

BENTHAM NEWS

NEW OFFICES OPENED AT STATION BUILDING

Gareth Adams, Bentham's Mayor, cuts the ribbon at the opening of the new home of Bentham Little Red Bus (Bentham Community Transport) and Bentham Youth Café.

The building had been unused for a long time, whilst the Trust negotiated with Northern Rail and Network Rail so that Bentham Development Trust could take on the lease. A major refurbishment of the building was undertaken in return for a peppercorn rent. Northern Rail have worked on painting, planting and repairs to the station, and Yorkshire Forward gave the Trust a grant to pay for the work.

More than 170 people, many of whom had been associated with the project over many years, attended the opening.

After the official speeches and opening by the Mayor, there was a splendid buffet meal, heartily enjoyed by the large number present. Catering was provided by The Nosebag.



136th BENTHAM SHOW SATURDAY 6th SEPTEMBER

The 136th show will take place at Bellfleckers Field on Saturday 6th September. All the usual classes will be held, including cattle, sheep, horses, shire horses, show jumping, pygmy goats, handicrafts, horticulture, photography, stick dressing, poultry and pets. The companion dog show with 6 pedigree classes and 19 novelty classes starts at noon. There will be an ATV Bike competition, and tug-o-war, in teams of 6, (male and female). Corio Raptor will be there with birds of prey on display. There will also be a parade by the Vale of Lune Harriers at 1.30pm and lots more.

Full schedules are available from local shops. Entries can be taken on the day for horses, the companion dog show and pets.

Given favourable weather, this can be a great day out for the family, with lots to see, so come along, meet your friends and enjoy yourself.



SEPTEMBER 2008

ISSUE 263

CHRISTMAS LIGHTING

By Iain Henshaw

Following on from the recent Bentham Traders EGM where it was decided to separate out the Christmas Lighting from the Traders main activities, Iain Henshaw and Dave Bedford are to form a new group - yet to be named. It was felt by the Traders that the majority of people did not realise that the Traders were responsible for the town's Christmas lights.

With ever tightening Health & Safety and the age of the existing lights it was decided last year to start a new system. The uniform LED lit Christmas trees were the first stage of that scheme. Trying to raise the funds is very difficult for an existing group and that further reinforced the Traders' decision not to continue with the lights.

Over the next few weeks we will be contacting all the shop keepers and home owners on Main Street and Station Road to maintain the relationship. The collection boxes will be re-branded and grant applications completed. We are mildly optimistic that we will see the scheme in place this year but reality says it will be next. There are plans to have an exhibition in the Community Centre to explain our ambitions and a website where you can keep up to date with the progress.

If you would like to be involved with this exciting new initiative please contact Iain on 015242 61010 or Dave on 015242 62846 There will be more in next month's Bentham News.



BARCLAY'S BASHING CLOSES STREET

The saga of assaults on the bank building continues. On Thursday 7th August a tractor and trailer clipped the scaffolding at Barclays Bank, making it unsafe. As a result, Main Street was closed to traffic from the top of Station Road to the bottom of Goodenber Road. Repairs to the scaffolding took place overnight and the road was open the following morning. The picture shows the rather wobbly looking scaffolding after the collision.

NEW PLANNING APPLICATION SUBMITTED FOR STONEYARD AT FOURLANDS

Craven District Council planning Department has notified people who submitted objections to the previous application this year, that a new application has been submitted. Although there has been some modification of the original submission, the main reasons for the widespread objections may still remain valid.

The application may be seen online at www.planning.cravencdc.gov.uk/fastweb and the plans may be inspected at Craven District Council Offices. They have also been supplied to Bentham Town Council - check with the Town Clerk (Tel: 62587). Comments about the application should be made in writing to Helen Signol, Development Control Manager, at Craven District Council Offices, Granville Street, Skipton BD23 1PS (Tel: 01756 706453) by 12th September.

AUGUST'S TOWN COUNCIL

By David Johnson

All the Cllrs were present except Cllr Barnes and County Cllr Ireton.

The Police

PC Hayes said the area was generally quiet with only two reports of minor damage. He said a local drug dealer had been sentenced to two and half years probation and had to pay back eight thousand pounds compensation. The graffiti culprit has been dealt with by the courts and has been removed from the area.

Waste Recycling

District Cllr Camacho said the District Council will try to expand its kerbside collections as soon as possible but our scattered rural population makes some aspects of the programme expensive and rather inefficient.

Highways

The Council is still concerned about congestion in the town centre and consequently members have asked the County Highways Department to produce drawings to move the parking on Main Street to the other side of the road below the Station Road junction. Because of financial restraints no action is likely in the near future. The Cllrs are still trying to get something done about the green triangle at the end of Dumb Toms Lane and about various potholes in the area.

Cemetery

The Cllrs adopted a formal procedure to test memorials for safety. This policy will be publicised in the Bentham News.

The New School

Frustrated at the lack of progress the Cllrs have invited Bernadette Jones, an LEA Education Officer, to meet them at the October meeting or at a separate earlier meeting.

The Council Website

Cllr Stannard invited other Cllrs to become involved in developing the site. He also asked for more ideas why tourists should visit Bentham itself rather than simply using it as a base to visit the Dales, Lakes etc.

Craven District Council Property Services

The Cllrs are becoming increasingly frustrated with the tardy approach of property services with regard to Bentham problems. It seems that an agreement on a right of way to the Legion Hut has finally been agreed but the renewal of the Cleveland Square lease has been under negotiation for three years and is still rumbling on.

Lairgill

Residents have received the annual warning that they do not have an automatic right of access to Lairgill car park and that if they wish to gain direct access they need to pay Craven District Council an annual licence fee!

Station Building

The Cllrs congratulated all who had steered through the Station Building development. They had been impressed with the work and expressed the hope that the Youth Café would prove popular and successful.

Tourist Information Point

Cllr Marshall said that the TIP is going well and that the two organisers are doing a good job. So far this year 1,130 visitors have visited the office and there is a good number of volunteers to man it. It is planned to put a power point presentation in the window listing accommodation etc when the office is closed.

GRANTASTIC

By Viki Hindle

Are you a member of a community group or do you help out with a charity? Do you struggle to get funding for new equipment or activities? Do you know where to start looking for money for new equipment? Grantastic may have the answer.

Grantastic is a fabulous new service for community groups and charities like yours. We search and apply for grants and awards on your behalf.

So if you have an idea for a project or are in need of new equipment, why not contact Viki on 015242 64858, mobile 0774 306 4516, to find out if we can help you?

GARDENING COLUMN

By Joyce Knapp

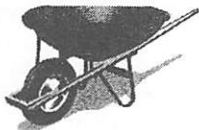


This summer, so far, we have had at least a shower of rain on most days and this may have left many people rather exasperated (namely parents of children wishing to play outdoors, farmers trying to gather in hay for the winter or just the owner of an almost redundant barbecue). I, however, have found the regularity of showers to be rather useful, particularly when I have a fifteen minute drive to get to my allotment in order to water the plants where I do not currently have a supply of water on the site.

The plants also appear to have enjoyed the moist atmosphere and, with the exception of raspberries, have suffered very little damage from the rather wet season. One down-side perhaps of a relatively wet summer may be an increase of slugs and snails and with this in mind it is useful to acquire and put in some mainstay plants that are less prone to damage by these pests. A good plant to start with would be *Alchemilla Mollis* (Ladies mantle) as this produces greenery all year round and its wispy, acid-green flowers are useful in flower arranging. Another evergreen that survives the onslaught of slugs is *Bergenia* (Elephants ears) and if you wish to introduce some colourful flowers then you can select from *Astrantia* (found in subtle shade of pink), *Crocsmia* (colours range from deepest red, through bright orange, to recently introduced yellows) or *Sedum* which will bring late colour (shades of pink) and lots of bees to the garden.

