

BENTHAM NEWS

BENTHAM COMMUNITY BONFIRE AND FIREWORKS

By Lynda Graveson

Don't miss this year's spectacular lantern procession, bonfire and fireworks, which will take place on Saturday 31st October. The theme for this year's lantern procession will be "The Allotment". The procession will set off from Cleveland Square Car Park at 6.20pm, reaching the Auction Yard around 6.45pm. Grasmere Drive and Goodenber Road will be closed for about 10 minutes and the Main Street for the duration of the procession. Hog Roast and other refreshments will be available. Please come and join the procession with your lantern.



Lantern Making

Family lantern making workshops will take place at Looking Well Studios every day from 2.30-4.30pm, starting on Saturday 24th until Friday 30th October. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Bonfire

The bonfire can be built from 30th October. Garden cuttings and wood are ideal but please do not dump tyres, builders waste, glass or mattresses etc.

Entrance Fees

The entrance fee into the Bonfire and Fireworks will remain the same as the previous 4 years and will be £3.00 for adults and £1.50 for children. The fee applies to lantern bearers as well so please be ready to buy tickets from ticket sellers on the street to avoid a hold-up at the Auction Yard entrance.

Stewards Needed

We need numerous stewards and ticket sellers and would be grateful if anyone willing to help would contact me, Lynda Graveson, at Looking Well Studios, 62672, Gareth Adams 61182 or Bernie Wills 61438.

Also in this edition:-

The "charging for car parking" concerns grow! See related items on pages 3, 5, 7, 9, 21, 34 and 36.

Your letters on pages 35, 36 and 37.

Digital Switch Over - 4th November - page 11.

Skate Park update, page 18.

Yesterday in Bentham, page 19.

Is the recession affecting you? page 30.

Springfield Bowling Club results, page 43.

THIS IS THE FIRST EVER 44 PAGE EDITION OF THE BENTHAM NEWS!

OCTOBER 2009

ISSUE 276

VISIT TO ANTIGUA

By Susanna Dennis

In July I had the exciting opportunity to go out to the Caribbean Island of Antigua for two weeks to work voluntarily as part of a team with the Christian charity Youth for Christ and I would like to thank all those who supported me.

Youth for Christ work alongside 200,000 young people across the UK from every background and culture, communicating and demonstrating the Christian faith, tackling real issues such as bullying and family breakdown and have similar projects in over 100 countries.

In Antigua I was part of a team of 8 young people from the UK with various skills including myself a dancer, drama students, and a musician. We worked primarily with young people, running youth clubs, playing silly games, chatting to the kids and seeing the challenges they face in their culture. I was able to run a week of dance workshops and it was fantastic to see kids get so involved, especially those who had been reluctant to join in at the start and who had never danced before. We were also able to be a part of many church meetings whilst we were there which was a real challenge and encouragement to my own faith.

I was able to see the two extremes of Antigua. From the outstanding beauty of the island to the darker sides as we were able to work alongside a team of street pastors on the red light streets of St. John's (the capital). This was a real eye opener to the reality of the world we live in and although this was a very challenging experience, it was great to be able to talk to these people and help them in anyway we could.

The highlight of the trip for me was working in the prison. I visited both the male and female prison and worked alongside a team who weekly visit the inmates, talking to them and running a simple church service. This was heart breaking but very humbling. It was awful to see how they were treated regardless of what they may have done but talking to the inmates, they



Team members relaxing in Antigua - Susanna Dennis is front left.

were some of the most incredible people I have ever met. I was really challenged to not forget these people who society tells me are no good and have written off when these people are just like you and me.

This was a fantastic and challenging experience for me and I would recommend it to anyone. You will not remain the same and I think it's so important to have a perspective on life that is bigger than ourselves in a country where we have so much.

BENTHAM YOUTH THEATRE GROUP UPDATE

By Iain Henshaw

Well, we've started on our Christmas production which will be staged in early December. This year we will be doing a variety show and new members are always welcome.

Thanks to everyone who supported us during the Low Bentham street market and also at the Bentham Show, where our stand won joint second for a trade stand - we're very proud of that!

Call Iain Henshaw on 015242 61010 for more information - more next month!

SEPTEMBER'S TOWN COUNCIL

By David Johnson

All the Cllrs were present except Cllrs Barnes, Barrington, Faichney, Hurtle and Marshall.

Pay and Display Parking

The Cllrs were pleased to hear that the scheme has been stopped because of objections from the police and North Yorkshire Highways. CDC had received two petitions opposing the scheme; one with twenty-two signatures had been delivered in time but another containing 776 signatures had been delivered too late for consideration. The general feeling was that we should stay vigilant because it would be possible for the situation to change in February 2010 if the Highways Department changed its attitude.

Planning

Burndale House (the old Bentham Cinema) is to be demolished and a two storey office building will be built. The Cllrs recommended refusal of an application to build two family dwellings on the garage site, Banks Way. They had been assured that this council property would be sold as garages and the Cllrs were annoyed that Craven District Council had reneged on this promise and not even consulted them. They said some residents had right of access to their properties across this land and that the development would put even more pressure on parking in the area.

Highways

The Council received rather a curious if not cheeky reply from United Utilities about the condition of Wenning Avenue in which they stated that that the road is in a suitable state for their own operations. The Council has established that the ownership of Wenning Avenue from Hillcroft to Rose Cottage lies solely with United Utilities. The problem is that none of the roads leading onto Wenning Avenue can be adopted until the Avenue is brought up to a proper standard. Cllrs decided that action should be taken in the interests of public safety and Cllr Camacho agreed to ask United Utilities to meet with the Council to try to resolve the problem.

Puffin Crossing

The Council was asked to consider the introduction of a Puffin Crossing on Mount Pleasant between the vets and School Hill. Nobody seemed to know what a Puffin Crossing looks like! Wikipedia shows it to be a user-friendly crossing that utilises sensors to control traffic and pedestrians. The lights controlling the crossing are on the near side of the road set diagonally for easy viewing and to help the visually impaired. Whilst welcoming the idea the Cllrs questioned the location suggesting it be positioned at the bottom of Robin Lane.

Proposals for The New School

These were seen to be a bit of a curate's egg by most Cllrs. County Cllr Ireton confirmed that the North Yorkshire Executive Committee had decided to press ahead and build a new primary school for Bentham starting with the compulsory purchase of land on Bellfleckers Field (the original location). He said it was good news that progress has been made and a commitment exists to build a new school but agreed that the Cllrs should write stressing their objections to the location. The Cllrs favoured site had been behind Bigber Farm near Wesley Close. They argued that the proposed site was a little remote with limited opportunities for safe pedestrian routes to the school and had been chosen purely on the basis of cost. They thought that the estimate of £700K to put in an access road behind Bigber was excessive and decided to write expressing their disappointment at the decision and inviting officers to attend a public meeting in Bentham to explain the decision.

Market

A letter had been received about the the poor state of the market. The clerk said that every avenue had been explored. Several new stall holders had tried to establish themselves but had failed. The general comment was that if Benthamers want a market they should support it by shopping there!

Bonfire

The Cllrs agreed to the closure of the B6480 for a brief period on the evening of 31st October for the bonfire procession.

GARDEN PAGE

By Joyce Knapp

September for gardeners was somewhat dominated by Bentham's annual Agricultural Show, some sections of which seem to go from strength to strength, regardless of our rather wet weather. The moving of venue to the Auction Mart allowed those of us who usually exhibit under canvas to work on solid ground as opposed to the slithering and sliding we often experience on the field. The quality and number of exhibits in the horticultural section was most impressive and it was very encouraging to see new names appearing on the winning items. This not only sets an additional challenge to anyone who has exhibited for some years now but also bodes well for the future of the show.

With the Show behind us we can get back to work on any general maintenance tasks that need doing at this time of year. One job that can be done in October is the cutting back of hedges now that all growth should have slowed down for the coming winter. This can be tackled manually with a good, sharp pair of hedging shears if there is only a relatively small area to be covered. However, if we are to trim a larger area, we may wish to invest in a powered hedge trimmer and these can be electric, if we have a power source nearby, or petrol powered, if we need to work some distance from the house.

Having cut off any excess growth, we can then weed beneath the hedge and cut back any perennial plants that live at the base of it. The final task is to apply a mulch of either good garden compost or leaf mould, thereby supplying a source of slow-release nutrients that will keep the hedge in good heart throughout the coming year.

It is perhaps worth taking note at this stage of how much weed material has been removed from beneath the hedge, as this can be reduced in future years quite simply by putting in a selection of what we term 'ground cover' plants. These are typically low growing plants that have a habit of spreading and include such plants as London

Pride, Saxifrage, Campanulas and Lamium (Dead nettle). If these are planted in clumps at intervals along the base of a hedge they will not only reduce the incidence of weeds, but will also provide all-year-round cover for a myriad of tiny creatures, perhaps the most important of which is the ground beetle, as it eats lots of garden pests. Next month we are to look into the selection, planting and care of apple trees, following the 'Apple day' held recently in the Looking Well garden.

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CRAVEN CONCERNS

By Cllr Manuel Camacho 015242 62074

Car Parking Charges

Twenty two objections were received within the consultation period; at least one of these had other signatures to it. In fairness I should point out that a much larger petition arrived too late to be considered. Although much larger it contained a significant proportion of signatures from well outside Bentham.

The most significant are objections from the Police and NYCC Highways officers. The Police objection is mainly due to a lack of resources to manage on-street parking, which is more their problem than CDC's.

If CDC officers can overcome Highways objections then the final decision will be made by NYCC Craven area committee. The first date when the matter can be placed before them will be February 2010. Why the consultation took place after the committee voted is beyond my comprehension.

While there are objections in place from Highways I cannot and will not support car parking charges. So why did I vote for this in the first place?

(1), this is a Government and County Council policy which CDC are obliged to support. The policy is three part in intention, firstly to encourage the use of public transport secondly to encourage people to leave their cars at home for short journeys and of course to raise revenue. While the first item is not helpful in Bentham and the third unpopular the second has merit.

