

BENTHAM NEWS



*We wish all our readers
a very
Happy Christmas
and a
Peaceful New Year*

DECEMBER 2009

ISSUE 278



THE SAGA OF POWER LINE CLEARANCE

By Pam and Colin Woof

We are writing this article to serve as a warning to anyone who may be about to have their trees cut back because they are encroaching on power lines. The presence of United Utilities in Bentham seems to have been a shambles from start to finish. On certain days residents and businesses have been given notice of power cuts that did not happen. This happened twice on Main Street which is very annoying for everyone. Conversely on other occasions they have also cut the power to some premises without giving the proper notice.

When the work clearing power lines commenced things for us got even worse. The photo shows our beautiful Silver Birch tree after being "pruned" by United Utilities on 26th October.

We agreed to some restricted pruning to the tree (two branches) because this essential clearance work has to be undertaken. Colin

could have removed the branches himself. However we were dissuaded from doing the work ourselves because of the proximity of the tree to the live power cables. We agreed that it would be safer if United Utilities did the work when the power was off on 26th October. We signed the form and sent it back with "restricted pruning, no butchering" written on the bottom of the form as advised by the surveyor. We were told that this would ensure that only the 2 branches that were touching the cables would be removed.

What a shock we had when we arrived home later that day! Our beautiful graceful Silver Birch now looked like a toilet brush! The tree had been attacked with gay abandon taking side-pruning to the extreme!

We are, needless to say, in discussion with both parties involved to find some way to resolving the matter but nothing will bring back our tree which had been nurtured for fifteen years.

So the moral of the story is – make sure that you are present to oversee any pruning that is being undertaken in your garden!



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NOVEMBER'S TOWN COUNCIL

By David Johnson

All the Cllrs were present except Cllr Marshall and C.Cllr Ireton.

Craven District Council Plans Outlined

The meeting commenced early because Claire Mazurke, the Corporate Performance and Improvement Manager for CDC, came to address the Cllrs about CDC's plan for 2010/12. The main thrust of the approach seems to be for the Council to maximise its assets and improve efficiency and therefore reduce the pressure on our Council Tax. She spoke about the importance of recycling to avoid hefty charges for landfill. She said improved offices would cut down on maintenance and improve efficiency.

The Cllrs complained that their recommendations about planning, parking, public toilets and other issues are ignored. She promised to take these complaints away with her and investigate them. The Cllrs complained about the ludicrous plan to move the sandbag store (used to protect residents from floods) from the Wenning Bridge store to the disused toilet block on Grasmere Road car park, which means that the residents would have to collect them and take them back down to Wenning Avenue if there was an emergency!

Police

P.C. Barton said there had been 65 incidents in Bentham during October but most of these had been minor and only 15 of these had been crimes including attempted burglary, car theft and anti-social behaviour.

District Councillors

The District Councillors said there has been progress with the proposed Station Road car park and that it was nearly ready to go for outline planning permission. The plan to build houses on the Banks Way garage site has been refused but Cllr Camacho was not certain about what the future holds in store. He pointed out that United Utilities had patched up Wenning Avenue to a reasonable standard and that a meeting has been arranged with them to try to sort out the

problem. Cllr Barrington thought the local area committee could be changing its attitude towards imposing parking charges in small towns and villages but from what she said I think it would be unwise to relax and think the problem has gone away.

Planning

The Cllrs objected to the application from CDC to use the Grasmere Car park toilet block to store sandbags. Cllr Wills commented that it would be 'the most expensive sandbag store in the country!' The Cllrs were suspicious of the application because instead of leaving the toilets 'mothballed' they thought it could be a way of closing them permanently. Sadly they couldn't oppose the proposal on planning grounds.

There was an objection to a planning application on High Croft on the grounds that the extension would be overbearing and intrusive. The Cllrs suggested a site meeting if there was any chance of it being approved by Craven District Council.

The Community Centre

There was unanimous agreement to purchase the old Community Centre in Main Street as a dedicated youth centre for £57,500 and to put a further £20,000 aside for renovations to the exterior. The project is to be financed by a loan of £80,000 from the Public Works Loan Board. The Cllrs will ask for an extension to their current loan to keep annual payments constant.

Parish Caretaker Scheme

It was decided that the Council should apply for funding to assist in the care of routine matters such as gully clearing, grass cutting, litter picking etc. The Council could receive between £2,000 and £5,000 if the bid was successful but the financial support is tapered and will decline over successive years.

Low Bentham School Field

The Cllrs agreed to go ahead with the lease of the field. There will be an additional cost of £52.75 for the insurance and an additional £500 in legal fees.

Low Bentham Cllrs say they have enough volunteers to lock and unlock the gate on Ellergill drive.

GARDENING COLUMN

By Joyce Knapp

Recently, I have been invited to oversee the development of an allotment that is being created by a local playgroup and this is proving to be an extremely interesting project. When I joined the team, a strong fence had already been erected around the area and two medium sized vegetable beds had been marked out, dug over and edged. The remainder of the area was grassed over, apart from a narrow border that had been dug around the perimeter.

Firstly we discussed what was to be grown in the allotment, starting with the obvious, we selected fruit and vegetables and then branched out into herbs, shrubs and perennials.

We obviously had to take into account the usual health and safety issues when choosing what to grow i.e. no prickly/thorny plants and definitely no plants with poisonous components, such as berries. We also decided to look to include plants that would encourage wildlife into the area, especially those that act as predators to the wide range of pests that are around (though as yet we haven't found any to rid us of the resident rabbits – any suggestions?)

The next discussion centred around where to source the plants without spending too much money, and that's where I could be of assistance because I have a well-stocked allotment where many of the plants are just crying out to have their root-balls divided. Having invited staff from the playgroup to select plants from my allotment, I have now collected the desired plants all together in one area, and they are soon to be transplanted.

We will next select a variety of vegetables that will inspire the children, and to that end the first choice is probably peas – who can resist juicy, sweet peas fresh from the pod? We will also have to consider things like the need to grow crops that will mature quite quickly as they will need to be



ready for harvest before the end of the summer term, in mid July.

It has been quite a challenge searching out raspberry canes that do not have prickly stems, and decorative plants that are not only child friendly, but also rabbit proof.

Now that all the plans have been made, we just have to see how it comes together and, hopefully, we will have some budding young gardeners coming up through the ranks in the not too distant future.

NATURE NOTES

By David C Fisher

Now as it's getting on towards the latter part of the year, it's true to say that the year has been quite fruitful. The sloes this year have been plenty, good for sloe gin making. I have found a few good places to pick sloes along the roadside and beyond.

The fishing season on the River Wenning has now stopped until next year. Anglers now have to resort to sea fishing for dabs and plaice or perhaps a sea bass.

I still like to go out to see the remnants of the salmon and sea trout after they have spawned, seeing nature's natural way of putting nutrients back into the river to give the next generation of fish a chance to flourish. Fish that die can be seen washed up on the banks after a long journey up from the sea. The ones that got away!!



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CRAVEN CONCERNS

By Cllr Manuel Camacho 015242 62074

manuel.camacho@btinternet.com

Given recent concerns about CDC matters I feel that the following items should be of great interest!

Become a member of Craven DC's Residents Feedback Panel

Residents wishing to have their say and influence how Craven District Council is run will be invited to join the Council's first Residents Feedback Panel.

The panel will be made up of residents from all walks of life who have volunteered to advise the Council on how it can improve its services. Panel members will regularly be asked for their opinions on issues such as waste collection, the environment and local amenities. Participation will involve different activities such as completing a questionnaire or taking part in a focus group. Residents on the Feedback Panel will be contacted approximately four times a year by either post or email. For further information contact Harriet Steventon, Community Engagement and Equalities Officer on 01756 706290 or email shudson@cravencd.gov.uk

Review of Cravens Parishes

CDC will be reviewing the districts 73 parishes in the coming months to examine issues such as their boundaries and electoral arrangements. It is probably 30 years ago since the last full review of the Districts parishes took place. The review, which is known as a community governance review, is required to ensure that parishes reflect changing circumstances over recent decades.

Before the main part of the review starts, the District Council will consult with all the parishes and other interested parties on the terms and conditions under which the review will be carried out. This consultation will be completed by the end of November.

Anyone, not just the parish councils and parish meetings, can suggest ideas for change. The District Council will be asking for suggestions to be put forward in the New Year. Issues to be considered might include but not exclusively:- boundary changes; create or abolish parishes; whether parish councils should replace parish meetings; electoral arrangements such as numbers of parish councillors; merge or split parishes to form more viable units.

