Well, where you can join in a range of activities (e.g. welding, walking, singing, and gardening to name a few) in a safe and welcoming setting that can help lift your mood, boost your confidence and help you make the first few steps towards feeling better.

You can contact Looking Well directly, telephone Clare 015242 62672, or you could ask the GP to refer you. You could also contact the Depression Alliance at (www.depressionalliance.org).



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Press Release

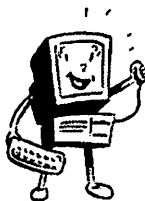
You can help by supporting St John's hospice 4th **moonlight walk**, 2010. This year's theme is pink bunny rabbits!

There will be no goody bags, instead, on arrival we will give each of you a pair of pink, flashing, fluffy bunny rabbit ears.

If you wish to join this year's 9 mile walk and you haven't already done so please complete a registration form and return it to us with your £12.00 registration fee. St John's Hospice, Slyne Rd, Lancaster, LA2 6ST. Registration packs will be sent out from the beginning of April.

All monies raised this year will go towards the building, furnishing and equipping of a brand new family bedroom with en-suite facilities which will be adjacent to the ward. This will be a sanctuary for tired, anxious, families who wish to remain close to their loved one.

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BENTHAM PLAYING FIELDS NEWS

By Pam Woof

Bentham Sports and Social Club Closure

Bentham Playing Fields Association was founded in 1964 when the field was acquired on a lease from George Angus. The proper name for the field is the Angus Sportsfield. The clubhouse building was built shortly afterwards with a view to providing an income stream for the maintenance of the field and changing facilities. For many years this was successfully achieved thanks to a band of volunteers who helped run the Bentham Sports and Social club under the efficient leadership of Jimmy Guy. A substantial sum of £28,000 was also given from the club profits for the major refurbishment funds that have taken place, including the new changing block.

Sadly over the last 15 years sales have steadily declined. Faced with an ageing building to maintain and refurbish, the club has struggled in recent years to make enough money.

Last month the difficult decision was made to close the club facilities. The bikers weekend will go ahead as planned on the field the 1st weekend in May but it is likely that the building will be closed while the Playing Fields Committee decides how best to use the building. Any ideas from the public are welcome but no decisions will be made until all possibilities have been considered.

The committee would like to thank everyone who has been involved with the Sports and Social Club over the years.

As we approach the summer season there may be hidden talent in our midst! The Cricket Club has enjoyed good success over the last two seasons but is looking for more members!

The Ladies Rounders Club continues to go from strength to strength and is always happy to welcome new members. If you would like to join one of the sports clubs, please ring the following numbers to find out

more.

◆ Cricket: Ian Guy 61153 or Tony Atkinson 61645.

◆ Rounders: Ingrid Ellershaw 62345.

◆ Football: Trevor Wheildon: 61126.

Skate Park News!

We have now received full planning permission for the project, which is very good news. We are now in the process of finalising funding and other technical details. We have just received £3,787 from Sport Relief and £585 from Kidde who have kindly donated the money from the staff lottery held during 2009.

Sport England has a huge workload as they try to complete all the Community Investment Fund projects for the end of this financial year. We are one of those projects and sadly have to wait for them to come back to us, hopefully with good news. We now have a total of £54,000 including funding promised from other funders. Things are slowly moving forward!

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MILESTONE FOR THREE PEAKS PROJECT

By Nick Oldham

A new organisation set up to help protect the beautiful Three Peaks has reached its first milestone – its 100th member. The Friends of the Three Peaks was set up by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (YDNPA) to support and raise money towards the maintenance of the footpath network around Wharfedale, Pen-y-ghent and Ingleborough.

It was launched last August by Calendar Girl Angela Baker who became its first member. Since then there has been a steady stream of new recruits with 70-year-old Kevin Macbeth being allotted membership number 100 – with his wife Barbara coming in at 101. Mr Macbeth, who lives in Rodley, near Leeds, was pleased as punch to hit the centenary. "We have done the Yorkshire Three Peaks in 12 hours – although it was in 1998 – and we thoroughly enjoyed it," he said.

"The reason we joined the Friends of the Three Peaks is that we are both members of the Yorkshire Dales Society and it was featured in the magazine. We would like to see the footpaths maintained so the younger generations in the future will be able to do the route. I think the Three Peaks Project is great – the paths have to be maintained and this encourages people to help look after them."

Malcolm Petyt, the YDNPA's Member Champion for Recreation Management, said:

"The footpath network covering the Three Peaks receives about 250,000 visitors a year and needs constant attention to keep it good condition. For example, so far this year, 19 organisations have let us know they will be using some or all of the Three Peaks to raise money in coming months. The Friends are a vital way of raising money that will be ring-fenced just for path maintenance in this iconic area of our beautiful National Park".

Steve Hastie, the Authority's Three Peaks Project Manager, said: "The Friends are steadily growing in numbers in terms of individuals, businesses and organisations and, hopefully, numbers will rise as our staff and Dales Volunteers get out and about during the summer and our corporate members spread the word."

Background

In 1986 the Institute for Terrestrial Ecology carried out a study of the condition of the path network in the Three Peaks area and concluded that the region had the sad distinction of possessing the most severely eroded network in the UK.

The following year, the first Three Peaks Project was established by the YDNPA with a staff of 13. Its remit included trialling new path-engineering and re-vegetating techniques to provide sustainable routes and to allow damaged surrounding land to recover. The mid-90s and early 2000s saw a number of externally-funded projects completed, each with one or two extra staff.

However, since 2004, the management and maintenance of the Three Peaks network has reverted back to the YDNPA's Rangers – a team of just two officers covering the whole of the wider Ribblesdale area.

The latest project aims to create a sustainable source of both practical and financial support that will help protect and enhance the area and the rights of way network into the future. Since its launch, many of the charities that regularly use the Three Peaks for sponsored events have volunteered to donate money towards the upkeep of the area.

Anyone wanting to become a Friend can log on to the YDNPA website at www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/threepaks and follow the pages to join online.

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ENTERTAINMENT

FOR APRIL

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17th Tony Martell
25th Al Robins

VICTORIA INSTITUTE LOW BENTHAM

By Cheryl Yeates

The next Book Swap is Saturday April 10th (2nd Saturday of every month) and we are now ready for a fresh intake of books. If anyone has any books that are cluttering up the cupboards please bring them to the Victoria Institute or ring us on the number below for collection. Many thanks for books donated so far and for all your support. Do pay us a visit we have a varied selection. Browse over a cup of tea or coffee and Cheryl's homemade sausage rolls and cakes.

The District Councillors Lin Barrington and Manuel Camacho are usually available for questions and issues regarding council Business.

Any one for Bat and Chat? We need you, numbers are dwindling, so if you fancy a game of badminton (beginners or experienced), Table Tennis, Card and Board games or just a chat over coffee come and join a friendly Group every Thursday 10 - 3pm. In the afternoon in spring and summer the Institute garden needs tending its looking good but still needs plants, lawn mowed, hoeing and weeding etc., if you have a little time, knowledge or plants do come along on Thursdays.

