

BENTHAM NEWS

A PUSS-IN-BOOTS IN BENTHAM

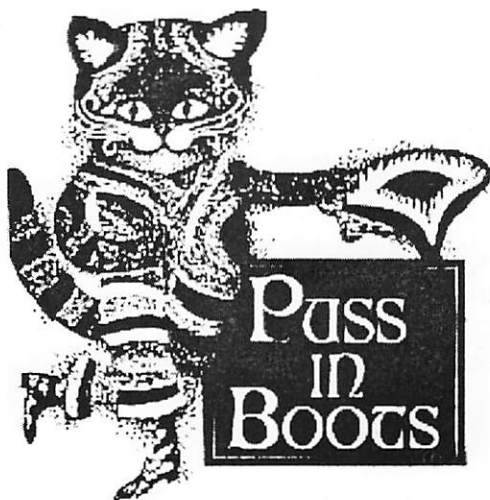
By Trevor Blackwell

An extraordinary talking cat will appear next month at Bentham Town Hall. Here, on the nights of February 13th to 16th, this puss, who is, says the miller, "more than a cunning rat catcher," will don his boots to help young Harry (trusting and good) to win the hand of Princess Camomile (beautiful and kind) and defeat the ogre (clever, wicked, and VERY FRIGHTENING) who has won her from the gambling king (nice but silly).

This year's panto also stars a dancing donkey, a thigh-slapping principal boy, three naughty fiddlers, a lion, a mouse in the house, numerous revolting peasants, and a very accident-prone health and safety inspector. Also someone will die on stage.

Although this panto has its full share of jokes and slapstick it also has a deeper magical theme of the turning wheel of fortune which can reward innocence, albeit with the trickster's help.

From all over High and Low Bentham dancers are rehearsing, actors are learning (at



last) their lines, seamstresses are sewing, techies are scheming sumptuous special stage-effects, musicians are strumming and stagehands are painting to create another marvellous Bentham pantomime. Please come and be part of the magic. *Tickets for the panto will be available from Bentham Sports.*

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS IN BENTHAM - PRIZE WINNERS

The annual competition (3 categories) for the best decorated house, shop and pub has added some scintillating sparkle to the town in these early winter nights. The competition, organised by the Traders' Association, has led to an increasingly bright and creatively decorated town each Christmas time, with the standard improving each year, making it even more difficult for the judges. However, after much serious consideration (and a few glasses of mulled wine), they have made the following awards.

Houses: 1st Prize - Mr. & Mrs. Oldfield, 8 Lakeber Crescent. 2nd - Mr. & Mrs. Bentham, Robin Lane. 3rd - Mr. & Mrs. Cockerton.

Shops: 1st Prize - Midd's Butty Bar with Lowgill children. 2nd - Andrew's Print Shop. 3rd - Tooby's. Highly recommended - Julie's Butchers.

Pubs: 1st Prize - The Horse & Farrier. 2nd - The Punchbowl. 3rd - The Black Bull.

The overall, best of all, winner was Richard Turner's. Congratulations to all who took part.

YOUNG LOCAL MAN GAINS COLLEGE AWARD

By Janet Slinger

Matthew France was recently awarded the College Shield for Year 2 NVQ Brickwork at Lancaster and Morecambe College of Further Education.

Matthew, who works for C. M. Slinger & Sons Ltd is now in his third year at college and is learning Advanced Skills in brickwork. John Slinger says he is proud of what Matthew has achieved and that he is a credit to both himself and to the family business.



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"HEALTH AND SAFETY" REGULATIONS DIM BENTHAM'S FESTIVE LIGHTS

By Pam Woof

I am sure that many readers have been wondering why the coloured festoon lights were missing from Bentham streets this Christmas. The truth is that they no longer comply with health and safety regulations for street lighting. They were also reaching the end of their useful life.

The new "blue look" is the first stage of a new lighting scheme planned for Bentham over the next few years, by the Traders' Association. The main work this year has been to install permanent electrical wiring along the streets, allowing lights to be plugged into the system. This year the blue colour scheme was made up of low voltage lights on timer switches. The whole system is much safer for traffic passing through Bentham and also uses far less electricity than the old system.

We hope that you found the effect pleasing. More ideas are planned for next year if we can obtain a grant for the work.

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DECEMBER'S TOWN COUNCIL

By David Johnson

All the Cllrs were present except District Cllr Camacho and County Cllr Ireton. Three members of the public attended.

The Police did not attend. Cllr Adams pointed out that none had attended since April and asked if a written report could be provided if they were unable to attend.

Public Participation. The Mayor clarified this by stating that any member of the public could comment on agenda items but only at the start of the meeting and that there was a limit of three minutes for each statement.

Planning. The Cllrs approved an application to demolish the Legion Hut and in its place erect a building housing a chiropody practice. The Cllrs also approved an application to remove sections of hedge near Burnside Nursery noting that the hedge would be properly laid and that sections currently planted with ash would be replanted with hawthorn. The Cllrs recommended rejection of an application to convert the current warehouse on King Street into three dwellings. They noted that permission had only recently been granted for three offices on the site. They thought the construction of these dwellings, without parking available would inevitably lead to a major increase in parking on Main Street.

Highways. There has been support from David Curry for action to improve the camber of the road at The Cross in an effort to eliminate strikes on the bank. NYCC Highways however will not make such alterations pointing out that they are only obliged to maintain the highways not make improvements. It was decided to see if there is any correlation between the rise in the number of strikes on the bank and the road resurfacing in 2005 to see if further pressure could be brought to bear. The hauliers for the Co-op are unhappy about their drivers having to cross the road with deliveries. It was suggested that deliveries should be made early in the morning or that the Co-op should use the rear access on Cleveland Square.

The New School. The Cllrs were

surprised to find that Craven Housing was unaware of the possibility of a new school adjacent to the next proposed development on Wesley Close and that the possibility was not considered in the Local Development Framework. As the housing planning application was to have been presented soon it was agreed to ask that any application be deferred until January to give an opportunity for the scheme to be evaluated in its entirety. If there is no obvious progress with the school by 31st January it was decided to invite Bernadette Jones, one of the LEA's officers, to come to meet the Town Council to discuss the position.

The Town Hall. It has been noted that if the new pivoting coffee morning board is placed outside the Town Hall door on a windy day it will activate the automatic door mechanism!

The precept meeting will be held at 7.30 p.m. on 21st January and all applications for a precept will need to be returned to the Town Clerk by 7th January accompanied by a statement of accounts.

Butts Lane. The Cllrs have been asked by Ian Godfrey to reconsider their refusal to adopt the amenity land connected with the Butts Lane Development. They did not think the remuneration offered would cover the cost of making it safe for public access nor would it pay for the essential public liability insurance.

