

BENTHAM NEWS

CHARGING SHOCKS AHEAD FOR BENTHAM MOTORISTS

Bentham News can exclusively reveal plans for drastic new measures to address the increasing problem of excessive traffic on the streets of High Bentham. Application has been made to the Highways Agency for permission to apply **congestion charges** to vehicles using Main Street and Station Road and it is expected that plans to run a pilot scheme will be given the go-ahead in the near future.

Congestion charging has now been in operation in London for some years, and has proved so successful that several other towns and cities are in the process of adopting the practice. Not only has the volume of traffic been dramatically reduced, but millions of pounds have been collected to supplement London's Council Tax.

If the London model of collection is adopted by Bentham Town Council, payment will need to be made in advance of a journey into the town by purchase of a ticket from either Tom Guy or Reg Ward. Cameras will be installed on the approaches to High Bentham and the registration numbers of all vehicles entering the town will be recorded. The Council's computer will check these against payment receipts and issue fixed penalties to motorists who have not obtained an entry ticket.

Rates have yet to be determined, but a starting rate of £1.00 for private vehicles and horses, £2.00 for tradespeople and farmers, and £3.00 for white builders' vans has been suggested. To enable an accurate check to be made it will be necessary for horses to be fitted with number plates, and Grove Hill garage have agreed to do this for a nominal fee.

Bentham News will keep you informed of developments in this proposal.



Traffic Chaos in Bentham?

APRIL 2006

ISSUE 234

RECIPES

By Doreen Park

As mentioned in last month's issue, Patsy Henderson, a member of High Bentham Women's Institute, won a nationwide cookery competition using Canderel. Her prize was an afternoon with Phil Vickery, to which all the High Bentham members were invited. It took place at Settle School. I was given permission by Patsy and Phil to share with you in what was cooked. This was Patsy's winning entry, followed by one of the five dishes prepared by Phil. I will give you some more next month.



Courgette and Roasted Red Pepper Flan

Pastry

175g (6 ozs) plain flour
75g (3 ozs) cold butter
1 tsp wholegrain mustard
about 2 tbs cold water to bind

Filling

2 red peppers
1 red chilli de-seeded and chopped
2 tbs olive oil
5g granular Canderel
50g (2ozs) mature cheddar, grated
375g (13 ozs) courgettes
2 eggs
300ml (½pt) milk
salt and pepper

To make up the pastry, sift the flour into a bowl, add the cold butter cut into cubes, and rub in the flour with your fingertips until the mixture is crumb like. Add the mustard and 2-3 tablespoons cold water and mix to a soft, but not sticky, dough. Roll out and then line a 23cm (9") flan dish. Chill for 30 minutes.

Pre-heat the oven to 200c, 400f, gas mark 6. Prick the pastry all over with a fork. Line with greaseproof paper and baking beans and cook for about 15 minutes. Meanwhile, cut the red peppers in half lengthwise and remove the seeds. Place, cut side down, on a baking tray and drizzle with olive oil. Roast in the oven until soft and slightly charred, about 15-20 minutes. Place the roasted peppers into a blender with the chilli and canderel, blend until smooth and season to taste. Using a potato peeler, cut the courgette

into ribbons and blanch in boiling water for 2 minutes, drain and pat dry with a clean tea towel. Spread the pepper puree over the pastry base and sprinkle with the grated cheese. Arrange the courgette ribbons on top, beat the eggs and milk in a jug and season. Then pour this over the courgettes. Bake at 180c, 350f, gas mark 4 for 25 minutes until filling is set. Serve warm or cold.

Greek Style Beans with Tomato and Rosemary

Great as a simple starter or accompaniment to a roast such as lamb, Phil likes this at home as a main course with boiled rice. Simple and very tasty.

Preparation time 15 minutes

Cooking time 10 minutes

4 tbs olive oil

2 small onions finely chopped

2 cloves garlic finely chopped

1 x 400g tin butterbeans, well drained

1 x 400g chopped tomatoes in juice

1 tbs tomato puree

1 tsp dried oregano

1 tsp fresh thyme, chopped

2 sprigs fresh rosemary

2 tbs red wine vinegar

100 mls white wine

Canderel to taste

salt and freshly milled black pepper

hot pitta bread

Heat the oil in a large saucepan, add the onions, thyme, garlic and oregano, stir for 2 minutes or until soft. Then add the wine, tomatoes, vinegar, beans, tomato puree, salt and pepper and bring to the boil. Reduce heat, add the rosemary stalks and simmer until thickened. This should take about 10 minutes. Cool slightly and then remove the rosemary, add the canderel until you achieve a delicious sweet and sour balance and serve warm, drizzled with olive oil and accompany with the hot pitta bread.

**FARMERS' MARKET
LOWER TOWN HALL**

8.30am - 2.30pm

1st APRIL

MARCH'S TOWN COUNCIL

By David Johnson

All the Cllrs. attended except Cllr. Reynolds and County Cllr. Ireton.

Police

P.C. Hayes provided a report in his absence. Throughout the year 124 crimes had been reported and 63 of these had been detected. Cllr. Heigh commented on the stopping and checking of vehicles heading for the auction. She said this had disrupted the auction schedule, led to a fall in prices and had directly affected the welfare of the animals because the delays had sometimes been in excess of 30 minutes. Cllrs. thought the police should check vehicles in the auction car park or as the farmers returned home.

National Grid Pipeline

The Council received a letter from National Grid with an advance apology for the inconvenience that will be caused when the new gas pipeline is laid in our area. The whole project is 65 km long stretching from Easington to Nether Kellet. It will be laid in four sections over a period of 4 years and will cross many fields and several roads in the Bentham area.