Are You Spring Cleaning? The Victoria Institute will be holding a Trash or Treasure Day on Sunday 30th May. We would love your unwanted items. Please save them for us and look for the posters nearer the time.

The Institute is open on Monday 10 - 2pm, Tuesday 10 - 12pm, Wednesday 10 - 3pm and Thursday 10 - 3pm and can be reached on the telephone number 63162.

FARMERS' MARKET

BENTHAM

TOWN HALL

SATURDAY 3RD APRIL

9.30AM-1.30PM

POST OFFICE NEWS

By David Alder

Easter Arrangements

As usual there will be no Post Office counter and Royal Mail delivery services on Good Friday, 2nd April or on Easter Monday, 5th April. There will however be normal Saturday services in all functions on Easter Saturday, 3rd April.

Royal Mail Tariff Change

On Tuesday 6th April there will be a general revision of Royal Mail tariffs. The cost of a first class stamp for a standard inland letter will increase from 39p to 41p and a second class stamp for a standard inland letter will increase from 30p to 32p. Postage stamps already purchased bearing 'First Class' or 'Second Class' will automatically be up rated to the new tariffs. Prices for inland large letters, packets, and parcels will also be revised as will those for overseas items, e.g. a letter to Europe weighing up to 20gm will cost 60p. Full details can be obtained from post offices.

Industrial Dispute

After many weeks of talks, assisted by ACAS, a full draft agreement between Royal Mail and the Communication Workers Union has been reached. This deal - with benefits for all sides - will now be put to the members of the union in a ballot and if accepted will pave the way for a completion of the modernisation of the postal service without further service interruptions.

Low Bentham Post Office

The Post Office has announced the temporary closure of Low Bentham Post Office from close of business on Friday 26th March following the resignation of the Sub postmaster. They have yet to announce their final plans for maintaining some form of counter service in the village but whatever they propose will be subject to public consultation. Customers of Low Bentham will in the interim period be free to use any of their neighbouring post offices e.g. Burton-in-Lonsdale, Wray or Bentham.

Victoria Institute
Annual
General Meeting
 14th April
 7.30pm
 Meeting Room Upstairs
All Welcome

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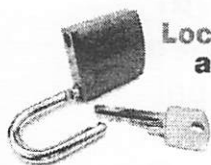
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Due to the crime rate rising I would like to advise everyone to be more aware of your security, ie, making sure your doors & windows are locked securely at all times, and that your locks also comply with the new insurance regulations. Any questions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

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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.

April 1990

This month saw the arrival of a new business in Bentham; can you guess what it was? A good clue would be that although the name of the business had yet to be decided, names like *The Curlew* and *The Heron* were being suggested together with the name it was eventually given (and still has).

Oh yes, and the name of the proprietor was Mrs Wai Man Yiu!

The town was reeling from a spate of burglaries that must have made Benthamers feel as though they were living in some of the rougher parts of Leeds, Bradford or Manchester, with shop windows smashed in vicious attacks on local businesses. As the BN reporter observed, six shop burglaries in a couple of months was the equivalent of a crime wave in Bentham. Thank heavens the trend didn't continue.

Bentham Fire Brigade had experienced a comparatively busy month, due in part to severe gales that had ravaged the area. There were also a number of minor house fires and a request to assist Settle brigade in what turned out to be a hoax call. Officer in Charge Doug Baker ended his report by apologising to the proprietor of *Fishers Town and Country* shop for having had to break down his front door to gain access, a necessary courtesy when it had turned out that there was no fire in Mr Fisher's shop after all! Mr Fisher did gain a new front door from the incident so perhaps he wasn't quite as miffed as he could have been.

As individual liabilities under the Poll Tax became clear, County Councillor Ralph Atkinson ventured to suggest that perhaps those, like himself, who had found themselves better off than under previous schemes should think of donating their 'profits' to the charities that would be called upon to help the large number of people

who would (quote) "suffer the most from this grossly unfair tax." Interestingly, at £258.28 per person, Craven District had posted the sixth lowest rate in England. Even so, CDC had felt it necessary to estimate that 4% of its citizens would default, which although only half of the national figure was four times the normal rate default for the county.

In her report from this month's Town Council meeting, Kate Steele noted that Bentham's cemetery charges were the 'cheapest for miles around' and she wondered if this could account for the influx of people moving into Bentham. She also suggested that the fact could prove to be of some importance when the full effects of the Poll Tax were felt.

Of grave concern, I would say!

This month's edition carried news of the death of 26 year old Bentham man Andy Briggs, whose passing was noted with a great deal of sorrow.

Finally, from reading the *Bentham People* page of 20 years ago, and using both my fingers and toes to count, I've managed to work out that Brian Cowling will have reached his *three score and ten* this month and Frank and Kay Piper will have celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary. Congratulations and very best wishes to all three.

High Bentham Methodist Church

Special Event!!

"WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD"

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Thursday 22nd April, 2010 at
7.15pm

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members (or pay at the door)
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KIRKBY LONSDALE EMBROIDERER'S GROUP

By Ann Hunter

It seems a long while since the last report but we are still going strong! The disruptions of weather, etc has meant cancellations but the last two months has seen us busy with our fingers again. In February we had a full day's workshop with Anne Ludlam creating a beaded box. This was the first of two day workshops, the second one being our next meeting on 8th April. This was a very satisfying day which required concentration and we all look forward to the next one. Our March meeting was a full day with Anne Burrow. Ooo delights - it involved transferring images onto fabric and then letting your imagination fly. There were some truly lovely pieces created and these will be, in many cases, heirlooms of the future.

We are a very friendly group and if you would like more information please contact Ann Hunter on 015242 41120. We meet on the second Thursday in the month at Barbon village hall, usually at 2pm. Full days start at 10am and all continue to 4pm. We look forward to hearing from you.

BENTHAM CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

By Iain Henshaw

Firstly a big apology to those of you who went onto You Tube to see the video and wondered where it was. Technical and other difficulties led to it not being posted. It should be there now along with the start of our new website. To see the video go to You Tube and search for Bentham Christmas Lights or visit bclx.org.uk. We will be collecting the collection boxes over the next few weeks but if you can help let us know. We meet at the Byres (closed for our meetings) on the 2nd Monday of the month. Keep your ears and eyes open for our fund raising event coming soon. Drunken Knights is the adult version of the coffee morning fund raiser, more about that next month. Contact details for BCL are: Jayne Mann, telephone 015242 64948.



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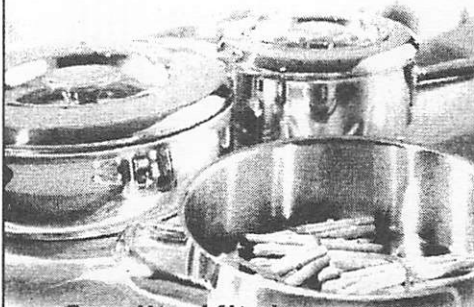
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COORDINATOR NEEDED (VOLUNTARY) FOR AFTERNOON TEAS - BENTHAM AREA.

