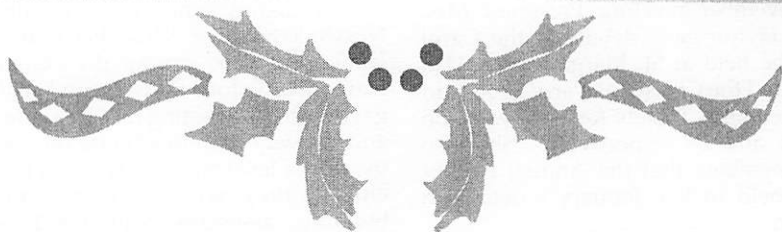


BENTHAM NEWS



*THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE
WISHES YOU
A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND
A PEACEFUL NEW YEAR*



This photograph, taken last winter, shows one of our dedicated team, Judith Johnson, out delivering copies of the BN, whatever the weather!

DECEMBER 2003

ISSUE 206

WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

High Bentham

By Doreen Park

At the November meeting President Mrs. Margaret Hayton gave details of the Carol Service to be held at St. Margaret's on 11th December and the Christmas Party to be held on 4th December. Tickets for both were on sale at 50p and £4 respectively. She also informed members that the Annual Dinner would be held in late January - details to follow later.

Then our President became our teacher and helper with an on hand exercise entitled "Christmas with a difference". We were all given a small piece of oasis with a stick on the base, an array of materials to decorate it with at our will. Everybody produced something different but they all became a beautiful selection to adorn anything from a parcel to a wine bottle. Mrs. Hayton also made a display of gifts and the decorations to go with them. She was thanked by Wendy Dowbiggin.

The raffle winner was Doreen Park and the competition was won by R. Wylie. Don't forget the Christmas Party on 4th December, tickets are still available.

Low Bentham

By Jennifer Watkinson

"A brilliant evening" was how the President described Mr. Stanley Walmsley's talk entitled "Ring through the changes". A bell ringer for over fifty years, he commenced by reciting John Bunyan's poem "upon a ring of nine bells". He told us that the English style of bell ringing is almost unique to the UK and that it is essentially an English art and only the countries that they colonised use this method. There are 5,685 churches in England with at least 5 bells and only 386 in the rest of the UK and the world. St. Peter's Cathedral in Lancaster has 10 bells, the most, in the area. Bells which were developed 400 years ago rarely go out of tune, are made from copper (77%) and tin (23%) and have an iron clapper. The speaker played a recording of bells and members tried to count the

number being played. Finally, 8 volunteers successfully learnt to play 4 well known tunes on the set of hand bells he had brought with him. Competition winners, for a bell, were Isabel Carr, Mabel Easterby and Jennifer Watkinson.

Four ladies joined other members from North Yorkshire West Federation for a lantern lit walk around the churchyard at Haworth. Before they entered it the guide gave a very interesting talk about the poverty and the very high death rate that occurred in the area a few centuries ago. En route to the church they were shown some of the buildings associated with the Brontes. A tasty bar meal was eaten at one of the inns linked with Branwell Bronte.



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TOWN COUNCIL REPORT

By Bill Kennedy

Six Town Councillors and District Councillor Hurtle and County Councillor Ireton attended. There were apologies from Councillors Barnes, Birkbeck, Lloyd and Stannard.

Police. There was no police representative present. There was a report that youngsters had called on householders inferring that they were collecting on behalf of the skateboarding project. Since they had no authority to do so and were apparently doing so illegally, it was agreed to notify the police.

Highway matters. There was a complaint about a pot hole at the Lairgill car park and this was being dealt with by Craven D.C.

A complaint about the surface at Mill Lane had been investigated by N.Y.C.C. Environmental Services but it was considered that a further inspection should take place to get more detail about the banking/water problem on the opposite side of the road, near to Woof's Sheetmetal Works.

Taxi Voucher Scheme and N. Craven Taxibus/Settle Area Stationlink. Mr. Adams reported on a meeting about the scheme. Ms Lin Barrington of Bentham Development Trust had attended the opening ceremony of the scheme and reported that it employs 3 drivers working 20 hours per week on a service contract which will run until 2006. This service is under tender with N.Y.C.C. and currently operates in Bentham, Ingleton, Settle and the villages in between, with the current timetable operating to spring next year.

Town Hall Modifications. Mr. Marshall reported on the amended layout for the Lower Town Hall, which now indicated that the lift would be installed within the entrance hall, leaving more room available in the Lower Hall. After considerable debate it was agreed that the location of a ramp at the front of the Town Hall, to provide disabled access, required further discussion with N.Y.C.C. Environmental Services. Mr. Hurtle suggested that if N.Y.C.C. did not approve of the ramp at the front, the existing ramp at the

rear could be modified to the correct gradient and would facilitate access from the car park. It was agreed to await the outcome of a meeting between the N.Y.C.C. Environmental Services and the architect before proceeding.

Correspondence. This included a letter from Mrs. D. Hunt, advising that she will cease trading in the Wednesday Indoor Market as from 24th December 2003. The council agreed to write to her, expressing thanks for her years of trading/support for the Indoor Market.

County & District Council Reports. Mr. Ireton gave details of the recycling programme being initiated by N.Y.C.C., which includes metal, heating oil, garden waste, etc., but at present plastics are not included mainly due to the light weight bulk factor. Mr. Hurtle gave details of the new question time procedures at the full meetings of Craven District Council.

Planning Applications. The following applications were approved unanimously.

08/2003/3700 Proposed extension to form additional bedroom over garage and enlarged kitchen/utility room at 6, Goodenber Road, Bentham.

08/2003/3706 *P r o p o s e d* alterations/extensions to provide self-contained accommodation and resiting/enlargement of existing workshop at Holly Cottage, Burton Road, Low Bentham.

08/2003/3713 Proposed renewal of application 5/8/353/C for erection of 3 x houses on land at rear of Jubilee Buildings, Main Street, Bentham.

