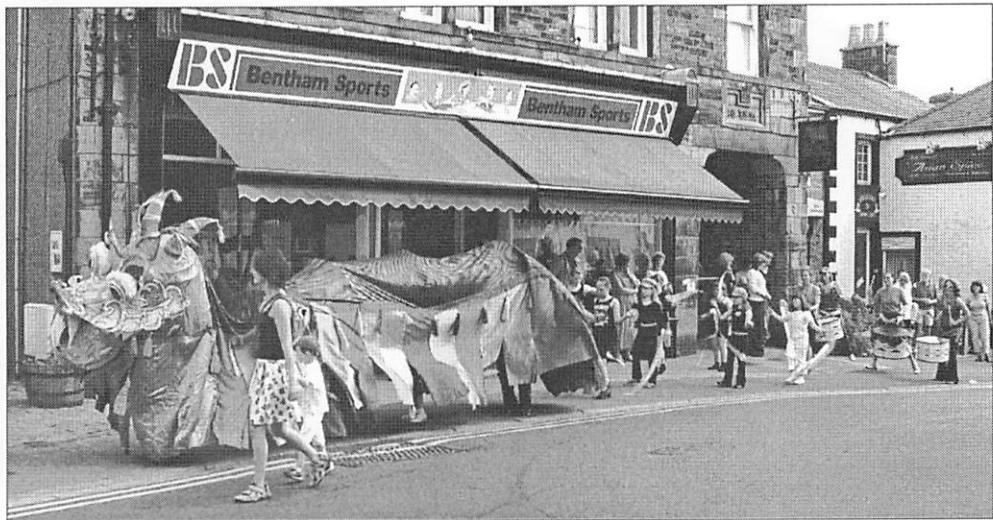


BENTHAM NEWS

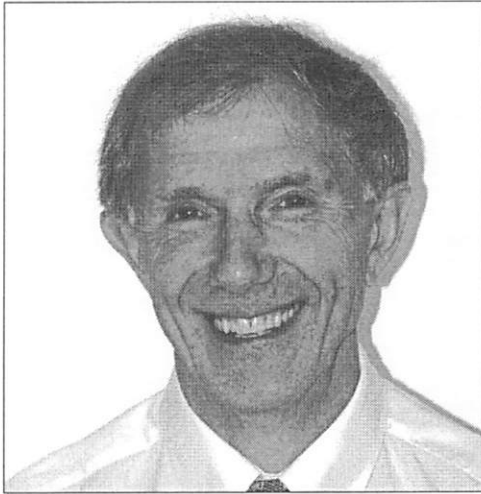


PICTURES SHOW (TOP), THE LOOKING WELL DRAGON ON PARADE TO THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE NEW LOOKING WELL STUDIOS BY TOM LISTER, EMMERDALE STAR, (SEE PIC ON PAGE 2) ON 17 JUNE, AND ALISON JONES ADDRESSING THE GUESTS AT THE RECEPTION ON FRIDAY 16 JUNE. (SEE THE REPORT ON PAGES 2 and 8).

JULY 2006

ISSUE 237

DR. CLIVE STORY – RETIRING



By Jane Preston

Bentham is losing another of its long serving medical practitioners, the highly respected Dr. Clive Story, who will be very much missed when he retires this month.

Originally from Darlington, Dr. Story came to Bentham in 1968, joining the Bentham Practice as a junior partner, when it was based at Bentham Lodge. The partnership moved to its new premises in 1973 and Dr. Story has been involved in many changes and improvements to the practice over the years. He has now been senior partner for more than 20 years, working full time until February 2003. Later in that year he became chairman of the Primary Executive Committee (PEC) for Craven, Harrogate and Rural District Primary Care Trust, which is based at Harrogate.

He is married to Lucy and they have three children, Giles, Alice and Holly. In retirement he hopes to spend time walking and involved in other outdoor activities, as well as working with wood.

Dr. Story has been a very dedicated GP, always very caring and understanding - a good old fashioned doctor who liked to get to the bottom of your problems, which is why you always had to wait for an appointment with him. As a community we shall all miss

him - he'll be a hard act to follow! We wish him a long and happy retirement.

Donations for a retiring present for Dr. Story can be made at the HSBC, the Post Office or to Jane Preston/Bill Kennedy.

TOM LISTER OPENS NEW LOOKING WELL STUDIOS



By Alison Jones

Friday 16 June was the start of a glorious weekend for Looking Well Studios.

Funders, Trustees, 'Friends' and supporters attended an official reception to mark the opening on Friday afternoon. Mary Robson, Chair of Trustees, thanked everyone and introduced Lara Dose, the Director of the National Network for Arts and Health, who spoke about the significance of the work. "This is a unique project led by artists where arts activity promotes the health and wellbeing of individuals in the community. It is a project of national significance that the community can be proud of. The social enterprise development made possible through the new building will ensure it continues to be recognised as an excellent example of community based arts in health and a national model of good practice." Ms Dose was thrilled to be involved in this great

(continued on page 8)

JUNE'S TOWN COUNCIL

By David Johnson

All Cllrs. attended except Cllr. Barnes and County Cllr. Ireton.

The meeting was opened by John Armstrong who invited the Cllrs. to attend an evangelical meeting to be led by Tony Anthony in The Town Hall on 18th June. The Revd. Nigel Thomas welcomed Cllr. Hurtle to his second term of office as Mayor. He informed the Cllrs. that more funding was now available for the GFI youth group and that money was in place to provide a youth worker for the proposed Youth Café.

Police

The Cllrs. heard from PC McClurg that there had been 13 reported crimes in High and Low Bentham over the previous month, one involving the theft of lead from St. Margaret's Church roof. Cllr. Marshall expressed his concern that police cover in the area is diminishing with preference being given to Skipton.

Highways

Our roads continue to cause problems. The Cllrs. are worried about the condition of Greystonegill, Green Lane and Mewith Lane, the road on the County Boundary at Eskew Bridge and the quality of the new road surface on Mount Pleasant. The Highway Authority is working on an order for a revision of the yellow line system on the Main Street. There is a possibility of pay and display car parks in both High and Low Bentham. The current arrangements are under review by Craven District Council. The Cllrs. said this would damage local trade and penalise residents who have no parking.

Planning

It is planned to store flood water to the north of the new development at Wesley Close by creating a flood zone behind the houses on Goodenber Road. The Cllrs. thought this could direct floodwater into the gardens of these houses and decided to ask for a site meeting with the Council representatives to discuss a solution.

The planning application to create a hot

food outlet at Arundel House, Low Bentham has gone to appeal and permission was granted for the change of use of land at Burton in Lonsdale to a private gypsy site for a period of two years.

Town Hall

The Cllrs. are trying to find a solution to prevent people tripping over the low step at the entrance to the Town Hall. The step complies with all the necessary safety and building regulations but it is still causing a problem. They may consider fitting two small handrails to draw attention to the step.

School Hill

Efforts are to be made to try to find a better alternative to the design of the present waste bin and the seat is to be fixed securely into the ground. The Cllrs. were particularly concerned to note that part of the barrier has disappeared and that a car is now parking illegally on School Hill. The clerk is to make approaches to various gardeners to see if anybody could be employed to keep the site tidy.

Footpath

Malicious damage is still taking place at the site of the disputed footpath near the river and Railtrack's recently erected fence has been destroyed. Cllr Heigh was worried that stock would wander onto the railway and cause a serious accident.

Lairgill

Some residents have been faced with a 2400% rise in a fee they pay to Craven District Council for the right to have a gate leading onto the car park. The fee has risen from £1 to £25 and because many were away they missed the chance to appeal against the decision.

