

BENTHAM NEWS

BENTHAM AUTUMN FESTIVAL

One of the most popular and well supported events in the Bentham calendar is the Lantern Procession/Bonfire/Fireworks night. This year several organisations have organised other activities at the Halloween period and it seemed a natural process to link them all together and have a "Festival". Each participating group is organising its own event, and the co-ordination is being handled by the Development Trust. A comprehensive brochure will be available from the Trust office and several other outlets around town. We hope that the festival will develop in the future and become a regular feature in the life of Bentham and the surrounding area. So please support this idea and try and attend at least one of the attractions, with your family of course! We have had support from the Town Council, the Market Towns Initiative and Craven District Council. The programme is as follows:-

Friday 24th October

JIM BOWEN and the HOT RHYTHM ORCHESTRA, Bentham Town Hall, 7.30-11.30pm.
Tickets £10 available from Bentham Sports.

Sunday 26th October

CRAFT FAIR at Bentham Town Hall, 10.00am-4.00pm.

Wednesday 29th October

KIRKBY LONSDALE BRASS BAND IN CONCERT, Bentham Town Hall, 7.30-10.30pm.
Tickets £5 available from Bentham Development Trust office.

29th - 31st October

HOLIDAY WEEK FOR CHILDREN - Crafts, Games, Bible Teaching, Methodist Schoolroom,
10.00am-12.00noon.

Thursday 30th & Friday 31st October

BENTHAM PLAYERS PRESENT "AND THEN THERE WERE NONE" by Agatha Christie.
Bentham Town Hall, 7.30pm. Tickets £5, concessions £3.50, available from Bentham Sports

Friday 31st October

FESTIVAL OF LIGHT - Churches Together in Bentham, at Methodist Church 6.30pm.
FUSE ART EXHIBITION at Bentham Community Centre, 6.00-9.00pm

Saturday 1st November

FUSE ART EXHIBITION at Bentham Community Centre, 10.00am-6.00pm.

LANTERN PROCESSION - from Cleveland Square at 6.30pm.

BONFIRE - To be lit about 7.00pm. Hog Roast etc, at Bentham Auction Mart Yard.

FIREWORKS DISPLAY - Admission adults £2.50, children £1.

Sunday 2nd November

ANNUAL CIVIC SERVICE - at St. Margaret's Church 6.30pm.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Low Bentham

By Jennifer Watkinson

Last month a most enjoyable members' night was efficiently organised by Mrs Kitty Ellershaw and Mrs Pat Burns. An afternoon/evening trip to Constable Burton Hall and Gardens for members and friends was also arranged. On arrival at the Hall we were met by the owner, Mr Wyval, who welcomed us into his beautiful family home. He told us about his ancestors who came from France in the 11th century, and the house, which was built by John Carr, who based it on Villa Emo in Italy. The house is filled with valuable paintings and china and has lots of Gillow and Chippendale furniture. We were then shown round the garden by garden adviser and TV presenter, Philip Robinson. Afterwards, we travelled to Kirby Malyeard Village Hall for tea, which was prepared for us by the local WI.

Four members went to the Chairman's home at Silsden for a two-day course on how to make stone troughs. They are delighted with the results and next year intend to instruct other members in the craft.

Four walkers accompanied Long Preston WI for an evening walk from Austwick to Clapham and back, when two other members joined them for a lovely meal at the Game Cock in Austwick.

The next meeting is on 18th September, when there will be a talk about the work of a Dog Warden.

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TOWN COUNCIL REPORT FOR JULY

By Bill Kennedy

Police

The clerk had written to the police regarding parking problems on Main Street, in the vicinity of the HSBC Bank, and parking in general on market days, but has had no response yet. There was no police representative present.

Highway Matters

A 40mph speed limit is to be signposted on the B6480 on the Clapham side of town. The 40mph zone will extend from Pye Busk for 352 metres in the direction of Clapham.

Cllr. Heigh has received complaints about car parking on Robin Lane, above Lakeber Drive. She pointed out that motorists driving out of Bentham are forced onto the wrong side of the road on a blind brow of the hill, by the parked cars. This is hazardous. The council agreed to write to the Highways Dept. about the problem.

The potentially dangerous narrow stretch of road at Butts Lane was again the subject of concern as there had been several near misses there. "Go slow" signs are to be placed in suitable locations to try to reduce the risk of accidents.

Local Flooding

The Mayor, Cllr. Marshall, raised the issue of local flooding and noted that there had been two separate incidents in the previous month. There were letters of complaint from many residents and businesses. A site meeting with the Environment Agency and other agencies involved, is to take place on 13th August at Wenning Avenue, and this will provide an opportunity for all the flooding problems to be raised.

Ford House

Cllr. Marshall referred to press reports following the last council meeting and pointed out that he has now had the opportunity to visit Ford House and talk with the person in charge, Mr. Bolton. He added that he now had much more confidence in the scheme, having seen the place and heard about what they intend to do. Mr. Bolton is to attend the next council meeting and address the councillors.

Wesley Place

The THYNC organisation has assured Cllr. Marshall that the problems were being taken seriously and that THYNC were paying for soundproofing improvements in a neighbouring house. A new mature lead tenant is expected to reside in the house quite soon. The council decided to write to THYNC, thanking them for their co-operation.

District Council Reports.

Cllr. Hurtley advised the council that there is a new Area Forum Fund, whereby organisations can get funding up to £500, for suitable projects. These can be 100% grants without the need for match funding. For more details contact Laura Richardson on 01756 700600. Applications should be submitted before the end of September 2003.

Cllr. Pilkington referred to the local government re-organisation and the 2004 referendum on a Regional Assembly. He emphasised that the council has to write to CDC indicating its preference from the various options available, if the vote for the Regional Assembly is positive. After some discussion and clarification, the council agreed to write by 26th August expressing its wish to have a District Council structure, or merged District Councils structure, with a Regional Assembly and no County Council, rather than doing away with the District Council and having a County Council and Regional Assembly. I was left with the query in my mind "Do we really need more local government re-organisation?" Hasn't the government ever heard the old adage "If it ain't broke, don't fix it"?

Town Hall Future

Cllr. Marshall explained that a recent survey showed that the Town Hall was a priority for refurbishment, so that it could be run more efficiently for the benefit of the community. Concern was expressed by several cllrs. about the way alterations might affect the Age Concern activities. There was considerable debate about how the TH could be used, about the need for disabled access, etc. Eventually it was agreed to accept the CDC offer of £4,000 for architect fees as it was necessary to proceed quickly, while some funding is available from the Market Towns Initiative and CDC.