Highways

The Cllrs. received a report from the Highways Department on the progress being made to repair the roads. Many earlier requests have been met but in the meantime other problems with our roads have arisen. They agreed to ask the authority to repair several potholes, to see if anything could be done to improve Green Lane, Mewith Lane and the footpath at Summer Hill Cottages. Cllrs. also decided to ask Highways to re-examine the wisdom of placing a bollard outside the Punch Bowl Cottage. They noted that reflective signs are to follow. They pointed out that Barwise's have long campaigned for a bollard outside their shop to prevent vehicles hitting the blind and this proposal has been rejected because of the narrowness of the pavement! Some of the Cllrs. are of the opinion that free car parking in Bentham has a very limited future. Moves

are underway to try to develop the old tennis court area opposite Kidde's as a car park and picnic area to help attract business into the town.

Low Bentham Playing Field

A routine inspection has uncovered some defects in the equipment. The Council is to find out if the equipment can be repaired or if it has to be replaced.

The Town Hall

The Tourist Information Office is to be housed in the front office of the Town Hall from 1st April. The Cllrs. are also looking at the maintenance contract for the lift and the lower room is to be redecorated. Bateman Marshall has agreed to write a brief history of the Town Council. Work is still progressing on the Council website (www.benthamtowncouncil.co.uk) which should be ready soon.

The Public Conveniences are to remain open. The District Council is closing some but it has been decided to keep the Bentham loos open.

Foundation Housing has decided to place a family in their house at Wesley Place and to re-house the young people living there elsewhere. The Cllrs. welcomed this development and hoped it would give some peace to the neighbourhood.

The dog warden will target the Recreation Ground area to try to prevent more fouling. Cllr. Heigh said that work was now underway on the third phase of the development near the tennis courts.

Town Council Elections will take place in May. If you are interested keep your eyes on the Town Hall notice board or contact the Town Clerk.

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WHY NOT CATCH THE BUS TO BENTHAM ON MARKET DAY?



By Lin Barrington

Bentham Community Transport is starting a dial-a-ride service to Bentham on the first Wednesday of each month, beginning on Wednesday 3rd May.

We will come and pick you up from your home or any other meeting point, bring you to Bentham, and take you home again. The fare will be £2.

We've chosen the first Wednesday of each month because its a "special" market day, with extra stalls and there is also an indoor market at the Town Hall.

If you would like to come to Bentham with us, please give us a ring on 015242 62753.

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POLICE CRIME REPORT

By PC Adrian Hayes

During March there was a further burglary reported in Bentham where a house was entered to obtain the keys to a performance car parked outside. This particular car was a Subaru Imprezza rally type car. This is the fourth such burglary in North Craven in the past twelve months. There are several residents in and around Bentham who also own similar type vehicles. Please take what steps you can to prevent yourself from becoming the next victim. If possible put your car in a garage overnight and ensure that vehicle keys are not left lying around in the house; take them to bed with you.

During the half term holidays there was a notable increase in instances of anti-social behaviour. One particular example being that of cutting down trees and making bonfires. Names of some of those involved have been obtained and letters sent to parents advising them of what has

happened. Any further reports will probably result in those responsible being prosecuted for causing criminal damage. It is only a small group of teenagers aged 15/16 years who are responsible for the majority of such problems around Bentham.

Many of you will know the names of those responsible. Do not put up with such behaviour but report it to the police. Where those responsible can be identified then positive action will be taken. If you do not particularly want to involve the police at least inform the parents about what is occurring. I can assure you that the majority of these parents have already been spoken to by officers about the behaviour of their children.

RELOCATION-RELOCATION

**CHANNEL 4 WEDNESDAYS
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COUNCIL BIDS FOR TOP RECYCLING AWARD

By Keith Hartley

Craven District Council is one of just three councils nationwide to have met over 90 per cent of the Government's target recycling standards, and is in a strong position to be the first local authority to gain the coveted "Hundred Per Cent Green" award. In addition to national recognition as the country's top recycling authority, the award would also bring significant financial rewards from the EU. The Paris Recycling Agreement of 2003 pledges four-year funding for all the waste removal services of the first local authority to qualify for the award.

To achieve its goal, the Council has just one recycling hurdle to overcome, and that is the separation and collection of plastic materials. Plans to address this are already in

hand and the issue of new collection bins will start from 1st April and continue through to May.

A spokesman for the Council told Bentham News, "Although this means that householders will have to find room for yet another wheelie bin (in this case a pink one) the benefits will far outweigh the inconvenience. The EU funding could mean a reduction in Council Tax of up to £3 per family and Craven has a strong commitment to cutting costs wherever possible".

Annie Mawson's Sunbeams Music Trust Presents

The Sunbeams Concert Troupe with internationally renowned harpist Annie Mawson. An evening of music and fun at All Saints Church, Burton-in-Lonsdale
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GARDEN PAGE

By Joyce Knapp

The month of April can be an extremely busy time in the garden, especially this year when we have experienced a rather slow start to the growing season.

One of the first tasks to tackle will be seed sowing and we are likely to get the best return for our efforts, living up here in the north, if we wait until mid April to sow seeds outdoors. This is because the ground becomes noticeably warmer around this time and most seeds will germinate more readily when sown into warm, moist soil. I have learned, from experience, that we often get a very drying wind during the weeks prior to seed sowing, leaving the soil far too dry for the germination of seeds. A handy tip for keeping moisture in the ground prior to seed sowing, or planting out, is to use large sheets of black plastic to cover the vegetable beds. This plastic sheeting can be put over the surface of the soil in early spring when the soil is relatively warm, moist and frost-free. It can be kept in place using either stones or long pieces of wood to weigh it down. It is possible to roll back the plastic exposing only the area of soil you wish to use, leaving the remainder of the sheet in situ until the next area of ground is required. As you turn back the plastic, you may find lots of tiny slugs at the surface of the soil and these can be disposed of at the start of the growing season, before they have time to reproduce and possibly decimate your crops.

