

BENTHAM NEWS



PICS FROM THE PANTO - MORE ON PAGE 2



MARCH 2008

ISSUE 257



Front page (Pics courtesy of Jon Brook) top pic - The Fiddlers Three - Marie Rayner, Anita Corless, Anita Spillane. This page (Pics courtesy of Peter Rollinson) left - Two Courtiers - Richard Wallace and Marie Knowles. Right - Puss, The Princess and a peasant - Stephi Park, Izzy Wilkinson and Padraig Spillane. Bottom - Puss, two rabbits - Tilly Ogden and Caoife Turner, King and Health & Safety Inspector - Stephi Park, Dave Pierce and Sue Halsall.



FEBRUARY'S TOWN COUNCIL

By David Johnson

All the Cllrs were present.

Police

P.C. O'Brien told the Cllrs that there had only been 3 incidents of disorder and 2 crimes committed in January and that Bentham was fairly quiet at the moment.

County Council Report

County Cllr Ireton said that the County Council budget would rise by 4.3% in April. He outlined the facts around the closure of Low Bentham C.P. School and said there had been no further progress in acquiring a site for High Bentham C.P. School. The Cllrs were obviously frustrated about this and pointed out that sites were available. They resolved to ask an LEA officer to attend the next meeting and explain why the process was so protracted.

District Council Report

Planning District Cllr Camacho said that the 34 affordable houses to be built at Wesley Close would be allocated to local people although the exact definition of 'local' seemed to be rather imprecise! Whilst the Cllrs welcomed the construction of affordable homes they were worried about the flood-risk and the increase in traffic for Goodenber Road. Although the barn recently constructed near Tatterthorn farm lies within the Ingleton parish the Cllrs felt compelled to comment unfavourably on its appearance in an area of open countryside, a development which apparently has a complete disregard for planning regulations.

Highways

Cllrs also discussed the destruction of the Dumb Toms Lane/ Tatterthorn Road triangle by HGVs. It was decided that some large boulders might protect it from further damage. An attempt to steal a drain cover from Greystonegill had resulted in it being left jammed part raised in a dangerous manner. The potential for the theft of metal combined with its historical interest prompted the Cllrs to recommend the immediate repair of the old West Riding road

sign at Egerton cross roads. The Council received a very general reply from Highways to their complaint about gritting and various sections of road in need of repair were listed for referral to the Highways Department. The Cllrs wondered if something could be done to even up the road edges near Holmes Farm and place depth markers to warn unwary motorists of the depth of water that can accumulate! Cllr Barnes warned that the river is rapidly eroding Holmes Farm meadow and that it will soon threaten the B6480 and the gas-pipe that is now between the bend in the river and the road.

Low Bentham Playing Field

It was agreed to spend an additional £650 to remove more unwanted trees from the site.

Station Road Car Park

All involved were keen to stress that the proposals are on going and are designed to spark interest amongst the community. The ideas are only provisional prior to full consultation with the Town Council and the public. The initial draft plans contain ideas for small commercial use (maybe offices) and possibly a small motel offering single night accommodation. It may even be self-catering on a bunkhouse type arrangement. Public suggestions and participation will be welcomed. There will be preview meeting for the Town Council followed a public meeting on 19th March. The principles are that it must be environmentally friendly, sustainable, self-funding and look good.

'Wheels to work'

A scheme may be developed which would give young people, who are just starting work, the opportunity to hire a moped for £5 a week. The fee would cover insurance etc and is intended to increase mobility for those seeking work in the locality.

Butts Lane Development

Ian Godfrey Developments is still trying to offload the responsibility for the amenity area and tree care onto Bentham ratepayers but the Council is less than enthusiastic and will not take up the offer unless the areas are brought up to standard first and adequate finance is provided to cover the care of the areas for the next 30 years.

GARDENING COLUMN

By Joyce Knapp

March is one of the busiest, and perhaps most optimistic months in the gardening calendar. It is a time when the days are lengthening rapidly and the plants are growing almost as we watch. The only problem we can guarantee will crop up this month is deciding which tasks to tackle first.

When faced with this situation, it may be prudent to focus on getting seeds and plants started into growth, whether that be directly into the ground or, more often than not, under cover of glass. It is possible to plant out onion sets and shallots as early as March if the weather is favourable, although it may be worth waiting until April if conditions are very wet underfoot. The same is true for potatoes, as we may find ourselves desperately wanting to plant seed potatoes but can be held back if the soil is too wet and sticky.

In March we can begin sowing seeds of hardy annuals such as marigolds and tagetes and these can be started off in seed trays of compost, preferably in a cold greenhouse. They will then be either planted out at a later date or as in the case of tagetes, can be potted on and left in the greenhouse all summer where they will help deter the dreaded whitefly.

Other seeds that do well from being started off under glass are peas and sugar peas, as this will provide an earlier crop than sowing directly in the ground. Another



reason for growing pea seeds indoors is to avoid the seeds being eaten by mice before they even have a chance to grow. This year, in the true spirit of recycling, I shall start my pea seeds off in root trainers modelled from the cardboard tubes found inside toilet rolls. I will stand these, on end, in a seed tray, fill them with compost then plant a seed in each tube. Hopefully, this will minimise root disturbance when I come to plant them in the ground, as I will be able to handle each plant individually, giving the plants the best possible start in life.

**SEED POTATOES, ONION SETS &
SEEDS, COMPOSTS, BARK &
FEEDS. WIDE VARIETY OF PET
FOODS & JIBBITZ**

AT

B & C.E. ARMSTRONG

17 MAIN STREET, BENTHAM 64871

FREE LOCAL DELIVERY

 **Dalesbred
Design**

**Cabinet makers Upholsterers
and Soft Furnishings.**

Visit our showroom on the
Green at Austwick
to see our beautiful range of
bespoke furniture, new
upholstery and curtaining, all
made to measure, or visit our
website

at www.dalesbred.co.uk

Simon and Sally Robinson
The Smithy, Austwick, LA2 8BA
Tel: 015242 51798

Sole to Soul:
Chiropodyplus...

9 Station Road, Bentham
**Holistic Chiropody &
Therapy Practice**

Closed Mondays

Marie Rayner DipPodM. MChS. HMNFSH

Chiropodist/Podiatrist

 01524263067

CRAVEN CONCERNS

By D. Councillor M. Camacho

Success in European Funding for Community Economic Development

Economic and Community Development have successfully got through the first stage of a bidding process to secure European funding for the rural areas of the district. If successful in stage 2 the funding will be used for projects that build on the environmental, cultural and community strengths of the area to create economic activity and community sustainability. It is expected that funding in the region of £1.5m will be available for the wider Dales area over the next 5 years. This includes areas to the North and West of Skipton (e.g. Bolton Abbey, Gargrave, Bentham and Ingleton), the National Park plus Nidderdale, and Forest of Bowland areas of natural beauty. Stage 2 will be submitted in May 2008 with the results announced in the early summer.

Contact Craven-joining up services for our customers

Contact Craven is the team that answers the phone at CDC and with the help of new systems is able to handle many enquiries "on the spot"

With the support of experts in the field of Waste Management and Environmental Health a further eight services are now live with the customer service team. Requests about cleaning, issuing and missed bins, fly tipping, out of cycle collections, reporting naughty dogs, noise and pests are now being handled by Contact Craven.

The next services to be added to the system are within Planning and Building Control and over the past two months Trish Brent has been working with the team to identify the 21 services that could potentially go live with the system. It is thought Contact Craven could either handle the calls or collect the information needed by Planning and Building Control to deal with the enquiries.

Building Control Award Success

The Building Control Service based at Granville Street has achieved an ISO 9001 Quality Management award in recognition of the consistent quality service it delivers. This

world recognised award is a tried and tested way of improving company performance and productivity and is a benchmark for working towards and achieving business excellence. The Building Control team were praised for their excellent consultation processes and common sense approach when dealing with builders and developers, partnership working with local architects and the total commitment and enthusiasm from all the staff.

Wheels 2 Work

This is a pilot moped leasing scheme aimed at helping people get over the initial problem of getting to work or training due to lack of suitable transport. After completing a compulsory training programme successful applicants will have the use of a moped free of charge for six months, the only cost to them being a £5 per week for tyre wear and general upkeep. The pilot scheme for 10 mopeds is being funded and supported by Craven District Council, North Yorkshire County Council, Yorkshire Forward, the Harrogate Strategic Partnership and Connexions North Yorkshire. This follows on from the success of other schemes in North Yorkshire and the 54 schemes operating throughout the UK. To be eligible, applicants must be 16 or over, their journeys must be for going to work or training and an appropriate distance for a moped. The scheme also provides safety equipment, insurance, tax and servicing. For further details call Wheels 2 Work on 01756 792948 or email wheels2work@btinternet.com

TEMPTATIONS

31 Main Street, Bentham 015242 61868

Stockists of Poppy, Paul Separates, Finn Karelia, Playtex, Vanity Fair and Elle.

Cash's Name Tapes, Haberdashery,
Knitting Wool.

Needlecraft and Card Making Supplies,
Dolls House Miniatures.

Halsteads Barn Bed & Breakfast Mewith, Bentham

Tel. 015242 62641

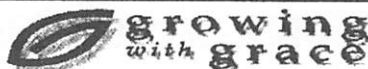
www.halsteadsbarn.co.uk



5 Star
Silver Award



- Stunning Views
- Hot Tub
- Licensed
- Evening Meals



ORGANIC (one-stop) FARM SHOP

Get all your organic shopping here!

We stock a wide range of ORGANIC dried, chilled and fresh produce from our greenhouses,

including household cleaning products.

WE ALSO DO A BOX SCHEME

Tel/Fax 015242 - 51723

www.growingwithgrace.co.uk



WANTED

SCRAP CARS, MOT FAILERS.

NO CHARGE TO TAKE AWAY.

Contact Carl 07919017709,

DVLA Certified.

(Donates to Bentham Fire Station for training purposes).

LOGS LOGS LOGS

Firewood, Kindling Bags or Loads,

Seasoned Logs,

Free Local Delivery

Quality Farm Assured Frozen Lamb

for sale, whole or half lamb packs available

Bentham Road, Ingleton.

Call David on Tel: 015242 41521 Mobile

07713 055404

Grove Hill Garage

Celebrating over 25 years in business!

Station Road,
High Bentham

★ NEW AIR CONDITIONING SERVICE ★

Make sure your air con is in maximum working condition for Summer!

★ NEW CLASS 7 MOT: ★

State of the art brake testing machine insuring maximum safety for our customers, diesel & catalysts.



★ TYRES & WHEEL BALANCING ★

WE WON'T BE BEATEN ON PRICE!



★ ACCIDENT REPAIR CENTER ★

All types of repair from small scratches to insurance repairs.

★ 24HOUR RECOVERY ★

All breakdowns & accidents taken care of.

★ SERVICING & REPAIRS ★

Tel: 015242 61782

Fax: 015242 63278

Night: 015242 62054

COUNCIL TAX – VALUE FOR MONEY?

By Shirley Brown

When you look at your new Council Tax Annual Bill when it comes through the letter box any day now, you will see that the Tax is divided between North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC), Craven District Council (CDC), Bentham Town Council (BTC), the Combined Fire Authority and North Yorkshire Police. All of the amounts, except that for BTC, are expected to show an increase on last year, so what better time to look at some local issues which have been with our council officials for a while and are waiting for, if not resolution, at least some movement.

