

BENTHAM NEWS

SLEEPING BEAUTY - A PANTO TO AWAKEN BENTHAM WITH A KISS

**After a sad absence the
Bentham panto returns to stage
Sleeping Beauty**

Princess Aurora is well cared for by her kind nurse, Penny Gent, but an unfortunate decision not to invite the fairy godmother Malificence leads to a terrible curse on the princess, and she falls asleep for a hundred years!

Which Prince will be able to fight his way through the fearful forest and rescue Princess Aurora? Will it be Prince Pomposity (clever, brave and handsome), or will it be Prince Orlando (witty, resourceful and romantic?)

Surrounded by a dithery king and a greedy queen, a real pantomime dame, the enterprising young Robin Reliant, a very good fairy, a scary and vengeful witch, assorted little witches and little fairies, the TERRIBLE MONSTERS, will the prince and the princess finally meet and kiss and bring back new life to the land?

All will be revealed in Bentham Town Hall on the nights of February 22nd-25th. Come ready to cheer the good and boo the wicked! Come ready to warn the simple of the danger of what is lurking behind them! Come ready to be enchanted!

See article on page 5.



LOCAL PEOPLE UPSET!

There are several important matters raised by local people in this issue, through the BN COMMENT column on page 5, and on the LETTERS PAGE, page 25.

Some of the younger people in Bentham clearly feel discouraged in their efforts to organise enjoyable events in the Town Hall by the actions of the Town Council.

We all want Bentham people to be able to make more use of the excellent facilities now available in our Town Hall, so it would be helpful if the Town Council could respond to the concerns raised by the letters.

RECIPES

By Doreen Park

At Christmas I was given a very famous Yorkshire Chef's recipe book. He believed in good wholesome food. Here are two of his recipes that I have tried. The first one is easy peasy to most housewives but this version is just that bit different.



Welsh Rarebit

- 2 fluid ozs double cream
- 1 tblsp beer or ale
- 1 tsp English mustard
- 8 ozs mature cheddar cheese, grated
- a shake of Worcestershire sauce
- 2 egg yolks
- 4 slices from an uncut wholemeal loaf

Boil the double cream in a medium pan until it starts to thicken and then add the beer. Bring back to the boil, remove from the heat and stir in the mustard, cheese and Worcestershire sauce, beat in the two egg yolks, pour into a bowl, cool and refrigerate for use the next day. Cut the bread to doorstep size, toast lightly on one side, then spread the other side generously with the Welsh Rarebit mixture. Toast under a hot pre-heated grill until golden and sizzling.

Glamorgan Sausages

- 5 ozs Caerphilly cheese
- 6 ozs fresh white breadcrumbs
- 2 ozs young leeks or spring onions, finely chopped
- 1 tblsp chopped fresh chives
- ½ tsp dried thyme
- a pinch of dry English mustard powder
- salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 2 egg yolks
- 1 egg, beaten
- lard for frying

Pre-heat the oven to 200C, 400F, Gas Mark 6. Grate the cheese and mix in a bowl with 4 ozs of the breadcrumbs. Add the chopped leeks or spring onions, chives, thyme, mustard, salt, pepper and egg yolks and mix well together.

Divide the mixture in eight and roll each into a sausage shape. Dip the sausages in the

beaten egg and then coat with the remaining breadcrumbs.

Fry the sausages in a little lard until they become golden brown on the outside and then finish them in the pre-heated oven for 3-5 minutes. If served as a main dish, it is nice with a homemade tomato sauce. This is a great dish for vegetarians, but you could cater for meat eaters too by adding diced smoked bacon, ham or cooked sausage to the mixture.

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JANUARY'S TOWN COUNCIL

By David Johnson

All the Cllrs. attended except District Cllr. Camacho and County Cllr. Ireton.

Police

PC Hayes and Sgt. Gill attended. Apart from the armed robbery at the Spar they reported that December had been quite a peaceful month! The new licensing arrangements had worked smoothly with some establishments even closing earlier than planned. About 200 drivers had been breathalysed but there had been very few arrests for drink driving throughout Craven. They are worried about thefts of car keys from homes and about a bogus builder who conned a lot of cash from a lady in Goodenber Road by pretending to repair her roof.

Summarising the crime figures they said there had been a 20% reduction in the crime figures as compared with last year and 40% of all the 11 crimes committed in December had been detected.

Our area is top for low crime rates in the whole of North Yorkshire. The Cllrs. thanked the policemen for their report and their work in the community and expressed the hope that their apparent success would not prompt the authorities to consider reducing the force in our area.

Planning

The Cllrs. supported in principle the revised planning application for Bridge House. This involves demolishing the remains of the modern extension erected by BGS and restructuring the site with 3 houses built in a more sympathetic style. They are to ask Craven District Council to make a site visit to review the plans and to see if the houses could be sited slightly further away from the back wall.

Highways

Wray Main Street is to be closed to all traffic for a period of 6 weeks between the 1st February and the 14th March because of major work on the main drain. A resident of King Street wrote asking for reinstatement of the

'keep clear' sign to the entrance of the street because vehicles are parking and blocking access for the residents. The Cllrs. agreed to support the complainant and write to the County requesting action.

The Town Hall

The Cllrs. agreed to withhold some of the payments for the refurbishment until all the work has been completed satisfactorily. The Council received two letters, one from a resident who is still unhappy with the idea of late night functions at the Town Hall, and another expressing disappointment because there had been no New Year's Eve celebration at the Town Hall this year! The event had to be cancelled because the organisers thought the cost of hiring licensed door people would make the tickets too expensive.

Tourist Office in Town Hall?

A small committee is to be set up to look at the possibility of putting the Tourist Information Office into the front office at the Town Hall.

