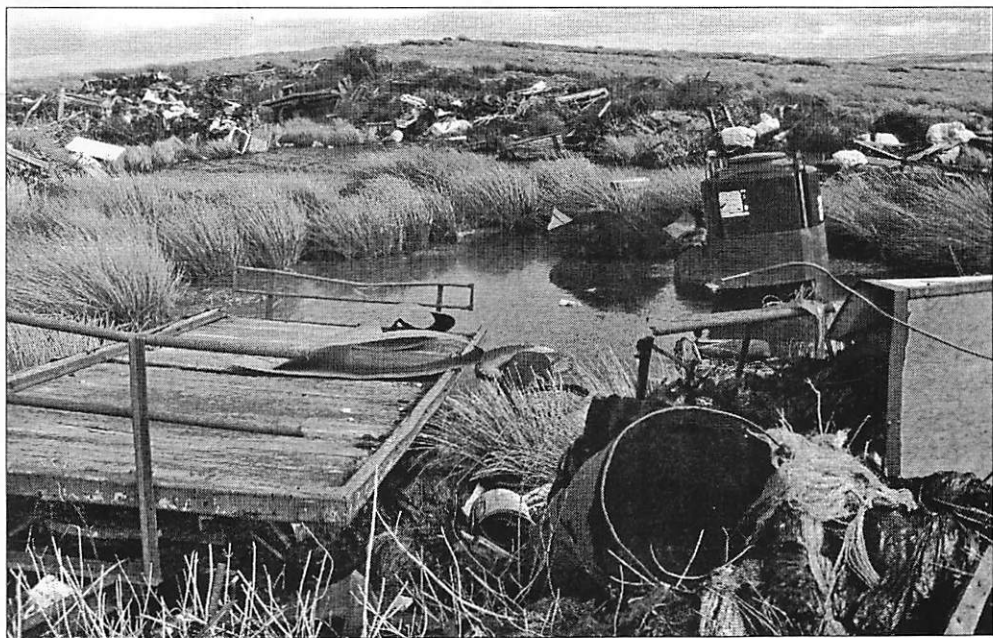


BENTHAM NEWS

AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY?!



By Keith Hartley

Whilst not exactly within our parish boundary, this eyesore is close enough to Bentham's doorstep to ring alarm bells for all who enjoy our local footpaths. It is an illegal tipping site located on common access land on the Keasden Road, an area popular with walkers from the Craven district and North Lancashire. Not only is the site an appalling blot on a beautiful landscape, but the tipped rubbish includes two large containers labelled "Formic Acid." Only someone with a callous disregard for the safety of wildlife could take the trouble to dispose of their rubbish so irresponsibly.

A Bentham walker came across the site recently and felt she had had an otherwise enjoyable walk ruined. Fortunately she carried a camera, and the photos she took were passed to me as Chairman of the Bentham Footpath Group for comment. Needless to say, my comments were rather on the strong side!

I felt I needed to visit the site with my own camera, and also make some representation to Craven District Council. The result of this left me feeling hopeful that with luck the tip will have been made to disappear in the fairly near future. A Craven District spokesman told me that the Environment Agency are aware of the problem and are currently developing a project to resolve it. Working in conjunction with other specialist interest groups they plan to clear the site (a mammoth task!) and then develop the small tarn, possibly as a nature reserve. This is great news. I do hope it will be made to happen and not become yet another *spending cuts* victim. My camera and I will be standing by to witness the transformation.

MAY 2009

ISSUE 271

HIGH BENTHAM C P SCHOOL

By Catherine Boocock

Day care provision in Bentham

Our Early Years provision is to increase from the beginning of May 2009 for 3 and rising 3 year olds. We will be offering two sessions a week initially in our excellent Nursery facilities on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons from 1.00 – 3.30pm. Our super Nursery Nurse Caroline Lequeux will be managing the day care. Please contact school if your child is 3 years old before 31 August 2009 and you are interested in booking a place. We intend to offer lunchtime sessions as well when we get the afternoon sessions established.

Please contact school if you wish to come for a visit and see our excellent facilities for children from 3 – 10 years old.

Red Nose day

We raised almost £300 for Comic Relief on Red Nose day with children and staff wearing their pyjamas to school! The majority of children voted for the money to be sent to help children in Africa, who don't have a home, find somewhere to live.

Maths Open Evening

The children had a fun filled day doing a variety of Maths activities – measures, shape & space, counting & estimating, code-crunching, timed activities and orienteering! In the evening we were delighted to welcome hordes of parents into school to listen to a brief concert of number songs, before they too could have a go at the Maths activities!

Easter Celebrations

We ended the spring term with a hectic day of Easter activities including an Easter bonnet competition and a Fair Trade Easter egg hunt – see the photo of some of the children in their Easter bonnets! At the end of the day parents were invited to join us in the school hall for Fair Trade refreshments and to listen to songs sung by all the children and the flautists playing with Mrs Brennan.

Unlawful Use of School Site

We have had complaints from residents who



live next to the school site about numbers of youths hanging around school in the evenings and at weekends. As we have said many times before, anyone in the community can book the use of the all weather pitch free of charge but must be accompanied by an adult who will take responsibility for the behaviour of the group. Youths have been seen on bikes on the all weather pitch and climbing on shed roofs. If unauthorised youths are seen on site then the Police will be informed and the parents of any youths reported will receive a warning letter.

Wray Scarecrow Festival

Look out for Fred Flintstone at the Scarecrow Festival this year! Miss Shepherd and her Art group have been busy getting him ready for his debut!



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APRIL'S TOWN COUNCIL

By David Johnson

All the Cllrs were present except Cllrs Barrington, Barnes and Camacho.

The meeting opened with several queries from the public focussed on the final item on the agenda; a confidential session to discuss the future of the Community Centre. Cllrs explained that the session had to be confidential to protect the Council's bargaining position with North Yorkshire and to allow Cllrs to speak freely. They stressed that Cllrs were always willing to discuss Town Council issues with Benthamers outside the meetings and that the public is entitled to request agenda items. They said that everybody would be informed of the position when a solution was reached.

The Police

Police reported a busy month covering thefts, possession of cannabis, two incidents of failure to stop after an accident, burglary and criminal damage.

Highways

Cllr Marshall reported on the public meeting held to discuss proposed changes to parking in Station Road and Main Street. Only fifteen replies had been received from the one hundred letters sent to businesses and residents who would be affected. He said the majority of the comments were negative, citing problems with deliveries and access to property. After considerable discussion the Cllrs decided to review the scheme as presented before progressing further.

Gully Emptying

North Yorkshire apparently has a policy of emptying Craven's 17,392 gullies twice a year but the policy has been reviewed and about 7,000 on minor roads will now only have their gullies emptied annually. The Cllrs were highly sceptical pointing out that many had received no attention for several years and that the promise of an annual visit would actually be an improvement!

Allotments

Sadly the Council's appeal for land for allotments has fallen on stony ground.

Low Bentham C.P. School Playing Field

Some people have asked if the school field could be used as a play area for Low Bentham children. It was decided to ask the NYCC to outline its intentions for the area.

Car Park Charges

CDC seems determined to introduce pay and display parking. Surveys are underway before a period of consultation with Cllrs and car park users. Cllrs agreed to write stating their opposition to the plan. Several wondered about the profitability of a scheme when factors such as the cost of purchasing and installing machines, supervision, emptying and making repairs are all taken into account.

The Tourist Information Point

More volunteers are needed and if you are prepared to help please see Wendy Dowbiggin.

Cemetery

Some of the memorials need some attention. The Cllrs are busy trying to track down relatives to ask them to carry out the necessary repairs. If they are unable to be traced some of the memorials will have to be put flat on the ground.

Town Hall Rates

These have increased dramatically this year from £895 in 2008 to £2,840 this year. The clerk thought this was down to the removal of transitional relief that has been in operation for several years. The Cllrs agreed to have a new flagpole fitted to the building and wanted the clerk to see if it could be in place for St. George's Day.

Sedbergh Junior School Sports Hall

This was the subject of debate following a letter received from Mr. Repper, a previous Headmaster, pointing out the folly of demolishing the sports hall. He thought it should be made into a facility for Benthamers. Craven's Sports Development Officer apparently thinks that the sports hall and playing fields should be preserved for community use when consideration is given to developing the site. The Cllrs had a meeting scheduled with Sedbergh School and the estate agents in the same week as the Council meeting.

GARDENING PAGE

By Joyce Knapp

The weather we experienced over the Easter weekend was both sunny and relatively warm and reminded me of my childhood (late fifties and early sixties) when this was the 'norm' as opposed to the exception. We also had quite cold winters back then, which we've had this year, so let's hope it follows that we return to the full pattern where we had relatively dry summers too.

Having enjoyed the burst of colour provided by early flowering shrubs such as forsythia and the flowering currant bush, now is a good time to cut them back. This is done to keep them in proportion with our gardens and encourage flowering shoots to grow ready for next year. Forsythias can be trimmed evenly with hedge cutters, but will give an excellent show of flowers the following spring if we simply remove all stems that have flowered, cutting back to where a new, young shoot is forming. This shoot will then have a full season in which to grow before producing flowers next year. We tackle a flowering currant bush in a rather different way by cutting out two or three of its oldest branches as near the ground as possible: this produces a more open bush. We complete the task by removing any stray shoots that are spreading beyond the natural outline of the plant, thus producing a compact, vigorous and young looking plant.

Turning now to the kitchen garden, we will have sown most of the seeds this year,



although it may be possible to squeeze in another successional sowing of fast growing crops such as lettuce and radish. Most of our time this month will be taken up in thinning and weeding vegetable growing areas and making sure they have sufficient water. It is worth noting (in case we do have a dry spell) that leafy crops will need regular watering, as will root crops, but it has been found that onions and shallots are much more likely to rot in storage if water is added during the growing season.

