

BENTHAM NEWS

CHANGES FOR HOLDERS OF BUS PASSES?

By Lin Barrington

North Yorkshire County Council is thinking of changing the times when people can use their bus passes.

At the moment people issued with a pass through Craven District Council can use it on a bus within Craven at any time, but from next April the County Council is taking over the running of all the concessionary fares schemes in North Yorkshire, and they are thinking of introducing a start time of 9.30 from Monday to Friday for using passes. The passes could still be used at any time during weekends and Bank Holidays.

This would mean that if you wanted to use your bus pass to go to Lancaster, the first bus you could catch would be the 10.18 from High Bentham which gets you in to Lancaster at 11.02. You would then have to catch the bus back from Lancaster at 12.15, or stay in Lancaster and wait for the 16.15 bus.

The changes would also mean that passengers wanting to use their bus pass would not be able to use the Taxibus in and around Bentham and Ingletton until 9.30 which would mean you could not get the 9.00 bus from Ingletton to Settle. You could of course still travel on any buses before 9.30 as long as you were willing to pay the full fare.

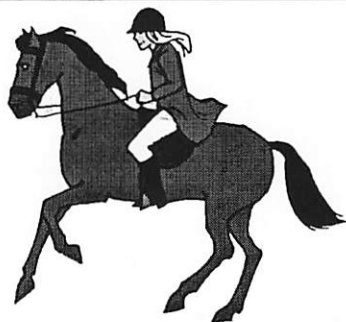
Before making a decision on this the County Council wants to take proper account of the views of the public. They are also investigating what amount would be saved if they made the change.

If you would like to make comments please write by 31st October to: John Laking, Policy Development Manager (IPT), North Yorkshire County Council, County Hall, Northallerton. DL7 8AH. Or you can e-mail to passenger.transport@northyorks.gov.uk

At present in all areas of the county except Craven, concessionary passes can be used at any time from 9.00 for all journeys up to 6 am the following morning Monday to Friday and at any time at weekends and bank holidays. The Council is considering replacing these arrangements with a consistent scheme in all areas of North Yorkshire, which allows free travel between 9.30 and 23.00 Monday to Friday and at any time during weekends and Bank Holidays. These time periods correspond to the requirements of the concessionary fares legislation. By doing this it is possible that we may be able to save as much as £400,000 per annum. In rural areas where services are infrequent it is possible that concessionary passes would be accepted on some journeys before 9.30.

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SEPTEMBER 2010

ISSUE 287



ELEANOR BENNETT ART EXHIBITION AT BENTHAM IMAGING

By Jon Brook

At the beginning of September 2010, Eleanor Bennett of Low Bentham will be exhibiting a selection of her paintings and prints at Bentham Imaging on Main Street. She will show some of her most recent work as well as pieces done last year whilst travelling in Malaysia and Thailand. Eleanor graduated from Bath Spa University in 2009, leaving with a BA Hons in Fine Art Painting.

As well as exhibiting in Bath and London, Eleanor has had local exhibitions, showing at Bentham Gallery and the Looking Well where some of her work is currently. She is working at the Looking Well assisting in and holding art groups as well as training there in Arts and Health.

Arteria in Lancaster are also showing her work in October 2010 where there will be original ink paintings as well as prints of high quality so come and have a look there too!

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AUGUST'S TOWN COUNCIL

By David Johnson

All the Cllrs were present except Cllr Faichney and District Cllr Brockbank. Three members of the public attended.

Skipton Magistrate's Court

Our District Cllrs have protested about the possibility of losing Skipton Magistrate's Court stating that the return journey to Harrogate cannot be made on public transport in a reasonable amount of time. They have voiced their protests far and wide including to our MP who has promised to support their cause.

Recycling

It was agreed that the paper and card recycling point on Grasmere Road car park had become a mess and that the position needed careful monitoring. The clerk said that additional blue recycling bags could be obtained at the Tourist Information Point. Cllr Hurtle said that lots of non-recyclable material is being dumped in Low Bentham car park and Cllr Wills said that a lot of fly tipping is taking place during the night on Dumb Toms Lane and Nutgill. (Please report suspicions to the police).

Bus Passes

North Yorkshire is reviewing the concessionary bus fare scheme. Apparently the official line is that passes should only be used between 9.30am. and 11.00pm. Currently our area is administered from Harrogate but this will move to Northallerton in 2011. CDC is canvassing for opinions if these times are adopted.

Highways

The County Council will not announce its general capital plans until 2011 but it has already pulled £7.7 million out of Highways and Transportation! There is a review of the provision of salt bins. The Council is withdrawing bins where it suspects that the salt is being used for domestic or non-highway purposes. The proposal is to remove the bins on Mount Pleasant and at a point near Lairgill but the Cllrs decided to protest at the removal of the Mount Pleasant bin as it is used to facilitate the safety of

children crossing and approaching the Primary School. They also decided to try to push for the provision of a salt bin near the Methodist Cemetery.

The Cllrs received a letter from a resident of Grasmere Drive protesting at thoughtless parking near the surgery. He said cars were blocking drives and that he had once been threatened with violence. The Cllrs commented that many of the cars belong to surgery staff. The surgery has an inadequate car park and they wondered if the staff could be encouraged to use the main car parks. The Cllrs agreed to contact NYCC Highways to see what could be done about introducing white lines.

Cllr Yaman is worried about children playing at the junction of Goodenber Road and Wesley Close. She said a bus had been slightly damaged after it had taken evasive action to avoid children dashing out of Wesley Close. Cllr Webster suggested it might be an idea for someone to talk to the children when they return to school.

The New Primary School

An exhibition with plans, models and maybe a video will be held on Thursday 9th September between 2.00pm and 4.00pm. at the Primary School and between 4.30pm and 6.30pm. in the Town Hall. Cllr Barrington suggested that the exhibition should then move to the Victoria Institute in the evening.

Low Bentham School Playing Field

The licence has been signed but it cannot be issued until the authority is satisfied that the insurance is agreed and that the rota for securing the site is in place.

Low Bentham Playing Field

This is proving difficult to level because electricity, water and sewage services cross the field and nobody is sure of their location and depth. It will be made as level as possible before the area is fenced.

The Wrecking Crew

A larger event is planned for 2011 and they would like to hold it in Bentham if they can obtain appropriate permission from Craven District Council. The Cllrs agreed that Cllr Brockbank should be asked to encourage Craven District Council to issue the licence quickly so as to remove any doubt.

GARDENING

By Joyce Knapp

Now we are round to September again – possibly one of the best months of the year for gardeners and people who like the great outdoors. Often we experience warm sunny days this month and we feel inclined to soak up as much of this warmth as we can in readiness for the long, often drab winter months ahead. September is also the month for gathering all the food that the summer months have produced, whether that be vegetable crops grown with tender loving care, or fruit such as blackberries simply gathered from the hedgerows. I have also noticed this year that there are quite a few hazel nuts to be seen in the hedge rows, though I don't know if they will still be around at harvest time as either the dreaded grey squirrel or the hedge trimmers may get there before us!

Whilst some of you may have become a little disillusioned by the daily rain fall since late June, I have found it extremely useful as, up until now, I have had to transport water from home for use in the allotment. However, due to the regularity of the rain, I have not needed to water the allotment since June and it has also led to a very good crop of root vegetables such as carrots and parsnips. This somewhat wet season has also produced some rather large, firm cabbages and is helping the autumn fruits to swell on the trees, so you see it's not all bad!

This year is the first time for a while that I have noticed a reasonable crop of both apples and plums, in recent years we seem to have had one or the other. I can only assume that after the longest and coldest winter for many years, we must have had the right weather conditions in spring for the insects to bring about pollination. There were so many fruits on some branches of both my apple and plum trees that these branches were at risk of breaking under the excessive weight, so I removed some of the smaller, and sometimes slightly damaged fruits. This has other advantages too, firstly the remaining fruit will grow larger and ripen more readily and, secondly, if we let a tree carry too much fruit one year then it may fail to fruit at all the following season.

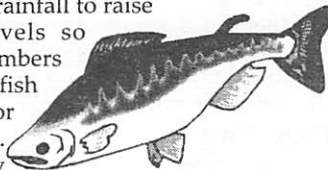


NATURE NOTES

By David Fisher

I went for a walk to Low Bentham and while fishing near to the top weir, stood over looking the river. In succession, a pair of kingfishers flew under the banking. They were obviously feeding or going to a nest. There were some trees which were, to some extent, covering their view of me, so I saw the very place they were nesting.

The rivers are still very low. There needs to be a lot of rainfall to raise the river levels so that good numbers of migrating fish can return for spawning. We must stay optimistic!



I'm rearing some Fox Moth caterpillars from eggs, on heather and blackberry. They are not quite large enough to pupate yet. They are yellow and black in colour. Hopefully, when they emerge into moths they I'll release them into the wild.



