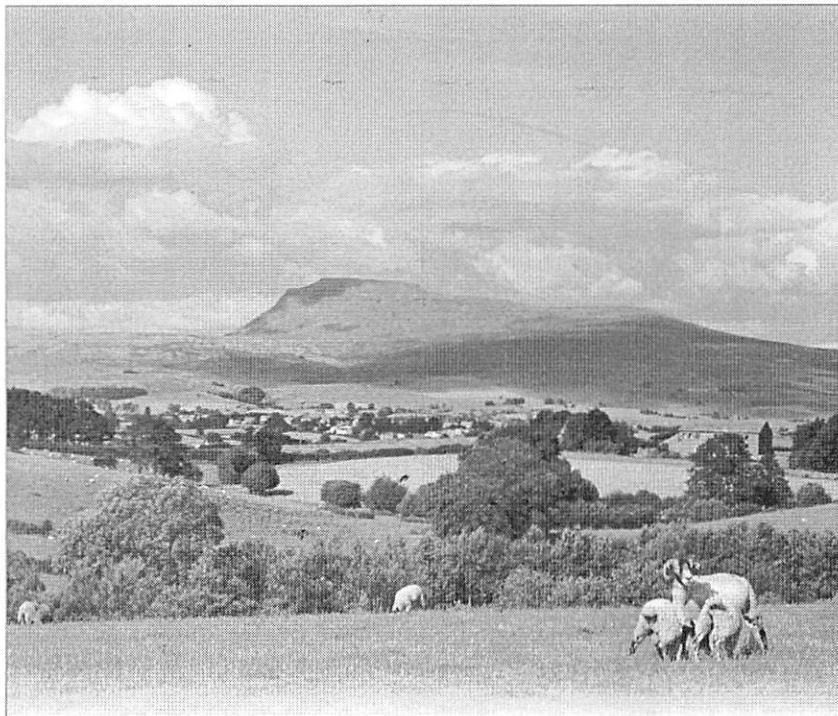


BENTHAM NEWS



BENTHAM & BEYOND CALENDAR 2007

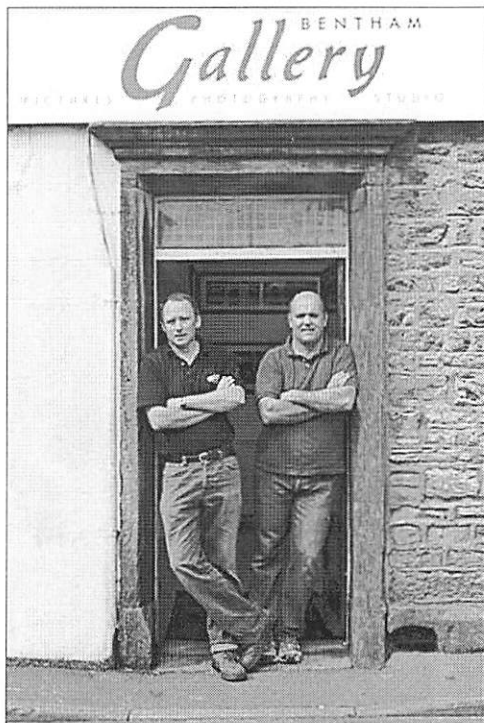


All Proceeds to Low Bentham Children's Play Area

The new Bentham Calendar front page, picture by Jon Brook. See page 4 for details

OCTOBER 2006

ISSUE 240



THE GALLERY – A NEW PLACE TO HANG OUT

By Keith Hartley

Established Benthams traders Jon Brook (Benthams Imaging) and Chris Humphries (C.H.Framing) have joined forces to create what is effectively a focal point for visual art in the area. Jon's photography and Chris's paintings give The Gallery its core viewing base, but their work is enhanced by that of other local artists whose work in many cases has been hitherto unseen outside exhibition halls.

The collaboration has resulted in a varied selection of pictures to suit most tastes and pockets (and a very pleasant half-hour's viewing!)

The spacious and cheerful gallery is a further valuable addition to the wide range of shops and services available in this, our home town.

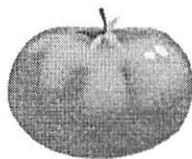
GARDENING COLUMN

By Joyce Knapp

Writing this, as I am, in the aftermath of the annual Benthams Agricultural Show, I would just like to say how impressed I was when all the people who were exhibiting turned up, in what can only be described as atrocious weather conditions.

Those of us who had entered vegetables and fruit in the horticulture section of the competition still managed to have some fun, though the biggest challenge of the day was, perhaps, getting the items there in good condition, as the rain poured incessantly. Not to be deterred by a spot of bad weather this year, I have been drumming up trade for next year's show and have already convinced another two people to have a go at entering their produce.

I thought I might try to shed some light on the problem of split tomatoes as one or two people brought up the subject at the show.



Usually, we are advised that the condition is caused by the erratic application of water, but this is only true if the split runs vertically, down the side of the fruit. If, however, the split has formed horizontally around the top (shoulder) of the tomato then it is more likely to have been caused by watering the plants in the evening. This problem can therefore be rectified, simply by making sure you always water the plants in a morning.

Having commented, last month, that some French bean plants were not setting seed too well in the very hot, dry weather, I can now add that the plants did indeed produce a later crop once the rains came.

In October, as the weather turns cooler, it is perhaps a good time to consider extending the season for using some fresh herbs by bringing a selection indoors. This can be achieved by potting up plants such as parsley and rosemary to be kept in a relatively cool area, such as a porch, where they can be easily accessed for use in cooking throughout the autumn months.

SEPTEMBER TOWN COUNCIL

By Bill Kennedy

Confirmation of Minutes

Cllr. Burton asked to correct a comment he made at the last meeting. He said that, with new starters, the number employed by Craven District Council now stood in excess of 270, which represented an increase in staffing of nearly 25% in three years. He apologised for any confusion the previous comment ("200 new staff in the last year") may have caused.

It was agreed that unsigned minutes should only be circulated to Council members.

Police Report

PC Hayes reported that anti social behaviour continues to be a problem at the bottom of Robin Lane, around the Auction Mart and in Eskew Woods. During the last month there had been three reported thefts and one of damage. He warned about Polish beggars who had been knocking on doors and asked anyone approached to report the matter. County Cllr. Ireton asked about the monitoring of drug dealing in Bentham and was informed that, due to problems at Drax, no feedback had been received.

CCllr. and DCllr. Reports

CCllr Ireton mentioned the new legislation regarding the obligatory use of car seats for all children under the age of 12, and below 4'6" in height. This came into effect on 18th September.

DCllr. Hurtley reported on Cllr. Wills enquiry the previous month. Bess Martin has not been tasked to raise money but is "tidying up" small pockets of land. Cllr. Wills said that he still could not understand why this did not mean offering them for sale on the open market, nor why the council had not been notified prior to the process. CCllr. Ireton added that it was possible for land to be sold below valuation if being passed to a local council or a community group. DCllr Camacho said that Ms Martin's job was to seek out interested parties but that the final decision was made by a panel headed by

Jonathan Kerr. The Clerk said that no response had been received to the Council's letter expressing interest in either buying or leasing the land at Legion Hut.

Cllr. Barnes had attended the march to save Westmorland General Hospital, and had been informed that the NHS Trust now has different standards for those living more than 10 miles from a hospital. He asked that both the District and County Councils should look into this, and if true, challenge the thinking for all those living in rural areas, such as Bentham. Cllr. Barrington asked if the council should seek clarification regarding the NHS policy for rural areas, and it was agreed that a letter should be sent.

Highway Matters

Comments were made on the poor signing of the diversions on the Wennington Road, whilst work is being done on the B6480 near St. Johns Church. This has ended up with 40' artics attempting to come up the Burton Road from Burton, and also turning into Low Bentham from Egerton cross roads - mainly due to drivers unfamiliar with the area using sat-nav.