It is just possible to sneak in a sowing of wallflowers during May. These can be sown outdoors directly into a seedbed although I have usually gained slightly better results by starting them off in seed trays in a greenhouse, planting them only when they are well established.

BENTHAM CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

By Iain Henshaw

Plans have been drawn up for a centrepiece to be positioned at the junction of Station Road and Main Street. Quotations are being sought as well as permission from the building's owners. There is a Grassroots Grant application in progress.

If you want to help or are interested in the group then please contact Dave Bedford via The Byres, or phone Ian Henshaw on 015242 61010.

Please remember to drop your loose change into our collection boxes as every little helps.

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CRAVEN CONCERNS

By Cllr Manuel Camacho 015242 62074

Contact Craven opening hours

There will be no changes to the Bentham and Ingleton remote offices and opening times.

Council dog bags provided at cost

Craven District Council's scheme to distribute dog waste bags at 34 outlets around Craven will continue.

Due to the costs involved in providing free bags (£8,400 per year), the Council will be introducing a charge of 1p per bag (or £1 per 100) from 1st April. This will allow the Council to cover its costs and make savings.

Many dog owners have told the Council that they prefer to use the bags as they are purpose designed, biodegradable and most importantly, don't leak!

Anyone wishing to stock the bags, or dog owners wanting to find their nearest stockist, should contact Craven District Council's Environmental Health Unit on 01756 706355.

PALS scheme launched

The Old School Tea Rooms in Hebden has become the first business to sign up to Craven District Council's "Publicly Available Lavatory Scheme" (PALS). The pilot scheme aims to provide the public with clean, safe and accessible lavatories across the district.

Local businesses are being invited to become members by allowing the public to use lavatories on their premises during opening hours without the need to make a purchase.

The Council will make a small annual contribution to participating premises, which will display a sticker in their window showing what facilities are available: either male, female, wheelchair access or baby changing facilities. There is a benefit for participating businesses with more potential customers coming through their doors to use their facilities.

While this is all well and good I personally feel that the mass closure of Craven's Public toilets was a bad mistake which we will regret in the future. This was demonstrated when the new chief executive Mr Paul Shevlin visited Bentham. His first words were "Can I use your toilet ?"

Do you own an empty property?

There are grants of up to £35,000 per unit available towards bringing empty properties back into use.

What is the grant for? The grant helps with the cost of: Repair and improvement works to bring an empty home up to the "decent home standard". Converting an empty home into two or more self contained homes such as flats. Converting unused living space above shops/offices or attached to farms into self-contained homes. Who can apply? Applicants must own the empty property and have the legal right to, carry out any necessary works and rent the property to tenants. Which properties are eligible? The property must have been empty for at least 6 months before the date of enquiry for the grant and be suitable for use as living accommodation also be a type of dwelling for which there is a demand from local people on the Housing Register.

How much is the grant? The grant is 100% of the reasonable costs of the works up to a maximum of £35,000 per unit. What conditions apply? When the works have been completed the property must be rented to tenants that have been nominated by the Council from people on the local Housing Waiting List.

The property must also be let at an "affordable rent" which means in line with Housing Association rents. The amount of rent will vary depending on the type, size and location of the property. The grant conditions extend for a period of 5 years.

For further information please contact Strategic Housing on 01756 706293.

While we are making good progress at providing more rented accommodation the housing waiting list for Craven still stands at around 800 families, so clearly any help bringing redundant properties up to standard is welcome.

I would also like to bring your attention to an article that may appear in the Craven Herald about a £2 million loan.

Apparently an ex employee has sent a 'letter to the editor' to the Craven Herald about a £2 million being taken out by Council officers without Councillors consent which

(Continued on page 6)

Continued from page 5

the paper is likely to present as an editorial piece, instead of just publishing the letter. Councillors are aware of this now but are awaiting further details before commenting. I must stress that however irregular this is, the money is still in place. We have recently appointed a new chief finance officer, Mrs Susan Goodhall, and her comments are as follows.

"No retrospective report about the £2 million loan was submitted to Policy Committee on 5th December 2007 or any later Policy Committee meetings. The £2 million loan was raised with the Audit Commission as soon as it was discovered and has been a matter of debate with members at Policy Committee since December 08.

Further comment won't be made until we have all the facts and the Treasury Management Strategy for 2009/10 is fully established."

Obviously as more information becomes available I will let you know.

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BENTHAM AND DISTRICT PET RESCUE

By Sue Arnott

Spring is sprung, the grass is ris I wonder where the kitties is? This is usually the time of year when our cat sanctuary quickly fills up with kittens – all colours, all sizes and, sadly, in various states of health. Strangely (and thankfully) at the time of writing, the rush still hasn't started! (No doubt by the time this is printed we'll be overflowing!)

Tiny kittens are often the quickest to find homes – who can resist the cutest and cuddliest ones! But the kittens of feral or stray mother cats need a lot of time and patience from our volunteers to help them feel at ease with people and adjust to life in a loving household. When some kittens are brought to our sanctuary from the wild, they are so terrified of humans that they hide under their cat-beds in their pens for several weeks and only come out for food when no-

one is around. Gradually, through gentle play with feathers or string, volunteers help them gain confidence, one small step at a time.

The youngest ones are the easiest to tame but some (like Toffee who has been with us for many months now) may never lose their nervousness around people. The sooner such kittens come to us, the better their chances of a good home, doing what all cats like best ... eating and sleeping!

In the meantime, if you would like to offer a home to any of our adult cats, please ring Pat at the sanctuary on 63048 or take a look for details on our new website www.benthampetrescue.co.uk

Please note for general queries about Bentham and District Pet Rescue, or if you'd like to get involved as a volunteer, please ring our new secretary, Pam, on 01729 860235.



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MR ROBERT WILLIAM WOOD

By Sharon Haslam

On the 9th March Mr Bob Wood sadly passed away just before his 97th birthday. Bob had had a full and active life right to the end. This was made possible with the dedication and support of his son Robin and daughter-in-law Marilyn. Bob was born in 1912 in Slaidburn and started work at the age of 12 which allowed him, like many others of his generation, to develop skills and tactics for living which today we cannot imagine.

In November 1939 Bob met and married Margaret Capstick, who lived in Greystone Gill at the time. They were married at St. Margaret's Church, High Bentham. They had two children, Kathleen and Robin, and eventually two grandchildren, Steven and Susan.

For a number of years Bob farmed just outside Skipton until the early sixties when he moved to Embsay. He worked nights at Johnson and Johnson's in Gargrave and during the day he delivered milk and groceries. Bob was a keen gardener and grew prize dahlias, which he entered in local shows. In the late sixties, Bob and Margaret moved to the Top Shop in Low Bentham where they sold everything from knicker elastic, wool and carpet tacks to fresh fruit and vegetables. The shop was like the TV programme 'Open All Hours'. My favourite memory is the day I called in the shop for some supplies and Bob decided to waltz me around the central aisle which held the fruit and vegetables and said "You don't get that at Asda".

Bob retired in 1988, aged 76, but stayed in Low Bentham and enjoyed life to the full, playing snooker at the Victoria Institute, ballroom dancing, dining out in the local hotels and holidays in Ireland and Scotland.

For the past 18 months Bob has enjoyed attending the Community Link Café twice a week at the Victoria Institute Low Bentham, where he loved winning at dominoes and going on trips. Just before Bob died he made a very generous donation to the Victoria Institute, which is going towards replacing some windows. Bob will be sadly missed.

HORNBY DRAMA GROUP

By Richard Hopkins

The group will be presenting three one-act plays at the Hornby Institute on Friday and Saturday, 8th and 9th May, at 7.30pm.

The plays, by Jimmie Chinn and Pam Valentine, are an entertaining mix of comedy and pathos. Do come and support us - we promise an enjoyable evening out. Admission £5 at the door.

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FOOTPATH GROUP

By Maureen Ellis

Early summer is really here with our first evening walk on Tuesday 5th from Low Bentham Car Park at 6.30p.m. It will go up Mill Lane to Kirk Beck and across the fields to the county boundary to Willow Tree and towards Low Bottom and along the river bank, back to Low Bentham. It is about 3.5 miles and will take about 2 hours. We will be back in daylight.

On Sunday 17th we start at 1.30p.m from Lairgill to do the Sticky Buns and Flower Walk of 4 miles. The walking will start from Town Head Lane Austwick taking the route over the fields to Feizor and back though Oxenber Wood which will be ablaze with Bluebells.

In line with using public transport as much as possible, on Thursday 14th we will catch the 10.20 bus to Hornby Institute from Bentham or any stop on the way. The route will be determined according to the condition of the ground but will return to

Bentham.

On Saturday 23rd it is the Littondale Walk leaving Lairgill at 9.15. It is 9.5 miles and walking starts at Litton, climbing up and up to the back of Pen y ghent and then down Pen y ghent Ghyll which is steep and rather challenging and not for the faint hearted. It's then down to Foxup and back along the river to Litton.

On Thursday 28th from Lairgill at 9.30 it is the Easegill/Leck beck walk of not more than 6 miles. Walking starts at Bullpot Farm and goes first south to the dry river bed of Ease Gill towards Leck Beck. A small detour will take us to the dry waterfall and natural amphitheatre known as Ease Gill Kirk. It's then across the valley past some pot holes and then up onto Gragareth where there are 3 hours of glorious fell walking. It can be boggy in places but takes in County Stone which is the most northerly point in Lancashire. It's then north to Great Coum (which would be called combe in Devon) where we pick up the trail from Barbon and follow that back down to Bullpot.

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Jennifer Knowles (L.L.B Hons) See also my website www.jklaw.co.uk

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LOW BENTHAM W.I.