Recycling. CDC is looking at ways of bringing other households, not currently involved in recycling, into the recycling scheme.

The Lease on the Station Building has been signed and tenders will go out early in December to give a completion in the spring. When completed the building will provide accommodation for Community Transport and the Youth Café.

Station Road Car Park. Plans are being drawn up for the development of a car park near the railway line on the east side of Station Road. They will be put out for public consultation in January.

Noise Nuisance. Cllr Barnes asked about appropriate action if people wished to complain about noise nuisance. Members of the public with a complaint can ring 01282661328 at any time of day or night.

BENTHAM NEWS IS ON THE WWW

By Trevor Blackwell

This Bentham News that you hold in your hands is also spinning in cyber-space. All around the world - and possibly throughout the known universe - sentient beings are logging on to catch up with Bentham's news, see where the footpath group is walking to, and check out this month's recipes.

This miracle has been made possible by the Bentham Trust's updating of the Bentham website, which now contains a wide range of information on history, tourist attractions, walking, sports, businesses and community life.

To see it for yourself just type in www.bentham.net and then click on "Community" at the top of the page to access the Bentham News on the left-hand side. When Bentham News comes up you can see the titles of all the articles, and you can then click on any article to read it in full. Even more amazingly, if you don't know which particular article you're looking for, you can type in a keyword and all the relevant articles will appear. I clicked on "garden" and found a dozen articles from the last three months. The "Community" page also has a diary of events and meetings.

Thanks, then, to the Bentham Trust for taking this initiative, and to John Pilkington for updating the site. This is a great resource for visitors to Bentham, and for us (for example, it carries a useful summary of the Local Development Framework). So have a look yourself - and perhaps also spare a thought for all the earnest students round the world who begin by googling for information on the philosophy of Jeremy Bentham, but end up being fascinated by what will happen about the lorries striking Barclay's Bank!

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BENTHAM ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE TOWN

By John Pilkington

Energy Day Feedback

At the Energy Day in September 45 households were given a free pack of two low energy light bulbs. They also indicated what energy efficiency measures they were already doing and those they would use in the future. Denise Hall from the Energy Efficiency Advice Centre in York has analysed the responses and they are shown in the table.

Energy efficiency measure	House holds
when making hot drinks only boil as much water as I need	38
turn down my thermostat by 1 degree	27
switch off appliances and not leave them on standby	38
install cavity wall insulation	7
top up loft insulation to 270mm	10
replace 3 light bulbs with energy saving ones	33

A new member of BEST, who joined at the Energy Day, has written a letter describing how useful she found the event.

"Thank you BEST for the information day. I left feeling there are things I can do that will make a difference. The first thing I did was buy a hessian shopping bag. Then I went home and turned my water thermostat down to 60 degrees. I replaced my two remaining ordinary light bulbs with the two free low energy bulbs being given out.

I thought about how I could make a difference and I have started to collect oak acorns to plant which, when big enough, I'll ask landowners/farmers if they'd like one. I learnt that if I click on

www.therainforestsitesite.com, once a day

the advertisers to the site contribute to purchasing rainforest for the indigenous people.

I learnt there are ways to have a negative carbon footprint on this planet (you need to have quite a bit of money though). I learnt gas is 'greener' than electricity and basically if I'm not part of the solution, I am part of the problem. Thank you."

Further leaflets about energy efficiency were available from the BEST stall at the Christmas Fair as well as free low energy light bulbs and energy advice calendars.

Claim your grant for Loft and Cavity Wall Insulation

Denise Hall has sent the following information about grants.

For those of you who are aged 60 or above or those who have a child under 16 and claim working tax credit, you may benefit from a Craven District Council scheme. You must own or privately rent your home and it must be council tax banded A, B or C.

If you claim certain income or disability benefits you may be eligible for a 100% grant from the Government. Don't worry if you do not meet the criteria above there are often discount schemes that are available for everyone.

The Energy Efficiency Advice Centre will be present at Ingleton Community Centre on Thursday 10th Jan 2008 10am-3pm. Come claim your free energy saving light bulbs and speak to an energy advisor face to face or call the advice centre free on 0800 512 012. Craven District Council can be contacted on 01756 706293 or by email housing@cravencd.gov.uk.

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WHY WE HAD TO CANCEL 'BLITHE SPIRIT'

By Margaret Cowling

On behalf of Bentham Theatre Group, I wish to apologise for the sudden cancellation of "Blithe Spirit", as I know many of you were disappointed. What with the cancellation of Bentham Show, and then the Bonfire and Fireworks, it's not been a good year for live events in Bentham.

Our rehearsals began well in September, but, in early November, an OFSTED involving our leading man, and illnesses of other actors at a critical time, meant the play did not "take flight" as it usually does when words are secure.

We were concerned that a poor performance would ruin our good reputation, and that, as a result, we might lose your support. I would however like to reassure you that our Panto, 'Puss In Boots', will go on in February (*oh yes it will!*). We look forward to presenting a top-quality play production as soon as possible next year.

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CRAVEN CONCERNS

By Cllr Manuel Camacho 015242 62074

This month's news is pretty good all round. What a relief it is that the Post Office has decided to leave our local post offices intact. I was so relieved that at a recent public meeting I congratulated the Right Hons David Currey and Gordon Prentice (MP's for Craven and Pendle respectively) for their defence of the rural post office.

Planned Preventative Maintenance for Craven Assets

The Property Management Team have developed a ten year planned preventative maintenance plan (PPM) for the Council's operational property. (This work excludes Granville St Offices, Skipton Town Hall and major work required at Settle Town Hall which will be subject to alternative arrangements within the Skipton Developments programme and Settle Renaissance.) The PPM plan is a one million pound commitment by the Council over ten years to ensure that the majority of the Council's property holdings is in good condition when the Council's Asset Management plan is updated in 2011. The programme will address the increase in energy costs by implementing energy saving measures and examining how energy is used throughout the Council. These measures will help to reduce our CO2 emissions in line with Government targets. We hope to promote an awareness of energy use and encourage energy efficient practices within the Council.

The "Better Connected" Award

From a field of fourteen entries in the 'Better Connected' category, Craven's Customer Service Transformation made a shortlist of seven before being awarded second place at a finals event held in Leeds. The award recognises Councils and Fire Authorities who have transformed services and achieved improvements in their services.

The Council's portfolio holder for Access to Services, Cllr Lin Barrington said 'this is a fantastic achievement for Craven District Council particularly when you consider the

competition came from some of the regions largest metropolitan councils. I am delighted the team has received deserved recognition for its efforts in transforming our customer services and for delivering real improvements for our customers.