Cllrs. pointed out that if people were prevented from using these gates the refuse lorry would have to reverse onto the other side of the terrace which is a difficult and time-consuming manoeuvre.

Future Events

The Community Celebration Service will be at St. John the Baptist Church, Low Bentham on Sunday 1st October at 6.30 p.m.

The Bonfire will be held on Saturday 28th October.

N.S.P.C.C. BENTHAM OPEN GARDENS, SATURDAY 1ST JULY AND SUNDAY 2ND JULY

By Susan Adams

A big thank you to the gardeners of Bentham for allowing us to share their gardens for this weekend once again. There are 22 gardens open this year, with over one third of them new to the scheme. As in the past, some are open on both days and some are open on only one. Please check your tickets before venturing out. Entrance is by a universal ticket costing £2.50. These are available at various outlets in the area:- Hash Browns, Tooby's Electrical, Bentham, Bentham Sports Shop, Tourist Information Office, Trust Office, Riverside Caravan Park and Low Bentham Post Office. They will also be available at participating gardens on the days when they are open. There will be a rough (not to scale) map on the inside of the tickets, to aid with locations. Gardens are open from 1.00-6.00pm unless otherwise stated. Look out for the green balloons! Please note that a copy of the Bentham News does not count as a ticket.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Mr. & Mrs. B. Smith, Millers Green, Mewith, Bentham. | Both days - Refreshments. |
| 2. Mr. & Mrs. D. St.Pierre, Tennant House, Clapham Road. | Both days. |
| 3. Mr. & Mrs. A. Llewellyn, Greystones, 9 Springfield. | Saturday only. |
| 4. Mr. & Mrs. R. Colyer, Robin Hill, 17 Mount Pleasant. | Saturday only. |
| 5. Mr. & Mrs. J. Warbrick, Lakeber House, Robin Lane. | Sunday only. |
| 6. Mr. & Mrs. J. Wylie, Cher Tor, Robin Lane. | Both days. |
| 7. M. Wynne & A. Carrington, Easdale, Robin Lane. | Sat. only - Refreshments/Toilet |
| 8. Mrs. C. Ely, 16 Lakeber Drive. | Sunday only - 1.00-5.00pm. |
| 9. Mr. & Mrs. K. Hartley, The Crags, Banks Rise. | Both days/Toilet. |
| 10. Mr. & Mrs. M. Slinger, Tennant Well House, Main St. | Both days/Toilet. |
| 11. Mrs. R. Atkinson, Parkinson Farm, Main St. | Both days - Refreshments. |
| 12. Mr. & Mrs. T.B. Marshall, Bentham Lodge, Main St. | Sunday only. |
| 13. Linda Hartley, 8 Duke St. High Bentham. | Saturday only. |
| 14. Mr. & Mrs. M. Yaman, 32 Millholme Drive. | Both days - Stall/Refreshments/Toilet-5pm. |
| 15. Mr. & Mrs. C. Moorby, 8 Hillcroft, High Bentham. | Both days. |
| 16. Mr. & Mrs. P. Parkins, 4 Low Bentham Road, H.B. | Saturday only. |
| 17. Mrs. D. Stubbs, The Grange, Low Bentham Road. | Saturday only. |
| 18. Mr. & Mrs. R. Tomlinson, Westering, Low Bentham Rd | Both days. |
| 19. Miss D. Sargeant, 4 Harley Close, Low Bentham. | Sunday only. |
| 20. Mr. & Mrs S. Hogg, Yew Tree Drive, Low Bentham. | Saturday only. |
| 21. Mr. & Mrs. I. McLellan, The Well, Doctors Hill, L.B. | Saturday only. |
| 22. Mrs. J. Knapp, Crammond Farm Allotment, Ireby - | Wide variety fruit & Veg.
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Craven Concerns

By Cllr. Manuel Camacho

Introduction

This report is intended to keep Bentham up to date with what is happening at Craven District Council. Regrettably a lot of time is spent on remarkably dry subjects, but there is some good stuff out there that you may be interested in. In order to bring you up to date I shall have to cover some quite old subjects if only to make sense in future reports.

In the likely event I have missed anything please contact me and I will write it up in future reports.

The Election

I am delighted to report an improved turnout and a generally well conducted event. The results are pretty well known but for those of you who were away the result was:- No change whatsoever! The political balance in Craven is unchanged leaving the Independent group supported by the Liberal democrats in overall control.

Skipton developments

Probably, in fact definitely the most controversial event this year. In a scheme partly funded by Yorkshire Forward, the intention is to make changes that would move the town of Skipton sympathetically forward.

The areas that need most attention are :-

- ◆ Car parking
- ◆ New Council offices with public rooms.
- ◆ More Housing, a large proportion to be low cost or rented.
- ◆ Re-vitalised Market and shopping areas.
- ◆ All to be achieved at zero cost to the rate payer!

The last requirement is not as difficult as it seems, as we can juggle our assets to good effect. After much public consultation and a lot of recrimination in the press a much reduced scheme has been adopted. Unbelievably one victim of the public meeting is improved car parking. The exact details of the new scheme I will report on later.

Gershon

This is ultra dry, and refers to the Lord

Gershon report calling for greater efficiencies. While we are confident that efficiencies can be achieved, our accounts department are scratching their heads looking for ways to report success or failure in meaningful detail.

CPA (comprehensive performance assessment)

This is a regular inspection of councils by the audit commission (rather like an Ofsted for schools or ISO 9001/9002 for industry). Last time we were judged to be, "fair with prospects for improvement". We will be very disappointed if we do not achieve "good" or better next time.

Housing

The good news is the small development of Wesley Close being built by Yorkshire Housing and to be managed by Craven Housing. More on this subject another time.

Licensing

The granting and regulation of liquor licences was passed over from the magistrates court to district councils last year. This coincided with a relaxation of the hours of opening of licensed premises. Any applications for extensions that had objections were heard by a panel of councillors (providing that the premises were not in their wards). The challenge was to reach a good agreement with neighbours while meeting the objective of sensibly extended hours. Not easy but on the whole I believe that we did a reasonable job.

Whether the desired result of quieter departures will be achieved, only time will tell.

Recycling

This is a subject that creates a lot of interest, particularly plastics. I will try to get the Head of Waste Management to write an article for us, failing which I will do my best in another issue.

Museum

Very good news here, Andrew Mackay the head of our Museum service has secured a lottery grant of £200,000 to support the Craven museum, Embsay steam railway, the Museum of North Craven life (Settle) and the
(Continued on page 6)

Craven Concerns (Continued from page 5)

Upper Wharfedale folk museum (Grassington). If you are involved with local exhibitions or educational events, give Andrew a ring on 01756 706317. It is quite possible that he can find resources to support you.

Local Government Review

The vote that never happened, on the creation of a Yorkshire and Humberside region was part of a major re-organisation that also did not happen.

The most significant part for us was that the Craven district would be disbanded in favour of direct control from North Yorkshire County Council or a bigger district comprising Harrogate and Craven. Although things have gone quiet, the odd word leaks out of central government suggesting it may be back. The good news (in my opinion) is that it will be at least three years, possibly longer, before anything happens.

Contact Craven

This is a big one. All our working systems are under review with a view to providing a better service. The most visible part of this at present is the refurbished reception at Skipton. I will cover this in detail in a later edition particularly as it is my favourite subject!