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If we wish to introduce new plants to our garden, autumn can be a good time to start as the ground will still hold much of its summer warmth and the atmosphere will hold more moisture now than it did in the summer months, although perhaps not this year! When selecting plants to add to our collection, we will all have our own priorities, although the primary aim is usually to have the garden look good. We may also wish to encourage birds and other wild life to visit our plot. With this in mind I shall elaborate on what plants to select when I return to this subject at a later date.

WORLD'S BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING AND BOOK SWAP

Thursday 25th September 10.00am-12 noon
at High Ivah, Lowgill, LA2 8QZ.
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along a good book or books to swap with
someone else.
Book swap £1 a book, or more if desired.
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QUIZ NIGHT every Wednesday
9.00 p.m. start (Approx).

COME AND HAVE A "Wii" NIGHT

Ten Pin Bowling Competition
Each Thursday from 8.30 p.m.

ENTERTAINMENT FOR SEPTEMBER

Sat 6th	Red Aura Duo
Sat 13th	Tony Martell
Sat 20th	Tony Dee

CRAVEN CONCERNS

By Cllr Manuel Camacho 015242 62074

Community Transport Office Opening

Well done to all involved with the Community transport offices and the Youth Cafe project. The opening was a splendid affair and reflected the amount of hard work and determination that made it all happen.

CDC Budget

You may have read in the Craven Herald about a possible £400,000 shortfall in the budget planned for this year. I feel that some explanation is due. Firstly this was brought about by the interim Chief Executive checking the budget figures for himself. A rigorous review of the budget system is in place. At the time of the Craven Herald announcement the figure mentioned was the best guess. Currently there is no shortfall in the budget but until the audit is completed in September we will not be able to say with any accuracy what the available budget is. As you would expect any additional expenditure is being held in check until the review is complete.

This does not mean that any funds are missing, as a budget is merely an estimate of funding available in the following year. Reasons for budget shortfalls are usually due to underspend forecasts being inaccurate and energy saving forecasts being ruined by fuel cost increases.

New Housing Allocation Policy Launched

The Council and Craven Housing have introduced a new way to allocate properties to those on the housing waiting list. The new policy ensures that people in the greatest need are given a home while striking a balance so that local people still have reasonable access to affordable housing. Priority is given based on a number of factors such as having a local connection, overcrowding or those who have health, social or welfare factors. As a member of the committee that did the initial review of the policy, you have my assurance that every line of it was carefully scrutinised, to ensure the

policy was as fair as it could be.

Smoke free Craven

One year on from the smoking ban, environmental health officers report a positive response from businesses and general public alike. Since July 2007 officers have inspected more than 950 premises and vehicles and found over 99.5% to be complying with regulations. Only in a minority of cases has it been necessary to take enforcement action. I suppose some smokers are still unhappy about this but I personally feel that the improvements are well worthwhile.

Craven Swimming Pool and Fitness Centre in top 100 rated pools

Craven Swimming Pool and Fitness Centre has been placed in the top 100 ranking pools in the country. The impressive grade results from a gruelling two day external assessment of pool staff by Quest, the UK quality scheme for Sport and Leisure. The service scored 75% which is a Highly Commended rating. They were measured on how staff ran the pool and fitness centre, customer relations, management of people and strategy and business planning. This success follows the Sport England benchmarking survey which rated the pool's customers as the most satisfied in the country. Peter Chapman, Head of Leisure and Community Facilities, comments: "Staff have put a lot of hard work into the assessment and it's been rewarded with this impressive rating. Having national recognition is a real feather in the cap for the team".

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LOOKING WELL

By Janice Every

Take a look at some of our new activities for autumn:

Stress Management

Stress is a fact of life for many people - at work, at home, in our relationships, and due to our concerns for what is happening in the world around us. At best, this makes us feel ill at ease occasionally. At worst, it can lead to debilitating physical and mental conditions. This Stress Management course at Looking Well, led by Tony Bennett, will enable you to better understand what stress is, and will cover simple exercises and techniques to help you to feel calmer and more able to recognise the signs of stress and deal with it differently. It will run on Tuesday evenings for 7 weeks, 7.30-9.00pm, starting on 23rd September. Call us on 62672 to book your place or for more information

T'ai Chi

Tai Chi is for any one who is interested in improving flexibility, posture, coordination, balance, breathing, flexibility, strength, energy levels, concentration and sense of peace. Developed in China thousands of years ago, it is the source of many of our complementary therapies, and is recognised by the World Health Organisation as significantly beneficial in the treatment and management of many chronic health conditions such as arthritis, fibromyalgia and multiple sclerosis. The sessions, led by Tony Bennett, starting on Friday 26th September, 1.30-3.00pm, will focus on fitness and wellbeing, using gentle,

undemanding standing and moving exercises focused on posture and breathing. Please contact us on 62672.

More new activities, starting in October, include 'Songs to Remember', an informal singing group which will focus on songs from the past, and is for all abilities, but particularly suitable for those affected by memory loss, and 'Café IN' on Wednesdays 11-1.30, offering INformation, INternet access and homemade soup and cakes. If you can help with baking cakes or cookies for our drop-IN café on a regular or occasional basis, we'd love to hear from you.

Cancer Support Group

Breast Cancer Trial

The University of Manchester is to undertake a research study on the effectiveness of acupuncture in managing fatigue in breast cancer patients who have completed a course of chemotherapy. If you are interested in taking part or would like more information please contact Sally Jeffery at Cancer Care, Slynedales, Slyn Road, Lancaster LA2 6ST, Tel 01524381820 or email admin@cancercare.org.uk

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PLAY RANGERS

Press Release from South Craven Community Action

Beginning 8th September 2008 Bentham will see the introduction of The Craven Play Rangers. The project includes employing Play Rangers to work in local communities in areas where there are limited play facilities. The Play Ranger Project will support children to play outdoors and to take risks in safe environments. This will include things like; tree climbing, den building, games, free play and arts and crafts.

The aim is to inspire and stimulate children and young people to explore their local environment and most importantly have fun. The project is aimed at children aged 8 -16 years old, any children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult. Adults are welcome to stay; and children can come and go as they please.

Play Rangers will be situated in the sports field every Monday afternoon from 3:30pm – 5:30pm.

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COOKERY PAGE

Edited by Patsy Henderson

Blackberry and Apple Curd

Recipe - makes 4lb/1.8kg

450g apples
900g blackberries
juice from 2 lemons
225g butter
1.25kg caster sugar
4 eggs

Method

Peel and core the apples. Place the apples and blackberries in a pan and cook with a little water until soft. Sieve the cooked fruit. Cook the fruit, lemon juice, butter and sugar in a double saucepan. When the butter and sugar have melted, add the beaten eggs and cook until the mixture thickens, stirring regularly. Pour into hot jars and cover. The curd will keep for about two months.



