

BENTHAM NEWS

FIGHT TO KEEP THE CAR PARK FREE

By Trevor Blackwell

Over the past month many people have become very concerned over Craven District Council's plans to make drivers pay to use the main Bentham car park at Grasmere Drive. Alerted by a strong letter from Margaret Ellis in the August Bentham News I've been talking to people about their concerns.

One issue that comes up is safety on our streets. Won't drivers seek to avoid the charges by parking on the roads (and pavements) instead? This is likely to lead to a fierce scramble for places, especially in the morning, and is bound to increase congestion on Main Street, Goodenber Road, Grasmere Drive and the surrounding area. This increased street parking will make Bentham more dangerous for pedestrians, especially for children and the elderly. There are going to be more accidents.

But that's not all. The blocking of streets and pavements with vehicles raises safety issues for the emergency services. Is it always going to be possible to get ambulances and the fire engine through the centre of town? This safety issue is causing deep concern to the local traffic police, and they have written to the Town Council to say that they will be objecting to Craven's car park charging proposals.

A second major issue is the effect car park charges will have on people coming into Bentham to work or use local services. Already shops on Main Street are struggling with the effects of the recession, and there is a real fear that the introduction of parking charges will discourage shopping in Bentham, and may lead to some shops having to close. Malcolm Preece of Hash Brown told me: "The result of these parking charges will be that many people will decide not to shop in Bentham, and we will lose that trade. Over the past few months all the shops have been reporting that business is dropping off. The last thing we need is something else to stop people coming into the village".

Now one of the great things about Bentham is that it still has a wide range of local shops and businesses. You can buy all you need for your daily life. That's pretty unusual for a town of this size, and it's vital to Bentham being a viable and vibrant place to live. Do we want to risk the future of Bentham for a few more pennies in Craven's pockets?

Jo Burton, the Town Clerk, says that "the Council has been against the introduction of car park charges from the start. The council does not want it". Whilst the Council has made its objections clear in face-to-face meetings and in correspondence, some feel that Bentham's two representatives on Craven District Council have not actually represented what the people of Bentham feel. Manuel Camacho's comment in the July Bentham News that "Hopefully this will create a better turnover on car park spaces making it easier for shoppers to support our local traders" has puzzled many. However he now says: "If the police or the fire services have concerns about safety then we must of course reconsider", and Lin Barrington wants to explore better ways of finding out what people feel.

So what can we do? We can still make our feelings felt. If Craven decides to ignore the many arguments against imposing charges – including police objections – they will still need to apply to North Yorkshire County Council to make the Parking Order which allows them to charge – and North Yorkshire could refuse. So we – the Bentham News, the Town Council, our Craven representatives, all the shops and the service providers, and all of us who care about the future of this town – have a chance now to come together, and organise, and make our feelings known to keep the car park free. It's not too late.

HIGH BENTHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL SUMMER FAYRE PAINTING COMPETITION

By Andrew Mackereth

The photograph shows the winners of the painting competition organised by Fisher Wrathall at the Bentham Primary School Summer Fayre.

They each won a book token. We would like to thank all those who entered even if they were unsuccessful.

The photo shows from left to right, Ben Hodkinson, Lauren Taylor and Courtney Johnson who were the winners and behind them is Mrs Kathryn Brownsord and Andrew Mackereth, both from the sponsors, Fisher Wrathall.



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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 the month prior to publication. The BN email address is: benthamnews@lycos.com

AUGUST'S TOWN COUNCIL

By David Johnson

All the Cllrs were present except Cllrs Adams, Barnes, Faichney, Yaman and County Cllr Ireton. In the absence of Cllr Adams, Cllr Marshall chaired the meeting.

Police

July had seen quite a crop of incidents ranging from three stolen sheep through boy racers to smashed glass on the play area and a burglary at the auction mart. Possibly the most worrying was the case of door-to-door fish sellers (not local) who had conned an elderly person out of £524. The police are asking for people to be aware of the risks of dealing with such people.

Planning

An application has been made to fell a protected sycamore on Butterbergh, Butts Lane however confusion reigned when the Cllrs discovered that the plan indicated that it was a beech tree! They agreed to write to the District Council asking for clarification and questioning the need to fell a tree that may only require judicious pruning.

Highways

The highways department has agreed to add white lines to part of Grasmere Drive to try to make life bearable for some of the residents. A letter was read from a resident asking for traffic calming measures on Summer Hill. They complained of speeding and noise. The police agreed to look into the problem. There were complaints from the public about overhanging trees at the Green Smithy and Springfield. The clerk asked the Cllrs for further information about progress on outstanding highway work. It appears there are still a lot of repairs to be made to potholes and many gullies to be cleared. Cllr Wills said he thought there was hardly one decent road sign within the two parishes. Many were damaged or missing and the Egerton Lodge road sign is still languishing at the Ingleton Depot awaiting attention.

Wenning Avenue

A letter of complaint was received from a resident about the appalling state of this carriageway. The correspondent had counted 95 potholes between Hillcroft and Ashbank Lane. United Utilities (the owner) has estimated it will cost about £250,000 to bring the road up to an adoptable standard and it is, apparently, reluctant to spend this amount of money on a route its lorries only use once or twice a week. It claims all the damage has been done by vehicles travelling to the industrial estate, to Africa Link and the residents' vehicles from the area. The question of flooding on Wenning Avenue was raised. The Cllrs said the problem arose because of run off from Millholme Drive and they thought that if the road was 'topped off' so that the manhole covers were flush, or slightly below the road, then rainwater could drain away properly.

Parking Order

The Cllrs decided to write expressing their strong opposition to the plan to introduce pay and display parking on the Grasmere Drive car park, (interestingly the order appears to omit Cleveland Square.) Cllr Wills questioned the viability of the proposal on the grounds that it had been deemed impractical on two previous occasions because of the initial expenditure and the cost of effective enforcement. He thought it would damage trade in Bentham. The Cllrs wondered if parking charges would rise over time and why the traders had not raised more objections to the scheme.

Low Bentham C.P. School Field

North Yorkshire has asked the Council to pay £2,000 p.a. for grass cutting and hedge trimming. Cllr Wills thought this was a ridiculous amount as they already cut and maintain the area to keep it in a reasonable state. The Cllr decided to investigate the cost of employing local contractors.

Praise

The Cllrs expressed praise for the boys who had saved people from Beezley Falls and Cllr Heigh asked that they be sent a letter congratulating them on their bravery and initiative.

GARDENING COLUMN

By Joyce Knapp

By September most of our summer-cropping vegetables will have been harvested leaving the ground vacant ready for next year. If it is possible to plan ahead and draw up a rotation plan for the kitchen garden area, then we can start to prepare the empty ground for the following crop. If we have grown legumes i.e. peas or beans then the first task will be to remove all supports in the form of posts and string. Once this has been done we can cut off all plant debris at ground level thus leaving the nitrogen-rich roots in the ground to break down and enrich the soil for future crops. We can then make use of this by growing any member of the cabbage family in this ground the following year, as they are hungry feeders and need quite high levels of nitrogen to grow well and produce a good-sized heart.

Once the soil has been cleared of plants and any lingering pests such as slugs, snails

and caterpillars, we can fork it over lightly to expose any soil borne pests to the ever-vigilant population of garden birds (I already have a friendly robin who follows me around the allotment enjoying the fruits of my labour). Having cleared the ground, we can move on to adding nutrients to the soil in preparation for next season.