The Council is to write and ask the Blood Donor Service if it would return to the Town Hall now that a lift has been fitted.

Other Matters

If you notice any damaged benches around Bentham please contact Cllr. de La Haye. He has already repaired two and is willing to look at others if the wooden bars are broken.

The next town council meeting will be held on 6th February. It will commence at 7.15 p.m. because David Lloyd has asked to give a short presentation to the Council about the work of the Development Trust.



Alan Collins

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WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

High Bentham

By Doreen Park

At our first meeting in 2006, the President, Wendy Dowbiggin, wished everyone a Happy New Year, with a glass of mulled wine.

Each member had been asked to bring along an unwanted Christmas gift for a raffle. So there was a great collection of parcels for the raffle, which was held later in the evening.

The three teams entered in the Federation Quiz were drawn, and named as The Wenning Wonders, The Bentham Belles and the Chirpy Chicks. Doreen Park was selected as delegate to the Spring Council meeting. Sue Camacho was thanked for her valiant effort after being approached at the last minute to run a tombola stall at Late Night Shopping. With the help of a friend, £50 was raised for W.I. funds.

Committee member Mrs. Joan Sharman then presented a five minute fitness plan, covering six days a week for busy working ladies of all ages. Several members acted as guinea pigs!

The competition for a favourite Christmas decoration was won by Mrs. Isabel Carr.

Low Bentham

By Jennifer Watkinson

We were made very welcome at the Redwell Inn which was the elected venue for our Christmas meal. The table was pleasingly decorated and there were several bottles of red, white and rose wine, which were funded by the W.I.

Mrs. Kitty Ellershaw and Mrs. Pat Burns won the festive song and carol quiz, which the president, Mrs. Christine Jennings, had organised. There was a lucky raffle ticket for everyone and "Santa" came round with her sack and offered a gift to each member present. It was a most enjoyable, relaxing evening.

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BENTHAM PANTOMIME "SLEEPING BEAUTY" IS COMING TO LIFE!

By Iain Henshaw

What a great start to the year. The panto *Sleeping Beauty* is now fully cast and when you read this we will be in the Town Hall rehearsing. Again thanks to everybody who came down. Sorry if we couldn't fit you in.

The next three weeks is when all the technical stuff starts to happen. There are prop workshops for all (children under 9 must be accompanied by an adult) and these will be taking place at the Looking Well on Saturday the 4th and 11th February. Additionally if you can spare the time we could do with some volunteers to help with collecting and erecting the raised seating on Saturday the 18th or, if you fancy scenery painting, we will almost certainly need volunteers for this. If you can offer any assistance please contact me on 61010 or email btg@slb.com

Don't forget that you can buy tickets in advance from Bentham Sports and the show will be on from the 22nd February for four nights. See the entries in the diary page. New family ticket £15.00, in advance only. 2 adults (16+) and 3 children saving you £5.00. What a bargain!

Oh, if anybody fancies running the website it'd be appreciated - training can be given.



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BN COMMENT

Disabled Parking Spaces

In her letter to the BN last month, the Town Clerk, Jo Burton, expressed the thanks of the Council for the support from the community in the campaign to get North Yorkshire Highways to take some long overdue action. This included the provision of some "Disabled Parking" spaces. Now that we have these clearly marked spaces, that should solve the problem and ensure that people with disabled badges for their cars, would have designated parking spaces. But what is happening? The spaces are being used frequently by drivers who are able bodied. On at least two occasions when it has been pointed out to drivers that they are parking in a space reserved for the disabled, they have become aggressively rude.

We would appeal most strongly to the community, to leave these disabled spaces for the people for whom they are intended.

Mobile Phones and Driving

It is an offence to use a hand held mobile telephone while driving on a public road. It is absolutely clear that you cannot hold a phone in one hand, carry on a conversation over the phone, and concentrate on driving well enough to be driving with due care and attention. The penalties are quite stiff, but obviously not severe enough to deter many drivers from breaking the law this way. If you stand at the junction of Main Street and Station Road, you will see drivers every day, on mobile phones - driving carelessly.

Don't they understand that this law is in place to prevent accidents happening because drivers are not giving their full attention to their driving? If you are one of those who deliberately breaks this law, endangering others, why do you do it? If you have to phone, can't you park and do it safely? You may feel that you are sufficiently in control to avoid an accident - that is what others have thought until they have lost control and injured or killed innocent people.

It is to be hoped that the police will take determined action to try to deal with those who endanger the lives of others by selfishly ignoring this law.

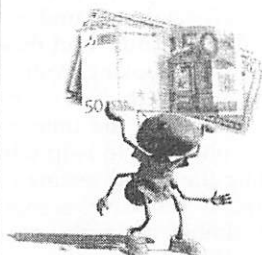
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GARDENING COLUMN

By Joyce Knapp



As we move into February, we will find that some plants are starting to show signs of springing back to life and we need to act quickly to apply mulches before they do.

Rhubarb roots, for instance, can be covered with a thick layer of well-rotted farmyard manure if available, although garden compost could also be used. This layer of manure will provide a steady supply of nutrients over the coming months and any straw content will help to insulate the new shoots as they emerge from the crown. You may wish to check for the presence of slug/snail eggs (clusters of tiny, perfectly round, white/opaque balls) around the root of the rhubarb and dispose of them before applying the mulch. By doing this you will greatly reduce the amount of damage done to the plants later in the year, by the adult slugs and snails.

February is a good month to start looking at any strawberry plants you may have in your garden. The first task is to remove any excess runners that are still attached to the parent plant; then we need to remove all old, decaying leaves to leave a tidy, healthy looking plant. Once this has been done, we can apply a mulch, and the one that benefits them the most is leaf mould as they started out as woodland plants.