(2), a survey of Grasmere car park conducted by CDC staff showed that most vehicles arrived just before 9am and left just before 5pm leaving no spaces for shoppers or visitors to the health centre.

(3), this only affects Grasmere car park not Lairgill nor the Town Hall nor the Low Bentham car park.

(4), prior to this going to committee the feedback I had received was very small, mainly Mrs Ellis and the town council, I had asked the views of roughly the same number of people and the general opinion was that it would be not too bad and that something needed doing about Grasmere car park. Even more to my amazement I received only one

call about parking after reporting the committee's decision in Bentham News which was about disabled parking, which of course is not affected.

(5), Bentham definitely does not benefit from being an exception when facilities are being handed out. For example two years ago there was sufficient budget to put in a plastic recycling centre in either Ingleton or Bentham but not both, guess who got it.

(6), I have had discussions with officers to further mitigate effects on people affected by car parking charges and this is possible, however some minor hurdles have to be overcome, I cannot give details as third parties are involved.

(7), I did not expect that if I voted against parking charges I would receive any support from the majority group, which was the case. In South Craven there was an exception where one (or more) of the Tories broke ranks and voted with the opposition. On occasions like this when I don't expect to win I find it better to accept the inevitable and get on with minimising any damage.

Those of you who wish to oppose car parking charges can still do so by lobbying the NYCC Craven Area Committee which is currently chaired by Cllr David Ireton.

I wish there had been such a strong reaction when I opposed the closing of the public toilet!

Green Shoots of recovery

I am pleased to report that indications are that the efforts to recover from CDC's financial problems are beginning to work, although there is still a long way to go, the trend appears to be positive.

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BENTHAM FOOTPATH GROUP



By Maureen Ellis

The AGM of the Bentham Footpath Group is on Friday 9th of October and is at a new venue. Please note it is at the Looking Well, King Street and starts at 7.30pm and is a Jacob's Join.

On Sunday the 4th meeting at Lairgill at 9.30am there is the 7 mile walk around Old Town. We will be parking in Old Town and going past the three meres. It is an upland walk but not strenuous and the climbs are steady.

Thursday 15th brings a walk of 9 miles involving the train. After meeting at Lairgill at 9.30 we will take the train from Carnforth to Arnsdale and then return round the shore to Silverdale and then over Heald Brow to the summit of Warton Crag and across the fields back to Carnforth.

Saturday 24th brings the 8 mile Leck Fell walk meeting at Lairgill at 9.30. We will walk from Leck Fell down the dry river bed of Easegill having a look at the Kirk (which is a gorge) and then up the footpath to Bullpot farm and continuing to Great Comb to the highest point (this is part of the Barbon Trail) and on along the watershed to the three counties boundary. This is the most northern part of Lancashire. It's then along the Lancashire Yorkshire boundary to Gregareth and back down to Leck Fell.



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PAY AND DISPLAY QUESTIONNAIRE AND PETITION UPDATE

By Margaret Ellis

Thank you to everybody who collected signatures, filled in questionnaires and posted the completed forms through my letterbox.

A summary of the views expressed was sent to North Yorkshire County Council, Craven District Council and David Curry M.P. and copies of the 700+ signature petition were sent to NYCC and CDC.

The responses to the questionnaire and petition indicate the strength of feeling against the proposed imposition of parking charges in Bentham. The reasons are the same as those outlined by Trevor Blackwell in the leader article of August's "Bentham News".

What emerged most clearly from conversations while distributing the documents was that in future:

1. Everybody wishes to be informed about matters which affect Bentham.
2. Everybody would like a chance to express their opinions by being pro-actively consulted by the District Councillors.
3. Everybody would like their views to be vigorously promoted to Craven District Council, not paternalistically disregarded.
4. More notice should be taken of Bentham Town Council at county and district levels.

If you missed the petition and questionnaire (we had to move fast) you can still write to:-

Mr. Peter Chapman, Council Offices, Granville Street, Skipton BD23 1PS and

Mr. S. Loach, Democratic Services, County Hall, Northallerton, North Yorkshire.

Why not write anyway? The more letters of protest the better. The last couple of weeks has been a really inspiring example of democracy in action. So let's keep it going.

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LOCAL GIRL'S SUCCESS IN "COMMUNITY IDOL" - MUSIC COMPETITION

By PC Monika Beckwith

Community Idol is a music competition in the vein of X factor organised by North Yorkshire Police. The Craven final was held on Wednesday 9th September at STRATA in Skipton. It was a fantastic evening, There were 11 acts in total from 5 schools from Craven.

The talent was outstanding and the three judges, Peter Armitage (Bill Webster on Coronation Street), Jo Blythe the ITV weather girl and Chief Inspector Barry Smith had a really difficult job choosing the 3 finalists to go through to the grand final at the Royal Hall in Harrogate.

The worthy winners were all fabulous and 1st and 2nd were both nominated by Ingleton Middle school but are now at Settle College. Emily Shrimpton from Bentham came 1st with a beautiful rendition of "Never forget you" and 2nd was Georgia Ward from Ingleton who sang "Love Story". The prizes of MP3 players and music vouchers were funded by Craven Community Safety partnership.

Both girls will go on to the grand final at Harrogate where the top prize is a laptop and a day in a recording studio! Having heard them sing I am sure we will be hearing a lot more of them in the future!

TEMPTATIONS

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CHRISTMAS FAIR

By Jo Burton

The Tourist Information is looking at running a Christmas Fair, complete with Father Christmas and refreshments in the Town Hall on the evening of Friday 4th December and would like to hear from anyone who might be interested in having a stall - charity or otherwise.

Anyone interested should contact the clerk on 62587.

Shoppers Night Out

Cheese & Wine

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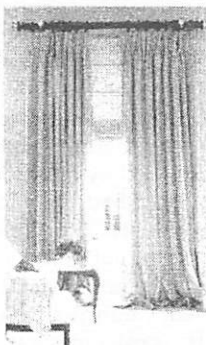
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CAR PARK CHARGES IN BENTHAM: A COMMUNITY RESPONDS

By Margaret Ellis and Annie Neligan

Recently a couple of us spent the morning out and about on Bentham market day asking people what they think of the proposed introduction of charges on Grasmere Car Park. We knew there was a lot of anger, but we were amazed that the reaction was so overwhelmingly against the idea of charges. What also surprised us was the range of the reasons people gave, depending on their own experience and circumstances. Here's a flavour of the responses.

Traders

'I have just moved my business to Bentham and this doesn't encourage me to stay.'

'I am a new retail outlet on Main Street. Consequences of charges: firstly the heavy cost of personal charges to an already struggling business; secondly to my customers. The town is not big enough to warrant paying to shop. The short stay is keeping my business alive. To put obstacles in the way of this could put a threat to the continuation of my small but valued little shop'.

'A vast majority of our customers use these car parks when visiting our shop. We have people come into town from surrounding towns instead of going to Lancaster and visiting Tesco, Asda etc. If they have to pay for parking I fear we will lose a lot of our custom. We have had comments already that they will go elsewhere.'

'People confuse my car park (a pub) with it being a free car park. This will make it chaos. And I may have to charge as well. Ridiculous.'

'As the local barbers, we think there would be a drop in trade as the very reason some of our customers patronise us is because it's free to park in Bentham. We bring other trade into the town which could be lost.'

Shoppers

'I won't come to Bentham to shop and have

to pay. The market may close'. People talked of their fears of increased congestion, inappropriate parking, difficulties for women with prams, and parking on residential roads

The Health Centre

'We have 9 office staff, 7 doctors, 3 nurses, plus counsellors, district nurses, chiropodists and physiotherapists who all travel to work in the surgery. Where are they supposed to park? And what about the patients – if a doctor is delayed, they'll be getting parking tickets. It will discriminate against the elderly and those who can't walk. And our small car park may get blocked by patients avoiding paying – doctors on call need to be able to get away fast.'

'I'm a volunteer driving elderly patients to the Health Centre. You never know how long they are going to be. Who would pay these charges?'

'My patients would have to pay to come and see me. This is completely unacceptable.'

Residents

'People will be parking in unsuitable places, blocking entrances, restricting the flow of traffic, not just on Main Street but Robin Lane and Goodenber Road. It'll be unsafe for medical emergencies, police and fire engines.'

'A recipe for conflict and bad feeling'

Workers

'A lot of my wage would be spent on parking fees'.

'I work part-time in Bentham and travel from Burton. I am a low paid worker but this was partly compensated for by free parking'. 'As I travel into Bentham to work as a volunteer in a charity shop, and come in by car, parking is essential to me'.

So you can see how important it is to so many people to keep parking free. Do write to our county councillor, David Ireton, at County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AD, encouraging him to raise the issue at the Craven Area Committee, where a decision to charge could be reversed. And if it does come up on the agenda, let's make sure there are enough of us at the meeting to make our objections clear.

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REMEMBER, REMEMBER THE 4TH OF NOVEMBER!!

Digital TV Switchover

By Ant Tennor

In a few weeks time on the 4th of November the first stage of the 'the digital TV switchover' will be upon us, but what does it actually mean to the good people of Bentham and surrounding areas?

Most residents receive their TV programmes from the Lancaster TV mast, this is located at Nether Kellet. This transmitter has been sending out both analogue and digital TV (freeview) signals for many years. But the digital signals have been sent out at much reduced power and so have not provided the same coverage or quality of reception for many people.

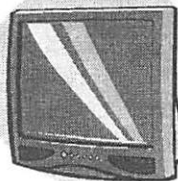
By switching the 'old' analogue signals off, the digital signals can be boosted, this will prove especially significant in the low lying areas of High and Low Bentham, where the digital reception will improve or in many cases be available for the first time.

So what do you need to consider? Firstly think about every TV in the house! The portable in the kitchen, the bedroom? Do they have digital built in? If not you will need at least a simple digi box for each one. Every TV is convertible to Digital, even an old black and white, so there is no need to throw your TV out.

The main TV, is that digital? Do you want to be able to record a different programme to the one you are watching; for recording it's best to consider a personal video recorder as a replacement for the good old VHS video. If you have a collection of VHS tape that you would like to keep, no problem, your video will continue to play after switchover, but it will not work as an independent recorder.

