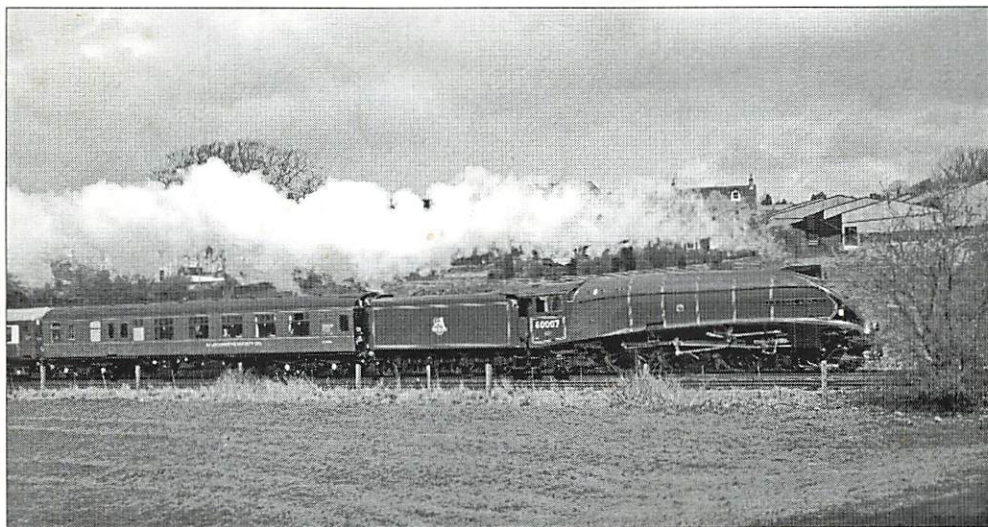


BENTHAM NEWS



The steam engine, Sir Nigel Gresley - 60007 - on a loaded test run, from Carnforth to Hellifield and then back to Carnforth, on Wednesday 16th April. It is seen here passing through Bentham at lunchtime. Photograph courtesy of Wendy Smith.

WIDESPREAD OBJECTIONS TO PROPOSED STONEYARD AT FOURLANDS

There has been a massive surge of objections to the proposed stone processing operation on the site of the Ingleborough Nurseries. Many local residents have written to Bentham Town Council and to Craven District Council expressing their serious concerns about the impact such a development would have on the environment and road safety. The problem was discussed at the Town Council meeting reported on page 3 of this issue, but no final decision has yet been made.

When considering the issue further, it is to be hoped that those in positions to influence the decision, will take into account the wider implications if the application is approved. A huge increase in heavy lorries, every weekday, on the narrow roads in the area, will inevitably increase the risk of serious accidents. Noise and dust pollution will grow and road surfaces will deteriorate. The lovely peaceful countryside at Fourlands will be gone forever - do the planning authorities care?

We also understand that the original planning permission for the nursery included a condition that the site must be returned to greenfield if the horticultural venture failed. Why is this condition not being honoured?

INTRODUCING THE NEW VICAR & FAMILY

Hello all,

Just to introduce ourselves, we are Clive, Nicola and Josh plus Cookie the dog, and we are looking forward to meeting you all and getting to know Bentham and the area better.

Clive used to work in London as head of the military costume department for a company that provides costumes for films and TV (working on Bond movies, the 'Sharpe' series and other large scale projects). He left to follow his calling to the ministry and spent 3 years at Trinity theological college in Bristol.

Clive was ordained in Chester Cathedral in 2000 and served as curate in Birkenhead. Since 2003 he has been Vicar of Brewood and Bishop's Wood in Rural Staffordshire (north of Wolverhampton). Nicola and Clive married in 2001 when he was based in Birkenhead and while she was training as a nurse at the local hospital (Nic has been a part time Endoscopy nurse since moving to Brewood). Clive's son Josh, (from his previous marriage), came to live with us permanently from Essex in 2006 and will soon be 13. He loves computers, his playstation and the drums – we have warned our new neighbours! Cookie the dog joined the family in January 2007 from the RSPCA and has enjoyed becoming a country dog. We also have some chickens referred to collectively as "the girls" (they all have names), so we will have to build new quarters for them.

As a family we enjoy holidays at our cottage near Hadrian's Wall, walking and given the opportunity, rollercoaster rides! Clive is a keen photographer and loves fishing while Nic occasionally dabbles with painting and other arty pursuits. We also both love longbow archery and Josh is keen to learn, so maybe we can find a local club. We both love to cook, and Josh is also getting quite interested, although Jamie Oliver is safe for now, while Clive loves to burn food outdoors combining this with his DIY skills in building and then putting a barbeque to good use, even in the rain.

Please pray for all of us as we prepare to join you in bringing God's Love to the Benthams and the Ewecross Deanery.



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APRIL'S TOWN COUNCIL

By David Johnson

All the Cllrs attended except Cllrs Hurtley and Taylor.

Police. PC Hayes said there had been a 23% reduction in all crime with a 40% detection rate. Violent crime has reduced by 39%. He also gave a rather disturbing summary of March's events in reference to an outburst of graffiti and mindless destruction. The graffiti has appeared throughout Bentham disfiguring many buildings and 17 street lights have had to be repaired at considerable cost to the taxpayer. One person has been arrested for the graffiti and action is planned to deal with the culprit damaging the lights. There has also been a series of unpleasant incidents of harassment by young children to residents on Banks Way. PC Hayes stressed that unless residents were either willing to give evidence to the police or to speak to the parents of the culprits the options for action are very limited. The Cllrs also complained about illegal and inconsiderate parking. Cllr Burton suggested parking cameras to catch culprits.

Planning. The meeting was well attended by the public because of worries about an application for a stone processing operation on the site of The Ingleborough Nurseries. The Council had received 9 letters of complaint and 15 members of the public attended the meeting. Those present heard a long letter of complaint that summarised most of the points made in the rest of the correspondence. The worries concentrated on the introduction of an industrial unit in the heart of the countryside that would create noise, disturbance, dust and heavy traffic unsuitable to local roads, damage to flora and fauna and the pollution of a watercourse. The developers had arranged for a report on the environmental impact of the site but the protestors thought its findings were misleading. The Cllrs acknowledged the need to sustain employment in Bentham but decided to recommend that CDC planning department should hold a site meeting and also ask the District Council to arrange for an independent environmental assessment

before the proposals receive further consideration.

Housing. The waiting list for houses in Bentham has reached 67 but the application to build 34 dwellings on Wesley Close has been withdrawn temporarily. Cllr Marshall commented on the small number of 3 bedroom houses proposed for this development. He thought such houses would be preferable. It was decided to ask for a detailed breakdown of the housing list to confirm the requirements. The Cllrs remain adamant in opposing the stopping up of the turning area on Hillside Road with two affordable homes. Now that the closure of Low Bentham C.P. School is likely they think this could be an important access to a much larger building plot allowing the construction of many more such houses in the future. Cllr Adams pointed out that under section 106 developers can be asked to make a contribution to local facilities such as play areas etc. and that this should be something to be born in mind when considering future applications.

Highways. There has been considerable interest in the developments opposite Tennant House. The developer has received permission to improve the access but he must rebuild the wall and replant a hedge behind the wall. The planning department is keeping an eye on things! The B6480 will be closed at Ridding Lodge for two weeks during a 6 month period beginning 14th April.

Allotments. CDC has been unable to identify any suitable sites. The Town Council has the power to make compulsory purchases, however, it is a matter of how much Bentham ratepayers are willing to pay for the privilege! The Cllrs decided to write to Kiddes to see if they have anything suitable.

Tourist Information. The Coffee Morning raised £275. The accommodation list is ready for printing and the new staff arrangements are working well. The TI still needs some volunteers to cover for holidays. Plans are afoot for a Power Point presentation of local facilities.

The next Town Council meeting will be held on Monday 5th May (Bank Holiday Monday).

GARDEN COLUMN

By Joyce Knapp



In the vegetable garden, we can begin the month of May by sowing a second crop of seeds of several varieties of vegetables e.g. carrots and beetroot directly into well prepared, moist soil. This can be followed by a third sowing later in the month, ensuring that the crops mature at different times, thereby avoiding a glut. This is particularly relevant if we are using F1 Hybrid seeds as they have been developed to produce a uniform crop that will all mature at the same time.

Any crops grown from seed sown directly in the ground in April are likely to need thinning soon to allow each remaining plant sufficient space, light and food to grow on well. Carrots seedlings can be thinned as soon as the first rough leaf appears, leaving the remaining seedlings approximately 2" apart, these will then benefit from a light watering to settle their roots back into the soil. It is important not to leave any of these thinnings lying about as the scent of their bruised stems will be likely to attract carrot root fly. These pests lay their eggs around the crop resulting in an infestation of root fly maggots which tunnel into the roots and can decimate a whole crop. I have found, through trial and error, that by covering the area with a fine mesh, I can keep damage caused by this pest to a minimum.

Courgettes and marrows can be started



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off from seed, either in a greenhouse, or on a window ledge, in early May and planted out later when there is no longer any risk of frost. Two or three seeds can be sown in a 3" pot of compost and the strongest seedling selected to grow on, removing any excess plants, carefully, once the first true leaves have appeared.

Having sorted out the various tasks in the vegetable garden we can now take a look at the fruit trees. Trees bearing stone fruit such as plum, cherry and damson should only be pruned in May or June. This is considered the safe season when there is little risk of the spores of several fungi blowing about, infecting the trees and causing the condition known as 'dieback'.