Changes happen, sometimes obviously, sometimes much less so and over a long period such changes will have influenced how our parishes are governed. One obvious example is the by-passes built around Settle/Giggleswick and Skipton. This might suggest that old boundaries are perhaps not as relevant today as they were forty years ago. In other areas the numbers of electors may have increased or reduced and parish arrangements may need to reflect that. Both community and individual views will be considered carefully before any decisions to change are made. The review process will last throughout 2010 and the District Council will publish its final decision on changes in early 2011. Any person or organisation interested in seeing, or commenting on the terms and conditions of the Review can obtain a copy from Craven District Council by phoning 01756 706241 or email governancereview@cravencd.gov.uk

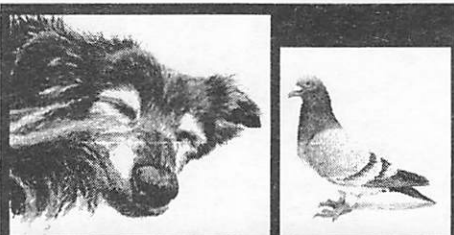
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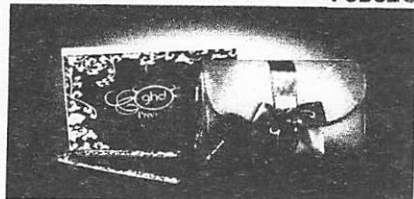
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GRANT FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

By Jo Burton (Town Clerk)

The annual Council Precept meeting will be held on 11 January at 7.30pm in the Lower Town Hall.

Those local organisations that would like to be considered for a grant from the Town Council should apply in writing to the Clerk by Monday 4th January (late applications will not be considered). Please note that all recipients are expected to present a report at the Annual Parish Meeting on 28 April 2010. Applications should include:

- 1. the name and address of the organisation concerned
- 2. a contact name, address and telephone number (along with this person's position in the organisation).
- 3. brief details (100 words max) of the project requiring funding together with the anticipated total cost should be supplied
- 4. a set of accounts (preferably, or equivalent if not available) for the last complete financial year to show the organisation's financial position, including
 - * the date of year end
 - * total income and expenditure
 - * and funds available at the year end

Application forms are available from the Clerk, please ring 62587. All applications should be sent to Bentham Town Council, Wynn-Stay, Springfield, High Bentham.

CHRISTMAS DAY, CHEERY OR DREARY?

An invitation to share

By Mary Hartley

Are you looking forward to Christmas Day, or is it a day you'll be glad to see the back of? If it is a day that's difficult for you, or if it's a day that you'd simply like to share, then we've had an idea that may be of interest.

Some of the members of Bentham Methodist Church are planning to hold a Christmas Day meal in the chapel schoolroom. An invitation to share this meal is extended to all who feel they would enjoy the company of others in preference to sitting at home. So if you live alone, or are a couple, or single parent, then perhaps it's worth considering. It won't be free, but we won't be looking to make a profit and we will keep the cost as low as possible.

If this is something that interests you and you would like further details, please contact Kath Wilson on 62272 before 15th December.

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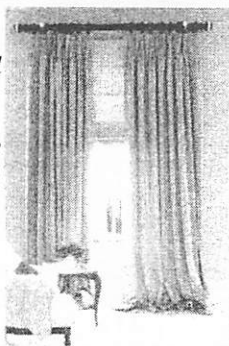
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IS CRAVEN STILL TRYING TO IMPOSE CAR PARKING CHARGES ON BENTHAM?

By Trevor Blackwell

There was a wide-spread sense of relief when Craven District Council announced in the October Bentham News that it would not be going ahead with its proposals to charge for parking at Grasmere Drive unless objections could be overcome. How wonderful! It felt, for a moment, as though the people of Bentham had spoken, and our District Council had listened. It felt, for a moment, as though we were living in a democracy.

But it seems that the objections which worry the Council are not ours, but those of the North Yorkshire Highways Department, which is concerned with traffic and safety issues. These are the objections which Craven is working hard to overcome, and if Craven can persuade the Highways Department to withdraw its opposition it may then decide to try to impose parking charges in February 2010. Or, of course, it might listen to the hundreds of people in Bentham who have asked for this decision to be reconsidered.

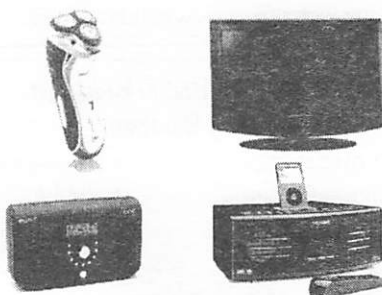
I think Craven might well decide not to go ahead. But if it decides to persist it will have to ask North Yorkshire County Council to agree to the introduction of charges. And here there is some very good news. At the Craven Area Meeting in October, North Yorkshire councillors turned down Craven's plans to introduce similar car parking charges in both Gargrave and Embsay. They also expressed their concerns about

introducing pay and display in rural locations. So it's not over yet. The most important struggle may take place next year, and focus on persuading North Yorkshire councillors to turn down Craven's plans for Bentham. We will need to be ready for that, ready to come together again and make our voices heard in the places where decisions are taken. And who knows, once we get the habit, we might start working together to try to sort out some other matters of public concern. Here's to a Merry Christmas, and a happy, more democratic New Year!

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PANTOMIME - ALI BABA AND THE FORTY THIEVES

By Iain Henshaw

The script is now complete, and so we are heading east to Arabia for our next pantomime, Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves. As usual we are looking for actors, musicians, technicians, managers and helpers of all kinds.

If you would like to get involved please come to sign on at Bentham Town Hall, Sunday 13th December, from 2-3 pm. Tickets for the four performances on February 18th-21st will go on sale at the end of January, and we think that this will be our best panto ever. (Oh yes it will!) You can also keep in touch with what is going on through the notice board on the Community Centre fence.

Finally - "Break a leg!" - to all the group involved in Blithe Spirit on December 3rd-5th. It looks excellent - and very scary!

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WASTE AND RECYCLING COLLECTIONS

By Shirley Brown

Important news for all our readers: in January major changes are being made to the way domestic waste is collected in the Craven District.

Everyone will have kerbside collections for recycling glass, cans, paper and plastic bottles by kerbside collections. It's great news that plastic bottles are now going to be included. The glass, cans and plastic will all go into the Blue Bins together, and new Blue Bags will be issued for paper and cardboard.

When will the bins be collected?

Green Bins (for non-recyclable refuse) will be collected fortnightly, and on the same day **Brown Bins** will also be collected.

Blue Bins will be collected every four weeks.

Blue Bags (for paper and cardboard) will be collected fortnightly, on alternate weeks to the collections for Green and Brown Bins.

If residents who use lilac bags at present, or who need help putting out their bins, or who think they should qualify for a larger green bin have not heard from Craven District Council by the end of December to discuss their special circumstances, then please ring 01756-706203.

Information packs and a calendar to show which containers to put out on which weeks will be distributed in the New Year. You can also download a copy on the Council website.

Christmas Trees

The Council will be providing a free Christmas tree collection service, and collections will take place from 4th January throughout the month. Just leave your tree cut into pieces smaller than 4 feet by the Brown Bin on your collection day. If you don't have a Brown Bin, ring 01756-706203 before 15th January to arrange a collection.

The trees will be turned into compost.

Goodbye to the Purple Waste Wagon

The wagon is to be sold on and the proceeds ploughed back into the waste management service. Standard refuse wagons will be used for all waste and recycling collections in the New Year.

Waste Roadshows

If you have queries about these changes in waste collections, by the time you read this Bentham News you'll have missed the Roadshow in Bentham, but could still catch the ones in Ingleton at Ingleborough Community Centre on Monday 7th December from 11am to 4.30pm, or in Settle at the Victoria Hall on Tuesday 15th December from 10am to 4pm.



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CHRISTMAS CONCERT

By The Choral Society Secretary

Kirkby Lonsdale Choral Society will present its Christmas Concert at St Mary's Church, Kirkby Lonsdale on Sunday 13th December 7.30pm. Tickets: Admission at the door £6.00, accompanied children free.

The choir is delighted to be performing again for the first half of the evening selections from Handel's *Messiah*, arguably one of the most popular musical masterpieces ever. It is to be appreciated on many levels: hummable tunes, rousing choruses, virtuoso arias, memorable moments.

Your favourite carols will follow, some of course with audience participation and we are pleased to welcome Tracie Penwarden as soprano soloist.

Seasonal ambience is guaranteed with wine and mince pies to follow!



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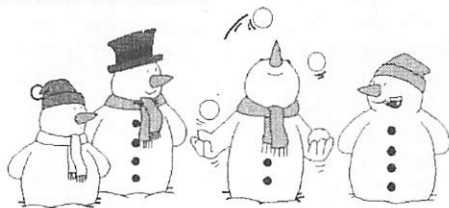
DIY VOLUNTEERS WANTED

By Dee Pollitt

Craven Volunteer Centre, based in Skipton, operates a volunteer handyman scheme, which assists older and disabled people with basic decorating, gardening and DIY tasks.

Due to a recent increase in numbers of requests from the North Craven area, we would like to recruit more volunteers in the Settle, Bentham and Ingleton areas to reduce the travelling time of our existing volunteers. Typical tasks include one-off tidy up of a garden - pruning and weeding; emulsifying one room of a house; simple jobs like putting up pictures, curtain rails or shelves or changing light bulbs. You don't have to be a professional - enthusiastic amateurs are welcome (and you don't have to be good at everything!).