A timid hedgehog appeared on the lawn at dusk recently, and roamed around. It was nearly full grown and started to nibble the food I'd put out for the birds. It was there for quite some time and then went along some flower beds and into next door's garden. With it being fairly large, it should have a good chance of hibernating over winter, as one did two years ago, among some fallen leaves beneath some young pine trees.

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CRAVEN CONCERNS

By District Councillor Linda Brockbank

Trial Run ?

The Ministry of Justice has announced it is proposing to close Skipton's courts and transfer the cases to Harrogate. For residents of Benthams Ward attending the court at Harrogate will mean a longer journey time and greater costs. So, when the chairman of Craven District Council, Paul Whitaker, called to ask if I was interested in joining him and a small group taking part in a 'trial' run, to the courts in Harrogate, I accepted with enthusiasm. The court opens at 10am and anyone called to attend would need to be at the court by then.

The aim, to highlight the time it takes from Benthams to the courts at Harrogate.

The challenge, to reach the Magistrates Court in Harrogate for 10am, using public transport and our own feet. So can it be done ?

I understand the Ministry of Justice say, no one should be more than 1 hour away from a court, by public transport. We would need to catch the first train from Benthams to Leeds, then change trains for Harrogate.

07:10 hrs we set off from the village store in Burton In Lonsdale, our first challenge was how to get to the train station at Benthams. There are no buses at this time in a morning, so we had arranged for Lin Barrington to pick us up in the Little Red Bus and take us to the train station. At the train station we were joined by 2 reporters one from BBC TV and one from Radio York, both of whom

accompanied us on our journey. Radio York to gave a live commentary on our progress, throughout the journey, to Harrogate.

● 07:40 hrs Train departed Benthams

● 08:27 hrs Train arrived at Skipton, in plenty of time for our 10am deadline were we going to the Skipton court, but no, we had to carry on to Harrogate.

● 10:05 hrs Train arrived at Harrogate, where we disembarked

● 10:15 Arrived at court, 15 minutes late!

Cost: £25.80p for a return train journey.

NB. all costs were paid out of the pockets of those taking part, with no cost to the public purse.

The court closes at 16:30 hrs, the last train from Harrogate to Leeds is 15:43 hrs, where the Morecambe train departs at 16:39 hrs arriving in Benthams at 18:04 hrs. We finished our journey at The Earl of Derby's Courthouse at Burton in Lonsdale, somehow this seemed a fitting place to end the day.

The group members were Julian Smith MP, Cllr P. Whitaker CDC, Wendy Clark and John Kerwin-Davey from Skipton Town Council.

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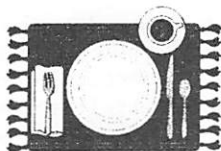
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COOKERY PAGE

By Patsy Henderson



Rolled pork slices - serves 4

(a one pot meal)

Recipe

50g capers
50g sultanas
25g pine nuts
10g prosciutto, finely chopped
2 tbsp white breadcrumbs
4 large pork escalopes
3 tbsp olive oil
2 tbsp dry white wine
200g tin chopped tomatoes
8 basil leaves, roughly chopped

Method

Chop the capers, sultanas and nuts and mix with the prosciutto and breadcrumbs. Place the pork escalopes between two layers of cling film and beat out to about 5mm thick. Remove the cling film and spread some of the caper mixture over each slice.

Heat the oil in a large frying pan and gently brown the pork rolls. Add the wine, tomatoes and basil to the pan. Stir, cover and cook gently until the meat is tender. Serve with fresh green vegetables or rice.

Banana ginger parkin

Recipe

200g plain flour
10ml bicarbonate soda
10ml ground ginger
150g medium oatmeal
60ml dark muscovado sugar
75g margarine, chopped
150g golden syrup
1 egg, beaten
3 ripe bananas, mashed
75g icing sugar
stem ginger for decoration

Method

Preheat the oven to 160C/gas 3. Grease and line a 18x27cm tin. Sift together the flour, bicarb and ginger, then stir in the oatmeal. Melt the sugar, margarine and syrup in a pan, then stir it into the flour mixture.

Spoon the mixture into the tin and bake for about one hour until firm to touch. Leave

to cool in the tin and then turn out and cut into squares.

Sift the icing sugar into a bowl and stir in a little water to make a smooth, runny icing. Drizzle the icing over each square and top with a piece of stem ginger. The parkin will improve with keeping if stored in a container.

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BENTHAM SHOW

By Val Lawson

The 138th Bentham show is to be held on Saturday 4th September 2010, on Bellfleckers Field, Bentham. This years presidents are Mark and Doreen Lawson from Westhouse. Mark has been involved with the show for many years on the Management and sheep committees, chief sheep steward and also collecting subscriptions.

The usual classes are being held Cattle, Sheep, Horses, Shire Horses, Show Jumping, Pygmy Goats, Handicrafts, Horticulture, Photography, Stick Dressing, Poultry & Pets.

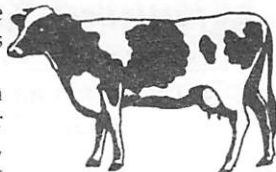
The Companion Dog show with 6 Pedigree classes and 19 Novelty classes starts at 12.00 noon with the proceeds from the dog show going to HAPPA and PDSA.

The ATV Bike competition is organised and run by R Taylor & Sons. Display of birds by Corio Raptor of Bentham. Tug of War Competition. Parade by the Vale of Lune Harriers at 1.30pm.

Grand Parade of prize winning animals is at 3pm, followed by the presentation of Cups by our President. Parade of vintage vehicles follows the grand parade.

Entries taken on the day for Horses, Companion Dog Show and Pets.

Come along with your family and friends on the 4th September - you'll have a great day out something for all the family.



BENTHAM PLAYING FIELDS NEWS

By Pam Woof

Readers will be fed up with waiting for the conclusion of the Skate Park project but unfortunately when dealing with government bodies and raising funds in the middle of a depression, things can take a very long time. Meanwhile this sad corner of the Playing Fields has deteriorated visibly over the last few years. However there is good news and light at the end of the tunnel!

After many months of waiting we are fast approaching the start of work on the skate park and the resurfacing of the tennis courts. We have been waiting to hear back from Sport England who apparently has had a huge work load! This last stage in the application is now progressing well. Funding from Craven District Council as part of a planning gain from the Wesley close development has also now become available!

We now have to satisfy these two bodies that our plans are compliant with their conditions before they will release funding. I have no major concerns about this and look forward to finally starting the ground works before too long.

Sports Club Building

At a recent committee meeting it was decided to consider renting the building out for private parties/events etc. The committee felt that the Sports club could offer something that no other venues in Bentham could because of the playing field grass. It has been used successfully over many years for children's parties and other events. The committee is reviewing the condition of the building and looking into heating requirements before this can go ahead.

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By Helen Bullen

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ALICE IN THE VICTORIA INSTITUTE

By Collette Knowles

It's a second trip down the rabbit hole for Bentham-based Rough Magic Theatre as we bring "Alice in Wonderland" back to the Victoria Institute! A musical puppetry extravaganza, "Alice in Wonderland" is a show like no other. A hectic and hilarious re-telling of Lewis Carroll's most famous tale, the show is full to the brim with colourful puppets, fantastic songs and outlandish comedy.

Back in 2008, Rough Magic Theatre toured "Alice" to venues across Yorkshire and Cumbria, including four sold-out showings at the Carriageworks Theatre in Leeds, and a spectacular performance at the Sedbergh Book Festival.

"But our home showing in Low Bentham was by far our favourite," explains Tim Austin. "There's nothing that compares to the energy and enthusiasm of a home-town crowd."

In fact, the Bentham performance was so popular that we're now bringing the show back to the Institute for two more performances on Saturday the 23rd of October. "Back by popular demand," smiles Tim. "We love it when that happens."

(Rough Magic Theatre are Collette Knowles and Tim Austin. For more information about "Alice in Wonderland" and their other work together, visit www.roughmagictheatre.co.uk

MIKE & CHERYL YATES – VOLUNTEERS EXTRAORDINARY

By Christine Hodson

Mike and Cheryl Yates have moved out of Low Bentham after 3 years of involvement in the Low Bentham Victoria Institute (LBVI). Their enthusiasm and drive has enabled many projects to be undertaken. With Mike at the helm of the committee, the past three years have seen many achievements including:- the replacement of most of the windows, the redecoration of all the rooms in the Institute, the development and maintenance of the community garden, the funding sought for a part time manager and other projects.

The Saturday book swap sessions, which Cheryl will still be running, have proved to be very popular.

The Victoria Institute committee wants to thank Mike and Cheryl and wish them all the best in the future. A fond farewell was given to them at a BBQ held in the community garden.

The committee has lost two active members in Mike and Cheryl which leaves a smaller group to run and manage the Institute. Our average age is 60, but meetings are lively and we always welcome interested people to join us and help in running this valuable community facility.

