

BENTHAM NEWS



BURNDALE - DURING AND AFTER DEMOLITION

See article on pages 18 & 19 (pics by Mike Pridmore)



JUNE 2010

ISSUE 284

NEW SCHOOL FOR BENTHAM IN 2012

By Catherine Boocock

The long awaited new primary school for the communities of High and Low Bentham is a major step closer.

With the exchange of contracts between the landowner and the Local Authority, a site on Low Bentham Road has now been acquired and, subject to planning permission, we could be looking at a new school by 2012.

We are delighted that the architect is designing a building which will aim to blend with the surrounding landscape and reflect the history of the Bentham area and will offer 21st Century facilities for the children, families and communities of High and Low Bentham.

Road Safety Quiz

High Bentham's Year 5s proved they know how to stay safe on the roads as they won the inter-primary school road safety quiz held at Ingleton Middle School. The team, Mary Brownsord, Nathan Jeffs, Calum Cochrane and Lottie Morton, had swotted up on the green cross code and competed against teams from Clapham and Ingleton Primary.

The quiz was organised by the Year 8 Challenge Committee at Ingleton and led by Mr Ian Parker.

Our children answered questions about road safety, road markings and signs and worked brilliantly as a team winning by a clear 20 points!

Sri Sankara Vidyashramam – New Partner School

We are pleased to be able to announce that we have a new partner school. Following Mrs Heaton's lead, and the staff's hard work in making High Bentham an International School, we have just linked with a school in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India.

Working with children and staff there we hope to be able to make our learners into global citizens for the future – able to better understand and work with people from different countries, cultures and background.

"Three Little Pigs" at Bentham Town Hall 20th & 21st July

Following last year's success, we are again expecting great things from the children in our annual summer production. As well as showcasing talent (not something we are short of here) it also demonstrates just how well we work together as a community and not just a school. Costumes, refreshments, music, lighting and sound – all are made possible through the generous support of the people who make up the School Community.

And last year, thanks to local businesses and sponsors, we were able to make over £350 from the programme before people even bought tickets or made a donation on the night. Please contact school if you wish to place an advert for your business, we would be very grateful. The money we raise goes directly to supporting the learning and teaching that goes on in High Bentham, making it the school it is.

Bentham's Got Talent! 2010

The picture shows the winners of this year's Talent Show! 1st Lara Macdonald (Year 3) – dancing to Michael Jackson's Thriller. 2nd Jack Titterington, Lloyd Smith, Jack Garnett and James Clapham (Year 4s) – singing 'Beat Again'. 3rd Sophie Howard (Year 4) – singing 'You belong with me'.



Bag2School (Tuesday 8th June by 9am - any unwanted clothes, bedding, shoes, handbags, in any colour bin bag, are welcome to add weight to our collection.) Summer Fair will be on Saturday 3rd July, from 2pm.

MAY'S TOWN COUNCIL

By David Johnson

All the Cllrs were present except Cllr Hurtley and District Cllr Barrington.

The first part of the meeting was devoted to the Council reorganising itself after the elections. As three Cllrs have resigned and there were no new applicants the eight existing members have been returned unopposed. There are three vacancies (two for Low Bentham and one for High Bentham). If you are interested in applying to fill one of those vacancies you should write or email the Town Clerk as soon as possible. (see page 9) Cllr Marshall was elected Mayor and Cllr Burton is Deputy Mayor.

Police

PC Parsons reported on a vast range of offences over the last month ranging from criminal damage to vehicles, burglary, theft, domestic incidents and credit card fraud. County Cllr Ireton requested further details about criminal damage to see if it was increasing and the police promised to provide him with the statistics. There had been complaints about noise from the 'Wrecking Crew' weekend but the Cllrs were of the opinion that it had been well organised, better than last year, and that it was quiet after 12.15 a.m. They seemed keen that the event should stay in Bentham.

The New Primary School

The most exciting news of the evening came in County Cllr Ireton's report when he confirmed that contracts have been exchanged and it is hoped, subject to planning approval, that the new primary school will be completed by summer 2012. It will be located on Bellfleckers Field (the show field) as was originally proposed. The architect is designing a building that will blend in with the landscape and reflect the history of the area. Ideas will be shared with the community during the consultation process and there will be an opportunity to make comments and suggestions. Planning should be completed by early 2011 with construction starting in the spring. Cllr Ireton said that the authority realises that parking

and traffic will be an issue. The Cllrs welcomed the news and expressed the hope that the school will enhance Bentham Show and that it will be partly planned with the show in mind. They also asked for a drop off zone clear of the main road to help the flow of traffic.

Low Bentham C.P. School Field

This was briefly discussed. The Cllrs wanted clarification about whether the school building would be fenced off if children were allowed to play on the field. The Witherslack Group of Schools (they have purchased the Sedbergh school site) has been in touch with Cllr Adams and invited the Cllrs to visit Cedar House, Kirkby Lonsdale, when the school is in session.

Highways

There was concern about the safety of children in the Wesley Close area. Cllrs received a letter from residents asking for signs to be erected warning contractor's drivers that children play in the area. The Cllrs decided to write, drawing this to the attention of the contractors with a copy to Yorkshire Housing. Earlier in the meeting a member of the public drew the Cllrs attention to inadequate fencing around the area awaiting development on the corner of Goodenber Road and Banks Rise. He also said that one side of the substation near the fire station was unfenced and dangerous. Progress is in hand to upgrade the heritage trail.

Planning

The plans for the car park on Station Road were approved although some Cllrs expressed surprise that they included public conveniences after CDC closed the Grasmere Drive toilets. Proposals to carry out work on protected trees on Wenning Avenue playing field were recommended for approval.

Cleveland Square

The Cllrs considered a proposal from CDC for a licence at a peppercorn rent to hold the weekly market on the square. In return the Council would only have to pay one seventh of the rates, maintenance costs etc. They decided to seek advice from their insurers about the position and also to seek clarification about the deal.

IN YOUR GARDEN

By Joyce Knapp

The theme for this year appears to be "Grow your own" whether you look at the TV at such programmes as 'The Edible Garden' or just out of the window as a neighbour attempts to produce at least some of their food requirements for the coming year. This is backed up by the fact that, finally, we are about to establish a designated allotment site here in Bentham.

I believe this is all pointing in the right direction, as we are now being told that it is becoming ever more important that we become more self-reliant regarding food production, especially since the dreaded ash cloud has brought to light the extent to which we rely on imported food.

We are fortunate to live in an area where many of us have sufficient space to grow as much food as we wish but, if we only have a relatively small garden then, it is still possible to grow something, but may take a little more forethought and planning to decide just what to grow. Some people may wish to incorporate a small apple tree into an otherwise ornamental garden, or we can plant up a container with strawberry plants, both of which would give us the unique taste of fresh-from-the-garden fruit. Both gooseberry and black currant bushes give a very good return in relation to the space they require and we may find that even just one bush of each would produce a considerable amount of fruit. Another way we can furnish our larder is to combine with anyone who lives nearby and exchange surplus crops – perhaps we could trade some of our surplus gooseberries for someone else's surplus damsons (assuming we don't have the space for our own damson tree).

Getting back to the ornamental garden, by June we should have completed the planting up of beds and borders with any tender bedding plants and all that needs to be done is to keep an eye out for weeds, removing them before they have a chance to set seed. This may also be a good time to run an eye over the garden as a whole, making note of any overcrowding so that we know what to thin out, or move, as the plants die back at the end of the season.

NATURE NOTES

By David Fisher

There is evidence of wildlife nearly everywhere you look. In our garden now we often see butterflies and early emerging moths, some of which I have trapped and released, after recording which they are, when I've seen them and how many I've seen etc.

Feeding birds has somehow brought a pair of mallard ducks to the garden for the first time known!

Daffodils have been lovely this year but are now virtually gone but trees and shrubs are budding, hedges are out and birds have been nesting. They have carried nesting materials to their hideaways, and young fledglings will be appearing soon. The diversity is now more abundant.

I've walked recently at Wharfe and seen a pair of green woodpeckers. In Low Bentham Wood there were two stoats, four brown hares and two roe deer, so it is a very exciting time of the year.

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CRAVEN CONCERNS

By Cllr Lin Barrington 015242 61034

Now the Election's Over ...

Congratulations to Linda Brockbank (Conservative) who won the election in our ward. She and I are now your District Councillors serving the Bentham and Burton area. There were also elections in eight other Craven wards and as a result we now have 19 Conservatives, 7 Independents and 4 Liberal Democrats (a total of 30) running Craven District Council.

What Happens Next?

After the election, the Craven District Council Annual Council Meeting is held, and at this meeting all the committee places are decided. There are lots of committees, but the main ones are Policy, Overview and Scrutiny, Audit and Governance, Licensing, Planning.