The Volunteer Centre will take up two references for volunteers and a CRB check also has to be undertaken. We will pay any out-of-pocket expenses and our clients supply their own materials. For more information, or to request an application form, please call 01756 701648 or email dee@cravenvb.co.uk



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POST OFFICE NEWS

By David Alder

Royal Mail and the Communication Workers' Union came to an understanding in early November after a succession of days of industrial action—broadly over the issue of staff cuts consequent upon the introduction of new working practices and machinery—had caused considerable disruption in some areas, for which we apologise. This interim agreement means there will be no more strike action before the end of the year by which time it is hoped that a final settlement of the dispute will have been reached with the assistance of ACAS and the TUC. The Christmas post will therefore operate normally, much to everyone's relief. Longer term, the future of Royal Mail and the Post Office remains to a degree uncertain because of various proposals by the main political parties to privatise or part-privatise the organisation.

Christmas 2009

Overseas Post – the last recommended posting days are creeping up quickly for some destinations. Although for airmail items to Western Europe the last day is Friday 11th December, and to North America, Japan and Eastern Europe the last day is Thursday 10th December, for items to the Rest of the World it is as early as Friday 4th December.

Inland Post Last Recommended Posting Dates

- ◆ Second Class letters, cards and packets – Friday 18th December.
- ◆ First Class letters, cards and packets – Monday 21st December.
- ◆ Parcelforce Express 48 – Tuesday 22nd December
- ◆ RM Special Delivery & P/F Express 24 – Wednesday 23rd December.

Collection and Delivery Arrangements

These will continue as normal in the period up to Christmas - augmented as necessary to meet peaks in traffic. The last collections on Christmas Eve, Thursday 24th, will however be as on a normal Saturday.

There will be no services on Christmas

Day, Friday 25th, or on Saturday 26th, nor on the Boxing Day holiday on Monday 28th December. There will be normal services between then and New Year's Eve, Thursday 31st December – when final collections will again be as on a normal Saturday.

There will be no services on New Year's Day, Friday 1st January 2010, but all will return to normal on Saturday 2nd January.

Post Office Counter Arrangements

These will be normal until Christmas Eve, 24th December, when post offices will close at lunchtime. Post offices will be closed on Christmas Day, 25th, Christmas Saturday, 26th and Boxing Day Monday, 28th December. They will also be closed on New Year's Day, 1st January. Normal opening will apply on Tuesday 29th and Wednesday 30th December. Counters will close in the late afternoon on New Year's Eve, Thursday 31st December.

Miscellaneous

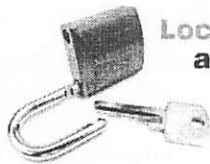
Advance payments of pensions and allowances for 24 – 30th December will be made on Wednesday 23rd, the last full working day before the Christmas break. Payments due on 31st Dec - 1st Jan will be available on Thursday 31st Dec.

Please ensure packets and parcels for home and abroad are well packaged and contain a return address. Items worth more than £39 can generally be insured – please ask at the counter. Packages for destinations outside the EU require a customs declaration.

Self adhesive Christmas stamps are available in sheets and books, and also seasonal air letters. Please address items clearly and use the postcode wherever possible for all items - and remember that Father Christmas' postcode is: SAN TA1.

For inland cards please check the postage rate if one or more of the dimensions of the card are larger than 240mm x 165mm x 5mm – these cards have to be treated as 'large letters'. For overseas cards please check the weight. All cards should now be sealed. Large postings of cards can be made over the post office counter to avoid the over-filling of post boxes. Special arrangements apply to certain BFPO items – please ask at the counter.

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all cars opened**



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e mark970@mac.com

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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BENTHAM LADIES WIN LANCASHIRE BRONZE SHIELD

By Sally Carter

Congratulations to the Bentham Ladies Golf team on their excellent success. There were entries from sixty different clubs for this league. After winning their division Bentham went on to play in a three team

round robin, which they won. Following this they went through to the semi-final at Bury, where they defeated Southport & Ainsdale Golf Club. They returned to Bury for the final against Manchester Golf Club and again the Bentham Ladies team was successful, winning by four games to one.

The team picture shows, from left to right, Pam Andrews, Dorothy Spencer, Anita Brown (Lady Captain), Debbie Wood (Bronze Team Captain), Sally Carter (Lady Vice Captain), Jill Taylor and Gill Fell.

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- So many Christmas presents

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BENTHAM CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

By Jayne Mann

Well folks, Christmas is upon us once again and we have had another busy year. We have worked hard to get a larger team together and have welcomed some new members - Pat Redfern, Darren Mackenzie and Brenda and Peter Everson.

As you have probably spotted by now, we've managed a new addition at the top of Station Road/Main Street and have once again put trees up. This year, for those that requested it, we have arranged to dispose of the trees! Now that we have a good sized enthusiastic committee we will be working hard from the start of the New Year to realise our dreams and ambitions for the town's future Christmas lights.

We would like to thank David from the Post Office & Christine from Temptations for their kind donations and we extend a very big thank you to Haworths Chartered Accountants for their support and sponsorship of the new lights at the top of Station Road. We'd also like to mention the fact that they are sponsoring the resurrection of the Christmas shop window competition.

It just remains for us to wish everyone in the town a Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year. Please don't forget to drop your loose change into one of our collection tins around town and if you'd like to meet us pop along to our stall at the Christmas Fayre or you can contact me on 64948.

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NEWS FLASH!



IT HAS BEEN CONFIRMED
THAT FATHER CHRISTMAS
WILL BE DEPARTING
LAPLAND AT 1.30PM ON FRIDAY 11TH DECEMBER
FOR A SPECIAL VISIT TO BENTHAM.

HE SHOULD ARRIVE IN LOW BENTHAM AT
5.45PM, LEAVING THE CROSS AT 6.00PM TO
TRAVEL UP LOW BENTHAM ROAD AND THE MAIN
STREET, ARRIVING AT THE TOWN HALL AROUND
6.15PM. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WILL BE
ABLE TO VISIT AND TALK TO SANTA IN HIS
GROTTO IN THE TOWN HALL DURING THE
TOURIST INFORMATION CHRISTMAS FAIR.



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9am-7pm.

Thurs 24 Dec: 9am-2pm

Closed 25, 26, 27 & 28 Dec

Open Tues 29, Wed 30, Thurs 31:
9am Opening...ring for closing times

Closed 1 & 2 Jan -
Open as usual 4 Jan.

Season's Greetings
to all from Tom, Rachel & Ali.

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Wellies Welcome!



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Thurs: 1.00pm-5.00pm, 6.00pm-9.00pm

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ELEANOR BENNETT - LOCAL ARTIST

By Shirley Brown

For two weeks in November the Gallery in Station Road exhibited some fascinating prints and original art works by Eleanor Bennett. They were ink paintings exploring the relationship between nature and the feminine, often worked on outdoors as the environment is also very important in Eleanor's work.

Eleanor's family live in Low Bentham and she was brought up in this area, going on to complete a Fine Art degree at Bath Spa University this summer. Her plans are to travel for a while; she is going to Malaysia in December, and to continue learning more about art in the community. When she returns she hopes to train in Art and Health.

Anyone wanting to see her cards of original paintings can do so at The Gallery, and enquiries about larger prints can be made by ringing 61944.

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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.

December 1989

This month's edition carried an obituary for Joan Atkinson, a native of Bentham who became a Cambridge historian and followed a very successful teaching career. Following her retirement in 1980 she returned to live in Bentham, and from then until her passing she appears to have had a hand in almost everything worthwhile that happened in the town. To give just a small example of this, she was a founder member of the Footpath Group, contributed to the establishment of Age Concern, and upheld a commitment to keep the whole of Tatterthorn Road free from rubbish!

As part of a facelift operation, workmen sandblasted the front of the Town Hall. This took Bentham and its councillors by surprise because the decision had not been made as to which contractor's tender would be accepted. Fortunately the firm doing the work had also put in the lowest tender, so Council blushes were spared. Unfortunately it all happened too quickly for many local residents to make the necessary preparations, which resulted in some rather dusty hallways and rooms. Being one of those affected, *the Bard of Station Road* lost no time in putting pen to paper with the following result:

*Town Hall's looking nice and bright with all
the muck off t'stone.*

*I would've shut me window, if only I had
known!*

*It isn't often t'council gives us owt for nowt,
But now they've given me lots of sand
And haven't taken owt!*

*But who the heck's complaining, with t''Town
Hall brightened up?*

*I've got a brush and shovel, so I'll soon get rid
o't'muck!*

*I won't even send a bill for inconvenience,
'Cos as you know, us barbers have lots of
common sense!*

Kate Steele was this month's observer at the Town Council meeting, from which just

two members were absent. One of them, *Sue Bloxham*, sent her apologies as she was in the process of giving birth to her son!

Kate's report offered a unique insight into the awesome level of responsibility carried by our Councillors and the perceptive alacrity with which they make crucial decisions on our behalf (!) Faced with the task of choosing someone to judge the Christmas decorations in Bentham, they were uncertain of how they should go about this. After some discussion they decided to "look local," adopt a scientific approach, and they selected two of the 13 people sat in the public gallery to be the 1989 judges!

I can't help feeling sorry for poor Mr and Mrs Garretson if they'd only gone out to avoid EmmieEmmerdale!

There seemed to be no stopping *Craven Wanderers FC* when they came close to beating the league record by scoring 28 goals against *Ridge Rovers*. Our netball team appeared to be mirroring their performance when they beat a *Sainsbury's* team by 42 goals to 6. However, their bubble burst the following week when they went down 23 - 9 and that after *Shirley Brown* and *Heather Guy* were said to have played well in defence!

