

BENTHAM NEWS

BENTHAM JUNIOR GIRLS FOOTBALL TEAM



The picture shows the Bentham Junior Girls under 12s team, from left to right, Ashleigh Burrow, Kizzy Yuill, Amy Calvert, Rosie Louth, Megan Campbell, Emily Wheildon, Emily Brownsord, Lucy Sharples, Thalie Yuill and Annie Neil, goalkeeper, at the front.

The Girls of the club would like to say a big "thank you" to SBC (Horse & Farrier) for the generosity of their sponsorship for the girls' under 12s first kit. The club is looking for more girls, from years 6&7 who are interested in football!!! Come along to training on Monday nights at Bentham Playing Fields from 6.30-7.30pm. £1.50 per session. Call Claire Burrow (62383) for more information.

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The Wenning Oak vandalised - page 35.

Whatever happened to our skatepark? - page 10.

The end of the Legion Hut - page 16.

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A "rail" alternative - page 26.

Sports Shop closes - page 8.

More from the Auction Mart - page 13.

AND - IS THERE AN APRIL FOOL?

APRIL 2008

ISSUE 258

LAND OPPOSITE TENNANT HOUSE

By Shirley Brown

Local people were shocked to find that at about 8am on Saturday 16th February 2008, a local landowner, Dennis O'Hagan, was digging up a section of hedgerow, knocking down overhanging tree branches and generally clearing a large area of greenery to enlarge the access to his field, opposite Tennant House on the road out of Bentham towards Clapham.

Bentham News has been approached by a number of local people who feel disquiet at this development. We have spoken to Jo Burton, Clerk to Bentham Town Council

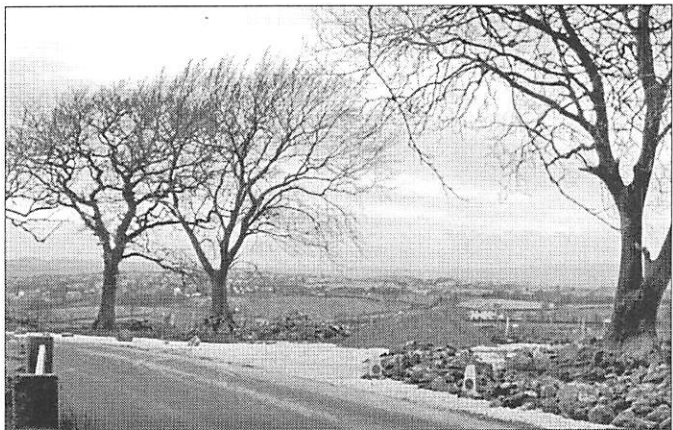
and Ian Swain, Planning Officer for Craven District Council to make sure we have the correct facts. BTC, CDC and Peter Lambert of Planning Enforcement have all been aware of developments on this field and the situation is being monitored.

Planning permission had been given for new access to the site with improved visibility. No mention was made on the publicly displayed planning notice of the fact that the existing hedgerow was to be removed – that information could only have been gleaned by people asking to view the more detailed plans at County office. These more detailed plans also say that the hedgerow must be replaced with a new 1.25 metre high dry-stone wall with replacement hawthorn hedge behind.

It has not been possible to ascertain a timetable for this replacement work – but clearly local people will be keeping an eye on the area to check that the work is done.

To quote Ian Swain: "as far as I can establish the works are being undertaken in accordance with the approved plans. I appreciate that it is somewhat unusual to invest so much resources into providing an improved access, but this in itself is not a reason to refuse planning permission". Some have asked, why a field intended for agricultural use, grazing of sheep and haymaking, needs such an elaborate entrance?

This field is in an area of great beauty with clear views towards Ingleborough and open moorland just beyond. Those of us who live in and care about Bentham, hope that its beauty will not be destroyed.



TOWN COUNCIL

By David Johnson

All the Cllrs attended except Cllrs Barnes, Hurtle and C. Cllr Ireton.

Police. P.C. Martin said that Bentham had been very quiet recently. The Cllrs asked for more rigorous enforcement of the speed restrictions, particularly early in the morning, and complained about those who park on double yellow lines causing traffic chaos. Following on from this they expressed concern about the potentially life threatening incident described by a mother in a letter to the BN which appeared to have been caused by illegally parked vehicles, not the motorist.

Craven District Council. Cllr. Camacho said that North Yorkshire's Council Tax will rise by 4.75% but Craven District Council tax rise will be zero. District Cllr. Barrington thought Bentham could get a plastic recycling bin. Experiments are being carried out to see if it is practical to collect cans and glass from one small bin leaving a space in the top of the larger recycling bins through which to pass paper and card. Cllr Stannard asked if the bin men could be asked to return the bins to the place where they were left.

Highways. There has been a positive response from Highways about preserving the green triangle at the end of Dumb Toms Lane. Design-work is ongoing to try to improve access to Station Road for large vehicles and some action may be possible in the future. A member of the public has complained about the condition of Ravensclose Road. Vehicles are destroying the road edges and this in turn is interfering with the drains, leading to flooding. It looks as if the proposal to put a footpath on the narrow section of Doctor's Hill has gone for a Burton! It is cheaper to remove the centre line and repaint the double yellow lines! The Environment Agency was unhelpful about the request for action to prevent the Wenning eroding Holmes Meadow and threatening the road and gas main. The river eroded 20 feet of the bank last year.

Dalesview Development. The Cllrs agreed that it might be possible to maintain the amenity land but only at a price. They have calculated, on the basis of one quote, that it will cost about £1,000 a year to insure and

maintain the areas after the trees, fences and gates have been brought up to standard. Therefore they may ask Dalesview for £30,000 to cover the next 30 years. The subject will be discussed again at the next meeting.

Bentham Common Land Charity. This charity consists of a committee with representatives from Bentham, Burton and Ingleton and it has the responsibility for certain areas of common land in the vicinity of Bentham. Some land has been given over to the Woodland Trust but other pockets remain, the most significant being on the banks of the River Greta in Burton-in-Lonsdale. As there seemed to be little known about the charity the Cllrs decided to write to the Trust to ask for a report on its activities and for it to identify the areas of land within its control.

Low Bentham Playing Field. Most of the work on the trees has now been completed and quotes are being sought for a trash gate to prevent debris entering the drain. The Cllrs are now beginning to think about redeveloping the site. Cllr Faichney was appointed project manager.

The Tourist Information Point. This will open in April. Coordinators have been appointed and plans are afoot to reprint the Bentham brochure and update the accommodation list.

Town Hall. It looks as if all organisations will be limited to two coffee mornings a year. The event is so popular that not all applicants are successful. The Annual Parish Meeting will be on Wednesday 23rd April at 7.00 p.m.

The First Responders made an application for funding but as they missed the Precept Meeting the Cllrs were only able to offer £50. They were sympathetic to the cause and they may consider donating the proceeds of next year's calendar to the organisation.

Community Transport has been granted several new contracts. The Station project tenders have been submitted and a contractor should start work on 17th March and complete the work by the end of April. The total cost will be about £80,000.

Hillside Road A request for the Council to withdraw its objection to the stopping up of the turning area could not be considered because it had not been submitted in time to be added to the agenda.

BENTHAM TEENAGER RECEIVES AWARD

By Jo Booth

Bentham teenager, Lisa Hodgson, has been chosen to receive the Diana award. The award, in memory of the late Princess Diana, rewards young people for their achievements in contributing positively to their local communities and schools.

Lisa, along with four other students from Settle College, was chosen to receive the award for their hard work volunteering in their local community and in their school. They were commended in particular for their efforts in volunteering to provide a peer education programme to their fellow students. Lisa and the other four students underwent a training programme on how to advise and make presentations on topical teen issues such as drugs and sex.

We are lucky to have Lisa living in Bentham as she is clearly a credit to our community. Well done Lisa!