Anyone growing early potatoes will have got them in the ground by the end of March at the latest, but main crop potatoes should be planted later, between mid and late April. It is usual to plant main crop seed potatoes at a spacing of 16", leaving a gap of roughly 2' between rows. Traditionally, tubers are planted in a 6" deep trench that has been lined with well-rotted farmyard manure, or several layers of newspaper and some grass cuttings may be used. Cover this with a thin layer of soil, and the seed potatoes can then be placed in the trench at the required spacing. All that remains is to cover the potatoes by returning the soil to the trench and waiting for nature to take its course.



BN SPRINGTIME WORDSEARCH

Congratulations to Michelle Piper whose correct entry was drawn for the £10 prize. The hidden words were as follows:

EASTER HATCHING LAMBS
DAFFODIL WHITSUN SNOWDROP
NESTING BLOSSOM TULIP CROCUS
HYACINTH BUDS.

Thanks to all those who entered. Watch out for future puzzles.



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BENTHAM - ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE TOWN?

By Annie Neligan

Would you like to be part of making Bentham greener? In Cumbria a number of towns have decided to reduce their impact on the resources and climate of our amazing planet by becoming "sustainable towns".

Bentham's Local Action for Justice and Peace has invited along a speaker from Cumbria, Dr. John Briggs, to tell us how they are doing it. We plan to spend the rest of the evening, Tuesday 2nd May, making practical plans for what we in Bentham would like to do, each in our homes, or together as a community. You may have ideas to share, you may want to meet others who care as much as you do. The more of us that are there, the more difference we can make, so do come along to the Town Hall at 7.15pm. Expect to be stimulated and cheered up!

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TOURIST INFORMATION AT THE TOWN HALL

By Lin Barrington

Bentham Tourist Information office will be opening in the Town Hall from Monday 10th April. At the Town Council meeting in March, it was agreed that the office will be just inside the entrance of the Town Hall and will be staffed by a rota of volunteers. There are some gaps on the rota, so if anyone is interested in joining us, they would be made very welcome.

The Tourist Information Office is run by a committee and managed on an honorary basis by Bentham Development Trust, so support for volunteers is readily available. Phone us on 62549, or drop in for a chat. Riverside Caravan Park has kindly offered to help Tourist Information with the cost of the move by donating the proceeds of their May Bank Holiday Weekend Car Boot Sale, so we hope you'll all go along to do some bargain hunting!

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THRIVING 'SUE RYDER SHOP'

By Shirley Brown

Bentham is fortunate to have a thriving charity shop in the middle of town. Recently, Jackie Fletcher, who lives in High Bentham and who has been the manageress for over 3 years, showed me round the shop and the impressive workspace downstairs, where clothes have their creases steamed out before going on display, and other goods are sorted and repaired.

Jackie told me that the shop is doing well, and that in general she is pleased with the quantity and quality of donated goods. She says that Bentham people are very generous. It is important to encourage people to donate, to volunteer and to use the shop, as then it will flourish, and continue to support the excellent 'Sue Ryder' charity.

Sue Ryder, who later became Baroness Ryder of Warsaw, founded her charity in 1953. The charity aims to "support people with a wide range of disabilities and life shortening diseases, as well as their families, carers and friends, both in this country and internationally." To this end it runs care centres, for example the one at Birchley Hall in Lancashire for the care of the elderly, and Wheatfields in West Yorkshire, which is a hospice.

There are currently over 400 Sue Ryder shops in the UK selling donated and brand new goods, and collectables (such as chess sets). There is a changing room in the shop and even the promise of a refund if you keep your receipt and wish to return goods you have purchased. Although the Bentham shop is fortunate in having a great team of volunteers, more volunteers are always needed to offer their help in the shop for half a day a week each. As an added incentive, volunteers get 25% off any goods they buy!

Goods that are welcome are clean clothes, although even very old clothes, shoes and handbags, can be bagged up and sold by weight as rags. Customers can donate bags of clothes marked "Rags"? if they wish, and then Jackie doesn't have to sort through them. Books sell well, as does bric-a-brac, board games, jigsaws, photo frames, videos and CDs, lampshades, rolls of wallpaper and



Our photo shows volunteer Lorna Johnson sorting through donated jewellery with manageress, Jackie Fletcher.

children's toys. There are certain items that cannot be sold, such as electrical goods, broken suitcases, sharp knives, mattresses (including cot mattresses) and very dirty goods.

Jackie told me that all items for sale only have a shop floor life of 2 weeks, and if they haven't sold by then they're sent to another Sue Ryder shop. No wonder the goods looked so tempting. I didn't really need anything, but somehow came out of the shop having bought 2 recipe books and a corkscrew!

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TOWN HALL
WEDNESDAYS
5th & 19th APRIL**

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WALLACE AND GROMIT

By Lin Barrington



The Curse of the Were-Rabbit

Come to Low Bentham Victoria Institute on Saturday 8 April to see this Oscar-winning film on the big screen.

The cheese-loving Wallace and his ever-faithful dog Gromit star in a comedy adventure, their first full-length feature film. Film starts at 7.30pm, tickets cost £3.50.

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A FLOCK OF FIELDFARES IN THE GARDEN

By Bill Kennedy

During the blizzard on Sunday 12th March, a flock of about 50 fieldfares came visiting.

What a treat this was, on a cold wintry day. The last time I saw

fieldfares was in the Lowgill area, about two years ago, so it was a very welcome surprise when this flock appeared in the Lakeber Avenue/Drive area. They stayed around for about two hours. I'd never seen them in the garden before so, although the light was poor, I took the opportunity to get some photographs of them in the branches of an apple tree.



