

BENTHAM NEWS

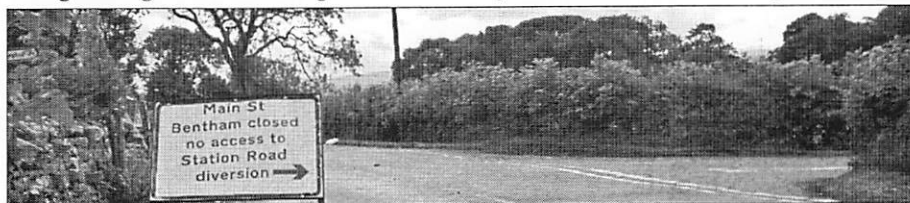
HOW TO CONFUSE A MOTORIST

By Keith Hartley

There's been grudging acceptance in Bentham that work on our new gas main has been necessary and would involve a degree of inconvenience. In general, local people have been able to negotiate the town's new assault course and go about their business. However, it has not been quite so easy for drivers who are not familiar with the area, as whichever way they approach Bentham they have encountered diversion signs which have sent them away from it!



Following this sign from Wennington would take you to Fourlands, and Ingleton or Burton.



From Ingleton or Burton, following this sign at Fourlands would take you to Wennington.



Following this sign from the Auction Mart would take you to Fourlands and on to Burton, Ingleton or Wennington. I personally witnessed someone with a touring caravan taking some 25 minutes to reach Station Road from the Auction Mart! So if you really want to know how to confuse a motorist, then you should ask North Yorkshire Highways Department because they are extremely good at it!

WHERE IS HE?

By Peter Phillips

Many people have expressed the pleasure they had from reading the entries from the diaries of William Hesleton. The last episode was in the July edition of Bentham News when the diaries ended with his death in 1946.

I have been fascinated with the diaries and intrigued with the man who wrote them. I know that many people keep a diary but to do so for so many years must be something of a record. The information they contain recalls life on a farm in the first half of the 20th century. This was a time when mechanisation was just appearing and during which the horse, mainstay of the farm, was relegated to the pasture whilst the steam traction engine took over most of the hard work in the fields. It also spelt the end of many farm jobs which could now be done quicker and with much less labour.

William was one of a family of five, with two brothers and two sisters. Born in 1872 he would probably have attended school around 1877. No school transport then or parents taking them to school – it was ‘Shank’s pony’ no matter what the weather! Entries in High Bentham School Register for this time gives some idea of what it was like:-

July 28th 1876: Attendance decreased from Monday. Made enquiries regarding absence and found many of the farmers’ sons were engaged at home.

Aug 7th: Monday morning. The new scholars admitted last week found very backward. Consequently require a good deal of attention.

Sept. 8th: No school today on account of the Agricultural Show being held.

March 28th: Kept the boys half an hour longer this morning. Found them very disorderly when I came in.

Illness was never far away in those times. Smallpox, measles, scarlet fever, diphtheria, whooping cough and TB were all prevalent and the young were very susceptible.

August 15th 1877: Many children away

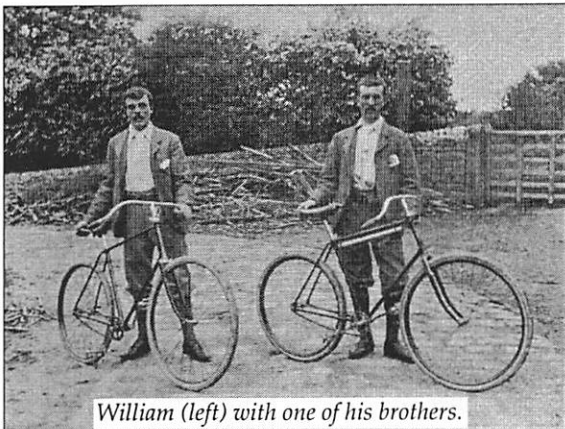
from school on account of having whooping cough.

January 30th 1878: Two boys away from school on account of an outbreak of fever. One, John Smith, is since dead.

From what I have gathered William moved to Beck Grange (or Grains as it says on the gate) from Linghaw in 1920 as there is an entry on July 27th of that year “First cart load of hay lead at Beck Grange, 1920”. He spent the rest of his life here recording his daily doings.

What a clever man he was too. He built a water wheel which provided the first electricity in the house in 1927. He soon became ‘mecinised’ with an assortment of motor cycles, (which frequently broke down!) He helped make wagon wheels at Green Smithy and was adept at every aspect of farming. His grief when “Horse John died” and “Old pet sheep died” was genuine and showed the close relationship farmers had with their animals. He enjoyed life and had a wicked sense of humour. Married at 55, he had no children. His wife died the year before him and 1946 was the end of the story – AMEN as he used to write. I have searched all the local churchyards trying to find his grave or that of his wife but without success.

I am trying to put together a story of his life. Many people in the locality knew him, or knew of him, and I would be very grateful to hear from anyone who could add a little information. Please contact me on 015242 61536.



William (left) with one of his brothers.

JULY'S TOWN COUNCIL

By Shirley Brown

A full copy of the Minutes will be available on the Town Council website, but here are some things that interested me at the meeting. As well as three members of the public, all the town, district and county councillors were there. This included the three new co-opted town councillors who were warmly welcomed by the Mayor and a member of the public who said he was "glad to see new faces on the Town Council."

Police Report

Although the police were not able to be present, they had given Cllr Barnes some details of June's reported crimes, including thefts of garden lights, drain covers, lambs and steel beams. The police say they were pleased with the good response from the public to their request for information in Bentham News.

District Cllrs' Report

There was some discussion about where exactly Low Bentham ends and High Bentham begins. Is it at Naylor Myers? This is important when making decisions about the relative representations allowed for each town. Clarifying the licence for the next Bentham Bash was also high on the agenda.

County Cllr's Report

Cllr Ireton gave fulsome praise to the voluntary sector that has been doing valuable work with the library service. Less welcome were his replies to questions regarding the prospects for our new primary school. He said that although primary schools seem to be less in the firing line of government cuts than secondary schools, the funding is safe "within North Yorkshire's capital plan" unless there is a government "claw back". But finally he had to concede, "nothing is safe".

Membership of Committees

This was decided without much discussion although when Cllr Procter asked why she had been put on the Buildings Maintenance Committee when she knew nothing about buildings and maintenance, the Mayor suggested, "her girly approach to the décor

might be required". This was such an outrageous sexist remark that I couldn't help wondering if it was done for effect, and to get a mention in Bentham News!

Planning

There were no objections to any planning applications; indeed Cllrs consider that Grove Hill Garage "does a good job" and agreed to their application to replace the bodyshop paint oven. The Clerk and Cllrs have worked long and hard to resolve the issue of the amenity land at Dalesview and recently refused planning permission for a bungalow to be built here. As the bench and wooded area are well used by residents there has been interest from them to take over its management, and perhaps if public liability issues can be resolved, this could be the best way forward.

Footpath and Clearing Gullies

It seems that if a footpath is well used for 20 years it can acquire some legal status, and this is the case with modifications to the official footpath alongside the railway line between Shakey Bridge and St Margaret's church. Also Cllrs decided to write to NYCC after some had watched the van used for clearing gullies bypassing some that were full. It seems that the workforce are guided by a computerised worksheet, so we need to inform them in advance so that then the "computer says yes".

Priorities for Rural Life

Cllrs' responses to a questionnaire about issues to be given priority in our rural area resulted in jobs and businesses topping the poll, followed by transport, then education and housing.

Low Bentham Play Areas

The school playing field has been fenced off and when public liability is sorted out this area will be available for use. Cllrs also had a "positive meeting" with Low Bentham residents about the play area adjacent to Ellergill.

Calendar 2011

It was agreed that proceeds should go to Bentham Juniors Football Club in 2011. Cllr Wills asked if there were any new sponsors who'd be willing to give about £200 towards this worthwhile community project.

GARDENING COLUMN



By Joyce Knapp

As we move on into August, our time will be devoted more to harvesting crops and less to sowing and planting them. Once the last of the summer fruiting raspberries have been picked, we can remove any netting put over to protect them from the birds and begin the work of thinning out the plants ready for next year. This is done by simply cutting out all the old stems that have just fruited (these are easy to identify as they look rather dark and woody) as near ground level as possible. Then all we need to do is seek out and remove the weakest of the new stems, leaving a maximum of three canes per root. It is, perhaps, best to tie in these new canes to a wire support, as they may become damaged by high winds if left loose. Black currant is another fruit whose season for picking will be drawing to a close and these plants also benefit from a trim. It may be possible to do this now, taking out a few of the oldest stems low down, preferably just above an outward-facing bud but, if preferred, this task can be left until winter, when the bare branches allow for easier access.

