

BENTHAM NEWS

COUNCIL TAX UP - LEVEL OF SERVICES DOWN!

When the Council Tax annual bills arrived recently, and we saw that, yet again, they had gone up, we find ourselves asking whether we are getting value for our money. There are some shining examples of good practice, like the refuse bin collections, but there are also many areas of public provision where we feel that Bentham is not being well served, and many are highlighted by various contributors to this month's BN.

● **REDUCED POLICE SERVICE** – Ingleton Police Station should have 8 police officers but now has only 6. In February we lost Sgt Pappin, who has not been replaced. We understand that there will be extra police in Settle, but how does this help Bentham? Rural areas have particular problems, such as theft of diesel, vehicles and animals from farms, and we need a proper level of policing (see pgs. 2 & 3). As the component of our Council Tax that goes to N. Yorkshire Police Authority has risen by 9.9% this year, perhaps questions should be asked of the Chief Constable?

● **VANDALISM ON THE INCREASE** – We want Bentham to continue to be a good place to live. Why is the quality of life of some of our residents being eroded (see pgs. 2 & 9) and what is being done about it?

● **DOG WARDENS INEFFECTIVE** – Craven District Council has 2 dog wardens who cost us just under £50,000 pa, see pgs. 3 & 9. One has been in post for at least 3 years, and so far there have been no prosecutions for dog fouling in Bentham. Is it any wonder that the problem persists? Is our money being well spent on this ineffective service?

● **ROADS IN POOR STATE OF REPAIR** – Many local roads are badly in need of repair and some are in a dangerous condition, see pg. 3. In this age of litigation, is NYCC leaving itself open to compensation claims that might follow from accidents caused by poorly maintained roads and pavements? It is we, the Council Tax payers, who would ultimately have to finance such claims.

Compliments, comments and complaints should be addressed to local Councillors, the CDC Complaints Manager (01756-706231), or NYCC on 01609-780780, chief.exec@northyorks.gov.uk.

POLICE REPORT ON LOCAL CRIME

By PC Adrian Hayes

Thefts from Farms

There has been a problem since the beginning of the year within the Craven area, where premises, especially farm premises, have been targeted by travelling criminals who steal Land Rover Defenders and cattle trailers. These types of thefts are occurring at least once a week. Bentham and the surrounding area have been affected but not to the same extent as South Craven. I would ask everyone to take steps to make their trailers secure and to perhaps put some kind of physical security device such as a crook lock on their Land Rovers as it is known that alarm systems are being easily bypassed in the course of thefts taking place. These offences are occurring overnight so please report any suspicious activity to the police immediately.

Extra checks are being conducted on Land Rovers moving around in the night so expect to be stopped and questioned by the police if you are out driving during these hours. The purpose of these checks is to verify your identity and to ensure that your vehicle has not been stolen.

Anti-social Behaviour

Anti-social behaviour by a core group of about 10 local youths continues to be a problem, particularly in the Wesley Close area and on the Main Street at weekends. Certain individuals have been issued warnings about causing harassment to the residents of Wesley Close. I would ask that all incidents of disorder are reported at the time. This will enable us to effectively deal with problems as they are occurring and also assist in identifying problem areas to patrol.

Action Promised

Recently there have been targeted operations in the Settle area to deal with these problems and similar operations are being planned to take place in Bentham over the coming months. Positive action i.e. arrest or report for summons will be taken against all of those committing offences.

COMMUNITY TRANSPORT TO WRAY FAIR



By Lin Barrington

Come to Wray Fair with Bentham Community Transport on Bank Holiday Monday, 3rd May.

Our minibus will be going to Wray Fair, leaving from the Auction Mart at 11am, 12noon and 1pm, picking up at the Horse and Farrier and Low Bentham, or at other points along the way by request.

The cost will be £3 return (return trips to be arranged with the driver). To book your place, phone 62753 or call in at the Bentham Community Information office on Station Road.

BENTHAM ARTHRITIS & RHEUMATISM COUNCIL QUIZ

By Bernard Williams

Over the next three months the above branch will be running a quiz competition, the theme being "The London Underground". Quiz sheets will be available in many local shops and from committee members, price £1.

All entries must be returned to Isabel Joel, Belmont, Station Road, High Bentham, by the 3rd July. In case of a tie a draw will take place to decide the winner. The 1st prize will be £20 and 2nd prize is a bottle of wine.

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APRIL'S TOWN COUNCIL - FINAL MEETING FOR REG POINTON

By Bill Kennedy

All the councillors were present except for Cllrs Hey and Barnes, from whom apologies had been received.

Police Matters. There were three police officers present, a rare sight these days! PC Adrian Hayes reported on the break-in at the Town Hall, for which a number of youths have been questioned and two cautioned. There has been an increase recently in anti-social behaviour, mainly at the station, Wesley Close, Robin Lane and outside the Spar shop. As a result a number of youths have been cautioned. There have also been cases of criminal damage. He referred to police concern at the problem of adults purchasing alcoholic drinks for under age people, from off-licensed premises, and warned that this is an offence. There is also a problem with trespassing and damage at the High Bentham Community Primary School play area, and anyone who sees this taking place is asked to report it immediately.

Sgt. Pappin has left Ingleton, and apparently is not being replaced, although the authorities say that cover may be available from Settle. So why is our Council Tax for policing increasing when the manning level is effectively being reduced?

