

BENTHAM NEWS

ALI LOOKS AT THE LOOKING WELL

By Trevor Blackwell

Looking Well is an important resource for Bentham, and touches the lives of many people. But now it's moving and changing, so I asked Ali Jones, its Creative Director, to tell me how it all started, and what will happen in the new building.

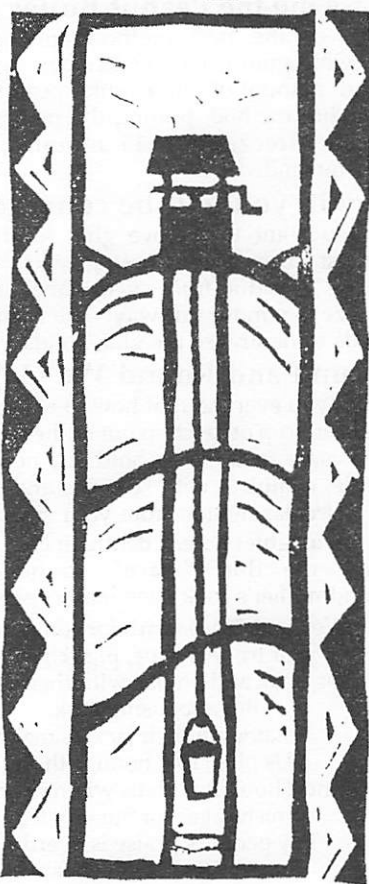
Ali explained that the germ of Looking Well came from the time she spent living in Ulverston, where she got involved in making lanterns for a street procession. "It's now a massive event, but this was the very first one. We invented this technique of making lanterns using willow and tissue, and when people were doing the workshops they said, 'I feel really good doing this.' And so I made the connection between people's health, and how they felt, and the arts. This was an arts activity completely, but what people talked about was the health benefits."

So when Ali moved to Bentham in 1990 she was soon invited to help to assess local health and social needs. She worked through the local primary schools, helping children to tape interviews with people older than themselves about how Bentham had changed. Out of this came a whole rush of creative work - papier mache models of Bentham buildings containing questionnaires for people to fill in, gala banners spelling out what people had said, and buildings decorated with the birds that had been "driven away" from Wray by its Scarecrow Festival. People discussed and reflected on the picture of Bentham that was emerging - a picture which included loneliness, and nowhere to play for the kids, and quite a lot of depression. Out of all this came Bentham's first lantern procession and, in 1997, Looking Well. Since then there has been a range of activities - sometimes over twenty groups a week. These include the Cancer Support Group which offers massage, reflexology and various complimentary therapies to cancer patients and their families.

Although Looking Well's work has been nationally recognised with substantial grants, core funding has always been a problem, especially as the work involves both the arts and health. Ali sees the new building as a means of setting up creative businesses and social enterprises which will support the community work.

"Now that we're in the new building I really want people to come and have a look (continued on back page)

LOOKING



WELL

COOK'S COLUMN

By Doreen Park

I think that all cooks need a rest this month so instead of recipes here are a few helpful tips from a book I was given last year called "Kitchen Wisdom" with over 10,001 solutions to common problems.

Shake it Baby, Shake it

To remove unsightly residue building up in a flower vase or wine bottle, use a solution of 2 tablespoons of salt, some raw rice and 1 cup of white vinegar, and shake vigorously.

Pass me the Peanut Butter Please

One of the best methods of removing chewing gum from a child's hair is to use a small amount of non-chunky peanut butter. Another method, putting the person's head in the freezer for 45 minutes, is not recommended!

Try it, you will be convinced

If you want to remove glue residue from almost any surface, try using vegetable oil on a rag. Residue from sticky labels is also a breeze to remove this way. The vegetable oil tends to neutralise the glue bonds.

Round and Round We Go

Have you ever thought how to efficiently get the last drop of ketchup out of the bottle? All you have to do is to hold the neck of the bottle, complete with stopper, and swing it in a circular motion from your side.

On a lighter note, a Benthams News reader gave me this "Grace", found in her grandmother's cook book many years ago.

We thank Thee Lord, for common food,

For trotters tripe, pigs cheek.

For steak and onions with their crude

But appetising reek.

Potatoes in their jackets make

Us plain folk honour thee.

And Thou art with us when we bake

Fresh cakes for Sunday tea.

Thy people's praise is overdue,

But see Dear Lord, we kneel

To offer thanks for Irish Stew

And tasty cheap cow heel.

Now wait a minute, Lord don't miss

The last word on our lips.

We thank Thee most of all for this,

The gift of fish and chips!

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DECEMBER'S TOWN COUNCIL

By David Johnson

All the Cllrs. attended except Cllrs. Barnes, Heigh, Hurtley and County Cllr. Ireton. In the absence of Cllr. Hurtley, Cllr. Hey deputised.

Police

The police were absent but the Council received a letter from them emphasising the fact that their seasonal drink-driving campaign will be operational over the festive season.

Highways

The Council received notice of the closure of the Low Bentham to Burton in Lonsdale road covering any four-week period up to 28th April. The Cllrs. decided to ask the police to monitor speeding on Station Road. Some kerbstones are loose near the Town Hall and arrangements have been made for these to be attended to.

Precept Meeting

The Precept Meeting will be held on 16th January at 7.30 pm. in the Lower Town Hall. All applications for assistance should be submitted by that date to the Town Clerk.

The Town Hall

There appear to be numerous minor problems to be rectified after the work on the Town Hall and one or two major issues to be resolved. Matters are in hand to deal with them.

Cleaning contractors are now being employed to help the caretakers keep the building cleaned to a high standard. If the hall is left in a mess contractors may be hired to prepare the hall for the next function and a surcharge requested from those who have hired the hall. On the occasion of 16th September contractors were required and a surcharge requested. The hirers have written and complained about the extra cost but it was decided to press for this payment.