Local Housing

The Housing Needs assessment undertaken in 2005 showed that Craven needs 288 affordable homes a year to meet local needs. The research identified that 70% of affordable housing needs to be affordable homes for rent.

Earlier this year Craven District Council positively responded to the challenge of affordable housing development by agreeing to "gift" (i.e. transfer at no cost) Council owned sites to Craven housing for the development of affordable housing for rent. The first three sites are Airedale Avenue, Skipton; Station Road, Hellifield and Goodenber Road, Bentham.

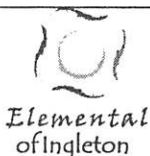
These small sites will be classified as "exception sites" within planning regulations and therefore must only be used for 100% affordable housing. Because the Council has agreed to make the land available at zero cost, these sites can only be used to provide affordable housing for rent.

I must stress that all three sites have yet to go through the normal planning procedures. However if the proposals do go ahead not only will it mean 57 more affordable homes to rent for Craven families, it will also result in nearly £7m of external funding from Housing Corporation and Yorkshire Housing being invested into the district.

All your district councillors are very keen that Craven residents will have the strongest priority, preferably those local to the sites. This could be subject to legal challenge but we will support the principal of "Homes for local people" as strongly as we can.

Skipton Developments

I attended a meeting recently at which the two consortium's bidding to redevelop the Town Hall, Horse Close and Granville Street sites gave presentations. Both were excellent and I will report back with more detail in a future edition.



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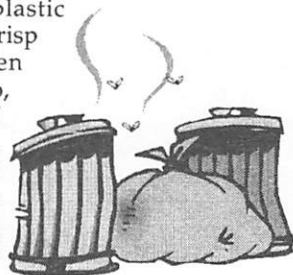
THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS ON THE THIRTEENTH

By Shirley Brown

On 13th December, a lovely sunny day, four of us gathered at the bus shelter and then walked up School Hill and down Butts Lane picking up litter as we went. Feeling in festive spirit we came up with the following (slightly inaccurate) list.

Along with numerous cigarette butts and a used baby's nappy, we also found Twelve cans of lager, Eleven fag packets, Ten old tissues, Nine plastic bottles, Eight crisp packets, Seven bags of dog poo, Six shards of broken glass, Five sweet wrappers, Four carrier bags, Three bits of trim from cars, Two odd socks, And one sanitary towel! (with wings)! We filled four dustbin bags.

On Sunday 13th January, we'll meet in the painted bus shelter at 1pm, as usual, and will probably walk to Low Bentham picking up litter on both sides of the road as we go. We have plenty of long arm litter pickers, so you don't even have to get your hands dirty, although it's a good idea to wear gloves anyway. If you want to ask anything about Bloomin' Bentham, or have suggestions about projects we should pursue, just ring 61608 or 63175 or email shirleybrown1@btinternet.com



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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.

January 1988

This month's edition led with a report of the Bentham News Christmas Wheelbarrow Race which took place in "damp conditions," but which appears to have been a great success. **Paul Morphet** and **Stephen Harford** were the winners, with **Colin Baines** and **Chris Guy** second, and **Brian** and **Robert Cowling** third. It was reported that **Prince Charles** and **Margaret Thatcher** also took part but were unplaced (!) Mind you, with **Tom Guy** driving what was euphemistically called the "barrow recovery vehicle" (which also just happened to carry a supply of free ale) I guess that simply finishing the race was probably quite an achievement!

In his role as secretary of Bentham Sports Club, **Tony Dawber** penned an obituary for **Fred Richards** who had worked tirelessly for local sporting organisations and many other worthwhile Bentham causes. His sudden death had shocked many and left a deep void in the community.

Also mentioned in obituary was **John Stevenson**, a relative newcomer to Bentham whose contribution to the local Scout movement had been valued and would be missed.

Despite being established for over 60 years and having 46 members, Bentham's **Women's' Institute** had been in danger of closing due to its inability to raise a working committee. However, the WI sent some of its "big guns" to the December meeting (including a VCO no less!) and having presumably been duly "persuaded," new committee members appeared as if by magic to save the day.

Thank goodness they did, because it would have been tragic to lose such a good-egg (if ever so slightly sexist) organisation. What a pity that some of the other organisations mentioned in the

same edition (scouts, camera club, rose club, etc) didn't have VCOs!

Bentham Homing Society held a very successful Annual Invitation Show at the Town Hall, organised by **Lionel Titterington**, at which Bentham birds took prizes in 6 out of 8 categories, including *Best in Show* for a "strong and attractive" hen owned by **Mr and Mrs Horn**. It was said that more Bentham prizes could well have been won had Mr Horn been able to persuade the rest of his birds to come down from the Town Hall roof!

Bentham Football Club was experiencing mixed fortune, with defeats in two of their first three December first team games. Leading goal scorers so far were **Rod Lister** (14) **Kevin Dodgson** (7) and **Clive Dodgson** (4).

Our **Badminton** teams were faring slightly better, with two wins out of three first team games. Badminton's Foster Cup was won convincingly this year by **David Holdsworth** and **Susan Metcalfe**.

In closing, I'll leave the (almost) final words of this column to a man who has been described variously as the *Bard of Station Road* and (twice in this month's edition) *Bentham's intrepid Barber and Scribe*, and who I believe needs no further introduction!

*"Turn a page, a new chapter begins
New Year is here, see what it brings
I've paid me dues and settled the score
Splashed out on new lino for me floor
New lights on't ceiling, blow the expense
You'll pay a bit more - well that makes sense."*

Happy New Year to all!

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BENTHAM YOUTH THEATRE GROUP

By Iain Henshaw & Ann-marie Powell

Well we've done it! We managed to get a production together and put it on the stage. The first rehearsal / show on the 16th was a wee bit fraught and we thank the audience for their support and patience. Firstly to all the cast and crew, what a fantastic job; you should all be very proud of yourselves. Thanks also to all the parents and carers for your patience.

At the risk of missing somebody we'd like to thank everybody who has helped including but not limited to; Paul Enville who wrote the script for us, Louise Pauley and Denise Henshaw for the props, Leo Nolan for music and workshops, Alice Fry for costumes, Gareth Adams, Dave Turner, Liam Ellershaw and James Tuohy for their help in preparing the stage. To Henrietta Neiper for the poster, Darren, Katie and Jennifer Mackenzie for the tuck shop, to Doreen Barnes for the box office and to Margaret Cowling for all your help.

To anybody else who we may have missed, sorry and a big thank you. We'll hopefully be back after the Panto - watch this space.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



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COOKERY PAGE

Edited by Patsy Henderson

After the Christmas festivities, a little help with the New Year resolution!