Another task to be carried out in the fruit garden in February is the pruning of autumn fruiting raspberries. This is done simply by cutting back all existing stems to near ground level, before any new shoots start to appear. Raspberries, like rhubarb, will benefit from a thick layer of manure being spread on the ground surrounding their roots.

Lastly, in the fruit garden, we can run an eye over any black currant bushes we may have. If any of the buds appear swollen and rounded, they should be removed and disposed of, as they signify the presence of 'big bud mite'. This pest not only reduces the crop significantly, but also carries reversion virus, for which the only cure is to dig up and burn the infected plant.

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HOG ROASTS TO ORDER

CHURCH PAGE

St Boniface Church



CHURCHES TOGETHER
IN BENTHAM

By Father Angelo

My dear friends, soon it will

be Lent-this starts on Ash Wednesday when the Vicar or Minister traces the sign of the cross with ashes on our foreheads. He/she will pray the words, "Remember you are dust and unto dust you will return" or these words, "Repent and believe in the Gospel".

For all we do and spend on making ourselves pretty and body fit and beautiful we know the day or night will come for us to leave this body and this world and return to the earth. Our judgement by God will be how you and I have responded to the words "Repent and believe in the Gospel". May you all have a good and happy Lent by meeting together often at worship in Chapel and in Church. By making sure you often gather as a family at home. By our concern for the poor at home and the starving abroad. By looking forward to Easter Day and saying "This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it". My invitation to the children and people of Bentham and area is "Come back to Church" and for those of you who have not been for a long time-come back, a welcome awaits you at the four houses of God.

"God our Father take care of us, and let Jesus your precious son be our friend and saviour-we ask this through your holy spirit. Amen".

St Margaret's

By Janet Slinger

To many people the period after Christmas is very flat, short days and mainly cold and miserable weather. March sees the beginning of Lent, a period of fasting, denial and introspection-not much to look forward to one would think.

This year, however, we are going to have some feasting before the fasting with a Pancake Party at Tennant Well on Saturday 25th February at 4.00pm. Savoury pancakes, sweet pancakes, and an attraction not to be missed-the Rector will tell some stories! All welcome.

St. Margaret's Churchyard

By Rev. Nigel Thomas

After seeking permission from Bradford Diocese to extend our Garden of Remembrance it has now been approved that additional space on the south side of the churchyard be used for the burial of cremated remains. Those wanting details should contact the Rector.

St John's

By Judith Johnson

This month we are delighted to have an infant baptism and a service of confirmation for eight candidates. In the service of baptism the parents and godparents make promises to bring up the children in a Christian way of life. Confirmation is a continuation of the same promises but made by the candidates themselves who are then old enough to understand. So we have two milestones in our journey through our Christian Life.

Methodist Church

By Olive Calverley

In "Pilgrims progress", Christian left the City of Destruction and soon fell into the Slough of Despond. He was helped by a pilgrim called Hope, who rescued him. On these cold, dark mornings it is often difficult to feel cheerful. Christians have a Hope, which raises the spirit: God loves each one and is always there to comfort and sustain. All are precious in His sight and can know God personally. Jesus said, "Come to Me all who are weary and heavy-laden and I will give you rest".

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INGLETON MIDDLE SCHOOL CELEBRATES 75 YEARS

By Chris Leeming, Deputy Head

Opened as a "Modern" school in January 1930, during the Great Depression, Ingleton Middle School is now 75 years old!

We have chosen the week beginning 24th January as our official Jubilee Week. We are preparing a display which you are all invited to look at, but we still need the following things:-

- ♦ Photos of teachers, classes and pupils taken between 1930 and the present day.
- ♦ Programmes for special events such as speech days, drama productions, sporting events.
- ♦ Interesting or amusing anecdotes from years gone by.

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HELP BENTHAM MAKE HISTORY

By David Johnson

Many people will remember the Local History Exhibition that took place over Easter 2000. It was a very popular event and it is about to be staged again in the Town Hall Ballroom over the coming Easter Bank Holiday. It has been possible to arrange it because we have received grant aid from Craven District Council and the support of Bentham Town Council. Since the previous exhibition many new and interesting pictures have come to light, some very old and others from the 1970s and 1980s, many were taken by Mary Ireland, and so you may find yourself featured in the playgroup nativity, at a garden party or participating in a sponsored event!

Jim Redfern has been working hard to expand the collection about Angus's and the railway. Many of these pictures and press cuttings will not have been seen for many years. It is hard to estimate the number of photographs and articles that will be on display but it must run into the hundreds. We would like to find out more about some of our photographs and there will be an opportunity for you to add comments where this is appropriate. David Alder from the Post Office has agreed to provide a bookstall featuring local history books, and light refreshments will be available during most of the time the exhibition is open. David Johnson is looking for help to supervise the hall for part of the time that the exhibition is open. If you think you can help please contact him on 61905 as soon as possible.

It will be open on:
Saturday 15th April 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.
Sunday 16th April 11.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.
Monday 17th April 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.

Further information will be provided in a flyer in the April issue of Bentham News.

By the way, does anybody know the year that Workers' Playtime visited Bentham because Jim Redfern would love to know? If you have the answer please let me know!

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KEEP MOVING WELL WITH SALLY HORN

By Sally Horn

On Wednesday afternoons, from 2.00-3.00pm at Bentham Community Centre we have exercise to music for the over 60s. We start with gentle aerobic exercise to warm up - no complicated moves. We then do toning exercises with the use of chairs and mats and round off with stretching and relaxation. We like to keep it fun and social so we finish with a cup of tea and a good natter.

From 1.00-3.00pm the class is designed for the Parkinsons' Group, but others are welcome to come and join us. This is all chair based exercise, helping people to keep mobile and increase strength, grip, balance and confidence. We finish with a cup of tea. so come along and try us as we have a good social get together. If you have any enquiries please give me a ring. Sally Horn, 015242 41416 or 07977633083.