SITUATIONS

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MINIBUS

DRIVER

And

PART-TIME PASSENGER

ASSISTANT

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of December

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On 015242 62753



CALENDAR UPDATE

By Jo Burton (Town Clerk)

The Bentham Calendar should be available for purchase in the first week of October. This quality production, with some 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 the Bentham Gallery on Station Road and the Post Office in Low Bentham, at a price of £6.

Thanks to our generous sponsors:- Armstrongs Builders Merchants, Bentham Agricultural Society, Bentham Fisheries, Bentham Imaging, Churches Together, Craven Construction Ltd, Grove Hill Garage, Kidde Products, MJ & Y Faichney, R & M Whieldon Ltd, The Sun Dial Inn and Three Counties Builders, the full production costs of the calendar have been met.

This means that all the proceeds from the sale (minus VAT) will go straight to the Low Bentham Children's Play Area.

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.

The photography, as on the front cover of this edition of the Bentham News, is by talented Bentham photographer, Jon Brook.

For further information about the calendar, please contact me, Jo Burton, on 62587.

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CRAVEN COUNCIL MATTERS

By Manuel Camacho

Response to BN letters etc.

In the normal course of events I would be presenting Part 2 of the Craven recycling article. Unfortunately in last months BN there were letters and articles that demand a response.

As back ground I should explain that a Craven-wide review of properties and assets is taking place. This should have been an ongoing process but has been neglected for too long. The point of the exercise is to ensure that we are making the best use of Craven's (your) assets on your behalf.

In some cases disposal may be the best option. The officer doing this work, Ms Bess Martin, investigates all options, consults with your councillors and reports these findings to a panel which decides on the final outcome. In the case of the land surrounding the Legion Hut, my view was that the land was too valuable as a public amenity to sell on the open market and that it should be offered to Bentham TC on a long lease at a peppercorn rent.

This in fact has happened and the offer to Bentham TC was reported in the September BN.

I have been told that Craven DC is planning on selling gardens in Tweed Street for housing plots. In fact Craven owns no property or land on Tweed Street. If, as I suspect, planning applications have been made speculatively, with or without the consent of the land owners, then I am more than happy to support bona fide objections.

There is also the suggestion that all or part of the above is to pay for the refurbishment of Skipton Town Hall.

Skipton Town Hall belongs to all of Craven not just Skipton. The recently reported refurbishments were to the Revenues and Benefits offices in Skipton and Settle town halls. The funding was agreed in the normal budget process two years ago.

Happily, as a district we do not live as hand to mouth as implied !

Town Council Meeting Reported in September BN.

I did not attend this meeting as I was enjoying the wonderful scenery around Ullapool, Ross & Cromerty. Devoted though I am, it was just too far to travel.

During the meeting Cllr Burton commented that he had heard that CDC had taken on 200 new staff during the year. Goodness only knows where we would put them all! Cllr Burton has subsequently realised his mistake and apologised.

The situation is that at 31 March 2003 the staff levels were 223. Today they stand at 254 full time equivalent. The main increases comprise 24 people, split between the leisure centre (pool), street cleaning and recycling. 16 people hired on short term contracts mainly funded by outside contributions. 8 people on normal contracts in vital areas such as IT and Legal.

I know that the figures do not add up and knew you would spot it! In fact they show that there have been compensating job losses keeping the overall increase to 14 % over the 3 year period. Ignoring the pool staff most of the staff were hired to cope with greater responsibilities wished on us by central government.

Anyone wishing to have full details, let me know and I will arrange it.

Good News

Finally on a lighter note, Craven's Revenues and Benefits department have been nominated for a national award for customer care. This is a major step forward and I will give more details next month.

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STOP OUR POST OFFICES BEING STAMPED OUT

By Mary Hartley (Chairperson Age Concern, Bentham)

Rural post offices are an essential lifeline for many people in Bentham and Burton, yet their future is at risk unless the Government acts quickly.

The Government will decide whether to extend its current subsidy of rural post offices this autumn. If it decides not to, thousands of post offices across the country could face closure, leaving large numbers of older people struggling to manage.

Rural post offices provide much more than just a postal service to older people. They also offer important services including access to cash, benefits and information, as well as somewhere to meet and socialise with other people. Closure must be prevented to protect vulnerable older people from becoming more isolated from their local community.

Age Concern England is launching a campaign called 'Stamped out' to encourage people to get involved in the debate and support their local post office.

Age Concern Bentham is completing questionnaires which are to be submitted to Age Concern England in support of the campaign. If you are interested in having your say please ring Mary Hartley (on 62373) who will be pleased to send you a copy of the questionnaire, or call in at the Masonic Hall in Station Road any Friday between 9.30 and 2.30 where questionnaires will be available.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

Low Bentham

By Jennifer Watkinson

Fellow member, Mrs Joan Gilroy, gave a captivating talk about her war time work experiences. At the commencement of the war she was living with her grandparents in North Wales and attended the local grammar school. When she was 16 the school received visitors from the Ministry of Supply who

were hoping to recruit pupils who were exceptionally good at maths and science. Joan was selected and a letter was sent to her grandfather asking for his permission to allow her to start training. She was sent to Walthamstow in East London to do an intensive 6 months course in electrical and mechanical engineering. She was then posted to Malvern where she worked in the rocket section, repairing and researching radar. Part of her work involved investigating V2 rockets, which had failed to explode, to see what advances the Germans had made in this field. She stayed in this government research establishment until 1946. She brought newspaper cuttings to illustrate her talk. Mrs June Harrison, the President, gave the vote of thanks.

Low Bentham W.I. came third in the co-operative class at the Bentham Agricultural Show.

The next meeting will be on 19th October when Trea Udo will talk about basketry.

High Bentham

At the monthly meeting, the President, Miss Wendy Dowbiggin welcomed the members and said how proud she was to have served as President. Members had been magnificent in support of the Garden Party in July and had won the Handicap Salver again at Bentham Show. She congratulated Mrs Isabel Carr on her Presidency of Bentham Agricultural Show. The weather was atrocious on the day but Mrs Carr smiled and joked throughout despite having a heavy heart because she was unable to fulfil her duties, giving out the trophies and congratulating the winners. It was a proud day for High Bentham WI, winning a trophy and also with a member as President.

Discussion took place on the forthcoming theatre trip and those attending the Autumn Council meeting at Fleetwood.

The speaker for the evening was Mrs. Laura Harker, who talked about "Quilling", a craft she had been enjoying for some time and members were also given a chance to have a go. Mrs. Margaret Hayton gave the vote of thanks.

The competition, for a paper serviette, was won by Mrs. Hilda King.

YESTERDAY IN BENTHAM

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

Edited by Keith Hartley

October 1991

Anyone heard talking about "that shower down at Angus" would probably be referring not to the Company's management team but to a shower of "metal fragments" dropped from a low-flying fighter aircraft as it roared into a climb over the Bentham factory. Workers dived for cover as flat roofs were punctured and cars dented, and Gerry Preston, a driver, was struck on the head. The BN's front-page story reported that although, miraculously, no-one was seriously hurt, the incident re-kindled the fires of a debate that had been around for some years about aircraft flying very low over centres of population.

Fighter pilots do need to be trained, and I am told they operate within very strict civilian safety parameters. Nevertheless, it still gives me the jitters when Bentham is "buzzed" by jet aircraft, which is almost daily.

An anonymous Low Bentham resident took a dim view of the Town Council's refusal to authorise a £20 payment to the Tree Wardens for the purchase of books, so sent in a personal cheque for the amount. Presumably our Wardens then had their books.

This story left me wondering which books the Wardens felt they needed. "Tree Men in a Boat" perhaps, or "Alice in Lumberland"!! Any better ideas?

The contributor from the Footpath Group reported that in addition to arranging walks, the Committee was seeking to involve the Group in local voluntary conservation work on the premise that "those who derive so much pleasure (etc) from the countryside may wish to contribute actively to the maintenance and preservation of precious resources."