Cheese and Walnut Loaf

Recipe

225g self raising flour
1 tsp dry mustard
powder
1 tsp salt
pepper
75g butter
100g grated cheddar cheese
25g walnuts, chopped
2 eggs
150ml milk

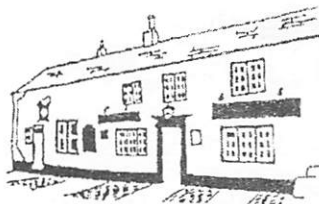
Method

Pre-heat the oven to 180C, gas 4. Sieve the flour, mustard and seasoning into a bowl and rub in the butter until the mixture is like fine breadcrumbs. Stir in the grated cheese and chopped walnuts. Beat the eggs and milk together and add the dry ingredients and mix gently. Place the mixture in a 450g loaf tin, smoothing the top. Bake for about one hour until golden brown and cooked through.



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BENTHAM AND DISTRICT PET RESCUE



By Sue Arnott

As any charity knows, fundraising requires commitment, teamwork, enthusiasm and quite often a dogged determination in the face of adversity! Over the summer our volunteers have endured the worst of the weather at several local events (though we're all hoping for better at Bentham Show this year). Thanks to Chris Humphreys at The Gallery, we had a covered market stall for Clapham Street Market and what a difference it made! No rush to cover everything at the first sign of rain in case things got spoiled. There we raised over £260 from the sale of bric-a-brac, all kindly donated by supporters.

We are always grateful for donations of books and quality bric-a-brac (keep them coming!) but we are facing a serious storage problem. A clean dry space with easy access is desperately needed somewhere in the Bentham-Settle-Ingleton area so that we can store all the goods that provide us with such a valuable income. If you know of a vacant store, at least the size of a single garage, please do contact us.

Raising funds to meet vet bills for the animals in our care is a constant struggle but it only takes a visit to the sanctuary to feel determination restored! Tom and Jerry, the kittens that were once fighting for life, are now full of beans and, with their new playmate Amber (a ginger female kitten that

was also abandoned), are looking for good homes. Sadly Bracken is becoming a long-stay resident but we're hopeful that a special person will come along for him. If you could offer a cat a home, please ring Pat on 63048.

Is it too early to mention Christmas? For those organised people who will soon have everything sorted for the festive season, we have a small range of Christmas cards which hopefully will soon be on sale in some of the shops in Bentham in aid of our charity.

For general queries about B&D Pet Rescue please ring 61127.

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NEW BENTHAM CALENDAR AVAILABLE

By Jo Burton (Town Clerk)

The 2009 Bentham Calendar will be available for purchase from the Bentham Show. This quality production, with yet more great photos of the Bentham area through the seasons, will make a great Christmas present. However as numbers are limited please make sure that you get yours early.

The calendar will be available from the Clerk's office in the Town Hall, and also from Bentham Imaging on Main Street, High Bentham Post Office & Burton Village Shop, at a price of £7.

Again, thanks to our generous sponsors:- A I Harrison & Co, Bentham Auction Mart, Bentham Imaging, Carrs Billington, Craven Construction, Grove Hill Garage, HB Plumbing & Heating Ltd, Kidde Products, Little Red Bus, MJ & Y Faichney, Oakroyd Bakery & Robert Taylor & Sons; the full production costs of the calendar have been met.

"The Playing Fields Association have a major project in their phase 3 plans to refurbish the tennis courts and build a skate park which will require a great deal of funding" said Calendar Committee Chairman, Bernie Wills, 'and Council decided that this was another worthwhile local scheme to support with the calendar proceeds.

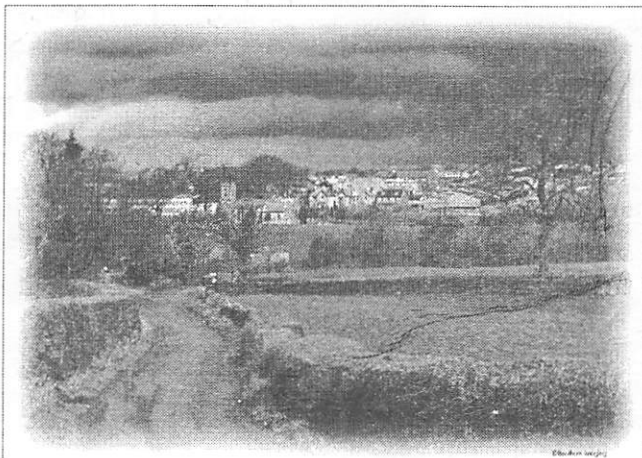
Produced in Bentham using Bentham talent and Bentham businesses, the calendar will be a great way of keeping track of what's

on in the Town Hall, and some of the other major events in the Town and supporting a worthy local cause.

To make it more interesting this year the captions have been omitted from the photos, and the Committee are holding a competition just to see how well people do know the area!

To take part in the competition, just list where all 13 photos are of, and roughly where they were taken from. Entries cost £1 (proceeds to the Playing Fields) and should be taken to Bentham Imaging (with your name, address and phone number). If there is more than one correct entry then a draw will take place on 1 December and the winner will receive a bottle of champagne.

For further information contact Jo Burton on 62587.



BENTHAM & BEYOND CALENDAR 2009



All Proceeds to Bentham Playing Fields Association

LOW BENTHAM W.I.

By Jennifer Watkinson

For members' night a trip to the Coach House for a meal was arranged by the president and secretary. It was well attended, the food and service was good and everyone enjoyed themselves. Mrs. Ruth Sephton, the President, distributed her newsletter.

Members, friends and even three husbands visited the RSPB reserve at Silverdale for a delicious supper followed by a guided walk. We were taken through the high reeds to Lilian's Hide, where we watched one of their successes, the marsh harrier, and then on to Grisedale Hide to watch the red deer. Our guide lent us binoculars and set up a telescope in the hides. Whilst out walking we spotted a peregrine falcon chasing ducks and pipistrelle bats. It was a pleasant, peaceful evening and we were made very welcome.

At the next meeting on 18th September at the Victoria Institute at 7.30pm, senior radiographer, Mrs. Cathi Greenbank's talk is entitled "Osteoporosis".

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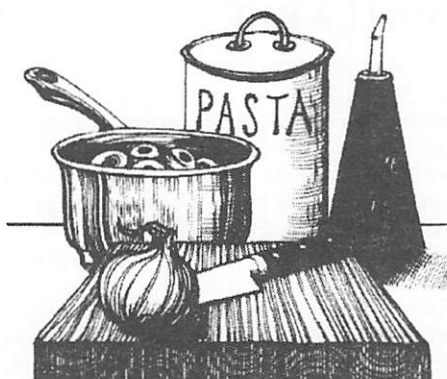
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BENTHAM YOUTH THEATRE GROUP

By Iain Henshaw

Many thanks to Christine Grieve of Temptations (Our costumes wouldn't be as good without you) for being the first sponsor of the website - anybody else we'd love to hear from you. The site has been updated and you can register and post comments, read and add reviews and see the gallery.

Our Autumn season starts on Wednesday 3rd September for signing on 18:00 - 21:00 at the Community Centre. This season we hope to stage a production in the Town Hall just before Christmas. We especially need people interested in the technical and managerial aspects of theatre - young and old. This is a great time to get involved as skills learnt can be used in the pantomime in February. Details on the website www.bytg.org.uk or by calling Iain Henshaw on 015242 61010 and on the notice board of the Community Centre. Look forward to seeing you there.

STOP PRESS.

BYTG can now run LAMDA courses that can result in a recognisable qualification in both performance and technical theatre. Gradings to take place at sign on.

CHURCHES TOGETHER

By Alastair Cook

Many churches and spiritual organisations try very hard to make headlines and "the news" as a way of spreading their message. This is not always a good thing as the organisers of the recent Lambeth Conference will attest. It is no help to the existing members of an organisation or to the prospective recruits to hear of divisions at the highest level! The mantra that no publicity is bad publicity is not actually true.