Highway Matters. Speeding on the Low Bentham Road, near Moons Acre, is to be dealt with by an increased use of speeding detection equipment. Many roads in the area are in need of repair, some are dangerous. It was reported that Main Street in High Bentham may be resurfaced during the summer. This may give the council the opportunity to consider parking restrictions and road markings, before the work is done. NYCC Highways department has stated that the dangerous state of the road, due to subsidence near Parkfoot, is still being investigated. If there is any further deterioration, the road may have to be closed

for a considerable period of time. So last month's front page report may come true!

Cleveland Square Market. The Town Council has decided not to extend the period of management by the Development Trust, although this has been successful. So the council is once again running the market. Let's hope that it doesn't let it run down, as in the past. A letter from the Trust highlighted the action it had taken to revive the market, including mailshots, car stickers, a new entrance board, visiting other markets to encourage stall holders to come to Bentham, the start up of a Farmers Market and monthly positioning of Farmers Market signs at roads around Bentham. Cllr. Hurttley said that he hoped the market would continue to be successful for it was good for the town to have a thriving market.

Dog Fouling. A letter to the council, signed by 8 residents, complained of dog fouling at Goodenber Road, at the grass circle at Goodenber Crescent and at Lakeber Drive. Cllrs. reported on other areas which were badly affected by this anti-social behaviour. It is only a few dog walkers who are behaving irresponsibly. Cllrs. asked what the Craven District Council Dog Wardens were doing. It was agreed that action is needed and that a conviction and substantial fine may act as a deterrent to others.

Tribute to Reg Pointon. Eight previous mayors attended the meeting and at the end of normal business Bateman Marshall and Billy Joel both paid tribute to Reg for his cheerful service over the years. Mr. Pointon, in his humorous reply, reminded all present of some of the characteristics of the mayors he had served under. This was followed by some enjoyable refreshments.

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WENNING BADMINTON CLUB - END OF ERA

By Paul Taylor (Club Captain)

The AGM was held recently and despite considerable efforts to attract new members none were forthcoming and unfortunately the Club is now closed. We currently finished 6th, for the season 2003/04, in the First Division of five divisions.

Wenning has always been renowned for its high standard of badminton, first winning the Division One championship in 1969 under the captaincy of Bobby Capstick, subsequently followed by many more championship titles.

There used to be four league teams of eight players per team, and an enthusiastic junior section, mainly due to the dedicated Club coach, Desmond Redhead. Wenning has produced All England junior champions and County players, namely Sue Airey, Paul and Carl Wood, Garry Scott and Katie Taylor - the highest achievement of all by Desmond's daughter Kathleen who went on to play for the England senior team.

It is a sad and disappointing outcome but numbers have been declining for some years now and had it not been for the loyalty of our two longest playing members, Sue Airey and Katie Taylor, the club would not have lasted as long as it has.

Thanks to all who have played for and supported Wenning Badminton Club over its long and successful existence.

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BENTHAM IS SWEETER THAN THE BIG APPLE

By Stuart Marshall (Bentham Golf Club)

Some of us have known for a long time that Bentham is more appealing than New York, but further proof comes with the appointment of Steve Turner as Catering Manager at Bentham Golf Club. Steve, who was born and brought up in Kirkby Lonsdale, took up catering when he left school. He went as a mature student to Huddersfield University to study Hotel and Catering Management, during the course of which he travelled to New York for work experience. Astonishingly, he found New York more exciting than Huddersfield, so stayed on and worked there for a while. Fortunately for us, he has now returned to civilisation and has taken on responsibility for the golf club's bar and catering, a clear sign that Bentham has more to offer.

After a highly successful first year as an 18-hole club, there are new developments both on and off the course. New competition tees are being built for several holes to give greater length, and this will lead to an increase in the standard scratch from the present 68. Alan Watson, the PGA professional, who has divided his time this last year between teaching duties and acting as assistant secretary, will be working full-time as a pro and moving his stock into an enlarged shop. All these changes coincided with the start of the season, which began in earnest when the captains, Dorothy Spencer and Brian Price, drove in during the last week in March.

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**Saturday 15th May Frank McGregor
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**Thursday 20th May Folk Night
and on Sat 5th June Steve Dee Vocalist**

MARAT RETURNS TO YORKSHIRE

By Judith Johnson

Marat Bisengaliev at Settle High

School on Sunday May 2nd 2004 at 7.30

The international violinist, Marat Bisengaliev, will bring his own orchestra, the Uralsk Philharmonic, from the former USSR, to Settle sponsored by Karachaganak Petroleum, Air-Astrana and Craven District Council.

The visit is being promoted by Settle Orchestra and indeed their conductor, Howard Rogerson, will be guest conductor for the day.

Those of you who went to Marat's last concert in Settle will remember that he was the soloist in the Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto. He played to an ecstatic audience in Settle High School's hall which was full to bursting point.

The Uralsk Philharmonic will perform the St. Paul's Suite by Holst, Mozart's Symphony

No. 29 and the hauntingly beautiful Introduction and Allegro by English composer, Sir Edward Elgar. The highlight of the evening will be Marat's performance of Mozart's Violin Concerto No. 3.

Tickets are already selling like hot cakes and cost £8 per adult and £3 per child. They are available locally from High Bentham Post Office.

RECYCLE COMPUTER INK CARTRIDGES



By Lin Barrington

If you have any used Hewlett Packard, Canon or Lexmark Inkjet Cartridges, don't throw them away, give them to us at the Bentham Community Information office.

We can make a small amount of money on each cartridge, so we would be very grateful for them.