Moving on into the vegetable plot, there will be a whole range of crops ready for harvest this month, and we'll be spoilt for choice as to what to cook for dinner at this time of year. This is where clever storage methods come into play, as we decide what food must be eaten fresh and what can be successfully stored for use during the long winter months when shop prices are relatively high. I have found, from experience, that it is well worth growing calabrese (summer broccoli) using a Hybrid seed variety (these will all tend to mature at the same time) because they can be picked, prepared, blanched and frozen and will taste delicious when brought out to use in the depths of winter. One reason for growing our own produce is for the superior flavour and freshness, but if we are also considering the financial aspect it is well



worth doing some comparisons. During the past year the price of broccoli has risen dramatically, so it is well worth growing, whereas the price of carrots has stood still, if not fallen in the shops so we may choose to grow less carrots for this reason (though the taste factor is particularly relevant to carrots).

As a final note, I am looking forward to the development of an allotment site here in Bentham and would be interested in speaking to anyone involved in the project once it gets under way.

NATURE NOTES

By David Fisher

During another warm month I have seen a number of young birds which have recently fledged. Moth counts in my trap at home have been exceptional with very different types coming to the light (a Mercury Vapour lamp).

The river has been very low, as low as I've seen for a long time, and salmon have been waiting for heavy rainfall to raise the river level so that they can enter the spawning grounds. Smaller fish present at this time are ready to leave the river and go out to sea. They will stay there for about four years until big enough to return to spawn.

There are many rabbits running about in the fields and kingfishers may be seen flying along the Wenning. An old woodpecker hole is being used by blackbirds, on the banks of the Wenning. This is unusual as woodpeckers can take young birds.

An otter is said to be around on the Wenning. Hopefully they will increase in numbers and drive away the mink.

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CRAVEN CONCERNS

By Cllr Linda Brockbank, Tel: 015242 61598
E mail: lidabrockbank@tiscali.co.uk

What have I been doing since 6th May 2010?

10 weeks later and I have almost completed my initial training, been given a number of Committees to sit on, dealt with some cases, visited Age Concern at their AGM and 21st birthday party, attended meetings at Craven District Council, Bentham Town Council and Burton In Lonsdale Parish Council.

I have been to the coffee mornings at Bentham Town Hall most Saturdays, where the coffee is good, the homemade cakes very tempting and the chat is always lively, although I have yet to win something in the raffle, maybe next week!

Lin Barrington and I will be at the Town Hall coffee mornings as usual, so if you see us there feel free to come over and have a chat. Alternatively, you can contact us via e mail or phone.

Meetings

One of my first tasks with the Licensing Committee was to comment on a draft of the Horse-Drawn Hackney Carriage Policy. The policy is required for those seeking a licence to operate a Horse-Drawn Hackney carriage, in the Craven area.

Closure of Skipton Courts

The Ministry of Justice is looking at the potential closure of Skipton Courts along with a number of other courts across the country. The public consultation on the future of the courts is due to run until 15th

September 2010. To see the consultation documents go on to the internet and type in www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-cp13-10.htm

Both Lin Barrington and myself are against the closure. Skipton and Ripon MP Julian Smith is fighting the closure.

Butterbergh – Dalesview Development Amenity Land

Planning permission for a bungalow on the amenity land was refused at the Craven District Planning Meeting on 28th June 2010.

Local Transport

Bentham Town Council have been asked to comment on the Local Transport Plan. The Town Council have responded and have asked for the times of the buses to Bentham to be looked at, also if it's possible for some of the buses from Lancaster, which terminate at Wennington, to continue on to Bentham.

Gas Main Replacement

A number of residents have asked me to pass on their thanks to the bus drivers who are being very helpful in these difficult times.

Congratulations to Age Concern on attaining their 21st Anniversary.

Getting In Touch with Craven District Council Customer Services sessions: Every Monday 10am-12:30pm at Bentham Town Hall. Please visit the Website: www.cravencdc.gov.uk/craven or email Contactus@cravencdc.gov.uk

Telephone; see telephone directory for various departments.

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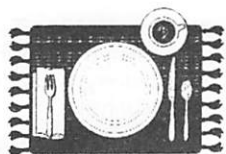
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COOKERY PAGE

By Patsy Henderson



Butternut Squash with Sweet Potato Curry

Recipe - Serves 4

2 tsp vegetable oil
1 large onion, roughly chopped
3 cloves garlic, crushed
500g butternut squash, seeded, cut into chunks
2 small sweet potatoes, cut into chunks
450g potatoes, cut into chunks
1 cooking apple, cored and cut in chunks
2 tsp mild curry paste
1 tsp turmeric
Piece of root ginger, peeled and chopped finely
2 bay leaves
500ml vegetable stock
50g raisins
salt and black pepper
4 tbsp low fat yoghurt

Method

In a large pan, heat the oil and fry the onion till golden. Add the garlic, butternut squash, sweet potatoes, potatoes, apple, curry paste, turmeric, ginger, bay leaves, stock, raisins and seasoning and stir it all together. Bring to the boil, stir well and then cover and simmer for about 20 minutes. Stir occasionally until the vegetables are tender.. Spoon into bowls and spoon over the yoghurt. It can also be served with rice.

No-bake lime and blueberry cheesecake

Recipe - Serves 4

Base

50g butter
2tbsp golden syrup
150g malted milk or digestive biscuits, crushed

Filling

250g mascarpone
200g fromage frais
50g caster sugar
grated rind and juice of 2 limes
150ml double cream

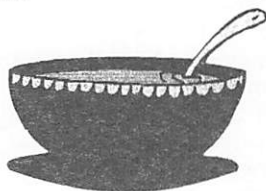
To decorate

250g strawberries or raspberries
125g fresh blueberries
icing sugar, sifted

Method

For the base, melt the butter and syrup in a saucepan. Stir in the biscuit crumbs, mix well and press into the base of an 18cm tin and place in the fridge to cool.

Beat the mascarpone in a bowl until soft, stir in the fromage frais, sugar and lime and beat in the lime juice. In another bowl, whisk the cream to form peaks, then fold into the mascarpone mixture. Spoon the filling onto the biscuit base. Refrigerate for up to three hours. Remove the cheesecake from the tin and decorate with berries and a dusting of icing sugar.



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SQUARE DANCING FOR BEGINNERS

By Peter Silvester

Lune Valley Square Dance Club is recruiting new members. On Mondays 20th and 27th September 2010, we are offering free taster sessions at The Centre at Halton, Low Road, Halton LA2 6NB starting at 7-30pm. We last recruited two years ago so don't miss this opportunity to join in the fun. We have a thriving membership from a wide area.

Even if you think you can't dance, give square dancing a go and you'll be dancing from the very start. There's no fancy footwork or complicated routines to remember. The challenge is to learn the moves but we have a very experienced Caller who will teach you. He will quickly have you dancing to a variety of music from Country and Western to all-time favourites and modern pop. Learning to square dance opens up a new world of fun and friendship.

Square dancing is good healthy exercise, mentally stimulating, emotionally uplifting, promotes overall fitness, cardiac conditioning and burns off calories. Above all, it is great fun – we laugh a lot, which is the best medicine of all. We can only accept new dancers for this limited period. So, come and join our newcomers' group – everyone welcome – couples or singles – two left feet no problem! Join us on one or both of the free nights – there's tea and biscuits at break time – and you will be dancing straight away. For more information or directions contact Peter (01524 771415) or Sheila (01524 411439). Web site - www.oceanwavers.co.uk

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ODE TO THE DOCTOR

By "A Pensioner" (name supplied)

O Doctor, dear Doctor. I'm feeling so sad.
I wish I could see you, I'm really quite bad.
My temperature's rising – it's awfully high,
I feel I might burst – or else I might die!

An appointment would help, but it's
useless to ring,

I might as well stand on a soapbox and
sing.

The new triage system is really obtuse,
We find it confusing – there is no excuse.
We hate being graded – it's appointments
we need.

The "Coffee Bean" sorting is useless indeed.
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TOURIST INFORMATION POINT NEEDS HELPERS

By Jo Burton (Town Clerk)

Do you know the local area?

Do you like talking to new people?

Do you have a couple of hours to spare every now and again?

If you answered yes to the above questions then please consider helping out in the Tourist Information Point. We need volunteers to provide cover for our regulars during the holiday season, no fixed times just the occasional two-hour session as required. For details please contact Wendy on 62549.