BN WARNING! ON THE SPOT PARKING FINES

We have one precious disabled parking space on Bentham's Main Street, which is much appreciated by the local traders and people with disabilities. Frequently, however, this space is used by vehicles that are not displaying a disabled badge. This is an inconsiderate and anti-social act, and anyone found parking in these spaces illegally can be penalised with an **ON THE SPOT £30 FINE**.

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GARDENING NOTES



By Joyce Knapp

April is the month when we can begin sowing seeds directly into the ground, as it becomes warm enough to allow the seeds to germinate readily (look out for weed seeds coming to life).

Some vegetable crops, such as carrots and parsnips, should be sown directly into the earth in the area where they are to grow to maturity. This is done in order to avoid disturbing, and thereby distorting, their roots. It is worth noting that slightly different sowing techniques are used for these two, otherwise similar, root crops. By sowing carrot seeds as thinly as possible, along the full length of a quite shallow seed drill, we can reduce the amount of thinning to be carried out, later, when the first rough leaves have appeared. Parsnip seeds, however, are best sown in clusters of three or four at regular intervals along a shallow drill, with only the strongest seedling at each station being kept after thinning when the first true leaves have appeared. If we grow both of these root vegetables we can spread their harvest considerably; whilst the main crop carrots will be ready for use from July through to November, the parsnips can be harvested from November through until the following March.

Moving along to the fruit garden, we can now tidy up any over-wintered strawberry plants by removing all the dead/dying leaves at their base. By doing this we will reduce the likelihood of any disease spreading to the healthy, new shoots at the centre of the plant and we may also uncover any slugs or snails lurking beneath the old growth.

With secateurs still in hand from trimming the strawberry plants, we can cut back any plants grown for their colourful winter stems such as Cornus (dogwood), taking each stem back to within 6" of the ground and making the cut just above a bud. Early flowering shrubs eg. Forsythia can also be pruned, once its flowers have faded, and this is achieved by cutting back all the old, flowered stems to a strong new shoot that will produce flowers the following season.

CRAVEN CONCERNS

By Cllr Manuel Camacho 015242 62074

Outbreaks of co-mingling In North Craven

I suppose this sort of thing is alright between consenting adults but in a respectable part of the world, whatever next?

In truth this is a term invented by waste managers to describe a new way of collecting our rubbish. After conducting a trial with our merchant for glass and metals it is now possible to mix these items in one insert of the blue wheelie bin. This means that one of the inserts is redundant (unless you have a lot, then use both). For me, this makes the blue bin much more usable. In the mean time I suggest that you store the unused insert as there may be other future uses for it. Future possibilities may include plastic recycling through the blue bin scheme. On that subject I must say that there is still a long way to go before plastic recycling becomes financially viable or indeed has an acceptable carbon footprint; however it is the right direction of travel and we can only hope that technology catches up and supermarkets and manufacturers use less of it.

I felt compelled to mention the above as the letter announcing this was placed inside the empty blue bins after the last collection. It was only a matter of luck that I found my copy !!

Council Tax Increases 2008 – 2009

Based on Band D amounts:

North Yorkshire County Council increased by (4.75% increase)

North Yorkshire Police Authority increased by (4.3%)

North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue increased by (4.5%)

Craven District Council increased by (0%, nowt, nothing or not a bean!)

Success for our Revenues and Benefits Department

Customer & Benefit Services have been awarded the Customer First accreditation at the first assessment, a fantastic achievement as fewer than 30% of organisations manage that.

The award recognises the emphasis

placed on providing excellent service to our customers and the assessor said that everyone he spoke to confirmed that our focus was on our customers.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION - PROPOSED USE OF LAND TO THE EAST OF STATION ROAD, HIGH BENTHAM

Wednesday, 16th April 2008, Bentham Town Hall, 2.00pm to 8.00pm.

You are invited to come and have a look at plans for the proposed use of land to the east of Station Road, High Bentham. We would be interested to hear:

- ★ Whether you feel that the proposed mix of car parking and workspace is right;
- ★ What aspects of the proposal you like;
- ★ How the proposal could be improved.

The Architect and Estate Agency who have assisted in the preparation of the proposal will be on hand to answer any queries and discuss any aspect of the plans.

Please feel free to "drop in" at your convenience; we will be more than happy to see you.

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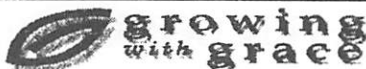
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GOODENBER PLAY AREA UPDATE

By Mike Wynne

The Goodenber Play Area committee would like to pass their sincere thanks to the Town Council and all those involved in the production and sale of the '2008 Bentham and Beyond Calendar'. The £2,310 we received from this is an extremely useful start to funding the phased replacement of large items of equipment that is now necessary due to wear and tear of some of the existing items. We have yet to ascertain the overall cost of this project, but it is sure to run into tens of thousands of pounds. In order to replace this equipment we are looking out for further external funding and grants that we can apply for. **If anyone in the area can assist us, please do get in touch!**

At our coffee morning on 8th March we were pleased to raise a further £195 for the play area. Many thanks to all those who donated, helped and attended.

It is always quiet on the play area over the winter months, and it is nice to see that last summer's phase of abusive graffiti seems to have ended and the hours we spent painting over this vandalism have been worthwhile. There is nothing more disheartening than to paint one day, only to find the graffiti back again a week later. We hope the young people responsible have matured enough to realise this behaviour only upsets others. Thanks for stopping.

Litter continues to be our biggest problem, but recently it has not been too bad. We are sure that more and more adults passing through are helping out by placing litter in the bin provided and our thanks to them as well. Broken glass is our biggest concern as this is of course the biggest danger to the younger children for whom the play area is provided. Please, please put your bottles in the bin if you must take them to the play area.

We are holding our annual spring working party on Saturday 12th April at 10am until about 2pm. Jobs that we will be doing include the following:

- ♦ General clean up.
- ♦ Repairing wooden edging to woodchip areas.
- ♦ Raking woodchip areas and spreading new woodchip.
- ♦ Weeding woodchip areas.
- ♦ Cutting back perimeter hedges.
- ♦ Cutting back brambles.
- ♦ Sweeping paths.
- ♦ Scraping moss off paths.
- ♦ Repairing smaller items of equipment.

Anyone is welcome to come and help – the more help we have the more we get done. (See the article "Miracles do happen" on page 21)

Remember – the Goodenber Play Area is for the children of our community and looked after entirely by a small group of volunteers.

If anyone is willing to join the committee or our group of regular helpers, please contact Mike on 62336 or Marie on 62216. You will be most welcome!

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PAM WOOF TALKS ABOUT BENTHAM SPORTS SHOP

By Trevor Blackwell

For the past twenty one years Bentham has had its very own Sports Shop where you've been able to buy football boots and cricket bats and darts and bicycles and walking boots and brasher socks and sun-protected trousers and elephant-resistant hats and school kit and Ingleton triangle maps, all offered with friendly and helpful advice by Pam Woof and her assistants. But recently the "For Sale" signs have been up, so I called in to ask Pam what's going to happen to Bentham Sports.

"I've always sewn, and that's the link with Pennine Outdoor, the mail order company we operate from upstairs in the shop, and over the past few years the demand for embroidery on garments for schools and clubs has slowly grown. If Bentham Sports were a bigger company, with a bigger turnover, I could employ a manager, but I can't. So Bentham Sports wasn't failing - it's just that I can't be in two places at once, I can't be upstairs and downstairs, running both. It's a personal decision. It was taking up too much of my time to run and manage the Sports Shop and continue with the sewing side.

