

BENTHAM NEWS

USE YOUR VOTES ON JUNE 4TH

Elections for our representatives on North Yorkshire County Council and for the European Parliament are on Thursday June 4th. To help our readers make their choice we are including election statements from the two candidates for the County Council.

European Parliament elections are different as they use proportional representation so that minority parties stand more chance of being represented. **Don't forget to vote!**

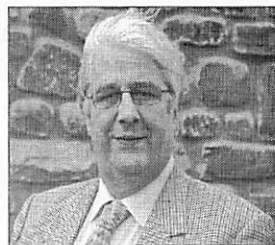
CHRISTINE BRACKLEY - LABOUR

I have been married to David for 43 years. I am a mother and a grandmother. My grandsons are one of the main reasons I am so passionate about environmental issues and preserving our wonderful Yorkshire Dales. Having lived in the Dales for over 30 years I have always appreciated the strong sense of community that we enjoy in our villages and towns of North Yorkshire. To help maintain and protect our environment I believe we have to surpass government targets on recycling. Councils, with government backing, must seriously consider all aspects concerning renewable energies i.e. wind turbines, water turbines, off-shore wave power and nuclear power, each can play their part. More affordable housing is needed to encourage the young people to remain in the area. Transport should be assisted for the benefit for all, locals and tourists alike as we appreciate the fact that tourism is a valuable asset to both employment and income. I have worked for many years as a care worker enabling the elderly and disabled to remain in their own homes where they are happy to be near their families and in their own community. Councils should give their full support to homecare. Please use your democratic right to vote.



DAVID IRETON - CONSERVATIVE

I have had the privilege and honour of serving our Communities of North Craven at North Yorkshire County Council for some ten years. Living and working in Chapel-le-dale, within the electoral division of North Craven, with my family. I am acutely aware of the problems each and all of us face in our everyday lives. During my years serving our community at County Hall we have achieved a number of local initiatives to benefit North Craven including youth provision, environmental improvements, education, transport, and road safety improvements. I have worked closely with our Parish and Town Council on local projects. What I feel is of essential importance for Bentham and surrounding areas is the retention of priceless community facilities, transport, schools, churches and chapels, town and village halls, post offices, banks, pubs, local shops and youth facilities. These are the heartbeat of rural communities. We must use them or risk losing them, in the present difficult economic times it is vital that we support local businesses to help maintain local employment which is the lifeblood of all our prosperous futures. For the coming years - a new primary school for Bentham, continuing to keep our villages and communities safe and secure places to live, and the achievement of more sustainable and well paid jobs for North Craven. To achieve this I can influence decisions which are in the very best interests of local people, local services and local issues.



BN's OLDEST DISTRIBUTOR RETIRES

By Bill Kennedy

After helping with the distribution of the Bentham News for 271 months, our oldest distributor, Billy Joel, has decided to retire. We are very grateful for the dedicated voluntary service this young 93 year old has so cheerfully provided. But he didn't just go and leave the BN committee with a vacancy to fill. Thoughtfully, he arranged for someone else, Polly Livesey, to take his place.

The Bentham News is counted out into bags for the distributors every month at the home of Billy and Isabel Joel. But he recalled the days when the pages were collated by hand and stapled together with long arm staplers, by the team of volunteers, organised by Isabel, before being counted out. This was a much longer and more onerous task.

Of course, this was not the only community service Bill was involved with. He served on the Town Council for fifty two years and was mayor on several occasions. Keenly interested in farming, he joined the National Farmers Union in 1943 and was chairman of the local branch for three years. He was also for some time chairman of the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council.

A staunch Methodist, he has been a member of the Bentham Methodist Church since 1935 and was appointed a lay preacher in the same year. He has just recently preached his last sermon. For many years he organised the



Wesley Guild and has played a prominent role in chapel life.

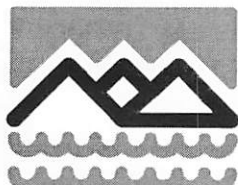
The Bentham News committee really appreciates his contribution, and that of his wife, Isabel, for so many years, to Bentham News and the community.



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MAY'S TOWN COUNCIL

By David Johnson

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

Appointments. Cllr Adams was elected Mayor for the second year and Cllr Marshall remains Deputy Mayor. The committees remain staffed with the same Cllrs as last year with two exceptions: The establishment of a Community Centre Committee and also the resignation of Cllr Stannard. It was resolved to send a letter thanking Cllr Stannard for his service over many years.

Low Bentham C.P. School Playing Field. The LEA is awaiting approval from the Secretary of State to sell the building and field. The LEA has indicated that it may consider granting permission for the use of the field for recreational purposes in the short term if a satisfactory arrangement could be reached over access, insurance etc. Cllrs were keen to make this a permanent arrangement and agreed to write asking for it to be retained for community use. Cllr Wills pointed out that part of the funding arrangements for a new school for Bentham relies on the sale of both school sites.

Cllrs learned that the feasibility report on the new Primary School has been delayed because of the County Council elections.

The District Council is having problems recruiting permanent staff to the Finance Department. It is reviewing various options to solve the problem including partnerships with neighbouring councils. It is also carrying out a review of its waste collection scheme. The review should be complete by July. The Cllrs received a reply to their query about the mysterious £2 million pound loan but they were not satisfied with the response because their questions about who borrowed the money and who signed it off had not been answered.

Highways. The public footpath crossing the field adjacent to Wesley Close will be diverted to allow building work to commence. Cllrs again discussed the sorry state of our roads and the numerous potholes that have appeared over the winter. They

also noted a deterioration in the condition of Park Foot and in the dip between Butts and Green Close on Newby Moor.

Sedbergh School Site. The Cllrs have met with representatives of the school. Apparently they are open-minded about the development of the site. Planning would be most readily available for projects that would offer employment such as a hotel, a retirement home, a business headquarters or even a school! The school promised to keep Cllrs informed and has indicated that it is happy to consider community use of the field in the short term but the future of the field and sports facilities will be dependent on the purchaser. Cllrs are to meet with Bruce Dinsmore, the Sports Development Officer to see what might be saved for the community. **Pay and Display Parking** is more or less inevitable according to the Cllrs who have met with Craven representatives. Parking meters will appear on the Grasmere Drive and Cleveland Square car parks in the new year. Craven has proposed imposing a parking fee of 80p per hour between 10.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. for seven days a week. Parking permits will be available for residents at a cost of £210 p.a.. The Cllrs decided to write suggesting that the time be adjusted to so that charges are levied between 9.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. to help parents with children at school. They will also ask that there should be no charge on a Sunday. A further proposal is that the community could have free use of Cleveland Square on market day and for other days when it is needed for community use. The cost of the maintenance of Cleveland Square would then pass to Craven.

All the car parks including Lairgill will be lined to make the most economic use of space. It is proposed that parking on Lairgill remains free and the Cllrs decided to ask for a section to be allocated for HGV parking at night. The Cllrs decided to ask that any agreement be formalised into a legal document to avoid further restrictions in the future. Some Cllrs were sceptical about the permanence of any agreement and whether it would be financially beneficial to Craven. Cllr Barnes said parking charges would cause severe damage to trade in Bentham.

GARDEN PAGE

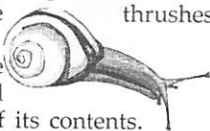
By Joyce Knapp



In late April, the Looking Well hosted a 'Seed Swap' where visitors were invited to exchange their surplus seeds and young plants with each other. As a member of the panel involved in the 'Gardeners Question Time' held on the same day, I felt that the event went very well and lots of gardening 'know-how' was imparted, by the audience as well as members of the panel.

One of the main issues raised was that of 'how' and 'why' we aim to keep slugs and snails off our gardens. In an ideal world, there would be sufficient predators such as birds, hedgehogs, frogs and toads to keep the population of molluscs at a tolerable level but, sadly, in reality this is not always the case. Our first line of defence should be to look at ways of encouraging more predators into our gardens. We can do this by providing daytime shelter and hibernation sites, such as low, thick shrubs or leaves under a hedge, for hedgehogs and by providing different levels of vegetation in which birds can perch.

We can also use plants that produce berries to attract a wide range of birds into our gardens, and the thrushes are well known for their ability to crack open the shell of a large snail before making a meal of its contents. If we wish to introduce frogs and toads to our gardens we would probably have to install a pond, but they have been known to stray over from neighbouring ponds and will



take up residence in any moist, dark corner. A few years ago I investigated a hump that appeared in a piece of old carpet (used as a path in my allotment) only to find it was a fully grown toad, presumably just sheltering from the midday sun!

If, after all our efforts to harness nature, we still have a problem with slugs and snails, we may wish to resort to using slug pellets. Should this be the case, it is advisable to select a product that does not cause harm to children, pets or wildlife. When using them, we can spread them sparingly under a stone or piece of wood where the slugs tend to congregate and there they will be inaccessible to most other creatures.