On bush and standard trees little pruning is required once the tree is established. It may be necessary to remove any overcrowded or crossing branches and all dieback spurs must be taken out completely.



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CRAVEN CONCERNS

By Cllr Manuel Camacho

Safer Craven Partnership Performing Strongly

The Safer Craven Partnership (SCCP) has been recognised as highly performing by the Home Office. Performance data on crime, policing and drugs are taken into account when identifying strong performance. The Partnership has worked hard to achieve high standards and are delighted that their work has been formally recognised.

Dates Set for Spring Area Forums

The council will once again be taking to the road to listen to residents' views and update local people on plans and initiatives in their area. Our meeting is being held in Ingleborough Community Centre 7pm - 9pm on Thursday 15th May. Please come along and have your say. (See page 26).

Being a responsible dog owner education programme launched

As part of the 'Keep Craven Clean' campaign the Council has kick started a new education campaign for 2008 working with primary schools across the district. Members of the Environmental Protection team are giving talks at primary schools focusing on how to be a responsible dog owner and the importance of clearing up after their pets. To complement the talks a competition has also been launched giving primary school children the chance to design a new picture for the free dog excrement bags given out to dog owners. The idea behind the sessions is to get the children really thinking about the

responsibilities that come with owning a dog and the time commitment involved and the talks are also being used to really get the message home on dog fouling.

CDC connects to new high speed telecoms network

Craven District Council is the first district council in North Yorkshire to connect to NYnet, a new high speed internet connection that has been put in place around North Yorkshire. The Council in connecting to the network will be able to develop and deliver improved electronic services for its residents as well as looking at how to use the system for smarter ways of working internally. Craven will be able to tap into existing and new services provided to NYCC and other councils from NYnet because of the consistency and compatibility of systems through the network. Once the connection has been thoroughly tested, plans will be put in place to extend the service and related benefits – both to the council, and to Craven's residents.

Craven Museum & Gallery gains national quality standard

The museum has been officially 'Accredited' by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA). The MLA's Museum Accreditation Scheme sets nationally agreed standards for all museums in the UK. Craven Museum & Gallery's award proves that it is meeting best practice guidelines on how it is run, how it looks after its collections and the service it provides to its visitors. Being awarded accreditation is an impressive achievement. It recognises the high standard and service that the museum provides and acknowledges the hard work of the staff.

Do make a point of popping in if you are in Skipton. The exhibits change quite often and are often more interesting than you would suspect. (I was pleasantly surprised.)

Translation Services

I was intrigued to discover that we (CDC) have access to translation services at all our points of contact with Craven residents. So, should you suddenly discover that you have forgotten how to speak English, we can help you!

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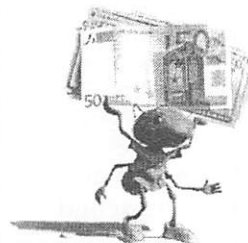
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BENTHAM GALLERY IS NOT MOVING!

By Shirley Brown

Just in case you were wondering, the changes at the Sports Shop, where Jon Brook of Bentham Imaging is setting up his photo gallery and portrait studio, do not in any way alter what's happening in Bentham Gallery on Station Road. Bentham Gallery, together with C H Framing, will continue to be run by Chris Humphreys in his Station Road premises.

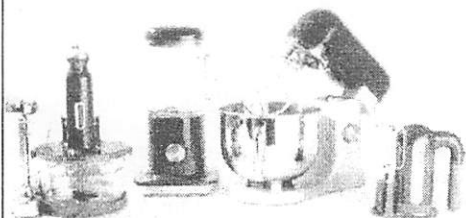
Chris will continue to do high-class framing of pictures, tapestries, cross-stitch, water- colours and oils and block mounting of prints. He will continue to sell cards by local craft-makers, and will continue to display the work of local artists. He will be hosting a number of exhibitions, the first of which will be the work of the local art group on May 2nd, 3rd and 4th.

We wish both Chris and Jon well, and feel fortunate that Bentham has two such interesting business ventures right in the centre of town.

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MOBILE PHONES AND MOTORING

From North Yorkshire County Council bulletin

It is just over a year since new legislation to increase the penalty for using a handheld phone while driving came into force. The £30 fine was increased to £60 and in addition three penalty points are added to the driver's licence.

Research has shown that if someone is using a mobile phone while driving they are four times more likely to have a crash. Tests show that reaction times for drivers using a handheld phone slow by 50% when compared to normal driving (*Direct Line Mobile Phone Report 2002*). Even if you're a careful driver, it's easy to be distracted by a phone call or text message, and that split second lapse in concentration could result in a crash.

Locally, people can still be seen chatting on the phone while manoeuvring their cars through Bentham – please don't!

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YESTERDAY IN BENTHAM

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

May 1988

This month's edition led with one of BN's first photographs, and this showed a traffic jam at the top of Station Road. It was a photograph that could have been taken on almost any weekday since then (except for the new-looking Ford Cortina and Sierra!) and for me it served as a reminder of just how long Bentham has had the traffic problem that no-one seems capable of resolving.

The most significant reason why our traffic problem defies resolution was, I believe, highlighted in Tom Cahill's notes from the March Town Council meeting, in which he reported on the County Council's refusal to accede to a road sign request from our Town Council, commenting that "This led to councillors lamenting the lack of influence the TC has had lately." He went on to list a number of issues, including road improvements, the Town Council had raised at County level only to have them either rejected or ignored.

20 years later, whilst some of the issues may have changed, the difficulties and frustrations inherent in working with a bureaucracy such as NYCC have remained as intractable as ever. Bentham may have acquired a new dentist but it still needs some teeth!

Sharing the front page was a report that Guthrie, the Company who became the owners of *George Angus* in Bentham in 1981, had themselves been taken over by British Belting and Asbestos in a deal that was said to have netted the Guthrie MD Jock Green-Armytage a personal £2 million.

I understand there is no truth in the rumour that current Angus (Kiddle) bosses will retire with a similar pay-off.

Announcing their candidacy for the forthcoming District Council elections were local hopefuls Margaret Mc Sherry (Labour)

Florence Richardson (Conservative) and John Pilkington (Liberal).

With the impending implementation of such political delights as the Housing Bill and the Poll Tax, I wonder if any of them knew just how stormy their Council future was likely to be!

A snooker competition in Skipton organised by Craven Area Youth Service was won by Bentham's Mark Abbott, with Andrew Weir one of the runners-up. Both lads were selected to represent Craven District in the county snooker championships to be held later in the month.

In the 'thank-you' speeches following a production of "The Thwarting of Baron Bolligrew" by Settle High School, Brian Cowling was thanked for his help with building the stage sets, and also for "producing" four members of the cast! This was because David, Andy, Sally and Robert Cowling all featured in the production.

Bentham News announced the appointment of Lesley Barker, who joined the production team as its new Co-ordinator. This followed the resignation of BN's first Co-ordinator, Val Houston.

Wenning Wanderers under-14 football team lost to Westgate Wanderers in the final of the Kentucky Fried Chicken Cup. Despite an impressive second-half rally and a powerful free kick goal from Stephen Pickup, the local lads went down 2-1. For the record, the team for the final was: Charley Heald, Steven Backhouse, David Hastewell, Matthew Wilson, Tim Brown (Capt), Martin Hastewell, Steven Pickup, Andy Cowling, Lee Young, James Bolton and Alex Young. No well-known Premiership names amongst them, so I assume they all eventually went into proper jobs!

Finally, *Bentham Homing Society's* first race of the season was a 50 mile flight from Appleton and was won by Dougy Ralph, with Jack Pickup in second place (oops! It was, of course their pigeons that won, not the lads themselves. Very tired arms otherwise!). BN reported that both were using the Widowhood method.

My imagination is still turning summersaults at the thought of what that word could mean. I suppose I'll have to spoil the fun and find out one day!

Dear Bentham News,
As a regular walker in and
around Bentham, I would like
to bring the following to the
Council's attention:-

Graffiti

The old Legion Hut, the passageway off Main Street adjacent to Abbeyfield, the bookmakers on Cleveland Square, Bentham Railway Station, the bridge on Station Road, the British Telecom green junction box on Station Road opposite Wenning Avenue, the Industrial estate, both buildings and vehicles, and the Wenning Oak.

Criminal Damage

The Bygone Bentham boards at various locations, the large information board at Shaky Bridge and the bench which used to be sited on the river bank near to the Wenning Oak has been uprooted and thrown into the river - albeit some time ago.

This list is by no means exhaustive. The latest graffiti has appeared on consecutive days over the Easter period. Indeed, some has appeared over the last 12 hours.

I find it unbelievable that those responsible have not been seen. Indeed, they almost certainly have been by their peers.

Have any parents seen their children in possession of spray cans of gold, silver or white paint? The following initials - "EH", "LS" and "JLK" may possibly be a clue to the identities of those responsible.

I find it disappointing that one of the areas subjected to graffiti, i.e. the station buildings, are being altered for the benefit of the young people of Bentham.



I would like to bring to the Council's attention the vast amount of discarded beer/lager cans that litter the footpaths in and around Bentham. I would like to ask if there is any action that the Council is able to take in bringing those responsible to book, and indeed also cleaning up the graffiti?

Yours sincerely,

Name and address supplied.