FOOTPATH FAULTS

For anyone wishing to report problems regarding footpaths in the area contact details are as follows:

David Gibson: Tel. 015242 61942 Email: david-margaret@kepphouse.fsnet.co.uk

It would be appreciated if as complete details as possible could be supplied regarding location and the nature of the problem. A map reference and footpath number would also be helpful. **Joint Access and Rights of Way Committee for Ingelton, Bentham, Thornton and Burton.**

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GENTLE WALKS FOR WOMEN

By Annie Neligan

Would you like to start the week with some fresh air and good company? Moving Well has arranged a series of walks for women on Monday mornings, around Bentham and Clapham. We've chosen walks that don't have too many stiles or too much mud so that they suit as many women as possible. Each week we're going to have a different theme. On April 3rd we'll be looking at spring flowers in Oxenber Woods and after that we'll focus on photographing landscapes one week, learning to use a map another and on April 24th we'll be in the bluebell woods.

Each week we'll meet at 10.00am at Looking Well and be back there by 1.00pm at the latest. If we are driving over to Clapham, for some lovely walks along the green lanes, there will be a £2.00 charge for transport. Drop in to Looking Well for a programme, although we may vary walks depending on the weather and how energetic we feel that day!

If you're an experienced walker and would like to do a short training so that you can lead others on these walks, please contact Annie at Looking Well, 62672.

Gardening for all

If you fancy the fresh air and good company, but prefer gardening to walking, come and join us at Looking Well on Tuesday afternoons instead. We're planting up vegetables to keep the Looking Well soups supplied and creating a flower garden where you can find peace and calm only moments away from Main Street. We'd love you to come along and either join in the work or enjoy the garden.

DISABLED PARKING SPACES

Yorkshire Police have confirmed that anyone parking in a disabled parking space without displaying a Blue Disabled Badge is immediately liable to a £30 fine. The police are on the lookout for this particular parking offence, so please be aware. Your thoughtless action could cost you!

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WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

High Bentham

By Doreen Park

At the March meeting President Wendy Dowbiggin welcomed one new member. Details of the various activities and transport arrangements were given to members. These included cooking at Settle, a theatre trip to Lancaster and a visit to Southport for the Spring Council meeting. Wendy then introduced the speaker, Julia Beeton, whose talk entitled "Tracing your Ancestors", proved to be very informative and showed the way for us into how you start this fascinating subject. She was thanked by Margaret Hayton.

The competition for an old family photograph proved very popular, with the eventual winner being Margaret Ellis. The next meeting will be on 6th April when Pat Haywood will talk on "And the Teddies came too". Competition - A teddy!

Low Bentham

By Jennifer Watkinson

You could have heard a pin drop as members listened to Mrs. Beth Williams speaking about her terrible ordeal aboard "the children's ship," the "Benaris," in 1939. She spoke about her life in Liverpool and why her widowed mother was so concerned for the safety of her 13 year old daughter. As she had an aunt and uncle in Canada she applied and was accepted by the Children's Overseas Reception Board.

With her bag packed in readiness she was sworn to secrecy until she was collected and placed on board the ship. The vessel, escorted by the Royal Navy, was in a convoy of nineteen. She described life on board, the never ending safety drills and wearing a life jacket 24 hours a day.

Once they were out of the war zone the Royal Navy escort left and they were on their own, completely unaware that they had been followed by a U48. In the middle of the night, 600 miles from land, everyone was woken by the boat listing and flooding. She

and her room friends just managed to find a place in a life boat.

Alas, there were problems with the life boat and she was thrown out into the raging ocean. Fortunately, she and a friend managed to hold on until they were rescued by another boat.

Eventually she was taken to hospital near Glasgow. Out of the ninety children on board the Benaris, only thirteen survived. Mrs. Harrison gave the vote of thanks.

Competition winners were Mrs. Isabel Carr, Mrs. Pam Warbrick and Miss Betty Dodgson.

The next meeting will be on the 20th April when Mrs. Sheila Kilroy's talk is entitled "Sheila's Encaustic Art". Every one is welcome to join us.

FREE BUS TRAVEL

By Lin Barrington

The following is taken from information issued by Craven District Council:

"From 1st April 2006 Craven District Council is able to offer its eligible residents free bus travel not only in Craven but throughout North Yorkshire and into adjacent districts on a through fare journey. Men and women of 60 years or over, and specific categories of disabled people living in the Craven District Council area are eligible for a bus pass which allows concessionary travel on all local buses (*no current time restrictions apply*) throughout North Yorkshire and City of York. The pass is valid for any through journey by local bus where the journey starts or ends in the Scheme area (e.g.: Skipton - Leeds).

Pass holders who are in receipt of Disability Living Allowance with the Higher Rate Mobility Component will be entitled to a pass that includes provision for a companion to travel with them at the concessionary rate.

CHARITIES THANK YOU

Bentham Traders Association would like to thank the SBC at the Horse & Farrier for their kind donation of £175.00 to the Christmas Lights fund.

BENTHAM & DISTRICT PET RESCUE



By Val Marshall

Thanks to everyone for helping or supporting our coffee morning in Bentham Town Hall in March, when we took just over £200.

This event was marred by what could have been a very nasty accident. Carrying a big flat box of our best donated china and glass our helper tripped over the step in the lobby. He fell forward, landing in the Farmers' Market on top of the box of broken china. Fortunately, the jagged remains didn't cut him, but it shook him badly – especially when he realised he could have been blinded if his face had made contact with the box of bits. So we urge people carrying boxes into the Town Hall to be very careful as the step is a safety hazard because able-bodied people do not think of using the ramp!

Once again I am asking for help at the sanctuary. If you are a cat lover and have an hour to spare in an afternoon, the cats would love you to play with them. Please telephone 62512 or 63048 in the evening for more details.