Now that's what I call damage limitation!

Finally, I reported recently on a public meeting to discuss Bentham's housing problems to which just two people turned up, despite the attendance of a speaker who had travelled from *Ripon*. Well, after a few very well chosen words in BN by Cllr *Ralph Atkinson*, the rearranged meeting was attended by over 60 people!

*Shows what a verbal kick up the b** can do!*

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HAIRLINES

Tel: 015242 61554

Christmas is nearly here so avoid disappointment and book early for all your Christmas appointments.

Hairlines would like to introduce two new stylists. Full time Helen Lawson of Bentham, formerly of David Franks, & for Friday appointments, business co-owner Claire Hopla.

Carol, Jemma, Helen and Claire would like to thank all their clients and wish them

a

Merry Christmas

and a Happy

New Year.

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LOOKING WELL NEWS

By Julie Vass

Thank you to everyone who has visited helped and supported us. See you in the New Year and new faces are always welcome. Thank you to all who attended the Lantern workshops and walked in the procession. Special thanks to Liam Ellershaw, June Hewitt, Ken Fisher, James Lea, Claire Lea, Ann Booth, Eddie Knowles, Iain Henshaw and Anna Read for their hard work helping to make the lantern procession happen. A special thank you to Maureen Magooligan whose biscuits kept us all going!

Free Sculpture Workshops for Men from the Benthams area

As part of CDC's Darwin Project sculptor and printmaker, Tony Stephenson, will be using a variety of material and easy to learn techniques. Some of the artworks made in the workshops will be hung as a public exhibition at Craven Museum and Gallery from January 2010. Workshops are on: 3rd Dec and 10th Dec 2pm - 4pm. Phone Jay for further information.

Computing with Confidence

This course is starting in February. Supportive and informal, the course is aimed at complete beginners to increase confidence in e-mail, internet and documents. Contact us for enrolment information.

Making the Best of your Digital Camera

A new 5 week course starting 13th January. Contact us for enrolment information.

Rag Rugging

Learn rag rug techniques using contemporary and traditional methods. From Tuesdays 12th January 7.00 - 9.00pm.

Benthams Buddhist Group

This group meeting is at the Looking Well on Wednesday 9th December 7.00 - 9.30pm.

Holiday Arrangements

Looking Well Studios will close on Wednesday the 23rd December and re-open on Monday 4th January 2010. For further details on any of above phone Julie on 62672 (e-mail julie@pioneerprojects.org.uk)

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP CONCERT

By Margaret Hayton

On 15th December there will be a concert at the Town Hall for our members and members of other groups from Looking Well. This is courtesy of "Music for Hospitals" featuring the "Amoure" duo. Entrance by donation. See posters for time etc or phone Julie or Claire on 62672.

Computer Showroom & Repair Workshop



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LOCAL EVENTS IN DECEMBER

Tue 1st Bentham Child Health Clinic at the Surgery, 2.00-4.00pm
Wenningdale Room, Town Hall, 10am-12noon Craft Club, and 8th and 15th.

Yoga, 6-7pm at the Town Hall, and every Tuesday.

Aerobics, 7.30-8.30pm at the Town Hall, and 8th and 15th.

Looking Well, Men's Walking Group, 9.30am and 8th and 15th.

Looking Well Tuesday strolls, 2.00pm.

Looking Well Enormous Turnip Club, gardening for all, LW garden, 2-3.30pm and 8th and 15th.

Looking Well Rag Rug Course, by Joyce Knapp, 7-9pm and 8th.

Looking Well harmony singing led by Noelle Thompson, 7.30-9.30pm and 8th and 15th.

Wed 2nd Looking Well Café, 11am-1.30pm and 9th and 16th.

Looking Well Positive Futures project 11am-1.30pm and 9th and 16th.

Looking Well Art for All, beginners welcome, 2-4pm and 9th and 16th.

Pilates, Town Hall, gentle exercise to help with posture, 12noon-1pm and 1-2pm and 9th.

Moving Well, gentle exercise to music, Town Hall 2-3pm.

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

Youth Theatre, Town Hall, 6-8pm and 9th.

Wed 2nd Bentham Footpath Group walk, Leighton Moss, 7 miles, leader M Burnett 64800. Meet at Lairgill 9.30am.

Coffee morning at Methodist Church Hall 10-11.30am, donations to local charities. Also on 9th and 16th.

Thu 3rd Welcome-in dominoes for all ages, 2-4pm, Methodist Church Hall. For transport contact Nigel or Kath 62272.

High Bentham WI at the Town Hall, 7.30pm. Christmas Party. See page 41.

Bentham Theatre Group play at the Town Hall Ballroom, 7.30pm. Also on 4th and 5th. See page 39.

Looking Well 11am-1.30pm, In the Same Boat, Cancer Support Group Drop-in, Art Session, lunch and therapies, and 10th and 17th.

Swimming at Hornby for over 50s (men and women). Tel Barbara 62873 or Carol 61233 to arrange transport. Leaving at 8.45am, and 10th and 17th.

Art class at the Wenningdale Room, 1-3pm, and 10th, 17th and 24th.

Fri 4th Age Concern at the Masonic Hall, 10am-2.30pm. "Table Decorations".

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

Sat 5th St. Margaret's coffee morning at the Town Hall Ballroom, 10am-12noon. 

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

Christmas Charity Fair at Burton-in-Lonsdale Village Hall, 10am-2pm.

Mon 7th Craven Customer Services, Lower Town Hall, 10am-12.30pm, and 14th and 21st.

Indoor Bowls at the Town Hall, 1-4pm and 14th and 21st. New members welcome.

Town Council meeting, 7pm at the Town Hall.

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 Dec.

- Mon 7th** Gentle walks for women, leave Lairgill 9.30am, and 14th and 21st.
Methodist Church Hall, Toddle-in for parents/carers and babies/toddlers, 10-11.30am. Adventurers Group for 4-6 year olds, 4.30-5.30pm. Springboard for 7-10 year olds, 6.15-7.30pm and every Monday in term time. Looking Well 7.30pm. Amnesty International evening of card writing to prisoners of conscience, coffee and discussion.
- Tue 8th** Bright Hour at Methodist Schoolroom, 2.15pm, led by ladies from Chipping.
Burton and Thornton Mothers' Union Christmas Party, carol singing, 2pm Burton Church Room. All welcome.
- Wed 9th** Mindfulness Meditation Group at Looking Well, 7-9.30pm. All welcome, contact Pete 62049.
- Fri 11th** Age Concern at the Masonic Hall, 10am-2.30pm. Extend Exercise with Colin Etherington. Tourist Information Christmas Fair at the Town Hall, 6pm onwards.
- Sat 12th** St. John's Christmas Coffee Morning with High Bentham School Choir, Town Hall Ballroom,  10am-12noon.
Bentham Footpath Group walk, "Winskill in winter", 8 miles, leader B Sim - 015395 60240. Meet at Lairgill 9.30am.
Bentham Film Group film - "Ratatouille" Cert U, at Victoria Institute, Low Bentham, 7.30pm. Contact Stella Hall, 61183. See page 32.
Youth Theatre at the Town Hall, 6-8.30pm and on 13th from 1.30-6.30pm.
- Sun 13th** Pantomime 2010 sign on in the Town Hall, 2pm.
Copy deadline for January edition of Bentham News.
- Tue 15th** Bentham Child Health Clinic at the Surgery, 1.30-3.30pm.
- Wed 16th** Bentham First Responders at Looking Well, 7.30pm. Volunteers urgently needed so come and talk to us about joining. Contact 63346.
Citizens' Advice Bureau at the Surgery, 1.30-3.30pm.
- Thu 17th** Welcome-in dominoes for all ages, 2-4pm, Methodist Church Hall. For transport contact Nigel or Kath 62272.
- Fri 18th** Waste paper collection at Lairgill Car Park, 8.30-11am. Proceeds to NSPCC.
Age Concern at the Masonic Hall, Christmas Dinner 11.30-3.00pm. Children singing. Please note that Age Concern will be closed until 8th January.
- Sat 19th** Bentham Homing Society coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10am-12noon. 
- Sun 20th** Pantomime auditions at the Town Hall 2pm.
- Thu 24th** Crib Service with the children at Methodist Church at 4.00pm.
- Mon 28th** Bentham Footpath Group walk, Low Bentham, with pub lunch, 4 miles. Leader K Piper 61977. Meet at Low Bentham Car Park 10.30am.
- Tue 29th** Bentham Child Health Clinic at the Surgery, 1.30-3.30pm.
- Wed 30th** January edition of Bentham News published.

ADVERTISING RATES Local Advertisers

Bentham, Burton-in-Lonsdale, Ingleton, Clapham -
Boxed Ad one eighth of a page £12.50. Quarter page £25. Half page £60. Series rates (prepaid) for 3 or more insertions 10% discount.

Non-local Advertisers

Boxed advertisement one eighth page - £17.50.

Quarter page £35. Half page £75.

Flyers and inserts negotiable depending on size, design, printing etc.

Normal commercial rate £125.

Bentham People Page, Thanks, Birthdays etc 10p per word. Items for sale, wanted, sits vacant etc 20p per word.