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CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BENTHAM



CHURCHES TOGETHER
IN BENTHAM

By Liz Whitfield

During the month of May Churches Together are planning several events. *Christian Aid week* begins on 11th May with a service at St. Boniface at 6.30pm which includes the commissioning of collectors. During the week these volunteers will be calling to collect your envelopes. If you know you are going to be away envelopes can be left at Barwise's. Please remember to gift aid your donation if you are a taxpayer. On *Sunday 25th* please join us for *Songs of Praise at Riverside* at 6pm at the invitation of Thomas and Jane Marshall. This is an opportunity to sing your favourite hymns, old and new in the open air under the evening sun (hopefully!).

The *Annual General Meeting* will be held on *Monday 19th* at 7.30pm when the committee review the year past and the accounts are approved. We also look forward to the year ahead which this year will include planning for a *Free Family Fun Day* on *Sunday 6th July* beginning with a picnic lunch from 12.30pm, (more details to follow). The committee comprises two representatives from each of the six churches plus the clergy/leaders from each church and Rev Brian Levick who serves as ecumenical advisor. At the meeting the officers are elected for the coming year. This year I will be retiring as the chairman and I would like to thank all those who have given me their support and encouragement over the last two years.

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COOKERY PAGE

Edited by Patsy Henderson

Pepper, red onion and goat's cheese frittata

Recipe - serves 2 to 3.

oil
6 eggs
1 red onion, halved and sliced
1 red pepper chopped into 2cm pieces
100g goat's cheese
½ tsp paprika
small handful of chopped parsley and chives
mixed salad and crusty bread for serving

Method

Beat the eggs and season well. Heat 1tbsp oil in a small non-stick frying pan and cook onion and red pepper for 3-4 minutes until soft. Add the eggs and cook for 5-6 minutes until almost set. Drop pieces of goat's cheese over and scatter the paprika and herbs over the top. Place under a hot grill for 2-3 minutes until golden brown. Cut into wedges and serve with salad and crusty bread.

Peach Sultana Crunch

Recipe - serves 4

425g tin of unsweetened sliced peaches
80g sultanas
½ tsp ground ginger
15g butter
1 tbsp honey
45g cornflakes
3 tsp sesame seeds



Method

Set the oven to 160C, gas 3. Drain the peaches, reserving half the liquid. Combine the peaches, sultanas, liquid and cinnamon in a bowl. Spread into an ovenproof dish. Melt the butter and honey in a saucepan and stir in the cornflakes and sesame seeds. Spread the mixture evenly over the peach mixture and bake in a moderate oven for about 20 minutes until golden brown. Serve.

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MEMORY ISSUES?

By Julie Osbaldeston

If you, or someone you know, has memory difficulties we would like to offer support and help you find out about the right services that are available in your area. We can provide support for people with dementia and their carers. We know that looking after a person with dementia can be emotionally and physically draining and carers can often feel isolated.

With this in mind we offer emotional support for carers and families, as well as providing information on local services and resources. We are in the process of developing services in the Bentham area, and to achieve this Julie is now based at the Looking Well every Wednesday. Carers are free to drop in for advice and information or just for a chat. We would also be happy to receive suggestions on how the service could be developed.

Support Group in Bentham

At present we run a support group for carers in Bentham, meeting on the second Wednesday each month at 7pm at Looking Well. All carers are welcome to attend. There is also a luncheon club for carers in the Ingleton area, which is an opportunity for carers to meet socially.

For further details please contact us initially on 01756 799971 or you may call in to see Julie Osbaldeston at The Alzheimer's Society, c/o The Looking Well Studios, King Street, High Bentham, LA2 7HG, telephone 07999799216.

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A RESPONSE FROM DENNIS O'HAGAN

By Shirley Brown

Since writing the article in the April BN about "Land Opposite Tennant House" I have now had the opportunity of a couple of conversations with the landowner concerned, Dennis O'Hagan. He has asked me to explain what he has been doing with the field and his hopes for its future.

Dennis has been surprised by how interested people are in what is happening in the field, and this inspired his "Acquired for Tesco" joke on 1st April, which fooled some people. However, he tells me that his plans for the field are far from sinister and that the improvements he is making will bring the field up to a good standard and will also make it more attractive. He is aware that in the last few years he has gained quite a high profile in the area and that people are understandably anxious about the issue of land development. He told me that as he's now 38, has lived here all his life, and is always around, that if people want to know what he's doing, they should just ask him.

So I did, and this is his reply!

A couple of years ago Dennis paid £18,000 at auction for the 10 acre field, of which he reckons about 8 acres are workable. This field is about 2.5 miles from his house, where he keeps horses, and he primarily wants to use the field for hay and other fodder for the horses. He applied for and got planning permission to make a new entrance to the field as this was felt to be necessary on safety grounds. He has already started building a dry stone wall at the entrance, using stone from the field, and will probably install a cattle-grid. He pulled out 26 metres of overgrown, unlayable hedge and has planted 160 metres of new hedge, using 3,000 hedging plants and incorporating some trees. The mounds of earth in the field have been levelled off. As the land is marshy he has created a gully down one side of the field for drainage into the beck and has widened part of the beck to create a pond to encourage wildlife. He has used hardcore from some of his other building projects to create a track and some

hard standing for storage of hay-bales. He will be applying for planning permission at some point for a small agricultural building, not visible from the road, which will be used as a store for hay-bales and equipment.

So, according to Dennis, there's nothing to worry about, and the Bentham News is glad to be able to pass on his reassurance to the people of Bentham.

CHANGES AT SOLE TO SOUL

By Marie Rayner

Just before Easter, after having been the face behind the desk and the voice at the other end of the phone (as well as managing the Craft Shop) for over five years, Liz Mason moved on to full time employment. We wish her well for the future.

By the time you read this, the Craft Shop will have a new look – and a new manager. On the auspicious date of 1st April, Anji Henderson joined Sole to Soul as Receptionist, Practice Assistant and Manager of the Craft Shop. She has brought new products and lots of new ideas with her – as well as a husband who's handy with a paint brush and a screwdriver! Why not call in to see what they've done.

Another change is that Stella Dobson, who has been an Associate with Sole to Soul for the last couple of years, is leaving the Practice for a while due to personal reasons. Marie is covering the Tuesday afternoon session.

And last but not least – no it wasn't the BN April Fool, I really have bought the Legion Hut!

Stuart Atherton

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£2,000 SCHOLARSHIPS ON OFFER TO LOCAL STUDENTS

From North Yorkshire County Council bulletin

Young people living in the Craven district and starting university this year could be eligible for a scholarship of up to £2,000. North Yorkshire County Council, Skipton Building Society and Leeds University are working together to provide some higher education scholarships.

Applicants must be starting their degree course in September 2008 and have a family income of less than £25,000 a year. Priority will be given to applicants where there is little or no experience of university education in the family.

Scholarships of up to £2,000 a year are available for those in a degree programme at Leeds University, while students studying elsewhere are eligible to receive £1,000 a year.

The scheme, administered by the County Council, began in 2003 when, to mark its

150th year, Skipton Building Society donated £375,000 for the scholarships. To date almost 100 students have benefited from the scheme. The deadline for applications is June 30th 2008, and application forms are available by calling Student Support at the County Council on 01609 532427.

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MY LONDON MARATHON RUN

By Annie Carrington

Thanks to everyone for the fantastic support that you gave me. My London Marathon time was 3 hrs 38 mins and 41 seconds. It felt a lot harder this year but I think it was because I was actually trying to run faster and felt under some pressure, mostly my own!

I saw quite a few celebrities, the joy of starting at the Green start with them and being in the 'Good For Your Age' category. I also took great pleasure in overtaking Gordon Ramsay at around mile 22/23, as the crowds were really making some noise for him, and it made me feel better.

Thanks to all my sponsors and especially to the Bentham News. I have raised quite a lot really for North West Cancer Research - at the moment about £1,200 plus. There is still about £600 to come from the various branches in the Lune Valley.

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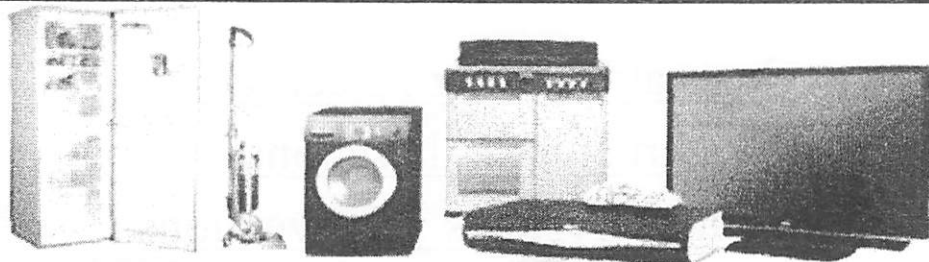
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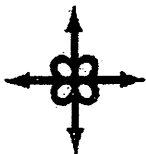
We are having a Clearance Sale

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BENTHAM FOOTPATH GROUP

By Maureen Ellis



The Bentham Footpath Group forms dynasties of walkers. Sandra and Rebecca Robinson, the daughter and granddaughter of Joan and Colin Clapham, will be climbing Kilimanjaro this summer after Rebecca has sat her GCSE exams and when her mother celebrates her fiftieth birthday. It is the highest free standing mountain in the world and very wisely they are taking six days over the ascent in order to acclimatize properly. Then they will relax for a few days on the island of Zanzibar. Sandra is doing it as a challenge to herself for her fiftieth birthday and it is also in aid of Cancer Care.