The Cllrs. were very concerned to learn that a resident plans to oppose their application for a licence on the grounds of noise and nuisance. They were worried that any incident at a New Year's Eve event could

result in Craven District Council restricting the licence. The Cllrs. were of the opinion that people buying property near three public houses and the Town Hall could expect some disturbance occasionally and once the public were on the streets it would be difficult to assign blame to one particular establishment. However they were very concerned and did not want to inflame relationships so two of the Cllrs. agreed to approach the complainant to try to resolve the issue amicably. They agreed to liaise with the New Year's Eve hirers to see if it would be possible to carry on with the event.

The New Primary School

The Cllrs. saw a copy of the North Yorkshire consultation document on the project. Cllr. Wills pointed out that no decision would be made until the consultation process had been completed.

Other Matters

The Pay Phone at the Green Smithy is to remain but its use will be monitored.

Cllr. De La Haye continued to push for Bentham Development Trust to be allowed to use the Town Hall. It was agreed to discuss the matter further when the minutes of an earlier Town Hall meeting are considered for approval.

The Cllrs. decided to donate £150 to Bentham Traders to help pay for the Christmas Lights and to buy two Christmas trees for the Town Hall.

*The Bentham News Committee
wishes all its readers a very
Happy and Healthy New Year.*

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WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

High Bentham

By Doreen Park

On 1st December our W.I. started the festive season with the Christmas Party, Wendy Dowbiggin presiding. The tables and room were beautifully decorated by the committee members and wine and canapes were served to members as they arrived. This was followed by a wonderful hot meal prepared by a member, Mrs. Pat Henderson, and the puddings, prepared by committee members, were a dream!

Wendy introduced Mel and Jennie who entertained us with some beautiful old songs and music, and members took part in Country Dancing. Coffee and mince pies were then served, to the singing of carols. Wendy thanked the committee for all their hard work and presented a voucher to Isabel Carr, for most points in the monthly competitions. The evening closed with three cheers for the committee.

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Low Bentham

By Jennifer Watkinson

Members had a very pleasant relaxing evening when they received tuition and help from Mrs. Anita Huddleston and her friend, to make three Christmas Cards. At the end of the session the decoupage cards were judged and displayed, the winners being Mrs. Barbara Mason, Mrs. Jennifer Watkinson and Mrs. Rowena Brayshaw. The meeting was chaired by Mrs. June Harrison and the vote of thanks was given by Mrs. Sylvia Brennand.

The Ingleborough Group W.I. Christmas Festival was held at Austwick Parish Church. The Rev. Ian Greenhalgh welcomed everybody and gave the blessing and benediction. All eight institutes participated, the theme being "Unity". Mrs. Joan Gilroy gave a reading entitled "People need People". Afterwards, tea, mince pies and cakes were served in the village hall by members of Austwick W.I.

Seven members had a most enjoyable time when they joined the Bibby's trip to the Bath Christmas Market. En route they visited Webb's Garden Centre near Worcester. The journey home was through the Cotswolds to Stratford on Avon for three hours, to do more Christmas shopping!

The next meeting will be the Annual General Meeting and supper, which is on 19th January. Why not come and join us?

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FAMILY HISTORY AT BENTHAM LIBRARY

By John Frankland

Calling all the Family Historians! This January Bentham Library and Information Centre will be promoting the services it can offer to those who are beginning to research their family trees. There will be a two hour session on using the internet to research your family history on Thursday 19th January from 10.00am-12.00noon, run by Helen Parsons, Community and Information Officer from Skipton Library and Information Centre. The session is aimed at family historians who would like help in using computers for their research and some prior knowledge of computers would be useful but not essential. There will be a fee of £3.50 for this session (£2 concessions) and spaces are limited. To book tickets either call into the library or telephone 015242 61388. As well as books and leaflets on genealogy, thanks to the Bentham Millennium Group, the library has copies of Bentham's census records from 1841 to 1891 available for anyone to examine whenever the library is open. So if you have made a New Year resolution to look more into your family's past, why not start here?

Other Library News

Storytime has come to Bentham library. This free of charge half hour session aimed at under 5s takes place on the first Thursday of every month at 2.45pm, term time only. It is run by Sally Crosthwaite, the Community and Information Officer with responsibility for services to children and schools in this area. Everyone is welcome and you don't have to pre-book, just drop in. If you want to know more about Storytime ring the library number above or Sally at 01756 793751.

North Yorkshire Libraries have signed up to a business information service in Birmingham called Business Insight. If you have a business enquiry of any description, from the address of a particular firm to the exchange rate in Timbuktu, then ask a member of staff and they will ring up this free service on your behalf and relay the

answer back to you. Another new service is the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography. Using the internet you, or a member of library staff, can look up 50,000 biographies of people who shaped the history of the British Isles and beyond, from the earliest times to the year 2001. These two new services are free for anyone to use.

You can make enquiries regarding these new services or any other subject at Bentham Library in person, by telephone or by email at Bentham.library@northyorks.gov.uk

Library opening hours

Monday 2.00-4.00pm and 5.00-6.30pm.
Wednesday 10.00am-12.30pm and 2.00-4.00pm.
Friday 2.00-4.00pm and 5.00-6.30pm.
Saturday 10.00am-12.30pm.

POEM FROM A THANKFUL READER

Bentham News is a bridge
Bringing people together
Safely delivered
In all kinds if weather.
Topics of interest
And articles too
Letters and adverts
All the year through.
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GARDENING COLUMN



By Joyce Knapp

There is a limited number of tasks that we can undertake in the garden in January. One job we can do is to spray fruit trees in order to kill off the eggs of greenfly, blackfly, apple suckers and scale insects as they over winter in crevices on trees. The spray considered most effective for this purpose is known as 'Tar oil winter wash' and is available in a concentrated form that needs diluting before being sprayed evenly over the trees. This spray can be used on both top fruit ie apple, pear, damson and cherry and on soft fruit such as blackcurrant, gooseberry, raspberry as well as vines grown under glass. It is necessary to select a calm day to carry out any spraying, in order to avoid any damage to surrounding plants and it is best carried out when the conditions are damp, but not when it is raining. One final note, I have found from experience that it is adequate to spray the trees only in alternate years.