By Sue Clements

For the past three years Norma Dixon has managed this role wonderfully and has loved it. However Norma now needs to do other things and we need a new coordinator. This is definitely not an onerous job; just a few hours each month to organize dates, venues, guests, hosts and drivers. It is an excellent way of meeting people, building up skills & experience and a CV, etc. as well as having a lot of fun! This would suit someone (male or female) e.g. a young parent at home, someone seeking work or a retired person. You will be well supported by two experienced volunteers.

These successful events have been running for four years. Teas are hosted on a monthly basis for older people on a Sunday (3-5 p.m.). They are either held in volunteer's home or with a larger group meeting three times a year at the Looking Well. Transport is provided to and from guests' homes to the venues.

If anyone is interested in volunteer driving, hosting a tea, providing baking, or who knows an older person living alone who may like to come to the tea - please contact Norma (below).

The frequency of driving or hosting teas is entirely voluntary, often just once or twice a

year. For hosts, access needs to be relatively easy with a downstairs toilet. A large house is unnecessary, just being able to have 3 - 4 guests is valuable. Other volunteers can provide sandwiches, scones etc. These events are not (should not be) hard work and those involved find they are very special.

Please contact Norma for more information on 015242-63086.

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THE HESLETON DIARIES - PART 2

By Peter Phillips

Hiring Fairs

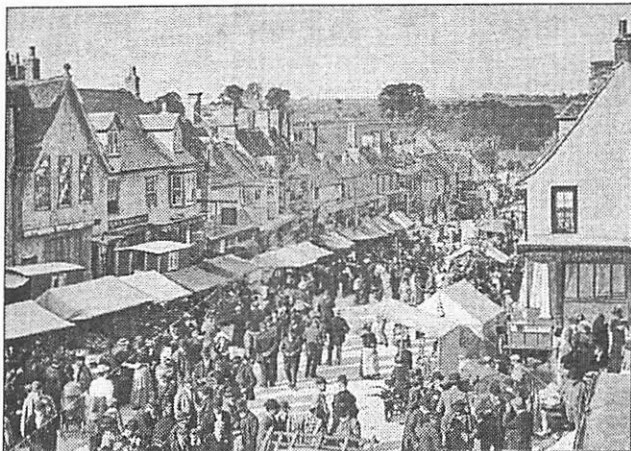
Last month William Hesleton's diary mentioned Hiring Fairs. There are traditionally four "quarter days" in a year (Lady Day (25th March), Midsummer (24th June), Michaelmas (29th September) and Christmas (25th December)). They were the four dates on which servants were hired, rents due or leases begun. It used to be said that harvest had to be completed by Michaelmas, almost like the marking of the end of the productive season and the beginning of the new cycle of farming. It was the time at which new servants were hired or land was exchanged and debts were paid. Here is a description of a Hiring Fair from Thomas Hardy's *Far From The Madding Crowd*. *"At one end of the street stood from two to three hundred blithe and hearty labourers waiting upon chance. Among these, carters and waggoners were distinguished by having a piece of whip cord twisted round their hats; thatchers wore a fragment of woven straw; shepherds held their sheep-crooks in their hands; and thus the situation required was known to the hirers at a glance"*.

William's diary continues

1928 January 1. Me went Low Bentham church. A good start.

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4. No auction. Foot and Mouth outbreak.
11. No auction again. Motor accident on Gill Head Brow. Mr & Mrs Kilburn killed out right.
12. Me took Aunt Ellen pigs feet.
- February 16. Fetching bargains from Priory Sale, Hornby. Bevel wheel and barrel of coal tar.
21. Me went hedging and walling competition. A bit of a Lawson doo.
- March 18 Sunday. Me went church and went to look at Matt Ramswell's Morris Cowley car.
- April 7. Putting clogs on 23 sheep that keep visiting E.Kidd's meadow. *(Sheep with clogs?!)*
- 25 Weight and measures day. *(Anyone know about this?)*
- 26 Opening of Low Bentham Grammar School.
- May 26. Whit Saturday. Me went Lancaster and hired J.Wilson, a lad of 17years. Gave

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him £12 for 6 months.

June 6. Fairfield Farm sold to Jack Pollard £935.

22 June Fair Day. Me hired T. Foster for 5 days at 1/- (5p) an hour.

September 15. Took Ramwells 118 lb plums.

December 13. James Lawson funeral. Went to dramatics for first time. "Creaking Chair" named it was.

25 Xmas Day. John gone Hornby. Me and dog dined together. Mrs Faraday sent dinner. Good soul.

27. Me went to help J. Richardson to flit. Motor wagon broke down.

May 16th 1929. Me got wed. Cost 10/- between Green Smithy and Low Bentham Church.

(William married Cissie Willcock when he was 57. He had no children. Apparently it was a custom for men or children to throw a rope across the groom's path. He then had to toss them money to 'buy' the bride.)

July 9th. Sold R.Parker 3 sheep and twin lambs. 36/-.

Sept 12th. Went walling competition at Greystonegill. 22 wallers.

Oct 12th. Went Lowgill church. Rev Loversy's last sermon.

Dec 11th. Xmas Fat Stock Show. Earlie Kidd's half bred lambs 1st prize - 58/- each.

Jan 30th 1930. Property Day. Gober Farm, Horton sold to Sonny Metcalfe £3,800; Ashes Farm, Horton £2,200; Station Inn, Ribbleshead £875.

Feb 1st. Me went Thomas Marshall's funeral.

Feb 27th. Sweeping chimla, soot galor. Went Farmers' Ball and Dinner at night. Danced to good band. Real music it was.

Apr 16th. Me and missus go Settle on motorbike seeking wallpaper.

28th. Missus papering staircase. Batty and me just mizzled to Low Bentham.

May 1st. Mrs Woods helping missus to paper parlor. Me and our Fred sawing. Keeping out of way of womenfolk.

(Obviously he didn't like to get involved in 'domestic' work!)

May 26th. Carting sand from Armstrong's quarry, Fowgill.

Sept. 13th. Bentham Band contest. Earby gets 1st prize.

