

BENTHAM NEWS



*Wishing all our readers
a very
Happy Christmas*

DECEMBER 2006

ISSUE 242



BENTHAM ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE TOWN

By Gavin Wilshaw

At this time of year we are faced with the problem of what to buy as Christmas presents for friends and family. Those with 'green awareness' could choose from the following ecologically-favoured items:

- > A pack of low energy light bulbs
- > Garden tools and other items to encourage the growing of fruit and vegetables at home.
- > A subscription to Friends of the Earth or Greenpeace.
- > A home composting bin. Craven Council has a scheme which makes these available at a discount (Tel 0870 8494866) or you can get them with a discount at Twin Locks Garden Centre at Gargrave, near Skipton.

Whatever you are looking for this Christmas, we've got it!

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> Clothing and other items made from hemp. The campaign to Protect Rural England has teamed up with a company called Natural Collection (www.naturalcollection.com) Tel. 0870 331 3333) who offer a catalogue illustrating several items of hemp clothing and footwear.

Hemp is a strong and durable natural fibre which is easily grown and harvested. The fabric it produces is used to make shirts, sweaters, jeans, boots, shoes, handbags, rucksacks and ropes amongst other things. It is also a source of pulp for paper making. Paradoxically, we fell hundreds of thousands of trees annually so we can read about the destruction of the world's rainforests in our newspapers. If pulp were sourced from hemp no trees would need to be felled in order to produce newspapers and other paper-based products.

A variety of interesting publications dealing with environmental matters is now available for perusal in the Bentham Trust Office. A summary of the main points of each is also available in both the Trust and Tourist Information Offices.

If you have any interesting environmental articles to share these can be handed in at 42 Robin Lane (Tel. 61473) and will be used to provide information for members of the public to update themselves.



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A Happy Christmas
And a
Peaceful New Year



NOVEMBER'S TOWN COUNCIL

By David Johnson

All the Cllrs were present with the exception of Cllrs Barnes, Stannard and Ireton.

The meeting commenced at 7.00 p.m. with an address about extended schools by Jonathan Crewdson. The government's intention is to try to expand the use of schools and parenting cover by 2010. Breakfast clubs and after school clubs are two possible initiatives but, as usual, little or no Government funding will be available!

The Police

PC Hayes reported on a very quiet October with only 4 reported crimes. He was worried about young adults drinking in the street in the presence of youngsters. The Council is to see if powers exist which empower the police to confiscate drinks in this situation.

Planning

The Cllrs were happy to approve the use of the old station building for use by Community Transport but asked Craven D.C. to refuse permission for it to be used as a Youth Café, which was the aim of the Churches Together in Bentham organisation. They thought that the close proximity of the café to the railway was dangerous.

A further amendment has been requested to raise the roofline of the three dwellings planned for 28 Station Road! The Cllrs recommended refusal of the application.

A letter of protest was read about the proposed alteration, extension and new vehicle access at Greenhead Barn, Low Bentham. It was decided to arrange a site visit with the planning officer because of worries about the possibility of large commercial vehicles using the narrow lane.

They resolved to seek more information about the 15 metre high Microgeneration Wind Turbine proposed for The Outbarn, Bracken Hill, Low Bentham. Their concerns were about its height, visual impact and the lethal effect of such turbines on birds.

Cllr Heigh asked the Cllrs to invite the planning officer to attend a Council meeting in order to explain why the views of local Cllrs (and local people) are so frequently

ignored by the planning office. It was agreed to issue an invitation.

Highways

The proposed new traffic regulations for changes in the road marking system have now gone to consultation. All objections will have to have been lodged by 24th November. The Cllrs assumed that the public would be informed through an advertisement in the press. It is proposed to merge two footpaths in the vicinity of Wesley Close. It seems the route of one path was cut by the erection of flats about 15 years ago!

Cllr Barrington brought the Cllrs' attention to problems in a field behind Staggarth near 'Joan's Seat'. She had received a letter and a separate verbal report recounting very nasty incidents with cows and a bull in a field on a public footpath.

Rural Post Offices

A letter written by The Countryside Alliance sought the Council's support for rural post offices. The letter outlined the problems faced by the post offices and also a summary of the benefits they bring to rural communities. The Council agreed to write supporting the campaign and order some small posters which householders and shopkeepers can put in their windows.

Settle and District Aid in Sickness

Cllr Adams serves on this committee and he praised its work in supporting people who require practical short term help for such things as fuel, minor alterations and transport. Bentham people are eligible and applications can be made for assistance to adapt homes, help with heating bills etc.

Recreation Ground

Cllr Heigh stressed the excellent work carried out by this committee. It is responsible for organising good purposeful activity for many adults and youngsters.

The Council heard that the application for funding for the third stage of the development around the tennis courts had failed. The committee is looking for suggestions for a patch of land for a skateboard park so if you have any thoughts contact Cllr Heigh.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

High Bentham

By Anne Yaman

Miss Wendy Dowbiggin, who had once again been elected President at the October A.G.M., presided over a very well attended November meeting when Janet Nelson gave a very interesting talk on "Shopping 200 years ago in Lancaster". She used slides to illustrate her talk and kept all the ladies enthralled with her tales and knowledge of how shopping had been all those years ago and how it had progressed to what we know today. She was thanked by Wendy Dowbiggin. Two new members and one guest were welcomed. The competition for a pretty purse produced some lovely entries and the winner was Mrs Pat Armstrong. The raffle was won by Mrs Margaret Ashton.

During the past month some members had been to see "Brassed Off" in Lancaster and had thoroughly enjoyed it. We are looking forward to an outing this month to Brookhouse Café in Clapham and our next meeting on 7th December will be our chance to get into the festive spirit with our Christmas Party.

Low Bentham

By Jennifer Watkinson

It was absolutely fascinating watching Ms Trea Udo demonstrate her skills in basketry, which she started to do 9 years ago. She has been on several courses including French and Polish, which have influenced her designs. Most of her baskets are in two colours. In the winter she cuts, bundles and dries materials like larch, hazel and wild honeysuckle. She brought with her books, many examples of baskets, trays and rattles and her heavy tools, made by her blacksmith partner. She was thanked by Mrs. June Harrison.

Competition winners for a basket were: Mrs Barbara Mason, Mrs Mabel Easterby and Mrs Joan Gilroy.

Twelve members had an enjoyable evening when they went bowling at Morecambe and dining at the Bridge Inn, Tatham, where they were made welcome.

The president and two members attended the Autumn Council meeting which was held at Masham. Mrs Rowena Leder MBE, better known as Bunty, former artistic director of the Grassington Festival, gave an excellent talk about her earlier career as a "bluebell girl".