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Dear Bentham News,
I went shopping with my mum and we had to walk around some dog poo. I thought if someone was blind or in a wheel chair how can they walk around the dog poo?

*Emma Woodcock, age 7,
High Bentham C.P. School.*



Dear Dog Owners,

As summer is coming, more and more children are going to play outdoors. Many areas around Bentham have communal grassed areas, e.g. the circle on Goodenber Crescent, and as responsible dog owners please could you clean up after your dogs or even better, don't allow your dog to foul on these areas.

As a parent, there is nothing worse than a child coming in with dog muck on their shoes or even worse, on their clothes or hands etc. I too am a dog owner and I manage to not allow my dog to soil these play areas. Please try and do the same.

K. D. Clapham.

Dear Bentham News

Your readers may have noticed the article by David Lloyd in last month's issue about the photovoltaic electricity generating system recently installed at 4 South View.

As part of the Department of Trade & Industry's Major Demonstration Programme, the Energy Saving Trust provides grant funding to promote renewable energy sources. This funding is available to both private and collective property owners whose premises meet the specified requirements, mainly a roof in suitable condition with a southerly aspect.

Details of the DTI programme, which is intended to demonstrate that small-scale electricity generated by solar panels is capable of a significant contribution to alternative energy supplies, can be obtained in the first place from Craven District Council.

Information regarding both grant funding, usually at a rate of 50 per cent, and listing of approved installers is available

from the EST which can be contacted on 020 7654 0101, or at 21 Dartmouth Street London SW1H 9BP.

Since the system was installed on 19th February last, it has generated electricity sufficient to keep a 1 kilowatt heater running for getting on for 200 hours. As the wattage generated is fed directly into the national grid, Cracks Housing Co-operative expects to more than halve its electricity costs in the current financial year.

As well as providing affordable housing in Bentham, which it has done since its establishment in August 1978, the Co-operative is pleased to be in a position to contribute in a small but significant way to environmental protection and improvement.

Perhaps there are other property owners in Bentham who might wish to make a similar commitment?

*Yours sincerely,
Bob Sloan, 4 South View,
Bentham LA2 7LJ.*

Dear Bentham News,

Your revealing article in last month's edition that Bentham is likely to be cut off from Ingleton by a landslide at Parkfoot, prompts me to refer your readers to the Bentham Tourist Information Centre where they will find a new book describing in detail what the Romans did when faced with getting from A to B in this part of the country. They built a road to last...and it has!

*Yours sincerely,
Tony Burnett, 5 Moons Acre,
Bentham.*

Stuart C Atherton

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FLAPDOODLE AND FINESSE

By Marie Rayner

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YES – Music Hall is coming to Bentham.

A troupe of players will be performing at the Victoria Institute in Low Bentham on Saturday 22nd May. Proceeds will go to Looking Well building fund. Tickets cost £5 and are on sale at Looking Well, or you can pay at the door. The fun and frivolity begins at 7.30.

Come in costume and you could win a prize!

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CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BENTHAM

By Judith Johnson

Whitsun Walk Sunday May 30th 2pm at St Boniface Church

Whit Sunday was traditionally the time for baptisms of children and adults who wore white garments to denote purity. Hence "White Sunday" which has changed to "Whit Sunday". Come and celebrate Whitsun with us. We meet at St Boniface Church at 2pm and then walk to St Margaret's for a short service at 2.45.

Then comes the treat. At 3.15 in the Methodist Schoolroom with Bentham's Biggest Birthday Cake to celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit and the beginning, or birthday, of the Church. If you would like to visit all the churches in High Bentham please meet at 2pm at St Boniface Church or you can join us along the route or for the treat at the end.

St. John's

By Hazel Kennell

In March at St. John's a service was held for TEAR Fund. We watched a video called "We are family", which gave us an insight into the plight of people suffering from AIDS in Cambodia plus our speaker, Graham Rand, talked to us about the work of TEAR Fund in Kenya. Both video and talk gave us all much food for thought about people less fortunate than ourselves. Many thanks to all who attended and raised the wonderful sum of £362.42.

St.Margaret's

By Janet Slinger

Very few of us can have escaped hearing about the film "The Passion of the Christ", and by all reports it is having an overwhelming effect on many people. How do we begin to understand why Jesus underwent such terrible suffering and immense pain? How can we measure the love that Jesus had for us that led to His death on the cross and to our redemption? I don't think we can, we can only try to emulate that love.

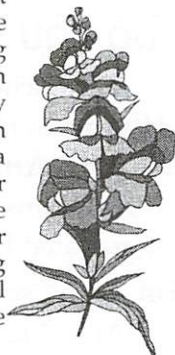
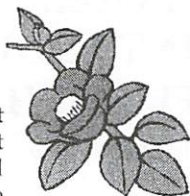
GARDENING COLUMN

By Joyce Knapp

Once May arrives we must start to give some thought to water conservation and its usage. One of the easiest, and perhaps most effective, ways of saving water is to connect a pipe directly from the guttering of buildings eg. a house or shed to a water barrel or storage tank. In this way rain water can be collected over a period of time and used as necessary during any prolonged dry spells of weather. It is worth noting that water stored in this way should, ideally, be covered to prevent any possible build-up of disease spores that could prove harmful to plants.

We can minimise our usage of water by following a few simple steps, such as watering late in the day to reduce loss through evaporation and allowing the grass on lawns to grow a little longer during dry periods. In the kitchen garden, as elsewhere, it is best to water thoroughly, allowing water to a depth of 2-3", rather than watering a little and often as this will only encourage surface rooting. You may find it is better not to water certain vegetable crops at all eg. onions, which have a tendency to rot in storage if water has been applied during their growth.