There are certain materials that can be used as a mulch to cover the soil surface and these vary from man-made fibres such as black, woven plastic to natural substances like garden compost. If we have access to either garden compost, leaf mould, or well-rotted farmyard manure then they should, perhaps, be our first choice as they have many advantages. Firstly, they are a source of 'slow-release' food for plants as they gradually combine with the soil beneath, to provide an easily accessible form of plant nutrients. Secondly, if applied in sufficiently thick layers, they can help suppress weeds, and thirdly, they will help break up any heavy clay soils or, adversely, they help loose, sandy soils to stick together and hold in both water and nutrients.

There is a word of warning to go with these natural mulches as they should, perhaps, only be used for certain crops and this is where the plan comes in handy. Where we are to grow onions, peas, beans and broccoli we can use manure, whereas garden compost is best used for lettuce, leeks and cabbage. Root crops such as carrots and beetroot respond best to an application of leaf-mould and this can also be added to strawberry plants, as they grow naturally in woodland areas.

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CRAVEN CONCERNS

By Cllr Manuel Camacho 015242 62074

Choice Based Lettings

CBL allows applicants for social housing (and existing tenants seeking a move), to apply for available vacant properties.

CDC has recently received information regarding Choice Based Lettings (CBL) which replaces the traditional way of allocating housing under which housing officers seek to match applicants who have priority on the waiting list to available vacancies. Vacancies will be advertised widely (e.g. in the local newspaper or on a website).

Applicants can see the full range of available properties and can bid for any home to which they are matched (eg a single person would not be eligible for a three-bedroom house).

The successful bidder is the one with the highest priority under the scheme. Authorities provide feedback that helps unsuccessful applicants to assess their chances of success in subsequent applications.

This is the government's new and preferred method of allocating housing. CDC will doubtless adopt this and it should be a more open way to allocate places in social housing. Having spent hours in intense debate, updating our existing scheme, to be as fair as possible to Craven people, I wish the Government would get its timing better.

Keep up to date with planning issues

Whether you're a builder, developer or local resident with an interest in planning, Craven District Council provides a quarterly newsletter - 'Planning Focus' to guide you through the complexities of planning.

The latest edition of 'Planning Focus' looks at the Local Development Framework, future distribution of housing development, and green energy in new housing developments. To subscribe please contact James Ellis, Planning Officer at Craven District Council on 01756 706457, or you can email him at jellis@cravendc.gov.uk <<mailto:jellis@cravendc.gov.uk>> or visit www.cravendc.gov.uk.

Major funding boost for affordable housing in Craven

A grant of £9,348,000 will help increase affordable housing in Craven thanks to strong partnership working between Craven District Council and its housing association partners (Jephson HA, Yorkshire Housing and Home HA). The grant from the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA), the national housing and the Regeneration Agency for England, will support the development of 141 additional affordable homes at a total cost of £18,693,000.

The successful development projects are: Manor Close, Ingleton (24 homes), Goodenber Road, Benthams (34 homes), Greenroyd, Sutton (45 homes) and Carleton Road, Skipton (38 homes).

The Council has played a significant part in enabling these developments to proceed by gifting the land at Benthams and Ingleton to housing association partners. This success is largely due to the strong relationships which the Council has developed with housing association partners and with the HCA, and represents a big vote of confidence in the Council. The grant is particularly welcome as it comes at a time when capital funding is limited. Full planning permission is already in place for the Ingleton and Benthams developments.

I know that many families are looking forward to these homes being built. The last I heard was that it was hoped that building would begin in August this year. Readers may be interested to know that the committee responsible for "gifting" the land in Benthams and Ingleton were by no means unanimous.

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FOOTPATH GROUP

By Maureen Ellis



The Bentham Footpath Group owes a lot to many members and particularly Dorothy Stubbs who has put the programme together for many years. It is not an easy task and we all are grateful to her for it. Our new Programme Secretary is Denis Chamberlain, a man who knows both the more local parts of the area but also further afield. I've walked alongside him and watched him working out the surrounding topography of the hills and also taking notes for future reference when he's in foreign parts; a real fellsman.

The first walk this month is the ascent of Ingleborough on Sunday 6th September. It is 7 miles and the meeting place is Lairgill at 9.30am. Walking starts from Cold Cotes; it will probably go up and return down the same route and a young boy, the leader's grandson, will be making his first trip up this hill to follow the one he did with us up Penyghent a few weeks ago.

The next one is on Wednesday 16th from Lairgill at 9.30am and 20 minutes later from the Swimming Pool car park in Settle. It is the 7 mile Settle Ramble, which was postponed earlier this summer because of bad weather. Walking will start at the Settle Co-op and go up to Attermire Scar and along the tops possibly as far as Stainforth and back along the river. The exact route will depend on the weather.

Lastly there is the 8 mile walk of Holme on Saturday 26th, meeting at Lairgill at 9.30am. The walk will go through Milnthorpe and Beetham and back to Holme.



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CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BENTHAM

By Liz Whitfield



One day when I was walking back to my car in Lancaster my eye was drawn to a shop window which had large signs with various premier league football results. On closer reading I realised these were predicted results with the odds for that result. As I continued my journey I began to think about the likelihood of the results being right but then I wondered what would happen if I went into that betting shop, how would I know what to do, where to go, what would I need to take (apart from my money obviously). Further on in my journey I realised that many people might have the same questions about coming in to our churches. When going to an unfamiliar place it is often helpful if we have someone with us who knows the ropes.

Churchgoers across England are being encouraged to invite a friend or neighbour to come to church with them on Sunday 27th September. The day is known as 'Back to Church Sunday'.

Back to Church Sunday began in 2004 in the Diocese of Manchester and by 2008 virtually all Anglican dioceses, most Baptist churches and others took part. In 2009 the Methodist Church and Salvation Army are also promoting it, with nearly every other denomination piloting or rolling out the programme. It is an encouragement to Christians to regain confidence in doing something that they know they should. It is also proving to be an opportunity for those who have got out of the habit of going to church, or for those who have thought it is something they should look into, to find an entry point. Whether you come to church every Sunday, occasionally or have never been to any of the churches in Bentham, why not come on 27th September? If you are unsure what to do or where to go, just ask someone you know who goes to church, if you can go with them if they haven't already invited you to come with them.

On a personal note I would like to thank

all those people who have supported and encouraged me in the 13 years I have worked for the Methodist Church, in various lay roles. I "retired" at the end of August from paid employment. My successor, as Children's Worker, is Christina Barrett who lives near Kirkby Lonsdale. You will have the opportunity to meet her at Toddle-In, Adventurers and Springboard, and I will continue as a voluntary helper.

Harvest Barn Dance - Churches Together and Looking Well are planning a family barn dance to be held at the Town Hall on Friday 25th September from 5.30pm. Dancing will begin at 6.30pm with a break for supper at 7.30pm (please bring something to share). Front Parlour Ceilidh Band will provide the music.

Harvest Supper - Methodist Church Hall on Saturday 26th September. Supper will be served at 7p.m. (baked potatoes with a choice of toppings and sweets). Bob Telford will round off the evening with a message 'It's a dog's life' whilst demonstrating training gun-dogs. To reserve a place phone Beryl Tuohy on 62028.

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Sat 19th Al Davies

Sat 26th Dave Le Harper

BECOMING INFIRM? Time to Leave Bentham!