Chicken, Leek & Carrot Parcels

Serves 4. 154 Kcal per portion.

Recipe

4 chicken fillets
2 small leeks, sliced
2 carrots, grated
1 garlic clove
4 anchovy fillets, halved

Seasoning

Parsley and basil to garnish

Method

Preheat the oven to 200C, gas 6. Season the chicken. Cut 4 x 9" (23 cms) squares of greaseproof paper and lightly grease them. Put the leeks onto the sheets and place a piece of chicken on top. Mix the carrot and garlic together, season and put on top of the chicken. Add the anchovy fillets on top.

Wrap each parcel carefully, ensuring that the paper edges are sealed. Place the parcels on a tray and bake for 20 minutes. Serve hot, in the paper, and garnish with the herbs.

Banana and Gingerbread Slices

Recipe (can make up to 20 slices)

280g plain flour
4 tsp ground ginger
2 tsp mixed spice
1 tsp bicarbonate of soda
115g soft light brown sugar
4 tbsp sunflower oil
2 tbsp black treacle
2 tbsp malt extract
2 eggs
4 tbsp orange juice
3 bananas
115g raisins

Method

Preheat the oven to 180C, gas 4. Lightly grease a 7"x11" baking tin. Put the flour, spices, bicarb and sugar into a large bowl and mix together. Make a well in the mix and add the oil, treacle, malt extract, eggs and orange juice, and mix well together.

Mash the bananas and add them to the bowl, with the raisins, and mix well together. Pour the mixture into the baking tray and bake for about 35 minutes until the centre is springy to touch. Allow the cake to cool for about 5 minutes and then turn it out onto a wire rack. Allow to cool completely and then cut into slices.

CAFÉ ET CROISSANTS?!

By Margaret Cowling

Bentham is very much a part of the Ingleton and District Twinning Group, which for many years has been twinned with La Chapelle des Marais in Brittany, an area famous for its beautiful coastline, marshland landscape and wildlife. The next visit to France will be from 30th April to 5th May 2008, and anyone wishing to take part should contact Liz Neale on 41155. The first coffee morning held by this group in Bentham takes place on Saturday 26th January in the Town Hall. Come along and find out more about our beautiful twin town.

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LIBRARY NEWS

By John Frankland

Telephone Number Change

Please note that we have changed our phone number. To contact us please ring Bentham Library: 0845 034 9532.

Bentham Library Book Group

Did you know that Bentham Library has a thriving reading group? The Book Group is run by John Frankland and it usually meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm at the library. We cover a wide range of authors and talk about new and old books. The next meeting is on January 8 2008 where the group will be discussing the Jane Austen classic *Pride and Prejudice*. If you would like to read the book in advance just come along to the library with your card and ask a member of staff for the latest book group book. If the above title isn't to your taste then look below for the other books we'll be discussing in 2008.

8 Jan - *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen.

12 Feb - *The Tenderness of Wolves* by Stef Penney.

11 March - *Crime and Punishment* by Fyodor Dostoyevsky.

8 April - *Case Histories* by Kate Atkinson.

13 May - *A Spot of Bother* by Mark Haddon.

10 June - *Human Traces* by Sebastian Faulks.

8 July - *The Lollipop Shoes* by Joanne Harris.

9 Sept - *The Night Watch* by Sarah Waters

14 Oct - *Salmon Fishing in the Yemen* by Paul Torday

11 Nov - *Brighton Rock* by Graham Greene

9 Dec - *No, I Don't Want to Join a Bookclub* by Virginia Ironside.

For more information on the Book Group then contact the library at the number below - or even pop in yourself and pick up a list. If you want to attend a meeting then simply come along - you're under no obligation, and don't have to pay- just join in the debate!

Joining the Library

If you're not a member of the library but you're interested in taking part in joining the Book Group then don't worry! Joining the Library is easy and does not cost anything; simply arrive at the Library with a document that proves your identity and address, such as a bank statement, driving licence or utility bill, and we will make you out a membership card. This allows you to borrow up to 10 books for free. You will be charged a small fee when you take out story tapes, DVDs and for requesting books from other libraries. For more information regarding the library, any questions you may have please telephone us on 0845 034 9532 or e-mail us at bentham.library@northyorks.gov.uk

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THE MARRIAGE COURSE COMES TO NORTH CRAVEN

By Peter McCabe

The Marriage Course, which has been running in Skipton for a number of years, is being brought to this area for the first time in January 2008. It will be held at Ingleton Methodist Church.

Course presenters Gordon and Muriel Williamson said: "We are thrilled to have been invited to present this course in North Craven. Couples who have already been to one of the courses have found the topics we talk about definitely help them to build a stronger relationship. It's a pleasure to be involved in providing couples with the opportunity to learn the practical skills to help build a strong and lasting relationship."

The Marriage Course provides a great opportunity for any couple to spend time together looking at the important issues in their marriage. Although there is no group discussion, each couple discusses with their partner aspects of their relationship.

Gordon commented: "Just as most people service their car, couples need to actively keep their relationship in good working order by making sure their love for each other is fresh and real. The Marriage Course is designed to do exactly that."

The course consists of eight sessions, each evening beginning with a candlelit meal at a table for two followed by a talk. Gordon and Muriel have plenty of stories to illustrate the talks they give and the cartoons and video clips always raise a smile.

Muriel explains: "After the talk there is the opportunity to discuss the topic of the evening together as a couple. It's vital to talk about important issues that can so easily get swept under the carpet in the rush of life. Topics include communicating effectively, relating to parents and in-laws and knowing how to make each other feel loved."

As well as having the discussion topics in a manual, there are additional things to do when couples get home to build on the skills they learn.

Alison Service who lives in Bentham and is organising the logistics of the course for Ingleton Methodist Church said: "As part of our Hope 2008 initiative we are seeking to provide practical resources to bring hope into real issues facing the local community. I am delighted that the Marriage Course is coming to this area."

The course starts on 28 January 2008. For a booking form or more information ring Alison on 63486 or Gordon and Muriel on 01756 701457.

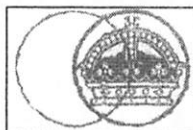


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BENTHAM FOOTPATH GROUP



By Maureen Ellis

There will be a local walk of 8 miles on Thursday 3rd from Lairgill at 9.30am. It will go over the fields heading for Branstone Beck and go up to Big Stone and then west across the Lancashire Yorkshire border and down to Low Bentham. On a fine day the views are stunning of the Three Peaks and the Lake District Fells. The return is by the river.