The places on each committee are in proportion to the political groups; for instance on the Policy committee there are 15 places so the Conservatives will take 10 places, the Independents will take 3 and the Lib Dems will take 2.

Coffee Mornings and Book Swap

I'll continue to turn up at the Saturday coffee mornings at the Town Hall, and the Book Swap at Low Bentham Victoria Institute (2nd Saturday morning of each month). Maybe see you there!

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COOKERY PAGE

By Patsy Henderson

Roquefort and Butternut Squash Fritters with Pear Relish

Recipe

For the relish

3 Conference pears,
cored and chopped into
1cm pieces

1 small onion, peeled
and chopped finely

200ml white wine
vinegar

50g dark brown sugar

For the fritters

400g fresh butternut squash, peeled,
deseeded and cut into 1cm cubes

200g Roquefort cheese, crumbled into large
pieces (see note)

65g plain flour

3 medium egg yolks

freshly ground black
pepper

2 medium egg whites

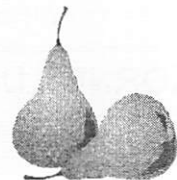
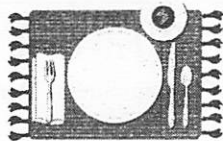
15ml vegetable oil

Note: Roquefort is a
strong blue cheese. You
may prefer a milder blue
e.g. Dolcellata, Yorkshire Blue or Irish
Cashel.

Method

For the relish. Place all the ingredients in a
pan and reduce over medium heat for about
15 minutes.

For the fritters. Boil the squash in a pan of
water for 2-3 minutes until tender. Drain and
refresh in cold water. In a large bowl mix
together the cheese, flour and egg yolks and
season with pepper. Whisk the egg whites
until they form soft peaks then fold them
gently into the squash and cheese mixture.
Heat the oil in a large frying pan and add the
mixture to make 12 fritters, turning them
over at about 2-3 minutes, until golden
brown. Place 2 or 3 fritters on a bed of green
salad. (I prefer rocket with lamb's lettuce).
Serve with a spoonful of pear relish.



Apricot and Oat Fingers with Passion Fruit Dip

Recipe

For the dip.

1 passion fruit

2 tbsp low fat fromage frais

7 dried, whole apricots

Enough mint tea to cover the apricots (See
note 1)

40g rolled oats

50ml mint tea, reserved

30g coarsely ground mixed nuts (see note 2)

Method

Soak the apricots in enough boiling mint tea
to cover and leave for about three hours until
soft or simmer gently for about 30 minutes.
Preheat the oven to 180C, gas 4. Lift the
apricots from the tea and puree in a food
processor. Put the oats in a saucepan, add
the apricots and pour in the reserved tea and
the nuts. Mix well and cook over a low heat
for a few minutes.

Oil a small baking sheet and press the
mixture onto it. It should not be too thick.
Bake in the oven for 20 minutes. If you prefer
a browner surface, brush with a little oil and
grill it for a few minutes. Make the dip while
the mixture is cooking. Cut the passion fruit
in half and scoop out the flesh and seeds into
a bowl. Mix with the fromage frais. Cut the
apricot and oat bake into fingers and serve
warm or cold.

Note 1. If you prefer a more delicate
flavour, use Camomile tea.

Note 2. Home made mixed nuts are
preferable because packet nuts contain
mainly peanuts.

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ELECTIONS ROUNDUP

By Shirley Brown

Prior to the election, Churches Together organised an event in the Methodist Church Hall where a vociferous audience of more than 70 people was able to meet and ask questions of the three main candidates. On 6th May there was a 70.7% turnout for the two elections that took place in Bentham. This was up by 4.6% on the elections in 2005. The results are as follows:

Parliamentary

Julian Smith – Conservative – 27,685 (50.6% of the vote)

Helen Flynn – Liberal Democrat – 17,735 (32.4% of the vote)

Claire Hazelgrove – Labour – 5,498 (10% of the vote)

There was a 2.6% swing from Conservatives to the Liberal Democrats, and Julian Smith was elected with a majority of 9,950. Other votes were cast for the following: UKIP 1,909, BNP 1,403, Roger Bell Independent 315, The Youth Party 95, Virtue Currency 84.

Craven District Council

Linda Brockbank – Conservative – 893

Barry Hymer – Liberal Democrat – 619

Viki Hindle – Independent – 598

Bentham Town Council

There was an uncontested election for the Town Council as not enough people put their names forward. Our Town Councillors are: Chairman: Thomas Marshall (HB), Vice Chairman: Tony Burton (HB), Gareth Adams (HB), Chris Barnes (HB), Martin Faichney (LB), Gerald Hurtley (LB), Anne Yaman (HB) and Bernie Wills (HB).

As there are three vacancies, two for Low Bentham and one for High Bentham, it is hoped that co-opting people on to the Town Council will fill these. For co-option an applicant need only be on the electoral roll for Bentham, i.e. a High Bentham person can be co-opted for a vacancy in Low Bentham, and vice versa. See Jo Burton's article on page 9 for further details and an explanation

of the role and responsibilities of Town Councils.

Are we apathetic?

In Craven District Council, of the 22 Parish Councils which were up for election, 16 have had to use co-option, including Bentham, Burton and Ingleton. So why are people not putting themselves forward to serve on our town or parish councils? An easy answer would be "apathy", but this is clearly not the case in Bentham where volunteering and unstinting public service is more popular than ever and voluntary organisations are thriving.

It does seem that local democracy is not well served when our local councillors are self selected and elected, so attempting to answer this question might be worth some effort. Do our readers have anything to say on this topic? We would very much like to hear from you and will publish your answers, short or long (not too long!), in an article in the July Bentham News.

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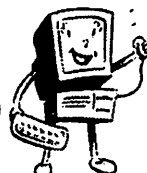
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CO-OPTION TO BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL

By Jo Burton (Clerk to Bentham Town Council)

Parish/Town Councils are local authorities first created by statute in 1894 and given powers by parliament to raise and spend money. The Parish Council is the first tier of local government closest to the people, and represents and serves the whole community. It must balance the needs of different elements of the community to get the best result, and has the difficult task of deciding what the best result might be!

The Council is an 'it'. In law a Council is a single corporate body and the decisions it takes are the responsibility of the Council as a whole. No individual councillor (including the Chairman) can make a decision on behalf of the Council. Individual councillors contribute to the work of the Council by suggesting ideas, engaging in constructive debate, responding to the needs and views of the community, representing the residents, commenting on proposals to ensure the best outcome and voting to enable the Council to make decisions.

Bentham Town Council meets on the first Monday every month to transact its main business, which includes commenting on planning applications, working with Highways to try and keep the parish's roads in good repair, responding to consultations from Craven District Council, NYCC & other organisations, organising grass cutting, some street lighting and attempting to solve problems that residents may bring to the Council's attention. There are also various committees to run the Market, Cemetery, Town Hall, Tourist Information, Budget, Calendar and hopefully Allotments, which generally meet on the second Monday and report back to the main Council at the next meeting.

Following the recent election process to the Parish Council, 8 councillors were returned in an uncontested election leaving 3 vacancies. These vacancies will now be filled by co-option - in other words the current Council will appoint residents to fill the

spaces. The co-option process enables the Council to make itself up to a full complement in the absence of sufficient candidates standing in an election.

Apply by 4th June

People who are interested in being co-opted must meet the same requirements as for the election i.e. be on the electoral roll for either High or Low Bentham, or live within 3 miles of the parish boundary or have land or property within the area. To be considered for co-option, an individual must write to the Council (care of: The Clerk, Wynnstay, 41 Springfield, High Bentham, LA2 7BE). In the letter they should explain why they would like to be considered for co-option and state any previous community/council work, and other skills they can bring to the Council. This letter should arrive with the clerk by 4th June.

All the applications will be considered by the Council at its meeting on 7th June. The Council will then vote (either by show of hands or, if requested, by signed ballot) and the 3 new Councillors will be elected by majority vote. Interestingly, the Council is not duty bound to take applicants and could decide to leave seats open although this is unlikely to happen. The co-opted Councillors will then take their places at the next Council meeting on 5th July.

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HORNBY DRAMA GROUP PLAY

By Hilary Strickett

Hornby Drama Group will present a play for voices, "Under Milk Wood", by Dylan Thomas, at Hornby Institute on Wednesday 30th June at 7.30pm.

An all-seeing narrator invites the audience to listen to the dreams and innermost thoughts of the inhabitants of an imaginary Welsh village, Llareggub. They include Mrs Ogmore-Pritchard, relentlessly bossing her two dead husbands; Captain Cat, reliving his seafaring times; the two Mrs Dai Breads; Organ Morgan, obsessed with her music and Polly Carter, pining for her dead lover. Later the town wakes and, aware now of how their feelings affect whatever they do, we watch them go about their daily business.

