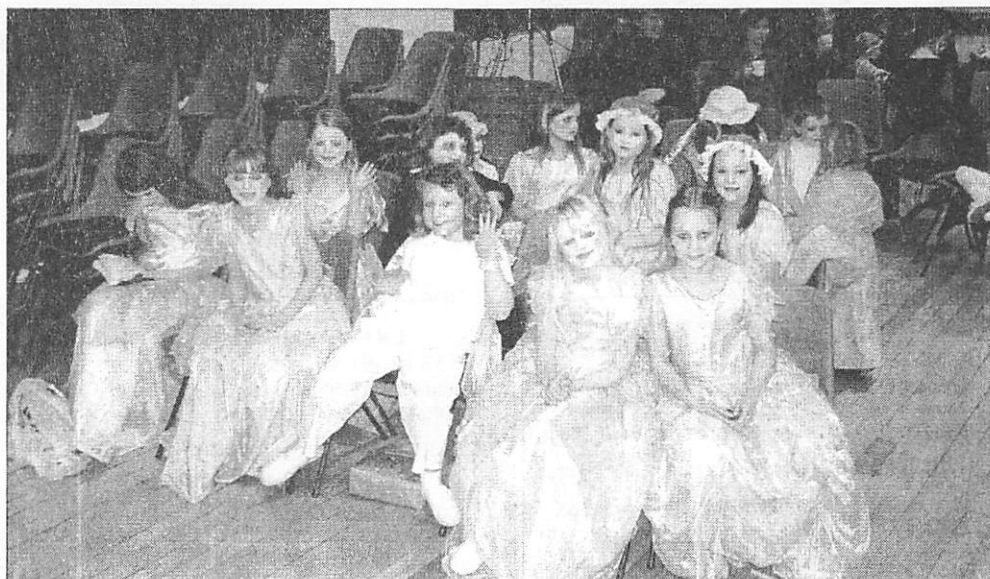


BENTHAM NEWS



PICS FROM THE DRESS REHEARSAL OF THIS YEAR'S PANTO



MARCH 2006

ISSUE 233

RECIPES

By Doreen Park

As the cold winds of March blow, why not bring a taste of the Mediterranean to your dinner table, with quick and easy pasta?



Beef Lasagne

- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 1 garlic clove, crushed
- 1lb 10ozs lean beef mince
- 2 x 400 gms crushed tomatoes
- 5 oz tomato paste
- ½ teaspoon sugar
- 2 ozs plain flour
- 1¼ pints milk
- 9 ozs cheddar cheese, grated
- 9 ozs instant lasagne sheets

Pre-heat the oven to 180C/350F. Heat 2 tablespoons oil in a pan and fry the onion and garlic until soft. Add the mince and cook until browned. Then add the tomatoes, tomato paste and sugar and stir until thick.

Melt 3 ozs butter in a pan and slowly stir in the flour and milk. Remove from the heat and stir in half the cheese. Place a third of the lasagne sheets in a 3ltr/5¼ pt ovenproof dish, add half the meat sauce, then half the white sauce. Repeat layering, top with cheese and bake for 50 minutes until browned. Stand for 5 minutes before serving. This amount will serve six.



TEMPTATIONS

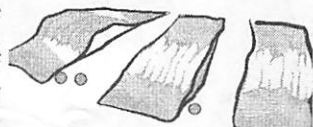
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Salmon in Creamy Lime Fettucine

- 13 ozs fettucine
- 4 x 220gm salmon fillets, skinned
- 1 tbs olive oil
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 1 garlic clove, crushed
- 2 tsp finely grated lime rind
- 1 tbs lime juice
- 300 ml/10fl ozs cream

Cook the pasta in a large pan of boiling water until tender,



then drain. Heat half the oil in a pan and cook the salmon until browned. Flake and place in a bowl.

Heat the remaining oil in the pan and cook the onion and garlic until soft. Add the rind and juice of the lime, bring to the boil and reduce to about 2 tbs. Stir in the cream and return to the boil. Then remove from the heat, and serve with the pasta and salmon. Serves four.

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ENTERTAINMENT FOR MARCH

FRIDAY 3rd BODGERS MATE

(GOOD TIME BAND)

DENIS AND GLENN

SATURDAY 4th 70s & 80s NIGHT

WITH DJ DANNY

1st, 2nd and 3rd PRIZES FOR FANCY DRESS

9.00pm-LATE BAR

FEBRUARY'S TOWN COUNCIL

By David Johnson

All the Cllrs. attended except District Cllr. Camacho.

Bentham Development Trust

Prior to the Council Meeting David Lloyd, Lin Barrington and Jeff Harmer (of the Scarman Trust) gave a brief summary of the activities of the Trust in Bentham. David explained that the Trust was overseeing the development of the Community Centre, the Victoria Institute, transport and information services. The Trust has received a lottery award to employ people to promote these causes. The main thrust of all three who spoke was the need to utilise local resources and enable various groups to use their talents to work together for the common good. Lin explained that she is planning to bring groups together to provide Sunday afternoon tea-parties for the lonely and elderly; Geoff pointed out that communities were rich in skills, land, buildings and knowledge and that the aim of the charity was to fund local projects which would harness these.

Police

PC Hayes asked the community to report dog owners who allow their dogs to foul footpaths, playing fields etc. to the police or the dog warden. The Council has received complaints about fouling at the Recreation Ground and Bull Field. He also asked the public to report loutish behaviour by youngsters. He said that seven or eight youngsters are causing the majority of nuisance. He wanted their parents to take the poor behaviour of their children seriously and, he said, given the information, he would be pleased to take action. The police have received complaints about the behaviour of some of the residents of the THYNK housing project at Wesley Place. Cllrs. decided to write and remind Foundation Housing of their promise that they would only place young people there if there was a responsible adult in charge.

From the 1st April there will be changes within our local police force. The number of constables serving the Ingleton/ Settle area

will rise from 15 to 16. There will only be one sergeant based in Settle but an inspector is to be appointed for rural Craven. Ingleton and Settle will each have 3 community officers working late into the night. The remaining 10 officers will provide 24 hour response cover.

The bogus builders are still around and he asked Bentham folk to keep an eye open for any such people working at the homes of the elderly and vulnerable. He wants the public to report any suspicious workmen immediately. Metal is being stolen including lead and metal sheets. He said there had been a slight reduction in crime in our area over the year and that the detection rate had risen from 44% to 53%. You can ring the police on 0845 60 60 247 about non-urgent matters.

Highways

The road from Langber Lane End to Ingleton is to be closed for a two week period sometime between 13th February and 13th August. The disabled bay in Main Street is to be moved to the top side of the 'keep clear' section to make parking simpler. The Cllrs. agreed to ask the highways department to attend to several kerbstones, certain potholes which have appeared and to the flooding at Eskewbeck.