Allotments

Our TC wrote to Bess Martin, CDC, on 13th June 2007 asking if Craven had any land that could be used for allotments in Bentham. CDC asked for clarification of some points in August, and our TC replied the same week. In both September and November 2007 BTC wrote again asking for any news, and since then have heard nothing.

Cleveland Square Lease

Back in July 2005 BTC contacted CDC with a view to putting bollards across part of the access to Cleveland Square to make it easier to close on Market Days. In February 2006 they were told that the lease had expired in 1999! Since then they have been attempting to renew the lease at a reasonable rent, and 2 years on the negotiations are still not complete.

Legion Hut Land

BTC originally approached CDC to get this area designated an "Important Open Space" in July 2006. As a result, in a letter dated 1st August 2006, BTC was approached by CDC to take over responsibility for the land. Following a letter to them in February 2007, BTC met CDC on 6th March 2007 and were offered a draft lease for 20 years at a peppercorn rent in exchange for maintaining the area. So far, so good! However, after this meeting the terms of the

lease were changed and BTC were also asked to take over responsibility for various other pockets of land. These could not be developed and would be an extra maintenance cost to Bentham residents. BTC confirmed in August 2007 that they were only interested in the Legion Hut land, and since then has heard nothing.

Garage Sites

Following a letter from CDC announcing a review of garage sites and their intention to close those at Banks Way and Hillcroft, BTC met with CDC officers on 6th March 2007. After this meeting it was agreed that it might be possible for BTC to take on the sites and maintain them rather than them being closed. Since that time BTC has heard nothing and no progress has been made, the only good thing being that the garages are still in operation.

Any delay in paying our Council Tax would not be tolerated, and these inefficient delays in dealing with matters of great concern to Bentham people should also not be tolerated.

JENNIFER
KNOWLES
SOLICITOR



**Specialising in all aspects of family
relationship breakdown**

Personal Attention at all times from a
caring Professional

Evening or weekend
appointments/Home visits

Competitive fees

For initial discussion please call
JENNIFER KNOWLES (L.L.B Hons)
on 015242 41417. www.jklaw.co.uk

TOOBY'S ELECTRICAL

Ingleton 41224 Bentham 61259

Now in store, this revolutionary new fryer



by Tefal allows you to cook enough chips to feed a family of four with just one spoonful of oil and only 3% fat. It also cooks crunchy vegetables, prawns, sausage and much more.

It includes 30 Delicious, Nutritious Healthy recipes created by Chefs and Nutritionists for you to try.

Demonstration Days at our Bentham shop in March:-

Sat 1st, Wed 12th, Wed 19th & Wed 26th, from 11.00am-3.00pm.

Plug into Service & Price

SELF DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS 2008

One day, practical workshops with step-by-step procedures for working with your inner voice.

1st March, 3rd May,
2nd August, 1st November

Bentham and district
£45 per session
Attend one or all

Chryssie Burgess 015242 63233
chryssieb@tiscali.co.uk

BURTON UNDER FIVES

By Viki Hindle

Have you got pre-school children? Have you considered pre-school care, only to be told they aren't old enough? We might have the answer! Based in the North Classroom at Richard Thornton's Primary School in Burton-in-Lonsdale, Burton Under Fives provides quality pre-school care from the age of two years. From the term after children are three years old, until they start full time education, all children are entitled to receive 12½ hours per week free pre-school education. Why not ring us to find out more?

Children can be left in the care of our OFSTED registered staff, where they can learn intellectually and socially as well as having a lot of fun. There is a brilliant array of games and activities in our purpose built classroom, along with a secure, free flow outdoor area. We regularly go on trips and have people coming in to visit and talk to the children.

Due to the success of our taster week last September, we will be holding another taster week from 10-14th March. If you are not already registered with us, this will give you the chance of a free taster session. The theme for the week will be based around Easter.

The monthly visit by the community health visitor, Kate Wild, will be on 19th March. Anyone who needs to speak to her can call in. Whilst you are waiting your children can play for free. You can contact us on 07709 694839 during playgroup hours, 9-1 Monday, Thursday and Friday, and 9-11.30 Tuesday and Wednesday.

Pennine Outdoor

New top quality
Malden Fleece now in stock.

Plus, waterproof fabrics, zips,
buckles, webbing,

1st floor at Bentham Sports
Tel: 015242 63377.

www.pennineoutdoor.co.uk

Dear BN,

Shirley Brown's articles in the December and January editions catalogue the variety of rubbish which she and her team found littered around the town. Walkers and riders familiar with the wider network of local roads will be acutely aware that the problem extends much further afield, with non-degradable material collecting in roadside verges and hedgerows. The end of Dumb Tom's lane is a particularly obnoxious example, resembling an overflowing landfill dump rather than a country lay-by.

Why do we pay council tax to have all our rubbish collected and yet abandon some of it to the four winds? If this is how we trash our countryside, we richly deserve to have it built over with housing estates and industrial estates which are easier to sweep clean. Would anyone else like to join the clean-up team which meet on the 13th of each month?

Disgusted, Anthony Smith.

Dear Readers,

I thought some readers with connections with the Phillipson family and others interested in family history may like to know that Professor David Phillipson and his wife Beryl have made a copy of their family history available for general use. It is a volume of 195 pages and a section is devoted to the Bentham branch. This branch is important to Bentham because George Phillipson is attributed with the discovery of the eight treadle loom which allowed the manufacture of woven tubes or hosepipes.

The Phillipsons were also watch and clock makers and they had two shops in Bentham

one in Station Road and later another in Main Street. They eventually took their business to Lancaster.

The book is deposited in the local history section at Bentham Library and can be viewed on request. This section also has a good selection of photographs of Bentham, the censuses up to 1891, the trade directories and many short articles relevant to our history. Why not take a look?

Yours sincerely, David Johnson

Dear Bentham News,

Please Keep Our Children Safe

The other morning while trying to cross the road in Bentham, my children were nearly run over. We were trying to cross Main Street at the crossing close to the market entrance. Two cars were parked on the pavement on our right, severely hampering the view of oncoming traffic. While we were waiting to cross another car driver parked right opposite on double yellow lines, got out of his car and strolled off. Once we were in the middle of the road a car coming from Low Bentham end had to brake sharply to avoid hitting us. He was unable to see us on his approach, due to the illegally parked cars. These vehicles could belong to people who do not live in Bentham, but could I appeal to the Bentham people who think 'it won't matter, just this once'. Just this once might be the time that you are responsible for a child or elderly person being seriously injured or even killed. And that would really spoil your day!

Name and address supplied.

FLOWERFIELDS

015242 61904

7 MAIN STREET HIGH BENTHAM

**Order flowers, teddies, balloons,
chocolates and lots more.**

**Wide range of fruit and vegetables
for many worldwide recipes.**

Free range eggs

METAL WORK

BY MARK LUND

**Traditional or Contemporary
Gates, Railings etc.**

Tel: 015242 74337



Millwood, Fourlands, Bentham,
Lancaster LA2 7EX Tel/Fax 015242
63349

Richard Slinger Mobile
07730 948741

S & W Fabrications Ltd
Steel Fabrications.
Mobile Welding.
Security Bars & Railings.
Industrial &
Agricultural Buildings.

Irene Taylor Hearing Centres
Salt Pie Lane
Kirkby Lonsdale
015242 73589

Specialist in hearing aids
& hearing protection

www.prestonhearingcentre.co.uk

est. 1980

VICTORIA INSTITUTE VOLUNTEERS' REGISTER

By Roy Farrar

Whilst we are still in need of new Committee members and Trustees, we realise that there are plenty of people, who lead busy lives, and are not able to make this commitment. However, we do receive welcome help 'on the day' from well wishers, when we organise special events. We are gradually expanding the scope of our activities at the Institute, and it would be of significant assistance if we were able to compile a list of people, whom we could contact on an occasional basis, when help is required. It would be desirable to have a list as full as possible, to take account of the fact that individuals cannot always be available as required on a given day. We hope you can put your name forward. Please contact Sharon Haslam on 61800, giving your name and telephone number.

Ingleton Cricket Club

Annual Celebration Buffet
and Casino Night

Sat 29 March @7.30pm

Tickets £10

from 015242 41654

to include entry,
buffet & some casino money



KITCHEN **INSTALLATIONS**

NORTH WEST LTD.

MARK BUTLER LCGI

Telephone: 015242 61236

Mobile: 07831 151 839

Suppliers and installers of
kitchens/appliances to suit all budgets. We
also specialise in the supply & installation
of granite & zodiac worksurfaces.

A local family firm that provides a complete
installation service with our reputation built
on recommendations.

All building, joinery, plumbing and electrical
work undertaken by our professional
tradesman.

COOKERY PAGE

Edited by Pat Henderson

Pan-fried Salmon with asparagus tips and herb dressing, accompanied by new potatoes

Recipe - serves 4

5 asparagus tips per person
olive oil for cooking
flour for dusting
4 x 160g salmon fillets
20g butter

Herb Dressing

handful each of coriander, flat leaf parsley, mint and basil

250g carton natural yogurt

½ tsp finely chopped mild green chilli

½ small clove garlic

3 tbsp olive oil

Method

Put the new potatoes on to boil.

To prepare the herb dressing, strip the leaves from the herbs and put them in a blender together with the rest of the dressing ingredients, except the olive oil. Blitz together to chop the herbs then slowly drizzle in the oil while the machine is still running.

Heat about 3tbsps of olive oil in a large frying pan. Make three slashes across the skin of each fillet and lightly flour the skin side only. Season each fillet with salt. Put the fillets skin side down in the pan and cook over medium heat for about 6 minutes until the skin is crisp and coloured. Turn the fish over in the pan and remove from the heat. Add half the butter, to sizzle in the pan. While the fish is cooking, put the asparagus into a large pan of salted, boiling water. Cook for a few minutes until tender, then remove and drain. Put the spears into the dry pan, add the rest of the butter, add a little salt and roll together. To serve, put a teaspoon of dressing onto each warm plate and spread to a circle. Lay the asparagus spears together on top. Place the fillets, skin side up, on top of the asparagus. Put the remainder of the dressing in a jug, to add if required. Serve with the bowl of hot, buttered new potatoes.



Apple soufflé with caramelised apples

Recipe - serves 4

6 large eating apples
1 tbsp fresh lemon juice
15g butter
1 tsp ground cinnamon
40g caster sugar
2 eggs, separated

For the caramelised apples

40g butter
40g caster sugar
1 tsp grated lemon rind
1 tbsp fresh lemon juice
icing sugar for dusting
single cream to serve

Method

Heat the oven to 190C, gas 5. Slice off the stalk ends of four of the apples. Cut around the top edge of the apples and scoop out the flesh, leaving a thickness of about 1cm. Brush all the cut edges of the apples with lemon juice. Roughly chop the scooped flesh and put in a pan with one tbsp of water. Cover and cook until softened, then remove from the heat and sieve into a bowl.

Beat the butter into the apple puree then stir in the cinnamon, sugar and egg yolks. In a clean dry bowl whisk the egg whites until stiff and dry. Fold a quarter into the apple mixture, then fold in the rest until evenly mixed. Place the apple cups in an oven proof dish using crunched foil to keep them upright. Carefully spoon in the soufflé mixture and bake for about 20 minutes until well risen and golden.