08/2003/3733 Proposed replacement of existing garage with extensions to form utility room, dining room with bedroom above at Bray House, Birkwith Lane, Low Bentham.

08/2003/3734 Proposed change of use of land to north of Bray House, from agricultural land to domestic amenity at Bray House, Birkwith Lane, Low Bentham.

08/2003/3736 Variation of Condition No. 2 to permit alternative car-parking at Unit DC529/S - Cinders Barbecues Ltd, Industrial estate, Bentham. Mrs. Heigh declared interest.

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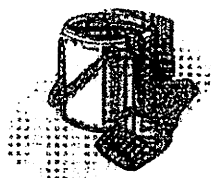
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DISTRICT COUNCIL AFFAIRS

By Gerald Hurtle

Election of a District Councillor for the Bentham Ward

The results from the election held on the 13th November are as follows:

Mr M Camacho, Independent - 474 votes

Mr J R Jackson, Conservative - 367 votes

CDC Office Accommodation Strategy

The Council's Office Accommodation Strategy to move to a single site in Skipton was developed in the late 1990s in response to a combination of building condition reports and a desire to improve one council working. Over the past 12 months the Council has been working on a Joint Site Centre/Office Accommodation Strategy with North Yorkshire County Council with the potential for other partners to be included in the scheme. A joint site centre has a number of benefits for the partners. The District and County Council services can be combined in a single location for ease of access to services and both authorities can enjoy economies of scale in terms of accommodation. At the moment work is continuing on assessing the feasibility of a joint site service centre in the centre of Skipton. No final decision has been made on the sites but planning restrictions mean that the sites available are currently designated as brown field and suitable for redevelopment. One of the sites identified as potentially suitable is west of Coach Street Car Park.

Of course any moves to redevelop existing car parks have a knock on effect on parking capacity and this is just one of the challenges the Council face. The other key issue is funding and resources. Development of new accommodation needs to be funded through the sale of existing assets and the respective savings the authority can make by rationalising their existing accommodation needs. As part of the feasibility study work is underway to assess how much a new joint service centre building would cost and how this cost can be met. The scale of the project

and probable location means that the development would be a local landmark and one which must meet the highest standards of design, use of material, finish and sustainability. Craven District Council want to explain their plans and ideas to the public and seek your views. If you wish to make your view known to the District Council please either contact one of your District Councillors or speak directly to Craven District Council.

Planning Applications received in the last month:

- No.08/2003/3708 Proposed alterations and extension to provide carers accommodation and re-siting of existing workshop. Holly Cottage, Burton Road, Low Bentham, Lancaster.
- No. 08/2003/3770 Proposed construction of 6 new dwellings on land at Harley Bank, Low Bentham, Lancaster.
- No. 08/2003/3798 Proposed alteration and extension of existing buildings to form 1 permanent home and 2 holiday homes (re-submission of application 8.2003.3460. Lowther Hill, High Bentham, Lancaster.
- No. 08/2003/3799 Proposed internal and external alterations to warehouse including the construction of new entrance and canopy, the installation of a solar heating panel and the construction of a conservatory. Warehouse Building, King Street, High Bentham, Lancaster.
- No. 18/2003/3751 Proposed conversion of an existing barn into workspace with ancillary accommodation. Greenhill Barn, Oaklands Farm, Bentham, Lancaster.
- No. 08/2003/3734 Proposed change of use of land to north of Bray House from agriculture to domestic amenity. Bray House, Birkwith Lane, Low Bentham, Lancaster.
- No. 08/2003/3736 Proposed variation of condition No. 2 to permit alternative car parking arrangements at Unit DC529/S Bentham Industrial Estate, High Bentham Lancaster.
- No. 08/2003/3733 Proposed replacement of existing garage/utility with extensions to form utility, kitchen and dining room with bedroom above and at Bray House, Birkwith Lane, Low Bentham.

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SURGERY NEWS

By Sue Atkinson

Dr Walker Retires

32 years ago Dr Frank Walker became the latest GP to join Bentham Surgery, at our former premises in Station Road. Many patients will remember him whizzing around on his daily visits in his open-topped sports car. He has now decided to retire, and many people will be sad to see him go, including his colleagues and staff at the surgery. However, he has no plans to take things easy. With his new granddaughter Esme putting in a recent appearance, and his mountain climbing and potholing activities, he will be busier than ever. Everyone wishes him well for a long and happy retirement.

Abby Astle is the new GP who will be joining the practice

By Abby Astle

I grew up in High Wycombe in Buckinghamshire. From the age of three I wanted to be a doctor, and trained by throwing my teddy bears down the stairs, then winching them back to the landing, bandaging them up, and putting them in 'teddy hospital'.

I progressed to Medical School in Cambridge, qualified in 1997, and then moved to Cumbria to do my Junior Hospital Doctor posts at Westmorland General Hospital and the Royal Lancaster Infirmary.

Whilst rock-climbing in Langdale on the first day of my move to the North, I met Paul; we married in 1999. Paul and I have spent several months in the last few years mountaineering and trekking in the Andes, and enjoying the hills closer to home.

I completed my General Practice Training in August 2003, at the Stoneleigh Surgery in Milnthorpe. I have post-graduate qualifications in Child Health, Family Planning and Elderly Care, and an interest in Dermatology. I was attracted to Bentham Surgery by its beautiful rural location and its reputation as a well-organised and friendly practice. I very much look forward to joining the team in the New Year.

The number of patients who did not attend for appointments last month was 63.

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WE'RE OFF TO SEE THE WIZARD!

By Anne Preston

Preparations for the Bentham panto are underway yet again! This year it is to be "The Wizard of Oz" complete with the expected colourful characters, Dorothy, Toto, Scarecrow etc., plus some less predictable arrivals.