Our next event is a large Book Sale at Watershed Mill in Settle, opening on Good Friday and continuing throughout Easter weekend and all the following week. Why don't you come and browse through the large selection of books which will be available?

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LOCAL EVENTS IN APRIL

Sat 1st N.S.P.C.C. coffee morning and craft stalls at the Town Hall Ballroom, 10.00am-12.00 noon. 

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

Children's Theatre Art Club, 10.00-11.45am, at Looking Well.

Mon 3rd Looking Well 1.00pm, Cancer Support Group drop-in lunch and card making for Easter, and every Monday. 10.00am-12.00noon, Baby Group, and every Monday.

Gentle Walks for Women, 10.00am -1.00pm, start at Looking Well, every Monday.

Town Council meeting at the Town Hall, 7.30pm.

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

Tue 4th Playgroup and Toddlers, 1.00-3.00pm at the Wenningdale Room, Town Hall, and every Tuesday and Wednesday.

Looking Well 2.00pm, gardening, and every Tuesday.

Tue 4th

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

Bentham Footpath Group walk, Catrigg Force/Victoria Cave (take torch), 6 miles. leaders M. & H. Nott 61566. Meet at Lairgill 10.00am.

Bright Hour in the Methodist Schoolroom, 2.15pm, speakers Mr. & Mrs. E Brennand.

Wed 5th

NSPCC monthly meeting at Lingfield, Robin Lane, 7.30pm.

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

Indoor market at the Town Hall.

Thu 6th

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

Evening Energizer Aerobics at the Town Hall, 6.45-7.45pm, and every Thursday.

High Bentham W.I. at the Town Hall, 7.30pm. See page 12.

Clapham Dance Club Old Tyme and Easy Sequence, 7.30-10.00pm at the Village Hall.

Fri 7th

Age Concern at the Masonic Hall, Jean Fawcett and Ann Duncan, with flowers.

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

Sat 8th

Wallace and Gromit star in 'The Cure of the Were-Rabbit', Low Bentham Victoria Institute at 7.30pm. Tickets £3.50.

'Springfield Bowling Club coffee morning, Town Hall, 10.00am-12.00noon. 

Jumble Sale and coffee morning in Burton-in-Lonsdale Village Hall, 10.00am-12.00noon.

LISTING FOR LOCAL EVENTS

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

Event.....

Venue.....

Contact Tel. Number.....

Name.....

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

- Mon 10th Girls activity session: self defence. 2.00-3.30pm at Bentham Community Centre Teenage girls welcome. 50p. Also on Thursday 13th. For information ring Annie 62672.
- Tue 11th Bentham Child Health Clinic at the Surgery, 2.00-4.00pm.
High Bentham Toy Library at the Community Centre, 9.30-11.30am.
- Wed 12th Alzheimer's Society Carer Support Group 7.30-9.00pm at Looking Well.
- Fri 14th to Sunday 23rd April, Bentham Pet Rescue Book Sale at Watershed Mill, Settle. 10.00am-5.00pm daily - except Sundays, from 11.00am.
Bentham Footpath Group walk, Golf Course/Ingletton, 6 miles, leader J. Clapham 64906. Meet at Lairgill 11.30am approx.
- Sat 15th and Sun 16th and Mon 17th, "The Benthams" - an exhibition by David Johnson, of photographs, maps and documents about the history of High and Low Bentham. Sat & Mon 10.00am-5.00pm. Sun 11.00am-5.00pm.
Copy deadline for May edition of Benham News.
Thornton & Burton Mothers Union coffee  morning at Bentham Town Hall, 10.00-11.30am.
- Tue 18th House to House collection for the NSPCC, continuing for 2 weeks.
- Wed 19th Indoor Market in the Town Hall
- Thu 19th Low Bentham W.I. at the Victoria Institute, 7.30pm. See page 12.
- Fri 21st Waste paper collection at Lairgill, 8.30-11.00am. Proceeds to NSPCC.
- Fri 21st Age Concern at the Masonic Hall, Quiz.
- Sat 22nd LASRUG coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10.00am-11.30am. 
- Mon 24th Ewecross Historical Society AGM, 7.30pm at the Town Hall.
- Tue 25th Annual Parish Meeting, Town Hall, 7.30pm.
Bentham Child Health Clinic at the Surgery, 2.00-4.00pm.
High Bentham Toy Library at the Community Centre, 9.30-11.30am.
Burton Mothers' Union, 2.00pm in the Church Room. Lifeboats.
- Fri 28th Bentham News published.
Age Concern at the Masonic Hall, dominoes & beetle drive.
Alzheimer's Society Carers Lunch 12.30pm at the Coach House.
- Sat 29th Bentham Footpath Group walk, Nether Staveley/Crook, 10 miles, leader B. Sim 01539 730524. Meet at Lairgill 9.15am.
Samaritans' coffee  morning at the Town Hall, 10.00-11.45am.
- Sun 30th The Fifth Sunday Club 7.00-9.00pm at Looking Well.
Lambing Service at St. Margaret's Church, 2.30pm.

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LIBRARY NEWS

By John Frankland

RaW at Bentham Library!

RaW stands for Reading and Writing and it is the BBC's new adult literacy campaign. Designed to both entertain and educate, it is linked to the BBC's top rated shows on both radio and television. You might have seen it advertised after watching Eastenders! As part of this campaign Bentham Library and Information Centre has a new collection of books called "Quick Reads". These are short fast-paced reads written by popular authors like Maeve Binchy, Ruth Rendell and Richard Branson. If you enjoy reading these books then take advantage of our special offer - take a free "Quick read" voucher to get a £1 discount on one of these titles at bookshops.