The Cllrs. asked the clerk to write and enquire about the unexplained appearance of a bollard in the middle of the pavement at Punch Bowl Cottage. They thought it could be a danger to pedestrians in the dark. Some of the Cllrs. said they were willing to 'adopt' one of the gateway signs and plant up small plots to give a welcoming splash of colour. Is anybody else willing to help?

Town Hall

Most of the work has now been completed satisfactorily. Progress is being made on improving the website (www.bentham.net) Its operation will be suspended for a short time whilst it is being transferred to a new server. The Cllrs. were very concerned to read the letters in the BN criticising their letting policy and they agreed to respond by writing a letter to the BN stating the facts. There will be an area forum at Ingleton Community Centre on 16th March at 7.00 pm. The Parish Meeting will be held on Tuesday 25th April. Coffee and biscuits will be served.

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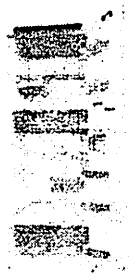
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POLICE REPORT

By PC Adrian Hayes

Concerns have been raised through the Town Council in relation to dog owners allowing their dogs to foul public places and not clearing up after them. This is of particular concern in that some people are exercising their dogs on the Wenning Avenue playing fields. Owners, or those in charge of the dogs who do this are committing an offence for which they can be issued a fixed penalty notice or reported to appear in court. I would urge the owners of all dogs to take responsibility for their pets. If you know of somebody who is allowing this to happen please contact me and I will take positive steps to deal with those responsible. Alternatively you can contact the Council dog warden on 01756 706345.

Parking on Pavements

The perennial problem of parking in and around Bentham still persists. The limited parking restrictions on Main Street are being adhered to but many motorists are still parking their vehicles on the pavements. There is a misconception that by parking on the pavement the yellow lines etc do not apply. This is wrong. This is causing particular problems for those with mobility problems or mums pushing prams who have to walk in the road. The pavements are for pedestrians and by parking on the footpath you are causing an unnecessary obstruction. This is an offence for which you can also be issued with a parking ticket. Please consider everybody's needs and do not park on the pavement.

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STATEMENT FROM THE TOWN COUNCIL REGARDING TOWN HALL USAGE

In February's Bentham News two letters were published regarding events at the Town Hall. Unfortunately the Council was not given the opportunity to comment at the time and therefore inaccuracies were printed as fact.

Pricing

Having spent £400,000 of Bentham residents money on the refurbishment, the Council is of the opinion that the Town Hall should fund itself and not be a further burden to tax payers. The prices are set at a realistic level to cover costs.

Where else in the area could you find a facility for 385 people like the Town Hall ballroom for £11.75/hour (inc VAT)?

Premises Licence

Buildings have always required a licence for events involving music and dance. New licences came into being at the end of November, but the Town Hall's licence was not awarded at that time. Despite not wanting to alter the Town Hall licence in any way the full process had to be followed.

A resident of Main Street put in an objection to the application for late night music events. A single objection is sufficient to cause a licence to be refused or amended.

The Town Hall was an unlicensed building for a period and unable to hold music / dance events of any kind. During this period the Council would have been stupid to allow events to proceed as this could have prevented a new licence being granted and left Bentham with a building unable to have music events.

New Licensing Laws

These have been brought in by the Government as from 24 November 2005. They apply to all premises, irrespective of type - so Town and Village Halls are treated the same as city centre pubs and clubs. The law now requires the organisers of public

events continuing after 11.30pm to provide licensed door staff, the number being specified according to size of event i.e. the full Town Hall needs 4.

New Year's Eve

All bookings of the Town Hall are treated as provisional until a deposit is received. Provisional bookings can be cancelled at any time. No deposit was received for the New Year's Eve event, despite it having been booked in May.

When it became clear at the beginning of November that the hall would be unlicensed all relevant event organisers were contacted by letter.

After talking to the organisers and the complainant, the Council agreed that the New Year's Eve event could proceed and the organisers applied for a Temporary Event Notice to license the event. The 4 licensed doormen were a legal requirement of this licence, not one imposed by the Council.

The organisers decided that the costs would put prices into the region of £12 / ticket (as we understand it) and cancelled the event.

The Town Hall has now been granted a licence, but with certain restrictions attached which may affect the way events are run in the future. In no way does the Council want to restrict dance and music events in the building (as long as they do not disturb the residents who live in the vicinity), which should be apparent from the events which have been held there since the building reopened in August.

However, the new licensing laws are stricter than before and the provision of door staff is now a legal requirement which those wishing to organise large events will have to work with. But as long as organisers are prepared to work within the framework of the law and the licence, Bentham Town Hall will be available for dance and music events.

Town Clerk

The Town Clerk will be working out of the Town Hall on Monday and Wednesday mornings (9.15 - 12.15) from 6th March. This should help those who wish to see planning applications or make bookings etc. Also there is now a telephone number for the Town Hall - 62857.

CRAVEN FORUM MEETINGS

By Kate Senior

Craven District Council will shortly be hosting the Spring 2006 round of area forum meetings across the district.

Agendas for the meetings have not yet been finalised however findings of the local housing needs survey has already been identified as an agenda item. In addition, there will be an opportunity at the meetings for residents who are over the age of 60 or have a disability to pick up a free travel pass which will allow free bus travel in Craven.

The meetings will be held at the following locations:

North Craven - 7.00pm Thursday 16th March at Ingleborough Community Centre.

Mid Craven and Ribblesdale - 7.00pm Wednesday 29th March at Settle Victoria Hall.

Skipton and West Craven - 7.00pm Thursday 30th March at Skipton Town Hall.

Airedale and South Craven - 7.00pm Wednesday 22nd March at Sutton Village Hall.

Wharfedale - 7.00pm Monday 27th March at Cracoe Village Hall.

I hope that you will be able to join us at one of these meetings. The forums are held to update residents about what's happening locally and so that we can hear your views and make sure that the services we deliver now and in the future meet the needs of local people. So please come along - this is a chance for you to have your say!

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HAVE YOU FOUND THE BENTHAM SURGERY PATIENTS LIBRARY USEFUL?

By Liz Lloyd

Have you used the Patients Library? We need some feedback! We would like to know if the library is useful. If you have used any books or videos we would really like to know if you have found them helpful or not?

We would be very grateful if you would write your views down and place them in the box provided. It is on top of the library shelves, just inside the door at Bentham Surgery. All information will be treated in strict confidence and there is no need to put your name on any feedback.

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GARDEN COLUMN

By Joyce Knapp

Many plants outdoors will have sprung back into life long before now, but I always feel that March signals the start of the growing year in the kitchen garden.

We can make early sowings of the more hardy plants such as broad beans and lettuce in the shelter of a greenhouse, where they can be left to grow on until the ground warms up sufficiently for them to be planted outdoors. Whilst lettuce will grow successfully in ordinary seed trays of compost, broad beans will benefit from being sown in deep pots, allowing room for their long roots to develop before being transplanted into a vegetable bed. The only seeds I would risk sowing directly in the ground this month would be summer radish, although those of you with a more sheltered growing area may wish to try sowing early carrots and beetroot.

