

BENTHAM NEWS



LOLLIPOP LADY MAKES IT SAFER FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

By Peter Phillips

Things are not the same this term outside Bentham Primary School. Meet Marina Jane Nithsdale, 54 years old and, since September, the newly appointed School Crossing Patrol or Lollipop Lady. The black and white photo does not do justice to the high-visibility orange coat and cap she wears as part of her uniform, nor to the yellow, red and black STOP sign she carries.

Marina is on duty outside the school twice a day and her hours are 8.25 – 9.05a.m. and 3.15 – 3.50pm. She starts each shift with a visual check of three automatic school warning lights on the approaches to the school. Once school is out it's a non-stop scurry to cover both Robin Lane and the bottom of Mount Pleasant. I thought this odd but Marina said there were supposed to be two crossing patrols but that the other applicant had left Bentham before being offered the post. Asked about problems with traffic she said that in and out of the Auction Mart it could be quite busy and she has already had occasion to move on a lorry which parked in Robin Lane just as school was coming out.

When I asked how she came by the job she said she had been attracted by an advert by the school

children placed in the Nosebag window. She finds it undemanding and, living at the top of Mount Pleasant, no problem being on time! Previously she worked at Wingsy, near Milnthorpe but the travelling became too much and was expensive.

When not on duty Marina is never idle as she has numerous hobbies and interests. She enjoys photography and reading and is an avid collector. She showed me her dolls' houses, beautiful works in miniature which she furnishes and decorates throughout. The lights work but she hasn't got around to putting in running water! She also does encaustic wax painting and makes decorative cards for all occasions. I wondered how she found time for all these occupations.

It's good that at last Bentham has a School Crossing Patrol again. It is an important job for the safety of our children and I am sure it is appreciated as such by the parents.

Motorists beware – although Marina is always smiling I am sure that pole can be useful against anyone tempted to disobey its instruction to STOP!

EXCITING NEW SEASON FOR BENTHAM YOUTH THEATRE GROUP

By Iain Henshaw

Well, what a fantastic start to our 4th autumn season. We have over twenty young people involved in this year's production and rehearsals are well under way. We have finally succeeded in getting the technical sessions off the ground and have been looking at computer aided design. In the coming weeks we will be getting into stage set design, sound and video editing as well as lighting design and live sound - amongst others. Over the coming months and years this will grow to give our young people a good grounding in technical theatre.

So we have more than enough actors though I'm sure Gemma would always prefer more! We can handle more technical members if anybody wishes to join us at Bentham Town

Hall on Wednesday evenings - we now have a notice board on the railings of the Community Centre with our schedule. The website will be updated and Ian Harrison of Creative Theory has offered to help with this.

We now have a £5.00 membership fee that includes a BYTG tee shirt and £30.00 for the term. Contact information remains the same Gemma Wright, bytg@s1b.com, 07511 164398 or Iain Henshaw at info@s1b.com or 015242 61010. Now if we could just get a front of house and marketing team together.....

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OCTOBER'S TOWN COUNCIL

By David Johnson

All the Cllrs were present except Cllr Taylor and CCllr Ireton.

Waste Disposal

The meeting started early to hear Paul Ellis from Craven District Council explain the Council's decision to introduce alternate weekly collections of household waste from January 2010. The changes are to be implemented to encourage recycling, introduce a uniform system across the district and to achieve some financial savings. You will be asked to dispense with the two pods in your blue bins and in future put all your cans, glass and plastic bottles in the blue bin. New plastic bags will be supplied for cardboard and paper. The brown bin collection will continue unhindered but the green bins containing non-recyclable waste will only be collected fortnightly as will all the other waste. Some Cllrs were sceptical about the savings and many said they would prefer to have central collecting points doing away with the necessity for individual bins completely. Business collections will remain unchanged. Mr Ellis said that people with specific problems should contact the Council to see if alternative arrangements could be made.

Police

PCSO Grace said they were actively tackling the problem of boy racers on Springfield and Station Road. She added that a quad bike had been stolen from a farm on Mewith Lane. Adverts have been posted for another PCSO to cover the Settle/Ingleton area.

Wenning Avenue

Cllr Camacho said that United Utilities is difficult to deal with but they have finally conceded that the repairs are necessary. Cllr Barrington warned that the battle to prevent parking charges is not over yet and it is still possible that they could be introduced at a meeting in February 2010

Gritting

The County Council has changed its attitude towards gritting Ravensclose and Bentham

Road. Both these roads have been re-designated as category one roads and will be gritted this winter.

Barriers On School Hill

The Cllrs are concerned that the barriers need attention but decided to clarify ownership of the land before progressing any further.

Low Bentham Primary School Field

North Yorkshire has offered the Council the lease of the land for £480 p.a. Access will only be from the Ellergill footpath. The insurers insist that the gate is locked overnight. Some local Cllrs agreed to try to enlist volunteers to undertake this task because if they cannot be found the field cannot be used. Access via the main drive was only permitted when the building was used as a school.

Grass Cutting

The Cllrs thought this had been sub-standard and decided that all future contracts should be for 3 years, not five. School Hill maintenance will be added to the contract.

Youth Café

Cllr Burton said the café was doing well with 12-14 regular attenders. The new youth worker is doing a wonderful job. Recently they had been on an outing to the bowling alley at Morecambe.

The Tourist Information Point

This will remain open on Saturday mornings until Christmas and the volunteers will then decide whether to continue the pattern until Easter. Cllr Marshall said visitor numbers had increased by 5% this year.

Community Service

Cllr Adams said the service held on 4th October had been well attended and had raised £140 for the Surgery Extra Care Fund.

FARMERS' MARKET

Saturday 7th November

9.00am-1.30pm.

High Bentham

Lower Town Hall

GARDEN PAGE

By Joyce Knapp

By November the weather has usually cooled down to such an extent that most of the leaves will have fallen from the trees and this is when we can look to see if any pruning would benefit our fruit trees and bushes. We may already have cut back soft fruit canes and bushes soon after they finished fruiting but, if not, these can also be tackled now, before winter really sets in. It is usual to cut summer-fruiting raspberries back to just above ground level, remembering to cut out only the old, dark stems before tying the new shoots on to training wires. It is worth noting that any autumn-fruiting raspberries should not be cut back until early spring, when all the stem are removed.

When pruning a blackcurrant bush, we first need to stand back and take a good look at its shape and then decide which shoots to remove. Often by removing 1/3 of the oldest, darker branches, cutting just above a bud, we can produce an open centred bush that will allow for good air circulation and let the sun in next year to ripen the fruit.

Having dealt with the soft fruits, we can move on to the tree fruits such as apple. Apple trees produce fruit that come under two main headings, those of 'culinary' i.e. cooking and 'dessert' i.e. eating although anyone with experience of growing apple trees will know that many varieties that start out as cooking apples can later be eaten as they become more sweet when stored for some time. One example of this is a variety named 'Charles Ross' and it is particularly suited to growing in a wide variety of soil types and weather conditions.

If you are looking to buy an apple tree that will produce a reliable crop of good size cooking apples, I have found from experience that the one called 'Bismarck' fits the bill. Not only does it crop reliably (even this year it produced some fruit) it is also renowned for being very hardy, making it highly suitable for the north of England.

Having outlined a few tasks connected to the growing of fruit, I would just like to reiterate the message given to us by the 'Local Food Production' branch of BEST at

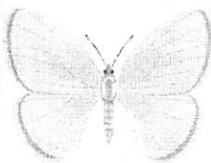
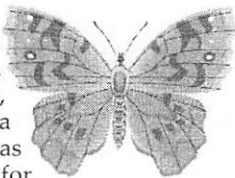
the recent Apple Day at the Looking Well and that is we cannot do better than to grow as much of our own food locally as possible.

NATURE NOTES

By David C Fisher

I have been noting and counting lepidoptera, butterflies and moths, in High Bentham for a while. Overall this has been a better year for butterflies than for moths.

Most of the butterflies I have seen have been large whites and most of the moths have been dark arches. My best butterfly find was a comma butterfly on a buddleia bush, and my best moth find was a moth caterpillar of the cinnabar found at Meal Bank Kiln. Another notable find was at Greystone Gill where I saw a dragonfly on a sloe bush.



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CRAVEN CONCERNS

By Cllr Manuel Camacho 015242 62074

New wave of scams hits North Yorkshire

(although this is not strictly to do with CDC it is of sufficient importance to pass on)

North Yorkshire County Council's trading standards officers are warning residents of a new wave of scams which attempt to obtain details of consumers' bank accounts through deception.