We are also performing on Saturday 5th June, 7.30pm at Halton Community Centre, Low Road, Halton and Saturday 19th June, 7.30pm at St Paul's Church Hall, New Street, Brookhouse. Tickets £6 adults, under 16s £3.

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CALLING ALL MUSICIANS

By Keith Hartley

Do you play a musical instrument such as a bass or lead guitar, and would you be up for 'making a joyful noise unto the Lord'?



If you've a *yes* to both questions, and would be willing to make a weekly commitment to carrying God's music into the next decade and beyond, then the Worship Group at the newly refurbished Bentham Methodist Church would love to hear from you. Please contact Mary or Peter Longton on 015242 61534.

PS. If you don't play an instrument but know someone who does, please pass this notice on to them.

BENTHAM FILM GROUP

By Stella Hall

Based on the best selling book by author Audrey Niffenegger, *The Time Traveller's Wife* [Cert 12A] is the next film to be shown by Bentham Film Group in June.

A Chicago librarian suffers from a rare genetic disorder that sends him hurtling through time whenever he is under extreme duress. Despite the fact that he vanishes at frequent and lengthy intervals, he tries to build a stable future with the beautiful young heiress whom he loves. Eric Bana and Rachel McAdams star in this dramatic fantasy. The film is on Saturday 12th June, starting at 7.30pm in the Victoria Institute, Low Bentham. There will be an interval for refreshments and a raffle will be drawn. Tickets cost £5 on the door. The annual AGM will be held at 7pm before the film. Anyone interested may come along. If you would like further details, see our website www.benthamfilms.co.uk

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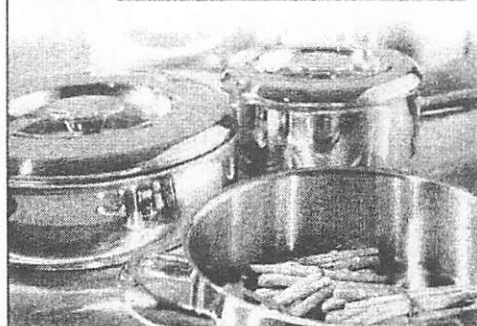
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OLD PICTURE HOUSE FADES INTO THE PAGES OF HISTORY

By Stanley Wilkinson

For the observant Benthammers it may have come to notice that the Old Picture House at the bottom of Robin Lane has been demolished. All that now remains are the memories of the picture goers in Bentham and the heroes and villains of the silver screen.

The Picture House at Bentham was built in the heyday of cinema by my grandfather, William Wilkinson, who lived in the bungalow adjacent. He ran the cinema, a job which in turn passed to my dad, Stanley Wilkinson Senior. The running of the Picture House was a family affair. My dad operated the projectors, my mother and grandfather were in the pay box and my grandmother assisted with ushering and cleaning up after the shows, making ready for the next night.

Many of the older residents of Bentham will have memories of the Picture House, which in those times was a major entertainment venue for the area. During the cinema's time there were three changes of films in the week and two houses on a Saturday night, which catered for those wishing to go to licensed premises prior to going to the cinema.

I was a schoolboy at this time but I remember my birthdays well. My dad would invite all my party going friends to the cinema where we would watch Tom & Jerry cartoons as a birthday treat. The

Picture House did well until the mid 50s when the advent of television killed off all small town cinemas with people staying at home to watch TV.

Sadly, in 1958 the Picture House closed its doors as a cinema for the last time. After several years being more or less empty, it was eventually sold to the firm of Decorous Garments in Lancaster who converted it into a small factory. When this closed after a number of years it became the Burndale Nursing Home. This ran successfully until closure a few years ago. The property was put up for sale and has now been razed to the ground for development.

I remember the Picture House with great affection. It must have been the premier entertainment place for Bentham. No doubt many people will have memories which go back further than mine.

The cinema itself has now passed into the pages of history, but for now, and in the words of the end titles of Warner Brother Cartoons "That's All Folks".

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THE HESLETON DIARIES PART 4

By Peter Phillips.

1938 Jan 12th Missus wouldn't go market. Moods side out.

13th Bob Wilshaw dead, Hammond Head.

21st Me went Agricultural whist drive and dance at Winter Gardens, Morecambe. Packed to door it was, 1,010 folk there. *(William would have been sorry to hear that the Winter Gardens closed in 1977)*

29th Billy Bargh sale. Me bought a chopper and Eddie Bentham bought a bed.

30th Yoked Isaac and went for chopper and bed. Strange load.

July 17th Me went church. Fred Wilcock hay timing, me never seen this before, couldn't believe it. Went back to make sure. Dear me.

Aug 12th Violent thunder storm. Teddy Rawlinson's house in Lowgill struck by lightning. Me went to Moorcock for goose grease.

(Now comes the sad bit).

Oct 10th Horse John hurt leg, so went see Bobby. Wonderful horse vet.

11th Me upset about horse John so stayed in bed.

15th John boy died.

16th Waggot, nacker man, took John boy away. Me hide away at Lane House.

Farmers obviously formed a great attachment to their horses as they were dependent upon them for all the heavy work on the farm before mechanisation.

1939 Jan 10th Young Teddy Middleton's funeral at Lowgill. Killed with horse while working at Quernmore. Snow at fault, he slipped and horse trod on him. Aged 16. What sad doo.

Mar 1st Farm at Coldcoats unsold £1000.

Apr 5th Holly Taylor came for a pet lamb, Lythe Farm

14th PROPERTY DAY. Raygill farm, 214 acres, sold to Metcalfe for £4000.

May 2nd Sweeping chimla, women folk cleaning.

Jun 5th Roger Bainbridge weds Miss Clapham.

22nd HIRING FAIR. Me call at Ainsworth's garage for bag of spare parts for Austin 7.

Jul 14th Me and Bobby Taylor go Yorkshire

Show.

Aug 1st Me and missus go Lancaster show. George Bargh dead.

Sept 4th War declared at 11 o'clock. Dear me, bad news.

Oct 19th Dipping sheep at Staggarth.

24th Wartime. Ploughing officials come round.

28th Got plough oiled up after 20 years being idle.

Nov 26th Got old mote mill working. Must be at least 100 years old.

1940 Mar 18th Went Keasden Head sale. Bought old Wolsey motor for £2.

Apr 6th Had my first doo at driving motor car by pulling chain harrow in far meadow.

9th Me go Guy Hill sale. Motor car there made three pounds. *(He didn't waste time making a profit!)*

17th Old Stephen Armstrong's furniture sale. Him and his missus moving into Alms Houses.

May 26th Me went Horton to pay Davies the last £12.10/- of £50 borrowed money had from him. Somewhat eased mind now.

Jun 1st Robert Parker's eldest son, Mewith Head, weds servant girl Florrie, from Walney Island. She a hard working lass. *(Shades of "Lark Rise to Candleford"!)*

Aug 18th Us cutting corn at Staggarth. Francis got leg hurt. Breeches got fast in cogs.

Sept 1st War raging. 7 bombs dropped at Eldroth.

14th Plane crash on Ringstones Close, Burnmoor, near Croasdale Grains.

Oct. 29th Bomb dropped at Manor House, Farleton.

Nov 20th Spencer's horned tup got out and killed ours.

(Continued on page 15)

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HESLETON DIARIES

(Continued from page 14)

Dec 3rd I sold Charlie Metcalfe an old iron mill.

1941 Jan 2nd Blizzards raging. Roads blocked. Feb 5th Many roads still blocked up. Tommy Clarke's egg wagon burried in Sunny Bank Brow.

24th Nab let his bungalow to 2 people from Liverpool who came out of way of bombs.

Apr 22nd Me went Peter Bramwells funeral, Lowgill.

May 17th Me not well. Dr. came. New Monia.

Jun 29th Knowles shop Benthams on fire. Much damage done.

Sep 20th Me went Bell Baileys funeral. She lived in Alms houses. She left me a jug in her will.

1942 Jan 10th Eli McLennon dead.

14th Me stay in because of blizzards. Batty and Harriet go markit

Feb 28th Captain Low came to live at Gayle House. Bought off Mrs. E.Kidd

Mar 14th David Mecca's missus burried. He left with 5 sons eldest being no more than 17.

May 14th A surprise wedding at 8 a.m. at Lowgill Church. It foxed the natives somewhat, no body had heard a thing. Reggie Leece and Mary Bateson by special licence. Our maid couldn't get over it. (*Oh dear! Was it a scandal?*)

23rd Gordon Parker 3rd son from Mewith Head weds land girl. She hails from Askham-in-Furness (*The Women's Land Army, often called "The Forgotten Army", was actually formed in 1917. The WLA was reformed in June 1939 first asking for volunteers and later by conscription with numbers totalling 80,000 by 1944.*)

Jul 1st Francis had to join up. He went in Air Force (*Francis was William's nephew*).

