

BENTHAM NEWS



Shakey Bridge restored: David Johnson's photos are explained on page 28



MAY 2003

ISSUE 199

WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

High Bentham

By Sue Camacho

At the April meeting Monika Nagy, from our local police force, and complete with truncheon, talked to us about her uniform and all the bits and pieces she had attached to her belt. They must have weighed a ton. The police cover such a huge area it must be very difficult for them.

The competition for an old key was won by Hilda King with her 102 years old front door key. Elza Sayer won the raffle.

Low Bentham

By Jennifer Watkinson

At the monthly meeting the president, Mrs. Christine Jennings, introduced the speaker, Mr. Richard Baker, a Fire Officer. He gave an informative talk about safety in the home. Going through the house, room by room, he spoke about the fire hazards. He distributed leaflets which explained how to make a fire action plan for our homes.

Four members attended the open meeting at Horton-in-Ribblesdale W.I. where Andrew and Hilary Shaw gave an illustrated talk about their company, Gardenmakers, and the gardens Andrew had designed.

Two members attended the North Yorkshire West Federation's annual meeting. It was chaired for the last time by Mrs. Val Harrison. A representative from Taylor's Tea spoke about their sponsorship and one from the charity A.C.C.W. spoke about the walk she was proposing to do from Lancaster to Tadcaster in aid of Empowerment of Women in Lapdale, Latvia. There were two guest speakers. The morning one, Mrs. Hilary Shaw, gave a thought provoking talk about the oppression of women in the world. The afternoon one, Mr. Graham Walton, gave a hilarious talk about life with his daughters, the Walton Sextuplets, who are now nineteen years old.

The next meeting will be on 15th May when S.N. Rachel Clay will talk on Women's Wellbeing.

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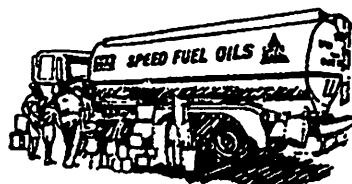
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APRIL'S TOWN COUNCIL

By David Johnson

There was a full complement of Cllrs present except for Cllrs. Stannard and Barnes. The meeting opened with the presentation of a Bible to the Mayor by the Gideon Society.

The police were not present but a lady who had been burgled asked Cllr. Hey to make it known that she had been impressed by the police response and assistance at what had been a very disturbing time.

Highways. The question of the Bentham directional sign near the Bridge Inn, Ingleton was raised again. The Council has been advised to wait until July when the road authority changes because the A65 is to be de-trunked. Correspondence was read advocating restrictions be placed on all the minor roads linking Bentham to the A65 forcing HGVs to use the Wenning Valley or to travel further along the A65 as far as the Little Chef at Newby. Here, it was suggested, the two minor roads crossing Clapham Common be organised into a one-way system. The Council agreed to pass a letter on to the Highways Authority. The Council was rather annoyed to learn that the red speed bars on Belle Hill had been removed by the Authority without consulting the Council. They thought they could be re-introduced further up the hill, away from houses and that they should press again for a speed restriction. One of the Cllrs. has received complaints about camper vans etc being permanently parked on Grasmere Drive Car Park

The Playing Field Committee has been granted permission to develop the marshy area providing that the drainage problem is solved prior to work commencing. Cllr Pengelly complained about the condition of the equipment on the play area and the presence of broken bottles etc. Apparently the committee is loath to pay for repairs as these facilities will soon be scrapped and replaced with better equipment.

The Town Hall. A building survey is to be organised by the District Council, along

with all other public buildings in the ward, to establish any structural improvements necessary to facilitate disabled access. Age Concern wrote complaining about the style of the new chairs that the Council had purchased. They explained that the helpers had tripped over the legs and they would like a more upright chair. The Council decided it could not afford to buy any more and decided to invite the organisation to purchase a number of its own chairs and store them in the Committee Room. The Council's new chairs will be used in the Lower Town Hall.

THYNC Housing is to review its recruitment strategy and consider soundproofing its house at Wesley Place. The Cllrs. thought this was an inadequate response to their concerns expressed in March. One of the neighbours has had to soundproof and redecorate his property. The Cllrs. thought the activities at the house were totally unacceptable and that the neighbours should not have to tolerate anti-social behaviour. The Cllrs. heard about visits by young teenagers and fears were expressed for their welfare as no responsible adult is resident. Most Cllrs. wished to see the facility closed and returned to private ownership. The Council does not have the power to do this but it decided to contact the police, environmental health and also to investigate the way the property is funded so that those who are ultimately responsible can be made aware of the problem.

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OPEN GARDENS WEEKEND

By Susan Adams (NSPCC Chairman)

A Fund Raising Event for NSPCC & Christian Aid

The Open Gardens Weekend will take place on 5th and 6th July and as in past years will be organised to raise money for these two charities. We are always anxious to include some new gardens along with some of the old favourites so if you are willing to share your garden with us, no matter how large or small it may be, then please get in touch. We will welcome you with open arms. This year one or two gardens which have been opened previously will not be available as some gardeners have moved away and others are finding the years taking their toll.

For people new to the area or to the garden scheme, the weekend follows a set pattern. Gardeners offer to let people look around their gardens, which are part of a pre-arranged trail. A map is drawn up along with a list of gardens to visit. This is bought beforehand in the village or at any of the participating gardens on the day. The programme admits one person to all the gardens. Some people choose to select gardens they have not visited before, or to re-visit old favourites. Whatever your preference, an enjoyable weekend is promised.

We are now preparing our list of gardens. If you feel you could allow us to include your garden in the scheme, either on both days or on just one day of the weekend, then please contact either Caroline Woof, 62254, or Susan Adams, 61182, before the end of May. We need to compile the finished list by the middle of June to meet the Bentham News' publication date. We thank you in advance. People who have taken part before should have received a letter asking for their support again this year. We thank them too - the scheme would not work without them.