It is possible to plant up new fruit trees in January, if there is a relatively mild spell of weather. Trees such as apple, pear, damson and plum are, perhaps, best bought as 'bare root' plants from a specialist grower, although it is also possible to purchase them from garden centres where they will be sold in pots. The ground will need to be prepared, before planting, by removing any turf or weeds and digging a hole roughly twice the size of the root ball. If using a stake for support, it should be driven in on the windward side of the tree before it is planted. When setting the tree in its hole we need to spread out the roots before ensuring that it is planted at the same depth as it was in its pot, or nursery bed. Next we need to back fill the hole using a mixture of the soil we removed earlier and some organic matter such as home made garden compost. When the hole has been filled, the soil can then be heeled in and the plant secured to its stake using a tree tie and spacer. In dry conditions, the tree may need a little water after planting, and the area of ground around its base should be kept free of weeds for the first year, just to help it get established.

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Entertainment for January
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Saturday 21st Jodie Ross
Wednesday 24th Frank McGregor
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POLICE REPORT

By PC Adrian Hayes

In last month's article I highlighted the problem of properties being the subject of burglary to obtain the keys to high value motor cars parked on driveways. Unfortunately a resident of Robin Lane was the subject of such an incident during the early hours of 8th December 2005. Please do not leave vehicle keys lying about in the kitchen where they can be seen or in obvious places such as cupboards near to the door. Take the keys with you to bed. If you do see or hear anything suspicious report it to the police immediately. Many children will have received new bikes for Christmas. Don't leave them lying around in the back yard where they are easy to steal. Lock them away. If you have to leave them outside make sure they are chained up to some solid object. This also applies to garden machinery.

In an attempt to reduce the incidence of house burglary during the night, officers on patrol will be checking to see if houses have been left insecure. If any are found a crime prevention pack will be posted to the occupant. If you have any concerns about your home security please contact me and I will arrange to see you and offer what advice I can. You can contact me on 0845 60 60 247 or e-mail me at the following address, Adrian.Hayes@northyorkshire.pnn.police.uk

This address can be used to contact me for any non-urgent enquiries.

MARKET NEWS

By Jo Burton (Town Clerk)

The Indoor Market is doing really well, and there are now more stalls for you to browse through in the comfort of the heated Lower Town Hall on Wednesdays. You can find materials to make your own cards, aromatherapy oils, fresh baking and much more. Anyone wanting to have a stall should contact Clare on Bentham 62164. This month the Indoor Market will take place on 11th and 25th January. There will be no Farmers' Market in January, but it will return on Saturday 4th February.

The police are concerned to enforce the parking regulations in Cleveland Market Square on Wednesdays. There should be NO PARKING in the square on market days, and even though there are notices indicating this and traffic cones barring the way, some motorists are moving the cones and parking anyway. This is a Health and Safety issue, and the police will be looking at various ways to enforce the rules, including clamping vehicles. You have been warned!

MOVING WELL

Swimming,

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Young Mums

Thursday Girls group

For details see diary

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INDOOR MARKET

TOWN HALL 11th & 25th January

SPECIAL STEAM TRAIN FROM BENTHAM!

By Nick Harvey

Green Express Railtours are promoting two special trains this year from Bentham station, following on from a popular tour last year to Edinburgh. Green Express Railtours promote public transport and a great way to do this is by serving smaller local stations, and providing a direct train from the easy access of residents local stations. We have found that many of our passengers have not used a train in the last year, some not in the last forty years!

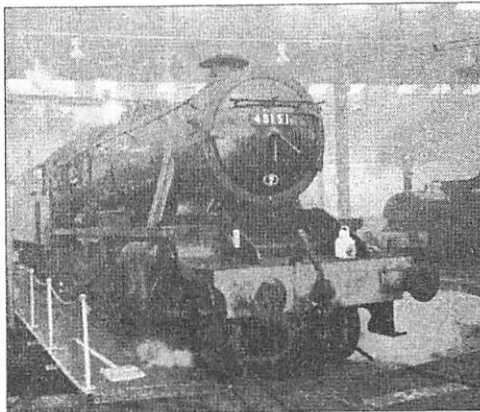
Last year's special excursion train from Bentham to Edinburgh was the first from the village station in over twenty years and was a great community day out. Publicity material was given out to promote better use of the Lancaster-Skipton line along with its rail user group, which reported an upturn in membership and interest. We will be doing this again on the tours this year.

Our first tour from Bentham will be the first steam train to call at Bentham station since the late 1960s. The tour will take place on Saturday 11th March. It is aimed at the steam enthusiast; a round trip of 250 miles to Buxton, steam throughout! It will not be a fast journey. But it promises to be both nostalgic and atmospheric with the train steam hauled throughout, and what a sight this steam hauled train will be, picking up passengers at Bentham around 7.20am on the Saturday morning!

The locomotive will have to stop twice en-route to replenish water tanks to provide steam to power the train and heat the coaches. The train will be powered by the West Coast Railways Stanier 8F heavy freight locomotive 48151. The engine was built for the London, Midland and Scottish Railways in 1942, and along with 852 members of its class, was adopted as standard for the Ministry of Supply (War Department) during World War II. The engine was one of the last 350 steam locomotives on British Railways, being withdrawn in January 1968. It was rescued from the famous Barry Scrapyard in

South Wales in 1975 and 12 years later, in 1987, with restoration complete, the locomotive was again certified to haul trains on the main line. In December 2000 the locomotive made national news, hauling a loaded ballast train on behalf of Railtrack, to mark the completion of major track work on the Settle-Carlisle line. This was the first revenue earning main line steam hauled freight operation since steam ended on British Railways in 1968.