The programme for the BFG in May begins on Saturday 3rd with a 6 mile walk in the Lune Valley. We meet at 9.30am at Lairgill and then, beginning at the car park in Hornby, it is first along the Wenning to

where it joins the Lune and then onto Loyne Bridge and Gressingham and over the fields to the hamlet of Eskrigge. It's then on to Snab House on the side of the Lune and back to Loyne Bridge and return through Hornby.

On Sunday 11th there is the 8 mile Staveley walk meeting first at 9.30am at Lairgill and then onto the car park at Wilf's cafe Staveley. The bluebells will be out and we are promised an exciting and mysterious route.

The first of the summer evening walks is at Wray on Tuesday 27th meeting at Lairgill at 6.30pm and then parking at the cafe in Wray. It will go straight up the Roeburndale road and across the fields and back via the Hindburn bridge.

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NEWS FROM HIGH BENTHAM COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

By Mrs. Catherine Boocock

We now have a Breakfast Club and an After School Club running each school day, so children can come to school from 8.00am - 6.00pm if parents are at work and need childcare. All our staff are well qualified and we can offer excellent facilities with healthy food. The children enjoy a variety of activities and have a fun time with their friends as well.

Early Years Open Evening 5.30pm Thursday 22nd May

We are having an open evening for the parents and children in our present Reception and Nursery classes plus all other young families in Bentham who wish to visit our school and see our super facilities. We are planning a Jacob's Join supper with a variety of entertainment for the children to enjoy.

Oliver!

We are excited to announce that we will be performing the musical "Oliver" at Bentham Town Hall on the evenings of Wednesday and Thursday, 16th and 17th July. All the children from Reception up to Year 5 will be taking part. We all enjoyed the "Joseph" production last year so much that we felt we should go ahead this summer as well.

All weather pitch

Please can I remind people that the all weather pitch is available for bookings free of charge as long as an adult is responsible for the group. The grounds are not available for children to play in out of school hours without permission and the names of unauthorised users will be forwarded to North Yorkshire police. We have lovely outdoor provision at school and we do not wish it to be vandalised.

Thank you to everyone who came to our Easter Fair Trade cafe. We raised over £135 and had a great afternoon of bonnets, treasure hunts and Fair Trade goodies!

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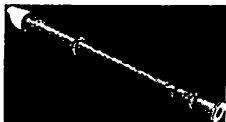
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BENTHAM RECORDER GROUP



By Peter Rollinson

The recorder, ugh, what a horrid screechy thing, well, King Henry VIII is said to have owned 50 or more recorders and in the 1700s "no gentleman would go visiting without his recorder", often held in a specially designed pocket.

Gradually however, instruments with stronger voices took over and the recorder faded away, but it held on by its fingertips and in the 1930s a revival was started by, amongst others, the Dolmetsch family. Today there are probably more people than ever playing the recorder, for fun and as a professional instrument.

The recorder family ranges from the 8" Garklein to the impressive contra-bass that can stand over 6' high and cost well over £4,000.

The Society of Recorder Players has branches all over the country – our nearest one meets monthly at Witherslack. Here in Bentham a group of us meets monthly for an hour or so of music making! Anyone is welcome to join us, phone Peter Rollinson on 015242-62487.

LANGCLIFFE SINGERS CONCERT

By Judith Johnson

There will be a Langcliffe Singers Concert on Saturday May 3rd at Giggleswick Chapel at 7.30pm. Two contrasting choral works are accompanied by the Langcliffe Chamber Ensemble and employ four solo voices.

The intensely devotional Requiem by Derufle, a French organist, was composed in 1947 and reflects the sufferings of France during the Second World War.

The more well-known Gloria by Vivaldi is Baroque music at its zenith composed in 1725 in Venice.

Tickets are £9 and are available from Bentham Post Office and choir members.

COMMUNITY TRANSPORT TRIPS IN MAY



By Lin Barrington

Wray Fair

Come to Wray Fair on Bank Holiday Monday 5th May. A minibus will be leaving from outside the Auction Mart at 10am, 11am and 1.00pm, and we can pick you up from Main Street, Horse and Farrier, Low Bentham etc. on the way to Wray. Return journeys by arrangement with the driver, return fare £3.50.

Call us on 62753 to reserve your place. Bentham Community Transport might also have a stall at Wray Fair; if you are interested in helping please let us know.

Trafford Centre

We are trying a trip to the Trafford Centre on Tuesday 27 May, during the half term holiday. Call us on 015242 62753 if you would like to join us.

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HOW THE BENTHAM TAXIBUS CAN MAKE YOUR BUS PASS GO FURTHER

By Trevor Blackwell

One of the delights of being over 60 is getting free travel on the buses. It's great being able to get to Wennington and Wray and Hornby and Caton and Lancaster, but with Ingleton there are difficulties. For example, if you fancy climbing Ingleborough, or doing the waterfalls walk, your first bus is about eleven in the morning, and you then have to come back from Ingleton at two (which is cutting it a bit fine), or wait till ten to seven (which involves quite a lot of hanging about). I'd an idea that the Bentham taxibus might help, but I've never quite known how it works. So I went to ask Lin Barrington of Bentham Community Transport about it.

"The first thing to say is that anyone can use the taxibus. If you've got a bus pass it's free, and if you haven't the cost is similar to a normal bus fare. It's a Mercedes with seven passenger seats, and it operates from eight in the morning to four in the afternoon, Monday to Friday. To book you phone Bentham 62753- it's "dial-a-ride". We ask people to phone before nine on the day they want to travel, but - having said that - people can phone any time, and if we're not doing anything we'll come and get them. But if you want to make sure give us plenty of notice.

It's a door to door service, and we can take you anywhere in the area of Bentham, Wray, Hornby, Keasden, Lowgill, Clapham, Austwick, and Ingleton. We can also take people to Ingleton so that they can hook up with the Kirkby Lonsdale Coaches bus which goes to Settle about 10.30 in the morning, and then we can pick them up again in Ingleton in the afternoon up to about 3.45. From Ingleton you can also get the bus at about 10.40 to Kirkby Lonsdale, and get a reasonable amount of time there, before coming back to Ingleton.

Mainly we bring people into Bentham for shopping, and to go to the optician, doctor,



chiropodist and hairdresser. And we take people to Ingleton and Settle to do the same sorts of things.

Could you do the three peaks by bus? Well, we could get you to Ingleton early in the morning, and take you up to Storrs Common to start climbing Ingleborough, and then pick you up any time till half past three. Pen-y-Ghent would be from Horton-in-Ribblesdale. Now the bus that goes to Settle goes to Horton, so potentially you could do the same. But where do you start from for Wharfedale? Would it be Ribbleshead? We can sometimes pick people up from Ribbleshead. But why doesn't the Bentham News' intrepid reporter try to go on these expeditions exclusively by public transport and report back!

And if you want to venture further afield there's the Bowland Transit bus Monday to Saturday, which we do the Settle to Slaidburn leg of now, so you could get to Slaidburn and connect to Clitheroe. I'm not sure you could get back from Clitheroe in the same day, but I'm sure you could get back from Slaidburn.

It's North Yorkshire County Council that finances the taxibus. There's no way it would ever pay for itself. When buses were deregulated we lost a lot of public transport, but North Yorkshire is now backing community transport to put some of those journeys back."

Thanks, Lin. Bus timetables are available from the Bentham Trust Office, the Tourist Information Point and the Post Office. And as spring arises the open road beckons!

LOCAL EVENTS IN MAY

Fri 2nd 7.00-8.00pm GFI for school years 6, 7 & 8 and 8.15-9.15pm for school years 9+, Methodist Church Hall, and every Friday.

Sat 3rd St. John's coffee morning and plant sale, Upper Town Hall, 10.00am-12.00noon. 

Farmers' Market, Lower Town Hall, 9.30am-1.30pm.

Bentham Footpath Group walk, Lune Valley, 6 miles, leaders C. Metcalfe and J. Hewitt, 61742. Meet at Lairgill 9.30am.

Langcliffe Singers Concert, Giggleswick Chapel, 7.30pm. See page 18.

Mon 5th Town Council meeting, Lower Town Hall, 7.30pm.

Youth Cafe, Wenningdale Room at Town Hall, 7.00-10.00pm and every Monday.

Tue 6th Bentham Child Health Clinic at the surgery, 2.00-4.00pm.

Playgroup at Wenningdale Room, Town Hall, 1.00-3.00pm and every Tuesday.

Yoga at Lower Town Hall, 11.00am-12.00noon and every Tuesday.

Youth Cafe at the Wenningdale Room, Town Hall, 7.00-10.00pm and every Tuesday.

Tuesday Strolls, very gentle walks, Looking Well 2.00-3.00pm and every Tuesday.

Wed 7th Playgroup at Wenningdale Room, Town Hall, 1.00-3.00pm and every Wednesday.

Girl's Fizzical Club, Lower Town Hall, 6.00-7.00pm and every Wednesday.

Community lunch at Looking Well, 12.30pm and every Wednesday.

Art for All, Looking Well, 2.00-4.00pm and every Wednesday.

Keep Moving Well, 2.00-3.00pm, Community Centre, and every Wednesday.

Wed 7th NSPCC monthly meeting at Lingfield, Robin Lane, 7.30pm.

Bentham Community First Responders at Horse and Farrier, 7.30pm. Come and talk to us about joining.

Basketball Club for 14years+, HB Primary all weather pitch, 7.30-8.45pm and every Wednesday.