To place an advertisement in the BN contact 62492 or call in at The Gallery, Station Road.

WHAT IS A CREDIT UNION?

By Lin Barrington

A Credit Union is a not-for-profit *savings and loans co-operative*. Put simply:- a group of people get together. They pool savings and put them into a secure deposit account. Their joint savings make it possible for them to make loans to each other at low rates of interest.

The interest on members' savings and the interest charged to members taking out loans plus small administrative charges help cover the cost of running the Credit Union, and can give members a small dividend if there is a profit at the end of the financial year.

The members themselves choose a Board to run the Credit Union, to recruit volunteers and any staff, to organise payments, manage the finances, make loans, chase arrears etc.

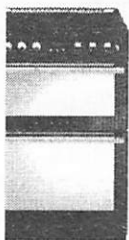
The Government sets tight controls and monitors Credit Unions closely. The Board members and Officers of Credit Unions have to be approved by the Financial Services Authority. Credit Unions are restricted

regarding the amount they may lend to members and the interest they may charge.

Credit Unions are local and personal and safe. They help people to manage their finances better by saving regularly and by only taking out loans that they can afford, thus preventing them falling into the hands of loan sharks. They even make it possible for some members to receive loans although they might not qualify for a Bank Loan. All members, including those with loans, are encouraged to make regular savings to help sustain funds.

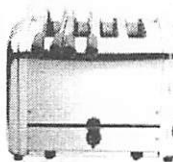
The Morecambe Bay Credit Union (MBCU) is one of the two Credit Unions that cover the Bentham area. It was set up in 2000 and currently has some 900 members. It is based at the Credit Union Offices, 75 Queen St. Morecambe LA4 5EN (near the Job Centre), Tel 01524 411240, from which further information is available.

The other one, North Yorkshire Credit Union, can be contacted on 01904 676633 or www.nycu.org.uk or you can email office@nycu.org.uk



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STATEMENT FROM BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL REGARDING THE PURCHASE OF THE OLD COMMUNITY CENTRE

When Bentham Town Council heard that the Community Centre was to close it agreed that it would be a shame for the community to lose this building as an asset to the town. It also stated that it could not justify running the Community Centre as it was, as there was spare capacity in both the Town Hall and the Victoria Institute.

Discussions with both the Youth Café, who were looking for larger premises, and the NYCC 4Youth Club, who would lose their venue when the Community Centre was sold, led to the idea of taking over the building as a dedicated Youth Centre for the young people of Bentham.

NYCC initially agreed to lease the building to the Council, but would not offer more than a 6 year lease at a rent below market rate and would not agree to spend any money on the building despite agreeing that in the region of £35,000 needed to be spent to bring it up to a suitable standard. Once again the Council decided that spending in the region of £56,000 on someone else's premises was not getting best value for Bentham residents.

Since last April the Council has been in discussion with NYCC about the possibility of buying the building as an asset for the town, and have also been talking to the Youth Café management committee about them leasing the building so that the future running costs do not fall within the precept and so not on the residents of Bentham.

At the Council meeting on 2nd November Councillors unanimously agreed that the Council would purchase the old Community Centre from NYCC for £57,500, the price reflecting both the dilapidated state of the building and the fact that it was being purchased for community use. It was also agreed that the Council would part fund the renovation of the building i.e. the exterior requirements such as roof and window

repairs, with the Youth Café being responsible for the interior.

Some potential grant funding has been identified but is not guaranteed, so the Council has agreed to request permission to borrow up to £80,000 from the Public Works Loan Board. At the same time the Town Hall refurbishment loan will be renegotiated to extend the repayment period by 2 years. In this way the Council can ensure that the annual repayments made do not increase, and so the new project will not affect the level of the precept on an annual basis.

The Council believes that the Community Centre will be a useful asset to the town, and will provide the young people of Bentham with a suitable space of their own, somewhere off the streets to meet friends and hang out. It is hoped that residents will understand the action that the Council has taken, will see the benefits and support the project.



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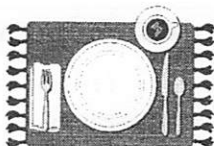
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Night: 015242 62054

COOKERY PAGE

*Edited by Patsy
Henderson*



Alternative Christmas Recipes

Mincemeat and Clementine Brulee Tart

Recipe

9 inch baked tartcase

Filling

300ml milk

Few strips of thinly pared lemon rind

2 eggs

1 tbsp caster sugar

4 tbsp mincemeat

50g ground almonds

1 tbsp brandy (optional)

2 clementines or satsumas peeled and segmented

200g Greek yoghurt

Topping

50g icing sugar

Method

Warm the milk and lemon rind in a pan, or microwave. Whisk the eggs and sugar and pour into the milk and lemon rind. Strain the mixture and cook slowly over a low heat until thickened. Warm the mincemeat in a pan or in a microwave, until the suet has melted. Spread the almonds over the flan case and sprinkle with brandy. Pour on the mincemeat and arrange the clementines on top. Fold the yoghurt into the cooled custard and spoon evenly over the mincemeat/clementine mixture. Sieve the icing sugar over the filling and put under the grill until the sugar has melted and caramelised.

Sauteed Guinea Fowl with Cream and Redcurrant Sauce

Recipe

1 tbsp sunflower oil

1 tbsp butter

1.25kg guinea fowl, cut into 4 portions

150ml double cream

2 tbsp redcurrant jelly

Seasoning

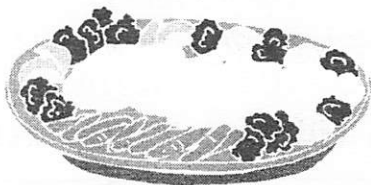
Shredded green cabbage, stir fried with

butter, thin sliced peeled apple, caraway seeds and sautéed potatoes flavoured with herbs, to serve.

Method

Heat the oil and butter in a large frying pan. Add the guinea fowl, skin side down, and sauté for about 5 minutes, until golden brown. Turn, cover and sauté over a low heat for about 15 minutes until cooked. Season the guinea fowl and pour over the cream. Stir the cream to deglaze the pan, allowing the cream to boil. Heat the redcurrant jelly in a small pan until it melts then stir it gently into the cream to make a swirled, pink sauce.

To serve, place the guinea fowl portions onto warmed serving plates. Pour over the sauce. Put the cabbage, apple, potato mixture on the plates. garnish and serve.



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SKATE PARK AND TENNIS COURTS

By Annie Neligan

We're nearly there! Potential funders want us to check that there is still demand for a skate park. We have been asking around and have found a lot of enthusiasm! Young people from the Youth Café, the 4youth club and the Youth Theatre are especially keen to see the skate park and to have a go at tennis. We've already had offers for goal attack and goal defence on a women's netball team. The idea of having basketball hoops up for practice and games is popular. Children from the primary school hope that the letters of support they wrote will soon be getting a positive result. If you are interested in playing tennis, netball or basketball please let me know by sending an email to Pamwoof@googlemail.com

The planning department is worried about any noise, or light pollution from the floodlights and the effect of the project on the large beech and sycamore trees near the site. We think that our plans will minimise any problems and hope that Sport England, the main funder, will approve the designs too. If all goes well we hope to raise the rest of the money needed very soon.

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BURTON UNDER FIVES

By Viki Hindle

Burton Under Fives would like invite all pre-school children and their parents or carers to help us prepare for Christmas. There will be lots going on during December, starting on December 1st, when we will be decorating the room, for the remainder of that week, we will be making Christmas Cards. On Tuesday, 8th December, we are visiting Greenlands Farm, for which there will be an entry charge. We will see the animals and have lunch in the play barn, returning to playgroup in the afternoon. We hope that Father Christmas will be able to take time out from his busy schedule to meet us there.

During the last week of term, we will be having our nativity play on Monday 14th December. On Tuesday 15th and Wednesday and 16th we will be making Christmas Fudge. On Friday 18th December, we would like to invite you to our Christmas Party. It will start as playgroup commences at 9am, with party games. We are hoping that Father Christmas will be calling in around 11am, depending on his commitments. This will then be followed by a Jacobs Join, which will finish around 12.30pm. (If you would like your child to meet Father Christmas, please contact us before the day).

If you would like to join us in any of our activities during December, please do not hesitate to contact us on (015242) 62126.

Merry
CHRISTMAS

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 December for the January edition. The Bentham News email address is: benthamnews@lycos.com.



Dear Bentham News

RE: Good News / Bad news (November 2009 issue)

How shocking it was to read Shirley's editorial in the last issue, apparently belittling the efforts of the small team who try to maintain the Goodenber Play Area! There is really no excuse for not being aware of how the play area is looked after as our efforts are described in the Bentham News at least once a year and are continually trying to drum up more support, both with 'personpower' and more essentially now, financially.

Fortunately, in October, we had a welcome boost of volunteers (parents with young children) who, like the majority of Benthamites, assumed that the play area 'just looked after itself'. After some brief research they soon found out that that is far from the case, contacted me and we held a meeting in the Coach House on 22 October to discuss the current situation. As outlined many times before in the BN, this is how the play area works: the Goodenber Play Area Association (Reg. Charity No: 1041597) provides the children of Bentham, aged from toddlers to teenagers, with a valuable recreational facility and is looked after by a small committee and a few other valued volunteers. It is funded via an annual precept grant from the parish council (currently £650) and via fundraising and voluntary contributions. Maintenance and insurance alone cost about £1000 per annum. The Bentham Town Council kindly pay for the grass cutting. An annual safety inspection is carried out each September by ROPSPA.