For the caramelised apples, peel, core and quarter the remaining apples and cut each quarter into four slices. Melt the butter in a pan and cook quickly, turning once, until golden brown. Stir in the sugar, lemon rind and juice, and simmer until syrupy. Keep it warm until the soufflés are ready. Place one apple on each warm serving plate with a few slices of caramelised apple and some cream. Dust with icing sugar and serve immediately.

**FARMERS' MARKET
TOWN HALL
Saturday 1st March**

CHANGES IN THE MAIN STREET

By Shirley Brown

You will have noticed a couple of SHOP TO LET or BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY: SHOP FOR SALE notices around Bentham's main shopping area recently, and in the next few months there will be some important changes in the Main Street.

Ward's shop has been in the family for 86 years, since 1922. When the Ward family first took over the shop it was a jewellers, but since it has been theirs it has always been a sweet shop - but not for much longer. Reg and Sheila Ward want to retire from retail and are letting the shop to another business. This prime site on the Main Street will remain a retail outlet, so watch the window for developments. Sheila told me that it would be "something that we haven't got in Bentham and which will look very attractive". All changes get mixed reactions. Probably in 1922 some folk were dismayed at losing a

jewellers and gaining a sweet shop. I remember being upset when we lost our shoe shops, but now we have an excellent café and an attractive residence where they used to be. The Main Street is continually evolving.

The Sports Shop is changing hands soon, and the downstairs retail outlet will change dramatically. The people of Bentham will really miss this Aladdin's Cave of a shop stocking everything from walking boots to dart flights and footballs, and soon the shop will have a new owner and new exciting stock to sell. 'Bentham Sports' will continue to serve clubs, schools and other organisations, as Pam Woof will retain her workshop upstairs at 'Pennine Outdoor', which will be accessible from Millers Court.

Pete and Karen Standing are still hoping to sell their newsagents, and when there any developments there we will let you know. There will be more about all this in the next BN.



HEILDON & COATES

TIM HEILDON & IAN COATES HEATING & PLUMBING SERVICES

- HEATING INSTALLATION
- BATHROOM INSTALLATIONS
- DOMESTIC & COMMERCIAL
- GAS & OIL SERVICING
- CARAVANS & LPG

- BOILERS, FIRES, STOVES ETC
- SERVICE, REPAIR & INSTALLATION
- ALL MAKES AND TYPES MAINTAINED
- LANDLORDS / OFTEC CERTIFICATES
- COMPETITIVE PRICING

TEL / FAX 015242 62257

MOBILE 07801819482 & 07917568785

wheldonandcoates@mac.com



REGISTERED ENGINEER

LOW IMPACT HAMLETS: TIME TO LOOSEN THE GREEN BELT?

By David Clough

Planners have traditionally favoured 'infill', allowing development of open land in urban areas, while the green belt has been retained, usually in the form of agricultural land. Modern agricultural practice has resulted in big changes, and much land, especially arable, has become significantly degraded. Hedges, woods, ponds and streams have been greatly reduced and the land has, in many places, been exhausted by intensive monocultures. Wildlife, biodiversity and amenity value have fallen and, while green belt status has been retained, the value it represents is often not there in reality.

Conversely, it is now recognised that pockets of biodiversity within urban areas are playing an ever more important role. Derelict land, railway corridors, parkland and gardens are now understood to be wildlife reserves, particularly for birds. Thus areas once thought to be useful as potential 'infill' development sites have been recognised as having other values, not least value as green 'lungs' for people in built-up areas. It is clear that agricultural policy has lost its way as we allow our own output to be replaced by imports, and farmers continue to find themselves unable to make their farming pay. After half a century food security is on the political agenda again.

It is agreed that we should build a lot of new housing but it is almost impossible to build in the countryside. New ideas are needed to allow the lease or sale of parcels of land for the creation of holdings which could supply both living space and work space for individuals or groups who wanted to build up agricultural businesses or workshop-based enterprises. If units of a few acres each produced different things (vegetables, poultry, pigs, joinery perhaps) they could become mutually supportive neighbours, providing each other with products

(manure, fence posts), sharing energy sources (water, wind, solar), transport solutions (runabout, delivery vehicle, tractor) and specialised services such as chainsawing, rotovating or wood-chipping.

Low-impact developments could include cooperative schemes such as Community Supported Agriculture (a concept which is booming in the USA), transport sharing and communal buying. They could bring the following benefits:

- Affordable Housing
- Employment opportunities
- Increase in biodiversity
- Sustainable energy solutions
- Improved viability for existing agricultural businesses
- Reduction of food miles
- Increased production per acre and per diesel and chemical use
- Increased sources of healthy, local food
- Improvement in Community Health

The creation of low-impact hamlets in the landscape could provide exactly the sort of opportunities for younger people which would help to address many of the social problems observed today. Young people would have the chance to be self-reliant and productive, allowing them to use their energy, independence and vision to earn themselves a living and to fulfil their desires to do something worthwhile.

Developments allowed by a firm but sensitive planning regime could be required to utilise the latest environmentally-friendly building techniques and aesthetically appropriate designs. They would not need in any way to be impractical or unattractive. Benefiting society as a whole they could become a useful and vibrant force to be welcomed onto the land.

BN COFFEE MORNING

The members of the committee of the Bentham News wish to express their thanks to all those who donated cash, cakes and raffle prizes, for the coffee morning recently. Many thanks also to those who came along to help in the kitchen or to serve.

We are grateful for all the continuing support which we receive from the community.

HENRY WOOD

By Wendy Dowbiggin

The late Henry Wood came to Bentham with his family over 50 years ago and led a very busy business and social life in the town. He was employed by Lockwood and Bradley before joining Mr. Priestley's office and on the death of Mr. Priestley, took over the accountancy business and continued to work in this business in Station Road until his retirement.

In his younger days Henry was a larger than life figure and entered into life in Bentham with great gusto. He was an active member of the Round Table and became Chairman and also Chair of the area. He was secretary of Bentham Agricultural Society and in later years was honoured to be its President. He was also Town Clerk for several years and latterly, Treasurer of the Traders Association. He was also Treasurer of the Longstaff Charity and at one time, Secretary of Abbeyfield. He certainly was a busy man.

One of his greatest loves was sport. He played badminton and later, golf. He became Club Secretary of the Golf Club and later President and Captain. He was an ardent football supporter, especially of Liverpool and locally Ingleton, where two of his sons played and his grandson plays. If you visited him at the weekend silence was requested as he watched football or cricket on TV.

Over the last few years Henry suffered ill health but he could still be seen driving his car into Bentham, wearing his cap and waving at acquaintances and enjoying a cup of coffee and a chat at the Nosebag. He was a good husband, caring father and supported many organisations. He did many a friend a good turn. Henry will be missed by family and extended family and friends. As his son said "He was generous, colourful and organised" - he will be greatly missed.

JUSTIN MERRY

QUALITY INTERIOR AND
EXTERIOR DECORATING

ALSO TRADITIONAL LIME
MORTAR POINTING AND REPAIR.

FOR ESTIMATE OR QUOTATION

PHONE 015242 62664, 07976 357560

OR EMAIL ribbledale@yahoo.co.uk

FIRE BRIGADE CAR WASH

By all staff at Bentham Fire Station

On Saturday 8th March 2008, Bentham Fire Station will be holding their bi-annual Car Wash.

All proceeds will go to The Fire Services National Benevolent Fund. Firefighting and Rescue work is still inherently dangerous and Firefighters still face physical and physiological problems resulting from the work they do, day in and day out. The FSNB provides vital services to the Fire Service personnel and their families, including therapy and rehabilitation, recuperation and grants for mobility equipment. However, this will cost the FSNB £9 million this year alone.

With this in mind, we are asking you to pop along to the Fire Station, have your car washed, and a friendly chat and a coffee. Firefighters will also be on hand to provide safety advice for the home. We look forward to seeing you on the day. Many thanks.

"SHAPELY DOES IT"

**Ladies only
Toning Table Salon**

How would you like to...

- Tone and firm up
- Lose inches
- Improve flexibility & joint mobility
- Feel healthier
- + many other benefits.

Please call Kath or Janet on
015242 62112 for more
information or to book a
complimentary free trial.

BENTHAM COMMUNITY TRANSPORT



By Anne Yaman

Station Building

We are very pleased to announce that following receipt of tenders the contract for refurbishing the station building has been awarded to Connect 1 from Morecambe for the building works, Park & Whiteley for the electrical work and Tom Lawson for the joinery. We anticipate work starting during March and we should be able to move into the building during May. We are really excited about this finally coming to fruition.

Concessionary Fares

As many people already know the concessionary fare scheme is being altered from 1 April to allow travel (subject to certain restrictions) throughout the UK on concessionary passes issued locally. If you have a bus pass it will be upgraded automatically by the issuing authority but old style will be accepted until September so don't worry if your new one takes a while to appear.

Our taxibus service accepts bus passes and during March we will be asking our passengers to show them so please ensure you have them with you. If you don't have one please call in the office to get a form to send off to Skipton or we will make sure that the drivers have a few on the bus if you would rather get it from them.

BLOOMIN' LITTER!!

By Shirley Brown

What do people do on a beautiful sunny February half-term afternoon? Some have to be at their paid work while others play, doze, relax, garden, cycle, walk, skateboard or drive around. And 5 people decide to walk the Low Bentham Road picking up litter!

Would you like some help looking after a patch of public land near you? We could join you – just give us a ring on 61608 or 63175.

Our next Bloomin' Bentham gathering is on Thursday 13th March. We meet in the painted bus shelter on School Hill at 1pm. Anyone interested in making Bentham a more cared-for place is most welcome.



Left to right: Shirley Brown, Annie Neligan, Jamie Campbell, Sue Pilkington and Margaret Cowling litter picking along Low Bentham Road.

4 Star Ensuite Bed and Breakfast

River Cottage, Brookland,
Burton-in-Lonsdale
015242 64988

<http://RivercottageBandBtripod.com>
Email francati@btinternet.com

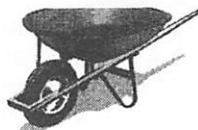
**Bed and Breakfast
from £25 per person**

COLIN WOOF GARDEN SERVICES

Patio cleaning/power
washing.

Hedge laying

and "Mr Kirby's Carpet Cleaning Service!"



Tel: 015242 61387

TELEPHONE CALLS FROM BENTHAM SURGERY

By Shirley McDonald

Could we please draw attention to an increasing problem that we are experiencing at the surgery. Some people are setting up their home phones to prevent unsolicited calls from firms that sell double glazing or similar.

When you do this, that system automatically prevents the surgery from ringing your number, because our 61202 number is then automatically barred from your phone accepting our calls. (For confidentiality reasons, any calls from the surgery are not registered on your phone).

This is proving frustrating if we need to contact you, and potentially dangerous if you are waiting for an urgent call from us. Please remember that if you have this phone system, then we cannot ring you, however urgent and we can only wait for you to contact us.

BENTHAM SHOW QUIZ NIGHT REPORT

By Val Lawson

Thank you to the thirty teams who attended our 9th 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 91 points were M Knowles, R Lewis, D Ibbetson & S Harrison.