Thu 8th Bat & Chat, 10.00am-12.30pm, Low Bentham Victoria Institute.

Swimming at Hornby, leave at 8.45am. Contact Annie, 62672, to arrange transport, and every Thursday.

High Bentham W.I., 7.30pm at Town Hall.

Cancer Support Group Drop-in and lunch, Looking Well 11.00am-1.30pm, and every Thursday.

Fri 9th Age Concern at the Masonic Hall, 10.00am-2.30pm. Colin Etherington - Extend Exercise.

Sat 10th Age Concern coffee morning at Town Hall, 10.00am-12.00noon. 

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

Plant sale at Burton-in-Lonsdale Village Hall, 10.00am-2.00pm. Stalls & Raffle, refreshments. available.

Sun 11th Bentham Footpath Group walk, Staveley, 8 miles, leader D. Chamberlain 015242 21436. Meet at Lairgill, 9.30am.

Tea party for older women, Looking Well, 3.00-5.00pm.

Mon 12th Gentle walks for women, 9.30am-12.00noon, meet at Lairgill, and every Monday

10.00-11.30am, Toddle-in for parents/carers and babies and toddlers. Methodist Church Hall, and every Monday except Bank Holidays.

4.30-5.30pm Adventurers group for 4-6 year olds, Methodist Church Hall and every Monday in term time.

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

- Tue 13th** High Bentham Toy Library, 9.30-11.00am at the Community Centre.
- Wed 14th** B.E.S.T. public transport discussion, 7.00pm at the Community Centre.
Friends of Tatham School invite you to join them for a "Pampered Chef" evening, Old School, Lowgill. Demonstration of innovative cookery products etc. For details and tickets contact Lisa on 07811 174192.
- Thu 15th** Low Bentham W.I. meeting at 7.30pm, Victoria Institute. Michael Winstanley - "Low Bentham before World War One."
Welcome-in dominoes for all ages, Methodist Church Hall. For transport contact Nigel or Kath on 62272.
Copy deadline for June edition of Bentham News.
- Fri 16th** Waste paper collection at Lairgill Car Park, 8.30-11.00am. Proceeds to NSPCC.
Age Concern at the Masonic Hall, 10.00am-2.30pm. Video.
- Sat 17th** MENCAP coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10.00am-12.00noon.
- Mon 19th** Craven Customer Services at the Town Hall, 10.00am-12.30pm.
Burton under fives health visitor drop-in. More information from 07709 694839.
- Tue 20th** Bentham Child Health Clinic at the Surgery, 2.00-4.00pm.
Thornton and Burton Mothers' Union, 2.00pm, Burton Church Room. Kate McNulty - "The Children's Society".
- Wed 21st** Bentham Footpath Group walk, Brownthwaite, 10 miles, leader B. Sim 015395 60240. Meet at Lairgill 9.30am.
Bentham Community Bonfire Annual General Meeting at Looking Well, 8.00pm.
- Fri 23rd** Age Concern at the Masonic Hall, 10.00am-2.30pm. Arthur and Dorothy - "Our South African Adventure".

- Sat 24th** Bentham Conservatives coffee morning and plant sale at the Town Hall, 10.00am-12.00noon.



Clapham Art Group annual exhibition, until Sunday 1st June. 11.00am-6.00pm daily. Clapham Village Hall. Original framed and unframed paintings and sketches. Contact Mrs. M. Blackburne 01729 822445.

Bentham & District Pet Rescue Plant Sale, Robin Lane, 10.00am-6.00pm. Also on Sunday 25th.

- Sun 25th** "Songs of Praise" 6.00pm at Riverside Caravan Park.

Car Boot and Coffee Morning, 9.00am, Riverside Caravan Park.

Clearbeck Gardens, open from 11.00am-5.00pm, plants stall, refreshments in aid of Tatham Fells Church, NSPCC & SCF, admission £2.50, children free. Also June 22nd and June 29th.

- Mon 26th** Bentham & District Pet Rescue coffee morning in Melling Village Hall, 10.00am.

- Tue 27th** Bentham Footpath Group walk, Wray, 4 miles, leaders J. Clapham & G. Warren, 64906. Meet at Lairgill 6.30pm.

- Thu 29th** Welcome-in dominoes for all ages, Methodist Church Hall. For transport contact Nigel or Kath on 62272.

- Fri 30th** Age Concern at the Masonic Hall, 10.00am-2.30pm. Norma Dixon "Oh I do like to be beside the seaside".

June Bentham News published.

LISTING FOR LOCAL EVENTS

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

Event.....

Venue.....

Contact Tel:.....

Name.....

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

WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

Low Bentham

By Jennifer Watkinson

Vice president, Mrs Ruth Sephton, welcomed Mr. David Mower from the RSPB centre at Leighton Moss, who gave a most interesting and informative illustrated talk about the organisation and its work. Leighton Moss, which sits on a shallow limestone bed, is one of the rarest reed swamps in the country. It supports fish and seeds for the rare birds, moths and butterflies and several unique and special plants. It is a haven for more common birds, wildfowl, red deer and others animals.

He spoke about the heavy conservation work which involves keeping the reeds in good condition, dredging the silt and building elver friendly sluices to manage the water levels and making sure the water is not polluted.

He said that he had been studying the migration of eels for ten years as they are under severe decline. Three rare birds are found on the reserve. These are the wonderfully camouflaged bittern, which can be seen creeping around the edge of the reed beds, is once again under threat - the reserve has only one booming male and two females. The marsh harrier, extinct in the 19th century, now has two or three breeding pairs in the North West.

The bearded tit has made a recovery and Mr. Mower showed slides of reed wigwams he had made for them. He concluded his talk

by inviting us to visit the reserve.

Competition winners were Mrs. Sue Cooper, Mrs. Carolyn Woof and Mrs. Mabel Easterby.

On 15th May, Mr. Michael Winstanley will be talking about Low Bentham before World War 1. Everyone is welcome to come and join us at 7.30pm at the Victoria Institute.

High Bentham

By Anne Yaman

The April meeting was held on Thursday 3rd April in the Lower Town Hall when President, Miss Wendy Dowbiggin welcomed 24 members present. Members were reminded of the Group Meeting on 17th April at which we would be playing host to approximately 100 ladies from the surrounding area. Everyone is really looking forward to it.

Some members had attended a lovely meal at the Punchbowl, Low Bentham, on 20th March which had started off the Easter holiday beautifully.

Chris Lewis gave a report on the Spring Council Meeting in Preston when it had been announced that High Bentham had won the portfolio competition for institutes over 30 members in the whole of Lancashire, for the provision of a business portfolio for the year ended 31st December 2007. Many of our members had contributed and we were really pleased to win at this level and are hoping that we will now do well in the national competition.

The speaker for the evening was from the wine shop in Ingleton, who had stepped in at the last moment and provided us with some interesting insights into buying and enjoying wine (and did include some tasting!). The competition, which was for a corkscrew, was won by Ann Beck.

The next meeting has been changed to Thursday 8th May at 7.30 p.m. in the Town Hall when it will be our birthday party with refreshments provided by the Committee. The competition is for a party hat. All are most welcome.

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BENTHAM COMMUNITY TRANSPORT



By Anne Yaman

If you have walked down by the station in the last couple of weeks you will have seen plenty of activity on the derelict station building. We started work on Tuesday 18th March with the wrecking crew moving in. They made an immediate impact and cleared the decks ready for the rebuilding phase to start. This is now well under way and it is wonderful to see new life being breathed into this building. By the time you read this the main building works should be nearly finished and then both Bentham Community Transport and the Youth Café will be working hard to get the building ready for occupation.

To prepare for the eventual closure of our office on Station Road we will start to make changes with effect from Tuesday 6th May. Our ancillary services based at Station Road, such as "doggie bags", recycling collection of batteries, used stamps and ink cartridges will all move to the front of the Community Centre. There will also be various bus and train timetables etc at the Community Centre to complement those already available from the Tourist Information Point. Our colleagues in the Development Trust will be manning the front office in the community centre from 10 a.m. to 12 noon every day if anyone needs to wait for transport home. If you want to walk down to the station building we will be very pleased to see you.

At a recent meeting with Network and Northern Rail we were delighted to learn that both organisations are prepared to bring forward their regular maintenance programme for the Station to coincide with our occupation and make an investment in its future. During May the work will start on areas such as the shelters, the platforms, the garden areas and the lighting. There has been considerable vandalism on their property which has continued up to now, but once the building is occupied by both ourselves and the Youth Café, the increased presence at the station will mean that it will become much harder for other peoples' hard work to be ruined by a few anti-social inhabitants.

MORE LOOKING WELL NEWS

Cancer Support Group

Karen Wright is opening her garden this year on Saturday 17th May. She will be selling bedding plants, some vegetable plants, herbs and perennials. There will be a raffle and teas with home-made cakes. You'll have a lovely view from Roeburndale East - and be supporting Karen in raising money for the Looking Well Cancer Support group and for the Emergency Mobile Medical Unit.

The group recently held their AGM where the Secretary & Treasurer's posts are vacant. Anyone interested in holding these positions should contact Margaret Hayton.

Sheila Houghton & Joni Weakly would like to thank everyone who supported their stall for Derion House Children's hospice. A total of £250 was raised.

Basketball Club

A new basketball club is starting on Wednesday Evenings from 7th May at 7:30pm-8:45pm at High Bentham 'all weather pitch' for 14 years upward.