The latest scam notified to Trading Standards involves bogus calls about unpaid phone bills. Officers have received details of customers who have been contacted by a person claiming to be a representative of BT.

The caller states that he is disconnecting the phone because of an unpaid bill and demanding payment of £31. If the payment is not paid, the caller warns, the charge will go up to £118 to allow reconnection at a later date. The caller identifies himself as John Peacock and has an African accent and gives a telephone number of 0800 0800 152. Even when the victim informs the caller that they are not with BT he insists that their phone company still has to pay a percentage of the line rental and that's why he is calling.

In order to demonstrate that he is from BT the caller shows that he can apparently disconnect the phone which goes dead with no engaged tone. Then the caller rings back. This has been enough to encourage some people to make the payment and disclose bank details. This trick disconnection can be undertaken by the caller staying connected on the other end of the line but pressing the mute button. This gives the victim an impression that their own phone is disconnected. BT Security along with police are currently investigating this scam further. Their advice is to telephone BT Security on 0800 321 999 when they will be given a reference number. People are also advised to ring the Nuisance Call Bureau on 0800 411 422 and they will be given a disclosure letter which enables them to report the matter to the local police.

Another scam that has recently come to light in the county is when people receive

letters promising great riches because somebody with the same surname has died intestate but leaving millions in an overseas bank account. The sting comes when any unsuspecting recipient responds by giving personal banking details to receive any money. Trading Standards Officers are therefore warning North Yorkshire residents to be on their guard for similar scams.

I would urge anyone who receives such letters or calls to report them to Consumer Direct on 08454 04 05 06. Only if we all stop responding to these scams will they eventually die out and we will be all better off without them.

£100,000 grant for Council's customer services

Craven District Council has successfully bid for a grant of £100k from the Government to examine how it is delivering Customer Services to its residents. The pot of money will be used to encourage residents to scrutinise the Council's customer services using a Getting it Right toolkit.

With the aid of the toolkit its customers and partners will provide the Council with the capacity to properly measure whether or not it is offering the most effective customer services and where improvements could be made. The Council will receive a free evaluation and will complete a self-assessment of its customer services. The assessment will then be used to identify clear, practical opportunities where improvements can be made.

The Council is one of only nine pilot areas in the country and the only Council in the Yorkshire & Humber region. The pilot will run until March 2010.



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LOOKING WELL NEWS

By Julie Vass

The new weekly Harmony Singing group has brought many new people to the Looking Well on Tuesday evenings (7.30-9.30pm), so why don't you come along to brighten the dark nights? No need to read music as all is taught by ear, you just need an enthusiasm for singing.

Also, the new Men's Walking Group has been a great success at getting the men from Benthams and surrounding villages out and about. The walks are at a moderate pace and aim to explore local 'favourite' routes, taking in a spot of bird watching and nature detecting. Why don't you come along and bring a camera if you wish or just enjoy the walk. No need to book.

Due to the popularity of the Pilates class on Weds 1-2pm in the Town Hall a second class is planned. Please phone to book yourself a place.

The Cancer Support Group held a Macmillan Coffee Morning on the 1st October serving delicious homemade cakes and scones. A big thank you for those of you who attended and helped. Just to let you know they raised £60.65 on the day.

A new Computing with Confidence course is starting this month, 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 if you are interested. However, don't worry if you don't manage to sign up this time as there will be another course starting in February 2010.

Are you interested in the Alexander technique? We are gathering names of those who might be interested in joining a workshop or series of sessions. Please get in touch if you want to be included.

For further details on any of above phone Julie on 015242 62672 or you can e-mail julie@pioneerprojects.org.uk

TENNIS PLAYERS

By Pam Woof

Would anyone who is interested in playing tennis on the courts at Wenning Avenue when they have been refurbished, please let us know by signing a form. The courts will be floodlit and open to everyone but priority will be given to club activity. The plans and sign up forms can be found in the Lower Town Hall, the Chip Shop, the Sports Club and Looking Well, Community Transport Office, Benthams Primary School and the Youth Cafe. Alternatively please show your support by email to pamwoof@googlemail.com

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SAND BAG STORE IN BENTHAM

By Shirley Brown

Residents living around and about Grasmere Drive have received letters from Craven District Council advising them of a planning application that has been received to change the use of the "former public conveniences".

The proposal is that the former toilet block should be used to store sand bags.

Comments "of a planning nature" can be made in writing to Jack Sykes, Planning Officer, Planning and Building Control Services, Granville Street, Skipton, North Yorkshire BD23 1PS. Or you can ring him on 01756-706446. Or you can contact him online by viewing the Planning Application (number 08/2009/10033) Online via www.planning.cravencdc.gov.uk/fastweb

The consultation period ends on 30th October 2009, which is also the day the November Bentham News is published. However, if you have something you wish to say don't be put off by the fact that the consultation period has officially ended, just get in touch with Jack Sykes anyway as I'm sure he'd like to hear your views.

The fact that the toilet block is now being referred to in official circles as "the former toilet block" leads me to believe that it is no longer under consideration that it would be reopened once the financial situation of the council improves. What do you feel about that? Is it OK or not? Sand bags or toilets? You can have your say.

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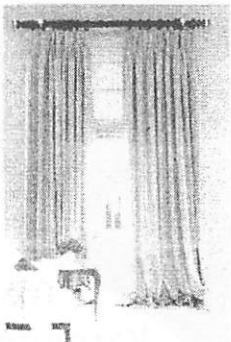
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BEST NEWS

By Richard Wilson

Amazing Apples

Everyone who took part in September's Apple Day learned a lot, and we discovered, from just the few locations visited (our thanks to the generous owners) that Bentham is home to an amazing number of varieties - some so unusual that they have yet to be identified. We hope to name, conserve and propagate some of these wonderful examples of truly local food.

Is BEST Stupid?

Answers on a postcard please, but not until you've seen "The Age of Stupid" at the Victoria Institute, Low Bentham, on Friday evening 6th November. This new 92-minute film (cert 12A) directed by Franny Armstrong, is an enormously ambitious drama-documentary-animation hybrid, and stars Oscar nominated Pete Postlethwaite as an old man living alone in the devastated world of 2055, watching 'archive' footage from 2008 and asking: why didn't we stop climate change while we had the chance?

Well, here we are, standing at bus-stop 2009 as that opportunity passes slowly by, and what is our answer? Maybe, as Mr. Micawber (or was it George Bush?) believed, "something will turn up" and everything will turn out OK. Or perhaps it's time to do something. Come along to this fantastic BEST promotion so you can decide for yourself. Starts at 7.30pm; entry £5 on the door; home made refreshments available in the interval.

"You'd be stupid to miss it" - *News of the World*, 15th March 2009.

BEST stands for "Bentham Environmentally Sustainable Town"

The next BEST meeting is on Thursday 7th January at 7.00pm in the Horse and Farrier Inn, Main Street, or join us there at 7.30pm on 17th December for our Christmas social. All meetings and events are open to everyone; do come along and help make Bentham a greener town. If you'd like to know more about BEST, phone 63399 or check out <http://www.bentham.net/Community/BEST.asp>



BENTHAM FOOTPATH GROUP

By Maureen Ellis

We are having a good run of some substantial walks lasting 8 miles, starting with our first one in November on Wednesday the 4th, meeting at Lairgill at 9.30am, with one in Kentmere. It will go to the reservoir and from then on will depend on conditions.

On Sunday 15th there is another 8 miler meeting at Lairgill and starting walking at Ings. It will go via School Knott and Brand Fell from where there is a good view point over Bowness and then return to the start.

The last one of the month is only 6 miles. We meet on Wednesday 26th at Lairgill at 9.30am and start walking from the layby opposite Keasden Church. It will go by farm paths to each of the Birk Farms, Low, Middle and High Birks and then on the permissive footpath behind Dovenanter and down back along the Slaidburn road to the start.



FESTIVE CHARITY DOG WALK!

By Emma Spence (Practice Manager)

The Dalehead Veterinary Group is organising a charity dog walk, starting at 11.00am on Sunday 6th December, from the Dalehead Vets Surgery at Mount Pleasant. All monies raised will go to Bentham Pet Rescue. We are asking that people either raise sponsorship or donate a minimum of £5 per family/group. The walk should take about an hour and refreshments (tea/coffee, mince pies and mulled wine) will be provided on return to the surgery.