If you are thinking of raising your own tomato plants, March is a good month to start off the seeds. It is possible to sow the seeds even earlier in February, if you have a heated greenhouse but, in my experience, those sown in March will produce much stronger, healthier plants that are better able to withstand attack from pests and diseases later in the season. The seeds can be sown in trays of compost and 'pricked out' into small, individual pots once the first set of true leaves have formed.

On the warm, dry days in late March, we can start to plant out onion sets and shallots as they are both relatively hardy. Onion sets need to be pushed into the soil (preferably a fine crumbly texture) so that only the nose of each bulb is visible. If you wish to grow large onions then space the sets about 4" apart, to produce smaller ones, use a spacing of 2-3". Shallots also need to be planted so that just their tops are visible and they are usually spaced 6-8" apart.

Finally, I must apologise for some outdated advice I gave in the January edition. 'Tar oil winter wash' that I recommended for use when spraying fruit trees was taken off the market in December 2005.





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BN COMMENT

We are fortunate to live in a very scenic area, where, particularly in spring time, we can enjoy the wonder of nature all around us. In many ways we are privileged to live in a community which is generally friendly and caring, where people show great consideration for their neighbours. Sadly however, not everyone is considerate or caring.

Anyone walking along our streets will be aware of the apparently increasing hazard of dog dirt, in all parts of the town. The police mentioned it at the February Town Council meeting (see page 3). The Chairman of Bentham Football Club has written a letter in this issue (page 29) about it, and many local residents are seriously concerned at this very anti-social behaviour by some dog walkers.

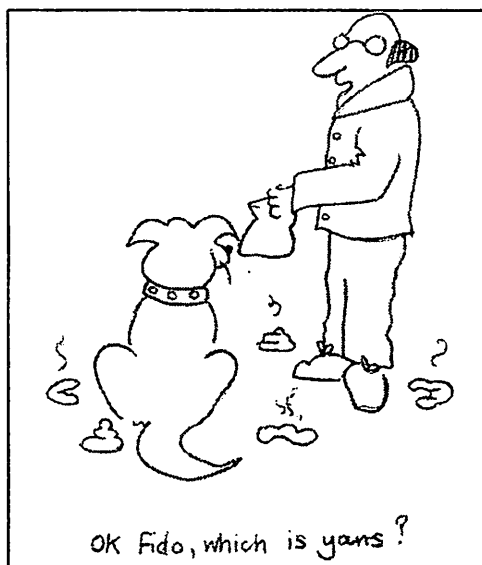
Several years ago, when there was a similar problem, the Bentham News carried articles from the Health Centre, pointing out the serious health hazard, particularly to children, of contact with dog dirt. The dog warden at that time made some effort to deal with the situation, and the Development Trust had "dog poo plastic bags" available free for dog owners.

Would those dog walkers who leave their dog's dirt fouling the pavements and playing fields, like to help young mothers clean the dirt off their pram wheels? Do they realise that their selfish behaviour could result in a child becoming blind? Do they care?

The penalty for anyone committing this offence is a fine of up to £1,000. So if you are seen, reported and subsequently convicted of this offence, don't complain about the size of

the fine, or the "naming and shaming" publicity you will get. Wouldn't it be more sensible and responsible to carry a plastic bag with you and pick up your dog's dirt and take it home? Incidentally, some dog walkers have developed the habit of picking up their dog's dirt in a plastic bag and then throwing the bag into a hedge or ditch. This is almost as bad - a rather foul type of litter-louting!

With spring approaching and the signs of renewal all around us, wouldn't it be wonderful if we could have a renewal of pride in our environment and a determination not to do anything deliberately which could annoy or harm others?



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CONFIRMATION SERVICE AT ST. JOHN'S

By Stephen Dawson

There was a sense of anticipation and anxiety at Low Bentham Parish Church on 29th January. As Bishop Ian was spotted carrying his shepherd's staff, a sort of lambing stick, across the car park a loud whisper went round "He's here! He's here!" Now he was busy putting on a shield-shaped headdress and a fabulously decorated Celtic cloak. Meanwhile, Nigel the Priest was seeking to calm the nerves of the people he had prepared for Confirmation.

As the large congregation began to sing the Celtic song "Morning has broken" the Bishop walked in with the young people and we glimpsed the large wild goose embroidered on the back of his cloak for the first time.

The ancient service of Confirmation stems from the 3rd century when growing numbers of new Christians made it impossible for a Bishop to baptize them all himself. In the New Testament, washing with water, anointing with oil and the laying on of hands, were probably part of one ritual for the admission of new Christians. At first families were baptized by household (Acts 16:13). Gradually though the Priest alone baptized growing numbers of infants. Their parents, keen to have them "done" in case of child mortality, would bring them all to one church much later for the Bishop to anoint them with oil and lay his hands on their heads. In the church such anointing is a symbol of God's presence.

So we too were waiting at Low Bentham where candidates for Confirmation were gathered to make it easier for Bishop Ian. The Bishop related how he had almost left it too late digging over his garden the day before. However, he was hopeful that spring would do the rest and Confirmation too was about the church digging, planting and hoping. As we stood to recite a short version of the ancient Creed Nigel carefully



brought vials of oil for Bishop Ian. The candidates came forward in groups and supported each other. Becky and Eleanor; Holly, Hope and Harry; and Jo and Chris. Oil dripped from foreheads onto best clothes and the carpet. Bishop Ian kept his hands on the candidates' heads as he prayed for each. Bread and wine were shared in celebration as organ and flute played and some wept. Lit candles, certificates and gifts, were presented.

The last Confirmation I attended in Bentham was on 13th November 1997 so it doesn't happen often. A Bishop's visit is a living symbol of the church through time and space as Christians believe that their succession may be traced back to the apostles. They are distinguished from other priests not only by their strange hats, staff and jewellery, but by their authority to ordain new priests and administer Confirmation. Bishop Ian himself ordained Nigel in 1997.

In the early Celtic Church the symbol of God's Spirit was the wild goose so we were glad to have seen it flapping about even today calling, waiting and hoping.

Historical Footnote

By Judith Johnson

The following extract is from the Parish Magazine of 1888 by the Rev. Walker Joy. "Charles James, Lord Bishop of Chester, confirmed 418 young people in the Parish Church of Bentham, and consecrated a part of the church-yard on the eighth day of August, in the year 1827." At that date (and until the year 1836) this parish was in the diocese of Chester, and the Bishop was Dr. Blomfield.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

Low Bentham

By Jennifer Watkinson

At the well attended AGM the retiring president, Mrs. Christine Jennings, thanked everyone for their support over the last six years. She gave a brief synopsis of the numerous events and varied activities last year. The treasurer, Mrs. Barbara Mason, presented the financial statement. Afterwards, a lovely supper, including a glass of wine, was served by the committee.