OPEN GARDEN

By Bronwen Osborne

Clearbeck House, Higher Tatham (LA2 8PJ for those with satnav!) is opening its garden on two Sundays in June the 21st and 28th. There will be signs to the garden from Wray and from Low Bentham, and it will be open from 11am to 5pm. There will be a plant stall and many new features to admire in the garden, including the giant fish! Admission is £2.50 and the Church of the Good Shepherd, Tatham Fells, will provide refreshments.

FARMERS' MARKET

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9.30am-2.00pm

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CRAVEN CONCERNS

By Cllr Manuel Camacho 015242 62074

Craven Herald Article

You may already be aware, but in 7th May's edition of the Craven Herald, the 'financial crisis' article on page 10 contained two glaring inaccuracies.

1. Cllr Marcia Turner was quoted as saying the £2 million loan was to cover a pension debt when in fact Cllr Turner had spoken of a sum of £2 million remaining from the sale of Craven Housing which had been earmarked for pension debt.

2. The article also inferred that a number of Councillors had called for an inquiry when in fact it was just one member.

Given the seriousness of the error the Craven Herald will be printing a correction. Below is a copy of the correction that has been sent to the paper this week to ensure the correct facts are reported.

Correction to article

The part of the article reporting "A £2 million loan was taken out by Craven District Council to "clear its pension debt" was incorrect. Cllr Marcia Turner did not inform the committee that the loan taken out in 2007 was as far as she knew to clear the Council's pension debt.

Unfortunately there has been some confusion about two differing amounts of around £2m mentioned at the meeting. The comment about the pension debt was in a different part of the discussion and should not have been associated with the £2 million loan taken out in 2007. The pension comment was to do with the sale of our housing stock in 2002. Approx £2 million from the sale was

put into an investment pot to support pensions as part of the transfer agreement. These monies were not needed as originally planned and have now been approved for use by the DCLG as a capital asset which can be used to finance capital expenditure.

Another error in the article was regarding the calling for an independent inquiry. This was done by only one councillor. Other Councillors accepted the 151 Financial Officers and the District Auditors' explanations and recommendations.

I have supplied the above, in case the correction is (as is often the case) not set out in full. The councillor quoted (bless her!) does have a somewhat convoluted way of making her point at times. Perhaps the coincidence of the sums in question being so similar provoked the journalists' investigative reflex a little too much!

I have no reason whatsoever to question Cllr Turner's honesty or integrity.

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POLICE REPORT

By PC B. Yule

Several incidents of criminal damage took place in early May in High Bentham. Overnight between Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd, the front windscreen of a white Mercedes Sprinter van was smashed. The vehicle was parked outside Atkinson Vos on Bentham Industrial Estate close to the junction with Wenning Avenue. Police are interested in any information about person/s carrying a large orange traffic cone in High Bentham on that evening (particularly in the vicinity of Wenning Avenue). Overnight between Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th May 2009 the front windscreen of a black Ford Fiesta was smashed. The vehicle was parked on Millholme Drive, High Bentham. If you can provide any information regarding either of these crimes please contact PC 830 Yule, Ingleton Police Station - 0845 6060247, extension 3091.

Driving on the pavement

I have received a number of complaints about vehicles being driven along the pavement on the Main Street, High Bentham, near the Co-op. This is to avoid giving way to on-coming vehicles. It is an offence to drive a motor vehicle along a pavement and is extremely hazardous to pedestrians.

Please be aware that offenders will be prosecuted.

SPRINGFIELD BOWLING CLUB

By Teresa Freeman

Springfield Bowling Club are pleased to inform readers and supporters that we will be holding another Country and Western Evening on Friday, July 3rd, 7.30pm at the Town Hall. These evenings have been well attended and greatly enjoyed - so we are bowing to public demand as well as assisting our fund-raising efforts. By the time this is published our new pavilion should be installed, but we need more funds to complete the groundworks and to furnish the pavilion so that it is a credit to the community. Thanks to all members and supporters for past and on-going help.

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BN EDITORIAL COMMENT

We are delighted that the letters pages of Bentham News are being so well used and supported by our readers. However in the past few months some readers have told us they have been dismayed to find that letters have been printed with which they do not agree, or which they feel contain inaccuracies. We have been asked why we have not checked out the contents of letters prior to publication. We would like to take this opportunity to clarify our policy.

Whilst we take reasonable care not to print letters that are libellous, we are an open access paper, and we therefore publish letters that reflect the wide range of differing, and sometimes controversial, views expressed in our community. We would strongly encourage readers who disagree to respond with corrections and comments in the following month's edition.

We will print letters provided they are accompanied by a name and address, although these may be withheld from publication on request. However we would like to encourage our letter writers to allow us to include their names if possible.

As always we reserve the right to edit letters.



BEST NEWS

By Annie Neligan

A bit of Give and Take

As landfill space runs out, the need for Waste Reduction becomes more urgent. One way we can do this is to seek - and provide - homes for unwanted items.

BEST - with Craven Local Strategic Partnership - is holding a Give and Take Event in Bentham Town Hall on Saturday 20th June. Drop off (9.00-10.30am) things you don't want (must be clean and in working order; no textiles, clothes or foam-filled furniture) and help yourself to things you do want (11am onwards). No entry fee, nobody gets paid, and it's not a swap either; the only

aim is to stop useful stuff going to landfill.

If you missed the BEST Gardening Event in April you missed a treat, and some sound gardening advice from Bentham's own Gardeners' Question Time panel. Here are some of the tips they passed on:

For growing herbs in pots:

- ♦ basil doesn't like being transplanted;
- ♦ plant parsley in a pot deep enough for its long root.

For discouraging pests from your food crops:

- ♦ plant poached egg plants among them to attract the predator hover fly;
- ♦ put garlic amongst the strawberries to discourage slugs;
- ♦ plant tomatoes in with brassicas to deter white fly caterpillars;
- ♦ and put marigolds with almost anything.

Of all the garden pests discussed, slugs generated most excitement, and revealed a lot about our panel. Bentham News' own Joyce Knapp turns out to have a vicious streak behind that kindly exterior (when it comes to slugs); Linda Hartley manages to keep our Main Street tub displays so cheery without confessing to slug murder; Jack Parkinson told us how at Growing with Grace, frogs - from the ponds dug amongst the vegetable beds - solve their slug problem in a quakerly sort of way.

There was a chance for good trading too. I passed on surplus tomato and squash seedlings and came home happy with young brussels sprouts and a gooseberry bush. This is such a good way to widen what food you grow and try new crops.

BEST stands for Bentham Environmentally Sustainable Town. To find out more, come along to our Coffee Morning in the Town Hall on Saturday morning 27th June; there will be displays and other information, stalls and a Green raffle.

The next BEST meeting will be on Monday 13th July at 7.30pm in Looking Well, King Street. All our meetings are open to everyone; do come along and help make Bentham a greener town. If you'd like to know more about BEST, phone 63399 or email BEST@tathamfells.me.uk

WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

High Bentham

By Anne Yaman

The May meeting had been put back a week as several committee members were travelling around on their holidays or city breaks. The meeting was held on 14th May and was, as is usual for May, the birthday meeting. The meeting was led by President, Miss Wendy Dowbiggin and it was well attended. Following the business of the meeting, there was a games evening, a short talk on a visit to Denham College by Joan Sharman, a report on the group meeting held at Arkholme by Mrs Margaret Hayton. Miss Anne Millar brought some fun items for sale to support the Derian House children's hospice and the evening finished with a light supper provided by the members of the committee and a cake. The next meeting will be held on Thursday 4th June at 7.30pm in the Lower Town Hall when all visitors will be most welcome.

Low Bentham

By Jennifer Watkinson

Our speaker was Mrs Hilary Maudsley from Settle, who gave an absorbing talk entitled "Vintage to modern buttons". She traced the history of buttons from pre-historic times to the present day, illustrating her talk with beautifully presented cards of buttons. During the 16th to 18th centuries buttons were in high fashion and Birmingham became the most famous producer in Europe. Mrs Maudsley's earliest button dates back to

the 12th century and was picked up by a metal detector. Mrs Sephton gave the vote of thanks. The winners for a card of 5 buttons were 1. Mrs Mary Murphy, 2. Mrs Sylvia Brennand, 3. Mrs Edna Hewitt.

Delegate Mrs June Harrison and two members attended the 26th annual council meeting of North Yorkshire West Federation at Richmond. After the business meeting Joy Greasley gave a very amusing talk about her climb up the WI ladder from tea maker at the local WI meetings to representative of the WI at a meeting held in the Cabinet Room at No 10, chaired by the Prime Minister.

In the afternoon the guest speaker, Baroness Harris of Richmond, spoke about her time as Deputy Lieutenant of North Yorkshire; Mayoress of Richmond and as a member of the House of Lords for 10 years. She is now the deputy speaker of the Upper Chamber.

The next meeting, on Thursday 18th June, will be a visit to a member's garden, where there will be a plant bring and buy sale. See posters for the details.