We are hoping that both owners and dogs will be dressed up in some Christmassy decoration, just to brighten things up and for a bit of fun.



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JAZZ NEWS

By John Newton

Don't forget the big Alan Barnes night on Saturday December 5th, Victoria Hall, Settle.

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METHODIST CHAPEL TO BE "BORN AGAIN"

To Serve the Present and Future Ages

By Keith Hartley

For over a hundred years the chapel on Station Road has been the home of the Methodist Church in High Bentham and a dependable contributor to the fabric of the Bentham community. Both inside and outside the chapel has altered very little since it first opened its doors, a fact which becomes apparent when, for example, one takes a look at the present heating system or seating arrangements. That, however, is set to change in the near future when work begins on the chapel's refurbishment.

From the outside little change will be apparent, other than a more orderly car park and a remodelling of the main entrance, both of which will have a strong focus on ease of accessibility. The front doors, which currently look as though they were built to withstand an attack from St Margaret's or St Boniface, will be replaced by modern glass doors through which a more welcoming interior may more readily be seen.

And it is the interior of the chapel that will see the more radical elements of the refurbishment take effect. The pews, which have been an immovable fixture in the chapel since its birth, will be removed to make way for more comfortable seating that will be movable and will have the flexibility to accommodate any required seating pattern. A carpeted floor to replace the present parquet tiled surface will add to the comfort of the interior. A galley kitchen will be created at the rear of the chapel to facilitate the provision of light refreshments, with coffee tables close by to provide a relaxed area for meetings or social contact.

It is at the front of the chapel that the most striking effects will be evident, with the removal of the present pulpit and choir stalls and the creation of a larger platform to accommodate the Communion table and, for example, a full music group or choir. The refurbished interior will be complemented by a modern flexible lighting system and the latest audio-visual equipment. More

efficient insulation and the employment of up-to-date heating technology will complete the project and will combine with the other elements of the refurbishment to create what is hoped will be a comfortable and welcoming environment that will help to secure a positive future for the Methodist Church in Bentham; a future that will reach beyond the traditional 'Sunday only' ethic of the chapel and will meet more of the social and spiritual needs of the wider community.

All this represents a most ambitious project which is being launched at a time when churches and chapels across the country are facing closure, and when funding for such projects is probably at its most difficult to secure. Added to this is the fact that not everyone feels entirely comfortable with the prospect of such radical change, some having become emotionally attached to the building in which they have worshipped for many years. So why take it on?

I put this question to one of the Church Stewards, who told me it was believed that there was very little choice if the Church was to survive beyond the next year or two. For any organisation to retain credibility in today's world it needs to be relevant and in tune with the needs of the society in which it functions, and High Bentham Methodist Church, in keeping with many churches of all denominations, has begun to lose sight of those needs. There is tremendous potential for the Church to play a vital role in the Bentham community, but to have a fighting chance of doing so it must take the necessary steps forward to embrace the precepts of 21st century worship and witness.

The wear and tear of many years service has taken its toll on the heating system so this will need to be replaced and a more caring seating arrangement is long overdue!

Given therefore that standing still is not an option, the Church has very bravely decided to re-launch its presence in the community and aims to reclaim the influence and respect it enjoyed for so many years. It is hoped that work on the refurbishment will begin before Christmas; meanwhile fundraising has begun with a fervour that can only otherwise be seen in an Inland Revenue office!



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NAME THAT TOWN QUIZ RESULTS

By Dorothy Pidgeon

A big thank you to all who purchased a copy and thereby added £226 to St. John's extension appeal. Of the 51 completed copies returned only 9 were all correct and from those, drawn at random by the Rector, the winners were 1st, Mrs Bamber of Bolton le Sands, and 2nd Mrs Wheildon of Low Bentham, who have received their gift vouchers.

For anyone who would like to see the correct answers, they are on display on the church notice boards outside the pharmacy and Low Bentham Institute, also in Barwise's window and at St John's Church. Congratulations to the winners and thank you to everyone else.



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BENTHAM: GOOD NEWS / BAD NEWS

By Shirley Brown

Someone said to me recently, "I just love Bentham, but it drives me mad too!" and I kind of know what they mean. I love Bentham too, but sometimes the way things are here can make me really fed up and angry. So I wondered whether there're more people out there feeling like this? Perhaps if I set the ball rolling by writing about it, you never know, all those little praises and irritations might add up to something sometime somehow.

Good News

Our High Street has traders who are knowledgeable, obliging, friendly and hard working. Their businesses can provide most of our needs plus a few luxuries like amazing sticky toffee pudding, lovely toys to delight children of all ages, prints, pictures and cards and good quality duvets and clothes for men, women and children. This is rare in a town of our size and I really value it. On Saturday mornings my treat is to buy croissants from Barwise's Bakery. They are the best croissants I have ever tasted anywhere in the world.

Bad News

The two children's play areas by Wenning Avenue and Wesley Close are just awful. Lots of energy from local families has gone into creating and caring for them in the past, but now through neglect and lack of maintenance they are dangerous, unattractive and unloved. When my grandchildren come to visit I am ashamed at the state of them. We drive over to Ingleton and Settle where the equipment and atmosphere is really pleasant and enjoyable, why do other towns do so much better than us? How can we make them better? Who is responsible for these areas? How can we do something together to improve them?

Editorial Team's Note

Bentham News would like to encourage readers to contribute something along

similar lines if they wish. The only rule is that you must balance something bad with something good. Not just moans, not just praise, it's too easy just to gripe; you have to think also what you like about living here. Contributions can be as short and as specific as you like. We'll run this occasional column for as long as we hear from you. As with any other contributions to BN, anything you submit must contain your name, address and phone number, although these can be withheld from publication on request.

Yoga & Relaxation

Suitable for all levels & abilities, mats & blocks provided. Drop in classes cost £4 - everyone welcome.

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High Bentham Town Hall, every Friday 6.30-7.30pm.

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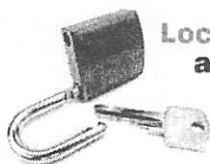
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Due to the crime rate rising I would like to advise everyone to be more aware of your security, ie, making sure your doors & windows are locked securely at all times, and that your locks also comply with the new insurance regulations. Any questions please contact Mark on the above number.

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HIGH BENTHAM C P SCHOOL

By Mrs C.A. Boocock (Headteacher)

Free sign language

This course starts on Tuesday 3rd November from 7pm – 8pm. The classes will be held at school and run by Becky Ryan who is currently studying for British Sign Language NVQ Level 4. Anyone is welcome but children must be accompanied by an adult. Contact school on 015242 61412 to book a place as spaces are limited.

We want your old stuff!

In a bid to make our curriculum as whizzy as possible, and to make sure our children learn about recycling and sustainable living, we would like any old Christmas cards that might be hanging around from last year. We will use them in school to make new Christmas goodies, and they will help raise funds for school as well as raise an awareness of what we throw away!

Pre-School Provision in Bentham

Come and join our vibrant Ofsted registered Playgroup for all children in Bentham who are three and nearly three years old! On Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons our excellent Nursery facilities are open from 1pm to 3.30pm at £5.50 per child. We have experienced caring staff and places are still available so contact school on 015242 61412 for further details about admissions or to arrange a visit.

The children are taking part in the Christingle Service at St Margaret's Church on Friday 4th December at 2.30pm which will be a lovely start to our Christmas celebrations.

As the Methodist chapel is not available in December for us to use for our KS2 performances we are moving to St Margaret's Church. Our performances will be on Wednesday 16th December at 1.30pm and 6.30pm so we hope that many people from Bentham will join us!

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BENTHAM FILM GROUP

By Stella Hall

The crime drama 'Gran Torino' (Cert 15) will be shown by Bentham Film Group at the Victoria Institute, Low Bentham on Saturday 14th November. The film tells the story of Walt Kowalski, a grumpy, tough-minded, unhappy Korean war veteran whose prize possession is a 1972 Gran Torino car which he keeps in mint condition. When his neighbour, a young teenager, tries to steal his Gran Torino, Kowalski sets out to reform him. The film will begin at 7.30pm and during the interval there will be refreshments for sale and a raffle will be drawn. Tickets are £5 on the door. We look forward to seeing you!

LITTLE RED BUS

By Anne Yaman

On Sunday November 15th we will be doing a trip to Asda at Morecambe leaving Bentham at 11.00am. Cost will be £3.50. If you wish to go please call Tommy or Peter on 62753.

We will also be arranging a couple of trips in the run up to Christmas so please watch out in December Bentham News for details.