Officers for the year are:- President - Mrs. June Harrison assisted by Mrs. Ruth Sephton and Mrs. Margaret Hewitt. Secretary - Mrs. Sylvia Brennand, Treasurer - Mrs. Barbara Mason, Cards and Flowers - Mrs. Edna Hewitt, Competition - Mrs. Kitty Ellershaw, Posters - Miss Betty Dodgson, Press Secretary - Mrs. Jennifer Watkinson, Programme Co-ordinator Mrs. Margaret Hewitt, Raffle Prizes - Mrs. Betty Atkinson, Tea Money & Raffle - Mrs. Pat Dodding.

Nine members enjoyed immensely their visit to Clapham W.I.'s monthly meeting to see "The Honourable Pearly King and Queen of Lancashire", David and Jil Atkinson. They both spoke about their life with twenty four lovely dogs, their charitable work and their visits to London to meet the Pearly Kings. Jil designs and makes the beautiful clothes which are covered with pearl buttons and sequins. As she claims not to be able to sing in tune, she tap dances whilst her husband plays the barrel organ.

Two teams participated in the Agricultural Quiz and enjoyed their supper at the Town Hall.

High Bentham

By Doreen Park

At the February meeting President Wendy Dowbiggin welcomed all members and a new visitor. Congratulations were given to Patsy Henderson on winning a nationwide cookery competition sponsored by Canderel. Patsy's prize is for her to cook with "Ready Steady Cook's" chef, Phil Vicory. All the members of the Institute can join her. Others to be congratulated were Bentham Belles Dorothy Rose, Joan Sharman, Margaret Ashton and Ruth Bridgewood on winning the Federation Quiz round at Tunstall.

Mention was also made of the excellent food served at the Coach House for the Annual Dinner.

Forthcoming events include a visit to the Grand Theatre at Lancaster to see "Annie" on 9th March and a market stall on 20th March.

We were then introduced to Julia Brandon who spoke of Castles and Roses. The display she presented gave the show away as we all knew beforehand that it would be on history. In a way it was the story of canals from the 1700s to 1955, as a means of transport and a description of the decoration of those wonderful work horses. Julia's skill in this art was admired by all - she was thanked by Doreen Park.

The competition for a boat was won by Joan Sharman and the raffle prize winner was Dorothy Rose.



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BENTHAM SHOW QUIZ NIGHT

By Val Lawson

Thank you to the 34 teams who attended our annual quiz night in February at Bentham Town Hall.

After 11 rounds of questions set by Quiz Master John Whitfield, the winners were as follows:-

1st with 86 points were J&M Brumfitt, E. Huddleston & D. Lawson.

2nd with 78 points were the Bentham Town Council team of T. Stannard, R. Faraday, B. Wills & G. Adams.

3rd with 76 points were P. Gorst, A. Gujral, D. Harrison & M. Taylor.

4th with 75 points were the Country Harvester's team of I. Brown, R. Holden, B. Davies & R. Symonds.

The first of nine raffle prize winners was George Taylor.

The amount raised was £320. We look forward to seeing you all at our quiz next year.

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FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT



By David Lloyd

Each year Fairtrade Fortnight (6th-19th March) reminds us that there is something practical we can do to address inequality in the global marketplace. The Fairtrade Foundation promotes 1,300 products from a wide range of companies that meet agreed standards on price and social investment negotiated with producers all over the world. Growing with Grace is continuing to stock Fairtrade items. On 16th March we are opening our shop later than usual and presenting short videos on the benefits of Fairtrade. The evening will also include music from local singers.

During Fairtrade Fortnight we are working with the chefs at the Lunesdale Arms near Kirkby Lonsdale and the Traddock Hotel in Austwick, who will be including Fairtrade and local ingredients in their meals.

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BENTHAM THEATRE GROUP

By Iain Henshaw

Well, the dust should have settled from the pantomime now and a special thank you to all the children who took part, you were fantastic. Thanks to all those who helped and to David Lloyd who directed.

Plans are afoot for our next production - "Oh! What a lovely war" This will be in November. A plea to anybody who has any war photographs or memorabilia we could copy/photograph. We promise to look after everything entrusted to us, and could ideally copy in situ. If you would like to be recorded recounting stories from the First World War or any other war, we'd love to hear from you. Contact me on 015242 61010 or email btg@s1b.com

A few of our players have expressed an interest in doing small (4-6 actor) productions in people's homes or gardens throughout the summer months. If you would like a play performed for a party, wedding anniversary or just for the fun of it, call me to discuss. It could be good fun for all. Contact details as above.

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BENTHAM & DISTRICT PET RESCUE



By Val Marshall

The last month has been fairly quiet - perhaps the lull before the storm - but soon this year's kittens will start arriving. Do let us know (telephone Bentham 62512) if you have any which you cannot home because we already have a waiting list of good homes seeking kittens.

We will be holding another used book sale (4 books for £1) with lots of bric-a-brac also on sale, on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, March 17th - 19th from 10am to 5pm at Brooklands, Cross Lane, Low Bentham - there will be hundreds of books to choose from!

Our Annual General Meeting this year will be held on Friday March 31st and marks the end of our 9th year. How time flies!

Lots of Gift ideas in our COOKSHOP.....

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BENTHAM ENTREPRENEURS MOVE FORWARD

By Alan Gibson

A growing number of Bentham residents are turning their hand at going into business for themselves it seems. People are becoming more interested in working for themselves and making things happen in their lives. If you are one of this growing band then don't worry, help is at hand and in most cases it's free too.

Take Marie Rayner for instance, Marie has for the past few years been running her own business, called Sole to Soul in Station Road. Marie's chiropody and holistic therapy business has been helping people to enjoy a better quality of life for over 5 years and now the time has come to expand. With the free advice and help Marie received she is now in a much better position to take her existing business forward into new premises, thereby offering a much better service to the local community.

Another local business looking to expand is Ingleborough Nurseries. Paul and Viki Hindle are successfully selling their produce to supermarkets up and down the country and are now wanting to make their services available to both locals and visitors alike. By introducing a retail section to their business in the form of a shop at the nursery situated just outside High Bentham, their aim is to sell top quality plants at competitive prices.

So what do you do if you want to go into business for yourself? Where is all this free advice? Where do you go? Who can you talk

to about your business idea? Located within the confines of the local Tourist Information Office under the guiding hand of Lin Barrington, is the Local Access Point for Business Link, a computerised information centre that offers information on every aspect of setting up and running your own business, whether it be a multi-million pound export industry or a small enterprise run from your own living room.