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LOCAL EVENTS IN APRIL

- Thu 1st** Cinema Night at Tatham Fells School "Shaving Alvin & Chipmunks". 6pm. Advance tickets only - contact Lisa on 07590 838883 for more details. Welcome-in dominoes for all ages, Methodist Church Hall 2-4pm. For transport call Nigel/Kath on 62272. Also on 15th and 29th.
- Art Class at Wenningdale Room, 1.30-3.30pm & every Thursday. High Bentham W.I. at the Town Hall, 7.30pm. See page 18.
- Looking Well 11am-1.30pm In the Same Boat-Cancer Support Group drop-in, art session, lunch and therapies, and every Thursday.
- Swimming at Hornby (leave 8.45am) for over 50s, men and women. Tel Barbara 62873 or Carol 61233 to arrange transport, and every Thursday.
- Looking Well 6-8pm. Positive Parenting, and on 8th, 15th and 22nd.
- Victoria Institute, Bat n' Chat 10am-12noon, Gardening 1-3pm, Art Classes 10am-3pm and all three every Thursday.
- Fri 2nd** Yoga at the Town Hall 6.30-7.30pm and every Friday.
- Sat 3rd** Tourist Information Centre coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10am-12noon. 
- Farmers' Market in the Lower Town Hall, 9.30am-1.30pm. Tourist Information office opens for the season.
- Youth Theatre Easter Fair, Town Hall Ballroom, 1.30-5pm.
- Sun 4th** Churches Together Sunrise Service at the Big Stone, 6.30am.
- Mon 5th** Victoria Institute Drop-in 10am-12noon. Community Link Café 1.30-3.00pm. Slimming Group 5.30-6.30pm. Tai Chi 6.15-7.15pm. Peak Fitness 7.30-8.30pm.
- Tue 6th** Bentham Child Health Clinic at the Surgery, 2-4pm. Yoga at the Town Hall, 6-7pm and every Tuesday. Looking Well, men's walking group leave 9.30am return 11.30am and every Tuesday.
- Wed 7th** Coffee morning at the Methodist Church Hall, 10-11.30am and every Wednesday. Donations to local charities. Looking Well, 11am-1.30pm Café-IN and every Wednesday. Looking Well gardening group, 10am-12noon and every Wednesday. Victoria Institute, Drop-in 10am-12noon. Community Link Café 11.30am-2.30pm and both every Wednesday. Victoria Institute Line Dancing 2-3pm and 21st and 28th. Youth Theatre at the Town Hall, 5.45-8.30pm and every Wednesday plus Sunday 25th.
- Thu 8th** Bentham Footpath Group walk, Lupton circuit, 6 miles, leader Kate Rowe, 015242 51402. Meet at Lairgill 9.30am.
- Fri 9th** Age Concern at the Masonic Hall, 10am-2.30pm. Extend exercise with Colin Etherington. Yoga at The Town Hall 6.30-7.30pm and every Friday.
- Sat 10th** Bentham Film Group present "Angels and Demons, 7.30pm at the Victoria Institute, Low Bentham. Springfield Bowling Club coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10am-12noon.  Victoria Institute Book Swap, 10am-12noon.
- Sun 11th** Theatre Group at the Wenningdale Room, 7-9pm.
- Mon 12th** Victoria Institute Drop-in 10am-12noon. Community Link Café 1.30-3pm. Craven Customer Services, Town Hall, 10am-12.30pm and every Monday. Toddle-in for parents/carers and babies/toddlers, 10-11.30am, Methodist Church Hall and every Monday.

- Mon 12th** Gentle walks for women, leave Lairgill 9.30am, also on 19th and 26th.
- Tue 13th** Craft Club at the Wenningdale Room, 10am-12noon and every Tuesday.
- Wed 14th** Victoria Institute Annual General Meeting, 7.30pm.
- Thu 15th** **Copy deadline for May edition of Bentham News.**
Low Bentham Women's Institute at the Victoria Institute, 7.30pm. See page 18.
- Fri 16th** Waste paper collection at Lairgill car park, 8.30-11am. Proceeds to NSPCC.
Age Concern at the Masonic Hall, 10am-2.30pm. Musical quiz with Peter Marshall.
- Sat 17th** Bentham Homing Society coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10am-12noon. 
Bentham Footpath Group walk, Cartmel 10 miles, leaders Ed and Sue Bradley 62502. Meet at Lairgill 9.30am.
- Mon 19th** Victoria Institute Drop-in 10am-12noon. Community Link Café 1.30-3pm.
- Tue 20th** Bentham Child Health Clinic at the Surgery, 2-4pm.
Thornton and Burton-in-Lonsdale Mothers' Union, 2pm in Burton Church Room. Speaker Chris Broadhead - Age Concern - Benefits for the elderly.
Looking Well 7.30-9.30pm, Singing in Harmony. Also on 27th.
- Wed 21st** Pilates, 9.30-11.30, Lower Town Hall, gentle exercise to help with posture, and on 28th.
Moving Well, 11.30am-12.30pm, gentle exercise to music, Lower Town Hall, and on 28th.
Looking Well 2-4pm, Art for All, beginners welcome.
Looking Well 11am-1.30pm, Positive Futures Project, and on 28th.
Victoria Institute Drop-in 10am-12noon. Community Link Café 1.30-3pm. Line Dancing 2-3pm. All three also on 28th.
- Wed 21st** Bentham First Responders at Looking Well 7.30pm. Come and talk to us about joining or ring Robert Holland, 63346.
- Fri 23rd** Age Concern at the Masonic Hall, 10am-2.30pm. Video-"Ffestiniog".
- Sat 24th** Youth Café coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10am-12noon. 
- Sun 25th** Bentham Footpath Group walk, Orrest Head, 8 miles, leader Sue Cross 62103. Meet at Lairgill 9.30am.
- Mon 26th** Methodist Church Hall, 3.45-4.45 Adventurers Group for 4-6 year olds, 6.15-7.30pm Springboard for 7-10 year olds, and every Monday in term time.
Town Council meeting 7.30pm at the Town Hall (if General Election is on 6th May).
Victoria Institute, Drop-in 10am-12noon. Community Link Café 1.30-3pm. Slimming Group 5.30-6.30pm. Tai Chi 6.15-7.15pm. Peak Fitness 7.30-8.30pm.
- Thu 29th** Looking Well, 6.30-8.00pm, Tai Chi, new course for 10 weeks.
- Fri 30th** Bentham News published.
Methodist Church Hall, 7-8pm GFI for school years 6, 7 & 8, 8.15-9.15pm for school years 9+, and every Friday in term time.
Looking Well, 1.30-3.00pm, Tai Chi, new course for 10 weeks.
Age Concern at the Masonic Hall, 10am-2.30pm. Quiz.
Bentham Footpath Group Annual Dinner at New Butts, 7 for 7.30pm. Book and pay with Sue or Keith.

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.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

High Bentham

By Anne Yaman

The March meeting was held on Thursday 4th in the Lower Town Hall. The speaker was the Revd Ian Greenhalgh from Clapham and Austwick who recounted his time in the Church from a young unmarried curate through his work as a Chaplain in the RAF. We were expecting a really interesting and funny evening and he certainly didn't let us down. Apologies to neighbours of the Town Hall if you heard the laughter! News had also spread amongst the community and we were very lucky to have 29 members and 10 visitors to listen to him.

The business of the evening was led by Miss Wendy Dowbiggin, President, assisted by Mrs Sue Camacho, Secretary. Miss Dowbiggin reported on a very successful meal at the Horse and Farrier, reminded members who would be going to see "Oliver" in Lancaster and also the date of the Spring Council meeting in April together with other information.

There was also a fair trade table run by member Mrs Cecile Nock and there were some lovely fair trade goods for sale. The competition was for an old candlestick which produced some very varied entries and was won by Mrs Ann Polkinhorne with Mrs Izzy Carr second and Mrs Grace Stevens third.