As I write this article, in mid April, the first wallflowers are just beginning to burst into an array of rich red/orange/yellow colour and, hopefully, will continue to give a splendid display right through until June. These beautiful spring bedding plants can be raised from seed sown in mid-late May outdoors, in a seedbed, or in trays of compost in a greenhouse. If sown under cover they will need to be planted out later in the year to grow on before being planted in their final flowering position sometime during the autumn.



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A FREE INTRODUCTION TO FLY FISHING

By Mike Ramsay

Bentham Angling Association is planning to organise an opportunity for inexperienced local people who would like to fish, to learn the basics of fly fishing. If you don't already have access to tackle or don't know what to get, we can advise on best value for money "Beginners kits" and where to get them. We plan to cover the practical questions such as "how do I tackle up", right through to "how do I cast?".

The course will be hands on, so by the end of the day you should be able to cast your fly with confidence and enjoy the pleasures of fishing the river. The course is subject to demand and has limited places, so to register your place or find out more, contact Mike Ramsay 62041. The minimum age is 11 years.



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WELCOME TO NEW HEALTH VISITOR AND SCHOOL NURSE

By Carol Wood

Hi, I'm Carol Wood, the new Health Visitor and School Nurse at Benthams Surgery, here since February. Originally I hail from Canada and did my nurse training in London where I met my husband and had my children. We then lived in Chichester for two years but the move north in '76 was inevitable as my husband is a Yorkshire man! We've lived near Settle for the last eight years.

Back in '76 I was a ward sister at Airedale before getting involved in In-Service Training for staff. I completed my Health Visitor course at Bradford University in 1981, and have since worked in Bradford and Airedale. My health visiting experience has been quite varied, from having close involvement with a Bradford Primary School during the very exciting development of a positive behaviour policy (it is wonderful to see children striving to be helpful, considerate and working well together, a practice also ideal for adults in all settings) to being a union representative in Bradford during the introduction of Trust status.

In Airedale I was privileged to interview people aged between 76 and 92 to get their views of the age 75+ health checks to improve services for older people. I also helped pilot a "Family Support Clinic" for families who wanted to work towards improving relationships and manage behaviour in a more positive way. I believe good relationships begin in infancy and advocate baby massage as an aid.

I intend to take the time to get to know and listen to families, colleagues, staff and children at the primary schools, and those involved with services for children and older people. Within the team I hope to participate in building on the existing services, using existing local knowledge and resources to develop government recommendations and research information to further promote health; possibly exploring new ways of

working together.

I am delighted to be working in this area and thank all those I have been able to meet for the very warm welcome they have extended. Please contact me with ideas or requests on 61864; I look forward to having your views.

The number of people failing to attend for appointments in March was 58.

FUNDRAISING FOR THE NEW LOOKING WELL

By Alison Jones

Thank you to everyone who supported our Easter raffle, which made £67. Please come and enjoy our next fundraising event - A Music Hall at Low Benthams Institute on May 22nd kindly arranged by Marie Rayner. Following this event, we have made the decision to shut Looking Well for a week to have a rest (we'll need it!) so note that from Monday May 24th to Tuesday June 1st none of our regular sessions will take place.



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LOCAL EVENTS IN MAY

- Sat 1st Samaritans coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10.00am-12.00 noon. 
- Sun 2nd Bentham Footpath Group walk, Sedbergh & Dent circular, 9 miles, leaders C. Ramwell and A. Staveley 61682. Meet at Lairgill 9.15am.
St. Margaret's Parish Church, Lambing Service 2.30pm.
Settle High School 7.00pm - Marat Bisengaliev plays Mozart Violin Concerto No. 3 with the Uralsk Philharmonic Orchestra, see page 8.
- Mon 3rd Looking Well closed.
- Tue 4th Looking Well 2.00-3.00pm, Tai Chi and Women's Support Group and both every Tuesday.
- Wed 5th Bentham Theatre Group, play reading, 7.30pm at the Community Centre. See page 19.
Looking Well, 1.30-3.00pm, Mucky Buckets & Baby Buddies, parents and under 3s play session, and every Wednesday.
NSPCC monthly meeting at Lingfield, Robin Lane, 7.30pm.
- Thu 6th Bentham Arts Forum meeting at The Byres, 7.30pm.

Thu 6th

Dance Easy Sequence, 7.30-10.00pm at Clapham Village Hall. £1 including tea & biscuits, and every Thursday.

Rounders practice at Sedbergh Junior School, Low Bentham., 7.00pm. Everyone welcome. Ring Ingrid on 62345 for more details.

High Bentham W.I. meeting at the Town Hall, 7.30pm. Resolutions and birthday party.

Looking Well, 9.30-11.00am Ball play for toddlers at the Community Centre. 7.00-8.00pm Tai Chi and every Thursday.

Fri 7th

Age Concern at the Town Hall. Call my Bluff.

Looking Well, 6.00-9.30pm, Black Library Wargaming Club, over 11s and every Friday.

Sat 8th

St. John's coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10.00-11.30am. Plant stall, , cakes, raffle etc.

Sun 9th

Queen Elizabeth School plant sale, 11.00am-2.00pm. Plants, seedlings gratefully received before 10.30am on the day or contact Sue Dixon on 61434.

AGM of the S.B.C. at the Horse & Farrier. All members urged to attend.