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ACTION GROUP FOR OLDER PEOPLE

By Lin Barrington

Last year, a group of people met to help with the production of the little yellow 'Where to get help' booklet put together by Christine Hodson for Age Concern. (If you haven't got your copy yet, we have some at Bentham Community Information in Station Road.) Christine also produced a report on what services older people felt were lacking in Bentham.

Once the booklet had been produced, we decided to carry on meeting to see if we could do anything about some of the needs identified in Christine's report. We have representatives from Age Concern, Looking Well, Carers' Resource, Health Visitors and Community Nurses, District Nurses and Social Services as well as Bentham Community Transport, Craven Volunteer Bureau and Contact the Elderly. Our group has the grand title of 'Multi Agency Action Group for Older People'.

Some of the issues brought out in Christine's report are too big for our group to sort out, but we will continue to lobby wherever we can for better services for older people and make sure Bentham is taken into account when policy decisions are being made.

Tea and Outings!

One of the issues we felt we probably could try to do something about was the loneliness people feel at weekends, when all the shops are closed and there's nowhere to go. Bentham Community Transport is going to start some Sunday outings and the first one will be to Arnside on Sunday 26 February (see the advert elsewhere in this edition of the Bentham News). The Action Group is also hoping to start regular tea parties at Looking Well and other venues on Sunday afternoons.

If you are interested in the Sunday events, we would be very glad to hear from you. You can drop in to the Community Information Office on Station Road and talk to Lin, or ring her on 015242 62549.

POLICE REPORT

By PC Adrian Hayes

The latest crime figures for the Bentham area, for the year 2005, show a slight reduction in overall crime, 122 as opposed to 126 in 2004, with detected crimes increasing to 62 (55%) as opposed to 55 (44%) in 2004.

Crime committed by cold callers such as bogus utility workers, or building contractors who carry out unnecessary work or work of a poor standard for exorbitant prices is on the increase throughout the country. Bentham has not escaped these problems. A Bentham resident was recently charged an excessive fee for having roofing work carried out which was of a very dubious standard. I would strongly advise people to never have any kind of work or service carried out by somebody who calls at your home uninvited.

Get quotations from more than one business and ensure that you have contact numbers, addresses and invoices to enable you to contact the supplier if there should be problems later. Also try and use the services of somebody who comes recommended by friends and neighbours whose work you can examine first. There are many legitimate trades people in the area who would welcome your business.

In an attempt to try and alleviate this kind of crime the Police and North Yorkshire County Council Trading Standards department are running an initiative to make communities free from this kind of crime. The scheme basically consists of putting up signs on the street stating that it is a

NO COLD CALLING area. Stickers can also be put on doors stating that doorstep sellers are not welcome in the area.

Bentham is a relatively low crime area and in an attempt to reduce crime even further I believe that schemes such as this, and neighbourhood watch schemes, are a good idea. If you and your neighbours would be interested in setting up either of these type of schemes please contact me on 0845 60 60 247 and I will be more than happy to assist in setting up the scheme.

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LOCAL EVENTS IN FEBRUARY

Sat 4th Bentham Footpath Group walk, Austwick/Feizor, 7 miles, leaders S. & J. O' Brien 62609. Please meet at Lairgill at 9.30am.

St. Margaret's coffee morning in the Town Hall Ballroom, 10.00am-12.00 noon. 

Farmers' Market in the Lower Town Hall, 9.30am-2.30pm.

Mon 6th Springboard for 7-10 year olds, 6.15-7.30pm in the Methodist Schoolroom, and every Monday.

Town Council meeting in the Town Hall, 7.30pm.

Looking Well Studios, 8.30-9.00am, Shake Out morning stretching session, and every Monday.

Looking Well Studios, 1.00-3.00pm, Cancer Support Group drop in and lunch, and every Monday. 2.15-3.30pm card making with Joan Giddings.

Tue 7th Methodist Bright Hour at 2.15pm, Methodist Schoolroom. Speaker Mrs. Susan Raw.

Playgroup & Toddlers at the Wenningdale Room, Town Hall, 1.00-3.00pm, and every Tuesday and Wednesday. See page 23.

Tue 7th

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

Afternoon aerobics at the Town Hall, 2.30-3.30pm, and every Tuesday.

Looking Well Studios, 1.30-3.30pm, confidence building for women, and every Tuesday.

Wed 8th

Indoor Market in the Town Hall.

Bentham Footpath Group quarterly meeting in Wenningdale Room, Town Hall, 7.00pm.

Gentle exercise to music at the Community Centre, 1.00-2.00pm, and every Wednesday.

Keep moving well, exercise to music for the over 60s, at the Community Centre, 2.00-3.00pm, and every Wednesday.

Thu 9th

Clapham Dance Club 7.30-10.00pm at the Village Hall. Old Tyme - Easy Sequence. £1.50 includes tea and biscuit, and every Thursday.

Tai Chi at the Community Centre, 7.00-8.00pm, and every Thursday.

Town Hall, 5.00-6.30pm, Fizzikal Girls Group, and every Thursday.

Fri 10th

Bentham Footpath Group annual dinner at Bentham Golf Club. Details from Keith 62373 or Dorothy 61430.

Bentham Agricultural Society annual quiz at the Town Hall, 7.30pm. Teams of four - £20 per team including hot pot supper. Enquiries to 61606. Entries close 8th February.

Age Concern at the Masonic Hall - Chris Hodson "Aromatherapy when you are older".

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.