The meeting next month will be on Thursday 1st April in the Lower Town Hall when all visitors will be most welcome.

Low Bentham

By Jennifer Watkinson

Guest speaker Mr Peter Marshall's talk about five intrepid Victorian women was a story of amazing coincidences in which he and a newly found distant relative investigated their family tree. This led, after much research, to the discovery that one of the women featured in the book entitled "Swiss Notes" by five ladies was a distant relative he had met when he was a young lad. It is an account of touring and climbing in the Alps in 1874. Three of the ladies wearing long dresses and roped to guides, reached the top of Mont Blanc. The ladies, only referred to by their first names, spent two months touring the mountain areas using various forms of horse drawn vehicles to convey them to places like Chamonix, Zermatt, Lugano and Pontresina. Eventually the researchers succeeded in identifying all five women.

He showed slides of a trip he and his wife had taken to the Alps, which incorporated many of the places the ladies had visited. By contrast, they travelled by rail, an option that wasn't available in 1874. A photograph of five ladies wearing long dresses and carrying large hats and walking poles, posing on a snow covered mountain, was shown. He was thanked for his interesting and enjoyable talk by the president, Mrs Ruth Sephton.

"Tea with Carol Thatcher" at Skipton Town hall, was attended by five members.

The next meeting will be on 15th April when Mr. Dick White will be talking about "Shipwrecks and Drownings" in Morecambe bay. Visitors are very welcome.

Iain Henshaw

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LOOKING WELL NEWS

By Julie Vass

Events

An exhibition of beautifully crafted postcards created by Workbase in Kendal and the Looking Well in Bentham will be on show in the South Studio of the Looking Well from the 6th April to coincide with Depression Awareness week 18th - 24th April. It will be open to the public on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons up to the 27th or viewing by prior arrangement.

These hand made cards pose the question, "Can you Imagine How I Feel"?

Over 600 cards take the viewer on a hugely varied and important journey through the honest, uncensored words and images of the makers.

These postcards were made for World Mental Health Day 10th October 2009. The work was exhibited in Kendal Town Centre and appreciated by hundreds of visitors to the show.

Phoebe Caldwell - Winner of the Times Sternberg Award 2010

On Monday 26th April 6.00 – 8.00pm Phoebe will be showing a film on improving the lives of people with severe autism, followed by a discussion. As places are limited booking is essential. Please phone or email by 20th April. Donations welcome.

Tai Chi

A new 10 week course will be starting on

GARAGE SALE

Corner of Cross Lane, Low Bentham

Easter Weekend

Starts 10am Good Friday

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29th April on Thursdays 6.30 – 8.00pm and Fridays 1.30 – 3.00pm

Tai Chi teaches relaxation along with balance and coordination. It is very effective in improving breathing, physical strength and flexibility in the joints. Many people report that it gives them more energy and helps them feel more peaceful. Please contact Rosie Jackson 07890 011298 to enrol.

Gardening

Spring is in the air and we are re-starting the Garden Group on Wednesday mornings 10.00 – 12.00pm. Come along and join us getting to grips with seeds, sowing and composting. Everyone welcome.

Please contact Julie if you are interested in any of the above activities/courses on 015242 62672 or email julie@pioneerprojects.org.uk

Don't forget that clocks go forward by one hour on the night of Saturday 27th March.

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BENTHAM FILM GROUP

By Stella Hall

Tom Hanks stars as Professor Robert Langdon in this month's film 'Angels and Demons' (Cert 12). Dan Brown's novel to film follow up to 'The Da Vinci Code' also stars Ewan McGregor in this Rome based fast paced thriller.

The film is on Saturday 10th April starting 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 at the door.

If you would like further details, see our website www.benthamfilms.co.uk

THEATRE DANCE

By Helen Howard

Helen Howard School of Theatre Dance has once again had a very busy few months. On November 28th and 29th 210 dancers performed in their school show at Morecambe Dome. The performers ranged in age from three years of age to adults. Thank you to all who performed and supported us.

Since then we have been busy rehearsing for yet another trip to London. This time 45 dancers will be performing at Sadler's Wells Theatre on Saturday 27th March. We will be performing two dances at an invitation only showcase.

As well as learning their dances, the students have been busy raising money to pay for their costumes. We have had numerous cake stalls, a coffee morning and a very entertaining quiz night. Thanks to all who have supported us at these events.

Also a very big thank you to SBC club who have once again helped us out enormously with their donation of £500. Thanks also to Settle Rotary for their donation of £200 and also to Dalehead Vets and Robert Taylor and Sons for their kind donations.



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Dear Bentham News,

As part of our fundraising for the refurbishment of High Bentham Methodist Church we are planning to produce a recipe book. We would be grateful to receive, before 31st May, recipes from anyone who has a favourite, for possible inclusion in it.

The name of the donor of each one will be included with it, and should any recipe be duplicated each donor's name will be included.

Recipes should be given or sent to Doreen Park Tel: 61445, or Gwen Whitfield Tel: 61643, or can be left in the marked box at the back of the Methodist Church.

We aim to publish the book in September, and look forward to it containing "tried and tested" family favourites and treats. Please can you help us?

Yours sincerely,
Anne Millar.

Dear readers,

The Committee of The Longstaffe's Educational Fund has asked me to write to say that because of the charity's current financial situation, we regret that we will be unable to make a distribution of funds this year. However there is hope on the horizon and if investments make the headway predicted we have every intention of making a distribution next year. You will be told about this through the Bentham News.

Yours sincerely,
David Johnson (Secretary).



Dear Bentham News,

Thank you to everyone who asked about my hens after I wrote about their trauma recently. The hen that was injured has made an amazing recovery and although she still walks with a bit of a limp, she can run with the best of them! She goes exploring with the rest of the flock - and is back laying again. Thank you also to the dog walkers who have kept their dogs under control and ensured that my hens can wander in safety.

Marie Rayner.

Dear Bentham News,

Several people have said how interesting the Hesleton Diaries article was. The more I read it the more I realise that there must be many elderly residents of Bentham with their own stories which have never been written down. Unless we capture these memories they will be lost forever and future generations of Benthamers will be the worse off. I have asked several people if they would consider writing their life story and whilst some have said they would think about it others say that no one would be interested in their lives.

I think everyone has something interesting to tell, whether it is just to pass on to their descendants or leave as a record for others to read and it would be wonderful if we could encourage these people and help them with what could become a Bentham History Project. It might even encourage you to start writing your own biography.

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Peter Phillips.

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£1,000 RAISED FOR HAITI

By Annie Neligan

Just as Mayor Gareth Adams said in his opening welcome, the evening was about our community supporting another through a very hard time. It was a wonderful evening, made so by the way everyone so generously joined in and contributed. From the Black Bull next door to the far reaches of Low Gill musicians came and shared songs funny, sad, stirring and beautiful, poems, music ancient, modern and a lot more in between. Others brought decorations, mood lighting, cakes, tea making and chair moving energy. We listened, laughed, sang along, chatted, tapped our feet, had shivers run down our spines and wondered at all this talent.