Our current situation is this. Due to a combination of age and vandalism some of the equipment is now in need of replacement. The committee has over the past 9 months been obtaining quotations to replace and/or repair these items. If they are not replaced or repaired soon, then the site may need to be closed for safety reasons.

The bases of most pieces of equipment

(woodchip) also need digging out and replacing. Since receiving the proceeds of the 2008 Bentham calendar, and now the promise of a grant of £5000 from the developers of Wesley Close, we finally have a base fund of about £8000 and are now applying for grants to try to raise £20k to £40k required to carry out the refurbishment of the play area.

Money is one thing – routine maintenance is another. Kids will drop litter, glass bottles will get broken, and graffiti will appear from time to time. On Sunday 1st November (the day autumn arrived with a vengeance!) a band of hardy volunteers aged from 4 to 50ish braved the storm and litter-picked, scrubbed graffiti away, removed broken equipment and had a general autumn tidy up. There is still a lot more to do however! If everyone passing through the play area can be proactive and help put litter in the bin rather than moan about the state of the play area in the BN, then it will be a cleaner, tidier place for all to enjoy.

We are on the look out for skilled locals who can voluntarily assist with:

- ✧ Metal fabrication (minor equipment repairs)
- ✧ Excavation and removal of rotted woodchip
- ✧ Supply of new woodchip
- ✧ Replacing the wooden edges to the woodchip areas
- ✧ Hedge cutting

We will be holding our next meeting, open to anyone willing to assist in any way, at 7pm on Thursday 10 December in the Coach House – please come along or send me a message if you cannot make it.

Remember – the Goodenber Play area is for the children of our community and looked after entirely by a small group of volunteers. If anyone is willing to join the committee or our group of regular helpers or feel they can offer help in any other way, please contact Mike on 62336, or email annieandmike@homecall.co.uk

Yours sincerely,

Mike Wynne

Chairman and Treasurer, Goodenber Play Area Association.

(Letters continued on page 31)

LETTERS (Continued from page 30)

For Bentham News

A plea to dog walkers

I keep a few hens which have a lovely life and roam freely in the field next to my home.

On Monday 2nd November one of them was horribly mauled by a dog. This is the second time this has happened.

Another occasion was avoided when I happened to be in the field and the dog owner called her dog off.

Please, before you allow your dog off the lead in a field, make sure that there is no livestock for it to chase and maim and that you can control it if the need arises.

Marie Rayner.

Dear Bentham News

On a number of evenings recently while cycling I've been dazzled by oncoming cars who wait until they have almost passed before dipping their lights. Even worse has just happened (hence this letter!).

A 4X4 was approaching me with spot lights blazing on the roof, main beam headlights and fog lights on giving enough light to illuminate a football stadium. Add to that the idiot in a car, who must have been as blinded as I was, trying to squeeze between me and the 4X4 and managing to clip my arm and I am amazed there wasn't a serious accident! Did either driver stop to check if I was OK? No!

As someone who is also a car driver and motorcyclist I am extremely disappointed with the attitude of some road users in this area. There isn't room for cycle lanes around here (and I don't want them!), but with a little patience and consideration from all road users, there is room for everyone!

Come on drivers, wake up and pay attention to the needs of others on the road before there is a death or serious injury around Bentham!

An angry cyclist!
John Vendy.



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BENTHAM: GOOD NEWS / BAD NEWS

Continuing our occasional column with a contribution (in verse) from *Mrs Julie Jackson* from *Burton Road, Low Bentham*:

Good News

Full of history and rural charm,
With community spirit keeping souls warm.

It's living, working, accepting change,
Enveloped by nature – our 'Home on the Range'.

Bad News

Often filled with traffic, it's hard to move,

Noisy and dirty from diesel fumes.

Danger at roadside, junctions, parked cars,

One step wrong – you'll be seeing stars!!

Acknowledgment

The beautiful photograph on the front cover this month, taken near the Big Stone, has been very kindly provided by Jon Brook, of Bentham Imaging.

BENTHAM ABBEYFIELD

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Abbeyfield supportive houses are for older people who no longer feel happy coping alone at home, but are still reasonably fit and active.

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For more information
call in to see the house-keeper on
Bentham Main Street
(next to the Post Office)
or contact Angela Robertson
015242 61285.

LITTLE RED BUS

By Anne Yaman

We will be running a day trip to the Trafford Centre in Manchester on Sunday 6th December leaving Bentham at 9.30a.m. The cost will be £7.50 per person. Please call Tommy or Peter to book on 62753.

On Wednesday 16th December we will be holding our Annual Christmas Open Day at the Station Building from 11a.m. to 2p.m when we will be serving light refreshments to which **everyone** is most welcome. We are lucky enough to have a new taxibus and we will be joined by visitors from North Yorkshire County Council for a short dedication ceremony. They would also like to take this opportunity to talk to our passengers and take some press photos so please join us if at all possible. If you require transport to and from our event please give Tommy or Peter a ring on 62753.

BENTHAM FILM GROUP

By Stella Hall

Give yourself a break from the Christmas preparations and come and join us on 12th December to watch the film 'Ratatouille' [Cert U]. A scrawny rat named Remy (the voice of Patton Oswalt) finds his dreams of culinary stardom stirring up trouble in the kitchen of a fine French restaurant in director Brad Bird's madcap computer-animated comedy.

The film will begin at 7.30pm in the Victoria Institute, Low Bentham. 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!



BENTHAM PEOPLE

Thanks

Chad - I want to thank all my customers for their understanding since I've taken over the milk round. I'm enjoying it and hope everything's OK. Thanks especially to Sid and Anne for their support while handing over the round. Happy Christmas and New Year to you all. P.S. Thanks Anne for all the bacon butties!



Ruby Wedding Anniversary

Ian and Kathleen Taylor recently hosted a celebratory luncheon for family & friends at the Pheasant Inn, Casterton and wish to thank everyone most sincerely for their kind donations to Bentham Health Centre, totalling £550.

Greetings

Mike and Dot Heap would like to wish all their friends in Bentham a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Doreen Park would like to wish "all the special people in Bentham" a very Merry Christmas and thanks for kind words and help over a difficult year.

Renie Titterington wishes all friends and carers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

For Sale

* Peugeot 206 SW Dog Guard - Good condition £40 (cost £85 new). Ford KA Dog Guard - Good condition, hardly used £20. Padded Dog Coat, black, 20" from neck to base of tail - used once £15 (cost £24 new). Dog Car Harness - £5. 015242 61872.

* Electrolux "Insight" Gas Cooker, Silver. Little used. Bargain at £210 ono. Tel 62373.



Charities Thanks

* The Committee, helpers and friends of Bentham Age Concern would like to thank all who helped in any way towards making their recent coffee morning such a success. £370 was raised for funds.

* Bentham Playing Fields Association would like to thank two recent donors to the skate park and tennis courts project. We are very grateful to Val Sedgwick for her kind donation of £100 once again this year. Val has sold her own hand made cards to the visitors to Staggarth over the years to raise money for the skate park. We are very grateful for her continuing support. We should also like to thank Bentham Line Dancers who have just given us £100. Without the support of local people we would not be able to make our mandatory contribution to the project. Thank you to everyone who is making a contribution.

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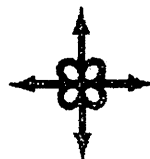
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BENTHAM FOOTPATH GROUP



By Maureen Ellis

There are three interesting walks this month, starting with Wednesday 2nd December and assembling at Lairgill at 9.30am for a 7 miler. The walking starts at the RSPB reserve at Leighton Moss SD 476 750 and goes through a delightful area with only 176 metres ascent. The path takes us to the outskirts of Silverdale and onto the beach. It then leaves the shore next to a cave and goes on to Elmslack and then through Eaves and back to the start.

On Saturday 12th it is 'Winskill in Winter', meeting at Lairgill at 9.30am - length 8 miles. It will be a wander through limestone country around and above Langcliffe and Upper Settle, passing through the Hoffman Kiln on the way to Winskill Stones nature reserve. From there we go to Attermire and Sugar Loaf Hill before returning to Langcliffe.

Just after Christmas, on Monday 28th meeting at 10.30am at Low Bentham car park, there is the 4 mile walk which takes us through the new Millers Ford estate into Mill Lane, and on the road to Kirkbeck, then across the fields to County Beck, then a turn left on the road to Willow Tree. It's then across fields to Low Bottom and along the river bank to Cloud Beck and onwards to Eskerbeck Lane and finally down the road to the Punch Bowl pub for a hot pot lunch.

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HIGH BENTHAM CP SCHOOL NEWS

By Mrs Catherine Boocock (Head teacher)

Christmas Events

Santa will once again be visiting Bentham on the evening of Thursday 3rd December at 5.45pm. Please wave him on and help him support the work of the school.