As a current member of the Footpath Group I have seen at first hand how the seeds of those early aspirations grew into the very creditable

conservation programme that has been of tremendous benefit to local walkers. Fifteen years later, the need for volunteer conservationists is still as great, and the Footpath Group would welcome any offers of help with this ongoing commitment.

Bentham Traders had conducted a survey amongst their members of the effects on trade etc of the annual Horse Fair. The results showed that the fair generated very little extra business in the town, and in general the traders were in favour of the fair being discontinued.

In response to a BN request for further Horse Fair information, Reg Suart, a Bentham exile living in Glamorgan, offered a very interesting account of the traditional two-day programme of the fair. His account included the following:

"The evening amusement was called 'Chairing the Mayor.' If a suitable man could not be found to act the part of the mayor, then a loafer or village idiot was 'topped up with ale' and was carried around the village on a chair hoisted on the shoulders of four men. At a suitable rendezvous the 'mayor' was 'egged-on' to make a speech, and finally to threaten the innkeepers who gave short measure and the farmers who watered down their milk." Bring back the old traditions, I say! Any volunteers/nominations for 'Mayor'?

A Government traffic survey showed that on average the A65 carried 11,126 vehicles per weekday, of which 8.7 per cent were heavy goods vehicles.

I wonder how many of those were diverted from Cloughton?

October 1996

The town (via Wendy Heigh) was rejoicing in the fact that Bentham Show had been blessed with glorious sunshine, to the extent that some people had actually been burnt by the sun.

It's remembering days like those that kept us cheerful as we dried out our socks and underwear after this year's show!

Craven Wanderers football teams were sharing mixed fortunes as the '96 season got underway, the Under-14s having apparently the better start with two wins from three games. (Continued overleaf on page 8)

Continued from page 7

Joe Cross was the leading scorer to date, having already notched up 9 goals. Paul Bruce was close behind him with 7 goals.

The finals of the **Springfield Bowling Club** had been held and the President of the club, Mrs J Cardus, presented trophies to the successful members. These included E. Garlick (Rose Bowl) D. Rose (Ladies' Challenge Cup) R. Butterfield (Gents' Challenge Cup) and G. Denby (Butterfield Cup).

Heather Guy made an interesting contribution to the edition with a feature entitled "Dieting Can Make You Fat." She tells us that when we lose weight quickly the greater proportion of what we shed is not the fat we need to lose, but glycogen and water from the muscles and liver. It's all bulk and weight, you may think, and largely this is true; but apparently it returns in full measure (and more) very quickly when we go back to eating "normal" food.

Best to stick to pie and chips in the first place? I don't think so really. A million heart patients can be wrong!



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TOURIST INFORMATION OFFICE THANKS RIVERSIDE

By Lin Barrington

As you will have noticed, Bentham Tourist Information Office has moved this year. We've crossed the road to the Town Hall, and we hope those of you who have dropped in to see us will agree that our new office is a big improvement.

The move has meant that we have had to buy fittings and fixtures for our new office, and we would like to thank Riverside Caravan Park for donating the magnificent sum of £470 (the proceeds of the car boot sale they held in May) to the Tourist Information Office.

A lot of hard work went into organising the event (and slaving over a hot frying pan to produce a mountain of bacon butties on the day) and we very much appreciate their support.

JENNIFER KNOWLES

SOLICITOR



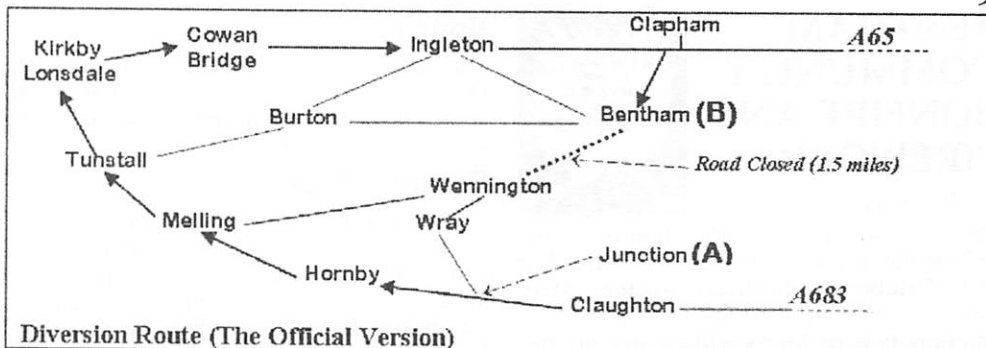
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HOW FAR FROM "A" TO "B"?

Keith Hartley clocks the miles.

My brother-in-law, visiting recently from Chorley, arrived considerably later than expected and was more than a little frustrated after his journey. He'd visited us several times before, but wasn't familiar enough with our roads to know that a road closure between Low Bentham and Wennington can be overcome without too much difficulty and with only the odd half mile added to the journey. Therefore when he saw a sign just after Claughton which read "No access to Bentham via B6480. Follow diversion," he trustingly obeyed.

As he tried to tell me where he'd been I became convinced that he must have taken a wrong turn or missed a sign somewhere. But I know Peter's no fool, so I later decided to check it out for myself, and was astounded by the result.

The diversion is fully signed and from its start, at the A683/B6480 junction, to Low Bentham it covers a staggering 23 miles. Without the road works, and therefore without the diversion, the distance from the junction to Low Bentham is just 5.6 miles.

I concluded that this wasn't a diversion but a two-counties tour!

But there must be a reason. Mustn't there?



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BENTHAM COMMUNITY BONFIRE AND FIREWORKS

By Alison Jones



Don't miss this year's bonfire and spectacular firework display on **Saturday 28TH October** at Bentham Auction Mart Yard. The Bentham Samba Band with stunning new costumes will accompany the lantern procession which will set off as usual at 6.30 from Cleveland Square and reach the Auction around 6.50pm. Main Street is likely to be closed to vehicles for approximately 20 minutes. Please come and join the procession with your lantern which will have a fishy theme this year. You can make your lantern at Looking Well Studios during half term. Workshops will take place every day from 2.30 to 4.30pm starting on Saturday 21st October. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Bonfire

The bonfire can be built from Thursday 26th October. Garden cuttings or wood are ideal but please **do not dump** tyres, builder's waste, glass or mattresses etc.

Entrance Fees

The entrance fee into the Bonfire and fireworks this year will be £3.00 for adults and £1.50 for children. This fee applies to lantern bearers as well so please be ready to buy tickets from ticket sellers on the street to avoid a hold up at the Auction entrance.

Stewards needed

We need numerous stewards and ticket sellers and would be grateful if any one willing to help would contact either Alison at Looking Well or Pam at Bentham Sports.

Don't miss this wonderful event. If you have never seen it, you are in for a spectacular treat from beginning to end. Enjoy a choice of refreshments from hot soup to hog roast before watching the best fireworks for miles around brought to you by David Clough and his assistants.

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COOKERY PAGE

*Edited by Doreen Park Recipes
by Pat Henderson*



Grilled Trout with Watercress Sauce

Recipe serves 4

Preparation time 10 mins, cooking 14 mins.

4 trout, gutted and washed

90g crumbly Yorkshire cheese

150g watercress

4 tbsps creme fraiche

2 tsps honey

sprigs of watercress to decorate

Method

Chop the watercress and cheese and add to the creme fraiche. Place the ingredients into a blender and blend until smooth. Place in the fridge. Wash the trout and dry on kitchen paper. Heat the grill on a medium setting. Put the trout on a foil lined tray and grill for about 6 minutes on each side. Put 2 tablespoons of the watercress sauce into the cavity of each trout, and the remainder of the sauce into a serving bowl. Grill the trout for a further 2 minutes and serve with the remaining sauce.

Marrow and Pineapple Jam

(How to use up over-developed courgettes)
The recipe gives about 2.7 to 3.2kg (6-7 lbs) of jam.