CRAVEN DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS

By John Pilkington

Council Houses Transferred

On 31st March all Craven District Council houses, bungalows and flats were transferred to the new Registered Social Landlord, Craven Housing. Craven Housing was established in November last year and is part of the Yorkshire Housing Group. All the existing housing officers and wardens have also transferred to Craven Housing. John Sykes, the former Head of Health and Housing has been appointed the Director of Craven Housing and David Allison is the Housing Manager. For the present the officers will continue to work from 9 High Street, Skipton, but will have to move into alternative premises within 5 years. A Board has been set up to oversee the running of Craven Housing. It consists of four councillors appointed by the District Council, 6 tenants and five independent members.

Management Changes

Because of the transfer of many officers, including the Head of Health and Housing to Craven Housing, a restructuring process is underway. It is likely that the Environmental Health Section will be transferred to Operations under Greg Robinson. However, as the Chief Executive, Rachel Mann, is leaving the Council later in May it has been decided to leave details of the restructuring until after the appointment of her successor later in the year. In the meantime Vince Green, Head of Finance will become the acting Chief Executive.

Mobile Information Unit

The District Council has decided to withdraw the mobile information office at the end of May this year. All Parish and Town Councils in areas covered by the mobile unit were consulted and only one Council raised objections. Arrangements are being made so that Council Tax can be paid at local Post Offices and details of this will be sent out to all those who used the mobile unit. The Council plans to have information leaflets available in public

libraries and other places where there is public access such as Bentham Development Trust.

The withdrawal of the mobile service will not take place until these alternative arrangements have been set up, so the service may continue for a week or so after the 31st May. At present bus passes and parking discs can be obtained from the mobile unit. If other local arrangements can not be set up anyone wanting a bus pass or parking disc will have to apply to the Council Offices in Settle or Skipton.

Recent Planning Applications

► 08/2003/2991 United Utilities PLC, Service Delivery, Dawson House, Liverpool Road, Great Sankey, Warrington, WA5 3LW.

Erection of 2 No. G.R.P. instrument kiosks at High Bentham wastewater Treatment Works, Wenning Avenue, High Bentham, Lancaster. (This application will be determined by North Yorkshire County Council)

► 08/2003/3006 Branstone Beck Development Co., Crescent House, 6 Moons Acre, Bentham, Lancaster, LA2 7BL.

Amendment to design of approved scheme 08/2002/2109 to erect 2 No. detached single storey dwellings on garden cartilage of Pye Park, 8 Springfield, High Bentham, Lancaster.

► 08/2003/3023 Edwardson Associates, Sedge House, North Frodingham, Driffield, East Yorkshire, YO25 8LA.

Change of use and minor alterations to redundant agricultural buildings to form a beauty therapy treatment centre and tourism leisure and business user letting accommodation at Ghyll Head, Robin Lane, High Bentham, Lancaster.

► 08/2003/3043 Robert V Hopper RIBA, 15 Shaftsbury Close, Lytham, FY8 4RZ.

Erection of 1 No. Pair of semi detached dwellings on land at the rear of 1 & 2 East View, Low Bentham, Lancaster.

► 08/2003/3002 R J Wilkinson, Brook House, 15 Main Street, Low Bentham, Lancaster, LA2 7BX.

Dismantle existing redundant shop front and vehicular hardstanding. Replace with stone wall not in excess of 1.0 metre high to Main Street elevation. Reinstate vehicular hardstanding within site curtilage.

EMMAUS - THE WAY OF FAITH

By Revd. Nigel B. Thomas

Emmaus is a guide to the Christian faith which involves group discussion on related topics in an informal and friendly setting. The discussions take place in the evenings and will be led by the parish churches of St. John and St. Margaret. We meet at 7.00pm at the Looking Well, Main Street, every Thursday throughout May and June. Anyone can join at any time. Hope to see you there.

HELP US MAKE OUR SCHOOL MORE SECURE

By Jonathan Brown

I am aware, like many other people in Benthams, of the current increase in petty crime and vandalism in the town. Unfortunately this is reflected in similar acts of anti-social behaviour on the school premises out of school hours.

This has not only been an issue for local residents but also for school staff. We have to ensure that broken glass, cigarette stubs and such like are cleared up before school can start. We have also had foul and abusive language from a certain sub group of individuals towards members of the public who have tried to intervene.

In response the school would like to initiate a School Watch scheme with local residents either as a stand alone group or as part of a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. We are hoping to work with local police on guidance for individual members of the public on when and how to intervene appropriately. If you are interested in joining such a scheme or would like to receive some basic guidance, then contact the school on 015242 61412.

It is a shame that at a time when local groups are organising themselves to make use of our new facilities in the school, a few can potentially spoil it for the rest.

NOW YOU SEE THEM, NOW YOU DON'T!

By Shirley Brown

Have you seen the smart red rumble strips on the road coming down into Benthams at Springfield? Well, if you haven't, then you're going to miss out, because they're not there any more!

I've never known the County Council move so fast. It took us years to get some traffic calming measures in Benthams, but it seems it only takes a few hours to get rid of them. Benthams's Town Councillors don't know why they were taken away, and were not consulted before this action was taken, which seems strange.

Rumours Abound

In the absence of any official statement explaining what is going on, rumours abound. It has been said that one official complaint has been made about the strips. I can't believe that the Council acts this dramatically after one official complaint. Surely there must have been more than one complaint about some of the other traffic calming measures, and they are all still in place: or they were the last time I looked!

I have also heard it said that, "The rumble strips weren't actually slowing any cars", so they had to go. This is scarcely credible. I'd be interested to know how such a conclusion was arrived at, and, even if it were true, how can removing them possibly help slow the traffic? If anything, such action is likely to give the green light to speeding motorists.

Another suggestion that I've heard is that there is a plan to move the rumble strips further up the hill, and also that some consideration is being given to a 40 mph limit coming off the moor which would lead into the 30 mph limit nearer Benthams. All interesting, and potentially helpful ideas, but are they true?

What is going on? I think we should be told!

SURGERY NEWS

By Rachel Clay

Two local people have contacted the surgery to alert us to the fact that they have been getting a number of calls intended for the doctors. This is particularly upsetting at night and can be distressing when the call is urgent. Patients have also left messages on people's answer machines expecting doctors to ring back.

If you need a GP urgently in the night, ensure you have adequate lighting and take great care to dial the number correctly. If your eyesight is poor or you have difficulty with your hands it may be better to get the surgery number programmed into your phone's memory. It is much easier to press just one button if you are feeling ill or anxious.