The group carol service will be held on 3rd December at Clapham.

CHRISTMAS CHORAL CONCERT

By David Alder

The Langcliffe Singers (which includes members from the Bentham area), are holding their Christmas Concert on Saturday 2nd December at St. Alkelda's Church in Giggleswick. The choir will be singing Britten's Ceremony of Carols (accompanied by harp) and Dvorak's Mass in D (accompanied by organ). The concert starts at 7.30pm. and tickets, costing £8 (£6 for concessions) are available from Bentham Post Office or at the door.

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CRAVEN CONCERNS

By Cllr Manuel Camacho (62074)

At last, the final episode in the waste trilogy. In North Yorkshire all waste not recycled or composted is currently disposed of at landfill sites. European and national government legislation requires that this amount be reduced dramatically over the next ten years and measures have been put in place to enforce this requirement.

In order to meet these requirements major changes in waste management must take place. Firstly we must reduce the amount of waste produced as mentioned above.

The next stage is to recycle as much as possible. Craven District Council has done a lot in recent years to develop segregated collections of re-cyclable materials in order to achieve statutory targets set by central government. However if we are to do more and ensure that every domestic property receives a full recycling collection service, it is necessary that we are able to collect recyclable waste in mixed form. This means that you will be able to put your cans, paper and plastic (yes plastic) in one container where it will be collected and taken to a sorting centre (Materials Recovery Facility). Glass will probably still need to be collected separately as technology is not yet available to allow paper to be reprocessed if it has been mixed with glass at some stage. A weekly collection of waste will still take place, the only change being that one week will be for recycling and the next week for non-recyclable rubbish. This will allow 45-50% (by weight) of the total waste that we produce to be recycled.

It is also likely that our garden wastes collection service will be extended by provision of additional collection vehicles to cover all properties in the district with gardens to increase composting rates and reduce disposal of biodegradable waste that causes damage to the atmosphere.

This entire system of collecting waste is wholly reliant upon new facilities for handling waste being constructed within, or accessible from, North Yorkshire. Even after recycling, composting and re-use there remains waste to be disposed of in some form (residual waste).

In North Yorkshire, as a minimum, we have set a strategy to divert 75% of all residual municipal waste from landfill by 2013. This figure can be achieved by even further recycling and composting of waste, using mechanical and biological treatment processes (MBT plant). This is a relatively new method to the UK but is being used successfully in Europe. We can also use our waste to recover energy from it, either in the form of heat or electricity.

In achieving this enormous waste reduction in terms of weight and even more so with regard to volume, the reliance on landfill as the primary method of waste disposal will be eliminated. There will always remain a small amount of waste but this residue will be more manageable, requiring much less landfill space.

The preparation for this work has already started. The Councils of North Yorkshire ie North Yorkshire County Council, City of York, Craven, Hambleton, Harrogate, Richmondshire, Ryedale, Scarborough and Selby district councils are working together through the York and North Yorkshire Waste Partnership to achieve a long term and sustainable waste management strategy, where collection, treatment and disposal services are fully integrated.

Recycling is only a part of the total waste management package. However it is an important one for us all to adopt and follow. My thanks to Mr Neville Allan of CDC for a comprehensive review of the present and future of waste management.

If you need more information, call me or email me (manuelcamacho@btinternet.com), or stop me in the street. I will be more than happy to respond.



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LOOKING WELL CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

By Sue Mann

The Looking Well Cancer Support Group held an "Awareness Raising Event" on Wednesday 27th September. This was the first time they had held such an event and the process began with some trepidation. The group had a clear idea of what it wanted to achieve - to find out more about the type of cancer services which are available, to highlight issues that are experienced by those affected by cancer, and to raise awareness of the group with the public and those who use the cancer services.

The programme featured a range of speakers including former Bentham GP Peter Nightingale, who talked about his work as a MacMillan GP in Lancaster. John Hancock, Head of Cancer and Planned Care at our local Primary Care Trust, went on to describe the factors and constraints which influence how decisions are made about the services which the PCT commissions in the community and in hospital. Later in the morning there was the opportunity to see a DVD produced by Cancer Care in Lancaster to illustrate the work they do to support those who use cancer services and their carers. In the afternoon the focus was on how people can influence the planning, delivery and monitoring of services with information provided by the Primary Care Trust, The Airedale Partnership Group and the Looking Well Support Group. The day ended with the opportunity to enjoy a range of complementary therapies including hand massage, flower therapy and rag rugging.

Thirty six people attended the event, including service users, members of the clergy, representatives of the voluntary sector and workers from the health sector. They appreciated the chance to meet with others and discuss issues. They commented on the warmth of the welcome, the attractiveness of the building and the quality of refreshments. The Looking Well Cancer Support Group meets every Monday at 1.00pm - contact 62672 for details.

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BN COMMENT

A Great Bonfire . . . But How Secure?

Once again, Benthamers turned out in force for the community bonfire, and were rewarded with first class entertainment, which began with a glittering procession of lanterns and sambas and led to a firework display of the high standard we now almost take for granted.

The evening's proceedings ran like clockwork and the event was incident-free, the credit for this being entirely due to the work and organisation of the Community Bonfire Committee. The procession and bonfire ran so smoothly that very few people would notice there wasn't a police officer anywhere to be seen, if in fact there was a police officer anywhere in Bentham that night. We believe there should have been at least a token presence.

With well over three thousand people in or around Main Street and later gathered at the Auction Mart, the potential for trouble, in any of its various forms, was extremely high and should, we feel, have identified a need for the event to be policed accordingly.

A member of the Bonfire Committee told us that the police had been informed of the event in writing and had apparently chosen not to attend.

Having "got away with it" this year, we feel strongly that our local bobbies should consider revising their priorities for next year's event.

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GARDENING COLUMN



By Joyce Knapp

In December, as the days become cooler and daylight hours are in short supply, we may spend less time out of doors and more time inside, planning next year's work. The best place to start is probably reflecting on the relative successes and failures of the past season and using this information to make adjustments that we may deem necessary.

One of the most noticeable features of this year was the long, hot, dry summer months and, although most of you probably enjoyed these conditions, I am afraid that, on the whole, the vegetables didn't. We are usually advised to grow vegetables in open, sunny areas, but I wonder if some varieties would benefit from a little shade. In particular, runner beans, which generally failed to set seed during the hot dry months, did, however, produce a constant supply of pods in my cousin's garden where they were grown in partial shade. Other vegetables adversely affected by the dry weather include beetroot, parsnip and onions.