By Jennifer Watkinson

"I wants to make your flesh creep", a quotation from the Pickwick Papers, was the title of Mrs. Jane Mansergh's talk. She commenced by saying that many authors, especially Jane Austen, promoted the gracious times, but in reality there was a much darker side. She illustrated this by reading from numerous verbose newspaper cuttings which reported crimes, gruesome and petty, con tricks and the antics of the eccentrics of the time in the 18th and 19th centuries.

She concluded her interesting and informative talk by reading two pieces of verse.

Mrs Ruth Sephton, the president, gave the vote of thanks and commented that she didn't think that life had changed a lot!

Competition winners for a crime book were: 1st Mrs Edna Hewitt, 2nd Mrs Faith Wilson, 3rd Mrs Sheila Brown and 4th Mrs Pam Warbrick.

Mrs Stephanie Fort, our W.I advisor, attended the committee meeting held at the president's home. She answered many of our questions and gave plenty of valuable advice.

The next meeting will be on 21st May when Rev. Ian Greenhalgh will be talking about "Military Chaplaincy". The competition is a photo of family members in forces uniform. Pat and Joan are the tea hostesses. Everybody is welcome to come.

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ENTERTAINMENT FOR MAY

Saturday 9th May Vicky Price
Saturday 16th May Just John

BENTHAM COMMUNITY RESPONDERS - URGENT APPEAL FOR VOLUNTEERS

By Robert Holland

Bentham needs just a small amount of your time to save a life

You may all have read about the awards presented to Bentham Community First Responders recently reported in the March edition of Bentham News and you may well have drawn the conclusion that all is fine and dandy with the First Responders and that they are all geared up to save your life in a medical emergency at any time of the day and night.

Currently the group has 16 volunteers, all of whom live in High or Low Bentham but the majority of them have day time jobs either locally or outside the town. They are highly committed to save life whenever needed and they all give their time to be on call as often as possible around their work and other commitments. Sometimes however, the group struggles to provide cover during daylight hours and desperately needs more volunteers to plug this shortfall.

Every week the Yorkshire Ambulance Service gets a report of emergency activity in Bentham and we are aware that there are incidents in the area that we would dearly like to attend but for the above reasons we are not able to respond to all of them.

At their April monthly meeting the group agreed that it should make strenuous efforts to close this gap in its service for the benefit of the whole community. So we are making this appeal for more volunteers so that we can provide the best possible emergency care to everyone in Bentham. If you feel that you can spare just a few days each month to help out in the daytime it would be wonderful. No medical skill is needed and you will be given full training in all the necessary skills by Yorkshire Ambulance Service.

You could be just the person we need. If you are unsure whether or not to volunteer, spare a thought for the next person who urgently needs life-saving care; it could be one of your family or friends.

Please feel free to approach any of us to have an informal chat about what we do by contacting either Wanda Lewcun on 62450, Gordon Kennell on 61597 or Robert Holland on 63346 or better still, come along to one of our monthly meetings which are held at the Looking Well at 7.30pm on the first Wednesday in every month.

FOOTPATH FAULTS

By David Gibson

For anyone wishing to report problems regarding footpaths in the area contact details are as follows: **David Gibson**, Tel. 015242 61942. Email: cdgibson@talktalk.net

It would be appreciated if as complete details as possible could be supplied regarding location and the nature of the problem. A map reference and footpath number would also be helpful.

Joint Access and Rights of Way Committee for Ingleton, Bentham, Thornton & Burton.

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BOWLAND ARTS FESTIVAL

By Sue Flowers

This festival, from 1st May to 30th June, brings together an exciting series of exhibitions, art trails, films, workshops and creative events which celebrate the artistic and cultural landscape of the Forest of Bowland area of outstanding natural beauty.

We hope visitors and residents alike will be able to enjoy the interesting role the arts can play in developing our understanding of this very special environment.

Events in the Lune Valley during May:

Monday 4th May 11am -3.30pm- Wray Fair – Art workshop & guided walk Artists will be gathering local stories and delivering a free creative workshop around environmental themes and local history. Guided walk at 2pm by AONB staff from the Bowland Arts Festival stall.

Friday 15th May Music performance: Melling Institute 7.30pm. Howden Jones – with superb arrangements, breathtaking harmonies, down-to earth virtuosity and an infectious delight in live performance, Kate 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, mandolin, bodhran and cajon.

Tickets: £6 adults, £3 children available from the studios.

15th -17th May 11am-5pm & 22nd May - 24 May 11am -5pm Exhibition

Open Studios at Green Close in Melling featuring a special exhibition 'Recuerdos de Mexico' by Pete and Sue Flowers.

School and special needs groups welcome – please book in advance.

Sunday 17th May and Sunday 24th May - Countryside Ranger led Guided walks

These will start at Green Close Studios at 1.30pm, taking in Wrayton and Melling Moor with explanations about the landscape, wildlife and farming (3 hours). Tea and cake available from the studios from 3pm. Booking essential 01772-534709.

Family art workshops

These will be held during the Whitsuntide half-term holidays (From the GCS Bikes, Bins and Blouses series).

Wednesday 27th May 1pm-4pm Design for Recycling

Ever got confused with those different recycling boxes? Design and create your very own decorative labeling – suitable for all the family.

Thursday 28th May 1pm-4pm Design for Bicycles

Ever worried about being seen on your bike? Theatre designer Hilli McManus will help make sure you'll be seen day and night! Booking for family workshops is essential £5 per person 015242-21233.

Or you may like to spend an afternoon drawing in Gisburn Forest or walking part of the Wyre Way challenge in Garstang.... There's loads of other things to do across the Forest of Bowland - it's all up to you to give it a go! For further information please visit www.bowlandarts.co.uk or phone 015242 21233.

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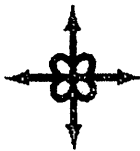
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CHURCHES TOGETHER

By Stephen Dawson



Junk Mail or Genuine?

This month will see more paper than usual through your door as Churches Together will be seeking your support for *Christian Aid*.

The house-to-house collection raises £15 million nationally, more than the emergency appeals (£12m) and legacies (£10m). Only general fundraising (£30m) and a government grant of £18m provide more. There will be a thanksgiving service for Christian Aid at High Bentham Methodist Church on Sunday 17th May at 6.30pm when the Churches Together Music Group will take part.

Later in May you may also receive material for the European Parliament elections of 4th June. Christian Aid would like us to ask the candidates for their policy on the Climate Conference to be held this December in Copenhagen when world leaders will set the framework for combating climate change until 2022. The last such framework was the Kyoto protocol of 1997. Why should any of this interest you, the voter, and Christian Aid? Because if global temperatures rise more than 2 degrees experts predict that a fifth of the world's population, mainly the poorest, will suffer acute water shortages, 30 million will go hungry and parts of countries like Bangladesh will disappear, leading to migration and conflict.

To find out how our politicians can help the poor at Copenhagen please see the contact details on the Christian Aid envelope – and thank you for your gift.

St John's Fun Day

By Rev Clive Burgess

Sunday 14TH June From 3.30pm Onwards

St John's Church invite all the local community to our Fun Day to be held in the playing field opposite the church. There will be some sideshow games, children's games, tug-o-war, all age rounders and fun for

everyone – and it's free. Refreshments, including a BBQ, bar, soft drinks and cream teas will be available. Car parking is available, but if you need transport it will be provided. Come along, have fun, something to eat and support our building fund. Watch out for more details next month but mark the date in your diary now.

CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

By Erica Cadbury, Bureau Manager

Craven CAB has received funding from the government Additional Hours of Advice Project to run a weekly session at Bentham for the next 12 months. The hours will be the same 1.30 – 3.30 p.m. on a Wednesday. This funding is in recognition of the fact that bureaux all over the country have seen a sharp increase in clients particularly with debt and employment problems.

Naturally we were delighted to receive some of this money, particularly as our rural advice project ended at the end of March.

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SUMMER WALKING WEEKEND - COME AND JOIN US

By Christine Singleton

Walks Worldwide Weekend 29-31 May at Ingleton

Each year we organise a walking weekend so that we can meet our clients face to face. This weekend has proved very popular with a wonderful mix of walking, fantastic scenery, informative talks, good company and great food.

This year we are pleased that Hamish Brown (professional writer, lecturer and photographer, specialising in the outdoors, and a keen climber and walker) will be joining us. Hamish has been travelling to Morocco since the 1960s and knows the country better than most of the Berbers, by whom he is greatly respected. In the evening Hamish will give an illustrated presentation about his fantastic end-to-end traverse of the Atlas Mountains of Morocco, which he

undertook over a continuous period of 96 days in 1995.

We would be delighted if you are able to accompany us on a guided walk on the Saturday. In the evening we will present an illustrated talk about our holidays, before inviting Hamish to inspire us all with his illustrated presentation about his Moroccan exploits. You are of course, most welcome to come just for Hamish's talk, for which there is a small charge of £7.50 per head (concessions £5) to cover costs, with all profits going to a charity.

Afterwards we will provide light refreshments based on different foods from around the world and a bar will also be available.

Please contact Christine at Walks Worldwide, 12 The Square, Ingleton or phone us on 01524 242000 or visit our website www.walksworldwide.com for further details. It is advisable to inform us if you are joining us for a walk on the Saturday, so that we can have enough guides for everyone, and also to purchase your tickets in advance for the evening talk.

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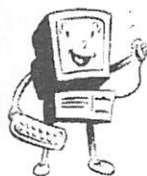
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YESTERDAY IN BENTHAM

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.