2nd with 84 points were the Bentham Town Council Team of B Wills, R Faraday, C Barnes & G Adams.

3rd with 83 points were the Leck Fell Team of A & B Middleton, J Knapp & P Parker.

4th with 82 points were the Augus & Co Team of A & A Verhagen, M Singleton & B Vigour.

The amount raised was £295. The first of eight raffle prizes was won by S Ashton.

DEVELOPMENT TRUST ON THE MOVE!

By Ann Ambrose

From the beginning of April, the Bentham Development Trust main office will be based at The Community Centre in High Bentham in the room at the front of the building just through the main door. The office will be staffed on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings between 10am and 1pm and you are most welcome to call and see us. Information on funding, particularly our local Bentham Can-Do Investment Fund and local transport, particularly community transport and local events will be available. If you need somewhere to wait for community transport this is the place to rest your feet and enjoy a bit of a chat with friends. There will also be facilities for photocopying, using the computer, checking e-mails and having a cup of tea or coffee.

One important feature of this new base is that we hope to build up a resource of environmental information and to act as a point for local recycling of the following items: Batteries, computer ink cartridges, stamps, foreign coins. (These items can also be left at The Victoria Institute in Low Bentham.) If you have any books, articles, magazines or information on environmental matters that you think would be beneficial to the wider community please bring them to The Community Centre or The Victoria Institute. They will be greatly appreciated. We are working closely with The Bentham Environmentally Sustainable Town group in developing this facility as a central point for information on all things environmental and we hope it will become a useful point of reference and support for local people.

The Community Office at Low Bentham Victoria Institute will continue to be open on Monday and Wednesday mornings between 10 and 12 and at other times when the 'A' board is out. Community Transport will continue to be run from the office at 8A Station Road until the Station building is ready to be moved into.

For information on any of the above or to book a room at either venue please contact Sharon Haslam on 015242 61800.

BERNIE WILLS - MAYOR OF BENTHAM

By Trevor Blackwell

Bernie Wills is coming towards the end of his year as mayor, so I thought this would be a good time to talk to him about his life and work in Bentham.

"I was born on a farm in Tatham Fells, nearly two miles from Bentham, just the other side of the Big Stone, so I'm actually a Lancastrian! My grandfather farmed all his life. My mum and dad used to be on the farm together, then my father came out of farming in the late '60s, and they moved to Calf Cop. I lived there until I got married, then at Wesley Place until the '80s, and then we moved up here to Windy Hill. So I haven't strayed far!

When I moved to Low Bentham they discovered I couldn't read. I think I was about seven. What I'd done, I learned all the books literally off by heart, a whole series of books. Then in Low Bentham they had different books! So they taught me to read. Mr Popplewell was a wonderful headmaster. He was very interested in off-beat things, like science. He put the spark of imagination into everything, and he got me interested in all sorts, and I suppose my interest in electrical things started there, and that led me to becoming an electrician.

Getting involved with the council was very much a chance thing. Matthew, my second oldest lad, came home one night, and said, 'I've just got hit with a car!' Anyway, he took his jacket off and there was a hole just like a bullet-hole! He'd been walking between Mount Pleasant and Lairgill, and there were no footpath, and it was raining like hell, and a pick-up had gone past, and it hit him. And I thought, 'My God, he could have been killed!'

I saw red at this, and I started looking into it, and I wrote this really slaggy letter, handed it into the council, and it just went on from there. David Ireton from North Yorkshire picked up on this, and he started pushing. And it turned out that Billy Joel and Bateman Marshall had been trying to get a pavement there for forty years! But

eventually we got it. And it was really through going to council meetings to see how this was going on that I got drawn onto the council. It was completely unplanned!

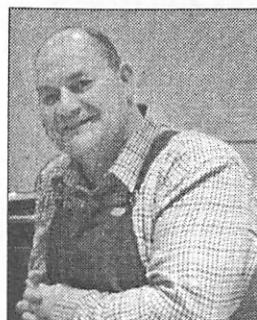
What's surprised me most about being a councillor is that we have no teeth whatsoever. It's a really frustrating exercise! It's the occasional little victories that keep you doing it. Like, we got the footpath. And eventually we got some railings at the junction of Tatterthorn Road and Clapham Road where there used to be all those accidents. But people misunderstand what the Town Council can do - we have very very little power. Things take a long time - I mean, forty years to get us a footpath! It's like treacle!

I used to think, 'Well, Bentham's just a hide-away, one-horse place', and then in the '80s I worked away for about three years, shop fitting in town centres. And after that I very soon appreciated where I lived. Our last vicar, Nigel Thomas, used to reckon that I was hefted, like the sheep are!

One very cold Saturday I got a phone call from a farm where they have no mains, so I had to drive over, and I'm just going up Wharfe, the other side of Austwick, and the sun was coming over the hills, and I thought, 'Hm. Everybody who comes here comes voluntarily. They even pay. People come from all over the world to mooch about the dales, and I'm getting paid to do this! It's not a bad spot after all!'

You can't ever have any influence. I'm not deluding myself to that extent. But I just try and push it in one direction, and keep it working. Because if Bentham stops working, it'll die."

Walking back I could see the hills white with snow, and I understood Bernie's deep feelings for our town, and why he became mayor.



WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

High Bentham

By Anne Yaman

The February meeting was held on Thursday 7th in the Town Hall, presided over by Vice President, Margaret Hayton. A programme for the theatre and dining trips planned for the year was distributed. Notification of the Spring Council meeting in March was handed out and seven members have indicated that they will be going.

Sue Naylor was the speaker and gave an excellent talk on aromatherapy and essential oils. She was thanked by Margaret Ellis. The competition this month was for a perfume bottle and was won by no less than three ladies - Grace Stevens, Anne Polkinghorne and Margaret Ellis. The raffle was won by Kath Dempster. Our next meeting will be on Thursday 6th March in the lower Town Hall when we will be entertained by a retained fireman. The competition is for a bowl of bulbs and all visitors are most welcome.

Low Bentham

By Jennifer Watkinson

At the Annual General Meeting Mrs. June Harrison welcomed everybody and then gave a brief resumé of the year's numerous and varied activities. The retiring secretary, Mrs. Sylvia Brennand, then gave her report followed by treasurer Mrs. Barbara Mason who presented the financial statement.

Competition winners for the year were announced. 1st - Mrs. Faith Wilson, joint 2nd Mrs. Joan Gilroy and Mrs. Sylvia Brennand. Afterwards a tasty supper was served. The evening concluded with an exciting and highly competitive game of beetle which was organised by Mrs. Ruth Sephton and won by Miss Mary Harrison at her first ever attempt.

The following officers have offered to stand for the year. President - Mrs. June Harrison. Vice-President - Mrs. Ruth Sephton. Secretary - Mrs. Sue Cooper. Treasurer - Mrs. Barbara Mason. Programme Secretary - Mrs. Pam Warbrick. Raffle - Mrs. Sylvia Brennand. Press Secretary - Mrs. Christine Jennings. Cards and Flowers - Mrs.

Edna Hewitt. Raffle Prizes - Mrs. Betty Atkinson. Posters - Miss Betty Dodgson.

Mrs. Harrison and two committee members attended the Ingleborough Group show meeting at Clapham and Mrs. Harrison and another member went to the group meeting at Austwick.

IN PRAISE OF STARLINGS

By Brian and

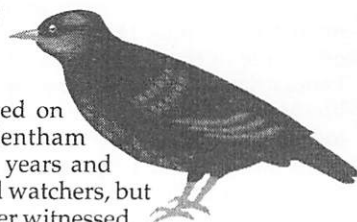
Margaret

Cowling

We have lived on the Low Bentham Road for 27 years and are keen bird watchers, but we have never witnessed a 'murmuration' of starlings, until now.

Over the last exquisitely beautiful week (half-term) the starlings have been gathering at about 5 o'clock above the river and the moors above Park Foot. Squadrons drift in from all directions to join in the joyous gathering, sweeping along in a flock then subdividing into smaller groups, forming patterns in the sky. The sky has provided a fitting backdrop this week with its rosy hue streaked with yellow and blue. Then, just as the sun sets, whoosh, they drop down into the trees to roost.

We have patio doors with an open view down to the River Wenning so have been privileged to view this nightly spectacle. We'd love to know why this has suddenly happened here, and whether the starlings will be back next year?



Body Basics

Massage tuition Sun 13th April

for carers, partners, friends & family

➤ no experience needed

➤ no paperwork

➤ no exams

Hands-on supervised training
Qualified, experienced teacher
Chryssie Burgess 015242 63233

BPFA NEEDS YOU

By Pam Woof

Bentham Playing Fields Association is a charity entirely run by volunteers to keep the Wenning Avenue Playing Fields as a place for the people of Bentham to enjoy sports and recreation.

We are looking for more volunteers for various jobs. You will be joining a group of volunteers who have the playing fields at heart. All members of the committee spend some of their time helping to run the charity. It depends entirely on subscriptions from the member clubs and a grant from the Town council. Without volunteer time from our members we would not be able to keep the grounds maintained to a high level for sports matches and keeping the new premises spick and span.

There is currently a sub committee of four working on securing funding for the long awaited Skate area and refurbishment of the tennis courts. If you have a particular interest in this aspect of the playing fields please come forward.

We also need at least two people who would be willing to take minutes and undertake other secretarial duties.

And finally we are looking for someone who would look after the Children's play area, organising maintenance and litter picking. If you think you can help with these tasks (or any other jobs) please phone me on 61387 evenings.

ANNIE CARRINGTON IN THE LONDON MARATHON AGAIN!

Please note that Annie Carrington is again mad enough to run the London Marathon this year! Training is going well for the race, which is on 13th April. Annie has been asked to run it for North-West Cancer Care, and has sponsorship forms available. You can make a donation by ringing her on 62336 or by going to the following link: www.justgiving.com/anniecarrington

BENTHAM & DISTRICT PET RESCUE



By Val Marshall

After a winter which has been reasonably kind to feral cats and those living outside, we are still receiving kittens, so do please ask Pat, our Sanctuary Manager (tel. 63048), if you would like to acquire a cat or kitten from us. At the sanctuary, Pat is always seeking help with the cleaning and entertaining of the cats. Please telephone her if you wish to learn what is involved.

The Easter Book Sale is fast approaching. This will be held at Watershed Mill in Settle from Good Friday through until Sunday 30th March, but please note that we will not be open on Easter Sunday. Due to the retirement of the current organisers this sale will be at reduced prices and all books will be available at half price – or less! This way the stock should be reduced to a manageable level for a new team to handle, but we are still seeking help with the sorting and storage of our books in future. Sue Arnott (tel.64924) would be pleased to receive any offers of assistance.

We are continuing to collect used postage stamps and are always pleased for them to be delivered to our box at Bentham Development Trust.