HEALTH CENTRE NEWS

By Meg Disberry (Practice Nurse)

While we are all enjoying the hot summer weather here at the surgery, we have to think ahead to the Flu season. As usual we will be running flu vaccination clinics throughout the month of October - look out for the posters advertising the start date. The clinics will be run at: **Bentham** Monday to Friday, 10-11am and 2-3pm and

Ingleton Tuesdays and Thursdays between 12-2pm

No appointment is needed.

N.B There will be NO vaccination clinics at Ingleton on Tuesday 21st, Thursday 23rd and Thursday 30th October.

An often asked question is "who is entitled to have a flu vaccination?" The Department of Health recommends that everyone aged 65 and over should receive a flu vaccination, plus anyone who has any of the following conditions:

Asthma, chronic obstructive airways disease,

emphysema, angina, has had a heart attack (even in the past), heart failure, diabetes, kidney failure and is currently being treated for cancer with radiotherapy or chemotherapy. It has also been recommended that anyone aged 80 years or older should have a vaccination for pneumococcal infection. This type of infection can cause some forms of pneumonia.

If you are housebound or unable to get to any of the flu vaccination clinics, please could you let the surgery know at the beginning of October.

If you are unsure whether you are entitled to a flu vaccination or have any questions regarding the flu or pneumococcal vaccinations please contact the surgery on Bentham 61202.

Number of missed appointments: 78

BENTHAM YOUTH CLUB

By Pauline Hill

The Youth Club meets in the Community Centre 7-9pm every Monday and Wednesday and is for all young people aged 12+ (Year 8 upwards).

We have planned some trips for this term - Bowling sessions (for years 8/9 only); Pool Competition final with free supper, Aero Bowling, Dry Skiing, Christmas Shopping at the Trafford Centre, Christmas meal in the Byres. 61800 is the number to ring to join in, or come along to our first session on Monday 8th September.

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CDC MATTERS

By John Pilkington

Area Forum Funding

Each Area Forum has been allocated £5,000 for local projects. Up to £500 can be given towards each project. Organisations can apply for up to 100% funding for any project that can demonstrate local community benefit. An application form can be obtained from Laura Richardson on 01756 700600. Applications forms must be completed and returned by September 30th 2003.

Improved Communication for the Railways

Network Rail is replacing its ageing radio communication system. A national system, called GSM-R, is being installed that will provide secure driver to signaller communication. This will mean that new communication masts will be erected adjacent to the railway network. Each mast will be about 30 metres high. One of the proposed sites is near to the sewage works at Low Bentham. The work is expected to be completed by 2006. Any queries from the public should be directed to Sarah McArdle at Rail House, Store Street, Manchester, M60 7RT (tel. 0161 2288853) or you can contact the District Council Planning Department telephone 01756 706470.

Primary Care Trust Road Show

The Craven, Harrogate & Rural District Primary Care Trust is holding a 'Locality Road Show' at Skipton Town Hall on Tuesday 23rd September between 2.00 pm and 7.30 pm. The session will include the AGIM which will start at 7.00 pm. The Road Show will inform local people and staff about the work of the Primary Care Trust, its plans for the future and what it has delivered to date. This is an opportunity for members of the public to comment on the work of the Trust, express any concerns and make suggestions for improvements.

Recent Planning Applications

08/2003/3399 Armstrongs, 17 Main Street, High Bentham, Lancaster. *Change of use of garage to builders merchants and petrol sales at*

Bentham, Lancaster.

► 08/2003/3420 North Yorkshire County Council, County Hall, Northallerton. *Erection of concrete garage with up and over door, to be used for storage at Low Bentham CP School, Burton Road, Low Bentham, Lancaster.*

► 08/2003/3434 Harry Walters & Livesey Chartered Architects, West View, Ribbleson, Preston, PR1 5DU. *Air conditioning vent to be placed within roof valley at Spar, Main Street, High Bentham, Lancaster.*

► 08/2003/3441 Brian Smith, Miller's Green, Mewith Lane, High Bentham, Lancaster, LA2 7AX. *Amendments to the approved scheme (ref: 08/2002/2129) for the re-use of a former agricultural building to form a dwelling, and the renovation of two existing disused cottages to form a single dwelling at "Stable And Cottage", Mewith Head Farm, Mewith, High Bentham, Lancaster.*

► 08/2003/3442 John Fletcher RIBA, Branstone Beck Cottage, Mewith, Bentham, Lancaster, LA2 7LX. *Change of use from warehouse to community arts centre at Warehouse Building, King Street, High Bentham, Lancaster.*

► 08/2003/3460 Mr G R Scott, 74 Bowbridge Road, Newark, NG24 4BZ. *Alteration and extension of existing buildings to form 1 permanent home and 2 holiday homes at Lowther Hill Caravan Park, B6480 Clapham Road, High Bentham, Lancaster.*

► 08/2003/3461 Neil Wright Associates, 1 High Street, Settle, BD24 9EX. *Outline planning for an attached dwelling at 29 Lakeber Avenue, High Bentham, Lancaster.*

► 08/2003/3464 Ian Godfrey Developments, Mitton Green Barn, Church Lane, Great Mitton, Clitheroe. *Fell 9 no. Pine, 2 no. Sycamore and 1 no. Beech and crown lift 2 no. Pine, 4 no. poplar, 3 no. Sycamore and 2 no. Beech at The Malham, 15 Highcroft (Plot 50), High Bentham, Lancaster.*

08/2003/3485 The Wright Design Partnership, 15 Main Street, Kirkby Lonsdale, LA6 2AQ. *Single storey conservatory extension to rear at Holly Bank, 46 Robin Lane, High Bentham, Lancaster.*

PET RESCUE

By Val Marshall

The hot weather has been a blessing for us in many ways, but there is always the danger that dogs can be left in their owners' cars which can heat up so very quickly - even without direct sunlight. Do please ensure that they have plenty of ventilation and that they are not exposed to this situation. At our sanctuary we have fitted venetian blinds to the windows and these should help both to keep out too much sunshine and, in the winter, to act as an additional insulation against the cold nights.

We are currently housing a pair of black and white male kittens and a set of four very young males, including two identical ginger together with two blacks. The elderly tortoiseshell cat is still looking for a comfortable home so if you can help, please let us know.

During August we had a very successful Book Sale in Settle, lasting for a full week. Our final event for the year will be a weekend book sale in October and we hope some of you will have books you can donate to fill in the gaps created last month! In the meantime we will be attending Bentham Agricultural Show with our tombola, which will again include many delightful children's animals (not live ones!) as prizes.

We are pleased to welcome back our Chairman, Peter Phillips, after his knee replacement and we hope that, although he must not carry heavy boxes of books, he will be fit for light duties again.