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GREAT NORTH RUN

By Kath Whitfield

Having missed out on the main ballot for the 2009 Great North Run, I have secured a place by pledging to run and raise funds for Martin House Children's Hospice. This hospice cares for Children and Young People with progressive life limiting illnesses, and provides support to their families. The purpose built hospice is based in Boston Spa, Wetherby and cares for children and young people from the Yorkshire region.

The Bupa Great North Run, the world's biggest half marathon, will take place on Sunday 20th September. Up to 52,000 runners will be taking part, starting on the main motorway in Newcastle, the race finishes at South Shields, a distance of 13.1 miles. I would like to ask for your help by way of sponsoring me in this event. Sponsor forms are available at the Primary School, or log on to www.justgiving.com/katherinewhitfield1. No matter how small, your donation will be very much appreciated. Thank you.

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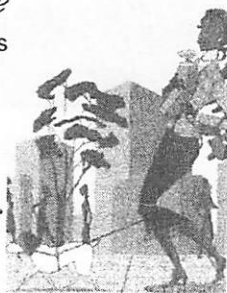
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ENTERTAINMENT FOR JUNE

Sat 6th June The Chevrons

Sat 20th June Red Aura

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.

June 1989

Bentham News has never been afraid to embrace new technology, and its innovative use of new developments in fields such as word processing has helped to make it the provincial gem it is today. Computer *Spellcheck*, for example, ensures greater literary accuracy than in the days of the old typewriter. It would not, however, have spared the editorial blushes of twenty years ago, which must have followed a front page headline stating "DELUGE REEKS HAVOC" because of course REEKS is a perfectly good word (and not one to be sniffed at!) even if it is used in completely the wrong context! But it *would* have picked up the howlers which appeared in the ensuing report on Bentham's floods, and I quote: "Bentham people, who had been enjoying one of the hottest days of the year, were suddenly deluged by heavy rain and hail stones, and some low-lying parts of both Low and High Bentham were rapidly flooded."

Thankfully, such mistakes don't happen these days (!)

As part of her report from *Bentham Homing Society*, Shirley Brown offered some interesting feathery facts. Did you know, for example, that in June '89 the Swiss had 30,000 pigeons deployed across their country to act as communication restorers and undercover agents in the event of a nuclear holocaust? And that of 53 *Dickin Medals* (the animals' equivalent of the VC) awarded since 1939, 31 were to pigeons?

When the conversation dies in the Horse and Farrier

Tom Cahill took a full page to explain to BN readers why for the past couple of years he had written reports and an opinionated column (his words) under the assumed name of Tom Paine.

He admitted to hiding behind the alias

because he felt that native Benthamers would not see an *Offcundun* as being entitled to an opinion on local matters, let alone present reports from *their* Town Council meetings. He went on to say that "There is (probably always will be) an undercurrent of distrust, disdain and disrespect for people who have chosen to live in Bentham on the part of some who were born here."

What rot! If this were true twenty years ago, then Bentham must have had a completely different culture to the one it has today, because today nothing could be further from the truth. This Offcundun has never encountered anything other than friendship, respect, and a genuine concern for his wellbeing.

Bentham Old Boys challenged the youth of Bentham in a charity football match in aid of the Special Baby Unit at Lancaster Royal Infirmary. Age and guile beat youth and strength 4-2, raising £42 in the process.

Last year's mayor was re-elected after what was reported to be a "confused and lengthy kerfuffle" (my own *Spellcheck* is working overtime this month!) Someone pointed out that neither the mayor nor the deputy mayor lived or worked in Bentham, but then it was presumably decided that this didn't really matter.

Hey ho!

Finally, and I know you've been dying to know, I can disclose that the other 22 *Dickin Medals* were awarded as follows: 18 to dogs, 3 to horses and 1 to a cat.



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LOOKING WELL NEWS

By Clare Hucknall and Alison Clough

We are all excited about our Open Day on June 6th, which has lots to offer all ages - activities, demonstrations, information, art exhibitions as well as stalls selling plants and crafts, and our café serving homemade cakes and soup. Specific activities include: a local walk, (to include birdwatching, starts from Looking Well at 10.30); 'plant your own hanging basket'; children's art-in-the-garden; story-telling tent; demonstrations from first-responders and jewellery from recycled materials. Also available: examples and information on NYCC's adult education classes. It's a great opportunity to find out just what the Looking Well is all about and what we offer, so please come along, bring a friend and share the fun. Any spare plants you could donate would be gratefully received (on 5th or 6th), thanks.

In the Garden on Tuesdays in June/July from 2pm, at the Enormous Turnip Club, we will be looking at: organic weed and pest control; container and hanging baskets; protecting and pruning plants; winter/spring harvests. The sessions are free and friendly and a great way to get out.

For the first time, Looking Well is contributing to the annual North Yorkshire Open Studios weekends (20/21 June and 27/28 June). 'Into the Light' is an exhibition of new contemporary work by emerging artists, including work from young Bentham artists. It promises to be a varied show of work and is on display from 11.00 to 4.00 each weekend day.

Why not discover your inner creative self? Workshops are being run by Chrissy Burgess - 'Wild Wet and Woolly' felt making (Saturday 20th) and Ali Clough (Sunday 28th) - 'The Artist Within' a creative play session for grown ups. Times 11am-4pm, limited places so phone early to book.

We welcome all to these events. To book, or for further details phone Julie on 62672 or (e-mail julie@pioneerprojects.org.uk).

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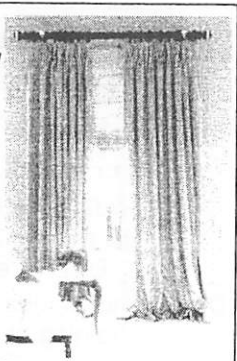
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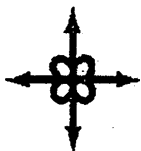
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CHURCHES TOGETHER

By Liz Whitfield



'Life must be lived forwards, but it can only be understood backwards', so remarked the Danish theologian, Søren Kierkegaard. There is a lot of truth in his observation. So often we cannot make sense of our existence one day to another. We look for a purpose but see only a riddle. We try to see where God's hand is at work but draw a blank. We cry out for help but none seems forthcoming. At such times, faith can be tested to the limit, as we struggle to understand why God seems remote and unmoved by our plight. Yet, as is so often the case in life, time can make all the difference. Weeks, months, even many years later, we look back and we recognise with amazement how God was at work in our lives just when we were least aware of it. Experiences that seemed cruel, situations that looked bleak, days that felt hopeless, turn out to be formative moments in our journey of faith, leading us forward to new insights and horizons.

The next time you feel God has forgotten you remind yourself that, though you may not see it now, the time will surely come when everything fits into place and you realise that God's unseen hand has been leading you safely onwards, through the good and the bad. David recognised this when he wrote Psalm 23 'even though I walk through a valley as dark as death I fear no evil, for you are with me, your staff and your crook are there to comfort me.'

The churches are open to help anyone when you struggle to make sense of life or you are confused by so much that seems to contradict God's will, and we are there to celebrate the good things of life with you too.

High Bentham Methodist: The plans to refurbish the church are going ahead, hopefully the work will start later in the summer and be completed for Christmas. We are aiming to do this in an environmentally sustainable way by providing a new heating system, improve insulation, provide direct disabled access

into the chapel and create more flexible space within the chapel itself. Once this is achieved the Church will be much better able to meet the spiritual needs of our existing members, of the people of Bentham and be available for wider usage by the community.

St. John the Baptist: "Anything Goes" is the title of the new CD just launched by Octameron, the well-known singing group from Settle. It is also the title of our annual Summer Concert at St John's, Low Bentham on Sunday June 7th at 7.30pm.

We look forward to a varied and enjoyable selection of songs from the shows, part songs and solos. There will also be interludes given by Champagne Flutes.

Tickets are available from High Bentham Post Office, Cave and Crag, Settle and church members at £6. Included are our usual high-class nibbles and a glass of wine or fruit juice. Come and join us for an enjoyable and varied evening.

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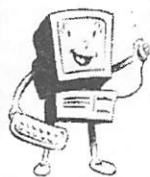
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DOG FOULING; LET'S END IT TOGETHER

By Keith Hartley

Despite my strong feelings, I have so far resisted the temptation to add my own sixpennyworth to the dog fouling debate, largely because I didn't believe I had anything very different to say. However, scanning a copy of Bentham News from June 1989 for my '20 years' column, I came across a letter from a young mother, the content of which, or rather the image it created, has haunted me for the past week and left me feeling a need to share my feelings about it.

Checking on her eight month old son after being momentarily distracted, the mother had caught him *eating* some dog faeces he had picked from the wheel of his pram. Horrified, she took him to the doctor who referred him to the Infirmary for tests. It would seem the test results showed that no harm had been done, but it could easily have been so very different. Brain damage and blindness are common results of illnesses contracted from faeces, and there could, potentially, be a 20 year old lad in Bentham who has carried one or both of those conditions for all these years.