There will be a Christingle Service at St. Margaret's at 2.30pm on Friday 4th December, and KS2 Christmas Show Performances at St. Margaret's at 1.30pm and 6.30pm on Wednesday 16th December.

Sponsored Walk

The funds raised from this year's sponsored walk stand at £785.40. This is a fantastic result, so thank you to all who sponsored someone who walked. The money will further support the work we do for the children of Bentham.

Kashmir comes to Bentham

Children in all classes last month explored the tastes, songs and colours of Kashmir. Led by Yesmien Rahman, of the Amaali Multicultural Group, based in Skipton, the children found out about different foods, clothes and customs celebrated by many people around the world.

The children enjoyed tasting traditional Kashmiri sweets and savouries, cooked their own chapattis, explored Mehndi patterns and tried on traditional Asian clothes. Yesmien said: "I love to go into schools and run workshops like this looking at different cultures. It is all about trying to build links between cultures and communities - it's about community cohesion and citizenship. It gives an opportunity for children to understand today's multicultural society."



Playgroup

Our new Playgroup is open Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons to all children who are 3 years old between January 2010 and April 2010, and is £5.50 per session, and £4.50 per session if parents stay.

Governors

We have three new Governors, Mr. David Ward, the Reverend Clive Burgess and Mr. Paul Taylor who have all chosen to volunteer to be on the governing body to help ensure our children get the best education.

Santa's On The Road!

By PTFA Committee

Santa's on a tour of High Bentham again this year to help raise funds for High Bentham Primary School.



Come out and give him a cheer as he rides his sleigh around the town. Look out for him on the evening of Thursday 3rd December.

Santa's entourage is supported by Wennington Hall School who have decorated his sleigh and arranged transport for his little helpers if they get weary along the way!

The event is organised by the school's PTFA committee and all donations will be used to enhance school life for all pupils.

Santa will start his journey at 6pm from Naylor Myers and continue along:-

Main Street, Goodenber Road, Banks Way, Grasmere Close Car Park, Lakeber Avenue, Lakeber Drive, Lairgill, Springfield, Pye Busk, Main Street and Station Road, heading back to the North Pole from The Sports Club on Wenning Avenue at around 9pm!

Official greeters will knock on doors to wish householders a Merry Christmas and will be able to accept donations for school. All official greeters will have reflective jackets and labels, to ensure donations reach the right people. (If anyone objects to us knocking, then please inform school on 61412 with your details and we will not disturb you). Thank you for your support.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

"BEST" NEWS

By Richard Wilson

The Age of Stupid is a brilliant film. If you haven't seen it, seek it out – find a showing, rent the DVD. What makes it so compelling is that we're all in the cast, pushing CO₂ into the atmosphere and contributing to climate change. It ends with a cliff-hanger that outdoes "The Italian Job". What do we do next? Can we stop global warming? Will we try?

It seemed that most of those who came to the film showing in Bentham last month wanted answers to those questions, as nearly everyone stayed to talk about them. And though there are gloomy predictions for this month's Copenhagen Climate Summit, BEST members are optimists – or we wouldn't be in BEST!

So we're supporting the **10:10 Campaign**, by cutting our CO₂ emissions by 10% in 2010. It's not as hard as it sounds, and if everyone in Bentham - Yorkshire - Britain - did it too ... Find out more at www.1010uk.org

And come along to the Horse & Farrier on the 17th (details below) for our pre-Christmas social. No chairs or agenda, but we will be continuing the discussion about 10:10, and there will be information available to take away.

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 on 17th December for our Christmas social (arrive by 7 if you are coming for a meal). All meetings and events are open to everyone; come along and help make Bentham a greener town. If you'd like to know more about BEST, telephone 015242 63399 or you can check out <http://www.bentham.net/community/BEST.asp>

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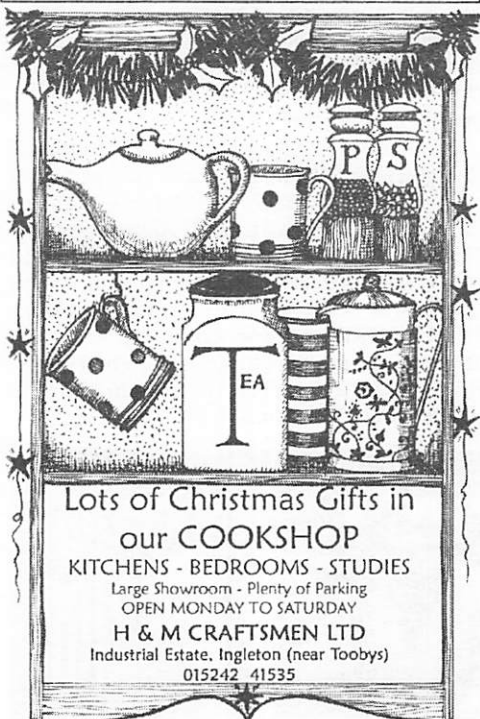
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LOCAL MAN'S SUCCESS IN MOTOR SPORT

By David Wright

David Wright from Low Bentham has become the 2009 BTRDA Gold Star National Rally Champion. This success comes after eight rounds in various locations around the country.

Driving in a Mitsubishi EVO 9 in his first year of entering this championship, it was a considerable achievement, with a lot of unknown events and locations.

David will be competing in his local event, with the Grizedale stages on Saturday 5th December. He would like to thank Giles Phillips Motorsport for the loan of his car and Grove Hill Garage for their support and Kumho tyres.

FARMERS' MARKET

BENTHAM TOWN HALL

SATURDAY

5TH DECEMBER

9.00AM - 1.30PM

BENTHAM YOUTH THEATRE GROUP CHRISTMAS BONANZA!

By Gemma Wright

Well we are coming to the end of a very busy year, but it's not quite over yet! On 12th December at 7pm and the 13th December at 4pm, in the Town Hall, come and be entertained by the BYTG 'Christmas bonanza'. Laugh at the antics of the 'Twelve Pains of Christmas', cry at the story of 'The Little Match Girl', be magically transported by 'Top Toys' and leave the show in fine Christmas spirit singing and dancing after the grand musical finale. Tickets are available on the door, at Benthams golf club pro shop or ring the box-office number 07511164398 to reserve your tickets.

After this the Youth Theatre will take a few months' break and will return in March for our spring production. Thank you to everyone over the past year who has donated, sponsored, volunteered and generally supported us. We wish the Theatre Group well for their production of 'Blithe Spirit' and the panto.

See you all next year and have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year from all of us at the BYTG.



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BLITHE SPIRIT CAST IN REHEARSAL

By Jane Learmonth

There are ghostly goings on in town this festive period with Bentham Theatre Group's preparations for Noel Coward's improbable farce 'Blithe Spirit'. This wickedly witty play runs at the Town Hall from 3rd until the 5th December and promises to charm and entertain you with a fair share of mirth, mayhem and of course magic!

The play opens with novelist Charles Condomine (John Townsend) sipping cocktails with his second wife Ruth (Sue Halsall), awaiting the arrival of Madame Arcati, in the hope that she will provide an amusing subject for his new book about a fake psychic. Superbly eccentric she may be, but Madame Arcati (Anne Preston) is rather better as a medium than Charles imagines as she unintentionally summons up the ghost of his first wife, Elvira (Jane Learmonth) who has been dead for seven years. This newly materialized spirit promptly moves in and makes his second wife's life a living hell. Temperamental, sarcastic and morally untidy at the best of times, the spirit world has done little to diminish Elvira's lust for life. Discovering that only Charles can see and hear her, she gleefully sets about causing maximum disruption to his new marriage.

What ensues is a wacky romp through this world and into the next, complete with surprising twists and disastrous results.



The top picture shows (from left to right) John Townsend, Sue Halsall, Anne Preston and Laura Christman.



Set in the 1930s, this home-spun production of 'Blithe Spirit,' which contains all of Noel Coward's immaculate style and wit, has been cleverly executed under the scrupulous eye of Director, John Neal. Other cast members include Laura Christman as their comic maid Edith, along with Barry Hymer and Susan Bloxham as Dr and Mrs Bradman.

Tickets are on sale at Temptations.

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FOOTPATH FAULTS

By David Gibson

For anyone wishing to report problems regarding footpaths in the area contact details are as follows: David Gibson, Tel. 015242 61942.

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

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WOMENS' INSTITUTES

Low Bentham

By Jennifer Watkinson

Mrs Christine Broadhurst, the Chief Executive of the North Craven branch of Age Concern, gave a most interesting talk on the history and the services of the charity, which was set up in the locality twenty years ago. Covering a large geographical area it works in conjunction with Bentham and other communities. It aims to promote the wellbeing of all older people and to make later life a fulfilling and enjoyable experience. She mentioned the luncheon club and day care groups which open their doors and offer a good meal and activities that hopefully cut down the feelings of isolation that some elderly people experience. She explained some of the other services offered like: transport, day trips, walking, bowling and swimming activities, computer, financial and practical help.

The main fund-raising comes from the shop at Settle which also has a popular first floor department selling or lending fancy dress costumes. All the profits generated stay in the area. Mrs Broadhurst was thanked by the president.

Competition winners were 1 - Pam Warbrick, 2 - Carolyn Woof, Barbara Mason and Sylvia Brennan.