We thought about the desperate situation of the Haitian people: some of us signed letters urging the government and the IMF to offer grants rather than debt incurring loans. And we dug deep into our pockets and on Monday morning we were able to pay £1,000 to the Disaster Emergency committee appeal for Haiti. Thanks to everyone who made such a special night.

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AWARD FOR ASIAN SPICE

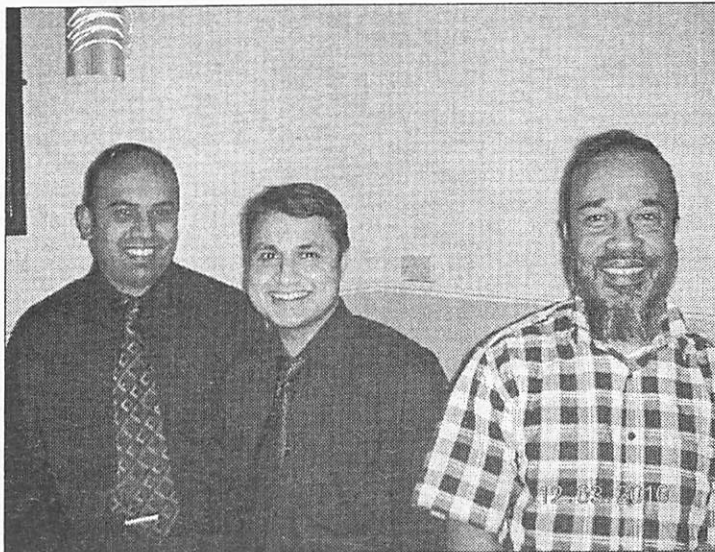
By Shirley Brown

Anyone who has recently dined in or out of the Asian Spice restaurant will have noticed an impressive trophy and certificate proudly on display. These announce that Asian Spice is a regional winner of The Ethical Food Award 2009 in the category of Best Local Indian and Bangladeshi restaurants specialising in Indian and Bangladeshi cuisine.

The manager, Mr Mubarak Ullah (known as "Ali") and his staff, some of whom come from the same family, are understandably delighted and proud of this achievement. To win this prize the Ethical Food Award judges asked for the recipes of two sample specialist dishes, which they then made. The dishes selected were Fish Masala and Nagal Delight. These use the very distinctive flavour of pickled Naga chilli and another vital and unusual ingredient for Bangladeshi dishes, which is 'sathkora'. This is a citrus fruit that adds a flavour, which is both bitter and fragrant. Another feature of this style of cooking is that typically rapeseed oil is used more often than ghee.

Ali came to England from Bangladesh 34 years ago at the age of 14. He and his family live in Keighley and the staff come over to Bentham every day to carry on this family business, which has now been successfully building up a local, and more far-reaching, loyal customer base since 2002.

This Award is good news for the hard-working staff at Asian Spice, and also good news for Bentham, as it has to be a plus for the town that we have such a fine example of an authentic Bangladeshi restaurant on our High Street.



Our photograph shows some of the happy staff at Asian Spice. Mr. Mubarak Ullah is far right.

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BENTHAM PEOPLE

Personal Thanks

Ken Duke. Peggy Duke, Philippa and Max wish to offer their most sincere thanks to family, friends and neighbours for all their support and messages of condolence on the occasion of Ken's death. Peggy and Ken spent 63 happy years together - most of them in Bentham. He will be sadly missed. Many thanks for the very generous donations of £805 to the Genesis Appeal at Wythenshawe Hospital.



Guy - Hilda, Angela, Christine and their families would like to thank family and friends for all their messages of sympathy, cards and flowers on the sad loss of Ron; also all the contributors for Motor Neurone Disease, which totalled £500.

Thanks

Ruth and Jim would like to thank every one, especially Roy and Margaret Kay, for their kindness and support throughout Jim's illness.

Congratulations

To Sarah and Keith Wilson, congratulations on your Ruby Wedding Anniversary 28th March. Love, Ellen, Eddie and Family.

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Charities

* **Audrey Shallcross - Bentham Line Dancers** recently donated £100 to Ingleton Swimming Pool as part of their campaign to help local organisations. We are pleased to report that the Beginner's group on Wednesday afternoons at the Victoria Institute, is thriving and its members are fast becoming nimble-footed.

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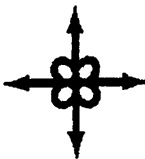
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BENTHAM FOOTPATH GROUP



By Maureen Ellis

As I write this the equinox is approaching and at last signs of Spring are here after the gruelling winter. The three April walks all meet at Lairgill at 9.30am and the first is on Thursday 8th - the Lupton Circular of 8 miles. Walking starts at Crooklands roundabout and heads away from the Hideway Cafe across undulating fields, passes near Lupton Tower and then crosses the A65. There are good views of the Lakeland Fells and then after walking through St. Gregory's Churchyard the canal is followed a short way back to the cars.

On Saturday 17th there is the Cartmel walk of 10 miles, with walking starting from the road by Hampsfield Hall and then climbing steadily up and along Hampsfell while enjoying views in all directions. It then joins the Cistercian Way, into and through Cartmel. South of Cartmel we take The Cumbria Coastal Way along the Ellerside Ridge, with views of the south Lakes and Leven Estuary, then back across Beck Side and Wood Broughton.

On Sunday 25th the Orrest Head 8 mile walk, starting from the road leading up to Dubbs Reservoir, goes to the area between Ings and Troutbeck. There are spectacular views of the fells as we walk to the top of Orrest Head, which is the only real climb. The rest is mixed terrain with no difficulties.

The annual dinner is on Friday 30th at New Butts. Please book as soon as possible with Sue Badley or Keith Hartley.

BENTHAM THEATRE GROUP

By Iain Henshaw

Fancy yourself as a play writer? The group will start writing for the 2011 and thirtieth panto on April 11th, 7:00 pm at the Wenningdale Room, Bentham Town Hall. All welcome. The first session will be to decide on the panto and draft the scenes, writing will take place thereafter. Comedians especially welcome.

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CHURCHES TOGETHER

By Alastair Cook

Quakers in Bentham are going to experience an unusual event next month when two of our members get married! With a total UK membership of about 30,000 and an age profile that makes Age Concern resemble a playgroup, this is quite rare.

Quaker weddings are, to the uninitiated, strange events. We have no clergy, only experienced Friends, so who performs the marriage? Well actually the bride and groom do. In the usual silent setting of a Quaker Meeting for Worship, they stand and publicly make the promises to each other that, in words, are very much what a clergyman might say in a more conventional service. We do have what is known as a registering officer present to ensure that the legally required phrases are used but the promises and commitment are actually made by the bride and groom. After that they are married in the sight of God and, as is said at the conclusion of more common services "those whom God has joined together let no

man put asunder".