PICA DESIGN & PRINT

Burton Road, Low Bentham, LA2 7ED

GRAPHIC DESIGN & ORIGATION,
COLOUR PRINTING,
COLOUR COPYING,
WIDE FORMAT COLOUR PRINTING,
BLACK ON WHITE COPYING,
BOOKLETS & LEAFLETS PRINTED,
FULL COLOUR BUSINESS CARDS,
LAMINATING UP TO A1 SIZE

Call 015242 61402

email: paul@pica-designandprint.co.uk

LOCAL EVENTS IN MARCH

- Sat 1st** Bentham Footpath Group walk, Victoria Cave, Settle, 7 miles, leader M. Taylor 61672. Meet at Lairgill 9.30am.
- St. Boniface Church coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10.00am-12.00noon. 
- Mon3rd** Farmers' Market in the Town Hall, 9.00am-2.00pm.
- 10-11.30am. Toddle-in for parents/carers and babies and toddlers. Methodist Church Hall and every Monday except Bank Holiday.
- 4.30-5.30pm. Adventurers group for 4-6 year olds. Methodist Church Hall and every Monday in term time.
- 6.15-7.30pm. Springboard for 7-10 year olds, Methodist Church Hall and every Monday in term time.
- Gentle walks for women, leaving from Lairgill 9.30am-12noon, and every Monday (except 24th).
- Lancaster University Sports Centre Trips for teenagers. Also on 19th and 26th - note change of dates. Tel: Annie or Linda on 62672 to book. Leaving 6.30pm, returning 9.00pm.
- Town Council meeting, 7.30pm at the Town Hall.
- Tue 4th** Tuesday Strolls, very gentle walks, Looking Well, 2.00-3.00pm and every Tuesday.
- Pilates beginners 3.45pm at the Town Hall, and also on 11th and 18th.
- Pilates 5.00-6.00pm at the Town Hall, and also on 11th and 18th.
- Wed5th** Bentham Community First Responders at the Horse and Farrier, 7.30pm. All potential volunteers welcome. See page 40.
- Looking Well Community Lunch, 12.30pm and every Wednesday.
- Wed5th** Keep Moving Well, at the Community Centre, 2.00-3.00pm, and also on 12th and 19th.
- Looking Well Studios, "Art for All" 2.00-4.00pm and every Wednesday.
- Thu6th** Looking Well, swimming at Hornby leaving at 9.00am. Telephone Annie 62672 to arrange transport. And every Thursday.
- Looking Well, 11.00am-1.30pm
- Cancer Support Group drop-in and lunch, and every Thursday.
- Welcome-in dominoes for all ages at Methodist Church Hall, 2.00-4.00pm. For transport contact Nigel or Kath on 62272.
- Bat and Chat at the Victoria Institute, Low Bentham, 10.00am-12.00noon, and every Thursday. See page 38.
- High Bentham W.I. at the Town Hall, 7.30pm. See page 18.
- Fri 7th** Age Concern at the Masonic Hall, 10.00am-2.30pm. Stan Gray - Country & Western Sing-a-Long.
- Women's World Day of Prayer 2.00pm at Westhouse Methodist Church, for North Craven Churches.
- Sat 8th** Goodenber Play Area coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10.00am-12.00noon.  Raffle, cake stall etc. Please come and support us.
- Book swap/coffee morning at Victoria Institute, Low Bentham, 10.00am-12.300pm.
- Sun 9th** Bentham Footpath Group walk, Kirkby Lonsdale circular, 9 miles, leader T. Connolly 42129. Meet at Lairgill 9.30am.
- Mon 10th** Bentham Environmentally Sustainable Town group meeting at Bentham Community Centre, 7.30pm. See page 22.
- Tue 11th** Bentham Child Health Clinic at the Surgery, 2.00-4.00pm.
- Bright Hour at the Methodist Schoolroom 2.15pm. Speaker Janet Widdess.

Wed12th Hornby Occasionals present Gilbert & Sullivan's Iolanthe in Hornby Institute at 7.30pm. Tickets adults £7, children £3, available at the Institute, Mon-Sat from 10.00am-12.00noon, or contact 015242 22227. Also on 13, 14th and 15th.

Thu13th Bloomin' Bentham volunteers meet at the painted bus shelter, School Hill, at 1.30pm. See page 15 and letter on page 9.

Friendly Hour at Low Bentham Methodist Church, 2.30pm, speaker Mrs. Wendy Holt.

Fri14th Waste paper collection at Lairgill Car Park, 8.30-11.00am. (Please note, this is a week earlier than usual). Proceeds to NSPCC.

Age Concern at the Masonic Hall, 10.00am-2.30pm. Colin Etherington "Extend Exercise".

7.00-8.00pm GFI for school years 6,7&8 and 8.15-9.15pm for school years 9+, at the Methodist Church Hall.

Sat 15th Copy deadline for April edition of Bentham News.

The Friends of Tatham Fells School coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10.00am-12.00noon. Cakes, stalls and Easter fun!

Mon 17th Looking Well, Active Women Lunch.

Tue18th Mothers' Union meeting, 2.00pm in Burton Room. Speaker Ms Joan Barton.

Thu 20th Welcome-in dominoes for all ages at Methodist Church Hall, 2.00-4.00pm. For transport contact Nigel or Kath on 62272.

Fri 21st Bentham & District Pet Rescue reduced price Book Sale at Watershed Mill, Settle. Continues until 30th march (closed on Easter Sunday). See page 19.

Age Concern - closed.

Bentham Footpath Group walk, Burton-in-Lonsdale after service at Auction Mart, 5 miles, leader J.Clapham 64906. Meet at Horse and Farrier 11.15am.

Sat 22nd Tourist Information coffee morning, with tourism display and information at the Town Hall, 10.00am-12.00noon.

Tue 25th Bentham Child Health Clinic at the Surgery, 2.00-4.00pm. Bright Hour at the Methodist Schoolroom, 2.15pm. Speaker Liz Whitfield.

Fri 28th Bentham News April edition published.

Age Concern at the Masonic Hall, 10.00am-2.30pm. Richard Whinray will give a talk entitled - "Lady Ann Clifford".

Sat 29th Bentham Footpath Group walk Around the Barrows, 10 miles, leader B. Sim 015395 60240. Meet at Lairgill 9.30am.

Lancaster and Skipton Railway Users Group coffee morning at the Lower Town Hall, 10.00am-12.00noon.

Seed Swap at Looking Well, from 10.00am-12.30pm. See page 22.

Mon31st Ewecross Historical Society meeting at the Town Hall, 7.30pm. Mike Derbyshire - presentation on "Quernmore Park". Visitors are welcome. Membership £5.

Correction

The bear in the pantomime photograph last month was Eleanor Illston, not Eleanor Luston. Sorry Eleanor!

LISTING FOR LOCAL EVENTS

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

Event.....

Venue.....

Contact Tel.: Number.....

Name.....

Please return this entry to the Bentham Gallery, Station Road, High Bentham, by the 15th of the month for the following month's edition.



TOTALLY CRANKY OR LEADING THE WAY?

By Annie Neligan

If you're not sure which of these best describes B.E.S.T., come along and decide for yourself at our Seed Swap on Saturday 29th March, celebrating eating local and fresh.

If you are a gardener, come along with those extra seeds at the bottom of the packet and pass them on to someone else's garden. Maybe you can pick up some new varieties to try for yourself. You could bring along anything else that is spare – did you remember to get your broad beans in at the end of last year and too many have made it through the winter? I'm going to be bringing along some fine big flower pots and some heather plants.

What could be more local than growing food in your own kitchen? Come along and find out how to grow your own sprouted beans, or try some tasty snacks using seasonal vegetables. Or some totally uncranky coffee and cake. This will be a chance to chat to other people who are

interested in sharing gardening skills, ideas and maybe even some gardening sweat. Or to browse through books about everything from planting your first seeds to making your first home-grown stir-fry. What's good for the planet is amazingly good for us.

There's a group of people in Benthams who would love to grow their own vegetables and are in search of a site that could be used as allotments. The Town Council is helping them. Would you like to join them? Or have you some land you could offer the council to rent out?

A fantastic food mile fact: in 2006 transporting food around the UK produced 19 million tonnes of carbon dioxide an increase of over 25% since 1992. This is going to be harder to crack than plastic bags but come along and make a start at the Seed Swap, Saturday 29th March, 10.00 – 12.30 at Looking Well, King Street, Benthams. If you'd like to find out more about our efforts to make Benthams an Environmentally Sustainable Town, come along to our next meeting, on Monday March 10th at Benthams Community Centre at 7.30pm

Benthams Sports 

SHOP CLEARANCE

The more you buy the bigger the bargains!

SPORTSWEAR, TRAINERS, CRICKET, HOCKEY & RUGBY GEAR, RACQUETS AND BALLS, FOOTBALL BOOTS AND ASTROS, GK GLOVES, BALLS, BAGS GARDEN GAMES. OUTDOOR CLOTHING AND BOOTS, RUCKSACKS, SLEEPING BAGS, SOCKS, HATS, GLOVES, BIKE HELMETS, TYRES, WHEELS, CARRIERS & LOTS, LOTS MORE!

Tel: 015242 62001

Benthams Sports 

SHOP CLEARANCE

The more you buy the bigger the bargains!

Spend more (at sale prices) and you get more discount:

£50+ extra 5% off

£100+ extra 10% off

£150+ extra 12% off

£200+ extra 15% off

Last chance to kit out your family!

HELEN HOWARD SCHOOL OF THEATRE DANCE

By Helen Howard

On Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th March over 180 students from Helen Howard School of Theatre Dance will be given the opportunity to appear on a "real" stage, in front of in total 800 people.

The show takes place at Morecambe Dome and will involve all members of the school, ranging in age from 3 years to adults, and will include all forms of Theatre Dance from Street to Ballet.

Previously the proceeds from our shows have been donated to charity. This year, however, the children from within the school will benefit.

Last year 52 students performed at Sadlers Wells Theatre, London. The producers of the show were so impressed with the performance that they have invited us to perform at the Royal Albert Hall on 3rd May.

This time there will be 61 children performing in what will be a once in a lifetime opportunity for them. For the students to take part we need to raise a lot of money - not only to cover the cost of transport and accommodation, but also to pay for costumes.



The children have been busy trying to raise money and we would like to thank Wenning Lodge for their kind donation of £250 towards our fund. The proceeds of this year's school show will also go towards the fundraising efforts of these students.

The show at Morecambe Dome will take place on Saturday 15th at 7.00pm and Sunday 16th at 2.30pm. Tickets are £6 for adults and £4 for children and OAPs. If you would like tickets for the show, or are able to help with our fundraising efforts or require any information about the school, please contact Helen on 015242 61968.

COACH HOUSE RESTAURANT

Main Street
High Bentham
015242 62305

SPRING SPECIALS

2-for-1

LUNCHTIME SPECIAL

Two main courses for the price of one!

Tuesday—Saturday 12—2pm

EVERY WEDNESDAY
STEAK NIGHT

6-9pm
Great discounts on top
quality local steaks!

**NEW
SPRING
MENUS**



TEA TIME TREAT KIDS EAT FREE!

From the children's menu
Offer 5-6pm Tuesday—Sunday

Terms & Conditions Apply

WHAT'S HAPPENING ON LOW BENTHAM PLAYING FIELD?

By Christine Hodson

Concerned that the Playing Field has now been stripped of all the children's play equipment, I asked Martin Faichney, Low Bentham Town Councillor, to explain what is going on. He said that no further work has taken place since the removal of the old play equipment due to the awful wet weather, but now the weather is getting better work can start.