On the 4th of November the BBC2 analogue will be turned off. The most important thing to remember is that any digital TV equipment you have will need to be **retuned on the 4th of November, even if it is working on digital now.** This process

will need to be repeated on the 2nd of December when the final switchover takes place and the analogue BBC1, ITV1 and Channel 4 signals will be switched off. For help on retuning refer to your user manual or consult your local retailer.



If you receive all your TV programmes on every TV in your house via a dish, be that SKY or BBC Freesat then don't worry you are already digital, and these products do not need to be retuned.

For more information see www.digitaluk.co.uk or refer to the information booklet you should have received through the post. For more specific information please contact your local retailer.

One final note, the digital switchover **only** applies to Televisions, and **not** to AM or FM radio signals; these will be around for a good while yet.

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WOMENS' INSTITUTES

High Bentham

By Anne Yaman

The September meeting was very well attended with many members and two visitors. We were entertained by Norman Harris, who took us on a journey coast to coast across the USA and back on his Harley Davidson in a presentation that covered all aspects of the transportation and travel. A real holiday without leaving your home town! He was introduced by President, Miss Wendy Dowbiggin, and thanked by Mrs Anne Yaman.

The business of the evening reminded all the ladies of Bentham Show on the Saturday when it was hoped we would all do well. There is an outing to Lowgill and Tatham Fells on Friday 11th September for a fashion facts and fun evening. There will also be a meal at the Nosebag on 23rd September in the evening.

The competition for the night was for something you couldn't leave behind if you had to abandon your home. It produced a number of entries with the winner being Mrs Joanie Weekly with a "very personal item" which provoked a lot of hilarity.

On Saturday 5th September the WI were very pleased to win the Silver Salver at Bentham Show for the most number of points for the WI in relation to membership numbers together with the winning entry in the five items judged together for the category this year of "A Country". Although it was a close run thing we were really pleased to be victorious and would like to thank all the members who contributed the items to make this possible. Individually, many members were successful at the show as well and combined with our President being President of Bentham Show as well for 2009 we all felt we had a very successful and enjoyable day.

The next meeting will be on Thursday 1st October at 7.30pm in the Lower Town Hall and will be our Annual General Meeting for the year.

Low Bentham

By Jennifer Watkinson

Mr. David Allison, our guest speaker, who is a part time national and international football referee, kept the members amused and very interested with his experiences both at home and abroad, with fans and players. To illustrate his talk he produced mementos given to him by international teams - a Cossack hat from Russia and a trophy from Italy. He also had a number of referee kits that he had worn over the years. A vote of thanks was given by the president, Mrs. Ruth Sephton. Competition winners were 1 - Barbara Mason, 2 - Faith Wilson, - 3 Edna Hewitt, Barbara Vigour and Sue Cooper.

Fourteen members accepted Lowgill WI's invitation to their "Fashion, Fact and Fun" evening which depicted the Victorian area to the 1980s. The period dresses were beautiful, the narration was informative and the music and dancing brought back many memories. It was certainly a fun evening.

The next meeting will be on Thursday 15th October, at 7.30pm in the Victoria Institute, Low Bentham, when Christine Broadhead's talk is entitled "History and Services of Age Concern".

FLU VACCINATIONS 2009

From Monday 5th to Friday 30th October, Bentham Surgery, 10-11am and 2-3pm. Ingleton Surgery, 10am-12noon on following dates. Tuesdays 6th, 13th and 27th, Wednesday 21st and Thursdays 15th and 19th October. No appointment needed.

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THE HOSPICE OF INGLEBOROUGH

By Keith Hartley

Whilst looking through some old papers belonging to Bentham Footpath Group recently, I came across a story which fascinated me and which I felt could be of interest to BN readers. Once again, old Benthamers will yawn in their boredom at my resurrecting yet another fragment of their local area history, but once again I believe there will be many, like me, for whom the story of the Hospice of Ingleborough is new and interesting.

I am reproducing the story word for word as written in 1923 by, it is believed, one James Bibby.

"About the year 1830, Hornby Roughsedge Esquire, who ran two mills at Bentham, had recently purchased the manor of Ingleton from the Parker family of Blowshome in the Forest of Bowland. He conceived a tower on Ingleborough would be a useful shooting box and a welcome shelter for those who ascended the hill. He obtained subscriptions, heading it handsomely himself; it was taken up with spirit by his friends and neighbours, plans were prepared and approved. There was plenty of stone on the site, but to the antiquarians' great loss, they requisitioned part of the surrounding Roman wall and the stones that formed the Beehive Huts 2 or 3 feet high. The materials were carted up by means of an old road that runs by the village of Newby Cote. It would be one of the highest buildings in England.

(On opening day?)

It was a fine summer's day; people from every township were there, races and athletic sports were indulged in; the chief race was twice round the top, about 2 miles, won by two miners from Ingleton and Clapham. Provisions and liquid cheer had been taken up and the crowd became too merry, for, on Mr Roughsedge and Mr Overton and other gentlemen leaving, the discontent which had issued broke out, the windows and furniture were smashed, part of the ornamental coping stones were

thrown down and before darkness came much damage had been done within ten hours.

Mr Roughsedge was so annoyed that he refused to have it repaired. The dome in a few years was ruthlessly let down by some imps of mischief. This completed the ruin, which lies a heap of stones near the SW of the mountain edge, within sight of Lancaster and Morecambe.

This is the history of the Hospice of Ingleborough. In the writer's opinion it might be replaced by some simple windshield for the benefit of those who climb this peak."

Whilst having only a very short life, the Hospice would have made a very imposing sight from Bentham and the surrounding area. Has anyone ever seen a picture of the tower, or does anyone have any further information?



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THAT'S A LOT OF EARLY MORNINGS!"

By Shirley Brown

Having got over the shock of seeing Sid Hogg's announcement in the July Bentham News that he had decided to retire and that his milk round was for sale, I recently went to visit him to find out more about our wonderful milkman.

At the age of 15 years Sid's working life started. He finished school one day and at 6.30am the next day he started as a farm worker for Bateman Marshall. He reflected that in his whole working life he has never started later than 6.30am! After a few years working for Bateman he went to work for the Boothmans at Ellergill Farm in Low Bentham. It was while working there that Sid, aged 19 years, was put on the milk round with a lad to help. The Boothmans were already bottling milk for Jim and Mary Frankland's dairy in Low Bentham, and in 1967 bought the milk round from them. When they packed in farming in 1982 Sid took over the milk round and became his own boss.

Sid remembers that when he started delivering milk it was always green top. Now that's a rarity and customers want skimmed, semi-skimmed and silver top instead. Although it's been hard work delivering milk in all weathers, it's a job that Sid has thrived in, loving the outdoor life, getting to know every nook and cranny around Bentham and knowing everyone and being known by everyone. Since 1983 Sid has only taken 21 days holiday, and has "never missed a day's delivery in 42 years". To be strictly accurate Sid will be leaving the milk round one month short of 42 years, and he is a stickler for detail as those of us who have been lucky enough to be customers of his will confirm - he did his job with great attention to detail, deciphering all the soggy notes that people leave out with their milk bottles and rarely making a mistake.

The customer comes first and Sid has tried to keep the round going in some atrocious weather, sometimes delivering the evening before heavy snowstorms, other times borrowing a tractor and trailer to

deliver milk through heavy snow. He remembers with gratitude all the people who've helped him out by lending him vans or trailers or who have towed him when his van has broken down or crashed on icy roads. Sid remembers a few occasions when he's been able to alert a doctor or a neighbour to the plight of a customer who hadn't taken in the previous day's milk.

Sid couldn't have done such a good job and run such a successful business without the help of his wife and business partner, Anne, who he describes as "the backbone of the business". Also over the years he's had a succession of brilliant lads who've helped him.

Sid and Anne have received dozens of cards, letters of appreciation and gifts, and would like to thank all their customers for their support, loyalty and friendship. Now, age 61, it's time for Sid to have a bit of a rest but he can't see himself "doing nowt for long" so is hoping someone will offer him a job, "any serious offer considered!" Having always been a close family, Sid and Anne are also looking forward to becoming grandparents early in 2010.

Since 1st September, Chad has taken over the round. He's already doing a milk round in Caton and is working the Bentham round in with that on different days. He's 27, ex-RAF, married with two young children, very keen and starts work at 1am (which even impressed early-riser Sid!) S & P Parker, who only supplied Sid, have stopped bottling milk now and bottles from Brades' Farm, Claughton, have replaced the distinctive bottles from Parker's. Good luck Chad, you've a hard act to follow, but we're really glad you've taken on the challenge!

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NEW LOOK FOR POSTIE SUE

Congratulations go to Sue Ralph, a familiar face in Bentham where she has been



delivering the mail for the past 16 years. Back in April Sue volunteered to undergo a 90 day fitness and weight loss programme at Shapely Does It, Low Bentham. As a result, she lost 18 lbs in weight and a total of 15.5 inches. She has also noticed a big improvement in the arthritis that has affected her knees for many years. "The weight loss was a goal in itself but the improved mobility in my knees has also made it easier to exercise and will help me lose even more weight quicker... and keep it off", says Sue. Sue was rewarded for her dedication to the fitness programme with a make-over from Image Flair, Lancaster and a photo session at Bentham Imaging.

THEATRE GROUP NEWS

By John Neale (Director)

Christmas festivities in Bentham will begin early this year with performances of "Blithe Spirit" on 3rd-5th December.

In one of Noel Coward's best comedies of wit and style, author Charles Condomine organises, for his research, a séance but only manages to conjure up the spirit of his deceased wife before the very eyes of his present spouse. He quickly finds out that two wives are not better than one and it's a case of back to the medium, Madame Arcanti, to banish a ghost or two! Bentham Theatre Group usually puts on its fireworks in November, but "Blithe Spirit" seems a fitting opener for the Christmas season. Giving their spirited performances will be Anne Preston, Jane Learmonth, Sue Bloxham, Laura Christman, Sue Halsall, John Townsend and Barry Hymer. Anyone interested in joining the fun and giving a hand backstage can contact John Neale on 63376 or Sue Halsall on 62083. By the way, is there anyone out there with a crystal ball?