Car Parks

A comprehensive review of car parking throughout Craven is taking place. This will result in a detailed report to elected members and debates will take place to determine

what needs to be done and where. Nothing will happen until the committees have made their decisions and those decisions are confirmed by full council. These are public meetings and members of the public are welcome to attend, if you wish to make a statement then that is also welcome. Clearly this is an important topic and I will give it prominence in future articles.

Public Toilets

Unfortunately it has been necessary to review the provision of public toilets. This process has been unavoidable due to the high cost of maintenance. Some of these facilities were built during the reign of Queen Victoria and simply do not meet modern standards. There is no Central Government support for this service so the Craven rate payer has to stump up.

The good news is that our toilet is to remain. How I resisted making up a few puns I don't know!

Flooding

Not at the front of our minds at the moment but a lot of work has been put in to try and improve our defences. One comment I remember from the bad spell, was that, to allow maintenance, we could all help enormously by not parking over gratings.

Purchasing

Although we do not buy as much as NYCC or other large authorities there are still savings to be made and having considered several strategies we have decided to join a purchasing consortium of local authorities. Hopefully I should be able to report on the success of this later.

The Craven Pool and Fitness Centre

Although not convenient to North Craven this has turned out to be such a major success that we have agreed to extend the fitness suite. (Perhaps they need the exercise more in South Craven!)

It is a first rate asset to the district and a visit is well worthwhile if you can fit it in with something else.

Manuel

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BN EDITORIAL

The purpose of writing this 'Editorial' is to share with readers some of our current projects and concerns.

Eagle-eyed BN readers may have noticed that the June edition of Bentham News looked, and even felt, particularly good! The photographs on pages 1, 2, 31 and 32 were of a higher quality (as in, you could really see who was in them!), and this was no accident. We have long wanted to improve the quality of photographs printed in BN, so in June we experimented with different qualities of paper and printing techniques, and although this means that our costs have gone up somewhat, we think the result is worth it.

There is no doubt that, as we approach our 20th Anniversary, we are now having to wrestle with some of the issues that come with longevity and success. We are custodians of a much-loved community paper which attracts more advertising and copy than we can sometimes contain within our maximum 32 page format. Recently we have been in the unfortunate position of having to turn away items, even when they have been submitted by deadline. Only a few years ago Bentham News usually had 24 pages, now 32 is the norm. We are wondering about going up to a 36 page publication, but there are some technical difficulties with this, and also cost implications. We are also wondering whether to ration half page advertisements, not an easy decision.

Experimentation is only possible because we are financially viable. This strong financial situation has come about because, on the income side, we attract plenty of advertising and items for the Bentham People Page and our collecting tins are well supported. On the expenditure side, apart from paying our coordinator and the printer, everyone works for BN on a voluntary basis.

The Editorial Committee enjoys putting BN together each month, and works hard to run a well-organised, well-coordinated, responsible and responsive enterprise. We'd always be interested to hear your comments or suggestions, so if you want to take part in making BN even better, please feel free to contact us.

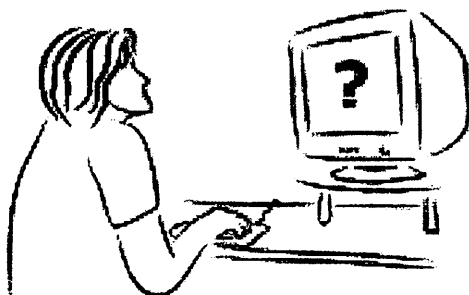
PLAYGROUP & TODDLERS

By Rachael Faraday

Have you got children between the ages of 0-5 years old? Playgroup and Toddlers would make you most welcome (see diary dates for when and where). Parents/carers must stay with children until they are at least 2 years old. This is a good way of meeting other parents, while your children begin to play and socialise with others. When they (and you) are ready, children can be left with our qualified leader and pay playgroup fees. They don't have to be potty trained.

Due to increasing other commitments, our leader, Rachael, is stepping down, so from September we will need someone with relevant qualifications to replace her. (NVQ level 3 or equivalent, or NVQ level 2 studying for level 3). We are a small friendly group. For more details, please call me on 61438. Also, thanks to all for the support at our recent coffee morning - we raised £170.

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TOM LISTER OPENS NEW LOOKING WELL STUDIOS

(Continued from page 2)

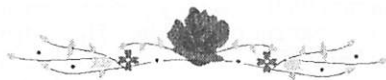
achievement and was amazed by the wood pellet boiler!

Amongst the distinguished guests present were representatives of North Yorkshire County Council, Craven District Council, Craven, Harrogate & Rural District Primary Care Trust, DEFRA and Bentham Health Centre.

Miss Maureen Magoolagan thanked Ms Dose and presented her with a bouquet.

The Chinese Dragon accompanied by Poi spinning children and drummers processed through the town on Saturday morning to welcome Tom Lister, our own local celebrity from Emmerdale, who performed the official opening ceremony. After an inspiring few words, the ribbon was cut and the doors opened to welcome the whole community into Looking Well. The children then performed their play about Ingleborough in the garden.

The two day event culminated in a Summer Concert by the Bradford Chorale in the Town Hall to raise funds for the kitchen area. It was a happy weekend for everyone connected with Looking Well Studios. The trustees would like to express their gratitude to everyone in Bentham, the majority of whom are unpaid, whose hard work made this happy event such a success.



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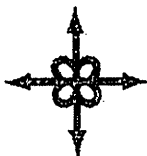
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BENTHAM FOOTPATH GROUP



By Maureen Ellis

There are many reasons why people want to walk, for exercise, to explore new areas of terrain, to look for archeological artifacts and particularly in this country to enjoy the bounty of the English countryside. More and more there is an awareness of the healthy side of walking, physiotherapists will tell you there are very few disorders where exercise is contraindicated; it doesn't have to be strenuous and particularly in the Spring and Summer months there is so much going on in the way of wild life and floral entertainment that there is much to observe.

A visit to one of the local Tourist Information Offices provides leaflets about guided rambles and observing and listening to wildlife in our local areas. On our doorstep with the appointment of Annie Neligan, there are regular leisurely walks, with an emphasis on observation; the wonderful new Looking Well will give details and, as always, they live up to their reputation for friendliness.

I recently returned from a trip to St. Petersburg and as I flew back over England the most obvious thing was blossom, and it was the humble hawthorn that dominated the land. Now as I stroll about the lanes and footpaths I am amongst it. That city may have heritage treasures but there is something more basically satisfying about the birth and growth that is tumbling out of the soil around us.

The July programme of walks of the Bentham Footpath Group ranges in a very balanced way over quite a large area and on different days of the week but all initially meeting at Lairgill. On Thursday 6th at 9.30am there is a 7 mile walk that takes the more unusual route to Penyghent by going from Helwith Bridge where there are such interesting quarries.

Saturday 15th at 9.30am brings another 7 mile walk in the south easterly direction from Bentham, with a walk from Long Preston to Otterburn. Long Preston is unusual in these

modern times in that it has a church which is unlocked during daylight hours and it contains among other artifacts the memorial stone to the Hammerton family, to be found at the right of the altar.

Nearer to Bentham, on Wednesday evening 19th at 6.30pm there is a shorter walk of 5 miles starting at the second meeting place Hawksheath Farm, Keasden, which takes in the probable quarry of Stoney Wood and then on the other side of Mewith Road returns through the fields by way of Hammond Head and Reeby's Farm.

The last walk of the month, on Sunday 30th, is 8 miles and is in the more western direction of the Lancaster Canal and Warton. Although apart from a stiffish climb up Warton Crag it is a levelish walk, some people may find it reassuring that because there are two leaders, one of them will remain at the rear as a back stop.