Recipe

1kg vegetable marrow, peeled and deseeded

1 kg cooking apples, after preparation

250g tin of pineapple pieces

1.5kg preserving sugar

125g crystallised ginger

Method

Cut the marrow and cored apples into 2.5cm cubes. Chop the pineapple into small pieces. Place all the ingredients, including the pineapple juice, into a large bowl and allow to stand for 12 hours. Bring the mixture slowly to the boil in a preserving pan, stirring frequently until the sugar is dissolved. Simmer for 1 hour or until the juice sets when tested on a cold saucer. Pour the jam into sterilised jars and cover and tie down.

STREET LIGHTING

By Jo Burton (Town Clerk)

Now that the darker evenings are coming, lights that don't work are more noticeable. Pre-paid post cards are available from the Post Office, all that is needed is the street and the number of the light (clearly printed on the post), and the nature of the fault. Or the street lighting department can be contacted by email, with the same details, at street.lighting@northyorks.gov.uk

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LANTERN TIME AT LOOKING WELL

By Alison Jones

Don't forget to come and make a fish lantern at Looking Well to carry in the procession to the Bonfire. Daily workshops start on Saturday 21st from 2.30 to 4.30pm. Children must be accompanied by an adult. See you there!

Acupuncture at Looking Well

Looking Well's services have been enhanced this past month by the arrival of an acupuncturist, Paul Underhill, who will hold a clinic there every Wednesday. This ancient Chinese healing art is very helpful for a range of aches and pains and many other conditions of a chronic nature. Paul, who offers an initial free quarter-hour consultation, can be reached on 07876 740611.

Delicious Lunches

If you want a midweek treat, come and join us for lunch on Wednesdays. Not only will

you be in good company but you will get a delicious meal. To be sure of a place book by phoning the office on 62672.

Keep Moving Well

There's plenty of ways to keep Moving Well. As well as the exercise to music for the over 60's on Wednesday afternoons there's now a gentle aerobics class with Sarah Taylor on a Thursday evening at the Town Hall. If the Monday morning walks are a bit strenuous for you, why not join the Tuesday afternoon short easy walks from Looking Well. On a Thursday morning you can join the group who go swimming at Hornby - by going together its more fun, we share lifts and get in cheaper. All you need is your costume and proof you are over 50!

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DAY TRIPS IN AUGUST

By Anne Yaman

Over the summer holidays, we arranged various outings in response to requests for day trips. This was a new venture for us and met with mixed success; there did not seem to be any rhyme or reason to this - Ripon/Newby Hall was popular as was Southport and the Flower Show, but we only had one taker for a day out in the Lakes and only one for a trip to Cartmel Races! To make trips viable we do have to get at least 7 people to go.

All in all we think that this was a positive start for something that was arranged fairly late, and we hope to build on what we have learned over the coming months. Trips will generally be arranged during half term breaks and school holidays and/or weekends as we have other commitments for the minibuses during term times.

We are planning our schedule and we will be listing them in the "What's On" section of Bentham News, so if this is something that interests you please keep look out; we will also be putting details in our window in Station Road. If there is somewhere you would like to go, please either telephone the office on 62753, or drop in and see Lin or Anne - any ideas gratefully received.

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BENTHAM & DISTRICT PET RESCUE



By Val Marshall

The last month has been our busiest time of year attending various local events. Clapham Street Market was held on a very hot day with many visitors supporting the charity stalls. Wray Fair was most enjoyable in lovely surroundings. Low Bentham Street Market took place on a showery day which made it quieter than usual but we were most grateful to Heather Carter who had an extra stall for us making it a worthwhile day.

After all the lovely weather Bentham Agricultural Show was largely washed out. However, despite the mud we had an enjoyable day sheltering with our tombola in the marquee beside all the craft exhibits. In August we had a 10 day Book Sale in Settle and we must thank all our helpers and the general public who made all these events profitable for us. This will help to take us through the winter months of vet bills which seem to get larger and larger!

As always enquiries from those wishing to adopt a cat are most welcome on Bentham 62512.

HORNBY DRAMA GROUP

By Richard Hopkins

The group will be presenting the mystery comedy "Secondary Cause of Death" on 23rd, 24th and 25th November. More details in November's Bentham News.

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THE BURTON BELL RINGERS

By Judith Harrison

The sound of church bells is part of village life. Anyone near Burton in Lonsdale on New Year's Eve, for example, has probably heard us ringing in the New Year at midnight. Some people even come up to the belfry to watch us doing it!

We're a small village and with 6 bells to be rung we are always keen to encourage new or experienced ringers to come and join us. Practice nights are on Tuesdays, and you don't have to live in Burton to join in. These are friendly and relaxed sessions, and we extend a warm welcome to anyone who is interested. You can see what we get up to, have a look at the bells and we'll even help you to have a go at ringing one of them.

If you'd like to come along you can contact John Keen on 62792, Dave Hodgson on 61269 or just turn up on any Tuesday at 7.30pm at All Saints. We look forward to seeing you!

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CHANGE OF PRIEST AT ST. BONIFACE'S

By Simone Pridmore

As announced in the BN last month, the St. Boniface Parish is having a change of priest. After four years with us, Fr Angelo is moving to a new parish.

On Monday 4th September we had a farewell celebration for Fr. Angelo to wish him well in his new appointment to St. Joseph's in Tadcaster; he was presented with a card signed by all and a cheque from parishioners, including our seasonal visitors and friends.

On Friday 8th September Fr. Anthony Boylan celebrated his first Mass with us. As we are sharing Fr. Boylan with Settle, there is a change to Sunday Mass time. It is now 9.30am.

There are things to be done at the Presbytery before Fr. Boylan moves in but in the meantime he will be out and about meeting his new parishioners. Welcome Fr. Tony, and arrivederci Fr. Angelo.

SWITZERLAND & THE BERNESE OBERLAND

A 12 day coach holiday 13th-24th August 2007, Half board throughout - No overnight travel. Dover/Calais crossing, 7 nights based at Hotel Landhaus, Giswil. 4 excursions included in the price.

Provisional bookings are also being taken for The Oberammergau Passion Play in 2010.

Contact Susan Adams 015242 61182.

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LOCAL EVENTS IN OCTOBER

- Sun 1st** Community Celebration Service at St. John's at 6.30pm
- Mon 2nd** Indoor bowls at the Town Hall ballroom, 1.00-4.00pm, and every Monday and Thursday.
- Gentle Walks for Women. Meet Lairgill 10.00am, return 12.30pm, and every Monday.
- Cancer Support Group Drop-in and Lunch at Looking Well. 1.00-3.00pm, and every Monday.
- Springboard at the Methodist Schoolroom, 7-10 year olds, 6.15-7.30pm and every Monday in term time.
- Town Council meeting at the Town Hall, 7.30pm.
- Tue 3rd** Tai Chi at Bentham Community Centre, 2.00-3.00pm and every Tuesday.
- Looking Well community gardening from 2.00pm and every Tuesday.
- High Bentham Playgroup and Toddlers, 1.00-3.00pm at the Wenningdale Room, Town Hall, and every Tuesday and Wednesday.
- Bright Hour at the Methodist Schoolroom, 2.15pm. Mrs. Wendy Holt.
- Wed 4th** Looking Well Community Lunch, 12.30pm and every Wednesday.
- 1.00pm Keep Moving Well, very gentle exercise to music at the Community Centre. 2.00pm. for the over 60s, and every Wednesday.
- Thu 5th** 10.00am Swimming for over 50s. Meet at School Hill to share transport. Return 11.30am - and every Thursday.
- Thu 5th** High Bentham W.I. 7.30pm at the Town Hall.
- Gentle aerobics 6.00-6.30pm. Evening Energiser aerobics 6.45-7.45pm. Both at Town Hall, and every Thursday.
- Fri 6th** Age Concern at the Masonic Hall - Denise Hall - Energy Efficiency Presentation.
- G.F.I. at the Methodist Schoolroom. Group 1 for school class years 6,7 & 8 - 7.00-8.00pm. Group 2 for school class years 9,10 & 11 - 8.15-9.15pm and every Friday in term time.
- Sat 7th** St. Margaret's coffee morning, Town Hall, 10.00am-12.00 noon. 
- Farmers' market at the Lower Town Hall, 9.00am-2.30pm.
- Murder Mystery Night at the Town Hall, 7.00pm. Phone Thomas Marshall 62163 for a ticket. See page 23.
- Looking Well Children's Theatre and Arts Club. See page 27.
- Music in the Fells at The Church of the Good Shepherd, Tatham Fells. Tickets £5, from David Butcher 015242 63095.
- Sun 8th** Bentham Footpath Group walk, Lunesdale walk, part 3, Wennington circular, 10 miles. Meet at Lairgill 9.30am, leader Bernard Ellershaw 62078.
- Tue 10th** Bentham Child Health Clinic at the Surgery, 2.00-4.00pm.
- High Bentham Toy Library, at the Community Centre, 9.30-11.30am.
- Very gentle walks. Meet at Looking Well at 2.00pm, and every Tuesday.
- B.E.S.T. meeting in the Community Centre front room 7.30pm. See page 27.