The late Ralph Atkinson, who for many years represented Bentham on the County Council, was absolutely right when he said that Bentham doesn't have a dog problem but it *does* have a people problem.

Until recently I was sure that *any* dog owner would be horrified at the thought that the simple action of their dog doing its business on the pavement could result in someone contracting a life-threatening illness. I now believe that there are some people who really couldn't care less. I know they represent just a small minority of dog owners, but just one in a community the size of Bentham is potentially lethal.

I am not normally a person who has the courage (or the size!) to confront someone who is presenting anti-social behaviour, but my revulsion at the mindless individuals who view our town as a large canine lavatory is such that I will always find the courage from somewhere to say something.

To date I have asked two people, as politely as I possibly could, if they intended cleaning up the mess their dog had just made, and which they were walking away from. From one I received no answer, but from the other, whose black Labrador had just fouled a narrow Station Road pavement, I at first received denial, followed by a mouthful of verbal abuse that carried strong hints of physical violence. I did not pursue the matter!

Unless you're six foot twelve and built like an Armstrong's lorry, confrontation is clearly a very risky business. It is therefore perhaps necessary to adopt a different approach, and to this end I am offering an idea that could avoid the possibility of broken limbs! If you see a dog owner failing to clean up after his or her dog, and if you know where they live, contact me c/o Bentham News at *The Gallery*, with as much information as you have, and I will see that they receive a polite letter asking them to act more responsibly or face expensive consequences. I must have your own name and address to ensure that the report is not a hoax or malicious, but I will promise that this will not be shared with any third party and that your contact will be in complete confidence.

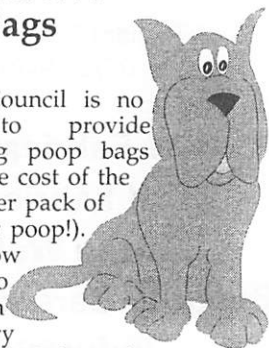
The dog fouling problem has been around in Bentham for far too long. Let's *all* share the responsibility for protecting the children of Bentham, and act now to make it a problem of the past.

SPEND A PENNY - Dog Poop Bags

By Karen Aspinall

Craven District Council is no longer able to provide biodegradable dog poop bags free of charge. The cost of the bags will be 50p per pack of 50 (literally 1p per poop!).

The bags will now be available to purchase from Dalehead Veterinary Group, The Tourist Information Point and the Little Red Bus Office. Please help us to keep Bentham clean!



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ICE

Edited by Peter Phillips

Most of us carry our mobile phones with names and numbers stored in the phone memory. If we were to be involved in an accident or were taken ill, the people attending us would have our mobile phone but wouldn't know who to call. Yes, there are hundreds of numbers stored but which one is the contact person in case of an emergency? Hence the "ICE" - (In case of emergency) campaign.

The concept of ICE is catching on quickly. It is a method of contact during emergency situations. As mobile phones are carried by the majority of the population, all you need to do is to store the number of a contact person or persons who should be contacted during emergency, under the name "ICE". The idea was thought up by a paramedic who found that when he went to the scenes of accidents there were always mobile phones with patients but he wouldn't know which number to call. He thought that it would be a good idea if there was a

nationally recognised name for this purpose.

In an emergency situation Emergency Service personnel and hospital staff would quickly be able to contact the right person by simply dialling the number you have stored as "ICE".

So please spread the word about this idea and get your friends to do the same. It really could save your life or put a loved one's mind at rest. For more than one contact simply enter ICE1, ICE2 and ICE3 etc.

CLARIFICATION

In last month's issue there was a small ad on the Benthams People page, from "Christine" selling off her aromatherapy products, as her business was closing. We wish to make it clear that this did not refer to Chryssie Burgess, Health through Balance, who is still very much in business. The ad was placed by Christine Hodson, not Chryssie Burgess. We trust that this will clarify any misunderstanding which may have inadvertently been caused.

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BENTHAM FOOTPATH GROUP ACTIVITIES



By Maureen Ellis

I am always struck when I phone leaders (or better still when they email me) for their routes and comments for this short column at the thoughtfulness and care with which they approach the task of planning a walk. Sometimes they know they will make last minute decisions according to conditions or information they are still researching. This is why the programme of BFG is so sound.

On Monday June 8th at 6.30pm from Lairgill and twenty minutes later from Austwick P.O there will be another go at Crumackdale. The walk of 5 miles will avoid the tops and stick to the foothills of that area.

On Tuesday 9th, one of the all important Open Business Meetings will take place at 7.00pm in the Wenningdale Room of the Town Hall. Please try and attend.

On Saturday 13th there will be the 12 mile walk from Lairgill at 9.30am which will go from the top of Orton Scar over the moor to Crosby Ravensworth, then through fields to the Stone Circles at Oddendale - to return over the moors along the Coast to Coast Path and back to Orton Village.

On Wednesday 17th at 9.30am from Lairgill with a second meeting place at Settle Swimming Pool car park there is the Settle Ramble of 7 miles. It will go along the river to Langcliffe and up through the village to Winskill and on to Attermire and Victoria Caves. The remainder of the route will depend on circumstances on the day.

On 28th from Lairgill at 9.30am with final parking at Appersett, the 6 mile walk will be looking for numbers 12 - 20 of the mosaics, which are plaques created as a community project to celebrate the Millennium. The route will set off uphill to Hardraw, across to Simonstone and Sedbusk, then go down to Hawes over the old packhorse bridge and along the River Ure north of Hawes and then head back over the fields to Appersett viaduct.

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BENTHAM CANCER SUPPORT

By Margaret Hayton

The next therapy taster day for patients and carers of cancer and long term illnesses, is on Thursday 4th June, from 10.30am-12.00noon. During June we will be working on Dales wild flowers. Our tutor will be Phillippa Troutman and the exhibition will be in July at Looking Well Studios. Dates and times later.

NUFFIN2WEAR FASHION SHOW

By Brenda Everson

A big thank you to everyone who made this fashion show at the Horse and Farrier such a success. There was fun in frills and frocks and tantalizing looks in trousers and tops. With the raffle etc. £92 was raised for our local charity, SBC. Thanks to Dave, our confident MC, and to Margaret for the delicious sandwiches.

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LOCAL EVENTS IN JUNE

- Mon 1st** Craven Customer Services, Lower Town Hall, 10.00am-12.30pm, and every Monday.
Town Council meeting, Town Hall, 7.30pm.
Toddle-in for parents/carers, babies and toddlers, Methodist Church Hall, and every Monday.
Gentle walks for women, leaving Lairgill 9.30am, and every Monday.
Looking Well, NYCC Initial Training for classroom assistants 9.30-11.30am. Access to working in schools-literacy 12.00-2.00pm, and every Monday.
Looking Well, Exploring Creative Textiles, 1.15-3.15pm, every Monday in term time.
Looking Well, NYCC preparing to Teach in the Life Long Learning Sector, 6.00-9.00pm.
Community Link Cafe at the Victoria Institute, Low Bentham, 1.30-3.00pm and every Monday.
- Tue 2nd** Tuesday Strolls, leaving Looking Well 2pm, return 3.00pm, and every Tuesday.
Looking Well Gardens, 2.00-4.30pm, gardening for all, and every Tuesday.
&16th & 30th, Singing for all, Looking Well 2.30-4.00pm.
Bentham Child Health Clinic at the surgery, 2.00-4.00pm.
Yoga at the Town Hall, 11.00am-12.00noon and 6.00-7.00pm, and every Tuesday.
Craft Club, Wenningdale Room, 10.00am-12.00noon and every Tuesday. All welcome. Contact Sue Camacho 62074.
- Wed 3rd** Community Link Cafe at the Victoria Institute, Low Bentham, 11.30am-2.30pm and every Wednesday.
Moving Well, gentle exercise to music, Looking Well 2.00-3.00pm and every Wednesday.
- Wed 3rd** and 17th, Citizens Advice Bureau at the Health Centre, 1.30-3.30pm.
NSPCC monthly meeting at Lingfield, Robin Lane, 7.30pm.
Coffee morning, Methodist Church Hall, 10.00-11.30am and every Wednesday. Donations to local charities.
Café-in, Looking Well, 11.00am-1.30pm and every Wednesday.
Art for all, beginners welcome, Looking Well 2.00-3.00pm and every Wednesday.
- Thu 4th** **European/County elections at the Town Hall, 7.00am-10.00pm.**
High Bentham W.I., Wenningdale Room, 7.30pm.
Swimming at Hornby for over 50s (men & women). Tel Barbara 62873 or Carol 61233 to arrange transport. Every Thursday.
Cancer Support Group Drop-in, Art Session, Lunch and Therapies. Every Thursday.
Health Taster Sessions, Bowen Technique & Shiatsu, Looking Well, 10.30am-12.30pm.
NYCC exploring multi media art, Looking Well 9.30-11.30 and every Thursday in term time.
and 11th & 18th, Tai Chi, at Looking Well, 6.30-8.00pm.
Burton-in-Lonsdale WI trip to Brantwood, leaving Village Hall 9.30am. Details from Cherry 61936.
Bat "n" Chat at Victoria Institute, Low Bentham, 10.00am-12.00noon. Volunteer gardeners welcome during this time.
- Fri 5th** Age Concern at the Masonic Hall, 10.00am-2.30pm Video.
Yoga at the Town Hall, 6.30-7.30pm and every Friday.
and 12th & 19th, Tai Chi at Looking Well, 1.30-3.00pm.
NYCC Creative Greeting Cards, Looking Well, 10.00am-12.00noon, and every Friday in term time.
- Sat 6th** Looking Well Open Day, Fun for all the Family. 10.00am-2.00pm.