The out of hours answer machine at the surgery gives information on what to do next. It does not have a recording facility so if you get an answer machine asking you to leave a message then you have dialled the wrong number, so please do not leave a message expecting a doctor to call.

Lack of respect for Surgery grounds

The surgery tries to keep the grounds tidy and welcoming. Recently the small beds close to the building have been planted with shrubs. The daffodils were looking very cheerful growing through the grass. Unfortunately the shrubs have been crushed by bikes and skateboards and the daffodils completely trampled. One adult actually parked on the grass.

Staff have had some difficulty avoiding small children on bikes when backing out of the car park and one GP had to rush out recently to encourage children who were behaving very dangerously, to get out of the trees. Please bear this in mind when you allow your children to play unsupervised on the private surgery grounds.

The number of patients who failed to turn up for the appointments they had made with nurses and doctors last month was 80.

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MORE FROM SIERRA LEONE

By Staff Sgt Gavin West

Breaking Boulders Without Tools

The rainy season is in full flow with amazing lightning shows, rivers full of rain, flooded roads and torrents running down to our HQ at Juba barracks. The road outside our house has been worked on for the last six weeks with storm drains being built on either side of the road. The main problem is huge granite boulders under the topsoil. With no modern tools available, the local contractors have been resorting to the old Egyptian grave robbing technique; lighting fires on the rocks and when they get to a decent temperature pouring water on them hoping they will crack.

Vulture Dive Bomber

The funniest thing happened last week. We were driving over a bridge, mangrove swamps one side and the Atlantic Ocean on the other and out of the corner of my eye I saw a very large bird hit our roof rack. Initially I thought it was a bird of prey. We looked out of the land rover back door expecting to see something bouncing down the road, but there was nothing there. Then Pete had to slam the brakes on as the largest, ugliest vulture you have ever seen had landed on the bonnet! I don't know who was more shocked, us or the vulture! It lifted its head, its eyes spinning and then slid down the bonnet, onto the pavement and tried walking. It took two steps forward and three backward, looking like it was on its way home from a good Saturday night out on palm wine! It survived with a sore head, hurt pride and requiring an urgent lesson or two in flight control.

Presents From Bentham

The distribution of goodies from Bentham has become almost a ritual. Everything in neat piles and the numbers in a hat to see who goes first, second etc, and the medicines and ointments divided out

equally. They all know Bentham now, with Ezekiel, one of my sergeants, doing the rounds as the proud owner of a Bentham post card, the only person in Sierra Leone to have one! Everyone here sends their grateful thanks and greetings to the people of Bentham.

Paid, At Last

After two years without pay my two civilian workers, Peter and Sancoh, will at last get some. It has taken me seven months to manage it, but that is Africa. Ezekiel, one of my sergeants, who was made homeless when his wife had just had a baby, has now got his armed forces loan; the second of my men I have been able to help. Usually it is only officers who get wage loans and the other ranks are lucky if they get any pay at all. I've just managed to get some old Sierra Leone bank notes from the National Bank. I sent my Staff Sergeant to speak to the chief cashier and ask him to look in his vault. He did and I got some good condition bundles of notes. These have no monetary value but are a part of history.

Up Country

We had to make an expedition up country to Makeni. Before we left Freetown the number of soldiers wishing to come with us grew by the hour. This is because up country everything, from firewood to palm oil, meat and fruit, is much cheaper. The journey was a very hot and dusty affair and it took us over an hour and a half to get out of Freetown for a start. The Bedford wagon kept stopping to give people lifts, so eventually we had to stop them as it would have been midnight before we arrived. The Sierra Leone army lads usually charge people a few hundred Leones for the lift, but they couldn't this time because we were there. Signs of war were everywhere, with the villages burnt out with shut up houses and no people. The UN troops were there in large numbers. When we arrived at Makeni we had a full parade, and laid down the law on security and maintenance of the equipment being issued. One and a half hours after that we were back on the road again.

BENTHAM FOOTPATH GROUP

By Maureen Ellis



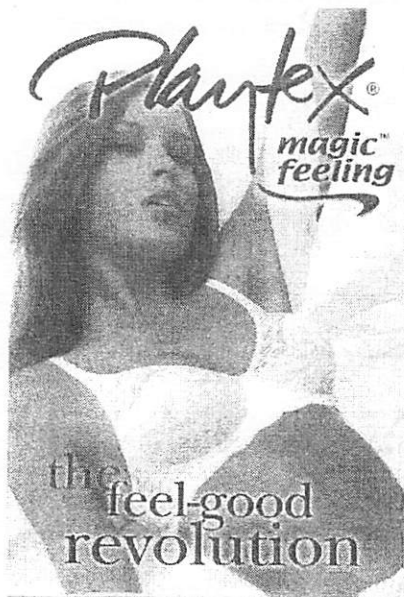
At a well attended quarterly meeting of the BFG, Dorothy Stubbs said the response of people asked to be leaders for the forthcoming programme was enthusiastic. This makes her considerable task of arranging the walks so much easier and is a sign of the vitality of the club. At the same meeting, among other matters, Colin Woof discussed the fund raising Family Walk and barbeque in aid of the Playing Fields, to take place on 26 May. This will take in the area of Moulterbeck, where there is significant improvement thanks to the combined efforts of the Conservation Group of the BFG and Colin Woof. The walk goes on to Oak Bank and Spens and will be about 8 miles. It was mentioned at the same meeting that money has been put aside by the authorities for further new wooden sign posts.

Joan Clapham told me about the highly

successful walk on 6th April. It took in Capernwray, Priest Hutton and Cinderbarrow. To her delight there was a model railway chugging round the picnic area. The walk concluded through Yealand Redmayne and Yealand Conyers. It is heart warming to know that despite his accident, the leader Bernard Ellershaw is still so active.

The May programme of walks starts with Keith Weir's walk (he continues to stand in as chairman until Barry Greenwood is able to take up his post in the Autumn) which is Bentham based. Mary and Keith Hartley lead a walk on 11 May, choosing a season when the bluebells will be a-bloom at the beauty spot of Nicky Nook in the Garstang area. It is a varied route taking in a small fell and going on to Scorton village. On 17 May, Sue and John Pilkington, who know the Silverdale area so well, are leaders in that location. The shore line of this island is unique, but as well as enabling us to look seaward they are taking us through its other glories; woods and part of the village.

