

BENTHAM NEWS

NEW TO BENTHAM

April's BN brings news of an amazing number of changes and initiatives.

◆ A new headteacher is pictured here, and you can read more about her on page 18.

◆ The outdoor Wednesday market is under new management, as you will see on page 13.

◆ There is a new all-weather sports pitch available free, which is featured on page 31, and on the same page you can also find out about

◆ new kick-boxing and self-defence classes.

◆ Young people, aged 13+, need no longer wonder where to hang out, as a new drop-in has just opened, read all about it on page 4.

◆ If you've aged 16 - 24 and have ever wondered about volunteering, then you can discover more on page 25.

◆ Looking Well is urgently seeking a new home and latest developments in this search are outlined on page 25.

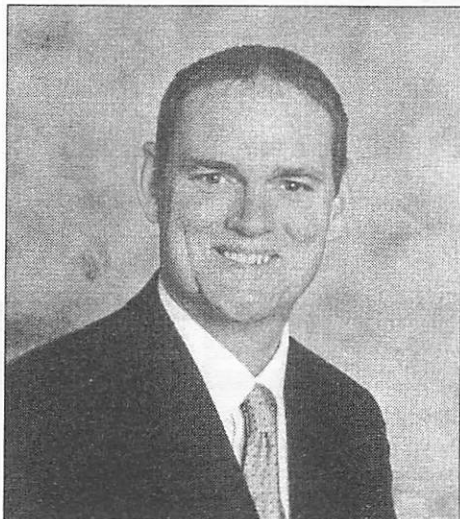
◆ For those who have entered the computer age, exciting plans for a Broadband Network are on page 12, and the redesign of www.bentham.net is explained on page 22.

And then there are the

◆ new brown bins for garden waste which are part of CDC's recycling plans. Thanks to a DEFRA grant, we are the first in the County to have such a scheme - look out for the brand new pinky-purple vehicle on its fortnightly collection round.



Mrs. Catherine A. Boocock B.Ed. the new Headteacher at High Bentham Community Primary School. See report on page 18.



Jonathan Brown, who has been Headteacher at High Bentham C P School for 6 years.

APRIL 2003

ISSUE 198

WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

High Bentham

By Sue Camacho

The trip to the Grand Theatre in Lancaster to see "Kiss me Kate" was a great success. Everyone in the theatre group is looking forward to the next trip.

The March meeting featured Tom Lynch with his talk about "Twisters". He went to America to chase storms and brought pictures of twisters and the damage they do. 3-4 inch hailstones made short work of a car's windscreen and rear window. There were even holes through the metal of the bonnet and roof. He also had photographs of some spectacular lightning strikes. He told us of some of the near misses he and his friends had had.

Marjorie Kidd won the raffle and Chris Lewis won the competition. The next meeting will be on the 3rd April. The talk will be about "police uniforms" by Monika Nagy. The competition is for an old key. You are more than welcome to join us.

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Low Bentham

By Jennifer Watkinson

"Slides of Alaska" was the title of the speaker's most interesting and informative talk at the monthly meeting. Starting off in Toronto, Mr. Derek Cressey, aided by comments from his wife, described their memorable summer holiday to Canada and Alaska. They then travelled to the beautifully situated city of Vancouver and from there boarded a cruise ship which sailed through the Inside Passage and the magnificent fjorded coastline, stopping off at places en route. In order to see as much as possible of the wild and desolate area, they took trips by aeroplane, helicopter, train and a boat. Juneau, the capital, and Skagway, the gateway town of the Yukon gold rush, were amongst the places they visited. They were able to view the amazing Hubbard glacier, which is about 6 miles wide when it reaches the sea.

They photographed whales, sea lions, seals and some rare birds. After a celebratory, sumptuous meal at the end of their cruise, they took a bus to Anchorage. Unfortunately the driver refused to stop on the way to allow them to take pictures of the magnificent scenery. From Anchorage they flew back to Vancouver.

The President, Mrs. Christine Jennings, gave a vote of thanks. Competition winners were Mrs. Pam Warbrick, Mrs. Carolyn Woof and Mrs. Mabel Easterby.

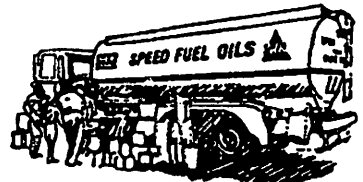
Two teams of four had an enjoyable evening when they participated in the Traders Quiz at the Horse & Farrier.

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MARCH'S TOWN COUNCIL

By David Johnson

An apology was received from Cllr. Barnes. The police were absent but it was reported later that the speed gun has been in action on Springfield and 6 fixed penalty notices have been issued. Further complaints about speeding were made about vehicles driving down Station Road and Wenning Avenue. The information is to be passed on to the police.

Highways. It is proving difficult to persuade the highways authority to reinstate the Benthams sign at the junction opposite the Bridge Inn, Ingleton. The Cllrs. decided to ask again for a Benthams sign showing that the road is only suitable for light vehicles. Work on Shakey Bridge should be nearly complete by the time you read this.

Housing. Craven Housing is keen to identify land for low cost housing, possibly beyond the building line. A recent housing survey has shown there is a demand for rented accommodation for single people. The Council decided to support this initiative.

Market. It seems almost certain that the Development Trust will be given the go-ahead to promote and operate the market by Craven District Council for a period of 1 year from 1st April 2003. The Council also heard the contents of a letter written to the Council by Henry Sephton concerning the Market Town Renaissance proposals. This could mean more funding for business in Benthams but we will have to operate as part of a cluster of settlements. It was proposed to ask Mr. Sephton to prepare a presentation for the Parish Meeting which is on 2nd April at 7.30 p.m. in the Lower Town Hall.

The Black Bull Car Park. Agreement has been reached and the parking meter and sign should soon be removed. The Council plans to install a light on the corner of the Town Hall and to see if the road sweeper would be able to visit occasionally.

The Council Tax is to rise by 11.5%. Craven District Council's share will rise by only 7% but the police are to get a 76% increase!

School News. Cllr Pengelly reported that Mrs. Catherine Boocock has been appointed Headteacher at High Benthams C.P. School. She is currently the Head at Horton-in-Ribblesdale C.of E. Primary School.

THYNC Housing. The thorny problem of alleged excessive noise and disturbance from the project at Wesley Place was raised. Cllr. Pilkington confirmed that he was looking at additional complaints. There has been a history of adverse comments since November 2000. The Cllrs. were of the opinion that part of problem can be attributed to the lack of a residential responsible adult. The Cllrs. decided to write expressing their deep concern about the disruption being caused to the lives of neighbours. They said the scheme was not being operated in a manner as described initially. Many Cllrs. wished to see it closed down.

The Playing Field Committee is planning a sponsored walk to Spens Farm with the possibility of return transport for those who have walked enough.