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SKATE PARK UPDATE

By Pam Woof

I am pleased to report that the Skate Park gained planning permission to go ahead, subject to several conditions being satisfied before we begin. These relate to the trees, floodlighting and noise and are to ensure that the work does not damage the trees or unduly affect the neighbouring house.

The plans are available to view at places around the town including the Town Hall, Looking Well and the Youth Cafe. They show the tennis courts which will be refurbished, floodlit and lined for tennis, basketball and netball. Everyone will be able to use the facilities but Club members will take priority over casual users. The development of strong clubs and user groups will be our priority over the next few years. The P.F.A. wants to see healthy tennis, netball and basketball clubs to help sustain Wenning Playing Fields in future years. Skate boarding/BMX activities will also hopefully be led by a group although it is expected to be more informal. We need to start by bringing probable users together.

Show your support!

Alongside the plans is a sheet for you to express your support for the project. If you think you might use the facilities in the future, please sign one of the forms. This will help us demonstrate the need for these facilities to prospective funders. To date, we have offers for at least two thirds of the amount required and we continue to seek the rest over the next 3 months. Over £5000 has already been raised by the people of Bentham but any further donations will be gratefully received!

CHEESE & WINE EVENING

By Anne Millar

Why not come and enjoy, in comfort, some of the products our local businesses have to offer? There will be everything you need from top to toe, and we will cater for your inner needs as well as your garden. Tickets, £5 each, are available from local shops displaying the poster. 7.30pm on 22nd October in the Town Hall, in aid of the Methodist Church Refurbishment Fund.

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.

October 1989

This month's issue led with an interesting feature about the Town Hall, marking the approaching 50th anniversary of its first refurbishment.

Originally built on land gifted to the Council in 1876 by Grove Hill resident Mrs Rice, the Town Hall was a two-storey building, the lower floor of which housed the town's market hall. During the early part of the 20th century the building's usage changed, with a decline in its popularity as a marketing base for local produce, and a growing demand for a larger function room. An architect had failed to find any way in which the building could be extended, so other options were explored, such as building a new Town Hall on a larger site. However, the funds to purchase an appropriate site were not available, and it was looking as though the project would need to be shelved when unexpected assistance came from two directions.

A second piece of land adjoining the Town Hall was gifted to the Council by the owner Mr S W Huck, and, almost simultaneously, the project received a grant of £2,200 from the National Fitness Council. This enabled the Council to extend the Town Hall to more or less its current size and, despite the outbreak of war, prepare to fulfil the terms of the NFC grant, which stated that the building should be used "for all kinds of enterprises which will lead to the physical, mental and spiritual fitness of Bentham People of all ages."

Which, of course, is why we have a Pantomime each year!

Bentham Fire Brigade was called out one morning at 6.30am to what the police had reported as a barn fire near Clapham. It turned out to be a bonfire, started by what Officer in Charge *Doug Baker* euphemistically described as "two peace campers" to keep

themselves warm. The "shout" was not a complete waste of the fire-fighters' time however, because whilst returning across the fields to their appliance they were able to gather two helmets-full, half a bucket and 'shovelfulls' of mushrooms, which Doug said provided a most enjoyable breakfast on their return.

Nowadays you would probably need to cross hundreds of fields to find so many mushrooms. Where've they all gone?

The Town Council advised that the Parish Precept for 1990/91 would rise from £6 (unlit areas) and £6.40 (lit areas) to £8.35 per head, with no future allowance for unmade or unlit roads.

In his first competitive season, young Bentham cyclist *Sholto Haggart* won Lancaster Cycle Club's hill climb competition, finishing a full 16 seconds faster than anyone else in the club.

Finally, in brief:

➤ Craven Wanderers under 12s FC beat Hala by 10 goals to 1. *David Knapp* was man of the match and new goalie *Ian Preston* also starred.

➤ Cookery Editor *Doreen Park* offered a recipe for Bacon and Apple Charlotte. *Main course and pudding on one plate?*

➤ *Tim Hoolahan* organised a petition to the Ministry of Defence regarding the nuisance of low-flying jet aircraft.

➤ Congratulations were offered to *Minnie Taylor* who had attained her 103rd birthday.



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POWER TO THE PEOPLE



By Tim Austin

Have you ever considered installing a solar panel or wind turbine to create your own electricity? Have you baulked at the cost? Well, things just got a whole lot easier.

In July, the government announced its plans to introduce a "Clean Energy Cashback Scheme", otherwise known as a Feed in Tariff. Basically, this means that if you produce your own electricity, you will be paid for it at well above market prices. Imagine it: instead of getting electricity bills, you will be given money by your power company. In the case of a 2KW solar panel, you could make about £731 a year in reduced bills and profit. For a 15KW wind turbine, you could make £6,250 annually! (Source - *The Guardian* 16/07/09). Suddenly the initial cost of installing your own micro-generation equipment doesn't seem so daunting.

What's more, there is still some grant money available to reduce the cost of buying the equipment in the first place. Bentham residents powering their own houses? Stranger things have happened.

Of course, using less energy in the first place is cheaper still, and greener. Could you use 10% less? More next month!

The next BEST meeting is on Thursday 1st October at 7.00pm in the Horse and Farrier Inn, Main Street. 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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By Yvonne Capstick

Charity Auction & Hog Roast Raise £2,660

Bentham Auction Mart on the evening of Friday 11th September, held their Annual Show of Mule Gimmer Lambs. Along with the show the auction decided to hold a Charity Auction & Hog Roast and for the fund raised to be donated equally to North West Air Ambulance & Cancer Research UK.

The evening started with the judges looking through the lambs to place their top 5, at the same time we also gave the large audience of spectators a chance to do the same by them purchasing stockjudging cards with the funds raised also being donated to charity. The eventual winner of the competition was Patrick Booth from Sedbergh.

Whilst the judges deliberated their choices, our Charity Auction commenced with many items being sold such as a Border Fine Art, A Painting, Clay Pigeon Shooting, Salmon Fishing and many more items. The Charity Auction managed to raise a whopping total of £1,630. The evening was rounded off nicely by the very tasty Hog Roast and BBQ provided by John Carr.

We would like to thank the generous support of the persons and companies who provided items for us to auction and also a big thank you to all the people who attended; without your support the evening would not have been the great success that it was.

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CDC PRESS RELEASE

Pay and Display parking in Bentham

A decision has yet to be reached regarding whether Pay & Display parking in Grasmere Drive, Bentham will be introduced.

Craven District Council has yet to apply for consent from North Yorkshire County Council as to whether it can introduce a parking order for the car park.

The District Council has consulted with local residents and business on the introduction of Pay and Display in Bentham and a number of objections have been received. These mainly concern the displacement of vehicles and the effects on local businesses and residents.

North Yorkshire County Council Highway Officers have raised some concerns which the Council are working through at the moment. Application for a Parking Order will not go forward until the Highway Officers are sure that there is minimal effect to the local traffic provision.

Should it be introduced, the Parking Order proposes charging periods of 10am to 4pm Monday to Friday rather than the 9am to 6pm seven day operations for current Pay & Display schemes operated by the Council in other areas of the district. Residents would also be able to take advantage of the Council's generous Parking Permit Scheme at Grasmere Drive car park. The Council is unique around the sub-region for offering such large discounts for parking permits to residents. Pay and Display charges help the Council maintain the car parking provision.

It is unlikely that the County Council will consider any Parking Order application before February 2010.

Councillor Chris Knowles-Fitton, Leader of the Council, said: "We sympathise with residents' concerns about these issues but have to recognise that there is rarely a positive response to the introduction of parking charges wherever they are proposed. Our actions are wholly in keeping with the County Council's Local Travel Plan and the Regional Spatial Strategy."

For further information contact Sharon Hudson, PR & Communications Officer on 01756 706246 or Jo Fox, PR and Communications Officer on 01756 706494.

LOCAL EVENTS IN OCTOBER

Thu 1st Welcome-in dominoes for all ages, Methodist Church Hall, for transport contact Liz 61230. Also on 15th.

Swimming at Hornby for over 50s (men & women). Leave at 8.45am. For transport call Barbara 62873 or Carol 61233. Every Thursday.

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

MacMillan coffee morning at the Cancer Support Group, Looking Well, 11.00am.

High Bentham W.I. at the Town Hall, 7.30pm. See page 12.

Fri 2nd Age Concern at the Masonic Hall, 10.00am-2.30pm. Bentham Praise Ladies Choir.

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

7.00-8.00pm GFI for school years 6, 7 & 8 and 8.15-9.15pm for school years 9+, Methodist Church Hall and every Friday in term time.

Sat 3rd Farmers' Market at the Town Hall, 9.00am-2.30pm.

Victoria Institute coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10.00am-12.00noon. 

St. John's Harvest Supper with Craven Accordion Orchestra, at the Victoria Institute, 7.30pm. Tickets £6 from Judith Johnson.

Sun 4th Bentham Footpath Group walk, Old Town, 7 miles, leaders A. Robertson & P. Parkins, 61285.

Mon 5th

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

Indoor Bowls at the Town Hall, 1.30-3.30pm and every Monday.

Town Council meeting at the Town Hall, 7.30pm.

Toddle-in for parents/carers and babies/toddlers, 10.00-11.30am Methodist Church Hall, 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, 6.15-7.30pm at Methodist Church Hall and every Monday in term time.

Tue 6th

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

Fashion Show by Nuffin2wear at the Horse & Farrier, 7.30pm. Proceeds to SBC local charity.

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.

St. Margaret's coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10.00am-1.00pm.

Aerobics at the Town Hall, 7.30-8.30pm and every Tuesday.

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

Mens' walking group leave Looking Well 9.30 - return 11.30am, & every Tuesday.

Enormous Turnip Club, gardening, Looking Well garden 2.00-3.30pm and every Tuesday.

Rag Rug course by Joyce Knapp, Looking Well 7.00-9.00pm and every Tuesday.