On the 10th there will be the very important open meeting of members in the Wennington Room of the Town Hall at 7pm. Please try to attend

On Saturday 12th there will be a walk and bring and share lunch. The initial meeting is at 10am at Lairgill and a second meeting place twenty minutes later at Keasden Church. The walk of about 5 miles will use the permissive path almost down to

Clapham station and then go over the fields to Clapham Wood Hall and back by Keasden Beck. We will then go to Hawksheath Farm and share our lunches so please bring food that would be suitable to pool with others ie it is a Jacob's Join.

On Sunday 20th there is the Washtubs Walk, starting at Lairgill at 1pm and a second meeting place in Austwick at the layby at Townhead Lane a bit later. It is a circular walk taking in the historic Washtubs which is where sheep used to be washed. It about 3½ miles.

Tuesday 29th brings a 5 mile walk starting at the Golf Club at 10.00am. It goes over the golf links towards Ingleton via Warth House and then lunch will be at The Mason Arms. The return goes along Tatterthorn Lane and across fields to Strecker Lane to the starting point.



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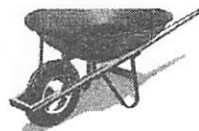
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LOCAL EVENTS IN JANUARY

- Thu 3rd** Bentham Footpath Group Red and White Roses walk, 8 miles, leaders A. & M. Speight, 62540. Please meet at Lairgill at 9.30am. High Bentham W.I. at the Town Hall, 7.30pm. Chris Lewis "The holiday of a lifetime". See page 28.
- Looking Well Cancer Support Group, Drop-in and lunch, 11.00am-1.30pm, and every Thursday.
- Fri 4th** Age Concern at the Masonic Hall, 10.00am-2.30pm. Yorkshire Dales Video.
- Sat 5th** Looking Well Children's Art and Theatre Workshops, 10.30am-12.15pm, and every Saturday.
- Mon 7th** Gentle walks for women, leaving from Lairgill 9.30am - 12.00noon, and every Monday.
- Toddle-in at Methodist Church Hall for children 0 - nursery age and parent/carer, 10.00-11.30am and every Monday.
- Tue 8th** Tuesday Strolls (very gentle walks) Looking Well 2.00-3.00pm. and every Tuesday.
- Wed 9th** Community Lunch at the Looking Well 12.30pm and every Wednesday.
- Art class at Looking Well Studios, 2.00-4.00pm and every Wednesday.
- Keep Moving Well at the Community Centre, 2.00-3.00pm and every Wednesday.
- Tai Chi at Looking Well, 5.15-6.15pm and every Wednesday.
- Alzheimer's Society Carers Support Group at Looking Well, 7.30-9.00pm and every 2nd Wednesday in the month.
- Thu 10th** Bentham Footpath Group open business meeting, Wenningdale Room, Town Hall, 7.00pm.
- Fri 11th** GFI at Methodist Church Hall, 7.00-8.00pm for school years 6, 7 & 8. School years 9-13 meet 8.15-9.15pm and every Friday.
- Fri 11th** Age Concern at the Masonic Hall, 10.00am-2.30pm. Colin Etherington "Extend Exercise".
- Sat 12th** Bentham News coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10.00-11.45am. See page 27.
- Bentham Footpath Group walk & bring & share food, 5½ miles, Meet at Lairgill/Keasden Church, 9.30/10.00am. Leader M. Ellis 51802.
- Sun 13th** Bloomin' Bentham, 1.00-3.00pm meet in painted bus shelter for litter picking, suggestions on "where needs attention" to 61608. See page 8.
- Mon 14th** Adventurers - new group for 4-6 year olds at Methodist Church Hall, 4.30-5.30pm and every Monday.
- Springboard for 7-10 year olds at Methodist Church Hall 6.15-7.30pm and every Monday.
- Tue 15th** Copy deadline for February edition of Bentham News.
- Bentham Child Health Clinic at the surgery, 2.00-4.00pm.
- Pilates (beginners) at the Town Hall, 3.45pm. See page 19.
- Pilates at the Town Hall 5.00pm.
- Bright Hour at the Methodist Schoolroom 2.15pm. Speaker Mary Winter.
- 8 weeks of "Jiving Lindy Hopping" classes by LUDUS start at Melling Institute, suitable for over 16s. Contact Green Close Studios 21233.
- Thu 17th** Low Bentham W.I. Annual General Meeting at the Victoria Institute at 7.30pm. See page 28.
- Fri 18th** Waste paper collection at Lairgill car park, 8.30-11.00am. Proceeds to NSPCC.
- Age Concern at the Masonic Hall, 10.00am-2.30pm. Card Bingo.
- Sun 20th** Bentham Footpath Group walk, Washtubs, Austwick, 4 miles, leaders K. & M. Hartley 62373. Please meet at Lairgill 1.00pm.
- Looking Well, Older person's tea party 3.00-5.00pm.

- Mon 21st Town Council Precept meeting at the Town Hall, 7.30pm.
- Thu 24th "Pinocchio" at Hornby Institute at 6.30pm. Tickets - adults £7, children £3.50. See details on page 25.
- Fri 25th Age Concern at the Masonic Hall, 10.00am-2.30pm. Lorraine Forshaw from the "Anchor Staying Put" scheme.
Quiz Night at Tatham Fells School, Lowgill at 7.30pm. Tickets £5 per person (teams of 4 adults required) include supper. Contact 07811 174192 for tickets.
- Sat 26th Wesley Guild - students from Capernwray, 7.30pm at the Methodist Schoolroom.
- Sun 27th Simply Connect at Looking Well, 3.00-5.00pm.
- Mon 28th Ewecross Historical Society meeting at the Lower Town Hall, 7.30pm. Guy Woolnough - Police Photos. Membership £5. Visitors are welcome.
- Tue 29th Indian dance (free taster session) at the Community Centre, 7.30-9.00pm. See page 19.
Bentham Child Health Clinic at the surgery, 2.00-4.00pm.
Bentham Footpath Group walk, Ingleton with lunch at Masons' Arms, 5 miles, leader K. Piper 61977. Please meet at Bentham Golf Club at 10.15am.
Bright Hour at the Methodist Schoolroom, 2.15pm, speaker Val Whistler.
- Thu 31st Creative writing session at Looking Well, 7.30-9.00pm. see page 19.

Some advance notices for February

- Fri 1st Bentham News published.
Agricultural Society Annual Quiz, 7.30pm at the Town Hall. Teams of 4. Tickets £22 per team include Hot Pot Supper.
- Sat 2nd Bentham Footpath Group walk, Killington, 6½ miles, leader S. Cross 62103. Please meet at Lairgill 9.30am.
- Fri 15th Bingo Night, 7.30pm at Victoria Institute, Low Bentham, organised by the friends of Tatham Fells School.