There will be plenty of scope for anyone who wants to join in, whether treading the boards or helping behind the scenes. We hope to have a great time making it all happen. Pete Armstrong is directing once again and there will be a signing up meeting at the Youth Club on Sunday 7th December from 2pm-4pm. Come and be part of the fun.

If you wish to phone and volunteer your services, please contact Anne Preston 62327, or Pete Armstrong 62049.



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RECYCLING PAYS

By David Ireton

NYCC's investment in the provision of facilities in the Craven area has been significant in the last 12 months, amounting to over £250K on the two Household Waste Recycling Centres, in Settle and Skibeden (Skipton).

Between April and August of this year this has resulted in increased recycling performances, reaching over 60% on the Skibeden site. This has been because of increased containment and segregation of waste entering the site. At Skibeden a number of materials can now be recycled including green waste, metals, soil and rubble, wood, paper and fridges. In addition to this, NYCC along with our main contractor, Yorwaste, are investigating options for improvements to the recycling activities taking place at the new Settle site, including the possibilities of utilising local organisations to compost green waste. Currently metals, engine oil, cans and fridges can be recycled.

As well as this direct form of recycling, NYCC in 2002/03 paid £66,000 in recycling credits to Craven District Council and £12,000 to third parties in the district as a result of 2500 tonnes being recycled. In partnership with all the DCs in North Yorkshire, the County Council has agreed to pay a reward grant based on the districts achieving beyond their agreed baseline recycling performance for 2005/06 under the Local Public Service Agreement with DEFRA. Over £700K is available for grants.

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GARDENING COLUMN

By Joyce Knapp

By December, the weather will doubtless be quite cold, and possibly damp, so we may wish to venture out into the garden only when it is absolutely necessary.

One such time is when there are crops to be harvested. These can be anything from a large winter cabbage, which can be pulled quickly from the ground and trimmed indoors, to small brussel sprouts, which take some time to pick as each one must be taken from the stem of the plant individually. If, however, the weather is particularly inclement, you can cheat by lifting a complete plant from the ground and taking it indoors before removing each button from the stem in the warmth of your kitchen.

When deciding which variety of brussel sprouts to grow it is worth noting whether or not they are F1 hybrids. If, on the one hand, you want all your crop to mature at



the same time, then it is best to select what is known as an F1 hybrid, such as Peer Gynt. If, however, you would prefer to pick your sprouts over a period of several weeks then do avoid the F1 hybrids and go for one of the old favourites like Seven Hills which can crop from September through to Christmas.

Leeks Give Good Value

Another vegetable which I find to be well worth growing for harvesting at this time of year is the leek. These are relatively easy to grow and can either be started off in seed trays of compost in the greenhouse, or by sowing the seed outdoors in rows in a well prepared seed bed in late spring.

Planting out takes place in summer when the young plants are around pencil thickness and at this stage they will need to be watered in well. The plants are extremely hardy and can be left in the ground through winter until required. They can be lifted using a garden fork and the roots and tips of the leaves trimmed off ready for use in the kitchen.

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LOOKING WELL NEWS

By Alison Jones

'Tree Worship in Keasden' is the title of the exhibition on display upstairs at Looking Well in December. It opens on December 1st and features recent oil paintings and watercolours by Geraldine Holmes.

Come and visit our fundraising stalls and games on Saturday December 6th when we officially launch the Building Fund to start raising money to refurbish our new building. 'In the Same Boat', our cancer support group will have a stall in the Town Hall selling Christmas table decorations to raise funds for the Looking Well Care Fund which supports local people with cancer and other long term health conditions.

We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to everyone who has supported us this year and wish you all best wishes for Christmas and the New Year. We will be closed from Saturday 20th December to Monday 5th January.

ALISTAIR McCOMBIE

ALISTAIR'S UNTIMELY DEATH OCCURRED RECENTLY WHILE HE WAS TRAVELLING BY RAIL WITH HIS FATHER TO VISIT RELATIVES IN SCOTLAND. ALISTAIR COLLAPSED DURING THE JOURNEY AND WAS TAKEN TO PRESTON INFIRMARY WHERE HE DIED WITHOUT RECOVERING. ALISTAIR WAS 47 YEARS OLD, AND A FORMER PUPIL OF BENTHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL. HIS FAMILY WAS WELL KNOWN IN THE AREA, ALTHOUGH LATER THEY MOVED TO STRATFORD-ON-AVON.

THE FUNERAL SERVICE WAS HELD ON 14TH NOVEMBER AT LANCASTER CREMATORIUM, AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR SCATTERING HIS ASHES WILL BE AT A LATER DATE. ALISTAIR LEAVES A YOUNGER BROTHER, JOHN, AND HIS FATHER, MAC.

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TAXI VOUCHERS

By Lin Barrington

If you have problems getting about because you don't have access to public or private transport at times when you need it, you may be able to benefit from a scheme which is to be launched soon in Benthams.

Benthams Town Council, along with the Ingleton and Ribblesbank Parish Councils, have applied for funding to run a Taxi Voucher scheme in our area. People who are eligible will be able to buy £140-worth of vouchers for a fraction of the cost. The vouchers can be used to pay for journeys with taxi drivers who are registered to receive them (our local Benthams Taxis will be registered). The vouchers, which are worth £2 each, will be valid for one year and can be used in any way you choose, so you can use them for regular trips to the shops or to appointments, or spend them on longer journeys.

Before the scheme can be launched, the Town Council has been asked to find out the

the level of interest. So if you would like to be part of this venture, please call in to the Surgery, the Benthams Trust office or the Post Office and fill in a form. The form does not commit you to anything, it's just a way of finding out how many people would be interested in purchasing the vouchers.

*****STOP PRESS*****

BN reporter Ivor Pumpkin reports that in an exit poll at the Farrier, the Inebriated candidate Ray Mattinson drew overwhelming support. The swingometer was horizontal! Repeating this swing in a General Election would give an unprecedented 733 Inebriated members in the Commons. The Lords is already well represented by Inebriated allegiance.