The downstairs of Bentham Sports will now become a photography shop, where Jon Brook of Bentham Imaging will be setting up his photo gallery and portrait studio. We're taking the staircase out and dividing the shop into two units, and we're retaining the first floor so I can continue with my sewing workshop and Pennine Outdoor. The entrance will be through Millers Court, and up the first set of stairs - there'll be a sign! I'll also be keeping bits and pieces like walking socks and hats and gloves and some outdoor accessories. I'll continue to deal with all the clubs and the schools and corporate groups that require my embroidery services, and with people who require made-to-measure leisurewear. I've got a website which people can order on from all over - I've recently been doing work for someone in Germany who is seven foot five!



Photo courtesy of Jon Brook

What do I feel? Well, obviously I'm very sad that Bentham Sports is going - I shall miss the interaction with the customers - though I'm hoping I don't lose that entirely, because I enjoy that. It'll give me a bit of time at weekends, because we're not going to be open on Saturday! Basically, I'm looking forward to doing more sewing without the pressure of trying to run two businesses.

What I really would have liked was someone to come and buy the bottom floor with the business. But it was quite obvious right from the first week that people wanted the building but not the business. So that's sad.

Whenever there's been a change-round in the shops in Bentham there's always been someone else wanting to have a go. We have no empty premises at all. But the problem about shopping in Bentham is that there's not enough parking, so people miss Bentham because it's difficult to park. And whilst some of the new people who move to Bentham love to support the local shops, others couldn't care less, and just write off Bentham without ever looking at it, and shop in Lancaster or Kendal or Preston or Tesco-On-Line. You can't stop people going elsewhere. But the Bentham shops won't be there if people only use the big places, and we really need our shops to keep Bentham functional and vibrant."

So Pam will still be working at the centre of Bentham - but upstairs not downstairs. Some of the swimwear will be moving to Temptations, and the bike bits to Riverside Caravan Park, and the darts to the Black Bull. But I'll miss the elephant-resistant hats.

Dear Bentham News,

I want to make a few additions to the "Yesterday in Bentham" account published in the March issue of Bentham News, of the "old building", page 35.



The house was originally the Station Inn (pub) and became the Vicarage, probably during World War 1. I knew it as a Vicarage when I was a child. I am 95 now.

My parents bought it in the 1920s when we moved from Thornber Farm in 1926. It then became the Wenning Hotel. In the 1930s and during the war, we had some resident guests including Kathleen Garside. We stayed there until after my mother died in 1944. My brothers and my sister Sheila had all moved and my father sold it to Robert and Peggie Reid and her son Alan, and I came to live in Settle. Robert Reid, my cousin, died in 1955 and Peggie subsequently sold it to Geo. Angus & Co. Since then it has had other owners.

Yours faithfully, (Miss) Katherine Townson.

PS. I read my Bentham News and then send it on to a cousin (Jean Holmes). I enjoy it.

Hi, I have just picked up a copy of the February issue of the Bentham News and read about a family tracing their family tree, and I was wondering if possibly you could help me. My great, great grand father was a Thomas Bentham born in 1791, married to a Margaret and if any one in Bentham might be related to him even if distantly, please get in touch with me.

*My name is William Kirkham, 19 Carr House Lane, Ince Blundell, Liverpool L38 1QE.
colette-autin-bond@sky.com*

Dear Bentham News

I am writing to thank all players, parents and local businesses that gave me a lot of support whilst I was secretary of Bentham Juniors Football Club. Due to an untenable situation I felt I had no alternative other than to resign as secretary. The club has gone from strength to strength and this couldn't have been achieved without support from everyone. I wish the club every success for the future. Thank you again.

Jen Smith

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WHATEVER HAPPENED TO OUR SKATEPARK?



By Pam Woof

You may not have seen anything happening on the ground but behind the scenes the Playing Fields Association is pushing ahead with plans for the area around the tennis court. The idea is to refurbish the courts so that people can play club and match tennis as well as having a knockabout, and to mark up the courts so that they can also be used for netball or to practise basketball.

We want to build the skateboard park on the patch of grass between the courts and the slope up to Station Road.

What is stopping us from moving the diggers in? Money, of course. We want to make a good job of it and the whole cost of the scheme, including paying someone a couple of days a week to get people involved, will be about £140,000. We're hoping that Sport England will give us one third of the cost and are applying to NYCC and Craven for another third. For the rest of the money we are applying to charities to add to the £5,500 that Bentham people have already worked so hard to raise.

So we hope it won't be long before you see some signs of action down at Wenning Avenue - and that we have our new sports space before all those who worked so hard to raise our starting funds, are having to roll down there in their bath chairs!

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COOKERY PAGE

Edited By Pat Henderson

Parsnip and Tomato Bake

Recipe. Serves 4 main course or 6 side course

Parsnips, 2 large, peeled and sliced
Leeks, 2 large, sliced
Pasta shells 100g
Fresh milk 300ml
Butter 25g
Plain flour 25g
Salt and black pepper for seasoning
Cayenne pepper, large pinch
English mustard, 5ml
Vegetarian or cheddar cheese, 150g, grated
Tomatoes, 3 skinned and sliced
Fresh breadcrumbs 50g

Method

Set the oven to 190C/gas 5. Cook the parsnips and leeks in boiling water for 10 minutes until just tender, then drain. Cook the pasta according to packet instructions and mix into the cooked vegetables. Put milk, butter and flour into a saucepan and heat with continuous stirring until the sauce boils and thickens. Season and add the cayenne pepper and mustard and cook for one minute. Remove from the heat and stir in 75g of cheese.

Place half of the vegetable mixture into a buttered ovenproof dish, then cover with a layer of tomato and half the sauce. Repeat the layering, finishing with the sauce. Mix the remaining cheese with the breadcrumbs and sprinkle over the top. Bake in the oven for 30 mins or until golden brown.

Caramelised Fruit Cobbler

Recipe. Serves 6

Butter 50g
Self raising flour 175g
Fresh milk 150ml
Cooking apples, 2 large, cored and sliced
Canned raspberries 380g
Fresh double cream, 150ml, lightly whipped
Demarara sugar 30 ml
Raspberry jam, 30ml for filling scones



Method

Set oven to 230C/gas 8. Rub butter into the flour until the mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs. Add milk and mix to a soft dough. Knead lightly, roll out and cut into 12 hearts. Bake in the oven for about 8 minutes. Cook the apples in 30ml water until soft, then drain and add raspberries, place in a heatproof serving dish. Spread cream over the fruit and sprinkle with sugar. Grill under medium heat until the sugar caramelises.

Cut the scones, fill with jam and then arrange them around the edge. Serve immediately.

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COMMUNITY CENTRE

By Sharon Haslam

Bentham Community Centre (Tel: 61800) is hosting a Community Day on Monday 14th April 10am – 7pm. The aim of this day is to give user groups an opportunity to show off their talents. Everyone is welcome to come along for a cup of tea or coffee and view the exhibits of arts, crafts and photographs. We would also be interested to hear of any other courses that the community would be interested in attending.

Victoria Institute received a cheque for £600 from the Co-op Society for the Community Garden. A meeting was held at the Victoria Institute with the aim of setting up a Film Group, to show films regularly in Low Bentham. The first film will be in June. If anyone is interested in joining the group or helping on the night, please contact either Sharon Haslam or Ann Ambrose on 61800 or 63162 or drop in to the Victoria Institute on either a Monday or Wednesday morning.

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BENTHAM'S AUCTION SUCCESS

The second part of a two-part series by Keith Hartley

Last month I outlined the reason for the increased amount of farming activity in the area, and attributed it largely to the success of the Bentham Auction Mart.

We have all seen the Ifor Williams trailers pushing their Land Rovers into Bentham (!) as farmers from all quarters of the north-west (and beyond) bring their animals into the Auction Mart for sale. This month I propose to look in a little more detail at what happens to those animals through a closer look at the present marketing arrangements of the Auction Mart.

I mentioned that in recent years the Auction Mart has moved away from its long-established practice of pushing almost everything through the auction ring at one (Wednesday) session. Wednesday remains the primary market day, but with three separate sales being held. The first sale of the day is of dairy cows. These are either cows that have calved within the last few days or are about to bear calves, and are therefore coming into their prime with regard to milk yield. This sale is followed by a lunchtime sale of rearing calves.