Commissioning service at St.Boniface Church, 6.30pm for collectors, friends and supporters at start of Christian Aid House to House collection week.

Mon 10th

Looking Well 1.00-3.00pm Cancer Support Group drop-in, and every Monday.

Town Council meeting at the Town Hall, 7.30pm.

Tue 11th

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

LISTING FOR LOCAL EVENTS

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

Event.....

Venue.....

Contact Tel. Number.....

Name.....

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

- Tue 11th Bentham Toy Library at the Community Centre, 8.30-11.30am.
Bentham Footpath Group walk, Langcliffe & Catrigg Force, 5½ miles, leader P. Parkin 61767. Meet at Lairgill 5.45pm.
- Wed 12th Citizens Advice Bureau at the Surgery, 1.30-3.30pm.
Looking Well, Alzheimer's Disease Carers Support Group, social meeting, 7.30-9.00pm.
- Fri 14th "Spot On" Rural Touring performance by Osun Arts - "Ibadi!". Melling Village Institute 7.30pm. Includes dancers from UK & Nigeria. Contact Green Close Studios 015242 21233 for more details.
Age Concern at the Town Hall, Card Bingo.
- Sat 15th Bentham Homing Society coffee morning, at the Town Hall, 10.00-11.45am.
Copy deadline for June BN.
- Sun 16th Joint service, 10.00am at St. Margaret's Church with Sedbergh Junior School Choir. This service will conclude with a traditional river blessing at Wenning Bridge, Station Road, about 11.00am.
- Wed 19th Bentham Footpath Group walk, Janet's Foss & Malham, 8 miles, leader D. Stubbs 61430. Meet at Lairgill 9.15am.
- Thu 20th Low Bentham W.I. at the Victoria Institute, Low Bentham, 7.30pm. Mr. & Mrs. J. Natlases will talk about "Church Mouse Cheeses". See page 21.
- Fri 21st Age Concern at the Town Hall, "Name that Child".
Waste paper collection at Lairgill Car Park 8.30-11.00am. Proceeds to NSPCC.
- Sat 22nd Age Concern coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10.00-11.45am.
- Tue 25th Bentham Child Health Clinic at the Surgery, 2.00-4.00pm.
Bentham Toy Library at the Community Centre, 8.30-11.30am.
- Wed 26th High Bentham W.I. stall at the Town Hall. Plants, cakes, bric-a-brac etc. See page 21.
Citizens Advice Bureau at the Surgery, 1.30-3.30pm.
- Fri 28th Bentham News published.
Age Concern at the Town Hall. Quiz.
- Sat 29th Conservative Association coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10.00-11.45am. Raffle, etc.
Bentham Footpath Group walk, Lupton circular, 6 miles, leader D. Chamberlain, 21436. Meet at Lairgill at 9.30am.
- Sun 30th St. Boniface Church Whitsun walk, 2.00pm. See page 10.
Car boot sale/coffee morning from 9.30am at Riverside Caravan Park. Proceeds to local charities. To book a stall telephone 62163.
Joint evening service at St. Margaret's Parish Church, 6.30pm.

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BENTHAM PEOPLE

Personal Thanks

Carter Noel. We, Noel's family, wish to thank all those friends and family members who sent cards, good wishes and donations in his memory.



Thanks

Sheila Houghton thanks all who supported the "Easter Egg" effort and raised £160 for Cancer Support and Carers Support.

For Sale

- ▶ Solid oak Mantel Fire Surround £50.00 o.n.o. Enquiries - Tel No. 015242 62345.
- ▶ Hotpoint Fridge, 5 years old. Excellent condition, £30. 015242 61446.
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Payment must be included with the notice and left at Bentham Sports Shop by 15th of the month.

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OLD BENTHAM CUSTOMS

By Bateman Marshall

As several old customs unique to Bentham have now disappeared, I thought I would remind BN readers of two that perhaps have gone forever, and try my best to revive a third.

• JUNE FAIR

Much has already been written about the June Fair, which used to be held on June 22nd each year, so I will not elaborate, except to remind readers that amid all the delights of a fun fair, Irishmen and gypsies, together with numerous horses, would visit the town.

• OAK BOB DAY

I wonder how many older residents will remember the pre war custom, that on 29th May, children had to wear an oak leaf pinned to their jacket or blazer when going to school, otherwise other boys and girls were waiting with nettles to sting them on their legs or hands.

• MAY GOSLING

Is it possible to revive interest in this custom? In order to once again allow present day Benthamers to become May Goslings, I have purchased a goose and gander. This spring, during February, the goose began to lay eggs, and since the end of March it has been sitting on about 18 eggs at a secret location somewhere on Riverside Caravan Park. The eggs are due to hatch on 27th or 28th April, and Tom Guy has kindly agreed to allow the goslings to be displayed in his shop on the morning of May 1st from 9am to 12 noon. Why don't you go and take a look? Many Bentham residents of a certain age will already have been May Goslings in the past, and I ask them to encourage newcomers to come along and become May Goslings, as this will help perpetuate a delightful old custom.



GALA/FUN DAY POSTPONED

By Pam Woof

Many readers may be wondering what is happening on the playing fields at Wenning Avenue. At a recent meeting the drainage problems were discussed at length with a view to solving the two-fold problem of land drainage and run-off from the town.