FARMERS MARKET

Don't forget the next Farmers Market on Wednesday 10th December!

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SANTA CLAUS ON SETTLE-CARLISLE RAILWAY

By Pete Shaw

Santa Claus has confirmed that he will be travelling on the scenic Settle-Carlisle Railway again this year, say Friends of the line. Santa will travel on Monday 22nd December, using the 0947 Leeds-Carlisle and 1333 Carlisle-Leeds services. These trains also call at Keighley, Skipton, Settle, Kirkby Stephen and Appleby. All children up to the age of 12 will be offered a free Goody Bag with presents in it, whilst adults can enjoy complimentary mince pies and coffee.

The trains Santa will ride on are already of great interest, as they are recently introduced locomotive hauled services, with traction provided by classic type 37 diesel engines top and tailing the train (one engine at each end). Formed of four luxurious coaches, they have big armchair seats, tables and large windows to enjoy the views.

The added bonus of Santa, with his Fairies and Elves, will provide a magical day for everyone. Some of the coaches will be fully trimmed up with seasonal decorations.

Normal train fares will apply - i.e. no surcharges for presents, coffee or mince pies. Under 5s travel free whilst child fares apply for 5-15 year olds. As for those passengers with a local Dales Railcard, there is a special offer which reduces the adult fare to just £3. A collection on the train will raise money for the Air Ambulance.

Confirmation of train times for the intermediate stations, details of fares, and eligibility for the Dales Railcard can be obtained from Arriva Customer Services on 0870 602 3322.

Friends spokesman Pete Shaw said "Santa and his Fairies and Elves are looking forward to meeting you on this fun packed trip over the Settle-Carlisle railway, so be sure to put the date in your diary now! With presents, drinks and mince pies, this is going to be a brilliant journey".

A CHRISTMAS QUESTION

By Olive Calverley

I wonder what would happen
If Jesus came to Bentham
To join us as we celebrate
His birth at Bethlehem?

Would we run to welcome Him
And greet our Lord with joy
Remembering how God came to earth
As a tiny baby boy?

Or would we still reject Him
As some did so long ago.
Turn our backs as they did then
Not wanting Him to know?

Even if He healed the sick
Or fed the lame and poor
Told stories of a loving God
Would we still Him ignore?

Or would we run to listen
Receive His love and grace
Accept Christ as our Master
The Saviour of our race?

This question is important
It cannot be ignored
Will you say "Yes" this Christmas
And accept Christ as your Lord?

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Happy Christmas
And a Prosperous New Year!

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LOCAL EVENTS IN DECEMBER

Mon 1st Looking Well, 1.00-3.00pm
Cancer Support Group drop-in,
and every Monday.

Town Council meeting at the
Town Hall, 7.30pm.

Looking Well, Tree Worship in
Keasden exhibition, paintings
by Gerry Holmes.

Tue 2nd Looking Well, 2.00-3.00pm Tai
Chi and Womens Support
Group, both every Tuesday.

Bentham Craft Group at the
Community Centre, 10.00am-
12.00noon, and every Tuesday.

Bentham Methodist Bright
Hour, 2.15pm at the Methodist
Schoolroom. Speaker
Mrs. Woodhouse.

Angus Fire annual whist drive
and dominoes for pensioners,
employees and guests. Works
canteen, 7.00pm. Tickets from
security.

Wed 3rd Absolutely Splashing
Swimming Club Christmas
Cake Raffle, mince pies etc from
9.00am at the Town Hall.

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

Thu 4th Community Centre, 10.00-
11.00am, Ball Play for toddlers
and every Thursday.

Clapham Village Hall Dance
Easy Sequence, 7.30-1.00pm, £1
includes tea and biscuits. Every
Thursday.

Bentham Arts Forum at the
Byres, 7.30pm.

High Bentham W.I. Christmas
Party, 7.30pm at the Town Hall.
See page 2.

Fri 5th Looking Well, 6.00-9.00pm,
Black Library Wargaming Club,
over 11s, and every Friday.

Sat 6th St. Margaret's coffee
morning at the Town
Hall, 10.00am-12.00noon. 

Bentham Traders - Santa comes
to Bentham 1.00-4.00pm.

Looking Well, new building
launch. See page 12.

Sun 7th Bentham Footpath Group walk,
Chapel-le-Dale, 4-5 miles,
leader A. Robertson 61285.
Please meet at Lairgill 12.30pm.

Wizard of Oz signing on at the
Youth Club, 2.00-4.00pm.

Bentham Homing Society Show
at the Town Hall all day.

Virtuoso mandolin, guitar and
fiddle, Victoria Institute, Caton,
7.30pm. Telephone 01524
771744.

Tue 9th Bentham Child Health Clinic at
the Surgery 2.00-4.00pm.

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

Wed 10th Citizens Advice Bureau at the
Surgery, 1.30-3.30pm.

Looking Well, Alzheimer's
Carers Support Group social
meeting.

LISTING FOR LOCAL EVENTS

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

Event.....

Venue.....

Contact Tel. Number.....

Name.....

Please complete and return to the Sports
Shop, Main Street, High Bentham, before
15th of month.

Thu 11th Wesley Guild "Soup & Sing" (Carols) Methodist Schoolroom 7.30pm. Collection for NCH.

Fri 12th Low Bentham Victoria Institute, Christmas bingo. Eyes down 7.30pm.

Age Concern Christmas Dinner at the Town Hall.

Sat 13th St. John's coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10.00-11.30am. Cakes, Raffle,  Mince Pies etc.

Bentham Traders - Santa comes to Bentham 1.00-4.00pm.

Arkholme Village Hall, Circus Berzerkus - Comedy Show for all the family with circus skills workshop at 2.30pm. More details from 015242 22236.

Bentham Footpath Group walk, Thornton-in-Lonsdale, 6 miles, leader B. Greenwood 42072. Please meet at Lairgill at 10.00am.