The special train will travel via Hellifield and over the Forest of Bowland line to Blackburn. Following a water stop the locomotive will reach its 50mph maximum speed on the West Coast Main Line and travel via Manchester to the Derbyshire spa town of Buxton. The train will comprise of 9 heritage coaches from the 1950s and 1960s, seating passengers around a table of 4. Tickets for the tour are priced at £41 standard and £63 first class. Details are available from Green Express Railtours 66, Stonegate, Hunmanby, Filey, YO14 0PP, 01723 891400.



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**BIG
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BENTHAM DEVELOPMENT TRUST NEWS

By Lin Barrington

You may have noticed that Bentham Development Trust has been quite 'low profile' for a while. Since moving to our new office on Station Road, we have concentrated on two priorities; one is providing information and the other is community transport. While working on these we have been thinking about the future and making funding applications so that we will be able to continue our work. We have also been looking at ways to work with other local organisations; after all, as we all know many of our clubs and societies find it difficult to get enough committee members to keep going, and there's an obvious benefit in working together.

Now some of this activity has borne fruit, and we have been awarded a grant from the Big Lottery Fund to work with Bentham Community Centre (opposite SPAR), Low Bentham Victoria Institute and the Scarman Trust. We will be working together to manage the community buildings and do our best to make sure that local people are aware of all the activities, facilities and information on offer in our area. We will be working with the Scarman Trust with a view to setting up a small grants pot similar to the 'Small Project Fund' which was a successful part of the Market Town Initiative; we will need to raise funds to put in the pot, and we hope to start giving grants later this year.

The grant from the Lottery will help to keep us going for three years, and we hope it will help to increase the choice of activities in the Low Bentham Victoria Institute and Bentham Community Centre. We would be very interested to hear of any thoughts or suggestions from Bentham News readers.

The Trust is working with the Community Centre, the Victoria Institute and the Scarman Trust because all the organisations were interested in the concept of working together. We would like to include other groups, so please get in touch, we would be very glad to hear from you.

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"LET'S LIGHT UP BENTHAM" COMPETITION RESULTS

By Dave Lewis

Once again Bentham Traders have organized the 'Let's Light up Bentham' awards. Christmas decorations are judged in High and Low Bentham using the following categories: 1. Outside of Houses 2. Public House interiors, and 3. Shop and Office windows. Certificates and Rosettes were presented for the first three in each category. The judges also awarded a number of commended certificates. This year Margaret and Jane Marshall, graciously undertook the very difficult task of judging during the evening of Monday 19th December. Certificates were awarded as follows:-

Houses	First	The Cockerton Family, Grasmere Drive
	Second	Clifford and Linda Bentham, Robin Lane
	Third	The Brayshaw Family, Lakeber Avenue
	Commended	Alan and Louise Bruns, Robin Lane
	Commended	The Doddings Family, Victoria Buildings
	Commended	Henry and Margaret Hayton, Low Bentham Road
Public Houses (and Clubs)		
	First	The Horse and Farrier
	Second	The Byres
	Third	The Coach House
Shop and Office Windows		
	First	Andrew's Print Shop
	Second	Pennine Outdoors
	Third	Langdale's
	Highly Commended	R. Turner and Sons
	Commended	Bairstow Eves
	Commended	Tooby's

After the initial judging the judges were asked to choose an overall winner. For effort and interpretation of the theme 'Christmas Carol' an overall prize was awarded to Pennine Outdoors.

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"LET'S GET FIZZIKAL!"

By Shirley Brown

Feeling a bit sluggish after Christmas? Full of New Year resolutions? Energy levels low? Feeling SAD, got mid-winter blues? This can all be changed.

You can meet new people, feel happier, healthier and have more energy. Thanks to Looking Well's grant from Sport England, an exciting initiative is beginning in Bentham in the New Year. Sarah Taylor will be starting two new classes each week aimed at getting people into exercising.

On Tuesday afternoon 10th January, 2.30-3pm, there will be an aerobics class in the Town Hall Ballroom, when children over two years old can be looked after in the playgroup. The cost will be £2 for adults in the class and £1 for children in the playgroup. The timing is specifically aimed at enabling parents to go on from the class to collect older children from school. This class is for people of any age, any shape and any level of fitness. Wear loose, breathable clothing, trainers and bring a bottle of water.

The second class will be different every week and will include aerobics, combat - an introduction to self-defence - stretch and circuits. It begins on 12th January and will take place on Thursday evenings from 5-6.30pm, again in the Town Hall Ballroom. This is aimed at girls between the ages of 12 and 18, and costs £1.50.

Sarah is a fully qualified professional instructor, who already runs classes at 'Total Fitness' in Lancaster. She originally went to

Heather Knowles' classes and regards Heather as her "mentor". Born and brought up in Bentham and part of a large local family, she has returned to live in the town after her graduation from Staffordshire University. If



you would like to ask her anything about these classes, she can be contacted on 07967-273531.

Sarah's enthusiasm and energy will make these classes great fun. Just turn up - no need to book. There may even be another "Pink Aerobics" on a Sunday later in January, so look out for posters!

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LOCAL EVENTS IN JANUARY

Fri 6th Bentham News published

Sat 7th Bentham Community Transport coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10.00-11.45am.

Mon 9th Town Council meeting in the Lower Town Hall, 7.30pm.

Tue 10th Methodist Bright Hour, 2.15pm in the Methodist Schoolroom, speaker Mrs. Liz Whitfield.

Tai Chi at the Community Centre, 2.00-3.00pm and every Tuesday.

Fizzikal Young Mums, 30 minutes of fun to music, 2.30-3.00pm at the Town Hall, and every Tuesday.

Rug making course at the Community Centre, 6.30-8.30pm. 10 weeks, course fee £40.

Playgroup and Toddlers, 1.00-3.00pm at the Wenningdale Room, Town Hall, and every Tuesday and Wednesday in term time.

Wed 11th Keep Moving Well exercise to music, 1.00-2.00pm Parkinson - very gentle group, 2.00-3.00pm lively over 60s, and every Wednesday at the Community Centre.

LISTING FOR LOCAL EVENTS

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

Event.....