Bridge House. The Cllrs. expressed serious concerns about access to the proposed development at this site. They requested a site meeting with Craven District planners. Cllr. Wills wondered if the District Council ever gave serious consideration to the recommendations of our Town Council!

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GOODENBER PLAY AREA

By Lin Barrington

As the Spring comes, and playing outside becomes more of a possibility, the Goodenber Play Area committee hopes that children from babies through to teenagers, plus parents and carers will enjoy the equipment at the Play Area.

We have had a bit of vandalism, which is a nuisance, but we are carrying out repairs and would like to thank S & W Fabrications very much for repairing our gate for us.

We have to raise funds for grass cutting, improvements and maintenance, so hope you will support us in our efforts. And remember that we are always looking out for new committee members, so if you are willing to help, or would like to know more about the running of the play area, please contact Lin at the Bentham Trust office (phone 61030).

BENTHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE - NEW DROP IN

By Lynda Rushton (Centre Manager)

Attention all parents

Thanks to Connexions, the Community Centre has obtained funding for a new Drop In for young adults (must be over 13 years). The funding is to provide an area for those doing GCSEs or A levels, to meet and relax, discuss and work on anything they feel a need to. These are informal sessions run 3 times a week, on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, from 5.00-7.00pm during term time.

The Drop In will work with the users to provide a warm and friendly environment to get together with friends or colleagues from their own or other schools, provide support and a place to meet and find out what has been happening. There is a lot of equipment provided including internet access, pens, paper, card, calculators, paper cutter, stapler, hole punch, dictionary and much more, to help with projects, homework, art etc. This is a trial and if it works well then it is hoped that funding will be available to run the Drop In for the next year.

Please encourage anyone over 13 to pop along and take a look and bring a friend; there is no charge and no obligation to come to every session or week. Kath Horton is the person to see on Mondays and Ben Johnson on Wednesdays and Fridays.

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CRAVEN DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS

By John Pilkington

Bus Passes for men over 60

From 1st April the age at which men can get a free bus pass is reduced from 65 to 60. Passes can be obtained by going to the Council Offices in Skipton or Settle, or from the Mobile Information Unit, at least for the next few months. A passport size photograph will be needed at the Settle office and at the Mobile Unit.

Brown Wheelie Bins

During February about 9000 brown wheelie bins were distributed throughout Craven. Because there is only one vehicle available for emptying the bins it has not been possible to leave a bin at every house that has a garden. If you received a bin and do not have a garden please contact the District Council (01756 706203) and the bin will be removed. The situation will be reviewed later in the year. If there is spare capacity it may be possible to issue bins to those households with a garden which have missed out. Please let the District Council know if you would like a brown bin or contact one of your District Councillors.

Congestion Charges

If the Congestion Charges, which are planned to start in Bentham soon, are successful, they may be introduced in other Towns in Craven.

Recent Planning Applications

► 08/2002/2793 Mr D Hurtle, Greenbank, Cross Lane, Low Bentham, Lancaster, LA2 7HB.

Construction of dwelling on Plot 3 Greenfoot Lane, Low Bentham, Lancaster; Reserved matters only-outline planning permission has already been given.

► 08/2003/2939 Mr A K & Mrs A C Bennett, Lawsings, Clapham, Lancaster, LA2 8BET. 2 No. detached dwellings at Bridge House, Main Street, Low Bentham, Lancaster.

► 08/2003/2940 Mr A K & Mrs A C Bennett, Lawsings, Clapham, Lancaster, LA2 8BET. Alteration to existing buildings to form 8 dwellings at Bridge House, Main Street, Low Bentham, Lancaster.

► 08/2003/2949 Mrs G Llewellyn, Thorns Cottage, Wenning Bridge, High Bentham, Lancaster, LA2 7LU. Single storey extension to dwelling to form elderly relative's accommodation.

► 08/2003/2978 Mr Rathbone, Holly Bank, 46 Robin Lane, High Bentham, LA2 7AG. Single storey extension.

► 08/2003/2988 United Utilities PLC, Service Delivery, Dawson House, Liverpool Road, Great Sankey, Warrington, WA5 3LW. To erect an N.T.F. and feed pumping station control kiosk, 2 No. N.T.F.s, an N.T.F. distribution chamber with access platform and staircase, an N.T.F. pumping station and valve plinth, a final effluent sample chamber, a sample cabin and a chain link fence at High Bentham wastewater Treatment Works, Wenning Avenue, High Bentham, Lancaster. (This application will be determined by North Yorkshire County Council)

► 08/2003/2990 Mr Alan Worthington, 889 Whittingham Lane, Goosnargh, Preston, PR3 2AU. Two semi-detached dwellings on land, formerly Inglewood, Robin Lane. High Bentham, Lancaster.

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THINK LOCAL YOU WON'T BE DISAPPOINTED

It's definitely spring, and thoughts are turning to lambs, curlews, daffodils, gardens, the warm weather and planning ahead; maybe holidays, maybe a special event, such as a wedding.

This month Bentham News has decided to feature weddings and in particular to highlight just how much can be found locally to make that special occasion memorable.

Have you ever found yourself thinking that local shops and businesses are alright for some things but that when it comes to planning a really grand or important occasion, you've assumed that you'd have to look further afield? Well, you're wrong!

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POST OFFICE NEWS

By David Alder

Payment of State Benefits & Pensions at Post Offices

April sees the start of a two year phased changeover of the payment method of pensions and allowances from order books to automatic credit transfer. All customers with order books will be receiving a personal letter from the Department of Work and Pensions or Child Benefit Centre/Inland revenue and need do nothing until then. The letter will ask customers to make a choice as to a future method of payment, but everyone wishing to do so will be able still to collect their pension or benefit at a Post Office - either by choosing a Post Office card account or another bank account that offers free cash withdrawals at Post Offices. Further information and assistance is available at Post Offices - please ask if you have any queries or concerns.

Letter Collection Policy

Some confusion has arisen as a result of the new information plates installed on Royal Mail posting boxes. The new wording only contains details of the last collection of the day and the use of "next collection" tablets has been discontinued. There is no intention, however, to reduce the number of collections - for example the pillar box at Benthams Post Office will still be cleared about noon and in mid-afternoon as well as at 17.15. So although exact times of intermediate collections can no longer be guaranteed, there are still considerable benefits in posting earlier in the day.

Letter Tariff Increase

Consultation is still continuing nationally as I write, in respect of Royal Mail's proposals to increase letter and packet prices. For example, the basic prices of first and second class letters are planned to rise to 28p and 20p respectively. The increases will not now come in before May. New tariffs for International, Express and BFPO parcels

will be introduced from 27th March as planned.