GENTLE WALKING GROUP

By Annie Neligan

The women's Gentle Walking Group has been enjoying Monday morning walks, particularly around the green lanes of Austwick. We take our time, noticing all the changes in wildflowers and bird life from week to week.

We would like to have more volunteer walk leaders. If you are interested in doing the training, a free one day training in leading health walks, do let me know at Looking Well.

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THE STORY OF JAMES FOSTER LTD OF BENTHAM

By David Johnson

Edna Foster, the wife of John Allen Foster and Julie Fisher's mother, wrote this article. It gives a lot of interesting information about the family, Bentham and their business. Foster's shop is now the Co-operative shop in Main Street and Barton House is the adjacent building on the corner of Main Street and Robin Lane.

"James Foster founded the firm in 1867. It was not registered as James Foster Ltd. until the early 1920s.

The business was founded about the time the Ribbleshead Viaduct was being built; he used to go with a horse and cart and supply the Irish navvies with provisions at their shanty villages. On the way back he called at all the farms collecting eggs, butter and game. This was quite a feat then; remember there were no motor vehicles in those days.

He had quite a large family, mostly girls, with two boys, - William Dodgson Foster (the second eldest) and James Foster (the youngest). I think there were 13 of them. He started the bake-house and his daughters did the baking.

Sadly, he died when he was about 59. The business was taken over by the eldest son William, who married Elizabeth Kendall Kidd. They had 5 children: James, John Allen, Beth, Willie and Isabella. William sadly went completely deaf when he was a comparatively young man so his two eldest sons took over. By this time it was a very

thriving business, dealing with farmers from miles around. A Mr. Ashworth used to come from Colne on a Wednesday collecting butter and eggs and, no doubt, bringing goods of his to trade. With the coming of the motorcar they had 3 travelling shops on the road and went as far as Hellifield and Caton, also all the surrounding villages.

Farmers and their wives were also catered for on a Wednesday which was market day, meals being provided at Barton House (one has only to look at the doorstep of Barton House to see the wear on the stone step). Catering was also supplied for The Golf Ball, The Spinners Ball etc. This used to be on a supply and return basis.

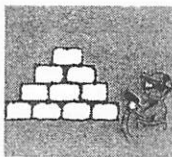
In those days these balls were held in the Assembly Room at the Royal Oak Hotel, (now Richard Turner's Offices) approached by a stone staircase to avoid going through the main part of the hotel.

In 1946 John Allen Foster and his wife Edna took over the management of Bobby and Peggy Reid's shop, bake-house and café (now the Village Bakery in Station Road) which they successfully ran for the next 12 years, catering again for farmers, weddings, funerals and dances in The Town Hall and the Methodist School Room.

At the same time John Allen was still involved with James Foster Ltd. Time however, was passing and in January 1974 James retired and John became the sole owner. Sadly James died in May 1974. He was 71 years old. John decided to turn James Foster Ltd. into a supermarket with the help of his wife; again it was a success, but not without long hours and total dedication. The shop had an entire facelift and was kept open during alterations.

In 1978 Lancastrian Co-op approached John with a view to buying the business and property. The whole transaction was completed in 6 weeks and John Allen retired after a lifetime of dedication to his customers, he was 73 and had joined the business at the age of 18".

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SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

By John Frankland

Kids in Benthams will have their school holidays booked up this summer as part of an exciting nationwide library promotion. The Summer Reading Challenge will see 4-12 year olds make the most of their long break from the classroom by following a top secret "Reading Mission" in the library, designed to appeal to children's interest in detectives and special agents.

Children will be set the challenge of reading six or more books of their own choice during the holidays, and those who complete the mission will become special Reading Agents! Special Mission Accomplished medals and certificates will reward those who finish the challenge.

Benthams Library will be helping children every step of the way. Each participant will receive a special Reading Mission pack in the style of a special agent attache case, containing full details of their challenge, code-busting puzzles, tips on reading and help with charting progress through the six books. Also, we'll be holding activity days throughout the summer. On Tuesday 1st August, from 2.00 - 3.30pm at Benthams Library there will be a disguise making activity for all you budding spies! Later in the summer, on Tuesday 24th August, from 2.00-3.30pm, we'll hold a special spy-training day where you can learn all about becoming a secret agent! And, like borrowing books, all of these great resources are available from the library for free.

If your child attends Benthams Primary School...

As you will be aware, on Wednesdays your child comes down to the library from school and chooses a book. This is not the only time your child can use the library. All children have an individual library card stored here at the library and can use this at other times too, and not just to take books out. They can also use computers (with parental consent) or borrow children's videos and storytapes; up to 10 items can be borrowed on each ticket.

So if you want to take part in Reading Mission just ask a member of the library staff for your child's card and we'll sign them up for the Reading Mission. The Reading Mission launches on 15th July and runs until 30th September.

Library Opening Hours

Monday and Friday 2.00-4.00pm and 5.00-6.30pm. Wednesday 10.00am-12.30pm and 2.00-4.00pm. Saturday 10.00am-12.30pm.

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LAUNCH OF COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIP

By David Alder

Saturday 20th May saw the formal inauguration of the Leeds-Morecambe Community Rail Partnership Co. Ltd. This has been formed to promote use of the Leeds-Morecambe line and to seek to improve services, where possible, and is part of a national Department of Transport initiative. The partnership is supported by North Yorkshire and Lancashire County Councils, Northern Rail, the Settle and Carlisle Railway Development Company, Lancaster City Council and the three rail user groups along the line. It is chaired by Jim Trotman, Principal Tourism Officer for Lancaster City Council.

Following the launch at Carnforth Railway Station, the official party, including four mayors (of Lancaster, Carnforth, Settle and Benthams) travelled in the train to Benthams where they were told of the plans to refurbish the station building for community transport and other community uses. After tea and cakes, and a lively talk by Bill Mitchell about the railway, the party returned to Carnforth.

The partnership has drawn up a list of objectives for the next six years and is hoping to have in post shortly, a project officer to take these ideas forward. The Community Rail Partnership welcomes involvement from local groups, businesses and individuals. For more information please contact me, David Alder, on 61650.



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"COME, LISTEN TO THE BAND"



By Judith Johnson

On Sunday 18th

June the square

at Kirkby Lonsdale was given over to a band contest. This enjoyable event lasted most of the day and attracted some excellent bands from all over the North of England. Kirkby Lonsdale Band won the section for the best hymn. We are delighted to welcome them to St. John the Baptist Church, Low Benthams on Saturday 8th July at 7.30 p.m.

Their conductor, Allan Greenwood, will lead them through a varied selection of marches, classical music, hymn tunes and film music.

Tickets, including nibbles, wine or a soft drink cost £6 each and are available from 61905 or at the door. We hope to see you there.

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YESTERDAY IN BENTHAM

Snippets from Bentham News editions of fifteen years and ten years ago.

Edited by Keith Hartley

July 1991

Ian Guy scooped a bagful of awards at Bentham Football Club's Annual Presentation Dinner and Disco, held at the Coach House. These included First team Player of the Year, Players' Player (Joint with Glen Parker) Clubman of the Year, Tony Dawber's Loyalty Award (Joint with Jim Guy) and the Riverside Trophy.

Polly Johnson was the Queen of Low Bentham Gala, held on the Primary School Field. Her attendants were Zoe Briggs, Leanne Dixon, Jenny Bloxham and Katie Whinnery. Ryan Carter was her page boy.