Venue.....

Contact Tel. Number.....

Name.....

Please complete and return this entry to the Sports Shop, Main Street, High Bentham, by 15th of month.

Thu 12th Fizzikal girls group, come along and try all sorts of activities. Town Hall, 5.00-6.30pm and every Thursday.

Moving Well swimming trip to Hornby, for over 50s. Meet at School Hill 9.30am, return 11.30am, and every Thursday. Phone Annie, 62672 for transport.

Clapham Dance Club. Learn to dance. Village Hall 7.30-10.00pm. Old Tyme-Easy Sequence. £1.50 includes tea and biscuit. And every Thursday.

Fri 13th Age Concern at the Masonic Hall. Let's make a Bookmark.

GFI at the Methodist Schoolroom 6.45-8.00pm (10-12yrs), 8.00-9.15pm (12+yrs), and every Friday.

Sat 14th Bentham News coffee morning Lower Town Hall, 10.00am-11.45am.

Sun 15th Bentham Footpath Group walk, Capernwray to Loyne Bridge, 10 miles, leader B. Ellershaw 62078. Please meet at Lairgill 9.30am.

Copy deadline for February edition of Bentham News.

Mon 16th Town Council Precept Meeting, Town Hall, 7.30pm.

Tue 17th Bentham Child Health Clinic at the Surgery, 2.00-4.00pm.

High Bentham Toy Library, at the Community Centre, 9.30-11.30am.

Thu 19th Low Bentham Women's Institute at the Victoria Institute, Low Bentham, 7.30pm. Annual General Meeting and supper. See page 4.

Tai Chi at the Community Centre, 2.00-3.00pm and every Thursday.

Fri 20th Age Concern at the Masonic Hall, Nigel Wilson "A retired Shikshak in Nepal".

Waste paper collection at Lairgill Car Park, 8.30-11.00am. Proceeds to the NSPCC.

Sat 21st Bentham Footpath Group walk, Kingsdale, 6 miles, leader S. Darnes 63342. Please meet at Lairgill at 9.30am.

Sun 22nd Methodist Church 6.30pm. Week of prayer for Christian Unity - Ecumenical service.

Tue 24th Methodist Bright Hour, 2.15pm at the Methodist Schoolroom. Speaker Mrs. Mabel Parr.

Wed 25th 26th, 27th and 28th, Panto at Settle Victoria Centre, "The Tinder Box". Details from 01729 825718.

Fri 27th Age Concern at the Masonic Hall, Denise Hall - "Energy Efficiency" presentation.

Sat 28th Wesley Guild, John Fox and Friends, 7.30pm, Methodist Schoolroom.

Musical treat, 6.30pm, at Church of the Good Shepherd, Tatham Fells, Lowgill 6.30pm, see page 22.

Tourist Information Office coffee morning at the Lower Town Hall,  10.00-11.45am.

Mon 30th Ewecross Historical Society meeting at the Lower Town Hall 7.30pm. Mr. David S. Johnson, Broadwood and other diggings.

Looking Well Annual General Meeting 6.30pm.

Tue 31st Bentham Child Health Clinic at the Surgery, 2.00-4.00pm.

High Bentham Toy Library, at the Community Centre, 9.30-11.30am.

Fri 3rd Feb Bentham News published.

Wenningdale Home Repairs

Here are some of the many home repair, maintenance and improvement jobs we have completed:

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

Advertising must be prepaid, when booking, and must be booked by copy deadline - 15th of month prior to publication.

To place an advertisement in the BN contact 62492 or call in at Bentham Sports.

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BENTHAM PEOPLE

Thanks

Reg & Sheila Ward would like to thank everyone for their cards and good wishes on Reg's recent illness.



In Memoriam

Loving memories of **Bernard Dawber**, 6 years on. The hardest part of being alone is being without you, my love, Sue. Also fondest thoughts of **Peggy Collins**, a beautiful sister-in-law. My love to all the family.

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▶ Canon UC9 video camcorder, with batteries, case etc. vgc. Canon EOS300 SLR with f2.8, 28-200 lens, as new & bag. Canon T50 SLR with 35-70 lens. The lot only - £225 or will split. 62492.

▶ Antique pine wardrobes, matching pair, each 42" wide, 20" deep, 75" high, £450 the pair. 5 steel storage cupboards approx. 36" wide by 16" deep by 72" high, £25 each. 1 office table £10, filing cabinet 26" high £25. All available 14th January onwards. Tel: 015242 62223.

Advertisements Rates for this page

Personal Thanks, Thanks, Congratulations, Birthdays etc - 10p per word.

For Sale, Services, etc 20p per word.

Boxed ads - £12.50 for eighth of page.

CHARITIES THANK YOU

GFI thanks everyone who supported the Car Wash to raise funds for an Outdoor Activity Weekend - also those who made donations especially the SBC of Bentham for their generous contribution to funds.

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BENTHAM & DISTRICT PET RESCUE



By Val Marshall

We had a successful Book Rummage in Low Bentham in December which raised £221 for our funds. This impressive total came from selling bric-a-brac and clearing surplus books and we now have space available for building up top quality books ready for our next major sale at Easter. Many thanks to all those who donate books, and to those who went away clutching plenty to read in the winter evenings! We were especially glad to meet several newcomers to the area, two of whom have volunteered to help us in our fundraising activities.

Don't forget to have your female cats neutered before the new year's breeding season begins, which will avoid the arrival of unwanted kittens. If catching the cats is a problem, we do have traps (which do not in any way harm the animals) which are available for you to borrow. We still have two delightful kittens which came to us at 6 weeks old and which are now 6 months of age and, having had an enjoyable Christmas with us, they fondly hope that they will have new caring owners soon.

Finally, a happy story. One morning we were told by a worried owner that a cat had disappeared and then, just three hours later, another call came from the finder of a cat - yes, it was the same one and the family was promptly reunited. The moral is that if an animal strays do let us (Bentham 62512) and the local vets know so we can all listen out for any reports. A Happy New Year to you all.