Easter Arrangements

All Post Offices will be closed on Good Friday (18th April) and Easter Monday (21st April). Pensions and allowances due on these days can be collected one week in advance. There will also be no letter or parcel deliveries on these days. Letter collections will be made on Good Friday, as on a Saturday, and on Easter Monday, as on a Sunday. No collections on Easter Sunday.

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BENTHAM & DISTRICT PET RESCUE

By Val Marshall



We have just completed our 6th year. The A.G.M. was well attended by 15 members and three visitors. We once again had a superb lunch thanks to Vicky and Paul at the Punch Bowl, Burton-in-Lonsdale. Our reports covered the fact that we had received a few less calls for help and the number of cats and kittens which had to be taken into the sanctuary had fallen slightly - a step in the right direction. Help for OAPs' vet bills had gone up, now reaching over £1,100 per year.

Our fund raising was doing well thanks to those who donate books for our Book Sales in Watershed Mill, Settle and to all those who support our annual events. Food continues to be donated via Booth's baskets which helps to feed cats in various colonies and those in the sanctuary - for this we are very grateful. We now have a small group of people who give a morning to help at the sanctuary, which spreads the work involved and gets the cats used to other people. We have not had to take in any dogs this year as the owners have always been located soon after the dogs strayed.

Thanks were given to Dalehead Vets who give us excellent service and never let us down in an emergency, and to the homeopathic vet in Kirkby Lonsdale who helps with some difficult long suffering cases. We are glad to welcome Florence Metcalfe back, but wish it had been due to different circumstances. We all send our heartfelt sympathy. New helpers include Audrey Langhorn from Wray and Susan Hughes of Ingleton.

Our last coffee morning, despite the attendance being somewhat less than usual, raised £260 - many thanks to all those involved. Our total running costs have risen during last year from £420 a month to

over £600 and this takes a lot of finding. Please continue to let us have your books, tombola prizes, bric-a-brac and blankets. These can be left with Lin at the Bentham Trust, or in the porch at Brooklands, Cross Lane, Low Bentham, or telephone 62512 to arrange a collection.

Our next Book Sale in Settle is on April 26th & 27th. Many thanks to the gentlemen who are helping to transport books for us. One or two further volunteers with a longish car for a couple of hours on the Friday or the Sunday would still be very welcome.

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GARDENING PAGE



By Joyce Knapp

April can be a very busy month for gardeners with many tasks waiting to be done, so we do need to work out which jobs to tackle first. Personally, I feel it is most important to prepare the ground well before sowing seeds and this may include weeding, forking over the soil and removing any large stones before applying a light mulch of garden compost or well rotted farmyard manure.

Many crops can be raised more successfully by starting the seeds off in either trays or pots of compost in a greenhouse and these include broad beans, lettuce and peas. Having grown the plants to a reasonable size before planting out they are more likely to withstand attack from pests such as slugs and snails. However, there are crops which need to be sown directly into the ground where they are to grow and these include root crops such as carrots, beetroot and radish.

Along with all the summer vegetables being raised at the moment, we can also start off some which will not mature until next winter or early spring. Included in these are brussel sprouts and leeks which can be harvested from late autumn through to early spring and winter cabbage and purple sprouting broccoli which will provide a rather later crop.

In April it is advisable to check the greasebands applied to the trunk of fruit trees last autumn, removing any twigs or leaves which may have blown against them and renewing the mixture to stop the summer traffic of wingless pests up the trees.

Anyone wishing to learn more about organic gardening can come along to evening classes which start on Tuesday 29th April at Miller's Court, Bentham. The classes will run for ten weeks and the time is 7-9pm.



By Eleanor Fisher

We are lucky to live in a beautiful wild flower area, and it is nice to reflect some of these flowers in the garden - NOT by digging plants from the wild of course, which is both illegal and undesirable - but by growing nursery varieties close to native plants, which have been specially selected for good garden performance. The meadow cranesbill looks wonderful along the lanes in summer with its sky blue flowers, but would be too tall and floppy for garden display. Geranium 'Johnson's Blue' is much neater growing to about a foot high, and as it does not set seed, flowers on and on for a much longer period. The sky blue colour is almost identical, and makes a perfect companion for summer roses.

The scent of honeysuckle can be enjoyed at close quarters on a wall or by a doorway, and many garden varieties selected for good colour or scent or generosity of flowers. One of the best is Lonicera 'Late Dutch' with deep crimson buds opening to creamy flowers with an intense perfume in mid to late summer.

Celandines appear in gardens whether you want them or not, either in the lawn or in flower beds. But there are some beautiful garden selections, such as Ranunculus 'Brazen Hussey' with shiny black foliage and large brilliant golden flowers, or a double variety with yellow flowers like a miniature water lily in shape.

Foxgloves seed about freely, but the selected seed strains such as Digitalis 'Excelsior' with huge dense spikes of flowers all round the stem make brilliant garden display. The colour of 'Sutton Apricot' is soft and distinctive, and Unwins have a superb new primrose yellow variety with silver leaves called 'Reynard's Silver'.

Alternatively, you can raise wild flowers for the garden from seed, which is now widely available in shops and garden centres. But as many seeds are of non-British origin, they should not be sown in the wild, because the mixture of strains could affect the native flora.

BIBBY'S OF INGLETON

EXCURSIONS / HOLIDAYS

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*

Wednesday 16 April - £7.00
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Sunday, 1 June - £12.00
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BROADBAND EVENING

By David Lloyd

I am pleased to announce that the embryonic North West Craven Broadband Network (ideas for a more snappy title are welcome!) will be taking its first steps on Wednesday 23rd April at Bentham Community Centre between 5.30 and 9.30pm. I have left the time open so that people can pop in after work or come out again later. The aim of the evening is to formally record interest and gather information on options. NWCB network is intended to meet business, community and public sector needs by linking Bentham, Burton and Ingleton with a high speed wireless broadband network. Posters will go up before Easter with a more detailed schedule of presentations which may be repeated at different times throughout the evening. Please come along to register your interest. I am also collecting email addresses and sending out broadband updates regularly. Email me at dplloyd@dial.pipex.com to receive a copy.



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BENTHAM MARKET NEEDS YOU!

By Bill Kennedy

Bentham Town Council has delegated the running of the weekly market, in Cleveland Square, to Bentham Development Trust, from April 2003. The Trust has had a survey carried out and using the findings, aim to develop the market, which has been in decline for some years.

There is quite clearly a need to have a wider range of goods available in the market, and we hope to encourage more stallholders to attend each Wednesday. But without more people using the market, stall holders will not find it cost effective to come to Bentham, and hence the market will continue to decline. Conversely without more stalls, the public will not be attracted to the market. To try and resolve this chicken and egg dilemma, the Trust intends to introduce some incentives for all stall holders, and to positively promote the market. The Trust is also open to developing other aspects of market trading, and would welcome any approach particularly from the farming community, as a farmers' market once a month would be a great attraction.