May 1989

County Council elections were to take place early in May, and the three local candidates made their pre-election pitch in this month's BN. Sitting representative *Derek Hunt* appeared fairly confident in his belief that he would be re-elected. By process of elimination I assume he was a Conservative candidate, but interestingly this was not mentioned anywhere in the paper. Could this have been simply an oversight, or was the Poll Tax already making Tory candidates wish they were Liberals? Labour candidate *Margaret McSherry* made no attempt to hide her party colours, and she made it clear where she stood on such issues as privatisation, beach pollution (always of grave concern in North Craven!) and toxic waste disposal. She didn't cover any local issues, but she did include a photograph that would have had me voting for her whatever her colours! Lib Dem District Councillor *Ralph Atkinson* threw his hat into the election ring, saying quite simply that if elected he would continue to represent local people and their concerns to the best of his ability. Bentham must have believed him because he won the seat.

Last month I reported (with tongue firmly in cheek!) a promise recorded in the April '89 edition of Bentham News that the MoD would re-route its jet fighter aircraft to a flight path that would prevent them coming within a kilometre of the Bentham Parish boundary. This month a letter to BN by *Don Bridgewater* reported that the MoD were so miffed the story had reached the news media that they had successfully applied for an injunction against the BN editorial committee to prevent any further reporting of the agreement. Mr "Bridgewater" explained that the MoD believed information on RAF jet trainer flight patterns could be of some interest to Eastern Bloc

countries or to the French Farmers' Union. *I think there may have been many other tongues in cheeks around that time!*

Under a front page headline of "Scoop – World Exclusive" Bentham News announced that in the near future it would be the first paper to reveal what shops would be using the retail space in the newly converted corn mill known as Millers Court. *I'm still waiting!*

North Craven Labour Party held a well attended open meeting to discuss proposed changes in the Health Service. These were the changes that would introduce fund-holding GPs, and would eventually lead to the establishment of Primary Care Trusts. From the (anonymous) report in BN it was clear that there was very little support for the proposals, either from health care professionals or service users. What also emerged was the fact that whilst ostensibly in a period of 'consultation', and with none of the proposals having yet reached the statute books, some of the changes were already being implemented. *Time changes little!*

Iain Henshaw t/a
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ANNUAL DRAGON BOAT CHALLENGE RACE

By Mary Jane Peabody

Keep this date free! Sunday, May 31st 9:30 am - 5:30 pm, at Halton Army Training Camp. Here comes the Lunesdale Rotary Club's 2nd Annual Dragon Boat Race in aid of Cancer Care and Rotary Charities, just in time for half-term week!

Come out on Sunday, May 31st, to watch the 8 -10 person crews of the 30-foot long dragon boats! Dragons racing down the River Lune, over 20 teams of paddlers racing for prizes, drummers drumming, onlookers cheering - come out and watch the fun! Entry is just £10 per car or £2 pp on foot, other attractions include kite making, birds of prey display, air rifle shooting, coconut shy, climbing wall, bouncy castles, pottery demos, etc. Loads of refreshments (hog roast, ice cream, coffee stall). A fun family day for all!

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BURTON UNDER FIVES - FREE FUN DAY

By Viki Hindle

Following the huge success of our activity week at the end of March, we will be holding our 21st birthday party on Friday May 22nd. Established in 1988, Burton Under Fives has been providing quality child care for 21 years. We would like to invite all past, present and future children and their parents, grandparents and carers, to help us celebrate.

There will be lots going on during the day. Starting at 10.30am with music making with Collette, there will be bouncy castles, a craft session, a dance session and storytelling, plus the opportunity to use all the indoor and outdoor resources our setting has to offer. Vicky Stephenson, the North Craven parent support officer, will also be dropping in during the day.

All activities during the day are free, but booking in advance is advisable, as spaces are limited. This can be done by contacting us on (015242) 62126.

Free transport

There will be free transport, from High and Low Bentham during the day, starting at 9.15am; the last trip back to Bentham will leave Burton at 2.15pm. This must be booked in advance, so if you would like to use this service, please contact us on (015242) 62126.

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LOW BENTHAM PLAYGROUND

By Christine Hodson

The playground area in the village has been empty of play equipment for some time now; this is because the council's insurers refused to cover it. I talked to a local councillor to find out what is happening at the moment. Some money has been raised to undertake work on the playground and there are volunteers ready to help once the weather improves, but at the moment there is not enough money to buy the play equipment. If any parents in the village would like to get involved and even set up their own committee to fund raise etc it would be welcome.

In the meantime the initial aim will be to create a flat safe area suitable to kick a ball around.

SURGERY NEWS

By Christine Hodson

I recently asked Shirley Macdonald (Practice Manager) about changes at the Surgery and she gave me some updated information on staffing and arrangements for making appointments.

The practice remains a training practice for GPs, registrars, medical students and nurses. There are currently five GPs, four practice nurses, a district nurse team, a podiatrist and two health visitors. The physiotherapist and midwife are in attendance for part of one day a week.

Opening times

These are 8.15am-6.30pm Monday to Friday, and you need to ring 61202 for an appointment. However, it is now possible to access extended surgery hours if your work makes it difficult for you to attend during normal surgery times. In general these "extended surgeries" are run by Drs Sullivan and Howlett in Bentham and Drs McKirdy and Harding in Ingleton. Mostly the extended hours run into the early evening, but in some instances they start earlier in the morning. These "extended surgeries" are explained in a leaflet, which can be obtained

from the surgery.

Emergencies

For any emergency, which occurs out of surgery hours, just ring 61202 and you will be put through automatically to a receptionist in Kendal who will take your details. The doctor on call will then ring you back and arrange to see you either at home or in one of the three centres in Lancaster, Kendal or Morecambe.

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POLICE PRESS RELEASE

By Sgt Angela Moorhouse

At approximately 3.20 a.m on Thursday 16th April a burglary occurred at Burton-in-Lonsdale post office where a large quantity of cigarettes and the display kiosk were stolen. The offenders are believed to have made off in a black VW Golf towards Lancashire.

A similar offence occurred some forty minutes earlier in Cowan Bridge and the cigarette kiosk from that burglary was located on the back road leading from the A65 to Westhouse. The kiosk from Burton post office was found in the village of Melling, Lancashire.

The offenders have spent some considerable time at these locations in order to remove the cigarettes from the kiosks and Police are appealing for witnesses who may have seen a black VW parked up (possibly in convoy with another vehicle) and any unusual activity in the early hours of the morning.

If you can help, please contact the police on 0845 606 0247 ext. 3092, or by email at angela.moorhouse@northyorkshire.pnn.police.uk

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KIRKBY LONSDALE CHORAL SOCIETY-DIRECTOR'S FAREWELL CONCERT

By Christine Jenkinson

This concert, at St Mary's Church, Kirkby Lonsdale at 7.30pm on Sunday 17th May, will be a very special one. We bid an affectionate farewell to two musical powerhouses, our director Jean Charlton and our pianist Anne Rudge, who both have in mind the tantalising freedom of retirement.

This is an occasion for a nostalgic revisiting of some of the choir's favourite pieces: the earliest being Pitoni's spritely *Laudate Dominum* and including Mozart's sublime *Ave Verum Corpus*, *Over My Head* representing the choir's very popular cycle of African songs, the amazing *Lamentations of Jeremiah* by Z. Randall Stroope, local composer Roger Cann's charming chain of English folksongs *An Evergreen Landscape* and ...*Abba!* We also look forward to having performances from music students at Queen Elizabeth School. Admission £6 at the door, to include wine etc., accompanied children free.

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AN EXPRESSION OF THANKS

By Duncan Thornton

The Thornton Family, and especially Wendy, would like to thank everyone for their kindness and support this past week.

Wendy was knocked down by a car whilst standing outside the post office on Monday evening, 13th April. The accident resulted in her being air lifted to Lancaster Royal Infirmary. Her injuries involve a fractured pelvis and damage to her newly replaced right hip joint and various cuts and bruises. She has undergone surgery to put her leg into traction and is waiting to be transferred to Manchester General Hospital for further surgery by a Pelvis Specialist to correct the injuries.

We would especially like to thank those who were on hand at the scene of the accident and the emergency services for their care and expertise. We would also like people to remember Shirley Metcalfe who was talking to Wendy at the time of the accident. Whilst it has been a difficult time we are thankful to have such great love and support all around us. The prayers that have been prayed have been a great comfort and we ask that you keep this up in the next few weeks as Wendy embarks on further surgery and then her journey to recovery.



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LOCAL EVENTS IN MAY

- Fri 1st** 8th, 15th & 22nd, Looking Well, 10.00am-12.00noon, NYCC Creative Greeting Cards (term time only).
8th, 15th & 22nd, Looking Well, 1.30-3.00pm. Tai Chi.
And every Friday in term time, 7.00-8.00pm, GFI for school years 6, 7 & 8 and 8.15pm-9.15pm for school years 9+, Methodist Church Hall.
Yoga at the Lower Town Hall, 6.30-7.30pm.
Age Concern at the Masonic Hall, 10.00am-2.30pm. Derek Cressey with slides of Chile.
- Sat 2nd** St. John's coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10.00am-12.00noon. 
Farmers' Market at the Lower Town Hall, 9.30am-2.00pm.
Burton-in-Lonsdale W.I. coffee morning at the Village Hall, 10.00am-12.00noon. £1 includes coffee and home made biscuits.
- Mon 4th** Town Council meeting at the Town Hall, 7.30pm.
- Tue 5th** Bentham Footpath Group walk, Low Bentham, 4 miles, leader K Piper 61977. Meet at Low Bentham car park 6.30pm.
And 12th, 19th & 26th, Yoga at the Town Hall, 11.00am-12.00noon and 6.00-7.00pm.
And every Tuesday, Tuesday Strolls, 2.00-3.00 Looking Well.
And every Tuesday, Enormous Turnip Club, gardening for all, Looking Well garden, 2.00-4.30pm

- Tue 5th** Bentham Child Health Clinic at the Surgery, 2.00-4.00pm.
- Wed 6th** And every Wednesday, Coffee morning at Methodist Church Hall, 10.00-11.230am. Donations to local charities.
And every Wednesday, Café-IN at Looking Well.
And 13 & 20th, Moving Well gentle exercise to music, 2.00-3.00pm at Looking Well.
And 13th & 20th, Art for Beginners, 2.00-4.00pm at Looking Well.
And 13th & 20th, Positive Parenting Course 6.30-8.30pm at Looking Well. TBC. Contact Liz Wade 01729 825921.
Bentham Community First Responders, 7.30pm at Looking Well. See page 11.
Citizens Advice Bureau at the Surgery, 1.30-3.30pm.
- Thu 7th** And every Thursday, swimming at Hornby for over 50s (men and women). Tel: Barbara Shuttleworth 62873 or Carol Elsworth 61233 to arrange transport.
And every Thursday, Cancer Support Group drop-in, Art Session, Lunch and Therapies. Looking Well 11.00am-1.30pm.
And 21st, Alternative Therapies for cancer "Taster Session", 10.30am-12.30pm at Looking Well.
And 14th & 21st, NYCC Exploring multi media art (term time only) at Looking Well, 9.30-11.30am.
And 14th & 21st, Tai Chi 6.30-8.00pm at Looking Well.
- Fri 8th** Age Concern at the Masonic Hall, 10.00am-2.30pm. Extend Exercise with Colin Etherington.
- Sat 9th** Spring Plant Sale at Burton-in-Lonsdale Village Hall. Plants and advice from Alan Collier. Raffle and refreshments, 10.00am-1.00pm.
Age Concern coffee morning at the Town Hall Ballroom, 10.00am-12.00noon. 