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LISTING FOR LOCAL EVENTS

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

Event.....

Venue.....

Contact Tel.: Number.....

Name.....

Please return this entry to the Bentham Gallery,
Station Road, High Bentham, by the 15h January for
the February 2008 edition

A TRIBUTE TO NEVILLE CHANT

BY LIN BARRINGTON

I FIRST MET NEVILLE AND DIANE ABOUT 10 YEARS AGO. BILL KENNEDY AND I WERE SORTING THINGS OUT IN THE TOURIST INFORMATION OFFICE, BACK IN THE DAYS WHEN THE TRUST OFFICE WAS ON MAIN STREET, AND THEY CAME IN TO OFFER THEIR SERVICES.

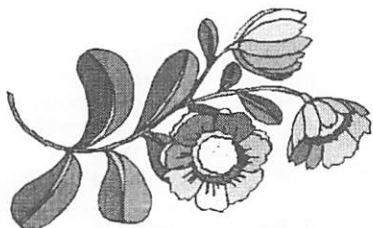
I PICTURE THEM THAT FIRST SEASON SITTING AT THE TOURIST INFORMATION DESK LOOKING OUT AT MAIN STREET AND LISTENING TO THE CRICKET ON THE RADIO. SOMETIMES DIANE WAS LISTENING ALONE BECAUSE HE'D GONE TO WATCH A MATCH AT OLD TRAFFORD.

NEVILLE WAS INVOLVED IN LOTS OF LOCAL ACTIVITIES; HE REGULARLY WENT TO LISTEN TO LIVE JAZZ, HE WAS A MEMBER OF SPRINGFIELD BOWLING CLUB AND AUSTWICK TENNIS CLUB, ON THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF AGE CONCERN, AND A WORSHIPPER AT ST JOHN'S CHURCH IN LOW BENTHAM. BENTHAM MASONIC LODGE WAS VERY IMPORTANT TO HIM; HE HAD BEEN A MASON FOR NEARLY 50 YEARS, FOLLOWING IN HIS FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS. DIANE WAS USUALLY THERE ALONGSIDE HIM, ENJOYING THE SAME THINGS. AS SHE SAID 'WE JUST LIKE BEING TOGETHER'.

HE HAD THE GIFT OF MAKING PEOPLE FEEL WELCOME AND AT EASE. WHENEVER HE CAME INTO OUR OFFICE, EVERYONE STOPPED WHAT THEY WERE DOING TO COME OVER AND HAVE A CHAT

AND A LAUGH. HE WAS A TOWER OF STRENGTH IN THE EARLY DAYS OF BENTHAM COMMUNITY TRANSPORT, BEING THE FIRST (AND VERY ACTIVE) CHAIRMAN OF OUR COMMITTEE. I WAS ALWAYS PHONING HIM FOR ADVICE ON HOW TO HANDLE THE LATEST PROBLEM, AND HE WAS THE SOURCE OF A GREAT DEAL OF PRACTICAL HELP AS WELL.

THE LAST TIME I SAW NEVILLE WAS AT THE ANNIVERSARY PARTY, WRITTEN ABOUT IN THE DECEMBER 'BENTHAM NEWS'. IT WAS A TREAT TO SEE HIM ON SUCH GOOD FORM AND SURROUNDED BY THE MANY PEOPLE, INCLUDING HIS CHILDREN WENDY AND ALI, WHO LOVED HIM AND CARED ABOUT HIM. WE WILL ALL MISS HIM VERY MUCH.



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LOOKING WELL NEWS

By Janice Every

Our new programme of workshops and classes starts this month – why not come and explore your creative potential!

Indian Dance free 'taster' on Tuesday
29th January, 7.30-9.00pm, then 5th, 12th, 19th Feb. Led by: Edna Watt

These classes in Bharata Natyam - the most ancient of all classical dance forms in India - are an enjoyable way to develop your fitness and flexibility - combining graceful body movements with intricate hand gestures and rhythmical footwork. This traditional dance, suitable for all abilities, is also an artistic yoga and requires concentration and focus, the long-term benefits being increased stamina and vitality, supple joints, and an inner calmness. No experience of dance is required, and you will be learning in a friendly and supportive atmosphere. Wear loose comfortable clothing. You can enrol in advance for all the sessions, or book and pay at the end of the free taster.

Held at the Community Centre

Creative Writing Thursday 31st Jan.
7.30-9.00pm. Led by: Elaine Farrier

Creative writing is a wonderful way to express your inner ideas and dreams, so why not join in this inspiring session to discover - or develop - your creative writing potential. Through discussion and exercises in a relaxed and encouraging atmosphere, you will look at how to:

- > write from personal experience
- > start a story: setting the scene and plot development
- > build strong 3-dimensional characters
- > keep a personal journal to inspire or 'unblock'

This workshop is suitable for absolute beginners or those with some writing experience.

Slow and Simple Living for health and wellbeing (Sat 9th Feb 10am-4pm).

Led by: Chris Newsam and based on Carl Honore's book *In Praise of Slow: How a worldwide movement is challenging the cult of speed.*

The group will cook a simple meal together, and try to recapture some freshness and joy in our lives. The following themes will be explored:

- > how to appreciate the present moment
- > how to work more slowly, enjoying each task
- > how to listen to our internal clocks
- > taking time to reconnect with the natural world
- > rediscovering the joy of our senses
- > finding refreshment in slow food and good company.

Stained Glass Course

Starting on Wednesday evenings, for six weeks from 5th March, Jackie Hunt will be offering a course in stained glass techniques at Looking Well. There are only 6 places available, so don't leave it too long before booking your place! All bookings and enquiries to: Jackie Hunt 07785 512546.

Pilates

The Pilates class is continuing at the Town Hall for those who came last year. Did you miss those classes and would you like to catch up and join the group? We've found a new tutor, Suzanne, who is going to run a short beginners course for newcomers starting Tuesday January 15th at the earlier time of 3.45pm. After three weeks you would be ready to join the existing group who meet at 5.00pm.

Walks

For most of us, walking is the best exercise we can possibly do. If you are finding it harder to get out and about, the Tuesday walks may be just right for you. We do a really short, gentle walk together on lanes around Bentham and can pitch it to your pace. If you'd like to try, just meet us at Looking Well at 2.00 pm next Tuesday afternoon.

Lancaster University Sports Centre Trips

If you are a teenager, you may want to join the group going by minibus to Lancaster University Sports Centre on a Wednesday evening. You can choose among swimming, squash, table tennis and aeroball. We can only take 8 people each week, so you need to book for this at Looking Well, telephone 62672.