At the end of the silent worship each member of the meeting signs the marriage certificate to confirm that they have witnessed this event. This is the part of the procedure when the normal Quaker simplicity is allowed to lapse slightly. The certificate is frequently rather ornate, written calligraphically or in some way embellished. Such certificates very often become treasured family heirlooms and gold dust to future genealogists! We then all repair to some suitable place for entirely conventional celebrations. We wish Mary and Peter a joyful wedding day and a long and successful marriage.



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IN BENTHAM

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Kat Howden and Paul Jones are songwriters with that special magic that takes you on a journey through a musical landscape, telling stories and sharing experience with their music. Between them they play guitar, fiddle, mandolin, bodhran and cajon.

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BEST NEWS

By Annie Neligan

Thinking back, thinking ahead

Members of the Community Link Café in Low Bentham spent one of their lunchtimes talking with a visitor from BEST about how fast the world's resources are being burnt, used up, wasted. In particular, we talked about how differently we grew up, before money seemed to be the most important thing in the world. We'd like to pass on some suggestions from what we used to do that could help everyone save resources and waste:

- If you have to buy something, get as good quality as you can so it lasts.
- Care for what you have carefully – books, clothes, shoes, equipment.
- Learn to repair things – clothes, furniture, electricals.
- Wash underclothes by hand as you go along.
- Don't have a shower every day – have a hand wash instead.
- Think about all the resources you are using if you leave lights on and machines on standby – turn them off (and don't tell your grandparents how mean they are for reminding you!)
- Use terry towelling nappies when you can – think of Bentham's mountain of disposables.

After all, it's your and your children's future at stake!

The next BEST meeting is on Monday 12th April at 7.00pm in the Horse and Farrier Inn, Main Street.

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BENTHAM & DISTRICT PET RESCUE

By Pam Whitehead

Who are we?

We are an independent local charity helping needy pets in our area. Whilst most of the charity's volunteers were initially in the Bentham area, our work now extends throughout North Craven, as far east as Hellifield and west to Kirkby Lonsdale.

What do we do?

Our aims are to help homeless pets find new homes, and pay kennelling and vet's bills whilst they await new approved owners. We work with vet's surgeries in the area to help ensure that OAPs can continue to enjoy the comfort which a pet gives them.

We have cat sanctuaries at Burton-in-Lonsdale and Horton-in-Ribbleshead, and work closely with other local animal charities to help a wide range of other pets which are brought to us.

How do we do it?

We run various fund raising events including coffee mornings, sponsored dog walks, garden parties and second hand book sales. Our biggest income is from our regular bric-a-brac stalls.

How can you help?

We are always grateful to receive books, bric-a-brac, raffle prizes, bedding, donations and legacies. We need helpers, both at our events and in our sanctuaries. Best of all, why not give a home to one (or more) of our cats?

Money matters

Our income for the last year has included £335 from Christmas Card sales, £645 from the quiz, just over £2,100 from bric-a-brac, £845 from the Christmas Raffle, £1,064 from the Festive Dog Walk and a generous donation of £1,000. After all the outgoings, including vet's bills and running costs of the sanctuaries, there is a small margin left to ensure their future

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COOKERY PAGE

By Patsy Henderson



Hot Herby Mushrooms

Recipe Serves 4

4 thin slices of white bread, without crusts
125g chestnut mushrooms, sliced
125g oyster mushrooms, sliced
1 garlic clove, peeled and crushed
1 tsp Dijon mustard
300ml chicken stock
seasoning
1 tbsp fresh parsley, chopped
1 tbsp fresh chives
mixed salad leaves to serve

Method

Preheat the oven to 180C, gas 4. Roll out the bread as thinly as possible. Press each piece of bread into a 10cm tartlet tin and bake for 20 minutes. Place the mushrooms in a frying pan along with the garlic, mustard and chicken stock and stir fry over a medium heat until the mushrooms are cooked and the stock is reduced by half.

Take the mushrooms from the pan and transfer to an ovenproof dish. Cover with tinfoil and put into the bottom of the oven to keep warm. Boil the remaining juices in the pan to reduce to a thick sauce and season to taste.

Remove the mushroom mix from the oven and stir in the the parsley and chives. Place a bread tartlet onto each plate and divide the mushroom mixture between them. Spoon the pan juices over the tartlets and garnish with chives and serve with the salad leaves.

Toffee Meringue Slices

Recipe Makes 12 slices

55g butter
215g dark brown sugar
1 egg
½ tsp vanilla extract
70g plain flour
½ tsp salt
¼ tsp grated nutmeg

For the topping

1 egg white
¼ tsp salt
1 tbsp golden syrup
100g caster sugar
55g walnuts, finely chopped

Method

Preheat the oven to 180C, gas 4. Line a 20cm square cake tin with greaseproof paper and grease. Combine the butter and brown sugar in a saucepan and heat until bubbling, then set aside. Allow to cool. Beat the egg and vanilla into the cooled sugar mix. Sift the flour, salt and nutmeg into the mix and fold in. Spread the mixture in the tin.

For the topping, beat the egg white with the salt until it forms soft peaks. Beat in the golden syrup and then the sugar, beating the mix until it forms stiff peaks. Fold in the nuts and spread over the top of the mixture. Bake for about 30 minutes then cut into slices when cool.



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TOWN COUNCIL DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

By Jo Burton (Town Clerk)

Precept Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held in the Lower Town Hall on Wednesday 28 April 2010 at 7pm.

All local organisations will gather together to make the annual report of their activities to the town over a cup of tea or coffee, and pick up their precept cheques where applicable.

Everyone is welcome to come along and see the wealth of clubs and organisations open to residents and to hear what they have been doing in the last 12 months.

Tourist Information Point Opens For New Season

The Tourist Information Point will open on Saturday 3rd April, for the season. The occasion will be marked by the Tourist Information Point coffee morning in the Town Hall and the publication of the updated Bentham Leaflet sponsored by Bentham businesses and produced by the Tourist Information Point and the Forest of Bowland.

The Tourist Information Point, run by dedicated local volunteers, will be open from 10am until 2pm Monday to Thursday, from 10am to 4pm Fridays and 10am - noon on Saturdays. If you need local information or would like to get involved please call Bentham 62549.



JUNIOR GOLF AT BENTHAM GOLF CLUB



By Chris Cousins (PGA Professional)

Spring is on its way and we are looking forward to an exciting season of junior golf at Bentham Golf Club. This month we have the following events:

★ Junior Monday Night competitions at Bentham golf club will be starting on Monday 12th April, teeing off between 17:00 - 18:00. Open to junior members of Bentham Golf Club. Entry is £0.50 for under 13's and £1.00 for under 18's.

★ Junior Golf Coaching sessions start on Saturday 10th April, 15:30 - 17:30. No previous experience or equipment is required, and the sessions are open to members and non members of the golf club. A course of 4 X 1 hour sessions costs £20 per child. Places must be booked in advance.

★ There will be a FREE Junior Golf Taster Session at Bentham Golf Club on Tuesday 6th April, 11:00 - 12:00. No previous experience or equipment is required. Places must be booked in advance.