The largest sale of the day is the 4-30pm sale of fat sheep i.e. sheep destined for slaughter, when it is normal for over 5,000 animals to be sold. It is the fat sheep sale that is normally attended by the bigger buyers, and it is not unusual for the business to last until late in the evening. This is when Bentham is 'invaded' by the enormous four-storey sheep transporters used by the buyers. It is common, for example, to see the blue lorries of Woodhead Bros (carriers for Morrisons) or the red lorries of Fred Greenwood & Sons (Asda) rolling through the lanes, each carrying up to 500 sheep.

Animals from the fat sheep sale are normally purchased by three groups of buyers, and are fairly evenly divided between the three. They represent the export market, the Asian (Halal) market and the supermarkets. However, the auction ring is probably one of the few genuinely 'level



Stephen Dennis; a major role in the Auction Mart's success.

playing fields' left for buyers, because here the village butcher is able to bid for animals alongside the 'big guns' on equal terms.

A sale is normally held each Monday morning, when the Auction Mart acts as an agent for farmers offering calves for the export market. Also there is a cattle sale on Tuesday afternoon when culled dairy cows are sold. These are cows that have ceased to produce milk and have therefore become destined for the meat market. Only cows born after August 1996 are eligible for this sale, as those born prior to this date remain subject to BSE restrictions.

Other sales, usually seasonal, are held at other times, and these are often of some considerable size. However, the ones I have mentioned are the 'constants' through which the majority of animals are sold in Bentham.

When so many other markets are running into difficulty it must be of some comfort to farmers in this area to know that at least for the foreseeable future they will have a good local market for their animals.

Stuart Atherton

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SBC OF BENTHAM

By John Henderson

We are having a Mask Ball at the Horse and Farrier on Saturday 5th April. There will be entertainment by courtesy of Margaret and Jeff, with a raffle, auction and prize for best mask. All proceeds will be donated to the Helen Howard School of Theatre Dance for their invited visit to perform at the Royal Albert Hall in May. Come along and enjoy yourself and give generously for the children of Bentham who are going.

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NEWS FROM THE FOLLY IN SETTLE

By Anne Read, Hon. Curator

From 2008 we are extending our season from Easter through to the end of October, opening on all Tuesdays, Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays, 10.30 am – 4.30 pm. Our first exhibition runs until 6 May and is of paintings by Annie Farrer, one of the country's foremost botanical artists, who grew up in Clapham. Annie has recently begun experimenting with different techniques and methods of working and her Folly exhibition, entitled *Plant Forms on Paper: a Fresh Approach* provides a first opportunity of seeing some of her new work. Annie herself will be present on certain days during the exhibition to talk about her painting. Please contact me for further details if you are interested.

Following this are two more exhibitions with strong local connections. *Farm Buildings in the Forest of Bowland*, features material from the Slaidburn Village Archive as well as items from our own collections, and explores farmsteads and farming life and tradition in the Bowland area. Alongside, we shall be displaying, courtesy of Mr and Mrs Ken Jelley and the Craven Museum, a selection of photographs from the Horner Collection, depicting 19th and 20th century local life and events.

The detailed content of all our exhibitions this year means that we hope many people will be inspired to make return visits. To provide for this we have produced Season

Tickets which give the holder unlimited access to The Folly until the end of October. The tickets cost £5 each and we are inviting people who are UK tax-payers to consider gift-aiding their purchase, which will enable us to claim back tax on the full amount. Since we receive no revenue funding from any outside source, this would be a most valuable way of visitors making a small extra contribution to the costs of keeping The Folly open. Season Tickets also make ideal presents for family and friends.

Please contact me or visit our website at www.ncbpt.org.uk/folly for further information on any of the above. Anne Read, Curator, Museum of North Craven Life, Settle (015242) 51388 or e-mail earead@clara.co.uk

HORNBY DRAMA GROUP

By Richard Hopkins

Hornby Drama Group and Lancaster Footlights will be presenting an evening of one-act plays at Hornby Institute on Friday 16th May and at Halton Community Centre on Saturday 17th May at 7.30pm on both evenings. There will be further details in next month's Bentham News.

BENTHAM NEWS FINANCES

By Ken Robertson

The statement of accounts for the year ended 31st December 2007 has recently been produced, showing a sound financial position. Should anyone wish to have a copy of the accounts please contact Ken Robertson on 61285.

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THE OLD LEGION HUT

By Marie Rayner

I am now the proud owner of a wooden hut! Before too long it will be pulled down and replaced with a new building for Sole to Soul, my Podiatry and Therapy Practice.

I am planning to have an exhibition of the history of the Legion Hut in my new building.

Do you have any memories or photographs or stories to tell about the place? If so I would love to hear from you.

You can mail things to me at 9 Station Road, here in Benthams, contact me by email at marie@sole-to-soul.net or bring things in, in person - Liz will look after you if I am busy. If you don't want to leave original documents, I will arrange for them to be copied.

I look forward to hearing from you.



LOOKING WELL NEWS

By Janice Every

Stained Glass Workshop

Jackie Hunt will be running a stained glass weekend workshop on 19th and 20th April. If you are interested, please contact Jackie on 07785 512546 or redcarfarm@aol.com

Fizzical Girls' Club

By Annie Neligan

A new Fizzical club for girls is starting in the summer term with Jack Parkinson of Activate. All girls from 11 to 14 are welcome to come along for an hour of poi, dance, rounders and all sorts of active fun!

Starting on Wednesday 23rd April, from 6.00-7.00pm and then every Wednesday, at the Town Hall, the cost will be £2 per session.

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BENTHAM'S DENTAL PRACTICE

By Shirley Brown

I have always felt that since the dental practice closed in Bentham on 30th June 1998, some 10 years ago, we, and our teeth, have had a fairly raw deal. Many local people have just stopped going to the dentist, and others have found dental care in Lancaster, Kirkby Lonsdale, Settle and further afield. Frequent staff changes, the necessity to travel, the cost of treatment and the search for NHS rather than private practices have all been issues.

Then in January 2007 Mark and Joanna White moved to Bentham, drawn here by a love of the hills and the countryside, and the convenient location of Bentham between their respective home areas of Liverpool and Leeds. Prior to moving here they lived in Barton, near Preston, and Mark worked in Burnley while Joanna taught primary school children foreign languages.

Initially Mark applied to the Primary Care Trust to set up an NHS practice but was told there was no funding, so then set about the long, careful process of establishing his own practice.

The Start in 2007

Ashfield House Dental Practice opened in Bentham in August 2007, so seven months on how are they doing? I went to visit them during their lunch break on a busy Tuesday, and found them happy and excited about what they are managing to create. Mark works for the NHS in Burnley on Mondays and Wednesdays, in the hospital, the health centre and a diagnostic clinic, and has a particular interest in working with children and adults with special needs. His Bentham practice is open during the day on Tuesdays and Fridays, and on Thursday afternoon and evenings.

They now have 350+ patients registered with their practice and have room for more. They aim to offer a personal service with an emphasis on looking after their patients really well, from the refreshments on offer, to the calm and relaxing waiting room and the state of the art treatment room. Mark has his own laboratory so can repair dentures and



do other emergency work the same day.

So what does it cost?!

Most people are anxious about the cost of dentistry, even within the NHS. Mark offers 30 minute appointments and charges £15 for an examination (the NHS charge is £15.90) and £35 for a scale and polish. Children are welcome at the practice, and for them he offers 15 minute appointments and charges £26 for an examination, scale and polish. He will give you a written estimate of any other planned treatment and its cost. If you want to find out more, pick up a leaflet from their reception area.

Are You Going To Stay?