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BN COMMENT

It has been some time since the BN had a report from Bentham Development Trust, except for the Community Transport section. So it is excellent news to hear that the Trust, in partnership with other local organisations, has been successful in a bid for further lottery funding. (See report on page 11). Those responsible for drawing up and submitting the bid are to be congratulated. We hope that their efforts will receive the support of the whole community.

During the last ten years the regeneration projects and other Trust activities have brought a lot of investment to the Bentham area, with many organisations and individuals benefitting. The current community transport schemes are a fine example of the way the Trust is helping and serving the community. One of the other responsibilities it takes on is the organisation and running of the Tourist Information office. Much of this work is done by volunteers.

It is to be hoped that the Town Council will work in partnership with the Trust for the good of the people in Bentham. There was some talk of the Trust moving into the Town Hall - and wouldn't that make a vibrant focal centre for the town, providing information, a booking service, and acting as a hub for local community work. Can the Town Council find a way to set a rent that would be feasible for the Trust? If it could, we would all win. This would be in the best interests of the whole community.

b

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NEW SCHOOL PROPOSAL - PUBLIC MEETING

By Peter Philips

Upwards of 70 people attended the Public Meeting in the Town Hall on Tuesday, 13th December to discuss proposals for a new Primary School for Bentham.

Amongst those present were head-teachers, governors and parents of High and Low Bentham School; town and county councillors and residents with an interest. The meeting was chaired by John Watson, OBE, an executive member of the North Yorkshire County Council Education and Policy Development Unit.

The meeting opened with an explanation of why a new school was desirable. High Bentham school was in a bad position – on a hill, with no parking and no space to develop. The original proposal was to build a new High Bentham Primary School. The governors of Low Bentham school then approached the council with a proposal to amalgamate the two schools as, with a roll of only 16 pupils, its continued viability was in question. There were, therefore, three options. First, to do nothing. Second, to build a new school for High Bentham and third, to amalgamate both schools into a new school midway between the two Benthams. A new school would cost around two million pounds, funded by the sale of the other two school sites with the deficit being made up by the Council. This would not include the cost of the land.

Comments were then invited. These

included the dangers of parking and accessibility at the proposed site; making sure the building was constructed of environmentally friendly materials and ensuring it was open to all ages for education.

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and making their views known and identified four main themes. These were a) worries over amalgamation, b) environmental matters, c) traffic and parking problems and d) the choice of Greenfield over possible Brownfield sites. He added that this meeting was solely to assess public opinion and that an interim report would go to the council by the end of January, 2006. Once plans were drawn up and notices displayed there would be a six week period for anyone to lodge objections. If there were any, these would be considered by the independent Schools Organisations Committee. It was hoped that the discussion period would be completed by the end of 2006, and if approved, it was hoped to have the new school built and open for September 2008.

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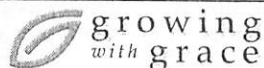
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LOCAL PLAYGROUP IS 35 YEARS OLD

By Libby Morrison

Clapham Village Hall was packed to capacity on Wednesday 16th November as members of the community gathered to celebrate the 35th anniversary of Clapham Community Playgroup. Parents of current playgroup children organised the event, including wine and nibbles, a variety of stalls to browse, a playgroup display with photographs to view and reminisce and a fabulous raffle.

Mrs. Farrer, one of the original founders, kindly gave a short presentation on how the playgroup started in 1970, describing the efforts to get some funding together and the weekends spent making wooden toys for the children to play with. From the early days of meeting in one member's living room, playgroup has moved around the village including meeting in the Potting Shed and then in upstairs rooms of Dr. and Mrs. Farrer's home, to Ingleborough Hall, then the Village Hall and now currently the School Hall.

To still be going strong after 35 years is a marvellous achievement for a small community and it could not have happened without the support of the many Playleaders, Committee members and parent volunteers, who have taken their turns to plan fun activities, do duties and fund raise in order to keep the group thriving for the next generation coming along.

Government funding helps

Today, playgroup continues to provide a happy, friendly environment for both local pre-school children and also for those from further afield, attracted by the quality of what we have to offer. The availability of government funding for the 3 and 4 year olds has led to the development of the Early Years Group, running at the school, while the younger children, accompanied by their parents, are still catered for in the Village Hall. Both groups operate under the umbrella of Clapham Community Playgroup.

The committee would like to thank everyone who contributed to the event and joined us on the evening - £420 was raised for

our funds. We sincerely hope that the Playgroup will still be flourishing in another 35 years!

From January 2006 Parent and Toddlers meet in the Village hall on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9.15-11.15am. Early Years Group (2½-4 years) meet in the School Hall on Mondays and Thursdays from 1.00-3.25pm and on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9.00-11.25am.

There are a few places available for the Early Years Group and new children are welcome to join us. Please contact Libby Morrison (51011), Sarah Symonds (51304) or Vicki Lewis (51766) for more information.

New Assistant Needed

In the new year Clapham Community Playgroup will be looking to appoint a new assistant to work alongside the Early Years Group Leader, to help with the running of this group in the school hall. Watch out for the job advertisement. Informal enquiries can also be made to any of the above committee members.

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MUSICAL TREAT!

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in 23 countries. Though rooted in Irish
tradition, their repertoire ranges from a blend
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BENTHAM AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY NEWS

By Val Lawson

Thank you to everyone who supported our annual coffee morning in the Town Hall in November, at which £280 was raised. The first of sixteen raffle prizes was won by Mary West. L. Jowett won the fruit cake competition and the lucky square competition winner was C. Woof.

The Annual General Meeting was held in November and officers were elected as follows:- Chairman - John Whitfield, Vice-chairman - John Dawson, Secretary - Val Lawson, Treasurer - Jillian Ashton, President for 2006 - Mrs. I. Carr. Thanks to everyone who supported John Whitfield for his Chairman's Challenge. This raised £750, which has been divided equally between the Show and the MacMillan Ward at Lancaster.