You can talk to your local adviser

Or if you would prefer to talk to your local contact that too can be arranged. Alan Gibson, a business adviser with The Harrogate And Craven Business Development Centre, is the local business adviser for the Bentham area and is happy to help with all aspects of your business, whether you are already up and running or just thinking about it, or to simply act as a signpost to other areas. He can be contacted by dropping in and speaking to Lin, or directly on either 01423 853153 or 07854 933476 during office hours.

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HOW OLD (OR HOW YOUNG) IS 70?

By Peter Phillips

This month I shall be 70! Lots of Bentham people are 70 and nowadays it is not considered to be old.

A lot has happened since 1936 and the world has changed out of all recognition. Unfortunately, my children are unable to comprehend my growing up world and theirs. Food rationing was in force right up to 1952, seven years after the end of the war – oh yes, children, I lived through the war and the blitz, although at the time I was too young to recognise the dangers and thought it great fun to play on bombed sites. I saw the Yanks driving by in their Jeeps and shouted the familiar cry “got any gum, chum?” I also saw the Dakotas over Exeter, towing two gliders full of troops en route to France and D-Day.

There was no TV then – the first time we saw TV was in a neighbour’s house, crowding round to see the Coronation. No Playstations at Christmas, no computers – we really did hang up our stockings at the end of the bed to find nuts, apples and, if lucky, an orange, when we awoke. Toys were usually handmade by Dads and it was a thrill to get a go-cart, or soapbox on pram wheels steered with a piece of rope and your feet.

Yes, we had a lot more fun than today’s pampered children who have everything and expect more. Admittedly the streets

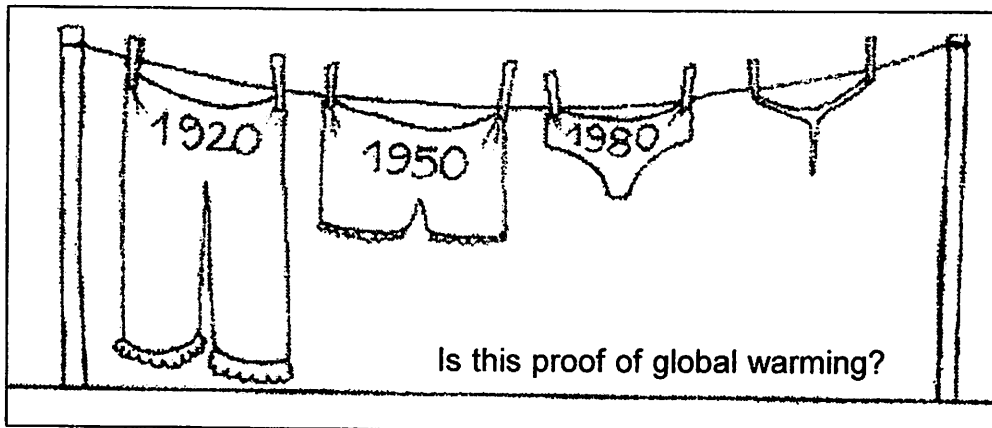
were safer – very few cars about – so we played in the streets, cricket and football for the boys and skipping for the girls. Another advantage we had was that people stayed in the same house for years without moving so we knew almost everyone in the street. We also went for cycle rides, sometimes away all day with a packed lunch and a few friends down to the seaside – you can’t do that now.

National Service made men out of boys. It taught discipline and pride in oneself and one’s unit as well as fostering comradeship. Yes, it interfered with student education but taught life skills instead.

Meeting the opposite sex took place at Youth Clubs, Church Clubs and Dance Halls. There was undoubtedly promiscuity but, with no Pill available, it was probably a lot less than today. Courtships took place under the eyes of parents and marriages were meant to last. Nowadays it isn’t given a fair chance with couples running to the Divorce Courts at the first argument. That is, of course, if they have bothered to get married!

Holidays were taken usually within a few miles of home – no foreign travel! We did have steam trains though – sorry children, you missed out there! Christmas started in December, not early September as now.

Life has become easier in many respects, but has it become any happier? Adults today may find it better but I think the children are missing out. What are your views?



LOCAL EVENTS IN MARCH

Fri 3rd Age Concern at the Masonic Hall, Sedbergh Junior School - Songs from "Oliver".

GFI (1) Years 6, 7 & 8. 6.45-8.00pm. GFI (2) Years 9, 10 & 11. 8.15-9.15pm. Both at the Methodist Schoolroom and every Friday in term-time.

Sat 4th Pet Rescue coffee morning in the Town Hall Ballroom, 10.00am-12.00noon. 

Farmers' Market, Lower Town Hall, 8.00am-2.30pm.

Mon 6th 10.00am-12.00noon, Baby Group at Looking Well, and every Monday.

Town Council meeting at the Town Hall, 7.30pm.

Springboard for 7-10 year olds, 6.15-7.30pm at the Methodist Schoolroom, and every Monday in term-time.

10.00am-1.00pm Gentle walks for women. Start at Looking Well, and every Monday.

Indoor Bowls at the Town Hall, 1.00-4.00pm and every Monday and Thursday.

Mon 6th 1.00pm Cancer Support Group drop-in lunch at Looking Well, and every Monday.

NSPCC Annual General Meeting at the Punch Bowl, Low Bentham, 7.30pm. All welcome.

Tue 7th Playgroup and Toddlers, 1.00-3.00pm at the Wenningdale Room, Town Hall, and every Tuesday and Wednesday.

Yoga for all at the Town Hall, 6.00-7.00pm, and every Tuesday.

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

Shake and Stretch, gentle exercise at Looking Well, 5.30-6.00pm, and every Tuesday.

Wed 8th Lent (Bread & Cheese) lunch, Methodist Schoolroom, 11.30am-1.15pm. Cost £3 - for Christian Aid.

Moving Well, gentle exercise at the Community Centre, 1.00-2.00pm and every Wednesday.

Lively exercise 2.00-3.00pm at the Community Centre, and every Wednesday.

Indoor market at the Town Hall.

Bentham Footpath Group walk, Crook, 7miles, leader N. Dove 21557. Please meet at Lairgill at 9.30am.

Alzheimer's Support Group at Looking Well, 7.30-9.00pm.

Thu 9th Evening Energiser Aerobics at the Town Hall, 6.45-7.45pm and every Thursday.

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

Girls Group Fizzical at the Town Hall, 5.00-6.30pm and every Thursday.

LISTING FOR LOCAL EVENTS

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

Event.....

Venue.....

Contact Tel. Number.....

Name.....