Thanks to Bloomin' Bentham

Bentham Little Red Bus would like to say a very big "Thank You" to the ladies and gents of Bloomin' Bentham who have spent so much time down at the station recently planting up the tubs, the border on the Morecambe platform and putting in so many bulbs that we will be like Wordsworth by next spring.

Everyone is commenting how nice it looks but for those of us who work down here we are rewarded every day.

Did You Buy a Telescope in April?

Did you buy a telescope at the coffee morning on 25th April this year? If so, we have found some accessories for it. If you would like them, please call 07802 440 106.



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Christmas starts here!!
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WOMENS' INSTITUTE

High Bentham

By Anne Yaman

The October meeting was our Annual General Meeting and was very well attended. We were also really pleased to welcome three new members.

The officers' reports were well received and Chris Lewis, the Treasurer, was pleased to report on the healthy state of the finances. Joan Sharman, Programme Secretary, was thanked for the imaginative programme that she devises every year with a minimum of fuss.

The committee was re-elected en bloc and Miss Wendy Dowbiggin was again elected President for the coming year.

The trophies which had been won at Bentham Show were proudly displayed and showed a justified reward for all the hard work that had gone into entries by many members.

A lovely evening had been held at the Nosebag with an excellent meal provided by Phillipa and served by Claire. The evening of Fashion Facts and Fun at Lowgill was a great evening out and much enjoyed by the members who attended.

Following a light supper provided by the members of the committee there was a quiz.

The next meeting will be on Thursday 5th November when two members will be doing a "hands on" craft evening. Any visitors welcome at 7.30pm in the Lower Town Hall.

Low Bentham

By Jennifer Watkinson

Mr Malcolm Culshaw, the speaker at the September meeting, gave a very interesting and informative illustrated talk on Lady Anne Clifford who was the only surviving child of the 3rd Earl of Cumberland and Margaret Russell. Born in 1590 in Skipton Castle, she left soon afterwards for London and didn't return until she was 60 years old. After spending 45 years fighting for her rightful inheritance she set about building almshouses, the Countess Pillar, rebuilding churches and castles on her vast estate. Skipton, Pendragon, Appleby, Brough and Brougham castles were restored to their former glory.

She spent the last 26 years of her life visiting and inspecting the progress of numerous projects. Mr Culshaw mentioned the notable historic events that occurred during her lifetime and described the journeys she made over the difficult terrain. His slides showed many of the buildings along what is now known as the Lady Anne Clifford trail.

Six members came third in the first round of the Federation quiz. Sylvia Brennan won the candlesticks for earning the most points in the annual Ingleborough Group Show. Christine Jennings won the new award for the best exhibit in the produce section and Betty Atkinson won the cup for gaining the most points in the pot plant section.

The next meeting will be on 19th November in the Victoria Institute at 7.30pm when Mr Neil Simpson will talk on "Life in the Falkland Islands". Please come along.

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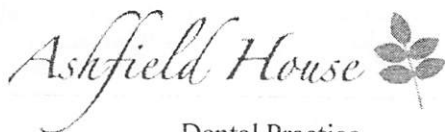
VICTORIA INSTITUTE OPEN DAY

By Christine Hodson

In early October the Victoria Institute held two Open Days to show what had been achieved in recent months, particularly the community garden, which is looking fantastic. The garden committee is looking for new members. If you are interested in helping contact Sharon Haslam on 63162.

The stained glass windows that are situated in the entrance hall, were donated by Annette and Gary from Stonegate Stained Glass and fitted by Chris Brownsord with money donated by the late Bob Woods. Some user groups produced displays including photographs showing the variety of activities. Refreshments were served. A guided tour included the recently refurbished snooker room.

The Victoria Institute has received a grant of £2,000 from the Garfield Western Foundation which will go towards the refurbishment of the main hall.



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Sunday 6th December

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YESTERDAY IN BENTHAM

Keith Hartley takes a light-hearted look at Bentham and its people, as first seen through the pages of the Bentham News edition of twenty years ago.

November 1989

As *Bentham News* celebrated its third birthday, members of the Editorial Committee were being interviewed by a panel of judges from a competition into which the paper had been entered. The North Yorkshire Village Ventures Competition sought to highlight and reward rural enterprise projects, and it is a measure of the vision and competence of that early Committee (of which *Shirley Brown* and *Ken Robertson* are still pivotal members) that BN won a place in the grand final. Unfortunately the paper didn't win the competition, but for so young a publication, reaching the final was itself quite a remarkable achievement.

For the record, the other members of that 1989 Editorial Committee were *Louise Bruns*, *Tom Cahill*, *Keith Cowling*, *Wendy Dowbiggin*, *Sharon Haslam*, *Alice McCay*, *Jill Matthews*, *Kate Steele* and (co-ordinator) *Lesley Barker*.

Whilst I have no wish to devote this entire column to news of *Bentham News*, I feel it worth a mention that this month's edition also included a questionnaire entitled "What do you think of *Bentham News*?" which readers were invited to complete and return. In addition to the usual "What do you like/dislike about BN?" type of questions, the sheet also asked questions like "Should BN publish any letter it receives, as long as it isn't libellous or obscene," indicating that even in those early days BN was unafraid of controversy.

Given the contents of some recent 'letters' pages, I would be interested to see today's responses to a similar questionnaire. Is another one due?

To mark his retirement from general practice in Bentham, BN published an interview with local GP Dr Robin Griffiths. Clearly a popular doctor in the area (as also was his wife, Meg) he recalled having the

fullest surgeries when he first arrived because a rumour had gone around that he was black, and Bentham people being Bentham people needed to find out if this was the case! Dr Griffiths also recalled interviewing potential receptionists when one of the criteria for appointment was that the successful applicant had to be slim in order to fit into the cramped area behind the reception desk.

I wonder what Equal Ops would make of that one!

A report was published this month on the Bentham and District Sponsored Walk, which took place in September. It was universally agreed that the event had been a huge success, with around 70 walkers successfully completing the course and several local charities and organisations benefiting from sponsorship sums ranging from £85 to £1,000.

I remain convinced that a similar event would today meet with even greater success if anyone could find the time to organise it.

Finally, I was fascinated to read that an October meeting of North Yorkshire CC's 3 Peaks Sub-Committee was held on the summit of Ingleborough, and I had this wonderful vision of our Town Council sat around atop the Big Stone, discussing how they could possibly get Bentham's toilets re-opened!

Then I awoke!

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LOCAL EVENTS IN NOVEMBER

Mon 2nd Gentle walks for women, leave Lairgill 9.30am every Monday.

Craven Customer Services at Town Hall 10am-12.30pm every Monday.

Indoor Bowls at Town Hall, 1-4pm every Monday.

Town Council meeting at the Town Hall, 7pm.

Methodist Church Hall - 10-11.30am Toddle-in for parents/carers, babies/toddlers. 4.30-5.30pm Adventurers Group for 4-6 year olds. 6.15-7.30pm Springboard for 7-10 year olds. All three every Monday.

Victoria Institute - Drop-in 10am-12noon. Community Link Café 1.30-3.30pm. Slimming Group 5.30-6.30pm Tai-chi 6.15-7.15pm Peak Fitness 7.30-8.30pm. All five every Monday.

Tue 3rd Town Hall - Craft Club Wenningdale Room 10am-12noon. Yoga 6-7pm. Aerobics 7.30-8.30pm, all three every Tuesday.

Bentham Child Health Clinic at the Surgery, 2-4pm.

Looking Well - Men's walking group 9.30-11.30am. Tuesday Strolls 2.00-3.00pm. Enormous Turnip Club, gardening for all, LW garden 2-3.30pm. Rag Rug course by Joyce Knapp, 7-9pm. Harmony singing led by Noelle Thompson, 7.30-9.30pm. All five every Tuesday.

Wed 4th NSPCC monthly meeting at Lingfield, Robin Lane 7.30pm.

Wed 4th

Town Hall - Pilates 1-2pm, Moving Well 2-3pm, Youth Theatre 6-8pm. All three every Wednesday.

Looking Well - Café-IN 11am-1.30pm. Positive Futures Project 11am-1.30pm. Art for all, beginners welcome, 2-4pm. All three every Wednesday.

Methodist Church Hall 10-11.30am, coffee morning, donations to local charities. Every Wednesday.

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

Citizens' Advice Bureau at the Surgery 1.30-3.30pm.

Victoria Institute - Drop-in 10am-12noon. Community Link 11.30am-3pm.