- Fri 10th GFI (1) Years 6, 7 & 8 - 6.45-8.00pm, GFI (2) Years 9, 10 & 11 - 8.15-9.15pm at the Methodist Schoolroom, and every Friday in term time.
- Sat 11th High Bentham Playgroup coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10.00am-12.00 noon. 
- Looking Well Studios 10.00am-4.00pm Open Day, all welcome. See page 28.
- Sun 12th Bentham Footpath Group walk, Capernwray/Loyne Bridge, 10 miles, leader B. Ellershaw 62078. Please meet at Lairgill at 9.30am.
- Mon 13th Looking Well Studios, 2.15-3.30pm card making with Joan Giddings.
- Tue 14th Bentham Child Health Clinic at the Surgery, 2.00-4.00pm.
- High Bentham Toy Library at the Community Centre, 9.30-11.30am.
- Methodist Bright Hour at 2.15pm, Methodist Schoolroom. Speaker Mrs. Mavis Speight.
- Wed 15th Copy deadline for March edition of Bentham News.
- Thu 16th Springfield Bowling Club AGM at the Masonic Hall, 7.30pm.
- Fri 17th Age Concern at the Masonic Hall. Dorothy Stubbs - "Call my bluff".
- Waste paper collection at Lairgill Car Park, 8.30-11.00am. Proceeds to NSPCC.
- Sat 18th NISCU - Craven Area Christian Schools Worker coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10.00-11.30am, Cakes, Bric-a-brac, Jig-Saws. 
- Mon 20th Looking Well Studios (and Mon 27th) 2.15-3.30pm, Cancer Support Group - Floral Art with Margaret Hayton.
- Tue 21st Methodist Bright Hour at 2.15pm, Methodist Schoolroom. Speaker Mrs. Mavis Speight.
- Mothers Union meeting at Burton Church Room, Burton-in-Lonsdale, 2.00pm.
- Wed 22nd Pantomime, also on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, at the Town Hall. See page 5.
- Thu 23rd Bentham Footpath Group walk, Penyghent, 5 miles, leader D. Stubbs 61430. Please meet at Lairgill at 9.30am.
- Fri 24th Age Concern at the Masonic Hall, John Henderson - "Spalding Flowers".
- Sat 25th Goodenber Play Area coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10.00am-12.00 noon. 
- St. Margaret's Church a Pancake Party at Tennant Well Bungalow (home of Michael & Janet Slinger) 4.00pm.
- Mon 27th Ewecross Historical Society 7.30pm at the Town Hall. Admiral Sir John Kerr: Nelson and HMS Victory.
- Tue 28th Bentham Child Health Clinic at the Surgery, 2.00-4.00pm.
- Bentham Toy Library, 9.30-11.30am Community Centre. Centre 11.30am.

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CHARITIES THANK YOU

Thank you from the PTFA to everyone who supported High Bentham Community School's Christmas Hamper Raffle. A huge thank you also to Louise Bruns, who made up our hampers and also donated some of the prizes - we couldn't have done it without her. Thanks to all at Tom Guy's for displaying our hampers and being available for winner's collections.

Lucky winners were: Bob Weir, Sarah Taylor, Amy of Amy's Hairdressing, Beryl of Temptations, Michelle Hodgson, Mrs. Taylor, Paul Wood, Philip Morphet, H. Slinger, Steven Barlow, Mrs. Hodgson, Mr. Hammond, Glen, Annie & Mike, Betty Slinger, Mrs. Sheila Ward, Margaret Grayston and Andrew Armstrong of Tooby's.

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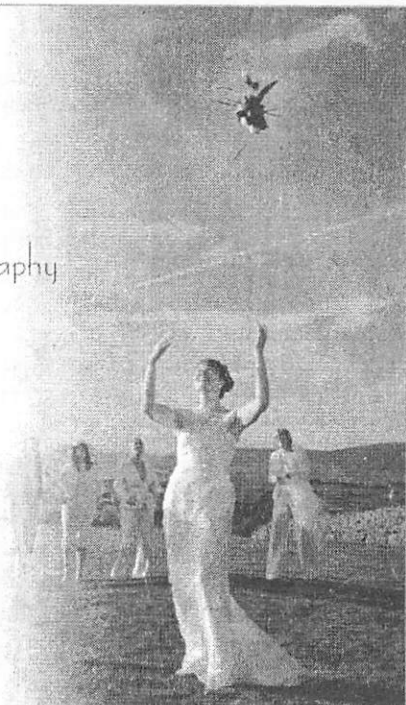
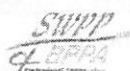
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BENTHAM PEOPLE

Personal Thanks

Park. The family of the late Bill Park wish to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their kindness, support and cards of condolence during their recent bereavement, for their attendance at Bill's funeral and their donations to St. Margaret's Church and the Alzheimer's Society. Many thanks to the doctors, nurses and social workers and the good people of Bentham who helped Bill during his last illness. Thanks also to Burndale Residential Home and Craven Nursing Home for their kind and thoughtful care of Bill and grateful thanks to Mr. Joe Morphet and the Rev. Nigel Thomas for their help, understanding and efficient funeral arrangements.

Jack Noon. The family of the late Jack Noon would like to thank all family and friends for the cards and flowers received on the sad loss of Jack. Our thanks also go to Burndale Residential Home (particularly Mick who became the Bookies Runner!!), for the care that he received there, and also Bentham Surgery, all donations being shared between the two. A wonderful man who will be very sadly missed.

Thanks

Ralph Sullivan. I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who sent me and my family their best wishes during my recent illness. There were too many to thank everyone in person. It was overwhelming. We are lucky to live and work in such a warm and caring community. Being ill is no fun, but your thoughts made a huge difference to us. My sincere thanks.

St Margaret's Church. Our rector, Rev. Nigel Thomas, and the congregation of St. Margaret's Parish Church, would like to thank the kind person who provided, for free, a second Christmas Tree after the first one was stolen from Church. Christmas is a time for giving but for a selfish few it is also a time for taking.