Harmony singing led by Noelle Thompson, Looking Well, 7.30-9.30pm and every Tuesday.

Wed 7th

Coffee morning at Methodist Church Hall, 10.00-11.30am. Donations to local charities. Every Wednesday.

NSPCC meeting at Oxenforth Green, 7.30pm.

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 7th Café-IN, Looking Well 11.00am-1.30pm & every Wednesday. Positive Futures Project, Looking Well 11.00am-1.30pm & every Wednesday. Art for all, beginners welcome, Looking Well 2.00-4.00pm & every Wednesday. Pilates at the Town Hall, 1.00-2.00pm & every Wednesday in term time. Moving Well - gentle exercise to music, Town Hall 2.00-3.00pm & every Wednesday in term time. Citizens' Advice Bureau at the Surgery, 1.30-3.30pm.
- Thu 8th Indoor Bowls at the Town Hall, 1.30-3.30pm & every Thursday. Senior Citizens supper and entertainment, at 7.00pm Methodist Church Hall, for transport contact Liz 61230.
- Fri 9th Age Concern at the Masonic Hall, 10.00am-2.30pm. Extend Exercise-Colin Etherington. Bentham Footpath Group AGM & Jacob's Join Supper, Looking Well, 7.30pm.
- Sat 10th Bentham Film Group film "The Reader" at Victoria Institute, 7.30pm. Contact Stella 61183. Bowling Club coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10.00am-12.00noon. 
- Tue 13th Bright Hour meeting at the Methodist Schoolroom, 2.15pm. Speaker Liz Whitfield.
- Thu 15th **Copy deadline for November edition of Bentham News.** Low Bentham W.I. at the Victoria Institute, 7.30pm. See page 12. Bentham Footpath Group walk, Carnforth/Arnside, 9 miles leaders E & S Badley, 62502, meet at Lairgill 9.30am. Friends of Tatham Fells School present Loon Music & Theatre Mimi - a fun evening suitable for all the family. Wray Institute, 6.30pm. Contact Kate Stone for tickets, 07802 440106.
- Fri 16th Waste paper collection at Lairgill car park, 8.30-11.00am. Proceeds to NSPCC.
- Fri 16th Age Concern at the Masonic Hall, 10.00am-2.30pm. Short Stories.
- Sat 17th Conservative coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10.00am-12.00noon. 
- Sun 18th Day of Mindfulness at Looking Well, 10.00am-4.00pm. For details and to reserve a place contact Pete Armstrong 62049.
- Tue 20th Bentham Child Health Clinic at the Surgery, 2.00-4.00pm. Thornton & Burton Mothers' Union at the Church Room, Burton, 2.00pm. Speakers Rev. Tony & Mrs Willmont.
- Wed 21st Citizens' Advice Bureau at the Surgery, 1.30-3.30pm. Bentham First Responders meet at Looking Well 7.30pm. More volunteers needed - come and talk to us about joining.
- Thu 22nd Shoppers Night Out, Cheese & Wine at the Town Hall, 7.30pm. See pages 8 & 18.
- Fri 23rd Age Concern at The Masonic Hall, 10.00am-2.30pm. Our favourite pets.
- Sat 24th Age Concern coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10.00am-12.00noon.  Bentham Footpath Group walk, Leck Fell, 8 miles, leader M. Taylor 61672. Meet at Lairgill 9.30am.
- Mon 26th Ewecross Historical Society at the Town Hall, 7.30pm. "Food in the early 20th century" by Dr. Elizabeth Hall. Subscriptions for coming year £5. Visitors to individual talks £2.
- Tue 27th Bright Hour meeting at Methodist Schoolroom, 2.15pm. Speaker Anne Millar.
- Wed 28th Coffee morning for GFI funds at Methodist Church Hall, 10.00-11.30am.
- Fri 30th Bentham News published. Age Concern at the Masonic Hall, 10.00am-2.30pm. Slide show by Arthur Benbow.
- Sat 31st Ingleton Twinning Group coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10.00am-12.00noon. 

LOOKING WELL NEWS

By Clare Hucknall

We continue with new beginnings in October, as well as returning to our traditional involvement in the Lantern Workshops and Bentham Bonfire.

There is a new weekly Harmony Singing group on Tuesday evenings (7.30-9.30pm) led by Noelle Thompson, learning songs, spirituals and chants from around the world – all abilities welcome, no need to read music as all taught by ear, just need enthusiasm for singing. It's a great way to brighten the darkening nights and new members very welcome (no session 28th October).

A new Men's Walking Group will begin in October (6th) on Tuesday mornings (9.30-11.30) and will start initially from the Looking Well. The walks will be moderate in pace and aim to explore local 'favourite' routes, taking in a spot of birdwatching and nature detecting.

A new Pilates class has begun, on Wednesdays 1-2pm in the Town Hall and a

second class is planned to start in November. We are involved in two exhibitions celebrating World Mental Health Day on October 10th. Looking Well members have contributed to an exhibition led by Workbase in Kendal, a joint postcard project working with artist Philippa Troutman (exhibition in Kendal) and at the Looking Well, art work from various group members (10-3 Wednesdays-Fridays throughout October).

The Cancer Support Group is holding a Macmillan Coffee Morning (1st) and two more 'therapy taster' sessions – 'Reflexology' in Ingletton (8th) and 'Homeopathy' in Settle (22nd), transport available if needed.

Looking ahead to November, we are hosting another Computing with Confidence course, which is supportive and informal, aimed at complete beginners to increase confidence in getting started and using the basics such as e-mail, internet and documents. Please contact us before end of October if you are interested.

For further details on any of above phone Julie on 62672 or you can e-mail julie@pioneerprojects.org.uk.

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CHURCHES TOGETHER

By Liz Whitfield



Community Celebration Service

October 4th at 6.30p.m at the Methodist Church.

This is the annual service for our Community involving the Community. It is a celebration of the Community and its Mayor and Town Council. The service will be led by Revd. Tim Fox and include the Bentham Praise and High Bentham School Choir. The hymns will be led by the Bentham Churches Together Music Group. As it is a service for the Mayor and Town Council, the Mayor, Gareth Adams, will choose a charity which will benefit from the collection. Please join us to celebrate.

Churches Celebrate Together

This is another annual service involving churches of different denominations from Bentham, Burton, Thornton/Westhouse, Ingleton and Clapham. The service will be held in the Ingleborough Community Centre on Sunday October 18th at 7p.m with guest speaker Captain Steve Lobel of the Salvation Army in Ripon. Capt Lobel worked in Kendal as an officer. The Salvation Army singers will lead the worship. Come and join us.

GFI Coffee Morning

GFI is the Churches Together youth group which meets in the Methodist Church Hall on Friday evenings. Children in school years 6, 7, and 8 (Middle School years) meet from 7 to 8pm and the older school children meet from 8.15 – 9.15pm. Admission is 50p, and there is a tuck shop. Churches Together need more volunteer help so if you would like to find out more please come along on a Friday evening. CRB disclosures are held by all the leaders.

On Wednesday 28th October we are holding a Coffee Morning in the Methodist Church Hall from 10 to 11.30am to raise funds for new equipment. There will be a cake stall, and an old toys and book stall. Please come along and support.

Harvest Supper in Low Bentham

St John the Baptist Church is this year

reviving the Village Harvest Supper in the Institute on Saturday October 3rd at 7.30p.m. The potato pies will be provided by the Punch Bowl and sweets by church members. We will be entertained by the well known Craven Accordion Orchestra.

Tickets at £6 are available from church members or from Judith Johnson 61905.

QUAKERS

By Alastair Cook

People who have heard about Quaker Meetings quite often ask "What happens?" It is a very fair question but one that has no real answer!

We enter a room quietly and sit down in silence. At first your most recent activities stand out in your mind and the present tangle of the strands of life seem to need sorting through and unravelling. The peace and quiet help this process along and you may get surprising new perspectives on your desires, needs and problems.

As you continue to sit quietly you may then find a deeper level where almost anything can happen - in your mind at least. Your consciousness may wander over the past, the present or the future.

Someone may speak into the silence - it may even be you. The experience is as varied as the Dales landscape with light and shade, sunshine and rain, rock, pastures and woods, hill and valley.

It is very difficult to explain just what happens and why it can be so healing - this version is my personal one and any other Quaker may say something quite different. I find that sitting still and quiet gives my conscience time to catch up with me - not always a happy event - but I almost always leave Meeting refreshed and ready for another wrestle with the real world.

As part of Quaker Week, Bentham Friends invite you to try the experience at Calf Cop Meeting House, either on 8th or the 11th October. Exact details are advertised on page 42 of this issue of Bentham News.



BENTHAM AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

By Val Lawson

The Benthams Agricultural Society Management Committee would like to thank all those people who support the show through generous donations, sponsorship, collection of subscriptions, subscribers, exhibiting at the show, gate keepers, judges, stewards, and all those who give generously of their time.

Thank you to the Directors of Benthams Auction Mart for the use of the Auction Mart at short notice, which is very much appreciated by the management committee. Thank you everybody for your support for our 137th Show. Look forward to seeing you all next year at the Show.

The 11th Annual Quiz is to be held on the 5th February 2010 in the Town Hall. Don't forget to keep the date free.

BENTHAM FILM GROUP PRESENT "THE READER"

By John Vendy

The next film, *The Reader*, will be shown on October 10th at the Victoria Institute, Low Benthams at 7.30 pm. Tickets £5:00 on the door.

The setting is in post World War II Germany. Nearly a decade after his affair with an older woman came to a mysterious end, law student Michael Berg re-encounters his former lover as she defends herself in a war-crime trial.

Refreshments will be served during the intermission and the raffle drawn. Don't forget, a cushion may enhance your viewing experience!

If anyone is interested in volunteering to help with organising and running the film shows, please contact John on 62083 for more information.