The 64 thousand dollar question for Bentham people is: "Are you going to stay?" So I asked them, and the answer is that Mark and Joanna intend staying in Bentham. They are making their home here. They live above the shop, are cultivating their back garden and growing their own vegetables. We welcome them and wish them success.

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LOCAL EVENTS IN APRIL

- Tue 1st** Looking Well, gentle strolls, (very gentle walks) 2.00-3.00pm, and every Tuesday.
Bentham Playgroup at the Wenningdale Room, Town Hall, 1.00-3.00pm and every Tuesday.
Yoga class, Town Hall, 11.00am-12.00noon, and every Tuesday.
Youth Cafe at the Wenningdale Room, Town Hall, 7-10pm, and every Tuesday.
- Wed 2nd** Bentham Playgroup at the Wenningdale Room, Town Hall, 1.00-3.00pm and every Wednesday.
Community Lunch at Looking Well, 12.30pm, and every Wednesday.
Art for All, Looking Well Studios, 2.00-4.00pm and every Wednesday.
Keep Moving Well, Community Centre, 2.00-3.00pm and every Wednesday.
Bentham First Responders monthly meeting at the Horse and Farrier, 7.30pm. All potential volunteers warmly welcome.
N.S.P.C.C. monthly meeting at Lingfield, Robin Lane, 7.30pm.
- Thu 3rd** Swimming at Hornby, phone Annie, 62672 to arrange transport. Leaving 9.00am, and every Thursday.
High Bentham W.I. at the Town Hall. 7.30pm. See page 28.
Cancer Support Group Drop-in & lunch at the Looking Well, 11.00am-1.30pm, and every Thursday.
Bat and Chat, 10.00am-12.00noon at Victoria Institute, and every Thursday.
Welcome-in dominoes for all ages, at the Methodist Church Hall, 2-00-4.00pm. For transport please call Nigel or Kath on 015242 62272.
- Fri 4th** Age Concern at the Masonic Hall, 10.00am-2.30pm. Yorkshire Dales video.
- Sat 5th** Farmers' Market at the Town Hall, 9.30am-1.30pm.
St. John's Hospice coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10.00am-12.00noon. 
SBC - Mask Ball at the Horse and Farrier, in aid of Helen Howard School of Theatre Dance, see page 14.
- Mon 7th** Craven Customer Services, Town Hall, 10.00am-12.30pm, and every Monday.
Town Council meeting at the Town Hall, 7.30pm.
Gentle walks for women, from Lairgill, 9.30am- 12.00noon, and every Monday.
Toddle-in for parents/carers and babies and toddlers, 10.00-11.30am. Methodist Church Hall and every Monday in term time.
Adventurers Group for 4-6 year olds. 4.30-5.30pm, Methodist Church Hall and every Monday in term time.
Springboard for 7-10 year olds, 6.15-7.30pm, Methodist Church Hall and every Monday in term time.
NSPCC "House to House" collection continuing until 21st April.
- Tue 8th** Bentham Child Health Clinic at the Surgery, 2.00-4.00pm.
Bentham Toy Library 9.30-11.00am at the Community Centre.
Bentham Footpath Group walk, Kendal Canal, River Kent, 9 miles, leaders E. & S. Badley, 62502. Meet at Lairgill 9.30a.m.
- Thu 10th** Friendly Hour at Low Bentham Methodist Church, 2.30pm. Rev. R. Fox.
- Fri 11th** Age Concern at the Masonic Hall, 10.00am-2.30pm. Colin Etherington - Extend Exercise. 7.00-8.00pm GFI for school years 6, 7 & 8 and 8.15-9.15pm for school years 9+, Methodist Church Hall.

Sat 12th Homing Society coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10.00am-12.00noon. 
 Bloomin' Bentham join with Goodenber Play Area committee to tidy up the play area, plus Easter Egg hunt for children. *Please note - not as normal on 13th. See page 7.*

Book Swap, 10.00am-12.00noon at Victoria Institute, Low Bentham.

Sun 13th Bentham Footpath Group walk, Penyghent, 5 miles, leader D. Stubbs 61430. Meet at Lairgill at 9.30am.

Mon 14th Bentham Traders Association Annual General Meeting at the Horse and Farrier, 7.30pm. All traders welcome.

Tue 15th Copy deadline for May edition of Bentham News.
 Thornton and Burton Mothers' Union meeting, 2.00pm in the Church Room, Burton-in-Lonsdale. Speaker Mary Hartlèy.

Wed 16th Victoria Institute Annual General Meeting at the Institute, 7.30pm.

Girls' Fizzical Club at the Town Hall, 6.00-7.00pm, and every Wednesday.

Thu 17th Low Bentham W. I. meeting at the Victoria Institute, 7.30pm. Mrs. Jen Buxton - "Tigers in India".

Welcome-in dominoes for all ages, Methodist Church Hall, 2.00-4.00pm. For transport call 62272, Nigel or Kath.

Fri 18th Waste paper collection at Lairgill Car Park, 8.30-11.00am. Proceeds to NSPCC.

Rafiki Jazz, 8.00pm at Victoria Theatre, Settle. (01729-825718).

Age Concern at the Masonic Hall, 10.00am - 2.30pm. Nigel Wilson - "North Carolina, USA".

Sat 19th Bentham Footpath Group walk, Chipping, 10 miles, leader S. Robinson 01772 722205. Please meet at Lairgill/Chipping 9.30/10.15am.

Sat 19th Springfield Bowling Club coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10.00am-12.00noon. 

and Sunday 20th - Stained Glass workshop at the Looking Well. See page 16.

Tue 22nd Bentham Child Health Clinic at the Surgery, 2.00-4.00pm.

and Thursday 24th - help National Park staff to monitor flora at Cleatop Park Local Nature Reserve. Ring 01729 823808 for info.

Wed 23rd Girls Club, run by Looking Well, 6-7pm in the Lower Town Hall, and every Wednesday.

Thu 24th Bentham Footpath Group walk, Winterburn, 7 miles, leaders J. & S. Pilkington 61757. Please meet at Lairgill at 9.30am.

Fri 25th Age Concern at the Masonic Hall, 10.00am-2.30pm. Talk by Mabel Parr.

Sat 26th Liberal/Democrat coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10.00am-12.00noon. 

Bentham and District Pet Rescue coffee morning in Long Preston Village Hall, 10.00-11.30am.

Wed 30th Reel Yorkshire, Yorkshire Film Archive in association with TRAMPS, 7.30pm at the Victoria Theatre, Settle.

May

Fri 2nd Bentham News published.

LISTING FOR LOCAL EVENTS

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

Event.....

Venue.....

Contact Tel:.....

Name.....

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

MANAGERIAL SKILLS NEEDED FOR NEW VENTURE

By Alison Jones

Can you help us unearth the managerial skills of the Bentham residents and others within commuting distance.

Pioneer Projects, the charity that runs Looking Well, is in the process of setting up a number of social enterprises and need people with managerial skills to help in this endeavour.

For those who have not come across this buzzword, a social enterprise is 'a business with primarily social objectives whose surpluses are principally re-invested for that purpose in the business or in the community, rather than being driven by the need to maximise profit for shareholders and owners'.

We are sure that there are retired, early retired or semi-retired individuals who have the need or desire to give something back to their community and would like to put their brain cells to good use. They may complete the daily crossword, sudoku and the latest mind gym but feel that they could gain more satisfaction from using their skills in an innovative way.

Whether you were a Chairman of a Public Limited Company, a manager or professional or have run your own business we would like to hear from you. If you are currently in work but your employer is willing to release you for some time each month or are available to offer time outside work hours, we would also be pleased to hear from you.

We are flexible and would like to use your skills for a few hours up to a few days each month. Basically we would like to offer you a challenge that you would enjoy.

If this idea has hit a nerve and you are interested in pursuing it, with no commitment, please ring, email or write to Andrew Marshall on 01729 840829, andmarshall@onetel.com or Ballyragget Barn, Tosside, Skipton, North Yorkshire BD23 4SX. Andrew is helping Pioneer Projects with this venture.