Want to take part in a Christmas Fair?

Following the success of last year's Christmas Fair the Tourist Information is looking to run another one on Friday 10 December if there is sufficient interest. If you would be interested in taking a table at the event please contact Jo on 62587 or email wynnstay@talk21.com.

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ROYAL MAIL BIKES A HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUE

By Shirley Brown

Bentham News has learned that one of the final actions of the Royal Mail's former chief executive, Adam Crozier, was to plan to phase out Royal Mail's cycle deliveries, replacing the traditional Pashley bikes with electric trolleys despatched from vans. The Royal Mail has plans to replace all but 500 of their 24,000 bicycles with vehicles and electric trolleys, citing concerns about the "risks of cycling". Adam Crozier asserted that postal workers on bikes violate health and safety grounds, and that the increasing weights of postal deliveries necessitate new delivery technologies.

Perplexed by the notion that cycling raises more health and safety issues than van driving, I talked to Bentham's postmaster, David Alder. He told me that at present Bentham has one bike, two vans and that one round is done on foot, with use of a trolley if necessary. He confirmed that all postal delivery rounds are at present under review as part of a programme of modernisation. David felt that he and the local postal workers would welcome a chance to talk through their concerns with those carrying out the review. David is "not meant to comment on policy matters" but is aware that there are contradictory arguments and a range of opinions among postal workers, and "a lot is up in the air at the moment". He confirmed that the weight of delivery bags is increasing because there is more plastic and

more packages. There have been some trials of low emission and electric vans, although not in this area. He has been told that decisions are promised in 2011.

Those arguing against the phasing out of bicycles say that this seems to go against government policies calling for reduced motor vehicle usage on environmental and health grounds. They also feel there is potential to use cargo bicycles which are already being used by courier companies such as DHL and FedEx. Those wishing to find out more about a campaign being organised by the CTC (Cyclists' Touring Club) can go to www.ctc.org.uk/royalmail.

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9am - 2pm

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MACMILLAN WILD WEST PARTY

By Mandy Booth

On the August bank holiday Saturday evening we will be hosting a great fun Macmillan fundraiser. It's been a while since we have had a Macmillan fundraiser as big as this in Bentham.

Earlier this year I decided to get my friends involved and have now got things in motion. The idea is to hold a fancy dress Wild West party, but with today's fashion it should not be too hard to find something to wear. There will be two bands, a disco, games, raffles, food and a bar. We have been working with Nikki Johnson from Looking Well to get some great ideas for decorating the hall and are also involving Bentham Football Club in running the bottle bar to help them raise some funds.

Some western style foods will be available to buy on the evening. Tickets will be on sale from from the Black Bull and Total Wellbeing, Station Road from the first week in August and will be £5 each including a raffle ticket.

TEMPTATIONS

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CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BENTHAM



CHURCHES TOGETHER
IN BENTHAM

Dear Friends,

For many of us the holiday season is here again and holidays afford a necessary and valuable break in our hectic lives. In many ways life seems more hectic now than it has ever been. Those of us in work seem to be under enormous pressures. We live in a society where target setting seems to be the fashion – whether in industry, or business or finance or education or in the health service people are under pressure to meet targets. Additional pressure is put on some people through harassment at work. This may be more prevalent in the work place than we realise. It wouldn't surprise me if the number of days off sick and the number of people prescribed tranquillisers or anti-depressants has increased.

Family life is probably much busier than it has ever been with perhaps mother and father both out working and children to be ferried here and there for various activities. There is little time to stop and reflect. Even the day of rest, Sunday, is filled with activities. Perhaps we can be grateful that the English government turned down a request to increase the hours of opening of large stores on Sunday. Those of you who have been on holiday on the continent may have noticed how family groups gather together in parks or in cafes at the weekend. Granted the weather is more favourable. We need time for relaxation – time to chill out. God was wise when he created the Sabbath

Day. We need space to reflect on our spiritual lives as well. We can be so busy 'doing' that we neglect our 'being'.

Many people enjoy going into an empty church and just being quiet and still. Quiet days and retreats are popular with many and the recent television programmes about the monastery and the convent have brought to the fore the importance of silence and prayer in life. We need to enter an oasis of calm at intervals, wherever that is, in order to reflect on who we are, what we are doing, where we are going. 'Be still and know I am God' the psalmist wrote.

Our diaries are so full of activities that we are rarely still. There is never an entry in our diaries Monday 2 pm – 3 pm – Be still and quiet. Meet God in the stillness. Perhaps we should think of entering such spaces in our diaries and remember some of our local churches are open in the day and when not in use for weddings or funerals provide an oasis, a calm – a holy place – a place set aside and sanctified by God and rendered holy through the prayers and praises of God's people.

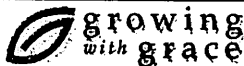
Have a refreshing and restful holiday.
Yours sincerely in Jesus' Name,
Revd Clive Burgess, Rector of the Benthams
& Rural Mission Adviser.

BENTHAM SHOW

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By Mike Lavelle

Do you wake in a morning and wonder what you can do today to brighten the lives of your fellow inhabitants of Bentham? We at Age Concern might be able to help you. We need people to assist some of our members in getting from their front doors to our minibus and back again when they attend various activities. Helpers are required on Mondays from noon until 2.00p.m. and/or on Fridays from 9.30a.m. to 11.00a.m. and from 1.30p.m. to 3.00p.m. A rota system is in operation and, with enough helpers, we hope that each person will be on duty on not more than one Friday and one Monday per month. We also run the occasional day trip when we require assistants.

We did consider paying for this service, £50 for a Monday and £100 for a Friday, but soon realised that people would prefer to do it on an unpaid volunteer basis so that they could know they were helping their fellow man uncontaminated by the lure of money.

If you can manage the occasional day, or would just like more information, please phone Mike Lavelle on 62903 or email lavelle.mike@gmail.com.

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LOW BENTHAM STREET MARKET

*By Joanne Zahler, Victoria Institute, Low
Bentham*

Monday 30th August, 2010
10 am- 3pm

The time has come once again for the Low Bentham Street Market. We are eagerly anticipating this event and would kindly like to invite you and your family to come along or even participate in the Street Market. Food, Refreshments, Raffle and Tombola and BBQ will take place on the day!

Table bookings are now being taken for £6 per table. Payment before the 15th of August will guarantee a table(s) on the day. Payment may be submitted at the Victoria Institute during opening hours 10am- 2pm Monday and Wednesday, or from 10am-12pm Tuesdays.

Alternatively payment may be included in an envelope and placed in the white letter

box at the entrance. Please specify the number of tables, your name and contact number.

We would also express our appreciation to volunteers for their time on the day.

We will be taking donated items to be sold at the Street Market after the 23rd of August. Please Contact Joanne for further details or information at 63162.

BN AVAILABLE FREE ON CDs FOR PEOPLE WITH READING DIFFICULTY

The BN is recorded to CD each month and posted to some people who have difficulty in reading. There is no charge for this service.

If you know someone in Bentham who would like to take advantage of this scheme, please contact 62492 or leave the name and address of the proposed recipient at the Gallery, Station Road with a request to have the CD each month.

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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.

August 1990

In a lively Town Council meeting (as reported by Kate Steele) it was decided that the clear glass in town hall windows should be covered with a cling-film type of material in order to render them opaque. This followed complaints from local residents that "the sight line into certain bathrooms is good enough to identify brands of underwear"!

Why on earth would anyone want to spend their time looking at clothing labels?

With a road resurfacing programme about to commence in Bentham's town centre, it was announced that in the near future the County Engineers would be digging an 18 foot deep trench the length of Main Street in order to renew the sewage system.

I'm taking bets on how long it'll be before someone decides to dig up Main Street again after the Gas people have left us! Or do we not do silly things like that in 2010?

Local cavers Andy Ive and Jack Pickup were preparing to lead an expedition of ten cavers to the small village of Isverna in Romania. The purpose of the expedition was two-fold, the primary aim being to deliver aid in the form of shoes and clothes, together with toys and gifts to the local community. Their load included 90 teddy bears, hand-knitted by Bentham people. The party also planned to do some caving in Romania, which is home to some of the world's finest caves.

It was hoped that the group would be able to acquire an old Transit-type van that they could use and then leave out in Romania for the village people to use to take the orphanage children on trips out, but at the time the article was written they hadn't managed to acquire one.

Anyone know if this happened? Anyone lose a Transit van around that time?