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NO RICH PICKINGS FOR OUR FARMERS

By Keith Hartley

If my recent articles on the current success of the Bentham Auction Mart have given the impression that a buoyant market means rich pickings for everyone, then I'd better hurry to put the record straight. I'd dearly love to be able to report that farming profit margins are soaring because I believe those guys earn every penny that comes their way, but I have to say that with few exceptions this is far from the truth. This month and next month I will look at just a few reasons why farming fat-cats are becoming a rare breed, starting this month with those who produce our milk.

Dairy farmers have had a particularly difficult time over the past few years, and there are no indications that their difficulties will end soon. Until fairly recently the price paid to the dairy farmer for his milk has been held pitifully low by the purchasing power of large buyers such as supermarkets, and sadly this led to the demise of many dairy farms. In fact since the turn of the millennium an alarming 45 % of those producing milk in the UK have ceased trading, and dairy cow numbers have fallen by over half a million. Annual UK milk production has fallen by an incredible *half a billion* litres since 2000, and this despite the fact that good husbandry and farming efficiency have increased the average yield per cow by around 15% during the same period. The 'exit rate' from dairy farming is running at over 5% per year.

The loss of production did give the remaining producers a stronger hand in negotiating a fairer price for their milk, but at a time when you would expect them to be seeing some profit from their work, other factors seem to be conspiring against their success. For instance, in less than ten years the cost of red diesel has tripled, electricity has almost doubled, and feed prices have seen an increase of over 50% in the past year.

Last year's movement restrictions due to foot and mouth, blue tongue disease and the (ongoing) outbreak of TB in the south-west of England, combined with better milk prices, have increased the value of dairy cows at

market. Farmers are currently paying up to £2,500 for cows that less than a year ago would have cost them around £1,300. Given that the price of a cow does not automatically determine the cost of her milk, and as the milk yield from that cow is not infinite, there is a strong possibility that farmers will again find themselves with milk that will sell for little more than it has cost them to produce.

Male calves born on a dairy farm are of little or no economic value to the farmer. They cannot viably be reared on grass needed for the dairy herd, so they must be disposed of as soon as possible. Where there is no market for them it is usual for them to be killed shortly after birth. For some time however, when movement restrictions have not been in force, an export market has been developing, which has extended the lives of the calves and given them some marketable value to the farmer. Unfortunately though, the practice of exporting calves does not have everyone's blessing, particularly that of the supermarkets. They generally seek to have greater influence over the home meat market and can achieve this more easily where a product is plentiful. Hence they would prefer to see all male calves raised as beef cattle, thus helping to 'flood' the market with beef. Consequently, many of the farmers who have gained new and financially more beneficial *milk* contracts have found that those contracts, for example with *Tesco*, have contained clauses which prevent them sending calves for export. The sad consequence of this is that male calves are again being killed at birth.

The loudest voices against the exporting of calves have been the animal welfare groups on whose bandwagon the supermarkets appear to have climbed. These groups, however, have had little or nothing to say about the practice of killing calves at birth. It's a funny old world.

As a non-farming observer, and in light of complex quota and subsidy regulations, I can only wonder at the way our local farmers manage to negotiate the minefield that is their profession. However, as one who greatly appreciates the products of their labours, I am eternally grateful that they manage to do so!

JAZZ NEWS

By John Newton

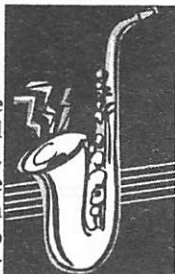
It's tour time again. In the next two months (May and June), two big favourites, the Geoff Eales Trio, and the newly formed Dylan Howe's Unity 4, are here to entertain us. The venue for both gigs is Settle's Victoria Theatre.

For the May tour Geoff, Roy and Mark are off to the movies. Many tunes that have become well known standards first saw the light of day at the movies. The World renowned trio treats you to a feast of classic film themes, all of them delivered with the trio's unique jazz treatment and characteristic verve and passion. Victor Young's *Stella By Starlight*, Henry Mancini's *Days Of Wine and Roses*, Michel LeGrand's *Watch What Happens* and Burt Bacharach's *Alfie* are just a small sample of what will be in store for you on this special evening of melodic jazz. The date for your diary is Wednesday 28th, May with an 8pm start.

A new look line up is offered by Dylan Howe for his June 27th concert. The Unity 4 includes Dylan on drums, Ross Stanley - Hammond organ, Mike Outram - guitar and Tony Kofi - alto sax. The group, who take their name and direction from Larry Young's classic Hammond Organ album "Unity", will also include the music of; Ornette Coleman, Pat Metheny, Steve Lacy as well as tunes from the Great American Song Book.

It is also good to report Settle, along with QES at Kirkby Lonsdale, are keen to offer a venue for travelling groups. Coupled this with the support for local groups at the many smaller venues, and jazz appears to have a healthy following in the area. But, is this a true picture? We would like to get a better idea of the jazz interest locally. If you are an individual or a group of enthusiasts interested in jazz, in any of its many forms, why not let us know by contacting: Jim Ellershaw on (015242) 62663 or me on 62546.

Tickets (£10) are available from the Victoria Theatre box office, Settle, 01729 825718 or if you are in the Bentham area contact Jim Ellershaw 62663.



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CRAVEN DISTRICT COUNCIL AREA FORUMS

Press release

Craven District Council will be holding a series of public meetings throughout May where local residents can discuss important issues concerning their local area, find out about local projects and developments and give opinions to help the council make informed decisions.

At our public meetings you will hear presentations and updates from a number of local organisations and then have plenty of time to ask them questions or raise issues. Representatives from CDC, NYCC, Yorkshire Police, National Park and others will be amongst those attending to answer questions.

At our newly introduced informal Drop In Events you can turn up for as little or as long as you want and speak individually with representatives from a range of organisations delivering services and projects in your area.

Meetings will take place at the following times and places:-

Skipton and West Craven Area Forum
Wednesday 7th May 2008, Skipton Town Hall, 7pm - 9pm

Mid Craven and Ribblesdale Area Forum
Tuesday 13th May 2008, Settle Victoria Hall (Drop In), 6pm - 9pm

North Craven Area Forum
Thursday 15th May 2008, Ingleborough Community Centre, 7pm - 9pm

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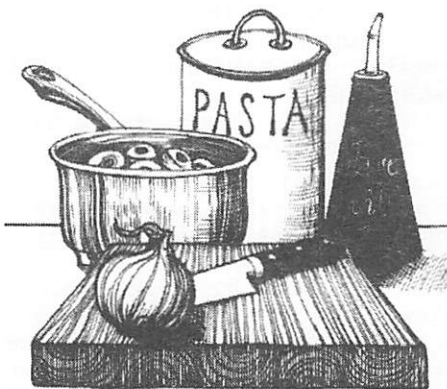
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LOOKING WELL NEWS

By Janice Every

Forest of Bowland Festival

This popular Festival will be taking place during the first two weeks of June this year, and we'll be running some events to celebrate the Festival themes of landscape, wildlife and heritage:

Shooting to Printing

Weds 4th June, 10-4: Led by professional photographer, Jon Brook, you'll spend the morning taking digital photographs in the beautiful countryside that we have around Bentham, be revived by a home-cooked lunch, followed by an afternoon session learning how to get the best from your digital images.

Discover Historical Bentham

Thurs, 5th June, 7-9pm: Join in this guided walk in the company of a knowledgeable local historian, David Johnson. You might be surprised by the interesting history hidden within the streets of our town! Meet at Looking Well. There is also a Clapham heritage walk on Saturday 7th June, 2-4pm, which will be a 3½ mile walk around Clapham led by a member of Clapham History Group. Meet at NPA car park.

Stone Carving

Sat 14th June, 10-12.45 or 1.15-4pm: Have you ever wanted to have a go at stone carving? Well, here is your chance to try out this engrossing and satisfying craft! During the morning or the afternoon, you will have the opportunity to learn some basic techniques alongside expert stone carver, Steve Bentley, and take a piece of work home with you.

Costs for each of these events are available from 62672.

Open Day

You are warmly invited to Looking Well's Open Day on Saturday 7th June from 10am to 4pm. There will be stalls, displays, an art exhibition, refreshments, and have-a-go fun for all the family. Just drop in throughout

the day. You will be able to make a kite, under the guidance of an experienced kite-maker during the morning, or try your hand at painting a piece of pottery. We'll also be serving wholesome home-made soup for lunch. We look forward to seeing you there!

Exhibition

The 'Art for All' group which meets on a Wednesday afternoon at Looking Well, is holding an exhibition of their pictures – do come along and take a look at their fantastic work: Mon 11-3, Wed 11-3 and Fri 1-3. The exhibition will be on throughout May, and will then combine with work from other Looking Well groups throughout June, July and August. If you're interested in joining the Art Group, contact Janice on 62672.

Activate

By Annie Neligan

The Activate project, encouraging women and girls in Bentham and people in the Kashmiri community in Skipton to do more physical activity, has come to an end. I'm delighted that I decided to come to Bentham to do the Activate work: I've loved the creativity and friendliness of working at Looking Well; I've enjoyed life in Bentham so much I've decided to stay now the job is finished.