- Sat 6th St. Margaret's coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10.00am-12.00noon. 
Farmers' Market at the Town Hall, 9.30am-2.00pm.
Bentham Film Group film "Oxford Murders" at Victoria Institute, 7.30pm. See page 23.
Open Wildlife Garden and bring and buy plant sale 2.00-5.00pm at Bank House, Higher Westhouse. Proceeds to St Oswald's Tower Fund, Thornton-in-Lonsdale.
- Sun 7th 14th & 21st, Youth Theatre at the Victoria Institute 2.00-4.30pm.
High Bentham Methodist Church Anniversary Services, 10.30am and 6.30pm. Guest speakers. All welcome.
Anything Goes - Octameron at St. John's 7.30pm. See page 13.
- Mon 8th Bentham Footpath Group walk, Crummackdale, 5 miles, leader A. Neligan 64886. Meet at Lairgill 6.30pm.
Adventurers Group for 4-6 year olds 4.30-5.30pm. Springboard for 7-10 year olds, 6.15-7.30pm. Methodist Church Hall and every Monday in term time.
- Tue 9th Bentham Footpath Group open business meeting, Wenningdale Room, Town Hall, 7.00pm.
- Thu 11th and 25th. Welcome-in dominoes for all ages, 2.00-4.00pm, Methodist Church Hall. For transport contact Nigel or Kath 62272.
- Fri 12th Age Concern at the Masonic Hall, 10.00am-2.30pm. Extend Exercise - Colin Etherington.
- Sat 13th Methodist Church coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10.00am-12.00noon. 
Bloomin' Bentham volunteers meet at the Painted Bus Shelter, 1.00pm. Further details from 61608.
Bentham Footpath Group walk, Orton/Crosby Ravensworth, 12 miles, leaders E & S Badley 62502. Meet at Lairgill 9.30am.
Book Swap at the Victoria Institute, Low Bentham.
- Sun 14th St. John's Fun Day, Church Field, 3.30-6.30pm, followed by Songs of Praise at 6.30pm.
- Mon 15th Copy deadline for July BN.
- Tue 16th Bentham Child Health Clinic at the Surgery, 2.00-4.00pm.
- Wed 17th Bentham Footpath Group walk, Settle ramble, 7 miles, leader D. Cairns, 41385. Meet at Lairgill 9.30am.
- Thu 18th Low Bentham WI meeting at a member's garden. See page 8.
- Fri 19th Waste paper collection at Lairgill Car Park, 8.30-11.00am. Proceeds to NSPCC.
Age Concern at the Masonic Hall, 10.0am-2.30pm, Talk & slides, Nigel Wilson.
- Sat 20th Settle Blind Association coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10.00am-12.00noon. 
Looking Well, 11.00am-4.00pm N. Yorkshire Open Studios, Wild, Wet & Woolly. Felt making workshop led by Chryssie Burgess. Limited places, phone 62672 to book.
- Wed 24th Healing & Meditation, Gavin Wilshaw, 7.30-9.30pm Looking Well.
- Fri 26th Age Concern at the Masonic Hall, 10.00am-2.30pm with "Xtravaganza 3" - John Mathias. July edition BN published.
- Sat 27th BEST coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10.00am-12.00noon. 
Youth Theatre Group at Victoria Institute 7.00pm - Shake, Ripple & Roll. Tickets £3.50.
N. Yorkshire Open Studios - The Artist Within. A creative play session for grown ups led by Ali Clough. Limited places, phone Julie, 62672 to book. Looking Well, 11.00am-4.00pm.
- Sun 28th Bentham Footpath Group walk, Hawes Millennium Mosaics, 6 miles, leader K. Rowe 51402. Meet at Lairgill 9.30am.
Youth Theatre Group at Victoria Institute, 4.00pm, Shake, Ripple & Roll. Tickets £3.50.

VICTORIA INSTITUTE NEWS

By Christine Hodson

The Low Bentham Victoria Institute AGM was held on 16th April and was well attended. Mike Yeates (Chairman) presented his report which was full of praise for Sharon, for her work as the manager. He called her 'Mrs Low Bentham'. However the lack of foreseeable funding for her role of manager and ongoing development works for the Institute will be "the most challenging for the Victoria Institute" he said.

There are now successful regular events at the Institute:-

- The Seniors Club (Community Link cafe) who meet twice a week
- A weekly Bat n Chat session.
- Voluntary gardening activities to develop the community garden.
- A monthly book swap session.

Mike also highlighted the contribution of a small band of volunteers which had resulted

in the current updating of the building and the stunning work on the community garden and ongoing fundraising and enthusiasm. The Institute has undergone substantial changes and I would encourage anyone whose memories of the building are from past days to make a visit. Take a look at the photographic poster display on the notice board for an up to date view of activities and events happening at the Institute.

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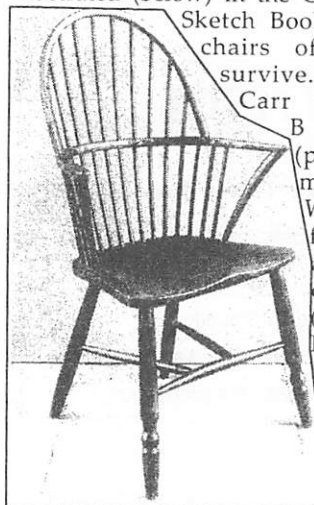
THE WILCOCK FAMILY OF JOINERS AND CABINET MAKERS OF BENTHAM

By Susan E. Stuart

I am doing some research on the Wilcock(s) family of Bentham who were joiners and cabinet makers in the 18th and 19th centuries, and wondered if any of your readers could help me please?

I believe that the family had a workshop in Bentham (possibly part of the Punch Bowl Inn buildings) at one period. I know that from the 1760s they made dozens of Windsor chairs and other furniture for the famous firm of Gillows of Lancaster and London. Many of these Bentham made Windsor chairs were exported by Gillows to the West Indies Islands and others were made for British customers.

In 1806 Joseph Wilcock made the chair illustrated (below) in the Gillows Estimate



Sketch Book, and several chairs of this design survive. Also Joseph Carr in Bygone Bentham (published 1997) mentions that the Wilcock(s) family made oak and mahogany clock cases for J. (John) Muncaster, a Lancaster clockmaker (working c. 1806-26). If any readers have similar

Windsor chairs, Muncaster clocks or any local furniture that might have been made by this family, I would be delighted to hear from them. All information will be treated in confidence. Further information about the Wilcock family or their business premises, (possibly now Hashbrowns?) would also be appreciated. Contact address:- 12 Marlton Way, Haverbreaks, Lancaster LA1 5BW.

BENTHAM FILM GROUP

By Stella Hall

Bentham Film Group has chosen the crime thriller 'Oxford Murders' (Cert 15) for its last film of the season. It stars John Hurt, Elijah Wood and Leonor Watling. It tells the story of a professor and a graduate student at Oxford University working together to try and stop a potential series of murders seemingly linked by mathematical symbols.

The film is on Saturday 6th June commencing at 7.30pm in the Victoria Institute, Low Bentham. Tickets are £5 on the door. During the interval refreshments will be on sale and a raffle will be drawn. The Little Red Bus is available for transport from High Bentham to and from the film show – phone Bentham 62083 to reserve your seat.

The Film Group's AGM will be held first at 7pm for a few minutes. This is open to anyone who wishes to come. Our New season starts on 12 September when we hope to show "Slumdog Millionaire"

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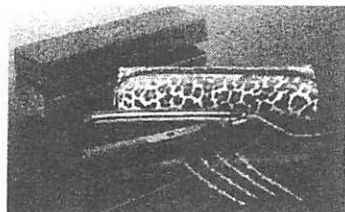
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Gareth Adams, Mayor of Bentham, presenting Christine Louth with a bouquet to commemorate her 20 years of work at the Town Hall - one of the unsung heroes.