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BENTHAM PEOPLE



Personal Thanks

Diane Chant and family would like to thank everyone for their cards, letters and loving support following Neville's death, and for the generous donations, totalling over £1,000, to St. John's Hospice, in his memory. God bless you all.

The family of the late **Stephen Brennand** would like to thank all who gave donations in his memory for the Yorkshire Air Ambulance Service Charity. A total of £280 was received.

Henry & Angela Szejnke - thank you to all our gentle lady carers for the full year of 2007. Wishing you a Happy New Year.

Thanks

Tasha: I would like to thank staff and clients for my 21 happy years at 'Hairlines' and the great friendships I had there. Having such great staff gave me the freedom to travel and enjoy myself both in the salon and in the rest of my life. I wish 'Hairlines' the very best for the future.

Greetings

Frank and Heather wish all of their friends and relatives a very Happy New Year.

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CHARITY THANKS

Springfield Bowling Club would like to acknowledge the wonderful help they have received from the following people:-

Bentham News, Parkfoot Holiday and Park Homes, Neville and Diane Chant, SBC, The Methodist Church, Atkinson Vos, Oakroyd Bakery, Bentham 'Line-Dancing' Club, Robert Taylor and Sons, The Coach House, Tom and Pauline Boyd, Jenny Cardus, Mr and Mrs D Sharp, Bentham Sports, Towers and Gornall, Temptations, Hilda Lister, Mrs Beck, CH Framing.

We have received a total of £3,100 to add to our Pavilion Fund. A very big THANK YOU to you all for your generosity. Ray Shannon, Project Fund Raiser.

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BENTHAM AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

By Val Lawson

Thank you to everybody who supported our annual coffee morning at the Town Hall in November. The amount raised was £306. The first of 15 raffle prizes was won by Robert Heigh. The Fruit Cake competition was won by Mary Harrison.

The Annual General Meeting was held in November and the officers were elected as follows: Chairman - John Whitfield, Vice Chairman - John Dawson, Secretary - Val Lawson, Treasurer - Jillian Ashton, Presidents for 2008 - Mr & Mrs Robert Heigh.

The 9th Annual Quiz is to be held on the 1st February 2008 in the Town Hall.

Annual Show to be held on Saturday 6th September 2008.

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CHURCHES TOGETHER

CHURCHES TOGETHER
IN BENTHAM

By Val Whistler

Greetings for the New Year from the friends of Low Bentham Methodist Chapel. 2007 has ended and 2008 begun. It is a time of beginnings and endings, something which is important to us though we are a small fellowship. Val Whistler is the first Methodist Local Preacher at the chapel in living memory - in fact she may be the first ever as far as we know. Val moved down to Low Bentham to help build up the work but continues to preach in the area. Charlie Wilon drove one of the last two steam engines on 11th August 1968 from Carnforth to Carlisle, just before diesel trains were introduced. It was the end of an era when the steam trains came to an end.

Life is about beginnings and endings. We are born and we die, one door closes and another opens. We understand this rhythm of life for we all pass through it. In this world of beginnings and endings, God remains sure but He can bring new life to broken, tired, sinful human lives. A new beginning with Jesus transcends death into eternity and Heaven becomes a reality. People matter to God which is why it is not important if the fellowship is large or small. Val and Charlie both belong to a fellowship which cares about each other and if you need to know friendship and love, we worship on a Sunday afternoon at 2pm. Why not join us? You may discover a new beginning in your life, with hope and faith for the future - thus bringing a happier ending, God bless you all.

SWF

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What's it got in store?
Bentham's all been lit up
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Panto is a coming
Puss in Boots it is.

Where are we going to put the school?
'Cos they don't like where it is.

Northern Rock standing tall,
Barclays bits are on the floor.

Is there not another way
To get lorries to the loading bays?

Bentham is a strange old place,
Not all gold and fancy lace,
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NORTHUMBERLAND THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS PINOCCHIO

By Ian Porter

On 24th January at 6.30pm at Hornby Village Institute, the Northumberland Theatre Company will present "Pinocchio".

This is a magical adaption of Carlo Collodi's classical tale of a carpenter whose dream of a son comes true, and the subsequent misadventures of the naughty wooden puppet, whose nose grows to an amazing length, whenever he tells a lie.

This really is a funny, musical and magical production which will have all the children (and their parents), enchanted.

Ticket prices are £7 for adults and £3.50 for children. Don't miss this opportunity to have a wonderful family time, packed with laughter and fun. Come with your family and friends!

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BENTHAM & DISTRICT PET RESCUE



By Val Marshall

Even at this stage of the year we still have some cats and kittens in the sanctuary. If you can provide a home for one (or more!) please ring Pat on Bentham 63048.

Christmas came kindly to the pets in our care this year thanks to the tremendous support of all those generous people who donated prizes for our grand Christmas Raffle, to those willing helpers who sold the tickets, and, last but not least, to numerous others who actually bought them. This wonderful effort enabled us to raise over £600. Our winner was Sheila Cowgill, who carried (with more than a little help!) a dog basket filled with over £100 worth of drinks for Christmas. Frances Unsworth of Tatham won the second prize of a cat basket filled with the same goodies and the third prize was won by Katherine McNamee of Dalehead Vets. In all, there were twenty prize winners in the raffle - but there are now lots of pets in the area that are winners too!

Finally, whilst wishing you all the best of 2008, we would like to thank those who generously sent donations for our fund with their Christmas cards.

NEW YEAR RESOLUTION - SUPPORT THE BN COFFEE MORNING!



Bentham News is holding its annual coffee morning on Saturday 12th January, from 10am to noon in the Town Hall. This is an opportunity to meet some of the people who produce BN, ask questions, have a drink with friends, contribute some home-baking or other produce to our popular cake stall, and even to use our raffle and other stalls to recycle unwanted Christmas presents.

You can be sure of a warm New Year welcome, and we look forward to seeing you.

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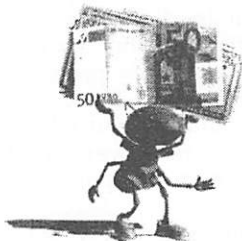
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WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

High Bentham

By Anne Yaman

The meeting on Thursday 6th December was our Christmas party and well and truly got the season off with a swing for the 25 members attending who braved such terrible weather to come out. The Lower Town Hall had been set out to reflect the Christmas mood and the meal was excellent – with a main course beautifully cooked and brought to us by Philippa from the Nosebag – the clear plates at the end of the meal were a testament to everyone's enjoyment. The starter and variety of desserts were provided by the Committee and the evening finished with coffee/tea and mince pies provided by Pat Henderson. During the evening we were entertained by Stan & Jane who sang a variety of seasonal songs in a country and western style together with impromptu dance performances by some members (who will remain nameless). All we can say is watch out Strictly Come Dancing if you ever include the Charleston in your programme!