Whilst it is possible to successfully water crops such as beetroot, the problem is more complex with onions, as a large proportion of them are likely to rot in storage if water has been applied during the growing season. It is, however, worth noting that red onions seem less prone to rotting in this way and they do have a particularly fine flavour. In the case of parsnips, as I do not have a ready supply of water in my allotment, I decided to test a theory by leaving them to their own devices. Having harvested two rows, I found them to be of a relatively good size but was disappointed to find that many of them were 'woody' in texture and not as edible as they first looked. I now have to decide whether to grow future crops of parsnips in partial shade, say near a large fruit tree; go to the trouble of watering them regularly, or simply remove them from my 'to grow' list. The other thing of note in the kitchen garden this year, was the abundance of fruit, in particular, apples. Following this we may have to content ourselves with a smaller crop next year as the trees regain their strength after this year's bumper harvest.

POLICE REPORT

By PC Adrian Hayes

With Christmas approaching I would like to reiterate the message from last month and advise everyone to be extra vigilant in relation to household security.

Most households will have presents stored ready for Christmas. Please don't leave them lying around under Christmas trees in view where they are an invitation for the prospective burglar.

Credit/debit card fraud is an increasing problem which has affected some residents of Bentham over the months. While Christmas shopping either on line or at the shops please take care of your cards. Do not give your PIN number to anybody and don't divulge details of your card security code. Be aware of who is around you when using ATMs. Also check ATMs before you use them to ensure that nothing has been attached to them that would allow somebody to clone your bank card details. If in doubt do not use the ATM and report anything suspicious to the bank or if there is no bank nearby, report it to the police immediately.

Enjoy all the Christmas celebrations but please do not drink and drive. As usual the police nationally will be paying extra attention to those who have had one too many. Do not get yourself an extra unwanted Christmas present of a driving ban.

Have a safe and enjoyable Christmas and New Year.



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BENTHAM CRAFT CLUB WANTS NEW MEMBERS

By Wendy Dowbiggin

The Craft Club is held on Tuesday mornings throughout the year from 10.00am until 12.00 noon, at the Community Centre, on Main Street.

The ladies who attend do their own crafts, namely knitting, embroidery, bead making, painting etc. It is a very informal occasion and the ladies enjoy each others company and have a cup of tea and biscuits, at a cost of £1.

There is always room for more ladies who enjoy crafts and who can pass on their skills and you would be made most welcome. If you are interested in joining, please contact Margaret on 015242 61900.



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COOKERY PAGE

*Edited by Doreen Park
Recipes by Pat Henderson*



Country Meat Loaf

Recipe serves 6. Prep. time 20 minutes, cooking 1½ hours.

- 25g butter
- 2 crushed garlic cloves
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 2 celery sticks, finely chopped
- 450g minced pork
- 450g minced lean beef
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup fresh breadcrumbs
- 3 tbsp chopped fresh parsley
- ½ tsp fresh thyme
- 2 tbsp fresh basil
- ½ tsp salt
- ½ tsp black pepper
- 4 tbsp chilli sauce
- 2 tbsp Worcestershire sauce
- 6 rashers, rindless streaky bacon.

Method

Preheat the oven to 180C, 350F, Gas 4. Melt the butter in a small frying pan and cook garlic, onion and celery over a low heat for 8-10 minutes until soft, then leave to cool slightly. In a large mixing bowl, mix the fried garlic, onion and celery with all the other ingredients except the bacon. Shape the mixture in your hands to make an oval loaf shape. Carefully place in a roasting tin. Lay the bacon slices over the meat loaf. Bake for 1½ hours, basting occasionally. Remove from the oven, drain off the fat. Garnish with basil before serving.

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Pear, Hazelnut & Chocolate Cake

Recipe serves 8 (470 kilocalories per piece).
Prep. time 30 minutes, cooking 1 hour.

- 100g blanched hazelnuts
- 140g self-raising flour
- 175g butter cut into small pieces
- 140g golden caster sugar
- 5 small ripe Conference pears
- 50g dark chocolate, chopped.
- 2 large eggs, beaten. 2 tbsp apricot jam

Method

Heat the oven to 160C gas 3. Butter and line the base of a 20cm/8" round cake tin. In a food processor, grind the hazelnuts until fine; add the flour and mix lightly then add the butter and mix to form crumbs. Add the sugar and eggs and mix briefly. Peel, core and chop two pears. Stir the pears and chocolate carefully into the mixture. Spoon the mixture into the cake tin and smooth top. Peel, core and slice the remaining pears and place on top of the cake. Press down lightly and bake for 50-60 minutes. Warm the jam and brush on top. Serve warm with cream.

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BURTON-IN- LONSDALE COMMUNITY SHOP

By C. Birtwistle

Two years ago the village faced a future without a shop or Post Office. Many people in the village do not drive and had to find alternative ways to reach shops. Not easy when the weekday buses are infrequent! A cooperative was formed to look at ways of providing access to a local shop and Post Office. Eventually, with generous help from DEFRA and residents, the village shop premises were bought and the Burton-in-Lonsdale Community Shop and Post Office was opened. It has been hard work for the many volunteers who man the shop, together with the few paid staff, but the heart has been put back into the village. We have been supported by many local residents, suppliers and last, but not least, David Alder from Benthams Post Office, who, with his staff, helped us when we were unable to find a permanent postmaster.

A new, professional manager has been appointed. Karen also holds the position of Postmaster. We are stocking items sourced from local suppliers; hams and local meats are delivered each Thursday ready for the weekend. The shop has become a collection point for the Growing with Grace organic vegetable bag scheme, and we stock a wide range of organic products as well as basic items. We also had the flat above the shop refurbished and that will be on sale by mid

December, providing much needed accommodation in the village centre.

I am sure that many of the Benthams Traders will agree that shopping locally is cheaper, more sociable, less tempting and more environmentally friendly. A survey of national supermarket chains within an 18 mile journey of B-in-L using a "basket" of basic items gave the surprising result that, like for like, B-in-L Community Shop is cheaper than Tesco, Morrison and Somerfield!

As we approach Christmas we hope to see many of our neighbours from Benthams coming to "check us out", especially at the weekends. Tea and coffee are available. And anyone who would like to volunteer to help us - in any way, from serving in the shop, typing up orders, helping with displays or even power washing the flags - we would love to hear from you. Volunteers can give an odd hour irregularly or have a regular slot. Contact us on 63397 or burltonstores@btconnect.com or call into the shop.

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BENTHAM & DISTRICT PET RESCUE



By Val Marshall

Many thanks to all who supported our Book Sale at Watershed Mill in Settle – especially to Craven Outward Bound for the use of their room. The proceeds will help to pay vet bills this winter. Unusually for this time of year we still have young kittens seeking homes – if you are interested please telephone Pat at the sanctuary on Bentham 63048.