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LASRUG NEWS

By David Alder

Open Meeting - 9th September

As we once again approach the Rail User Group's AGM - which this year will be held in Bentham Town Hall on Friday 15th October and will be dealing with the problems and opportunities of the railway today - there will be an opportunity in September for all those interested in the many fascinating aspects of railways past to come along to an open talk on the subject of Railway Heraldry. The talk, which will be fully illustrated, will be given by well known local historian, photographer and bibliophile Peter Marshall and will cover amongst other things railway crests, badges and inn signs. Last year's slide show on the Leeds-Morecambe line was a very well attended and enjoyable event so please come along again on Thursday 9th September to Bentham Lower Town Hall at 19.30. Admission will be free and so will light refreshments although voluntary donations will as always be gratefully accepted!

Website

Information about the Leeds-Morecambe and other Lancashire community railways can be obtained by going to www.llmr.co.uk at any time.

Sunday Services

LASRUG continues to press for better Sunday services during the winter months. The augmented Summer Sunday service on the Leeds-Morecambe route will once again this year cease after 12th September so you have only got a couple of opportunities in September to take advantage of the day trip opportunities these afford.

HORNBY INSTITUTE NEWS

By Althea Gilliband

Amazing promises have been offered for the Grand Auction of Promises in the Hornby Institute at 7.30pm on Friday 12th November in aid of Wray, Tatham and Tatham Fells Churches. Look out for the catalogues in many places throughout the valley. Keep the date free and join us for a wonderful evening.

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CHURCHES TOGETHER



CHURCHES TOGETHER
IN BENTHAM

By Rev. R. Fox

Someone has said that the Church is the only place that exists for those who aren't there. Though our refurbishment has made the Methodist Church more comfortable, and flexible for its members, we also care about those who are not.

With this in mind, we have a varied programme of fun and fellowship over the next few months. For children aged 4 – 10 there will be a Holiday Club in the October half-term week, a fun weekend, Saltmine Theatre Company will bring a Christian pantomime in December, and High Bentham Community Primary School will use our facilities for their Christmas Carol Concert.

For the older folk, we play dominoes and have afternoon tea every other Thursday, a coffee morning on Wednesdays, and we provide and serve Christmas lunches to those who live alone. We have organised some fundraising events such as a recipe book out in September, a fashion show in October, a Christmas Craft Fair in November, and Bentham Praise will give a concert in December.

On the spiritual side, there are Sunday services morning and evening, Kidz Klub on a Sunday morning, and a learning programme called "Christianity Explored" starts on Tuesday 5th October, which is for Christians and non-Christians to discover and grow in faith.

There is also a concern for the lonely and housebound in Bentham which I hope will

result in home visits from all the churches, for we know that there are people who are not involved in caring organisations already in existence.

We are here for you and believe that we all have a God dimension within us that only He can satisfy. However, it is through fun and social gatherings that many people find a way into the fellowship of the church, and you are all very welcome to any/or all of the things that we are offering. May God bless you all.

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SATURDAY NIGHTS IN SEPTEMBER

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BENTHAM FILM GROUP PRESENTS "AN EDUCATION"

By Stella Hall

Bentham Film Group will be showing the film entitled 'An Education' (Cert. 12A) on Saturday 11th September in the Victoria Institute, Low Bentham.

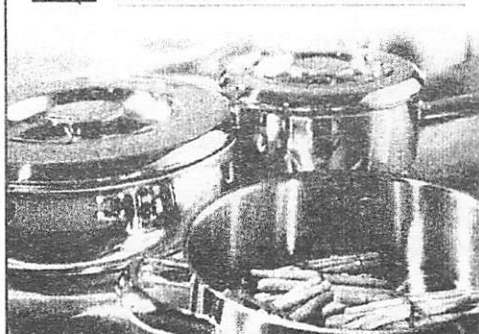
Based on Lynn Barber's memoirs, this is a coming-of-age story about a teenage girl in 1960s suburban London, and how her life changes with the arrival of a playboy nearly twice her age.

The film, starring Carey Mulligan, Olivia Williams and Peter Sarsgaard, commences at 7.30pm. There will be an interval for refreshments and a raffle will be drawn.

Tickets cost £5 at the door. If you would like further details, see our website www.benthamfilms.co.uk



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SKIPTON COURT TO CLOSE?

By Gill O'Donnell

As you may well have read in The Craven Herald, the local magistrates court and the county court in Skipton are amongst those which are being considered for closure by the Ministry of Justice. If these courts were to close then all magistrates court (criminal) business would transfer to Harrogate and all county court (civil, including family) would transfer to Bradford. While the majority of people have very little to do with courts it is not widely realised that magistrates courts deal with over 95% of criminal cases: more than 1 million per year, and so play a very important part in the local community. Closing Skipton court would mean that not only defendants but all those involved in criminal court proceedings eg as witnesses, would have to travel to Harrogate.

The closure of the courts would have a significant impact on the accessibility of local justice. Here are some of the points discussed at the recent public meeting with the local MP, Julian Smith

Main Points Made

◆ Julian Smith stressed that we have an uphill battle since (presumably) every court identified will be making its own strong case not to be closed! We have to try to make, therefore, a case for Skipton that is different and unique.

◆ He assured us of his full commitment to the campaign to try to keep it open and has already requested a debate in Parliament about the proposal.

◆ He encouraged everyone to send in responses to the consultation, the more the better, even if your organisation is sending in a composite one.

◆ The strengths of our case should be; distance for users to travel to get to court; the rurality of our location (incl. poor public transport); the good condition of the courthouse; the exemplar of magistrates and county work; the increased volume of

work in the latter; issues about local justice/safer communities and partnerships. If the courthouse closed would the Police Station be next?

◆ Defence solicitors can currently cover court and office work in Skipton. If cases go to Harrogate (or Bradford) there would be increased rota-ing there, and many would have to sit around waiting for their cases to be called at significant wasted cost!

◆ This political constituency is the 4th largest in the country and would then become the largest without any courthouse if the proposal was accepted.

◆ Currently anyone attending court in Skipton can expect their case to be called and be able to return to work later the same day. A round trip to Harrogate (particularly if using public transport) would most likely extend this to a need to have a full day off work.

◆ Many of the court users are on low, fixed incomes and the costs incurred by needing to travel the increased distances would be prohibitive.

Details re the proposal can be seen at <http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/docs/poposal-on-the-provision-of-court-services-north-and-west-yorkshire-final.pdf> Skipton is page 32 of the document.

I would encourage as many people as possible in the area to respond to this appeal – the courts play a significant role in the community and need to be recognised as doing so.

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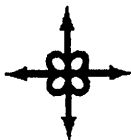
Reduced Autumn Green Fee Rates!!!

Visitors can play Bentham Golf Club any time between 14th September and 31st October for just £20 per player for 18 holes.

Madness Monday

Play 18 holes at Bentham Golf Club anytime between 14th September and 31st October on a Monday for only £12.50 per player.

BENTHAM FOOTPATH GROUP SEPTEMBER WALKS



By Maureen Ellis

Some walks are well worth repeating especially if the weather has been poor on a previous occasion and so on Sunday 5th September there is the Orrest Head walk of 6 miles (all the walks this month meet at Lairgill at 9.30). It goes to the area between Troutbeck and Ings and there are spectacular views as Orrest Head is approached. This is the only real climb. Lets hope the weather allows us to appreciate these views this time round.

11-12th September is the weekend away in the Lakes and is eagerly awaited. Although the closing date has been reached its worth a phone call to Adrian Leigh if you want to see if there are any places remaining.

On Thursday 16th there is the Tatham Fells and Botton Head walk of 10/11 miles. It will hopefully start in the Fourstones area and head south through Bettams Craggs, Whitray and Botton Head, before turning north along the Hindburn. We will pass near the area of the Bowland Tunnel construction site and then back through Stairend Bridge and Mill Bridge and then climb up through Lowgill Church yard and Rantree Fold back on the moor towards Fourstones

The Ings walk of 8 miles on Wednesday 22nd, starts at Watermill Inn and then goes

up to Robin Plantation and Brandt Fell and then back to the start.

Tuesday 28th takes us to Gregareth for an 8 mile walk and sets off from Leck Fell House before ascending Gregareth and going past the three counties boundary to Great Combe. From there it goes down to Bull Pot and across Easegill dry river bed at Easegill Kirk (which is a sort of gorge) and then back to the start.

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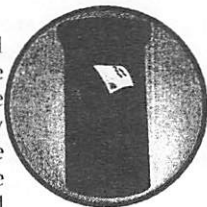


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for more info.*

Home Entertainment

07876 889707

Dear Bentham News,
I was interested to read the article about the Health Centre in the magazine. But very saddened to note that we no longer appear to have a Health visitor or School Nurse or a Family planning nurse.



I remember having 28 babies at a time in the clinic when for a short while I was the only Health Visitor and how grateful I was that I had a School nurse /Family planning nurse to assist with the six schools we visited. It was bliss when Mrs Hodson arrived to share the load, I do miss Bentham and really enjoy my visits to the area.