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HORNBY DRAMA GROUP

By Stuart Hepple

We warmly welcome you to Plays in Springtime at 7.30pm in the Hornby Institute on Friday and Saturday 16th and 17th May.

On the Friday, the Hornby Drama Group will be presenting "Not Bobby" by N.J. Warburton and "Close to Croydon" by Gillian Plowman, and Ulverston Players will be performing "Between Mouthfuls" by Alan Ayckbourn.

On the Saturday, Slyne-with-Hest will present "What's for Pudding?" by David Tristram, and the Lancaster Footlights will entertain us with "A Dog's Life" by Tom Valentine and "Say Something Happened" by Alan Bennett.

Tickets per evening (£3.50 adults and £1.50 children) will be available at the Hornby Post Office and at the door. Please see local posters for final details. We greatly look forward to your support.

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GARDENING PAGE



By Joyce Knapp

The month of May can be a very busy time in the kitchen garden, with seeds to be sown, seedlings to be planted out and even some early crops to be harvested. The first task of seed sowing will include successional sowing of salad crops such as lettuce and summer radish, approximately every three weeks, to provide a continual supply of fresh produce. A late crop of both beetroot and carrots can also be sown in May in order to spread out the harvesting and provide root crops for winter storage, whereas parsnips should all have been sown by April as they are relatively slow to germinate and also take some time to grow.

By early May plants which have been started off in the greenhouse will be ready to be planted out although they should firstly be hardened off in a cold frame for about a week or, alternatively, stood outside by day and returned to the greenhouse each night. When planting out peas and broad beans it is advisable to erect any necessary supports first and these can be made from chicken wire attached to several strong posts or, perhaps, a row of bamboo canes connected by twine, or arranged in the form of a wigwam. As peas, beans and particularly lettuce are planted out the slugs are likely to put in a swift appearance. I have found, that when I lift the black plastic, used as a cover to warm up the soil, lots of slugs can be found and destroyed. Further attack can be reduced considerably by the use of slug pellets and these work most effectively when a small quantity are hidden under several small stones set at intervals around the vegetable beds.

In the fruit garden, rhubarb will be ready for harvesting and any surplus stems can be picked, cooked and frozen to be used in the winter months when there is less fresh fruit available and prices can be rather high. Anyone growing strawberries may wish to spread a thick layer of straw around the plants to prevent soil splashing onto the fruits as they ripen, before netting them against any hungry birds.

By Eleanor Fisher

The combination of heavy growth in last summer's rains and buffeting by autumn gales caused my Clematis montana to become a victim of its own weight, and to fall forward off its supporting wall and shed roof in an unsightly tangle. With a new coated netting framework in place, and shoots carefully tied in, order has been restored in time for the May flowering, and hopefully by next year, the shed will be fully covered again.

The sight of the prolific white or pink blossoms is one of the joys of spring, with the purplish-bronzed tints of the early foliage providing a perfect background. But the hefty growth of the montana types demands plenty of space, although some of the newer varieties, such as 'Marjorie' with greenish pink buds opening to creamy pink double flowers, are not quite so energetic. For smaller spaces or house walls, the Clematis alpina varieties are more suitable, and are becoming easy to obtain in garden shops, centres and nurseries. Clematis alpina 'Francis Ravis' and 'Pamela Jackman' both have good sized nodding blue flowers, and 'White Moth' has prolific white spidery flowers. Clematis macropetala is more vigorous, with full central petals that give the impression of double flowers. The usual variety is an inky blue, and 'Markham's Pink' is a soft strawberry mauve with a creamy centre.

Pruning these spring clematis is quite straightforward. As they flower on growth made the year before, the best time to prune is immediately after flowering has finished, usually in late May. This gives ample time for new shoots to develop before the next year's display. For the smaller alpina and macropetala types, growth can be tidied back each year to a framework of strong shoots. If there is plenty of room for a montana type to romp, maybe over a building or into a tree, you only need prune every three or four years, but if space is limited, it can be cut back hard annually, and the new growths tied in to the supports.

CHURCHES PAGE

St. Boniface's

By Father Angelo

What a wonderful springtime we have all enjoyed this year - the month of March has been one of the warmest and with so much sunshine that our displays of daffodils have been splendid, their golden colour has brightened our gardens and embankments for the past six weeks (yes 6). As I pen these words on the 10th April we see on our T.V.s and hear on our radios that the liberation of the people of Iraq has happened with the freedom of Baghdad. Our Easter prayer to the Risen Lord Jesus is that in this part of the Holy Land (Iraq is the land of the prophets) its people, and those of its neighbours, Palestine and Israel, will soon enjoy the peace and justice which you and I enjoy back in Britain. Instead of fear of its rulers and the bombs and bullets of its liberators, they can experience next spring the breathing of God's Creation in the flowers of their gardens and rest under the shade of the palm trees as the Lord did when he walked there long ago and now dwells with those who are of goodwill.

Enjoy your summer days and as always, welcome our visitors. God love you all.

St Margaret's

By Janet Slinger

Christians all over the world have recently celebrated Easter with joy and thanksgiving, but how long is it before our lives take over and we forget the Easter message? We have eyes but what do we see, we have ears but are we listening, we have hearts and minds but do we understand? Let us all pray that we will remember why Christ died for us and keep that joy and thanksgiving alive at all times.

Methodist Church

By Olive Calverley

Wordsworth saw daffodils as bringers of hope to lonely people suffering pain or loss. There are many lonely people in the world today - in our communities, in war torn



CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BENTHAM

lands. People lead hopeless lives because their security has been lost, leaving chaos behind.

In creation, God's Spirit dispersed chaos and formed a world which was good. We, His people, filled with His love which calms our chaotic lives, can help re-build relationships; help the helpless; love the unlovely; with God's help bringing hope and joy to those in need.

Quakers

By Ralph Atkinson.