- Wed 11th Alzheimer's Society Carer Support Group at Looking Well, 7.30pm. History of Bentham by David Johnson.
- Thu 12th Senior Citizens Supper and entertainment, 7.00pm at the Methodist Schoolroom.
- Fri 13th Age Concern at the Masonic Hall, Colin Etherington - Why Wood Carving?
Bentham Footpath Group Annual General Meeting and members' social evening at the Lower Town Hall, 7.30pm.
- Sat 14th Springfield Bowling Club coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10.00am-12.00 noon. 
Bentham Footpath Group walk, Ribbleshead/Ingleborough, 10 miles, leader S. Darnes 63342. Meet at Lairgill 9.30am.
- Sun 15th Copy deadline for the November edition of BN.
- Tue 17th Bright Hour at the Methodist Schoolroom, 2.15pm, Mrs. Margaret Townley.
Mothers' Union at Burton Church room, 2.00pm.
- Thu 19th Low Bentham W.I. at the Victoria Institute, see page 6.
2.00-5.00pm open afternoon for the over 60s at Methodist Church, including tea; and Tue 26th.
- Fri 20th Waste paper collection at Lairgill Car Park, 8.30-11.00am. Proceeds to NSPCC.
Age Concern at the Masonic Hall - Video.
Youth band THIRST, 7.00pm at the Town Hall. Free admission.
- Sat 21st Conservative Association coffee morning in the Town Hall, 10.00am-12.00 noon. 
- Sat 21st Looking Well, 2.30-4.30pm Family Lantern Making workshop, and every day at this time, up to Friday 27th.
- Mon 23rd Bentham Community Transport trip to Kendal - ring 62753 for details.
- Tue 24th BCT trip to Hawes - ring 62573 for details.
Bentham Child Health Clinic at the Surgery, 2.00-4.00pm.
High Bentham Toy Library, at the Community Centre, 9.30-11.30am.
Bentham and Burton Mission 6 mile walk (Bentham, Burton, L. Bentham circular). Free refreshments. Meet at Horse & Farrier car park 10.30am.
Girls demo night at the Town Hall, 7.30pm.
- Wed 25th Soccer School at Sedbergh Junior School 9.30am-3.30pm. For boys and girls 7-14 years old. Application forms from Linda Ellershaw 61523.
Coffee morning at 24 Pye Busk Close, 10.00am - 12.00 noon, for NSPCC. Bring & Buy.
- Thu 26th Bentham Footpath Group walk, Wind & Water, Claughton, 8 miles, leader M. Mason 61659. Meet at Lairgill 9.30am.
- Fri 27th Youth Event at Town Hall. 8.00pm. DEPENDANCE (Rap, dance & theatre Co.). Free.
- Sat 28th Age Concern coffee morning at Town Hall, 10.00-11.45am. 
Community Bonfire & Fireworks. Procession leaves Cleveland Square 6.30pm.
- Mon 30th Ewecross Historical Society meeting, Town Hall 7.30pm. Canon John Hunter - Monuments and Memorials.

HOLIDAY 2007

By Susan Adams

Following another very successful holiday this year to lake Bled in Slovenia, plans are well under way for next year's trip, this time to Switzerland. Switzerland is a place we seem to have bypassed for several years. So we felt it was high time we paid it a visit and spent a holiday there. It is not quite as far as past adventures, but we hope it will prove as popular.

We British have been visiting Switzerland from as far back as the 19th century and looking at what it has to offer, it is easy to understand why, and to wonder why we have not ventured there together before now. It is described as a country without parallel. It offers magnificent scenery, said to be as varied as the people themselves. Dramatic snow-capped peaks are mirrored in the crystal water of its many lakes, whilst pretty villages and towns have lots to offer, not least a warm Swiss welcome. Each region of Switzerland has a distinct cultural flavour which is reflected in the variety of

its food, drink, customs and languages. We have chosen Giswil, half way between Lucerne and Interlaken, for our base, and along with a couple of free days, we will, as in the past, include four excursions.

Plans are also being made for a trip to the Passion Play at Oberammergau in 2010 - I know this seems a long way off in the future but tickets for the play go very quickly. We have already secured our tickets and anyone who is interested in making a provisional booking for this holiday, which will be at the beginning of July 2010, or who wishes to book for the holiday to Switzerland next summer, should get in touch with me as soon as possible. See the boxed advertisement in this issue. I hope you will want to join us.

SPACE IN THE BN

Because of the increasing demand for space in the Bentham News each month, we regret that we are unable to include everything submitted, even if it is in supplied by deadline. Please ensure that you submit items as early as possible.

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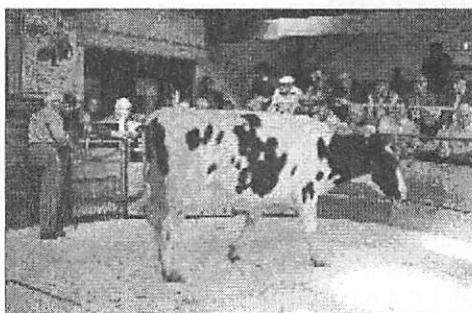
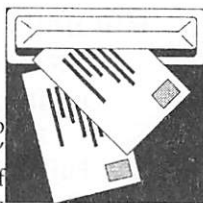
"Cows and Megabus"

It would be a travesty to dominate this 'shortie' with my picture of Victoria Station - how the bustling takeaway-carrying commuter and confused camera-laden international tourist appear to have given way to the marauding hordes of empty-handed pale-faced Eastern Europeans regurgitated hourly from coaches from Poland, Estonia and the like. I opted against the A-board with job vacancies for fear of paralysing the terminus. (An estimated 600,000 such migrants to UK since their EU entry in 2004). Instead I will move straight to the main event - the real England and my internet-booked cheapy on favourite Megabus to that part of God's Country they call The Yorkshire Dales.

I'm not a Yorkshireman so it matters little where you arrive...I am in **High Bentham** - as opposed to Low Bentham - both on the banks of **The River Wenning**, with its echoes of past flax and silk mills. I am in sight of the 'walkers paradise' of peaks **Ingleborough, Whernside and Pen-y-Ghent** in a village that, like many, pre-dates The 1086 Domesday Book. It is the epitome of a country community of ancient farms marked by their enclosures of dry limestone walls, stiles byres and gills (sound a bit like solicitors) and lush green pastures dotted with sheep and cattle.

The Auction Mart Experience

It was a very wise decision not to bid for the cute Dalesbred Shearing Gimmer at **The Bentham & District Farmers Auction Mart Co.Ltd.** Founded in 1903 by local farmers with names like Turner, Mitchell, Marshall, Wilcock, Blacow and Morphet, today's old fellas (pictured), with their flat caps and canes, were simply three generations down the chain having the same sociable sale day enjoying much the same frenzied bidding for each others livestock as did their forefathers. I had no idea that a milk cow would cost upward of £700...and I am extremely disappointed to



miss the **135th Bentham Agricultural Show** on 2nd September - my exhibit, the cute lamb, would have been in breach of entry Rule 5 anyway (not being its owner for 3 months!). Shame, as everything on display, from the biggest carrot to the tastiest jam, would have been there to see.