Good luck with the new system!

Name and address supplied.

Dear Bentham News,
We have lived in Bentham for almost 40 years and the level of service we receive from the Bentham Health Practice has changed dramatically in that time.

One of us remembers when her 4 year old son assured her that he had put his pyjama button up his nose one Saturday night. There being no visible button on his pyjamas she was concerned and apologetically rang the doctor on call, Dr. Russell, and explained the situation to him. She can still remember the doctor reassuring her that it was best to be safe rather than sorry with a young child and he came on a home visit that evening and sure enough, he extracted the button.

Nowadays we are fearful of any illness that may occur after the surgery closes on a Friday evening until it reopens on a Monday morning, knowing that the cover provided is skeletal for such a large rural area.

Another concern we have is the difficulty in seeing the same doctor. Sadly as we age our computer records can get quite lengthy so it helps both patient and doctor if there is more continuity with an ongoing health problem. Perhaps in a practice which is quoted as being the second largest in England just 2 full-time doctors are insufficient for the needs of the community.

Lastly, the new telephone system of securing an appointment comes across as

intimidating - especially for the hesitant and frail. It must benefit a doctor to see a patient in person rather than make judgements according to our articulacy or assertiveness of the person on the phone.

Many people in Bentham are grateful for the care and attention they have received from Bentham Health Practice, but judging from the present air of disquiet they deserve something better than our present system.

Angela Robertson and Vicki Mulligan.

Dear BN,

Has this year been an unusually busy one for bats? Having found three tiny baby bats on the floor of our integral garage we were at a loss to know what to do with them and being not much bigger than a bumble bee they did not survive.

However, we made contact with the Bat Conservation Trust who put us in touch with their local representative at Silverdale. Two ladies came to assess the situation and to take a bat count. They told us that we have a maternity roost under our tiles and the babies had crawled through a little gap and fallen down through the loft, into a second loft and then through a hatch onto the garage floor. The bat count revealed fifty four mothers and twenty or so babies. We had no idea there were so many.

The youngsters are now trying out their flying skills and some of them are not very good at it. One managed to find its way into the kitchen and was picked up crawling across the floor. That one seemed quite strong and was placed on the outhouse roof. Another tiny one got into the garage again, a second one crash landed and was found early in the morning looking quite sorry for itself. A third was found floating in a bowl of water. These three have all been taken to Silverdale to the bat nursery and hospital where they are doing well and have progressed to eating mealworms. All this has been extremely interesting and we have learned so much thanks to the Bat Conservation Trust.

Marie and David St.Pierre.

BURTON UNDER FIVES ENJOY GREAT FACILITIES

By Viki Hindle

Based in the North Classroom at Richard Thornton's Primary school, Burton Under Fives caters for children from birth to school age. We have a staffed toddler group; parents and children are welcome to come and use the facilities our room has to offer. From the age of two years, 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, with Absorb a Fall play surface.

We regularly go on trips. Last year we visited Greenbank Farm, Greenlands Farm and various play areas to name but a few! We also have people to come in to talk to the children, eg police and lollipop lady. We have access to the school's facilities, joining in with many of their activities, making it an ideal way to help children integrate into school life easily.

We still have free places available for September (subject to certain conditions being met). If you would like more information about this, or any other aspect of life at Burton Under Fives, please do not hesitate to contact us on (015242) 62126.



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NOD

By Walter de La Mare

Softly along the road of evening
In a twilight dim with rose,
Wrinkled with age and drenched with dew

Old Nod, the shepherd, goes.

His drowsy flock streams on before
him

Their fleeces charged with gold,
To where the sun's last beam leans low
On Nod, the shepherd's fold.

The hedge is quick and green with
briar,

From their sand the conies creep;
and all the birds that fly in heaven
Flock singing home to sleep.

His lambs outnumber a noon's roses
Yet, when night's shadows fall,
His blind old sheepdog, Slumber-soon,
Misses not one at all.

His are the quiet steps of dreamland,
The waters of no-more-pain,
His ram's bells ring neath an arch of
stars

"Rest, rest, and rest again".

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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 1990

This month's issue led with the announcement that Bentham News's annual Open Meeting was to be held in the Lower Town Hall. There must have been some doubt as to how many members of the public would turn up because committee member Tom Cahill offered to make a £5 donation to the funds if there were more than 5!

I hope that next month's edition will tell us whether he had to cough up!

Last month there had been an announcement by Bentham's major employer, Angus Fire (now Kidde) that a number of jobs at the Station Road factory were to be lost through redundancy. At the time of the announcement few details of numbers etc had been forthcoming from the Company, but this month BN had learned that there had been a total of thirteen redundancies of which eleven were compulsory.

Not staggering numbers when compared to national figures at the time, but in a community the size of Bentham any redundancy is felt most keenly.

The issue of furnishing the Benthams with Christmas decorations had been explored and debated by our Town Council for a number of years without any firm decisions being made. However, following a visit to a Christmas decorations firm by the Mayor and Town Clerk, and a more fruitful discussion in last month's TC meeting, it was agreed that the sum of £500 be allocated to the provision of "some form of extravaganza for High Bentham." Apparently Low Bentham Councillors had decided that their domain did not need extravaganzas!

So this, 20 years ago, marked the beginning of Bentham's street lighting tradition, and I must say I'm glad they eventually came to an agreement because the lights have become such an appreciated part of the town's Christmastime.

Having just celebrated its first birthday, Age Concern in Bentham was beginning to enjoy the fruits of the work put in by its founding members. A progress report in this month's Bentham News showed that the Friday drop-in facility and a programme of social activities including coach trips were becoming well established and quite popular. There was some concern that, whilst successful and popular, the facility was being used by only a small minority of Bentham's older population and that there were a great many more who could benefit from the social goodies on offer.

Although the BN report doesn't give any membership figures I'm sure that today they will have increased significantly since those early days. There are, however, many more people who could benefit from the facility and who may only need an introduction. If you are one such person or if you know of someone, why not phone the day centre any Friday morning (62821) for more information?

A running group in Bentham had seen its activities curtailed, with the weekly Wednesday morning runs suspended "due to the current heat wave."

Sat at my desk on a wintry August afternoon with the wind howling and the rain lashing my window, I find it a little difficult to identify with those suffering the effects of a heat wave! If only.

Finally, in response to a letter of complaint by Bentham resident Colin Clapham, the Ministry of Defence wrote to him explaining their policy with regard to low flying aircraft. Their letter was published in BN 20 years ago, but given that its content is probably as relevant today as it was then, I have copied the letter as a separate article and it is to be found on page 32 of this issue.

**The October edition
of the
Bentham News
will be published on Friday
1st October**

WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

High Bentham

By Anne Yaman

The August meeting was held on Thursday 5th August when 16 members took part in a Treasure Hunt walk around High Bentham when the weather held off enough to allow for an enjoyable evening which was rounded off by a buffet at the Horse and Farrier. Pat Armstrong was the winner of the treasure hunt.

The meeting next month will be on Thursday 2nd September when there will be a talk on "Aloe Vera" from Val Carroll. All most welcome at the Lower Town Hall at 7.30pm.

Low Bentham

By Christine Jennings and Jennifer Watkinson

Three members spent a very enjoyable day in the Yorkshire Dales National Park. In the morning they had a talk and film show about red squirrels in the Hawes area. They were taken by minibus with the Park Ranger to the Snaizholme Red Squirrel Trail, where they walked through the woods and countryside to a special viewing area to see red squirrels in their habitats. Four squirrels were seen by the amazed ladies. After lunch they went on to Aysgarth for another talk, about the hazel dormouse and their habitat. Guided by rangers they walked through woodland where a hazel dormouse was found asleep in one of the nesting boxes located throughout the woodland. Then they visited the falls, spectacular after the heavy rainfall.

Three members joined other members of the Federation in a lovely walk at Richmond. This was followed by tea made by members of Richmond W.I. Another enjoyable day.

A successful visit to Mr Brian Jackson's amazing garden was well worth while. The size and layout of this amazing gem came as a big surprise. We had a small plant stall and the president distributed her newsletter and the group magazine whilst we tucked in to Sylvia Brennand's delicious tray bakes and biscuits. Then we admired the colourful garden. The roses, hostas and delphiniums were especially magnificent. Mr Jackson was very knowledgeable and both he and his sister most helpful and welcoming.

The next meeting will be on the 16th September when Mrs K.A.Wilks will talk about life as a tour guide.

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

LOCAL EVENTS IN SEPTEMBER

Wed 1st NSPCC meeting at Lingfield, 44 Robin Lane.

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

Looking Well, Café-IN 11.00am-1.30pm, and every Wednesday.

Looking Well, Community Art Shed, 11.00am-4.00pm and every Wednesday.

Victoria Institute, Drop-in 10.00am-12.00noon. Also on 3rd, 6th, 8th, 13th, 15th, 20th, 22nd, 27th and 29th.