It was reported that Wenning Wanderers

Ladies Netball Team had been challenged by a team of men led by Rex Earnshaw. The Challenge was accepted and the game took place one Sunday afternoon in Bentham. At half-time the ladies were leading 8-6, but this was largely due to the fact that the men had no idea of the rules! However, inspiration (or a rule book) must have come from somewhere because the men gave their opponents a good thrashing in the second half!

Sorry, it's impolite to say that. I should have said that the men gained a narrow victory over their worthy opponents. Anyway, they won 22-11.

20 years ago Bentham had a professional racing cyclist. Phil Leigh (his brother Adrian still lives in Bentham) was having a fruitful season in races across the UK. Following a successful race in Edinburgh, in which he finished second despite carrying injuries from a previous race, he was selected for the Great Britain team in the 1990 Tour of Wales. The team helped their top rider achieve a very creditable fourth place in the race.

Bentham needs to know about its achievers so do let BN know if one of your relatives or friends has done something a bit special.

Albeit quite unusual, sex reared its ugly head in Bentham News this month. Shirley Brown's report from the Homing Society offered some insight into the difficulties inherent in trying to determine the sex of pigeons, although it seemed to boil down to a good deal of guesswork! The only definitive means of telling the difference appeared to be "by careful observation of behaviour." In other words, to see which ones laid the eggs!

Mind you, that was 20 years ago and sex education has come a long way since then!

Finally, I was fascinated to read the thank-you note from an 82 year old Shipley lady who had been on crutches and lost at Bentham Railway Station. She was recording her thanks to a man who had found her, telephoned her friends and then walked her to Abbeyfield House.

It wasn't the man she should have been thanking, but the Good Lord for getting her to the top of Station Road!

BENTHAM FOOTPATH GROUP



By Maureen Ellis

I write this with the happy anticipation of a summer evening walk to-night with the Bentham Footpath Group and the nagging knowledge that the weather forecast is doom-laden.

The debate goes on in the Group about the necessity of the inclusion of walks of differing lengths in each programme. It has also been mentioned to me that people with jobs can only walk at the weekends and so that factor has to be born in mind by our hard working programme organizer!

This month for all walks the meeting place will be Lairgill at 9.30am and we start with the Hawes walk of 8 miles on Wednesday 4th August to see the Red Squirrels at Snaizholme. Walking begins at the Cam Road where a track goes off the B2655. The return route is of necessity the same as the approach one. When I went two years ago I saw plenty of these beautiful creatures.

Thursday 12th brings the 7 miler Whelpstone Crag walk. I have no details of the route but having been there in the past I can report it is situated on the eastern boundary of the Forest of Bowland and is quite some landmark.

On Saturday 21st the 9 mile Sedbergh walk sets off from a layby near the approach to historic Brigflatts Quaker Meeting House. The furthest point will be Fox's pulpit at Firbank and that part of the route will incorporate the only bit of tarmac treading but mostly there is tranquil walking by the river and the skirting of the Howgills on the return.

On Saturday 26th there is the Caton walk of 7.5 miles which is a circuit round Caton and Brookhouse and includes some old mill cottages and returns along the river.



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Dear Sir,

We have the Bentham News delivered by post on a regular basis and have enjoyed the Hesleton Diary series very much indeed. They give a highly personal farming view of rural life sixty years ago and put into perspective what we consider today to be hardship. We take for granted all the mechanised equipment available to farmers but thankfully, in a small community like Bentham, there still exists that community spirit which has all but disappeared in many urban areas.

On a more personal note, your readers generally will not have appreciated how much work Peter Phillips has had to put in to transpose, and in many cases decode, the original handwritten manuscript. It has indeed been a labour of love and we should not allow the moment to pass without giving Peter our thanks for the effort.

Yours faithfully,

Mike and Jean Fletcher, Rutland.



almost folding up, together with some fine Show days, allowed the Society to put a bit of wool on its back (money).

With the certainty that the fields would never be built on I gave the land to my son with the proviso that it was never to be built on and always be available for Bentham Show.

This year, after threats of compulsory purchase North Yorkshire County Council has paid a non-returnable deposit on this land in a Green Belt with no planning permission, which in my opinion was only chosen because it would be the least costly to develop. There are several good venues closer to the centre of Bentham much more suitable for a primary school, and the proceeds from the sale of the existing school sites at Low and High Bentham could have contributed to building the right school in the right place.

May I now give my objections to the unsuitability of the Bellfleckers site for Bentham's junior school? Remember the winter we have just had? Imagine walking your children from Bentham to this isolated site between the two Benthams on uncleared pavements of snow and ice on a dark, cold morning or late afternoon. May I ask all mothers of young children plus any who are pregnant to walk down to Bellfleckers and think what it will be like?

As my son is the somewhat reluctant vendor I feel this is a difficult letter to write but feel very strongly about the stupidity of this choice, especially when there are other excellent sites near the centre of Bentham.

May I ask our town and district councillors to turn down this application and try to drill some sense into the County authorities.

I am 86 years old and no longer feel up to mounting a protest campaign but in 10 years time do not let me say "I told you so".

Bateman Marshall

Dear Bentham News,
I have been overwhelmed with the presents, cards, messages and kind words that people have sent me on my recent retirement from Bentham Medical Practice. I send my thanks to everyone. I will miss you all.

Sue Lumb. (Letters continued on page 17)

Dear Bentham News,

Bellfleckers, Low Bentham Road

As the person who has tenanted and owned the site of the proposed new county primary school in Bentham for almost 70 years, may I fill you in on the background?

Together with my late father, then by myself, then in partnership with my son we farmed the land firstly as tenants and then as owners. Some 26 years ago on reaching my 60th birthday I enquired from the council as to the possibility of building a bungalow for my retirement on the proposed site. I was told in no uncertain terms that this land was in a Green Belt and would never ever be built on.

Some five years later I made a similar enquiry and received an even more emphatic no. With the knowledge that the land would never be available for building I pulled out all the hedges (it was four fields) to make the field suitable for Bentham Agricultural Society to hold its annual show; this proved very successful and at last after

LETTERS (Continued from page 16)

Dear Bentham News

In reply to the request for information, I know about the tree featured on page 39 of the July Bentham News because I planted it! It was planted in memory of Pauline Hill, a really lovely lady who I met towards the end of her life. She helped me at a drop-in centre for teenagers at the Community Centre. When she died money was raised to buy a bench in her memory (this is now down at the railway station) and there was some money left over so we bought the tree. I looked for a tree that would thrive in a sunny, sheltered, dry environment with no nutrients, which is what we have at the Community Centre – and found *ROBINIA PSEUDOACACIA*. This was the name on the label at the garden centre, but I agree with the person quoted in Bentham News that it could have been wrongly labelled and actually be *ROBINIA HISPIDIA* because of the pink flowers. Anyway, it's thriving and the beautiful blossoms are a fitting tribute to Pauline who I wish I'd known for longer.

Linda Hartley (alias Linda L'Plant)

Dear Editor

Thanks to the hard work of all the collectors, fundraisers and givers during Christian Aid Week we have sent over £3,000 to the charity from our cluster of parishes.

Most recorded an increase apart from High Bentham. In Bentham we lost 5 collectors and only gained 1, although some existing collectors did a lot of extra work. Thanks to them and again to Clapham School who swelled Clapham's total by quite a margin, as usual. The focus this year was on providing piped water and showers to houses around Nairobi in Kenya, to prevent disease. The parish totals were:

➤ Austwick	524
➤ Clapham and Newby	736
➤ High Bentham	1,265
➤ Low Bentham	478
➤ Lowgill	136
➤ Total £	3,139

*Yours sincerely,
Stephen Dawson.*

To Bentham News,

In response to the letter from Mrs Judith Johnson in the July edition of "Bentham News" - with regard to the preservation of all the archive that her husband David has amassed over the years, as well as the Grammar School Archive, I couldn't agree more. I have also collected historical data and wonder what to do to preserve it for the future.

Bentham does need a dedicated area for its archive, available for research purposes as well as for purely interested viewing and "manned" by enthusiastic and interested people on a reasonably regular basis that won't be subject to the vagaries of political life and fiscal policies.

Perhaps someone out there knows of a likely site; we do need to get the "ball" rolling before all of the collections are lost to posterity.

*Yours sincerely,
Simone Pridmore.*



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WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH BENTHAM HEALTH PRACTICE?

By Peter Phillips and Charlotte Munday

The honest answer to the above question is "Very little" actually. In the light of a few complaints about the level of service at the practice we decided to find out for ourselves and arranged a meeting at the Surgery.