By Keith Hartley

Twenty years ago, in the August 1989 edition of Bentham News, a small advertisement on Page 17 announced the opening of *Burndale*, Bentham's new residential care facility.

Whatever the reason for its closing some 18 years later, I feel strongly that its disappearance left a glaring gap in the town's provision for the care of its older people. As a high dependency housing unit, Abbeyfield House plays a very significant role in helping local people to retain as much of their independence as possible, thus serving to reduce the number of people who actually need admission to residential care. It cannot, however, meet the care needs of anyone who is fully dependent.

A friend has recently reached the point in her life where she is no longer able to manage at home and has needed the higher level of care available in a residential home. Sadly, it has been necessary for her to accept placement in another town, and she must now consider this to be her home. Her son will hope to see as much of her as possible, but he lives in Bentham and does not drive so will face considerable difficulty in visiting his mother.

I know her circumstances are not unique, and that everyone who needs to be cared for in a residential setting must now move away from Bentham. Many have partners or other caring relatives who are themselves quite frail and unable to travel to another town, and this adds to the sense of helplessness these people must feel. And for all of us who are fortunate enough to attain elderly status, the prospect of residential care will probably have to be faced at some point in our lives. I know that in my case the thought of having to leave Bentham is something I would find heartbreaking to say the least.

Prior to my retirement I worked with older people for some 20 years and in that time I gained considerable knowledge and experience of residential care provision. I know there are horror stories about care homes, and some of them are true, but in the

majority of cases, where placement has been in a good home within the person's own community, the experience has been a very positive one, with the person concerned often gaining quite a new lease of life.

Growing constraint on funding residential placements has put a great deal of financial pressure on private residential homes in recent years, and it was probably on the cards that a home the size of *Burndale*, serving a relatively small community such as Bentham, would be unable to stay in business. But I do not believe that a smaller home, for, say, four or five people, would necessarily face the same end. As an example, though perhaps at some cost, I believe that the old vicarage on Station Road could convert viably into a comfortable and homely environment for older people.

Unfortunately, my wish to see the re-establishment of a residential facility in Bentham is not backed up by the means to achieve it! Short of a Lottery win, or a sizeable bequest from a maiden aunt I've never heard of, I could never hope to have or gain access to the resources necessary to make my wish a reality. I know, however, that there are possibly people in the Bentham area who *are* in a position to do this, and who may just feel that investing in the wellbeing of the town's older people is quite worthwhile. Personally I can do little but plant seeds and hope that one of them germinates. But should that happen I would be more than willing to throw in whatever abilities I may have to help the person(s) involved to fill the gap left by *Burndale's* closure. I can be easily contacted via Bentham News if anyone would like to discuss this further.

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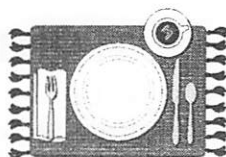
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COOKERY PAGE

*Edited by Patsy
Henderson*



Chicken and Sweetcorn Stew

Recipe - Serves 4

1 kg chicken, cut into pieces
paprika
20ml olive oil
15g butter
300g onions, chopped
1 medium pepper, red or green, cored,
seeded and chopped
270g tinned chopped tomatoes
170ml white wine
300ml chicken stock
30ml fresh parsley, chopped
½ tsp Tabasco sauce
10ml Worcestershire sauce
180ml sweetcorn kernels, fresh, frozen or
tinned
100g broad beans, fresh or frozen (N.B. I
prefer to blanch and skin the beans before
adding to the casserole)
15g plain flour
seasoning
flat leaf parsley sprigs for garnish
nice crusty, rustic loaf for serving.

Method

Rinse the chicken pieces in water, dry and
sprinkle lightly with salt and paprika. Heat
the oil and butter in a large saucepan. Add
the chicken pieces and fry until golden, then
remove and set aside. Reduce the heat and
cook the onions and pepper until they are
softened. Stir in the tomatoes, wine, stock,
parsley and Tabasco and Worcestershire
sauces.

Turn up the heat and bring to the boil.
Add the chicken to the pan, stir and simmer
for about 30 minutes.

Add the sweetcorn and beans, stir and
simmer for a further 30 minutes. Skim off
any surface fat. Mix flour with a little water
to make a paste and then add about ¼ cup of
the liquid from the pan. Stir this into the pan
and season. Cook for about 6 minutes,
stirring occasionally. Garnish and serve.

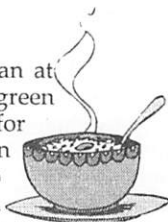
Green Bean Soup with Parmesan Cheese

Recipe - Serves 4

20g butter
150g fresh green beans (French or runner)
1 small clove garlic, crushed
300ml vegetable stock
35g parmesan cheese
3 tbsp single cream
20ml fresh parsley, chopped
seasoning

Method

Melt the butter in a saucepan at
medium heat. Add the green
beans and garlic and cook for
a couple of minutes. Stir in
the stock, add seasoning to
taste and bring to the boil. Reduce heat and simmer for
10-15 minutes until the beans are tender.
Process the soup until smooth and then
return it to the cleaned pan. Heat gently
then add the parmesan cheese and cream.
Sprinkle with parsley and serve.



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RETURN OF A SUCCESSFUL ARTIST TO BENTHAM GALLERY

By Chris Humphries

Pauline is a self taught artist who has sold over 50 paintings during the last 3 years, in many media, from water colour to oils and even mixed media. She has been dabbling in art for about 14 years and started to take it more seriously when she retired, with more spare time on her hands. As a result her painting skills began to improve and soon she had her first exhibition.

Since then she has had 12 exhibitions and this will be her 3rd at Bentham Gallery. She loves painting landscapes, The Big Stone, Shaky Bridge and the Wenning Oak. She has a particular passion for the Forest of Bowland, painting it as often as she can.

She says "The beautiful moors of Bowland inspire me every time I drive through them, no matter what the weather; we are very lucky to have such a wonderful place on our door step. I first saw the moors when I came looking for the birth place of my grandmother, Annie Cooper, who was born here in 1901. Both my husband and I visit Bentham as often as possible and have made some very good friends".

She is a member of the Brighouse Art Circle in Yorkshire. The exhibition will contain her new works, as well as some of her old favourites and well known views. It will run for all of September, so why not pop in and see for yourself?

YOUTH THEATRE

By Iain Henshaw

The youth theatre group will be starting up again on September 23rd. As in the past we will be splitting the group by age, 11 and under from 6:00 until 7:15 PM and 12+ from 7:30 to 9:00 PM, £3.00 per session. As of writing we have not had our preferred venue confirmed - The Methodist church hall - so for the first week or so we will meet at the Town Hall. We will let you know through the website and the Bentham column of the Lancaster Guardian. We thank our latest sponsor Atkinson Vos and Carole Thurnham for her very kind donation. There are still plenty of sponsorship opportunities for any company that may want to lend a hand. This Autumn we are working towards a Christmas variety show to be staged in early December. To keep in touch please use the website at byt.org.uk or you can call me on 015242 61010 or email byt@s1b.com

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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.

September 1989

Following last month's announcement that a Bentham branch of Age Concern was to be formed, this month's BN published a more detailed account of the proposed organisation. It was planned that the activities of the new group would be centred around a new Day Centre, the purpose of which would be to (quote) "enable older people to enjoy a day when they can meet friends and keep their minds alert by participating in the various activities being offered." The opening date was still to be announced.