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AGATHA CHRISTIE ON HALLOWEEN

By John Neal

Bentham Theatre Group will bring shivers to the Town Hall on Halloween this year with their performance of "And Then There Were None" by the queen of crime writers, Agatha Christie. The play, at 7.30pm on October 30th and 31st, will be part of the Bentham Festival - a week of events leading up to the town's popular lantern procession and bonfire night at the weekend.

The theatre group had a great success this summer with their performances of J B Priestley's Yorkshire comedy, "When We Are Married", and have decided this time to provide shock and horror instead of laughs. It won't be "things that go bump in the night" at the Town Hall this Halloween, but people getting "bumped off" one by one in this most famous Christie whodunnit. There are eight guests and two domestic staff to start with - invited to a lonely island by an unknown host. The only entertainment as they assemble for dinner, is a ghostly voice that accuses each of them in turn of having a dark skeleton in their cupboard. Each one is accused of a murder for which they must now pay. The order of the summary executions is a puzzle, the only clue as to who goes next being a children's rhyme in a picture frame on the wall. The rhyme begins ominously: "Ten little soldiers going out to dine, one choked his little self and then there were nine." With Christie's usual detective, Hercule Poirot, not on the guest list, the accused and would-be victims can only try to get to their executioner before he (or she) gets to them.

Book Early - This will be a sell-out!

Anyone coming on the first night will be the first in Bentham to know the horrific secret. The second night audience will be given a Halloween they won't forget in a hurry. Tickets of £5 and £3.50 (refreshments included) will be on sale at Bentham Sports from early October - so book early for a spooky trick and treat!

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POLICE REPORT

PC Adrian Hayes

There have recently been a few instances of break-ins and some attempts to enter outbuildings and sheds to steal the contents. Please check on the security of your sheds and where possible do not leave high value items in them. The security available to secure a wooden shed or outbuilding is not going to stop a determined thief.

Reports of anti-social behaviour, particularly in the area of the railway station, the primary school and the children's playground at Wesley Close continue to be a problem. Please report any problems to the police at the time they are happening and I would again ask parents to make sure you know what your children are up to when they are out and about and advise them of their responsibilities to the rest of the community.

You may have seen the new Police Community Support Officers (PCSO) around the town. They wear a similar uniform to the police but also wear a yellow peaked cap and their uniform is marked to show that they are support officers. Their role is to add an additional uniformed presence on the streets to assist the police in dealing with minor issues for which full police powers are not required. They do have the power to report people for minor offences such as dog fouling and depositing litter in the street. They can also deal with issues such as anti-social behaviour and confiscation of alcohol from juveniles. These officers are not replacing full time police officers but are an additional resource.

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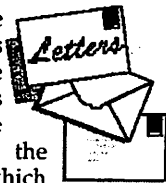
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Dear Bentham News,
I started work in the Bentham area some 15 years ago and I decided to move into the town to live 5 years ago, attracted by the pleasant location and the community atmosphere, which contrasted with what I'd found elsewhere. I've worked hard, built up a business and tried to bring up my sons on the right lines in a community where they would have the example of decent, pleasant people around them.



However, as soon as my youngest son started at Middle School, he was systematically bullied by the same person for the next four years. All the genuine efforts of the school to deal with the matter failed and, at last, the police were involved. The bully and his "friends" received a caution at first, and then, following a further vicious assault, the bully was cautioned again as it was a "first offence".

For the next three and a half years, my youngest son's life was made a misery by repeated bullying, which culminated in three assaults over a two hour period in three different locations in Bentham. This led to a trial and the two offenders were found guilty and received twelve hours counselling. This didn't work either and the intimidation continued. Finally, pushed beyond the limit by his younger brother's sufferings, one of my other sons, through frustration and despair, broke the law and went to prison. I cannot and do not condone his action. Following this, the bully threatened and intimidated my younger son again and was filmed on C.C.T.V. A case is now pending for the third time.

The bullying continued despite the efforts of the school, Northallerton Education Authority, the police, my local M.P. and two front page stories in the "Lancaster Guardian".

Is there anybody out there who can tell me what it takes to bring a situation like this to a close so that I and my family can lead a peaceful life in Bentham, a community I value and respect?

Yours sincerely,
J. Knowles.

Dear Bentham News,
I feel compelled to write after my daughter's fifth birthday party was ruined by somebody or a group of bodies.

On Saturday 5th July we set up a treasure trail down the Old Lane from the top of Duke Street to Station Road play-park. The clues and presents were pegged to the trees, bushes and gates at mid-day. Forty-five minutes later, twelve very excited 5 year olds set off in search of clues and surprises.

This letter is addressed to the somebody, or group of bodies, who within that 45 minutes, tore down and stole all the presents, littering the lane and playing field with the discarded wrapping paper. Thanks.

Diane Sheron, Old Hall Cottage, Duke Street, High Bentham.

Dear Bentham News

Those associated with High Bentham Community Primary School will know that Peter Bolton has had to retire from his post as Deputy Headteacher on health grounds.

He has not been able to work since the Autumn of 2002 and, because of this, he has drifted away from the school with his departure going almost unnoticed despite a distinguished teaching record covering 32 years at the one school.

He came to Bentham in 1971 and has helped steer the school through a period of unparalleled change. He was known as an excellent teacher who exercised good discipline and his pupils respected him for this. He must have touched on, and affected the education of nearly two generations of pupils. He devoted a lot of time to boys' sport and his artistic abilities were a source of inspiration to many children as in their clay work and impressive classroom models of Ribbleshead etc. With all his achievements in mind I would like to invite pupils and parents from previous years to make a donation towards a farewell gift for Peter that will serve as an expression of our gratitude for all he has done. Please take your donation either to the school office or to Tooby's (Bentham) before the end of September.

Many thanks,
David Johnson, Low Bentham.

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PROGRESS OF FORD HOUSE

By John Bolton (Registered Manager)

I would like to provide local people with some more information about Ford House, which is to be registered under the National Minimum Care Standards as a Children's Home. The children who live here will be "Looked After Children" who generally have no relations able to look after them. In some cases the children will never have had a proper home or have lived in a family unit. Some children may have special needs, which could include moderate learning difficulties, some emotional and behavioural difficulties or Tourette's syndrome.

The aim of Ford House is to set up a surrogate family dwelling unit providing a home for a maximum of four children between the ages of 11 and 16, with male and female care staff. There will be strong links with fostering agencies as it is hoped that these children may at some stage be able to live as part of a real family.

I would like to thank all the people who came to the two Open Days that we have already had on 29th and 30th July 2003. For those who could not make those dates, there will be further Open Days in the future.

EDITORIAL ARTICLES FOR BENTHAM NEWS

Please note that articles submitted for publication in BN must show the author's name and a contact telephone number.