Firstly, a few facts about the practice. Shirley Macdonald is well known as the Practice Manager, has worked there for the past 31 years and contrary to rumours is still there! She introduced us to Jonathan Scott, the Business Manager, who, although perhaps not seen as much as Shirley, is kept very busy in the background. He has been in post for 18 months and commutes 40 miles to work each day.

There are six doctors. Drs. Nick Howlett and Emma Harding are full-time, Drs. Abby Astle and Mairi McKirdy work 3/4 time and Drs. Ralph Sullivan and Louise Morgan work half-time. A new salaried GP is being sought to work part time as a replacement for Sister Sue Lumb.

The Practice covers a very large area – it was quoted as being the second largest in England. The doctors cover surgeries at Bentham, Ingleton, Ingleton Nursing Home, Castleberg Hospital and Wray. The rural area stretches from Wharfe and Eldroth in the east to Ribbleshead and as far as Caton in the west. As well as normal surgeries there are three regular clinics which in a week account for the equivalent of 50 routine patient appointments. To service the 8,000 patients there is a dedicated staff of practice nurses, secretaries, receptionists and visiting podiatrists, midwives and a physiotherapist.

Bentham is also a Training Practice so unfamiliar faces of students, qualified foundation doctors and registrars may be seen at times in the surgery. Three new consulting rooms have recently been built with the aid of a grant to enable the practice to increase the numbers they can accommodate. Rumours that these would

mean the closure of Ingleton Surgery are unfounded. Ingleton is open on mornings only because it requires two members of staff on duty for security reasons. Plans are afoot to make improvements there.

Patient complaints have been received concerning problems with the new telephone system, the length of time taken to get an appointment with a doctor, and what the surgery means by "Triage". Triage was introduced a few months ago in place of the system where the receptionist made appointments on application, either at the window or by telephone. This meant that a person with a minor ailment could get preference over a more serious case simply by having asked first. With triage the receptionist takes the person's name and a doctor will then ring them back. He/she might be able to deal with the matter over the phone saving a trip to the surgery. More patients can be dealt with in this way and the doctor can prioritise his appointments so that the most serious are seen first.

Many people must have thought "Oh no! Press 1 for this, 2 for that and 3 for the other. I'll get 'Vivaldi's Four Seasons next!'. This, of course, refers to the new telephone system which replaces the 20 year old one which could no longer cope with the volume of calls which can often reach 60 between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. on a Monday. Jonathan explained that, like all new things, they were still experimenting to find the best method. If you have called recently you will notice a different message.

Both Jonathan and Shirley agreed that the receptionists worked extremely hard to do their best for patients but sometimes had to face up to shouting and bad language from a small minority. The rather nasty and derogatory complaints posted on a Facebook site were unhelpful and had really upset the staff. If people were dissatisfied with the service there was a proper complaints procedure. To help with communication it is intended to update the website and issue a monthly information sheet. Shirley said that they don't always get things right but that feedback and suggestions were welcome and will always get a response from the practice.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS AT HORNBY INSTITUTE

By Ann Shaw

Jazz in Hornby

The long-awaited reunion of the Chris Coull Quintet, and the only U.K. performance, will be at the Village Institute, Hornby on Friday August 20th.

Chris Coull, trumpet and flugel, Rob Steels, double bass, Jack Davies, drums; and with Denis Freeman on piano plus special guest Mike Hall on tenor sax. The music will be Miles, Bird, Monk, etc plus originals by Chris. This will be a great and swinging occasion, not to be missed. Doors and Bar open at 7.30pm, music from 8 pm.

Leeds Library Touring Theatre Company are presenting "My Brilliant Divorce" by Geraldine Aron on Friday 3rd September. This is the hilarious but poignant story of Angela Lipsky – who has recently been deserted by her accountant husband for a younger model. This one-woman show was a great success for Dawn French... Unfortunately we can't promise Dawn but we're sure it will be an enjoyable evening.

Lancashire Comedian Phil Cool will be live at Hornby institute on Friday 17th September. Having entertained us a couple of years ago with his folk music colleague Ken Nicol, Phil has now returned to his comic roots. Please note all tickets reserved must be paid for as soon as possible.

For information about tickets, prices etc, please contact the Institute, telephone 015242 22227.



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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. 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 August for the September edition. The Bentham News email address is: benthamnews@lycos.com.

LOCAL EVENTS IN AUGUST

Mon 2nd Looking Well. Gentle walks for women, leave Lairgill at 9.30am. Also on 23rd and 30th.
Craven Customer Services at the Lower Town Hall, 10.00am-12.30pm. Also on 9th, 16th and 23rd.

Town Council meeting at the Lower Town Hall, 7.30pm.

Drop-in at the Victoria Institute, 10.00am-12.00noon. Also on 4th, 9th, 11th, 16th, 18th, 23rd and 25th.

Community Link Café at the Victoria Institute 11.30am-2.30pm. Also on 4th, 9th, 11th, 16th, 18th, 23rd and 25th.

Slimming Group at the Victoria Institute 5.30-6.30pm. Also on 9th, 16th and 23rd.

Tai Chi at the Victoria Institute 6.15-7.15pm.

Tue 3rd Craft Club at the Wenningdale Room, Town Hall, 10.00am-12.00noon and every Tuesday.

Yoga at the Lower Town Hall, 6.00-7.00pm and every Tuesday.

Creative Writing at Looking Well, 11.30am-1.00pm. Also on 24th and 31st.

Men's Walking Group leave Looking Well at 9.30am and return 11.30am. Also on 24th and 31st.

Wed 4th Coffee morning at the Methodist Church, 10.00-11.30am and every Wednesday. Donations go to local charities.

Line Dancing at the Victoria Institute 2.00-3.00pm and every Wednesday.

Looking Well, 11.00am-1.30pm, Café-IN.

Looking Well, 11.00am-4.00pm, Community Art Shed, and on 25th.

Bentham Footpath Group walk, Hawes, 8 miles, leader Dennis Chamberlain, 015242 21436. Meet at Lairgill 9.30am.

Thu 5th

Bat n' Chat at the Victoria Institute, 10.00am-12.00noon and every Thursday.

Rosemary Conley Fitness Club at the Town Hall Ballroom, 6.00-7.30pm, and every Thursday.

Gardening at the Victoria Institute, 1.00-3.00pm and every Thursday.

Circus Skills workshop at the Town Hall Ballroom, 1.00-4.00pm.

Welcome-in dominoes for all ages, Methodist Church Hall, 2.00-4.00pm. For transport call Nigel or Kath on 62272. Also on 19th.

High Bentham W.I. Treasure Hunt. See page 31.

Looking Well, In the Same Boat, Bentham and District Cancer Support Group, Drop-in Art Session, Lunch and Therapies. Also on 26th.

Swimming at Hornby for over 50s (men and women). Telephone Barbara 62873 or Carol 61233 to arrange transport, and every Thursday.

Fri 6th Yoga at the Lower Town Hall, 6.30-7.30pm. Also on 13th.

Age Concern at the Masonic Hall, from 10.00am-2.30pm. Gardening with Linda Hartley.

Sat 7th Farmers' Market at the Lower Town Hall, 9.00am-2.00pm.

NSPCC coffee morning at the Town Hall Ballroom, 10.00am-12.00noon. All welcome.

Book Swap at the Victoria Institute from 10.00am onwards.

Tue 10th Bentham Child Health Clinic at the Surgery, 2.00-4.00pm.

Thu 12th Bentham Footpath Group walk, Whelpstone Cragg, 7 miles, leader Malcolm Burnett, 015242 64800. Meet at Lairgill 9.30am.

Fri 13th Age Concern at the Masonic Hall, 10.00am-2.30pm. Extend exercise with Colin Etherington.

Sat 14th Coffee morning at the Town Hall 10.00am-12.00noon, for Methodist Church Development Fund.



Sat 14th Bryn Howarth in Concert at the Methodist Church, 7.30pm. Admission by ticket, contact Alan on 015242 62540.

Sun 15th Celebration Services for refurbishment at Methodist Church, 10.30am and 6.30pm.

Copy deadline for September edition of Bentham News. Note that if the Gallery, Station Road, Bentham (BN collection Point) is closed, please post your entry through the letter box, or contact Bill Kennedy by telephone on 62492 or by email benthamnews@lycos.com.

Wed 18th Bentham First Responders meeting at Looking Well, 7.00pm. Come along and talk to us about joining.

Fri 20th Waste paper collection at Lairgill car park, 8.30-11.00am. Proceeds to NSPCC.

Age Concern at the Masonic Hall, 10.00am-2.30pm. Lancashire Rambler - talk by Ron Standing.