BENTHAM FINANCIAL ADVISER FIRST CHOICE AGAIN

By Ken Durkin

Mortgage and Life/Independent Financial Choices have received a prestigious accolade in the Financial Times journal, the Financial Adviser. A mystery shopper contacted firms in the Lancaster area. Bentham's Main Street advisers were selected as the "Shopper's Choice". The aim of the exercise is to "find out whether advisers are delivering the goods when it comes to the all-important initial telephone contact between client and adviser". The "shopper" was a 41 year old married man with one child looking for a mortgage. Personal Assistant Rebecca Newsham took the call and passed it to an adviser, Ken Durkin. The shopper concluded: "The adviser was very knowledgeable. He put the financially-illiterate at ease without taking advantage of their ignorance." This is the second occasion the mystery shopper has selected the Bentham firm as "Shopper's Choice".

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LOWER TOWN HALL

BENTHAM YOUTH THEATRE GROUP NEWS

By Liam Ellershaw, Press Officer

Bentham Youth Theatre group will be kicking off the spring season with a series of acting and development workshops. The first of these, on the 16th April at the community centre, will be comedy. The following week will be vocal developments, then a devising workshop and on the 5th May a physical theatre workshop. Running over the top of these will be technical workshops developing lighting and sound ideas. The cost is £3.50 per workshop. The 6 - 12 age group will be from 6:00-7:30 pm with the 12+ group from 7:00-8:45pm.

The website - www.bytg.org.uk is slowly getting up to date and this will be where all the latest information can be found. You might be able to download the Merry Christmas Mr Scrooge DVD but if you can't you can buy a copy from Slipped Disc, Main St., Bentham. At a fiver it's a splendid hour's entertainment and you'll be helping us to raise vitally needed funds.

We are looking for sponsors for the website, a page or the whole site, anything considered. I know every group is looking for funding but if you feel you'd like to make a charitable donation or if you are a local business and you would like to help please contact Iain Henshaw on 015242 61010. See you on Wednesday.

PANTO NEWS

By Margaret Cowling

Thank you for all of your support of our recent Panto - Puss in Boots. The photographs in last month's Bentham News showed how much fun it was.

During the post panto euphoria, several people have said that they regretted not being involved in the production. Others had missed the signing-on last November. Well, we are already planning the 2009 pantomime and would like to give you the date to sign on - Sunday 2nd November - so put it in your diaries. Look out for full details in the September Bentham News.

MIRACLES DO HAPPEN!

By Shirley Brown

In response to disquiet about the lay-by in Dumb Toms' Lane that was rapidly becoming a rubbish dump, 6 of us went up there on 5th March to clear it, only to find that amazingly, most of the rubbish, including a mattress and some cushions, had disappeared. We don't know who took the rubbish away, but are extremely grateful that someone did. We then filled 12 sacks with rubbish taken from the hedgerows along the lane, which Craven District Council later collected. On 13th March, a different group of 6 people braved the rain and cleared another 12 bags of litter from Station Road, the railway entrance and waiting room, and the Wenning Avenue play area.

Good News

Many people are concerned about looking after our town and frequently collect litter near their homes, or on favourite routes or as they walk their dogs. Many people do notice occasionally fly-tipping and report it to Craven District Council on (01756) 700600, who speedily arrange to collect and dispose of it properly.

Bad News

Some people still chuck litter from their cars or drop it in the street or countryside and break bottles on children's play areas.

Next month our gathering, unusually, will not be on the 13th April, but on Saturday 12th April when we will join the Goodenber Play Area committee. See page 7. We are hoping lots of children will join us at 10am and those who do will also be treated to an Easter Egg hunt.

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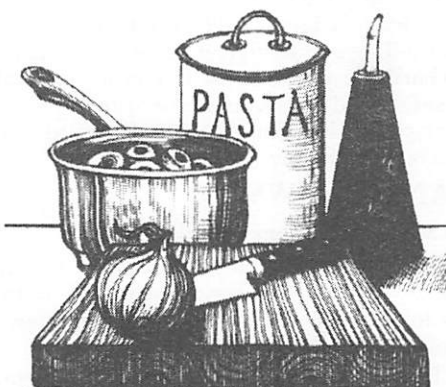
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YESTERDAY IN BENTHAM

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

April 1988

Life was getting quite hectic for *Bentham News* committee members. This month's front page reported the imminent departure of their first Co-ordinator, *Val Houston*, and announced plans for a public meeting to elicit the views of Benthamers on the future style and content of BN.

It also reported that the first BN Coffee Morning had been a great success and over £300 had been raised towards meeting the £1600 annual shortfall in production funding. The raffle was drawn by no less a personage than our Member of Parliament, the Rt Hon David Curry. Like Bentham News, he has weathered many storms over the past 20 years, but unlike BN he has managed to retain his government funding!

In this month's issue the WI published resolutions that were proposed for discussion at their AGM. The subjects included the ozone layer, rape, random breath testing, water pollution, and preventive measures against assault.

None of your Jam and Jerusalem in Bentham! To the person who said that we should let the WI run the country, I would suggest that perhaps they've been doing so for years!

Question: What did Mr J Hainsworth bring to Bentham?

Answer: Its cinema, just after the First World War.

A very interesting article this month by *Stanley Wilkinson*, whose father bought the cinema from Mr Hainsworth in 1926, told how, having acquired a suitable bit of land at the bottom of Robin Lane, Mr Hainsworth then imported a Salvation Army hut from Cumbria. (*Hope he told the Salvation Army!*)

For a good many years the cinema showed only silent films, with admission prices at 5d, 9d and 1/6d, and was a great success. The timber-lined corrugated iron structure measured 70ft x 30ft and had forms

for seating that would hold a total of 300 people (350 if they shoved up a bit!). In the early days the arc lights and projector used to show the films were driven from the town's gas supply, the gas being used to fuel a large electric generator. *Kathy Ward* provided appropriate music on the piano.

The arrival of talking pictures around 1933 led to a need to enlarge the cinema, so the Salvation Army hut had to go. It was replaced by the building that still stands at the top of the market square, the former *Burndale* residential home. The advent of television caused the decline and subsequent closure of the cinema in 1960. The building was used for some years as a garment factory before being refurbished to become a care home. *Burndale's* closure in 2007 has left many of us wondering what the building will become next.

Besides passing on a bit of, I hope, interesting information for young 'uns and newcomers, I'm sure I will have evoked many happy memories for old Benthamers. Twenty years ago Mr Wilkinson's article had *Doreen Park* reminiscing about her visits to the cinema; being told to keep quiet by the man with the flashlight; stamping feet when there was a technical hitch, and courting on the back row.

Not that I believe the saintly Mrs Park would ever have allowed herself to be drawn into that sort of behaviour!

Another question: What offers participants the choice of either the *natural* method or the *widowhood* method? Answer: Pigeon racing.

The article didn't say what these were, and I daren't ask!!

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Bulletin from North Yorkshire County Council

Concessionary fares for people aged 60 and over have been a huge benefit over the past 8 years. The 7 district councils in North Yorkshire have worked together to make sure people with a concessionary pass can travel throughout the County and into neighbouring areas. From April, the concessionary fare scheme will be even better – if you have a pass you will be able to travel free anywhere in the country. Cardholders should have received their new cards during March. For more information on concessionary travel call Craven District Council on 01756 706303.

A new service is being introduced in the spring to make sure more people have access to timetable information. Travellers can register to have timetable information delivered to their home by sending their name and address to: Timetables by Post, North Yorkshire County Council, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AH.