Thu 5th

Town Hall - Art class at the Wenningdale Room 1-3pm. Every Thursday.

Town Hall - High Bentham Women's Institute meeting 7.30pm. See page 17.

Victoria Institute Bat'n Chat 10am-12noon and 1-3pm.

Fri 6th

Age Concern at the Masonic Hall, 10am-2.30pm. Sing-a-long. BEST film night at Victoria Institute 8pm. "The Age of Stupid". See page 9.

Victoria Institute 1-3pm, Bookmaking Workshop for 4 Fridays. Contact Pat Cave 61406.

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

Town Hall - Yoga 6.30-7.30pm every Friday.

Sat 7th

Farmers' Market at the Town Hall, 9am-1.30pm.

St. Boniface's coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10am-12noon.



Tue 10th

Bright Hour at the Methodist Schoolroom, 2.15pm. Speakers Jean and Thomas Fawcett.

MENCAP annual general meeting, 8pm at Ingleborough Community Centre.

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 13th Nov.

- Wed 11th Looking Well 7.30pm. "Bringing the Olives Home" - Illustrated talk by a volunteer supporting farmers in Palestine.
- Thu 12th Peace Forum, 7.30pm at Sole to Soul, Grasmere Drive.
And 26th - Methodist Church Hall, welcome-in dominoes for all ages. For transport contact Nigel or Kath, 62272.
- Fri 13th Age Concern at the Masonic Hall, 10am-2.30pm. Colin Etherington-extend exercise.
Wray School Christmas Bingo, 7.30pm at Wray Institute. Tip top prizes, £1 per game.
Copy deadline for December Bentham News.
- Sat 14th NSPCC coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10am-12noon. 
Monthly Book Swap at Victoria Institute.
Bentham Conservatives Autumn Supper with PPC Julian Smith, Town Hall 7.15pm. Tickets £14 from 61586 or 61454.
Bentham Film Group film, "Gran Torino", Victoria Institute, 7.30pm. See page 16.
- Sun 15th Bentham Footpath Group walk, Ings, 8 miles, leader C. Randall, 62619. Meet at Lairgill 9.30am.
- Tue 17th Bentham Child Health Clinic at the Surgery, 2-4pm.
Burton-in-Lonsdale Mother's Union, 2pm in Burton Church Room. Talk by Lancaster Samaritans.
Agricultural Society AGM 7.30pm, Wenningdale Room.
- Wed 18th Toddle-in Nearly New sale, Methodist Church Hall 7.30pm. See page 8.
Citizens' Advice Bureau at the Surgery 1.30-3.30pm.
- Thu 19th Low Bentham WI at the Victoria Institute, 7.30pm. See page 17.
- Fri 20th Waste paper collection at Lairgill Car Park, 8.30-11am. Proceeds to NSPCC.
Age Concern at the Masonic Hall, 10am-2.30pm. Making our Christmas Cards.
- Sat 21st Bentham Agricultural Society coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10am-12noon. 
Country and Western evening at the Town Hall, 7.00pm.
Methodist Church Hall 2-4pm, Christmas Craft Fair in aid of Church Refurbishment Fund.
- Tue 24th Bright Hour at Methodist Church Schoolroom 2.15pm. Speaker Mrs Anne Beck.
- Wed 25th Theatre Group at the Town Hall, 6.30-10.30pm.
Bentham First Responders at Looking Well, 7.30pm. We urgently need volunteers so come and talk to us about joining. See page 33.
Coffee morning for NISCU at Methodist Church Hall 10-11.30am.
- Thu 26th Bentham Footpath Group walk, Keasden, 6 miles, leader M. Ellis 015242 51802. Meet at Lairgill 9.30am.
- Fri 27th Bentham News published.
Age Concern at the Masonic Hall, 10am-2.30pm. Video.
Victoria Institute, 7.30pm Bingo.
- Sat 28th Cancer Support Group coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10am-12noon. 
And 29th. Theatre Group rehearse at the Town Hall, 2.30-8.00pm.
"A Taste of Travel in Nepal" with light refreshments at Methodist Church Hall, 7pm. In aid of Church Refurbishment Fund. Contacts Alan 62540 or Peter 61046.
Ewecross Historical Society meeting at the Town Hall, 7.30pm. Dr. George Redman - "Yorkshire Surnames".
- Sun 29th Advent Carol Service at St Boniface's, 6.30pm followed by refreshments at Methodist Church Hall.
- Mon 30th Theatre Group rehearse at the Town Hall, 6.30-10.30pm.
Springboard "Christingle" service, 6.15pm, Methodist Church Hall. All welcome.

RAILWAY STATION IN THE TOP FIVE

By Shirley Brown

Recently when Bloomin' Bentham volunteers were working down at the railway station, Anne Yaman of Bentham Community Transport told us that "on one of his regular visits to Bentham station, David Grant, Transport Police Sergeant for this area said that Bentham station used to be in their top five of the WORST stations in the area and now it is in their top five of the BEST stations in the area."

That's quite something, and maybe shows that if you start to brighten up somewhere and care for it, people are less inclined to damage it.

Northern Rail have invested handsomely in the refurbishment of the station, and Bloomin' Bentham volunteers are regularly keeping an eye on the plants and flowers and clearing overgrown areas. Pauline's Bench, lovingly restored and installed on the platform by Brian Cowling (to whom many

thanks), is much appreciated by waiting passengers. In October two groups of volunteers (four one time, six the next) planted up the tubs with bulbs, primulas and pansies, and put hundreds of daffodil bulbs in the area.

This is a long, slow but rewarding process and anytime that anyone wants to donate their time, expertise or surplus plants to the ongoing project please just get in touch on 61608.

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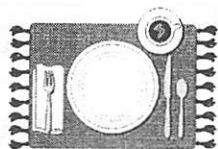
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COOKERY PAGE

Edited by Patsy
Henderson



One-Pot Autumn Warmers

All the Reds Soup

Recipe - serves 4-6

1 red pepper, chopped
1 red onion, chopped
1 fresh red chilli, seeded and chopped
1 garlic clove, crushed
30ml olive oil
1 x 400g can chopped tomatoes
1 litre stock
30ml long grain rice
30ml Worcestershire sauce
1 x 200g can red kidney beans
5ml dried oregano
5ml sugar
salt and ground black pepper
fresh parsley, chopped and cheddar cheese,
grated, to garnish.

Method

Put the pepper, red onion, chilli, garlic and oil into a large saucepan. Heat until sizzling then turn down to low. Cover and cook for about 5 minutes. Add the other ingredients, except garnishes, and bring to the boil. Stir well and then simmer for 15 minutes. Check the seasoning, garnish and serve hot.

Thai Sweet and Sour Pork

Recipe - serves 4

350g lean pork
30ml vegetable oil
4 garlic cloves,
finely sliced
1 red onion, sliced
30ml fish sauce
15ml sugar
1 red pepper, seeded and diced
½ cucumber, seeded and sliced
2 plum tomatoes cut in wedges
115g pineapple, cut in small chunks
freshly ground black pepper
2 spring onions, cut into short lengths
coriander leaves for garnish
shredded spring onions to garnish.



Method

Slice the pork into thin strips. Heat the oil in a wok or large frying pan. Add the garlic and fry until golden. Add the pork and stir fry for about 5 minutes. Add the onion. Season with fish sauce, sugar and the pepper. Stir and cook for 3 - 4 minutes, until the pork is cooked. Add the rest of the vegetables, pineapple and spring onions. Continue to stir fry for another 3 - 4 minutes, adding a little water if necessary. Serve hot, garnished with coriander leaves and spring onion.

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CHURCHES TOGETHER

By Stephen Dawson



Remembering for the Future

When traffic police officers asked for my age recently I went blank. They became impatient when I used fingers to count the decades since November 1962. And in a churchyard I looked in vain for a family gravestone. Had I forgotten that too? In fact the stone was in its usual place but had been cleaned during the addition of an inscription. In 1917 my great uncle Edward went missing in action at Passchendaele near Ypres. For many years his mother hoped for his return but it was his name that had been added at last to her gravestone.

When Westminster Abbey arranged a service for the 50th anniversary of VE-Day, it ended around the Abbey's most potent symbol, the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior. The Warrior could be anyone's son, husband, father, brother or lover, but had been interred with all the pomp of an imperial state funeral close to where the Church crowns its kings and queens. Virtually the only one of a million British dead to come home from the Great War his grave, unlike others in the Abbey, cannot be walked across.