Sat 21st Lancaster and Skipton Rail Users Group (LASRUG) coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10.00am-12.00noon. 

Bentham Footpath Group walk, Sedbergh, 9 miles, leader Cath Ramwell, 015242 41499. Meet at Lairgill at 9.30am.

Mon 23rd Bentham Show, closing dates for entries in Cattle, Sheep, Handicraft, Photography and Stick Dressing.

Tue 24th Bentham Child Health Clinic at the Surgery, 2.00-4.00pm.

Thu 26th Bentham Footpath Group walk, Caton, 7½ miles, leader Kate Rowe 015242 51402. Meet at Lairgill 9.30am.

Fri 27th Age Concern at the Masonic Hall 10.00am-2.30pm. Card Bingo.

September edition of Bentham News published.

Sat 28th Bentham Show closing date for entries for the Horticultural Section.

Christian Aid coffee morning at the Town Hall Ballroom, 10.00am-12.00noon. 

MacMillan Fund Raising event at the Town Hall Ballroom, see page 10.

Mon 30th Low Bentham Street Market, 10.00am-3.00pm. See page 13.

ADVERTISING RATES Local Advertisers

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LISTING FOR LOCAL EVENTS

Date.....Time.....

Event.....

Venue.....

Contact Tel:.....

Name.....

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LOOKING WELL

By Julie Vass

Thinking about doing something new in September?

What are the benefits of arts and health activities? Lots! Getting involved with the arts has been shown to have a very positive effect on health and wellbeing.

I'm not an arty person - what could I do?

All sorts! In addition to a variety of specific art-skills such as welding, print making, stone carving, textiles and pottery, there are walking groups, creative writing, gardening, singing and creative kitchen garden crafts.

Positive Futures Project can help you acquire new skills/accreditation and training that can help with employment, volunteering and increasing confidence.

What days of the week? All week days have an activity so call in and pick up an Activities Programme. Here are a few of the activities:

Walking - Gentle walks for women - Mondays 9.30 - 12.00pm.

Men's walking Group - Tuesdays 9.30 - 11.30am.

Gentle Strolls - mixed - Tuesdays 2.00pm

or Wednesdays 1.20pm (Settle). Volunteer walk leaders suit the walk to the group and weather.

Creative Kitchen Garden

Arts & Crafts, Garden skills and Cooking ideas - Tuesdays from 10.30am.

Creative Writing Group - Tuesdays from 11.30am.

Community Shared Lunch - Tuesdays 12.45 - 1.30pm. Creative ways to share skills and celebrate the art of growing, cooking and eating well.

Café IN - Wednesdays 11.00 - 1.30pm. A welcoming place for tea/coffee, home-made soup and cakes. Free help and use of computers/internet access.

Art Shed - Wednesdays 11.00 - 4.00pm. Make larger art-works that contribute to community celebrations or develop your own project.

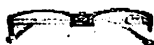
Also, a huge "Thank You" to the 150 + people who came or took part in our successful Open Day. The sun shone, the singing group sang beautiful African music, visitors had a go at printing, bought plants and books from the garden and admired the vegetables and fruit being grown.

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"SHAPELY DOES IT" RELOCATES TO HIGH BENTHAM

By Christine Hodson

Shapely Does It, the ladies fitness studio in Low Bentham, is moving to High Bentham with the name and phone number unchanged. I met Kath Higgins to talk about the success of the fitness studio and the move. It is a pleasure to be chatting to someone who is expanding and developing their business in these hard times.

Kath told me that after 3 years she felt the studio had reached the limit of what could be offered, and the business was well established in Bentham. The new premises were more accessible to more people. The new premises will be well known by some, as it is in Millers Court and used to be the computer training room for Craven College. This re-location will take place at the end of July and open on August 1st. There will be plenty of advertising locally, special offers and a launch event too when you can see what's on offer and facilities available.

The business is also becoming a co-operative to enable it to move forward with added business skills, and Kath will remain as the manager. She thanked the loyalty of present members who have been fantastic in keeping 'Shapely Does It' going in difficult times.

BURTON-IN-LONSDALE TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE.

Issued by Burton-in-Lonsdale Parish Council

It is envisaged that work at the crossroads in Burton Hill will commence at the beginning of August. The road will be closed to traffic until the necessary work has been completed.

The closures will be put into effect when necessary, by means of the erection of notices and signs giving local alternative routes.

Access for pedestrians to premises on or adjacent to the road or from the road will be maintained at all times. If you wish to make any enquiries please telephone 0845 727374 - ask for Skipton Highways Office.

MIDDI'S BUTTY BOX HAS NEW OWNER

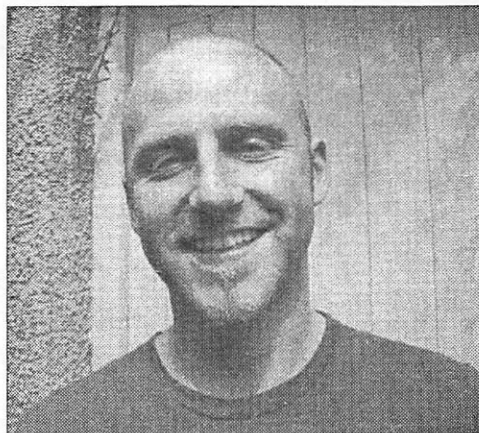
By Christine Hodson

John Francis Read is the new owner of Middi's Butty Box, the sandwich shop on Main Street in High Bentham. John Francis is local to the area and he feels proud to be serving the local community.

He is planning to continue providing the present wide range of sandwiches and cooked lunchtime food as well as the breakfast food which is popular with many people, including the builders and workmen on their way to work. You will still be able to see the familiar faces in the shop; those who serve food will be retained.

John Francis has many plans to diversify the range of food on offer, growing as much as he can at home. These plans include a wider range of vegetarian food, homemade pickles, chutneys etc and using home grown herbs and lettuce.

He is also interested in developing a menu for outside catering and involving his



girlfriend, Amy, in his plans. At the present time he is keen to develop the shop with little change. John Francis has plans to change the shop's name which he is keeping a secret at present, but all will be revealed in due course.

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HIGH BENTHAM COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

By Mrs Catherine Boocock, Headteacher

Fleetwood Museum Trip

Class 2 enjoyed a trip to Fleetwood Museum in May, and who better to tell you about it than them. This report was written by Joe Edwards and Ben Hodgkinson.

"On the 13th of May me and Class 2 went to Fleetwood Museum. At home I got going in to my Victorian clothes and went to school! On the way I met George. When I got to school there were lots of people who looked good!

A short while later we were on the coach I was next to Josh! In about 2 hours we were there. When I got out I was really excited. When we got across the road we were shown into the museum. The first room I went into had a box camera in it. We got our photo in black and white! Next me and the group went to a place where old toys were in a hotel. Then we went to a train person he showed us how a steam train works and a steam boat! Next me and my group made a pebble picture and that was the funniest thing in the museum!"

Joe Edwards.

"After we had been to the museum we had our lunch in the park. I had a cheese sandwich, grapes and an apple. Just then we went to the playground and I got sand in my shoes! Suddenly we went home. I said 'Bye Bye Fleetwood' but before that I saw a Punch and Judy Show that was the best bit that was fun. 'Awesome that day was!'"

Ben Hodgkinson.

Nursery News

After much discussion with the Local Authority we have decided to extend our admission into Nursery. Therefore from September children from when they are 3 years old will be offered Nursery places rather than a place in Playgroup.

Parents have had to pay for the Playgroup sessions, but this way the children are part of Nursery which means that we can offer five free 3 hour sessions a week. We will be

keeping the Playgroup staff as part of the Nursery team with Mrs Claire Steele and Caroline Lequeux. So Mrs Helen Jackson and Miss Jayne Mann will share the extra post in the nursery so we can best meet the needs of all the children.

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BENTHAM PEOPLE



Personal Thanks

Neal Watson - we would like to thank you for the support and messages of sympathy, so many appreciated hugs and genuine concern. To everyone who contributed to the funeral and celebration of Neal's life, too many to mention individually, a heartfelt thanks to you all. Neal was fortunate to know so many special people who loved and respected him. Love, Mary, Christine, Richard, Manda Connor and Keisha Watson.

Thanks

Marjorie Thompson wishes to thank all family and friends for their presents and good wishes on her 90th birthday. They were very much appreciated and she had a lovely time.

Congratulations

Ryan Carter, congratulations on your 2nd Class Honours in B.A. English education. We are very proud of you. Lots of love, Mum, Dad, Sadie and Jordan.