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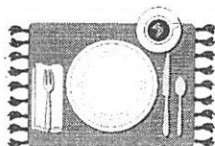
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COOKERY PAGE

Edited by Patsy
Henderson



Shooting Sandwich

Recipe

1 small rustic loaf or 1 large baguette
1 large thick rump steak
100g mushrooms
seasoning
50g butter

Method

Cut off one end of the loaf/baguette. Scoop out the centre soft crumb, leaving a "wall" of crumb top and bottom. Grill the steak medium rare. Chop the mushrooms coarsely, season and cook in the butter until soft. Put the steak into the loaf/baguette and top with mushrooms and butter. Put the end crust on then wrap the loaf in greaseproof paper and then in foil. Tie into a parcel



with string and put under heavy weights for about 6 hours. Carry out in the foil and do not unwrap, and slice.

Lancashire Goosenarg Cakes

Recipe - makes 30

450g plain flour
pinch of salt
350g butter
1 tsp caraway seed
1 tsp ground coriander
50g sugar.

Method

Heat the oven to 150C/gas2. Mix the flour and salt and rub in the butter. Mix to a smooth dough and roll out to about 5mm thick. Cut into rounds and sprinkle with sugar and spices. Bake for about 45 minutes until firm but still pale. Turn out onto a cooling rack and sprinkle with more sugar.

NB. Goosenarg - something left over from preparing or eating a meal, which you store in the fridge despite the fact that you know full well you will never use it. From "The Meaning of Life" by Douglas Adams and John Lloyd

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ACCOUNTANCY – WITH REVS!

By Paul Agnew

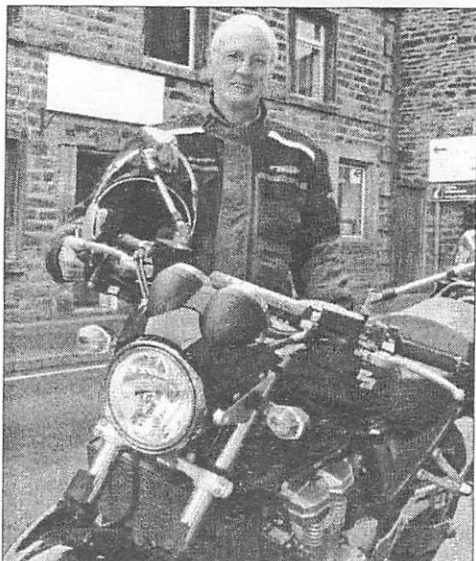
Ever wondered how experienced accountants escape the stresses and strains of the current economic crisis? Well, biker Ian Wood appears to have found an answer. Ian, client manager at Haworths Chartered Accountants in Bentham, can regularly be found zipping his way around Lancashire's open roads.

The 56-year-old, who bought his first bike, a 200cc Triumph Tiger Cub, at the age of 17, rediscovered his passion for riding nine years ago. He now combines business with pleasure in his role as treasurer of Morecambe Bay Estuaries Advanced Motorcyclists.

Ian and his wife, Alison, have been on a number of touring expeditions with the coastal group in recent years, and enjoy the sense of release his hobby provides. "It's great fun and I get a real buzz from it," said Ian, who has enjoyed trips to the Harz Mountains in Germany, as well as to Northern and Southern Ireland, and who currently rides a 1250 Suzuki Bandit and a Honda CBF 1000. "When you're out biking, you've got to be so totally committed to your riding, there really is no chance to think about anything else. Not even work. You're not just sat in a car appreciating the scenery, you're actually out there smelling it and feeling the wind on your face."

The dad-of-three, from Branstone Beck, has owned 11 bikes in the past nine years and feels very fortunate to live in an area

with such a special biking fraternity. "There are a lot of bikers around Bentham, who I meet up with on a regular basis," he added. "It's a very social thing".



Man and machine...Ian gets ready to ride

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IS THE RECESSION AFFECTING YOU?

By Mary Hartley

Today's media leave us in no doubt that times are hard. We now seldom spend money on things we don't really need, and we may even be finding it necessary to cut back on the basics such as food, heating and lighting. Some may be in danger of losing their home, whilst others may have been made redundant, or placed in a position of having to take early retirement. Young people who are finishing school or college may be finding it hard to find the right employment.

There is a good deal of advice available about coping with the 'credit crunch,' but most of it is aimed at the practicalities of finding a job, saving money etc., with little aimed at helping people to cope emotionally with, for example, having so much extra time on their hands. It is so easy in these circumstances to become depressed, lethargic, or, heaven forbid, begin to enjoy daytime television!

How we feel about ourselves and our situation can often be helped by keeping ourselves busy, and a great way of doing this is by doing some voluntary work. This may involve simply finding a neighbour or a friend who could benefit from some support with errands, gardening, housework etc., or doing some formal voluntary work with a local organisation such as Looking Well or Age Concern.

There are great opportunities for volunteering in Bentham. Whether driving, escorting or helping at one of the various centres, there is almost certain to be something from which most people will gain a great deal of satisfaction. Also, for those seeking work, a prospective employer will often look more favourably on an applicant whose CV shows that they are involved in voluntary work.

Voluntary work does not offer any monetary reward, but the satisfaction in knowing that what you are doing is of great value to less fortunate or less able members of our community can often make money seem a little less important.

PAULINE'S BENCH RE-SITED

By Shirley Brown

Pauline Hill died far too early and far too young in 2005. The bench, which was made to commemorate her life, used to stand outside the Community Centre on Main Street. Now that this is no longer a Community Centre it was decided to re-site the bench on the railway station. Pauline loved the railways and spent many hours working on the flower beds at Bentham Station to make the platform more attractive. Bloomin' Bentham volunteers are continuing the work she started, and three of them can be



seen in this photo after the bench was installed.

If you'd like to join the Bloomin' Bentham volunteers on one of their occasional work parties, please ring 61608.

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DANCING FROM BENTHAM TO BOLLYWOOD

By Rowan Swale

Mumbai is a long way from home. The streets are hot, humid, and overcrowded with people, and traffic weaves chaotically across the wide roads. The sound of car and rickshaw horns, along with the blend of Hindi and English speaking voices, is loud enough to hurt your ears. Definitely not Bentham Main Street!

Several people said to me, when I told them I was coming here to work, that I would see something to let me know I was in India as soon as I stepped off the plane. They were right. I saw three airport workers sitting cross legged on the low wall by the baggage carousels, all of them barefoot; two rickshaw drivers, asleep across the back seats of their vehicles at the side of the road; and one elderly Indian woman, carrying a pitcher of water on her head that had to be at least half her body weight.

I could never have imagined, growing up, that all those hours of dance classes in the Victoria Institute would bring me here. I was lucky in Bentham to have access to such a high standard of classes and teachers, in particular Gillian Hurst and Helen Howard, both of whom encouraged me continuously to follow my dream, and make dancing my career. Where would I be if those classes hadn't been there? Probably not here, in the second most populated city in the world (or so I'm told), and possibly without such over-developed leg muscles, but that's another story...

My first real memory from my childhood is the day I started dance classes, at about three or four years old, in the Low Bentham Victoria Institute. I wonder if my parents, on taking me to that first class, had any idea what they were getting themselves into. Probably not, or they might have encouraged me into something that wouldn't involve their driving me all over the country, and ending in an unstable and emotionally exhausting career. Fortunately I don't think they had much choice! What



started as Ballet once a week soon became Ballet, Jazz, Freestyle, Flamenco and more. Then the North Yorkshire County Youth Dance Company every other weekend (more hours of driving - to Northallerton, thanks Dad). I remember just wanting to do as much as I could, every class, exam, competition, and performance.

My favourite part was always the shows. I think that, for most dancers, is where their drive comes from. There has to be something to get you through the hours of hard work, the aching muscles and the shaky-at-best self esteem that training and auditions can cause. Bentham Town Hall was my first taste of performing to a large audience. It has a lot to answer for.

I left Bentham for London five years ago, when I was just sixteen. Looking back now I realise how young that was to move over two hundred miles away from home. At the time, all I thought about was that I was going to train to be a professional dancer, and how far that might take me. After three challenging years at London Studio Centre, I've been lucky enough to work in some amazing locations. From all over England to Ireland, Italy, Abu Dhabi, South Africa, and most recently, India. So I guess dancing has taken me a long way...all the way from Bentham to Bollywood, in fact.

BENTHAM PEOPLE



Personal Thanks

Lenny Cockerton. Lesley, Denise, Tracy and all the family would like to say thanks to friends and neighbours for their expressions of sympathy, support and the many cards received for a dearly loved dad, granddad and great grandad, who will be greatly missed by family and friends alike. Thanks also to Joe Morphet, Rev Clive Burgess, Dr Howlett, Bob Lister and the ambulance crew.

Margerie Kidd and family would like to thank neighbours and friends for the lovely cards and flowers they received after their very sad loss, and also to all the churches for their kind prayers. A special thank you to Margaret, who made it possible for me to visit Allen every day in hospital.

Rees Smith (nee Wilkinson). Bernard, Gillian and family wish to thank relatives, colleagues and friends for all their condolences, help and support following the sudden tragic loss of Jean. The service at the church of St Mary The Virgin, Ingleton, by Rev. Mabel Parr was appreciated greatly, as were the funeral arrangements by Brown & Whittaker.

Thanks

Tom and Dorothy Brown of Riverside wish to thank all their friends from Bentham and Riverside for their cards and good wishes during Tom's recent stay in hospital.

Dean, Emma and Caitlin Gregory would like to say a big thank you to everyone who attended Caitlin's christening, and for all her lovely presents.

Fran Ramsay - I have been absolutely overwhelmed by the cards, flowers, offers of help, love and support received whilst I was in hospital and since returning home. Thank you everyone for your kindness.

Lesley Barker. I would like to thank family, friends, colleagues and local businesses who sponsored me to do the Three Peaks Challenge. I raised £390 for CRO St. John's Hospice

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Charities News & Thanks

A big thank you for all the support and help from friends at the Cancer Support Group Garden Party at 26 Main Street, Low Bentham. Thank you to Sainsburys, ASDA, and Morrisons for their donations. Thanks to Brenda at Nuffin2wear and a big thank you to Ann and Helen at Wray Garden Centre for their help in my garden. It was a great day and £300 was raised. Carol Elsworth.