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

- Thu 9th Clapham Dance Club 7.30-10.00pm. Old Tyme - Easy Sequence, and every Thursday.
- Fri 10th Age Concern at the Masonic Hall, Annie Neligan - "Personal Safety".
- Sat 11th Friends of Low Bentham School coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10.00am-12.00 noon. 
- 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.
- Wed 15th Copy deadline for April edition of the Bentham News.
Victoria Institute Annual General Meeting at Low Bentham Victoria Institute, 7.30pm, all welcome.
- Fri 17th Age Concern at the Masonic Hall - PC Adrian Hayes - "Join me for a chat".
Waste paper collection at Lairgill Car Park 8.30-11.00am. Proceeds to NSPCC.
Pet Rescue book and bric-a-brac sale at Brooklands, Cross Lane, Low Bentham, 10.00am-5.00pm and also on Saturday and Sunday.
- Sat 18th St. Boniface coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10.00am-12.00 noon. 
- Sun 19th Bentham Footpath Group walk, Rathmell, 6 miles, leader P. Lennard 62994. Please meet at Lairgill 10.00am.
- Tue 21st Mothers' Union meeting at Burton-in-Lonsdale Church Room, 2.00pm. Susan Nicholas "Caring for Children".
- Wed 22nd Indoor market at the Lower Town Hall.
- Thu 23rd Lancaster and Skipton Rail Users Group meeting at the Wenningdale Room, Town Hall, 7.00pm.
- Fri 24th Age Concern at the Masonic Hall, "Best Easter Egg" competition.
- Sat 25th Tatham Fells School coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10.00am-12.00 noon. 
White elephant stall, plant stall, raffle, children's games, renowned homemade cake stall. Don't miss it!
Bentham Footpath Group - Daffodil Walk - Staveley, 6 miles, leader D. Chamberlain 21436. Please meet at Lairgill at 9.30am.
- Mon 27th Ewecross Historical Society meeting at the Lower Town Hall, 7.30pm. Prof. Richard Hoyle - Markets and Fairs in the Northern Uplands. Visitors £1.50. Annual membership £5.
- Tue 28th Bentham Child Health Clinic at the Surgery, 2.00-4.00pm.
High Bentham Toy Library at the Community Centre, 9.30-11.30am.
- Wed 29th Women's Institute stall at the Front Office, Town Hall indoor market.
- Fri 31st Age Concern at the Masonic Hall. Joyce Knapp - (BN Gardening Correspondent) "Spring Gardening Tips".
April edition of Bentham News published.

Events in early April

- Sat 1st N.S.P.C.C. coffee morning at the Town Hall Ballroom, 10.00am-12.00 noon. 
Farmers' Market, Lower Town Hall, 8.00am-2.30pm.

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Workshop 63300 or Home 63344.

LOOKING WELL STUDIOS OPEN DAY

By Alison Jones

On Saturday 11th February, approximately 150 people came to our Open Day and shared in our great delight at being in our new home. Many, many thanks to everyone who visited and for the ongoing warm support that everyone has given us. Visitors enjoyed the displays and the stimulating environment with its buzz of activities.

Our new impressive Business Units created much interest. There is still some space available for hire. Special interest was shown in our 'green', environmentally friendly wood pellet boiler too. It has to be seen to be believed! Everyone was pleased with the day and we are very grateful for so much involvement and support.



This picture, taken by Peter Phillips, shows a group of visitors with Alison Jones in the main office of the Looking Well Studios on "Open Day".

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CHARITIES THANK YOU

Bentham Brownies thank SBC for their very kind donation. The money will be well spent buying craft equipment, materials and books for the girls. Many thanks, Alison Hanson, Brownie Leader.

Playgroup and Toddlers wish to thank everyone who supported their coffee morning. It is really appreciated. £170 was raised for Group funds.

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BENTHAM PEOPLE

Thanks

Mary Parker would like to thank family and friends for cards and presents sent during her recent stays in hospital.

Olive Calverley would like to thank all who sent Cards, Flowers and Gifts to make her 80th birthday so memorable. Bless you all.

Sylvia Edmondson wishes to thank everyone for their donations when she had her 40th birthday bash. We made £570.00 for Moss View Nursing Home and North West Air Ambulance. Thank you very much.

Services

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Temporary office support available from a couple of hours to as required. Spreadsheets, word processing, book keeping etc. ECDL intermediate qualified and studying for advanced. Ring Denise on 015242 61515.

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Advertising rates for this page are:

"Thanks" notices, Birthdays, Congratulations etc, 10p per word.

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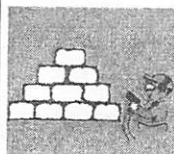
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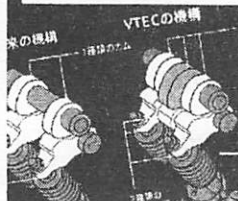
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POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICER

By PCSO 3580 Ruth Pearson

As a Bentham resident you will probably already know PC Adrian Hayes and PS Andy Gill, however I am a Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) who, although based at Skipton also patrols in Bentham. I thought I'd tell you a bit about the role I play within North Yorkshire Police and why I wanted to become a PCSO.

There are many differences between my role and that of a Police Officer, the most obvious one is I do not have powers of arrest, although recent changes mean I can now detain someone for up to 30 minutes whilst waiting for an officer.

I am also without the amount of paperwork involved in policing which allows me to carry out the most important aspect of my job - to provide a high visibility patrol and by doing this offering reassurance to you, the local community. By spending time out on foot patrol I get to know who's who and can be the eyes and the ears of the police. This information is then fed back to officers to follow up in the appropriate manner.

As a PCSO, I'm able to deal with some lower level crimes and as a result can be put to good use. For example I can deal with nuisance youths by moving groups on if they are causing problems. I can also confiscate alcohol or cigarettes from minors. Sometimes groups of kids are just being kids and not actually doing anything wrong. Sometimes they can be judged too quickly. I try and work with the youths so we all know where we stand.

Our work however isn't just with youths. We deal with all age groups - it's not just youngsters that get into trouble!! We also have full Traffic Warden powers, just in case, but we rarely use these preferring to leave that to the Traffic Warden.

There are many reasons why I chose to become a PCSO rather than apply to be a regular officer. For example, less paperwork!! The aspects of the job I really enjoy are being out and about all day every

day and meeting all sorts of people from all walks of life. It's also the fact that you can't predict what your day is going to bring. It could be looking around town for shop lifters, traffic duty at a road accident, giving a school talk, visiting a victim of crime, or even trying to persuade a herd of sheep that running around on the A65 is not the best place to be!!

PCSOs have been around for about 3 years now and many people still ask what it is we do. I hope this answers a few questions for you. It may even raise a question or two. Either way, if you would like to get in touch with me you can do so by leaving a message for me at Skipton Police Station, or by calling the non emergency Police number which is 0845 60 60 247, or by e-mail at ruth.pearson@northyorkshire.pnn.police.uk

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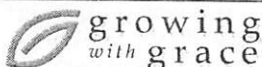
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SPECIAL HERITAGE TRAIN FROM BENTHAM TO EDINBURGH

By Nick Harvey

The Edinburgh & East Coast Explorer, Saturday 29th April

Green Express Railtours are running their second of two special trains this year from Bentham on Saturday 29th April. The aim is to promote better use of public transport. A great way to do this is by serving smaller local stations; this provides a direct train from the convenience of resident's local stations. We have found that many of our passengers have not used a train in the last year, some not in the last 40!