However, it is also true that hiding one's light under a bushel is not a good idea either. Compound that with a serious lack of money for publicity and you get the Wild West Syndrome - the wagons are circled and there is a steadily diminishing band of settlers inside.

Quakers face this conundrum by having one week of - hideous word - Outreach a year when we are more than usually open and spend our entire publicity budget in one go. The rest of the year we offer tea, friendship and a natter.

We hope there will be more details about our "week's" activities, from October 5th to 12th 2008, in the October issue.



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The Reverend Clive Burgess

By Judith Johnson

On Monday 1st September we welcome our new vicar at a special service at 7.30pm at St. John's. The Bishop of Bradford, the Right Reverend David James, will conduct the institution and collation of the Reverend Clive Burgess as the rector to both the parishes of St. John's and St. Margaret's and as rural Mission Advisor in the deanery of Ewecross. This will be followed by refreshments in the dining room at Sedbergh Junior School.

Family Fun Day

All are welcome to an afternoon of fun and games at High Bentham School field (Methodist Hall if wet) on Sunday 31st August, starting at 1.30pm. Free admission, free ice cream and sweets for children.

MEMORIAL TESTING

By Jo Burton - Town Clerk

There is a statutory requirement on Benthams Town Council to test the safety of all memorials in the cemetery at least every 5 years.

The Council hereby gives notice of its intention to test the safety of all headstones in Benthams Cemetery at the end of September 2008.

The test will take the form of a visual inspection followed by the application of a 30kg force on the headstone at the top of the headstone (memorials less than 1m high) or at a height of 1 metre above the ground.

The owners of any memorial failing the test will be contacted and given a period of time in which to arrange for repair of the headstone fixing, after which time the stone will be re-tested. Any memorials failing the second test may have to be laid down for the safety of visitors to the cemetery.

For further information contact the Town Clerk on 62587.

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HIGH BENTHAM COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

By Mrs C A Boocock, Head Teacher

A huge thank you to everyone in Benthams who supported us in putting on the show "Oliver" at the end of the summer term in the Town Hall. It was a great success and all the children and adults involved had a super time.

Well done to Jessica Piper who designed the winning logo which will appear on all Craven District Council dog waste bags. Also, congratulations to Fabian Brennan, who raised an amazing £423 for the PTFA doing his sponsored bike ride.

We look forward to summer weather in the autumn term so that we can do the sponsored walk and sports day that we had to cancel because of the heavy rain in July.

When we return to school in September we will have spaces in each year group so new families in Benthams are warmly invited to come and look around our school; please contact me on 015242 61412 if you wish to arrange a visit. We have 5 classes plus a Nursery which runs from 9.00-11.30am. We also have before and after school childcare provision which is managed by staff in the school hall.

"This school provides a bright and vibrant learning community where children feel safe and valued" - Ofsted 2007.

To find out more about what goes on in school then look on our website which we are constantly updating. www.high-benthams-yorks.sch.uk

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Dear Bentham News,
Several members of the public have recently asked how they contact the Bentham First Responders in the event of a medical emergency. The role of the First Responders is to respond when called out to do so by the Yorkshire Ambulance Service as a result of a 999 emergency call. The First Responders are organised on a rota basis and those on call change daily.



Now we have nearly enough volunteers to provide cover seven days a week and twenty four hours a day but we could still do with some more volunteers.

Why not call Wanda Lewcan (62450), Gordon Kennel (61597), Robert Holland (63346) or just come along to the Horse and Farrier at 7.30pm on the first Wednesday in every month. We'll buy the first round!!

*Yours sincerely,
Robert Holland.*

BENTHAM FOTPATH GROUP



By Maureen Ellis

The new programme is out. Many thanks to those members involved in the time consuming task of putting it together, not always an easy job.

September's walks are as follows. On Thursday 4th from Lairgill at 9.15am there is the Littondale walk of 9.5 miles which will start about 3/4 of an hour later at the parking area before the school at Arncliffe; doubling up in cars at Bentham will be helpful. It's a 'Dalesman Walk' and involves the path along which mules were walked to carry fish from Malham Tarn to Arncliffe. The pasture lands were owned by Fountains Abbey

Saturday and Sunday 13th and 14th bring the much looked forward to annual residential trip to the Lake District which is in Great Langdale this year. Please phone Adrian Leigh on 63037 asap if you want to reserve a place.

On Sunday 21st from Lairgill at 9.30am the Loyne Bridge Circular of 7.5 miles starts from the bridge, along the river Lune through Arkholme to Storres Hall; it's then onwards to Gressingham and Eskrigge and the Snab. The return is back along the river.

On Saturday 27th for the 11 mile Farleton Knott walk meet at Lairgill at 9.30am with the walk starting from Holme and going along to the north end of Farleton Knott with a sharp climb to the summit. We will then follow the ridge to the top of Hutton Roof Crag and down through Burton in Kendal. The return is by the canal.

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LOCAL EVENTS IN SEPTEMBER

- Mon 1st** Gentle walks for women, meet at Lairgill, 9.30am-12noon, and every Monday (except 25th).
10-11.30am Toddler-In for parents/carers and babies and toddlers, Methodist Church Hall, and every Monday.
Craven Customer Services, Town Hall, 10.00am-12.30pm.
Town Council meeting at the Town Hall, 7.30pm.
- Tue 2nd** Bentham Playgroup, Wenningdale Room, Town Hall, 1.00-3.00pm and every Tuesday.
Tuesday Strolls (very gentle walks), Looking Well, 2.00-3.00pm and every Tuesday.
Yoga at the Town Hall 11.00am-12noon and 6.00-7.00pm and every Tuesday.
- Wed 3rd** Bentham Playgroup at the Town Hall, 1.00-3.00pm and every Wednesday.
Coffee morning at the Methodist Hall 10.00-11.30am and every Wednesday. Donations to local charities.
6.00pm Youth Theatre Group at the Community Centre, and every Wednesday - bytg.org.uk
Bentham First Responders, 7.30pm at the Horse and Farrier. Come and talk to us about joining.
NSPCC meeting at Lingfield, Robin Lane, 7.30pm.
- Thu 4th** Bentham Footpath Group walk, Littondale, 9½ miles, leaders J. Harrison and V. Smith, 61100. Meet at Lairgill 9.15am.

Thu 4th

Welcome-in dominoes, for all ages, Methodist Church Hall, 2.00-4.00pm. For transport contact Nigel or Kath, 62272.

Looking Well, 11.00am-1.30pm, Cancer Support Group - Drop in, Art Sessions, Therapies and Lunch, and every Thursday.

Swimming at Hornby for over 50s (men and women). Cost £1.60. Tel Barbara Shuttleworth, 62873, to arrange transport. Leaves School Hill 8.45am and every Thursday.

High Bentham W.I. at the Town Hall, 7.30pm. David and Jill Atkinson, A Royal Variety Show by the only Pearly King and Queen outside London. Competition - Royal memorabilia.

Fri 5th

Age Concern at the Masonic Hall, 10.00am-2.30pm. Talk by Malham National Trust.

Sat 6th

Bentham Show at Bellfleckers Field, something for all the family - see front page.

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

Youth Café coffee morning at the Town Hall Ballroom, 10.00am-12.00noon.

Bentham Film Group film "The Kite Runner", at Victoria Institute, Low Bentham 7.30pm. See page 33.