Craven District Council has agreed to clear the open culvert below the railway line and we are looking into improving the outflow from the land drains on the field itself. Unfortunately, the building of the new shower block has been delayed because we have had to wait for United Utilities to move the overhead cable. The sports club alterations have been delayed because asbestos was found and removed from the roof. Despite all this it is hoped that the cricket team will be able to play home matches from June onwards and by next autumn the football field should also be ready for use.

The committee has decided that the traditional Gala/Fun day would do too much damage to the new field. However it is hoped to build on the success of last year's sponsored walk and there are plans to hold another fund raising walk later in the summer that will end up with the fun event on the field.

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BENTHAM THEATRE GROUP

By Margaret Cowling

We will be meeting on Wednesday 5th May at 7.30pm in the Community Centre, to read two plays, "Hobson's Choice" and "See How They Run". Our intention is to present one of them in the autumn festival. If you are interested in taking part or helping in any way, you will be most welcome to join us.

HORNBY DRAMA GROUP

By Hilary Strickett

The group warmly welcomes you to Plays in Maytime at 7.30pm on Saturday 15th May. Lancaster Footlights will be presenting "Last Tango" and "Joining the Club", both by David Tristram.

Hornby Drama Group will present "World Premier" by Charles Mander. Tickets (£3.50 adults, £1.50 children) will be available at the door. We look forward to seeing you there.

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By Cllr. Manuel Camacho

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What if I don't bother?

Sadly we will be left behind as other exchanges are upgraded.

BENTHAM FOOTBALL CLUB LOSE IN CUP FINAL



By Louise France

On Wednesday 14th April, we travelled to Giant Avenue, Lancaster, to take part in the Division 2 Cup Final, against Highgrove F.C.

After a thoroughly entertaining game and despite goals from Lee Ellis, David Knapp and Daniel Ellershaw, we sadly lost 5-3.

Many thanks to everyone who came to support us and to the players, for being a credit to Bentham F.C.

Getting to the final was a wonderful achievement, and the team has played exceptionally well; Bentham can be proud of them.



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WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

Low Bentham

By Jennifer Watkinson

Mrs. Christine Jennings welcomed Mrs. Liz Hayes, the District Nurse for Settle and Bentham. Being one of four team leaders for the Craven District, she is a budget holder which means juggling her time, and managing her team of nurses and home carers to deliver the care needed in the community with the administrative work. She has to co-ordinate Marie Curie and MacMillan nurses and Home Care workers, the main objective being to keep patients independent in their homes with the best possible care. Besides patient care she trains students and does health promotions. She went through a typical week's busy schedule and then encouraged members to ask questions. She was thanked by Mrs. Ruth Sephton.

Competition winners were Mrs. Carolyn Woof, Mrs. Jean Gilroy and Mrs. Barbara Mason.

Four members attended the annual council meeting at Richmond. There were several interesting speakers including Anne Harrison, from the Board of Trustees, who spoke about three areas of concern. The failing W.I. magazine "Home and Country", the lack of support for the W.I. College in Oxfordshire, and the decline in membership. A rep from Taylor's tea spoke about the sponsorship of three million trees they had planted and of the planned quarter of a million W.I. wood in Ethiopia.

The excellent guest speaker was John Stirling, a retired actor, who was one of the founders of the donkey sanctuary at Buxton. With many famous actors supporting him, they help to save donkeys and help the disadvantaged at the same time. During the lunch break the Jubilee banner was on display for the first time. Low Bentham's contribution, beautifully embroidered by Mrs. Joanne Irvine, was incorporated into it.

At the next meeting, on 20th May, Mr. & Mrs Natlases will talk about Church Mouse cheeses. A cordial invitation is given to everyone.

High Bentham

By Doreen Park

The night of the 1st April was not a fool's night for the members and visitors when we had an experience of hands on silk painting, tutored by Nicky Johnson. It was fascinating and the designs were of different shapes and colours. Nicky was thanked by Joan Jackson.

During the business of the meeting Wendy Dowbiggin gave an excellent report as delegate to the L.F.W.I. Spring Council meeting and the retirement of chairman Mrs. Hazel Short after four years. The treasurer, Chris Lewis, gave the financial report, stressing the need to raise funds. To this end the Town Hall has been booked for Wednesdays 26th May and 8th September, to hold a trading stall selling everything from a cake to bric-a-brac and plants. So please make a note of these dates and come early for the bargains. Also, at each monthly meeting, paper back books, donated by members, would be sold with the proceeds going to funds. Ruth Bridgewood won the raffle and Marjorie Kidd won the competition.

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**FOOTPATH
GROUP NEWS***By Maureen Ellis*

The task of putting together the new programme of walks has been accomplished with their usual skill by Sue Pilkington and Dorothy Stubbs. It was an especially big undertaking this time as the programme is now for four months rather than three as previously. This does mean that the volunteer leaders are committing themselves for a long time ahead and we are very grateful to them all.

On Sunday 2 May at 9.15, Cath Ramwell and Eileen Staveley will jointly lead a walk of 9 miles to the Sedbergh and Dent area. As parking maybe tight at the starting point of the walk sharing cars at Lairgill will be advisable. The walk is to go from Sedbergh to Frostrow Fell and then onto Dent and come back past the river. It is a varied walk. If the weather is bad the high fell will be omitted as there wouldn't be any views and a slightly different route will be taken.

Summer brings the luxury of evening walks and on Tuesday 11 May at 5.45 p.m, Peter Parkin leads a walk to Langcliffe and Catrigg Force. The departure point as always is Lairgill but people nearer to Langcliffe can join 10 minutes later at the car park near the school in Langcliffe. The historic Hoffmann lime kiln will be looked at next to the railway line and then we will go to Stainforth and up the hill to Catrigg Force and on to the Victoria Cave. The last part of this 5.5 mile walk will depend on the weather and light.