It is hoped to develop Cleveland Square as a market place by improving the signs, the approach to the market, and general facilities for traders and their customers. The developments and improvements will be phased in gradually over the next 12 months.

The Trust has undertaken this project because of the desire of the majority of people, expressed in the survey, to maintain the Wednesday market. Now we need the support of local people and market traders, to make it a success. The majority of other local traders have indicated in their own survey, that they consider that an improvement in the Wednesday market, would lead to a general improvement in trade. So we appeal to all the community in Bentham to make a special effort in the next few months, to use the market, and to encourage their friends and neighbours to do so as well.

Enquiries regarding market stalls should be made to Bentham Development Trust at 26 Main Street, High Bentham, LA2 7HL, telephone 015242 61030.

The indoor market in the Town Hall will still be managed by the Town Council and it is hoped that this will reach its capacity fairly soon. Enquiries about booking stalls at the Town Hall should be made to the Town Clerk, Mr. Reg Pointon, on 015242 61596.

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SETTLE HIGH SCHOOL & COMMUNITY COLLEGE

By Gill O'Donnell

To date this has been a lively academic year, beginning with the announcement on day one of term one of an impending OFSTED. This however, proved to be a very positive time with the final report confirming much that we already knew about the school and praising the "excellent working relationships between students and teachers" and the way in which the school "works to ensure equality of opportunity for all its students". The post-16 provision is seen as "effective" with "consistently good teaching results" and as "providing students with clear regular advice and guidance" and "effective additional support through their studies". Equally the "very good provision for students with special educational needs" is acknowledged, a point reinforced by the fact that in January the department was awarded North Yorkshire County Council's Education Service Inclusion Quality Mark.

For much of the year we have been working on the school's bid for Technology College status. The technology bid has involved considerable work with our partners in primary and middle schools. The bid has been completed and we await the outcome. Community links have also played a key role with students opening a Fair-trade shop in the school foyer, which is open to the public (Tuesday lunchtimes). Students also play an active part in the Settle Together project. They held a very successful trip to Blackpool in October and followed this up with a Craft Day in February. They are planning a "Technology Day" for next term, dealing with everything from how to programme your video recorder, using the internet and how to use a plastic brain. That's a palm-top organiser. The project received national recognition when we were contacted by a researcher for the Independent in connection with an article on developing citizenship within schools. The BRIDGE group is also developing new horizons, with members attending Craven College one day per week and earlier in the year they also took part in an army personal development day which involved them in a number of challenging, team building exercises.

There have also been outstanding performances of "Top Girls" and "A Day in the Death of Joe Egg" by the theatre studies group. In March our Art students in years 11-13 held an exhibition of their work at Linton Court Gallery. A number of educational visits have taken place, students and staff visiting Germany and Belgium. All in all a busy year to date.

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LOCAL EVENTS IN APRIL

- Tue 1st** Looking Well, 2.00-3.00pm
Women's Support Group and
Tai Chi Qigong. Both every
Tuesday.
- Bright Hour at the Methodist
Schoolroom, 2.15pm. Bring &
Buy. Mrs. J. Fawcett & Mrs. S.
Woodhouse.
- Bentham Child Health Clinic at
the Surgery, 2.00-4.00pm.
- High Bentham Toy Library at
the Community Centre, from
8.30-11.30am.
- Wed 2nd** Citizens Advice Bureau at the
Surgery, 1.30-3.30pm.
- Morecambe Bay Credit Union,
Bentham Community Centre,
9.30-11.00am.
- Parish meeting at the Town
Hall, 7.30pm.
- Looking Well 1.30-3.00pm,
Mucky Buckets parents and
under 3's play session. 7.30-9.00
pm Bentham Community Choir.
Both every Wednesday.
- NSPCC monthly meeting at
Lingfield, Robin Lane, 7.30pm.
- Thu 3rd** HBWI meeting at the Town Hall
7.30pm. See page 2.
- Looking Well 10.00-11.00am,
Ball Play for toddlers at the
Community Centre, and every
Thursday.
- Dance at Clapham Village Hall
7.30-10.00pm & every Thursday.
- Fri 4th** Looking Well 6.00-9.00pm,
Black Library wargaming Club,
over 11's, and every Friday.
- Age Concern at the Town Hall,
"The Lady Mayors of Bentham".
- Sat 5th** New Labour coffee
morning at the Town
Hall, 10.00-11.45am. 
- Sat 5th** Burton-in-Lonsdale Bowling
Club coffee morning & jumble
sale in the Village Hall 10.00am.
- Sun 6th** Bentham Footpath Group walk,
Cinderbarrow/Yealand, 10
miles, leader B. Ellershaw
62078. Meet at Lairgill 9.30am.
- "Elijah", 7.00pm at Giggleswick
School Chapel. Langcliffe
Singers and Settle Orchestra.
Tickets from HB Post Office.
- Mon 7th** Town Council at the Town Hall,
7.30pm.
- Looking Well 10.30am-12.00
noon, Baby Buddies, parents
and babies group. 1.00-3.00pm
Cancer Support Group drop-in.
Both every Monday.
- Tue 8th** Bentham Footpath Group
quarterly meeting at the Town
Hall, 7.00pm.
- Wed 9th** Looking Well 10.30am Special
Baby massage session. 7.30-9.00
pm Alzheimer's Carers Support
Group.
- Thu 10th** Friends of Low Bentham School
Easter Bingo, 7.00pm at the
School. All welcome.
- Kirkby Lonsdale & District
Embroidery Guild at Westhouse
Village Hall, from 2.00pm. Ann
Burrow "Cocoon Strippings".
- Fri 11th** Age Concern at the Town Hall,
"Make an Easter Bonnet".
- The Countryside Society,
7.45pm at the Hornby Institute.
Jennifer Newton and Keith
Woods - "The Aughton Woods
Nature Reserve".
- Sat 12th** Bentham Golf Club coffee
morning at the Town Hall, 
10.00-11.45am.
- Low Bentham Institute Spring
Fayre at the Institute, 2.00-4.00
pm. Various stalls. Proceeds to
St. John's Hospice.

Tue 15th Bentham Child Health Clinic at the Surgery, 2.00-4.00pm.

High Bentham Toy Library at the Community Centre, from 8.30-11.30am.

Bright Hour at the Methodist Schoolroom, 2.15pm. Holy Week. Rev. K. Dixon.

Wed 16th Citizens Advice Bureau at the Surgery, 1.30-3.30pm.

Thu 17th Low Bentham W.I. Growing with Grace, a visit to Clapham. See page 2.

Fri 18th Bentham Footpath Group walk, Mewith circular, 5 miles, leader J. Clapham 62326. Meet at Bentham Bridge (after Good Friday service) approximately 12.00 noon.

Sat 19th Tourist Information Office coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10.00-11.30am. Please support this event.