Bentham Line Dancers have recently made a donation of £100 to the Low Bentham Badminton Club to help with their increased expenses. Audrey Shallcross.

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ZEN IS HERE

By Pete Armstrong

A little flavour of Zen is coming to Bentham when, on Sunday October 18th, a Day of Mindfulness takes place at Looking Well. If you've ever wondered what Zen Buddhist meditation would be like this is a chance to find out. No prior knowledge will be assumed and complete beginners are especially welcome.

These meditation practices have also been enjoyed by people from many different traditions – no particular beliefs are required or expected. There is no charge for the day, though donations are welcome. More details are available by phoning 62409 or from pete.armstrong@talktalk.net.

ADVERTISING IN BN

Due to the very high demand for advertising space, will advertisers please note that we cannot accept any new half page advertisements this year. We will review the situation in early 2010. Please contact 62492 if you need further details.

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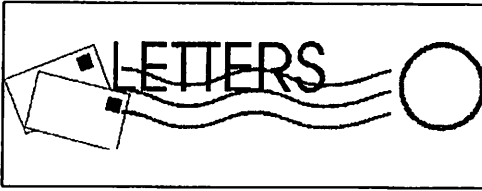
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Dear Bentham,

Thank you to all those who attended the funeral of my mum, Linda, and to all who have sent their kind words of support to my father and our family, and to all who sent cards and visited my mum during her illness.

I should like to make special mention of Wendy Thorp and her husband, John, for the support they have shown my dad, and for the care and love they gave to my mum, to Mavis Speight for leading the perfect celebration of my mum's life and to the staff and clients of Looking Well for the amazing reception that they laid on. My thanks also to Stephen Dawson for his sensitivity, and organ playing.

Whilst staying with my dad, my fiancée and I were able to enjoy the hospitality of the patrons of the Coach House and the Horse and Farrier for their weekly quizzes, and I hope to return to defend my crown at the H&F in the near future. The friendly welcome the people of Bentham extend to visitors is a credit to the community. The warmth of the staff at Spar, RW Fleming, Andrew's, the florist and the Nose Bag, made a painful time a little easier.

Yours,

Paul Kellaway.

Dear Bentham News,

When we moved to Bentham three years ago we were so pleased to have the Looking Well garden as our westerly view. Having only a small patch ourselves we erected the bird feeding station and sat back to see what would happen. Little did we know what pleasure we would have.

During the spring the wren nested in the barn along with the swallows who all share with the pipistrelle bats. We are ever hopeful that an owl may one day discover the building. Owls are regularly out and about in the orchard at night.

The usual garden birds visit all year

round, such as robins, blackbirds, chaffinches, greenfinches, house sparrows, blue tits, great tits, dunnocks, starlings, collared doves, thrushes (which eat the snails - useful birds!) and wood pigeons which nest in the old pear tree and raise one or two fat squabs.

Summer brings goldfinches, siskin, red poll and long-tailed tits. Sometimes a bullfinch appears in the orchard next door, after the new apple buds. The great spotted woodpecker amuses us as he removes the bark from the horse statue/sculpture in search of grubs. The sparrow hawk has been seen on occasion, swooping through but usually leaves empty taloned.

The pond is used for drinking and bathing by several species. Sometimes the queue is three or four deep! There are frogs, newts and we saw a toad on one occasion.

The buddleia brings butterflies; peacocks, tortoiseshell, red admirals and painted ladies; the cabbage white are more interested in the vegetable plot.

So, as you can see, we have a little wildlife oasis on our doorstep. Such a small space, but so much to see.

Jen and Ken Durrant, King Street.

Dear B.N.

Like all "Wannabe" politicians, has Cllr Camacho now changed his opinion re car park charges, to fit in with what the majority of people in Bentham actually want, and not his own mis-guided thoughts? All he had to do was actually ask people in the town and businesses and not his sycophants.

I see from his comments in the September B.N. that he says "if the Police and Fire Service have concerns then he must reconsider". NO - how about if the people that really count, the electorate, don't want this, we should re-consider instead of his own narrow viewpoint.

As usual, and what we gave come to expect, a Wannabe" who will change his mind to cling to power - and then blame others. I shall put an ad in my shop "Politicians and Principles for sale".

Christopher Field. C.J. News.

Letters continued on page 35.

LETTERS (continued from page 35)

Dear Bentham News,

As an offcomer who has lived in London and driven and parked in many boroughs with varying parking schemes, I'd like to point out some of the unintended consequences of badly thought out schemes. Firstly, the threat to local shops, as many here fear, is a genuine one. In Brixton, south London, a traditional builders merchant (F.K.Ellis) that had been going for decades didn't survive six months after parking meters were placed outside it, and the choice is now B&Q or B&Q.

In fact the proposed scheme goes against Craven's own Local Plan and government guidelines, namely PPG 6 & PPG 13. E.g. 3.4 '...accord with policies to reduce the need to travel' and '5.3.1 Craven District Council aims, as far as possible in the planning process, to support and encourage the retention and establishment of village and corner shops.' It only takes one substantial fine (£35 in Bentham's case) to change shopping habits. Why risk a second hit when B&Q and Sainsburys etc have free car parks? Encouraging people to drive to Lancaster is akin to the promotion of out of town shopping centres as far as Bentham is concerned.

Secondly, it will change the character of Bentham from being relaxed to being highly stressed. I'm always amazed at the patience of the queue in Barwise while people exchange pleasantries. You'd never see this in London. However, when chat time is billed at 8p per 6 minutes then those at the backs of queues will start getting agitated. Residents in London schemes may typically pay £130 for an annual parking permit for their own car. In Bedford, where I was born, it costs £20 for one car. How can anyone think that Bentham residents can afford £210 for a parking permit, on top of which they will have to pay again if a builder or relative comes to visit them?

Anyone who didn't simply park their car in the nearest free street would be mad, which brings in the next consequence, the shifting of parking onto neighbouring streets, causing resentment and antagonism amongst neighbours. Then the scheme will have to be enlarged to include the newly congested

streets. This is what happens in London, to the delight of councils who are accused of taxation by the back door. They say they may only use the income for improving transport, but what actually happens is the income is used to pay for transport measures which would otherwise have been paid for out of the general council tax, thus freeing up council tax to pay for other things.

Bentham differs from London in one rather important respect. While there is extensive public transport in London, people living in the countryside around Bentham depend on using cars to come to the village, whether to shop or work. It is inappropriate to apply a city scheme to a rural environment. I am familiar with a comparable situation in Italy, where a village (Reggello) and small town (Figline) have substantial free parking, but the large regional town (Florence) has good transport, extensive pedestrianisation and draconian parking measures. Italy, as tourists to that country will know, has thriving small shops unlike clone-town Britain where one High St looks much like another with all the same multiples (Egham is a lovely example).

If a parking scheme were to ever be implemented it would have to be much more carefully thought out than this one in order not to damage Bentham. I urge everyone to oppose this scheme.

Peter Lennard

Letters continued on page 37.

AN APPRECIATION OF LENNY COCKERTON

By Margaret and Reg Pointon

On returning home from a lengthy stay away, we were saddened to learn that Lenny Cockerton had died during our absence. Lenny and I were friends from our days at Geo. Angus & Co Ltd, and I could always be assured of his assistance on projects involving his department. Lenny was a sturdy, friendly man; helpful, polite and interesting company. A staunch family man who will be sorely missed by his son, Tracy and family, his daughters, Lesley and Denise and their families, and his many friends. It was a privilege to know him.

LETTERS (continued from page 32)

Dear Editor,

In light of the principle that all it takes for evil to triumph is that 'good people do nothing' I am writing in support of the person who, like me, was sickened at having to walk past (the sudden growth of) BNP stickers in Bentham during the election. And I feel like apologising to this person that so far, in print, they have had so little support for at least taking a stand.

Their original, short, sharp letter to the Newsletter was effective and quite clear; and it will be 'shame on Bentham' if we do nothing about it. Where were these 'sound arguments' Mark Fletcher says can be cited against 'intolerance'? Offering no argument except to say 'don't be emotive' - is itself an emotional argument and only has the effect of counteracting the efforts of someone who at least had the courage to try to do something.

Hearts as well as minds are swayed in elections. And racism hurts hearts and minds. The appeal of the BNP is entirely an emotive one; drawing upon the fears and negative shadow we each hold inside us. Yet we also have 'emotional intelligence' to balance these impulses.

The BNP is not a proscribed Party. Black people are barred from joining. I am shocked that it remains legal given our laws on equality. Not only is it an insidious foot in the door for latent fascism but it's plain daft; there are so many shades of 'black' these days what criteria do they use?

When I first came to Bentham 23 years ago, with my mixed race children, although they were quite quickly accepted and integrated into this small rural town (to its credit), at first they met with some prejudice: the darker of my twin sons used to face catcalls in the street connecting him to Asia! - a strange kind of insult when actually his paternal grandfather was an African, from Ghana - a black man who fought for Britain in Burma during the 2nd World War.

Again, I remember meeting a remarkable Polish woman, living in Bentham, who had survived working in a Nazi 'slave' factory during the War. She married a local man but, she told me, she was never allowed, being a

'foreigner', to enter her mother-in-law's house in Bentham. People are not like this anymore, but isn't there a danger we are beginning to forget the lessons learned from the last World War? (A few weeks ago a local BNP sympathiser told me 'Hitler was a great man' and the 'holocaust didn't happen').

I would very much like the (anonymous) writer of the previous letter to contact me. Maybe we can join forces in some way; and I wanted him/her to know they are not alone in wanting to 'address racism and bigotry wherever they encounter it'.

Yours sincerely

Lindsay Young.

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BUSINESS NEWS

By K. Durkin

Independent Financial Choices (Mortgage & Life Ltd) have teamed up with J R Hopper & Co Estate Agency.

J R Hopper & Co are a Dales family firm with offices in Leyburn and Hawes and have now opened new offices in Settle and Bentham, giving them coverage over the northern Yorkshire Dales, making their slogan "For Sales in the Dales" particularly apt. In Bentham they now work closely with Independent Financial Choices on Main Street. The Estate Agency was started in 1886 by J R Hopper and his granddaughter and her husband, Liz and Brian Carlisle, have developed the estate agency business. Their son, Chris Carlisle, is managing their Bentham office.