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.

- Mon 11th** And 18th & 25th. Craven Customer Services at the Town Hall, 10.00am-12.30pm.
And every Monday except Bank Holiday, Toddle-in for parents/carers and babies and toddlers, Methodist Church Hall, 10.00-11.30am.
Adventurers Group for 4-6 year olds, 4.30-5.30pm. Springboard for 7-10 year olds, 6.15-7.30pm. Both at Methodist Church Hall, and every Monday in term time.
And 18th. Gentle walks for women, leave Lairgill at 9.30am.
And 18th. NYCC Initial Training for classroom assistants 9.30-11.30am. Access to working in schools - literacy, 12.00noon - 2.00pm, Exploring creative textiles, 1.15-3.15pm.
- Tue 12th** Bentham Reading Group, 7.30pm at Bentham Library.
- Wed 13th** NSPCC monthly meeting at Lingfield, Robin Lane, 7.30pm.
Bloomin' Bentham volunteers meet at the Painted Bus Shelter, 1.00pm. See page 36.
- Thu 14th** High Bentham W.I. meeting at the Town Hall, 7.30pm.
Competition - A Shoehorn".
And 28th. Welcome-in dominoes for all ages, Methodist Church Hall, 2.00-4.00pm. For transport contact Nigel or Kath on 62272.
Bentham Footpath Group Bus ride and walk, Hornby to Bentham, 7½ miles, leaders J. & S. Pilkington. Meet at Schoolhill or other stop 10.15am.
- Fri 15th** Age Concern at the Masonic Hall, 10.00am-2.30pm. National Parks - Steve Hastie.
Pre-School Story time at the Library, 2.45-3.15pm.
Waste paper collection at Lairgill Car Park, 8.30-11.00am. Proceeds to NSPCC.
Copy deadline for June BN
- Sat 16th** MENCAP coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10.00am-12.00noon.
Make a Kite, Fly a Kite, activity day with Alan Poxon, Looking Well 9.30am-12.30pm.
- Sat 16th** Plant Sale and Open Garden, 10.00am-6.00pm, Bellhurst, Roeburndale, East Wray. Proceeds to Bentham Health Centre.
- Sun 17th** Bentham Footpath Group walk, Feizor, 5 miles, leaders K & M Hartley, 62373. Meet at Lairgill 1.30pm.
- Tue 19th** Mothers' Union at Burton Church Room, 2.15pm. Elsie Clarke, Diocesan President.
Bentham Child Health Clinic at the Surgery, 2.00-4.00pm.
Singing for all, at Looking Well, 2.30-4.00pm.
- Wed 20th** Citizens Advice Bureau at the Surgery, 1.30-3.30pm.
- Thu 21st** Low Bentham WI meeting at the Victoria Institute, 7.30pm. See page 10.
LASRUG meeting at the Wenningdale Room, 7.30pm.
- Fri 22nd** Age Concern at the Masonic Hall, 10.00am-2.30pm. Twenty Questions.
- Sat 23rd** Conservative Association coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10.00am-12.00noon.
Bentham Footpath Group walk, Littondale, 9½ miles, leaders J. Harrison and V. Smith, 61624. Meet at Lairgill 9.15am.
- Mon 25th** Strawberry tea, 2.30-5.00pm at Lowgill Methodist Church, all welcome.
- Wed 27th** Healing & Meditation evening with Gavin Wilshaw, Looking Well, 7.30-9.00pm.
- Thu 28th** Bentham Footpath Group walk, Easegill/Leck Beck, 8½ miles, leader M Taylor, 61672. Meet at Lairgill 9.30am.
- Fri 29th** Age Concern at the Masonic Hall, 10.00am-2.30pm. Quiz.
Bentham News published.
- Sat 30th** Cancer Support Group coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10.00am-12.00noon.
Stone carving workshop, 2 half day sessions, Looking Well, 9.15am-12.00noon: 1.15-4.00pm
Phone 62672 to book.

CHARITY AND INFORMATION FAIR

By Dee Pollitt

Settle Victoria Hall will be the venue for a Charity and Information Fair on Thursday 21st May 2009. Running from 10am – 4pm, there will be a variety of information and fund-raising stands from both the public sector and voluntary and community groups, including: Craven Volunteer Centre, Little Red Bus, Craven branch of Alzheimer's Society, Age Concern North Craven, St Anne's Community Services, The Carers Resource, WorcNet, Craven Housing, Craven District Council (Stronger Communities), Learning Disabilities Partnership, Physical and Sensory Impairment Reference Board, Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, South Craven Community Action, The National Trust and the RSPCA.

Food and drinks will be available to purchase from the café area. For further information, please contact Dee Pollitt at Craven Volunteer Centre on 01756 701648.



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ROYAL VISITOR AT HAWES

By Paul Bisson

HRH The Duke of Gloucester made a welcome visit to Hawes on Friday 24 April to see some of the wonderful attractions offered in and around the market town at the head of Wensleydale.

The youngest grandchild of King George V and Queen Mary and first cousin to the Queen, the Duke is particularly interested in architecture and conservation, and so it was fitting that his first engagement of the day was at Gayle Mill, which is half a mile south of Hawes.

Gayle Mill is the jewel in the crown of social and industrial heritage in the Yorkshire Dales, with its fully functioning Victorian hydropower systems and green energy generation. Having come third in the final of the BBC "Restoration" series in 2004, it opened its doors to the public at Easter last year, and has already built up an enviable reputation as one of the 'must-see' attractions in Yorkshire.

The Duke came to the Mill to find out about the remarkable rescue of the building and its unique architectural heritage. The Mill's restoration was carried out over a 4-year period by its owner, the North of England Civic Trust, with major funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and English Heritage, of which the Duke is a commissioner.

Director of NECT, Graham Bell, said: "True sustainability builds on the embodied energy inherent in places and people. The distinctive significance of Gayle Mill is that it builds on the traditions of both, so that the succession of generations of technology and craftsmen provides not just a legacy, but an inspiring precedent for the next generation." Accompanied by the Lord-Lieutenant of North Yorkshire, the Duke was guided round the Mill by Tony Routh, the last apprentice at the Mill in the early 1960s and now a director of Gayle Mill Trust, the charity which operates the Mill's business. At the end of his visit, the Duke unveiled an official plaque commemorating the

restitution of Gayle Mill to working order for the benefit of future generations.

After visiting Gayle Mill, the Duke went on a tour of the Wensleydale Creamery and experienced first-hand how real Yorkshire Wensleydale cheese is handcrafted to a time-honoured recipe using real Wensleydale milk. This was followed by lunch at the Creamery's visitors' centre restaurant.

The royal visit then continued with a visit to Outhwaite Ropemakers in Hawes. This rural business, which was taken over from the late Tom Outhwaite in 1975 by Peter and Ruth Annison, still uses the traditional method of ropemaking, whereby many thin strands of yarn are rapidly twisted into a strong rope. The company has also developed many new products from carrier bag handles and magicians' rope to safety pull cords and dog leads. Peter Annison said: "By welcoming visitors to watch ropemaking in the old way, Outhwaites adds an extra attraction to local tourism."

Finally, the Duke visited Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority's Dales Countryside Museum in Hawes.

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BEST CAR (AND CARBON) SHARING

By Richard Wilson

The private car is a powerful beast. It can move us around at 20 times the speed we could walk, and take us where we want to go, any time, with no need to ask, book or wait. It is Freedom, and mightier than any government. Trouble is (and governments don't like to alienate their electors by spelling this out) fighting climate change means giving up some freedom.

Of course car sharing is a bit less convenient than doing your own thing, but on the credit side, it can save you money; reduce fossil fuel use and CO₂ emissions; give you company; reduce local congestion; save time; be safer (e.g. company if you break down) – and give you an opportunity to make new friends and meet your neighbours!

The internet has dozens of sites – some free, and many of them interconnected and

government-supported – which make it easier to car-share. One of them, www.liftshare.com, has over 300,000 members, some saving well over £500 a year. As one member says: "[Car-sharing] is a great success for me, saving us all money, improving boring car journeys, and we are doing our bit to reduce traffic on the roads and trying to help our environment a little."