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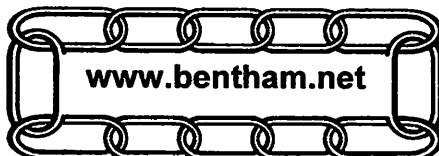
NEW SEASON FOR EWECROSS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

By Jean Butler

The Ewecross Historical Society has enjoyed three excellent outings this summer, each of them enhanced by the lovely weather, affording us, particularly on the visit to Outhwaite in Roeburndale, the most splendid views over Lunesdale, Wenningdale and the Three Peaks, in addition to our enjoyment of the ancient site itself.

The Society opens its winter season on Monday 29th September with what promises to be a most popular event. The speaker on this occasion will be our own well-known member, David Johnson, and his subject, "A Century of Bentham". To illustrate his talk there will be a fascinating display of slides of local scenes. Some of these slides you may have seen before, but many are newly acquired. With a subject of such local interest, we hope to set the standard for the following months. We have talks planned on The History of Navigation Part 2, The Care and Repair of Historical Buildings in Craven and the Dales, Ancient Maps of NW Lancashire and the Lune Valley, The building of Devil's Bridge" and Archaeology in the National Park; all delivered by experienced speakers.

Proceedings begin on the last Monday of the month, at 7.30pm, in the Lower Town Hall in High Bentham. The cost for the whole season, including six talks each with tea and biscuits, and three summer outings, is £5. You are also welcome to come as a visitor for £1 per night. Further details are available from the secretary, Jean Butler on (015242) 61420.



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MARKET TOWNS INITIATIVE

By Bill Kennedy

Small Project Fund



We've now had more than 30 applications for funding from this delegated fund. The good news is that there is still about £8,000 available for local groups or organisations for suitable projects. But this money has to be used in the next 6 months as the MTI Project finishes at the end of March 2004. In fact final applications will have to be submitted by 31st December this year.

The application forms are easy to fill in and are only an A4 size. You can get help and advice if you need it at the Trust office. Up to £1,000 can be granted for any one project, although this has to be matched, either by other funding or in kind (volunteer hours etc).

Now that the summer holidays are over and the normal autumn and winter activities are starting again in organisations, there may be an increase in the number of applications, so please make sure that yours is submitted early. If you have any queries or aren't sure about what kind of project might be eligible, contact me on 62343 during office hours or come in and see me at the Development Trust. Whatever you do, if you have a project idea, don't miss this opportunity.

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HEATHER'S LAST CLASS

By Shirley Brown

This photo was taken at the end of July, and shows some of those at Heather's last exercise class in Bentham Town Hall enjoying a goodbye drink together.

Heather says she's really grateful for all the kindness that people have shown towards her, and says that her various send-offs have been memorable. She has also been given some lovely presents, goodwill messages and meals at both The Marton Arms and The Nosebag Café. If she were here to say all this, I know that by now

she'd be crying, and, in the tradition of all good Oscar ceremonies, be sobbing "I love you all!"

You can follow their progress

I'm sure we all wish Richard and Heather an interesting and exciting time on their travels over the coming year in their motor-caravan. Plan A has them starting in Croatia, so if you should want to follow their progress from there, or even discover what Plan B is, you can go to their web-site at richardandheatherontour.co.uk, which hopefully will be up and running by October. You can also e-mail them on rknowles@totalise.co.uk. They'd love to hear from you.

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LOCAL EVENTS IN SEPTEMBER

Mon 1st Bentham Agricultural Society closing date for Horticulture entries for Bentham Show.

Town Council meeting at the Town Hall, 7.30pm.

Looking Well, 10.30am-12.00 noon, Baby Buddies, parents and under 3s. 1.00-3.00pm Cancer Support Group drop-in. Both every Monday.

Tue 2nd Bentham Child Health Clinic at the Surgery, 2.00-4.00pm.

High Bentham Toy Library at the Community Centre, 8.30-11.30am.

Looking Well 2.00-3.00pm, Women's Support Group, and every Tuesday.

Wed 3rd Citizens Advice Bureau at the Surgery, 1.30-3.30pm.

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

Coffee morning at 24 Pye Busk Close, 10.00am-12.00noon, in aid of NSPCC. All welcome.

Thu 4th High Bentham Women's Institute at the Town Hall, 7.30pm. "Garden Design" by Margaret Wilding. Competition - Small flower arrangement.

Thu 4th Bentham Arts Forum, 7.30pm at the Byres.

Circus skills workshop at the Community Centre, see page 32.

Emmaus - a Guide to the Christian Faith, open evening 7.00-9.00pm at the Looking Well. Supper supplied.

Fri 5th Age Concern at the Town Hall. Foxglove Footwear "Shoes & Slippers".

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

Sat 6th Bentham Agricultural Show, something for all the family. Entries taken on the day for Dog Show, Pets & Horses.

Low Bentham Community Primary School coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10.00am-12.00noon. 

Sun 7th Bentham Footpath Group walk, Catrigg Force, 6 miles, leader G. Amos 01729 822604. Please meet at Lairgill/Langcliffe School 10.00/10.30am.

Tue 9th Low Bentham Junior Badminton starts, see page 31.

Workers Educational Association evening class, Clapham Primary School, 7.00pm and every Tuesday. Details 51324.

Wed 10th Looking Well, 7.30-9.00pm Alzheimer's Disease Carers Support Group.

High Bentham Playgroup Annual General Meeting at the Town Hall, see page 30.

Thu 11th Looking Well, Toddler Ball Play at the Community Centre, 10.00-11.00am and every Thursday.

Fri 12th Age Concern at the Town Hall, "Call my Bluff" - Members vs Helpers.

LISTING FOR LOCAL EVENTS

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

Event.....

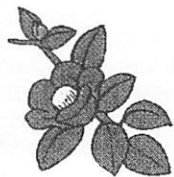
Venue.....

Contact Tel. Number.....

Name.....

Please complete and return to the Sports Shop, Main Street, High Bentham.