I'd like to congratulate everyone who has joined in the activities and stuck at them long enough to feel the benefits. And a big thank you to everyone who has been involved, leading walks, sharing lifts to the swimming pool, teaching classes, lending minibuses and practice spaces, running children's clubs, beaver away in the garden, child-minding for the Pilates teacher etc. Some of the activities will continue under their own steam, the Monday walking group, the Thursday swimming group. Others, like the Wednesday exercise class will go on being supported by the Well-being project at Looking Well. A group of us are going to go on meeting from time to time to plan new activities and make sure we keep Active. Keep in touch with us via Looking Well.

More Looking Well news on page 23.

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BENTHAM PEOPLE



Personal Thanks

Jean Capstick - Susan and Hilary would like to thank everyone for their kindness, sympathy, cards and donations following the death of their special mum who was also a true and trusted friend to many in Bentham and on Walney Island.

Thanks

Peter & Karen Standing - We would like to thank our customers for their support over the last seven years. And to say a big "Thank You" to the staff who have worked alongside us. We would also like to wish Chris and Camilla all the very best for the future and hope they make as many friends as we have.

Birthday

Amber Harrison. Happy 18th birthday on 9th May. Love from Mum, Dad, Imy, Ayrtan, Ian, Leanne and the lads from the garage.

For Sale

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Golds Gym Multigym & VFIT Rowing machine. £70 each or both for £100. Contact No. 015242 62746.

General Help

General help needed by disabled lady, Ingleton area. Tel: 015242 41328.

CHARITIES THANK YOU

Helen Howard School of Theatre Dance says a very big thank you to Bentham News, Mrs. Leeming and Mrs. Lister for their kind donations towards our trip to the Royal Albert Hall. Thank you to Mr. & Mrs. Ward and all who made donations at the sweet shop - raising £140. Thanks also to everyone who supported us at our Morecambe show.

St. John's Hospice coffee morning held on 5th April. We would like to thank everyone who helped to make this event so successful. We are constantly amazed by the generosity of Bentham folk. The amount which was raised was a staggering £840.

Lancaster Samaritans. The proceeds from a Hot Pot Supper, held at The Coach House on Monday 14th April, were kindly donated to the Lancaster Samaritan Group. The amount was £58 and the Samaritan Group wishes to express its gratitude for this kindness.

Bentham Line Dancers. The latest charitable donation by Bentham Line Dancers was made to Ingleton Swimming Pool. The Line Dancers wish them every success in the future.

In the April edition we printed that the Bentham Line Dancers had donated £10 to Ingleton Scouts. This should have read £100!

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BENTHAM ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE TOWN

By Annie Neligan

One of the great things about B.E.S.T. is that at every meeting there are new faces – along with new ideas, experiences and skills. At April's meeting we were beginning to plan 'A Load of Old Rubbish', the recycling day we hope to hold on 21st June, and who should have turned up but an enthusiastic composting missionary!

We moved on to the main topic for the evening: public transport. Lin Barrington, from Community Transport, was with us and she hopes that the development of the station buildings as their office may lead to a general perking up of the station. Will that be enough to encourage more people to use the trains? David Alder told us what LASRUG are already doing and we thought about what we can do to support them.

Some of us think it would really help if it was easier to find out about what combination of buses and trains could get you where you want when you want. We are going to work on producing a leaflet that makes it easier to work out journeys.

Some of us are keen to campaign to get a train service with better times to suit people's journeys, especially into Lancaster either for work or an evening out. We'll be doing some exploring to find out what would make most difference to you.

We finished by noticing that although climate change is going to bring devastation to many people's lives the world over, by being pro-active we can make some of those changes for the better. A car-free Bentham Main Street with shoppers pouring off the rural buses while the freight for Kidde chugs smoothly in along the railway? Dream on ... or you may like to look at the B.E.S.T. pages on the Bentham web site. Go to www.bentham.net, choose the Community section and then B.E.S.T. for links to what people in this country and around the world are doing to reduce the effects of Climate Change. Come and dream with us at our next meeting on 19th May at the Looking Well – and get stuck in to some practical steps along the way.

BENTHAM & DISTRICT PET RESCUE



By Val Marshall

Many thanks to those of you who supported our Easter Book Sale in Settle. We still hope that we can arrange more of these popular sales, but we are desperate for suitable collecting points and storage facilities. Any offers of space for books or sanctuary equipment will be much appreciated – a modest rent is on the cards!

Meanwhile our busy programme of established and new fund raising events is getting under way. We have booked a stall at the Hellifield Craft Fair on 17th May and there will be a two day Plant Sale at Robin Lane, High Bentham on 24th/25th May at which our Annual Quiz will be launched and this is immediately followed on the Bank Holiday Monday by a Coffee Morning in Melling. Any offers of help at any of our events will be much appreciated – please ring Sue Arnott (tel. 64924) if you can assist.

We have cats and kittens available in our sanctuary and if you wish to adopt one please call Pat on Bentham 63048. Please don't forget that this is the time of year to get cats neutered and so avoid unwanted kittens.

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'SHAPELY DOES IT'

Ladies Only Toning Salon

By Christine Hodson

The owner, Kath Higgins rents the old antique shop in Low Bentham, and spent 6 months renovating it to create a toning salon. With a colleague, Janet Sedgwick, this new business opened 7 months ago and has proved a successful and worthwhile venture.

I asked Kath why a toning salon in Low Bentham? Kath told me that she enjoyed using toning tables in Settle but found the travelling hard, and wanted something similar more local. Whilst driving through Low Bentham she noticed the shop up for rent. Parking was available nearby which would make a visit to the salon accessible. As a newcomer to the area she wanted to work locally and believed the idea of a toning salon was worthwhile.

And what is a toning salon? It is a salon which provides unique power assisted chairs which help to tone up the body, encourage weight loss and promote improved flexibility



of joints. Kath's salon uses chairs that are designed to be user friendly and are proving to be successful. The salon has a friendly atmosphere, offering 6 toning chairs, the recent addition of a treadmill, and a display of gifts and handmade cards.

The women of Bentham and the surrounding area are using the salon, many who have called in after driving through the village and been attracted by the attractive exterior. It is Kath's experience that women can be intimidated by men using a gym, and that is why this salon is for women only. Kath had not counted on the huge social aspect of socialising between friends at the salon, and recounts the story of friends reuniting whilst exercising. Ring Kath or Janet on 62112 for opening times and prices, or to book a complimentary free trial. Congratulations – this new business is an asset to Bentham.

THE BFG IS COMING!

By John Vendy

Don't panic! It's the new Bentham Film Group. We aim to show films regularly at the Victoria Institute, Low Bentham, in association with TRAMPS. The first film will be shown on Saturday 7th June at 7.30pm. Look out for further details in next month's Bentham News and on local posters.

If you would like to volunteer to help in any way, please come along for a chat at the next Group meeting, the Victoria Institute on Monday 12th May at 7.30pm in the refreshment room.

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SISTERS IN BLOOM

By Keith Hartley

Bentham sisters Helen Tomlinson (left) and Ann Winnery dreamed of one day owning their own garden centre, and last year they took the first steps towards this when they started a part-time business filling pots and containers from Ann's home. When this year the opportunity arose for them to take over the garden centre at Bridge House Farm Tea Rooms in Wray, this was far too good a chance to miss. After many anxious moments they opened for business on Good Friday, and whilst the weather could have been kinder to them, the early interest has been very



encouraging. Amid tasteful pots and healthy-looking plants, the cheery welcome from each of the pair gives a distinct impression that their dreams are well on the way to coming true.

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VICTORIA INSTITUTE

By Sharon Haslam

On Saturday 31st May the Victoria Institute Committee is holding a Trash and Treasure sale. If you have any items you wish to donate or if you are willing to help on the day then please phone Sharon Haslam 63162 or Kay Piper 61977.

The Community Link Café at the Victoria Institute Low Bentham now meets twice a week, Monday 1.30 – 3.30pm and Wednesday 1.30 – 2.30pm. Each Monday the group do a crossword, play dominoes and chat in a friendly relaxed atmosphere over a cup of tea/coffee and a biscuit. The Wednesday session includes lunch and either an activity or a guest speaker. At the first session the group decided to have lunch at the Sundial, which was enjoyed by all. A big thank you to Dawn and Tony for their hospitality and roaring log fire. Thank you also to Teddy Lang for helping with the transport. If you would like to come to the Community Link Café and need transport then telephone 61800 or 63162.

The Community Garden Committee recently met and the plans were approved. A shed has been donated but we will need some help with moving and assembling it. If you enjoy gardening and would be interested in helping in any way then please let us know.

The 'Bat n Chat' meet every Thursday 10 - 12noon. Everyone is welcome to come and play badminton, table tennis and darts.

The next Book Swap is Saturday 10th May 10 - 12noon. Come and exchange or buy a book and have a cup of tea or coffee.

Bentham Community Centre

From the beginning of May the front room of the Community Centre will be the Community Office where you will be able to pick up your Dog Poo bags, recycle batteries and wait for the Community Transport etc. The opening times are 10am-12noon Tuesday Wednesday and Thursday.

Each Saturday from 3pm-6pm Craig will be doing wrestling training in the Community Centre. If you are interested in joining then phone Craig on 07745709068.



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LEEDS-MORECAMBE RAIL UPDATE

By David Alder

1. Revised Timetables - these will come into effect on Sunday 18th May. There are only very minor adjustments to local services. It is hoped to distribute the re-issued local line guide with the June 'Bentham News'.

2. Community Rail Weekend - this has now become an annual event each May and this year's will take place on Saturday 18th May. Certain stations will be hosting events, the nearest to here being Hellifield, from 10.00am to 3.00pm - next year hopefully there will be an event at Bentham, using the refurbished facilities.