A tree surgeon is going to prune the trees and remove the conifers surrounding the electricity sub-station. A fence will be erected dividing the field in half, and the field will be levelled to provide an area for football and other games. The field nearest the entrance will hold new play equipment, picnic tables and waste bins. All new fencing will be of a high standard and designed to stop dogs entering the playing field.

The money for these improvements has been raised through sales of the 'Bentham and Beyond' calendar for 2007, a sponsored bike ride and other events. However, there is still a need for more funds. If you are a parent of children who would play on this new playing area and would like to help Martin raise funds, or if you know of agencies which may be contacted about grants and advice on raising money for a children's playground, please contact Martin Faichney on 62805.

INGLENOOK

Bed & Breakfast

Proprietor: Mrs. D.Eaton

£25 pppn.

Phone: 015242 61603

14 Lowcroft High

Mobile: 07523861919

Bentham LA2 7FD

THINKING ABOUT BROADBAND? DO YOU

- Want *local broadband supply* and *technical support*?
- Expect installation by a *qualified engineer*?
- Have any *questions* about broadband or your PC?
- Like *Free Advice*? Then call us today

Showroom & workshop: Top floor, Conservative Club, Settle

Tel: 01524-888391 or 07790-735822

Email: pcs.bentham@gmail.com

WWW: http://www.tbsu.co.uk/html/broadband_adsl.html

Bentham Broadband Services

LOOKING WELL NEWS

By Janice Every

Exhibition

Throughout March, we will be having an exhibition highlighting the artwork of some of the groups that use Looking Well. Do call in at our building in King Street (between HSBC Bank and Armstrongs) any weekday afternoon between 1pm and 3pm.

Calling all Active Women

By Annie Neligan

Have you joined in any of the activities supported by the Activate project? Sport England funding for the project is finishing at the end of March. Over the last three years, women and girls from Bentham have had the chance to try out all sorts of activities from salsa dancing to clambering around on high ropes, from muddy walks to getting in touch with our pelvic floor muscles.

Would you like to get together to talk about how we might keep going the energy and fun we've shared, how we can keep opportunities open to try new things and involve more people? Some activities will be supported by Looking Well and some will go on under their own steam but I've a feeling it would make a real difference if there was a group of us sharing ideas about how to keep the momentum going.

Come along to share a lunch and to pool our thoughts on Monday 17th March 12.30 - 2.00 at Looking Well, King Street.

Computer Services

M A Page

- ✓ PC support for business & home users
- ✓ Friendly and dependable service
- ✓ Callout visits at a time to suit you

Tel. 07982 614651

www.mattpage.com

A CLASSICAL SPRING CONCERT

By David Johnson

Your local orchestra, Settle Orchestra, has chosen a classical programme for their next concerts with their new conductor, Darren Everhart.

Two works by Mozart, the Overture to the Marriage of Figaro and the Violin Concerto number 5 in A are followed by Symphony number 1 by Beethoven and the Serenade for Wind Ensemble by Schubert. The violin soloist is a young man from Holland studying at the Royal Northern College of Music and the other local connection is the Serenade, which is arranged by local composer, Ernest Tomlinson.

Settle Orchestra was first formed in 1967 and has now grown into a full Symphony Orchestra with 50 members. It actively supports young talent.

Come and hear us on Saturday March 15th at 3pm in Settle Parish Church. Tickets are available at High Bentham Post Office.



Elemental of Ingleton

Reduce your carbon footprint all year round by shopping locally.

Elemental is your local Fair Trade and sustainable living shop.

We have earned our reputation for stocking beautiful and unusual Fair Trade and recycled gifts from around the world which attract visitors from a wide area.

In addition we stock a wide range of wonderful natural skin and body care products, all parabens & SLES free, organic where possible and completely natural.

When you visit us why not also stock up on competitively priced eco-friendly household products - refills available on a growing range of items. We can't list everything we sell so come and see us soon. You will be very welcome! Find us at 8 Main Street, Ingleton.

Open Tuesday - Sunday 10.00 am till 5.00pm

Tel 015242 42626 www.elementallife.co.uk

INTERCOUNTY DRIVING SCHOOL VAL KAY

**THEORY TRAINING
AVAILABLE
015242 62794**

e-mail:

val@bentham999.wanadoo.co.uk

WENNING DESIGN

Joinery work, doors,
shelving, household jobs.
Floor sanding and finishing.
Also garden fencing.
No job too small.

Call James on
015242 63316.

Wenningdale Home Repairs

We offer a good range of home improvement and maintenance jobs such as:

- Sanding of floors
- Sash windows repaired
- Interior decorating
- Exterior painting
- And much more

*Local, professional & very competitive
Mobile 07854 - 596391*

G M SOAR CHIMNEY SWEEP & VAC



20 Years Experience
Fully Insured
Tel: 01524 770194
84 Sycamore Road,
Brookhouse, Caton,
Near Lancaster,
LA2 9PE.

Ashfield House

Dental Practice

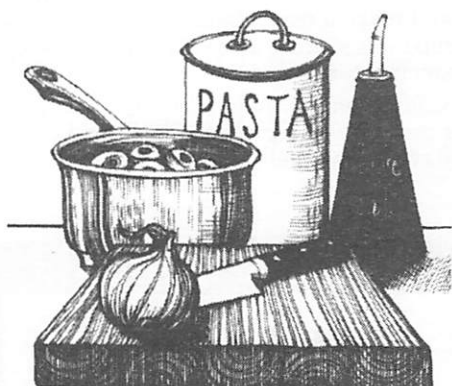
Now accepting new patients
*We can provide your routine dentistry
and we also offer*

WY10 Power Whitening, Cosmetic
Dentistry, Smile design, Dental Implants,
Orthodontics, Sedation, Oral Surgery,
Sports Guards, Soft Splints, Anti-Snoring
Appliances, *And correction of Bite
problems.*

*For an Information leaflet or to make an
appointment telephone Joanna White on
015242 64813, 66 Main Street, Bentham*

Dr Mark Jonathan White
BMSc(hons), BDS(hons)

KITCHENS ~ BEDROOMS HOME STUDIES ~ COOKSHOP



NEW! KNIFE SHARPENING SERVICE

Bring your blunt kitchen knives to us
for a new lease of life!

LARGE SHOWROOM ~ PLENTY OF PARKING
OPEN MONDAY TO SATURDAY

H & M CRAFTSMEN LTD

Industrial Estate, Ingleton (off the A65)

015242 41535

LEAPING INTO 2008

By Christine Hodson

Leap years are years with 366 days instead of the usual 365. They are necessary because the actual length of a year is 365.242 days, not 365 days as commonly stated. Basically, leap years occur every 4 years, and are years that are divisible by 4 (e.g. 2004, 2008). This extra day is added to the calendar on February 29th.

Who Invented Leap Year?

Julius Caesar was behind the origin of leap year in 45 BC. The early Romans had a 355day calendar, and, to keep festivals occurring around the same season each year, a 22 or 23day month was created every second year. Julius Caesar decided to simplify things and added days to different months of the year to create the 365day calendar. Every fourth year, following the 28th day of Februarius (February), one day was to be added, making every fourth year a leap year. In 1582, Pope Gregory XIII further refined the calendar with the rule that leap day would occur in any year divisible by 4 as described above. Leap years are needed so that the calendar is in alignment with the earth's motion around the sun.

Leap Year Traditions

Leap Year has been the traditional time that women can propose marriage. In many of today's cultures it is okay for a woman to propose marriage to a man. However, that hasn't always been the case. When the rules of courtship were stricter, women were only allowed to pop the question on one day

every four years. That day was February 29th because, according to English law, February 29th was ignored and had no legal status. Folk assumed that traditions would also have no status on that day. It was also reasoned that since the leap year day existed to fix a problem in the calendar, it could also be used to fix an old and unjust custom that let only men propose marriage.

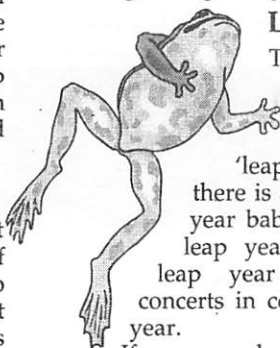
Now is Your Chance, Ladies!

The first documentation of this practice dates back to 1288, when Scotland passed a law that allowed women to propose marriage to the man of their choice in leap years. They also made it law that any man who declined a proposal in a leap year must pay a fine, which could range from a kiss to payment for a silk dress or a pair of gloves. There is a Greek superstition that couples have bad luck if they marry during a leap year, and apparently one in five engaged couples in Greece will avoid planning their wedding during a leap year.

Leapers

There is a very interesting website (www.leapyearday.com) for all the 'leapers' in the world and there is also a society for leap year babies. There are lots of leap year items to buy and leap year balls, meals and concerts in celebration of the leap year.

If you are a leaper why not visit the website and see what suits you?



Bentham Imaging
Local Photographic Services

Weddings and Portraits
General & Commercial
Photography

www.benthamimaging.co.uk

Mewitt, Bentham,
tel 015242 62641
or 07976 255991



SHIRAZ
AT BPPA

HAIRLINES

2 GROVE COTTAGES
MAIN STREET
TEL - 015242 61554

OPEN HOURS
TUE - FRI - 9am - 5pm
Sat - 9am - 12noon.



Open for
business on
Tue 4th March
after closure of
one week only
for salon
refurbishment.

LOW BENTHAM GALA/FUN DAY

By Vivienne Ayre

The Friends of Low Bentham Primary School will not be hosting a gala or fun day this summer. However, if any group of villagers wish to continue this tradition they are welcome to hire the school field and kitchen, at a very reasonable cost. Contact the school on 015242 61416

Easter Bingo

Low Bentham Primary School will be holding an Easter Bingo and pie and pea supper on Friday 14th March at 7.00 p.m. in the school hall. Admission is by ticket - costing £2.50 for over 13s and £1.50 for under 13s. This will include supper and one free bingo book. Additional books available at £1. Tickets are available from the school or you can phone and reserve them, collecting your tickets on the night; tel: 015242 61416.

**Fisher
Wrathall**

BENTHAM OFFICE

- ☐ Residential Sales &
Property Auctions
- ☐ Commercial &
Architectural
- ☐ Business Sales &
Transfers
- ☐ Lettings & Property
Management

20 Main Street
High Bentham
015242 62044
Also at
Lancaster & Morecambe
Associated
office Sedbergh

www.fisherwrathall.co.uk

BENTHAM PEOPLE



Personal Thanks

The family of **John Bainbridge** express their thanks to all who supported them in any way during his illness and death. Special thanks to Age Concern and all Bowling Club associates for their support to John over many years. Your love and concern has been appreciated.

Wood. The family of Henry would like to thank relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy, cards and donations in his memory. Special thanks to Bentham Health Centre who cared for Henry so well during his illness.

Thanks

Steve Crompton would like to thank everyone for his gifts, vouchers and money, also to Cocky for the disco and Gary for sorting out the fishing vouchers. Thanks again, Steve.

Lister. Hilda would like to thank her family and friends for the cards and gifts received on her 80th birthday. Thank you everyone.

For Sale

"Rally" Scooter £500. 61077.

Accommodation

For rent, a self-contained studio flat on the edge of Bentham with lovely light and views south and west - to a non-smoking woman. Rent £250 per month plus bills. Ring 015242 64886.

Accommodation

Retired Lady, new to Bentham, requires cottage/house to rent in High Bentham. Please ring 07880954140.