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MODERN MUSICAL BOOGIES INTO BENTHAM

By Trevor Blackwell

If you walk past the Victoria Institute in Low Bentham on a quiet Sunday afternoon you can't help but hear shouting and laughter and music. But don't worry - it's just Bentham's very own Youth Theatre Group busy rehearsing for **Shake, Ripple and Roll**, a rock'n'roll extravaganza.

This modern musical is set in an ice cream parlour in the 1950s. The manager - Mr Cohen - decides to employ a young boy called Joey who just walks in off the street looking for a job and a home. All goes well until the owner - Mr Angelo - dies without making a will. Cue for the appearance of the famous film star Deanne La Donne, who claims to be Mr Angelo's only surviving relative. The ice cream parlour is now hers, she says, and she intends to close it. Will she succeed, or will the kids who hang out there find a way to keep their ice cream parlour open?

With a script by Jennifer Toksvig, and music by David Perkin, this hour-long musical combines plenty of singing and dancing, and a little bit of acting, in a style that is reminiscent of "Grease". This is a new venture for the Youth Theatre Group, and they hope you'll come along and support them. "Our show isn't going to have the polish of a West End production", says co-director Iain Henshaw, "but it will have 15 of our local children and teenagers performing to the very best of their ability, and having a

lot of fun doing it!"

This will be the first of two productions this year, and the Group is hoping to attract support and sponsorship from local people and local businesses. In the past the Bentham Youth Theatre Group was grant-aided by the Local Network Fund, but this funding has ended, so now the Group needs to become self-sustaining.

"We're a non-profit organisation staffed and managed by hard-working volunteers", Gemma Wright, the singing coach and co-director, tells me. "We aim to give Bentham children a chance to gain theatre performance and social skills, with a large dose of self-confidence thrown in for good measure. We're looking for support from people and businesses who want to invest in the future of the young people of Bentham."

We can make a start by going to see their show. **Shake Ripple and Roll** will be performed at the Victoria Institute on Saturday June 28th at 7.00pm, and on Sunday June 28th at 4.00pm. Tickets (priced £3.50) will be available from Temptations. Be there - or be square!

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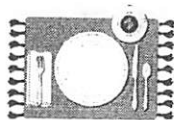
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COOKERY PAGE

Edited by Patsy Henderson



Chicken Tagine (Serves 6)

Recipe

1.5kg chicken
3 onions
50g butter
1 tsp saffron powder
½ tsp ground ginger
1 tbsp paprika
½ tsp ground ginger
100g dates, stoned
275g frozen broad beans, thawed with skins removed
salt and black pepper
fresh coriander and parsley sprigs

Method

Cut the chicken into 12 pieces. Place the chicken into a large saucepan with tight fitting lid. Peel and chop one onion into thin rings. Finely chop the other onions. Add the onion rings and butter to the pan. Pour in about 450ml cold water, enough to cover the chicken. Bring slowly to the boil, cover the pan and reduce the heat and simmer for 30 minutes.

Add the saffron, ginger, paprika cinnamon, finely chopped onions, dates and broad beans to the chicken. Stir well, replace the lid and simmer for another 30 minutes. Taste the liquid and season with salt and pepper to taste. Transfer the contents of the pan onto a serving dish or tagine dish. Roughly chop the fresh herbs and sprinkle over the finished dish. Add a few sprigs of parsley as a garnish.

Rhubarb and Ginger Cheesecake

(Serves 6)

Recipe

75g butter
175g ginger biscuits, crushed
350g rhubarb, chopped
50g pecan nuts
75g caster sugar
10ml ginger syrup (out of jar of crystallised ginger)
3 large eggs, beaten
225g curd cheese
10ml powdered gelatine
150ml double cream
Extra whipped cream to serve

Method

Lightly grease a 20cm/8inch loose bottomed cake tin. Melt the butter in a small pan and stir in the biscuits and pecan nuts. Press the mixture firmly into the base of the tin using a potato masher. Put the rhubarb, sugar and ginger syrup into a pan, cover and cook very gently until soft. Puree in a blender until smooth. Return the mixture to the pan and beat in the eggs. Cook over a low heat, stirring until the mixture thickens. DO NOT allow the mixture to boil or it will curdle. Leave to cool.

In a bowl, sprinkle the gelatine over 2 tbsps water and leave for a few minutes to soften. Place the bowl over a pan of simmering water, stirring until the gelatine dissolves and the liquid is clear. Cool slightly then stir into the rhubarb mixture. Whip the cream until it forms soft peaks then fold into the rhubarb mixture. Pour into the prepared tin and chill until set. Serve with the extra whipped cream.

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BENTHAM PEOPLE



Personal Thanks

Alan Bowers and family would like to thank friends and neighbours for their cards, flowers and presents during Vicki's illness. Thanks to Brown and Whittaker, and to the Horse and Farrier for an excellent buffet. Special thanks to the District Nurses especially Julie and Bev who cared for Vicki with the utmost kindness.

Thanks

Standing, Peter and Karen would like to thank their family and friends for all their good wishes, cards and flowers received during Karen's short stay in hospital. Thank you.

Pamela Metcalfe would like to thank family, friends and neighbours for their flowers, get well cards and offers of help during her recent stay in hospital for a hip replacement. Best wishes to you all.

Susan Parkington, pharmacist at the Co-op in Bentham, would like to thank staff and customers for all their cards and good wishes for her recent stay in Preston Hospital. I am on the mend and hope to be back with you as soon as possible.

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Absolutely Splashing Swimming Club has vacancies at all levels for school age children, from non-swimmers to fitness swimming, at Hornby Pool on Friday evenings, term time only. For more information contact Andrea Tuohy on 015242 62637 or Helen Sharpe on 015242 61853.

Charities Thanks

A huge thank you to Brenda of Nuffin2Wear and her friends, from the SBC of Bentham, for the generous donation of £156 following the excellent Fashion Show at the Horse and Farrier. It will all be donated to worthy causes in Bentham. Baz Lister, President SBC.

The Jumble Sale for St. John's Hospice raised £500. We would like to thank everyone who helped to make the jumble sale such a success. Mrs. Parker.

Abbeyfield House Coffee Morning

By Angela Robertson

The Abbeyfield coffee morning will be held on Wednesday 17th June from 10.00-11.30am. Admission is 50p and there will be a raffle. Everyone is welcome to this event at Abbeyfield House, situated in Main Street, High Bentham, next door to the Post Office, close to the main shops and not far from the Health Centre.

The House has 7 single occupancy rooms, 4 have ensuite facilities. There is a pleasant, heated sun lounge and a garden area with parking facilities. Lunch and tea are provided in the dining room and there is provision in each room for making breakfast, cups of tea, etc. Washing provision can be arranged. A caring Resident Housekeeper is available at all times. Relatives are welcome to come and visit at any time in the resident's own room or in the conservatory. If you wish to find out more, please come along to our coffee morning.

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FROM BRICKS TO ROMANS AND POETRY PICNICS

By Jane Redfern

The Forest of Bowland is known for its outstanding natural beauty and breathtaking landscapes, perhaps this is one reason why so many artists choose to make their home here. This year's Bowland Arts Festival in May and June, celebrates the vast wealth of creativity and abundance of talent in the area through exhibitions, art trails and walks, workshops, films and a host of other artistic events. There is something in this year's festival to stimulate visitors of all ages, from the chance to learn stone carving at one of the many workshops to enjoying an evening of entertainment in a local village hall.

Make sure you don't miss out on a visit to the local brickworks as part of the Brick Carving Workshop on 4th June, where anybody who has ever wondered how bricks are made will also have a chance to carve their very own. Booking is essential, please phone 01772-534709. This is also a rare opportunity to tour Claughton Brick Works, which is linked by the last remaining aerial runway to the quarry on Claughton Moor.

On Saturday 13th June there's a Textile Workshop from 10am-4pm with artist Mary Atkinson where anyone age 14+ can make fashion accessories using different textile techniques. And on Saturday 20th June there's a Print-it! Workshop using found and discarded objects. Booking is essential for

both these workshops, so please phone 015242-21233.

On Saturday 27th June there's Free Family Activity from 11am-6pm. This is a self-guided circular walk following onion way markers seeking the Giant Onion created by school children from Melling St Wilfrid's School earlier this year and secretly hidden somewhere in the valley.

The selection of creative walks and trails ranges from Poetry Postcard Picnics to Walking in the footsteps of the Romans, a guided walk that follows a stunning route over the fells, the Hornby track from Roeburndale to Slaidburn on Sunday 28th June. Phone 01772-534709 to join this walk.

Of course no arts festival would be complete without the opportunity to get inside an artist's studio. Higherford Mill Open Studios at Barrowford will be open to visitors on Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th June; this is a fabulous chance to see some of the excellent work being produced in the area.

And the really good news is that many of the events are free, whilst for others there is often only a small fee.