Also, enter our RaW competition and win a trip around Radio York or family tickets on the Embsay and Bolton Abbey Steam Railway! Be quick though, as the closing date is 15th April. When you come into the library you'll find all the "Quick Reads", competitions and offers displayed together in our special RaW corner.

To find out more about RaW visit the BBC website, www.bbc.co.uk/raw, or ask a member of staff at the library.

Joining the Library

If you are not a member of the library but would like to take part in RaW then don't worry. Joining the library is easy and does not cost anything. Simply arrive at the library with a document which proves your identity, such as a bank statement, driving licence or utility bill and we will make you out a membership card. This allows you to borrow up to ten books for free. You will be charged a small fee when you take out story tapes, DVDs or videos and for requesting books from other libraries.

For more information regarding the library, or if you have any questions, please telephone us on 015242 61388 or e-mail us at bentham.library@northyorks.gov.uk

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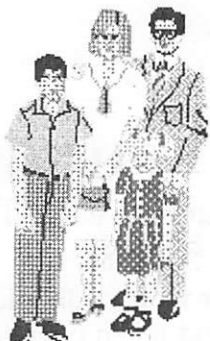
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BENTHAM PEOPLE

Obituaries

In loving memory of **Lucy Coomber** who lived in Duke Street from 1978-1996, who sadly passed away on 4th February 2006, and will be missed by so many.



We are sorry to announce that **Wendy Lengthorn** passed away on Wednesday 1st March at 4.10pm after a long battle against breast cancer. Wendy would appreciate it if anyone could donate anything at all to Cancer Research, or contact me on 015242 61016 and I can collect from you. She will be deeply missed by myself, family and friends. We would like to thank everyone for their generous donations at Wendy's funeral. We have raised an estimated £700. Many thanks, John Lengthorn.

Births

Congratulations to **Aaron and Marie** on the birth of **Nathan Joseph** on Friday 3rd March. Lots of love to you from all grandparents, aunts and uncles.

Thanks

Aaron and Marie would like to say a huge "thank you" to everyone for the messages, cards and gifts they received on the birth of **Nathan Joseph Robshaw**. "We were overwhelmed by the generosity of Bentham people. Nathan is a lucky boy to grow up here".

For Sale

▶ Mahogany drop leaf table, 18½" x 42" closed. Leaves 20" deep. £275. Tel 61360.

▶ Honda 125cc Innova, Metallic Blue, Reg. Sept 04. Less than 300miles. Illness forces reluctant sale. £1175 ono Tel. 62373.

▶ Hardly used Power - V - Fit Rowing machine £80.00. A Golds multi Gym £80.00. 62746.

▶ Canon EOS 300 SLR camera. 28-200 lens, c/w Canon flash, and excellent camera bag. £100. 62492.

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Garage Sale

Bank Holiday Monday 17th April 11am-3pm. Greenbank, Greenfoot Lane, Low Bentham. Building materials, household and children's items.

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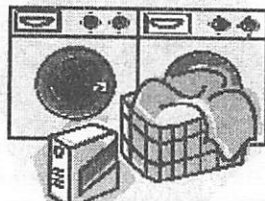
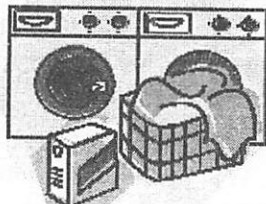
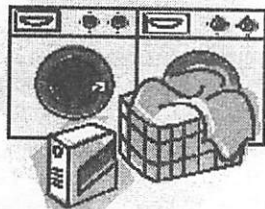
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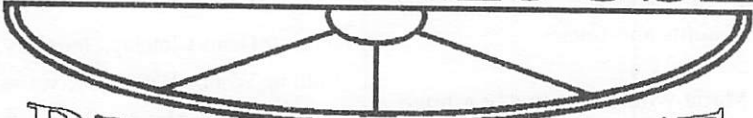
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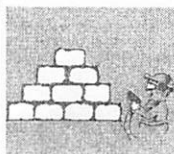
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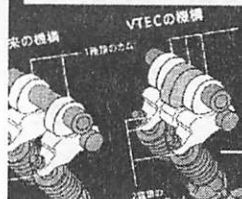
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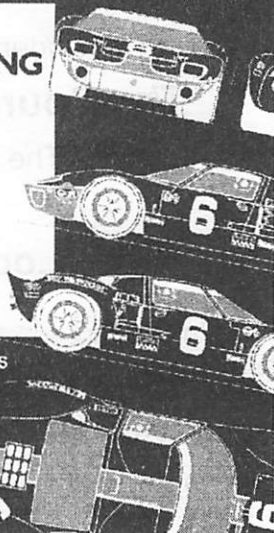
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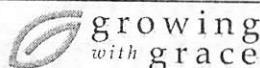
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BENTHAM WOMEN'S SOCIAL SERVICES ANNUAL MEETING

By Barbara Mason

Bentham Women's Social Services held their annual meeting at the Punch Bowl, Low Bentham recently. Twenty one members heard of a busy and successful year being recorded by secretary Mrs. Woof and treasurer Mrs. Watkinson. £7,098 had been sent to the NSPCC and £100 donated to the Playing Fields. Mrs. Adams, chair, reported that the Young NSPCC will hopefully continue as before under Mrs. Wheildon's leadership using the blue eggs.

The officers were re-elected en bloc and future events discussed, to include a coffee morning in the Town Hall on 1st April and a House to House collection at the end of April.

Thank you to all those who have supported all the events in 2005 and helped in any way.

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FARMING FOR A LIVING

By Trevor Blackwell

Richard Benson's recent book "The Farm" will intrigue and delight all who live or work or walk in the Yorkshire countryside.