The management committee would like to thank all those people who support the society through generous donations,

sponsorships, collection of subscriptions, subscribers, exhibitors, gate keepers, judges and stewards, and all who give generously of their time. We look forward to seeing you all at the 135th show on Saturday 2nd September 2006.

The 7th annual quiz will be held at the Town Hall on the 10th February at 7.30pm. Entry fee for a team of four is £20, which includes a hot pot supper. Enquiries to 61606. Entries close on 8th February.

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SEDBERGH JUNIOR SCHOOL

By Paul Reynolds

It is always good to take stock of the past year on January 1st and look forward optimistically and positively to a New Year with fresh challenges and resolutions for us all. 2005 ended in top gear with a final week of term that simply went from one event to another in rapid succession.

Peter Murray, author of the 'Mokee Joe' trilogy, gave an enthralling and entertaining presentation to our children, captivating us all with excerpts from his books and making words on a page come alive. He was formerly an English teacher and had a wonderful rapport with the children. The Chamber Choir gave four concerts around the county in a week and still had the energy to sing magnificently at our Carol Service on the final day of term - and how beautiful St John's Church looked on that day. Two of our musicians, Sammy and Henry Wray, have just gained places in the 2006 National Children's Brass Band of Great Britain and it was lovely to be able to listen to them play at a concert at Sedburgh Peoples Hall during the final week of term.

House rugby and netball matches rounded off what has been a successful sporting season for us with the 1st XV winning eleven of their fifteen matches and the 1st VII netball team experiencing their first ever unbeaten season.

Christmas discos, lunches, suppers and a trip to see 'Oliver Twist' at The Library Theatre in Manchester ensured that the children went home happy but exhausted.

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BN READERS WRITE FROM SWITZERLAND AND BUCKINGHAM ..



Dear Bentham News,

The picture you published in your November issue is of my great grandmother. I have a similar one and also a framed photograph of her golden wedding. Her family name was Marsden; Towler came in the following generation when her daughter Lizzie married a Towler.

Three members of the family farmed Mewith Head Hall in the inter war years and well into World War 2. Indeed there are still Towlers about who could give you more accurate information than I can, although it was my home from 1916 -1919. Yes, I'm 91 and my memories can't compete with James Bibby's explanation. Actually, I knew him by sight.

Wasn't the Victoria Institute in Low Bentham inaugurated by Benson Ford of the Ford-Ayrton Silk Mill?

Some time ago on a trip to the Canaries we visited the house where Columbus spent his last days before setting off on his cross Atlantic voyage. We were told that Nelson was a pirate!

Please excuse any spelling and typing errors; my eyesight fails but I'd like to tell you how much I enjoy the BN and thank whoever posts it for the nice stamps - my husband collects them.

Every good wish for Christmas and New Year.

*Mary Bruderer,
Pratteln, Switzerland.*

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Dear Sir,

May I thank you for the joy you gave a subscriber with your Christmas card photo of Shaky Bridge.

Let me explain. My grandfather, Richard Clapham, tenanted Staggarth from about 1897 to about 1917. Most of Richard and Betsy's large family was born there and my mother, Eva Clapham, walked to school in Bentham throughout her schooldays.

The Claphams moved during wartime to Overtown, Cowan Bridge. It was there that in 1920 my father, K. Roy Vernon, met and married Eva Clapham, and I was born in 1921. My family, in the 1920s, moved south into the Lancashire smoke, and after the move from Overtown to Oaklands Farm, by Newby Moor, I began to come north for holidays. After Fred Clapham (my mother's brother) moved to Staggarth my visits became almost every school holiday (except Christmas) for all the 1930s until wartime. Staggarth was almost my second home and the place of almost all my happiest memories, and I know every stick, stone and tree there. Thank you very much for the joy your picture has given me and for the memories it invokes.

*Yours sincerely,
Kenneth Vernon. Buckingham.*

Dear Sir,

Bentham Town Council would like to thank Bentham News and the residents of Bentham for their help in the recent campaign regarding the lack of action from North Yorkshire Highways in the Bentham area.

As you will be beginning to see, things are starting to happen. The Council met with David Bowe, the assistant director, at the end of October and progress has certainly been made since then. Disabled Parking spaces, tactile paving and dropped kerbs have all appeared, which is a start, and shows that together we can get things done. Other things are also in the pipeline, so thank you again.

*Yours sincerely,
Jo Burton, Town Clerk.*

LETTERS continued from page 29

Dear Sir,

Thank you to the Town Council (and in particular Councillor De La Haye) for getting the relevant authority to mark out the disabled parking bays opposite the Co-op Pharmacy and outside the doctors' surgery in Grasmere Avenue. They should be a great help.

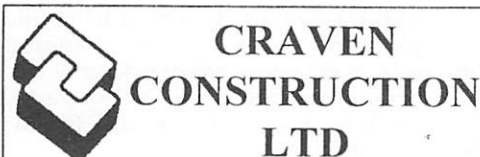
Unfortunately it is rather sad that I should have to appeal to a few able bodied drivers to refrain from parking in these two new disabled bays (and also the one outside the Spar shop) and leave them clear for those of us who are disabled.

Since we moved to the area some eighteen months ago we have found everyone to be so friendly and caring and know that this sort of unthinking behaviour to be totally out of the "Bentham character".

Incidentally, Ingleton seems to have got the message as well and put a disabled parking space opposite the surgery there - well done.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs. "Pikey" Holland.



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COMMUNITY BONFIRE COMMITTEE SAYS "THANK YOU"



By Pam Woolf

Bentham Community Bonfire Committee would like to thank everyone who made the bonfire so much of a success in 2005.

There are so many people who help, particularly on the night, that the list would be too long to compile and print. The committee is very grateful to all those who help to sell tickets, marshal traffic, escort the lantern procession and look after the bonfire. A big "thank you" to all the artists who dance, drum or create lanterns to enable the very special atmosphere of the evening. The committee would also like to thank the Auction Mart and other people who have allowed us to use various pieces of vital equipment needed to make the firework display and bonfire a safe event for us all.