The Bowland Arts Festival is coordinated by Sue Flowers. Her energy and passion have been the driving force behind the festival. You can get more information about any of the events from me (tel: 07724-131179, or 01845-526720) or Sue (tel: 015242-21233) or from www.bowlandarts.co.uk

BLOOMIN' BENTHAM

By Shirley Brown

On Wednesday 13th May, three Bloomin' Bentham volunteers picked up litter, cleared weeds from paths and stinging nettles from a bench. We thought the School Hill Site was looking lovely with its flowering shrubs and bushes and only a small amount of chewing gum and fag ends nestling amongst them.

This month we've also been working on the flowerbeds and platform edges at the railway station where the donated plants are coming into their own. Any more donations are gratefully received, and if you want to help, the next small working party will meet on 13th June, which is a Saturday. Please ring 61608 if you want to know more.

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Dear Bentham News,
**An open letter to Bentham
 Town Council.**



On Friday 8th May I visited Hornby Institute to see the Hornby Players perform. What a fine building the village has. On chatting with a few people I discovered that a major investment had been made in extending the building and adding extra facilities. Most impressive is how much the building is used!

Earlier in the week there was a meeting of the parish council to discuss the Community Centre. I spoke to a councillor about attending this meeting but was told it was for concerned parties - youth club and youth cafe. I and many of the people I speak to believe the council is seeking to convert the building into youth only. I think as a body that is representing the public that the council should come clean over its intentions re the Community Centre. Many people in the town, including myself would like answers to the following questions.

- Who will use the Community Centre?
- Who will pay for the upkeep and maintenance?
- Does Bentham have the highest council tax in Craven?
- Will we pay for the building through council tax payments?
- If the building is to be youth only why wasn't the youth theatre invited to the meeting?

Let's not have any secrecy about this. We deserve to be treated honestly and with respect, this is not Westminster after all.

Iain Henshaw.

Dear Bentham News,

I have spent most of my working life working in nursing homes and sheltered housing as a resident warden. I have seen my fair share of gentlemen using a urinal. So now in my retirement years it is starting all over again on the car park on Grasmere Drive, due to the fact that some bright sparks have decided to close the public conveniences.

So now I can sit in my home and if I look out of the window I quite often see someone urinating either in the bushes or on the side

of a car. Up to the present I have seen 23 people since Easter. This is not acceptable.

Now the Craven Council are looking at parking charges; if I was paying to have my car sprayed with urine I would object strongly.

From a local resident (name and address supplied).

Dear BN

During the Easter holiday period our 2-year-old grandson fell over running along the footpath in Springfield and landed in a pile of dog poo. Have you ever tried to pick up a crying child covered in dog poo? It gets everywhere and smells disgusting.

You know this shouldn't have happened, we know it shouldn't have happened, and yet even now, after all the publicity about the health hazards of dog excrement being left where people walk, some people still think it's ok to watch their dog drop poo on the paths and then walk away.

Well it's not ok. This is not acceptable behaviour. Roll on the day when irresponsible dog owners are seen in the same light as other lawbreakers, such as drunk drivers.

Yours

Colin and Shirley Brown.

Dear Readers

I'd like to encourage you to vote in the European elections this week. This is an election where your vote can make a difference because it's not just a run-off between the 2 big parties.

There may be enough people who think like you, spread all across Yorkshire, to get the 12% of the votes needed to elect a representative from one of the other parties. And they need your vote, to stop the BNP, a deeply racist party active elsewhere in Yorkshire, from doing that.

I'll be voting for the Green Party - not just because of their environmental policies but because they stand for a living wage for all, affordable homes, local economies and international justice. And because the 2 MEPs they already have in Europe have been so determined and effective.

Continued on page 32.

LETTERS (continued from page 31)

I hope you'll be voting too, for whoever you think will be making the best decisions for us and for the future. Things look so dismal at the moment that now more than ever we need to vote for 'hope in Yorkshire'. See you at the polling station!
Annie Neligan

Dear Bentham News,

I thought your readers might be interested to know that the Town Hall Ballroom has already been booked from 29th to 31st May 2010 for another local history exhibition of photographs and articles. One feature of the exhibition is to be a collection of class photographs of Low Bentham C.P. School. Mrs Ayre was kind enough to allow me to make copies before the originals were sent to Northallerton. These photographs are dated but not named and I think it would be a good idea if names were added and there will be an opportunity to do this at the exhibition. For several years I have been concerned that my collection of photographs should be freely available locally and that they should not just end their days in the archive office at far-flung Northallerton!

To this end The Ewecross Historical Society has generously lent its support and is preparing a bid for the funds to put most of these photographs on a website. I am writing to the Bentham News to make sure everybody is aware of the website launch (which we anticipate will be next spring) and to ask if anybody has any objection to my using their photographs. If you would like me to withhold any pictures please contact me on 61905.

If you have some photographs you would like adding to the collection, or you would be willing to help with the exhibition please contact me.

Many thanks
David Johnson

Dear Bentham News

John Lloyd's letter in the April edition of BN made some interesting points. He's right to point out that Bentham Development Trust (which manages Little Red Bus) needs to be constantly aware of the danger of 'mission drift', and we do talk about that a lot among ourselves. I suppose the test is whether we make a difference to what is available to local people, filling in gaps and providing extra services which would not be possible if we weren't a not-for-profit organisation.

The letter has made us aware that people don't know enough about what we do and how, so we will write an article for a future BN to explain ourselves better.

One thing we feel we really must point out is that John is wrong to say we are not allowed to carry members of the public. We operate our vehicles under different licences depending on what we use them for, our records are regularly inspected by the authorities, and we would like to assure all our passengers that we are suitably and fully insured for all the work we do.

Yours sincerely
Lin Barrington
Little Red Bus

Dear Bentham News,

I do wish that people who write to the letters page bothered to check their facts first. The Little Red Bus has to tender for school contracts just like everyone else. I have yet to see a 14 seater taxi capable of doing some of the contracts and no taxi is prepared to do the unpopular contracts. None, I repeat none of the school contract drivers is a volunteer; they all get paid as does the bus cleaner.

The only volunteer drivers are ladies who drive a once a month supermarket trip for O.A.Ps. One of the reasons they volunteered is they get to go free to do their own shopping at the same time.

The majority of the day time users are elderly people being taken to places like the Community Link Cafe at Low Bentham, little outings by various organisations who hire the bus or shopping in High Bentham on market day. There is no way they could afford a taxi to go to these places so a large proportion of them would become house

LETTERS (Continued from page 32)

bound. Any group can hire the buses and provide a driver of their own choice after a short check by Little Red Bus. Quite a few of the users of the bus have expressed horror at the thought of their weekly lifeline being maligned in this way.

Yours sincerely

Barbara Shuttleworth

Dear Bentham News,

I am writing in response to the letter in last month's Bentham News re the Little Red Bus Community Transport.

I would like to make it clear that both for myself, who is blind, and a lot of other older people without transport, the Little Red Bus provides a vital lifeline to enable us to carry on with our lives.

I use it in several ways, weekly transport to go shopping in Bentham on market day, transport to the Community Link Cafe at Low Bentham and transport to the surgery when I need a doctor/nurse appointment. It also takes me and a number of other people to Ingleton to pick up the service bus to Settle - this is putting people on this bus who would not be able to get there any other way. This service goes far above and beyond that which many people would consider necessary and without it many people in High and Low Bentham would become increasingly isolated.

To see this vital service questioned makes me very angry and I hope that it long continues to provide us with what we need and is able to continue to operate in a hospitable environment.

Yours sincerely

Grace Jones



little red bus

getting you there

Dear Bentham News,

In the April issue of the Bentham News I saw an article advertising the Breast Cancer Care Ribbon Walks and in particular, the one in June at Harewood House. I found this particularly interesting as I had just signed up for the 20 mile ribbon walk.

I'm sure you will agree that it seems like we are only a step away from someone who is affected by breast cancer. For me and my two sisters who will be walking with me, it will be for someone we know personally who is currently having treatment. The reason for me doing this walk is to support a friend and colleague of mine. His name is Allan and his wife Sarah was diagnosed with breast cancer earlier this year.

If you would like to support me in my walk you can sponsor me online at www.justgiving.com/michellehodgson or you can ring me at Audioworks (NW) Ltd on 61628. I would also feel supported if you simply gave me a wave as I do my training, walking around Bentham (I'll be the lady in the pink hat).

Michelle Hodgson

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SPORTS & SHEEPDOG TRIALS

Saturday 13th June 2009

Dog Trials starts at 8:30 am - Open Fancy
 Dress 3:15 pm - Open Children's Sports 3:45 pm -
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BURTON UNDER FIVES

By Viki Hindle

We would like to invite all pre-school children along with their parents or carers to our toddler group. We meet on Tuesday afternoons 1pm until 3.30pm & this half term, Thursdays from 9am until 11.30am, in the North Classroom at Richard Thornton's primary school. We have a dedicated toddler worker, who will show you the resources which are available in the room, set up activities for your children & make teas & coffees for parents & carers. The cost is just £1 per family, including drinks. So, why not come along & see what we have to offer?