Bentham's first Tree Wardens, Jude Pereles and Terry Whittaker, were appointed by the Town Council.

NB They must have been very effective as I've never seen an illegally-parked tree in Bentham!

Can you guess what it was that "exotic food lovers, gastronomes and curious locals" turned out in force for? It was the long-awaited opening of The Peacock Chinese Food Takeaway in the old laundrette building on Main Street.

The Town Council Meeting was chaired by Bentham's first woman Mayor, Sue Bloxham, who's still doing valued work as one of our volunteer BN distributors in Low Bentham.

July 1996

Parents at Low Bentham Primary School voted overwhelmingly (41 to 10) against a proposed change to Grant Maintained Status for the school.

North Yorks Business Link, targeted to help businesses with between 3 and 50 employees, is now up and running, with a dedicated business advice centre in Skipton and access to a wide range of advisors in

York.

Obituaries were printed for John Hodgson and Carol Wills who had died at the ages of 36 and 34 respectively. Both were local parents whose passing was mourned deeply within the Bentham community. Doubtless they are still missed a great deal today.

The deaths were also reported of (in Dorchester) John Pafford, aged 96, who was a "distinguished local scholar and author," and Francis ("Fran") Forster, age 84, a Bentham newsagent for many years.

Youth and Playscheme Leader, Carol Robinson left the Bentham area to start a new life with her family in Australia.

Quote . . . (Keith Cowling)

"The Council was ticked off for being tardy in bringing the Town Hall up to standard for its (*entertainment*) licence, which has been temporarily suspended."

Gardening Hint: Marigolds or tagetes planted in the greenhouse with tomatoes will keep greenfly and whitefly at bay.

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BENTHAM PET RESCUE

By Val Marshall

Control of feral cats

Pet Rescue is currently trapping and neutering a colony of about 30 feral cats at the old abattoir, Low Bentham.

One of the traps, valued at £70, has recently been taken. This is a particularly cruel theft as it diminishes the chances of trapping the cats and ensuring that they cannot reproduce. If anyone sees such a trap would they please inform Bentham Pet Rescue on 62512.



THIEF STEALS AGE CONCERN MILK

By Mary Hartley

At the recent Bentham Age Concern coffee morning, £350 was raised for funds. The committee, helpers and members thank the people of Bentham for their donations, help on the day, and of course, their support.

This very happy and successful occasion was spoiled only by the fact that someone stole the twenty pints of milk, generously donated by a local milkman, from the steps of the Town Hall.

LOW BENTHAM GALA

By Vivienne Ayre

Everyone is invited to join in the fun on Low Bentham Primary School field on Saturday 8th July. The Gala Queen and her attendants will be there and there will be a variety of games and races as well as delicious things to eat.

Prizes will be awarded for fancy dress and there will be a traditional egg throwing competition. Admission is by ticket, available at the gate - £1 for adults but free for accompanied children. There will be a prize for one lucky ticket holder!

The children and staff of the school very much hope you will come along and support this event.

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AMPLE PARKING

GARDENING PAGE

By Joyce Knapp



The first weekend in July sees the return of the Benthams Open Gardens when several local people generously allow us to peruse their gardens and green spaces. I will be opening my allotment on the Sunday afternoon from 1pm until 5pm and everyone who visits can explore, comment on and ask questions about the various crops they may see growing and, who knows, there may even be some tasty crops ready for sampling. Hopefully, I will have a wide variety of fruit and vegetables on view, despite the rabbits that have taken up residence there this year. Perhaps the time is right for me to diversify into the production of rabbit meat: presumably, I would be able to sell it at a premium rate as it would be organically reared.

July provides the last opportunity to plant out crops, such as winter cabbage, that have been raised from seed in trays of compost under glass. These should be planted approximately 18" apart in soil that has had some garden compost added and they will need to be watered in well at planting, especially if the weather conditions are hot and dry. I currently grow a variety called 'January King' as it combines a sweet, crisp texture with the ability to withstand frost. As suggested by the name, they will generally be ready to harvest in January and, if the seeds are sown sufficiently early, they may even be ready to use as early as December.

Returning to summer crops, French beans may be ready to harvest by July and will benefit from regular picking as this will stimulate the production of more pods. This year I tried sowing seed of a dwarf variety directly in the ground but was disappointed by the germination rate, as most of the seeds rotted in the ground. I gained much better results when I sowed seeds of a climbing variety in pots of compost under glass, only planting them out when they had reached a height of approximately 8", so next year I will probably start the dwarf variety off in pots too. Beans and peas are both crops

where I have had to resort to putting a barrier of netting round the beds to keep out my ever-growing colony of rabbits. However, I have used a plastic mesh to cover all other crops because it has the added benefit of protecting carrot plants from the dreaded root fly and keeps butterflies off the brassicas; so no caterpillars in my cabbages this year, I hope.

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ENTERTAINMENT FOR JULY

Saturday 1st Dave Carling, guitar/vocalist

Saturday 15th Lee Warren, Keyboard/vocalist

Saturday 22nd Just John, guitar vocalist

Saturday 29th 40's NIGHT - (40's Music,

40's dress in aid of

Benthams Charity fortnight)

LOCAL EVENTS IN JULY

Sat 1st Farmers' Market, Lower Town Hall, 8.30am-2.30pm.

St. Boniface coffee morning, Town Hall Ballroom, 10.00am-12.00noon. 

Open Garden Weekend, see details on page 4.

Sun 2nd Open Garden Weekend, see details on page 4.

Mon 3rd Town Council meeting at the Town Hall, 7.30pm.

Gentle Walks for Women. Meet at Lairgill at 10.00am, and every Monday.

Tue 4th Tai Chi at the Community Centre, 2.00-3.00pm, and every Tuesday.

Looking Well community gardening from 2.00pm and every Tuesday.

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

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

High Bentham Toy Library at the Community Centre, 9.30-11.30am.

Bentham Theatre Group Singing Workshops at the Community Centre, 7.30pm.

Wed 5th NSPPC monthly meeting at Lingfield, Robin Lane, 7.30pm.

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

Indoor market at the Town Hall, and every Wednesday.

Wed 5th Keep Moving Well exercise to music. Community Centre 1.00pm very gentle; 2.00pm for the over 60s, and every Wednesday.

Thu 6th Bentham Footpath Group walk, Penyghent from Helwith Bridge, 7 miles, leaders A. & M. Speight 62540. Meet at Lairgill 9.30am.

High Bentham W.I. at the Town Hall, 7.30pm. See page 29.

LASRUG committee meeting at the Town Hall, Wenningdale Room, 7.30pm.

Evening Energiser exercise to music, Town Hall 6.45pm and every Thursday.

Fri 7th Age Concern, Annual General Meeting. 1.30pm at the Masonic Hall. Volunteers to help on Age Concern Rota will be very welcome.

Sat 8th Goodenber Play Area coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10.00am-12.00noon. Cakes and Raffle. 

Low Bentham Gala, at the School field. See page 14.

Kirkby Lonsdale Brass Band Concert at St. John's Church, Low Bentham, 7.30pm. Tickets, including wine and nibbles, £6 at the door or from 61905. A varied programme of light music.

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Mon 10th Bentham Theatre Group Singing Workshops at the Community Centre, 7.30pm.

Fri 14th Age Concern at the Masonic Hall, Arthur Benbow - Film Show.

Sat 15th Copy deadline for August edition of Bentham News.

Tatham Village Hall coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10.00am-12.00noon. 

Bentham Footpath Group walk, Long Preston to Otterburn, 7 miles, Leader T. Burnett 63481. Meet at Lairgill at 9.30am.