Sun 14th High Bentham Methodist Church presents an evening with Paul Jones and Fiona Hardley-Jones. See page 22.

Mon 15th Copy deadline for January edition of Bentham News.

High Bentham School PTFA - evening visit by Father Christmas touring Bentham on his sleigh - see page 27.

Tue 16th Bentham Methodist Bright Hour, 2.15pm at the Methodist Schoolroom. Visit by Clapham Ladies.

Wed 17th Bentham Footpath Group walk, Mewith, 4-5 miles, leader J. Clapham 62326. Please meet at Lairgill at 10.00am.

Thu 18th High Bentham CP School Carol Concert at the Methodist Chapel, 2.00pm and 7.00pm.

Fri 19th Waste paper collection at Lairgill Car Park, 8.30-11.00am. Proceeds to NSPCC.

Age Concern Christmas Party at the Town Hall.

Sat 20th Bentham Homing Society coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10.00am- 12.00noon.

Tue 23rd Bentham Child Health Clinic at the Surgery 2.00-4.00pm.

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

Sun 28th Bentham Footpath Group walk, Wenning circular plus mince pies! 4 miles, leader D. Stubbs 61430. Please meet at Lairgill Car Park at 1.30pm.

Local Events in early January

Sat 3rd Bentham Footpath Group walk, Keasden, Picnic at Hawksheath, 4 miles, leader M. Ellis 01132 737459. Please meet at Lairgill Car Park at 9.30am.

Fri 9th January edition of Bentham News published.

Sat 10th Bentham News coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10.00-11.30am.  Cakes, raffle, books etc.



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CHRISTMAS POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS

By David Alder

Last Posting Dates – Airmail

Outside Europe (except Canada, USA, Japan)

Mon 8 December

Canada, USA, Japan

Fri 12 December

Eastern Europe

Fri 12 December

BFPOs

Fri 12 December

Western Europe

Mon 15 December

Last Posting Dates – Inland

Standard Parcels

Fri 12 December

Second Class

Thu 18 December

First Class

Sat 20 December

Special Delivery/Express Parcel

Mon 23 December

Counter Opening Hours

Post Office Counters will close at lunchtime on Christmas Eve and will re-open on Saturday 27 December. They will close again by 4pm on New Year's Eve and re-open on Friday 2 January 2004. Pensions and allowances due on 24/25/26 December can be collected up to one week early (apart from card accounts when they can be collected on 24 December). Pensions and allowances due on 1 January can be collected on 30 December, (31 December for card accounts).

Mail Collections and Deliveries

Wed 24 December

Collection and delivery as per normal Saturday.

Thu 25 December

No collection or deliveries

Fri 26 December

No collection or deliveries

Sat 27 December

No collection or deliveries although PO Counters will be open as normal.

Wed 31 December

Collection and delivery as per normal Saturday.

Thu 1 January

No collection or deliveries.

Everyone at Bentham Post Office and Delivery Office extend warm seasonal greetings to everyone else!

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POLICE REPORT

By PC Adrian Hayes

Over the past few weeks there have been several instances where high powered or prestige cars such as Subaru Imprezas and Audis have been targeted by criminals. Cars have been stolen by either breaking into the home of the owner to steal the keys or by taking the car from the owner while the vehicle was being taken for a test drive. It is suspected that a group of criminals originating from the West Yorkshire area are targeting our communities. If you have a high value car please ensure that it is kept locked at all times you are away from it and do not leave keys in your home where they can be seen, such as hanging on hooks in the kitchen or left on the hall radiator. If you should see someone paying attention to your car or home please make note of any descriptions, details of vehicles etc, and inform the police immediately.

Wanted - Air Rifle Vandal!

I am sure you will have all seen the photographs of Bentham past put up around the town. Some idiot has decided it is great fun to smash the glass on the frames using an air rifle. It has also been reported to me that a stained glass window at St. Margaret's church has been similarly damaged. If you have any information as to who maybe responsible please let me know.

The Christmas season is here once again and most of you will be out of town doing your Christmas shopping. Take care of your bank cards, wallets etc while you are out and do not make it easy for thieves by

leaving your cars unattended with presents in the back. Beware of the morning after effects of alcohol when attending Christmas parties. Do not drink and drive and don't get caught out the morning after. You only have to be involved in an accident which may not even be your fault and you will be breathalysed.

Finally, have a peaceful and very Happy Christmas.

THE BEST OF THE RHINE & MOSEL

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For details please contact Susan Adams,

015242 61182.

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BENTHAM FARMERS "DIG DEEP" FOR CHARITY

By Wendy Dowbiggin

The Centenary Celebrations for Bentham Auction Mart have been taking place recently including a special show and sale of livestock. This included 35 newly calved dairy cattle, 116 calves and a record entry of 4,422 Prime and Store sheep.

The sale also included a charity auction of livestock where farmers donated 63 lots of cattle and sheep which raised the sum of £2,393. A further charity sale was included at the Centenary Dinner Dance at the Carleton, Morecambe, on Saturday evening which raised a further £8,470. Over 400 people attended the dinner and dance which was an excellent evening. Altogether with donations a total of £13,280 has been raised from the farming community and further donations are expected.

The auctioneer on both occasions was Stephen Dennis from Richard Turner & Son who said "farmers really rose to the occasion and showed their generous natures which they are rarely given credit for and despite all the difficulties they encountered during the foot and mouth epidemic."

The proceeds will primarily be donated to the Air Ambulance Appeal together with several local charities. The events were organised by Bentham Auction Mart. Yet again another branch of the Bentham community working hard and making this town the vibrant place it is.

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Kids Quads - £799.00 including V.A.T.



Our Good wishes to all for the Coming Year

BENTHAM PEOPLE



Personal Thanks

Lawson - The family of the late Richard (Dick) wish to thank relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy, letters, cards and donations for the Extra Care Fund. Thank you to all Doctors and Nurses at Bentham Surgery, the Rev. Nigel Thomas for his kind administrations and to Joe of Brown & Whittakers.