Aug 2nd Done nowt but rain for 10 days.

Nov 5th property Lowgill Hall sold to Luke Carr £1900. Bracken Bottom 676 acres sold to Jepson, mill owner from Blackburn for £1300.

25th Whitray Farm sold for Mrs Brennand to Sir Harold Parkinson of Hornby Castle £3300.

Dec 25th Maid gone home. Me missus and Batty had quiet day.

And so the 3rd year of the war ended.

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Dear Bentham News,

In a previous letter to BN I tried to raise interest for a Low Bentham Parish Council unfortunately residents showed little interest. I also stated that a review of local Parish Councils was being undertaken within The Craven District. Interestingly at their last meeting Bentham Parish Council discussed this topic and guess what, the megalomaniac councillors voted in favour of applying for more Councillors for High Bentham!

This is early days in the review and the most likely outcome will be a reduction in the number of Councillors representing Low Bentham. There could also be other changes further inhibiting future changes to the Low Bentham Parish. Any changes proposed by the current Parish Council will reduce still further the influence Low Bentham residents have on how precept taxes are spent locally. You still have time to make your concerns known, better still why not create a Low Bentham Parish Council?

On another point, the Trustees of the Victoria Institute have written to The Parish Council to try and establish a more realistic approach to the funding of repairs and maintenance that the building requires. The residents of Low Bentham own the Victoria Institute as their village hall, in essence no different to The Town Hall or Community Centre in High Bentham. Historically small grants from the precept have been handed out to the VI as if it were a members club, this year receiving even less than most! The amounts received yearly are insignificant never meeting the needs of the application made or indeed urgent repairs that are required.

The response will go a long way to seeing where the residents of Low Bentham figure on the Parish Council's agenda.

Mike Yeates, Low Bentham.



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WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

Low Bentham

By Pam Warbrick and Jennifer Watkinson

At the April meeting author Dick White gave a fascinating account of shipwrecks and drownings in Morecambe Bay.

He explained how changes in the channels there had had a profound effect on access to the ports of Heysham, Fleetwood etc, over the years, and consequently on the lives of fishermen and ferry passengers. He showed a wonderful series of slides, including paintings of early 19th century disasters, shots of the hulks of wrecked vessels which have become evident fairly recently, and of the most successful rescue from quicksand of an individual buried up to his neck! Altogether an entertaining and informative talk.

The president and two committee members attended the North Yorkshire West council meeting in Harrogate. The morning speakers were from IDAS, formerly Harrogate Womens' Aid, who appealed for towels and toiletries for their eight unit refuge. After lunch, Helen Colley from

Farmhouse Fare, gave an inspirational talk, followed by questions and answers, about her famous pudding company.

Seven members assembled in a potting shed at Deerslet, where Carolyn Lawson made up a hanging basket. Afterwards we went into her warm lounge where she demonstrated her flower arranging skills. Five beautiful arrangements were made and later raffled. The evening concluded with a tasty meal in the nearby tearoom.

The next meeting will be on 17th June when Dr. J.F.R. McIlveen will be talking about climate change and global warming. Visitors are most welcome.

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BENTHAM NEWS is published at "Latharna", High Bentham, by an editorial committee consisting of Trevor Blackwell, Shirley Brown, Christine Hodson, Peter Phillips, Ken Robertson, Pam Woof, and co-ordinator, Bill Kennedy, who can be contacted on telephone 015242 62492, or Shirley Brown on 015242 61608. Every effort is made to ensure that information contained in the paper is correct. However Bentham News is an open access paper and views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the editorial committee. The committee reserves the right to edit contributions. We are willing to withhold names on request, **but names, addresses and telephone numbers must accompany all items for publication**, which should be handed in to the Gallery, Station Road, by the copy deadline, the 15th of May for the June edition. The Bentham News email address is: benthamnews@lycos.com.

A BIGGER BENTHAM

By Peter Phillips

Who says that there is a recession? Looking around Bentham at the moment, despite the current economic climate, one can see several developments and construction projects under way. Probably good news for the town but people are naturally concerned to find out what is happening so that they can decide how these changes are going to affect them and their town. Bearing this in mind I decided to visit the various locations.

Wesley Close Development

My first stop was the development off Wesley Close where I called on Mr Lee Carr, the Project Manager, in his Portacabin headquarters opposite the entrance to the site. Inside on the walls were detailed plans of the site and Lee was sat in front of a bank of box files containing everything needed to run a large project such as this. The main contractors are Mansell Construction Services, York Region, and they are building for Yorkshire Housing Ltd.

There are thirty four properties being built, eight of which are apartments and are for rent as Social housing. As far as possible the building materials are being sourced locally. IngleNorth, a construction site muck removal business based in Standish, Wigan, have been doing the bulk excavation work and using their tipper trucks to remove the soil. There are sixteen employees mainly from Morecambe currently working on the site.

People had voiced concerns about the possible problem of the drains being unable to cope with the extra houses but Mr Carr said that the drains had been upgraded in Goodenber Road. The closure of the right of way across the field was only temporary for safety reasons and it would be reopened upon completion. He added that there was nothing in the plans to indicate a supermarket on the site - something which had been the subject of local speculation.

Asked about a completion date Lee said that this was anticipated to be 22nd November. Finally he said that the proposed name for the development was Heathland Crescent. On leaving the Office I looked at

the mass of scaffolding erected for the apartments and all the heavy machinery moving around the site. Let us hope they have fair weather to complete the project.

Burndale

I next visited the site of the Burndale Nursing Home. It looks a little sad now - just a flattened space surrounded by a metal link fence. However, C.M.Slinger and Sons are about to start work on a 2 storey office block. It will be a stone construction designed to blend with the surroundings and is being built for RSR Diagnostics for Auto-immunity, a major developer and producer of medical diagnostic kits. They have purpose-built laboratories in Cardiff and employ 100 staff in the UK. The new office in Bentham will be the administrative centre of the Company.

Riverside Caravan Park

After this I crossed the Wenning to visit Riverside Caravan Park where work has been going on since autumn clearing land and laying hard standings. The following is a press release about the developments there.

At Riverside Caravan Park, new development work is being carried out in readiness for what business owner Thomas Marshall believes will be a very busy year for UK tourism. The increased cost of overseas holidays and uncertainty about air travel over the coming months are both contributing to more families' decisions to stay in Britain.

There has certainly been no shortage of prospective buyers for the luxury caravan holiday homes at Riverside, reports Thomas. He is currently relocating some of his pitches to a new area on the park, partly to accommodate the larger leisure homes which customers now specify, and partly to ensure that each unit provides a generous allocation of space and personal privacy for the owners.

At the same time, Thomas is embarking on an ambitious landscaping programme which will see the planting of hundreds of indigenous trees. As well as enhancing still further the natural beauty of the park, says Thomas, the plantings will provide additional habitats for the park's wildlife.

Riverside's eco-management policies this year were singled out by botanist David Bellamy for a "special distinction" in his 2010 Conservation Awards. The park was one of only 20 in the UK to receive the prestigious accolade, and celebrates

the Marshall family's successful efforts to encourage wildlife and protect the natural world.

Bentham Primary School

Having seen men with theodolites taking measurements in Bellflecker field I rang North Yorkshire County Council to ask about the proposed new Primary School for High and Low Bentham. John Lee, Strategic Planning Officer for Children and Young People's Service told me that they had come to an agreement with the landowner to secure the site for the primary school, conditional on planning permission being obtained.

The County Council's consultants, Jacobs, are preparing a design for the new school, working with the school and the County Council. The ideas on the proposed design will be shared with the community at an event during this summer. The planning application is to be made in the autumn and will probably be decided by the County Council planning committee early next year. If permission is obtained, work could start on the site in the late spring and the new school could be completed for summer 2012.

Bentham Methodist Chapel

During the last six months the Methodist Chapel has been totally refurbished. The old wooden pews have been removed and under floor heating installed. There is a warm, inviting and more modern look to the church. Read more about the changes in the "flier" enclosed in this BN edition.

And Finally –

The old Grammar School site in Low Bentham has been bought by the Witherslack Group. This group is a provider of specialist education and care for children and young people with behaviour, emotional and social difficulties, communication difficulties and complex learning difficulties. Through their schools and children's homes they provide a diverse day, residential and 52 week system of education and care. The School is very keen to be a part of the community as it is at present in Kirkby Lonsdale.

Excitement is building about the move and they will keep us up to date with developments as things are finalised.

ANNIE CARRINGTON'S FOURTH LONDON MARATHON

By Bill Kennedy

You may have seen Annie jogging along the lanes around Bentham, and wondered why she does this. Well, it is all in preparation for her marathon races. It can be very hard work, physically and mentally, but meeting the challenge is also very fulfilling.