Victoria Institute, Community Link Café 1.30-3.00pm. Also on 3rd, 6th, 8th, 13th, 15th 20th, 22nd, 27th and 29th.

Victoria Institute, Slimming Group 5.30-6.30pm. Also on 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th.

Victoria Institute, Tai Chi 6.15-7.15pm. Also on 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th.

Thu 2nd Town Hall, Rosemary Conley Fitness Club, 6.00-7.30pm and every Thursday.

High Bentham W.I. at the Lower Town Hall, 7.30pm. See page 19.

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

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

Looking Well, Men's Shed, 1.30-4.00pm and every Thursday.

Victoria Institute, Art Classes 10.00am-3.00pm and every Thursday.

Fri 3rd Age Concern at the Masonic Hall, 10.00am-2.30pm. "Twenty Questions".

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

Fri 3rd

Looking Well, Art Skills Development 10.30am-1.00pm and every Friday.

Victoria Institute, Line Dancing 2.00-3.00pm. Also on 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th.

Sat 4th

Badminton Club coffee morning at the Town Hall Ballroom, 10.00am-12.00noon. 

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

138th Bentham Show at Bellfleckers Field - all day. See page 7.

Sun 5th

Bentham Footpath Group walk, Orrest Head, 6 miles, leader Sue Cross, 62103. Meet at Lairgill 9.30am.

Mon 6th

Toddle-in for parents/carers and babies/toddlers, 10.00-11.30am, Methodist Church Hall, £1 per family, and every Monday.

Adventurers group for 4-6 year olds, 3.45-4.45pm, Methodist Church Hall, and every Monday.

Springboard for 7-10 year olds, 6.15-7.30pm, Methodist Church Hall, 30p per child, and every Monday.

Craven Customer Services Lower Town Hall, 10.00am-12.30pm and every Monday.

Town Council Meeting, 7.30pm, Lower Town Hall.

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

Looking Well, 1.00-3.00pm, enrolment for NYCC courses.

Tue 7th

Men's walking group, leave Looking Well 9.30am, return 11.30am, and every Tuesday.

Looking Well, 10.30am-1.00pm, Creative kitchen garden, and every Tuesday.

Looking Well, 11.30am-1.00pm, Creative writing group, and every Tuesday.

Looking Well, 7.30-9.30pm, Singing in Harmony, and every Tuesday. See page 37.

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

- Tue 7th** Town Hall Ballroom, Aerobics 7.30-8.30pm, and every Tuesday.
Town Hall Wenningdale Room, Craft Club 10.00am-12.00noon, and every Tuesday.
Bentham Child Health Clinic at the Surgery, 2.00-4.00pm. Also on 21st.
- Wed 8th** Looking Well, Art For All, beginners welcome, 2.00-4.00pm, and every Wednesday.
- Thu 9th** LASRUG open meeting at the Town Hall, 7.30pm. "Railway Badges and Inn Signs - Peter Marshall". Light refreshments.
Victoria Institute, 10.00am-12.00noon, Bat n' Chat, also on 16th, 23rd and 30th.
Victoria Institute, 1.00-3.0pm, gardening, also on 16th, 23rd and 30th.
Town Hall, 4.00-6.30pm, New school planning consultation.
- Fri 10th** Age Concern at the Masonic Hall, 10.00am-2.30pm. Extend exercise with Colin Etherington.
- Sat 11th** Church of the Good Shepherd coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10.00am-12.00noon. 
Bentham Film Group "An Education", Victoria Institute, 7.30pm. See page 12.
Organic Fruit open day, 11.00am-4.00pm, at Backsbottom Farm, Roeburndale West, near Wray. Entry £4. Contact 22214.
And 12th. Bentham Footpath Group Lakes weekend. Adrian Leigh 63037.
- Mon 13th** Looking Well, Enrolment for NYCC courses, 3.00-7.45pm.
Looking Well, 7.00-9.30pm, Mindfulness Meditation Group. Also on 27th.
- Tue 14th** Bright Hour at the Methodist Church 2.15pm. Speaker Roger Fox. Also on 28th.
- Wed 15th** Scottish Country Dancing at Ingleton Community Centre, 7.30pm.
Bentham First Responders meeting, 7.00pm Looking Well. Come and consider joining.
- Wed 15th** **Copy deadline for October edition of Bentham News.**
- Thu 16th** Welcome-in dominoes for all ages, Methodist Church Hall, 2.00-4.00pm. Contact Nigel or Kath 62272 for transport.
Bentham Footpath Group walk, Tatham Fells, 11 miles, leader Bev Sim 61293. Meet at Lairgill 9.30am.
- Fri 17th** Age Concern at the Masonic Hall, 10.00am-2.30pm. Bentham Praise - Ladies Choir.
Waste paper collection at Lairgill car park, 8.30-11.00am. Proceeds to NSPCC.
GFI 7.00-8.00pm for school years 6, 7 and 8, 50p per child and 8.15-9.15pm for school years 9+, 80p per child. Methodist Church Hall and every Friday.
- Sat 18th** Pet Rescue coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10.00am-12.00noon. 
Burton History Exhibition, until 25th. Saturdays, 10am-12noon, 2-4pm and 7-9pm. Sunday and Monday to Friday 2.30-4.30pm and 7-9pm, at Village Hall. Free admission.
- Tue 21st** Thornton and Burton in Lonsdale Mothers' Union, 2.00pm in the Church Room. Speaker Mrs Goldsmith of Parceval Hall.
- Wed 22nd** Looking Well, Positive Futures Project, 11.00am-1.30pm. Also on 29th.
Bentham Footpath Group walk, Ings, 8 miles, leader Cliff Randall, 62619. Meet at Lairgill at 9.30am.
- Fri 24th** Age Concern at the Masonic Hall, 10.00am-2.30pm. "Antartica" Slides and talk by Mike Tracy.
- Sat 25th** Liberal Democrats coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10.00-12noon. 
- Tue 28th** Bentham Footpath Group walk, Gregareth, 8 miles, leader Mary Taylor 61672. Meet at Lairgill 9.30am.
- Wed 29th** Bentham Community Bonfire and Fireworks AGM at Looking Well, 8pm. All are welcome.

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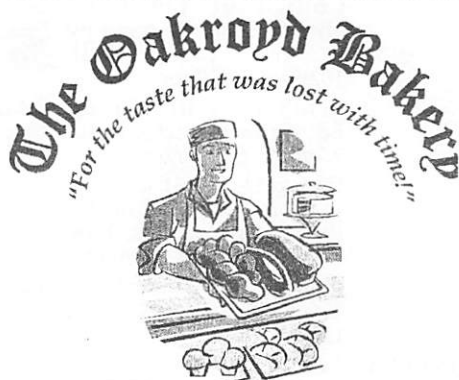
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"SHAPELY DOES IT" CELEBRATES MOVE TO MILLERS COURT

By Kath Higgins

Shapely Does It ladies' fitness and toning studio (previously located in Low Bentham) became a co-operative at the beginning of August and moved to new premises in Millers Court, High Bentham. Members of the co-operative and their guests celebrated the move at a launch party on Wednesday 11th August. "We were delighted with the turnout and look forward to welcoming many more new members now that we are in a more convenient location on the Main Street", said Kath, who is still the Manager of the new studio. The studio boasts toning chairs, tread mill and state-of-the-art vibro plate (a piece of equipment much loved by celebrities and apparently the only one to be found in the area outside of Morecambe).

Enquiries to Unit 7, Millers Court, Bentham LA2 7PR. Tel. 015242 62112.



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MONSOON MEMORIES

By Rowan Swale

Almost a year to the day since I left for India, I sit down with my laptop and my memories, and I wonder how I will possibly fit four months worth of adventure into five hundred words. Looking back, it sometimes feels like a bizarre and very colourful dream.

I had never experienced a place that felt so foreign in its entirety: the sticky closeness of the humidity and the torrential downpours of the monsoons; the intense heat; shouts, calls and conversation in unfamiliar tongues. There are eighteen official languages spoken in India, although the dialects range into hundreds. Many speak English, with charming discrepancies scattered throughout. To say you had a headache, for example, was to say your head was 'paining', and one particularly memorable supermarket sign read: 'We work harder so that you pay lesser'. I learnt a little Hindi along the way, and a few words could bring a surprised smile to a rickshaw driver's face, and also dissuade him from charging a heavily increased tourist price for the ride.

There were difficult sights to witness in Mumbai; the poverty in India is raw, apparent, and widespread. Children play barefoot on the streets, their homes little more than sheets strung over railings at the side of the road. Slums accommodate huge populations, with twenty-strong families sharing rooms in the corrugated iron buildings, and clean water and sanitation practically non-existent. There were beggars everywhere, many with extreme disfigurement. It is hard not to feel hopeless in the face of such suffering and hardship. Yet there is a noticeable lack of self-pity amongst the people. Community, religion and self-respect are all highly valued, and the hospitality and openness of those we met was inspiring. In a strange way, I envy them a little. The freedom from the materialism that our society sometimes seems to revolve around was refreshing.