Fundraising was already underway, with over £400 having been raised at a Charity Lunch hosted by Mr and Mrs Garretson at Seat Hall Barn, Low Bentham Road. A raffle was held, which was to be the first of many scores of raffles held under the Age Concern banner. First prize in the raffle was won by *Frances Clarke*, who can therefore legitimately claim to be the first ever Age Concern raffle winner in Bentham. *And she's still winning 'em!*

Another activity new to Bentham and making a first appearance this month was indoor bowling, introduced as part of an initiative by the Town Council to tempt people into making more use of the Town Hall facilities.

Roland and Margaret Nicholson were Presidents of the 1989 Bentham Show, in which intrepid participants and visitors once again faced the watery elements of our English summer. A considerable amount of work had been done to improve the drainage on the show field and this was apparently successful according to the *Bard of Station Road*, part of whose September shop advert read as follows:

On Marshall's land I stood upon

And realised all t'fence 'ad gone.

T'land were grand and dry as snuff,
Digger man Taylor had done 'is stuff!

It was reported that Town Councillor *Bob Wood* and his wife *Margaret* were to retire this month after running the village shop in Low Bentham for 22 years. Bob, who died just a few months ago, was 76 years of age when he left the shop.

A good deal of publicity was being given to a *Bentham Sponsored Walk* which was planned to take place later in September on behalf of several local charities. The walk, which looks to have been extremely well organised, covered approx 10 miles with several "dropping out" points along the way. I hope to report on the outcome next month, but it has immediately struck me that with a number of local "good causes" looking for funds, a town Sponsored Walk is something we could easily revisit to our advantage. Any offers?

Following the recent Housing Needs Survey in which it had been clearly identified that there was a chronic need for low cost housing in Bentham, County Councillor *Ralph Atkinson* organised a public meeting to which a member of the NAC Rural Trust was invited and indeed travelled from Selby to attend. Sadly however, only two members of the public and one Town Councillor could be bothered to travel all the way from Bentham to hear what she had to say!

It's easy to say 'typical Bentham' but I do believe that this kind of civic apathy, or at best disinterest, has over the years contributed quite significantly to Bentham's apparently lowly place in the pecking order for Craven District goodies.

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BENTHAM FILM GROUP PRESENT "SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE"

By Stella Hall

The Film Club is delighted that the much acclaimed film 'Slumdog Millionaire' (Cert 15) will be shown at your local film club venue, the Victoria Institute, Low Bentham, on Saturday 12th September.

It tells the story of Jamal Malik, an 18 year old orphan from the slums of Mumbai who is about to experience the biggest day of his life. With the whole nation watching, he is just one question away from winning a staggering 20 million rupees on India's 'Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?'

The film will begin at 7.30pm. During the interval there will be refreshments for sale and a raffle will be drawn.

Tickets are £5 on the door. We look forward to seeing you!

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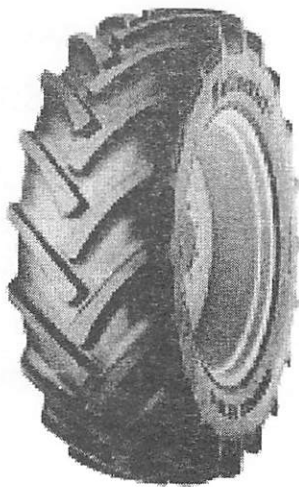
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RUBBISH TIP AT KEADSEN

An update by Keith Hartley

Following my "frank exchange of views" with Colin Price, Chairman of the Clapham-cum-Newby Parish Council (*July BN*) I was invited to attend the July meeting of the Parish Council. I was happy to do this, and pleased to see the tip on the agenda.

The hope was expressed that following the Chairman's progress report on the tip and the subsequent discussion, I would be able to assure Bentham people, via Bentham News, that the Parish Council was doing all in its power to resolve the problem. I can indeed confirm that this is the case, but then I have never really doubted that the PC would want the eyesore removed as much as any of us. My doubts have been, and still are, in the remit and the powers of the PC in relation to the scale of the problem.

It is now over four months since I first visited the site and the tip remains intact and as offensive as ever. Two months ago I

noted evidence of new tipping, and during the past month a Footpath Group member has reported to me that she also has seen new material dumped at the site.

I have been in contact with the Environment Agency, whose representative confirmed that the EA has accepted the lead role in addressing the issue. It is being done in liaison with other agencies such as the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Ingleborough Estates and Craven District Council, and he also confirmed the intention to eventually create a wetland environment that will completely transform the area. A very worthwhile project *when it happens*, but my own experience of multi-agency working affords me a very low expectation of anything being done in the near future, despite the Environment Agency's hopes that the project will be completed by April of next year.

Whilst feeling that there is little more I can do at this stage, I would again say that until I see or hear positive signs of work in progress I will consider the matter far from closed.

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WATERWHEELS PLAN FOR NATIONAL PARK

By Nick Oldham (Press Officer YDNPA)

Waterwheels could be turning again all over the Yorkshire Dales National Park if a scheme to generate electricity is backed by landowners and residents. Nearly 50 potential sites for small-scale hydro-electric units have been considered in a study commissioned by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (YDNPA).

Authority members have agreed to spend up to £3,000 to arrange seminars to promote small-scale hydro power to National Park landowners and communities groups.

Moya Turrell, the Authority's Sustainable Development Officer, said: "The Dales has a long history of harnessing waterpower for its traditional industries and many of its villages had their own electricity schemes in the early 1900s. Today, with increasing energy costs, Government incentives and concerns about carbon dioxide emissions, there is growing local interest to examine the hydro potential of former mill sites and to look at new ones.

"The YDNPA is keen to see the development of small-scale hydro-power sites to meet local energy needs – and the restoration of former sites also offers an opportunity to conserve some of our most important local buildings. For example, we have already helped to get hydro power schemes off the ground at Gayle Mill and Yore Mill at Aysgarth and have supported the design of schemes at Linton Falls and Farfield Mill".

Kendal-based Inter Hydro Technology Ltd carried out a feasibility study on 49 potential sites. It estimated each site's potential power outputs and its economic viability, and gave a preliminary assessment of any regulatory and environmental barriers to development. More detailed work involving environmental impacts and constraints is required to make a full assessment of the sites. The report concluded that there were many worthwhile opportunities for hydro power in the Yorkshire Dales National Park and the economic viability of some sites may be improved on by further investigation.

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LOCAL EVENTS IN SEPTEMBER

Tue 1st Yoga at the Town Hall, 11.00am-12.00noon and 6.00-7.00pm and every Tuesday.

Craft Club at the Wenningdale Room, 10.00am-12.00noon, and every Tuesday.

Tuesday Strolls, leave Looking Well 2.00pm, return 3.00pm, and every Tuesday.

Enormous Turnip Club - Gardening for All, Looking Well Garden 2.00-4.30pm, and every Tuesday.

Wed 2nd Coffee morning at the Methodist Church Hall, 10.00-11.30am and every Wednesday. Donations to local charities.

NSPCC meeting at Oxenforth Green, 7.30pm.

Café IN, Looking Well 11.0am-1.30pm and every Wednesday.

Exhibition of Wildflower artworks, Looking Well, 10.00am-3.00pm all Weds, Thurs and Fridays this month.

Citizens' Advice Bureau at the Health Centre 1.30-3.30pm.