Told in short, highly readable chapters, the book traces the story of Gordon Benson, a farmer's son who grows up to work on his dad's farm in Yorkshire. Gordon courts, and gets married to, Pauline, a miner's daughter, in the early 1960s, and they have three children - Richard, who, hopeless at practical things, goes to university to study English, and becomes a journalist in London; Guy who leaves school to work with his dad on the farm; and Helen, who leaves the farm to become a teacher.

What is fascinating is how their personal, every-day stories are also caught up in the changes that transform farming in Britain. So the family live through the drive to grow as much food as possible in the 1940s; through the increasing use of pesticides and fertilisers in the 1970s and 1980s; through the change from a mixed farm (with pigs, lambs, hens, cows and bullocks) to a specialist pig farm; and then through the changes driven by the increased global transportation of food, and by the increasing power of supermarkets, which make their "small" pig farm "uncompetitive".

Hearing Richard's dad talk to him on the phone about having to sell the farm - "Thy mam an't taken it very good. I think she'd like to see thee" - reminds me of an earlier generation whose lives now seem so distant. It reminds me of my mum and dad, of my

grandma, who seem to have lived such hard, even narrow, lives, yet who lived those lives with a strength and a rootedness and a kindness which still have the power to move.

But Richard Benson's book resists any temptation to nostalgia. When he was caught up by a sense of what was being lost in the countryside, he would reflect: "The world was always ending and starting again. What was the point of trying to stop time? Even places themselves would become no more than ideas and memories in the end. The only places that would remain the same would be those in our imaginations".

Yet the book is haunted - as is the Yorkshire countryside - by questions about change - about economic and social and personal changes, and how these changes relate to each other. So reading the book I can't help wondering - If these changes over the past sixty years have brought us so many clear benefits, why are they still shadowed by a sense of loss? Do we have any choice about these changes? Can we distinguish between what we can and what we cannot change? And how can older and younger people talk to each other about the changes that seem to set the different generations so far apart, even in a Yorkshire village?

"The Farm" raises these questions, but with a delightfully light touch. It's a funny, moving, thoughtful book, a book to gladden the heart.

(Richard Benson's "The Farm" has been selected by Richard&Judy's Book Club as an outstanding book by a new author and is currently available in Bentham Library.)

PIGTAILS & TEMPTATIONS

~~CLEARANCE SALE~~

Easter Week

Wednesday 12th, Thursday 13th and Saturday 15th

Millers Court (Craven College)

LOTS OF BARGAINS

"A LONG TIME AGO IN A PANTO FAR, FAR AWAY..."

By Timothy Austin

The lights dim. A rippled titter of excitement through the audience as the screen flickers to life. Slowly the epic story of an empire in turmoil scrolls up the screen to the hushed silence of the gathered throng. Orchestral music soars and I'm looking around for Darth Vader, waiting for the crushing disappointment of another pointless Star Wars Prequel. "I'm late, I'm late!!!" screams the camp Lord Vader,... Hold on!!? Relief spreads through the hall as Dame Penny Gent sweeps up the aisle, for this is pantomime of another kind; Bentham Theatre Group's "Sleeping Beauty!"

Directed by Theatre Group stalwart David Lloyd, this year's event had many years of panto history resting on its shoulders. But if he was worried by the weight of this responsibility then it didn't show on stage as "Sleeping Beauty" was crammed full of assured self confidence. Once again the script was an original creation sparkling with the imagination and wonderfully detached logic we've come to associate with Bentham folk. All the Bentham panto traditions were present and correct; the Big Stone, the customary dig at Ingleton (BOO!), daft but oddly catchy songs ("Is this the way to Big Stone Castle?") and enough cheese to make Jerry blush! Good, clean family fun.

The ensemble cast threw themselves in with gusto, clearly making the most of their licence to be very, very silly. The energy on show from the cast was infectious, each character bristling with life. Special mention must go to Jane Learmonth for her smouldering performance as the Good Fairy and Marie Knowles for her wickedly hissy Malificence. Once again hamming it up for England, the frighteningly good Dominic Spillane stole every scene he was in and Zara Carter showed considerable promise as bored teen princess Aurora. And who knew Peter Knowles could sing?

Congratulations must also go to the younger members of the cast, cutting their

teeth in panto for the first time. The children setting the table with dance was a lovely little moment and the sprites dance was a great bit of tumbling not even dampened by the occasional stray wig.

The sets, props and costumes showed great imagination and the quality that we've come to expect from BTG productions. The olde worlde pastiche of Bentham was especially nice with its hand-through-the-wall "Old Cashe Pointe", but where was the bright pink house? Lighting and sound once again showed BTG's increasing fondness for technological wizardry. Never afraid to embrace big ideas and live bands (a great band too, good work on the score!), their efforts can only be applauded.

The dedication of Bentham Theatre Group toward its shows continues to put other amateur companies to shame. "Sleeping Beauty" was a great piece of escapist enjoyment and although it won't win any Olivier Awards it certainly rocked my boat. Of course whether I'll forgive them for my subsequent nightmares about Fox-Bat Phantoms is another matter.

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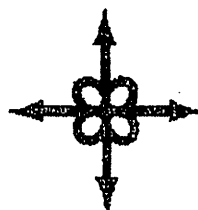
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BENTHAM FOOTPATH GROUP NEWS



By Maureen Ellis

The early months of this year have seen a variety of locations and distances for every taste and also the successful annual dinner. Life is made easier when one can walk out of the back door and do a circular walk. I've now got three interesting such walks from the farm yard, one of which I will lead one summer's evening.

Some three years ago we had a very interesting talk at the Annual General Meeting on the new canal in Preston, with its series of locks connecting it to the Lancaster canal. I was unable to attend the subsequent walk with the footpath group when an official showed people around and pointed out the salient points.

After my first trip to the wonderful Harris Museum and Gallery, I found my way along the tow path to the new part and knew I was near when I saw the massive wood hewn statue guarding the locks. One gleans all sorts from the Bentham Footpath Group with the walks and talks.