Why the symbolism? People of all faiths and none honour the dead and the ceremonial meals of Jews and Christians – Passover and Communion – remember the Exodus, that ancient story in which God "remembers" the slaves suffering at Pharaoh's hands. The storyteller says that this remembering was not a passing thought but a decision to act. If you've wondered why the Church intervenes in politics, especially when people are suffering, then the Exodus is the answer. It has encouraged liberation movements for thousands of years with its slogan "Let my people go!"

When I forget to remember I take it for granted that the Church will be observing Remembrance Day on my behalf. There are many, including Christians, who wonder why religions should be involved in civic

ceremonies. However as I write, Europeans are remembering the peaceful end of the Cold War in 1989. The Church, whether Catholic in Poland or Lutheran in East Germany, was the focus of opposition which, through sheer weight of numbers, ended the Soviet occupation. Churchgoing is in decline there too, but Poles and Germans insisted that the Church should re-take its place in civic society.

Of course the Church believes that humanity has something of the divine about it, so the placing of stones on tombs reflects a remembering God. But on the Sunday nearest to Armistice Day people of all beliefs will be meeting in the open-air to remember and to work together for a better future.

We tend not to do this in Bentham but we do have a beautiful memorial to those who died in the Great War. It's in St Margaret's Churchyard, sheltered by trees and people used to gather around it. If you have memories of such a service please let me know on 62242. It is good to remember for the future.

St Boniface's Golden Jubilee

November also sees the 50th anniversary of the present Catholic Church building in Robin Lane. A month of celebrations concludes with songs and prayers on the first Sunday of Advent, 29th November at 6.30pm. Ecumenical guests, musicians and you are invited and there will be a supper afterwards.



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LIBRARY NEWS

By John Frankland and Liz Farmer

North Craven over 50s roadshow

A partnership between North Yorkshire County Council's library services and the Citizens Advice Bureau is to be launched at an over-50s roadshow at Ingleborough Community Centre and Library from 1 - 4pm on Friday 6th November.

The partnership will provide access through libraries to the Citizens Advice Bureau online help service 'Adviceguide'. The roadshow is one in a series across the county which are back by popular demand, to offer advice to the over-50s on such things as debt management, savings and how to make the most of your money, saving energy, as well as information on general health and well-being. In addition to the Citizens Advice Bureau, organisations offering information and advice at the event will include North Yorkshire County Council's Adult Learning Service, Road Safety, Yorkshire Dales National Park, North Yorkshire Police and many other voluntary, private and public sector bodies.

County Councillor Chris Metcalfe, North Yorkshire's Executive Member for Library and Information Services said: "These roadshows proved very popular with the over-50s when we ran them earlier this year. We are delighted this time to launch the partnership between the county council and the Citizens Advice Bureau to provide Adviceguide through libraries, which will give people ready access to much-needed information and guidance."

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HORNBY DRAMA GROUP

By Richard Hopkins

Our autumn production this year is "Laughter in the Dark" by Victor Lucas.

The play combines the reading of a mysterious will, Christmas in an old haunted house and a motley group of characters - a combination which provides laughs, scares and a few surprises. Do come and enjoy this lively comedy with us. The play will be presented on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 26th, 27th and 28th November at 7.30pm at the Hornby Institute. Tickets, £6.00, are available at the door.

BENTHAM INDOOR BOWLING

By Peter Shallcross

A members' meeting on 5th October decided to stop the Thursday sessions due to lack of support. More members are needed for the Monday sessions to ensure that they remain financially viable.

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LEADERS WANTED FOR ECOTEAMS IN CRAVEN

By Nick Oldham

A new project is being launched in Craven to help people reduce their impact on the environment – and cut their household bills. The Craven Local Strategic Partnership (CLSP) and independent environmental charity Global Action Plan are creating 20 EcoTeams – groups of six to eight people who meet to make simple, effective changes for a more environmentally friendly lifestyle.

The first phase of the project is the recruitment of 20 team leaders, who organise and run monthly group meetings when members share ideas on shopping ethically, saving resources, saving energy and travelling wisely.

Global Action Plan will provide free training in November for the EcoTeam leaders, who will be entitled to a free compost bin, water butt or household recycling bin. Following the training, the leaders will form their own groups and organise activities in their communities, according to Becki Tighe, the Climate Change Development Officer appointed by the CLSP, which comprises a range of partners including the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (YDNPA) and Craven District Council.

Becki, who is based at the YDNPA offices in Grassington, said: "Our aim is to encourage communities to start their own projects to reduce the impact on the environment and climate change".

"The people we are looking for as team leaders are not necessarily very environmentally friendly right now but are interested in learning more about climate change and ways of combating it on a small scale. They will be interested in doing something practical on a day-to-day basis to reduce their own carbon footprint.

"As we only have 20 places for team leaders, selection will be very much on a first come, first served basis and the recruitment drive must end before the November training session." Teams in other areas of the UK have reduced energy consumption by 21

per cent, electricity by seven per cent and rubbish by 20 per cent – and they have cut household bills by around £170 per year.

And being a part of an EcoTeam is a great way to learn how to lead a healthier lifestyle and make new friends. One EcoTeam member said: "I was already aware of the issues but EcoTeams helped me to take action."

EcoTeams could include people from a church group, a youth group, a sports club, a parents' and toddlers' group, a club for retired people, someone's street, residents' group, a neighbourhood watch group – the list is endless! Meetings are held locally (usually within walking distance of participants' homes) and on dates convenient to the team.

The project is looking for Craven residents who are interested in taking part in EcoTeams, either as a team leader or a team member. Everyone is welcome. For more information contact Becki at the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority on 01756 751610 or becki.tighe@yorkshiredales.org.uk

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BENTHAM PEOPLE



Personal Thanks

Barwise. Janet, John and Anne and all the family would like to express their sincere thanks for all the kind letters, messages, cards of condolence and beautiful flowers they received following the death of their dear mother, Margaret. Thank you also for the generous donations to the Marie Curie Nurses. Very special thanks to Dr. McKirdy, also the district nurses team, the Fast Response carers and carers from Spinal Homecare for all their help and support. Many thanks to Joe from Brown and Whittakers for efficient and dignified funeral arrangements, the Rev Clive Burgess and Rev Frank Parr for a lovely service, and the golf club for a lovely buffet. We would also like to express our gratitude to all friends who have visited and supported Mum through her illness. Thank you all.

PA/Carer Wanted

For young woman with limited mobility. Looking for someone I can feel comfortable with and have a good working relationship to help empower me to do things I have difficulty physically doing myself. Duties include: Some help with food preparation, household tasks and paperwork, minimal assistance with physio exercises, weekly trip out - clean driving licence and car essential. Phone 015242 21785 after 12.30pm.

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Charities

By Audrey Shallcross

Bentham Line Dancers continue to support local charities. Corio Raptor is the latest to receive a £100 donation. We hope that it is of some help with their good work.

CHARITIES THANKS

* A huge thank you to everyone who supported the "Help for Heroes" charity quiz; an amazing £500 was raised to help wounded soldiers. Special thanks to Sheila and Margaret for all their help. The winners are: 1st - (£15) Mrs M. Hutchinson, Ulverston; 2nd - (£10) Mrs E. Pedley, Bentham; 3rd - Mrs A. Wildman, (£5) Settle.

Joan Foster.

* Thank you to those who supported the second Fashion Show at the Horse and Farrier by Nuffin2wear and Pro-tocol skin care. Another enjoyable evening in support of SBC Bentham.

Brenda Everson.

* All the members of Low Bentham Badminton Club would like to say a very big thank you to SBC of Bentham. They have very generously given us £200. This will enable us to buy medals and trophies for our end of season tournaments.

Julie Bridgeman.

* Firefighters Charity. Everyone at Bentham Fire Station would like to thank all the contributors and supporters of our Open day on 20th September - a great success. Our particular thanks go to Cinders Barbeques, B & CE Armstrong, Barwise Bakery, Bowland Pork at Lowgill and Corinth Dutton and Mary Blackwell who all made generous contributions.

We hope to build on the success by repeating the occasion next year. Photographs are available at Bentham Imaging.

We raised £181.86 which goes to the Firefighters Charity (formerly the Benevolent Fund). The charity does invaluable work helping Firefighters and their families during times of illness, injury or worse.

Our carwash day on Saturday 3rd October suffered from appalling weather but still made £78.80. Our next charitable fundraising will be a Christmas Party on 19th December. This will be a casino night at Bentham Golf Club and will include food and entertainment. More information, including ticket price and availability will be announced on 1st November. Bryan Jeffs.