Thanks

Goodenber Playground Committee would like to thank all who supported their soup stall at the Bonfire Night; we sold out and made £62 towards much needed funds. The next fundraiser is a BBQ and raffle at the Christmas Shopping Days on Saturday 6th and 13th December so do try and support us again.

Simone Pridmore wants to thank all friends, neighbours and family for their support, kind wishes, cards and flowers sent during her recent indisposition. Much appreciated.

Kath Whitfield wishes to thank everyone who supported the "Great North Run" Yorkshire Dales Appeal for MacMillan Cancer Relief. £680.50 was raised.

Connor and David would like to thank everybody who came to their disco and for all the cards and presents and money they received.

The Age Concern Committee, helpers and members are most grateful for the continued support of the people and traders of Bentham. At their recent coffee morning over £370 was raised for Day Centre funds.

Greetings

Leah Cox, No. 2 Collingwood Terrace, Bentham wishes all friends, neighbours and home carers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Ruth Parkinson sends Christmas Greetings to relatives and friends, with good wishes for health and peace in 2004.

Congratulations

To **William** on your 21st Birthday, 4th December. Lots of love, Dad, Angela and David.

For Sale

► £130 o.n.o. As new, Raleigh Mantis, 18" frame, Shimano speed. Extras, including front & rear lights; Carradice bag; pump; repair kit etc. A bargain price. 015242 21362.

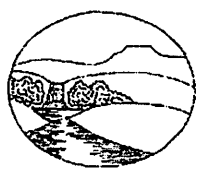
► Printer Cartridges-suitable for Epson 480 colour printer, 5 x Jet Tec Colour Cartridges, Ref E25, 8 x Jet Black Cartridges, Ref E24, 2 x Epson Black Cartridges Ref T013. £75 the lot. Tel 015242-61182.

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17 December.**



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BENTHAM FOOTPATH GROUP

By Shane O'Brien

The Footpath Group's recent AGM gave me an opportunity to tell our members what conservation/maintenance work has been carried out during the year, much of which had been put on hold because of the outbreak of F & MD.

Updating earlier reports compiled by Bernard Ellershaw and Frank Royston on the state of local footpaths, several members of the group carried out surveys of the condition of all roadside footpath signs, noting those missing or damaged. Separate surveys were conducted in and around High Bentham and Low Bentham, in the Ingleton area (outside the National Park), and also of a small number of footpaths on the Lancashire side of the county boundary.

The results of these surveys were sent to the NYCC Rights of Way Office based at Skipton and also to Lancashire CC for further action. To date NYCC has only been able to replace a small number of new signs but the Rights of Way Officer has recently promised to try and complete the job during the winter. Lancashire CC has agreed to deal with the replacement signs needed in its area. The NYCC is also aware of the need to improve waymarking along a number of footpaths.

From January, following a proposal from Keith Wear, the group's former chairman, NYCC agreed to appoint a local contractor, Colin Woof, to carry out repairs and maintenance to footpaths in this area. In the



first six months of the year Colin was able to carry out a number of repairs and improvements, most notably in Moulterbeck Wood where he has re-established the route of the footpath and made it safer. In carrying out this particular job he was assisted by a number of volunteers from the group. Colin has a long list of work to carry out and has recently been able to resume. Readers may have noticed the improvements to the footpath on the south side of the River Wenning near Mill Lane, Low Bentham.

This new arrangement has made it possible to make considerable inroads into the backlog of work that built up during the F & MD outbreak and should help us keep on top of the situation in future. Many thanks are due to Keith for his foresight (and perseverance!) in setting up this arrangement and to the Rights of Way Officer for his support. Thanks are also due to Colin Woof for his willingness to take on his additional work while still doing 101 other jobs elsewhere in the locality!

In addition, at various times during the year, Tom Connolly, David Fisher, and Bev Sim, all members of the group, have willingly given of their time and boundless energy to help clear a number of paths in the High Bentham and Ingleton areas. My very sincere thanks to all three of them. There are, however, some paths that still need clearing which are on our "to do" list. A number will have to be done at least annually. This "gang of four" spent a couple of days in November working on or replacing damaged stiles and fencing on the outskirts of Ingleton, under the supervision of one of the NYCC Area Rangers. In future, we hope to set aside one day per month to carry out "supervised" work of this kind so that we can build up our practical skills and experience and also involve other volunteers from the group.

Keasden Walk

By Maureen Ellis

For the Keasden walk and picnic at Hawsheath Farm on 3rd January 2004, it is advisable to bring "Elevenesses and a snack" because the picnic won't take place until about 2.00pm.



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PUPPY POINT CHRISTMAS TIME



By Sue Whiteley

Christmas is a time when we need to take extra care that puppies are not learning the wrong things and getting into all sorts of trouble. Chewing the Christmas tree lights can result in burns and electrocution. Stealing and eating the tree chocolates can cause fatal poisoning from the theobromine in cocoa (particularly plain chocolate) and extra titbits of rich Christmas food can upset sensitive stomachs.

However the various festivities with family and friends is a good opportunity for puppy socialisation by meeting all sorts of people in different situations and places. Do make sure though that your puppy is not getting too excited, jumping up at people or "play" biting. But, if your puppy is nervous, you will need to check that he is not being frightened by unusual noises and festive activities or by visiting children or strangers. Try to make time to help your puppy learn the right things and ensure he has time to himself and his own space to "chill out" if things get a bit too much. Above all, make sure that you and your puppy have a Happy Christmas!

For information about the "Good Start" Puppy Class contact me at 015396-21946.

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P & K STANDING NEWSAGENTS

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Non-local Advertisers

Boxed advertisement one eighth page - £15.

Flyers and inserts negotiable depending on size, design, printing etc.

Normal commercial rate £100.