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PET RESCUE

By Val Marshall



As we start the year it is very distressing to get yet more calls asking us to take in abandoned cats. Last year we had 342 calls for help – more than any year since we started 9 years ago. Over half of these were asking us to take in cats which were pregnant, or kittens which were without homes. Last month a car was seen on the Burton to Ireby road to slow down and throw three 5 month old kittens out – only two of which have been found even after much searching.

It is most upsetting when people read the riot act at us when we are unable to take their unwanted cats in because we have no room. One feels so helpless and hope that one of the other sanctuaries whose telephone number we pass on can help. However, they, like us, have the same problem which was illustrated when a lady from Chorley had tried every sanctuary between Manchester and Carlisle to get her deceased mother's cats taken in and nobody had any room. They had to be euthanased which was very sad, but kinder than throwing them out to die goodness knows where.

So, please for the sake of all these unwanted kittens, get your cats spayed and if you have difficulties we can help financially or lend traps for the strays. If this is done it will save a lot of heartache and give sanctuary space for cats rendered homeless due to problems of their owners. It appals me to see dear little kittens thrown out and left to die, or given to people who don't really want them and later abandon them.

On a happier note, two cats were reporting missing and later in the day two were found and were reunited with their owners. That is when our job ends on a happy note and makes it all worth while. Don't forget - if you need food for abandoned cats that you are looking after please ring 62512 and we will keep you supplied. Please do take heed about the neutering and make Bentham district a pleasanter place for people and pets.

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THE BIG STONE

By Lynda Burns

We are very lucky to have a wealth of musical talent in Benthams and it appears that even those who move away still feel strong links with the area. I recently met up with former 'Benthamer' Paul Cartledge.

L - I remember you from school days when you lived at the pottery, what have you been doing since then?

PC - Yes, you were our neighbour and had to put up with me endlessly practicing guitar. I'm surprised you are still talking to me! I moved to London and have been working in the music business and bringing up two children with my wife Rattica.

L - How did you get into the music business?

PC - I was really lucky and got a job working for the record producer Tony Visconti, most famous for his work with T-Rex and David Bowie. He showed me the ropes and I became his studio manager. After he returned to live in New York, I was taken on by a music production company, Joe & Co, and have been working as a sound engineer and music producer ever since.

L - I hear that you worked on Strictly Come Dancing.

PC - Yes, that's true but I'm a rubbish dancer so my involvement was purely on the musical side!

L - I think people would be interested to know about The Big Stone.

PC - It's an acoustic song-based project that I've been working on with my old friend from Settle High School, Ben Kandler. As a young lad growing up in Low Benthams I was very much influenced by the songs of Mick Donald (introduced to me by Julian Maud - music teacher at Ingletton Middle School) and also Farmstead, the brilliant folk band from Benthams as well as loads of other folk/rock bands of the era. Kevin McSherry was also a big influence along with Dave Mulligan.

L - So you've gone back to your roots?

PC - Yes, that's why we wanted to call ourselves The Big Stone as our inspiration came from the area.

L - You have two songs on a new compilation

CD, how did that come about?

PC - For several years I've been friendly with a chap called Richard Durrant who is an incredible guitarist and founder of Longman Records. I helped him record a couple of albums and during breaks in the recording I played him some of the songs I'd been doing with Ben. He was particularly taken with 'A northern winter night' and 'Long hard road' and offered to release them on a sampler CD featuring other Longman artists who include the Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain and Don Partridge. The CD is called 'A scattering of snow' which comes from a line in 'A northern winter night'.

L - And if people want to listen to more of your material?

PC - There are some more songs of ours on the internet available for free download and we want to encourage people to have a listen - www.thebigstone.co.uk We'd like lots of people to put our songs on their MP3 players!

L - For those of us who don't have MP3 players are there plans for any local live performances?

PC - Nothing definite at the moment, so far we've only confirmed The Crawley Folk Festival this year, but I'd love to play in Benthams again. The music scene here is definitely alive and kicking!

L - Thanks Paul, I'll look forward to that.

PC - A big thank you to you, and I hope 2006 is a very happy year for Benthams.

'A scattering of snow' is officially released on February 6th and will be available in record shops and online. Paul and Ben can be contacted on the above website.

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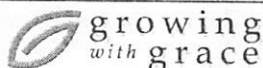
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BN COFFEE MORNING WELL SUPPORTED

Helpers at the BN coffee morning on 14th January were kept busy as there was a steady flow of people. Just over £270 was raised.

This photo was taken at the cake stall and bric-a-brac stall, run by Judith Johnson and Joan Clapham. Many thanks to all the volunteer helpers and to those who contributed cakes, books, bric-a-brac and made donations etc.

There were too many raffle prizes to print the names of all the winners, but I'm sure that Peggy enjoyed her Shiraz!

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IN THE SAME BOAT – LOOKING WELL CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

By Alison Jones

If you, or someone close to you, is living with cancer, or another long term health condition, we invite you to come and join us on Mondays between 1.00 and 3.00 pm in the new Looking Well. There is always a friendly welcome and the offer of lunch or a cuppa.

If you would like to do an art activity, sessions start at 2.15 pm. In February you can make cards with Joan Giddings or do floral art with Margaret Hayton (see diary for dates). We can also offer complementary therapy sessions at reduced rates. For more details, please phone Marie Knowles on 64947.

MR. JACK NOON

A Tribute by Father Angelo, Parish Priest of St. Boniface

It is with sadness that I write that this good and gentle man has passed away a year after his dear wife Nellie. I, like others who visited Jack at home, and lately at Burndale, will always remember his welcoming smile and his saying "How are you"? He was someone who you could truly say bore his suffering and illness with courage but who always enjoyed being alive - a great example to us all. He loved his family and with me, when I visited him, said a prayer for them.