Springfield Bowling Club season opens at 1.45pm. Newcomers will be welcome.

Mon 21st Craft Fair in the Town Hall Ballroom and Lower Town Hall all day. Contact Marie Rayner.

Tue 22nd House to house collection for the NSPCC starts today and continues for 2 weeks.

Wed 23rd Thornton-in-Lonsdale W.I. Plant and Produce Stall in the Lower Town Hall.

North West Craven Broadband Network from 5.30-9.30pm at Bentham Community Centre. You are welcome to drop in at a time that suits you. See page 12.

Fri 25th Waste paper collection at Lairgill Car Park, 8.30-11.00am. Proceeds to NSPCC. Please note that this is one week later than usual.

Fri 25th Age Concern at the Town Hall. Radio Theme Tunes.

Table Top Sale at the Town Hall, from 6.00-8.00pm. See page 15.

Sat 26th Arthritis and Rheumatism Council coffee morning at the Town Hall, from 9.45-11.30am.

Bentham Footpath Group walk, Kirkby Lonsdale circular, 8 miles, leaders J. & T. Connolly 42129. Meet at Lairgill 9.45am.

Bentham Pet Rescue book sale at Watershed Mill, Settle, 10.00am-5.00pm.

Sun 27th Bentham Pet Rescue book sale at Watershed Mill, Settle, 11.00am-4.00pm.

Mon 28th Ewecross Historical Society AGM at 7.30pm at the Wheatsheaf Hotel, Ingleton. Meeting to be followed by steak meal with vegetarian option, and entertainment. Booking essential, details from 61420.

Burton-in-Lonsdale and District Horticultural Society at the Village Hall 7.30pm. "Hanging baskets, troughs and tubs". Demonstration and slides by Les Foden.

Tue 29th Bentham Child Health Clinic at the Surgery, 2.00-4.00pm.

High Bentham Toy Library at the Community Centre, from 8.30-11.30am.

EXPERIENCE LAKE GARDA & THE DOLOMITES

A 12 day coach holiday
15th-26th August 2003

Depart Bentham, Dover/Calais crossing.
Nights 1/2, 10/11 at Lille & Sindelfingen. 7
nights at Torbole-Sul-Garda. (4* hotel). Four
excursions included in price.

For more details please contact
Susan Adams, 015242-61182.

FAREWELL FROM JONATHAN BROWN OF HIGH BENTHAM C.P. SCHOOL....

It seems like only yesterday that I was writing my first article for Bentham News to introduce myself to the people of the town. In fact it was a little over 6 years ago. In that time we have had some good times and some difficult times. It has been a period of national changes in education unlike any previous period in history. We have had The Literacy and Numeracy strategies, Curriculum 2000, extensive training for every teacher in the country in ICT (Information and Communications Technology), NGFL (National Grid for Learning), a new framework for Inspection and a new code of practice for children with Special Educational Needs to name but a few. These factors and local issues around a falling birth rate leading to decreasing numbers in school have made for challenging times in schools for staff and parents alike. Despite all these challenges and changes I believe that we have maintained some important characteristics at High Bentham that it may have been easy to lose.

My very first impression of the school was its warm, friendly and happy atmosphere. These words may not feature highly in the dictionary of phrases used by Ofsted inspectors, but I would like to think that the school has retained and has built on that tradition that I inherited. I believe that those traits are significant for any school to aspire to as an over stressed staff quickly leads to stressed children and learning cannot effectively take place under such conditions. We have strived for a balance between a secure learning environment and challenge for both children and staff. Above all we have put the children first.

I know that the people of Bentham will welcome the Mrs. Boocock when she arrives and support the school through the vulnerable period of transition. We have a superb governing body that has grown in confidence and are well equipped to move the school ever forward.

The next few months and years will offer their own challenges to the school. No school can be complacent and as numbers continue to fall the community and the parents have to support schools or face the possibility of losing them.

AND WELCOME

Mrs. Catherine Boocock is our new Headteacher at High Bentham Primary School and will take up the post after the Easter holidays. Her husband, Ian, is the Works Engineer at a textile firm in Crosshills and they have lived for the last three years in Austwick. They have two children Ethan who is 12 years old and Hope who is nearly 11 and they both attend Settle Middle School.

Catherine has been Headteacher at Horton-in-Ribblesdale C.of E. (VA) Primary School for the last four and a half years. She has found it a very rewarding experience working in such a tiny rural community and as a teaching Head she has enjoyed having close daily contact with all the children in school.

Since Catherine qualified in 1984 she has worked in a wide range of different Primary schools, starting her teaching career in the village of Haworth near Keighley. Then she moved to Ingrow First School, a large school of over 400 children in the middle of Keighley, where she taught for ten years. In 1996 she was appointed Deputy Head teacher at Parkwood First School on the outskirts of Keighley.

As a teacher she aims to create a caring, interesting environment with co-operation between children. She has high expectations and standards and she aims to provide the best learning experience for each child so that they can fulfill their potential. Catherine thinks that children's learning is more effective when their parents have close positive relationships with the school, and as a parent herself, she is very aware of and sensitive to their needs and anxieties.

Catherine looks forward to working in partnership with the pupils, staff and governors in leading High Bentham Community Primary School and to continue building on the school's already excellent achievements.

POLICE REPORT

PC Monika Nagy (Domestic Violence
Nominated Officer)

Domestic Violence

In the not too distant past "Domestics" were often seen by the Police as nothing to do with them and were therefore not dealt with properly. Thankfully this attitude has now changed and Domestic Violence is considered as a serious incident and is dealt with accordingly. Every week 2 women are killed as a result of Domestic Violence and statistics show that a victim is assaulted up to 35 times before a complaint is made.

In the last 12 months in the Ingleton area there have been 29 reported incidents of Domestic Violence, 19 of which were in Bentham. However, I am certain the incidents reported are only the tip of the iceberg, and there are many more people in need of help.

The Police definition of Domestic Violence is: "Any incident of threatening

behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between adults who are or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender" so it's not just physical assaults that are dealt with.

There is help out there!

Craven has a Domestic Violence Forum and I am a Domestic Violence nominated officer. My role is to support and advise the victims of any form of Domestic Violence and help them through what is a very difficult time.

Don't leave it too late and become a statistic. Our aim is to support you and you can be assured of complete confidentiality. You will be taken seriously.

I can be contacted at Ingleton Police Station on telephone 01423 539783 for any non-urgent enquiries or advice. However, should you wish to report an incident of Domestic Violence, please contact the police immediately on 01756 793377 or 999 in an emergency.