Bentham People Page Thanks, Birthdays etc 10p per word. Items for sale wanted, sits vacant etc 20p per word.

Advertising must be prepaid, when booking, and must be booked by copy deadline - 15th of month prior to publication.

To place an advertisement in the BN contact 62492 or call in at Bentham Sports.

SEDBERGH JUNIOR SCHOOL

By Paul Reynolds (Headmaster)

The pace of life at Sedbergh Junior School has not slackened as the momentum builds up towards the end of our longest term. There has been variety in all areas of school life with sporting fixtures, slide shows, concerts, weekend activities and clubs keeping us all busy.

On the sports field, the 1stXV is emerging as a force to be reckoned with and have now registered six victories this season with the 2ndXV having an unbeaten season. The girls' hockey and netball teams have grown in confidence and success under the careful eye of their new coach Julia Rollings. With indoor cricket nets, fencing, badminton and tennis coaching in the evenings there rarely is a dull moment!

The second half of term has started well with two fascinating talks on "Arctic Dreams" and "Everest". The latter charted the fortunes of a trip to Everest earlier this year, by a party of Senior School pupils who reached the highest point ever by a school party in the UK. A visit by the European Theatre Company gave the school a wonderful hour of interactive education experience, and the sight of their Headmaster dressed as a witch was certainly one to cherish! With choir trips to the Nuffield in Lancaster and Bentham Town Hall in December, nativity plays, Christmas parties and a Carol Service, our pupils can look forward to a busy but fulfilling end of term.

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Dear Editor,

It is nearly 15 years ago that I got so angry about a small girl getting covered with potentially infective dog-dirt in Streakber



Lane that I took up the issue in your columns. Subsequent campaigns led to a reduction of this menace on our streets and paths, now however, I am beginning to notice that the problem is starting to return.

Associated with this is an increase in the practice of dog walkers picking up the mess, putting it in a plastic bag and throwing it in the hedge. How any intelligent person can imagine that this removes the problem I do not know. What it does lead to is our hedges becoming festooned with this filthy fruit. For example, a short walk across the fields between Wesley Close and Low Bentham Road last week revealed four examples of this dirty practice (plus, of course, the usual carrier bag or two of normal litter, supplemented by fireworks rubbish)! At the same time as the plastic bag prevents the muck from rotting it remains as litter with the result that such walks are becoming like crossing the municipal dump rather than a pleasant country walk. If someone can take the trouble to lift the muck off the path, surely they can take it home or dump it in the nearest dog bin.

Please, please, dog owners and walkers consider your neighbours and friends and desist from this unhygienic practice.

Yours sincerely,

R.E.H. Atkinson.

Dear Bentham News,

Last night I attended the cinema in Low Bentham and would like to express my thanks to the T.R.A.M.P.S. team who put the event on. It was a truly professional and wonderful event. We even had a welcome hot drink and popcorn in the interval. To see a quality film on a huge screen and with friends was a real treat and I would encourage everybody to make the effort to see a T.R.A.M.P.S. film at a local venue. Keep local cinema alive.

Yours sincerely,

Christine Hodson.

SUCCESSFUL AUTUMN FESTIVAL

By Shirley Brown

I think we can safely say that Bentham's First Autumn Festival, organised by Bentham Development Trust, was a great success. All the events that took place during the Festival proved popular and were well supported, attracting people into the town as well as locals.

Events included a concert by the Kirkby Lonsdale Brass Band, an exhibition of New Art by the Bentham Arts Forum, a Civic Service and two spooky performances of "And Then There Were None" by Bentham Theatre Group. On the Saturday evening the grand finale was 90+ lanterns moving in procession through Bentham to the Auction Mart, where a crowd of around 2,000 people oohed and aahed at a truly magnificent display of firework pyrotechnics. We marvelled at the ingenious illuminated elephant lantern, warmed ourselves by the monster bonfire and tucked into hog roast and hot soup on a clear autumnal night.

Community spirit is alive and well, and heartfelt thanks go to all the many organisers of the various events. Discussions are already taking place about the possibility of a second Autumn Festival in the half term week next year. If you have any ideas about events you think should be included, a disco and a film show have already been suggested, then please pass them on to the Trust Office.

FATHER CHRISTMAS IN BENTHAM

By Annie Carrington

On the evening of Monday 15th December, High Bentham School PTFA, kindly supported by Wennington Hall School, will be guiding Father Christmas round Bentham to wish you all a very Happy Christmas. Please look out for him, and listen for our knocks on your door, as then you will have the chance to ask Santa for that special something!! If anyone objects to us knocking, then please inform the school on 61412 and we will not disturb you. Only labelled adults in suitable Christmas attire will be officially collecting, and all donations will be used by the PTFA for the benefit of the children in the school.

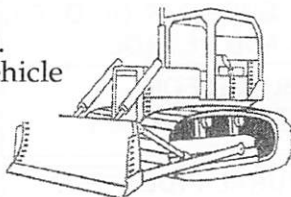
Christmas Hamper Draw

The PTFA IS also organising its annual Christmas Hamper Draw. Tickets are on sale via pupils and their families, school reception and at the Christmas Carnival Saturdays, and the draw date will be 15th December, after Santa's Sleigh. Last year, the generosity of parents enabled us to make enough hampers for three lucky winners!



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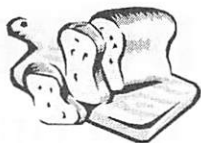


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RECIPES

By Doreen Park

After reading various ideas for different breads, I decided to adapt some for myself, with the festive season in mind.