I didn't expect to feel so isolated. White people were uncommon near to Film City,

where many of the movies are shot. Stares followed us down the street. Our Indian boss assured us this was simply curiosity, but it felt uncomfortable to be so distinctive. I missed the anonymity of England. An interesting learning experience to feel what it is to stand out, when all you want is to blend in.

Dancing on movie sets next to famous Bollywood stars at exotic locations all over the country was anything but glamorous, involving twelve-hour shooting days, three am call times, forty-plus flights over four months, and several bouts of food poisoning. But I had some fantastic experiences, challenging and fun. From trampolines, to beach shoots, some very questionable costumes, and attempts to mime Hindi lyrics, each job brought something new.

India is truly an incredible place, full of life, colour and beauty. It was a rich experience to live somewhere so different for four months, and the differences, good and bad, gave me an appreciation for the privileges and comparative wealth of England, but also a sense of perspective. I feel humbled, a little patriotic, and I haven't been for a curry since...

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BENTHAM AND DISTRICT CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

By Margaret Hayton

Two members of our group went to the Drop-in centre conference in Manchester. We were very pleased to find that our support group was being run properly and we were congratulated by McMillan for the work we do in our area. A talk was given by Professor McIlmory which was interesting to Drop-in groups, saying that they should allow people with long term illnesses and carers to join their groups. We already do this.

If you know of anyone who has cancer or a long term illness, or is a carer, please let us know. We are able to give vouchers for therapies. We have a long term link with Cancer care, Lancaster, and with St. John's Hospice. You are welcome to drop in at Looking Well on any Thursday between 10.30am and 1pm for a cuppa and see what we do.

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YORKSHIRE FILM ARCHIVE

By Keith Wear

This organisation is a registered charity and has been established for many years. It is extremely well run.

Within the last year it has increased access to the extensive and constantly growing archive of films through placing a selection "online". Just go to yfaonline.com and I'm sure you'll find interesting topics/films to view.

Home ciné films form a significant part of the archive. These films have usually been tucked away in someone's cupboards. Others have been made by keen amateur film makers over a wide range of topics.

Companies used to make ciné films to tell customers about their products or to show off their production facilities, or for recruitment. I wonder if Angus have old films tucked away?

The YFA in York will accept donations of film which is then viewed on specialised

equipment, digitised and catalogued. The original cine films are kept in secure temperature and humidity controlled facilities.

Should anyone want more information they can telephone Yorkshire Film Archive, on 01904-876550 or email Graham Relton at yfa@yorksja.ac.uk. The website address is www.yorkshirefilmarchive.com

INGLETON GYMKHANA

By Debbie Denison

NSPCC Ingleton Gymkhana is going ahead on the 12th of September 2010 at Low Demesne, Ingleton.

Entries can be taken on the day from 8.30am onwards. There will be Equitation, gymkhana games and showjumping. A Companion Dog Show is also taking place. Refreshments available.

Haughton Equestrian supplies will be attending and there will be a Bentham Pet Rescue stall.

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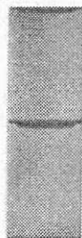
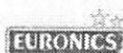
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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

By Trevor Blackwell

Starting on the eighteenth of September Benthams Local Food Week offers a feast of activities to celebrate the goodness and flavour of food grown in and around Benthams. This is a new venture for BEST (Benthams Environmentally Sustainable Town), so I asked three of the organisers - Anne and Richard Wilson, and Annie Neligan - what it was all about.

They explained that the idea of the Local Food Week came out of the research they had done to produce the leaflet (in this month's Benthams News) which lists all the places where you can buy locally produced food. This led them to think about organising a week to focus on local food. Because using food which is grown locally helps the environment. Firstly it reduces the use of our limited resources of oil to transport food over long distances. There's something slightly crazy about buying parsnips from Australia, or jam tarts from Poland, not to mention that locally produced food is fresher and tastes better!

Secondly eating local food gives us a chance to negotiate a better relationship with our local farmers. Here we are, living in the heart of a rich food producing landscape, with fields full of cows, yet last winter when the snows came there were days when there was no milk to be had in Benthams! Local Food Week gives us a chance to explore how we can make better links.

Which leads on to growing some of our own. As Annie says, growing your own food is definitely a cheaper option, as well as being a very satisfying activity. But if you've never been much of a gardener growing some of your own food can seem a bit daunting, so the Food Week will include a Gardeners' Question Time, and a tour of local food-growing gardens, to give people the confidence to start.

BEST also wants the Food Week to celebrate our local shops. Richard reminded me how everyone in Benthams likes having a bustling Main Street where you can buy most of what you need - except for perhaps shoes! But if we want this range of local shops we

have to use them, and this means facing up to the fact that if everyone does their shopping in Lancaster the Benthams shops will die. But what happens when we find that food which is produced, or sold, locally is more expensive? This raises important questions about the different costs of the food choices we make, and these issues need to be explored.

But BEST isn't saying that we should only eat local food, for - as Anne was quick to point out to me - this would mean us all giving up tea and coffee - and chocolate. It's more about gaining more information about where our food comes from, and its hidden costs, so that we can rebalance our food choices.

Above all BEST sees the Local Food Week as being about enjoying good, tasty local food, and about sharing - sharing seeds, sharing knowledge, sharing food we've grown, sharing food we've cooked. It's about the feast that follows the bringing of the harvest home - a feast which will neither impoverish our grandchildren, nor take the rice out of the mouths of children living on the other side of the world.

I came away from talking to Anne and Richard and Annie thinking that this would be a week to remember, and with much food for thought.



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BENTHAM PEOPLE



Personal Thanks

Annie Gudgeon. The family wish to offer their sincere thanks to everyone who sent cards and flowers and gave support at the sad loss of their Mum, Nan and Great Nan. Special thanks to Dr Harding and all the staff at Bentham Health Centre, Castleberg Hospital and the First Responders team. Many thanks to the Reverend Mabel Parr, Stephen Dawson and Jimmy Macdonald, for their very efficient funeral arrangements.

Tom Guy. Ali Guy and family would like to thank everyone, the people of Bentham and beyond, for the overwhelming support, phone calls, visits, cards, letters and flowers and of course the tremendous turn out to see him off! Special thanks to Bentham Golf Club, especially the "senior boys" for helping me through this impossible time and for letting me drive them mad! Many thanks to Wendy, Jimmy Mac (what a guy), Mabel and Stephen, Ali and Rachel and Margaret, my dad's special friend.

Thanks

Bill Eglin would like to thank all who sent him greeting cards and gifts on his 90th birthday. "Remember the race is not for the swift but for those who endure to the end".

Kath and Bob Weir would like to thank all relatives and friends for their cards and good wishes during Kath's stay in hospital.

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Charity Thanks

In July the Bentham Line Dancers donated £100 to the Methodist Church "Toddle In" playgroup. A big thank you to all who continue to come along on Thursday evenings at New Butts Farm. Your support is much appreciated. Jenny Durrant and Audrey Shallcross.

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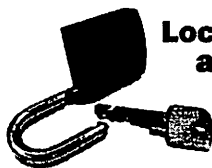
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NEW PROGRAMME OF FREE BUSINESS SUPPORT FOR RURAL CRAVEN



www.worcnet.co.uk

By Sophie Wild

If you are thinking of becoming self employed, have just started working for yourself or would like to develop your existing business, the WorcNet Full Circle Project may be able to help.

This new programme of free business support comprises enterprise training provided by Business Link Yorkshire, peer support circles - small groups with between four and six members who commit to meeting regularly to support one another in goal achievement, provide accountability and constructive feedback and share successes - and support in accessing small loan funding of up to £5,000.

WorcNet is delighted to have been awarded Yorkshire Dales LEADER funding to deliver this programme across the rural Harrogate and Craven districts. Full Circle is very much focused on individual needs so although it's particularly valuable for men and women at pre-start and start-up stage, it also works well for more established businesses who may want to make a change, achieve something specific or perhaps set up a new business/trading arm.

It is particularly beneficial for sole traders or home workers, with the peer support circles helping to overcome the isolation and lack of direction that can be a barrier to

motivation and efficiency. Comments from existing WorcNet circle members include "My circle keeps me on track with continued support and belief." and "It was well worth Annual Leave to be there... more motivation for me to get my business going so that I can leave the day job behind entirely!"

WorcNet will be running a free information event in Bentham soon - see the next issue for details! To learn more in the meantime, please contact Sophie Wild on 01756 692788 or email swild@craven-college.ac.uk or [www.worcnet.co.uk/fullcircle](mailto:go to www.worcnet.co.uk/fullcircle).

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LOW FLYING AIRCRAFT (MOD Policy)

By Keith Hartley

The following letter was received in August 1990 by Colin Clapham of High Bentham. It was a response from the Ministry of Defence to a complaint made earlier by Mr Clapham. I believe the content of the letter remains of interest to Bentham people 20 years later.