The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) have had a regular Meeting for Worship in Bentham since 1690, although we were not quite so welcome in 1653 when one of us was beaten to death outside the church in Low Bentham. In addition to our regular Meetings for Worship, on the 2nd and 4th Sundays in the month we now have meetings at Calf Cop, Low Bentham, on the 5th Sunday, when there is one, at our usual time of 10.30am.

St. John's

By Judith Johnson

A large congregation attended our annual special service for Mothering Sunday, which was arranged and led exclusively by the ladies of our congregation. Everyone received a bunch of flowers during the service, which was led by Mabel Parr and Diane Chant. Dorothy Pidgeon gave an informative talk on the origins of Mothering Sunday as opposed to the secular and American Mother's day. Four local girls formed a group of flute players who performed two songs for us and the Junior Church sang.

Indoor / Outdoor Bentham Market Every Wednesday

By Bill Kennedy (Bentham Development Trust)

If you have recently supported our attempts to improve the Wednesday market, you will have noticed that there has been an increase in the number and variety of stalls, and the number of shoppers using the market. On a recent Wednesday in the outdoor market there were nine stalls plus the Craven District Council information bus, and a good atmosphere, as shoppers discovered a mixture of new stalls and old favourites. Did you know it's now possible to buy real leather goods, carpets, framed pictures, garden equipment, naturally reared meat and homemade pies, fresh fish, fruit and vegetables, and much more? You need to go and see for yourself!

By the time that you read this, we hope to have a new sign at the Main Street entrance. There is also a supply of car stickers, (decals) so if you would like to help us in this promotion, please collect one from the Trust office. We will continue to promote the market and hopefully Cleveland Square will be filled with stalls very soon. But this depends on the numbers of people who use the market, so please continue to do so, and encourage your friends and neighbours to as well.

In our discussions with the stall holders, they have stressed the need for continuing publicity and promotion of the market, and we intend to maintain the momentum, with press releases, photographs, and hopefully, a mention on Bay radio. If you have any constructive ideas on how to help the market to grow, please let us know at the Development Trust office, 26 Main Street, Bentham LA2 7HL or by telephone on 61030.

COMMUNITY TRANSPORT BACK ON TRACK

By Neville Chant

You may have noticed that the Bentham Community Transport minibus was missing from the streets throughout all of March - and a bit more! This was due to a mechanical fault and it took RENAULT UK over six weeks to provide the replacement part. This caused considerable inconvenience and expense but we were most grateful to Age Concern Bentham for making their minibus available, whenever possible, to enable us to meet our commitments. We were also helped by F H Ellis of Settle and Youth Wheels at Settle High School who loaned us their vehicles on occasions. We still had to cancel or refuse a few bookings for which we apologise and thank the various community groups for their forbearance.

This all suggests that, if demand continues at the present rate, we might need to acquire a second minibus later this year - but it may not be a Renault! It also means that we continue to need financial support to maintain our various subsidised services and so we are always looking for grant funding and are ever grateful for your donations. The minibus came back into service in early April and is now a familiar sight again in Bentham and district. We are here to serve the community in any way we can and we look forward to improving and enhancing our services.



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LOCAL EVENTS IN MAY

Fri 2nd Bentham News published.

Looking Well, 6.00-9.00pm
Black Library Wargaming Club,
over 11's and every Friday.

Sat 3rd St. John's coffee morning at the
Town Hall, 10.00-11.30
am. Plant, cake and trade
craft stalls. 

Mon 5th Looking Well closed.

Tue 6th Looking Well, 2.00-3.00pm
Women's Support Group and
Tai Chi Qigong. Both every
Tuesday.

Bentham Footpath Group walk,
around Bentham, 4-5 miles,
leader K. Wear 62539. Meet at
Town Hall 1.30pm.

Wed 7th Looking Well, 1.30-3.00pm,
Mucky Buckets, parents and
under 3's play session and every
Wednesday.

Thu 8th Emmaus, at the Looking Well at
7.00pm and every Thursday, see
page 6.

Dance at Clapham Village Hall
7.30-10.00pm, and every
Thursday.

Rounders practice at Sedbergh
Junior School 7.00pm. and every
Thursday. Everyone welcome.
Details from Ingrid on 015242
62345.

Thu 8th Kirkby Lonsdale & District
Embroidery Guild at Westhouse
Village Hall, 2.00pm. Fredi
Bleazard - talk on Hardanger.

Fri 9th Age Concern at the Town Hall,
Card Bingo.

Sat 10th Springfield Bowling Club
coffee morning at the
Town Hall, 10.00am-12.00-
noon. 

Ewecross Historical Society
summer outing to Stott Park
Bobbin Mill. Guided tour &
exhibition. Entry £3.50,
concessions £2.50. Meet at
11.00am at Bobbin Mill, half
mile north of Finsthwaite near
Newby Bridge. Details from
Secretary, 61420.

Looking Well Singing workshop
2.00-4.00pm at the Community
Centre. See page 21.

Sun 11th Commissioning service for
Christian Aid collectors and
friends, St. Margaret's Church,
6.30pm. Rev. Nigel Thomas.

Bentham Footpath Group walk,
Nicky Nook, Scorton, 6½ miles,
leader K. Hartley, 62373. Meet
at Lairgill 9.30am.

QES plant sale 11.00am-2.00pm,
see page 17.

Mon 12th House to House collection for
Christian Aid, and all week.

Town Council meeting at the
Town Hall, 7.30pm.

Burton-in-Lonsdale & District
Horticultural Society coffee
evening and plant stall, 7.30pm
Village Hall.

Looking Well, 10.30am-12.00
noon, Baby Buckets, parents and
babies group. 1.00-3.00pm
Cancer Support Group drop-in.
Both every Monday.

Tue 13th Bentham Child Health Clinic at
the Surgery, 2.00-4.00pm.