First the Basic Bread Dough

- 2 lbs strong plain flour
- 3 teaspoons salt
- 3 ozs margarine
- 3 level teaspoons dried yeast or 1.5 ozs fresh yeast
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- Half pint tepid water
- Half pint tepid milk

Mix together the flour and salt and rub in the margarine. Mix the dried yeast and the sugar into the water and leave in a warm place until quite dissolved and beginning to froth. If using fresh yeast mix it with the sugar into the water, stirring until the yeast is dissolved. It is now ready for use, unlike the dried yeast, and it is not necessary to wait until the mixture froths. Add the yeast mixture with the milk to the flour mixture. Mix to a pliable dough and turn onto a floured board. Knead well until the dough is no longer sticky and is smooth and shiny. Lightly grease the bowl and place the dough in it. Cover or place inside a large polythene bag, keep it away from draughts and leave to rise or prove until double in size. Turn onto the floured board and knead lightly to let the air out and to make the dough pliable again. At this stage it is called "risen dough".

My version of Stollen Bread

Take 12 ozs of risen dough and add 2 ozs currants, a few chopped cherries, a few chopped nuts, a pinch of nutmeg, a pinch of cinnamon, 1 oz castor sugar with a few drops of vanilla added. Knead all these into the dough and gently ease into an oblong shape. Then take 2 ozs ready roll marzipan and make into a sausage to fit the length of the oblong. Place it on the oblong and shape it into a similar shape. Place on a greased baking sheet and allow to rise again until double in size. Bake at Gas Mark 6/400F for about 40 minutes. It can be iced when cold.

Apricot and Walnut Twist

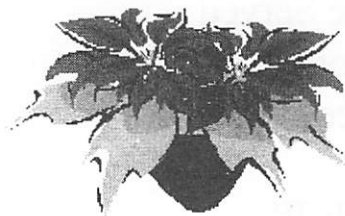
Take 12 ozs of risen dough and 2 ozs dried apricots, cut very finely (and scalded by pouring boiling water over it in a sieve), 1 oz chopped walnuts, 1 oz castor sugar and a few drops of vanilla essence. Work together and make into a twist. Cover and let double in size. Bake as above.

Any dough left can be made into bread buns or rolls and should be glazed with beaten egg before rising the second time. As I used fresh yeast I had some left so I made:-

Old Fashioned Spice Bread

- Half oz fresh yeast or 2 teasps dried yeast
- Half teaspn sugar
- Quarter pint tepid milk
- 12 ozs plain flour
- Half teaspn each of salt, mixed spice, bi-card of soda, powdered cinnamon
- 2 ozs each of margarine and lard
- 6 ozs soft brown sugar
- 4 ozs each of currants and sultanas
- 2 ozs chopped peel
- 1 beaten egg
- 1 desertspsn dark treacle
- a little more milk if required

Grease a 2 lb loaf tin and line the base with greased greaseproof paper. Add dried yeast and sugar to milk and stir and leave until frothy, or if using fresh yeast stir it into the milk with sugar to dissolve. Sieve the flour, salt, spices and bicarb soda and rub in the fats. Add brown sugar, fruit, yeast mixture, egg and treacle. Mix together adding about 2 to 3 tablespoons milk if necessary to make a dropping consistency. Spoon into the tin and level. Bake at Gas Mark 2/300F for about an hour and a half until firm on top and leaving the sides of the tin. Let it rest in tin for about 10 minutes then remove and cool. Served, sliced and buttered, it is particularly good with a wedge of cheese.



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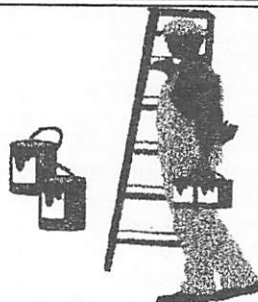
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Wednesday 17 December at 7.30pm

Market Day Lunches starting January 2004

BENTHAM AMATEUR FOOTBALL CLUB

By Louise France

On the 18th October we
were knocked out of the
Craven Cup, losing 2-1 to
Embsay. Stewart Ralph scored the Bentham
goal.

On 25th October goals from Tim Wheildon,
Eric O'Hare and Chris Hodgkinson gave us
a 3-1 win in the league against Carnforth.

Although Gary Leak and David Knapp
scored on 1st November against Slyne with
Hest, we lost this away match in the Adam
and Gaskey Senior Challenge Cup match by
7-2.

On 8th November, despite being beaten the
week before, we won the Scotts
Sports/Whiteside Challenge Cup match by
6-0 against Holme, with goals from Rod
Lister, Andrew Wheildon, Gary Louth, Ian
Coates and Chris Hodgkinson (2).

MacMillan/Bentham F.C. In last month's
report on the MacMillan Fund event, Back
from Beyond were accidentally omitted from
the "thank you" section. Apologies for this.
We had a great night - thank you for playing
for free - see the full report on
www.bentham.net at Community/Bentham
News.



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A WINNING SMILE BY BENTHAM'S NEW DISTRICT COUNCILLOR!

Wow, I must have won !

I hardly dared to believe it when the returning officer (Colin Iveson of CDC) announced that my bid for the post of District Councillor was successful. After two previous unsuccessful attempts you learn a little humility! I must confess that we celebrated a little after the count had finished but hey, why not, these things don't happen too often. The following day was spent removing posters (including the modest one on the corner of Main Street and Robin Lane) and thanking well wishers and supporters. Saturday was similar but I was buttonholed on the subject of a planning application and several people urged me to press the issue of Broadband for the three parishes.

Monday found me at the district offices in Skipton completing the necessary procedures before I could legally act as your councillor. After a brief introduction to available heads of department I was sent home clutching a folder of required reading; this would be best measured in kilos rather than pages.

I have started making appointments to visit people in the area who are supporting the communities in various ways (Bentham Trust would be an example) as I wish to understand how things are done and how I can help. If you run an organisation or group beneficial to our communities, please contact me by telephone on 62074, email manuel.camacho@btinternet.com - I will be



very pleased to listen. I would like to thank everyone in Bentham and Burton for a fair hearing, whether a supporter or not. The general courtesy and friendliness I encountered on the "campaign trail" was most encouraging. Finally I would like to wish Russell Jackson well and thank him for conducting his campaign in the friendly way things are done around here.
By Manuel. Camacho

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