Brian originally lived in Gisburn and attended Settle High School before moving to the family farm in Wensleydale. He has a degree in Animal Husbandry. Liz has a Fine Arts degree. Chris has a Masters Degree in Physics from Lancaster University.



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NEW NORTH CRAVEN WALKING GROUP

By Veronica Caperon

North Craven Strollers

As part of the national Walking in to Health scheme, there are some new walks in the North Craven area. They are designed to encourage people to start exercising with gentle walks around their local area for about 45 minutes to an hour. They are also a great way to meet new and interesting people!

The first walks have started and participants are asked to meet at 1.50pm in The Millennium Garden near Booths in Settle for a 2pm start. Routes will be around Settle and Giggleswick with the prospect of the occasional one further afield if possible. All that's needed are sensible shoes, appropriate weatherwear and a wish to make progress!

The walks are led by trained volunteers and if you would like to become one of these we'd like to hear from you. For more information and if you'd like a walk arranged in your area please contact North Craven Strollers on 01929 824537.

The programme until Christmas is as follows:

- ♦ Monday 7th September
- ♦ Wednesday 7th and 21st October
- ♦ Wednesday 4th and 18th November
- ♦ Wednesday 2nd and 16th December.

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BENTHAM LITTLE RED BUS



By Ann Yaman

Bentham Little Red Bus will be doing a couple of trips during the half term week.

Sunday 25th October-Blackpool Illuminations

Setting off from Bentham at 11.30am to spend the afternoon in Blackpool and then leave at 6.30pm to drive along the seafront and enjoy the illuminations. Cost £7.50 per person or £3.75 for children.

Tuesday 27th October Lowry Outlet Mall at Salford Quays, Manchester

Leaving Bentham first thing for a day at Salford Quays. Tuesday is "Senior Day" with extra discounts up to 20% and there are lots of shops, cafes, and other attractions. Cost £7.50 per person, or £3.75 for children.

Please call either Peter or Tommy on 62753 to book.

LOW BENTHAM STREET MARKET

By Christine Hodson

The event was a huge success this year. The sun shone and the crowds followed. For the sellers there was the choice of an indoor table or one alongside the Main Street. The Little Red Bus ferried people from High Bentham to Low Bentham to enjoy the Street Market.

It was an inspiring day to see so many people around the Institute enjoying the atmosphere and the glorious garden. The newly laid turf looked wonderful and the flower display was all in full bloom.

The Tombola and raffle proved very popular, and in these cash strapped times it was pleasing to see so many people enjoying the Institute as a focal point for the Street Market. £1543.04 was raised and so a big thank you goes to all those involved.

A big thank you to everyone who helped on the day and to those who donated raffle prizes.

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BENTHAM LINE DANCERS

By Jen Durrant

Bentham Line Dancers have been based at New Butts Farm for three years. How time flies when you are enjoying life! During that time we have raised £2,235 for local charities. We've celebrated 60th, 70th and 80th birthdays and most recently a Diamond Wedding Anniversary. The Christmas Party is always a great evening too.

We've had a few new members join us who are now almost "old hands" (or feet) at the dancing and we have also welcomed a few visitors.

I would like to say a big thank you to all who have supported us over these years and a special thank you to Audrey Shallcross, my right hand woman, for all her help, and to Jean Newhouse who works behind the scenes for the group and who makes every party special. Most of all, thanks for all the fun. Keep it country. Keep dancing.



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GREAT NEWS FOR JAZZ FANS

John Newton

Two of the most popular names in British Jazz are due to visit the area in November and December. Queen Elizabeth School, Kirkby Lonsdale, hosts a visit from the "new" Geoff Eales Trio in November and Alan Barnes Quartet pays a first visit to the Victoria Hall, Settle in December.

It's been a good eighteen months since we have had the pleasure of Geoff's playing. In that time, he has been adding to his already impressive national and international reputation, with many important appearances at home and abroad. In fact, in the last six months, any casual reader of the jazz press could not fail to notice the acclaim he has been receiving for his new CD, *Master of the Game*, and the technique of the new trio with Martin France on drums and Chris Laurence on base. To quote Jazz UK, *"His Master of the Game casts off any emulation of others as he aims for personal (and successful) rebirth. All eight pieces are his, magisterial bassist Chris Laurence and drummer Martin France are the expert midwives."* What more can you say?

Geoff will be at: Queen Elizabeth School, Kirkby Lonsdale, on Thursday 12th November at 7:30pm, playing a programme of new work and jazz standards. For tickets contact Helen Bains at the school, phone 01524 271275.

More on Alan Barnes next month but you will need to book your tickets as this is sure to be great evening with, it could be argued, the most "in demand" and entertaining player in British Jazz. The Alan Barnes Quartet will appear at the Victoria Hall, Settle on Saturday, December 5th at 8:00pm. For tickets and more information, please phone 01729 825718.

As usual your Bentham contact for bookings and information is Jim Ellershaw on 62663.



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BOB SLOAN WRITES IN STONE

By Trevor Blackwell

I met up with Bob Sloan just after he'd come back from sculpting a statue in Switzerland. Bob had been one of a team of twelve international artists chosen to create a "sculpture path" near to the village of Vaettis. "It was a strenuous three weeks," Bob told me, "and I discovered that I'm not getting any younger! I did a head, and then inscribed some lettering on a flat piece of the stone".



Born in Bristol, and brought up in Australia, Bob moved to Bentham in 1990. He began courses in dry stone walling at Craven College – "to keep myself active" – and then joined a way marker course run by the late Boris Howarth, where he produced his first head, which is now a way marker on the path through the fields from Bentham Road to Burton Road. He moved on to a course in lettering in stone at the Adult College in Lancaster, "and it just clicked".

Since 2005 he's increasingly been asked to do lettering on local buildings, and you can see examples of his work at Hayber's View, Sandwood and Bellfleckers' Barn on the road between High and Low Bentham, and at Wenning Studios, Green Smithy and Sole to Soul.

Knowing that Bob is fast approaching his threescore years and ten, I asked him if he felt that he had come to this work late. "Ah, this is the tragedy of my life", said Bob. "My first efforts at letter cutting were at school in Sydney at the age of 13, and I started the lettering course in Lancaster at the age of 63. So there you are, half a century of wasted talent!" (Laughter).

Wasted or not, Bob is now happily in a very creative phase of his life, and if you click on to www.sloanartgalleries.co.uk you can see for yourself how he writes in stone.

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Enquiries to: 0152422 61044
www.quakerweek.org.uk

SPRINGFIELD BOWLING CLUB



By Teresa Freeman

After a late and uncertain start, we have had an enjoyable and successful season. We have completed all our fixtures and the results of our cups and competitions are as follows.

Event	Winners	Runners Up
Mary Johnson Cup	Marj Hudson	Audrey Shannon
Garlick Cup	Sue Bosworth & Tom Davies	Helen Cross & Kevin Rogan
Tom Davies Trophy	Kevin Rogan	Barry Taylor
Lister Shield	Sue Bosworth	Di Rees
President's Day	Tom Davies & Clifford Park	Teresa Freeman & Barry Taylor
Finals Day		
Challenge Cup	Kevin Rogan	John Sant
Butterfield Cup	Tom Davies	Keith Hartley
Rose Bowl	Diane Chant	Dorothy Rose
Jim Bush Cup	Diane Chant	Ruth Parker
New Butterfield Trophy	Tom Davies & Hilda Lister	Diane Chant & Evan Rees
Cardus Cup	Helen Cross & Kevin Rogan	Sue Bosworth & Sue Park.

The Presentation Dinner will be held on 7th October and there will be a coffee morning on 10th October at Bentham Town Hall. We hope that the support we have received will continue and thank you again to everyone concerned.

ROUNDERS REPORT

By Ingrid Ellershaw

The rounders season is now at an end once again. It was another disappointing one, due to the weather, with only half the planned matches being played. However we did have some good matches and enjoyed all the ones we were able to play.

A big thank you to Mandy from the Black Bull for the suppers and the sponsoring of match balls. We look forward to seeing everyone again next year, with possibly some new faces.

FRENCH TWINNING COFFEE MORNING

By Margaret Cowling

We invite you to join us at our coffee morning in the Town Hall on Saturday 31st October, on behalf of Ingleton and District Twinning Group.

We have been twinned for 16 years with the small town of La Chapelle des Marais in the area called Briere, in Southern Brittany. There have been frequent exchanges between the people of La Chapelle and Bentham, Ingleton and the surrounding villages. Students from Ingleton Middle School and Settle College have annual exchanges and consequently, many friendships have been made and the benefits of living with a French family have also enhanced GCSE results.

A group from La Chapelle will be visiting next spring and we wish to return their hospitality by organising trips and social gatherings. If anyone would like to help we would be delighted to talk to you at the coffee morning. See you there. A bientot!

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The leading cyclists, in the Honda sponsored Tour of Britain cycle race, turning into Station Road on 15th October, watched by a large crowd of local people. Pic by Keith Hartley.

BENTHAM JUNIORS FOOTBALL CLUB NEWS

By Lee Hayward

The picture shows Bentham Juniors FC under 12s at a recent football tournament in Blackpool in which the team got through to the quarter finals. Missing from the picture are Jordan Carter Brown, George Houldsworth, Andrew Howard and Peter Easterby who all decided to go for an ice cream during the all important photo shoot. This year the under 12s are playing in the Lancaster and Morecambe Service to Youth league. All the players have been playing together since 2004 when Bentham Juniors FC began, and this season welcome a new player from Ford House residential childrens' home, Low Bentham. Bentham Juniors FC would like to say a big thank you to Chris Field from Bentham newsagents who has very kindly sponsored the strip for this season.

Bentham Juniors hold open training sessions every Wednesday night at Wenning Avenue sports field, High Bentham, and are open to children aged 5-12. Everyone is welcome. If you would like to know more about the club please visit www.benthamjuniorsfc.co.uk