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BENTHAM YOUTH CLUB

By Rachel Rabjohns

Bentham Youth Club is still continuing to meet in the Community Centre on Thursday evenings 7-9pm. Open to all 13-19 year olds, the cost is 50p. We can offer use of the sports hall, wii, pool, table tennis, and a weekly programme of activities. Information and guidance is also available from trained youth workers. Staff are also trained as Keyfund facilitators and can enable young people to access funding for activities and events - you do not have to attend youth club to access this.

Duke of Edinburgh Open Award Unit meets on Mondays, after school 3.15-5.30pm in the youth wing of Settle College, open to all 14-25yrs in the North Craven area, 50p per session.

For more information please contact Rachel Rabjohns on 01729 823312, or email Rachel.rabjohns@northyorks.gov.uk Alternatively call in on a Thursday evening for a chat and a look around.

TOURIST INFORMATION

Press Release

The Tourist Information Point will be closing on 31st October for the season, although the office will continue to open from 10am-12noon on Saturday mornings as long as it is worthwhile.

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The TIP will open again at Easter.

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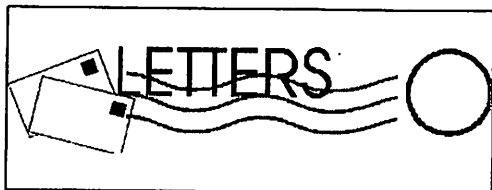
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Dear Bentham News,

"An open letter to Councillor Camacho"

Your article on "Craven Concerns" in September's Bentham News was most interesting. However there are still some points which need clarifying for you.

➤ The Petition - now with well over 1,000 signatures - is not too late to be considered by N.Y.C.C or C.D.C

➤ People from outside Bentham did indeed sign it, which proves the point that people will not come to shop in Bentham if they have to pay to park.

25 people from outside Bentham signed the petition. That is 2½% of 1,000 signatures. "Significant proportion"? I don't think so.

➤ If you do not support parking charges, why did you welcome them at the council meeting, as reported in "The Craven Herald"? As our representative at Skipton we do not expect you to "accept the inevitable" and give in. We expect you to speak out for the residents of Bentham and actually argue our case persuasively, forcefully and effectively.

➤ Bentham residents do indeed walk to the shops. Obviously, leaving the car at home "has merits". Shoppers from outlying farms and villages will take their custom to places at a similar distance from their homes as Bentham, where parking is free.

➤ The location of the plastic recycling facility at Ingleton is a mystifying part of your argument. Do you mean that, if we do not pay the extra tax in parking charges, we are not entitled to the same level of service from C.D.C. that is supposed to be funded by the Community Charge? If so, that is both risible and unacceptable.

➤ Your top secret discussions to mitigate the effects of parking charges do not inspire any confidence and your claim that the feedback you received was insignificant simply indicates that you did not ask. The

questionnaire by Annie Neligan and I indicates the depth of opposition. Small effort. Result in one week!

➤ Finally, the reason for the limited reaction to the closing of the public convenience is that, again, we did not know about it until after the decision had been taken.

There has been a massive and most disappointing failure in communication and consultation with the people of Bentham by the District Council, and remedying the situation will take more than sitting in a corner at the Saturday coffee mornings.

M.A. Ellis. Main Street, High Bentham.

Dear Editor,

My great grandmother was Mrs Robinson and in the early 1900s she lived at number 2 Jubilee Buildings, Main Street, High Bentham. Her husband, who was the village coalman, died at an early age and so she took over the business which she ran from number 2. The horse was stabled behind the house and above the stable was a hayloft. The stable is still there - I checked while I was in Bentham a few weeks ago.

On New Year's Eve 1908 grandmother was looking after two of her grand daughters. Their mother, my grandmother, was Jane Shaw, née Robinson.

Late in the afternoon of this day a man knocked at the door and asked if he could be accommodated in some way for the night. He said that he had been released from Lancaster prison that morning and had walked from there to Bentham on that day. Great grandmother offered him the hayloft, fed him and ensured he was warm and comfortable. In the morning, New Year's Day 1909, he breakfasted and then explained that he had no money to recompense her kindness but that he was an artist and would sketch the two girls if she would allow it. This he did and the two sketches, one of my mother Edna Shaw aged 8, and the other of my aunt Doris Shaw aged 7, now hang on my wall.

The sketches are signed but the signature is not quite readable, at least to me. It is James (possibly) Wanless. One of the sketches is dated 1908 (the year of his

(continued on page 32)

LETTERS (continued from page 31)

arrival) and the other is dated 1909 (the year of his departure). Both, of course, were drawn on 1st January 1909. He left shortly after completing them and nothing more was heard from him.

This incident was talked about quite regularly by my mother and her sister and the sketches were for many decades rolled up in the family sideboard. When my mother died in 1986 I took them over and framed them.

The Robinson family used to live in the Gas House down by the Wenning. I don't know when their base changed to Jubilee Buildings but, after the death of my great grandmother, the house was taken over by Polly (Margaret Ann) who married John Philipson, the son of the village jeweller. Polly and John lived at number 2 for some years together with John's widowed mother. I spent many happy hours there as a boy. Happy days!

The Robinson family consisted of Jane (who married George Shaw), Martha (who was the village postmistress and married Ted Higham), Zillah (who married Dick Thornton, a vet and lived at Clapham), Isabel (who married Bob Seggar), Polly, and James (who took over the running of the coal business, married Alice Ward from Ingleton and who bred lakeland terriers). I think that there was also a son called William but I never met him.

I sent this story to the Bentham web-site this time last year in the hope that it would be used exactly 100 years after the event, but I heard nothing back. Is it of any interest to you? Let me know if it is and I could let you borrow the pictures if you could use them.

Sincerely, David Broadhurst 0161 432 1058.

Dear Bentham News,
I have always worried that names very rarely seem to appear below photographs of teams and groups in Bentham News. In the future your publication is sure to become an important source of local history and it would be a shame if names and identities were lost and forgotten in the future.

Until now I have refrained from writing on this topic but I have seen your October issue which contained a photograph of the Bentham Junior Football Club - Under 12s team but which has no names attached. I feel sure that the boys in this picture would have been thrilled to see their names in print. Perversely in the article to which it was attached are the names of the boys who are not in the picture!!!

In my own piece about First Responders, written for Bentham News you will see all the people in the photograph named for posterity's sake.

Robert Holland.

Editorial team comment - We agree that printing the names of people in photographs we publish may be beneficial both now and in the future. However we would like to point out that we print team reports as submitted to us. If the names are provided with photographs we are happy to print them.

Dear Editor,

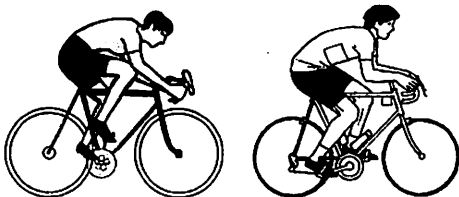
We really enjoyed sitting outside our own front gate with friends and neighbours on a beautiful September morning, watching cyclists in the Tour of Britain Cycle Race speeding past. We even spotted Bradley Wiggins!

The coverage on television that evening showed our Main Street thronged with people, including school children all waving flags.

We saw the riders climb up the steep hill to the Big Stone where another large crowd of spectators, mainly local cyclists, had gathered as well as lots of photographers.

We love cycling and cycle racing and relish watching the Tour de France in July on television or sometimes in France, but to witness a live cycle race in our own town and beautiful countryside was the tops!

Margaret and Brian Cowling.



WOULD YOU KNOW YOUR FUSHETTS LANE FROM YOUR FLANNAGILL?

By Robert Holland

Well, if you were a First Responder you ought to know that and also be able to spot the difference in the middle of the night when a call from the Yorkshire Ambulance Service has disturbed your slumbers.

To help the First Responders in Bentham in each emergency kit they hold there is a copy of a "House Finder" which lists every house alphabetically and shows them on an extract from the relevant Ordnance Survey sheet.

So every once in a while they hire the Little Red Bus and go on a Magical Mystery Tour of the "parts others don't reach" such as the remoter farms and barn conversions off all those side tracks off Mewith Lane, the amazing numbering system down Wenning Avenue and the locations of the four, yes the four, Lane House Farms in the Bentham area. After the tour they should be able to find Burbles Gill, Badger Ford or Kia Ora in a flash and at the dead of night!! Could you?