Dear Mr Clapham

I am sorry to learn from your letter of 15 June that you have been disturbed by low flying aircraft activity.

The authorised height for an aircraft in the UK Low Flying System is expressed as *minimum separation Distance* (MSD). This distance must be maintained from all obstacles on the ground. Particularly in the case of hilly terrain, aircraft can be seen below the tops of some features whilst quite properly maintaining the correct MSD.

Whilst the MSD to which aircraft in your area would be authorised to fly is 250 feet, all training is not conducted at this level but will take place within a band from 600feet MSD to 250 feet MSD, depending on the type of sortie and the experience of the crew involved. It is therefore quite possible to see aircraft flying at varying heights without the lower aircraft being outside permitted levels. Accurate height assessment requires both sophisticated instruments and very careful surveying. The pilot would have increased height as he was approaching a more densely populated area than that to the south of Higher Bentham. Such climbing manoeuvres should not cause structural damage to a well-maintained property.

We do recognise that military aircraft can be very noisy and startling, and ways of reducing noise levels are kept under review. It is not, however, possible to apply the noise suppression methods used for civil aircraft directly to military aircraft without an unacceptable loss of performance. Speeds are, however, restricted to reduce the noise created and, as far as possible, pilots seek to fly their aircraft so as to avoid causing undue

disturbance to the general public.

I do apologise for the distress you experienced on this occasion. Our pilots are well aware of their responsibilities to the public and endeavour to plan and conduct their sorties as considerately as possible.

Footnote: I am told that around the same time, during one of those sorties, a part of an aircraft fuselage actually became detached from its mounting and landed in the yard of Angus Fire. I wonder which part of the MOD policy covered that eventuality!

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"BEST" NEWS

Celebrating Local Food

By Richard Wilson

The opening of the railway through Bentham must have had a huge impact on the area. Overnight it became possible to send our fresh produce quickly and reliably to the other end of the country, and to buy fresh produce grown hundreds of miles away. Did anyone watching that first train foresee a world in which most of the food for sale in Bentham would have travelled great distances to get here?

Bentham Local Food Week isn't seeking to turn the clock back – we all enjoy being able to choose and vary what we eat – but to remind shoppers that our attractive countryside is still turning out fantastic fresh food; and to remind producers that there are consumers here who'd love to buy their products, if only they knew how to get them!

The leaflet you'll find with this Bentham News is a small step towards bringing local shoppers and producers closer together, and the Bentham Local Food website will try to build on that beginning – but we do need your help and information to improve it and keep it up-to-date. The website also has details – or you can find them on posters round the town – of the events planned for the week starting 18th September.

We kick off with an Apple and Herb Day, including a gardeners' question time and information for aspiring bee-keepers, as well as a chance to swap jam and chutney. There'll be an Edible Garden Crawl to see what some Bentham residents get up to in their back gardens! There are visits to a farm, an organic market garden, and the auction mart; a 100% local food feast; and a local food Jacob's Join with guest speaker Mike Berners-Lee. Many organisations and businesses will also be participating with special menus and promotions. Join in, and give your taste-buds a treat! The next BEST meeting is on Thursday 30th September at 7.30pm in the Horse and Farrier Inn, Main Street.. Meetings and events are open to everyone; come along and help make Bentham a greener town. If you'd like to know more about BEST, telephone 63399 or check out www.bentham.net/Community/BEST.asp

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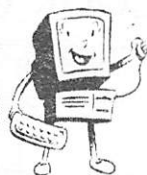
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FLOODLINE WARNINGS DIRECT

By Helena Rafala

The July edition of Bentham News featured an article about the flood warning service coming to Low Bentham. This service is provided by the Environment Agency and is called Floodline Warnings Direct.

Floodline is a free service that gives advance warning of potential flooding to homes and businesses in a flood risk area. People can receive warnings by telephone (mobile and landline), text message, email, fax or any combination of these.

The risk of flooding in the area hasn't changed, but thanks to the installation of a river-level gauge on the River Wenning, combined with accurate mapping of the area and enhanced weather forecasting, the Incident Management team at the Environment Agency can now monitor what's happening with rain and river levels, enabling them to provide the flood warning service to residents of Low Bentham.

The flood warning service in Low Bentham will be launched at the end of October this year; when launched, residents of Low Bentham who live in the flood risk area will be able to register for Floodline and receive flood warnings.

The Environment Agency has a 24-hour duty team on standby and in times of adverse weather, this team actively monitor the river levels and work closely with their regional forecasting teams, the Met Office and the Flood Forecasting Centre. If flooding is anticipated, it will issue Flood Watches and Flood Warnings to the areas affected.

The existing flood warning service that covers High Bentham has very good take-up, with almost 75% of properties eligible to receive warnings actually signed up for the service. However, that's still a quarter of those eligible that wouldn't receive advance warning of flooding. If you live in High Bentham, you can check whether your property is in the warning area on the Environment Agency website, and sign up for Flood Warnings Direct online.

It's not just flooding from rivers that puts

homes at risk. Bouts of heavy rainfall can lead to surface water flooding, which can affect anyone, anywhere. Preparing for flooding from any source can help to minimise the damage that flood water can cause.

There are lots of ways you can do this, including moving valuable and treasured possessions to the first floor or top shelf, preparing a flood kit of essential items, turning off mains water, gas and electricity, and writing a simple flood plan of actions you'd take should flood water affect your home.

You can call Floodline on 0845 9881188 for up-to-date information at any time, including more advice on how to prepare for flooding. You can also register to receive free Floodline Warnings on that number, or on the Environment Agency website. If you would like to have more details about this please visit the Environment Agency website at: www.environment-agency.gov.uk/floodnorthwest



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GOODENBER PLAY AREA UPDATES

By Alice Evered

We held a very successful and well attended coffee morning on the 17th July, despite the rain and lack of parking! This was due to a brilliant turn out and support by everyone in the area. The local shops were amazing in their generosity, donating many prizes for the raffle and then buying tickets on the day as well.

We also had support from many individuals; Kay Piper, Michael Marshal, Cliff and Sue Park and Sue Brayshaw all turned up along with the committee to man the stalls and get the drinks out - Thank you! We made a brilliant £265 and hope to do as well in the future.

It was great to have the chance to talk to everyone about the new plans for the play area and the positive feedback was overwhelming. It looks like we are going to have some speedy development next summer if all goes to plan, so fingers crossed. We are waiting to hear about further grant applications, but already have secured £19,550. This is a really good start and means we can get going with the basic plans.

If anyone is available to help, we are having a working party on the 11th September to have a tidy before winter. We will be gardening, cleaning and rubbish-picking from 10am on site and you would be very welcome!

Our next committee meeting, which is open to all, will be on the 14th October at 7pm in The Coach House. If you want to find out more or just come along to say hello, please feel free. We always welcome any offers of help, whether practical or experience and advice.

If you would like to find out more about the Goodenber Play Area, our plans, or offer help, please do contact us - Mike Wynne 015242 62336 Alice Ellwood 015242 61889

Goodenber Play Area is charity, with a committee of volunteers, who aim to provide a safe and fun space in which our children can play.

LOOKING WELL NEWS

By Julie Vass

After a quiet summer there's lots happening in September! Many activities are re-starting e.g. Walking (Mon/Tue), Art shed and Café IN (Wed) and Mens art shed (Thurs). Tuesday is taking on a whole new emphasis with the Creative Kitchen Garden sessions that bring together activities inside and out, with creative ways to share skills and celebrate the art of growing, cooking and eating well. We will be joining in the Local Food Week celebrations – lunch on Tues 21st and Café on Weds 22nd will be offering locally-sourced food and selling locally made delicacies, and we will host Apple and Herb day on Sat 18th. The Positive Futures project begins again on 22nd – offering supported training/skill/hobby development to those unemployed/work less than 8 hrs/wk. NYCC Adult learning courses also start again w/c 20th – including computing with confidence, Tai Chi, digital photography, multi-media art, creative textiles - enrolments 6th and 13th Sept at Looking Well.

If you want to re-join Pilates or Moving Well contact the tutor directly – Sally Horn (07977633083) for dates and venue.

We are participating in two national events: Walk4Life event on Sunday 26th September – a short local walk with a group without needing to join; and AgeUK's tea and biscuits on 22nd aimed at those confused by computers or bewildered by the World Wide Web – an opportunity to get a taste of technology and what it can do for you.

We are taking names of anyone interested

in joining an evening Board Games group - playing bridge /scrabble /mahjong etc.

We need glassware to put home-made produce in - small jam jars, ketchup bottles and olive oil jars. Donations gratefully received thanks. Further details of anything mentioned – contact Julie on 01524 262672 or office@pioneerprojects.org.uk

LOOKING WELL SINGERS

By Noelle Thompson

Looking Well Singers is looking for new members.