Father Christmas dropped in from the North Pole, complete with very wet reindeers, which unfortunately had to wait outside, with gifts for each member which were gratefully received. Our next meeting to start the new year in style will be on 3rd January at 7.30pm in the Lower Town Hall when Chris Lewis will entertain us with "A holiday of a lifetime". All visitors will be most welcome.

Low Bentham

By Jennifer Watkinson

Members were looking forward to Miss Lynne Skellern, from the 1657 Chocolate House in Kendal, visiting us. Accompanied by a friend, who helped prepare the chocolate ready for dipping, she arranged many examples of the beautifully presented boxes of chocolates on a table. She gave a brief history of the production and told us that dark chocolate with a very high percentage of cocoa butter and powder is good for us.

After a demonstration of ribbon tying the

moment came for us to start dipping pieces of fruit and biscuits into the chocolate. She was thanked by the vice-president, Mrs. Ruth Sephton.

Two members joined the Settle Women's Institute trip to York, where they were guided through the little known alley ways of the city, before doing their Christmas shopping.

The Coach House put on a lovely festive meal for us on 15th December. There were only two members missing. Following the meal we had a quiz won by Mrs. Christine Jennings and Mrs. Jennifer Watkinson, and a gift from Santa's sack!

The next meeting, on 17th January, will be the Annual General Meeting.

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Dear Readers,

I have started work on mapping, photographing and recording the memorials in the churchyard at Low Bentham Church. I am using work already carried out by The Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society but their records (which are quite thorough) provide no real clue as to the location of a particular grave. What I would like to try to do is to augment their work by adding further information about those mentioned on the memorials. For example somebody's ancestor may have been a stonemason, blacksmith, professor, they may have fought at Ypres, been a Town Councillor or doctor. I am sure such information would be useful to future generations of researchers.

The memorials in the churchyard date from 1730 onwards. If you know you have a relation buried at St. John the Baptist Church, Low Bentham and the grave is marked with a headstone and you would like a little additional detail adding to the record, please write it down (maximum of 15 words) and post it to me at Holly Gill, Burton Road, Low Bentham LA2 7EW. To help I have arranged that an index of the memorials will be available at Bentham Library. The index only goes up to 1995 and I have already found one or two omissions so if the name of the person you are seeking is not there please do not despair. In due course I will try to bring the records up to date but it could take some time. You will find the index a little hard to read. This is because it started life as a microfiche film that is about half the size of postage stamp!

I look forward to receiving some interesting information.

Yours sincerely, David Johnson.

Dear Bentham News

Trevor Blackwell's article about the gateless gate in the December edition of BN contains some intriguing insights into Zen Buddhism, but his mention of gates, sheep, journeys and understanding can't help but prompt comment from a Christian perspective.

Jesus described himself as the Good Shepherd and invites us to become sheep; not mutton-heads, but people who recognize



how easy it is to feel "lost", and what a contrast it is to know you are "found" in his care. He said that he was also the gate for these sheep, which come in to be enfolded, and go out to find pasture.

There's a famous painting which shows Jesus knocking at an overgrown outer doorway. It has no handle on the outside, however, and the implication is that the person on the inside has to respond to the knock, open the door of his heart (or his heart) and invite Jesus in. Then a new journey into life begins with Him - the way, the truth and the life, as it says in the Bible. And what an amazing journey it proves to be!

Can't get your head round it? As some medieval Christian said, "I believe in order that I might understand".

I'm glad I'm a sheep, and that He's my shepherd.

Anthony Smith, Lakeber Drive, Bentham.

Dear Bentham News,

Great Wall of China Trek

Thanks to everyone who contributed to Cancer Care by putting money into the tin held at The Post Office. There was nearly £50 in the tin, and with generous sponsorship I raised just over £2,500.

The trek was hard going in places, I was glad I did plenty of training at the Gym and on the Three Peaks. The scenery was magnificent, especially the autumn colours. Our group was great fun, and we learnt a lot from our Chinese guide about China's history and what it was like growing up in Beijing. A big thank you from Cancer Care for your help: the three of us who travelled from Lancaster raised £9,380.

Eve Henty.

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HIGH BENTHAM CP SCHOOL

*Compiled from cuttings supplied by Mrs.
Catherine Boocock, Headteacher*

Beth Williams in Class 5!

Class 5 was lucky enough to have Beth Williams visit last month to recall her experience of being torpedoed during the War. The children were fascinated to hear about her experiences. Mrs. Williams was being evacuated to Canada to stay with her aunt during the Second World War when the ship she was travelling on was torpedoed by a German U-boat. Out of an initial group of 90 evacuees Mrs Williams was just one of a handful of children to survive

Universal Children's Day

To mark the UN's Universal Children's Day on 20th November - a celebration of children's rights across the world - all the children in school took part in a Paper Bag Challenge.

Based on a Christian Aid resource, the children were put into large "family" groups and made to produce recycled paper bags to support their families. In this way our children were shown that some of their peers across the world aren't lucky enough to have the luxury of school or an education. As part of our mock-Calcutta families they all had to work in very pressured circumstances to produce these said bags for some pretty scary bosses (the teachers). They soon understood that many people live under an unfair system where childhood as we know it is simply unobtainable.

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AN UNDER-COVER STORY

By Keith Hartley

When I reached pub-going age it was quite normal to sit in the vault or the tap room of one's local with a Woodbine in one hand (or Capstan if there was plenty of overtime going) and a pint of best in the other, telling anyone who would listen just what should be inflicted upon the foreman, the government, and half the members of the local football team. If (nay, when) one needed the toilet it was usually necessary to go outside, whatever the weather, to a rather smelly structure in the pub yard.

On July 1st 2007 we reversed all that! No more tap room haze in which to debate global warming or the need for a zebra crossing on Main Street, but that's OK because the majority of us can now punish our livers in peace without having to worry too much about the effects of passive smoking etc. And for those who choose to ignore the large-print health warnings on every packet, well there's always the rather smelly structure in the pub yard!

Having said all that, when in years to come a "caring" government has banned smoking completely, these "structures" will pass into history and may well become features in historical television documentaries. In anticipation of this I have made a pictorial record of a couple of those in the Benthams area, so that it may be noted for posterity that our district was indeed a social trendsetter in the early years of the century!



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We, in the Local Action for Justice and Peace group, sent this message in our greetings cards to some of all those around the world suffering or in prison for what they believe or who they are. We'll be following up this support in the coming year - let us know if you want to join us by ringing Stephen Dawson 62242.

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