North Stars Steel Orchestra concert at St. James' Church, Clapham, 7.00pm. Tickets £10, under 16s £5, from 015242 51426 or 015242 51137. Early booking recommended.

Tue 18th Bentham Child Health Clinic at the Surgery, 2.00-4.00pm.

High Bentham Toy Library at the Community Centre, 9.30-11.30am.

Bentham Theatre Group Singing Workshops at the Community Centre, 7.30pm.

Wed 19th Bentham Footpath Group walk, Stoneywood, Keasden, 5 miles, leader M. Ellis 51802. Please meet at Lairgill at 6.30pm.

Bentham Out of School Club Disco, starting at 4.30pm at the Community Centre. Children 50p. For more details contact Linda on 61800.

Fri 21st Waste paper collection at Lairgill Car Park, 8.30-11.00am. Proceeds to NSPCC.

Musical event at Green Close Studios, Melling. Bob Cheevers, straight from USA. Soul music. For more details contact Sue Flowers 015242 21233.

Fri 21st Age Concern at the Masonic Hall, Card Bingo.

Sat 22nd Bentham Golf Club coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10.00am-12.00noon. 

Fri 28th Bentham News published. Age Concern at the Masonic Hall, Video - Coastal Britain.

Sat 29th Bentham & District Pet Rescue coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10.00am-12.00noon. 

Sun 30th Bentham Footpath Group walk, Lancaster Canal, Warton Crag, 8 miles, leaders E & S Badley 62502. Meet at Lairgill 9.30am.

Car Boot Sale for Low Bentham Play Area, Cleveland Square, 9.00am.

WRITING COMPETITION

Don't forget the competition to celebrate the BN's 20th anniversary. Prizes will total an excellent £450. There are three classes, age 10 and under on 1st September, age 11 to 18 and age 19 and over. The theme is "Living in Bentham". Entries can be short stories, essays or poems, maximum 600 words. Entries to be submitted by 30th September to Bentham Sports, clearly marked "BN Writing Competition". For full details see last month's BN.

WORLD CUP WORDSEARCH

The winner will be announced in next month's BN.

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LIN BARRINGTON: DEVELOPING BENTHAM'S TRUST

By Trevor Blackwell

"I've just been breaking into the railway station!" Lin Barrington, project manager of the Bentham Development Trust, and Low Bentham town councillor, confessed when we met. So I asked her how it all began.

"There was a whole gang of us that moved up from Exeter about twenty-five years ago. I got a job working in Lancaster at Single Step Coop - the wholefood place - and made a lot of friends here. I was working on my own all day at home in Low Bentham when Vi Christensen and Keith Cowling started the Bentham Trust - along with a lot of other people - and Vi said "Why don't you come and help out?" So that's how I started really.

The idea was that the Trust would be an umbrella organisation which could help voluntary organisations - including the Bentham News - to get funding. We got some funding to do a study in 1994 on Bentham - lots of people got involved - and then formed the Trust to carry out the findings.

Bill Kennedy and I worked together at the Trust for a long time. He might point to different things, but for me one important achievement was getting funding to do up the Community Centre. We did the Goodenber Road Play area as well, and we developed Bentham Community Transport, which takes people to the surgery, and runs the taxi-bus and the mini-buses. We've developed the information side, so now people come to us to find out about things. We also manage the Tourist Information Office, though that's a separate organisation which existed long before we did.

We're trying to get more things going at the Victoria Institute. We've got a new committee, which has got some younger people on it, and the Active Bentham Project gives us a chance to give some paid time to it. So we're going to start being down there working a couple of mornings a week so that people can drop in and see somebody, and talk about what they'd like to see happening.

Are the young people of Bentham disaffected? I think there's always been a gang of kids who hang out on the street. They do daft things sometimes. They're not disaffected, more bored,



more wanting something to do. Quite what it is they want to do I'm not sure. If there was a place for them just to go and hang out, would that be what they want? If you are out on the street you do see anything that goes on! Just the fact that they're there in a gang is perceived as a threat. Kids used to shout things at me years ago when I was a hippy! Most of them will grow up and do the settling down thing and be absolutely fine. I've always felt well inclined towards them really.

We were breaking into the station today to measure up. They're going to lease it to us for a peppercorn rent in return for us doing up the building. One end is going to be the Community Transport Office, and the other end will be a drop in for young people - including the ones who've vandalised it! Churches Together want to run that. But there are still some questions about getting the money.

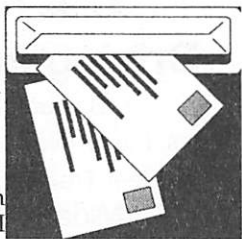
I encourage people to work together. It's a long business. People have to get used to each other, and see the things that they can do together. That's what I'm about - working together so that we can get more done.

People in Bentham can be very cautious. I think of myself as a "worried optimist". I'm a day-time optimist and a night-time worrier! In the face of people saying "Oh no!" I'm always, "Oh yes, it'll be all right!" Then I wake up in the night and think, "It's too much! I can't do that!"

I came away thinking that Bentham is very lucky to have worried optimists like Lin Barrington who keep on keeping on.

Dear All,

Morning in May at the Pink House, Bentham



Gardens are such precious places. I treasure the morning moments before the day starts when I can fold back my bedroom window and let the garden world tumble in, over the top of my cat's head - he perches on the "high-wire" of the window fold!

The light dancing on the billowing skirts of the hawthorn and lilac couple as they pirouette to the far left leaving room for the silver birch to take centre - floor shimmy - shaking her thousand green medallions as starlings scream; blackbirds plumply chuck and sparrows steady away keeping the rhythm.

Keeping it golden 'til the road takes over and the cars woosh, tractors trail and the damp washing from the night before starts to blow again.

Enjoy these precious moments.

Lizzie Starr.

Dear Bentham News,

On Thursday the 18th May, Bentham Fire Station held a Grand Benefit Dinner at the Coach House in aid of the "Fire Services National Benevolent Fund". The event was well attended and raised the superb amount of £670.

May I take this opportunity to thank especially Bill and Karen and all their staff for their generosity, hospitality and support. The surroundings could not have been warmer and more welcoming.

Also, thanks go out to everyone who bought tickets and attended. It was a great night with excellent food and drink. Many thanks to all the benefactors of the evening raffle, who have generously supported us over many years.

Yours sincerely,

Mick Green,

Crew manager, Bentham Fire Station.

Dear Bentham News

Missing Tray

At the LASRUG Coffee Morning in the Town Hall on April 22 a metal tray was left behind. The tray is special to the Bearpark family as it was an engagement gift 48 years ago. Not surprisingly it has pictures of trains on it. There will be a reward of chocolate cake if you can help us find it. Please telephone 01729 822712.

With thanks, John and Dorothy Bearpark

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BENTHAM PEOPLE

Thanks

Margaret Ball would like to thank her family and friends for making her 60th birthday very special, for your kind donations for St. John's Hospice, and lovely gifts. A big thank you to the staff at Bentham Sports Club for providing a great party venue.

Holly Thomas wishes to thank the SBC for their recent donation towards her trip to the Taize community in France.

Birthdays

Blackwell. Happy 21st Richard, Love - Dad and Mum.

For Sale

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CHARITIES THANK YOU

Ingleton Scout Group is very grateful to the SBC of Bentham for the recent kind donation of £150 towards funds for a new Scout headquarters in Mealbank Quarry, Ingleton.