With the festive season coming up fast, we'll be running a raffle with a difference at the Christmas Fayre in the Town Hall on 8th December. The prizes will include a dog basket and a cat basket overflowing with drinks of all kinds – from whiskey, gin, and champagne to lager, wine and lemonade – something for everyone's taste! Win all your Christmas booze in one go! Lots of other prizes too (and a children's tombola). Tickets will be available from 3pm onwards on 8th in the Town Hall (or telephone Sue Arnott on 64924). The raffle will be drawn at 8pm.

Also, can you help us raise funds from used stamps? Just cut round the stamps off all your Christmas card envelopes and other letters (leaving about ¼ inch or 5mm around the edge) and take them to our collection point in the Bentham Development Trust Office. It won't cost you anything but it'll help us a lot!



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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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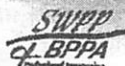
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BENTHAM MEDICAL PRACTICE - IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT OUT-OF-HOURS SERVICES

*By Doctors Sullivan, Burnett, McKirdy,
Howlett, Astle and Harding.*

What is changing?

From 1st November the organisation providing out-of-hours (evenings, nights and weekends) care for our patients has changed. Previously it had been provided by Craven and Harrogate Rural Primary Care Trust. Now it is being provided by Baycall, which provides cover for all patients in the Morecambe Bay area.

Why is it changing?

We felt that the existing service was unsatisfactory and provided a poor service for patients. The biggest problem is that patients are unable to get a home visit when needed.

What will improve?

Baycall is a large and well run organisation, and comfortably meets all national targets for provision of out-of-hours care. Patients will receive appropriate medical care, including home visits when indicated (rather than being told to call an ambulance, as was happening far too often).

What are the downsides?

Patients may have to travel further if a trip to see a doctor is needed. Instead of being seen at Settle or Skipton, patients will need to travel to Kendal, Morecambe or Lancaster (the latter only being open part of the time). Patients will be given a choice as to which of the Baycall centres is best for them.

How do I get a doctor out-of-hours?

Either telephone the surgery number (61202) as at present and your call will be re-directed or telephone Baycall direct (0845 0524999).

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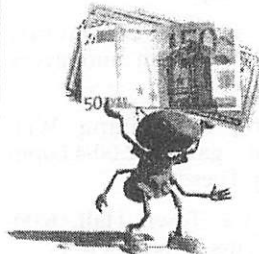
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LOCAL EVENTS IN DECEMBER

- Fri 1st** Benthams News published.
Age Concern at the Masonic Hall. Christmas Table Decorations.
- Sat 2nd** St.Margaret's coffee morning in the Town Hall Ballroom, 10.00am-12.00 noon. 
Farmers' market in the Lower Town Hall 9.00am-2.30pm.
Children's Theatre Art Group at Looking Well, 10.00am-12.00 noon.
- Mon 4th** Indoor Bowls at the Town Hall, 1.00-4.00pm.
Town Council meeting at the Town Hall, 7.30pm.
Baby Buddies - Mother & Baby Group at Looking Well, 9.30-11.30am, and every Monday.
Gentle walks for Women, leaving from Lairgill at 9.30am, and every Monday.
Cancer Support Group Drop-in and Lunch, at Looking Well, 1.00-3.00pm, and every Monday.
- Tue 5th** Benthams Child Health Clinic at the Surgery, 2.00-4.00pm.
High Benthams Toy Library at the Community Centre, 9.30-11.30am.
Very gentle walks, from Looking Well, 2.00-3.00pm, and every Tuesday.
Tai Chi at the Community Centre, 2.00-3.00pm and every Tuesday.
Gardening at Looking Well community garden 2.00-4.00pm and every Tuesday.
Yoga at the Town Hall, 6.00-7.00pm. This is the last one.
- Tue 5th** Playgroup and Toddlers at the Town Hall, 1.00-3.00pm and every Tuesday.
- Wed 6th** Community Lunch at Looking Well, 12.30-1.30pm and every Wednesday.
Moving Well, lively exercise for the over 60s, Community Centre 2.00-3.00pm and every Wednesday.
Playgroup and Toddlers at the Town Hall, 1.00-3.00pm and every Wednesday.
Benthams Community Transport Open Day at Lower Town Hall, see page 24.
- Thu 7th** Indoor Bowls at the Town Hall, 1.00-4.00pm.
Over 50s swimming - meet at School Hill to share transport to Hornby, 9.45am and every Thursday.
Gentle aerobics at the Town Hall, 6.00-6.45pm, and every Thursday.
Evening energiser at the Town Hall, 6.45-7.45pm, and every Thursday.
High Benthams W.I. at the Town Hall, 7.30pm. See page 4.
- Fri 8th** Benthams Traders' Association Christmas Fair at the Town Hall, from 3pm. See insert.
Age Concern at the Masonic Hall, Christmas Dinner with children singing at 1.00pm.
- Sat 9th** St. John's coffee morning at the Town Hall Ballroom, 10.00am-12.00 noon. 
Children's Theatre Art Group at Looking Well, 10.00am-12.00 noon.
Richard Thornton School Christmas Fayre at Village Hall, Burton-in Lonsdale, 1.30pm.

Sun 10th Bentham Footpath Group walk, Wray/Roeburndale, 4 miles, leaders A. Robertson and K. Rowe, 61285. Please meet at Lairgill 1.00pm.

Mon 11th Indoor Bowls at the Town Hall Ballroom, 1.00-4.00pm.

Tue 12th Bright Hour at the Methodist Schoolroom, 2.15pm. Speakers - ladies from Sedbergh.

Mothers' Union meeting at Burton Church Room, 2.00pm.

"Soup & Sing" (Carols) 7.30pm at the Methodist Schoolroom. Collection for NCH.

Wed 13th Alzheimer's Society Carer Support Group at the Looking Well, 7.30-9.00pm.

Earlier Copy deadline for January edition of Bentham News.

Thu 14th Indoor Bowls at the Town Hall Ballroom, 1.00-4.00pm.

Bentham Footpath Group walk, Chapel-le-dale, 4 miles, leader M. Taylor 61672. Please meet at Lairgill at 9.30am.

Fri 15th Waste paper collection at Lairgill Car Park, 8.30-11.00am. Proceeds to NSPCC.

Age Concern at the Masonic Hall - Christmas Party 2.00-5.30pm.

6.30pm St John's Church, Low Bentham - "A Time to Remember". A seasonal service for those who have lost loved ones.

Sat 16th Homing Society coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10.00am-12.00 noon. 