Free

To good home. St. Margaret's Church has been given a Shoprider Mobility Buggy, which it wishes to give to anyone who can make use of it. This buggy is a few years old and has had two careful owners who didn't use it very much. It is in working order, but may need a service to make it fully roadworthy. If you are interested, please contact John Hicks on 61191 (daytime preferred).

CHARITIES THANK YOU

Bentham Community Transport Committee thanks everyone who supported their very successful coffee morning in the Town Hall on Saturday 9th February when they made a profit of £262.00.

The Friends of Tatham Fells School say a big thank you to local businesses who provided prizes and to all who supported their recent bingo night. The evening was a great success and your support is sincerely appreciated.

Helen Howard School of Theatre Dance would like to thank Wenning Lodge for their kind donation of £250 towards the school fundraising efforts for performing at the Royal Albert Hall.

Mule Gimmer Lamb Sales 2007

Bentham Shearlings, Skipton, Kendal, Bentham(Sat) and Hawes

The DVD

Available from Midd's Butty Box, Main Street Bentham



Or by sending cheque for £13.50 (to include F&P) to
Linda Allan, Middleton Hall Cottage, Kirkby Lonsdale, Carnforth, LA6 2ND.
For Further Enquires contact 015242 76448.

www.Bonnysheep.com



FRANK PICKERING

Painting, decorating, tiling.

Also man and van for
light removals, etc.

Tel: 015242 61461

Mob: 07866051491

Bowland Fells Heating and Son

Guy Downing



Domestic Servicing and Maintenance of
Oil Fired Boilers and Cookers
(AGA/Rayburn etc.)

Phone 015242 41833 Mobile 07780708589

9 New Road, Ingleton, Carnforth, LA6 3HL

SARAH JONES

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

Bookkeeping

Statutory & Management Accounts

VAT Returns

Personal and Corporate Tax returns

Payroll services including online
filing

Tax planning and advice

Competitive hourly rates or fixed fees

For a free consultation and
quote please call

SARAH JONES (BA, ACA)

Tel 015242 61058 /07740 765436

sarah@mewiththead.co.uk

J W Garnett

The Market Place, Settle

01729 823558

BISSELL

SPRING STEAM AND CLEAN

With Bissell

PROheat All Rounder-
combined steam cleaner and
vacuum, ideal for all floors-

£235

SAVE 10%

plus any Wash & Protect
cleaning solution free



In Pain?



For Fast, Effective Treatment
with Marie Colyer,
Chartered Physiotherapist
Phone Bentham

Physiotherapy Clinic
(015242) 62216

Treatment is recognised by all major
insurance companies.

NEW FACES AT THE SUN DIAL

By Christine Hodson

Since Dawn and Tony Dixon took over the Sun Dial in Low Bentham in September 2007, it has been restored to become a busy, friendly pub with a welcoming atmosphere. The exterior is once again painted white, there are colourful window boxes and you can often see people on the benches outside enjoying a drink. Inside there is warmth from the locals, visitors and the newly restored blazing coal fire. The pub is being redecorated with newly lined walls and the removal of all the old artex. After the recent heavy rain flooded the pub, ruining the carpet, the dining area will reopen, but this time as a relaxed extension to the bar area. Dawn has established a menu of good pub food, with specials and a range of vegetarian options.

She has also introduced a take-away menu. Dawn and Tony also run a disco called 'Dixons Disco Duo' and take bookings for discos and karaoke. Dawn says that there's a lot to learn when you run a pub, it's been a steep learning curve. It's enjoyable although very hard work, especially the long hours.

Talking to local residents I was pleased to hear so many positive comments, such as *"the pub is the heart of the village, it's lovely to see it brightened up with people sat outside"*, and *"it's a very welcoming pub"*, and *"a lovely place to meet local people"*.

The Sun Dial is a credit to Dawn and Tony and a real asset to Low Bentham.

The Horse and Farrier

Main Street, High Bentham

Telephone 015242 61381

www.horseandfarrier.org.uk

FOOD SERVED Monday to Friday,
12 noon to 2.00pm and 6.00 to 9.00pm
Saturday & Sunday 12 noon to 9.00pm.

PIZZA (To eat in or take away)

Telephone orders taken

QUIZ NIGHT every Wednesday
9.00 p.m. start (Approx).

BOOKINGS now being take for
Mothers Day
Easter Sunday

ENTERTAINMENT FOR MARCH

1 st March	Norman Johns
15 th March	Bo Dent
29 th March	Vic Silver

THE PUNCH BOWL

at Burton-in-Lonsdale

Tel: 015242 61568

Serving
good food & fine ales
with a warm welcome
from
Jen, Claire, Jay & Leila.

Iain Henshaw t/a
S1B.COM

Stunningly quick
and efficient



Refurbished PCs from £199.00. New laptops & PCs available

Freeview, DVD recorders and Digital TVs setup

**Professional lighting design and consultancy. CAD drawing services.
Electrical design Installation and repairs. Computers supported
and maintained - anti virus - networking - home entertainment.**

www.s1b.com

info@s1b.com

015242 61010

The Fish Inn

Takeaway and restaurant



Tel: 015242 61317

Mon	11-2	4.30-7.30
Tue	11-2	4.30-7.30
Wed	11-2	4.30-8.00
Thu	11-2	4.30-7.30
Fri	11-2	4.30-9.00
Sat	11-2	4.30-7.30

Last orders in restaurant
30 minutes before closing.

Fancy something new?

We are now selling scampi and
pollock in the take-away!

Oak Roid

BAKERY

*High quality
hand made cakes,
puddings and breads.*

*Consistent quality at value for
money prices,
treat yourself to one of our
award winning puds!*

Open Mon-Sat

17 Station Rd, High Bentham LA2 7LH

015242 61219

www.oakroidbakery.co.uk

ADVERTISING RATES

Local Advertisers

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

Non-local Advertisers

Boxed advertisement one eighth page - £17.50.

Quarter page £35. Half page £75.

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

Normal commercial rate £125.

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

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

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

TEMPTATIONS

31 Main Street, Bentham 015242 61868

Stockists of Poppy, Paul Separates, Finn
Karelia, Playtex, Vanity Fair and Elle.

Cash's Name Tapes, Haberdashery,
Knitting Wool.

Needlecraft and Card Making Supplies,
Dolls House Miniatures.

Newsholme & Son

Electrical Engineers (Est. 1950)

Station Road, Clapham,
Lancaster LA2 8ER.

Write or phone 015242 51383

Domestic, Agricultural Installations. Security
Lighting and Burglar Alarms Fire Alarm
Systems. Additional Electrical Circuits. Faults,
Breakdowns, Night Storage Heater repairs. No
call-out charges. No VAT. Free estimates.

BENTHAM YOUTH THEATRE GROUP NEWS

By Iain Henshaw

Firstly thank you to the Methodist Church who recently kindly donated to the group £100.00 which had been raised at their Wednesday coffee mornings. Thank you. Fund raising for any group is always an issue and every bit really does help.

Congratulations to all involved in the pantomime, splendid! Oh yes it was... it seems to go from strength to strength.

The youth theatre will recommence on 16th April at the community centre. We'd like to try a new format and condense the separate days into one evening session. The 6 to 12 group from 6:00 - 7:30 and the 12+ group from 7:00 to 8:45. It is planned to have a wide range of activities and workshops targeted at specific aspects of acting and technical theatre. More information will be in next next month's BN.

The website will be re-vamped over the next few weeks and this will have all the latest information on it - www.bytg.org.uk Why not come and meet us? We will be performing at the community day at the community centre - see diary for dates.

If you didn't manage to get a copy of the Merry Christmas Mr. Scrooge DVD then you er, hopefully, fingers crossed, can download it from the web.

M.J.WALKER PLASTERING

All types of plastering
and pebble dashing work
undertaken.

Tel: 015242 61369

Mob: 07863 123320

Peter Allen FLOOR COVERINGS

UNIT 2, SOWARTH IND EST, **SETTLE** (Opposite TIMBERWORKS)

**KARNDEN
FLOORING
DESIGN
SHOWROOM**

**LARGE
CARPET SHOWROOM**

**Made to Measure
ROLLER,
VERTICAL &
VENETIAN BLINDS**

STOCKING FULL ROLLS @ DISCOUNT PRICES

**QUALITY PINE &
OAK FURNITURE**

**BEDS &
MATTRESSES**

**CURTAIN POLES
& TRACKING**

"QUALITY CARPETS WITH QUALITY FITTING"

TEL: (SETTLE) 01729 825122

OPEN: MON, TUES, THURS, FRI: 10am-4pm. SAT: 10am-1pm CLOSED WED

Inner Guidance

Tools for confirmation and understanding.

Breathing techniques, visualisation, pendulum dowsing, guidance cards, signs & signals of inner & outer worlds.

1st March or 3rd May
Bentham 10am-5pm £45

Chryssie Burgess 015242 63233

TRADITIONAL CHINESE ACUPUNCTURE

and associated therapies

at clinics across Craven

contact:

Paul Underhill 07876 740611



TOTAL WELLBEING

Beauty & Bodywork Salon

NEW

Calgel nails
The everlasting treatment
for hands & feet.

All beauty treatments

inclu. Facials,

Manicure, Pedicure, Waxing,
also Eye Treatments Eyelash
& Brow Tinting, Eyelash
Perming.

Special offer on Eyelash
Perm & Tint for £25.00

(treatment lasts one hour)

Tel: 63223.

C.M. SLINGER & SONS LTD

BENTHAM (Established 1820)

BUILDING, ROOFING & JOINERY CONTRACTORS

Extensions and Alterations - Refurbishment Work - Re-roofing & Repairs - Brickwork & Stonework - Plastering - Patios & Drainage - Made to Measure Doors and Windows - Porches & Conservatories - Kitchen & Bedroom Fitting - Shelving & Purpose Made Cupboards - Fascia and Barge Boards - All General Building, Roofing & Joinery Work Undertaken.

"Generations of experience through to the latest methods and technology"

TELEPHONE 015242 61333

YESTERDAY IN BENTHAM

Keith Hartley takes a light-hearted look at Bentham and its people, as first seen through the pages of the Bentham News edition of twenty years ago.

February 1988

A prospective new member for **Low Bentham WI** got herself off to a rather shaky start by misunderstanding the venue for her first meeting. Instead of arriving at the Victoria Institute she turned up instead at another meeting being held in the Town Hall, where she was given a very warm welcome due to the fact that she had been mistaken for their visiting speaker! Panic set in when she was told that "business" wouldn't take too long, and then she'd be able to start!

She apologised quickly and fled the building, and fortunately the incident didn't deter her from taking up membership at Low Bentham.

I couldn't resist a chuckle as I thought of the number of meetings I've been to over the years where to me the speaker has almost certainly been in the wrong meeting!

This month's edition recorded the *passing out* at Strensall Training Camp, York, of local lad Carl Oldfield. Carl, of Main Street High Bentham, then joined his regiment, the Kings Own Border Regiment for service in Cyprus.

Margaret Robinson, Jane Preston and Barbara Harrison were among the winners at a Pancake Race organised as part of fund-raising efforts for the Goodenber Road Play Area.