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BENTHAM PEOPLE

Personal Thanks

Hodgson - Kathleen, Ian and Charlotte would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their kindness, sympathy and cards. Also for the donations in Dennis' memory to North West Air Ambulance and The Church of the Good Shepherd, Tatham Fells. Special thanks to all the Nursing Staff on Ward 5, Royal Lancaster Infirmary and Jimmy Macdonald, Funeral Director.

Thanks

Sheila & Reg Ward. We are retiring on Easter Saturday and we would like to say a very big thank you to all our customers for the support given to us over the many years of trading in the sweet shop. Also, thank you to all the girls who have helped us over the years. We would also like to wish Brenda good luck in her new venture.

Pamela & Carl would like to thank everyone for their good wishes on the birth of baby Ewan.

Services

Local cleaning/gardening services - contact Denise on 61515.

For Sale

Toshiba LCD-TV 15", little used - can be used as PC monitor. £75. Tel: 62912.
Canon MP150 Scanner and Colour Printer combined. Good working order. £25. Tel: 62251.

To Rent

Large three bedroomed flat to let on Main Street, High Bentham. £500 per month. No pets. Tel: 015242 61367/62809.



Free - Fireside electrically operated chair - green velour - ideal for anyone who has difficulty in getting up out of a chair. Recipient to collect. Tel: 015242 62971.

CHARITIES THANK YOU

● **Kay Askew** would like to thank all those businesses in Bentham and Ingleton which have generously sponsored her for the Air Ambulance Cycle Ride, taking place on April 18/19th. Anyone wishing to sponsor her on the 174 mile coast to coast ride, please ring 015242 63427. Many thanks.

● **Bentham Line Dancers** have donated £10 to the Ingleton Scouts for the new Scout Hut, and wish them success with this project.

● **Everyone at Bentham Fire Station** thanks all visitors to the Station for the car wash on 8th March. After a "damp squib" start, our callers helped us raise £271.37 for the Fire Services national Benevolent Fund. A big thank you to all, and the anonymous donor whose handwriting we think we recognise.

We hope to see you again in September.

LONGSTAFFE'S EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

The above charity is now inviting applications from persons up to 25 years of age, who attend, or have attended, a maintained Primary School in the Parishes of High or Low Bentham. The monies must be applied towards education, including social and physical training and religious instruction in accordance with Christian principles.

Application forms can be obtained from

D. Johnson, Holly Gill, Burton Road,

Low Bentham LA2 7EW or ring 015242 61905.

Applications must be received by 30th May 2008.



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A "RAIL" ALTERNATIVE

By Tim Austin

"Not particularly customer friendly". A description of Bentham's rail timetable and an understatement - but it comes from an encouraging source. According to a recent article in the Craven Herald, transport consultants TAS Partnership have recently presented a study to Northern Rail detailing its potential.

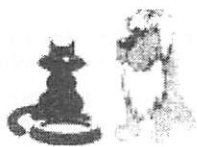
The study concludes that there is "significant potential to increase passenger numbers and revenue" by adding more trains to the timetable. This news got us at B.E.S.T thinking: with Bentham about to expand in housing, and with increased tourism from the Forest of Bowland, is public transport our Achilles heel preventing Bentham becoming an environmentally sustainable town? Why is there talk about a car park on Station Road when we have a train connecting us with Leeds, Lancaster and beyond? With the Main Street often congested on market day, during the school run, or when the latest lorry starts a fight with the bank, why aren't we looking at alternatives to our cars? What is stopping us? B.E.S.T would like to invite you to an open meeting at the Community Centre on Monday 14th May at 7pm to discuss your public transport concerns. What improvements or changes would encourage you to use public transport more often? Is it the service or the facilities that discourage you? Your feedback will help us to move forward with this issue, so please come along and tell us what you think.

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BENTHAM & DISTRICT PET RESCUE



By Val Marshall

Many thanks to you for your support at our Bentham Coffee Morning which raised the generous sum of £280. By the time this article reaches you we will have had our second coffee morning in Hellifield and this will be followed by a similar event in Long Preston on 26th April. Spring must be in the air with all this activity! Please watch for our further fund raising events during the summer months. How the years go by when we realise that our 11th A.G.M. will take place on 24th April at the Station House Art and Craft Tearoom near Kirkby Lonsdale.

We are still needing volunteers to help at our cat sanctuary in Burton-in-Lonsdale for an hour in a morning cleaning out and generally petting the cats. If you can help please ring Pat on 015242 63048 after 5 p.m.

Whilst asking for your help, although we now have a new team able to sort books in the future, we are desperate for dry storage for the books between our regular sales. We could offer a modest rent for this and also for any garage space available for the storage of equipment, such as pens, baskets and traps, etc. If you can come to our assistance on either of these requirements, please telephone Sue Arnott (64924) or Val Marshall (62512).

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WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

High Bentham

By Anne Yaman

The March meeting was held on Thursday 6th March in the Lower Town Hall when President, Miss Wendy Dowbiggin welcomed 23 members and 1 guest. The business of the evening was conducted with a reminder for the Group Meeting to be held on April 17th in the Town Hall when we will be hosting an event for our local group of the Lancashire Federation and expect to welcome up to 100 guests on the evening. On Thursday 20th March we will be having a meal at the Punchbowl in Low Bentham.

Our speaker on the night was Andrew Wilkes, who had been a retained firefighter in Hornby for many years. He had recently retired from the role but had many interesting anecdotes to keep us amused. He was thanked by Frances Harrison Jones.

The competition this month was for a bowl of bulbs which produced the usual great entries and Joni Weekley was the

winner. The raffle was won by Joan Sharman (on a ticket drawn out by her brother, our speaker Andrew Wilkes)!

Our next meeting will be on Thursday April 3rd with a talk on "How to choose a good wine". All visitors will be most welcome at 7.30 p.m. in the Lower Town Hall.

Low Bentham

By Jennifer Watkinson

Mrs. June Harrison introduced Mrs. Ann Ambrose and Ms. Sharon Haslam, who were allotted 15 minutes to give an up to date report on the renovation of the Victoria Institute. Plans for the garden were passed around for members to peruse.

Afterwards, she introduced the speaker, Mr. Clive Richardson, who gave an interesting talk entitled "The Countryside". A country lover from an early age, with a special interest in horses, he is now the Huntsman for the Vale of Lune. He was introduced to hunting when he worked as a farm manager in Leicestershire. He spoke about the difficult times he had had since moving here, which have put his job and house in jeopardy. They have to hunt within the law. He explained and demonstrated on his nickel horn the various calls he makes to keep his hounds under control. He also spoke about the urban fox and the problems they create, as they no longer fear man. A few years ago he had a terrible accident which resulted in North West Ambulance Service rescuing him and flying him to Lancaster Infirmary. Since then he gives talks in support of them.

Seventeen members had a really lovely evening when they were guests of Clapham W.I. "Miss February", (Mrs. Angela Baker) gave a talk about the Calendar Girls and how they planned the calendar after her husband became ill, the making of the film and the visits to her home by the main stars. She concluded by saying they had made almost £2 million for Leukemia Research, and played an extract from "A Quiet Night Out" by Richard Stilgoe and Peter Skellern, who had written the song for them. Tea, coffee and a beautiful selection of home made cakes were served. All this for £3!

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LUNESDALE STUDIO TRAIL 2008

By Hilary Carr

Fifteen artists will be opening their studios in the Lunesdale area, giving you the opportunity to view a wide range of paintings, drawings, ceramics, crafts, sculpture and digital video.

The studios will be open on the following dates:- Saturday 24th May, Sunday 25th May, Monday Bank Hol 26th May, Saturday 31st May, Sunday 1st June, Saturday 7th June and Sunday 8th June.

Other times of opening are shown on the brochure available from Bentham outlets, Tourist Information Bentham and Lancaster, or Tony and June Robert's studio 5a Robin Lane 015242 61718. The brochure shows the location of all the participating artists.

Studios will be open from 11am-5pm on the dates above and entrance is free.