Children's Theatre Art Group at Looking Well, 10.00am-12.00 noon.

Mon 18th Indoor Bowls at the Town Hall Ballroom, 1.00-4.00pm.

Tue 19th Bentham Child Health Clinic at the Surgery, 2.00-4.00pm.

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

Thu 21st Indoor Bowls at the Town Hall Ballroom, 1.00-4.00pm.

Sat 23rd Low Bentham Playing Field coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10.00am-12.00 noon. 

Wed 27th Bentham Footpath Group post Christmas local walk, and lunch at the Horse & Farrier, 4 miles, leader K. Hartley 62373. Please meet at Lairgill at 10.30am.

Fri 29th Bentham News published.

**BENTHAM NEWS
COFFEE MORNING &
PRESENTATION OF WRITING
COMPETITION PRIZES
SATURDAY 13th JANUARY
AT THE TOWN HALL**

NOTICE TO LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

Would the secretaries of local organisations, who wish to make use of the diary page, please submit their annual/quarterly schedules for next year to the Sports Shop on Main Street, High Bentham, by 13th January, please.

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Dear Sir,

It is necessary to correct the assertion contained in the letter from Mr Martin Faichney published in the November edition of the Bentham News, regarding the land at the rear of the Victoria Institute.

The Victoria Institute and the land referred to, is entirely under the control of the Management Committee of the Institute, and not "Active Bentham".

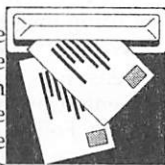
It is the case that the Management Committee is considering all options to safeguard the long term future of the Victoria Institute, and to improve the facilities it provides for the residents of Low Bentham and the locality. This also includes consideration of the best use of the land.

If any radical changes of the kind envisaged by Mr. Faichney were considered desirable, a process of public consultation would take place. In addition, any disposal of assets would also be subject to the approval of the Charity Commissioners.

The Committee is continually seeking ways to engage with residents. Anyone wishing to contribute to our discussions would be welcome, and can contact the Secretary, Ann Ambrose, at the Bentham Trust Office, telephone 62549.

Yours sincerely,

Roy Farrar, Acting Chairman.



determination to use only non-violent methods and we had plenty of cheery support from local drivers. As we left, our place was being taken by clergy and members of the Iona community, the group covering the next 24 hours.

The protest is continuing for 365 days and I hope to return for another stint at the gates, maybe with a group from Craven? If you would be interested in joining in, give me a ring on 64886. Hope to hear from you.

Annie Neligan.

Dear Bentham News,

I recently had a doctor's appointment, which thankfully does not happen very often. I do not appreciate being told off for not using the new automatic arrivals machine.

Whilst I can see some people love this kind of technology, people like me do not particularly want to use it.

The old system has worked for many years without problems; surely this machine is a waste of money, with so many NHS cutbacks. I am sure the money used to purchase it could have been put to a far better purpose in the surgery. (But my doctor still called out my name!)

Name and address supplied.

A Wish From Cross Lane

By J.V. Gilroy

Daily Walkies

Get a barrowload of poo,
This is what I have to do,
Of lion or elephant proportions
To save my simmering emotions.
The daily trail is under way,
This will do, I hear them say.
It must be seven, I'll have a peep,
Oh! can't the doggies-woggies sleep?
Throughout the day the canines come
They never stray far from their home.
It's up, across, down and done the deed,
That will do, take off the lead.
Tomorrow they will do the same,
This time Rover, it's not a game.
You'll meet the smell of elephants,
I hope and pray it scares the pants...
OFF ROVER!

Dear Bentham News,

Thanks to everyone who sent me off to Faslane with such good wishes at the end of last month. I went to spend 48 hours at the year long protest outside the Trident nuclear missile base, along with a group of sturdy souls from North Lancashire, Cumbria and even Grassington.

We had all sorts of reasons for going, from fear of nuclear war to anger at the waste of £40 million of public money proposed to replace the submarines and their warheads. What we share is our conviction that what is happening, behind those miles of steel fence and rolls of razor wire is illegal.

Our spirits were high as we celebrated Halloween in front of the huge ugly gates, the police were respectful of our

NEWS FROM THE FOLLY

By Anne Read (Hon Curator)

Some readers of Bentham News may be unaware that The Folly, although situated in Settle, provides a rich resource for the whole of North Craven. Apart from its interest as a Grade 1 listed seventeenth century house, it is also home to the Museum of North Craven Life, which preserves and displays objects and photographs relating to the social history of the whole area.

The Museum normally closes for the winter at the end of October, but this year we are hosting a solo exhibition by Philippa Troutman from 19th November until 10th December, entitled "The Shanties of Ribbleshead". Philippa is an artist who lives in a former railway house on the site of one of the shanty towns. Her work is concerned with the lives of men, women and children who lived in the shanties, and will appeal to a wide audience. All the work is for sale and

includes beautifully packaged sets of cards featuring images from the exhibition.

We also look forward to "Deck the Halls", a seasonal event of words and music presented by Alan Hemsworth and friends in The Folly on Saturday 16th December. The house will be decorated for Christmas and mulled wine and mince pies will be served from 10.00am until 12.00 noon.

Do come along and join us for either or both of these events if you can. For further information about The Folly and Museum of North Craven Life, including our plans for the 2007 season, please see our website at www.ncbpt.org.uk/folly

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BENTHAM PEOPLE



Thanks

Carl, Alison, Megan and Emily would like to thank everyone for cards, presents and good wishes sent on the safe arrival of Libby Mae Tatham, born on 12th October.

Birth Congratulations

Brown – Congratulations to Tim & Lorraine and a warm welcome to baby Billy, a young brother for Ollie, born at home in Rottingdean on 3rd November. From his adoring family in England and New Zealand.

Seasonal Greetings

Mary Parker, Low Bentham, would like to wish all her family, friends and neighbours, a very Happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

For Sale

Horse manure, 10 bags £5, well rotted £1 each, delivered locally. 62176.

Hunter wood burning stove, £100 o.n.o. Tel:-62254.

CHARITIES THANK YOU

Age Concern thanks all who supported their recent coffee morning which raised £350 which will be used to help in the upkeep of the Friday Drop-in Centre and in keeping the mini bus on the road.

Bentham SBC. Sincere thanks to all who contributed to the success of the Hawaiian Night at the Horse & Farrier on Saturday 11th November, with a special mention of Elvis (Chebba) Presley, Tom (Baz) Jones and all those who donated raffle prizes. All proceeds will go to the Helen Howard Theatre Dance School in Low Bentham. Fifty students have been invited to perform at Sadlers Wells in London in 2007; one of only 12 schools to have been given the privilege, but they have to raise £125.00 to cover the cost of costumes, travel and accommodation. John Henderson.