- Sat 13th And Sunday 14th, Bentham Footpath Group weekend in the Lakes. For details contact A. Leigh 63037.
- Church of the Good Shepherd coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10.00am-12.00noon. 
- Masonic Hall Open Day, see page 32.
- Grand jumble sale at Wray Institute 2.00pm. Admission 20p. Proceeds to St. James the Less Church, Tatham.
- Tue 16th Looking Well, 2.00-3.00pm, T'ai Chi Qigong, and every Tuesday.
- Bentham Child Health Clinic at the Surgery, 2.00-4.00pm.
- High Bentham Toy Library at the Community Centre, 8.30-11.30am.
- Wed 17th Citizens Advice Bureau at the Surgery, 1.30-3.30pm.
- Scottish Country Dancing at Ingleton Community Centre. Free children's class 5.45-6.45 pm. Adults 7.30-9.30pm. No experience necessary. Every Wednesday.
- Bentham Footpath Group walk, Spark Bridge/Crake Valley, 7 miles, leader D. Asquith 62619. Meet at Lairgill 9.30am.
- Thu 18th Low Bentham W.I. at the Victoria Institute. See page 2.
- Fri 19th Age Concern at the Town Hall. Dorothy Stubbs - "Sing along with Dorothy".
- Waste paper collection at Lairgill Car Park, 8.30-11.00am. Proceeds to NSPCC.
- Sat 20th Christian Aid coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10.00-11.30am. All welcome. 
- Sun 21st Local Action for Justice and Peace Litter pickup, 2.00-4.00 pm. Equipment provided. Please meet at Market car park. Help to keep your town tidier! See page 32.
- Wed 24th High Bentham Playgroup photograph session, at the Town Hall 8.00-10.30am. See page 30.
- Fri 26th Age Concern at the Town Hall, Card Bingo.
- MacMillan Cancer Relief "World's Biggest Coffee Morning", at the Chapel Room, Burton-in-Lonsdale, 10.30am-12.00noon. see page 21.
- Sat 27th St. John's coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10.00am-12.00noon. 
- "Praise Party" at St. John's. All age fun afternoon to learn new songs and make some noise! 2.00-4.30pm. Refreshments provided.
- Bentham Footpath Group walk, Whelpstone Crag, 10 miles, leader P. Parrott 01200 423125. Please meet at Lairgill/Rathmell Car Park 9.30/10.00am.
- Sun 28th Harvest Services at High Bentham Methodist Church, 10.30am and 6.30pm. Preacher Rev. Alan Broadbent.
- St. John's - a morning service with Gideon's International at 10.00am. Free bibles available.
- Mon 29th Ewecross Historical Society, 7.30pm at the Town Hall. An illustrated talk by David Johnson - "A Century of Bentham". New members welcome.
- Tue 30th Bentham Child Health Clinic at the Surgery, 2.00-4.00pm.
- High Bentham Toy Library at the Community Centre, 8.30-11.30am.



GARDENING PAGE

By Joyce Knapp

By September most work in the kitchen garden revolves around the harvesting of crops, both fruit and vegetable, and providing suitable storage for them until they are to be used. Beginning in the vegetable section, maincrop potatoes can be lifted when the tops have died down and conditions are relatively dry. In order to avoid damaging the tubers it is advisable to use a flat-tined fork and begin digging a short distance away from the main stem. On a fine day the tubers can be left on the soil surface for several hours to dry out, whereas in wet conditions it may be necessary to put them in a greenhouse; covered cold frame or under cloches instead. Once dry, the potatoes should be sorted and only the sound, healthy tubers kept in either sacks or wooden trays in a frost free building; any slightly damaged tubers can be used straight away.

Turning our attention to Brussels sprouts, it is advisable to remove any yellowing leaves and blown (open) sprouts from the lower part of the stem to improve air circulation around the developing buds. We can then begin picking the sprouts, working from the base of the stem upwards, when they are still small, tight and approximately the size of a walnut.

As we move into autumn many tree fruits are ripening and both plums and damsons will be ready to pick any time now. Damsons and culinary (cooking) plums can be harvested just before they are ripe and can be picked all at once so you can go ahead with preserving or jam making. Dessert plums, however, should be picked when they are fully ripe and the tree should be gone over several times, with only the ripest fruit being removed each time.

Anyone wishing to sign up for the part time practical gardening course which I intend to teach this year can do so by calling in at Millers Court, during the Enrolment Evening on Wednesday 3 September 5-8 pm. This 30 week course will begin on Thursday 25 September, 9.00am-1.00pm.

By Eleanor Fisher

The warm summer weather has brought a prolific number of butterflies into the garden, which bring real added pleasure to sitting or working outside, whether watching their pattern of flight, or enjoying their brilliant or subtle markings.

The Buddleias rightly earn their common name of 'Butterfly Bush'. Their stiff arching growth, with the large spikes made up of masses of tiny florets, have been covered this year - I noticed six different species of butterflies on a large bush in a local garden, as well as moths in the late evening. There is a good range of colours available from rich purple through to white, as well as varieties with variegated foliage. While the white is beautiful at its peak, it looks rather dishevelled when the white flowers fade to brown.

The smaller spikes of evergreen Hebes are equally attractive to butterflies, particularly to the Peacock butterfly, as are lavenders and members of the mint family, including catmint. They also love to work the florets of the Sea Holly, Eryngium, and the Globe Thistle, Echinops, and seem to navigate these hard spikey flowers easily without damaging their wings. Perhaps the best 'Butterfly' perennial is the Sedum, with its large flat heads providing perfect feeding grounds - and excellent photo opportunities for a keen garden photographer. The well known Sedum 'Autumn Joy' provides nectar right through to September and October, as well as being one of the most satisfying perennials for winter interest with its attractive rusty deadheads. A new purple leaved variety, Sedum 'Purple Emperor', with creamy pink flowers in August looked stunning with Red Admirals on the flowers.

Single flowered Dahlias also seem favourite food plants (doubles of course don't provide any nectar), as well as the annual white Sweet Alyssum. If you have a weedy garden, you can console yourself that you are still providing an excellent butterfly diet, as nettles are one of the best food plants for butterfly caterpillars.





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FLOODING PROBLEMS

By John Pilkington

Movement on Drainage Problems

Following a request by the Town Council a site meeting was held on Wednesday 13th August to explain to representatives of various organisations the extent of the many flooding problems in High Bentham. The following organisations were represented:

- Craven District Council
- North Yorkshire County Council
- Highways
- Pendle Borough Council (agents for United Utilities)
- STRI (consultants engaged on behalf of Bentham Playing Fields Association)
- Bentham Town Council

There were also representatives from local businesses and members of the public.

The following sites were looked at and suggestions for remedial work or further investigation have been made.

1. Wenning Avenue

Pendle Borough Council have arranged for a camera to look at a culvert (21/08/03).

Still work to be completed by United Utilities on sewers.

More research needed by Craven District Council as to where roof water is discharging to.

Gullies on Hillcroft need unblocking - Highways.

In addition it was recognised that a further investigation needs to be done to ensure that effluent cannot get around the back of numbers 1 to 8.

The absence of kerbs and road gullies along the road makes flooding problems worse but it is difficult to see how this can be sorted out unless the road is adopted by the County Council.

2. Station Road

Lairgill Beck needs clearing and Craven District Council will specify what needs to be done but they do not have the resources to do work on private land.