The First Responders are very grateful that Bentham Community Transport waived the charges for the minibus; this is a picture of some First Responders happy trippers after their latest Magical Mystery Tour.



The photo shows from left to right, Rachel Duncan, Jean Jones, June Sinnott, Kath Stannard, Sue Halsall (who drove), Eileen Stevenson and Gordon Kennell.

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CANNY



a community accounting network north yorkshire

SOUTH CRAVEN COMMUNITY ACTION

Press Release

Community Accounting Network North Yorkshire (CANNY)

The CANNY project establishes a network of community accounting services across the whole of York and North Yorkshire securing a free community accounting service for Craven based groups for one day per week.

Funded by the BIG Lottery Fund, the community accountants will provide free financial advice, support and training, initially aimed at smaller voluntary and community groups (typically under £100,000 income a year).

Services will include free telephone and e-mail help and advice, surgery sessions, information resources and one-to-one training sessions, tailored to meet the needs of individuals or groups.

These core services will be backed up by a regular programme of group training sessions, covering a wide range of finance subjects including; basic book-keeping, setting up and keeping financial records, internal financial controls and preparing budgets, through to producing management accounts and full cost recovery.

The overall aim of the project is to improve knowledge and understanding of financial management in voluntary and community organisations to help the voluntary and community sector to become more sustainable.

To find out more about how the community accounting service can help your group, please contact your Community Accounting Service on 01535 634588 or email philip@sccaco.com



LOTTERY FUNDED

BENTHAM DEVELOPMENT TRUST

By Anne Yaman

The AGM for Bentham Development Trust and Bentham Community Transport will be held on Thursday 26th November at 7.30pm in the Lower Town Hall. All are welcome to attend but only Development Trust members will be able to participate in the business of the AGM. This will be followed at about 8.00pm by a public presentation by Milton Pearson, Chief Executive of South Craven Community Action on the future of the Voluntary Sector in Craven. The evening will conclude with light refreshments.

If you require any further information please contact Anne Yaman on 62753.

NATIONAL BLOOD SERVICE

Blood Donation Sessions will take place at the Ingleton Centre, Main Street, Ingleton on Sunday 8th November from 10.00am-12.30pm and 2.00-3.30pm. Please call 0300 123 23 23 to make an appointment.

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BENTHAM THEATRE GROUP'S PRODUCTION OF BLITHE SPIRIT

By Sue Halsall

Bentham Theatre Group is taking a gamble with its early December production of "Blithe Spirit" – three or two shows, that is the question! The group is hoping that there is enough support in the town for a Thursday evening show, as well as Friday and Saturday evenings.

"It's a very funny play and there's been a great spirit and enthusiasm from the cast, in rehearsals for several weeks now", said Director John Neal, "It would be a shame both for them and local people not to do three performances. We had started rehearsals for "Boeing Boeing", but were denied performing rights, which can happen if there is a professional tour in the offing. It shows the spirit and determination of the group to give Bentham something before Christmas, that we quickly switched plays. We've finished up with a funnier play and more seasonal, with its ghostly carryings-on."

The actors have now been joined by the people who are going to make things happen as much as anyone – Gareth Adams on technicals and Jimi Ogden on set construction. But anyone wishing to help backstage can always ring 63376.

The group will need a crystal ball for one of the props, but has made the big decision without it – three performances, beginning

Thursday 3rd December. Posters will be around the town soon and tickets will be on sale at "Temptations" in Main Street at £6 and £4 concessions.

Treat yourself and family or friends to an early Christmas present – book early to avoid disappointment!!

Bentham Panto

Next February's panto will be Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves and there is a team currently working hard on the script. There will be more information in future editions of the Bentham News but this is just to let anyone who wants to be involved know that the date for signing on will be Sunday 13th December upstairs in the Town Hall at 2pm. Auditions for the principal parts will be Sunday 20th December from 2-3pm.

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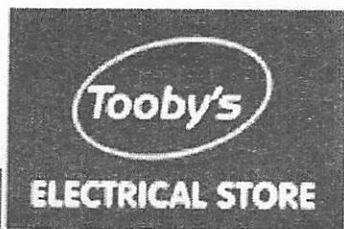
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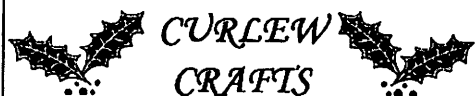
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SPRINGFIELD BOWLING CLUB



By Teresa Freeman

Our Visitors' Open Day in September was very successful. It was good to meet so many people who have supported us and for them to see what we have achieved with their help.

We were delighted to welcome Bruce Dinsmore from Craven District Council, Gillian Muir from the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust and Councillors Tony Burton, Wendy Heigh, Lin Barrington and Manuel Camacho. Also Town Clerk Jo Burton and local residents, including a number of children.

After a speech thanking all those who have helped and supported the Club in so many ways, Councillor Tony Burton was asked to cut the ribbon to declare the new pavilion officially open. Everyone seemed to enjoy looking round the pavilion, chatting to members and trying their hand at bowling.

Looking back at the photographs of how bad things were this time last year reminds us that we've come a long way since then. We are still making progress. The bowling season is over but we are planning winter activities in the pavilion like dominoes, bingo, whist drives, quizzes, etc. Look out for more details later. We do hope people will come and join us.

Please note that the next "Country and Western" evening will be held at Bentham Town Hall on Saturday 21st November, starting at 7.30pm.

BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL

IS SEEKING TO AWARD ITS

GRASS CUTTING CONTRACT

FOR 2010 AND BEYOND

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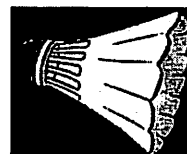
CLOSING DATE:

25 NOVEMBER 2009

Low Bentham Badminton Club

By Julie Bridgeman

All the members of Low Bentham Badminton Club would like to say a very big thank you to Bentham Line Dancing Club for their generous donation of £100. This will go a very long way to buying our shuttlecocks this season.



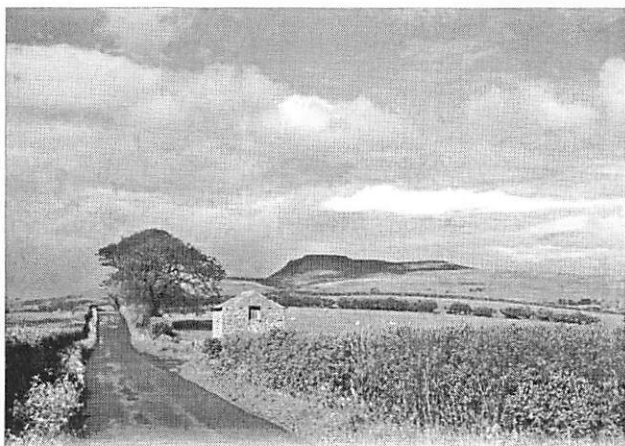
BENTHAM CALENDAR AVAILABLE

By Jo Burton (Town Clerk)

The 2010 Bentham Calendar, with yet more great photos of the Bentham area through the seasons, is now available and selling well. To avoid disappointment make sure you get yours early. It would make an ideal Christmas gift.

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

Produced in Bentham using Bentham talent and Bentham businesses, the calendar is a great way of keeping track of what's on in the Town Hall, and some of the other major events in the Town and supporting a worthy local cause. It is available from Bentham Imaging, High Bentham Post Office and the Town Clerk. For further information contact Jo Burton on 62587.



BENTHAM & BEYOND CALENDAR 2010



All Proceeds to Springfield Bowling Club

CHANGE OF DEADLINE FOR DECEMBER EDITION

Please note that the copy and advertisement deadline for the Christmas edition of the BN will be 13th November. Because of the usual seasonal demand for space, it is advisable to get your copy in as early as possible as space will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

BENTHAM NEWS is published at "Latharna", High Bentham, by an editorial committee consisting of Trevor Blackwell, Shirley Brown, Christine Hodson, Peter Phillips, Ken Robertson, John Vendy, Pam Woof, and co-ordinator, Bill Kennedy, who can be contacted on telephone 015242 62492, or Shirley Brown on 015242 61608. Every effort is made to ensure that information contained in the paper is correct. However Bentham News is an open access paper and views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the editorial committee. The committee reserves the right to edit contributions. We are willing to withhold names on request, but names, addresses and telephone numbers must accompany all items for publication, which should be handed in to the Gallery, Station Road, by the copy deadline, the 13th of November for the December edition. The Bentham News email address is: benthamnews@lycos.com.