May he rest in peace.

BIG ART PROJECT

By Peter Rollinson

Channel 4 has announced its Big Art Project for which six communities in the UK will be chosen to work with an artist to produce a work of art suitable to, and appropriate for, each community. In December, in conjunction with Pioneer Projects, I have submitted a "Bid for Bentham". A shortlist will be announced early this year.

A copy of the video that accompanied the written application is available for free loan from the new Looking Well.

BN AUDIO TAPE SERVICE

By Bill Kennedy

For a number of years we have been supplying an audio tape version of the Bentham News for those in the community who have difficulty in reading. The service has been run for the Bentham News by Don Bridgewood, with the help of a number of local volunteer "readers".

At one time we were supplying over twenty people with a tape each month, but this number has now dwindled to eleven. We have the capacity to provide more people with this audio service so if any of your family or friends are visually impaired or have difficulty in reading, and would like to have the BN on tape each month, please let me know (62492). This is a free service.



Bentham Community Transport

We're planning some

Sunday outings

The first one is to Arnside on Sunday 26th February in the afternoon. (If you have suggestions for the future, let us know) The cost will be £6.50. If you would like to come along, phone us on 62753. We can come to your house to collect you if you wish.



PHOTOGRAPHER AT PLAYGROUP

By Rachael Faraday

Playgroup and Toddlers are having a visit from Gillian, the school photographer, on Wednesday 1st March. between 3.00 and 4.00pm. She is very good and always puts the children at ease, which is reflected in the resulting photographs. Children can be photographed on their own or with older or younger siblings. This is an invitation to any parent, whether or not their children attend Playgroup. So if you would like some professional photos (ideal for Mother's Day or Easter presents), please contact me on 61438 for an appointment time.

Don't forget the Playgroup coffee morning on Saturday 11th February in the Town Hall. As usual, your support will be much appreciated.

A reminder that Playgroup and Toddler sessions run every Tuesday and Wednesday, from 1.00-3.00pm at the Wenningdale Room, at the rear of the Town Hall. From 0-6

months £1, 6 months - 2 years £1.50. Parents must stay with children up to 2 years of age. From 2 year old it costs only £3 per session and children can be left with our qualified leader, Rachel Garnett, and assistant Ruth Green. We are a happy, welcoming group, just come along and see what we are up to. The first visit is free.

High Bentham Primary School

By Catherine Boocock

We are having an Open Morning on Wednesday 15th February for prospective parents from 9.30am-11.30am so please come along and visit our Nursery and Reception classes to meet the staff and see our excellent early years provision. Look at our website <http://highbentham.digitalbrain.com> to find out more about our school and please ring Mrs. Boocock our Head teacher on 61412 if you wish to arrange a visit. If you wish to book to use the all weather pitch then please contact school on 61412.

The "After School" club is held at the Community Centre, details from 61800.



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BENTHAM FOOTPATH GROUP



By Maureen Ellis

On Saturday 4th February at 9.30 am, meeting at Lairgill, there will be a walk between Austwick and Feizor. It will take in Oxenber Wood, well known for its flowers rather later in the spring. However excellent views can be had with very little effort and there is the possibility of seeing buzzards. It will be about 7 miles.

On Wednesday 8th February there is the Quarterly meeting in the Wenningdale Room at 7.00p.m. Please make an effort to attend as the last meeting was a disaster due to lack of people (I was also at fault).

For the Annual Dinner on Friday 10th at 7.30pm either Keith Hartley on 62373 or Dorothy Stubbs on 61430 must be phoned if you are attending. It is at the Bentham Golf Club as last year.

The 10 mile walk on Sunday 12th February will be led by Bernard Ellershaw. It is part 2 of the 37 mile exploration of the Lune valley called the Lunesdale Walk. Starting from Capernwray, the route passes through Priest Hutton, Gunnerthwaite and Arkholme, finishing at the Loyne Bridge, Gressingham. This is a quiet, gently undulating area with lovely views. We meet at 9.30am at Lairgill.

On Saturday 23rd, meeting at Lairgill at 9.30am Penygthent will be ascended, parking at Horton in Ribblesdale. The route will take in Hull Pot and Hunt Pot. It is a 5 mile up and down walk.

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Dear Bentham News,

We, the organisers, feel compelled to write regarding the New Year's Eve dance at the Town Hall, which unfortunately did not happen, and to explain why this was so.



We provisionally booked the Town Hall in May 2005. In November 2005, we were contacted by the council to say that they were unable to honour the booking due to licensing problems. We then sought our own licence with the backing of the Town Council for the event to run until 2.00 am., at a cost to ourselves.

With 10 days left to go, having secured the licence from Craven District Council, Bentham Council decided the event could go ahead, but would have to finish at 1.00am and have 4 licensed security, despite no previous mention of any kind of security. In fact in the 10 years of running events at the Town Hall, we have always provided security despite it having never been asked for. At this point we felt these conditions too restricting. Even if we could find 4 licensed security at this short notice, the cost would make the ticket price unrealistic for an event finishing at 1.00 am.

All the events we have been involved in at the Town Hall have been organised by local people for local people and take a huge amount of time and effort. They are all non profit making, indeed if there have been any profits, they were given to local charities.

This is the 3rd year that the people of Bentham have not been able to see in the new year at the Town Hall. The first year was due to a power cut at 11.45pm, the second year was due to the Town Hall's refurbishment and this year's is as explained above.

We would like to express our gratitude to all those who supported us in this event and our apologies for it not happening. Rest assured we did everything within our power to make this event happen.

Aid Todd, Tom Lloyd, Jimmy Ogden.