Ryan, congratulations on achieving 2nd Class Honours in B.A. English Education. Well done and good luck for the future. Love Nana and Grandad.

Birthdays

Oldroyd - June at the Post Office. Happy 60th - Jane, Sue, Helen and Sandra.

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WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

High Bentham

By Anne Yaman

The July meeting was held on Monday 1st July when we welcomed 23 members. The business of the evening was led by Miss Wendy Dowbiggin, President, who reported on a successful evening out to West Side Story in Lancaster and various other matters, including reminding members of Bentham Show in September.

The speaker for the evening was Mrs Emily Scholes from Kirkby Lonsdale who gave a very interesting talk on various types of rag rugs and their history. She gave us a quick demonstration (well quick by her but probably slow by everyone else!) and had many lovely pictures of her various projects. She loved working with children and said they had provided her with many lovely designs to work from. She was thanked by Mrs Sue Camacho who recounted her own efforts at rug making! The competition was for a silk scarf that produced many items and the winner was Janet Plummer with Ann Beck second. Ann Beck completed her evening by winning the raffle.

The meeting next month will be on Thursday 5th August with a treasure hunt/quiz walking tour around High Bentham starting at the Town Hall at 7 p.m. via Station Road, Wenning Avenue and Duke Street and finishing at the Horse and Farrier with some sandwiches and what will be very welcome liquid refreshment. If any members do not wish to do the walk they are more than welcome to go straight to the Farrier.

Low Bentham

By Jennifer Watkinson

The "A" team, consisting of Betty Atkinson, Sylvia Brennand, Sheila Brown and Christine Jennings, won the "Ingleborough" Group Treasure Hunt. The event was hosted by Horton-in-Ribblesdale W.I. who devised the quiz and supplied the excellent supper. Kath Hewitt, chairman of the group, presented the team with the trophy.

At the monthly meeting, retired lecturer Dr. J.F.R. McIlveen commenced his talk on climate change and global warming with a three question quiz to test members' knowledge of the subject. Using his university charts and diagrams he attempted to educate us on this complex subject. He spoke about vast extremes of temperature that the earth has suffered for millions of years and said that we are living in an ice age at the moment. A map showing England joined to mainland Europe with the River Thames shown as a tributary of the Rhine was shown as were cave paintings of elephants and a man kayaking on a river in what is now arid Ethiopia. Fairs were held on the frozen River Thames in the 17th century. Besides natural variations in temperatures they have dramatically risen since the Industrial Revolution. He forecast that a metre rise in sea levels would cause worldwide catastrophic flooding. He concluded by warning us of the perils of ignoring the problems.

At the next meeting on 19th August Mr Jowett will talk about decorated wagons.



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WHICH COUNCILLORS ARE ON WHICH COMMITTEES?

By Jo Burton (Town Clerk)

At the Town Council meeting on 5th July 2010, the councillors organised themselves into various committees. It might be useful for Bentham News readers to know who sits on which committee in case they want to contact councillors about particular issues. The details are as follows:

Allotments:

Cllrs Adams, Brown, Burton, Webster and Yaman

Buildings Maintenance:

Cllrs Adams, Barnes, Faichney, Hurtley, Procter and Wills

Calendar:

Cllrs Burton, Faichney, Wills, Yaman and Mr Jon Brook

Finance:

Cllrs Adams, Barnes, Marshall, Webster and Wills

Open Spaces:

Cllrs Adams, Brown, Faichney, Hurtley and Marshall

Tourist Information:

Cllrs Barnes, Brown, Burton, Marshall, and Procter, plus Mrs Brook, Miss Dowbiggin and/or Mrs Sinclair

Town Hall Marketing (including the website):

Cllrs Burton, Hurtley, Procter, Webster and Yaman

In addition to serving on these committees, councillors are also assigned as representatives to other bodies, as follows:

Joint footpaths: Cllr Webster,

Playing Field Association: Cllr Yaman,

Goodenber Road Play Area: Cllr Adams,

Railways: Cllr Wills,

Police: Cllr Marshall,

Aid in Sickness: Cllr Adams,

Bentham Development Trust and

Community Transport: Cllr Burton,

Looking Well: Cllr Barnes and

Youth Café: Cllr Burton.

THE BURTON BELL RINGERS

By Dave Hodgson

The sound of church bells is part of village life. Anyone near Burton in Lonsdale on New Year's Eve, for example, has probably heard us ringing in the New Year at midnight. Some people even come up to the belfry to watch us doing it!

We're a small village and with six bells to be rung we are always keen to encourage new or experienced bell ringers to come and join us. Practice nights are on Tuesdays, and you don't have to live in Burton to join in. The sessions are always relaxed and friendly and we extend a warm welcome to anyone who is interested in what we do. You can see for yourself what we get up to, have a look at the bells and we'll even help you to have a go at ringing one of them. If you'd like to come along you can contact John Keen on 62792, Dave Hodgson on 61269, or just turn up on any Tuesday at 7.30pm at All Saints'.

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BEST NEWS – OIL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL?



By Richard Wilson

At the time of writing, nearly three months after the Deepwater Horizon explosion, there is hopeful news that the oil gushing from the well deep in the Gulf of Mexico has been controlled, so that most of it will no longer leak into the sea. And around the time you read this, the relief well should be completed, so the well can be properly plugged. At last the media circus can move on to the next new excitement; end of disaster – or is it? An oil-slick the size of Britain; coastlines, wildlife and livelihoods devastated; but it's no longer news, and it's thousands of miles away.

Will we just forget the whole sad story and carry on as before? Well, I haven't noticed any fewer cars and lorries on the roads, so it looks like we're happy for the oil companies to squeeze every last drop out of the earth's crust, whatever the environmental cost. But it will run out one day, and the longer we keep pretending otherwise, the harder it will be for the world to adapt to life without oil.

So what? I'll be dead by then! But if you're 20, you've a tricky choice to make between using less fossil fuels now, or finding yourself, 30 or 40 years from now, at the bottom of a very long and steep learning curve.

Assuming you find the first option more appealing, I can recommend Mike Berners-Lee's new book *How Bad are Bananas?* as a good place to learn how to go about it. As the subtitle says, it tells you the carbon footprint of absolutely everything – so you can reduce yours by making well-informed, painless changes to your life. It's full of surprises: bananas aren't bad at all – far better than hot-house winter tomatoes from Holland!

Mike will be making a guest appearance in Bentham – on Thursday 23rd September – as part of Local Food Week. He'll be giving a light-hearted talk about his book during the Local Food Jacob's Join, and awarding a prize

to the person who contributes the lowest-carbon plate of food. Details will be available soon: watch out for local publicity.

BEST stands for Bentham Environmentally Sustainable Town. All meetings and events are open to everyone; do come along and help make Bentham a greener town. If you'd like to know more about BEST, phone 63399 or check out www.bentham.net/Community/BEST.asp

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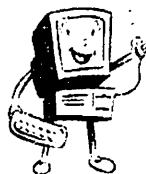
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BENTHAM JUNIORS - ONWARD AND UPWARD!

By Steve Thomas

Bentham Juniors has a new committee and new coaching staff for the forthcoming season.

We would like to pass on our sincere thanks to Lee Haywood whose idea it was to set up Bentham Juniors 5 seasons ago. Whilst Lee is moving on and will no longer have direct involvement with the Club we will always be grateful to him for making such a huge contribution to the success of the Juniors. Many other Mums and Dads have done and continue to do their bit too, including Mark, Rob, Sticky, Alan, Sam and lots of others who I hope will forgive if we have not mentioned them.

As a new management team we are full of enthusiasm as we prepare for the new season. Bentham Juniors may have hidden its light under a bushel as far as general awareness amongst the wider community is concerned, so we hope to address that by regular updates in Bentham News.

Often Clubs can "fade away" as kids get older and supportive parents move on. We want to create an infrastructure for the Club which will leave a legacy to encourage others to bring the younger teams through and to provide continuity so we have a Club for the long term. We want to make Bentham Juniors the first choice Club for young footballers in the area. We hope kids will want to play for Bentham because we compete to win and promote genuine teamwork, but most of all because we have fun!

For several years we have held weekly training sessions, each involving up to 60 boys and girls with age ranges from 5 to 11, and we have competed consistently well in several league and cup competitions. For the coming season we are working with three Teams in age groups Under 7, Under 9 and Under 12 with the younger teams entered in the Dales Friendly League and with the Under 12s competing in the Lancaster and Morecambe Service to Youth League.