The special train will leave Bentham about 6.30am. We will travel along the Aire Valley Line past Kirkstall Abbey, through Leeds and north over the beautiful East Coast Line. We continue over the Vale of York, passing the White Horse of Kilburn, see Durham Cathedral and the "Angel of the North" at Newcastle with a panoramic view along the Tyne. It is then time to enjoy mile after mile of sea views along the magnificent Northumberland Coast, including Lindisfarne (Holy Island) and Bamburgh Castle. We cross the superb "Royal Border Bridge" at Berwick-upon-Tweed, and again enjoy further sea views of the North Sea as we enter Scotland. At lunchtime we arrive at Edinburgh, one of the world's most attractive cities, for a break of about 4 hours. Attractions include the famous castle with the crown jewels of Scotland and the "Stone of Destiny". You could walk the Royal Mile and visit many museums along the way that leads from the Castle to Holyrood Palace.

The train will comprise of 12 heritage coaches from the 1950s and 60s. All passengers on the train will be seated around a table of four, so they can enjoy the scenery from the large picture windows. The train will have a buffet car service on board and all passengers have reserved seats. A travel guide is produced giving a description of the journey and information about the varied attractions Edinburgh has to offer. Tickets

are priced at £41 per person.

The train is operated by West Coast railways of Carnforth, Britain's smallest independent train operating company. They are rather unusual in Britain in that they own, rather than lease, their own depot, locomotives, coaches and maintenance facilities and have a growing team of dedicated train crew to staff their trains. West Coast Railways will be using two locomotives from their fleet of heritage traction based at their Lancashire depot.

For many local residents, on Saturday 29th April there will be a rare chance to travel back in time, to board a diesel locomotive hauled train built almost 50 years earlier in the 1950s and 60s. For many it will bring back fond memories of the British Rail "Merrymaker Tours" which provided great days out by excursion trains in the 1870s. They certainly brought the local community together and were sorely missed when they stopped. Details are available from Green Express Railtours 66, Stonegate, Hunmanby, Filey, YO14 0PP, Telephone 01723-891400.

There is a photo of the train on page 32.

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LOCAL DISABILITY CHARITY OPENS SHOP IN SETTLE

By Roy Aldread

Skipton & Craven Action for Disability is to open a shop on the Market Place, Settle. S.C.A.D exists to promote the welfare of people with disabilities and to assist their integration into society. For some years now the trustees of the charity have felt the need to have a presence in North Craven to provide for the community and outlying villages.

The charity has been running a campaign called Disability Outreach and in particular, targeting North Craven and the Dales National Park. Chief Executive Officer, Roy Aldread says, "The charity is extending its essential specialised transport service out into the rural areas of North Craven and the Dales National Park to reach those people who live in villages who are unable to use public transport. In many cases some of these villages do not even have a public transport service".

Most commercial operators find running buses out to these isolated places uneconomical and have withdrawn the services leaving these people with little or no chance of getting about. Many of these people suffer with disabilities that make it extremely difficult to get to places and specialised transport is essential. Quite a lot of elderly people with disabilities have had to give up driving their cars and are totally reliant on other forms of transportation. These people are both physically and socially

isolated and the charity's specialised transport service will enable them to get to the places they need to go with ease thus helping them to integrate back into society.

The service will give them more confidence, security and well being, thus enjoying a better quality of life which most of us take for granted. The Disability Outreach project also includes opening a shop in North Craven to:-

- (a) provide a service for those in the community
- (b) provide a central point for members living in the area
- (c) provide a presence for the charity in the area
- (d) enable the local community to donate to the charity in their local town.
- (e) provide a facility to enable people to volunteer their services in the local town

The policy of the charity is to sell only donated goods and this income will help towards the costs of running the transport service in the area. The planned opening is Monday 20th March. The shop is situated on the main street opposite the Market Square, next door to the Naked Man Café.

The Charity needs volunteers, local people who would like to give their time and expertise in the day to day running of the shop. Hours can be flexible to suit personal needs, whatever time you have available, even half a day per week, would be most welcome. If you are interested in helping this local charity please call 01756 701005 for further information.

This project is part funded by Yorkshire Forward through the Rural Target Fund for North Yorkshire Programme.

Bentham Community Transport

Sunday minibus outings

Stuck at home on Sundays? Where would you like to go?
Phone us on 62753 with any ideas.

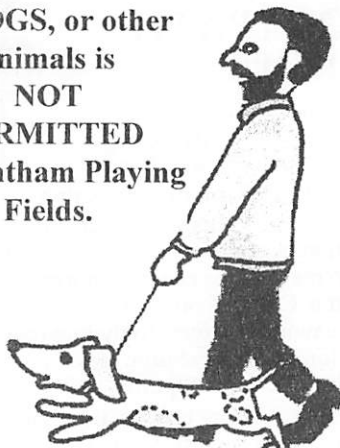
We can come to your house to collect you if you wish.

GoCars

Phone us on 62753 and we'll tell you about our car club, for short-term car use at a reasonable cost.



The EXERCISING
of DOGS, or other
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NOT
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Fields.



This ruling is to safeguard the health
of those using the field for sport or
recreation.

The Police and Dog Warden will
be notified of any offenders.

ARTHRITIS & RHEUMATISM COUNCIL

By Barbara Parry, Treasurer

It is with some regret that the Bentham Branch of ARC has finally had to close. It has been in existence for nearly 30 years and raised almost £65,000.

I would like to thank all those who have supported us over the years and particularly those who gave their time to keep it going.

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ANCHOR STAYING PUT - CRAVEN

Offers elderly people in Craven advice and help with house repairs or adaptations. Contact us through Bentham Development Trust or Tel: 01756 - 797181

BENTHAM FOOTPATH GROUP

By Maureen Ellis

The following information came from the February quarterly meeting.

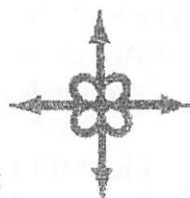
◆ Any problems you notice with overgrown footpaths, signing or stiles etc. in the Melling or Wrayton area can be reported to the Clerk of the Council on 015242 22577 who will endeavour to attend to them. Similarly Mary Taylor on 62672 should be contacted for the Tatham Parish footpaths.

◆ Map Reading classes are to be held in the Looking Well every Monday at 10am.

◆ As the Bentham Footpath Group is 20 years old this year there will be an Anniversary Walk in the Summer.

Please note Barry Greenwood's number is printed incorrectly in the programme, it should be 01772 624775.