Mon 8th

Looking Well, NYCC enrolment for courses, 10.00am-12noon.

Craven Customer Services, Lower Town Hall, 10.00am-12.30pm.

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

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

Tue 9th

Bentham Toy Library at the Community Centre, 9.30-11.00am.

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

LISTING FOR LOCAL EVENTS

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

Event.....

Venue.....

Contact Tel:.....

Name.....

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

- Wed 10th** Moving Well, gentle exercise for the over 50s, Community Centre, 2.00-3.00pm and every Wednesday in term time.
Scottish Country Dancing at Ingleton Community Centre, and every Wednesday. Children 6.00-7.00pm, adults 7.30-9.30pm.
- Thu 11th** Looking Well, 6.00-8.00pm, NYCC enrolment for courses.
- Fri 12th** Age Concern at the Masonic Hall, 10.00am-2.30pm. Extend exercise - Colin Etherington.
- Sat 13th** St. John's coffee morning in the Lower Town Hall, 10.00am-12.00noon. 
Bentham Footpath Group Lakes weekend. Contact A. Leigh 63037.
Bloomin' Bentham volunteers meet in painted bus shelter, School Hill, 1.00pm. For more information telephone 61608.
Book Swap at the Victoria Institute, Low Bentham, 10.00am-12.30pm. See page 32.
- Mon 15th** Craven Customer Services at the Town Hall, 10.00am-12.30pm.
Copy deadline for October edition of Bentham News.
- Tue 16th** Bright Hour at Methodist Church, 2.15pm. Speaker Rev. R. Fox.
Mothers' Union meeting at Burton Church room, 2.00pm.
Clapham & District WEA autumn class "Islam in a world context". 7.00pm at Clapham Primary School and every Tuesday. Contact 51324.
- Thu 18th** Welcome-in dominoes, for all ages, Methodist Church Hall, 2.00-4.00pm. For transport contact Nigel or Kath, 62272.
Low Bentham W.I. at the Victoria Institute, 7.30pm. See page 14.
- Fri 19th** Age Concern at the Masonic Hall, 10.00am-2.30pm. Our favourite photographs.
Waste paper collection at Lairgill Car Park, 8.30-11.00am. Proceeds to NSPCC.
- Sat 20th** Liberal Democrats coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10.00am-12.00noon. 
- Sun 21st** Bentham Footpath Group walk, Loyne Bridge circular, 7½ miles, leaders J. Clapham and G. Warren, 64906. Meet at Lairgill 9.30am.
- Mon 22nd** Looking Well NYCC Access to working in schools 9.30-11.30am. Skills for life 12.00noon-2.00pm, Creative textile course 1.15-3.15pm and every Monday in term time.
- Tue 23rd** Bentham Child Health Clinic at the Surgery, 2.00-4.00pm.
Bentham Toy Library at the Community Centre, 9.30-11.00am.
- Thu 25th** Looking Well NYCC Multimedia course starts and every Tuesday in term time for 10 weeks, 9.30-11.30am.
- Fri 26th** Age Concern at the Masonic Hall, 10.00am-12.30pm.
"Alaska" - talk and slides by Derek Cressey.
LASRUG AGM at the Town Hall, 7.30pm.
Bentham News published.
- Sat 27th** Bentham Footpath Group walk, Farleton Knott, 11 miles, leaders E. & S. Badley, 62502. Meet at Lairgill 9.30am.
Samaritan's coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10.00am-12.00noon. 
HB Methodist Harvest Supper, 7.00pm, buffet & dominoes.
- Tue 30th** Bright Hour, 2.15pm at Methodist Church Hall.

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A WORD OF CAUTION TO ALL COMPUTER USERS

By Iain Henshaw (s1b)

There are two issues that are becoming more important as people get computer savvy. The old threat of viruses is still current but more sophisticated threats are emerging: Spyware is the most common but hacked, fraudulent and phishing websites are also becoming a major issue. Be very careful of pop ups warning of infected computers as they can often cause more trouble than they solve. Visit www.free.grisoft.com for a free comprehensive internet security bundle. Phishing is a method whereby you are directed to a website pretending to be a bank or similar. If you receive an email from your bank asking you to fill in an online form check with the bank by phone or check that the link they place in the mail is the same as the link you will go to. Most browsers / email packages show where a link will take you in the bottom bar.

It might say www.bank.co.uk but the link might possibly take you to www.bank.co.uk.fraud.com If in any doubt call your bank - with a small amount of knowledge a bank's website could be copied in minutes and you could be poorer in even less time!

The second issue is more to do with personal data. We trust our computers to store more and more valuable personal information in the form of photos, videos, and music, not to mention documents. Insurance companies will cover your iPod for instance but not the hundreds of pounds of downloaded music! Most people who have limited hard disks buy a separate external hard disk to save these files to but how many have no other copies. A friend of mine recently lost all his tunes and a significant number of photos when he knocked his external hard drive off the table onto the floor. Always back up on another hard drive, CD or DVD. If you need more information or help contact any of the computer people advertising in Bentham News, your company's IT dept or a retailer. The web is also a great source of info. Safe surf!

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SQUARE DANCING FOR BEGINNERS



By Bert Chessell and Bob James

Lune Valley Square Dance Club is recruiting new members. On Mondays 22nd and 29th September and 6th October 2008, we are offering free taster sessions at St Paul's Church Hall, New Street, Brookhouse, Lancaster LA2 9JR starting at 8pm. We last recruited two years ago so don't miss this opportunity to join in the fun. The club has a thriving membership with members travelling from a wide area.

Even if you think you can't dance, give square dancing a go and you'll be dancing from the very start to a wide variety of music. No fancy footwork or complicated routines to remember and, with seven other dancers in your square, it's a team event. Our experienced Caller will teach you the moves so you learn without realising it.

Learning to square dance opens up a whole new world of fun and friendship. It's one of the easiest forms of dance to master – yet provides a lifetime of enjoyment. There are 200+ clubs in the UK, 9,000 clubs worldwide all dancing to calls in English!

Square dancing is good healthy exercise. It is mentally stimulating, promotes overall fitness and burns off calories. Above all, it is great fun – we laugh a lot, which is the best medicine of all.

The club also organises social events including hoe-downs, barbecues, walks and visits to dances at other clubs.

We can only accept new dancers for this limited period. So, come and join our newcomers group – everyone welcome – couples or singles. Join us on one or all of the free nights – there's tea and biscuits at break time – and you will be dancing straight away.

If you need more information or directions, contact George (01524 811109) or Vicky (01524 823746) or email us at oceanwavers@hotmail.co.uk For more about the square dance club, our website is www.oceanwavers.co.uk

APPEAL FOR TOPSOIL

By Ann Ambrose

The Victoria Institute Community garden is now coming on apace! We have been very fortunate in benefiting from the help of so many generous Bentham people, both businesses and individuals alike and would like to say a big thank you to all who have been involved so far and extend a warm welcome to anyone who would like to be involved in the future. There will be plenty to do as the garden progresses.

The first stage of the work has involved building some of the basic structure into the garden and this is now well underway. We will soon be in a position to actually create the living part of the garden and get planting! We have had many plants donated and have spent the summer trying to keep them alive in the various containers they were donated in. Luckily this has not been too difficult thanks to all the rain we have had!

We are now putting out an appeal for top soil as those of you who have seen the garden will know that this is a true 'garden from scratch' and there is very little soil on site. If you have any topsoil available or any ideas then please contact Sharon Haslam on 015242 61800.