3. Land adjacent to the Auction Mart

Both Craven District Council and Network Rail are to investigate the problem of water getting on the railway line.

4. Rear of Bentham Industrial Estate

Craven District Council to consider improvements to drainage/culvert.

5. Sportsfield

Further discussion to be held about concerns over land drainage adding to problems on Wenning Avenue.

6. Main Street

Camera work by Highways indicated 50% blockage. This is the likely cause of recent flooding affecting Bentham Social Club/Hash Browns. Further investigation is under way to decide what needs to be done.

7. Other Sites

Several other sites were visited or were discussed including Wesley Close, Goodenber Road, Butts Lane, Pye Busk, Springfield Crescent and Robin Lane. North Yorkshire County Council Highways has agreed to clear several gullies and there is to be further investigation by Craven District Council and Pendle Borough Council. It is thought that flooding at Ashbank Villas may be caused by the blockage in Main Street.



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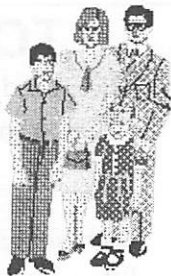
Thanks

Grace Jones thanks David, Ethel and Susan for their help and support, and all her many friends for the lovely cards, flowers and best wishes during her recent stay in Kendal Hospital. Thank you all very much.

Kay Piper would like to thank the ladies of St. John's Church, Low Bentham, for baking and or helping at Low Bentham Gala.

Alan Firth sends very sincere thanks for the many messages of support and good wishes following his heart surgery at Manchester and later at Macclesfield.

Jacky and Peggy Dawber would like to say thanks to their family and friends for all the cards, flowers and good wishes received during Peggy's stay in hospital. "I am recovering well!"



Congratulations

Emma Standing - well done on passing your exams and gaining a placement at Airedale. Love & kisses from all your family - we're proud of you.

BIBLE SOCIETY THANKS

By Nigel Wilson (Action Group Chairman)

Bentham and District Bible Society Action Group thank all those who supported their coffee morning, and for making it such a success. Your contributions and gifts are helping to provide God's word to people all over the world.

COME FOR COFFEE!

By Jill Peel

In memory of my dear friend Dorothy, I joined in the World's Biggest Coffee Morning for Macmillan Cancer Relief in 2000.



Thanks to the generosity of the Methodist Chapel the event continues to be held in the Chapel Room (where we meet each Friday for a drop-in coffee morning that supports local charities) and thanks to the generosity of all who came we have raised over £200 each year since. Added to this, in May we raised £370 from our sponsored walk, making our donations so far total £1,100.

I ask all who can be in Burton-in-Lonsdale on Friday 26th September between 10.30am and noon, to join us for coffee and help to make the 2003 Coffee Morning our Biggest and Best ever.

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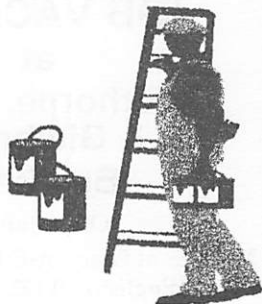


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N.S.P.C.C.

By Susan Adams N.S.P.C.C. Chairman

As promised last month, here is the final total received during the Open Garden weekend. After the printing and advertising expenses were deducted, we gave cheques for £240 each to Christian Aid and the N.S.P.C.C. (an extended big thank you to all the gardeners). The Craft Fair on 2nd August raised £415.

Recycling

Yes, yes, yes, we are still collecting waste paper. Whilst we commend the council for the "blue bags" which appeared on our doorsteps to give everyone in the area the opportunity to recycle waste paper, may I reassure those who bring their waste to Lairgill on the third Friday each month that we are still collecting waste paper for N.S.P.C.C. I noticed on the leaflet which accompanied my blue bag that we are encouraged to continue giving to charities who have been recycling for many years - enabling them to raise funds for their given cause. We take all types of paper, including directories, cardboard, yellow pages and envelopes. Perhaps those who are new to recycling and have just started using the blue bags may feel able to bring the unwanted items to Lairgill so that we can share the new initiative. We are grateful to those who continue to support us by bringing us their waste paper.

Editor's note. Craven D.C. did not collect the waste paper for recycling on 20th August. Lots of blue bags were left uncollected! The moral? Take your waste paper to Lairgill on 19 Sept.

T'AI CHI CLASS

By Nigel Thomas

T'ai Chi has its roots in Chinese medicine, martial arts and spiritual practice, all of which focus upon the development and use of natural energy (chi) to strengthen body and soul. There are a number of different styles and the Li style which I will introduce to the class at the Looking Well is an internal system with an emphasis on enhancing health and well-being.

Classes begin on Tuesday 16th September, from 2.00-3.00pm (cost £2) and will include strengthening exercises, breathing exercises, Li style T'ai Chi and some other weird and wonderful things. Anyone is welcome to join us at any time.

MINIBUSES

Following last month's appeal for a new home for the minibuses, A.I. Harrison & Co. of Wenning Business Park, has kindly given us parking space for the Age Concern and Community Transport vehicles.

BODY CONTROL PILATES ASSOCIATION

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For small advertisements or notices on the Bentham People Page, Personal Thanks, Thanks, Birthdays etc, 10p per word.

For Sale, Wanted, Situations Vacant etc. 20p per word.

All advertising must be paid for when booking, which must be by the copy deadline date, 15th of month, prior to publication.

To place an advertisement in the

Bentham News contact Bill Kennedy on 62492 or leave it in at Bentham Sports on Main St. High Bentham.



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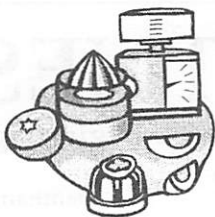
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RECIPES

By Doreen Park

Ever thought how versatile the humble Mars bar is? (note that Mars bars may contain traces of peanuts)



Mini Chocolate Cheesecakes

Base:

4 oz digestive biscuits

2 oz butter

1 Mars bar - chopped

Topping:

1 Mars bar - chopped

2 fl oz double cream

300 gram tub full fat soft cheese

Cocoa powder, for dusting

Slices of chilled Mars bar and fresh raspberries, to decorate

Method:

Base: Put biscuits in a food processor to make fine crumbs (or put them in a plastic bag and bash them with a rolling pin!). Place in a bowl and set aside. Put butter and chopped Mars bar in a heatproof bowl over a pan of simmering water and heat, stirring occasionally until the chocolate and butter have melted (don't worry if the mixture has small lumps in it). Stir in the biscuit crumbs and mix well. Divide between four 9cm by 6mm deep loose-based individual tart tins. Press the mixture into the base of the tins and level with the back of a spoon. Chill.