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- Tue 13th** High Bentham Toy Library at the Community Centre, 8.30-11.30am.
- Wed 14th** Citizens Advice Bureau at the Surgery, 1.30-3.30pm.
Looking Well 7.30-9.30pm, Singing workshop/choir, and every Wednesday.
Alzheimer's Carers Support Group meeting at the Looking Well, 7.30pm. David Johnson - "Memories of Bentham".
- Thu 15th** Deadline for June BN.
Low Bentham W.I. meeting, see page 2.
- Fri 16th** Waste paper collection at Lairgill Car Park, 8.30-11.00am. Proceeds to NSPCC.
Age Concern at the Town Hall, The Nonsuch Singers.
Plays in Springtime at Hornby Institute, (& 17th), see page 10.
Ukulele Orchestra at Melling Institute, see page 18.
- Sat 17th** Low Bentham W.I. coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10.00-11.45am. 
Bentham Footpath Group walk, around Silverdale, 8 miles, leaders S. & J. Pilkington, 61757. Meet at Lairgill 10.00am.
High Bentham C.P. School Spring Fair 10.00am-1.00pm. Coffee, snacks, lunches. Stalls, games & choir. Come and see our new "All Weather Pitch".
- Fri 23rd** Age Concern at the Town Hall. Olive Calverley - "Home is where the heart is".
- Sat 24th** Age Concern coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10.00am-12.00noon. 
- Sun 25th** Car Boot Sale at Riverside Caravan Park, 9.00am onwards, see page 22.
- Mon 26th** Bentham Footpath Group family walk in aid of Playing Fields Association Development Fund. 4 or 8 miles, to Spens Farm/return. See page 16.
- Tue 27th** Bentham Child Health Clinic at the Surgery 2.00-4.00pm.
High Bentham Toy Library at the Community Centre, 8.30-11.30am.
- Wed 28th** Citizens Advice Bureau at the Surgery, 1.30-3.30pm.
- Fri 30th** Bentham News (200th edition) published.
Age Concern at the Town Hall. Monologue and poetry reading.
- Sat 31st** Conservative Association coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10.00am-12.00noon. 
Bentham Pet Rescue Annual Sponsored dog walk, see page 20.
Bentham Pet Rescue Book Sale, Watershed Mill Settle, 10.00am-5.00pm.

Local Events in early June

- Sun 1st** Bentham & District Pet Rescue Book Sale at Watershed Mill, 11.00am-4.30pm.
High Bentham Methodist Church, Chapel Anniversary. with Rev. Elizabeth Hodgkiss at 10.30am & 6.30pm services.

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PLAYING FIELDS ASSOCIATION FUND RAISING EVENT

By Pam Woof

On Bank Holiday Monday, 26th May, there will be a sponsored walk to Spens Farm (an 8 mile round trip) in aid of the Playing Fields Association Development Fund. There will be a barbecue laid on at Spens, an old Victorian farm in a beautiful setting near Turners Ford Bridge, Lowgill. Tickets, £2.50 are available from Bentham Sports or at the Sports Club.

We need to raise as much money as possible so please try to get lots of sponsors. There will be a prize for the person who raises the most sponsorship money.

Community transport will be laid on, free of charge, for the return journey, if required! This guided walk should be a fun event so come and enjoy it, with all the family - it is suitable for all ages!



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BENTHAM PEOPLE



Thanks

Ruth would like to thank family and friends for cards and get well wishes after her recent stay in hospital for her knee replacement. Thank you.

Laraine Sullivan would like to thank everyone who helped her to raise £515.00 for Comic Relief by sponsoring her to dye her hair bright red.

Low Bentham Community Primary School thanks all who supported their Bingo Evening on 10th April when £210 was raised which helps greatly towards buying a video camera. We hope everyone will join in our next Fun Event on 23rd May at 6pm when we will be having a barbecue, rounders and other enjoyable activities in the evening sunshine!

For Sale

➤ Horse manure for composting - interlayer with mowings etc. 10 bags £4. Delivered locally, 62176.

➤ Upright piano £100 o.n.o. Exercise bike, as new, £25. 015242 61721.

➤ Canon UC9 Hi 8 Video Camcorder, c/w extra battery, bag, excellent condition. £100 ono. Phone 62492.

Wanted

Croquet set, full size. Please ring Dorothy Stubbs 015242 61430

QES PLANT SALE

By Sue Dudman

Queen Elizabeth School, Kirkby Lonsdale will be holding their annual plant sale this year, on Sunday 11th May from 11.00am-2.00pm. There will be bedding plants and shrubs galore, and anyone who has been sowing seeds and preparing for the spring is asked to remember the plant sale and put a little something aside for QES. Donations of plants gratefully received, just bring them along before 11.30am on the day. We would also like your garden shed jumble if there is anything you no longer use and want to pass it on. If you have difficulties with transport for your donations, please call Hilary Durie on 01524 761184 and she will put you in touch with one of us who can help, in your area. All proceeds from the Garden Bazaar go into PTA funds for the benefit of all pupils at QES. Please give your support. Refreshments will be available.

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UKELELE ORCHESTRA OF GREAT BRITAIN

By Sue Green

Green Close Studios, in collaboration with
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the Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain on
Friday 16th May at 8.00pm at the Melling
Village Institute.

The Ukes are a cult orchestra of all
singing, all strumming, all plucking ukulele
players, featuring only ukuleles - little ones,
big ones, high ones, low ones with not a
twang incongruous. No guitars, drums,
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have played Chicago, Ronnie Scotts, been
on radio 4 and toured Japan. Next stop
Melling! The Ukulele Orchestra is the
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BENTHAM & DISTRICT PET RESCUE



By Val Marshall

We are now all tuned in ready for the kitten season, during which we will no doubt receive a large number of abandoned or unwanted young cats. However, we do have a waiting list so if you have any kittens which you do not want to keep, please let us know rather than passing them on to unwilling neighbours!

Our Annual Sponsored Dog Walk, will be held on Saturday, 31st May. It will start and finish at Watershed Mill, Settle, where there are facilities for car parking, toilets and a café. All those completing the walk will be given vouchers for free drinks. There is a choice of route of either 4 miles (starting at 10.30 onwards), or for the more energetic, 9 miles (commencing any time after 9.30). Both walks include some hills but are free from the ladder stiles which are found on many paths in the Ribble valley. Sponsor forms are available from Dalehead Vets, Bentham Development Trust, Low Bentham Post Office and Brooklands, Cross Lane, Low Bentham. We also have a 2-day Book Sale at Watershed that weekend, so when you have completed the walk you can relax with a pile of bargain books! As ever we appreciate assistance on the Friday afternoon and at Sunday teatime carrying books between Bentham and Settle. Please let us know if you can help.