We are in the process of setting up a Community Composting scheme so that we can begin making our own soil on site! Compost bins are in place and information will be available soon, but in the meantime information is available on the above number. Thank you.

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YESTERDAY IN BENTHAM

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

September 1988

Local teenager **Anna Rawlinson** recalled the experiences she encountered during her travels with *Operation Raleigh*, which had taken her from Antigua through the Caribbean and across the Atlantic as a crew member in a square-rigged sailing ship. Her tasks on board varied from climbing the rigging to the foremast yard, slung 80 feet above the deck, to loosen or secure the sail, to cooking for members of her "watch". Anna's adventure was in part funded by Bentham Traders and the Town Council, and whilst £2,000 was a much larger sum of money than it is today, having seen at first hand the difference *Operation Raleigh* made to the lives of its young participants I wish the experience could be made available to all our youngsters.

An engaging article by ex Low Bentham resident **Millicent Webb** recounted a trip from Low Bentham Parochial Church School to the Great Wembly Exhibition in 1924. She remembered the teacher, Miss Ives, bringing her nephew along, who Millicent described as a "toff" because he wore a proper school cap with a badge and a school motto! She also recalled carrying a bunch of flowers all the way to London because the lady in the village sweet shop had asked her to lay them on the newly-built Cenotaph in memory of

her son who had been killed in the First World War.

One of her lasting memories was of seeing the lights in Piccadilly Circus, which for her would be made more spectacular by the fact that Low Bentham had yet to acquire street lighting, or even electricity!

Millicent's article brought home to me just how small our island has become, when today people make the journey to London as though it were just t'other side of Wennington, whilst for Millicent and her friends it was almost the equivalent of Anna Rawlinson's Adventures with *Operation Raleigh*. And all for thirty shillings!

Bentham Football Team made a very forgettable start to the new season with one draw and two defeats in their three Samantha Guy Cup matches. Wenning Wanderers Netball Team could do no better, also having been defeated twice in their last two games.

A Poetry Festival, organised by Bentham Panto Group, with entry open to all surrounding villages, was announced in this BN edition. I'll keep my eyes open for any interesting little ditties which may appear in forthcoming editions.

Finally, special congratulations were offered to a young couple who had been married in Bentham on August 13th. Special, because the bride had successfully fought an incredible battle to regain her health following a horrific car accident in which she sustained very serious injuries. That she could recover sufficiently to become an August bride, was said to have been little short of miraculous.

Belated good wishes to Stephen and Kathryn on your 20th Wedding Anniversary!

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FREEMASONRY IN BENTHAM



A personal reflection by Nigel Wilcock, current Master of Wenning Lodge (no. 4496)

The Masonic movement in Bentham began in 1923 and continues to this day in the Masonic Hall in Station Road. Many people often wonder what Freemasonry is all about and it is my intention to give you a personal insight and at the same time bring down any historical barriers and encourage a new generation of men to become Wenning Lodge Freemasons. Most towns across the country have a Masonic Hall, which is an indication that Freemasonry is spread throughout the core of society in this country and many other countries also.

I joined Masonry when I was 38 years old and I'm sure my father, if he were still alive, would have been proud to see me being admitted into Masonry. When I was admitted into Wenning Masonic Lodge I wasn't quite sure what I was letting myself in for – all the numerous hidden mysteries and signs became even more mysterious when, as a young Mason I found out that I could ask anyone any question about Masonry but not always get an answer – as one distinguished Mason put it 'They'll tell you now!!'

In time the ceremonies, the learning of Masonic ritual and the fellowship does start to unravel the purpose of Masonry, which has Charity at its heart. We donate to worthy causes both near and far, and the donations are entirely voluntary depending on what you can afford. 10 years in Masonry could see a fellow Mason go through every office at Wenning culminating in becoming the Master of the Lodge for one year. After that a whole new Masonic world within the Province of Yorkshire West Riding can await for those members who seek higher office.

Here are a few highlights of a Masonic year at Wenning Lodge:

The New Master is elected in May. There is a charity cricket match with a neighbouring lodge and this summer - *Breaking News! Wenning Lodge win*

emphatically and ashes return to Wenning! - We have returned the ashes to Wenning Lodge. August sees a big joint fund-raising event with Springfield Bowling Club. The first meeting with the new Master in charge is in September, and this is attended by 'The Big Wig', as our Director of Ceremonies would say. We hold an Old England Night when anyone can be 'fined' for slips made during the year with the proceeds going to charity, slips can be whatever's decided on the night and I've not escaped even when I've tried to be inconspicuous – "*anyone not yet fined, pay £2!*" We also hold a Ladies Night Dinner Dance at Scarthwaite Hotel, a Golf Challenge at Casterton, visit other Lodges and receive visits from other Masons.

Finally, I would like to say that Masonry in Bentham and the surrounding villages is part of our heritage and should be cherished and managed in order to lay the foundations for a proud future. To that end it is our belief at Wenning that Masonry should be more accessible to the wider public and it is my aim to encourage any male of over 21 years old of moral conduct to consider Masonry as an extension to their daily lives – it will help to shape you as a man and it will give you fellowship and a sense of being part of something good about this country. Please contact me on 015242 64943 and leave a message (in confidence) to show your interest and someone from the Lodge will get back to you.

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SUPPORT FOR BLOOMIN' BENTHAM FROM SETTLE GARDENING GROUP

By Ann Ambrose and Shirley Brown

The 'Cultivating Settle' gardening group has kindly donated several packets of seeds to the Bloomin' Bentham group to help support their work in Bentham. The seeds were originally donated to the 'Cultivating Settle' group by Booths supermarket, but it was felt that it would be good to share these with other groups in the area. Packets of flower and vegetable seeds were also given to The Victoria Institute Community garden project.

The link between the groups was made last year when some of the Bloomin' Bentham volunteers met up with the Settle group at a DVD presentation evening held in Settle in connection with the Yorkshire in Bloom competition.

At the two Bloomin' Bentham gatherings

on 13th August, eight volunteers arrived in the morning to explore and start work on some neglected land, and in the afternoon four more helped clear litter from the Town Hall car park, the railway station and Wenning Avenue play area. We work quite hard, but there's always more to be done, so if anyone is interested in coming along to help our next gathering is on Saturday 13th September at 1pm.

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CHARITIES THANKS

A huge thank you from John Henderson to all those who sponsored him in the Cancer Care Cross Bay Half Marathon on Sunday 10th August. Thanks to David at the Post Office and Karen at Tooby's for keeping sponsor forms. Together we have sent over £300 to Cancer Care. Thanks also to Anne at the craft club for the hat which kept my solar panel cool!

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THE CLOSURE OF LOW BENTHAM SCHOOL (AFTER 99 YEARS)

By Headmistress Vivienne Ayre

On Friday 18th July Low Bentham Primary school said good-bye to its final group of students. The school had opened with 49 pupils on 5th April 1909 in response to parental demand for a non-church school, but we closed with just nine.

Over the past few years numbers at the school had gradually dropped, with few families moving into the village. Lack of pre-school provision made the situation worse. Governors tried very hard to set up a nursery class but the Local Authority would not support this. The few young children who lived in Low Bentham often started their schooling in nursery or playgroup at other schools and then followed through into the relevant primary school. Governors explored a variety of solutions to the falling roll situation, and had hoped that amalgamation with High Bentham this summer would solve the problem. The saga of the land deal or no deal does not need repeating, but it was the final nail in the coffin.