BEST stands for Bentham Environmentally Sustainable Town. If you'd like to know more about BEST, telephone 63399 or email BEST@tathamfells.me.uk

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STABLE TRADING CO. ENABLES GROWING WITH GRACE DREAM

By Tony Bennett

Growing with Grace grow local, organic vegetables in Clapham, North Yorkshire, and run a box scheme, delivering to the North Lancashire, West Yorkshire and East Cumbria area. A merger with Stable Trading, a Whalley-based Community Interest Company, will enable Growing with Grace, to move forward.

Realising the Dream for Growing with Grace

Growing with Grace, provides local organic food for local people. Supported by its valuable customers, it has succeeded in its dream: demonstrating a way of living ethically and sustainably. They grow mostly specialist vegetables under 2.5 acres of glass, prepare and deliver a box scheme to the Clitheroe-Colne Valley-Burnley area, across to Skipton and Lancaster and up to Sedburgh. They also have an on-site, award-winning, organic shop. A bio-diesel production plant is on site, fuelling the GWG delivery vans. There is also a community compost scheme involving and supported by Craven District Council. Local household green waste is brought to GWG where it is turned into compost to grow the vegetables to provide the local community. Educational work provides opportunities for children and adults to learn about growing, sustainability, eco-systems and permaculture.

There are plans to further develop and become a Centre of Excellence with particular emphasis on their educational work to schools and the wider community. Stable Trading Co. will enable them to consolidate and move forward through investment and setting up a variety of funding streams.

Established in 2007, Stable Trading Company is involved in organic fresh food production, baking and catering. It provides a range of accredited training courses in horticulture, agriculture, catering, baking and other skills. The focus is on people who

are disadvantaged in some way, with the aim of helping them become more integrated in society and provide them with opportunities for full-time employment.

The Stable Trading Company baking operation is based in Accrington where there are commercial kitchens, bakery and training centre. They have 2.4 hectares in Gisburn (previously Jigsaw Environmental) growing organic fruit, vegetables and plants that is now part of Growing with Grace. The Gisburn site has poly tunnels, a glasshouse, a small classroom and shop on site.

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You can contact me on 07767 275 291.



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KIRKBY LONSDALE EMBROIDERERS

By Ann Hunter

Canon Dobb enthalls the audience

Our meeting on Thursday 9th April was everything it promised to be. The Reverend Canon J. Arthur Dobb kept us entertained with his witticism and the wonderful embroideries he has produced.

A large audience sat hanging on his every word and gasped at the splendour of the colours and imaginative creation in his work. Such a very talented gentleman.

At the end of the meeting, Mrs Dobb was presented with a beautiful spring yellow planted begonia and we all enjoyed a well deserved cup of tea and a chat. Needless to say many questions were asked.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting is to be a full day, starting at 10 am, on Thursday 14th May. In the morning Anne Burrow will be giving us a workshop - 'Working with water solubles' and in the afternoon we will have Carol Coleman as our guest speaker. She will be talking about textile treasures jewellery.

As always, visitors and guests are welcome. If you wish to come for the full day please bring a packed lunch and you will also need to bring a sewing machine and threads.

Full details can be obtained from Ann Hunter on 015242 41120.

BENTHAM FILM GROUP

By Stella Hall

Bentham Film Group look forward to seeing you at their showing of 'Iron Man' on Saturday 2nd May at the Victoria Institute, Low Bentham.

This action film (Cert 12A) is based upon Marvel's iconic Super Hero, 'Iron Man' and tells the story of Tony Stark, a billionaire industrialist and genius inventor who is kidnapped and forced to build a devastating weapon.... The film stars Jeff Bridges, Gwyneth Paltrow, Robert Downey and Terrence Howard.

The show commences at 7.30pm and during the interval there will be refreshments to purchase and a raffle. Tickets are £5 on the door.

The Little Red Bus is available for transport from High Bentham to and from the film show - phone Bentham 62083 to reserve your seat as places are limited.

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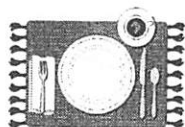
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COOKERY PAGE

Edited by Patsy Henderson



Aromatic Cod

Recipe

- 1 tsp vegetable oil
- 2 onions, thinly sliced
- 4 cod steaks
- 250g full-fat live yoghurt
- 4 tbsp fresh parsley, chopped
- ½ tsp cayenne pepper
- 2 tsp cinnamon
- 2 tsp cumin

Goes well with couscous and roasted vegetables.

Method

Preheat the oven to 200C. Brush a serving dish with oil and sprinkle half the chopped onions over the base. Clean the cod steaks in cold water, dry and place them over the onions.

Mix together the yoghurt, parsley, pepper, cinnamon and cumin with the remaining onions. Spoon this over the fish. Leave for 10 minutes to develop the flavours. Cover the dish with foil and bake for 20 minutes. Remove the foil and bake for a further 6 minutes. Serve hot with couscous and vegetables.

Peachy Cheese Slice

Recipe

- 11g gelatine
- 45ml water
- 7 moist cereal bars
- 350g curd cheese
- 25g icing sugar
- 150g peach yoghurt
- 410g can of peaches in natural juice, drained
- 1 egg white
- lime slices to decorate

Method

Sprinkle gelatine over the water in a bowl and leave to stand for 10 minutes. Dissolve the gelatine over a pan of hot water and leave to cool. Line a 900g loaf tin with baking paper. Arrange the cereal bars across the base, covering it completely. Beat the cheese, sugar and yoghurt until

smooth. Reserve four peach slices for decoration. Chop the remainder and stir into the cheese mixture with the cooled gelatine.

Whisk egg white until stiff and fold into the peach mixture. Pour into the loaf tin and chill until set. Turn onto a serving dish and decorate with the reserved peaches and lime slices.

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BENTHAM PEOPLE



Personal Thanks

Wood - Robin, Marilyn and family wish to express many thanks to Emma Harding and staff at the Health Centre, and also to Age Concern, Victoria Hall, Low Bentham and Carers Resource for their help with Bob Wood. Thanks also to all those who attended the cremation and for donations to Air Ambulance.

Thanks

Ann Robshaw would like to say a big thank you to Clair, Marie, Aaron, Stephen and Chris for the great surprise party for her 60th. Also to family and friends, some who travelled a long distance, for all the cards and presents.

Sale

Sale of aromatherapy oils etc. Business closing. Tel Christine on 62251 for a list of sale items.

Found

A hallmarked ring with three stones on Sunday 5th April, 2009. If you think this ring is yours please telephone 61336.

Line Dancers Donations

By Audrey Shallockross

Bentham Line Dancers continue to help local charities with donations of £100. The latest donation was to Settle & District Multiple Sclerosis Branch

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Bentham Agricultural Society

By Val Lawson

Thank you to everybody who supported the President's coffee morning at the Town Hall in March. Thanks to Wendy Dowbiggin our 2009 president for organising the coffee morning, and to all Wendy's helpers on the morning. The amount raised was £577. Thank you all.

Sheila Hanson

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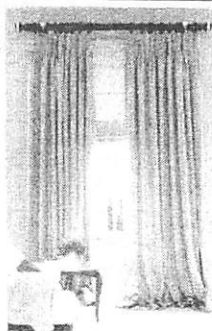
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All posts are exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974. A Criminal Records Bureau check will be sought for all successful candidates.

LIBRARY NEWS

By John Frankland

Storytime

Monthly Storytimes have come to Bentham Library and Information Centre. These are free half-hour sessions aimed at under-5s held on Fridays from 2:45pm – 3:15pm. Everyone is welcome and you don't have to pre-book, just drop in! If you want to know more about Storytime ring the Library at the number below. Dates for Storytime are as follows 15th May, 12th June, 17th July, 11th September and 9th October.

Calling all local groups and organisations!

"Engage in North Yorkshire" is an online, community directory for clubs and societies across North Yorkshire. You can use "Engage in North Yorkshire" to find, for example a local sports club, a self help group or details of your local Guides or Scouts. We have hundreds of clubs and societies listed already but we want more,

especially for Bentham and Burton-in-Lonsdale! You can help by sending us details of your local group. Visit our website at www.northyorks.gov.uk/engage and check if your local club is listed. If not come in and we will give you the relevant information and forms you need to be part of "Engage in North Yorkshire".

You can make enquires regarding these new services or any other subject at Bentham Library, and Information Centre in person, on the telephone 0845 034 9532 or by email at benthamlibrary@northyorks.gov.uk

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Dear Bentham News,
I am in full support of improving the transport infrastructure of Bentham and surrounding areas and in making use of public transport, but the growth of Bentham Community Transport and more recently Little Red Bus is worrying and I fear the demise of other transport providers in the area.



Little Red Bus is a not-for-profit organisation that operates its vehicles to assist the activities of bodies which appear to be concerned with education, religion, social welfare, recreation or other activities of benefit to the community. They operate under a permit that allows drivers who don't necessarily have a PCV (old PSV) driver's licence, to drive the buses. They are members of a scheme that provides them with the means to train their own drivers. Their drivers can be paid or unpaid, they can take fares from passengers or receive payments in consideration of contracts.

In recent years some of our local, commercial bus and taxi companies have come to rely on North Yorkshire County Council home-to-school contracts as the bread and butter income that sustains them in some degree to be there to provide the service that we have been used to, especially when their overheads are rising disproportionately to what the market will bear in respect of income.

It is implicit that any Community Transport organisation exists to fill the gaps in current transport needs and should not actively seek to move into areas that are adequately covered by existing transport provision. Any fund-raising should be at levels that sustain the operation in its quest to fill the gaps.

Recently, Little Red Bus successfully tendered for NYCC home-to-school contracts and then advertised for drivers! It could be argued that because they have to pay back start-up funding granted by NYCC that they would always have been awarded such contracts and in a competitive tendering situation I would appreciate it if someone could advise me of the legality of this.

In a city, a newcomer winning valuable contracts would have little impact on the local contractors who have traditionally won such contracts, but here, where the contracts are few and far between, the impact is clearly much greater. This is clearly not a case of fulfilling a transport need as the need was already being fulfilled.