The Committee of Bentham Community Bonfire and Fireworks wishes to express its thanks for the volunteer time provided for this year's event, as ticket sellers, gate keepers, bonfire stewards, road and procession marshalls.

Special thanks to the Directors of Bentham Auction Mart, Martin Faichney, David Knapp, John Mason, Thomas Marshall, Ted Woof and Mike Pridmore who provided key services.

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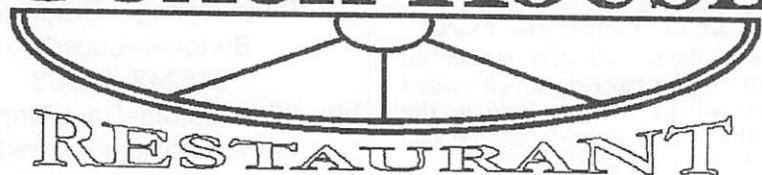
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CINDERELLA IN SPACE

By Sue Bloxham

This year's pantomime is a traditional story retold in a futuristic location. Full of jokes and funny characters, it promises to provide a good time for young and old. Get ready for the ugly sisters, Alopecia and Scarletina. There will be galactic balls, glass moon slippers and a robot called Buttons. Bentham Theatre group is looking for actors, singers, musicians, as well as people to help with costumes, scenery, and props. We also welcome any volunteers for our backstage team, lighting and sound. Whether you have special skills or not, whatever your age, we have a role for you. Signing on for the panto will be in the Community Centre on Sunday 17th December between 2 and 3 p.m. and rehearsals begin after Christmas.

PANTO WORKSHOPS

By Iain Henshaw

We are holding panto workshops every Saturday morning beginning 18th November. They will be held from 10am to 12 midday in the Looking Well and will be an opportunity for children, young people and adults to help design the sets and costumes, make the props and, for children who want to be on stage, practise some of the parts. The workshops are part funded by the Network Fund for Children and a donation of £2 per child is requested, reduced if there are several children from the same family.

LATEST ABOUT NEW SCHOOL FOR BENTHAM

By Peter Phillips

Not having heard anything for some time about the proposed new school at Low Bentham Road, I checked with North Yorkshire County Council Education Department and their reply, from Mr John Watson, was as follows.

"Yes, there has been a delay - clearly. It has proved more difficult than we expected to buy the land we need. Negotiations with the landowner have not met with success. It seems likely that we shall now proceed with a Compulsory Purchase Order. There are other potential sites, of course, but the one we have identified seems the best in several ways.

But we're still determined to proceed. The CPO would obviously add to the timescale but there is no question of the project being stopped".

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BENTHAM COMMUNITY TRANSPORT



By Anne Yaman

Open Day – Wednesday 6TH December

At Bentham Community Transport we would like to say a big "Thank You" to our drivers, our passengers and our suppliers who have all contributed in a big way to make 2006 a successful year for us.

To celebrate our year we are holding an "Open Day" with drinks and nibbles on Wednesday 6th December from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. in the Lower Town Hall, Bentham. We look forward to greeting friends and colleagues, old and new, so please put the date in your diary. If you need transport to come in please telephone Lin or Anne on 62753. We also look forward to seeing any new faces who would like to find out more about what we do.

CHEAP FARES WITH DALES RAILCARD

By Lin Barrington

Once again, cheap fares are being offered over the winter period to holders of the Dales Railcard. From 27 November to 3 March railcard holders can take any return journey for £5.00. The cost of the railcard is going down to £10.00 for next year too.

Railcards can be purchased at Skipton, Carnforth, Settle and Appleby stations, and by post from Dales Railcard, FREEPOST CE747, Appleby-in-Westmorland, CA16 6ZZ. You can download an application form

from the internet (search for Dales Rail Card, or come in to the Community Information office on Station Road and we'll download one for you), or get a form from Bentham Post Office or Bentham Development Trust (providing the supplies we have ordered arrive soon!)

Transport to the Traders Christmas Fair

By Lin Barrington

Don't forget the Traders' Christmas Fair on Friday December 8th from 6.00pm in the Town Hall. If you would like a lift to the Christmas Fair, give us a ring on 015242 62753.

TAI CHI AT LOW BENTHAM

By Mike Yeates

Under the tutorship of Tony Bennett, Tai Chi Quigong has been introduced to the programme of activities at The Victoria Institute Low Bentham.

Tai Chi is a generic term in the West referring to a Chinese martial art. It developed from exercises called Quigong which literally means cultivating energy. Quigong exercises are gentle and coordinate different movements that generate heat in particular parts of the body.

Sessions are held on Thursday evenings and concentrate on joint mobility, breathing, balance, coordination and raising energy levels. The resulting benefits are flexibility, relaxation, concentration and strength. After possible excesses at Christmas, why not come along and try. First session in 2007 takes place on Thursday 18 January at 7.45pm and lasts for an hour.

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YESTERDAY IN BENTHAM

Snippets from Bentham News editions of twenty years and ten years ago

Edited by Keith Hartley

December 1986

BN reported the departure of Anne Clements as Head Teacher at Low Bentham Primary School, who was leaving to take up a new post in Lancashire. Her successor as Acting Head was to be Muriel Lowe.

A report on the progress of the Bentham Playing Fields Association was contributed by BPFA secretary David Gibson. In addition to mention of the new floodlighting and improvements to the tennis and netball courts, the report also paid tribute to Jim Guy who had retired as "long-serving and hard-working" Chairman.

Much of the month's Town Council meeting was reportedly taken up by concern about a missing litter bin which was said to have disappeared from its lamp-post mounting outside "Pop and See." The plot thickened when the same litter bin, as identified by its graffiti, reappeared on a lamp-post outside the Spar shop. Bentham's Council sleuths rose to the challenge and after painstaking investigation discovered that the bin had been moved by Craven District Council in response to a request by Bentham Town Council themselves! In mitigation however, it was also reported that the request had been made over two years previously!

I wonder how concerned the Council would have been if they knew that "Pop and See" would also disappear before too long!

This edition carried the annual report of the Women's Institute and listed a very extensive programme of social and fund-raising activities, which left me wondering how on earth the WI members manage to find time to bake the cakes they seem to be forever selling, raffling or judging. A goodly number of local charities will, however, be thankful that they do find the time.

WI officers during '86 were Kathy Townson (President) Audrey Shallcross

(Secretary) and Mary Field (Treasurer).

A new Farming Column was introduced this month. Written by Agricola (Latin for farmer) the column promised an insight during coming months into the farming implications and effects of EEC membership in addition to a month by month "diary" of life on the correspondent's own farm.