Thu 3rd Swimming at Hornby for over 50s (men & women), leaving 8.45am. Telephone Barbara 62873 or Carol 61233 for transport, and every Thursday.

Cancer Support Group Drop in, Art Session, Lunch & Therapies, Looking Well 11.00am-1.30pm and every Thursday.

Felt making with Chryssie Burgess, at the "In the Same Boat Group", Looking Well, 10.30am-12.30pm.

Thu 3rd

High Bentham W.I. at the Town Hall, 7.30pm. "Coast to Coast by Harley Davidson".

and 17th, Welcome-in dominoes for all ages, Methodist Church Hall, 2.00-4.00pm. For transport contact Nigel or Kath on 62272.

Cancer Support Group Felt Pictures workshop Looking Well, 10.30am-12.30pm.

Fri 4th

Age Concern at the Masonic Hall, 10.00am-2.30pm. Bingo.

Yoga at the Town Hall, 6.30-7.30pm, and every Friday.

Sat 5th

Bentham Junior Football Club coffee morning at the Methodist Church Hall, 10.00am-12.00noon.

Farmers' Market at the Lower Town Hall, 9.00am-1.30pm.

Bentham Agricultural Society Show at Bellfleckers Field.

Sun 6th

Bentham Footpath Group walk, Ingleborough, 7 miles, Leader J. Jones 63315. Meet at Lairgill 9.30am.

Felt Pictures workshop, Victoria Institute, 10.00am-4.00pm.

Mon 7th

Gentle walks for women, leave Lairgill 9.30am, every Monday.

Craven Customer Services at the Town Hall, 10.00am-12.00noon, and every Monday.

Town Council meeting at the Town Hall, 7.30pm.

Toddle-In for parents/carers and babies/toddlers; Methodist Church hall, 10.00-11.30am, and every Monday.

Adventurers Group for 4-6 year olds, 4.30-5.30pm, Methodist Church Hall, and every Monday in term time.

Springboard for 7-10 year olds, Methodist Church Hall, 6.15-7.30pm, and every Monday in term time.

Tue 8th

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

Wed 9th

Community Bonfire AGM at Looking Well, 8.00pm. The committee would be glad of any new offers of help. Come along or phone Gareth 61182 or Bernie 61438.

LISTING FOR LOCAL EVENTS

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

Event.....

Venue.....

Contact Tel:.....

Name.....

Please return this entry to the Bentham Gallery, Station Road, High Bentham, by the 15th Sept.

- Wed 9th Moving Well-gentle movement to music, led by Sally Horn, Looking Well 2.00-3.00pm and every Wednesday.
Scottish Country dancing, 7.30pm Ingleton Community Centre and every Wednesday. Also in other villages, contact Mary Taylor, 61672, for details.
- Thu 10th Little Red Bus presentation at the "In the Same Boat Group", Looking Well, 11.00am-12.30pm.
- Fri 11th Age Concern at the Masonic Hall, 10.00am-2.30pm. Extend Exercise with Colin Etherington.
- Sat 12th Church of the Good Shepherd coffee morning at the Town Hall,  10.00am-12.00noon.
Bentham Film Group film, "Slumdog Millionaire", Victoria Institute, Low Bentham 7.30pm. Contact 61183. See page 15.
Singing Workshop led by Noelle Thompson, Looking Well, 2.00-6.00pm.
Pet Rescue Yard Sale, Westward View, 2 Robin lane, 10.00am-4.00pm.
- Mon 14th Craven Customer Services at the Town Hall, 10.00am-12.30pm.
- Tue 15th Bright Hour meeting at Methodist Schoolroom, 2.15pm. Speaker Rev. R. Fox.
Thornton and Burton Mothers' Union, 2.00pm at the Church room. Rev. Dr. N. Kendra.
Copy deadline (editorial and advertising) for October edition of Bentham News.
- Wed 16th Citizens' Advice Bureau at the Health Centre 1.30-3.30pm.
Art for All - beginners welcome, Looking Well 2.00-4.00pm, and every Wednesday.
Bentham Footpath Group walk, Settle Ramble, 7 miles, leader D. Cairns 015242 41385. Meet at Lairgill 9.30am.
- Thu 17th LASRUG meeting at the Wenningdale Room, 7.30pm.
Low Bentham W.I. meeting at Victoria Institute, 7.30pm. Malcolm Culshaw talk - "Lady Anne Clifford".
- Fri 18th 7.00-8.00pm GFI for school years 6, 7 & 8, and 8.15-9.15 for school years 9+. Methodist Church Hall and every Friday in term time.
Age Concern at the Masonic Hall, 10.00am-2.30pm. "Whose Wedding is This?"
Waste paper collection at Lairgill Car Park, 8.30-11.00am. proceeds to NSPCC.
- Sat 19th Burton Under 5s coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10.00am-12.00noon. 
Bentham Footpath Group Lakes Weekend (19 & 20th), contact A. Leigh 63037.
- Mon 21st Craven Customer Services at the Town Hall, 10.00am-12.30pm.
- Tue 22nd Bentham Child Health Clinic at the Surgery, 2.00-4.00pm.
Rag Rug course begins, (10 weeks) led by Joyce Knapp, Looking Well, 7.00-9.00pm, and every Tuesday.
- Wed 23rd Bentham First Responders meet at Looking Well, 7.30pm. More volunteers urgently needed, come and talk to us about joining.
- Thu 24th "Aspects of Ingleborough" start of series (10) lectures by David Johnson of Stainforth, at Clapham Primary School, 7.00pm. Details from 51323.
Getting to Grips with computers at the "In the Same Boat Group" Looking Well, 11.00am-12.30pm.
- Fri 25th Age Concern at the Masonic Hall, 10.00am-2.30pm - Gardens of Great Britain - Eric Stanley.
Churches Together & Looking Well Barn Dance at Town Hall, from 5.30pm. See page 7.
- Sat 26th High Bentham W.I. coffee morning at Town Hall, 10.00am-12.00noon.
Bentham Footpath Group walk, Holme, 8 miles, leaders T & J Connolly 42129. Meet at Lairgill 9.30am.
- Tue 29th Bright Hour at the Methodist Schoolroom, 2.15pm. Mrs Edith Fox.

BN published on Friday 2nd October.

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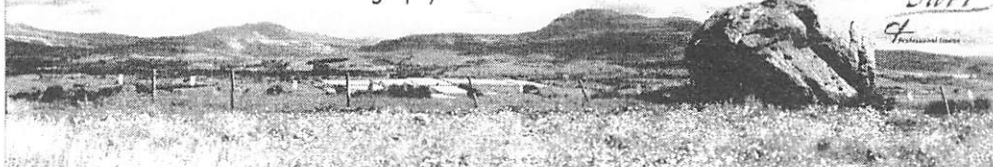
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BENTHAM COMMUNITY RAIL EVENTS

By David Alder

There have been three recent successful community rail events in Bentham.

On Thursday 30 July, Noel Machell, a NW based railway photographer of long standing, gave a slide show and talk in Bentham Town Hall about the railway line from Leeds and Bradford to Lancaster, Morecambe and Heysham.

An audience approaching 60 people was kept enthralled for two hours by photographs of the line taken by the speaker over the past fifty years – from steam days right up to the present. Of particular interest were scenes from the closed stretch of railway between Wennington and Morecambe via Lancaster Green Ayre, the cultural changes reflected in the photographs generally, and the depiction of railways as part of the landscape. Jack Warbrick of Lancaster and Skipton Rail Users' Group [LASRUG] thanked Mr Machell for a fascinating evening.