Dear Bentham News,

I am writing to express my concern at the difficulties faced by members of the community wanting to hire the Town Hall. Bentham's samba reggae band, The

Deadbeats, were recently refused permission to hire the venue. The Brazilian founder of the band's rhythms was to travel from France, with a member of the long established Paris band, to hold a workshop in Bentham. His workshops are quite rare and highly regarded so people from Wales and Liverpool were keen to attend. Many people visiting Bentham comment on the vibrant community spirit we enjoy and it seemed a shame that we were unable to use the ideal public facilities we have. The decision did seem particularly unfair when only weeks before, many people had enjoyed our performances at the Community Bonfire. The rhythms we played there were all learned at Giba's workshops, held as far away as France, which obviously not all of us can attend, so it was an exciting prospect to have him finally visit Bentham.

Luckily, Low Bentham Institute was happy to accommodate us and a very valuable, if exhausting, workshop was enjoyed by all. Sadly the same cannot be said of the New Year's Eve event. Despite having booked early in the year, the people planning to celebrate with live music and dancing were also stopped from using the Town Hall. The organisers have many years experience of responsibly and successfully putting on such events and had spent much time and effort planning this one.

I'd been looking forward to a great night watching and dancing to some fantastic bands so was very disappointed when it was cancelled. This happened days before Christmas leaving little time for people to be notified and make other arrangements. I feel saddened that the Town Hall, which I believed had been renovated to better serve the community, was left empty on arguably the biggest date of the social calendar.

I don't know if anyone else has had the same problem. Certainly the costs involved in the hire of the venue seem prohibitive enough without facing such negativity. The Community Centre and Victoria Institute have been much more supportive, but some events require the space and facilities of the Town Hall. Let's hope that in future, this great venue is allowed to be used to its full potential, and not left expensively empty!

Yours faithfully, Lynda Burns.

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**THE YELLOW, BLUE
 AND GREY**

By Bob Black

There was little kindled warmth
 In the genial distant sun
 That hesitant late February day,
 But its shy radiance still slammed our
 senses.

As we walked through the woods,
 Last summer's leaves underfoot,
 Looking up at black on clear blue
 silhouettes,

The trees dwarfed the lonely coltsfoot
 We found growing through stones by the
 beck,

Bright yellow petals sang their own new
 song.

Languid, almost near enough to touch,
 A stately heron flapped irresistibly by.
 We marvelled at her feathered closeness.

"You've caught sight of spring,
 Dressed in blue and yellow,

Now see her companion, robed in grey",
 she seemed to say,

Blinking as she passed the spot.

We went home thrilled, to tell our story.

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27

BENTHAM NEWS SPRINGTIME WORDSEARCH

A	W	E	R	K	S	D	A	X	P	E	C
G	T	G	M	E	J	U	L	E	Z	Q	U
P	Y	N	O	H	A	T	C	H	I	N	G
O	U	I	S	T	Y	B	V	O	R	R	F
R	E	T	S	A	E	A	T	Z	R	X	A
D	I	S	O	D	M	T	C	R	A	C	I
W	G	E	L	N	E	S	T	I	H	W	K
O	E	N	B	L	Q	B	O	D	N	F	P
N	U	L	L	D	O	F	F	A	D	T	E
S	F	P	C	X	B	H	D	F	C	U	H
G	A	U	P	L	T	S	B	M	A	L	Y
W	U	R	A	E	D	S	C	W	F	E	T

Can you find twelve words associated with springtime? If so, then list them on a sheet of paper, together with your name and contact details and place in an envelope marked "WORDSEARCH". Drop them into Bentham Sports before closing time on Friday 3rd March. First correct entry drawn at the next BN Committee meeting will receive a £10 prize.

Christmas Winners

Mrs. C. O'Brien of Low Bentham correctly identified the twelve words associated with Christmas and was lucky in the £10 draw. The words were as follows:

Bethlehem	Stable	Manger	Presents
Crackers	Myrrh	Reindeer	Tinsel
Turkey	Sleigh	Shepherds	Stocking

Ellie and Harry Wills of High Bentham counted 20 Santas in the December edition of BN and share the £5 prize.

LOOK! WE'RE OPEN

By Alison Jones

Come and look round our amazing new building on Saturday February 11th from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm. It has been refurbished by local tradesmen and the high standard of their work is a pleasure. Unlike our old building, it is full of light and very warm. We have incorporated as many environmentally friendly systems as possible including a solar panel, high levels of recycled paper insulation and a wood pellet fuelled boiler. The boiler has travelled from the Czech Republic, via Denmark to Bentham. Pioneer Projects is living up to its name as it is the first of its kind in the UK. Thank you to all those people in Bentham and beyond who have given time and money to help us achieve this. A particular thank you this month to the Bentham News who have given us a donation which will go towards new equipment in the downstairs Looking Well space.

There are lots of ways you can make use of this stunning new building. Our current programme of activities is listed in the diary pages and can be found on our website - www.pioneerprojects.org.uk/lookingwell. Come and have a look and tell us what new activities you would like to do - requests so far include a morning stretching and shake up session (starts on 6 February), and a



This picture was taken in the bright and cheerful new Looking Well "workshop".

Saturday children's club. If you are looking for a venue for serviced business meetings or an exhibition, our first floor studio might suit you. The small business units are comfortable and will be fully equipped, including one that can be used as a therapy/treatment room and are available to hire by the session, day or month. You may like to sign up as a 'Friend of Looking Well' or volunteer to help with creative or administrative aspects of running the charity. Find out more and see for yourself at our **Open Day on 11 February!**

Looking Well Studios, King St, High Bentham (between Armstrongs Hardware and HSBC Bank) Tel: 015242 62672. Email: office@pioneerprojects.org.uk

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.