Dorothy Stubbs leads the walk on Wednesday 19 May at 9.15am to Janet's Foss and Malham. It is a circular walk round Malham Cove and there will be geological and water features. The cascade of Janet's Foss contrasts with the peaceful waters of Malham Tarn. We will pass a water sink where the infant River Aire disappears and later pass the natural amphitheatre of Malham Cove. The length is 8 miles.

On Saturday 29 May at 9.30am Denis Chamberlain leads a 6 mile circular in the Lupton area. This should be very interesting as it forms a nice contrast with the other venues.



BENTHAM & DISTRICT PET RESCUE

By Val Marshall

Our 7th Annual General

Meeting was once again held at the Punch Bowl, in Burton-in-Lonsdale. Many thanks to Vicky and Paul who put on a superb buffet lunch with enough food to feed an army!

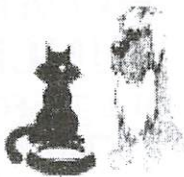
The annual reports presented confirmed that our services are much needed in the North Craven area, especially helping with the high costs of OAPs vet bills. This year we have ensured that four dogs and many more cats can go on living with their owners and do not face euthanasia, thanks to fees being paid.

The trapping of ferals in the winter has dropped a little due to the breeding season going on well up to Christmas. If you have kittens you are unable to home this spring, please let us have them as we have a long waiting list - call us on Bentham 62512.

Our fund raising has done well, due largely to the book sales at Watershed Mills in Settle, but because of imminent alterations there may not be space available there in the future. The loss of these events would halve our income, which is not a happy prospect when our monthly outgoings are currently approaching £600 per month. We are now seeking alternative venues suitable with public access for future book sales. Very many thanks for your kind donations of books, blankets and bric-a-brac, and also the food placed in the collecting bins at Booth's stores.

We are sorry to lose our homeopathic vets, Preston & Bramley, of Kirkby Lonsdale, who are now concentrating on their Sedbergh practice. Continued thanks to Dalehead Vets who are always available with their comprehensive surgery when needed.

One little lost dog had his wits about him when he found his way into our back garden recently - had he read about Pet Rescue? Fortunately he had a name tag on his collar, so he was soon re-united with his owner, who kindly gave a donation to our funds.



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PUPPY POINT - "OW"

By Sue Whiteley

A vital lesson that all puppies need to learn is not to bite. If they do not learn this as a puppy, they will be more ready to bite and will bite harder as an adult. When your puppy bites you in play, do as another puppy would do - yelp, or say "ow", turn away and stop any interaction. When your puppy has calmed down call him and continue the game, as long as he doesn't bite. The biting is often worse with children because they are more exciting and the reaction your puppy gets, such as the squealing, flapping arms and running away is even more fun. If you find that saying "ow" seems to make your puppy worse, then it may be best not to say anything at all but just immediately stop all interaction with your puppy. It also helps to end play before your puppy gets too excited. It is advisable to base play on games with toys for your puppy to get hold of rather than rough play allowing your puppy to bite or mouth anyone.

The use of punishment by shouting or telling off, or tapping the nose or using a rolled up newspaper is best avoided as this can cause more serious problems. Some puppies think that this is all part of the game and it makes them even more aroused. Other puppies can learn to be wary of you and your hand, which can lead to further problems with aggression. If everyone in the family is consistent, your puppy will soon learn that there's no fun in biting and will stop.

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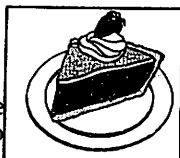


015242 42048 THORNTON STATION YARD, INGLETON, via CARNFORTH, LANCs

RECIPES

By Doreen Park

If, like me, you love the taste of lemon, try these two recipes. They are winners!



Lemon chicken with pistachio couscous

- 1 lemon
- 5 oz low fat cream cheese
- 1½ oz pistachio nuts finely chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, crushed
- salt and black pepper
- 4 boneless chicken breasts with skin, weighing about 5 oz each
- 2 tblsp olive oil

For the couscous

- 6 oz couscous
- 1 lemon
- 2 tblsp freshly chopped mint
- 2 tblsp freshly chopped parsley
- 2 ozs pistachio nuts roughly chopped

Pre-heat the oven to 190C/375F/Gas mark 5. Finely grate the rind from the lemon then cut the rest into thin slices. Mix the lemon rind with the low fat cream cheese, the pistachio nuts, crushed garlic and seasoning and put to one side for later on. Loosen one side of the skin on each of the chicken breasts with the tip of a small knife, then insert a fingertip under the skin and enlarge the gap to make a pocket to hold the lemon stuffing. Spoon the stuffing into the pocket and secure the skin in place with a cocktail stick. Place the chicken breasts in a roasting tin, add lemon slices on top and drizzle with olive oil. Roast the chicken for 20 minutes until golden brown and the meat juices run clear when the thickest part of the joint is pierced with a skewer.

Put the couscous into a bowl 5 minutes before the end of cooking the chicken and add 250ml/8 fl oz boiling water, cover with a plate and set aside. Add the lemon rind and juice, herbs, nuts and seasoning to the couscous, fluff up with a fork and spoon onto serving plates. Top the couscous with the chicken breasts and serve accompanied by baby carrots and broccoli.