3. Dales Railcard Promotion - it is hoped that May will again see special rail fares for Dales Railcard holders but no details were available on going to press. These promotions are extremely good value and very popular - information on railcards is available from, amongst others, Carnforth and Settle stations, Bentham PO, Bentham TIC, & Bentham Community Transport. The annual cost is still £10.

4. Community Rail Partnership/ LASRUG - work is still going on to improve marketing and information along the line. Efforts to secure more comfortable trains - and more of them! - have however so far not borne fruit. We now at least know a little more about how Sisyphus must have felt, but we will keep pressing the case!



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A CAMERA SHOP IN BENTHAM ?

By Janet Brook

No sorry, the rumours aren't true. As published in last month's BN, Bentham Imaging will be moving into the ground floor of Central Buildings to expand its range of services in time for the late May Bank Holiday. The left hand side of the floor will become a photographic gallery, displaying a wide range of photographs and canvas prints produced by Bentham Imaging and other guest photographers. The right hand side will become a portrait studio and wedding gallery. The space in Central Buildings gives the ability to have studio lighting allowing large groups to be catered for in portrait sessions. And, with the expanding wedding side of the business will provide a comfortable seating area to view example print albums and photo DVDs.

The current range of services (restorations, montages, brochures etc.) will continue as normal from Central Buildings.

And, to put Bentham on the world map, Bentham Imaging has enticed David Williams a world renowned photographer (Associate & Fellow of the Royal Photographic Society of Great Britain, Master of Photography, Kodak sponsored worldwide lecturer), from his home in Victoria, Australia to run a residential course at Halsteads Barn B&B in June – the course was fully booked within a week of it appearing on David's website, testament to his expertise and appeal. People are coming from all over Europe to attend and will stay at Halsteads Barn, Bentham, Clapham and Austwick.

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ANYONE FOR ROUNDERS?

By Ingrid Ellershaw

The rounders season is here once again and everyone is welcome to come and join us. Practice are on Thursdays at 6.30pm, at Benthams Playing Fields, Wenning Avenue. For further information please contact me on 62345.

BENTHAM JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB

By June Jacklin

I would like to introduce myself to you as the new secretary of Benthams Juniors. On behalf of the club, I would like to thank Jen Smith for all her hard work and hope that I can do as well; she will be a hard act to follow!

The annual Three Legged Pyjama pub crawl took place on Easter Sunday. We raised approximately £1200 for Benthams Juniors FC and the Cricket Club. Many thanks to all who took part and everyone who contributed.

We are continually recruiting new players for the next season, so if you have a son/daughter aged 6-13 who is interested in playing please contact Lee for more details on 015242 62929 or 07895861459.

The annual presentation evening will take place on 17th May from 7.00pm at Benthams Sports Club. For further information, please contact Lee or June (015242 62342).

Many congratulations to Lee, Craig, Claire and Rob for their successful completion of the FA Coaching Certificates.

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BENTHAM YOUTH THEATRE

By Liam Ellershaw

The new season of youth theatre is well under way with a few places left in both groups. If you want to participate in the development of our summer play come and join in. The next series of sessions will include workshops, drama games & acting skills. We will also be starting the writing group - important this one otherwise we'll have nothing original to perform. As usual we'll be at the community centre on Wednesdays 6 - 7.30 for the 6 - 12 years and 7-9 for 12+, each session is only £3.50. Don't forget to get your Merry Christmas Mr. Scrooge DVD from Slipped Disc. We've had a bit of a setback with the website but please do keep checking www.bytg.org.uk or emailbytg.s1b.com. See you on Wednesdays.

HORNBY DRAMA GROUP

By Richard Hopkins

On Friday 16th May at 7.30pm, Hornby Drama Group and Lancaster Footlights will be presenting three one-act plays at Hornby Institute: "Swansong" by Vanessa Brooke, "What Shall We Do With The Body" by Rae Shirley and an adaptation of John Godber's "September in the Rain". Do come and support us. Tickets are available at the door, £5. If you cannot come on Friday, the three plays will be presented at Halton Community Centre on Saturday 17th May at 7.30pm.

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LOW BENTHAM BADMINTON CLUB

By Julie Bridgeman

Absolutely Brilliant

2007 – 2008 Season

We've never had so much success. The 'B' Team comprising Amber Harrison, Becky Lloyd, Eleanor Dawson, Declan Murray, James Longton and Josh Mitton won the Parkinson Cup beating Arkhome by a good 80 points on finals night. Ellie Parker and Sarah Richardson had also helped to get us to the final but couldn't play on the night. Many thanks to supporters on the evening. This was a brilliant result as Arkholme came second in our division which was won by none other than Low Bentham 'A'. The champions of this team are Arthur Bridgeman Quin, Eleanor Dawson, Ellie Parker, Laura Dawson, Peter Longton and Sam Batty along with Amber Harrison, James Longton and Sarah Richardson who played in both teams as did Ellie Parker. The 'B' team also saw Adam Jeffrey, Jayne Wilkinson and Josh Whittaker playing in league matches.

Lancaster, Morecambe & District Junior Badminton League Annual Tournament

We had representatives in six finals in this year's annual tournament after Arthur Bridgeman Quin, Dan Whieldon, Eleanor Dawson, Ellie Parker, James Longton, Josh Mitton, Peter Longton, Sarah Richardson and Sam Batty entered various categories.

Eleanor and Ellie battled hard in the Year 11+ Ladies' Doubles Final as did Arthur and his partner Callum from Hest Bank in the Year 11+ Men's Doubles Final and Sarah and her partner Marie from Hest Bank in the Year 11+ Ladies' Doubles. All came away with well deserved runner up medals.

Arthur and Dan reached the Under 8 Men's Final, Eleanor and Ellie reached the Y9 & Y10 Ladies' Final and Arthur and Callum reached the Y9 & Y10 Men's Doubles Final. Emotions ran high as all came away winners. Well done to everyone and thank you for entering. Also thank you to everyone who came to support



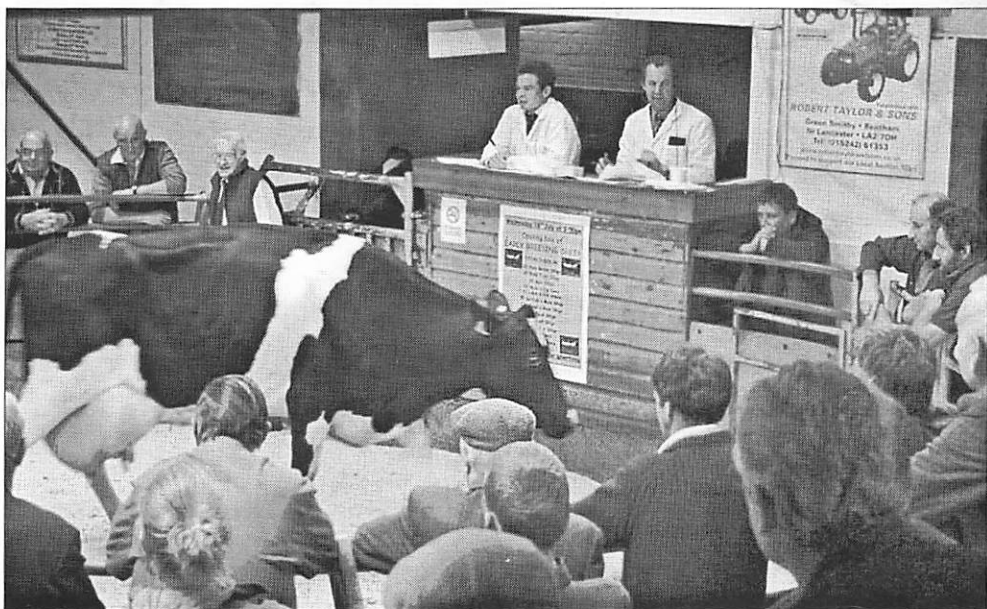
*Low Bentham Badminton Club 'B' Team
Winners of the Parkinson Cup 2008 from left to right:-
Amber Harrison, Declan Murray, Eleanor Dawson,
James Longton, Josh Mitton, Becky Lloyd. Ellie Parker
and Sarah Richardson had also played in the cup
matches to get us to the final.*

on the Saturday and the two evenings. Thanks to Arthur for organising the community transport bus for the evening finals and Andy for driving.

Consider the following conversations which took place on their arrival back home after matches in the past seasons. They were discussed on our recent outings to matches and tournaments 'Hello how did you get on?' 'We lost.' 'Hello how did you get on?' 'We lost.' 'Hello how did you get on?' 'We lost again.' These conversations continued for some time but progressed to 'Hello how did you get on?' 'We won a point.' 'Hello how did you get on?' 'We won two points.' 'Hello how did you get on?' 'We won a game.' and so on to 'Hello how did you get on?' 'We won a match.'

Credit where credit is due

Many thanks to Gareth Pritchard who has been coaching this term and the impact that he has made is evident. Thanks to Kath who has been with us all season and thanks to Glen who has driven when needed. On that note thanks also to Amber who can now drive us to matches. Thanks to Chris Brownsword who has enhanced our play with his skills recently. But most of all thanks to all the youngsters who are a credit to themselves and make playing badminton a pleasure.



Keith Hartley's photo shows Bentham Auction Mart in action on a typically busy market day recently.

Find out why there are "No rich pickings for our farmers" by reading Keith's article on page 24.

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