A retiring collection raised just over £100 for LASRUG funds

Open Day at Bentham Railway Station

Saturday 1st August saw an open day at Bentham railway station just over a year from the official opening of the refurbished main building at the station. The building

had been brought back into use as a community transport hub for 'Little Red Bus' by Bentham Development Trust [BDT] with grant aid from North Yorkshire County Council and Future Builders. Since then Bentham Station Partnership had been formed - involving BDT, Bentham Community Transport, LASRUG, Northern Rail, Bentham Environmentally Sustainable Town, Bloomin' Bentham and Bentham Tourist Information - to provide and maintain further enhancements to the station which is an important gateway to the town. Visitors were able to see the developments that had occurred in the community transport field and the colourful floral displays on the station.

Finally, LASRUG held one of its regular Bentham Town Hall coffee mornings on Saturday 8 August. This successful event raised just short of £200 for the rail users group which will be used to help continue the promotion and improvement of the Lancaster to Skipton section of the Leeds-Morecambe railway.

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By Viki Hindle

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Children can be left in the care of our OFSTED registered staff, where they can learn intellectually and socially as well as having a great deal of fun. There is a brilliant array of games and activities in our purpose built classroom, along with a secure, free flow outdoor area. We regularly go on trips and have people coming in to visit and talk to the children.

Over the past year, we have made some important improvements to our setting,

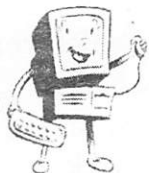
including the upgrading of our computers, installation of a phone line, refurbishment of the kitchen area and finally, during May half term, we had Absorb a Fall flooring laid in the free flow outdoor area. These enhancements are essential to keep Burton Under Fives at the forefront of pre-school childcare in our area.

Owing to the popularity of our extended lunchtime sessions, our opening hours are changing slightly; as from September, we will be offering four hour sessions every day. So our revised opening hours are; Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 9am until 1pm. Thursday, Rising Fives only, 9am until 1pm. We will be returning for the Christmas term on September 8th.

If you would like to use Burton Under Fives as your pre-school childcare provider, but you have problems with transport, please feel free to give us a ring, as we may be able to help out.

If you would like further information about Burton Under Fives, you can contact us on (015242) 62126 or call in during pre-school hours.

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

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LOW BENTHAM W.I.

By Jennifer Watkinson

On a grey July morning 19 members set off for a members' day outing, which Angela Robertson had very kindly volunteered to organise. After stopping at the well hidden Wilf's Cafe at Staveley for a short break we travelled to Holehird gardens, near Windermere, where we were met by husband and wife guides. We were divided into two groups and then taken to view the beautiful, well kept, colourful gardens in a magnificent setting that surrounds the Leonard Cheshire Home. Our knowledgeable and enthusiastic guides were keen to answer the many questions that members asked. From these uncommercialised gardens we motored to Hayes Garden Centre for lunch and shopping. Thank you Angela for arranging this lovely trip. Two members also had an enjoyable day out at Harewood House when they joined Lowgill's coach trip. The next meeting will be on Thursday 17th September. See the diary page for details.

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BENTHAM PEOPLE



Personal Thanks

Norma Standing - a dearly loved mum, nan and great gran who will be greatly missed. Peter and Karen and all the family would like to thank everyone for their sympathy and kind thoughts, and for the many cards received. Thanks also to Joe Morphet and Rev Mabel Parr for all their help.

Thanks

Wac and Heather Carter would like to thank everyone who helped us celebrate our Golden wedding on 25th July 2009. Also thank you to family and friends for the very nice presents and cards you gave us. A special thank you to our children and grandchildren for decorating the Golf Club which was beautiful, also for the nice holiday in the Lake District.

Julie - I would like to say a big thank you to all of my loyal customers and friends who have supported me through my business in the last nine years, a big thank you, again. (Julie's Butchers).

Retirement

Susan Parkington After much consideration following my recent illness, I have decided to take early retirement from the Co-op Pharmacy. I have really enjoyed my time in Bentham where you have all made me so welcome, which makes me sorry to leave. May I wish you all, health and happiness for the future.

Birthday

Happy 60th Birthday Mel. Lots of love from Norma, Gary & Alicia, Katie, Dez & the girls. xx. PS. Bus pass is in the post!! xx

Congratulations

Congratulations Liam on graduating from RAF Honnington in Suffolk. Good luck in your new base, Lossiemouth, Scotland. Love mum, dad, Jemma, Jake and Ian.

Accommodation

Central Bentham, shared house, own room, Bills included £275 per month. Telephone 015242 62746 or 07784 091119.

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Range of MVQ Childcare and Education study books. Good condition. All half price. Chrissy Burgess 015242 63233/61247.

CHARITIES THANKS

* Bentham Line Dancers have recently made a donation of £100 to the Victoria Institute, Low Bentham, to help with the good work done on behalf of the community.

* Thank you to all those who attended Jane Chilton's talk on Nepal at Looking Well on 12th August. We raised £165 for the Himali Village Care Project.

* SLOES AVAILABLE - Lots of sloes available in Bentham during September. I'll pick - you collect - donations to charity would be appreciated. First come, first served! Telephone 61849 for details.

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Dear Readers,

Regretfully the committee of the Longstaffe Educational Foundation wishes to inform you that because of the current financial climate there cannot be any distribution of funds this year.

When the economic climate has improved the committee hopes once more to be able to resume its support of student education.

*Yours sincerely,
David Johnson (secretary).*

The Editor,

With reference to the two pieces printed in the BN August Issue 274 from the person whose name and address were withheld: It's unfortunate that this person's reactions to the British National Party (BNP) window stickers in Bentham came across as they did, when there are good sound reasons for less stridently emotive and more telling disagreement with BNP ideas and statements.

I agree that we should not be in any way supporting "racism and bigotry" but I do think we ought to be careful about how we respond when they appear so that we don't become bigots ourselves and miss the learnings there may be in our consideration of the arguments. It has long been recognised that the arguments against intolerance have to be put in reasoned ways time and again so that successive generations in all communities are able to recognise intolerance and deal with it constructively - and hopefully avoid the conditions and triggers for it to appear at all. We cannot rely on mere sloganising and emotive statements against intolerance to do this effectively.

There are good grounds for being fundamentalist about intolerance. One contemporary philosopher (A C Grayling) says very neatly that "we should not tolerate the intolerant". Yes; but in our desire to refute and discredit their pronouncements please let us avoid as far as possible adopting

similar tactics to ones the intolerant may use, in Bentham as elsewhere. Shouting in print doesn't help. Also, the BNP is not a proscribed political party and individuals are entitled to put up official political party stickers in their windows without fear or favour whatever others may feel about it. I feel no shame about that.

*Yours sincerely,
Mark Fletcher.*

Dear Bentham News,

As a regular visitor to Bentham and recipient of 'The Bentham News' I would like to say how much I agree with the letter written by Margaret Ellis (August issue) about the proposed car parking charges in Bentham.

Apart from the stunning scenery and the friendly residents, Bentham has a marked originality with vibrant family traders and businesses in Main Street. The opportunity to park for free and support the local community using local shops is an experience to be valued. With the introduction of parking fees Bentham may become like any other high street with an abundance of charity shops etc. and no real heart. It's very easy to get in the car park for free and do all one's shopping at Booths or the like.