Topping: Place chopped Mars bar and double cream in a heatproof bowl over a pan of gently simmering water and heat, stirring occasionally until melted. Remove bowl from the pan and leave to cool for 15 minutes. Beat the soft cheese in another bowl until smooth then gradually beat in the cooled melted chocolate and cream mixture. Divide between the tart tins and level the surface. Chill for 1 hour 30 minutes or until firm.

Serve: Remove from tins and dust with cocoa powder and decorate with slices of Mars bar and fresh raspberries.

Crispy Mars Bar Slices

Slowly melt 3 Mars bars with 3oz margarine. Then stir in 3oz Rice Krispies. Press into a swiss roll tin and cover with melted chocolate. When cool, cut into slices. Couldn't be easier!!

Mars and Fruit Kebabs

8 fun-sized Mars bars

8 large strawberries, hulled and halved

2 kiwi fruit, peeled and cut into chunks

4 ozs fresh pineapple or canned pineapple chunks

Greek yoghurt to serve

Thread alternatively

halved Mars bars,

strawberries, kiwi fruit

and pineapple onto eight

skewers. Cook under pre-

heated grill or on barbecue for between one

or two minutes on each side until the Mars

bars are just beginning to melt. These are

absolutely delicious served with Greek

yoghurt.



Yummy Mars Pancakes

Fill ready-made pancakes with a mixture of chopped Mars bar and bananas. Fold over and gently fry in butter for a few minutes. Serve with canned squirty cream.

"EATING OUT" FEATURE

Lack of space has necessitated us holding this feature over until the October Bentham News. So there is still time to include your advertisement - just get in touch on 62492 or call in at the Sports Shop before 15th September.

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ORGANIC TREE PLANTING AT IVAH GREAT HILL

By Jen Stocks

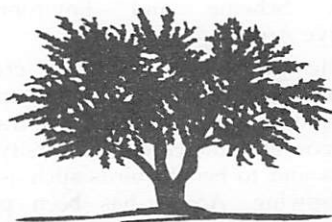
Do you ever feel as though all the messages you hear about the environment are negative ones? Want a chance to do something positive instead? Well, here it is!

We are working to preserve a hectare of ancient semi natural woodland and plant four hectares more (this involves nearly 4,000 trees!). This will improve biodiversity, contribute to the beautiful landscape of the Forest of Bowland and create a carbon sink for the planet. In addition, we are actively encouraging recreational access to the land, with a planting scheme that leaves wide open footpaths, provides a great view from the top of the hill and keeps clear "pistes" for sledging in the winter.

There will be planting weekends at Ivah Great Hill throughout October: 4/5 October will be especially for local people (Bentham/Lowgill/Wray/etc), 11/12 October will be the biggest event we can manage and 18/19 October will be aimed primarily at students of all ages. All the weekends will run on the same basis - we provide the food and materials, while you bring spades, wellies and waterproofs. Anybody who wants to bring a tent or other camping module and stay for the whole weekend is welcome to do so. Otherwise, please just turn up on any Saturday or Sunday morning at about 10 o'clock and join in with whatever is going on.

We will be focussing on using organic methods, which are a bit more demanding than just spraying chemicals to keep the weeds down. There will also be various complementary activities going on to support the event, so you could come and learn to bake bread in a wood fired oven, build a shelter with turf or help with children's activities and games.

We hope that this will be a success on several levels - we want to do something positive for the environment, raise people's awareness of environmental issues and have fun too! Please give us a call if you can join us - we are planning to use local suppliers for food and we'd like to give them some idea of quantities in advance.



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NEW FOOTPATH

By Maureen Ellis

It is not often that one can report the creation of a new footpath, but that is exactly what has happened at Keasden. David and Joanna Burns of Meldingscale Farm have made a permissive circular route from their farm (which is on the left hand side of the road going from Clapham Station in the direction of Keasden crossroad) to Dubgarth and back. This has come about through The Countryside Stewardship Scheme, The Countryside Access Scheme and Environmentally Sensitive Areas



The permissive footpath creates a circular route and some of the meadows alongside are being managed in a traditional way in order to increase the diversity of wild flowers and to benefit birds such as curlew and lapwing. Access has been provided under the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and Food's farm conservation schemes which help farmers and land managers to protect and improve the countryside, its wildlife and history. There is access until September 2010.

The walk is marked with signs that have green arrows and say 'Conservation Walks MAFF'. There are additional signs which refer to the Organic Farm Network and Soil Association also with arrows. You are not trespassing if you follow these but it is best either to enter at Meldingscale GR 732 676 or

Dubgarth GR 728 667 where boards with maps are displayed. There is no signpost on the road but it is on the Countryside Agency website

It is always good to explore new ground and I experienced this walk at the recent Keasden parish walk and am intending to incorporate this section into a longer Keasden walk for the Bentham Footpath Group later in the year. Wildlife abounds in our area, kingfishers have been seen along Jack Beck by the Burn family and further away there has been a report of an otter sighting last September in the Clapham area.

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PUPPY POINT LEARNING

By Sue Whiteley



Beware, puppies are learning all *Good Start* the time from every experience; make sure yours is learning the right things. Puppies learn by association. They repeat what is rewarding, such as sitting to receive a titbit. They do not repeat things that are unrewarding or unpleasant, such as playing with the cat that has just scratched them.

Ensure your puppy learns pleasant associations with people, dogs, other animals and things in his environment. Try to teach him the right behaviour before he learns the wrong behaviour, e.g. teach him to greet people with all four feet on the ground rather than jumping up. Help him by:

- rewarding the correct behaviour by giving attention only when his feet are on the ground,
- ignoring the unwanted behaviour by turning your back and ignoring him whilst he is jumping and
- interrupting the behaviour which can't be ignored by having him attached to a houseline to stop him jumping at visitors. But then be sure to reward the correct behaviour when he isn't jumping up.

Be consistent in your approach or you will confuse your puppy. Use this approach to teach him how you want him to behave in all sorts of situations.

For information about the "Good Start" puppy class contact me on 015396 21946.



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Bookings for 2004 now being taken. A few spaces left for Xmas parties 2003.



PLAYGROUP PHOTO SESSION

By Rachael Faraday

High Bentham Playgroup begins again on Tuesday 2nd September, after what seems a long break! The playgroup offers a warm welcome to all children from two and a half years old, on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons from 1 to 3pm in the Upper Town Hall. Please just come along.

The photographer is coming on Wednesday 24th September from 8.00am - 10.30am, so if you want a picture of your little angel (perhaps with brothers and sisters) please ring Clare on 62104 to book a time.

Also on 10th September at 7.30pm in the Town Hall Wenningdale Room, we will be holding our AGM to elect a new committee. The playgroup is run voluntarily, so no committee means no playgroup! All parents are welcome and your support would be much appreciated.