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BENTHAM PEOPLE

Personal Thanks

Lister, Eileen - Family of the late Albert wish to thank sincerely relatives, friends neighbours, Christine-Sugarcraft, for cards, letters, flowers and donations. Thanks also to Doctors at Bentham Surgery for being there for me, Rev. Nigel Thomas for his kind ministrations, Rev. Peter Boyles for his visit and prayers said for Albert at Dent Church, Joe for efficient, dignified funeral arrangements and Gail at the Punch Bowl for the lovely meal.

The Family of **Michael Pemberton** would like to thank their friends in Bentham for their cards and support after Michael's sudden death on 8th February.

Thanks

Eileen and Clifford Murphy would like to thank everyone for all their good wishes, prayers, cards and flowers, and those who visited or helped in other ways during Eileen's recent stay in hospital.

June and Tony Burnett send their best wishes and thanks to the many friends locally, especially members of the Footpath Group, who sent good wishes, gifts and flowers to June during and after her stay in hospital. She is feeling much better and hoping to be back walking with the Group very soon.

Jim and Hannah Guy would like to thank friends and relatives for their cards and good wishes during Jim's stay in hospital.

Phil Wright would like to thank family and friends who kindly donated money at his recent 50th birthday party to the cancer appeal at Lancaster Hospital. £450 was raised.

St. Margaret's Parish Church would like to thank all the people who gave of their time and materials to put up the new outside lighting. A great job done!

The Bridge Inn at Tatham would like to thank everybody who donated prizes, gave their help and supported us on our charity night for the air ambulance. Because of their generosity we raised £2,500.



Thanks

Friends of Low Bentham School thank everyone who helped in any way at their recent coffee morning which raised £158.70 towards a digital camcorder for the school. The **Christian Aid Lent Lunch** raised £438.70. Many thanks to all for helping to achieve the excellent result. K.M. Goldsack.

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NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR THE RENEWAL OF A PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT LICENCE

Application has been made to Craven District Council in accordance with Schedule 1 to the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 for a Public Entertainment Licence in respect of these premises.

Applicant: Janet Tomlinson, Sedbergh Junior School.
Address: The Assembly Hall, Sedbergh Junior School, Low Bentham, Lancaster LA2 7DB. Any objections to this application should be made in writing to Mr. N. J. Holmes, Craven District Council.

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Nights 1/2, 10/11 at Lille & Sindelfingen. 7
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By Bill Kennedy

The Bentham Website has just been redesigned and is now aimed largely at people outside of Bentham, (to encourage visitors to come to this lovely part of the country). But there is still a lot of useful information for local people, under the "Community" section. This includes a list of local organisations and contacts, details about the surgery, the churches and a business directory. This directory is far from complete and we need more details from local businesses. If your business has not submitted the website form, please contact me. It will also improve the site if we have more links, so if you would like a link from your website to www.bentham.net, please contact Ian Harrison - ian@hartechdesign.co.uk or me at wak7935@aol.com or by telephone 015242 61030/62343.

There will be regular updating of information so if you see any details which are out of date please let us know.

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BENTHAM FOOTPATH GROUP

By Tony Burnett



It is not generally realised by members that the closing date for contributions to the "News" pages (mid month) often precludes mention of one or two of the Group's walks throughout the season. So, if as a leader, you tend to think "Why didn't my walk get a mention?" the short answer is, we try to cover all the events in the programme, that is, if leaders 'phone in a report to the club correspondents.

In this context, several walks spring to mind. The Roeburndale ramble on 11th January, ably led on a bright but cold day by Verena Smith, was very well attended. The views were superb and the peace and tranquillity only disturbed by the banter and laughter of the very sociable party.

Of the Semerwater walk three days later, little has been reported other than a handful of stalwarts braved poor weather to make the round of the lake. What a shame, because the environs of Semerwater are beautiful in the right weather. It shows however, that the Group is willing to tackle walks in all sorts of different areas.

The Annual Dinner was a huge success. Over forty members and friends enjoyed a superb meal at the Lunesdale Arms. It's an event that seems to go from strength to strength and is now one of the Group's highlights in a successful social calendar.

Angela Robertson's Wray circular followed by a pub lunch on 10th February, was well supported and what's more, found a relatively dry day in a spell of unsettled weather. By the time the Kellett walk took place on the 22nd, February had settled into a period of very dry cold weather; good walking days even if the views were obscured by haze at times.

Turnout has been pretty good during the last few walks and Carole Crellin's Burton to Leck and back saunter (!) was no exception, some fifteen members turning up. Lunch was taken at Leck School on the return journey, such was the steady pace, and the 8½ miles route was completed by

early afternoon. It must be pointed out that no one flagged and ample time was taken enjoying the local views - a lovely part of the country, well kept and quiet to boot.

All this activity has overshadowed to some extent the Group's other key function, that of conservation. Under the auspices of Shane O'Brien, who bravely has taken on the mantle of co-ordinator of conservation work, a tightly knit group of volunteers has undertaken the clearance of several overgrown footpaths in the High Bentham/Low Bentham area. Further, a much needed survey has been carried out in the above areas plus Burton and Ingleton, of all roadside footpath signs and any necessary repair work needed has been notified to the relevant authorities. The group's work on identifying "black spots" has paid results; a programme of repair work is being undertaken by Colin Woof, acting as authorised County Council contractor, to bring local stiles and footbridges up to scratch. In this context, Shane O'Brien has requested that any such difficulties encountered locally on our network of footpaths should be notified to him on 62609 so that he can arrange remedial action.

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MILLENNIUM VOLUNTEERS

By Nicola Morris

What is MV?

Millennium Volunteers is a government initiative that encourages young people between the ages of 16 and 24 to volunteer in their local community.

MV gives young people the opportunity to develop new skills, gain valuable experience, and make new friends. Millennium Volunteers are accredited with a 100 hour award signed by the Minister for Young People and Learning and a 200 hour award signed by the Secretary of State for Education and Skills. The awards will be recognised as being of value by colleges, universities and employers in their selection and recruitment processes.

Where can I volunteer?

There is a number of volunteering opportunities in Craven. If you are concerned about the environment why not volunteer at Yorkshire Dales National Park or Yorkshire Wildlife Trust? If you enjoy sport you could help to run a football, netball or basketball club. If you enjoy working with young people why not support your local youth club by developing an art, music or drama project? If you enjoy helping others you could volunteer at your local hospital or organise a fundraising event for your favourite charity. You could even use your IT skills to teach others or to design a website for a community group or local charity. The list is endless

As well as helping existing voluntary organisations, Millennium Volunteers are encouraged to develop their own ideas and projects. So if you have an idea that will benefit others I'd love to hear from you.

What next?