I look forward to reading this column in coming months and will quote from it as appropriate.

December 1996

Keith Cowling's report of the Town Council meeting included an update on the "dispute" between the Women's Institute and the Line Dancers regarding disruptive noise levels. The Town Council had received a "sniffy letter" (!) from the WI, but were unable to take any action because they had not received a formal complaint.

Of course WI members are far too ladylike to make formal complaints, but sniffy letters, well they're another matter!

It's 42 years ago this month since the Wenning Bridge was destroyed by flood waters during a particularly nasty storm.

As a relative newcomer I had heard about the incident but didn't know any of the details, so was fascinated by Rachel Clay's account as related to her by Mary Guy and Mick Brown. I found the story so gripping that for the benefit of youngsters and other *Offcumduns* I intend asking the BN Editorial Committee if we can run the story again. Next month perhaps?

I was also fascinated by an article submitted by an anonymous Cumbrian reader who offered the theory that eating nine raisins each day would provide a certain cure for arthritis. The secret, apparently, is in the preparation, which requires that the raisins be left marinating in gin for approximately seven days prior to eating. The correspondent gave strong testimony to the effectiveness of the cure as follows: "My calcified knees, which sounded like castanets when I bent over, no longer clicked so loudly - I could lean my head back to look at the stars without leaning against a tree or a fence or holding the back of my neck for support - the swelling had gone from my arthritic toes - (continued on page 30)

SEDBERGH JUNIOR SCHOOL

By Paul Reynolds

As you read this article, we will all be eagerly awaiting the last few weeks of term and all the festivities that surround this time of year. This is always an exciting period in any school and SJS certainly is no different! Our end of term will be heralded by Christmas entertainment, a disco, choir concerts at Bentham Town Hall and in Lancaster, Christmas parties and our Carol Service in St. John's on Wednesday 13th December. Please do come along to the St. John's Coffee Morning at 10.30am on Saturday 9th to listen to the choir if you have the time.

Last month we had our second Grandparents' Morning when we welcomed sixteen sets of grandparents ('the unsung heroes') to our school for their grandchildren to proudly show them around their school. It was another successful day and we were also blessed by sunshine and no rain! Our

rugby and netball teams continue to perform well and we have also found the time to play some hockey too. May I take this opportunity of wishing all Bentham News readers a very happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

OUT OF SCHOOL CLUB

By Jo Booth

Would you like to do a full day's shopping but need someone to collect your child from school? Why not book your child in at Out of School Club on our promotional Thursdays, 7th and 14th December. On these days your child can come for half price, leaving you with more money for Christmas!

On Wednesday the 6th and 13th we will hold Christmas-themed workshops for £2.50 per child. Sessions run from 3.30-5.00pm and include collection of your child from school, a snack and a drink. Come along to make presents and decorations and have lots of fun. For more information call Lynda on 015242 61800.

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SANTA'S ON THE ROAD!



By Janet Monaghan

Santa's on a tour of High Bentham again this year to help raise funds for **High Bentham Primary School**. Come out and give him a cheer as he rides his sleigh around the town on **Monday 4th December**.

Santa's entourage is supported by **Wennington Hall School** who have decorated his sleigh and arranged transport for his little helpers if they get weary along the way!

The event is organised by the school's **PTFA** committee and all donations will go towards **Curriculum Topic Boxes** to enrich children's learning.

Santa will start his journey at 6pm from Wenning Avenue and continue along Station Road, Pye Busk, Springfield, Lairgill, Lakeber Drive, Lakeber Ave, Banks Way, Grasmere Close, Goodenber Road and Main Street, heading back to the North Pole from Naylor Myers at around 9pm.

Families will be collecting donations door to door and will wear official badges. Please contact the school on **61412** with details of your address if you prefer us not to call.

Thank you for your support. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



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BENTHAM'S FIRST RESPONDERS

By Mike Lavelle

Bentham now has its own team of Community First Responders. Following a recent poster campaign and an appeal in July's Bentham News, 11 people volunteered. Thanks are due to the Society of Friends and the Medical Practice for the loan of meeting rooms.

Eight of the volunteers have now been trained to treat life threatening conditions in those vital few minutes before an emergency vehicle arrives. These volunteers could mean the difference between life and death as an early response to victims of sudden cardiac arrest increases their chance of recovery. Having First Responders in Bentham means there will be a quicker response and less reliance on the Burton volunteers.

However, to maximise the team's effectiveness more volunteers are needed. If you are in good health and aged between 18 and 70 and would like more information please contact Lin Barrington on 62753.

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KIRKBY LONSDALE EMBROIDERERS

By Ann Hunter

At our meeting in October there was a fascinating look at the making of braids and cords by our speaker, Marge Quinn, who brought a selection of her work. The talk, along with some demonstrations, was entertaining and extremely interesting. There seems to be no limitations when it comes to the making of cords. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon.

We also had a day's workshop with Christine Stanford, who showed us how to make book covers. This was achieved using a background fabric which was painted and then scraps of material applied and machine embroidered. A really lovely day.

At our November meeting we had a "show and tell" with some of the finished pieces made up into books. There was also a most interesting look at the embroideries in Lancaster Priory. This was presented by Hugh Barton, whose father designed the panels. It was such wonderful work and everybody agreed that a trip to Lancaster Priory was definitely on the cards.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 14th December and starts at 1pm at Cowan Bridge Village Hall. Visitors are very welcome. Telephone Ann Hunter on 015242 41120 for details.

Age Concerned

Members of Age Concern, Bentham, raised £30 for Children in Need with a collection at the Masonic Hall drop-in centre.



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***A Merry Christmas &
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LANCASTER AND DISTRICT SAMARITANS

By a Samaritans Volunteer

There are very many people for whom this festive time of year is not a good time. Samaritans has been, and always is, available to offer confidential emotional support to people in crisis or despair, by listening and being there for them whenever needed. At our local branch, trained Samaritan volunteers do this by answering telephone calls, or e-mails - no answer-phones or recorded messages - 24/7. We also receive personal callers at 21 Sun Street, Lancaster, where the door is usually open 12 hours a day. In total we had more than 27,000 contacts last year, over 75 contacts a day.

More Volunteers Needed

We are an entirely volunteer-led organisation, with around 80 Volunteers giving about 3 hours a week of their time. Some of our Lancaster team come from the Lakes and Kendal area. All Volunteers are trained in listening skills, but some Support Volunteers use their skills to do jobs other than the listening role, for instance office work; fund-raising; or maintenance work. We need more volunteers to share in this rewarding activity - anyone interested in exploring the possibility can phone 01524 61666 to make a first contact.