We are a weekly harmony singing group that meets on Tuesday evenings in the downstairs room at the Looking Well in Bentham from 7.30pm - 9.30pm. The group was started almost a year ago and is going from strength to strength.

We tackle songs from around the world, chants from Africa, Georgian healing songs and contemporary Scottish folk songs to name a few, and everything is taught by ear so you don't need to read music either. The group is led by Noelle Thompson who has over ten years experience teaching community choirs and singing groups.

It's a great evening of singing for pleasure in a really friendly atmosphere with other folk from Bentham and the locality.

Our group is a mixture of ages and abilities and welcomes anyone who has an enthusiasm or interest in singing. So come along to the Looking Well on Tuesday 7th September for the start of a new term.

For more information email: Noelle at thistlethompson@hotmail.com or 07765601385.

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GOLF CLUB NEWS

By Chris Cousins (PGA Golf Professional)

Cumbria Junior League

This year Bentham juniors have played home and away matches against various clubs in the area. Although the team is yet to record a win, there have been outstanding individual performances by some Bentham players. Many of the team are playing in team matches for the first time so the experience that they gain from playing different courses will be invaluable in their golfing development and will stand them in good stead for next year's league.

Junior Monday Night League

The Monday night junior league is being well attended, averaging around 20 juniors each Monday. There are 3 divisions, under 18s who play 9 holes from the yellow tees, under 13s who play 3 holes from the red tees, and under 8s who play 3 holes from the blue tees. The evenings play is always followed by a short presentation in the clubhouse.

Junior National Skills Finalist

The National Skills Challenge was held at Bentham Golf Club during May and June this year. The youngsters undergo a series of skills challenges and mark their scores, which are then sent off to the EGU. All the scores are put in a national database. The top finishers in each region are invited to a regional finals day. Bentham's Lucy Moss successfully made it to the National Skills Challenge Regional at Manchester Golf Club on 13th August. Although she didn't get on to the national final, getting to the regional final was a great achievement. Well done Lucy!!!

BENTHAM JUNIORS FOOTY - GOOD NEWS!

By Steve Thomas

The Town Council has decided that Bentham Juniors Football Club is to receive the monies raised from sales of this years Bentham Calendar. This followed on from a bid we put together for funds and is fantastic news for the Club. The award will allow us to meet our regular costs, to buy essential equipment for the use of all of our teams and will help to give us a more stable footing financially. We'll use the funds with great care and always with the aim of making a better footballing experience for the kids.

A huge thanks from all at the Club to the Town Council and the brilliant Bentham Traders who make the Calendar possible every year.

Under 12s - The season starts here..

With the new season almost upon us and the September fixtures for our Under 12s just released, we face a mouth watering opener at Home to Craven Wanderers. In fact we play them twice in 7 days! Our September fixtures are detailed below, so if you're a fan of the beautiful game please do come on down and offer your support - it's not just for the Mums and Dads of the players - please get behind the Juniors!

September Fixtures

Friday 3rd, Craven Wanderers Home 6.15. Sunday 5th, Lune Valley Away 2.00pm. Friday 10th, Craven Away 6.15. Sunday 12th, Heysham Home 2.00. Sunday 19th, Boys Club Away 2.00. Sunday 26th, Cockerham Away 2.00.

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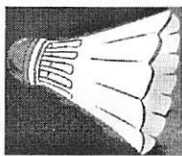
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LOW BENTHAM BADMINTON CLUB



By Julie Bridgeman

2010 – 2011 Season

Our 2010–2011 season will begin Tuesday 14th September. We will play from 6.30 – 8.30pm at the sports hall at QES in Kirkby Lonsdale. We'll let you know what subscriptions will be when we have a price for hall rental from QES but we'll try and keep it as low as possible. Everyone is welcome, it doesn't matter what standard you are. We're friendly and sociable and don't bite! We have a coffee morning at Bentham Town Hall 4th September. Please come along and support us. If anyone has anything that they would like to donate as a raffle prize please ring Julie on 62276/07939059812 or Cath on 62242.

NEW BRIDGE OVER THE RIVER RIBBLE

By Nick Oldham

Walkers, horse riders and mountain bikers on the Pennine Bridleway National Trail will soon be able to stay dry when they cross the River Ribble—thanks to a joint project by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (YDNPA) and Natural England.

Work has started on a new path and timber bridge that will cross the river near Selside as part of a new bridleway from the B6479 road near the village to an existing track at Dalemire Barn and the Cam Road – a length of approximately 2.5km.

The Authority's Pennine Bridleway Project Officer Peter Lambert said: "There's a lot of work involved and we had to get the agreement of the landowners, obtain planning permission and Environment Agency consent and carry out extensive, detailed ecological and archaeological surveys before we could start.

"The bridleway bridge will use an innovative design, that involves short lengths of timber to create a bridge with three arches spanning nearly 50 metres.

SPRINGFIELD BOWLING CLUB

By Helen Cross (Club Secretary)

Those who live in Bentham will probably have seen the improvements that have been taking place over the last two years. In 2009 a new Pavilion was acquired, thanks to grants from Bentham Town Council, Craven District Council, the Catalyst Fund, North Yorkshire County Council, the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust and the Harold and Alice Bridges Charity, as well as donations from and the hard work of the club members. This year we have added a new shed for the green keeper, made alterations to the entrance to provide easy access and built a marking area for match days.

On the 31st July the club members held a competition and barbeque to raise funds towards the ongoing refurbishment of the toilets. Although the weather was very mixed a good time was had by all.

The club joined the South Westmorland Seniors League for the first time last September and have so far had a very enjoyable year.

Can we remind all readers that the club will be holding a coffee morning on Saturday the 2nd of October at the Town Hall and we would appreciate your support? There will be a cake stall, raffle and tombola and of course the opportunity to meet and talk to members of the club in case you are interested in joining us for the 2011 season.

VALE O' LUNE YOUNG FARMERS CLUB

By Alison Grieve

Would past and present members please note that we are missing cups and trophies that have been presented to members years ago and have never been returned to the club. Please turn out your lofts and cupboards as present members are missing out on them. Thank you!

The Vale O' Lune YFC 65th Dinner Dance is to be held on Friday 1st October 2010 at the Arkholme Village Hall, 7:30pm prompt. Tickets £12.

TOM GUY EXTRAORDINHAIR

By Wendy Dowbiggin

He was Tom Guy Extraordinhair - he was Mr Bentham and he filled all the requirements. Tom was a barber all his working life, first serving his apprenticeship at a barbers in Frances Passage, Lancaster. When you met Tom in the street he would always have time for you, never said "can't stop", always had a listening ear. He was a talker, a well known Guy trait.

Tom was a family man. He had two daughters, Alison and Caroline, a granddaughter Becky, a grandson Josh and a great granddaughter Mia. He was extremely proud of all of them.

Tom was a "Benthamer". Like me, he loved the town where he was born and bred, and the community. There are not enough adjectives in the dictionary to describe Tom. He was

everyone's friend, he was loyal, faithful caring, loving, a gentleman and a gentle man and a family man. He had a wonderful dry sense of humour which we all shared in. A dapper chappie - when you had a date with Tom you always knew he would come appropriately dressed - important to us ladies. My own personal memories of Tom are many and I know that you will all have many personal memories too.

We had some happy times together which some of you may recall. Do you remember the sketch Tom did of Paddy the Irishman who came back from Ireland years after he had been hired at a June Fair? Tom performed the sketch at the golf club and in the Town Hall. I was his stooge and long lost girl friend he was coming back to visit. He arrived on the set with a broken down bike, a suitcase tied with string, and himself looking rather down at heel. He proceeded to throw large sheets of script down the floor where he had drawn the shop etc. on the Main Street and Station Road and then he began his talk on the shop and businesses and how they had changed in the years since he had left. It was clever and witty and I backed him because sometimes I had the better memory.

He was also a local historian with many old photographs which he would show to people who were interested in the town and he was keen on the family trees, on both the Guy side and the Hargeaves family, his mother's side of the family

Tom led a full life. His great love was golf. He was captain of Bentham Golf Club twice and President several times.. He was always there to lend a helping hand and encourage. Latterly he had been helping with the junior section.

Age Concern - Tom had his lunch every Friday. Joan took it across to him and he bought his raffle tickets from her. Tom didn't feel quite ready to join the other members and said he would wait a few years.

Tom had that unique quality which drew people to him, everyone, young and old, liked him and he wrote poems for the Bentham News and the Church magazine. His business had been run by two young ladies - Alison and Rachael, who were very dear to him. A cake on Saturday morning for them, from the coffee morning, was a priority in the week for Tom.

My lasting memory of Tom will be his love of people and Bentham and his ability to always make you feel better after a chat with him. Now when I walk around town shopping and having a chat, I miss Tom, as many of you do, but he will always be there talking to everyone on any subject you care to mention - memory is a wonderful thing. God bless Tom Guy.