Bentham residents should fight for their free parking, organise petitions, contact their local councillors to act on their behalf and make their displeasure known to Craven Council. GOOD LUCK!

*Celia Duerden,
Blackburn, Lancs.*

(Letters continued on page 28.)

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LETTERS

(continued from page 27)

Dear Benthams News,

I wish to add my voice to the growing number of Benthams residents who object to Craven's proposal to have car park charges.

Having dug themselves into a hole with their £2,000,000 debt Craven District are now desperate to find funding any way that they can. The first effect on Benthams was the closure of the Public Toilet, only opened about 5 years ago at a cost of £80,000. If this isn't shooting oneself in the foot I fail to see what is.

Now they want to charge us for parking. For visitors, already baffled at the lack of a public convenience, this adds to their disenchantment with the town and must lead to a decision not to return.

For the traders, parking charges can only have a negative effect on their ability to run a sustainable business and could certainly lead in the future to Benthams becoming a 'one-horse town'.

For residents it will lead to anger and frustration as cars and other vehicles are parked all along the residential streets causing more congestion and road safety issues.

Some residents are taking a positive stance – witness the notice in Duxbury's window – but it requires support, and soon, from the majority of the Town's residents so '*Come on Benthams*' – let Craven District Council know how we feel and see what People Power can accomplish!

Peter Phillips

Dear Benthams News,

I have been trying to trace anyone from the Townsman family, my late father's family. I believe one member was a stone mason. Would it be possible to buy a book on Benthams and family names?

If anyone can help I would appreciate it very much.

Many thanks,

Mrs. D. Collins (nee Townson), Glenbrook, Ewloe Place, Buckley, Flintshire, CH7 3NL.

Dear Benthams News Readers,

The debate over Pay and Display at Grasmere car park has shown me that I am not always managing to work out what people feel strongly about in Benthams. Since I got elected to Craven District Council, my working life has changed quite a bit and I'm not around Benthams during the week as much as I used to be.

I've decided to take a leaf from Ralph Atkinson's book and try to go to all the Coffee Mornings at the Town Hall, except on the second Saturday morning of each month when I'll go to the Book Swap at Low Benthams. So that's where you'll find me (and often Manuel Camacho as well) from 10.30am, please come and bend my ear, or you can as always phone me and leave a message on 015242 61034 or e-mail me on linbarrington@live.co.uk

Best wishes,

Lin Barrington,

Craven District Councillor for Benthams.

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BEST NEWS

By Richard Wilson

An Apple Day...

The season of mists was already upon us in mid-August, and no doubt some mellow fruitfulness will be weighing down our apple trees by September.

BEST has decided to mark harvest time this year with a celebration of our local fruit crop, and Sunday 27th September will be Bentham's Apple Day. There will be an afternoon educational event at Looking Well from 2 to 4pm, where you can learn about local apple varieties, and some of the delicious recipes you can make with them. If you are lucky enough to have a tree, but are unsure how to look after it, the afternoon will include a talk on pruning and general care.

If you are luckier still, and overwhelmed by a bumper apple crop that you cannot pick, reach, use, store or give away, then BEST is offering a "Don't waste those Apples" service through September, to show its commitment to making the most of local produce, and avoiding food waste.

Members (subject to availability!) will pick your surplus or unreachable apples in return for a share of the crop, which will be used for non-profit or educational purposes, for example making chutney and other apple products for distribution within the community, and for tasting at the Apple Event. Phone 63399 to take part, or if you'd like to know more.

BEST stands for Bentham Environmentally Sustainable Town. All our 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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KIRKBY LONSDALE CHORAL SOCIETY PLANS

By Christine Jenkinson

Just a reminder for new members and old friends that our new season starts at the Institute, New Road on Thursday 10th September at 7.30pm. Our new Conductor, Ian Allan, plans to prepare for the Christmas concert on Sunday December 13th, by working on several choruses from Handel's 'Messiah' together with carols for Choir and Audience.

Next year on February 5th we will join other local choirs in a fund-raising concert - 'Over the Sands' - at the Central Methodist Church, Morecambe, contributing Roger Cann's 'Evergreen Landscape' and some African songs. At our Summer Concert on May 16th 2010, we will present the Fauré 'Requiem' and Poulenc's 'Gloria'. Details from Marjorie Dybeck, 015242 72812.

NEWS FROM HORNBY OCCASIONALS

By Sandra Bamber

The Hornby Occasionals will commence rehearsals on Friday 11th September 2009 at 7.30pm at Hornby Institute.

Our forthcoming production will be "The Yeoman Of the Guard" by Gilbert & Sullivan and is scheduled to be performed in March 2010.

We are hoping to recruit new members and are looking particularly for soprano voices. Anyone of whatever age, who might be interested in coming along to sing and perform with our friendly and energetic group would be most welcome.

If you are think it might be something you are interested in then come and join us on the above date or any Friday thereafter or contact our secretary Sandra Towers on 015242 21399 for further information.

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NEW BENTHAM CALENDAR AVAILABLE AT BENTHAM SHOW

By Jo Burton (Town Clerk)

The 2010 Bentham Calendar will be available for purchase at the Bentham Show. This quality production, with yet more great photos of the Bentham area through the seasons, will make a great Christmas present. However as numbers are limited please make sure that you get yours early.

The calendar will be available from the Clerk's office in the Town Hall, and also from Bentham Imaging on Main Street and High Bentham Post Office at a price of £7.

Again, thanks to our generous sponsors:- Atkinson VOS, Bentham Imaging, Carrs Billington, Craven Construction, Dalehead Vets, Grove Hill Garage, HB Plumbing & Heating Ltd, Little Red Bus, Naylor Myers, MJ & Y Faichney, Robert Taylor & Sons and S & W Fabrications Ltd; the full production costs of the calendar have been met.

The Council has decided to support

Springfield Bowling Club this year. The Club will receive the proceeds of the sale to help them update the disabled access and toilet facilities on the bowling green following the recent refurbishment of the pavilion.

Produced in Bentham using Bentham talent and Bentham businesses, the calendar will be a great way of keeping track of what's on in the Town Hall, and some of the other major events in the Town and supporting a worthy local cause.

For further information contact Jo Burton on 62587.

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LOOKING WELL NEWS

By Clare Hucknall

New beginnings, music and movement are leading the way in September. Looking Well and Churches Together are joining to celebrate Harvest Time with a Family Barn Dance at Bentham Town Hall on Friday 25th September, from 5.30pm.

There is a Singing Workshop on Saturday 12th (2-6pm) led by Noelle Thompson, learning harmony songs and chants – all abilities welcome, no need to read music as all is taught by ear; you just need enthusiasm for singing. Following on from this, we hope to start an evening singing group. Do get in touch if you are interested in joining.

A new Pilates class will start in September (day/time/venue to be finalised). There has been great interest in this and it is likely that there will be 2 sessions per week (initially just one). The weekly Moving Well classes begin again on Weds 9th (2-3pm) which is gentle movement to music and is run by Sally, our Pilates teacher.

The Adult Education classes run by NYCC also begin in mid-September and enrolments will be at the Looking Well on Monday 14th (3-8pm), courses you can sign up for include Tai Chi, Creative Textiles, Multi Media Art, Creative Cards and Computing with Confidence.