TRADERS BARBECUE

By Pam Woof

Bentham Traders are holding a family barbecue at Izzy's barn (Lowther Hill), at 7.30pm on Saturday 15th July. Come and enjoy the beautiful setting and convivial company. Bring a friend and a bottle!

Tickets, £5, are available from Temptations and the Tourist office. Get yours now!

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WANTED!

Volunteer for Tea and Chat Club

Would you like to help co-ordinate the Tea and Chat Club, which meets once a month on a Sunday afternoon?

We need someone to help us for a few hours per month, all expenses will be paid. If you would like to know more, please contact Lin on 62753.



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WANT TO BE YOUR OWN BOSS?

By Sophie

Young People living in Bentham and across Craven might like to think about starting their own business with help from The Prince's Trust.

The Prince's Trust Business Programme of low interest loans, grants and business advice has helped over 70 young people start up in self-employment in the Dales area. Young people (18 – 30) who are not working full-time and have a business idea but lack the funds and confidence to go it alone can approach the trust for assistance.

Successful businesses include Wensleydale Rocking Horses near Hawes and Tootsies Shoe Shop in Skipton.

A dedicated worker covers the Craven area and will tell you all about it, so please just call Sophie on 01756 797006 or visit www.princes-trust.org.uk

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saturday	Lunch	12-2pm,	6-9pm Restaurant Night

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CHILDREN'S COOL CREATIVE COUNCIL FUN DAY AT LOOKING WELL

By Nicola Moorhouse

Cool Creative Council is a new group that has cool ideas for art based workshops for 5-12 year olds. On 1st June we had our first cool creative day at the Looking Well; sixteen children attended.

We made experimental paintings, inspired by using lots of different materials. We used lots of paint, rollers, toothbrushes, bubble wrap, sponges, finger paint, coloured sand, glitter and glue to make 3 huge splodge paintings. It was exciting, free and wild.

With Nikki we made a huge obelisk out of withy and we all made a decorative circle to decorate the surface of the obelisk. We are going to put it into the Looking Well garden and grow plants to climb up it.

At lunchtime we played fun games for 30 minutes in the garden before munching an excellent healthy picnic lunch outside. Everyone enjoyed the day and can't wait till the next workshops which will be held in the summer holidays.

We now have a new website. This can be visited at www.coolcreativecouncil.org.uk

If you are interested in forthcoming events, register your details on the website or contact Nicola at Looking Well on 015242 62672.

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COMMUNITY FIRST RESPONDERS – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

By Michael Lavelle

Are you aged between 18 and 70 and in good health? Would you like to help your community by training to be a First Responder?

In this country someone has a heart attack every two minutes and research shows that up to 30%* of these people will die before reaching hospital. In semi rural areas a Community First Responder is more likely to reach a patient within minutes and provide vital care and support until an Emergency Vehicle arrives.

Volunteers will be trained by West Yorkshire Metropolitan Ambulance Service (WYMAS) to provide basic life support. This will include patient assessment, airway management, defibrillation and Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). Although the post is voluntary the selection and training process will be to the same standards as WYMAS employees. Selection involves police checks and completion of a health questionnaire.

Burton in Lonsdale has a team of 14 First Responders which has been operating since February 2005. As well as attending emergencies in Burton they have responded to emergencies in Bentham. A team based in Bentham would be able to provide a quicker response which might make the difference between life and death.

Interested? In the first instance please contact Lin Barrington at Bentham Community Transport on 62753 who will arrange for you to receive more information. * Figures taken from the British Heart Foundation's annual report, 2002.

BENTHAM THEATRE GROUP

By Iain Henshaw

Thanks to all those who went to the Black Bull on the 6th for our informal meeting. Don't forget the singing workshops at the Community Centre on Tuesdays 4th & 18th + Monday 10th July at 7:30 pm. Panto writing also at the Community Centre Sundays 7 - 8 pm, come along we value your input.

BENTHAM OUT OF SCHOOL CLUB OFSTED GOES WELL AGAIN

By Lynda Rushton

Bentham Out Of School Club has been operating for over 5 years. We are a registered charity with three part time paid and qualified staff, working in the Bentham Community Centre.

With a committee of volunteer parents, we are here for any family with children 4 to 12 years old. Children attend for many reasons; because parents are working or attending training, but also just to give the child new interests or to mix with children with a wide range of abilities and ages.

It is a very well equipped child friendly environment with regular outings, with specialists invited to join in and talk or demonstrate their skills.

The children are always stimulated, being able to run around and play games in the hall, spend time constructing or painting,

playing table games, using the pool and football table, computer or bread maker. There are always many things on the go to suit all moods and abilities.

Sessions 3.30 - 6.00 every week day, term time, collecting from High and Low Bentham, and also Burton by special arrangement. 8.30 - 6.00 three days in holiday time (not bank holidays). Cost:- from £3.20 to £7.00 term time. £7.50 half day & £15 full day holiday times. Places available; you can call me on 61800 for more information.

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COOKERY PAGE

Edited by Doreen Park.

Recipes by Pat Henderson

Salmon seared with Honey and Soy sauce

Serves 4, preparation time 10 minutes, cooking time 10 minutes. 285 kcals per serving.

4 boneless, skinless salmon fillets, about 150g each

100ml vegetable stock

1 pack of trimmed spring onions cut into strips

1 tbsp whole grain mustard

2 tsp clear honey

1 tsp olive oil

1 tbsp soy sauce

Method

1. Mix together the honey, soy sauce and mustard in a bowl.

2. Heat the oil in a frying pan.

3. Add the salmon fillets and fry for 5 minutes, turning halfway through until almost cooked.

4. Pour the soy mixture over the salmon and bring to the boil. Add the stock and mix lightly with the pan juices. Sprinkle the spring onion strips over the salmon and let the liquid bubble for 1 to 2 mins until the onions are heated through.

Raspberry Mousse

Serves 4, preparation time 30 mins plus chilling time.

150g fresh raspberries, mashed; or thawed from frozen.

3 tsp gelatine

250g low-fat vanilla yoghurt

400g fromage fraise

4 egg whites

Fresh raspberries and mint leaves to serve

Method

1. Put 1tbsp hot water into a small bowl, sprinkle the gelatine over and leave to go spongy. Bring a small pan of water to the boil, remove from heat and place the bowl in the pan. (The water should come about halfway up the bowl). Stir the gelatine until dissolved.

2. In a large bowl stir the yogurt and fromage



frais together then add the cooled gelatine and mix well.

3. Beat the egg whites until stiff peaks form then fold into the yogurt mixture until combined. Transfer half the mixture into a clean bowl and fold in the mashed rasps.

4. Divide the mixture into four long glasses and top with the remaining yogurt mixture.

5. Refrigerate for a few hours until set.

6. Serve decorated with fresh raspberries and mint leaves.

"THE LEAVES OF LIFE"

By David Johnson

The Langcliffe Singers will perform the premier of this new choral piece written especially by Andrew Gant who is the Director of Music to the Chapel Royal.

The concert will be held on Saturday July 15th at 7.30 pm at Settle Parish Church. Also included are Bob Chilcott's "Cries of London Town" and part of Purcell's "Dioclesian". Tickets are available at Bentham Post Office.

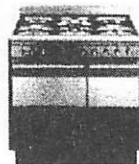
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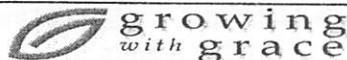
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WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

High Bentham

By Doreen Park

At the June meeting the president welcomed members and two visitors. Wendy reported on the visit to Coulson's Restaurant at Lancaster College of Further Education. The meal, which was prepared by 1st level students, was excellent.