Down the road was **The Bentham Community Centre** and for a village with around three thousand neighbours there was, literally, every possible activity organised. I was more than impressed by their monthly freebee - **The Bentham News**, distributed to every household and packed with information from many proud local contributors: then there was the tiny **Tourist Information Centre**, the classic Post Office, the old inns - **The Black Bull Hotel**, **The Coach House Hotel** and **The Horse and Farrier**, **St Margaret's Church** on its raised promontory and, most of all, the villagers themselves who together added much to my enjoyable experience of **High Bentham** - thanks.

But more than thanks are due, more than perhaps some of the folk of **High Bentham** themselves realise. As one who cherishes culture and local history my deepest thoughts remind me that it is communities like this that are unwittingly preserving **England's greatest quality - its heritage**. Even though I may have joined another mass exodus of 'Brits to Spain', and one wonders how close to 600,000 that may be, I still hope and pray that when visitors go to **High Bentham** in another three generations time it won't be watered down and changed beyond all recognition like Victoria Station.

*Kind regards,
David Hardy*

LETTERS (Continued from page 19)

Dear Bentham News,

**Bentham Agricultural Show -
2nd September 2006**

When I was nominated to be Madam President by the Bentham Agricultural Show Committee, I was highly delighted and I had no hesitation in accepting.

The President's Luncheon went very well and the food prepared by the caterers was excellent, but the weather was simply atrocious with gale force winds and torrential rain.

Although I put on a brave face on the day, inwardly I was utterly devastated and very disappointed at not being able to do my Presidential duties such as handing out the Cups and Trophies to winner at the prize giving. Also I missed the enjoyment of riding in a vintage vehicle around the show field.

I would like to express my thanks to the secretary, Mrs. Val Lawson and the Committee for their hard work on a very disappointing day weatherwise.

*Yours sincerely,
Madam President
Mrs. Isobel Carr.*

**LOW BENTHAM VICTORIA
INSTITUTE SHOWING
'NARNIA' FILM**

By Ann Ambrose

Why not come along and watch the film Narnia (pg) Friday 27th October at the Low Bentham Victoria Institute? The Committee has hired the cinema equipment from TRAMPS (The Ribblesdale Area Moving Picture Show) and hope to provide an opportunity for all age groups to come along and have a good evening out. Tickets can be bought at the door and cost £3.50, doors open at 7pm, film starts at 7.30pm and refreshments will be available.

If you would like to come but need transport to get there we may be able to help. Contact Community Transport on 015242 62549.

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BENTHAM PEOPLE



Personal Thanks

John Bloomfield. Although a visitor to Bentham, John would always look forward to getting a copy of the Bentham News to keep up to date with the goings on.

I say a visitor; we spent the last 16 years enjoying our time on Riverside Caravan Park, making some truly wonderful friends there and in Bentham itself. Everyone has been so kind in remembering John, with tonnes of cards and well wishes to myself and the family, which has helped ease the pain of the sudden and unexpected death of a truly remarkable man. Warmest regards, Michele Bloomfield, Manchester.

Thanks

I would like to thank all relatives and large number of friends (old and new) for making my birthday such a happy one, for cards, flowers etc. Thanks for generous donations for Pet Rescue and Cancer, thanks to Punch Bowl also thanks Neville and Diane for all kindness. **Maggie and Dusty**

Paul and Stacey would like to thank everyone for the wonderful gifts and cards received following the birth of Tyler Carter Green on the 24th August.

Congratulations

Congratulations **Paul and Stacey** on the birth of your son Tyler, born on 24th August. With love and best wishes from Mum, Dad and all the family.

Congratulations **Paul and Stacey** on the birth of your beautiful son. Love and best wishes from both families

For Sale

Horse manure, 10 bags £5, delivered locally 62176.

WANTED! A NEW BROWNIE LEADER

By Alison Hanson

After almost 15 years as Brownie Leader (or Brown Owl as it used to be known!) I have decided to let someone else have a turn!

Is there anyone out there who would like to help?

Brownies is for girls aged 7 to 10 years and you don't have to have been a Brownie to become a Brownie Leader. Training is given and I would be prepared to work with a new leader until they were ready to take over.

If you are interested and would like further information then please contact me, Alison Hanson, on 015242 62159.

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ENTERTAINMENT FOR OCTOBER

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Saturday 14 th	Frank McGregor
Saturday 21 st	Freddie Briggs
Saturday 28 th	Al Robins

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TRADERS' CHRISTMAS FAYRE

By Pam Woof

A Christmas Fayre will take place on Friday 8th December in the Town Hall. Come with your family and see Father Christmas in his grotto!

If you would like to have a stall in the Town Hall, at this Christmas Fayre, please let Pam Woof at Bentham Sports, or Maxine at Pigtales, know as soon as possible.

It is intended that this event will take the place of the traditional "Late Night" opening. There will be more details in next month's Bentham News, but in the meantime, please put this date in your diary!

The Traders have organised a Murder Mystery Night at the Town Hall on Saturday 7th October, starting at 7.00pm. For more details, or to get tickets, please telephone Thomas Marshall on 62163, as soon as possible but no later than 5th October!

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MARGARET MILLER

By Poppy Dowell

My friend Margaret Miller died peacefully on August 2nd 2006, aged 73. She lived in Bentham for many years with her two sons, Duncan and Malcolm. Margaret was the daughter of a Westmerian farmer, and attended schools in Over Kellet and Morecambe. Her first job was with the Midland Bank in Kendal. She then married, moved away and had two boys. On returning to Bentham in 1974, Margaret worked for Geo. Angus and Co, from where she obtained a degree in Rubber Technology.

Whilst in Bentham, Margaret was well known as "Baloo" in the local Scouting movement, and will be remembered by many of "her cubs" for the happy and action packed weekly sessions in the scout hut (usually accompanied by her beloved Jack Russell - Canny).

Margaret was one of the initial founding group who started Bentham News in 1986, an achievement that she was very proud of, and she still read it monthly with interest and memories of the early days. She was a regular attender of St Margaret's church, finding great comfort from her lifelong faith.

In 1989 Margaret moved with me to Portpatrick, where she enjoyed a new way of life, helping me run Guest Houses until we retired, due to her ill health, in 2001. In 1993 Margaret became "A Granny", a great event for her. Life was then enriched by regular contact with her granddaughter, Anna, in addition to "her boys", Duncan and Malcolm.

In spite of failing health, she maintained her quest for knowledge, and kept her fascination for nature, dogs, books and words. ('Countdown' was a daily must). Margaret's main interest latterly was St Ninian's Episcopal Church in the village, where she was an enthusiastic and highly respected member who rarely missed a service.

To those of us who knew her well, Margaret was "A Lady" with a devout faith, who had determined views (often with a well known expressive look). She was an exceptionally loyal friend with a wonderful

sense of humour, high standards of correctness and a strength to be independent to the end. I have been privileged to spend the last 18 years living and working with Margaret, and sharing with her some major events in the latter years of her life. She will be remembered and sadly missed by all who knew her in Bentham and here in Scotland.

BENTHAM FOOTPATH GROUP



By Maureen Ellis

Probably the most important thing to remember in October is the AGM. While we join a walking group to walk, business has to be done in a transparent and legal way. The Officers of BFG can let you know what is happening, but they in turn need to know your suggestions (and even grumbles!). This year it was decided to follow the business side of things, not with a lecture, but with what is always an amiable get together in this friendly group - over a drink and snacks; so on please come on Friday 13th at 7.30p.m to the Town Hall and bring your contributions, both verbal and gastronomic.