Lemon tart

- 14 oz frozen shortcrust pastry (just defrosted)
- 3 eggs
- 5 oz caster sugar
- 250ml/8fl oz double cream
- 2 lemons grated rind and juice

For the topping

- ¼ pint double cream
- Fruit of your choice, e.g. oranges, raspberries, strawberries, kiwi.

Pre-heat the oven to 190c/375F/Gas mark 5. Roll out the pastry on floured surface until a little bigger than a 10" loose bottomed flan tin. Line this with pastry over the bottom and up the sides, trimming off any excess. Prick the base with a fork then line with greaseproof paper and baking beans (dried peas will do the same thing). Cook for 10 minutes, remove the greaseproof paper and beans and cook for a further 5 minutes until the pastry is just golden. Reduce oven to 180c/350F/Gas mark 4. Meanwhile whisk the eggs and sugar together and then mix in the cream, lemon rind and juice, pour the filling into the tart and cook for about 30 minutes until set. Leave to cool in the tin.

When cool, remove from the tin and transfer to serving plate. Whip the cream and spoon around the edge of the tart and decorate with your choice of fresh fruit.

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Flyers and inserts negotiable depending on size, design, printing etc.
Normal commercial rate £100.

Advertising must be prepaid, when booking, and must be booked by copy deadline - 15th of month prior to publication.
To place an advertisement in the BN contact 62492 or call in at Bentham Sports.

NEWS FROM HB COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

By Mrs. C.A. Boocock

Mrs. Fran Ramsay will be taking a year's unpaid leave of absence from September 2004. This gives staff the opportunity for a change around so from September Miss Yates will be teaching Year 3/Year 4 and Mrs. Callus Whitton and Mrs. Wheildon will be teaching Reception. We are therefore advertising for a Year 2 teacher to start in September 2004 on a one year's contract.

We have a few places left for our Reception class in September 2004 for children who were born between September 1999 and August 2000, so please contact school if you are interested in arranging a visit.

Class 5 had a great afternoon at Sedbergh Junior School watching their performance of "Pirates of Penzance".

The PTFA Secrets Room on Friday 19th March was very successful and the children had a lovely time choosing presents for Mothering Sunday, either for their mums or their carers.

We need a supply list of people who are willing to stand in as midday supervisors when someone is off. If you are interested please contact Mrs. Whitfield in the school office.

We are continuing to have petty damage to the school site and lots of rubbish left during the evenings and at weekends. Please support us in trying to stop children being on the premises. They have to book through the school to use the all weather pitch. The local police are patrolling the area to ensure they catch anyone causing wilful damage to school property.

Mrs. Callus Whitton and Mrs. Wheildon took a group of KS2 children to Wennington Hall School on the evening of Friday 26th March to take part in their Musical evening. The children had a lovely time singing and were rewarded with a yummy supper. The children have collected an astounding £230 for the NSPCC and Mrs. Wheildon organised

a Beetle Drive for all the children who were involved.

At the end of the spring term we sadly said farewell to our excellent cleaner, Mrs. Ann Smith, who has been with us since the beginning of the year. She has decided to retire to spend more time with her husband. So we welcome Miss Angela Faraday as our new school cleaner, who we all know as she is a parent at school and one of our midday supervisors.

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OPEN GARDEN WEEKEND 3rd & 4th JULY

By Susan Adams NSPCC Chairman

A fund raising event for N.S.P.C.C. & Christian Aid.

As in past years we hope to organise our Open Garden weekend for the above two charities. We are always anxious to include some new gardens along with some of the old favourites and if you are willing to share your garden with us, no matter how large or small it may be, then please get in touch with us. We will welcome you with open arms. This year, one or two gardens which have been opened previously, will not be available. Some gardeners have moved away and others are finding the years taking their toll.

For people new to the area or 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.

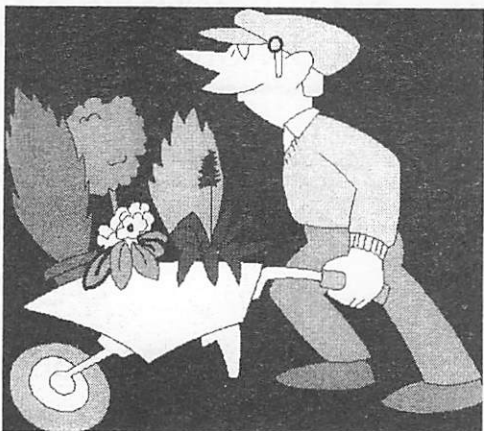
We are now preparing our list of gardens. If you feel you could allow us to include your garden in the scheme, either on both days or just one day of the weekend, then please get in touch with Caroline Woof, 62254, or Susan Adams, 61182, before the end of May. We

need to compile the finished list by the middle of June to meet the Bentham News copy deadline. We thank you in advance. People who have taken



part in the scheme in previous years should have received a letter asking for their support again this year. We thank these people too, without their continuing support the scheme could not work.

If gardening is not your forte (it isn't mine) and you would like to help the N.S.P.C.C. in some other way, perhaps with our fund-raising events (Craft fair, cracker sale, or the smaller events we arrange throughout the year) please get in touch with a committee member, at the phone numbers above. New members are always welcome.



BENTHAM NEWS is published at "Latharna", High Bentham, by an editorial committee consisting of Shirley Brown, Diane Chant, Judith Johnson, Peter Phillips, 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**, which should be handed in to Bentham Sports by the copy deadline, the 15th of the month prior to publication. The Bentham News is printed by Pica Design & Print, Low Bentham.