March brings the following events; on Wednesday the 8th, walking from Crook in the vicinity of Underbarrow and Crosthwaite there will be opportunities to enjoy views encompassing the Kent estuary, Whitbarrow Scar and the Winster valley (7 miles), while on Saturday 19th during a 6 mile walk the area of Rathmel will be explored. To herald the start of Spring on Saturday the 25th the daffodil walk will take place at Staveley. It will be slightly different from last year but will still include the flowers on the banks of the River Kent.



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Dear Bentham News,
When playing football on the parks in Lancaster we have become accustomed to seeing quantities of dog dirt on the pitches. Recently I have been dismayed at the sight of the same on the pitch at Bentham and even more near the wall and hedge sides of the ground.



May I remind local dog owners that dogs are banned from the Sports Field and are only welcome on a lead, during matches. Come on you early risers, take your dogs elsewhere. It is not pleasant washing dog dirt off football kit, as I have found to my expense.

May I remind dog owners that under the Fouling of Land Order 1998, a maximum penalty of £1,000 may be applied to offending parties.

*Trevor Wheildon,
Chairman Bentham Football Club.*

Dear Bentham News,
The Yellow, Blue and Grey
Thank you Bob Black for your description of a walk through the woods (Feb. BN). It was so refreshing to come across this among all the affairs of our town. The coltsfoot, beck and heron would have been a delight to see, as will the first primrose, cowslip, bluebell and a host of other wild flowers that adorn this area of outstanding natural beauty, in which we are privileged to live. God has given to us richly all things to enjoy.

May I thank the Editorial Committee of Bentham News for producing these interesting and informative issues each month.

Elizabeth Towler, Abbeyfield House.

WRAYFLIX

By Teena Douglass Taylor

Tickets for all shows are £3 (adults) and £2.50 (children).

Tickets are available from Kevin & Janet Dixon (21699), Ros Nicholson (21886), Sandra & Paul Maycock (21830), Deborah Perrins (21978), Jonathan Ingram (21033), Teena Douglass Taylor (21727) or pay on the door.

Book early to avoid disappointment!

Sat March 11th 2006. Film starts 8pm.

The Aviator (Cert PG) 166 mins
Leonardo DiCaprio and Cate Blanchett star in this powerful drama directed by Martin Scorsese. It focuses on the personal and professional life of Hollywood film mogul and aviation enthusiast Howard Hughes between the late 1920s and 1940s.

Sat March 25th 2006. Film starts 8pm.

Mrs Henderson Presents (Cert 12A) 103 mins
Directed by Stephen Frears, the film includes fine performances from a star-studded cast including Bob Hoskins, Judi Dench, Christopher Guest and, in his first film role, Will Young. After buying a rundown theatre in Soho, Mrs Henderson (Dench) introduces nudity into her shows to try to increase her audiences.

Sat April 8th 2006. Film starts 8pm.

The Constant Gardener (Cert 15) 129 mins.
Based on the John Le Carre novel starring Rachel Weisz, Ralph Fiennes, Bill Nighy and Pete Postlethwaite. A tale of how a quiet man's journey to find out how his wife was murdered in Kenya leads to the discovery of a global conspiracy.

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EASTER TREATS ON THE LOCAL MUSIC SCENE

By Judith Johnson

Settle Orchestra will perform a concert of English music centering on the glorious music of Vaughan Williams 5th Symphony. Music also from Delius, born in Bradford, and Matinees Musicales by Britten. The programme opens with the overture "Street Corner" by Alan Rawsthorne. Sunday March 26th at Settle College at 3pm, Saturday April 1st at Christ Church, Skipton at 7.30pm.

Langcliffe Singers have their concert featuring Mozart to commemorate the 250th anniversary of his death in 1756. Mozart's great Requiem was left uncompleted due to his death and the choral parts are marked "Mozart died here". The Requiem was subsequently completed by his pupil Sussmayr. Sunday April 2nd at Settle Parish Church at 7.30pm.

Tickets for both concerts are available at High Benthams Post Office.



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LIBRARY NEWS

By John Frankland

Richard & Judy Book Club

January saw the return of Channel 4's Richard & Judy's popular Wednesday Book Club. With the help of Bentham Library & Information Centre you too can read along with the teatime duo as all of the titles in the book club will be available for loan at the library for a limited period. The books are a selection of newish fiction and non-fiction. Titles include real life stories such as "The Farm", the author's own account of growing up on a Yorkshire farm, his leaving and his return when he found out the farm was to be sold. "Moondust" looks at what happened next to the 12 men who walked on the moon. Thriller fans might be interested to know that Michael Connelly's latest "The Lincoln Lawyer", is also included. "Arthur & George", Julian Barnes' new book, a fictionalised tale of Arthur Conan Doyle, the creator of Sherlock Holmes and "The Lost Art of Keeping Secrets" by Eva Rice, a humorous coming-of-age romance set in 1950s England are just two more of the titles included in the collection. These books, and all the others from Richard & Judy's Book Group, are expected to be available from March.

Storytime

Apologies to those of you who had hoped to attend Storytime on Thursday 12th January. Sally Crosthwaite, the Community and Information Officer with responsibilities for services to children and schools in this area, who runs the monthly event, could not attend due to unforeseen circumstances. The good news is that Storytime will be up and running again once a month from March. This free half hour session aimed at under 5s takes place on or around the first Thursday of every month at 2.45pm, during term time only. The next dates are 30th March, 4th and 25th May and 6th July. Everyone is welcome and you can just drop in! If you want to know more about Storytime ring the library on 015242 61388, or Sally at 01756 793751.

Library Catalogue Online Now

You can now peruse not only the Bentham Library's collection on the internet but the

whole of North Yorkshire County Library's catalogue - from the comfort of your own home! Not only that, but you can also renew your books, find books you want and place requests. Just pop into the library with your library card and ask a member of staff for your pin number. If you are unsure how to use an online catalogue a member of staff will show you. The address of the catalogue is www.northyorks.gov.uk/talis.htm. You can make enquiries regarding these new services at Bentham Library or by telephone at the number above or by email at bentham.library@northyorks.gov.uk

Library opening hours:

Monday- 2.00-4.00 & 5.00-6.30pm

Wednesday - 10.00am-12.30pm & 2.00-4.00pm

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Saturday- 10.00am-12.30pm.

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The Special Heritage Train for the Edinburgh trip on 29th April. See page 25.

YOUR CHANCE TO WIN 2 TICKETS FOR HERITAGE TRAIN TRIP TO EDINBURGH

Green Express Railtours have offered Bentham News readers the chance to win two tickets (each worth £41) for the special heritage train from Bentham to Edinburgh on 29th April. See the full details on page 25.

All you have to do is answer the following questions.

1. How many heritage coaches will the train have?
2. Which company operates the train?

Send or hand in your answers, in a sealed envelope, to Bentham Sports Shop, before 21st March. Please include name and contact details. Address the envelope to "BN Train Tickets Competition". The first correct entry drawn on Wednesday 22nd March will win both tickets.

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. 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.