In the London Marathon on 25th April, Annie completed the course in the excellent time of 3 hours 37 minutes and 15 seconds. She will probably aim to beat that time next time she runs the London Marathon - 2012.

Annie wishes to thank all those who sponsored her to run the London Marathon this year. Eventually she will have collected over £1,000 for the North West Cancer Research Fund based at Lancaster University. She sends a big thank you to the Holt family for their encouragement, to Karen at the vets and a very special thank you to Doreen Park for her continuing support.

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LOCAL EVENTS IN JUNE

- Tue 1st** Bentham Child Health Clinic at the Surgery, 2-4pm, also on 15th and 29th.
Bentham Footpath Group walk, Gregareth, 8 miles, leader Mary Taylor, meet at Lairgill 9.30am.
Yoga at the Town Hall, 6-7pm and every Tuesday.
Craft Club at the Wenningdale Room, 10am-12noon and every Tuesday.
Aerobics at the Town Hall Ballroom, 7.30-8.30pm and every Tuesday.
Looking Well, Singing in Harmony, 7.30-9.30pm and every Tuesday.
Men's walking group leave Looking Well 9.30am return 11.30am and every Tuesday.
- Wed 2nd** Coffee morning at Methodist Church 10-11.30am, and every Wednesday. Donations to local charities.
Café-IN at Looking Well, 11am-1.30pm and every Wednesday.
Looking Well gardening group, 10am-12noon and every Wednesday.
Looking Well Community Art Shed, 11am-4pm and every Wednesday.
Victoria Institute Drop-in 10am-12noon, also on 7th, 9th, 14th, 16th, 21st, 23rd, 26th and 29th.
Victoria Institute Community Link Café 11.30am-2.30pm also on 7th, 9th, 14th, 16th, 21st, 23rd, 26th and 29th.
Victoria Institute Line Dancing 2-3pm, also on 9th, 16th and 23rd.
- Thu 3rd** High Bentham W.I. meeting at the Town Hall, 7.30pm. "The lives of the Bronte Family".
Rosemary Conley Fitness Club, Town Hall Ballroom, 6-7.30pm, also on 10th, 17th and 24th.
Looking Well Men's Art Group, 1.30-4pm, also on 10th, 17th and 24th.
- Thu 3rd** Looking Well In the Same Boat - Cancer Support Group, Drop-in, Art Session, Lunch and Therapies 11am-1.30pm, also on 10th, 17th and 24th.
Swimming at Hornby for over 50s (men and women). Telephone Barbara 62873 or Carol 61233 to arrange transport, also on 10th, 17th and 24th.
Victoria Institute Bat n' Chat, 10am-12noon, also on 10th, 17th and 24th.
Victoria Institute Gardening, 1-3pm, also on 10th, 17th and 24th.
Victoria Institute Art Classes, 10am-3pm, also on 10th, 17th and 24th.
- Fri 4th** Age Concern at the Masonic Hall, 10am-2.30pm. Talk by Tim Reid.
Yoga at the Town Hall, 6.30-7.30pm, also on 11th, 18th and 25th.
- Sat 5th** Farmers' Market at the Lower Town Hall, 9am-1.30pm
St. Margaret's coffee morning, Town Hall Ballroom, 10am-12noon. 
Garden Party at The Grange, Low Bentham Road, 2-5pm, in aid of Methodist Church Development Fund, admission £1 includes refreshments. Children free. In Church Schoolroom if wet.
Cave and Mountain Rescue Open day at Clapham, from 10am. River Rescue race at 2pm. Food, BBQ, Live music etc. Everybody welcome.
- Mon 7th** Methodist Church Hall, Toddler in for parents/carers and babies/toddlers, 10-11.30am and every Monday. Adventurers Group for 4-6 year olds, 3.45-4.45pm and every Monday in term time. Springboard for 7-10 year olds 6.15-7.15pm and every Monday in term time.
Craven Customer Services at the Town hall, 10am-12.30pm and every Monday.

- Mon 7th** Town Council meeting at the Town Hall, 7.30pm.
Victoria Institute, 5.30-6.30pm
Slimming Group, also on 14th, 21st, 26th and 29th.
Victoria Institute 6.15-7.15pm, Tai Chi also on 14th, 21st, 26th and 29th.
Victoria Institute 7.3-8.30pm, Peak Fitness also on 14th, 21st, 26th and 29th.
Gentle walks for women, leave Lairgill at 9.30am, also on 14th, 21st and 28th.
- Wed 9th** Bentham Footpath Group walk, Bentham/Burton circular, 5 miles, leader Joan Clapham 64906, meet at Horse & Farrier 6.30pm.
Open Day at Methodist Church, 10am-8pm.
NSPCC monthly meeting, Lingfield, 44 Robin Lane 7.30pm
Looking Well 11am-1.30pm
Positive Futures Project, also on 16th, 23rd and 30th.
Looking Well, 2-4pm, Art for all, beginners welcome, also on 16th, 23rd and 30th.
Pilates at Town Hall, 9.30-10.30am. Gentle exercise to help with posture, also on 16th, 23rd, and 30th.
Moving Well at Town Hall, 10.30-11.30am, gentle exercise to music, also on 16th, 23rd and 30th.
- Thu 10th** Welcome-in dominoes at the Methodist Church Hall 2-4pm. For transport contact Nigel/Kath 62272. Also on 24th.
Art class at Wenningdale Room, 1-3pm, also on 17th and 24th.
- Fri 11th** Age Concern at the Masonic Hall, 10am-2.30pm. Extend exercise with Colin Etherington.
Methodist Church Hall, 7-8pm
GFI for school years 6, 7 & 8 and 8.15-0.15pm for school years 9+, and every Friday in term time.
Book Making Workshop, Looking Well, 12.30-4.30pm.
- Sat 12th** Methodist Church coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10am-12noon. 
- Sat 12th** Bentham Methodist Church Open Day 10am-4pm.
Bentham Footpath Group walk, Pendle, 11 miles, leader Sandra Robinson 64906. Lairgill 9am.
Kirkby Lonsdale Brass Band at St. John's 7.30pm. See ad on page 15.
Bentham Film Group "The Time Traveller's Wife", 7.30pm at the Victoria Institute. See page 11.
Book Swap at the Victoria Institute 10am-12noon.
- Mon 14th** Mindfulness Meditation Group at Looking Well, 7-8.30pm; also on 28th.
- Tue 15th** Copy deadline for July edition of Bentham News.
- Wed 16th** Bentham First Responders, 7pm at Looking Well. Come and talk to us about joining.
- Thu 17th** Low Bentham W.I. at the Victoria Institute, 7.30pm. See page 17.
Bentham Footpath Group walk, Bainbridge & Askrigg, 8 miles, leaders Judith Harrison and Verena Smith, 61624. Meet at Lairgill 9.30am.
- Fri 18th** Waste paper collection at Lairgill car park, 8.30-11am. Proceeds to NSPCC.
Age Concern at the Masonic Hall, 10am-2.30pm. "Name that tune".
- Sat 19th** Settle & District Blind Association coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10am-12noon. 
- Sun 20th** And 28th Open Gardens, Clearbeck House, Higher Tatham, 11am-5pm.
- Mon 21st** Bentham Footpath Group meeting at Town Hall 7pm.
- Wed 23rd** Tatham Fells School Garden Party and Open Day 2pm.
- Fri 25th** Age Concern at the Masonic Hall, 10am-2.30pm. Card Bingo.
- Sat 26th** Cricket Club coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10am-12noon. 
Bentham Footpath Group walk, Dunsop Bridge, 8 miles leader David Longton 61838. Meet at Lairgill 9.30am.

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RECYCLING SCHEME AT TATHAM FELLS SCHOOL

By Lisa Oliver-Hannis

Tatham Fells School is running an exciting new recycling scheme, in line with our bid to become a recognized ECO School. We are currently collecting old mobile phones, ink cartridges (all makes except Epson) and old CDs, DVDs and computer games. All of these items can be exchanged to raise money for our school and some ink cartridges and mobiles may be worth up to £30! All CDs, DVDs and computer games must come in their original box with the relevant barcode still attached. Discs are sold on and recycled, ink cartridges are re-filled and mobile phone parts are re-used. This has to be better than the landfill and also raises valuable funds.

Please support us if you can and please spread the word that we are collecting. All of the above items may be dropped in the box in the main entrance at school or we would be happy to collect items from you. For item collection, please contact school on 015242 61441 or bursar@tathamfells.lancs.sch.uk



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BRIAN LEVICK LEAVES FOR LANCASHIRE

By Stephen Dawson

Since the Revd Brian Levick retired to Bentham in 1998 he has presided at Sunday services in 17 of the Ewecross Deanery's 18 churches. Only Clapham has missed out. Many families have also appreciated his home visits before baptisms and funerals. Throughout his time in Bentham Brian has been Ecumenical Adviser to Churches Together.