So far in the UK over 70,000 young people have signed up to Millennium Volunteers and now you have the opportunity. Interested? Please contact Nicola Morris, The Careers Centre, Navigation House, Belmont Bridge, Skipton BD23 1RL, (01756) 792948. nmorris@csv.org.uk

NEW HOME FOR LOOKING WELL

By Alison Jones

The options appraisal for possible sites for a new Looking Well building from November 2005 is now complete. To keep everyone informed, Pioneer Projects is holding another public meeting on Tuesday 29th April at 7.30pm in the Lower Town Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend to hear about the plans and make comments and suggestions. A fourth option emerged at the end of February which involves combining the Old School House and Library building and this was still being considered at the deadline for the Bentham News on 15th March.

Looking Well will be shut for Easter on Friday 18th and Monday 21st April.

BENTHAM WOMEN'S SOCIAL SERVICES/NSPCC

By Barbara Mason

Mrs. Adams, Chairman, welcomed twenty four members including Helen Lumb, the Community Appeals Manager for the area, to the Annual General Meeting of Bentham Women's Social Services/NSPCC.

A busy and successful year was recorded with £5,709.23 being sent to the NSPCC and £150 to the Air Ambulance.

Dates were discussed for future events. Mrs. Adams thanked everyone for their help and support throughout the past year.

New home for Looking Well

**Public Consultation
TUESDAY 29th APRIL
at 7.30 pm
Lower Town Hall,
Bentham**

HORNBY DRAMA GROUP

By Hilary Strickett

Plays in Maytime

Plans are now going ahead for the presentation of a programme of one-act plays by drama groups from our surrounding areas. We hope to be in the Hornby Institute on the evenings of Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 15th, 16th and 17th May. Full details will be given in the May edition of the Bentham News.

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SURGERY NOTES

By Abigail Daley



Looking after your feet

The foot is a complex structure of 26 bones, 19 muscles and around 150 ligaments, all supplied by a network of blood vessels and nerve fibres. The skin acts as a waterproof barrier and has been designed to protect our feet from trauma.

During a person's lifetime feet will walk the equivalent of approximately four times around the world with most people taking an average of 18,000 steps a day depending on age and mobility of course.

In order to keep our feet in good condition we need to look after them.

- ♦ Good foot hygiene is essential. Feet should be washed daily, taking care to dry in between the toes thoroughly.

- ♦ Skin on the feet can often become dry. Applying a moisturiser will help but avoid putting it in between the toes as this causes the skin to become too soft and moist.

- ♦ Always cut toenails straight across and filing will get rid of any rough edges. Do not cut the side of the nails as this can cause an ingrowing toenail which is nasty and painful.

- ♦ Socks should be changed daily.

- ♦ Good fitting footwear is very important. Arthritis and age can cause feet to change shape and so too can an ill fitting shoe. Remember to allow for toes and also make sure there is enough room for the width of the foot in the shoe, as excess pressure on joints causes friction and can lead to development of corns and calluses. A lace up shoe or trainer will give good support to the foot compared to a court shoe style.

If the need arises to see a chiropodist/podiatrist, make sure they are State Registered (S.R.CH) which means that they have completed a 3 year degree course.

There were 66 missed appointments at the Surgery during February.

MARKET TOWN INITIATIVE

John Pilkington

Small Project Fund

The Small Project Fund is a locally administered Market Towns Initiative fund which can grant up to £1,000 for any project which meets the criteria. The grants have to be match funded. So far, we have had 21 applications for funding since the SPF started, and grants totalling over £10,000 have been made to local organisations. Now that we have just entered the final year of the initiative, it is perhaps a good time to explain what funding is still available, and the deadlines for applications.

In 2003/4 £10,500 is available. £3,500 will be allocated for each of the first three quarters. The first round of applications will be considered by the Steering Group in July. The deadline for these applications is



30th June 2003.

Any applications that are unsuccessful may be re-submitted for consideration at a later date. The closing dates for the remaining quarters are 30th September and 31st December 2003.

Please note that the Small Project Fund will close at the end of March 2004 and the last date for applications is 31st December 2003. No applications will be accepted after that date. All grants must be spent and accounted for by 28th February 2004, so please submit applications in good time. So if your organisation is considering a project for which it needs financial support, don't delay in applying. Application forms and help are available from Bill Kennedy at the Trust/MTI office.

Monitoring

All organisations receiving funding from the Small Project Fund will be required to send a report to the Project Co-ordinator on completion of the project with a final set of accounts relating to the project. Details of any volunteer time used for matched funding should be included.

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MORE FROM SIERRA LEONE

By Staff Sgt Gavin West

Welcome Mail and Sad Dramas

We received some mail at last: letters, football magazines and the Bentham News, which my Sierra Leone men like to see. The arrival of mail always cheers everyone up, but it is now taking three weeks or more to get here as there are no British military planes flying out now as the run down in the foreign troops has begun. All mail has to go to the British High Commission to be sorted. There are small dramas to sort out most days. My Sierra Leone Warrant Officer has died. He'd had serious malaria a few times and it had affected his stomach. We have also had three deaths in the workshop, the youngest was twenty nine. It is the rainy season and the locals say people always die in the rainy season, as there is a lack of everything especially medical care. We help where we can but usually find out about the illnesses too late.

Chimp Rehab Centre

Last weekend we visited the chimpanzee rehabilitation centre outside Freetown, at the top of a steep hill under the jungle canopy. The Lebanese owner, who set up the sanctuary, managed after years of trying to get the Sierra Leone law changed to protect chimpanzees, and it is now against the law to own, sell or keep chimpanzees, although unfortunately the rest of the monkey population do not have the same protection. The owner told us that the centre was attacked three times during the civil war, and although the workers were spared, the place was looted, mainly for medicine, which sadly cost a few chimps their lives, as they catch all the human diseases, including malaria and the common cold. One of the older chimps had been very disturbed by the shelling and bombing and had pulled out all its fur, but, with loving care and attention, was slowly recovering.

In one part of the centre there were twenty-one, very young, rescued chimps, who were being kept in large cages for a

quarantine period of four months. At the entrance were two small alligators living in an old bath. When they are larger they will be released into a local stream, which the locals will not be too happy about as they do all their washing there!

Further into the jungle there is a three-acre site with an electrified fence, where a family of thirty-two chimpanzees live enjoying life in safety among the trees. Bruno, the boss chimp, stood on a rope to greet us, showing off his manhood as I think he thought we were a threat to his family. He was the first chimp to be rescued and was brought up with the Lebanese owner's family before being released. The owner could talk to Bruno, who hand-signalled back, which was comical to watch as well as entertaining. On our departure he threw rocks and gravel at us to show us he was the boss. The owner travels the world to get donations for the sanctuary, as this is its sole source of finance. We made a donation and will certainly be back as we could watch them for hours.

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RECIPES

By Doreen Park

Easter is the time for eggs, usually chocolate ones, but here are some other edible variations.



Eggs in a nest

- 1 lb potatoes
- 1 oz butter
- a little milk
- salt and pepper
- 4 eggs
- 2 ozs grated cheese

Boil the potatoes, drain well and mash. Add the butter and milk and season. Beat until smooth and pipe or fork a border of this creamed potato round 4 scallop shells or individual dishes, or put the potato into a buttered ovenproof dish and make four hollows in it.