Last year Governors gave a great deal of time to consideration of this September's position. With five of the nine current pupils due to transfer to Middle School, and only two parents committed to sending reception pupils to the school, we could not see how the school could provide a quality education for those pupils. Young children need group experiences, especially for music, sport, personal and social development. In addition we would no longer be able to afford to provide the individual attention which was one of our strengths.

With great sadness Governors contacted the Local Authority to ask them to support parents in moving their children to alternative schools and to close Low Bentham.

After all the necessary consultation, closure was finally confirmed on 24th June. By then all the parents of younger children had requested places at Burton Primary

School. Staff were given notice that they would be made redundant on a variety of dates according to their position in the school and the years they had served. I will be working for the Authority until 31st December, initially organising the site clearance and then undertaking which ever tasks the Local Authority Adviser directs me to. Contrary to current rumours, I have not received a "good package" from the Authority and will be redundant at the end of December.

We were determined that the sad occasion of our closing should be a time of happy remembrance and so set up an exhibition of photographs, log books, and registers etc. During the day of Friday July 18th many local people took the opportunity to come in and browse.

This was quite a hectic day for staff and pupils as we were interviewed by local press, recorded an item for the "Drive Time" show on Radio Lancashire and generally tried to finalise items for the evening.

The evening was a celebration of the life of Low Bentham and we were joined by many parents, past pupils, relatives and friends. It began with the current pupils entertaining us with Hansel and Gretel, a musical drama, followed by a "Leavers' assembly" which included memories being read out not just from current pupils but also previous head-teachers Mrs. Clements and Mr. Popplewell. I was fortunate to receive a wonderful gift from staff, governors and parents – the wine and chocs went down well, the flowers were much admired and I'm looking forward to spending my gardening tokens over the coming months. Following the assembly many past pupils and parents joined us for an excellent buffet provided by Gail Lister.

We were also determined that our school should not sink without trace. To that end Mrs. Kay Piper has worked long and hard helping our pupils to create a wall hanging which will have a permanent home in the Victoria Institute – watch out for news of the "unveiling", possibly in September. The wall hanging was much admired on Friday 18th July and will forever show some of the things which were important to us as a Community Primary School.

THE LAST DAY AT LOW BENTHAM SCHOOL

By Trevor Blackwell and Christine Hodson

Low Bentham Primary School closed on July 18th 2008, just one year short of celebrating its centenary. After admiring a fine display of school photographs and documents we went to meet the school's last pupils.

There they sat there in their bright red school sweaters, bright as buttons - Liam Johnson, Holly Broadwell, Georgie Armstrong, Courtney Johnson, Harriet Parker, Ben Scott, Abbie Greenep and James Close - all aged 7 to 10. (Millie Pearson wasn't feeling too well so she was sitting outside.)

The best thing about this school, they told us, is the food! Everything the cook, Tina Jackson, makes is delicious, but their favourite is "rice crispy cake". They like all their teachers, though they have a favourite who is "the kindest". They like "the size of

the school, and the amount of children, because you get more treats and a bigger playground", the wall bars where they can climb and have gymnastics, and the After School Club "where you can do what you like to do at home but with better equipment".

They had to think hard to find things they didn't like. Some didn't like the playground rota, or having to wait to get into the school in the morning, but they all didn't like the school closing. "This school's brilliant! Excellent! Fantastic! It's perfect! It's comfortable! You don't feel scared when you come here! I think it's the best school in the universe!" they told us. "High Bentham should close down, and Low Bentham stay open, and then we could make it bigger!"

Now the children will go on to their new schools, and the staff to new jobs, or to well-earned retirement. But it's hard not to feel that Low Bentham has lost a part of its heart.

The picture shows the children gathered round a desk, on their last day at LB School.



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BURTON UNDER FIVES

By Viki Hindle

Burton Under Fives are proud to announce their second Awards for All grant. This will pay for a new kitchen area in our dedicated pre-school room. In June we were also awarded a grant from the Catalyst Fund to pay for musical instruments. This new equipment will make a huge difference to the Under Fives and we thank all those trusts and grant awarding bodies who have been so generous in their support in the last year.

Nursery has started, children are heading back to school, but what about those children who are under 3? Burton Under Fives might have the answer. We provide quality pre-school childcare from the age of two years. Children can be left in the care of our OFSTED registered staff, where they can learn intellectually and socially, as well as having a great deal of fun. There is a brilliant array of games and activities and a secure, free flow outdoor area. We regularly go on trips and people come in to talk to the children.

It is our intention that from September, Burton Under Fives opening hours will change (subject to numbers). Each Wednesday we will open from 9am until 3.30pm, providing a lunchtime club (for which parents must supply their child's lunch) and an afternoon session. This change is in response to demand from parents and the wider community. Please ring to book your place as soon as possible. Our revised opening hours will be Monday and Friday 9am until 1pm, Tuesday 9am until 11.30am,

Wednesday 9am until 3.30pm and Thursday 9am until 1pm. (Rising 5s only).

If you require more information please speak to a member of staff or committee member on 015242 62126.

PROMOTING BENTHAM IN PRINT Can You Help?

By Keith Hartley

There are a number of publications in existence which offer a guide to services or facilities available in the Bentham area. They vary from a comprehensive town guide to detailed compilations of local walks. All of them are in some need of revision, but for several reasons this hasn't been done to date.

It is recognised that these publications, far from promoting our town will actually have the opposite effect if their accuracy is allowed to drift, and with this in mind it has been decided that a promotion / publications team be established (mostly voluntary but possibly with a paid co-ordinator) to undertake the revision and maintenance required. It is also envisaged that the team would carry responsibility for updating and maintaining the various information boards sited around the town.

For anyone who feels able to contribute to the management of these tasks, or would simply like more information about the proposal, an open meeting has been arranged at the Station Building, Station Road, on **Wednesday 17 September at 7-30pm.**

Do come along if you are interested and able.

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LIBRARY – NEW OPENING HOURS?

By John Frankland and Liz Farmer

Opening Hours Consultation

Now that the Library's refurbishment has been completed we're going to look into our opening hours. We would still be open the same number of hours but we believe the times would be more convenient if the proposal gets a positive response. We're suggesting that we stay open between 2 and 6 on Monday and Fridays with no closure for tea, and open in the mornings from 10 until 1 on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Let us know what you think of this proposal by completing a consultation form at the library. The consultation period ends on 6th September.

Proposed Opening Hours:

Mondays	2.00pm – 6.00pm
Wednesdays	10.00am – 1.00pm
Fridays	2.00pm – 6.00pm
Saturdays	10.00am – 1.00pm

Current Library opening hours

Mondays:	2.00 – 4.00pm & 5.00 – 6.30pm
Wednesday:	10:00am – 12:30pm & 2.00 – 4.00pm
Friday:	2.00 – 4.00pm & 5.00 – 6.30pm
Saturday:	10:00am – 12:30pm

Team Read

There's still plenty of time for children to complete the summer reading challenge. They have until the end of September to finish their 6 books so they can collect their medal and certificate. Once they've completed the challenge they'll have the chance to win one of the prizes in our Prize Draw: A family season ticket to Bolton Abbey, a ticket for Hesketh Farm Park, a ticket for White Scar Caves, a child's admission to the Playbarn at Settle, a Team Read kit bag and Book Tokens.

Age Concern Silver Surfers Sessions

In partnership with North Yorkshire County Council, Age Concern run free Silver Surfer Sessions at Bentham Library on Wednesday

mornings between 10.00am and 12.00noon. These one-to-one sessions, tutored by Age Concern volunteer Eileen, are aimed at over 60s who would like to have more experience in using computers and the Internet but don't know where to start. If you're interested in booking a Silver Surfer Session at Bentham Library then contact the Age Concern office in Settle on 01729 823066. You'll need to be a member of the Library to log on to the computers.