We rely strongly on donations - we at the Lancaster & District Branch are a charity in our own right, and have to pay our way as a Branch, requiring around £22,000 a year. To help with this, we are looking forward to opening our Samaritan shop in Damside Street, Lancaster at the beginning of 2007, so please let us know if you have good saleable items which you would be prepared to supply us with.

It may be that you have had reason to be grateful to Samaritans in the past, or wish to help us in this way. Any gift is gratefully received and acknowledged, but for your information we operate a Pay For A Day scheme, whereby a supporter will elect a particular day of the year (maybe a birthday, or in memory of someone they have lost),

and gift us the running costs for that day annually (currently around £70). And do please remember us in your will.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. It may be that with your support in one way or another you may help to save the life of someone who is in despair. It won't be a Happy New Year for everyone.



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Yesterday in Bentham *(continued from page 25)*

and I could do floor exercises including hugging my knees to my chest and rocking back and forth without pain."

I can imagine a world where arthritis has become a disease only suffered by Methodists, and where millions of alcoholics used to have arthritis!

An article by Alison Clough (aka Jones) on the proposed opening of a permanent arts workshop in Armstrong's old Garden Shop marked an important step in the development of what is now **Looking Well**, an institution which in a few short years has become such an integral part of Bentham's culture.

Dr Nightingale submitted a "*Bentham People*" note to "dispel any rumours that he is leaving the Bentham Practice" and to reassure people that he wasn't.

Oops!

Being December issues, both '86 and '96 editions carried the good wishes of the Editorial Committee and advertisers for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and it would be remiss of me not to echo those wishes!

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POST OFFICE NEWS

By David Alder

Christmas Post

The recommended last posting dates are:
Airmail - Rest of World - Friday 8th December.

Airmail - North America & Japan - Monday 11th December.

Airmail - Eastern Europe - Monday 11th December.

Airmail - Western Europe - Wednesday 13th December.

BFPO - Overseas destinations - Friday 8th December.

Inland - Standard parcels - Wednesday 13th December.

Inland - Second class (inc packets) Saturday 16th December.

Inland - First class (inc packets) Tuesday 19th December.

Inland - Special delivery - Thursday 21st December.

Christmas issue self adhesive stamps are available in sheets or books at all Post Offices.

Christmas Opening Hours and Service Arrangements

Saturday 23rd December - as normal.

Monday 25th and Tuesday 26th December - closed.

27th - 30th December - as normal.

Monday 1st January - closed.

Pensions and allowances for the days we are closed can be obtained on the previous Friday.

Royal Mail/Parcelforce deliveries will be suspended on 25th and 26th December and on 1st January. Details about collections can be obtained from post offices.

John Haythornthwaite Leaving

For over 15 years John Haythornthwaite has been delivering the post, around Bentham, most recently on the "Mewith" round. He has decided to transfer to work as the Austwick Village postman. We shall miss his cheerful and helpful presence here and wish him well in his new role.

Everyone in Bentham Post Office and Delivery Office extends warm seasonal greetings to you all.

LOW BENTHAM BADMINTON CLUB

By Julie Bridgeman

Well Done!

Our junior teams have made a cracking start to the season with three wins. The A team narrowly beat Kirkby Lonsdale 5-4 and comprehensively beat Our Ladies 9-0. The B team had a superb victory over Our Ladies 6-3. Congratulations to all who played, who were Amber Harrison, Ellie Parker, Peter Longton, Arthur Bridgeman Quin, Eleanor Dawson, Sam Batty, Ollie Harrison, Laura Dawson, Sarah Richardson, James Longton, Joshua Mitton, Matthew Dawson and Josh Whittaker. Compare this to a few years ago when we used to come home, not having won a point, let alone a game! Good on everyone for sticking to it. Thanks also go to this group of youngsters who conducted themselves really well and were a pleasure to take out. Thank also to the adults who support by coming to club evenings, driving to matches and offering to drive.



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LOOKING WELL NEWS

By Alison Jones

Look out for the display of arts and crafts made at Looking Well, in our Main Street shop window in December. We are selling them to raise money, to complete the community kitchen, at the Trader's Christmas Fair on 8th December and from our Main Street office on the mornings of Saturday 9th and Wednesday 13th December. We will have a wide selection of handmade gifts and cards for sale, including our new poetry book, Marigolds and Other Gloves, and our popular soup recipe book. Please come and have a look.

Looking Well will be shut from Friday 22nd December until Monday 8th January. We would like to take this opportunity to say a very big thank you to everyone who has helped and supported us over this very special first year in our wonderful new building and wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

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BENTHAM NEWS WRITING COMPETITION RESULTS

By Shirley Brown



The writing competition, to celebrate our 20th anniversary, attracted nineteen entries, and we will publish the winning ones in the January edition. Although we had hoped for more entries, the standard of those we did receive was encouraging, and we would like to express our appreciation to all those who took part.

Our judge, Irene Rawnsley, had this to say after looking at all the creative writing that was submitted. *"I'm grateful for the chance to have seen all this work – by the time I'd considered all the pieces I was left with a feeling that Bentham is indeed a great place to live. Both children and adults seem proud of the place. It is good to realize that so much is going on and that there is a community where nobody need feel left out. Being a poet with a particular interest in children (and a grandmother as well), I felt delighted to see schools being included in the project. May I congratulate the winners and assure the runners-up that all the work was well worth looking at. Thank you".*

We would like to invite everyone who entered the competition to come to a short award-giving ceremony in the Town Hall at 11.00am on Saturday 13th January. This will take place during our annual coffee morning, and we hope that Irene Rawnsley herself will be present to hand over the prizes. There is a prize for the winner in each of the three classes, and all the other people who entered will each receive a small prize, so we look forward to seeing you there.

THE PRIZE WINNERS

Group A: 10 years and under:

1st James Close (age 8). Judge's comments: *"Everyone is busy in his poem, walking dogs, driving trains, getting to work, feeding animals - while the birds in the day and the moon at night watches over them. Lovely!"*

Group B: 11years to 18 years:

1st Sarah Pattinson (age 13). Judge's comments: *Her poem sequence is a fine attempt to capture the beauty of changing seasons around Bentham. Clearly she loves where she lives and keeps her eyes and ears open".*

Group C: Adult:

1st Julie D Jackson. Judge's comments: *"It's the honesty of the feeling in this one that I like so much. It's a well constructed piece in which one can sense a struggle to capture the truth of what she wants to say. It's not perfect, some phrases are a bit well worn, but the poem speaks its own truth".*

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 Woolf 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 13th of the month prior to publication.