At the end of May, our 2003 Quiz will be launched and will be available in several shops in the area and at other events during the summer. Again a first prize of £20 will be awarded, together with others for the runners-up and a lucky draw. Good luck!

Indoor / Outdoor
Bentham Market
Every Wednesday

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LOOKING WELL NEWS

By Ali Jones

May time is flower time at Looking Well. We are delighted to announce that Margaret Hayton has won a Millennium Award through the The Scarman Trust and is able to give floral art workshops to the Cancer Support Group and some of our other groups at Looking Well. We will also have information available on flower remedies for anyone who is interested and we have an exhibition upstairs of paintings by Katherine Horner, many of which are based on flowers. Looking Well is open every weekday between 10.30 and 4.30 but the exhibition will not be open on Tuesday afternoons.

Sing your Heart Out

Thanks to an arrangement made with Yorkshire Dales Workshops and Craven College, we are able to offer a singing workshop with Janet Russell, a folk singer of some renown, who enjoys getting anyone and everyone singing even if they think they can't. Her session will be at the Community Centre on Saturday 10th May (2 - 4pm). She will be bringing some members of her singing group from Silsden with her so come along if you fancy singing a range of simple songs from around the world in good company! This initial session will be followed up by further sessions at Looking Well on Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm, led by either Leo Nolan or Janet.



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THE "GOOD PUPPY" CLASS

By Sue Whiteley

A new puppy class is starting in Kirkby Lonsdale. Its aim is to give owners the essential skills to raise their puppy to be a good companion and a well-behaved member of the family and society.

A puppy's early experiences are most important in influencing its adult behaviour and good learning experiences help to avoid behaviour problems later. The course, held in an informal and relaxed atmosphere, will help owners understand their puppy's needs. The training techniques used are centred on up to date motivational reward based learning.

The class consists of a 4 week course, one evening a week, for 6 puppies, from vaccination cover to 18 weeks of age, held at The Institute, Kirkby Lonsdale, Fridays 7-8pm, starting on 20th June. For more information call Sue Whiteley, Veterinary Nurse, Telephone 015396 21946.

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SEDBERGH JUNIOR SCHOOL'S STEPPING STONES

By Paul Reynolds (Headmaster)

As another term speeds to a close, it is hard to believe that in just three short months we will have completed our first year at Low Bentham. Exciting developments lie ahead of us as we expand the boarding accommodation and refurbish more rooms. So much has happened since September, that it is impossible to choose one highlight over another. Numbers attending Sedbergh Junior School have risen rapidly and we have very nearly doubled in size; Stepping Stones, our purpose-designed Nursery has certainly proved very, very popular.

The Heart of the School

Stepping Stones is placed deliberately at the very heart of the school. It boasts two lovely classrooms, its own washing and cloakroom facilities, a dedicated, secure play area and, perhaps best of all, it lies adjacent to the superb full sized sports hall - and that means the littlest of all the children can hurtle around whatever the weather!

From the outset we were determined to offer a Nursery that, first and foremost gave the children an exciting, stimulating and caring first experience of school. However, we also recognised the needs of mothers and fathers. Lunch is offered to all children, whether they attend the morning, afternoon or full day - and there is no extra cost. The uniform is practical, hardwearing and stylish and there isn't an endless and irritating list of 'extras'. Our maxim is affordable excellence.

Parents Advised to Plan Ahead

Demand for places has been constant and it is really most important that parents plan well ahead for this crucial stage in learning and development. The school operates the voucher scheme. Anyone is welcome to come and look around and, really, that is the only way to understand what Stepping Stones is all about.

CAR BOOT SALE

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MARKET TOWNS INITIATIVE

By John Pilkington

Some of the funding for the re-development of the Wenning Avenue Playing Fields has now been confirmed. Funding is available from the Sports England New Opportunities Fund to drain the land next to the existing playing fields and turn it into a mini soccer pitch for under 10s and create a football training pitch. There is also funding available to refurbish the existing football and cricket pitches. Confirmation of funding from the Countryside Agency through the Market Towns Initiative is expected very soon. The process of preparing tenders and selecting a contractor has just started. However, the problem of preventing flooding of the pitches and Wenning Avenue during periods of heavy rain still needs to be solved and various options are under consideration. An application to the Football Foundation for funding for the new shower and changing facilities will be submitted in the next few weeks. An initial bid to the Sports England fund for money to resurface the tennis courts and prepare a Wheels Park has been sent off.

There are a number of buildings in Bentham and Burton-in-Lonsdale that are used by the public for various events and meetings. However, modifications will be needed at most of these buildings to meet the new legislation which comes into force next year. Funding has been provided by the Countryside Agency and Craven



District Council so that a structural survey of the buildings, including Bentham Town Hall and the Victoria Institute, can be carried out. The survey will also include a study of other alterations that could be made to the buildings so that better use can be made of existing community space.

Although studies about the economic situation in Bentham have already been carried out an Economic Impact Assessment is to be undertaken in the next few weeks. This will be a follow up to previous studies and will also link with other work being done throughout Craven. A number of projects are to be identified that can be implemented over the next 2 years to ensure continuing economic development in the Bentham area. The assessment will be jointly funded by Yorkshire Forward and Craven District Council.

Grants from the Small Project Fund are still available, but please get applications in as soon as possible as the last date for submission is 31st December. Further details from Bill Kennedy at the Trust Office or telephone 62343.

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Dear Bentham News,
I write to protest at the Council Tax, which is unfair and undemocratic.

Unfair, because unlike income tax, it takes no account of ability to pay. Whilst paying it would mean very little to someone on a Chief Constable's salary, to the low paid and pensioners it can be a real hardship.

Undemocratic, because an unelected body, i.e. the police force, can demand an increase of well over 100 percent in two years, with the threat of jail if you don't pay up. We read reports of members of the Police Committee submitting claims for expenses of £10,000 per year for attending meetings: double the state pension!

I would like to pose the following questions:-

To the County and District Councillors. What percentage of our council tax payments finds its way back to Bentham and to what extent do we subsidise places like Northallerton and Skipton?