In some ways Brian was ahead of his time because on becoming a priest, in 1964, he continued to work part-time as a solicitor specialising in agricultural law. Over the years, this saved the Church a lot of money! He was also one of the first priests to be recognised as a Methodist minister when he took on an ecumenical post in Bradley and Cononley. He learned a great deal from his Methodist friends about the sacramental nature of the sermon. And in Hemel Hempstead he was one of the first "Team Vicars" as parishes began working collaboratively.

Brian was born on the Isle of Ely, now Cambridgeshire, and later moved to Lincolnshire where, aged 16, he was articled to a solicitor. He returned to Cambridgeshire aged 33 to train as a priest, a spiritual journey that began as a boy one summer's day.

By the time Brian retired in 1998 he was back in Lincolnshire as County Ecumenical Officer. His role was to encourage denominations to learn and grow together. Before that post though he had parishes around Sedburgh, Kettlewell, Hubberholme and Halton Gill. At Halton he recalls a dramatic journey through drifting snow to get young people home after a trip. He knows every corner of these beautiful southern dales and is very sad to be leaving the friendly people and hills of Yorkshire.

Brian's ministry always emphasised the priest's pastoral, as against liturgical or administrative role, for example visiting the sick and taking an active interest in the difficulties of rural life. He also had a heart for the Third World and was an active

member of Local Action for Justice & Peace.

Recently Brian retired again from taking services and playing the organ and moved to Lytham to flats run by the Church of England. We are glad that *Ecumenical Adviser* turned out to be his longest appointment, and for the influence he had, and will continue to have, on the people he encountered here in the hills.



Left to right, Edith Fox, Sue Pilkington, Brian Levick and standing, Timothy Fox and Isabel Joel.

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LOOKING WELL NEWS - BENTHAM

By Julie Vass

Throughout June, we are offering an exciting range of public exhibitions, events and opportunities that are guaranteed to stimulate, inspire and lift the spirits.

Among the opportunities on offer, Phoebe Caldwell winner of the Times Steinberg Award will talk about her moving work on Autism on Monday 7th June - 6pm (booking essential), new exhibitions: The Lifecycle of Plants by The Cancer Support Group for the Flowers of the Dales Festival 14th June - 9th July viewing by arrangement, 'Look Again', works by established and emerging artists for North Yorkshire Open Studios 11 - 20th June 10am - 4pm daily, and a display of work emerging from our recent project for people with memory loss at The Folly, Settle. Jay Haigh, Interim Manager, said "As a specialist in arts and health practice, Pioneer Projects has an important role in bringing exemplary work to the fore; the June programme expresses many areas we are currently involved with".

Pioneer Projects is currently seeking new Trustees and, in particular, is looking for people with skills and experience in one or more of the following areas: arts and health/arts in a community context; finance and financial management; strategic business planning, marketing, media and PR. If you would like more information please contact Lynda Graveson 015242 62672 or lynda@pioneerprojects.org.uk

'Open Day' Saturday 26th June - This is an opportunity to come along and find out what we have on offer for all the community. On the day there is a countryside ranger walk (booking essential), café serving homemade soup and cakes, art activities, plant stall and much more. Donations of any spare plants gratefully received (phone Julie 015242 62672).

July Taster session. "Working in schools" - Free course for people interested in working as a classroom assistant. Those who wish will then move on to the 'Access to Working in Schools' in September (phone Rosie 07890011298).



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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.

June 1990

This month's edition led with a report from Bentham's Annual Gala (remember them?) Although it had been a glorious day with bumper crowds, fears were expressed that the Gala would soon cease to happen if people didn't come forward to help organise it.

How prophetic! When I see what happens each year in the surrounding villages I really don't understand why a community the size of Bentham can't organise a decent bun-fight for itself.

Last month LASRUG reported a reduction in the local rail service and said that the first train from Leeds and the last train from Morecambe had been lost. This month, clearly anxious to help, "Archie" (?) wrote in to suggest looking for them in the Melling Tunnel!

This month's issue carried an obituary for Jenny Walker, Deputy Head Teacher at Settle High School, who had died in May after a battle with cancer.

In his report from the District Council, Ralph Atkinson offered a hope that new regulations announced by the Ministry of Defence would mean a reduction in low-flying "sorties" over Bentham.

I really do feel that someone should have told the pilots!

From this month's Town Council meeting, Kate Steele reported that it took approximately 30 seconds to elect Bentham's new Mayor.

Presumably it was done this quickly so that the proposed incumbent, Bernard Dawber, wouldn't have time to leave the building!

Bentham Town Council had been renting Cleveland Square (the market site) from Craven District Council for several years and had assumed that the rental charges included the rates. However, the District Council must suddenly have decided otherwise, as they

sent the Town Council a £611 bill for back rates. The Town Council was refusing to pay this until one of the District Councillors had investigated the matter, and it was feared that if indeed the Town Council was liable for the additional payment then the ability for the market to continue was in some doubt.

The issue must have been resolved as both stalls still continue to battle gamely for Bentham's pence!

Whilst on the subject of battling gamely, I noted from the Town Council report that the need for a skateboard park had come under discussion as a possible means of addressing the dangerous use of Bentham's roads and pavements by 'boarders. Today, 20 years on, Bentham is still without a skateboard park, although a group of dedicated enthusiasts continue their efforts to raise enough money to build one. Doubtless they could do with some help; any offers?

I often look at buildings and wonder what stories they have to tell. I was therefore quite fascinated to read that the Main Street shop that is now Duxbury's Discount Store (Ken's) was previously one of the oldest butcher shops in the area. John Wildman, whose family had been resident in Bentham since the 1600s, farmed in Bentham and opened the shop in the mid 1800s.

Following his death in 1894 the shop passed through a succession of Wildmans, the fifth and last being Nigel Wildman who owned the shop until its closure.

Always a progressive business, Wildmans was at the forefront of retail development in the area. For example, to ensure fresh meat in the 1800s they installed an icebox and "imported" ice from an ice factory in Lancaster. Until a new slaughter house was built at Pye Busk, cattle were slaughtered at the rear of the shop and meat distributed throughout the area by a horse-drawn butcher's cart. In the 1930s a Model T Ford replaced the horse and cart and Wildman's installed Bentham's first electric coldroom which remained in operation for over 55 years. The fourth Wildman, Bernard, acquired Bentham's first frozen food cabinet in the early '50s.

It's amazing what's behind a shop front!



ADMIN ASSISTANT PART TIME

Little Red Bus Craven is looking for a part time admin assistant to be based at our offices at the Station Building in Benthams. Hours of work can be negotiable but must be during the afternoons Monday to Friday.

We need someone willing to join the current team who has a good working knowledge of Word, Excel, Powerpoint, Access and Publisher. You must be flexible, have a good telephone manner and prepared to deal with a variety of office tasks. An interest in transport and community projects would be a definite advantage. Please contact Anne Yaman on 015242 62753 or email anne@benthamsct.co.uk for an application form and job description.

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BENTHAM PEOPLE

Personal Thanks

Margaret Williams and her family wish to thank everyone for their kind wishes and cards on the death of their sister Joan Jones - also many thanks to Richard Wallace and James Macdonald.



Thanks

Mary Swithenbank. I would like to thank family and friends for the great birthday party held at the Con Club on 1st May. £175 was raised for the Bentham After Care Fund.

Grateful Patient (*name and address supplied*). I would like to express my patient's viewpoint relating to **Sister Sue Lumb** who, alas, retires this month (June). Sue is a unique blend of warmth, compassion and professionalism, dare I say of the old school variety. This human dynamo will be sorely missed by the hundreds of patients she has treated. Have a long and happy retirement Sue, you thoroughly deserve it.

Viki Hindle. Thank you to everyone who voted for me in the District Council elections. Particular thanks go to Paul, Manuel, Cheryl, Mike, Lin, Cherry, Di and Sophie whose support was unwavering!

The Community Link Café would like to thank Philip and Linda for their kind donation on the morning of their farewell coffee morning, for trips out.

District Councillor Brockbank - Thank you to everyone who voted for me in the District Council Elections. I was fortunate to have a strong team behind me who worked very hard to bring about the success. I am looking forward to representing Bentham Ward and to working with Bentham Town Council and Burton Parish Council. Now the hard work begins!

Wanted

The Community Link Café is looking for a volunteer to help out on Wednesdays at the Victoria Institute. Lunch is provided. Job will include making lunch and washing up. If interested please contact 63162 on Mondays or Wednesdays between 10am and 2pm.

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Charities Thanks

Tatham Fells School would like to say a very big thank you to Bentham Line Dancers and High Bentham Methodist Church who have each donated £100 towards our outdoor development fund.