Break an egg into each dish or hollow and sprinkle with salt and pepper and grated cheese. Bake in the centre of the oven at 180C, 350F, gas Mark 4 until the eggs are set - about 15 minutes.

Flamenco eggs

- 1 lb sausage
- ¼ lb mushrooms
- knob of butter
- 6 ozs grated cheese
- 4 eggs
- salt and pepper

Grill the sausage and fry the mushrooms in the butter until cooked. Cut the sausage into pieces and place in an ovenproof dish in layers with the mushrooms and 4 ozs of the cheese. Separate the eggs, keeping each yolk whole. Whip the whites until stiff, season with the salt and pepper and fold in the remaining cheese. Pile onto the sausage mixture making 4 hollows in the meringue and drop in the egg yolks. Bake towards the top of the oven at 190C, 375F, Gas Mark 5 for 10-15 minutes until the meringue is crisp and brown.

Curried eggs

- 2-3 small onions chopped
- 1 oz butter
- 2 level teaspoons curry powder
- 1½ level tablespoons flour
- ½ pint stock
- salt and pepper
- 2 tsps chutney or 1 oz sultanas
- 4-8 hard boiled eggs
- boiled rice or mashed potatoes
- 1 clove garlic, finely chopped (optional)
- 1 tablespoon chopped coriander

Fry the onions and the garlic in the butter for about 5 minutes until they are soft and then stir in the curry powder, coriander and flour. Add the stock and stir until the sauce boils. Season and add the chutney or sultanas.

Cut the eggs in half lengthways and add to the sauce. Simmer for a few minutes to heat them through. Serve in a border of boiled rice or creamed potatoes.

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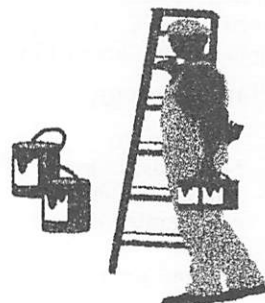
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TRY THE KICK BOXING AND SELF DEFENCE CLASSES AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

By Lynda Rushton (Centre Manager)

With help from the Market Town Initiative and a Sports Development grant from Craven District Council, Alexander's Martial Arts has set up five new classes at Bentham Community Centre. These classes are for anyone in Bentham and the surrounding area. If there is enough interest Damien will set up classes where needed.

They have been set up to encourage new enthusiasts at every age. You do not have to be fit or supple as Damien Alexander, the qualified instructor with twenty five years' experience, works with you from the start to make sure that the course is set at a level that suits you. Gentle warm up exercises are followed by expert tuition in the area you choose.

Kick boxing classes run every Tuesday from 7.30-9.30pm and every Thursday from 7.00-9.00pm. Both these classes are for men and women over seventeen years of age, though the two practise separately unless requested otherwise - a good opportunity for couples to have a go.

Junior kick boxing classes for ten to thirteen years old are every Saturday from 10.30-11.30am and an open session for anyone over thirteen years to have a go, is every Saturday from 12.00noon to 1.30pm.

There is a self defence and extra practice class for women, every Sunday from 4.00-6.00pm.

There is something for everyone, you don't need any experience. Equipment, including a mat, is provided to help with exercises. Most of all, Damien likes you to have fun. No booking is necessary, just turn up on the day. A discount is available for block payments.



HOW TO USE THE SCHOOL'S NEW MULTI-PURPOSE SPORTS FACILITY

By Jonathan Brown

We have a wonderful new sports facility in Bentham, an all weather pitch, at High Bentham Community Primary School. However, as this is not a playground for general use, some rules have been drawn up, after consultation with LEA representatives and the local police, to maximise use by the community and minimise disruption to local residents.

► The pitch is available free of charge, to groups, although charges will be made for any damage caused.

► All groups using the area must have an adult directly responsible for that group. A contact number and a list of users must be made available before the pitch is booked. Groups using the area without following these procedures will be considered to be trespassing.

► Access to the facility will be withdrawn if there is consistent unacceptable behaviour, such as smoking, drinking alcohol, taking drugs, fighting, shouting or swearing.

► Bookings are made through the school office, and collecting and returning the key is the responsibility of the assigned adult.

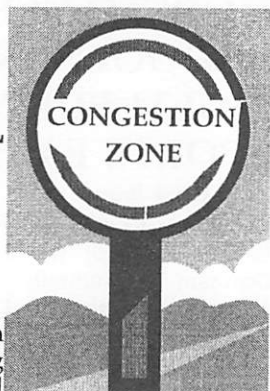
► Groups using the area are responsible for arranging their own insurance against injury.

► The area must be left in good order with all rubbish and equipment removed.

► Any problems with the pitch must be reported to the school, 015242 - 61412, and any decision about access to the area will be handled by the head teacher, and is not open to appeal.

► The multi-sports facility is available for bookings as follows: Tuesdays 5-6pm, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 3-6 pm, Saturdays 10am - 4pm and Sundays 1pm - 4pm.

IS THE TOWN COUNCIL SHORT OF CASH?



At the Town Council meeting on Monday 3rd March, it was

suggested that congestion charges should be introduced in Benthams, following the introduction of similar charges in London, where the revenue raised is to be used to improve London Transport.

At first sight this may seem like a ludicrous idea, but on consideration, there are perceived benefits from such a scheme. We all know that the Main Street is often at a standstill with traffic, particularly at the junction with Station Road, and a congestion charge on market days and Saturday mornings, from the bottom of Robin Lane to the Horse and Farrier, would help to resolve that problem as well as raising some much needed funds for the council.

It is understood that congestion charges are also to be introduced in the vicinity of the school, on Robin Lane, Main Street and Mount Pleasant, with the congestion zone extending along these routes for 100 yards from the School Hill junction. On a brighter note, these charges will only apply from 8.30am to 9.30am and from 3.00 pm to 4.00pm. This is obviously in the interests of

the safety of the schoolchildren arriving at school in the morning and leaving in the afternoon.

The Council apparently considers the £5 charge in London is not realistic in a place the size of Benthams, and early indications are that the charge will be £1 to enter the restricted zones during the notified hours. Those driving into restricted zones without paying the £1 charge may face spot fines of up to £50 for the first offence with possible confiscation of the vehicle for the third offence.

If you feel that this scheme is unfair perhaps you should contact your local councillor with alternative ideas for easing the traffic congestion in Benthams. But you will have to be quick, as the scheme is expected to start from the beginning of the month.

SELF EMPLOYED COMMUNITY GARDENER NEEDED

for an average of 7 hours per week at £8 per hour from May. Details from Benthams Development Trust, 26 Main St, High Benthams, LA2 7JJ.

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