This year some of the businesses open for trade during the evening have donated to the funds, for which we are very grateful. We hope to create a sponsorship board for next year's event to give credit to all those businesses that assist.

Without all this volunteer help from the public the event could not happen. Many thanks to you all and we hope you all enjoyed the event and will be willing to participate again next year!

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BURTON-IN-LONSDALE UNDER FIVES PLAYGROUP & PRE-SCHOOL

By Michael Ingram

Burton Under Fives is a wonderful resource that is Ofsted registered and caters for: toddlers on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons; 2-4 year olds every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday morning; and 3/4 year olds on Thursday. It received an extremely good Ofsted Report in 2004 and delivers an enviable Curriculum that is both fun and educational. Situated at Richard Thornton Primary School, the Playgroup enjoys the benefits of belonging to a larger institution and indeed, makes the transition to school years seamless. Burton Under Fives has a wide catchment with many parents choosing to bring their children from both the village and the surrounding area.

A team of qualified and dedicated staff provide a welcoming learning environment that focuses on enjoyment and support for all. It is difficult to summarise the activities that children engage in because the variety is so great. However, in the last six months alone, the Playgroup have had visits from/to Bentham Fire Station, an Ambulance, a Dentist, a tractor, a Physiotherapist, Indian dance, the Police, the church bell tower, to feed the ducks, boating on Windermere and so on. They also regularly paint, cook, sing, draw and write, have story time, play outside on bikes, and in December, even Father Christmas is persuaded to make an appearance, much to the children's delight! All activities tend to be of a topical nature or centre round a particular theme. For example, the children have recently been making life-size pictures of their bodies and labelling the insides. Today they looked at babies and last week, dental hygiene.

Such a commodity comes with a price but there is a dedicated Committee who support the Staff and endeavour to raise money for 'extra' resources. This term we have had: a Body Shop party with wine and the chance to buy Christmas gifts; a Stall at the School Christmas Fair where we sold our own

Recipe Book; a sponsored walk up Ingleborough; a Domino night in the pub; and we look forward to a Bingo night in January.

If you would like more information about Burton Under Fives, would like to see what we do or feel you could contribute in some way, please do telephone Michael Ingram (Committee Chair) on 61869 or Sam Mattinson (Co-ordinator) on 63404. You will be most welcome.

A BIG THANKYOU FROM THE GOODENBER PLAY AREA COMMITTEE

By Marie Colyer

The Play Area is run by a small group of volunteers who undertake to keep it clean and safe and to raise the necessary money to keep up with the running costs each year. There is a lot of goodwill towards the play area and the committee would like to thank everyone who has attended fundraisers and supported us in other ways throughout the year. We would like to especially thank SBC (Bentham) for their very generous donation of £300 towards the running costs of the Play Area this year. The Methodist Ladies have also donated £100 which was very gratefully received by the committee. We raised ~£100 at the Bonfire Night Stall and by the time this is published thanks will also be due to everyone who supported our Christmas raffle and refreshments stall at late night shopping. Our next fundraiser will be our Coffee Morning on Saturday 25th February in the Town Hall, raffle, cake/biscuit donations gratefully received on the day.

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PANTOMIME & THEATRE GROUP NEWS

By Iain Henshaw

Thank you very much for the overwhelming response to our plea for theatre group members.

I recently asked David Lloyd, Director of the pantomime, why he chose this particular pantomime?

"We chose Sleeping Beauty so we could work on a traditional panto with a powerful story that fits into the landscape around Bentham".

So we can expect the usual references to Bentham and the surroundings?

"Of course the story begins at Big Stone Castle where the King of Craven and his wife are waiting for the arrival of Penny Gent, nursemaid to their new baby Aurora".

So what else can we expect?

"In true fairy tale tradition our pantomime will have its dame, a battle between good and evil, along with a host of characters to bring excitement and humour in equal measure".

So when can we see it?

"The Bentham Panto will run for four nights during the February half term (21st-24th)".

And finally, any last message?

"Bentham Theatre Group is glad to welcome some new performers and backstage crew".

There is still time to get involved so please come along to rehearsals on Wednesdays and Sundays at 7pm at Bentham Community Centre or use the website at www.sl1b.com/btg to contact the group.

ALI LOOKS AT THE LOOKING WELL *(Continued from front page)*

and give us ideas about what they'd like to see happen, both in the community space and in the business units. The downstairs is Looking Well community space, and we're thinking of things like regular community lunches where people can meet other people - similar to the things we've done before. We also have two floors upstairs which are business spaces. There are two studios. One is a reasonably-sized "clean" studio space, which will have theatre and photographic lighting which people can use for photographing art work or developing film and digital media. Also it's a clean, empty space so it can be used for business seminars or meetings for 15-20 people.

Then there are individual business units, and a shared space, where we could have six or eight people renting a space, for a week, a month or a year. And we also have a "dirty" studio, where you could do clay and sculpture, for renting out, and we also hope to have artists in residence. These are lovely spaces with high views over Bentham and the hills.

It's a new start. We've grown as one thing, and we've been given the funding to enable us to be more than that. But we need to get the businesses going to sustain day-to-day activities. Looking Well will continue to be about creativity and the arts. We've got so many fantastic arts people in Bentham. I'd just like us to become better known for the interesting things we do, and the amazing artists we've got living here".

The official opening of the new building will be on Saturday, 11th February, 2006.

BENTHAM NEWS is published at "Latharna", High Bentham, by an editorial committee consisting of Trevor Blackwell, Shirley Brown, Linda Cressey, Keith Hartley, Judith Johnson, Peter Phillips, Ken Robertson, Pam Woof, and co-ordinator, Bill Kennedy, who can be contacted on telephone 62492 or email waklatharna@tiscali.co.uk. 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 Bentham Sports by the copy deadline, the 15th of the month prior to publication. Bentham News is printed by Pica Design & Print.