Bentham Line Dancers - Air Ambulance is the latest recipient of our £100 donation, in appreciation of all their good work. The group at the Victoria Institute on Wednesday afternoons is making good progress and enjoying the dancing. Thursday evenings at New Butts Farm continues to be very lively and a lot of fun.

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BENTHAM ABBEYFIELD OPEN MORNING

By Angela Robertson

Bentham Abbeyfield on the Main Street, High Bentham (next to the Post Office) is hosting an Open Morning on Tuesday 8th June from 10.00-11.30am to raise awareness of Abbeyfield - a nationwide charity that provides housing and support for older people.

This is an opportunity for residents, staff and volunteers to come together with the local community to celebrate all the positive aspects of later life. Coffee and biscuits will be provided free of charge. There will be a raffle and a cake stall.

If you, or someone in your family, are considering moving into a comfortable, caring environment where you can still maintain your independence but also receive part board and companionship, do come along on Tuesday 8th June. Everyone is welcome.

We are also looking for volunteers to join our House Committee. If you want more details ring Angela Robertson on Bentham 61285 or come along and speak to her at the Open Morning.

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BENTHAM FOOTPATH GROUP

By Maureen Ellis

As I sit at the computer the fittest members of the Bentham Footpath Group are doing a 10 mile walk 'Round Roeburn' and that is just too far for me now. One of the attributes of the group is the variety of lengths as well as localities - there is something for everyone.

It can also be said that the increasing number of walking groups in Bentham, such as the one for ladies on Mondays, and a separate one for men and also a little farther afield in Settle, even more groups give lots of choice. The U3A in Settle has a walking group on alternate Tuesdays and alternate Thursdays and the North Craven Heritage Trust has walks nearly every month on a Sunday afternoon. Also look out for the Forest of Bowland Festival walks at present.

Of course we all also do our own thing and I had a magnificent sunny May weekend in Scotland when I much enjoyed the ascent of one of the Munros known as Beinn Bhionaidh.

There has been difficulty contacting some of the leaders for expanded details for the June walks but the membership card and calendar of events in this magazine can be relied on for dates and times.

Firstly can I draw attention to Monday 21st when the Open Business Meeting takes place at 7pm in the Wenningdale Room of the Town Hall. This is always an important



event when suggestions and problems can be discussed.

The two walks I have details of both meet at Lairgill at 9.30am. Firstly on Tuesday 17th there is the Bainbridge and Askrigg 9.5 miler (note it is a little longer than printed in the programme). Climbing out of Bainbridge the route goes round the base of Addleborough and then overlooking Semerwater it goes to the tiny hamlet of Thornton Rust, and then down to Worton and crosses the main road and down to the River Ure. There is then a flagged path across the field and over the railway line through Askrigg and along the road back to Bainbridge. The walk is a figure of eight.

On Saturday 26th the 'Dunsop Bridge' walk is 8.5 miles. It starts from the car park at Dunsop Bridge (SD 661 501) and follows the River Dunsop up the valley to Brennand Farm mostly on farm roads. Then there is a steep climb up Whin Fell and down into the Trough of Bowland. The route then takes us down by Langden Brook back to the car park avoiding roads where possible.

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BURTON UNDER FIVES

By Viki Hindle

Now that summer is here, the toddler group at Burton Under Fives has some fantastic new outdoor activities for all pre-school children, their families and carers.

On Tuesdays from 1.30-2.30pm we will be having some Outdoor Summer Fun, come along and play in our free flow outdoor area or on the bikes and cars in the schoolyard. If it's not very summery weather, we will have a Gym Jumpers session in the school hall. On the third Tuesday every month, we will still be having our dance session with Miss Laura from Helen Howard's School of Dance.

Our Thursday sessions have moved to mornings for this half term, 9.30-11.00am. We will be having a messy play session, which will be tailored to the children who attend. There will be painting, play dough, water tray and sand pit fun, corn flour slime and whipped snow (you'll have to come along to find out what they are!). Please ensure your child is wearing appropriate clothing. Come along and see what we have to offer. We still have funded places left for 3 and 4 year olds starting in September - for information please contact us on (015242) 62126.

WHO SANG IT?

By Keith Hartley

Methodist Church Pop Music Quiz winners From several correct entries, two prize winners were drawn - 1st prize (£25) Pat Knowles, 2nd prize (Easter Egg) Margaret Ball. If you would like a list of the answers please call 62373. Many thanks to all who supported our quiz.

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OPEN DAY FOR SOLE TO SOUL

By Marie Rayner

On 16th June 2010, Sole to Soul will have been in its new home on Grasmere Drive for 12 months. As part of our celebrations, we are having an Open Day on Saturday 12th June from 10am to 3pm. We are delighted to invite you to join us to meet the Therapists, sample some of the treatments available and to find out more about what we have to offer.

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BEST NEWS - SAVE ENERGY: SAVE MONEY

By Graham Pritchard

We all know about increasing energy costs, and that the government is trying to get us to reduce our energy use. Here are some hints about how each of us can do our bit, and save money in the process.

First, look at your home and ask where you are using energy and where you are losing it.

- Do we use energy saving bulbs?
- Do we switch things off when they are not needed?
- Do we leave anything on standby for long periods?
- Is the house too hot? Could we turn down the heating a little and put on a jumper instead?
- Are the water pipes insulated?
- Do we have thermostatic valves on radiators (so they switch off when a room is warm enough)?
- Is our hot water tank well insulated?
- Is the insulation in the loft thick enough? (should be 250mm/10").
- Do we have double-glazing and is it in good condition?
- Do we have cavity wall insulation?
- Are our windows and doors draughty?
- Do we use too much water? It takes 1kWh of energy to get 1m³ of mains water to your tap. Try using a "Water Hippo" in the toilet cistern (or a house brick would do) and mend dripping taps and cisterns straight away.

Your answers will suggest ways you can save energy and money in the long term, without much expense or inconvenience.

Where does your electricity go? To find out, borrow an Energy Display Monitor from the library, or from BEST at the Slipped Disc shop on Main Street. An EDM is simple to use and shows which appliances use most electricity. After monitoring your electricity use for a while you will be able to think of more ways of cutting your consumption and bills.

BEST is planning a pilot project to show how energy efficient Bentham houses are,

using a Thermal Imaging Camera. The pictures taken with a TIC show where heat is being lost. We will photograph a number of properties, carry out an analysis and report the results. If you are interested in taking part, contact BEST@tathamfells.me.uk. If the pilot is successful, it could lead to a more extensive survey.

BEST stands for Bentham Environmentally Sustainable Town. *The next BEST meeting is on Thursday 3rd June at 7.30pm in the Horse and Farrier Inn, Main Street.*

SHAPELY DOES IT The Future!

Following a meeting of gym members to discuss the future of "S.D.I."

A suggestion has been put forward to run it as a "co-operative". This would mean that the gym, which has proved to be a successful benefit to the community, would continue as a service run by the people for the people. If anyone is interested in being part of the co-operative please contact Kath Higgins on 07737 229570 or Kath-higgins@hotmail.co.uk for more information.

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POLICE REPORT

By PC Adrian Hayes

Most readers of the Bentham News will be aware of the recent police operation in relation to the search of premises on Mewith Lane. Subsequent to the media release about this operation, my colleagues and I were approached by members of the public with other information that would have been useful to the investigation if it had been supplied to us at the time. I want to reassure you all that any information supplied to the police about any suspected criminal activity, will be treated in the strictest of confidence. Unfortunately we do not have a crystal ball that tells us everything that is happening.

The specific piece of information that you provide maybe the last piece in the jigsaw that brings an investigation to a successful conclusion. Where it is relevant the police will obtain and execute search warrants. There are however strict criteria we have to abide by when obtaining such warrants and it is difficult to obtain them on the basis of

uncorroborated anonymous information.

Police powers of stop and search are heavily dependent on patrolling officers acting on relevant recent intelligence. Recently there have been other offenders stopped, searched, arrested and their premises searched as a result of information supplied by members of the public.

You can provide that information by calling North Yorkshire Police telephone number 0845 6060257 or crimestoppers 0800 555 111. Better still speak to any of the local officers you see out on patrol.

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CHRISTMAS LIGHTS GROUP NEWS

By Jayne Mann

We are pleased to welcome on board Ali Guy who has just joined our committee; always room for more though!!

Unfortunately some of our plans for this year have been thwarted by costs and general apathy, however not to be beaten, we are rapidly re-thinking, with less than 6 months to go. Our web site is up and running at www.bclx.org.uk and the presentation video is available to watch on youtube via the link, or go to youtube.com and type in Bentham Christmas Lights.

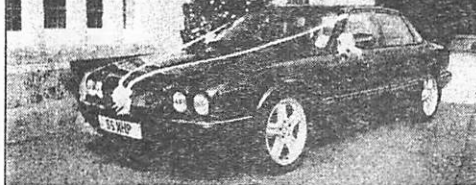
We always seem to be begging I know, but we really do need your help and input. After all we are just a small group of people who are working voluntarily to try to light up your town and make it more cheerful at Christmas! Call me on 64948 or Iain Henshaw on 61010.