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BOOK SWAP AT VICTORIA INSTITUTE LOW BENTHAM

By Cheryl Yeates

It is now 12 months since the Saturday morning book swap started and what a great success it has been. In what was possibly the old library in this historic building the bookcases were restored and brought back to life with a selection of old and new fiction, autobiographies, reference and children books. The books were donated, not only from Bentham but also from all over the country. Many thanks to all for the books and support every month.

This year is Literary Year and as the best things in life are free what better way to immerse your mind, improve memory and knowledge than a good read. So get away from the computer and bring the children. Refreshments will be available. All welcome on the second Saturday every month. Look forward to seeing you.

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BENTHAM FILM GROUP

By Stella Hall

Bentham Film Group invites you to come and join us at Low Bentham Victoria Institute on Saturday 6th September, when the film "The Kite Runner" will be shown. Based on the book by Khaled Hosseini, it is a powerful story about friendship and betrayal in Afghanistan. Hosseini is also author of the number one best seller "A Thousand Splendid Suns".

The film begins at 7.30pm and during the interval there will be a raffle and themed refreshments for purchase. Bring a cushion to enhance your comfort!

Tickets are £5 at the door but may be purchased in advance at the reduced rate of £4.50, from Victoria Institute, Low Bentham, on Mondays and Wednesdays between 10am and 12noon, and from High Bentham Community Centre Monday to Friday 10am to 12noon. We look forward to seeing you!

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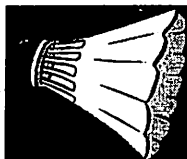
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LOW BENTHAM BADMINTON CLUB



By Julie Bridgeman

2008 – 2009 Season

We will start playing this season on Tuesday 9th September and play Tuesdays and Thursdays until Thursday 18th December.

Tuesdays will be training with our expert trainer Gareth and Thursdays will be club night.

As you may all know Sedbergh Junior School closes in December so at present we can only hire the hall until then. I have been in touch with Sedbergh Junior School staff, John Lee of North Yorkshire Strategic Planning Department, email address - John.S.Lee@northyorks.gov.uk - if anyone wishes to contact him to see if they can incorporate a 4 badminton court hall into the new school's plans or approach Sedbergh management about having the hall as part of community facilities.

I've also contacted Manuel Camacho, David Ireton and Low Bentham Councillors about how we can ensure facilities beyond December. I'll keep people informed if / when I hear anything.

Due to the situation subs will be £12 per person which will cover both nights until December. We will collect subs for January onwards when we know what the situation is. We will enter teams into the adult and junior leagues.

ABSOLUTELY SPLASHING SWIMMING CLUB

By Andrea Tuohy

ASSC is a local Children's Swimming Club which meets at Hornby Swimming Pool on Friday evenings during school term time. Mixed abilities are taught between 5.00 and 6.30pm. If you are interested in swimming lessons for your child, please ring Andrea Tuohy, 015242 62637, or Helen Sharpe, 015242 61853, for more information.

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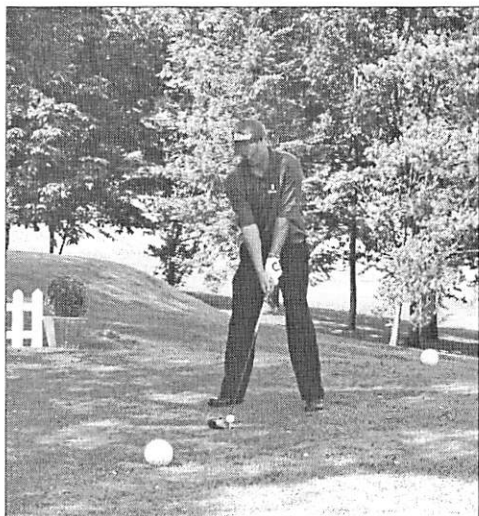
PRO-AM TOURNAMENT AT BENTHAM GOLF CLUB - A GREAT SUCCESS!

By Mike Yeates

Bentham's inaugural Pro-Am Tournament took place on Friday 8th August with 28 Teams. Despite the recent poor weather the ground staff, under the guidance of Alan Kellett, ensured the Course was in top condition. The weather was good and the 28 Professional Golfers from all over the North West and their amateur partners treated the many spectators to some excellent golf.

The professional winner was Mark Bradley from Chorley Golf Club who took 65 shots to complete the 18 holes (6 under par) Bentham's own professional Alan Watson finished on level par.

The amateur event was won by Duckett Building Services Team of Edward Duckett, Gareth Parry and Sam Wilson who, with their professional Matthew Tottey from North Wales Golf Club, came in on 20 under par at 122. They were followed by a Bentham Team of Ian Robinson, Raymond Murray and Ian Guy with their professional Neil Cheetham from Lees Hall Golf Club. Neil also finished second in the Professional event.



The pictures show (top) - Matthew Tottey, professional representing North Wales Golf Club, preparing to drive off the 1st tee; (middle) a group of golfers finishing their round on the 18th green; and (bottom) the official scoreboard, during the competition.



GREAT STATION: HOW ABOUT THE TRAINS?

By Annie Neligan

Now that we've got a cheerful, welcoming train station in Bentham and with car fuel more expensive than ever, it seems a good time to see if we could get a train service that meets more of our needs.

Would you use the railway more if you could get to Lancaster in time for a day's work, or back from an evening out? Would you use the train if you could get back from Leeds after the shops shut?

LASRUG and the B.E.S.T. group think that there might be enough of us to justify increased services. So we are doing a survey to find out what train services would be most useful to most people. We do not expect big changes soon but it would really help if you pick up a survey sheet from the library, the post office, the community transport office or one of the community centres and return it to us via the Sun Dial or the Community Centre in High Bentham by 30th September.

When we've got your answers, we'll see if there is support for more trains. If so, we'll

go to Northern Rail to see what might be possible.

Bentham Lift Share

At B.E.S.T. we've had another idea for saving petrol. Do you ever go over to Lancaster to the cinema or Settle for a swim and find yourself standing in the queue next to a neighbour from Bentham? We've thought about how to make it easier to share lifts, whether for a one-off trip out or for regular journeys.

So far we've only come up with a way that would work if you use e-mail. Send your name and your email address to info@littleredbus.co.uk and mark it for 'Lift Share'. We'll send the email addresses around to everyone who joins the scheme so you can put them in your addresses on a group list. Then when you want a lift or want to offer one, you just send the details to the group and wait for answers.

We are looking for a good place to put up lift offers and requests on a noticeboard in Bentham so people without email can use it too. We produce 100kgs of carbon dioxide for every 50 litres of petrol we use. If we get this scheme working well we would be able to halve the amount we spend on petrol and halve the amount of carbon dioxide we produce. Do join in.

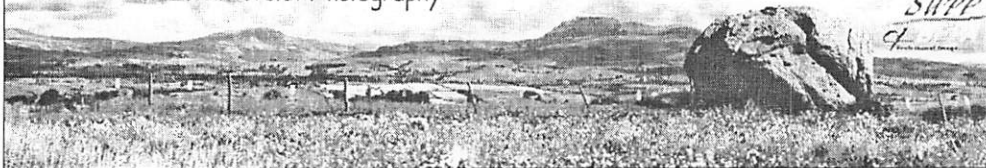
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