Final travel arrangements were given for the visit to the Grand Theatre, Lancaster, to see "My Fair Lady".

We were then introduced to Mr. John Natlacen, owner of Churchmouse Cheeses, at Kirkby Lonsdale, who gave a fascinating account of coming to the area on a visit in 2002 and finding a shop for rent. Inspired by a cheese shop in his home town of Rochdale he started looking at dairies in the area, and now employs thirteen people. Wine was served and John presented a selection of cheeses and biscuits to tempt our taste buds. He was thanked by Patsy Henderson.

The competition for a cheese knife was won by Janet, and Pat Murfin won the raffle. The next meeting will be on 6th July when Peter Watson will talk on "Country Folklore". The competition will be for "a good luck charm".

Low Bentham

By Jennifer Watkinson

"Singing My Travels" was the theme of the evening's entertainment given by folk singer Jacqueline McDonald. Using songs that she associated with places she had lived in or visited, members were taken for a most enjoyable musical tour of Northern England, Scotland, USA and New Zealand. At times she was accompanied by her friend Lynne, who also sang and played her "musical wellie". They were thanked by Mrs. June Harrison. Competition winners for a postcard were Mrs Sheila Brown, Mrs Mabel Easterby and Mrs Sylvia Brennand.

Eleven members attended Lowgill W.I.'s June meeting to hear Blackpool's humorous town crier, Barry McQueen, talk and sing. This was followed by an appetizing supper.

The coach for Townley Hall on 20th July will leave Town End at noon and will also pick up at the Sun Dial, Moons Acre, School Hill and Pye Busk. If there are any queries please phone Joan on 62477.

Ingleborough's group rally at Langcliffe Village Hall was well attended and enjoyed by everyone.

SECOND B.E.S.T.

By Annie Neligan (Local Action for Justice and Peace)

There is going to be a follow up evening to the lively event held around the theme "Bentham an Environmentally Sustainable Town?" in May.

We plan to use the evening to choose what to focus our energy on in the coming months. Will we set our sights on harnessing the Wenning to power the Christmas lights, on bringing biking bird watchers to Bentham, on slashing our use of cars/plastic bags/light bulbs or on some of the many other issues we identified at the first meeting?

We will also be hoping to set up a group to carry our ideas forward. Come along with your ideas and your energy. We can all make very different sorts of contributions and all will be welcome. This time we are meeting at the Community Centre, opposite the Spar shop, at 7.30pm on Wednesday 12th July.

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By Lynda Rushton

Would you like to put information on the Bentham website? Next time you go online try typing in www.bentham.net

The Active Bentham staff has been updating the site over the last few months; we have made a lot of amendments, and we still have some way to go. If you find any of the information we have is wrong, or want to add anything, we would be grateful for any input to help us get the details right.

You can contact us by ringing Bentham 61800 or 62753. Alternatively you could e-mail lyndarushton@fsmail.net or LinBarrington@aol.com or use the contact button on the website.

Attention all Businesses in Bentham

We would now like to update the business section, but need to know your up to date information. So if you want to feature on the website please get a form from the Trust or Tourist information office, ring Bentham 61800 or 62753, or e-mail us to let us know.



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CHANGES TO THE TAXIBUS SERVICE

By Lin Barrington

As you may have heard, there will be changes to the Taxibus service, starting on 1 July 2006. The timetabled service from 6.40am till 9.20am and from 4.02pm till 7.40pm will be discontinued as will all of the Saturday service, but the flexible part of the service will continue from 10.00am till 2.00pm Monday to Friday.

Starting on 1 July, from 10am to 2pm Monday to Friday, we will be able to pick you up and drop you off anywhere in our area, and fares will remain comparable to ordinary bus fares (you can use your pass if you have one, and tickets can be used for journeys on the 581 service operated by Kirkby Lonsdale Coaches). We are hoping to be able to increase the area of our flexible 'patch', but at the time of the Bentham News deadline we can't give details of exactly what area we will cover because we haven't had confirmation from the Traffic Commissioner.

We apologise for the inconvenience caused to users of our timetabled service; until now, the service has been heavily subsidised by North Yorkshire County Council with the aid of a grant they had received from 'Rural Bus Challenge' funds. The grant was for testing this new service to see if it could become viable, but funds have now run out and the service has not been used enough to justify continuing it.

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HEALTHY AWARD FOR BENTHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

By Tilly Ogden and Toby Pauley (Age 8)

Our Trip to Harrogate

On Monday 12th June 2006 we went to The Majestic Hotel in Harrogate to attend The Teaching Awards 2006! We went with Miss Yates our class teacher and Wendy Dowbiggin who is one of our School Governors. Our school, High Bentham Community Primary School, was short listed for The RAF Award for Healthy Schools.

When we arrived we were given some name badges and a programme. We had a walk around the hotel and we then had a lovely lunch and some orange juice and we met up with Miss Stocks and Mrs. Boocock.

After lunch we were told to go into a big room, where the Awards Ceremony was being held. It was very busy in the hall and there were not enough chairs so a kind lady brought us some to sit on. There were lots of people applauding and lots of happy faces as people were given their awards.

There was music every time someone walked up to the stage to be given an award or a certificate. When it got to our category we were very nervous and when they said who had won the second place the pressure was really on!! When we heard High Bentham was the winner of the Healthy Schools Award we were all really happy and proud of our school, children and staff.

On the stage Toby was lifted up by Mrs. Boocock, our Head teacher, and he said a thank you speech. Everyone clapped and cheered and then laughed when Toby said "I am completely gob smacked!!" After the Awards we went to have our pictures taken in the media stand and nearly everyone said what a brilliant speech Toby had said. Then we had some more juice and we saw a man using a Promethean whiteboard and we were able to go and use it which was cool!

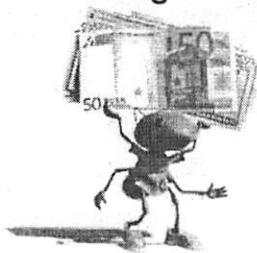
We won the Award because at school we do "peer massage" and we have lots of physical activities going on in school like yoga



in Nursery, golf, skittle ball, football and cross country. Our school council help plan school activities and choose playground equipment. We have healthy school dinners, our playground friends at playtimes make sure everyone has someone to play with, a super wildlife garden and we have made links with other schools in Bradford, Italy and South Africa. We had a really good day and we were really hot and tired by the end because of the heat in the hotel. We were very pleased to have won the Award and we were looking forward to telling everyone else at school about our exciting day.

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PAULINE'S BENCH

By Trevor Blackwell

On a bright June afternoon family and friends met at Bentham Community Centre to remember Pauline Hill, and to dedicate the seat that has been placed there to commemorate her life and work in Bentham. The white-oak bench, made by local craftsman Ian Johnson, is inscribed "Pauline Hill: 1947-2005".

Her sister and brother-in law were there, her son Gareth, Gareth's friends, and friends from the groups Pauline had been so involved with - the Community Centre, the Theatre Group, the Footpath Group, Looking Well, the library and the railway.

We all crowded in to hear Canon John Bearpark remind us why the Community Centre was just the place for Pauline's bench. This building had been a Quaker Meeting House, and Pauline's own religious faith had always been important to her. Then Pauline was one of the people who had worked tirelessly to transform this building into a Community Centre where young people could meet. She was always a community person.

It's still difficult to believe that Pauline has gone, that we won't bump into her again on the street. But if, as the poet Philip Larkin says, "What will survive of us is love", then there's a lot of Pauline still around in Bentham.

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