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BOWLAND ARTS FESTIVAL

By Pete Flowers

Green Close will open its doors during the last two weekends in June: Friday – Sunday from 11am -5pm on the 18-19-20 June and 25-26-27 June.

Art Exhibition: From Bowland to the World

This is an exciting open studio and mixed exhibition of artists' work exploring their understanding of the complex cultural landscape, which makes up our rural environment. Commissions created in response to the unique habitat of the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty will be on display alongside work by resident artists and young contemporary Mexican Artists. Free creative activities for children.

To celebrate further on our opening evening, Friday 18th June, the Harry Moyaga Band will be playing South African Jazz layered with indigenous rhythms of the region, at Melling Village Institute, Melling at 7.30pm. Tickets available in advance from the studios £7 adults/£4 children.

On both Sundays the 20th and 27th June there will be the opportunity to take part in a free Ranger Guided Studio Walk, starting at the studios around the upper Lune valley then visiting the open art studio for a cuppa and cakes. 1pm – 4pm meet at Green Close Studios.

For bookings and further information telephone Green Close Studios - 015242 21233. Info@greenclose.org

Events for children and families at Green Close Studios Melling during June: Bowland Arts Festival brings together an exciting series of exhibitions, art trails, 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.

For a full listing of events across Bowland visit the website at www.bowlandarts.co.uk

LOWGILL SPORTS & SHEEPDOG TRIALS

Saturday, 12th June 2010

By Ian Brown

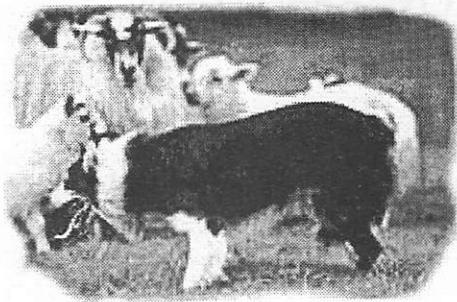
The second Saturday in June in the Lowgill calendar has been the date for Lowgill Sports & Sheep Dog Trials since before the Second World War. The tradition is as strong today as it has ever been with record attendances over the last few years. The format changed in 2007 moving the start from its traditional time of 1:30 to a later start at 3:15 p.m. something that proved very popular with all the local people and visitors who come from far and wide to enjoy the activities and to catch up with friends and relations. There will be refreshments, BBQ, raffle, and various games and amusements, including the popular coconut shy. There is also a Bouncy Castle for the little ones.

All activities and sports are open to all and there are excellent cash prizes for all events. The day kicks off at 3:15 with the fancy dress competition with the children's sports following on at 3:45. The very popular under 16s 7-a-side football competition starts at 4:00 split into two categories, an 11 years and under (Junior School age group) and a 12-15 years (Secondary School).

The Adult Sports will follow on at 6.00pm with all the usual events, Fell Races, Egg Throwing, Pillow Fight, Welly Throwing, Quoits, and many other track events. Contestants come from all over Lancashire and Cumbria. At 7:00pm we have a Cumberland and Westmoreland Wrestling competition and demonstration which has proved to be very popular in previous years.

The venue, as always remains the same, on the field opposite the school in Lowgill, one of the most picturesque places in Lancashire. Come along and enjoy the fun and bring your friends and relations.

For further information contact Ian Brown (Secretary) on 015242 61400.



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FOR A FREE ESTIMATE

Please note that the July edition of the Bentham News will be published on 2nd July.

LOW BENTHAM BADMINTON CLUB

By Julie Bridgeman

Another successful season has come to an end for Low Bentham Badminton Club. We have played at QES on Tuesdays 6.30 – 8.30pm with a membership of 28. Most members are aged 10 to 19.

The team in the adult league, (can't call them an adult team due to their age!) of Arthur Bridgeman Quin, Eleanor Dawson, Ellie Parker, James Longton, Laura Dawson, Pete Longton and Sarah Richardson finished 3rd in their division only 13 points behind the winners. This is a remarkable success as this is only their second season in this league.

We have 2 junior teams in Division 2 of the Lancaster and Morecambe Junior Badminton League. The A team, made up of Dan Wheildon, Dodge Kirkpatrick, Joe Lister, Jordan Kellett, Josh Mitton, Josh Whittaker and Pdraig Spillaine may have won the division. We're awaiting final results. Ben McKenzie, Chloe Faucett, Emily Brownsord, Georgia McKenzie, Kiera de Lima and Mary Brownsord did themselves proud representing the B team.

Six club members played in the Lancaster Tournament with two players getting through to the finals. Our own end of season club tournament was a success and enjoyed by everyone.

All the youngsters have been a pleasure to take to matches and spend time with over the season. They are a credit to themselves and should be justifiably proud.

We received grants from Bentham Line Dancers and Bentham Town Council for

which we are very grateful. A big thank you goes to Gareth Pritchard, Chris Brownsord and Kath Dawson who have given their time over the season. Thank you to Pam at the sports shop for accommodating my orders often at very short notice.

An article will appear in the September edition of the "Bentham News" telling everyone when next season begins and where we will be playing. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the coffee morning at the town hall on 4th September.



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BENTHAM MEN PLAY FOR ENGLAND

By Elza Sayer

This April two Benthamers, Tim Pilkington and Geoff Lawson, were selected to represent England in the Special Pool Championships at Bridlington. Geoff and Tim are keen pool players. Each week, whatever the weather, they go to Morecambe to play in the MENCAP Special Pool Club.

The England team is chosen from Special Pool Clubs around the country. It competes with other teams from Scotland, Ireland, Wales and Gibraltar.

The Ladies A and B teams played brilliantly, both bringing home trophies as runner-up to the champions, Ireland.

Morecambe MENCAP players also did well. Natalie Vranjes captured the Ladies World Title from seven times winner Valerie Taggart of Ireland, while Rosemarie Hobbs reached the semi-finals in the same event. The men's team, in which Geoff and Tim play, were not so successful, but they are on the heels of the leaders. Next year, with practice and hopefully lots of local competition to play against, they could be right up there.

Thanks to Bentham Social Club, Geoff and Tim are able to train nearer to home on the club's table here in Main Street. Would any local Bentham players like to have a game with them? Geoff and Tim enjoy meeting new players who share their enthusiasm and besides, competing with local players will help them up their game.



Geoff Lawson and Tim Pilkington ready to play in the Special Pool Championships.

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Hornby Village Trust - Notice

Following the retirement of Jim Calvert from his full-time job as General Manager of the Institute the HVT is required to reorganise the management structure and we are therefore advertising two new appointments which will become effective later in the year. We are seeking to appoint a Business Manager and a Custodian/caretaker to help run the Institute and achieve our stated objectives. Both jobs report to the HVT and involve commercial and community responsibilities. For further details please visit the Hornby Village Trust website at www.hornbycrc.co.uk

HELP THE HEROES

By Jon Brook

The evening of April 24th saw Low Bentham slip back in time, to the 1940s. A fancy dress dance with a theme of the 'years of the second world war', saw sandbags around the perimeter of the Victoria Institute and members of the Ingleton Home Guard ready to repel German parachutists and other undesirables. The air inside the Institute was filled with wonderful singing from 'Gracie Lands' as she belted out all the favourite songs of the time. The revellers ate a 'ration food supper' and danced in the hall decked out with union flag bunting, ammunition boxes, camouflage nets and war time photos and newspaper cuttings on the wall. Even an enterprising local 'Spiv' was seen selling black market goods.

The event, including the money raised by the Spiv, raised over £2200 for the Help for Heroes charity. The support from the people of Bentham and surrounding areas was overwhelming and the organisers, Tracey Chapman, Tina Jackson, Amanda Robinson and Jodie Park would like to say a huge thank you to more than 50 local people and businesses that donated items that made up 18 hampers for raffle prizes.

When asked why they chose to raise money for the Help for Heroes charity, Tina explained that they felt that as a number of local lads are serving in Afghanistan it was



The photographs, kindly supplied by Jon Brook, show (top), organisers Amanda Robinson, Tina Jackson, Tracey Chapman and Jodie Park. (Below) The Ingleton Home Guard with "Gracie Lands", the forces sweetheart, (Elaine Ward).



a charity that touched the community. In planning since September they settled on the idea of a forties style dance as it would appeal to people of a wide age range and would be a boost for the community spirit of Bentham, and besides, they love the music and it was a great opportunity to dress up.

Winner of the best female fancy dress prize was Claire Burrow and the best male fancy dress prize went to Pete Stringer. Watch out for the next event based on the Rock 'n' Roll era of the fifties.