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SUCCESSFUL YEAR FOR AGE CONCERN

By Ruth Bridgewood

The 2003 Age Concern (Bentham) AGM was held on 25th July and was well attended by Day Centre members. The Chairman, Ros Elliott, gave a resume of the year's activities and reported that the Day Centre is thriving and that several new members had joined during the year. She thanked NYCC for their continued support, and all the people of Bentham who have helped to make the Day Centre such a success. Sadly, she then announced her resignation as Chairman, saying that she was sorry to be leaving after being part of Age Concern for so many years, but she was sure that the Centre would continue to prosper.

The Day Centre Organiser, Mary Hartley, having just completed her first year, thanked everyone for making her feel so welcome. She outlined the various activities and trips which had taken place and summed up by saying that she felt Age Concern provided an excellent service and that she looked forward to another successful year. Ruth Bridgewood, Treasurer, provided copies of the accounts that showed a healthy state of affairs. She answered several questions from the floor and the accounts were then accepted by the members. Officers and Committee members were re-elected with the exception of a Chairman, and this post is still vacant. Tributes and thanks to Ros, the Committee and helpers were expressed by Connie Holt and seconded by Laurie Blundell.



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WASTE NOT, WANT NOT

By Rose Pierce

Recently, the Bentham Auction Mart celebrated a century of service to the local farming community. There was a prayer service of thanksgiving for the countryside and all it embraces. It seemed to somehow reflect real life needs.

Are we addicted to the good things that agriculture provides and do we care enough in a world of mindless consumerism and ruthless exploitation? Does all of life deserve our respect and the environment in which we all live? We now know we are destroying the planet, the recent hot spell of weather is proof, but can we continue as we are at present, can we change and if so, how? We live in a world of limited resources and growing numbers of people, are we the problem and are there alternative ways of living other than constant profit and more and more?

Open Meeting

These questions must concern us all and will no doubt be raised at the coming Justice and Peace Open Meeting. This will be held in the Town Hall, High Bentham at 7.30pm, 10th October 2003. There will be two speakers, from Friends of the Earth and British Nuclear Fuels Ltd. The meeting will be chaired by John Smith of the Cumbrian Forum for Social Responsibility.

Please come, as our environment is our concern now and for the future.

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www.royfarrar.co.uk

SUPPORT THE BUPA GREAT NORTH RUN

By Kath Whitfield

On 21st September 2003, I will be joining around 47,000 people taking part in the world's biggest half marathon in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. My challenge will be to run the 13.1 miles from Newcastle to South Shields to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Relief. I aim to raise as much money as possible by running this event and hope that you will consider sponsoring me in my challenge, which I am aware is a very minor one compared with the challenge that cancer patients face each day.

A year ago, this area, which covers Airedale and the Yorkshire Dales, had no Macmillan specialists, despite there being over 3,000 Macmillan nurses, doctors, dieticians, social workers and radiographers nation-wide. So all the money raised will go to the Yorkshire Dales Appeal. This Appeal has a target of £600,000, and is being launched so that within the next twelve months we can put in place five specialist health professionals in this area, all dedicated to helping patients and their families who are living with cancer.

If you are able to support me in my challenge, there is a sponsor form at High Bentham CP School, or you can contact me on (01729) 823509.

JUNIOR BADMINTON IN LOW BENTHAM

By Julie Bridgeman

The season for the Low Bentham Junior Badminton Club starts on Tuesday 9th September, and continues until the May half term 2004. Sessions last from 6.30pm to 8pm and take place at Sedburgh Junior School Sports Hall. The cost is £25 per person. All are welcome, and if you would like any further information please ring me on 62276.



LITTER PICK

By Nigel Thomas

Why not join members of Bentham Development Trust (BDT) and Bentham Local Action for Justice and Peace (LAJP) on Sunday 21st September for a voluntary 'litter pick' around the town. We will gather in the Market Car Park at 2pm and gloves and bags will be provided. Children must be accompanied by an adult. The event previews a public debate on caring for the environment which will take place in Bentham Town Hall on Friday 10th October, and which will include speakers from BNFL and Friends of the Earth.

HARVEST LANTERNS

By Alison Jones

As lantern time approaches, we are once again looking for donations of fruit and mini-jam jars for making jam. If anyone can help, please phone the office on 62672 or drop into Looking Well between 10.30am and 4.30pm Monday to Friday.

CHARITY DAY

By Jackie Tymon

Kidde Fire Protection Services Limited (formerly Angus Fire) will be holding a Charity Day at the Bentham Site on Saturday, 6th September 2003 from 10.00am to 4.00pm. Attractions include stalls, car boot, raffles, fancy dress for all age ranges, vintage fire engines, refreshments and Bay Radio. In addition, a number of employees have volunteered to be "abandoned". They will be taken to an undisclosed location with limited resources and will aim to make their way back to Bentham before 4.00pm.

All proceeds are going to the "Children in Need Appeal".

WOULD YOU LIKE TO WALK A TIGHTROPE?

By Margaret Cowling

Bentham Theatre Group is delighted to have been able to get the Astral Circus to come to town. Stuart Terry, of Astral Circus, will be offering four circus skills workshops throughout September, and you could learn to walk a tightrope and many other circus skills.

The workshops are free and are open to anyone aged from 10 years to adult. They will be held in Bentham Community Centre on Thursdays 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th September from 7-9pm. As there are only 20 places available, please phone Margaret on (015242) 63175 to book a place. If these workshops are a success we hope to book more for October.

MASONIC HALL OPEN DAY

By Michael E Mason (Worshipful Master)

Wenning Masonic Lodge is holding an Open Day on Saturday 13th September when an invitation is extended to visit the Masonic Hall in Station Road (between Grove Hill Garage and the Methodist Church), from 10.30am to 12.30pm. Come and enjoy a cup of coffee or a glass of wine while we show you round the building and tell you a little about what we do. These days, freemasons are keen to be seen as part of the community and to rid themselves of the image of secrecy, so please do come along and ask your questions in a convivial and social atmosphere.



BENTHAM NEWS is published at "Latharna", High Bentham, by an editorial committee consisting of Shirley Brown, Diane Chant, Judith Johnson, Peter Phillips, Dorothy Pidgeon, Ken Robertson, Jean West, Pam Woof, and our co-ordinator, Bill Kennedy, who can be contacted on 62492. Every effort is made to ensure that information contained in the paper is correct. However Bentham News is an open access paper and views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the editorial committee. The committee reserves the right to edit contributions. We are willing to withhold names on request, but names, addresses and telephone numbers must accompany all items for publication. The Bentham News is printed by Pica Design & Print, Low Bentham.