In April on the 4th, Helen and Mike Nott are leading a walk that will start eventually at Langcliffe car park and go onto Upper Winskill and up to Catrigger Force. It is hoped we may see the peregrines at the quarry on the way. It's then onto the moor road and across to Jubilee and Victoria Caves and Atermire scar and then looping back to base.

On Good Friday 14th after the multi-denominational outdoor service in the Auction Mart, Joan Clapham will lead a walk across the golf course to Ingleton and back probably by Burton and maybe the river. As always there will be a stop to eat hot cross buns.

On the 29th Bev Sims will lead us south from Nether Staveley to Crook where we will look at the ruin of the old St. Catherine's Church and the new one that replaces it. It's then on to join the Dales Way and a pleasant 10 miles to savour. Good walking

Dear Bentham News,
After being twice misrepresented by the Town Council (as in the report of the Town Council meeting in "The Bentham News"), I should like to put the record straight.



I am definitely **not** against any late-night function at the Town Hall. My one and **only** cause for concern was about an event last November, not advertised locally, but in Manchester. The over-amplified music woke me at 2.15pm. I understand that there was also damage to the newly refurbished Town Hall.

I attended the Town Hall Licensing hearing at Skipton. No member of our Town Council was able to attend. The Town Hall's Licensing application was granted in **full** as applied for by Bentham Town Council, with two conditions.

1. After midnight, any noise from any event should be quietened down by the simple expedient of closing windows and doors. This is to make it more peaceful for all nearby residents, not just me.

2. The Town Council, as Licence Holder, must ensure that there is a designated representative of the Town Council present when a licensable activity is taking place. This second condition has nothing at all to do with my one and only concern. However it may be the reason why some events have to be restricted by the Town Council.

I am more than happy to take a turn to be the "Designated Person Responsible" so that events such as those written about by Lynda Burns and Aid Todd, Tom Lloyd and Jimmy Ogden, can go ahead.

If anybody wishes to see Craven District Council's Notice of Determination, about the granting of the Town Hall licence, I have a copy.

Yours sincerely,
Margaret Ellis.

Dear Bentham News

Low Bentham Victoria Institute

Could I correct an impression that we have inadvertently given while publicising the 'Active Bentham' project? As reported in the

Bentham News and other local newspapers, Bentham Trust has got a grant to develop and publicise activities in Bentham, some of which we hope will take place at the Institute. We will also try to assist the Institute committee with some aspects of the management of the Institute when they ask us, but we are not taking on the management of the Institute.

The Institute is a Charity with a management committee (which I'm a member of) responsible for making the decisions about what happens at the Institute, and while I'm on the subject, we're desperate for more committee members!

If anyone wants to know more, give me a ring on 62549 (day) or 61034 (evening).

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-

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RACE FOR LIFE

By Annie Neligan

Last year, several plucky women, young and old, took part in the Cancer Research Race for Life, and their efforts raised lots of money. Many cancer sufferers took part and were supported by their friends and families. This year we are hoping to enter a team from the Cancer Support Group at Looking Well. There are races we can choose from in May and July. If you'd like to join us, please contact Beryl or Annie at Looking Well, or phone 62672.

Wood Stoves for Kashmir

The Broughton Road Womens Group in Skipton would like to thank all those in Bentham who bought cards of their play mat towards the Kashmir earthquake appeal. They raised £250 and this has gone towards supplying woodstoves for the shelters built in the remote Neelam Valley that have allowed villagers to stay on their land over the bitter winter. If you want to see more details of how funds are being used, look in the Looking Well window on Main Street.

BENTHAM THEATRE GROUP PRESS RELEASE

By Iain Henshaw

Well there seems to be lots going on with the Children's Forum and the Theatre Workshops at the Looking Well, we'll soon be having our own West End! The panto by most accounts was a great success with all who took part having a thoroughly good time. Thanks again to all concerned.

We are still looking for First World War images or film, pass books or any memorabilia that will help with our next production, "Oh, What a Lovely War". Next month we'll have an interview with the Director Peter Armstrong. If you want to contact the group you can email btg@s1b.com or telephone me on 015242 61010 or visit www.s1b.com/btg.

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This photograph, by Jon Brook of Bentham Imaging, shows "The Green Express" steam engine in all its old glory, near Clapham, (just after steaming through Bentham), on 11th March 2006.

HERITAGE TRAIN TRIP TO EDINBURGH - 29th APRIL - OUR COMPETITION WINNER

In the March edition we featured the Green Express Railtours trip to Edinburgh on 29th April, for which Green Express kindly offered two tickets (worth £41 each) for the winner of a related competition.

There has been a really excellent response with almost fifty entries. We are delighted to announce that the lucky winner, drawn by the committee on Wednesday 22nd March, is Mrs. J.D. Jackson, "Treetops", 4 East View, Burton Road, Low Bentham, LA2 7EF. Mrs. Jackson will receive her tickets direct from Nick Harvey of Green Express Tours. Enjoy the trip!

BENTHAM NEWS is published at "Latharna", High Bentham, by an editorial committee consisting of Trevor Blackwell, Shirley Brown, Linda Cressey, Keith Hartley, Judith Johnson, Peter Phillips, Ken Robertson, Pam Woof, and co-ordinator, Bill Kennedy, who can be contacted on telephone 62492. Every effort is made to ensure that information contained in the paper is correct. However Bentham News is an open access paper and views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the editorial committee. The committee reserves the right to edit contributions. We are willing to withhold names on request, **but names, addresses and telephone numbers must accompany all items for publication**, which should be handed in to Bentham Sports by the copy deadline, the 15th of the month prior to publication. Bentham News is printed by Pica Design & Print.