Nineteen members celebrated Low Bentham's 40th birthday with an enjoyable and efficiently served meal at the Punch Bowl, Low Bentham, which Mrs Edna Hewitt arranged. Afterwards members looked at

and reminisced over the Women's Institute photograph albums that Mrs Hewitt thoughtfully had brought with her.

High Bentham

By Anne Yaman

The November meeting was held on Guy Fawkes night and we certainly had sparkles a plenty indoors with craft demonstrations by two of our members, Sue Camacho and Margaret Hayton. Sue showed us how to make angels and Margaret a candle decoration. It was a lovely hands on evening which was enjoyed by all. Both were thanked for all their hard work in preparing and giving a lovely demonstration by the President, Wendy Dowbiggin.

The business of the evening discussed various events including the Christmas Party which is to be held on Thursday 3rd December. The Committee would like to wish all members of High Bentham WI a Very Happy Christmas and New Year and give their thanks for everyone supporting events during 2009 and we all look forward to a Happy and Fun 2010.

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LANCASTER AND SKIPTON RAIL USER GROUP NEWS

By David Alder

Northern Rail Winter Special Offer

Once again there is a special flat rate fare available to Dales Railcard holders this winter - the promotion period running until Saturday 6 February 2010. The fare is £6.00 [£2.00 for up to four accompanied children], a break of journey is allowed on both outward and return journeys, and there are no time restrictions on the offer. This represents excellent value for trips to Leeds, Bradford, Appleby and Carlisle for example. A Dales Railcard costs £10 for a year and can be purchased at Settle, Carnforth, Skipton, Appleby or Carlisle stations or by post from Appleby station. Application forms are available from all these stations or from Bentham post office.

Timetable Changes – Sunday 13th December 2009

A new timetable will come into force on 13 December and run until 22 May 2010. It is intended to distribute copies with the next edition of Bentham News. The times of trains on the Leeds-Morecambe line, however, show very little if any change. This means, unfortunately, that the late afternoon [16.19] train from Morecambe will continue not to call at Lancaster on Mondays to Fridays - passengers from Lancaster around this time therefore still have to travel via Morecambe or change at Carnforth. LASRUG will continue to press for a resolution to this problem and also for an improvement in Sunday services outside the summer period.

LASRUG AGM

The guest speaker at the recent AGM, held in Bentham Town Hall and chaired by Hugh Turner, was, most appropriately, Richard Watts, the Rail Officer for Lancashire County Council. Twenty years ago, Mr Watts had been involved in the campaign to secure the future of the Leeds-Morecambe line and this led directly to the formation of LASRUG. He outlined the successful development of community rail and integrated public transport strategies in the Lancashire area

and suggested some pointers as to the future of local rail services. Readers wishing to learn more can consult the Lancashire Community Rail Partnerships website at www.communityrail Lancashire.co.uk which includes a section about the Leeds-Morecambe line.



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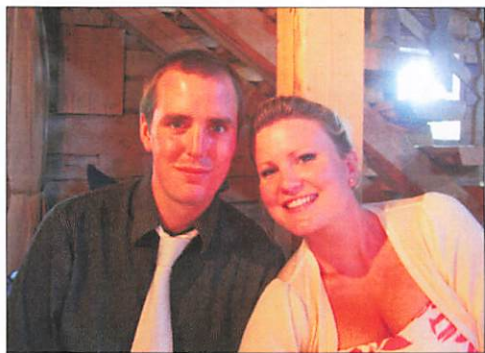
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62492 or call in at The Gallery.



BLUE SKY THINKING FOR SIMON AND HANNA

By Shirley Brown

Simon Guy was brought up in Bentham and his dad and sister still live here. However after graduating from St Martin's in Lancaster with a Drama Degree he has been living in London for 8 years working in an amazing and exciting variety of occupations (as one does to survive while 'resting' between acting roles). He's been a tour guide, taught at the young actors theatre in Islington, worked in front of house management at both the Old Vic and the Museum of London, run after-school drama clubs as well as working as an actor. Bentham people may remember that some years ago, with an Arts Council grant, Simon and his partner (now fiancée) Hanna, came back to Bentham to start up a Youth Theatre Group which having gone through various changes still functions today.

I had the opportunity of a brief chat with Simon as he passed through Bentham in October en route to his new home in Switzerland. Simon and Hanna's latest venture is to set up a business running two ski chalets in Verbier, where his mum and stepfather, Heather and Richard, already live. They are hoping that their chalets (and the discount offered to readers of BN!) will attract Bentham's skiers, many of who were introduced to the sport by Richard and Heather many years ago when they organised popular coach trips from Bentham

to various European ski resorts. Information about how to contact Simon and Hanna is in the advertisement on page 36.

A MUCH MALIGNED INDUSTRY

By The Safety Elf

We've all seen the stories in the news – safety glasses needed to play conkers, ladders are dangerous and cannot be used on building sites etc. Having worked in Health and Safety for a few years now, I have learned that many of these result from poorly trained, inexperienced risk assessors.

Being employed by a large manufacturer, if I stop production on H&S grounds (which I am authorised to do) the company loses income and we can all potentially lose our jobs. Understandably, I'd not be popular! The company has the good sense to provide in-depth training for this role, resulting in H&S professionals who aim to help everyone do their job more safely rather than prevent work being carried out. With planning, most problems can be foreseen and avoided with minimum cost and disruption to production. The result is the company turn-over is still high and the workforce go home at the end of nearly every day with no injuries.

The Health and Safety Executive are just as frustrated by the press reports. They regularly respond to newspaper articles explaining what should be done, but (surprisingly) the letters rarely get published!

So, please try and remember that there is a world of difference between Elf'n'Safety and properly practised Health and Safety!



LANTERN PARADE, BONFIRE AND FIREWORKS DISPLAY LIGHT UP BENTHAM

By Lynda Graveson

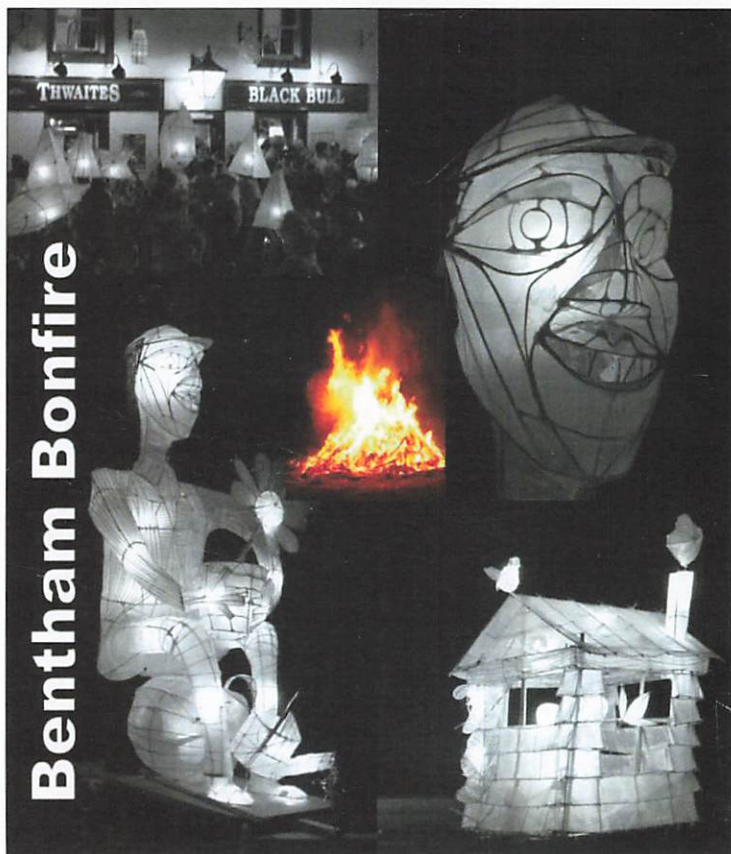
Bentham Community Bonfire and Lantern Procession were blessed with great autumnal weather and a fantastic atmosphere again this year; more than 2,000 people gathered to watch the procession and fireworks.

The theme this year was "the allotment" and the procession was led by a giant snail that was built onto a mobility scooter by Nikki Johnson, followed by the garden shed made by Geraldine Holmes and bringing up the rear the gardener made by Jimmi Ogden. The lantern workshops at Looking Well were again very popular with 100 lanterns being made by children and their families. Thank you to all those families who brought their lanterns depicting carrots, greenhouses, pumpkins, buckets and other inspirational themes, and joined us for the procession.

The procession was accompanied by Boom Dang from Dalton-in-Furness who are an internationally acclaimed side-ways drumming band. Performing with big drums, hi-hats, cymbals and bells, Boom Dang played an original mix of Drum & Bass, Bhangra, Hip-Hop, Latin, Merengue and Moroccan trance.

Accompanied by the band, fire swingers Jack and Tom Parkinson and Sami and Hannah Smith provided entertainment at the auction mart and this was followed by another great firework display, designed by David Clough and fired by Dave Turner of Black Powder Monkeys and his team. Thanks have to be given to all the marshals, ticket sellers, procession stewards, lantern workshop helpers and others who gave up their time or loaned us their equipment to help make this superb community event happen.

This montage was photographed and created by Keith Hartley.



Bentham Bonfire