In order to be transported by Little Red Bus, you have to be a member of a group which they are authorised to carry; Little Red Bus is not allowed to transport members of the public - if they do, the passengers are unlikely to be covered by insurance. In the event of a serious accident, evidence of group membership such as a register and a method of checking who is being carried (a passenger manifest) may be asked for by Police investigators.

Little Red Bus will not take you, as a member of the public, to the airport or to the hospital or a darts match, but your taxi will. You cannot make a quick call to Little Red Bus to be taken shopping or home from a pub, only a call to a taxi will do this. So who will be filling this transport need when the small bus and taxi firms have gone out of business? Healthy competition is not a bad thing but when your competitors can have their vehicles driven, checked and cleaned by volunteers; when their "operators' licence" cost less than £19 and lasts forever and they are guaranteed to be given your old Council contracts, it is hardly a level playing field.

The term "Mission-drift" is used for organisations that set out with a laudable aim but get pulled away from, and sometimes contribute to, the demise of that which they set to preserve. Problems occur when an organisation's enthusiasm to meet its financial goals begin to overwhelm its social mandate.

I fully support community transport but the people at Little Red Bus, their passengers and supporters need to look again at the long-term impact of their operations and work to support, not contribute to the demise of, established transport providers.

Yours sincerely,

John Lloyd, Low Bentham.

(Letters continued on page 32)

LETTERS *(continued from page 31)*

Dear Sir,

On Sunday 29th members of user groups of Bentham Community Centre had a farewell gathering to mark the end of their tenure of the building. There was the usual delicious Jacob's Join supper and gifts, flowers and thanks were given to centre manager, Sharon Haslam. There was, however, a feeling of sadness at the loss of this centre which has provided the community with a wonderful facility and has bustled with activities for many years.

As a long-time user myself, over years spent rehearsing pantomimes and plays, I know I will miss it very much. I am bitterly disappointed that all the good work done by the Community Association should be so undervalued by North Yorkshire County Council.

Their insensitivity and intransigence over negotiations for a fair rent have brought about the closure, which seems ridiculous at a time when the Government is stressing the importance of Community buildings.

My hope is that it won't be too long before common sense prevails and that Phoenix-like, our Community Centre will rise again!

Yours sincerely

Margaret Cowling, High Bentham.

Dear Bentham News,

The article about the Gaza conflict, about the film, "Jerusalem: East Side Story", is too soon to come out, until we get the true facts of what happened. I do believe the Palestinians have suffered very much in this conflict. (Yes, Israel have done things wrong, and so have the Palestinians - none is perfect). Remember Hamas has one thing in mind to wipe the Jews off the map.

What would our response be for over three years, rockets are sent over to kill, maim us, and cause mental damage to our children. We would want our country and world leaders to put a stop to this happening. I believe the world leaders have a lot to answer for, as they could have done much more to stop Hamas doing it.

To state Jerusalem is an international city is questionable. The "Bulgour Paper" of 1916

was passed by international leaders to give the Jews Israel as their homeland, and Jerusalem their capital city. The Arabs fought them and the Jordanians took the eastern half of Jerusalem. No one would help the Jews to defend themselves, and they had hardly any weapons to fight with.

Yours sincerely,

Donald Taylor, High Bentham.

Dear Bentham News

Age Concern; where would we be without you?

Thank you for raising the alarm when you couldn't get a reply at someone's door recently. It isn't the first time this has happened, and I think the Bentham area should be proud of the Age Concern volunteers who look out for our older people with such commitment.

Thank you also for the hours you spend sorting out people's problems, like inaccurate gas or electricity bills and other worrying matters.

Age Concern Bentham is in desperate need of more willing volunteers, either to help at the Friday drop-in or to drive or be a Passenger Assistant on the minibus (you don't need a PSV licence!) Can you help?

They are also in need of funding to bridge the ever-widening gap between their local authority grant and the valuable service they provide. Can you help?

Come on Benthamers, don't let them down!

By a supporter of the service

(Name and address supplied).

Dear Bentham News,

I'm sure I'm not the only person who has had several near misses with vehicles on Bentham Main Street. I'm not talking about just one or two occasions but several, and not on the road but as a pedestrian on the PAVEMENT! (I've probably had a few in the car too but that's a different matter and certainly not as scary).

Having only a few centimetres between you and a moving vehicle IS scary, even more so when you are walking your child to school and also have a pram or sling containing your

(continued on page 33)

LETTERS (continued from page 28)

baby! I've almost got used to impatient post vans cutting me up in the race to empty the box and lorries thundering past as you walk in front of the chip shop but it seems the pavement is now being used as an extra lane or parking space on a daily basis.

When confronted, one delivery van driver who very nearly did knock me down assured me that he was an advanced driver but then admitted that he hadn't seen me as he mounted the pavement at speed in front of the Post Office. I was 8 months pregnant at the time and had my 9 year old with me so you'd think we'd be visible. Security van drivers seem to have no regard for others as they safeguard themselves and their cargo by parking on the pavement inches from their destination's door. Your only choice is to wait as the option of steering a pram into the road to pass them is obviously unappealing. There's even a taxibus with a sticker in the back window warning cars etc to beware of pedestrians that is as often found on the pavement as on the road!

I know that on odd occasions it just can't be helped but I'm not the only person who is increasingly feeling in danger on the pavements. One thing that could help is if people stopped parking on the double yellow lines in front of Armstrong's shop and HSBC. Drivers travelling towards Low Bentham would then be able to see the oncoming traffic and be able to give way to them.

I believe the parking situation on the main street is under review? Whilst I think there does need to be parking (both for trade and to help prevent speeding) I just hope that they also consider the safety of pedestrians. PAVEMENTS ARE FOR PEDESTRIANS! Not vehicles.....or dog poo! (I won't start on that!)

Yours sincerely
Lynda Burns

Dear Editor,

My wife and I read with interest your time piece, "Changing Times and Time Changes". As a consequence we are considering taking our autumn break in Bentham this year. We realise this will enable us to spend much more time on holiday, actually 12% more,

than at our previous holiday destinations to date. We have one concern. At what boundary points does your time zone finish and the normal GM time resume? We are keen walkers and are concerned that we achieve optimum walking distance within the radius afforded by metric time. You will appreciate that we need to plan in advance, although the zone will not be fully implemented till 2010, we imagine there will be quite a considerable demand for accommodation as news spreads of the advantages to be gained by using metric time. We would be very grateful if you would supply us with a list of bed and breakfast facilities within the proposed metric time zone.

Yours,

Oliver and Daisy Pugh

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COMMUNITY LINK CAFÉ VICTORIA INSTITUTE

By Sharon Haslam

The Community Link Café has been funded by Age Concern for the past twelve months and we have just been notified that the project will be funded for another twelve months until March 2010, which is great news for the group. This will enable Andrea and Margaret to continue to provide a fantastic service for the people of Benthams and surrounding areas.

The Community Link Café meets twice a week, Mondays 1.00 – 3.30 and Wednesday 11.30 – 3.00. The Wednesday session includes lunch at a nominal charge and transport can be provided on request. We have a monthly programme of activities which include guest speakers, dominoes, cards, bingo, armchair exercise, pub lunch and the occasional trip. Everyone who comes to the group has a great time. If you would like to come and join in the fun please phone Sharon Haslam on 015242 63162.

POST OFFICE NEWS

By David Alder

Normal Bank Holiday arrangements will apply to the two Bank Holiday Mondays in May, on 4th and 25th. There will be no counter, delivery or collection services on these days. Pensions and allowances due can be collected on the Friday before in each case. In addition to Euros, US Dollars and Travellers Cheques, Turkish Lira will be available on demand at Benthams PO for the Spring and Summer period.

LASRUG News

A new timetable comes into force on Sunday 17 May. A few small changes to the Morecambe-Leeds line timings will be given in more detail in the next edition of 'BN'. Please note in particular that the last train from Leeds to Benthams on Monday-Friday will leave at 16.39 instead of 16.52 as at present and will run earlier throughout. If in doubt please check before travelling - timetables should be available beforehand from the usual outlets. The National Rail Enquiry tel. number is 08457 48 49 50.

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LOOKING WELL NEWS

By Clare Hucknall

May brings two new weekend activities to the Looking Well as part of the Bowland Arts Festival (running from 1 May-30 June, see website www.bowlandarts.co.uk)

Kite making and flying on Sat 16th (£2.50 / kite) led by Alan Poxon, open to all including accompanied children to be followed by a kite-flying session in the afternoon;

Stone Carving on Sat 30th (£10 / half day) with local sculptor Steve Bentley.

Both events are bookable through Julie at the Looking Well.

We continue with some 'taster' sessions for alternative therapies that can help with cancer on May 7th (Homeopathy and Reflexology) and on 21st (Alexander Technique). These events are free so if you've always wondered what they were all about – now's your chance to find out!

The exhibition of art work produced by groups at the Looking Well continues at the

Folly in Settle (Tues, Sat, Sun & BH until 23 June).

In the garden on Tuesdays from 2pm, the Enormous Turnip Club will be sowing late harvest veg, cut-and-come-again plants, bush tomatoes and strawberry towers, herbs and taking cuttings. So if you want to find out more, be inspired or just get your hands mucky we would love to see you.

We welcome all to these events. Do pop in or phone Julie on 62672 for further details (e-mail julie@pioneerprojects.org.uk or check the diary listings.)

Are you a recently graduated artist (or maybe you are graduating this year)? As part of the North Yorkshire Open Studios, we are holding an exhibition of contemporary work by emerging artists at Looking Well Studios in June.

If you would like a piece of work considered for exhibition please send a photo and dimensions along with your contact details to office@pioneerprojects.org.uk marked FAO Alison.