A new evening Rag Rug course begins on 22nd Sept. (7-9pm) led by Joyce Knapp. Places are limited so please contact Joyce on 61355.

On Sunday 13th we are hosting an Older Persons Tea and Chat party (3-5pm), transport can be arranged so if you, or

someone you know, may be interested in coming along please get in touch with Clare or Julie.

Due to popular demand, the Cancer Support Group's exhibition of wildflower artwork has been extended until end of September (See diary listings).

For further details on any of the above please telephone Julie on 015242 62672 (e-mail julie@pioneerprojects.org.uk).

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BENTHAM GOLF CLUB IS FOR SALE

By Malcolm Hindle

(Chairman, Bentham Golf Club)

Bentham Golf Club, founded in 1922, is to be offered for sale. In 2003, when officially opened as an 18 hole course, Bentham was heralded as one of the finest parkland courses in North Yorkshire, the "Augusta of the North". However, from a peak in 2005 the membership has suffered a serious decline. The combination of poor summer weather and the general recessionary environment have seen the playing membership drop by around 40%, a level which the current Board of Directors believes is unsustainable. Regrettably the weather over the last two years has also seen significant reductions in Green Fees and bar sales, which have compounded the situation.

The climate of recession, combined with local redundancies, has forced many members to prioritise their spending, resulting in the golf club losing members, and that all important revenue. Ironically the current spell of summer weather sees the course in excellent condition, inducing an upsurge in both visitors and general income. Unfortunately, whilst this is a positive trend, it does not compensate for the loss of membership fees, which sustain the club and facilities during the winter months.

The decision to sell the club has not been taken lightly, and is a massive disappointment to the extremely loyal core of Bentham members. In offering the Golf Course and facilities for sale, the Directors are looking for a sympathetic buyer who will maintain the course for future generations of

local golfers. In selecting a buyer every effort will be made to keep the course alive and operational.

Full details of the circumstances which have led to this situation were presented at a Members Information meeting on 29th June, and at a subsequent EGM on Wednesday, 15th July.

For the Golf Club members and for the local people this is a very sad time.

PRO-AM TOURNAMENT

By Mike Yeates

Bentham Golf Club is set to stage its 2nd Pro-Am Tournament at the club on Friday 4th September. With entries from all 3 local counties Cumbria, Lancashire and North Yorkshire, and further afield, the amateur players will enjoy playing alongside the top professionals in the North West.

The professionals will be drawn from the North West's top 50 order of merit and is likely to include last year's winner Mark Bradley from Chorley, who completed the course in a 6 under par 65, together with runner up Neil Cheetham.

The 3 amateurs and 1 professional will play a medal round with the best two net scores to count on each hole. The Professionals will also be playing individually within their own tournament. With prizes for longest drive and nearest the pin it promises to be a great day.

Why not come along and see top golf professionals in action. Entry is free and there will also be an opportunity to enter a putting competition. *The picture below was taken at last year's pro-am tournament.*

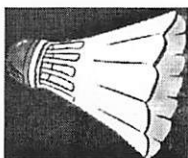


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NEW VENUE FOR LOW BENTHAM BADMINTON CLUB



By Julie Bridgeman (Tel 62276)

The 2009 – 2010 season will begin on Tuesday 15th September and finish on Tuesday 27th April. Times will be as last season at 6.30 – 8.30pm. We will continue to play at QES unless I let you know otherwise. Having been in touch with Sedbergh staff there is no guarantee that the Sedbergh Junior School Hall in Low Bentham will be operational for September.

The plan is to continue to have a team in the adult league and two teams in the junior league.

Costs at QES are significantly higher than those we enjoyed at SJS so unfortunately subs will have to be higher than they traditionally have been. I reckon that we need to charge subs at £70 for the season which sounds a lot but works out at £1.25 an hour so is still not expensive. This will just cover hall costs. We'll need to do some fundraising for shuttles, end of season trophies and medals and extra hours for matches. A bag pack has been suggested so we'll try and organise this early in the season. Any other suggestions will be gratefully received. If there are any local businesses or organisations that feel they can support us please would you get in touch with me.

I'm sure we're all looking forward to another successful season.

INDOOR BOWLING

By Peter Shallcross

Indoor Bowling sessions are held in Bentham Town Hall each Monday and Thursday during the winter from 1.30 to 3.30pm. The first session of the season will be on Monday 5th October, at which we hope to hold a meeting to discuss finance etc. Please come if you can and have your say.

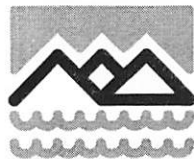
There are three short mats which allow up to eighteen players to play at any one time. Games are played in a friendly atmosphere and all players from beginners to "experts" are made very welcome. Bowls can be made available to potential members who would like to try the game.

The number of players has declined since the Town Hall was closed for refurbishment. More players are needed if this local amenity is to remain viable. Last season there were around 12 to 16 players on Mondays but only half that number on Thursdays. Some new players have joined but more are needed, especially on Thursdays if Indoor Bowling is to continue on both days. Why not come and give indoor short mat bowling a try?

SPRINGFIELD BOWLING CLUB

By Teresa Freeman

Just a reminder about our Open Day for Visitors on Saturday, September 19th, from 1.30pm onwards. Come and see why we have been raising funds for the past year and what your donations have achieved. Everyone is invited to visit and see our new pavilion, have a look around, try a game of bowls (whether you've played before or not) or just enjoy a cup of tea and a chat.



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HIGH BENTHAM SCHOOL'S SUCCESSFUL "WIZARD OF OZ"

By Sue Marshall

High Bentham primary school pupils danced along the yellow brick road in their stunning end of year production. Ten year old Lauren Atkinson, took on the role of Dorothy, who finds herself in the land of Oz after a tornado devastates her home. There she meets her new friends, the cowardly lion, energetically played by Taylor Clapham, the heart broken Tin Man, (Charlotte Green) and the scarecrow (Jessica Piper).

Directed by teacher Libby Wheildon, the show involved the entire school, with pupils from reception to Year 5 taking on singing, dancing and acting roles. Stunning costumes were made by teaching assistant Gowan Sedgwick and gifted grandma Janet Copsey. Video effects, produced by Keith Webster and Iain Henshaw, transformed the stage as a tornado blitzed through and Dorothy travelled over the rainbow to the colourful land of Oz.

Producer Sue Marshall said: "This is our third summer musical and the children performed brilliantly. The production involved an unbelievable amount of goodwill and hard work on the part of everyone connected with school and we are very fortunate to have such a talented team. The children were all fantastic!" Photographs from the show, like the one above, are currently available from Bentham Imaging.

Pacific Challenge

High Bentham primary school pupils have been following the adventures of two oarsmen rowing the Pacific in a courageous record breaking bid. Chris Martin and Mick Dawson hope to be the first duo to row the ocean unsupported and aim to arrive in San Francisco, in their tiny craft, Bojangles, in November. They are keeping a blog, which enables Year 5 children to email the boat and find answers for project work on the Pacific. Before the end of term the children held a cake stall for the charities supported by the row and raised £68.

Mrs Marshall said: "The row is an amazing challenge. It has really fired the children's interest. Some of their projects were incredibly detailed and informative. The row has also clearly demonstrated to the children how important it is to keep going, even when things are so difficult, and that often the key to success is friendship and the ability to work together as a team."