On Sunday 8th the leader continues his attractive Lunesdale walk part 3, with a Wennington Circular. It is 10 miles and starts from Lairgill at 9.30am. On Saturday 14th there is the 'Ribblehead/Ingleborough' walk. After the initial meeting at Lairgill car park at 9.30am the walk will start from the parking place at Ribblehead. Firstly there is a steep climb to Park Fell but after that it is a high level, three miles to the top of Ingleborough where we will have lunch. Then its back to the Hill Inn where we will probably have left two cars in order for drivers to go and retrieve the rest of the cars, avoiding the walk back along the road. The length of the walk is 10 miles.

Thursday the 26th brings the last walk of October. Leaving the first rendezvous at Lairgill (9.30am) we will park at the picnic site at Bull Beck on the Caton Road. Its a pity to spoil the ingenious title of this walk - Wind and Water, Claughton - but if I tell you it involves passing some turbines and returning at the end of the walk by the Lune to Bull Beck, I've probably spilt the beans.

SPRINGFIELD BOWLING CLUB

By Teresa Freeman



Another season is drawing to a close. The hot, dry July (remember it?) made for some splendid afternoon games but with a very fast and very brown Green. The wet August which

followed threatened several competitions and matches. The Finals Day had to be postponed for a week because of standing water. Both the Cardus Cup and the Barbecue looked at risk with pouring rain all morning, but we were favoured by unexpected sunshine in the afternoon.

The Barbecue was a good fundraiser as well as a most enjoyable and sociable time. There is a good atmosphere at all the various events, made even better by the excellent food goodies which accompany so many occasions.

Recent competition results -

Cardus Cup winners - Tom Davies and Ruth Parker, runners up - Annie Butterfield and Kevin Rogan.

Finals Day

Challenge Cup winner - Roger Bosworth, runner up - Barry Taylor.

Butterfield Trophy winner - Barry Bosworth, runner up - Roger Bosworth.

Rose Bowl winner - Diane Chant, runner up - Dorothy Rose.

Jim Bush Cup winner - Sue Bosworth, runner up - Annie Butterfield.

President's Day winners Geoff Lawson and Ruth Parker, runners up - Marj Hudson and Eddie Knowles.

Barbecue - New Butterfield Cup winners - Sue Bosworth and Annie Butterfield, runners up - Dorothy Rose and Joan Robinson.

The Presentation Evening will be held at Benthams Golf Club on October 3rd.

However much the weather may try to defeat us the real winners will always be the warm and welcoming members of this fun and friendly club.

NARNIA FILM SHOWING AT LOW BENTHAM ON 27th OCTOBER

By Ann Ambrose

Why not come along and watch the film Narnia (pg) at the Low Benthams Victoria Institute on Friday 27th October. The committee has hired the cinema equipment from TRAMPS (The Ribblesdale Area Moving Picture Show) and hope to provide an opportunity for all age groups to come along and have a good evening out.

Tickets can be bought at the door and cost £3.50. Doors open at 7.00pm and the film starts at 7.30pm, and refreshments will be available.

If you would like to come but need transport to get there, we may be able to help. Contact Community Transport on 015242 62549.

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BN TOP TIP - CHILD SAFETY IN CARS

On 18th September 2006, new regulations came into force concerning child safety in cars. The tough new rules will make it the driver's legal responsibility to ensure that children up to, and including, the age of 13, are properly restrained on all journeys. These new rules are far stricter about the mandatory use of the correct child restraint compared to the present rules, which, generally, require parents to use child seats and boosters "if they are available". It is estimated that the new rules will prevent more than 2,000 child deaths and injuries each year.

From 18th September the law says:

* Children under three **MUST** be in baby seats – it will be illegal for them to travel at all if these are not in place.

* Children over three must use a booster seat in the front seat, and in the rear seats where seat belts are fitted, until they reach 150 cms (about 5 feet) in height, or their

12th birthday.

* Children over 150 cms, or who are 12 or 13 years old, must wear an adult seat belt in the front seat, and in the rear seat if available.

Failure to comply with the new regulations, apart from being dangerous for your child and invalidating your insurance, could also land you with a £30 penalty notice, or a fine of up to £500.

There is a really clear, helpful website, childcarseats.org.uk, where you can find out more about the new regulations, and what regulations apply in taxis or in other European countries where you might go.

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BEST BENTHAM ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE TOWN

By Annie Neligan

The B.E.S.T. action group has decided to target plastic bags this month. Here is a daunting fact; in Bentham we collect 3,500 bags every week from the Co-op and Spar alone. Add on to that other shops and trips to supermarkets elsewhere and we may be coming up to the national average of 18,000 bags a week for Bentham alone. 18,000 bags each week that are dumped and that take over 400 years to decompose. For that 400 years they are either clogging up landfill or off floating around the planet poisoning wildlife.

Some plastic bags are being advertised as biodegradable but they don't rot in landfill sites because they need oxygen to decompose.

Could we take one step towards a greener Bentham by cutting the figure of 3,500 bags a week down to 3,000 bags by the end of the year? Why not:-

- ♦ Re-use each bag as often as you can, as bin liners, for example
- ♦ Take clean used bags to Duxbury's for re-use
- ♦ Buy a jute shopping bag from Temptations and take it with you each time you go shopping
- ♦ Re-use new bags whenever possible
- ♦ Sew, weave or embroider your own re-usable shopping bag and enter the B.E.S.T. bag competition. Entries to the Looking Well to be judged at the Traders Christmas Fair.

The next meeting of B.E.S.T. will be held on Tuesday 10th October at 7.30pm in the Community Centre front room. All will be welcome.



CHILDREN'S SATURDAY MORNING THEATRE ARTS CLUB

By Beryl Hunter

Following the mega success of the "Spotlight on Ingleborough" event in June, The Saturday Morning Club is offering 20 places to children aged 5yrs-12yrs throughout October as part of the junior branch of Bentham Theatre Group.

The aim is to produce a mini play, together with music, dance, props and costumes which will form part of the lantern procession and the bonfire festivities on 28th October.

Interested children are invited to register at the first session at Looking Well on 7th October, 10.15am to 12.00 noon. A minimum donation of £2 per session is requested, with concessions for more than one child in the family.



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LIBRARY NEWS

By John Frankland

Tell us what you think!

On the week beginning 2nd October, Bentham Library and Information Centre will be holding a special survey of its adult customers. This is part of a national scheme called the Public Library User Survey and all the libraries in North Yorkshire are taking part.

It is an opportunity to tell us what you really think of your local library. The survey covers topics such as opening times, whether you can find the books you are looking for, and whether your enquiries are dealt with effectively. Even if you think we are doing a good job, we want to know. The survey will be anonymous so don't be afraid to say what you really think. We want to make sure that library services reflect the needs of the people of Bentham and to see how the library compares with others around the country. So please make time to come to the library, even if you're not a member, or you don't come in very often, to let us know what you think.

For more information regarding the library, or any general enquiries you may have, if you want to renew your books or reserve a computer please phone us on 015242 61388 or email us at bentham.library@northyorks.gov.uk

Remember you can search the North Yorkshire Libraries catalogue online at www.northyorks.gov.uk/talis We look forward to seeing you.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

By Peter Phillips

During the past ten years there has been a surge of building in Bentham, resulting in quite an increase to the population.

In High Bentham the Moons Acre development has seen thirteen properties built while in Butts Lane (Dale's View) there are 57 new dwellings, and Mill Gardens has a further ten. Four new properties have been built in Low Bentham car park and, just nearing completion are twenty three houses and apartments at Millers' Ford. A farm conversion at Ellersgill has made room for 6 families and eight houses are being built where the pre-school nursery was.

This does not include a number of privately built houses and conversions in the area, nor the nine affordable homes being built off Goodenber Road. The approximate total is 150 properties and allowing for two persons per household, this would be an increase of 300 people in Bentham. How is this going to affect the Health Practice, the Schools and Public Services?