LOW BENTHAM STREET MARKET

By Sharon Haslam

Low Bentham Street Market is fast approaching. If you would like to book a place at £6.00 a table then please contact me

on 015242 63162. This annual event is held on August Bank Holiday Monday, which I know seems a long way off, but it is the main fundraising event for the Victoria Institute and we need more volunteers. If you are interested in helping then call into the Victoria Institute on Monday or Wednesday between 10.00am and 12.00 noon or when the display board is outside, or telephone please.

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS – ARE YOU STILL WAITING?

If you've been kind enough to support the Bowling Club and ordered an aerial photograph from *The Gallery*, and have heard no more, then this is because Chris has unfortunately mislaid the list of people who've ordered them.

He offers sincere apologies and now hopes people will come to relieve him of his stack of framed pictures! So does the Bowling Club!

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ONE YEAR ON – BENTHAM IMAGING

By Janet Brook

When we bought the Sports Shop and turned it into a photographic Studio & Gallery, it was one of those chances you take in life. One year on we still get asked "has it gone well?". The answer is – 'Yes', thanks to the support and encouragement from the people of Bentham and the surrounding area.

We have had a busy year introducing the portrait side of the business, and we will continue to grow that area with the introduction of a pre-shoot makeover service. Weddings are bringing people from far and wide into Bentham to see their finished photographs. We have also done a number of commercial projects including brochures and still life, commissions for celebration montages and views of Bentham. Restoration of old photographs has been very popular (including some for David Kenyon's "Wray & District Remembered" book), along with turning prints into canvases.

As a special thank you to Bentham and the surrounding area who have enabled us to look back and say "this was not a chance, but a great decision", any studio portrait session booked between 1st – 14th June will be at a special rate of £25 which will also include a 10 x 7 standard framed print (session can be taken at any time).

For more information, call into the Bentham Imaging Studio & Gallery on Main Street or phone on 015242 63405/07976 959962 or visit our website www.benthamimaging.co.uk

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BENTHAM FOOTBALL CLUB

By Trevor Wheildon (Chairman)

Congratulations to Bentham Football Club 1st Team for winning the Division 1 Championship and gaining promotion to the Premier Division.

Thanks to the hard working staff: Graeme Cochrane (Manager), Sue Ralph (Treasurer), Louise France (Secretary), Bryan Jackson (Reserve Manager and hard-working Groundsman), Malcolm Dobson (Home Linesman), Steven Hedge (sometime press-ganged referee) and of course the players.

Special mention to Mandy Booth from the Black Bull for her continued financial support and hospitality on match days.

Many thanks also to Al Harrison, Armstrong Builders Merchants, Langdales, Robert and Raymond Heigh and many more who have kindly helped out financially. Sadly we have lost two ex-players and supporters this season, Billy Noble and Andrew Metcalfe, who are both sadly missed. We look forward to the new season and continued support from our local community.

SONGS FOR A SUMMER'S EVENING

By Shirley Brown

Local girl, Polly Elder, is among the fourteen students who make up St Andrews University Madrigal Group who are ending their national tour with a concert in St James The Less Church in Tatham at 7.30pm on Friday 12th June. During the preceding fortnight they will already have sung in Cartmel Priory, Didsbury, London, Norwich, Nottingham and various venues in Wales before stopping off here, their last concert before returning to Scotland. The concert will last about an hour and will include both sacred and secular music from the 16th century right up to the present day. Admission is free but donations on the night to help cover costs would be appreciated. This is a rare opportunity to hear a talented group of singers in a stunning setting – a real treat, not to be missed.

HIGH BENTHAM CP SCHOOL

By Catherine Boocock

North Craven Football Championship 1st April '09

On the 1st April 16 children from school attended the North Craven Football Championship at Ingleton Primary School. Organised by Ian Parker, the Championship saw us entering two teams, on a rather pressured mission to retain the cup won in 2008.

After a tense and exciting competition, we were delighted that one of our teams made it to the final. Kyle Slinger, Joel Wynn, James Burrow, Calum Stephens, Joseph MacDonald, Dominic White, Lewis Smith & Adam White (pictured) were proud to receive the trophy as the winning team. Also congratulations must go to Emily Campbell, Andrew Howard, Emma Parkinson, Mary Brownsord, James Lea, William Walker, Adam Robinson & Zoe Morphet. As a school we brought along one of the strongest fields with the greatest number of girls in it.

Increasing Early Years Day Care

From May we are running two sessions per week – two afternoons for 3 year olds and those who will be three during the summer term. Our experienced and professional Nursery Nurse Caroline Lequeux had agreed to run the sessions in the first instance. The day care will be available from 1.00 til 3.30pm, on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons in our super nursery. Sessions will be priced at £5.50 per child. Please contact school if your child is 3 years old before 31 August 2009 and you are interested in booking a place. We are also now taking bookings for places for next year so contact school and don't miss out as numbers are limited!

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.

Oz-tastic!

This year's summer production has been announced, and auditions have proved just how talented the children are. Roles for The



Wizard of Oz, from Dorothy to Toto himself, have been hotly contested, and judging by the enthusiasm in school, it promises to be another classic production.

Performances are scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday 15th & 16th July. We will be producing a programme as we did last year – anyone looking to advertise or support us please contact school.

Summer Fair: Saturday 4th July.

The afternoon starts at 2.00pm and there will be a wealth of exciting stalls, along with some superb performances from our talented pupils. Once again the Helen Howard School of Dance has promised us another stunning performance, and this year, we must surely be owed good weather!

Traders and charities can book a pitch for this well attended event by calling Vicky Sawyer on 64953. (There is a small charge for businesses but charities and voluntary organisations are invited to book free of charge.)

Why don't you come along and join in the fun!

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THE WRECKING CREW HDC BENTHAM BASH 2009

By Vic Craven

Yet again we have had a major success with the third "Bentham Bash" motor cycle rally at the Sports Club and Playing Fields on May Bank Holiday weekend.

The event is staged by "The Wrecking Crew" Harley Davidson Club and organised by local Bentham members and friends. The conception of this event was back in 2005 when I had a private party at Bentham Town Hall. This got us thinking that a similar party could be organised for Harley Davidson riders, friends and like minded people. Therefore with great enthusiasm from Steven "Cheba" Chesters, myself and other local Bentham people, we organised a party at the Town Hall called Bentham Bash in May 2007. This event met with great approval, the only shortcoming being the inadequate camping facility.

So we approached the Sports Club and Playing Fields Association for the 2008 event. This facility gave us the required bar facility, a good level area for camping, with separate toilets and showers. Although the lounge area of the sports club is too small, we extended this with a marquee, to accommodate the live music and dancing, with riders coming from all parts of the UK, Holland, France, Germany, Belgium and Switzerland.

This year we extended the marquee to accommodate the greater numbers and with the help of our local public houses, the live entertainment and catering was extended into the town area, benefiting many of the local shops and businesses. With the favourable weather over the Bank Holiday weekend, the attendance was good, with over one hundred tents on the site, and well in excess of two hundred bikers attending. This increased to over three hundred on the Saturday night with local residents joining in.

Saturday saw around fifty bikes in procession on a ride out, calling at and



being welcomed in Wray and visiting the scarecrows. On Sunday the ride out went to Hawes, Sedburgh and Kirkby Lonsdale.

As many locals who met the riders of the Harley Davidsons found out, they are mainly of a mature age, with their individual characteristics, some appearing quite intimidating with their tattoos, piercings, shaved heads and long grey beards, but all genuine, nice people who like a good time and appreciate the hospitality of Bentham Town. Their Harley Davidson machines vary from war time 45s to the latest 2009 models, with all the mod cons - radio, CD, CB, Sat Nav, Cruise Control etc. Costs range from £3,000 to £30,000 with custom machines maybe considerably more. There was a great deal of money on the playing field that weekend! As usual, the riders behaved responsibly and there were no problems. There was little to clear up as they used the bins provided to dispose of rubbish; perhaps some of our local youths should emulate this!

The Wrecking Crew thanks the town of Bentham and particularly the residents of the Wenning Avenue area.



BENTHAM FOOTBALL CLUB WINS LEAGUE

The photograph above shows Bentham's 1st team with kit sponsor, Mandy Booth of the Black Bull Hotel, prior to their last game, in which they won League Division One and gained promotion to the Premier Division of the North Lancs and District Football League.



Mr Philip Snowdon travelled specially from his home in Sweden to present the Match Ball to Bentham FC's Gary Louth 1st Team Captain, and old school friend and Chairman, Trevor Wheildon, at the last game of the season on Saturday 25th April.

Philip, an ardent Bentham internet supporter, grew up in Bentham, served an apprenticeship at George Angus in engineering, before leaving to work at Airedale Hospital from where he then retired after 25 years.

On match day, he met many old friends and work colleagues and helped to cheer on Bentham's 1st team to victory as league champions of Division One.

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