To the Town Councillors.

I am told that the 38.8% increase for 2003 is to pay for work to be carried out on the Town Hall. Can we expect to see an equally large fall in the Bentham precept next year when this work is completed?

To the Chief Constable, North Yorkshire Police.

You claim that these increases are to improve efficiency. Can you, therefore, tell me what response time you can promise me in Bentham if I had to dial 999 say, at 1.00am?

To the Council Tax Payers.

It is your money, don't you agree that we have a right to know exactly how it is being spent, rather than just receiving a vague summary?

Yours,

J.E. Guy. 9 Goodenber Crescent.

P.S. To save time and be more efficient, why not transfer the pensioners' 2.5% increase straight to the council?



Dear Bentham News,

I have given up training paraglider pilots this year - in order to concentrate on my own flying. However, I will always be glad to put newcomers in touch with the training school and pass on any advice that I can.

Pete Parkins. Low Bentham Road. Telephone 015242 61767

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RECIPES

By Doreen Park

Several young women have expressed to me that they would like to learn to bake. Well, I think tray bakes make a good start.



Brides Fingers

- 8 ozs shortcrust pastry (which for a start can be bought frozen)
- 2 ozs sugar
- 8 digestive biscuits, crushed
- 1 lb currants
- 2 ozs butter
- 4 ozs cherries
- 2 eggs, and glaze icing

Line a greased swiss roll tin with the pastry. Cream the butter with the sugar and then beat in the eggs. Add the crushed biscuits and fruit. Bake at 350F/gas Mark 4 for 30 - 35 minutes. When cold, decorate with glaze icing (which is about 4 ozs icing sugar mixed with cold water to a smooth paste, beware not to add too much water). When the icing has set cut into fingers.

Chinese Chews

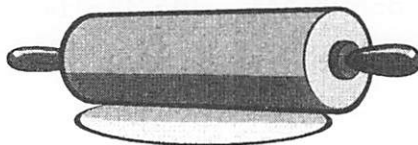
- 3 ozs margarine
- 5 ozs caster sugar
- 2 eggs
- 3 ozs plain flour
- 10 ozs chopped dates
- 4 ozs chopped walnuts

Cream the margarine and sugar, then add the eggs and the rest of the ingredients. Spread into a greased swiss roll tin and bake in a moderate oven, about 325F/gas Mark 3, for about half an hour. Remove from the oven and sprinkle with extra sugar. When cool, cut into fingers.

Crunchy Bake

- 3 ozs demerara sugar
- 6 ozs margarine
- 1 oz self raising flour
- 3 tablespoons golden syrup
- 4 ozs crushed cornflakes
- 2 ozs porridge oats
- 1 oz chopped walnuts or mixed nuts
- 1 oz coconut

Combine the dry ingredients in a mixing bowl. Melt the margarine, syrup and sugar in a pan and add the dry ingredients. Put into a greased swiss roll tin and cook for 15-20 minutes in a moderate oven 180C/350 F/Gas Mark 4. Cut whilst still warm.



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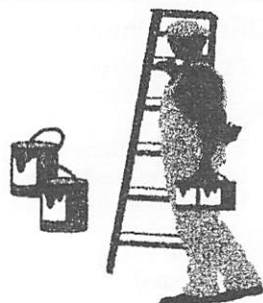
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200th EDITION!!

The next edition of Bentham News, coming out on Friday 30th May, will be the 200th edition. Yes, amazingly enough, BN has been published and distributed free to the people of Bentham and surrounding areas, every month since November 1986, and we feel this is something to celebrate.

To mark this event, we have decided to raise money to support a good cause, one that covers roughly the same area as BN. So, next month, inside your June edition of BN, there will be a collection envelope, and anyone who wishes, can enclose a donation and hand it in to Bentham Development Trust office on Main Street, High Bentham. All money raised will be donated to the Bentham Surgery Extra Care Fund. If you're not sure what the Extra Care Fund is, then you'll be pleased to know that Rachel Clay will be writing an article explaining all about it in June's BN.

SHAKEY BRIDGE

By David Johnson

Between the 17th and 20th March the construction took place of a new Shakey Bridge. This is at least the third, and possibly the fourth bridge to occupy this site. In 1850 there was a ford here which was later replaced by a bridge, although nobody seems sure when this happened. The photographs show the main beam being lowered into position and the wooden rail in place. With a single span of 15.5 metres between abutments the bridge marks a departure from the traditional bridge with a central support. The central piers have always been a weakness of these bridges. The foundation of the previous bridge's central support had been eroded,

weakening it, and causing it to collapse during the autumn floods of 2002. It is also wider and higher than previous bridges. The bridge has once more restored a vital link in the network of footpaths that are such a prized feature of Wenningdale.

YOU CAN PLAY A PART IN ENHANCING BENTHAM

By Bill Kennedy

Wouldn't it be nice to see some of the features around our town made more attractive, with well tended flower beds, shrubs etc? Well, the Trust, in partnership with the Market Towns Initiative Community Focus Group, has obtained funding from the Countryside Agency, Craven District Council and the Town Council, to contract a self employed, part time gardener to develop and maintain various areas around town. These include the cemetery approach, the School Hill garden, the station garden and the gateway sign areas, as well as planting of more bulbs in the verge between High & Low Bentham.

The work will commence this month so we should begin to see an improvement soon after that. There is funding for some plants, but we really need more, and that is where you may be able to participate! If you have any spare bedding plants, perennials, or small, ground cover shrubs, which you would like to donate, we would be glad to hear from you. Please contact Lin or Bill at the Trust, 26 Main Street, telephone 61030.

Once the gardener is appointed we will work out a planting schedule. Later, if you consider the project is making Bentham more attractive, why not tell the new gardener so, if you see him/her at work. A little encouragement can be a real tonic.

BENTHAM NEWS is published at "Latharna", High Bentham, by an editorial committee consisting of Shirley Brown, Diane Chant, Judith Johnson, Peter Phillips, Dorothy Pidgeon, Ken Robertson, Jean West, Pam Woof, and our co-ordinator, Bill Kennedy, who can be contacted on 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. The Bentham News is printed By Pica Design & Print, Low Bentham.