We face the usual challenges of meeting our regular on-going costs such as League, Referee and F.A. Affiliation Fees as well as playing fields hire costs, pitch marking and cutting etc. We're working hard on fund raising via social events and we're exploring other potential grant sources. We hope to have some good news soon with regard to a major funding bid. Inevitably though we are over-dependent on the goodwill of parents whose children are in the teams. We would love to hear from local businesses who could make a donation, however small, or who would like to look at the possibility of new kit or match ball sponsorship. Please call Steve 63300 day or 63344 evening.

A big thank you to the "SBC" for their generous donation and to all who donated raffle prizes for our recent Presentation Evening which went brilliantly!

All our teams are recruiting now for the new season so if you love your football and are aged 6 to 11 we'd love to hear from you, so please contact a coach below for more info: under 7s-under 9s- Angela or Richard 62892; under 12s - Neil 62866 or Steve 63344.



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GROWING WITH GRACE

By Tony Bennett

Celebration! Ten years of growing fresh organic produce! Growing with Grace was established at the turn of the millennium by a group of like-minded people in the glass houses on the A65 Clapham by-pass.

It is a Quaker-inspired social enterprise, growing organic produce. They run a box delivery scheme, have an on-site shop, run a community compost scheme (recycling green waste collected by Craven District Council from your house) and are host to a bio-diesel project. Their purpose is to advocate for sustainable communities through organic horticulture - composting - education.

One of its founder members, Neil Marshall says: "I feel very privileged to have been part of this initiative and to be able to celebrate 10 years of its existence. This project, in my view, demonstrates a way in which our communities can become sustainable in food growing, something which is becoming more and more urgent. However, the current economic climate makes our business sustainability more difficult and therefore we are looking to new ways to ensure we can continue with what we do into the next 10 years. This will require the development of a more formal relationship between the community and ourselves."

To find out more about this project and what it offers your community, visit them in Clapham. You would be made very welcome! More information can be found on the website www.growingwithgrace.co.uk

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**LITTLE
RED BUS
TRIPS
AUGUST
2010**



By Anne Yaman

We have arranged the following trips during the August holidays:

★ Tuesday 3rd August to the Forbidden Corner, Leyland £7.50 and half price for children.

★ Thursday 12th August, Barton Grange Garden Centre, Garstang, £6.00 and half price for children.

★ Tuesday 17th August, Gullivers World, Warrington, £7.50 and half price for children.

★ Thursday 26th August, Windermere and surrounding areas.

Please contact either John or Hazel on 62753 to book places or for more information, or look out for the posters giving more information.

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WANT TO BUY A SHEEP DOG?

By Shirley Brown

If you wanted to buy a sheep dog or maybe a pup, then there was no better place to be than Bentham Auction Mart on Saturday 26th June at 11 o'clock. The sun was shining, the ice cream van and refreshment tent were there, as were row upon row of pickup trucks and Land Rovers, plenty of interested buyers and sellers, some with their families, and then the stars of the show, the lively dogs and pups.

In all there were 52 dogs and pups for auction. I spoke afterwards to the young auctioneer, Russell Steer, who only joined the Auction Mart two years ago, but who has already made his mark with sales of farm machinery and this, his third, sheep dog sale. He told me this was a "good sale" with a fine crowd and friendly atmosphere and that he certainly hopes to make it an annual event.

The top price paid was 2,500 guineas. This was for a 3-year-old dog, "Jock" who was sold by Richard Briggs of Wennington to Mr Capstick from Sedbergh. Jock was put through his paces with sheep on the field and performed excellently. The next highest price, 2,100 guineas, was paid by Bentham's Brian Faraday for a 2-year-old bitch, "Gael", who was trained by Jean Howes of Wolsingham, County Durham. Both Jean and Gael were very impressive and stylish in their presentation. As a complete amateur watching what was going on, I was surprised and pleased to see an accomplished woman doing such a good skilled job in this rather male world.

As a spectacle it was fascinating. Some dogs were not yet trained and hadn't a clue, and were only able to show us that they liked chasing sheep. They got far too close to the sheep and terrified them, as a helpful farmer, Jeffrey Hey from Quernmore, explained to me. He's an experienced trainer and can work with a dog for as short a time as 5 weeks to "turn it round". He also told me some other ingredients of successful training are putting in many hours in the field with the dog and being kind to it. He had two dogs in the auction, the first, two year old "Bob" went for 1,550 guineas while 8 month old "Zak", who he'd had since a pup and was showing a lot of promise, went for 750 guineas.

There were some magical moments as families of young pups were auctioned. Jonathon Bentham from Langdale sold some bonny 9 week old pups which, he promised, "would learn anything...they only learned to 'Sit!' yesterday", for prices ranging from 50 to 80 guineas. One, a dog pup, was called "Mabel" but Jonathon assured us the buyer could change the name! Rachel Lund from Litton near Skipton, brought a charming, heart-melting litter of pups into the ring. They ran around yapping at the sheep and trying to escape through the wire fence as the bids came in. Whoever bid the highest got to pick which pup he wanted, and that way all the pups except one were sold. Rachel withdrew the last one which she wasn't prepared to sell cheaply as she was her favourite.

The photographs in the montage on the following page represent some of the activity of the day.

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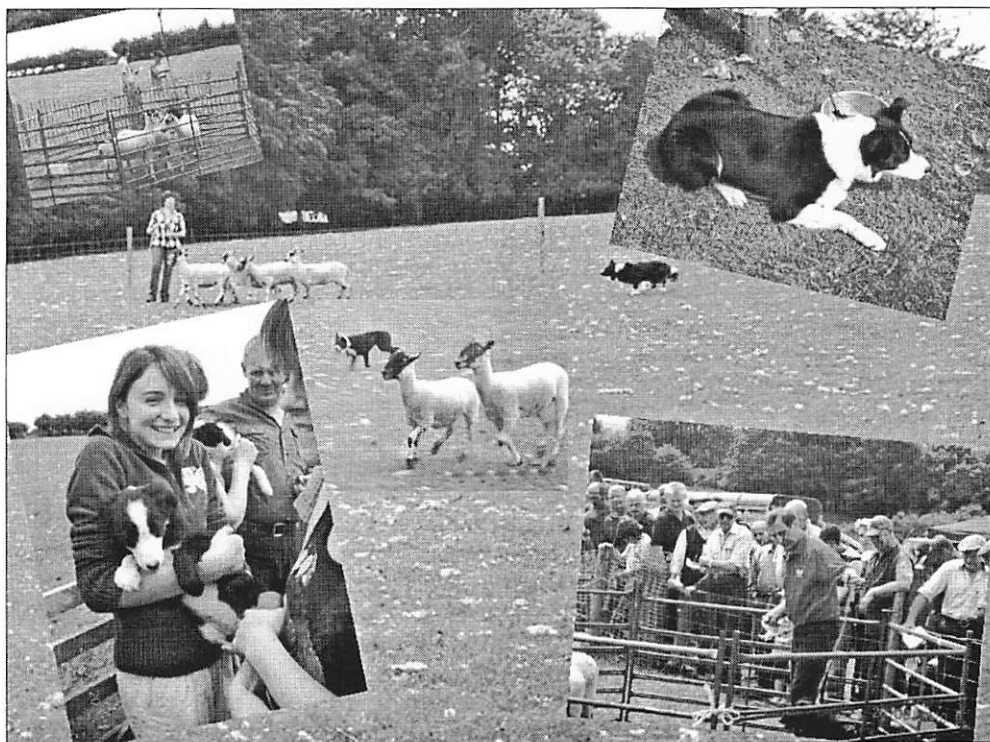


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'21ST' PARTY FOR AGE CONCERN

By Hazel Kennell

On Friday 16th July Age Concern, Bentham, celebrated its 21st birthday with a party at the Masonic Hall. The festivities began with the introduction of our guests including Councillor Paul Whitaker, Chairman of Craven District Council, District Councillor Linda Brockbank and Bentham Councillor Anne Yaman. Frances Clarke, who has been a member of Age Concern since its inception, gave a short speech on behalf of the membership. There was also a presentation to the retiring Day Centre Secretary, Hazel Kennell.

Just before lunch, in a moment of quiet reflection, everyone raised their glasses to honour the memory of Tom Guy, who had close ties with Age Concern.

Following a most enjoyable meal prepared by Barbara Reid we were all entertained with songs and poems led by Judith Harrison and three members of Bentham Praise Ladies Choir.

The pictures show (top left) Mrs Francis Clarke with Paul Whitaker, (top right) Hazel and Gordon Kennell, and below, some of the Age Concern volunteers workers, Edna Parnell, Shirley Hinde, Sue Park, Janet Plummer, Joan Clapham and Shirley Moreland.