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BENTHAM FOOTPATH GROUP

By Maureen Ellis

Spring is bursting and the April programme of the Bentham Footpath Group is more enticing than ever. There are walks of 5, 7, 9 and 10 miles – something for everybody.

On Tuesday 8th there is the 'Kendal Canal, River Kent' 9 mile walk, meeting at Lairgill at 9.30am. The route is along the line of the old canal to Kendal, with an hour's lunch stop in Kendal. The return is back along the River Kent. On Sunday 13th after meeting at Lairgill at 9.30am, we have a 5 mile walk including the ascent of Penyghent, with good views from the top. Saturday 19th sees the longest walk of the programme, 10 miles, with 2 meeting places, 9.30am at Lairgill and 10.15am at Chipping. First of all there is a steep pull to the top of Parlick and then onward to Wolf Fell and Fielden Head hill. Then turning left it's down into the valley and our way back over the field paths and farms to Chipping.

The last walk of the month is on Thursday 24th leaving from Lairgill at 9.30am. It will be a 7 mile walk, and although the exact route has not yet been finalised it will take in 'Winterburn', a reservoir near Gargrave. The approach may be from there or from Airton.

This is the time when the very rewarding Bowland Forest Festival programme is nearing completion. As happened last year, we have been asked to contribute a walk to the programme. It will be good to go further afield and explore unknown territory with them. It is very popular so apply soon.

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ENTERTAINMENT FOR MARCH

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Sat 19th April The 'Chevrons' Duo

Sat 26th April Red Aura Duo

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POST OFFICE NEWS

By David Alder

Tariff Increase

On Monday 7 April, postal tariffs will increase. Full details are included in leaflets available at post offices or by visiting www.royalmail.com but for convenience the main points are as follows:

- ★ A First Class ordinary letter up to 100g in weight will cost 36p;
- ★ A Second Class ordinary letter up to 100g in weight will cost 27p;
- ★ A First Class large letter up to 100g will cost 50p;
- ★ A Second Class large letter up to 100g will cost 42p;

There will be commensurate increases for packets and standard parcels. As in previous recent price rises existing 'non-value indicator' stamps in circulation i.e. saying 'First' or 'Second' will assume the new tariff values and should carry on being used.

For overseas items there will also be increases:

- ★ European letters up to 20g will cost 50p;
- ★ Letters to all other overseas destinations up to 10g will cost 56p and up to 20g will cost 81p;
- ★ Heavier international items including small packets [up to 2kg] will also be affected by increased prices – there will however henceforth be only two zones: 'Europe' & 'Rest of the World';

Parcelforce Express and International items are also affected by this tariff increase.

Miscellaneous

Customers often ask about the status of Sunday collections. These were withdrawn in Autumn 2007. Therefore the last collection at weekends is the one late morning/lunchtime each Saturday. In the case of Bentham PO this is scheduled for 12 noon.

During the week there is a variably-timed collection in the early afternoon and one final collection at the end of the day. For Bentham PO this is scheduled for 17.00 [5pm], including Thursdays! There is generally no longer a collection on Bank & Public Holidays.

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By J. K. Durrant (*Bentham Line Dancers*)

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Waltz, two step or samba,
It's what we do for our leisure.

There's Audrey and Jenny,
Val, Linda and Peggy,
Elsie, Mary and June.
When they dance "smokey places"
There are smiles on their faces
And some sing along with the tune!

There's Margaret and Jean,
Then Margaret again,
Veronica, Sharon and Pat.
Then come Hazel and Joan
And yet one more June.
Now just how many is that?

There aren't many men
Just one (he's called Ken)
But we don't let that get us down.
Dancing D.N.T.O.
Or Pizzi Rico
On our faces you won't see a frown.

So if you feel blue
I'll say this to you:-
Don't sit there moaning and whining.
Break out the beans
Hitch up your jeans
And carry on lining and vining.



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LIBRARY REFURBISHMENT

By John Frankland and Liz Farmer

The communities around Bentham will shortly be able to visit a refurbished Library and Information Centre.

Bentham Library and Information closed on Wednesday 26 March and will open again on Friday 4th April 2008. This project is part of North Yorkshire County Council's continuing drive to modernise libraries and to encourage the public to make the most of the wide range of services now available.

Bentham residents will be able to enjoy a modern friendly environment with state of the art flat screen computers providing free internet access. Specially trained staff will be available to help first time users to learn the basics of ICT. The book and DVD collection will provide the people of Bentham with an attractive selection of popular titles.

To celebrate the opening Bentham Library and Information Centre will be holding a number of events in the coming weeks and months, including an Open Day on Friday

25th April 2.00 – 4.00 pm – all welcome!

Joining the Library

Joining the Library is easy and does not cost anything; simply arrive at the Library with a document that proves your identity and address, 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 10 books for free. You will be charged a small fee when you take out story tapes, DVDs and for requesting books from other libraries.

For more information regarding the library, any questions you may have please telephone us on 0845 034 9532 or e-mail us at bentham.library@northyorks.gov.uk

We look forward to seeing you all at your newly refurbished library!

Library opening hours

Monday: 2.00 – 4.00pm & 5.00 – 6.30pm
Wednesday: 10:00am – 12:30pm & 2.00 – 4.00pm

Friday: 2.00 – 4.00pm & 5.00 – 6.30pm
Saturday: 10:00am – 12:30pm

BANK ROBBERY?

It has been noticed over the past year that holes are appearing in grassy banks around Bentham. Some people have felt that this is a kind of bank robbery, while others see green spaces as grey areas.

When contacted, the Land Registry said that grassy banks that are not registered have no clear ownership. We therefore invite readers to choose a grassy bank close to where they live and drive a hole through it. Plans, in triplicate, should be submitted to Bentham News before 1st April.

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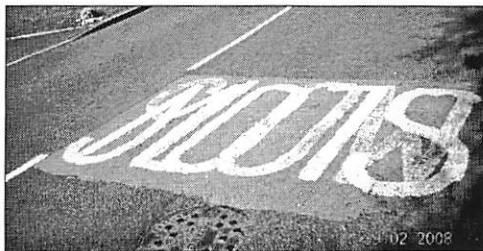
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THE WENNING OAK VANDALISED!

By Christine and Jim Hodson

The Wenning Oak stands majestic and splendid by the river bank on the footpath walk between High and Low Bentham. It is photographed as a symbol of Bentham in tourist literature and on Bentham websites. It has stood here for nearly 200 years, resisting wind and weather, defying all who predicted that it would have fallen over years ago.

On a recent walk to visit the oak, imagine our shock and distress to see that the tree had been vandalised with paint and awful graffiti. River stones in the vicinity had also been vandalised and the area resembled a rubbish tip. It has been lovely to walk along the river listening to the birds and the sound of the flowing water and the wind blowing in the trees, but someone has tried to ruin this beautiful spot. Who did it? If you know anything about this vandalism, please tell the police, or give information anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. Perhaps we'll never know who the vandals are, but those of us who love the area are going to try to repair the damage.



SLOW? WOLS?

By our Transport Correspondent

This intriguing road sign has been sighted on Doctors' Hill in Low Bentham. When approached for an explanation, a spokesperson from North Yorkshire County Council Highways Department explained that this is a 'double reverse' sign. It has been introduced to help both people moving to Bentham from the European Community and school children, who may have strayed onto the wrong side of the road. The sign in Low Bentham is a pilot project, but, if successful, NYCC is considering introducing them elsewhere across the county.

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At the Bentham Town Council meeting on 3rd March 2008, Councillors Wendy Heigh, Bernie Wills (Mayor) and Tony Burton, representing the Bentham Calendar sub-committee, presented a cheque for £2,310 to Mike Wynne, who accepted it on behalf of the Goodenber Play Area. This magnificent sum was raised through sales of the 2008 Bentham and Beyond Calendar, and was made possible by the generosity of local traders who sponsored the calendar.

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