If you have any questions or want to book for any competitions or sessions please contact Chris at: tel: 015242 62455.

e-mail: golf@benthamgolfclub.co.uk

web: www.benthamgolfclub.co.uk

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BENTHAM BASH

By Martin Newhouse

Once again it's time for the annual bike rally "Bentham Bash" to hit the sports field here in High Bentham. With three successful years of the rally behind us, it is expected that the event will be more popular than ever before. The Harley Davidson "Wrecking Crew" has been responsible for organising the occasion over the past few years, and it has been a pleasure to see it thrive with not only Harley Davidson riders but local people too.

The event is held to provide Bentham with something slightly diverse, live bands are playing throughout the weekend, so there is the benefit of fun evenings out as well as increasing business for local traders due to the visiting bikers. Being held on May Bank Holiday weekend (Friday 30th April to Monday 3rd May) and having the small entrance fee of only £5 per night, it is the perfect excuse to come and join the action. Finally, very many thanks for all your patience and support over the years.



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BENTHAM CRICKET CLUB'S NEW SEASON STARTS

By Tony Atkinson

The cricket season is nearly upon us once again and contrary to rumour, we are virtually at full strength to challenge for promotion again. We have some new players signed up but we are always on the lookout for budding young talent (12 years plus) or experienced old timers. If you are interested in playing please contact Tony Atkinson on 61645.

After a number of fundraising activities in recent years, our finances are now healthy and we will be buying new equipment for the first time in many years. We would like to thank everyone who has donated to the club to make this possible.

Our new treasurer, Mike Pauley, heads our new regime and is thanked for his hard work. We will be holding two net sessions at Giggleswick School in April. Contact me if you are interested. Training starts on Wednesday 21st April. Finally, if anyone would like to come and support us on match days, there are acres of space for kids to tire themselves out on while the adults sit back and enjoy the sun and hopefully, Bentham winning!



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SPRINGFIELD BOWLING CLUB

By Helen Cross (Club Secretary)

At the Bowling Club AGM on the 24th of February, the following people were appointed to serve the club as members of the committee for the next twelve months;

Di Rees - President. Tony Bowler - President Elect. Tom Davies - Chairman. Audrey Shannon - Vice Chairman. Diane Chant - Captain. Marjorie Hudson - Vice Captain. Ray Shannon - Treasurer. Helen Cross - Secretary. Ruth Parker - Social Secretary.

The club has joined the Westmorland Seniors League for the 2010 season and is looking forward to visiting different clubs for competitive matches as well as continuing with the programme of friendly matches that has been a success in the past.

Many thanks to everyone who supported the club by buying a Bentham and Beyond calendar this year, as the proceeds have been donated to the club.

We would like to remind readers that the club coffee morning will take place on April 10th in the Town Hall, followed by the club open day at 1.30pm at the bowling club. All are welcome so whatever your ability come along and have a go!



Cllr Wendy Heigh presents Mr Tom Davies, Chairman of Springfield Bowling Club with a cheque for nearly £2,300 from the sales of the Bentham Calendar.

The Town Council would like to thank all the local businesses who sponsored its production and all those who bought a calendar making such a donation possible. Work is now under way for the 2011 version.

ANNIE CARRINGTON IN LONDON MARATHON

By Mike Wynne

Annie Carrington is again running the London Marathon on April 25th. She is working hard at her training and has just completed the Trimpell 20 miler in 2 hours and 40 minutes, so hopes this is a sign of things to come!

Annie is raising money for the North West Cancer Research Fund, which is a charity with many local branches in this area, as cancer literally affects everyone in some way – either personally or through a family member or friend, so she feels it is a very good cause.

If you would like to support Annie then please ring her and pledge on 62336 or add your name and pledge to the sponsorship form in Dalehead Vets. (Thanks to Karen!)

THE PLAY'S THE THING

By John Neal

Bentham Theatre Group is to hold a preliminary meeting to discuss plays and dates for a production in the autumn. Anyone interested in getting involved should telephone John Neal on 63376 or Sue Halsall on 62083 and we will let you know where and when the meeting will be. The amount of interest will affect the choice of play - so a "Les Miserables" extravaganza or a solo Alan Bennett "Talking Head", which is it to be?

BIN COLLECTIONS TO CHANGE AGAIN!

By Our Environment Correspondent

Although Craven District Council's (CDC) new refuse and recycling scheme is only in its infancy, CDC has already received so many complaints, and seen so much evidence of confusion, that it has decided to reorganise its recycling arrangements again with immediate effect.

A spokesperson from the Council has told the Bentham News that its recycling operatives ("bin men") have been besieged by anxious Benthamers demanding that their bins be emptied on what are clearly the wrong days. This has been very stressful for its hard working employees, and Health and Safety issues have been raised.

The Council has revealed that to deal with this confusion it did consider a colour coded bin scheme, whereby the green bins will be collected by green refuse vehicles, the brown bins (for green refuse) will be collected by brown vehicles, the blue bins (for plastic, glass etc) will be collected by purple vehicles and the blue bags (for waste paper) will be collected by blue vehicles. However, an environmental audit of this proposal has shown that this number of vehicles would produce unsustainably high levels of CO2 emissions.

CDC's Environment Department have therefore come up with a second proposal, the introduction of a new bin, which will be added to the others already available. This fourth bin, coloured purple, will be offered to all those who are unable to cope with the present system. The purple bin can be used for any and all kinds of rubbish, and will be collected every week on the same day in both High and Low Bentham.

But who will be eligible for these new bins?

The Council is currently training all its recycling operatives to carry out mini-assessments on a house-by-house basis. They will look for wrong bins appearing on the right days, or the right bins appearing on the wrong days. They will also pay attention to such key indicators as the appearance of window envelopes and holographic wrapping paper in blue bags, yoghurt pots mixed up with plastic, and plastic bottles that are not marked PETE or HOPE. Clearly any tetra packs anywhere will be regarded as definitive evidence of recycling confusion. The operatives will also take account of any residents who appear on the streets visibly confused, or are seen rushing out of their houses in a dishevelled state wearing bedroom slippers in the early hours of the morning to get their bins out by the 7am deadline. These are the people who will be offered the new purple bins.

However personal application for purple bins is also possible. People who feel that they are clearly confused (as opposed to confusedly clear) may apply to take the Purple Bin Intelligence Test (PBIT). This short standardised test will consist of questions such as, "As up is to down, green is to?". Any Benthamer scoring less than 50% on the test will be granted a purple bin. A small charge may be added to their Council Tax for this extra service, but many will consider this money well spent.

This scheme will be piloted in Bentham from April 1st, and, if successful, rolled out across the whole of Craven District. Yet again, Bentham leads the way!

BENTHAM NEWS is published at "Latharna", High Bentham, by an editorial committee consisting of Trevor Blackwell, Shirley Brown, Christine Hodson, Peter Phillips, Ken Robertson, 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 April for the May edition. The Bentham News email address is: benthamnews@lycos.com.