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HIGH BENTHAM CP SCHOOL NEWS

By Catherine Boocock, Headteacher

The children and staff returned to school feeling refreshed after the summer break. The vegetable garden has grown over the summer, this has been helped by the organic compost given to school by "Growing With Grace". The children are now using the vegetables to make healthy meals.

School has purchased a "friendship bench" made by Mr Ian Johnson and it has taken pride of place on the school playground.

There are some changes in staff this term. Alison Ward the school cook served her last meal on Friday 15th September as she is going on maternity leave. Our new cook Mrs Fiona Shepherd has taken over the role.

Headteacher, Catherine Boocock is acting as part time headteacher at Hellfield Primary School. For one term she will spend half the week at High Bentham and half at Hellfield, deputy head teacher Sara Binns will be standing in for her.

Miss Emma Walker has joined school for one term to teach in class 4 and we have part time teacher Miss Katherine Shepherd teaching in class 3.

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BENTHAM THEATRE GROUP NEWS

By Margaret Cowling

The Hound of the Baskervilles

Prepare yourselves for some gripping drama in November when Bentham Theatre Group presents the ever popular "Hound of the Baskervilles", by Arthur Conan Doyle. This dark tale is set on Dartmoor, a landscape of swirling mists, weird stones and deadly mire, which conceals a dangerous, escaped convict and "The Hound of Hell", whose howling at night chills the blood!

Fear not! For Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson are on the case, to help young Lord Henry Baskerville lift the curse of Baskerville Hall. During their investigations they will encounter some strange witnesses, Lady Agatha with her secrets, Barrymore the sinister butler and his evasive wife, and some disturbing neighbours who dwell on the moor.

Even those of you who know the story well will be in for a few surprises, and what could be more fitting than a play set on moorland when Bentham is itself on the edge of Burnmoor?

After all the excitement of Halloween and Bentham Bonfire you will be well primed for another enthralling evening - so come along to Bentham Town Hall and let us entertain you.

The play will run for three nights, Thursday 9th, Friday 10th and Saturday 11th November. Tickets at £5 and £3.50 concessions can be obtained from Pam Woof at Bentham Sports.

GIANT LEAP FOR CASTERTON GIRLS AT GCSE

By Jo Hambling

Casterton girls recently celebrated a giant leap of 13% on the school's previous record in its GCSE results. Eighty-one per cent of their grades were at A* and A (against a national figure of 19%), results which place them in the highest reaches of the national league tables. As the results poured off the computer, normally calm Examinations Officer Pat Hayward was heard exclaiming: 'They're everywhere! The A*s are rampant...I've never seen anything like it! Nearly one in two grades was an A* (48%).

Outstanding amongst the many individual successes were Esther-Rose Bartholomew (Isle of Mull, Argyll), who gained straight A*s, including the statistically improbable feat of scoring two of the "top five" marks in the country for English (out of 362,438 candidates) and French (114,455 candidates); Caroline Morphet (whose family are with the British forces in Germany), who gained straight A*s and two 'top five' marks in German (44,475 candidates) and Physical Education (28,762 candidates); and Holly Story (Low Bentham, Lancaster), who has straight A*s and another 'national top five' mark in French. Overall, fifty-four per cent of the girls attained straight A*s and As.

Casterton's Headmaster, Dr Peter McLaughlin, saw these record results and the exceptional number of national 'top five' marks as evidence of the continued value of single-sex schools. He said: 'Casterton is a relatively small school but in academic terms we punch massively above our weight. Recently there has been a great deal of debate in the national press about the place of single-sex schools in our education system. Casterton's public examination results and those at local, regional and national level show that schools such as ours consistently produce the academic goods.

In fact, our girls are of a much wider range of ability than many people imagine and come from many different backgrounds. Their results are impressive by any standards.

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JAZZ NEWS

By John Newton

The Benthams Jazz Society and Queen Elizabeth School, Kirkby Lonsdale, are pleased to announce the return visit of the fabulous, nationally renowned, Geoff Eales Trio. For those of us fortunate to catch Geoff's electrifying piano playing on his visit to the area, last March, it was the highlight of the Jazz Year. For those who have not seen Geoff and the trio of Roy Babbington on bass and Mark Fletcher on drums, you have a treat in store.

Described as, "original as they come, a powerhouse who demands your attention with the force of his musical personality, a splendid synthesis of all that he knows from Messiaen through Mancini to Bill Evans", Geoff Eales is a truly remarkable individual. There are few musicians in the World who have mastered so many styles, as his last tour, The Jazz Legends, proved. Throughout a long and distinguished career he has worked with many of the top names in the music industry – the Joe Loss Band, four years in the piano chair of the BBC Big Band working with such names as Nelson Riddle, Billy May and Robert Farnon.

He has had highly successful career as a "jobbing" musician, working with a huge array of conductors, composers and singers including: Henry Mancini, Jerry Goldsmith, Andrew Lloyd-Webber, Rosemary Clooney, Adelaide Hall, Tammy Wynette, Shirley Bassey, Andy Williams, Kiri TeKanawa, Jose Carreras to name a few.

Above all Geoff's real love is jazz and the concept of the modern jazz piano trio, which originated with the late, great, Bill Evans. In recent years the Trio has performed at some of the world's leading venues including the Blue Note Club, Birdland in New York, The Bakery in Los Angeles and London's Ronnie Scott's. The current tour, named The Homecoming, is a celebration of Geoff's return to his jazz roots. It features a varied programme of jazz standards and Eales originals.

Interested in an evening with one of the UK's most gifted jazz improviser and his trio?

Then come along to the Queen Elizabeth School, Kirkby Lonsdale at 7.30pm on Wednesday 1st November. Tickets £5, are available from Mandy Crossley, QES, phone (015242) 71275, and your local contact for information or a booking is Jim Ellershaw (015242) 62663

The photo below shows the Geoff Eales Trio, with Geoff on the left.



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NOSEBAG HAS NEW OWNERS

By Shirley Brown

By now most Bentham people know that there has been a change of ownership at the popular Nosebag café. Bart and Sarah are about to move on to a fresh challenge elsewhere, and start a new life with their 2 young sons, Harry and Luca. They have 'loved every minute' of the '5 fantastic years' here, and would like to thank traders, customers and friends for making their time in Bentham so rewarding. They are thrilled that the business is passing into the very capable hands of Lloyd and Angela, and would like to wish them every success in the future.

Lloyd and Angela Williamson are no strangers to the town as Angela, a primary school teacher in Long Preston, has lived here for 11 years, and Lloyd, who has a 10 year old son, Oliver, has lived here for 6 years. Lloyd is a chef who has worked in hotels and restaurants in the Lake District and has also been chef lecturer at Kendal College. His mother's family farm in Arkholme used to run a business called "The Herb Stall", with a farm shop selling organic fruit, vegetables and groceries, and Lloyd organised home deliveries in the area.

The year 2001 was dramatic and bitter-sweet. "The Herb Stall" had become a successful business and was just about to expand by developing a tearoom, it won BBC Radio 4 Food Programme's Small Retailer of the Year award, and Lloyd's mum, Jo, was featured on John Peel's "Home Truths". Then Foot and Mouth struck and tragically the farm had to be broken up and sold.

Lloyd has been a full-time chef since 2003, and is passionate about good English cooking. He uses free-range eggs, dolphin-friendly tuna and seasonal ingredients from local



suppliers. Everything, including sandwich fillings, is prepared on the premises, and he is pleased with how people have taken to his style of cooking. In general he's moving towards more organic and fair trade ingredients at no extra cost. So far he's found being the new boss at the Nosebag 'brilliant', and he's been 'nicely busy'. He's looking forward to opening more often in the evenings providing wholesome family meals in a nice setting, and occasional gourmet events. But first he wants to modernise the cooking area and make the worktops and cooker more user-friendly for a 6'5" chef!

I can testify that the Nosebag is still warm and welcoming, the coffee excellent and the food delicious. Lloyd told me that he loves the community of Bentham, and I predict that it won't be long before that affection is returned.

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