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FREE SWIMMING FOR OVER 60s

By Barbara Shuttleworth and Carol Elsworth

People over 60 years of age are now eligible to have free swimming sessions. If you are interested in going swimming at Hornby Pool on Thursday mornings then please contact Barbara tel 62873 or Carol tel 61233 to arrange transport.

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BLOOMIN' DAFT DAY FOR A MEETING

By Shirley Brown

A sunny Easter Monday and most people had better things to do than picking up litter and weeding public spaces, however two willing volunteers did just that. There have been lots of responses to our request for spare shrubs, for which many thanks, and you should by now be able to see some of these adorning the railway station. Our next gathering will be at 1pm on Wednesday 13th May in the painted bus shelter. Just turn up or ring 61608 if you want to find out more.

BENTHAM YOUTH THEATRE GROUP PLANS A MUSICAL

By Ann-Marie Powell

The group has started again with a view to producing a musical at the end of June. The response has been excellent and we still have room for more. If you want to get involved either email bytgs1b.com or call Iain Henshaw on 61919 or email btgs1b.com

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BENTHAM JUNIORS FC

By Lee Hayward

Players from Bentham Juniors Football Club were invited as guests of Lancaster City FC, during their Unibond North league game against Bamber Bridge FC. The Bentham players were treated to free hospitality tickets and took part in a penalty shoot-out competition during the half time interval, against the young players of Lancaster City youth teams. Lancaster players won by 16-14. The day was organised by Bentham Juniors under 8s coach, Ray Coote, who is also ground safety officer at Lancaster FC. All the kids loved the day out and would like to say a big thanks to Ray. The kids were also treated to a strip show when two Bamber supporters, dressed in just Hawaiian hats, streaked across the pitch!

The picture shows Bentham Juniors coach, Lee Hayward, and Ray Coote along with players Angus Verhagen, David Adam, Andrew Howard, Liam Hayward, James Burrow, Lloyd Smith, Lewis Smith, Joseph Titterington, Emma Collins, James Parker, Thomas Parker, Ben Coote, George Houldsworth, Jordan Carter Brown and Charlie Ferguson.

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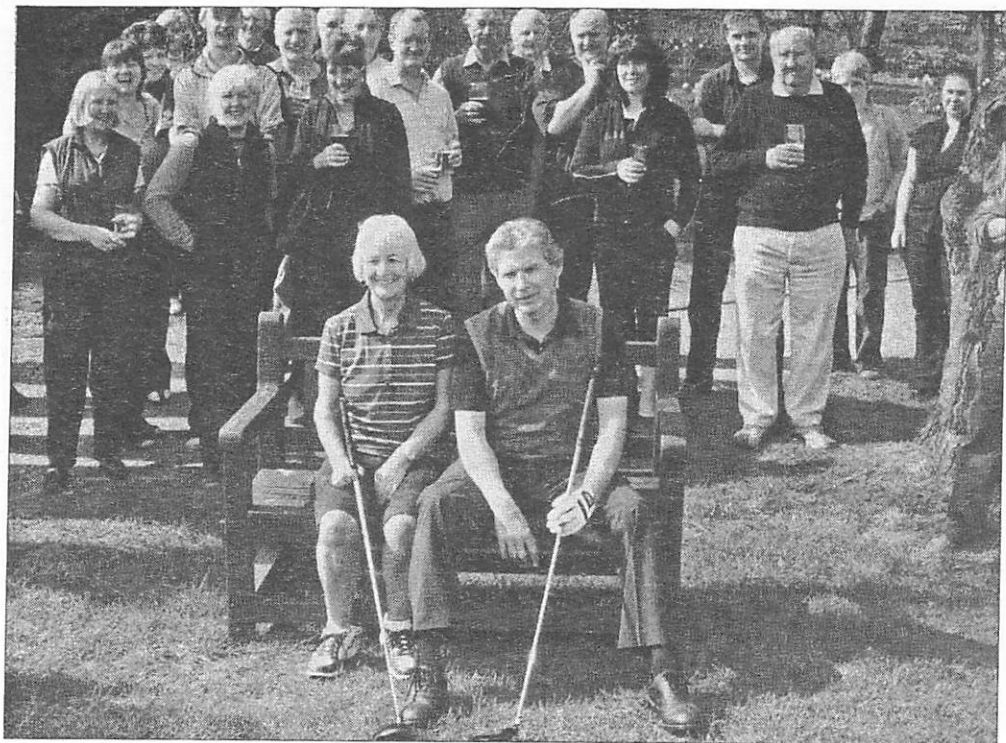
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THIS YEAR'S NEW CAPTAINS AT BENTHAM GOLF CLUB

By Mike Yeates

The photograph above shows the new Lady captain, Anita Brown, and the new Men's captain, Gareth Pritchard, taken at their recent "Drive-in", with a happy looking group of club members. At the "drive-in" they witnessed two excellent drives, both finding the fairway, much to the relief of the new captains! This event marked the opening of the new season at the golf club.

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BADMINTON NEWS

By Julie Bridgeman

Low Bentham A played Kirkby Lonsdale A in the Parkinson Cup final at Lancaster and Morecambe last month. They didn't quite emulate last year's win but put up a good fight in this handicapped competition. The team seen in the photo is: Back row: Jayne Wilkinson, Amber Harrison, Declan Murray, Sarah Richardson; Front row: Josh Mitton and Josh Whittaker.

Well done to a team who can be proud of themselves.



"ONE MAN'S TRASH IS ANOTHER MAN'S TREASURE"?

By Kay Piper

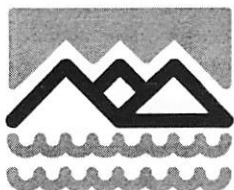
Bring along your trash and come and find your treasure on Sunday 24th May 12noon till 4pm. We have chosen Sunday so as not to clash with Saturday coffee mornings. We have timed noon till 4pm so you can go to church and come later. Or have your Sunday lunch and then stroll to the Victoria Institute for a browse, some light refreshments and "treasure seeking." All proceeds to the Victoria Institute. What a good way to spend a sunny Sunday afternoon.

FREE TASTER SESSIONS

By Margaret Hayton

The Bentham Cancer Support Group has arranged taster sessions for alternative therapies to be held at Looking Well Studios. Homeopathy will be on May 7th as well as Reflexology. On May 21st there will be demonstrations of Alexander Technique & Remedial Massage. Finally on June 7th it will be Bowen Technique followed by Shiatsu.

The sessions are from 10:30am-12:30pm with refreshments between the two sessions. If you or your family have been affected by cancer or would just like to find out more then come along to any of these sessions, or contact Linda Kellaway Tel 62672 or email linda@pioneerprojects.org.uk



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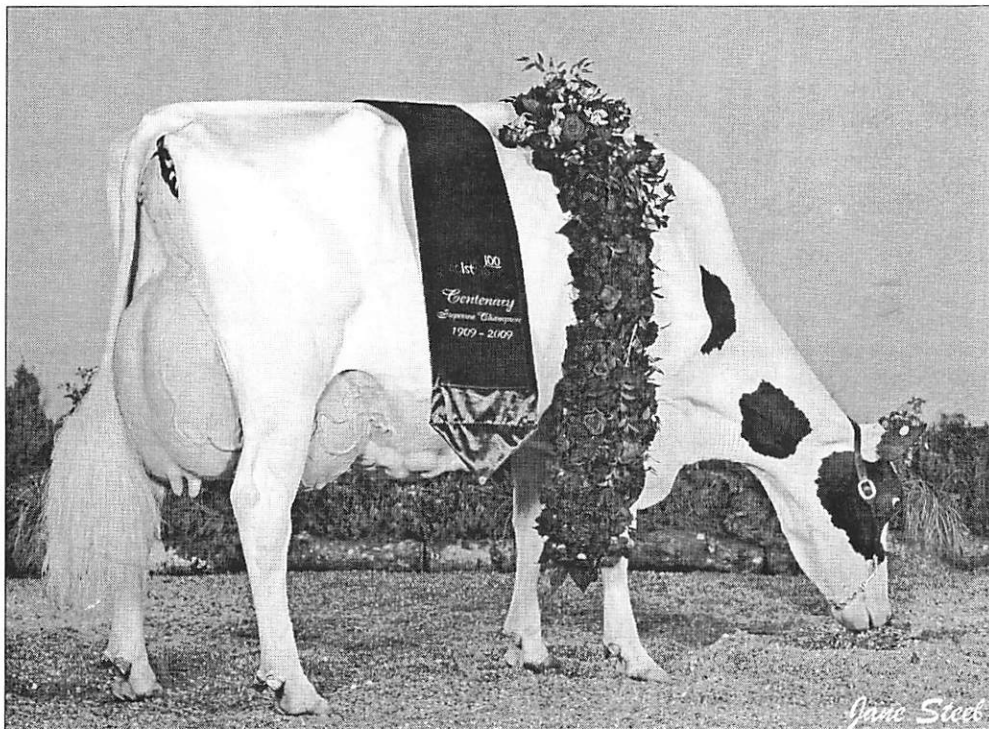
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NATIONAL HOLSTEIN SHOW "CHAMPION COW" GARLANDED BY BENTHAM'S FLOWERFIELDS

By Pamela Butterfield

On Monday 16th February 2009 Pamela Butterfield of Flowerfields, and Louise Bruns (former owner of the business) produced a Flower Garland to be presented to the Champion Cow at the National Holstein Show for the Centenary Year. The Show was held in Warwickshire, where over 100 Holstein cows from throughout the UK were exhibited. They both said it had been a privilege to have been asked to make the garland. Many of the customers at Flowerfields observed part of the construction of the garland on the Saturday morning prior to the Show.

BENTHAM NEWS is published at "Latharna", High Bentham, by an editorial committee consisting of Trevor Blackwell, Shirley Brown, Linda Cressey, 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 the month prior to publication. The BN email address is: benthamnews@lycos.com