I was very interested to read an article by Doreen Park on the history of the old building at the entrance to the Kidde (then Geo Angus Ltd) works in Station Road. All old Benthamers will know the history, but a great many are perhaps unaware that the house was originally built as the Vicarage for St Margaret's before becoming two pubs. It was purchased from the Diocese by the Townson family and opened as the unlicensed **Station Hotel**, before transferring to the ownership of a Mr and Mrs Reid, who

changed its name to the **Wenning Hotel**. It thrived for many years as a successful commercial hotel before being sold in 1955, on the retirement of Mr and Mrs Reid from the trade, to George Angus Ltd.

Congratulations were offered to junior cross country runner **Sam Whittaker** of High Bentham who had achieved 12th place in the Claro Craven under-12s Championships in Whitby, and had been selected to run for the North Yorkshire County team at a forthcoming meeting in York.

The first **Bentham News** coffee morning was held in the Town Hall. These days, BN manages to keep its financial head above water, due largely to its being a very popular advertising medium in the area. But it was not always thus, and 20 years ago the Editorial Committee put almost as much energy into fundraising as to producing the paper.

They did a super job too! Bentham has much to thank them for.

One of the 2 small ads this month offered a pair of wing chairs in 'very good condition' which the vendor said would split.

**Pick up your euros
and US dollars at
Bentham Post Office
015242 61650.**

**No commission to pay
No need to pre-order**

**Travellers cheques available
Plus 70 currencies available
through our pre-order service.**

**Travel
insurance on
demand.**



www.postoffice.co.uk

Bonnysheep.com MOVES INTO MOVING PICTURES

By Linda Allan

Bonnysheep.com is a website designed for sheep farmers to put photographs of their sheep on the internet for free. It is now possible to buy locally a DVD of local sheep sales.

2007 was not a great year in the farming calendar. If outbreaks of foot and mouth weren't bad enough, put in the mix blue tongue and wheat and barley prices going through the roof, it appeared that sheep weren't at the top of farmers' shopping lists last back end. The prices at the marts reflected this. The disjointed sale season meant that some mule gimmers were sold at home, many were sold through the Auctions to bad trades and even worse-many farmers selling their lambs some £20 a head down on the previous year.

It was possibly not the right year to start making a DVD about the Mule Gimmer Lamb Sales but that is what we have done, showing the highs and the lows of an eventful sale period.

The DVD runs for just over an hour and shows extensive coverage of the Skipton show and prize winners with a quick look at the shearling trade from the day. For added interest we have Bentham Shearling Sale and footage from the Saturday sale of Mule Gimmer lambs. We have thorough coverage of the Kendal Gimmer Sale and the DVD finishes with a look at Hawes-prize winners from the Sunday and a look at trade on the Tuesday sale.

The DVD also incorporates the many photographs that were sent in to the Bonnysheep.com website. It can be bought locally at Midds Butty Box on Main Street Bentham for £12 or by sending a cheque for £13.50 (to include P&P) to Linda Allan, Middleton Hall Cottage, Kirkby Lonsdale, Carnforth, LA6 2ND.

For further enquires please contact Linda on 015242 76448.

BILL HOULSWORTH

(Time Served)

PAINTERS & DECORATORS

Tel: 07505 622666 (Mob)

HORNBY DAY NURSERY

- Fully qualified staff
- 7.30am to 6.30pm
- Pre-school Nursery Education Grant
- Dedicated Baby & Toddler facilities
- Secure outdoor play area

1 Station Road, Hornby.

Tel: 015242 22288

E:info@hornbydaynursery.co.uk

GRASS CUTTING
GARDEN MAINTENANCE
HEDGE LAYING
WALLING • FENCING
Tel: 07742 727664
J. HARTLEY & SONS
Office: 015242 41298
Mini Digger
HARD LANDSCAPING
ANY ODD JOBS

J.L. ARMSTRONG Builder

New Builds, Extensions,
Conversions, Stonework.

City & Guilds Qualified.

Telephone 015242 63011

Mobile 07729558475

AUCTION MART BIDS FOR SUCCESS

Part one of a two-part series by Keith Hartley

If you have felt that there has been a noticeable increase in local farming activity in recent years, then your instincts have been correct, because it seems that from the mixed fortunes of Britain's farming community, Bentham is emerging as one of the country's leading centres for sheep and cattle marketing. At the heart of this success are two prime factors. The first is the high quality of locally-reared produce for which the area is renowned. The second is the Bentham Farmers Auction Mart, to where livestock is brought from a continually widening area, and where the support of important national and international buyers is increasingly evident.

Founded in 1903 from an enterprising collaboration between Lancaster brewer William Mitchell and Bentham auctioneer Richard Turner (grandfather of the present Richard Turner Snr) the Auction Mart has served local farmers consistently for over a hundred years. It has weathered several economic storms, not least of which was the Foot and Mouth epidemic of 2001, which brought the sheep and cattle farming world to its knees and inflicted financial injuries from which many businesses never managed to recover. Several of the region's auction marts, some of them older than the Bentham mart, have closed since the epidemic. The latest casualties are the auction facilities at Masham and Sedbergh, both of which closed during 2007.

The adage that nothing succeeds like success is certainly true in the case of Bentham Auction Mart, because each mart closure in the region means potentially more Bentham business, which in turn strengthens Bentham's ability to compete with other remaining marts for even more business.

In an attempt to establish why Bentham is succeeding where others are failing I have spoken to a number of local farmers, who are almost unanimous in their belief that Bentham's market success is attributable in large part to its management strategy, and

particularly to the skills and knowledge of experienced auctioneer Stephen Dennis.

With Stephen's leadership, and in line with many local farmers, the Bentham Auction Mart has 'diversified' its approach to business in that it has re-examined the way it has traditionally operated and has subsequently implemented very effective change. "No, it hasn't started selling home-made jams or offering B & B! It has simply sought to open its doors for business at times when more buyers are likely to attend. Stephen recalls that when he first joined the Auction Mart some 25 years ago sale day was Wednesday, and everything went 'under the hammer' on that day. Being of course unable to be in more than one place at the same time, many buyers were not able to get to the Bentham sale, so a good deal of potential business was lost. By simply moving the sale of fat sheep (sheep for slaughter) to Wednesday evening the number of buyers increased considerably, as consequently did the level of sales. From a point in the fairly recent past where weekly sheep sales were numbered in the low hundreds, there are now many thousands of animals passing through the Auction Mart each week. On just one day during 2007, a total of 8,400 sheep were sold, and there is every possibility that this level could be achieved regularly or even exceeded in the future, given healthy animals and a market free from restrictive government policies.



*Which way does the tek
all t'thin uns then?*

BAT AND CHAT

By Kay Piper

Feeling sluggish? Need a bit of gentle exercise? Why not come down to Low Bentham Victoria Institute on Thursday mornings from 10am - 12noon. Social badminton/soft tennis, a cuppa and some chat. All equipment provided. We hope to



offer table tennis too. Anyone out there with a table tennis table stashed away in the garage or attic? We would come and collect it if you want to part with it.

Advance notice. Another "Trash and Treasure Sale" is

being planned for the end of May so if you are spring cleaning let us have your "trash". It will be someone else's treasure!

Everyone welcome on Thursday mornings. For further details contact Sharon Haslam 63162 or Kay Piper 61977.

TAYLORS

OPHTHALMIC OPTICIANS

G.N. Theobald F.C. Optom

Mount Pleasant House

High Bentham

OPEN WEDNESDAY

9.00am - 5.00pm

Tel 01524 32915

for an appointment

Wenning Surfacing

TARMACADAM CONTRACTORS

RICHARD BRADSHAW

015242 72189



Free Advice &
Estimates,
Professional,
Commercial &
Domestic Surfacing.

JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB NEWS

By Jen Smith

Bentham Junior Football Club is looking for girls in years 6 and 7 for an all girls team. Training is on Monday evenings from 6.30-7.30pm. For more details call 62088.

The annual 3 legged pub crawl, in pyjamas, will be on Sunday 23rd March, at 1.30pm. Starting at Bentham Sports Club it will proceed to the Horse and Farrier, Conservative Club, Coach House, The Black Bull and finally The Byres. Everyone is welcome to take part or collect sponsors. All funds raised will go to Bentham Junior Football Club.

A big thank you to recent sponsors, D&P Development for sponsoring the under 12s away kit and C.M. Slinger & Sons Ltd, for sponsoring the new jackets.

SBC EARLY WARNING!!

By John Henderson

We are holding a Mask Ball at the Horse and Farrier on Saturday 5th April. All funds raised will go to the Helen Howard School of Theatre Dance, who have been invited to perform at the Royal Albert Hall this year. Another "great" for the youngsters and for Bentham. There will be entertainment by courtesy of Margaret and Jeff, a raffle and a prize for the best mask. If you cannot be there, kindly put your donation in the pot at the bar. Cheers.

MOBILE IRON WORK



Barry Smith

- ◆ Gates
- ◆ Railings
- ◆ Balconies
- ◆ Repairs etc.

MOBILE: 07964572319



Low Bentham Badminton Club sporting their new strip, kindly sponsored by Pam Woof of Bentham Sports

HAYFEVER?

Get rid of it
before the summer starts

Allergy Elimination

Thursdays at
Total Wellbeing
07966 466209

CARPET CLEANER

Well respected local man
will clean your carpets as
thoroughly as the pros.
But for less money!

Give me a call for a free
quote on 015242 61599

AIRE VALLEY *Glass*

A Family Business
Established For Over 25 Years



Tel. 015242 51705 Fax. 015242 51832

- Windows • Doors • Conservatories
- Fascias & Bargeboards • Glass Cut-to-Size
- Replacement Double Glazed Units

Bridge Road, Sutton-in-Craven, Keighley,
West Yorkshire BD20 7ES

Dalesview, Old Road, Clapham,
North Yorkshire LA2 8JH

www.airevalleyglass.co.uk



FIRST RESPONDERS

By Robert Holland

When the First Responders were first reported in Bentham News in May 2007, there were just 5 volunteers. Nine new recruits have been trained at the end of January and this brings the total of trained responders to 15. Until now the First Responders have only been able to provide cover for the Bentham area at nights from 7pm to 7am, but with the new volunteers it is hoped to be able to cover the area in daylight hours as well.

As you will see from the photograph, Wanda Lewcum, who is the co-ordinator of the group, was really thrilled to be able to congratulate all the new recruits on the completion of their

training by Yorkshire Ambulance Service, as First Responders. They now assist in the treatment of heart arrests, chest pains and breathing difficulties, while a patient is waiting for the arrival of the ambulance, and provide a much needed emergency service to the Bentham community. The group is really grateful to all the organizations and individuals who have contributed most generously to their funds, but especially to Liz Brown, one of the five original First Responders, who donated half the collection taken at Mick's funeral.

The new recruits (back row) Wendy Thorp, Sue Halsall, Sue Coomber, Steve Arnott and Andrew Coomber; (in the middle) delighted Wanda Lewcum; (in the front) Jill Marshall, Sue Arnott, Lynne Askew and Jean Jones holding the defibrillator.

BENTHAM NEWS is published at "Latharna", High Bentham, by an editorial committee consisting of Trevor Blackwell, Shirley Brown, Linda Cressey, 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 the Gallery, Station Road, by the copy deadline, the 15th of the month prior to publication. The BN email address is: BenthamNews@lycos.com.